

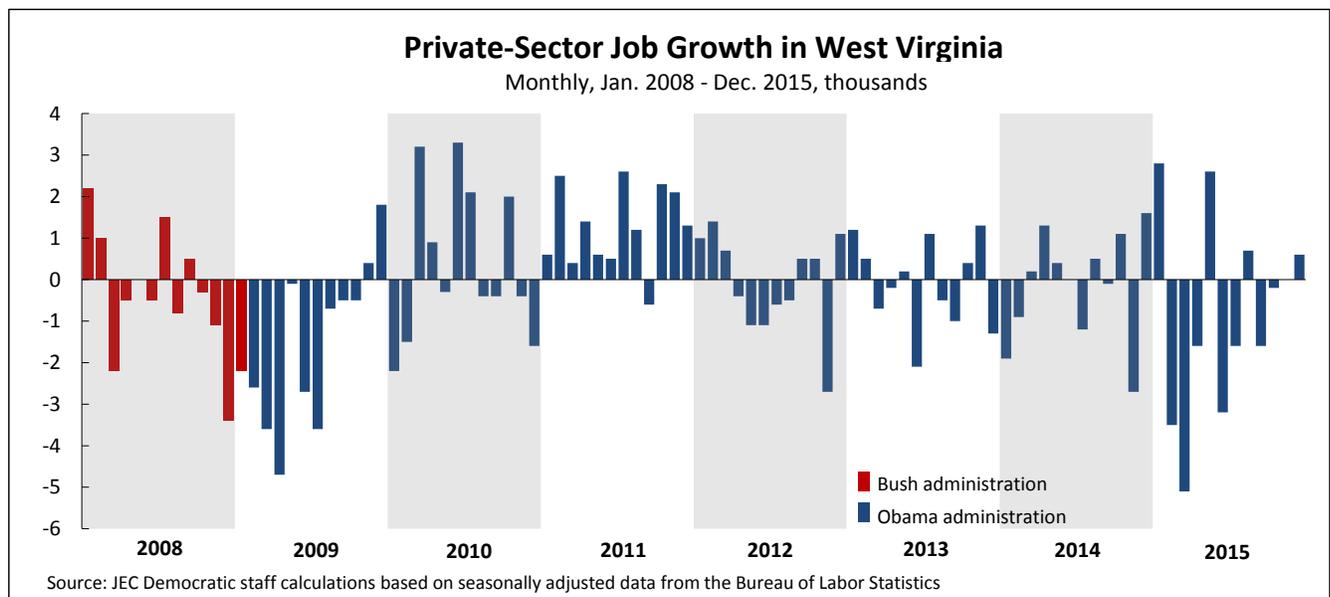


2015 YEAR IN REVIEW: WEST VIRGINIA

***Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs, unemployment and earnings data through December 2015**
Last updated on January 26th; January 2016 data will be released on March 14th*

JOBS

- In 2015, private-sector employment in West Virginia fell by 10,100 jobs, an average of 840 jobs per month. This represents an increase in job losses from the 140 jobs per month lost in 2014. In December, West Virginia businesses added 600 jobs.
- The state sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms in 2015 were: education and health services at 1.9 percent (2,400 jobs), other services at 0.5 percent (300 jobs) and manufacturing at 0.2 percent (100 jobs).
- Since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment, West Virginia businesses have added 9,200 jobs (an increase of 1.6 percent). Nationally, private payrolls have increased by 13.1 percent over this time.



UNEMPLOYMENT

- The West Virginia unemployment rate increased by 0.4 percentage point in 2015 and was 6.3 percent in December. The rate is 2.5 percentage points below its recent peak of 8.8 percent in November 2010.
- Unemployment in West Virginia was 1.3 percentage points above the national rate of 5.0 percent in December. The rate was down 0.2 percentage point from November.
- There were 49,300 state residents unemployed in December, up 3,600 from one year prior.

EARNINGS

- Adjusting for inflation, average hourly earnings of private-sector workers in West Virginia rose by 1.1 percent in 2015. Nationally, these earnings increased by 1.7 percent (not seasonally adjusted).
- In December, average hourly earnings of private-sector workers were \$20.83. The average workweek was 34.7 hours, and average weekly earnings were \$722.80.

STATE QUICK FACTS

		West Virginia	United States
Private-Sector Jobs Added	In 2015	-10,100	2.6 million
	Since Feb. 2010	9,200	14.1 million
Unemployment Rate	December 2015	6.3%	5.0%
	December 2014	5.9%	5.6%
	Recession-Era Peak	8.8%	10.0%
Median Household Income (2014 \$)	2014	\$39,600	\$53,700
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	\$48,100	\$57,400
Poverty Rate	2014	20.6%	14.8%
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	14.8%	12.5%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2014	4.9%	5.3%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2014	11.1%	7.2%
Percentage Without Health Insurance	2014	8.6%	11.7%
	2013	14.0%	14.5%

Note: full 2015 data are not yet available for many indicators on this page; they will be included in future reports

STATE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

- Real gross domestic product (GDP) in West Virginia grew by 4.4 percent in 2014, above the national average growth rate of 2.2 percent.*
- Since 2009, annual West Virginia GDP growth has averaged 1.3 percent, compared with a national average annual growth rate of 1.8 percent.

HOUSING

- Home prices in West Virginia decreased by 0.1 percent from the third quarter of 2014 to the third quarter of 2015. They are up 13.5 percent since their recent low in the second quarter of 2011.
- In November 2015, builders in West Virginia broke ground on 2,250 new housing units (seasonally adjusted annual rate), bringing the average over the past 12 months to 2,752 units. That marks an increase of 38.0 percent from the average over the prior 12 months.

EXPORTS

- In West Virginia, goods exports totaled \$398 million in November and \$5.7 billion over the past year, down 17.7 percent from the 12 months ending in November 2014 (inflation-adjusted).
- Exports over the past 12 months are up 14.5 percent from their level in 2009 (inflation-adjusted).

* Note: Because of methodological differences, total U.S. real GDP by state differs slightly from headline national GDP figures

** A list of sources used to compile the West Virginia economic snapshot is available at: <http://bit.ly/JEC-state-by-state-sources>

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