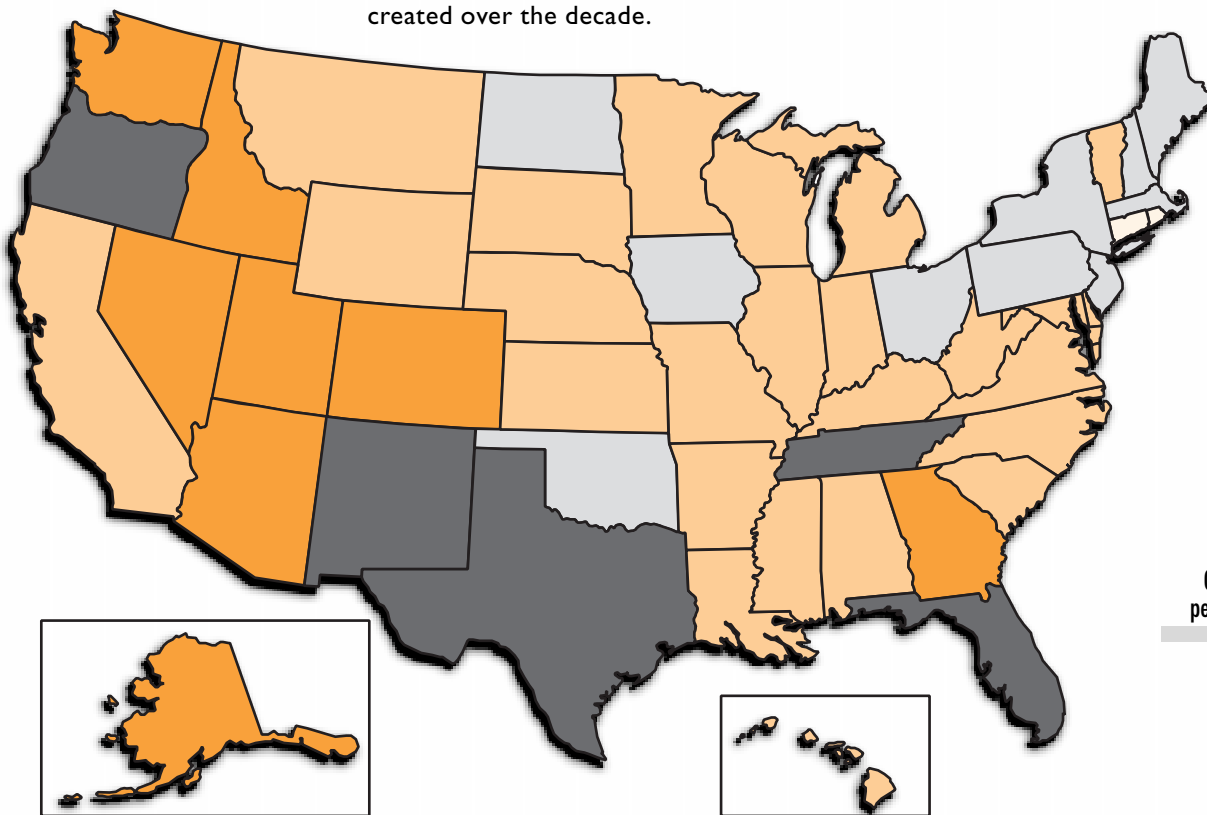


Employment growth by State, 1988-98

Mountain States were clear winners in the 1988-98 job growth race. Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Idaho, and Colorado had the fastest rates of employment growth in the Nation for the decade. Faring less well was New England, which saw declines in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

But remember, rate of change doesn't tell the whole story. When it comes to sheer numbers, size also matters. The large Pacific State of California, for example, led the Nation in net job gain, with nearly 2 million new jobs created over the decade.



Growth category	State	Percent change
30 percent and higher	Nevada	59
	Utah	42
	Arizona	40
	Idaho	38
	Colorado	35
	Washington	33
	Alaska	32
Georgia	30	
20 – 29 percent	Texas	24
	Oregon	24
	New Mexico	23
	Tennessee	20
	Florida	20
10 – 19 percent	South Carolina	19
	Alabama	19
	Montana	18
	Minnesota	17
	Kentucky	16
	Wisconsin	16
	Michigan	15
	California	15
	Mississippi	15
	North Carolina	15
	Louisiana	14
	Virginia	14
	Nebraska	13
	South Dakota	13
	Indiana	13
	Maryland	12
	West Virginia	12
	Arkansas	12
	Missouri	12
	Delaware	12
Hawaii	12	
Kansas	11	
Wyoming	10	
Illinois	10	
Vermont	10	
0 – 9 percent	Oklahoma	9
	Ohio	9
	New Hampshire	9
	Maine	8
	Iowa	7
	North Dakota	6
	Massachusetts	4
	New Jersey	4
	Pennsylvania	3
	New York	3
Decline	Connecticut	-2
	Rhode Island	-7

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics program