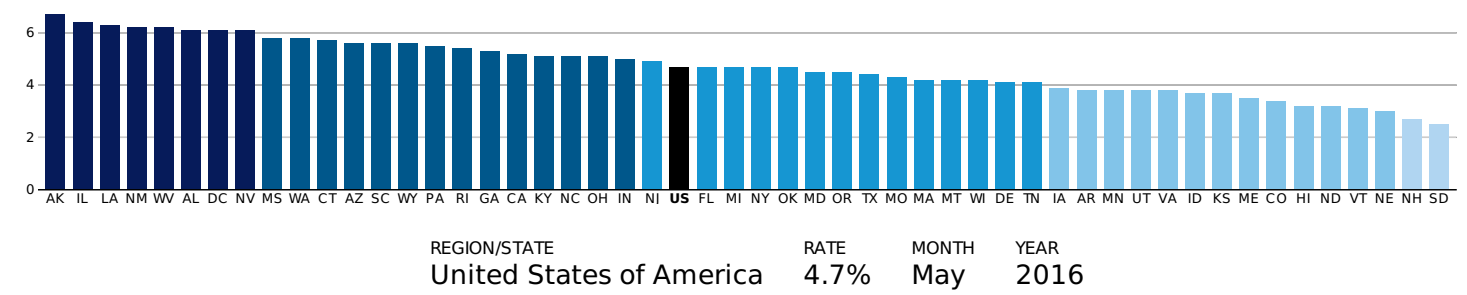


# EMPLOYMENT

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 May 2016.

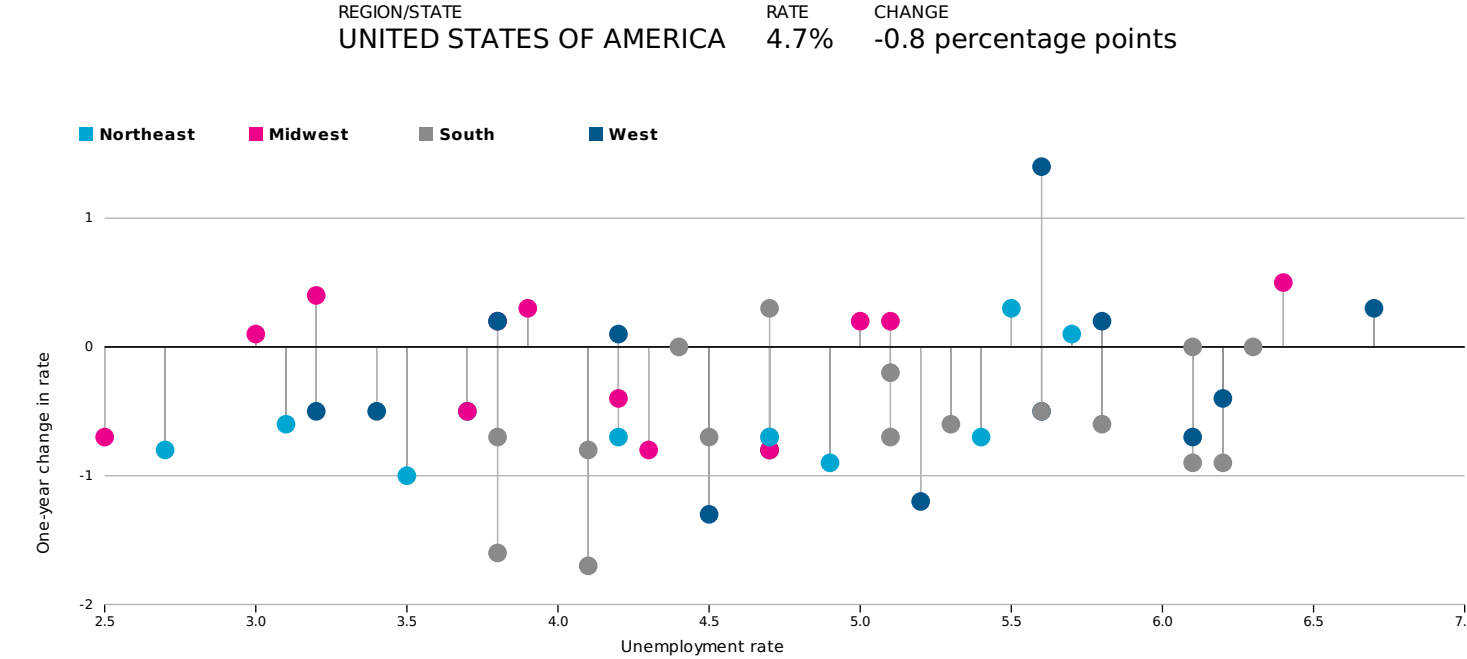


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm>)

The national unemployment rate was 4.7 percent in May 2016. Alaska’s unemployment rate (6.7 percent) was the highest of any state. Six additional states (Alabama, Illinois, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, and West Virginia) and the District of Columbia (DC) had May unemployment rates above 6.0 percent. South Dakota had the lowest unemployment rate (2.5 percent). The rate was also 3.0 percent or lower in New Hampshire (2.7 percent) and Nebraska (3.0 percent). Twelve other states had rates under 4.0 percent: Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, North Dakota, Utah, Vermont, and Virginia.

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

The national unemployment rate decreased 0.8 percentage points to a value of 4.7 percent between May 2015 and May 2016.

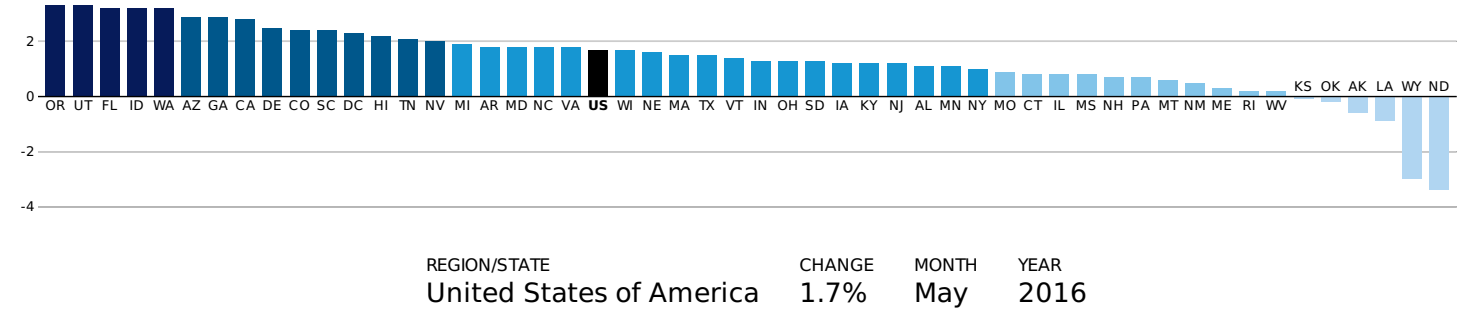


Source: Both datasets from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm>)

The national unemployment rate fell 0.8 percentage points between May 2015 and May 2016. The rate increased 1.4 percentage points in Wyoming, the greatest increase of any state over the year. The next largest rate increase was in Illinois (0.5 percentage points). The unemployment rate increased over the year in 13 other states: Alaska, Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Utah, and Washington. Among states with an increase, two had a May 2016 unemployment rate above 6.0 percent (Alaska and Illinois), but five had a rate below 4.0 percent (Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Utah). The largest drops in year-over-year unemployment rate were in Tennessee (-1.7 percentage points) and Arkansas (-1.6 percentage points). Three other states (California, Maine, and Oregon) saw their unemployment rate drop 1.0 percentage point or more over the year. Among those states, only California still had a May 2016 unemployment rate above 5.0 percent.

## Total Employment (percent change year over year)

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

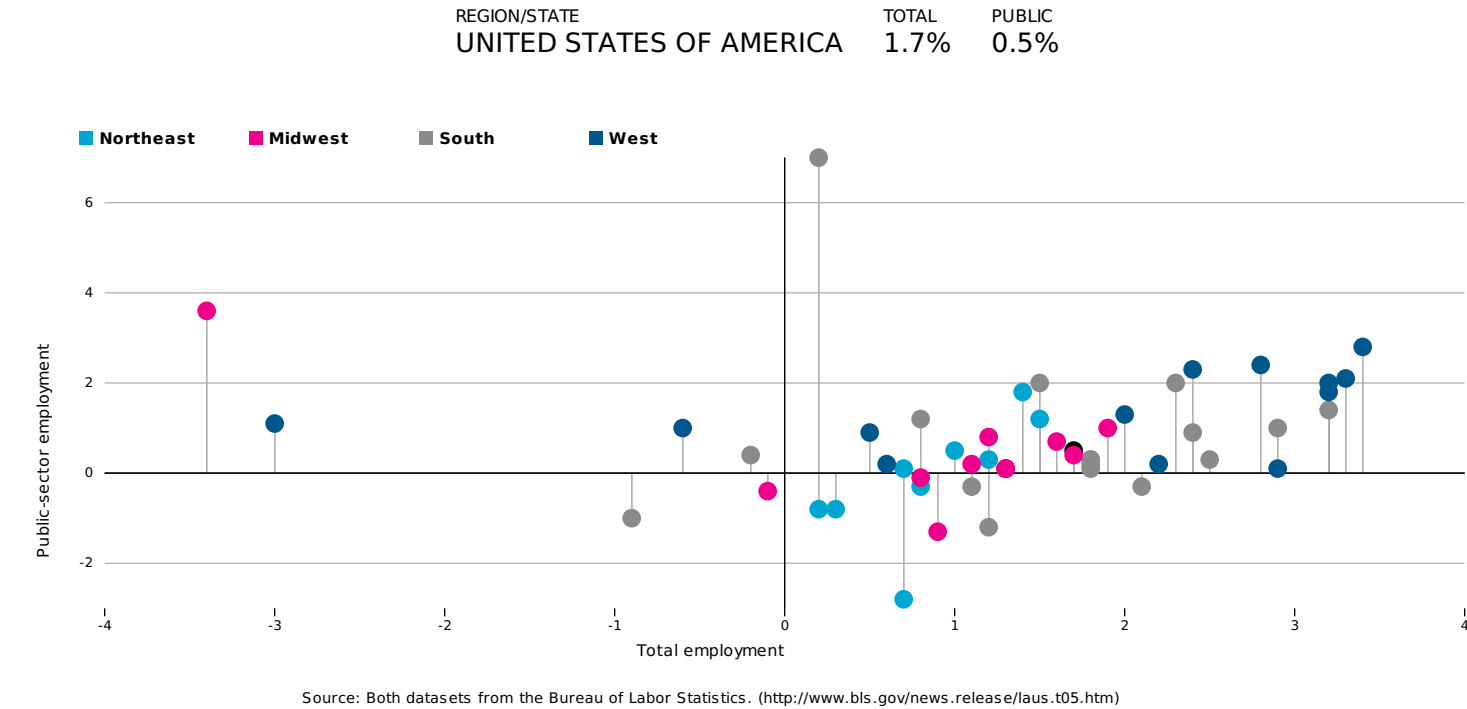


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t05.htm>)

Total national (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.7 percent from May 2015 to May 2016. The largest employment drops were in North Dakota (-3.4 percent) and Wyoming (-3.0 percent). Total employment decreased over the past year (<http://apps.urban.org/features/state-economic-monitor/historical.html>) in both states as the price of natural resources plummeted. Three other energy states saw employment decline over the past year: Alaska, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. Kansas was the only non-resource-dependent state to lose jobs. The largest increase in total employment was in Oregon (3.4 percent). Total employment also grew 3.0 percent or more over the past 12 months in four other states: Florida, Idaho, Utah, and Washington.

## Total Employment vs. Public Employment

Total public-sector employment increased 0.5 percent from May 2015 to May 2016, staying well below the 1.7 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 0.5 percent from May 2015 to May 2016. Public employment decreased over the year in 11 states, led by New Hampshire (-2.8 percent), Missouri (-1.3 percent), Kentucky (-1.2 percent), and Louisiana (-1.0 percent). Of these four states, only Louisiana also had a decline in total employment (-0.9 percent). The largest increase in public employment was in West Virginia (7.0 percent).

Looking at historical data (<http://apps.urban.org/features/state-economic-monitor/historical.html>), it's clear West Virginia's public employment spikes and drops in May of each year depending on whether or not a primary election is held (the state's primary this year was May 10). Seven other states and DC saw public employment increase 2.0 percent or more over the year: California, Colorado, DC, North Dakota, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Washington. All of states with a public-sector employment increase of 2 percent or more, also had total employment increase 2.0 percent or more except for North Dakota (-3.4 percent), Texas (1.5 percent), and West Virginia (0.2 percent).

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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 May 2016 highlights only changes that are statistically significant.