

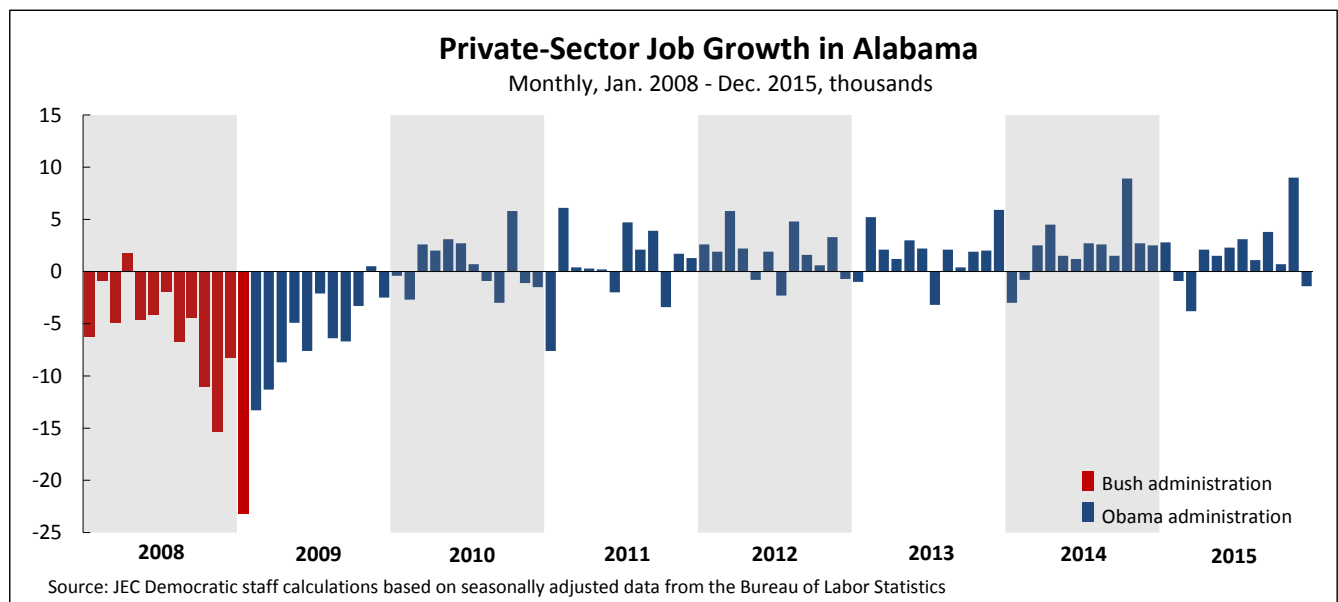


2015 YEAR IN REVIEW: ALABAMA

***Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs, unemployment and earnings data through December 2015**
Last updated on January 26th; January 2016 data will be released on March 14th*

JOBS

- In 2015, private-sector employment in Alabama grew by 20,300 jobs, an average of 1,690 jobs per month. This represents a slowdown in job growth from the 2,230 jobs per month added in 2014. In December, Alabama businesses shed 1,400 jobs.
- The state sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms in 2015 were: construction at 4.8 percent (3,900 jobs), financial activities at 2.5 percent (2,400 jobs) and leisure and hospitality at 2.5 percent (4,700 jobs).
- Since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment, Alabama businesses have added 107,900 jobs (an increase of 7.3 percent). Nationally, private payrolls have increased by 13.1 percent over this time.



UNEMPLOYMENT

- The Alabama unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point in 2015 and was 6.2 percent in December. The rate is 5.7 percentage points below its recent peak of 11.9 percent in November 2009.
- Unemployment in Alabama was 1.2 percentage points above the national rate of 5.0 percent in December. The rate was up 0.2 percentage point from November.
- There were 132,900 state residents unemployed in December, up 3,300 from one year prior.

EARNINGS

- Adjusting for inflation, average hourly earnings of private-sector workers in Alabama rose by 2.0 percent in 2015. Nationally, these earnings increased by 1.7 percent (not seasonally adjusted).
- In December, average hourly earnings of private-sector workers were \$21.34. The average workweek was 35.6 hours, and average weekly earnings were \$759.70.

STATE QUICK FACTS

		Alabama	United States
Private-Sector Jobs Added	In 2015	20,300	2.6 million
	Since Feb. 2010	107,900	14.1 million
Unemployment Rate	December 2015	6.2%	5.0%
	December 2014	6.1%	5.6%
	Recession-Era Peak	11.9%	10.0%
Median Household Income (2014 \$)	2014	\$42,300	\$53,700
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	\$48,200	\$57,400
Poverty Rate	2014	17.8%	14.8%
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	14.5%	12.5%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2014	5.6%	5.3%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2014	7.9%	7.2%
Percentage Without Health Insurance	2014	12.1%	11.7%
	2013	13.6%	14.5%

Note: full 2015 data are not yet available for many indicators on this page; they will be included in future reports

STATE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

- Real gross domestic product (GDP) in Alabama grew by 1.5 percent in 2014, below the national average growth rate of 2.2 percent.*
- Since 2009, annual Alabama GDP growth has averaged 1.5 percent, compared with a national average annual growth rate of 1.8 percent.

HOUSING

- Home prices in Alabama increased by 4.1 percent from the third quarter of 2014 to the third quarter of 2015. They are up 15.1 percent since their recent low in the second quarter of 2011.
- In November 2015, builders in Alabama broke ground on 14,320 new housing units (seasonally adjusted annual rate), bringing the average over the past 12 months to 13,543 units. That marks an increase of 8.8 percent from the average over the prior 12 months.

EXPORTS

- In Alabama, goods exports totaled \$1.6 billion in November and \$18.9 billion over the past year, up 6.0 percent from the 12 months ending in November 2014 (inflation-adjusted).
- Exports over the past 12 months are up 48.0 percent from their level in 2009 (inflation-adjusted).

* Note: Because of methodological differences, total U.S. real GDP by state differs slightly from headline national GDP figures

** A list of sources used to compile the Alabama economic snapshot is available at: <http://bit.ly/JEC-state-by-state-sources>

*** For additional Alabama-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Alabama office: <http://www2.dir.state.al.us/>