

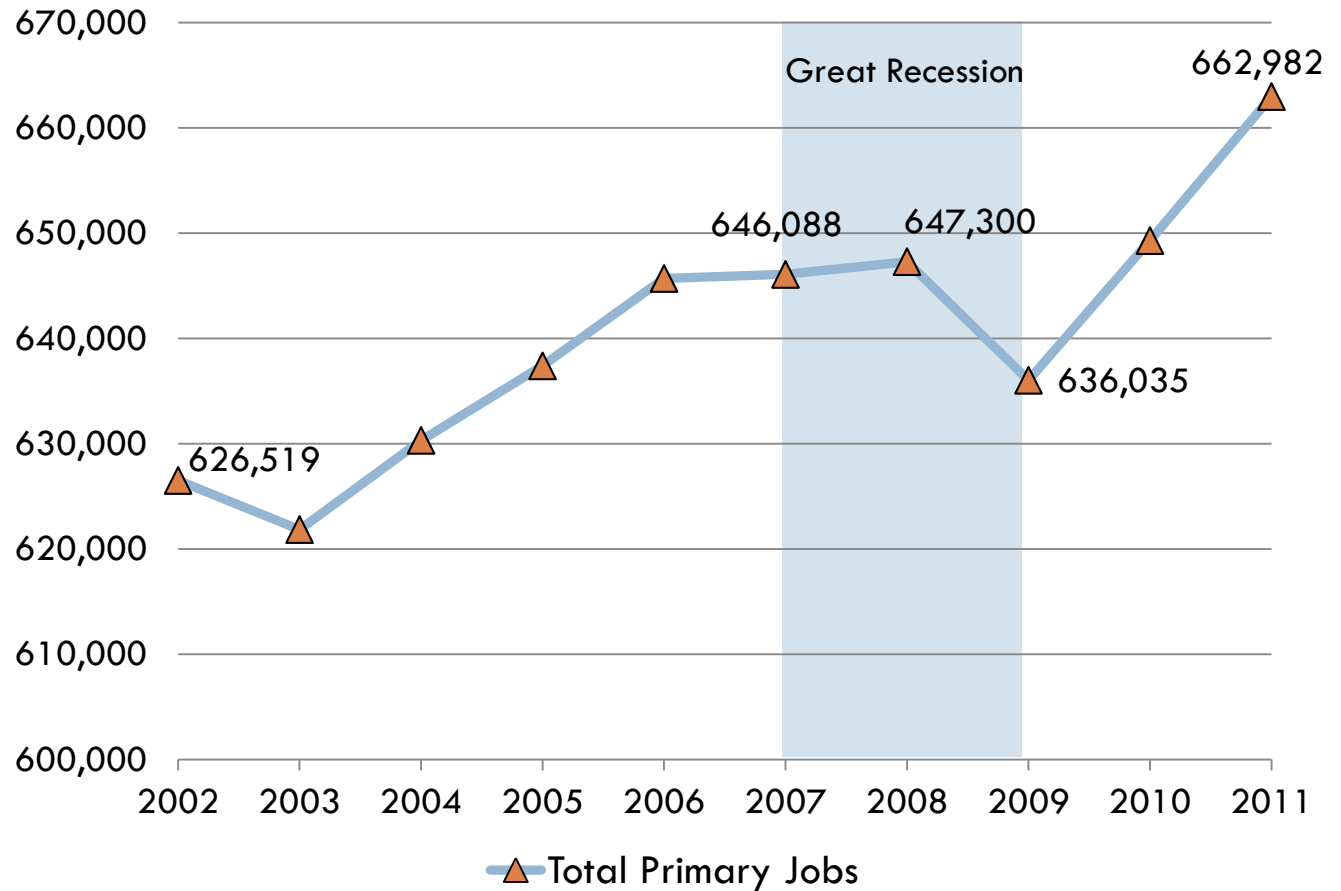
Examining the Impact of the Great Recession on the Commuting Patterns of Workers in West Virginia



Todd Sink, Ph.D., Department of Geography, Concord University
Brian Ceh, Ph.D., Department of Geography, Ryerson University

WV Economy

- Jobs increase
- Great Recession



WV Economy

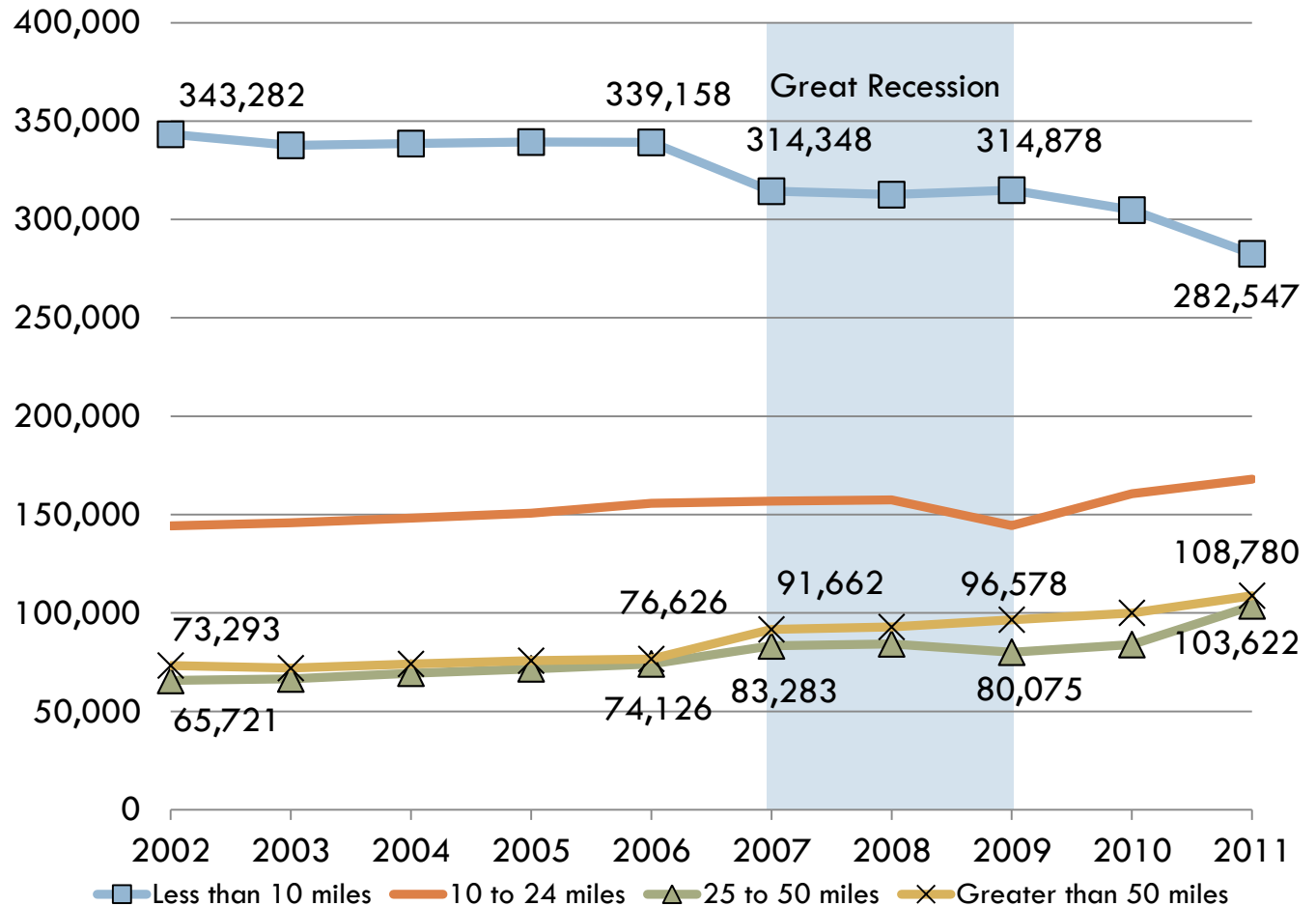
- Jobs increase

- Great Recession



- **Fewer short commutes**

- **More long commutes**



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

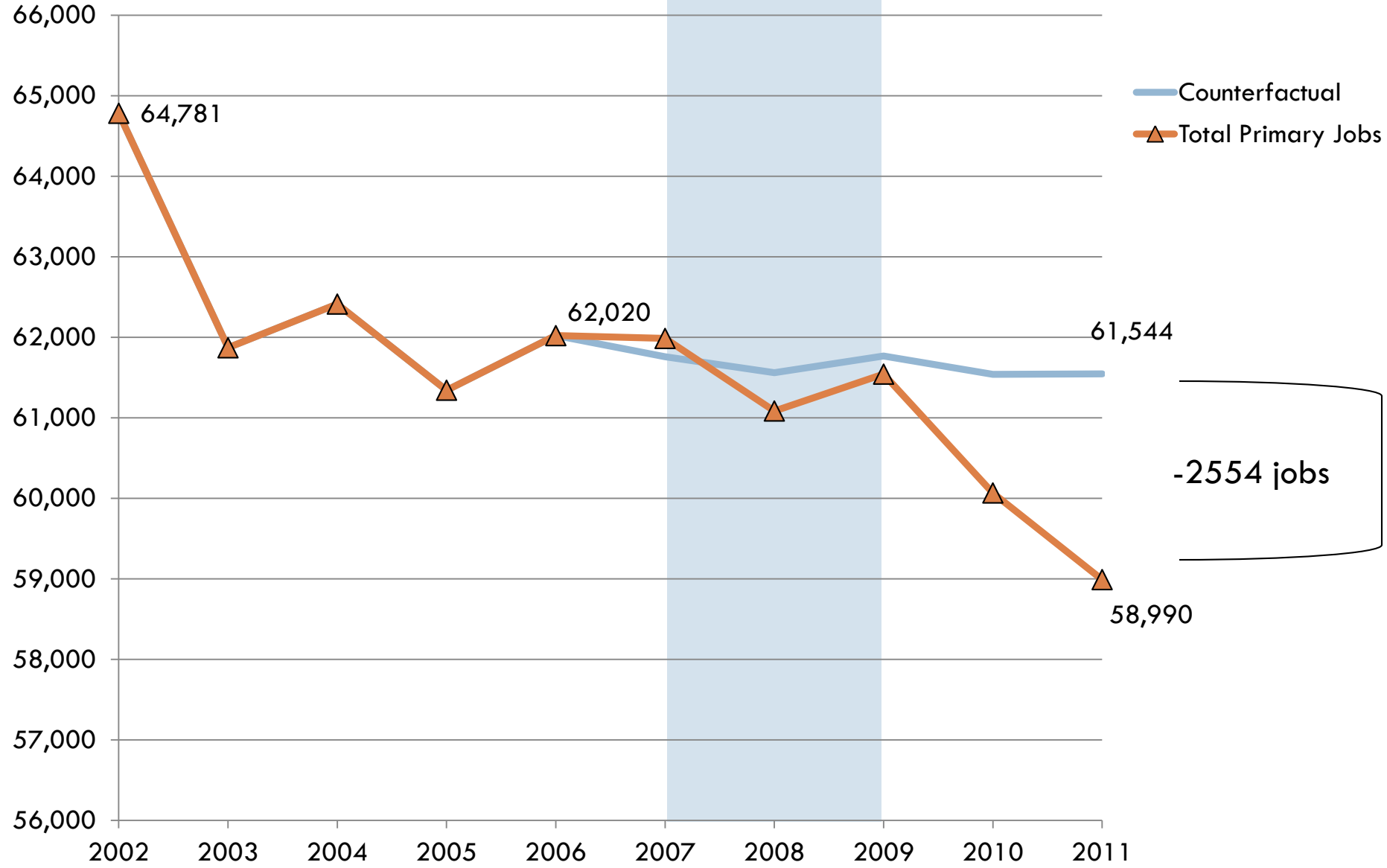
- Total Primary Jobs, 2002-2011
- US Census: Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES)
 - Connection between work locations (census block) and home locations (census block) for workers
- Commute Distances
 - Categories: < 10 miles; **10-24 miles**; 25-50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

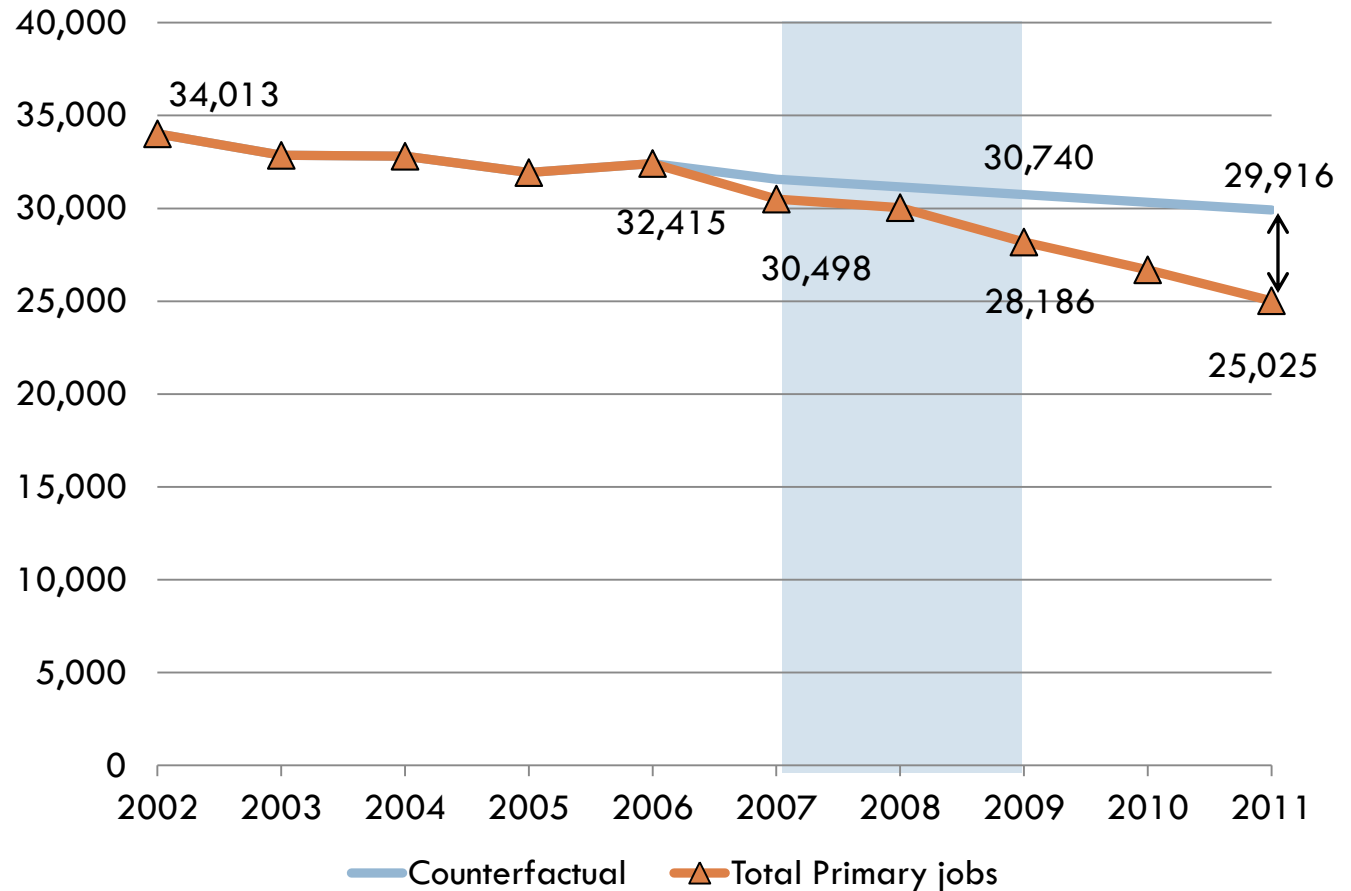
- Charleston
- Huntington
- Parkersburg



Charleston jobs 2002-2011

Charleston (< 10 miles)

- Slight downward trend pre-recession
- **2009**
(-) 2,554 work commutes
- **2011**
(-) 4,891 work commutes

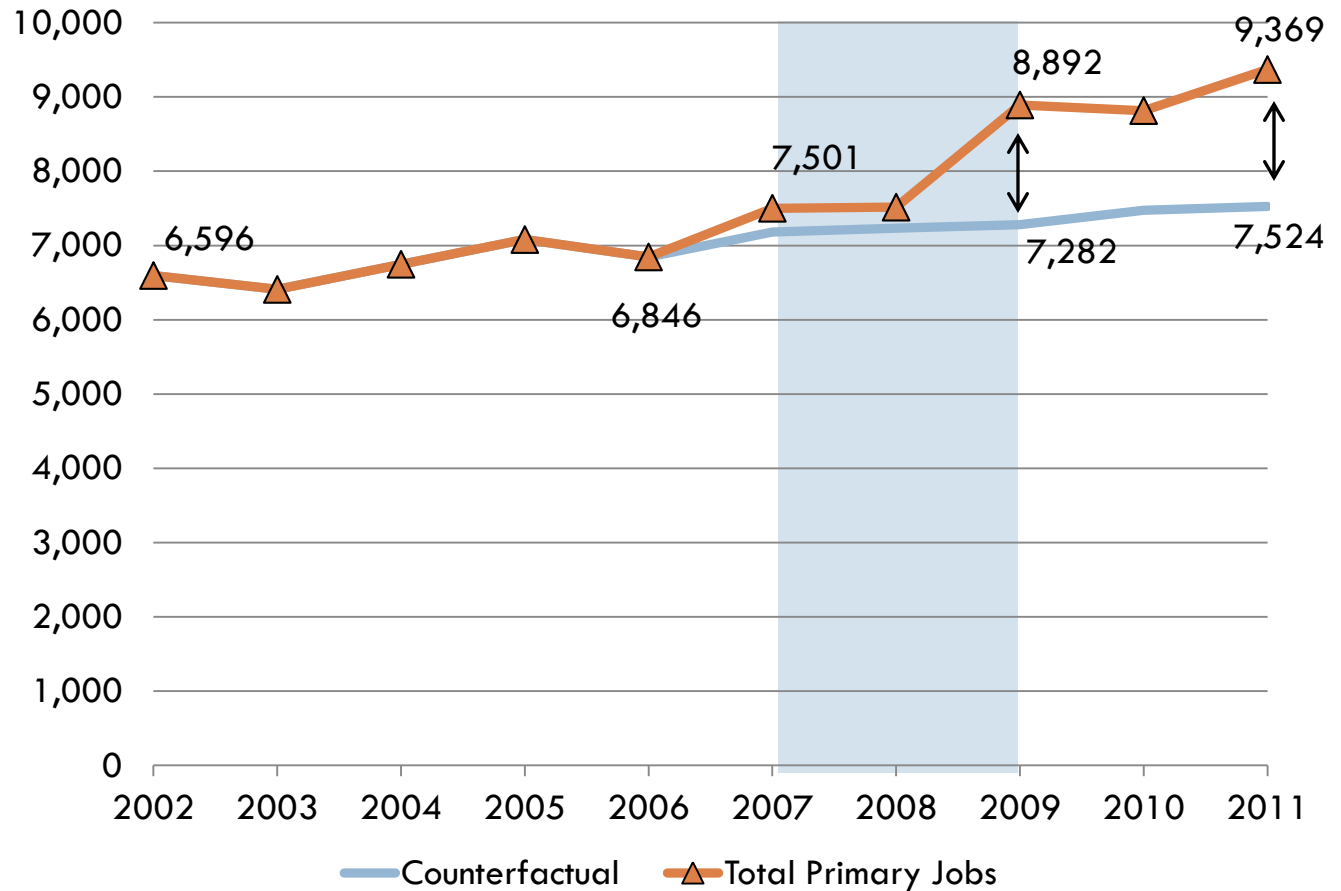


Charleston (25-50 miles)

- Slight upward trend pre-recession

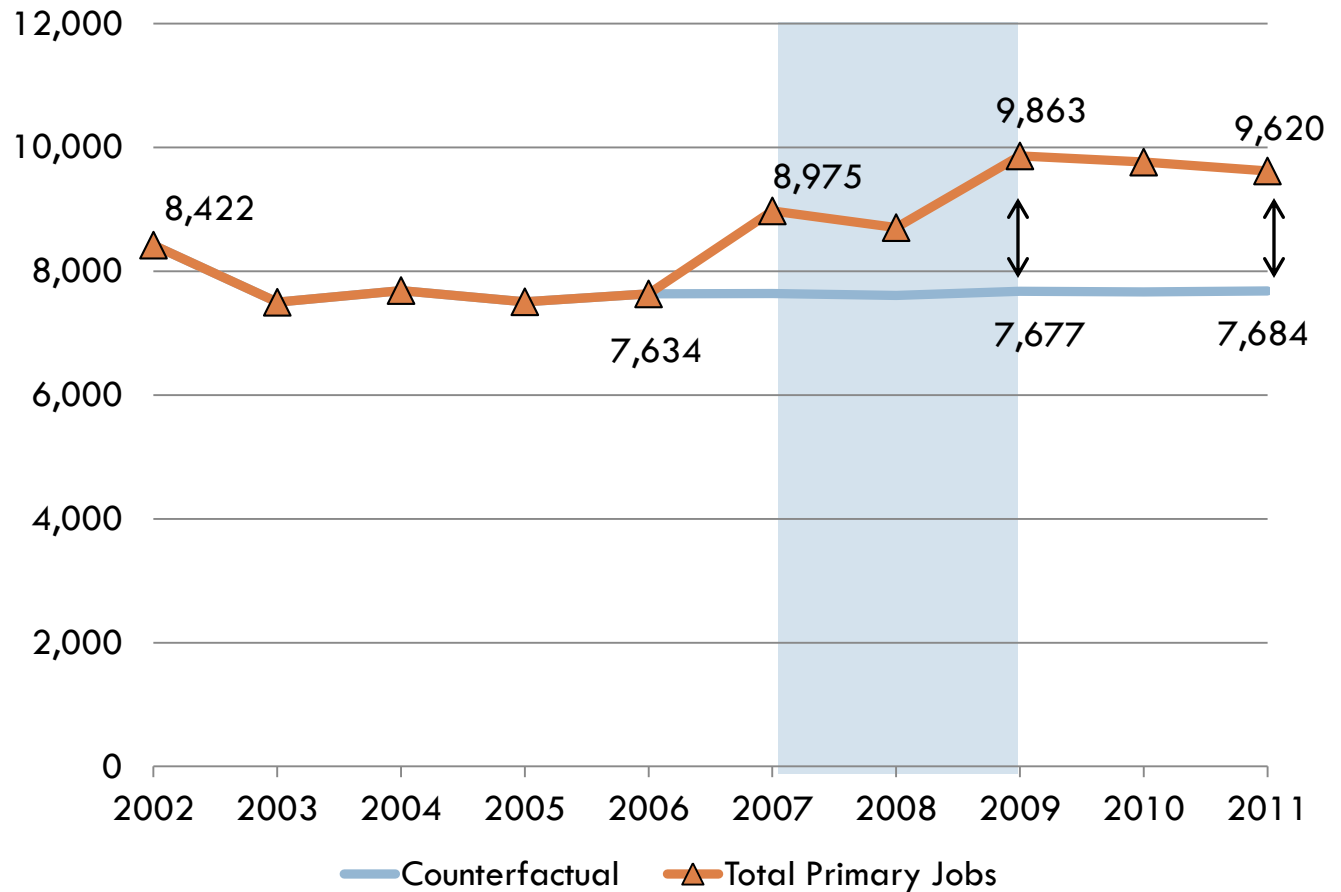
- **2009**
+1,610 work commutes

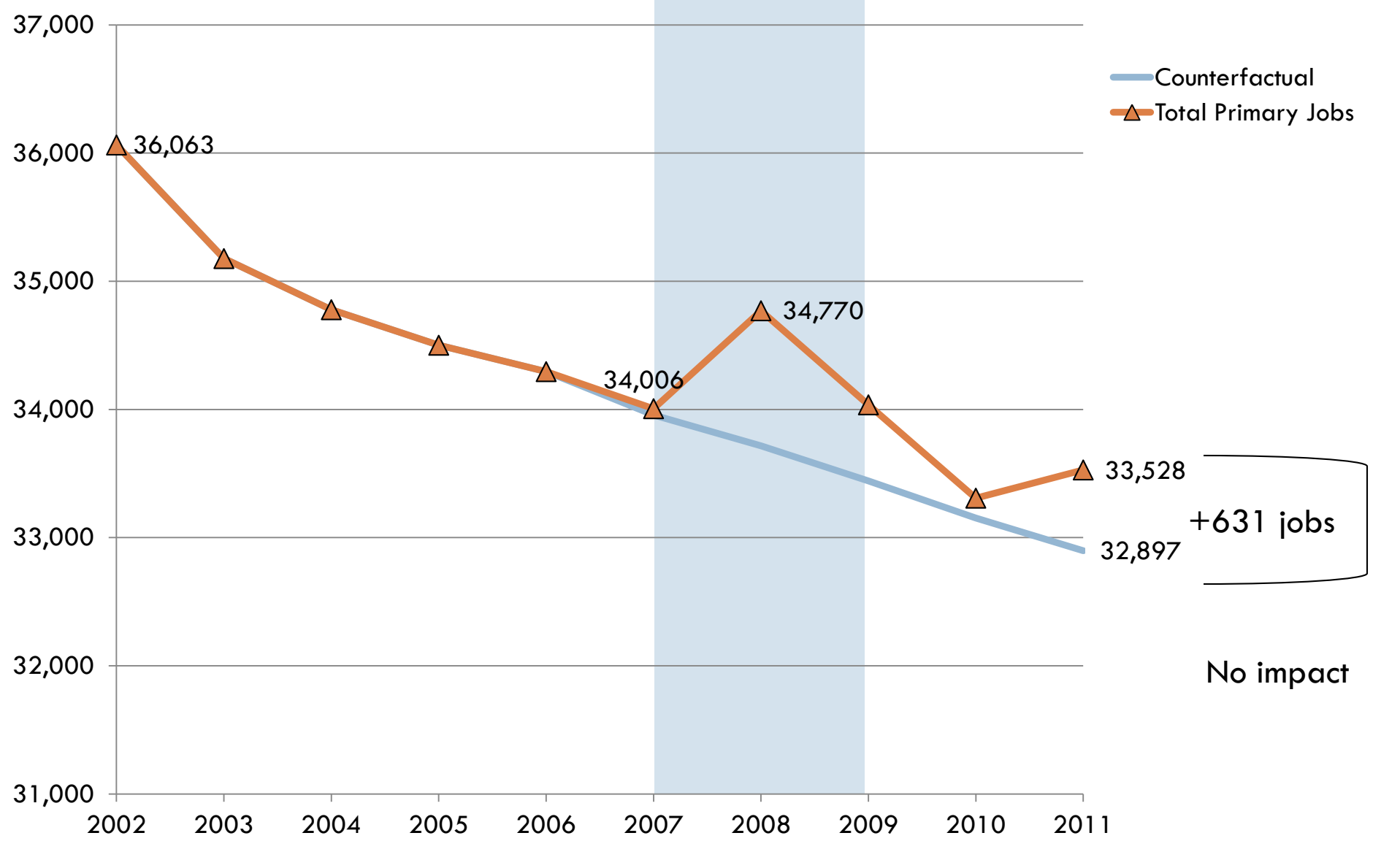
- **2011**
+1,845 work commutes



Charleston (>50 miles)

- **2009**
+2,186 work commutes
- **2011**
+1,936 work commutes





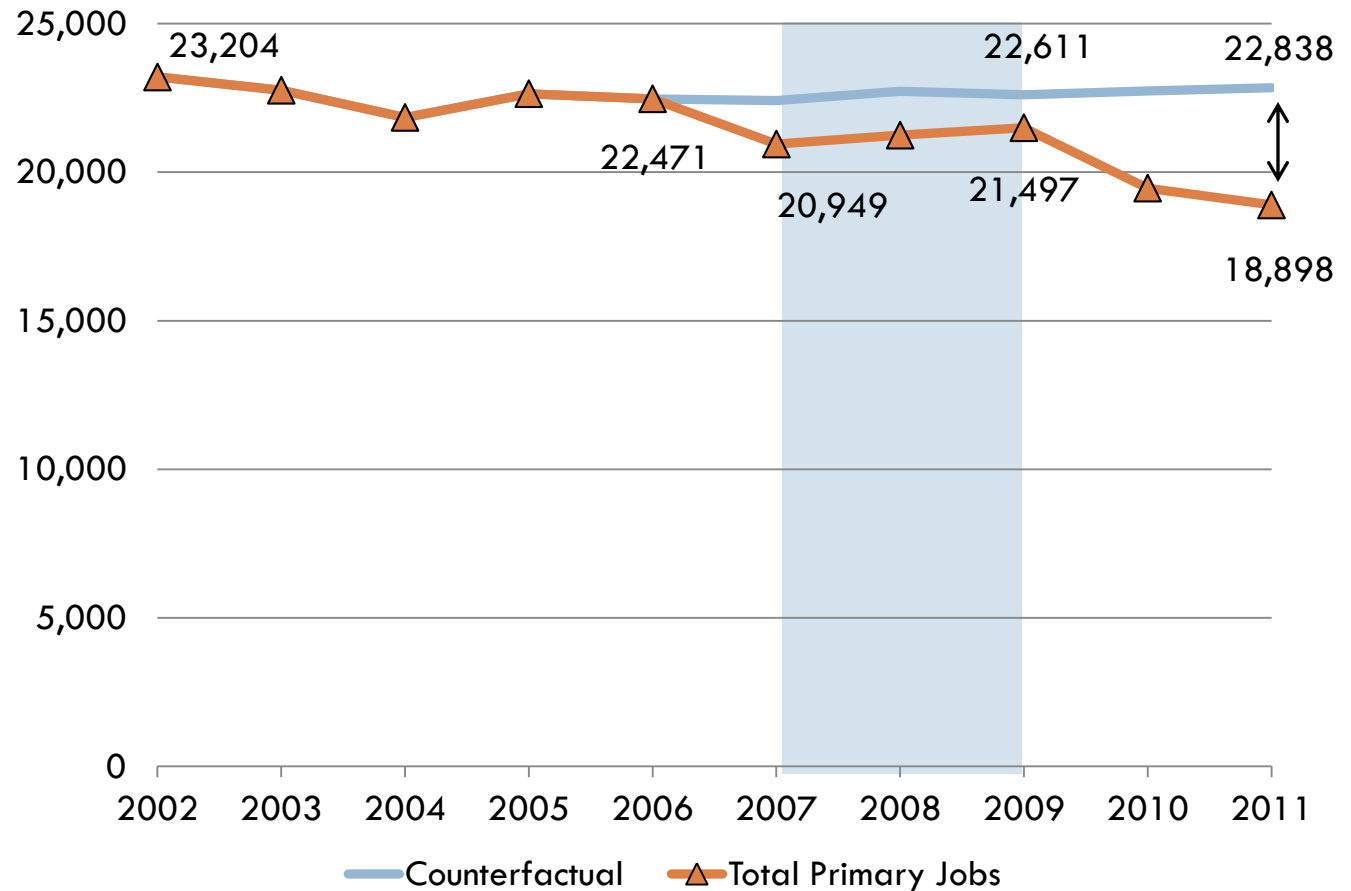
Huntington jobs 2002-2011

Huntington (< 10 miles)

- Trending downward pre-recession

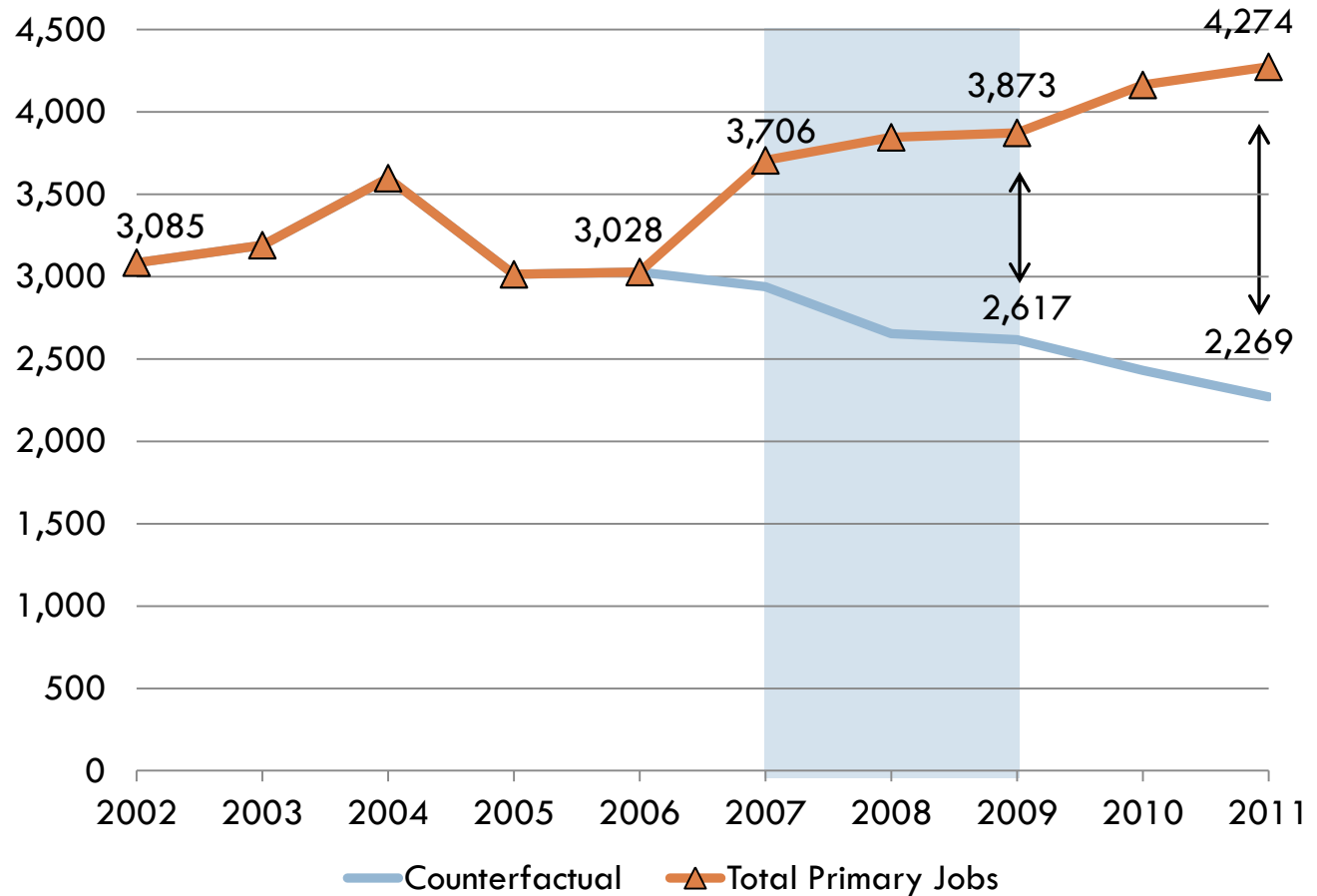
- **2009**
(-) 1,114 work commutes

- **2011**
(-) 3,940 work commutes



Huntington (25-50 miles)

- **2009**
+1,256 work commutes
- **2011**
+2,005 work commutes

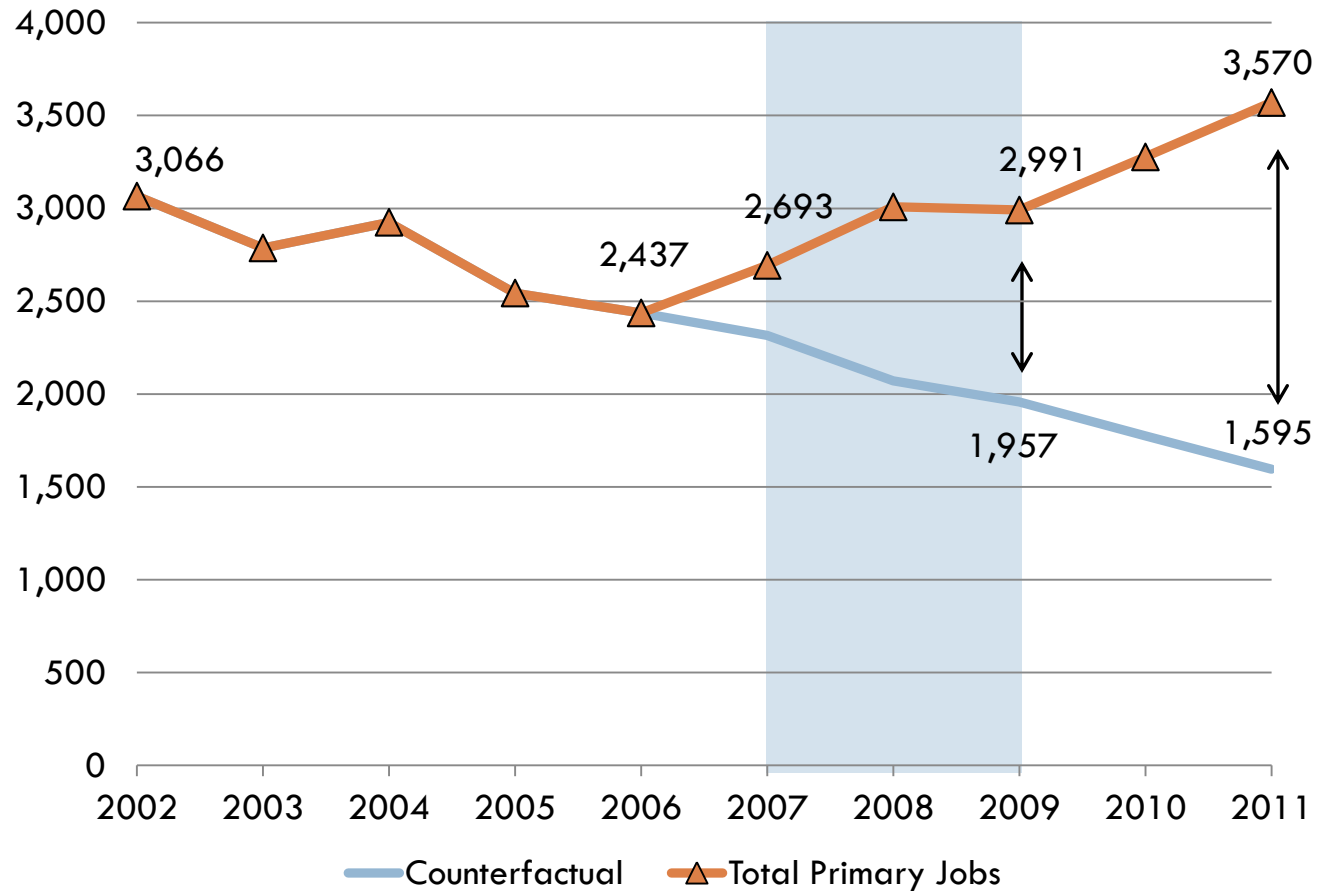


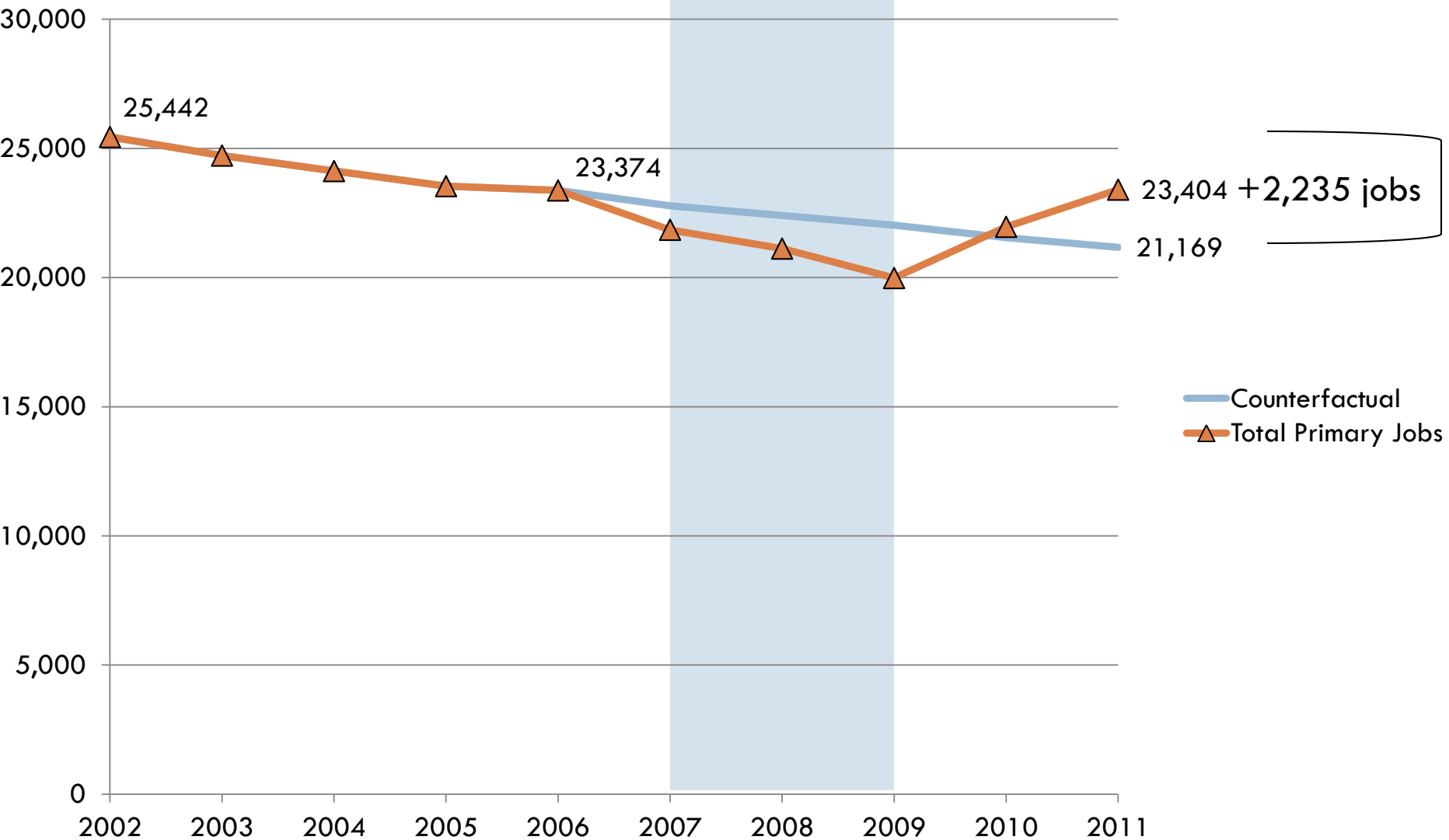
Huntington (>50 miles)

- Trending downwards pre-recession

- **2009**
+1,034 work commutes

- **2011**
+1,975 work commutes

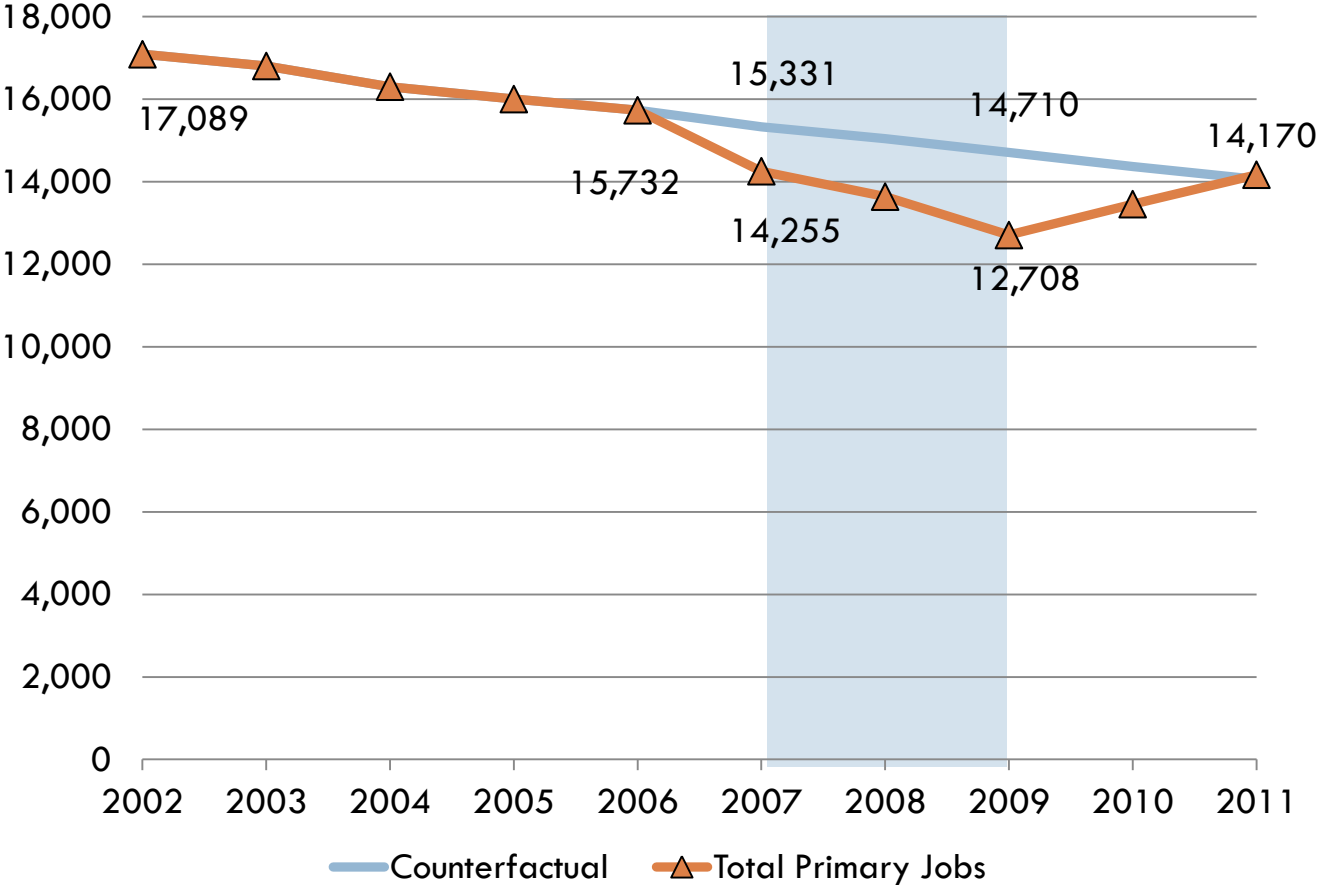




Parkersburg jobs 2002-2011

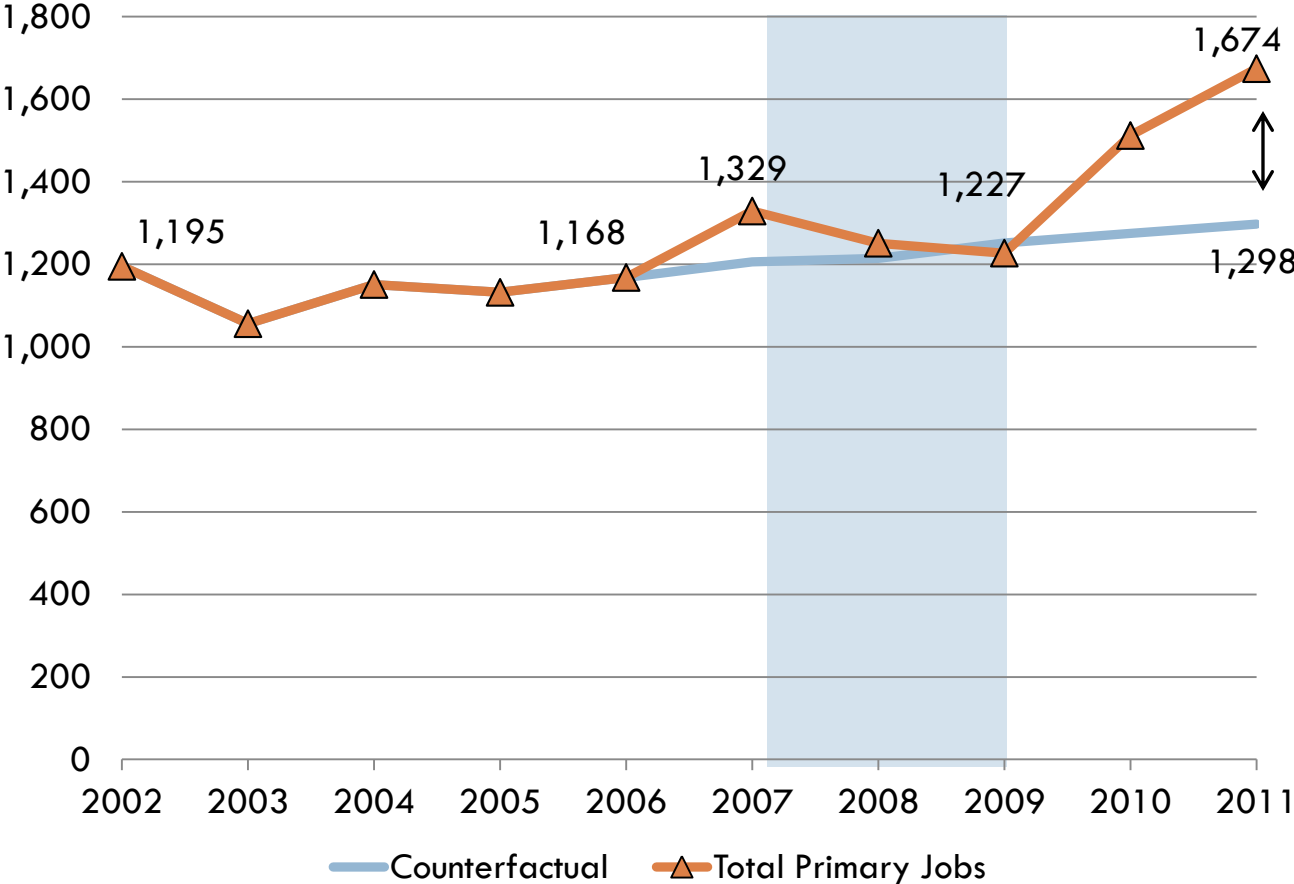
Parkersburg (< 10 miles)

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



Parkersburg (25-50 miles)

- **2009**
No Impact
- **2011**
+ 376 work commutes

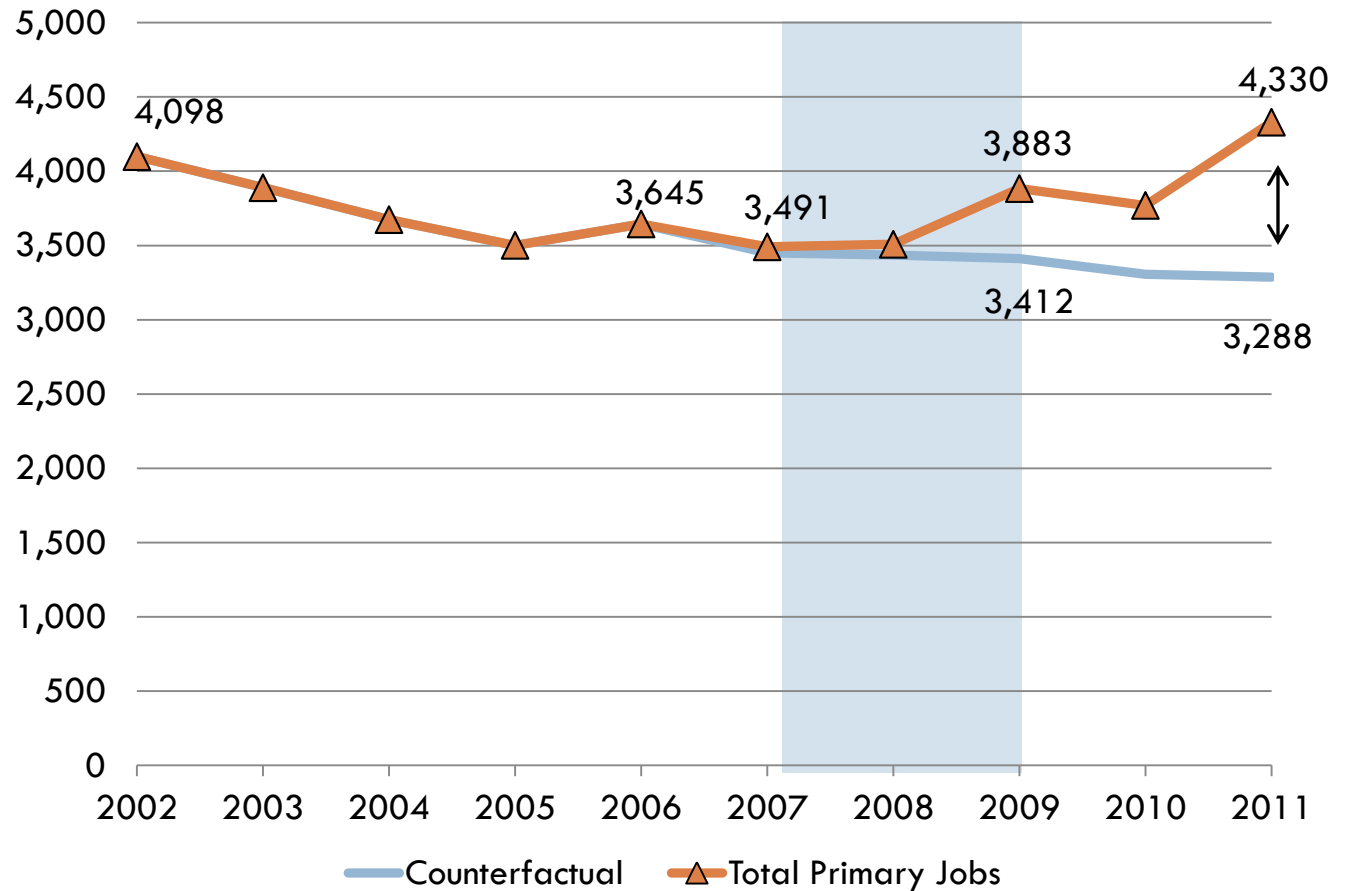


Parkersburg (>50 miles)

- 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