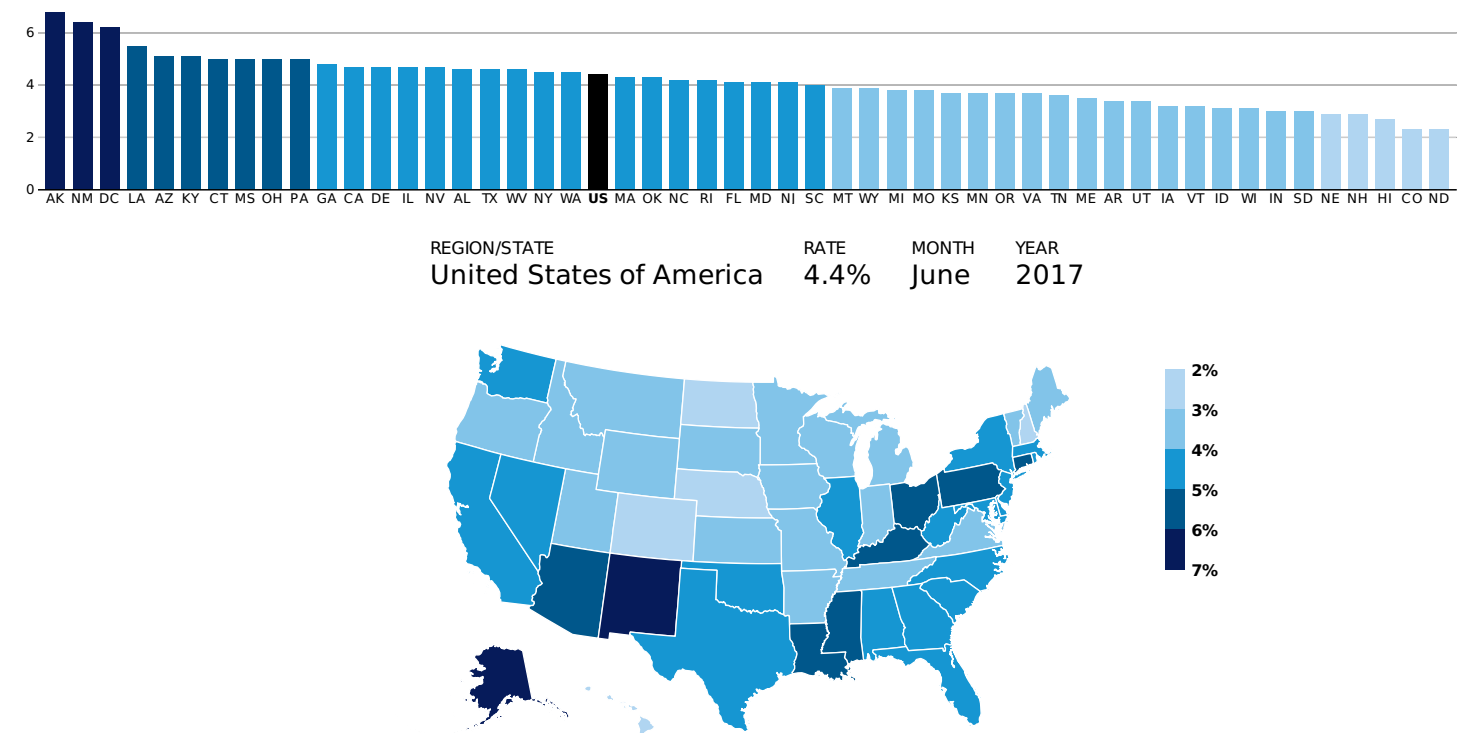# EMPLOYMENT

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

Unemployment Rate (percent, seasonally adjusted)

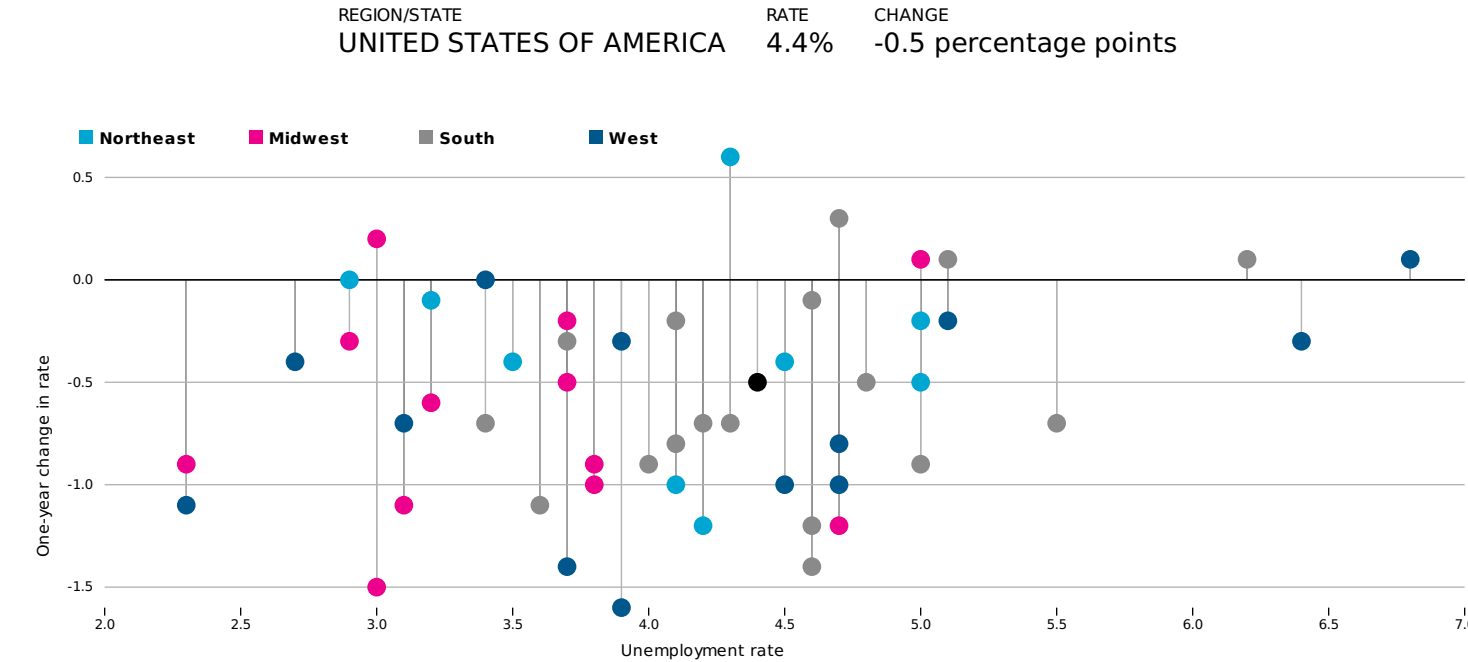*The national unemployment rate was 4.4 percent as of June 2017.*

REGION/STATE		RATE	MONTH	YEAR
United States of America		4.4%	June	2017

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

The national unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in July 2017. Alaska had the highest unemployment rate (7.0 percent) of any state. The unemployment rate was also greater than 6.0 percent in the District of Columbia (6.4 percent) and New Mexico (6.3 percent).

North Dakota had the lowest unemployment rate in July (2.2 percent). Colorado, Hawaii, Nebraska, and New Hampshire also had unemployment rates below 3.0 percent. In total, 23 states had June unemployment rates below 4.0 percent.

Unemployment Rate: Level vs. One-Year Change

The national unemployment rate decreased 0.5 percentage points to a value of 4.4 percent between June 2016 and June 2017.
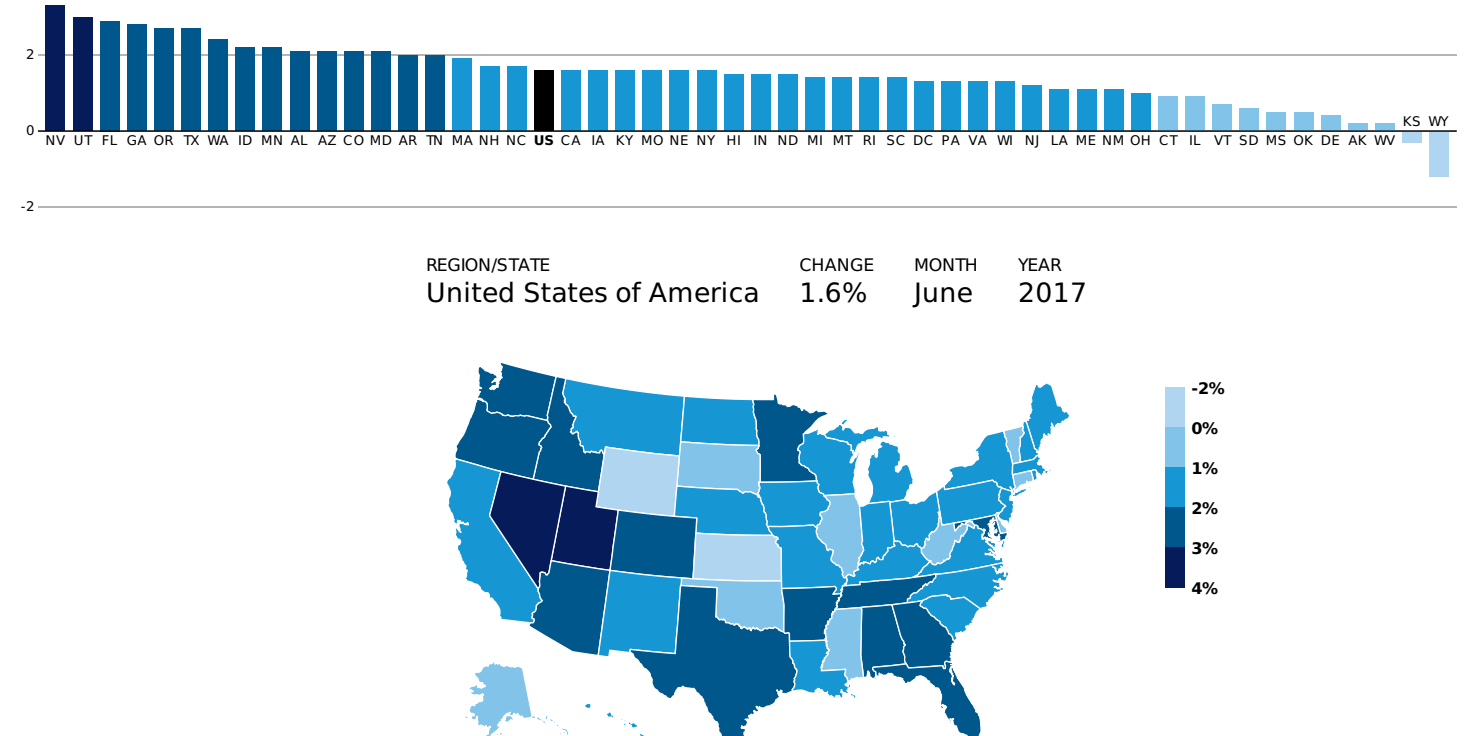
REGION/STATE		RATE	CHANGE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA		4.4%	-0.5 percentage points

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

The national unemployment rate fell 0.6 percentage points between July 2016 and July 2017. Massachusetts' 0.7 percentage-point increase in unemployment was the largest of any state. The unemployment rate also increased over the year in Alaska, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Kentucky, Ohio, South Dakota, and Utah.

The unemployment rate dropped the most in Indiana, Tennessee, and Wyoming (-1.4 percentage points in all three states). Ten other states saw unemployment rates fall 1.0 percentage point or more: Alabama, Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Oregon, Rhode Island, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Total Employment (percent change year over year)

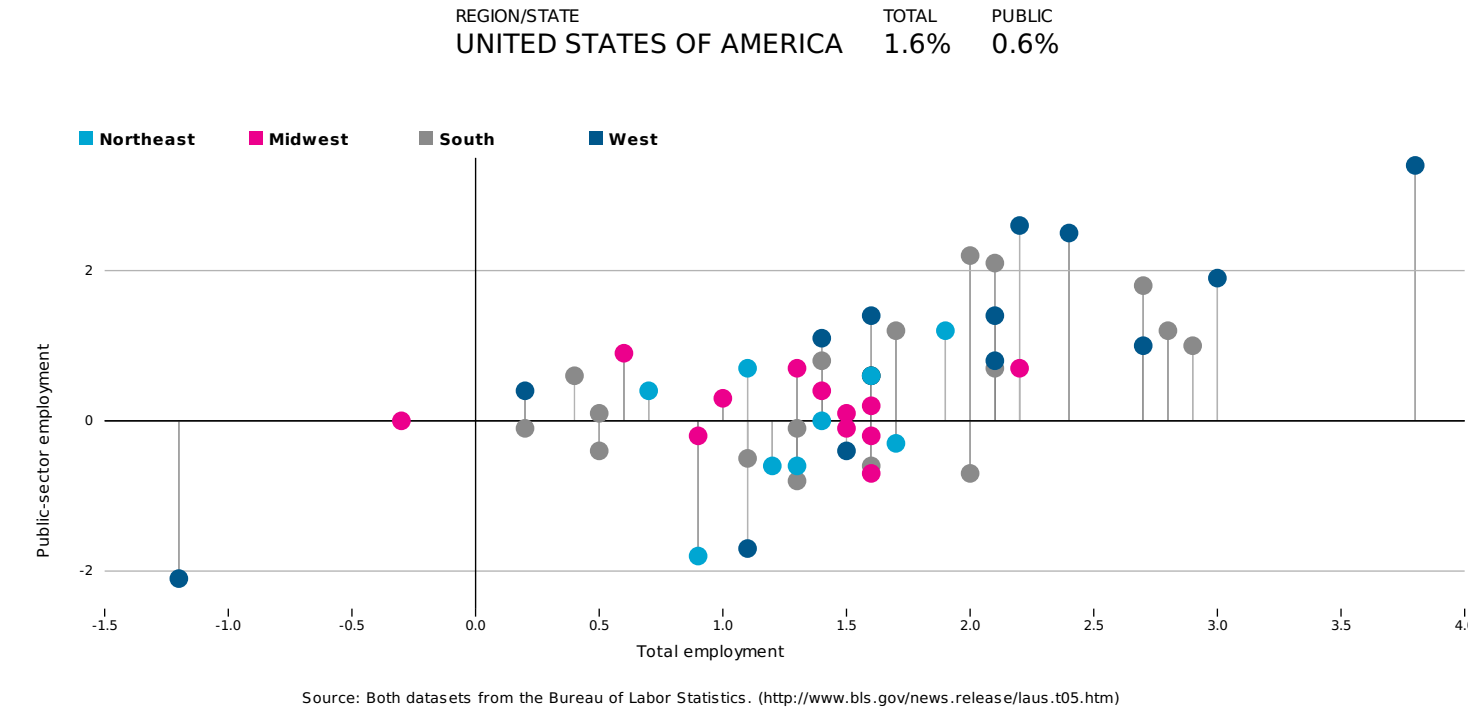*Total (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.6 percent from June 2016 to June 2017.*

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

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

Total national (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.5 percent from July 2016 to July 2017. Total employment declined over the year in only three states: Wyoming (-1.1 percent), Kansas (-0.8 percent), and Alaska (-0.3 percent).

The largest increase in total employment was in Oregon (2.9 percent). The next largest increases were in Arkansas, Florida, and Nevada (2.7 percent in all three states). In total, 11 states and the District of Columbia saw total employment increase 2.0 percent or more.

Total Employment vs. Public Employment

Total public-sector employment increased 0.6 percent from June 2016 to June 2017, staying well below the 1.6 percent increase in total employment.

REGION/STATE		TOTAL	PUBLIC
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA		1.6%	0.6%

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 July 2016 to July 2017. Despite the national increase, 18 states saw public employment fall over the past year. The largest decline in government jobs was

in Vermont (-3.0 percent). In total, public employment declined more than 1.0 percent in 10 states.

Public employment increased the most in Idaho, Missouri, and Washington (2.9 percent in all three states). In total, 14 states saw public employment increase 1.0 percent or more.