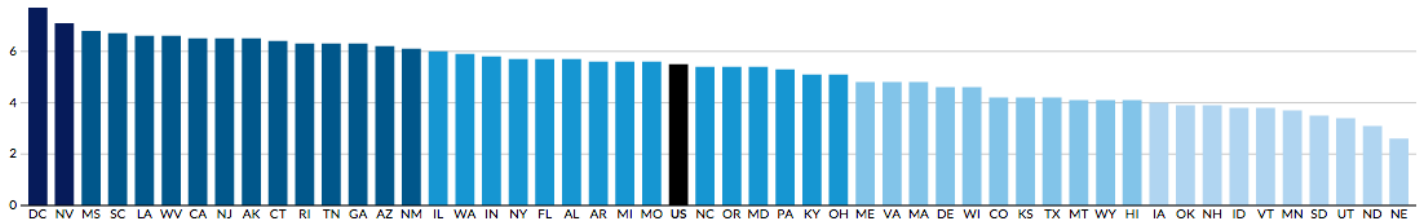


## EMPLOYMENT

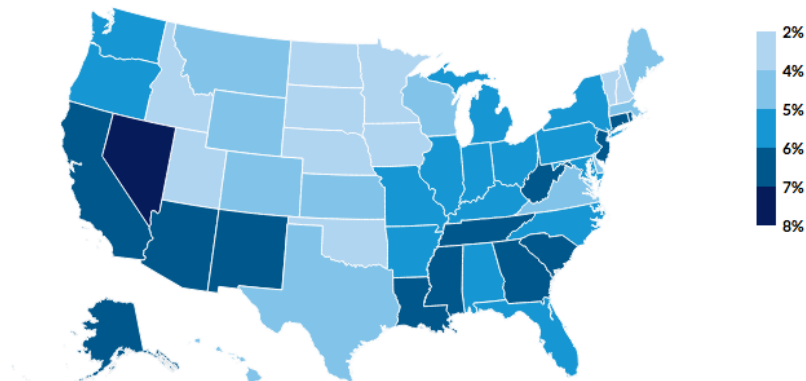
Breaking down state data on unemployment rates, total (nonfarm) payroll employment, and government employment.

### Unemployment Rate (percent, seasonally adjusted)

The national unemployment rate was 5.5 percent as of March 2015.



REGION/STATE  
**South Carolina**  
RATE  
**6.7%**  
MONTH  
**March**  
YEAR  
**2015**  
US average: 5.5%

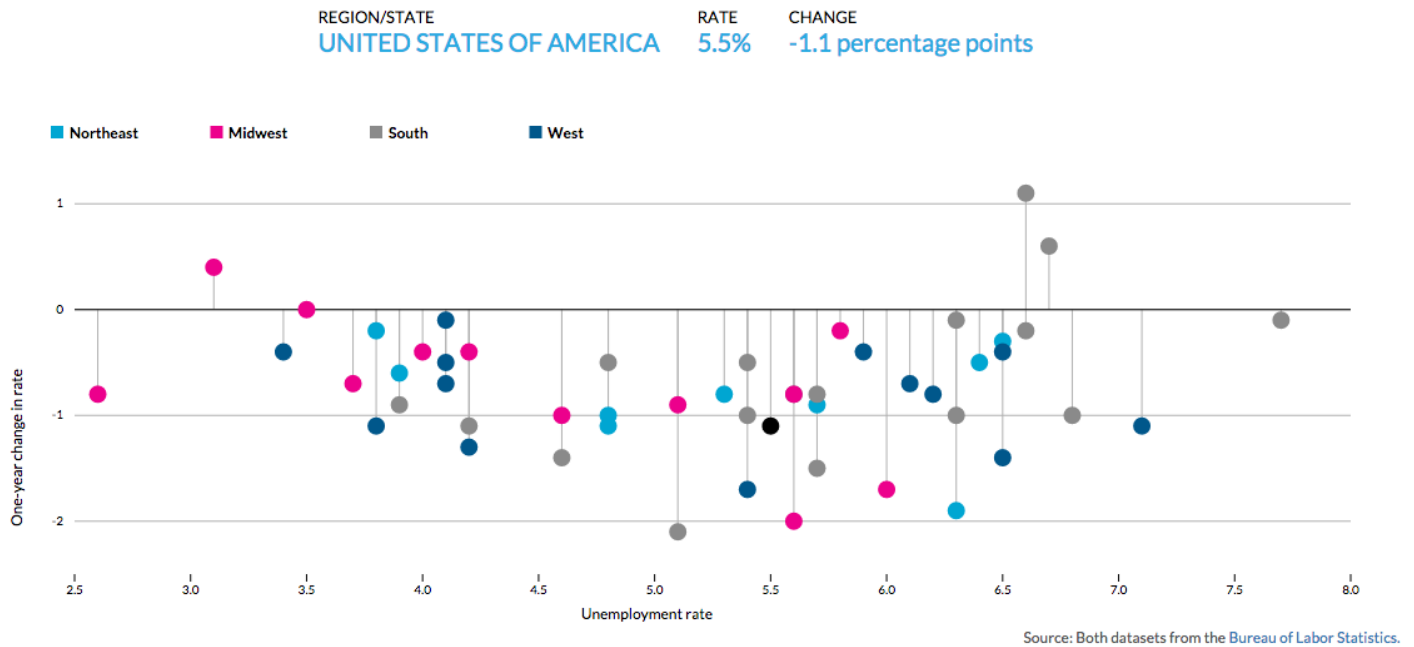


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The national unemployment rate was 5.5 percent in March 2015. The rate was above 7 percent in only one state—Nevada (7.1 percent)—and the District of Columbia (7.7 percent). Fourteen additional states had unemployment rates of 6 percent or more. The lowest March unemployment rate was in Nebraska (2.6 percent). Eight other states had rates below 4 percent: North Dakota (3.1 percent), Utah (3.4 percent), South Dakota (3.5 percent), Minnesota (3.7 percent), Vermont (3.8 percent), Idaho (3.8 percent), New Hampshire (3.9 percent), and Oklahoma (3.9 percent).

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

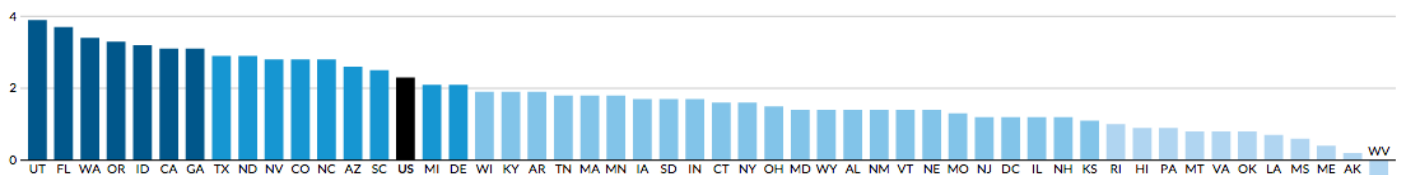
The national unemployment rate decreased 1.1 percentage points to a value of 5.5 percent between March 2014 and March 2015.

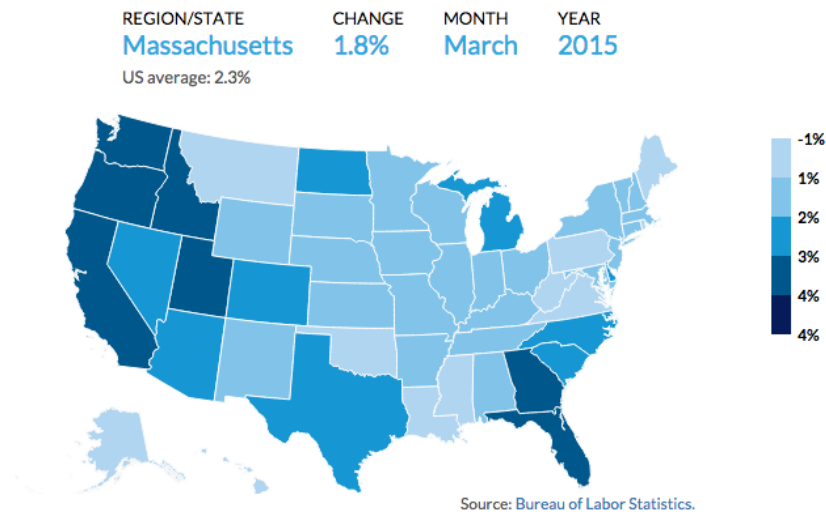


The national unemployment rate fell 1.1 percentage points between March 2014 and March 2015. Despite the national decrease, the unemployment rate increased over the year in Louisiana (1.1 points), South Carolina (0.6 points), and North Dakota (0.4 points) and was unchanged in South Dakota. The March 2015 unemployment rate was relatively high in Louisiana (6.6 percent) and South Carolina (6.7 percent) but below 4 percent in North Dakota and South Dakota. The largest declines in the unemployment rate over the past 12 months were in Kentucky (-2.1 points) and Michigan (-2.0 points). The unemployment rate fell 1 percentage point or more in an additional 16 states, including six states where the March 2015 unemployment was 6 percent or more: Nevada (7.1 percent), Mississippi (6.8 percent), California (6.5 percent), Rhode Island (6.3 percent), Georgia (6.3 percent), and Illinois (6 percent).

## Total Employment (percent change year over year)

Total (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 2.3 percent from March 2014 to March 2015.

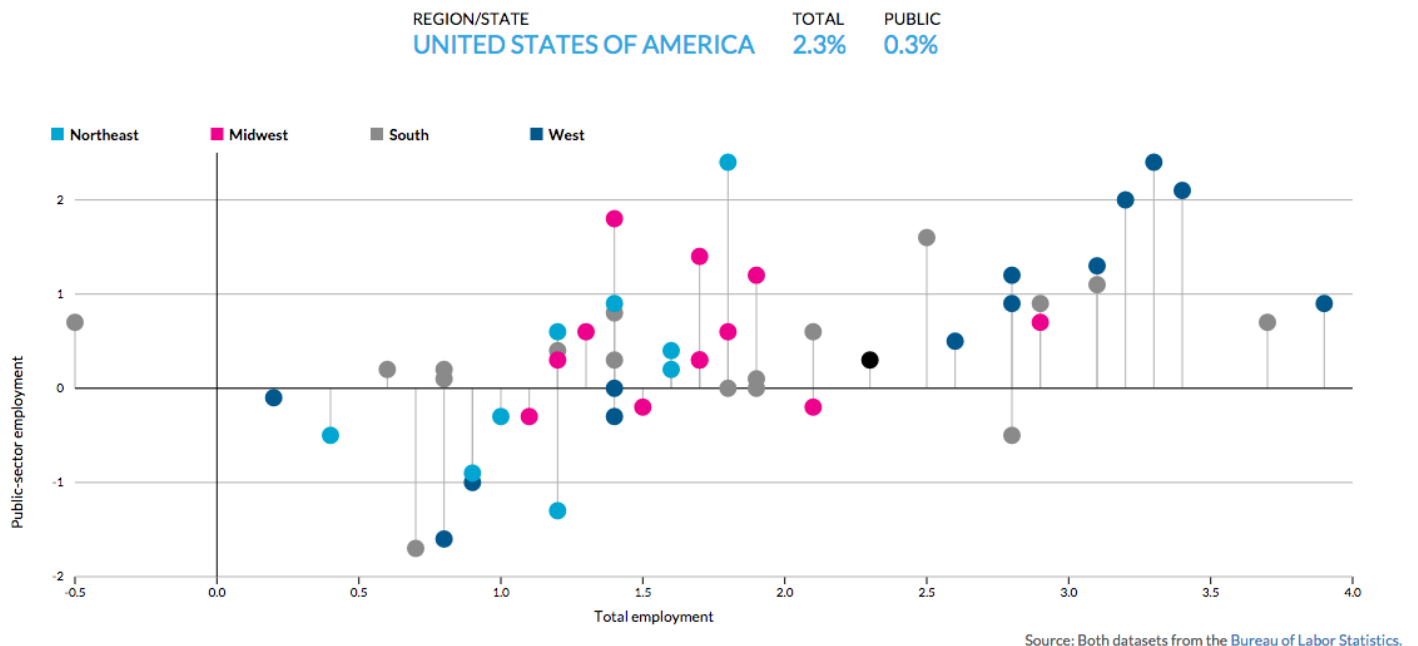




Total national (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 2.3 percent from March 2014 to March 2015. Total employment over the 12-month period only decreased in West Virginia (-0.5 percent). The states with the smallest increases in employment were Alaska (0.2 percent), Maine (0.4 percent), and Mississippi (0.6 percent). The largest increase in employment was in Utah (3.9 percent). Employment grew more than 3 percent over the past 12 months in six additional states: Florida (3.7 percent), Washington (3.4 percent), Oregon (3.3 percent), Idaho (3.2 percent), California (3.1 percent), and Georgia (3.1 percent).

## Total Employment vs. Public Employment

Total public-sector employment increased 0.3 percent from March 2014 to March 2015, staying well below the 2.3 percent increase in total employment.



Total public-sector employment increased 0.3 percent from March 2014 to March 2015. While only one state saw a drop in total employment over the year, public-sector employment declined in 13 states and was unchanged in Arkansas, Tennessee, and Wyoming. Public-sector employment fell 1 percent or more in Louisiana (-1.7 percent), Montana (-1.6 percent), New Hampshire (-1.3 percent), and Hawaii (-1.0 percent). Among those states, Louisiana, Montana, and Hawaii all had increases in total employment of less than 1 percent. Public-sector employment increased 2 percent or more in Massachusetts (2.4 percent), Oregon (2.4 percent), Washington (2.1 percent), and Idaho (2.0 percent). Among those states, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho all had total employment increase 2 percent or more over the past year.