



June 24, 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. While the recovery has progressed more quickly in some states, every state is faring better today than during the recession. This month's snapshots include state-level data on jobs, unemployment and earnings through May 2015. [Individual state reports can be accessed here.](#)

### Highlights

- Private-sector employment increased in 38 states and the District of Columbia in May.
- The unemployment rate fell in 9 states and the District of Columbia.
- Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, have increased in 44 states over the past year.
- Real gross domestic product (GDP) increased in 48 states and the District of Columbia in 2014.

### Private-Sector Job Gains

Private-sector employment increased in 38 states and the District of Columbia in May. The largest private-sector gains were seen in California (55,700), New York (47,400), Texas (25,700), Michigan (24,300) and Pennsylvania (16,900). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Nevada, the District of Columbia and Michigan.

Over the past 12 months, 48 states and the District of Columbia gained private-sector jobs, with California (434,400), Florida (263,600), Texas (262,500), New York (134,000) and Georgia (118,600) recording the largest increases. The largest percentage gains in private-sector employment during this period were in Utah (4.5 percent), Washington (4.0 percent), Florida, Nevada (3.9 percent each) and Idaho (3.7 percent). Nationally, in the past year, nearly 3.0 million private-sector jobs were added, a 2.5 percent increase.

### Unemployment

The unemployment rate declined in 9 states and the District of Columbia in May. Indiana (-0.3 percentage point) had the largest decline, followed by Arizona, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Tennessee and Rhode Island (-0.2 percentage point each). There was no change in 16 states.

Over the past 12 months, 45 states and the District of Columbia reported declines in the unemployment rate. The largest declines were in Rhode Island (-2.0 percentage points), Michigan (-1.8 percentage points), Oregon (-1.7 percentage points), Kentucky (-1.6 percentage points) and Delaware (-1.3 percentage points).

Nebraska had the lowest unemployment rate (2.6 percent) in May, followed by North Dakota (3.1 percent), Utah (3.5 percent), Vermont (3.6 percent) and Iowa, Minnesota, New Hampshire, South Dakota (3.8 percent each). The highest unemployment rates in May were in the District of Columbia (7.3 percent), West Virginia (7.2 percent), Nevada (7.0 percent), Alaska and South Carolina (6.8 percent each). The national unemployment rate was 5.5 percent in May, down from 6.3 percent a year prior.

## **Earnings**

Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, increased in 44 states over the past year. The largest earnings gains were posted in Vermont (5.9 percent), Washington (4.4 percent), South Dakota (4.2 percent), Kentucky and Iowa (4.1 percent each). Earnings declined in six states, and one state had no change. Nationally, real average hourly earnings increased by 2.3 percent (not seasonally adjusted) in the past year. The District of Columbia (\$38.44) had the highest average hourly earnings in May, followed by Massachusetts (\$30.14), Washington (\$29.35), Connecticut (\$28.70) and New York (\$28.53).

## **Real Gross Domestic Product**

Real gross domestic product increased in 48 states and the District of Columbia in 2014. The fastest GDP growth was recorded in North Dakota (6.3 percent), Texas (5.2 percent), Wyoming (5.1 percent), West Virginia (5.1 percent) and Colorado (4.7 percent). In each of these states, mining was a significant contributor. Real GDP fell in Alaska and Mississippi. The Southwest and Rocky Mountain regions grew the fastest, 4.3 percent and 3.9 percent, respectively. The slowest growth was in the Plains (1.3 percent) and Great Lakes (1.4 percent) regions. Nationally, real GDP grew 2.2 percent in 2014.

## **Key Employment Sectors**

### ***Manufacturing***

Manufacturing employment expanded in 23 states during May. The largest increases were in Michigan (6,600), Kansas (2,600), Louisiana, New York (2,100 each) and Indiana (2,000). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in Kansas, West Virginia, Louisiana, Michigan and Wyoming.

Over the past 12 months, 32 states added manufacturing positions. On a percentage basis, the biggest gains were in South Dakota (5.2 percent), Oregon (4.9 percent), Michigan (4.5 percent), Utah (3.9 percent), Rhode Island and Colorado (3.0 percent each). Across the country, 181,000 manufacturing positions have been added in the last 12 months, a 1.5 percent increase.

### ***Construction***

Construction employment increased in 28 states and the District of Columbia during May. The largest gains were reported in New York (14,200), California (6,100), Maryland (4,500), Massachusetts (3,500) and Pennsylvania (3,100). The largest percentage gains during the month were in Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont and Maryland.

In the past 12 months, 40 states and the District of Columbia added construction jobs. The greatest percentage gains over the past year were in Idaho (11.8 percent), Washington (11.6 percent), Michigan (10.7 percent), North Carolina (8.8 percent) and Colorado (8.3 percent). Nationally, over this period, construction employment increased by 273,000 positions, a 4.5 percent increase.

### ***Professional and business services***

Professional and business services employment increased in 32 states during May. The largest increases were posted in California (21,300), Georgia (11,200), Texas (7,300), Illinois (6,900) and Arizona (6,700). The largest percentage gains were in South Dakota, Georgia, Arizona, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

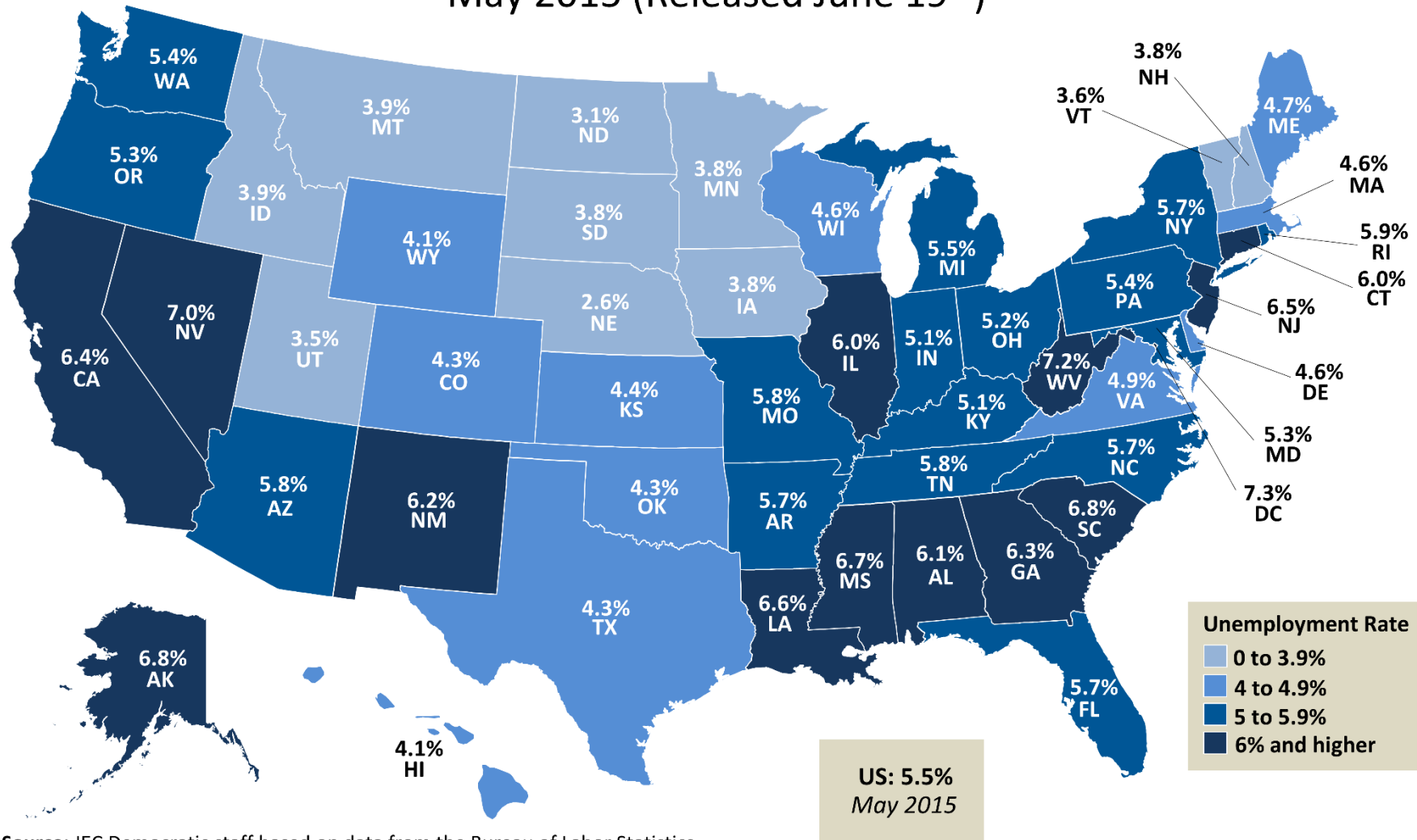
In the past year, 44 states and the District of Columbia added jobs in professional and business services. The largest percentage gains in Oregon (5.5 percent), California (5.2 percent), Washington (5.1 percent), South Carolina (4.9 percent) and Utah (4.8 percent). The U.S. economy overall has added 671,000 professional and business services jobs during this time, a 3.5 percent increase.

Unemployment Rate (May 2015)	
Nebraska	2.6%
North Dakota	3.1%
Utah	3.5%
Vermont	3.6%
South Dakota	3.8%
Minnesota	3.8%
New Hampshire	3.8%
Iowa	3.8%
Idaho	3.9%
Montana	3.9%
Wyoming	4.1%
Hawaii	4.1%
Oklahoma	4.3%
Colorado	4.3%
Texas	4.3%
Kansas	4.4%
Wisconsin	4.6%
Delaware	4.6%
Massachusetts	4.6%
Maine	4.7%
Virginia	4.9%
Kentucky	5.1%
Indiana	5.1%
Ohio	5.2%
Oregon	5.3%
Maryland	5.3%
Pennsylvania	5.4%
Washington	5.4%
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
Michigan	5.5%
North Carolina	5.7%
Florida	5.7%
Arkansas	5.7%
New York	5.7%
Missouri	5.8%
Arizona	5.8%
Tennessee	5.8%
Rhode Island	5.9%
Illinois	6.0%
Connecticut	6.0%
Alabama	6.1%
New Mexico	6.2%
Georgia	6.3%
California	6.4%
New Jersey	6.5%
Louisiana	6.6%
Mississippi	6.7%
Alaska	6.8%
South Carolina	6.8%
Nevada	7.0%
West Virginia	7.2%
District of Columbia	7.3%

Job Growth in America: Change in Private-Sector Jobs				
**Data through May 2015**	Since Before Recession (December 2007)		Under President Obama (January 2009)	
	Percentage	Net Jobs	Percentage	Net Jobs
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>3,764,000</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>8,340,000</b>
Alabama	-4.1%	-67,000	1.5%	23,200
Alaska	9.3%	22,000	8.8%	20,800
Arizona	-1.9%	-43,800	5.7%	119,300
Arkansas	0.1%	1,200	2.9%	27,800
California	5.5%	708,900	10.9%	1,340,300
Colorado	6.6%	129,200	9.6%	184,200
Connecticut	-0.1%	-2,100	2.8%	39,200
Delaware	0.2%	600	4.5%	16,400
District of Columbia	13.3%	62,000	12.7%	59,600
Florida	2.6%	176,800	10.9%	683,400
Georgia	2.9%	102,300	8.7%	286,400
Hawaii	1.1%	5,300	7.0%	33,100
Idaho	3.2%	17,100	10.0%	50,700
Illinois	-0.7%	-35,400	3.1%	155,000
Indiana	2.0%	52,400	8.0%	192,900
Iowa	2.9%	37,300	5.0%	62,700
Kansas	1.5%	16,700	2.5%	27,800
Kentucky	1.4%	21,100	6.0%	89,000
Louisiana	5.8%	91,600	6.5%	102,000
Maine	-1.0%	-5,200	2.0%	10,200
Maryland	1.3%	27,400	4.5%	93,100
Massachusetts	4.9%	139,700	7.4%	208,800
Michigan	2.4%	85,700	11.6%	381,500
Minnesota	3.3%	77,600	6.1%	140,400
Mississippi	-3.5%	-32,300	1.2%	10,700
Missouri	-1.5%	-35,800	1.3%	30,500
Montana	3.0%	10,700	6.9%	23,800
Nebraska	2.6%	20,900	3.8%	29,900
Nevada	-2.8%	-32,000	6.2%	64,100
New Hampshire	1.9%	10,700	4.5%	24,200
New Jersey	-1.3%	-43,100	2.6%	85,500
New Mexico	-2.5%	-16,400	0.9%	5,900
New York	7.1%	517,800	8.9%	637,600
North Carolina	2.0%	68,400	7.8%	255,900
North Dakota	33.1%	94,900	31.6%	91,600
Ohio	0.6%	26,200	5.5%	241,500
Oklahoma	3.0%	38,800	4.1%	52,200
Oregon	1.8%	25,600	8.4%	113,900
Pennsylvania	1.8%	90,500	4.1%	204,400
Rhode Island	0.2%	1,000	4.8%	19,500
South Carolina	2.1%	34,300	8.4%	126,900
South Dakota	5.9%	19,500	6.0%	20,000
Tennessee	2.3%	54,200	7.8%	176,700
Texas	13.3%	1,164,300	14.0%	1,218,200
Utah	7.9%	83,600	13.5%	135,300
Vermont	1.3%	3,400	4.4%	10,900
Virginia	0.3%	9,400	3.1%	93,500
Washington	6.0%	147,300	9.2%	220,600
West Virginia	-1.9%	-11,900	-1.0%	-6,100
Wisconsin	0.3%	6,500	3.4%	81,400
Wyoming	-2.3%	-5,200	-1.9%	-4,300

# Current Unemployment Rates Across States

May 2015 (Released June 19<sup>th</sup>)



Source: JEC Democratic staff based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics