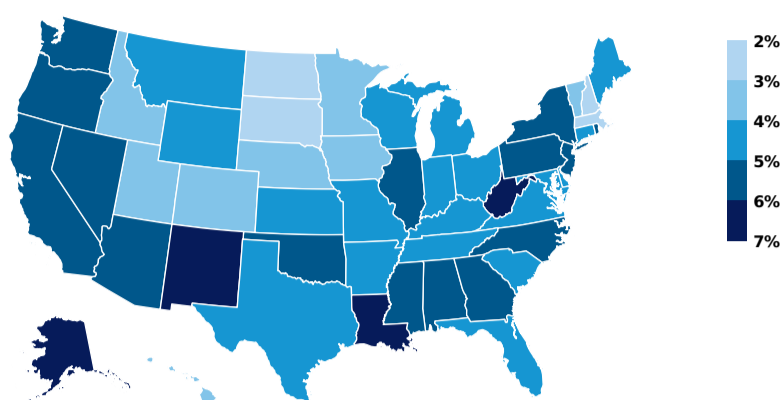
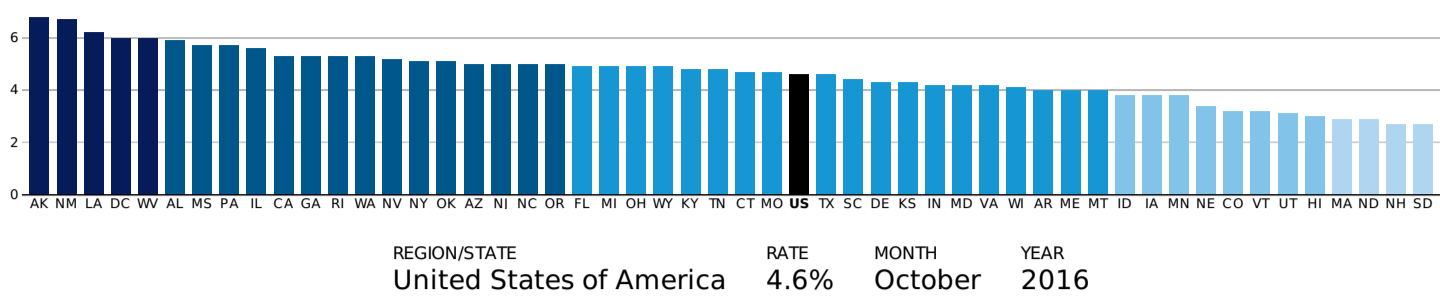


# EMPLOYMENT

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

## Unemployment Rate (percent, seasonally adjusted)

The national unemployment rate was 4.6 percent as of October 2016.



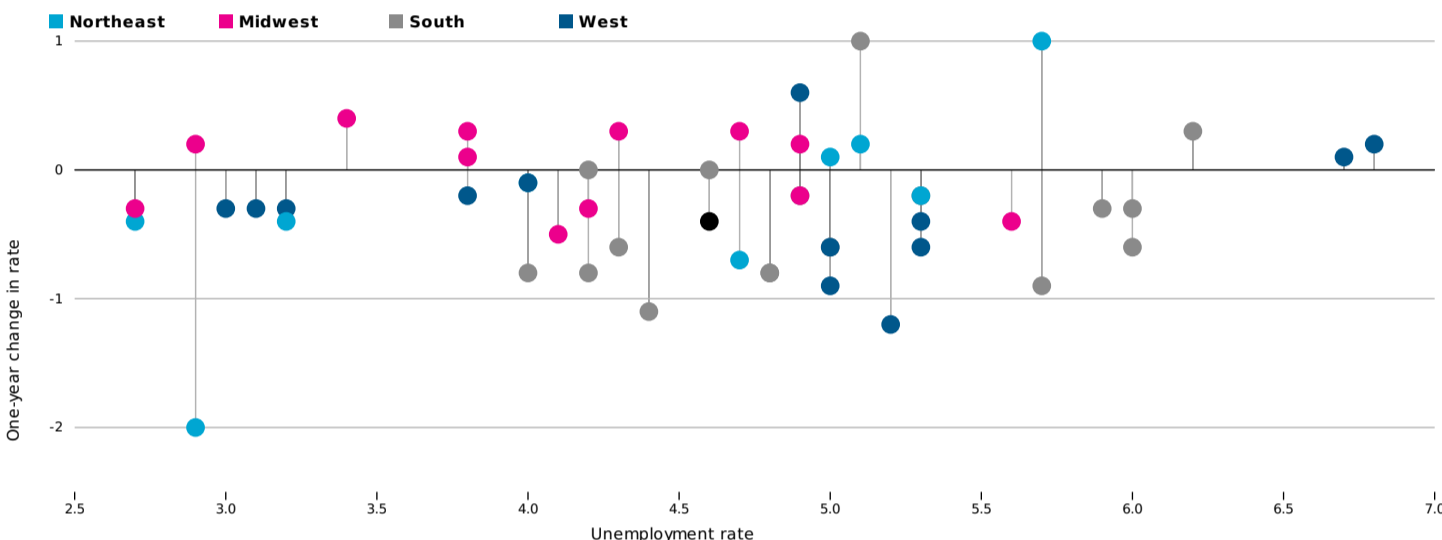
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm>)

The national unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in October 2015. Alaska's 6.8 percent unemployment rate was the highest of any state. Three additional states had October unemployment rates of 6.0 percent or higher: New Mexico (6.7 percent), Louisiana (6.3 percent), and West Virginia (6.0 percent). The District of Columbia's (DC's) unemployment rate was 6.1 percent. Two states had October unemployment rates below 3.0 percent: the rate in New Hampshire and South Dakota was 2.8 percent. Eight other states had unemployment rates below 4.0 percent: Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Massachusetts, Nebraska, North Dakota, Utah, and Vermont.

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

The national unemployment rate decreased 0.4 percentage points to a value of 4.6 percent between October 2015 and October 2016.

REGION/STATE: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
 RATE: 4.6%  
 CHANGE: -0.4 percentage points

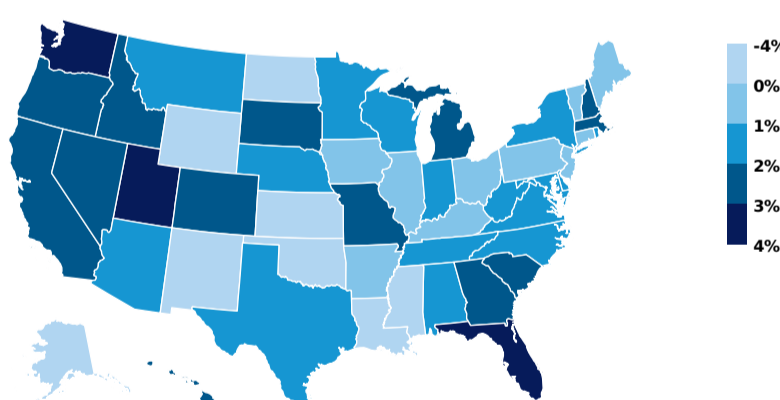
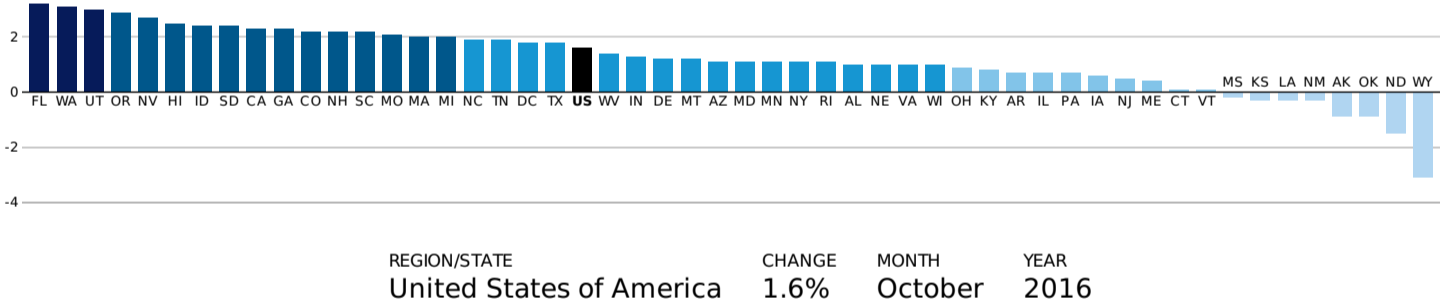


Source: Both datasets from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm>)

The national unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage points between October 2015 and October 2016. The rate increased 1.0 percentage point in Oklahoma and Pennsylvania, more than in any other state. The next largest rate increases were in Wyoming (0.8 percentage points), Iowa, and Missouri (both 0.6 percentage points). Overall, the unemployment rate increased over the year in 17 states, including states with low current unemployment rates (North Dakota, 3.0 percent) and high rates (Louisiana, 6.3 percent). The largest drops in year-over-year unemployment rates were in Massachusetts (-1.5 percentage points) and Nevada (-1.0 percentage point).

## Total Employment (percent change year over year)

Total (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.6 percent from October 2015 to October 2016.



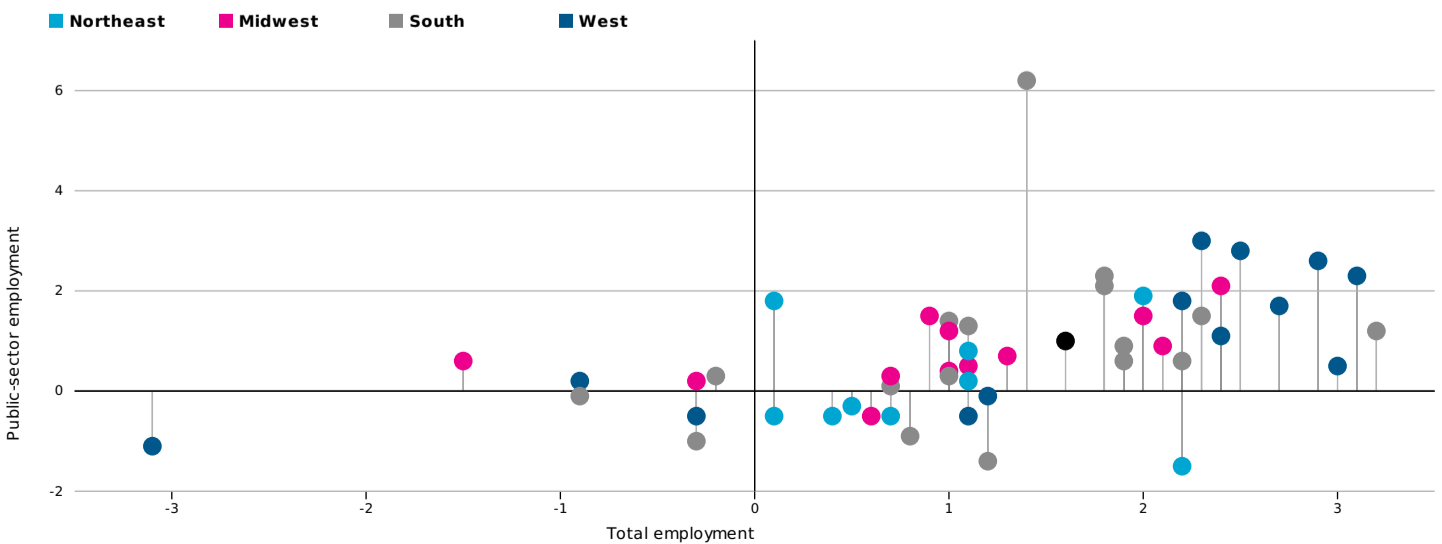
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t05.htm>)

Total national (public and private) nonfarm payroll employment increased 1.7 percent from October 2015 to October 2016. The largest employment drop was in Wyoming (-3.5 percent), followed by other energy-dependent states: North Dakota (-1.8 percent), Oklahoma (-0.7 percent), and New Mexico (-0.4 percent). The precipitous decline of natural resource prices has negatively affected employment in many of these states over the past year (<http://apps.urban.org/features/state-economic-monitor/historical.html>). Kansas employment declined 0.4 percent as well. The largest increase in total employment was in Washington (3.5 percent), where employment grew across all sectors except manufacturing. Total employment also grew 3.0 percent or more over the past 12 months in Oregon (3.3 percent), Florida (3.1 percent), and Utah (3.0 percent).

## Total Employment vs. Public Employment

Total public-sector employment increased 1.0 percent from October 2015 to October 2016, staying well below the 1.6 percent increase in total employment.

REGION/STATE: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
 TOTAL: 1.6%  
 PUBLIC: 1.0%



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

Total public-sector employment increased 0.9 percent from October 2015 to October 2016. Public employment decreased over the year in 10 states, with the largest decrease in New Hampshire (-2.8 percent). Among the 10 states with falling public employment, three (Louisiana, New Mexico, and Wyoming) also saw a declines in total employment. In contrast, although New Hampshire's public employment fell, its total employment increased 2.1 percent. The largest increases in public employment were in Oregon (3.5

percent), Washington (3.4 percent), and Alaska (3.1 percent). Over the same period, Alaska saw a small decline in total employment (-0.1 percent); Washington and Oregon saw the largest increases in total employment of any state (3.5 and 3.3 percent, respectively). Two other states saw public employment increase 2.0 percent or more over the year: California (2.2 percent) and Texas (2.4 percent). DC public employment increased 2.2 percent as well. California, Texas, and DC all saw total employment increase over the year as well.

---

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 October 2016 highlights only changes that are statistically significant.