



May 28, 2015

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. While the recovery has progressed more quickly in some states, every state is faring better today than during the recession. This month's snapshots include state-level jobs, unemployment and earnings data through April 2015. [Individual state reports can be accessed here.](#)

Highlights

- Private-sector employment increased in 36 states and the District of Columbia in April.
- The unemployment rate fell in 23 states and the District of Columbia.
- Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, have increased in 44 states and the District of Columbia over the past year.
- Home prices increased in 48 states over the year ending in the first quarter of 2015.

Private-Sector Job Gains

Private-sector employment increased in 36 states and the District of Columbia in April. Pennsylvania (26,300), Florida (25,800), California (18,200), Maryland (15,000) and Virginia (13,800) had the largest private-sector gains. On a percentage basis, Alaska, Nevada, Maryland, South Carolina and Maine saw the largest gains.

Over the past 12 months, 49 states and the District of Columbia gained private-sector jobs, with California (422,800), Florida (271,600), Texas (270,400), Georgia (116,500) and New York (109,800) recording the largest increases. The largest percentage gains in private-sector employment during this period were in Utah (4.9 percent), Florida (4.1 percent), Washington (3.9 percent), Nevada and Oregon (3.7 percent each). Nationally, in the past year, more than 2.9 million private-sector jobs were added, a 2.5 percent increase.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate declined in 23 states and the District of Columbia in April. There was no change in 16 states. Indiana and Washington (-0.4 percentage point each) had the largest declines, followed by Tennessee (-0.3 percentage point). Only two states (West Virginia and Alaska) had increases in April that were statistically significant.

Over the past 12 months, 45 states and the District of Columbia reported declines in the unemployment rate, with Michigan (-2.1 percentage points), Kentucky and Rhode Island (-2.0 percentage points each), Oregon (-1.8 percentage points) and California (-1.5 percentage points) recording the largest declines.

Nebraska had the lowest unemployment rate (2.5 percent) in April, followed by North Dakota (3.1 percent), Utah (3.4 percent), South Dakota and Vermont (3.6 percent each) and Minnesota (3.7 percent). The highest unemployment rates in April were in the District of Columbia (7.5 percent), Nevada (7.1 percent), West Virginia (7.0 percent) and Alaska and South Carolina (6.7 percent each). The national unemployment rate was 5.4 percent in April, down from 6.2 percent a year prior.

Earnings

Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, increased in 44 states and the District of Columbia over the past year. Nevada (4.9 percent), Vermont (4.4 percent), Washington, Idaho (4.1 percent each) and Iowa (4.0 percent) posted the largest earnings gains. Earnings declined in five states, and one state had no change. Nationally, real average hourly earnings increased by 2.3 percent (not seasonally adjusted) in the past year. The District of Columbia (\$38.99) had the highest average hourly earnings in April, followed by Massachusetts (\$30.22), Washington (\$29.31), New York (\$28.81) and Connecticut (\$28.73).

Home Prices

Home prices increased the most in Colorado (11.2 percent), Nevada (10.1 percent), Florida (8.7 percent), Washington (7.6 percent) and California (7.5 percent) over the year between the first quarter of 2014 and the first quarter of 2015, according to the Federal Housing Finance Agency's purchase-only, seasonally adjusted index. All but two states (Maryland and West Virginia) and the District of Columbia saw appreciation in home values. Nationally, home prices rose by 5.0 percent during this period.

Key Employment Sectors

Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment expanded in 23 states during April. Ohio (5,200), Wisconsin (3,600), California (2,100), Alaska (2,000) and Oregon (1,900) had the largest increases. On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in Alaska, South Dakota, Vermont, Oregon and Idaho.

Over the past 12 months, 34 states added manufacturing positions. On a percentage basis, the biggest percentage gains were in Oregon (5.6 percent), South Dakota (5.0 percent), Michigan (4.4 percent), Utah (3.4 percent) and Colorado (3.2 percent). Across the country, 180,000 manufacturing positions have been added in the last 12 months, a 1.5 percent increase.

Construction

Construction employment increased in 30 states and the District of Columbia during April. Pennsylvania (10,000), Minnesota (6,600), Virginia (5,000), New Jersey (3,400) and Maryland (2,500) saw the largest gains. The largest percentage gains during the month were in Minnesota, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Nevada and Iowa.

In the past 12 months, 40 states and the District of Columbia added construction jobs. The greatest percentage gains over the past year were in Idaho (12.4 percent), Washington (12.0 percent each), Michigan (10.6 percent), New Jersey (9.9 percent) and Colorado (9.8 percent each). Nationally, over this period, construction employment increased by 280,000 positions, a 4.6 percent increase.

Professional and business services

Professional and business services employment increased in 28 states and the District of Columbia during April. The largest increases were posted in California (14,500), Illinois (8,200), Maryland (7,800), New York (7,400) and Florida (6,400). The largest percentage gains were in Rhode Island, Maryland, South Carolina, Mississippi and Maine.

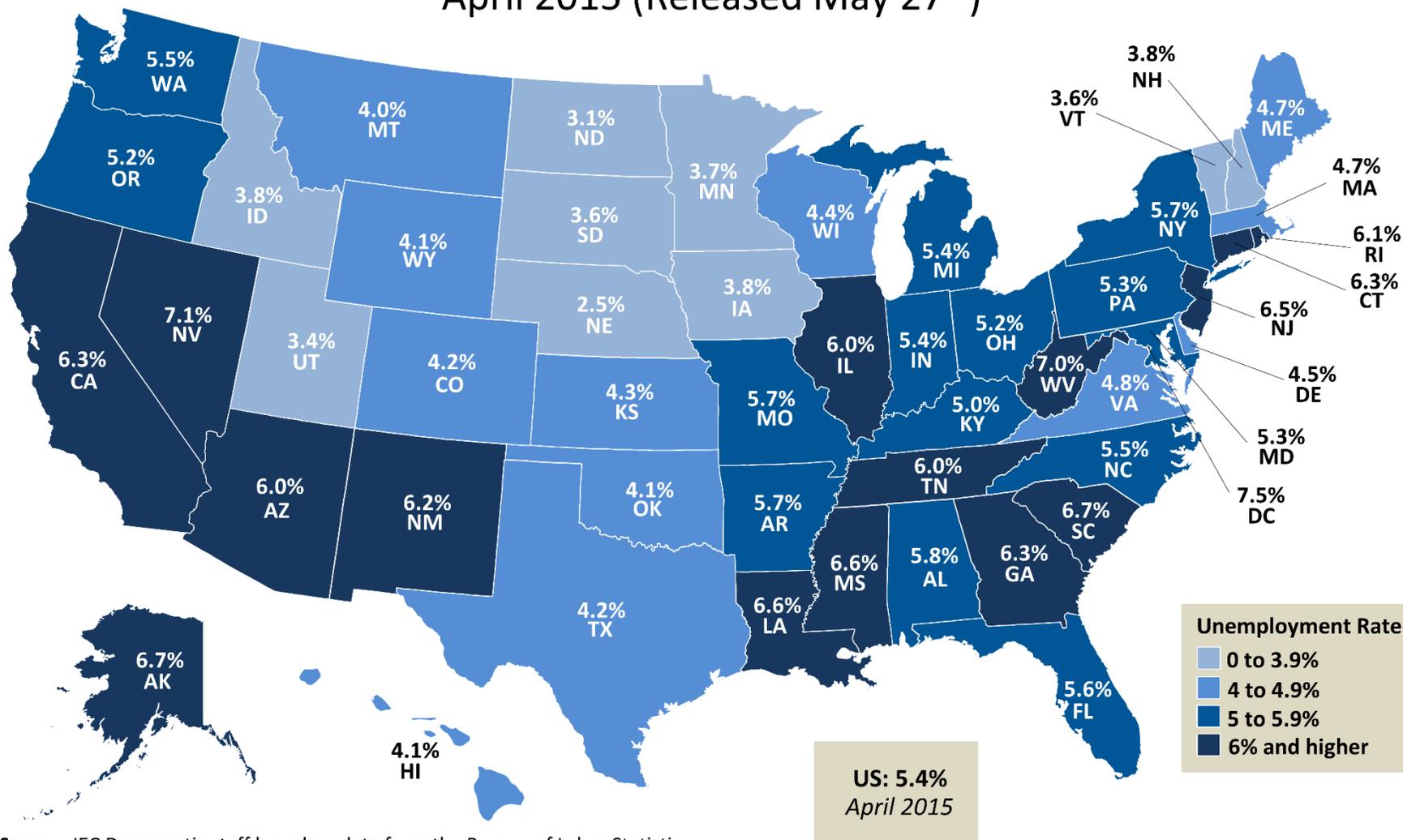
In the past year, 42 states and the District of Columbia have added professional and business services jobs, with the largest percentage gains in Oregon (5.9 percent), South Carolina (5.3 percent), Washington, California (5.0 percent each) and Maine (4.8 percent). The U.S. economy overall has added 654,000 professional and business services jobs during this time, a 3.5 percent increase.

Unemployment Rate (April 2015)	
Nebraska	2.5%
North Dakota	3.1%
Utah	3.4%
South Dakota	3.6%
Vermont	3.6%
Minnesota	3.7%
Idaho	3.8%
New Hampshire	3.8%
Iowa	3.8%
Montana	4.0%
Oklahoma	4.1%
Wyoming	4.1%
Hawaii	4.1%
Colorado	4.2%
Texas	4.2%
Kansas	4.3%
Wisconsin	4.4%
Delaware	4.5%
Massachusetts	4.7%
Maine	4.7%
Virginia	4.8%
Kentucky	5.0%
Ohio	5.2%
Oregon	5.2%
Pennsylvania	5.3%
Maryland	5.3%
UNITED STATES	5.4%
Michigan	5.4%
Indiana	5.4%
North Carolina	5.5%
Washington	5.5%
Florida	5.6%
Missouri	5.7%
Arkansas	5.7%
New York	5.7%
Alabama	5.8%
Illinois	6.0%
Arizona	6.0%
Tennessee	6.0%
Rhode Island	6.1%
New Mexico	6.2%
Georgia	6.3%
Connecticut	6.3%
California	6.3%
New Jersey	6.5%
Louisiana	6.6%
Mississippi	6.6%
Alaska	6.7%
South Carolina	6.7%
West Virginia	7.0%
Nevada	7.1%
District of Columbia	7.5%

Job Growth in America: Change in Private-Sector Jobs				
Data through April 2015	Since Before Recession (December 2007)		Under President Obama (January 2009)	
	Percentage	Net Jobs	Percentage	Net Jobs
UNITED STATES	3.0%	3,486,000	7.2%	8,062,000
Alabama	-4.4%	-71,600	1.2%	18,600
Alaska	9.6%	22,600	9.0%	21,400
Arizona	-2.2%	-49,100	5.5%	114,000
Arkansas	0.0%	0	2.7%	26,600
California	5.2%	666,900	10.6%	1,298,300
Colorado	6.3%	124,900	9.4%	179,900
Connecticut	-0.5%	-6,900	2.4%	34,400
Delaware	0.0%	-100	4.3%	15,700
District of Columbia	12.4%	58,000	11.9%	55,600
Florida	2.4%	162,700	10.6%	669,300
Georgia	2.6%	89,700	8.3%	273,800
Hawaii	0.4%	1,900	6.2%	29,700
Idaho	2.8%	15,000	9.6%	48,600
Illinois	-0.8%	-42,600	3.0%	147,800
Indiana	1.8%	44,900	7.7%	185,400
Iowa	2.7%	34,600	4.8%	60,000
Kansas	1.6%	17,500	2.6%	28,600
Kentucky	0.9%	14,600	5.6%	82,500
Louisiana	5.5%	85,900	6.2%	96,300
Maine	-1.3%	-6,500	1.8%	8,900
Maryland	0.8%	16,700	4.0%	82,400
Massachusetts	4.6%	131,500	7.1%	200,600
Michigan	1.8%	64,400	10.9%	360,200
Minnesota	3.3%	78,200	6.1%	141,000
Mississippi	-3.7%	-33,700	1.1%	9,300
Missouri	-1.8%	-42,000	1.1%	24,300
Montana	2.6%	9,500	6.5%	22,600
Nebraska	3.2%	25,900	4.4%	34,900
Nevada	-3.4%	-39,000	5.5%	57,100
New Hampshire	1.0%	5,800	3.5%	19,300
New Jersey	-1.6%	-54,900	2.2%	73,700
New Mexico	-2.2%	-14,400	1.3%	7,900
New York	6.5%	470,400	8.3%	590,200
North Carolina	1.7%	58,200	7.5%	245,700
North Dakota	35.3%	101,200	33.8%	97,900
Ohio	0.3%	13,300	5.2%	228,600
Oklahoma	3.4%	42,700	4.5%	56,100
Oregon	1.9%	28,100	8.6%	116,400
Pennsylvania	1.6%	80,800	3.9%	194,700
Rhode Island	-0.6%	-2,600	3.9%	15,900
South Carolina	2.5%	40,600	8.9%	133,200
South Dakota	5.6%	18,700	5.8%	19,200
Tennessee	1.9%	44,300	7.4%	166,800
Texas	13.0%	1,139,700	13.7%	1,193,600
Utah	7.9%	83,800	13.5%	135,500
Vermont	1.7%	4,400	4.8%	11,900
Virginia	0.1%	4,100	2.9%	88,200
Washington	5.7%	140,300	8.9%	213,600
West Virginia	-2.2%	-13,400	-1.2%	-7,600
Wisconsin	0.7%	16,000	3.8%	90,900
Wyoming	-1.4%	-3,200	-1.0%	-2,300

Current Unemployment Rates Across States

April 2015 (Released May 27th)



Source: JEC Democratic staff based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics