



FACT SHEET

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Since 2001, Right to Work States Lead in Job Growth, Five-to-One

Private-Sector Employment in Forced-Union-Dues States in 2006 Was Barely Above 2001 Level

For many years, U.S. Labor Department data have shown that states with Right to Work laws on the books have far faster private-sector job growth than states that do not protect employees from federal policies authorizing the termination of workers for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union.

Between 1996 and 2006, private-sector jobs in Right to Work states increased by a net 19.8%. That's an 87% greater increase than the relatively small increase in private-sector jobs experienced by non-Right to Work states over this period. (See the tables on pages three and four for details. Oklahoma, which adopted its Right to Work law in 2001, is excluded from this calculation. However, between 2003, when the Sooner Supreme Court rejected two Big Labor lawsuits designed to overturn the Right to Work law, and 2006, Oklahoma job growth was 6.1%, well over half again as fast as in non-Right to Work states.)

The Right to Work job-growth advantage becomes even more critical in times when the national economy is recovering from a recession.

Over the five years from 2001 to 2006, private-sector jobs in forced-dues states barely increased at all. Over this entire period, private-sector employment went from 68.41 million to 69.25 million, a gain of just 1.2%. Meanwhile, private-sector jobs in Right to Work states increased by 2.6 million, or 6.3%, between 2001 and 2006. (Since Oklahoma was a Right to Work state for the entire period, this time it is included.)

Forced-Dues States' Recovery Has Been Relatively Weak in Every Geographic Region

The Right to Work job-growth advantage has been apparent in every region of the country. Between 1996 and 2006, private-sector employment in Right to Work states in the West and the Midwest grew more than twice as fast as in non-Right to Work states in those regions.

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Across the South, private-sector jobs grew nearly 30% more in Right to Work states than in forced-dues states. In the Northeast, which has no Right to Work states, private-sector employment grew by less than half as much as in Right to Work states nationwide.

Right to Work laws protect the freedom of both private- and public-sector employees to keep and hold a job without forking over dues or fees to a union that is recognized as their “exclusive” (actually, monopoly) bargaining agent.

Unless they are protected by a state Right to Work law, independent-minded employees have no power to fight back against greedy and tyrannical union bosses by withholding their financial support. And when employees have no personal freedom of choice, union bosses have little incentive to tone down their class warfare. Employees are consequently far less likely to reach their full productive potential and reap the accompanying benefits.

That’s a key reason why not just the private-sector job index, but almost every economic indicator, shows that forced union dues inhibit growth.

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(For more detailed information about private-sector job growth in Right to Work and non-Right to Work states, see the tables on the next two pages.)

1996 - 2006 Private-Sector Employment and Growth in Right to Work States

RTW States	Years			Growth		
	1996	2001	2006	1996-2001	1996-2006	2001-2006
AL	1,485.8	1,556.8	1,611.7	4.78%	8.47%	3.53%
AZ	1,574.4	1,887.2	2,233.6	19.87%	41.87%	18.36%
AR	906.7	960.1	991.4	5.89%	9.34%	3.26%
FL	5,243.9	6,136.3	6,909.4	17.02%	31.76%	12.60%
GA	2,957.8	3,332.9	3,423.7	12.68%	15.75%	2.72%
ID	392.0	457.6	523.2	16.73%	33.47%	14.34%
IA	1,150.5	1,220.4	1,255.8	6.08%	9.15%	2.90%
KS	994.8	1,100.8	1,099.9	10.66%	10.56%	-0.08%
LA	1,445.7	1,541.6	1,508.7	6.63%	4.36%	-2.13%
MS	872.0	892.4	902.1	2.34%	3.45%	1.09%
NE	685.4	762.9	784.4	11.31%	14.44%	2.82%
NV	741.7	924.7	1,131.4	24.67%	52.54%	22.35%
NC	2,974.6	3,257.6	3,345.3	9.51%	12.46%	2.69%
ND	238.5	257.0	277.3	7.76%	16.27%	7.90%
SC	1,378.2	1,500.2	1,572.1	8.85%	14.07%	4.79%
SD	278.2	305.3	323.7	9.74%	16.36%	6.03%
TN	2,151.7	2,285.1	2,367.7	6.20%	10.04%	3.61%
TX	6,805.3	7,927.7	8,341.0	16.49%	22.57%	5.21%
UT	787.5	891.2	998.7	13.17%	26.82%	12.06%
VA	2,539.7	2,887.8	3,052.0	13.71%	20.17%	5.69%
WY	162.9	183.9	211.2	12.89%	29.65%	14.85%
TOTAL	35,767.3	40,269.5	42,864.3	12.59%	19.84%	6.44%
OK		1,210.3	1,233.6			1.93%
TOTAL+OK		41,479.8	44,097.9			6.31%

All employees in thousands.

Source: DOL, BLS (www.bls.gov) State and Area Employment, Hours, and Earnings (data pulled 3/19/2007)

(Since Oklahoma did not become a Right to Work state until September 25, 2001, Oklahoma was excluded from total growth statistics except 1995-2001 as a non-Right to Work state, and 2001-2006 as a Right to Work state.)

1996 - 2006 Private-Sector Employment and Growth in Non-Right to Work States

Non-RTW States	Years			Growth		
	1996	2001	2006	1996-2001	1996-2006	2001-2006
AK	190.5	210.5	233.5	10.50%	22.57%	10.93%
CA	10,630.1	12,219.9	12,625.5	14.96%	18.77%	3.32%
CO	1,592.1	1,882.7	1,911.1	18.25%	20.04%	1.51%
CT	1,359.6	1,436.7	1,434.1	5.67%	5.48%	-0.18%
DE	323.9	362.5	375.6	11.92%	15.96%	3.61%
HI	420.2	440.5	495.5	4.83%	17.92%	12.49%
IL	4,875.2	5,144.9	5,089.0	5.53%	4.39%	-1.09%
IN	2,428.1	2,523.4	2,547.0	3.92%	4.90%	0.94%
KY	1,382.8	1,493.3	1,527.3	7.99%	10.45%	2.28%
ME	449.6	506.1	509.6	12.57%	13.35%	0.69%
MD	1,790.5	2,015.0	2,116.2	12.54%	18.19%	5.02%
MA	2,630.4	2,899.0	2,814.3	10.21%	6.99%	-2.92%
MI	3,709.2	3,876.3	3,671.4	4.51%	-1.02%	-5.29%
MN	2,053.7	2,280.1	2,346.0	11.02%	14.23%	2.89%
MO	2,166.7	2,301.7	2,341.2	6.23%	8.05%	1.72%
MT	283.3	307.6	346.8	8.58%	22.41%	12.74%
NH	475.7	541.4	548.0	13.81%	15.20%	1.22%
NJ	3,068.3	3,394.5	3,426.1	10.63%	11.66%	0.93%
NM	523.0	571.7	635.2	9.31%	21.45%	11.11%
NY	6,538.0	7,123.9	7,125.2	8.96%	8.98%	0.02%
OH	4,544.1	4,748.6	4,640.4	4.50%	2.12%	-2.28%
OR	1,228.0	1,323.7	1,415.7	7.79%	15.29%	6.95%
PA	4,593.7	4,954.3	5,006.8	7.85%	8.99%	1.06%
RI	379.4	413.2	428.6	8.91%	12.97%	3.73%
VT	229.7	251.9	253.9	9.66%	10.54%	0.79%
WA	1,965.4	2,191.6	2,330.3	11.51%	18.57%	6.33%
WV	559.9	594.2	611.4	6.13%	9.20%	2.89%
WI	2,217.1	2,400.2	2,445.1	8.26%	10.28%	1.87%
TOTAL	62,608.2	68,409.4	69,250.8	9.27%	10.61%	1.23%
OK	1,088.9	1,210.3		11.15%		
TOTAL+OK	63,697.1	69,619.7		9.30%		

All employees in thousands.

Source: DOL, BLS (www.bls.gov) State and Area Employment, Hours, and Earnings (data pulled 3/19/2007)

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