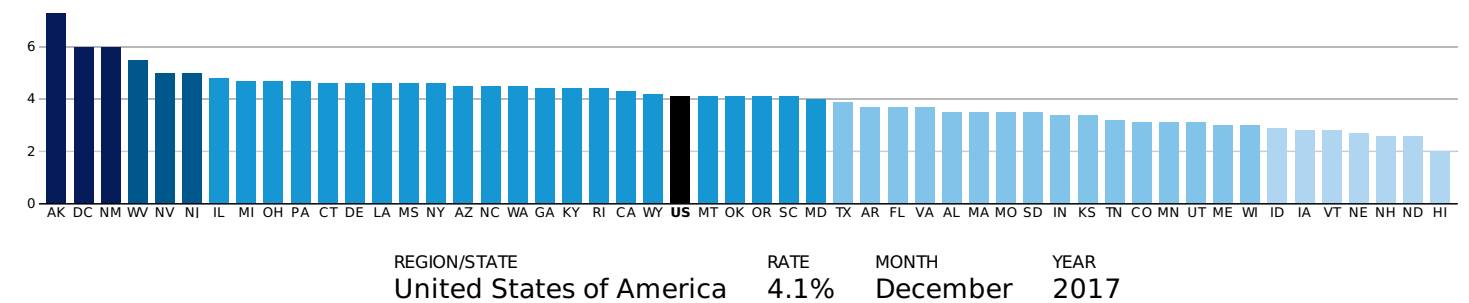


EMPLOYMENT

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

Unemployment Rate (percent, seasonally adjusted)

The national unemployment rate was 4.1 percent as of December 2017.



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

As of December 2017, the national unemployment rate has remained unchanged at 4.1 percent for three consecutive months. Alaska’s 7.3 percent December unemployment rate was the highest of any state. New Mexico and the District of Columbia (DC) were tied for the second highest, both with unemployment rates of 6.0 percent. In total, five states and DC had December unemployment rates of 5.0 percent or more.

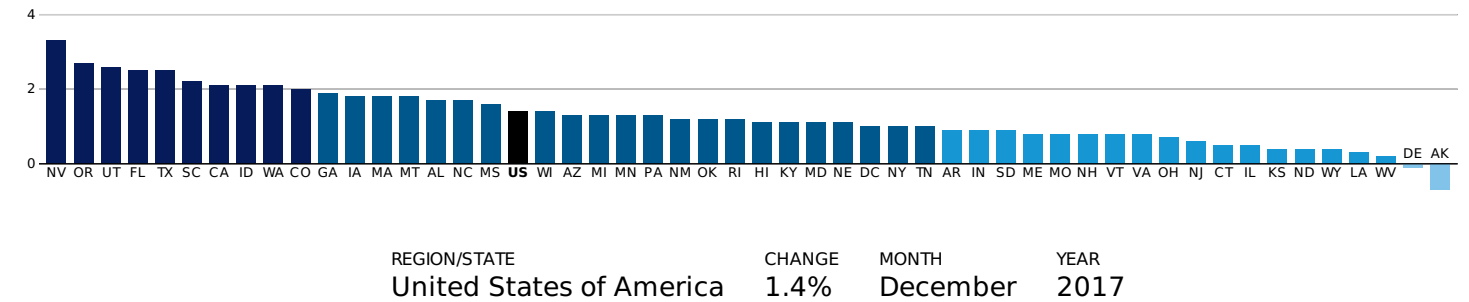
Hawaii’s 2.0 percent unemployment rate was the lowest in the country. Idaho, Iowa, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, and Vermont also had unemployment rates below 3.0 percent. In total, 24 states had December unemployment rates at or below 4.0 percent.

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Total Employment (percent change year over year)

Total (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.4 percent from December 2016 to December 2017.



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

Total national (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.4 percent from December 2016 to December 2017. Total employment declined over the year in only two states: Alaska (-0.7 percent) and Delaware (-0.1 percent).

Nevada’s 3.3 percent increase in total employment was the largest in the country. The next largest increases were in Oregon (2.7 percent), Utah (2.6 percent), and Florida and Texas (both 2.5 percent). In total, 10 states saw total employment increase 2.0 percent or more, and another 21 states and DC saw it increase at least 1.0 percent.

Total public-sector employment increased 0.2 percent from November 2016 to November 2017. Public employment declined over the past year in 23 states and the District of Columbia. The largest decline was in West Virginia (-6.0 percent), where public employment often fluctuates with election years (<http://apps.urban.org/features/state-economic-monitor/historical.html>). The next largest decline in public employment was in Hawaii (-3.4 percent). Connecticut, Louisiana, New Mexico, Ohio, and Wyoming also saw government employment fall more than 1.0 percent.

Public employment increased the most in Nevada (3.5 percent), Idaho, (2.7 percent), and Utah (2.0 percent). In total, 14 states saw public employment increase 1.0 percent or more.

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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 December 2017 highlights only changes that are statistically significant.