



# Tennessee Economic Update

September 20, 2016

## Summary

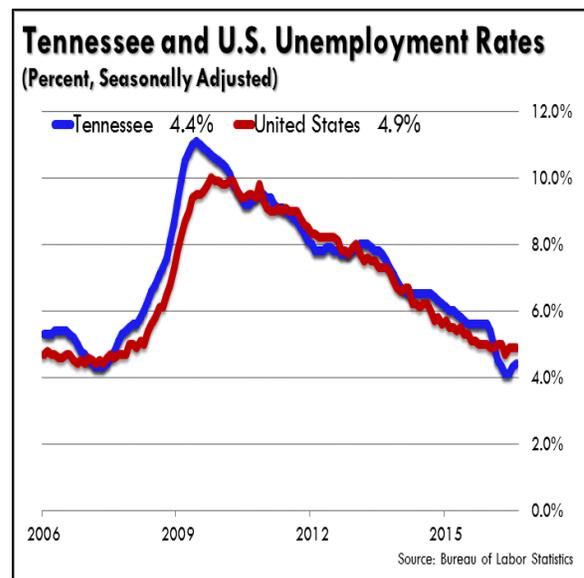
Nonfarm payroll employment in Tennessee increased by 7,300 jobs, and the unemployment rate rose to 4.4 percent in August according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## Tennessee Unemployment Rate

During August, the unemployment rate in Tennessee increased by 0.1 percentage point to 4.4 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 4,884 in August to 138,277, while the labor force grew by 5,049 to 3,130,463. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 20 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Tennessee. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Tennessee stood at 5.6 percent.

The 10-year peak for the unemployment rate in Tennessee was 11.1 percent in June 2009. The series high for the unemployment rate in Tennessee occurred in January 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 12.9 percent. The 10-year low for the unemployment rate in Tennessee was 4.1 percent in June 2016. The series low for the unemployment rate in Tennessee occurred in March 2000 when the unemployment rate was 3.7 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent in August. August's unemployment rate was 0.2 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



## Tennessee Payroll Employment

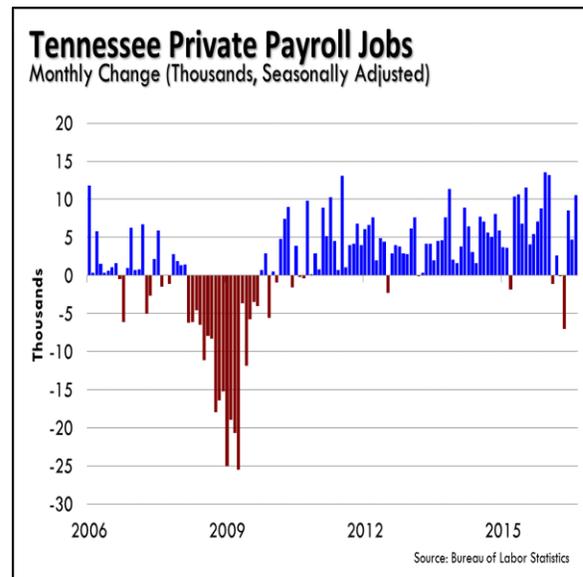
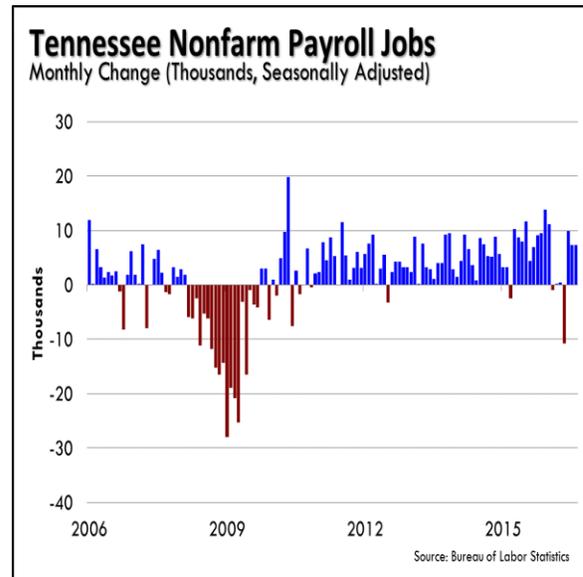
Tennessee nonfarm payrolls increased by 7,300 jobs, or 0.25 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 7,300. Over the past 12 months, nonfarm payrolls in Tennessee increased by 64,000, or 2.21 percent. Tennessee nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 10 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 151,000 jobs in August, or 0.1 percent. Over the 12-month period ending August 2016, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,447,000 jobs, or 1.72 percent. Tennessee ranks 13th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During August, Tennessee private-sector payrolls increased by 10,500, or 0.41 percent. Private-sector payrolls increased by 4,700 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private-sector payrolls in Tennessee increased by 66,100, or 2.67 percent. Tennessee private-sector payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 126,000 jobs in August, or 0.1 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,283,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 1.9 percent. Tennessee ranks 11th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During August, total government payroll employment in Tennessee declined by 3,200, or 0.75 percent. Federal government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment increased by 500, or 0.53 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 600, or 0.21 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 2,100, or 0.50 percent. State government payroll employment was unchanged. Local government payroll employment increased by 1,500, or 0.54 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during August were Professional & Business Services (+6,100) and Logging, Mining & Construction (+1,700). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Total Government (-3,200) and Other Services (-1,300).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+17,900) and Professional & Business Services (+10,500). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Total Government (-2,100) and Information (+1,400).

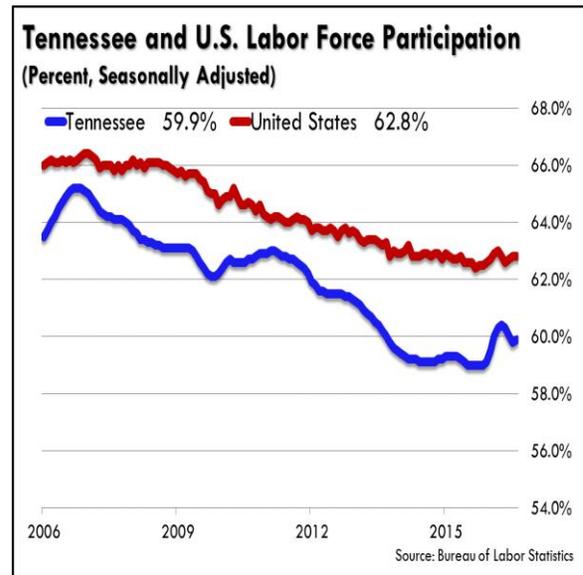


#### Other Tennessee Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Tennessee rose to 59.9 percent in August from 59.8 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 39 have a higher labor force participation rate than Tennessee. The labor force participation rate in Tennessee is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Tennessee was 65.2 percent in November 2006. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Tennessee occurred in January 1995 when the labor force participation rate hit 67.4 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 59.0 percent in November 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in January 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 58.6 percent.

The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 62.8 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Tennessee civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 57.2 percent in August from 57.3 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 39 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Tennessee. The employment-to-population ratio in Tennessee is 1.5 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Tennessee was 62.1 percent in December 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in

Tennessee occurred in January 1995 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 64.3 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 55.2 percent in August 2014. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio was 53.8 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio held steady at 59.7 percent in August. That rate was 0.3 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for September is scheduled for release on October 21, 2016. The national employment situation report for September will be released on Friday, October 7, 2016.

