

NEWS RELEASE

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

U. S. D E P A R T M E N T O F L A B O R



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STATE EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT — JANUARY 2023

Unemployment rates were lower in January in 5 states, higher in 2 states and the District of Columbia, and stable in 43 states, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Fifteen states and the District had jobless rate decreases from a year earlier, 11 states had increases, and 24 states had little change. The national unemployment rate, 3.4 percent, was little changed over the month, but was 0.6 percentage point lower than in January 2022.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 20 states and was essentially unchanged in 30 states and the District of Columbia in January 2023. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 47 states and was essentially unchanged in 3 states and the District.

This news release presents statistics from two monthly programs. The civilian labor force and unemployment data are modeled based largely on a survey of households. These data pertain to individuals by where they reside. The employment data are from an establishment survey that measures nonfarm employment, hours, and earnings by industry. These data pertain to jobs on payrolls defined by where the establishments are located. For more information about the concepts and statistical methodologies used by these two programs, see the Technical Note.

Unemployment

North Dakota and South Dakota had the lowest jobless rates in January, 2.1 percent each. The next lowest rates were in Utah, 2.4 percent, and Montana and Nebraska, 2.5 percent each. Nevada had the highest unemployment rate, 5.5 percent. In total, 13 states had unemployment rates lower than the U.S. figure of 3.4 percent, 11 states and the District of Columbia had higher rates, and 26 states had rates that were not appreciably different from that of the nation. (See tables A and 1 and map 1.)

Changes to Employment and Unemployment Data

In accordance with standard practices, historical data in the tables of this news release have been revised. For detailed information on changes to the data, see the box notes at the end of the news release.

In January, five states had over-the-month unemployment rate decreases, the largest of which were in Arizona and Nebraska (-0.2 percentage point each). Two states and the District of Columbia had over-the-month increases, the largest of which was in the District (+0.2 percentage point). Forty-three states had jobless rates that were not notably 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.)

Fifteen states and the District of Columbia had unemployment rate decreases from January 2022, the largest of which was in New Mexico (-1.9 percentage points), followed by New Jersey (-1.7 points) and the District (-1.6 points). Eleven states had over-the-year rate increases, the largest of which was in Oregon (+1.0 percentage point). (See table C.)

Nonfarm Payroll Employment

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 20 states and was essentially unchanged in 30 states and the District of Columbia in January 2023. The largest job gains occurred in California (+96,700), Texas (+48,600), and Florida (+30,000). The largest percentage increases occurred in Arizona and Tennessee (+0.7 percent each), followed by Kansas, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and New Mexico (+0.6 percent each). (See tables D and 3.)

Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 47 states and was essentially unchanged in 3 states and the District of Columbia. The largest job increases occurred in Texas (+654,100), California (+599,500), and Florida (+448,900). The largest percentage increases occurred in Nevada (+6.0 percent), Texas (+5.0 percent), and Florida (+4.9 percent). (See table E and map 2.)

The Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment news release for January is scheduled to be released on Friday, March 17, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. (ET). The State Employment and Unemployment news release for February is scheduled to be released on Friday, March 24, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. (ET).

Changes to Local Area Unemployment Statistics Data

Effective with the release of Regional and State Unemployment 2022 Annual Averages on March 1, 2023, the civilian labor force and unemployment data for the states, the District of Columbia, and the modeled substate areas presented in tables 1 and 2 of this news release were revised to incorporate updated inputs, new population controls, reestimation of models, and adjustment to new census division and national control totals. The population controls continue to reflect a "blended base," with elements from three independent data sources for April 1, 2020. Data in table 1 were re-seasonally adjusted as well. Both not seasonally adjusted and seasonally adjusted data were subject to revision back to 2018.

Changes to Current Employment Statistics (CES) Data

Effective with this news release, all nonfarm payroll employment estimates for states and areas presented in tables 3 and 4 have been adjusted to 2022 benchmark levels. Not seasonally adjusted data beginning with April 2021 and seasonally adjusted data beginning with January 2018 were subject to revision. Some not seasonally adjusted and seasonally adjusted series have been revised as far back as 1990.

In addition, the basis for industry classification in the establishment survey has been revised from the 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) to NAICS 2022. Implementation of NAICS 2022 resulted in revisions reflecting content and coding changes within the retail trade, information, and financial services sectors. The majority of the changes associated with the NAICS 2022 implementation impact levels of detail not published by CES State and Area. For more information about updated industry titles and new, discontinued, and collapsed industries resulting from the NAICS 2022 implementation, see the CES State and Area benchmark article at www.bls.gov/web/laus/bmrk_article.htm.

Table A. States with unemployment rates significantly different from that of the U.S., January 2023, seasonally adjusted

State	Rate ^p
United States ¹	3.4
Alabama	2.6
California	4.2
Colorado	2.8
Delaware	4.6
District of Columbia	4.4
Florida	2.6
Idaho	2.7
Illinois	4.5
Michigan	4.3
Missouri	2.7
Montana	2.5
Nebraska	2.5
Nevada	5.5
New Hampshire	2.8
New York	4.2
North Dakota	2.1
Ohio	4.0
Oregon	4.8
Pennsylvania	4.3
South Dakota	2.1
Texas	3.9
Utah	2.4
Vermont	2.9
Washington	4.6
Wisconsin	2.9

¹ Data are not preliminary.

^p = preliminary.

Table B. States with statistically significant unemployment rate changes from December 2022 to January 2023, seasonally adjusted

State	Rate		Over-the-month change ^p
	December 2022	January 2023 ^p	
Arizona	4.0	3.8	-0.2
California	4.1	4.2	.1
District of Columbia	4.2	4.4	.2
Massachusetts	3.7	3.6	-.1
Montana	2.6	2.5	-.1
Nebraska	2.7	2.5	-.2
Virginia	3.1	3.2	.1
Wisconsin	3.0	2.9	-.1

^p = preliminary.

Table C. States with statistically significant unemployment rate changes from January 2022 to January 2023, seasonally adjusted

State	Rate		Over-the-year change ^p
	January 2022	January 2023 ^p	
Alaska	5.1	3.8	-1.3
California	5.2	4.2	-1.0
Colorado	4.0	2.8	-1.2
Connecticut	4.8	3.9	-.9
District of Columbia	6.0	4.4	-1.6
Florida	3.5	2.6	-.9
Hawaii	3.2	3.6	.4
Iowa	2.7	3.0	.3
Kansas	2.5	2.9	.4
Louisiana	4.0	3.5	-.5
Maine	3.6	2.9	-.7
Maryland	3.7	3.0	-.7
Massachusetts	4.0	3.6	-.4
Missouri	2.9	2.7	-.2
Nebraska	2.1	2.5	.4
New Hampshire	2.3	2.8	.5
New Jersey	5.1	3.4	-1.7
New Mexico	5.4	3.5	-1.9
New York	5.1	4.2	-.9
Oregon	3.8	4.8	1.0
Rhode Island	3.5	3.1	-.4
Texas	4.3	3.9	-.4
Utah	2.2	2.4	.2
Vermont	2.6	2.9	.3
Virginia	2.9	3.2	.3
Washington	4.0	4.6	.6
Wyoming	3.5	3.9	.4

^p = preliminary.