

Jobs are everything to the economy – period.

The following table shows the percent change in jobs for each state and the District of Columbia for the 12-months ending April 2018. The analysis is based on seasonally adjusted data as provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Only two states continued to post a loss in jobs: North Dakota which had dropped by 1.82 percent and Alaska, a minimal -0.21 percent.

Among the top 10 states, all but one, Florida, were West of the Mississippi. Nevada, with a 3.40 percent gain and Idaho and Utah (up 3.30 percent) posted job growth rates at more than double that of the U.S. over the same period. The story of the month, however, was Wyoming posting an 11th best overall and impressive 1.96 percent gain. In October 2017, Wyoming ranked dead last, having lost 0.51 percent of all jobs in the prior 12-months.

State Job Growth -- 12 Months Ending April 2018					
Nevada	3.40%	New Jersey	1.42%	Delaware	0.88%
Idaho	3.30%	Pennsylvania	1.41%	Illinois	0.88%
Utah	3.30%	New Hampshire	1.38%	West Virginia	0.87%
Washington	2.84%	Kansas	1.37%	Maine	0.87%
Texas	2.73%	New Mexico	1.35%	Nebraska	0.83%
Colorado	2.63%	Massachusetts	1.32%	Minnesota	0.76%
Arizona	2.23%	Hawaii	1.32%	South Dakota	0.69%
California	2.13%	Mississippi	1.30%	Dist of Columbia	0.68%
Florida	2.09%	New York	1.24%	Iowa	0.66%
Oregon	1.99%	Alabama	1.20%	Montana	0.64%
Wyoming	1.96%	Missouri	1.18%	Connecticut	0.52%
North Carolina	1.91%	Virginia	1.17%	Kentucky	0.40%
Oklahoma	1.84%	Michigan	1.04%	Maryland	0.34%
South Carolina	1.70%	Ohio	1.03%	Arkansas	0.25%
Georgia	1.51%	Louisiana	1.01%	Vermont	0.22%
Tennessee	1.50%	Indiana	0.99%	Alaska	-0.21%
Rhode Island	1.46%	Wisconsin	0.95%	North Dakota	-1.82%

The next table looks at the top-10 state’s job growth rates over an extended time period. In addition to the one-year job growth rate, it includes ranks of job growth over two-, five- and 10-years. These ranks (for the intervals of 1-, 2-, 5- and 10-years) were then summed (the Growth Index Score), with the lowest sum ranked the best overall indicating the top-job performance (the Job Growth Index). When using the Job Growth Index Rank for the four time periods, Nevada ranked even though they placed second overall in the latest 12-months of job growth.

Nevada, which ranked 1st in job growth in the prior 12-months, also ranked 1st best in both 2 year and 5 year intervals. In the past 10-year period, Nevada ranked 17th best. Note the strong and sustained job growth shown by all of the 10-best states, with each ranking in the top-10 in 1 year job growth rates and also in the top-10 in the 1 year, 2 year, 5 year and 10 year Job Growth Index.

State Job Growth -- 12 Months Ending April 2018									
1 Year Rank	State	12-Months		Job Growth Ranks			Growth Index		
		Percent Change	Jobs-Thousands New Total	2 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Rank	Score	
1	Nevada	3.40%	45.3	1,376.0	1	1	17	5	20
2	Idaho	3.30%	23.5	734.7	2	3	7	2	14
3	Utah	3.30%	48.2	1,508.1	3	2	1	1	9
4	Washington	2.84%	94.0	3,401.9	4	6	6	4	20
5	Texas	2.73%	332.3	12,507.5	8	12	2	6	27
6	Colorado	2.63%	69.7	2,717.0	5	5	4	3	20
7	Arizona	2.23%	61.7	2,823.4	6	9	20	10	42
8	California	2.13%	356.8	17,097.7	10	8	9	8	35
9	Florida	2.09%	178.4	8,730.4	7	4	8	7	28
10	Oregon	1.99%	37.2	1,904.5	9	7	10	9	36

As always, where there are winners there are also losers. The following table includes the data for the Job Growth Index, but includes the 10 states having the lowest ranking 1-year growth rate. Except for the 10-year job growth rates, North Dakota ranked in the bottom 10 states in all other intervals.

State Job Growth -- 12 Months Ending April 2018									
1 Year Rank	State	12-Months		Job Growth Ranks			Growth Index		
		Percent Change	Jobs-Thousands New Total	2 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Rank	Score	
42	Dist of Columbia	0.68%	5.4	794.8	38	27	5	26	112
43	Iowa	0.66%	10.3	1,582.1	46	41	32	46	162
44	Montana	0.64%	3.0	474.9	30	30	18	30	122
45	Connecticut	0.52%	8.7	1,687.1	47	46	49	50	187
46	Kentucky	0.40%	7.7	1,927.6	42	32	31	40	151
47	Maryland	0.34%	9.2	2,729.3	39	38	28	41	152
48	Arkansas	0.25%	3.1	1,243.1	34	33	37	42	152
49	Vermont	0.22%	0.7	314.9	44	45	43	48	181
50	Alaska	-0.21%	(0.7)	328.8	51	50	40	51	191
51	North Dakota	-1.82%	(7.9)	425.6	50	51	3	43	155

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