



March 30, 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 February 2016.

Highlights

- Private-sector employment increased in 37 states in February.
- The unemployment rate fell in 22 states.
- Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, increased in 35 states over the past year.
- Home prices increased in all 50 states and the District of Columbia over the year ending in the fourth quarter of 2015.
- Real gross domestic product (GDP) increased in 43 states and the District of Columbia over the year between the third quarter of 2014 and the third quarter of 2015.

Private-Sector Job Gains

Private-sector employment increased in 37 states in February. The largest private-sector gains were seen in California (40,300), Pennsylvania (21,900), New York (18,700), Illinois (16,800) and Massachusetts (12,500). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in New Hampshire, Arkansas, Utah, Hawaii and Mississippi.

Over the past 12 months, 43 states and the District of Columbia gained private-sector jobs, with California (412,000), Florida (235,200), Texas (142,800), New York (124,500) and Georgia (110,900) recording the largest increases. The largest percentage gains in private-sector employment during this period were in Idaho (4.3 percent), Tennessee (3.7 percent), Arizona, Utah (3.6 percent each), Florida and Washington (3.4 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 22 states in February. The largest declines were in Tennessee (-0.5 percentage point), Nevada and Oregon (-0.3 percentage point each). There was no change in 20 states and the District of Columbia.

Over the past 12 months, 37 states and the District of Columbia reported declines in the unemployment rate. The largest declines were in New Jersey (-2.0 percentage points), Arkansas (-1.4 percentage points), California (-1.2 percentage points), Colorado, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada and Tennessee (-1.1 percentage points each).

New Hampshire and South Dakota had the lowest unemployment rates (2.7 percent each) in February, followed by North Dakota (2.9 percent), Colorado and Nebraska (3.0 percent each). Alaska had the highest unemployment rate (6.6 percent), followed by Mississippi, West Virginia, the District of Columbia (6.5 percent each), Illinois and New Mexico (6.4 percent each). The national unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in February, down from 5.5 percent a year prior.

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.¹

Earnings

Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, increased in 35 states over the past year. The largest earnings gains were posted in Delaware (6.2 percent), Oregon (3.5 percent), Connecticut (3.1 percent), Hawaii (2.8 percent) and Nebraska (2.7 percent). Earnings declined in 13 states and the District of Columbia and were unchanged in two states. Nationally, real average hourly earnings increased by 0.7 percent (not seasonally adjusted) in the past year. The District of Columbia (\$36.95) had the highest average hourly earnings in February, followed by Massachusetts (\$31.50), Connecticut (\$30.35), Washington (\$30.25) and New York (\$29.59).

Home Prices

Home values appreciated in all 50 states and the District of Columbia over the year between the fourth quarter of 2014 and the fourth quarter of 2015, according to the Federal Housing Finance Agency's purchase-only, seasonally adjusted House Price Index. Home prices increased the most in Nevada (12.7 percent), Colorado (10.9 percent), Idaho, Washington (10.7 percent each) and Oregon (10.6 percent). Nationally, home prices rose by 5.8 percent during this period.

State Gross Domestic Product

Real gross domestic product (GDP) increased in 43 states and the District of Columbia over the year between the third quarter of 2014 and the third quarter of 2015, according to data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The strongest increases were concentrated in the West. GDP increased fastest in Montana (4.4 percent), Utah (4.1 percent), Washington (3.8 percent), California (3.5 percent) and Colorado (3.4 percent). Seven states reported declines in GDP. Nationally, real GDP by state increased 2.0 percent during this period.²

Key Employment Sectors

Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment expanded in 20 states during February. The largest increases were in Illinois (3,500), South Carolina (1,300), Mississippi (1,100), Connecticut (1,000) and Utah (900). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in Hawaii, Alaska, New Mexico, Delaware and Montana.

Over the past 12 months, 26 states added manufacturing positions. On a percentage basis, the biggest gains were in Delaware (4.1 percent), Idaho (3.8 percent), Florida (3.6 percent), Tennessee and Maryland (3.2 percent each). Across the country, 12,000 manufacturing positions have been added in the last 12 months, a 0.1 percent increase.

¹ 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.

² Due to methodological differences, total U.S. real GDP by state may differ slightly from headline national GDP figures.

Construction

Construction employment increased in 27 states during February. The largest gains were reported in California (12,300), Washington (5,500), New York (4,500), Michigan (3,900) and Minnesota (3,200). The largest percentage gains during the month were in Washington, Kentucky, Minnesota, Michigan and Oregon.

In the past 12 months, 43 states and the District of Columbia added construction jobs. The greatest percentage gains over the past year were in Hawaii (19.1 percent), Rhode Island (14.6 percent), Massachusetts (11.0 percent), New Hampshire (10.2 percent) and Tennessee (8.8 percent). Nationally, over this period, construction employment increased by 253,000 positions, a 4.0 percent increase.

Professional and Business Services

Professional and business services employment increased in 19 states and the District of Columbia during February. The largest increases were posted in Virginia (7,300), Illinois (6,600), Pennsylvania (5,200), North Carolina (4,200) and Massachusetts (4,000). The largest percentage gains were in Wyoming, Virginia, Massachusetts, Illinois, North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

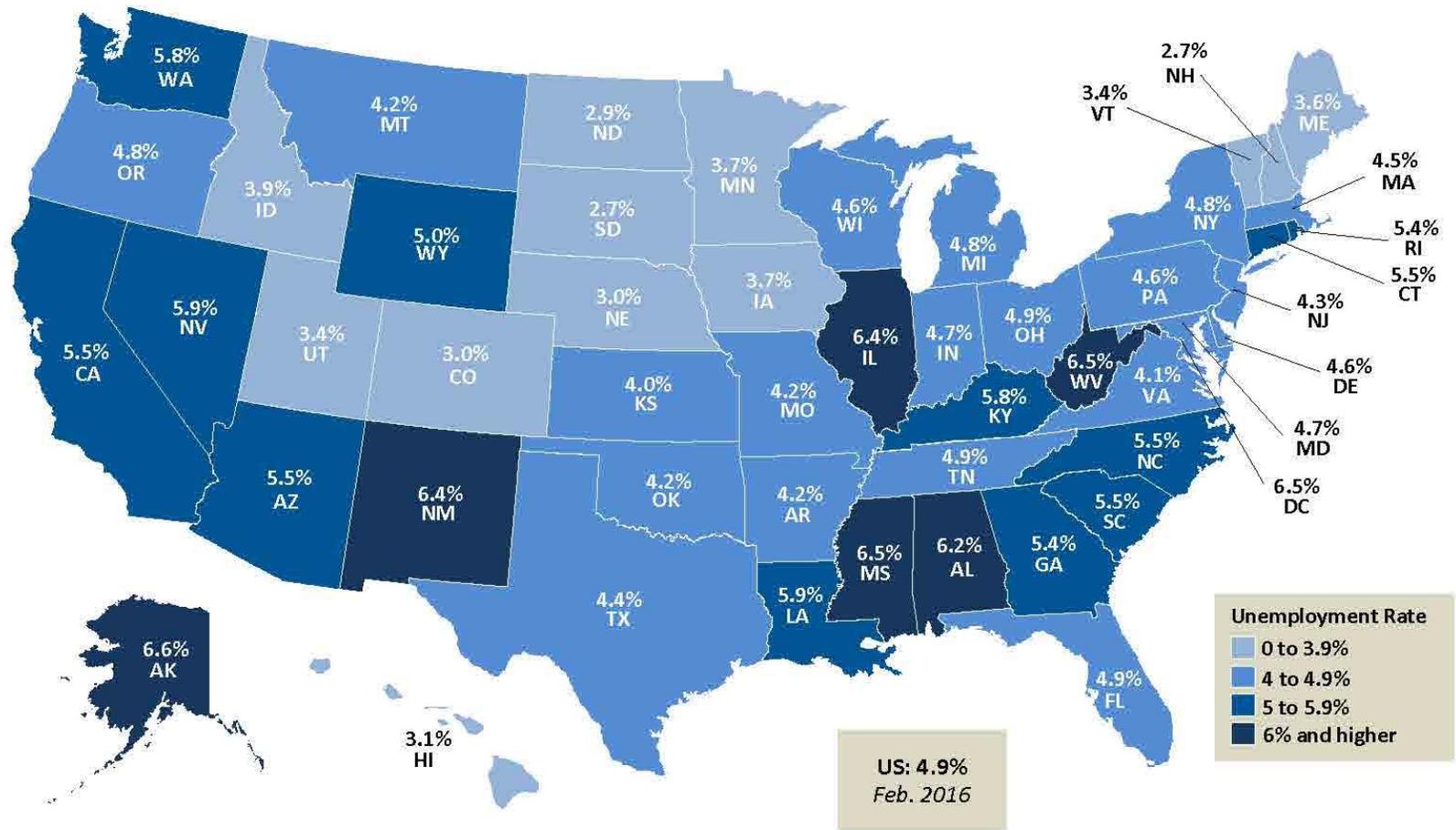
In the past year, 37 states and the District of Columbia added jobs in professional and business services. The largest percentage gains were in Oregon (5.2 percent), Virginia, Rhode Island (5.1 percent each), Georgia (4.7 percent) and Tennessee (4.6 percent). The U.S. economy overall has added 610,000 professional and business services jobs during this time, a 3.1 percent increase.

Unemployment Rate (February 2016)	
New Hampshire	2.7%
South Dakota	2.7%
North Dakota	2.9%
Colorado	3.0%
Nebraska	3.0%
Hawaii	3.1%
Utah	3.4%
Vermont	3.4%
Maine	3.6%
Iowa	3.7%
Minnesota	3.7%
Idaho	3.9%
Kansas	4.0%
Virginia	4.1%
Arkansas	4.2%
Missouri	4.2%
Montana	4.2%
Oklahoma	4.2%
New Jersey	4.3%
Texas	4.4%
Massachusetts	4.5%
Delaware	4.6%
Pennsylvania	4.6%
Wisconsin	4.6%
Indiana	4.7%
Maryland	4.7%
Michigan	4.8%
New York	4.8%
Oregon	4.8%
Florida	4.9%
Ohio	4.9%
Tennessee	4.9%
UNITED STATES	4.9%
Wyoming	5.0%
Georgia	5.4%
Rhode Island	5.4%
Arizona	5.5%
California	5.5%
Connecticut	5.5%
North Carolina	5.5%
South Carolina	5.5%
Kentucky	5.8%
Washington	5.8%
Louisiana	5.9%
Nevada	5.9%
Alabama	6.2%
Illinois	6.4%
New Mexico	6.4%
District of Columbia	6.5%
Mississippi	6.5%
West Virginia	6.5%
Alaska	6.6%
Puerto Rico	11.7%

Job Growth in America: Change in Private-Sector Jobs				
	Since Before Recession (December 2007)		Under President Obama (January 2009)	
	Percentage	Net Jobs	Percentage	Net Jobs
UNITED STATES	4.7%	5,481,000	9.0%	10,044,000
Alabama	-3.1%	-50,200	2.6%	40,000
Alaska	9.1%	21,500	8.5%	20,200
Arizona	1.4%	30,500	9.3%	193,900
Arkansas	2.1%	20,600	4.9%	47,200
California	6.7%	868,600	12.1%	1,488,400
Colorado	9.7%	190,800	12.8%	245,800
Connecticut	-0.2%	-3,500	2.7%	37,600
Delaware	3.5%	13,100	8.0%	28,900
District of Columbia	14.7%	68,500	14.1%	66,100
Florida	5.2%	353,100	13.7%	859,700
Georgia	5.4%	188,400	11.3%	371,400
Hawaii	3.7%	18,700	9.8%	46,600
Idaho	5.8%	31,100	12.8%	64,700
Illinois	0.5%	28,000	4.4%	217,700
Indiana	3.3%	83,300	9.3%	223,800
Iowa	3.5%	45,000	5.6%	70,400
Kansas	1.1%	11,900	2.0%	22,900
Kentucky	2.9%	44,100	7.6%	112,000
Louisiana	5.0%	78,300	5.7%	88,700
Maine	-0.3%	-1,500	2.8%	13,900
Maryland	2.4%	51,800	5.7%	117,500
Massachusetts	6.7%	192,900	9.3%	261,400
Michigan	3.3%	118,500	12.6%	415,900
Minnesota	4.4%	103,800	7.3%	166,600
Mississippi	-1.6%	-15,000	3.2%	28,000
Missouri	0.2%	5,300	3.1%	71,600
Montana	3.7%	13,400	7.7%	26,500
Nebraska	4.6%	37,200	5.8%	46,400
Nevada	-1.2%	-13,900	7.9%	81,600
New Hampshire	3.4%	19,000	6.0%	32,500
New Jersey	0.1%	3,800	4.0%	131,600
New Mexico	-2.5%	-16,200	1.0%	6,100
New York	8.6%	623,700	10.4%	743,700
North Carolina	3.2%	112,300	9.2%	299,800
North Dakota	25.1%	72,000	23.7%	68,700
Ohio	1.8%	82,500	6.8%	297,800
Oklahoma	3.4%	43,800	4.4%	56,000
Oregon	4.7%	68,500	11.5%	156,000
Pennsylvania	2.3%	113,900	4.6%	228,400
Puerto Rico	-8.7%	-62,700	-4.6%	-31,800
Rhode Island	1.0%	4,200	5.6%	22,700
South Carolina	4.4%	70,200	10.9%	163,500
South Dakota	6.6%	22,000	6.8%	22,500
Tennessee	6.0%	141,900	11.7%	264,600
Texas	15.0%	1,318,500	15.7%	1,372,500
Utah	10.7%	113,400	16.4%	164,800
Vermont	2.0%	5,200	5.1%	12,700
Virginia	3.6%	111,500	6.5%	196,000
Washington	7.8%	192,200	11.2%	266,300
West Virginia	-2.4%	-14,600	-1.5%	-9,100
Wisconsin	1.8%	45,000	5.0%	118,900
Wyoming	-5.7%	-12,800	-5.3%	-11,900

Current Unemployment Rates Across States

February 2016 (Released March 25th)



Source: JEC Democratic staff based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (state data update next on April 15, 2016)

