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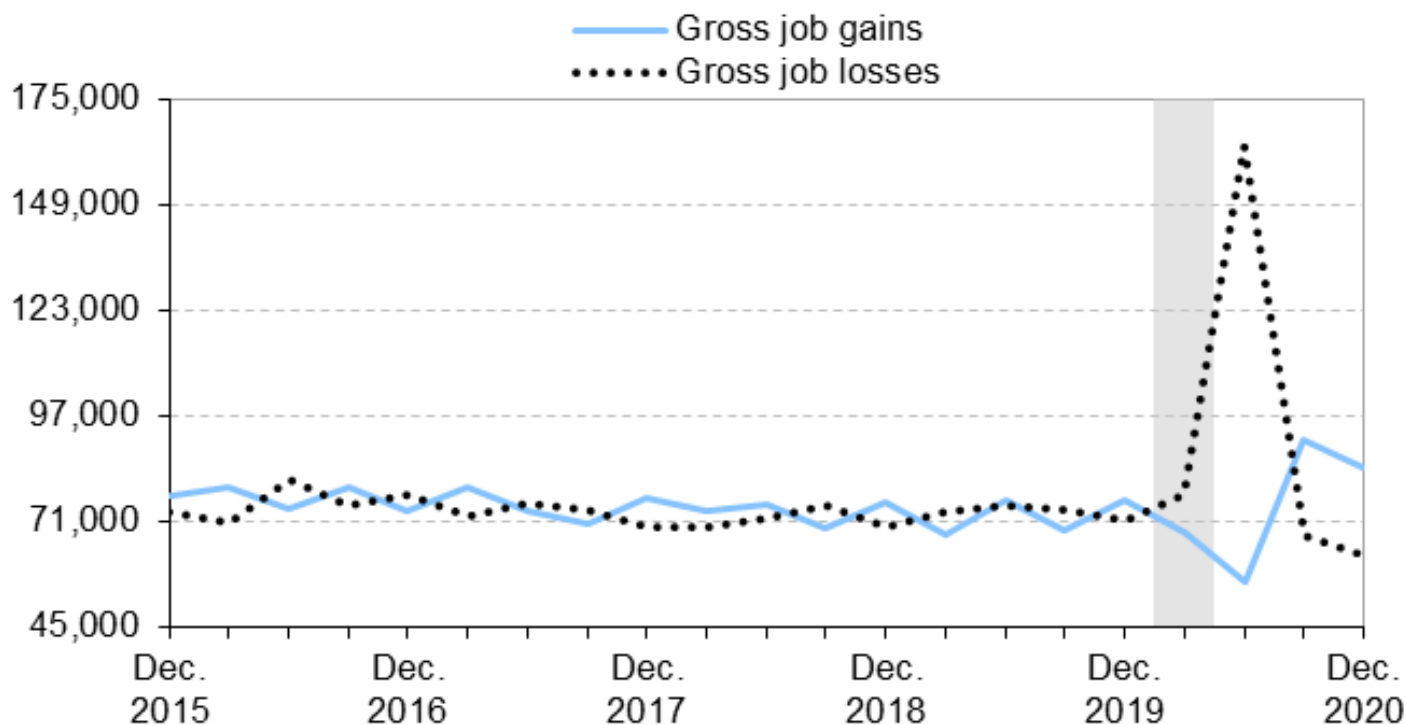
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## Business Employment Dynamics in Iowa — Fourth Quarter 2020

From September 2020 to December 2020, **gross job gains** from opening and expanding private-sector establishments in Iowa were 84,048, while **gross job losses** from closing and contracting private-sector establishments were 62,660, 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 gain** of 21,388 jobs in the private sector during the fourth quarter of 2020. During the previous quarter, gross job gains exceeded gross job losses by 23,428. (See [chart 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Private-sector gross job gains and losses in Iowa, December 2015–December 2020, seasonally adjusted**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

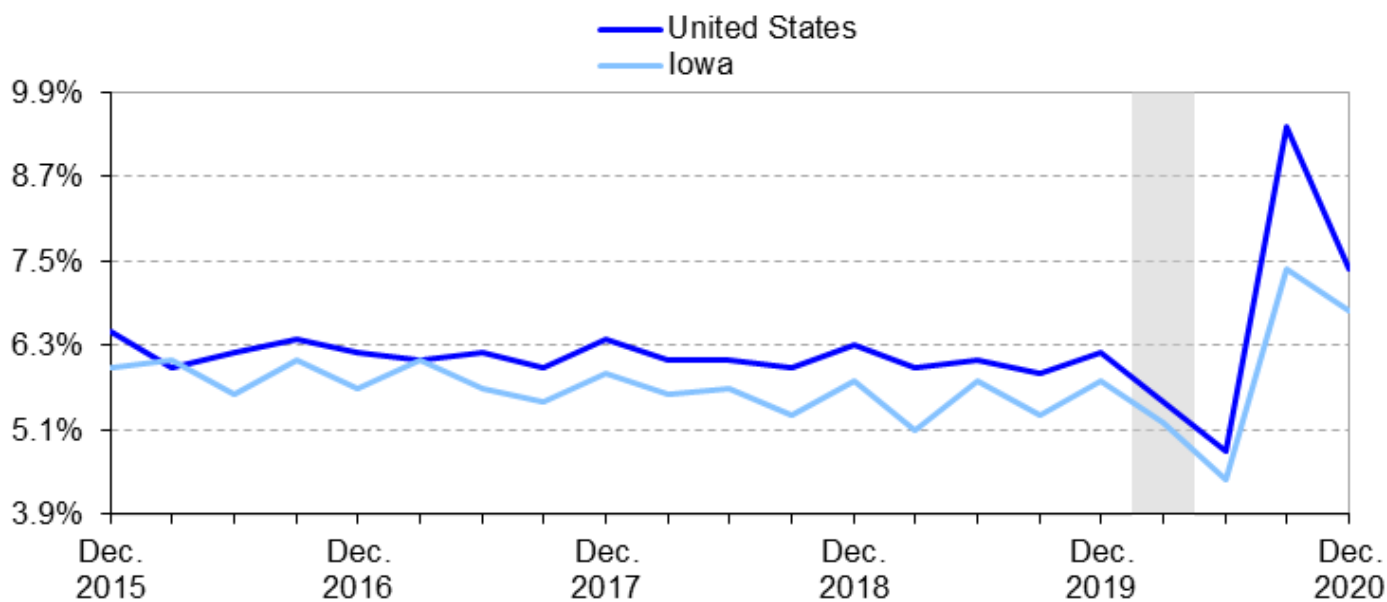
Note: Shaded area represents National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) defined recession period.

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 6.8 percent of private-sector employment in Iowa; 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 Iowa, gross job gains at **expanding** establishments totaled 70,258 in the fourth quarter of 2020, a decrease of 6,883 jobs compared to the previous quarter. (See [table 1](#).) **Opening** establishments accounted for 13,790 jobs gained in the fourth quarter of 2020, similar to the previous quarter.

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



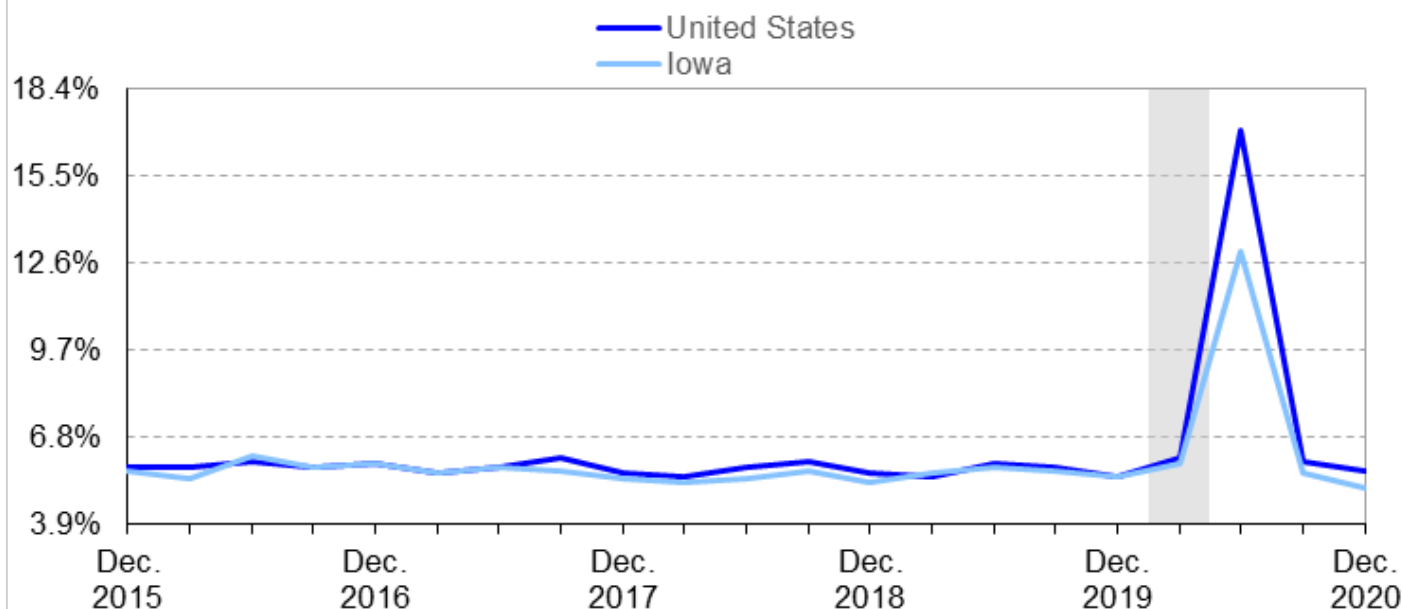
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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 5.1 percent of private-sector employment in Iowa; 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 Iowa, **contracting** establishments lost 53,253 jobs in the fourth quarter of 2020, a decrease of 3,572 jobs from the prior quarter. **Closing** establishments lost 9,407 jobs, a decrease of 1,212 jobs from the previous quarter.

**Chart 3. Private-sector gross job losses as a percent of employment, United States and Iowa, 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 9 of the 10 industry sectors in Iowa in the fourth quarter of 2020. Manufacturing had the largest over-the-quarter net job increase, with a gain of 4,364 jobs. This was the result of 8,534 gross job gains and 4,170 gross job losses. The professional and business services industry had a net gain of 4,147 jobs. Iowa's financial activities industry sector had a net loss of 573 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/](http://www.bls.gov/bdm/).

**The Business Employment Dynamics for First Quarter 2021 are scheduled to be released on Wednesday, October 27, 2021.**

### 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](http://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](http://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, Iowa, 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
<b>Total private <sup>(1)</sup></b>										
Gross job gains .....	76,115	68,219	56,059	90,872	84,048	5.8	5.2	4.4	7.4	6.8
At expanding establishments .....	64,075	57,511	45,370	77,141	70,258	4.9	4.4	3.6	6.3	5.7
At opening establishments .....	12,040	10,708	10,689	13,731	13,790	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.1
Gross job losses .....	71,270	77,348	163,360	67,444	62,660	5.5	5.9	13.0	5.6	5.1
At contracting establishments .....	60,033	64,609	144,384	56,825	53,253	4.6	4.9	11.5	4.7	4.3
At closing establishments .....	11,237	12,739	18,976	10,619	9,407	0.9	1.0	1.5	0.9	0.8
Net employment change <sup>(2)</sup> .....	4,845	-9,129	-107,301	23,428	21,388	0.3	-0.7	-8.6	1.8	1.7
<b>Construction</b>										
Gross job gains .....	8,221	8,930	7,633	7,300	10,220	10.5	11.2	9.7	9.9	13.6
At expanding establishments .....	6,504	7,168	6,191	5,828	8,412	8.3	9.0	7.9	7.9	11.2
At opening establishments .....	1,717	1,762	1,442	1,472	1,808	2.2	2.2	1.8	2.0	2.4
Gross job losses .....	8,711	8,215	10,941	9,848	6,591	11.2	10.3	14.0	13.3	8.7
At contracting establishments .....	6,931	6,712	9,360	8,671	5,527	8.9	8.4	12.0	11.7	7.3
At closing establishments .....	1,780	1,503	1,581	1,177	1,064	2.3	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.4
Net employment change <sup>(2)</sup> .....	-490	715	-3,308	-2,548	3,629	-0.7	0.9	-4.3	-3.4	4.9
<b>Manufacturing</b>										
Gross job gains .....	6,299	4,742	3,607	9,124	8,534	2.8	2.1	1.6	4.2	3.9
At expanding establishments .....	5,982	4,408	3,284	8,822	7,845	2.7	2.0	1.5	4.1	3.6
At opening establishments .....	317	334	323	302	689	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Gross job losses .....	5,486	6,617	16,524	6,549	4,170	2.5	3.0	7.6	3.1	1.9
At contracting establishments .....	5,105	6,195	15,843	6,228	3,962	2.3	2.8	7.3	2.9	1.8
At closing establishments .....	381	422	681	321	208	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1
Net employment change <sup>(2)</sup> .....	813	-1,875	-12,917	2,575	4,364	0.3	-0.9	-6.0	1.1	2.0
<b>Wholesale trade</b>										
Gross job gains .....	3,325	3,053	2,357	2,644	3,575	5.1	4.5	3.6	4.1	5.5
At expanding establishments .....	2,962	2,624	1,977	2,246	3,108	4.5	3.9	3.0	3.5	4.8
At opening establishments .....	363	429	380	398	467	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7
Gross job losses .....	2,365	3,272	5,054	2,931	2,006	3.5	4.9	7.7	4.6	3.2
At contracting establishments .....	1,871	2,751	4,633	2,458	1,651	2.8	4.1	7.1	3.9	2.6
At closing establishments .....	494	521	421	473	355	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.6
Net employment change <sup>(2)</sup> .....	960	-219	-2,697	-287	1,569	1.6	-0.4	-4.1	-0.5	2.3
<b>Retail trade</b>										
Gross job gains .....	9,442	9,604	9,646	12,768	10,928	5.4	5.5	5.6	7.6	6.4
At expanding establishments .....	8,575	8,925	8,899	11,597	10,133	4.9	5.1	5.2	6.9	5.9
At opening establishments .....	867	679	747	1,171	795	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.5
Gross job losses .....	8,946	9,134	20,545	8,758	8,260	5.1	5.3	12.0	5.3	4.9
At contracting establishments .....	7,991	7,987	19,026	7,973	7,098	4.6	4.6	11.1	4.8	4.2
At closing establishments .....	955	1,147	1,519	785	1,162	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.7
Net employment change <sup>(2)</sup> .....	496	470	-10,899	4,010	2,668	0.3	0.2	-6.4	2.3	1.5
<b>Transportation and warehousing</b>										
Gross job gains .....	4,655	2,807	3,144	4,092	5,698	7.5	4.6	5.3	7.0	9.3
At expanding establishments .....	4,260	2,503	2,661	3,601	5,131	6.9	4.1	4.5	6.2	8.4
At opening establishments .....	395	304	483	491	567	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.9
Gross job losses .....	2,714	4,252	6,291	2,997	2,310	4.5	6.9	10.7	5.1	3.8
At contracting establishments .....	2,363	3,795	5,534	2,768	2,074	3.9	6.2	9.4	4.7	3.4
At closing establishments .....	351	457	757	229	236	0.6	0.7	1.3	0.4	0.4
Net employment change <sup>(2)</sup> .....	1,941	-1,445	-3,147	1,095	3,388	3.0	-2.3	-5.4	1.9	5.5
<b>Financial activities</b>										
Gross job gains .....	3,917	3,211	3,106	5,193	3,679	3.6	2.9	2.9	4.7	3.3
At expanding establishments .....	3,184	2,661	2,487	4,293	2,774	2.9	2.4	2.3	3.9	2.5
At opening establishments .....	733	550	619	900	905	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.8
Gross job losses .....	3,759	3,560	4,937	3,728	4,252	3.4	3.2	4.5	3.4	3.9

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Private sector gross job gains and losses by industry, Iowa, 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 .....	3,126	2,803	4,139	2,956	3,581	2.8	2.5	3.8	2.7	3.3
At closing establishments .....	633	757	798	772	671	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6
Net employment change <sup>(2)</sup> .....	158	-349	-1,831	1,465	-573	0.2	-0.3	-1.6	1.3	-0.6
<b>Professional and business services</b>										
Gross job gains .....	9,097	10,237	8,690	11,783	12,772	6.6	7.4	6.4	8.9	9.5
At expanding establishments .....	6,875	8,163	6,744	9,226	9,825	5.0	5.9	5.0	7.0	7.3
At opening establishments .....	2,222	2,074	1,946	2,557	2,947	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.9	2.2
Gross job losses .....	10,916	9,774	17,053	10,052	8,625	7.8	7.1	12.7	7.6	6.3
At contracting establishments .....	8,513	7,611	14,676	7,576	6,803	6.1	5.5	10.9	5.7	5.0
At closing establishments .....	2,403	2,163	2,377	2,476	1,822	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.3
Net employment change <sup>(2)</sup> .....	-1,819	463	-8,363	1,731	4,147	-1.2	0.3	-6.3	1.3	3.2
<b>Education and health services</b>										
Gross job gains .....	9,838	8,333	5,700	12,030	10,422	4.5	3.8	2.7	5.9	5.0
At expanding establishments .....	8,545	7,258	4,068	10,887	8,984	3.9	3.3	1.9	5.3	4.3
At opening establishments .....	1,293	1,075	1,632	1,143	1,438	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.7
Gross job losses .....	9,401	9,786	21,789	7,845	8,156	4.3	4.5	10.3	3.8	3.9
At contracting establishments .....	8,246	8,579	20,226	6,783	6,991	3.8	3.9	9.6	3.3	3.3
At closing establishments .....	1,155	1,207	1,563	1,062	1,165	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6
Net employment change <sup>(2)</sup> .....	437	-1,453	-16,089	4,185	2,266	0.2	-0.7	-7.6	2.1	1.1
<b>Leisure and hospitality</b>										
Gross job gains .....	14,409	11,962	7,657	19,066	12,180	10.0	8.3	6.1	16.7	10.3
At expanding establishments .....	11,535	9,574	5,628	15,115	9,245	8.0	6.6	4.5	13.2	7.8
At opening establishments .....	2,874	2,388	2,029	3,951	2,935	2.0	1.7	1.6	3.5	2.5
Gross job losses .....	12,455	15,492	48,746	9,913	12,145	8.7	10.8	38.6	8.6	10.3
At contracting establishments .....	10,452	12,642	41,291	7,573	10,407	7.3	8.8	32.7	6.6	8.8
At closing establishments .....	2,003	2,850	7,455	2,340	1,738	1.4	2.0	5.9	2.0	1.5
Net employment change <sup>(2)</sup> .....	1,954	-3,530	-41,089	9,153	35	1.3	-2.5	-32.5	8.1	0.0
<b>Other services <sup>(3)</sup></b>										
Gross job gains .....	3,047	2,474	1,982	3,660	2,883	7.6	6.2	5.3	10.2	7.9
At expanding establishments .....	2,613	2,036	1,467	2,883	2,278	6.5	5.1	3.9	8.0	6.2
At opening establishments .....	434	438	515	777	605	1.1	1.1	1.4	2.2	1.7
Gross job losses .....	2,925	3,473	6,154	2,224	2,801	7.3	8.7	16.5	6.2	7.6
At contracting establishments .....	2,129	2,661	5,106	1,672	2,275	5.3	6.7	13.7	4.7	6.2
At closing establishments .....	796	812	1,048	552	526	2.0	2.0	2.8	1.5	1.4
Net employment change <sup>(2)</sup> .....	122	-999	-4,172	1,436	82	0.3	-2.5	-11.2	4.0	0.3

## 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 <sup>(1)</sup> .....	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.