

# Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages



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## ***What data does the QCEW produce?***

- The most timely, accurate, and detailed **county** and industry employment and wage data
- The most accurate and detailed **MSA** employment and wage data by industry
- The most accurate and detailed **state** employment and wage data by industry
- Quarterly rankings of the fastest growing counties by employment and wages.
- Data totals for every NAICS industry and for every county, MSA, and state
- Location Quotient

## ***Who uses QCEW data?***

- BLS business surveys (CES, OES, NCS, PPI, JOLTS) use QCEW as a sample frame and employment benchmark
- State employment security offices for state and local data, issues, and studies
- State and county budget forecasters and local economic planning groups
- The Bureau of Economic Analysis for GDP and national, state, and county personal income
- For managing the U.I. system and solvency of U.I. trust funds
- The Census Bureau for industry codes and as the basis for Local Employment Dynamics and other survey processes
- Researchers working on minimum wage, rural economy, and other studies
- Other federal agencies such as ERS and NOAA
- BLS as the source for the Business Employment Dynamics series

## ***What questions about my county can you answer using QCEW data?***

- Which counties are growing the fastest?
- What industries are growing in my county and other counties?
- How does my county compare with others in my state or the U.S.?

## ***When are the data available?***

- “County Employment and Wages,” the QCEW program’s quarterly publication, is released roughly 6 months after each quarter, the fastest source at this level of detail.
- Annual data are published in September of each year.

## ***Where can you find QCEW data?***

- QCEW data and publication can be accessed at [www.bls.gov/cew](http://www.bls.gov/cew)
- Questions about QCEW data can be answered by phone by calling 202-691-6567 or by email by going to [www.bls.gov/cew/cewcont.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewcont.htm)



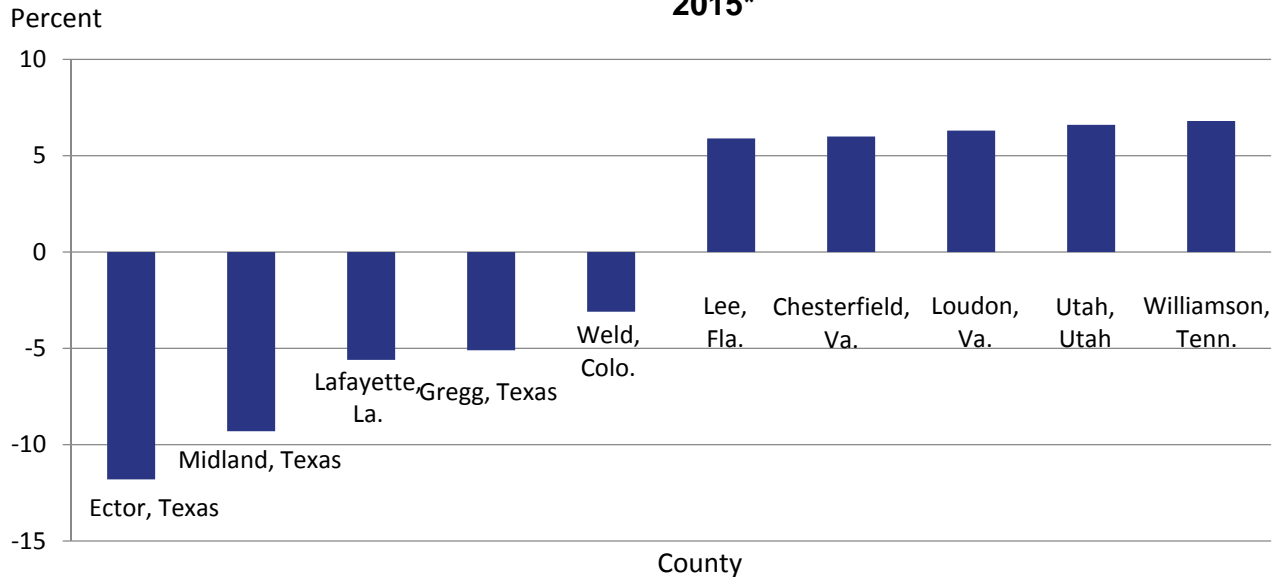
# Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages



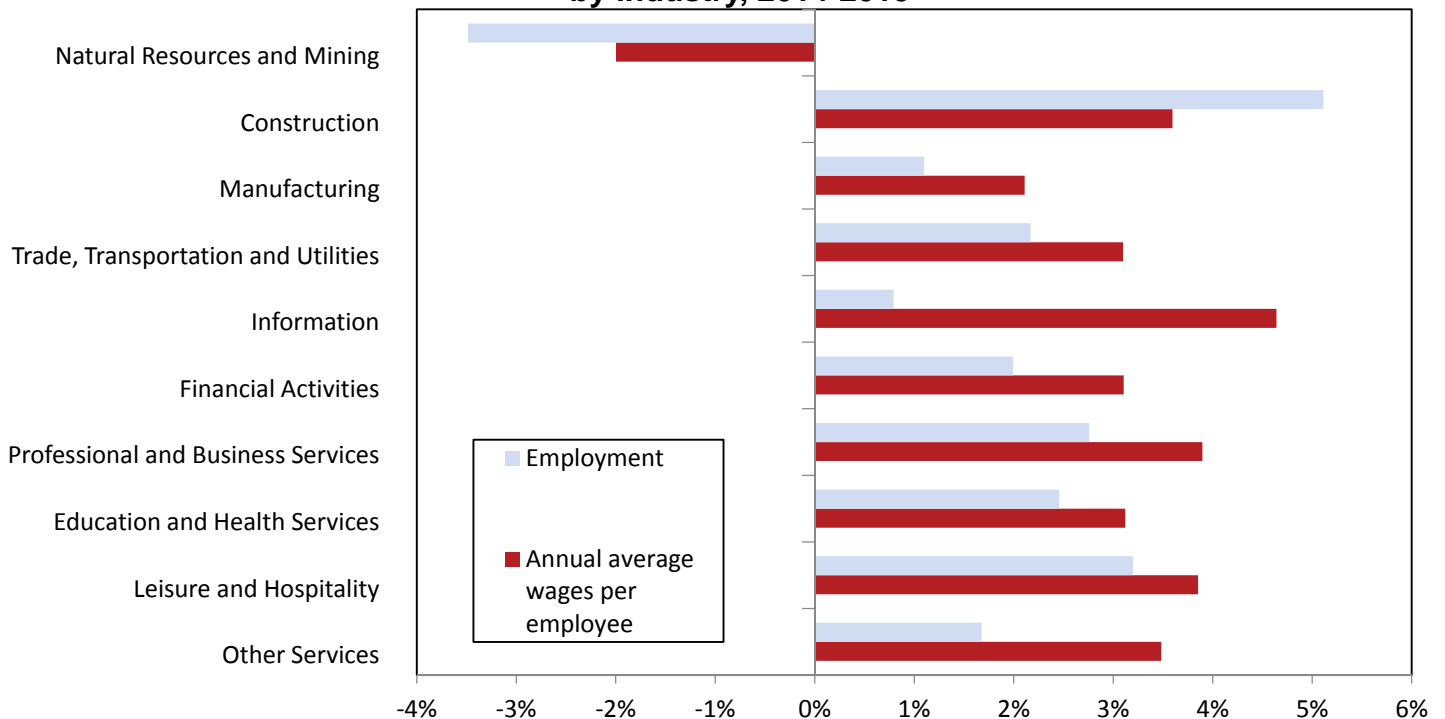
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## Counties with largest employment declines and increases, December 2014-2015\*



## Percent change in annual average private-sector employment and wages by industry, 2014-2015\*



\* Data for 2015 are preliminary.



## *What data does the Business Employment Dynamics (BED) Program produce?*

The **Business Employment Dynamics** (BED) data is generated from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages program (QCEW). BED publishes data relating to job creation from opening and expanding businesses and job destruction from closing and contracting businesses. BED also publishes the number of establishments opening, expanding, contracting or closing. Data are available as either levels or rates (as a percent of total employment or establishments, respectively), for the nation as a whole by **2-digit** and **3-digit NAICS industries**, for the states by 2-digit NAICS industries, for firms by the **size class** of the firm, for business **births** and **deaths**, by the **age of the establishment**, and by **age and size** at the firm or establishment level.

## *Who uses Business Employment Dynamics data?*

- The Federal Reserve Board uses BED data on job creation and job destruction. Regional Fed Banks, like the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, use BED data for regional analysis.
- State Labor Market Information Bureaus use BED data to compare state and national business cycle trends.
- The Small Business Administration uses BED data tabulated by size of firm to measure job creation and destruction by small businesses.
- National and local media use BED job flow, and firm size data to explain and discuss economic trends.
- The OECD uses BED birth and death to measure entrepreneurship in The OECD-Eurostat Entrepreneurship Indicators Program.

## *What can I learn from BED data?*

- A large volume of **gross job gains** and **gross job losses** underlie even a relatively small change in net employment. This combination of businesses creating jobs and destroying jobs is sometimes called “**creative destruction**,” or “**churn**.”
- In the year ending March 2015, startup firms—firms less than 1 year old—created 1.7 million jobs or 60 percent of total employment growth. More than half these jobs were from firms with **fewer than 10 employees**.
- Firms **10 years or older** created 800,000 jobs, or 29 percent of the total 2.7 million net employment gain in the year ending March 2015.
- Approximately **78.4 percent** of all establishments **survive the first year of business**. Additionally, only **half** of the establishments that opened in 1994 were still in existence 5 years later, and the employment of these surviving establishments equaled **91 percent** of the jobs created by their initial cohort.

## *When are the data available?*

Data are published in a news release, approximately **7 months** after the reference quarter.

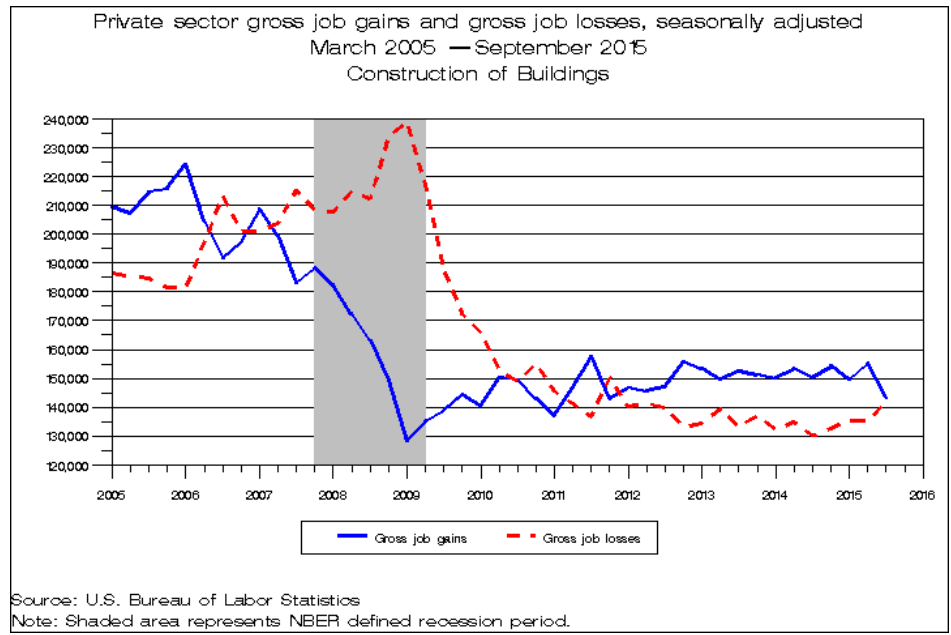
## *Where can I find more information?*

BED data are available on the web at [www.bls.gov/bdm](http://www.bls.gov/bdm)

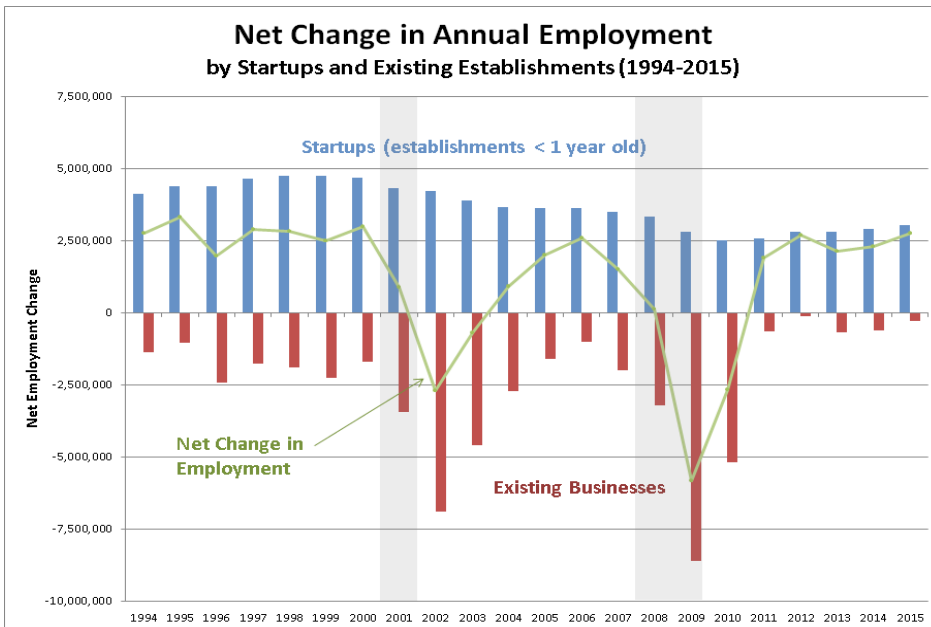
Contact BED by email at [BDMinfo@bls.gov](mailto:BDMinfo@bls.gov) or by telephone at **(202) 691-6553**.

## Business Employment Dynamics State and Industry data

Gross job gains and gross job losses by state and by 2-digit and 3-digit NAICS industries allow the data user to examine the dynamics of the labor market at a sub-national level. The graph shows the industry sector “Construction of Buildings” and illustrates how gross job gains in this sector began to decrease, and gross job losses began to increase, at the beginning of 2006 which was before the official start of the 2007-2009 recession. After the recessionary period, data users can observe an overall reduction in dynamism.



## BED Assessing Entrepreneurship in the U.S. Economy



BED data allows the data user to examine the role of startups in the overall labor market. The chart on the left shows the net change in annual employment by startups, those establishments less than one year old, compared to the net change in annual employment by existing businesses. Without the employment from startups there would be no net job creation. Existing businesses, as a whole, are net job destroyers. This serves as an example of creative destruction at the macro-level.

## Business Employment Dynamics by Age and Size

BED has developed research data on employment dynamics by age and size. The Business Employment Dynamics program currently publishes data on gross job gains and gross job losses by size of firm and age of establishment. The new data provide insights into job flows by age and size at both the establishment and firm levels. These data enable users to compare gross job flows and net employment changes across a wide range of business organizations, from startups to small and young firms to large and older firms.

## ***What data does the Current Employment Statistics (CES) Program produce?***

Each month the **Current Employment Statistics** program surveys about 146,000 businesses and government agencies, representing approximately 623,000 individual worksites, in order to provide detailed industry data on employment, hours, and earnings of workers on nonfarm payrolls for the Nation, all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and about 450 metropolitan areas and divisions.

## ***Who uses CES data?***

### **Private Sector**

- To guide decisions on plant location, sales, and purchases;
- To compare your business to the industry or economy as a whole;
- To negotiate labor contracts based upon industry or area hourly earnings and weekly hours series;
- To determine the employment base of States and areas for bond ratings;
- To detect and plan for swings in the business cycle using the average weekly hours series;

### **Public Sector**

- To evaluate the economic health of State and areas;
- To guide monetary policy decisions;
- To assess the growth of industries;
- To forecast tax revenue for States and areas;
- To measure employment, hours, and earnings as a means of determining growth in the economy.

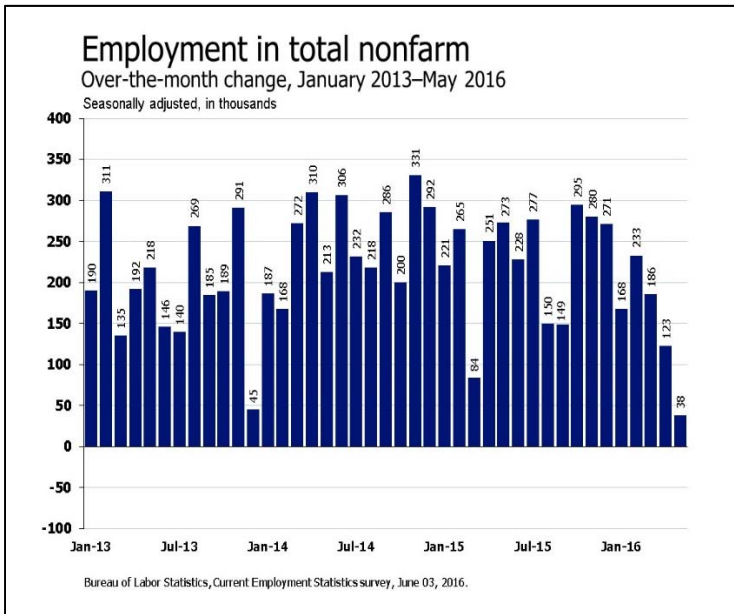
## ***What CES data are available?***

- Current levels and trends in payroll employment;
- Current levels and trends in hours and earnings including overtime hours in manufacturing;
- Employment series back to at least 1990 with some series as far back as 1939;
- About 2,200 not seasonally adjusted national employment series for all employees, production and nonsupervisory employees, and women employees are published monthly;
- The series for all employees include over 900 industries at various levels of aggregation;
- Over 8,700 not seasonally adjusted special derivative series such as average weekly earnings, indexes, and constant dollar series.

## ***When are the data available to you?***

CES national data are the most timely available, typically released the first Friday of each month. CES state and metropolitan area data are released later, usually two to three weeks after the national data are released. National release dates can be found at [http://www.bls.gov/ces/ces\\_tabl.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ces/ces_tabl.htm). State and Metro Area release dates are available at <http://www.bls.gov/sae/790sced.htm>.

## National employment change for May 2016



> Nonfarm payroll employment changed little in May (+38,000).

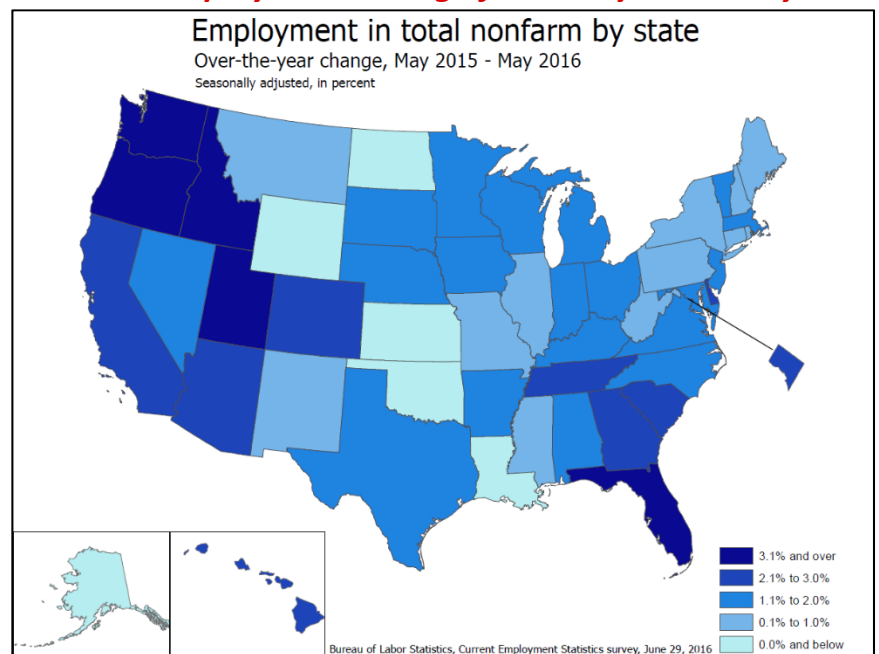
> Health care added jobs over the month, and mining continued to lose jobs. A strike resulted in a job loss in information.

> The employment change for March revised down from +208,000 to +186,000, and the change for April revised down from +160,000 to +123,000. Over the past 3 months, employment has risen by an average 116,000.

## State employment change from May 2015-May2016

> 44 States and the District of Columbia experienced job growth from May 2015-May 2016.

> From May 2015 through May 2016, Oregon (3.4%) and Utah (3.3%) led the nation in job growth. Six states (Alaska, Kansas, Louisiana, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Wyoming), experienced job losses, the most job losses occurring in North Dakota (-3.4%) and Wyoming (-3.0%).



**Want to stay in the know?** Data users can sign up at <http://www.bls.gov/bls/list.htm> to receive an automated email notice when CES data are released each month.

## ***What data does the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) produce?***

JOLTS publishes monthly rates and levels of job openings, hires, and separations for the nation by industry and geographic region. Measures of separations are also broken out by type: quits (voluntary separations), layoffs and discharges (involuntary separations), and other separations (retirements, deaths, etc.). The job openings data provides a measure of labor demand to complement the measure of labor supply— unemployment.

## ***How can I use JOLTS data?***

- Analyze your company's turnover by comparing your rate to your industry's or region's monthly or annual average turnover rate.
- Individual JOLTS data elements serve as indicators of the economy's current stage in the business cycle and as early warning signs for turns in the economy. A declining number of job openings, hires or quits would signal a weakening economy while increasing numbers would signal a strengthening economy.
- Trends in JOLTS hires and separations data identify which industry sectors face the tightest labor markets and which are expanding or contracting their workforce.
- Comparing the unemployment level and the job openings level in a Beveridge Curve can be a powerful tool for evaluating the health of the labor market. A point high on the curve indicates a healthy economy with low unemployment and high job openings; a low point indicates the opposite. The JOLTS data help analyze the type of unemployment that is occurring: cyclical, frictional, or structural.
- Size class data (currently experimental) allow the study of establishments by size throughout the business cycle.

## ***What can I learn from the JOLTS data?***

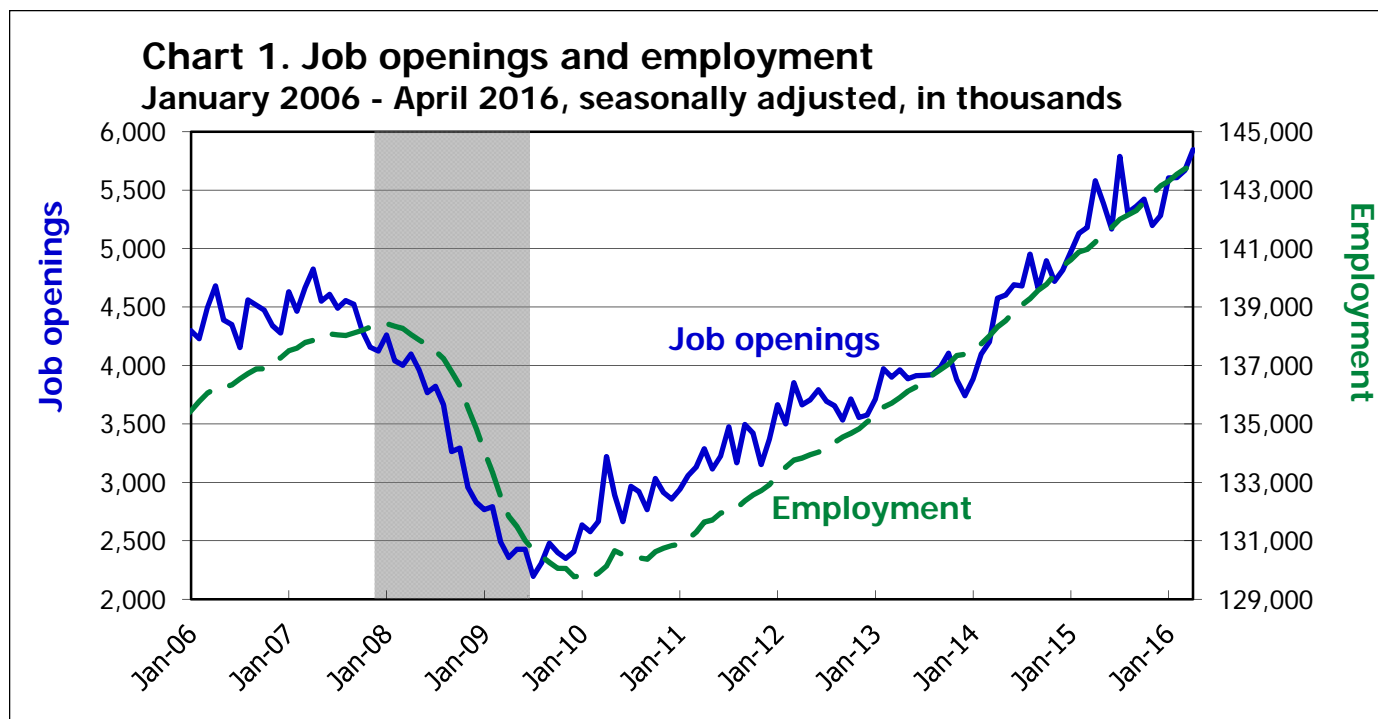
- There were nearly 7 unemployed persons for each open job during the peak of the 2007-2009 recession. As of June 2014, the number had declined to just over 2 unemployed people per opening.
- The recent recession ended in June 2009. By June 2014, the number of job openings had recovered to pre-recession levels; hires and quits had reached 96 percent and 90 percent, respectively, of their levels at the beginning of the recession.
- In June 2014, labor market churn measured 4.8 million hires and 4.5 million separations in one month.
- The number of quits can serve as a measure of workers' willingness or ability to leave jobs. The number of quits has increased as the economy improved, reaching 2.5 million for the month of June 2014.
- In 2014, job openings rates have increased for establishments of all sizes, but hires and quits rates have increased only for medium and large establishments, not for small.

## ***When are the data available for me to use?***

Data are published in a news release approximately 6 weeks after the reference month. The scheduled dates can be found at [www.bls.gov/schedule/news\\_release/jolts.htm](http://www.bls.gov/schedule/news_release/jolts.htm).

## ***Where can I find the information?***

All JOLTS data are available for download from the website, [www.bls.gov/jlt](http://www.bls.gov/jlt). JOLTS staff can be contacted by email at [joltsinfo@bls.gov](mailto:joltsinfo@bls.gov) or by telephone at (202) 691-5870. In addition, data users can sign up to receive an automated email notice when JOLTS data are released each month. Sign up at [www.bls.gov/bls/list.htm](http://www.bls.gov/bls/list.htm).





## *What is the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program?*

The Occupational Employment Statistics program is a federal-state cooperative program that produces employment and wage estimates for over 800 occupations in over 450 industries. By surveying 1.2 million business establishments nationwide, OES produces estimates for the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and selected U.S. territories. OES also produces estimates for nearly 600 metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas, including 394 metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) and 38 metropolitan divisions. OES data are published annually around late March or early April.

## *Who uses OES data?*

- State and local workforce investment boards, as well as training professionals, use the information to determine the need for local employment, training, and education services.
- Economic development specialists use the information to estimate available labor supply.
- Researchers use the data to understand the structure of labor markets and to understand labor costs for new markets.
- Students and counselors use the information for career planning.
- Employers and compensation specialists use the data to determine equitable and competitive pay, to develop recruiting packages, and to make site selection decisions.
- BLS and State Employment Security Agencies use OES data to project employment and determine jobs in demand.

## *How can OES data help YOU?*

- You can compare employment and wages across geographic areas.
- You can compare employment and wages for particular occupations across industries.
- You can compare employment and wages for different occupations.

## *Where can you find Occupational Employment Statistics information?*

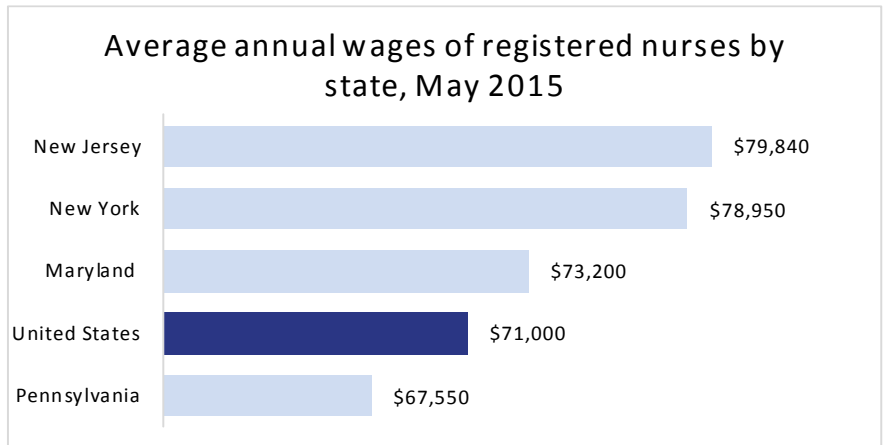
- You can find our data online at [www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm). There you will find the latest data for the nation, states, metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas, and specific industries at the national level.

## *Whom should you contact if you have additional questions?*

Contact the OES information Staff by email at [oesinfo@bls.gov](mailto:oesinfo@bls.gov) or by telephone at **(202) 691-6569**.

*Occupational employment and wage data for...*

All 50 states, the  
District of  
Columbia, and  
selected U.S.  
territories

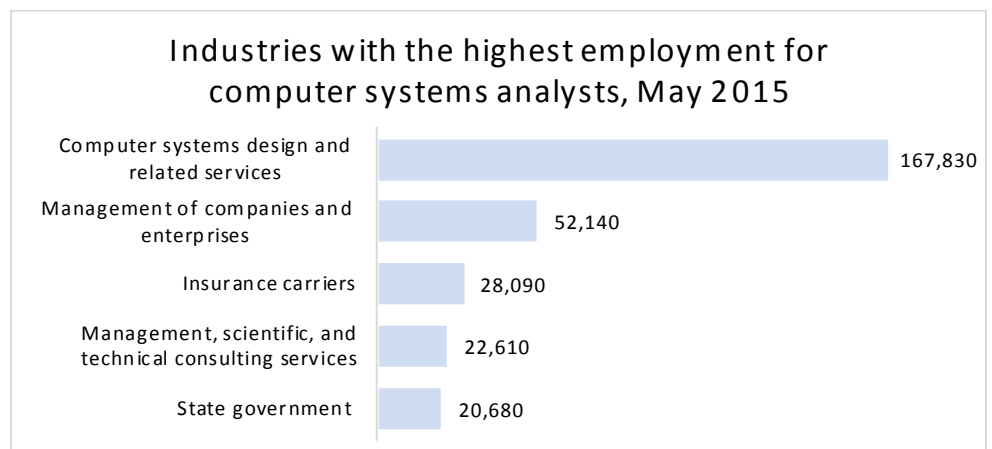


Employment and wages in the New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA area, May 2015

Occupation	Employment	Average hourly wage
Retail salespersons	324,920	\$13.17
Construction laborers	57,340	24.71
Financial analysts	45,680	58.56
Graphic designers	21,190	30.89
Civil engineers	14,960	45.48

Metropolitan  
and  
nonmetropolitan  
areas

National data  
for specific  
industries



## *What Employment Projections information does BLS provide?*

Employment Projections provides information about the nation's economy and labor market 10 years into the future. Projections for the 2014–24 decade are available in searchable databases and widely-used career information resources, including the [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) and [Career Outlook](#).

## *What does BLS project?*

- Labor force participation and the size and demographic makeup of the future workforce
- Aggregate economy, including gross domestic product (GDP)
- Industry output and employment
- Occupational employment and job openings

## *Who uses projections?*

- Students, jobseekers, and career counselors, to make career decisions or provide guidance
- Education and training specialists, to plan and develop education and training programs
- Workforce investment boards, for policy and program planning purposes and to determine jobs in demand
- Economic developers, to understand demand for skilled workers
- State labor market information offices, to develop state and regional employment projections (see [www.projectionscentral.com](http://www.projectionscentral.com))

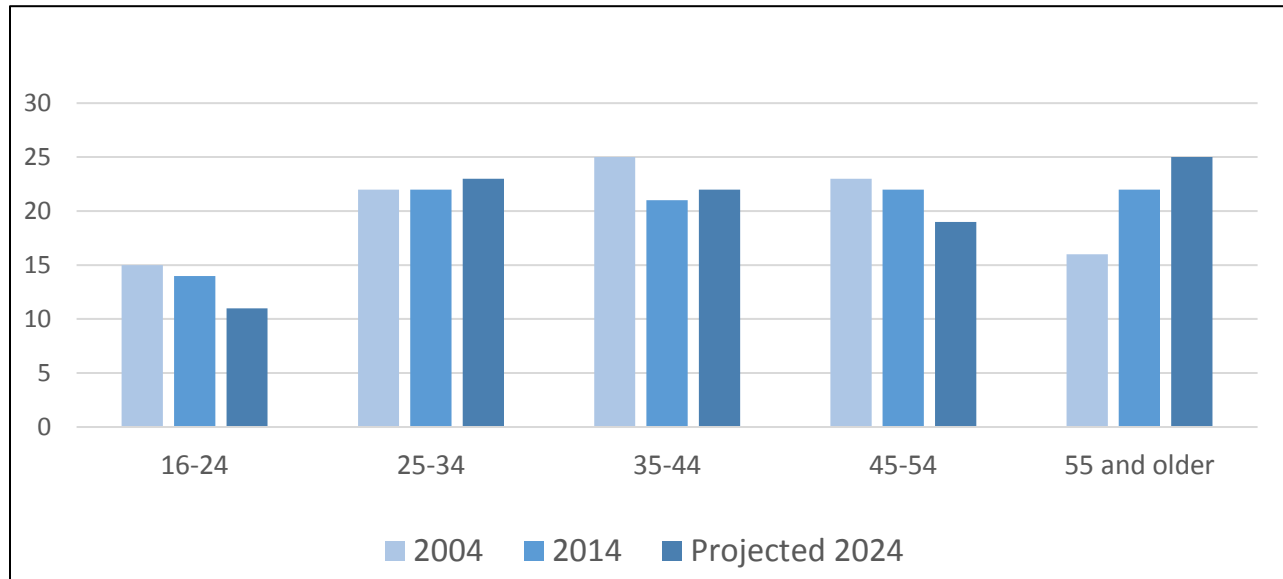
## *What are some highlights from the latest projections?*

- Workers age 55 and older are expected to make up nearly one-quarter of the labor force in 2024.
- The labor force is projected to grow more slowly over the next 10 years.
- GDP is projected to grow at 2.2 percent annually over the coming decade, maintaining its average growth rate experienced in the recovery from 2010-2014.
- The healthcare and social assistance industry is projected to account for over one-third of total job growth.
- Among occupations, those in healthcare are projected to add 2.3 million jobs, about 1 in 4 new jobs. Occupations in food preparation and serving, personal care services, and sales are projected to add another 2.4 million jobs. Together, these 4.7 million new jobs represent approximately one-half of all employment gains over the coming decade.
- The 30 occupations projected to grow the fastest include 18 in healthcare. The fastest-growing occupation is projected to be wind turbine service technicians. Personal care aides—who provide assistance to the aging population and others needing help with daily living—are projected to add the most new jobs and also place among the top 30 fastest-growing occupations.
- The fastest growth among detailed occupations is projected to be in jobs requiring a graduate degree for entry.

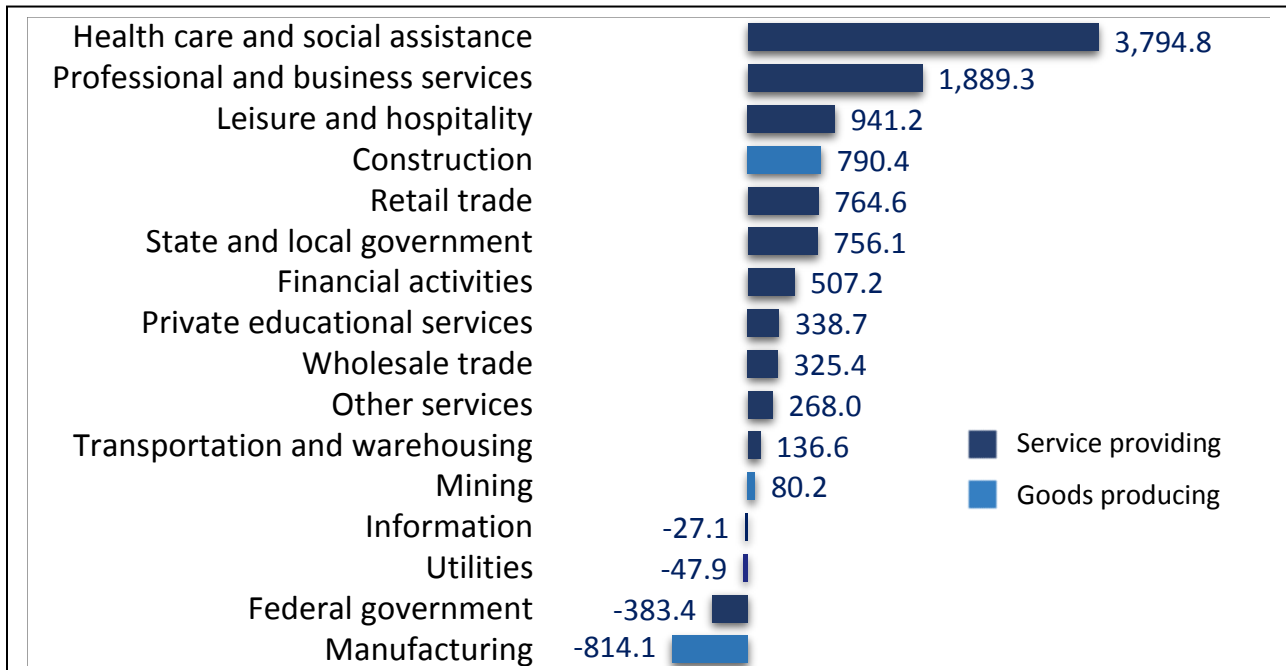
## *Where can you find Employment Projections information?*

At [www.bls.gov/emp](http://www.bls.gov/emp) you can search for projections by occupation, education and training needs, fastest-growing jobs, and other criteria. You can access the [Monthly Labor Review](#) for a complete analysis of all the 2014–24 projections and also find our career publications: the [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) and [Career Outlook](#).

## Labor force share by age group, percent



## Employment change by industry sector: Projected 2014-24, thousands of wage and salary jobs



## *What data does the Current Population Survey (CPS) program produce?*

The Current Population Survey (CPS) has been the nation's official labor force survey since 1940, and is the source of one of the principal Federal economic indicators—the national unemployment rate. The CPS provides a comprehensive body of information on the employment and unemployment experience of the nation's population, classified by age, sex, race, educational attainment, and a variety of other characteristics.

## *What data are available from the CPS?*

### **Monthly and quarterly data**

- Numbers and demographics of employed, unemployed and those not in the labor force
- Duration of unemployment
- Full-time vs. part-time employment
- Length of the workweek
- Occupation, industry, and class of worker
- Multiple jobholders
- Employment of persons with disabilities
- Usual weekly earnings

### **Periodic supplement data**

- Veterans
- School enrollment
- Job tenure
- Displaced workers
- Volunteers
- Contingent workers
- Alternative work arrangements
- Work experience and income
- Marital and family characteristics

## *What can you learn from CPS data?*

- What is the national unemployment rate?
- Who are minimum wage workers?
- How many mothers of preschoolers work outside the home?
- Are more students working now than 10 years ago?
- How many hours per week do people work?
- Do earnings differ significantly between men and women working in the same occupation?
- In which occupations are foreign-born workers most likely to be employed?

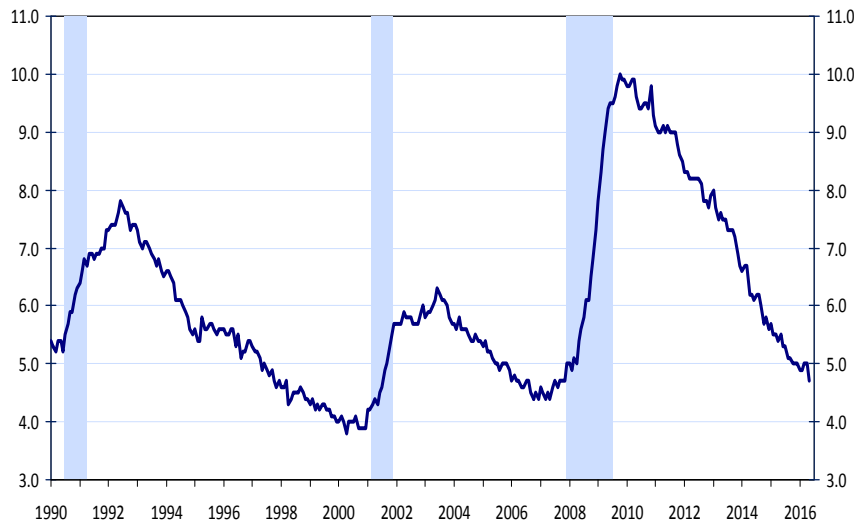
## *What are the main publications for CPS data?*

- Monthly news release—[The Employment Situation](#)—about 3 weeks after reference period.
- Quarterly news release—[Usual Weekly Earnings of Wage and Salary Workers](#).
- Analytical studies and research summaries published in the BLS [Monthly Labor Review](#).
- [BLS bulletins and reports](#).
- [Annual news releases](#) on topics of special interest.

A listing of our news releases and reports can be found at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/news.htm>.

## Civilian unemployment rate

Percent, seasonally adjusted, 1990-2016

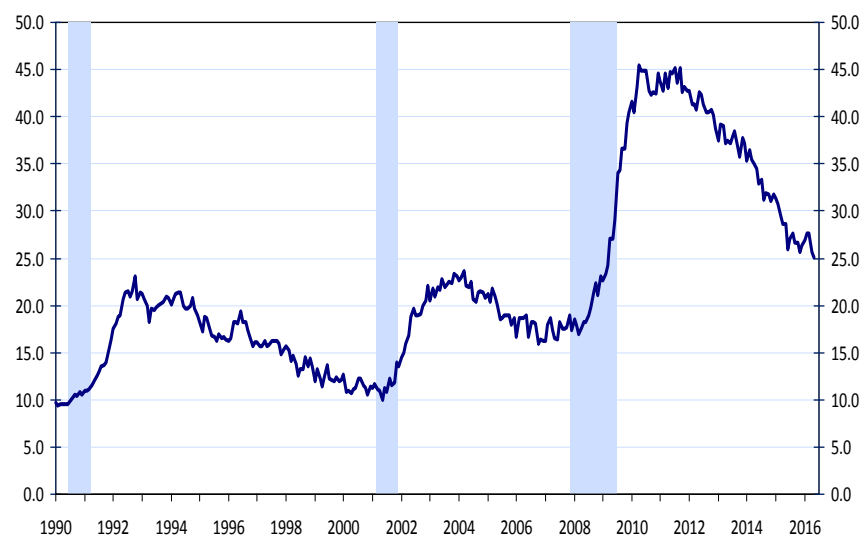


Shaded areas represent recessions as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research

- In May 2016, the unemployment rate, at 4.7 percent, was the lowest since November 2007.
- Among the major worker groups, the unemployment rates for adult men (4.3 percent), adult women (4.2 percent), Whites (4.1 percent), and Hispanics (5.6 percent) declined in May. The rates for teenagers (16.0 percent), Blacks (8.2 percent), and Asians (4.1 percent) showed little or no change.

## Long-term unemployed as a percent of total unemployed

Percent, seasonally adjusted, 1990-2016



Shaded areas represent recessions as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research

- The long-term unemployed, those jobless for 27 weeks or more, accounted for 25.1 percent of the unemployed in May.
- The long-term unemployed as a percent of total unemployed declined by 3.6 percentage points over the year.

## *What data does the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program produce?*

The LAUS program is a Federal-State cooperative effort that produces monthly and annual average estimates of labor force, employment, unemployment, and unemployment rate by place of residence. These estimates are available for approximately 7,500 areas, including Census regions and divisions, states, metropolitan areas, counties and equivalents, and cities with populations of 25,000 or more. Employment-population ratios and labor force participation rates also are available for states. Region, division, and state series begin in 1976, while data for most other areas are available from 1990 forward.

## *How can you use LAUS data?*

- Federal programs use the data to allocate funds to states for job training programs, food assistance, disaster aid, infrastructure development, and more.
- State and local governments use the estimates for planning and budgetary purposes and to determine the need for local employment and training services.
- The private sector uses the data for mortgage and bond underwriting, among other things.
- Researchers and academics use the data to study trends in labor markets over time and to make comparisons across areas.
- Businesses and individuals use the data for worksite and residence location decisions.

## *What can you learn from LAUS data?*

- What is the unemployment rate for your city or county? How does it compare to that of the state, region, or neighboring cities or counties?
- What areas have the highest and lowest jobless rates?
- How did an area's labor market fare over time and across business cycles?
- What areas are experiencing the largest labor market changes, both positive and negative?
- What impact did a particular natural disaster or economic disruption have on local labor market conditions?

## *When are the data available to you?*

LAUS data are published on a staggered basis:

- Region, division, and state data for a given month are generally available on the third Friday of the following month.
- Metropolitan area and other substate data follow about a week and a half later, generally on the fourth Wednesday.
- Annual average and revised historical data for all areas are available early each year.

Our complete release schedules can be found at [www.bls.gov/schedule/news\\_release/laus.htm](http://www.bls.gov/schedule/news_release/laus.htm) (region and state data) and [www.bls.gov/schedule/news\\_release/metro.htm](http://www.bls.gov/schedule/news_release/metro.htm) (metropolitan and other substate data).

# Local Area Unemployment Statistics



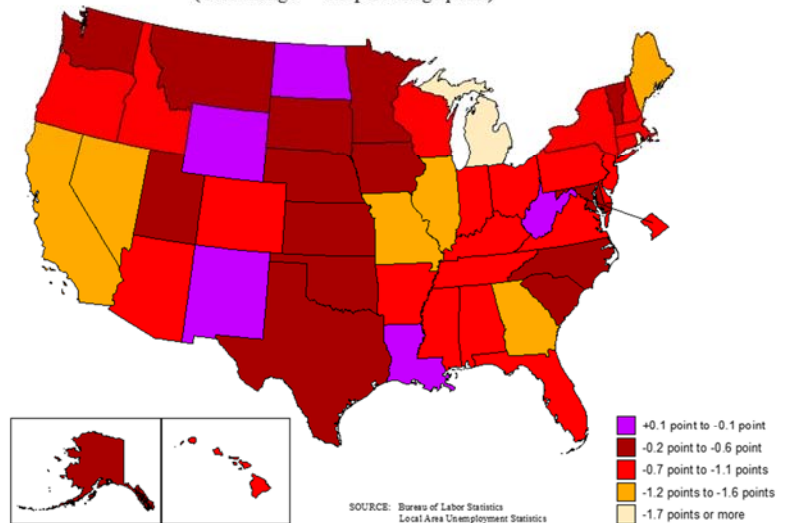
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- Thirty-eight states and the District of Columbia had statistically significant unemployment rate decreases in 2015.
- North Dakota had the lowest unemployment rate, 2.7 percent in 2015, followed by Nebraska and South Dakota, 3.0 percent and 3.1 percent, respectively.
- Nevada and West Virginia had the highest jobless rates among the states, 6.7 percent each, while the District of Columbia had a rate of 6.9 percent.

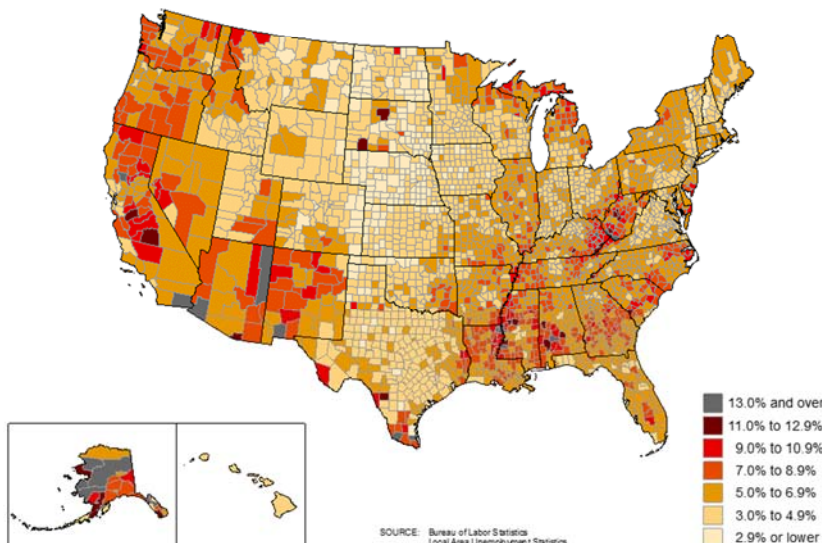
## Over-the-year change in unemployment rates by state, 2015 annual averages

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



## Unemployment rates by county, 2015 annual averages

(U.S. rate = 5.3 percent)



- In 2015, five counties in Nebraska and North Dakota had the lowest unemployment rates, 1.8 percent each.
- Imperial County, California, had the highest annual average unemployment rate in 2015, 24.0 percent.

