

State Data Release 6/17/2026

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	
	2026		2025	2025	
	May	April	May	April	May
Civilian Labor Force	775.1	777.0	780.0	-1.9	-4.9
Total Employment	741.7	742.5	749.2	-0.8	-7.5
Total Unemployment	33.4	34.6	30.8	-1.2	2.6
Unemployment Rate	4.3	4.4	4.0	xx	xx
Labor Force Participation Rate	54.0	54.1	54.4	xx	xx
TOTAL NONFARM PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT	727.2	717.5	719.5	9.7	7.7
PRIVATE SECTOR	571.7	571.6	569.3	0.1	2.4
GOODS-PRODUCING	100.9	101.9	101.5	-1.0	-0.6
Mining & Logging	19.6	19.6	20.5	0.0	-0.9
Construction	36.4	37.5	35.6	-1.1	0.8
Manufacturing	44.9	44.8	45.4	0.1	-0.5
Durable Goods	27.3	27.1	27.2	0.2	0.1
Nondurable Goods	17.6	17.7	18.2	-0.1	-0.6
SERVICE-PROVIDING	626.3	615.6	618.0	10.7	8.3
Private Service-Providing	470.8	469.7	467.8	1.1	3.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	121.0	121.2	121.7	-0.2	-0.7
Wholesale Trade	19.2	19.4	19.4	-0.2	-0.2
Retail Trade	78.0	77.9	77.6	0.1	0.4
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	23.8	23.9	24.7	-0.1	-0.9
Information	7.5	7.5	7.6	0.0	-0.1
Financial Activities	26.0	26.1	25.8	-0.1	0.2
Finance & Insurance	19.0	19.1	18.9	-0.1	0.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	7.0	7.0	6.9	0.0	0.1
Professional & Business Services	72.5	71.9	72.2	0.6	0.3
Professional, Scientific & Technical Service	31.9	31.4	31.4	0.5	0.5
Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation	33.6	33.5	33.5	0.1	0.1
Educational & Health Services	148.1	147.7	144.6	0.4	3.5
Educational Services	7.8	7.7	7.1	0.1	0.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	140.3	140.0	137.5	0.3	2.8
Leisure & Hospitality	71.6	71.4	71.9	0.2	-0.3
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9.1	9.0	8.7	0.1	0.4
Accommodation & Food Service	62.5	62.4	63.2	0.1	-0.7
Other Services	24.1	23.9	24.0	0.2	0.1
Government	155.5	145.9	150.2	9.6	5.3
Federal Government	23.8	23.7	26.2	0.1	-2.4
State Government	47.3	46.8	47.3	0.5	0.0

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

State Data Release 6/17/2026

Nonfarm Payroll

Labor Statistics
Adjusted

Labor Statistics Not
Adjusted

State Summary

Monthly Snapshot

Frequently Asked
Questions

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	777.1	775.1								
Total Employment	746.4	745.5	744.0	742.5	741.7								
Total Unemployment	36.3	36.6	35.2	34.6	33.4								
Unemployment Rate	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.3								
Labor Force Participation ...	54.5	54.5	54.3	54.1	54.0								
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	*
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	*
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

State Data Release 6/17/2026

Nonfarm Payroll

Labor Statistics
Adjusted

Labor Statistics Not
Adjusted

State Summary

Monthly Snapshot

Frequently Asked
Questions

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	772.6	771.9								
Total Employment	729.8	733.7	730.8	740.5	743.7								
Total Unemployment	37.8	42.1	32.1	32.1	28.2								
Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.4	4.2	4.2	3.6								
Labor Force Participation ...	53.5	54.1	53.2	53.8	53.8								
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	*
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	*
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

State Data Release 6/17/2026

Nonfarm Payroll

Labor Statistics
Adjusted

Labor Statistics Not
Adjusted

State Summary

Monthly Snapshot

Frequently Asked
Questions



Scott A. Adkins, Acting Commissioner

FOR RELEASE: June 17, 2026
Contact: Andy Malinoski
Andy.E.Malinoski@wv.gov
304-553-9305

State Unemployment Rate Decreased to 4.3 Percent in May 2026

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in May 2026, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from April. The total number of employed state residents decreased by 800 over the month – declining to 741,700 – while the number of unemployed state residents decreased by 1,200 to 33,400. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 4.3 percent in May.

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 9,700 from April to May, primarily from a spike in short-term election workers across the state. The goods-producing sector shed 1,000 jobs and the service-providing sector added 10,700. The goods-producing sector saw a large loss in construction (-1,100) while manufacturing rose by 100 and mining and logging went unchanged.

The service-providing sector saw its largest gain in total government employment as temporary workers were brought on in local government (+9,000) for the primary election – a downward spike is expected in June. Professional and business services (+600) saw the second largest increase for the sector. Private education and health services rose by 400 as leisure and hospitality matched other services, both industries added 200 jobs in May. Trade, transportation, and utilities saw a loss of 200 jobs, financial activities saw a loss of 100 jobs, and the information industry was unchanged.

Over the year, total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 7,700 jobs with the largest gain occurring in total government (+5,300). A reduction of 2,400 jobs in federal employment, however, reduced the temporary election worker spike. The second largest gain was seen in private education and health services as the industry added 3,500 jobs. Construction added 800 with professional and business services (+300), financial activities (+200), and other services (+100) all posting gains as well. The largest losses came in mining and logging (-900), and in trade, transportation, and utilities (-700). Manufacturing (-500), leisure and hospitality (-300), and information (-100) also saw declines.

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point to 54.0 percent in May.

The state's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 3.6 percent.

Research, Information and Analysis, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East Building 3
Suite 300, Charleston, WV 25305 Telephone (304) 558-2660 ~ Fax (304) 558-1343

An agency of the Department of Commerce

An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

www.workforcewv.org

A proud partner of the  AmericanJobCenter® network

State Data Release 6/17/2026

Nonfarm Payroll

Labor Statistics Adjusted

Labor Statistics Not Adjusted

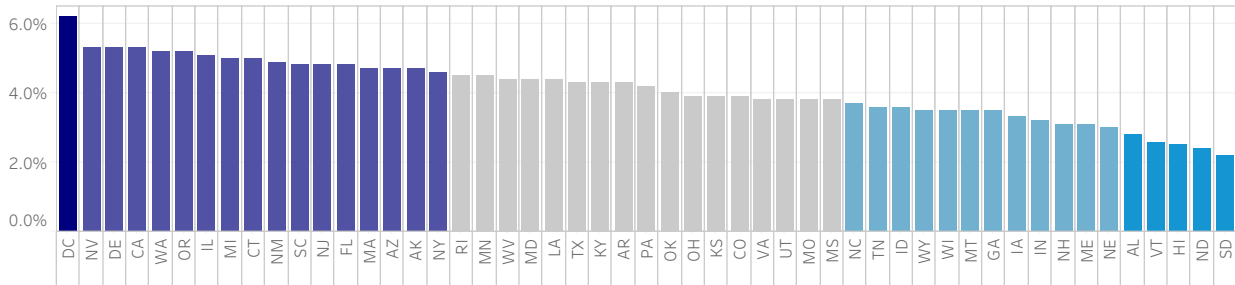
State Summary

Monthly Snapshot

Frequently Asked Questions

State Unemployment Rates (percent, seasonally adjusted)

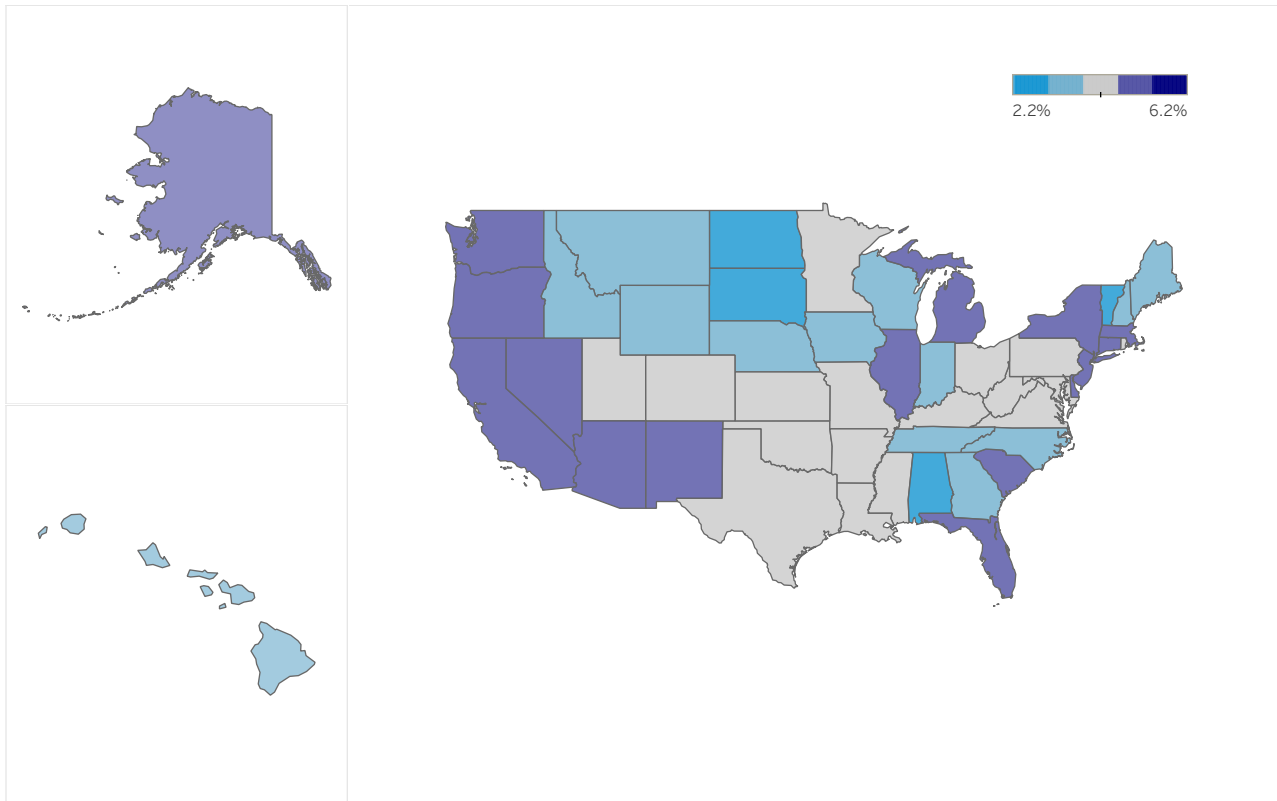
The national unemployment rate was 4.3 percent as of May 2026



MONTH
May

YEAR
2026

UNITED STATES
4.3%



State Data Release 6/17/2026

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>