

## Top Areas for Job Growth

Employment Change in the U.S. by Regions and States

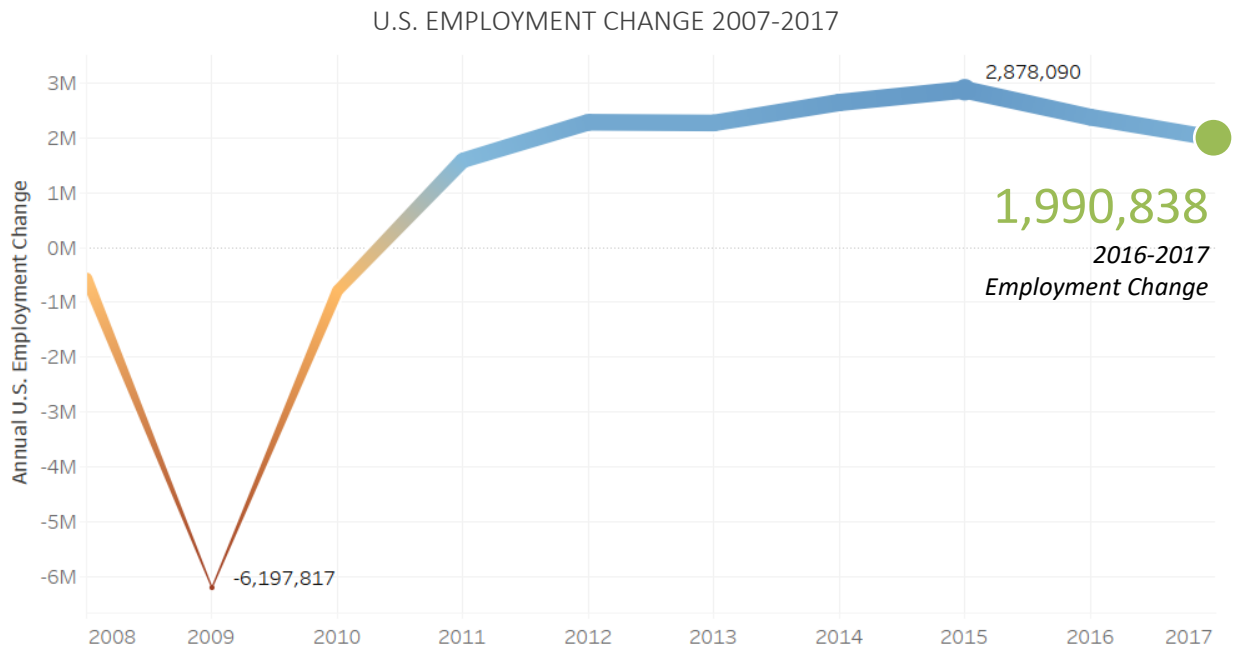


*Employment growth in the United States continues to have an upward trajectory. Which regions are seeing this growth and what sectors are pushing employment? This article will take a brief look at regional employment change at the national, regional, and state levels highlighting top areas of growth.*

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The arrow continues its ascent toward growth when viewing overall employment in the United States since the last recession. Nationally, the low point in employment occurred over 2008-2009 during the depths of the recession with nearly 6.2 million jobs lost. The high point for annual employment growth was achieved over 2014-2015 with more than 2.8 million jobs gained.

### 2016-2017 GROWTH IN U.S. REGIONS & STATES

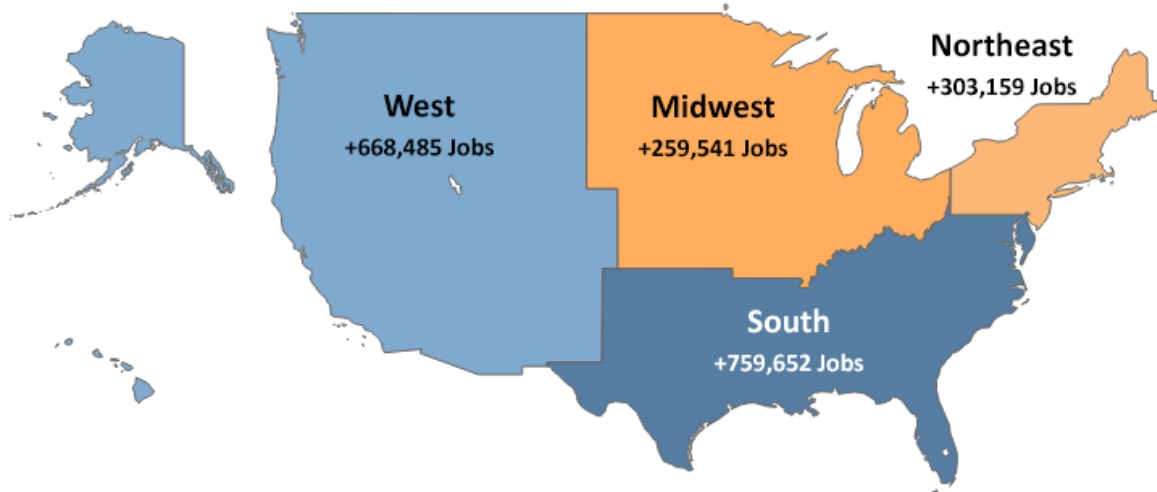


Change in Annual Average Employment, 2017 Data preliminary

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Garner Economics

Looking at net change of covered employment reported by companies from 2016 to 2017, the U.S. South shows the most robust growth with 759,652 jobs. The West closely follows with 668,485 jobs. The Northeast region (+303,159 jobs) and Midwest (+259,541 jobs) had more modest growth comparatively.

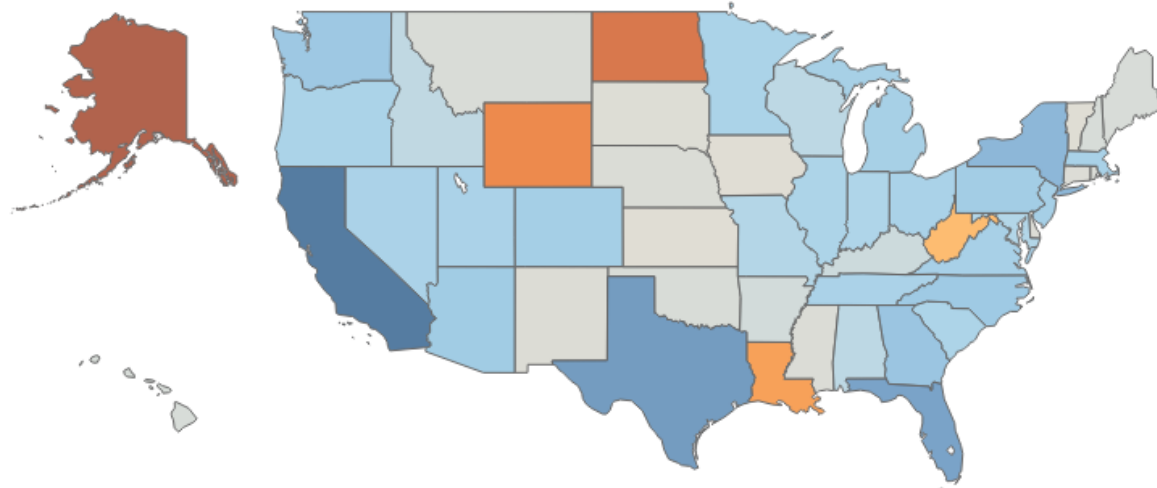
EMPLOYMENT CHANGE IN U.S. REGIONS 2016-2017



2016-17 Employment Change



EMPLOYMENT CHANGE IN STATES 2016-2017



2016-17 Employment Change



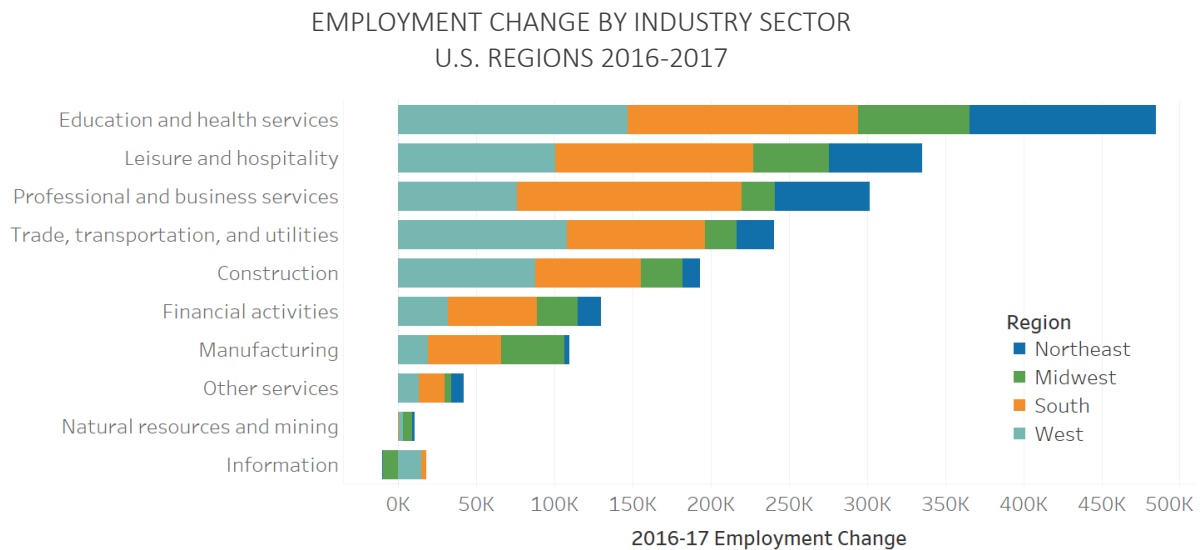
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Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Garner Economics*

Breaking down the annual change from 2016 to 2017 at the state level displays a handful with a net decline in reported employment. Alaska, North Dakota, Wyoming, Louisiana, and West Virginia all experienced overall job losses. Within these states, three business sectors figure prominently as the reason for the decline:

- *Trade, transportation, and utilities*
- *Construction*
- *Natural resources and mining*

The top five states with net employment increases over 2016 to 2017 are California, Florida, Georgia, New York, and Texas. All these states had the same three business sectors as their top growth industries:

- *Education and health services*
- *Professional and business services*
- *Leisure and hospitality*



Change in Annual Average Employment, 2017 Data preliminary  
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Garner Economics

Examining collective employment change in U.S. regions by high-level industry sectors revealed that most areas showed job growth in all but the *Information*, and *Natural resources and mining* sectors. The Midwest (-9,876 jobs) and Northeast (-573 jobs) regions showed the most significant declines in the *Information* industry. This sector is comprised of publishing, broadcasting (except internet), film and recording, telecommunications, data processing and similar functions. This industry is continually transforming and many commonly associated functions such as computer programming and design fall under the *Professional and business services* sector which has notable growth across the nation.

Job growth has touched every region in the United States reflecting a positive trend overall with some states feeling the effects of sector-specific losses. This snapshot of employment change for a year is only one indicator of a holistic view for economic health but an important one. Eight years of constant employment growth nationally point to continued expansion with the South and West seeing the most positive gains.

## 2016-2017 REGION AND STATE EMPLOYMENT AND CHANGE

The table below lists state and regional employment and employment change based on annual averages from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for covered employment. Data for 2017 is noted as preliminary by the BLS.

State	2016 Average Employment	2017 Average Employment	2016-17 Employment Change	2016-17 Percent Change
<b>Midwest Region</b>				
Illinois	5,895,633	5,932,430	36,797	0.6%
Indiana	2,987,091	3,017,933	30,842	1.0%
Iowa	1,539,752	1,540,440	688	0.0%
Kansas	1,370,665	1,371,305	640	0.0%
Michigan	4,242,537	4,296,006	53,469	1.3%
Minnesota	2,815,248	2,855,916	40,668	1.4%
Missouri	2,755,477	2,782,184	26,707	1.0%
Nebraska	968,601	972,738	4,137	0.4%
North Dakota	417,119	414,038	-3,081	-0.7%
Ohio	5,319,679	5,364,537	44,858	0.8%
South Dakota	420,460	422,758	2,298	0.5%
Wisconsin	2,828,166	2,849,684	21,518	0.8%
<b>Midwest Total</b>	<b>31,560,428</b>	<b>31,819,969</b>	<b>259,541</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
<b>Northeast</b>				
Connecticut	1,666,554	1,669,764	3,210	0.2%
Maine	603,785	609,135	5,350	0.9%
Massachusetts	3,494,553	3,541,281	46,728	1.3%
New Hampshire	647,347	653,479	6,132	0.9%
New Jersey	3,953,972	4,008,490	54,518	1.4%
New York	9,154,025	9,275,006	120,981	1.3%
Pennsylvania	5,737,759	5,798,687	60,928	1.1%
Rhode Island	473,406	477,484	4,078	0.9%
Vermont	308,044	309,278	1,234	0.4%
<b>Northeast Total</b>	<b>26,039,445</b>	<b>26,342,604</b>	<b>303,159</b>	<b>1.2%</b>

State	2016 Average Employment	2017 Average Employment	2016-17 Employment Change	2016-17 Percent Change
<b>South</b>				
Alabama	1,915,306	1,936,797	21,491	1.1%
Arkansas	1,191,763	1,200,550	8,787	0.7%
Delaware	438,238	441,379	3,141	0.7%
District of Columbia	756,646	763,805	7,159	0.9%
Florida	8,309,351	8,493,498	184,147	2.2%
Georgia	4,262,937	4,347,202	84,265	2.0%
Kentucky	1,861,063	1,873,721	12,658	0.7%
Louisiana	1,908,397	1,906,814	-1,583	-0.1%
Maryland	2,627,172	2,654,123	26,951	1.0%
Mississippi	1,124,854	1,128,297	3,443	0.3%
North Carolina	4,259,276	4,330,226	70,950	1.7%
Oklahoma	1,575,978	1,580,830	4,852	0.3%
South Carolina	1,996,297	2,033,747	37,450	1.9%
Tennessee	2,887,754	2,930,815	43,061	1.5%
Texas	11,805,698	12,011,167	205,469	1.7%
Virginia	3,789,744	3,838,030	48,286	1.3%
West Virginia	684,322	683,447	-875	-0.1%
<b>South Total</b>	<b>51,394,796</b>	<b>52,154,448</b>	<b>759,652</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
<b>West</b>				
Alaska	326,295	321,934	-4,361	-1.3%
Arizona	2,680,065	2,747,128	67,063	2.5%
California	16,718,647	17,036,112	317,465	1.9%
Colorado	2,552,503	2,609,281	56,778	2.2%
Hawaii	647,545	653,762	6,217	1.0%
Idaho	687,919	707,510	19,591	2.8%
Montana	454,819	459,468	4,649	1.0%
Nevada	1,283,642	1,326,111	42,469	3.3%
New Mexico	807,387	810,297	2,910	0.4%
Oregon	1,840,874	1,881,817	40,943	2.2%
Utah	1,388,878	1,430,694	41,816	3.0%
Washington	3,215,014	3,290,168	75,154	2.3%
Wyoming	271,813	269,604	-2,209	-0.8%
<b>West Total</b>	<b>32,875,401</b>	<b>33,543,886</b>	<b>668,485</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>141,870,070</b>	<b>143,860,907</b>	<b>1,990,837</b>	<b>1.4%</b>

*Change in Annual Average Employment, 2017 Data preliminary  
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Garner Economics*

**About Garner Economics:** We are data driven strategists helping companies, communities and organizations, large and small, urban and rural, achieve success.

We offer location advisory services, analytical research, industry targeting, strategic planning, and organizational assessments with a wealth of expertise to companies, communities, and organizations globally. We are based in Atlanta, GA with representative offices in Europe (Berlin), Asia (Seoul), and North Carolina.

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