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of a record low, Bureau of Labor Statistics data showed Friday. New Hampshire and South Dakota had the lowest jobless rates last month, at 1.8%.



Jul. 24, 2023

By Reade Pickert and Alex Tanzi, Bloomberg News (via TNS).

Half of U.S. states were experiencing record-low unemployment — or very close to it — in June, underscoring the strength of the nation's labor market.

The unemployment rates in 25 states are currently at or within 0.1 percentage point of a record low, Bureau of Labor Statistics data showed Friday. New Hampshire and South Dakota had the lowest jobless rates last month, at 1.8%.

Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Massachusetts and Maryland also posted fresh record-low readings.

The strength of the jobs market has both confounded economists and bolstered hope

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Nevada, at 5.4%, has the highest jobless rate among states. Other states have also seen a pickup in unemployment since last year, but their jobless rates are largely still below the national average. For instance, Minnesota's unemployment rate is up 0.5 percentage point from last year to a still-low 2.9%.

In a dozen states and DC, the number of people on payrolls remains below prepandemic levels. That includes New York and Hawaii. Idaho, Utah, Texas and Florida were among the states with the biggest gains in employment since February 2020.

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