NEWS RELEASE
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

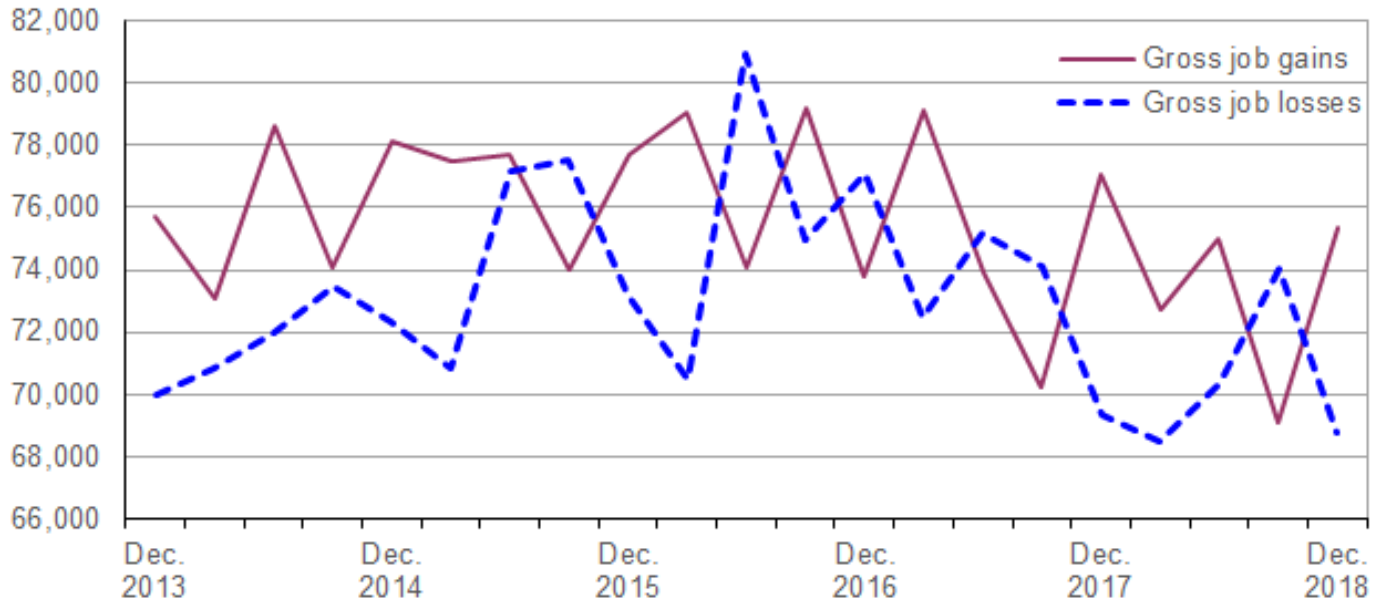
For Release: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 **19-1360-CHI**

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.
Technical information: (312) 353-1880 BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/midwest
Media contact: (312) 353-1138

Business Employment Dynamics in Iowa — Fourth Quarter 2018

From September 2018 to December 2018, gross job gains from opening and expanding private-sector establishments in Iowa totaled 75,387, while gross job losses from closing and contracting private-sector establishments numbered 68,764, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that the difference between the number of gross job gains and the number of gross job losses yielded a net employment gain of 6,623. During the previous quarter, gross job losses exceeded gross job gains by 4,924.

Chart 1. Private sector gross job gains and losses in Iowa, December 2013–December 2018, seasonally adjusted



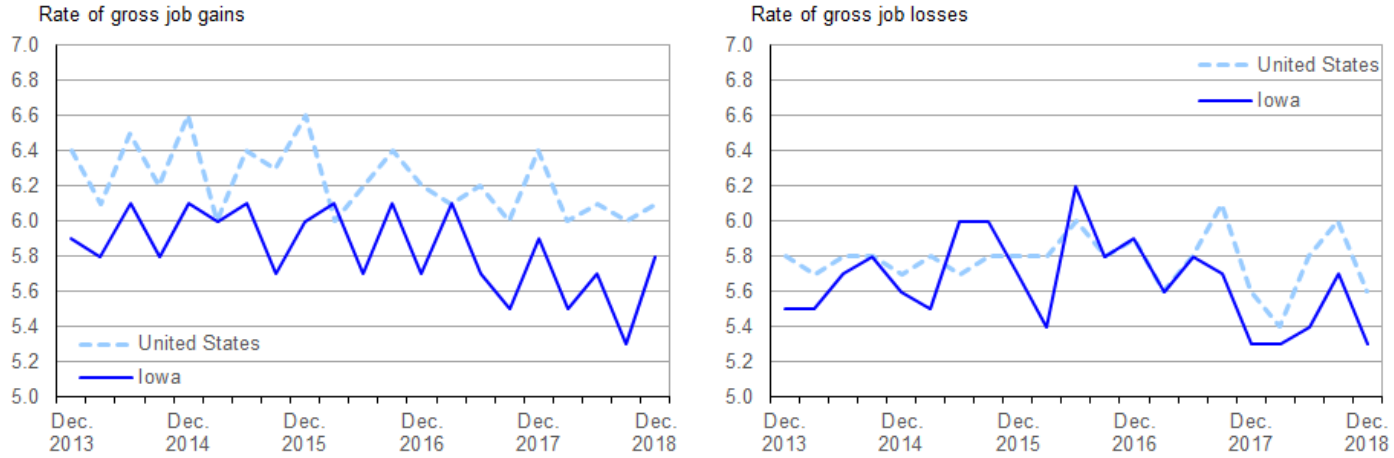
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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 for more information.)

The 75,387 gross job gains in the fourth quarter of 2018 were more than the 69,092 gross job gains in the previous quarter. Over the past five years, gross jobs gains reached a high of 79,197 in the third quarter of 2016 and a low of 69,092 in the third quarter of 2018. (See chart 1.) Gross job losses in the fourth quarter of 2018 totaled 68,764 in the state, a decrease from 74,016 in the previous quarter. Over the past five years, gross jobs losses reached a high of 80,950 in the second quarter of 2016 and a low of 68,476 in the first quarter of 2018.

Gross job gains accounted for 5.8 percent of private sector employment in Iowa in the fourth quarter of 2018, compared to the national gross job gains rate of 6.1 percent. Since the series began in 1992, Iowa's rate of gross job gains has generally been below the national rate. Gross job losses represented 5.3 percent of private sector employment in Iowa in the fourth quarter of 2018, while nationally gross job losses accounted for 5.6 percent of private sector employment. (See chart 2.) Since the series inception, the rate of gross job losses in Iowa has generally been below the U.S. rate.

Chart 2. Private sector gross job gains and losses as a percent of employment, United States and Iowa, December 2013–December 2018, seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

During the fourth quarter of 2018, gross job gains exceeded gross job losses in 7 of the 10 industry sectors in Iowa. For example, within manufacturing, gross job gains exceeded gross jobs losses by 2,366. While more than 4,800 jobs were lost by closing and contracting establishments in the industry, more than 7,200 jobs were created in opening and expanding establishments in the fourth quarter of 2018. Three other industry sectors—education and health services, leisure and hospitality, and transportation and warehousing—had net employment gains of more than 1,900 jobs. (See table 1.)

Gross job losses exceeded gross job gains in three industry sectors. Within professional and business services, gross job losses exceeded gross job gains by 1,894. Construction and retail trade had net employment losses of less than 900 jobs from the previous year.

Iowa was among the seven states in the West North Central Division. All seven states in the division had gross job gains that exceeded gross job losses. (See table A.) Iowa was among the four states in the division that had rates of gross job gains below the 6.1-percent national rate. Kansas had a rate of gross job gains that was equal to the national rate, while North Dakota and South Dakota had rates of gross job gains that were higher than the national rate. Four states, including Iowa, had rates of gross job losses that were lower than the 5.6-percent national rate. Three states had rates of gross job losses that were greater than the national rate.

Table A. Private sector gross job gains and losses for the United States, West North Central Division, and West North Central states, December 2018, seasonally adjusted

Area	Gross job gains		Gross job losses		Net change	Net change as a percent of total employment
	Total	As a percent of total employment	Total	As a percent of total employment		
United States	7,729,000	6.1	6,915,000	5.6	814,000	0.5
West North Central (1)	519,469	—	482,163	—	37,306	—
Iowa	75,387	5.8	68,764	5.3	6,623	0.5
Kansas	69,167	6.1	61,579	5.4	7,588	0.7
Minnesota	143,079	5.7	135,193	5.4	7,886	0.3
Missouri	138,175	5.8	127,453	5.4	10,722	0.4
Nebraska	47,904	5.9	46,929	5.8	975	0.1
North Dakota	23,527	6.8	21,749	6.2	1,778	0.6
South Dakota	22,230	6.3	20,496	5.8	1,734	0.5

Footnotes:
(1) Data were calculated for this release using published gross job gains and gross job losses for states located in the West North Central Census Division.
Note: Dash indicates data not available.

Additional statistics and other information

BED data for the states have been included in table 2 of this release. For more information on the Business Employment Dynamics data, visit the BED web site at www.bls.gov/bdm.

The Business Employment Dynamics release for first quarter 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, October 30, 2019.

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 establishments and jobs lost at closing and contracting establishments.

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 establishments 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 establishments 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 establishments with positive third month employment in the previous quarter, with no employment or zero employment reported in the current quarter.

Contractions. These are establishments with positive employment in the third month in both the previous and current quarters, with a net decrease in employment over this period.

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, 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. 2017	Mar. 2018	June 2018	Sept 2018	Dec. 2018	Dec. 2017	Mar. 2018	June 2018	Sept 2018	Dec. 2018
Total private [1]										
Gross job gains	77,044	72,763	74,977	69,092	75,387	5.9	5.5	5.7	5.3	5.8
At expanding establishments	65,108	61,928	63,945	58,224	63,597	5.0	4.7	4.9	4.5	4.9
At opening establishments	11,936	10,835	11,032	10,868	11,790	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9
Gross job losses	69,393	68,476	70,344	74,016	68,764	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.7	5.3
At contracting establishments	58,926	58,673	60,980	62,603	58,269	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.8	4.5
At closing establishments	10,467	9,803	9,364	11,413	10,495	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.8
Net employment change [2]	7,651	4,287	4,633	-4,924	6,623	0.6	0.2	0.3	-0.4	0.5
Construction										
Gross job gains	8,667	9,676	8,631	7,678	7,714	11.5	12.5	11.0	10.0	9.9
At expanding establishments	6,928	8,224	7,033	6,280	6,147	9.2	10.6	9.0	8.2	7.9
At opening establishments	1,739	1,452	1,598	1,398	1,567	2.3	1.9	2.0	1.8	2.0
Gross job losses	8,073	7,682	7,610	7,548	8,608	10.7	9.8	9.8	9.8	11.1
At contracting establishments	6,613	6,169	6,234	6,387	6,822	8.8	7.9	8.0	8.3	8.8
At closing establishments	1,460	1,513	1,376	1,161	1,786	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.5	2.3
Net employment change [2]	594	1,994	1,021	130	-894	0.8	2.7	1.2	0.2	-1.2
Manufacturing										
Gross job gains	7,928	5,992	6,834	6,503	7,244	3.6	2.7	3.0	2.9	3.3
At expanding establishments	7,683	5,700	6,537	5,767	6,881	3.5	2.6	2.9	2.6	3.1
At opening establishments	245	292	297	736	363	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2
Gross job losses	4,862	5,663	4,598	5,753	4,878	2.3	2.6	2.1	2.6	2.2
At contracting establishments	4,502	5,453	4,234	5,257	4,533	2.1	2.5	1.9	2.4	2.0
At closing establishments	360	210	364	496	345	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Net employment change [2]	3,066	329	2,236	750	2,366	1.3	0.1	0.9	0.3	1.1
Wholesale trade										
Gross job gains	3,471	3,113	3,021	2,530	3,287	5.2	4.7	4.5	3.8	5.0
At expanding establishments	3,130	2,706	2,595	2,185	2,846	4.7	4.1	3.9	3.3	4.3
At opening establishments	341	407	426	345	441	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.7
Gross job losses	2,674	3,062	3,176	3,176	2,392	4.0	4.6	4.8	4.8	3.6
At contracting establishments	2,002	2,678	2,723	2,761	1,970	3.0	4.0	4.1	4.2	3.0
At closing establishments	672	384	453	415	422	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6
Net employment change [2]	797	51	-155	-646	895	1.2	0.1	-0.3	-1.0	1.4
Retail trade										
Gross job gains	9,206	9,224	10,016	9,517	9,203	5.1	5.1	5.5	5.3	5.2
At expanding establishments	8,096	8,162	9,105	8,442	8,322	4.5	4.5	5.0	4.7	4.7
At opening establishments	1,110	1,062	911	1,075	881	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5
Gross job losses	9,758	9,538	10,149	11,851	9,624	5.4	5.3	5.6	6.6	5.4
At contracting establishments	9,003	8,802	8,987	9,525	8,559	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.3	4.8
At closing establishments	755	736	1,162	2,326	1,065	0.4	0.4	0.6	1.3	0.6
Net employment change [2]	-552	-314	-133	-2,334	-421	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1	-1.3	-0.2
Transportation and warehousing										
Gross job gains	4,154	2,573	3,194	2,527	4,020	7.2	4.4	5.5	4.3	6.7
At expanding establishments	3,821	2,159	2,808	2,217	3,589	6.6	3.7	4.8	3.8	6.0
At opening establishments	333	414	386	310	431	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.7
Gross job losses	2,230	3,412	2,426	2,731	2,045	3.9	5.8	4.2	4.7	3.4
At contracting establishments	1,908	2,933	2,023	2,395	1,747	3.3	5.0	3.5	4.1	2.9
At closing establishments	322	479	403	336	298	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5
Net employment change [2]	1,924	-839	768	-204	1,975	3.3	-1.4	1.3	-0.4	3.3
Financial activities										
Gross job gains	3,532	3,124	4,451	3,581	3,503	3.3	2.8	4.1	3.2	3.3
At expanding establishments	2,808	2,558	3,820	2,999	2,782	2.6	2.3	3.5	2.7	2.6
At opening establishments	724	566	631	582	721	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.7
Gross job losses	3,453	3,469	4,161	3,551	3,366	3.1	3.2	3.9	3.3	3.1

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. 2017	Mar. 2018	June 2018	Sept 2018	Dec. 2018	Dec. 2017	Mar. 2018	June 2018	Sept 2018	Dec. 2018
At contracting establishments	2,873	2,844	3,668	3,005	2,811	2.6	2.6	3.4	2.8	2.6
At closing establishments	580	625	493	546	555	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
Net employment change (2)	79	-345	290	30	137	0.2	-0.4	0.2	-0.1	0.2
Professional and business services										
Gross job gains	10,795	10,038	10,990	10,815	9,720	7.8	7.2	7.9	7.7	6.9
At expanding establishments	8,613	8,206	8,933	8,672	7,295	6.2	5.9	6.4	6.2	5.2
At opening establishments	2,182	1,832	2,057	2,143	2,425	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.7
Gross job losses	11,520	9,768	9,970	10,357	11,614	8.3	7.0	7.1	7.3	8.3
At contracting establishments	9,325	7,820	8,268	8,184	9,433	6.7	5.6	5.9	5.8	6.7
At closing establishments	2,195	1,948	1,702	2,173	2,181	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.6
Net employment change (2)	-725	270	1,020	458	-1,894	-0.5	0.2	0.8	0.4	-1.4
Education and health services										
Gross job gains	9,555	8,690	8,171	8,230	10,422	4.3	3.9	3.7	3.8	4.7
At expanding establishments	8,223	7,736	7,138	7,355	9,071	3.7	3.5	3.2	3.4	4.1
At opening establishments	1,332	954	1,033	875	1,351	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6
Gross job losses	8,025	7,970	8,964	8,788	8,213	3.6	3.6	4.0	4.0	3.7
At contracting establishments	6,821	6,836	8,044	7,627	7,114	3.1	3.1	3.6	3.5	3.2
At closing establishments	1,204	1,134	920	1,161	1,099	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5
Net employment change (2)	1,530	720	-793	-558	2,209	0.7	0.3	-0.3	-0.2	1.0
Leisure and hospitality										
Gross job gains	13,624	14,292	13,117	11,832	14,156	9.6	9.9	9.1	8.3	9.9
At expanding establishments	10,806	11,645	10,467	9,323	11,594	7.6	8.1	7.3	6.5	8.1
At opening establishments	2,818	2,647	2,650	2,509	2,562	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Gross job losses	12,767	11,772	13,600	14,359	11,952	8.9	8.2	9.4	10.1	8.3
At contracting establishments	10,722	10,069	12,112	12,533	10,052	7.5	7.0	8.4	8.8	7.0
At closing establishments	2,045	1,703	1,488	1,826	1,900	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.3
Net employment change (2)	857	2,520	-483	-2,527	2,204	0.7	1.7	-0.3	-1.8	1.6
Other services (3)										
Gross job gains	2,709	2,684	2,924	2,482	2,886	7.0	6.9	7.4	6.3	7.4
At expanding establishments	2,256	2,223	2,504	2,099	2,467	5.8	5.7	6.3	5.3	6.3
At opening establishments	453	461	420	383	419	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.1
Gross job losses	2,636	2,463	2,466	3,010	2,582	6.8	6.3	6.3	7.6	6.6
At contracting establishments	2,179	2,115	2,085	2,484	2,083	5.6	5.4	5.3	6.3	5.3
At closing establishments	457	348	381	526	499	1.2	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.3
Net employment change (2)	73	221	458	-528	304	0.2	0.6	1.1	-1.3	0.8

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. 2017	Mar. 2018	June 2018	Sept. 2018	Dec. 2018	Dec. 2017	Mar. 2018	June 2018	Sept. 2018	Dec. 2018
United States(1)	6.4	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.1	5.6	5.4	5.8	6.0	5.6
Alabama	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.9	6.3	5.4	5.3	5.7	5.9	5.3
Alaska	9.7	9.8	10.9	8.9	10.9	10.2	8.8	10.7	10.6	9.7
Arizona	6.3	6.0	6.0	6.6	6.2	5.3	5.3	5.9	5.0	5.1
Arkansas	6.1	5.4	5.0	6.0	5.8	5.1	5.0	5.6	5.5	4.9
California	6.9	6.4	6.7	6.5	6.7	6.0	5.9	6.3	6.2	5.9
Colorado	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.8	6.1	6.0	6.1	6.8	6.0
Connecticut	5.3	5.1	5.8	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.0	5.6	4.9
Delaware	7.0	7.1	6.5	5.6	6.6	6.4	5.9	6.0	6.6	5.7
District of Columbia	5.8	6.0	5.6	5.3	5.6	5.0	4.7	5.5	5.5	5.1
Florida	8.2	6.1	6.5	6.7	6.3	5.3	5.5	6.1	5.7	5.9
Georgia	6.9	6.5	6.2	6.7	6.3	5.6	5.6	6.4	6.2	5.7
Hawaii	5.1	5.0	5.2	5.1	5.7	4.7	4.8	5.5	5.5	5.1
Idaho	7.4	7.9	7.3	6.8	7.4	6.6	5.9	6.7	6.9	6.3
Illinois	6.0	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.1	5.5	5.7	5.6
Indiana	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.6	5.0	5.1	5.5	5.4	4.9
Iowa	5.9	5.5	5.7	5.3	5.8	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.7	5.3
Kansas	5.9	5.2	5.7	5.9	6.1	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.4
Kentucky	6.1	6.2	5.9	5.7	6.1	5.6	5.9	5.6	6.0	5.5
Louisiana	6.2	6.5	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.0	5.8	6.5	6.2	5.7
Maine	7.2	7.2	8.1	6.0	7.3	6.6	7.0	7.1	7.5	6.3
Maryland	6.2	6.3	6.0	6.3	6.8	6.3	5.7	5.8	6.6	6.4
Massachusetts	5.7	5.4	6.1	5.5	5.8	5.4	5.2	5.4	6.2	5.3
Michigan	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.0	5.7	5.4	4.6	5.1	6.2	5.2
Minnesota	5.8	5.3	5.8	5.4	5.7	5.5	5.0	5.3	5.7	5.4
Mississippi	6.3	5.5	5.7	5.8	6.4	5.4	5.8	6.0	5.7	5.2
Missouri	5.7	5.4	5.7	5.9	5.8	5.5	5.2	5.7	6.0	5.4
Montana	8.5	7.8	8.0	7.2	9.0	7.4	7.1	7.8	7.9	7.2
Nebraska	6.2	5.6	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.5	5.5	5.8	6.0	5.8
Nevada	6.6	6.5	6.1	6.7	6.6	5.2	5.4	5.8	5.6	5.3
New Hampshire	6.7	6.1	6.7	5.6	6.7	5.9	5.9	6.3	6.8	5.7
New Jersey	6.4	5.6	6.5	6.0	6.3	5.8	5.8	5.7	6.3	5.6
New Mexico	6.5	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.7	6.1	5.5	6.2	6.4	6.0
New York	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.2	5.8	5.6	5.8	6.4	5.7
North Carolina	6.3	6.2	6.1	5.6	6.7	5.5	5.2	5.5	6.5	5.3
North Dakota	6.8	7.0	6.7	6.6	6.8	6.8	6.3	6.2	6.6	6.2
Ohio	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.3	5.6	5.2	5.0	5.4	5.7	5.2
Oklahoma	6.4	6.1	6.3	6.6	6.4	5.8	5.5	6.5	6.1	6.0
Oregon	6.8	7.8	6.2	6.2	6.7	6.0	5.6	6.2	6.3	5.9
Pennsylvania	5.5	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.0	4.9	5.1	5.2	4.7
Rhode Island	6.6	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.4	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.4	5.7
South Carolina	7.0	5.9	7.5	5.8	7.4	5.3	4.7	6.5	6.5	5.4
South Dakota	6.4	6.4	6.1	5.9	6.3	5.7	5.9	6.1	5.8	5.8
Tennessee	5.9	5.0	5.5	5.8	5.8	4.9	4.8	5.1	5.2	4.9
Texas	6.4	5.8	5.9	5.9	6.1	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.4	5.1
Utah	7.0	7.4	6.9	7.3	6.9	5.9	6.0	6.3	6.5	6.1
Vermont	7.4	6.4	7.2	6.9	7.4	6.5	7.0	7.3	7.4	6.8
Virginia	6.3	5.8	6.1	5.6	6.2	5.5	5.2	5.8	6.3	5.5
Washington	6.9	7.2	7.3	6.1	6.5	6.0	5.7	6.3	6.3	5.6
West Virginia	6.3	6.8	6.8	7.0	6.3	6.1	5.8	6.4	6.4	6.5
Wisconsin	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.1	5.4	5.0	4.7	5.5	5.9	4.9
Wyoming	8.7	8.4	8.2	8.2	10.0	8.4	8.0	8.3	8.3	7.8
Puerto Rico	7.1	8.4	8.0	7.2	6.0	11.8	6.8	6.2	5.8	6.7
Virgin Islands	9.2	12.0	12.5	10.9	8.3	28.2	16.8	8.6	6.3	7.8

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.