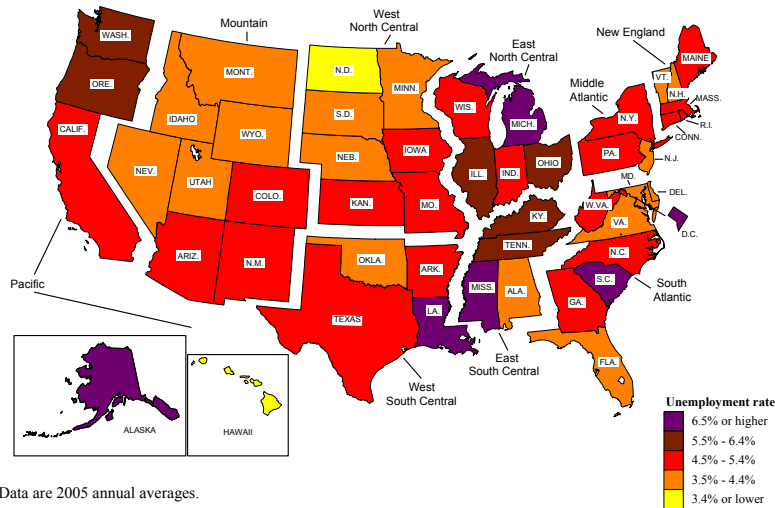


**Chart 1-3. In 2005, unemployment rates were lowest in the South Atlantic States and highest in the East North Central States**



NOTE: Data are 2005 annual averages.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Chart 1-3. In 2005, unemployment rates were lowest in the South Atlantic States and highest in the East North Central States**

- In 2005, Hawaii reported the lowest unemployment rate among the states, 2.8 percent. North Dakota had the next lowest rate, 3.4 percent, closely followed by Vermont and Virginia, 3.5 percent each. The highest rates were recorded in Mississippi and Louisiana (7.9 and 7.1 percent, respectively), reflecting the impact of the Gulf Coast hurricanes.
- The largest unemployment rate declines from 2004 to 2005 occurred in Alabama and Oregon (-1.2 percentage points each).
- The largest jobless rate increases for 2005 were recorded by the two states most affected by the Gulf Coast hurricanes: Mississippi (+1.6 percentage points) and Louisiana (+1.4 percentage points).