

# Jobs Count

The aim of **Jobs Count** is to provide a monthly update of the state of working West Virginia.

[www.jobscount.org](http://www.jobscount.org)

west virginia  
Center on  
Budget & Policy

## June 2012 Update

### 2012's Slide Continues Into June

Total nonfarm employment fell for the fifth straight month, as West Virginia lost 1,200 jobs in June. June marked the third straight month with job losses over 1,000, the first time that has happened since early 2009. Nonfarm employment has been below its pre-recession level since April (**Figure 1**). Unemployment in the state crept up to 7.0 percent, a small increase over May's rate (**Table 1**).

### Growth Hard To Find In June

There were few sectors that saw positive jobs growth for June in West Virginia, and the growth the state did experience was small. The professional and business services sector led the way with 600 jobs added, an increase of 0.9%. The other services sector and the public sector both had incremental growth, adding 200 and 400 jobs respectively, increases of 0.4 and 0.3 percent.

Both the manufacturing and the education and health services sectors had zero job growth in June.

### Construction Sector Falters

After steady growth during the warm winter, the construction sector was the worst performer in June, losing 600 jobs, a decline of 1.7 percent. The leisure and hospitality sector also performed poorly, falling 1.1 percent after losing 800 jobs. The mining and logging, trade, transportation, and utilities, and financial activities sectors saw job losses under one percent for June.

### 2012 Shaping Up For Disappointment

After a promising end to 2011, 2012 is shaping up to be a disappointment at its halfway mark. Total employment is down 0.89 percent since the beginning of the year, the worst first half to a year since the height of the recession in the beginning of 2009. **Figure 2** shows monthly job growth by year indexed to January. While job growth in 2011 experienced a summer slowdown before recovering, 2012 is on track to match 2009's poor performance.

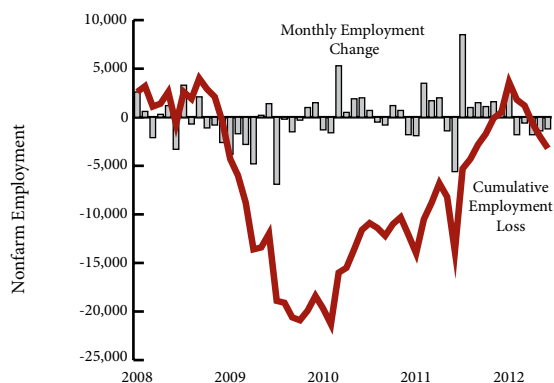
TABLE 1

### Unemployment Rate Up Again in June

	December 2007	June 2012	Change	Percent Change
Unemployment	4.1%	7.0%	2.9%	
Total Jobs	760,300	757,10	-3,200	-0.42%
Manufacturing	57,800	47,900	-9,900	-17.13%
Construction	38,100	34,700	-3,400	-8.92%
Mining/Logging	28,800	31,100	2,300	7.99%

FIGURE 1

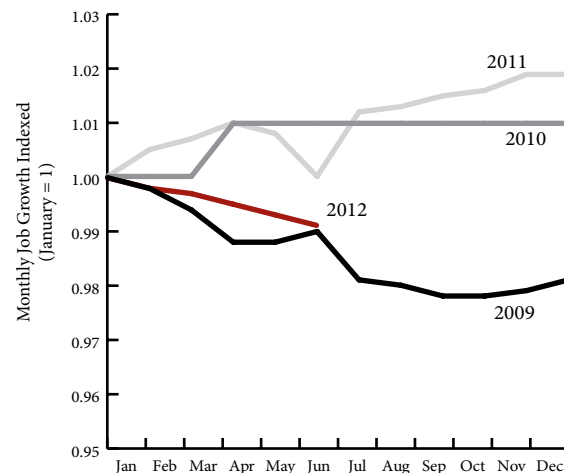
### Jobs Stay Below Pre-Recession Level



Source for Table 1 and Figure 1: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Seasonally Adjusted.

FIGURE 2

### Jobs Growth Struggling in 2012



Source: WVCBP Analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Data.

## A Closer Look

### Fewer Employers Offering Health Insurance Makes Reform Even More Important

The Supreme Court's ruling last month to uphold the Affordable Care Act was an important decision for thousands of West Virginians who are unable to secure health insurance. The expansion of insurance coverage, particularly through Medicaid, will make it easier for West Virginians to find health insurance coverage, which has been growing more difficult to do in the past decades.

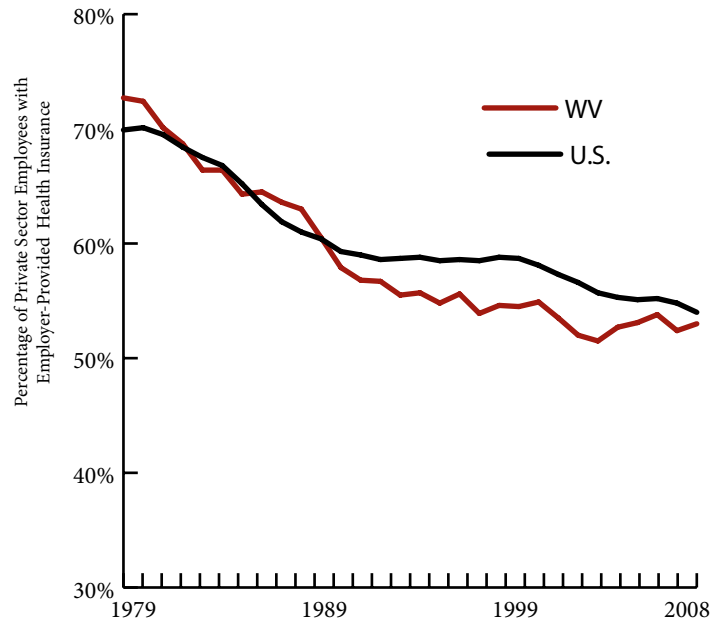
Historically, West Virginians and workers across the country received health insurance through the workplace. In the late 1970s, nearly 75 percent of West Virginians working in the private sector were covered by an employer-provided health insurance plan, and nearly 70 percent of private sector workers nationwide had employer-sponsored health insurance. But private sector employer-provided coverage fell sharply during the 1980s and has continued to slowly decline in the past two decades. In 2010, only 53 percent of private sector workers in West Virginia had employer-provided health insurance, and only 54 percent did nationwide (**Figure 3**).

The situation would have likely gotten worse without the health care reform legislation, but could be even better if West Virginia chooses to expand its Medicaid coverage. By accepting the federal funds to expand Medicaid, West Virginia can:<sup>1</sup>

- Cover an estimated 120,000 people who do not presently have health insurance.
- Save between \$263 and \$563 million in uncompensated care between 2014 and 2019.
- Increase the health of its workforce. With increased health coverage, healthier workers become more productive, increasing hours worked, wages earned, and taxes paid.

<sup>1</sup> See Blog post, "WV Medicaid Expansion Makes Cents"  
<http://blog.wvpolicy.org/2012/07/06/20120705.aspx>

FIGURE 3  
**Employer-Provided Health Insurance on Decline for Decades**



Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey March supplement (three-year moving average). Universe includes workers aged 18-64.

The West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization. Our aim is to support public policies that contribute to a shared prosperity for all West Virginians. We study critical issues, share what we learn with the public and policymakers, and work with diverse groups on sound solutions to economic and social problems.