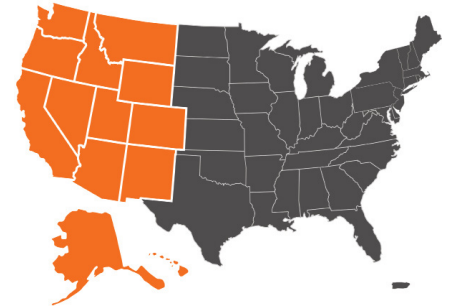


THE BOOK OF THE STATES 2013

Facts & Figures



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES¹

The labor force participation rate has been on the decline for more than a decade and the decline has increased since the Great Recession began in December 2007. Participation rates vary across and within regions, with a range of nearly 20 percentage points between the lowest and highest rated states nationally.²

National Analysis »

- ▶ Nationally, Nebraska had the highest participation rate at 72.5 percent in August 2013, followed by North Dakota at 71.4 percent and Minnesota at 70.3 percent.
- ▶ West Virginia had the lowest participation rate in August 2013, at 53.3 percent, followed by Alabama and Mississippi, both at 57.0 percent.
- ▶ The labor force participation rate has dropped 2.8 percentage points since the recession began. In August 2013, the rate hit 63.2 percent—the lowest since 1979.
- ▶ Compared to a year ago, seven states—Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Utah and Wisconsin—saw an increase in participation rates, while the remaining states saw declines. Utah's rate increased by 1.4 percentage points over this period, the largest of any state.
- ▶ When compared to prerecession rates, labor force participation rates decreased in every state. Hawaii (-6.3 percentage points), Delaware (-5.7 percentage points) and New Mexico (-4.8 percentage points) experienced the largest rate decreases over this period. Texas and Kentucky, each with a decrease of 0.7 percentage points, had the smallest changes across all states.

Regional Analysis »

- ▶ CSG's Western region had the second lowest state average participation rate in August 2013 at 63.6 percent, just above the Southern regional average of 60.5 percent. CSG's Midwestern region had the highest average rate at 67.2 percent.
- ▶ New Mexico had the lowest participation rate in the Western region at 58.3 percent, followed by Arizona at 59.2 percent. Colorado (68.2 percent) and Utah (68.0 percent) had the highest rates.
- ▶ From August 2012 to August 2013, Utah was the only state in the 13-state Western region where rates didn't fall. Oregon's rate fell the most of any state in the region over this time, dropping 1.7 percentage points
- ▶ Every state in the region has seen participation rates fall since the Great Recession began. Hawaii (-6.3 percentage points) and New Mexico (-4.8 percentage points) had the largest rate decreases in the region, while Idaho (-3.0 percentage points) and California (-3.4 percentage points) had the smallest decreases.

RESOURCES

¹Compared to December 2007 rates.

²Unless otherwise noted, figures throughout this brief represent author's calculation of data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, <http://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LNS11300000>

STATE LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES »

	Labor Force Participation Rate (percent)			Change in Rate (percentage points)	
	August 2013	August 2012	December 2007	August 2012 -August 2013	December 2007 (pre-recession) -August 2013
United States	63.2	63.5	66.0	-0.3	-2.8
EAST REGION					
Connecticut	64.6	66.0	68.4	-1.4	-3.8
Delaware	60.5	61.6	66.2	-1.1	-5.7
Maine	65.3	65.1	66.2	0.2	-0.9
Maryland	67.0	67.8	69.2	-0.8	-2.2
Massachusetts	64.8	65.0	66.7	-0.2	-1.9
New Hampshire	69.1	69.5	70.8	-0.4	-1.7
New Jersey	65.4	65.9	66.9	-0.5	-1.5
New York	61.3	61.5	63.0	-0.2	-1.7
Pennsylvania	63.7	63.9	64.7	-0.2	-1.0
Rhode Island	65.1	66.4	68.5	-1.3	-3.4
Vermont	68.6	69.5	70.6	-0.9	-2.0
MIDWEST REGION					
Illinois	65.0	66.0	68.7	-1.0	-3.7
Indiana	62.3	62.4	66.7	-0.1	-4.4
Iowa	68.7	68.4	72.5	0.3	-3.8
Kansas	67.7	68.2	70.2	-0.5	-2.5
Michigan	60.4	59.7	64.4	0.7	-4.0
Minnesota	70.3	70.7	72.1	-0.4	-1.8
Nebraska	72.5	72.2	73.4	0.3	-0.9
North Dakota	71.4	71.9	74.1	-0.5	-2.7
Ohio	63.3	63.5	66.8	-0.2	-3.5
South Dakota	69.7	70.2	72.6	-0.5	-2.9
Wisconsin	68.0	67.9	70.8	0.1	-2.8
SOUTH REGION					
Alabama	57.0	57.5	61.0	-0.5	-4.0
Arkansas	58.0	59.6	62.8	-1.6	-4.8
Florida	59.8	60.6	64.2	-0.8	-4.4
Georgia	63.4	64.1	68.1	-0.7	-4.7
Kentucky	61.2	61.5	61.9	-0.3	-0.7
Louisiana	59.2	59.5	61.2	-0.3	-2.0
Mississippi	57.0	59.1	60.0	-2.1	-3.0
Missouri	64.1	64.0	67.1	0.1	-3.0
North Carolina	61.8	62.9	65.3	-1.1	-3.5
Oklahoma	61.8	62.3	63.6	-0.5	-1.8
South Carolina	58.5	59.1	62.6	-0.6	-4.1
Tennessee	61.2	61.8	63.9	-0.6	-2.7
Texas	64.9	65.1	65.6	-0.2	-0.7
Virginia	66.0	66.4	69.0	-0.4	-3.0
West Virginia	53.3	54.2	55.9	-0.9	-2.6
WEST REGION					
Alaska	67.0	68.1	71.1	-1.1	-4.1
Arizona	59.2	60.4	63.1	-1.2	-3.9
California	62.5	62.9	65.9	-0.4	-3.4
Colorado	68.2	68.5	72.9	-0.3	-4.7
Hawaii	59.6	60.8	65.9	-1.2	-6.3
Idaho	64.1	64.6	67.1	-0.5	-3.0
Montana	63.5	64.0	67.2	-0.5	-3.7
Nevada	63.1	64.4	67.6	-1.3	-4.5
New Mexico	58.3	58.8	63.1	-0.5	-4.8
Oregon	61.4	63.1	65.8	-1.7	-4.4
Utah	68.0	66.6	72.1	1.4	-4.1
Washington	63.9	64.5	68.1	-0.6	-4.2
Wyoming	67.7	68.6	72.1	-0.9	-4.4

Source: CSG calculation of data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, <http://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LNS11300000>

