



For Release: Thursday, August 26, 2021

21-1578-PHI

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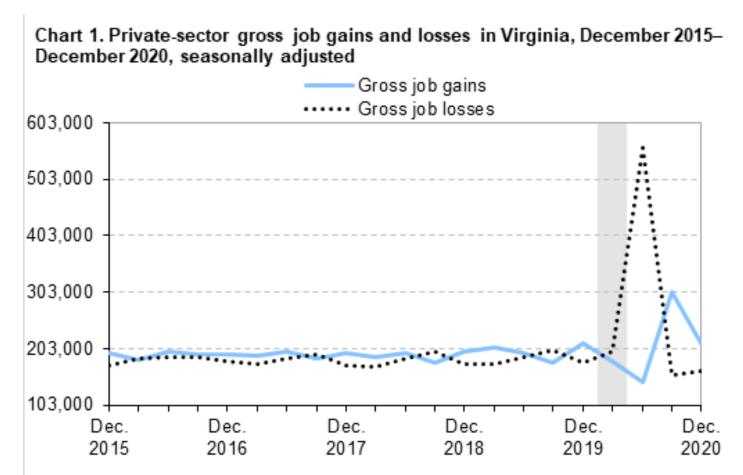
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# **Business Employment Dynamics in Virginia** — Fourth Quarter 2020

From September 2020 to December 2020, **gross job gains** from opening and expanding private-sector establishments in Virginia were 213,310, while **gross job losses** from closing and contracting private-sector establishments were 163,525, 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 gain** of 49,785 jobs in the private sector during the fourth quarter of 2020. During the previous quarter, gross job gains exceeded gross job losses by 146,514. (See chart 1.)



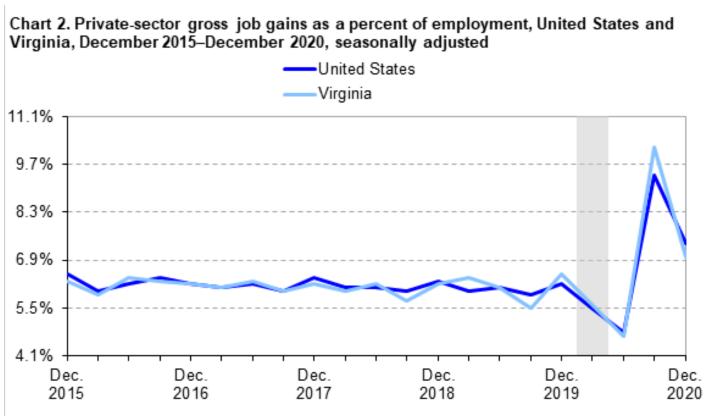
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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 7.0 percent of private-sector employment in Virginia; 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 Virginia, gross job gains at **expanding** establishments totaled 172,870 in the fourth quarter of 2020, a decrease of 76,960 jobs compared to the previous quarter. **Opening** establishments accounted for 40,440 jobs gained in the fourth quarter of 2020, a decrease of 13,446 jobs from the previous quarter. (See table 1.)



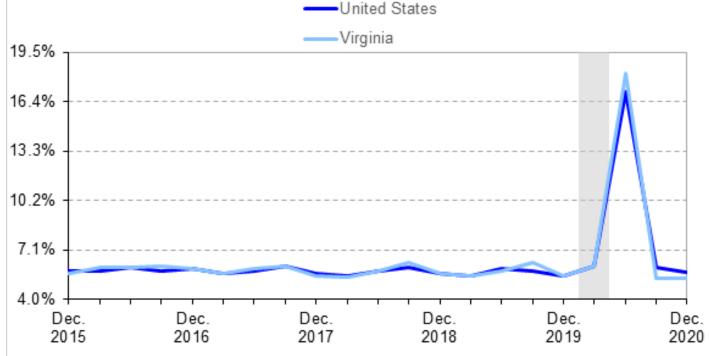
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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 5.3 percent of private-sector employment in Virginia; 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 Virginia, **contracting** establishments lost 122,982 jobs in the fourth quarter of 2020, a decrease of 2,802 jobs from the prior quarter. **Closing** establishments lost 40,543 jobs, an increase of 9,125 jobs from the previous quarter.

Chart 3. Private-sector gross job losses as a percent of employment, United States and Virginia, 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 all 11 industry sectors in Virginia in the fourth quarter of 2020. Leisure and hospitality had the largest over-the-quarter net job increase, with a gain of 13,295 jobs. This was the result of 38,908 gross job gains and 25,613 gross job losses. The professional and business services sector had a net gain of 10,460 jobs. Net job gains in the remaining sectors ranged from 5,186 in education and health services to 152 in information.

### 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, Virginia, seasonally adjusted

Category		,	gains and nonths end	,		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	211,840	181,461	144,619	303,716	213,310	6.5	5.6	4.7	10.2	7.0
At expanding establishments	159,053	145,815	111,068	249,830	172,870	4.9	4.5	3.6	8.4	5.7
At opening establishments	52,787	35,646	33,551	53,886	40,440	1.6	1.1	1.1	1.8	1.3
Gross job losses	177,757	196,921	559,570	157,202	163,525	5.5	6.1	18.2	5.3	5.3
At contracting establishments	143,244	159,414	484,153	125,784	122,982	4.4	4.9	15.7	4.2	4.0
At closing establishments	34,513	37,507	75,417	31,418	40,543	1.1	1.2	2.5	1.1	1.3
Net employment change (2)	34,083	-15,460	-414,951	146,514	49,785	1.0	-0.5	-13.5	4.9	1.7
Construction										
Gross job gains	15,788	16,098	11,633	15,765	16,314	7.8	7.9	5.8	8.0	8.1
At expanding establishments	12,070	13,510	9,439	12,478	13,446	6.0	6.6	4.7	6.3	6.7
At opening establishments	3,718	2,588	2,194	3,287	2,868	1.8	1.3	1.1	1.7	1.4
Gross job losses	13,905	13,571	20,337	14,567	12,751	6.8	6.6	10.1	7.3	6.3
At contracting establishments	11,406	11,177	16,900	12,136	9,431	5.6	5.4	8.4	6.1	4.7
At closing establishments	2,499	2,394	3,437	2,431	3,320	1.2	1.2	1.7	1.2	1.6
Net employment change (2)	1,883	2,527	-8,704	1,198	3,563	1.0	1.3	-4.3	0.7	1.8
Manufacturing	1,000	2,027	0,701	1,100	0,000		1.0		0.7	1.0
Gross job gains	7,923	6,666	4,553	12,178	10,918	3.2	2.7	1.9	5.3	4.7
At expanding establishments	6,362	6,064	4,066	10,709	9,947	2.6	2.5	1.7	4.7	4.3
At opening establishments	1,561	602	487	1,469	971	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.4
Gross job losses	6,915	6,639	20,612	6,914	6,211	2.9	2.8	8.9	3.0	2.7
At contracting establishments	6,230	5,988	19,081	6,222	4,799	2.6	2.5	8.2	2.7	2.1
At closing establishments	685	651	1,531	692	1,412	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.6
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Net employment change (2)	1,008	27	-16,059	5,264	4,707	0.3	-0.1	-7.0	2.3	2.0
Wholesale trade	4 700	4.000	0.004	4 000	4.000		4.0		4-7	4.0
Gross job gains	4,723	4,662	3,334	4,889	4,988	4.3	4.3	3.1	4.7	4.8
At expanding establishments	3,719	3,828	2,656	4,235	4,277	3.4	3.5	2.5	4.1	4.1
At opening establishments	1,004	834	678	654	711	0.9	8.0	0.6	0.6	0.7
Gross job losses	4,384	4,388	9,835	4,375	3,774	4.0	4.0	9.2	4.2	3.6
At contracting establishments	3,551	3,379	8,659	3,524	2,809	3.2	3.1	8.1	3.4	2.7
At closing establishments	833	1,009	1,176	851	965	0.8	0.9	1.1	0.8	0.9
Net employment change (2)	339	274	-6,501	514	1,214	0.3	0.3	-6.1	0.5	1.2
Retail trade										
Gross job gains	23,010	25,401	23,540	39,535	23,473	5.8	6.3	6.0	10.4	6.0
At expanding establishments	19,905	22,741	21,446	35,895	20,406	5.0	5.6	5.5	9.4	5.2
At opening establishments	3,105	2,660	2,094	3,640	3,067	0.8	0.7	0.5	1.0	0.8
Gross job losses	24,655	22,733	66,549	19,227	21,312	6.1	5.6	17.1	5.0	5.5
At contracting establishments	21,727	19,773	60,496	16,895	17,468	5.4	4.9	15.5	4.4	4.5
At closing establishments	2,928	2,960	6,053	2,332	3,844	0.7	0.7	1.6	0.6	1.0
Net employment change (2)	-1,645	2,668	-43,009	20,308	2,161	-0.3	0.7	-11.1	5.4	0.5
Transportation and warehousing										
Gross job gains	10,281	5,644	10,402	11,813	10,767	8.1	4.3	8.2	9.3	8.2
At expanding establishments	7,865	4,935	9,459	10,810	9,762	6.2	3.8	7.5	8.5	7.4
At opening establishments	2,416	709	943	1,003	1,005	1.9	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.8
Gross job losses	5,879	7,862	17,841	6,370	7,182	4.6	6.1	14.2	5.1	5.5
At contracting establishments	5,066	6,963	16,489	5,646	6,113	4.0	5.4	13.1	4.5	4.7
At closing establishments	813	899	1,352	724	1,069	0.6	0.7	1.1	0.6	0.8
Net employment change (2)	4,402	-2,218	-7,439	5,443	3,585	3.5	-1.8	-6.0	4.2	2.7
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Gross job gains	3,705	3,193	2,374	4,489	3,253	5.5	4.7	3.6	7.1	5.0
At expanding establishments	2,918	2,658	1,847	3,362	2,027	4.3	3.9	2.8	5.3	3.1
At opening establishments	787	535	527	1,127	1,226	1.2	0.8	0.8	1.8	1.9
Gross job losses	3,023	3,156		2,790	3,101	4.5	4.6	11.5	4.3	4.8

Table 1. Private sector gross job gains and losses by industry, Virginia, seasonally adjusted - Continued

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	
At contracting establishments	2,554	2,653	5,935	2,122	2,242	3.8	3.9	9.1	3.3	3.5	
At closing establishments	469	503	1,545	668	859	0.7	0.7	2.4	1.0	1.3	
Net employment change (2)	682	37	-5,106	1,699	152	1.0	0.1	-7.9	2.8	0.2	
Financial activities											
Gross job gains	10,533	8,214	6,448	9,391	9,746	5.3	4.1	3.3	4.8	5.0	
At expanding establishments	7,690	6,376	4,678	7,393	7,475	3.9	3.2	2.4	3.8	3.8	
At opening establishments	2,843	1,838	1,770	1,998	2,271	1.4	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.2	
Gross job losses	8,390	9,063	14,663	7,947	9,025	4.3	4.5	7.4	4.1	4.7	
At contracting establishments	6,495	7,284	11,478	5,849	6,201	3.3	3.6	5.8	3.0	3.2	
At closing establishments	1,895	1,779	3,185	2,098	2,824	1.0	0.9	1.6	1.1	1.5	
Net employment change (2)	2,143	-849	-8,215	1,444	721	1.0	-0.4	-4.1	0.7	0.3	
Professional and business services											
Gross job gains	50,833	43,104	39,562	56,004	49,524	6.7	5.7	5.3	7.6	6.5	
At expanding establishments	40,189	35,731	30,739	45,002	40,159	5.3	4.7	4.1	6.1	5.3	
At opening establishments	10,644	7,373	8,823	11,002	9,365	1.4	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.2	
Gross job losses	44,900	43,691	75,837	42,707	39,064	5.9	5.7	10.1	5.8	5.2	
At contracting establishments	35,717	35,258	65,420	34,703	28,881	4.7	4.6	8.7	4.7	3.8	
At closing establishments	9,183	8,433	10,417	8,004	10,183	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.4	
Net employment change (2)	5,933	-587	-36,275	13,297	10,460	0.8	0.0	-4.8	1.8	1.3	
Education and health services											
Gross job gains	26,369	25,204	16,937	34,817	27,920	5.0	4.8	3.4	7.2	5.7	
At expanding establishments	18,404	19,948	11,346	28,135	22,027	3.5	3.8	2.3	5.8	4.5	
At opening establishments	7,965	5,256	5,591	6,682	5,893	1.5	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.2	
Gross job losses	25,378	27,342	61,908	21,725	22,734	4.8	5.2	12.4	4.5	4.6	
At contracting establishments	18,430	20,413	52,975	16,330	15,892	3.5	3.9	10.6	3.4	3.2	
At closing establishments	6,948	6,929	8,933	5,395	6,842	1.3	1.3	1.8	1.1	1.4	
Net employment change (2)	991	-2,138	-44,971	13,092	5,186	0.2	-0.4	-9.0	2.7	1.1	
Leisure and hospitality											
Gross job gains	40,365	27,461	12,984	92,588	38,908	9.9	6.7	3.8	31.5	11.9	
At expanding establishments	30,140	20,452	8,601	78,558	32,097	7.4	5.0	2.5	26.7	9.8	
At opening establishments	10,225	7,009	4,383	14,030	6,811	2.5	1.7	1.3	4.8	2.1	
Gross job losses	27,836	44,048	230,464	18,807	25,613	6.8	10.7	68.0	6.4	7.9	
At contracting establishments	23,339	36,582	202,182	13,893	20,772	5.7	8.9	59.7	4.7	6.4	
At closing establishments	4,497	7,466	28,282	4,914	4,841	1.1	1.8	8.3	1.7	1.5	
Net employment change (2)	12,529	-16,587	-217,480	73,781	13,295	3.1	-4.0	-64.2	25.1	4.0	
Other services (3)											
Gross job gains	8,855	7,738	5,363	14,021	8,704	6.9	6.0	4.7	13.0	7.8	
At expanding establishments	6,281	5,808	3,454	9,598	6,497	4.9	4.5	3.0	8.9	5.8	
At opening establishments	2,574	1,930	1,909	4,423	2,207	2.0	1.5	1.7	4.1	2.0	
Gross job losses	8,037	8,749	26,501	6,642	7,484	6.2	6.8	23.3	6.2	6.6	
At contracting establishments	6,263	6,447	19,695	4,855	5,426	4.8	5.0	17.3	4.5	4.8	
At closing establishments	1,774	2,302	6,806	1,787	2,058	1.4	1.8	6.0	1.7	1.8	
Net employment change (2)	818	-1,011	-21,138	7,379	1,220	0.7	-0.8	-18.6	6.8	1.2	
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#### Footnotes:

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes unclassified sector not shown separately.

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

<sup>(3)</sup> 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 a	as a percer nonths end		/ment	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	
lowa	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 7.2	7.5	5.0	5.3 5.5	13.7	5.4	4.6	
Texas	6.0	5.0	4.7		7.5	5.1		13.6	6.0	4.8	
Utah	6.8 6.9	6.6 5.8	6.5 4.6	9.1 12.3	8.1 7.6	6.3 6.4	6.4 7.6	10.9 18.5	6.2 5.7	5.5 7.9	
Virginia	6.5	5.6	4.6 4.7	12.3	7.6 7.0	5.5	7.6 6.1	18.5	5.7	7.9 5.3	
Virginia									- 1		
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.