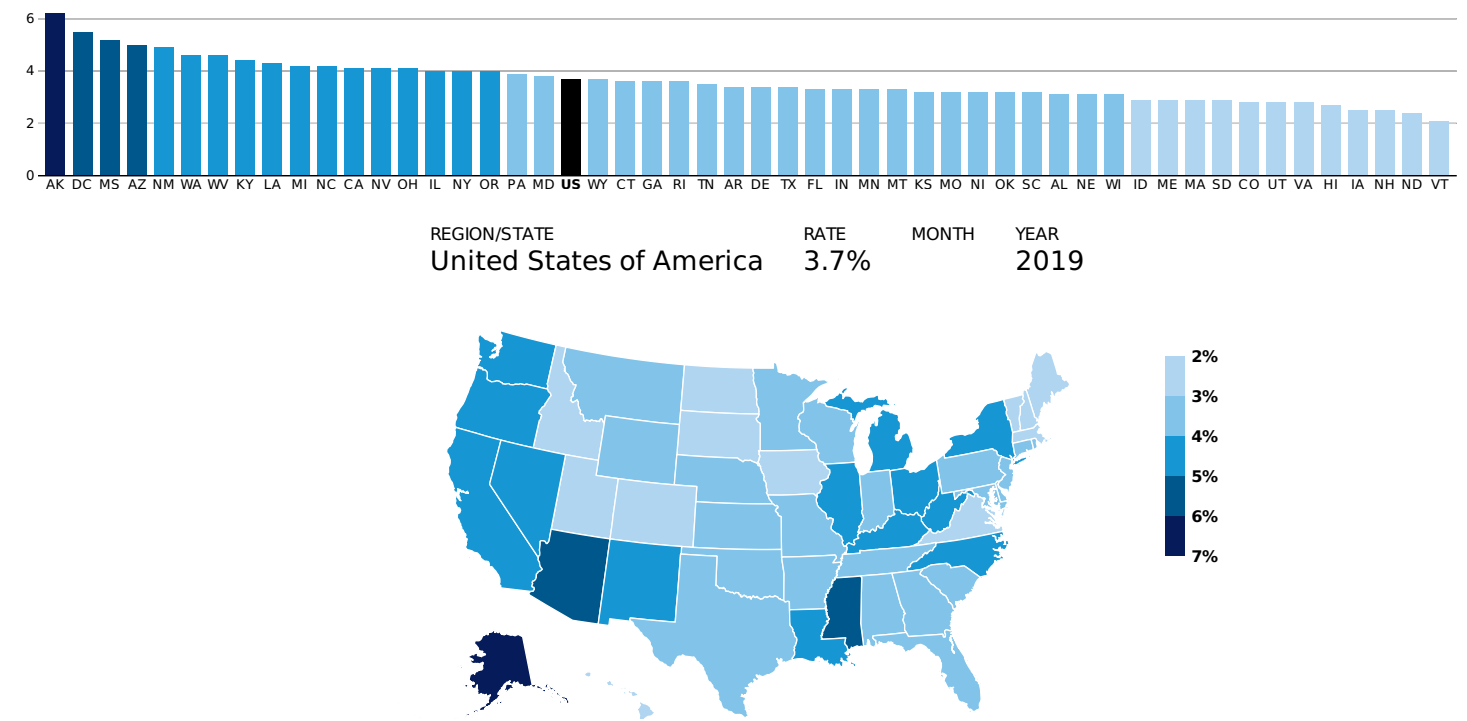# EMPLOYMENT

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

Unemployment Rate (percent, seasonally adjusted)

The national unemployment rate was 3.7 percent as of undefined 2019.

REGION/STATE	RATE	MONTH	YEAR
United States of America	3.7%		2019

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm)
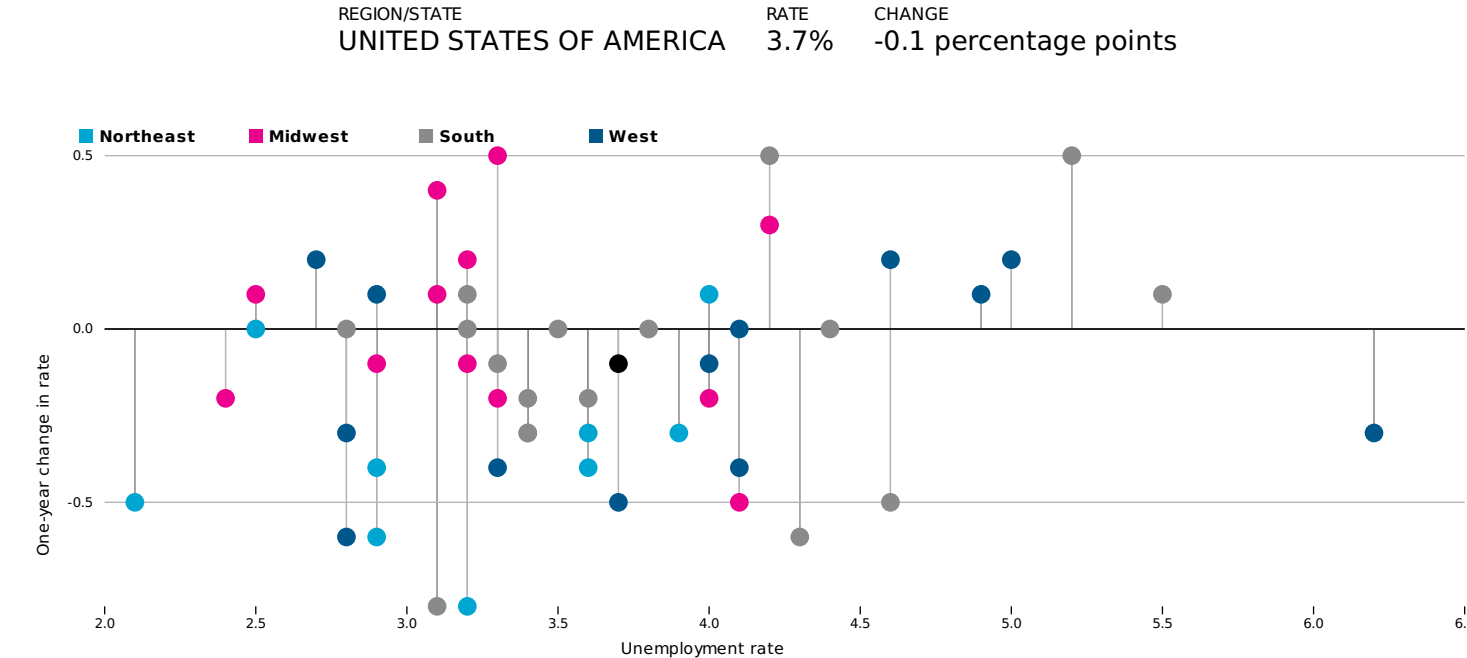
The national unemployment rate was 3.7 percent in August 2019. Among the states, Vermont had the lowest unemployment rate (2.1 percent), followed by North Dakota (2.4 percent), and Iowa and New Hampshire (2.5 percent each). August unemployment rates were also below 3.0 percent in eight other states: Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, South Dakota, Utah, and Virginia. In total, August unemployment rates were at or below 4.0 percent in 37 states.

Alaska's 6.2 percent unemployment rate was the highest of any state. The next highest rates in August 2019 were in the District of Columbia (5.5 percent), Mississippi (5.2 percent), and Arizona (5.0 percent).

Unemployment Rate: Level vs. One-Year Change

The national unemployment rate decreased 0.1 percentage points to a value of 3.7 percent between undefined 2018 and undefined 2019.

REGION/STATE	RATE	CHANGE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	3.7%	-0.1 percentage points

Source: Both datasets from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. (http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm)
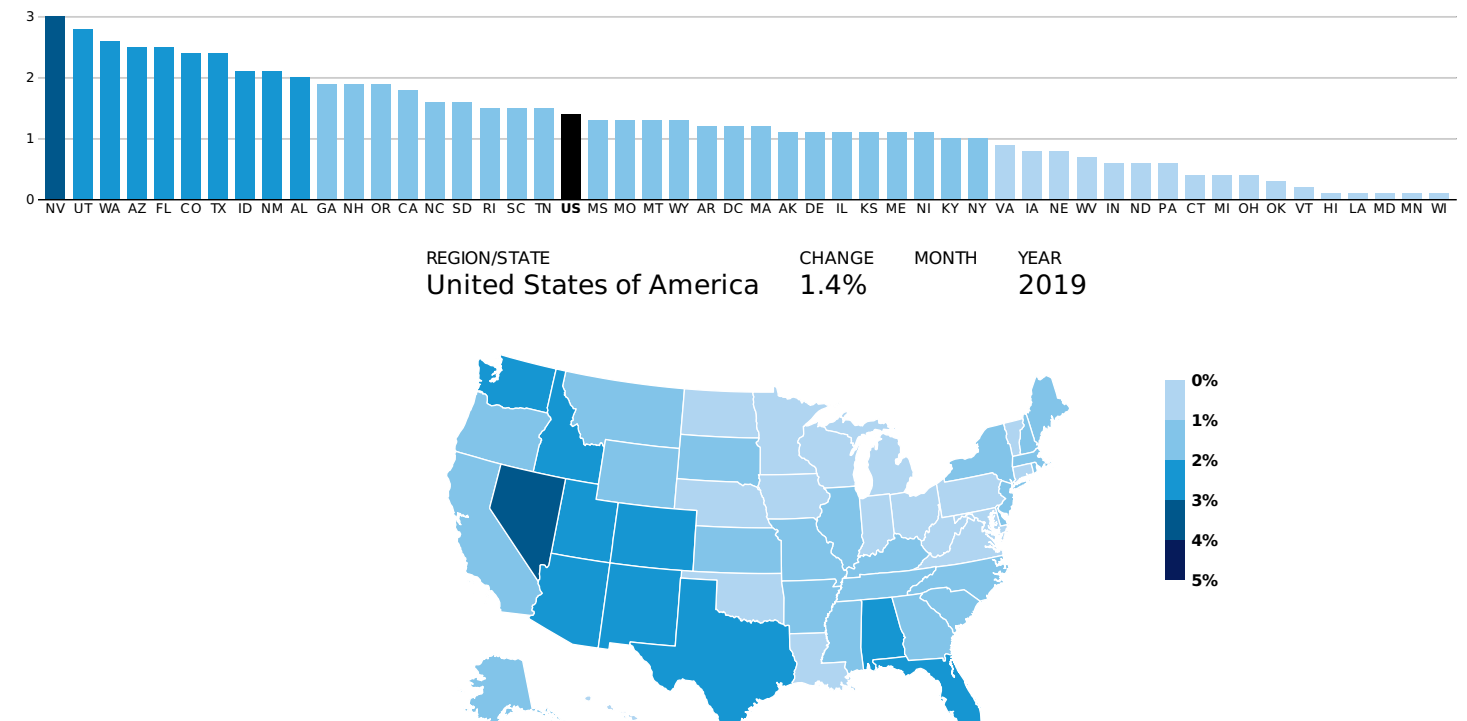
The national unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage points between August 2018 and August 2019. Among the states, Alabama and New Jersey saw unemployment fall the most over the year (-0.8 percentage points in both states), followed by Colorado, Louisiana, and Maine (-0.6 percentage points in all three states).

The unemployment rate increased the most over the year in Minnesota, Mississippi, and North Carolina (0.5 percentage points in all three states), followed by Nebraska (0.4 percentage points) and Michigan (0.3 percentage points). In total, 15 states and the District of Columbia saw their unemployment rates increase over the year, while seven states saw no change.

Total Employment (percent change year over year)

Total (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.4 percent from undefined 2018 to undefined 2019.

REGION/STATE	CHANGE	MONTH	YEAR
United States of America	1.4%		2019

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t05.htm)
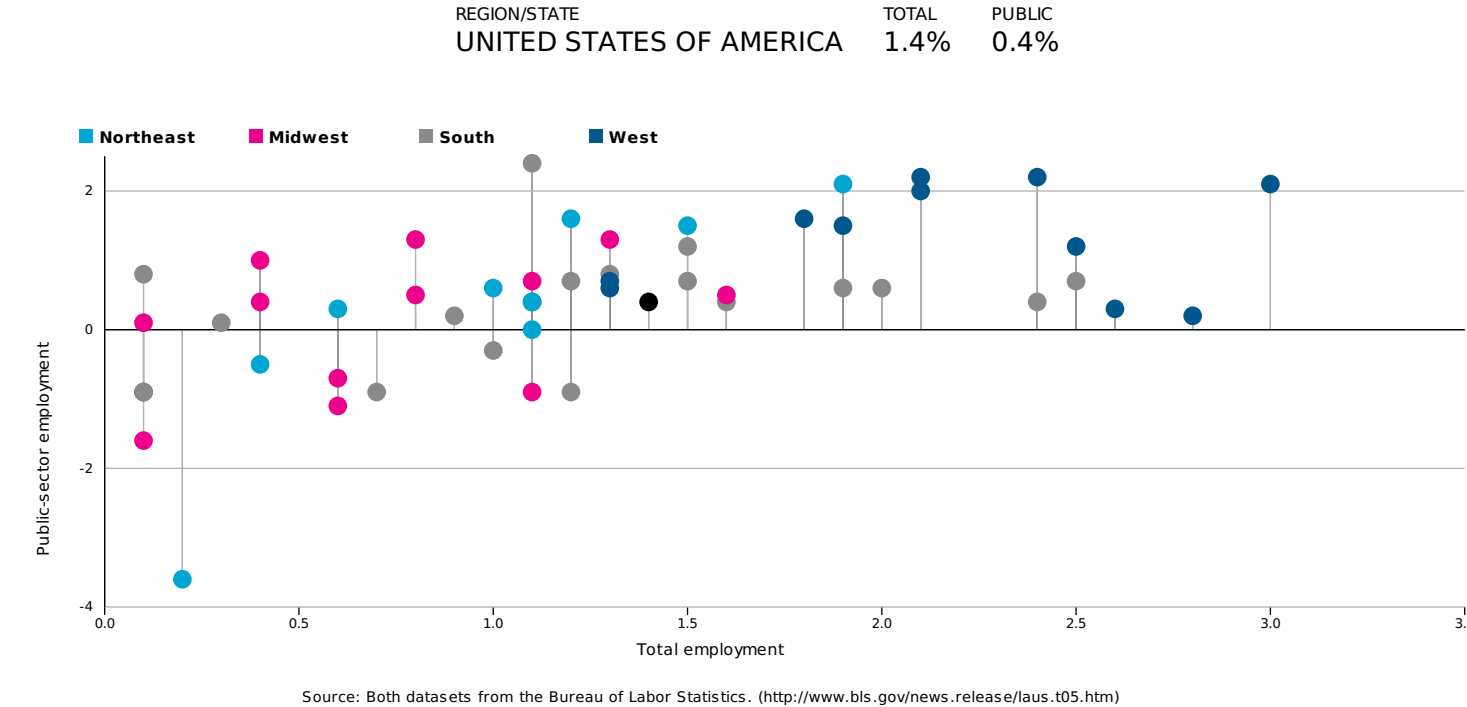
Total national (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.4 percent from August 2018 to August 2019. Among the states, the largest year-over-year increases were in Nevada (3.0 percent), Utah (2.8 percent), and Washington (2.6 percent). In total, 10 states saw employment increase 2.0 percent or more over the year.

No state saw total nonfarm employment decline over the year.

Total Employment vs. Public Employment

Total public-sector employment increased 0.4 percent from undefined 2018 to undefined 2019, staying well below the 1.4 percent increase in to employment.

REGION/STATE	TOTAL	PUBLIC
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	1.4%	0.4%

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

Total national public-sector employment (federal, state, and local) increased 0.4 percent from August 2018 to August 2019. Among the states, the largest year-over-year increase was in Delaware (2.4 percent), followed by Colorado and New Mexico (2.2 percent each), and Nevada and New Hampshire (2.1 percent each). In total, 15 states saw public employment increase 1.0 percent or more over the year.

Public-sector employment declined over the year in 10 states and the District of Columbia. The largest declines were in Vermont (-3.6 percent), Wisconsin (-1.6 percent), and North Dakota (-1.1 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 Labor Statistics's press release, because that release as of undefined 2019 highlights only changes that are statistically significant.