JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
VICE CHAIR AMY KLOBUCHAR

UNITED STATES CONGRESS
JANUARY 2014 STATE-BY-STATE

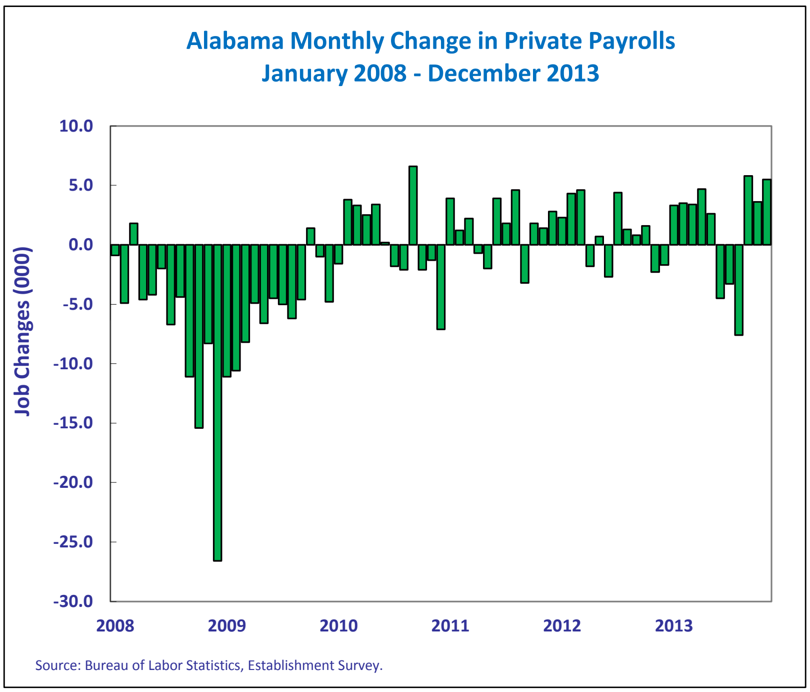
Economic Overview And Outlook: Alabama

Jobs

- Including December, the private sector has gained jobs nationwide for 46 consecutive months.
- In Alabama, private sector employment fell by 9.5 percent from January 2008 to February 2010. Since February 2010, private sector employment has grown by 3.5 percent.
- In Alabama, employees in the construction, professional and business services, and information services sectors faced the largest job losses (as a percent of employment within an industry) over the recession. Since the beginning of 2010, the following sectors in Alabama have experienced the greatest employment increases: professional and business services; mining; and leisure and hospitality.*
- As the recovery continues to take hold, service-providing industries are projected to add the most jobs between 2012 and 2022. The largest gains over this period are expected to occur in the healthcare and social assistance, professional and business services, and leisure and hospitality sectors. Job gains in the goods-producing sector of the economy will be led by the construction and mining industries.

Employment

- The unemployment rate in Alabama was 6.1 percent in December 2013, up 2.4 percentage points from December 2007, but down from its most recent peak of 10.5 percent in December 2009.
- 130,000 residents were counted among the unemployed in Alabama during December 2013.
- In Alabama, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits totaled 23,399 during December, up 46.3 percent from the previous month. Since peaking at 55,659 in December 2008, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits have declined by 58.0 percent.



Earnings

- Between the start of the recession in the 4th quarter of 2007 and the 3rd quarter of 2009, inflation-adjusted total personal income in the United States declined 3.0 percent. Most recently, in the 3rd quarter of 2013, total personal income is 6.6 percent above its 4th quarter of 2007 level.
- Real per capita personal income (in 2009 $) in Alabama was $34,242.50 in the 3rd quarter of 2013, up from $33,563.30 in the 3rd quarter of 2011.

Housing

- After peaking in the first quarter of 2007, national home prices declined by 18.1 percent over 17 quarters. Between the second quarter of 2011 and the third quarter of 2013, the most recent quarter, national home prices rose by 5.9 percent.
- In Alabama, home prices fell by 9.6 percent over 9 quarters from their peak in the first quarter of 2009. Since the second quarter of 2011, home prices in Alabama have risen by 0.5 percent.
- As of the 3rd quarter of 2013, 1.7 percent of all mortgages, including 4.1 percent of subprime mortgages, were in foreclosure in Alabama.
- Housing starts in Alabama totaled 11,990 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in December 2013, an increase of 7.8 percent from November.
- Within the South census region, which includes Alabama, sales of new single-family homes totaled 230,000 units in December 2013, a decrease of 7.3 percent from November. Sales of existing single-family homes increased 4.7 percent to 1,780,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from November to December 2013.

*** For Alabama-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Alabama office: http://www2.dir.state.al.us/**

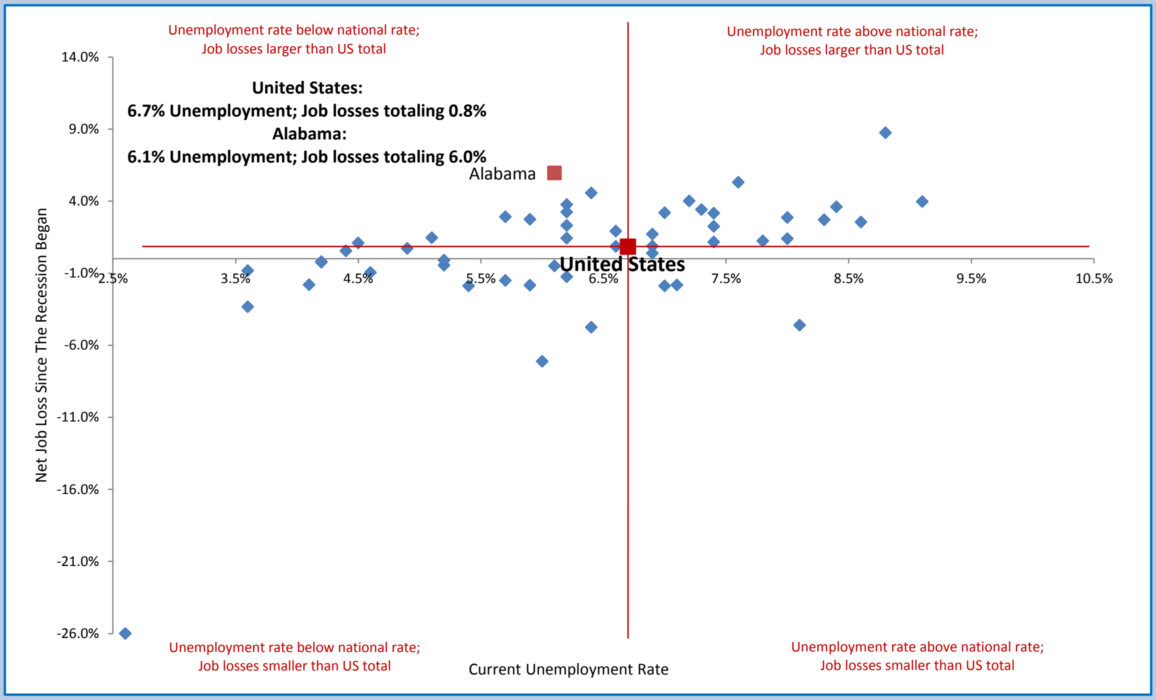
Prepared by the Vice Chair's Staff of the Joint Economic Committee

How Does Alabama Compare To Other States?

Workers across the country were hard hit during the recent recession. Although labor markets in many states have started recovering, employment in most states still remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows you to compare Alabama to other states using two metrics.

The current unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor market conditions faced by residents, while the proportion of jobs lost within Alabama since the start of the recession (shown along the vertical axis) measures the toll the recession took on the job supply in Alabama.

States falling in the upper right quadrant have lost a disproportionate share of jobs, relative to the total United States, and have unemployment rates higher than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower left quadrant are experiencing lower unemployment rates and smaller job losses than the national average.



State Quick Facts

		Alabama	United States
Unemployment Rates	December 2010	9.1%	9.4%
	December 2011	7.5%	8.5%
	December 2012	6.8%	7.9%
	December 2013	6.1%	6.7%
Percent of Population Who Are Veterans	2012	10.8%	9.0%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2012	5.6%	7.0%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2012	6.7%	9.9%
Median Household Income	2007	$ 46,745	$ 55,627
(2012 $)	2012	$ 43,464	$ 51,017
Poverty Rate	2007	14.5%	12.5%
	2012	16.2%	15.0%
No Health Insurance	2007	11.7%	14.7%
	2012	14.8%	15.4%

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