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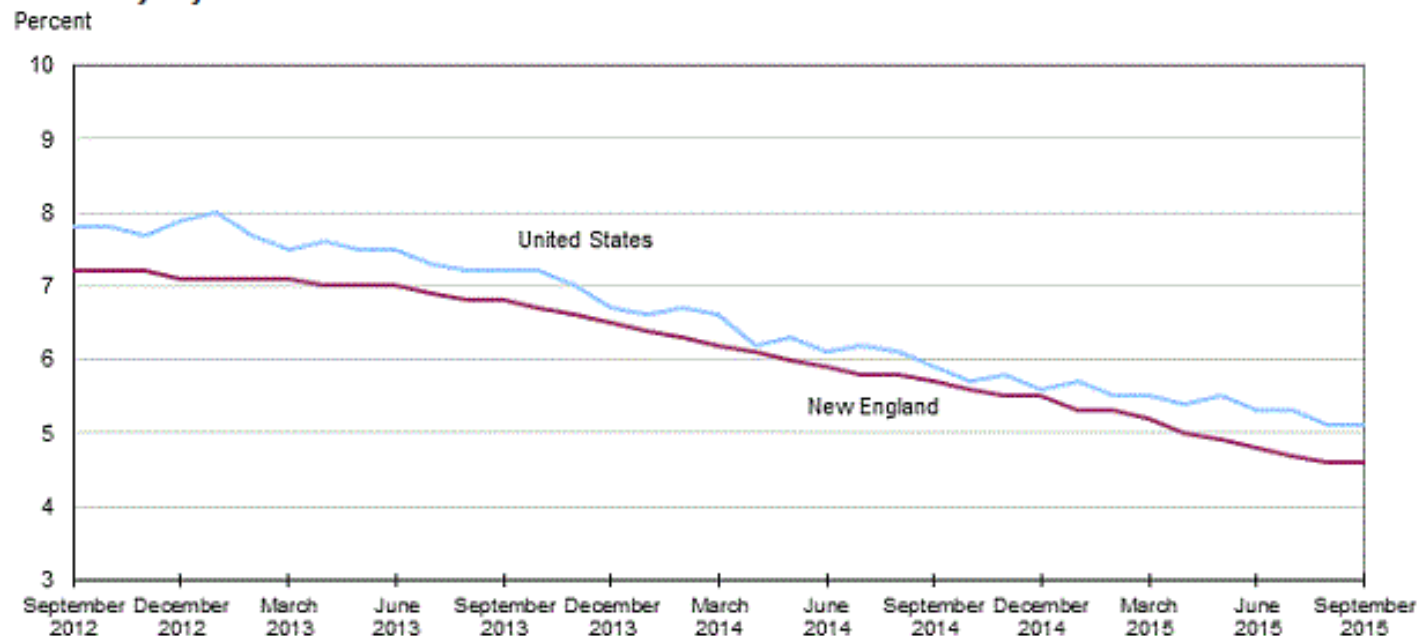
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## **New England and State Unemployment — September 2015**

The New England unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.6 percent in September, 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 5.7 percent. The national jobless rate was unchanged from August at 5.1 percent and was 0.8 percentage point lower than in September 2014. (See [chart 1.](#))

New England is 1 of 9 geographic divisions nationwide. Among the nine geographic divisions, the East South Central and Pacific had the highest jobless rates in September, 5.7 percent each. The West North Central division had the lowest unemployment rate at 4.0 percent. All divisions except the Mountain had statistically significant rate declines from a year earlier. The largest of these decreases occurred in the East North Central and Pacific (-1.3 percentage points each).

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In September, 3 of the 6 New England states had jobless rates that were significantly different from that of the nation. New Hampshire (3.4 percent), Vermont (3.7 percent), and Maine (4.4 percent) had significantly lower unemployment rates and were among 19 states in the country to do so. The remaining New England states

were among the 19 states that had unemployment rates not appreciably different from that of the nation. Twelve states and the District of Columbia had unemployment rates measurably higher than the national average.

Over the month, Rhode Island (-0.3 percentage point) and New Hampshire (-0.2 percentage point) both had statistically significant unemployment rate changes and were among the 11 states nationwide that had significant jobless rate decreases. The remaining New England states were among the 39 states and the District of Columbia that had 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, all six New England states had statistically significant unemployment rate decreases. Rhode Island had the largest decline (-1.8 percentage points), followed by Maine (-1.2 points), and Connecticut (-1.1 points). In fact, Rhode Island had the largest jobless rate decline among the 26 states and the District of Columbia that had significant rate decreases from September 2014. The three remaining New England state had smaller over-the-year declines. Twenty three states had unemployment rates that were not appreciably different from a year ago. The only significant over-the-year rate increase in the nation was in West Virginia (+1.0 percentage points).

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**The Regional and State Employment and Unemployment news release for October 2015 is scheduled to be released on Friday, November 20, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT).**

### **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	Sept 2014	Oct 2014	Nov 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2015	May 2015	June 2015	July 2015	Aug 2015	Sept 2015
<b>United States <sup>(1)</sup></b>													
Civilian labor force .....	155,845	156,243	156,402	156,129	157,180 <sup>(2)</sup>	157,002	156,906	157,072	157,469	157,037	157,106	157,065	156,715
Employed .....	146,607	147,260	147,331	147,442	148,201 <sup>(2)</sup>	148,297	148,331	148,523	148,795	148,739	148,840	149,036	148,800
Unemployed .....	9,237	8,983	9,071	8,688	8,979	8,705	8,575	8,549	8,674	8,299	8,266	8,029	7,915
Unemployment rate .....	5.9	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.1
<b>New England</b>													
Civilian labor force .....	7,803.2	7,810.4	7,816.4	7,821.1	7,829.2	7,849.8	7,873.4	7,889.6	7,903.9	7,904.1	7,883.2	7,849.2	7,808.3
Employed .....	7,359.4	7,371.8	7,382.8	7,391.6	7,411.3	7,436.4	7,464.8	7,492.2	7,515.5	7,524.7	7,512.4	7,486.2	7,451.3
Unemployed .....	443.8	438.6	433.6	429.5	417.9	413.4	408.6	397.4	388.4	379.4	370.8	363.0	357.0
Unemployment rate .....	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.6
<b>Connecticut</b>													
Civilian labor force .....	1,889.9	1,893.3	1,896.5	1,899.4	1,904.5	1,909.9	1,915.8	1,920.6	1,921.7	1,918.1	1,910.8	1,903.4	(p) 1,899.1
Employed .....	1,770.1	1,773.6	1,776.8	1,779.5	1,784.2	1,788.0	1,794.0	1,800.6	1,806.6	1,809.2	1,807.1	1,803.3	(p) 1,800.4
Unemployed .....	119.8	119.7	119.7	119.9	120.2	121.9	121.9	120.0	115.1	108.9	103.7	100.1	(p) 98.7
Unemployment rate .....	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.0	5.7	5.4	5.3	(p) 5.2
<b>Maine</b>													
Civilian labor force .....	696.4	695.3	694.4	693.7	692.3	690.6	689.7	689.2	691.0	692.9	692.1	689.2	(p) 685.5
Employed .....	657.4	656.7	656.1	655.7	656.3	656.2	656.6	657.1	658.9	660.1	660.2	658.1	(p) 655.2
Unemployed .....	39.0	38.7	38.3	38.0	36.1	34.4	33.1	32.1	32.2	32.8	32.0	31.1	(p) 30.2
Unemployment rate .....	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.5	(p) 4.4
<b>Massachusetts</b>													
Civilian labor force .....	3,572.9	3,578.2	3,582.8	3,586.6	3,591.1	3,607.9	3,623.9	3,634.3	3,640.2	3,634.8	3,614.6	3,591.7	(p) 3,569.8
Employed .....	3,374.3	3,382.1	3,389.3	3,395.2	3,409.4	3,430.5	3,448.8	3,464.9	3,471.5	3,465.7	3,444.6	3,424.0	(p) 3,406.8
Unemployed .....	198.5	196.0	193.5	191.4	181.7	177.3	175.1	169.4	168.7	169.0	170.0	167.7	(p) 163.1
Unemployment rate .....	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.7	(p) 4.6
<b>New Hampshire</b>													
Civilian labor force .....	740.6	740.8	741.1	741.3	742.8	744.0	745.9	746.5	748.1	748.9	748.8	747.3	(p) 743.6
Employed .....	710.0	710.6	711.2	711.7	713.3	714.7	716.9	717.8	719.4	720.7	720.9	720.6	(p) 718.3
Unemployed .....	30.6	30.2	29.9	29.6	29.4	29.3	29.0	28.7	28.7	28.2	27.9	26.8	(p) 25.3
Unemployment rate .....	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.6	(p) 3.4
<b>Rhode Island</b>													
Civilian labor force .....	552.1	550.9	549.7	548.8	549.0	549.6	551.9	553.8	556.3	558.5	559.8	560.0	(p) 558.2
Employed .....	512.3	512.0	511.8	511.6	513.1	514.7	517.3	520.1	523.2	525.5	527.5	528.3	(p) 527.8
Unemployed .....	39.8	38.8	37.9	37.2	35.9	34.9	34.7	33.7	33.1	33.0	32.3	31.7	(p) 30.4
Unemployment rate .....	7.2	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.7	(p) 5.4
<b>Vermont</b>													
Civilian labor force .....	348.9	348.8	348.8	348.8	348.7	348.5	348.3	348.2	348.7	349.0	349.4	348.6	(p) 347.2
Employed .....	334.4	334.3	334.3	334.3	334.6	334.7	335.0	335.6	336.2	336.6	337.0	336.2	(p) 334.5
Unemployed .....	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.2	13.7	13.2	12.6	12.5	12.4	12.4	12.5	(p) 12.7
Unemployment rate .....	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	(p) 3.7

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							
	Sept 2014	July 2015	Aug 2015	Sept 2015	Number				Percent of the labor force			
					Sept 2014	July 2015	Aug 2015	Sept 2015	Sept 2014	July 2015	Aug 2015	Sept 2015
Northeast.....	28,249.5	28,519.9	28,442.1	28,372.6	1,658.9	1,491.8	1,445.2	1,419.5	5.9	5.2	5.1	5.0
New England.....	7,803.2	7,883.2	7,849.2	7,808.3	443.8	370.8	363.0	357.0	5.7	4.7	4.6	4.6
Middle Atlantic.....	20,446.3	20,636.7	20,592.9	20,564.3	1,215.1	1,121.0	1,082.2	1,062.5	5.9	5.4	5.3	5.2
South.....	57,054.6	57,255.6	57,154.6	57,084.6	3,322.5	2,997.6	2,923.5	2,895.7	5.8	5.2	5.1	5.1
South Atlantic.....	30,270.1	30,319.1	30,291.7	30,286.1	1,832.6	1,678.8	1,627.1	1,600.7	6.1	5.5	5.4	5.3
East South Central.....	8,361.2	8,500.0	8,467.7	8,433.6	549.8	493.3	485.2	479.0	6.6	5.8	5.7	5.7
West South Central.....	18,423.2	18,436.6	18,395.2	18,364.9	940.1	825.6	811.3	816.0	5.1	4.5	4.4	4.4
Midwest.....	34,479.4	34,465.3	34,452.7	34,439.3	1,901.8	1,655.7	1,598.4	1,562.4	5.5	4.8	4.6	4.5
East North Central.....	23,337.3	23,310.1	23,322.9	23,313.2	1,413.1	1,179.6	1,136.1	1,114.6	6.1	5.1	4.9	4.8
West North Central.....	11,142.1	11,155.2	11,129.8	11,126.1	488.7	476.1	462.2	447.9	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.0
West.....	36,626.9	37,012.8	36,985.0	36,932.4	2,392.2	2,115.4	2,090.3	2,051.0	6.5	5.7	5.7	5.6
Mountain.....	11,278.6	11,436.0	11,418.7	11,409.7	623.5	584.0	585.7	584.9	5.5	5.1	5.1	5.1
Pacific.....	25,348.3	25,576.8	25,566.3	25,522.7	1,768.6	1,531.4	1,504.6	1,466.0	7.0	6.0	5.9	5.7

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.