



For Release: Tuesday, April 18, 2017

17-370-BOS

NEW ENGLAND INFORMATION OFFICE: Boston, Mass.

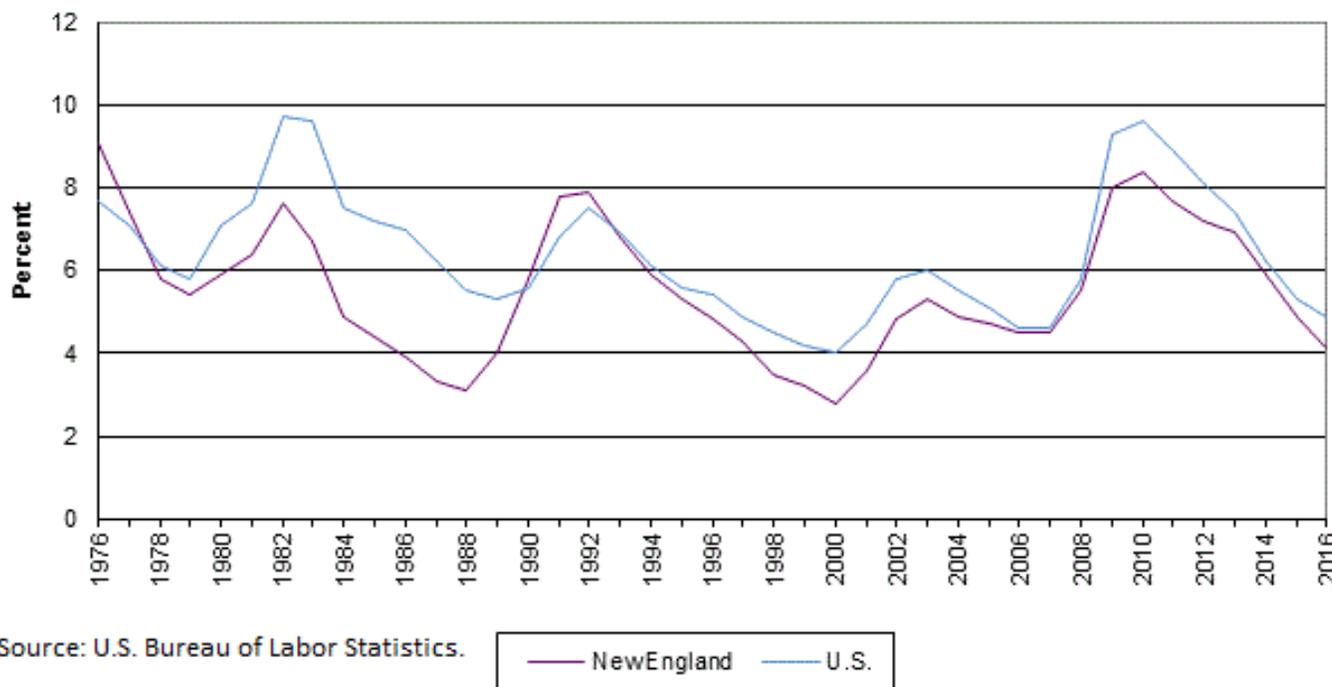
Technical information: (617) 565-2327 BLSInfoBoston@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/new-england

Media contact: (617) 565-2326 BLSMediaBoston@bls.gov

New England and State Unemployment - 2016

The annual average unemployment rate in New England, at 4.1 percent in 2016, was down 0.8 percentage point over the year, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Nationally the unemployment rate fell 0.4 percentage point, to 4.9 percent in 2016. (See [table 1](#).) Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that New England’s unemployment rate was measurably lower than the national average in 2016. The jobless rate in New England has rarely exceeded the U.S. average in the 40 years this data has been collected. (See [chart A](#).)

Chart A. Unemployment rates for the U.S. and New England, 1976 - 2016



New England is 1 of 9 geographic divisions in the United States. Jobless rates in the divisions ranged from a low of 3.9 percent in the West North Central to a high of 5.3 percent in the Pacific and East South Central in 2016. Three divisions, New England, West North Central, and Mountain recorded annual average unemployment rates that were significantly lower than that for the nation. Two divisions had rates significantly above the U.S. average—the East South Central and the Pacific. (See [table 2](#).)

Six of the nine geographic divisions had statistically significant over-the-year unemployment rate changes in 2016, all of which were declines. The largest of these occurred in New England (-0.8 percentage point), the Pacific and South Atlantic (-0.7 point each). Four of the six states that make up the New England division had jobless rates measurably different from the U.S. average in 2016. Maine (3.9 percent), Massachusetts (3.7 percent), Vermont (3.3 percent) and New Hampshire (2.8 percent) had rates significantly lower than that for the nation. New Hampshire had one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation. In contrast, Rhode Island (5.3 percent) and Connecticut (5.1 percent) had rates not measurably different from the U.S. average. (See [table 1.](#))

In New England, over-the-year rate declines ranged from 1.2 percentage points in Massachusetts to 0.3 percentage point in Vermont.

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 monthly sample survey of approximately 60,000 households nationwide that is conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the Census Bureau. All subnational estimates presented in this release were derived from updated time-series models with monthly benchmarking to national Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates. Subnational data reflect revised population controls and model reestimation. Historical data were revised back to 2012. Data for regions, divisions, states, and the District of Columbia are available back to 1976.

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 Unemployment release (www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm#news). Analysis in this news release reflects the use of model-based error measures when making comparisons with the U.S. and the prior year. BLS uses a 90-percent confidence level in determining whether changes or differences in subnational unemployment rates are statistically significant. Model-based error measures are available on the BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm.

This information will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200, Federal Relay Services: 1-800-877-83

Table 1. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population for the U.S., New England, and the New England states, 2015-16 annual averages (Numbers in thousands)

Area	Civilian labor force		Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rate		Error range of rate,
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2016 ⁽¹⁾
United States.....	157,130	159,187	148,834	151,436	8,296	7,751	5.3	4.9	4.8 - 4.9
New England.....	7,795	7,817	7,412	7,499	383	317	4.9	4.1	3.8 - 4.3
Connecticut.....	1,891	1,892	1,782	1,796	108	96	5.7	5.1	4.5 - 5.7
Maine.....	683	691	653	664	30	27	4.4	3.9	3.3 - 4.4
Massachusetts.....	3,580	3,589	3,406	3,456	174	133	4.9	3.7	3.3 - 4.1
New Hampshire.....	743	749	718	727	25	21	3.4	2.8	2.5 - 3.2
Rhode Island.....	554	552	520	523	33	29	6.0	5.3	4.7 - 6.0
Vermont.....	345	345	333	334	12	11	3.6	3.3	2.9 - 3.6

Footnotes:

(1) Error ranges are shown at the 90-percent confidence level and are based on unrounded data.

Note: Data refer to place of residence. Unemployment rates are in percent and are based on unrounded levels. Data for subnational areas reflect revised population controls and model reestimation. As a result, they will not add to U.S. totals.

Table 2. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population by region and division, 2015-16 annual averages (Numbers in thousands)

Census region and division	Civilian labor force		Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rate		Error range of rate,
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2016 ⁽¹⁾
Northeast.....	28,342	28,397	26,850	27,041	1,493	1,357	5.3	4.8	4.6 - 4.9
New England.....	7,795	7,817	7,412	7,499	383	317	4.9	4.1	3.8 - 4.3
Middle Atlantic.....	20,548	20,581	19,438	19,541	1,110	1,039	5.4	5.1	4.8 - 5.3
South.....	57,271	58,145	54,250	55,306	3,021	2,839	5.3	4.9	4.8 - 5.0
South Atlantic.....	30,441	30,992	28,774	29,493	1,667	1,499	5.5	4.8	4.7 - 5.0
East South Central.....	8,459	8,576	7,970	8,121	489	455	5.8	5.3	5.0 - 6.0
West South Central.....	18,371	18,577	17,506	17,692	866	885	4.7	4.8	4.6 - 5.0
Midwest.....	34,460	34,714	32,790	33,093	1,671	1,621	4.8	4.7	4.5 - 4.8
East North Central.....	23,323	23,536	22,101	22,356	1,222	1,180	5.2	5.0	4.8 - 5.2
West North Central.....	11,138	11,178	10,688	10,737	449	441	4.0	3.9	3.7 - 4.2
West.....	36,879	37,486	34,772	35,574	2,108	1,912	5.7	5.1	4.9 - 5.3
Mountain.....	11,425	11,638	10,845	11,106	580	532	5.1	4.6	4.3 - 4.8
Pacific.....	25,454	25,848	23,926	24,467	1,528	1,380	6.0	5.3	5.1 - 5.5

Footnotes:

(1) Error ranges are shown at the 90-percent confidence level and are based on unrounded data.

Note: Data for subnational areas reflect revised population controls and model reestimation. As a result, they will not add to U.S. totals. Unemployment rates are in percent and are based on unrounded levels.

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 Division - 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 - Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming; and the Pacific Division - Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.