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Gallup: Hawaii ranks 34th in Job Creation

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PRINCETON, NJ -- Gallup's Job Creation Index shows that Washington, D.C., as well as energy- and commodity-producing states continue to dominate the 10 best job markets during the first half of 2011, as they did over the same period in 2010.

Top 10 States, Gallup Job Creation Index

Bottom 10 States, Gallup Job Creation Index

	Index score
North Dakota	32
District of Columbia	27
West Virginia	26
Alaska	22
Oklahoma	21
Iowa	20
Delaware	20
South Carolina	20
Nebraska	19
Georgia	18

	Index score
Oregon	4
Nevada	5
New Jersey	6
New Mexico	7
New Hampshire	7
Rhode Island	7
California	7
Maine	8
New York	8
Idaho	8

Gallup Daily tracking, January-June 2011

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These results are based on aggregated data from nearly 100,000 interviews with employed adults during the first half of 2011, conducted [as part of Gallup Daily tracking](#). Gallup asks those who are employed whether their companies are hiring workers and expanding the size of their labor forces, not changing the size of their workforces, or laying off workers and reducing their workforces. The figures reported here represent the net difference between the percentage reporting an expansion and the percentage reporting a reduction in their workforces.

The energy-producing states of North Dakota, Oklahoma, and West Virginia have been in the 10 "best state job markets" for the past 3 ½ years, from 2008 to mid-2011. They are joined by the District of Columbia -- a federal government-based job market -- and Iowa, a farm commodity and energy state, both of which were also in the top 10 in 2010. New to the top 10 job market states during the first half of 2011 are Delaware and the three farm commodity states of South Carolina, Nebraska, and Georgia.

Job market conditions improved during the first half of 2011, with Gallup's Job Creation Index at +13 nationwide, compared with +7 for all of 2010. While 8 states that are in the bottom 10 during the first half of 2011 were also in that group during the first half of 2010, the average score of the bottom 10 states has improved markedly. The Western states of Oregon and New Mexico fell into the bottom 10 job markets this year. See complete results for each state on page 2 of this report.

Job Creation and Economic Confidence Only Sometimes Related

Although jobs are important to every state economy, being a top 10 state job market doesn't necessarily translate into being [a top 10 state in economic confidence](#). Four of the top 10 state job markets during the first half of 2011 are also in the top 10 in economic confidence: the District of Columbia, North Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa. Similarly, 4 states in the bottom 10 job markets are also in the bottom 10 in economic confidence: Nevada, Idaho, Maine, and Rhode Island.

On the other hand, Delaware and West Virginia are in the top 10 job markets but simultaneously in the bottom 10 in economic confidence. None of the bottom 10 job states are in the top 10 in economic confidence.

Job Market Outlook

One key to a high state ranking in job creation in recent years has been for a state's economy to be based on energy and/or farm commodities. The same has been true for many countries around the world as the growing global economy, particularly in Asia, has greatly increased the demand for such energy/commodities. In turn, this suggests that one thing the U.S. could do to stimulate job growth going forward would be to place more emphasis on expanding the nation's energy and commodity sectors.

However, some signs in the current data suggest this may no longer be the case, at least on an across-the-board basis. The fallout from the Gulf oil spill and the increase in environmental regulations may lessen, rather than increase, the nation's ability to leverage its enormous natural resources. The combination of these factors may partly explain why Texas and Louisiana dropped out of the top 10 job creation states during the first half of 2011.

Further, the global economy is slowing, not only in the U.S. but also in Europe and Asia. Although the price of energy and other commodities is no longer necessarily a result of supply and demand alone -- but instead is acting as a store of value similar to gold and other precious metals for investors -- a decline in global demand is likely to reduce job growth in the energy- and commodity-producing states.

At the same time, new financial industry regulations as well as financial problems in Europe suggest little job growth in the financial sector. The housing sector has a long way to go before returning to growth, given the overhang of foreclosures. Even the federal government may not grow jobs as it has in the past, as efforts are made to cut federal spending.

Overall, Gallup's Job Creation Index results suggest that job market conditions improved during the first half of 2011 compared with a year ago, but not enough to create significant job growth. Whether even this anemic job performance on the part of the U.S. economy will

continue during the remainder of 2011 seems far from certain. Similarly uncertain is the ability of a select number of states to continue strongly outperforming the national average, particularly in a slowing global economy.

Gallup Job Creation Index, Complete Results by State

Would you say that, in general, your company or employer is --

	Hiring new people and expanding the size of its workforce	Letting people go and reducing the size of its workforce	Job Creation Index score
North Dakota	39%	6%	32
District of Columbia	41%	14%	27
West Virginia	39%	13%	26
Alaska	35%	13%	22
Oklahoma	34%	13%	21
Iowa	33%	12%	20
Delaware	37%	18%	20
South Carolina	37%	18%	20
Nebraska	31%	12%	19
Georgia	36%	17%	18
Virginia	34%	17%	17
Mississippi	33%	16%	17
Tennessee	33%	16%	17
Arkansas	30%	13%	17
Indiana	32%	16%	16
Utah	33%	17%	16
South Dakota	28%	12%	16
Texas	34%	18%	16
Minnesota	32%	16%	16
Kentucky	32%	17%	16
Ohio	33%	17%	16
Pennsylvania	32%	17%	15
Massachusetts	31%	16%	15
Kansas	30%	15%	14
Louisiana	32%	18%	14
Maryland	33%	19%	14
Wyoming	27%	13%	14
Michigan	32%	18%	14
Colorado	31%	17%	14

Colorado	31%	17%	14
Wisconsin	31%	18%	14
Arizona	32%	18%	14
Missouri	30%	17%	13
Illinois	30%	19%	11
Alabama	31%	19%	11
Hawaii	25%	15%	10
Washington	31%	21%	10
Vermont	22%	12%	10
Florida	29%	20%	9
Montana	26%	16%	9
Connecticut	28%	19%	9
North Carolina	30%	22%	9
Idaho	27%	19%	8
New York	29%	21%	8
Maine	28%	20%	8
California	28%	21%	7
Rhode Island	26%	19%	7
New Hampshire	30%	23%	7
New Mexico	25%	19%	7
New Jersey	30%	24%	6
Nevada	30%	24%	5
Oregon	25%	21%	4

Note: The Job Creation Index may not equal the difference between the % Hiring and the % Letting go because of rounding.

January-June 2011

Gallup Daily tracking

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