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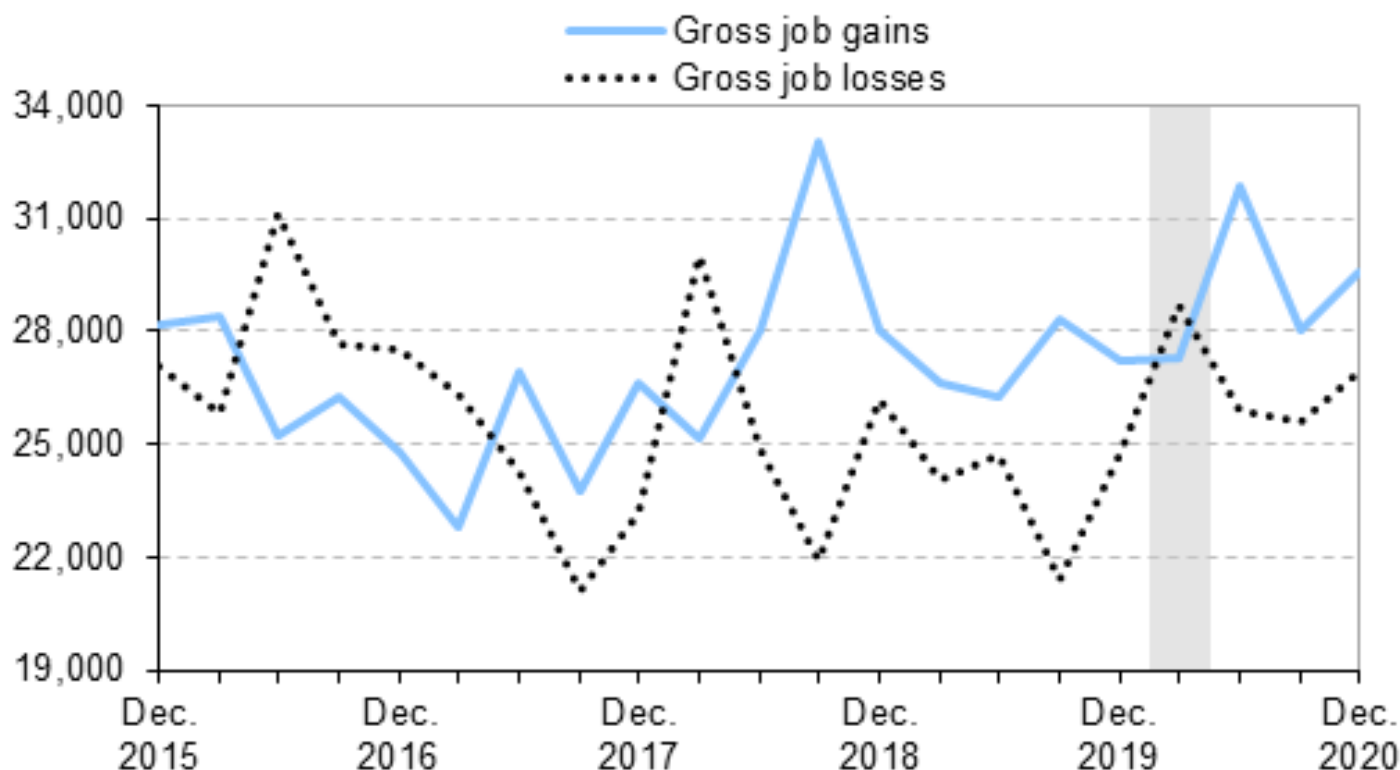
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Business Employment Dynamics in the District of Columbia — Fourth Quarter 2020

From September 2020 to December 2020, **gross job gains** from opening and expanding private-sector establishments in the District of Columbia were 24,390 while **gross job losses** from closing and contracting private-sector establishments were 25,824, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Alexandra Hall Bovee noted that the difference between the number of gross job gains and the number of gross job losses yielded a **net employment loss** of 1,434 jobs in the private sector during the fourth quarter of 2020. During the previous quarter, gross job gains exceeded gross job losses by 11,534. (See [chart 1.](#))

Chart 1. Private-sector gross job gains and losses in the District of Columbia, December 2015–December 2020, seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

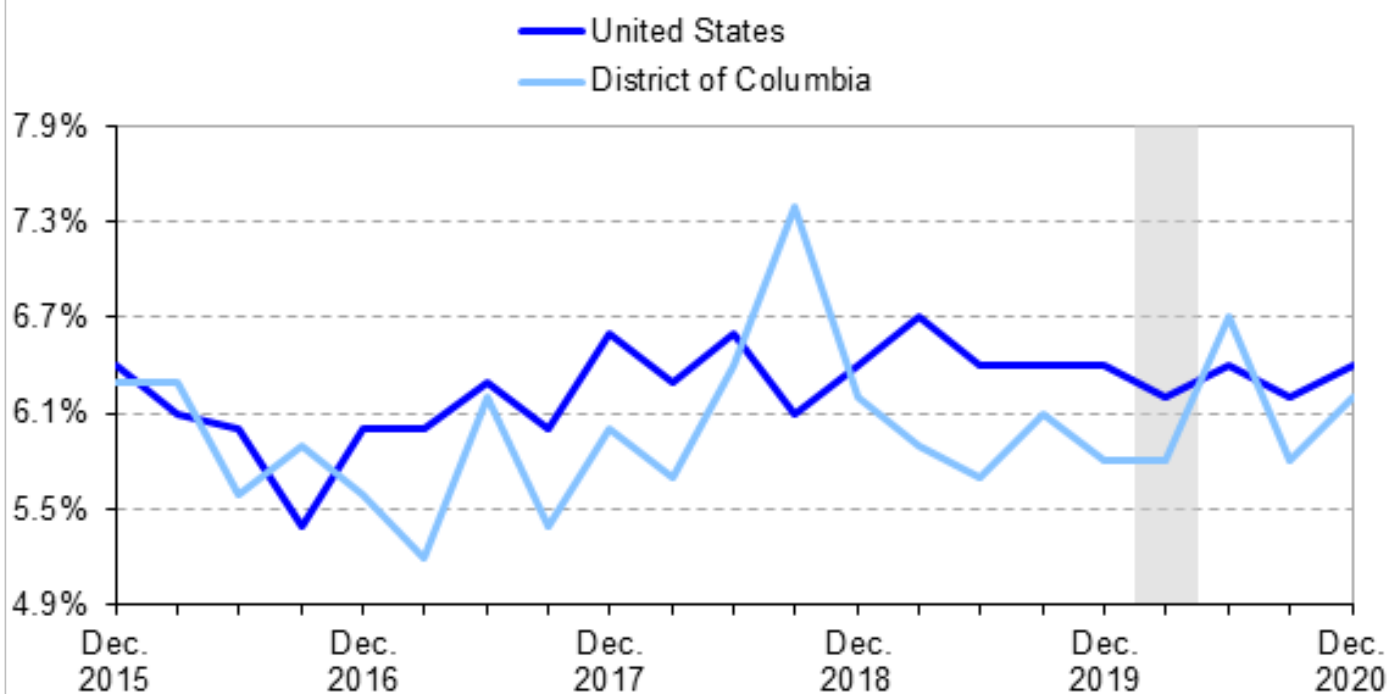
Note: Shaded area represents National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) defined recession period.

The change in the number of jobs over time is the net result of increases and decreases in employment that occur at all private businesses in the economy. Business Employment Dynamics (BED) statistics track these changes in employment at private-sector establishments from the third month of one quarter to the third month of the next. The difference between the number of gross job gains and the number of gross job losses is the net change in employment. (See [Technical Note](#).)

Gross job gains

In the fourth quarter of 2020, gross job gains represented 5.2 percent of private-sector employment in the District of Columbia; nationally, gross job gains accounted for 7.4 percent of private-sector employment. (See [chart 2](#).) Gross job gains are the sum of increases in employment due to expansions at existing establishments and the addition of new jobs at opening establishments. In the District of Columbia, gross job gains at **expanding** establishments totaled 18,348 in the fourth quarter of 2020, a decrease of 11,335 jobs compared to the previous quarter. **Opening** establishments accounted for 6,042 jobs gained in the fourth quarter of 2020, a decrease of 2,633 jobs from the previous quarter. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 2. Private-sector gross job gains as a percent of employment, United States and the District of Columbia, December 2015–December 2020, seasonally adjusted



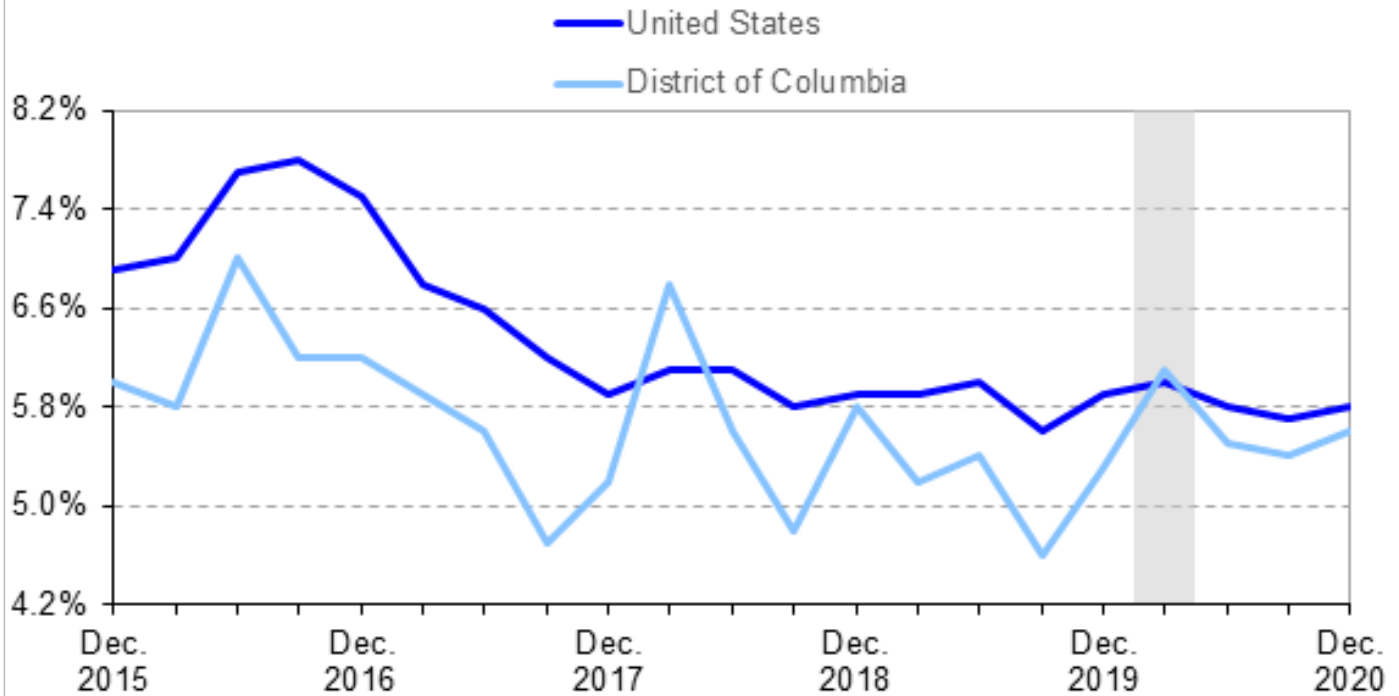
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Note: Shaded area represents National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) defined recession period.

Gross job losses

In the fourth quarter of 2020, gross job losses represented 5.5 percent of private-sector employment in the District of Columbia; nationally, gross job losses accounted for 5.7 percent of private-sector employment. (See [chart 3](#).) Gross job losses are the result of contractions in employment at existing establishments and the loss of jobs at closing establishments. In the District of Columbia, **contracting** establishments lost 21,021 jobs in the fourth quarter of 2020, a decrease of 448 jobs from the prior quarter. **Closing** establishments lost 4,803 jobs, a decrease of 552 jobs from the previous quarter.

Chart 3. Private-sector gross job losses as a percent of employment, United States and the District of Columbia, December 2015–December 2020, seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Note: Shaded area represents National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) defined recession period.

Industries

Gross job gains exceeded gross job losses in the education and health services sector, with a gain of 1,559 jobs. This was the result of 4,531 gross job gains and 2,972 gross job losses. Gross job losses exceeded gross job gains in the remaining four industry sectors in the District of Columbia, ranging from a net loss of 928 jobs in leisure and hospitality to a net loss of 322 jobs in financial activities.

For more information

The BED data series include gross job gains and gross job losses by industry subsector, for the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, as well as gross job gains and gross job losses at the firm level by employer size class. BED data for the states have been included in [table 2](#) of this release. Additional information is available online at www.bls.gov/bdm/.

The Business Employment Dynamics for First Quarter 2021 are scheduled to be released on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. (ET).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Effect on Fourth Quarter 2020 Business Employment Dynamics

Data collection and processing methods have been impacted because of the COVID-19 pandemic. More detail can be found at www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-business-employment-dynamics.htm.

Technical Note

The Business Employment Dynamics (BED) data are a product of a federal-state cooperative program known as Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). The BED data are compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) from existing QCEW records. Most employers in the U.S. are required to file quarterly reports on the employment and wages of workers covered by unemployment insurance (UI) laws, and to pay quarterly UI taxes. The QCEW is based largely on quarterly UI reports which are sent by businesses to the State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). These UI reports are supplemented by two additional BLS data collections to render administrative data into economic statistics. Together these data comprise the QCEW and form the basis of the Bureau's establishment universe sampling frame.

In the BED program, the QCEW records are linked across quarters to provide a longitudinal history for each establishment. The linkage process allows the tracking of net employment changes at the establishment level, which in turn allows the estimation of jobs gained at opening and expanding units and jobs lost at closing and contracting units.

The change in the number of jobs over time is the net result of increases and decreases in employment that occur at all businesses in the economy. BED statistics track these changes in employment at private business establishments from the third month of one quarter to the third month of the next. Gross job gains are the sum of increases in employment from expansions at existing establishments and the addition of new jobs at opening establishments. Gross job losses are the result of contractions in employment at existing establishments and the loss of jobs at closing establishments. The difference between the number of gross jobs gained and the number of gross jobs lost is the net change in employment.

Gross job gains and gross job losses are expressed as rates by dividing their levels by the average of employment in the current and previous quarters. The rates are calculated for the components of gross job gains and gross job losses and then summed to form their respective totals. These rates can be added and subtracted just as their levels can. For instance, the difference between the gross job gains rate and the gross job losses rate is the net growth rate.

The formal definitions of employment changes are as follows:

Openings. These are either units with positive third month employment for the first time in the current quarter, with no links to the prior quarter, or with positive third month employment in the current quarter following zero employment in the previous quarter.

Expansions. These are units with positive employment in the third month in both the previous and current quarters, with a net increase in employment over this period.

Closings. These are either units with positive third month employment in the previous quarter, with no employment or zero employment reported in the current quarter.

Contractions. These are units with positive employment in the third month in both the previous and current quarters, with a net decrease in employment over this period.

The full Technical Note for the Business Employment Dynamics program, which includes information on coverage, concepts, and methodology, can be found in the current quarterly news release online at www.bls.gov/news.release/cewbd.htm.

Information in this release will be made available to individuals with sensory impairments upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Private sector gross job gains and losses by industry, District of Columbia, seasonally adjusted

Category	Gross job gains and job losses (3 months ended)					Gross job gains and job losses as a percent of employment (3 months ended)				
	Dec. 2019	Mar. 2020	June 2020	Sept 2020	Dec. 2020	Dec. 2019	Mar. 2020	June 2020	Sept 2020	Dec. 2020
Total private ⁽¹⁾										
Gross job gains	28,907	28,449	16,316	38,358	24,390	5.4	5.2	3.3	8.3	5.2
At expanding establishments	23,422	22,825	11,945	29,683	18,348	4.4	4.2	2.4	6.4	3.9
At opening establishments	5,485	5,624	4,371	8,675	6,042	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.9	1.3
Gross job losses	25,084	28,599	111,967	26,824	25,824	4.7	5.3	22.4	5.8	5.5
At contracting establishments	19,872	23,455	94,596	21,469	21,021	3.7	4.3	18.9	4.6	4.5
At closing establishments	5,212	5,144	17,371	5,355	4,803	1.0	1.0	3.5	1.2	1.0
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	3,823	-150	-95,651	11,534	-1,434	0.7	-0.1	-19.1	2.5	-0.3
Financial activities										
Gross job gains	1,140	1,126	745	976	918	4.1	4.1	2.7	3.6	3.4
At expanding establishments	870	907	524	761	646	3.1	3.3	1.9	2.8	2.4
At opening establishments	270	219	221	215	272	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0
Gross job losses	1,108	1,155	1,639	996	1,240	4.1	4.2	6.0	3.7	4.7
At contracting establishments	899	803	1,476	813	954	3.3	2.9	5.4	3.0	3.6
At closing establishments	209	352	163	183	286	0.8	1.3	0.6	0.7	1.1
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	32	-29	-894	-20	-322	0.0	-0.1	-3.3	-0.1	-1.3
Professional and business services										
Gross job gains	10,391	10,516	6,997	11,599	8,912	6.0	6.0	4.2	7.1	5.4
At expanding establishments	8,257	8,381	5,206	9,357	6,900	4.8	4.8	3.1	5.7	4.2
At opening establishments	2,134	2,135	1,791	2,242	2,012	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.2
Gross job losses	8,610	9,218	22,029	8,474	9,769	5.0	5.3	13.0	5.2	5.9
At contracting establishments	6,787	7,557	19,096	6,740	8,057	3.9	4.3	11.3	4.1	4.9
At closing establishments	1,823	1,661	2,933	1,734	1,712	1.1	1.0	1.7	1.1	1.0
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	1,781	1,298	-15,032	3,125	-857	1.0	0.7	-8.8	1.9	-0.5
Education and health services										
Gross job gains	5,130	4,425	2,548	4,482	4,531	4.5	3.8	2.2	4.1	4.1
At expanding establishments	4,353	3,753	1,807	3,732	3,271	3.8	3.2	1.6	3.4	3.0
At opening establishments	777	672	741	750	1,260	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	1.1
Gross job losses	3,042	3,067	10,202	5,316	2,972	2.6	2.6	9.0	4.9	2.7
At contracting establishments	2,469	2,540	9,227	4,565	2,465	2.1	2.2	8.1	4.2	2.2
At closing establishments	573	527	975	751	507	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.7	0.5
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	2,088	1,358	-7,654	-834	1,559	1.9	1.2	-6.8	-0.8	1.4
Leisure and hospitality										
Gross job gains	5,079	4,469	1,387	10,802	3,986	6.2	5.6	2.5	29.3	10.4
At expanding establishments	4,135	3,310	764	7,902	2,919	5.0	4.1	1.4	21.4	7.6
At opening establishments	944	1,159	623	2,900	1,067	1.2	1.5	1.1	7.9	2.8
Gross job losses	5,469	8,581	56,119	5,240	4,914	6.7	10.7	99.4	14.3	12.8
At contracting establishments	4,501	7,267	46,689	3,894	3,769	5.5	9.1	82.7	10.6	9.8
At closing establishments	968	1,314	9,430	1,346	1,145	1.2	1.6	16.7	3.7	3.0
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	-390	-4,112	-54,732	5,562	-928	-0.5	-5.1	-96.9	15.0	-2.4
Other services ⁽³⁾										
Gross job gains	2,636	2,578	1,596	3,731	2,227	3.8	3.7	2.4	5.9	3.5
At expanding establishments	2,264	2,178	1,282	2,656	1,777	3.3	3.1	1.9	4.2	2.8
At opening establishments	372	400	314	1,075	450	0.5	0.6	0.5	1.7	0.7
Gross job losses	2,419	2,448	9,148	2,767	2,558	3.5	3.5	13.7	4.4	4.0
At contracting establishments	1,652	2,050	7,543	2,088	2,047	2.4	2.9	11.3	3.3	3.2
At closing establishments	767	398	1,605	679	511	1.1	0.6	2.4	1.1	0.8
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	217	130	-7,552	964	-331	0.3	0.2	-11.3	1.5	-0.5

Footnotes:

(1) Includes unclassified sector not shown separately.

(2) The net employment change is the difference between total gross job gains and total gross job losses. See the Technical Note for further information.

(3) Except public administration.

Table 2. Private sector gross job gains and losses as a percent of total employment by state, seasonally adjusted

Category	Gross job gains as a percent of employment (3 months ended)					Gross job losses as a percent of employment (3 months ended)				
	Dec. 2019	Mar. 2020	June 2020	Sept. 2020	Dec. 2020	Dec. 2019	Mar. 2020	June 2020	Sept. 2020	Dec. 2020
United States ⁽¹⁾	6.2	5.5	4.8	9.4	7.4	5.5	6.1	17.0	6.0	5.7
Alabama	6.2	5.5	4.8	7.8	7.8	5.5	5.9	12.6	5.9	5.0
Alaska	10.3	9.2	6.9	12.2	13.4	10.2	9.5	24.5	9.9	7.7
Arizona	6.4	5.6	5.7	7.9	7.4	5.2	5.9	11.7	6.2	4.9
Arkansas	6.5	5.1	4.8	7.5	7.1	4.9	5.5	12.0	5.6	5.1
California	6.8	6.1	5.2	8.7	8.4	6.0	6.7	18.6	7.3	6.2
Colorado	6.7	6.3	5.8	10.0	7.5	6.2	7.0	14.9	6.3	7.2
Connecticut	5.5	5.2	4.3	11.2	6.5	5.6	5.9	19.7	5.1	5.8
Delaware	6.7	6.2	4.9	10.3	6.7	6.2	6.6	17.7	6.3	5.7
District of Columbia	5.4	5.2	3.3	8.3	5.2	4.7	5.3	22.4	5.8	5.5
Florida	6.6	5.4	6.1	9.5	7.6	5.9	6.2	13.9	6.8	5.6
Georgia	6.5	5.6	5.4	9.2	7.8	5.5	5.9	15.0	6.4	5.2
Hawaii	5.7	5.2	3.6	7.4	14.7	5.2	5.8	29.8	12.7	4.6
Idaho	7.7	7.6	6.4	8.4	8.7	6.3	6.1	11.2	6.5	6.1
Illinois	5.6	5.0	4.6	9.7	6.5	5.2	6.0	18.4	5.6	6.1
Indiana	6.0	4.9	4.7	8.3	6.9	5.1	6.0	13.7	5.4	5.0
Iowa	5.8	5.2	4.4	7.4	6.8	5.5	5.9	13.0	5.6	5.1
Kansas	6.3	5.4	5.0	7.9	7.0	5.7	6.0	13.3	6.0	6.0
Kentucky	6.2	5.3	4.6	8.8	6.8	5.6	6.1	15.3	5.0	5.4
Louisiana	5.9	5.3	4.5	8.8	8.7	5.7	6.3	16.9	7.2	5.5
Maine	7.3	6.4	5.4	12.0	8.5	6.9	7.0	21.7	6.0	6.3
Maryland	6.4	5.7	4.7	11.0	7.1	5.9	6.7	21.9	5.9	5.9
Massachusetts	5.8	5.2	3.7	12.5	7.0	5.6	6.0	24.2	5.6	5.6
Michigan	5.8	5.0	4.0	10.9	6.8	5.3	5.7	20.7	4.8	7.0
Minnesota	5.8	5.0	4.3	9.0	7.0	5.6	5.6	17.6	5.4	6.9
Mississippi	6.2	5.6	5.1	8.7	7.9	5.6	6.2	12.9	5.5	4.9
Missouri	6.2	5.2	4.7	8.5	7.2	5.3	5.7	14.3	5.7	5.3
Montana	8.6	7.7	6.8	9.9	9.3	7.2	7.7	13.8	7.2	6.8
Nebraska	6.2	5.8	4.9	8.1	6.8	5.8	6.1	12.1	5.9	5.6
Nevada	6.8	5.4	5.3	12.8	8.9	5.0	6.3	29.2	6.4	5.7
New Hampshire	6.6	6.0	4.5	11.9	7.4	6.0	6.4	18.8	5.1	6.5
New Jersey	6.5	5.7	4.6	15.7	8.1	5.8	6.3	28.1	5.8	5.9
New Mexico	7.0	6.1	4.5	8.3	7.1	6.3	6.5	17.6	6.0	7.6
New York	6.0	5.5	3.9	13.3	7.4	5.7	6.4	26.9	5.9	6.4
North Carolina	6.3	5.8	4.8	8.5	7.8	5.4	5.7	14.5	5.6	5.1
North Dakota	6.7	6.8	5.2	8.8	7.2	6.6	7.0	17.2	6.9	7.1
Ohio	5.7	5.1	4.5	7.7	6.6	5.3	5.6	14.4	5.3	5.2
Oklahoma	6.5	5.4	5.6	6.8	7.8	6.2	6.7	12.3	6.4	5.6
Oregon	6.7	6.2	5.0	9.0	7.4	5.8	6.5	18.4	6.2	6.5
Pennsylvania	5.4	4.9	3.6	10.3	6.2	4.9	5.6	18.2	5.0	5.3
Rhode Island	6.5	6.1	4.5	12.9	7.5	5.9	6.5	25.2	5.3	7.1
South Carolina	6.5	5.5	5.1	8.8	8.1	5.9	6.6	14.9	6.1	5.3
South Dakota	6.4	6.0	5.1	8.6	7.2	5.8	6.6	11.6	5.5	6.2
Tennessee	5.7	4.9	4.4	8.1	7.5	5.0	5.3	13.7	5.4	4.6
Texas	6.0	5.0	4.7	7.2	7.5	5.1	5.5	13.6	6.0	4.8
Utah	6.8	6.6	6.5	9.1	8.1	6.3	6.4	10.9	6.2	5.5
Vermont	6.9	5.8	4.6	12.3	7.6	6.4	7.6	18.5	5.7	7.9
Virginia	6.5	5.6	4.7	10.2	7.0	5.5	6.1	18.2	5.3	5.3
Washington	6.6	7.4	4.9	8.9	7.1	5.8	7.4	16.9	6.2	6.0
West Virginia	6.2	6.0	5.1	8.8	7.4	7.1	6.8	13.8	7.0	6.2
Wisconsin	5.4	5.0	4.4	7.6	6.3	5.0	5.3	14.4	5.2	5.1
Wyoming	9.4	8.6	6.4	10.7	10.0	8.7	9.3	18.1	7.7	7.6
Puerto Rico	5.4	5.0	4.0	11.0	6.6	4.9	5.2	16.9	5.1	4.9
Virgin Islands	10.3	7.2	5.3	8.4	8.9	7.3	8.3	19.8	12.3	5.4

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes

(1) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.