

# State Data Release 5/20/2026

Nonfarm Payroll

Labor Statistics  
Adjusted

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

	Estimates			Change From	
	2026		2025	2026	2025
	April	March	April	March	April
Civilian Labor Force	777.1	779.2	780.3	-2.1	-3.2
Total Employment	742.5	744.0	749.9	-1.5	-7.4
Total Unemployment	34.6	35.2	30.4	-0.6	4.2
Unemployment Rate	4.4	4.5	3.9	xx	xx
Labor Force Participation Rate	54.1	54.3	54.4	xx	xx
<b>TOTAL NONFARM PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>717.6</b>	<b>716.3</b>	<b>717.4</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>	<b>571.9</b>	<b>570.3</b>	<b>569.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.9</b>
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING</b>	<b>101.8</b>	<b>101.5</b>	<b>101.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Mining & Logging	19.8	20.2	20.5	-0.4	-0.7
Construction	37.1	36.5	35.1	0.6	2.0
Manufacturing	44.9	44.8	45.6	0.1	-0.7
Durable Goods	27.2	27.1	27.2	0.1	0.0
Nondurable Goods	17.7	17.7	18.4	0.0	-0.7
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING</b>	<b>615.8</b>	<b>614.8</b>	<b>616.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Private Service-Providing	470.1	468.8	467.8	1.3	2.3
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	121.3	120.8	121.7	0.5	-0.4
Wholesale Trade	19.5	19.5	19.4	0.0	0.1
Retail Trade	77.9	77.2	77.6	0.7	0.3
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	23.9	24.1	24.7	-0.2	-0.8
Information	7.5	7.5	7.6	0.0	-0.1
Financial Activities	26.0	26.0	25.8	0.0	0.2
Finance & Insurance	19.0	19.0	18.9	0.0	0.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	7.0	7.0	6.9	0.0	0.1
Professional & Business Services	72.1	72.4	72.0	-0.3	0.1
Professional, Scientific & Technical Service	31.3	31.5	31.3	-0.2	0.0
Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation	33.8	33.8	33.4	0.0	0.4
Educational & Health Services	148.1	147.6	144.5	0.5	3.6
Educational Services	7.7	7.7	7.1	0.0	0.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	140.4	139.9	137.4	0.5	3.0
Leisure & Hospitality	71.2	70.5	72.0	0.7	-0.8
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9.0	8.8	8.8	0.2	0.2
Accommodation & Food Service	62.2	61.7	63.2	0.5	-1.0
Other Services	23.9	24.0	24.2	-0.1	-0.3
Government	145.7	146.0	148.4	-0.3	-2.7
Federal Government	23.7	23.8	26.2	-0.1	-2.5
State Government	46.7	46.7	46.5	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.
<b>2026</b> Civilian Labor Force	782.7	782.1	779.2	777.1									
Total Employment	746.4	745.5	744.0	742.5									
Total Unemployment	36.3	36.6	35.2	34.6									
Unemployment Rate	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.4									
Labor Force Participation ...	54.5	54.5	54.3	54.1									
<b>2025</b> 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	*
Total Employment	752.5	751.0	750.2	750.8	750.5	750.4	750.9	751.3	751.0	*	750.2	749.9	*
Total Unemployment	30.0	30.7	29.9	29.5	29.2	29.0	29.1	29.4	31.1	*	34.3	35.8	*
Unemployment Rate	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	4.0	*	4.4	4.6	*
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	*
<b>2024</b> 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
<b>2023</b> 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
<b>2022</b> 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
<b>2021</b> 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
<b>2020</b> 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
<b>2019</b> 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
<b>2018</b> 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
<b>2017</b> 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
<b>2016</b> 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.
<b>2026</b> Civilian Labor Force	767.5	775.8	762.9	772.6									
Total Employment	729.8	733.7	730.8	740.5									
Total Unemployment	37.8	42.1	32.1	32.1									
Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.4	4.2	4.2									
Labor Force Participation ...	53.5	54.1	53.2	53.8									
<b>2025</b> 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	*
Total Employment	740.9	739.9	740.0	754.3	751.8	759.5	758.7	753.5	755.3	*	746.4	743.3	*
Total Unemployment	34.4	32.1	30.5	27.8	26.7	32.2	31.2	34.1	35.9	*	36.1	34.5	*
Unemployment Rate	4.4	4.2	4.0	3.5	3.4	4.1	4.0	4.3	4.3	*	4.6	4.4	*
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	*
<b>2024</b> 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
<b>2023</b> 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
<b>2022</b> 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
<b>2021</b> 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
<b>2020</b> 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
<b>2019</b> 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
<b>2018</b> 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
<b>2017</b> 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
<b>2016</b> 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
<b>2015</b> 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

# State Data Release 5/20/2026

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Scott A. Adkins, Acting Commissioner

FOR RELEASE: May 20, 2026  
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## State Unemployment Rate Decreased to 4.4 Percent in April 2026

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.4 percent in April 2026, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from March. The total number of employed state residents decreased by 1,500 over the month – declining to 742,500 – while the number of unemployed state residents decreased by 600 to 34,600. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 4.3 percent in April.

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 1,300 from March to April as the goods-producing sector added 300 jobs and the service-providing sector added 1,000. The goods-producing sector saw gains in construction (+600) and manufacturing (+100) over the month while mining and logging shed 400 jobs.

The service-providing sector saw its largest gain in leisure and hospitality (+700), an industry with seasonal hiring from March through July – gains were seen primarily in accommodation and food services (+500). Trade, transportation, and utilities saw a gain of 500 jobs as did private education and health services (+500). Losses were largest in total government employment and in professional and business services, both industries decreased by 300 jobs over the month. Other services showed a loss of 100 jobs while Information and financial activities went unchanged.

Over the year, total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 200 jobs. The bulk of job gains were seen in private education and health services (+3,600) and construction (+2,000). Financial activities (+200) and professional and business services (+100) also added jobs over the year. The largest over the year loss came in total government (-2,700); almost entirely in federal government employment (-2,500). Declines were seen also in leisure and hospitality (-800), mining and logging (-700), manufacturing (-700), trade, transportation, and utilities (-400), other services (-300), and in information (-100).

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate decreased by 0.2 percentage point to 54.1 percent in April.

The state's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.2 percent.

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# State Data Release 5/20/2026

Nonfarm Payroll

Labor Statistics Adjusted

Labor Statistics Not Adjusted

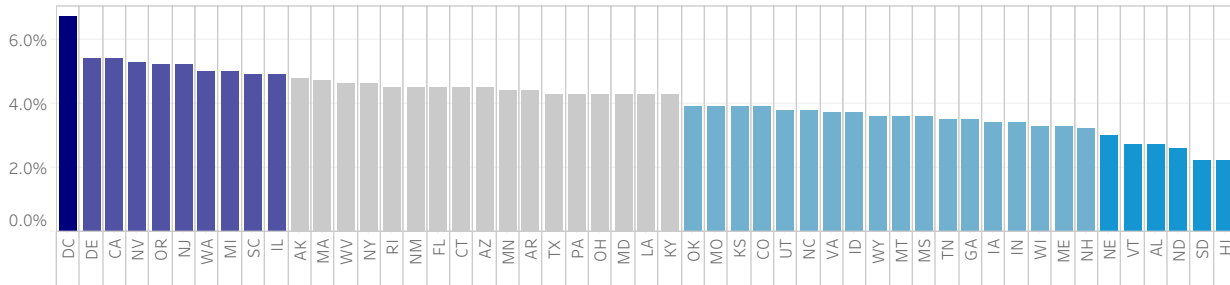
State Summary

Monthly Snapshot

Frequently Asked Questions

## State Unemployment Rates (percent, seasonally adjusted)

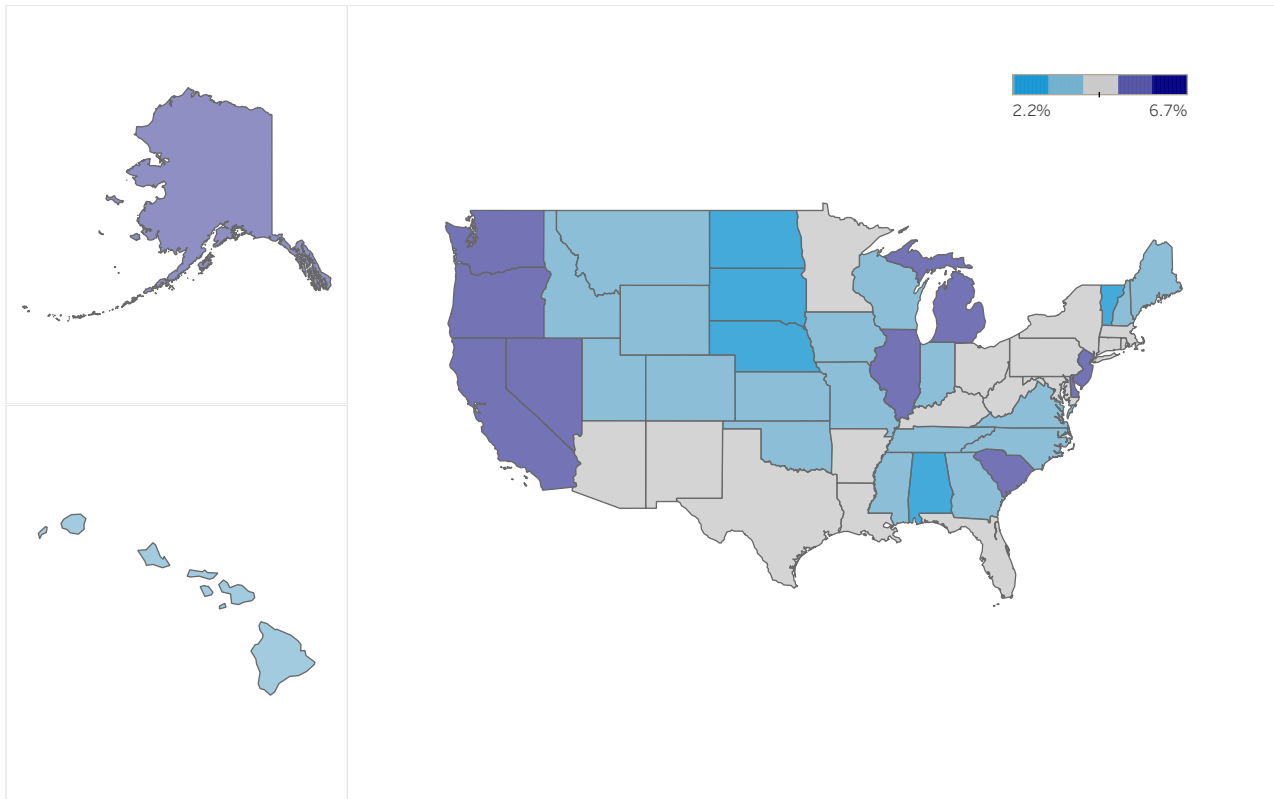
The national unemployment rate was 4.3 percent as of March 2026



MONTH  
March

YEAR  
2026

UNITED STATES  
4.3%



## State Data Release 5/20/2026

Nonfarm Payroll

Labor Statistics  
Adjusted

Labor Statistics Not  
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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>