



Data Digest: Alabama

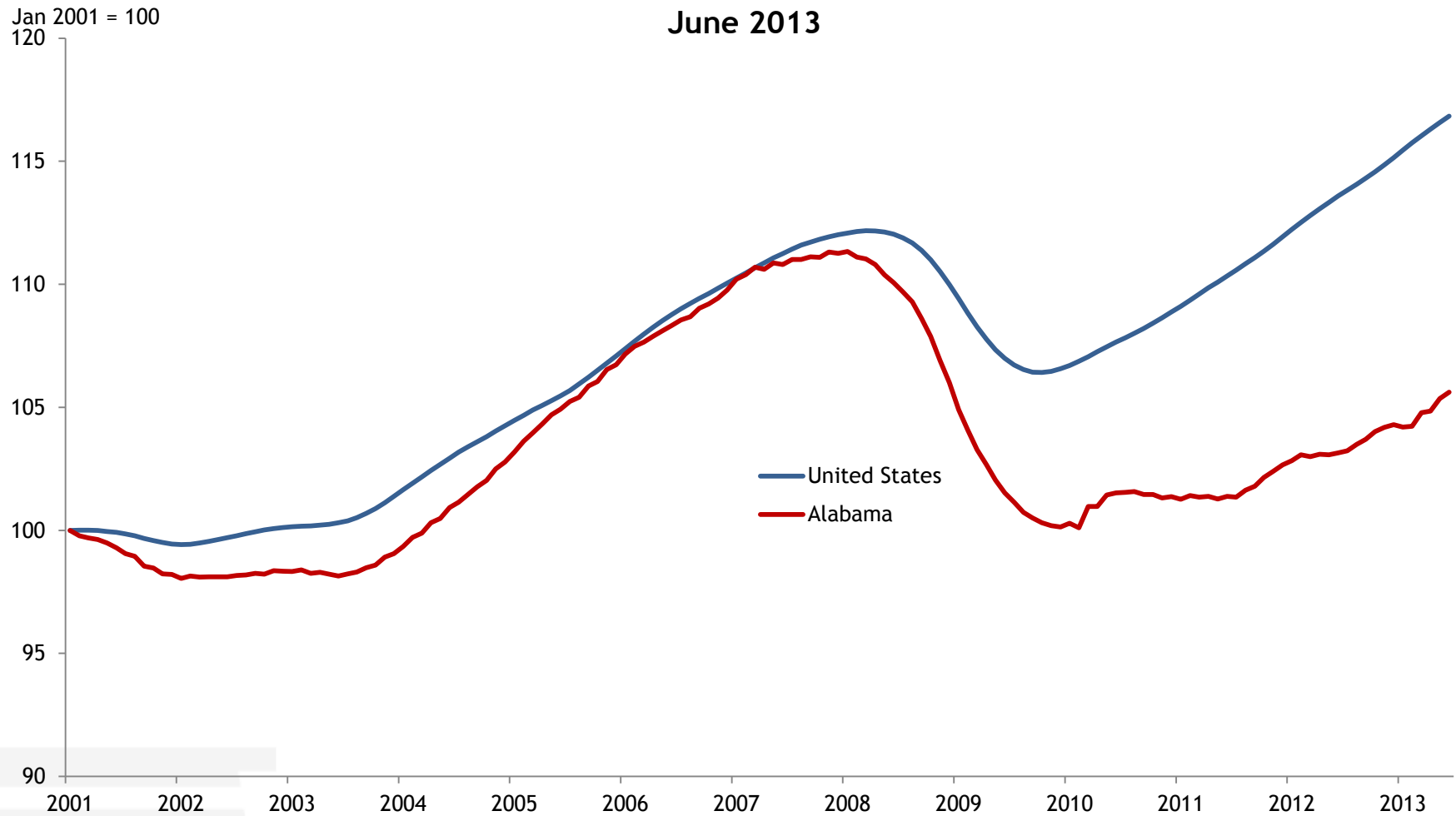
August 2013



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

[About the Coincident Economic Indicator](#)

Coincident Economic Indicator
June 2013

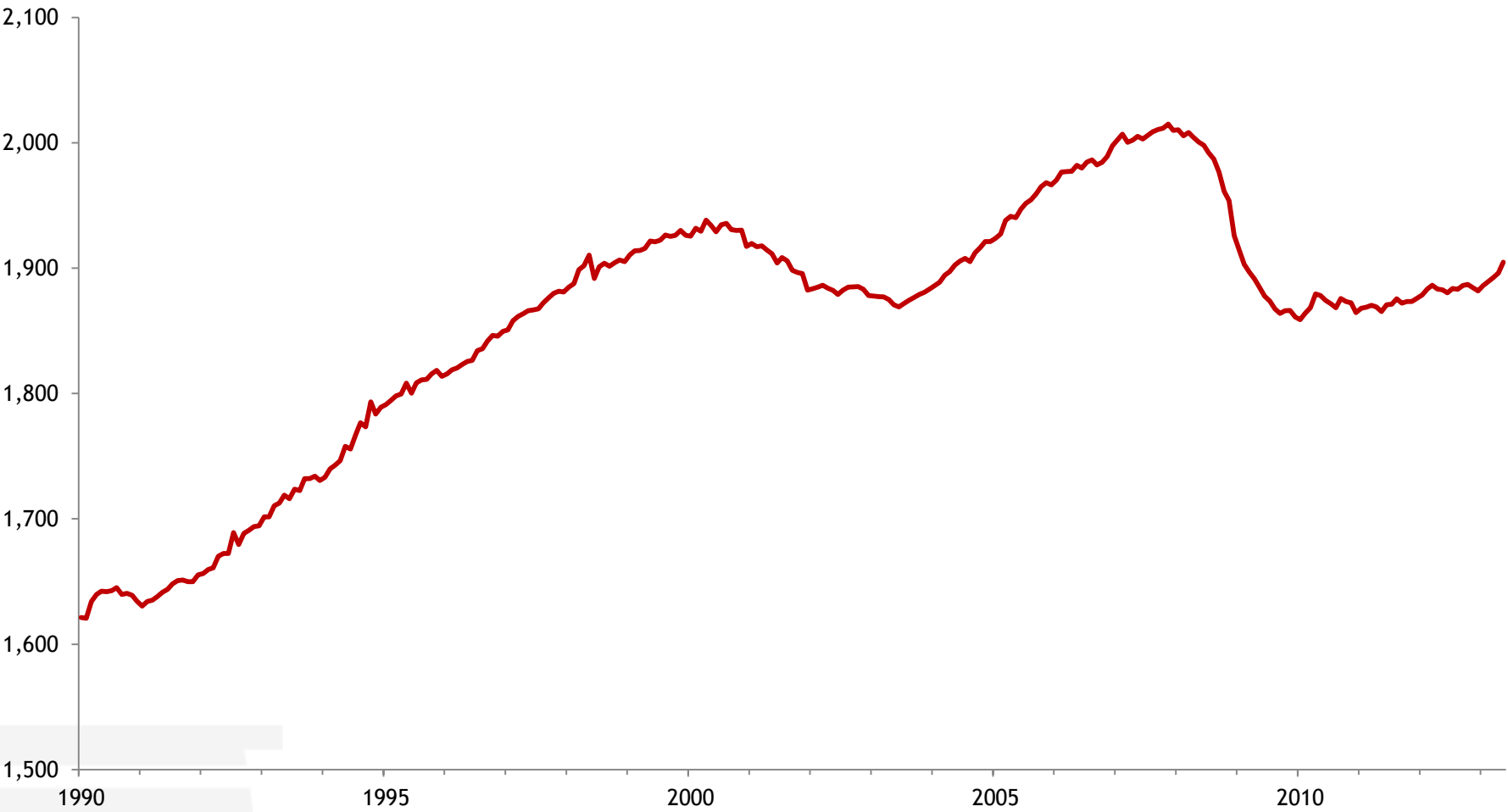


Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Total employment in Alabama has increased slightly during the first six months of 2013, but it continues to be below prerecession levels.

Alabama Payroll Employment June 2013

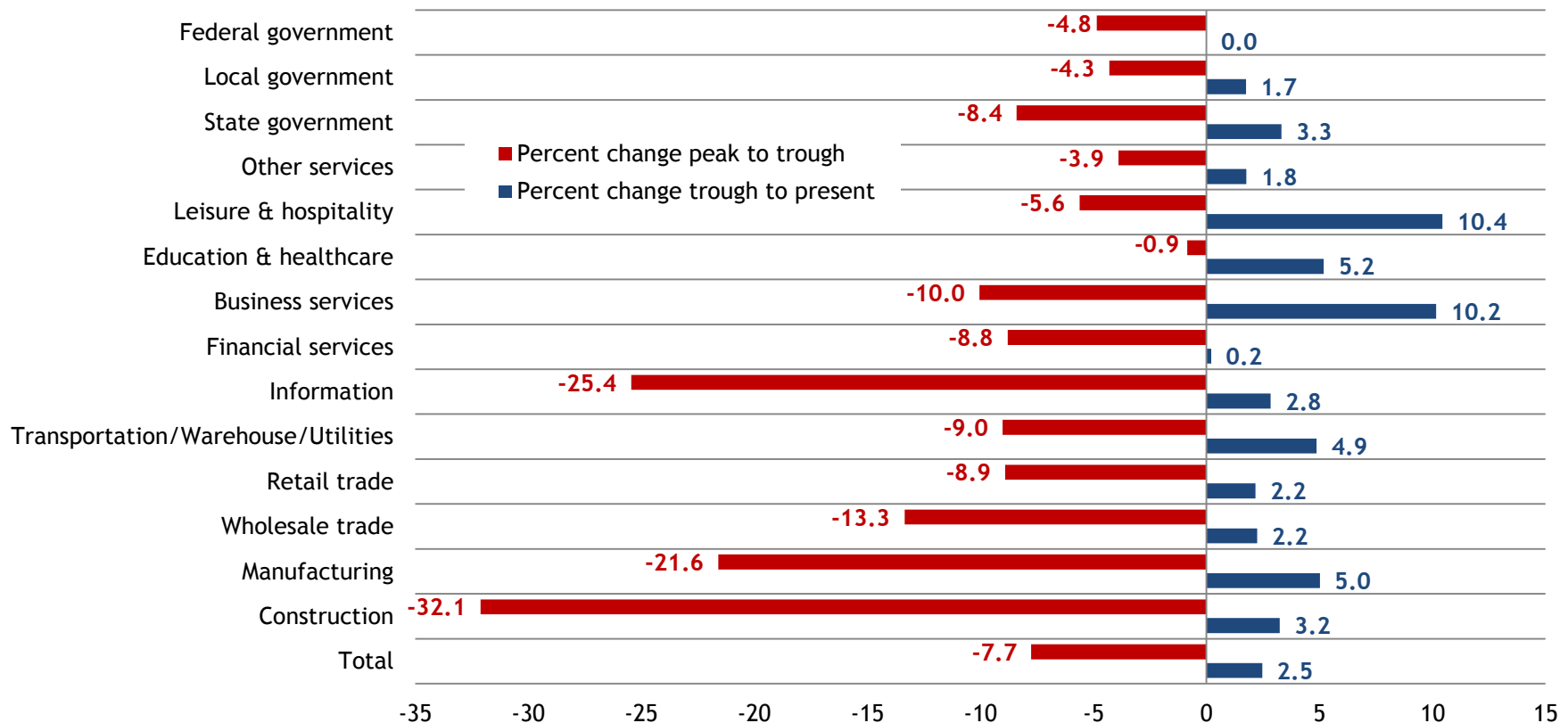
Thousands,
seasonally adjusted



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 32 percent of its jobs. All sectors except federal government have seen some job gains since their troughs, with leisure and hospitality and business services experiencing the largest increases.

Employment Loss and Gain by Industry: Alabama June 2013



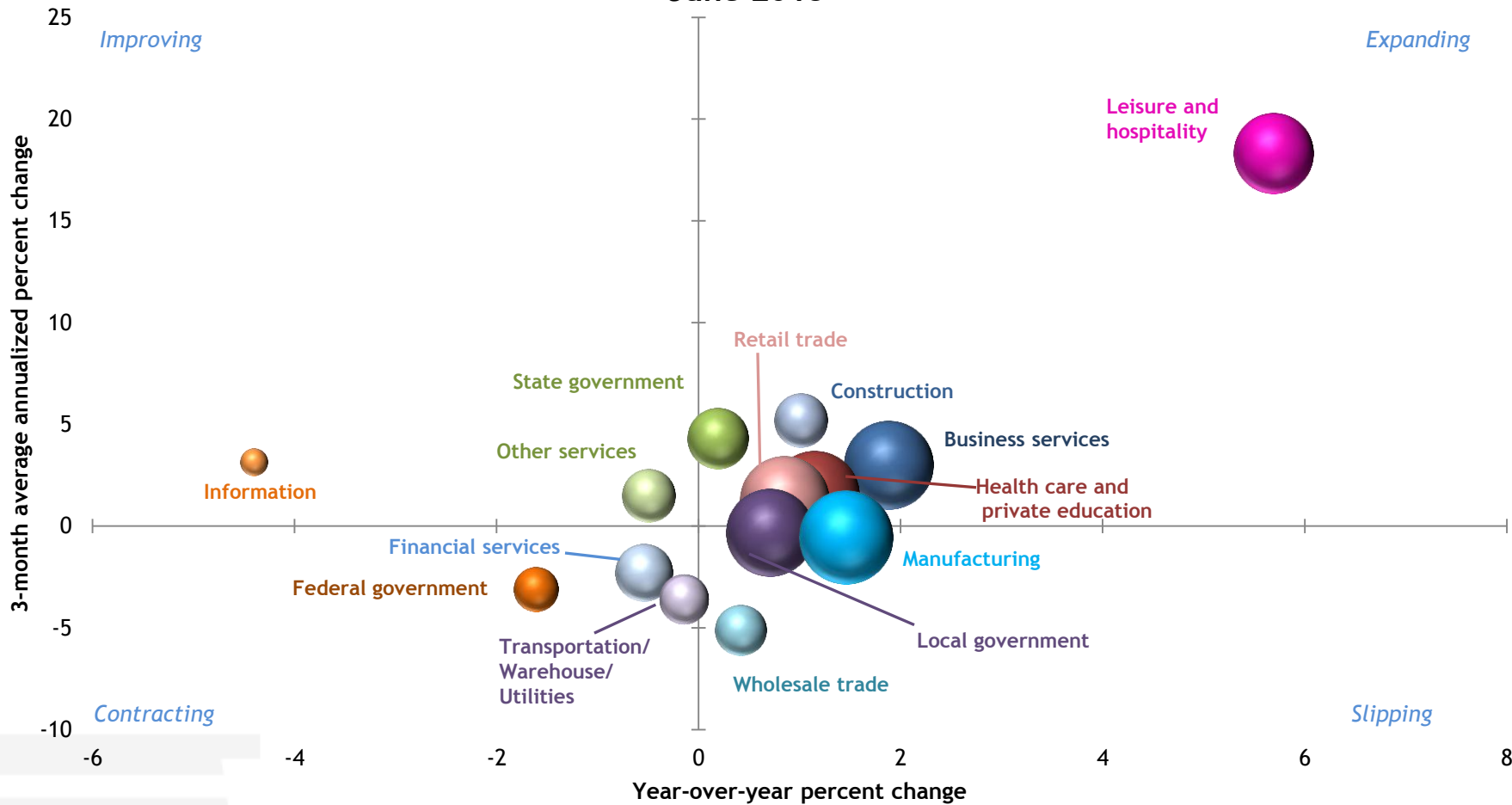
Note: A reading of 0.0 in the “trough to present” measure indicates that employment continues to decline in these industries. Likewise, a reading of 0.0 in the “peak to trough” measure indicates that employment continues to increase in these industries; in this instance “trough to present” is the percent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

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

Led by leisure and hospitality, many sectors experienced employment momentum in June. Information and other services improved; federal government contracted and continued to be the weakest sector.

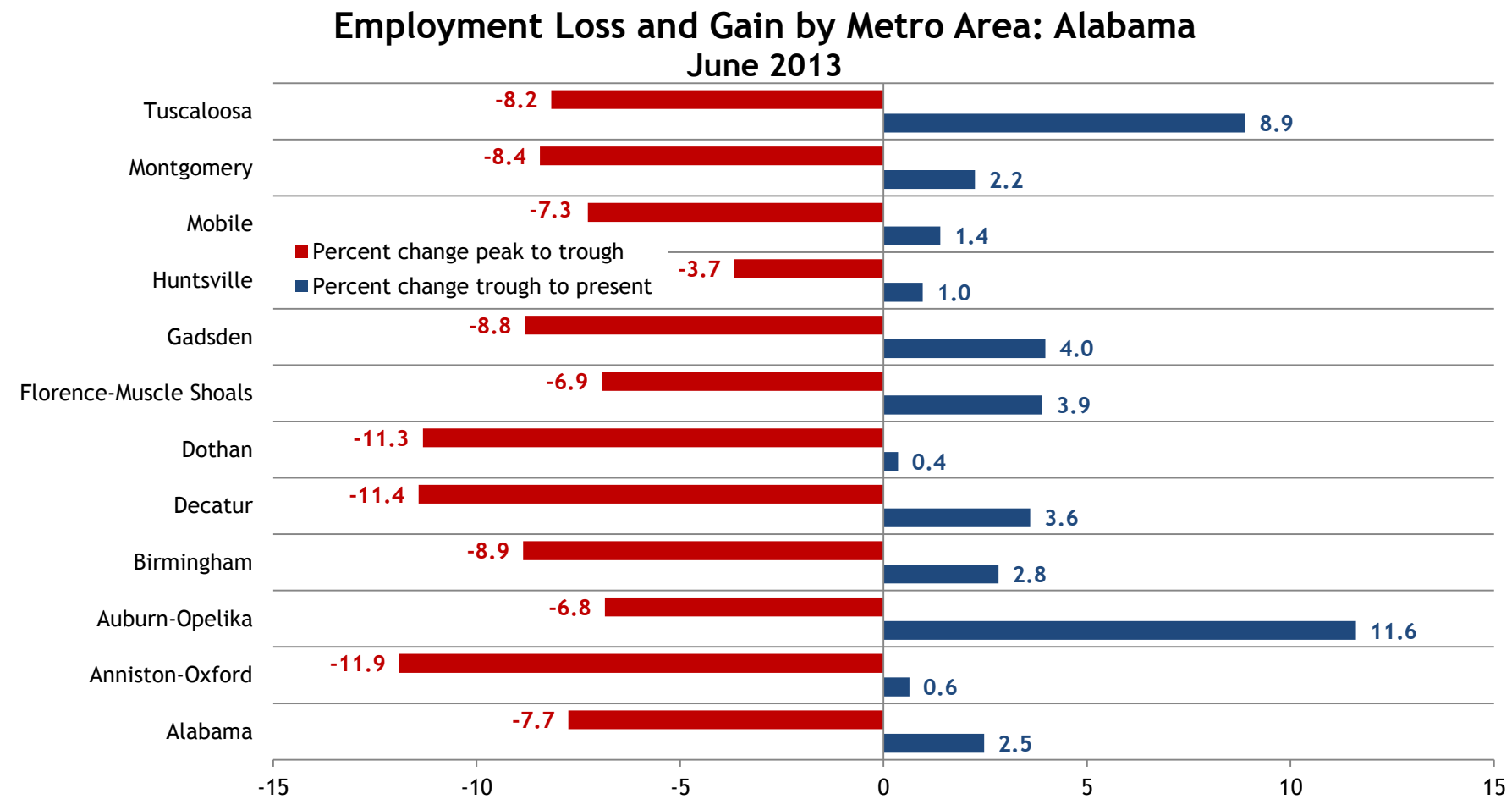
[About Employment Momentum](#)

Employment Momentum by Industry: Alabama June 2013



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.

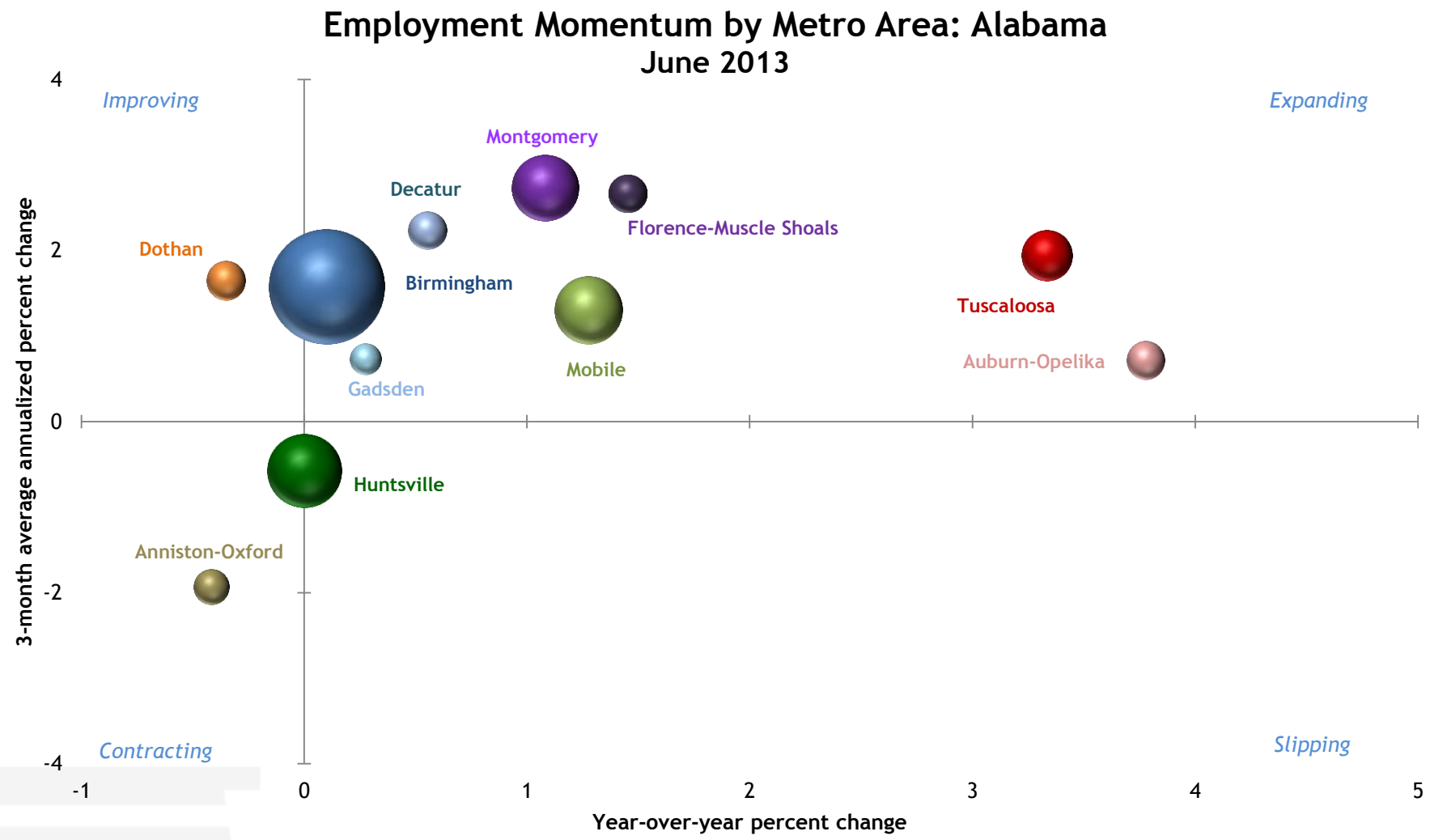


Note: A reading of 0.0 in the “trough to present” measure indicates that employment continues to decline in these metro areas. Likewise, a reading of 0.0 in the “peak to trough” measure indicates that employment continues to increase in these metro areas; in this instance “trough to present” is the percent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

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

Employment momentum in Birmingham and most of Alabama’s other metro areas expanded in June. Anniston-Oxford remained in the “contracting” quadrant and Dothan stayed in the “improving” quadrant.

[About Employment Momentum](#)

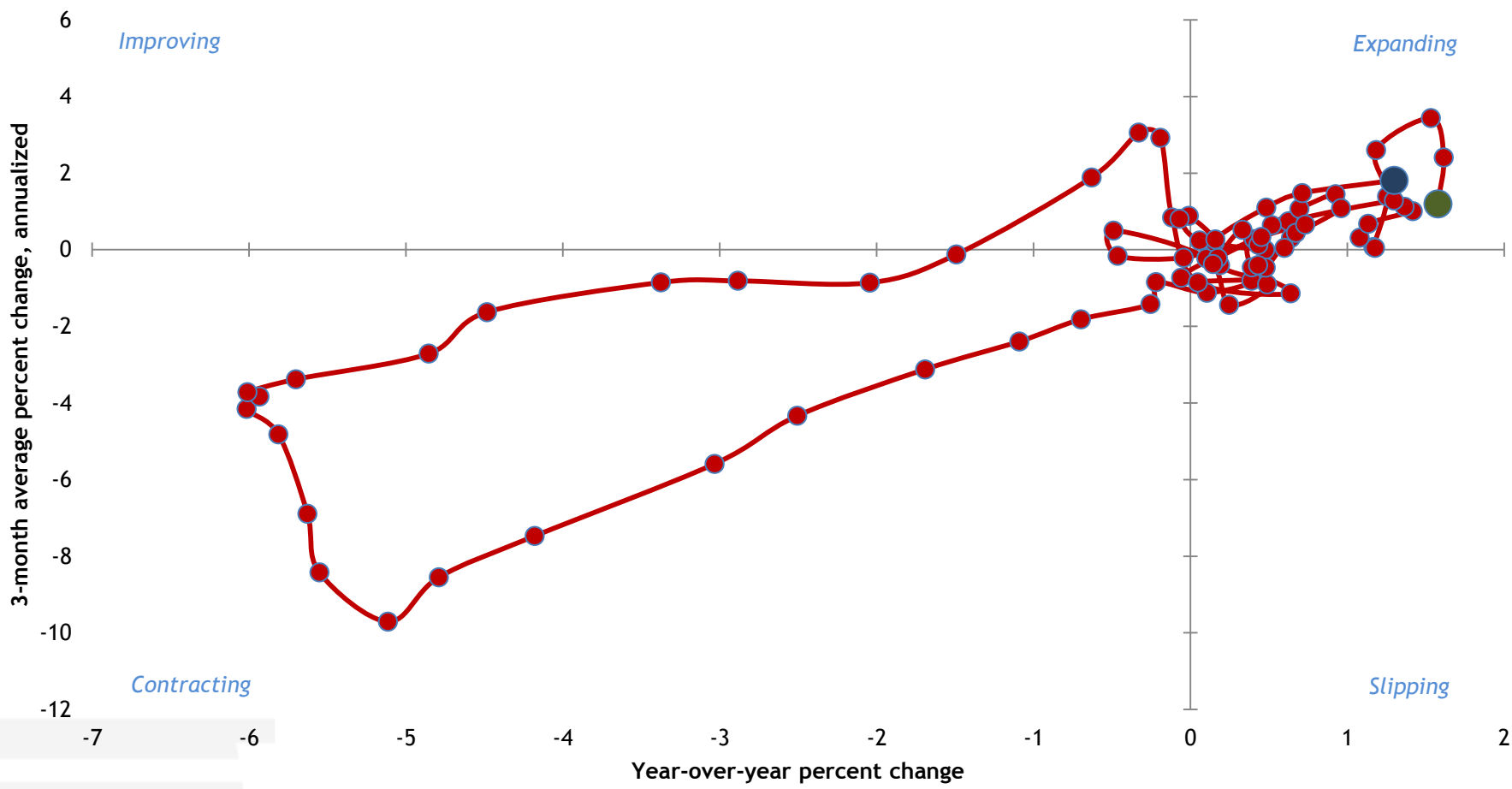


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

The state's employment momentum track varied extensively last year. It moved further into the “expanding” quadrant in June.

[About Employment Momentum Track](#)

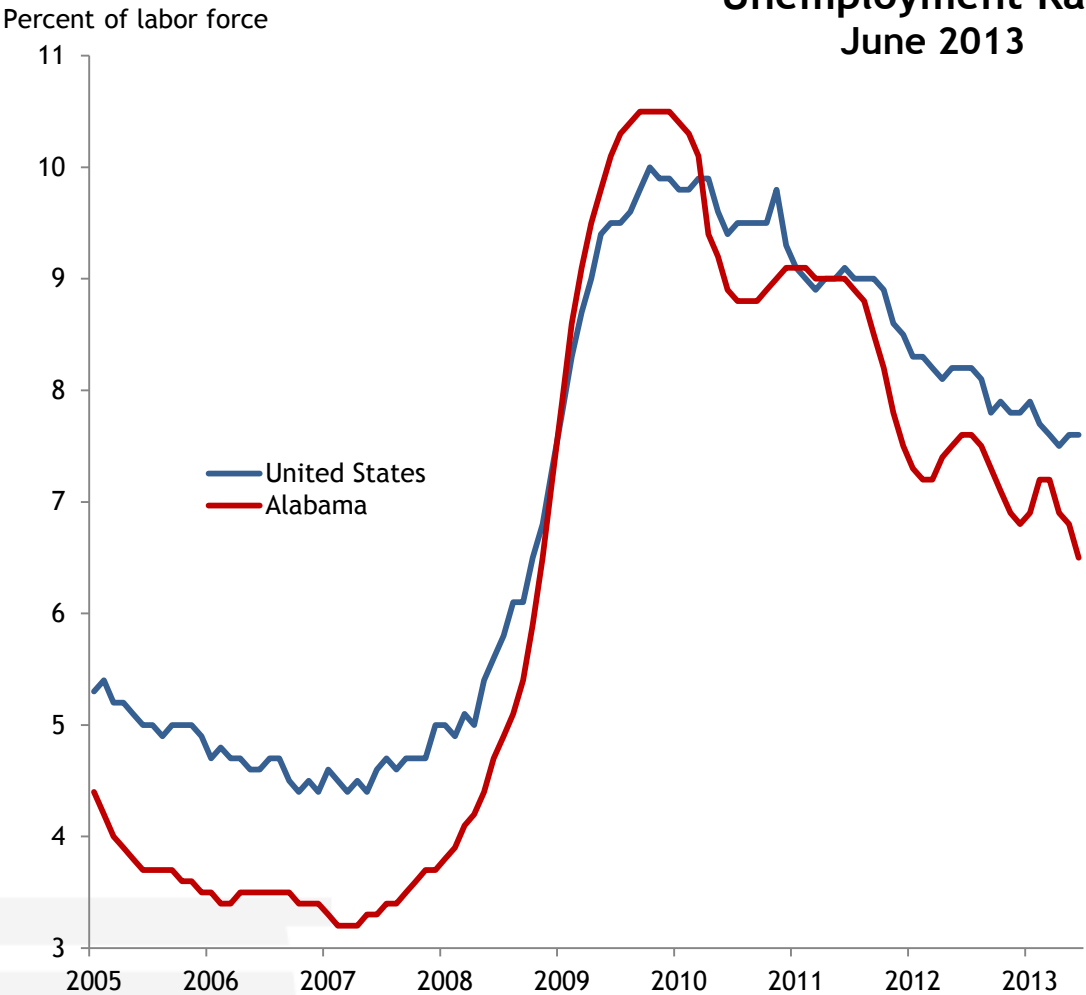
Employment Momentum Track January 2007-June 2013



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

Alabama’s unemployment rate declined again in June and has been lower than the national rate since mid-2011. However, the rates in each of the state’s metro areas have increased in the past two months.

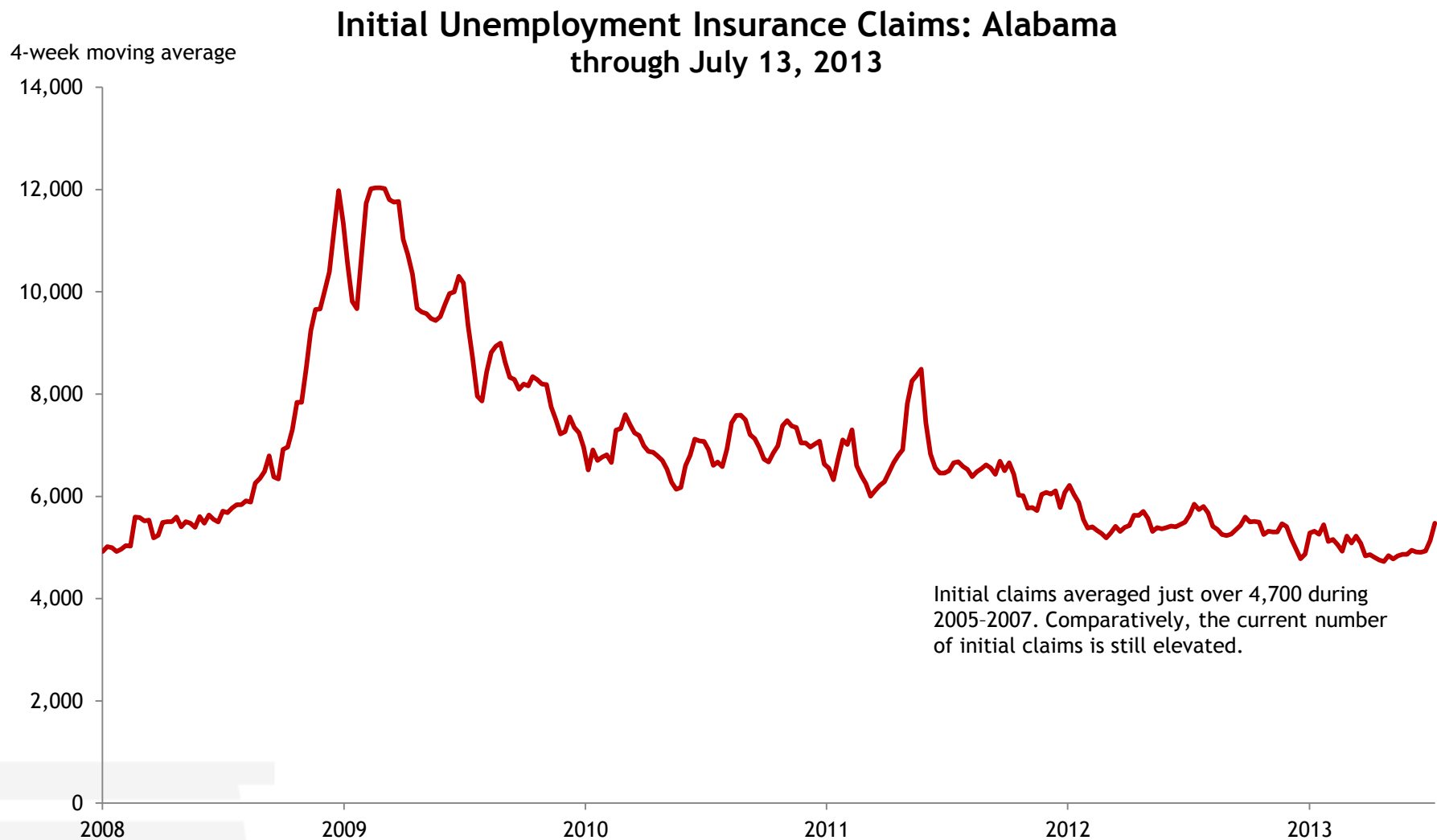
Unemployment Rates
June 2013



Unemployment Rates			
	Current	Year Ago	Jan 2007
United States	7.6	8.2	4.6
Alabama	6.5	7.6	3.3
Anniston-Oxford	7.5	8.6	3.4
Auburn-Opelika	5.8	7.6	3.4
Birmingham	5.9	7.3	3.2
Decatur	6.5	8.1	3.5
Dothan	6.6	7.9	3.2
Florence-Muscle Shoals	6.6	8.0	4.1
Gadsden	6.7	8.1	4.0
Huntsville	5.9	7.1	2.9
Mobile	7.8	9.5	3.5
Montgomery	6.9	8.5	3.6
Tuscaloosa	6.6	8.1	3.2

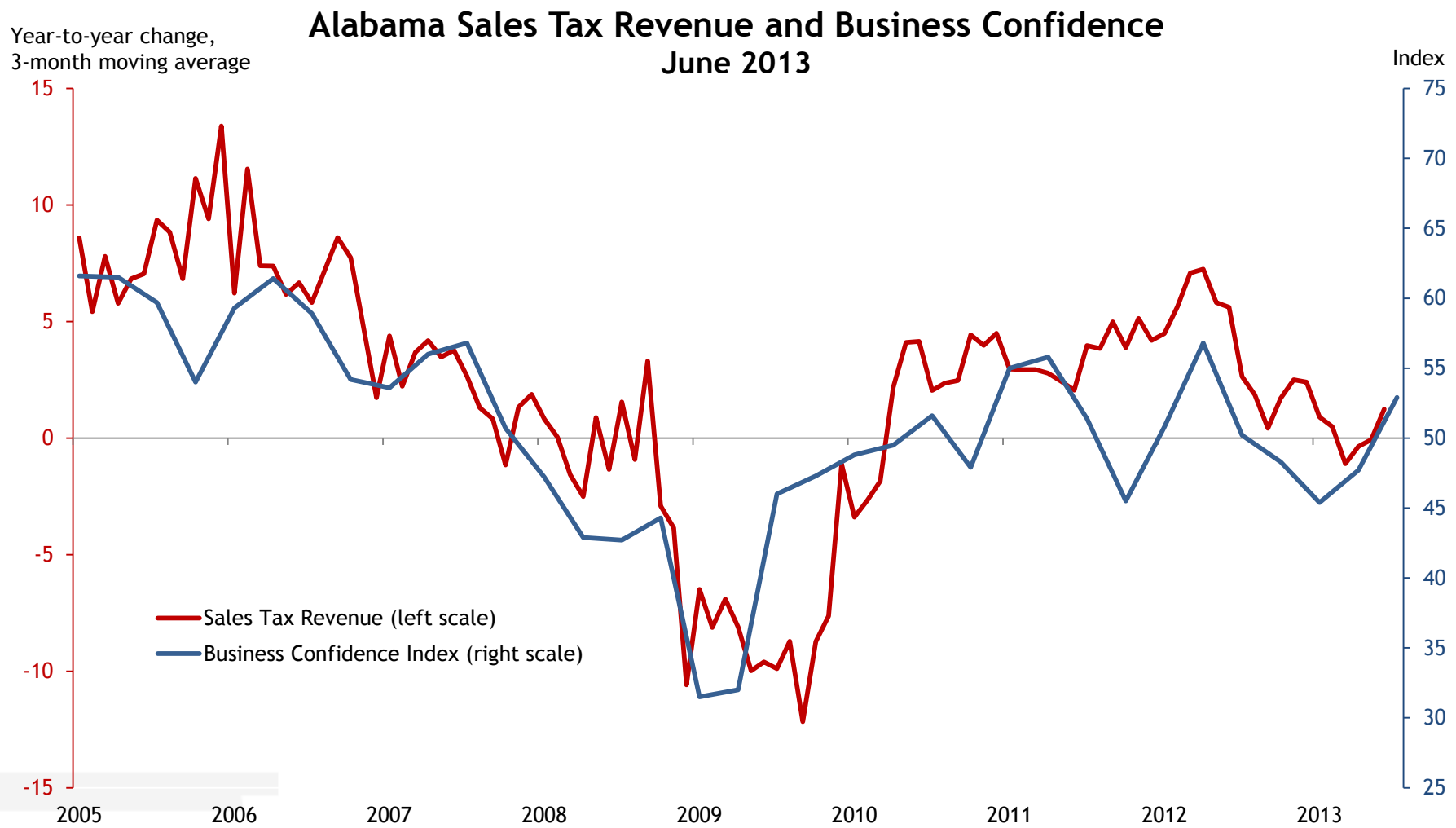
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics

The number of individuals filing initial claims for unemployment insurance increased slightly during the first two weeks of July.



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

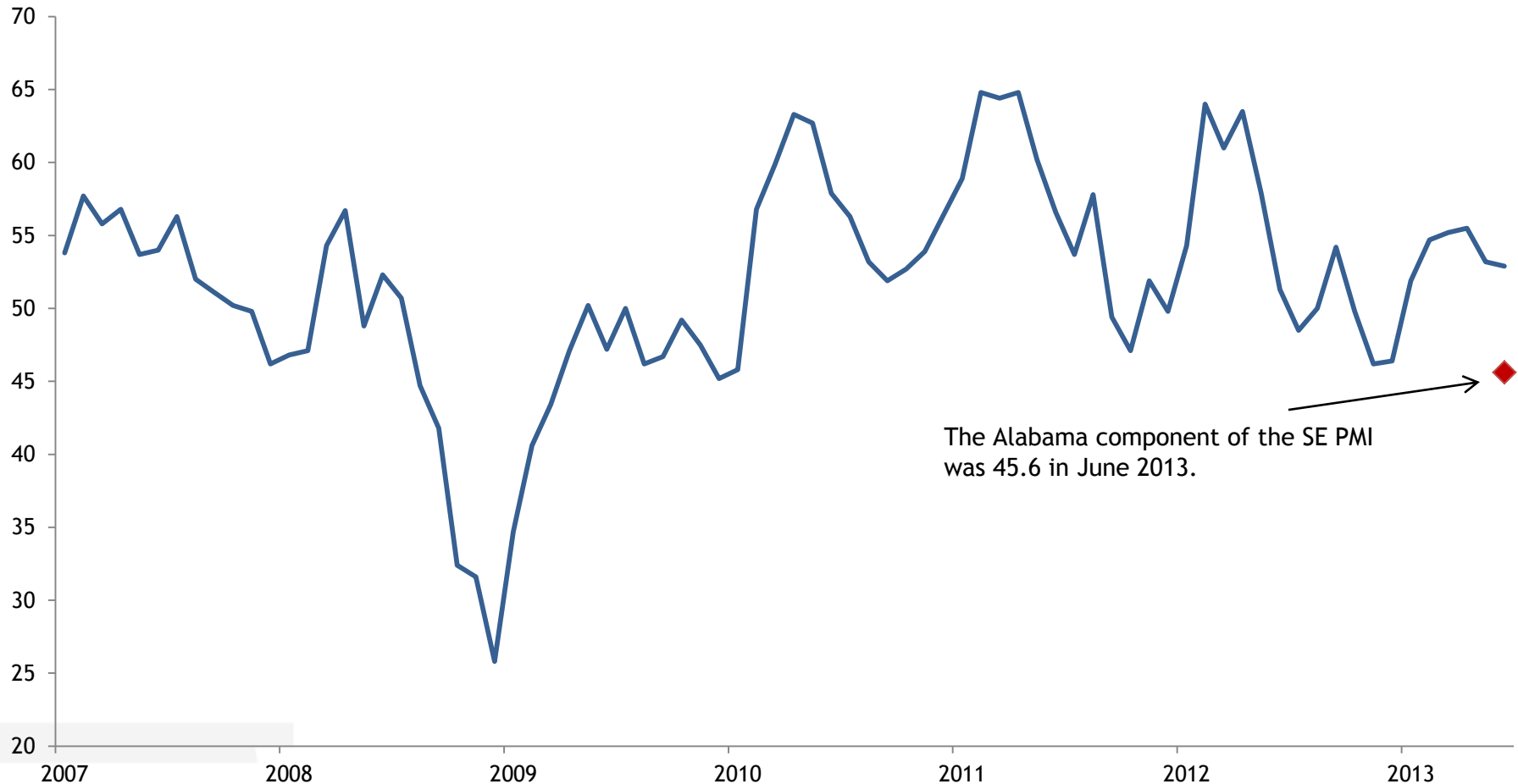
Business sentiment, as measured by the University of Alabama's third quarter 2013 survey, registered the first optimistic reading since the third quarter of 2012. Sales tax revenue experienced positive year-over-year growth as well.



Note: Sales tax data are through June 2013; Business Confidence Index as of third quarter 2013.
Source: Alabama Department of Revenue, University of Alabama Center for Business and Economic Research, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Regional manufacturing activity slowed, but remained in expansionary territory in June, according to the Southeast Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) produced by Kennesaw State University. The overall regional reading was 52.9; Alabama's component of the PMI fell to 45.6 in June.

Southeast Purchasing Managers Index June 2013



The Alabama component of the SE PMI was 45.6 in June 2013.

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

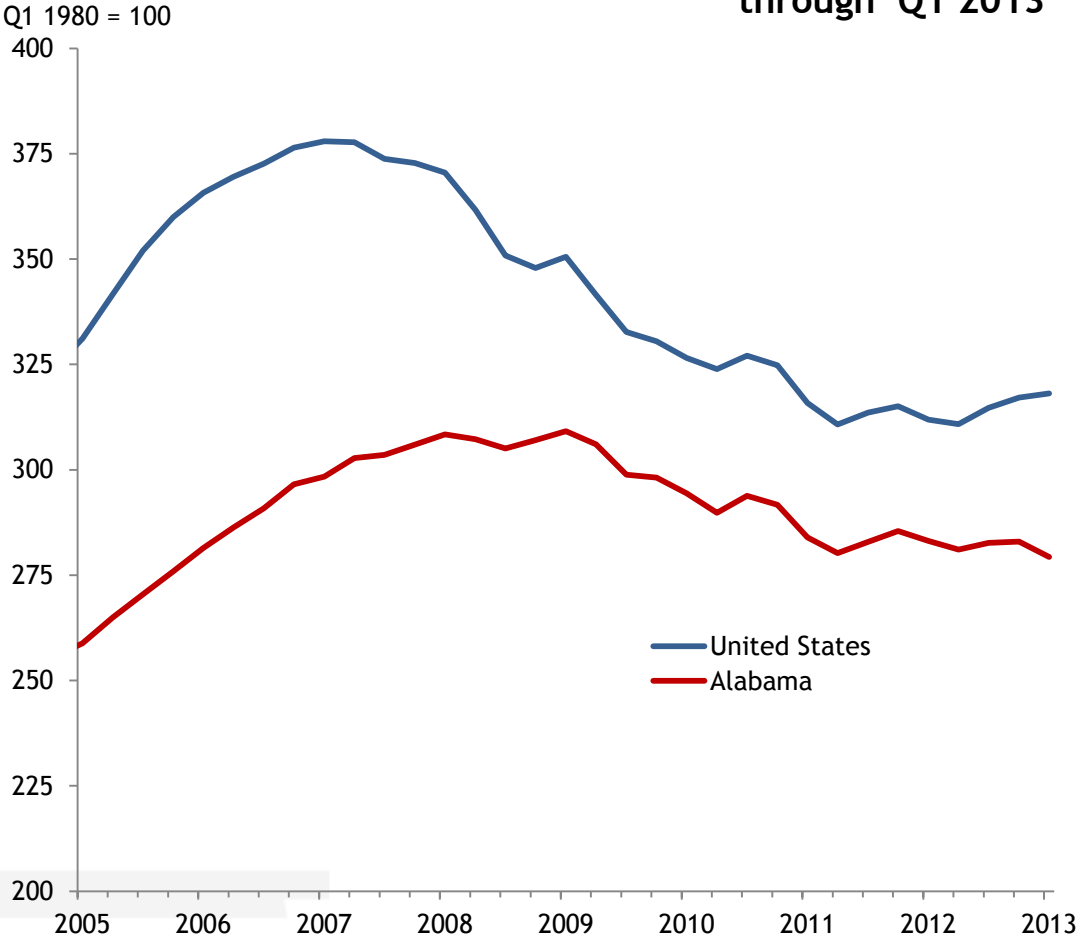
2013

Note: 50+ = Expansion

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

Home prices for Alabama declined in the first quarter of 2013 while U.S. housing prices increased slightly for the third consecutive quarter.

Federal Housing Finance Agency Home Price Index
through Q1 2013

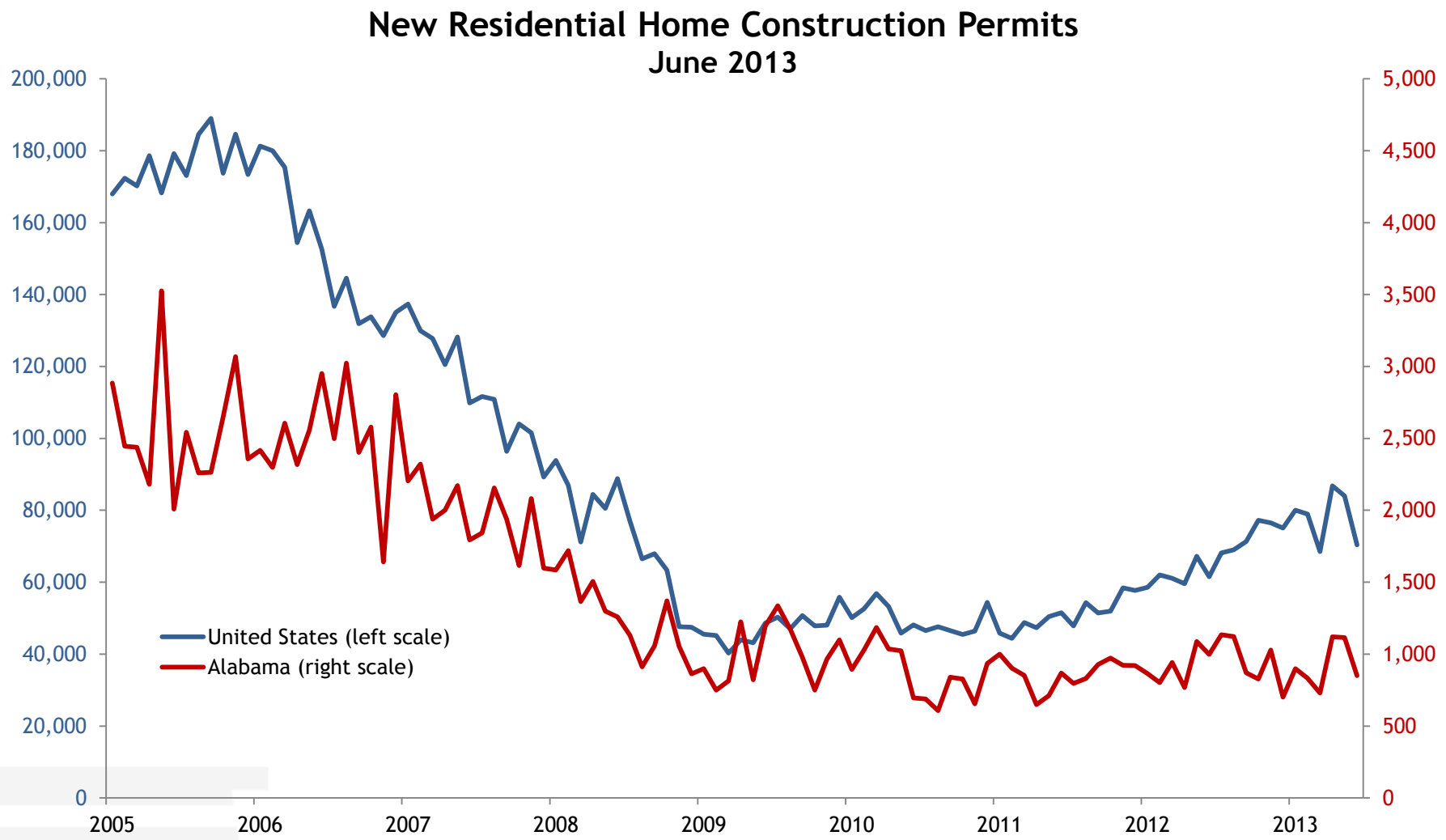


FHFA House Price Index: Q1 2013	1-yr % change	5-yr % change	10-yr % change
USA	2.0	-14.1	14.5
Alabama	-1.3	-9.4	17.4
Anniston-Oxford	-2.4	-9.8	15.0
Auburn-Opelika	-0.7	-13.5	18.9
Birmingham	-0.2	-11.1	12.9
Decatur	-0.6	-3.8	16.7
Dothan	-3.9	-11.2	18.3
Florence-Muscle Shoals	3.5	2.8	28.1
Gadsden	1.2	-0.8	24.7
Huntsville	-2.2	-3.4	24.1
Mobile	-2.7	-17.9	13.2
Montgomery	-2.4	-12.8	10.4
Tuscaloosa	1.4	-0.8	23.7

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.