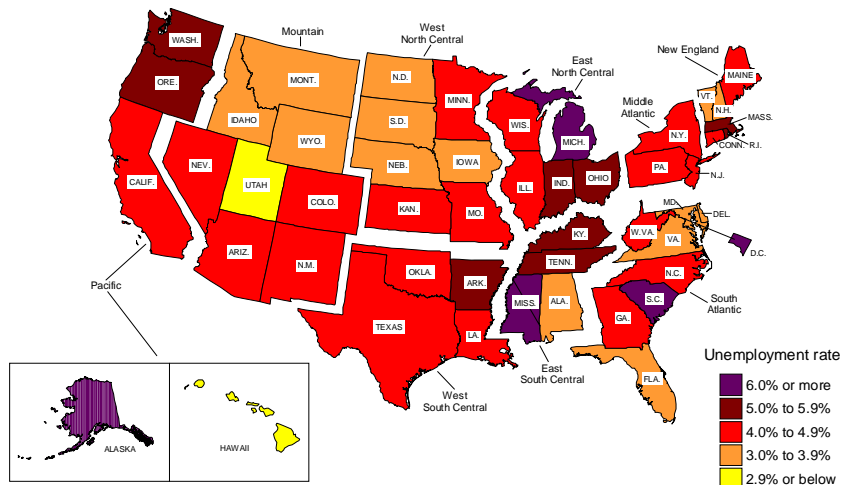


**Chart 1-3. In 2006, unemployment rates were lowest in the Mountain States and highest in the East North Central States**



NOTE: Data are 2006 annual averages.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Chart 1-3. In 2006, unemployment rates were lowest in the Mountain States and highest in the East North Central States**

- In 2006, Hawaii recorded the lowest unemployment rate among the states, at 2.4 percent. Utah had the next lowest rate (2.9 percent), followed closely by Nebraska and Virginia (3.0 percent each).
- The highest unemployment rates were reported in Michigan (6.9 percent), Mississippi (6.8 percent), Alaska (6.7 percent), and South Carolina (6.5 percent).
- In 2006, eight states registered the lowest annual jobless rates in their series (which began in 1976): 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).