

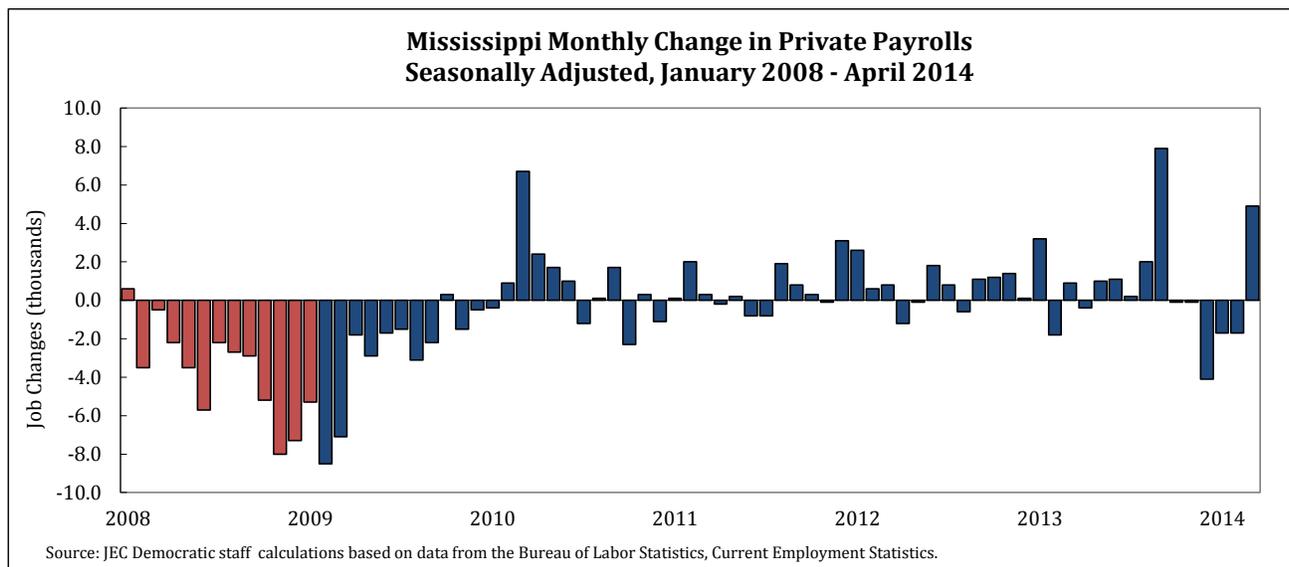


ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT: MISSISSIPPI

Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs and unemployment data through April 2014

JOBS

- In April, private-sector employment in Mississippi grew by 4,900 jobs. Over the past year, the Mississippi private sector has added 9,000 jobs. This compares with an increase of 6,800 jobs over the 12 months ending in April 2013.
- Mississippi private-sector employers have added 36,800 jobs (an increase of 4.4 percent) since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment.
- In Mississippi, the following sectors have posted the largest job gains since February 2010: professional and business services (11,100 jobs), leisure and hospitality (7,800 jobs) and trade, transportation and utilities (5,200 jobs).
- The Mississippi sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms since February 2010 are: professional and business services (12.6 percent), mining and logging (9.6 percent) and construction (7.1 percent).



UNEMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Mississippi was 7.5 percent in April 2014, down 0.1 percentage point from March. The rate is down 1.3 percentage points from one year earlier and is below its recent peak of 11.0 percent in February 2010.
- 95,400 Mississippi residents were unemployed during April 2014, down from a recent high of 145,100 in July 2011. There are still 15,300 more people unemployed in Mississippi than when the recession began.
- In Mississippi, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits totaled 9,794 during March, up 8.3 percent from the previous month. Total initial claims over the past 12 months are down 16.2 percent from their level over the 12 months before that.

EXPORTS

- In Mississippi, exports totaled \$1.0 billion in March and \$12.5 billion over the past year, up 8.8 percent from the 12 months ending in March 2013 (inflation-adjusted dollars).
- Mississippi exports over the past 12 months are up 66.5 percent from their level in the same 12-month period four years earlier (inflation-adjusted dollars).

HOUSING

- Home prices in Mississippi decreased by 0.4 percent from the fourth quarter of 2012 to the fourth quarter of 2013 (the most recent quarter for which data are available). They are up 0.2 percent since their recent low in the second quarter of 2011 but remain 8.2 percent below their pre-housing-crash peak.
- Housing starts in Mississippi totaled 8,060 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in March 2014, an increase of 73.0 percent from February.
- Within the South census region, which includes Mississippi, sales of new single-family homes totaled 226,000 units in March 2014, a decrease of 14.4 percent from February. Sales of existing single-family homes decreased by 2.3 percent to 1,680,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from February to March 2014.

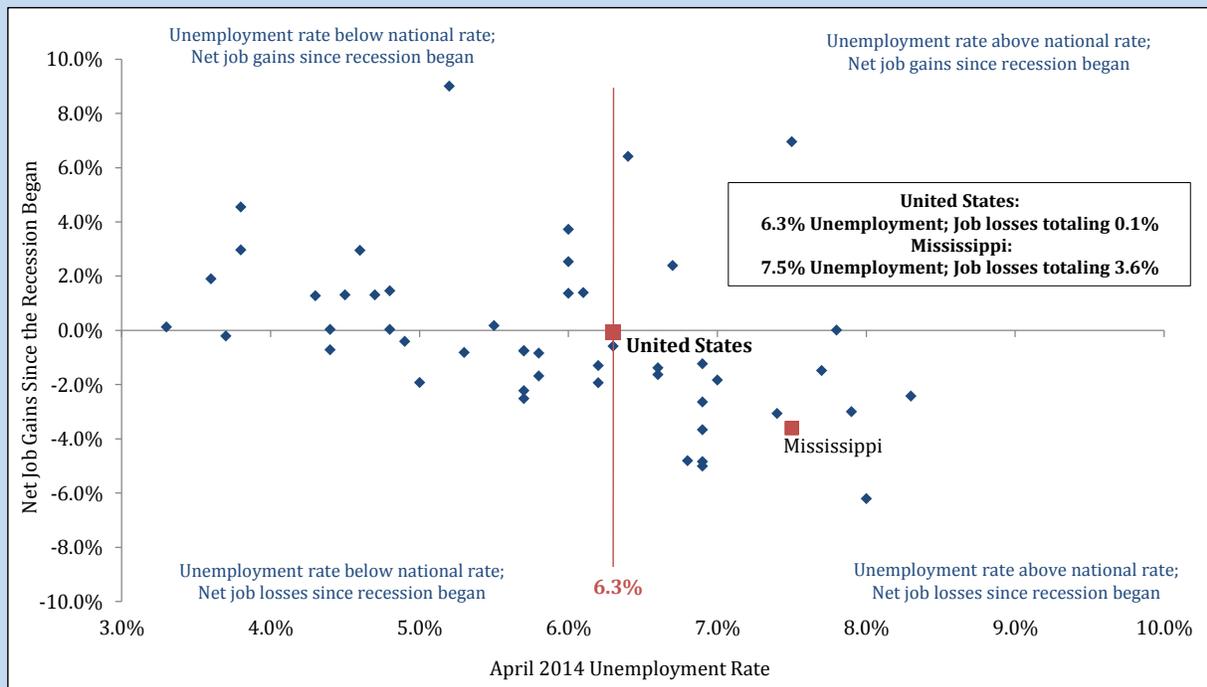
* For Mississippi-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Mississippi office: <http://mdes.ms.gov/information-center/labor-market-information/>

How Does Mississippi Compare to Other States?

Workers across the country were hit hard during the recent recession. Since then, employment in some states has returned to pre-recession levels, while employment in other states remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows for a comparison of Mississippi to other states using two metrics.

The unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor-market conditions in Mississippi, while net job gains since the recession began (current nonfarm jobs as a share of jobs prior to the recession) measures progress toward labor-market recovery (vertical axis).

States falling in the upper left quadrant have net job gains since the start of the recession and unemployment rates lower than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower right quadrant have higher unemployment rates than the United States overall and are still experiencing net job losses relative to pre-recession levels.



Note: The figure above excludes North Dakota, which has a current unemployment rate of 2.6% and net job gains totaling 27.3% since the start of the recession.

STATE QUICK FACTS

		Mississippi	United States
Unemployment Rates	April 2014	7.5%	6.3%
	April 2013	8.8%	7.5%
	April 2012	9.1%	8.2%
	April 2011	10.6%	9.1%
Percent of Population Who Are Veterans	2013	8.9%	9.0%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2013	9.2%	6.6%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2013	14.6%	9.0%
Median Household Income	2012	\$ 36,641	\$ 51,017
	(2012 \$) 2007	\$ 41,282	\$ 55,627
Poverty Rate	2012	22.0%	15.0%
	2007	22.6%	12.5%
No Health Insurance	2012	15.3%	15.4%
	2007	18.4%	14.7%