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Media contact: (202) 691-5902

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## REGIONAL AND STATE UNEMPLOYMENT, 2007 ANNUAL AVERAGES

From 2006 to 2007, annual average unemployment rates declined in 28 states and the District of Columbia, rose in 16 states, and were unchanged in 6 states, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Employment-population ratios decreased in 28 states, increased in 17 states and the District of Columbia, and remained the same in 5 states. Among the four regions, jobless rates were down in two and up in two; employment-population ratios declined in 3 of the 4 regions in 2007. The annual average U.S. jobless rate was 4.6 percent in 2007 unchanged from 2006, while the national employment-population ratio was essentially unchanged at 63.0 percent.

### Regional Unemployment

In 2007, the Midwest was the only region to post a statistically significant change in its annual average unemployment rate from 2006 (+0.1 percentage point). For the second year in a row, the South reported the lowest jobless rate, 4.3 percent in 2007, while the Midwest recorded the highest rate for the third consecutive year, 5.1 percent. The Northeast and South both registered jobless rates significantly below the U.S. rate, whereas the Midwest had a significantly higher rate than that of the nation. (See table 1.)

Three of the 9 geographic divisions reported statistically significant over-the-year unemployment rate changes in 2007. The West South Central and Mountain divisions registered significant rate decreases (-0.4 and -0.3 percentage point, respectively). The Pacific division had the only significant rate increase (+0.3 percentage point). The Mountain division again posted the lowest jobless rate, 3.6 percent, and the East North Central registered the highest rate for the third consecutive year, 5.5 percent. Five divisions recorded annual average unemployment rates that were measurably lower than that of the U.S.—the Mountain, 3.6 percent; South Atlantic, 4.2 percent; West North Central, 4.3 percent; and Middle Atlantic and West South Central, 4.4 percent each. The East North Central and Pacific divisions reported rates that were appreciably higher than the U.S. average, 5.5 and 5.2 percent, respectively. The Mountain division had the lowest annual jobless rate (3.6 percent) in its series in 2007. (All region, division, and state series begin in 1976.)

### State Unemployment

Ten states recorded statistically significant changes in their annual average unemployment rates from 2006 to 2007—five states registered rate decreases and five had rate increases. New Mexico and Texas posted the largest over-the-year jobless rate declines (-0.8 and -0.6 percentage point, respectively), while Florida, Minnesota, and Nevada reported the largest rate increases (+0.6 percentage point each). Forty states and the District of Columbia recorded annual average unemployment rates for 2007 that were not appreciably different from those of the previous year, even though some had changes that were at least as large numerically as the statistically significant changes. (See table A and chart 1.)

Hawaii again reported the lowest unemployment rate among the states, 2.6 percent in 2007, followed closely by Idaho and Utah at 2.7 percent each. The states with the highest unemployment rates in 2007 once again were Michigan at 7.2 percent, Mississippi at 6.3 percent, and Alaska at 6.2 percent. Twenty-one states registered annual average unemployment rates that were significantly below the U.S. rate, while nine states and the District of Columbia recorded rates that were appreciably above it. Jobless rates in the remaining 20 states were not significantly different from the overall U.S. rate. Nine states posted the lowest annual jobless rates in their series—Arizona (3.8 percent), Idaho (2.7 percent), Louisiana (3.8 percent), Montana (3.1 percent), New Mexico (3.5 percent), Texas (4.3 percent), Utah (2.7 percent), Washington (4.5 percent), and West Virginia (4.6 percent). (See table B and chart 2.)

### Regional Employment-Population Ratios

In 2007, no region registered a statistically significant change in its annual average employment-population ratio—the proportion of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years and over with a job. The Midwest and West at 64.8 and 63.5 percent, respectively, had employment-population ratios that were significantly higher than that of the nation. The South and Northeast had appreciably lower ratios, 62.0 and 62.1 percent, respectively. (See table 2.)

None of the nine divisions reported statistically significant changes in their employment-population ratios in 2007. The West North Central again registered the highest proportion of employed persons, while the East South Central continued to have the lowest proportion. Three divisions recorded employment-population ratios that were measurably higher than that of the U.S.—the West North Central (67.7 percent), Mountain (65.5 percent), and New England (64.9 percent)—and three had lower ratios—the East South Central (59.4 percent), Middle Atlantic (61.1 percent), and West South Central (61.9 percent).

### State Employment-Population Ratios

Four states posted significant decreases in their annual employment-population ratios in 2007, and one state recorded a significant increase. The largest decrease was in Michigan (-0.9 percentage point), followed by Vermont (-0.8 point), Minnesota (-0.6 point), and Texas (-0.4 point). Virginia was the only state to report a significant increase in its employment-population ratio (+0.1 percentage point). Forty-five states and the District of Columbia had 2007 employment-population ratios that were not appreciably different from those of the previous year.

Five states posted employment-population ratios of at least 70.0 percent in 2007: North Dakota, 71.2 percent; South Dakota, 71.0 percent; Nebraska, 70.7 percent; Utah, 70.3 percent; and Colorado, 70.0 percent. Nine states had employment-population ratios below 60.0 percent, with West Virginia and Mississippi registering the lowest ratios, 53.4 and 56.7 percent, respectively. In 2007, 23 states and the District of Columbia reported employment-population ratios that were significantly higher than that of the U.S., and 16 states recorded appreciably lower ratios. The remaining 11 states had ratios that were essentially the same as that of the U.S. (See table C and chart 3.)

### Note

All subnational estimates presented in this release were derived from updated time-series models with real-time benchmarking to national Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates. Subnational data reflect revised population controls and model reestimation. Historical data were revised back to 2003. Data for regions, divisions, states, and the District of Columbia are available back to 1976.

Consistent with the long-standing practice used in this release and the monthly Regional and State Employment and Unemployment release, the introductory section of this release highlights the direction of the

movements in regional and state unemployment rates and employment-population ratios regardless of their statistical significance. The remainder of the analysis, particularly in comparisons with the U.S. and over-the-year changes, reflects model-based error measures. BLS uses a 90-percent confidence level in determining whether changes or differences in subnational unemployment rates and employment-population ratios are statistically significant. Model-based error measures are available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm>. Data for Puerto Rico are derived from a monthly household survey similar to the CPS, and error measures are not available.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

**Table A. States with statistically significant unemployment rate changes, 2006-07 annual averages**

State	Rate		Over-the-year rate change
	2006	2007	
California .....	4.9	5.4	0.5
Colorado .....	4.3	3.8	-.5
Florida .....	3.4	4.0	.6
Idaho .....	3.2	2.7	-.5
Illinois .....	4.6	5.0	.4
Minnesota .....	4.0	4.6	.6
Nevada .....	4.2	4.8	.6
New Jersey .....	4.7	4.2	-.5
New Mexico .....	4.3	3.5	-.8
Texas .....	4.9	4.3	-.6

**Table B. States with unemployment rates significantly different from that of the U.S., 2007 annual averages**

State	2007 rate
United States .....	4.6
Alabama .....	3.5
Alaska .....	6.2
Arizona .....	3.8
Arkansas .....	5.4
California .....	5.4
Colorado .....	3.8
Delaware .....	3.4
District of Columbia .....	5.7
Florida .....	4.0
Hawaii .....	2.6
Idaho .....	2.7
Iowa .....	3.8
Kansas .....	4.1
Kentucky .....	5.5
Louisiana .....	3.8
Maryland .....	3.6
Michigan .....	7.2
Mississippi .....	6.3
Montana .....	3.1
Nebraska .....	3.0
New Hampshire .....	3.6
New Mexico .....	3.5
North Dakota .....	3.2
Ohio .....	5.6
Oregon .....	5.2
South Carolina .....	5.9
South Dakota .....	3.0
Utah .....	2.7
Vermont .....	3.9
Virginia .....	3.0
Wyoming .....	3.0

**Table C. States with employment-population ratios significantly different from that of the U.S., 2007 annual averages**

State	2007 rate
United States .....	63.0
Alabama .....	59.2
Alaska .....	66.2
Arizona .....	61.2
Arkansas .....	59.8
California .....	62.1
Colorado .....	70.0
Connecticut .....	65.4
District of Columbia .....	64.3
Florida .....	61.2
Georgia .....	64.9
Idaho .....	66.0
Illinois .....	64.8
Iowa .....	69.1
Kansas .....	67.5
Kentucky .....	59.1
Louisiana .....	59.3
Maryland .....	66.4
Michigan .....	59.7
Minnesota .....	69.6
Mississippi .....	56.7
Montana .....	64.8
Nebraska .....	70.7
Nevada .....	65.4
New Hampshire .....	68.4
New Mexico .....	60.9
New York .....	59.9
North Dakota .....	71.2
Oklahoma .....	60.7
Pennsylvania .....	61.5
Rhode Island .....	65.4
South Carolina .....	59.7
South Dakota .....	71.0
Tennessee .....	60.9
Utah .....	70.3
Vermont .....	67.8
Virginia .....	66.9
Washington .....	64.8
West Virginia .....	53.4
Wisconsin .....	67.4
Wyoming .....	69.2

**Table 1. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over by region, division, and state, 2006-07 annual averages**

(Numbers in thousands)

Region, division, and state	Population		Civilian labor force		Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rate		Error range of rate, 2007 <sup>1</sup>
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	
United States .....	228,815	231,867	151,428	153,124	144,427	146,047	7,001	7,078	4.6	4.6	4.6 - 4.7
Northeast .....	42,739	42,956	27,881	27,920	26,605	26,685	1,276	1,236	4.6	4.4	4.3 - 4.6
New England .....	11,205	11,268	7,607	7,648	7,262	7,307	345	340	4.5	4.4	4.2 - 4.7
Connecticut .....	2,707	2,723	1,836	1,865	1,756	1,780	80	85	4.4	4.6	4.2 - 5.0
Maine .....	1,052	1,058	703	705	671	671	32	33	4.6	4.7	4.3 - 5.2
Massachusetts .....	5,078	5,107	3,405	3,408	3,241	3,256	164	153	4.8	4.5	4.0 - 4.9
New Hampshire .....	1,031	1,040	732	738	706	712	26	26	3.5	3.6	3.3 - 3.8
Rhode Island .....	838	837	575	577	546	548	29	29	5.1	5.0	4.6 - 5.5
Vermont .....	499	502	356	354	343	340	13	14	3.7	3.9	3.5 - 4.3
Middle Atlantic .....	31,534	31,688	20,275	20,273	19,343	19,377	931	895	4.6	4.4	4.2 - 4.6
New Jersey .....	6,714	6,751	4,493	4,466	4,284	4,277	209	190	4.7	4.2	3.9 - 4.6
New York .....	15,097	15,164	9,492	9,519	9,057	9,087	435	432	4.6	4.5	4.3 - 4.8
Pennsylvania .....	9,722	9,773	6,290	6,287	6,003	6,013	287	274	4.6	4.4	4.0 - 4.7
Midwest .....	50,760	51,100	34,723	34,888	33,001	33,095	1,723	1,793	5.0	5.1	5.0 - 5.3
East North Central .....	35,500	35,701	23,896	23,995	22,617	22,665	1,279	1,329	5.4	5.5	5.3 - 5.8
Illinois .....	9,740	9,821	6,574	6,697	6,273	6,362	301	336	4.6	5.0	4.6 - 5.4
Indiana .....	4,803	4,845	3,233	3,211	3,073	3,066	160	146	4.9	4.5	4.0 - 5.0
Michigan .....	7,789	7,803	5,073	5,020	4,722	4,660	351	360	6.9	7.2	6.7 - 7.7
Ohio .....	8,845	8,874	5,947	5,977	5,625	5,640	322	336	5.4	5.6	5.2 - 6.1
Wisconsin .....	4,323	4,359	3,069	3,089	2,924	2,938	145	151	4.7	4.9	4.5 - 5.3
West North Central .....	15,260	15,398	10,828	10,893	10,384	10,429	444	464	4.1	4.3	4.1 - 4.5
Iowa .....	2,297	2,313	1,658	1,661	1,595	1,598	63	63	3.8	3.8	3.4 - 4.2
Kansas .....	2,083	2,101	1,471	1,479	1,407	1,419	64	60	4.3	4.1	3.7 - 4.5
Minnesota .....	3,978	4,020	2,910	2,931	2,793	2,797	118	134	4.0	4.6	4.2 - 4.9
Missouri .....	4,472	4,513	3,016	3,031	2,871	2,878	145	153	4.8	5.0	4.5 - 5.6
Nebraska .....	1,338	1,348	975	983	945	954	30	30	3.0	3.0	2.7 - 3.4
North Dakota .....	495	497	361	366	350	354	12	12	3.2	3.2	2.8 - 3.6
South Dakota .....	598	605	437	443	423	429	13	13	3.1	3.0	2.7 - 3.3
South .....	82,537	83,877	53,706	54,399	51,314	52,043	2,391	2,356	4.5	4.3	4.2 - 4.4
South Atlantic .....	43,807	44,502	28,782	29,230	27,609	28,013	1,173	1,217	4.1	4.2	4.0 - 4.3
Delaware .....	658	668	439	443	424	428	16	15	3.5	3.4	3.0 - 3.8
District of Columbia .....	473	477	320	326	301	307	19	19	5.9	5.7	5.1 - 6.2
Florida .....	14,164	14,356	8,939	9,148	8,634	8,779	305	368	3.4	4.0	3.8 - 4.3
Georgia .....	6,931	7,090	4,732	4,815	4,516	4,603	216	212	4.6	4.4	4.0 - 4.8
Maryland .....	4,299	4,328	2,974	2,980	2,862	2,874	112	107	3.8	3.6	3.3 - 3.9
North Carolina .....	6,737	6,893	4,460	4,519	4,248	4,309	211	211	4.7	4.7	4.3 - 5.0
South Carolina .....	3,303	3,369	2,117	2,137	1,982	2,011	135	125	6.4	5.9	5.3 - 6.5
Virginia .....	5,801	5,873	3,995	4,054	3,874	3,931	121	123	3.0	3.0	2.7 - 3.4
West Virginia .....	1,442	1,447	805	809	768	772	38	37	4.7	4.6	3.9 - 5.2
East South Central .....	13,596	13,752	8,497	8,578	8,060	8,163	437	415	5.1	4.8	4.5 - 5.2
Alabama .....	3,522	3,558	2,159	2,183	2,082	2,106	76	77	3.5	3.5	2.8 - 4.2
Kentucky .....	3,241	3,271	2,029	2,044	1,911	1,932	118	112	5.8	5.5	4.9 - 6.0
Mississippi .....	2,151	2,173	1,301	1,315	1,213	1,232	88	83	6.7	6.3	5.6 - 7.1
Tennessee .....	4,682	4,751	3,008	3,037	2,854	2,894	154	143	5.1	4.7	4.2 - 5.2
West South Central .....	25,133	25,622	16,427	16,591	15,645	15,866	782	725	4.8	4.4	4.2 - 4.6
Arkansas .....	2,140	2,163	1,359	1,368	1,288	1,294	72	74	5.3	5.4	4.8 - 6.0
Louisiana .....	3,202	3,242	1,971	1,998	1,894	1,921	78	77	3.9	3.8	3.2 - 4.5
Oklahoma .....	2,700	2,731	1,719	1,733	1,648	1,658	71	75	4.1	4.3	3.8 - 4.8
Texas .....	17,091	17,487	11,378	11,492	10,816	10,993	562	500	4.9	4.3	4.1 - 4.6
West .....	52,337	53,215	34,821	35,444	33,222	33,773	1,599	1,671	4.6	4.7	4.6 - 4.9
Mountain .....	15,677	16,065	10,680	10,919	10,262	10,521	418	398	3.9	3.6	3.5 - 3.8
Arizona .....	4,623	4,760	2,969	3,029	2,848	2,914	121	115	4.1	3.8	3.3 - 4.3
Colorado .....	3,641	3,717	2,651	2,706	2,536	2,602	115	104	4.3	3.8	3.5 - 4.2
Idaho .....	1,085	1,112	742	754	718	734	23	20	3.2	2.7	2.3 - 3.2
Montana .....	739	750	495	501	479	486	16	16	3.3	3.1	2.6 - 3.7
Nevada .....	1,887	1,944	1,285	1,336	1,230	1,271	54	64	4.2	4.8	4.4 - 5.2
New Mexico .....	1,469	1,494	937	943	897	910	40	33	4.3	3.5	3.0 - 4.0
Utah .....	1,837	1,885	1,318	1,362	1,279	1,325	39	36	3.0	2.7	2.3 - 3.0
Wyoming .....	396	403	283	288	274	279	9	9	3.3	3.0	2.6 - 3.4
Pacific .....	36,660	37,150	24,141	24,525	22,960	23,252	1,181	1,273	4.9	5.2	5.0 - 5.4
Alaska .....	493	499	351	352	328	331	23	22	6.5	6.2	5.5 - 6.8
California .....	27,369	27,699	17,907	18,188	17,030	17,209	877	979	4.9	5.4	5.2 - 5.6
Hawaii .....	979	989	648	649	632	632	16	17	2.5	2.6	2.3 - 3.0
Oregon .....	2,892	2,943	1,902	1,928	1,800	1,827	102	101	5.4	5.2	4.7 - 5.7
Washington .....	4,928	5,020	3,334	3,408	3,170	3,253	163	155	4.9	4.5	4.1 - 5.0
Puerto Rico .....	2,982	3,023	1,407	1,394	1,261	1,241	146	152	10.4	10.9	NA

<sup>1</sup> Error ranges are shown at the 90-percent confidence level and are based on unrounded data. NA = Data not available.

NOTE: Data refer to place of residence. Unemployment rates are in percent and are based on

unrounded levels. Data for subnational areas reflect revised population controls and model reestimation. As a result, they will not add to U.S. totals. Data for Puerto Rico are derived from a monthly household survey similar to the Current Population Survey.

**Table 2. Employment-population ratios of persons 16 years of age and over by region, division, and state, 2006-07 annual averages**

(Percent)

Region, division, and state	Employment-population ratio <sup>1</sup>		Over-the-year change	Error range of employment-population ratio, 2007 <sup>2</sup>	
	2006	2007			
United States .....	63.1	63.0	-0.1	62.8	- 63.2
Northeast .....	62.3	62.1	-.2	61.7	- 62.6
New England .....	64.8	64.9	.1	64.1	- 65.6
Connecticut .....	64.8	65.4	.6	64.2	- 66.5
Maine .....	63.8	63.4	-.4	62.2	- 64.7
Massachusetts .....	63.8	63.8	.0	62.7	- 64.9
New Hampshire .....	68.5	68.4	-.1	67.4	- 69.4
Rhode Island .....	65.1	65.4	.3	64.3	- 66.6
Vermont .....	68.6	67.8	-.8	66.6	- 68.9
Middle Atlantic .....	61.3	61.1	-.2	60.6	- 61.7
New Jersey .....	63.8	63.4	-.4	62.4	- 64.3
New York .....	60.0	59.9	-.1	59.3	- 60.6
Pennsylvania .....	61.7	61.5	-.2	60.7	- 62.4
Midwest .....	65.0	64.8	-.2	64.4	- 65.2
East North Central .....	63.7	63.5	-.2	63.0	- 64.0
Illinois .....	64.4	64.8	.4	63.8	- 65.7
Indiana .....	64.0	63.3	-.7	61.9	- 64.7
Michigan .....	60.6	59.7	-.9	58.7	- 60.7
Ohio .....	63.6	63.6	.0	62.7	- 64.4
Wisconsin .....	67.6	67.4	-.2	66.1	- 68.7
West North Central .....	68.0	67.7	-.3	67.1	- 68.3
Iowa .....	69.4	69.1	-.3	68.0	- 70.2
Kansas .....	67.5	67.5	.0	66.4	- 68.6
Minnesota .....	70.2	69.6	-.6	68.4	- 70.7
Missouri .....	64.2	63.8	-.4	62.4	- 65.1
Nebraska .....	70.6	70.7	.1	69.6	- 71.9
North Dakota .....	70.7	71.2	.5	69.5	- 72.8
South Dakota .....	70.8	71.0	.2	69.8	- 72.2
South .....	62.2	62.0	-.2	61.7	- 62.4
South Atlantic .....	63.0	62.9	-.1	62.5	- 63.4
Delaware .....	64.4	64.0	-.4	62.9	- 65.1
District of Columbia .....	63.6	64.3	.7	63.1	- 65.6
Florida .....	61.0	61.2	.2	60.3	- 62.0
Georgia .....	65.2	64.9	-.3	64.0	- 65.9
Maryland .....	66.6	66.4	-.2	65.5	- 67.3
North Carolina .....	63.1	62.5	-.6	61.5	- 63.5
South Carolina .....	60.0	59.7	-.3	58.7	- 60.7
Virginia .....	66.8	66.9	.1	66.0	- 67.8
West Virginia .....	53.2	53.4	.2	51.7	- 55.0
East South Central .....	59.3	59.4	.1	58.5	- 60.2
Alabama .....	59.1	59.2	.1	57.5	- 60.9
Kentucky .....	59.0	59.1	.1	57.7	- 60.4
Mississippi .....	56.4	56.7	.3	55.1	- 58.3
Tennessee .....	61.0	60.9	-.1	59.7	- 62.1
West South Central .....	62.2	61.9	-.3	61.3	- 62.5
Arkansas .....	60.2	59.8	-.4	58.6	- 61.0
Louisiana .....	59.1	59.3	.2	57.6	- 60.9
Oklahoma .....	61.0	60.7	-.3	59.4	- 62.0
Texas .....	63.3	62.9	-.4	62.1	- 63.6
West .....	63.5	63.5	.0	63.1	- 63.8
Mountain .....	65.5	65.5	.0	64.9	- 66.1
Arizona .....	61.6	61.2	-.4	59.8	- 62.6
Colorado .....	69.7	70.0	.3	68.5	- 71.5
Idaho .....	66.2	66.0	-.2	64.6	- 67.4
Montana .....	64.8	64.8	.0	63.4	- 66.1
Nevada .....	65.2	65.4	.2	64.3	- 66.6
New Mexico .....	61.0	60.9	-.1	59.9	- 61.9
Utah .....	69.7	70.3	.6	68.9	- 71.8
Wyoming .....	69.2	69.2	.0	67.9	- 70.5
Pacific .....	62.6	62.6	.0	62.2	- 63.0
Alaska .....	66.6	66.2	-.4	64.5	- 67.9
California .....	62.2	62.1	-.1	61.7	- 62.6
Hawaii .....	64.5	63.9	-.6	62.7	- 65.2
Oregon .....	62.2	62.1	-.1	61.1	- 63.1
Washington .....	64.3	64.8	.5	63.8	- 65.8
Puerto Rico .....	42.3	41.1	-1.2	NA	

<sup>1</sup> Employment as a percent of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over.

<sup>2</sup> Error ranges are shown at the 90-percent confidence level and are based on unrounded data.

NA = Data not available.

NOTE: Data refer to place of residence. Employment-population ratios are based on unrounded levels. Data for subnational areas reflect revised population controls and model reestimation. Data for Puerto Rico are derived from a monthly household survey similar to the Current Population Survey.





# Chart 2. Unemployment rates by state, 2007 annual averages

(U.S. rate = 4.6 percent)



