



August 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. This month's snapshots include state-level data on jobs, unemployment and earnings through July 2015. [Individual state reports can be accessed here.](#)

Highlights

- Private-sector employment increased in 33 states and the District of Columbia in July.
- The unemployment rate fell in 24 states and the District of Columbia.
- Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, have increased in 43 states over the past year.

Private-Sector Job Gains

Private-sector employment increased in 33 states and the District of Columbia in July. The largest private-sector gains were seen in California (81,800), Texas (22,500), New York (19,300), Florida (16,900) and Arizona (12,900). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in Oklahoma, Montana, New Hampshire, California, Arizona and Maryland.

Over the past 12 months, 47 states and the District of Columbia gained private-sector jobs, with California (468,700), Florida (256,300), Texas (236,200), New York (163,500) and North Carolina (112,600) recording the largest increases. The largest percentage gains in private-sector employment during this period were in Utah (4.9 percent), Nevada (4.1 percent), Florida (3.8 percent), Washington (3.6 percent) and Oregon and California (3.5 percent each). Nationally, in the past year, nearly 2.9 million private-sector jobs were added, a 2.4 percent increase.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate declined in 24 states and the District of Columbia in July. The largest declines were in Connecticut and Hawaii (-0.3 percentage point each) and Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, South Carolina and the District of Columbia (-0.2 percentage point each). There was no change in 12 states.

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 and Georgia (-1.2 percentage points each) and Delaware, Indiana, Maine and Oregon (-1.1 percentage points each).

Nebraska had the lowest unemployment rate (2.7 percent) in July, followed by North Dakota (3.0 percent), Utah and Vermont (3.6 percent each) and New Hampshire and Hawaii (3.7 percent each). West Virginia (7.5 percent) had the highest unemployment rate, followed by Nevada and the District of Columbia (6.8 percent each), Alaska (6.7 percent) and Mississippi and New Mexico (6.5 percent each). The national unemployment rate was 5.3 percent in June, down from 6.2 percent a year prior.

Earnings

Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, increased in 43 states over the past year. The largest earnings gains were posted in Nevada (5.2 percent), South Dakota (4.3 percent), Vermont and Alaska (4.2 percent each) and Delaware (3.8 percent). Earnings declined in 7 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 (\$37.93) had the highest average hourly earnings in July, followed by Massachusetts (\$29.85), Washington (\$29.05), Connecticut (\$28.71) and New York (\$28.43).

Key Employment Sectors

Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment expanded in 26 states during July. The largest increases were in California (4,700), New York (4,600), Florida (2,000), Michigan (1,800) and Wisconsin (1,700). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in Alaska, Wyoming, Maine, New York and Idaho.

Over the past 12 months, 33 states added manufacturing positions. On a percentage basis, the biggest gains were in South Dakota (5.0 percent), Utah (4.9 percent), Oregon (4.5 percent), Michigan (3.8 percent) and Wyoming (3.1 percent). Across the country, 159,000 manufacturing positions have been added in the last 12 months, a 1.3 percent increase.

Construction

Construction employment increased in 28 states and the District of Columbia during July. The largest gains were reported in Florida (4,800), California and Oklahoma (3,000 each), Arizona (2,400) and Oregon (2,300). The largest percentage gains during the month were in New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Oregon and Delaware.

In the past 12 months, 37 states and the District of Columbia added construction jobs. The greatest percentage gains over the past year were in Arkansas (14.9 percent), Idaho (13.7 percent), Nevada (10.7 percent), Washington (9.6 percent) and Michigan (8.7 percent). Nationally, over this period, construction employment increased by 231,000 positions, a 3.8 percent increase.

Professional and business services

Professional and business services employment increased in 27 states and the District of Columbia during July. The largest increases were posted in California (22,300), Maryland and Michigan (7,900 each), Indiana (6,100) and Florida (4,000). The largest percentage gains were in Rhode Island, Indiana, Maryland, New Hampshire and North Dakota.

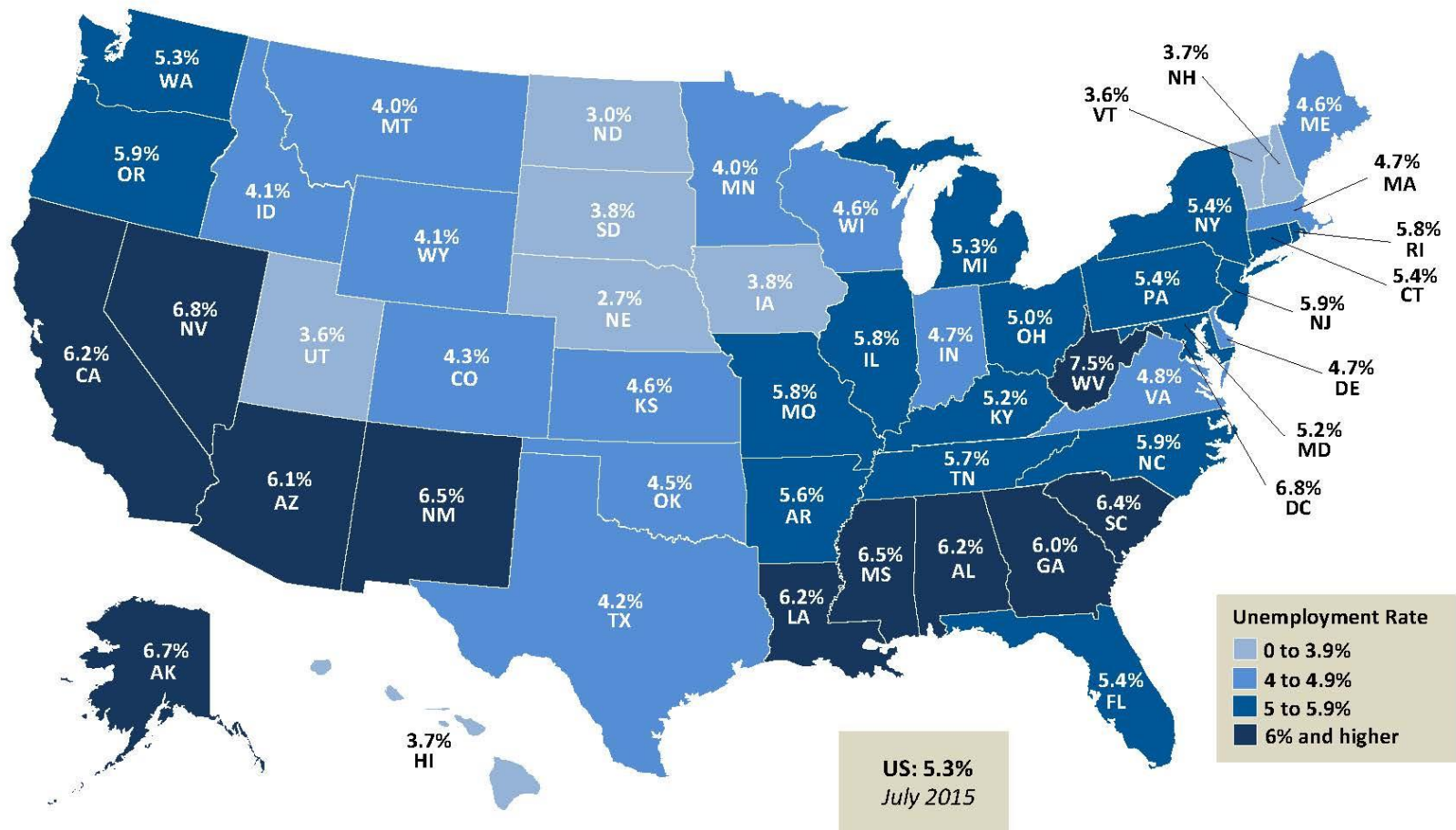
In the past year, 43 states and the District of Columbia added jobs in professional and business services. The largest percentage gains in Rhode Island (6.9 percent), California (6.4 percent), Arkansas (6.3 percent), Utah (6.2 percent) and Oregon (5.5 percent). The U.S. economy overall has added 666,000 professional and business services jobs during this time, a 3.5 percent increase.

Unemployment Rate (July 2015)	
Nebraska	2.7%
North Dakota	3.0%
Utah	3.6%
Vermont	3.6%
New Hampshire	3.7%
Hawaii	3.7%
Iowa	3.8%
South Dakota	3.8%
Minnesota	4.0%
Montana	4.0%
Idaho	4.1%
Wyoming	4.1%
Texas	4.2%
Colorado	4.3%
Oklahoma	4.5%
Kansas	4.6%
Wisconsin	4.6%
Maine	4.6%
Massachusetts	4.7%
Delaware	4.7%
Indiana	4.7%
Virginia	4.8%
Ohio	5.0%
Kentucky	5.2%
Maryland	5.2%
Washington	5.3%
UNITED STATES	5.3%
Michigan	5.3%
Pennsylvania	5.4%
Florida	5.4%
New York	5.4%
Connecticut	5.4%
Arkansas	5.6%
Tennessee	5.7%
Missouri	5.8%
Rhode Island	5.8%
Illinois	5.8%
Oregon	5.9%
North Carolina	5.9%
New Jersey	5.9%
Georgia	6.0%
Arizona	6.1%
Alabama	6.2%
California	6.2%
Louisiana	6.2%
South Carolina	6.4%
New Mexico	6.5%
Mississippi	6.5%
Alaska	6.7%
Nevada	6.8%
District of Columbia	6.8%
West Virginia	7.5%

Job Growth in America: Change in Private-Sector Jobs				
Data through July 2015	Since Before Recession (December 2007)		Under President Obama (January 2009)	
	Percentage	Net Jobs	Percentage	Net Jobs
UNITED STATES	3.6%	4,174,000	7.9%	8,750,000
Alabama	-4.0%	-65,400	1.6%	24,800
Alaska	8.2%	19,500	7.7%	18,300
Arizona	-1.4%	-32,600	6.3%	130,500
Arkansas	0.5%	4,600	3.2%	31,200
California	6.3%	808,400	11.7%	1,439,800
Colorado	6.6%	129,800	9.6%	184,800
Connecticut	0.2%	3,000	3.1%	44,300
Delaware	0.3%	1,200	4.7%	17,000
District of Columbia	13.5%	62,800	12.9%	60,400
Florida	3.2%	214,500	11.5%	721,100
Georgia	2.9%	99,800	8.6%	283,900
Hawaii	1.0%	5,200	6.9%	33,000
Idaho	2.8%	15,000	9.6%	48,600
Illinois	-0.8%	-42,100	3.0%	148,300
Indiana	2.1%	54,900	8.1%	195,400
Iowa	3.4%	43,900	5.6%	69,300
Kansas	1.7%	18,800	2.7%	29,900
Kentucky	1.1%	17,400	5.8%	85,300
Louisiana	6.0%	93,700	6.7%	104,100
Maine	-1.1%	-5,900	1.9%	9,500
Maryland	1.7%	37,200	5.0%	102,900
Massachusetts	5.3%	152,600	7.9%	221,700
Michigan	2.6%	95,100	11.8%	390,900
Minnesota	3.3%	77,000	6.1%	139,800
Mississippi	-3.1%	-28,100	1.7%	14,900
Missouri	-1.4%	-32,700	1.5%	33,600
Montana	3.0%	10,800	6.9%	23,900
Nebraska	2.3%	18,500	3.5%	27,500
Nevada	-2.4%	-26,800	6.7%	69,300
New Hampshire	2.1%	11,800	4.7%	25,300
New Jersey	-1.9%	-66,200	1.9%	62,400
New Mexico	-2.4%	-15,800	1.0%	6,500
New York	7.8%	565,700	9.6%	685,500
North Carolina	2.4%	84,300	8.3%	271,800
North Dakota	32.3%	92,600	30.8%	89,300
Ohio	-0.1%	-3,200	4.8%	212,100
Oklahoma	3.4%	42,700	4.5%	56,100
Oregon	2.3%	33,700	9.0%	122,000
Pennsylvania	1.8%	89,700	4.1%	203,600
Rhode Island	0.4%	1,700	5.0%	20,200
South Carolina	2.7%	43,800	9.1%	136,400
South Dakota	6.5%	21,500	6.6%	22,000
Tennessee	2.8%	67,600	8.4%	190,100
Texas	13.6%	1,196,700	14.3%	1,250,600
Utah	8.8%	93,100	14.4%	144,800
Vermont	1.6%	4,100	4.7%	11,600
Virginia	0.5%	16,700	3.4%	100,800
Washington	6.4%	158,200	9.7%	231,500
West Virginia	-2.6%	-15,900	-1.7%	-10,100
Wisconsin	0.5%	12,700	3.7%	87,600
Wyoming	-2.3%	-5,200	-1.9%	-4,300

Current Unemployment Rates Across States

July 2015 (Released August 21st)



Source: JEC Democratic staff based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (state data update next on September 18, 2015)

