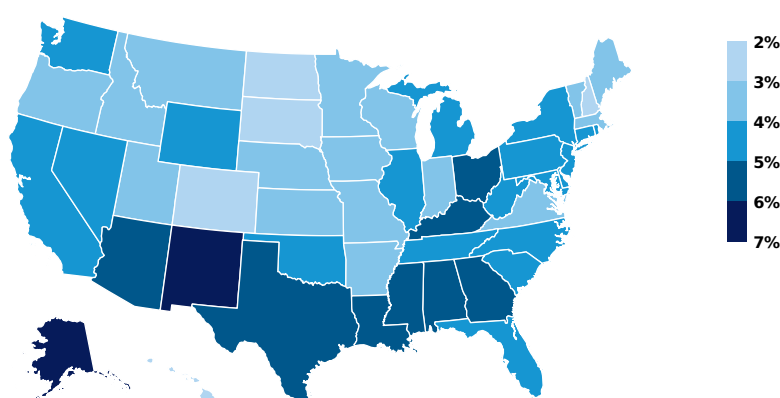
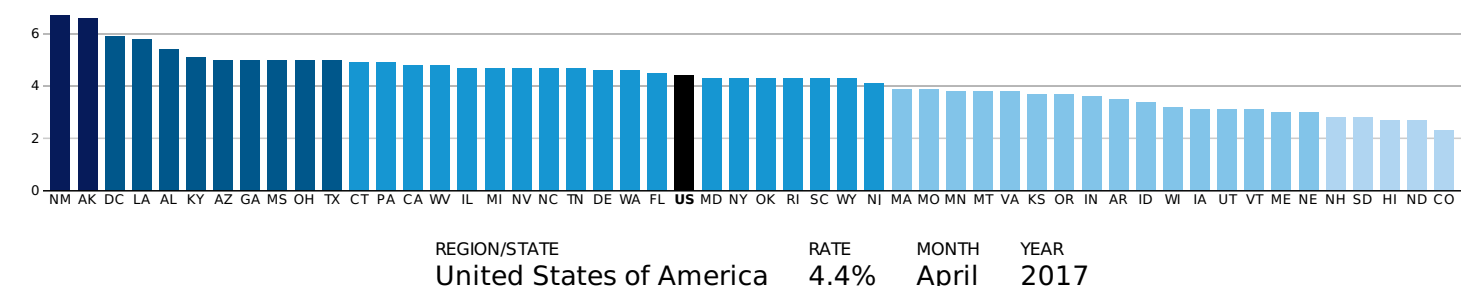


# EMPLOYMENT

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 April 2017.



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

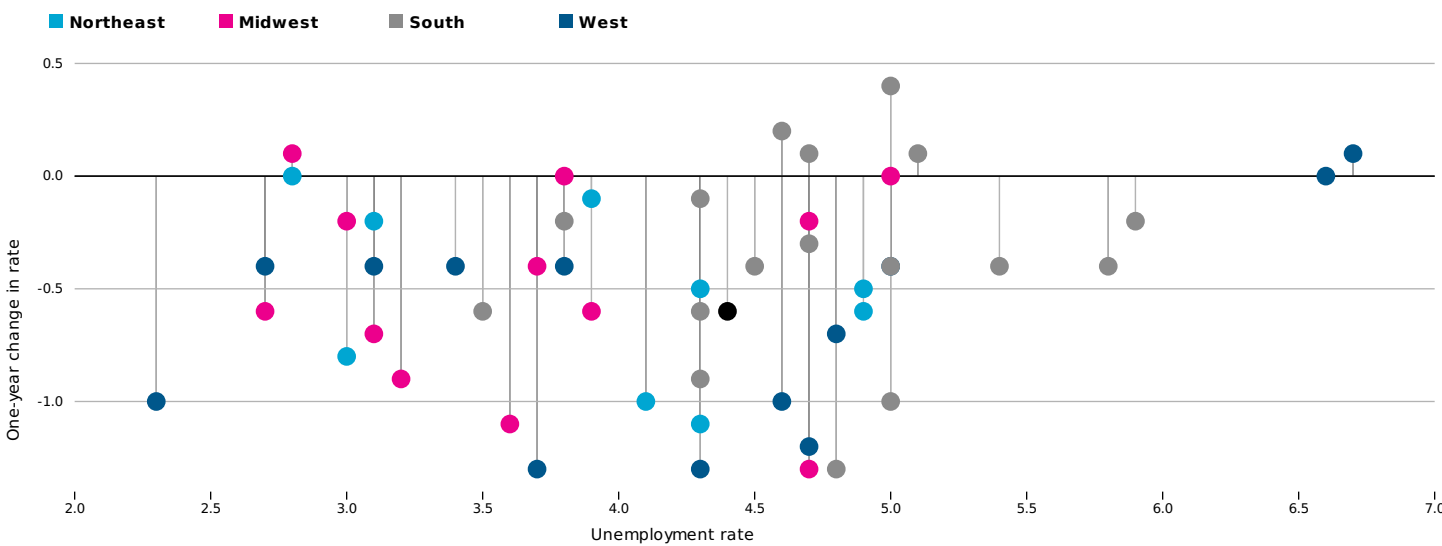
The national unemployment rate was 4.4 percent in April 2017. New Mexico had the highest unemployment rate (6.7 percent) of any state. Alaska was the only other state with an unemployment rate above 6.0 percent (6.6 percent). The District of Columbia (DC) and three states—Alabama, Louisiana, and Kentucky—also had April unemployment rates above 5.0 percent.

Colorado had the lowest unemployment rate in April (2.3 percent). In addition to Colorado, four states had April unemployment rates below 3.0 percent: Hawaii, North Dakota (both 2.7 percent), New Hampshire, and South Dakota (both 2.8 percent). In total, 21 states had April rates below 4.0 percent.

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

The national unemployment rate decreased 0.6 percentage points to a value of 4.4 percent between April 2016 and April 2017.

REGION/STATE: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
 RATE: 4.4%  
 CHANGE: -0.6 percentage points



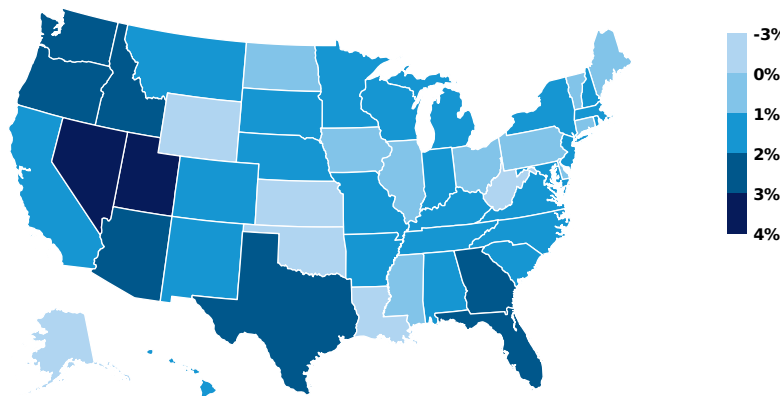
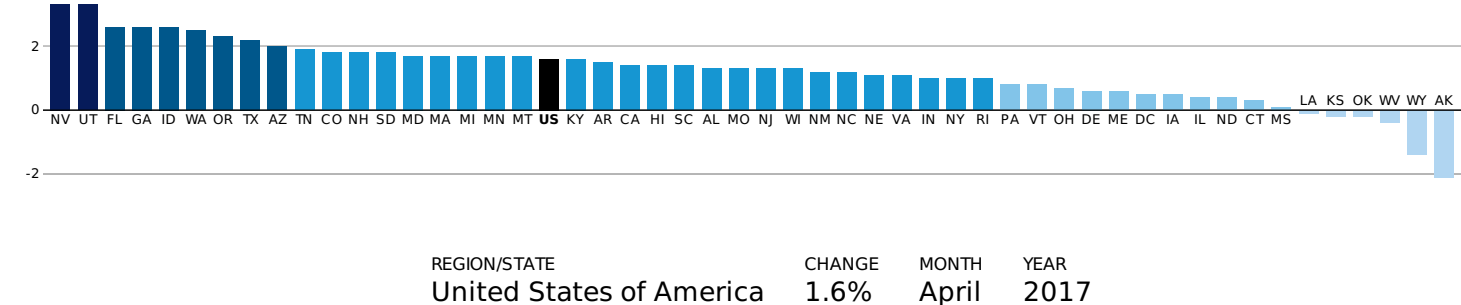
Source: Both datasets from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm>)

The national unemployment rate fell 0.6 percentage points between April 2016 and April 2017. Texas' 0.4 percentage-point increase in unemployment was the largest of any state. The unemployment rate also increased over the year in Delaware, Kentucky, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Tennessee.

Oregon, Illinois, West Virginia, and Wyoming had the largest unemployment rate declines over the past year (all -1.3 percentage points). Seven additional states saw their rates fall 1.0 percentage point or more: Colorado, Indiana, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Washington. All 11 of these states had April 2017 unemployment rates at or below 5.0 percent.

## Total Employment (percent change year over year)

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



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

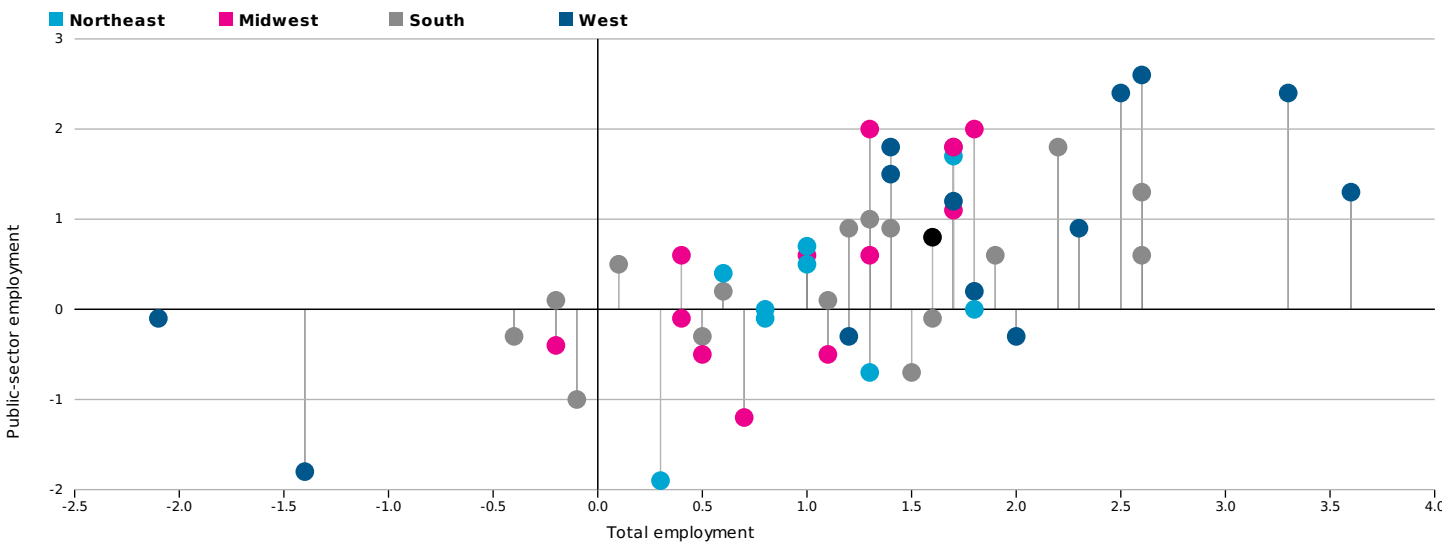
Total national (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.6 percent from April 2016 to April 2017. Total employment declined 2.1 percent in Alaska and 1.4 percent in Wyoming. No other state saw employment decline more than 1.0 percent, but Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and West Virginia also lost jobs over the year.

The largest increase in total employment was in Nevada (3.6 percent), where employment grew across all sectors of the economy. Utah had the next-largest increase in total employment at 3.3 percent. No other state saw total employment increase more than 3 percent.

## Total Employment vs. Public Employment

Total public-sector employment increased 0.8 percent from April 2016 to April 2017, staying well below the 1.6 percent increase in total employment.

REGION/STATE: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
 TOTAL: 1.6%  
 PUBLIC: 0.8%



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

Total public-sector employment increased 0.8 percent from April 2016 to April 2017. Despite the national increase, 16 states and DC saw public employment fall over the past year. The largest declines in government

jobs were in Connecticut (-1.9 percent) Wyoming (-1.8 percent), and Ohio (-1.2 percent).

Public employment increased the most in Idaho (2.6 percent). Four additional states saw government employment increase 2.0 percent or more: South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin.

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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 April 2017 highlights only changes that are statistically significant.