Examining the Impact of the Great Recession on the Commuting Patterns of Workers in West Virginia
WV Economy

- Jobs increase
- Great Recession
WV Economy

- Jobs increase
- Great Recession
- Fewer short commutes
- More long commutes

![Graph showing WV Economy](image-url)
Goal

- Estimate impact of Great Recession on jobs and work commutes for WV cities
  - Contribution to job loss?
  - Reduction in number of short distance commutes?
  - Increase in number of long distance commutes?
Study Area

- 3 largest WV cities
  - Charleston
  - Huntington
  - Parkersburg
Methods

Data

- Total Primary Jobs, 2002-2011
- US Census: Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES)
- Connection between work locations (census block) and home locations (census block) for workers
- Commute Distances
  - Categories: < 10 miles; 10-24 miles; 25-50 miles; < 50 miles

Techniques

- Comparative Trend Analysis
  - Observed job numbers 2002-2011
  - Projection of Expected job numbers if Great Recession did not happen (counterfactual)
  - Difference between observed and expected job figures is the impact of recession
- Test Periods
  - End of recession: 2009
  - End of Recession +2 years: 2011
- Short commutes: Observed < Expected
- Longer commutes: Observed > Expected
Results

- Charleston
- Huntington
- Parkersburg
Charleston (< 10 miles)

- Slight downward trend pre-recession

- **2009** (-) 2,554 work commutes

- **2011** (-) 4,891 work commutes

![Graph showing the number of jobs from 2002 to 2011](image)
• Slight upward trend pre-recession

• **2009**  
  +1,610 work commutes

• **2011**  
  +1,845 work commutes
Charleston (>50 miles)

- **2009**
  +2,186 work commutes

- **2011**
  +1,936 work commutes

![Graph showing total primary jobs from 2002 to 2011. The graph compares counterfactual and total primary jobs, with a notable increase in 2009 and 2010.]
Trending downward pre-recession

- 2009 (-) 1,114 work commutes
- 2011 (-) 3,940 work commutes
Huntington (25-50 miles)

- **2009**: +1,256 work commutes
- **2011**: +2,005 work commutes
Huntington (>50 miles)

- Trending downwards pre-recession
- **2009** +1,034 work commutes
- **2011** +1,975 work commutes

Counterfactual vs Total Primary Jobs from 2002 to 2011.
Parkersburg jobs 2002-2011

Counterfactual Total Primary Jobs

- 2002: 25,442
- 2003: 25,442
- 2004: 23,374
- 2005: 23,404
- 2006: 23,404
- 2007: 23,404
- 2008: 23,404
- 2009: 23,404
- 2010: 23,404
- 2011: 21,169

Total Primary Jobs: +2,235 jobs
Parkersburg (< 10 miles)

- Trending downward pre-recession
- **2009** (-)2,002 work commutes
- **2011** No impact
Parkersburg (25-50 miles)

- **2009**
  No Impact

- **2011**
  + 376 work commutes
Parkersburg (>50 miles)

- Trending downwards pre-recession
- **2009**
  + 471 work commutes
- **2011**
  + 1,042 work commutes
Summary

- **Great Recession**
  - More job losses
    - Most cities were already experiencing job loss before the recession
    - Huntington and Parkersburg are exceptions
  - Reductions in workers who commute short distances
    - Exception is Parkersburg (2011)
  - Increases in workers who commute longer distances