



October 24, 2016

State Economic Snapshots

This monthly report provides a snapshot of the status of the economic recovery in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. This month's snapshots include state-level data on jobs, unemployment and earnings through September 2016.¹

Highlights

- Private-sector employment increased in 28 states and the District of Columbia in September.
- The unemployment rate fell in 14 states.
- Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, increased in 35 states and the District of Columbia over the past year.

Private-Sector Job Gains

Private-sector employment increased in 28 states and the District of Columbia in September. The largest private-sector gains were in Texas (31,600), California (22,800), Florida (17,900), Georgia (14,700) and Virginia (14,500). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in North Dakota, Kentucky, South Carolina, Washington, Montana and Virginia.

Over the past 12 months, 42 states and the District of Columbia gained private-sector jobs, with California (323,400), Florida (252,400), Texas (162,600), Georgia (107,600) and New York (97,900) recording the largest increases. The largest percentage gains in private-sector employment during this period were in Florida (3.6 percent), Oregon (3.5 percent), Washington (3.3 percent), Delaware and Idaho (3.2 percent each). Nationally, 2.3 million private-sector jobs were added in the past year, a 1.9 percent increase.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate declined in 14 states in September. The declines were statistically significant in seven states. Nevada (-0.5 percentage point) had the largest decline, followed by Arizona, Massachusetts and Utah (-0.3 percentage point each). New York was the only state to have a statistically significant increase in the unemployment rate from the prior month.

Over the past 12 months, 29 states and the District of Columbia reported declines in the unemployment rate. Six states had declines that were statistically significant, with the largest of these declines in Massachusetts (-1.2 percentage points), Arkansas, North Carolina and Tennessee (-1.0 percentage point each). Four states had increases that were statistically significant.

New Hampshire and South Dakota (2.9 percent each) had the lowest unemployment rate in September, followed by North Dakota (3.0 percent), Nebraska (3.2 percent), Hawaii and Vermont (3.3 percent each). Alaska (6.9 percent) had the highest unemployment rate, followed by New Mexico (6.7 percent), Louisiana (6.4 percent), the District of Columbia (6.1 percent) and Mississippi (6.0 percent). The national unemployment rate was 5.0 percent in September, down slightly from 5.1 percent one year ago.

¹ Individual monthly readings should be interpreted with caution and in the context of longer-term trends and other data that become available. Changes in state-level data from month to month may not be statistically significant due to sampling variation, which occurs because a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed.

Earnings

Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, increased in 35 states and the District of Columbia over the past year. The largest earnings gains were posted in Delaware (5.0 percent), Oregon (4.5 percent), North Carolina (4.0 percent), Minnesota (3.8 percent) and Hawaii (3.6 percent). Earnings declined in 15 states. Nationally, real average hourly earnings increased by 1.1 percent (not seasonally adjusted) in the past year. The District of Columbia (\$39.14) had the highest average hourly earnings in September, followed by Massachusetts (\$31.16), Washington (\$30.36), Connecticut (\$30.35), California and New York (\$29.15 each).

Key Employment Sectors

Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment expanded in 18 states during September. The largest increases were in Indiana, New Jersey (1,600 each), South Carolina (1,500), Arkansas (1,200) and Florida (1,100). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in Alaska, Idaho, Arkansas, New Jersey and South Carolina.

Over the past 12 months, 21 states added manufacturing positions. On a percentage basis, the biggest gains were in Florida (4.4 percent), Utah (3.6 percent), Montana (3.1 percent), New Jersey and Tennessee (2.1 percent each). Across the country, 47,000 manufacturing positions have been lost in the last 12 months, a 0.4 percent decrease.

Construction

Construction employment increased in 21 states and the District of Columbia during September. The largest gains were reported in New York (5,100), California (5,000), Texas (3,400), North Carolina (3,300) and Florida (3,100). The largest percentage gains during the month were in Arizona, North Carolina, South Dakota, Colorado and Indiana.

In the past 12 months, 35 states added construction jobs. The greatest percentage gains over the past year were in Iowa (17.7 percent), Colorado (13.0 percent), Hawaii, Idaho (11.1 percent each) and Arizona (9.2 percent). Nationally, over this period, construction employment increased by 218,000 positions, a 3.4 percent increase.

Professional and Business Services

Professional and business services employment increased in 33 states and the District of Columbia during September. The largest increases were posted in Minnesota (10,500), New Jersey (8,800), Georgia (7,300), Pennsylvania (6,700) and Kentucky (6,200). The largest percentage gains were in Wyoming, Minnesota, Kentucky, Delaware and West Virginia.

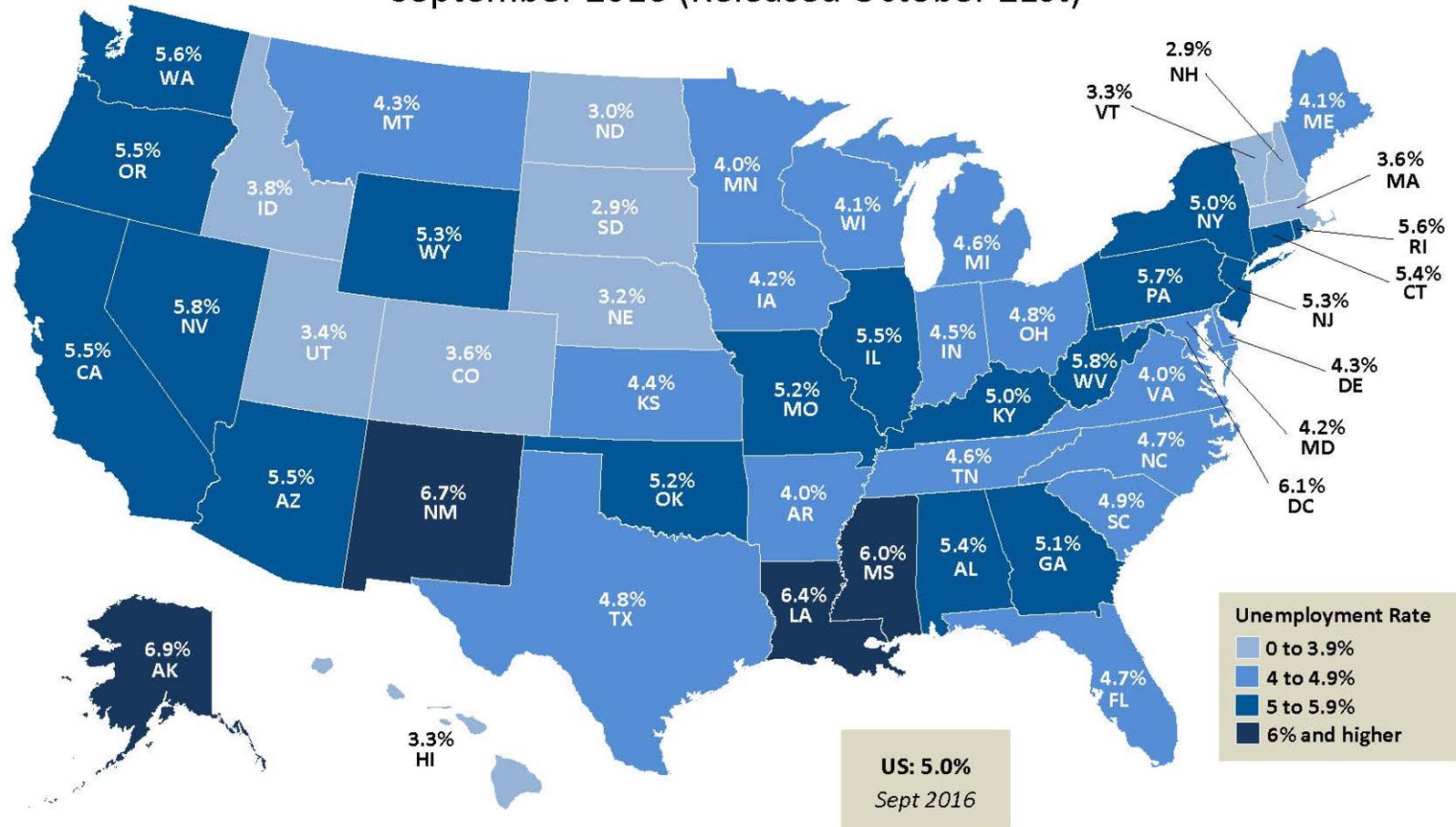
In the past year, 43 states and the District of Columbia added jobs in professional and business services. The largest percentage gains were in Delaware (11.2 percent), Oregon (8.0 percent), South Carolina (6.4 percent), Florida (4.8 percent) and North Carolina (4.5 percent). The U.S. economy overall has added 582,000 professional and business services jobs during this time, a 2.9 percent increase.

Unemployment Rate (September 2016)	
New Hampshire	2.9%
South Dakota	2.9%
North Dakota	3.0%
Nebraska	3.2%
Hawaii	3.3%
Vermont	3.3%
Utah	3.4%
Colorado	3.6%
Massachusetts	3.6%
Idaho	3.8%
Arkansas	4.0%
Minnesota	4.0%
Virginia	4.0%
Maine	4.1%
Wisconsin	4.1%
Iowa	4.2%
Maryland	4.2%
Delaware	4.3%
Montana	4.3%
Kansas	4.4%
Indiana	4.5%
Michigan	4.6%
Tennessee	4.6%
Florida	4.7%
North Carolina	4.7%
Ohio	4.8%
Texas	4.8%
South Carolina	4.9%
Kentucky	5.0%
New York	5.0%
UNITED STATES	5.0%
Georgia	5.1%
Missouri	5.2%
Oklahoma	5.2%
New Jersey	5.3%
Wyoming	5.3%
Alabama	5.4%
Connecticut	5.4%
Arizona	5.5%
California	5.5%
Illinois	5.5%
Oregon	5.5%
Rhode Island	5.6%
Washington	5.6%
Pennsylvania	5.7%
Nevada	5.8%
West Virginia	5.8%
Mississippi	6.0%
District of Columbia	6.1%
Louisiana	6.4%
New Mexico	6.7%
Alaska	6.9%
Puerto Rico	11.9%

Job Growth in America: Change in Private-Sector Jobs				
Data through September 2016	Since Before Recession (December 2007)		Under President Obama (January 2009)	
	Percentage	Net Jobs	Percentage	Net Jobs
UNITED STATES	5.6%	6,529,000	10.0%	11,092,000
Alabama	-2.7%	-44,200	3.0%	46,000
Alaska	7.6%	18,000	7.0%	16,700
Arizona	2.4%	53,200	10.4%	216,600
Arkansas	2.4%	23,700	5.2%	50,300
California	8.2%	1,062,600	13.6%	1,682,400
Colorado	11.3%	222,100	14.5%	277,100
Connecticut	-0.3%	-5,000	2.6%	36,100
Delaware	4.9%	18,600	9.5%	34,400
District of Columbia	15.5%	72,100	14.9%	69,700
Florida	7.6%	519,600	16.3%	1,026,200
Georgia	7.1%	244,800	13.0%	427,800
Hawaii	4.2%	21,000	10.3%	48,900
Idaho	6.5%	35,000	13.6%	68,600
Illinois	1.0%	52,300	4.9%	242,000
Indiana	3.7%	94,800	9.7%	235,300
Iowa	4.4%	55,900	6.5%	81,300
Kansas	0.9%	10,600	1.9%	21,600
Kentucky	3.5%	54,400	8.3%	122,300
Louisiana	4.3%	67,900	5.0%	78,300
Maine	-0.7%	-3,600	2.4%	11,800
Maryland	3.4%	71,400	6.6%	137,100
Massachusetts	8.3%	239,800	11.0%	308,300
Michigan	3.8%	137,500	13.2%	434,900
Minnesota	5.3%	125,300	8.2%	188,100
Mississippi	-2.0%	-18,300	2.8%	24,700
Missouri	1.2%	27,500	4.1%	93,800
Montana	3.6%	12,800	7.5%	25,900
Nebraska	4.8%	38,600	6.0%	47,800
Nevada	0.6%	6,700	9.8%	102,200
New Hampshire	4.5%	25,100	7.1%	38,600
New Jersey	1.1%	38,700	5.0%	166,500
New Mexico	-2.8%	-18,300	0.6%	4,000
New York	9.3%	673,500	11.1%	793,500
North Carolina	4.4%	151,000	10.3%	338,500
North Dakota	25.3%	72,400	23.9%	69,100
Ohio	2.0%	91,100	6.9%	306,400
Oklahoma	2.4%	30,300	3.4%	42,500
Oregon	6.4%	91,700	13.2%	179,200
Pennsylvania	2.6%	129,500	4.9%	244,000
Puerto Rico	-8.3%	-60,000	-4.2%	-29,100
Rhode Island	1.3%	5,700	6.0%	24,200
South Carolina	6.7%	106,700	13.3%	200,000
South Dakota	7.8%	26,000	8.0%	26,500
Tennessee	7.0%	166,600	12.8%	289,300
Texas	16.0%	1,403,200	16.7%	1,457,200
Utah	12.6%	133,300	18.4%	184,700
Vermont	2.4%	6,200	5.5%	13,700
Virginia	4.5%	138,100	7.4%	222,600
Washington	9.3%	228,500	12.7%	302,600
West Virginia	-2.0%	-12,500	-1.1%	-7,000
Wisconsin	2.1%	50,500	5.2%	124,400
Wyoming	-7.8%	-17,600	-7.4%	-16,700

Current Unemployment Rates Across States

September 2016 (Released October 21st)



Source: JEC Democratic staff based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (state data update next on November 18, 2016)

