

News

United
States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Boston, MA 02203

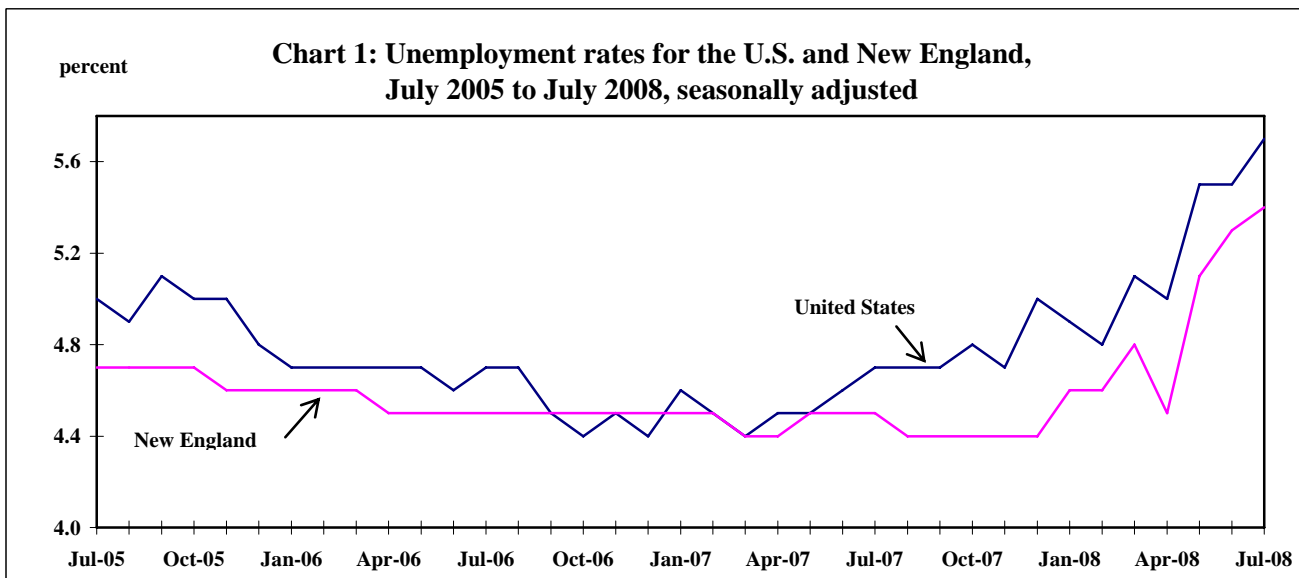
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USDL-08-244
For release: Friday, August 22, 2008

NEW ENGLAND AND STATE UNEMPLOYMENT: JULY 2008

The New England unemployment rate was essentially unchanged in July at 5.4 percent according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Denis M. McSweeney noted, however, that New England's rate was up 0.9 percentage point over the year. Nationally, the unemployment rate rose to 5.7 percent in July, a full percentage point higher than a year earlier. (See chart 1.)

New England is one of nine geographic divisions nationwide. Among the nine, the East North Central continued to register the highest jobless rate, 7.1 percent in July, followed by the Pacific, at 6.9 percent, and the East South Central, at 6.6 percent. The West South Central again recorded the lowest rate, 4.6 percent, followed by the Mountain, at 4.9 percent. The remaining four divisions, including New England, had rates ranging from 5.2 to 5.8 percent. Seven divisions reported statistically significant over-the-month unemployment rate changes, all increases: the East South Central, South Atlantic, and West North Central (+0.5 percentage point each); East North Central and Pacific (+0.4 point each); West South Central (+0.3 point); and Mountain (+0.2 point). Over the year, eight divisions had significant rate changes, all increases: the East South Central (+1.9 percentage points), Pacific (+1.7 points), South Atlantic (+1.6 points), East North Central (+1.5 points), Mountain (+1.3 points), New England and West North Central (+0.9 point each), and Middle Atlantic (+0.8 point). (See table 2.)



In July, three states in New England posted jobless rates that were significantly different from that of the United States. The jobless rates in New Hampshire and Vermont, at 3.9 and 4.8 percent, respectively, were measurably lower than the 5.7-percent nationwide average. Both were among 22 states in the country to have an unemployment rate significantly below that for the nation in July. In contrast, the unemployment rate in Rhode Island, at 7.7 percent, was measurably higher than that for the United States. Rhode Island was among 12 states and the District of Columbia with unemployment rates significantly higher than the national average. Among the remaining New England states, Massachusetts posted a jobless rate of 5.1 percent in July, Maine, 5.4 percent, and Connecticut, 5.8 percent. These 3 states joined 13 others nationwide having unemployment rates that were not appreciably different from the U.S. average. (See table 1.)

In July, no New England state recorded a statistically significant change in their jobless rate over the month. Over the year, however, each state recorded a measurable change, all increases. Rhode Island reported the largest rate increase in New England and in the nation (+2.7 percentage points), followed by Connecticut (+1.3 points), and Vermont (+1.0 point). These 3 states joined 25 states nationwide and the District of Columbia posting over-the-year rate increases of 1.0 percentage point or more. In the remaining New England states, Massachusetts, Maine, and New Hampshire reported jobless rate advances of 0.7, 0.6, and 0.4 percentage points, respectively. These 3 states were among 15 states nationwide to record smaller, but also statistically significant, rate increases over the year.

Technical Note

This release presents 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 the nine geographic divisions in the United States: New England, Middle Atlantic, South Atlantic, East South Central, West South Central, East North Central, West North Central, Mountain, and Pacific. Data for all divisions, as well as the 50 states, are available in the Regional and State Employment and Unemployment release <http://www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm#newsissued> monthly by BLS, while national statistics are highlighted in the Employment Situation <http://www.bls.gov/cps/home.htm#news>.

Effective with the release of 2007 annual average estimates on February 29, the historical labor force data for regions, divisions, and states presented in tables 1 and 2 of this news release were revised to incorporate updated population controls, reestimation of models, adjustment to new division and national control totals, and revised seasonal adjustment. Data were revised back to 2003. The updated population controls reflect the annual updating of population estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau.

This information will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (617) 565-2072, Federal Relay Services: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Labor force status for the U.S., New England, and New England states, seasonally adjusted

(Numbers in thousands)

Area	Jul. 2007	Aug. 2007	Sep. 2007	Oct. 2007	Nov. 2007	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008	May 2008	June 2008	Jul. 2008 ^p
Connecticut													
Civilian labor force	1,865.2	1,869.8	1,872.1	1,876.7	1,881.1	1,882.2	1,885.7	1,885.3	1,885.2	1,878.2	1,886.5	1,886.8	1,889.1
Employed	1,781.3	1,783.3	1,785.3	1,787.3	1,789.4	1,791.5	1,795.7	1,791.4	1,784.5	1,790.1	1,784.7	1,784.0	1,780.0
Unemployed	84.0	86.6	86.8	89.4	91.7	90.7	90.0	93.9	100.7	88.1	101.8	102.9	109.0
Unemployment rate	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.3	4.7	5.4	5.5	5.8
Maine													
Civilian labor force	704.6	704.2	704.5	705.4	705.5	706.5	709.6	706.4	707.9	708.8	708.9	710.2	711.5
Employed	670.9	670.3	670.2	671.0	671.3	671.9	674.5	672.8	672.3	675.2	670.7	672.6	673.0
Unemployed	33.7	33.9	34.3	34.4	34.2	34.6	35.1	33.6	35.7	33.6	38.3	37.6	38.4
Unemployment rate	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8	5.0	4.7	5.4	5.3	5.4
Massachusetts													
Civilian labor force	3,408.4	3,406.9	3,405.7	3,404.6	3,403.6	3,402.8	3,422.2	3,408.9	3,410.8	3,404.1	3,391.9	3,409.6	3,419.4
Employed	3,257.1	3,257.3	3,257.2	3,257.1	3,256.9	3,256.7	3,266.9	3,257.3	3,261.0	3,263.5	3,226.1	3,232.3	3,245.8
Unemployed	151.4	149.6	148.5	147.5	146.7	146.1	155.4	151.6	149.8	140.7	165.8	177.3	173.6
Unemployment rate	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.9	5.2	5.1
New Hampshire													
Civilian labor force	738.2	738.3	738.5	738.8	739.8	740.6	742.8	741.6	743.5	746.0	745.4	746.1	743.5
Employed	712.2	712.9	713.5	714.1	714.7	715.3	716.9	713.9	714.6	717.6	715.7	716.5	714.7
Unemployed	26.0	25.4	24.9	24.7	25.1	25.3	25.9	27.6	28.9	28.4	29.6	29.7	28.8
Unemployment rate	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.9	3.8	4.0	4.0	3.9
Rhode Island													
Civilian labor force	576.1	575.0	577.2	577.3	576.6	576.7	574.6	571.2	572.8	573.2	571.6	572.1	573.2
Employed	547.1	545.8	547.8	547.6	546.6	546.4	541.8	537.7	537.7	538.4	530.4	529.5	528.9
Unemployed	29.0	29.2	29.4	29.7	30.0	30.2	32.9	33.5	35.1	34.9	41.2	42.7	44.3
Unemployment rate	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.1	7.2	7.5	7.7
Vermont													
Civilian labor force	353.4	352.8	352.6	352.9	352.6	352.9	354.5	352.6	352.0	352.2	352.2	353.4	352.7
Employed	339.9	339.3	339.0	339.3	339.4	339.3	339.5	337.5	335.9	336.5	335.2	336.8	335.8
Unemployed	13.5	13.5	13.6	13.7	13.3	13.6	15.0	15.1	16.1	15.7	17.1	16.6	16.9
Unemployment rate	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.2	4.3	4.6	4.4	4.9	4.7	4.8
New England													
Civilian labor force	7,649.4	7,648.4	7,650.1	7,653.5	7,657.7	7,659.8	7,693.5	7,671.7	7,678.5	7,664.8	7,659.0	7,674.4	7,686.7
Employed	7,308.6	7,310.8	7,313.0	7,315.3	7,317.7	7,320.1	7,339.6	7,315.1	7,308.7	7,321.7	c 7,264.7	7,268.2	7,271.6
Unemployed	340.7	337.6	337.1	338.2	340.0	339.7	354.0	356.6	369.8	343.1	394.3	406.2	415.1
Unemployment rate	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.5	5.1	5.3	5.4
United States 1/													
Civilian labor force	153,182	152,886	153,506	153,306	153,828	153,866	153,824	153,374	153,784	153,957	154,534	154,390	154,603
Employed	146,045	145,753	146,260	146,016	146,647	146,211	146,248	145,993	145,969	146,331	146,046	145,891	145,819
Unemployed	7,137	7,133	7,246	7,291	7,181	7,655	7,576	7,381	7,815	7,626	8,487	8,499	8,784
Unemployment rate	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.7	5.0	4.9	4.8	5.1	5.0	5.5	5.5	5.7

^p = preliminary

1/ Data for the U.S. are obtained directly from the national Current Population Survey and are not preliminary.

NOTE: Data refer to place of residence. Area definitions are based on Office of Management and Budget Bulletin No. 08-01, dated November 20, 2007, and are available at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm>. Estimates for the latest month are subject to revision the following month.

c = corrected

Table 2. Civilian labor force and unemployment by census region and division, seasonally adjusted¹

(Numbers in thousands)

Census region and division	Civilian labor force				Unemployed							
					Number				Percent of the labor force			
	July 2007	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	July 2007	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	July 2007	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008
Northeast	27,931.0	28,178.4	28,186.2	28,127.6	1,251.9	1,469.4	1,486.2	1,501.2	4.5	5.2	5.3	5.3
New England	7,649.4	7,659.0	7,674.4	7,686.7	340.7	394.3	406.2	415.1	4.5	5.1	5.3	5.4
Middle Atlantic	20,281.6	20,519.3	20,511.9	20,440.9	911.2	1,075.1	1,080.0	1,086.1	4.5	5.2	5.3	5.3
South	54,419.7	55,094.3	54,986.6	55,187.3	2,356.1	2,819.6	2,814.9	3,055.0	4.3	5.1	5.1	5.5
South Atlantic	29,249.8	29,592.5	29,574.1	29,774.4	1,225.1	1,564.2	1,564.2	1,721.9	4.2	5.3	5.3	5.8
East South Central	8,572.0	8,657.2	8,610.0	8,584.7	405.3	515.8	525.3	564.1	4.7	6.0	6.1	6.6
West South Central	16,597.9	16,844.6	16,802.5	16,828.2	725.7	739.7	725.4	769.0	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.6
Midwest	34,887.7	35,134.8	34,973.4	34,929.6	1,799.1	2,085.0	2,125.8	2,258.8	5.2	5.9	6.1	6.5
East North Central	23,993.0	24,163.3	24,049.6	24,001.6	1,334.0	1,555.2	1,612.9	1,695.2	5.6	6.4	6.7	7.1
West North Central	10,894.7	10,971.5	10,923.8	10,928.0	465.0	529.8	512.9	563.6	4.3	4.8	4.7	5.2
West	35,461.5	^c 35,982.5	35,947.7	35,972.7	1,666.8	2,086.9	2,136.6	2,263.9	4.7	5.8	5.9	6.3
Mountain	10,926.0	11,116.0	11,105.6	11,137.3	394.3	490.8	516.9	545.9	3.6	4.4	4.7	4.9
Pacific	24,535.5	24,866.5	24,842.1	24,835.4	1,272.5	1,596.1	1,619.7	1,718.0	5.2	6.4	6.5	6.9

¹ Census region estimates are derived by summing the Census division model-based estimates^c = corrected

NOTE: 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 Division - 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 - Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming; and the Pacific Division - Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

Estimates for the current year are subject to revision early in the following calendar year.