



FACT SHEET

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Right to Work's Wide Job-Growth Advantage Cuts Across Regions

Western, Southern and Midwestern States Rank in Top Eight For 2003-2008 Employment Gains

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. The latest available data show Right to Work states retain a wide job-growth advantage.

Between 2003 and 2008, private-sector jobs in the 22 Right to Work states increased by an aggregate 9.1%. That's 2.5 times as great as the relatively small increase in private-sector jobs experienced by the 28 non-Right to Work states over this period. (See the tables on pages three and four for details.)

The correlation between a state's Right to Work status and job growth is extraordinarily strong. Among the eight states with the biggest gains in private-sector employment over the past five years, seven – Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Arizona, Texas and North Dakota – have Right to Work laws. These states are located in the West, the South, and the Midwest. Montana was the only non-Right to Work state to rank among the top eight – and its job gains were outpaced by all five of the Right to Work states in the West, where Montana is located.

Meanwhile, seven states had private-sector job growth of less than two percent or negative job growth over the past five years. All seven – Indiana, Maine, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Rhode Island and Vermont – are forced-dues states.

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

The Right to Work job-growth advantage is apparent in every region of the country. Between 2003 and 2008, private-sector employment in Right to Work states in the West grew more than twice as fast as in non-Right to Work states in that region. In the Midwest, employment increased more than seven times faster in Right to Work states. In the South, employment increased nearly twice as fast in Right to Work states as in forced-dues states.

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In the Northeast, which has no Right to Work states, private-sector employment grew by well under half as much as in Right to Work states nationwide.

If private-sector employment in forced-unionism states had grown from 2003 to 2008 as much as it did in Right to Work states (9.1%), there would be an additional 3.7 million Americans employed in the private sector today.

And the higher unemployment America is experiencing now because of forced-unionism states' slow job growth affects the entire country, because every year hundreds of thousands of frustrated job seekers flee forced-unionism states and enter the job markets of Right to Work states.

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.)

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Private sector jobs in RTW and non-RTW states, 2003-2008

In thousands.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics web site. Data downloaded March 11-12, 2009.

RTW state	2003	2008	+/- %
AL	1517.0	1610.9	+6.19
AZ	1902.9	2182.8	+14.71
AR	946.6	989.9	+4.57
FL	6197.0	6635.7	+7.08
GA	3212.5	3409.0	+6.12
ID	459.0	529.2	+15.29
IA	1195.6	1270.3	+6.24
KS	1062.8	1130.9	+6.41
LA	1526.3	1576.7	+3.30
MS	874.1	898.8	+2.83
NE	751.0	800.8	+6.63
NV	953.5	1104.7	+15.86
NC	3154.2	3422.5	+8.51
ND	257.4	290.9	+13.01
OK	1149.5	1270.1	+10.49
SC	1481.0	1583.3	+6.91
SD	303.8	335.4	+10.40
TN	2251.5	2350.0	+4.37
TX	7724.0	8839.6	+14.44
UT	877.5	1043.2	+18.88
VA	2860.0	3062.9	+7.09
WY	186.5	229.0	+22.79
TOTAL	40843.7	44566.6	+9.11

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Non-RTW state	2003	2008	+/- %
AK	217.8	239.8	+10.10
CA	11966.8	12474.8	+4.25
CO	1796.6	1965.2	+9.38
CT	1398.5	1447.1	+3.48
DE	357.3	370.5	+3.69
HI	448.5	494.2	+10.19
IL	4957.6	5093.3	+2.73
IN	2472.7	2518.3	+1.84
KY	1470.8	1531.6	+4.13
ME	503.0	511.8	+1.75
MD	2024.5	2111.1	+4.28
MA	2772.5	2847.9	+2.72
MI	3731.1	3511.3	-5.89
MN	2247.8	2340.7	+4.13
MO	2248.3	2346.3	+4.36
MT	314.9	358.5	+13.85
NH	527.8	550.9	+4.34
NJ	3356.9	3407.2	+1.50
NM	580.5	649.2	+11.83
NY	6922.5	7282.7	+5.20
OH	4595.1	4571.5	-0.51
OR	1294.5	1422.0	+9.85
PA	4865.7	5051.6	+3.82
RI	418.0	418.3	+0.07
VT	247.2	252.1	+1.98
WA	2136.9	2414.0	+12.97
WV	585.1	614.4	+5.01
WI	2362.4	2449.7	+3.70
TOTAL	66821.3	69246	+3.63