Multiple Job Holdings in the U.S.
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The US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has released the most recent information on multiple job holders by state. The 2013 data presents the percentage of employed individuals who hold more than one job. The data is from the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a survey of about 60,000 households selected to represent the U.S. population 16 years and older. The survey is conducted monthly by the Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Multiple jobholders are those persons who report, in the reference week of the survey, that they are wage or salary workers, self-employed workers, or unpaid family workers who hold two or more jobs.

To access the data presented in this article, along with additional analysis by region, visit http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2014/article/multiple-jobholding-in-states-in-2013.htm.

As of 2013, 4.9 percent of working individuals in the U.S. held more than one job. Exhibit 1 provides data on all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (D.C.). Eight states had multiple job holding rates greater than 7 percent. South Dakota, Vermont, and Maine led the group with over 8.0 percent of the workforce holding more than one job. Five states—Florida, Georgia, Alabama, New York, and Texas—had less than 4.0 percent of the workforce employed in more than one job.

Note: Dark green shading indicates a percentage significantly higher than that of the U.S., while light green shading indicates a percentage significantly lower. The 90-percent confidence interval does impact whether a rate is statistically different from that of the U.S., hence NM, NV, and OK not being significantly different.
In 2013, 4.1 percent of New Mexico’s workforce held more than one job. This percentage ranked New Mexico forty-third in the country for concentration of multiple job holders. This percentage was not significantly different from that of the U.S. Exhibit 2 shows that the percentage of New Mexico’s workforce holding more than one job has been declining overall since 2005. While Exhibit 2 shows percentages of multiple job holders since 2000, the most recent BLS Monthly Labor Review reports that the U.S. percentage of multiple job holders has been trending downwards since 1996 and has hovered at 4.9 percent since 2010.

The majority of states have actually seen the concentration of multiple job holders decline since 2000. All but four states saw a percentage point decline in the share of the workforce holding more than one job. Exhibit 3 shows that the four states that saw percentage increases include New Jersey, Colorado, Maryland, and Louisiana. The states that have seen the largest decline in the percentage of the workforce holding more than one job are Hawaii, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Wyoming. New Mexico’s percentage of the workforce holding more than one job declined by 0.7 percentage points over the 14-year period.

More detailed data on the U.S.’s multiple job holders is also available. U.S. multiple job holders are categorized by gender, full-time and part-time workers, age group, marital status, and race and
Exhibit 4 illustrates the full- and part-time status of multiple job holders in the U.S. Over half of all individuals working more than one job work full-time at their primary position. About one-quarter of workers are working part-time in two jobs, while about 15 percent have hours that vary between the two jobs they hold.

Exhibit 5 shows the percentage of individuals working in more than one job within specific demographic categories. Of White workers, 5 percent held more than one job in 2013, while 4.7 percent of Black or African American workers held more than one job. Prime age workers between 20 and 64 were more likely to hold more than one job, as compared to younger or older workers. Workers between 20 and 24 had the largest percentage of workers hold multiple jobs. This may reflect part-time workers attending college, workers finding a first start in a career and trying different occupations, or workers who earn less money as they start out in their career needing additional income. Finally, over 5 percent of widowed, divorced, or separated workers and 5 percent of workers that have never been married held more than one job.