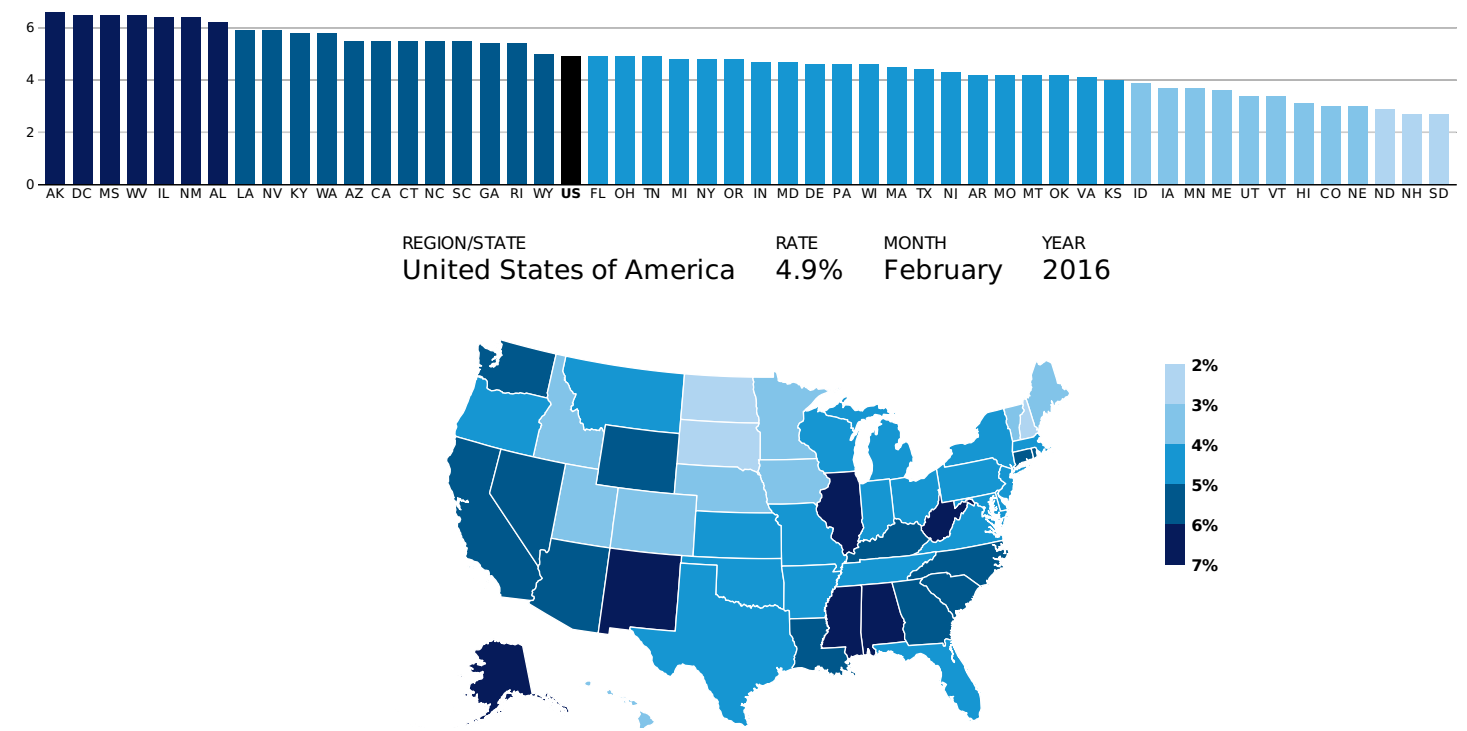


EMPLOYMENT

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

Unemployment Rate (percent, seasonally adjusted)

The national unemployment rate was 4.9 percent as of February 2016.

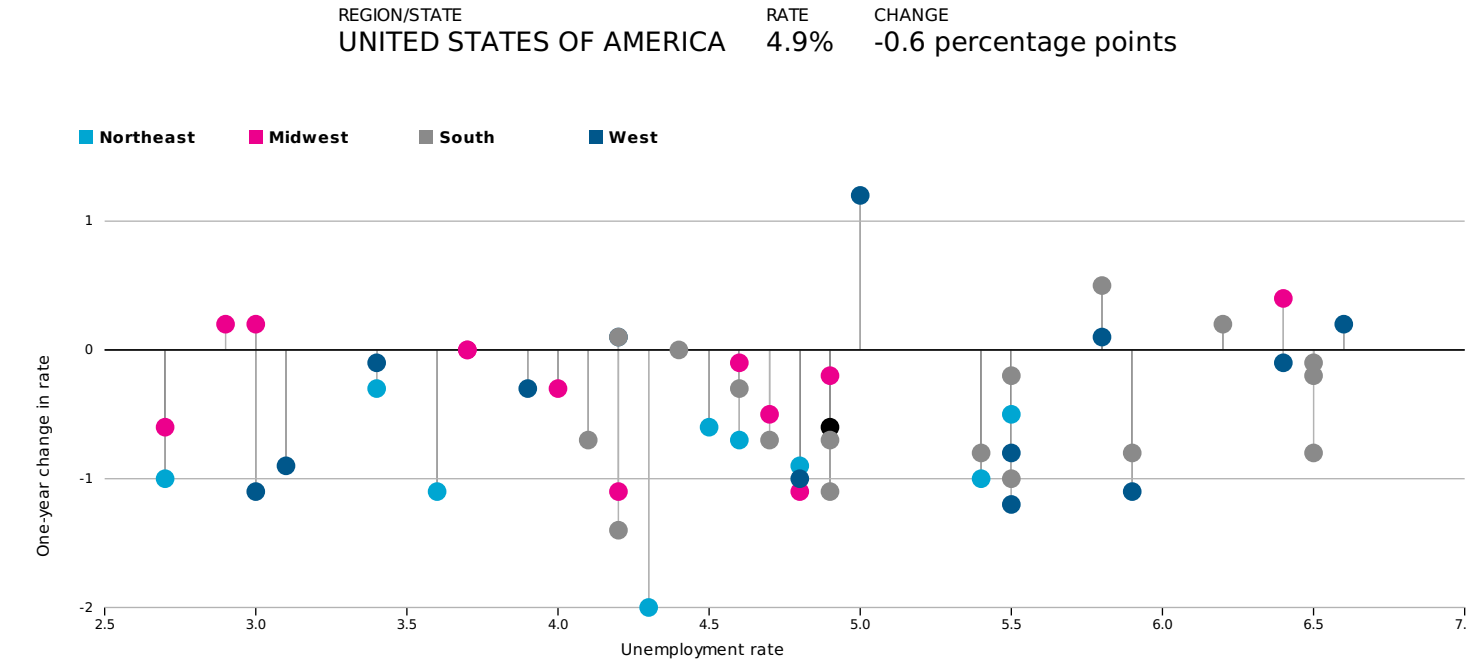


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm>)

The national unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in February 2016. Alaska's unemployment rate (6.6 percent) was the highest of any state. Five additional states (Alabama, Illinois, Mississippi, New Mexico, and West Virginia) and the District of Columbia (DC) had February unemployment rates above 6.0 percent. The lowest unemployment rates were in New Hampshire and South Dakota (both 2.7 percent), North Dakota (2.9 percent), and Colorado and Nebraska (both 3.0 percent). Seven other states had rates under 4.0 percent: Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Utah, and Vermont.

Unemployment Rate: Level vs. One-Year Change

The national unemployment rate decreased 0.6 percentage points to a value of 4.9 percent between February 2015 and February 2016.

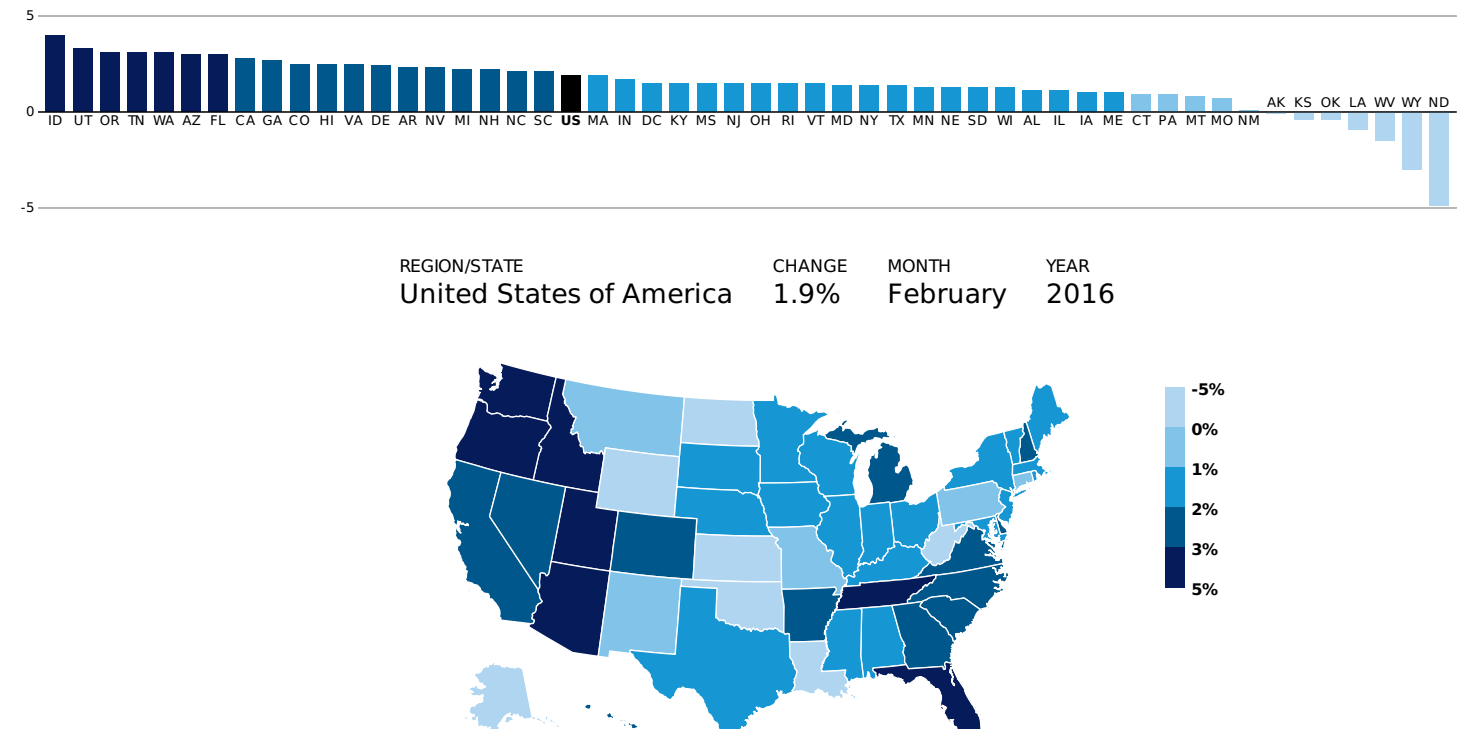


Source: Both datasets from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm>)

The national unemployment rate fell 0.6 percentage points between February 2015 and February 2016. Wyoming had the greatest increase of any state over the year (1.2 percentage points). The next largest rate increase was in Kentucky (0.5 percentage points). The unemployment rate increased over the year in eight other states: Alabama, Alaska, Illinois, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Washington. The February unemployment rates in these 10 states ranged from 2.9 percent in North Dakota to 6.6 percent in Alaska. The largest drop in year-over-year unemployment rate was in New Jersey (-2.0 percentage points). The next largest declines were in Arkansas (-1.4 percentage points) and California (-1.2 percentage points). The unemployment rate also fell 1.0 percentage points or more in 10 additional states.

Total Employment (percent change year over year)

Total (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.9 percent from February 2015 to February 2016.

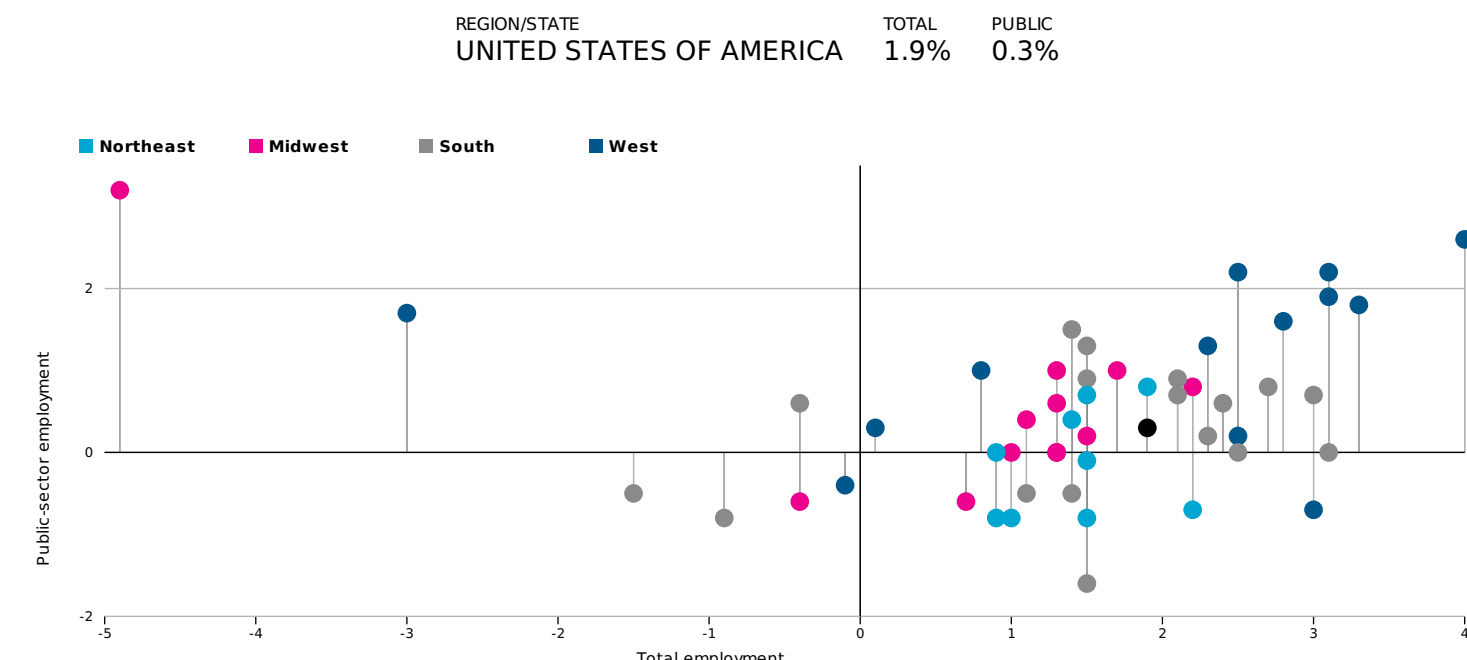


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t05.htm>)

Total national (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.9 percent from February 2015 to February 2016. Despite having one of the lowest unemployment rates, total employment decreased the most in North Dakota (-4.9 percent). In January 2015, that state's year-over-year total employment growth was 4.3 percent (compared with January 2014). In every month since then (<http://apps.urban.org/features/state-economic-monitor/historical.html>), employment growth decelerated, until July 2015 when it started contracting. Total employment decreased in six other states: Wyoming (-3.0 percent), West Virginia (-1.5 percent), Louisiana (-0.9 percent), Oklahoma and Kansas (both -0.4 percent), and Alaska (-0.1 percent). Notably, all of these states (except for Kansas) rely on natural resource extraction. The largest increase in total employment was in Idaho (4.0 percent). Total employment also grew 3.0 percent or more over the past 12 months in six other states: Arizona, Florida, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, and Washington.

Total Employment vs. Public Employment

Total public-sector employment increased 0.3 percent from February 2015 to February 2016, staying well below the 1.9 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 0.3 percent from February 2015 to February 2016. Public employment decreased over the year in 14 states. The largest decrease in government employment was in Kentucky (-1.6 percent). Total employment and public employment both decreased over the year in four states: Alaska, Kansas, Louisiana, and West Virginia. Public employment did not change in six states. The

largest increase in public employment was in North Dakota (3.2 percent) despite that state's overall decline in total employment. Wyoming also had a relatively large increase in public employment (1.7 percent) and large decrease in total employment (-3.0 percent). In addition to North Dakota, three states also had public sector employment increases of 2.0 percent or more over the year: Idaho (2.6 percent), Colorado (2.2 percent), and Oregon (2.2 percent). All three of these states also had relatively large increases in total employment over the past 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.