



## Fears of Right-to-Work Proving False

By Jarrett Skorup

### Summary

Statistics show that right-to-work states are consistently outperforming non-right-to-work states in important economic measures, including job, income and population growth. The doomsday predictions that surrounded Michigan becoming the 24th right-to-work state have been proven false and should be put to rest.

Main text word count: 344

During the battle of Michigan becoming a right-to-work state, opponents predicted doomsday scenarios about what would happen to workers and the state. But in each of the most important economic measures — job growth, income growth and population — right-to-work states are far outperforming non-right-to-work states.

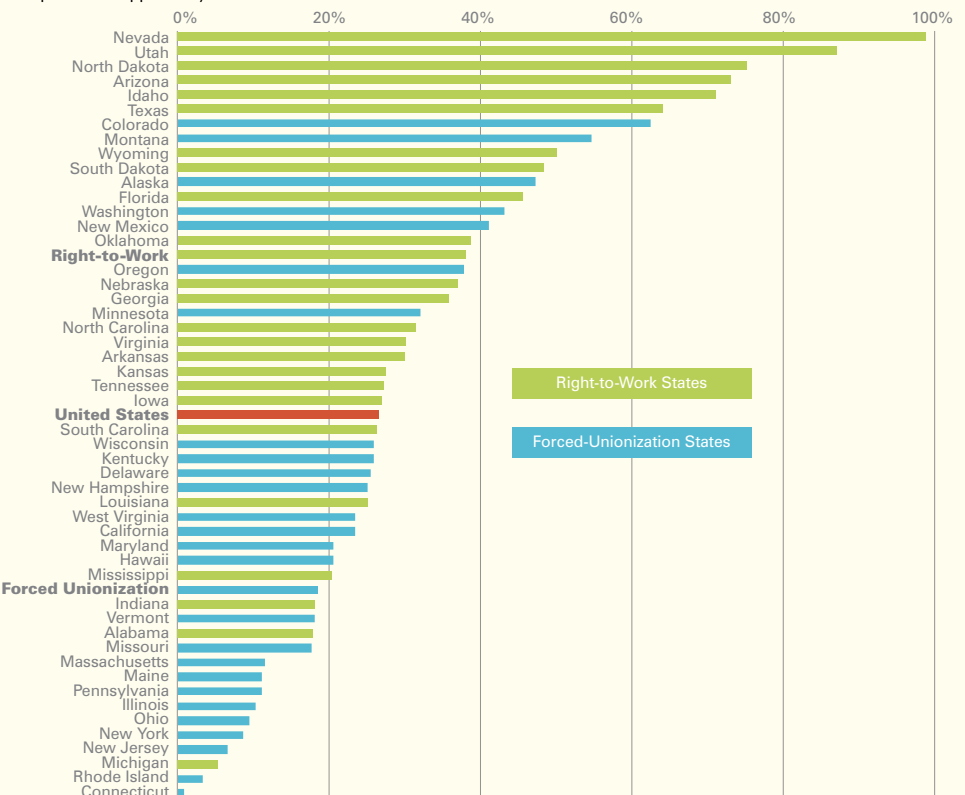
My colleagues and I produced a few charts showing the trends. The information is from the U.S. Labor Department’s Bureau of Labor Statistics and from the U.S. Census Bureau.

In terms of employment growth, from January 1990 to April 2014, right-to-work states averaged growth at twice the rate of their counterparts and made up 18 of the top 25 states. States that were non-right-to-work during the bulk of the period made up all 10 of the states with the least amount of job growth.

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## State Employment Growth 1990-2014

Oklahoma (2001), Indiana (2012) and Michigan (2013) became right-to-work states during this period.  
Adapted from Opportunity Ohio.



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, January 1990 to April 2014 seasonally-adjusted data

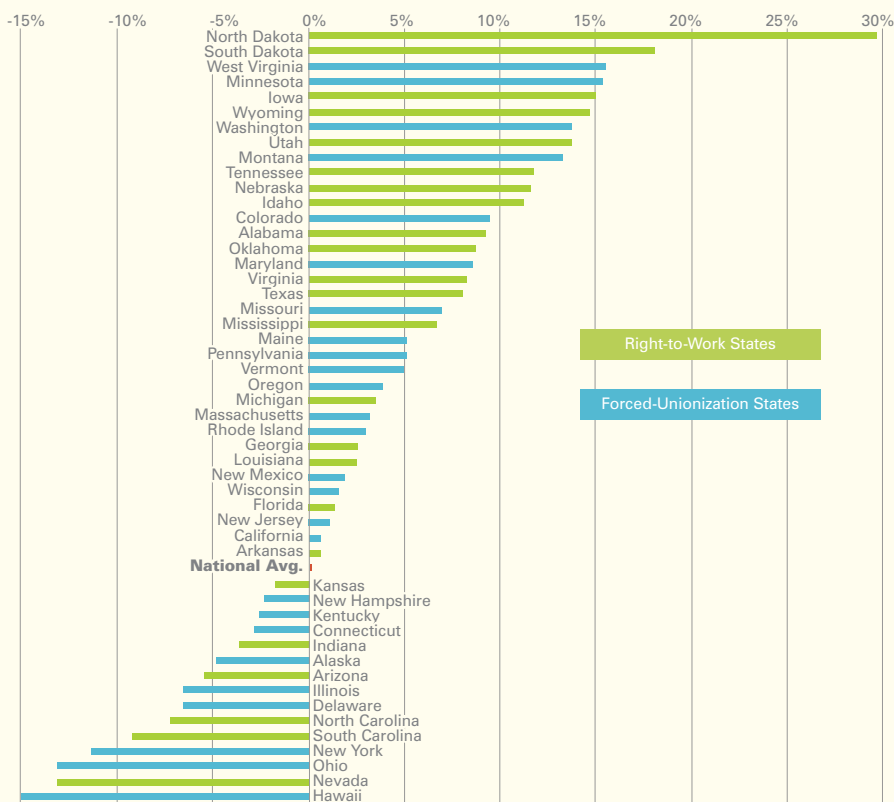
**In each of the most important economic measures — job growth, income growth and population — right-to-work states are far outperforming non-right-to-work states.**

For median household income growth, from 1990 to 2012, right-to-work states made up 13 of the top 20 states while forced unionism states made up 10 of the 15 states whose residents declined in real income over the period.

## State Median Household Income Growth 1990-2012

Adjusted for inflation.

Oklahoma (2001), Indiana (2012) and Michigan (2013) became right-to-work states during this period.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Social and Economic Supplement Survey

Since 1990, eight of the 10 states with the greatest population growth are also right-to-work states while nine out of 10 of those with the least growth were forced unionism states for that period (the other was Louisiana which lost people because of Hurricane Katrina).

Correlation is not necessarily causation and there are many factors that go into making states perform well economically. But at the very least, the strident economic fears about becoming a right-to-work state — which is most important because it gives choice to individual workers — should be put to rest.

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