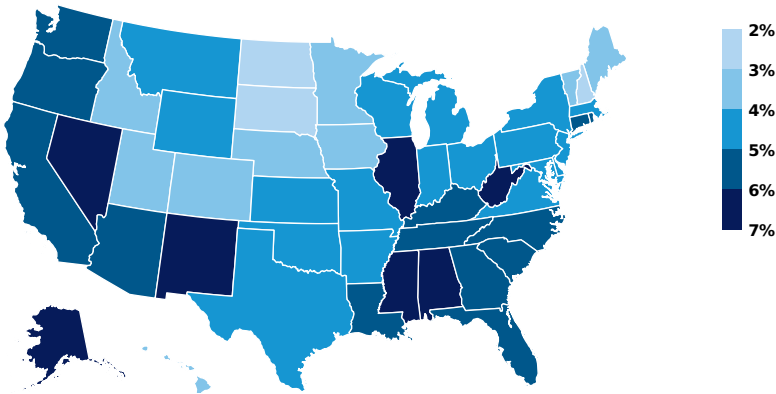
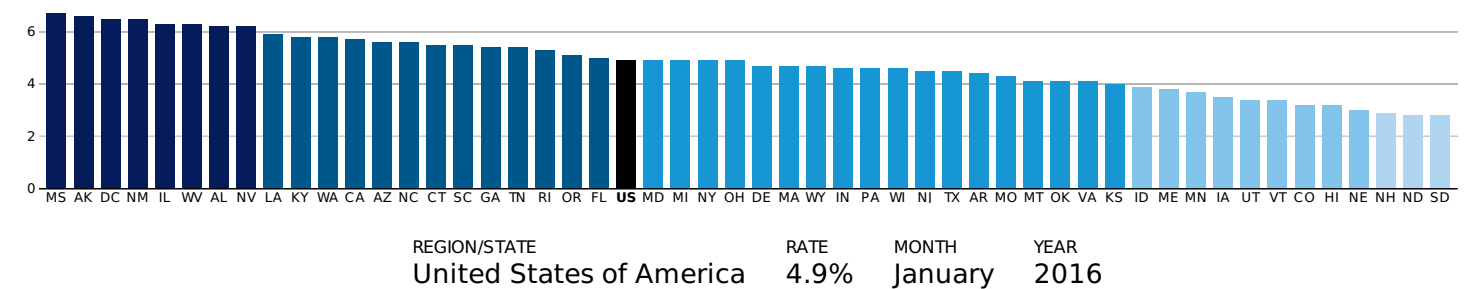


# EMPLOYMENT

Breaking down state data on unemployment rates, total (nonfarm) payroll employment, and government employment.

## Unemployment Rate (percent, seasonally adjusted)

The national unemployment rate was 4.9 percent as of January 2016.



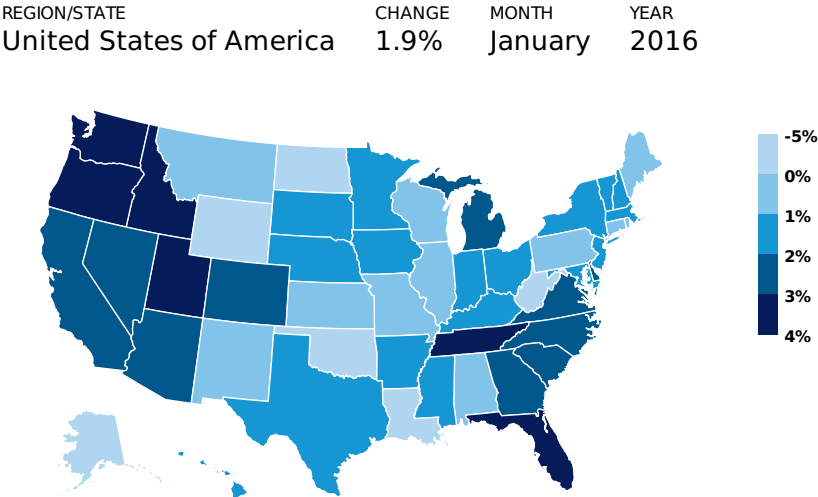
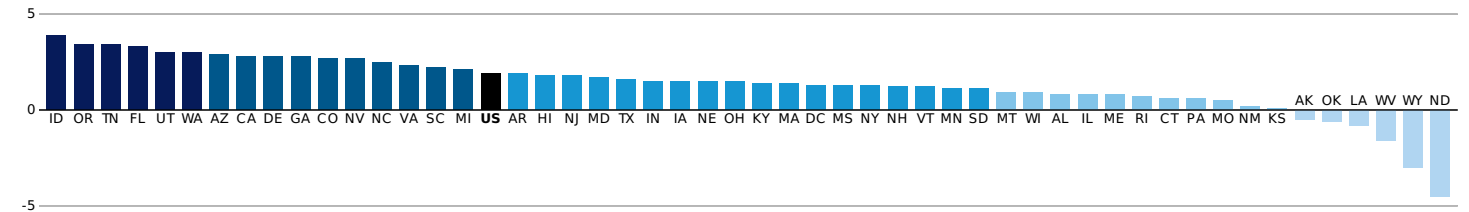
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics . (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm>)

The national unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in January 2016; this was the first month the rate was under 5.0 percent since February 2008 (<http://apps.urban.org/features/state-economic-monitor/historical.html>). Mississippi's unemployment rate (6.7 percent) was the highest of any state. Six additional states (Alabama, Alaska, Illinois, Nevada, New Mexico, and West Virginia) and the District of Columbia (DC) had January unemployment rates above 6.0 percent. The lowest unemployment rates were in North Dakota and South Dakota (both 2.8 percent), New Hampshire (2.9 percent), and Nebraska (3.0 percent). Eight other states had rates under 4.0 percent: Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Utah, and Vermont.

The national unemployment rate fell 0.8 percentage points between January 2015 and January 2016. Wyoming, despite having a January unemployment rate (4.7 percent) below the national average, had the greatest increase of any state over the year (0.9 percentage points). The rate increased in eight other states (Alabama, Alaska, Illinois, Kentucky, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Texas) over the year. The January unemployment rates in these nine states ranged from 2.8 percent in North Dakota to 6.6 percent in Alaska. The unemployment rate decreased the most over the year in New Jersey (-1.9 percentage points). The next largest decreases were in Arkansas and Rhode Island, each down 1.2 percentage points. In total, 26 states and DC had unemployment rates fall 0.5 percentage points or more over the year.

## Total Employment (percent change year over year)

Total (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.9 percent from January 2015 to January 2016.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics . (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t05.htm>)

Total national (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.9 percent from January 2015 to January 2016. Total employment decreased the most in North Dakota (-4.5 percent). In January 2015, that state's year-over-year total employment growth was 4.3 percent (compared with January 2014). In every month since then (<http://apps.urban.org/features/state-economic-monitor/historical.html>), employment growth decelerated, until July 2015 when it started contracting. Total employment decreased in five other states: Wyoming (-3.0 percent), West Virginia (-1.6 percent), Louisiana (-0.8 percent), Oklahoma (-0.6 percent), and Alaska (-0.5 percent). Notably, all of these states rely on natural resource extraction. The largest increase in total employment was in Idaho (3.9 percent). Total employment also grew 3.0 percent or more over the past 12 months in Oregon and Tennessee (both 3.4 percent), Florida (3.3 percent), and Utah and Washington (both 3.0 percent).

Total public-sector employment increased 0.3 percent from January 2015 to January 2016. Fifteen states saw public employment drop over the year. The largest decrease in government employment was in Arizona (-1.8 percent). The decline was also 1.0 percent or greater in Kentucky (-1.5 percent) and Hawaii (-1.3 percent). Public employment increased the most in Nevada (3.3 percent). The next largest increase was in North Dakota (2.7 percent), despite that state's overall decline in total employment. Four additional states had public sector employment increases of 2.0 percent or more over the year: Idaho (2.5 percent), Washington (2.2 percent), and Colorado and Oregon (both 2.1 percent). All four of these states also had relatively large increases in total employment over the past year.

Note: The unemployment rate is from a US Bureau of Labor Statistics survey based on place of residence. The employment data are from a US Bureau of Labor Statistics survey based on place of work. All data are seasonally adjusted.