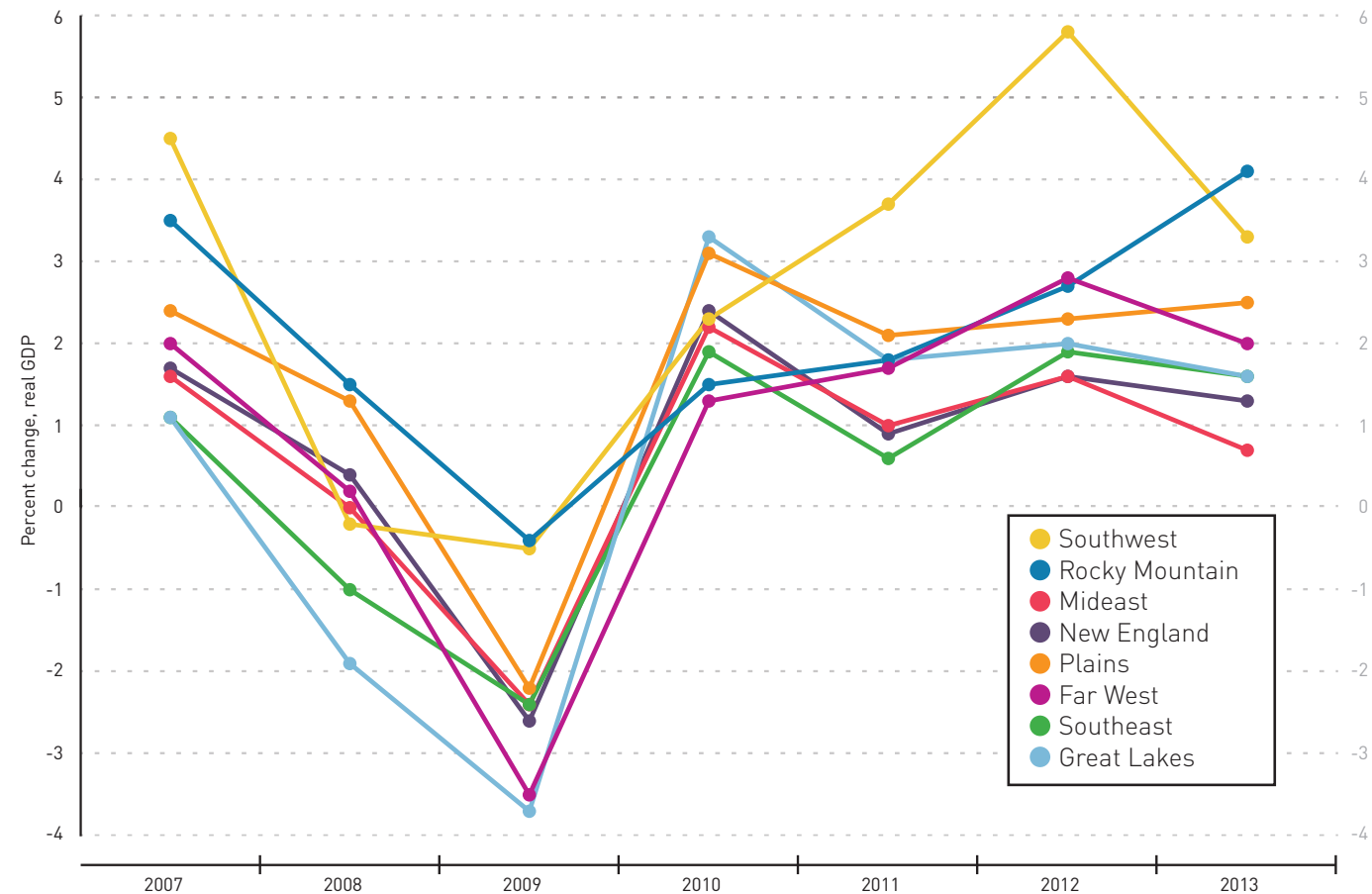


datapoints

An Expanding Economy, With Growing Differences

The U.S. economy has been growing since the recession's low point in 2009, albeit at different rates across the country. Overall GDP growth slowed to 1.8% in 2013, but the Rocky Mountain and Plains regions posted better numbers for the year, powered by the country's two fastest-growing states: Wyoming (7.6% increase) and North Dakota (9.7% increase).

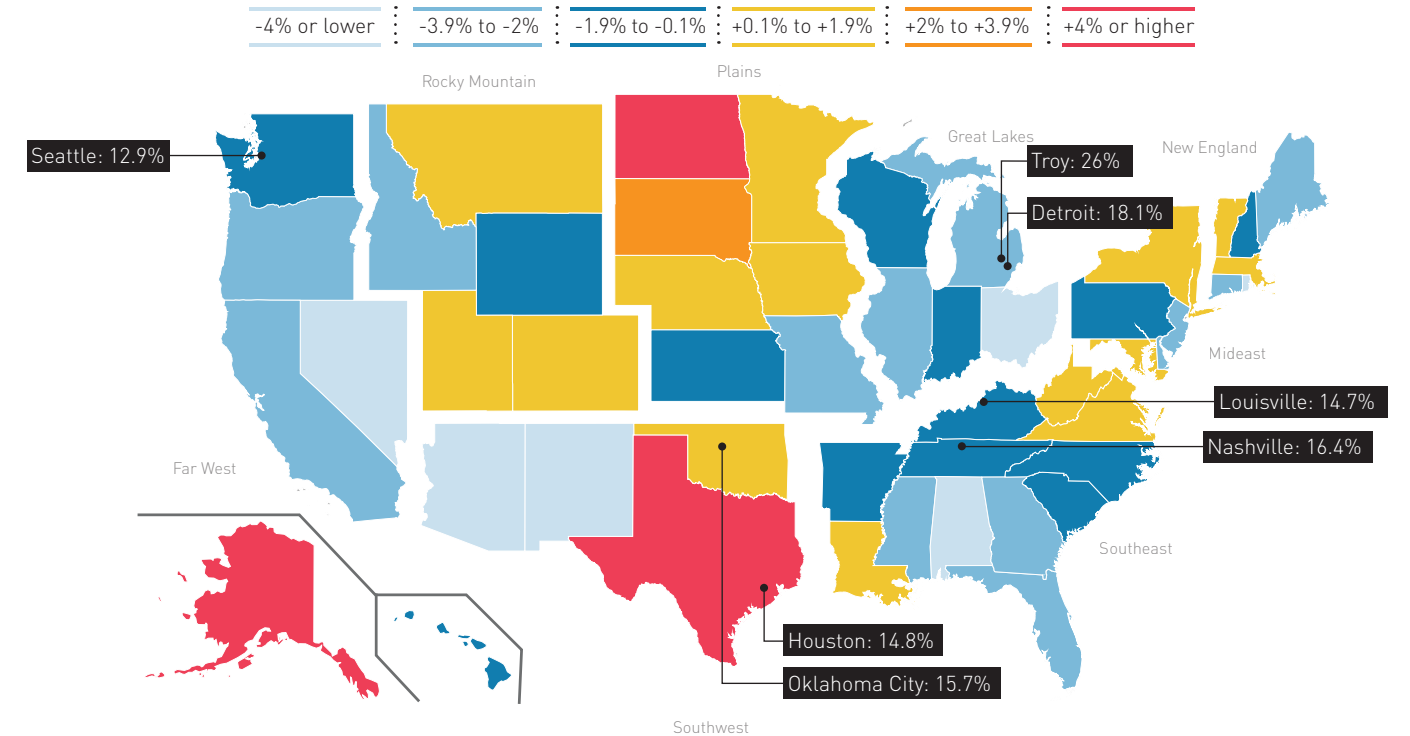


Forward's look at regional recovery

The Jobs Picture

While GDP growth largely rebounded by 2013, jobs are another story. Between 2007 and 2013, **only 18 states** replaced all the jobs they lost during the recession, with much of the job growth concentrated in boom states like Texas and North Dakota. Nationwide, employment **dropped 0.7%** over those years.

Change in employment between 2007 and 2013



Manufacturing Hot Spots

Between 2009 and 2012, U.S. manufacturing employment dropped 10% ... but several cities saw double-digit manufacturing job growth during that period.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, *The New York Times*, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Forbes*