Since 2005, West Bengal has outperformed most of India’s states on job growth, with jobs increasing for both men and women. Many of the new jobs were created in manufacturing and construction, resulting in a rise in wage employment. On a more somber note, one in every five of the state’s workers has a salaried job. In addition, with less than a third of its women working, female labor force participation in the state is very low.

Many more non-farm jobs in West Bengal after 2005

West Bengal’s share of non-farm employment is higher than the national average

Low Income States are highlighted in orange, AI is All India.
Job creation in West Bengal after 2005 was the highest in India

Number of jobs added, 2005-2012 (mn)

Annual job growth, 2005-2012 (%)

Low Income States are highlighted in orange, AI is All India.

Job creation in West Bengal after 2005 was driven mainly by manufacturing and construction

Number of jobs, (mn)

Annual job growth, 2005-2012 (%)

FARM | -1
MANU | 6
THR  | 0
PUB  | 2
TRAN | 2
CONS | 10
FIRB | 5
MINE+UTIL | 5
Wage employment, especially those paying casual wages, increased in West Bengal after 2005

The share of workers with salaried jobs in West Bengal is low, but similar to the national average

Low Income States are highlighted in orange, AI is All India.
High job growth for both males and females in West Bengal after 2005

Low female labor force participation in West Bengal