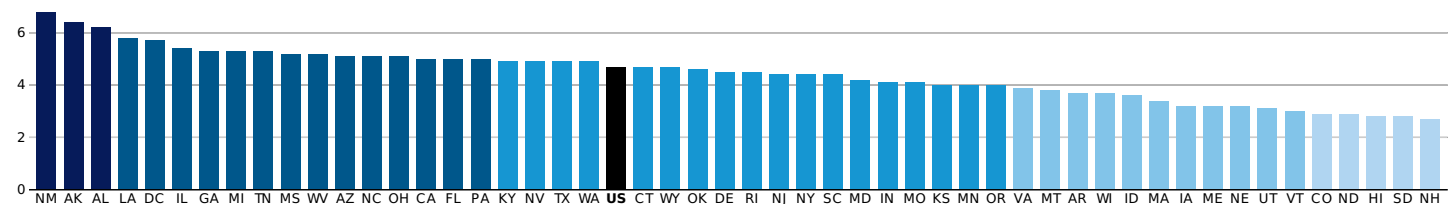
EMPLOYMENT

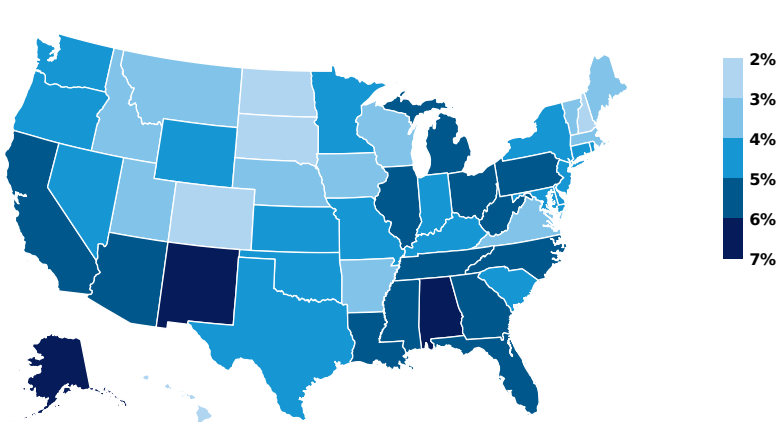
Breaking down state data on unemployment rates, total (nonfarm) payroll employment, and government employment.

Unemployment Rate (percent, seasonally adjusted)

The national unemployment rate was 4.7 percent as of February 2017.



REGION/STATE	RATE	MONTH	YEAR
United States of America	4.7%	February	2017



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

The national unemployment rate was 4.7 percent in February 2017. New Mexico's 6.8 percent unemployment rate was the highest of any state, while New Hampshire's 2.7 percent rate was the lowest. Only two other states had February unemployment rates higher than 6.0 percent: Alaska (6.4 percent) and Alabama (6.2 percent).

Five states had February unemployment rates below 3.0 percent: New Hampshire, Hawaii and South Dakota (both at 2.8 percent), and Colorado and North Dakota (2.9 percent). Another 11 states had unemployment rates below 4.0 percent: Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Unemployment Rate: Level vs. One-Year Change

The national unemployment rate decreased 0.2 percentage points to a value of 4.7 percent between February 2016 and February 2017.

REGION/STATE	RATE	CHANGE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	4.7%	-0.2 percentage points

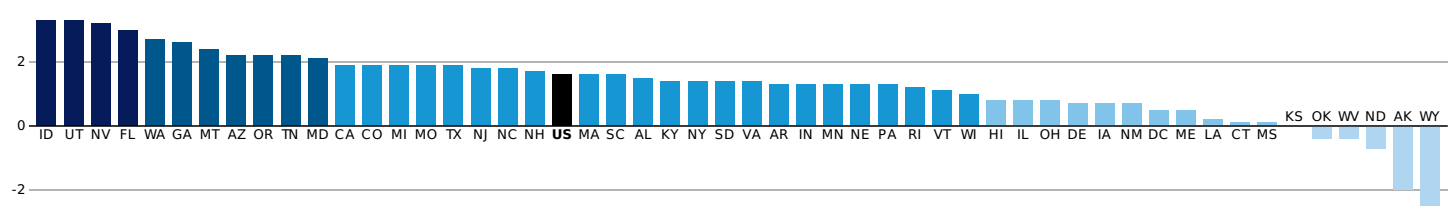
Source: Both datasets from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. (http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm)

The national unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage points between February 2016 and February 2017. Tennessee's 0.6 percentage-point increase in unemployment was the largest of any state. The unemployment rate also increased over the year in Alabama, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio, South Dakota, and Texas.

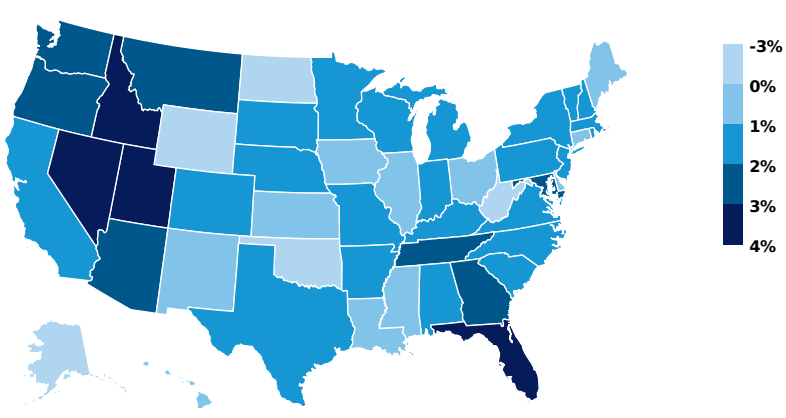
Among states with an increase, February 2017 unemployment rates were above 6.0 percent in Alabama and New Mexico but 4.0 percent or lower in Minnesota and South Dakota. Three states saw their unemployment rate drop 1.0 percentage point or more over the year: Nevada (-1.2 percentage points), West Virginia (-1.1 percentage points), and South Carolina (-1.0 percentage point). Among those three states, only West Virginia's February 2017 unemployment rate was still above 5.0 percent.

Total Employment (percent change year over year)

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



REGION/STATE	CHANGE	MONTH	YEAR
United States of America	1.6%	February	2017



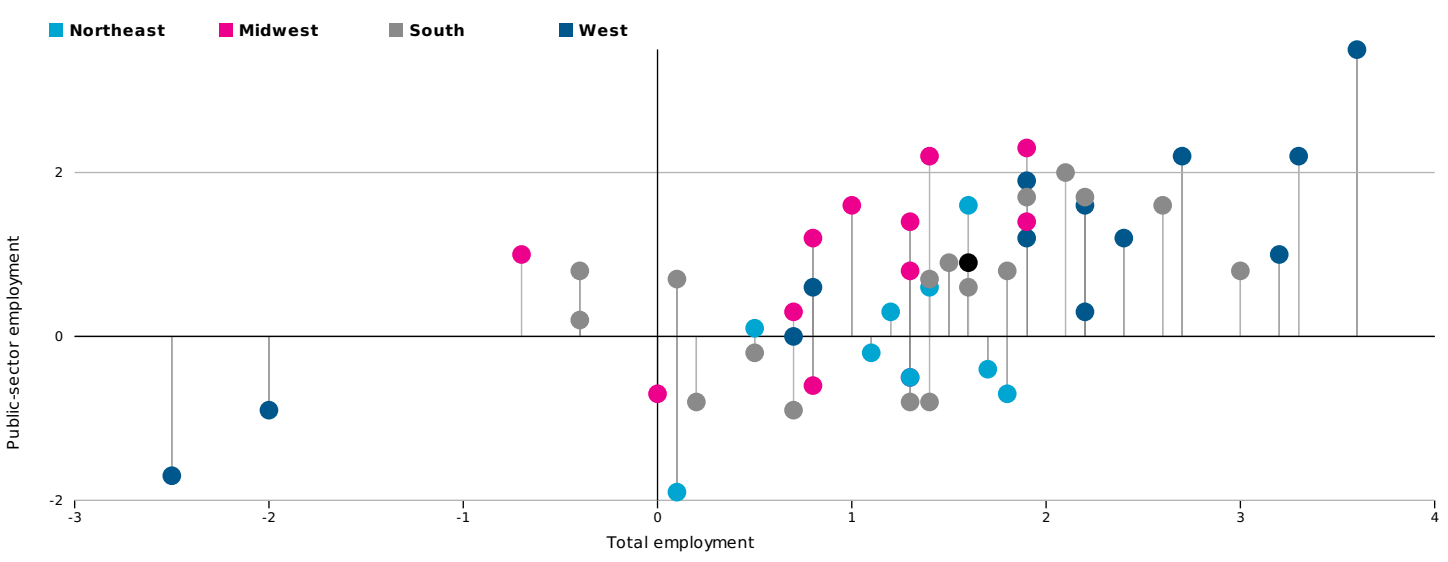
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t05.htm)

Total national (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.6 percent from February 2016 to February 2017. Total employment declined in five states, all with economies that depend on natural resource extraction: Wyoming (-2.5 percent), Alaska (-2.0 percent), North Dakota (-0.7 percent), and Oklahoma and West Virginia (both -0.4 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).

Total Employment vs. Public Employment

Total public-sector employment increased 0.9 percent from February 2016 to February 2017, staying well below the 1.6 percent increase in tota employment.

REGION/STATE	TOTAL	PUBLIC
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	1.6%	0.9%



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 February 2016 to February 2017. Despite the national increase, 14 states and the District of Columbia saw public employment fall over the past year. The largest declines in government jobs were in Connecticut (-1.9 percent) and Wyoming (-1.7 percent). Another

five states—Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Kentucky, and Louisiana—saw public employment fall nearly 1.0 percent.

In contrast, public employment increased 2.0 percent or more in six states: Idaho, Maryland, Michigan, South Dakota, Utah, and Washington. With an increase of 3.5 percent, Idaho was the only state that saw government jobs grow more than 3.0 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. This page is not comparable to the Bureau of Labo Statistics's press release, because that release as of February 2017 highlights only changes that are statistically significant.