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REGIONAL AND STATE UNEMPLOYMENT, 2008 ANNUAL AVERAGES

Annual average unemployment rates rose in 2008 in all 4 regions and in 46 states and the District of Columbia, declined in 1 state, and were unchanged in 3 states, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Employment-population ratios decreased in all 4 regions and in 45 states and the District of Columbia, increased in 3 states, and were unchanged in 2 states. The U.S. jobless rate climbed by 1.2 percentage points over the year to 5.8 percent, while the national employment-population ratio fell by 0.8 point to 62.2 percent. Most of the deterioration in the labor market occurred late in the year.

Regional Unemployment

All four regions posted statistically significant unemployment rate increases from 2007: the West (+1.5 percentage points), South (+1.2 points), and Midwest and Northeast (+1.0 point each). In 2008, the West and Midwest registered jobless rates, 6.2 and 6.1 percent, respectively, that were significantly higher than the U.S. rate (5.8 percent), while the Northeast and South both had rates that were significantly below it, 5.4 and 5.5 percent, respectively. (See table 1.)

All nine geographic divisions reported statistically significant over-the-year unemployment rate increases in 2008: the Pacific (+1.6 percentage points), South Atlantic (+1.5 points), Mountain (+1.3 points), East South Central (+1.2 points), East North Central (+1.1 points), Middle Atlantic (+1.0 point), New England (+0.9 point), West North Central (+0.6 point), and West South Central (+0.5 point). The Pacific registered the highest unemployment rate in 2008, 6.8 percent, followed by the East North Central at 6.6 percent. The divisions with the lowest jobless rates in 2008 were the West South Central at 4.8 percent, and West North Central at 4.9 percent. Five divisions reported jobless rates that were significantly below the national rate of 5.8 percent in 2008: the Middle Atlantic, Mountain, New England, West North Central, and West South Central. Two divisions—the East North Central and Pacific—recorded rates that were significantly higher than the U.S. rate.

State Unemployment

In 2008, 39 states and the District of Columbia posted statistically significant unemployment rate increases, while the remaining 11 states recorded unemployment rates that were not appreciably different from the previous year, even though some had changes that were at least as large numerically as the significant changes. Rhode Island had the largest jump in its jobless rate (+2.6 percentage points). Florida and Nevada reported the next largest rate increases (+2.1 and +2.0 percentage points, respectively). Twenty-one additional states and the District of Columbia recorded increases in their unem-

ployment rates of at least 1.0 percentage point. The remaining 15 states with significant rate changes experienced increases ranging from +0.4 to +0.9 percentage point. (See table A and chart 1.)

Michigan reported the highest unemployment rate, 8.4 percent in 2008, followed by Rhode Island and California, 7.8 and 7.2 percent, respectively. The District of Columbia recorded an unemployment rate of 7.0 percent in 2008. South Dakota posted the lowest jobless rate among the states, 3.0 percent, followed closely by Wyoming at 3.1 percent, and North Dakota at 3.2 percent. Twenty-six states had unemployment rates that were significantly lower than the U.S. rate of 5.8 percent, and 14 states and the District of Columbia recorded rates significantly above it. (See table B and chart 2.)

Regional Employment-Population Ratios

In 2008, all four regions registered statistically significant declines in their employment-population ratios—the proportion of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years and over with a job. The Midwest experienced the largest over-the-year decrease in its employment-population ratio (-1.1 percentage points), followed by the South (-0.9 point), West (-0.8 point), and Northeast (-0.4 point). Despite the large decline in its employment-population ratio, the Midwest continued to report the highest proportion of employed persons, 63.8 percent, while the South, at 61.1 percent, and Northeast, at 61.8 percent, recorded the lowest proportions in 2008. The West posted an employment-population ratio of 62.6 percent. The Midwest and West both had ratios that were significantly higher than the national figure of 62.2 percent, and the South had an appreciably lower ratio. (See table 2.)

Seven of the 9 divisions registered statistically significant decreases in their employment-population ratios in 2008. The East North Central and East South Central reported the greatest declines (-1.2 percentage points each), followed closely by the South Atlantic (-1.1 points). Significant over-the-year decreases in employment-population ratios also occurred in the Mountain and Pacific (-0.8 percentage point each) and New England and West North Central (-0.7 point each). In 2008, the East South Central again recorded the lowest proportion of employed persons (57.8 percent), with the Middle Atlantic (61.0 percent), West South Central (61.7 percent), and Pacific and South Atlantic (61.8 percent each) posting the next lowest ratios. The West North Central again registered the highest employment-population ratio (67.1 percent), followed by the Mountain (64.6 percent), New England (64.1 percent), and East North Central (62.4 percent). Five of the 9 divisions reported statistically significant differences in their ratios from that of the U.S.—the Mountain, New England, and West North Central divisions recorded employment-population ratios that were measurably higher, and the East South Central and Middle Atlantic divisions had ratios that were significantly lower.

State Employment-Population Ratios

In 2008, 28 states registered statistically significant decreases in the proportion of employed persons, while the remaining 22 states and the District of Columbia did not have significant changes. Rhode Island experienced the largest over-the-year decline (-2.2 percentage points), followed by Idaho (-2.0 points). Fifteen other states reported significant decreases in their employment-population ratios from -1.0 to -1.9 percentage points, and the remaining 11 states had significant declines from -0.4 to -0.9 point.

West Virginia and Mississippi again reported the lowest ratios among the states (53.2 and 55.9 percent, respectively). Nine other states had employment-population ratios in 2008 that were below 60.0 percent. Three states in the West North Central division again recorded the highest ratios: North Dakota (71.8 percent), Nebraska (71.0 percent), and South Dakota (70.6 percent). Twenty states and the

District of Columbia registered employment-population ratios that were significantly above the U.S. ratio of 62.2 percent, and 15 states had ratios that were appreciably below it. The remaining 15 states recorded ratios that were not measurably different from that of the nation. (See tables C and D and chart 3.)

Table A. States with statistically significant unemployment rate changes, 2007-08 annual averages

State	Rate		Over-the-year rate change
	2007	2008	
Alabama	3.5	5.0	1.5
Arizona	3.8	5.5	1.7
California	5.4	7.2	1.8
Colorado	3.9	4.9	1.0
Connecticut	4.6	5.7	1.1
Delaware	3.4	4.8	1.4
District of Columbia	5.5	7.0	1.5
Florida	4.1	6.2	2.1
Georgia	4.6	6.2	1.6
Hawaii	2.6	3.9	1.3
Idaho	3.0	4.9	1.9
Illinois	5.1	6.5	1.4
Indiana	4.6	5.9	1.3
Iowa	3.7	4.1	.4
Kentucky	5.5	6.4	.9
Louisiana	3.8	4.6	.8
Maine	4.6	5.4	.8
Maryland	3.5	4.4	.9
Massachusetts	4.5	5.3	.8
Michigan	7.1	8.4	1.3
Minnesota	4.6	5.4	.8
Missouri	5.1	6.1	1.0
Montana	3.4	4.5	1.1
Nebraska	2.9	3.3	.4
Nevada	4.7	6.7	2.0
New Jersey	4.3	5.5	1.2
New Mexico	3.5	4.2	.7
New York	4.5	5.4	.9
North Carolina	4.7	6.3	1.6
Ohio	5.6	6.5	.9
Oregon	5.1	6.4	1.3
Pennsylvania	4.4	5.4	1.0
Rhode Island	5.2	7.8	2.6
South Carolina	5.6	6.9	1.3
Tennessee	4.8	6.4	1.6
Texas	4.4	4.9	.5
Utah	2.7	3.4	.7
Vermont	4.0	4.8	.8
Virginia	3.0	4.0	1.0
Washington	4.5	5.3	.8

Table B. States with unemployment rates significantly different from that of the U.S., 2008 annual averages

State	Rate
United States	5.8
Alaska	6.7
Arkansas	5.1
California	7.2
Colorado	4.9
Delaware	4.8
District of Columbia	7.0
Florida	6.2
Hawaii	3.9
Idaho	4.9
Illinois	6.5
Iowa	4.1
Kansas	4.4
Kentucky	6.4
Louisiana	4.6
Maryland	4.4
Massachusetts	5.3
Michigan	8.4
Mississippi	6.9
Montana	4.5
Nebraska	3.3
Nevada	6.7
New Hampshire	3.8
New Mexico	4.2
New York	5.4
North Carolina	6.3
North Dakota	3.2
Ohio	6.5
Oklahoma	3.8
Oregon	6.4
Pennsylvania	5.4
Rhode Island	7.8
South Carolina	6.9
South Dakota	3.0
Tennessee	6.4
Texas	4.9
Utah	3.4
Vermont	4.8
Virginia	4.0
West Virginia	4.3
Wisconsin	4.7
Wyoming	3.1

Table C. States with statistically significant employment-population ratio changes, 2007-08 annual averages

State	Ratio		Over-the-year ratio change
	2007	2008	
Alabama	59.0	57.2	-1.8
California	62.1	61.1	-1.0
Colorado	69.8	68.7	-1.1
Delaware	63.9	62.4	-1.5
Florida	60.9	59.9	-1.0
Georgia	64.7	63.1	-1.6
Idaho	65.5	63.5	-2.0
Illinois	64.7	63.4	-1.3
Indiana	63.6	62.4	-1.2
Kentucky	58.9	57.9	-1.0
Maryland	66.6	65.8	-.8
Massachusetts	63.8	63.0	-.8
Michigan	59.9	58.1	-1.8
Minnesota	69.3	68.6	-.7
Missouri	63.6	62.2	-1.4
Montana	64.8	63.8	-1.0
New Hampshire	68.6	68.0	-.6
New Jersey	63.6	62.9	-.7
North Carolina	62.4	60.7	-1.7
Ohio	63.6	62.7	-.9
Oregon	62.3	61.5	-.8
Rhode Island	65.0	62.8	-2.2
South Carolina	59.6	58.4	-1.2
Tennessee	60.4	59.2	-1.2
Texas	62.9	62.5	-.4
Utah	69.6	68.7	-.9
Virginia	67.3	66.8	-.5
Wisconsin	67.7	66.9	-.8

Table D. States with employment-population ratios significantly different from that of the U.S., 2008 annual averages

State	Ratio
United States	62.2
Alabama	57.2
Alaska	66.5
Arizona	60.7
Arkansas	59.7
California	61.1
Colorado	68.7
Connecticut	64.9
District of Columbia	64.2
Florida	59.9
Illinois	63.4
Iowa	69.1
Kansas	67.6
Kentucky	57.9
Louisiana	59.4
Maryland	65.8
Michigan	58.1
Minnesota	68.6
Mississippi	55.9
Montana	63.8
Nebraska	71.0
Nevada	65.0
New Hampshire	68.0
New Mexico	61.0
New York	59.6
North Carolina	60.7
North Dakota	71.8
South Carolina	58.4
South Dakota	70.6
Tennessee	59.2
Utah	68.7
Vermont	67.2
Virginia	66.8
Washington	64.7
West Virginia	53.2
Wisconsin	66.9
Wyoming	69.2

Technical Note

This release presents labor force and unemployment data for census regions and divisions and states from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. The LAUS program is a federal-state cooperative endeavor.

Concepts

Definitions. The labor force and unemployment data are based on the same concepts and definitions as those used for the official national estimates obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a sample survey of households that is conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the U.S. Census Bureau. The LAUS program measures employment and unemployment on a place-of-residence basis. The universe for each is the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over. *Employed* persons are those who did any work at all for pay or profit in the reference week (the week including the 12th of the month) or worked 15 hours or more without pay in a family business or farm, plus those not working who had a job from which they were temporarily absent, whether or not paid, for such reasons as labor-management dispute, illness, or vacation. *Unemployed* persons are those who were not employed during the reference week (based on the definition above), had actively looked for a job sometime in the 4-week period ending with the reference week, and were currently available for work; persons on layoff expecting recall need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed. The *labor force* is the sum of employed and unemployed persons. The *unemployment rate* is the number of unemployed as a percent of the labor force. The *employment-population ratio* is the proportion of the civilian noninstitutional population aged 16 years and over that is employed.

Method of estimation. Estimates for 48 of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale metropolitan division, New York City, and the balances of California and New York State are produced using estimating equations based on regression techniques. This method, which underwent substantial enhancement at the beginning of 2005, utilizes data from several sources, including the CPS, the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey of nonfarm payroll employment, and state unemployment insurance (UI) programs. Estimates for the state of California are derived by summing the estimates for the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale metropolitan division and the balance of California. Similarly, estimates for New York State are derived by summing the estimates for New York City and the balance of New York State. Estimates for all nine census divisions are based on a similar regression approach that does not incorporate CES or UI data. Estimates for census regions are obtained by summing the model-based estimates for the component divisions and then calculating the unemployment rate. Each month, census division estimates are controlled to national totals; state estimates are then controlled to their respective division totals. Estimates for Puerto Rico are derived from a monthly

household survey similar to the CPS. A detailed description of the estimation procedures is available from BLS upon request.

Annual revisions. Labor force and unemployment data for prior years reflect adjustments made at the end of each year. The adjusted estimates reflect updated population data from the U.S. Census Bureau, any revisions in the other data sources, and model reestimation. In most years, historical data for the most recent 5 years (both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted) are revised near the beginning of each calendar year, prior to or coincident with the release of January estimates.

Reliability of the estimates

The estimates presented in this release are based on sample surveys, administrative data, and modeling and, thus, are subject to sampling and other types of errors. *Sampling error* is a measure of sampling variability—that is, variation that occurs by chance because a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed. Survey data also are subject to *nonsampling errors*, such as those which can be introduced into the data collection and processing operations. Estimates not directly derived from sample surveys are subject to additional errors resulting from the specific estimation processes used. The sums of individual items may not always equal the totals shown in the same tables because of rounding. Unemployment rates are computed from unrounded data and thus may differ slightly from rates computed using the rounded data displayed in the tables.

Use of error measures. In 2005, the LAUS program introduced several improvements to its methodology. Among these was the development of model-based error measures for the monthly estimates and the estimates of over-the-month changes. Annual average error measures became available for the first time after 2006. The introductory section of this release preserves the long-time practice of highlighting the direction of the movements in regional and state unemployment rates regardless of their statistical significance. The remainder of the analysis in the release takes statistical significance into consideration. Model-based error measures are available online at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm>. BLS uses a 90-percent confidence level in determining whether changes in LAUS unemployment rates are statistically significant. The average magnitude of the over-the-year change in an annual average state unemployment rate that is required in order to be statistically significant at the 90-percent confidence level is between 0.4 and 0.5 percentage point. More details can be found on the Web site. Measures of nonsampling error are not available, but additional information on the subject is provided in *Employment and Earnings Online* available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/opub/ee/home.htm>.

Additional information

More complete information on the technical procedures used to develop these estimates and additional data appear in *Employment and Earnings Online*.

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

Table 1. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over by region, division, and state, 2007-08 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Region, division, and state	Population		Civilian labor force		Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rate		Error range of rate, 2008 ¹
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	
United States	231,867	233,788	153,124	154,287	146,047	145,362	7,078	8,924	4.6	5.8	5.7 - 5.9
Northeast	42,991	43,230	27,967	28,240	26,729	26,709	1,239	1,531	4.4	5.4	5.3 - 5.6
New England	11,255	11,319	7,633	7,669	7,293	7,254	340	415	4.5	5.4	5.1 - 5.7
Connecticut	2,713	2,728	1,850	1,876	1,766	1,769	85	107	4.6	5.7	5.3 - 6.1
Maine	1,057	1,061	703	707	670	669	33	38	4.6	5.4	4.9 - 5.9
Massachusetts	5,112	5,148	3,416	3,424	3,263	3,244	153	180	4.5	5.3	4.8 - 5.8
New Hampshire	1,038	1,045	738	739	712	711	26	28	3.5	3.8	3.5 - 4.1
Rhode Island	834	834	572	568	543	523	30	44	5.2	7.8	7.2 - 8.4
Vermont	502	504	354	355	340	339	14	17	4.0	4.8	4.3 - 5.2
Middle Atlantic	31,736	31,911	20,334	20,571	19,435	19,455	899	1,116	4.4	5.4	5.2 - 5.6
New Jersey	6,719	6,756	4,462	4,497	4,272	4,251	191	246	4.3	5.5	5.0 - 5.9
New York	15,259	15,351	9,575	9,680	9,141	9,153	434	527	4.5	5.4	5.2 - 5.7
Pennsylvania	9,758	9,804	6,297	6,395	6,023	6,051	274	344	4.4	5.4	5.0 - 5.8
Midwest	51,027	51,330	34,881	34,847	33,092	32,735	1,789	2,112	5.1	6.1	5.9 - 6.2
East North Central	35,657	35,833	24,005	23,919	22,678	22,343	1,327	1,576	5.5	6.6	6.4 - 6.8
Illinois	9,806	9,885	6,690	6,697	6,349	6,264	341	434	5.1	6.5	6.0 - 6.9
Indiana	4,834	4,873	3,221	3,230	3,074	3,040	147	191	4.6	5.9	5.3 - 6.5
Michigan	7,785	7,783	5,024	4,936	4,667	4,519	357	416	7.1	8.4	7.9 - 9.0
Ohio	8,875	8,904	5,977	5,972	5,641	5,582	336	390	5.6	6.5	6.0 - 7.0
Wisconsin	4,357	4,389	3,094	3,084	2,948	2,938	146	146	4.7	4.7	4.3 - 5.1
West North Central	15,370	15,497	10,876	10,928	10,414	10,393	463	536	4.3	4.9	4.7 - 5.1
Iowa	2,309	2,325	1,664	1,676	1,602	1,607	62	69	3.7	4.1	3.7 - 4.5
Kansas	2,100	2,117	1,485	1,497	1,425	1,431	60	66	4.1	4.4	4.0 - 4.8
Minnesota	4,007	4,043	2,911	2,933	2,776	2,773	135	160	4.6	5.4	5.1 - 5.8
Missouri	4,511	4,547	3,023	3,012	2,870	2,829	153	183	5.1	6.1	5.5 - 6.7
Nebraska	1,344	1,355	985	996	956	962	29	33	2.9	3.3	3.0 - 3.7
North Dakota	495	498	366	370	355	358	11	12	3.1	3.2	2.8 - 3.5
South Dakota	604	611	442	445	429	431	13	14	2.9	3.0	2.7 - 3.3
South	83,787	84,960	54,286	54,940	51,932	51,924	2,355	3,017	4.3	5.5	5.4 - 5.6
South Atlantic	44,423	44,992	29,154	29,480	27,935	27,797	1,219	1,683	4.2	5.7	5.5 - 5.9
Delaware	666	676	441	443	426	422	15	21	3.4	4.8	4.3 - 5.2
District of Columbia	478	482	327	333	309	310	18	23	5.5	7.0	6.4 - 7.6
Florida	14,318	14,454	9,088	9,231	8,717	8,660	372	572	4.1	6.2	5.9 - 6.5
Georgia	7,076	7,204	4,798	4,848	4,579	4,546	219	302	4.6	6.2	5.8 - 6.7
Maryland	4,331	4,357	2,988	2,998	2,882	2,867	105	131	3.5	4.4	4.0 - 4.7
North Carolina	6,880	7,011	4,506	4,544	4,293	4,257	213	287	4.7	6.3	5.9 - 6.7
South Carolina	3,367	3,431	2,125	2,153	2,006	2,004	119	149	5.6	6.9	6.3 - 7.6
Virginia	5,862	5,927	4,068	4,125	3,945	3,960	122	165	3.0	4.0	3.6 - 4.4
West Virginia	1,445	1,450	813	806	778	772	35	34	4.3	4.3	3.6 - 4.9
East South Central	13,745	13,891	8,532	8,561	8,115	8,035	417	526	4.9	6.1	5.8 - 6.5
Alabama	3,558	3,591	2,176	2,162	2,100	2,054	76	109	3.5	5.0	4.2 - 5.9
Kentucky	3,266	3,301	2,036	2,043	1,923	1,911	113	132	5.5	6.4	5.8 - 7.1
Mississippi	2,175	2,190	1,307	1,314	1,225	1,224	82	91	6.3	6.9	6.1 - 7.7
Tennessee	4,746	4,808	3,013	3,041	2,868	2,846	146	195	4.8	6.4	5.8 - 7.0
West South Central	25,619	26,077	16,600	16,899	15,881	16,092	719	807	4.3	4.8	4.5 - 5.0
Arkansas	2,160	2,180	1,361	1,370	1,292	1,301	69	70	5.1	5.1	4.5 - 5.7
Louisiana	3,294	3,337	2,026	2,079	1,949	1,983	76	96	3.8	4.6	3.9 - 5.3
Oklahoma	2,720	2,749	1,738	1,748	1,667	1,682	71	67	4.1	3.8	3.4 - 4.3
Texas	17,445	17,812	11,475	11,702	10,972	11,126	503	575	4.4	4.9	4.6 - 5.2
West	52,993	53,845	35,278	35,971	33,617	33,725	1,661	2,246	4.7	6.2	6.1 - 6.4
Mountain	16,040	16,378	10,887	11,133	10,486	10,579	401	554	3.7	5.0	4.8 - 5.2
Arizona	4,762	4,877	3,036	3,133	2,920	2,960	116	172	3.8	5.5	4.9 - 6.1
Colorado	3,702	3,778	2,686	2,730	2,582	2,596	104	134	3.9	4.9	4.5 - 5.3
Idaho	1,109	1,131	749	755	726	718	23	37	3.0	4.9	4.2 - 5.5
Montana	748	758	502	506	485	483	17	23	3.4	4.5	3.9 - 5.1
Nevada	1,932	1,971	1,323	1,373	1,260	1,282	62	91	4.7	6.7	6.1 - 7.2
New Mexico	1,487	1,507	946	959	912	919	34	40	3.5	4.2	3.6 - 4.7
Utah	1,897	1,945	1,357	1,384	1,320	1,336	37	48	2.7	3.4	3.0 - 3.8
Wyoming	403	410	288	293	280	284	8	9	2.9	3.1	2.7 - 3.5
Pacific	36,953	37,468	24,391	24,838	23,131	23,146	1,261	1,692	5.2	6.8	6.6 - 7.0
Alaska	497	502	352	357	330	333	22	24	6.2	6.7	6.0 - 7.4
California	27,541	27,910	18,078	18,392	17,109	17,060	969	1,332	5.4	7.2	7.0 - 7.5
Hawaii	981	991	646	654	629	628	17	26	2.6	3.9	3.5 - 4.4
Oregon	2,932	2,980	1,925	1,958	1,826	1,833	99	125	5.1	6.4	5.8 - 6.9
Washington	5,002	5,086	3,391	3,477	3,237	3,291	154	186	4.5	5.3	4.9 - 5.8
Puerto Rico	3,023	3,050	1,394	1,366	1,241	1,209	152	158	10.9	11.5	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 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, 2007-08 annual averages

(Percent)

Region, division, and state	Employment-population ratio ¹		Over-the-year change	Error range of employment-population ratio, 2008 ²	
	2007	2008			
United States	63.0	62.2	-0.8	62.0	- 62.4
Northeast	62.2	61.8	-4	61.3	- 62.2
New England	64.8	64.1	-7	63.4	- 64.8
Connecticut	65.1	64.9	-2	63.7	- 66.0
Maine	63.4	63.0	-4	61.8	- 64.2
Massachusetts	63.8	63.0	-8	61.9	- 64.1
New Hampshire	68.6	68.0	-6	67.0	- 69.0
Rhode Island	65.0	62.8	-2.2	61.6	- 63.9
Vermont	67.8	67.2	-6	66.0	- 68.4
Middle Atlantic	61.2	61.0	-2	60.4	- 61.5
New Jersey	63.6	62.9	-7	62.0	- 63.9
New York	59.9	59.6	-3	59.0	- 60.3
Pennsylvania	61.7	61.7	.0	60.9	- 62.5
Midwest	64.9	63.8	-1.1	63.4	- 64.2
East North Central	63.6	62.4	-1.2	61.8	- 62.9
Illinois	64.7	63.4	-1.3	62.4	- 64.3
Indiana	63.6	62.4	-1.2	61.0	- 63.8
Michigan	59.9	58.1	-1.8	57.1	- 59.0
Ohio	63.6	62.7	-9	61.9	- 63.5
Wisconsin	67.7	66.9	-8	65.6	- 68.3
West North Central	67.8	67.1	-7	66.5	- 67.7
Iowa	69.4	69.1	-3	68.0	- 70.2
Kansas	67.9	67.6	-3	66.5	- 68.7
Minnesota	69.3	68.6	-7	67.4	- 69.8
Missouri	63.6	62.2	-1.4	60.9	- 63.6
Nebraska	71.1	71.0	-1	69.9	- 72.1
North Dakota	71.6	71.8	.2	70.2	- 73.5
South Dakota	71.1	70.6	-5	69.4	- 71.8
South	62.0	61.1	-9	60.8	- 61.4
South Atlantic	62.9	61.8	-1.1	61.3	- 62.2
Delaware	63.9	62.4	-1.5	61.3	- 63.5
District of Columbia	64.7	64.2	-5	63.0	- 65.4
Florida	60.9	59.9	-1.0	59.0	- 60.8
Georgia	64.7	63.1	-1.6	62.1	- 64.1
Maryland	66.6	65.8	-8	64.9	- 66.7
North Carolina	62.4	60.7	-1.7	59.7	- 61.7
South Carolina	59.6	58.4	-1.2	57.4	- 59.4
Virginia	67.3	66.8	-5	65.9	- 67.7
West Virginia	53.8	53.2	-6	51.6	- 54.9
East South Central	59.0	57.8	-1.2	57.0	- 58.7
Alabama	59.0	57.2	-1.8	55.5	- 58.9
Kentucky	58.9	57.9	-1.0	56.6	- 59.2
Mississippi	56.3	55.9	-4	54.3	- 57.4
Tennessee	60.4	59.2	-1.2	58.0	- 60.4
West South Central	62.0	61.7	-3	61.1	- 62.3
Arkansas	59.8	59.7	-1	58.4	- 60.9
Louisiana	59.2	59.4	.2	57.8	- 61.0
Oklahoma	61.3	61.2	-1	59.9	- 62.5
Texas	62.9	62.5	-4	61.7	- 63.2
West	63.4	62.6	-8	62.3	- 63.0
Mountain	65.4	64.6	-8	64.0	- 65.2
Arizona	61.3	60.7	-6	59.3	- 62.1
Colorado	69.8	68.7	-1.1	67.2	- 70.2
Idaho	65.5	63.5	-2.0	62.1	- 64.9
Montana	64.8	63.8	-1.0	62.4	- 65.1
Nevada	65.2	65.0	-2	63.9	- 66.2
New Mexico	61.3	61.0	-3	60.0	- 62.0
Utah	69.6	68.7	-9	67.2	- 70.2
Wyoming	69.5	69.2	-3	67.8	- 70.5
Pacific	62.6	61.8	-8	61.4	- 62.2
Alaska	66.4	66.5	.1	64.7	- 68.2
California	62.1	61.1	-1.0	60.7	- 61.6
Hawaii	64.1	63.4	-7	62.2	- 64.7
Oregon	62.3	61.5	-8	60.5	- 62.5
Washington	64.7	64.7	.0	63.7	- 65.7
Puerto Rico	41.1	39.6	-1.5	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, 2008 annual averages

(U.S. change = +1.2 percentage points)

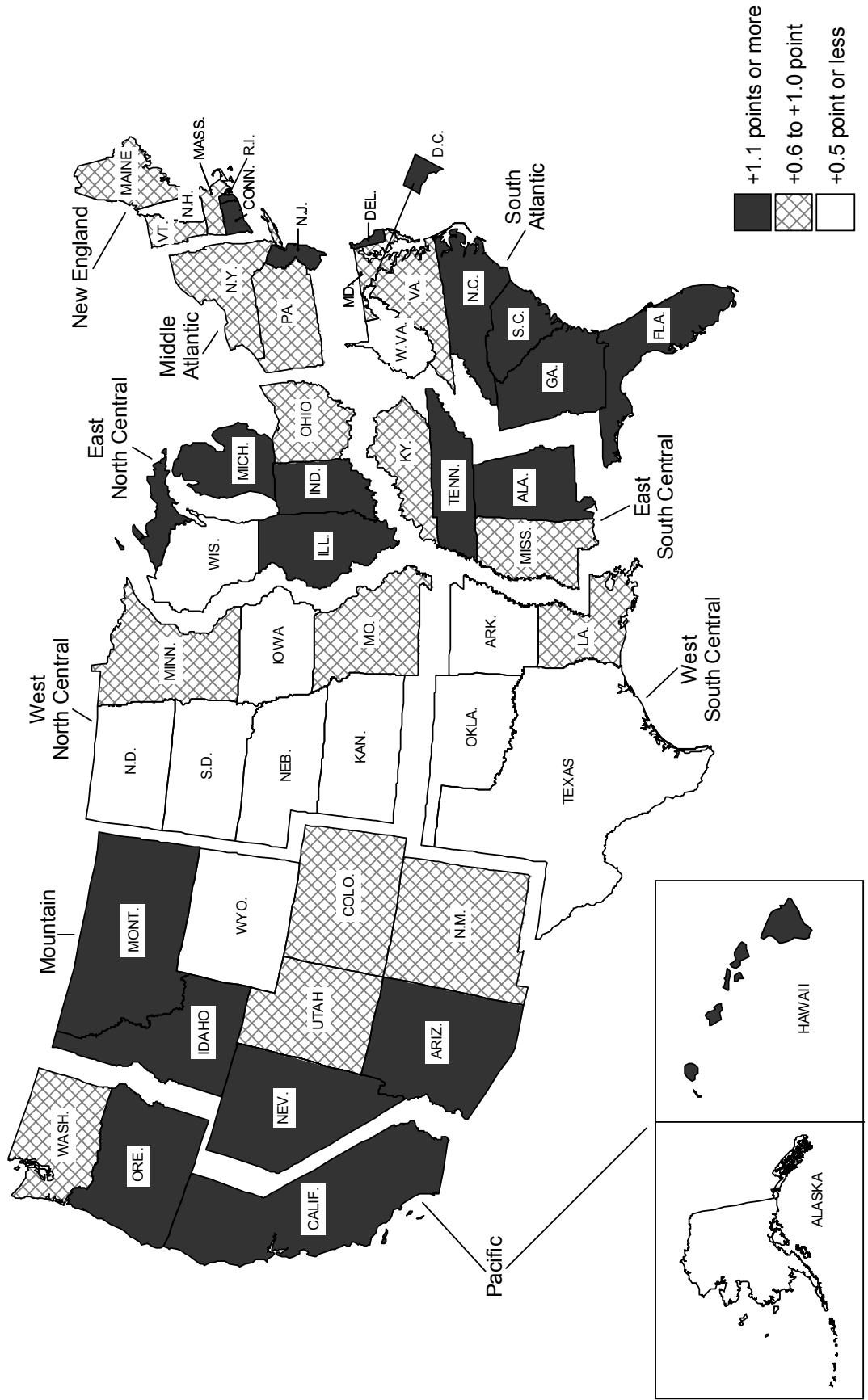


Chart 2. Unemployment rates by state, 2008 annual averages

(U.S. rate = 5.8 percent)

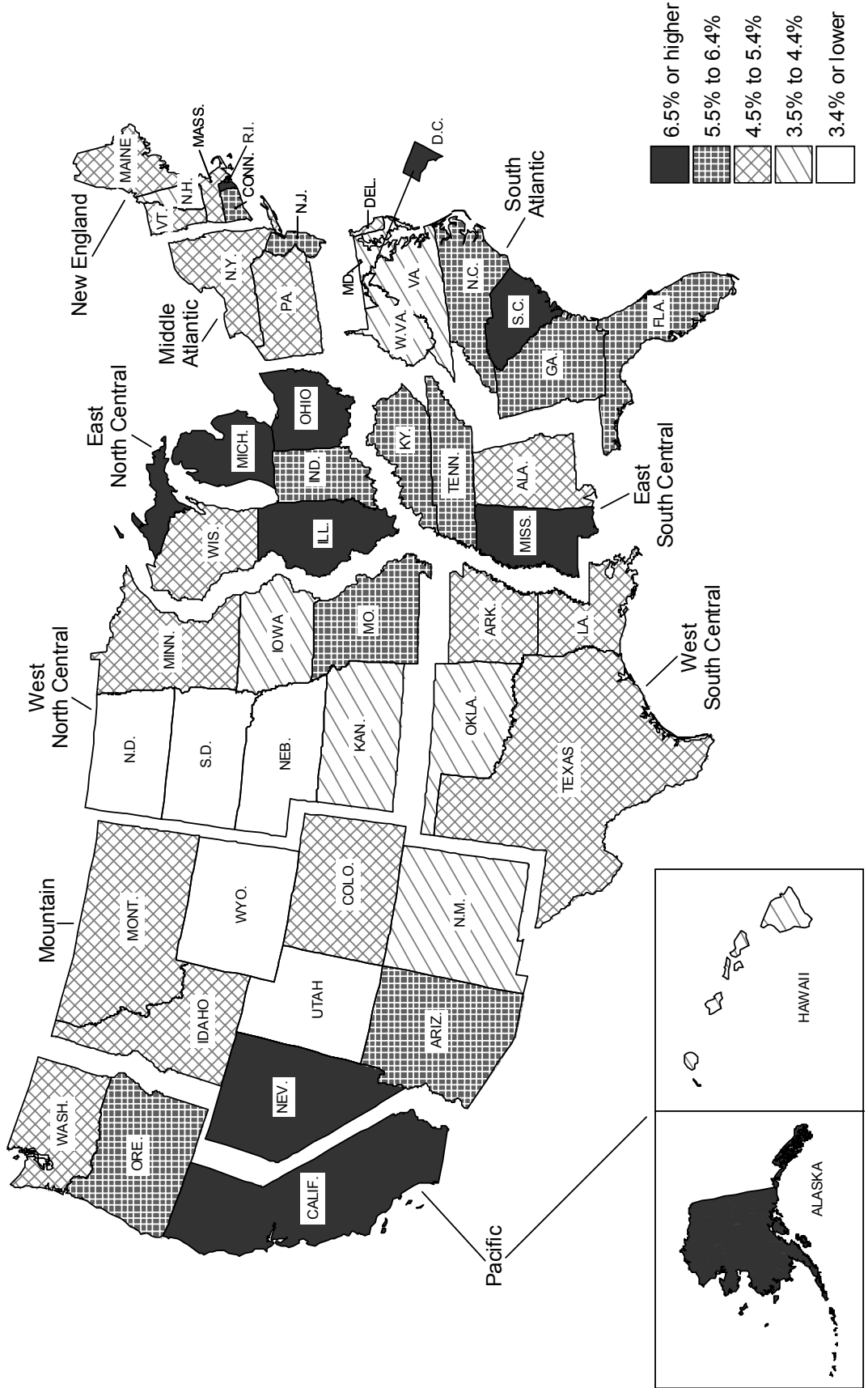


Chart 3. Employment-population ratios by state, 2008 annual averages

(U.S. average = 62.2 percent)

