



October 21, 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 September 2015. [Individual state reports can be accessed here.](#)

Highlights

- Private-sector employment increased in 20 states and the District of Columbia in September.
- The unemployment rate fell in 37 states and the District of Columbia.
- Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, have increased in 46 states over the past year.

Private-Sector Job Gains

Private-sector employment increased in 20 states and the District of Columbia in September. The largest private-sector gains were seen in Texas (31,200), New York (11,400), Florida (8,700), Indiana (6,600) and North Carolina (6,300). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in Delaware, South Carolina, Kansas, Alaska, Alabama, Texas and Indiana.

Over the past 12 months, 47 states and the District of Columbia gained private-sector jobs, with California (405,600), Florida (234,400), Texas (205,900), New York (126,100) and North Carolina (111,000) recording the largest increases. The largest percentage gains in private-sector employment during this period were in Utah (4.3 percent), South Carolina (3.7 percent), Florida (3.4 percent), North Carolina, Washington and Nevada (3.2 percent each). Nationally, in the past year, 2.6 million private-sector jobs were added, a 2.2 percent increase.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate declined in 37 states and the District of Columbia in September. The largest declines were in Missouri, Rhode Island, South Carolina and West Virginia (-0.3 percentage point each). Sixteen states had a decline of 0.2 percentage point. There was no change in seven states.

Over the past 12 months, 41 states and the District of Columbia reported declines in the unemployment rate. The largest declines were in Rhode Island (-1.8 percentage points), Michigan (-1.7 percentage points), California (-1.4 percentage points), Indiana (-1.3 percentage points), Maine and Mississippi (-1.2 percentage points each).

North Dakota had the lowest unemployment rate (2.8 percent) in September, followed by Nebraska (2.9 percent), Hawaii, New Hampshire (3.4 percent each) and South Dakota (3.5 percent). West Virginia (7.3 percent) had the highest unemployment rate, followed by New Mexico (6.8 percent), Nevada, the District of Columbia (6.7 percent each) and Alaska (6.4 percent). The national unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in September, down from 5.9 percent a year prior.

Earnings

Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, increased in 46 states over the past year. The largest earnings gains were posted in Delaware (6.0 percent), Nevada (5.9 percent), Nebraska (5.7 percent), Iowa (5.1 percent) and Connecticut (4.7 percent). Earnings declined in four states and the District of Columbia. Nationally, real average hourly earnings increased by 2.2 percent (not seasonally adjusted) in the past year. The District of Columbia (\$37.36) had the highest average hourly earnings in September, followed by Massachusetts (\$30.33), Connecticut (\$29.57), Washington (\$29.42) and New York (\$28.60).

Key Employment Sectors

Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment expanded in 18 states during September. The largest increases were in Missouri (3,000), Michigan (2,600), Georgia, Texas (2,100 each) and Kentucky (1,600). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in Wyoming, Missouri, Colorado, Montana and Delaware.

Over the past 12 months, 28 states added manufacturing positions. On a percentage basis, the biggest gains South Dakota (4.9 percent), Michigan (4.7 percent), Idaho, Utah (4.1 percent each) and Oregon (3.7 percent). Across the country, 104,000 manufacturing positions have been added in the last 12 months, a 0.9 percent increase.

Construction

Construction employment increased in 23 states during September. The largest gains were reported in Florida (3,200), Louisiana (3,100), New Jersey (2,800), Texas (2,700) and California (2,100). The largest percentage gains during the month were in Alaska, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah and Louisiana.

In the past 12 months, 35 states and the District of Columbia added construction jobs. The greatest percentage gains over the past year were in Arkansas (16.1 percent), Alaska (11.2 percent), Kansas (9.5 percent), South Carolina (9.0 percent) and Nevada (8.8 percent). Nationally, over this period, construction employment increased by 205,000 positions, a 3.3 percent increase.

Professional and business services

Professional and business services employment increased in 22 states during September. The largest increases were posted in Texas (5,200), Kansas (3,600), New York (2,600), Louisiana and North Carolina (1,900 each). The largest percentage gains were in South Dakota, Kansas, Hawaii, Mississippi and Alaska.

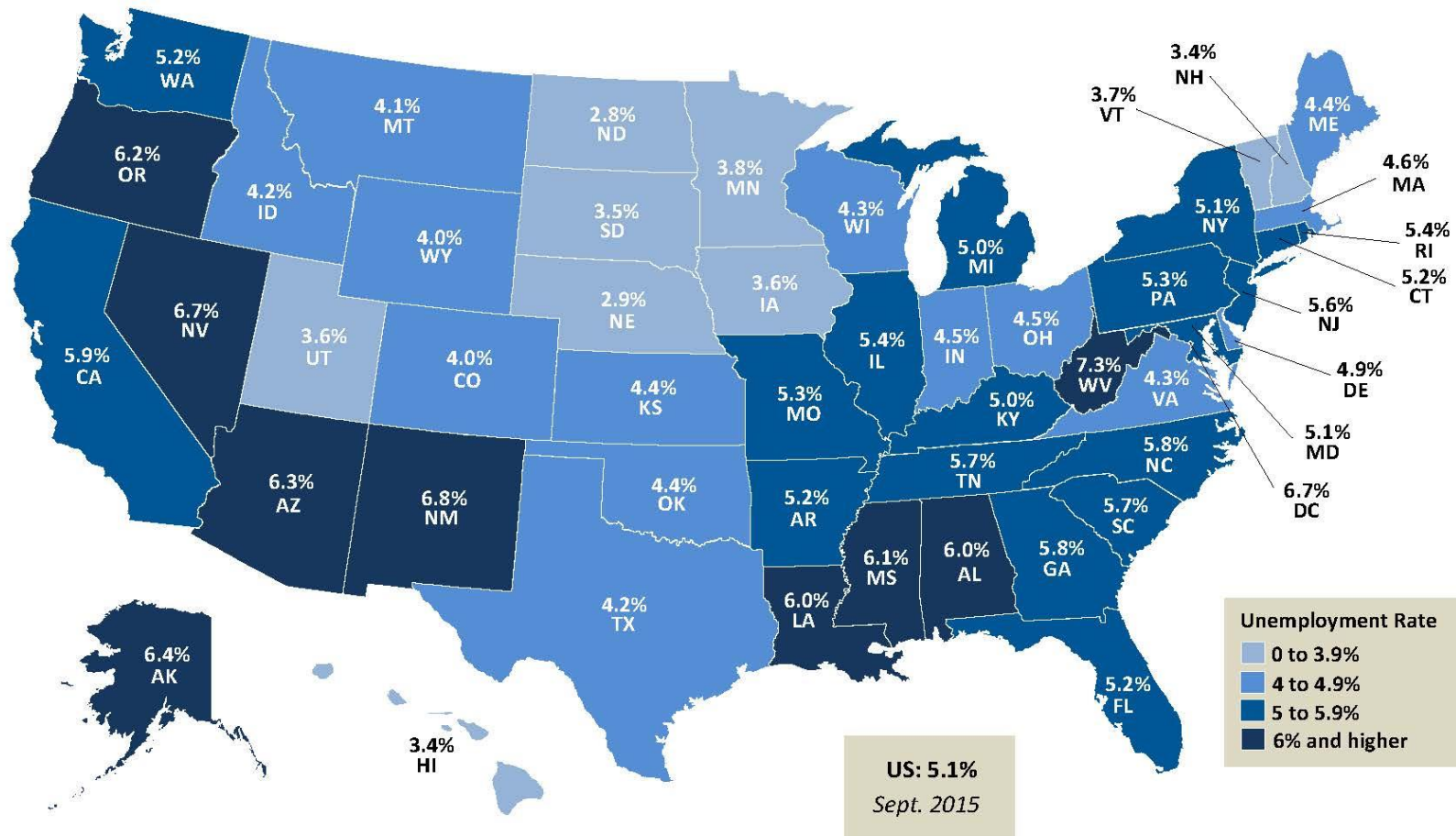
In the past year, 41 states and the District of Columbia added jobs in professional and business services. The largest percentage gains were in California (5.3 percent), South Carolina (4.8 percent), Utah (4.4 percent), South Dakota (4.3 percent) and Massachusetts (4.1 percent). The U.S. economy overall has added 616,000 professional and business services jobs during this time, a 3.2 percent increase.

Unemployment Rate (September 2015)	
North Dakota	2.8%
Nebraska	2.9%
Hawaii	3.4%
New Hampshire	3.4%
South Dakota	3.5%
Utah	3.6%
Iowa	3.6%
Vermont	3.7%
Minnesota	3.8%
Wyoming	4.0%
Colorado	4.0%
Montana	4.1%
Texas	4.2%
Idaho	4.2%
Wisconsin	4.3%
Virginia	4.3%
Maine	4.4%
Oklahoma	4.4%
Kansas	4.4%
Indiana	4.5%
Ohio	4.5%
Massachusetts	4.6%
Delaware	4.9%
Michigan	5.0%
Kentucky	5.0%
Maryland	5.1%
UNITED STATES	5.1%
New York	5.1%
Washington	5.2%
Florida	5.2%
Connecticut	5.2%
Arkansas	5.2%
Pennsylvania	5.3%
Missouri	5.3%
Rhode Island	5.4%
Illinois	5.4%
New Jersey	5.6%
Tennessee	5.7%
South Carolina	5.7%
North Carolina	5.8%
Georgia	5.8%
California	5.9%
Louisiana	6.0%
Alabama	6.0%
Mississippi	6.1%
Oregon	6.2%
Arizona	6.3%
Alaska	6.4%
Nevada	6.7%
District of Columbia	6.7%
New Mexico	6.8%
West Virginia	7.3%

Job Growth in America: Change in Private-Sector Jobs				
<i>**Data through September 2015**</i>	Since Before Recession (December 2007)		Under President Obama (January 2009)	
	Percentage	Net Jobs	Percentage	Net Jobs
UNITED STATES	3.8%	4,368,000	8.0%	8,944,000
Alabama	-3.6%	-58,800	2.0%	31,400
Alaska	7.9%	18,700	7.4%	17,500
Arizona	-1.4%	-30,800	6.3%	132,300
Arkansas	0.6%	5,700	3.3%	32,300
California	6.4%	824,700	11.9%	1,456,100
Colorado	6.9%	136,200	10.0%	191,200
Connecticut	0.0%	100	2.9%	41,400
Delaware	0.5%	1,900	4.9%	17,700
District of Columbia	13.6%	63,600	13.1%	61,200
Florida	3.5%	238,100	11.8%	744,700
Georgia	3.1%	107,000	8.9%	291,100
Hawaii	1.3%	6,700	7.2%	34,500
Idaho	2.8%	15,300	9.7%	48,900
Illinois	-1.1%	-57,600	2.7%	132,800
Indiana	2.4%	61,900	8.4%	202,400
Iowa	3.2%	41,300	5.3%	66,700
Kansas	1.9%	21,500	2.9%	32,600
Kentucky	1.4%	22,200	6.1%	90,100
Louisiana	5.9%	92,200	6.6%	102,600
Maine	-1.1%	-5,600	2.0%	9,800
Maryland	1.2%	26,200	4.5%	91,900
Massachusetts	5.3%	152,800	7.9%	221,900
Michigan	2.3%	81,300	11.4%	377,100
Minnesota	3.6%	84,000	6.4%	146,800
Mississippi	-3.4%	-30,900	1.4%	12,100
Missouri	-1.3%	-30,600	1.6%	35,700
Montana	2.6%	9,300	6.5%	22,400
Nebraska	2.8%	22,200	3.9%	31,200
Nevada	-2.4%	-27,300	6.6%	68,800
New Hampshire	1.7%	9,500	4.2%	23,000
New Jersey	-1.3%	-44,000	2.6%	84,600
New Mexico	-2.7%	-17,500	0.8%	4,800
New York	7.6%	555,700	9.5%	675,500
North Carolina	2.6%	90,100	8.5%	277,600
North Dakota	31.7%	90,800	30.2%	87,500
Ohio	0.3%	13,800	5.2%	229,100
Oklahoma	3.1%	39,800	4.2%	53,200
Oregon	2.1%	30,200	8.7%	118,500
Pennsylvania	1.5%	74,300	3.8%	188,200
Rhode Island	-0.4%	-1,500	4.2%	17,000
South Carolina	3.6%	57,100	9.9%	149,700
South Dakota	6.0%	19,800	6.1%	20,300
Tennessee	2.9%	68,800	8.5%	191,300
Texas	13.9%	1,219,400	14.6%	1,273,300
Utah	9.1%	96,200	14.7%	147,900
Vermont	0.5%	1,400	3.6%	8,900
Virginia	0.5%	14,400	3.3%	98,500
Washington	6.5%	159,700	9.8%	233,000
West Virginia	-2.9%	-17,600	-1.9%	-11,800
Wisconsin	0.8%	20,200	4.0%	95,100
Wyoming	-3.3%	-7,500	-2.9%	-6,600

Current Unemployment Rates Across States

September 2015 (Released October 20th)



Source: JEC Democratic staff based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (state data update next on November 20, 2015)

