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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	
	August	July	August	July	August
Civilian Labor Force	772.2	772.6	781.9	-0.4	-9.7
Total Employment	741.0	740.6	748.0	0.4	-7.0
Total Unemployment	31.3	32.0	33.9	-0.7	-2.6
Unemployment Rate	4.0	4.1	4.3	xx	xx
Labor Force Participation Rate	53.8	53.8	54.5	xx	xx
TOTAL NONFARM PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT	717.1	718.3	718.9	-1.2	-1.8
PRIVATE SECTOR	569.0	570.5	570.5	-1.5	-1.5
GOODS-PRODUCING	98.8	99.6	100.7	-0.8	-1.9
Mining & Logging	19.4	19.5	20.3	-0.1	-0.9
Construction	34.6	35.0	35.3	-0.4	-0.7
Manufacturing	44.8	45.1	45.1	-0.3	-0.3
Durable Goods	27.0	27.3	27.0	-0.3	0.0
Nondurable Goods	17.8	17.8	18.1	0.0	-0.3
SERVICE-PROVIDING	618.3	618.7	618.2	-0.4	0.1
Private Service-Providing	470.2	470.9	469.8	-0.7	0.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	121.3	121.8	121.6	-0.5	-0.3
Wholesale Trade	20.1	20.2	19.5	-0.1	0.6
Retail Trade	77.3	77.6	77.6	-0.3	-0.3
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	23.9	24.0	24.5	-0.1	-0.6
Information	7.6	7.5	7.6	0.1	0.0
Financial Activities	25.9	25.7	26.0	0.2	-0.1
Finance & Insurance	19.0	18.8	19.1	0.2	-0.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	6.9	6.9	6.9	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	72.2	73.0	72.4	-0.8	-0.2
Professional, Scientific & Technical Service	31.7	32.1	31.4	-0.4	0.3
Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation	33.4	33.9	33.8	-0.5	-0.4
Educational & Health Services	148.1	147.6	145.4	0.5	2.7
Educational Services	7.7	7.5	7.2	0.2	0.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	140.4	140.1	138.2	0.3	2.2
Leisure & Hospitality	72.0	71.9	72.7	0.1	-0.7
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9.3	9.4	8.8	-0.1	0.5
Accommodation & Food Service	62.7	62.5	63.9	0.2	-1.2
Other Services	23.1	23.4	24.1	-0.3	-1.0
Government	148.1	147.8	148.4	0.3	-0.3
Federal Government	23.8	23.8	25.8	0.0	-2.0
State Government	48.2	48.3	46.1	-0.1	2.1

. 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	777.1	775.1	773.4	772.6	772.2					
	Total Employment	746.4	745.5	744.0	742.5	741.7	740.7	740.6	741.0					
	Total Unemployment	36.3	36.6	35.2	34.6	33.4	32.8	32.0	31.3					
	Unemployment Rate	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.0					
	Labor Force Participation ...	54.5	54.5	54.3	54.1	54.0	53.9	53.8	53.8					
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

Seasonally Adjusted - Benchmark March 2025

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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	772.6	771.9	782.3	780.1	776.1					
	Total Employment	729.8	733.7	730.8	740.5	743.7	747.9	748.7	744.7					
	Total Unemployment	37.8	42.1	32.1	32.1	28.2	34.4	31.4	31.4					
	Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.4	4.2	4.2	3.6	4.4	4.0	4.1					
	Labor Force Participation ...	53.5	54.1	53.2	53.8	53.8	54.5	54.3	54.1					
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

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Scott A. Adkins, Acting Commissioner

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State Unemployment Rate Decreased to 4.0 Percent in August 2026

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.0 percent in August 2026, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from July. The total number of employed state residents increased by 400 over the month – rising to 741,000 – while the number of unemployed state residents decreased by 700 to 31,300. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 4.1 percent.

Total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 1,200 from July to August. The goods-producing sector decreased by 800 over the month while the service-providing sector decreased by 400. The goods-producing sector saw construction scale back by 400, manufacturing slide by 300, and mining and logging dip by 100.

The service-providing sector saw its largest loss come in professional and business services, down by 800 over the month. Trade, transportation, and utilities (-500) and other services (-300) both saw declines as well. Five sectors saw gains over the month with private education and health services leading the way (+500). Total government gained 300, financial activities climbed by 200, information rose by 100, and leisure and hospitality also rose by 100 in August.

Over the year, total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 1,800 jobs with the largest loss occurring in other services (-1,000). The second largest loss came in mining and logging, down 900, while construction, along with leisure and hospitality, each decreased by 700. Manufacturing; total government; and trade, transportation, and utilities each decreased by 300. Professional and business services shed 200 jobs while financial activities slid by 100. The information industry remained unchanged.

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate was unchanged at 53.8 percent in August.

The state's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point to 4.1 percent.

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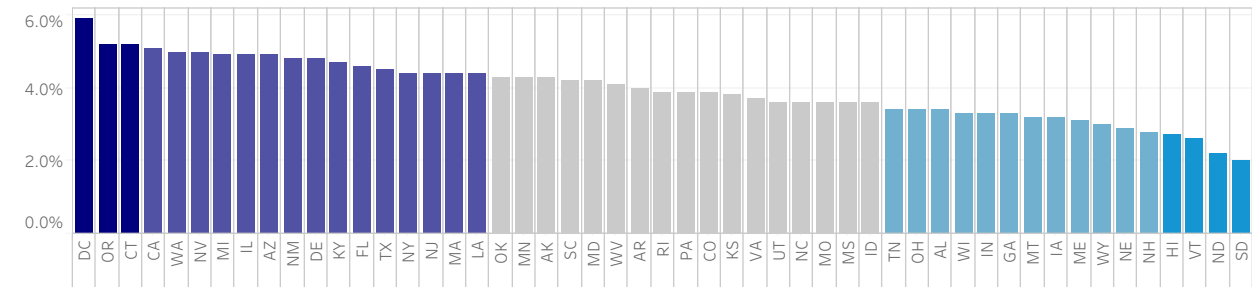
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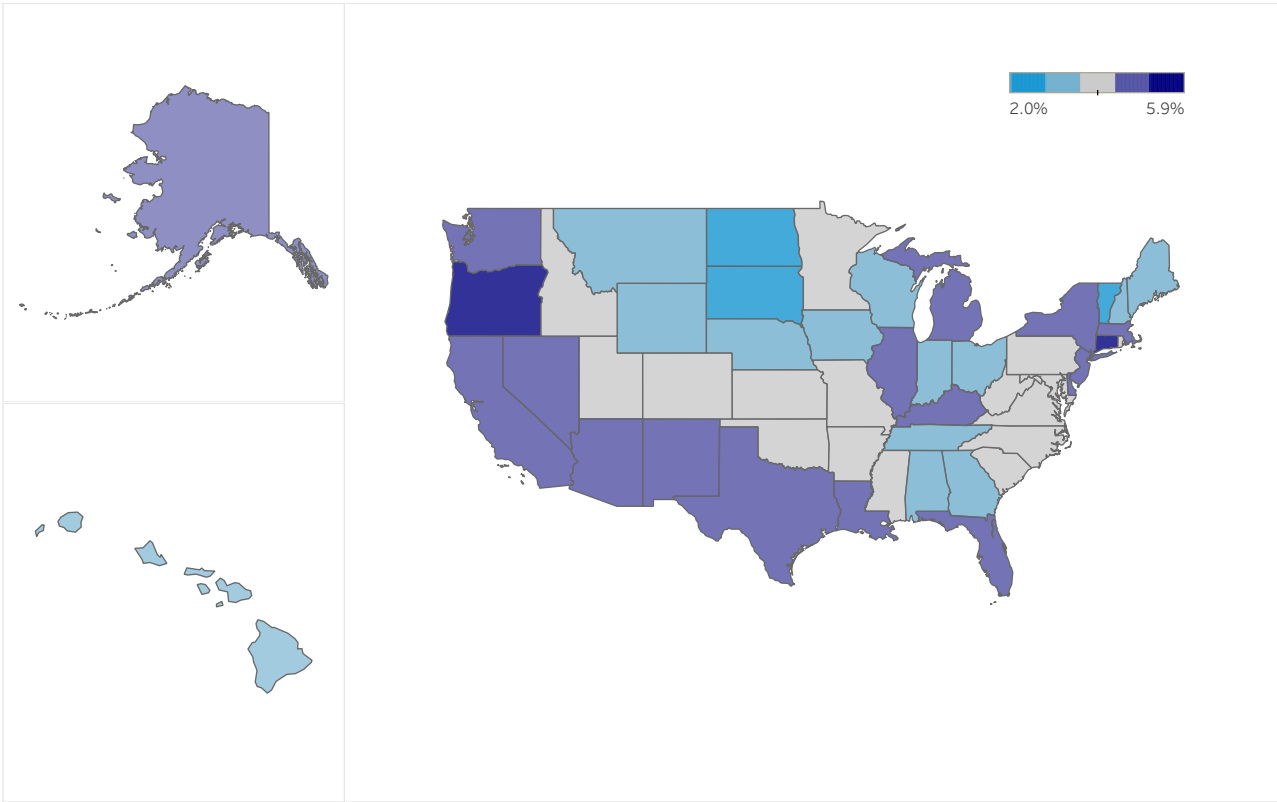
State Data Release 9/16/2026

Nonfarm Payroll	Labor Statistics Adjusted	Labor Statistics Not Adjusted	State Summary	Monthly Snapshot	Frequently Asked Questions
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State Unemployment Rates (percent, seasonally adjusted)
The national unemployment rate was 4.1 percent as of July 2026



MONTH: July
YEAR: 2026
UNITED STATES: 4.1%



State Data Release 9/16/2026

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/empst.faq.htm>

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

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

Employment from the BLS Household and Payroll Surveys: Summary of Recent Trends: <http://www.bls.gov/bls/empstquickguide.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/empst.nr0.htm>