



May 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 April 2016.¹

Highlights

- Private-sector employment increased in 32 states and the District of Columbia in April.
- The unemployment rate fell in 19 states and the District of Columbia.
- Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, increased in 40 states over the past year.

Private-Sector Job Gains

Private-sector employment increased in 32 states and the District of Columbia in April. The largest private-sector gains were seen in California (57,800), Florida (28,900), Minnesota (15,900), Missouri (15,000) and Massachusetts (14,000). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in Minnesota, Missouri, Idaho, the District of Columbia and Montana.

Over the past 12 months, 44 states and the District of Columbia gained private-sector jobs, with California (401,500), Florida (244,300), Texas (154,200), Georgia (133,500) and New York (130,200) recording the largest increases. The largest percentage gains in private-sector employment during this period were in Idaho (4.2 percent), Delaware (4.1 percent), Georgia (3.8 percent), Arizona, Utah and Oregon (3.7 percent each). Nationally, in the past year, 2.6 million private-sector jobs were added, a 2.2 percent increase.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate declined in 19 states and the District of Columbia in April. Five states had declines that were statistically significant – Kentucky (-0.3 percentage point), Arkansas, Delaware (-0.2 percentage point each), Kansas and Vermont (-0.1 percentage point each). Four states had statistically significant increases from the prior month.

Over the past 12 months, 33 states and the District of Columbia reported declines in the unemployment rate. Nineteen states had declines that were statistically significant, with the largest of these declines in Arkansas, Tennessee (-1.6 percentage points each), New Jersey (-1.3 percentage point), California and Oregon (-1.2 percentage point each). Two states had increases that were statistically significant.

South Dakota (2.5 percent) had the lowest unemployment rate in April, followed by New Hampshire (2.6 percent), Nebraska (3.0 percent) and Colorado (3.1 percent). Alaska and Illinois had the highest unemployment rate (6.6 percent each), followed by the District of Columbia, West Virginia (6.4 percent each) and Louisiana (6.3 percent). The national unemployment rate was 5.0 percent in April, down from 5.4 percent a year prior.

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

2015 Veterans' Unemployment

For veterans, the 2015 average annual unemployment was 4.6 percent, the lowest level since 2008. For post-9/11 veterans, the average annual unemployment rate was 5.8 percent in 2015. Unpublished data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics presented in this report show that Delaware, Iowa, Connecticut, Indiana, New Jersey and South Dakota had the lowest 2015 annual average unemployment rates for post-9/11 veterans (each below 2 percent). Massachusetts, Kansas, California and Minnesota had the highest unemployment rates for post-9/11 veterans, with the rate exceeding 10 percent in each of these states.²

Earnings

Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, increased in 40 states over the past year. The largest earnings gains were posted in Delaware (7.8 percent), Connecticut (4.9 percent), North Carolina (4.4 percent), Alabama (4.2 percent) and Nebraska (4.0 percent). Earnings declined in 10 states and the District of Columbia. Nationally, real average hourly earnings increased by 1.4 percent (not seasonally adjusted) in the past year. The District of Columbia (\$37.57) had the highest average hourly earnings in April, followed by Massachusetts (\$31.14), Connecticut (\$30.48), Washington (\$30.28), and New York (\$29.20).

Key Employment Sectors

Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment expanded in 23 states during April. The largest increases were in Michigan (7,200), Indiana (3,300), Florida (2,600), Minnesota (1,900) and Georgia (1,800). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in New Hampshire, Michigan, Rhode Island, Mississippi and Florida.

Over the past 12 months, 24 states added manufacturing positions. On a percentage basis, the biggest gains were in Idaho (3.9 percent), Montana (3.7 percent), Michigan (3.4 percent), Tennessee (3.3 percent) and Georgia (2.9 percent). Across the country, 19,000 manufacturing positions have been lost in the last 12 months, a 0.2 percent decrease.

Construction

Construction employment increased in 23 states during April. The largest gains were reported in California (12,000), Florida (4,400), Wisconsin (3,500), Iowa (3,300) and Connecticut (2,400). The largest percentage gains during the month were in Idaho, Connecticut, Iowa, Wisconsin, North Dakota and Arkansas.

In the past 12 months, 42 states and the District of Columbia added construction jobs. The greatest percentage gains over the past year were in Hawaii (18.4 percent), Iowa (13.5 percent), Massachusetts, Nevada (10.2 percent each) and Vermont (9.9 percent). Nationally, over this period, construction employment increased by 261,000 positions, a 4.1 percent increase.

Professional and Business Services

Professional and business services employment increased in 34 states and the District of Columbia during April. The largest increases were posted in California (17,900), Missouri (8,700), Illinois (7,600), Georgia (7,200) and Minnesota (6,700). The largest percentage gains were in Delaware, Missouri, Vermont, Minnesota and Idaho.

In the past year, 39 states and the District of Columbia added jobs in professional and business services. The largest percentage gains were in Delaware (8.1 percent), Georgia (6.3 percent), Oregon (5.9 percent), South Carolina (5.6 percent) and Idaho (5.4 percent). The U.S. economy overall has added 611,000 professional and business services jobs during this time, a 3.1 percent increase.

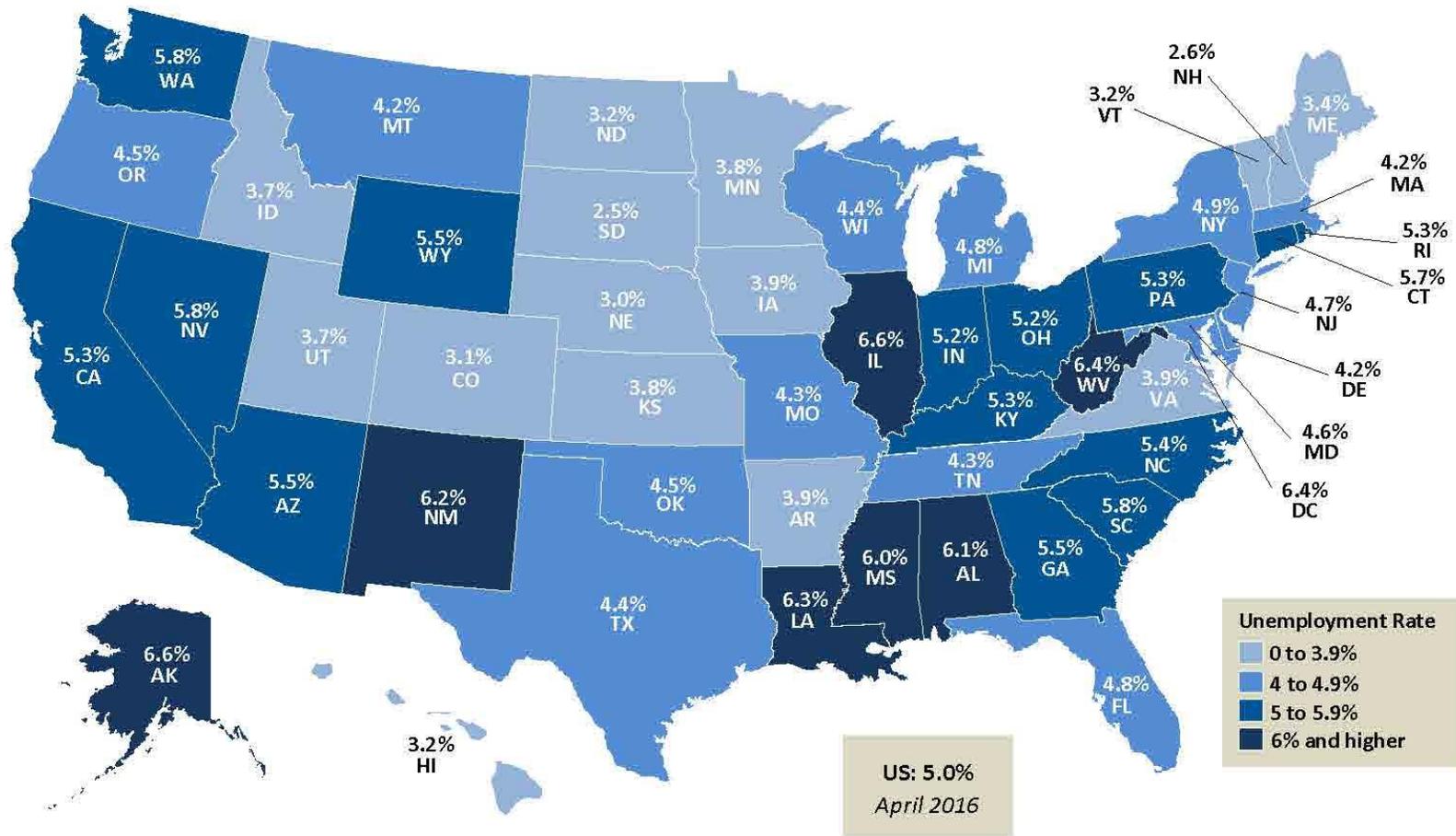
² Because of the small sample size of post-9/11 veterans in many states, caution should be used in interpreting post-9/11 veterans' unemployment rate data across states and over time.

Unemployment Rate (April 2016)	
South Dakota	2.5%
New Hampshire	2.6%
Nebraska	3.0%
Colorado	3.1%
Hawaii	3.2%
North Dakota	3.2%
Vermont	3.2%
Maine	3.4%
Idaho	3.7%
Utah	3.7%
Kansas	3.8%
Minnesota	3.8%
Arkansas	3.9%
Iowa	3.9%
Virginia	3.9%
Delaware	4.2%
Massachusetts	4.2%
Montana	4.2%
Missouri	4.3%
Tennessee	4.3%
Texas	4.4%
Wisconsin	4.4%
Oklahoma	4.5%
Oregon	4.5%
Maryland	4.6%
New Jersey	4.7%
Florida	4.8%
Michigan	4.8%
New York	4.9%
UNITED STATES	5.0%
Indiana	5.2%
Ohio	5.2%
California	5.3%
Kentucky	5.3%
Pennsylvania	5.3%
Rhode Island	5.3%
North Carolina	5.4%
Arizona	5.5%
Georgia	5.5%
Wyoming	5.5%
Connecticut	5.7%
Nevada	5.8%
South Carolina	5.8%
Washington	5.8%
Mississippi	6.0%
Alabama	6.1%
New Mexico	6.2%
Louisiana	6.3%
District of Columbia	6.4%
West Virginia	6.4%
Alaska	6.6%
Illinois	6.6%
Puerto Rico	11.7%

Job Growth in America: Change in Private-Sector Jobs				
Data through April 2016	Since Before Recession (December 2007)		Under President Obama (January 2009)	
	Percentage	Net Jobs	Percentage	Net Jobs
UNITED STATES	5.0%	5,801,000	9.3%	10,364,000
Alabama	-2.8%	-45,600	2.9%	44,600
Alaska	7.9%	18,700	7.3%	17,400
Arizona	1.7%	38,200	9.7%	201,600
Arkansas	1.7%	16,900	4.5%	43,500
California	7.1%	926,400	12.5%	1,546,200
Colorado	10.0%	197,500	13.2%	252,500
Connecticut	0.0%	500	2.9%	41,600
Delaware	4.5%	16,900	9.0%	32,700
District of Columbia	15.2%	71,000	14.6%	68,600
Florida	5.8%	391,900	14.3%	898,500
Georgia	6.2%	215,500	12.1%	398,500
Hawaii	3.7%	18,400	9.7%	46,300
Idaho	6.4%	34,700	13.5%	68,300
Illinois	0.8%	43,200	4.7%	232,900
Indiana	3.3%	85,100	9.3%	225,600
Iowa	3.9%	49,700	6.0%	75,100
Kansas	1.0%	11,400	2.0%	22,400
Kentucky	2.8%	43,400	7.5%	111,300
Louisiana	5.0%	79,300	5.7%	89,700
Maine	-0.4%	-1,900	2.7%	13,500
Maryland	3.4%	73,000	6.7%	138,700
Massachusetts	7.4%	212,000	10.0%	280,500
Michigan	3.8%	135,800	13.1%	433,200
Minnesota	5.0%	116,700	7.8%	179,500
Mississippi	-1.7%	-15,100	3.2%	27,900
Missouri	1.2%	27,200	4.1%	93,500
Montana	4.6%	16,400	8.5%	29,500
Nebraska	5.1%	41,100	6.3%	50,300
Nevada	-0.6%	-6,400	8.6%	89,100
New Hampshire	3.1%	17,500	5.7%	31,000
New Jersey	0.5%	17,700	4.4%	145,500
New Mexico	-2.3%	-15,000	1.2%	7,300
New York	8.9%	645,200	10.7%	765,200
North Carolina	3.8%	132,200	9.8%	319,700
North Dakota	24.7%	70,600	23.2%	67,300
Ohio	1.8%	83,100	6.8%	298,400
Oklahoma	3.1%	39,300	4.1%	51,500
Oregon	5.3%	77,200	12.1%	164,700
Pennsylvania	2.4%	118,900	4.7%	233,400
Puerto Rico	-8.6%	-62,300	-4.5%	-31,400
Rhode Island	1.2%	5,000	5.8%	23,500
South Carolina	5.0%	80,100	11.5%	173,400
South Dakota	6.5%	21,600	6.7%	22,100
Tennessee	6.1%	144,600	11.8%	267,300
Texas	15.0%	1,315,300	15.7%	1,369,300
Utah	11.3%	119,600	17.0%	171,000
Vermont	2.5%	6,300	5.6%	13,800
Virginia	3.4%	105,000	6.3%	189,500
Washington	8.5%	210,300	11.9%	284,400
West Virginia	-2.1%	-12,900	-1.2%	-7,400
Wisconsin	2.1%	50,700	5.2%	124,600
Wyoming	-7.3%	-16,400	-6.9%	-15,500

Current Unemployment Rates Across States

April 2016 (Released May 20th)



Source: JEC Democratic staff based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (state data update next on June 17, 2016)

