



September 22, 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 August 2015. [Individual state reports can be accessed here.](#)

### Highlights

- Private-sector employment increased in 31 states and the District of Columbia in August.
- The unemployment rate fell in 29 states.
- Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, have increased in 46 states over the past year.
- Home prices increased in all 50 states and the District of Columbia over the year ending in the second quarter of 2015.

### Private-Sector Job Gains

Private-sector employment increased in 31 states and the District of Columbia in August. The largest private-sector gains were seen in Florida (20,100), Ohio (16,800), New Jersey (13,800), Minnesota (12,300) and Massachusetts (9,000). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in Nebraska, Minnesota, Hawaii, Maine, New Jersey and Ohio.

Over the past 12 months, 46 states and the District of Columbia gained private-sector jobs, with California (432,200), Florida (254,300), Texas (196,700), New York (130,300) and North Carolina (112,000) recording the largest increases. The largest percentage gains in private-sector employment during this period were in Utah (4.7 percent), Florida (3.8 percent), Nevada, Oregon (3.7 percent each) and Washington (3.5 percent). Nationally, in the past year, nearly 2.8 million private-sector jobs were added, a 2.4 percent increase.

### Unemployment

The unemployment rate declined in 29 states in August. The largest declines were in South Carolina (-0.4 percentage point), Ohio, Virginia (-0.3 percentage point each), Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Arkansas (-0.2 percentage point each). There was no change in 11 states and the District of Columbia.

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 (-1.3 percentage points), Georgia and Indiana (-1.2 percentage points each).

Nebraska had the lowest unemployment rate (2.8 percent) in August, followed by North Dakota (2.9 percent), Hawaii (3.5 percent), New Hampshire, Vermont (3.6 percent each), Iowa, South Dakota and Utah (3.7 percent each). West Virginia (7.6 percent) had the highest unemployment rate, followed by Nevada, the District of Columbia (6.8 percent each), New Mexico (6.7 percent) and Alaska (6.6 percent). The national unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in August, down from 6.1 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 (6.3 percent), Iowa, Nevada (5.7 percent), Montana (5.5 percent) and Nebraska (4.8 percent). Earnings declined in four states and the District of Columbia. Nationally, real average hourly earnings increased by 2.7 percent (not seasonally adjusted) in the past year. The District of Columbia (\$37.96) had the highest average hourly earnings in August, followed by Massachusetts (\$30.29), Washington (\$29.48), Connecticut (\$29.24) and New York (\$28.73).

## Home Prices

Home prices increased the most in Colorado (10.6 percent), Nevada (10.5 percent), Florida (9.7 percent), Hawaii (9.5 percent) and Washington (8.8 percent) over the year between the second quarter of 2014 and the second quarter of 2015, according to the Federal Housing Finance Agency's purchase-only, seasonally adjusted index. Home values appreciated in every state and the District of Columbia. Nationally, home prices rose by 5.4 percent during this period.

## Key Employment Sectors

### *Manufacturing*

Manufacturing employment expanded in 18 states during August. The largest increases were in Kentucky (3,300), North Carolina (1,600), New Jersey (1,200), Maine and South Carolina (1,000 each). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in Maine, Montana, North Dakota, Kentucky and Arizona.

Over the past 12 months, 30 states added manufacturing positions. On a percentage basis, the biggest gains were in Utah (4.4 percent), Idaho (4.3 percent), Oregon (4.1 percent), South Dakota (4.0 percent) and Michigan (3.6 percent). Across the country, 124,000 manufacturing positions have been added in the last 12 months, a 1.0 percent increase.

### *Construction*

Construction employment increased in 25 states during August. The largest gains were reported in Texas (3,200), Ohio, North Carolina (2,700 each), New York (2,600) and Georgia (2,400). The largest percentage gains during the month were in Iowa, Utah, Georgia, Nebraska, Hawaii and Ohio.

In the past 12 months, 36 states and the District of Columbia added construction jobs. The greatest percentage gains over the past year were in Arkansas (13.6 percent), Idaho (10.0 percent), South Carolina (9.1 percent), Iowa (8.9 percent) and Kansas (8.1 percent). Nationally, over this period, construction employment increased by 219,000 positions, a 3.6 percent increase.

### *Professional and business services*

Professional and business services employment increased in 25 states and the District of Columbia during August. The largest increases were posted in Ohio (5,700), Minnesota, New Jersey (4,600 each), Texas (4,000) and Florida (3,900). The largest percentage gains were in Nevada, Vermont, Minnesota, New Mexico and Washington.

In the past year, 44 states and the District of Columbia added jobs in professional and business services. The largest percentage gains were in California (5.5 percent), Arkansas (5.3 percent), Washington, Rhode Island (5.2 percent each), Oregon and South Carolina (5.0 percent). The U.S. economy overall has added 641,000 professional and business services jobs during this time, a 3.3 percent increase.

Unemployment Rate (August 2015)	
Nebraska	2.8%
North Dakota	2.9%
Hawaii	3.5%
Vermont	3.6%
New Hampshire	3.6%
Utah	3.7%
Iowa	3.7%
South Dakota	3.7%
Minnesota	4.0%
Wyoming	4.0%
Montana	4.1%
Texas	4.1%
Idaho	4.2%
Colorado	4.2%
Wisconsin	4.5%
Maine	4.5%
Virginia	4.5%
Oklahoma	4.6%
Kansas	4.6%
Indiana	4.6%
Massachusetts	4.7%
Ohio	4.7%
Delaware	4.9%
Maryland	5.1%
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>5.1%</b>
Michigan	5.1%
Kentucky	5.2%
New York	5.2%
Washington	5.3%
Florida	5.3%
Connecticut	5.3%
Pennsylvania	5.4%
Arkansas	5.4%
Missouri	5.6%
Rhode Island	5.6%
Illinois	5.6%
Tennessee	5.7%
New Jersey	5.7%
North Carolina	5.9%
Georgia	5.9%
Louisiana	6.0%
South Carolina	6.0%
Oregon	6.1%
California	6.1%
Alabama	6.2%
Arizona	6.3%
Mississippi	6.3%
Alaska	6.6%
New Mexico	6.7%
Nevada	6.8%
District of Columbia	6.8%
West Virginia	7.6%

Job Growth in America: Change in Private-Sector Jobs				
**Data through August 2015**	Since Before Recession (December 2007)		Under President Obama (January 2009)	
	Percentage	Net Jobs	Percentage	Net Jobs
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>4,319,000</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>8,895,000</b>
Alabama	-3.9%	-63,300	1.7%	26,900
Alaska	7.3%	17,300	6.8%	16,100
Arizona	-1.4%	-32,400	6.3%	130,700
Arkansas	0.6%	5,900	3.4%	32,500
California	6.3%	819,700	11.8%	1,451,100
Colorado	6.7%	133,000	9.8%	188,000
Connecticut	0.3%	4,600	3.2%	45,900
Delaware	0.2%	600	4.5%	16,400
District of Columbia	13.4%	62,700	12.9%	60,300
Florida	3.5%	237,700	11.8%	744,300
Georgia	3.1%	108,400	8.9%	292,500
Hawaii	1.6%	7,900	7.5%	35,700
Idaho	2.6%	14,000	9.4%	47,600
Illinois	-0.9%	-44,300	3.0%	146,100
Indiana	2.2%	55,300	8.1%	195,800
Iowa	3.5%	44,300	5.6%	69,700
Kansas	1.4%	15,800	2.4%	26,900
Kentucky	1.3%	20,700	6.0%	88,600
Louisiana	6.0%	94,300	6.7%	104,700
Maine	-0.8%	-4,000	2.3%	11,400
Maryland	1.5%	32,400	4.8%	98,100
Massachusetts	5.7%	164,700	8.3%	233,800
Michigan	2.6%	94,500	11.8%	390,300
Minnesota	3.8%	90,200	6.7%	153,000
Mississippi	-3.5%	-31,700	1.3%	11,300
Missouri	-1.4%	-33,900	1.4%	32,400
Montana	3.1%	11,100	7.0%	24,200
Nebraska	3.1%	25,100	4.3%	34,100
Nevada	-2.2%	-24,800	6.9%	71,300
New Hampshire	1.7%	9,500	4.2%	23,000
New Jersey	-1.4%	-49,300	2.4%	79,300
New Mexico	-2.7%	-17,600	0.7%	4,700
New York	7.5%	544,300	9.3%	664,100
North Carolina	2.5%	87,500	8.4%	275,000
North Dakota	32.6%	93,200	31.0%	89,900
Ohio	0.2%	11,100	5.1%	226,400
Oklahoma	3.1%	38,900	4.2%	52,300
Oregon	2.6%	36,900	9.2%	125,200
Pennsylvania	1.6%	81,500	4.0%	195,400
Rhode Island	0.3%	1,100	4.8%	19,600
South Carolina	3.0%	48,500	9.4%	141,100
South Dakota	6.0%	20,000	6.2%	20,500
Tennessee	3.0%	71,700	8.6%	194,200
Texas	13.5%	1,181,100	14.2%	1,235,000
Utah	9.1%	96,600	14.8%	148,300
Vermont	1.4%	3,500	4.5%	11,000
Virginia	0.5%	15,800	3.3%	99,900
Washington	6.6%	161,500	9.8%	234,800
West Virginia	-2.5%	-15,700	-1.6%	-9,900
Wisconsin	0.8%	20,800	4.0%	95,700
Wyoming	-2.3%	-5,300	-2.0%	-4,400

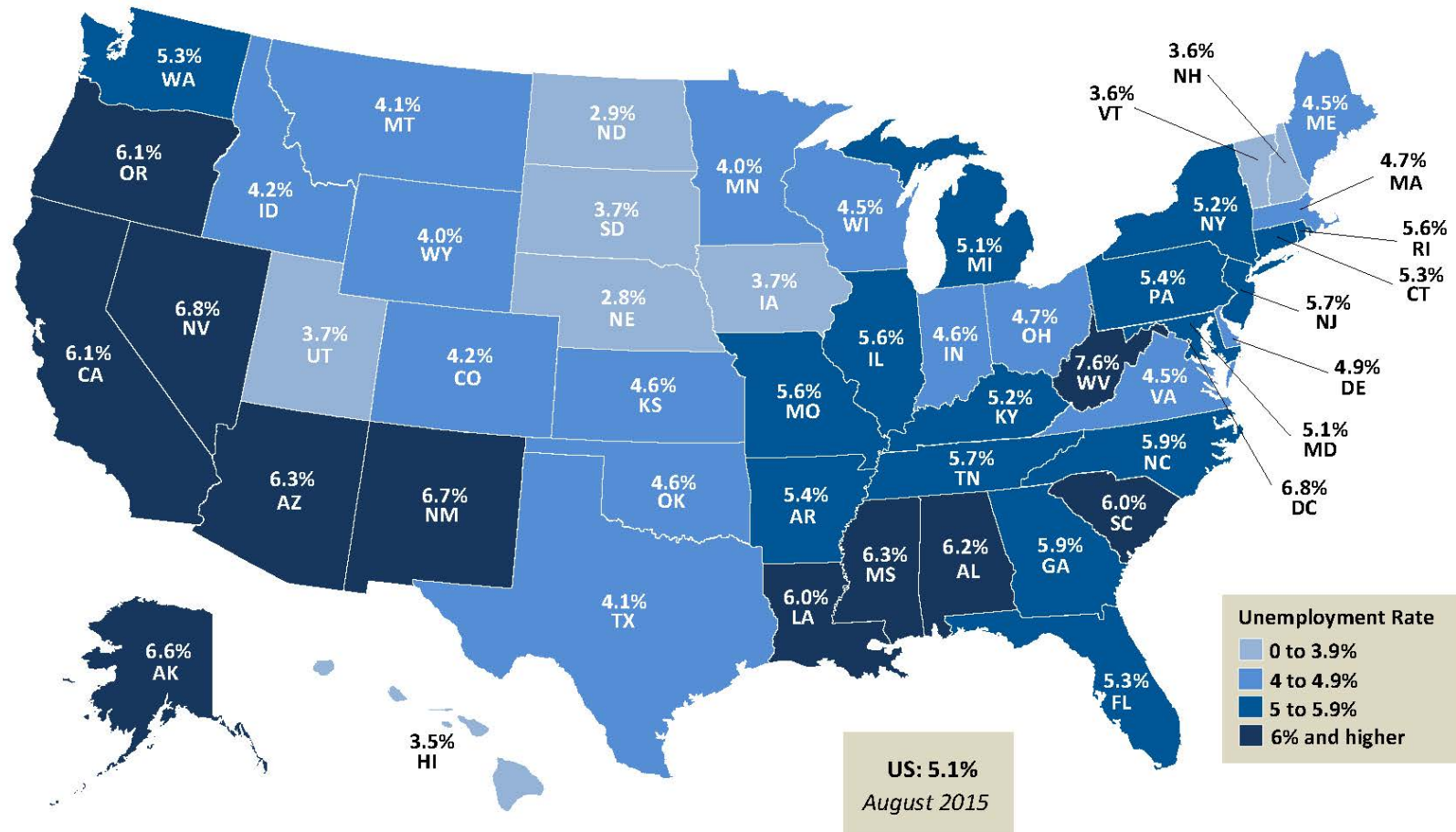
Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage by State							
	Median Household Income (2014 dollars)		Poverty Rate		Percentage Without Health Insurance		Change in Number Without Coverage
	2007	2014	2007	2014	2013	2014	2013 to 2014
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>\$57,400</b>	<b>\$53,700</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>14.8%</b>	<b>14.5%</b>	<b>11.7%</b>	<b>-8,510,000</b>
Alabama	\$48,200	\$42,300	14.5%	17.8%	13.6%	12.1%	-66,000
Alaska	\$71,900	\$67,600	7.6%	11.9%	18.5%	17.2%	-10,000
Arizona	\$53,900	\$49,300	14.3%	21.2%	17.1%	13.6%	-215,000
Arkansas	\$46,600	\$44,900	13.8%	18.4%	16.0%	11.8%	-122,000
California	\$63,600	\$60,500	12.7%	15.8%	17.2%	12.4%	-1,733,000
Colorado	\$69,800	\$60,900	9.8%	12.3%	14.1%	10.3%	-187,000
Connecticut	\$73,200	\$70,200	8.9%	8.6%	9.4%	6.9%	-87,000
Delaware	\$62,300	\$57,500	9.3%	11.0%	9.1%	7.8%	-12,000
District of Columbia	\$58,000	\$68,300	18.0%	19.0%	6.7%	5.3%	-8,000
Florida	\$52,300	\$46,100	12.5%	16.7%	20.0%	16.6%	-608,000
Georgia	\$55,500	\$49,600	13.6%	16.8%	18.8%	15.8%	-278,000
Hawaii	\$73,100	\$71,200	7.5%	10.8%	6.7%	5.3%	-19,000
Idaho	\$56,200	\$53,400	9.9%	12.4%	16.2%	13.6%	-39,000
Illinois	\$60,000	\$54,900	10.0%	13.7%	12.7%	9.7%	-380,000
Indiana	\$54,200	\$48,100	11.8%	14.6%	14.0%	11.9%	-127,000
Iowa	\$55,800	\$57,800	8.9%	10.3%	8.1%	6.2%	-59,000
Kansas	\$55,400	\$53,400	11.7%	12.1%	12.3%	10.2%	-57,000
Kentucky	\$45,000	\$42,800	15.5%	20.0%	14.3%	8.5%	-250,000
Louisiana	\$47,200	\$42,400	16.1%	23.1%	16.6%	14.8%	-80,000
Maine	\$54,700	\$51,700	10.9%	14.6%	11.2%	10.1%	-13,000
Maryland	\$74,900	\$76,200	8.8%	9.9%	10.2%	7.9%	-130,000
Massachusetts	\$66,800	\$63,200	11.2%	13.6%	3.7%	3.3%	-28,000
Michigan	\$56,400	\$52,000	10.8%	14.8%	11.0%	8.5%	-235,000
Minnesota	\$66,300	\$67,200	9.3%	8.3%	8.2%	5.9%	-123,000
Mississippi	\$42,600	\$35,500	22.6%	22.1%	17.1%	14.5%	-76,000
Missouri	\$52,500	\$56,600	12.8%	10.4%	13.0%	11.7%	-79,000
Montana	\$49,800	\$51,100	13.0%	12.0%	16.5%	14.2%	-21,000
Nebraska	\$56,100	\$56,900	9.9%	11.8%	11.3%	9.7%	-29,000
Nevada	\$61,700	\$49,900	9.7%	17.0%	20.7%	15.2%	-143,000
New Hampshire	\$77,200	\$73,400	5.8%	7.2%	10.7%	9.2%	-20,000
New Jersey	\$69,100	\$65,200	8.7%	11.3%	13.2%	10.9%	-195,000
New Mexico	\$50,600	\$46,700	14.0%	20.0%	18.6%	14.5%	-85,000
New York	\$55,900	\$54,300	14.5%	14.0%	10.7%	8.7%	-373,000
North Carolina	\$49,700	\$46,800	15.5%	17.1%	15.6%	13.1%	-233,000
North Dakota	\$53,900	\$60,700	9.3%	9.7%	10.4%	7.9%	-16,000
Ohio	\$56,100	\$49,600	12.8%	15.6%	11.0%	8.4%	-302,000
Oklahoma	\$49,300	\$47,200	13.4%	17.3%	17.7%	15.4%	-82,000
Oregon	\$57,400	\$58,900	12.8%	14.4%	14.7%	9.7%	-188,000
Pennsylvania	\$55,300	\$55,200	10.4%	12.5%	9.7%	8.5%	-158,000
Rhode Island	\$61,900	\$58,600	9.5%	11.3%	11.6%	7.4%	-43,000
South Carolina	\$50,500	\$44,900	14.1%	16.5%	15.8%	13.6%	-97,000
South Dakota	\$53,000	\$53,100	9.4%	12.8%	11.3%	9.8%	-11,000
Tennessee	\$47,000	\$43,700	14.8%	17.3%	13.9%	12.0%	-110,000
Texas	\$52,600	\$53,900	16.5%	16.4%	22.1%	19.1%	-701,000
Utah	\$61,100	\$63,400	9.6%	10.2%	14.0%	12.5%	-37,000
Vermont	\$54,100	\$60,700	9.9%	9.3%	7.2%	5.0%	-14,000
Virginia	\$67,600	\$66,200	8.6%	10.2%	12.3%	10.9%	-107,000
Washington	\$66,300	\$59,100	10.2%	12.0%	14.0%	9.2%	-317,000
West Virginia	\$48,100	\$39,600	14.8%	20.6%	14.0%	8.6%	-99,000
Wisconsin	\$58,500	\$58,100	11.0%	10.9%	9.1%	7.3%	-100,000
Wyoming	\$55,700	\$55,700	10.9%	9.7%	13.4%	12.0%	-8,000

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) (for income and poverty data) and American Community Survey (ACS) (for health insurance data).

Note: The CPS ASEC figures for the percentage of people without health insurance in the United States are 13.3 percent in 2013 and 10.4 percent in 2014, for a decline in the number without coverage of 8.8 million. CPS ASEC estimates are not available at the state level.

# Current Unemployment Rates Across States

August 2015 (Released September 18th)



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

