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

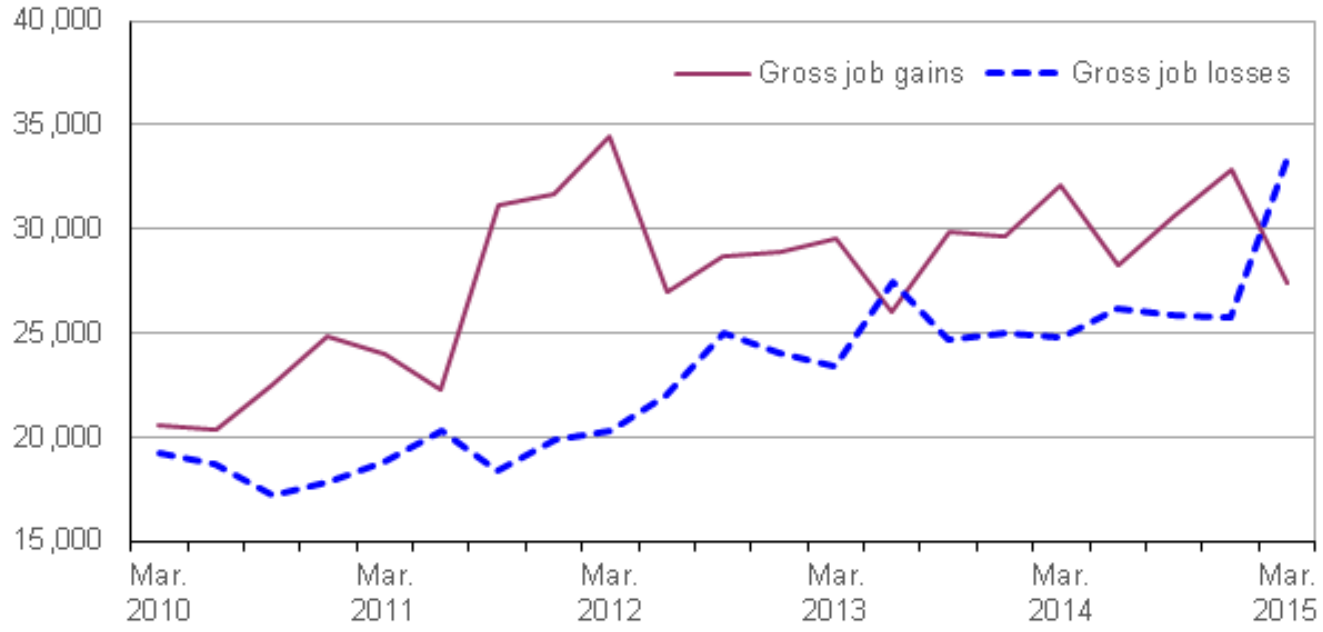
For Release: Thursday, January 21, 2016 **16-87-CHI**

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 North Dakota — First Quarter 2015

From December 2014 to March 2015 gross job losses in North Dakota totaled 33,253, while gross job gains numbered 27,400, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that gross job losses exceeded gross job gains by 5,853. During the previous quarter, gross job gains exceeded gross losses job by 7,107.

Chart 1. Private sector gross job gains and losses in North Dakota, March 2010–March 2015, seasonally adjusted

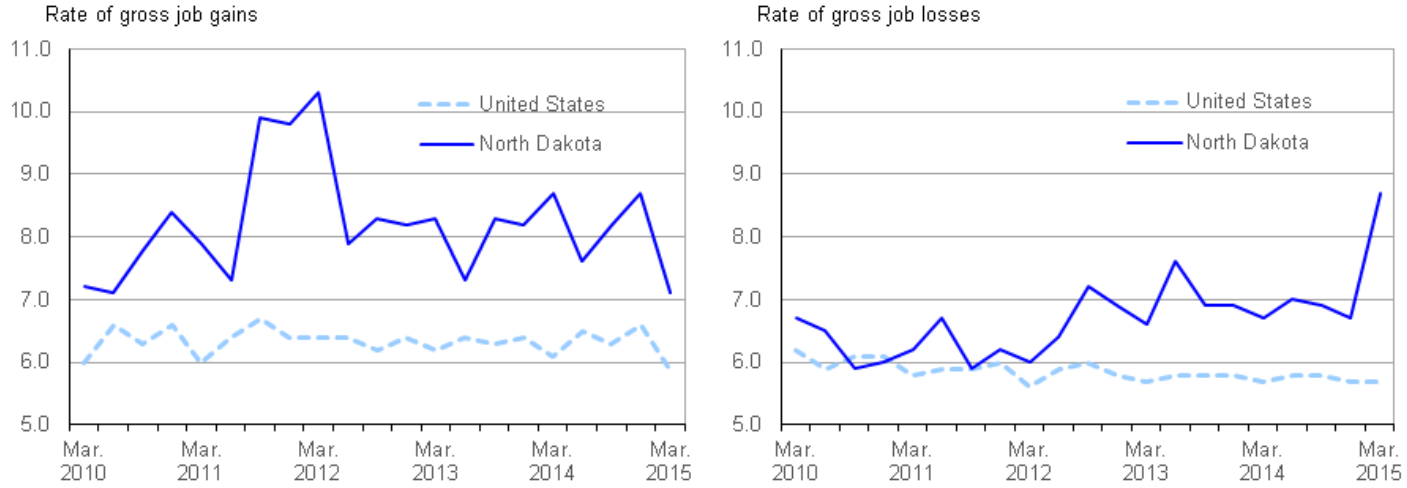


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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. 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 job gains and the number of gross job losses is the net change in employment. (See the Technical Note for more information.)

The 33,253 gross job losses in March were the largest for the state since the series inception in September 1992. With the exception of the most recent quarter, gross job losses in North Dakota remained below 28,000. North Dakota's 27,400 gross job gains in March 2015 followed the 32,877 gross job gains in December 2014. Over the past five years, gross job gains reached a high of 34,490 in March 2012 and a low of 20,364 in June 2010. (See chart 1.) The gross job gains in March 2012 were a series high for the state.

Chart 2. Private sector gross job gains and losses as a percent of employment, United States and North Dakota, March 2010–March 2015, seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Gross job losses represented 8.7 percent of private sector employment in North Dakota in the quarter ended March 2015, while nationally gross job losses accounted for 5.7 percent of private sector employment. (See chart 2.) Since March 2011, the rate of gross job losses in North Dakota has been at or above the U.S. rate each quarter. Gross job gains represented 7.1 percent of private sector employment in North Dakota in the quarter ended March 2015, while the U.S. rate of gross job gains was 5.9 percent of private sector employment. Gross job gains in North Dakota have been at or above the national rate since March 2006.

During the first quarter of 2015, gross job losses exceeded gross job gains in four industry sectors in North Dakota. For example, within professional and business services, gross job losses exceeded gross job gains by 953. While almost 3,000 jobs were created by opening and expanding establishments in the industry, nearly 4,000 jobs were lost in closing and contracting establishments in the 3-months ended in March 2015. In the leisure and hospitality industry, more than 3,474 jobs were created in opening and expanding establishments and 4,235 jobs lost in closing and contracting establishments, resulting in a loss of 761 jobs. In construction, 6,974 jobs were lost in closing and contracting establishments, while 6,680 jobs were gained in opening and expanding establishments, resulting in a net loss of almost 300 jobs in the first quarter of 2015. (See table 1.)

In contrast, gross job gains exceeded gross job losses in one industry sector. Within retail trade, gross job gains exceeded gross job losses by 866.

North Dakota was among the seven states in the West North Central Census division. Five states (Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota) in the division had gross job gains that exceeded gross job losses. (See table A.) Three states (Kansas, Minnesota, and Missouri) had rates of gross job gains that were lower than the 5.9-percent national rate. Three states (North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska) had a rate of gross job gains that was higher than the national rate and one state (Iowa) had a rate of gross job gains that was equal to the national rate. Four states (Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska) had rates of gross job

losses that were below the 5.7-percent national rate. Two states (Kansas and North Dakota) had rates of gross job losses that were higher than the national rate and one state (South Dakota) had a rate of gross job losses that was equal to 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, March 2015, 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	6,947,000	5.9	6,721,000	5.7	226,000	0.2
West North Central (1)	496,970	—	478,998	—	17,972	—
Iowa	75,990	5.9	68,787	5.4	7,203	0.5
Kansas	63,109	5.7	65,217	5.8	-2,108	-0.1
Minnesota	132,507	5.6	124,085	5.2	8,422	0.4
Missouri	127,642	5.6	122,952	5.4	4,690	0.2
Nebraska	48,584	6.1	45,229	5.6	3,355	0.5
North Dakota	27,400	7.1	33,253	8.7	-5,853	-1.6
South Dakota	21,738	6.3	19,475	5.7	2,263	0.6

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 second quarter 2015 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, January 27, 2016.

Revisions to Business Employment Dynamics (BED) Data

Data in this release incorporate annual revisions to the BED series. Annual revisions are published each year with the release of first quarter data. These revisions cover the last four quarters of not seasonally adjusted data and five years of seasonally adjusted data.

Additionally, all historical BED series back to third quarter 1992 have been revised for both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted series, to incorporate an administrative scope change. These revisions are primarily due to the reclassification of a number of establishments from private households (NAICS 814110) to services for the elderly and persons with disabilities (NAICS 624120). Private households are not within the scope of BED and, as a result, those establishments impacted by this industry reclassification are now within scope.

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), or the ES-202 program. The BED data are compiled from existing QCEW records. The QCEW reports are sent by the State Employment Security Agencies (SESAs) to BLS and form the basis of the Bureau's QCEW program and establishment universe sampling frame. These reports are also used to produce the QCEW data on total employment and wages. Other important Bureau uses of the QCEW reports are in the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The CES program produces monthly estimates of employment, net changes, and earnings by detailed industry.

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, North Dakota, 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)				
	Mar. 2014	June 2014	Sept. 2014	Dec. 2014	Mar. 2015	Mar. 2014	June 2014	Sept. 2014	Dec. 2014	Mar. 2015
Total private [1]										
Gross job gains	32,111	28,257	30,570	32,877	27,400	8.7	7.6	8.2	8.7	7.1
At expanding establishments	26,478	23,402	25,392	26,929	21,512	7.2	6.3	6.8	7.1	5.6
At opening establishments	5,633	4,855	5,178	5,948	5,888	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.5
Gross job losses	24,768	26,193	25,903	25,770	33,253	6.7	7.0	6.9	6.7	8.7
At contracting establishments	20,741	22,473	21,679	21,807	28,842	5.6	6.0	5.8	5.7	7.5
At closing establishments	4,027	3,720	4,224	3,963	4,411	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.2
Net employment change [2]	7,343	2,064	4,667	7,107	-5,853	2.0	0.6	1.3	2.0	-1.6
Construction										
Gross job gains	7,010	5,574	6,675	8,761	6,680	20.7	16.4	19.7	24.2	17.7
At expanding establishments	5,530	4,337	5,296	6,743	4,635	16.3	12.8	15.6	18.6	12.3
At opening establishments	1,480	1,237	1,379	2,018	2,045	4.4	3.6	4.1	5.6	5.4
Gross job losses	5,678	6,070	5,394	4,922	6,974	16.7	17.9	15.9	13.6	18.5
At contracting establishments	4,688	5,021	4,365	3,933	5,828	13.8	14.8	12.9	10.9	15.5
At closing establishments	990	1,049	1,029	989	1,146	2.9	3.1	3.0	2.7	3.0
Net employment change [2]	1,332	-496	1,281	3,839	-294	4.0	-1.5	3.8	10.6	-0.8
Wholesale trade										
Gross job gains	1,825	1,521	1,650	1,774	1,478	6.8	5.6	6.0	6.4	5.3
At expanding establishments	1,649	1,276	1,480	1,617	1,304	6.1	4.7	5.4	5.8	4.7
At opening establishments	176	245	170	157	174	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.6
Gross job losses	1,546	1,505	1,178	1,304	1,814	5.8	5.6	4.3	4.7	6.6
At contracting establishments	1,198	1,355	1,015	1,197	1,671	4.5	5.0	3.7	4.3	6.1
At closing establishments	348	150	163	107	143	1.3	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5
Net employment change [2]	279	16	472	470	-336	1.0	0.0	1.7	1.7	-1.3
Retail trade										
Gross job gains	4,188	2,871	3,195	3,134	3,963	8.3	5.7	6.3	6.2	7.7
At expanding establishments	3,582	2,579	2,735	2,845	3,245	7.1	5.1	5.4	5.6	6.3
At opening establishments	606	292	460	289	718	1.2	0.6	0.9	0.6	1.4
Gross job losses	2,576	3,084	3,174	2,786	3,097	5.1	6.0	6.3	5.5	6.0
At contracting establishments	2,410	2,913	2,941	2,491	2,788	4.8	5.7	5.8	4.9	5.4
At closing establishments	166	171	233	295	309	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6
Net employment change [2]	1,612	-213	21	348	866	3.2	-0.3	0.0	0.7	1.7
Professional and business services										
Gross job gains	3,337	3,605	3,721	3,242	2,869	9.6	10.1	10.2	8.7	7.9
At expanding establishments	2,533	2,991	3,112	2,560	2,196	7.3	8.4	8.5	6.9	6.0
At opening establishments	804	614	609	682	673	2.3	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9
Gross job losses	2,615	2,497	2,894	3,463	3,822	7.5	7.0	7.9	9.3	10.5
At contracting establishments	2,106	2,116	2,393	2,755	3,190	6.0	5.9	6.5	7.4	8.8
At closing establishments	509	381	501	708	632	1.5	1.1	1.4	1.9	1.7
Net employment change [2]	722	1,108	827	-221	-953	2.1	3.1	2.3	-0.6	-2.6
Leisure and hospitality										
Gross job gains	3,606	4,018	3,973	4,470	3,474	8.9	9.9	9.8	10.9	8.4
At expanding establishments	2,698	3,117	3,013	3,458	2,678	6.7	7.7	7.4	8.4	6.5
At opening establishments	908	901	960	1,012	796	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.5	1.9
Gross job losses	3,338	3,885	4,045	3,571	4,235	8.3	9.5	10.0	8.7	10.3
At contracting establishments	2,773	3,302	3,232	3,037	3,665	6.9	8.1	8.0	7.4	8.9
At closing establishments	565	583	813	534	570	1.4	1.4	2.0	1.3	1.4
Net employment change [2]	268	133	-72	899	-761	0.6	0.4	-0.2	2.2	-1.9

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.

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)				
	Mar. 2014	June 2014	Sept. 2014	Dec. 2014	Mar. 2015	Mar. 2014	June 2014	Sept. 2014	Dec. 2014	Mar. 2015
United States [1]	6.1	6.5	6.3	6.6	5.9	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7
Alabama	5.7	5.9	5.9	6.0	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.4
Alaska	10.8	10.8	9.5	10.6	10.4	9.7	11.0	10.4	10.4	9.2
Arizona	5.9	6.0	6.4	7.0	6.0	5.9	6.0	5.5	5.3	5.7
Arkansas	5.9	5.6	6.0	6.6	5.4	5.1	5.4	5.5	5.1	5.7
California	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.4	6.8	6.2	6.5	6.2	6.4	6.2
Colorado	6.8	7.2	7.3	7.0	6.9	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
Connecticut	5.1	5.7	5.2	5.4	4.8	5.0	4.9	5.3	5.2	5.1
Delaware	6.3	6.6	6.3	7.0	5.7	5.9	5.2	6.2	5.4	7.3
District of Columbia	5.9	6.3	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.4
Florida	6.5	7.2	7.3	7.1	6.3	5.8	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.6
Georgia	6.6	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.2	5.6	6.0	5.9	5.5	5.6
Hawaii	4.9	5.0	5.3	5.2	4.9	5.1	5.0	4.5	4.4	4.8
Idaho	8.4	7.7	7.5	8.0	9.1	7.2	7.9	7.3	7.0	7.0
Illinois	5.8	6.2	5.7	6.2	5.8	5.4	5.5	5.8	5.5	5.7
Indiana	5.3	5.9	5.4	6.3	5.3	5.6	5.0	5.3	5.0	5.3
Iowa	5.8	6.1	5.8	6.1	5.9	5.5	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.4
Kansas	5.7	6.1	5.7	6.2	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.8	5.4	5.8
Kentucky	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.6	5.5	6.0	5.6	5.5	5.3	6.0
Louisiana	6.8	6.6	6.8	6.8	6.1	5.9	6.5	5.9	5.8	6.7
Maine	6.8	7.8	6.7	7.2	6.5	7.1	6.5	7.0	7.2	7.0
Maryland	6.0	6.6	6.5	6.7	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.3	6.2	6.2
Massachusetts	5.5	6.3	5.7	6.0	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.5	5.2	5.4
Michigan	5.4	6.4	5.4	6.2	5.2	5.1	5.4	5.7	5.2	5.1
Minnesota	5.2	6.5	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.1	5.7	5.4	5.2
Mississippi	5.8	6.2	6.2	6.9	5.5	6.0	6.6	6.0	5.4	6.4
Missouri	5.6	6.0	5.7	6.3	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.7	5.1	5.4
Montana	7.3	8.2	8.1	8.5	9.1	8.0	7.7	8.1	8.0	7.2
Nebraska	5.8	6.1	6.0	6.2	6.1	5.6	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.6
Nevada	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.3	5.4	5.7	5.7	5.3	5.3
New Hampshire	5.9	6.9	5.9	6.9	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.0	5.7
New Jersey	6.0	7.0	6.3	6.9	5.8	6.3	5.9	6.4	6.2	6.0
New Mexico	6.5	6.8	6.6	7.2	6.4	6.5	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.5
New York	6.2	6.7	6.4	6.6	5.9	6.0	5.8	6.0	5.8	5.9
North Carolina	6.0	6.4	6.2	6.5	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.4	5.7
North Dakota	8.7	7.6	8.2	8.7	7.1	6.7	7.0	6.9	6.7	8.7
Ohio	5.6	6.1	5.5	6.1	5.4	5.5	5.2	5.5	5.1	5.6
Oklahoma	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.7	5.7	5.7	6.0	5.6	5.5	6.1
Oregon	7.0	6.9	7.0	7.1	6.9	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.3	5.7
Pennsylvania	5.2	5.6	5.2	5.6	4.9	4.9	4.8	5.1	4.9	5.2
Rhode Island	5.7	6.5	5.9	6.4	5.3	5.7	5.5	5.8	5.6	5.8
South Carolina	6.2	6.4	6.0	6.8	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.0	5.5
South Dakota	6.5	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.7
Tennessee	5.5	5.7	5.7	6.2	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.8	5.2
Texas	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.4	5.8	5.1	4.9	5.1	5.0	5.7
Utah	6.5	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.3	6.0	6.7	6.0	5.8	5.9
Vermont	6.9	7.3	6.9	7.5	6.8	6.8	6.9	7.3	6.7	6.8
Virginia	5.4	6.2	5.6	5.8	6.0	5.5	5.7	5.8	5.5	5.6
Washington	6.9	7.4	7.1	6.9	6.7	6.0	6.4	6.2	6.1	5.6
West Virginia	6.5	6.6	6.2	6.6	6.0	6.7	6.4	6.5	6.0	6.7
Wisconsin	5.3	5.8	5.5	5.8	5.4	5.1	5.0	5.6	5.2	5.1
Wyoming	8.6	8.7	8.3	9.3	8.9	8.1	8.3	8.5	8.0	8.9
Puerto Rico	5.3	5.5	5.6	6.4	5.3	6.5	6.3	6.0	4.9	6.4

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Private sector gross job gains and losses as a percent of total employment by state, seasonally adjusted - Continued

Category	Gross job gains as a percent of employment (3 months ended)					Gross job losses as a percent of employment (3 months ended)				
	Mar. 2014	June 2014	Sept. 2014	Dec. 2014	Mar. 2015	Mar. 2014	June 2014	Sept. 2014	Dec. 2014	Mar. 2015
Virgin Islands	5.0	6.2	6.6	6.2	5.5	6.0	6.3	5.6	5.6	5.9

Footnotes

(1) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.