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Appalachian Region Employment Report, 2009 Q1

Employment growth peaked in the last quarter of 2007 in both the U.S. and Appalachia. As of the first quarter of 2009, U.S. employment has fallen back to 2004 levels, giving up all the jobs gained over the past four years. In Appalachia, employment has fallen back to 2002 levels, giving up all the jobs gained during the entire 2002-2008 expansion. The rate of job loss in northern Appalachia was less severe than the nation as a whole, and more severe than the nation in southern Appalachia. It was about the same in central Appalachia.

Appalachian unemployment closely followed the pattern for the nation over the expansion phase of the business cycle, but in the first quarter of 2009, unemployment in central and southern Appalachia was more than 1% higher than the nation as a whole.

Civilian labor force growth showed the greatest differences between the three regions. Although Appalachia as a whole had the same labor force growth rate (.5%) as the nation in the first quarter, in northern Appalachia labor force growth was more than double the national rate, probably due to more people looking for jobs than before. In southern Appalachia, labor force growth remained flat in the first quarter, indicating that there were as many people dropping out of the labor force as there were new entrants.

Population growth between 2000 and 2008 was slower in Appalachia than in the nation as a whole, 5% vs. 8%, but again there was great variation between the Appalachian portion of the northern, central, and southern states. Population in northern Appalachia shrunk -1.4% and remained nearly flat in central Appalachia at 0.2%. Population boomed in southern Appalachia, at nearly 12% growth, it was 50% higher than the nation.

The ratio of employment to population, a rough measure of labor force participation, was 2% lower in Appalachia than the nation, 45.8% and 47.8% respectively. While the northern Appalachian region was nearly the same as the nation, the employment-population ratio in southern Appalachia was 1.9% lower, and the central portion of Appalachia was 4.7% lower, at 43.1%.

Some areas of Appalachia have been hit harder than others in this recession. First quarter employment contracted by 4% or more in Appalachian Alabama (-6.2%), Georgia (-5.3%), Maryland (-4.9%), North Carolina (-5.4%), Ohio (4.0%), and West Virginia (4.0%). Only Appalachian Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio, and South Carolina are faring better than their state as a whole.

Unemployment exceeded 10% in the Appalachian portion of Kentucky (10.9%), Mississippi (11.8%), North Carolina (11.3%), and South Carolina (10.8%). Unemployment was highest in Appalachian Ohio, at 12%. Unemployment rates are higher on average in the Appalachian portion of every state except Alabama and South Carolina.

Recession has hit harder in Appalachia

Economic Indicators	Average annual labor force change			Average annual employment change			Unemployment rate (unemployed/civilian labor force)					Population change
Northern= NY, PA, MD Central= OH, KY, VA, WV Southern= TN, NC, SC, GA, AL, MS	2001q1-2002q1 recession	2002q1-2008q1 expansion	2008q1-2009q1 recession	2001q1-2002q1 recession	2002q1-2008q1 expansion	2008q1-2009q1 recession	2001 peak	2002 trough	2007 peak	2008	2009 Q1	2000-2008
United States	0.5	1.0	0.5	-1.2	1.2	-3.2	4.7	5.8	4.6	5.8	8.8	8.0
Appalachian Region	-0.4	0.6	0.5	-1.9	0.8	-3.6	5.0	5.8	4.7	5.9	9.5	5.0
Northern Appalachia	0.5	0.1	1.2	-0.9	0.3	-1.9	5.1	5.9	4.6	5.7	8.7	-1.4
Central Appalachia	-0.1	0.3	0.7	-1.3	0.5	-3.3	5.6	6.4	5.5	6.1	10.0	0.2
Southern Appalachia	-1.2	1.1	0.0	-2.8	1.3	-4.8	4.7	5.5	4.4	6.0	9.8	11.9

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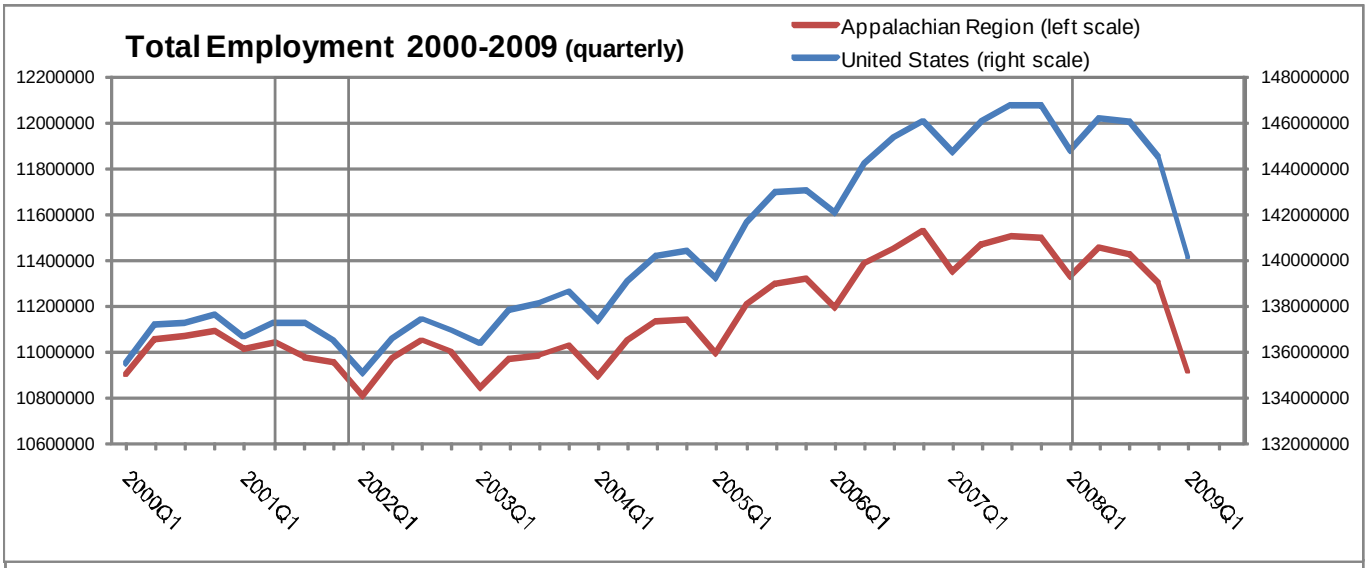
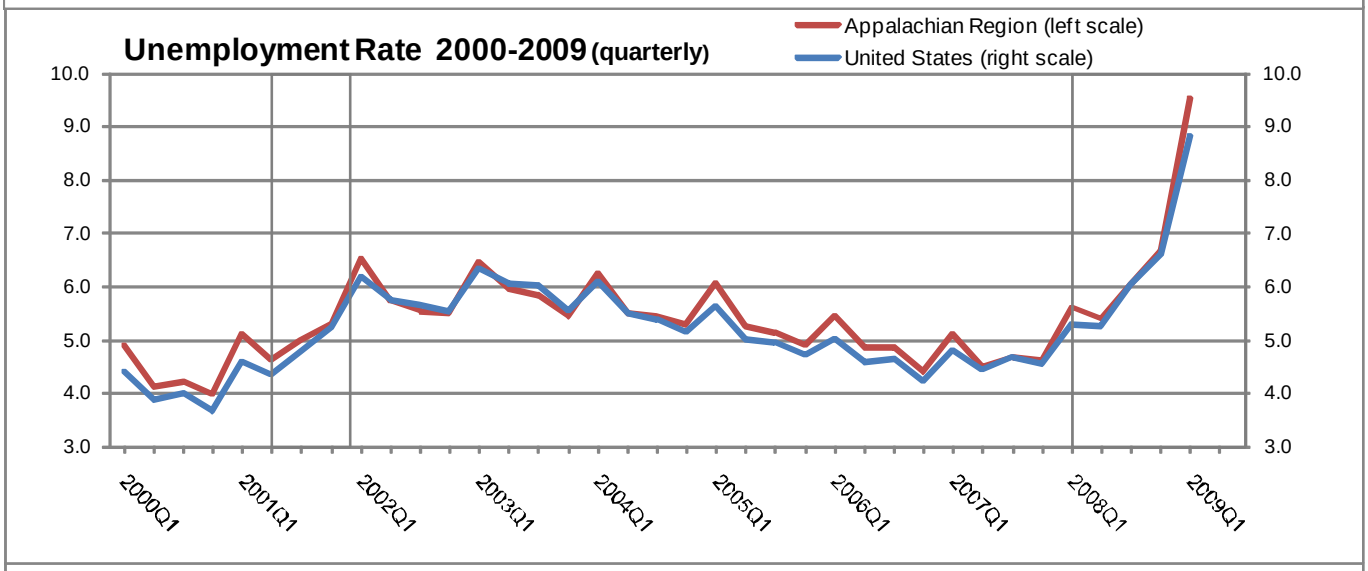
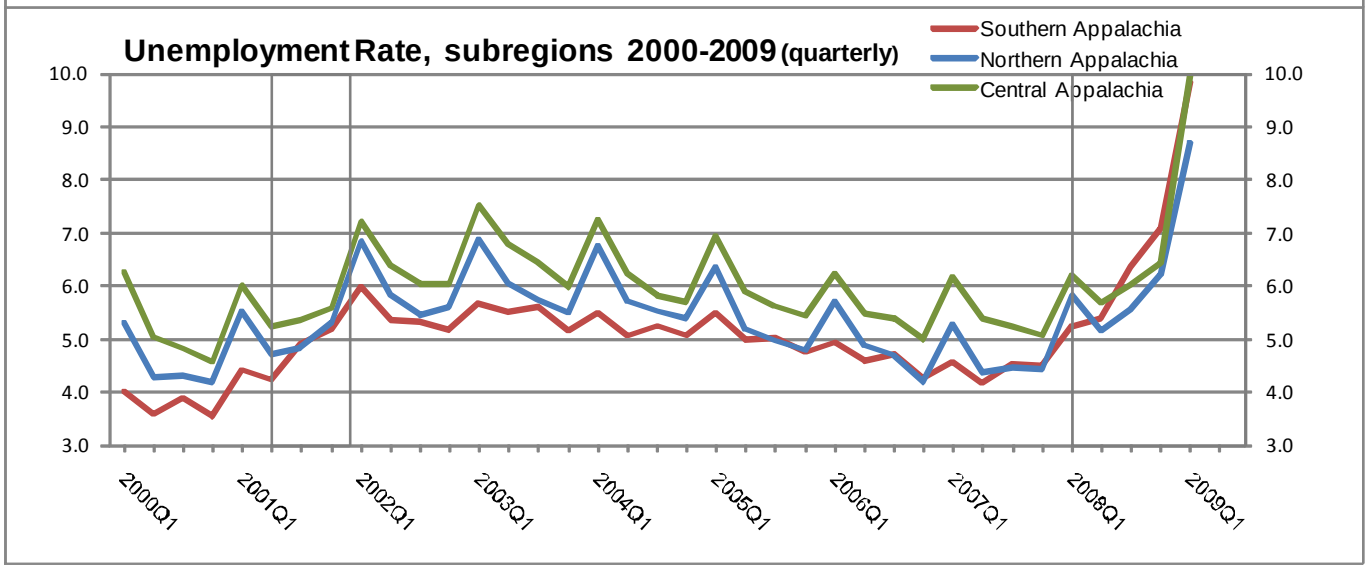
Appalachian Region Employment Report, 2009 Q1







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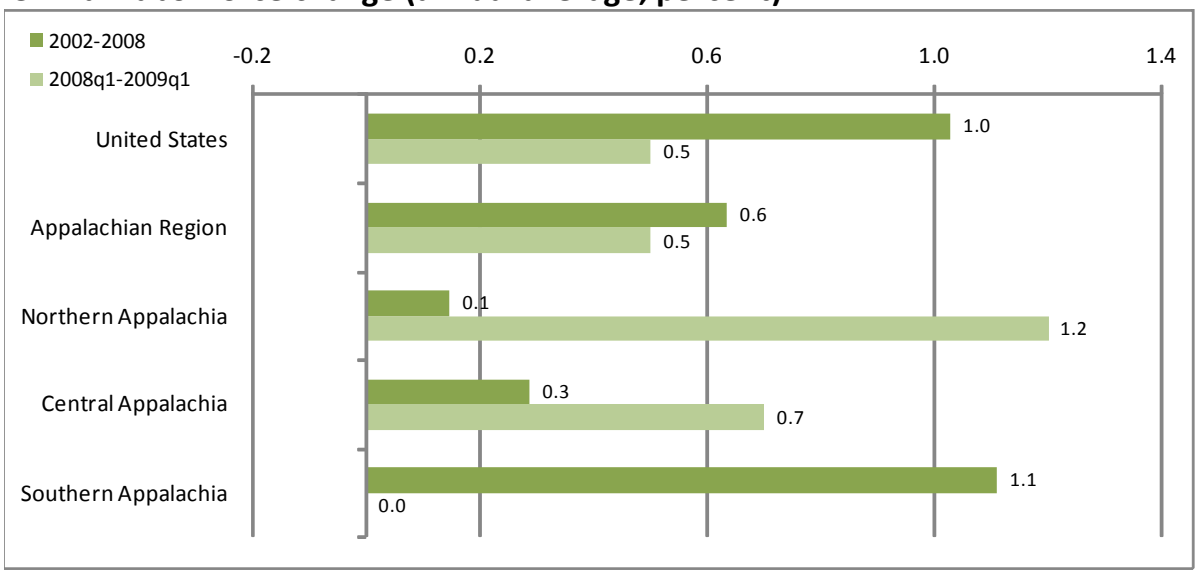
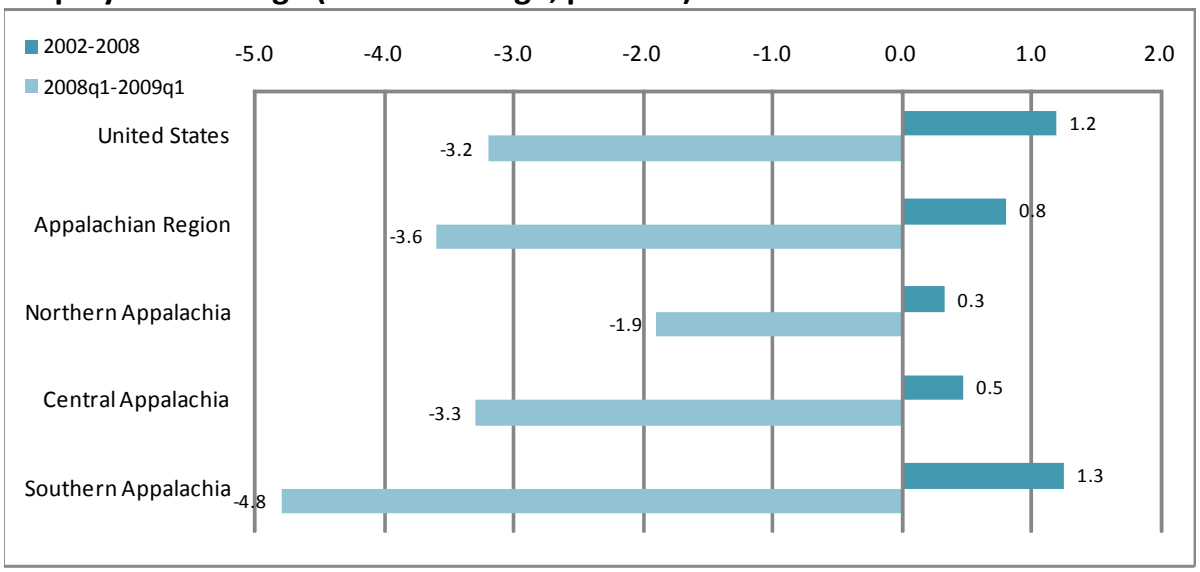
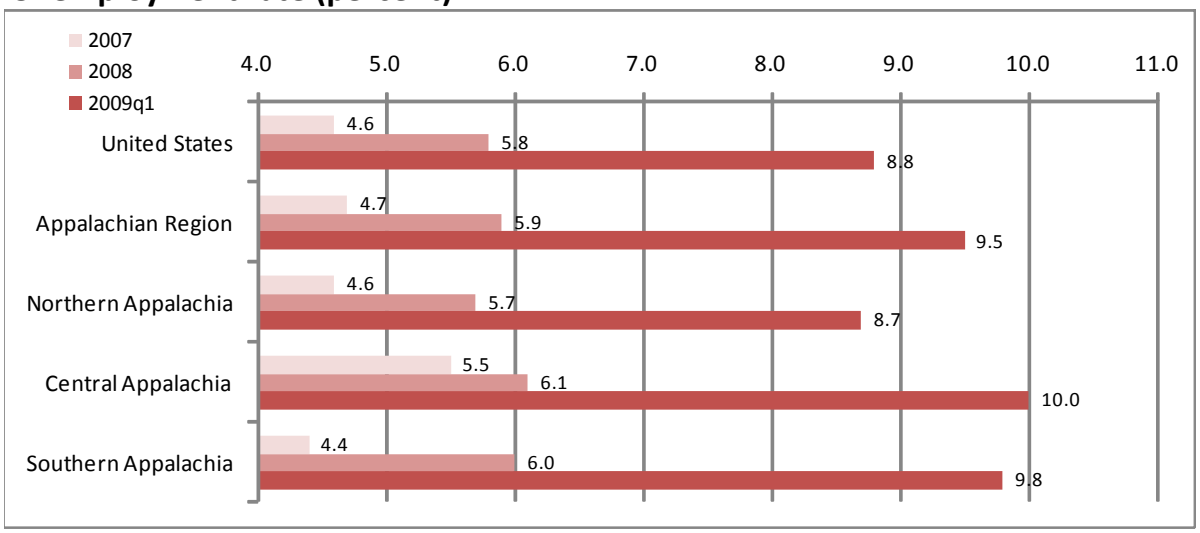
Civilian labor force change (annual average, percent)



Employment change (annual average, percent)



Unemployment rate (percent)



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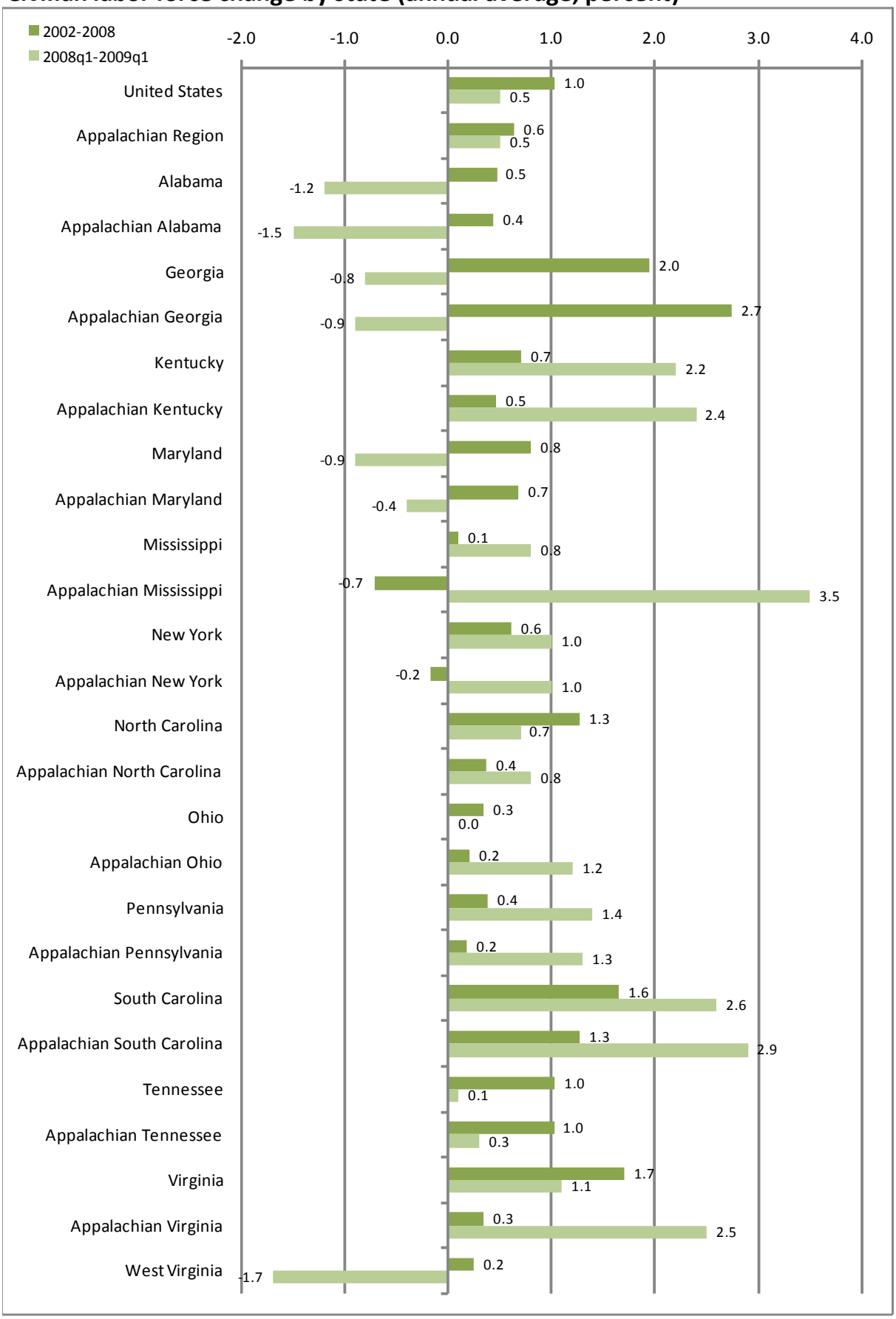
Civilian labor force change by state (annual average, percent)



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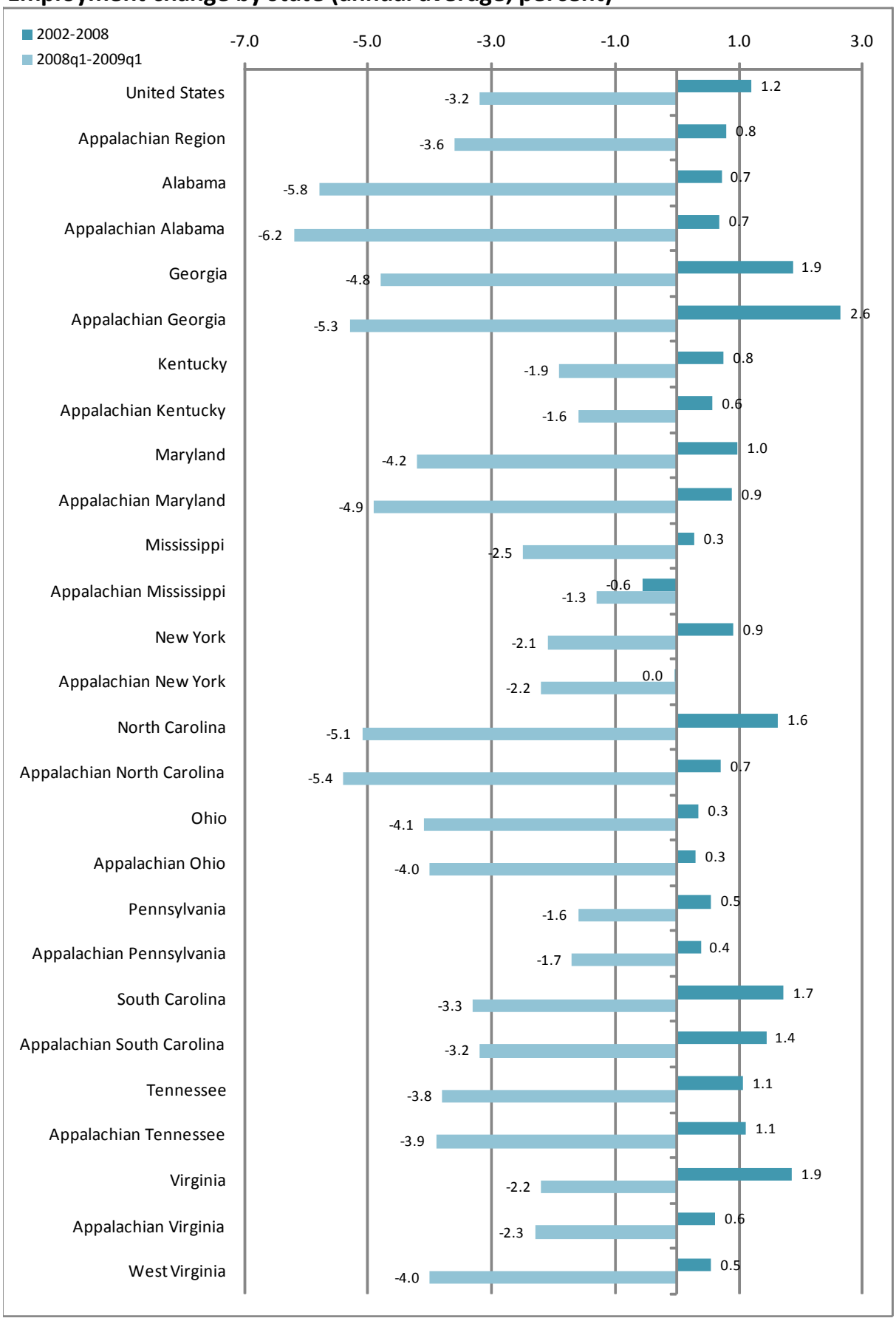
Employment change by state (annual average, percent)



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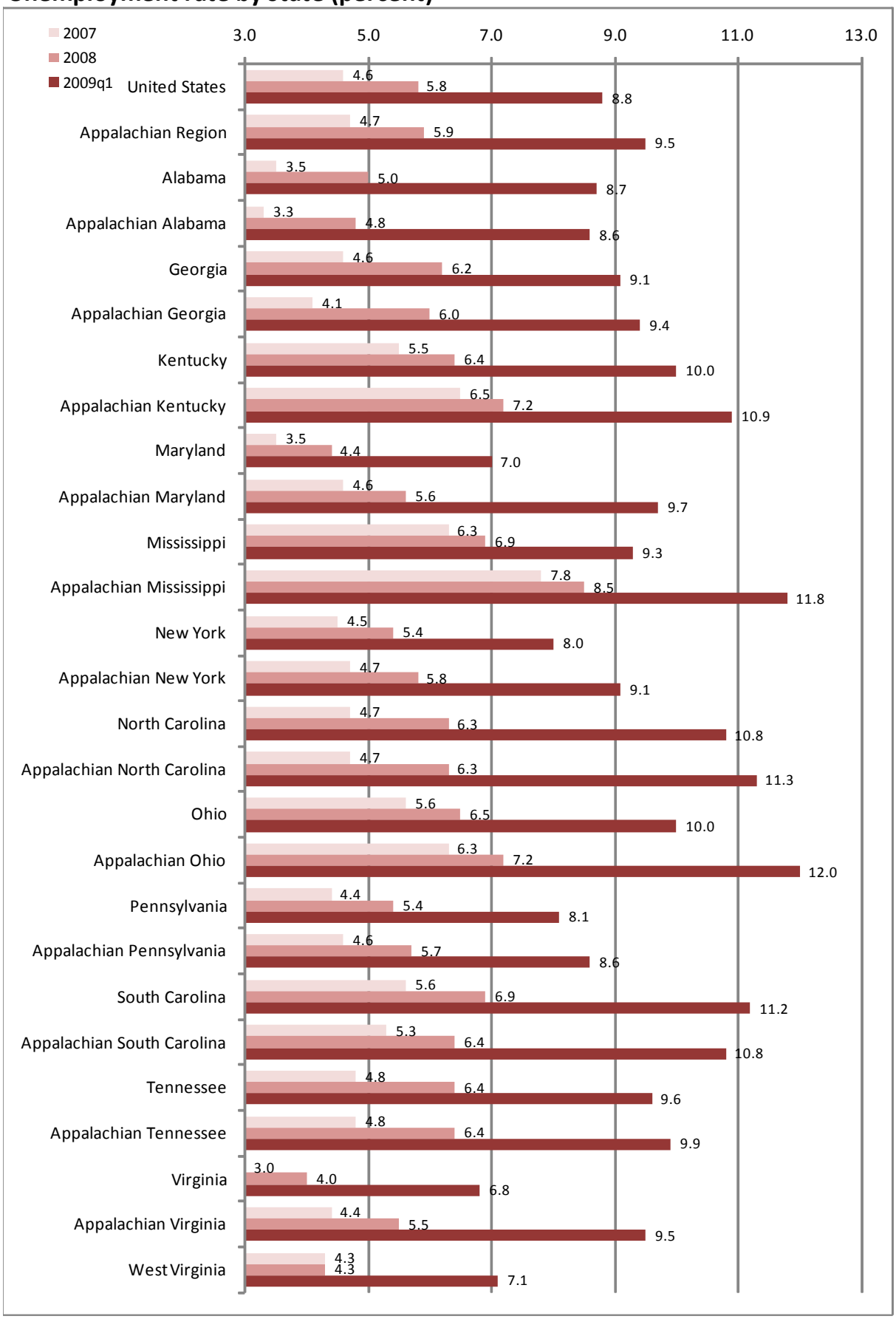
Unemployment rate by state (percent)



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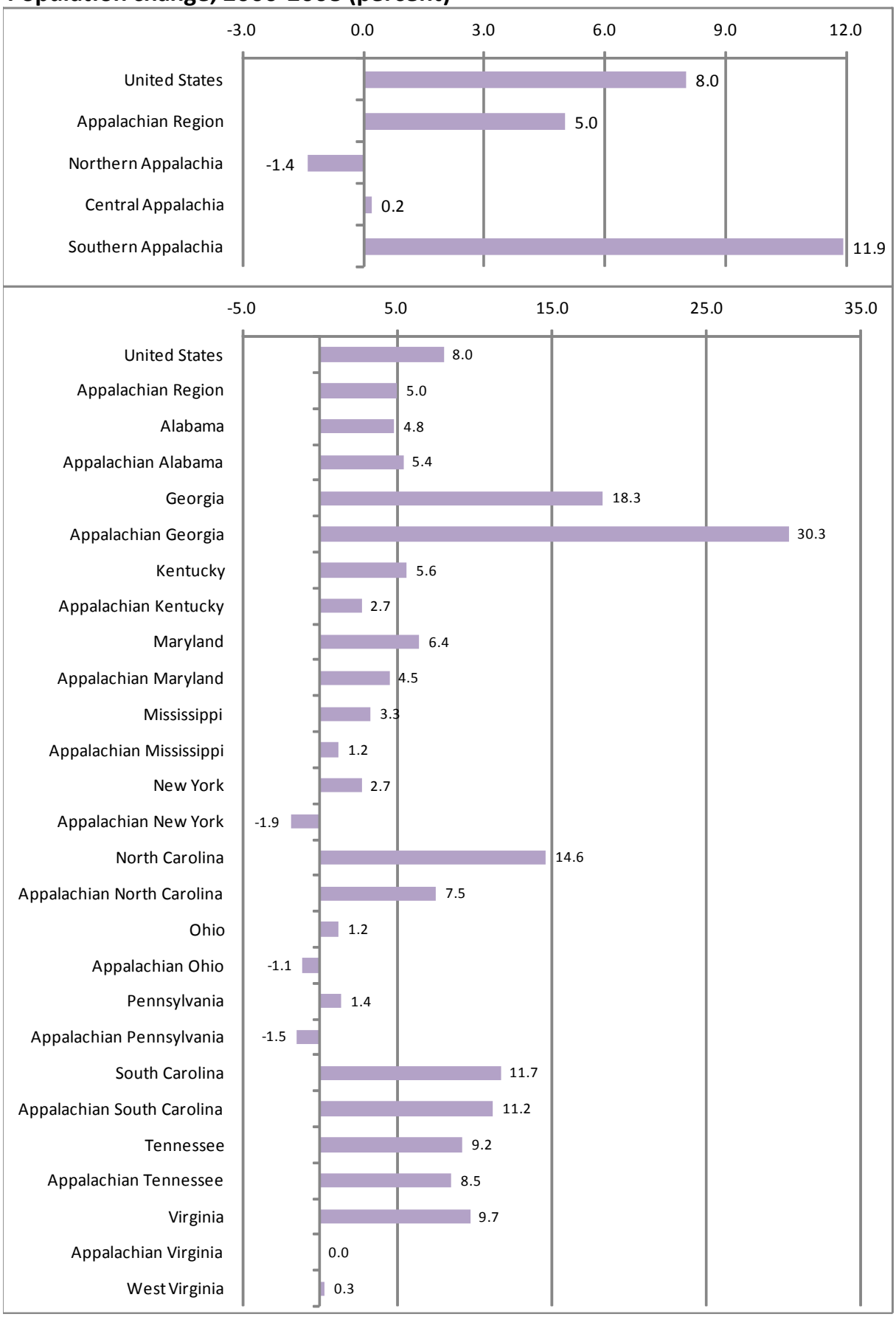
Population change, 2000-2008 (percent)



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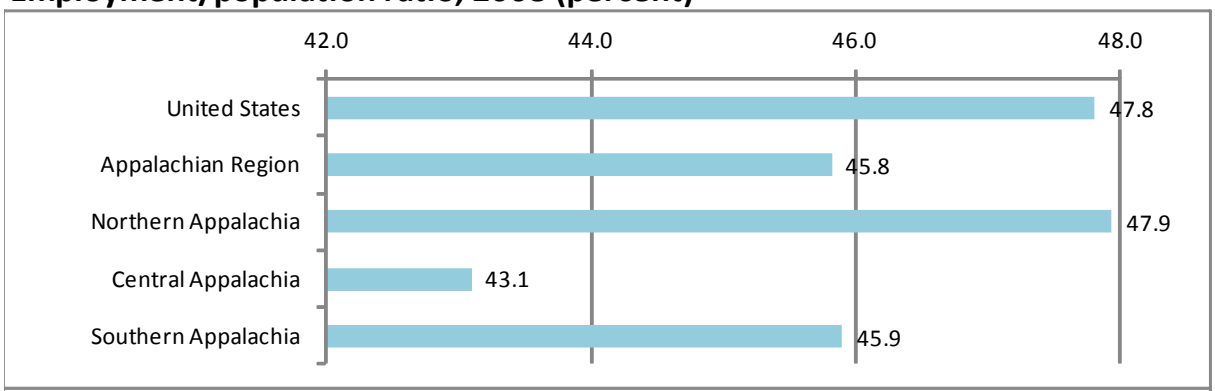
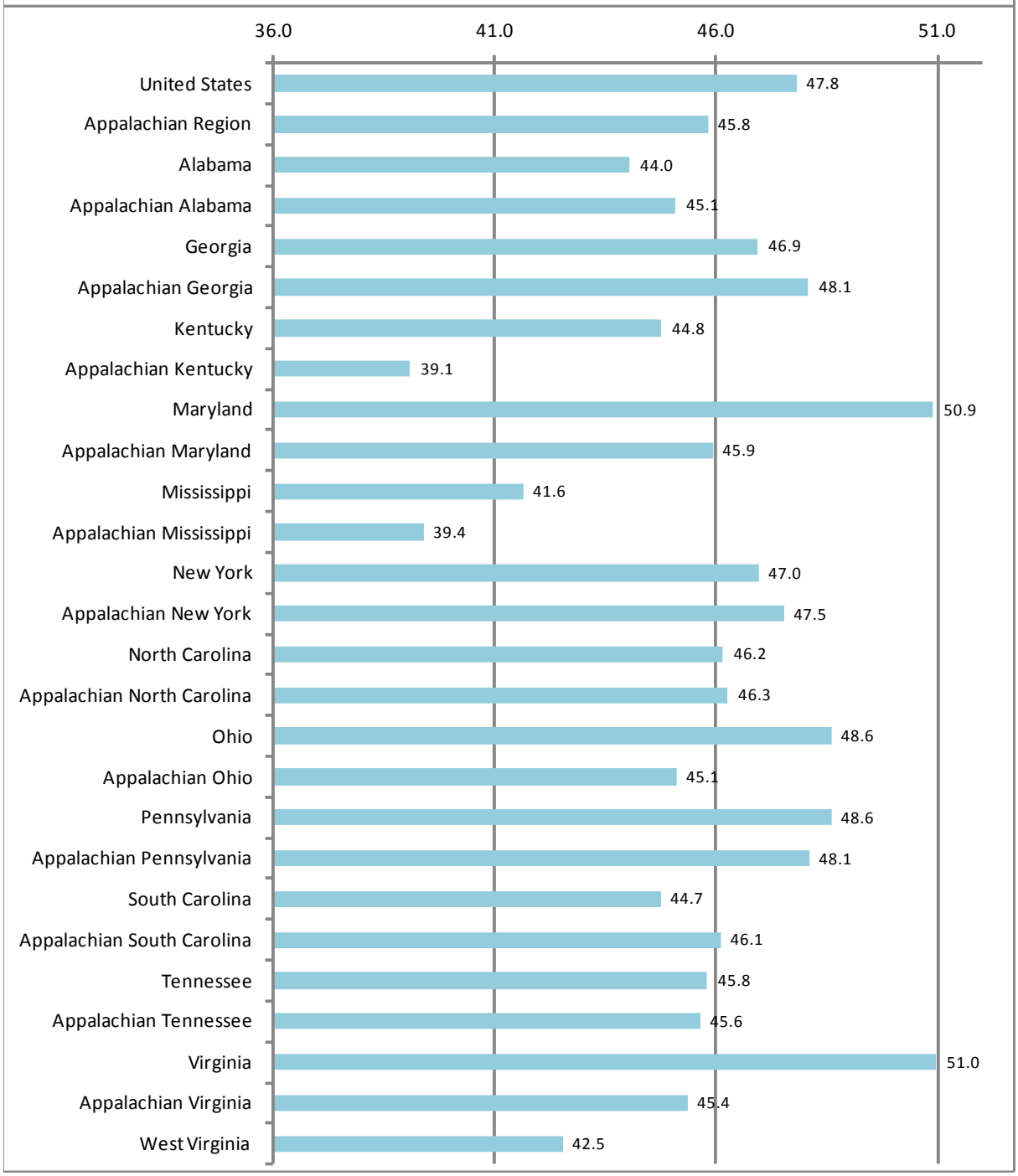
Employment/population ratio, 2008 (percent)





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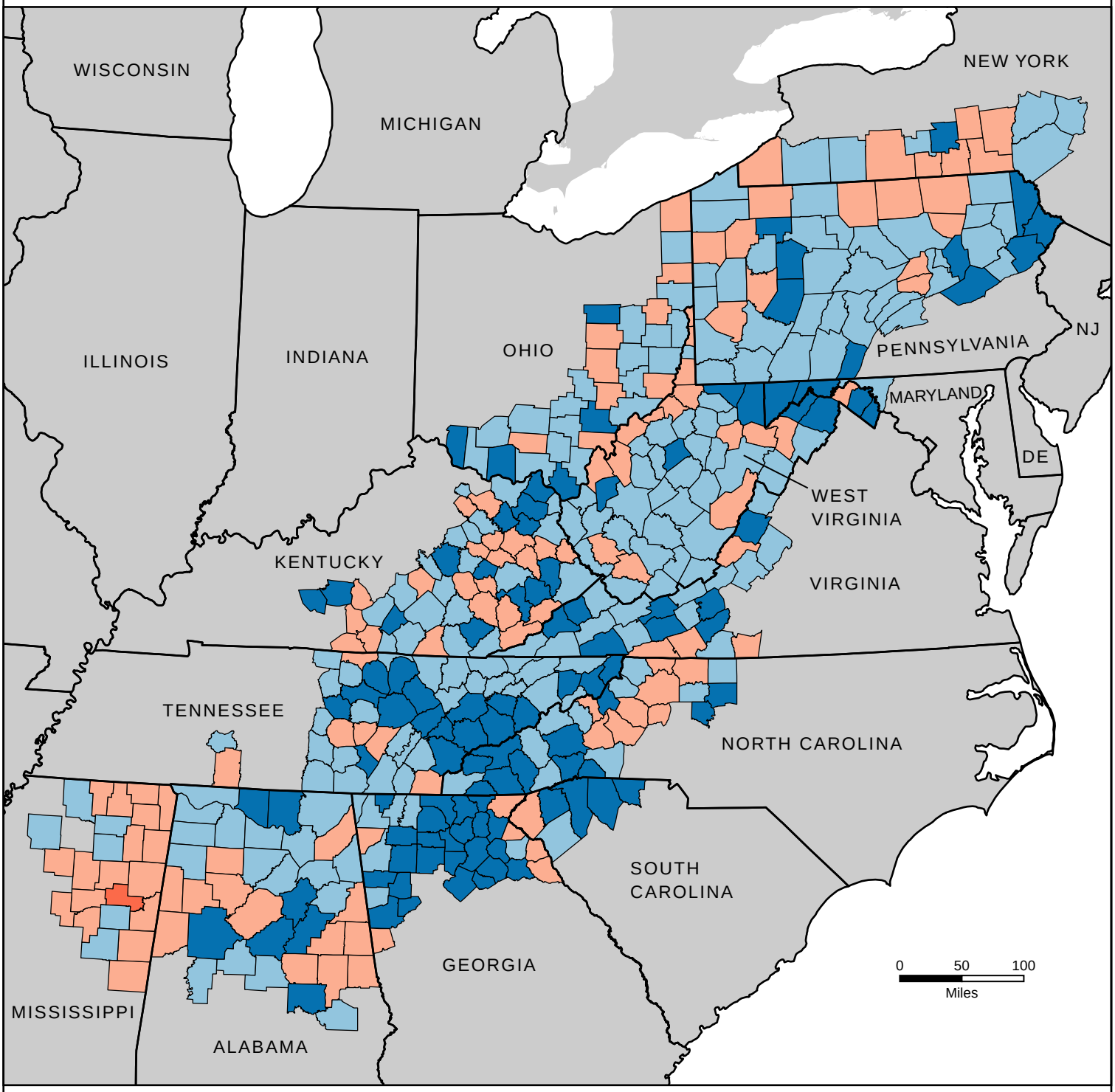
Appalachian States Employment Report, 2009 Q1

Economic Indicators	Average annual labor force change			Average annual employment change			Unemployment rate (unemployed/civilian labor force)					Population change
Northern= NY, PA, MD Central= OH, KY, VA, WV Southern= TN, NC, SC, GA, AL, MS	2001q1-2002q1 recession	2002q1-2008q1 expansion	2008q1-2009q1 recession	2001q1-2002q1 recession	2002q1-2008q1 expansion	2008q1-2009q1 recession	2001 peak	2002 trough	2007 peak	2008	2009 Q1	2000-2008
United States	0.5	1.0	0.5	-1.2	1.2	-3.2	4.7	5.8	4.6	5.8	8.8	8.0
Appalachian Region	-0.4	0.6	0.5	-1.9	0.8	-3.6	5.0	5.8	4.7	5.9	9.5	5.0
Northern Appalachia	0.5	0.1	1.2	-0.9	0.3	-1.9	5.1	5.9	4.6	5.7	8.7	-1.4
Central Appalachia	-0.1	0.3	0.7	-1.3	0.5	-3.3	5.6	6.4	5.5	6.1	10.0	0.2
Southern Appalachia	-1.2	1.1	0.0	-2.8	1.3	-4.8	4.7	5.5	4.4	6.0	9.8	11.9
United States	0.5	1.0	0.5	-1.2	1.2	-3.2	4.7	5.8	4.6	5.8	8.8	8.0
Appalachian Region	-0.4	0.6	0.5	-1.9	0.8	-3.6	5.0	5.8	4.7	5.9	9.5	5.0
Alabama	-2.6	0.5	-1.2	-3.8	0.7	-5.8	4.7	5.4	3.5	5.0	8.7	4.8
Appalachian Alabama	-2.5	0.4	-1.5	-3.8	0.7	-6.2	4.5	5.2	3.3	4.8	8.6	5.4
Georgia	0.4	2.0	-0.8	-0.9	1.9	-4.8	4.0	4.8	4.6	6.2	9.1	18.3
Appalachian Georgia	1.4	2.7	-0.9	0.1	2.6	-5.3	3.6	4.4	4.1	6.0	9.4	30.3
Kentucky	-1.3	0.7	2.2	-2.6	0.8	-1.9	5.2	5.7	5.5	6.4	10.0	5.6
Appalachian Kentucky	0.5	0.5	2.4	-0.7	0.6	-1.6	6.5	6.9	6.5	7.2	10.9	2.7
Maryland	0.3	0.8	-0.9	-0.6	1.0	-4.2	4.1	4.5	3.5	4.4	7.0	6.4
Appalachian Maryland	0.5	0.7	-0.4	-0.2	0.9	-4.9	5.1	5.4	4.6	5.6	9.7	4.5
Mississippi	-1.1	0.1	0.8	-3.2	0.3	-2.5	5.6	6.7	6.3	6.9	9.3	3.3
Appalachian Mississippi	-2.7	-0.7	3.5	-5.1	-0.6	-1.3	6.6	7.9	7.8	8.5	11.8	1.2
New York	1.2	0.6	1.0	-0.9	0.9	-2.1	4.9	6.2	4.5	5.4	8.0	2.7
Appalachian New York	1.2	-0.2	1.0	-1.1	0.0	-2.2	4.5	5.7	4.7	5.8	9.1	-1.9
North Carolina	0.1	1.3	0.7	-2.2	1.6	-5.1	5.6	6.6	4.7	6.3	10.8	14.6
Appalachian North Carolina	-0.3	0.4	0.8	-2.6	0.7	-5.4	5.5	6.5	4.7	6.3	11.3	7.5
Ohio	0.2	0.3	0.0	-1.7	0.3	-4.1	4.4	5.7	5.6	6.5	10.0	1.2
Appalachian Ohio	0.6	0.2	1.2	-1.1	0.3	-4.0	5.5	6.7	6.3	7.2	12.0	-1.1
Pennsylvania	0.7	0.4	1.4	-0.6	0.5	-1.6	4.8	5.6	4.4	5.4	8.1	1.4
Appalachian Pennsylvania	0.3	0.2	1.3	-0.9	0.4	-1.7	5.2	6.0	4.6	5.7	8.6	-1.5
South Carolina	-3.5	1.6	2.6	-5.1	1.7	-3.3	5.2	5.9	5.6	6.9	11.2	11.7
Appalachian South Carolina	-5.2	1.3	2.9	-7.3	1.4	-3.2	4.8	5.9	5.3	6.4	10.8	11.2
Tennessee	-1.3	1.0	0.1	-3.0	1.1	-3.8	4.7	5.3	4.8	6.4	9.6	9.2
Appalachian Tennessee	-0.7	1.0	0.3	-2.4	1.1	-3.9	4.9	5.4	4.8	6.4	9.9	8.5
Virginia	2.0	1.7	1.1	0.1	1.9	-2.2	3.2	4.2	3.0	4.0	6.8	9.7
Appalachian Virginia	1.3	0.3	2.5	-0.7	0.6	-2.3	5.1	6.2	4.4	5.5	9.5	0.0
West Virginia	-1.8	0.2	-1.7	-2.3	0.5	-4.0	5.2	5.9	4.3	4.3	7.1	0.3

Average Annual Employment Change
Q1 2002 - Q1 2008



Employment Change
Q1 2002 - Q1 2008

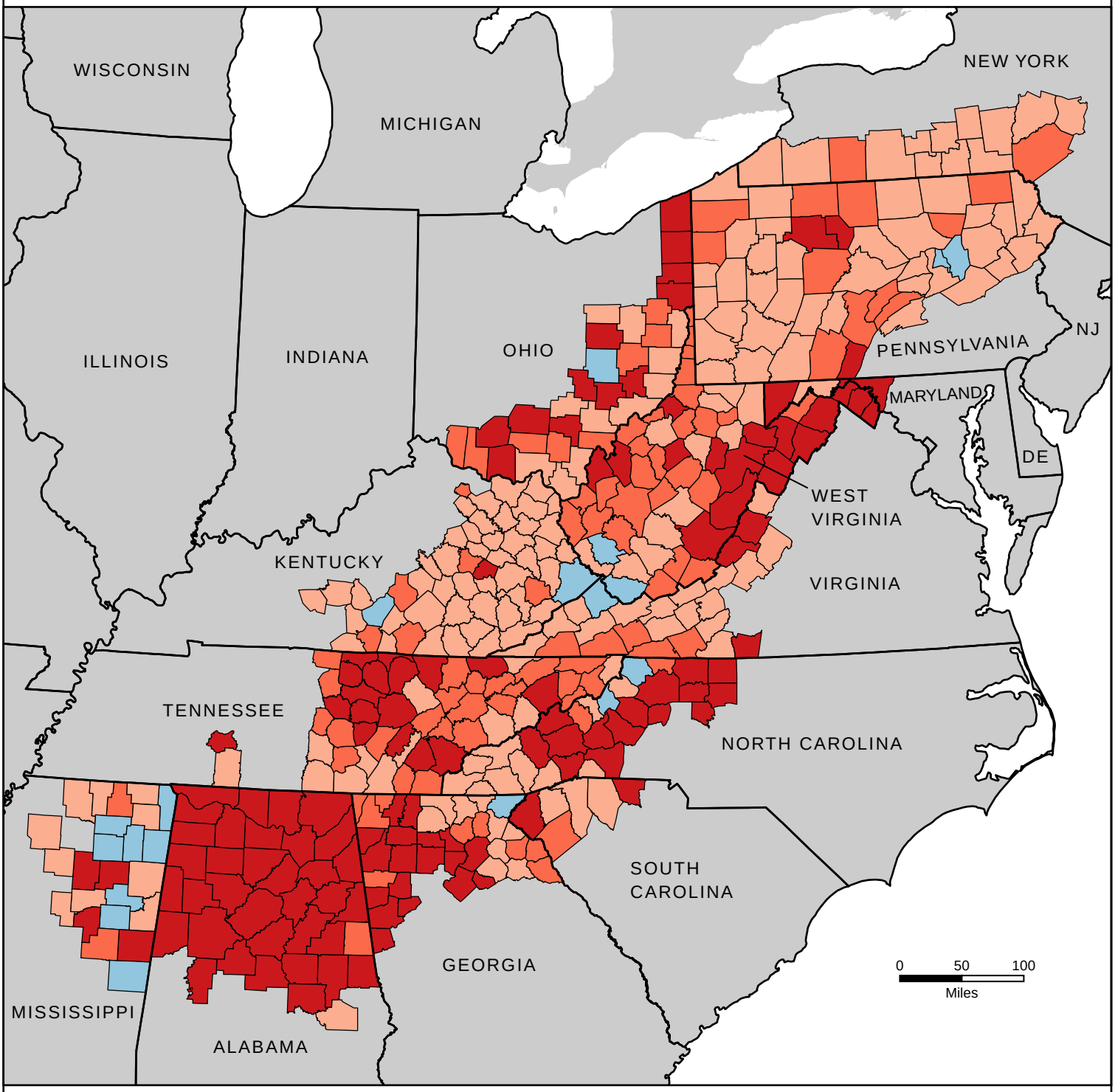
- 1.2% - 6.0%
- 0.0% - 1.1%
- -3.1% - -0.1%
- -4.4% - -3.2%

U.S. average = 1.2%
Appalachian average = 0.8%

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

Map Created: June 2009.
Data Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, LAUS, 2002 - 2008.

Average Annual Employment Change
Q1 2008 - Q1 2009



Employment Change
Q1 2008 - Q1 2009

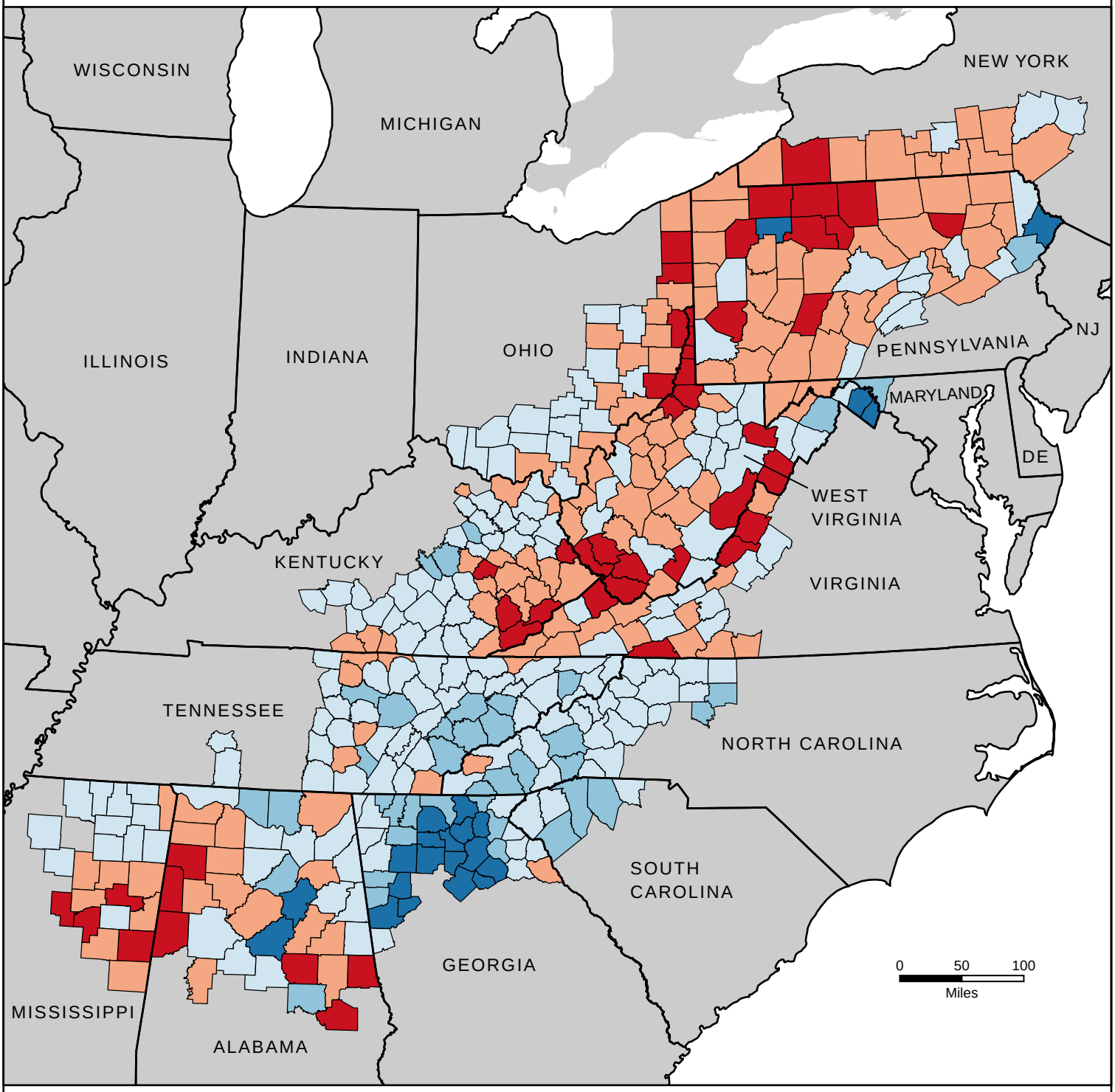
- 0.0% - 2.3%
- -3.1% - -0.1%
- -4.4% - -3.2%
- -12.7% - -4.5%

U.S. average = -3.2%
Appalachian average = -3.6%

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

Map Created: June 2009.
Data Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, LAUS, 2008 & 2009.

Percent Population Change, 2000 - 2008



Percent Pop. Change

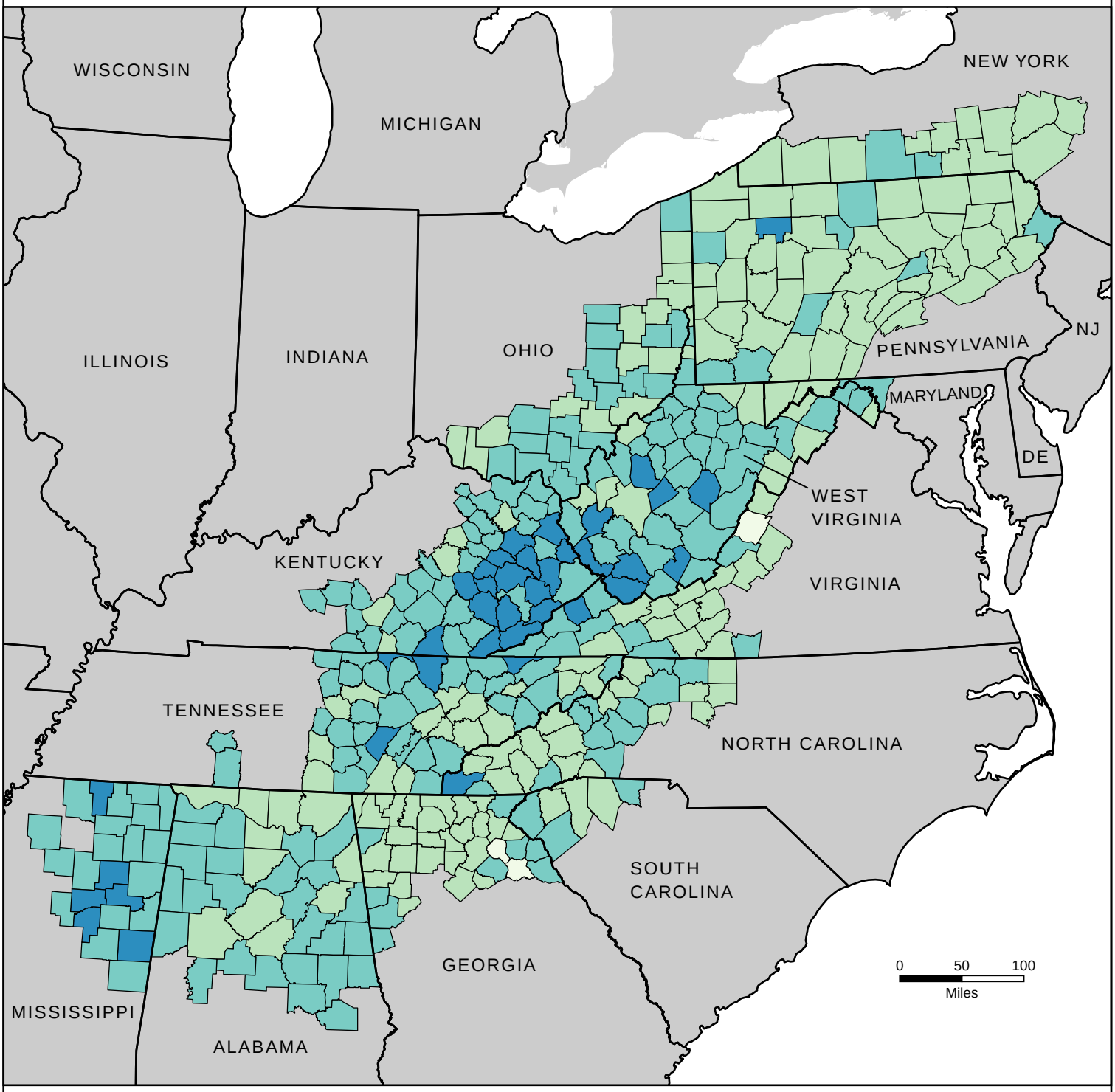
- 20.1% - 70.8%
- 10.1% - 20.0%
- 0.0% - 10.0%
- -5.0% - -0.1%
- -16.9% - -5.1%

U.S. average = 8.0%
Appalachian average = 5.0%

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

Map Created: June 2009.
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 Population Estimates.

Employment - Population Ratio, 2008



Emp. - Pop. Ratio

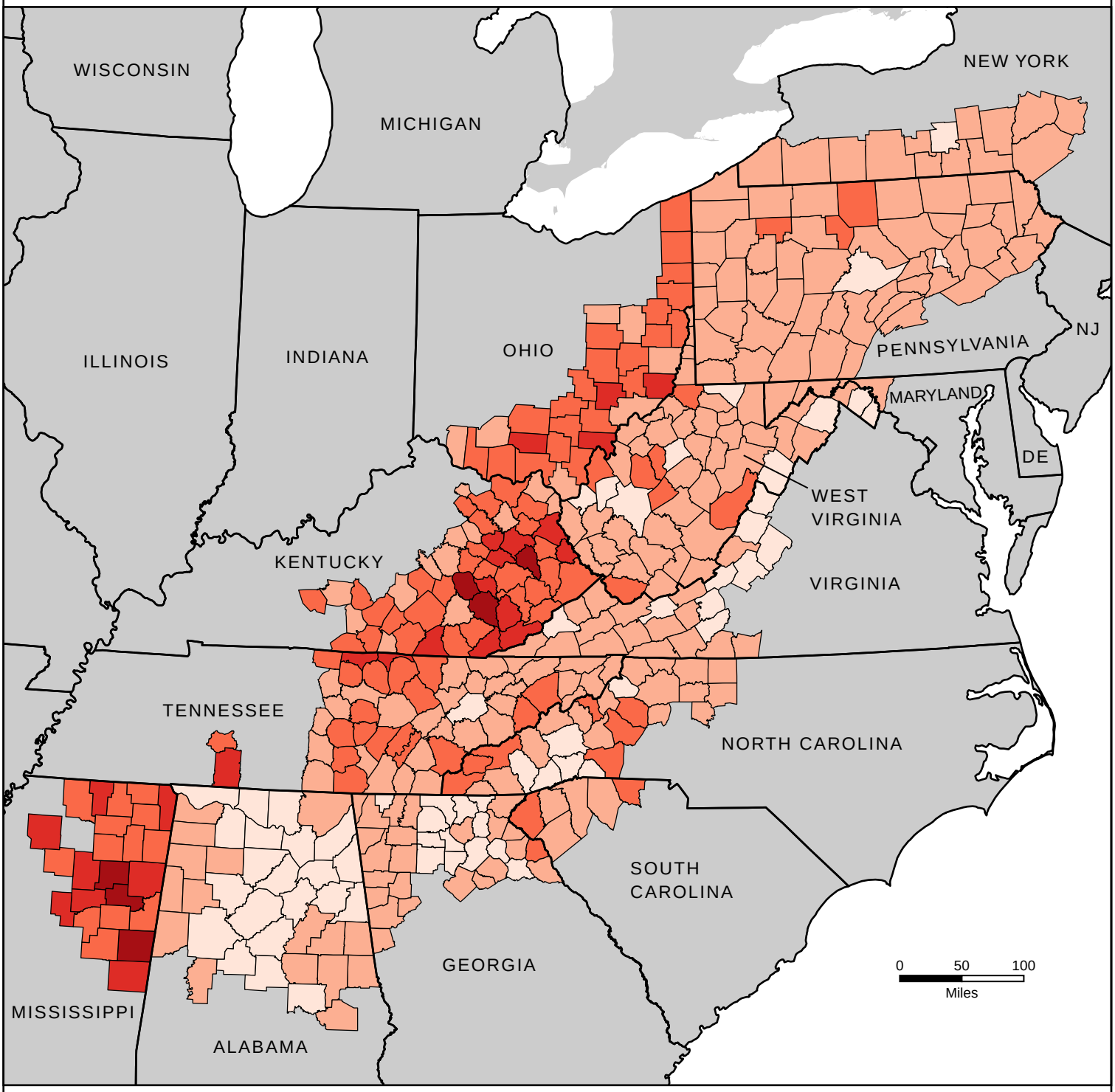
- 55.0% - 63.0%
- 45.0% - 54.9%
- 35.0% - 44.9%
- 25.7% - 34.9%

U.S. average = 47.8%
Appalachian average = 45.8%

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

Map Created: June 2009.
Data Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, LAUS, 2008;
U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 Population Estimates.

Unemployment Rate, 2007



Unemployment Rate, 2007

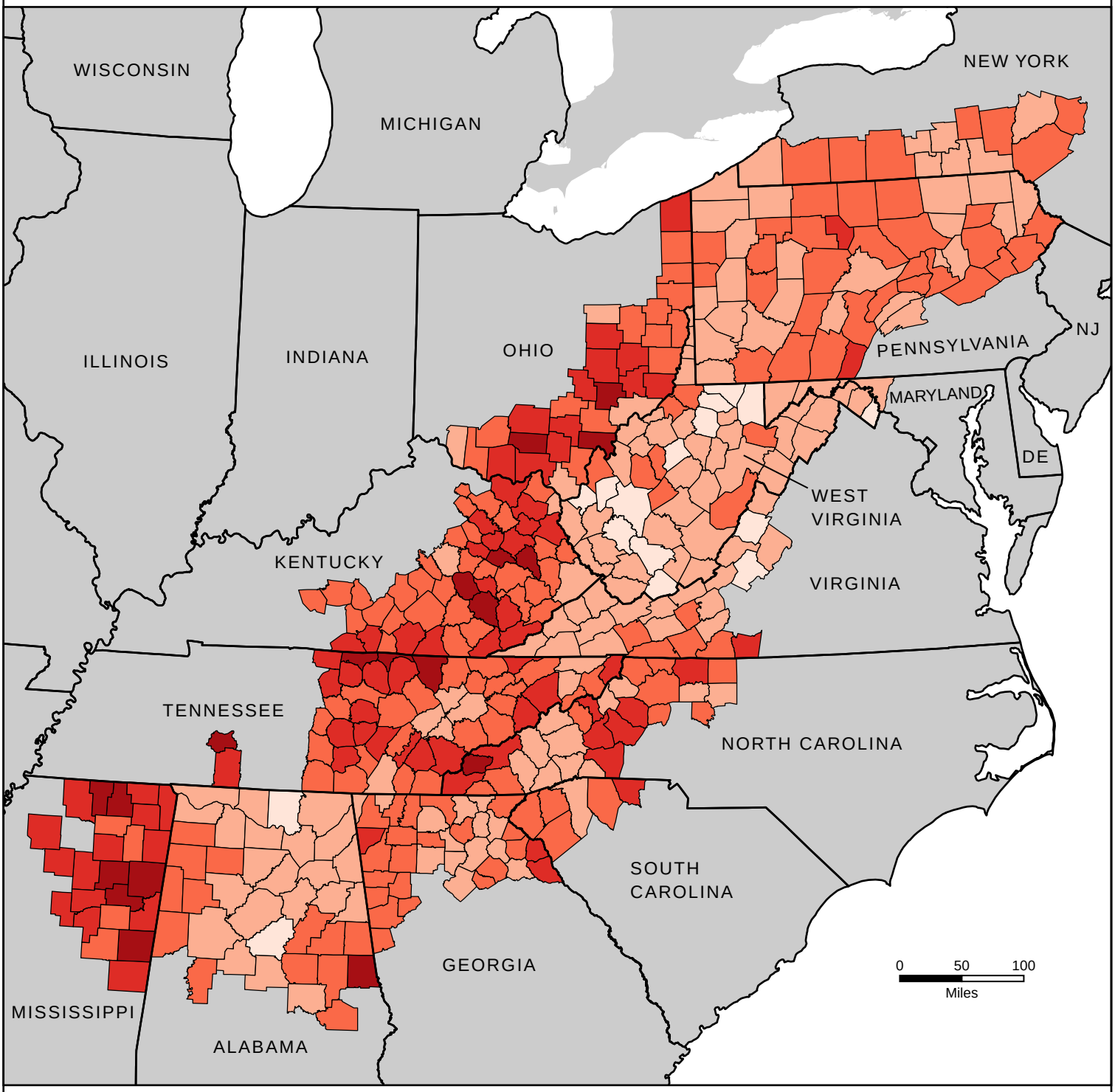
- 10.0% - 15.2%
- 8.0% - 9.9%
- 6.0% - 7.9%
- 4.0% - 5.9%
- 2.3% - 3.9%

U.S. average = 4.6%
Appalachian average = 4.7%

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

Map Created: June 2009.
Data Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, LAUS, 2007.

Unemployment Rate, 2008



Unemployment Rate, 2008

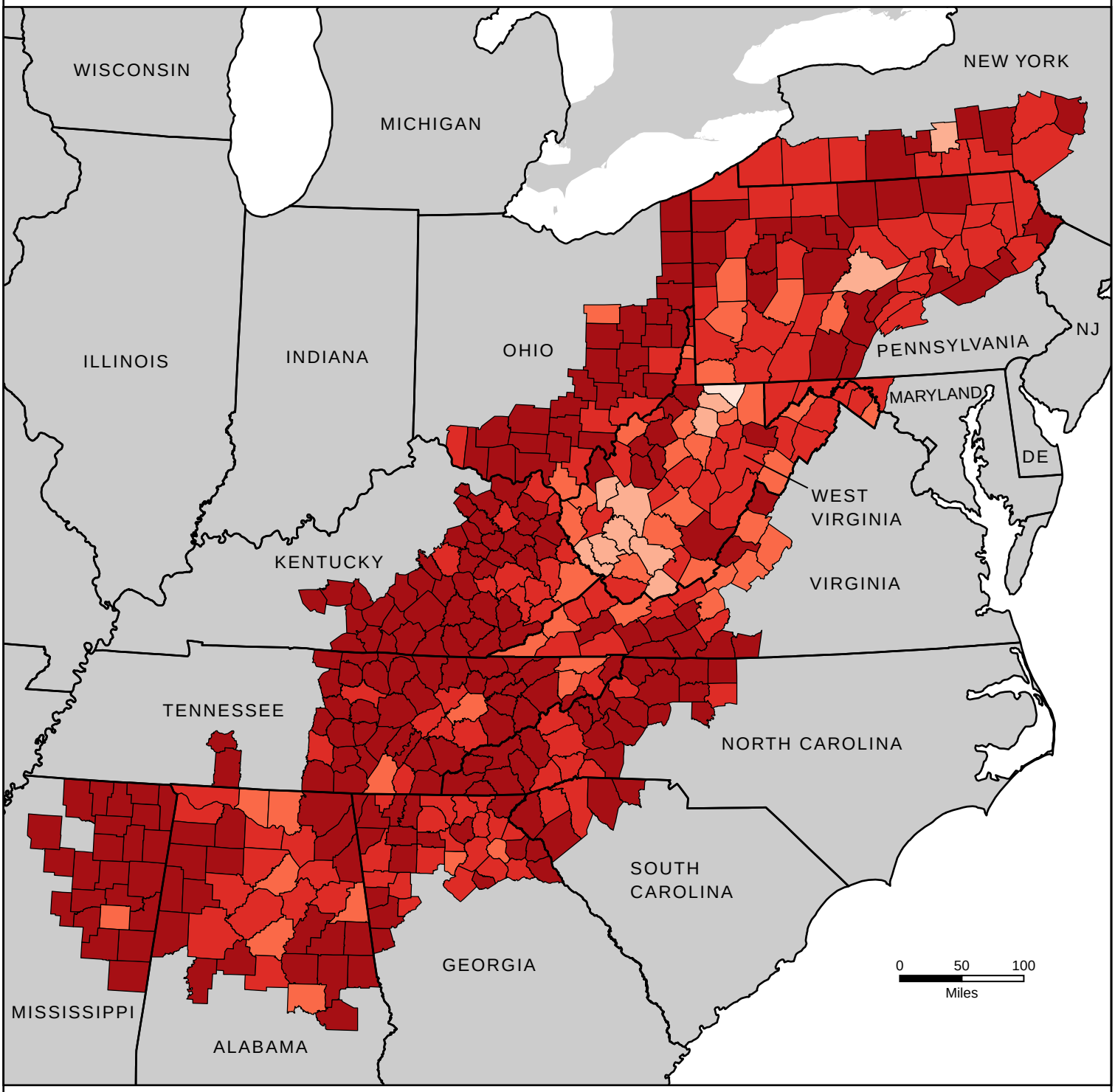
- 10.0% - 14.1%
- 8.0% - 9.9%
- 6.0% - 7.9%
- 4.0% - 5.9%
- 2.7% - 3.9%

U.S. average = 5.8%
Appalachian average = 5.9%

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

Map Created: June 2009.
Data Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, LAUS, 2008.

Unemployment Rate, Q1 2009



Unemployment Rate, Q1 2009

- 10.0% - 18.7%
- 8.0% - 9.9%
- 6.0% - 7.9%
- 4.0% - 5.9%
- 3.6% - 3.9%

U.S. average = 8.8%
Appalachian average = 9.5%

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

Map Created: June 2009.
Data Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, LAUS, 2009.