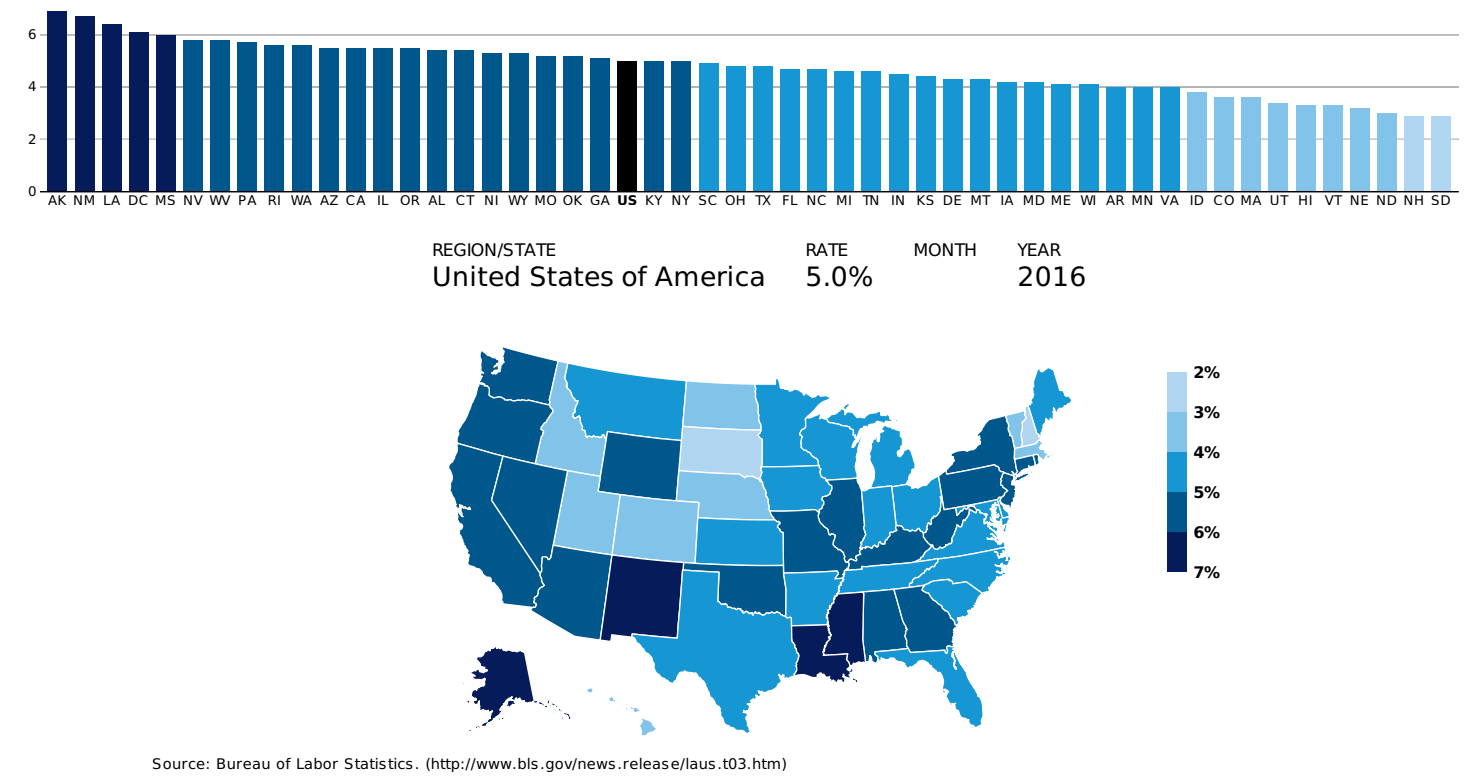


EMPLOYMENT

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 undefined 2016.

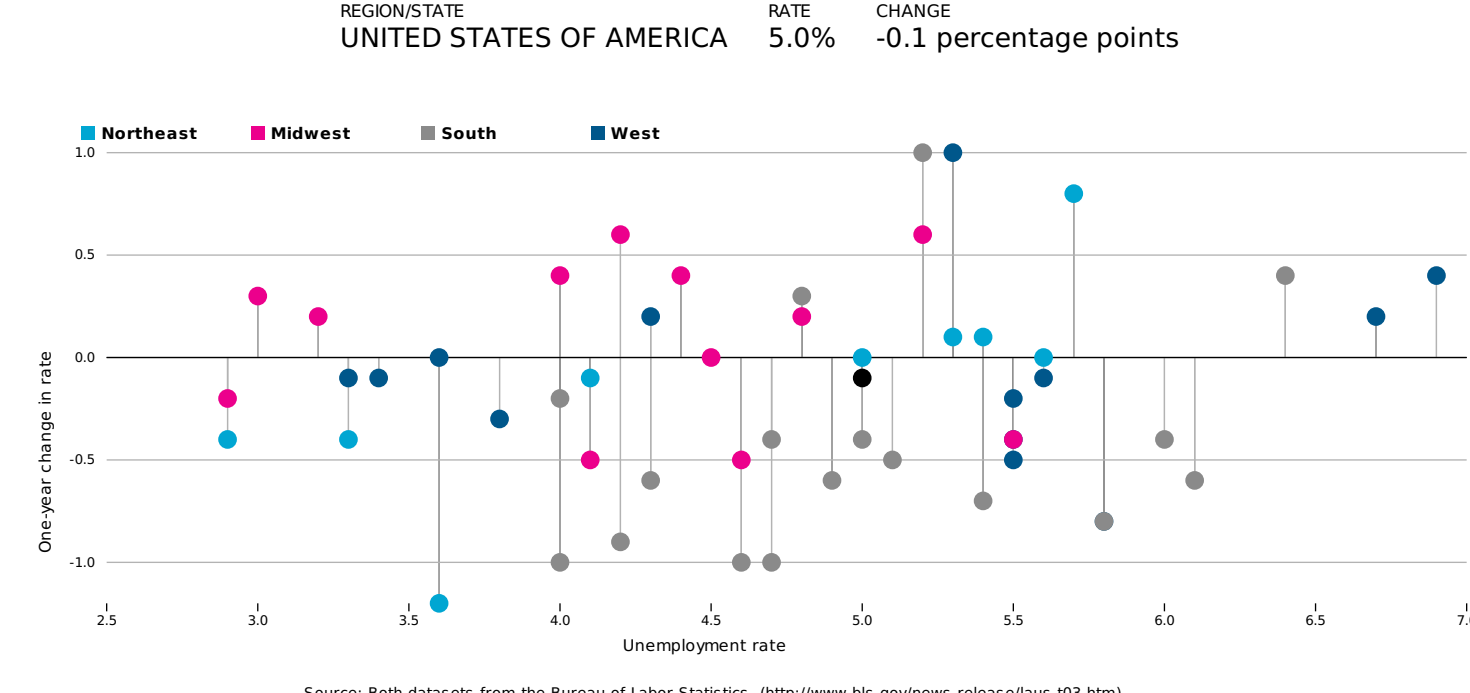


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm>)

The national unemployment rate was 5.0 percent in September 2016. Alaska's 6.9 percent unemployment rate was the highest of any state. Three additional states had September unemployment rates of 6.0 percent or higher: New Mexico (6.7 percent), Louisiana (6.4 percent), and Mississippi (6.0 percent). The District of Columbia's (DC's) unemployment rate was 6.1 percent. Two states had September unemployment rates below 3.0 percent: the rate in both New Hampshire and South Dakota was 2.9 percent. Eight other states had unemployment rates below 4.0 percent: Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Massachusetts, Nebraska, North Dakota, Utah, and Vermont. In the final state employment data before the 2016 presidential election, unemployment rates in swing states (http://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/2016-election-forecast/?ex_cid=rrpromo) ranged from 2.9 percent in New Hampshire and 3.6 percent in Colorado to 5.7 percent in Pennsylvania, where the difference between the state and national unemployment rates is the greatest it has been since the 1980s, and 5.8 percent in Nevada, which is still recovering from the housing collapse. For more context on state unemployment rates, see our historical page (<http://apps.urban.org/features/state-economic-monitor/historical.html>).

Unemployment Rate: Level vs. One-Year Change

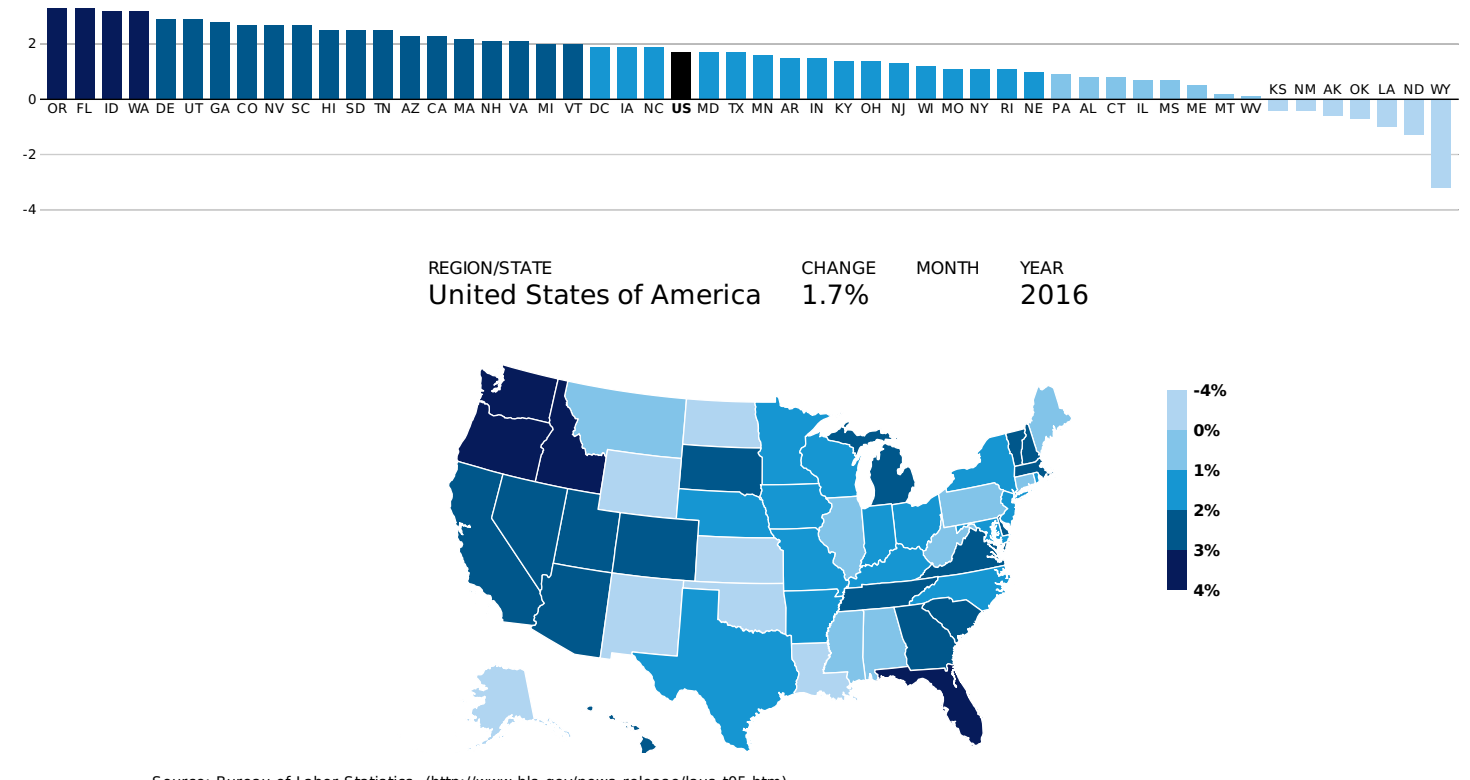
The national unemployment rate decreased 0.1 percentage points to a value of 5.0 percent between undefined 2015 and undefined 2016.



The national unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage points between September 2015 and September 2016. The rate increased 1.0 percentage point in Oklahoma and Wyoming, the greatest annual increases. Low natural resource prices are negatively affecting employment in both states. The next largest rate increases were in Pennsylvania (0.8 percentage points) and Iowa and Missouri (both 0.6 percentage points). Overall, the unemployment rate increased over the year in 16 states, including states with both low current unemployment rates (Nebraska, 3.2 percent) and high rates (New Mexico, 6.7 percent). The largest drops in year-over-year unemployment rates were in Massachusetts (-1.2 percentage points) and Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee (all -1.0 percentage point). All of these states had a September unemployment rate below 5.0 percent.

Total Employment (percent change year over year)

Total (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.7 percent from undefined 2015 to undefined 2016.

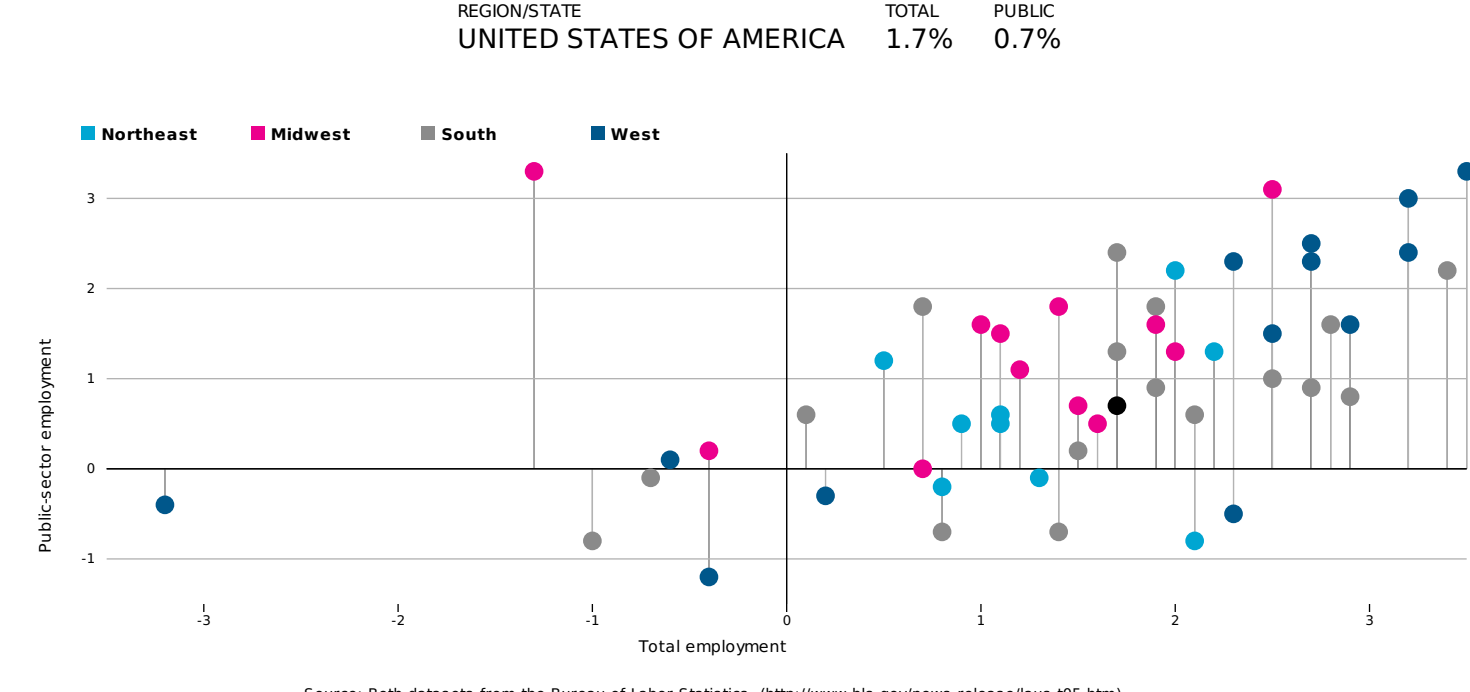


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t05.htm>)

Total national (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.7 percent from September 2015 to September 2016. The largest employment drop was in Wyoming (-3.2 percent), followed by other energy states: North Dakota (-1.3 percent), Louisiana (-1.0 percent), Oklahoma (-0.7 percent), and Alaska (-0.6 percent). The precipitous decline of natural resource prices has negatively affected employment in all of these states over the past year (<http://apps.urban.org/features/state-economic-monitor/historical.html>). The largest increase in total employment was in Oregon (3.5 percent) where employment grew across all sectors except manufacturing. Total employment also grew 3.0 percent or more over the past 12 months in Florida (3.4 percent) and Idaho and Washington (both 3.2 percent).

Total Employment vs. Public Employment

Total public-sector employment increased 0.7 percent from undefined 2015 to undefined 2016, staying well below the 1.7 percent increase in total employment.



Total public-sector employment increased 0.7 percent from September 2015 to September 2016. Public

employment decreased over the year in 11 states, with the largest decrease in New Mexico (-1.2 percent). Among these 11 states, four (Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Wyoming) also saw a decline in total employment. In contrast, New Hampshire’s public employment fell 0.8 percent over the year, but its total employment increased 2.1 percent. The largest increases in public employment were in North Dakota and Oregon (both 3.3 percent). Over the same period, however, North Dakota saw one of largest declines in total employment (-1.3 percent), while Oregon saw the largest increase (3.5 percent). Nine other states saw public employment increase 2.0 percent or more over the year: California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, and Washington. All states with a public employment increase of 2.0 percent or more (except North Dakota) saw total employment increase 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 undefined 2016 highlights only changes that are statistically significant.