



IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH

Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee labor markets added jobs in September, while Louisiana lost jobs. Unemployment rates either decreased slightly or held steady in all American South states.

SEPTEMBER 2017

JOB WATCH

SECTOR GROWTH

Alabama saw the most jobs growth in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+3,200 jobs). Arkansas saw growth in Manufacturing (+1,300 jobs). Louisiana saw equal growth in Leisure and Hospitality and in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+900 jobs in each sector). Mississippi saw the most growth in Government (+6,000 jobs), and Tennessee saw the most growth in the Trade, Transportation and Utilities sector (+3,900 jobs).



CHALLENGES

Alabama and Mississippi have not recovered all jobs lost since the onset of the Great Recession. Currently, no American South state is creating enough jobs to keep pace with population growth.



NATIONAL OUTLOOK

The national labor market lost 33,000 jobs in September - the first incidence of negative job growth in seven years. This drop is almost certainly due to Hurricane Irma and the aftereffects of Hurricane Harvey. Highest job growth occurred in the Education and Health, Financial Activities, Professional and Business Services, and the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities sectors. National unemployment decreased slightly to 4.2 percent.

