



April 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. 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 jobs and unemployment data through March 2015. [Individual state reports can be accessed here.](#)

Highlights

- Private-sector employment increased in 18 states in March.
- The unemployment rate fell in 23 states and the District of Columbia.
- Average weekly earnings, adjusted for inflation, have increased in 41 states and the District of Columbia over the past year.

Private-Sector Job Gains

Private-sector employment increased in 18 states in March. California (38,900), Florida (29,400), Massachusetts (10,700), Washington (10,000) and New York (8,600) had the largest private-sector gains. On a percentage basis, New Hampshire, Florida, Delaware, Maine and South Dakota saw the largest gains.

Over the past 12 months, 49 states and the District of Columbia gained private-sector jobs, with California (450,600), Texas (311,400), Florida (276,600), New York (146,400) and Georgia (119,300) recording the largest gains. The largest percentage gains in private-sector employment during this period were in Utah (4.6 percent), Florida (4.2 percent), Washington (3.6 percent), Georgia, Oregon and North Carolina (3.5 percent each). In the past year, nearly 3.1 million private-sector jobs were added nationally, a 2.6 percent increase.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate declined in 23 states and the District of Columbia. There was no change in 15 states. Oregon and Washington (-0.4 percentage point) had the largest declines, followed by Arizona and Michigan (-0.3 percentage point). Only four states (West Virginia, Alaska, North Dakota and South Dakota) had increases that were statistically significant.

Over the past 12 months, 46 states and the District of Columbia reported declines in the unemployment rate, with Kentucky (-2.1 percentage points), Michigan (-2.0 percentage points) and Rhode Island (-1.9 percentage points) recording the largest declines.

Nebraska had the lowest unemployment rate (2.6 percent), followed by North Dakota (3.1 percent), Utah (3.4 percent), South Dakota (3.5 percent) and Minnesota (3.7 percent). The District of Columbia (7.7 percent), Nevada (7.1 percent), Mississippi (6.8 percent), South Carolina (6.7 percent), Louisiana and West Virginia (6.6 percent each) had the highest unemployment rates in March. The national unemployment rate was 5.5 percent in March, down from 6.6 percent a year prior.

Earnings

Average weekly earnings, adjusted for inflation, increased in 41 states and the District of Columbia over the past year. The strongest gains were in the West and mid-Atlantic regions, with Nevada (5.3 percent), Delaware (4.9 percent), Washington (4.4 percent), Virginia (4.3 percent) and Idaho (4.0 percent) posting the largest earnings gains. Earnings declined in nine states, with Arkansas experiencing the largest drop (down 3.3 percent). Nationally, real average weekly earnings increased by 2.3 percent (not seasonally adjusted) in the past year.

The District of Columbia (\$1,480) had the highest average weekly earnings in March, followed by Washington (\$1,028), Massachusetts (\$1,015), California (\$980) and New York (\$978).

Key Employment Sectors

Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment expanded in 18 states. California (4,300), New Jersey (2,800), Florida (1,700), Minnesota (1,600), New York and Virginia (1,500 each) had the largest increases. On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in New Jersey, West Virginia, Hawaii, Virginia and Massachusetts.

Over the past 12 months, 35 states added manufacturing positions. On a percentage basis, the biggest percentage gains were in Oregon (3.9 percent), Colorado and South Dakota (3.3 percent), Michigan (3.1 percent) and Rhode Island (3.0 percent). Overall, 188,000 manufacturing positions have been added across the country in the last 12 months, a 1.6 percent increase.

Construction

Construction employment increased in 19 states. California (7,300), Florida (6,500), Illinois (3,600), Washington (2,800) and Pennsylvania (2,700) saw the largest gains. The largest percentage gains during the month were in Mississippi, Nevada, Delaware, Illinois and Washington.

In the past 12 months, 41 states added construction jobs. The greatest percentage gains over the past year were in Idaho (14.8 percent), North Dakota and Washington (12.1 percent each), Michigan and Colorado (10.4 percent each). During this time, construction employment increased by 282,000 positions nationally, a 4.7 percent increase.

Professional and business services

Professional and business services employment increased in 21 states and the District of Columbia. The largest increases were posted in California (16,900), Washington (4,700), Florida (4,000), Kentucky (3,100) and North Carolina (2,700). The largest percentage gains were in Delaware, Kentucky, Washington, New Hampshire and Idaho.

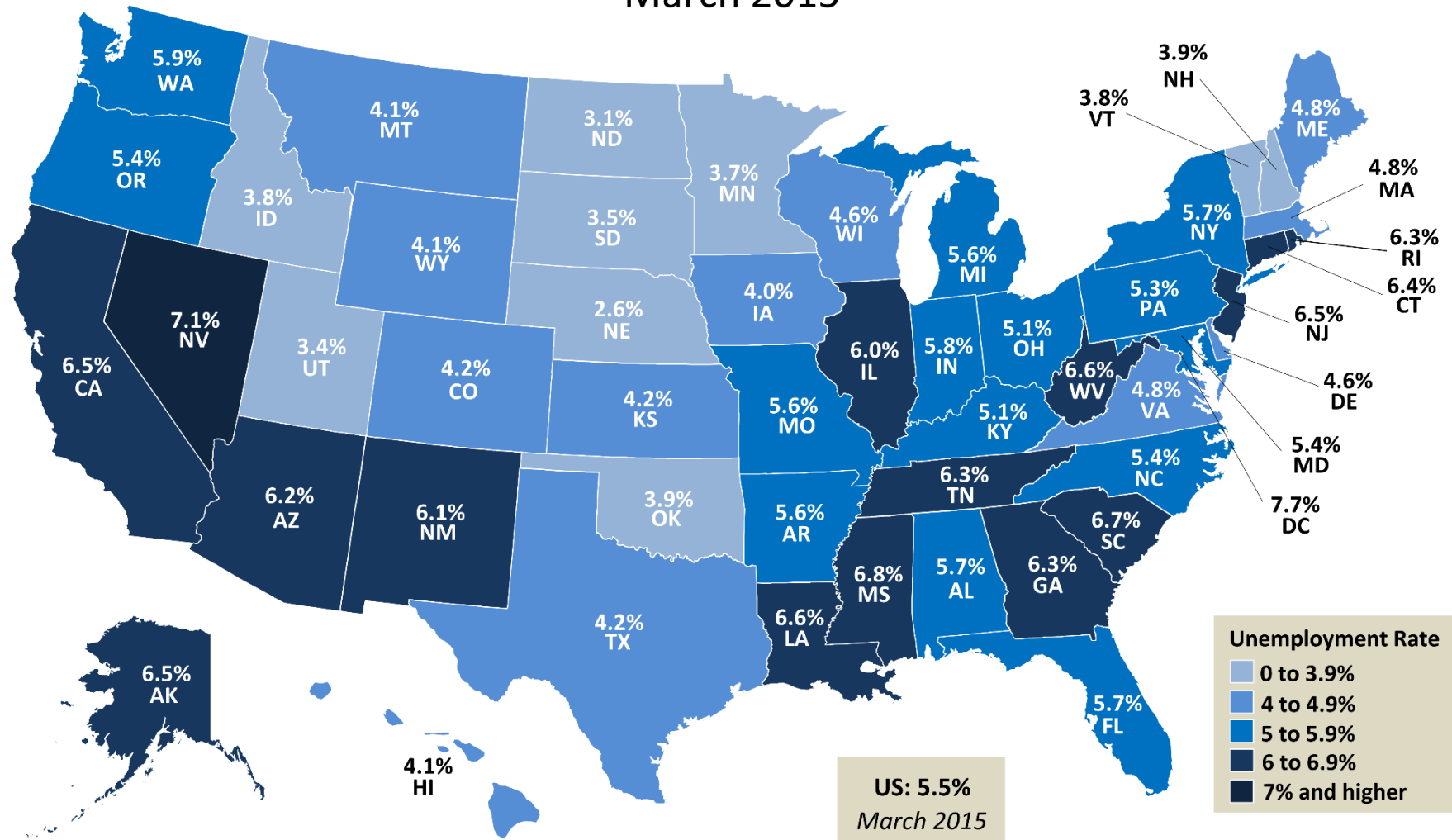
In the past year, 45 states and the District of Columbia have added professional and business services jobs, with the largest percentage gains in North Carolina (5.9 percent), Kentucky (5.4 percent), Oregon and Delaware (5.3 percent each) and California (5.2 percent). The economy has added 662,000 professional and business services jobs nationally during this time, a 3.5 percent increase.

Unemployment Rate (March 2015)	
Nebraska	2.6%
North Dakota	3.1%
Utah	3.4%
South Dakota	3.5%
Minnesota	3.7%
Vermont	3.8%
Idaho	3.8%
Oklahoma	3.9%
New Hampshire	3.9%
Iowa	4.0%
Wyoming	4.1%
Hawaii	4.1%
Montana	4.1%
Colorado	4.2%
Kansas	4.2%
Texas	4.2%
Wisconsin	4.6%
Delaware	4.6%
Virginia	4.8%
Massachusetts	4.8%
Maine	4.8%
Ohio	5.1%
Kentucky	5.1%
Pennsylvania	5.3%
North Carolina	5.4%
Maryland	5.4%
Oregon	5.4%
UNITED STATES	5.5%
Missouri	5.6%
Arkansas	5.6%
Michigan	5.6%
Florida	5.7%
New York	5.7%
Alabama	5.7%
Indiana	5.8%
Washington	5.9%
Illinois	6.0%
New Mexico	6.1%
Arizona	6.2%
Georgia	6.3%
Rhode Island	6.3%
Tennessee	6.3%
Connecticut	6.4%
Alaska	6.5%
New Jersey	6.5%
California	6.5%
West Virginia	6.6%
Louisiana	6.6%
South Carolina	6.7%
Mississippi	6.8%
Nevada	7.1%
District of Columbia	7.7%

Job Growth in America: Change in Private-Sector Jobs				
Data through March 2015	Since Before Recession (December 2007)		Under President Obama (January 2009)	
	Percentage	Net Jobs	Percentage	Net Jobs
UNITED STATES	2.9%	3,311,000	7.1%	7,887,000
Alabama	-4.5%	-74,100	1.0%	16,100
Alaska	8.1%	19,200	7.6%	18,000
Arizona	-2.0%	-44,500	5.7%	118,600
Arkansas	-0.5%	-5,400	2.2%	21,200
California	5.0%	645,500	10.4%	1,276,900
Colorado	6.1%	121,200	9.2%	176,200
Connecticut	-0.4%	-6,000	2.5%	35,300
Delaware	0.3%	1,200	4.7%	17,000
District of Columbia	12.3%	57,400	11.7%	55,000
Florida	2.0%	138,200	10.2%	644,800
Georgia	2.3%	81,500	8.1%	265,600
Hawaii	0.4%	2,200	6.3%	30,000
Idaho	2.5%	13,500	9.3%	47,100
Illinois	-1.0%	-49,200	2.9%	141,200
Indiana	1.1%	28,000	7.0%	168,500
Iowa	2.8%	35,700	4.9%	61,100
Kansas	1.8%	20,300	2.8%	31,400
Kentucky	0.8%	12,200	5.4%	80,100
Louisiana	5.4%	84,400	6.1%	94,800
Maine	-1.8%	-9,500	1.2%	5,900
Maryland	0.1%	2,800	3.3%	68,500
Massachusetts	4.2%	120,300	6.7%	189,400
Michigan	1.5%	55,600	10.6%	351,400
Minnesota	2.9%	68,500	5.7%	131,300
Mississippi	-4.0%	-36,300	0.8%	6,700
Missouri	-1.5%	-36,400	1.3%	29,900
Montana	2.4%	8,600	6.3%	21,700
Nebraska	3.4%	27,400	4.6%	36,400
Nevada	-4.4%	-50,100	4.4%	46,000
New Hampshire	1.3%	7,400	3.8%	20,900
New Jersey	-1.9%	-63,600	2.0%	65,000
New Mexico	-2.5%	-16,500	0.9%	5,800
New York	6.7%	487,700	8.5%	607,500
North Carolina	1.5%	50,200	7.3%	237,700
North Dakota	35.1%	100,500	33.6%	97,200
Ohio	0.1%	4,000	5.0%	219,300
Oklahoma	3.0%	38,000	4.1%	51,400
Oregon	1.2%	17,100	7.8%	105,400
Pennsylvania	1.1%	53,500	3.4%	167,400
Rhode Island	-0.9%	-3,800	3.6%	14,700
South Carolina	1.7%	27,300	8.0%	119,900
South Dakota	5.6%	18,700	5.8%	19,200
Tennessee	1.6%	37,700	7.1%	160,200
Texas	13.0%	1,140,200	13.7%	1,194,100
Utah	7.7%	81,800	13.3%	133,500
Vermont	1.1%	2,700	4.1%	10,200
Virginia	-0.3%	-8,600	2.5%	75,500
Washington	5.4%	131,800	8.6%	205,100
West Virginia	-2.0%	-12,600	-1.1%	-6,800
Wisconsin	0.4%	10,600	3.6%	85,500
Wyoming	-1.1%	-2,400	-0.7%	-1,500

Current Unemployment Rates Across States

March 2015



Source: JEC Democratic staff calculations using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics