



**For Release: Thursday, April 02, 2015**

**15-552-BOS**

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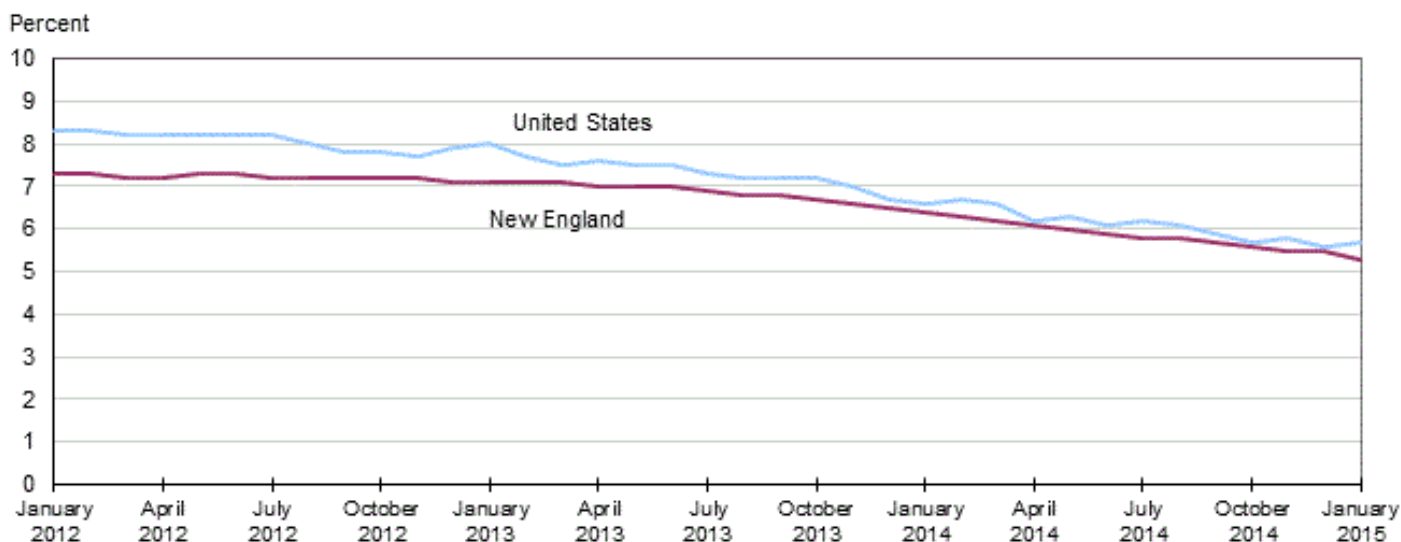
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## **New England and State Unemployment — January 2015**

The New England unemployment rate was essentially unchanged at 5.3 percent in January, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that New England’s jobless rate declined from a year ago when it was 6.4 percent. The national jobless rate was little changed from December at 5.7 percent and was 0.9 percentage point lower than in January 2014. (See [chart 1.](#))

New England is 1 of 9 geographic divisions nationwide. Among the nine geographic divisions, the Pacific had the highest jobless rate, 6.7 percent in January. The West North Central division had the lowest unemployment rate at 4.2 percent. All nine divisions had statistically significant rate declines from a year earlier.

**Chart 1. Unemployment rates for the United States and New England, January 2012 to January 2015, seasonally adjusted**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In January, 3 of the 6 New England states had jobless rates that were significantly different from that of the United States. New Hampshire (4.0 percent) and Vermont (4.1 percent) had significantly lower unemployment rates and were among 21 states in the country to do so. In contrast, Rhode Island, at 6.5 percent, was among the ten states and the District of Columbia with unemployment rates measurably higher than the national average. The 19 remaining states had unemployment rates not appreciably different from that of the nation.

Maine and Rhode Island (-0.3 percentage point, each) and Massachusetts (-0.2 percentage point) posted statistically significant unemployment rate changes over the month. Nationwide, six other states had significant rate declines from December. The remaining 41 states and the District of Columbia reported unemployment 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.

Over the year, five New England states had statistically significant unemployment rate decreases. Rhode Island had the largest decline (-2.1 percentage points) and was tied with Illinois for the largest rate decline nationwide. Massachusetts (-1.0 percentage point), Connecticut and Maine (-0.8 point, each) and New Hampshire (-0.6 point) also had jobless rate decreases from one year ago. Across the country, 37 additional states reported statistically significant unemployment rate declines from January 2014. Two states had statistically significant over-the-year rate increase while the remaining six states and the District of Columbia had unemployment rates that were not appreciably different from a year ago.

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**The Regional and State Employment and Unemployment news release for February is scheduled to be released on Friday, March 27, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT).**

### **Changes to Local Area Unemployment Statistics Data**

Effective with the release of Regional and State Unemployment 2014 Annual Averages on March 4, 2015, the civilian labor force and unemployment data for regions, divisions, and states presented in tables 1 and 2 of this news release were replaced with data produced using a new generation of time-series models. Data were re-estimated back to January 1976 for regions, divisions, states, the District of Columbia, the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale metropolitan division, New York City, and the balances of California and New York states. Data for the five remaining modeled substate and balance-of-state areas were re-estimated back to their new series beginnings in 1990 or 1994. Both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted data were affected. More information is available in the “Report on Revision to State and Area Time-Series Models” on the BLS website at [www.bls.gov/lau/lauschanges2015.htm](http://www.bls.gov/lau/lauschanges2015.htm)

The revisions to model-based data at the state level and below for 2013 and 2014 also incorporated updated estimation inputs, while the revisions for all model-based data from April 2010 forward reflected new population controls from the U.S. Census Bureau.

### **Technical Note**

This release presents civilian labor force and unemployment data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) and the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. Estimates for the U.S. are obtained directly from the CPS, which is a sample survey of approximately 60,000 households nationwide that is conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the Census Bureau. The LAUS program produces data for subnational areas, including the nine geographic divisions (New England, Middle Atlantic, South Atlantic, East South Central, West South Central, East North Central, West North Central, Mountain, and Pacific) and the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The LAUS data for geographic divisions and states are model-based. The models for geographic divisions use inputs from the CPS only, while the models for the states and the District of Columbia use inputs from the CPS in conjunction with estimates of nonfarm payroll employment from the

Current Employment Statistics survey and counts of unemployment insurance claimants from the state workforce agencies. Each month, not-seasonally-adjusted estimates for geographic divisions are controlled to the national totals from the CPS, and state estimates are then controlled to the estimates for their divisions. Data for all divisions, as well as the 50 states and the District of Columbia, are available in the Regional and State Employment and Unemployment release [www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm#news](http://www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm#news) issued monthly by BLS, while national statistics are highlighted in the Employment Situation [www.bls.gov/cps/home.htm#news](http://www.bls.gov/cps/home.htm#news).

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 re-estimation. 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 or coincident with the release of January estimates.

Model-based error measures for seasonally adjusted data and for over-the-month and over-the-year changes are available online at [www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm](http://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.

This information will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200, Federal Relay Services: (800)-877-8339.

**Table 1. Labor force status for the United States, New England, and New England states, seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)**

Area	Jan 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2014	May 2014	May 2014	July 2014	Aug 2014	Sept 2014	Oct 2014	Nov 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2015
<b>United States <sup>(1)</sup></b>													
Civilian labor force .....	(2) 155,486	155,688	156,180	155,420	155,629	155,700	156,048	156,018	155,845	156,243	156,402	156,129	(2) 157,180
Employed .....	(2) 145,206	145,301	145,796	145,724	145,868	146,247	146,401	146,451	146,607	147,260	147,331	147,442	(2) 148,201
Unemployed .....	10,280	10,387	10,384	9,696	9,761	9,453	9,648	9,568	9,237	8,983	9,071	8,688	8,979
Unemployment rate .....	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.2	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.7
<b>New England</b>													
Civilian labor force .....	7,751.0	7,756.3	7,761.6	7,766.6	7,772.0	7,778.7	7,786.5	7,794.9	7,803.2	7,810.4	7,816.4	7,821.1	7,829.2
Employed .....	7,257.5	7,270.5	7,283.2	7,295.3	7,307.2	7,319.8	7,332.9	7,346.3	7,359.4	7,371.8	7,382.8	7,391.6	7,411.3
Unemployed .....	493.5	485.8	478.3	471.3	464.8	458.9	453.6	448.7	443.8	438.6	433.6	429.5	418.0
Unemployment rate .....	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.3
<b>Connecticut</b>													
Civilian labor force .....	1,875.0	1,877.6	1,879.7	1,881.0	1,881.8	1,882.7	1,884.3	1,886.8	1,889.9	1,893.3	1,896.5	1,899.4	(P) 1,904.5
Employed .....	1,741.7	1,746.1	1,750.2	1,753.9	1,757.2	1,760.3	1,763.5	1,766.7	1,770.1	1,773.6	1,776.8	1,779.5	(P) 1,784.1
Unemployed .....	133.3	131.6	129.5	127.1	124.6	122.4	120.9	120.0	119.8	119.7	119.7	119.9	(P) 120.4
Unemployment rate .....	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	(P) 6.3
<b>Maine</b>													
Civilian labor force .....	704.6	703.6	702.6	701.7	700.8	699.8	698.7	697.5	696.4	695.3	694.4	693.7	(P) 692.2
Employed .....	662.2	661.9	661.7	661.3	660.8	660.1	659.2	658.3	657.4	656.7	656.1	655.7	(P) 656.2
Unemployed .....	42.4	41.6	41.0	40.4	40.0	39.8	39.5	39.3	39.0	38.7	38.3	38.0	(P) 36.0
Unemployment rate .....	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	(P) 5.2
<b>Massachusetts</b>													
Civilian labor force .....	3,526.5	3,533.5	3,539.6	3,545.0	3,550.1	3,555.5	3,561.2	3,567.1	3,572.9	3,578.2	3,582.8	3,586.6	(P) 3,591.4
Employed .....	3,312.0	3,321.7	3,330.5	3,337.9	3,344.6	3,351.5	3,358.7	3,366.4	3,374.3	3,382.1	3,389.3	3,395.2	(P) 3,409.8
Unemployed .....	214.5	211.7	209.2	207.1	205.5	204.0	202.4	200.7	198.5	196.0	193.5	191.4	(P) 181.7
Unemployment rate .....	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.3	(P) 5.1
<b>New Hampshire</b>													
Civilian labor force .....	742.6	742.4	742.1	741.7	741.2	740.8	740.5	740.4	740.6	740.8	741.1	741.3	(P) 742.6
Employed .....	708.1	708.4	708.5	708.5	708.5	708.6	708.9	709.3	710.0	710.6	711.2	711.7	(P) 713.2
Unemployed .....	34.5	34.0	33.6	33.2	32.7	32.2	31.6	31.1	30.6	30.2	29.9	29.6	(P) 29.4
Unemployment rate .....	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	(P) 4.0
<b>Rhode Island</b>													
Civilian labor force .....	555.1	555.1	555.2	555.3	555.3	555.1	554.4	553.3	552.1	550.9	549.7	548.8	(P) 548.8
Employed .....	507.6	508.4	509.4	510.4	511.4	512.1	512.5	512.5	512.3	512.0	511.8	511.6	(P) 513.1
Unemployed .....	47.5	46.7	45.8	44.9	43.9	42.9	41.9	40.9	39.8	38.8	37.9	37.2	(P) 35.7
Unemployment rate .....	8.6	8.4	8.2	8.1	7.9	7.7	7.6	7.4	7.2	7.0	6.9	6.8	(P) 6.5
<b>Vermont</b>													
Civilian labor force .....	349.4	349.1	348.9	348.8	348.8	348.8	348.9	348.9	348.9	348.8	348.8	348.8	(P) 348.7
Employed .....	335.1	335.0	334.9	334.8	334.7	334.6	334.5	334.4	334.4	334.3	334.3	334.3	(P) 334.5
Unemployed .....	14.3	14.1	14.0	14.0	14.1	14.2	14.4	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	(P) 14.2
Unemployment rate .....	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	(P) 4.1

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes

(1) Data for the U.S. are obtained directly from the national Current Population Survey (CPS) and are not preliminary. Seasonally adjusted CPS data have been revised as a result of routine seasonal updates processed at the end of each calendar year.

(2) Data affected by changes in population controls.

(P) Preliminary



**Table 2. Civilian labor force and unemployment by census region and division, seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)**

Census region and division	Civilian labor force				Unemployed							
	Jan 2014	Nov 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2015	Number				Percent of the labor force			
					Jan 2014	Nov 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2015	Jan 2014	Nov 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2015
Northeast.....	28,263.3	28,256.1	28,258.4	28,295.9	1,897.9	1,617.7	1,603.3	1,586.3	6.7	5.7	5.7	5.6
New England.....	7,751.0	7,816.4	7,821.1	7,829.2	493.5	433.6	429.5	418.0	6.4	5.5	5.5	5.3
Middle Atlantic.....	20,512.3	20,439.6	20,437.3	20,466.7	1,404.4	1,184.1	1,173.8	1,168.4	6.8	5.8	5.7	5.7
South.....	56,864.9	57,055.2	57,050.4	57,140.3	3,624.0	3,231.2	3,194.7	3,131.8	6.4	5.7	5.6	5.5
South Atlantic.....	30,151.8	30,252.8	30,242.8	30,290.6	1,974.7	1,775.4	1,752.3	1,721.1	6.5	5.9	5.8	5.7
East South Central.....	8,486.8	8,329.1	8,316.8	8,332.5	618.4	534.6	529.6	525.4	7.3	6.4	6.4	6.3
West South Central.....	18,226.3	18,473.4	18,490.8	18,517.2	1,030.9	921.2	912.8	885.2	5.7	5.0	4.9	4.8
Midwest.....	34,364.2	34,532.4	34,552.3	34,612.2	2,257.9	1,855.8	1,840.0	1,815.5	6.6	5.4	5.3	5.2
East North Central.....	23,291.0	23,368.6	23,379.7	23,417.4	1,708.4	1,376.2	1,363.1	1,341.7	7.3	5.9	5.8	5.7
West North Central.....	11,073.3	11,163.8	11,172.6	11,194.8	549.5	479.6	476.9	473.7	5.0	4.3	4.3	4.2
West.....	36,319.1	36,712.9	36,745.4	36,821.6	2,649.4	2,360.6	2,350.2	2,309.2	7.3	6.4	6.4	6.3
Mountain.....	11,188.9	11,302.6	11,311.8	11,342.6	711.2	609.1	604.0	595.5	6.4	5.4	5.3	5.3
Pacific.....	25,130.2	25,410.3	25,433.6	25,479.0	1,938.2	1,751.6	1,746.2	1,713.7	7.7	6.9	6.9	6.7

Note: Census region estimates are derived by summing the Census division model-based estimates. Data refer to place of residence. Regions are defined as the four Census regions, comprised as follows: Northeast Region includes the New England Division - Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont; and the Middle Atlantic Division - New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. South Region includes the South Atlantic Division - Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia; East South Central Division - Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee; and West South Central Division - Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. Midwest Region includes the East North Central - Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin; and the West North Central Division - Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. West Region includes the Mountain Division - Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington. Estimates for the current year are subject to revision early in the following calendar year.