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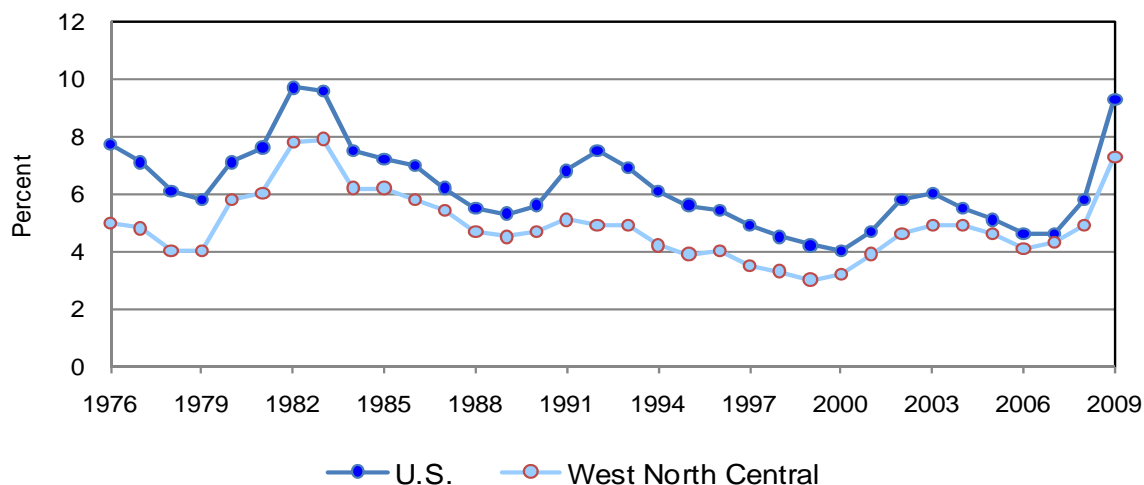
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WEST NORTH CENTRAL AND STATE UNEMPLOYMENT - 2009

West North Central recorded unemployment rate significantly lower than the U.S. rate

The unemployment rate in the West North Central division rose 2.4 percentage points over the year to 7.3 percent in 2009, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Nationally, the U.S. jobless rate jumped 3.5 percentage points from the prior year and reached 9.3 percent. (See table 1.) Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that the West North Central’s unemployment rate was significantly below the national rate. It should also be noted that the jobless rate in the West North Central division has never exceeded the U.S. average in the 34 years that this data has been collected. (See chart 1. All division and state series begin in 1976.)

Chart 1. Unemployment rates for the U.S. and West North Central census division, 1976 - 2009



The West North Central is one of nine geographic divisions in the United States. Jobless rates in the divisions ranged from a low of 7.3 percent in the West North Central to a high of 10.9 percent in the Pacific in 2009. Five divisions, including the West North Central, recorded annual average unemployment rates that were significantly lower than that for the nation. Three divisions had rates

appreciably above the U.S. average, all with rates exceeding 10.0 percent—the Pacific, the East North Central, and the East South Central. (See table 2.)

All nine geographic divisions reported statistically significant over-the-year unemployment rate increases in 2009. The increases ranged from 2.4 percentage points in the West North Central to 4.1 percentage points in the Pacific.

Of the seven states that make up the West North Central division, none had a jobless rate exceeding the national average in 2009 and six had jobless rates that were significantly lower than that for the nation. Four of these registered the lowest rates among the 50 states—North Dakota (4.3 percent), Nebraska (4.6 percent), South Dakota (4.8 percent) and Iowa (6.0 percent). Kansas' unemployment rate of 6.7 percent, while below the U.S. average, was nevertheless the highest rate on record in the State. In fact, Kansas was one of nine states nationwide whose unemployment rate reached a series high in 2009. At 8.0 percent, Minnesota's jobless rate was also appreciably lower than that for the nation. Missouri's unemployment rate of 9.3 percent matched the national average.

Nationwide, the highest rate among the states was recorded in Michigan (13.6 percent). Overall, 30 states reported unemployment rates measurably lower than the national average in 2009 and 13 states and the District of Columbia reported rates that were significantly higher.

All seven West North Central states posted statistically significant jobless rate increases from 2008. The over-the-year rate increases in North Dakota (+1.1 percent) and Nebraska (+1.3 percent) were the lowest in the nation. Iowa and South Dakota also had increases under 2 percentage points. Kansas' unemployment rate rose 2.3 percentage points and Minnesota's, 2.6 points. The largest rate increase in the division occurred in Missouri, up 3.2 percentage points. Overall, 5 of the 7 states in the West North Central had jobless rate increases that were among the 10 smallest nationwide in 2009.

Nationally, all 50 states experienced statistically significant jobless rate increases over the year, the largest occurring in Michigan, up 5.3 percentage points followed by Nevada, up 5.1 percentage points.

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 monthly sample survey of approximately 60,000 households nationwide that is conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the Census Bureau. All subnational estimates presented in this release were derived from updated time-series models with monthly benchmarking to national Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates. Subnational data reflect revised population controls and model reestimation. Historical data were revised back to 2004. Data for regions, divisions, states, and the District of Columbia are available back to 1976.

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 Unemployment release at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm#news>.

Analysis in this news release reflects the use of model-based error measures when making comparisons with the U.S. and the prior year. BLS uses a 90-percent confidence level in determining whether

changes or differences in subnational unemployment rates are statistically significant. Model-based error measures are available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm>.

Additional information

For personal assistance or further information on the Local Area Unemployment Statistics program, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Mountain-Plains Information Office at 816-285-7000 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 617-565-2072; Federal Relay Services: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population for the U.S., West North Central, and West North Central states, 2008-09 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Area	Civilian labor force		Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rate		Error range of rate, 2009[2]
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	
United States[1]	154,287	154,142	145,362	139,877	8,924	14,265	5.8	9.3	9.2 - 9.3
West North Central	10,960	10,992	10,420	10,189	540	803	4.9	7.3	7.0 - 7.6
Iowa	1,678	1,674	1,605	1,574	73	100	4.4	6.0	5.5 - 6.4
Kansas	1,494	1,519	1,428	1,417	66	102	4.4	6.7	6.2 - 7.2
Minnesota	2,938	2,968	2,780	2,732	158	236	5.4	8.0	7.5 - 8.4
Missouri	3,047	3,037	2,861	2,754	186	283	6.1	9.3	8.6 - 10.0
Nebraska	993	984	961	938	33	45	3.3	4.6	4.2 - 5.0
North Dakota	364	365	353	349	12	16	3.2	4.3	3.9 - 4.8
South Dakota	446	446	433	425	14	21	3.1	4.8	4.4 - 5.1

[1] Data for the U.S. are obtained directly from the national Current Population Survey.

[2] Error ranges are shown at the 90-percent confidence level and are based on unrounded data.

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.

Table 2. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population by region and division, 2008-09 annual averages
(Numbers in thousands)

Census region and division	Civilian labor force		Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rate		Error range of rate, 2009[1]
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	
Northeast	28,325	28,387	26,809	25,995	1,516	2,392	5.4	8.4	8.2 - 8.6
New England	7,710	7,737	7,297	7,096	413	641	5.4	8.3	8.0 - 8.6
Middle Atlantic	20,615	20,650	19,512	18,899	1,102	1,751	5.3	8.5	8.2 - 8.7
South	54,880	55,063	51,853	50,146	3,027	4,917	5.5	8.9	8.8 - 9.1
South Atlantic	29,498	29,416	27,814	26,634	1,684	2,781	5.7	9.5	9.2 - 9.7
East South Central	8,552	8,505	8,013	7,635	539	870	6.3	10.2	9.7 - 10.7
West South Central	16,830	17,142	16,026	15,877	804	1,265	4.8	7.4	7.1 - 7.7
Midwest	34,922	34,723	32,811	31,397	2,111	3,327	6.0	9.6	9.4 - 9.8
East North Central	23,961	23,731	22,390	21,208	1,571	2,523	6.6	10.6	10.3 - 10.9
West North Central	10,960	10,992	10,420	10,189	540	803	4.9	7.3	7.0 - 7.6
West	35,761	35,818	33,517	32,206	2,244	3,612	6.3	10.1	9.9 - 10.3
Mountain	11,082	11,076	10,511	10,154	570	922	5.1	8.3	8.0 - 8.6
Pacific	24,680	24,741	23,005	22,052	1,674	2,689	6.8	10.9	10.6 - 11.1

[1] Error ranges are shown at the 90-percent confidence level and are based on unrounded data.

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.

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.

