



A View of North American Unemployment By State/Province - Late 2009

While last year ended with hopes (and some indications) of an improving economy, nearly 3.5 to 4.0 million jobs were lost with the NAFTA region between the start and end of 2009 - leaving deep scars in state and provincial employment rolls across much of North America (albeit with clear concentrations along the West Coast, the Southern U.S., and part of the industrial MidWest - particularly states with large automotive sectors).

While each of the NAFTA partners - the United States, Mexico and Canada - each measure employment and unemployment in slightly different ways, this *CrossborderInsights* briefing presents a map combining state and province-level data as reported by each country, from either December of 2009 (in the case of the U.S. and Canada), or the 4th Quarter of 2009 (in the case of Mexico). The goal: to better visualize how the recent economic slow-down affected various regions across North America.

Areas with the highest rates of unemployment are shaded red (generally 12.0-14.6%), with those shaded orange next (generally between 6.0-11.9%), and yellow shaded states/provinces were reported below 6.0%. The highest rates of unemployment in North America were reported for Newfoundland/Labrador and Michigan - with 15.2% and 14.6% respectively. The highest rate recorded during this period in Mexico was 8.5% in Chihuahua (and all Mexican border states suffered from rates higher than the national average).

