

State Data Release 4/29/2026

Nonfarm Payroll

Labor Statistics
Adjusted

Labor Statistics Not
Adjusted

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Frequently Asked
Questions

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

	Estimates			Change From	
	2026		2025	2026	2025
	March	February	March	February	March
Civilian Labor Force	779.2	782.1	780.8	-2.9	-1.6
Total Employment	744.0	745.5	750.7	-1.5	-6.7
Total Unemployment	35.2	36.5	30.1	-1.3	5.1
Unemployment Rate	4.5	4.7	3.9	xx	xx
Labor Force Participation Rate	54.3	54.5	54.5	xx	xx
TOTAL NONFARM PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT	716.0	715.4	718.3	0.6	-2.3
PRIVATE SECTOR	570.2	570.1	569.8	0.1	0.4
GOODS-PRODUCING	101.7	101.9	100.7	-0.2	1.0
Mining & Logging	20.1	20.4	20.5	-0.3	-0.4
Construction	36.5	36.6	34.8	-0.1	1.7
Manufacturing	45.1	44.9	45.4	0.2	-0.3
Durable Goods	27.2	27.2	27.2	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	17.9	17.7	18.2	0.2	-0.3
SERVICE-PROVIDING	614.3	613.5	617.6	0.8	-3.3
Private Service-Providing	468.5	468.2	469.1	0.3	-0.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	120.7	120.5	122.2	0.2	-1.5
Wholesale Trade	19.6	19.5	19.6	0.1	0.0
Retail Trade	77.0	77.0	77.7	0.0	-0.7
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	24.1	24.0	24.9	0.1	-0.8
Information	7.4	7.5	7.5	-0.1	-0.1
Financial Activities	26.0	26.4	25.9	-0.4	0.1
Finance & Insurance	19.0	19.3	18.9	-0.3	0.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	7.0	7.1	7.0	-0.1	0.0
Professional & Business Services	72.5	72.3	72.0	0.2	0.5
Professional, Scientific & Technical Service	31.7	31.7	31.3	0.0	0.4
Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation	33.8	33.6	33.3	0.2	0.5
Educational & Health Services	147.6	147.1	145.2	0.5	2.4
Educational Services	7.7	7.6	7.1	0.1	0.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	139.9	139.5	138.1	0.4	1.8
Leisure & Hospitality	70.4	70.6	72.0	-0.2	-1.6
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	8.8	8.6	8.9	0.2	-0.1
Accommodation & Food Service	61.6	62.0	63.1	-0.4	-1.5
Other Services	23.9	23.8	24.3	0.1	-0.4
Government	145.8	145.3	148.5	0.5	-2.7
Federal Government	23.8	24.0	26.3	-0.2	-2.5
State Government	46.5	46.5	46.3	0.0	0.2

Monthly estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Benchmark March 2025.

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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	782.1	779.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Employment	746.4	745.5	744.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Unemployment	36.3	36.6	35.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unemployment Rate	4.6	4.7	4.5	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	54.5	54.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2025 Civilian Labor Force	782.5	781.8	780.1	780.3	779.7	779.5	780.0	780.7	782.0	*	784.5	785.6	0.0
Total Employment	752.5	751.0	750.2	750.8	750.5	750.4	750.9	751.3	751.0	*	750.2	749.9	0.0
Total Unemployment	30.0	30.7	29.9	29.5	29.2	29.0	29.1	29.4	31.1	*	34.3	35.8	0.0
Unemployment Rate	3.8	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 ...	54.6	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	792.5	792.5	792.5	792.3	792.0	791.4	790.4	789.2	787.9	786.4	784.9	783.6	786.9
Total Employment	759.4	759.5	759.7	759.7	759.6	759.2	758.4	757.4	756.4	755.3	754.3	753.4	754.8
Total Unemployment	33.1	32.9	32.8	32.6	32.4	32.2	32.0	31.8	31.5	31.0	30.5	30.2	32.0
Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.1
Labor Force Participation ...	55.3	55.3	55.3	55.3	55.3	55.2	55.2	55.1	55.0	54.9	54.7	54.6	54.8
2023 Civilian Labor Force	783.7	784.9	786.0	787.0	788.0	789.0	789.9	790.6	791.3	791.8	792.2	792.4	786.6
Total Employment	755.7	756.8	757.5	758.1	758.4	758.6	758.9	759.2	759.3	759.4	759.3	759.3	756.3
Total Unemployment	28.1	28.1	28.4	28.9	29.6	30.3	31.0	31.5	31.9	32.4	32.9	33.1	30.3
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.2	3.9
Labor Force Participation ...	54.8	54.8	54.9	55.0	55.1	55.1	55.2	55.2	55.3	55.3	55.3	55.3	54.9
2022 Civilian Labor Force	779.9	781.6	782.7	782.9	782.5	781.6	780.8	780.3	780.2	780.5	781.4	782.5	779.8
Total Employment	748.3	750.3	751.4	751.7	751.4	750.8	750.1	749.9	750.2	751.1	752.6	754.2	749.5
Total Unemployment	31.5	31.3	31.2	31.2	31.1	30.9	30.6	30.4	30.0	29.4	28.8	28.3	30.3
Unemployment Rate	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.9
Labor Force Participation ...	54.3	54.5	54.6	54.6	54.6	54.6	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.6	54.7	54.4
2021 Civilian Labor Force	773.6	772.8	772.8	773.3	773.9	774.4	774.2	774.1	774.1	774.9	776.2	777.8	773.1
Total Employment	724.2	725.4	727.2	729.4	731.8	733.8	735.5	737.2	739.0	741.2	743.5	746.0	733.3
Total Unemployment	49.4	47.4	45.6	43.9	42.1	40.6	38.7	36.9	35.1	33.7	32.6	31.9	39.7
Unemployment Rate	6.4	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.1	5.1
Labor Force Participation ...	53.7	53.7	53.7	53.7	53.7	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.9	54.0	54.1	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

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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	775.8	762.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Total Employment	729.8	733.7	730.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Total Unemployment	37.8	42.1	32.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.4	4.2	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	54.1	53.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2025	Civilian Labor Force	775.3	772.0	770.5	782.0	778.5	791.7	789.9	787.6	788.9	*	782.5	777.9	0.0
	Total Employment	740.9	739.9	740.0	754.3	751.8	759.5	758.7	753.5	755.3	*	746.4	743.3	0.0
	Total Unemployment	34.4	32.1	30.5	27.8	26.7	32.2	31.2	34.1	35.9	*	36.1	34.5	0.0
	Unemployment Rate	4.4	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	784.4	789.2	787.5	790.8	793.0	803.2	799.9	792.7	791.5	788.5	779.0	775.6	786.9
	Total Employment	747.2	749.5	750.9	761.1	763.6	768.8	765.3	758.9	763.4	762.2	752.0	748.7	754.8
	Total Unemployment	37.2	39.7	36.6	29.7	29.4	34.5	34.6	33.9	28.1	26.3	27.0	26.9	32.0
	Unemployment Rate	4.7	5.0	4.6	3.8	3.7	4.3	4.3	4.3	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.5	4.1
	Labor Force Participation ...	54.8	55.1	55.0	55.2	55.4	56.1	55.8	55.3	55.2	55.0	54.3	54.1	54.8
2023	Civilian Labor Force	775.5	780.4	780.9	786.8	788.2	801.0	797.0	796.0	794.8	793.4	788.4	783.1	786.6
	Total Employment	743.4	747.7	749.1	758.7	759.6	768.8	766.4	761.6	765.9	765.1	760.4	753.2	756.3
	Total Unemployment	32.2	32.7	31.8	28.1	28.6	32.2	30.6	34.4	28.9	28.3	28.0	30.0	30.3
	Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.2	4.1	3.6	3.6	4.0	3.8	4.3	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.9
	Labor Force Participation ...	54.2	54.5	54.6	55.0	55.1	56.0	55.7	55.6	55.5	55.4	55.1	54.7	54.9
2022	Civilian Labor Force	774.0	778.6	776.7	779.9	784.4	793.9	788.4	784.8	781.5	783.2	777.8	775.1	779.8
	Total Employment	736.4	740.6	742.5	750.1	756.0	760.2	756.6	752.0	756.6	758.2	752.0	750.1	749.5
	Total Unemployment	37.6	38.1	34.2	29.9	28.5	33.7	31.8	32.9	25.0	25.0	25.8	25.0	30.3
	Unemployment Rate	4.9	4.9	4.4	3.8	3.6	4.2	4.0	4.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.9
	Labor Force Participation ...	53.9	54.3	54.2	54.4	54.8	55.4	55.1	54.8	54.6	54.7	54.3	54.1	54.4
2021	Civilian Labor Force	763.8	768.4	766.0	772.9	772.1	786.1	785.3	778.5	776.6	776.2	771.8	769.4	773.1
	Total Employment	709.0	714.8	717.0	729.1	733.5	742.7	745.1	740.3	745.5	747.6	743.8	741.9	733.3
	Total Unemployment	54.8	53.6	48.9	43.8	38.6	43.4	40.3	38.3	31.1	28.6	28.0	27.5	39.7
	Unemployment Rate	7.2	7.0	6.4	5.7	5.0	5.5	5.1	4.9	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.6	5.1
	Labor Force Participation ...	53.0	53.3	53.2	53.7	53.6	54.6	54.5	54.1	54.0	54.0	53.7	53.6	53.7
2020	Civilian Labor Force	788.5	792.3	784.3	756.3	773.1	781.0	779.2	776.6	776.9	778.3	768.0	765.0	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	8.0	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	54.0	53.3	53.1	53.9
2019	Civilian Labor Force	784.7	787.1	781.3	783.8	788.4	803.8	802.0	796.9	797.1	799.3	790.9	789.1	792.0
	Total Employment	737.6	740.5	738.5	748.3	753.1	763.5	762.4	758.0	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	38.0	39.2
	Unemployment Rate	6.0	5.9	5.5	4.5	4.5	5.0	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	797.0	788.2	786.7	791.0
	Total Employment	730.2	735.6	734.5	746.1	754.8	762.8	761.9	753.8	760.0	762.5	754.1	749.0	750.4
	Total Unemployment	46.7	50.0	47.4	41.6	37.7	43.4	41.2	38.6	34.1	34.5	34.1	37.7	40.6
	Unemployment Rate	6.0	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	753.0	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	5.0	4.6	5.2	5.2	5.4	4.5	4.5	4.9	5.1	5.2
	Labor Force Participation ...	52.8	53.0	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	774.0	785.1
	Total Employment	726.6	728.8	727.9	736.1	742.0	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	6.0	6.1	5.6	5.4	5.0	5.3	6.1
	Labor Force Participation ...	53.0	53.3	53.0	53.2	53.4	54.1	53.7	53.4	53.4	53.5	53.0	52.7	53.3
2015	Civilian Labor Force	788.3	790.0	786.3	792.9	797.5	806.6	801.4	793.6	789.0	790.2	784.2	783.2	791.9

Not Seasonally Adjusted - Benchmark March 2025

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Frequently Asked
Questions



Scott A. Adkins, Acting Commissioner

FOR RELEASE: April 29, 2026
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State Unemployment Rate Decreased to 4.5 Percent in March 2026

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.5 percent in March 2026, a decrease of 0.2 percentage point from February. The total number of employed state residents decreased by 1,500 over the month – declining to 744,000 – while the number of unemployed state residents decreased by 1,300 to 35,200. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ticked down 0.1 percentage point to 4.3 percent in March.

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 600 from February to March as the goods-producing sector shed 200 jobs and the service-providing sector added 800. The goods-producing sector saw mining and logging carve off 300 jobs while construction dipped by 100. Manufacturing rose by 200 over the month to soften the loss.

The service-providing sector saw equal gains in private education and health services and in total government employment, both industries gained 500 jobs. Trade, transportation, and utilities (+200), professional and business services (+200), and other services (+100) each showed gains as well. Financial activities (-400) shouldered the largest loss for the service-sector while leisure and hospitality dipped by 200 and information ticked down by 100.

Over the year, total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 2,300 jobs. The largest over the year loss came in total government (-2,700), almost entirely in federal government employment. Declines were also seen in leisure and hospitality (-1,600), trade, transportation, and utilities (-1,500), other services (-400), mining and logging (-400), manufacturing (-300), and in information (-100). The bulk of job gains over the year came in private education and health services and in construction; the two industries added 2,400 jobs and 1,700 jobs, respectively since March 2025. Professional and business services (+500) and financial activities (+100) each saw gains as well.

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate decreased by 0.2 percentage point to 54.3 percent in March.

The state's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped by 1.2 percentage points to 4.2 percent.

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State Data Release 4/29/2026

Nonfarm Payroll

Labor Statistics Adjusted

Labor Statistics Not Adjusted

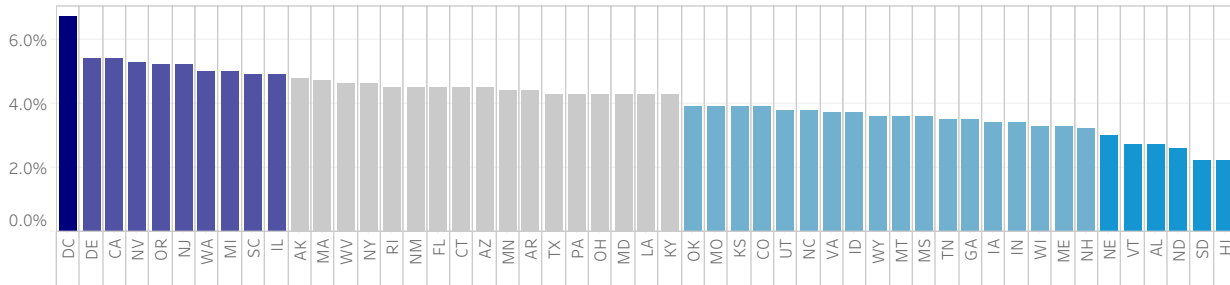
State Summary

Monthly Snapshot

Frequently Asked Questions

State Unemployment Rates (percent, seasonally adjusted)

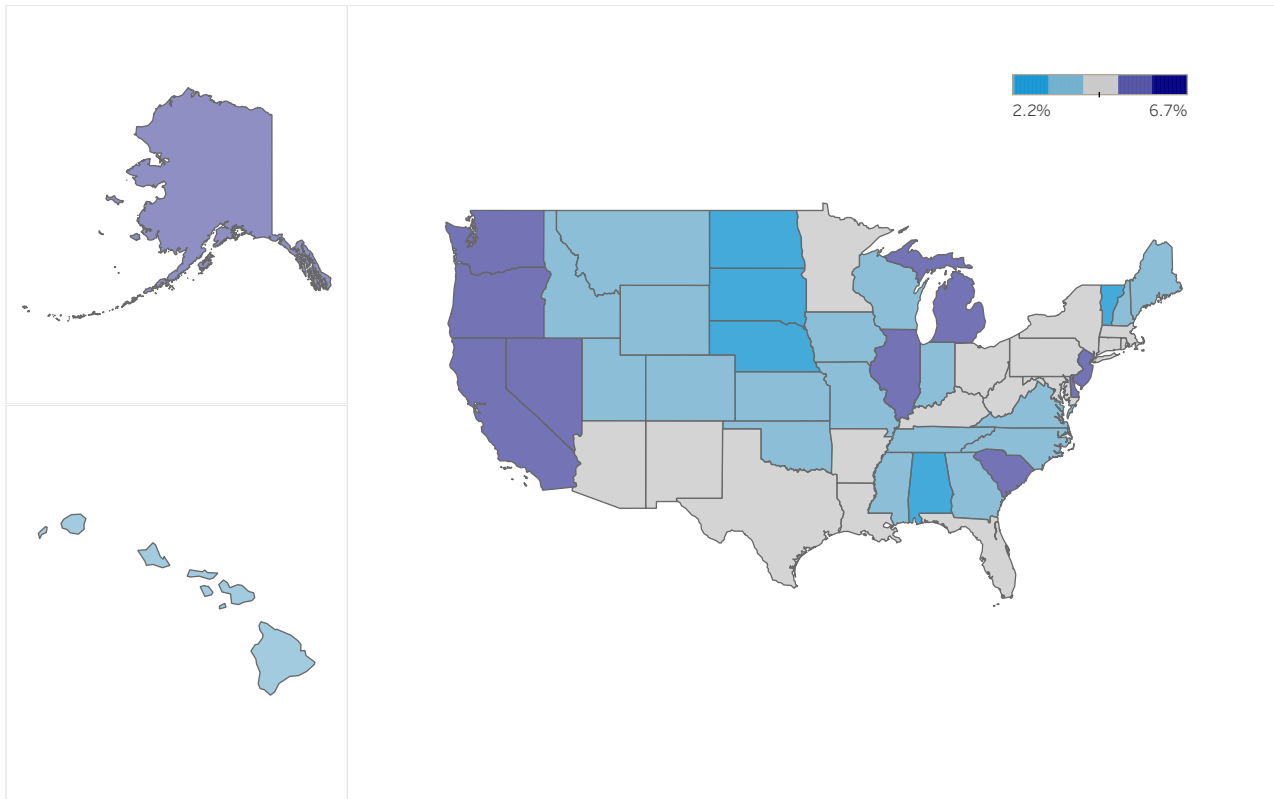
The national unemployment rate was 4.5 percent as of March 2026



MONTH
March

YEAR
2026

UNITED STATES
4.5%



State Data Release 4/29/2026

Nonfarm Payroll

Labor Statistics
Adjusted

Labor Statistics Not
Adjusted

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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>