

NEWS RELEASE

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



For release 10:00 a.m. (EDT) Friday, August 19, 2016

USDL-16-1688

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REGIONAL AND STATE EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT — JULY 2016

Unemployment rates were significantly higher in July in 7 states, lower in 3 states, and stable in 40 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Ten states and the District had notable unemployment rate decreases from a year earlier, 3 states had increases, and 37 states had no significant change. The national jobless rate was unchanged from 4.9 percent in June but was 0.4 percentage point lower than in July 2015.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 15 states in July 2016, decreased in Kansas, and was essentially unchanged in 34 states and the District of Columbia. Over the year, 34 states added nonfarm payroll jobs, North Dakota and Wyoming lost jobs, and 14 states and the District were essentially unchanged.

Regional Unemployment

In July, two regions had unemployment rates significantly different than the U.S. rate of 4.9 percent: the Midwest, at 4.5 percent, and West, at 5.3 percent. Over the month, the Midwest had the only statistically significant unemployment rate change (-0.2 percentage point). Significant over-the-year rate decreases occurred in three regions: the South (-0.5 percentage point), West (-0.4 point), and Northeast (-0.3 point). (See table 1.)

Among the nine geographic divisions, the West North Central had the lowest unemployment rate, 3.9 percent in July, followed by New England, 4.3 percent. The Pacific had the highest rate, 5.4 percent. Over the month, the East North Central had the only statistically significant jobless rate change (-0.3 percentage point). Four of the 9 divisions had significant rate changes from a year earlier, all of which were declines. The largest of these decreases occurred in the East South Central and South Atlantic (-0.8 percentage point each).

State Unemployment

South Dakota and New Hampshire had the lowest jobless rates in July, 2.8 percent and 2.9 percent, respectively. Alaska had the highest unemployment rate, 6.7 percent. In total, 20 states had unemployment rates significantly lower than the U.S. figure of 4.9 percent, 14 states and the District of

Columbia had higher rates, and 16 states had rates that were not appreciably different from that of the nation. (See tables A and 3 and map 1.)

In July, seven states had statistically significant unemployment rate increases, the largest of which occurred in Oregon (+0.4 percentage point). Three states had notable rate decreases, the largest of which occurred in Illinois (-0.4 percentage point). The remaining 40 states and the District of Columbia had jobless rates that were not significantly different from those of a month earlier, though some had changes that were at least as large numerically as the significant changes. (See table B.)

Ten states and the District of Columbia had statistically significant unemployment rate decreases from July 2015. The largest declines were in Arkansas and Tennessee (-1.3 percentage points each), followed by West Virginia (-1.2 points). The significant over-the-year rate increases occurred in Wyoming (+1.4 percentage points), Iowa (+0.5 point), and North Dakota (+0.4 point). (See table C.)

Nonfarm Payroll Employment

Fifteen states had statistically significant over-the-month increases in nonfarm payroll employment in July 2016. The largest job gains occurred in New York (+37,500), California (+36,400), and Florida (+28,100). In percentage terms, the largest increases occurred in North Dakota and Vermont (+1.0 percent each), followed by Maine (+0.7 percent). The only significant decrease in employment over the month occurred in Kansas (-5,600, or -0.4 percent). (See tables D and 5.)

Thirty-six states had statistically significant over-the-year changes in nonfarm payroll employment in July, 34 of which were increases. The largest job gains occurred in California (+374,600), Florida (+250,200), and Texas (+173,000). The largest percentage gain occurred in Idaho (+3.4 percent), followed by Oregon (+3.3 percent) and Florida and Utah (+3.1 percent each). Two states had significant over-the-year declines in employment: North Dakota (-9,900, or -2.2 percent) and Wyoming (-9,800, or -3.4 percent). (See table E and map 2.)

The Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment news release for July is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, August 31, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT). The Regional and State Employment and Unemployment news release for August is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, September 20, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT).

Table A. States with unemployment rates significantly different from that of the U.S., July 2016, seasonally adjusted

State	Rate ^p
United States ¹	4.9
Alabama	5.7
Alaska	6.7
Arizona	6.0
Arkansas	3.9
California	5.5
Colorado	3.8
Connecticut	5.7
Delaware	4.3
District of Columbia	5.9
Hawaii	3.5
Idaho	3.8
Illinois	5.8
Iowa	4.1
Kansas	4.1
Louisiana	6.3
Maine	3.9
Maryland	4.3
Massachusetts	4.1
Minnesota	3.9
Mississippi	6.0
Montana	4.2
Nebraska	3.1
Nevada	6.5
New Hampshire	2.9
New Mexico	6.4
North Dakota	3.1
Pennsylvania	5.6
South Dakota	2.8
Utah	3.9
Vermont	3.2
Virginia	3.7
Washington	5.8
West Virginia	5.7
Wisconsin	4.2
Wyoming	5.7

¹ Data are not preliminary.

^p = preliminary.

Table B. States with statistically significant unemployment rate changes from June 2016 to July 2016, seasonally adjusted

State	Rate		Over-the-month change ^p
	June 2016	July 2016 ^p	
Alabama	6.0	5.7	-0.3
Illinois	6.2	5.8	-.4
Iowa	4.0	4.1	.1
Kansas	3.8	4.1	.3
Maine	3.7	3.9	.2
Missouri	4.5	4.7	.2
New Mexico	6.2	6.4	.2
North Carolina	4.9	4.7	-.2
Oregon	4.8	5.2	.4
South Dakota	2.7	2.8	.1

^p = preliminary.

Table C. States with statistically significant unemployment rate changes from July 2015 to July 2016, seasonally adjusted

State	Rate		Over-the-year change ^p
	July 2015	July 2016 ^p	
Arkansas	5.2	3.9	-1.3
California	6.1	5.5	-.6
District of Columbia	6.8	5.9	-.9
Georgia	5.7	5.0	-.7
Iowa	3.6	4.1	.5
Maryland	5.1	4.3	-.8
New York	5.1	4.7	-.4
North Carolina	5.7	4.7	-1.0
North Dakota	2.7	3.1	.4
Tennessee	5.6	4.3	-1.3
Vermont	3.7	3.2	-.5
Virginia	4.3	3.7	-.6
West Virginia	6.9	5.7	-1.2
Wyoming	4.3	5.7	1.4

^p = preliminary.

**Table D. States with statistically significant employment changes from June 2016 to July 2016,
seasonally adjusted**

State	June 2016	July 2016 ^P	Over-the-month change ^P	
			Level	Percent
California	16,452,600	16,489,000	36,400	0.2
Colorado	2,602,000	2,616,000	14,000	.5
Florida	8,331,200	8,359,300	28,100	.3
Idaho	692,500	696,400	3,900	.6
Indiana	3,059,400	3,071,400	12,000	.4
Kansas	1,401,300	1,395,700	-5,600	-.4
Maine	614,100	618,100	4,000	.7
Michigan	4,330,200	4,346,100	15,900	.4
Minnesota	2,891,800	2,903,100	11,300	.4
New York	9,360,600	9,398,100	37,500	.4
North Carolina	4,328,600	4,340,600	12,000	.3
North Dakota	438,600	442,800	4,200	1.0
Texas	11,997,900	12,021,500	23,600	.2
Utah	1,418,100	1,424,900	6,800	.5
Vermont	315,700	318,700	3,000	1.0
Wisconsin	2,926,000	2,935,100	9,100	.3

^P = preliminary.

**Table E. States with statistically significant employment changes from July 2015 to July 2016,
seasonally adjusted**

State	July 2015	July 2016 ^p	Over-the-year change ^p	
			Level	Percent
Arizona	2,636,000	2,703,300	67,300	2.6
Arkansas	1,209,400	1,226,100	16,700	1.4
California	16,114,400	16,489,000	374,600	2.3
Colorado	2,541,800	2,616,000	74,200	2.9
Connecticut	1,672,800	1,693,000	20,200	1.2
Delaware	450,300	460,300	10,000	2.2
Florida	8,109,100	8,359,300	250,200	3.1
Georgia	4,270,200	4,386,400	116,200	2.7
Hawaii	636,700	650,800	14,100	2.2
Idaho	673,700	696,400	22,700	3.4
Illinois	5,970,700	6,013,900	43,200	.7
Indiana	3,043,000	3,071,400	28,400	.9
Iowa	1,561,000	1,584,700	23,700	1.5
Maryland	2,661,300	2,714,500	53,200	2.0
Massachusetts	3,506,500	3,572,000	65,500	1.9
Michigan	4,240,600	4,346,100	105,500	2.5
Minnesota	2,860,900	2,903,100	42,200	1.5
Nebraska	1,006,500	1,018,700	12,200	1.2
Nevada	1,258,200	1,290,100	31,900	2.5
New Jersey	4,025,900	4,081,700	55,800	1.4
New York	9,283,800	9,398,100	114,300	1.2
North Carolina	4,246,500	4,340,600	94,100	2.2
North Dakota	452,700	442,800	-9,900	-2.2
Ohio	5,427,500	5,506,300	78,800	1.5
Oregon	1,778,900	1,837,100	58,200	3.3
Pennsylvania	5,833,100	5,891,100	58,000	1.0
South Carolina	2,007,200	2,053,300	46,100	2.3
South Dakota	427,400	436,900	9,500	2.2
Tennessee	2,897,500	2,956,100	58,600	2.0
Texas	11,848,500	12,021,500	173,000	1.5
Utah	1,382,600	1,424,900	42,300	3.1
Vermont	312,500	318,700	6,200	2.0
Virginia	3,857,100	3,914,300	57,200	1.5
Washington	3,155,500	3,249,900	94,400	3.0
Wisconsin	2,887,700	2,935,100	47,400	1.6
Wyoming	290,000	280,200	-9,800	-3.4

^p = preliminary.

Technical Note

This release presents labor force and unemployment data for census regions and divisions, states, and selected substate areas from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program (tables 1 to 4). Also presented are nonfarm payroll employment estimates by state and industry supersector from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program (tables 5 and 6). The LAUS and CES programs are both federal-state cooperative endeavors.

Labor force and unemployment—from the LAUS program

Definitions. The labor force and unemployment data are based on the same concepts and definitions as those used for the official national estimates obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a sample survey of households that is conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the U.S. Census Bureau. The LAUS program measures employment and unemployment on a place-of-residence basis. The universe for each is the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over. Employed persons are those who did any work at all for pay or profit in the reference week (the week including the 12th of the month) or worked 15 hours or more without pay in a family business or farm, plus those not working who had a job from which they were temporarily absent, whether or not paid, for such reasons as bad weather, labor-management dispute, illness, or vacation. Unemployed persons are those who were not employed during the reference week (based on the definition above), had actively looked for a job sometime in the 4-week period ending with the reference week, and were currently available for work; persons on layoff expecting recall need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed. The labor force is the sum of employed and unemployed persons. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed as a percent of the labor force.

Method of estimation. Estimates for 48 of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale metropolitan division, New York City, and the balances of California and New York State are produced using time-series models. This method, which underwent substantial enhancement at the beginning of 2015, utilizes data from several sources, including the CPS, the CES, and state unemployment insurance (UI) programs. Estimates for the state of California are derived by summing the estimates for the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale metropolitan division and the balance of California. Similarly, estimates for New York State are derived by summing the estimates for New York City and the balance of New York State. Estimates for the nine census divisions, as well as the five additional substate areas contained in this release (the Cleveland-Elyria and Detroit-Warren-Dearborn metropolitan areas and the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights, Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall, and Seattle-Bellevue-Everett metropolitan divisions) and their respective balances of state are based on similar model-based approaches. Estimates for census regions are obtained by summing the model-based estimates for the component divisions. Each month, census division estimates are controlled to the national totals; state estimates are then controlled to their respective

division totals. Substate and balance-of-state estimates for the five areas noted above also are controlled to their respective state totals. This tiered process of controlling model-based estimates to the U.S. totals is called real-time benchmarking. Estimates for Puerto Rico are derived from a monthly household survey similar to the CPS. A detailed description of the estimation procedures is available from BLS upon request.

Annual revisions. Labor force and unemployment data for prior years reflect adjustments made after the end of each year. The adjusted estimates reflect updated population data from the U.S. Census Bureau, any revisions in the other data sources, and model re-estimation. In most years, historical data for the most recent five years are revised near the beginning of each calendar year, prior to the release of January estimates. With the introduction of a new generation of times-series models in early 2015, historical data were re-estimated back to the series beginnings in 1976, 1990, or 1994.

Seasonal adjustment. The LAUS models decompose the estimates of employed and unemployed persons into trend, seasonal, and irregular components. The trend component of each measure is then smoothed using a Trend-Cycle Cascade Filter, which combines the Henderson trend filter with a seasonal filter. This combined filter suppresses variability due to real-time benchmarking while simultaneously removing any residual seasonality that may be present in the series. The resulting smoothed-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate estimates are analyzed in this news release and published on the BLS website. During estimation for the current year, the smoothed-seasonally adjusted estimates for a given month are created using an asymmetric filter that incorporates information from previous observations only. For annual revisions, historical data are smoothed using a two-sided filter.

Area definitions. The substate area data published in this release reflect the delineations issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget on February 28, 2013. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available online at www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm.

Employment—from the CES program

Definitions. Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who receive pay for any part of the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. Persons are counted at their place of work rather than at their place of residence; those appearing on more than one payroll are counted on each payroll. Industries are classified on the basis of their principal activity in accordance with the 2012 version of the North American Industry Classification System.

Method of estimation. CES State and Area employment data are produced using several estimation procedures. Where possible these data are produced using a "weighted link relative" estimation technique in which a ratio of current month weighted employment to that of the previous-month weighted employment is computed from a sample of establishments reporting for both months. The estimates of employment for the

current month are then obtained by multiplying these ratios by the previous month's employment estimates. The weighted link relative technique is utilized for data series where the sample size meets certain statistical criteria.

For some employment series, the sample of establishments is very small or highly variable. In these cases, a model-based approach is used in estimation. These models use the direct sample estimates (described above), combined with forecasts of historical (benchmarked) data to decrease volatility in estimation. Two different models (Fay-Herriot Model and Small Domain Model) are used depending on the industry level being estimated. For more detailed information about each model, refer to the BLS Handbook of Methods.

Annual revisions. Employment estimates are adjusted annually to a complete count of jobs, called benchmarks, derived principally from tax reports that are submitted by employers who are covered under state unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The benchmark information is used to adjust the monthly estimates between the new benchmark and the preceding one and also to establish the level of employment for the new benchmark month. Thus, the benchmarking process establishes the level of employment, and the sample is used to measure the month-to-month changes in the level for the subsequent months. Information on recent benchmark revisions is available online at www.bls.gov/sae/benchmark2016.pdf.

Seasonal adjustment. Payroll employment data are seasonally adjusted at the statewide supersector level. In some states, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is computed by aggregating the independently adjusted supersector series. In other states, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is independently adjusted. Revisions of historical data for the most recent 5 years are made once a year, coincident with annual benchmark adjustments.

Caution on aggregating state data. State estimation procedures are designed to produce accurate data for each individual state. BLS independently develops a national employment series; state estimates are not forced to sum to national totals. Because each state series is subject to larger sampling and nonsampling errors than the national series, summing them cumulates individual state level errors and can cause significant distortions at an aggregate level. Due to these statistical limitations, BLS does not compile a "sum-of-states" employment series, and cautions users that such a series is subject to a relatively large and volatile error structure.

Reliability of the estimates

The estimates presented in this release are based on sample surveys, administrative data, and modeling and, thus, are subject to sampling and other types of errors. Sampling error is a measure of sampling variability—that is, variation that occurs by chance because a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed. Survey data also are subject to nonsampling errors, such as those which can be introduced into the data collection and processing operations. Estimates not directly derived from sample surveys are subject to additional errors resulting from the specific estimation processes used.

Use of error measures. Changes in regional and state unemployment rates and state nonfarm payroll employment are cited in the analysis of this release only if they have been determined to be statistically significant at the 90-percent confidence level. Furthermore, regional and state unemployment rates for the current month generally are cited only if they have been determined to be significantly different from the U.S. rate at the 90-percent confidence level. The underlying model-based standard error measures for unemployment rates and over-the-month and over-the-year changes in rates are available at www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm. The underlying standard error measures for over-the-month and over-the-year changes in state payroll employment data at the total nonfarm and supersector levels are available at www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm. Measures of nonsampling error are not available.

Additional information

Estimates of labor force and unemployment from the LAUS program, as well as nonfarm employment from the CES program, for 394 metropolitan areas and metropolitan New England City and Town Areas (NECTAs) are available in the news release, *Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment*. Estimates of labor force, employment, and unemployment for approximately 7,500 subnational areas are available online at www.bls.gov/lau/. Employment data from the CES program for states and metropolitan areas are available online at www.bls.gov/sae/. Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**LABOR FORCE DATA
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

Table 1. Civilian labor force and unemployment by census region and division, seasonally adjusted¹

Census region and division	Civilian labor force				Unemployed							
	July 2015	May 2016	June 2016	July 2016	Number				Percent of labor force			
					July 2015	May 2016	June 2016	July 2016	July 2015	May 2016	June 2016	July 2016
Northeast.....	28,396,784	28,682,524	28,621,752	28,564,796	1,458,744	1,386,156	1,380,918	1,377,391	5.1	4.8	4.8	4.8
New England.....	7,771,855	7,824,956	7,834,427	7,854,272	377,992	340,569	341,107	336,507	4.9	4.4	4.4	4.3
Middle Atlantic.....	20,624,929	20,857,568	20,787,325	20,710,524	1,080,752	1,045,587	1,039,811	1,040,884	5.2	5.0	5.0	5.0
South.....	57,296,555	58,088,338	58,060,194	58,022,028	2,978,126	2,782,553	2,753,524	2,720,220	5.2	4.8	4.7	4.7
South Atlantic.....	30,474,346	30,827,541	30,814,335	30,801,064	1,639,525	1,484,302	1,447,991	1,408,447	5.4	4.8	4.7	4.6
East South Central.....	8,425,543	8,566,967	8,571,059	8,567,498	485,943	429,946	432,538	427,517	5.8	5.0	5.0	5.0
West South Central.....	18,396,666	18,693,830	18,674,800	18,653,466	852,658	868,305	872,995	884,256	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7
Midwest.....	34,489,236	35,144,228	35,072,750	34,996,432	1,627,257	1,675,697	1,642,212	1,584,576	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.5
East North Central.....	23,288,444	23,827,073	23,780,338	23,734,490	1,182,497	1,251,066	1,207,803	1,140,765	5.1	5.3	5.1	4.8
West North Central.....	11,200,792	11,317,155	11,292,412	11,261,942	444,760	424,631	434,409	443,811	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.9
West.....	36,948,781	37,417,204	37,465,016	37,543,320	2,098,864	1,898,437	1,950,705	1,985,094	5.7	5.1	5.2	5.3
Mountain.....	11,421,691	11,628,453	11,636,589	11,631,697	577,628	548,738	569,574	577,981	5.1	4.7	4.9	5.0
Pacific.....	25,527,090	25,788,751	25,828,427	25,911,623	1,521,236	1,349,699	1,381,131	1,407,113	6.0	5.2	5.3	5.4

¹ Census region estimates are derived by summing the census division model-based estimates.

NOTE: Data refer to place of residence. The states (including the District of Columbia) that compose the various census divisions are: New England: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont; Middle Atlantic: New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania; South Atlantic: Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia; East South Central: Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee; West South Central: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas; East North Central: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin; West North Central: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota; Mountain: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming; and Pacific: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington. Estimates for the current year are subject to revision early in the following calendar year.

LABOR FORCE DATA

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Table 2. Civilian labor force and unemployment by census region and division, not seasonally adjusted¹

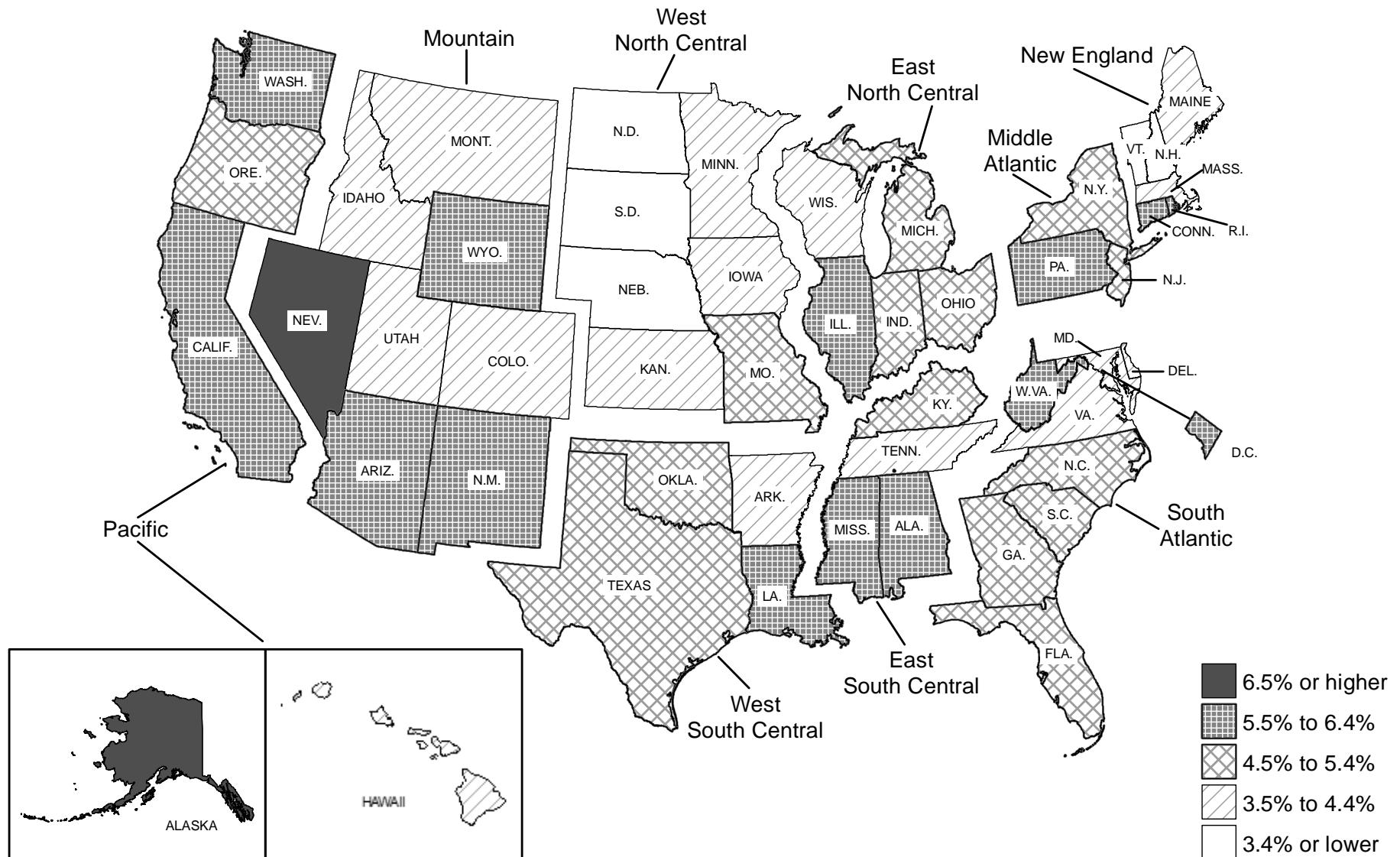
Census region and division	Civilian labor force				Unemployed							
	June		July		Number				Percent of labor force			
	2015	2016	2015	2016	June	July	2015	2016	June	July	2015	2016
Northeast.....	28,690,565	28,779,712	28,804,061	28,951,273	1,515,928	1,387,103	1,574,680	1,493,034	5.3	4.8	5.5	5.2
New England.....	7,869,710	7,920,210	7,896,068	8,001,325	394,812	355,875	398,395	349,630	5.0	4.5	5.0	4.4
Middle Atlantic.....	20,820,855	20,859,502	20,907,993	20,949,948	1,121,116	1,031,228	1,176,285	1,143,404	5.4	4.9	5.6	5.5
South.....	57,739,592	58,417,370	57,763,457	58,518,950	3,234,307	2,995,221	3,253,400	2,993,101	5.6	5.1	5.6	5.1
South Atlantic.....	30,675,353	31,001,340	30,740,734	31,110,342	1,759,374	1,541,619	1,778,824	1,540,177	5.7	5.0	5.8	5.0
East South Central.....	8,529,044	8,666,510	8,510,831	8,642,453	537,202	499,257	539,504	468,980	6.3	5.8	6.3	5.4
West South Central.....	18,535,195	18,749,520	18,511,892	18,766,155	937,731	954,345	935,072	983,944	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.2
Midwest.....	34,902,473	35,318,441	34,923,526	35,379,657	1,741,965	1,698,416	1,770,848	1,678,274	5.0	4.8	5.1	4.7
East North Central.....	23,577,653	23,939,544	23,587,129	24,004,660	1,270,247	1,223,595	1,300,308	1,197,025	5.4	5.1	5.5	5.0
West North Central.....	11,324,820	11,378,897	11,336,397	11,374,997	471,718	474,821	470,540	481,249	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2
West.....	37,076,789	37,618,981	37,165,225	37,854,619	2,152,573	2,063,461	2,213,010	2,102,954	5.8	5.5	6.0	5.6
Mountain.....	11,491,377	11,689,186	11,495,392	11,681,981	613,258	612,946	605,166	593,262	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.1
Pacific.....	25,585,412	25,929,795	25,669,833	26,172,638	1,539,315	1,450,515	1,607,844	1,509,692	6.0	5.6	6.3	5.8

¹ Census region estimates are derived by summing the census division model-based estimates.

NOTE: Data refer to place of residence. The composition of the regions and divisions is described in table 1. Estimates for the current year are subject to revision early in the following calendar year.

Map 1. Unemployment rates by state, seasonally adjusted, July 2016

(U.S. rate = 4.9 percent)



Map 2. Percentage change in nonfarm employment by state,
seasonally adjusted, July 2015 – July 2016

