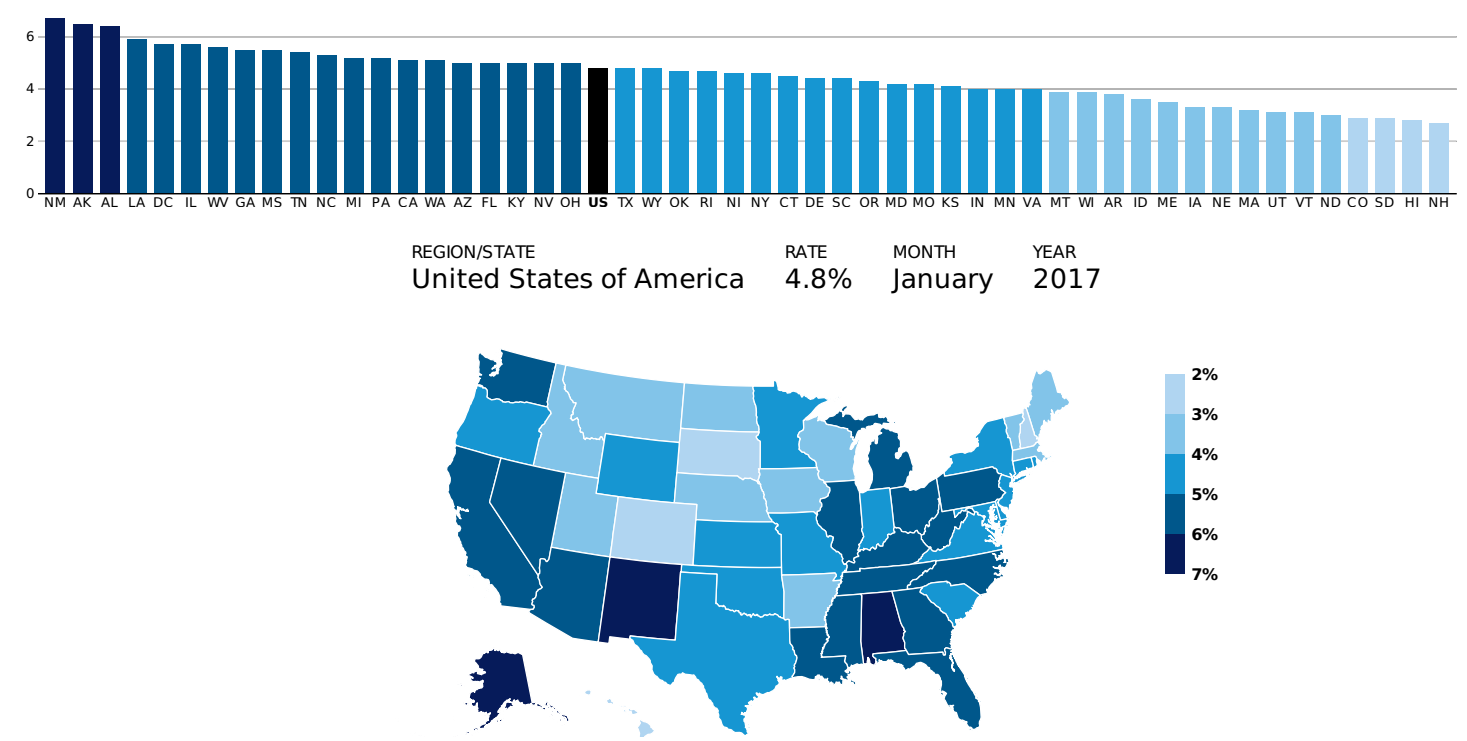


# EMPLOYMENT

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

## Unemployment Rate (percent, seasonally adjusted)

The national unemployment rate was 4.8 percent as of January 2017.

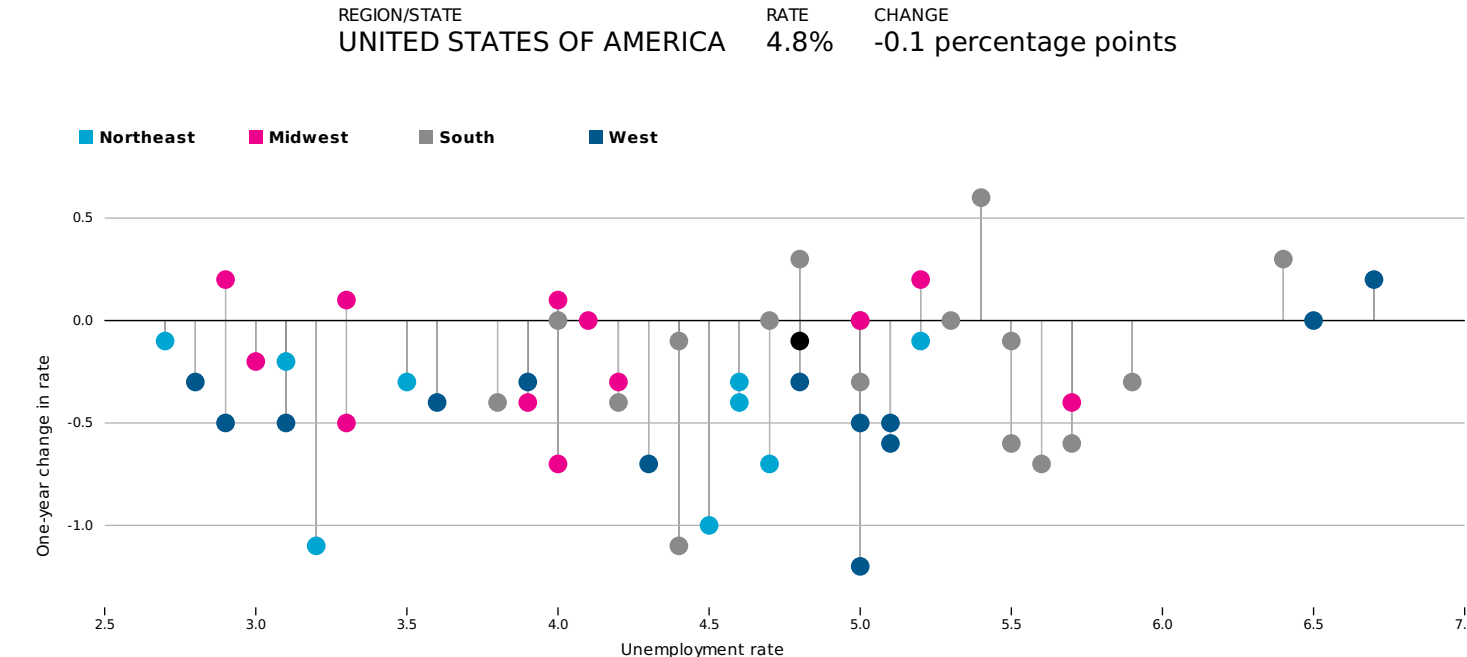


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm>)

The national unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in January 2017. New Mexico's 6.7 percent unemployment rate was the highest of any state, while New Hampshire's was the lowest at 2.7 percent. Only two other states had January unemployment rates higher than 6.0 percent: Alaska (6.5 percent) and Alabama (6.4 percent). Four states had January unemployment rates below 3.0 percent: New Hampshire, Hawaii (2.8 percent), and Colorado and South Dakota (both 2.9 percent). Another 11 states had unemployment rates below 4.0 percent: Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Utah, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

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

The national unemployment rate decreased 0.1 percentage points to a value of 4.8 percent between January 2016 and January 2017.

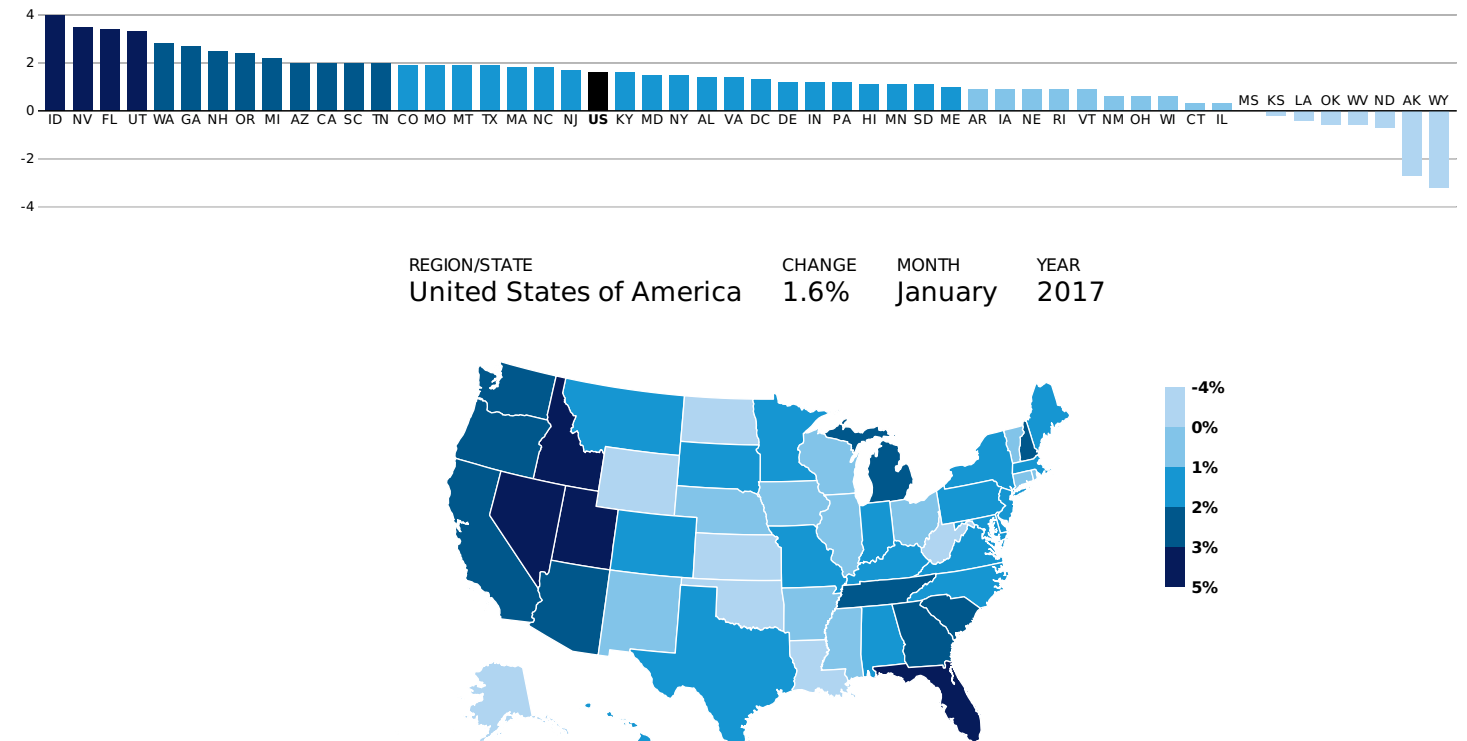


Source: Both datasets from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm>)

The national unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage points between January 2016 and January 2017. Tennessee's 0.6 percentage-point increase in unemployment was the largest of any state over the year. The unemployment rate also increased in Alabama, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Texas. Among these states, the January unemployment rate was above 6.0 percent in Alabama and New Mexico, but below 4.0 percent in Nebraska and South Dakota. Four states saw their unemployment rate drop 1.0 percentage point or more over the year: Nevada (-1.2 percentage points), Massachusetts and South Carolina (both -1.1 percentage points), and Connecticut (-1.0 percentage points). Those four states also had January 2017 unemployment rates at or below 5.0 percent. Over the year, West Virginia's unemployment rate dropped 0.7 percentage points, but its January 2017 rate remains relatively high (5.6 percent).

## Total Employment (percent change year over year)

Total (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.6 percent from January 2016 to January 2017.

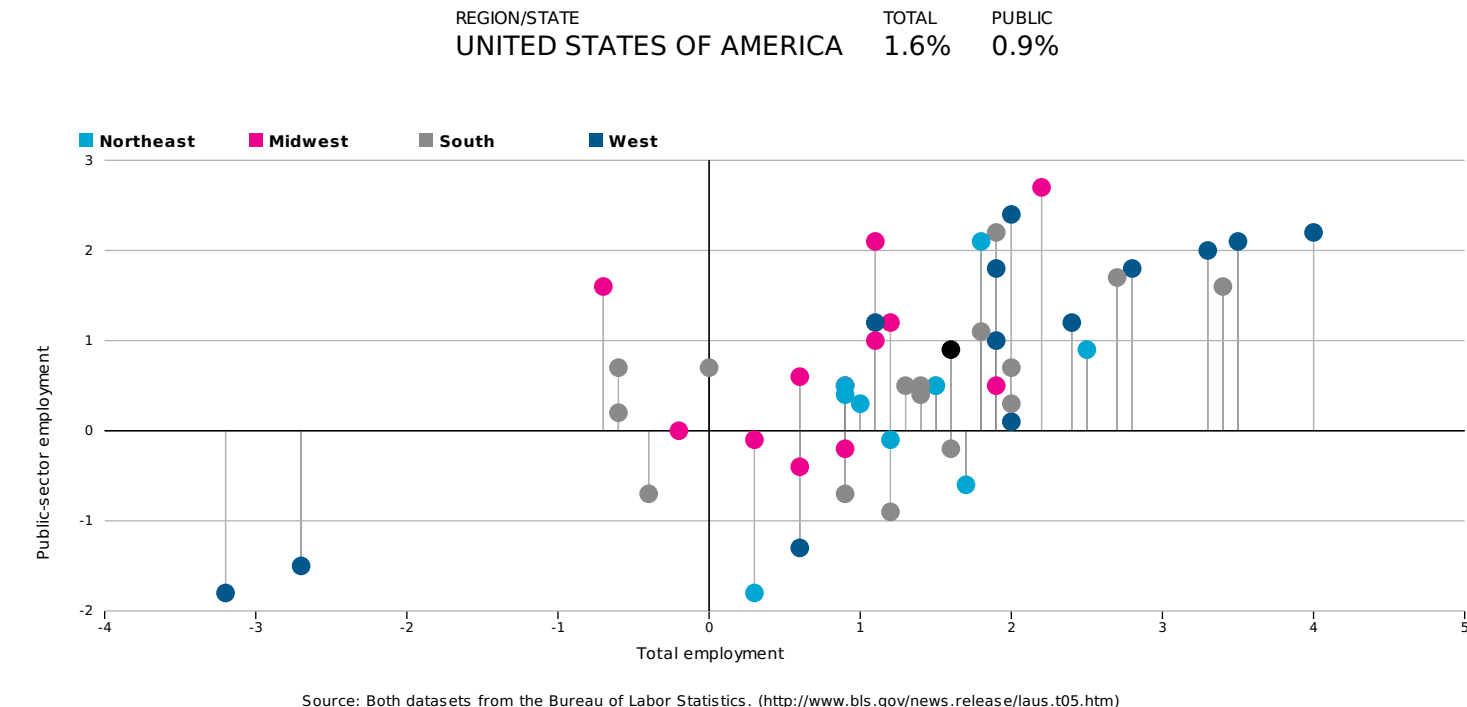


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t05.htm>)

Total national (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.6 percent from January 2016 to January 2017. Total employment declined in seven states. The largest drops were in Wyoming (-3.2 percent) and Alaska (-2.7 percent). The precipitous decline of natural resource prices has negatively affected employment in many of these states over the past year (<http://apps.urban.org/features/state-economic-monitor/historical.html>). In fact, Kansas (-0.2 percent) was the only non-resource dependent state to lose jobs over the year. The largest increase in total employment was in Idaho (4.0 percent), where employment grew across all sectors. Total employment also grew 3.0 percent or more Nevada (3.5 percent), Florida (3.4 percent), and Utah (3.3 percent).

## Total Employment vs. Public Employment

Total public-sector employment increased 0.9 percent from January 2016 to January 2017, staying well below the 1.6 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 0.9 percent from January 2016 to January 2017, but it still remains 3.0 percent below its 2010 peak. Overall, 13 states saw public employment fall over the past year. The decline in government jobs was greater than 1.0 percent in Alaska, Connecticut, New Mexico, and Wyoming. In

contrast, public employment increased 2.0 percent or more in eight states: California, Idaho, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, and Utah. Three states—Alaska, Louisiana, and Wyoming—saw drops in both government and total jobs over the year. All states with public employment increases of 2.0 percent or more also saw total jobs increase 1.0 percent or more. North Dakota’s public employment increased 1.6 percent over the year despite its total employment falling 0.7 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 January 2017 highlights only changes that are statistically significant.