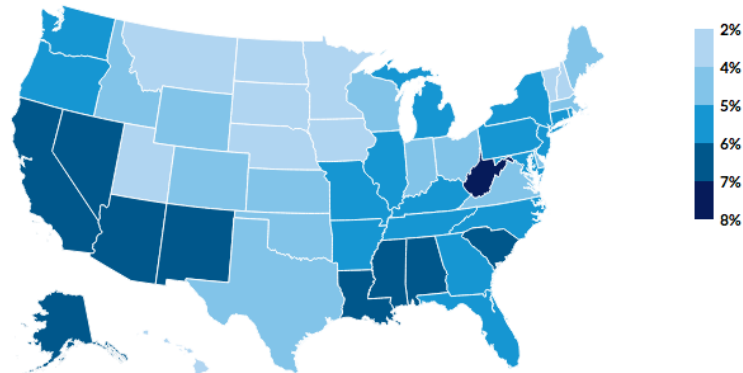
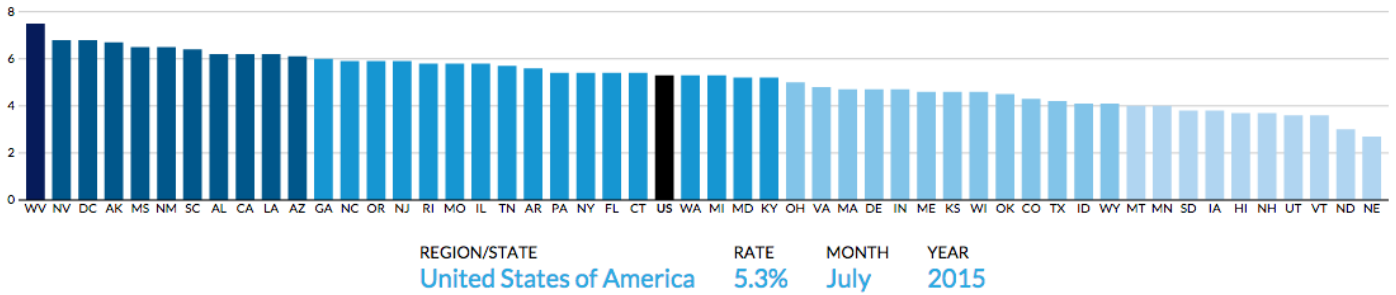


EMPLOYMENT

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

Unemployment Rate (percent, seasonally adjusted)

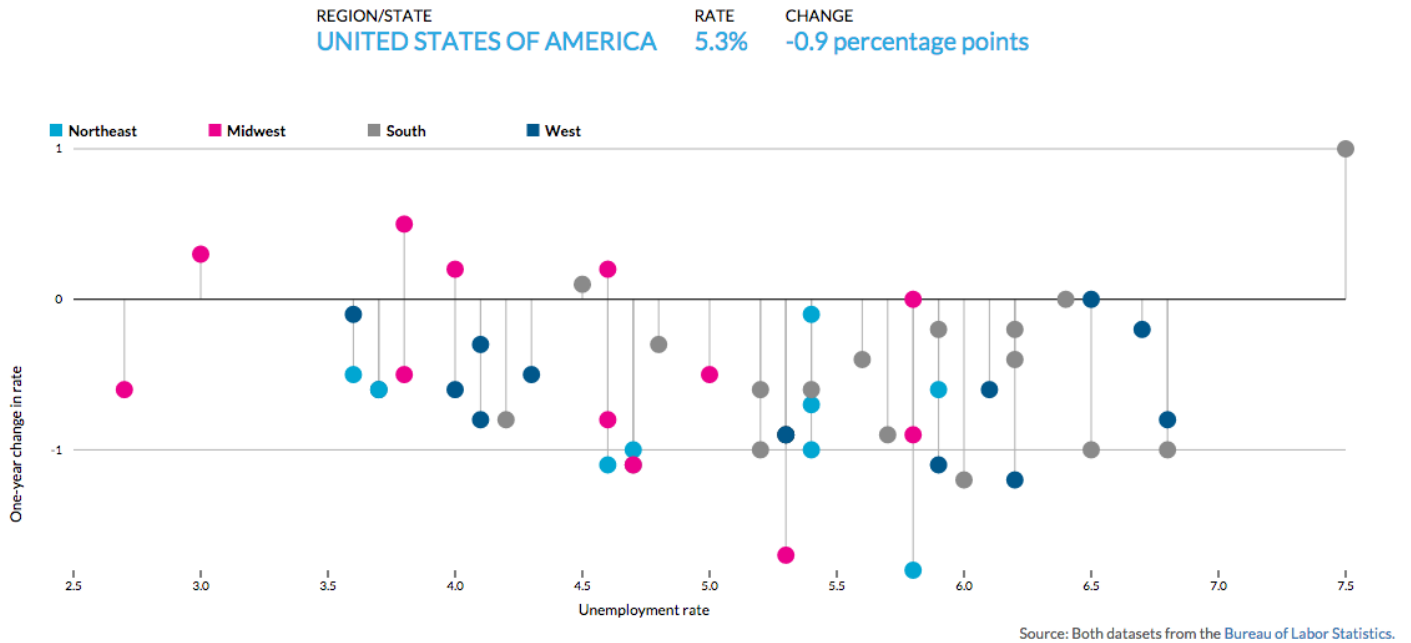
The national unemployment rate was 5.3 percent as of July 2015.



The national unemployment rate was 5.3 percent in July 2015. West Virginia’s unemployment rate was 7.5 percent—the highest rate for the state since 2012 and more than half a percentage point above all other states. Nevada and the District of Columbia faced an unemployment rate of 6.8 percent. The next-highest rates were in Alaska (6.7 percent) and Mississippi and New Mexico (both 6.5 percent). The lowest July unemployment rate was in Nebraska (2.7 percent), the only state with a rate below 3.0 percent. Twenty-two states had unemployment rates below 5.0 percent, including eight states with rates below 4 percent: Nebraska, North Dakota (3.0 percent), Utah and Vermont (both 3.6 percent), Hawaii and New Hampshire (both 3.7 percent), and Iowa and South Dakota (both 3.8 percent).

Unemployment Rate: Level vs. One-Year-Change

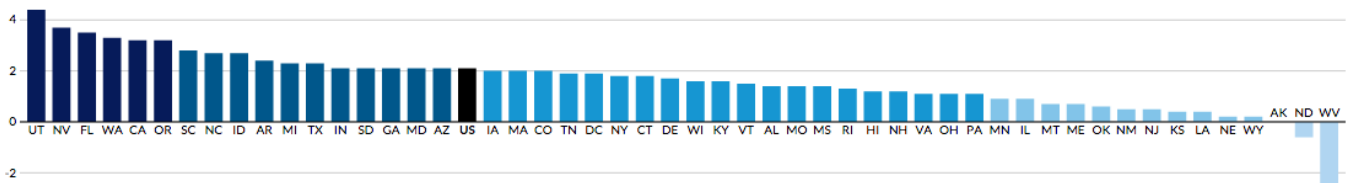
The national unemployment rate decreased 0.9 percentage points to a value of 5.3 percent between July 2014 and July 2015.



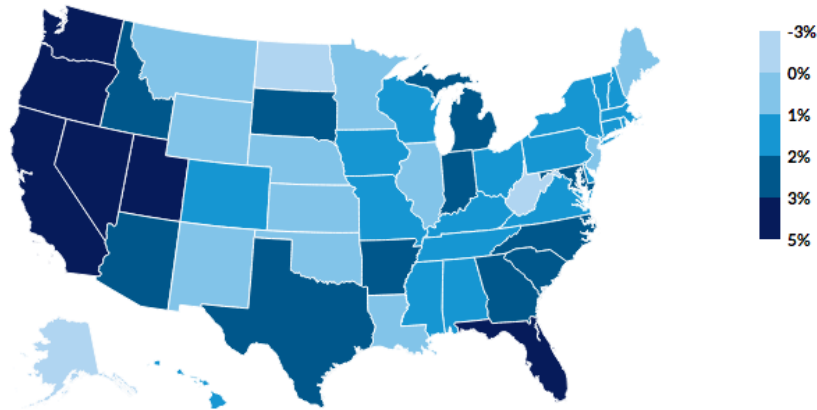
The national unemployment rate fell 0.9 percentage points between July 2014 and July 2015. The largest unemployment rate increase over the year was in the state with the highest unemployment rate, West Virginia (1.0 points). Five other states had unemployment rates increase over the year: South Dakota (0.5 points), North Dakota (0.3 points), Kansas and Minnesota (both 0.2 points), and Oklahoma (0.1 points). Despite the year-over-year increase, all five of these states had July 2015 unemployment rates below 5 percent. On the other side of the spectrum, the unemployment rate decreased nearly 2.0 points in Rhode Island (-1.8 points) and Michigan (-1.7 points). The unemployment rate also decreased by more than a point over the past year in California and Georgia (both -1.2 points) and Delaware, Indiana, Maine, and Oregon (all -1.1 points).

Total Employment (percent change year over year)

Total (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 2.1 percent from July 2014 to July 2015.



REGION/STATE **United States of America** CHANGE **2.1%** MONTH **July** YEAR **2015**



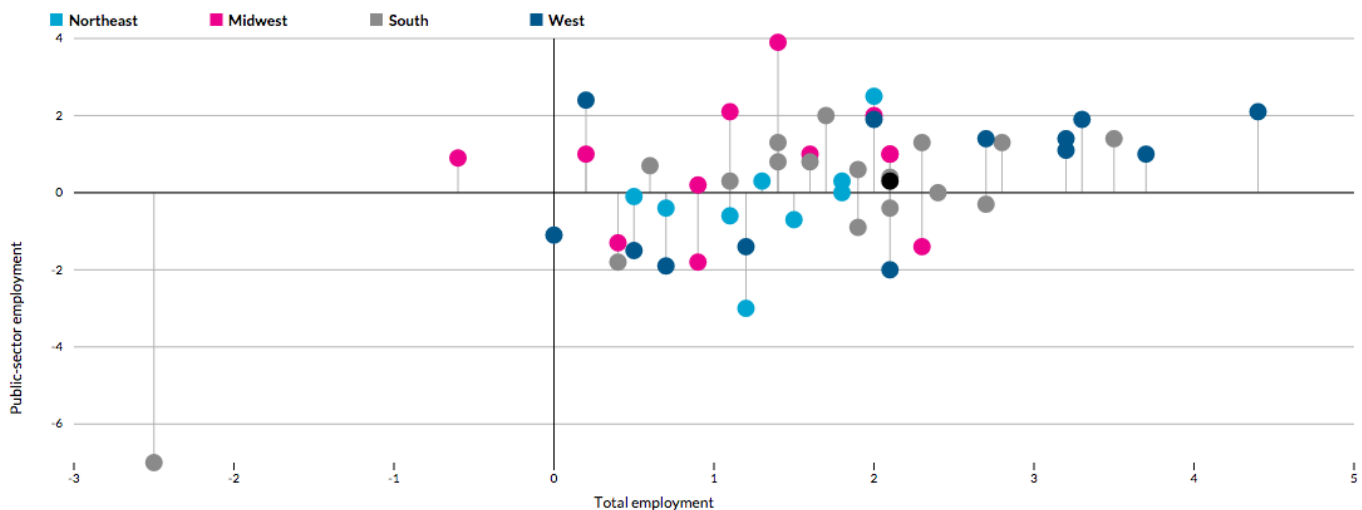
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Total national (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 2.1 percent from July 2014 to July 2015. Total employment increased in all but two states: West Virginia (-2.5 percent) and North Dakota (-0.6 percent). West Virginia's decline was mostly the result of a decline in government employment (see the next section), but the state also lost jobs in the construction and hospitality sectors. The largest increase in employment was in Utah (4.4 percent). Utah had significant employment growth in three sectors: trade and transportation, professional services, and hospitality. Employment grew 3.0 percent or more over the past 12 months in five additional states: Nevada (3.7 percent), Florida (3.5 percent), Washington (3.3 percent), and California and Oregon (both 3.2 percent).

Total Employment vs. Public Employment

Total public-sector employment increased 0.3 percent from July 2014 to July 2015, staying well below the 2.1 percent increase in total employment.

REGION/STATE **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** TOTAL **2.1%** PUBLIC **0.3%**



Source: Both datasets from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Total public-sector employment increased 0.3 percent from July 2014 to July 2015. The largest decrease in government employment over the past year was in West Virginia (-7.0 points). The decline was largely responsible for the state's 2.5 point drop in total employment. West Virginia has lost over 10,000 local government jobs since April 2015. The next-largest declines in government employment were in New Hampshire (-3.0 points) and Arizona (-2.0 points). However, both of these states had increases in total employment: New Hampshire (1.2 points) and Arizona (2.1 points). The largest increase in public-sector employment over the past year was in Missouri (3.9 points). The state's total employment increased 1.4 points over the year. Public-sector employment increased more than 2.0 points in four other states: Massachusetts (2.5 points), Wyoming (2.4 points), and Ohio and Utah (both 2.1 points). All four states had total employment increase over the year, but growth ranged from just 0.2 points in Wyoming to 4.4 points in Utah.