



For Release: Friday, November 06, 2020

20-2082-SAN

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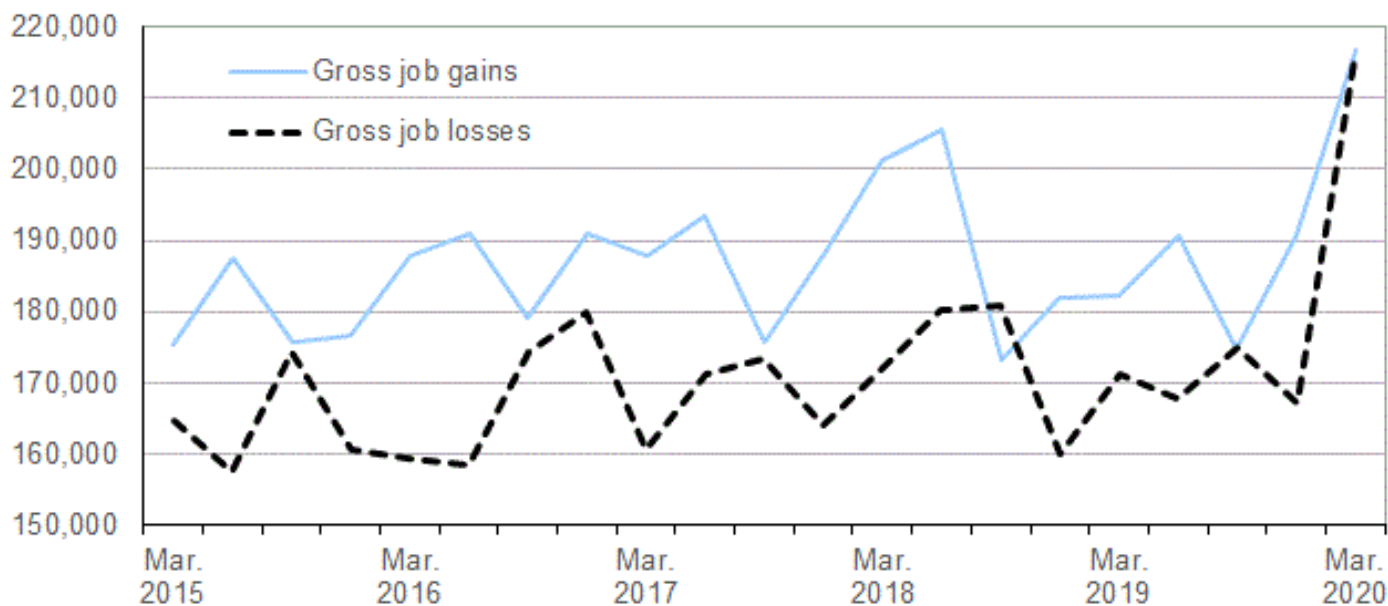
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Business Employment Dynamics in Washington – First Quarter 2020

From December 2019 to March 2020, **gross job gains** from opening and expanding private-sector establishments in Washington were 216,627, while **gross job losses** from closing and contracting private-sector establishments were 215,647, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the difference between the number of gross job gains and the number of gross job losses yielded a **net employment gain** of 980 jobs in the private sector during the first quarter of 2020. During the previous quarter, gross job gains exceeded gross job losses by 23,187. (See [chart 1](#).)

Chart 1. Private sector gross job gains and losses in Washington, 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 the [Technical Note](#).)

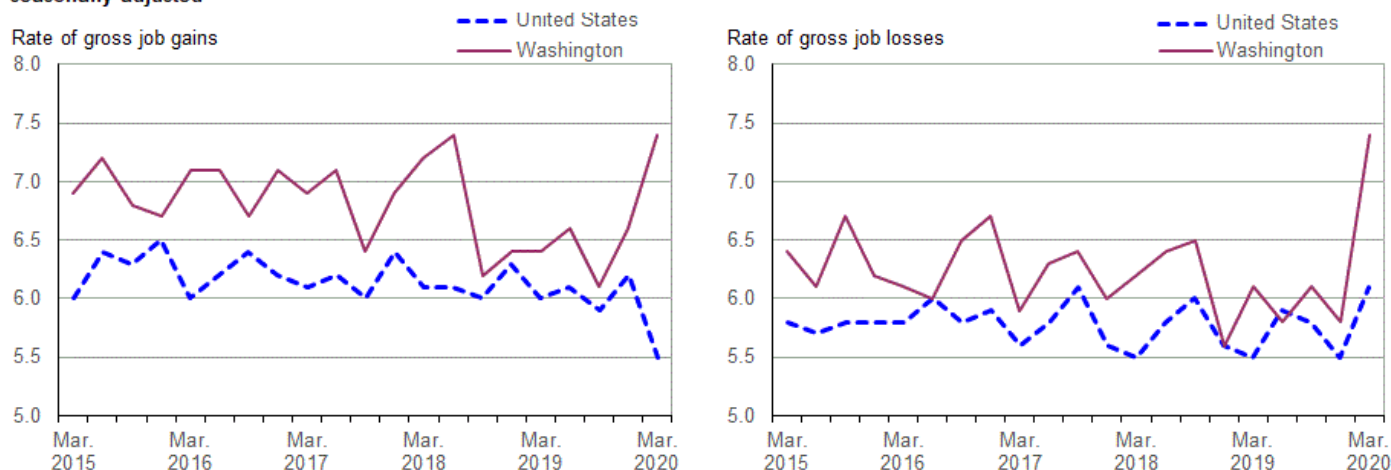
Gross job gains

In the first quarter of 2020, gross job gains represented 7.4 percent of private-sector employment in Washington; 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 Washington, gross job gains at **expanding** establishments totaled 151,421 in the first quarter of 2020, a decrease of 13,554 jobs compared to the previous quarter. (See [table 1](#).) **Opening** establishments accounted for 65,206 jobs gained in the first quarter of 2020, an increase of 39,662 jobs from the previous quarter.

Gross job losses

In the first quarter of 2020, gross job losses represented 7.4 percent of private-sector employment in Washington; 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 Washington, **contracting** establishments lost 160,271 jobs in the first quarter of 2020, an increase of 15,154 jobs from the prior quarter. **Closing** establishments lost 55,376 jobs, an increase of 33,161 jobs from the previous quarter.

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Industries

Gross job gains exceeded gross job losses in 6 of the 11 industry sectors in Washington in the first quarter of 2020. Retail trade had the largest over-the-quarter net job increase, with a gain of 3,982 jobs. This was the result of 20,747 gross job gains and 16,765 gross job losses. The construction industry had a net gain of 3,407 jobs. Leisure and hospitality showed a net loss of 10,414 jobs, the largest loss of any sector in the state. Washington's manufacturing industry sector had a net loss of 2,279 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 29, 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, Washington, 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	182,351	190,598	174,815	190,519	216,627	6.4	6.6	6.1	6.6	7.4
At expanding establishments	161,724	166,818	150,793	164,975	151,421	5.7	5.8	5.3	5.7	5.2
At opening establishments	20,627	23,780	24,022	25,544	65,206	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	2.2
Gross job losses	171,257	167,681	175,064	167,332	215,647	6.1	5.8	6.1	5.8	7.4
At contracting establishments	144,109	144,129	155,344	145,117	160,271	5.1	5.0	5.4	5.0	5.5
At closing establishments	27,148	23,552	19,720	22,215	55,376	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.9
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	11,094	22,917	-249	23,187	980	0.3	0.8	0.0	0.8	0.0
Construction										
Gross job gains	19,190	20,283	16,653	19,999	19,857	9.2	9.8	8.2	9.7	9.3
At expanding establishments	16,874	17,574	14,023	17,448	17,114	8.1	8.5	6.9	8.5	8.0
At opening establishments	2,316	2,709	2,630	2,551	2,743	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3
Gross job losses	18,926	19,315	18,738	16,837	16,450	9.1	9.3	9.2	8.2	7.7
At contracting establishments	16,096	16,730	16,786	14,629	14,779	7.7	8.1	8.2	7.1	6.9
At closing establishments	2,830	2,585	1,952	2,208	1,671	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.1	0.8
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	264	968	-2,085	3,162	3,407	0.1	0.5	-1.0	1.5	1.6
Manufacturing										
Gross job gains	10,105	10,393	8,882	9,757	10,550	3.5	3.5	3.0	3.3	3.6
At expanding establishments	9,590	9,724	8,484	9,120	9,555	3.3	3.3	2.9	3.1	3.3
At opening establishments	515	669	398	637	995	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3
Gross job losses	8,289	10,289	10,405	9,988	12,829	2.9	3.5	3.5	3.4	4.4
At contracting establishments	7,752	9,372	9,700	8,728	11,991	2.7	3.2	3.3	3.0	4.1
At closing establishments	537	917	705	1,260	838	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	1,816	104	-1,523	-231	-2,279	0.6	0.0	-0.5	-0.1	-0.8
Wholesale trade										
Gross job gains	6,200	6,088	6,304	7,479	5,999	4.7	4.6	4.7	5.6	4.4
At expanding establishments	5,301	5,280	5,577	6,305	5,022	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.7	3.7
At opening establishments	899	808	727	1,174	977	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.7
Gross job losses	5,957	5,952	5,960	6,405	6,050	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.5
At contracting establishments	4,948	4,951	5,181	5,139	5,380	3.7	3.7	3.9	3.8	4.0
At closing establishments	1,009	1,001	779	1,266	670	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.5
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	243	136	344	1,074	-51	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.9	-0.1
Retail trade										
Gross job gains	23,296	21,253	19,724	20,057	20,747	6.1	5.5	5.1	5.2	5.3
At expanding establishments	21,841	19,515	18,234	18,398	18,608	5.7	5.1	4.7	4.8	4.8
At opening establishments	1,455	1,738	1,490	1,659	2,139	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
Gross job losses	16,500	20,406	18,509	18,990	16,765	4.3	5.3	4.8	5.0	4.3
At contracting establishments	14,635	17,364	16,883	17,234	15,225	3.8	4.5	4.4	4.5	3.9
At closing establishments	1,865	3,042	1,626	1,756	1,540	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.5	0.4
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	6,796	847	1,215	1,067	3,982	1.8	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.0
Transportation and warehousing										
Gross job gains	5,856	5,999	6,009	8,387	6,104	5.5	5.7	5.7	7.8	5.6
At expanding establishments	5,082	5,287	5,022	7,840	5,546	4.8	5.0	4.8	7.3	5.1
At opening establishments	774	712	987	547	558	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.5
Gross job losses	6,232	5,754	5,565	5,583	6,746	5.9	5.5	5.3	5.2	6.2
At contracting establishments	5,497	5,096	4,939	5,035	6,395	5.2	4.9	4.7	4.7	5.9
At closing establishments	735	658	626	548	351	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	-376	245	444	2,804	-642	-0.4	0.2	0.4	2.6	-0.6
Information										
Gross job gains	6,816	6,599	5,438	4,960	6,709	4.9	4.6	3.7	3.4	4.5
At expanding establishments	6,365	6,030	4,969	4,405	6,136	4.6	4.2	3.4	3.0	4.1
At opening establishments	451	569	469	555	573	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4
Gross job losses	3,744	3,220	3,316	5,305	3,675	2.7	2.3	2.3	3.7	2.5

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Private sector gross job gains and losses by industry, Washington, 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	2,351	2,808	2,929	4,765	3,247	1.7	2.0	2.0	3.3	2.2
At closing establishments	1,393	412	387	540	428	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	3,072	3,379	2,122	-345	3,034	2.2	2.3	1.4	-0.3	2.0
Financial activities										
Gross job gains	7,367	7,744	7,685	7,754	6,785	4.9	5.2	5.1	5.1	4.5
At expanding establishments	6,552	6,565	6,287	6,623	5,270	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.4	3.5
At opening establishments	815	1,179	1,398	1,131	1,515	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.0
Gross job losses	6,085	6,322	6,957	7,207	6,154	4.1	4.2	4.6	4.8	4.1
At contracting establishments	5,053	5,016	5,573	5,833	5,401	3.4	3.3	3.7	3.9	3.6
At closing establishments	1,032	1,306	1,384	1,374	753	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.5
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	1,282	1,422	728	547	631	0.8	1.0	0.5	0.3	0.4
Professional and business services										
Gross job gains	26,247	28,657	28,792	27,314	26,281	6.3	6.8	6.7	6.3	6.0
At expanding establishments	22,213	24,574	23,557	22,981	22,656	5.3	5.8	5.5	5.3	5.2
At opening establishments	4,034	4,083	5,235	4,333	3,625	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.0	0.8
Gross job losses	23,957	22,941	25,830	25,137	22,931	5.7	5.4	6.1	5.8	5.3
At contracting establishments	19,849	18,639	22,928	21,182	20,035	4.7	4.4	5.4	4.9	4.6
At closing establishments	4,108	4,302	2,902	3,955	2,896	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.7
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	2,290	5,716	2,962	2,177	3,350	0.6	1.4	0.6	0.5	0.7
Education and health services										
Gross job gains	20,663	18,212	21,248	22,927	58,971	4.4	3.8	4.5	4.8	12.2
At expanding establishments	16,919	15,444	17,580	17,286	13,916	3.6	3.2	3.7	3.6	2.9
At opening establishments	3,744	2,768	3,668	5,641	45,055	0.8	0.6	0.8	1.2	9.3
Gross job losses	17,967	17,118	16,684	19,152	56,255	3.9	3.6	3.5	4.0	11.7
At contracting establishments	13,945	14,743	14,170	15,296	16,225	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.4
At closing establishments	4,022	2,375	2,514	3,856	40,030	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.8	8.3
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	2,696	1,094	4,564	3,775	2,716	0.5	0.2	1.0	0.8	0.5
Leisure and hospitality										
Gross job gains	27,061	29,332	26,279	26,232	25,139	7.9	8.5	7.6	7.7	7.3
At expanding establishments	23,032	24,808	22,011	22,274	20,902	6.7	7.2	6.4	6.5	6.1
At opening establishments	4,029	4,524	4,268	3,958	4,237	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2
Gross job losses	27,926	28,417	29,156	24,266	35,553	8.2	8.3	8.6	7.1	10.4
At contracting establishments	23,844	24,470	25,788	20,850	32,657	7.0	7.1	7.6	6.1	9.6
At closing establishments	4,082	3,947	3,368	3,416	2,896	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.8
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	-865	915	-2,877	1,966	-10,414	-0.3	0.2	-1.0	0.6	-3.1
Other services ⁽³⁾										
Gross job gains	8,808	6,891	5,702	7,251	6,324	9.4	7.2	6.0	7.5	6.6
At expanding establishments	8,151	6,039	4,815	6,349	4,781	8.7	6.3	5.1	6.6	5.0
At opening establishments	657	852	887	902	1,543	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.6
Gross job losses	5,569	6,232	6,999	5,544	6,885	6.0	6.5	7.4	5.8	7.2
At contracting establishments	4,745	5,368	6,076	4,672	5,952	5.1	5.6	6.4	4.9	6.2
At closing establishments	824	864	923	872	933	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.0
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	3,239	659	-1,297	1,707	-561	3.4	0.7	-1.4	1.7	-0.6

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.