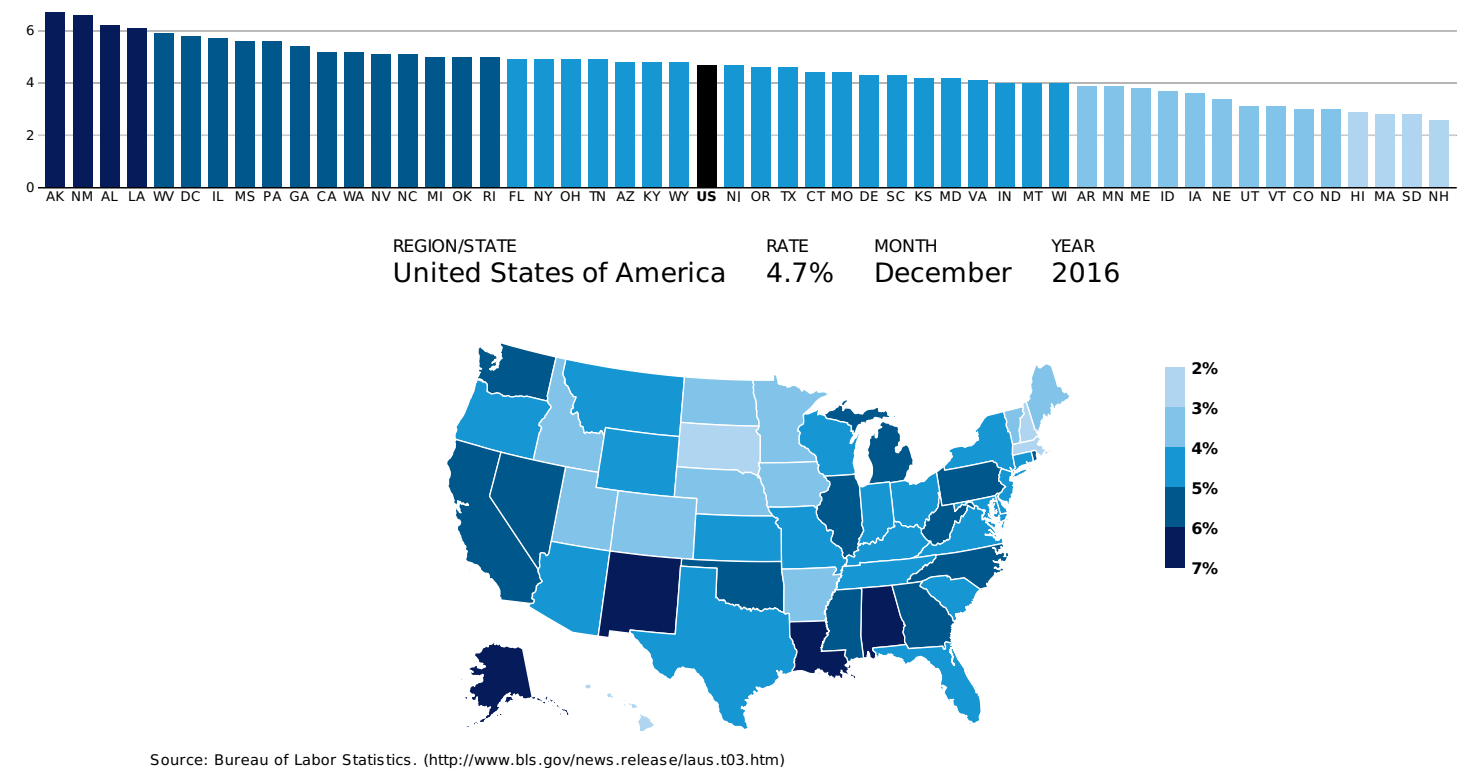


# EMPLOYMENT

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

## Unemployment Rate (percent, seasonally adjusted)

The national unemployment rate was 4.7 percent as of December 2016.

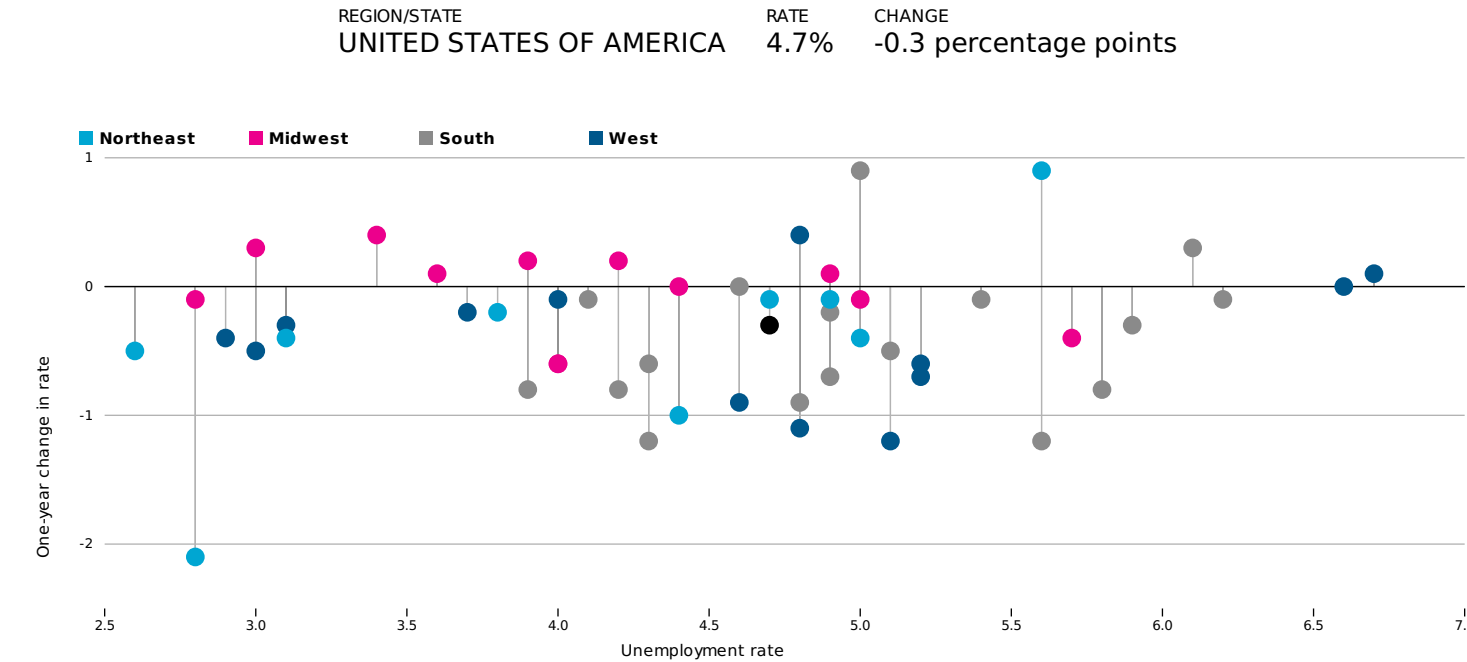


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm>)

The national unemployment rate was 4.7 percent in December 2016. Alaska’s 6.7 percent unemployment rate was the highest of any state. Three additional states had December unemployment rates higher than 6.0 percent: New Mexico (6.6 percent), Alabama (6.2 percent), and Louisiana (6.1 percent). Four states had December unemployment rates below 3.0 percent: New Hampshire (2.6 percent), South Dakota, Massachusetts (both 2.8 percent), and Hawaii (2.9 percent). Another 10 states had unemployment rates below 4.0 percent: Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Utah, and Vermont.

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

The national unemployment rate decreased 0.3 percentage points to a value of 4.7 percent between December 2015 and December 2016.

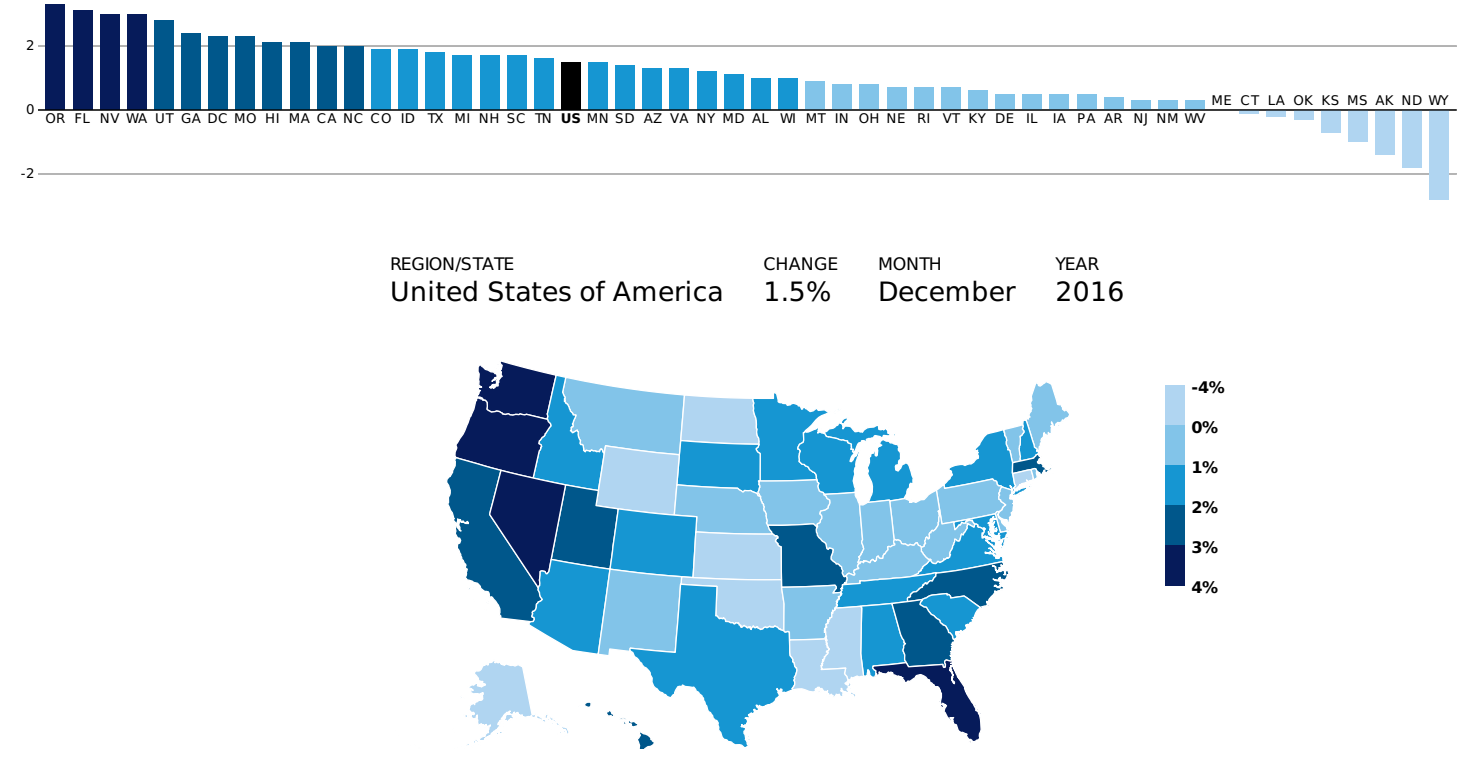


Source: Both datasets from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm>)

The national unemployment rate fell 0.3 percentage points between December 2015 and December 2016. The largest drop in year-over-year unemployment rates was in Massachusetts (-2.1 percentage points). The next largest declines were in South Carolina, Nevada, and Mississippi (all -1.2 percentage points). Both Nevada’s and Mississippi’s unemployment rates, however, remain above 5.0 percent. Overall, the unemployment rate increased over the year in 11 states, including several states with low December unemployment rates (such as North Dakota, at 3.0 percent) and high rates (such as Alaska, at 6.7 percent). The rate increased by nearly a full percentage point (0.9 percent) in both Oklahoma and Pennsylvania, more than in any other state. The next largest rate increases were in Nebraska and Wyoming (both 0.4 percentage points).

## Total Employment (percent change year over year)

Total (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.5 percent from December 2015 to December 2016.

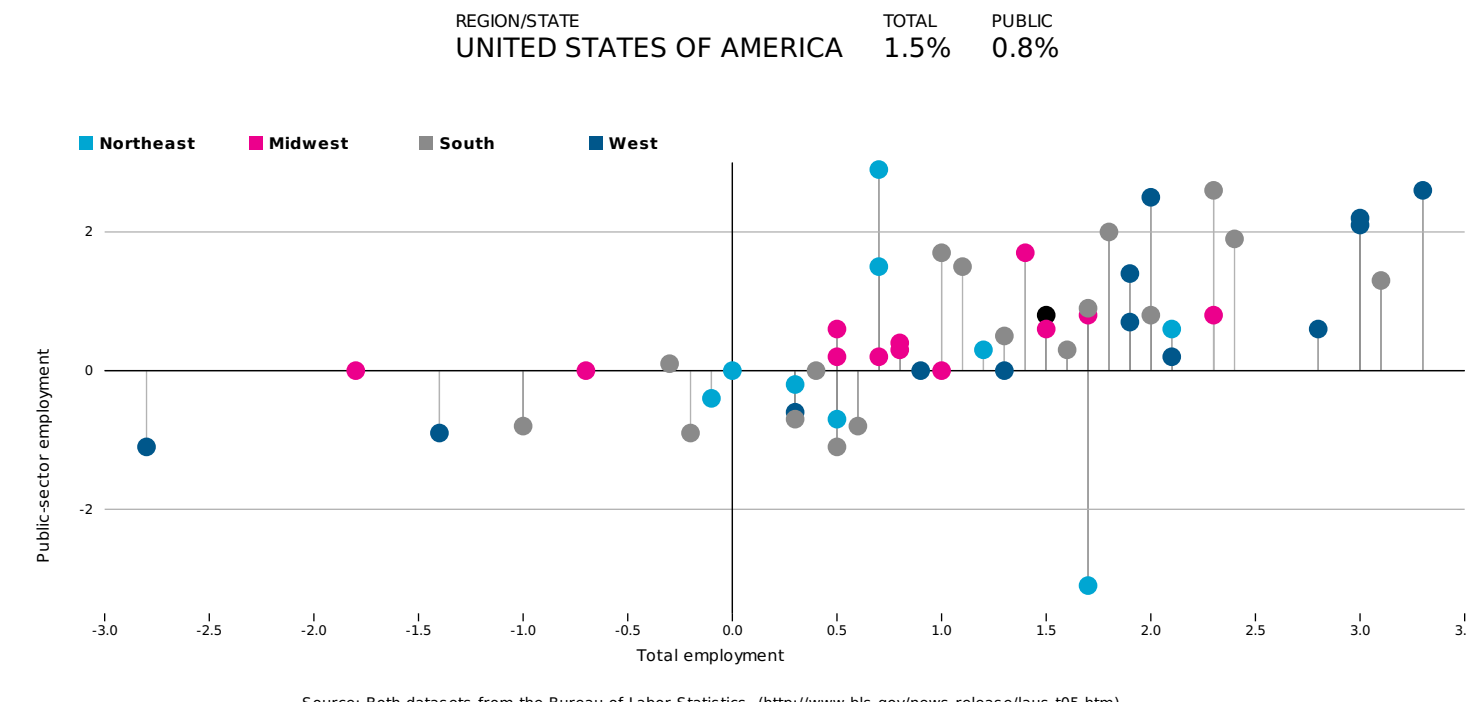


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t05.htm>)

Total national (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.5 percent from December 2015 to December 2016. The largest increase in total employment was in Oregon (3.3 percent), where employment grew across all sectors except manufacturing, which experienced a 1 percent decline. Total employment also grew 3.0 percent or more in Florida (3.1 percent), Washington, and Nevada (both 3.0 percent). Employment declined in eight states. The largest employment drop was in Wyoming (-2.8 percent), followed by other energy-dependent states: North Dakota (-1.8 percent), Alaska (-1.4 percent), and Mississippi (-1.0 percent). The precipitous decline of natural resource prices has negatively affected employment in many of these states over the past year (<http://apps.urban.org/features/state-economic-monitor/historical.html>). Specifically, Wyoming’s mining and logging sector lost over 2,000 jobs over the past year, a decline of 13 percent.

## Total Employment vs. Public Employment

Total public-sector employment increased 0.8 percent from December 2015 to December 2016, staying well below the 1.5 percent increase in total employment.



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

Total public-sector employment increased 0.8 percent from December 2015 to December 2016 but still remains 1.5 percent below its 2008 peak. Overall, 13 states and the District of Columbia (DC) saw public employment increase 1.0 percent or more. All 13 of these states and DC also saw increases in total employment. The largest increases in public employment among states were in Vermont (2.9 percent), Oregon (2.6 percent), California (2.5 percent), Washington (2.2 percent), and Nevada (2.1 percent). The

District of Columbia saw an increase in public employment of 2.6 percent. Public employment decreased over the year in 12 states, with the largest decreases in New Hampshire (-3.1 percent), Wyoming, and Delaware (both -1.1 percent). Among the 12 states with falling public employment, five (Alaska, Connecticut, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Wyoming) also saw declines in total employment. In contrast, although New Hampshire’s public employment fell, its total employment increased 1.7 percent over the 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. This page is not comparable to the Bureau of Labor Statistics’s press release, because that release as of December 2016 highlights only changes that are statistically significant.