



January 6, 2016

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 November 2015. [Individual state reports can be accessed here.](#)

Highlights

- Private-sector employment increased in 35 states and the District of Columbia in November.
- The unemployment rate fell in 27 states.
- Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, have increased in 44 states over the past year.
- Home prices increased in 49 states and the District of Columbia over the year ending in the third quarter of 2015.

Private-Sector Job Gains

Private-sector employment increased in 35 states and the District of Columbia in November. The largest private-sector gains were seen in Florida (35,600), Virginia (14,400), New York (13,100), Texas (12,700) and Arizona (11,900). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in Vermont, Idaho, Delaware, Iowa and South Dakota.

Over the past 12 months, 45 states and the District of Columbia gained private-sector jobs, with California (378,400), Florida (244,900), New York (175,200), Texas (153,500) and North Carolina (88,500) recording the largest increases. The largest percentage gains in private-sector employment during this period were in Idaho (5.1 percent), Utah (3.9 percent), Florida (3.6 percent), Washington (3.1 percent), South Dakota and South Carolina (3.0 percent each). Nationally, in the past year, 2.5 million private-sector jobs were added, a 2.2 percent increase.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate declined in 27 states in November. The largest declines were in West Virginia (-0.4 percentage point), Missouri and Oregon (-0.3 percentage point each). There was no change in 12 states and the District of Columbia.

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 (-1.7 percentage points), California, Indiana (-1.5 percentage points each), Maine and Michigan (-1.4 percentage points each).

North Dakota had the lowest unemployment rate (2.7 percent) in November, followed by Nebraska (2.9 percent), South Dakota (3.0 percent), Hawaii and New Hampshire (3.2 percent each). New Mexico (6.8 percent) had the highest unemployment rate, followed by the District of Columbia (6.6 percent), West Virginia, Nevada (6.5 percent each) and Alaska (6.4 percent). The national unemployment rate was 5.0 percent in November, down from 5.8 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 Delaware (7.1 percent), Iowa (5.9 percent), Nebraska (5.5 percent), Montana and Washington (4.2 percent each). Real earnings declined in six states and the District of Columbia. Nationally, real average hourly earnings increased by 1.9 percent (not seasonally adjusted) in the past year. The District of Columbia (\$37.38) had the highest average hourly earnings in November, followed by Massachusetts (\$31.24), Washington (\$30.48), Connecticut (\$29.82) and New York (\$29.21).

Home Prices

Home prices increased the most in the District of Columbia (15.4 percent), Colorado (12.7 percent), Nevada (12.4 percent), Oregon (10.1 percent) and Florida (10.0 percent) over the year between the third quarter of 2014 and the third quarter of 2015, according to the Federal Housing Finance Agency's purchase-only, seasonally adjusted Housing Price Index. Home values appreciated in 49 states and the District of Columbia. Prices edged down 0.1 percent in West Virginia. Nationally, home prices rose by 5.7 percent during this period.

Key Employment Sectors

Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment expanded in 24 states during November. The largest increases were in Florida (4,200), Michigan (2,400), Tennessee (1,600), Georgia (1,400), Idaho and Maryland (1,200 each). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in Idaho, Florida, Maryland, Alaska and Colorado.

Over the past 12 months, 25 states added manufacturing positions. On a percentage basis, the biggest gains were in Idaho (8.8 percent), Utah (4.4 percent), Michigan (3.4 percent), Kentucky (3.3 percent), Florida and South Dakota (2.3 percent each). Across the country, 36,000 manufacturing positions have been added in the last 12 months, a 0.3 percent increase.

Construction

Construction employment increased in 38 states during November. The largest gains were reported in Florida (10,600), New York (9,100), Texas (9,000), Massachusetts (4,800) and Ohio (3,900). The largest percentage gains during the month were in South Dakota, Iowa, Massachusetts, Vermont and Minnesota.

In the past 12 months, 44 states and the District of Columbia added construction jobs. The greatest percentage gains over the past year were in Hawaii (12.5 percent), Nevada, South Dakota (12.3 percent), Arkansas (12.0 percent) and Idaho (11.4 percent). Nationally, over this period, construction employment increased by 259,000 positions, a 4.2 percent increase.

Professional and business services

Professional and business services employment increased in 28 states during November. The largest increases were posted in Florida (6,400), Texas (5,500), North Carolina (4,000), Washington (3,600) and New York (2,900). The largest percentage gains were in Delaware, South Dakota, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Maine.

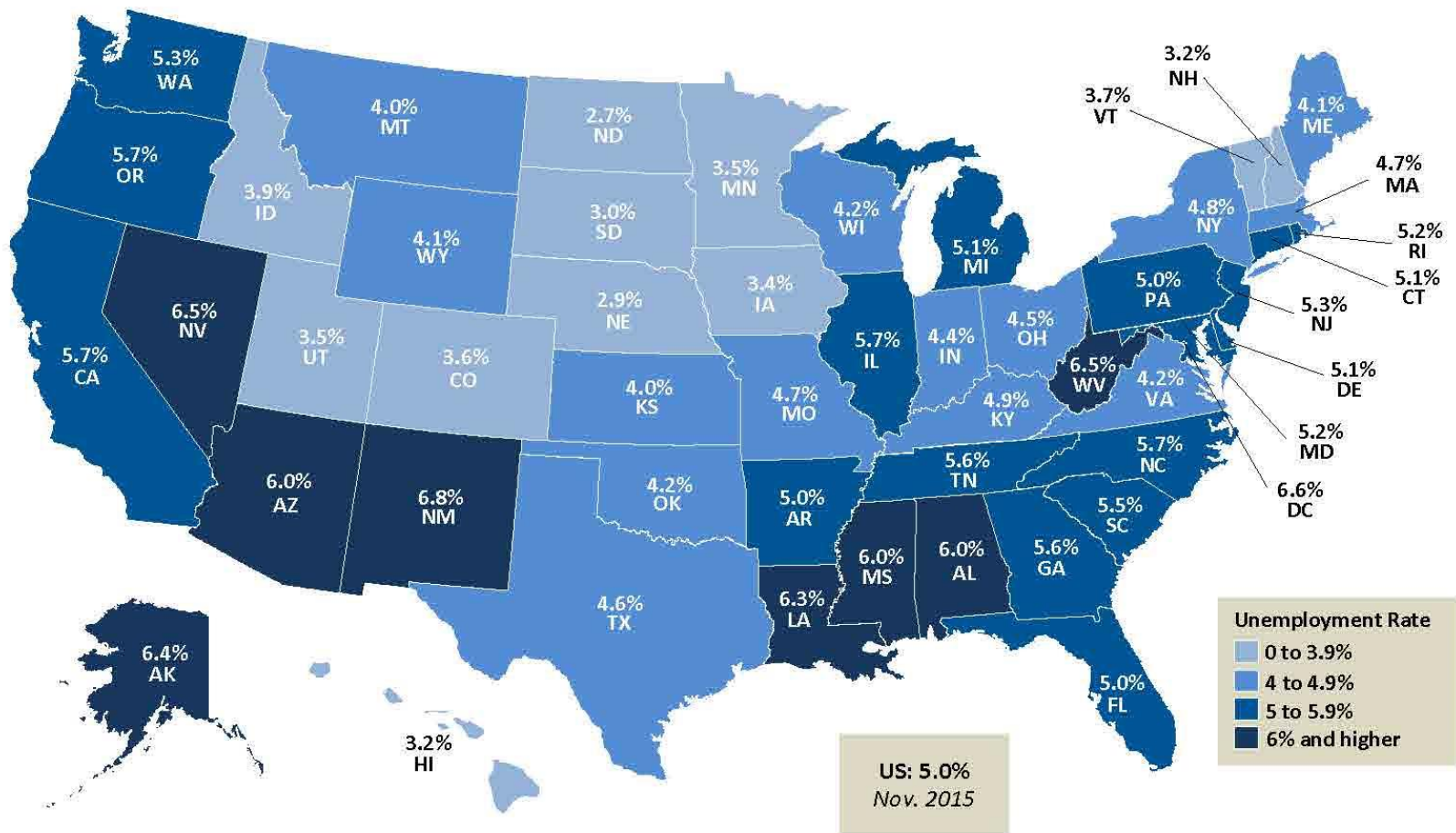
In the past year, 41 states and the District of Columbia added jobs in professional and business services. The largest percentage gains were in South Dakota (8.4 percent), South Carolina (5.9 percent), Rhode Island (5.8 percent), California and Washington (4.7 percent each). The U.S. economy overall has added 606,000 professional and business services jobs during this time, a 3.1 percent increase.

| Unemployment Rate (November 2015) | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| North Dakota | 2.7% |
| Nebraska | 2.9% |
| South Dakota | 3.0% |
| Hawaii | 3.2% |
| New Hampshire | 3.2% |
| Iowa | 3.4% |
| Utah | 3.5% |
| Minnesota | 3.5% |
| Colorado | 3.6% |
| Vermont | 3.7% |
| Idaho | 3.9% |
| Montana | 4.0% |
| Kansas | 4.0% |
| Wyoming | 4.1% |
| Maine | 4.1% |
| Virginia | 4.2% |
| Wisconsin | 4.2% |
| Oklahoma | 4.2% |
| Indiana | 4.4% |
| Ohio | 4.5% |
| Texas | 4.6% |
| Massachusetts | 4.7% |
| Missouri | 4.7% |
| New York | 4.8% |
| Kentucky | 4.9% |
| UNITED STATES | 5.0% |
| Florida | 5.0% |
| Arkansas | 5.0% |
| Pennsylvania | 5.0% |
| Michigan | 5.1% |
| Delaware | 5.1% |
| Connecticut | 5.1% |
| Maryland | 5.2% |
| Rhode Island | 5.2% |
| Washington | 5.3% |
| New Jersey | 5.3% |
| South Carolina | 5.5% |
| Tennessee | 5.6% |
| Georgia | 5.6% |
| Illinois | 5.7% |
| North Carolina | 5.7% |
| California | 5.7% |
| Oregon | 5.7% |
| Alabama | 6.0% |
| Mississippi | 6.0% |
| Arizona | 6.0% |
| Louisiana | 6.3% |
| Alaska | 6.4% |
| Nevada | 6.5% |
| West Virginia | 6.5% |
| District of Columbia | 6.6% |
| New Mexico | 6.8% |
| Puerto Rico | 12.5% |

| Job Growth in America: Change in Private-Sector Jobs | | | | |
|--|---|------------------|---|------------------|
| | Since Before Recession (December 2007) | | Under President Obama (January 2009) | |
| | Percentage | Net Jobs | Percentage | Net Jobs |
| UNITED STATES | 4.3% | 4,941,000 | 8.5% | 9,517,000 |
| Alabama | -3.1% | -51,300 | 2.5% | 38,900 |
| Alaska | 9.3% | 22,000 | 8.8% | 20,800 |
| Arizona | 0.0% | -200 | 7.8% | 162,900 |
| Arkansas | 0.6% | 5,800 | 3.3% | 32,400 |
| California | 6.8% | 877,000 | 12.3% | 1,508,400 |
| Colorado | 7.3% | 143,300 | 10.3% | 198,300 |
| Connecticut | 0.6% | 8,200 | 3.5% | 49,500 |
| Delaware | 1.2% | 4,500 | 5.6% | 20,300 |
| District of Columbia | 14.8% | 68,800 | 14.2% | 66,400 |
| Florida | 4.5% | 308,900 | 13.0% | 815,500 |
| Georgia | 4.2% | 144,100 | 10.0% | 328,200 |
| Hawaii | 2.0% | 10,000 | 7.9% | 37,800 |
| Idaho | 5.1% | 27,400 | 12.1% | 61,000 |
| Illinois | -0.8% | -40,900 | 3.0% | 149,500 |
| Indiana | 2.8% | 71,800 | 8.8% | 212,300 |
| Iowa | 4.2% | 53,600 | 6.3% | 79,000 |
| Kansas | 2.1% | 23,500 | 3.1% | 34,600 |
| Kentucky | 2.6% | 40,800 | 7.4% | 108,700 |
| Louisiana | 5.6% | 87,500 | 6.3% | 97,900 |
| Maine | -0.7% | -3,700 | 2.3% | 11,700 |
| Maryland | 2.1% | 45,700 | 5.4% | 111,400 |
| Massachusetts | 6.0% | 173,400 | 8.6% | 242,500 |
| Michigan | 2.7% | 96,200 | 11.9% | 392,000 |
| Minnesota | 3.8% | 89,400 | 6.6% | 152,200 |
| Mississippi | -3.1% | -28,000 | 1.7% | 15,000 |
| Missouri | -1.0% | -23,800 | 1.9% | 42,500 |
| Montana | 2.7% | 9,600 | 6.6% | 22,700 |
| Nebraska | 4.0% | 32,600 | 5.2% | 41,600 |
| Nevada | -2.7% | -30,200 | 6.3% | 65,900 |
| New Hampshire | 1.8% | 10,300 | 4.4% | 23,800 |
| New Jersey | -0.5% | -17,000 | 3.4% | 111,600 |
| New Mexico | -2.0% | -12,800 | 1.5% | 9,500 |
| New York | 8.3% | 603,600 | 10.1% | 723,400 |
| North Carolina | 3.0% | 103,300 | 8.9% | 290,800 |
| North Dakota | 31.1% | 89,100 | 29.6% | 85,800 |
| Ohio | 1.1% | 51,400 | 6.0% | 266,700 |
| Oklahoma | 3.3% | 42,100 | 4.4% | 55,500 |
| Oregon | 3.2% | 46,400 | 9.9% | 134,700 |
| Pennsylvania | 1.8% | 90,300 | 4.1% | 204,200 |
| Puerto Rico | -6.2% | -44,900 | -1.8% | -12,500 |
| Rhode Island | 0.8% | 3,400 | 5.4% | 21,900 |
| South Carolina | 4.1% | 64,700 | 10.5% | 157,300 |
| South Dakota | 7.1% | 23,500 | 7.2% | 24,000 |
| Tennessee | 3.5% | 83,000 | 9.1% | 205,500 |
| Texas | 14.2% | 1,243,800 | 14.9% | 1,297,700 |
| Utah | 9.5% | 100,900 | 15.2% | 152,600 |
| Vermont | 1.9% | 4,900 | 5.0% | 12,400 |
| Virginia | 1.6% | 48,700 | 4.4% | 132,800 |
| Washington | 7.2% | 178,100 | 10.5% | 251,400 |
| West Virginia | -2.9% | -17,800 | -2.0% | -12,000 |
| Wisconsin | 1.1% | 27,300 | 4.3% | 102,200 |
| Wyoming | -3.4% | -7,600 | -3.0% | -6,700 |

Current Unemployment Rates Across States

November 2015 (Released December 18th)



Source: JEC Democratic staff based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (state data update next on January 26, 2016)

