Pennsylvania’s employment growth in 2015 trailed that of most other states. The state’s exposure to the oil and gas industry as well as demographic trends have a good deal to do with it.

The good news is there was job growth in Pennsylvania in 2015. But that growth rate was not as high as the rate experienced by most other states.

If Pennsylvania is compared only to its neighbors, it’s clear there’s been some improvement in employment year over year.

The recent downturn in energy markets has had an outsized impact on Pennsylvania and other large energy-producing states.

Demographic trends influence employment’s trajectory. Population growth in the Midwest and Northeast was much slower from 2000 to 2010 than that in the South and West, and it’s not unusual to see stronger employment growth in states to which people tend to move.

Seven states experienced declines in population from 2014 to 2015. With a growth rate of 0.07 percent, Pennsylvania narrowly avoided a decline in population.

On the other end of the spectrum, North Dakota led the country in population growth, and 5 of the 7 places where such growth was greatest were, indeed, in the South and West.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF CLEVELAND

To read the entire State of the State report, visit tinyurl.com/hbmxm6