

## State Unemployment Rates: July 2009

**Next Update: September 18, 2009 (August Employment Report)**

In the nineteen months between December 2007 and July 2009, the economy shed 6.7 million jobs, the national unemployment rate spiked 4.5 percentage points to 9.4 percent, and the unemployment rate rose in every state and the District of Columbia. In July, 8 states posted statistically significant over-the-month increases in their jobless rates while 2 states (Minnesota and Vermont) posted statistically significant over-the-month decreases in their jobless rates. Although unemployment rates in the remaining states were essentially unchanged in July, workers across the country continue to experience distressed levels of unemployment. In July, the unemployment rate was 10.0 percent or higher in 15 states and the District of Columbia, and 3 states (Michigan, Rhode Island, and Nevada) had unemployment rates of 12.0 percent or higher.

State		Unemployment Rate July 2009	State Rank	Unemployment Rate December 2007	19-Month Change
Alabama	AL	10.2	36	3.8	6.4
Alaska	AK	8.3	23	6.3	2.0
Arizona	AZ	9.2	32	4.3	4.9
Arkansas	AR	7.4	15	4.9	2.5
California	CA	11.9	47	5.9	6.0
Colorado	CO	7.8	18	4.1	3.7
Connecticut	CT	7.8	19	4.9	2.9
Delaware	DE	8.2	22	3.8	4.4
District of Columbia	DC	10.6	39	5.8	4.8
Florida	FL	10.7	41	4.8	5.9
Georgia	GA	10.3	37	5.1	5.2
Hawaii	HI	7.0	12	3.1	3.9
Idaho	ID	8.8	27	3.6	5.2
Illinois	IL	10.4	38	5.6	4.8
Indiana	IN	10.6	39	4.5	6.1
Iowa	IA	6.5	5	3.8	2.7
Kansas	KS	7.4	15	4.1	3.3
Kentucky	KY	11.0	43	5.5	5.5
Louisiana	LA	7.4	15	3.9	3.5
Maine	ME	8.4	24	4.7	3.7
Maryland	MD	7.3	14	3.6	3.7
Massachusetts	MA	8.8	27	4.5	4.3

State		Unemployment Rate July 2009	State Rank	Unemployment Rate December 2007	19-Month Change
Michigan	MI	15.0	51	7.3	7.7
Minnesota	MN	8.1	21	4.8	3.3
Mississippi	MS	9.7	35	6.1	3.6
Missouri	MO	9.3	33	5.3	4.0
Montana	MT	6.7	8	3.8	2.9
Nebraska	NE	4.9	2	2.7	2.2
Nevada	NV	12.5	49	5.2	7.3
New Hampshire	NH	6.8	9	3.5	3.3
New Jersey	NJ	9.3	33	4.5	4.8
New Mexico	NM	7.0	12	3.6	3.4
New York	NY	8.6	26	4.6	4.0
North Carolina	NC	11.0	43	5.0	6.0
North Dakota	ND	4.2	1	3.1	1.1
Ohio	OH	11.2	45	5.8	5.4
Oklahoma	OK	6.5	5	3.6	2.9
Oregon	OR	11.9	47	5.3	6.6
Pennsylvania	PA	8.5	25	4.6	3.9
Rhode Island	RI	12.7	50	6.0	6.7
South Carolina	SC	11.8	46	5.8	6.0
South Dakota	SD	4.9	2	2.7	2.2
Tennessee	TN	10.7	41	5.3	5.4
Texas	TX	7.9	20	4.4	3.5
Utah	UT	6.0	4	3.0	3.0
Vermont	VT	6.8	9	4.0	2.8
Virginia	VA	6.9	11	3.3	3.6
Washington	WA	9.1	31	4.6	4.5
West Virginia	WV	9.0	29	4.3	4.7
Wisconsin	WI	9.0	29	4.5	4.5
Wyoming	WY	6.5	5	2.9	3.6
United States	US	9.4	N/A	4.9	4.5

Source: Joint Economic Committee analysis of the Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program data.