

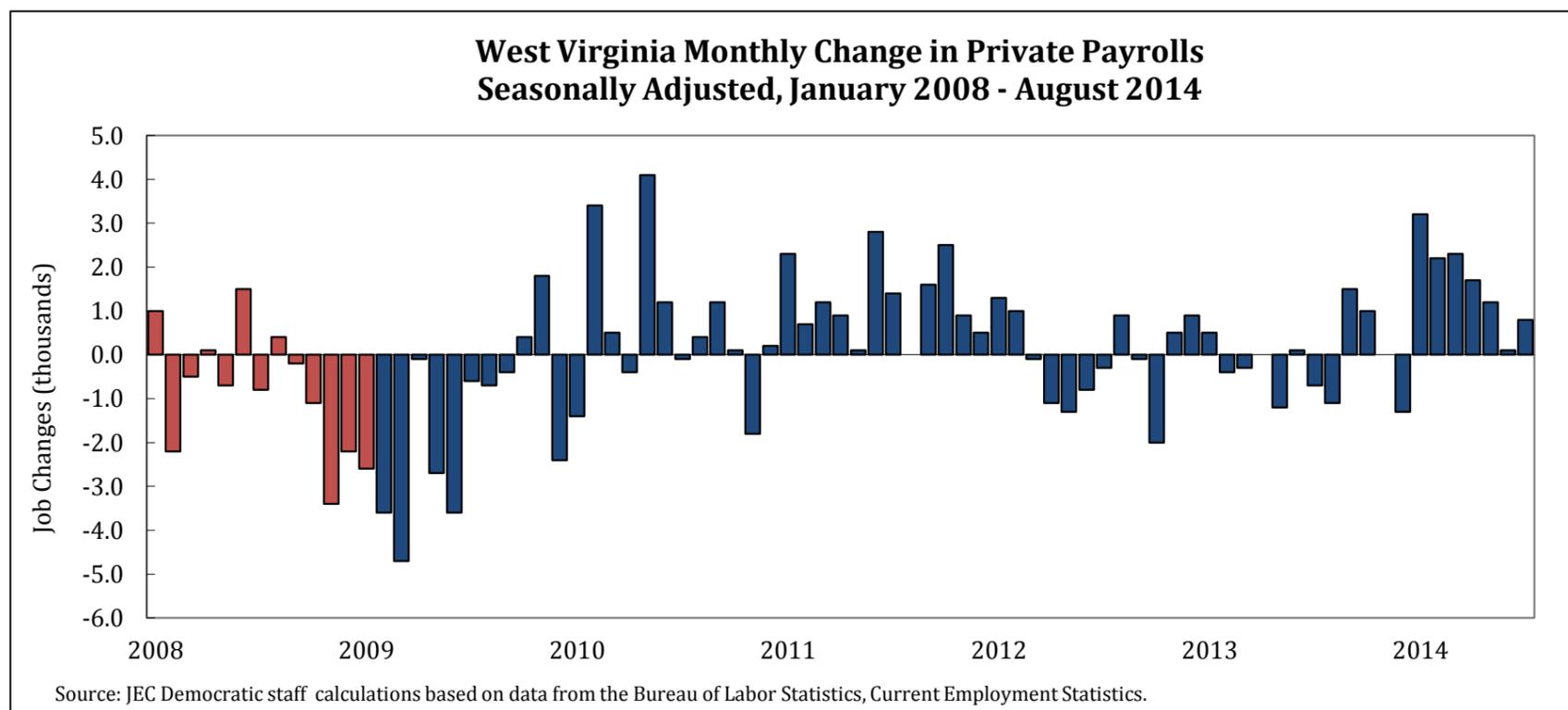


## ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT: WEST VIRGINIA

*\*\*Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs and unemployment data through August 2014\*\**

### JOBS

- In August, private-sector employment in West Virginia grew by 800 jobs. Over the past year, the West Virginia private sector has added 11,600 jobs. This compares with a decrease of 1,800 jobs over the 12 months ending in August 2013.
- West Virginia private-sector employers have added 32,200 jobs (an increase of 5.5 percent) since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment.
- In West Virginia, the following sectors have posted the largest job gains since February 2010: professional and business services (10,700 jobs), education and health services (7,400 jobs) and leisure and hospitality (6,300 jobs).
- The West Virginia sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms since February 2010 are: professional and business services (17.7 percent), mining and logging (16.0 percent) and leisure and hospitality (8.9 percent).



### UNEMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in West Virginia was 6.6 percent in August 2014, up 0.3 percentage point from July. The rate is up 0.1 percentage point from one year earlier but remains below its recent peak of 8.5 percent in November 2010.
- 52,400 West Virginia residents were unemployed during August 2014, down from a recent high of 68,700 in February 2010. There are still 19,300 more people unemployed in West Virginia than when the recession began.
- In West Virginia, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits totaled 5,310 during August, up 1.3 percent from the previous month. Total initial claims over the past 12 months are down 11.8 percent from their level over the 12 months before that.

### EXPORTS

- In West Virginia, exports totaled \$624 million in July and \$8.0 billion over the past year, down 14.7 percent from the 12 months ending in July 2013 (inflation-adjusted dollars).
- West Virginia exports over the past 12 months are up 23.9 percent from their level in the same 12-month period four years earlier (inflation-adjusted dollars).

### HOUSING

- Home prices in West Virginia increased by 2.6 percent from the second quarter of 2013 to the second quarter of 2014 (the most recent quarter for which data are available). They are up 5.4 percent since their recent low in the second quarter of 2011 but remain 1.7 percent below their pre-housing-crash peak.
- Housing starts in West Virginia totaled 2,250 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in July 2014, an increase of 37.2 percent from June.
- Within the South census region, which includes West Virginia, sales of new single-family homes totaled 253,000 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in July 2014, an increase of 8.1 percent from June. Sales of existing single-family homes increased by 3.9 percent to 1,860,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from June to July 2014.

\* For West Virginia-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the West Virginia office: <http://www.workforcewv.org/lmi/>

## How Does West Virginia Compare to Other States?

Workers across the country were hit hard during the recent recession. Since then, employment in some states has returned to pre-recession levels, while employment in other states remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows for a comparison of West Virginia to other states using two metrics.

The unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor-market conditions in West Virginia, while net job gains since the recession began (current nonfarm jobs as a share of jobs prior to the recession) measures progress toward labor-market recovery (vertical axis).

States falling in the upper left quadrant have net job gains since the start of the recession and unemployment rates lower than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower right quadrant have higher unemployment rates than the United States overall and are still experiencing net job losses relative to pre-recession levels.



Note: The figure above excludes North Dakota, which has a current unemployment rate of 2.8% and net job gains totaling 29.0% since the start of the recession.

### STATE QUICK FACTS

	West Virginia	United States
<b>Unemployment Rate</b> .....		
August 2014	6.6%	6.1%
August 2013	6.5%	7.2%
August 2012	7.5%	8.1%
August 2011	7.9%	9.0%
<b>Percent of Population Who Are Veterans</b> .....		
2013	11.4%	9.0%
<b>All Veterans' Unemployment Rate</b> .....		
2013	6.4%	6.6%
<b>Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate</b> .....		
2013	8.4%	9.0%
<b>Median Household Income (2013 \$)</b> .....		
(Current Population Survey) 2013	\$ 40,241	\$ 51,939
2007	\$ 47,288	\$ 56,436
<b>Poverty Rate</b> .....		
(Current Population Survey) 2013	17.3%	14.5%
2007	14.8%	12.5%
<b>Percentage Without Health Insurance</b> .....		
(American Community Survey) 2013	14.0%	14.5%