



November 23, 2015

State Economic Snapshots

This monthly report provides a snapshot of the status of the economic recovery in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. This month's snapshots include state-level data on jobs, unemployment and earnings through October 2015. [Individual state reports can be accessed here.](#)

Highlights

- Private-sector employment increased in 42 states and the District of Columbia in October.
- The unemployment rate fell in 32 states and the District of Columbia.
- Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, have increased in 47 states over the past year.

Private-Sector Job Gains

Private-sector employment increased in 42 states and the District of Columbia in October. The largest private-sector gains were seen in California (41,900), Florida (36,600), Ohio (36,300), New York (30,300) and Georgia (24,500). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in Idaho, Alaska, Wyoming, Ohio, Arizona and Nebraska.

Over the past 12 months, 47 states and the District of Columbia gained private-sector jobs, with California (427,200), Florida (244,200), Texas (180,800), New York (168,100) and North Carolina (88,900) recording the largest increases. The largest percentage gains in private-sector employment during this period were in Idaho (4.6 percent), Utah (3.9 percent), Nevada (3.8 percent), Florida (3.6 percent) and South Carolina (3.3 percent). Nationally, in the past year, 2.7 million private-sector jobs were added, a 2.3 percent increase.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate declined in 32 states and the District of Columbia in October. The largest declines were in West Virginia (-0.4 percentage point), Kansas, Missouri, New York and South Dakota (-0.3 percentage point each). There was no change in 15 states.

Over the past 12 months, 43 states and the District of Columbia reported declines in the unemployment rate. The largest declines were in Rhode Island (-1.7 percentage points), Michigan (-1.6 percentage points), California, Indiana and Mississippi (-1.4 percentage points each).

North Dakota had the lowest unemployment rate (2.8 percent) in October, followed by Nebraska (2.9 percent), South Dakota (3.2 percent), Hawaii and New Hampshire (3.3 percent each). West Virginia (6.9 percent) had the highest unemployment rate, followed by New Mexico (6.8 percent), Nevada, the District of Columbia (6.6 percent each) and Alaska (6.4 percent). The national unemployment rate was 5.0 percent in October, down from 5.7 percent a year prior.

Earnings

Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, increased in 47 states over the past year. The largest earnings gains were posted in Delaware (7.0 percent), Nevada (5.5 percent), Iowa (5.1 percent), Nebraska (4.8 percent) and Washington (4.7 percent). Earnings declined in three states and the District of Columbia. Nationally, real average hourly earnings increased by 2.3 percent (not seasonally adjusted) in the past year. The District of Columbia (\$35.91) had the highest average hourly earnings in October, followed by Massachusetts (\$30.71), Washington (\$30.06), Connecticut (\$29.47) and New York (\$28.78).

Key Employment Sectors

Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment expanded in 23 states during October. The largest increases were in Ohio (5,800), Indiana (5,400), New York (3,200), Georgia (3,100) and Wisconsin (2,500). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in Maryland, Indiana, Mississippi, Ohio, Georgia and Alaska.

Over the past 12 months, 26 states added manufacturing positions. On a percentage basis, the biggest gains were in Idaho (6.6 percent), Utah (5.4 percent), South Dakota (4.5 percent), Michigan (3.9 percent) and Kentucky (3.2 percent). Across the country, 80,000 manufacturing positions have been added in the last 12 months, a 0.7 percent increase.

Construction

Construction employment increased in 35 states during October. The largest gains were reported in New York (7,800), California (7,600), Ohio (5,800), Colorado (4,100) and Missouri (2,800). The largest percentage gains during the month were in Idaho, Montana, Rhode Island, Hawaii and Ohio.

In the past 12 months, 43 states and the District of Columbia added construction jobs. The greatest percentage gains over the past year were in Arkansas (18.1 percent), Idaho (12.2 percent), Kansas (11.7 percent), Nevada (11.2 percent) and Hawaii (9.5 percent). Nationally, over this period, construction employment increased by 233,000 positions, a 3.8 percent increase.

Professional and business services

Professional and business services employment increased in 38 states and the District of Columbia during October. The largest increases were posted in Florida (20,900), California (15,900), Virginia (8,800), New Jersey (8,600) and South Carolina (6,700). The largest percentage gains were in New Hampshire, South Carolina, Nevada, Nebraska and Iowa.

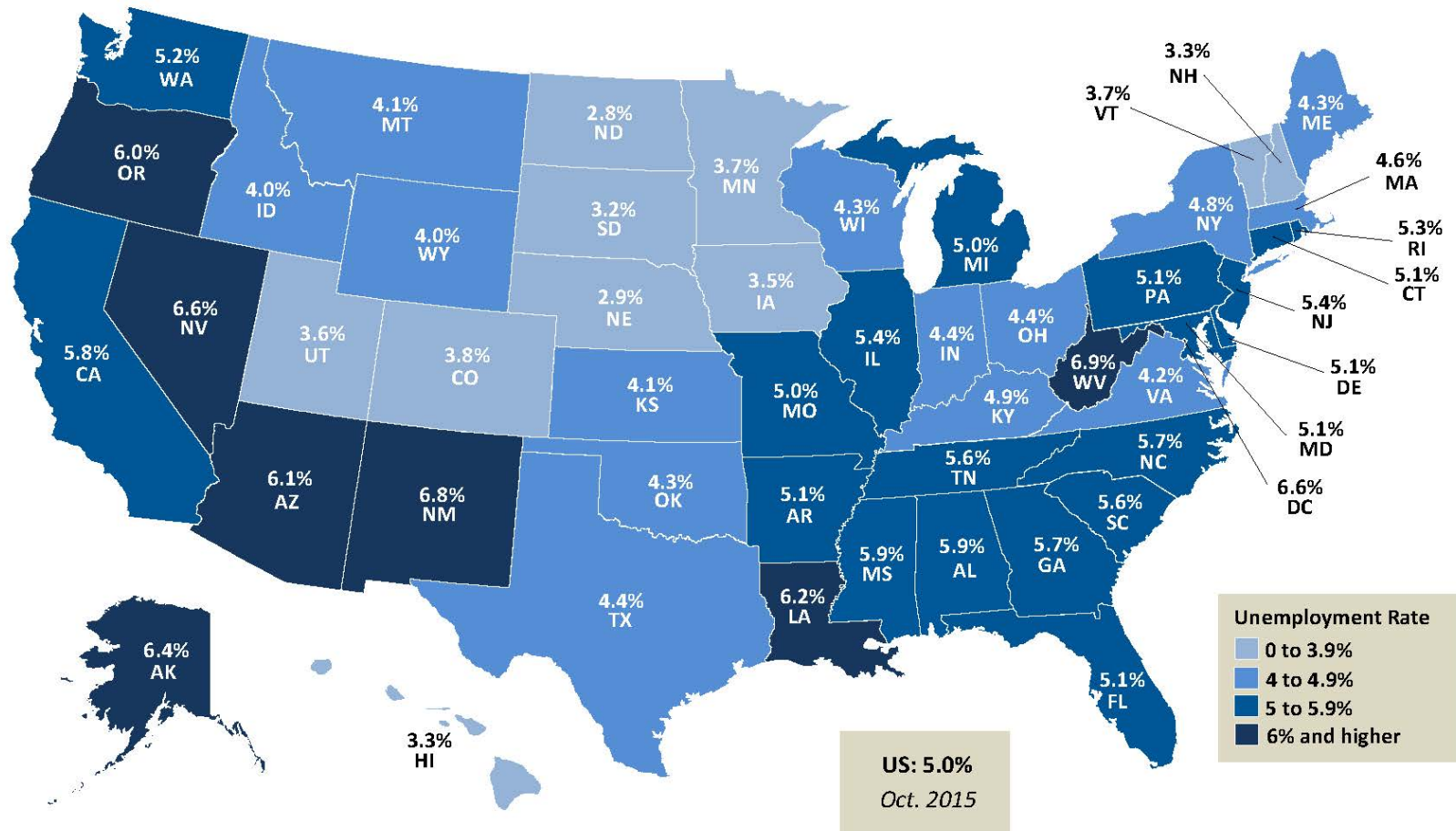
In the past year, 46 states and the District of Columbia added jobs in professional and business services. The largest percentage gains were in South Carolina (6.3 percent), Nevada (5.6 percent), California (5.3 percent), Massachusetts (5.1 percent) and Rhode Island (4.8 percent). The U.S. economy overall has added 664,000 professional and business services jobs during this time, a 3.4 percent increase.

Unemployment Rate (October 2015)	
North Dakota	2.8%
Nebraska	2.9%
South Dakota	3.2%
Hawaii	3.3%
New Hampshire	3.3%
Iowa	3.5%
Utah	3.6%
Vermont	3.7%
Minnesota	3.7%
Colorado	3.8%
Wyoming	4.0%
Idaho	4.0%
Montana	4.1%
Kansas	4.1%
Virginia	4.2%
Wisconsin	4.3%
Maine	4.3%
Oklahoma	4.3%
Texas	4.4%
Indiana	4.4%
Ohio	4.4%
Massachusetts	4.6%
New York	4.8%
Kentucky	4.9%
Michigan	5.0%
UNITED STATES	5.0%
Missouri	5.0%
Delaware	5.1%
Maryland	5.1%
Florida	5.1%
Connecticut	5.1%
Arkansas	5.1%
Pennsylvania	5.1%
Washington	5.2%
Rhode Island	5.3%
Illinois	5.4%
New Jersey	5.4%
Tennessee	5.6%
South Carolina	5.6%
North Carolina	5.7%
Georgia	5.7%
California	5.8%
Alabama	5.9%
Mississippi	5.9%
Oregon	6.0%
Arizona	6.1%
Louisiana	6.2%
Alaska	6.4%
Nevada	6.6%
District of Columbia	6.6%
New Mexico	6.8%
West Virginia	6.9%

Job Growth in America: Change in Private-Sector Jobs				
Data through October 2015	Since Before Recession (December 2007)		Under President Obama (January 2009)	
	Percentage	Net Jobs	Percentage	Net Jobs
UNITED STATES	4.0%	4,692,000	8.3%	9,268,000
Alabama	-3.6%	-58,400	2.1%	31,800
Alaska	9.6%	22,600	9.0%	21,400
Arizona	-0.6%	-13,800	7.2%	149,300
Arkansas	0.7%	7,000	3.5%	33,600
California	6.8%	872,300	12.2%	1,503,700
Colorado	7.4%	145,900	10.5%	200,900
Connecticut	0.2%	2,500	3.1%	43,800
Delaware	0.3%	1,300	4.7%	17,100
District of Columbia	14.2%	66,000	13.6%	63,600
Florida	4.1%	275,900	12.4%	782,500
Georgia	3.9%	135,600	9.7%	319,700
Hawaii	1.6%	8,300	7.6%	36,100
Idaho	4.5%	24,100	11.4%	57,700
Illinois	-0.8%	-40,800	3.0%	149,600
Indiana	2.6%	65,500	8.5%	206,000
Iowa	3.5%	45,200	5.7%	70,600
Kansas	2.5%	28,000	3.5%	39,100
Kentucky	2.1%	32,700	6.8%	100,600
Louisiana	5.5%	87,100	6.2%	97,500
Maine	-1.0%	-5,100	2.1%	10,300
Maryland	2.0%	42,400	5.2%	108,100
Massachusetts	5.9%	168,700	8.5%	237,800
Michigan	2.6%	92,900	11.8%	388,700
Minnesota	3.4%	81,100	6.3%	143,900
Mississippi	-3.2%	-28,800	1.6%	14,200
Missouri	-1.0%	-24,200	1.8%	42,100
Montana	2.9%	10,400	6.8%	23,500
Nebraska	3.7%	29,800	4.9%	38,800
Nevada	-2.0%	-22,300	7.1%	73,800
New Hampshire	2.2%	12,400	4.8%	25,900
New Jersey	-0.7%	-25,700	3.1%	102,900
New Mexico	-2.6%	-16,700	0.9%	5,600
New York	8.2%	593,000	10.0%	712,800
North Carolina	2.6%	89,600	8.5%	277,100
North Dakota	31.6%	90,600	30.1%	87,300
Ohio	1.0%	44,600	5.9%	259,900
Oklahoma	3.4%	43,200	4.5%	56,600
Oregon	2.5%	36,300	9.2%	124,600
Pennsylvania	1.8%	93,000	4.2%	206,900
Rhode Island	0.0%	0	4.6%	18,500
South Carolina	3.9%	62,700	10.3%	155,300
South Dakota	6.3%	21,100	6.5%	21,600
Tennessee	3.3%	79,400	8.9%	201,900
Texas	14.1%	1,236,100	14.8%	1,290,000
Utah	9.2%	96,800	14.8%	148,500
Vermont	0.6%	1,500	3.6%	9,000
Virginia	0.9%	28,400	3.7%	112,500
Washington	6.9%	170,400	10.2%	243,700
West Virginia	-2.9%	-17,900	-2.0%	-12,100
Wisconsin	1.2%	29,600	4.4%	104,500
Wyoming	-1.7%	-3,800	-1.3%	-2,900

Current Unemployment Rates Across States

October 2015 (Released November 20th)



Source: JEC Democratic staff based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (state data update next on December 18, 2015)

