U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee

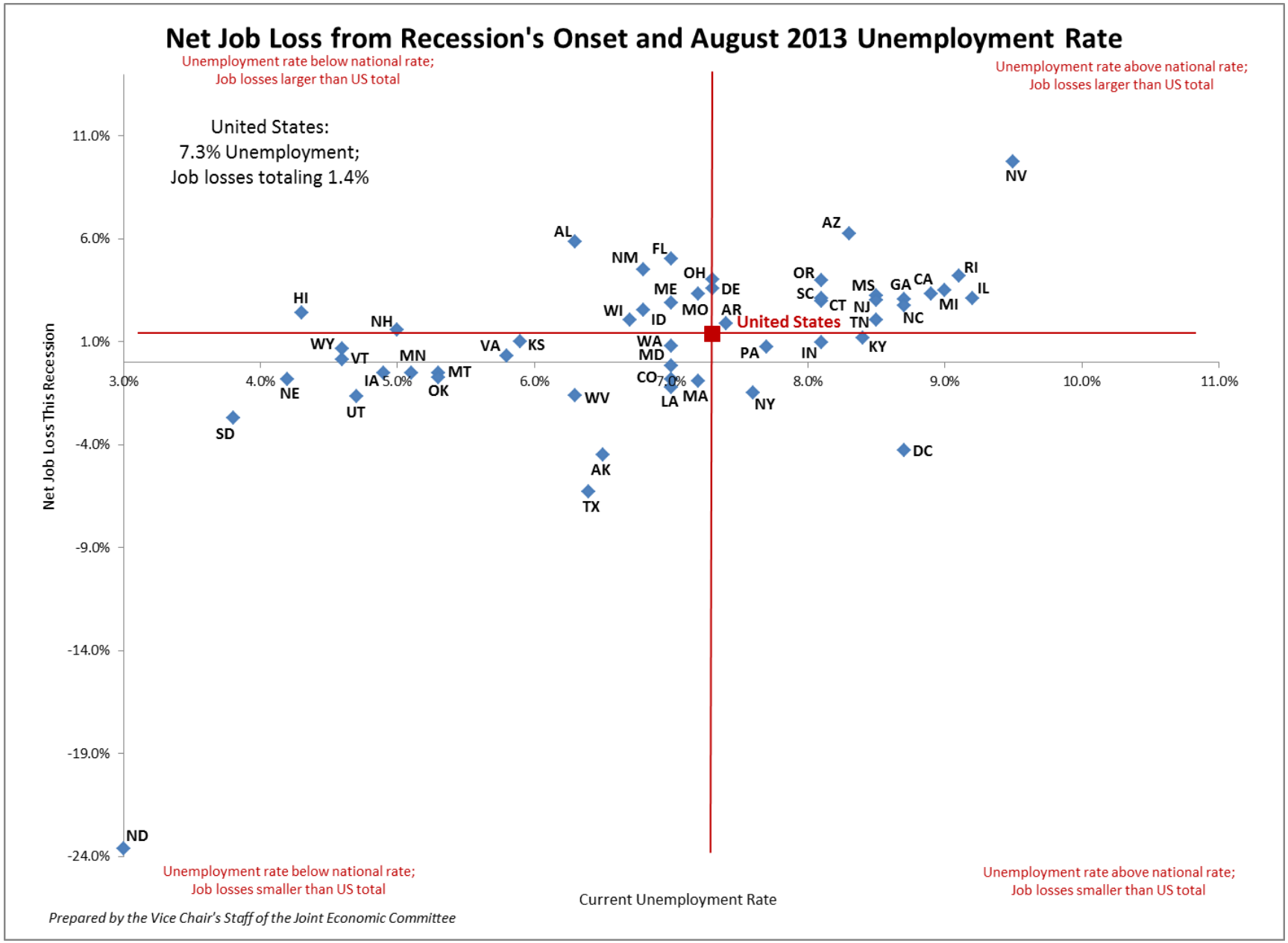
Understanding the Economy: State-by-State Snapshots

EXPLANATION OF NET JOB LOSS AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHART

The chart on the following page shows a comparison of the current (August 2013) 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 are experiencing net job losses greater than the national average but have a current unemployment rate lower than the national average, and states located in the lower right quadrant are experiencing 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 June 2009, forty-eight states and the District of Columbia saw declines in payroll employment. Only Alaska and North Dakota saw their payrolls increase during this period. Job growth has resumed in the last few years; all fifty states and the District of Columbia experienced net job gains from July 2010 to August 2013. Fourteen states—Colorado, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia—and the District of Columbia have recovered all the jobs that were lost during the recession.


Net Job Loss from Recession's Onset and August 2013 Unemployment Rate
Unemployment rate below national rate; Job losses larger than US total
Unemployment rate above national rate; Job losses larger than US total
United States:
7.3% Unemployment;
Job losses totaling 1.4%
Net Job Loss This Recession
11.0%
6.0%
1.0%
-4.0%
-9.0%
-14.0%
-19.0%
-24.0%
3.0%
4.0%
5.0%
6.0%
7.0%
8.0%
9.0%
10.0%
11.0%
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AL
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Unemployment rate below national rate; Job losses smaller than US total
Unemployment rate above national rate; Job losses smaller than US total
Current Unemployment Rate
Prepared by the Vice Chair's Staff of the Joint Economic Committee