

**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.**

- [WSJ.com](http://WSJ.com)
- July 20, 2010

## June Unemployment Rates, by State: Most Regions Show Improvement

[See the full interactive graphic.](#)

The jobless rate in 39 states and Washington, D.C. fell in June compared to the prior month, as the nation's unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage point to 9.5%, the Labor Department said. Meanwhile, five states saw unemployment rate increases, while the rate was unchanged in six other states.

Nevada remained the state with the highest unemployment rate in the nation — 14.2% — a full percentage point higher than Michigan's 13.2% rate, which declined again. Washington, DC and 16 states recorded jobless rates in excess of 10%. North and South Dakota continued to have the lowest rates in the country, at 3.6% and 4.5%, respectively.

Despite the improvements in the jobless rates, 27 states posted a decline in payroll employment, while 21 notched increases. Montana and Alaska had the highest percentage increase from the previous month, while New Mexico and Nevada reported the largest percentage drops.

While the latest state data confirms that the labor market is improving across a broad swath of the country, there's still a long way to go before employment returns to pre-recession levels. Twenty-four states still have higher unemployment rates this June than they did a year ago.

### Unemployment Rate, by State

<a href="#">State</a>	<a href="#">June 2010 Jobless Rate</a>	<a href="#">May 2010 Jobless Rate</a>	<a href="#">Month-to-Month Change</a>	<a href="#">Year-to-Year Change</a>
Alabama	10.3%	10.7%	-0.4	0
Alaska	7.9%	8.2%	-0.3	-0.1
Arizona	9.6%	9.6%	0	0.3
Arkansas	7.5%	7.7%	-0.2	0.2
<b>California</b>	<b>12.3%</b>	<b>12.4%</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Colorado	8.0%	8.0%	0	-0.3
Connecticut	8.8%	8.9%	-0.1	0.4
Delaware	8.5%	8.8%	-0.3	0.4
District of Columbia	10.0%	10.4%	-0.4	-0.1
<b>Florida</b>	<b>11.4%</b>	<b>11.7%</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Georgia	10.0%	10.1%	-0.1	0.3
Hawaii	6.3%	6.6%	-0.3	-0.7
Idaho	8.8%	9.0%	-0.2	0.9

<b>Illinois</b>	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>10.8%</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Indiana	10.1%	10.0%	0.1	-0.5
Iowa	6.8%	6.8%	0	0.8
Kansas	6.5%	6.6%	-0.1	-0.7
Kentucky	10.0%	10.4%	-0.4	-0.8
Louisiana	7.0%	6.8%	0.2	-0.1
Maine	8.0%	8.0%	0	-0.2
Maryland	7.1%	7.3%	-0.2	0
Massachusetts	9.0%	9.2%	-0.2	0.5
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
Minnesota	6.8%	7.0%	-0.2	-1.6
Mississippi	11.0%	11.4%	-0.4	1.5
Missouri	9.1%	9.3%	-0.2	-0.4
Montana	7.3%	7.2%	0.1	1.1
Nebraska	4.8%	4.9%	-0.1	0
<b>Nevada</b>	<b>14.2%</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>2.3</b>
New Hampshire	5.9%	6.4%	-0.5	-0.5
New Jersey	9.6%	9.7%	-0.1	0.2
New Mexico	8.2%	8.4%	-0.2	1.1
New York	8.2%	8.3%	-0.1	-0.4
North Carolina	10.0%	10.4%	-0.4	-1
North Dakota	3.6%	3.6%	0	-0.8
<b>Ohio</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>10.7%</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>0</b>
Oklahoma	6.8%	6.7%	0.1	0.1
Oregon	10.5%	10.6%	-0.1	-1.1
Pennsylvania	9.2%	9.2%	0	1
Rhode Island	12.0%	12.3%	-0.3	0.9
South Carolina	10.7%	11.1%	-0.4	-1.2
South Dakota	4.5%	4.6%	-0.1	-0.4
Tennessee	10.1%	10.4%	-0.3	-0.8
<b>Texas</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Utah	7.2%	7.3%	-0.1	0.4
Vermont	6.0%	6.2%	-0.2	-1.2
Virginia	7.0%	7.1%	-0.1	0.1
Washington	8.9%	9.2%	-0.3	-0.3
West Virginia	8.5%	8.9%	-0.4	0.3
Wisconsin	7.9%	8.2%	-0.3	-1
Wyoming	6.8%	7.0%	-0.2	0.3

Source: Labor Department

Courtesy of JB Goodwin