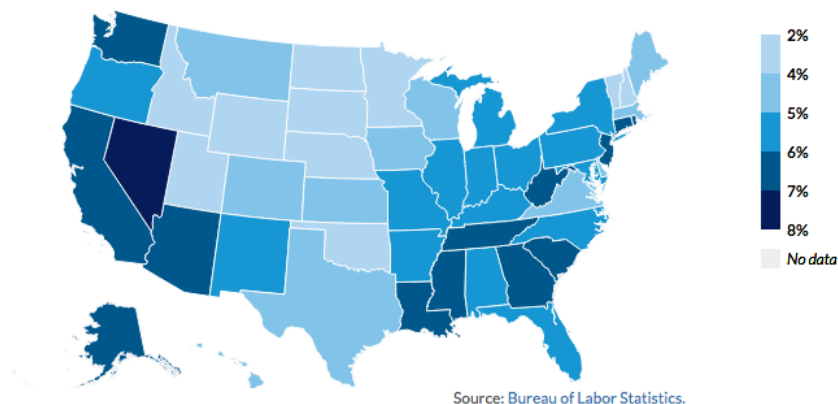
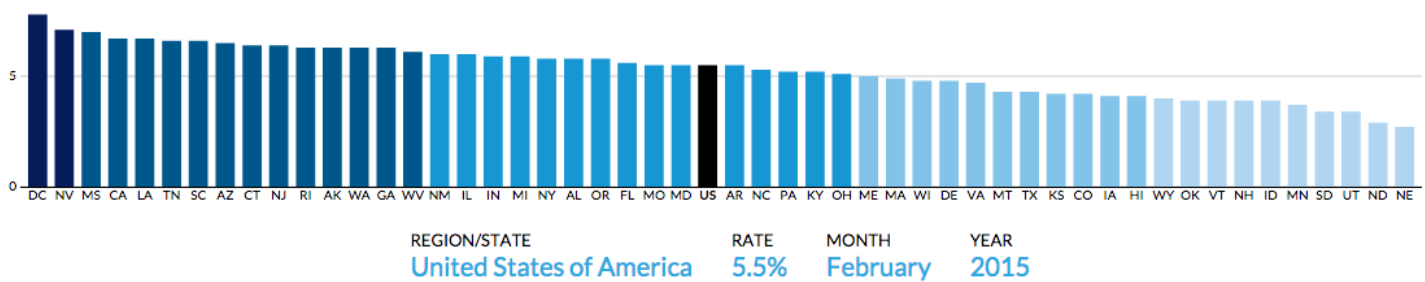


# EMPLOYMENT

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

## Unemployment Rate (percent, seasonally adjusted)

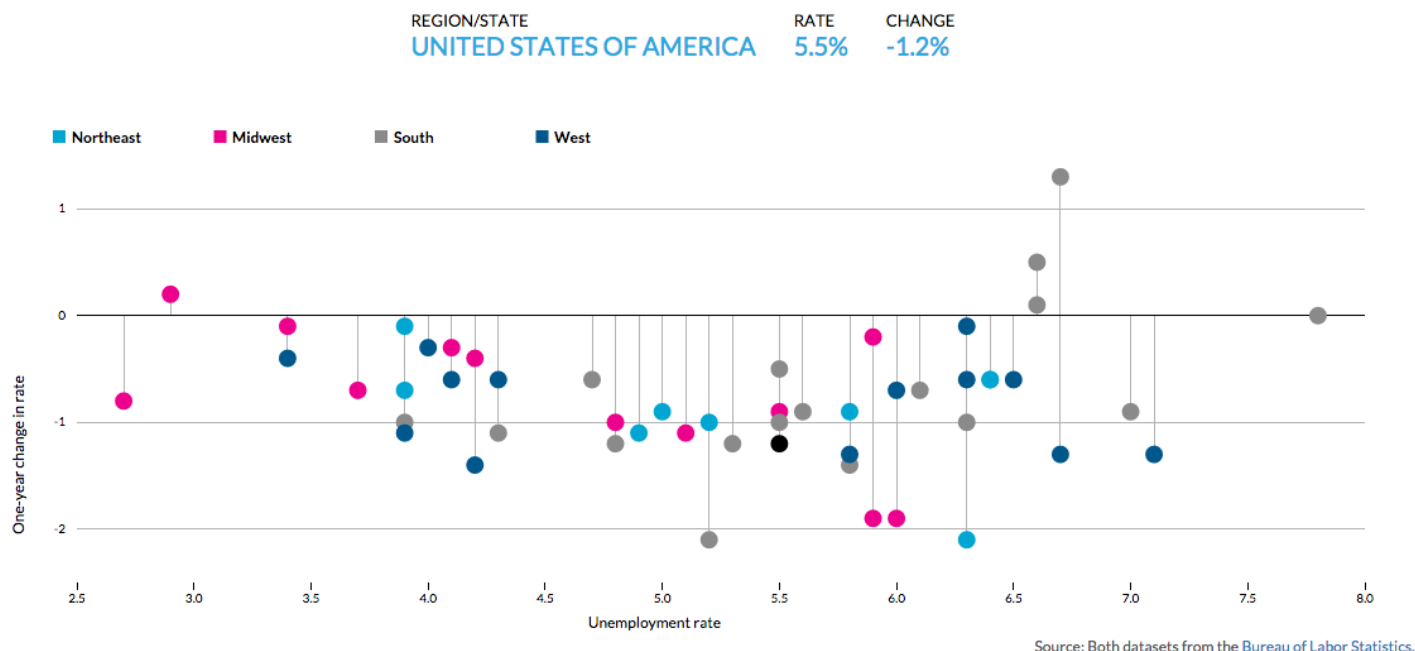
The national unemployment rate was 5.5 percent as of February 2015.



The national unemployment rate was 5.5 percent in February 2015. The rate was 7 percent or more in the District of Columbia (7.8 percent), Nevada (7.1 percent), and Mississippi (7.0 percent). Nebraska (2.7 percent) and North Dakota (2.9 percent) had the lowest February unemployment rates. Seven other states had rates below 4 percent: Idaho, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, and Vermont.

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

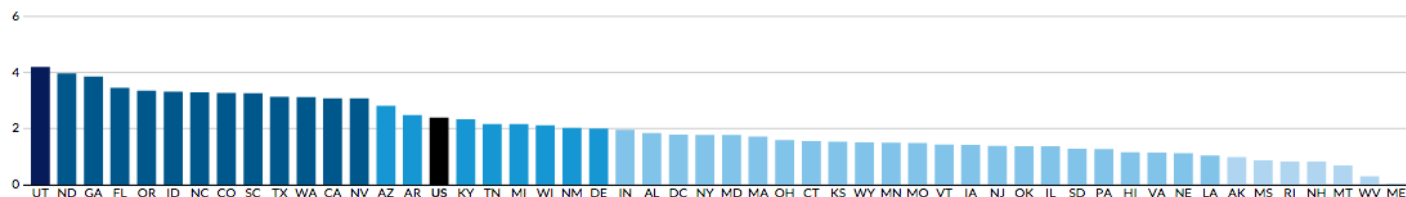
The national unemployment rate decreased by 1.2 percent to a value of 5.5 percent between February 2014 and February 2015.



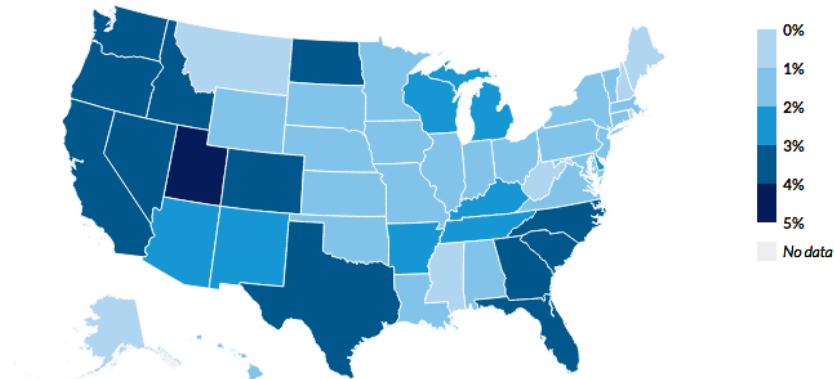
The national unemployment rate fell 1.2 percentage points between February 2014 and February 2015. The unemployment rate increased in four states: Louisiana (1.3 points), South Carolina (0.5 points), North Dakota (0.2 points), and Tennessee (0.1 points). While the three Southern states had relatively high February unemployment rates, North Dakota had the second-lowest rate. DC's unemployment rate was unchanged over the year. Among the 46 states where the unemployment rate decreased, the drop was greatest in Kentucky and Rhode Island (both -2.1 points). The unemployment rate fell 1 percent or more in an additional 18 states, including states with relatively high February unemployment rates (e.g., Nevada, 7.1 percent) and relatively low February unemployment rates (e.g., Idaho, 3.9 percent).

## Total Employment (percent change year over year)

Total (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased by 2.4 percent from February 2014 to February 2015.



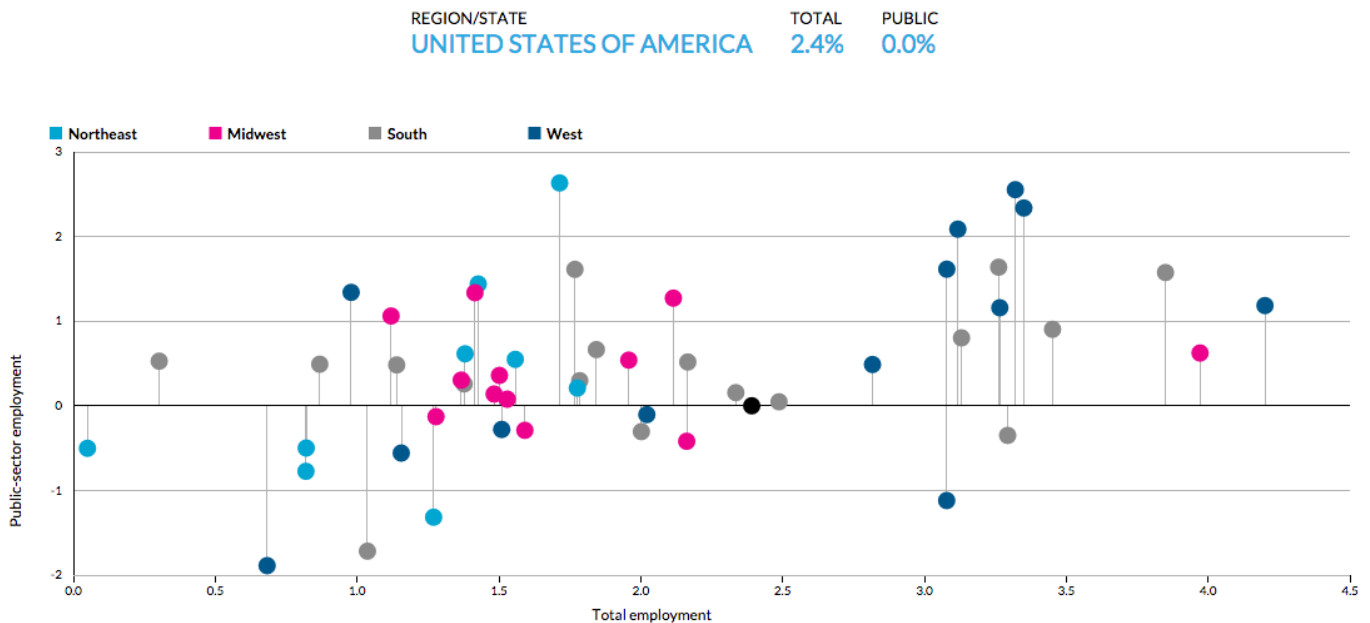
REGION/STATE	CHANGE	MONTH	YEAR
United States of America	2.4%	February	2015



Total (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased nationally 2.4 percent from February 2014 to February 2015. The growth was broad based: employment rose in every state except Maine, which experienced no change. Total employment increased less than 1 percent in five states: Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and West Virginia. Utah's 4.2 percent increase was the largest among the states. The other top-five states for employment growth were North Dakota (4.0 percent), Georgia (3.8 percent), Florida (3.5 percent), and Oregon (3.4 percent).

## Total Employment vs. Public Employment

Total public-sector employment did not change from February 2014 to February 2015, staying well below the 2.4 percent increase in total employment.



Total public-sector employment was unchanged from February 2014 to February 2015, continuing its trend of lagging total employment growth. While no state saw a drop in total employment over the year, public-sector employment declined in 15 states and was unchanged in Arkansas. Government employment dropped the most in Montana (-1.9 percent), Louisiana (-1.7 percent), Pennsylvania (-1.3 percent), and Nevada (-1.1 percent). In contrast, Idaho and Massachusetts experienced the largest increases in public-sector employment (both 2.6 percent) from February 2014 to February 2015. Public-sector employment also rose more than 2 percent in Oregon (2.3 percent) and Washington (2.1 percent).