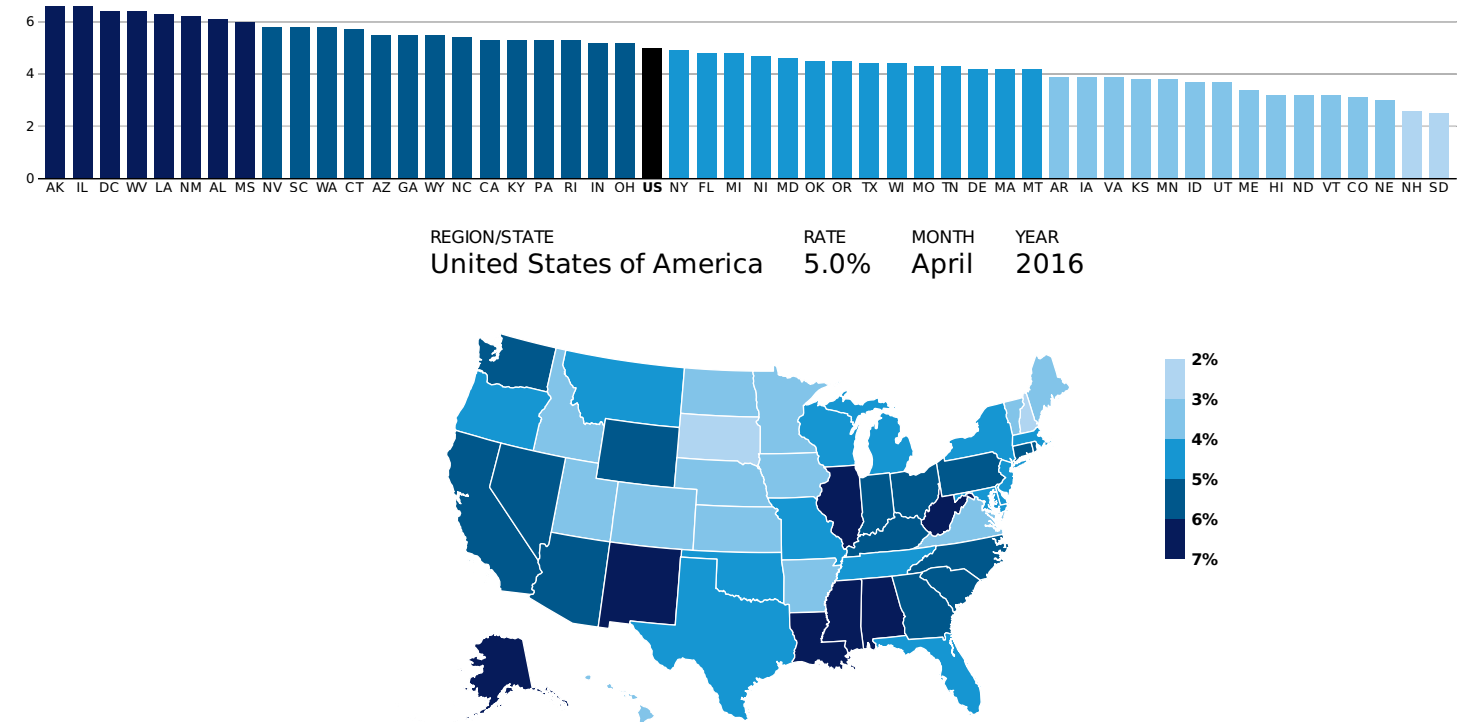


# EMPLOYMENT

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

## Unemployment Rate (percent, seasonally adjusted)

The national unemployment rate was 5.0 percent as of April 2016.

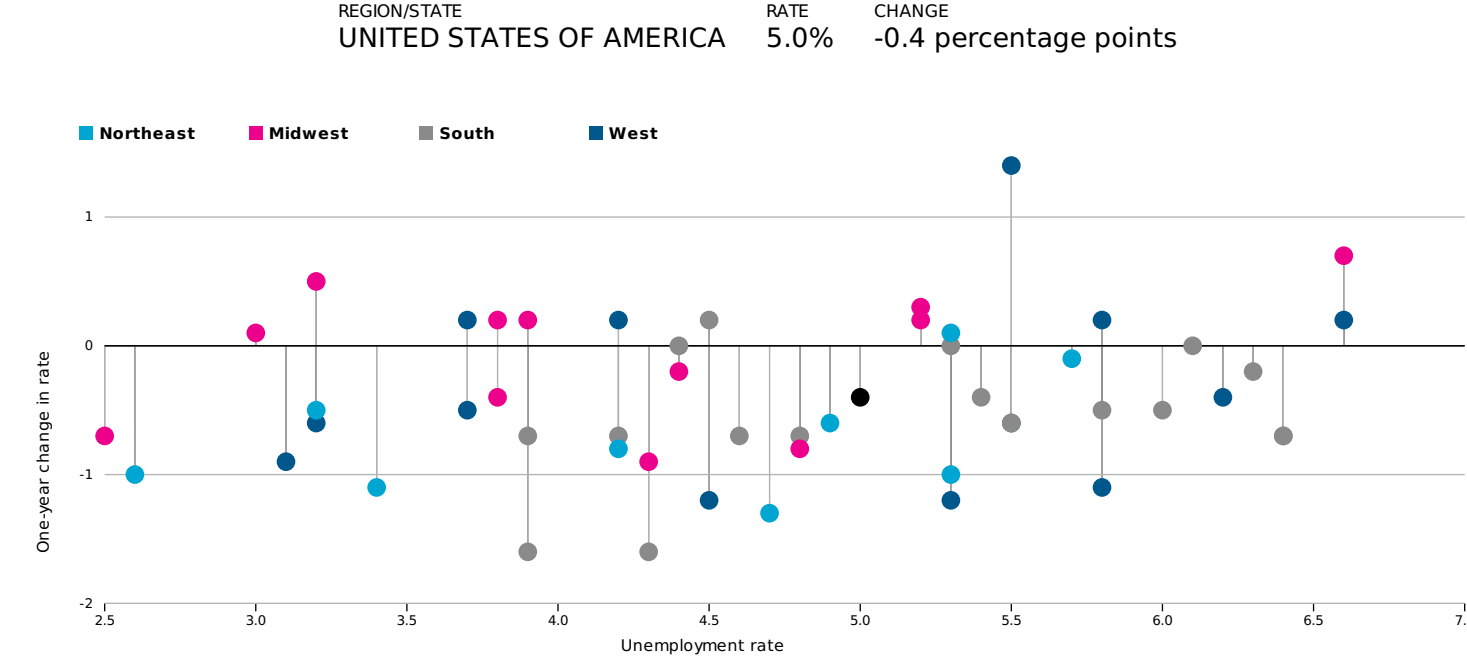


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm>)

The national unemployment rate was 5.0 percent in March 2016. Alaska’s unemployment rate (6.6 percent) was the highest of any state. Six additional states (Alabama, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, and West Virginia) and the District of Columbia had March unemployment rates above 6.0 percent. South Dakota had the lowest unemployment rate (2.5 percent). The rate was also below 3.0 percent in New Hampshire (2.6 percent) and Colorado (2.9 percent). Ten other states had rates under 4.0 percent: Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Utah, and Vermont.

## Unemployment Rate: Level vs. One-Year Change

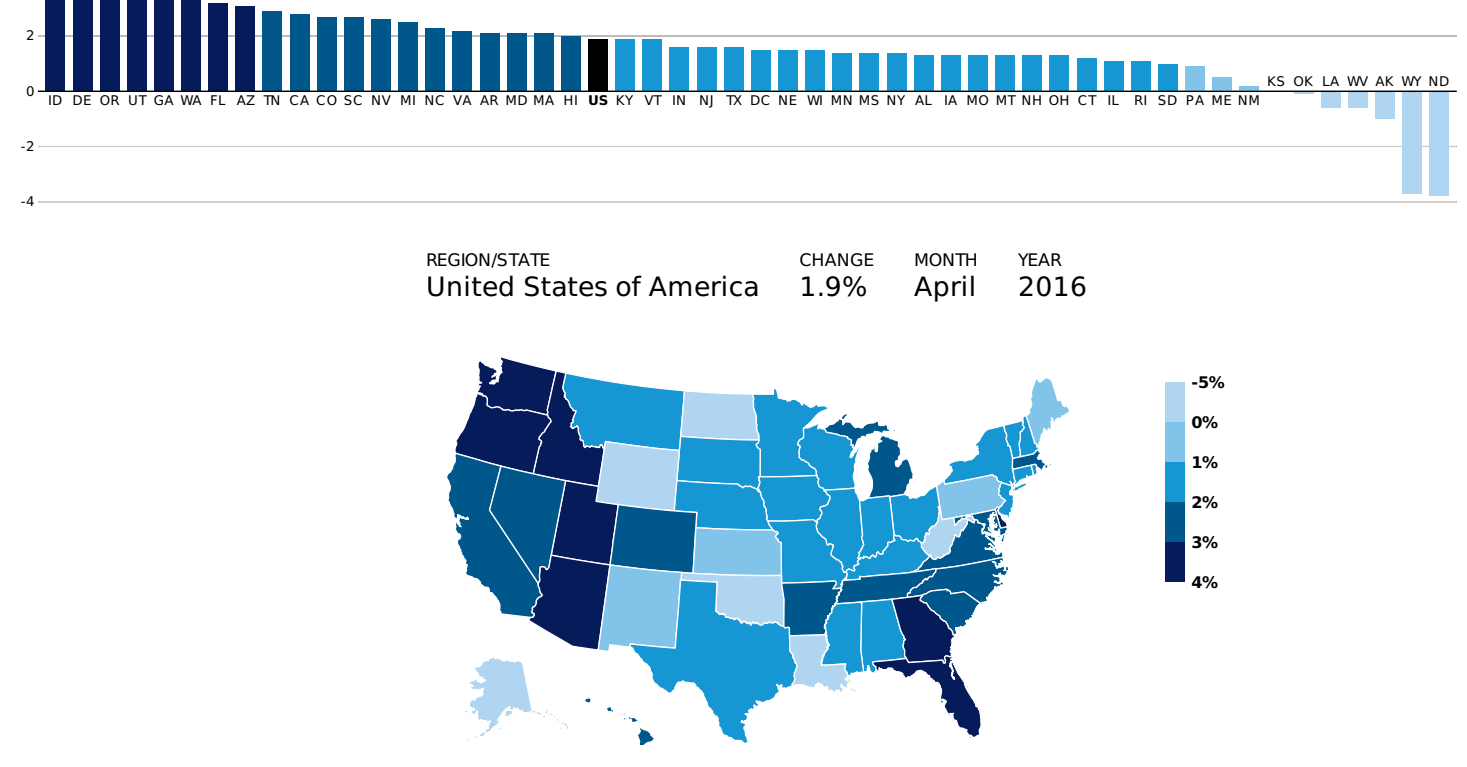
The national unemployment rate decreased 0.4 percentage points to a value of 5.0 percent between April 2015 and April 2016.



The national unemployment rate fell 0.5 percentage points between March 2015 and March 2016. The rate increased 1.3 percentage points in Wyoming, the greatest increase of any state over the year. The next largest rate increase was in Illinois (0.6 percentage points). The unemployment rate increased over the year in 10 other states: Alabama, Alaska, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Washington. Among the states with an increased unemployment rate over the year, three had a March rate above 6.0 percent (Alaska, Alabama, and Illinois) but four had a rate below 4.0 percent (Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and North Dakota). The largest drop in year-over-year unemployment rate was in New Jersey (-1.8 percentage points). Ten other states saw their unemployment rate drop 1.0 percentage points or more over the year: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oregon, and Tennessee.

## Total Employment (percent change year over year)

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



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

Total national (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 2.0 percent from March 2015 to March 2016. Despite having one of the lowest unemployment rates, total employment decreased the most in North Dakota (-4.5 percent). Total employment decreased in five other states: Wyoming (-3.2 percent), West Virginia (-0.7 percent), Louisiana (-0.7 percent), Alaska (-0.5 percent), and Oklahoma (-0.4 percent). Notably, all of these states rely on natural resource extraction, and all of them have seen employment decreases over the past few months (<http://apps.urban.org/features/state-economic-monitor/historical.html>). The largest increase in total employment was in Idaho (3.6 percent). Total employment also grew 3.0 percent or more over the past 12 months in six other states: Arizona, Georgia, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, and Washington.

## Total Employment vs. Public Employment

Total public-sector employment increased 0.5 percent from April 2015 to April 2016, staying well below the 1.9 percent increase in total employment.



Total public-sector employment increased 0.6 percent from March 2015 to March 2016. Public employment decreased over the year in 13 states, led by New Hampshire (-1.9 percent), Kentucky (-1.8 percent), Delaware (-1.7 percent), and Missouri (-1.6 percent). No other states had a decrease greater than 1.0

percent. Louisiana and Alaska were the only states that lost both total and government jobs over the year. The largest increase in public employment was in North Dakota (3.3 percent) despite that state's overall decline in total employment. Three other states saw public employment increase more than 2.0 percent over the year: Idaho (2.5 percent), Oregon (2.3 percent), and Colorado (2.2 percent). All three states also had relatively large increases in total employment.

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.