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Technical information: (202) 691-6392 • [lausinfo@bls.gov](mailto:lausinfo@bls.gov) • [www.bls.gov/lau](http://www.bls.gov/lau)  
Media contact: (202) 691-5902 • [PressOffice@bls.gov](mailto:PressOffice@bls.gov)

## REGIONAL AND STATE UNEMPLOYMENT — 2015 ANNUAL AVERAGES

In 2015, annual average unemployment rates decreased in 47 states and the District of Columbia, increased in 2 states, and were unchanged in 1 state, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Employment-population ratios increased in 35 states and the District of Columbia and decreased in 15 states. The U.S. jobless rate declined by 0.9 percentage point from the prior year to 5.3 percent, and the national employment-population ratio rose by 0.3 point to 59.3 percent.

### Regional Unemployment

All four regions had statistically significant unemployment rate decreases from 2014: the Midwest, Northeast, and West (-1.0 percentage point each) and the South (-0.7 point). The Midwest, at 4.8 percent, had the only jobless rate significantly lower than that of the U.S. in 2015, while the West, at 5.7 percent, had the only rate significantly above the national figure. (See table 1.)

All nine geographic divisions had statistically significant over-the-year unemployment rate declines in 2015, the largest of which occurred in the East North Central and Pacific (-1.2 percentage points each). The West North Central had the lowest jobless rate among divisions, 4.0 percent. The West South Central, at 4.7 percent, and New England, at 5.0 percent, also had rates significantly below the U.S. average. Two divisions had unemployment rates that were measurably higher than that of the U.S.: the Pacific, 6.0 percent, and East South Central, 5.9 percent.

### State Unemployment

Thirty-eight states and the District of Columbia had statistically significant unemployment rate decreases in 2015. The largest of these declines occurred in Michigan (-1.9 percentage points) and Rhode Island (-1.7 points). The remaining 12 states had annual average jobless rates in 2015 that were not appreciably different from those of the previous year, though some had changes that were at least as large numerically as the significant changes. (See table A and chart 1.)

North Dakota had the lowest unemployment rate, 2.7 percent in 2015, followed by Nebraska and South Dakota, 3.0 percent and 3.1 percent, respectively. Nevada and West Virginia had the highest jobless rates among the states, 6.7 percent each. The District of Columbia had a rate of 6.9 percent. Overall, 20 states had unemployment rates that were significantly lower than the U.S. figure of 5.3 percent, while 13 states and the District of Columbia had rates measurably above it. (See table B and chart 2.)

## **Regional Employment-Population Ratios**

In 2015, three regions had statistically significant changes in their employment-population ratios—the proportion of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over who are employed—all of which were increases. These occurred in the Northeast (+0.7 percentage point), Midwest (+0.6 point), and West (+0.4 point). The Midwest had the highest ratio, 61.9 percent, while the South, at 57.9 percent, had the lowest. The ratios in these two regions were the only ones that were significantly different from the national figure of 59.3 percent. (See table 2.)

Four of the nine geographic divisions had significant changes in their employment-population ratios from 2014 to 2015, all of which were increases: the Middle Atlantic (+0.8 percentage point), East North Central (+0.7 point), West North Central (+0.6 point), and Pacific (+0.5 point). The division with the highest employment-population ratio in 2015 was the West North Central, at 65.8 percent, followed by New England, at 62.0 percent. These two divisions, along with the East North Central and Mountain, at 60.2 percent and 60.1 percent, respectively, had employment-population ratios measurably above that of the U.S. The East South Central had the lowest proportion of employed persons, 54.0 percent. The ratios in the South Atlantic (58.0 percent) and Pacific (58.5 percent) also were appreciably below the national average.

## **State Employment-Population Ratios**

In 2015, the largest employment-population ratio increases among the states occurred in Missouri (+1.7 percentage points) and Delaware (+1.5 points). Seventeen other states and the District of Columbia also had statistically significant increases in their ratios. Four states had significant over-the-year decreases in their employment-population ratios, the largest of which occurred in North Dakota (-1.6 percentage points). (See table C.)

North Dakota had the highest proportion of employed persons, 69.1 percent in 2015. Four other states in the West North Central division had the next highest ratios: Nebraska, 68.0 percent; Minnesota, 67.6 percent; Iowa, 67.3 percent; and South Dakota, 67.2 percent. West Virginia had the lowest employment-population ratio among the states, 49.4 percent. (West Virginia has had the lowest employment-population ratio each year since the series began in 1976.) Overall, 25 states and the District of Columbia had employment-population ratios that were significantly above the U.S. ratio of 59.3 percent and 17 states had ratios that were appreciably below it. Three states had the lowest employment-population ratios in their series in 2015: Alaska, 62.7 percent; Kentucky, 53.7 percent; and New Mexico, 53.5 percent. (See table D and chart 3.)

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**The Regional and State Employment and Unemployment news release for January 2016 is scheduled to be released on Monday, March 14, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT). The Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment news release for January 2016 is scheduled to be released on Friday, March 18, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT).**

**Table A. States with statistically significant unemployment rate changes, 2014–15 annual averages**

State	Rate		Over-the-year rate change
	2014	2015	
Alabama .....	6.8	6.1	-0.7
Arizona .....	6.8	6.1	-.7
Arkansas .....	6.1	5.2	-.9
California .....	7.5	6.2	-1.3
Colorado .....	5.0	3.9	-1.1
Connecticut .....	6.6	5.6	-1.0
Delaware .....	5.7	4.9	-.8
District of Columbia .....	7.8	6.9	-.9
Florida .....	6.3	5.4	-.9
Georgia .....	7.1	5.9	-1.2
Hawaii .....	4.4	3.6	-.8
Idaho .....	4.8	4.1	-.7
Illinois .....	7.1	5.9	-1.2
Indiana .....	5.9	4.8	-1.1
Iowa .....	4.2	3.7	-.5
Kentucky .....	6.5	5.4	-1.1
Maine .....	5.6	4.4	-1.2
Maryland .....	5.8	5.2	-.6
Massachusetts .....	5.7	5.0	-.7
Michigan .....	7.3	5.4	-1.9
Minnesota .....	4.2	3.7	-.5
Mississippi .....	7.6	6.5	-1.1
Missouri .....	6.2	5.0	-1.2
Montana .....	4.7	4.1	-.6
Nevada .....	7.9	6.7	-1.2
New Hampshire .....	4.3	3.4	-.9
New Jersey .....	6.7	5.6	-1.1
New York .....	6.3	5.3	-1.0
North Carolina .....	6.3	5.7	-.6
Ohio .....	5.8	4.9	-.9
Oregon .....	6.8	5.7	-1.1
Pennsylvania .....	5.9	5.1	-.8
Rhode Island .....	7.7	6.0	-1.7
Tennessee .....	6.5	5.8	-.7
Texas .....	5.1	4.5	-.6
Vermont .....	4.0	3.7	-.3
Virginia .....	5.2	4.4	-.8
Washington .....	6.1	5.7	-.4
Wisconsin .....	5.4	4.6	-.8

**Table B. States with unemployment rates significantly different from that of the U.S., 2015 annual averages**

State	Rate
United States .....	5.3
Alabama .....	6.1
Alaska .....	6.5
Arizona .....	6.1
California .....	6.2
Colorado .....	3.9
District of Columbia .....	6.9
Georgia .....	5.9
Hawaii .....	3.6
Idaho .....	4.1
Illinois .....	5.9
Iowa .....	3.7
Kansas .....	4.2
Louisiana .....	6.3
Maine .....	4.4
Minnesota .....	3.7
Mississippi .....	6.5
Montana .....	4.1
Nebraska .....	3.0
Nevada .....	6.7
New Hampshire .....	3.4
New Mexico .....	6.6
North Dakota .....	2.7
Ohio .....	4.9
Oklahoma .....	4.2
Rhode Island .....	6.0
South Carolina .....	6.0
South Dakota .....	3.1
Texas .....	4.5
Utah .....	3.5
Vermont .....	3.7
Virginia .....	4.4
West Virginia .....	6.7
Wisconsin .....	4.6
Wyoming .....	4.2

**Table C. States with statistically significant employment-population ratio changes, 2014–15 annual averages**

State	Ratio		Over-the-year ratio change
	2014	2015	
Arkansas .....	53.6	54.8	1.2
California .....	57.7	58.3	.6
Delaware .....	57.9	59.4	1.5
District of Columbia .....	64.0	65.3	1.3
Hawaii .....	59.0	59.7	.7
Illinois .....	60.2	60.9	.7
Indiana .....	59.6	60.7	1.1
Kentucky .....	54.8	53.7	-1.1
Maryland .....	62.9	63.4	.5
Michigan .....	56.2	57.1	.9
Minnesota .....	67.1	67.6	.5
Mississippi .....	50.8	52.2	1.4
Missouri .....	60.7	62.4	1.7
Montana .....	60.9	61.4	.5
Nebraska .....	68.4	68.0	-.4
Nevada .....	58.4	58.9	.5
New Jersey .....	59.7	60.5	.8
New York .....	57.0	57.9	.9
North Dakota .....	70.7	69.1	-1.6
Oklahoma .....	58.3	59.3	1.0
Pennsylvania .....	58.9	59.6	.7
Rhode Island .....	60.2	61.0	.8
South Carolina .....	55.1	55.5	.4
Texas .....	61.4	60.9	-.5

**Table D. States with employment-population ratios significantly different from that of the U.S., 2015 annual averages**

State	Ratio
United States .....	59.3
Alabama .....	53.0
Alaska .....	62.7
Arizona .....	56.1
Arkansas .....	54.8
California .....	58.3
Colorado .....	64.1
Connecticut .....	62.0
District of Columbia .....	65.3
Florida .....	56.1
Georgia .....	57.7
Idaho .....	61.3
Illinois .....	60.9
Indiana .....	60.7
Iowa .....	67.3
Kansas .....	65.0
Kentucky .....	53.7
Louisiana .....	56.7
Maryland .....	63.4
Massachusetts .....	61.7
Michigan .....	57.1
Minnesota .....	67.6
Mississippi .....	52.2
Missouri .....	62.4
Montana .....	61.4
Nebraska .....	68.0
New Hampshire .....	66.0
New Jersey .....	60.5
New Mexico .....	53.5
New York .....	57.9
North Carolina .....	57.7
North Dakota .....	69.1
Oregon .....	57.6
Rhode Island .....	61.0
South Carolina .....	55.5
South Dakota .....	67.2
Tennessee .....	55.9
Texas .....	60.9
Utah .....	65.7
Vermont .....	64.4
Virginia .....	62.3
West Virginia .....	49.4
Wisconsin .....	64.8
Wyoming .....	64.9

## Technical Note

This release presents labor force and unemployment data for census regions and divisions and states from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. The LAUS program is a federal-state cooperative endeavor.

### Concepts

**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 older. *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 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 expressed as a percent of the labor force. The *employment-population ratio* is the proportion of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and older that is employed.

**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 utilizes data from several sources, including the CPS, the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey of nonfarm payroll employment, 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 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. 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 beginning of each year. The adjusted estimates incorporate updated population controls from the U.S. Census Bureau, any revisions in the other data sources, and model re-estimation. The population controls reflect extrapolation from the 2010 Census. In most years, historical data for the most recent 5 years (both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted) are revised near the beginning of each calendar year, prior to the release of January estimates. Though the labor force estimates typically are updated for 5 years, the population estimates are revised back to the decennial estimates base (April 2010).

### 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. In table 1, level estimates for states may not sum to level estimates for regions and divisions because of rounding. Unemployment rates and employment-population ratios are computed from unrounded levels and, thus, may differ slightly from rates and ratios computed using the rounded level estimates displayed in table 1.

**Use of error measures.** 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 employment-population ratios regardless of their statistical significance. The remainder of the analysis in the release—other than historical highs and lows—

takes statistical significance into consideration. Model-based error measures are available online at [www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm](http://www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm). BLS uses 90-percent confidence levels in determining whether changes in LAUS unemployment rates and employment-population ratios are statistically significant. The average magnitude of the over-the-year change in an annual state unemployment rate that is required in order to be statistically significant at the 90-percent confidence level is about 0.4 percentage point. The average magnitude of the over-the-year change in an annual state employment-population ratio that is

required in order to be statistically significant at the 90-percent confidence level is about 0.6 percentage point. Measures of nonsampling error are not available.

### **Additional information**

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.



**Table 1. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over by region, division, and state, 2014–15 annual averages**

(Numbers in thousands)

Region, division, and state	Population		Civilian labor force		Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rate		Error range of rate, 2015 <sup>1</sup>
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	
United States .....	247,947	250,801	155,922	157,130	146,305	148,834	9,617	8,296	6.2	5.3	5.2 – 5.4
Northeast .....	44,890	45,078	28,285	28,425	26,543	26,941	1,742	1,483	6.2	5.2	5.0 – 5.4
New England .....	11,854	11,918	7,785	7,778	7,328	7,392	457	385	5.9	5.0	4.7 – 5.2
Connecticut .....	2,866	2,873	1,886	1,888	1,762	1,782	125	106	6.6	5.6	5.1 – 6.2
Maine .....	1,089	1,092	697	680	657	650	39	30	5.6	4.4	3.9 – 4.9
Massachusetts .....	5,454	5,499	3,557	3,570	3,353	3,392	204	178	5.7	5.0	4.6 – 5.4
New Hampshire .....	1,079	1,084	741	741	709	716	32	25	4.3	3.4	3.0 – 3.8
Rhode Island .....	852	855	556	555	513	521	43	33	7.7	6.0	5.3 – 6.6
Vermont .....	515	515	348	344	334	332	14	13	4.0	3.7	3.3 – 4.0
Middle Atlantic .....	33,036	33,160	20,500	20,647	19,215	19,549	1,286	1,098	6.3	5.3	5.1 – 5.5
New Jersey .....	7,055	7,090	4,514	4,544	4,210	4,289	304	255	6.7	5.6	5.2 – 6.1
New York .....	15,771	15,837	9,595	9,679	8,989	9,166	606	513	6.3	5.3	5.0 – 5.6
Pennsylvania .....	10,209	10,232	6,391	6,424	6,016	6,094	376	330	5.9	5.1	4.8 – 5.5
Midwest .....	52,865	53,093	34,391	34,529	32,383	32,860	2,008	1,669	5.8	4.8	4.7 – 5.0
East North Central .....	36,619	36,737	23,287	23,324	21,790	22,104	1,497	1,220	6.4	5.2	5.0 – 5.4
Illinois .....	10,049	10,059	6,515	6,512	6,054	6,126	461	386	7.1	5.9	5.5 – 6.3
Indiana .....	5,097	5,125	3,228	3,266	3,036	3,109	192	157	5.9	4.8	4.3 – 5.3
Michigan .....	7,848	7,874	4,754	4,751	4,408	4,493	346	258	7.3	5.4	5.0 – 5.9
Ohio .....	9,092	9,124	5,703	5,700	5,373	5,423	330	277	5.8	4.9	4.5 – 5.3
Wisconsin .....	4,534	4,554	3,086	3,095	2,919	2,953	167	143	5.4	4.6	4.1 – 5.1
West North Central .....	16,246	16,356	11,104	11,204	10,593	10,756	511	448	4.6	4.0	3.8 – 4.2
Iowa .....	2,421	2,435	1,698	1,701	1,626	1,639	71	62	4.2	3.7	3.2 – 4.1
Kansas .....	2,196	2,208	1,494	1,499	1,426	1,436	68	63	4.6	4.2	3.8 – 4.7
Minnesota .....	4,258	4,289	2,983	3,010	2,859	2,899	124	112	4.2	3.7	3.3 – 4.1
Missouri .....	4,718	4,744	3,052	3,114	2,864	2,958	188	156	6.2	5.0	4.5 – 5.5
Nebraska .....	1,435	1,446	1,014	1,013	981	983	33	30	3.3	3.0	2.6 – 3.4
North Dakota .....	572	584	415	414	404	403	11	11	2.7	2.7	2.4 – 3.0
South Dakota .....	647	652	449	452	433	438	15	14	3.4	3.1	2.7 – 3.6
South .....	92,514	93,789	57,020	57,351	53,595	54,323	3,425	3,028	6.0	5.3	5.2 – 5.4
South Atlantic .....	49,022	49,719	30,276	30,506	28,383	28,841	1,892	1,665	6.3	5.5	5.3 – 5.6
Delaware .....	739	749	454	467	428	445	26	23	5.7	4.9	4.4 – 5.4
District of Columbia .....	545	554	378	388	349	362	29	27	7.8	6.9	6.4 – 7.4
Florida .....	15,995	16,313	9,607	9,675	8,999	9,153	607	522	6.3	5.4	5.1 – 5.7
Georgia .....	7,673	7,783	4,754	4,771	4,491	4,491	337	280	7.1	5.9	5.4 – 6.3
Maryland .....	4,683	4,716	3,128	3,152	2,947	2,988	182	164	5.8	5.2	4.7 – 5.7
North Carolina .....	7,689	7,792	4,691	4,769	4,396	4,495	294	274	6.3	5.7	5.3 – 6.2
South Carolina .....	3,761	3,823	2,217	2,257	2,074	2,123	143	135	6.4	6.0	5.4 – 6.5
Virginia .....	6,453	6,509	4,258	4,240	4,036	4,052	222	189	5.2	4.4	4.0 – 4.9
West Virginia .....	1,483	1,481	790	785	737	732	52	53	6.6	6.7	6.2 – 7.3
East South Central .....	14,598	14,692	8,463	8,435	7,893	7,939	570	496	6.7	5.9	5.6 – 6.2
Alabama .....	3,785	3,803	2,161	2,146	2,014	2,015	147	131	6.8	6.1	5.6 – 6.6
Kentucky .....	3,424	3,441	2,006	1,953	1,876	1,848	130	105	6.5	5.4	4.8 – 6.0
Mississippi .....	2,274	2,281	1,249	1,273	1,155	1,190	94	83	7.6	6.5	5.9 – 7.1
Tennessee .....	5,115	5,167	3,047	3,063	2,848	2,886	199	177	6.5	5.8	5.3 – 6.3
West South Central .....	28,895	29,379	18,282	18,411	17,319	17,544	963	867	5.3	4.7	4.5 – 4.9
Arkansas .....	2,286	2,299	1,304	1,330	1,224	1,261	80	69	6.1	5.2	4.7 – 5.7
Louisiana .....	3,550	3,573	2,157	2,160	2,019	2,025	138	135	6.4	6.3	5.7 – 6.8
Oklahoma .....	2,946	2,975	1,798	1,842	1,717	1,764	81	78	4.5	4.2	3.8 – 4.7
Texas .....	20,113	20,531	13,023	13,078	12,359	12,494	664	584	5.1	4.5	4.2 – 4.7
West .....	58,221	59,050	36,566	36,954	34,102	34,831	2,463	2,123	6.7	5.7	5.6 – 5.9
Mountain .....	17,733	18,045	11,271	11,417	10,618	10,838	653	579	5.8	5.1	4.8 – 5.3
Arizona .....	5,179	5,275	3,097	3,153	2,886	2,960	211	193	6.8	6.1	5.6 – 6.7
Colorado .....	4,148	4,240	2,815	2,829	2,675	2,719	141	110	5.0	3.9	3.4 – 4.3
Idaho .....	1,229	1,248	781	797	744	764	38	33	4.8	4.1	3.7 – 4.6
Montana .....	808	816	516	523	492	501	24	22	4.7	4.1	3.7 – 4.5
Nevada .....	2,210	2,256	1,402	1,426	1,291	1,330	111	96	7.9	6.7	6.1 – 7.4
New Mexico .....	1,602	1,607	921	920	859	859	62	61	6.7	6.6	6.0 – 7.2
Utah .....	2,106	2,151	1,432	1,464	1,377	1,412	55	52	3.8	3.5	3.1 – 4.0
Wyoming .....	451	452	307	306	294	293	13	13	4.1	4.2	3.7 – 4.6
Pacific .....	40,488	41,005	25,294	25,537	23,484	23,993	1,810	1,544	7.2	6.0	5.8 – 6.3
Alaska .....	540	542	366	364	341	340	25	24	6.9	6.5	5.8 – 7.1
California .....	30,163	30,523	18,828	18,982	17,418	17,799	1,410	1,183	7.5	6.2	6.0 – 6.5
Hawaii .....	1,084	1,093	668	677	639	653	29	25	4.4	3.6	3.2 – 4.0
Oregon .....	3,173	3,225	1,939	1,969	1,807	1,857	132	112	6.8	5.7	5.1 – 6.3
Washington .....	5,529	5,622	3,493	3,544	3,279	3,344	214	200	6.1	5.7	5.2 – 6.1

<sup>1</sup> Error ranges are shown at the 90-percent confidence level and are based on unrounded data. NOTE: Data refer to place of residence. Unemployment rates are in percent and are based on

unrounded levels. Data for subnational areas reflect revised population controls and model reestimation. As a result, they will not add to U.S. totals.

**Table 2. Employment-population ratios of persons 16 years of age and over by region, division, and state, 2014–15 annual averages**

(Percent)

Region, division, and state	Employment-population ratio <sup>1</sup>		Over-the-year change	Error range of ratio, 2015 <sup>2</sup>
	2014	2015		
United States .....	59.0	59.3	0.3	59.2 – 59.5
Northeast .....	59.1	59.8	.7	59.3 – 60.2
New England .....	61.8	62.0	.2	61.3 – 62.7
Connecticut .....	61.5	62.0	.5	60.6 – 63.4
Maine .....	60.3	59.5	-.8	58.1 – 61.0
Massachusetts .....	61.5	61.7	.2	60.6 – 62.8
New Hampshire .....	65.7	66.0	.3	65.0 – 67.0
Rhode Island .....	60.2	61.0	.8	59.9 – 62.2
Vermont .....	64.9	64.4	-.5	63.2 – 65.6
Middle Atlantic .....	58.2	59.0	.8	58.4 – 59.5
New Jersey .....	59.7	60.5	.8	59.6 – 61.4
New York .....	57.0	57.9	.9	57.1 – 58.7
Pennsylvania .....	58.9	59.6	.7	58.8 – 60.3
Midwest .....	61.3	61.9	.6	61.5 – 62.3
East North Central .....	59.5	60.2	.7	59.6 – 60.7
Illinois .....	60.2	60.9	.7	60.0 – 61.8
Indiana .....	59.6	60.7	1.1	59.4 – 61.9
Michigan .....	56.2	57.1	.9	56.0 – 58.1
Ohio .....	59.1	59.4	.3	58.4 – 60.4
Wisconsin .....	64.4	64.8	.4	63.5 – 66.2
West North Central .....	65.2	65.8	.6	65.1 – 66.4
Iowa .....	67.2	67.3	.1	66.0 – 68.6
Kansas .....	64.9	65.0	.1	63.8 – 66.3
Minnesota .....	67.1	67.6	.5	66.5 – 68.7
Missouri .....	60.7	62.4	1.7	61.0 – 63.7
Nebraska .....	68.4	68.0	-.4	67.0 – 68.9
North Dakota .....	70.7	69.1	-1.6	67.6 – 70.5
South Dakota .....	67.0	67.2	.2	66.0 – 68.4
South .....	57.9	57.9	.0	57.6 – 58.2
South Atlantic .....	57.9	58.0	.1	57.6 – 58.4
Delaware .....	57.9	59.4	1.5	58.1 – 60.6
District of Columbia .....	64.0	65.3	1.3	64.2 – 66.4
Florida .....	56.3	56.1	-.2	55.4 – 56.8
Georgia .....	57.6	57.7	.1	56.8 – 58.6
Maryland .....	62.9	63.4	.5	62.4 – 64.3
North Carolina .....	57.2	57.7	.5	56.7 – 58.7
South Carolina .....	55.1	55.5	.4	54.7 – 56.4
Virginia .....	62.6	62.3	-.3	61.1 – 63.4
West Virginia .....	49.7	49.4	-.3	48.1 – 50.8
East South Central .....	54.1	54.0	-.1	53.3 – 54.8
Alabama .....	53.2	53.0	-.2	51.9 – 54.1
Kentucky .....	54.8	53.7	-1.1	52.3 – 55.1
Mississippi .....	50.8	52.2	1.4	50.9 – 53.4
Tennessee .....	55.7	55.9	.2	54.7 – 57.1
West South Central .....	59.9	59.7	-.2	59.1 – 60.3
Arkansas .....	53.6	54.8	1.2	53.7 – 55.9
Louisiana .....	56.9	56.7	-.2	55.6 – 57.7
Oklahoma .....	58.3	59.3	1.0	58.0 – 60.6
Texas .....	61.4	60.9	-.5	60.1 – 61.6
West .....	58.6	59.0	.4	58.6 – 59.3
Mountain .....	59.9	60.1	.2	59.4 – 60.7
Arizona .....	55.7	56.1	.4	54.9 – 57.3
Colorado .....	64.5	64.1	-.4	62.7 – 65.5
Idaho .....	60.5	61.3	.8	59.9 – 62.6
Montana .....	60.9	61.4	.5	60.2 – 62.6
Nevada .....	58.4	58.9	.5	57.8 – 60.1
New Mexico .....	53.6	53.5	-.1	52.3 – 54.7
Utah .....	65.4	65.7	.3	64.5 – 66.9
Wyoming .....	65.3	64.9	-.4	63.5 – 66.3
Pacific .....	58.0	58.5	.5	58.1 – 58.9
Alaska .....	63.1	62.7	-.4	60.9 – 64.6
California .....	57.7	58.3	.6	57.9 – 58.8
Hawaii .....	59.0	59.7	.7	58.6 – 60.9
Oregon .....	57.0	57.6	.6	56.5 – 58.7
Washington .....	59.3	59.5	.2	58.5 – 60.5

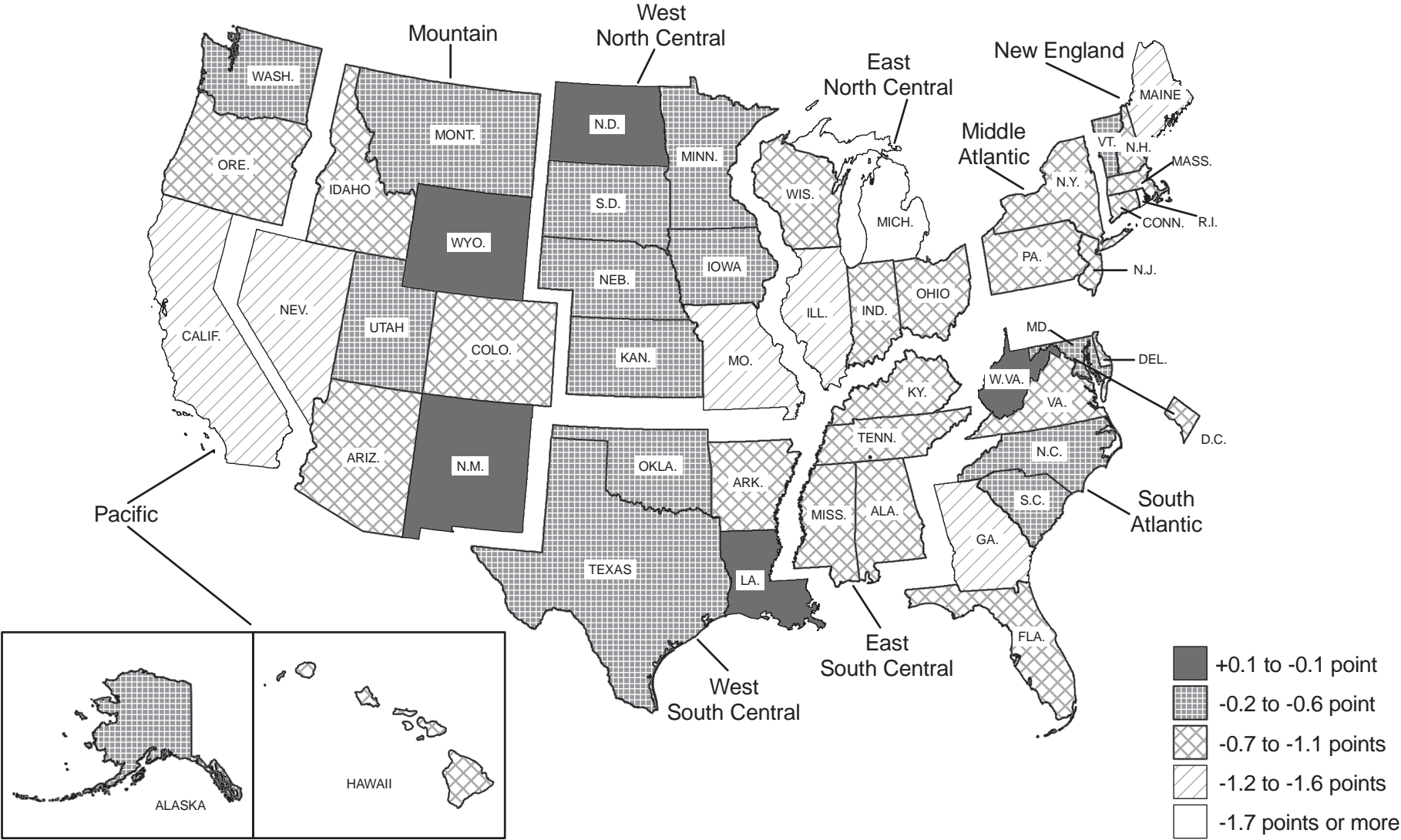
<sup>1</sup> Employment as a percent of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over.

<sup>2</sup> Error ranges are shown at the 90-percent confidence level and are based on unrounded data.

NOTE: Data refer to place of residence. Employment-population ratios are based on unrounded levels. Data for subnational areas reflect revised population controls and model reestimation.

# Chart 1. Over-the-year change in unemployment rates by state, 2015 annual averages

(U.S. change = -0.9 percentage point)





# Chart 3. Employment-population ratios by state, 2015 annual averages

(U.S. ratio = 59.3 percent)

