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REGIONAL AND STATE UNEMPLOYMENT — 2012 ANNUAL AVERAGES

In 2012, annual average unemployment rates declined in 46 states and the District of Columbia, rose in 2 states, and were unchanged in 2 states, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Employment-population ratios increased in 26 states and the District of Columbia, decreased in 18 states, and were unchanged in 6 states. The U.S. jobless rate declined by 0.8 percentage point from the prior year to 8.1 percent, and the national employment-population ratio edged up to 58.6 percent.

Regional Unemployment

Three of the 4 regions had statistically significant unemployment rate decreases from 2011. The West experienced the greatest decline (-1.2 percentage points), followed by the South (-1.1 points) and Midwest (-0.9 point). The West, at 9.2 percent, had the only jobless rate significantly higher than that of the U.S. in 2012. The Midwest and South, at 7.4 and 7.7 percent, respectively, had rates significantly below the national figure. (See table 1.)

Eight of the 9 geographic divisions had statistically significant over-the-year unemployment rate changes in 2012, all of which were decreases. The largest of these occurred in the East South Central (-1.3 percentage points) and Pacific (-1.2 points). For the fifth year in a row, the Pacific had the highest unemployment rate, 9.8 percent in 2012. The next highest rate was in the Middle Atlantic, at 8.5 percent. The rates of both of these divisions were significantly above the U.S. average. The West North Central division again had the lowest jobless rate, 5.6 percent. Two other divisions, the West South Central and New England, at 6.6 and 7.2 percent, respectively, also had rates significantly below the national figure.

State Unemployment

In 2012, 41 states and the District of Columbia had statistically significant unemployment rate decreases, the largest of which were in Nevada (-2.1 percentage points), Florida (-1.7 points), and Missouri (-1.5 points). Twelve additional states and the District of Columbia experienced decreases greater than 1.0 percentage point. The remaining nine states had annual average unemployment rates for 2012 that were not appreciably different from those of the previous year, though some had changes that were at least as large numerically as the significant changes. (See table A and chart 1.)

Three states had unemployment rates of 10.0 percent or more in 2012. Nevada again had the highest unemployment rate (11.1 percent), followed by California (10.5 percent) and Rhode Island (10.4 percent). North Dakota had the lowest jobless rate among states for the fourth year in a row (3.1 percent), followed by Nebraska (3.9 percent) and South Dakota (4.4 percent). Overall, 27 states had

unemployment rates that were significantly lower than the U.S. rate of 8.1 percent, while 13 states and the District of Columbia had rates significantly above it. (See table B and chart 2.)

Regional Employment-Population Ratios

In 2012, the South was the only region to have a statistically significant change (+0.3 percentage point) in its employment-population ratio—the proportion of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over with a job. The Midwest continued to have the highest ratio, 60.5 percent. The West had the lowest ratio, at 57.7 percent, followed by the South, at 57.9 percent. These three regions had employment-population ratios that were significantly different from the national figure of 58.6 percent. (See table 2.)

The South Atlantic was the only division to have a statistically significant change in its employment-population ratio in 2012 (+0.4 percentage point). The East South Central again had the lowest proportion of employed persons, 55.4 percent. The next lowest ratios were in the Pacific (57.1 percent), South Atlantic (57.7 percent), and Middle Atlantic (57.8 percent). Ratios in all four of these divisions were significantly below the national average. The division with the highest employment-population ratio was the West North Central, at 64.5 percent, followed by New England, at 61.3 percent. These two divisions, along with the West South Central, at 59.6 percent, had employment-population ratios measurably above that of the U.S.

State Employment-Population Ratios

In 2012, the largest statistically significant employment-population ratio increase among states occurred in Nebraska (+1.0 percentage point), followed by Montana (+0.9 point), Florida (+0.8 point), Kentucky and North Dakota (+0.6 point each), and California (+0.4 point). The District of Columbia also had a statistically significant increase (+2.1 percentage points). Connecticut and Iowa had the only significant employment-population ratio declines among states (-0.7 percentage point each). The remaining 42 states had proportions that were not significantly different from those of a year earlier, though some had changes that were at least as large numerically as the significant changes.

West Virginia again had the lowest employment-population ratio among the states, 50.2 percent in 2012. West Virginia has had the lowest employment-population ratio each year since the series began in 1976. Four states in the West North Central division again had the highest ratios: North Dakota (69.7 percent), Nebraska (69.4 percent), South Dakota (67.3 percent), and Minnesota (66.9 percent). Overall, 23 states and the District of Columbia had employment-population ratios that were significantly above the U.S. ratio of 58.6 percent and 16 states had ratios that were appreciably below it. The remaining 11 states had ratios that were not significantly different from that of the nation. (See table C and chart 3.)

The Regional and State Employment and Unemployment news release for January 2013 is scheduled to be released on Monday, March 18, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT). The Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment news release for January 2013 is scheduled to be released on Friday, March 22, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT).

Table A. States with statistically significant unemployment rate changes, 2011–12 annual averages

State	Rate		Over-the-year rate change
	2011	2012	
Alabama	8.7	7.3	-1.4
Alaska	7.6	7.0	-6
Arizona	9.4	8.3	-1.1
Arkansas	7.9	7.3	-6
California	11.8	10.5	-1.3
Colorado	8.6	8.0	-6
Connecticut	8.9	8.4	-5
District of Columbia	10.1	8.9	-1.2
Florida	10.3	8.6	-1.7
Georgia	9.9	9.0	-9
Hawaii	6.5	5.8	-7
Idaho	8.3	7.1	-1.2
Illinois	9.7	8.9	-8
Iowa	5.9	5.2	-7
Kansas	6.5	5.7	-8
Kentucky	9.5	8.2	-1.3
Louisiana	7.3	6.4	-9
Maryland	7.3	6.8	-5
Massachusetts	7.3	6.7	-6
Michigan	10.4	9.1	-1.3
Minnesota	6.5	5.6	-9
Mississippi	10.5	9.2	-1.3
Missouri	8.4	6.9	-1.5
Montana	6.6	6.0	-6
Nebraska	4.5	3.9	-6
Nevada	13.2	11.1	-2.1
North Carolina	10.2	9.5	-7
North Dakota	3.5	3.1	-4
Ohio	8.6	7.2	-1.4
Oklahoma	5.9	5.2	-7
Oregon	9.6	8.7	-9
Rhode Island	11.2	10.4	-8
South Carolina	10.4	9.1	-1.3
South Dakota	4.8	4.4	-4
Tennessee	9.3	8.0	-1.3
Texas	7.9	6.8	-1.1
Utah	6.9	5.7	-1.2
Vermont	5.6	5.0	-6
Virginia	6.4	5.9	-5
Washington	9.2	8.2	-1.0
Wisconsin	7.5	6.9	-6
Wyoming	6.1	5.4	-7

Table B. States with unemployment rates significantly different from that of the U.S., 2012 annual averages

State	Rate
United States	8.1
Alaska	7.0
Arkansas	7.3
California	10.5
Delaware	7.1
District of Columbia	8.9
Florida	8.6
Georgia	9.0
Hawaii	5.8
Idaho	7.1
Illinois	8.9
Iowa	5.2
Kansas	5.7
Louisiana	6.4
Maine	7.3
Maryland	6.8
Massachusetts	6.7
Michigan	9.1
Minnesota	5.6
Mississippi	9.2
Missouri	6.9
Montana	6.0
Nebraska	3.9
Nevada	11.1
New Hampshire	5.5
New Jersey	9.5
New Mexico	6.9
New York	8.5
North Carolina	9.5
North Dakota	3.1
Ohio	7.2
Oklahoma	5.2
Oregon	8.7
Rhode Island	10.4
South Carolina	9.1
South Dakota	4.4
Texas	6.8
Utah	5.7
Vermont	5.0
Virginia	5.9
Wisconsin	6.9
Wyoming	5.4

Table C. States with employment-population ratios significantly different from that of the U.S., 2012 annual averages

State	Ratio
United States	58.6
Alabama	53.3
Alaska	63.5
Arizona	55.6
Arkansas	55.5
California	56.4
Colorado	63.2
Connecticut	60.6
Delaware	57.3
District of Columbia	62.9
Florida	55.4
Idaho	60.2
Illinois	60.2
Iowa	65.0
Kansas	64.5
Kentucky	56.3
Louisiana	55.7
Maine	60.5
Maryland	63.2
Massachusetts	60.8
Michigan	54.4
Minnesota	66.9
Mississippi	53.7
Montana	60.2
Nebraska	69.4
New Hampshire	65.7
New Jersey	59.7
New Mexico	54.8
New York	56.4
North Carolina	57.1
North Dakota	69.7
South Carolina	53.9
South Dakota	67.3
Tennessee	57.0
Texas	60.8
Utah	62.9
Vermont	66.2
Virginia	62.7
West Virginia	50.2
Wisconsin	63.3
Wyoming	65.1

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 expressed as a percent of the labor force. The *employment-population ratio* is the proportion of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age 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 incorporate updated population data from the U.S. Census Bureau, any revisions in the other data sources, and model reestimation. The population data (except for Puerto Rico) reflect, for the first time, the results of the 2010 Census. 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 the release of January estimates. Though the labor force estimates are changed for 5 years, the population estimates are adjusted back to the new decennial estimates base of April 2010.

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. In table 1, level estimates for states may not sum to level estimates for regions and divisions because of rounding. Unemployment rates and employment-population ratios are computed from unrounded levels and thus may differ slightly from rates and ratios computed using the rounded level estimates displayed in table 1.

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 model-based 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 and employment-population ratios regardless of their statistical significance. The remainder of the analysis in the release—other than historical highs and lows—takes statistical significance into consideration. Model-based error measures are available online at www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm. BLS uses 90-percent confidence levels in determining whether changes in LAUS unemployment rates or employment-population ratios are statistically significant. The average magnitude of the over-the-year change in an annual state unemployment rate that is required in order to be statistically significant at the 90-

percent confidence level is about 0.5 percentage point. The average magnitude of the over-the-year change in an annual state employment-population ratio that is required in order to be statistically significant at the 90-percent confidence level is about 0.6 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 & Earnings Online*, available on the BLS Web site at 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 & Earnings Online*.

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

Table 1. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over by region, division, and state, 2011–12 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Region, division, and state	Population		Civilian labor force		Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rate		Error range of rate, 2012 ¹
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	
United States	239,618	243,284	153,617	154,975	139,869	142,469	13,747	12,506	8.9	8.1	8.0 – 8.2
Northeast	44,127	44,378	28,208	28,389	25,887	26,066	2,321	2,324	8.2	8.2	8.0 – 8.4
New England	11,605	11,683	7,735	7,720	7,134	7,161	601	560	7.8	7.2	6.9 – 7.5
Connecticut	2,826	2,842	1,902	1,879	1,733	1,722	169	157	8.9	8.4	7.8 – 8.9
Maine	1,079	1,083	704	706	649	655	54	52	7.7	7.3	6.8 – 7.9
Massachusetts	5,289	5,335	3,470	3,475	3,216	3,242	254	234	7.3	6.7	6.2 – 7.3
New Hampshire	1,059	1,067	738	742	697	701	41	41	5.5	5.5	5.2 – 5.9
Rhode Island	842	845	563	560	499	502	63	58	11.2	10.4	9.7 – 11.1
Vermont	510	512	359	356	339	339	20	18	5.6	5.0	4.6 – 5.4
Middle Atlantic	32,522	32,695	20,473	20,669	18,753	18,905	1,720	1,764	8.4	8.5	8.3 – 8.8
New Jersey	6,926	6,970	4,545	4,595	4,120	4,159	425	436	9.4	9.5	8.9 – 10.0
New York	15,477	15,567	9,528	9,587	8,741	8,773	788	815	8.3	8.5	8.1 – 8.9
Pennsylvania	10,118	10,158	6,400	6,487	5,893	5,973	507	513	7.9	7.9	7.5 – 8.4
Midwest	52,053	52,318	34,265	34,149	31,405	31,631	2,860	2,518	8.3	7.4	7.2 – 7.6
East North Central	36,152	36,306	23,282	23,200	21,144	21,300	2,139	1,899	9.2	8.2	7.9 – 8.5
Illinois	9,942	9,984	6,580	6,593	5,943	6,008	637	585	9.7	8.9	8.3 – 9.4
Indiana	5,001	5,030	3,158	3,150	2,875	2,886	283	264	9.0	8.4	7.7 – 9.1
Michigan	7,752	7,784	4,676	4,657	4,190	4,232	486	426	10.4	9.1	8.5 – 9.7
Ohio	8,995	9,022	5,805	5,748	5,304	5,335	502	413	8.6	7.2	6.7 – 7.7
Wisconsin	4,462	4,486	3,064	3,052	2,833	2,840	231	211	7.5	6.9	6.4 – 7.4
West North Central	15,901	16,013	10,982	10,949	10,261	10,330	721	618	6.6	5.6	5.4 – 5.9
Iowa	2,377	2,389	1,660	1,639	1,563	1,553	97	86	5.9	5.2	4.8 – 5.7
Kansas	2,164	2,177	1,499	1,489	1,402	1,404	98	85	6.5	5.7	5.3 – 6.2
Minnesota	4,153	4,187	2,970	2,971	2,778	2,802	192	168	6.5	5.6	5.3 – 6.0
Missouri	4,648	4,669	3,023	2,993	2,768	2,786	255	207	8.4	6.9	6.3 – 7.6
Nebraska	1,401	1,412	1,003	1,020	959	980	45	40	4.5	3.9	3.6 – 4.3
North Dakota	533	545	382	392	369	380	13	12	3.5	3.1	2.7 – 3.5
South Dakota	625	633	444	446	423	426	21	20	4.8	4.4	4.0 – 4.8
South	89,012	90,105	56,160	56,525	51,237	52,174	4,923	4,351	8.8	7.7	7.5 – 7.9
South Atlantic	47,146	47,740	29,753	30,008	26,999	27,538	2,754	2,469	9.3	8.2	8.0 – 8.4
Delaware	712	720	441	444	408	412	33	32	7.4	7.1	6.5 – 7.7
District of Columbia	515	524	348	362	313	329	35	32	10.1	8.9	8.3 – 9.6
Florida	15,235	15,457	9,275	9,369	8,322	8,562	953	807	10.3	8.6	8.2 – 9.0
Georgia	7,383	7,481	4,768	4,806	4,295	4,372	473	434	9.9	9.0	8.5 – 9.6
Maryland	4,554	4,601	3,093	3,123	2,868	2,910	225	213	7.3	6.8	6.4 – 7.2
North Carolina	7,403	7,492	4,660	4,723	4,183	4,275	477	448	10.2	9.5	8.9 – 10.0
South Carolina	3,615	3,658	2,167	2,167	1,942	1,970	226	197	10.4	9.1	8.3 – 9.9
Virginia	6,245	6,321	4,198	4,210	3,928	3,962	270	247	6.4	5.9	5.4 – 6.3
West Virginia	1,485	1,487	803	805	740	746	63	59	7.8	7.3	6.5 – 8.2
East South Central	14,312	14,405	8,709	8,678	7,894	7,978	814	700	9.4	8.1	7.6 – 8.5
Alabama	3,729	3,748	2,182	2,156	1,993	1,999	189	157	8.7	7.3	6.2 – 8.3
Kentucky	3,366	3,379	2,072	2,075	1,875	1,904	196	171	9.5	8.2	7.5 – 8.9
Mississippi	2,244	2,254	1,338	1,333	1,198	1,211	141	122	10.5	9.2	8.3 – 10.0
Tennessee	4,974	5,024	3,117	3,114	2,829	2,864	288	249	9.3	8.0	7.4 – 8.7
West South Central	27,553	27,961	17,698	17,840	16,343	16,658	1,354	1,182	7.7	6.6	6.4 – 6.9
Arkansas	2,252	2,263	1,360	1,356	1,252	1,257	108	99	7.9	7.3	6.6 – 8.0
Louisiana	3,474	3,498	2,070	2,084	1,919	1,949	151	134	7.3	6.4	5.6 – 7.3
Oklahoma	2,867	2,893	1,784	1,803	1,679	1,709	105	94	5.9	5.2	4.7 – 5.7
Texas	18,960	19,307	12,484	12,597	11,494	11,743	991	855	7.9	6.8	6.4 – 7.1
West	55,861	56,598	35,897	35,986	32,167	32,665	3,730	3,321	10.4	9.2	9.0 – 9.4
Mountain	16,920	17,168	11,011	11,029	10,030	10,161	981	867	8.9	7.9	7.6 – 8.2
Arizona	4,921	4,998	3,049	3,030	2,762	2,779	287	252	9.4	8.3	7.6 – 9.0
Colorado	3,924	3,990	2,723	2,743	2,490	2,524	233	220	8.6	8.0	7.5 – 8.5
Idaho	1,180	1,194	767	773	703	719	64	55	8.3	7.1	6.3 – 7.8
Montana	786	793	499	508	466	477	33	31	6.6	6.0	5.3 – 6.7
Nevada	2,097	2,131	1,392	1,379	1,208	1,226	184	152	13.2	11.1	10.4 – 11.7
New Mexico	1,582	1,590	932	936	862	871	70	65	7.5	6.9	6.2 – 7.6
Utah	1,993	2,028	1,347	1,354	1,254	1,276	93	77	6.9	5.7	5.2 – 6.2
Wyoming	438	445	303	306	285	290	18	16	6.1	5.4	4.9 – 5.9
Pacific	38,941	39,430	24,885	24,957	22,137	22,504	2,748	2,453	11.0	9.8	9.6 – 10.1
Alaska	529	537	366	366	338	341	28	26	7.6	7.0	6.3 – 7.7
California	28,979	29,348	18,404	18,495	16,237	16,560	2,167	1,935	11.8	10.5	10.1 – 10.8
Hawaii	1,055	1,066	658	652	615	614	43	38	6.5	5.8	5.3 – 6.3
Oregon	3,065	3,097	1,975	1,963	1,785	1,792	190	171	9.6	8.7	8.1 – 9.3
Washington	5,312	5,382	3,482	3,481	3,162	3,197	320	284	9.2	8.2	7.6 – 8.8
Puerto Rico	2,921	2,915	1,229	1,214	1,033	1,038	196	176	16.0	14.5	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, 2011–12 annual averages

(Percent)

Region, division, and state	Employment-population ratio ¹		Over-the-year change	Error range of ratio, 2012 ²
	2011	2012		
United States	58.4	58.6	0.2	58.4 – 58.8
Northeast	58.7	58.7	.0	58.3 – 59.2
New England	61.5	61.3	-.2	60.6 – 62.0
Connecticut	61.3	60.6	-.7	59.5 – 61.8
Maine	60.2	60.5	.3	59.2 – 61.7
Massachusetts	60.8	60.8	.0	59.7 – 61.9
New Hampshire	65.8	65.7	-.1	64.7 – 66.7
Rhode Island	59.3	59.4	.1	58.3 – 60.6
Vermont	66.3	66.2	-.1	65.0 – 67.3
Middle Atlantic	57.7	57.8	.1	57.3 – 58.4
New Jersey	59.5	59.7	.2	58.7 – 60.6
New York	56.5	56.4	-.1	55.7 – 57.0
Pennsylvania	58.2	58.8	.6	58.0 – 59.6
Midwest	60.3	60.5	.2	60.1 – 60.9
East North Central	58.5	58.7	.2	58.2 – 59.2
Illinois	59.8	60.2	.4	59.2 – 61.1
Indiana	57.5	57.4	-.1	56.0 – 58.8
Michigan	54.1	54.4	.3	53.4 – 55.3
Ohio	59.0	59.1	.1	58.3 – 60.0
Wisconsin	63.5	63.3	-.2	62.0 – 64.6
West North Central	64.5	64.5	.0	63.9 – 65.1
Iowa	65.7	65.0	-.7	63.9 – 66.1
Kansas	64.8	64.5	-.3	63.3 – 65.6
Minnesota	66.9	66.9	.0	65.8 – 68.1
Missouri	59.6	59.7	.1	58.3 – 61.0
Nebraska	68.4	69.4	1.0	68.2 – 70.6
North Dakota	69.1	69.7	.6	68.4 – 71.1
South Dakota	67.7	67.3	-.4	66.1 – 68.5
South	57.6	57.9	.3	57.6 – 58.2
South Atlantic	57.3	57.7	.4	57.2 – 58.1
Delaware	57.3	57.3	.0	56.2 – 58.4
District of Columbia	60.8	62.9	2.1	61.7 – 64.0
Florida	54.6	55.4	.8	54.5 – 56.3
Georgia	58.2	58.4	.2	57.4 – 59.5
Maryland	63.0	63.2	.2	62.4 – 64.1
North Carolina	56.5	57.1	.6	56.1 – 58.1
South Carolina	53.7	53.9	.2	52.6 – 55.1
Virginia	62.9	62.7	-.2	61.5 – 63.9
West Virginia	49.8	50.2	.4	48.5 – 51.8
East South Central	55.2	55.4	.2	54.6 – 56.2
Alabama	53.4	53.3	-.1	51.6 – 55.0
Kentucky	55.7	56.3	.6	55.0 – 57.6
Mississippi	53.4	53.7	.3	52.2 – 55.2
Tennessee	56.9	57.0	.1	55.8 – 58.3
West South Central	59.3	59.6	.3	59.0 – 60.2
Arkansas	55.6	55.5	-.1	54.3 – 56.7
Louisiana	55.2	55.7	.5	54.1 – 57.3
Oklahoma	58.6	59.1	.5	57.8 – 60.4
Texas	60.6	60.8	.2	60.1 – 61.5
West	57.6	57.7	.1	57.4 – 58.1
Mountain	59.3	59.2	-.1	58.6 – 59.8
Arizona	56.1	55.6	-.5	54.0 – 57.2
Colorado	63.5	63.2	-.3	61.8 – 64.7
Idaho	59.5	60.2	.7	58.8 – 61.6
Montana	59.3	60.2	.9	58.6 – 61.7
Nevada	57.6	57.6	.0	56.4 – 58.7
New Mexico	54.5	54.8	.3	53.7 – 55.9
Utah	62.9	62.9	.0	61.4 – 64.5
Wyoming	65.1	65.1	.0	63.8 – 66.4
Pacific	56.8	57.1	.3	56.7 – 57.5
Alaska	63.8	63.5	-.3	61.8 – 65.2
California	56.0	56.4	.4	56.0 – 56.9
Hawaii	58.3	57.6	-.7	56.3 – 58.8
Oregon	58.3	57.8	-.5	56.8 – 58.9
Washington	59.5	59.4	-.1	58.4 – 60.4
Puerto Rico	35.4	35.6	.2	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, 2012 annual averages

(U.S. change = -0.8 percentage point)

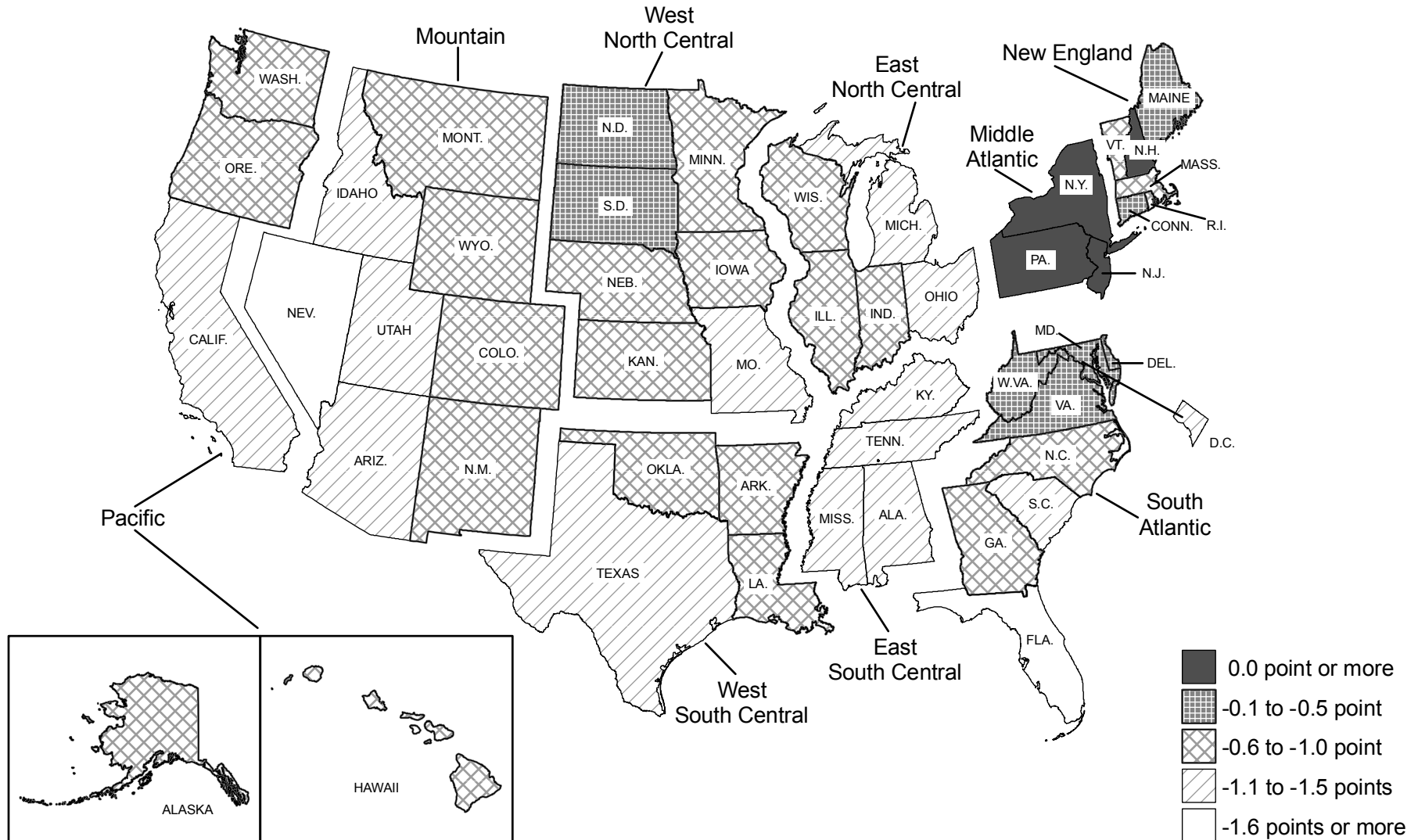


Chart 2. Unemployment rates by state, 2012 annual averages

(U.S. rate = 8.1 percent)

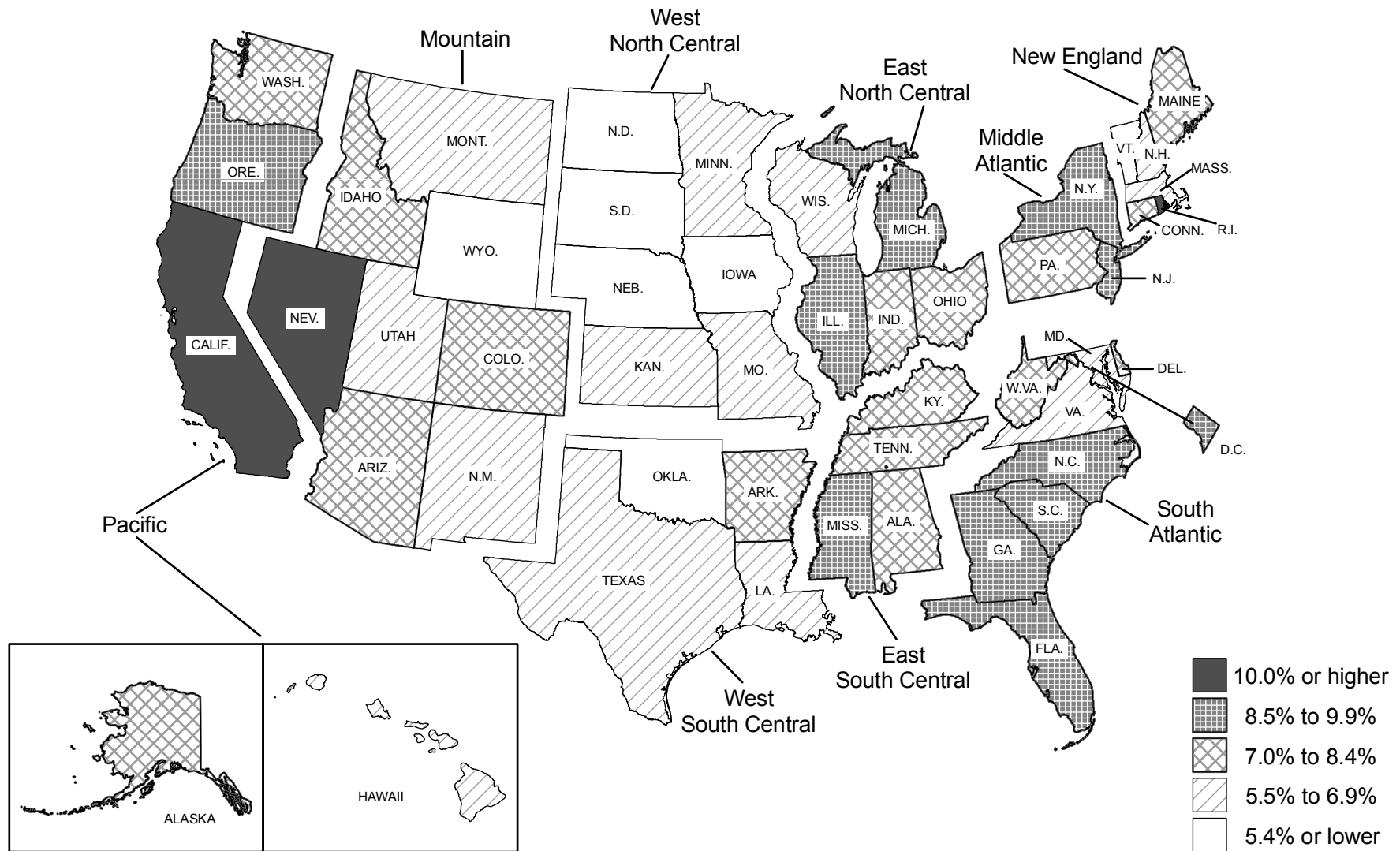


Chart 3. Employment-population ratios by state, 2012 annual averages

(U.S. ratio= 58.6 percent)

