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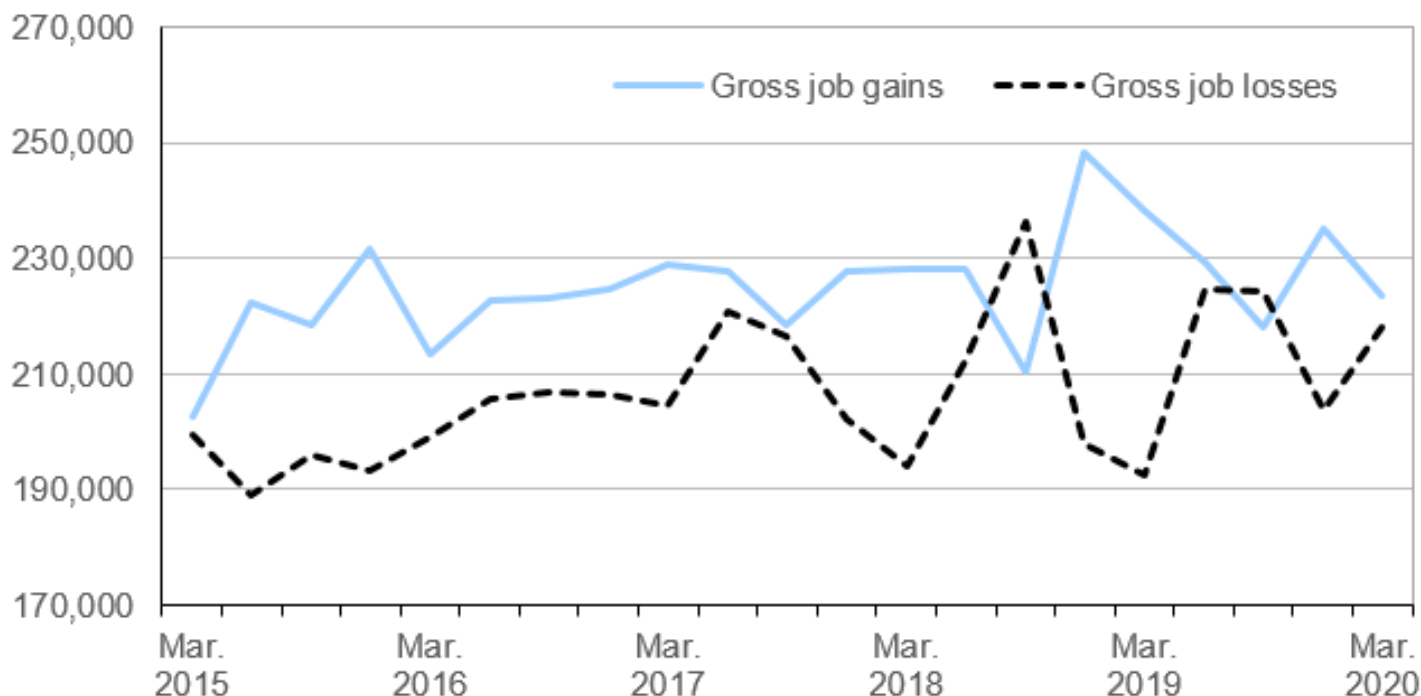
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Business Employment Dynamics in North Carolina – First Quarter 2020

From December 2019 to March 2020, **gross job gains** from opening and expanding private-sector establishments in North Carolina were 223,550, while **gross job losses** from closing and contracting private-sector establishments were 218,100, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the difference between the number of gross job gains and the number of gross job losses yielded a **net employment gain** of 5,450 jobs in the private-sector during the first quarter of 2020. During the previous quarter, gross job gains exceeded gross job losses by 31,523. (See [chart 1.](#))

Chart 1. Private sector gross job gains and losses in North Carolina, 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 businesses in the economy. Business Employment Dynamics (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. The difference between the number of gross job gains and the number of gross job losses is the net change in employment. (See the [Technical Note](#).)

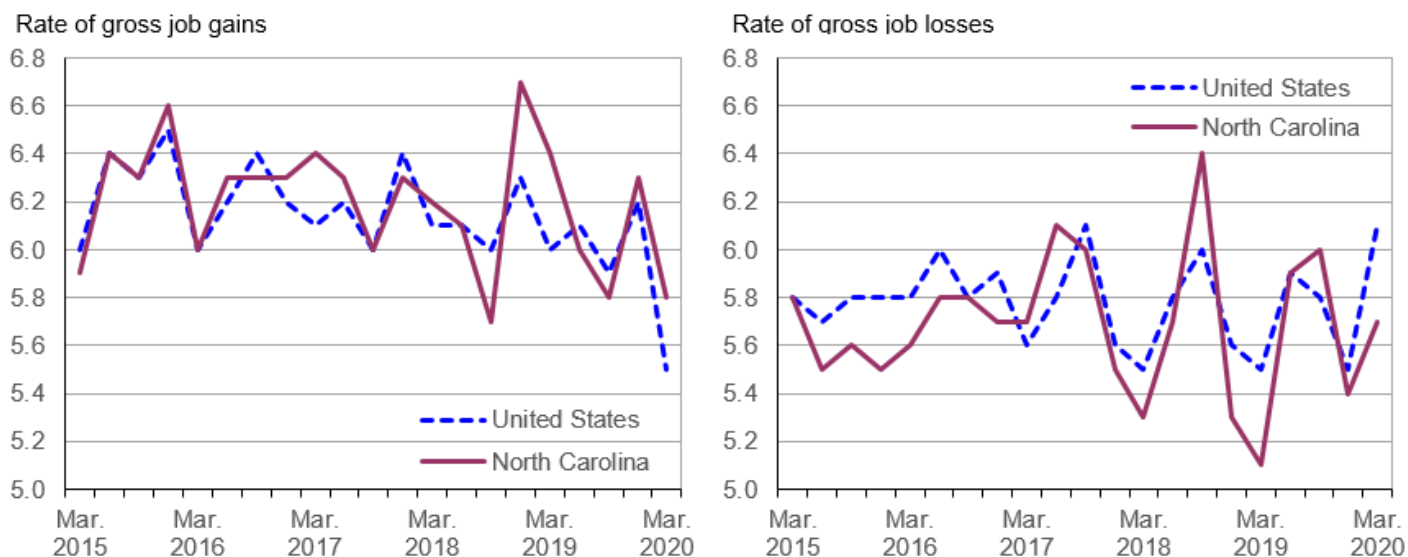
Gross job gains

In the first quarter of 2020, gross job gains represented 5.8 percent of private-sector employment in North Carolina; 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 North Carolina, gross job gains at **expanding** establishments totaled 180,801 in the first quarter of 2020, a decrease of 10,684 jobs compared to the previous quarter. (See [table 1](#).) **Opening** establishments accounted for 42,749 jobs gained in the first quarter of 2020, a decrease of 963 jobs from the previous quarter.

Gross job losses

In the first quarter of 2020, gross job losses represented 5.7 percent of private-sector employment in North Carolina; 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 North Carolina, **contracting** establishments lost 184,014 jobs in the first quarter of 2020, an increase of 18,970 jobs from the prior quarter. **Closing** establishments lost 34,086 jobs, a decrease of 4,544 jobs from the previous quarter.

Chart 2. Private sector gross job gains and losses as a percent of employment, United States and North Carolina, March 2015–March 2020, seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Industries

Gross job gains exceeded gross job losses in 9 of the 11 industry sectors in North Carolina in the first quarter of 2020. Professional and business services had the largest over-the-quarter net job increase, with a gain of 4,487 jobs. This was the result of 46,032 gross job gains and 41,545 gross job losses. The financial activities industry had a net gain of 2,594 jobs. Leisure and hospitality showed a net loss of 10,019 jobs, the largest loss of any sector in the state.

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, North Carolina, 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	238,204	229,161	218,043	235,197	223,550	6.4	6.0	5.8	6.3	5.8
At expanding establishments	193,872	186,532	175,742	191,485	180,801	5.2	4.9	4.7	5.1	4.7
At opening establishments	44,332	42,629	42,301	43,712	42,749	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1
Gross job losses	192,337	224,574	224,248	203,674	218,100	5.1	5.9	6.0	5.4	5.7
At contracting establishments	158,363	182,031	183,902	165,044	184,014	4.2	4.8	4.9	4.4	4.8
At closing establishments	33,974	42,543	40,346	38,630	34,086	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.9
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	45,867	4,587	-6,205	31,523	5,450	1.3	0.1	-0.2	0.9	0.1
Construction										
Gross job gains	20,662	16,894	18,987	18,721	18,029	9.0	7.3	8.2	8.0	7.7
At expanding establishments	15,816	13,246	14,273	14,671	13,862	6.9	5.7	6.2	6.3	5.9
At opening establishments	4,846	3,648	4,714	4,050	4,167	2.1	1.6	2.0	1.7	1.8
Gross job losses	14,815	17,880	17,733	17,211	16,953	6.4	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.2
At contracting establishments	11,729	13,264	13,839	13,388	13,967	5.1	5.7	6.0	5.8	5.9
At closing establishments	3,086	4,616	3,894	3,823	2,986	1.3	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.3
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	5,847	-986	1,254	1,510	1,076	2.6	-0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5
Manufacturing										
Gross job gains	13,723	13,816	12,801	14,662	12,443	2.9	2.9	2.7	3.1	2.6
At expanding establishments	12,867	12,431	11,297	13,230	10,866	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.8	2.3
At opening establishments	856	1,385	1,504	1,432	1,577	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Gross job losses	13,426	13,867	14,293	15,453	15,337	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.2
At contracting establishments	12,079	11,954	12,561	13,547	14,171	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.8	3.0
At closing establishments	1,347	1,913	1,732	1,906	1,166	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	297	-51	-1,492	-791	-2,894	0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.1	-0.6
Wholesale trade										
Gross job gains	10,375	9,434	8,102	8,978	9,226	5.6	5.0	4.4	4.8	4.9
At expanding establishments	8,391	7,689	6,661	7,169	7,486	4.5	4.1	3.6	3.8	4.0
At opening establishments	1,984	1,745	1,441	1,809	1,740	1.1	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.9
Gross job losses	7,447	8,504	9,067	7,185	7,894	4.0	4.6	4.8	3.8	4.2
At contracting establishments	5,713	6,323	6,960	5,830	6,215	3.1	3.4	3.7	3.1	3.3
At closing establishments	1,734	2,181	2,107	1,355	1,679	0.9	1.2	1.1	0.7	0.9
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	2,928	930	-965	1,793	1,332	1.6	0.4	-0.4	1.0	0.7
Retail trade										
Gross job gains	31,627	30,795	27,954	29,415	29,819	6.4	6.1	5.6	5.9	5.9
At expanding establishments	27,362	25,636	23,941	25,441	26,106	5.5	5.1	4.8	5.1	5.2
At opening establishments	4,265	5,159	4,013	3,974	3,713	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.7
Gross job losses	26,457	30,412	31,252	27,326	28,219	5.3	6.0	6.2	5.5	5.6
At contracting establishments	22,935	25,197	27,237	23,999	25,006	4.6	5.0	5.4	4.8	5.0
At closing establishments	3,522	5,215	4,015	3,327	3,213	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.6
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	5,170	383	-3,298	2,089	1,600	1.1	0.1	-0.6	0.4	0.3
Transportation and warehousing										
Gross job gains	8,976	8,444	7,893	13,480	13,081	6.4	6.0	5.5	9.2	8.7
At expanding establishments	7,776	7,316	6,769	11,312	11,855	5.5	5.2	4.7	7.7	7.9
At opening establishments	1,200	1,128	1,124	2,168	1,226	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.5	0.8
Gross job losses	9,120	6,759	7,350	7,980	10,618	6.5	4.7	5.2	5.5	7.1
At contracting establishments	8,329	5,443	6,269	6,516	9,578	5.9	3.8	4.4	4.5	6.4
At closing establishments	791	1,316	1,081	1,464	1,040	0.6	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.7
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	-144	1,685	543	5,500	2,463	-0.1	1.3	0.3	3.7	1.6
Information										
Gross job gains	4,617	3,928	4,133	4,103	3,846	6.1	5.2	5.4	5.4	5.0
At expanding establishments	3,347	3,266	3,202	3,417	3,301	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.3
At opening establishments	1,270	662	931	686	545	1.7	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.7
Gross job losses	3,820	3,838	4,050	4,407	3,174	5.0	5.1	5.4	5.8	4.1

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Private sector gross job gains and losses by industry, North Carolina, 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	3,275	3,080	3,318	3,511	2,156	4.3	4.1	4.4	4.6	2.8
At closing establishments	545	758	732	896	1,018	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.3
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	797	90	83	-304	672	1.1	0.1	0.0	-0.4	0.9
Financial activities										
Gross job gains	11,307	14,518	13,392	12,919	13,703	4.7	5.9	5.5	5.1	5.5
At expanding establishments	8,735	11,535	10,535	10,057	10,984	3.6	4.7	4.3	4.0	4.4
At opening establishments	2,572	2,983	2,857	2,862	2,719	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1
Gross job losses	10,194	10,719	10,686	9,612	11,109	4.2	4.4	4.3	3.9	4.4
At contracting establishments	7,703	7,750	7,964	6,906	8,791	3.2	3.2	3.2	2.8	3.5
At closing establishments	2,491	2,969	2,722	2,706	2,318	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.9
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	1,113	3,799	2,706	3,307	2,594	0.5	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.1
Professional and business services										
Gross job gains	48,060	48,173	44,346	46,101	46,032	7.5	7.5	6.9	7.1	7.1
At expanding establishments	39,303	38,723	35,495	36,864	37,023	6.1	6.0	5.5	5.7	5.7
At opening establishments	8,757	9,450	8,851	9,237	9,009	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4
Gross job losses	40,563	47,967	44,133	44,194	41,545	6.3	7.4	6.8	6.8	6.4
At contracting establishments	32,875	39,488	36,074	34,834	33,667	5.1	6.1	5.6	5.4	5.2
At closing establishments	7,688	8,479	8,059	9,360	7,878	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.2
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	7,497	206	213	1,907	4,487	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.7
Education and health services										
Gross job gains	28,290	28,622	27,023	26,831	25,490	4.7	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.1
At expanding establishments	23,385	23,108	22,576	21,722	21,050	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.4
At opening establishments	4,905	5,514	4,447	5,109	4,440	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.7
Gross job losses	21,797	26,542	25,836	24,219	23,451	3.7	4.4	4.3	4.0	3.8
At contracting establishments	17,085	21,704	21,174	19,011	19,736	2.9	3.6	3.5	3.1	3.2
At closing establishments	4,712	4,838	4,662	5,208	3,715	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.6
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	6,493	2,080	1,187	2,612	2,039	1.0	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.3
Leisure and hospitality										
Gross job gains	45,995	43,526	41,223	46,250	38,519	9.0	8.4	8.1	8.9	7.5
At expanding establishments	35,972	35,094	31,463	37,253	27,860	7.0	6.8	6.2	7.2	5.4
At opening establishments	10,023	8,432	9,760	8,997	10,659	2.0	1.6	1.9	1.7	2.1
Gross job losses	34,983	43,900	47,764	36,076	48,538	6.8	8.5	9.3	7.0	9.4
At contracting establishments	28,655	36,737	39,882	29,530	41,769	5.6	7.1	7.8	5.7	8.1
At closing establishments	6,328	7,163	7,882	6,546	6,769	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.3
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	11,012	-374	-6,541	10,174	-10,019	2.2	-0.1	-1.2	1.9	-1.9
Other services ⁽³⁾										
Gross job gains	9,268	8,252	9,165	9,057	8,452	8.9	7.9	8.7	8.4	7.8
At expanding establishments	6,880	6,050	7,081	6,872	6,044	6.6	5.8	6.7	6.4	5.6
At opening establishments	2,388	2,202	2,084	2,185	2,408	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.2
Gross job losses	6,586	8,428	7,973	7,385	8,193	6.3	8.0	7.6	6.9	7.5
At contracting establishments	5,206	6,080	5,651	5,678	6,318	5.0	5.8	5.4	5.3	5.8
At closing establishments	1,380	2,348	2,322	1,707	1,875	1.3	2.2	2.2	1.6	1.7
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	2,682	-176	1,192	1,672	259	2.6	-0.1	1.1	1.5	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)				
	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.