



For release 10:00 a.m. (EDT) Tuesday, October 21, 2014

USDL-14-1963

Technical information:

Employment: (202) 691-6559 • sminfo@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/sae
Unemployment: (202) 691-6392 • lausinfo@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/lau

Media contact: (202) 691-5902 • PressOffice@bls.gov

REGIONAL AND STATE EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT — SEPTEMBER 2014

Regional and state unemployment rates were generally little changed in September. Thirty-one states had unemployment rate decreases from August, 8 states had increases, and 11 states and the District of Columbia had no change, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Forty-two states and the District of Columbia had unemployment rate decreases from a year earlier, five states had increases, and three states had no change. The national jobless rate declined to 5.9 percent from August and was 1.3 percentage points lower than in September 2013.

In September 2014, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 39 states and the District of Columbia, decreased in 10 states, and was unchanged in South Dakota. The largest over-the-month increases in employment occurred in Texas (+36,400), Illinois (+19,300), and Colorado (+14,600). The largest over-the-month decrease in employment occurred in California (-9,800), followed by Pennsylvania (-9,600) and Virginia (-7,400). The largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in the District of Columbia (+1.1 percent), followed by Alaska (+0.9 percent) and West Virginia (+0.8 percent). The largest over-the-month percentage declines in employment occurred in Indiana, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Virginia (-0.2 percent each). Over the year, nonfarm employment increased in 49 states and the District of Columbia and decreased in Alaska (-0.2 percent). The largest over-the-year percentage increase occurred in North Dakota (+5.1 percent), followed by Texas (+3.7 percent) and Utah (+3.6 percent).

Regional Unemployment (Seasonally Adjusted)

In September, the West continued to have the highest regional unemployment rate, 6.5 percent, while the Midwest had the lowest rate, 5.7 percent. The Northeast had the only statistically significant over-the-month unemployment rate change (-0.1 percentage point). Significant over-the-year rate decreases occurred in all four regions: the Midwest and West (-1.4 percentage points each), Northeast (-1.3 points), and South (-0.7 point). (See table 1.)

Among the nine geographic divisions, the East South Central had the highest jobless rate, 7.0 percent in September. The West North Central again had the lowest rate, 4.7 percent. Over the month, the Middle Atlantic and Mountain had the only statistically significant jobless rate changes (-0.2 percentage point each). Eight divisions had significant rate changes from a year earlier, all of which were declines. The

largest of these decreases occurred in the East North Central (-1.9 percentage points) and Middle Atlantic and Pacific (-1.4 points each).

State Unemployment (Seasonally Adjusted)

Georgia had the highest unemployment rate among the states in September, 7.9 percent. North Dakota again had the lowest jobless rate, 2.8 percent. In total, 16 states had unemployment rates significantly lower than the U.S. figure of 5.9 percent, 10 states and the District of Columbia had measurably higher rates, and 24 states had rates that were not appreciably different from that of the nation. (See tables A and 3 and chart 1.)

In September, seven states had statistically significant over-the-month unemployment rate declines: Colorado and Kentucky (-0.4 percentage point each); Nevada (-0.3 point); and Florida, Idaho, Minnesota, and New York (-0.2 point each). Vermont and Massachusetts had the only significant over-the-month rate increases (+0.3 percentage point and +0.2 point, respectively). The remaining 41 states and the District of Columbia had jobless rates that were not measurably different from those of a month earlier, though some had changes that were at least as large numerically as the significant changes.

Twenty-six states had statistically significant unemployment rate changes over the year, all of which were decreases. The largest of these occurred in Illinois (-2.5 percentage points) and Nevada (-2.3 points). The remaining 24 states and the District of Columbia had rates that were not appreciably different from those of a year earlier. (See table B.)

Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)

In September 2014, 16 states and the District of Columbia had statistically significant over-the-month changes in employment, all of which were increases. The largest significant job gains occurred in Texas (+36,400), Illinois (+19,300), and Colorado (+14,600). (See tables C and 5.)

Over the year, 37 states had statistically significant changes in employment, all of which were positive. The largest significant over-the-year job increase occurred in Texas (+413,700), followed by California (+297,000) and Florida (+205,600). (See table D and chart 2.)

The Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment news release for September is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, October 29, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT). The Regional and State Employment and Unemployment news release for October is scheduled to be released on Friday, November 21, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. (EST).

Table A. States with unemployment rates significantly different from that of the U.S., September 2014, seasonally adjusted

State	Rate ^p
United States ¹	5.9
Arizona	6.9
California	7.3
Colorado	4.7
District of Columbia	7.7
Georgia	7.9
Hawaii	4.2
Idaho	4.5
Iowa	4.6
Kansas	4.8
Michigan	7.2
Minnesota	4.1
Mississippi	7.7
Montana	4.6
Nebraska	3.6
Nevada	7.3
New Hampshire	4.3
North Carolina	6.7
North Dakota	2.8
Oklahoma	4.7
Oregon	7.1
Rhode Island	7.6
South Dakota	3.4
Tennessee	7.3
Texas	5.2
Utah	3.5
Vermont	4.4
Wyoming	4.7

¹ Data are not preliminary.

^p = preliminary.

Table B. States with statistically significant unemployment rate changes from September 2013 to September 2014, seasonally adjusted

State	Rate		Over-the-year change ^P
	September 2013	September 2014 ^P	
Arkansas	7.7	6.2	-1.5
California	8.8	7.3	-1.5
Colorado	6.6	4.7	-1.9
Connecticut	7.7	6.4	-1.3
Florida	6.9	6.1	-.8
Idaho	6.0	4.5	-1.5
Illinois	9.1	6.6	-2.5
Indiana	7.3	5.7	-1.6
Kentucky	8.3	6.7	-1.6
Maine	6.6	5.8	-.8
Massachusetts	7.2	6.0	-1.2
Michigan	8.8	7.2	-1.6
Minnesota	4.9	4.1	-.8
Montana	5.6	4.6	-1.0
Nevada	9.6	7.3	-2.3
New Hampshire	5.2	4.3	-.9
New Jersey	7.9	6.5	-1.4
New York	7.5	6.2	-1.3
North Carolina	7.7	6.7	-1.0
Ohio	7.4	5.6	-1.8
Pennsylvania	7.3	5.7	-1.6
Rhode Island	9.5	7.6	-1.9
Texas	6.3	5.2	-1.1
Utah	4.3	3.5	-.8
Washington	6.9	5.7	-1.2
Wisconsin	6.6	5.5	-1.1

^P = preliminary.

Table C. States with statistically significant employment changes from August 2014 to September 2014, seasonally adjusted

State	August 2014	September 2014 ^P	Over-the-month change ^P
Alabama	1,927,800	1,939,200	11,400
Alaska	333,100	336,000	2,900
Colorado	2,449,900	2,464,500	14,600
Connecticut	1,667,700	1,679,200	11,500
District of Columbia	749,700	757,700	8,000
Hawaii	626,300	629,000	2,700
Idaho	642,800	646,000	3,200
Illinois	5,844,300	5,863,600	19,300
Massachusetts	3,415,600	3,425,000	9,400
Mississippi	1,120,600	1,126,600	6,000
New Hampshire	643,100	647,900	4,800
North Carolina	4,156,000	4,170,000	14,000
North Dakota	467,100	470,400	3,300
South Carolina	1,933,200	1,946,200	13,000
Tennessee	2,809,500	2,816,700	7,200
Texas	11,635,800	11,672,200	36,400
West Virginia	771,400	777,400	6,000

^P = preliminary.

Table D. States with statistically significant employment changes from September 2013 to September 2014, seasonally adjusted

State	September 2013	September 2014 ^p	Over-the-year change ^p
Alabama	1,902,400	1,939,200	36,800
Arizona	2,525,600	2,577,200	51,600
Arkansas	1,176,300	1,194,000	17,700
California	15,233,500	15,530,500	297,000
Colorado	2,397,100	2,464,500	67,400
Connecticut	1,653,100	1,679,200	26,100
Delaware	428,500	441,100	12,600
Florida	7,621,600	7,827,200	205,600
Georgia	4,051,800	4,134,900	83,100
Hawaii	619,300	629,000	9,700
Illinois	5,794,600	5,863,600	69,000
Indiana	2,934,400	2,994,000	59,600
Iowa	1,534,100	1,556,200	22,100
Kentucky	1,842,800	1,869,900	27,100
Louisiana	1,954,800	1,987,900	33,100
Maine	602,400	611,800	9,400
Massachusetts	3,360,900	3,425,000	64,100
Michigan	4,113,200	4,145,900	32,700
Minnesota	2,784,000	2,834,700	50,700
Mississippi	1,112,300	1,126,600	14,300
Missouri	2,734,000	2,787,700	53,700
Montana	449,800	459,500	9,700
Nevada	1,179,700	1,217,900	38,200
New York	8,938,900	9,052,200	113,300
North Carolina	4,061,500	4,170,000	108,500
North Dakota	447,600	470,400	22,800
Oklahoma	1,636,600	1,671,000	34,400
Oregon	1,681,400	1,722,600	41,200
Pennsylvania	5,747,200	5,782,600	35,400
South Carolina	1,903,000	1,946,200	43,200
Tennessee	2,756,000	2,816,700	60,700
Texas	11,258,500	11,672,200	413,700
Utah	1,294,200	1,340,500	46,300
Washington	3,004,500	3,068,500	64,000
West Virginia	760,900	777,400	16,500
Wisconsin	2,824,700	2,866,500	41,800
Wyoming	288,900	294,800	5,900

^p = preliminary.

Technical Note

This release presents labor force and unemployment data for census regions and divisions, states, and selected substate areas from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program (tables 1 to 4). Also presented are nonfarm payroll employment estimates by state and industry supersector from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program (tables 5 and 6). The LAUS and CES programs are both federal-state cooperative endeavors.

Labor force and unemployment—from the LAUS program

Definitions. The labor force and unemployment data are based on the same concepts and definitions as those used for the official national estimates obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a sample survey of households that is conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the U.S. Census Bureau. The LAUS program measures employment and unemployment on a place-of-residence basis. The universe for each is the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over. *Employed* persons are those who did any work at all for pay or profit in the reference week (the week including the 12th of the month) or worked 15 hours or more without pay in a family business or farm, plus those not working who had a job from which they were temporarily absent, whether or not paid, for such reasons as bad weather, labor-management dispute, illness, or vacation. *Unemployed* persons are those who were not employed during the reference week (based on the definition above), had actively looked for a job sometime in the 4-week period ending with the reference week, and were currently available for work; persons on layoff expecting recall need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed. The *labor force* is the sum of employed and unemployed persons. The *unemployment rate* is the number of unemployed as a percent of the labor force.

Method of estimation. Estimates for 48 of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale metropolitan division, New York City, and the balances of California and New York State are produced using estimating equations based on regression techniques. This method, which underwent substantial enhancement at the beginning of 2005, utilizes data from several sources, including the CPS, the CES, and state unemployment insurance (UI) programs. Estimates for the state of California are derived by summing the estimates for the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale metropolitan division and the balance of California. Similarly, estimates for New York State are derived by summing the estimates for New York City and the balance of New York State. Estimates for all nine census divisions and the five additional substate areas contained in this release (the Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor and Detroit-Warren-Livonia metropolitan areas and the Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall, and Seattle-Bellevue-Everett metropolitan divisions) and their respective balances of state are based on a similar regression approach that does not

incorporate CES or UI data. Estimates for census regions are obtained by summing the model-based estimates for the component divisions and then calculating the unemployment rate. Each month, census division estimates are controlled to national totals; state estimates are then controlled to their respective division totals. Substate and balance-of-state estimates for the five areas noted above are controlled to their respective state totals. Estimates for Puerto Rico are derived from a monthly household survey similar to the CPS. A detailed description of the estimation procedures is available from BLS upon request.

Annual revisions. Labor force and unemployment data for prior years reflect adjustments made at the end of each year. The adjusted estimates reflect updated population data from the U.S. Census Bureau, any revisions in the other data sources, and model reestimation. In most years, historical data for the most recent five years (both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted) are revised near the beginning of each calendar year, prior to the release of January estimates.

Seasonal adjustment. The LAUS program introduced smoothed seasonally adjusted (SSA) estimates in January 2010. These are seasonally adjusted data that have incorporated a long-run trend smoothing procedure, resulting in estimates that are less volatile than those previously produced. The estimates are smoothed using a Henderson Trend Filter (H13). The H13 uses a filtering procedure, based on moving averages, to remove the irregular fluctuations from the seasonally adjusted series, leaving the trend. The same process is used on both historical and current year estimates. For more information about the smoothing technique, see the BLS website at www.bls.gov/lau/lassaqa.htm.

Area definitions. The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget on December 1, 2009. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available online at www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm.

Employment—from the CES program

Definitions. Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who receive pay for any part of the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. Persons are counted at their place of work rather than at their place of residence; those appearing on more than one payroll are counted on each payroll. Industries are classified on the basis of their principal activity in accordance with the 2012 version of the North American Industry Classification System.

Method of estimation. CES State and Area employment data are produced using several estimation procedures. Where possible these data are produced using a "weighted link relative" estimation technique in which a ratio of current-month weighted employment to that of the previous-month

weighted employment is computed from a sample of establishments reporting for both months. The estimates of employment for the current month are then obtained by multiplying these ratios by the previous month's employment estimates. The weighted link relative technique is utilized for data series where the sample size meets certain statistical criteria.

For some employment series, relatively small sample sizes limit the reliability of the weighted link-relative estimates. In these cases, BLS uses the CES small domain model (SDM) to generate employment estimates. The SDM combines the direct sample estimates (described above) and forecasts of historical (benchmarked) data to decrease the volatility of the estimates. For more detailed information about the CES small domain model, refer to the BLS Handbook of Methods.

Annual revisions. Employment estimates are adjusted annually to a complete count of jobs, called benchmarks, derived principally from tax reports that are submitted by employers who are covered under state unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The benchmark information is used to adjust the monthly estimates between the new benchmark and the preceding one and also to establish the level of employment for the new benchmark month. Thus, the benchmarking process establishes the level of employment, and the sample is used to measure the month-to-month changes in the level for the subsequent months.

Seasonal adjustment. Payroll employment data are seasonally adjusted at the statewide supersector level. In some states, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is computed by aggregating the independently adjusted supersector series. In other states, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is independently adjusted. Revisions of historical data for the most recent 5 years are made once a year, coincident with annual benchmark adjustments.

Caution on aggregating state data. State estimation procedures are designed to produce accurate data for each individual state. BLS independently develops a national employment series; state estimates are not forced to sum to national totals. Because each state series is subject to larger sampling and nonsampling errors than the national series, summing them cumulates individual state level errors and can cause significant distortions at an aggregate level. Due to these statistical limitations, BLS does not compile a "sum-of-states" employment series, and cautions users that such a series is subject to a relatively large and volatile error structure.

Reliability of the estimates

The estimates presented in this release are based on sample surveys, administrative data, and modeling and, thus, are subject to sampling and other types of errors. Sampling error is a measure of sampling variability—that is, variation that occurs by chance because a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed. Survey data also are subject to nonsampling errors, such as those which can be introduced into

the data collection and processing operations. Estimates not directly derived from sample surveys are subject to additional errors resulting from the specific estimation processes used. The sums of individual items may not always equal the totals shown in the same tables because of rounding. Unemployment rates are computed from un-rounded data and thus may differ slightly from rates computed using the rounded data displayed in the tables.

Use of error measures. In 2005, the LAUS program introduced several improvements to its methodology. Among these were the development of model-based error measures for the monthly estimates and the estimates of over-the-month changes. The introductory section of this release preserves the long-time practice of highlighting the direction of the movements in regional and state unemployment rates and state nonfarm payroll employment regardless of their statistical significance. The remainder of the analysis in the release takes statistical significance into consideration.

Labor force and unemployment estimates. Model-based error measures for seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted data and for over-the-month and over-the-year changes are available online at www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm. BLS uses a 90-percent confidence level in determining whether changes in LAUS unemployment rates are statistically significant. The average magnitude of the current year over-the-month change in a state unemployment rate that is required for statistical significance at the 90-percent confidence level is just over 0.2 percentage point; the average amount of the current over-the-year change in a state rate for significance is about 0.9 point. More details can be found on the website. Measures of nonsampling error are not available.

Employment estimates. Measures of sampling error for state CES data at the total nonfarm and supersector levels are available online at www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm. BLS uses a 90-percent confidence level in determining whether changes in CES employment levels are statistically significant. Information on recent benchmark revisions for states is available online at www.bls.gov/sae/.

Additional information

Estimates of labor force and unemployment from the LAUS program, as well as nonfarm employment from the CES program, for 380 metropolitan areas and metropolitan New England City and Town Areas (NECTAs) are available in the news release, *Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment*. Estimates of labor force, employment, and unemployment for approximately 7,400 subnational areas are available online at www.bls.gov/lau/. Employment data from the CES program for states and metropolitan areas are available online at www.bls.gov/sae/.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

LABOR FORCE DATA
LABOR FORCE DATA
Table 1. Civilian labor force and unemployment by census region and division, seasonally adjusted¹

(Numbers in thousands)

Census region and division	Civilian labor force				Unemployed							
					Number				Percent of labor force			
	Sept. 2013	July 2014	Aug. 2014	Sept. 2014	Sept. 2013	July 2014	Aug. 2014	Sept. 2014	Sept. 2013	July 2014	Aug. 2014	Sept. 2014
Northeast	28,275.7	28,207.4	28,150.3	28,142.2	2,102.0	1,734.6	1,746.9	1,711.8	7.4	6.1	6.2	6.1
New England	7,689.0	7,740.4	7,733.3	7,750.6	548.7	446.3	457.7	463.6	7.1	5.8	5.9	6.0
Middle Atlantic	20,586.8	20,467.0	20,417.0	20,391.5	1,553.3	1,288.3	1,289.2	1,248.2	7.5	6.3	6.3	6.1
South	56,582.7	56,899.1	56,806.0	56,820.6	3,896.7	3,478.5	3,567.8	3,526.8	6.9	6.1	6.3	6.2
South Atlantic	29,992.2	30,258.0	30,212.7	30,217.6	2,097.6	1,921.4	1,987.0	1,964.8	7.0	6.3	6.6	6.5
East South Central	8,512.3	8,463.8	8,411.1	8,370.5	665.4	615.8	611.4	589.3	7.8	7.3	7.3	7.0
West South Central	18,078.2	18,177.3	18,182.1	18,232.5	1,133.8	941.3	969.4	972.7	6.3	5.2	5.3	5.3
Midwest	34,274.9	34,377.7	34,339.8	34,393.4	2,440.8	2,043.8	1,997.6	1,967.6	7.1	5.9	5.8	5.7
East North Central	23,265.7	23,277.3	23,249.8	23,282.7	1,878.8	1,499.4	1,466.1	1,443.3	8.1	6.4	6.3	6.2
West North Central	11,009.2	11,100.4	11,090.0	11,110.7	562.0	544.3	531.5	524.4	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.7
West	36,036.6	36,204.2	36,213.2	36,280.4	2,839.2	2,404.4	2,401.2	2,368.7	7.9	6.6	6.6	6.5
Mountain	11,069.8	11,192.0	11,165.1	11,162.0	768.1	652.4	646.2	623.2	6.9	5.8	5.8	5.6
Pacific	24,966.9	25,012.1	25,048.1	25,118.3	2,071.1	1,752.0	1,755.0	1,745.5	8.3	7.0	7.0	6.9

¹ Census region estimates are derived by summing the census division model-based estimates.

NOTE: Data refer to place of residence. The states (including the District of Columbia) that compose the various census divisions are: New England: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont; Middle Atlantic: New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania; South Atlantic: Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia; East South Central: Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and

Tennessee; West South Central: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas; East North Central: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin; West North Central: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota; Mountain: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming; and Pacific: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington. Estimates for the current year are subject to revision early in the following calendar year.

Table 2. Civilian labor force and unemployment by census region and division, not seasonally adjusted¹

(Numbers in thousands)

Census region and division	Civilian labor force				Unemployed							
					Number				Percent of labor force			
	August		September		August		September		August		September	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
Northeast	28,572.5	28,419.5	28,274.4	28,087.0	2,128.0	1,752.6	2,024.7	1,575.9	7.4	6.2	7.2	5.6
New England	7,790.0	7,834.5	7,687.3	7,753.6	543.5	469.9	528.7	449.5	7.0	6.0	6.9	5.8
Middle Atlantic	20,782.5	20,585.0	20,587.1	20,333.4	1,584.6	1,282.7	1,496.0	1,126.5	7.6	6.2	7.3	5.5
South	56,755.5	56,991.6	56,781.1	56,955.6	4,020.5	3,703.8	3,847.1	3,347.6	7.1	6.5	6.8	5.9
South Atlantic	30,117.9	30,330.0	30,093.7	30,294.6	2,188.1	2,085.4	2,069.3	1,870.7	7.3	6.9	6.9	6.2
East South Central	8,551.4	8,393.3	8,542.9	8,353.0	674.1	596.3	654.4	537.1	7.9	7.1	7.7	6.4
West South Central	18,086.3	18,268.3	18,144.5	18,308.0	1,158.3	1,022.1	1,123.5	939.8	6.4	5.6	6.2	5.1
Midwest	34,463.5	34,555.6	34,313.5	34,440.1	2,429.1	1,899.7	2,285.5	1,805.6	7.0	5.5	6.7	5.2
East North Central	23,412.9	23,415.5	23,296.1	23,311.5	1,858.9	1,395.6	1,765.2	1,321.4	7.9	6.0	7.6	5.7
West North Central	11,050.5	11,140.1	11,017.4	11,128.6	570.2	504.1	520.2	484.3	5.2	4.5	4.7	4.4
West	36,181.7	36,467.6	36,171.7	36,420.6	2,883.9	2,431.2	2,727.4	2,232.9	8.0	6.7	7.5	6.1
Mountain	11,121.4	11,207.2	11,119.0	11,195.5	784.8	645.3	745.6	575.4	7.1	5.8	6.7	5.1
Pacific	25,060.3	25,260.3	25,052.7	25,225.1	2,099.1	1,785.9	1,981.8	1,657.5	8.4	7.1	7.9	6.6

¹ Census region estimates are derived by summing the census division model-based estimates.

NOTE: Data refer to place of residence. The composition of the regions

and divisions is described in table 1. Estimates for the current year are subject to revision early in the following calendar year.

Chart 1. Unemployment rates by state, seasonally adjusted September 2014

(U.S. rate = 5.9 percent)

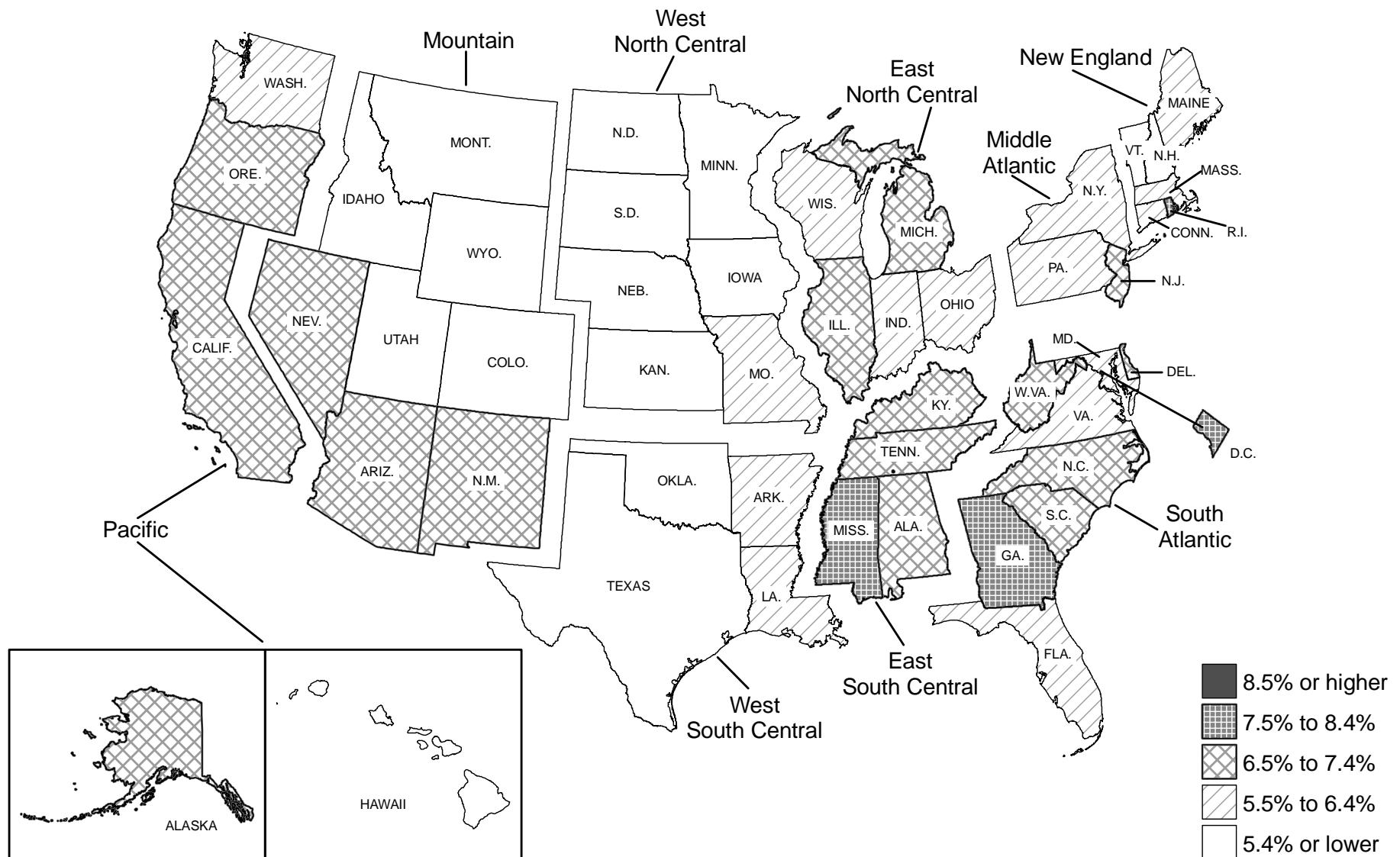


Chart 2. Percentage change in nonfarm employment by state,
seasonally adjusted, September 2013 – September 2014

