

# Jobs Count

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

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west virginia  
Center on  
Budget & Policy

## September 2012 Update

### Job Loss Accelerates in September

West Virginia's disappointing trend of losing jobs continued in September as the state shed 3,200 jobs, marking the eighth straight month of job loss. So far in 2012, only January has seen a monthly increase in jobs. Total nonfarm employment stood at 747,500 in September, 12,800 jobs below its pre-recession level (**Figure 1**). The state's unemployment rate ticked up to 7.6 percent, its highest level since December 2011 (**Table 1**).

### Job Growth Non-Existent Across the Economy

Only one of West Virginia's major employment sectors saw any job growth in September, with the Other Services sector adding a meager 100 jobs, an increase of only 0.2 percent. Employment in the Government and the Education and Health Services sectors was flat, neither gaining nor losing any jobs in September.

### Broad Losses Add Up

Seven of West Virginia's ten major employment sectors experienced job losses in September. The Leisure and Hospitality sector lost the most jobs, with a loss of 700 jobs for a decline of 1.0 percent, while the Financial Services sector was hit the hardest, with employment falling 2.2 percent, from 27,300 to 26,700. **Table 2** lists the number of jobs lost or gained by sector in September.

### Bad Stretch for Most of 2012

Job losses have topped 2,000 for four straight months in 2012, and have topped 3,000 twice. January has been 2012's lone bright spot, when the state added 3,100 jobs. Since then, the state has lost an average of 2,050 jobs per month. After adding 12,600 jobs in 2011, West Virginia has already lost 13,300 jobs in 2012.

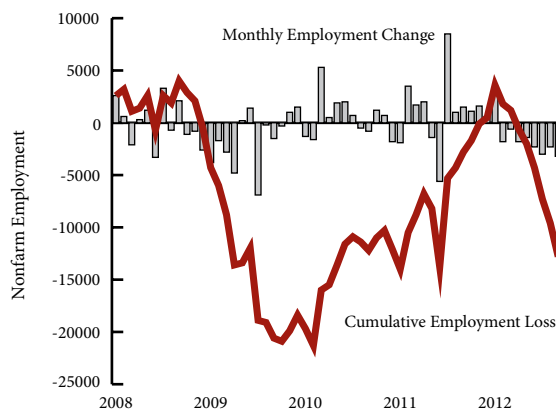
TABLE 1

### Unemployment Rises in September

	December 2007	September 2012	Change	Percent Change
Unemployment	4.1%	7.6%	3.5%	
Total Jobs	760,300	747,500	-12,800	-1.68%
Manufacturing	57,800	47,100	-10,700	-18.51%
Construction	38,100	35,700	-2,400	-6.30%
Mining/Logging	28,800	28,600	-200	.69%

FIGURE 1

### Jobs Continue to Fall



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

TABLE 2

### Most Sectors Lost Jobs in September

Employment Sector	Jobs Gained/Lost	Percent Change
Leisure and Hospitality	-700	-1.0%
Financial Activities	-600	-2.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-600	-0.5%
Mining and Logging	-500	-1.7%
Construction	-500	-1.4%
Manufacturing	-100	-0.2%
Professional & Business Services	-100	-0.2%
Government	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Other Services	100	0.2%

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

# A Closer Look

## What type of jobs will be coming to West Virginia?

As the state's population ages, the types of jobs available in West Virginia will change to suit the demands of an older population. The West Virginia Development Office has projected some of these changes, and has predicted which job markets will be growing the fastest.<sup>1</sup>

**Table 3** lists the projected job growth through 2020 for West Virginia's major employment sectors. The sector adding the most jobs from 2010 to 2020 is Education and Health Services – which mostly includes health-related occupations that serve our elderly population. All together this sector is expected to add 23,806 jobs. The Professional and Business Services sector is projected to increase by 13 percent and add 7,850 jobs.

Workers hoping to obtain these jobs in West Virginia will need higher levels of education. Only 20 percent of the projected 100 fastest-growing occupations require only a high school education. 27 percent will require some post-high school education, such as vocational school or an Associate's degree. 36 percent of the fastest-growing occupations will require a Bachelor's degree, with 11 percent requiring a Master's degree and six percent requiring a Doctorate.

The opposite is true for the fastest declining occupations. 76 percent of top 100 fastest-declining jobs require only a high school education, and only 10 percent require a Bachelor's degree or more. Since less than one quarter of the state's workforce has a bachelor's degree or higher, state leaders will need to explore ways to increase the education and skills of our current and future workforce.

<sup>1</sup> West Virginia Development Office – Research Unit, “Tomorrow's Jobs: The Best Career Opportunities in West Virginia Through 2020” (September 2012). Prepared for the West Virginia Communications Division.

Other figures from the Development Office report include:

- West Virginia's total employed workforce is expected to grow from 772,000 in 2010 to 809,000 in 2020, an increase of 37,000 or 4.8 percent.
- 78.7 of all job openings in West Virginia will be to fill existing positions.
- Nearly 60 percent of the new job openings in West Virginia will require at least a two-year degree.
- Annual job openings are predicted to be the highest in the following employment sectors: Office and Administrative Support, Sales and Related, Food Preparation and Serving-Related, Transportation and Material Moving, and Construction and Extraction.

In order to move more of West Virginia's workers out of low-wage jobs, the state will need to make improvements in postsecondary education and skills development, economic development, and work support systems.

TABLE 3  
**Projected Job Growth/Decline by Major Employment Sector, 2010-2020**

Industry	Projected Job Growth	Percent Change
Natural Resources and Mining	-1,462	-4.7%
Construction	2,009	6.2%
Manufacturing	-5,600	-11.4%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	2,601	1.9%
Information	-68	-0.7%
Financial Activities	1,931	7.3%
Professional & Business Services	7,850	13.0%
Education & Health Services	23,806	12.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	6,093	8.5%
Other Services	1,183	2.4%
Government	257	0.4%

Source: Work Force West Virginia, West Virginia Long Term Industry Projections 2010 to 2020.

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