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NONPROFITS: America's third largest workforce

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*This report draws on new 2015 nonprofit employment data projections developed by the Center for Civil Society Studies. These data—along with nonprofit employment, wage, and establishment data from 1991-2011—are available from the Center's **Nonprofit Works** interactive website at ccss.jhu.edu/nonprofit-works.*

Introduction

Few single dimensions of America's non-profit sector are more revealing of this sector's status and contribution than the size of the sector's workforce.

And new data generated by the Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies' **Non-profit Economic Data Project** make clear that this scale is enormous.

Now these data are available on an interactive web application called **Nonprofit Works** to researchers and nonprofits everywhere. And the story they convey is powerful.¹

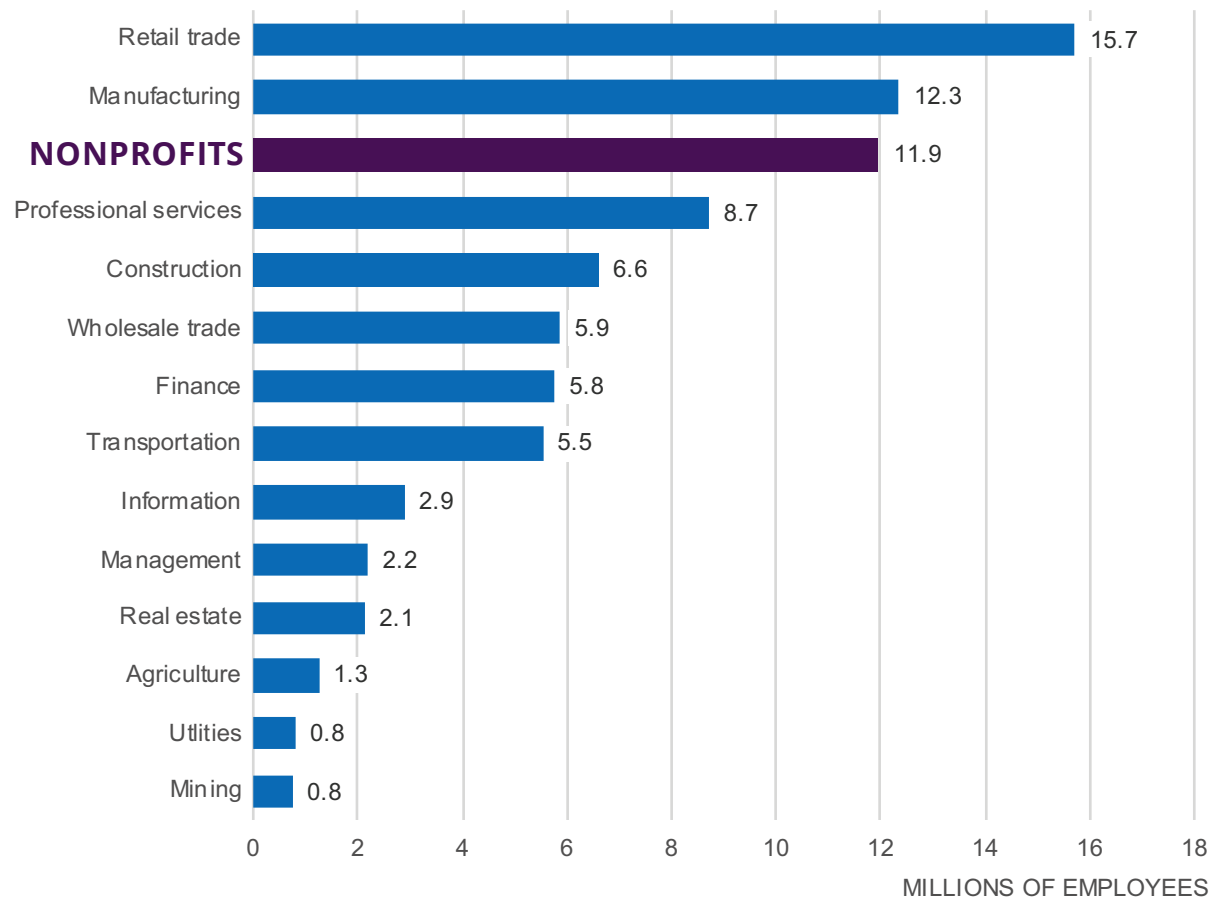
¹ For a fuller description of the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) and the methodology used to make the projections presented in this report, click [here](#).

FINDING #1: The nation's third largest workforce

Only two other industries—retail trade and manufacturing—account for larger workforces than do America's nonprofits.

By contrast, nonprofits employ many more workers than wholesale trade, finance and insurance, construction, transportation, and all other American industries.

FIGURE 1 • Employment in the nonprofit sector vs. major U.S. industries, 2015

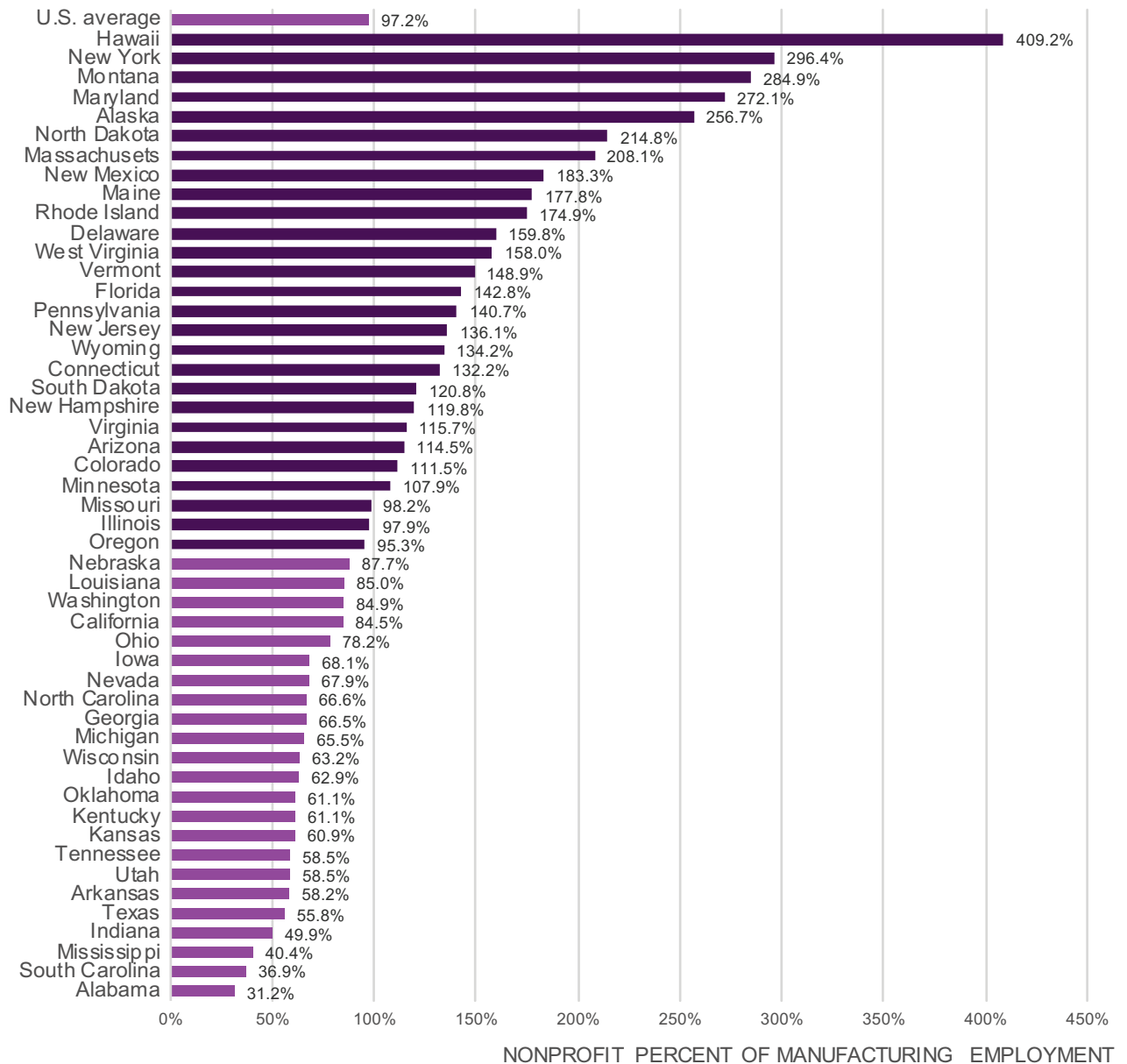


FINDING #2: Exceeds manufacturing in most states

The nonprofit sector actually employs more workers than all the branches of manufacturing in nearly half of all states, often by a substantial margin.

This includes traditional manufacturing states such as Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Minnesota, with Illinois not far behind.

FIGURE 2 • Nonprofit employment as a % of manufacturing employment by state, 2015



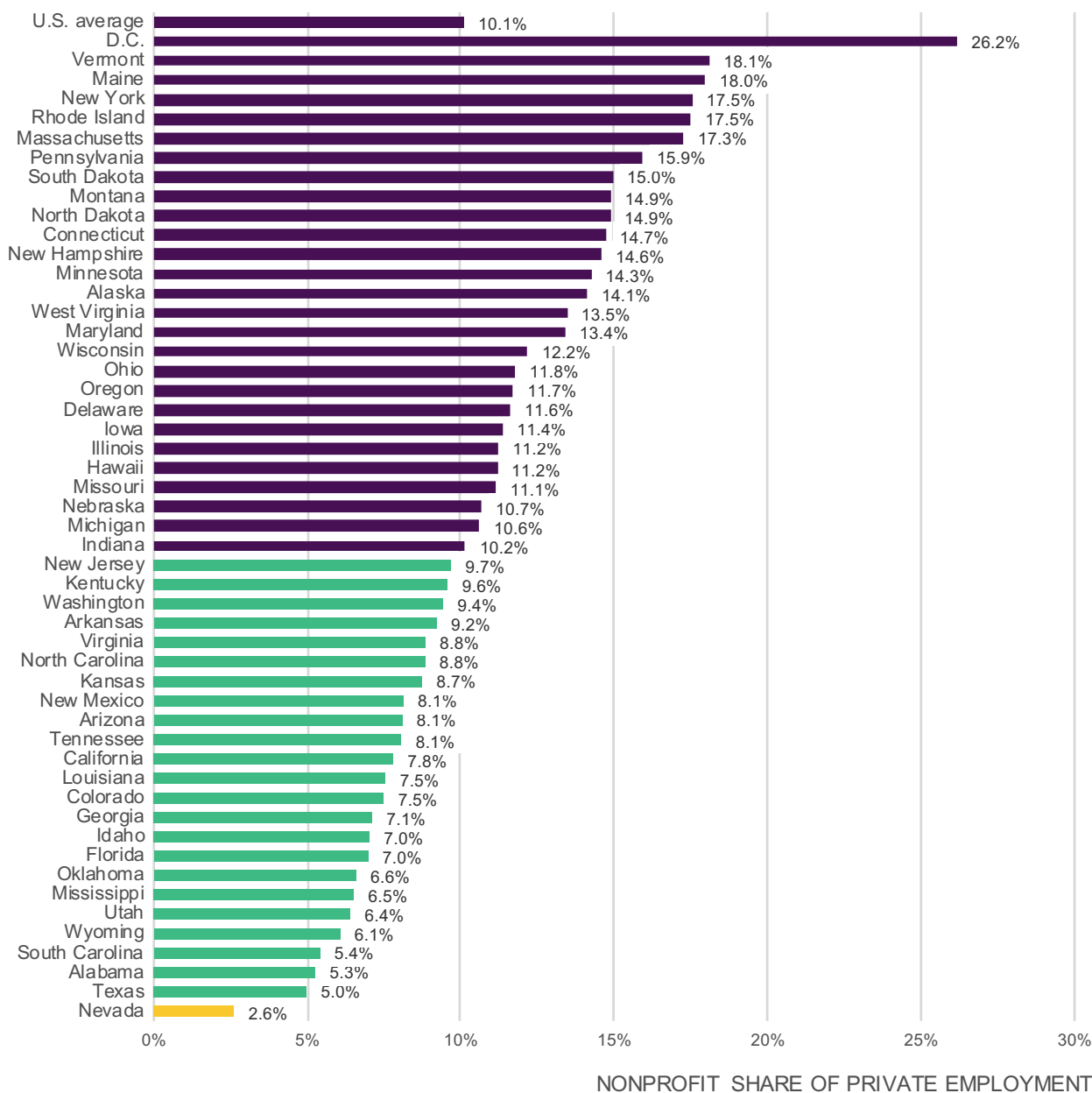
FINDING #3: A “major” industry in most states

Any industry that accounts for 5% of a jurisdiction's workforce is commonly considered to be a “major industry.”

But nonprofits account for more than 10% of the workforce in over half of the states.

And in all but one state (Nevada), they account for more than 5% of the total.

FIGURE 3 • Nonprofit share of private employment, by state, 2015



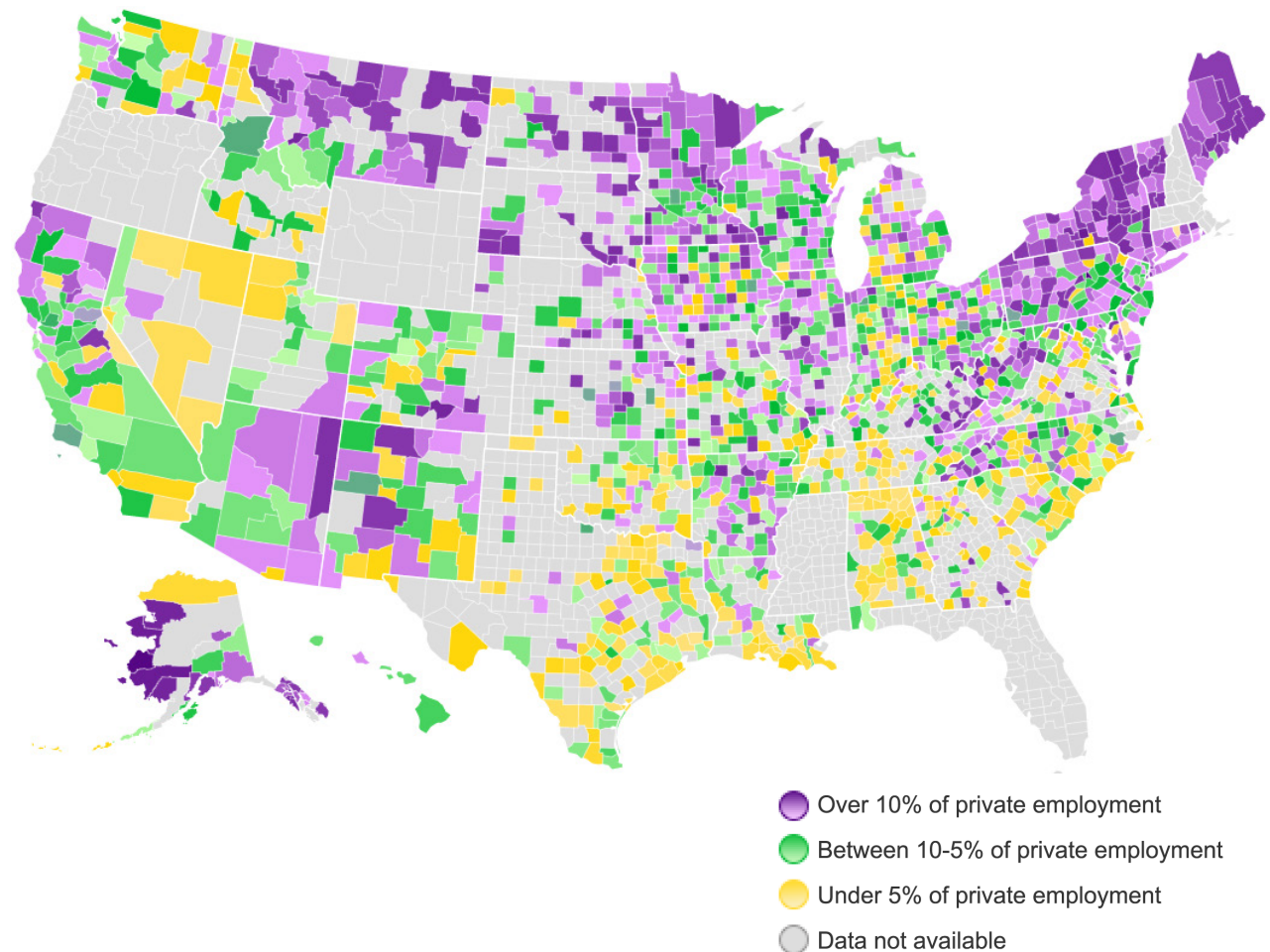
FINDING #4: A major industry at the local level as well

The nonprofit sector's presence as a major employer is also widespread at the local level.

At the local level, nonprofits account for at least 10% of all private workers in 45% of the counties on which data are available.

And they account for at least 5% of employment in nearly 80% of the counties.

FIGURE 4 • Nonprofit share of private employment by county, 2015

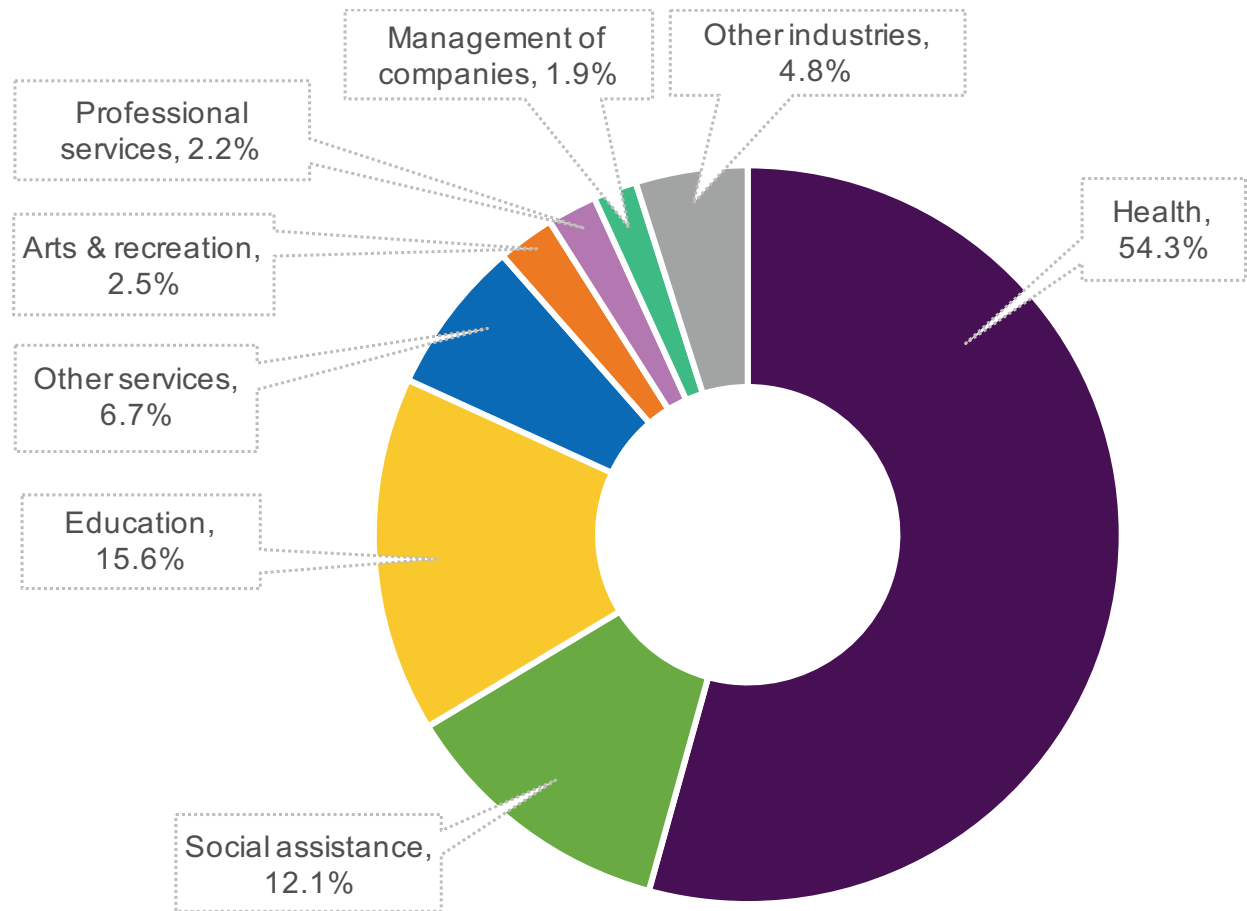


FINDING #5: A diverse industry with a broad array of services

The health field—embracing hospitals, clinics, and home health services—employs 54% of all nonprofit workers.

But nonprofit workers are engaged in a wide assortment of other fields as well, including education, social services, arts and culture, environmental protection, and many more.

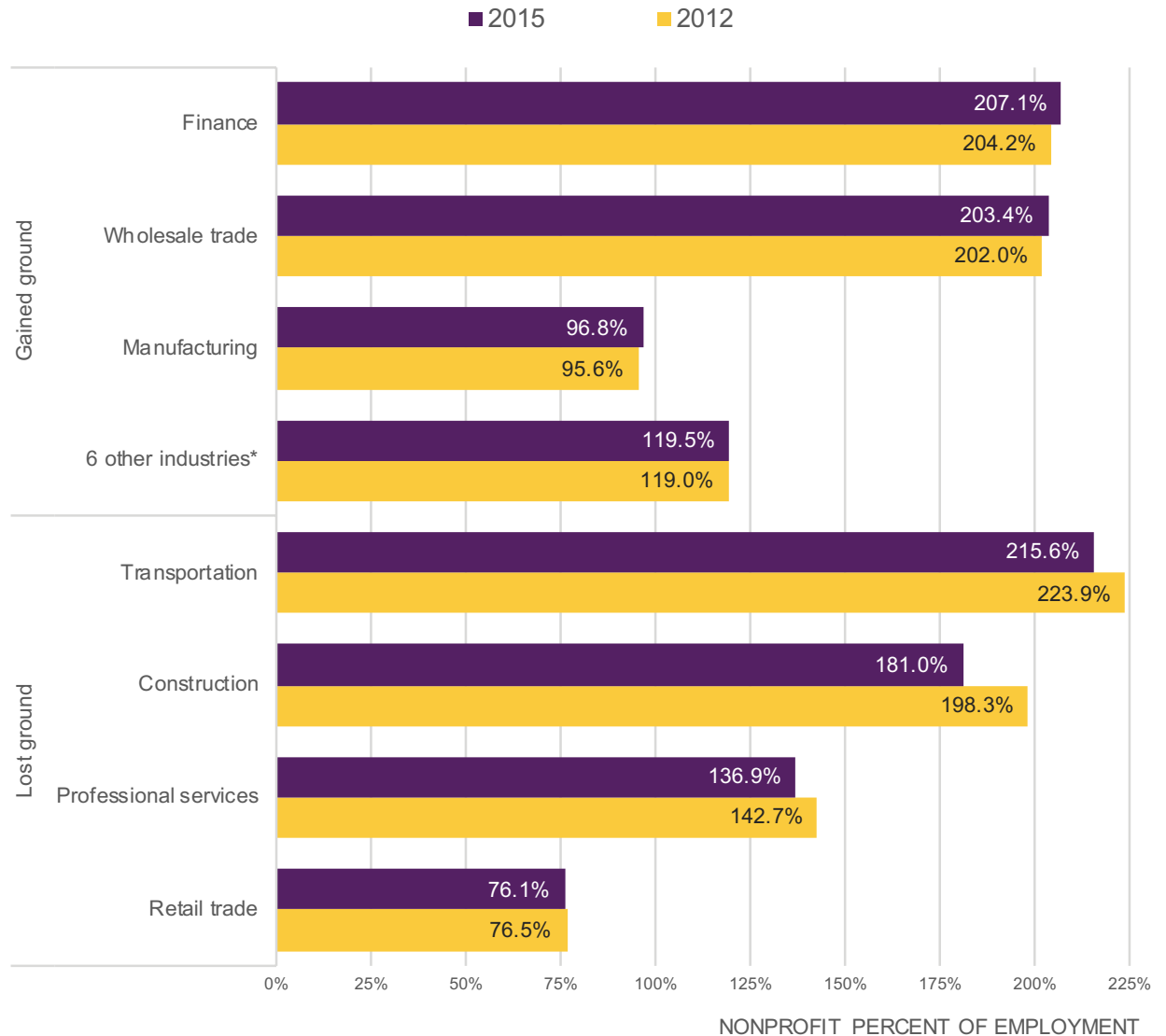
FIGURE 5 • Distribution of nonprofit employment by major field, U.S., 2015



FINDING #6: A dynamic presence

Nonprofits have also been a dynamic presence, gaining ground recently on nine industries—including manufacturing, wholesale trade, finance and insurance, and six smaller industries.

FIGURE 6 • Nonprofit employment vs. employment in selected industries, 2015 vs. 2012

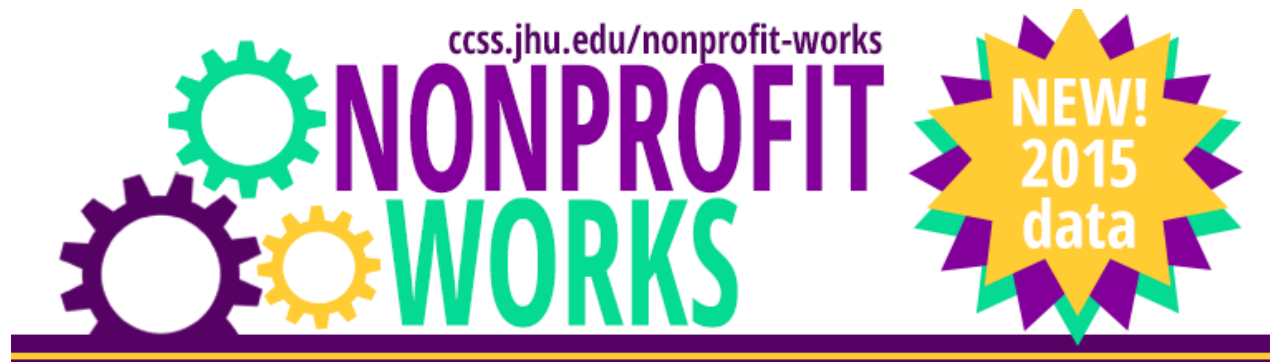


* Six other industries include: Information (2.9 million employees in 2015 vs. 2.8 million in 2012); Management of companies (2.2 million in 2015 vs. 2.0 million in 2012); Real estate (2.1 million in 2015 vs. 2.0 million in 2012); Agriculture (1.3 million in 2015 vs. 1.2 million in 2012); Utilities (0.8 million in 2015 and 2012); and Mining (0.8 million in 2015 and 2012).

Conclusion

Employment is just one indicator of the importance of the nonprofit sector to the American economy and the economies of states and communities. At a time of concern about employment growth, however, it is an important indicator—but one that has not been widely recognized or publicized.

Yet the story of nonprofit employment is a powerful one, demonstrating that this sector is every bit as crucial a component of the economic life in this country as it is of the social, cultural, health, and educational life. This is an important message for the nonprofit sector to recognize about itself, and for it to carry into discussions with policy officials and into the consciousness of voters and citizens.



Nonprofit Works: Your access point to timely, official data on the nonprofit sector

Nonprofit Works—a new interactive website from the Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies—puts critical data on U.S. nonprofit *employment*, *establishments*, and *wages* at your fingertips.

- ➔ Visit **Nonprofit Works** to sign up for a **free Basic user account** and get started exploring the data today!
- ➔ For access to even more data and advanced options, Nonprofit Works also offers **Premium memberships** for a small fee. **Sign up here.**
- ➔ For additional information, group memberships, or questions, please contact the Center team at **ccss@jhu.edu**.



ABOUT THE JOHNS HOPKINS CENTER FOR CIVIL SOCIETY STUDIES

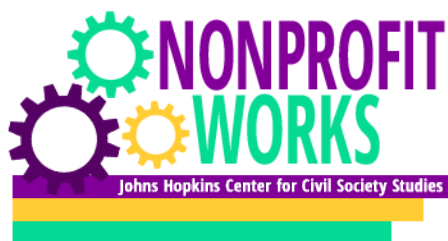
The Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies is a leading source of ground-breaking research and knowledge about the nonprofit sector, social investing, and the tools of government. Working in collaboration with governments, international organizations, investment innovators, and colleagues around the world, the Center encourages the use of this knowledge to strengthen and mobilize the capabilities and resources of the public, nonprofit, and for-profit sectors to address the complex problems that face the world today. The Center conducts research and educational programs that seek to improve current understanding, analyze emerging trends, and promote promising innovations in the ways that government, civil society, and business can collaborate to address social and environmental challenges.

ABOUT THE NONPROFIT ECONOMIC DATA PROJECT (NED)

Nonprofit organizations are facing increased pressures in states and localities throughout the United States, but the nonprofit sector's ability to respond to these pressures has been limited by a lack of timely information about how prevailing economic realities are affecting the sector. The Johns Hopkins Nonprofit Economic Data Project (NED) is helping to tackle this problem by charting economic trends in the nonprofit sector including how employment, wages, and finances have changed over time and in relation to other industries. Moreover, the project is able to analyze these data at the national, regional, state, and local levels, and to focus on particular subsectors—such as nursing homes, hospitals, home health centers, education, social services, and the arts. A collaboration between the Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies, state employment security agencies, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, and state nonprofit associations, the NED Project is yielding a vital resource for understanding the nonprofit sector.

ABOUT NONPROFIT WORKS

The Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies' Nonprofit Economic Data project (NED) has found a way to draw on a previously untapped source of data generated through the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). For 15 years, the NED has been producing cutting-edge reports on the size, composition, distribution, and growth of nonprofit employment in regions and states across the country and the U.S. as a whole drawing on this unparalleled—but previously untapped—source of data on nonprofit employment. To ensure these data can be more readily available to a much broader array of users, the Center has created **Nonprofit Works—An Interactive Database on the Nonprofit Economy**. With this site, users can now not only access these U.S. nonprofit employment, establishment, and wage data on the national, state, county, and industry levels, but can also place those data into context by comparing nonprofits to their counterparts in other sectors, as well as assess the demand for the services provided by the nonprofit sector by looking at corresponding population and income data from the U.S. Census Bureau and other sources. Nonprofit Works is supported by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.



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