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REGIONAL AND STATE EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT — FEBRUARY 2014

Regional and state unemployment rates were generally little changed in February. Twenty-nine states had unemployment rate decreases from January, 10 states had increases, and 11 states and the District of Columbia had no change, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Forty-nine states and the District of Columbia had unemployment rate decreases from a year earlier and one state had no change. The national jobless rate, 6.7 percent, was little changed from January, but was 1.0 percentage point lower than in February 2013.

In February 2014, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 33 states and decreased in 17 states and the District of Columbia. The largest over-the-month increases in employment occurred in California (+58,800), Texas (+37,600), and Florida (+33,400). The largest over-the-month decrease in employment occurred in North Carolina (-11,300), followed by Wisconsin (-9,500) and Georgia (-5,800). The largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in North Dakota (+1.3 percent), followed by West Virginia (+0.6 percent) and Delaware, Idaho, and New Hampshire (+0.5 percent each). The largest over-the-month percentage decline in employment occurred in Alaska (-0.7 percent), followed by Vermont (-0.5 percent) and Hawaii (-0.4 percent). Over the year, nonfarm employment increased in 46 states and the District of Columbia and decreased in 4 states. The largest over-the-year percentage increase occurred in North Dakota (+4.1 percent), followed by Nevada (+3.6 percent) and Colorado, Florida, and Texas (+2.8 percent each). The largest over-the-year percentage decreases in employment occurred in Kentucky (-0.3 percent), New Mexico (-0.2 percent), and Alaska (-0.1 percent).

Regional Unemployment (Seasonally Adjusted)

The West continued to have the highest regional unemployment rate in February, 7.2 percent, while the South had the lowest rate, 6.1 percent. The South had the only statistically significant over-the-month unemployment rate change (-0.1 percentage point). Over the year, all four regions had statistically significant rate declines: the Northeast and South (-1.2 percentage points each), West (-1.1 points), and Midwest (-0.8 point). (See table 1.)

Among the nine geographic divisions, the Pacific continued to have the highest jobless rate, 7.6 percent in February, while the West North Central again had the lowest rate, 5.0 percent. New England and the South Atlantic had statistically significant over-the-month unemployment rate declines (-0.3 and -0.1 percentage point, respectively), while the West North Central had a statistically significant rate increase

(+0.2 point). Eight divisions had significant unemployment rate changes from a year earlier, all of which were declines. The largest of these declines were in the South Atlantic (-1.5 percentage points) and Middle Atlantic (-1.4 points).

State Unemployment (Seasonally Adjusted)

Rhode Island continued to have the highest unemployment rate among the states in February, 9.0 percent. North Dakota again had the lowest jobless rate, 2.6 percent. In total, 22 states had jobless rates significantly lower than the U.S. figure of 6.7 percent, 6 states had measurably higher rates, and 22 states and the District of Columbia had rates that were not substantially different from that of the nation. (See tables A and 3 and chart 1.)

Ten states had statistically significant over-the-month unemployment rate declines in February. The largest of these occurred in South Carolina (-0.7 percentage point) and Ohio (-0.4 point). Missouri and Iowa were the only states with significant over-the-month rate increases (+0.4 and +0.1 percentage point, respectively). The remaining 38 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. (See table B.)

South Carolina had the largest jobless rate decline from February 2013 (-2.4 percentage points), closely followed by North Carolina (-2.2 points). Twenty-two additional states and the District of Columbia had smaller but also statistically significant rate decreases over the year. The remaining 26 states had unemployment rates that were not appreciably different from those of a year earlier. (See table C.)

Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)

In February 2014, 11 states had statistically significant over-the-month changes in employment, 8 of which were increases. The largest statistically significant job gains occurred in California (+58,800), Texas (+37,600), and Florida (+33,400). The only statistically significant job decreases occurred in North Carolina (-11,300), Wisconsin (-9,500), and Alaska (-2,300). (See tables D and 5.)

Over the year, 26 states had statistically significant changes in employment, all of which were positive. The largest over-the-year job increase occurred in California (+336,600), followed by Texas (+314,200) and Florida (+211,500). (See table E and chart 2.)

The Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment news release for February 2014 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, April 9, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT). The Regional and State Employment and Unemployment news release for March 2014 is scheduled to be released on Friday, April 18, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT).

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

State	Rate ^P
United States ¹	6.7
California	8.0
Delaware	6.0
Florida	6.2
Hawaii	4.6
Idaho	5.3
Illinois	8.7
Iowa	4.4
Kansas	4.9
Kentucky	7.8
Louisiana	4.5
Maryland	5.7
Michigan	7.7
Minnesota	4.8
Montana	5.1
Nebraska	3.6
Nevada	8.5
New Hampshire	4.7
North Dakota	2.6
Oklahoma	5.0
Rhode Island	9.0
South Carolina	5.7
South Dakota	3.6
Texas	5.7
Utah	3.9
Vermont	3.7
Virginia	4.9
Wisconsin	6.1
Wyoming	4.2

¹ Data are not preliminary.

^P = preliminary.

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

State	Rate		Over-the-month change ^P
	January 2014	February 2014 ^P	
Arkansas	7.3	7.1	-0.2
Iowa	4.3	4.4	.1
Massachusetts	6.8	6.5	-.3
Missouri	6.0	6.4	.4
Montana	5.3	5.1	-.2
New Hampshire	4.9	4.7	-.2
North Carolina	6.7	6.4	-.3
Ohio	6.9	6.5	-.4
Pennsylvania	6.4	6.2	-.2
South Carolina	6.4	5.7	-.7
Tennessee	7.2	6.9	-.3
Vermont	4.0	3.7	-.3

^P = preliminary.

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

State	Rate		Over-the-year change ^P
	February 2013	February 2014 ^P	
California	9.4	8.0	-1.4
Colorado	7.1	6.1	-1.0
Delaware	6.9	6.0	-.9
District of Columbia	8.6	7.4	-1.2
Florida	7.9	6.2	-1.7
Georgia	8.5	7.1	-1.4
Idaho	6.6	5.3	-1.3
Indiana	7.9	6.1	-1.8
Louisiana	6.4	4.5	-1.9
Maine	6.9	6.1	-.8
Maryland	6.8	5.7	-1.1
Michigan	8.8	7.7	-1.1
Mississippi	9.0	7.4	-1.6
Nevada	10.3	8.5	-1.8
New Jersey	8.8	7.1	-1.7
New York	8.0	6.8	-1.2
North Carolina	8.6	6.4	-2.2
Oregon	8.1	6.9	-1.2
Pennsylvania	7.7	6.2	-1.5
South Carolina	8.1	5.7	-2.4
Tennessee	8.2	6.9	-1.3
Texas	6.5	5.7	-.8
Utah	4.7	3.9	-.8
Virginia	5.6	4.9	-.7
Wisconsin	6.9	6.1	-.8

^P = preliminary.

Table D. States with statistically significant employment changes from January 2014 to February 2014, seasonally adjusted

State	January 2014	February 2014 ^P	Over-the-month change ^P
Alaska	338,000	335,700	-2,300
California	15,291,600	15,350,400	58,800
Florida	7,685,100	7,718,500	33,400
Idaho	638,500	641,800	3,300
Nebraska	985,600	989,200	3,600
New Hampshire	642,200	645,600	3,400
North Carolina	4,092,200	4,080,900	-11,300
North Dakota	451,400	457,200	5,800
Texas	11,368,400	11,406,000	37,600
West Virginia	762,000	766,700	4,700
Wisconsin	2,855,400	2,845,900	-9,500

^P = preliminary.

Table E. States with statistically significant employment changes from February 2013 to February 2014, seasonally adjusted

State	February 2013	February 2014 ^P	Over-the-year change ^P
Arizona	2,500,100	2,548,000	47,900
California	15,013,800	15,350,400	336,600
Colorado	2,357,000	2,422,300	65,300
Delaware	424,400	433,900	9,500
Florida	7,507,000	7,718,500	211,500
Georgia	4,008,100	4,064,100	56,000
Indiana	2,923,000	2,965,900	42,900
Iowa	1,521,400	1,541,500	20,100
Massachusetts	3,339,000	3,386,600	47,600
Minnesota	2,768,300	2,812,400	44,100
Missouri	2,718,500	2,750,500	32,000
Nebraska	975,400	989,200	13,800
Nevada	1,161,700	1,203,000	41,300
New York	8,860,800	8,985,700	124,900
North Carolina	4,034,500	4,080,900	46,400
North Dakota	439,400	457,200	17,800
Ohio	5,230,000	5,280,000	50,000
Oklahoma	1,626,600	1,646,800	20,200
Oregon	1,659,100	1,702,000	42,900
Rhode Island	468,300	476,700	8,400
South Carolina	1,884,900	1,912,400	27,500
Tennessee	2,740,200	2,777,900	37,700
Texas	11,091,800	11,406,000	314,200
Utah	1,278,400	1,309,600	31,200
Washington	2,967,700	3,019,700	52,000
Wisconsin	2,815,900	2,845,900	30,000

^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.

Table 1. Civilian labor force and unemployment by census region and division, seasonally adjusted ¹

(Numbers in thousands)

Census region and division	Civilian labor force				Unemployed							
					Number				Percent of labor force			
	Feb. 2013	Dec. 2013	Jan. 2014	Feb. 2014	Feb. 2013	Dec. 2013	Jan. 2014	Feb. 2014	Feb. 2013	Dec. 2013	Jan. 2014	Feb. 2014
Northeast	28,431.8	28,189.1	28,176.1	28,221.9	2,217.8	1,956.8	1,888.5	1,860.8	7.8	6.9	6.7	6.6
New England	7,719.0	7,680.3	7,694.0	7,716.8	544.5	530.5	512.0	496.0	7.1	6.9	6.7	6.4
Middle Atlantic	20,712.8	20,508.9	20,482.0	20,505.1	1,673.3	1,426.3	1,376.5	1,364.8	8.1	7.0	6.7	6.7
South	56,774.0	56,497.6	56,580.7	56,735.6	4,145.9	3,623.5	3,502.1	3,441.1	7.3	6.4	6.2	6.1
South Atlantic	30,130.1	29,931.0	29,994.3	30,081.9	2,303.7	1,919.0	1,867.6	1,829.0	7.6	6.4	6.2	6.1
East South Central	8,637.0	8,453.9	8,466.5	8,490.2	687.2	626.2	602.5	601.7	8.0	7.4	7.1	7.1
West South Central	18,006.9	18,112.7	18,119.9	18,163.6	1,155.1	1,078.3	1,031.9	1,010.4	6.4	6.0	5.7	5.6
Midwest	34,316.3	34,261.0	34,322.1	34,407.0	2,500.5	2,313.6	2,251.6	2,236.6	7.3	6.8	6.6	6.5
East North Central	23,294.4	23,246.8	23,276.8	23,325.3	1,905.9	1,787.8	1,720.1	1,685.8	8.2	7.7	7.4	7.2
West North Central	11,021.9	11,014.2	11,045.3	11,081.8	594.6	525.8	531.5	550.8	5.4	4.8	4.8	5.0
West	36,122.8	35,996.7	36,061.9	36,157.6	3,013.2	2,681.2	2,628.7	2,611.7	8.3	7.4	7.3	7.2
Mountain	11,087.9	11,069.7	11,099.2	11,141.2	807.4	725.9	714.5	707.3	7.3	6.6	6.4	6.3
Pacific	25,034.9	24,927.0	24,962.7	25,016.4	2,205.9	1,955.4	1,914.2	1,904.4	8.8	7.8	7.7	7.6

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 adjusted ¹

(Numbers in thousands)

Census region and division	Civilian labor force				Unemployed							
					Number				Percent of labor force			
	January		February		January		February		January		February	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
Northeast	28,324.4	28,012.5	28,245.8	28,126.3	2,503.6	2,023.4	2,366.8	2,042.3	8.8	7.2	8.4	7.3
New England	7,670.2	7,656.6	7,651.9	7,675.1	616.1	544.0	584.4	528.4	8.0	7.1	7.6	6.9
Middle Atlantic	20,654.2	20,356.0	20,593.9	20,451.2	1,887.5	1,479.4	1,782.3	1,513.9	9.1	7.3	8.7	7.4
South	56,428.9	56,316.3	56,388.2	56,526.5	4,511.9	3,623.5	4,256.7	3,586.3	8.0	6.4	7.5	6.3
South Atlantic	29,960.3	29,892.2	29,925.3	29,967.9	2,490.2	1,942.3	2,353.5	1,884.4	8.3	6.5	7.9	6.3
East South Central	8,582.5	8,431.8	8,571.4	8,457.2	759.2	630.3	728.6	662.3	8.8	7.5	8.5	7.8
West South Central	17,886.0	17,992.3	17,891.6	18,101.4	1,262.5	1,050.8	1,174.5	1,039.6	7.1	5.8	6.6	5.7
Midwest	34,037.8	34,059.3	34,065.9	34,218.6	2,837.2	2,422.4	2,725.4	2,485.3	8.3	7.1	8.0	7.3
East North Central	23,115.2	23,083.7	23,129.3	23,195.2	2,148.8	1,807.0	2,070.7	1,845.7	9.3	7.8	9.0	8.0
West North Central	10,922.6	10,975.6	10,936.5	11,023.4	688.4	615.4	654.7	639.6	6.3	5.6	6.0	5.8
West	36,009.3	35,992.4	36,034.1	36,155.7	3,328.5	2,785.3	3,151.3	2,779.5	9.2	7.7	8.7	7.7
Mountain	11,036.7	11,074.9	11,042.0	11,131.2	886.5	759.8	839.6	741.9	8.0	6.9	7.6	6.7
Pacific	24,972.6	24,917.5	24,992.1	25,024.5	2,442.0	2,025.4	2,311.7	2,037.6	9.8	8.1	9.2	8.1

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 February 2014

(U.S. rate = 6.7 percent)

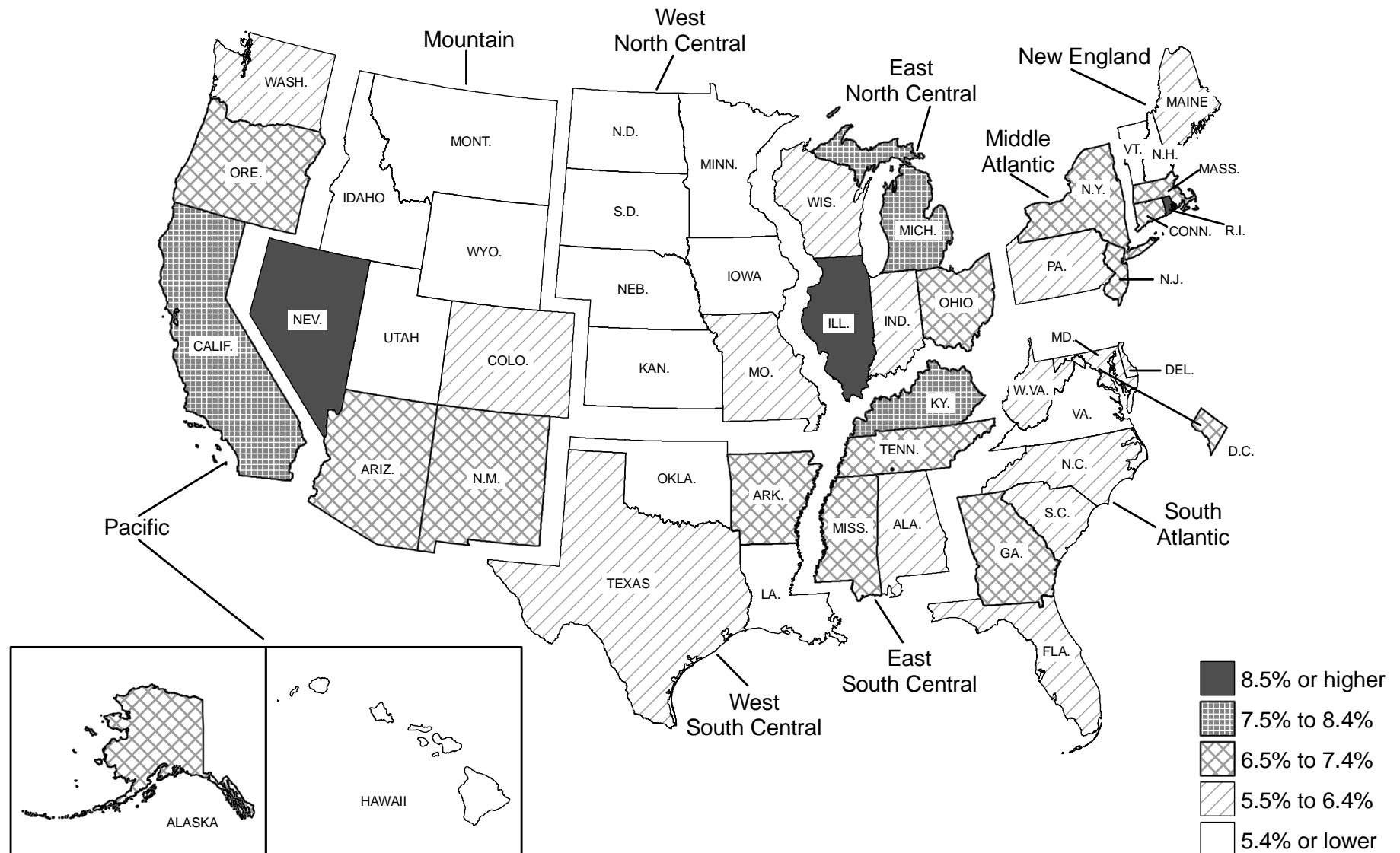


Chart 2. Percentage change in nonfarm employment by state, seasonally adjusted, February 2013 – February 2014

