



NEWS RELEASE



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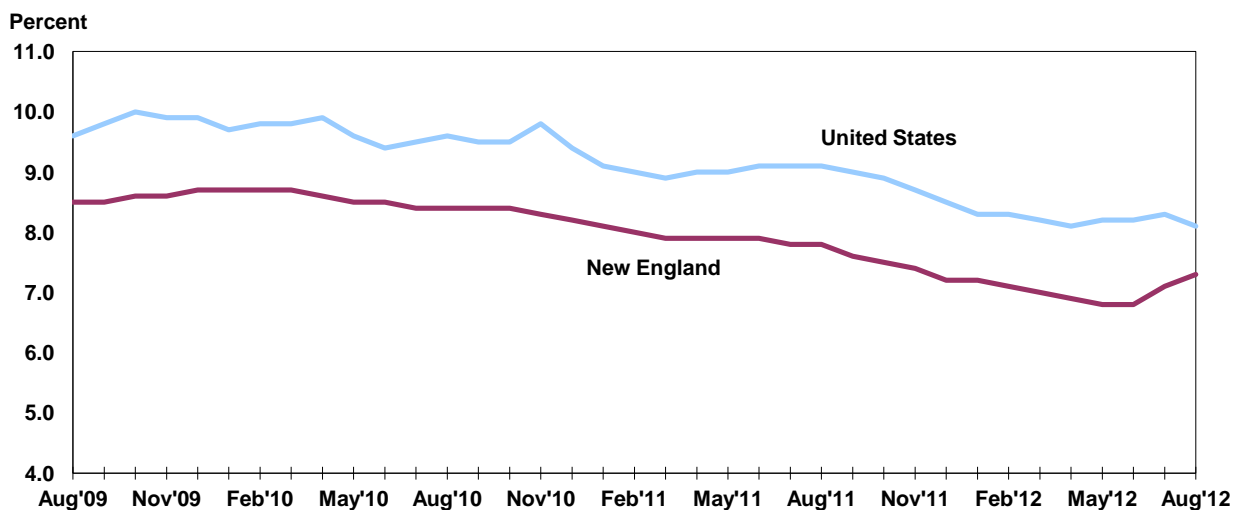
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NEW ENGLAND AND STATE UNEMPLOYMENT — AUGUST 2012

The New England unemployment rate for August 2012 rose to 7.3 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that New England's jobless rate one year ago was 7.8 percent. The national jobless rate edged down to 8.1 percent in August, and was 1.0 percentage point lower than one year earlier. (See chart 1.)

New England is one of nine geographic divisions nationwide. In August, the Pacific division continued to report the highest jobless rate, 10.0 percent, while the West North Central division again registered the lowest rate, 5.9 percent. New England was among the three-lowest reported jobless rates, and was the only division to experience a statistically significant over-the-month unemployment rate change (+0.2 percentage point). Over the year, seven divisions posted a significant unemployment rate decrease. The largest of these decreases occurred in the East North Central and Pacific divisions (-1.1 percentage points).

Chart 1. Unemployment rates for the U.S. and New England, August 2009 to August 2012, seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

During August, five of the six New England states posted jobless rates that were significantly different from that of the United States. Vermont (5.3 percent), New Hampshire (5.7 percent), and Massachusetts (6.3 percent) recorded significantly lower unemployment rates and were among 21 states in the country to do so. Vermont reported the fifth-lowest jobless rate nationwide. In contrast, Rhode Island (10.7 percent) had the highest jobless rate among the New England states and the second-highest jobless rate in the nation. Rhode Island and Connecticut (9.0 percent) were among 12 states with rates measurably higher than the national average. Maine was among the 17 remaining states and the District of Columbia which registered unemployment rates not appreciably different from that of the nation.

Four New England states experienced a statistically significant unemployment rate change over the month: Connecticut (+0.5 percentage point), New Hampshire and Vermont (+0.3 percentage point each), and Massachusetts (+0.2 percentage point). Three additional states also experienced statistically significant jobless rate changes during August: Michigan (+0.4 percentage point), Iowa, and Pennsylvania (+0.2 percentage point each). Hawaii and Utah (-0.2 percentage point each) were the only states to register significant over the month unemployment rate declines. The remaining 41 states and the District of Columbia recorded jobless rates not measurably different from the month before.

Over the year, Massachusetts (-1.1 percentage points) was among the 16 states nationwide and the District of Columbia which reported a statistically significant jobless rate decrease from August 2011. The five remaining New England states were among the 33 states to register unemployment rates not appreciably different from those a year earlier.

Technical Note

This release presents labor force and unemployment data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) and the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. Estimates for the U.S. are obtained directly from the CPS, which is a sample survey of approximately 60,000 households nationwide that is conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the Census Bureau. The LAUS program produces data for the nine geographic divisions in the United States: New England, Middle Atlantic, South Atlantic, East South Central, West South Central, East North Central, West North Central, Mountain, and Pacific. Data for all divisions, as well as the 50 states, are available in the Regional and State Employment and Unemployment release www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm#news issued monthly by BLS, while national statistics are highlighted in the Employment Situation www.bls.gov/cps/home.htm#news.

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 five 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.

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Table 1. Labor force status for the U.S., New England, and New England states, seasonally adjusted

(Numbers in thousands)

Area	Aug 2011	Sept 2011	Oct 2011	Nov 2011	Dec 2011	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Mar 2012	Apr 2012	May 2012	June 2012	July 2012	Aug 2012p
Connecticut													
Civilian labor force	1,915.0	1,916.3	1,917.4	1,918.1	1,918.8	1,916.0	1,914.5	1,913.1	1,912.8	1,918.2	1,918.8	1,912.3	1,902.9
Employed	1,746.5	1,750.6	1,755.1	1,759.2	1,763.0	1,763.6	1,765.9	1,765.0	1,765.7	1,767.8	1,764.1	1,748.9	1,731.9
Unemployed	168.5	165.7	162.3	158.9	155.8	152.5	148.6	148.1	147.2	150.4	154.7	163.4	171.0
Unemployment rate	8.8	8.6	8.5	8.3	8.1	8.0	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.8	8.1	8.5	9.0
Maine													
Civilian labor force	703.5	704.7	706.0	707.1	708.1	708.7	709.4	710.0	709.9	708.4	707.8	706.5	705.4
Employed	650.7	652.7	654.8	656.7	658.3	659.1	659.2	658.7	658.7	656.0	654.9	652.7	651.4
Unemployed	52.8	52.0	51.2	50.4	49.8	49.6	50.1	51.3	51.2	52.4	52.8	53.8	54.0
Unemployment rate	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.6
Massachusetts													
Civilian labor force	3,450.3	3,452.2	3,454.2	3,455.7	3,457.2	3,456.3	3,458.2	3,453.4	3,455.0	3,458.3	3,461.1	3,451.0	3,448.4
Employed	3,196.6	3,202.2	3,208.5	3,214.1	3,219.5	3,219.0	3,220.2	3,227.4	3,238.9	3,249.3	3,254.3	3,240.3	3,229.6
Unemployed	253.6	249.9	245.7	241.5	237.7	237.2	238.0	225.9	216.1	209.0	206.8	210.8	218.8
Unemployment rate	7.4	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.5	6.3	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.3
New Hampshire													
Civilian labor force	737.7	738.7	739.7	740.6	741.4	742.1	742.6	743.0	741.7	741.2	741.6	739.7	737.9
Employed	697.0	698.5	700.1	701.5	702.9	703.9	704.3	704.6	704.7	704.4	703.8	699.5	696.0
Unemployed	40.7	40.2	39.7	39.1	38.5	38.2	38.3	38.4	37.0	36.8	37.9	40.2	41.9
Unemployment rate	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.4	5.7
Rhode Island													
Civilian labor force	563.0	562.8	562.6	562.3	562.0	560.1	559.0	558.2	556.3	556.8	555.2	554.8	554.7
Employed	498.8	499.0	499.4	499.6	499.9	498.8	497.4	496.1	494.1	495.4	495.0	494.9	495.5
Unemployed	64.2	63.8	63.2	62.7	62.1	61.3	61.7	62.1	62.2	61.4	60.3	59.9	59.2
Unemployment rate	11.4	11.3	11.2	11.1	11.0	10.9	11.0	11.1	11.2	11.0	10.9	10.8	10.7
Vermont													
Civilian labor force	358.2	358.8	359.5	360.0	360.4	360.6	360.7	359.9	358.7	358.0	358.0	357.1	356.7
Employed	338.1	339.0	340.0	340.9	341.7	342.3	342.9	342.8	342.2	341.6	341.2	339.1	337.7
Unemployed	20.0	19.8	19.4	19.1	18.8	18.2	17.8	17.1	16.5	16.4	16.9	18.0	19.0
Unemployment rate	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.7	5.0	5.3
New England													
Civilian labor force	7,723.6	7,730.4	7,737.8	7,743.9	7,750.2	7,746.7	7,749.3	7,742.0	7,737.0	7,742.4	7,740.5	7,718.2	7,699.5
Employed	7,123.8	7,139.1	7,156.7	7,172.9	7,188.3	7,192.4	7,196.6	7,198.7	7,205.8	7,215.2	7,211.7	7,171.1	7,134.5
Unemployed	599.9	591.3	581.1	571.0	561.8	554.3	552.6	543.2	531.2	527.2	528.8	547.1	565.1
Unemployment rate	7.8	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8	7.1	7.3
United States (1)													
Civilian labor force	153,674	154,004	154,057	153,937	153,887	(2) 154,395	154,871	154,707	154,365	155,007	155,163	155,013	154,645
Employed	139,754	140,107	140,297	140,614	140,790	(2) 141,637	142,065	142,034	141,865	142,287	142,415	142,220	142,101
Unemployed	13,920	13,897	13,759	13,323	13,097	12,758	12,806	12,673	12,500	12,720	12,749	12,794	12,544
Unemployment rate	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.7	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.1

Footnotes

(1) Data for the U.S. are obtained directly from the national Current Population Survey (CPS) and are not preliminary. Seasonally adjusted CPS data have been revised as a result of routine seasonal updates processed at the end of each calendar year.

(2) Data affected by changes in population controls.

(P) Preliminary

NOTE: Data refer to place of residence. Area definitions are based on Office of Management and Budget Bulletin No. 10-02 dated December 1, 2009 and are available at www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm. Estimates for the latest month are subject to revision the following month.

NOTE: Data in this series reflect revised population controls model reestimation and new seasonal factors from January 2007 through December 2011.

Table 2. Civilian labor force and unemployment by census region and division, seasonally adjusted¹

(Numbers in thousands)

Census region and division	Civilian labor force				Unemployed							
					Number				Percent of the labor force			
	Aug 2011	June 2012	July 2012	Aug 2012	Aug 2011	June 2012	July 2012	Aug 2012	Aug 2011	June 2012	July 2012	Aug 2012
Northeast	28,136.6	28,382.8	28,376.6	28,322.5	2,330.3	2,312.0	2,379.1	2,427.6	8.3	8.1	8.4	8.6
New England	7,723.6	7,740.5	7,718.2	7,699.5	599.9	528.8	547.1	565.1	7.8	6.8	7.1	7.3
Middle Atlantic	20,413.0	20,642.3	20,658.3	20,622.9	1,730.4	1,783.2	1,832.0	1,862.5	8.5	8.6	8.9	9.0
South	56,124.6	56,409.0	56,388.2	56,334.0	5,004.2	4,376.3	4,480.9	4,493.8	8.9	7.8	7.9	8.0
South Atlantic	29,748.8	29,843.2	29,818.1	29,777.9	2,795.1	2,445.2	2,496.8	2,504.7	9.4	8.2	8.4	8.4
East South Central	8,726.5	8,668.1	8,665.0	8,668.6	832.3	707.6	734.8	744.4	9.5	8.2	8.5	8.6
West South Central	17,649.3	17,897.8	17,905.1	17,887.5	1,376.8	1,223.5	1,249.2	1,244.8	7.8	6.8	7.0	7.0
Midwest	34,291.4	34,276.3	34,186.4	34,091.7	2,925.6	2,487.5	2,547.7	2,572.8	8.5	7.3	7.5	7.5
East North Central	23,277.9	23,291.5	23,228.7	23,166.6	2,193.0	1,862.0	1,907.8	1,932.1	9.4	8.0	8.2	8.3
West North Central	11,013.5	10,984.8	10,957.7	10,925.0	732.6	625.4	640.0	640.7	6.7	5.7	5.8	5.9
West	35,835.6	35,994.2	35,887.6	35,780.2	3,739.9	3,386.5	3,389.0	3,356.2	10.4	9.4	9.4	9.4
Mountain	10,962.4	11,003.1	10,975.0	10,955.3	981.7	880.9	888.9	881.9	9.0	8.0	8.1	8.0
Pacific	24,873.2	24,991.2	24,912.6	24,825.0	2,758.2	2,505.7	2,500.1	2,474.3	11.1	10.0	10.0	10.0

¹ Census region estimates are derived by summing the Census division model-based estimates

NOTE: Data refer to place of residence. Regions are defined as the four Census regions comprised as follows: Northeast Region includes the New England Division - Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont; and the Middle Atlantic Division - New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. South Region includes the South Atlantic Division - Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia; East South Central Division - Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee; and West South Central Division - Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. Midwest Region includes the East North Central Division - Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin; and the West North Central Division - Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. West Region includes the Mountain Division - Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming; and the Pacific Division - Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington. Estimates for the current year are subject to revision early in the following calendar year.

NOTE: Data in this series reflect revised population controls model reestimation and new seasonal factors from January 2007 through December 2011.