

State Data Release 1/22/2026

Nonfarm Payroll

Labor Statistics
Adjusted

Labor Statistics Not
Adjusted

State Summary

Monthly Snapshot

Frequently Asked
Questions

West Virginia Labor Force Estimates and Nonfarm Payroll Employment by Industry (In Thousands - Seasonally Adjusted)

	Estimates			Change From	
	2025		2024	2025	2024
	December	November	December	November	December
Civilian Labor Force	785.6	784.7	784.3	0.9	1.3
Total Employment	749.9	750.3	752.4	-0.4	-2.5
Total Unemployment	35.8	34.4	31.9	1.4	3.9
Unemployment Rate	4.6	4.4	4.1	xx	xx
Labor Force Participation Rate	54.6	54.6	54.6	xx	xx
TOTAL NONFARM PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT	713.8	714.9	716.1	-1.1	-2.3
PRIVATE SECTOR	565.5	566.8	566.2	-1.3	-0.7
GOODS-PRODUCING	101.3	101.5	100.6	-0.2	0.7
Mining & Logging	21.0	20.9	21.4	0.1	-0.4
Construction	35.6	35.8	33.1	-0.2	2.5
Manufacturing	44.7	44.8	46.1	-0.1	-1.4
Durable Goods	27.2	27.3	28.0	-0.1	-0.8
Nondurable Goods	17.5	17.5	18.1	0.0	-0.6
SERVICE-PROVIDING	612.5	613.4	615.5	-0.9	-3.0
Private Service-Providing	464.2	465.3	465.6	-1.1	-1.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	121.0	121.7	122.5	-0.7	-1.5
Wholesale Trade	18.7	18.8	19.4	-0.1	-0.7
Retail Trade	78.0	78.3	78.2	-0.3	-0.2
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	24.3	24.6	24.9	-0.3	-0.6
Information	7.9	7.9	8.0	0.0	-0.1
Financial Activities	25.7	25.8	25.5	-0.1	0.2
Finance & Insurance	18.7	18.8	18.6	-0.1	0.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	7.0	7.0	6.9	0.0	0.1
Professional & Business Services	71.6	71.4	71.0	0.2	0.6
Professional, Scientific & Technical Service	29.8	29.7	29.9	0.1	-0.1
Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation	34.2	34.1	33.5	0.1	0.7
Educational & Health Services	144.3	144.7	143.8	-0.4	0.5
Educational Services	6.7	6.7	7.1	0.0	-0.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	137.6	138.0	136.7	-0.4	0.9
Leisure & Hospitality	69.0	69.4	70.9	-0.4	-1.9
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	8.9	8.9	8.9	0.0	0.0
Accommodation & Food Service	60.1	60.5	62.0	-0.4	-1.9
Other Services	24.7	24.4	23.9	0.3	0.8
Government	148.3	148.1	149.9	0.2	-1.6
Federal Government	24.3	24.5	26.6	-0.2	-2.3
State Government	47.3	47.3	47.3	0.0	0.0

. Monthly estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Benchmark March 2024.

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West Virginia Labor Force Statistics, Seasonally Adjusted

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ann. AVG.
2025 Civilian Labor Force	783.5	781.8	780.1	780.3	779.7	779.5	780.0	780.7	782.0	*	784.5	785.6	0.0
Total Employment	751.8	751.0	750.2	750.8	750.5	750.4	750.9	751.3	751.0	*	750.2	749.9	0.0
Total Unemployment	31.7	30.7	29.9	29.5	29.2	29.0	29.1	29.4	31.1	*	34.3	35.8	0.0
Unemployment Rate	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	4.0	*	4.4	4.6	0.0
Labor Force Participation ...	54.5	54.4	54.3	54.3	54.3	54.2	54.3	54.3	54.4	*	54.6	54.6	0.0
2024 Civilian Labor Force	789.5	789.2	789.0	788.9	788.7	788.4	787.6	786.6	785.4	784.4	784.2	784.3	786.9
Total Employment	757.0	757.0	757.1	756.9	756.6	756.2	755.3	754.3	753.2	752.4	752.3	752.4	754.8
Total Unemployment	32.5	32.1	32.0	31.9	32.0	32.2	32.3	32.3	32.2	32.0	31.9	31.9	32.0
Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Labor Force Participation ...	55.1	55.1	55.0	55.0	55.0	54.9	54.9	54.8	54.7	54.6	54.6	54.6	54.8
2023 Civilian Labor Force	781.7	782.4	783.2	784.1	785.3	786.6	787.9	789.0	789.8	790.2	790.2	789.9	786.6
Total Employment	753.8	754.8	755.6	756.1	756.4	756.7	757.0	757.2	757.3	757.3	757.2	757.0	756.3
Total Unemployment	27.9	27.6	27.6	28.0	28.9	29.9	30.9	31.8	32.4	32.9	33.0	32.8	30.3
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	3.9
Labor Force Participation ...	54.6	54.7	54.7	54.8	54.9	55.0	55.0	55.1	55.1	55.1	55.1	55.1	54.9
2022 Civilian Labor Force	777.7	779.1	780.1	780.4	780.3	779.9	779.5	779.3	779.3	779.6	780.2	781.0	779.8
Total Employment	747.2	749.1	750.2	750.4	750.1	749.4	748.7	748.4	748.7	749.5	750.9	752.5	749.5
Total Unemployment	30.5	30.0	29.9	30.0	30.2	30.5	30.8	30.9	30.7	30.1	29.3	28.5	30.3
Unemployment Rate	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.9
Labor Force Participation ...	54.2	54.3	54.4	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.4	54.4	54.5	54.5	54.6	54.4
2021 Civilian Labor Force	771.0	771.1	771.9	773.0	773.9	774.5	774.1	773.6	773.2	773.6	774.6	776.0	773.1
Total Employment	723.5	724.6	726.4	728.6	730.9	733.0	734.7	736.4	738.2	740.3	742.6	744.9	733.3
Total Unemployment	47.6	46.4	45.6	44.5	43.0	41.5	39.4	37.2	35.0	33.3	32.0	31.1	39.7
Unemployment Rate	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.1	4.8	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.0	5.1
Labor Force Participation ...	53.5	53.6	53.6	53.7	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.9	54.0	53.7
2020 Civilian Labor Force	795.0	793.2	790.5	760.8	773.5	769.9	772.9	771.4	773.6	772.3	772.1	772.1	776.6
Total Employment	753.3	751.0	748.2	640.5	676.9	688.7	699.6	708.0	714.5	718.5	721.0	722.5	712.1
Total Unemployment	41.7	42.2	42.3	120.3	96.6	81.2	73.3	63.4	59.1	53.8	51.1	49.6	64.5
Unemployment Rate	5.2	5.3	5.3	15.8	12.5	10.6	9.5	8.2	7.6	7.0	6.6	6.4	8.3
Labor Force Participation ...	55.0	54.9	54.8	52.7	53.6	53.4	53.6	53.5	53.7	53.6	53.6	53.6	53.9
2019 Civilian Labor Force	791.0	790.0	789.2	789.0	789.6	790.8	792.2	793.5	794.5	795.3	795.8	795.8	792.0
Total Employment	751.4	751.0	750.8	751.2	752.1	753.0	753.8	754.3	754.9	755.3	755.4	754.8	752.9
Total Unemployment	39.6	39.0	38.3	37.8	37.5	37.7	38.3	39.1	39.7	40.0	40.4	41.0	39.2
Unemployment Rate	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.1	4.9
Labor Force Participation ...	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.6	54.8	54.9	54.9	55.0	55.1	55.1	54.7
2018 Civilian Labor Force	786.2	787.5	789.3	791.0	792.1	792.6	792.6	792.4	792.3	792.2	792.1	791.8	791.0
Total Employment	744.1	745.4	747.3	749.3	750.9	752.0	752.6	752.8	752.8	752.6	752.3	751.9	750.4
Total Unemployment	42.2	42.2	42.0	41.7	41.2	40.6	40.0	39.6	39.5	39.6	39.9	39.9	40.6
Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1
Labor Force Participation ...	53.9	54.1	54.2	54.4	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.6	54.6	54.6	54.4
2017 Civilian Labor Force	781.2	780.8	780.6	780.9	781.6	782.7	783.9	784.9	785.5	785.7	785.7	785.7	783.4
Total Employment	738.9	739.9	740.7	741.4	742.3	743.1	743.8	744.2	744.3	744.1	743.8	743.6	742.6
Total Unemployment	42.3	40.9	39.9	39.4	39.4	39.6	40.1	40.7	41.2	41.6	41.9	42.1	40.8
Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.2
Labor Force Participation ...	53.2	53.2	53.3	53.3	53.4	53.5	53.6	53.7	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.9	53.5
2016 Civilian Labor Force	789.1	789.1	788.5	787.2	785.8	784.6	783.7	783.2	782.8	782.5	782.1	781.7	785.1
Total Employment	739.2	739.3	739.0	738.3	737.4	736.5	735.9	735.6	735.7	736.1	736.9	737.9	737.4
Total Unemployment	49.9	49.8	49.5	48.9	48.5	48.1	47.9	47.5	47.1	46.3	45.2	43.8	47.7
Unemployment Rate	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.6	6.1
Labor Force Participation ...	53.5	53.5	53.5	53.4	53.3	53.3	53.2	53.2	53.2	53.2	53.2	53.2	53.3
2015 Civilian Labor Force	795.1	794.8	794.7	794.7	794.4	793.5	792.1	790.5	789.1	788.3	788.3	788.7	791.9
Total Employment	744.2	743.0	742.0	741.2	740.6	740.0	739.3	738.6	738.2	738.1	738.3	738.7	740.1
Total Unemployment	50.9	51.7	52.7	53.5	53.8	53.6	52.8	51.8	50.9	50.3	50.0	49.9	51.8
Unemployment Rate	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.5
Labor Force Participation ...	53.7	53.7	53.7	53.7	53.7	53.6	53.6	53.5	53.4	53.4	53.4	53.4	53.5

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	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ann. AVG.
2025 Civilian Labor Force	774.2	772.0	770.5	782.0	778.5	791.7	789.9	787.6	788.9	*	782.5	777.9	0.0
Total Employment	739.5	739.9	740.0	754.3	751.8	759.5	758.7	753.5	755.3	*	746.4	743.3	0.0
Total Unemployment	34.7	32.1	30.5	27.8	26.7	32.2	31.2	34.1	35.9	*	36.1	34.5	0.0
Unemployment Rate	4.5	4.2	4.0	3.5	3.4	4.1	4.0	4.3	4.3	*	4.6	4.4	0.0
Labor Force Participation ...	53.9	53.7	53.6	54.4	54.2	55.1	55.0	54.8	52.5	*	54.4	54.1	0.0
2024 Civilian Labor Force	780.8	785.3	784.3	786.7	789.9	800.9	797.2	790	789.8	786.9	776.8	773.8	786.9
Total Employment	744.9	747.3	749	756.9	760.5	765.9	761.7	755.8	761.2	759.6	749.1	746.1	754.8
Total Unemployment	35.9	38	35.3	29.8	29.4	35.1	35.5	34.2	28.7	27.3	27.7	27.7	32
Unemployment Rate	4.6	4.8	4.5	3.8	3.7	4.4	4.4	4.3	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.6	4.1
Labor Force Participation ...	54.5	54.8	54.7	54.9	55.1	55.8	55.5	55	55	54.8	54.1	53.9	54.8
2023 Civilian Labor Force	772.8	778.3	778.7	782.5	785.2	799.4	795.1	794.3	793.7	791.8	786.3	781.1	786.6
Total Employment	741.5	745.9	747.5	755.5	757.6	766.9	763.9	759.5	764.4	763	758.2	751.5	756.3
Total Unemployment	31.3	32.4	31.2	26.9	27.6	32.5	31.2	34.7	29.2	28.8	28.2	29.6	30.3
Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.2	4	3.4	3.5	4.1	3.9	4.4	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.9
Labor Force Participation ...	54	54.4	54.4	54.7	54.9	55.9	55.5	55.5	55.4	55.3	54.9	54.5	54.9
2022 Civilian Labor Force	771.3	776.1	774.6	776.7	782.4	792.8	787	783.6	781.2	782.3	776.2	773.9	779.8
Total Employment	735.3	739.5	741.6	747.7	754.8	758.9	754.6	750.4	755.6	756.6	750.3	748.9	749.5
Total Unemployment	35.9	36.7	33.1	29	27.6	33.9	32.4	33.2	25.7	25.7	25.9	25	30.3
Unemployment Rate	4.7	4.7	4.3	3.7	3.5	4.3	4.1	4.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.9
Labor Force Participation ...	53.7	54.1	54.1	54.2	54.6	55.4	55	54.7	54.6	54.6	54.2	54.1	54.4
2021 Civilian Labor Force	760.9	766.9	765.7	772.3	774.1	786.7	783.7	777.5	775.7	774.8	770.3	768.2	773.1
Total Employment	708.3	714	716.5	727.2	732.7	741.9	743.8	739.4	745.1	746.7	742.8	741.5	733.3
Total Unemployment	52.6	52.8	49.2	45	41.4	44.8	39.9	38.1	30.6	28.1	27.4	26.7	39.7
Unemployment Rate	6.9	6.9	6.4	5.8	5.3	5.7	5.1	4.9	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.5	5.1
Labor Force Participation ...	52.8	53.3	53.2	53.7	53.8	54.7	54.5	54	53.9	53.9	53.6	53.5	53.7
2020 Civilian Labor Force	788.5	792.3	784.3	756.3	773.1	781	779.2	776.6	776.9	778.3	768	765	776.6
Total Employment	743.2	746.1	731.6	638.1	674.5	702.2	703.8	714.4	720.5	730.9	722.6	717.7	712.1
Total Unemployment	45.3	46.2	52.8	118.2	98.6	78.7	75.5	62.2	56.4	47.4	45.4	47.3	64.5
Unemployment Rate	5.7	5.8	6.7	15.6	12.8	10.1	9.7	8	7.3	6.1	5.9	6.2	8.3
Labor Force Participation ...	54.6	54.9	54.4	52.4	53.6	54.2	54.1	53.9	53.9	54	53.3	53.1	53.9
2019 Civilian Labor Force	784.7	787.1	781.3	783.8	788.4	803.8	802	796.9	797.1	799.3	790.9	789.1	792
Total Employment	737.6	740.5	738.5	748.3	753.1	763.5	762.4	758	763.2	763.8	754.5	751.1	752.9
Total Unemployment	47.1	46.6	42.9	35.5	35.3	40.4	39.5	38.9	33.9	35.6	36.4	38	39.2
Unemployment Rate	6	5.9	5.5	4.5	4.5	5	4.9	4.9	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.8	4.9
Labor Force Participation ...	54.1	54.3	53.9	54.1	54.5	55.5	55.4	55.1	55.1	55.3	54.7	54.6	54.7
2018 Civilian Labor Force	776.9	785.6	781.9	787.7	792.5	806.2	803.1	792.4	794.1	797	788.2	786.7	791
Total Employment	730.2	735.6	734.5	746.1	754.8	762.8	761.9	753.8	760	762.5	754.1	749	750.4
Total Unemployment	46.7	50	47.4	41.6	37.7	43.4	41.2	38.6	34.1	34.5	34.1	37.7	40.6
Unemployment Rate	6	6.4	6.1	5.3	4.8	5.4	5.1	4.9	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.8	5.1
Labor Force Participation ...	53.3	53.9	53.7	54.1	54.5	55.5	55.3	54.5	54.7	54.9	54.3	54.2	54.4
2017 Civilian Labor Force	774.2	777.5	774.3	779.5	779.1	794.7	792.2	788.5	791.5	787.7	782.1	779.1	783.4
Total Employment	725.4	729.2	730.2	740.6	743.5	753	751.1	746.2	755.8	752.6	743.8	739.3	742.6
Total Unemployment	48.8	48.3	44.2	38.9	35.6	41.6	41.1	42.3	35.7	35.1	38.3	39.8	40.8
Unemployment Rate	6.3	6.2	5.7	5	4.6	5.2	5.2	5.4	4.5	4.5	4.9	5.1	5.2
Labor Force Participation ...	52.8	53	52.8	53.2	53.2	54.3	54.2	53.9	54.2	53.9	53.6	53.4	53.5
2016 Civilian Labor Force	782.2	786.2	782.1	784.5	787.4	796.8	790.8	785.7	785.8	786.7	778.8	774	785.1
Total Employment	726.6	728.8	727.9	736.1	742	746.6	743.1	737.9	742.1	744.5	739.5	733.3	737.4
Total Unemployment	55.6	57.4	54.2	48.3	45.4	50.2	47.7	47.8	43.6	42.2	39.2	40.7	47.7
Unemployment Rate	7.1	7.3	6.9	6.2	5.8	6.3	6	6.1	5.6	5.4	5	5.3	6.1
Labor Force Participation ...	53	53.3	53	53.2	53.4	54.1	53.7	53.4	53.4	53.5	53	52.7	53.3
2015 Civilian Labor Force	788.3	790	786.3	792.9	797.5	806.6	801.4	793.6	789	790.2	784.2	783.2	791.9
Total Employment	731.9	731.6	729.2	740.4	745	751.5	746.1	741.7	743.5	745.9	738.6	736	740.1
Total Unemployment	56.4	58.4	57.1	52.5	52.5	55	55.3	51.8	45.5	44.4	45.5	47.2	51.8
Unemployment Rate	7.2	7.4	7.3	6.6	6.6	6.8	6.9	6.5	5.8	5.6	5.8	6	6.5
Labor Force Participation ...	53.2	53.3	53.1	53.6	53.9	54.5	54.2	53.7	53.4	53.5	53.1	53	53.5
2014 Civilian Labor Force	791.3	796.7	793.8	795.7	801.9	807.2	804.3	798.7	798.1	801.1	792.7	788.1	797.5

Not Seasonally Adjusted - Benchmark March 2024

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Frequently Asked
Questions



Scott A. Adkins, Acting Commissioner

FOR RELEASE: January 22, 2026
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State Unemployment Rate Rose to 4.6 Percent in December 2025

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 4.6 percent in December 2025, an increase of two-tenths of one percentage point from November. The total number of employed state residents decreased by 400 over the month – inching down to 749,900 – while the number of unemployed state residents increased by 1,400, rising to 35,800. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched down by one-tenth of one percentage point to 4.4 percent in December.

Total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 1,100 jobs from November to December as the goods-producing sector decreased by 200 and the service-providing sector decreased by 900. The goods-producing sector saw light seasonal shedding in construction as the industry scaled back by 200; manufacturing dipped by 100. Mining and logging carved out a small gain adding 100 jobs over the month.

The service-providing sector's largest loss came in trade, transportation, and utilities as the industry slid by 700 jobs over the month. Private education and health services, along with leisure and hospitality, each slipped by 400 jobs while financial activities dipped by 100. On the upswing, other services added 300 jobs, professional and business services added 200 jobs, and total government employment added 200 jobs as well. The information industry was unchanged over the month.

Over the year, total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 2,300 jobs. The bulk of job loss since December 2024 came in four broad industries: leisure and hospitality (-1,900), entirely in accommodation and food services; total government (-1,600), entirely in federal employment; trade, transportation, and utilities (-1,500); and manufacturing (-1,400). Declines were also seen in mining and logging (-400) and information (-100). The largest over the year increase came in construction, which added 2,500 jobs. Gains were also seen in other services (+800), professional and business services (+600), private education and health services (+500), and in financial activities (+200).

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate remained unchanged over the month at 54.6 percent in December.

The state's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased by two-tenths of one percentage point to 4.4 percent.

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State Data Release 1/22/2026

Nonfarm Payroll

Labor Statistics Adjusted

Labor Statistics Not Adjusted

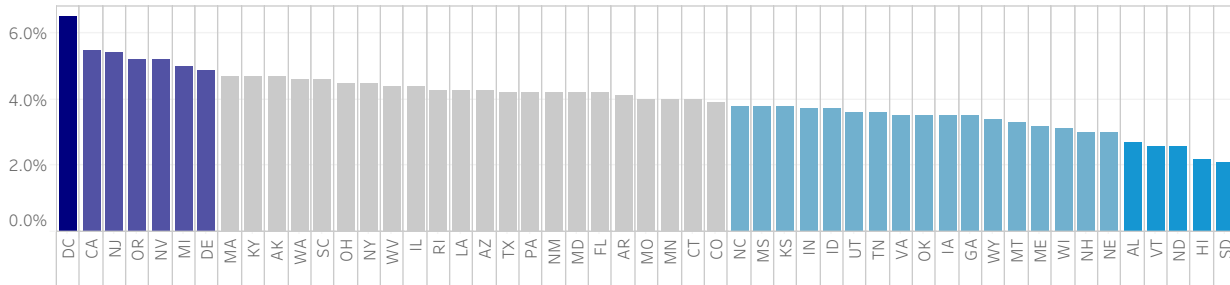
State Summary

Monthly Snapshot

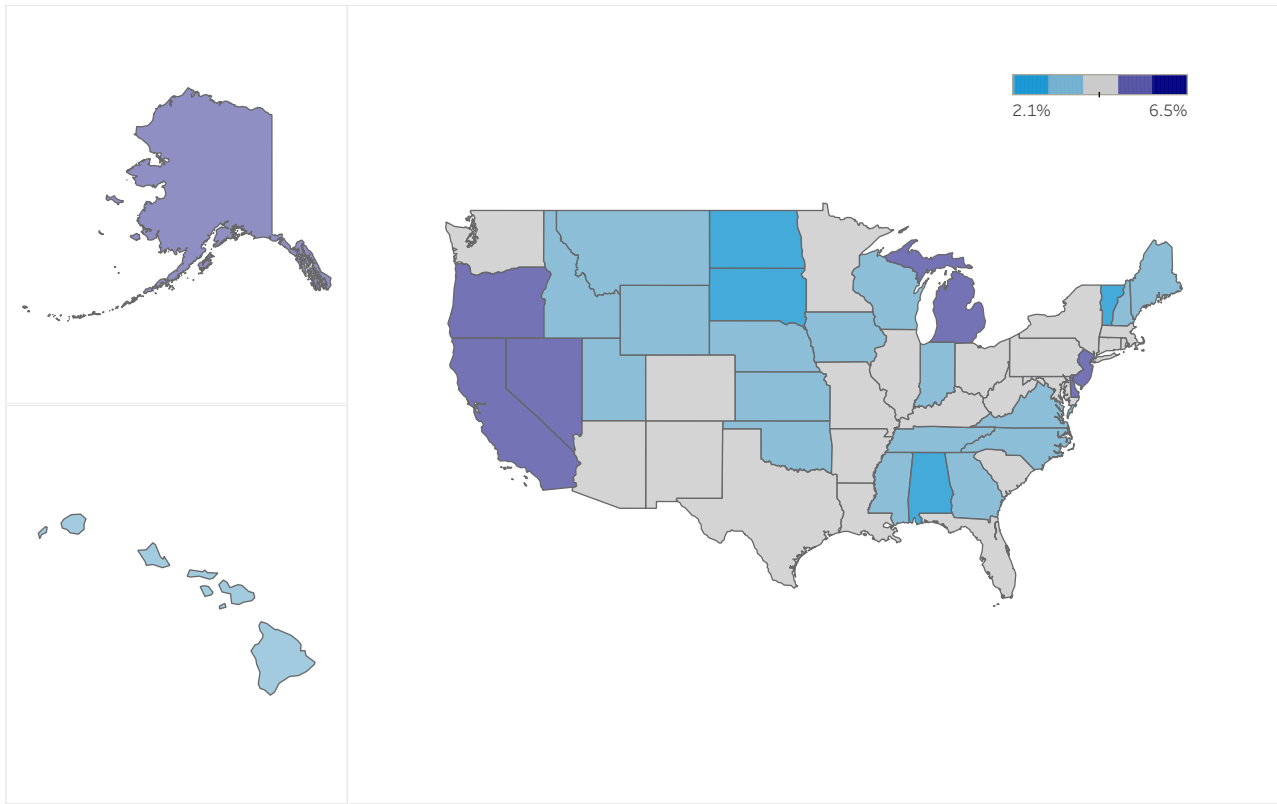
Frequently Asked Questions

State Unemployment Rates (percent, seasonally adjusted)

The national unemployment rate was 4.6 percent as of December 2025



MONTH: December
 YEAR: 2025
 UNITED STATES: 4.6%



State Data Release 1/22/2026

Nonfarm Payroll

Labor Statistics
Adjusted

Labor Statistics Not
Adjusted

State Summary

Monthly Snapshot

Frequently Asked
Questions

FAQs: Helpful links to answer questions about labor force data

Employment Situation Frequently Asked Questions: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empisit.faq.htm>

Payroll Survey - Methods and Measurement Issues: <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empisit.faq.htm>

Household Survey - Methods and Measurement Issues: <http://www.bls.gov/bls/empisitquickguide.htm#household>

Employment from the BLS Household and Payroll Surveys: Summary of Recent Trends: <http://www.bls.gov/bls/empisitquickguide.htm#household>

Current Employment Statistics - Frequently Asked Questions: <http://www.bls.gov/ces/#faq>

State and Metro Area Employment, Hours and Earnings: <http://www.bls.gov/sae/#faq>

Employment Situation Summary: <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empisit.nr0.htm>