

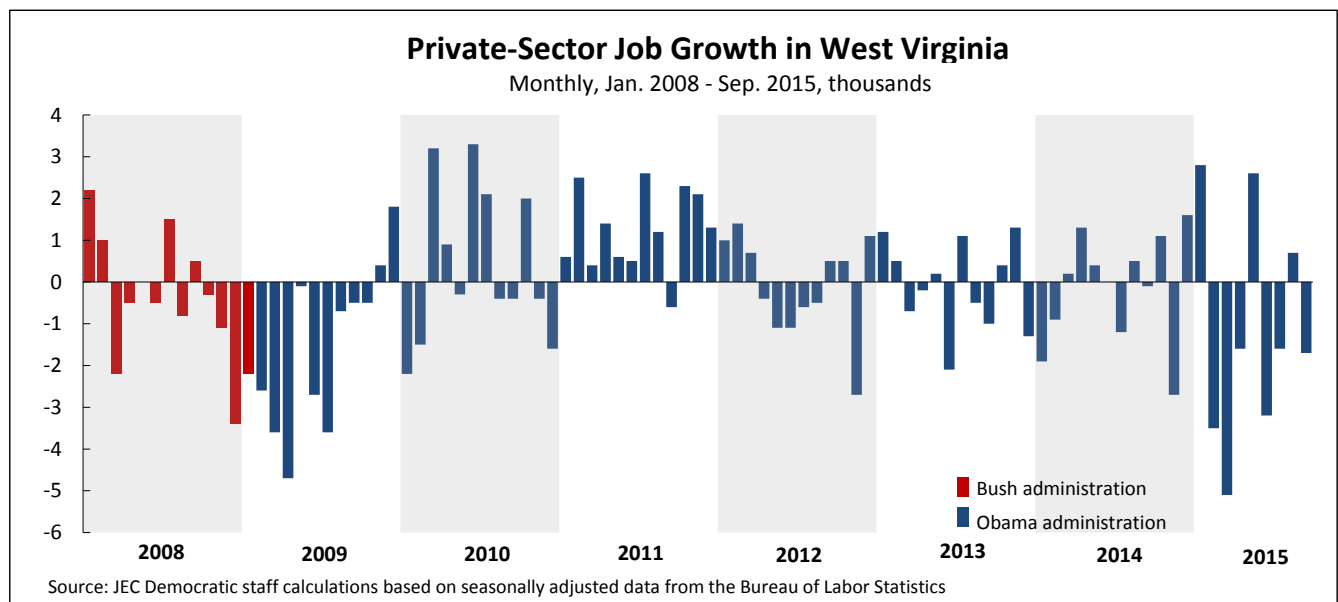


## ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT: WEST VIRGINIA

*\*\*Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs, unemployment and earnings data through September 2015\*\*  
\*\*Last updated on October 20th; Data update next on November 20th\*\**

### JOBS

- In September, private-sector employment in West Virginia fell by 1,700 jobs. Over the past year, businesses have shed 10,600 jobs. This compares with a decrease of 1,300 jobs over the 12 months through September 2014.
- Since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment, West Virginia businesses have added 8,700 jobs (an increase of 1.5 percent). Nationally, private payrolls have increased by 12.3 percent over this time.
- The state sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms since February 2010 are: professional and business services at 10.4 percent (6,300 jobs), education and health services at 6.8 percent (8,100 jobs) and trade, transportation and utilities at 1.6 percent (2,200 jobs).



### UNEMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in West Virginia was 7.3 percent in September 2015, down 0.3 percentage point from August. The rate was 2.2 percentage points above the national rate of 5.1 percent.
- Unemployment is up 1.0 percentage point from one year earlier but remains 1.5 percentage points below its recent peak of 8.8 percent in November 2010.
- There were 57,800 West Virginia residents unemployed in September 2015.

### EARNINGS

- In September 2015, average hourly earnings of private-sector workers in West Virginia were \$20.87. The average workweek was 34.6 hours, and average weekly earnings were \$722.10.
- Adjusting for inflation, state average hourly earnings have risen by 1.5 percent over the past year. Nationally, real average hourly earnings have increased by 2.2 percent (not seasonally adjusted).

## STATE QUICK FACTS

		West Virginia	United States
<b>Private-Sector Jobs Added</b> .....	Past 12 Months	-10,600	2.6 million
	Since Feb. 2010	8,700	13.2 million
<b>Unemployment Rate</b> .....	September 2015	7.3%	5.1%
	September 2014	6.3%	5.9%
	Recession-Era Peak	8.8%	10.0%
<b>Median Household Income (2014 \$)</b> .....	2014	\$39,600	\$53,700
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	\$48,100	\$57,400
<b>Poverty Rate</b> .....	2014	20.6%	14.8%
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	14.8%	12.5%
<b>All Veterans' Unemployment Rate</b> .....	2014	4.9%	5.3%
<b>Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate</b> .....	2014	11.1%	7.2%
<b>Percentage Without Health Insurance</b> .....	2014	8.6%	11.7%
	2013	14.0%	14.5%

### STATE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

- Real gross domestic product (GDP) in West Virginia grew by 5.1 percent in 2014, above the national average growth rate of 2.2 percent.\*
- Since 2009, annual West Virginia GDP growth has averaged 1.5 percent, compared with a national average annual growth rate of 1.9 percent.

### HOUSING

- Home prices in West Virginia increased by 2.7 percent from the second quarter of 2014 to the second quarter of 2015. They are up 14.9 percent since their recent low in the second quarter of 2011.
- In August 2015, builders in West Virginia broke ground on 2,690 new housing units (seasonally adjusted annual rate), bringing the average over the past 12 months to 2,728 units. That marks an increase of 47.2 percent from the average over the prior 12 months.

### EXPORTS

- In West Virginia, goods exports totaled \$516 million in August and \$6.1 billion over the past year, down 16.0 percent from the 12 months ending in August 2014 (inflation-adjusted).
- Exports over the past 12 months are up 21.8 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/>