

NEWS RELEASE

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METROPOLITAN AREA EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT — JUNE 2019

Unemployment rates were lower in June than a year earlier in 294 of the 389 metropolitan areas, higher in 67 areas, and unchanged in 28 areas, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. A total of 48 areas had jobless rates of less than 3.0 percent and 2 areas had rates of at least 10.0 percent. Nonfarm payroll employment increased over the year in 47 metropolitan areas, decreased in 1 area, and was essentially unchanged in 341 areas. The national unemployment rate in June was 3.8 percent, not seasonally adjusted, down from 4.2 percent a year earlier.

This news release presents statistics from two monthly programs. The civilian labor force and unemployment data are based on the same concepts and definitions as those used for the national household survey estimates. These data pertain to individuals by where they reside. The employment data come from an establishment survey that measures nonfarm employment, hours, and earnings by industry. These data pertain to jobs on payrolls defined by where the establishments are located. For more information about the concepts and statistical methodologies used by these two programs, see the Technical Note.

Metropolitan Area Unemployment (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

In June, Burlington-South Burlington, VT, had the lowest unemployment rate, 1.9 percent, followed by Idaho Falls, ID; Midland, TX; and Portsmouth, NH-ME, 2.1 percent each. Yuma, AZ, and El Centro, CA, had the highest unemployment rates, 19.6 percent and 18.6 percent, respectively. A total of 192 areas had June jobless rates above the U.S. rate of 3.8 percent, 183 areas had rates below it, and 14 areas had rates equal to that of the nation. (See table 1 and map 1.)

Vineland-Bridgeton, NJ, had the largest over-the-year unemployment rate decrease in June (-2.2 percentage points). Twenty-nine other areas had rate declines of at least 1.0 percentage point. The largest over-the-year rate increase occurred in Yakima, WA (+1.2 percentage points).

Of the 51 metropolitan areas with a 2010 Census population of 1 million or more, Austin-Round Rock, TX; San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA; and San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA, had

the lowest unemployment rates in June, 2.7 percent each. New Orleans-Metairie, LA, had the highest jobless rate among the large areas, 5.0 percent. Forty-four large areas had over-the-year unemployment rate decreases, four had increases, and three had no change. The largest rate declines occurred in Birmingham-Hoover, AL, and Cleveland-Elyria, OH (-1.1 percentage points each). The largest jobless rate increase was in Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI (+0.5 percentage point).

Metropolitan Division Unemployment (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Eleven of the most populous metropolitan areas are made up of 38 metropolitan divisions, which are essentially separately identifiable employment centers. In June, San Francisco-Redwood City-South San Francisco, CA, had the lowest unemployment rate among the divisions, 2.2 percent. Takoma-Lakewood, WA, had the highest division rate, 5.6 percent. (See table 2.)

In June, 36 metropolitan divisions had over-the-year unemployment rate decreases and 2 had increases. The largest rate declines occurred in Camden, NJ, and Newark, NJ-PA (-1.4 percentage points each). The largest over-the-year jobless rate increase occurred in Tacoma-Lakewood, WA (+0.6 percentage point).

Metropolitan Area Nonfarm Employment (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

In June, 47 metropolitan areas had over-the-year increases in nonfarm payroll employment, 1 had a decrease, and 341 were essentially unchanged. The largest over-the-year employment increases occurred in New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA (+123,800), Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX (+120,000), and Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA (+87,100). The largest over-the-year percentage gains in employment occurred in Reno, NV (+6.2 percent), Idaho Falls, ID (+4.2 percent), and Asheville, NC; Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL; Ogden-Clearfield, UT; and Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL (+3.8 percent each). Employment fell in Lafayette-West Lafayette, IN (-5,700, or -5.4 percent). (See table 3 and map 2.)

Over the year, nonfarm employment rose in 31 of the 51 metropolitan areas with a 2010 Census population of 1 million or more, while employment was essentially unchanged in 20 areas. The largest over-the-year percentage increases in employment in these large metropolitan areas occurred in Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL (+3.8 percent), Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ (+3.3 percent), and Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX (+3.2 percent).

Metropolitan Division Nonfarm Employment (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

In June, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 14 of the 38 metropolitan divisions over the year and was essentially unchanged in 24 divisions. The largest over-the-year increase in employment among the metropolitan divisions occurred in New York-Jersey City-White Plains, NY-NJ (+111,500), followed by Dallas-Plano-Irving, TX (+97,000), and Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights, IL (+63,500). (See table 4.)

The largest over-the-year percentage increases in employment occurred in Dallas-Plano-Irving, TX (+3.7 percent), San Francisco-Redwood City-South San Francisco, CA (+3.5 percent), and Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA (+3.1 percent).

The State Employment and Unemployment news release for July is scheduled to be released on Friday, August 16, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT). The Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment news release for July is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, August 28, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT).

Technical Note

This release presents civilian labor force and unemployment data from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program (tables 1 and 2) for 389 metropolitan statistical areas and metropolitan New England City and Town Areas (NECTAs), plus 7 areas in Puerto Rico. Estimates for 38 metropolitan and NECTA divisions also are presented. Nonfarm payroll employment estimates from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program (tables 3 and 4) are provided for the same areas. State estimates were previously published in the news release *State Employment and Unemployment*, and are republished in this release for ease of reference. The LAUS and CES programs are both federal-state cooperative endeavors.

Civilian labor force and unemployment—from the LAUS program

Definitions. The civilian 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 employed persons and unemployed persons 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 (typically 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 *civilian labor force* is the sum of employed and unemployed persons. The *unemployment rate* is the number of unemployed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

Method of estimation. Estimates for states, the District of Columbia, the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale metropolitan division, and New York City are produced using time-series models with real-time benchmarking to national CPS totals. Model-based estimates are also produced for the following areas and their respective balances: the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights, IL Metropolitan Division; Cleveland-Elyria, OH Metropolitan Statistical Area; Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metropolitan Statistical Area; Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall, FL Metropolitan Division; and Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA Metropolitan Division. Modeling improves the statistical basis of the estimation for these areas and provides important tools for analysis, such as measures of errors and seasonally adjusted series. For all other substate

areas in this release, estimates are prepared through indirect estimation procedures using a building-block approach. Estimates of employed persons, which are based largely on "place of work" estimates from the CES program, are adjusted to refer to place of residence as used in the CPS. Unemployment estimates are aggregates of persons previously employed in industries covered by state unemployment insurance (UI) laws and entrants to the labor force from the CPS. The substate estimates of employment and unemployment, which geographically exhaust the entire state, are adjusted proportionally to ensure that they add to the independently estimated model-based area totals. A detailed description of the estimation procedures is available from BLS upon request.

Annual revisions. Civilian labor force and unemployment data shown for the prior year reflect adjustments made at the beginning of each year, usually implemented with the issuance of January estimates. The adjusted model-based estimates typically reflect updated population data from the U.S. Census Bureau, any revisions in other input data sources, and model re-estimation. All substate estimates then are re-estimated using updated inputs and adjusted to add to the revised model-based totals. In early 2015, a new generation of time-series models was implemented, resulting in the replacement of data back to the series beginnings. At the same time, enhancements were made to the substate estimation methodology, and more timely inputs from the American Community Survey were incorporated.

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 2017 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, the sample of establishments is very small or highly variable. In these cases,

a model-based approach is used in estimation. These models use the direct sample estimates (described above), combined with forecasts of historical (benchmarked) data to decrease volatility in estimation. Two different models (Fay-Herriot Model and Small Domain Model) are used depending on the industry level being estimated. For more detailed information about each 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 for states, metropolitan areas, and metropolitan divisions at the total nonfarm level. For states, data are seasonally adjusted at the supersector level as well. Revisions to historical data for the most recent 5 years are made once a year, coincident with annual benchmark adjustments.

Payroll employment data are seasonally adjusted concurrently, using all available estimates, including those for the current month, to develop sample-based seasonal factors. Concurrent sample-based factors are created every month for the current month's preliminary estimate as well as the previous month's final estimate in order to incorporate real-time estimates.

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.

Use of error measures

Civilian labor force and unemployment estimates. Measures of sampling error are not available for metropolitan areas or metropolitan divisions. Model-based error measures for states are available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm. Measures of nonsampling error are not available for the areas contained in this release. Information on recent data revisions for states and local areas is available online at www.bls.gov/lau/launews1.htm.

Employment estimates. Changes in metropolitan area nonfarm payroll employment are cited in the analysis of this release only if they have been determined to be statistically significant at the 90-percent confidence level. Measures of sampling error for the total nonfarm employment series are available for metropolitan areas and metropolitan divisions at www.bls.gov/web/laus/790stderr.htm. Measures of sampling error for more detailed series at the area and division level are available upon request. Measures of sampling error for states at the supersector level and for the private service-providing, goods-producing, total private and total nonfarm levels are available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/web/laus/790stderr.htm. Information on recent benchmark revisions is available online at www.bls.gov/web/laus/benchmark.pdf.

Area definitions

The substate area data published in this release reflect the delineations issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget on April 10, 2018. Data reflect New England City and Town Area (NECTA) definitions, rather than county-based definitions, in the six New England States. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available online at www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm.

Additional information

Estimates of unadjusted and seasonally adjusted civilian labor force and unemployment data for states and seven substate areas are available in the news release *State Employment and Unemployment*. Estimates of civilian labor force and unemployment for all states, metropolitan areas, counties, cities with a population of 25,000 or more, and other areas used in the administration of various federal economic assistance programs are available online at www.bls.gov/lau/. Employment data from the CES program are available on the BLS website 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.

ESTABLISHMENT DATA
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
Table 3. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by state and metropolitan area, not seasonally adjusted — Continued
 [In thousands]

State and area	May		June		Change from June 2018 to June 2019 ^p	
	2018	2019	2018	2019 ^p	Number	Percent
Washington - Continued						
Mount Vernon-Anacortes.....	51.7	52.7	52.2	53.6	1.4	2.7
Olympia-Tumwater.....	120.3	123.2	120.7	123.4	2.7	2.2
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue.....	2,045.4	2,101.2	2,059.0	2,119.4	60.4	2.9
Spokane-Spokane Valley.....	251.8	258.8	252.7	259.4	6.7	2.7
Walla Walla.....	27.9	29.3	27.8	29.1	1.3	4.7
Wenatchee.....	46.1	46.7	47.6	48.6	1.0	2.1
Yakima.....	87.5	88.9	88.3	89.7	1.4	1.6
West Virginia.....	734.7	741.3	727.8	741.4	13.6	1.9
Beckley.....	44.7	44.8	44.3	44.9	0.6	1.4
Charleston.....	112.5	110.3	111.9	111.1	-0.8	-0.7
Huntington-Ashland.....	135.9	134.5	134.5	132.7	-1.8	-1.3
Morgantown.....	72.1	69.7	68.4	67.2	-1.2	-1.8
Parkersburg-Vienna.....	39.0	39.0	38.6	38.8	0.2	0.5
Wheeling.....	67.1	70.4	68.2	71.2	3.0	4.4
Wisconsin.....	2,984.3	2,992.9	3,013.2	3,025.2	12.0	0.4
Appleton.....	126.7	126.7	128.6	129.2	0.6	0.5
Eau Claire.....	88.2	88.4	87.0	87.9	0.9	1.0
Fond du Lac.....	48.7	49.4	49.4	50.3	0.9	1.8
Green Bay.....	181.0	183.4	183.4	185.7	2.3	1.3
Janesville-Beloit.....	69.7	71.2	70.5	71.8	1.3	1.8
La Crosse-Onalaska.....	79.2	80.3	79.2	80.0	0.8	1.0
Madison.....	404.2	403.1	408.2	407.5	-0.7	-0.2
Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis.....	874.9	881.9	881.9	890.5	8.6	1.0
Oshkosh-Neenah.....	98.2	98.5	98.1	99.0	0.9	0.9
Racine.....	79.2	79.1	80.4	80.0	-0.4	-0.5
Sheboygan.....	63.5	64.4	65.4	66.7	1.3	2.0
Wausau.....	72.9	73.9	74.1	74.8	0.7	0.9
Wyoming.....	286.5	290.8	293.0	299.8	6.8	2.3
Casper.....	39.2	39.4	39.4	39.9	0.5	1.3
Cheyenne.....	46.6	47.2	47.3	47.6	0.3	0.6
Puerto Rico.....	858.6	872.4	862.8	871.4	8.6	1.0
Aguadilla-Isabela.....	50.9	51.2	50.7	50.9	0.2	0.4
Arecibo.....	33.3	34.2	33.3	34.0	0.7	2.1
Guayama.....	13.5	13.7	13.5	13.5	0.0	0.0
Mayaguez.....	31.5	32.0	31.7	32.0	0.3	0.9
Ponce.....	66.7	66.7	66.9	66.8	-0.1	-0.1
San German.....	18.9	20.3	19.3	20.6	1.3	6.7
San Juan-Carolina-Caguas.....	625.7	634.5	629.3	632.7	3.4	0.5
Virgin Islands.....	33.4	34.6	33.2	34.5	1.3	3.9

¹ For operational reasons, these interstate areas are listed under the state that accounts for the larger share of the population, which is different from the state that contains the first principal city.

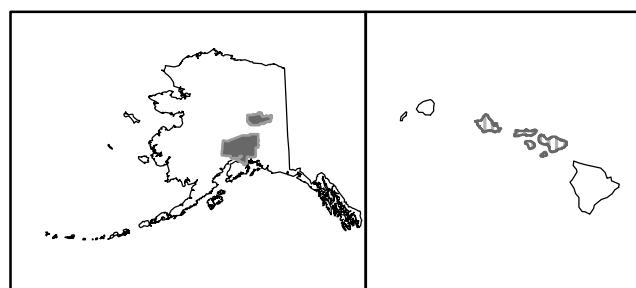
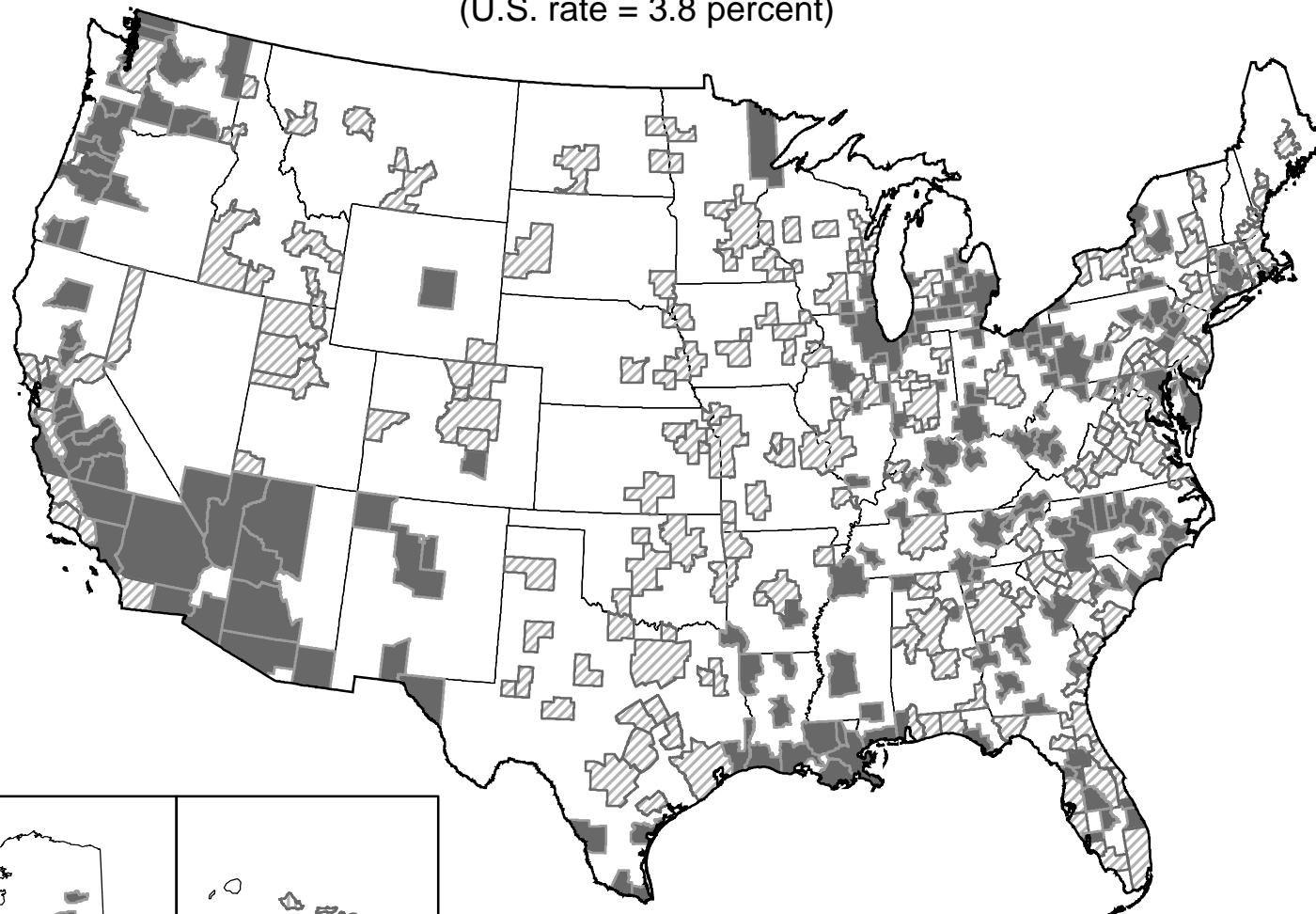
² Area boundary does not reflect official OMB delineation.

^p Preliminary

NOTE: Data are counts of jobs by place of work. Estimates subsequent to the current benchmark are preliminary and will be revised when new information becomes available. Area delineations are based on Office of Management and Budget Bulletin No. 18-03, dated April 10, 2018, and are available on the BLS website at <https://www.bls.gov/lau/lausma.htm>. Areas in the six New England states are Metropolitan New England City and Town Areas (NECTAs), while areas in other states are county-based. Some metropolitan areas lie in two or more states. They are listed under the state containing the first principal city, unless otherwise footnoted. Estimates for the latest month are subject to revision the following month.

Map 1. Unemployment rates for metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted, June 2019

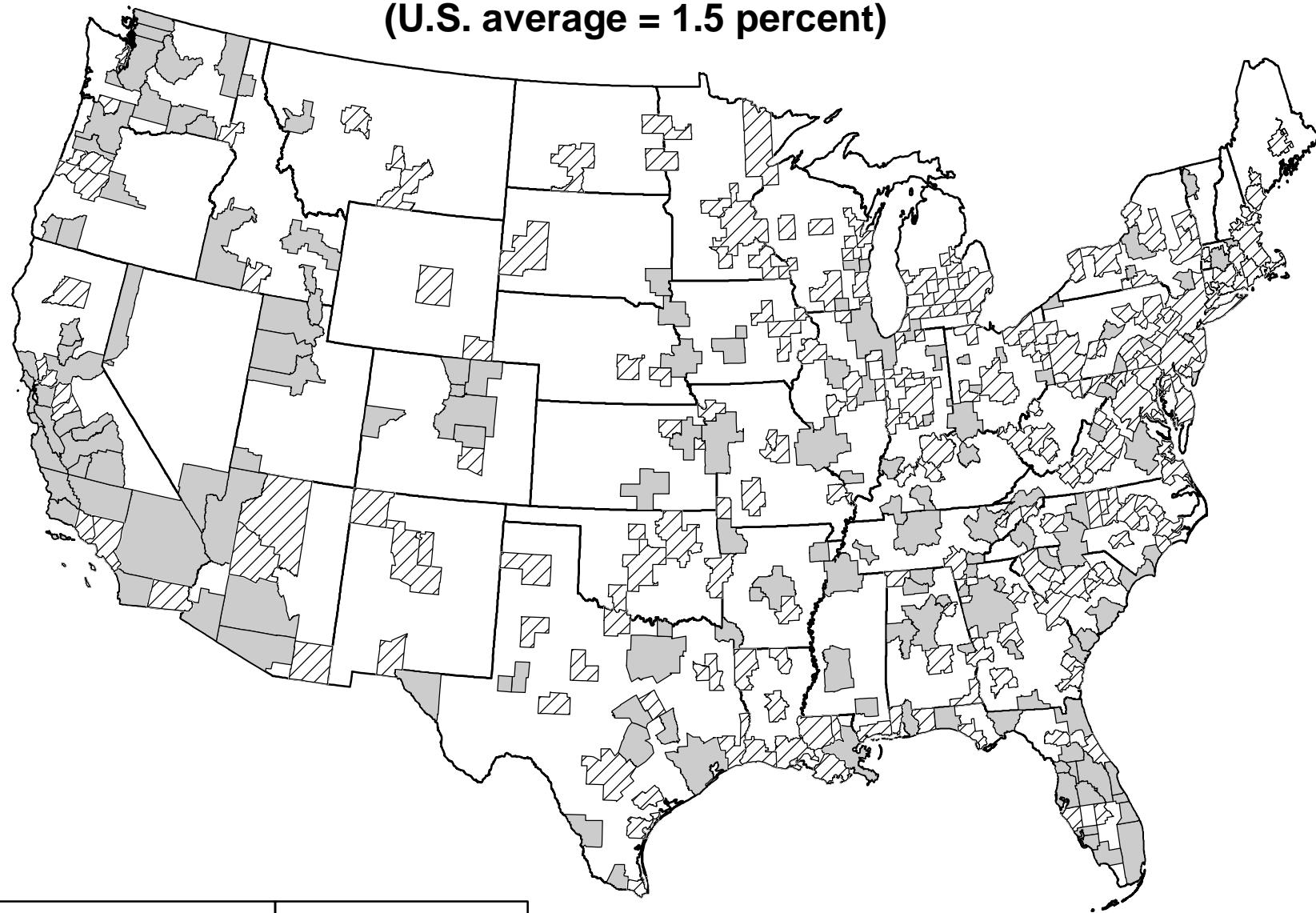
(U.S. rate = 3.8 percent)



NOTE: Map includes data for 389 metropolitan areas based on Office of Management and Budget Bulletin No. 18-03. Areas in the six New England states are Metropolitan New England City and Town areas (NECTAs), while areas in other states are county-based.

- Above U.S. average
- U.S. average or below

**Map 2. Over-the-year percentage change in employment, by metropolitan area,
not seasonally adjusted, June 2019
(U.S. average = 1.5 percent)**



NOTE: Map includes data for 389 metropolitan areas based on Office of Management and Budget Bulletin No. 18-03. Areas in the six New England states are Metropolitan New England City and Town areas (NECTAs), while areas in other states are county based.

Above U.S. average
 U.S. average or below

