

# Mississippi Economic Update

November 20, 2015

## Summary

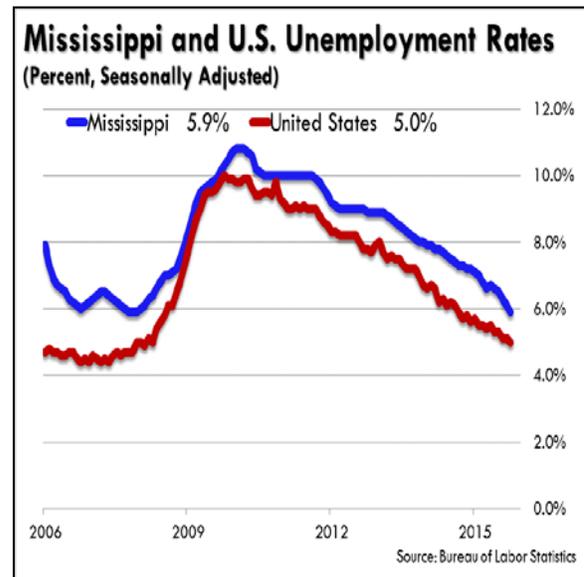
Nonfarm payroll employment in Mississippi increased by 200 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 5.9 percent in October according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## Mississippi Unemployment Rate

During October, the unemployment rate in Mississippi declined by 0.2 percentage point to 5.9 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 2,180 in October to 74,988, while the labor force grew by 5,871 to 1,278,565. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 41 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Mississippi. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Mississippi stood at 7.3 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Mississippi was 10.8 percent in March 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Mississippi occurred in April 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 12.8 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Mississippi was 5.9 percent in October 2015. The series low for the unemployment rate in Mississippi occurred in January 2001 when the unemployment rate reached 5.0 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 5.0 percent in October. October's unemployment rate was 0.7 percentage point lower than a year earlier. 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.



## Mississippi Payroll Employment

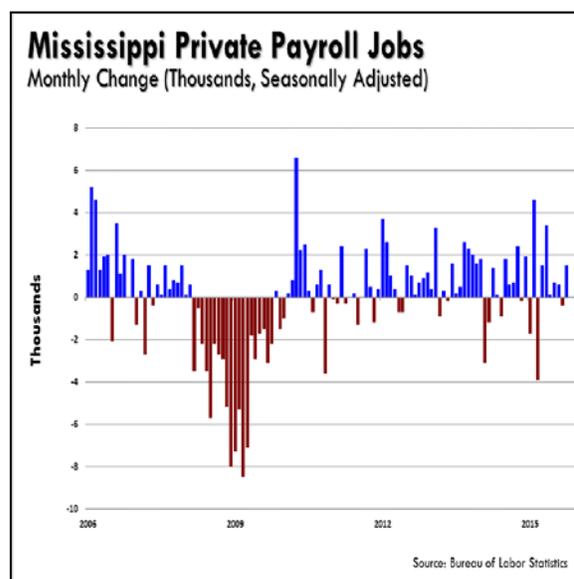
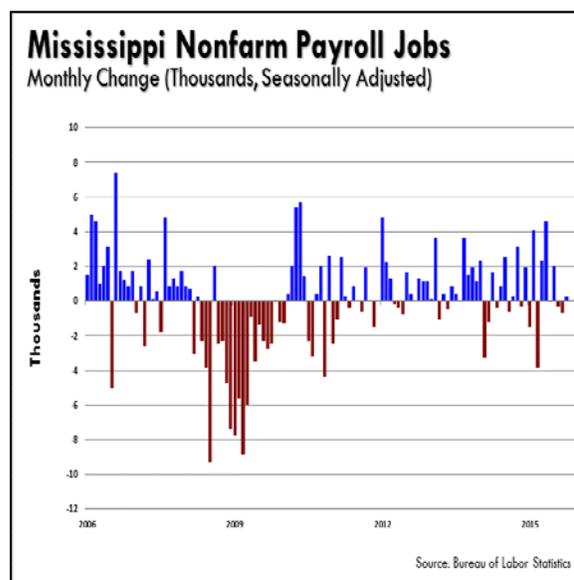
Mississippi nonfarm payrolls increased by 200 jobs, or 0.02 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during October. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 700. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Mississippi increased by 8,300, or 0.74 percent. Mississippi nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 271,000 jobs in October, or 0.19 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in October 2015 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,814,000 jobs, or 2.01 percent. Mississippi ranks 43rd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During October, Mississippi private sector payrolls increased by 1,500, or 0.17 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 400 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Mississippi increased by 8,100, or 0.92 percent. Mississippi private sector payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 268,000 jobs in 2015, or 0.22 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,709,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.30 percent. Mississippi ranks 43rd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During October, total government payroll employment in Mississippi declined by 1,300, or 0.53 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.40 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.16 percent, while local government payroll employment declined by 800, or 0.50 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 200, or 0.08 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.16 percent. Local government payroll employment declined by 500, or 0.31 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during October were Manufacturing (+1,200) and Construction (+500). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Total Government (-1,300) and Educational & Health Services (-800).

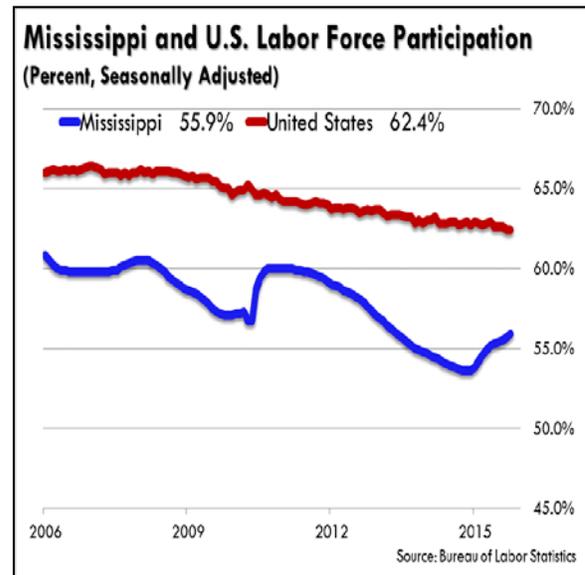
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Leisure & Hospitality (+2,900) and Manufacturing (+2,800). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Mining & Logging (-1,000) and Construction (-600).

#### Other Mississippi Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Mississippi rose to 55.9 percent in October from 55.7 percent the prior month. At 55.9 percent, Mississippi has one of the five lowest labor force participation rates in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Mississippi 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 Mississippi was 61.1 percent in December 2005. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Mississippi occurred in September 1994 when the labor force participation rate hit 63.5 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 53.6 percent in December 2014. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Mississippi.

The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 62.4 percent in October. That rate was 0.4 percentage point lower than a year earlier. At 62.4 percent, the labor force participation rate is at its lowest level since September 1977.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Mississippi civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 52.6 percent in October from 52.3 percent the prior month. At 52.6 percent, Mississippi has one of the five lowest employment-to-population ratios in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in Mississippi is 2.9 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Mississippi was 56.9 percent in January 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Mississippi 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 49.7 percent in December 2014. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in January 2015 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 49.7 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 59.3 percent in October. That rate was 0.1 percentage point higher than a year earlier, but still 0.1 percentage point lower than it was 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 November is scheduled for release on Friday, December 18. The national employment situation report for November will be released on Friday, December 4.

