NEWS RELEASE
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

**For Release: Thursday, August 31, 2017** **17-1215-BOS**

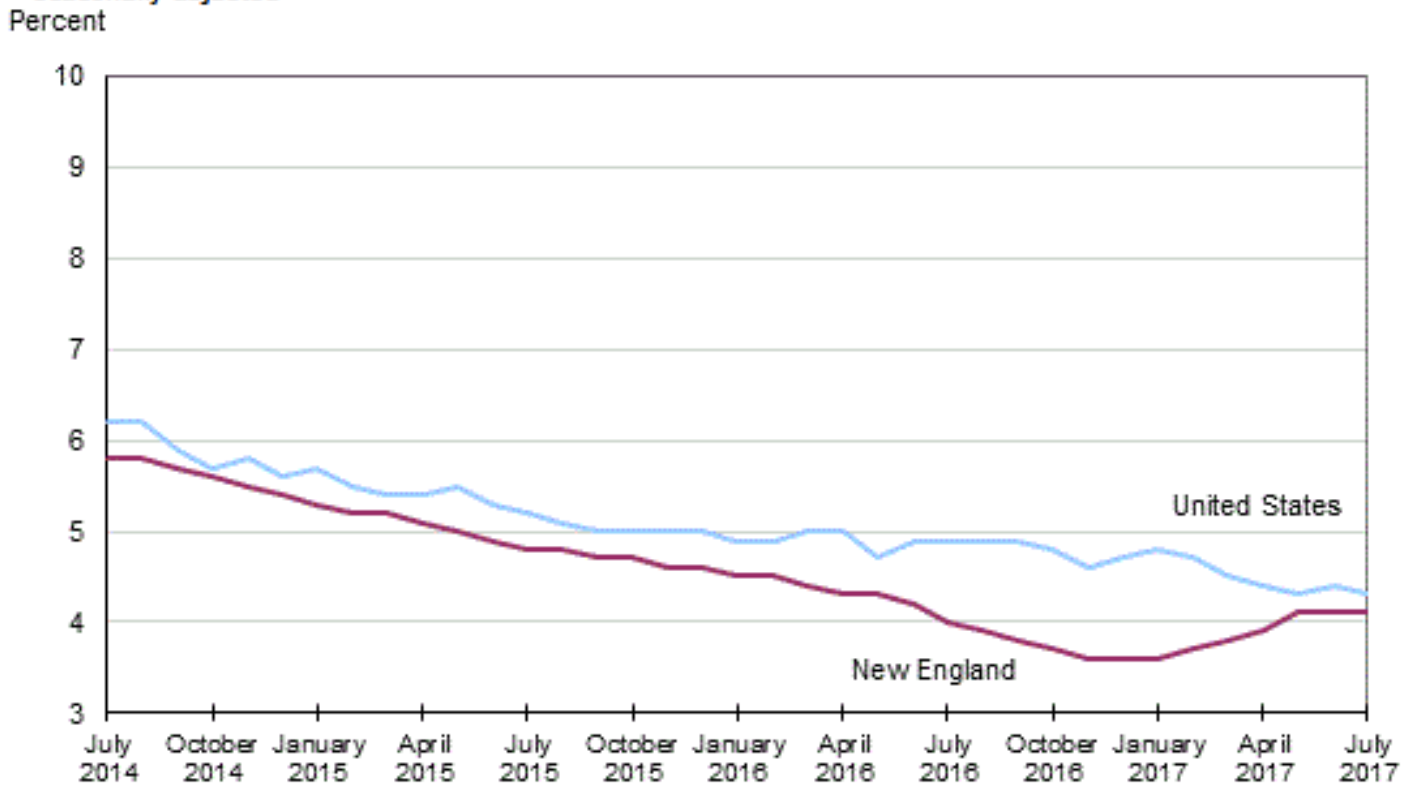
NEW ENGLAND INFORMATION OFFICE: Boston, Mass.
Technical information: (617) 565-2327 BLSInfoBoston@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/new-england
Media contact: (617) 565-2326 BLSMediaBoston@bls.gov

# New England and State Unemployment — July 2017

The New England unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.1 percent in July, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that New England's jobless rate was essentially unchanged from a year ago when it was 4.0 percent. The national jobless rate was little changed from June at 4.4 percent and was 0.6 percentage point lower than in July 2016. (See chart 1.)

New England is one of nine geographic divisions nationwide. Among the nine divisions, the Middle Atlantic and the Pacific had the highest jobless rates in July, at 4.6 percent each. The West North Central division had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.4 percent. Unemployment rates in all divisions except for New England were down significantly over the year. The largest over-the-year declines were in the East North Central (-0.9 percentage point) and the East South Central and the Pacific (-0.8 point each).

**Chart 1. Unemployment rates for the United States and New England, July 2014 to July 2017, seasonally adjusted**



In July, three New England states had jobless rates that were significantly different from that of the nation. Maine (3.7 percent), Vermont (3.1 percent) and New Hampshire (2.8 percent) had significantly lower unemployment rates and were among 18 states in the country to do so. The remaining New England states were among the 23 states that had unemployment rates not appreciably different from that of the nation. Nine states and the District of Columbia had unemployment rates measurably higher than the national average.

Over the month, Maine (+0.2 percentage point) was the only New England state that had a significant over-the-year jobless rate change. Alaska (+0.2 percentage point) and South Dakota (+0.1 point) also had significant over-the-month rate increases. Texas had the only notable rate decrease (-0.3 percentage point). The remaining New England states were among the 46 states and the District of Columbia that had unemployment rates that were not measurably different from those of a month earlier, though some had changes that were at least as large numerically as the significant changes.

Over the year, Rhode Island was the only New England state with a statistically significant unemployment rate change. Rhode Island (-1.1 percentage points) was among the 27 states with unemployment rate decreases from July 2016. The remaining New England states were among the 23 states and the District of Columbia that had jobless rates not appreciably different from those of a year earlier.

---

**The State Employment and Unemployment news release for August 2017 is scheduled to be released on Friday, September 15, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT).**

## Technical Note

This release presents civilian 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 subnational areas, including the nine geographic divisions (New England, Middle Atlantic, South Atlantic, East South Central, West South Central, East North Central, West North Central, Mountain, and Pacific) and the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The LAUS data for geographic divisions and states are model-based. The models for geographic divisions use inputs from the CPS only, while the models for the states and the District of Columbia use inputs from the CPS in conjunction with estimates of nonfarm payroll employment from the Current Employment Statistics survey and counts of unemployment insurance claimants from the state workforce agencies. Each month, not-seasonally-adjusted estimates for geographic divisions are controlled to the national totals from the CPS, and state estimates are then controlled to the estimates for their divisions. Data for all states and the District of Columbia, are available in the State Employment and Unemployment release https://www.bls.gov/lau/news.htm issued monthly by BLS, while national statistics are highlighted in the Employment Situation https://www.bls.gov/cps/news.htm.

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 re-estimation. 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.

Model-based error measures for seasonally adjusted data and for over-the-month and over-the-year changes are available online at https://www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm. BLS uses a 90-percent confidence level in determining whether changes in LAUS unemployment rates are statistically significant. The average magnitude of the current year over-the-month change in a state unemployment rate that is required for statistical significance at the 90-percent confidence level is just over 0.2 percentage point; the average amount of the current over-the-year change in a state rate for significance is about 0.9 point. More details can be found on the website. Measures of nonsampling error are not available.

This information will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200, Federal Relay Services: (800)-877-8339.

## Table 1. Labor force status for the United States, New England, and New England states, seasonally adjusted (Numbers in thousands)

| Area | July 2016 | Aug 2016 | Sept 2016 | Oct 2016 | Nov 2016 | Dec 2016 | Jan 2017 | Feb 2017 | Mar 2017 | Apr 2017 | May 2017 | June 2017 | July 2017 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Connecticut** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Civilian labor force | (1)1,892.1 | (1)1,891.3 | (1)1,890.1 | (1)1,888.8 | (1)1,887.5 | (1)1,886.2 | 1,892.2 | 1,901.4 | 1,911.7 | 1,922.5 | 1,929.1 | 1,933.1 | (p)1,933.4 |
| Employed | (1)1,795.9 | (1)1,798.2 | (1)1,800.2 | (1)1,801.9 | (1)1,803.2 | (1)1,804.1 | 1,807.2 | 1,812.0 | 1,819.9 | 1,828.9 | 1,834.0 | 1,836.1 | (p)1,836.9 |
| Unemployed | (1)96.2 | (1)93.1 | (1)89.9 | (1)86.9 | (1)84.3 | (1)82.1 | 85.0 | 89.4 | 91.7 | 93.6 | 95.1 | 97.0 | (p)96.5 |
| Unemployment rate | (1)5.1 | (1)4.9 | (1)4.8 | (1)4.6 | (1)4.5 | (1)4.4 | 4.5 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 5.0 | (p)5.0 |
| **Maine** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Civilian labor force | (1)692.9 | (1)694.0 | (1)694.7 | (1)695.1 | (1)695.2 | (1)695.0 | 696.2 | 698.1 | 700.6 | 702.8 | 703.3 | 703.6 | (p)704.7 |
| Employed | (1)665.2 | (1)666.2 | (1)667.2 | (1)667.9 | (1)668.5 | (1)668.9 | 671.8 | 675.7 | 679.7 | 681.9 | 680.8 | 678.9 | (p)678.5 |
| Unemployed | (1)27.7 | (1)27.8 | (1)27.6 | (1)27.2 | (1)26.6 | (1)26.1 | 24.4 | 22.4 | 20.9 | 20.9 | 22.6 | 24.7 | (p)26.2 |
| Unemployment rate | (1)4.0 | (1)4.0 | (1)4.0 | (1)3.9 | (1)3.8 | (1)3.8 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 3.5 | (p)3.7 |
| **Massachusetts** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Civilian labor force | (1)3,586.9 | (1)3,586.6 | (1)3,586.1 | (1)3,585.4 | (1)3,584.5 | (1)3,583.5 | 3,599.3 | 3,626.8 | 3,661.2 | 3,694.2 | 3,711.1 | 3,708.8 | (p)3,697.5 |
| Employed | (1)3,459.1 | (1)3,463.7 | (1)3,467.4 | (1)3,470.2 | (1)3,472.2 | (1)3,473.4 | 3,485.5 | 3,503.3 | 3,529.9 | 3,551.1 | 3,555.8 | 3,548.4 | (p)3,536.9 |
| Unemployed | (1)127.7 | (1)122.9 | (1)118.8 | (1)115.2 | (1)112.3 | (1)110.1 | 113.8 | 123.4 | 131.3 | 143.2 | 155.3 | 160.4 | (p)160.7 |
| Unemployment rate | (1)3.6 | (1)3.4 | (1)3.3 | (1)3.2 | (1)3.1 | (1)3.1 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 4.3 | (p)4.3 |
| **New Hampshire** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Civilian labor force | (1)749.2 | (1)750.0 | (1)750.6 | (1)751.0 | (1)751.2 | (1)751.3 | 751.9 | 752.0 | 752.2 | 753.0 | 753.3 | 753.5 | (p)752.8 |
| Employed | (1)727.7 | (1)728.6 | (1)729.4 | (1)730.1 | (1)730.5 | (1)730.8 | 731.6 | 731.4 | 731.2 | 731.5 | 731.4 | 731.8 | (p)732.0 |
| Unemployed | (1)21.6 | (1)21.4 | (1)21.2 | (1)20.9 | (1)20.7 | (1)20.5 | 20.2 | 20.6 | 21.0 | 21.4 | 21.9 | 21.7 | (p)20.8 |
| Unemployment rate | (1)2.9 | (1)2.9 | (1)2.8 | (1)2.8 | (1)2.8 | (1)2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.9 | (p)2.8 |
| **Rhode Island** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Civilian labor force | (1)552.7 | (1)552.5 | (1)552.2 | (1)551.7 | (1)551.1 | (1)550.6 | 551.0 | 552.3 | 554.1 | 555.5 | 555.8 | 556.5 | (p)556.9 |
| Employed | (1)522.8 | (1)523.0 | (1)523.2 | (1)523.3 | (1)523.4 | (1)523.3 | 524.9 | 527.3 | 530.1 | 531.6 | 532.9 | 533.2 | (p)532.8 |
| Unemployed | (1)29.9 | (1)29.5 | (1)29.0 | (1)28.4 | (1)27.8 | (1)27.3 | 26.2 | 25.1 | 24.0 | 23.9 | 22.9 | 23.3 | (p)24.1 |
| Unemployment rate | (1)5.4 | (1)5.3 | (1)5.3 | (1)5.1 | (1)5.0 | (1)4.9 | 4.8 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 4.2 | (p)4.3 |
| **Vermont** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Civilian labor force | (1)345.2 | (1)345.2 | (1)345.2 | (1)345.2 | (1)345.2 | (1)345.1 | 346.1 | 346.8 | 347.5 | 347.3 | 346.4 | 344.8 | (p)343.9 |
| Employed | (1)333.9 | (1)334.0 | (1)334.1 | (1)334.2 | (1)334.2 | (1)334.2 | 335.4 | 336.3 | 336.9 | 336.6 | 335.5 | 333.9 | (p)333.2 |
| Unemployed | (1)11.3 | (1)11.2 | (1)11.1 | (1)11.0 | (1)11.0 | (1)10.9 | 10.6 | 10.5 | 10.6 | 10.7 | 11.0 | 10.9 | (p)10.6 |
| Unemployment rate | (1)3.3 | (1)3.2 | (1)3.2 | (1)3.2 | (1)3.2 | (1)3.2 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.2 | (p)3.1 |
| **New England** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Civilian labor force | (1)7,812.6 | (1)7,812.7 | (1)7,812.9 | (1)7,812.8 | (1)7,812.6 | (1)7,812.1 | 7,837.2 | 7,874.6 | 7,921.1 | 7,967.3 | 7,994.5 | 8,001.6 | 7,998.6 |
| Employed | (1)7,496.8 | (1)7,505.9 | (1)7,514.6 | (1)7,522.5 | (1)7,529.2 | (1)7,534.6 | 7,555.5 | 7,581.2 | 7,619.7 | 7,652.7 | 7,668.1 | 7,669.6 | 7,667.6 |
| Unemployed | (1)315.8 | (1)306.9 | (1)298.3 | (1)290.3 | (1)283.3 | (1)277.5 | 281.7 | 293.4 | 301.3 | 314.5 | 326.4 | 332.0 | 331.0 |
| Unemployment rate | (1)4.0 | (1)3.9 | (1)3.8 | (1)3.7 | (1)3.6 | (1)3.6 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 |
| **United States(2)** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Civilian labor force | 159,295 | 159,508 | 159,830 | 159,643 | 159,456 | 159,640 | (3)159,716 | 160,056 | 160,201 | 160,213 | 159,784 | 160,145 | 160,494 |
| Employed | 151,546 | 151,655 | 151,926 | 151,902 | 152,048 | 152,111 | (3)152,081 | 152,528 | 153,000 | 153,156 | 152,923 | 153,168 | 153,513 |
| Unemployed | 7,749 | 7,853 | 7,904 | 7,740 | 7,409 | 7,529 | 7,635 | 7,528 | 7,202 | 7,056 | 6,861 | 6,977 | 6,981 |
| Unemployment rate | 4.9 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.3 |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes(1) Reflects revised population controls, model reestimation, and new seasonal adjustment.
(2) 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.
(3) 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. 13-01, dated February 28, 2013, and are available at www.bls.gov/lau.lausmsa.htm. Estimates for the latest month are subject to revision the following month. Data affected by changes in population controls.

## Table 2. Civilian labor force and unemployment by census region and division, seasonally adjusted (Numbers in thousands)

| Census region and division | Civilian labor force | | | | Unemployed | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Number | | | | Percent of the labor force | | | |
| | July 2016 | May 2017 | June 2017 | July 2017 | July 2016 | May 2017 | June 2017 | July 2017 | July 2016 | May 2017 | June 2017 | July 2017 |
| Northeast | (1)28,354.2 | 28,640.2 | 28,664.5 | 28,667.6 | (1)1,368.3 | 1,257.8 | 1,274.1 | 1,281.5 | (1)4.8 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.5 |
| New England | (1)7,812.6 | 7,994.5 | 8,001.6 | 7,998.6 | (1)315.8 | 326.4 | 332.0 | 331.0 | (1)4.0 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 |
| Middle Atlantic | (1)20,541.6 | 20,645.8 | 20,662.9 | 20,668.9 | (1)1,052.5 | 931.4 | 942.1 | 950.5 | (1)5.1 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.6 |
| South | (1)58,039.0 | 59,174.9 | 59,116.1 | 59,051.2 | (1)2,807.0 | 2,694.2 | 2,589.1 | 2,498.4 | (1)4.8 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 4.2 |
| South Atlantic | (1)30,913.8 | 31,606.5 | 31,619.5 | 31,638.0 | (1)1,468.8 | 1,385.5 | 1,339.4 | 1,308.6 | (1)4.8 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 4.1 |
| East South Central | (1)8,567.6 | 8,743.3 | 8,718.7 | 8,701.6 | (1)448.5 | 401.4 | 385.2 | 381.9 | (1)5.2 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 4.4 |
| West South Central | (1)18,557.5 | 18,825.1 | 18,777.9 | 18,711.6 | (1)889.6 | 907.3 | 864.5 | 807.8 | (1)4.8 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 4.3 |
| Midwest | (1)34,684.8 | 34,737.5 | 34,728.5 | 34,731.7 | (1)1,619.4 | 1,377.4 | 1,348.7 | 1,353.9 | (1)4.7 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 3.9 |
| East North Central | (1)23,512.6 | 23,595.9 | 23,589.8 | 23,580.4 | (1)1,169.9 | 985.5 | 963.5 | 973.1 | (1)5.0 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.1 |
| West North Central | (1)11,172.3 | 11,141.6 | 11,138.7 | 11,151.4 | (1)449.4 | 391.9 | 385.2 | 380.8 | (1)4.0 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.4 |
| West | (1)37,488.2 | 37,874.8 | 37,894.2 | 37,944.6 | (1)1,923.2 | 1,663.8 | 1,659.2 | 1,680.3 | (1)5.1 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.4 |
| Mountain | (1)11,642.3 | 11,876.5 | 11,885.5 | 11,894.0 | (1)533.6 | 473.5 | 470.8 | 472.9 | (1)4.6 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| Pacific | (1)25,845.9 | 25,998.3 | 26,008.7 | 26,050.6 | (1)1,389.6 | 1,190.3 | 1,188.4 | 1,207.4 | (1)5.4 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.6 |

Footnotes(1) Reflects revised population controls, model reestimation, and new seasonal adjustment.

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 Moutain Division -Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming and Pacific Division- Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington. Estimates for the current year are subject to revision early in the following calendar year. Data in this series reflect revised population controls, model reestimation, and new seasonal factors from January 2012 through December 2016