

Immediate Release

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West Virginia Has Five Workers for Each Job Opening Monthly Report Highlights State's Employment Data

While West Virginia's unemployment rate fell below eight percent for the first time in two and a half years, the state has available workers but not the jobs to meet demand for employment. "The recession created a large job shortage that is keeping West Virginia's unemployment rate stubbornly high. Right now there are five unemployed workers for each job opening in the state," said Sean O'Leary, policy analyst with the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy.

While a high unemployment rate is cause for concern, the good news is that the state added more jobs in 2011 than it did in 2010. West Virginia has added 10,500 jobs so far in 2011 compared to 7,700 at this point in 2010. The state's job count is now 5,300 jobs below its prerecession level, the lowest level since when the recession first began.

Jobs Count is a monthly analysis produced by the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy. This month's full report and past issues can be found at the Center's website. The Center's staff can provide additional data upon request.

The West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy's full report is available at www.wvpolicy.org in PDF format. The West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy is a public policy research organization that is nonpartisan, nonprofit, and statewide. The Center focuses on how policy decisions affect all West Virginians, especially low- and moderate-income families.