



NEWS RELEASE



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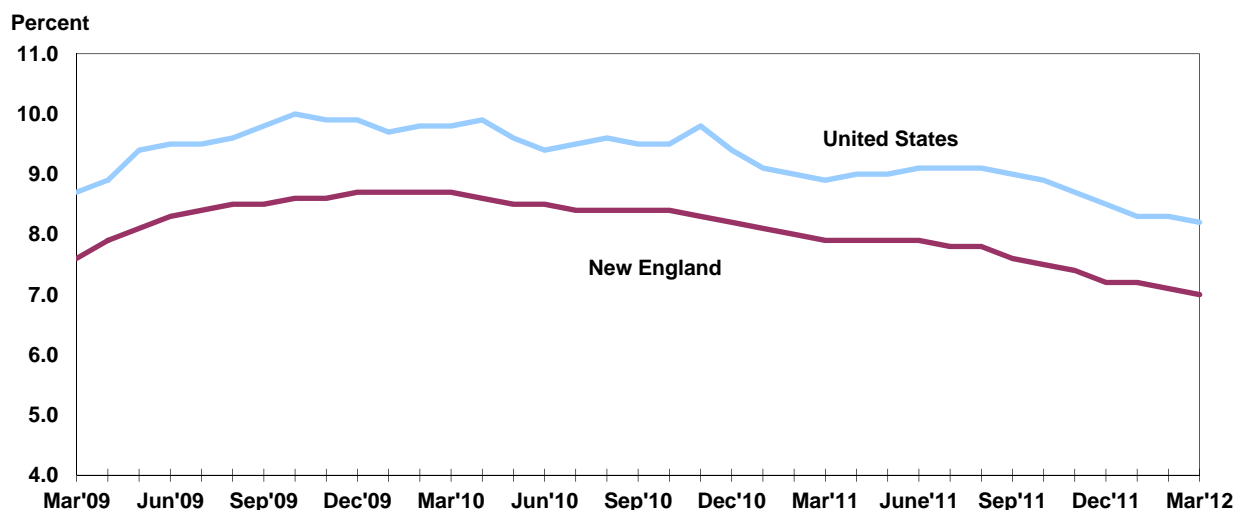
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NEW ENGLAND AND STATE UNEMPLOYMENT — MARCH 2012

The New England unemployment rate for March 2012 was essentially unchanged at 7.0 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that the New England jobless rate decreased 0.9 percentage point over the year. The national jobless rate was little changed at 8.2 percent in March, but was 0.7 percentage point lower when compared to one year earlier. (See chart 1.) The New England jobless rate was among the lowest on record since January 2009.

New England is one of nine geographic divisions nationwide. In March, among the nine divisions, the Pacific continued to report the highest jobless rate, 10.2 percent. The West North Central again registered the lowest rate, 5.9 percent. Two divisions experienced statistically significant unemployment rate changes over the month: the East North Central and South Atlantic (-0.2 percentage point each). Over the year, seven divisions joined New England in posting measurable unemployment rate decreases. The largest unemployment rate decrease occurred in the East South Central division (-1.5 percentage points).

Chart 1. Unemployment rates for the U.S. and New England, March 2009 to March 2012, seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

During March, five of the six New England states posted jobless rates that were significantly different from that of the United States. Vermont (4.8 percent), New Hampshire (5.2 percent), Massachusetts (6.5 percent) and Maine (7.2 percent) recorded lower-than-average unemployment rates and were among 23 states in the country to do so. Vermont and New Hampshire (which tied with Iowa) reported the fourth- and fifth-lowest jobless rates nationwide, respectively. In contrast, Rhode Island (11.1 percent) had the highest jobless rate among the New England states and the second-highest jobless rate in the nation. Rhode Island was among seven states and the District of Columbia with rates significantly higher than the national average. Connecticut was among the 20 remaining states which registered unemployment rates not appreciably different from that of the nation.

In New England, two states posted statistically significant unemployment rate decreases from the prior month: Massachusetts (-0.4 percentage point) and Vermont (-0.1 percentage point), and were among seven states nationally to do so. The remaining 43 states and the District of Columbia registered jobless rates not measurably different from those of a month earlier, though some had changes at least as large numerically as the significant changes.

Over the year, Connecticut (-1.4 percentage points) and Vermont (-1.0 percentage point) were among the 18 states nationwide that reported a statistically significant jobless rate decrease. The four remaining New England states were among the 32 states and the District of Columbia that registered unemployment rates not appreciably different from those a year earlier.

Technical Note

This release presents labor force and unemployment data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) and the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. Estimates for the U.S. are obtained directly from the CPS, which is a sample survey of approximately 60,000 households nationwide that is conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the Census Bureau. The LAUS program produces data for the nine geographic divisions in the United States: New England, Middle Atlantic, South Atlantic, East South Central, West South Central, East North Central, West North Central, Mountain, and Pacific. Data for all divisions, as well as the 50 states, are available in the Regional and State Employment and Unemployment release www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm#news issued monthly by BLS, while national statistics are highlighted in the Employment Situation www.bls.gov/cps/home.htm#news.

Labor force and unemployment data for prior years reflect adjustments made at the end of each year. The adjusted estimates reflect updated population data from the U.S. Census Bureau, any revisions in the other data sources, and model reestimation. In most years, historical data for the most recent five years (both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted) are revised near the beginning of each calendar year, prior to or coincident with the release of January estimates.

This information will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (617) 565-2072, Federal Relay Services: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Labor force status for the U.S., New England, and New England states, seasonally adjusted

(Numbers in thousands)

Area	Mar 2011	Apr 2011	May 2011	June 2011	July 2011	Aug 2011	Sept 2011	Oct 2011	Nov 2011	Dec 2011	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Mar 2012p
Connecticut													
Civilian labor force	1,921.3	1,919.5	1,917.1	1,915.2	1,914.5	1,915.0	1,916.3	1,917.4	1,918.1	1,918.8	1,916.0	1,914.5	1,913.0
Employed	1,747.4	1,747.2	1,745.6	1,744.1	1,744.2	1,746.5	1,750.6	1,755.1	1,759.2	1,763.0	1,763.6	1,765.9	1,765.0
Unemployed	174.0	172.4	171.5	171.1	170.3	168.5	165.7	162.3	158.9	155.8	152.5	148.6	148.0
Unemployment rate	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.6	8.5	8.3	8.1	8.0	7.8	7.7
Maine													
Civilian labor force	703.3	703.0	702.6	702.4	702.6	703.5	704.7	706.0	707.1	708.1	708.7	709.4	710.0
Employed	648.6	648.9	648.7	648.7	649.2	650.7	652.7	654.8	656.7	658.3	659.1	659.2	658.7
Unemployed	54.6	54.1	53.9	53.7	53.4	52.8	52.0	51.2	50.4	49.8	49.6	50.1	51.3
Unemployment rate	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.1	7.2
Massachusetts													
Civilian labor force	3,462.9	3,459.7	3,455.4	3,451.8	3,449.8	3,450.3	3,452.2	3,454.2	3,455.7	3,457.2	3,456.3	3,458.2	3,453.6
Employed	3,202.0	3,201.6	3,198.4	3,195.0	3,193.9	3,196.6	3,202.2	3,208.5	3,214.1	3,219.5	3,219.0	3,220.2	3,227.6
Unemployed	260.9	258.1	257.0	256.8	255.9	253.6	249.9	245.7	241.5	237.7	237.2	238.0	226.1
Unemployment rate	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.5
New Hampshire													
Civilian labor force	737.7	737.5	737.0	736.8	737.0	737.7	738.7	739.7	740.6	741.4	742.1	742.6	742.9
Employed	697.9	697.8	697.1	696.4	696.3	697.0	698.5	700.1	701.5	702.9	703.9	704.3	704.5
Unemployed	39.8	39.7	40.0	40.4	40.7	40.7	40.2	39.7	39.1	38.5	38.2	38.3	38.4
Unemployment rate	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.2
Rhode Island													
Civilian labor force	564.5	564.1	563.7	563.4	563.2	563.0	562.8	562.6	562.3	562.0	560.1	559.0	558.2
Employed	501.3	501.0	500.2	499.5	498.9	498.8	499.0	499.4	499.6	499.9	498.8	497.4	496.1
Unemployed	63.2	63.1	63.5	64.0	64.3	64.2	63.8	63.2	62.7	62.1	61.3	61.7	62.1
Unemployment rate	11.2	11.2	11.3	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.3	11.2	11.1	11.0	10.9	11.0	11.1
Vermont													
Civilian labor force	359.8	359.1	358.3	357.8	357.7	358.2	358.8	359.5	360.0	360.4	360.6	360.7	359.9
Employed	339.1	338.7	338.1	337.6	337.6	338.1	339.0	340.0	340.9	341.7	342.3	342.9	342.8
Unemployed	20.7	20.4	20.2	20.2	20.2	20.0	19.8	19.4	19.1	18.8	18.2	17.8	17.1
Unemployment rate	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.8
New England													
Civilian labor force	7,753.5	7,745.1	7,734.1	7,725.0	7,721.0	7,723.6	7,730.4	7,737.8	7,743.9	7,750.2	7,746.7	7,749.3	7,742.0
Employed	7,139.2	7,136.0	7,126.9	7,118.1	7,115.9	7,123.8	7,139.1	7,156.7	7,172.9	7,188.3	7,192.4	7,196.6	7,198.7
Unemployed	614.4	609.1	607.2	607.0	605.1	599.9	591.3	581.1	571.0	561.8	554.3	552.6	543.2
Unemployment rate	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.0
United States (1)													
Civilian labor force	153,392	153,420	153,700	153,409	153,358	153,674	154,004	154,057	153,937	153,887	(2) 154,395	154,871	154,707
Employed	139,764	139,628	139,808	139,385	139,450	139,754	140,107	140,297	140,614	140,790	(2) 141,637	142,065	142,034
Unemployed	13,628	13,792	13,892	14,024	13,908	13,920	13,897	13,759	13,323	13,097	12,758	12,806	12,673
Unemployment rate	8.9	9.0	9.0	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.7	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.2

Footnotes

(1) Data for the U.S. are obtained directly from the national Current Population Survey (CPS) and are not preliminary. Seasonally adjusted CPS data have been revised as a result of routine seasonal updates processed at the end of each calendar year.

(2) Data affected by changes in population controls.

(P) Preliminary

NOTE: Data refer to place of residence. Area definitions are based on Office of Management and Budget Bulletin No. 10-02 dated December 1, 2009 and are available at www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm. Estimates for the latest month are subject to revision the following month.

NOTE: Data in this series reflect revised population controls model reestimation and new seasonal factors from January 2007 through December 2011.

Table 2. Civilian labor force and unemployment by census region and division, seasonally adjusted¹

(Numbers in thousands)

Census region and division	Civilian labor force				Unemployed							
					Number				Percent of the labor force			
	Mar 2011	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Mar 2012	Mar 2011	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Mar 2012	Mar 2011	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Mar 2012
Northeast	28,218.6	28,215.5	28,232.2	28,253.5	2,303.7	2,241.3	2,254.3	2,246.1	8.2	7.9	8.0	7.9
New England	7,753.5	7,746.7	7,749.3	7,742.0	614.4	554.3	552.6	543.2	7.9	7.2	7.1	7.0
Middle Atlantic	20,465.1	20,468.8	20,482.9	20,511.5	1,689.3	1,687.0	1,701.7	1,702.8	8.3	8.2	8.3	8.3
South	56,067.6	56,341.3	56,349.8	56,347.6	4,977.1	4,592.6	4,500.1	4,403.1	8.9	8.2	8.0	7.8
South Atlantic	29,691.3	29,891.8	29,916.8	29,910.2	2,770.1	2,583.7	2,532.1	2,474.1	9.3	8.6	8.5	8.3
East South Central	8,748.6	8,709.1	8,683.0	8,655.1	841.9	740.9	720.5	701.2	9.6	8.5	8.3	8.1
West South Central	17,627.7	17,740.4	17,750.0	17,782.3	1,365.1	1,268.1	1,247.4	1,227.8	7.7	7.1	7.0	6.9
Midwest	34,317.5	34,322.3	34,336.0	34,339.9	2,870.7	2,626.7	2,578.0	2,532.7	8.4	7.7	7.5	7.4
East North Central	23,287.2	23,271.8	23,300.3	23,316.0	2,125.3	1,975.4	1,928.3	1,882.4	9.1	8.5	8.3	8.1
West North Central	11,030.3	11,050.5	11,035.6	11,023.9	745.4	651.3	649.7	650.3	6.8	5.9	5.9	5.9
West	35,894.6	35,933.5	35,951.2	35,995.4	3,771.8	3,459.7	3,439.8	3,447.3	10.5	9.6	9.6	9.6
Mountain	11,018.7	10,962.8	10,966.2	10,977.0	1,000.4	903.3	893.6	888.1	9.1	8.2	8.1	8.1
Pacific	24,875.9	24,970.7	24,985.0	25,018.4	2,771.4	2,556.5	2,546.1	2,559.2	11.1	10.2	10.2	10.2

¹ Census region estimates are derived by summing the Census division model-based estimates

NOTE: Data refer to place of residence. Regions are defined as the four Census regions comprised as follows: Northeast Region includes the New England Division - Connecticut Maine Massachusetts New Hampshire Rhode Island and Vermont; and the Middle Atlantic Division - New Jersey New York and Pennsylvania. South Region includes the South Atlantic Division - Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Maryland North Carolina South Carolina Virginia and West Virginia; East South Central Division - Alabama Kentucky Mississippi and Tennessee; and West South Central Division - Arkansas Louisiana Oklahoma and Texas. Midwest Region includes the East North Central - Illinois Indiana Michigan Ohio and Wisconsin; and the West North Central Division - Iowa Kansas Minnesota Missouri Nebraska North Dakota and South Dakota. West Region includes the Mountain Division - Alaska California Hawaii Oregon and Washington. Estimates for the current year are subject to revision early in the following calendar year.

NOTE: Data in this series reflect revised population controls model reestimation and new seasonal factors from January 2007 through December 2011