

Research Brief 2024 – 2:
**Trends in Enrollment in US
Teacher Preparation Programs: 2009-2022**

Introduction

This report includes the most recently available data and examines the trends in US teacher preparation program enrollment and completion as reported by the United States Department of Education (USDoE) on the Title II website (<https://title2.ed.gov/Public/Home.aspx>). While the individual state data has not been released, the overall data for all US States and territories is available.

Data and Methods

Title II data includes information on the number of enrollees and completers for all Teacher Preparation Programs (TPPs) by state and jurisdiction. From 2011-12 through 2017-18, the number of individuals enrolled in TPPs was distinct from the number of TPP completers. A completer is defined as an individual who completed the TPP during that year. From 2017-18 through 2021-22, completers were included in the enrollment count. Prior to 2017-18, completers were NOT included in the enrollment count. To create an apples-to-apples comparison, I subtracted completers from the enrollment count for 2018-19 through 2021-22. In this short report, I focus on the overall trends for the US—including all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and other territories.

Findings

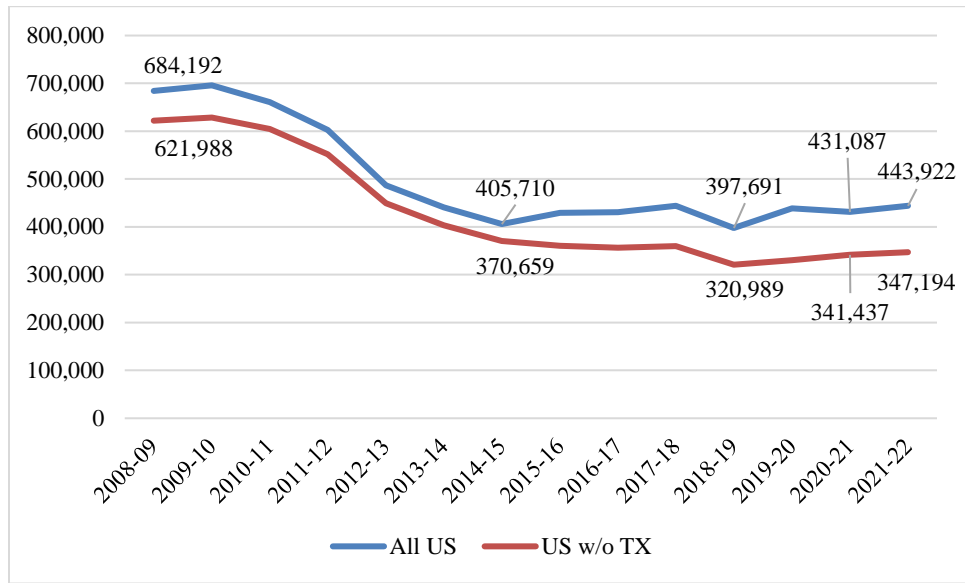
Figure 1 includes the total number of enrollees for all states as well as for all states other than Texas. Because Texas reports an extremely high number of enrolled students—many of whom are from one privately managed alternative certification program--reporting both trends help the reader understand the overall pattern in the US.

In viewing the graph, the most obvious trend is the steep decline in the number of enrollees from 2009-10 through 2014-15. For all TPPs, there was a decline of 290,154 enrollees which translates into a decline of about 42%. For non-Texas TPPs, there was a decline 257,877 which translates into a decline of about 41%. **Thus, in just five years, the number of TPP enrollees plummeted by around 41%.** For all states, the number of enrollees in the 2014-15 academic year was 297,691 while the number for non-Texas states was 320,989. For all states, this number of enrollees was 57% of the number of enrollees in 2009-10. For non-Texas states, this was just 51% of the enrollees in 2009-10.

From 2014-15 to 2021-22, there was a 9.4% increase in the number of TPP enrollees when including Texas in the calculation. Across all states, the increase translated into an additional 38,212 enrollees. The lowest number of TPP enrollees for all states was in 2018-19 when there were 397,691 TPP enrollees. From 2018-19 to 2021-22, there was an 11.6% increase in TPP enrollees across all states which was 46,231 enrollees.

When excluding Texas from the calculation, there was a 6.3% decline in the number of TPP enrollees. This translated into 23,465 fewer TPP enrollees. The lowest number of TPP enrollees for non-Texas states was in 2018-19 when there were 320,989 TPP enrollees. From 2018-19 to 2021-22, there was an 8.2% increase in TPP enrollees which was 26,205 enrollees.

Figure 1: Number of Students Enrolled in Teacher Preparation Programs (2011-12 to 2021-22)



Figures 2 and 3 include the numerical change in the number of enrollees and the percentage change in the number of enrollees. In both cases, I present data for all states and all states excluding Texas.

Figure 2 shows that much of the decline in the number of TPPs enrollees happened at the end of the great recession—from 2010/11-2011/12 to 2012/13-2013/14. There was a smaller decline from 2013/14 to 2014/15. Since that time enrollment has fluctuated from gains to declines over the next seven years. In fact, from 2015/16 to 2021/22, there was about a 5,000 person increase in the number of enrollees and about a 22,000 decrease in enrollees for non-Texas states over the me time frame.

Figure 2: Annual Numerical Change in the Number of Students Enrolled in Teacher Preparation Programs (2008/09 to 2021/22)

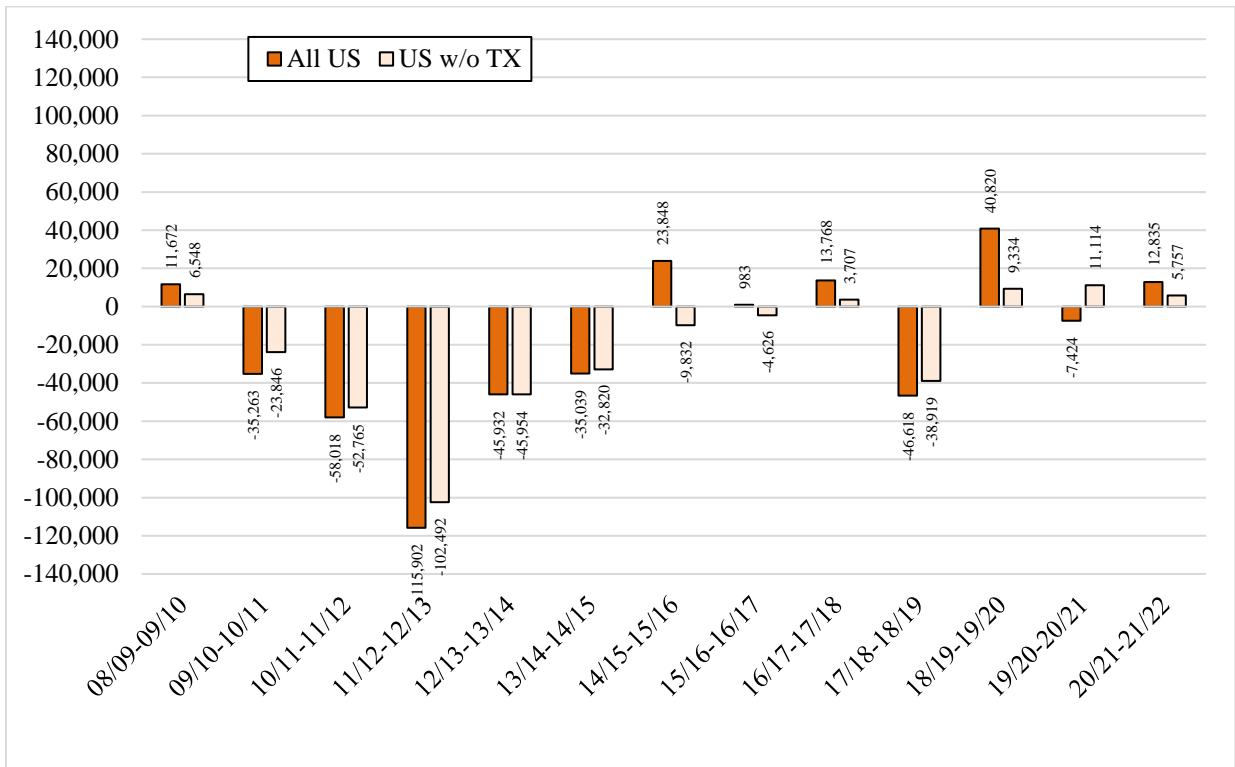
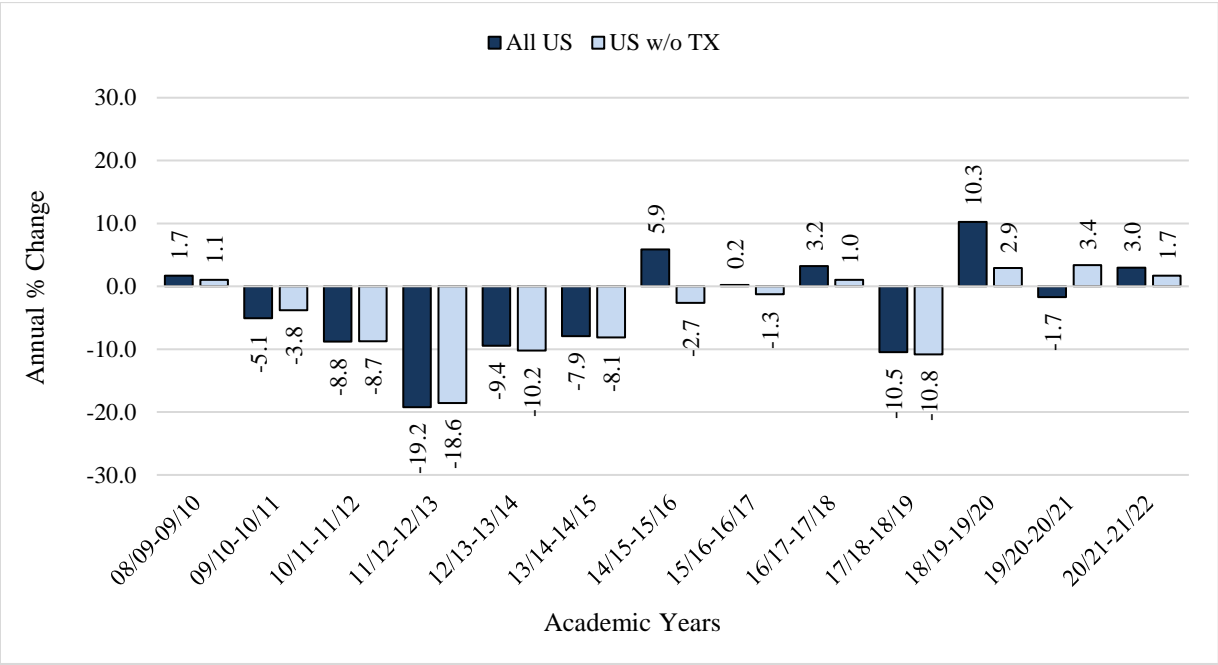


Figure 3 shows the percentage change in the number of enrollees from one year to the next. As mentioned above, by far the largest decline was between 2011/12-2012/13. Indeed, the decline was about 19% for both groups of states. The next largest declines were for 2012/13-2013/14 and 2017/18-2018/19. For both sets of years, the decline was about 10%. For non-Texas states, the greatest increase in TPP enrollment was for 2019/20-2020/21 with a 3.4%. The second greatest increase was the time frame before that. In fact, many hoped that the consecutive increases of 2.9% and 3.9% for non-Texas states signaled a rebound in TPP enrollment. The most recent suggests no significant rebound has occurred yet.

Figure 2: Annual Percent Change in the Number of Students Enrolled in Teacher Preparation Programs (2008/09 to 2021/22)

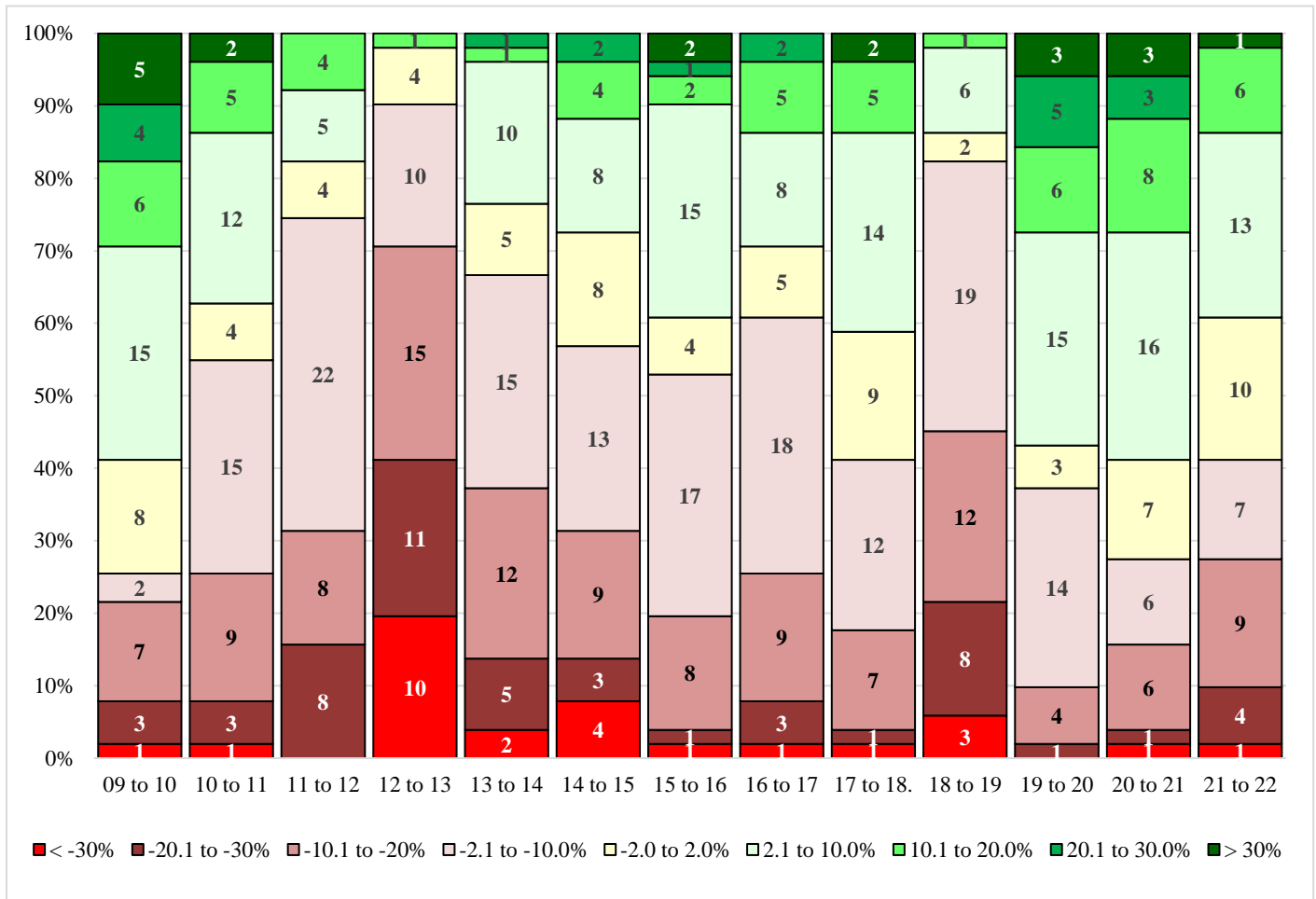


Findings by State

Figure 4 shows the specific distribution of the percent change in state TPP enrollment across each of the 13 one-year timespans between each year the data has been collected. The years on the x-axis of the graph indicate the two academic years of the change. So, for example, “09 to 10” indicates the change from the 2008/09 academic year to the 2009/10 academic year.

The graph shows a clear trend in which most states experienced declines in TPP enrollment beginning in the 10 to 11 timespan and lasting through the 16- 17 timespan. The 17-18 timespan was the first for which less than one-half of states experienced a decline in TPP enrollment since the 09-10 timespan. There is also a clear trend of increasing TPP enrollment across states in recent years. Indeed, since the for the 12- 13 timespan which was the worst on record, there has been a steady—albeit choppy--increase in the number and percentage of states reporting an increase in the number of TPP enrollees. Importantly, the percentages of states with an increase in enrollment were 57% for 19-20 and 59% in 20-21. Unfortunately, that percentage declined to 39% for 2021-22.

Figure 3: Number of States by Selected Ranges in the Change in Teacher Preparation Program Enrollment



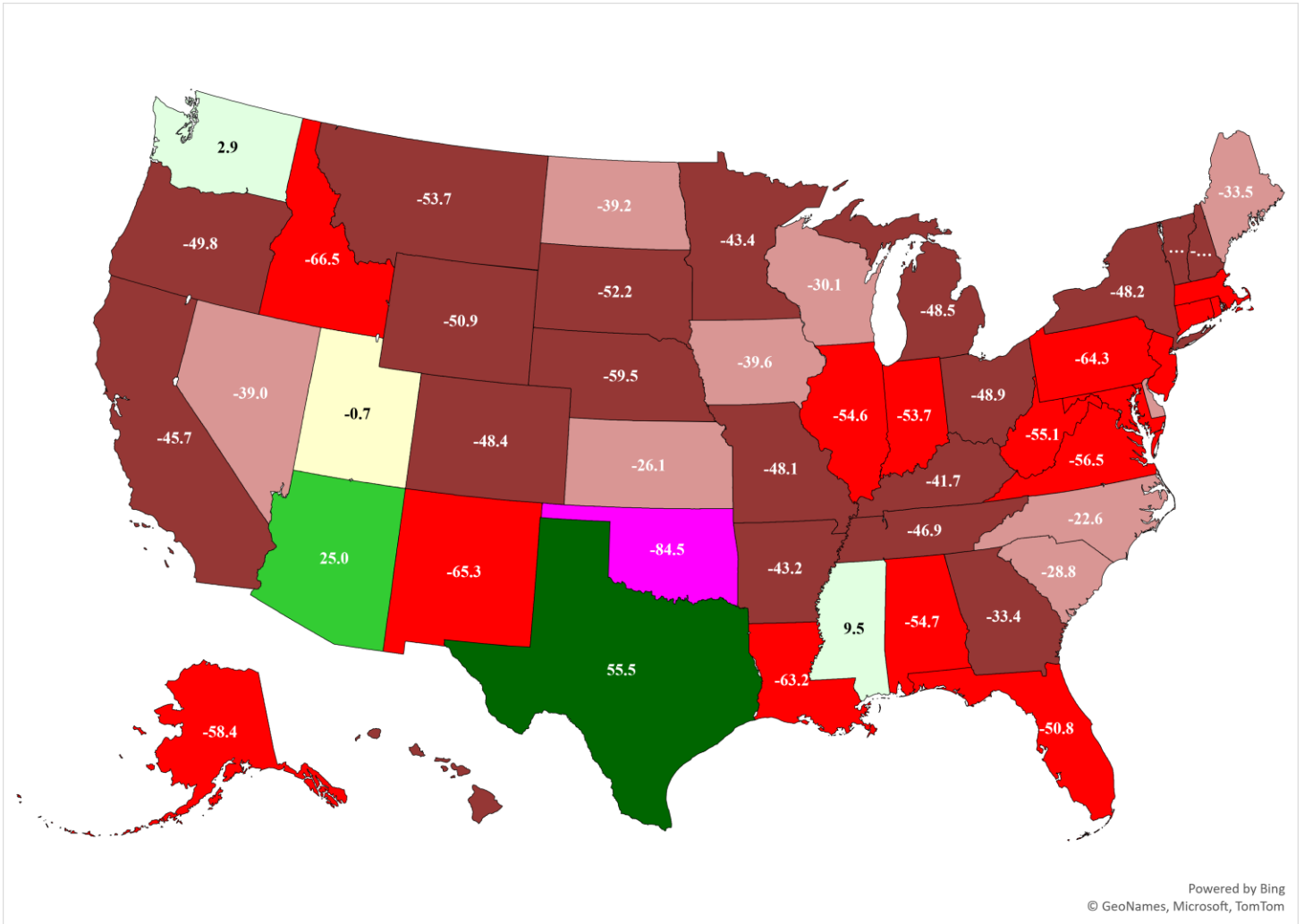
In the following two sections, I present the percent changes for two timespans: 2008-09 to 2021-22 and 2020-21 to 2021-22.

2008-09 to 2021-22

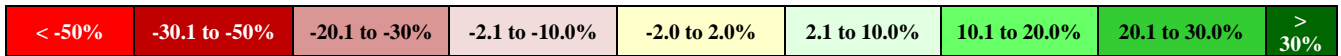
As shown in Figure 4, only five states/jurisdictions (Arizona, Mississippi, Texas, Washington, and Washington, DC) had increases in the number of TPP enrollees. In addition, Utah had essentially no change in the number of enrollees. The remaining states had declines in the number of TPP enrollees.

Eleven states had declines in the number of enrollees of between 20.1% and 40.0% while 29 states had declines of between 40.1% and 60%. Four states had declines of between 60.1% and 80.0% while Oklahoma had a decline of 84%*.

Figure 4: Percent Change in the Number of Teacher Preparation Program Enrollees by State (2008-09 to 2021-22)



Connecticut	-52.6	Hawaii	-45.3	Massachusetts	-51.9	New Jersey	-56.1	Vermont	-42.5
Delaware	-29.6	Maryland	-44.5	New Hampshire	-34.2	Rhode Island	-56.1	Washington, DC	15.5



*This may be a data reporting error as one university reported 15,000 enrollees in 2009 and only about 1,500 in the next year

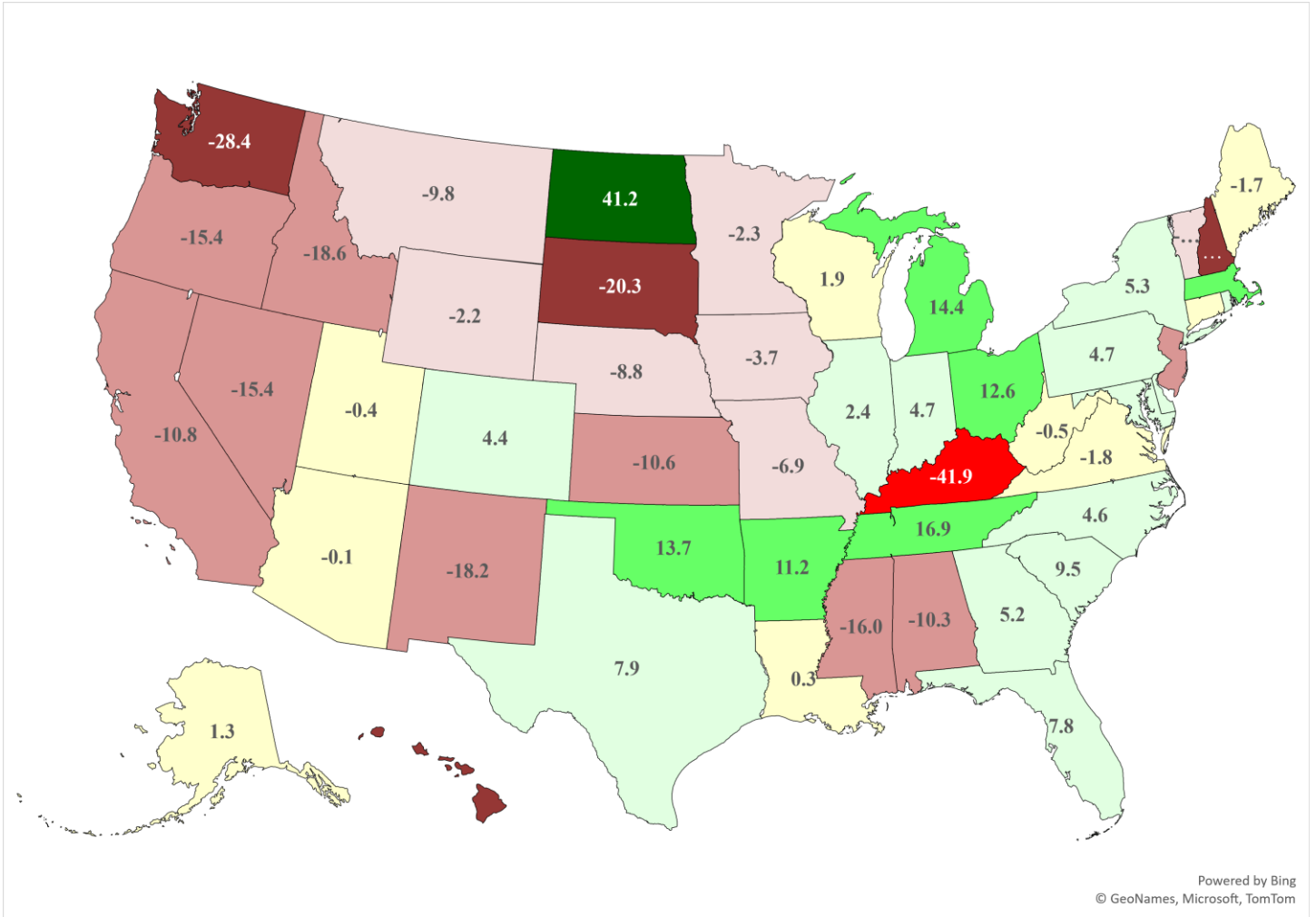
2020-21 to 2021-22

Figure 5 displays the one-year changes in the number of TPP enrollees from 2020-21 to 2021-22 for each state and jurisdiction. As the map clearly shows, there was a wide array of changes in enrollment. Kentucky had a 41.9% decline in the number of enrollees while Washington, South Dakota, New Hampshire, and Hawaii all had declines of from 20.1% to 30.0%. An additional seven states had declines of from -2.1% to 10.0%.

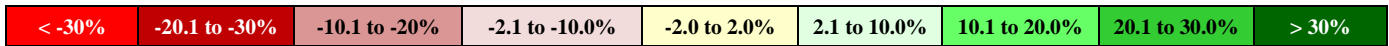
Ten states had no substantial increase or decrease in enrollment.

Thirteen states had an increase in enrollment of between 2.1% and 10.0% while an additional six states had an increase from 10.1% to 20.0% Only one state—North Dakota—had an increase in enrollment of more than 30%.

Figure 5: Percent Change in the Number of Teacher Preparation Program Enrollees by State (2020-21 to 2021-22)



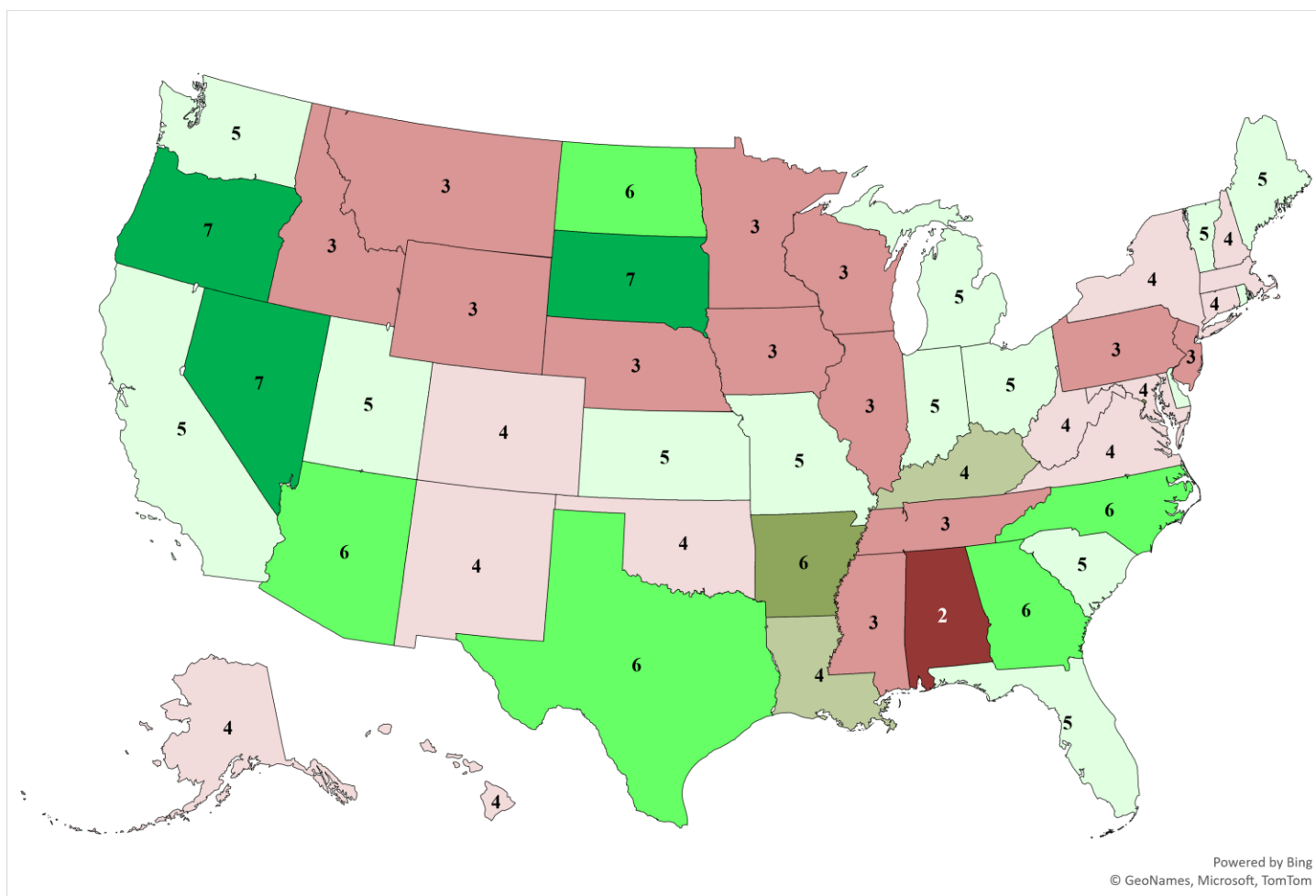
Connecticut	-1.8	Hawaii	-23.2	Massachusetts	11.5	New Jersey	-11.8	Vermont	-5.6
Delaware	6.2	Maryland	9.4	New Hampshire	-28.7	Rhode Island	4.8	Washington, DC	0.7



Trends Over Time

With data from 2008-09 to 2021-22, there have been 13 changes in enrollment. Figure 6 documents the number of positive changes in TPP enrollment for each state and jurisdiction. Only three states had seven years in which the number of TPP enrollees increased: Oregon, Nevada, and South Dakota. Another seven states had six years of growth, 14 states had five years of growth, 14 states had four years of growth, 12 states had three years of growth, and only Alabama had two years of growth. Thus, most states (27) had four or fewer years of TPP enrollment growth.

Figure 6: Number of Years with Teacher Preparation Program Enrollment Growth by State (2008-09 to 2021-22)



In this section, I place states into five groups based on the annual changes in their TPP enrollment. Using data from 2019-20 through 2020-21, I use three years of annual changes to place states in five categories of growth: strong and sustained, strong, mixed, negative, and negative and sustained. States identified as strong and sustained had increases in TPP enrollment for each of the last three years. States identified as strong have an average annual increase of at least 3.4% but had enrollment growth for only one or two of the three years. States identified as mixed growth had a three-year average change in TPP enrollment of between -3% and +3% while also having a mix of increases and declines across the three years with at least one year being an increase in enrollment. States identified as having weak growth had declines in enrollment of at least 3% and had declines in enrollment for two of the three years. Finally, states with sustained weak growth had three consecutive years of decline in TPP enrollment.

There were nine states in the strong and sustained growth: Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, Delaware, Rhode Island, Arkansas, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Florida. All these states had three years of growth (although Pennsylvania and Louisiana had one year each where growth was between 0.1 and 2.0). The average of the three annual rates was greatest for Maryland—more than 10%.

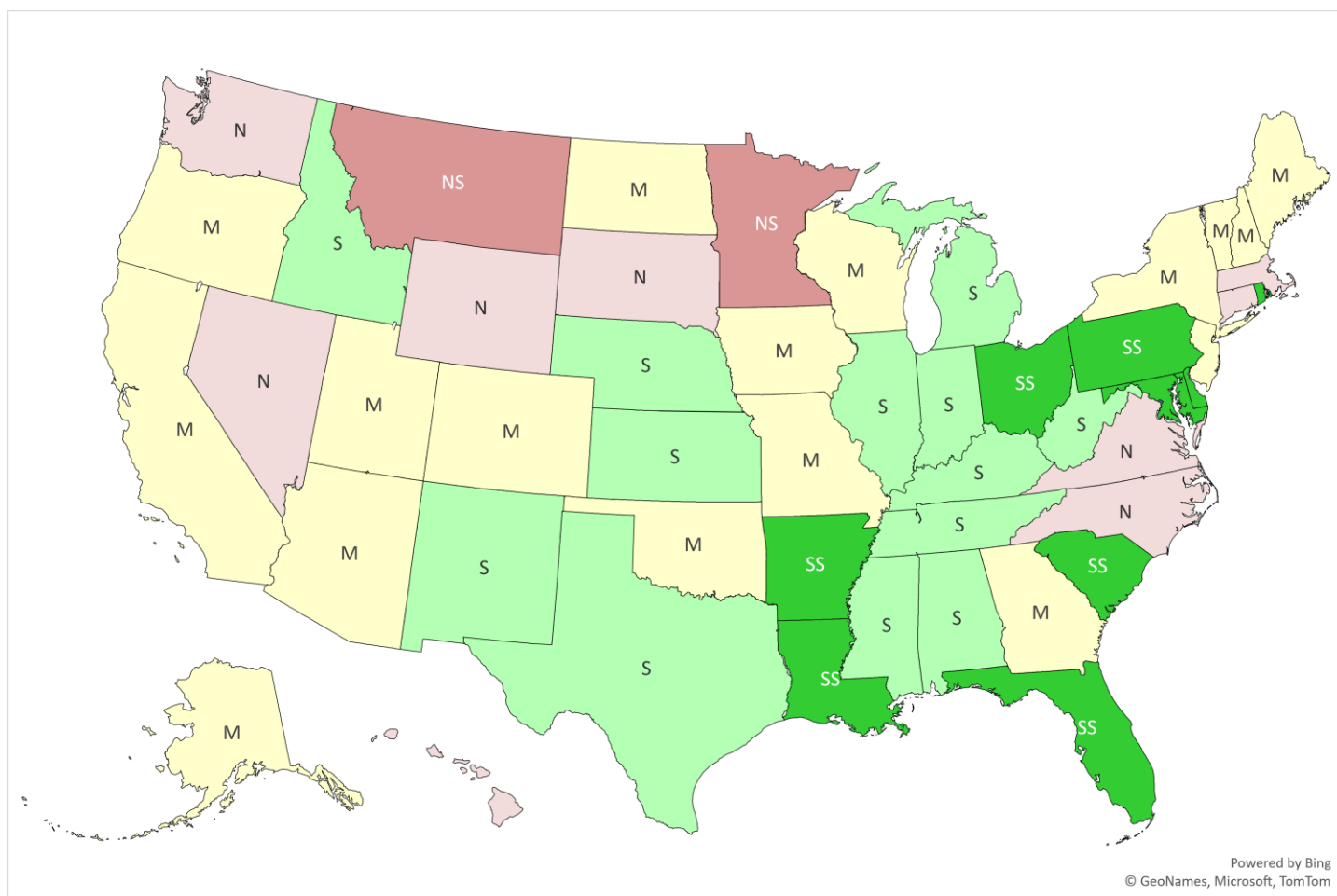
There were 14 states that had strong growth, but not sustained across all three years. At 26.7%, Mississippi had the greatest three-year average change in TPP enrollment. Amazingly, this average included a change of -28.7% for one year.

There were 17 states that had mixed growth—states with limited increases or declines (+/- 3%) and no sustained pattern.

Eight states had negative growth but did not experience a decline in enrollment for all three years.

Finally, both Montana and Minnesota sustained negative growth. Both states experienced three consecutive years in which TPP enrollment declined. The average of all three years was -10.4% for Montana and -3.1% in Minnesota.

Figure 7: Recent Trends in Enrollment by State (2019-20 to 2021-22)



Conclusion on Findings

I found both negative and positive results from this analysis.

Negative Results

First, the number of TPP enrollees declined substantially from 2009 through 2016 and has remained stagnant since that time. Second, the number of TPP enrollees in 2021-22 remains substantially lower than in 2008-09 for the US and for most states. Only five states have 2021-22 TPP enrollee counts that are equal to or greater than the counts from 2008-09. Third, about 55% of states experienced a decrease in the number of TPP enrollees from 2020-21 to 2021-22.

Positive Results

As shown in Figure 7, most states have either had stagnant enrollment or an increase in enrollment. Only 11 states experienced significant declines in enrollment over the past three years.

Final Thoughts

Policymakers need to continue to address the low number of people becoming teachers across the US. Many states have still not returned to a level where supply outstrips demand which is needed for effective and efficient hiring of teachers by local school districts. Slow and steady increases will certainly help in this regard and many states are on that trajectory. But continued investments and efforts are still needed.

Suggested Citation

Fuller, E.J. (2024, February). Trends in Enrollment and Completion in US Teacher Preparation Programs: 2009-2022; University Park, PA. Center for Education Evaluation and Policy Analysis.

Center for Education Evaluation and Policy Analysis

This brief is part of the CEEPA Research and Policy Brief Series that provides evidenced-based, peer-reviewed analysis of important educational issues in Pennsylvania and across the US. The website is at: <https://ceepablog.wordpress.com/>

Executive Director

The Executive Director is Dr. Ed Fuller. He is a Professor in the Education Policy Studies Department at Penn State University. The Center is supported by Dr. Kim Lawless, the dean of Penn State’s College of Education.

Appendix Annual Percent Change in Teacher Preparation Program Enrollment by State and Year

	09 to 10	10 to 11	11 to 12	12 to 13	13 to 14	14 to 15	15 to 16	16 to 17	17 to 18	18 to 19	19 to 20	20 to 21	21-22
Alabama	-1.4	-21.4	-10.3	-11.4	-13.1	1.7	0.9	-1.5	-16.2	-13.0	5.2	21.7	-10.3
Alaska	20.0	31.4	1.9	-65.3	-4.6	-4.5	-7.1	18.3	-7.0	-20.7	6.4	-6.0	1.3
Arizona	85.5	3.7	-6.9	-1.9	-11.1	-34.5	3.1	37.3	5.0	-16.9	6.5	-6.9	-0.1
Arkansas	-18.3	2.7	12.0	-20.6	-14.7	-25.0	-5.2	-4.7	14.0	-7.5	9.8	2.3	11.2
California	-13.1	-4.3	-20.9	-25.7	-3.3	11.3	2.3	11.5	4.5	-12.7	0.1	11.2	-10.8
Colorado	10.1	-23.9	16.8	-13.4	-0.3	-21.2	4.8	0.9	-4.8	-15.4	-10.0	-3.3	4.4
Connecticut	49.9	-7.6	-24.7	-32.1	-8.4	-5.5	-15.9	7.0	9.9	-4.2	-19.9	3.6	-1.8
Delaware	3.4	-13.0	13.4	-19.8	-27.6	-5.3	-3.4	-35.1	18.7	7.4	47.1	0.7	0.7
District of Columbia	-14.0	0.8	1.8	-31.5	7.2	0.5	10.4	-12.2	82.0	-15.0	2.0	14.9	6.2
Florida	-25.7	-2.9	-17.0	13.5	0.7	5.4	-9.2	-4.4	-0.3	-34.6	3.3	8.2	7.8
Georgia	-31.9	-2.6	4.2	-5.7	-1.9	-12.5	-2.9	9.6	7.9	3.2	3.8	-8.0	5.2
Hawaii	-1.3	-6.0	2.9	-3.0	2.9	2.6	-16.0	-9.4	0.5	2.6	-5.3	-1.9	-23.2
Idaho	-0.8	-1.9	-15.3	-15.6	-7.5	-43.2	21.5	-14.1	-10.7	-18.0	26.9	16.5	-18.6
Illinois	-0.2	-4.9	-19.7	-31.1	-18.0	-6.1	-7.5	0.0	0.8	9.1	-1.1	9.1	2.4
Indiana	-16.6	-10.7	-3.4	-36.5	-19.3	-1.5	3.6	4.6	-4.8	10.3	-1.2	8.1	4.7
Iowa	29.7	-22.1	-0.3	-15.3	-9.4	-3.2	-3.1	-14.2	5.1	-8.0	-3.2	7.8	-3.7
Kansas	9.7	3.2	-20.1	-11.1	-2.3	-2.0	-2.3	-1.1	6.9	-25.1	22.1	13.7	-10.6
Kentucky	1.3	52.1	-6.5	-7.2	-33.7	-32.8	-7.2	3.8	-4.9	-0.1	13.0	62.8	-41.9
Louisiana	-41.0	-7.1	2.6	-11.1	-2.1	-9.3	-4.1	14.5	-12.0	-24.9	5.2	8.1	0.3
Maine	18.2	-8.3	-5.8	-27.7	-8.9	5.5	9.7	-6.9	-6.3	-6.7	2.3	4.3	-1.7
Maryland	14.8	-3.1	-9.0	-11.4	-20.5	-14.7	-5.6	-12.2	1.3	-14.4	4.8	10.6	9.4
Massachusetts	6.2	9.3	-8.9	-6.1	-6.8	-3.9	-16.5	7.1	-1.6	-30.8	-2.6	-18.4	11.5
Michigan	-5.3	-16.8	0.4	-22.2	-21.5	-1.7	-29.1	-12.8	4.7	8.1	25.7	8.0	14.4
Minnesota	-5.0	-10.0	-14.9	-17.6	3.4	4.3	15.2	-9.6	-3.6	-4.4	-3.7	-3.2	-2.3
Mississippi	-0.7	18.0	-2.2	-15.0	-6.5	-16.5	-14.1	-6.3	1.2	-3.0	63.8	32.4	-16.0
Missouri	3.3	2.1	-11.1	-19.5	2.7	-20.7	-5.0	5.4	-0.5	-18.5	-2.7	14.7	-6.9
Montana	39.8	10.9	-25.6	-6.6	-11.9	-14.3	5.4	-16.8	-5.6	-3.4	-3.0	-18.5	-9.8
Nebraska	-14.8	-17.7	-2.3	-19.6	1.6	-5.8	8.8	-16.1	-7.0	-17.0	14.9	4.1	-8.8
Nevada	-10.4	5.2	-22.0	-24.6	20.8	2.1	9.5	32.6	13.9	-31.0	10.8	-16.7	-15.4
New Hampshire	44.1	-4.8	-7.9	-0.6	-3.2	-5.5	2.7	-25.2	4.4	-20.9	24.8	1.5	-28.7
New Jersey	18.7	-2.3	-8.1	-32.5	3.8	-11.6	-13.6	-4.3	-19.2	-4.1	-7.8	27.7	-11.8
New Mexico	25.5	9.0	-20.5	-36.6	-7.4	4.6	-31.6	-5.7	-24.4	1.9	-8.2	39.5	-18.2
New York	3.7	-12.6	-10.0	-21.1	-11.5	-5.5	4.6	-11.5	5.8	-3.8	-2.3	-0.7	5.3
North Carolina	-1.7	11.7	-2.1	-24.5	4.4	4.3	4.8	-8.9	11.1	-6.9	-2.8	-12.8	4.6
North Dakota	27.0	-31.4	6.5	-2.4	7.0	-17.9	3.2	-8.4	4.3	-2.4	-9.5	-37.8	41.2
Ohio	7.3	2.3	-9.0	-29.6	-13.8	-14.3	-0.8	-4.2	-2.4	-14.9	5.9	4.4	12.6
Oklahoma	-67.0	9.1	-7.5	0.0	-37.7	11.6	-12.0	-17.8	-8.5	-2.7	-17.4	10.4	13.7
Oregon	5.9	-0.9	-22.6	-44.6	6.5	6.2	7.2	10.0	-13.1	-3.5	2.1	15.5	-15.4
Pennsylvania	2.5	-5.2	-9.0	-33.0	-20.9	-19.5	-4.1	-6.3	-2.0	-7.8	9.2	2.0	4.7
Rhode Island	-11.1	2.8	-8.2	-7.3	-2.5	-37.9	4.0	-5.8	-1.1	-18.8	6.9	5.8	4.8
South Carolina	3.2	-19.4	-9.0	-21.7	-15.1	25.1	-3.2	-8.7	-1.7	-3.5	11.9	10.0	9.5
South Dakota	19.0	4.7	-5.1	-52.6	2.6	14.4	0.7	6.8	-14.2	3.9	20.8	-21.4	-20.3
Tennessee	0.6	-7.9	-5.8	-19.7	-14.6	1.9	-19.5	-2.8	2.8	-7.7	-4.9	5.5	16.9
Texas	8.2	-17.0	-9.4	-26.5	0.1	-6.0	96.1	8.2	13.5	-9.1	41.0	-17.1	7.9
Utah	80.1	16.3	-14.6	0.5	-25.1	29.2	15.1	-6.7	-33.5	-24.3	-2.5	8.6	-0.4
Vermont	2.9	4.6	-20.1	-13.5	14.5	18.8	-15.7	-8.8	-17.8	-15.2	-6.7	20.5	-5.6
Virginia	3.9	-8.1	4.5	-4.2	-13.6	1.9	-10.5	-28.4	5.6	-5.6	-20.6	3.8	-1.8
Washington	19.6	0.8	-4.4	-8.9	-2.3	1.2	2.3	15.4	44.0	-21.7	16.3	-10.8	-28.4
West Virginia	5.1	-16.8	11.2	-21.3	2.1	-8.2	-2.9	-25.7	-4.8	-21.0	19.6	-2.9	-0.5
Wisconsin	2.4	-6.7	-6.6	-13.1	-7.3	-10.3	-0.1	-0.9	7.5	-6.8	5.3	1.7	1.9
Wyoming	6.0	14.7	-3.5	-9.9	-13.9	-9.8	-4.7	-4.5	2.1	-25.2	-12.5	0.6	-2.2