

Mississippi Employment Report

Joint Economic Committee

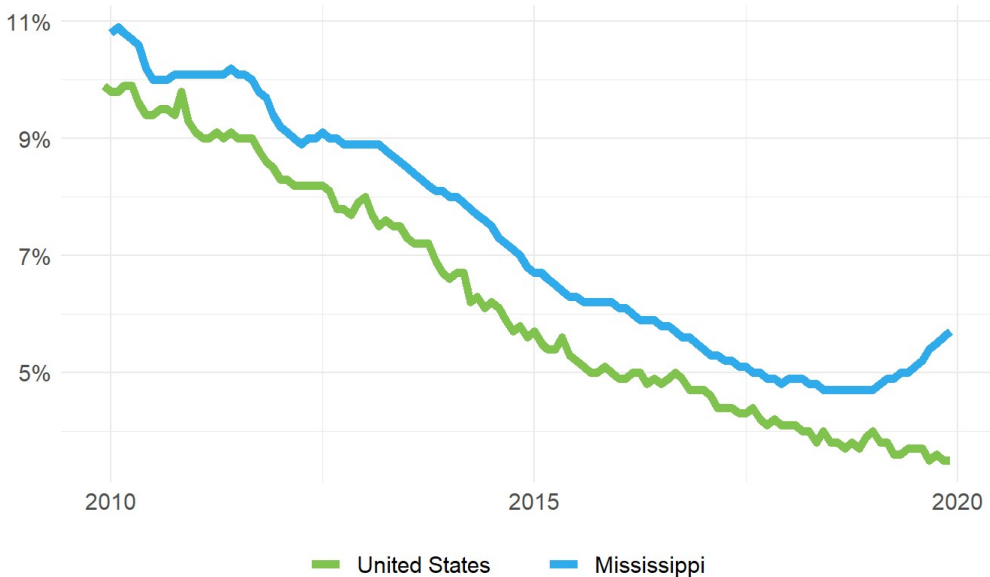
Senator Mike Lee, Chairman

January 24, 2020

Summary

- **Mississippi lost 1,400 net payroll jobs and the unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 5.7 percent in December**, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data released at 10:00am on January 24, 2020.
- **Over the past twelve months, Mississippi added 6,100 payroll jobs** and the unemployment rate rose by 1 percentage point from 4.7 percent.
- **In December, Mississippi's private sector lost 900 net private payroll jobs** and over the past twelve months it added 5,700 private payroll jobs in the establishment survey.
- In the household survey, the number of **unemployed rose by 101 on net in December**, and over the past year employment rose by 207.
- Mississippi's **labor force participation rate fell to 56.1 percent** in December from 56.2. Since last year, the labor force participation rate rose by 0.5 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **remained unchanged in December**. State employment and unemployment data for January is scheduled for release March 16, 2020. The national employment situation report for January will be released February 07, 2020.

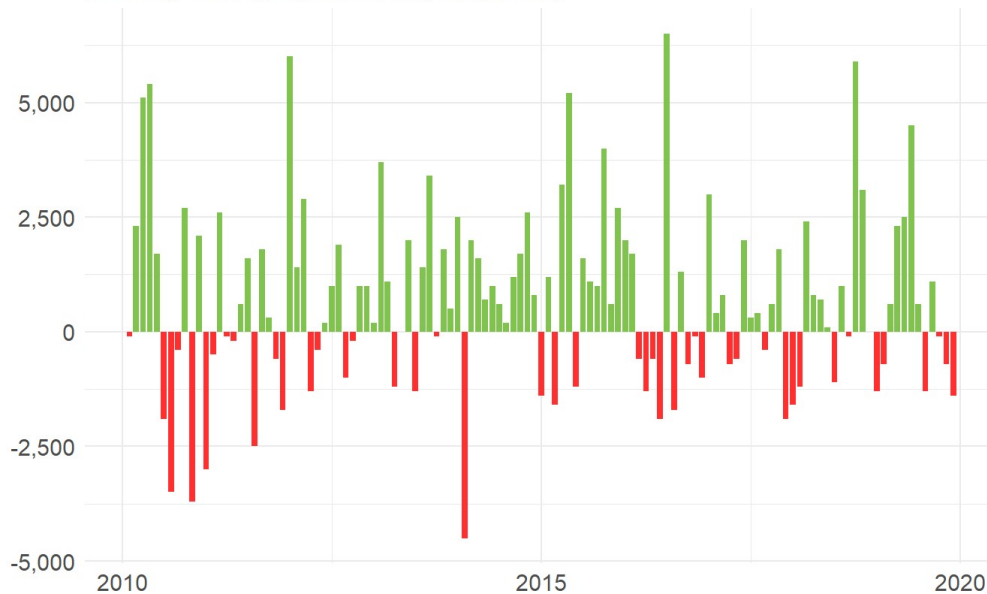
Mississippi and U.S. Unemployment Rates
(Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Mississippi Payroll Employment

Mississippi Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Monthly Change (Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Mississippi lost 1,400 net payroll jobs, or -0.1 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during December. In the prior month, Mississippi lost 700 jobs. Over the past twelve months, Mississippi added 6,100 payroll jobs, or 0.5 percent. Mississippi nonfarm payroll employment had increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls rose by 145,000 in December, or rose by 0.1 percent. Over the 12-month period ending with December, nonfarm payrolls rose by 2,108,000 jobs, or 1.4 percent. Mississippi is tied for 36th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During December, Mississippi's private-sector lost 900 jobs, or approximately -0.1 percent. The private-sector in Mississippi lost 800 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Mississippi added 5,700, or 0.6 percent. Mississippi private-sector payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs rose by 139,000 jobs in December, or 0.1 percent. Over the past 12 months, the national payroll rose by 1,947,000 jobs in the private sector, or rose by 1.5 percent. Mississippi is tied for 37th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for a percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

Change in Mississippi Payroll Employment by Sector over Past 12 Months



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, seasonally adjusted

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during December were Manufacturing (700) and Education and Health Services (500). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Government (-500) and Professional and Business Services (-1,400).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (3,200) and Leisure and Hospitality (2,600). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Mining and Logging (-200) and Professional and Business Services (-4,700).

Mississippi Labor Force Statistics

Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in Mississippi fell to 56.1 percent in December from 56.2 percent in the prior month. At a labor force participation rate of 56.1 percent, Mississippi ranks 50th in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Mississippi rose by 0.5 percentage point 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 Mississippi was 60.1 percent last occurring in January 2011. The series high for

the labor force participation rate in Mississippi occurred in April 2000 when the labor force participation rate hit 63.4 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 54.9 percent , last occurring in November 2014. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Mississippi.

The national labor force participation rate remained steady at 63.2 percent in December. That rate rose by 0.2 percentage point from a year earlier. The all-time high for the national labor force participation rate was 67.3 percent in April 2000. The 10-year high for the national labor force participation rate was 65.2 percent in April 2010.

The recent 10-year low occurred in September 2015 at a level of 62.4 percent. The series low for the national labor force participation rate was 58.1 percent in December 1954.

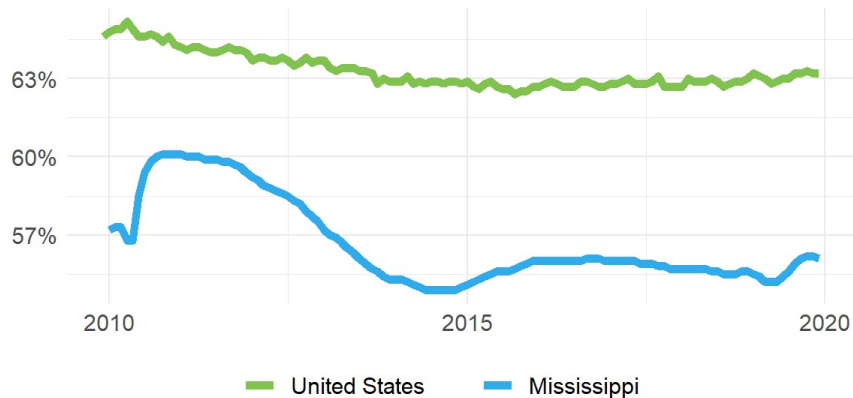
Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Mississippi civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, in December fell to 52.9 from 53 percent in the prior month. At 52.9 percent, Mississippi is tied for 50th among state employment-to-population ratios in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in Mississippi fell by -0.1 percentage point from a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Mississippi was 54 percent last occurring in January 2011. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Mississippi last occurred in May 2000 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 59.8 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 50.7 percent in April 2010. This also represents the series low for the employment-to-population ratio in Mississippi.

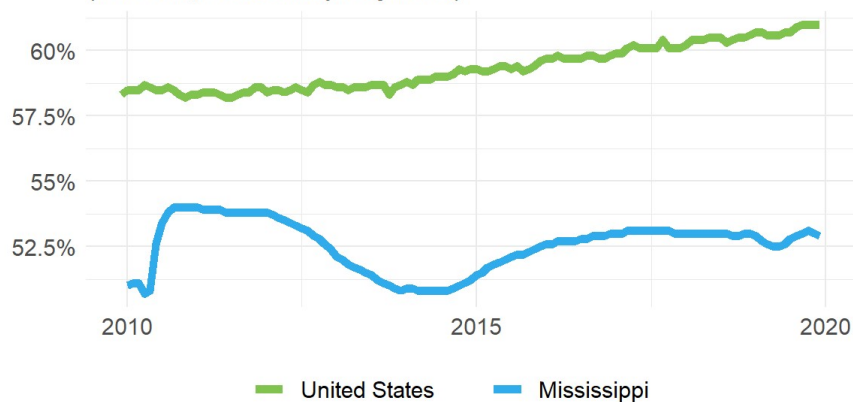
The national employment-to-population ratio remained steady at 61 percent in December. That rate rose by 0.4 percentage point from a year earlier. The all-time high for the national employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 percent in April 2000. The 10-year high for the national employment-to-population ratio was 61 percent in December 2019. The recent 10-year low occurred in July 2011 at a level of 58.2 percent. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio was 54.9 percent in October 1949.

Mississippi and U.S. Labor Force Participation Rates (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Mississippi and U.S. Employment-to-Population Ratios (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics