Multiple Job Holdings in the U.S.
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The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has released the most recent annual averages information on multiple job holders by state. The 2014 data present the percentage of employed individuals who hold more than one job. The data are from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a survey of about 60,000 households selected to represent the U.S. population 16 years old and older. The survey is conducted monthly by the Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Multiple job holders are those persons who report, in the reference week of the survey, that they are wage or salary workers who hold two or more jobs, self-employed workers who also hold a wage or salary job, or unpaid family workers who also hold a wage or salary job.

To access the data presented in this article, along with additional analysis by region, visit http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2015/article/multiple-jobholding-in-states-in-2014.htm and http://www.bls.gov/cps/lfcharacteristics.htm#mjh

As of 2014, 4.9 percent of working individuals in the U.S. held more than one job, the same rate as for the year before. Exhibit 1 provides data on all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (D.C.). Nine states had multiple job holding rates greater than 7 percent. Five states—South Dakota, Vermont, Nebraska, Iowa, and Maine—had 8 percent or more of the workforce holding more than one job. Six states—Florida, Arkansas, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Texas—had rates above 7 percent. Five states—New Hampshire, Wisconsin, Kansas, Rhode Island, and Wyoming—had rates below 3 percent.

Note: Dark blue shading indicates a percentage significantly higher than that of the U.S., while bright blue 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 is not significantly different.
Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Texas—had less than 4 percent of the workforce employed in more than one job. The state with the lowest rate was Florida, with 3.4 percent of the workforce employed in more than one job. South Dakota, with 8.7 percent of the workforce employed in more than one job, had the highest rate.

In 2014, 4.9 percent of New Mexico’s workforce held more than one job. This percentage ranked New Mexico thirtieth in the country for concentration of multiple job holders and matched the rate of the U.S. Exhibit 2 shows that the percentage of New Mexico’s workforce holding more than one job peaked at 5.7 percent in 2004 and 2005. It reached a low of 3.7 percent in 2011, but has been steadily climbing since then. While Exhibit 2 shows percentages of multiple job holders since 2001, the BLS Monthly Labor Review dated April 2015 (Multiple Jobholding Over the Past Two Decades, http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2015/article/multiple-jobholding-over-the-past-two-decades.htm) reports that the U.S. percentage of multiple job holders has been trending downwards since 1996 when it reached a high of 6.8 percent. Since 2010, the U.S. percentage has held steady at 4.9 percent.

The concentration of multiple job holders for the entire country declined by 0.5 percentage point since 2001, and the majority of states followed this national trend. Ten states, however, including New Mexico, saw a percentage point increase in the share of the workforce holding more than one job. Over this 14-year time period, New Mexico’s share of the workforce holding more than one job increased by 0.6 percentage point. As shown in Exhibit 3, four states had a percentage point change greater than New Mexico’s—Virginia, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Maine. The states that saw greater than a 1.5 point decline in the percentage of the workforce holding more than one job were Hawaii, Wyoming, North Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Utah, and Washington. Four states—Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, and South Dakota—had no change in the concentration of multiple job holders.
Although more detailed data for multiple job holders in New Mexico are not available, they are available for the U.S. Multiple job holders for the U.S. are categorized by gender, full-time and part-time workers, age group, marital status, and race and ethnicity. Exhibit 4 illustrates the full- and part-time status of multiple job holders in the U.S. in October 2015. Over 53 percent of all individuals working more than one job worked full-time at their primary position. The proportion of these individuals, by gender, was roughly equal. Men comprised 54.4 percent of individuals working full-time in their primary position, while women made up 45.6 percent.

In October 2015, 26.8 percent of workers were working part-time in two jobs. Women made up the majority of these workers, at 66.4 percent. Men who had worked part-time in two jobs made up 33.6 percent of the total. Slightly over 16.4 percent had hours that varied between the two jobs they held.

Exhibit 5 shows the percentage of individuals working in more than one job within specific demographic and gender categories. Both White and Black or African Americans had 5.2 percent of workers working more than one job in October 2015. Hispanic/Latino workers had 3.2 percent of workers working more than one job, with men totaling 58.4 percent of these workers. Prime age workers between 20 and 64 were more likely to have held more than one job, as compared to younger or older workers. The 20 to 24 age group had the largest percentage of workers holding multiple jobs, at 5.7 percent. In this age group, 60.3 percent were women, while 39.7 percent were men. The large percentage of workers 20 to 24 years of age holding multiple jobs may reflect part-time workers attending college, workers finding a first start in a career and trying different occupations, or workers earning less money as they start out in their career and needing additional income. The 65 and older age group only had 3.3 percent of workers holding multiple jobs, but three out of five were men. Finally, 5.3 percent of widowed, divorced, or separated workers held more than one job. Nearly two-thirds of these workers were women. About 5.3 percent of workers that had never been married held more than one job. Married workers, at 4.9 percent, had a lower rate of workers with more than one job. Men made up 55.5 percent of these workers, while women made up 44.5 percent.