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Regional and State Employment and Unemployment Summary

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REGIONAL AND STATE EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT -- NOVEMBER 2014

Regional and state unemployment rates were little changed in November. Forty-one states and the District of Columbia had unemployment rate decreases from October, three states had increases, and six states had no change, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Forty-three states and the District of Columbia had unemployment rate decreases from a year earlier, four states had increases, and three states had no change. The national jobless rate was unchanged from October at 5.8 percent and was 1.2 percentage points lower than in November 2013.

In November 2014, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 37 states and the District of Columbia, decreased in 12 states, and was unchanged in Idaho. The largest over-the-month increases in employment occurred in California (+90,100), Florida (+41,900), and Texas (+34,800). The largest over-the-month decrease in employment occurred in West Virginia (-5,200), followed by Mississippi (-4,500) and Kansas (-4,100). The largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in Vermont (+1.2 percent), followed by Hawaii (+0.9 percent) and Delaware, South Carolina, and Wisconsin (+0.7 percent each). The largest over-the-month percentage decline in employment occurred in West Virginia (-0.7 percent), followed by Mississippi (-0.4 percent) and Kansas, South Dakota, and Wyoming (-0.3 percent each). Over the year, nonfarm employment increased in 48 states and the District of Columbia and decreased in Alaska (-0.4 percent) and Mississippi (-0.1 percent). The largest over-the-year percentage increase occurred in North Dakota (+4.8 percent), followed by Texas (+3.9 percent) and Utah (+3.4 percent).

Regional Unemployment (Seasonally Adjusted)

In November, the West continued to have the highest regional unemployment rate, 6.4 percent, while the Midwest had the lowest rate, 5.4 percent. There were statistically significant over-the-month unemployment rate changes in the Midwest and South (-0.2 percentage point each) and Northeast (-0.1 point). Significant over-the-year rate decreases occurred in all four regions: the Midwest (-1.5 percentage points), Northeast (-1.3 points), West (-1.2 points), and South (-0.8 point). (See table 1.)

Among the nine geographic divisions, the Pacific had the highest jobless rate, 6.9 percent in November. The West North Central again had the lowest rate, 4.3 percent. Over the month, statistically significant jobless rate changes occurred in the Middle Atlantic and South Atlantic (-0.3 percentage point each) and the East North Central, East South Central, and West North Central (-0.2 point each). All nine divisions had significant rate declines from a year earlier. The largest of these decreases occurred in the East North Central (-1.9 percentage points).

State Unemployment (Seasonally Adjusted)

Mississippi had the highest unemployment rate among the states in November, 7.3 percent. The District of Columbia had a rate of 7.4 percent. North Dakota again had the lowest jobless rate, 2.7 percent. In total, 20 states had unemployment rates significantly lower than the U.S. figure of 5.8 percent, 8 states and the District of Columbia had measurably higher rates, and 22 states had rates that were not appreciably different from that of the nation. (See tables A and 3.)

In November, 22 states had statistically significant over-the-month unemployment rate changes, all of which were declines. North Carolina had the largest decrease (-0.5 percentage point), followed by Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, and Michigan (-0.4 point each). The remaining 28 states and the District of Columbia had jobless rates that were not measurably different from those of a month earlier, though some had changes that were at least as large numerically as the significant changes. (See table B.)

Twenty-eight states had statistically significant unemployment rate changes over the year, all of which were decreases. The largest of these occurred in Illinois (-2.6 percentage points). The remaining 22 states and the District of Columbia had rates that were not appreciably different from those of a year earlier. (See table C.)

Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)

In November 2014, 20 states and the District of Columbia had statistically significant over-the-month increases in employment, and 2 states had decreases. The largest significant job gains occurred in California (+90,100), Florida (+41,900), and Texas (+34,800). The significant job decreases occurred in West Virginia (-5,200) and Mississippi (-4,500). (See tables D and 5.)

Over the year, 34 states and the District had statistically significant changes in employment, all of which were positive. The largest significant over-the-year job increase occurred in Texas (+441,200), followed by California (+344,100) and Florida (+229,900). (See table E.)

The Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment news release for November is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, December 30, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. (EST). The Regional and State Employment and Unemployment news release for December is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, January 27, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. (EST).

Current Employment Statistics (CES) Data Corrections

This news release contains corrections to previously released employment data in tables D, E, 5, and 6. A complete list of corrections in this news release and in the CES (state and area) database can be found at www.bls.gov/bls/errata/sae_errata.htm.

Upcoming Changes to Current Employment Statistics Data

Effective with the release of January 2015 estimates on March 17, 2015, all nonfarm payroll employment estimates for states and areas presented in tables 5 and 6 of this news release will be adjusted to 2014 benchmark levels. Seasonally adjusted series will be subject to revision from 1990 forward. Not seasonally adjusted payroll data back to April 2013 will also be subject to revision.

 Upcoming Changes to Local Area Unemployment Statistics Data

Effective with the release of Regional and State Unemployment 2014 Annual Averages on March 4, 2015, the civilian labor force and unemployment data for regions, divisions, states, the District of Columbia, and the modeled substate areas presented in tables 1-4 of this news release will be replaced with data produced using a new generation of time-series models. Data will be re-estimated back to January 1976 for regions, divisions, states, the District of Columbia, the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale metropolitan division, New York City, and the balances of California and New York states. Data for the five remaining modeled substate and balance-of-state areas will be re-estimated back to their new series beginnings in 1990 or 1994. Both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted data will be affected. More information is available in the "Report on Revision to State and Area Time-Series Models" on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/lau/lauschanges2015.htm.

The revisions to model-based data at the state level and below for 2013 and 2014 also will incorporate updated estimation inputs, while the revisions for all model-based data from April 2010 forward will reflect new population controls from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Table A. States with unemployment rates significantly different from that of the U.S., November 2014, seasonally adjusted

State	Rate(p)
United States (1)	5.8
California	7.2
Colorado	4.1
District of Columbia	7.4
Georgia	7.2
Hawaii	4.0
Idaho	3.9
Iowa	4.3
Kansas	4.3
Michigan	6.7
Minnesota	3.7
Mississippi	7.3
Montana	4.3
Nebraska	3.1
Nevada	6.9
New Hampshire	4.1
North Dakota	2.7
Ohio	5.0
Oklahoma	4.4
Oregon	7.0
Pennsylvania	5.1
Rhode Island	7.1
South Dakota	3.3
Tennessee	6.8
Texas	4.9
Utah	3.6
Vermont	4.3
Virginia	5.0
Wisconsin	5.2
Wyoming	4.5

1 Data are not preliminary.
p = preliminary.

Table B. States with statistically significant unemployment rate changes from October 2014 to November 2014, seasonally adjusted

State	Rate		Over-the-month change (p)
	October 2014	November 2014 (p)	
Alabama	6.3	6.0	-0.3
Arkansas	6.1	5.8	-.3
Colorado	4.3	4.1	-.2
Delaware	6.4	6.0	-.4
Florida	6.0	5.8	-.2
Georgia	7.6	7.2	-.4
Idaho	4.1	3.9	-.2
Iowa	4.5	4.3	-.2
Kansas	4.4	4.3	-.1
Maryland	6.0	5.6	-.4
Michigan	7.1	6.7	-.4
Minnesota	3.9	3.7	-.2
Missouri	5.9	5.6	-.3
Montana	4.5	4.3	-.2
Nebraska	3.4	3.1	-.3
North Carolina	6.3	5.8	-.5
Ohio	5.3	5.0	-.3
Pennsylvania	5.4	5.1	-.3
Tennessee	7.1	6.8	-.3
Texas	5.1	4.9	-.2
Virginia	5.3	5.0	-.3
Wisconsin	5.4	5.2	-.2

p = preliminary.

Table C. States with statistically significant unemployment rate changes from November 2013 to November 2014, seasonally adjusted

State	Rate		Over-the-year change (p)
	November 2013	November 2014 (p)	
Arkansas	7.5	5.8	-1.7
California	8.4	7.2	-1.2
Colorado	6.3	4.1	-2.2
Connecticut	7.5	6.5	-1.0
Florida	6.5	5.8	-.7
Hawaii	4.7	4.0	-.7
Idaho	5.7	3.9	-1.8
Illinois	9.0	6.4	-2.6
Indiana	6.9	5.7	-1.2
Kansas	5.0	4.3	-.7
Kentucky	8.1	6.0	-2.1
Massachusetts	7.1	5.8	-1.3
Michigan	8.5	6.7	-1.8
Minnesota	4.8	3.7	-1.1
Montana	5.4	4.3	-1.1
Nebraska	3.7	3.1	-.6
Nevada	9.1	6.9	-2.2
New Hampshire	5.2	4.1	-1.1
New Jersey	7.4	6.4	-1.0

New York	7.1	5.9	-1.2
North Carolina	7.2	5.8	-1.4
Ohio	7.2	5.0	-2.2
Oklahoma	5.5	4.4	-1.1
Pennsylvania	6.9	5.1	-1.8
Rhode Island	9.4	7.1	-2.3
Tennessee	7.9	6.8	-1.1
Texas	6.1	4.9	-1.2
Wisconsin	6.4	5.2	-1.2

p = preliminary.

Table D. States with statistically significant employment changes from October 2014 to November 2014, seasonally adjusted

State	October 2014	November 2014(p)	Over-the-month change(p)
Arizona	2,591,700	2,600,900	9,200
Arkansas	1,194,300	1,201,900	7,600
California	15,560,400	15,650,500	90,100
Delaware	443,600	446,800	3,200
District of Columbia	756,400	760,400	4,000
Florida	7,855,100	7,897,000	41,900
Georgia	4,152,700	4,163,800	11,100
Hawaii	626,600	632,000	5,400
Indiana	3,004,900	3,020,000	15,100
Massachusetts	3,425,000	3,438,500	13,500
Michigan	4,152,600	4,163,700	11,100
Mississippi	1,123,700	1,119,200	-4,500
New Mexico	821,800	825,800	4,000
North Carolina	4,186,500	4,202,900	16,400
Ohio	5,311,300	5,329,200	17,900
Oregon	1,731,100	1,742,300	11,200
Rhode Island	476,900	479,700	2,800
South Carolina	1,951,200	1,965,400	14,200
Texas	11,707,400	11,742,200	34,800
Vermont	308,100	311,700	3,600
Virginia	3,772,900	3,784,800	11,900
West Virginia	777,200	772,000	-5,200
Wisconsin	2,875,000	2,895,900	20,900

p = preliminary.

Table E. States with statistically significant employment changes from November 2013 to November 2014, seasonally adjusted

State	November 2013	November 2014(p)	Over-the-year change(p)
Alabama	1,913,100	1,946,000	32,900
Arizona	2,534,200	2,600,900	66,700
Arkansas	1,184,300	1,201,900	17,600
California	15,306,400	15,650,500	344,100
Colorado	2,402,900	2,457,300	54,400
Connecticut	1,661,400	1,687,100	25,700
Delaware	433,600	446,800	13,200
District of Columbia	747,800	760,400	12,600
Florida	7,667,100	7,897,000	229,900
Georgia	4,067,600	4,163,800	96,200
Hawaii	622,300	632,000	9,700
Idaho	639,100	650,000	10,900

Indiana	2,964,000	3,020,000	56,000
Iowa	1,543,000	1,558,700	15,700
Kentucky	1,839,900	1,878,600	38,700
Louisiana	1,963,400	1,985,200	21,800
Massachusetts	3,378,900	3,438,500	59,600
Michigan	4,124,400	4,163,700	39,300
Minnesota	2,799,800	2,854,000	54,200
Missouri	2,750,700	2,792,900	42,200
Montana	449,900	456,100	6,200
Nevada	1,189,700	1,216,800	27,100
New Mexico	811,100	825,800	14,700
New York	8,959,000	9,042,800	83,800
North Carolina	4,096,500	4,202,900	106,400
North Dakota	451,600	473,400	21,800
Ohio	5,264,000	5,329,200	65,200
Oklahoma	1,643,500	1,677,000	33,500
Oregon	1,691,500	1,742,300	50,800
South Carolina	1,916,500	1,965,400	48,900
Tennessee	2,772,800	2,826,700	53,900
Texas	11,301,000	11,742,200	441,200
Utah	1,303,400	1,347,400	44,000
Washington	3,004,700	3,087,400	82,700
Wisconsin	2,841,300	2,895,900	54,600

p = preliminary.

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- [Table 1. Civilian labor force and unemployment by census region and division, seasonally adjusted](#)
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