

State Unemployment on the Rise **April 2002 Unemployment Rate Higher Than April 2001 in 47 States**

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The national unemployment rate reached six percent in April 2002, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This was the highest rate since July of 1994, and has been reflected in higher state unemployment rates. The state with the highest unemployment rate was Oregon at 7.5 percent. South Dakota currently has the lowest unemployment with 3.4 percent. See Tables 1 and 2 for the highest and lowest unemployment-rate states. Figure 1 shows the unemployment rates of all of the states.

Table 1.
Five States with The Highest
Unemployment Rates (as of April 2002)

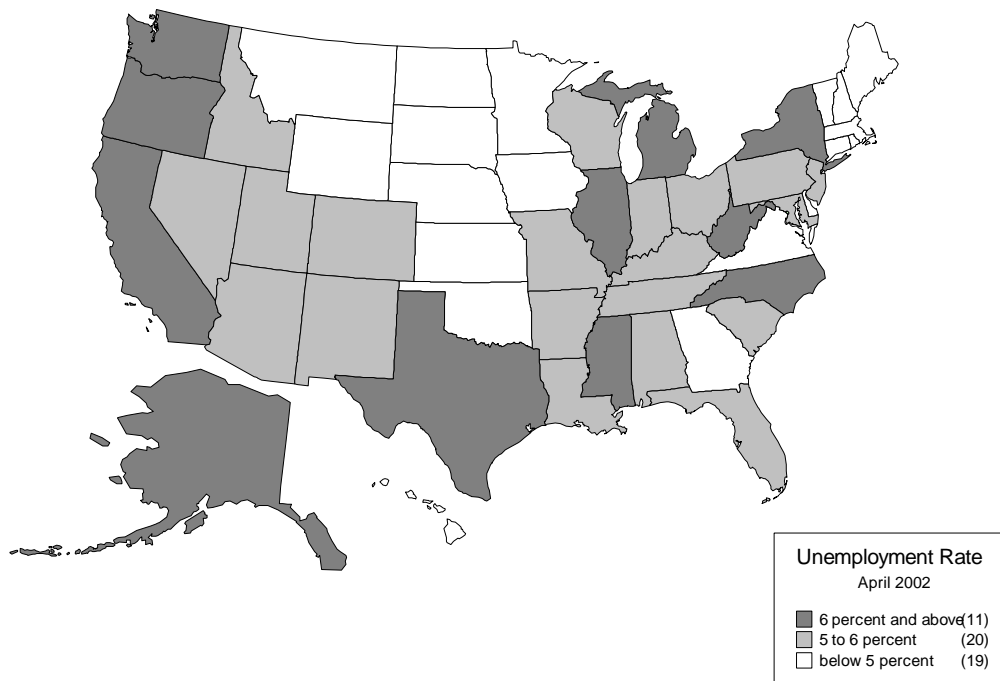
OREGON	7.5
WASHINGTON	7.1
MISSISSIPPI	7.0
NORTH CAROLINA	6.9
ALASKA	6.6

Table 2.
Five States with The Lowest
Unemployment Rates (as of April 2002)

SOUTH DAKOTA	3.4
IOWA	3.6
NORTH DAKOTA	3.6
NEBRASKA	3.8
CONNECTICUT	3.8

Source for Tables 1 and 2: United State Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Figure 1.
State Unemployment Rates, April 2002



Source: United State Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

National unemployment has increased by 1.5 percentage points over the last year. Forty-seven states had increases in unemployment rates since April 2001. (See Table 3.) The most rapid increase was in Colorado where unemployment increased by 2.1 percentage points, from 3.2 percent in April 2001 to 5.3 percent in April 2002. Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, and Oregon round out the list of the top five most rapid increases in unemployment over the last year. Only three states had drops in unemployment rates since April 2001 – Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Montana.

Table 3
Change in Unemployment Rates for States, Seasonally Adjusted

	Unemployment Rate			Change in unemployment rate from April 2001 to April 2002
	(April 2001)	(March 2002)	(April 2002)	
Colorado	3.2	5.6	5.3	2.1
Mississippi	5.1	6.6	7.0	1.9
North Carolina	5.1	6.6	6.9	1.8
Ohio	4.1	5.8	5.8	1.7
Oregon	5.8	7.9	7.5	1.7
New York	4.5	5.9	6.1	1.6
Texas	4.5	5.8	6.1	1.6
Utah	4.1	6.0	5.7	1.6
Virginia	3.0	4.2	4.6	1.6
Arizona	4.2	5.9	5.7	1.5
Maryland	3.9	5.3	5.4	1.5
New Jersey	4.0	5.6	5.5	1.5
United States	4.5	5.7	6.0	1.5
California	5.0	6.5	6.4	1.4
Massachusetts	3.3	4.3	4.7	1.4
Indiana	3.9	4.9	5.1	1.2
New Mexico	4.7	6.1	5.9	1.2
Illinois	5.2	6.1	6.3	1.1
Michigan	4.9	6.0	6.0	1.1
Washington	6.0	6.8	7.1	1.1
Oklahoma	3.4	4.2	4.4	1.0
Tennessee	4.3	5.7	5.3	1.0
Connecticut	2.9	3.5	3.8	0.9
West Virginia	5.1	5.9	6.0	0.9
Wisconsin	4.5	5.7	5.4	0.9
Florida	4.3	5.4	5.1	0.8

Georgia	3.8	4.6	4.6	0.8
Pennsylvania	4.6	5.6	5.4	0.8
Nebraska	3.1	3.6	3.8	0.7
Nevada	4.8	5.8	5.5	0.7
New Hampshire	3.3	4.1	4.0	0.7
Alabama	5.0	6.0	5.6	0.6
Delaware	3.5	3.8	4.1	0.6
Minnesota	3.7	4.4	4.3	0.6
Missouri	4.6	5.2	5.2	0.6
North Dakota	3.0	3.1	3.6	0.6
South Carolina	5.2	6.0	5.8	0.6
Vermont	3.4	3.9	3.9	0.5
Wyoming	3.9	3.9	4.4	0.5
Idaho	4.9	5.5	5.3	0.4
Alaska	6.3	6.3	6.6	0.3
Arkansas	5.0	5.2	5.3	0.3
Iowa	3.3	3.4	3.6	0.3
District of Columbia	6.2	6.7	6.4	0.2
Kansas	4.2	4.4	4.4	0.2
South Dakota	3.2	3.2	3.4	0.2
Kentucky	5.2	5.3	5.3	0.1
Maine	3.9	4.1	4.0	0.1
Louisiana	5.8	5.6	5.8	0.0
Montana	4.6	4.6	4.5	(0.1)
Hawaii	4.5	4.6	4.3	(0.2)
Rhode Island	4.7	4.2	4.5	(0.2)

Source: United State Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

For more information on state unemployment see “Regional and State Employment and Unemployment: April 2002,” from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.nr0.htm>

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