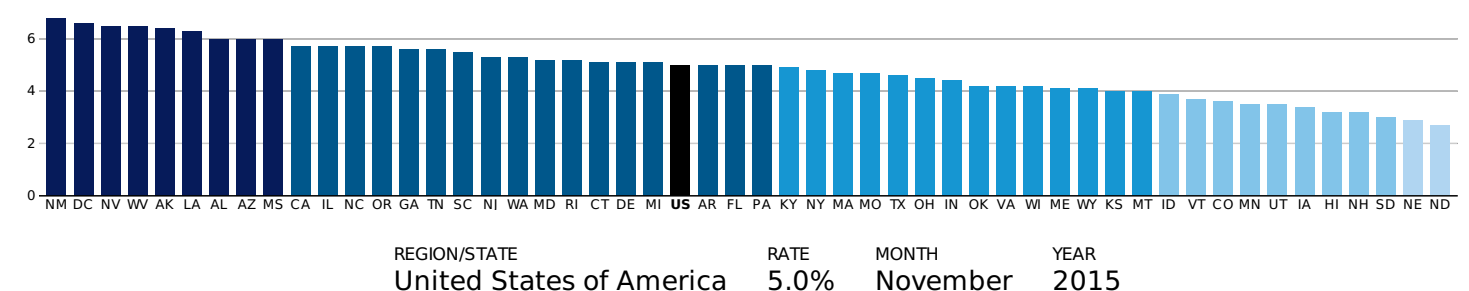


EMPLOYMENT

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 November 2015.



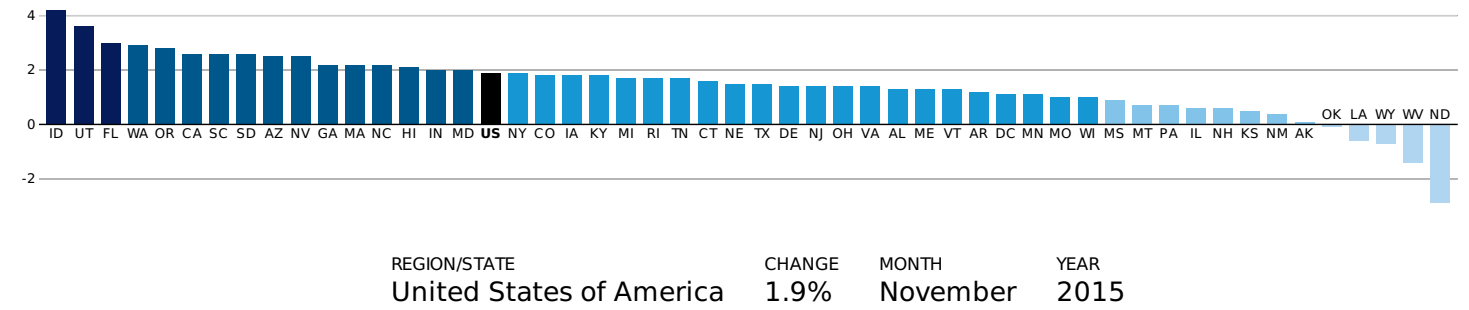
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm>)

The national unemployment rate was 5.0 percent in November 2015. New Mexico’s unemployment rate (6.8 percent) was the highest of any state. November was the first month since April (<http://apps.urban.org/features/state-economic-monitor/historical.html>) that West Virginia did not have the highest state unemployment rate. West Virginia’s 6.5 percent unemployment rate was down from 6.9 percent last month and 7.6 percent in August. Six additional states—Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Nevada—and the District of Columbia (DC) also had unemployment rates of 6 percent or higher. The lowest unemployment rates were in North Dakota (2.7 percent) and Nebraska (2.9 percent). North Dakota’s rate has been below 3.0 percent since August but Nebraska’s rate has been below 3.0 for all of 2015 (<http://apps.urban.org/features/state-economic-monitor/historical.html>). The next-lowest November unemployment rates were in South Dakota (3.0 percent), Hawaii and New Hampshire (both 3.2 percent), and Iowa (3.4 percent).

The national unemployment rate fell 0.8 percentage points between November 2014 and November 2015. New Mexico, the state with the highest November unemployment rate, had the greatest increase of any state (0.7 percentage points). Three other states had unemployment rate increases over the year: West Virginia (0.5 percentage points) and North Carolina and Oklahoma both (0.2 percentage points). Among these four states, Oklahoma’s 4.2 percent unemployment rate was the only November rate below 5 percent. The unemployment rate decreased the most over the year in Rhode Island (-1.7 percentage points). In total, 15 states and DC had unemployment rates fall 1.0 percentage point or more over the year. Four of these states had November unemployment rates below 5.0 percent: Maine (4.1 percent), Wisconsin (4.2 percent), Indiana (4.4 percent), and New York (4.8 percent). None of these states had unemployment rates above 6.0 percent, but DC’s rate was 6.6 percent.

Total Employment (percent change year over year)

Total (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.9 percent from November 2014 to November 2015.



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

Total national (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.9 percent from November 2014 to November 2015. Total employment increased in all but five states: North Dakota (-2.9 percent), West Virginia (-1.4 percent), Wyoming (-0.7 percent), Louisiana (-0.6 percent), and Oklahoma (-0.1 percent). North Dakota’s biggest job losses were in the trade, transportation, and utilities sector and West Virginia’s biggest decline was in construction. The largest increase in total employment was in Idaho (4.2 percent), which had job growth in all sectors except government. Total employment also grew 3.0 percent or more over the past 12 months in Utah (3.6 percent) and Florida (3.0 percent). Another 13 states had 2.0 percent or more total employment growth.

Total public-sector employment increased 0.4 percent from November 2014 to November 2015. The largest decrease in government employment over the year was in New Hampshire (-2.7 percent). This is the sixth consecutive month (<http://apps.urban.org/features/state-economic-monitor/historical.html>) New Hampshire has had a year-over-year decline in public jobs, primarily local government jobs. In total, 16 states and DC saw public employment drop over the year. The decline was greater than 1.0 percent in five states: New Hampshire, Alaska (-2.3 percent), Louisiana (-1.8 percent), Michigan (-1.3 percent), and Kansas (-1.2 percent). Public employment increased the most in Oregon (2.5 percent). Public employment also increased 2.0 percent or more in Vermont (2.2 percent) and Utah (2.0 percent).

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.