



April 21, 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 March 2016.

### Highlights

- Private-sector employment increased in 37 states and the District of Columbia in March.
- The unemployment rate fell in 21 states.
- Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, increased in 31 states over the past year.

### Private-Sector Job Gains

Private-sector employment increased in 37 states and the District of Columbia in March. The largest private-sector gains were seen in New Jersey (17,000), Maryland (16,800), Pennsylvania (14,900), North Carolina (14,000) and Wisconsin (13,100). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in Hawaii, Maryland, South Carolina, Rhode Island, Wisconsin, Nevada, New Jersey and Nebraska.

Over the past 12 months, 44 states and the District of Columbia gained private-sector jobs, with California (374,000), Florida (225,300), Texas (152,300), New York (126,100) and Georgia (122,600) recording the largest increases. The largest percentage gains in private-sector employment during this period were in Idaho, Arizona, Tennessee (3.8 percent each), Utah and Hawaii (3.6 percent each). Nationally, in the past year, 2.7 million private-sector jobs were added, a 2.3 percent increase.

### Unemployment

The unemployment rate declined in 21 states in March. The largest declines were in Tennessee (-0.4 percentage point), Oregon (-0.3 percentage point), Arkansas, Mississippi and South Dakota (-0.2 percentage point each). There was no change in 14 states and the District of Columbia.

Over the past 12 months, 36 states and the District of Columbia reported declines in the unemployment rate. The largest declines were in New Jersey (-1.8 percentage points), Arkansas, Tennessee (-1.5 percentage points each), California, Maine and Oregon (-1.2 percentage points each).

South Dakota (2.5 percent) had the lowest unemployment rate in March, followed by New Hampshire (2.6 percent), Colorado (2.9 percent), Nebraska (3.0 percent), Hawaii and North Dakota (3.1 percent each). Alaska had the highest unemployment rate (6.6 percent), followed by the District of Columbia, Illinois, West Virginia (6.5 percent each), Mississippi (6.3 percent), Alabama and New Mexico (6.2 percent each). The national unemployment rate was 5.0 percent in March, down from 5.5 percent a year prior.

## **Earnings**

Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, increased in 31 states over the past year. The largest earnings gains were posted in Delaware (6.0 percent), North Carolina (3.8 percent), Oregon (3.7 percent), New Hampshire and Connecticut (2.6 percent each). Earnings declined in 14 states and the District of Columbia and were virtually unchanged in five states. Nationally, real average hourly earnings increased by 0.8 percent (not seasonally adjusted) in the past year. The District of Columbia (\$36.87) had the highest average hourly earnings in March, followed by Massachusetts (\$31.18), Washington (\$30.39), Connecticut (\$30.06) and New York (\$29.24).

## **Key Employment Sectors**

### ***Manufacturing***

Manufacturing employment expanded in 14 states during March. The largest increases were in Wisconsin (4,200), Minnesota (1,000), Tennessee (800), Maine, Rhode Island, Utah and Washington (500 each). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in Rhode Island, Montana, Maine, Wisconsin and North Dakota.

Over the past 12 months, 24 states added manufacturing positions. On a percentage basis, the biggest gains were in Idaho (4.1 percent), Tennessee, Montana (3.7 percent each), Delaware (3.0 percent) and Maryland (2.8 percent). Across the country, 27,000 manufacturing positions have been lost in the last 12 months, a 0.2 percent decrease.

### ***Construction***

Construction employment increased in 28 states during March. The largest gains were reported in Pennsylvania (6,000), Georgia (4,300), Illinois (4,100), Colorado (3,900) and Iowa (3,600). The largest percentage gains during the month were in West Virginia, Iowa, Nevada, Hawaii and Pennsylvania.

In the past 12 months, 44 states and the District of Columbia added construction jobs. The greatest percentage gains over the past year were in Hawaii (20.9 percent), Rhode Island (13.3 percent), Massachusetts (11.9 percent), Nevada (11.6 percent) and Iowa (9.6 percent). Nationally, over this period, construction employment increased by 301,000 positions, a 4.7 percent increase.

### ***Professional and Business Services***

Professional and business services employment increased in 28 states and the District of Columbia during March. The largest increases were posted in Maryland (7,900), Ohio (7,000), Michigan (4,400), Wisconsin (4,100) and North Carolina (3,900). The largest percentage gains were in Arkansas, Maryland, Alaska, Hawaii and South Carolina.

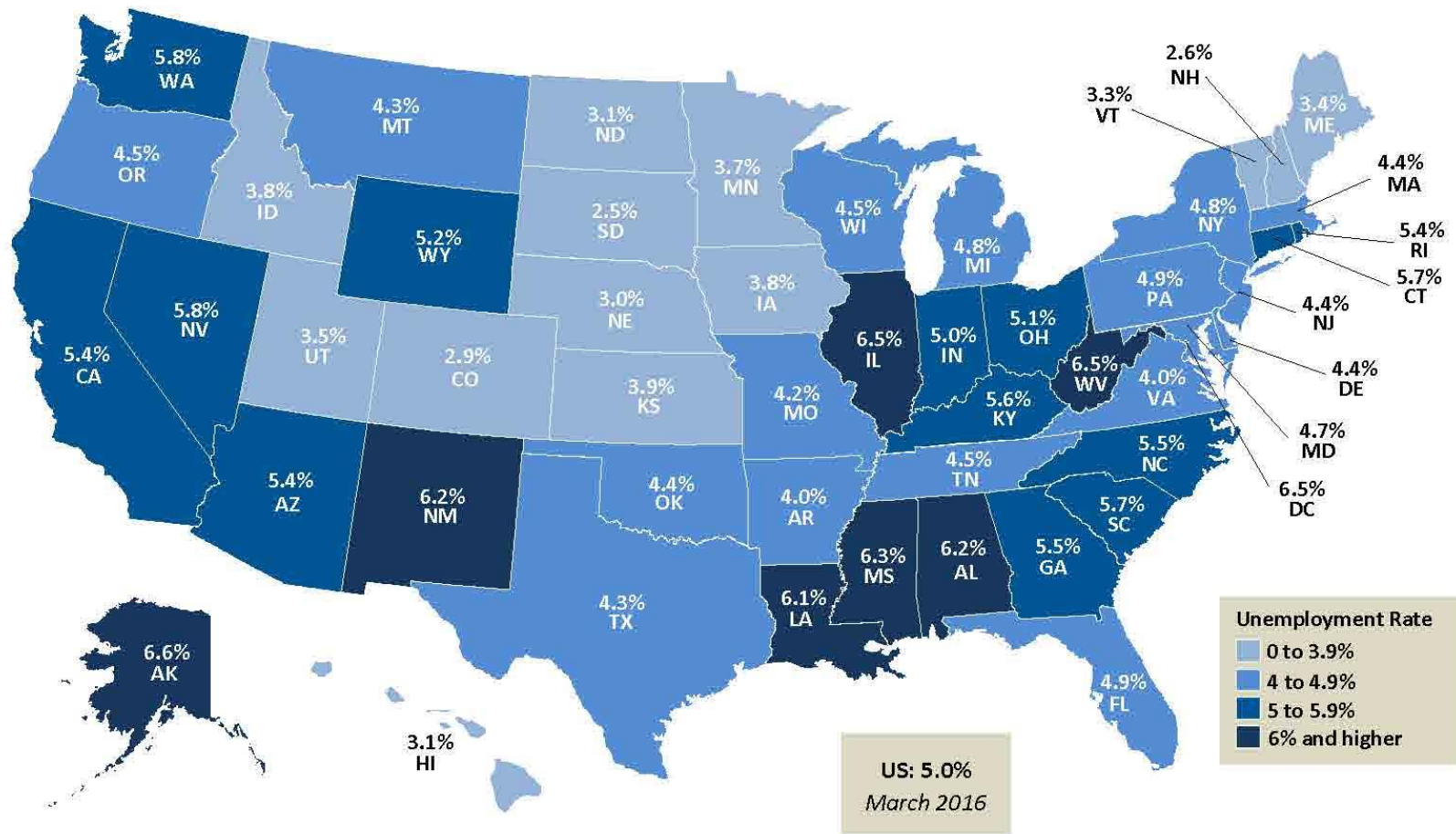
In the past year, 39 states and the District of Columbia added jobs in professional and business services. The largest percentage gains were in Rhode Island (5.4 percent), Oregon (5.3 percent), Arkansas (5.2 percent), North Carolina and South Carolina (4.9 percent each). The U.S. economy overall has added 606,000 professional and business services jobs during this time, a 3.1 percent increase.

Unemployment Rate (March 2016)	
South Dakota	2.5%
New Hampshire	2.6%
Colorado	2.9%
Nebraska	3.0%
Hawaii	3.1%
North Dakota	3.1%
Vermont	3.3%
Maine	3.4%
Utah	3.5%
Minnesota	3.7%
Idaho	3.8%
Iowa	3.8%
Kansas	3.9%
Arkansas	4.0%
Virginia	4.0%
Missouri	4.2%
Montana	4.3%
Texas	4.3%
Delaware	4.4%
Massachusetts	4.4%
New Jersey	4.4%
Oklahoma	4.4%
Oregon	4.5%
Tennessee	4.5%
Wisconsin	4.5%
Maryland	4.7%
Michigan	4.8%
New York	4.8%
Florida	4.9%
Pennsylvania	4.9%
Indiana	5.0%
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>5.0%</b>
Ohio	5.1%
Wyoming	5.2%
Arizona	5.4%
California	5.4%
Rhode Island	5.4%
Georgia	5.5%
North Carolina	5.5%
Kentucky	5.6%
Connecticut	5.7%
South Carolina	5.7%
Nevada	5.8%
Washington	5.8%
Louisiana	6.1%
Alabama	6.2%
New Mexico	6.2%
Mississippi	6.3%
District of Columbia	6.5%
Illinois	6.5%
West Virginia	6.5%
Alaska	6.6%
Puerto Rico	11.8%

Job Growth in America: Change in Private-Sector Jobs				
**Data through March 2016**	Since Before Recession (December 2007)		Under President Obama (January 2009)	
	Percentage	Net Jobs	Percentage	Net Jobs
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>5,655,000</b>	<b>9.2%</b>	<b>10,218,000</b>
Alabama	-3.1%	-50,700	2.6%	39,500
Alaska	8.5%	20,000	7.9%	18,700
Arizona	1.6%	34,900	9.5%	198,300
Arkansas	1.6%	15,800	4.4%	42,400
California	6.7%	869,800	12.1%	1,489,600
Colorado	10.1%	199,900	13.3%	254,900
Connecticut	-0.2%	-3,600	2.7%	37,500
Delaware	3.9%	14,700	8.4%	30,500
District of Columbia	14.7%	68,500	14.1%	66,100
Florida	5.3%	358,800	13.7%	865,400
Georgia	5.9%	203,300	11.8%	386,300
Hawaii	4.4%	22,400	10.6%	50,300
Idaho	5.8%	31,500	12.9%	65,100
Illinois	0.8%	41,400	4.7%	231,100
Indiana	2.7%	69,400	8.7%	209,900
Iowa	3.6%	46,200	5.7%	71,600
Kansas	1.2%	14,100	2.2%	25,100
Kentucky	3.1%	48,700	7.9%	116,600
Louisiana	5.0%	79,000	5.7%	89,400
Maine	-0.1%	-500	3.0%	14,900
Maryland	3.3%	71,300	6.6%	137,000
Massachusetts	6.9%	198,300	9.5%	266,800
Michigan	3.5%	124,700	12.8%	422,100
Minnesota	4.3%	101,200	7.2%	164,000
Mississippi	-1.5%	-13,600	3.4%	29,400
Missouri	0.4%	9,900	3.3%	76,200
Montana	4.0%	14,400	7.9%	27,500
Nebraska	5.1%	41,300	6.3%	50,500
Nevada	-0.6%	-6,900	8.5%	88,600
New Hampshire	3.2%	18,000	5.8%	31,500
New Jersey	0.7%	24,300	4.6%	152,100
New Mexico	-2.3%	-15,000	1.2%	7,300
New York	8.7%	633,400	10.6%	753,400
North Carolina	3.7%	127,300	9.6%	314,800
North Dakota	24.7%	70,700	23.3%	67,400
Ohio	2.0%	91,700	7.0%	307,000
Oklahoma	3.1%	39,800	4.1%	52,000
Oregon	5.1%	73,500	11.9%	161,000
Pennsylvania	2.6%	129,400	4.9%	243,900
Puerto Rico	-8.3%	-60,100	-4.2%	-29,200
Rhode Island	1.7%	7,000	6.3%	25,500
South Carolina	5.0%	79,600	11.5%	172,900
South Dakota	6.6%	21,900	6.7%	22,400
Tennessee	6.0%	142,900	11.7%	265,600
Texas	14.9%	1,307,500	15.6%	1,361,500
Utah	11.1%	117,000	16.8%	168,400
Vermont	2.0%	5,000	5.1%	12,500
Virginia	3.8%	117,000	6.7%	201,500
Washington	8.3%	203,100	11.6%	277,200
West Virginia	-1.9%	-11,800	-1.0%	-6,300
Wisconsin	2.5%	60,600	5.6%	134,500
Wyoming	-6.1%	-13,800	-5.7%	-12,900

# Current Unemployment Rates Across States

March 2016 (Released April 15th)



Source: JEC Democratic staff based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (state data update next on May 20, 2016)

