

Right-to-Work by the Numbers: Higher incomes, more jobs, lower unemployment

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Right-to-work states have higher income growth:

- Personal incomes grew 56.4 percent in right-to-work states compared to only 40.6 percent in non-right-to-work states from 2000 to 2019. Incomes in New Hampshire grew only 32.6 percent during that time.¹

Right-to-work states have higher private sector job growth:

- Right-to-work states had 23.1 percent employment growth in the private sector from 2000 to 2019 compared with 12.6 percent in non-right-to-work states. New Hampshire lagged both averages with only 10.6 percent private sector job growth.²

Right-to-work and safety:

- Occupational illness and injury rates fell in all of the most recent right-to-work states after they enacted worker freedom reforms.
 - Additionally, injury rates fell more than the national average in Kentucky, Michigan and Wisconsin.³

Right-to-work states have lower unemployment:

- Right-to-work could help continue New Hampshire's low unemployment rate. The unemployment rate in January 2020 was 5.8 percent in right-to-work states compared to 7.9 percent in non-right-to-work states.
- Right-to-work states also had lower unemployment prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the unemployment rate at 3.5 percent in right-to-work states compared to 4.1 percent in non-right-to-work states in February 2020.⁴
- 8 of the 10 states with the lowest unemployment rate are right-to-work states.
- 9 of the 10 states with the highest unemployment rate are non-right-to-work states.⁵

1 United States Bureau of Economic Analysis, Personal income growth <https://www.bea.gov/data/income-saving/personal-income-by-state>

2 United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, Job Growth www.bls.gov/sae

3 United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, Injury rates: <https://www.bls.gov/iif/>

4 United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, Unemployment rates, labor force and employment <https://www.bls.gov/lau/>

5 Ibid.