



Data Digest: Alabama

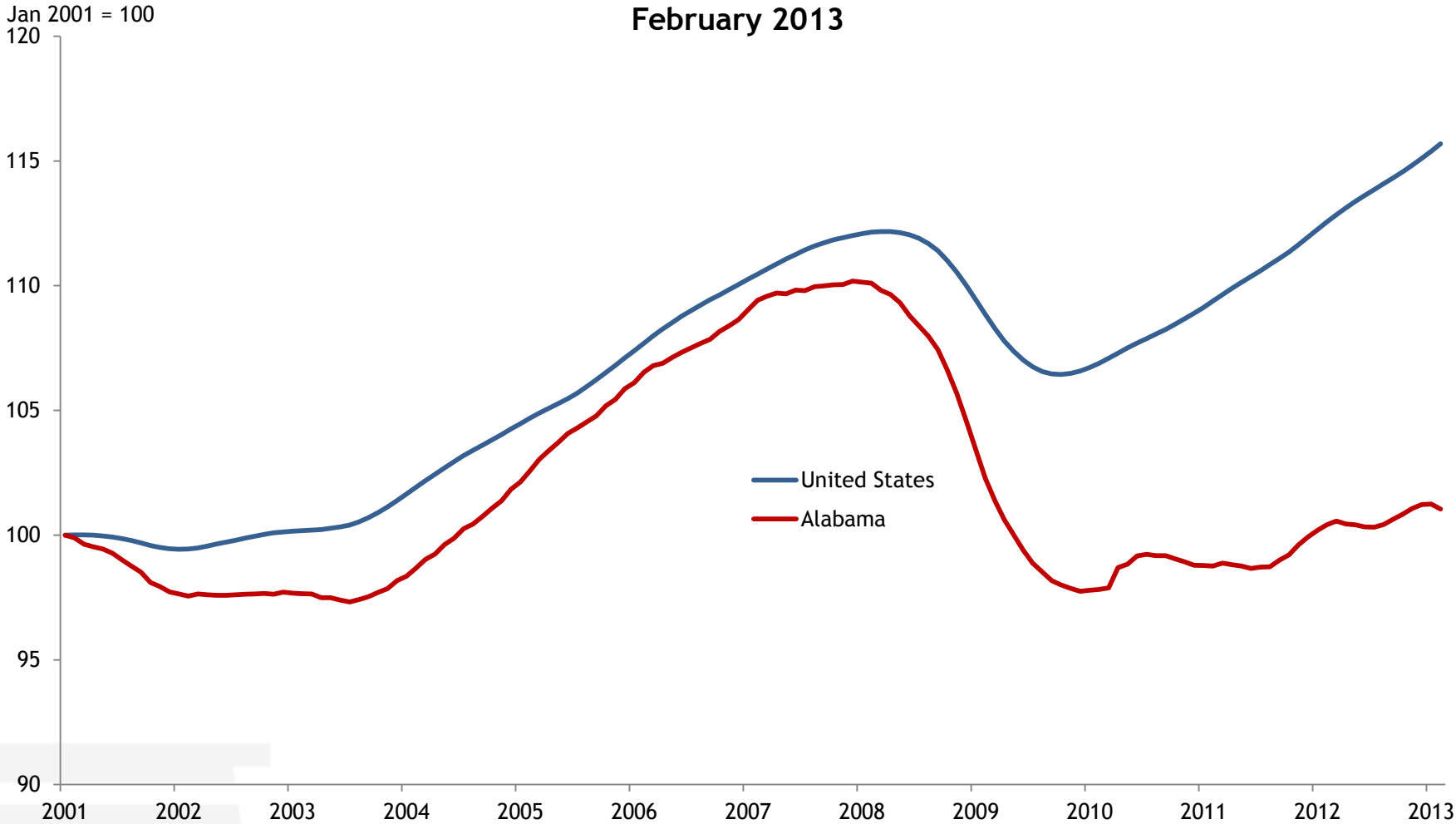
April 2013



Broad indicators of economic activity for Alabama remain well below the indicators for the United States.

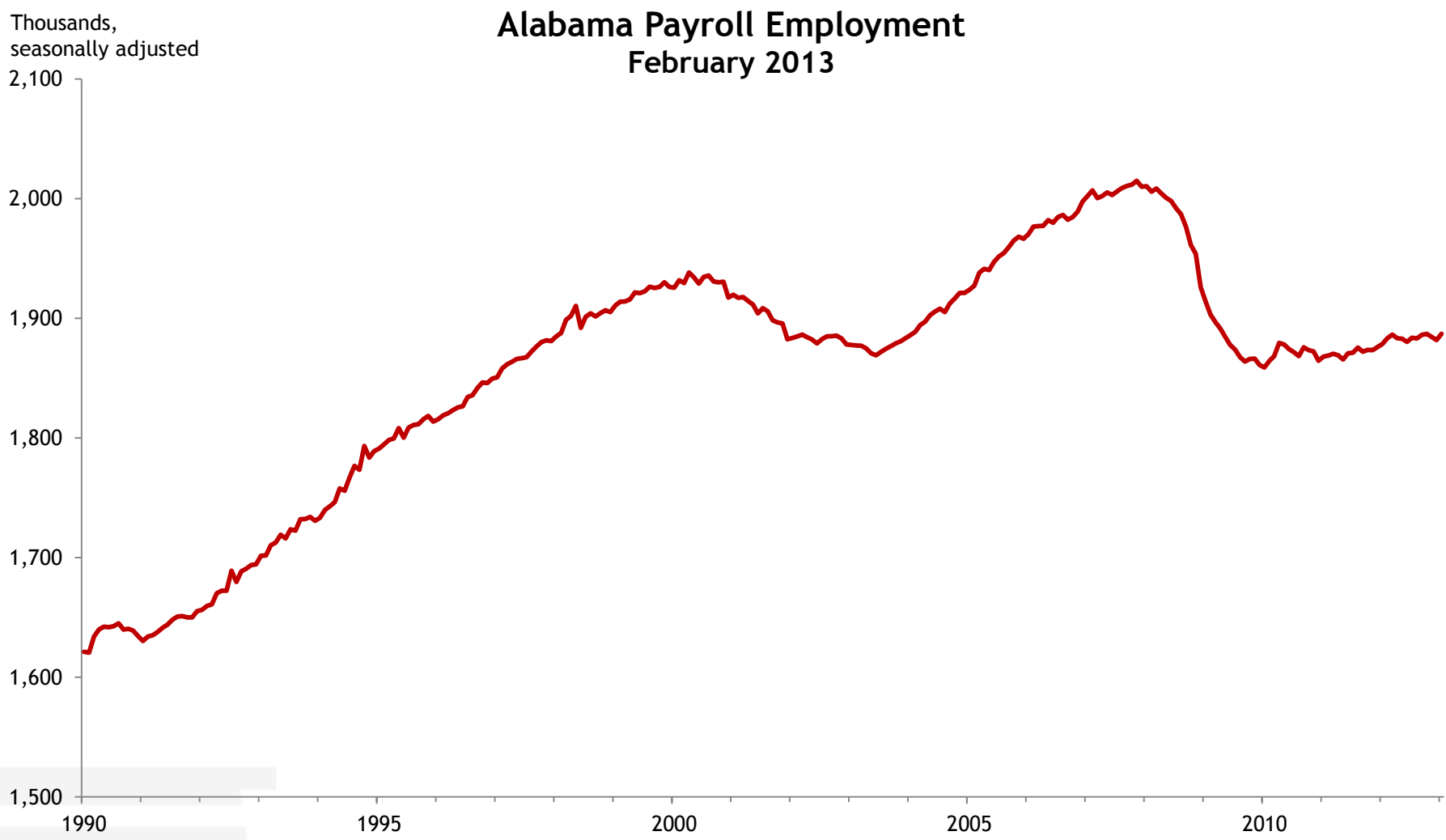
[About the Coincident Economic Indicator](#)

Coincident Economic Indicator
February 2013



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

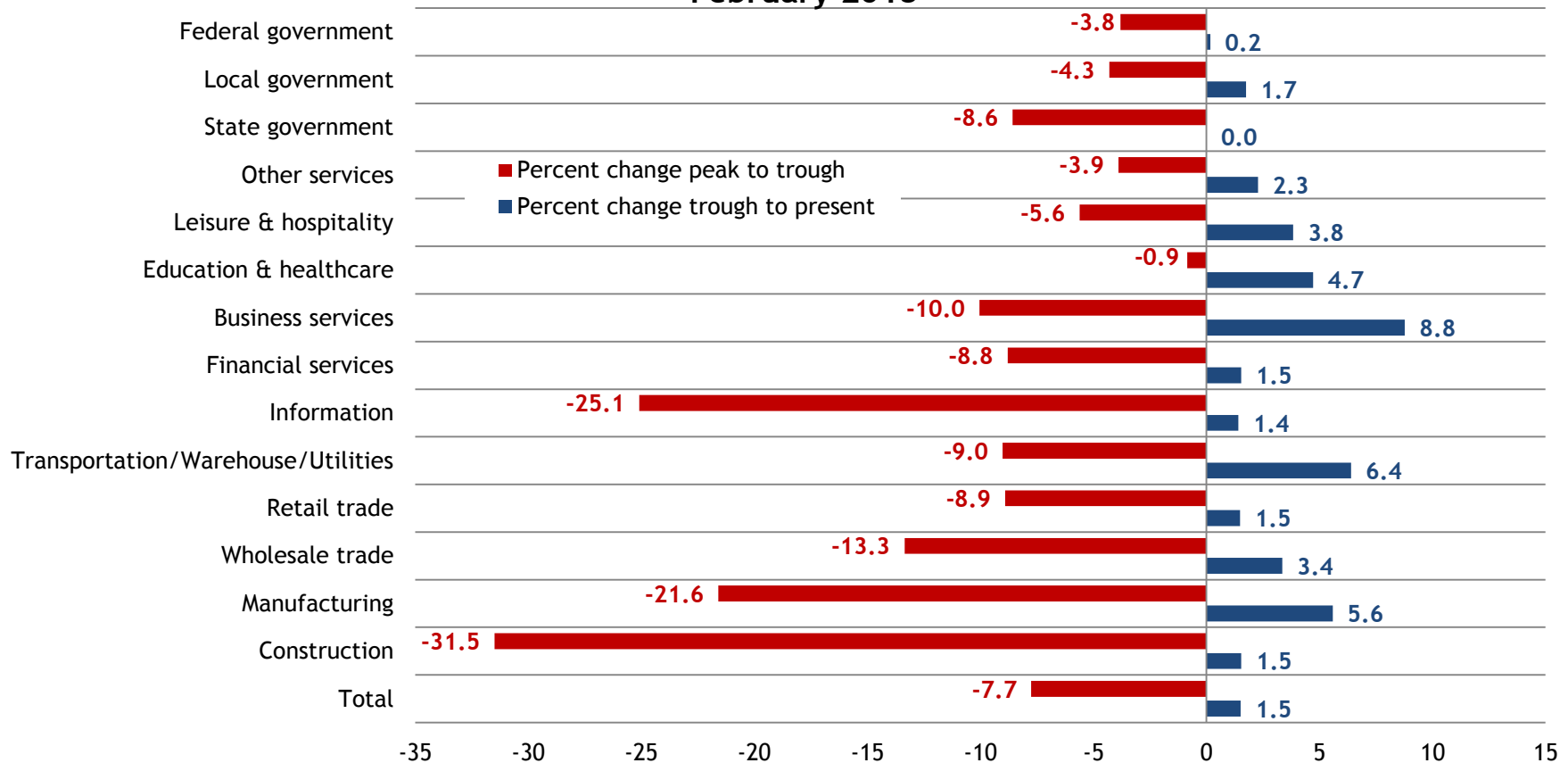
Total employment in Alabama increased slightly in January and February, but it continues to be well below prerecession levels.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics

All industries lost jobs during the downturn. The construction industry was the hardest hit, losing more than 31 percent of its jobs. Many sectors have seen job gains since their troughs, with business services experiencing the largest increase. State government continues to lose jobs.

Employment Loss and Gain by Industry: Alabama February 2013

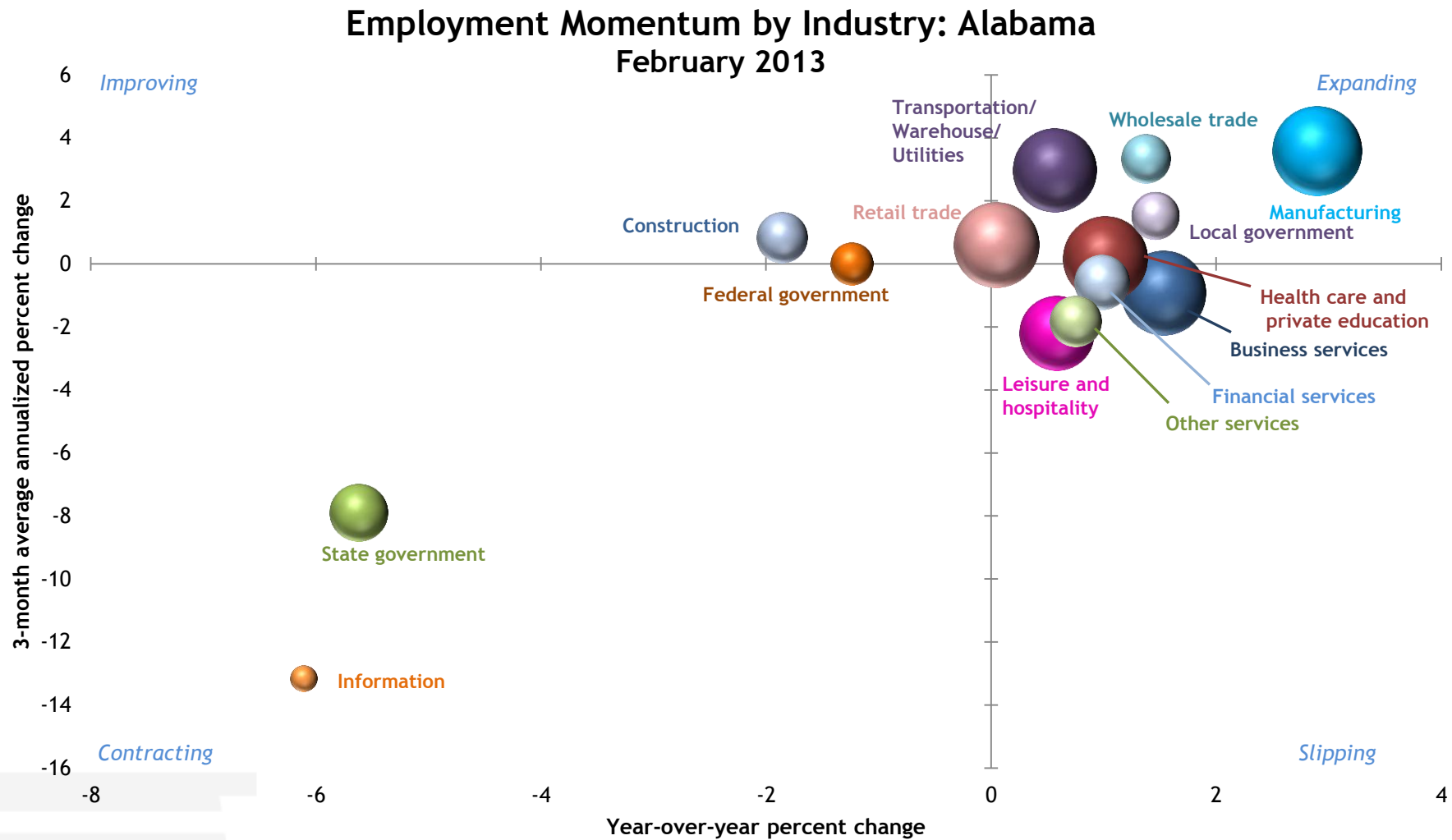


Note: A reading of 0.0 in the “trough to present” measure indicates that employment continues to decline in these industries. Likewise, a reading of 0.0 in the “peak to trough” measure indicates that employment continues to increase in these industries; in this instance “trough to present” is the percent change from January 2007 to present.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Employment momentum in manufacturing, local government, wholesale trade, health care and private education, and transportation/warehouse/utilities expanded in February. State government and information were the weakest sectors.

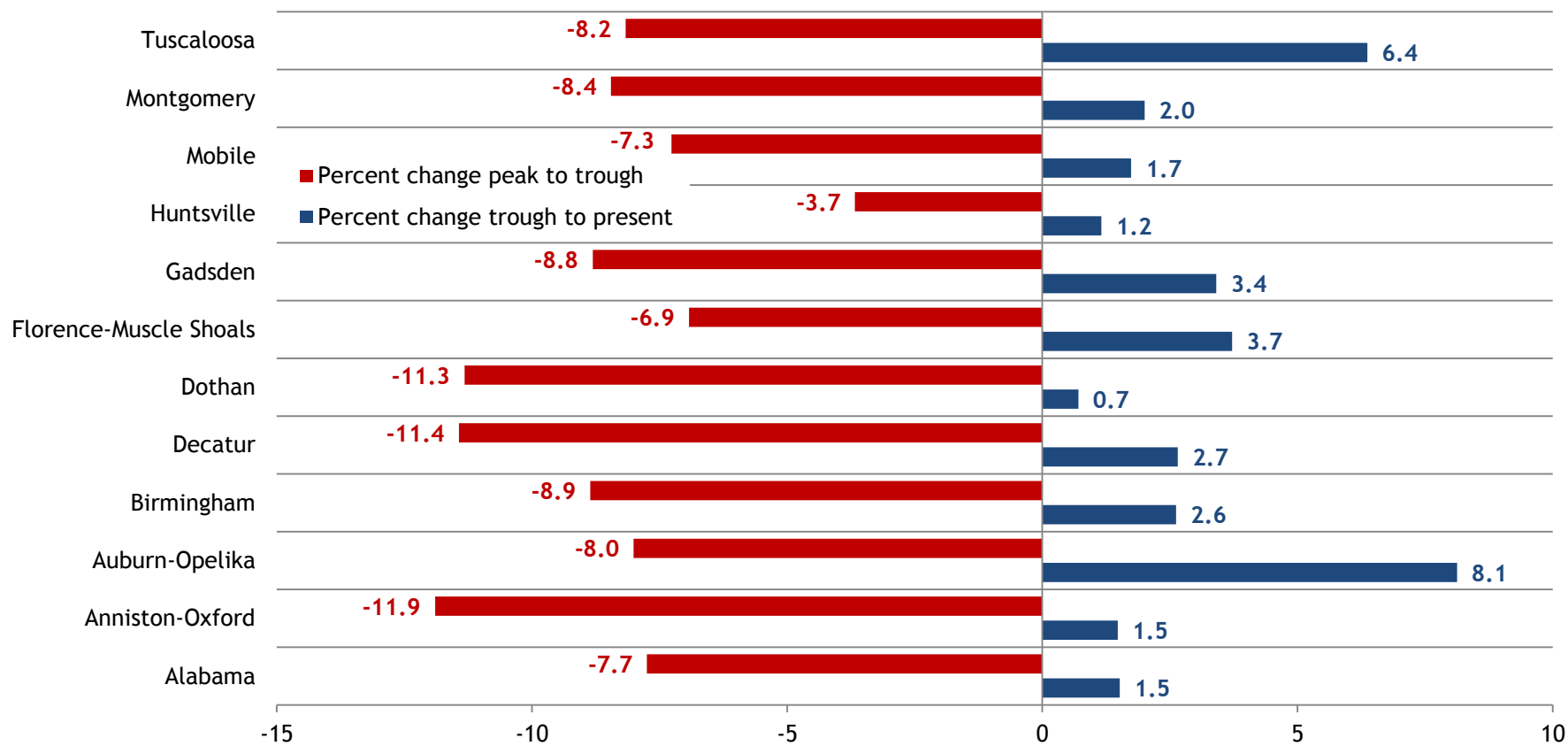
[About Employment Momentum](#)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Job losses occurred throughout the state during the downturn, but each of Alabama’s metro areas has slowly begun to rebound, with Auburn-Opelika and Tuscaloosa leading the pack.

Employment Loss and Gain by Metro Area: Alabama
February 2013

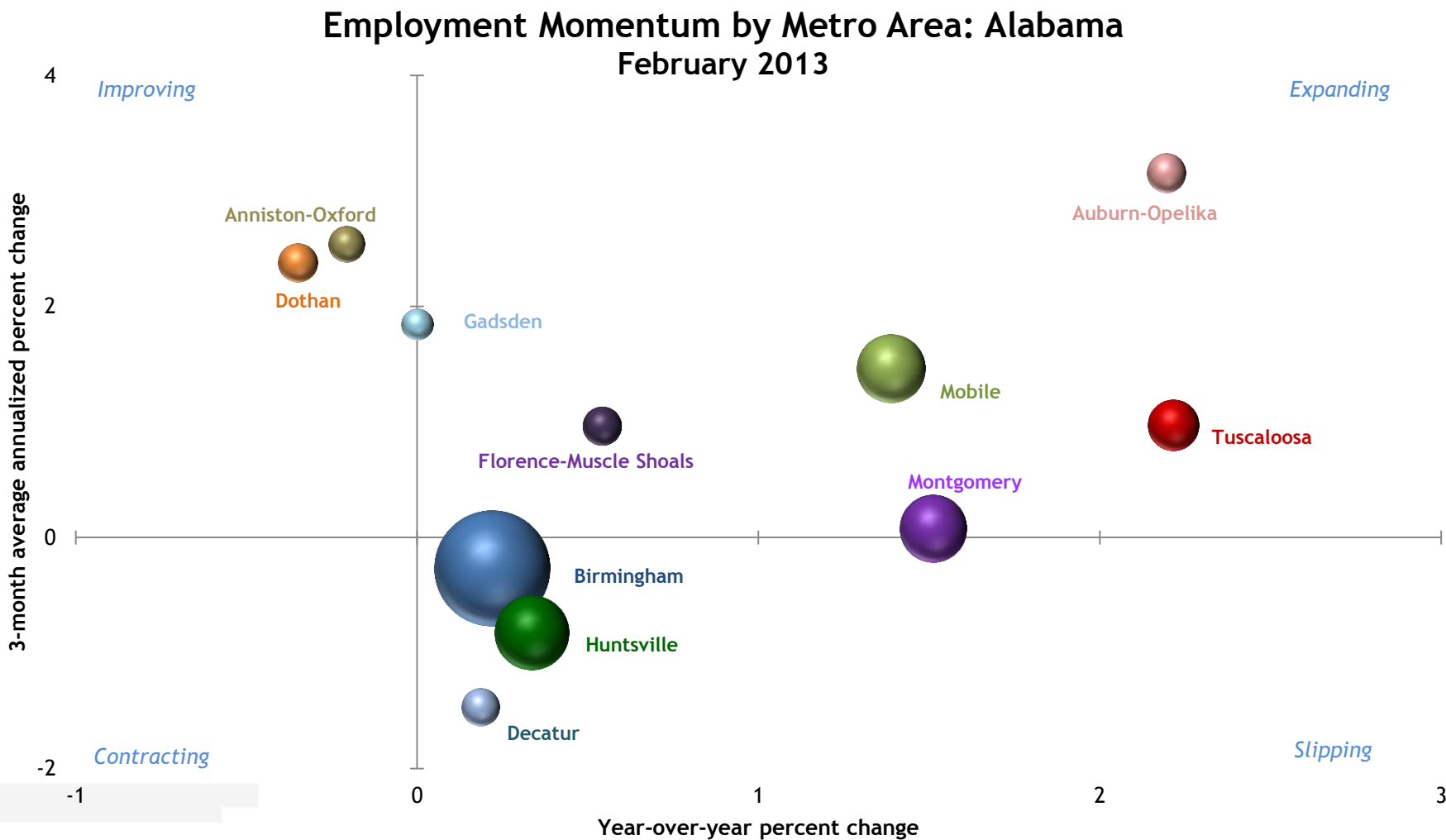


Note: A reading of 0.0 in the “trough to present” measure indicates that employment continues to decline in these metro areas. Likewise, a reading of 0.0 in the “peak to trough” measure indicates that employment continues to increase in these metro areas; in this instance “trough to present” is the percent change from January 2007 to present.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Employment momentum in Mobile and many of Alabama’s smaller metro areas expanded in February. Anniston-Oxford and Dothan were in the “improving” quadrant while momentum for Birmingham, Decatur, and Huntsville slipped.

[About Employment Momentum](#)



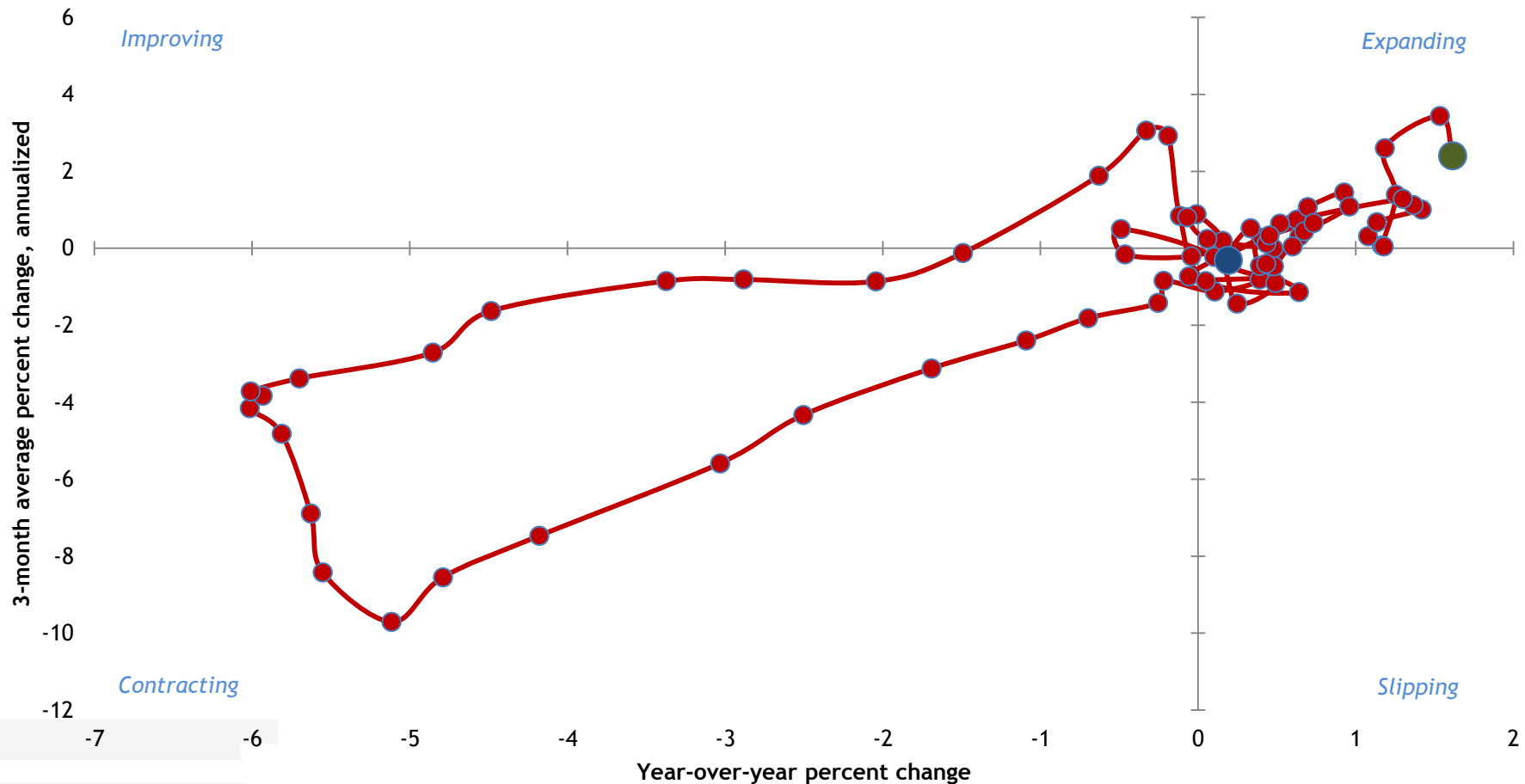
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

The state's employment momentum track varied extensively last year. During 2012, Alabama's employment momentum contracted in January, expanded in February, improved in March, then was in the "expanding" quadrant from April to December. It has contracted in both January and February this year.

[About Employment Momentum Track](#)

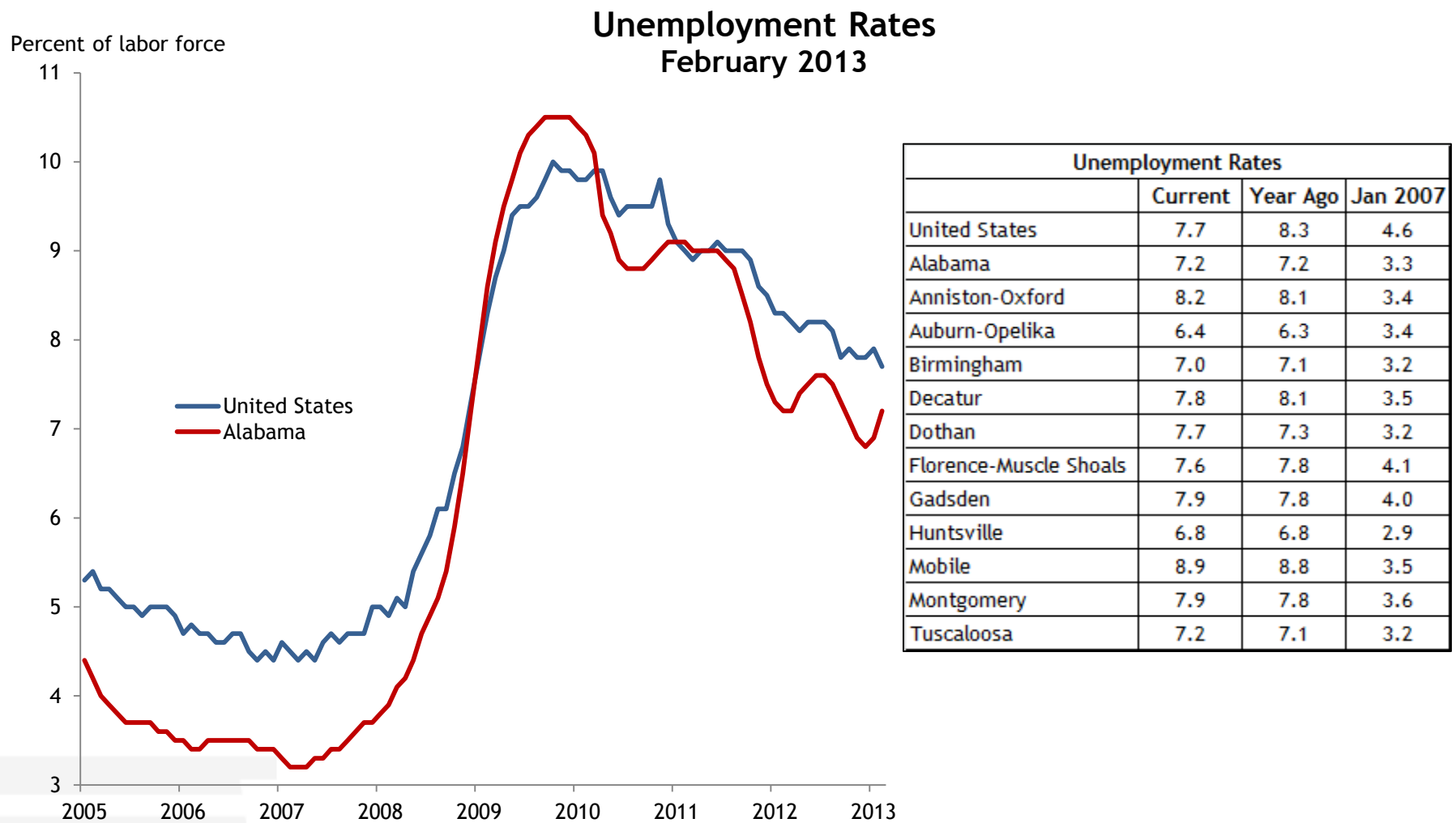
Employment Momentum Track: Alabama

January 2007-February 2013



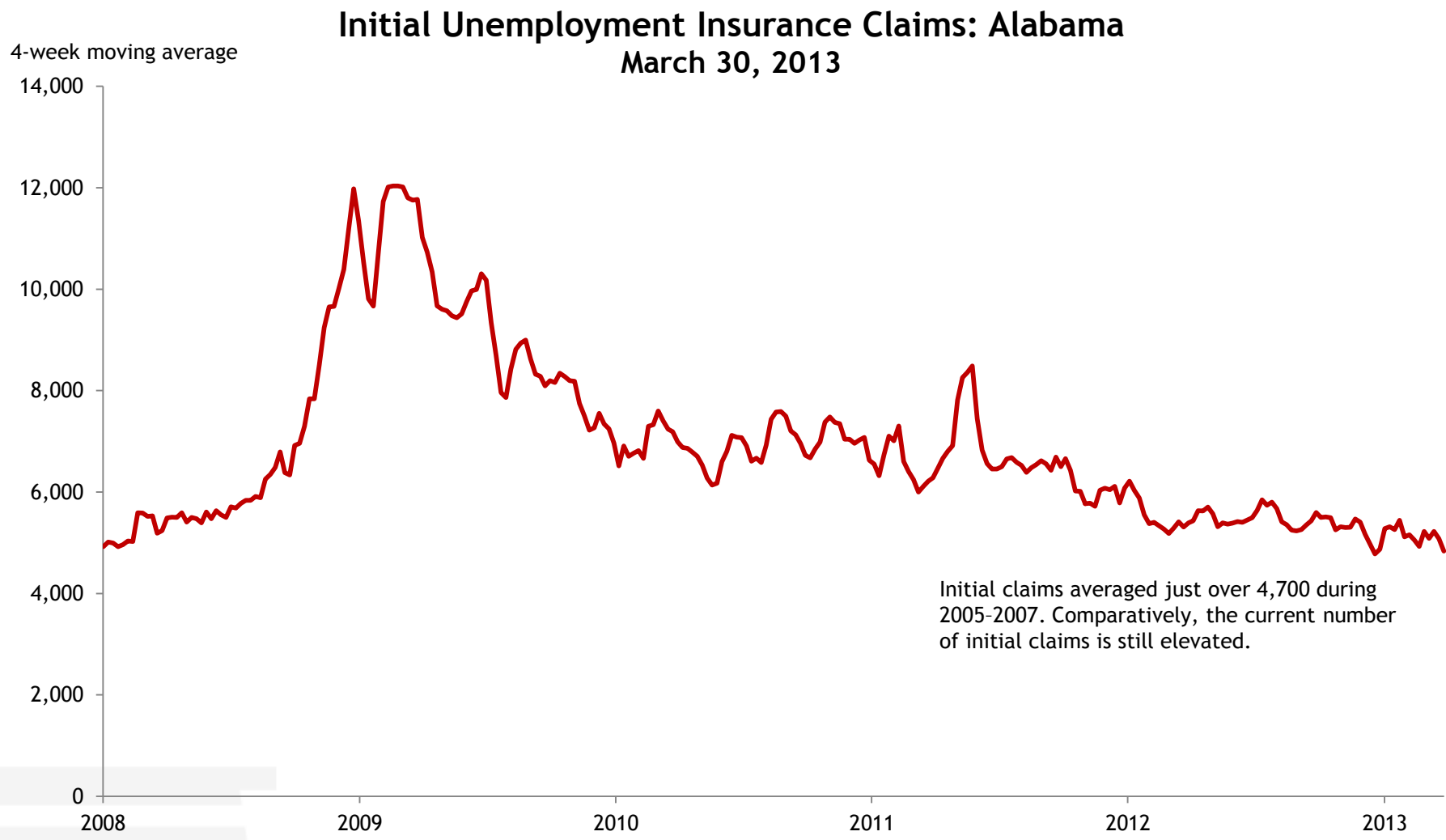
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Until the recession, Alabama's unemployment rate was well below the U.S. rate. Alabama's unemployment rate has been lower than the national rate since mid-2011.



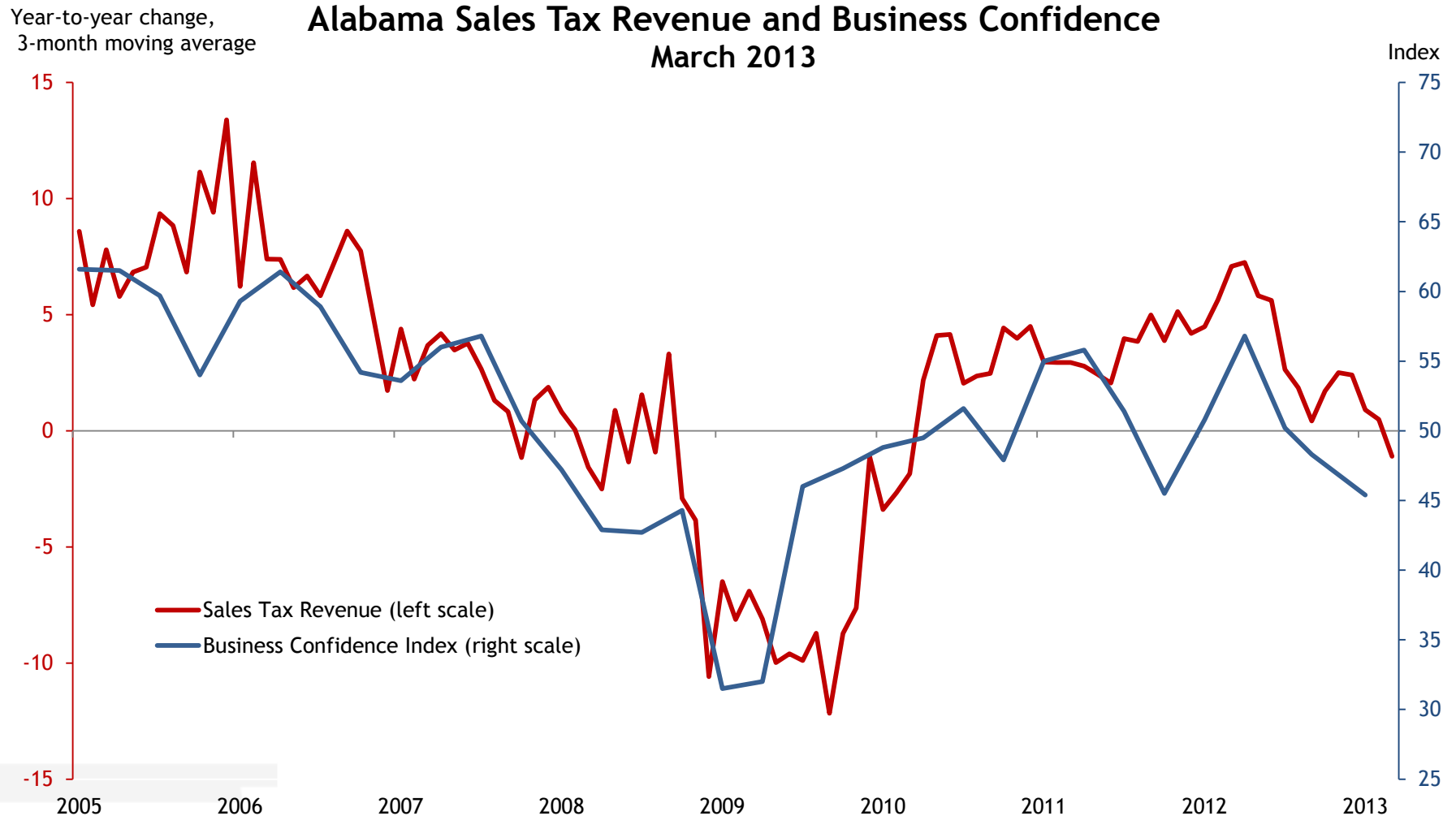
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics

The number of individuals filing initial claims for unemployment insurance decreased over the last month.



Source: U.S Department of Labor–Employment and Training Administration, Haver Analytics

Business sentiment, as measured by the University of Alabama's first quarter 2013 survey, fell further into negative territory. Sales tax revenue experienced negative year-over-year growth as well.

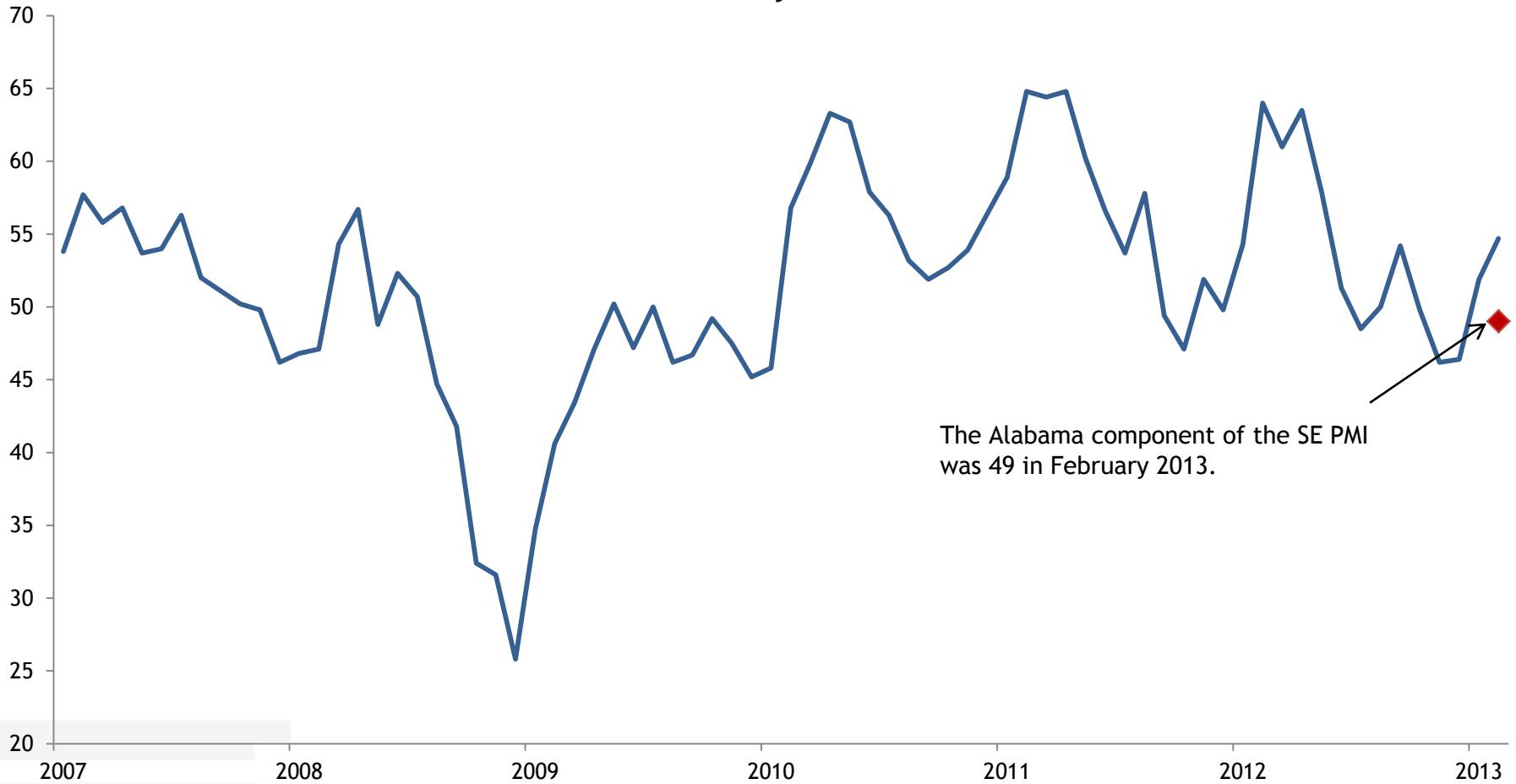


Note: Sales tax data are through March 2013; Business Confidence Index as of first quarter 2013.

Source: Alabama Department of Revenue, University of Alabama Center for Business and Economic Research, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Regional manufacturing activity expanded in January and February, according to the Southeast Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) produced by Kennesaw State University. The overall regional reading of 54.7 was in expansionary territory. Alabama's component of the PMI increased to 49 in February after being 45.7 in January.

Southeast Purchasing Managers Index February 2013



The Alabama component of the SE PMI was 49 in February 2013.

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

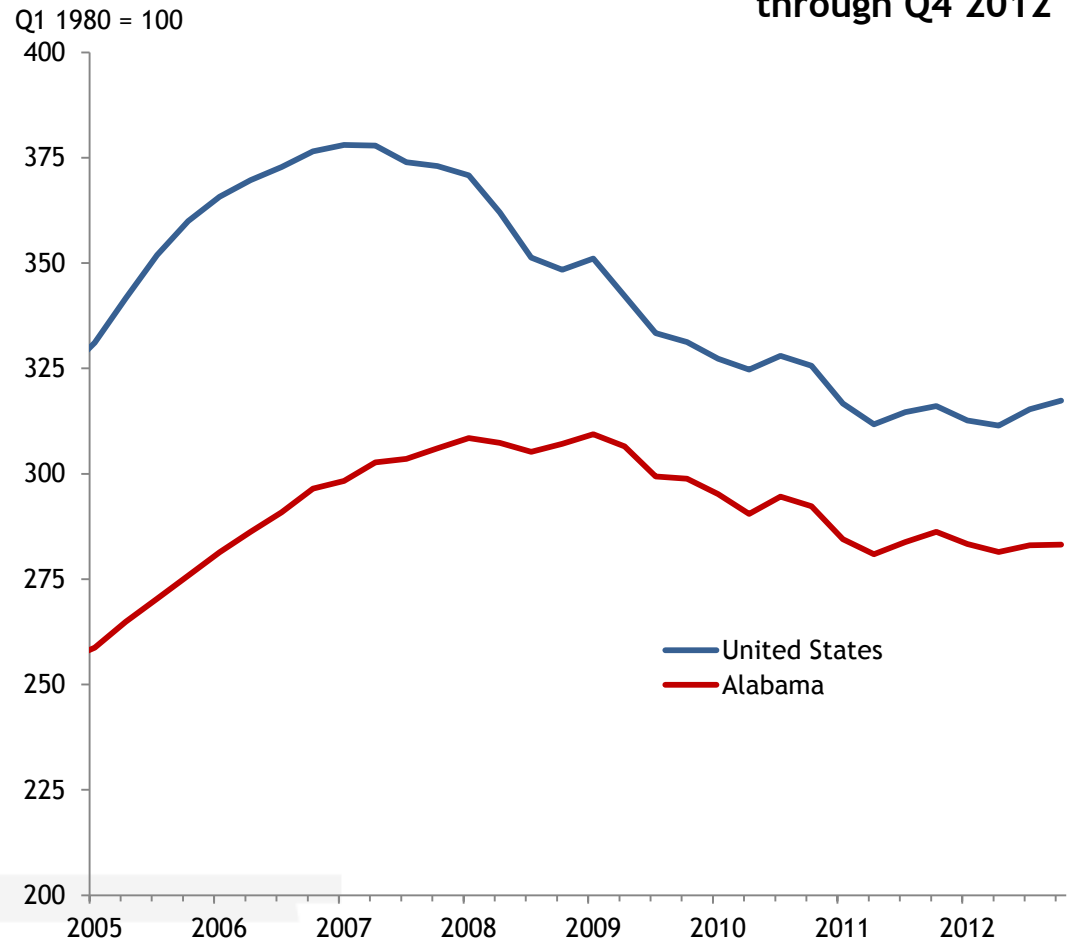
2013

Note: 50+ = Expansion

Source: Kennesaw State University, Coles College of Business Econometric Center

Home prices for Alabama remained basically flat in the fourth quarter. U.S. housing prices increased slightly in both the third and fourth quarters of 2012.

Federal Housing Finance Agency Home Price Index
through Q4 2012

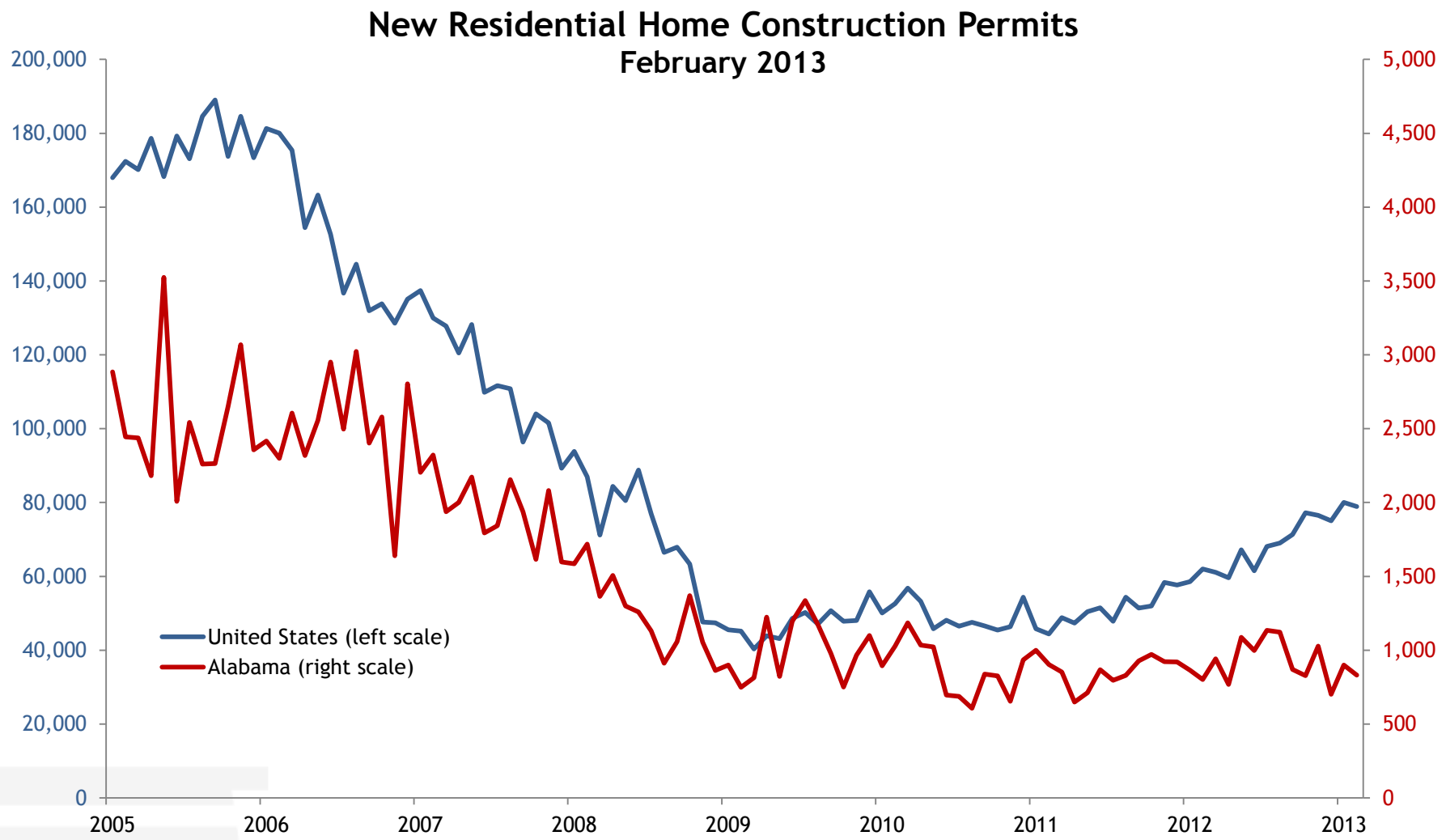


FHFA House Price Index: Q4 2012	1-yr % change	5-yr % change	10-yr % change
USA	0.4	-14.9	15.6
Alabama	-1.1	-7.5	20.2
Anniston-Oxford	0.5	-6.8	16.9
Auburn-Opelika	-2.3	-11.6	20.8
Birmingham	-1.3	-8.8	15.6
Decatur	-1.2	-0.2	18.4
Dothan	-0.5	-9.2	22.3
Florence-Muscle Shoals	1.0	1.4	26.7
Gadsden	-0.7	-3.0	21.8
Huntsville	-0.4	-1.7	27.1
Mobile	-4.4	-16.8	16.2
Montgomery	-3.0	-10.3	12.6
Tuscaloosa	0.9	-0.9	25.2

Source: Federal Housing Finance Agency, Haver Analytics

Source: Federal Housing Finance Agency, Haver Analytics, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

The number of new home construction permits issued in Alabama has been basically flat and remains near historically low levels of activity.



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Haver Analytics

For additional sources of information, see our Local Economic Analysis Research Network membership at www.frbatlanta.org/rein/learn/map/learn_members.cfm.