



Technical information: (202) 691-6392
<http://www.bls.gov/lau/>

USDL 07-0305

For release: 10:00 A.M. EST
Friday, March 2, 2007

Media contact: 691-5902

REGIONAL AND STATE UNEMPLOYMENT, 2006 ANNUAL AVERAGES

Annual average unemployment rates declined between 2005 and 2006 in 43 states and the District of Columbia and in all 4 regions, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Employment-population ratios rose in 41 states and the District of Columbia and in all 4 regions. The U.S. jobless rate fell by 0.5 percentage point to 4.6 percent in 2006, while the national employment-population ratio increased by 0.4 percentage point to 63.1 percent.

Regional Unemployment

All four regions registered statistically significant declines in their jobless rates from 2005. (See table 1.) The West recorded the largest unemployment rate decrease (-0.6 percentage point), and the South and Midwest had the next largest declines (-0.5 and -0.4 percentage point, respectively). The South reported the lowest jobless rate in 2006, 4.5 percent, while the Midwest recorded the highest rate for the second consecutive year, 5.0 percent. The Midwest and South were the only two regions to register jobless rates that were significantly different from that of the nation. The range between the highest and lowest regional unemployment rates edged down to 0.5 percentage point from 0.6 point in 2005. The last time the range between regional unemployment rates was this small was in 1990.

Eight of the nine geographic divisions—all but New England—posted statistically significant over-the-year unemployment rate declines in 2006. The Mountain and West South Central reported the largest rate decreases (-0.7 percentage point each). The divisions with the next largest declines were the East North Central, East South Central, Pacific, and West North Central (-0.5 percentage point each). Six divisions had jobless rates that were significantly different from that of the nation. Three divisions reported rates that were measurably lower than that of the U.S.—the Mountain at 3.9 percent and South Atlantic and West North Central at 4.1 percent each. Three divisions recorded rates that were higher than the U. S. average—the East North Central at 5.3 percent, East South Central at 5.1 percent, and Pacific at 4.9 percent. The jobless rate in the Pacific division was the lowest in its series. (All region, division, and state series begin in 1976.)

State Unemployment

Twenty-five states posted unemployment rate decreases from 2005 to 2006 that were statistically significant, and no state registered a significant rate increase over the year. The states with the largest rate declines were Louisiana (-2.7 percentage points), Illinois and Utah (-1.2 points each), New Mexico (-1.1 points), and Mississippi (-1.0 point). Twenty additional states reported significant over-the-year rate decreases, ranging from -0.4 to -0.9 percentage point. The remaining 25 states and the District of Columbia recorded annual average unemployment rates for 2006 that were not appreciably different from those

of 2005, even though some had changes that were at least as large numerically as those with statistically significant changes. (See tables A and 1 and chart 1.)

In 2006, Hawaii again reported the lowest unemployment rate among the states, 2.4 percent. Utah had the next lowest rate, 2.9 percent, followed by Nebraska and Virginia at 3.0 percent each. Twelve additional states registered annual average unemployment rates below 4.0 percent. Altogether, 20 states had jobless rates that were significantly below the U.S. rate, while 12 states and the District of Columbia recorded rates that were appreciably above it. The rates for 18 states were not significantly different from the overall U. S. rate. The states with the highest unemployment rates in 2006 were Michigan at 6.9 percent, Mississippi at 6.8 percent, Alaska at 6.7 percent, and South Carolina at 6.5 percent. The District of Columbia reported the next highest rate, 6.0 percent. Eight states posted the lowest annual jobless rates in their series—Alabama (3.6 percent), Florida (3.3 percent), Idaho (3.4 percent), Louisiana (4.0 percent), Montana (3.2 percent), New Mexico (4.2 percent), Utah (2.9 percent), and West Virginia (4.9 percent). (See table B and chart 2.)

Regional Employment-Population Ratios

In 2006, all four regions registered statistically significant increases in their employment-population ratios—the proportion of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years and over with a job. The Midwest and South posted the largest increases (+0.5 percentage point each). The Midwest at 65.0 percent, was the only region to report an employment-population ratio that was significantly higher than that of the nation (63.1 percent), while the South at 62.3 percent, and the Northeast at 62.2 percent, had appreciably lower ratios.

Among the nine geographic divisions, four posted over-the-year changes to employment-population ratios that were statistically significant—all of which were increases. The Mountain division registered the largest increase (+0.9 percentage point), followed by the South Atlantic (+0.7 point), East North Central (+0.6 point), and East South Central (+0.5 point). In 2006, four divisions recorded employment-population ratios that were measurably higher than that of the U.S. and four had lower ratios. The West North Central again reported the highest proportion of employed persons, 68.0 percent, while the East South Central continued to have the lowest proportion, 59.4 percent.

State Employment-Population Ratios

Twenty-one states posted significant increases in their proportions of employed persons from 2005, and one state had a significant decline. The states with the largest employment-population ratio increases in 2006 were Illinois and Utah (+1.6 percentage points each) and Colorado (+1.3 points). Eight additional states recorded over-the-year increases of at least 1.0 percentage point, all of which were significant. Mississippi was the only state that registered a significant decrease in its employment-population ratio in 2006 (-0.7 percentage point). Twenty-eight states and the District of Columbia recorded employment-population ratios that were not appreciably different from those of the previous year. (See tables C and 2.)

In 2006, 24 states reported employment-population ratios that were significantly higher than that of the U.S. and 16 states recorded appreciably lower ratios. The remaining states and the District of Columbia had rates that were essentially the same as the U. S. rate. Among the states with the highest employment-population ratios, five posted rates over 70.0 percent in 2006: Minnesota, 70.6 percent; Nebraska, 70.4 percent; North Dakota and South Dakota, 70.3 percent each; and Utah, 70.1 percent. Among the 16 states with ratios that were significantly lower than that of the nation, 5 states had ratios below 60.0 percent—West Virginia, 52.8 percent; Mississippi, 56.0 percent; Louisiana, 59.2 percent; Kentucky, 59.3 percent; and Alabama, 59.9 percent. (See table D 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 2002. 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 current practice in the monthly Regional and State Employment and Unemployment releases, 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. Data for Puerto Rico are derived from a monthly household survey similar to the CPS and error measures are not available. Model-based error measures are available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm>.

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,
2005-06 annual averages**

State	2005	2006	Over-the-year rate change
United States	5.1	4.6	-0.5
Arizona	4.6	4.1	-.5
California	5.4	4.9	-.5
Colorado	5.1	4.3	-.8
Connecticut	4.9	4.3	-.6
Delaware	4.0	3.6	-.4
Florida	3.8	3.3	-.5
Georgia	5.2	4.6	-.6
Idaho	4.0	3.4	-.6
Illinois	5.7	4.5	-1.2
Iowa	4.3	3.7	-.6
Kansas	5.1	4.5	-.6
Louisiana	6.7	4.0	-2.7
Mississippi.....	7.8	6.8	-1.0
Montana	3.9	3.2	-.7
Nebraska	3.9	3.0	-.9
New Mexico	5.3	4.2	-1.1
New York	5.0	4.5	-.5
North Carolina	5.2	4.8	-.4
Oregon.....	6.2	5.4	-.8
South Dakota	3.7	3.2	-.5
Texas	5.4	4.9	-.5
Utah	4.1	2.9	-1.2
Virginia	3.5	3.0	-.5
Washington	5.5	5.0	-.5
Wyoming.....	3.7	3.2	-.5

Table B. States with unemployment rates significantly different from that of the U.S., 2006 annual averages

State	2006
United States	4.6
Alabama	3.6
Alaska	6.7
Arizona	4.1
Arkansas	5.3
California	4.9
Delaware	3.6
District of Columbia	6.0
Florida	3.3
Hawaii	2.4
Idaho	3.4
Iowa	3.7
Kentucky	5.7
Maryland	3.9
Michigan	6.9
Minnesota	4.0
Mississippi	6.8
Montana	3.2
Nebraska	3.0
Nevada	4.2
New Hampshire	3.4
North Dakota	3.2
Ohio	5.5
Oklahoma	4.0
Oregon	5.4
Rhode Island	5.1
South Carolina	6.5
South Dakota	3.2
Tennessee	5.2
Texas	4.9
Utah	2.9
Vermont	3.6
Virginia	3.0
Wyoming	3.2

Table C. States with statistically significant employment-population ratio changes, 2005-06 annual averages

State	2005	2006	Over-the-year rate change
United States	62.7	63.1	0.4
Alabama	58.8	59.9	1.1
Colorado	68.6	69.9	1.3
Connecticut	64.0	64.7	.7
Florida	60.1	61.1	1.0
Illinois	62.9	64.5	1.6
Iowa	68.4	69.4	1.0
Kentucky	58.6	59.3	.7
Louisiana	58.5	59.2	.7
Maryland	65.9	67.0	1.1
Mississippi.....	56.7	56.0	-.7
Montana	63.7	64.7	1.0
Nevada	64.3	65.4	1.1
New Mexico	60.1	60.8	.7
New York	59.7	60.2	.5
North Carolina	62.4	63.2	.8
Ohio	62.8	63.2	.4
Rhode Island	64.0	65.0	1.0
Tennessee	60.1	60.8	.7
Utah	68.5	70.1	1.6
Vermont	68.4	69.2	.8
Virginia	66.2	66.8	.6
Wyoming.....	68.1	69.1	1.0

Table D. States with employment-population ratios significantly different from that of the U.S., 2006 annual averages

State	2006
United States	63.1
Alabama	59.9
Alaska	66.8
Arkansas	60.2
California	62.1
Colorado	69.9
Connecticut	64.7
Delaware	64.4
Florida	61.1
Georgia	64.8
Hawaii	64.8
Idaho	66.2
Illinois	64.5
Iowa	69.4
Kansas	67.0
Kentucky	59.3
Louisiana	59.2
Maryland	67.0
Michigan	60.7
Minnesota	70.6
Mississippi	56.0
Montana	64.7
Nebraska	70.4
Nevada	65.4
New Hampshire	68.4
New Mexico	60.8
New York	60.2
North Dakota	70.3
Oklahoma	61.2
Oregon	61.8
Pennsylvania	61.5
Rhode Island	65.0
South Carolina	60.1
South Dakota	70.3
Tennessee	60.8
Utah	70.1
Vermont	69.2
Virginia	66.8
West Virginia	52.8
Wisconsin	67.5
Wyoming	69.1

Table 1. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over by region, division, and state, 2005-06 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Region, division, and state	Population		Civilian labor force		Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rate		Error range of rate, 2006 ¹
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	
United States	226,082	228,815	149,320	151,428	141,730	144,427	7,591	7,001	5.1	4.6	4.6 - 4.7
Northeast	42,638	42,866	27,716	27,958	26,381	26,678	1,335	1,280	4.8	4.6	4.4 - 4.7
New England	11,188	11,253	7,552	7,635	7,199	7,286	353	349	4.7	4.6	4.3 - 4.8
Connecticut	2,708	2,728	1,823	1,844	1,734	1,765	88	79	4.9	4.3	3.9 - 4.7
Maine	1,053	1,061	703	711	669	679	34	33	4.8	4.6	4.1 - 5.0
Massachusetts	5,056	5,078	3,374	3,404	3,211	3,235	163	170	4.8	5.0	4.5 - 5.5
New Hampshire	1,028	1,041	730	737	703	712	26	25	3.6	3.4	3.1 - 3.7
Rhode Island	843	842	569	577	540	548	29	30	5.1	5.1	4.7 - 5.6
Vermont	499	503	354	361	341	348	12	13	3.4	3.6	3.2 - 4.0
Middle Atlantic	31,450	31,613	20,164	20,323	19,182	19,392	982	931	4.9	4.6	4.4 - 4.8
New Jersey	6,721	6,767	4,455	4,518	4,256	4,309	199	209	4.5	4.6	4.2 - 5.0
New York	15,011	15,070	9,430	9,499	8,960	9,073	470	426	5.0	4.5	4.2 - 4.7
Pennsylvania	9,717	9,776	6,279	6,306	5,966	6,010	313	296	5.0	4.7	4.4 - 5.0
Midwest	50,545	50,934	34,495	34,829	32,624	33,102	1,871	1,727	5.4	5.0	4.8 - 5.1
East North Central	35,378	35,620	23,708	23,963	22,328	22,682	1,380	1,281	5.8	5.3	5.1 - 5.6
Illinois	9,716	9,799	6,484	6,613	6,113	6,316	371	298	5.7	4.5	4.1 - 4.9
Indiana	4,781	4,830	3,227	3,271	3,055	3,109	173	163	5.3	5.0	4.5 - 5.5
Michigan	7,760	7,796	5,072	5,081	4,726	4,730	346	351	6.8	6.9	6.4 - 7.4
Ohio	8,835	8,870	5,892	5,934	5,547	5,609	345	325	5.9	5.5	5.0 - 5.9
Wisconsin	4,285	4,325	3,033	3,063	2,887	2,918	146	145	4.8	4.7	4.3 - 5.1
West North Central	15,168	15,315	10,787	10,866	10,296	10,420	491	446	4.6	4.1	3.9 - 4.3
Iowa	2,292	2,310	1,640	1,664	1,569	1,603	71	61	4.3	3.7	3.3 - 4.1
Kansas	2,073	2,090	1,464	1,466	1,389	1,400	75	66	5.1	4.5	4.1 - 4.9
Minnesota	3,951	3,996	2,916	2,939	2,797	2,822	119	117	4.1	4.0	3.6 - 4.3
Missouri	4,443	4,490	3,008	3,032	2,848	2,886	160	147	5.3	4.8	4.3 - 5.4
Nebraska	1,332	1,343	978	974	940	945	38	29	3.9	3.0	2.6 - 3.3
North Dakota	491	493	354	358	342	346	12	12	3.4	3.2	2.9 - 3.6
South Dakota	586	593	427	431	412	417	16	14	3.7	3.2	2.9 - 3.5
South	81,486	82,866	52,958	53,991	50,325	51,587	2,633	2,404	5.0	4.5	4.3 - 4.6
South Atlantic	43,108	43,941	28,158	28,893	26,882	27,714	1,276	1,179	4.5	4.1	3.9 - 4.2
Delaware	647	659	433	440	416	425	17	16	4.0	3.6	3.2 - 4.0
District of Columbia	466	468	314	316	294	297	20	19	6.5	6.0	5.4 - 6.6
Florida	13,929	14,221	8,711	8,989	8,376	8,693	335	296	3.8	3.3	3.1 - 3.5
Georgia	6,792	6,978	4,622	4,742	4,384	4,522	238	220	5.2	4.6	4.2 - 5.0
Maryland	4,279	4,319	2,943	3,009	2,821	2,893	122	117	4.2	3.9	3.6 - 4.2
North Carolina	6,587	6,731	4,340	4,465	4,113	4,251	227	214	5.2	4.8	4.4 - 5.2
South Carolina	3,244	3,309	2,079	2,126	1,940	1,988	140	138	6.7	6.5	5.9 - 7.1
Virginia	5,717	5,804	3,922	3,999	3,786	3,879	136	120	3.5	3.0	2.7 - 3.3
West Virginia	1,447	1,453	794	807	754	767	40	40	5.0	4.9	4.3 - 5.6
East South Central	13,455	13,623	8,389	8,536	7,921	8,097	468	439	5.6	5.1	4.8 - 5.5
Alabama	3,496	3,542	2,140	2,200	2,057	2,121	83	79	3.9	3.6	2.9 - 4.3
Kentucky	3,208	3,242	1,999	2,039	1,922	1,979	117	60	5.7	5.1	5.1 - 6.3
Mississippi	2,163	2,176	1,330	1,307	1,226	1,219	103	89	7.8	6.8	6.0 - 7.6
Tennessee	4,589	4,663	2,920	2,990	2,758	2,836	162	155	5.6	5.2	4.7 - 5.7
West South Central	24,922	25,301	16,410	16,562	15,522	15,776	889	786	5.4	4.7	4.5 - 5.0
Arkansas	2,120	2,149	1,345	1,365	1,277	1,293	68	72	5.1	5.3	4.7 - 5.9
Louisiana	3,314	3,229	2,077	1,990	1,938	1,910	139	80	6.7	4.0	3.3 - 4.7
Oklahoma	2,670	2,699	1,705	1,720	1,629	1,651	76	69	4.4	4.0	3.5 - 4.5
Texas	16,804	17,224	11,283	11,487	10,677	10,922	606	566	5.4	4.9	4.6 - 5.2
West	51,449	52,405	34,179	34,816	32,411	33,216	1,768	1,600	5.2	4.6	4.5 - 4.7
Mountain	15,236	15,669	10,325	10,698	9,851	10,278	473	420	4.6	3.9	3.7 - 4.1
Arizona	4,457	4,625	2,859	2,977	2,727	2,854	132	123	4.6	4.1	3.6 - 4.6
Colorado	3,552	3,630	2,568	2,652	2,437	2,537	131	115	5.1	4.3	4.0 - 4.7
Idaho	1,063	1,093	727	749	698	724	29	26	4.0	3.4	2.9 - 3.9
Montana	728	739	483	494	464	478	19	16	3.9	3.2	2.7 - 3.7
Nevada	1,831	1,897	1,230	1,295	1,178	1,241	52	54	4.2	4.2	3.8 - 4.6
New Mexico	1,444	1,472	915	935	867	896	48	40	5.3	4.2	3.7 - 4.8
Utah	1,768	1,815	1,264	1,311	1,212	1,273	52	38	4.1	2.9	2.6 - 3.3
Wyoming	393	399	278	285	268	276	10	9	3.7	3.2	2.8 - 3.6
Pacific	36,214	36,736	23,855	24,118	22,560	22,938	1,295	1,180	5.4	4.9	4.7 - 5.1
Alaska	477	485	342	347	318	324	24	23	6.9	6.7	6.0 - 7.4
California	27,096	27,438	17,740	17,902	16,782	17,029	958	873	5.4	4.9	4.6 - 5.1
Hawaii	956	969	631	643	614	628	17	15	2.7	2.4	2.0 - 2.7
Oregon	2,849	2,906	1,870	1,899	1,755	1,796	116	103	6.2	5.4	4.9 - 5.9
Washington	4,835	4,938	3,270	3,327	3,090	3,160	181	166	5.5	5.0	4.5 - 5.5
Puerto Rico	2,957	2,982	1,410	1,407	1,250	1,261	160	146	11.3	10.4	NA

¹ 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 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, 2005-06 annual averages

(Percent)

Region, division, and state	Employment-population ratio ¹		Over-the-year change	Error range of employment-population ratio, 2006 ²	
	2005	2006			
United States	62.7	63.1	0.4	62.9	- 63.3
Northeast	61.9	62.2	.3	61.8	- 62.7
New England	64.3	64.7	.4	64.0	- 65.4
Connecticut	64.0	64.7	.7	63.5	- 65.9
Maine	63.5	64.0	.5	62.8	- 65.2
Massachusetts	63.5	63.7	.2	62.6	- 64.8
New Hampshire	68.4	68.4	.0	67.4	- 69.4
Rhode Island	64.0	65.0	1.0	63.9	- 66.1
Vermont	68.4	69.2	.8	68.1	- 70.3
Middle Atlantic	61.0	61.3	.3	60.8	- 61.9
New Jersey	63.3	63.7	.4	62.7	- 64.6
New York	59.7	60.2	.5	59.6	- 60.9
Pennsylvania	61.4	61.5	.1	60.7	- 62.3
Midwest	64.5	65.0	.5	64.6	- 65.4
East North Central	63.1	63.7	.6	63.2	- 64.2
Illinois	62.9	64.5	1.6	63.5	- 65.4
Indiana	63.9	64.4	.5	63.0	- 65.8
Michigan	60.9	60.7	-.2	59.7	- 61.6
Ohio	62.8	63.2	.4	62.4	- 64.1
Wisconsin	67.4	67.5	.1	66.1	- 68.8
West North Central	67.9	68.0	.1	67.4	- 68.6
Iowa	68.4	69.4	1.0	68.3	- 70.5
Kansas	67.0	67.0	.0	65.9	- 68.1
Minnesota	70.8	70.6	-.2	69.4	- 71.8
Missouri	64.1	64.3	.2	62.9	- 65.6
Nebraska	70.6	70.4	-.2	69.3	- 71.5
North Dakota	69.7	70.3	.6	68.6	- 71.9
South Dakota	70.2	70.3	.1	69.1	- 71.5
South	61.8	62.3	.5	61.9	- 62.6
South Atlantic	62.4	63.1	.7	62.6	- 63.5
Delaware	64.2	64.4	.2	63.3	- 65.6
District of Columbia	63.1	63.4	.3	62.1	- 64.7
Florida	60.1	61.1	1.0	60.2	- 62.0
Georgia	64.5	64.8	.3	63.8	- 65.8
Maryland	65.9	67.0	1.1	66.1	- 67.9
North Carolina	62.4	63.2	.8	62.1	- 64.2
South Carolina	59.8	60.1	.3	59.0	- 61.1
Virginia	66.2	66.8	.6	65.9	- 67.8
West Virginia	52.1	52.8	.7	51.2	- 54.4
East South Central	58.9	59.4	.5	58.6	- 60.3
Alabama	58.8	59.9	1.1	58.2	- 61.5
Kentucky	58.6	59.3	.7	58.0	- 60.6
Mississippi	56.7	56.0	-.7	54.3	- 57.7
Tennessee	60.1	60.8	.7	59.6	- 62.0
West South Central	62.3	62.4	.1	61.7	- 63.0
Arkansas	60.2	60.2	.0	59.0	- 61.4
Louisiana	58.5	59.2	.7	57.5	- 60.8
Oklahoma	61.0	61.2	.2	59.8	- 62.5
Texas	63.5	63.4	-.1	62.7	- 64.1
West	63.0	63.4	.4	63.0	- 63.7
Mountain	64.7	65.6	.9	65.0	- 66.2
Arizona	61.2	61.7	.5	60.3	- 63.1
Colorado	68.6	69.9	1.3	68.4	- 71.4
Idaho	65.7	66.2	.5	64.8	- 67.6
Montana	63.7	64.7	1.0	63.4	- 66.1
Nevada	64.3	65.4	1.1	64.3	- 66.5
New Mexico	60.1	60.8	.7	59.8	- 61.9
Utah	68.5	70.1	1.6	68.7	- 71.6
Wyoming	68.1	69.1	1.0	67.7	- 70.4
Pacific	62.3	62.4	.1	62.0	- 62.9
Alaska	66.8	66.8	.0	65.0	- 68.5
California	61.9	62.1	.2	61.6	- 62.5
Hawaii	64.3	64.8	.5	63.6	- 66.1
Oregon	61.6	61.8	.2	60.8	- 62.8
Washington	63.9	64.0	.1	63.0	- 65.0
Puerto Rico	42.3	42.3	.0	NA	

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

² 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 1. Over-the-year change in unemployment rates by state, 2006 annual averages

(U.S. change = -0.5 percentage point)

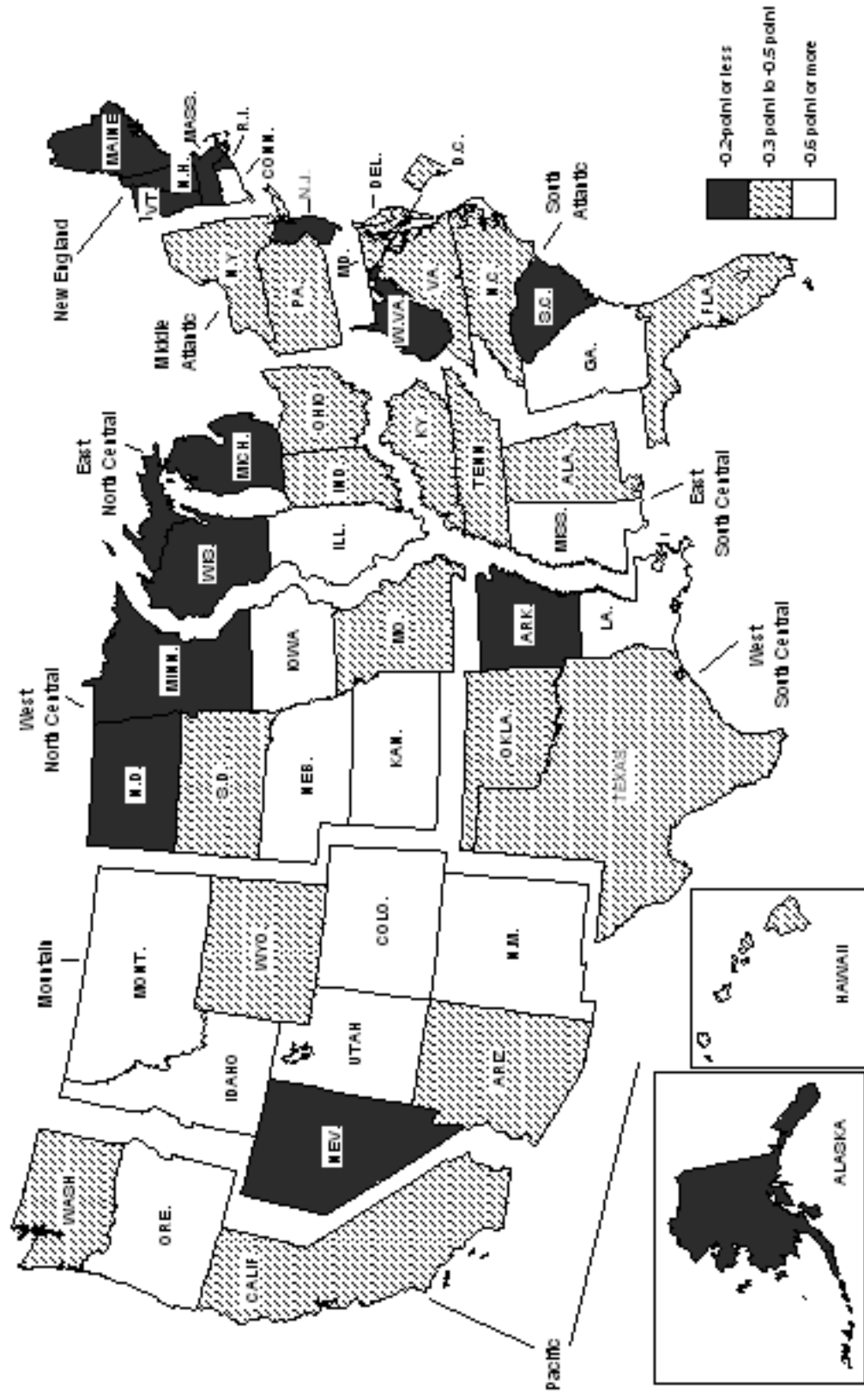


Chart 2. Unemployment rates by state, 2006 annual averages

(U.S. rate = 4.6 percent)

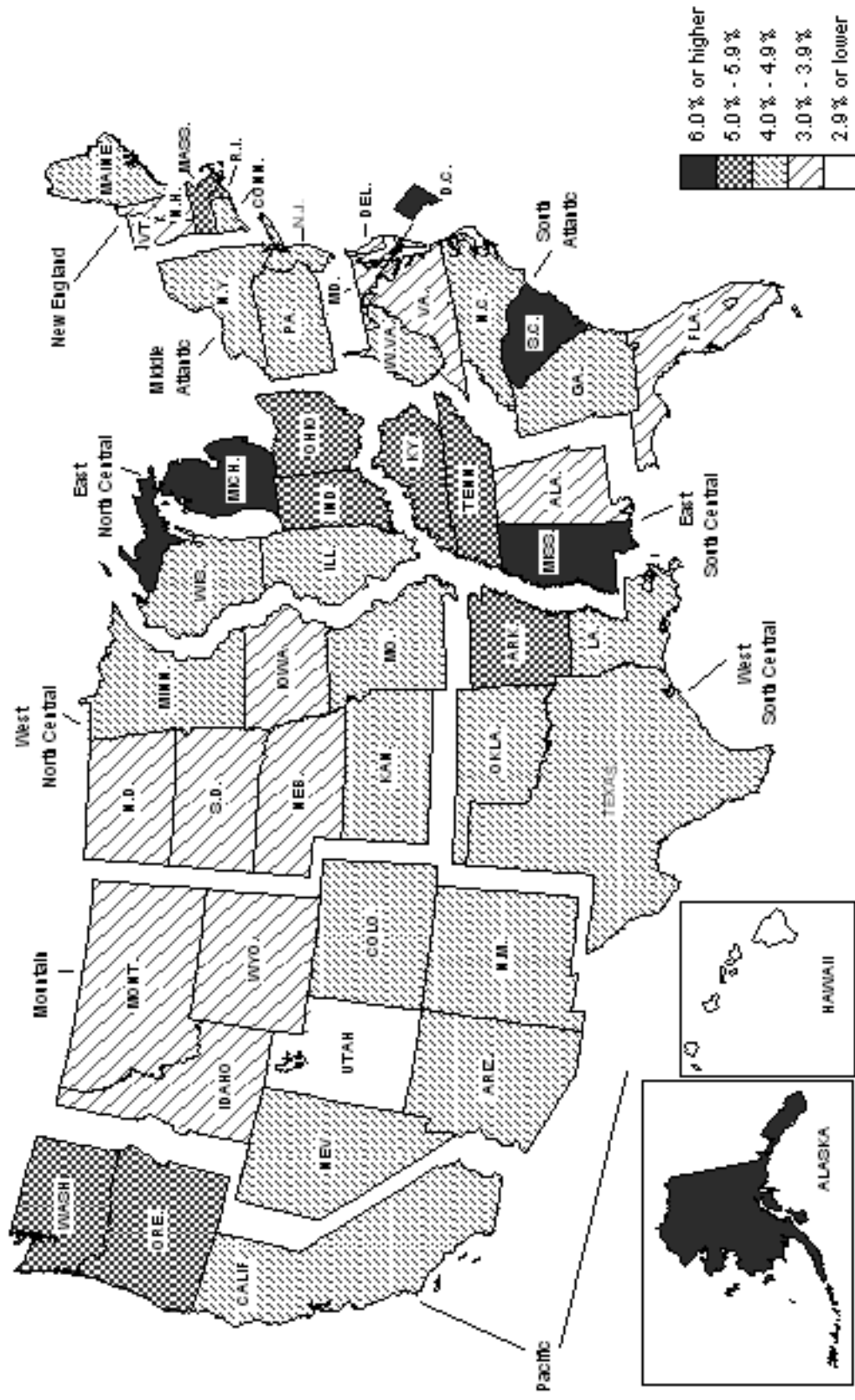


Chart 3. Employment-population ratios by state, 2006 annual averages

(U.S. average = 63.1 percent)

