



# Economics Group

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## Georgia's Unemployment Rate Remains Unchanged at 5.8 Percent

**Nonfarm payrolls added 9,100 positions in Georgia during September. The state's unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.8 percent, but the previous month's number was revised down by 0.1 percentage point.**

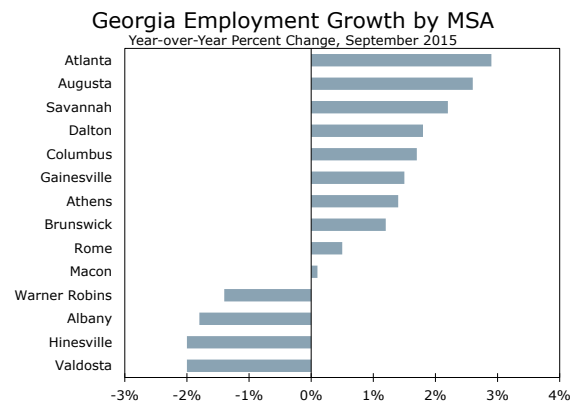
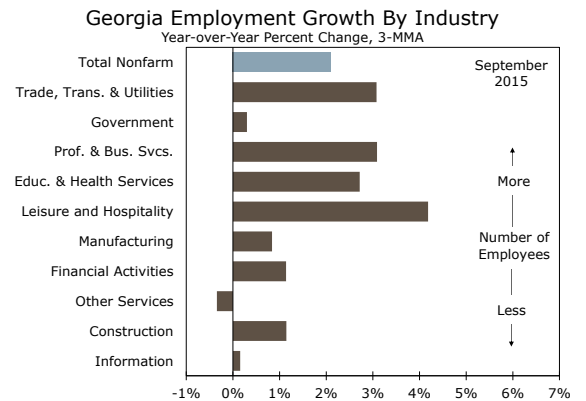
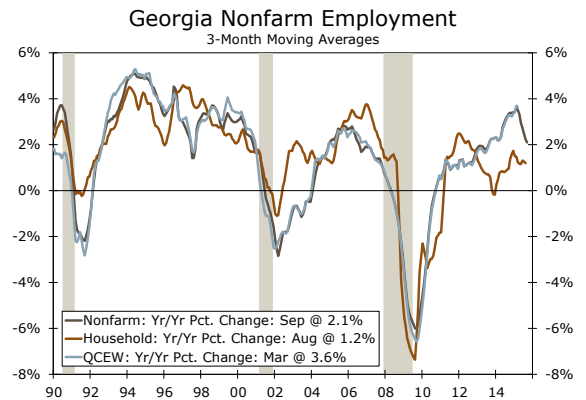
### Georgia's Recovery Remains Solidly on Track

Nonfarm employment continues to rise solidly across Georgia, with payrolls rising 0.2 percent in September, producing a net gain of 9,100 jobs. Hiring was bolstered by the start of the school year, which showed up in a larger than usual rise in state and local government payrolls during September. Private sector employment rose more modestly during the month, ticking up just 0.1 percent. While the start of the school year often leads to volatility in the employment statistics, state and local education is a growth industry in the Peach State. Enrollment at state universities and colleges continues to increase across the state, and public school systems continue to grapple with accommodating Georgia's increasing student population. Universities are also playing a growing role in economic development activity around the state.

Private sector payrolls grew by a relatively modest 0.1 percent in September, producing a net gain of 3,900 jobs. While hiring rose in most key industry categories, employment fell slightly in financial services and in professional & business services. Most of the weakness in the latter category was in administrative & support positions, which fell 1.1 percent in September. Employment in professional, scientific & technical services, which includes many occupations in the high-tech sector, continues to rise rapidly, with payrolls picking up 0.4 percent in September and 3.5 percent over the past year. Other key growth areas for the state include transportation & warehousing, where payrolls have risen 4.1 percent, and the leisure & hospitality sector, where employment rose 3.6 percent over the past year. By contrast, employment in construction is up just 0.7 percent year-to-year, despite several huge projects currently underway around the state, including the expansion of Plant Vogtle, near Augusta, the expansion and deepening of the Savannah River harbor and numerous commercial and residential projects in and around the Atlanta area.

Atlanta, Augusta and Savannah continue to lead the state in job creation. Atlanta has added 72,300 net new jobs over the past year, with strong gains in nearly every key category. The technology sector, logistics and the leisure & hospitality sector are all notable hot spots. Construction payrolls are also up sharply, with most of the gain coming in specialty trade contractors.

Augusta continues to see solid job gains, with nonfarm employment rising 2.6 percent over the past year. Hiring remains solid across most key industries but is being led primarily by growth in the region's key education & health care sector. Savannah has added 3,700 jobs over the past year, led by strong growth in professional & business services. Manufacturing payrolls are also up solidly over the past year, rising 4.3 percent.



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