

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 (March 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. Most of these states were dependent on manufacturing and construction. States in the lower left quadrant are experiencing lower unemployment rates and smaller job losses than the national average.

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. Those states all started the recession with unemployment rates less than the national average.

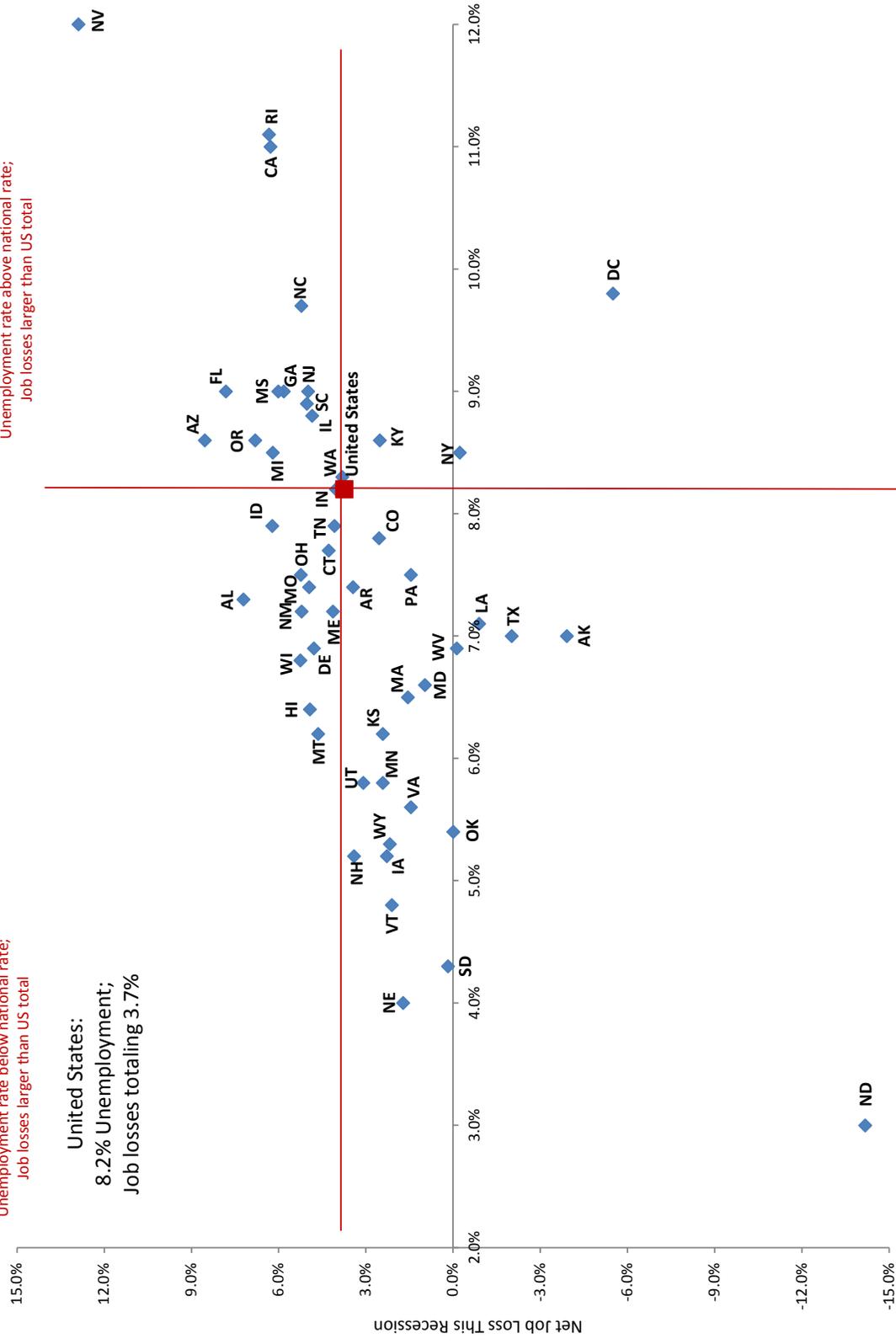
Negative job losses correspond to job creation. North Dakota, Alaska, Texas, and the District of Columbia have experienced net job creation since the recession's onset. Expanded employment in the mining and logging sector has contributed to job creation in North Dakota, Alaska, and Texas. In addition, Alaska, Texas, and the District of Columbia have experienced gains in both the education and health services sector and the leisure and hospitality sector since the recession began. Despite these job gains, the unemployment rate in the District of Columbia is currently higher than the national average. The higher unemployment rate in District of Columbia is partly due to a higher unemployment rate before the recession began – the unemployment rate was 5.7 percent in November 2007, above the national average of 4.7 percent. It is likely, given the small size of the District of Columbia, that jobs created in the District of Columbia are filled by Virginia and Maryland residents.

Net Job Loss from Recession's Onset and March 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:
8.2% Unemployment;
Job losses totaling 3.7%



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