



# Georgia Economic Update

August 21, 2015

## Summary

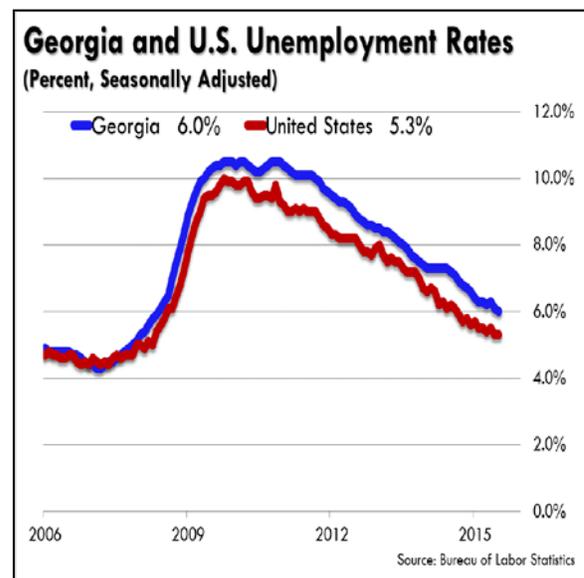
Nonfarm payroll employment in Georgia increased by 4,600 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 6.0 percent in July according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## Georgia Unemployment Rate

During July, the unemployment rate in Georgia declined by 0.1 percentage point to 6.0 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 5,510 in July to 284,106, while the labor force fell by 15,831 to 4,744,280. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 39 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Georgia. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Georgia stood at 7.2 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Georgia was 10.5 percent in December 2010. This also represents the series high for the unemployment rate in Georgia. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Georgia was 4.3 percent in March 2007. The series low for the unemployment rate in Georgia occurred in November 2000 when the unemployment rate reached 3.4 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.3 percent in July. July's unemployment rate was 0.9 percentage point lower than a year earlier when the rate stood at 6.2 percent. The ten year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The ten year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



## Georgia Payroll Employment

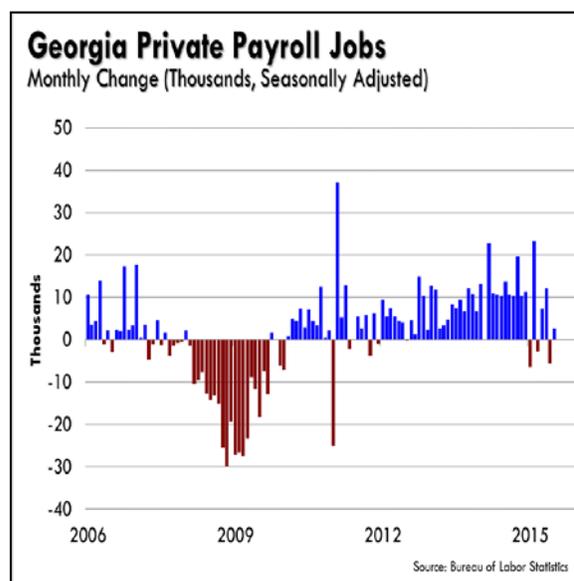
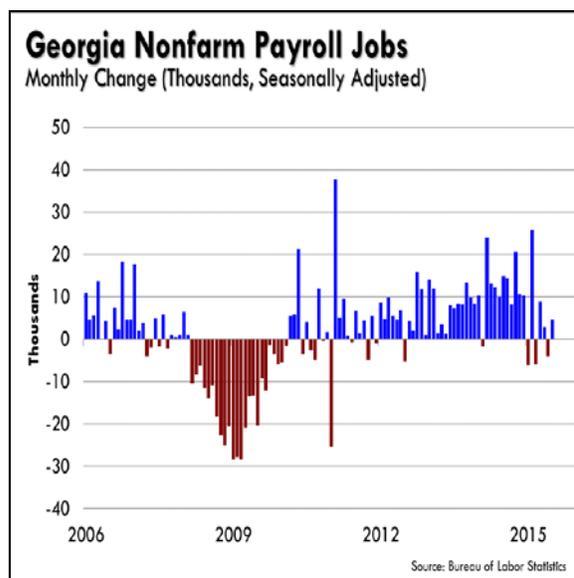
Georgia nonfarm payrolls increased by 4,600 jobs, or 0.11 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during July. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 4,100. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Georgia increased by 89,400, or 2.15 percent. Georgia nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 215,000 jobs in July, or 0.15 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in July 2015, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,915,000 jobs, or 2.09 percent. Georgia ranks 13rd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During July, Georgia private sector payrolls increased by 2,600, or 0.07 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 5,600 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Georgia increased by 92,200, or 2.65 percent. Georgia private sector payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private sector payroll jobs increased by 210,000 in July, or 0.18 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,853,000 private sector payroll jobs, an increase of 2.43 percent. Georgia ranks 13rd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During July, total government payroll employment in Georgia increased by 2,000, or 0.29 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.10 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 2,400, or 1.38 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 4,300, or 1.05 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 2,800, or 0.41 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 7,500, or 4.18 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 4,900, or 1.20 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during July were Professional & Business Services (+3,100) and Total Government (+2,000). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Educational & Health Services (-2,100) and Financial Activities (-600).



The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+32,200) and Leisure & Hospitality (+20,300). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Total Government (-2,800) and Other Services (-1,100).

#### Other Georgia Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Georgia declined to 61.2 percent in July from 61.4 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 36 have a higher labor force participation rate than Georgia. The labor force participation rate in Georgia 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 Georgia was 68.8 percent in August 2008. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Georgia occurred in December 1998 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.7 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 61.2 percent in July 2015. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Georgia.

The national labor force participation rate remained at 62.6 percent in July. That rate is 0.2 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The rate for June and July are the lowest recorded since October 1977.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Georgia civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 57.5 percent in July from 57.7 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 38 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Georgia. The employment-to-population ratio in Georgia is 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Georgia was 65.2 percent in February 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Georgia occurred in April 2000 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 67.1 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 56.8 percent in March 2010. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in April 2010 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 56.8 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio held steady at 59.3 percent in July. At 59.3 percent, the national employment-to-population ratio is below its level of 59.4 percent when the recession ended in June 2009. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 percent 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 posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for August is scheduled for release on Friday, September 18. The national employment situation report for August will be released on Friday, September 4.

