



# States as EMPLOYERS-OF-CHOICE

## STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY AGE GROUP (2006)

This Fact Sheet presents information about the unemployment rates in each state by age group. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics defines the unemployment rate as the percentage of jobless individuals seeking employment out of the total labor force ([www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)).

When examining the unemployment rates among people 55+, it is important to understand that “discouraged” workers might not be included in the unemployment statistics.<sup>1</sup> For example, some older workers tend to say they are “retired” even if they are also interested in finding a job. Therefore, the unemployment rates among older adults may be underreported.

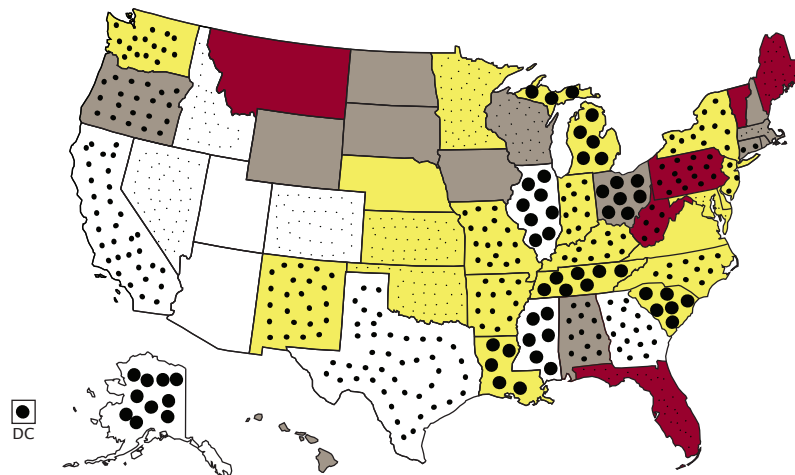
The unemployment rates in the table below reflect the annual unemployment rates in 2006. The overall monthly unemployment rates for each state can be found at: <http://www.bls.gov/web/laumstrk.htm>

The list is ordered from the highest to the lowest unemployment rates among people ages 55+ in each state’s labor force. In 2006, the unemployment rates among people age 55 and older were the lowest in Nebraska, West Virginia, Wyoming, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

In partnership with:



### Nationwide Unemployment and Population Aged 55+<sup>1</sup>



Population Aged 55+  
 Percent Unemployed

■ 41.0% +

■ 39.0 - 40.9%

■ 37.0 - 38.9%

□ < 37.0%

Unemployment  
 Rate

●● 7.0%

●●● 6.0 - 6.9%

●●●● 5.0 - 5.9%

□ < 5.0%

State Unemployment Rates by Age Group (2006) <sup>1</sup>

	Under 25 years	25-54 years	55+ years
Michigan	20.2%	7.9%	5.6%
Alaska	19.8%	7.1%	5.2%
Rhode Island	14.6%	4.5%	4.8%
Louisiana	16.3%	6.3%	4.6%
Nevada	10.4%	4.3%	4.5%
California	13.7%	5.4%	4.3%
Connecticut	14.2%	5.0%	4.3%
Illinois	16.0%	5.9%	4.3%
New Jersey	15.4%	5.0%	4.3%
Florida	12.5%	4.2%	4.2%
South Carolina	21.1%	5.6%	4.2%
New York	15.3%	5.3%	4.1%
Tennessee	17.4%	6.0%	4.1%
Massachusetts	13.5%	4.5%	4.0%
Washington	14.3%	5.2%	4.0%
Indiana	14.9%	5.8%	3.8%
Texas	16.1%	5.5%	3.8%
Georgia	16.6%	5.4%	3.7%
Ohio	16.1%	5.8%	3.7%
Pennsylvania	17.9%	4.9%	3.7%
Arkansas	15.4%	5.7%	3.6%
Oregon	15.1%	5.7%	3.6%
Colorado	12.3%	4.4%	3.5%
Minnesota	12.2%	3.9%	3.5%
Missouri	14.0%	5.0%	3.5%
New Hampshire	11.6%	3.2%	3.5%

	Under 25 years	25-54 years	55+ years
Idaho	11.2%	4.0%	3.4%
New Mexico	14.4%	5.0%	3.4%
North Carolina	14.7%	5.3%	3.4%
Delaware	14.3%	4.6%	3.3%
District of Columbia	15.5%	8.1%	3.3%
Kentucky	16.4%	5.5%	3.3%
Maine	12.8%	4.1%	3.3%
Mississippi	22.2%	6.7%	3.3%
Wisconsin	12.2%	4.4%	3.3%
Alabama	17.0%	5.3%	3.2%
Maryland	13.7%	3.9%	3.2%
Oklahoma	14.0%	4.6%	3.2%
Arizona	10.4%	3.9%	3.1%
Kansas	11.6%	4.1%	2.8%
Utah	8.9%	3.2%	2.8%
Vermont	11.8%	3.8%	2.8%
Montana	11.1%	3.8%	2.7%
Hawaii	8.7%	3.5%	2.6%
Iowa	9.8%	4.2%	2.6%
Virginia	11.4%	3.5%	2.6%
Nebraska	10.8%	3.8%	2.4%
West Virginia	15.9%	6.0%	2.4%
Wyoming	6.3%	3.1%	2.1%
North Dakota	6.5%	2.6%	2.0%
South Dakota	12.1%	3.5%	2.0%

Reference:

<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2006). Displaced workers summary. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor. Retrieved February 12, 2008 from <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/disp.nro.htm>

Compiled by Vanessa Careiro