



Alabama Economic Update

September 20, 2016

Summary

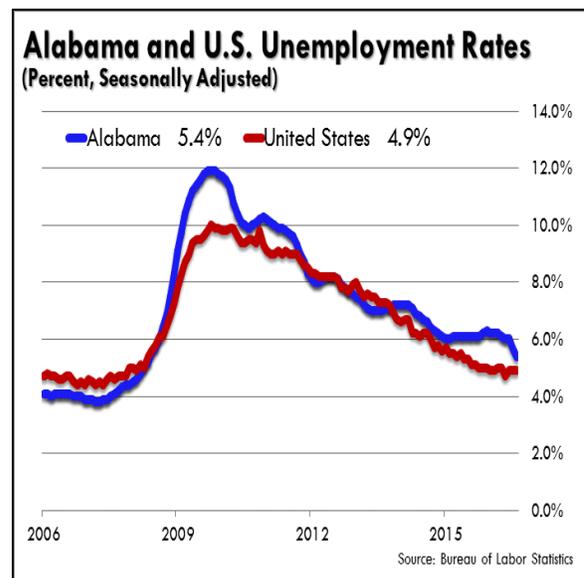
Nonfarm payroll employment in Alabama increased by 5,200 jobs, and the unemployment rate fell to 5.4 percent in August according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Alabama Unemployment Rate

During August, the unemployment rate in Alabama declined by 0.3 percentage point to 5.4 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 6,673 in August to 116,361, while the labor force fell by 6,165 to 2,156,308. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 34 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Alabama. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Alabama stood at 6.1 percent.

The 10-year peak for the unemployment rate in Alabama was 11.9 percent in November 2009. The series high for the unemployment rate in Alabama occurred in December 1982 when the unemployment rate reached 15.5 percent. The 10-year low for the unemployment rate was 3.8 percent in April 2007. This also represents the series low for the unemployment rate in Alabama. 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.



Alabama Payroll Employment

Alabama nonfarm payrolls increased by 5,200 jobs, or 0.26 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 2,900. Over the past 12 months, nonfarm payrolls in Alabama increased by 18,600, or 0.95 percent. Alabama nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

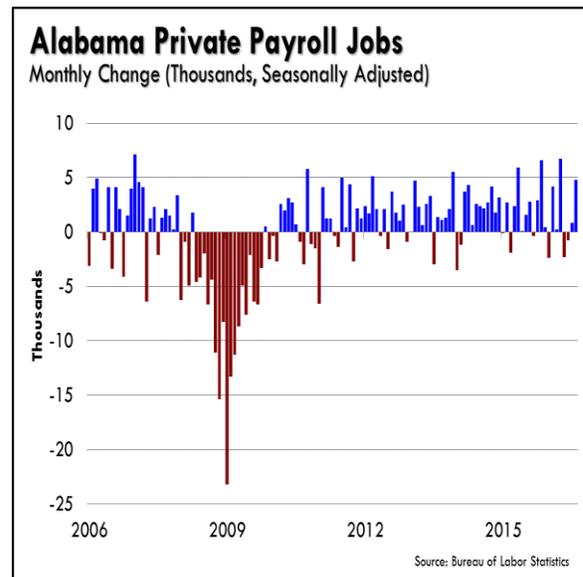
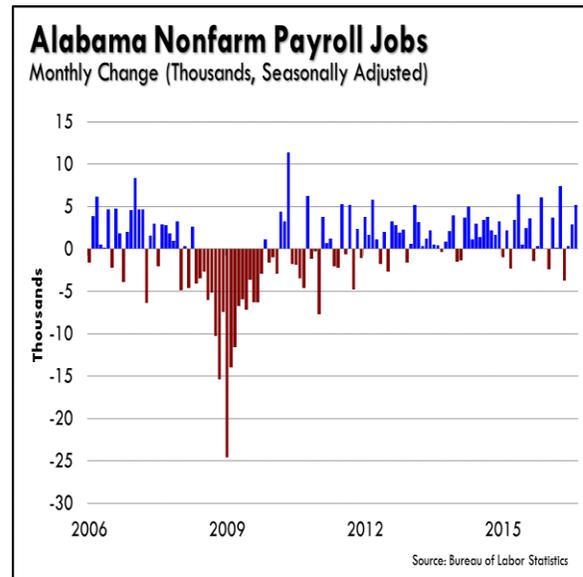
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 151,000 jobs in August, or 0.1 percent. Over the 12-month period ending August 2016, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,447,000 jobs, or 1.72 percent. Alabama ranks 39th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During August, Alabama private-sector payrolls increased by 4,800, or 0.30 percent. Private-sector payrolls increased by 800 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private-sector payrolls in Alabama increased by 20,700, or 1.32 percent. Alabama private-sector payroll employment has increased in 8 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. Alabama ranks 32nd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

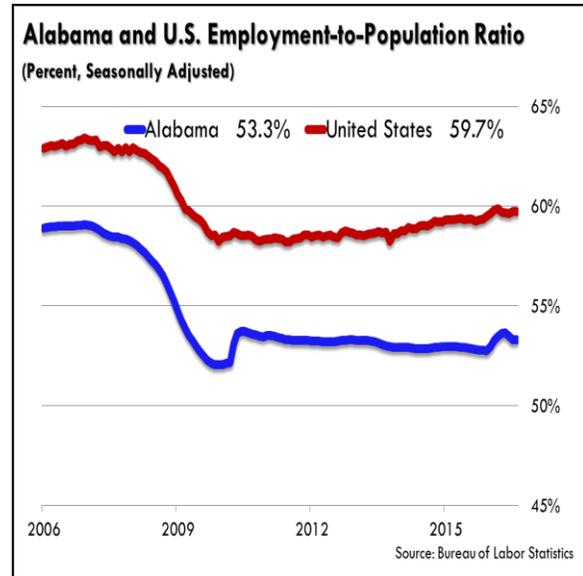
During August, total government payroll employment in Alabama increased by 400, or 0.11 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 400, or 0.75 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 600, or 0.55 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 600, or 0.28 percent.

Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 2,100, or 0.55 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 2,700, or 2.41 percent. Local government payroll employment declined by 300, or 0.14 percent.



The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during August were Professional & Business Services (+2,500) and Educational & Health Services (+1,600). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Leisure & Hospitality (-1,900) and Construction (-900).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+4,500) and Professional & Business Services (+4,400). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Construction (-3,500) and Total Government (-2,100).



Other Alabama Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Alabama declined to 56.3 percent in August from 56.5 percent the prior month. At 56.3 percent, Alabama has one of the five lowest labor force participation rates in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Alabama is 0.8 percentage point lower than 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 Alabama was 61.5 percent in December 2006. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Alabama occurred in September 1997 when the labor force participation rate hit 64.6 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 56.2 percent in October 2015. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Alabama.

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 Alabama civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 53.3 percent in August. At 53.3 percent, Alabama has one of the five lowest employment-

to-population ratios in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in Alabama is 0.4 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Alabama was 59.1 percent in December 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Alabama occurred in April 1998 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 61.4 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 52.0 percent in December 2009. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio was 50.7 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.