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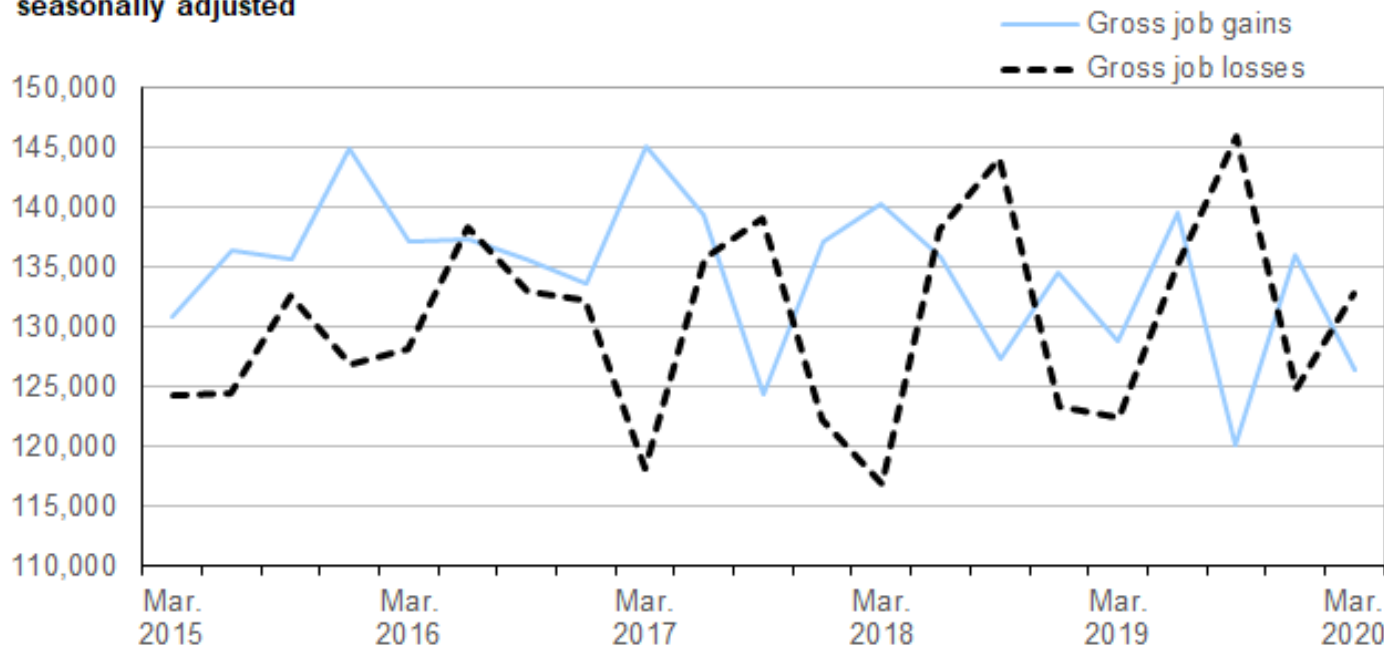
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Business Employment Dynamics in Wisconsin — First Quarter 2020

From December 2019 to March 2020, **gross job gains** from opening and expanding private-sector establishments in Wisconsin were 126,388, while **gross job losses** from closing and contracting private-sector establishments were 132,770, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Jason Palmer noted that the difference between the number of gross job gains and the number of gross job losses yielded a **net employment loss** of 6,382 jobs in the private sector during the first quarter of 2020. During the previous quarter, gross job gains exceeded gross job losses by 11,171. (See [chart 1.](#))

Chart 1. Private sector gross job gains and losses in Wisconsin, March 2015–March 2020, seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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 first quarter of 2020, gross job gains represented 5.0 percent of private-sector employment in Wisconsin; nationally, gross job gains accounted for 5.5 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 Wisconsin, gross job gains at **expanding** establishments totaled 108,874 in the first quarter of 2020, a decrease of 9,182 jobs compared to the previous quarter. (See [table 1](#).) **Opening** establishments accounted for 17,514 jobs gained in the first quarter of 2020, a decrease of 497 jobs from the previous quarter.

Gross job losses

In the first quarter of 2020, gross job losses represented 5.3 percent of private-sector employment in Wisconsin; nationally, gross job losses accounted for 6.1 percent of private-sector employment. (See [chart 2](#).) Gross job losses are the result of contractions in employment at existing establishments and the loss of jobs at closing establishments. In Wisconsin, **contracting** establishments lost 115,074 jobs in the first quarter of 2020, an increase of 9,502 jobs from the prior quarter. **Closing** establishments lost 17,696 jobs, a decrease of 1,628 jobs from the previous quarter.

Industries

Gross job losses exceeded gross job gains in 6 of the 10 industry sectors in Wisconsin in the first quarter of 2020. Leisure and hospitality had the largest over-the-quarter net job decrease with a loss of 8,448 jobs. This was the result of 24,528 gross job gains and 32,976 gross job losses. Wisconsin's professional and business services industry sector had a net loss of 3,182 jobs. Retail trade had a net gain of 4,628 jobs, and construction gained 1,869 jobs.

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 Second Quarter 2020 are scheduled to be released on Wednesday, January 27, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Effect on First 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 sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Private sector gross job gains and losses by industry, Wisconsin, 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)				
	Mar. 2019	June 2019	Sept 2019	Dec. 2019	Mar. 2020	Mar. 2019	June 2019	Sept 2019	Dec. 2019	Mar. 2020
Total private ⁽¹⁾										
Gross job gains	128,771	139,554	120,219	136,067	126,388	5.2	5.5	4.8	5.4	5.0
At expanding establishments	109,176	118,892	103,313	118,056	108,874	4.4	4.7	4.1	4.7	4.3
At opening establishments	19,595	20,662	16,906	18,011	17,514	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7
Gross job losses	122,544	135,059	146,059	124,896	132,770	4.9	5.3	5.9	5.0	5.3
At contracting establishments	106,189	119,085	124,741	105,572	115,074	4.2	4.7	5.0	4.2	4.6
At closing establishments	16,355	15,974	21,318	19,324	17,696	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.7
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	6,227	4,495	-25,840	11,171	-6,382	0.3	0.2	-1.1	0.4	-0.3
Construction										
Gross job gains	11,474	11,562	10,044	11,560	11,812	9.1	9.2	8.2	9.3	9.1
At expanding establishments	9,422	9,588	8,235	9,477	10,485	7.5	7.6	6.7	7.6	8.1
At opening establishments	2,052	1,974	1,809	2,083	1,327	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.0
Gross job losses	10,274	9,693	11,436	10,632	9,943	8.2	7.7	9.3	8.6	7.8
At contracting establishments	8,660	8,455	9,344	8,937	8,320	6.9	6.7	7.6	7.2	6.5
At closing establishments	1,614	1,238	2,092	1,695	1,623	1.3	1.0	1.7	1.4	1.3
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	1,200	1,869	-1,392	928	1,869	0.9	1.5	-1.1	0.7	1.3
Manufacturing										
Gross job gains	12,102	13,322	10,635	13,181	11,873	2.5	2.7	2.2	2.8	2.5
At expanding establishments	11,457	12,794	10,355	12,783	11,427	2.4	2.6	2.1	2.7	2.4
At opening establishments	645	528	280	398	446	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Gross job losses	12,498	13,256	15,584	13,094	13,943	2.6	2.7	3.2	2.7	2.9
At contracting establishments	11,540	12,847	14,962	12,422	13,202	2.4	2.6	3.1	2.6	2.7
At closing establishments	958	409	622	672	741	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	-396	66	-4,949	87	-2,070	-0.1	0.0	-1.0	0.1	-0.4
Wholesale trade										
Gross job gains	4,884	5,125	5,048	4,940	4,707	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.9
At expanding establishments	4,381	4,468	4,277	4,345	4,273	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5
At opening establishments	503	657	771	595	434	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4
Gross job losses	4,811	4,971	5,229	4,534	4,423	3.9	4.0	4.2	3.6	3.6
At contracting establishments	4,028	4,354	4,623	3,639	3,527	3.3	3.5	3.7	2.9	2.9
At closing establishments	783	617	606	895	896	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	73	154	-181	406	284	0.0	0.1	-0.1	0.4	0.3
Retail trade										
Gross job gains	15,966	17,249	13,778	15,637	18,184	5.3	5.7	4.6	5.3	6.1
At expanding establishments	14,444	15,791	12,367	14,224	17,497	4.8	5.2	4.1	4.8	5.9
At opening establishments	1,522	1,458	1,411	1,413	687	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.2
Gross job losses	15,502	20,282	19,914	15,578	13,556	5.1	6.7	6.6	5.3	4.6
At contracting establishments	14,218	18,242	17,136	14,374	12,112	4.7	6.0	5.7	4.9	4.1
At closing establishments	1,284	2,040	2,778	1,204	1,444	0.4	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.5
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	464	-3,033	-6,136	59	4,628	0.2	-1.0	-2.0	0.0	1.5
Transportation and warehousing										
Gross job gains	4,942	5,776	5,848	7,559	4,742	4.8	5.7	5.7	7.3	4.5
At expanding establishments	4,398	5,315	5,382	6,763	4,061	4.3	5.2	5.2	6.5	3.9
At opening establishments	544	461	466	796	681	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.6
Gross job losses	6,220	4,758	5,281	4,900	6,984	6.1	4.6	5.2	4.7	6.7
At contracting establishments	5,734	4,301	4,497	4,284	6,505	5.6	4.2	4.4	4.1	6.2
At closing establishments	486	457	784	616	479	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.5
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	-1,278	1,018	567	2,659	-2,242	-1.3	1.1	0.5	2.6	-2.2
Financial activities										
Gross job gains	6,028	5,853	5,578	5,544	4,685	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.2
At expanding establishments	5,015	4,997	4,842	4,515	4,149	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.0	2.8
At opening establishments	1,013	856	736	1,029	536	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.4
Gross job losses	5,553	5,286	5,795	5,619	4,934	3.7	3.5	3.9	3.7	3.3

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Private sector gross job gains and losses by industry, Wisconsin, 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)				
	Mar. 2019	June 2019	Sept 2019	Dec. 2019	Mar. 2020	Mar. 2019	June 2019	Sept 2019	Dec. 2019	Mar. 2020
At contracting establishments	4,484	4,567	4,914	4,497	4,075	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.0	2.7
At closing establishments	1,069	719	881	1,122	859	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	475	567	-217	-75	-249	0.3	0.4	-0.2	0.0	-0.1
Professional and business services										
Gross job gains	18,992	21,799	17,170	18,508	17,323	5.8	6.7	5.3	5.7	5.4
At expanding establishments	16,022	17,631	14,194	15,467	14,475	4.9	5.4	4.4	4.8	4.5
At opening establishments	2,970	4,168	2,976	3,041	2,848	0.9	1.3	0.9	0.9	0.9
Gross job losses	17,893	21,935	22,053	19,491	20,505	5.5	6.7	6.8	6.0	6.3
At contracting establishments	14,958	18,967	18,824	15,852	17,498	4.6	5.8	5.8	4.9	5.4
At closing establishments	2,935	2,968	3,229	3,639	3,007	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.9
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	1,099	-136	-4,883	-983	-3,182	0.3	0.0	-1.5	-0.3	-0.9
Education and health services										
Gross job gains	15,251	19,042	16,994	17,915	15,464	3.5	4.3	3.9	4.1	3.5
At expanding establishments	12,822	15,093	14,453	14,410	12,878	2.9	3.4	3.3	3.3	2.9
At opening establishments	2,429	3,949	2,541	3,505	2,586	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.6
Gross job losses	14,286	16,015	16,958	16,597	15,124	3.3	3.6	3.9	3.8	3.5
At contracting establishments	12,082	12,927	13,161	12,626	12,662	2.8	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.9
At closing establishments	2,204	3,088	3,797	3,971	2,462	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.6
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	965	3,027	36	1,318	340	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.3	0.0
Leisure and hospitality										
Gross job gains	27,699	28,645	26,092	30,868	24,528	9.6	10.0	9.2	10.9	8.6
At expanding establishments	22,446	23,559	21,432	26,966	20,771	7.8	8.2	7.6	9.5	7.3
At opening establishments	5,253	5,086	4,660	3,902	3,757	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.3
Gross job losses	25,376	28,010	32,412	25,072	32,976	8.8	9.8	11.4	8.8	11.6
At contracting establishments	21,808	24,954	27,313	21,005	28,510	7.6	8.7	9.6	7.4	10.0
At closing establishments	3,568	3,056	5,099	4,067	4,466	1.2	1.1	1.8	1.4	1.6
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	2,323	635	-6,320	5,796	-8,448	0.8	0.2	-2.2	2.1	-3.0
Other services ⁽³⁾										
Gross job gains	5,053	5,767	4,747	5,055	5,229	6.4	7.2	5.9	6.4	6.6
At expanding establishments	4,203	5,104	4,158	4,373	4,362	5.3	6.4	5.2	5.5	5.5
At opening establishments	850	663	589	682	867	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.1
Gross job losses	5,010	4,563	5,738	5,043	5,591	6.4	5.7	7.2	6.4	7.1
At contracting establishments	4,215	3,985	5,035	4,194	4,589	5.4	5.0	6.3	5.3	5.8
At closing establishments	795	578	703	849	1,002	1.0	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.3
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	43	1,204	-991	12	-362	0.0	1.5	-1.3	0.0	-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)				
	Mar. 2019	June 2019	Sept. 2019	Dec. 2019	Mar. 2020	Mar. 2019	June 2019	Sept. 2019	Dec. 2019	Mar. 2020
United States ⁽¹⁾	6.0	6.1	5.9	6.2	5.5	5.5	5.9	5.8	5.5	6.1
Alabama	6.1	5.9	5.8	6.2	5.5	5.6	5.9	5.9	5.5	5.9
Alaska	10.1	10.7	9.6	10.3	9.2	9.0	10.1	10.1	10.2	9.5
Arizona	5.7	5.7	6.3	6.4	5.6	5.5	5.6	4.9	5.2	5.9
Arkansas	5.3	5.0	5.6	6.5	5.1	5.1	5.7	5.8	4.9	5.5
California	6.4	6.6	6.3	6.8	6.1	6.1	6.4	6.0	6.0	6.7
Colorado	6.6	7.0	6.6	6.7	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.4	6.2	7.0
Connecticut	5.3	5.8	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.9
Delaware	6.5	6.0	6.2	6.7	6.2	5.6	6.6	6.3	6.2	6.6
District of Columbia	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.5	5.3	4.7	5.3
Florida	6.2	6.5	6.6	6.6	5.4	5.6	6.3	5.8	5.9	6.2
Georgia	6.7	6.1	6.2	6.5	5.6	5.7	6.5	6.0	5.5	5.9
Hawaii	5.5	4.8	5.6	5.7	5.2	5.9	5.8	5.2	5.2	5.8
Idaho	7.5	7.1	7.0	7.7	7.6	6.1	6.7	6.8	6.3	6.1
Illinois	5.2	5.6	5.0	5.6	5.0	5.2	5.3	5.6	5.2	6.0
Indiana	5.8	5.1	5.4	6.0	4.9	4.8	5.9	5.6	5.1	6.0
Iowa	5.1	5.8	5.3	5.8	5.2	5.6	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.9
Kansas	5.6	5.7	5.6	6.3	5.4	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	6.0
Kentucky	5.8	5.8	5.9	6.2	5.3	5.5	6.0	5.7	5.6	6.1
Louisiana	6.1	6.2	5.9	5.9	5.3	6.1	6.5	6.1	5.7	6.3
Maine	7.5	7.4	6.5	7.3	6.4	6.7	7.4	7.3	6.9	7.0
Maryland	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.4	5.7	5.7	6.5	6.3	5.9	6.7
Massachusetts	6.1	6.0	5.3	5.8	5.2	5.2	5.6	5.9	5.6	6.0
Michigan	5.2	5.5	5.1	5.8	5.0	4.6	5.7	5.9	5.3	5.7
Minnesota	5.2	5.8	5.4	5.8	5.0	5.2	5.5	5.8	5.6	5.6
Mississippi	5.7	5.8	5.7	6.2	5.6	6.2	6.1	5.7	5.6	6.2
Missouri	5.4	5.7	5.8	6.2	5.2	5.3	5.8	5.8	5.3	5.7
Montana	7.6	8.1	7.4	8.6	7.7	8.1	7.7	7.7	7.2	7.7
Nebraska	5.7	5.7	5.7	6.2	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.8	6.1
Nevada	6.1	6.0	6.1	6.8	5.4	5.4	6.2	5.5	5.0	6.3
New Hampshire	6.4	6.4	5.8	6.6	6.0	5.7	6.3	6.6	6.0	6.4
New Jersey	5.7	6.2	6.0	6.5	5.7	5.7	5.9	6.2	5.8	6.3
New Mexico	6.7	6.3	6.8	7.0	6.1	5.8	6.5	6.1	6.3	6.5
New York	6.0	6.1	5.8	6.0	5.5	5.4	5.9	5.9	5.7	6.4
North Carolina	6.4	6.0	5.8	6.3	5.8	5.1	5.9	6.0	5.4	5.7
North Dakota	7.1	6.7	6.5	6.7	6.8	6.4	6.7	7.1	6.6	7.0
Ohio	5.6	5.7	5.3	5.7	5.1	5.2	5.7	5.9	5.3	5.6
Oklahoma	5.9	6.0	6.4	6.5	5.4	5.9	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.7
Oregon	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.7	6.2	5.8	6.1	6.2	5.8	6.5
Pennsylvania	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.4	4.9	4.8	5.4	5.1	4.9	5.6
Rhode Island	5.9	6.3	6.0	6.5	6.1	5.7	6.5	6.2	5.9	6.5
South Carolina	6.6	6.4	6.0	6.5	5.5	6.5	6.2	5.9	5.9	6.6
South Dakota	5.7	6.2	5.9	6.4	6.0	6.2	5.9	6.0	5.8	6.6
Tennessee	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.7	4.9	4.9	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.3
Texas	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.0	5.0	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.5
Utah	7.3	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.2	6.6	6.3	6.3	6.4
Vermont	6.9	7.1	6.3	6.9	5.8	6.3	7.1	7.6	6.4	7.6
Virginia	6.4	6.1	5.5	6.5	5.6	5.5	5.8	6.3	5.5	6.1
Washington	6.4	6.6	6.1	6.6	7.4	6.1	5.8	6.1	5.8	7.4
West Virginia	6.1	6.2	5.9	6.2	6.0	6.7	6.6	6.7	7.1	6.8
Wisconsin	5.2	5.5	4.8	5.4	5.0	4.9	5.3	5.9	5.0	5.3
Wyoming	9.0	8.5	8.6	9.4	8.6	7.8	9.5	8.9	8.7	9.3
Puerto Rico	7.2	6.4	5.9	5.4	5.0	5.2	5.8	5.5	4.9	5.2
Virgin Islands	12.9	8.9	12.0	10.3	7.2	7.6	6.9	6.4	7.3	8.3

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.