

State Data Release 4/1/2026

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		2024	
	January	December	January	December	January
Civilian Labor Force	782.7	783.7	782.5	-1.0	0.2
Total Employment	746.4	747.5	752.5	-1.1	-6.1
Total Unemployment	36.3	36.2	30.0	0.1	6.3
Unemployment Rate	4.6	4.6	3.8	xx	xx
Labor Force Participation Rate	54.5	54.6	54.6	xx	xx
TOTAL NONFARM PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT	717.6	716.3	713.7	1.3	3.9
PRIVATE SECTOR	571.8	570.2	566.0	1.6	5.8
GOODS-PRODUCING	102.7	100.8	99.3	1.9	3.4
Mining & Logging	20.4	20.3	21.0	0.1	-0.6
Construction	37.6	35.5	32.7	2.1	4.9
Manufacturing	44.7	45.0	45.6	-0.3	-0.9
Durable Goods	26.9	27.1	27.5	-0.2	-0.6
Nondurable Goods	17.8	17.9	18.1	-0.1	-0.3
SERVICE-PROVIDING	614.9	615.5	614.4	-0.6	0.5
Private Service-Providing	469.1	469.4	466.7	-0.3	2.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	121.0	120.8	121.8	0.2	-0.8
Wholesale Trade	19.5	19.6	19.4	-0.1	0.1
Retail Trade	77.2	76.9	77.6	0.3	-0.4
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	24.3	24.3	24.8	0.0	-0.5
Information	7.5	7.6	7.6	-0.1	-0.1
Financial Activities	26.1	26.1	25.9	0.0	0.2
Finance & Insurance	19.1	19.1	18.9	0.0	0.2
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	7.0	7.0	7.0	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	73.0	73.2	71.8	-0.2	1.2
Professional, Scientific & Technical Service	31.9	31.7	31.1	0.2	0.8
Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation	34.0	34.3	33.3	-0.3	0.7
Educational & Health Services	146.3	146.2	144.1	0.1	2.2
Educational Services	7.6	7.5	6.9	0.1	0.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	138.7	138.7	137.2	0.0	1.5
Leisure & Hospitality	71.4	71.6	71.4	-0.2	0.0
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	8.7	8.9	8.6	-0.2	0.1
Accommodation & Food Service	62.7	62.7	62.8	0.0	-0.1
Other Services	23.8	23.9	24.1	-0.1	-0.3
Government	145.8	146.1	147.7	-0.3	-1.9
Federal Government	24.1	24.2	26.5	-0.1	-2.4
State Government	46.7	46.8	45.9	-0.1	0.8

. 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.
2026 Civilian Labor Force	782.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Employment	746.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Unemployment	36.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unemployment Rate	4.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Labor Force Participation ...	54.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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

State Data Release 4/1/2026

Nonfarm Payroll	Labor Statistics Adjusted	Labor Statistics Not Adjusted	State Summary	Monthly Snapshot	Frequently Asked Questions
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West Virginia Labor Force Statistics, Not Seasonally Adjusted

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ann. AVG.
2026	Civilian Labor Force	767.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Total Employment	729.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Total Unemployment	37.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Unemployment Rate	4.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Labor Force Participation ...	53.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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

Not Seasonally Adjusted - Benchmark March 2024

State Data Release 4/1/2026

Nonfarm Payroll

Labor Statistics
Adjusted

Labor Statistics Not
Adjusted

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Monthly Snapshot

Frequently Asked
Questions



Scott A. Adkins, Acting Commissioner

FOR RELEASE: April 1, 2026

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State Unemployment Rate Unchanged at 4.6 Percent in January 2026

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.6 percent in January 2026, unchanged from December 2025. The total number of employed state residents decreased by 1,100 over the month – declining to 746,400 – while the number of unemployed state residents inched up by 100 to 36,300. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched down by one-tenth of one percentage point to 4.3 percent in January.

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 1,300 from December to January as the goods-producing sector added 1,900 jobs and the service-providing sector slid by 600. The goods-producing sector saw a dip in manufacturing as the industry scaled back by 300; construction continued to build, adding 2,100, while mining and logging chiseled out a small gain adding 100 jobs over the month.

The service-providing sector's largest loss came in total government, down 300 over the month. Professional and business services, and leisure and hospitality, slipped by 200 jobs apiece while information and other services each dipped by 100 jobs in January. Trade, transportation, and utilities saw the largest gain, up 200 jobs over the month. Private education and health services added 100 jobs while financial activities remained flat.

Over the year, total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 3,900 jobs. The bulk of job gains came in construction, which added 4,900 since January 2025. Private education and health services (+2,200), professional and business services (+1,200), and financial activities (+200) each saw gains as well. Leisure and hospitality was unchanged for the year. The largest over the year loss came in total government (-1,900) with the overwhelming majority in federal government employment. Declines were also seen in manufacturing (-900), trade, transportation, and utilities (-800), mining and logging (-600), other services (-300), and in information (-100).

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate dipped one-tenth of one percentage point over the month to 54.5 percent in January.

The state's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by four-tenths of one percentage point to 4.9 percent.

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State Data Release 4/1/2026

Nonfarm Payroll

Labor Statistics Adjusted

Labor Statistics Not Adjusted

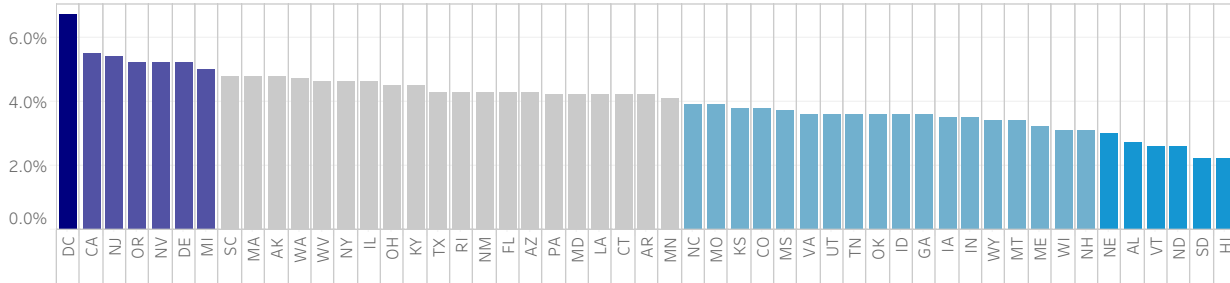
State Summary

Monthly Snapshot

Frequently Asked Questions

State Unemployment Rates (percent, seasonally adjusted)

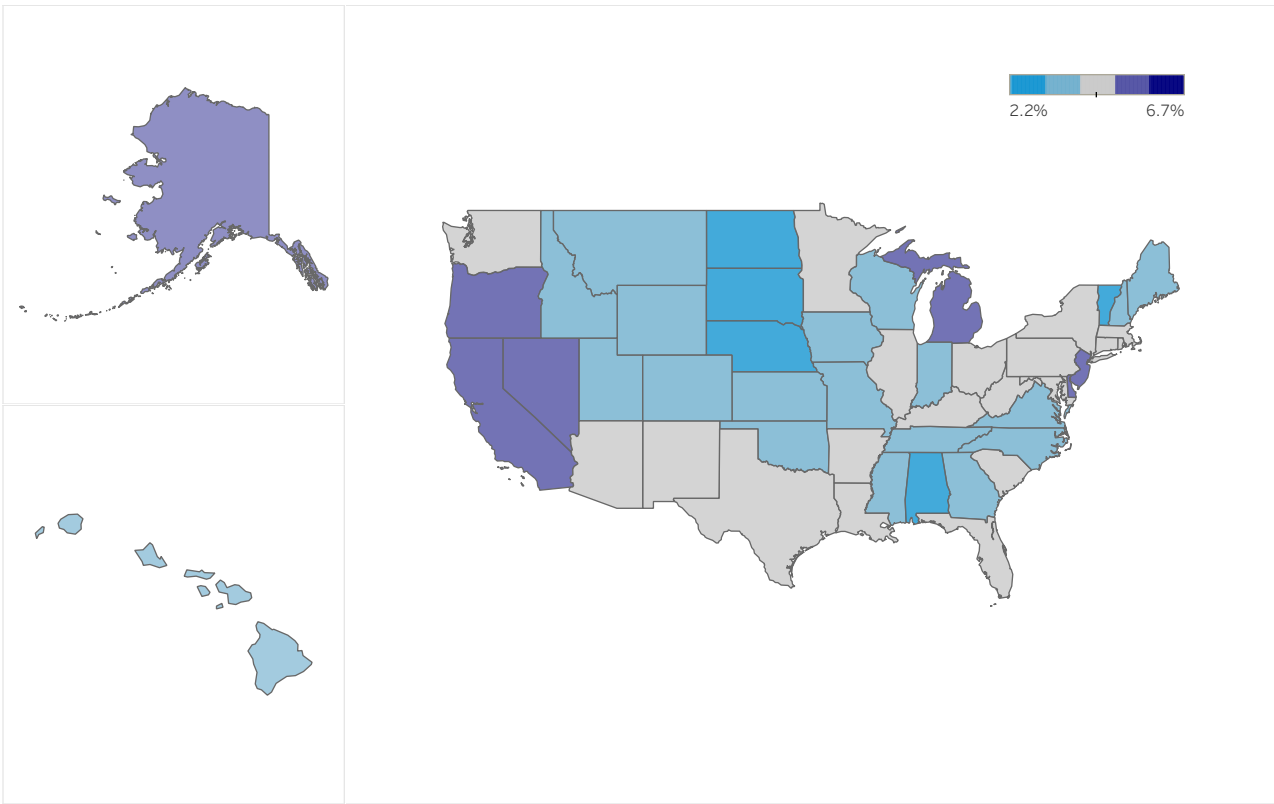
The national unemployment rate was 4.3 percent as of January 2026



MONTH
January

YEAR
2025

UNITED STATES
4.3%



State Data Release 4/1/2026

Nonfarm Payroll

Labor Statistics
Adjusted

Labor Statistics Not
Adjusted

State Summary

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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>