

Understanding the Economy: State-by-State Snapshots

EXPLANATION OF NET JOB LOSS AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHART

The chart on the following page shows a comparison of the current (August 2012) unemployment rate and cumulative nonfarm job losses (as a percent of total employment) in each state and the District of Columbia versus the national average. States that appear in the upper right quadrant are experiencing unemployment rates higher than the national average and cumulative job losses greater than the national average. States in the lower left quadrant are experiencing lower unemployment rates and smaller job losses than the national average.

Meanwhile, states in the upper left quadrant experienced net job losses greater than the national average but have a current unemployment rate lower than the national average and those states located in the lower right quadrant have experienced job losses below the national average even as their unemployment rate remains above the national average.

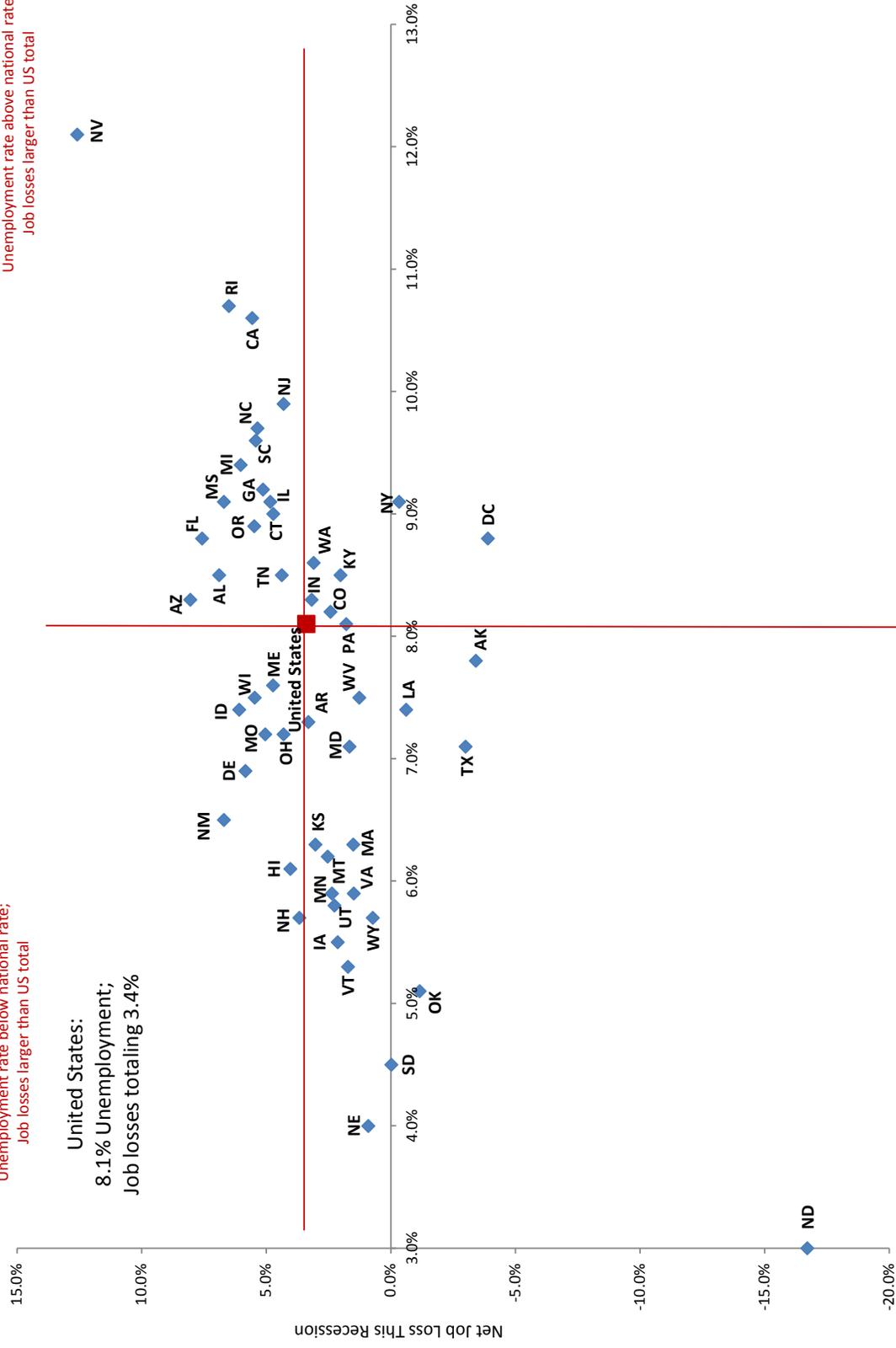
Most states experienced significant job losses during the recession. Between December 2007 and July 2009, forty-eight states saw declines in payroll employment. Only Alaska, North Dakota, and the District of Columbia saw their payrolls increase during this period. Job growth has resumed in most states in the last two years of the recovery; forty-five states and the District of Columbia experienced net job gains from July 2010 to August 2012. Five states – Louisiana, New York, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas – have recovered all the jobs that were lost during the recession.

Net Job Loss from Recession's Onset and August 2012 Unemployment Rate

Unemployment rate below national rate;
Job losses smaller than US total

Unemployment rate above national rate;
Job losses larger than US total

United States:
8.1% Unemployment;
Job losses totaling 3.4%



Unemployment rate below national rate;
Job losses smaller than US total

Unemployment rate above national rate;
Job losses larger than US total

Current Unemployment Rate