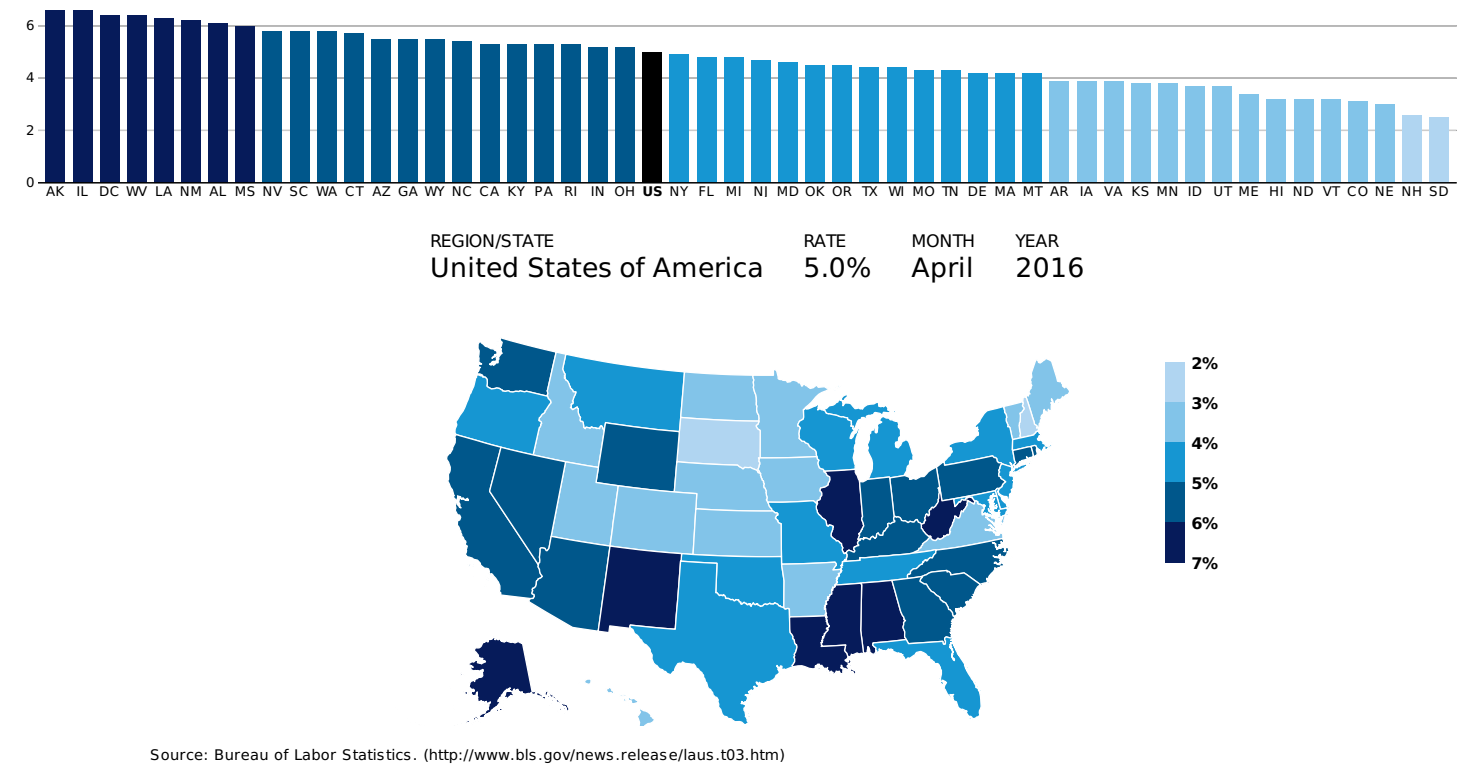


# EMPLOYMENT

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

## Unemployment Rate (percent, seasonally adjusted)

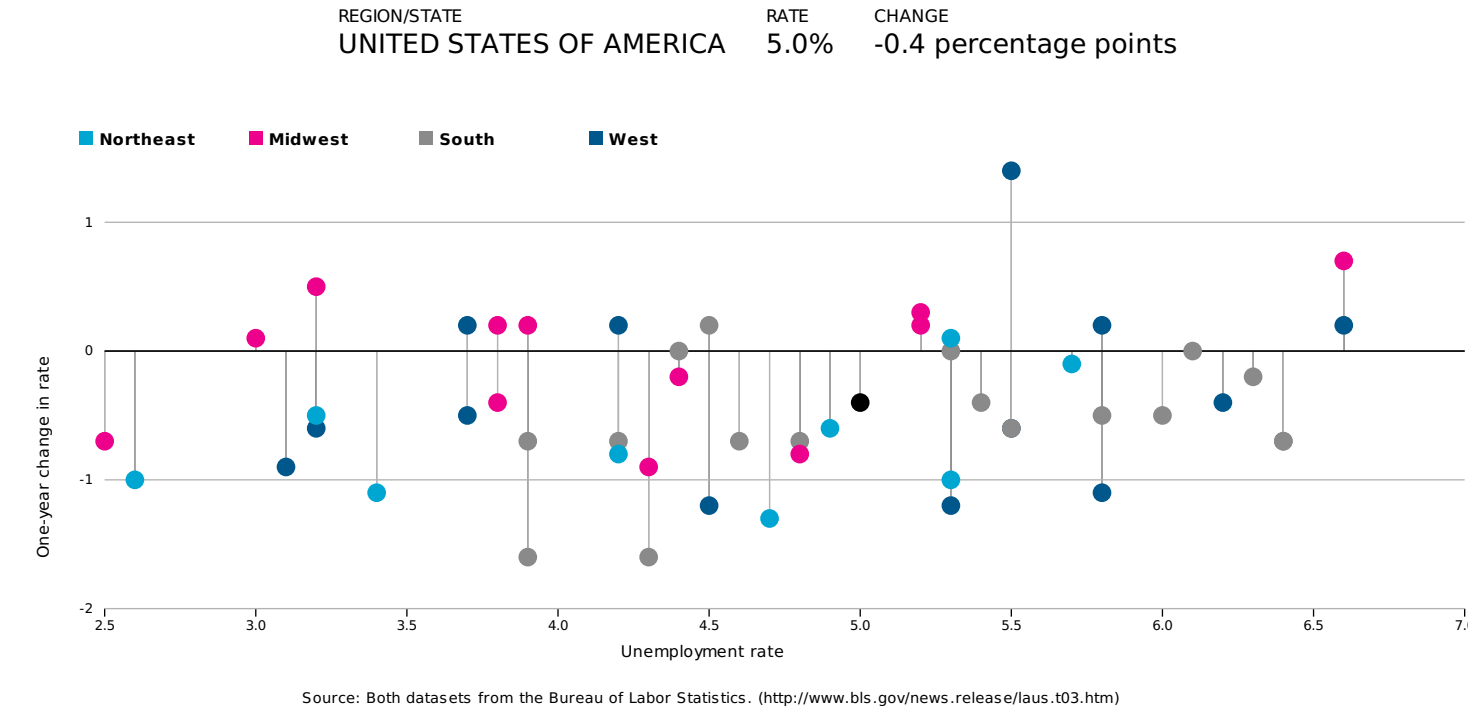
The national unemployment rate was 5.0 percent as of April 2016.



The national unemployment rate was 5.0 percent in April 2016. Alaska and Illinois had the highest unemployment rate of any state (6.6 percent). Five additional states (West Virginia, Louisiana, New Mexico, Alabama, and Mississippi) and the District of Columbia (DC) had April unemployment rates at or 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 at 3.0 percent in Nebraska.

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

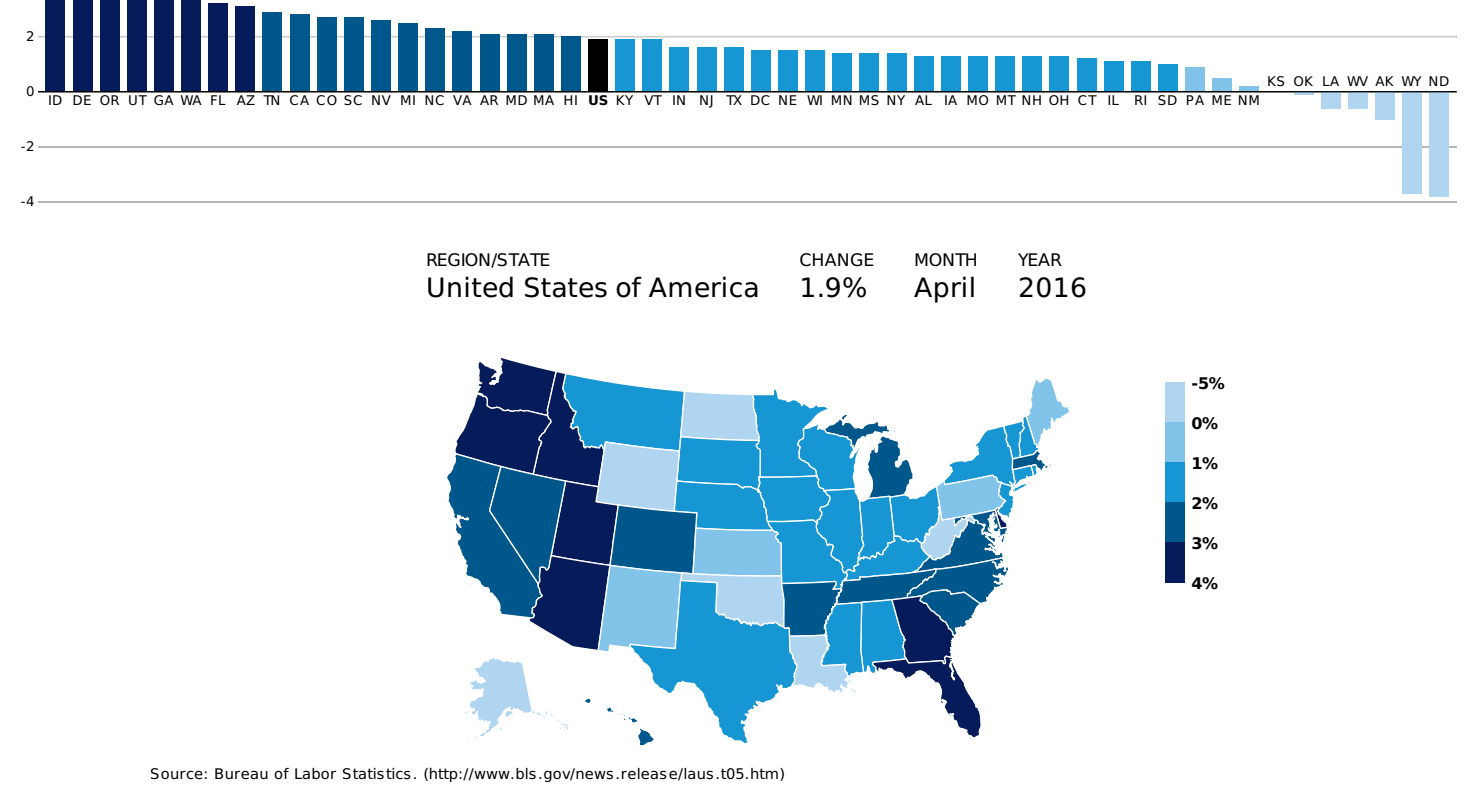
The national unemployment rate decreased 0.4 percentage points to a value of 5.0 percent between April 2015 and April 2016.



The national unemployment rate fell 0.4 percentage points between April 2015 and April 2016. The rate increased 1.4 percentage points in Wyoming, the greatest increase of any state over the year, reflecting continued weakness in energy markets. The next largest rate increase was in Illinois (0.7 percentage points). Among the states with an increased unemployment rate over the year, only two had an April rate above 6.0 percent (Illinois and Alaska) but five had a rate below 4.0 percent (North Dakota, Utah, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska). The largest drop in year-over-year unemployment rate was in Arkansas and Tennessee (-1.6 percentage points). Seven other states saw their unemployment rate drop 1.0 percentage points or more over the year: Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Maine, Nevada, California, Oregon, and New Jersey.

## Total Employment (percent change year over year)

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



Total national (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.9 percent from April 2015 to April 2016. Despite having one of the lowest unemployment rates, total employment decreased the most in North Dakota (-3.8 percent). Total employment decreased in five other states: Wyoming (-3.7 percent), Alaska (-1.0 percent), West Virginia and Louisiana (both -0.6 percent), and Oklahoma (-0.1 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 (3.8 percent). Total employment also grew 3.0 percent or more over the past 12 months in seven other states: Delaware, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Georgia, Florida, and Arizona.

## 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 0.5 percent from April 2015 to April 2016. Public employment decreased over the year in 16 states, led by New Hampshire (-2.3 percent). Other states with public employment decreases over 1.0 percent were: Hawaii (-1.7 percent), Kentucky (-1.2 percent), and Missouri and Maine (both -1.1 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 Oregon and North Dakota (2.9 percent) which had an overall decline in total employment. Four other states saw public employment increase more than 2.0 percent over the year: Colorado (2.4 percent), and Washington, Idaho, and Utah (all 2.1 percent). All four states also had relatively large increases in total employment.

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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. This page is not comparable to the Bureau of Labor Statistics's press release, because that release as of April 2016 highlights only changes that are statistically significant.