



Data Digest: Alabama

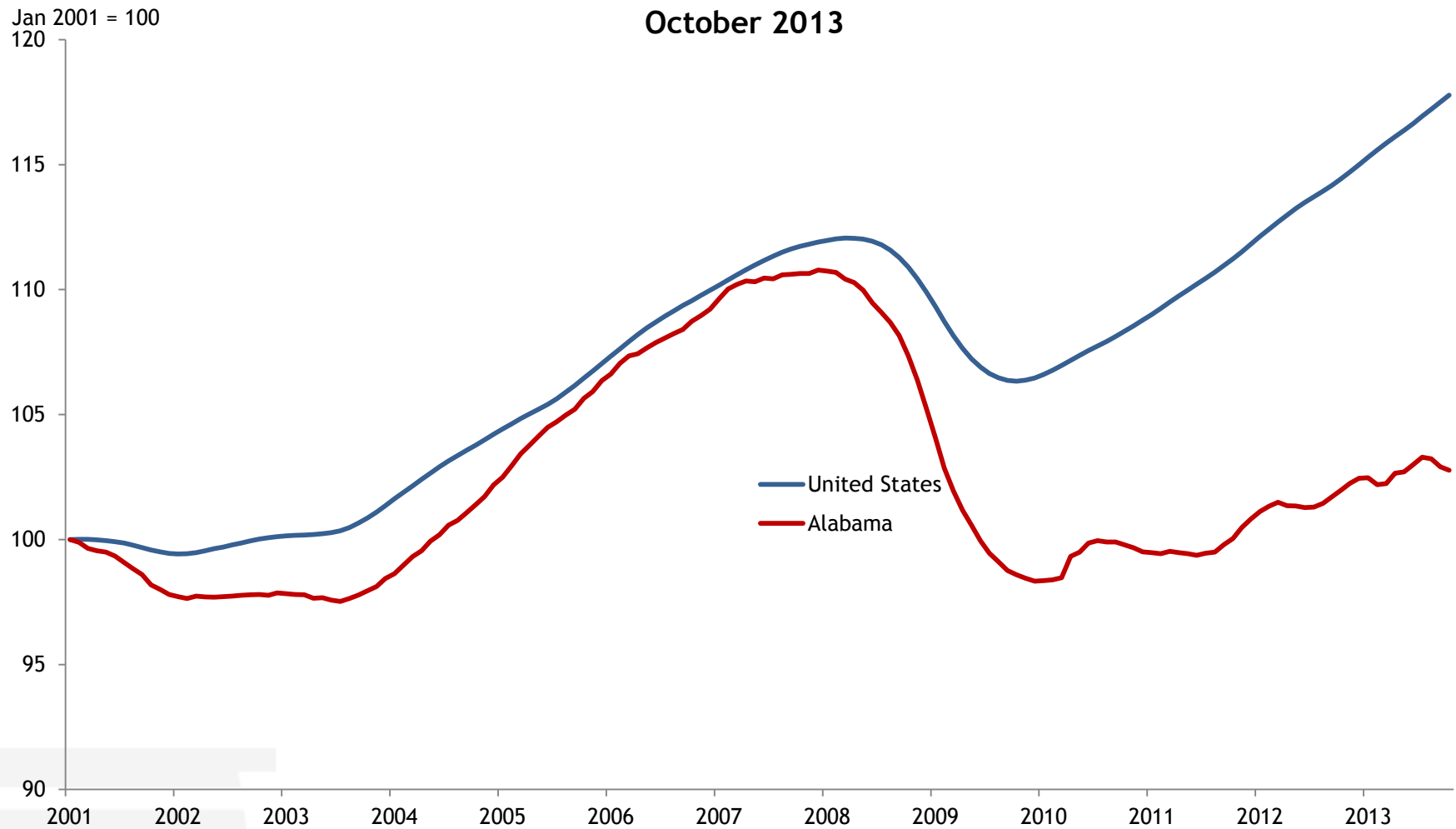
December 2013



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

[About the Coincident Economic Indicator](#)

Coincident Economic Indicator
October 2013

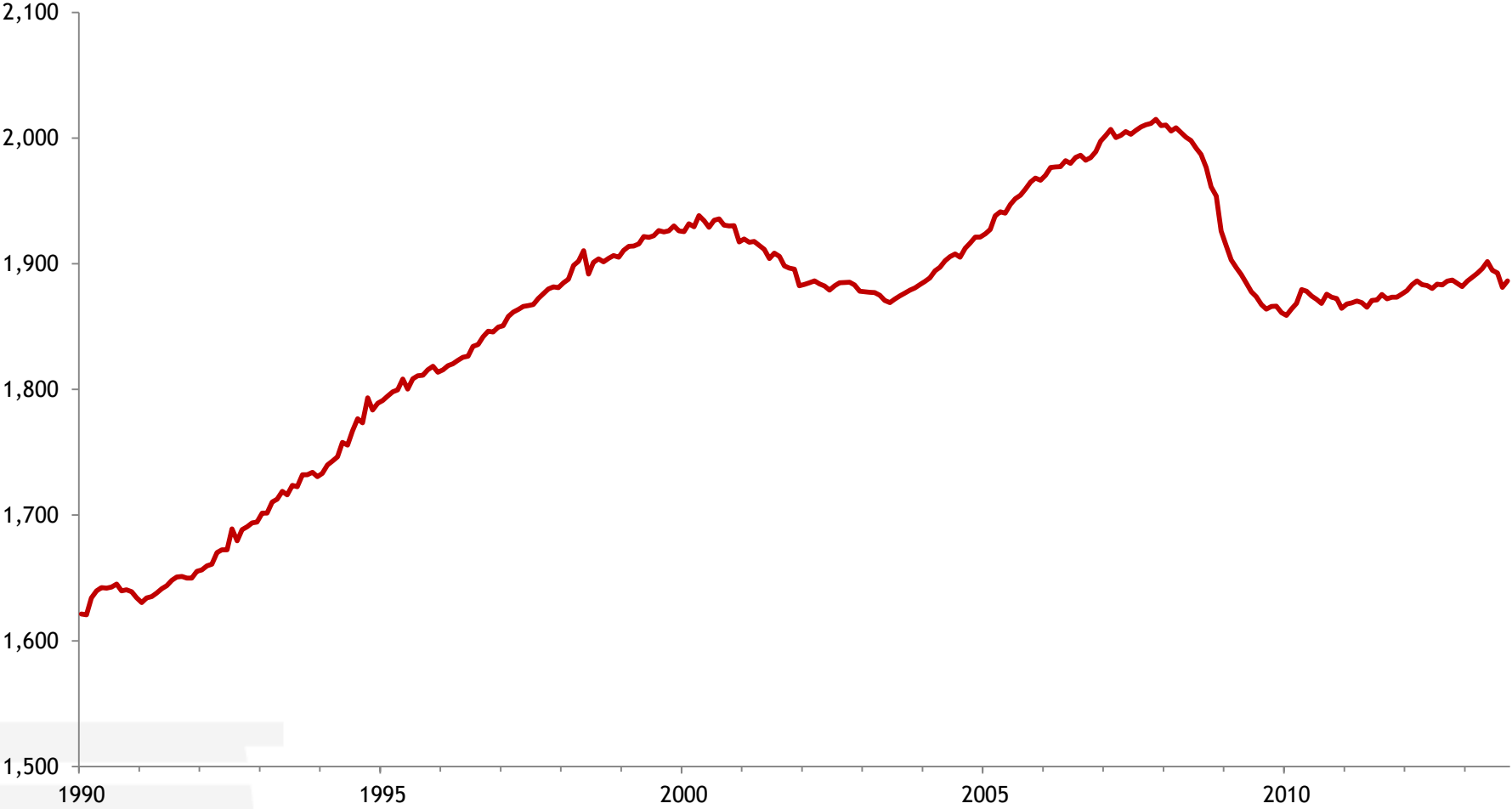


Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Total employment in Alabama increased slightly in October but continues to be well below prerecession levels.

Alabama Payroll Employment
October 2013

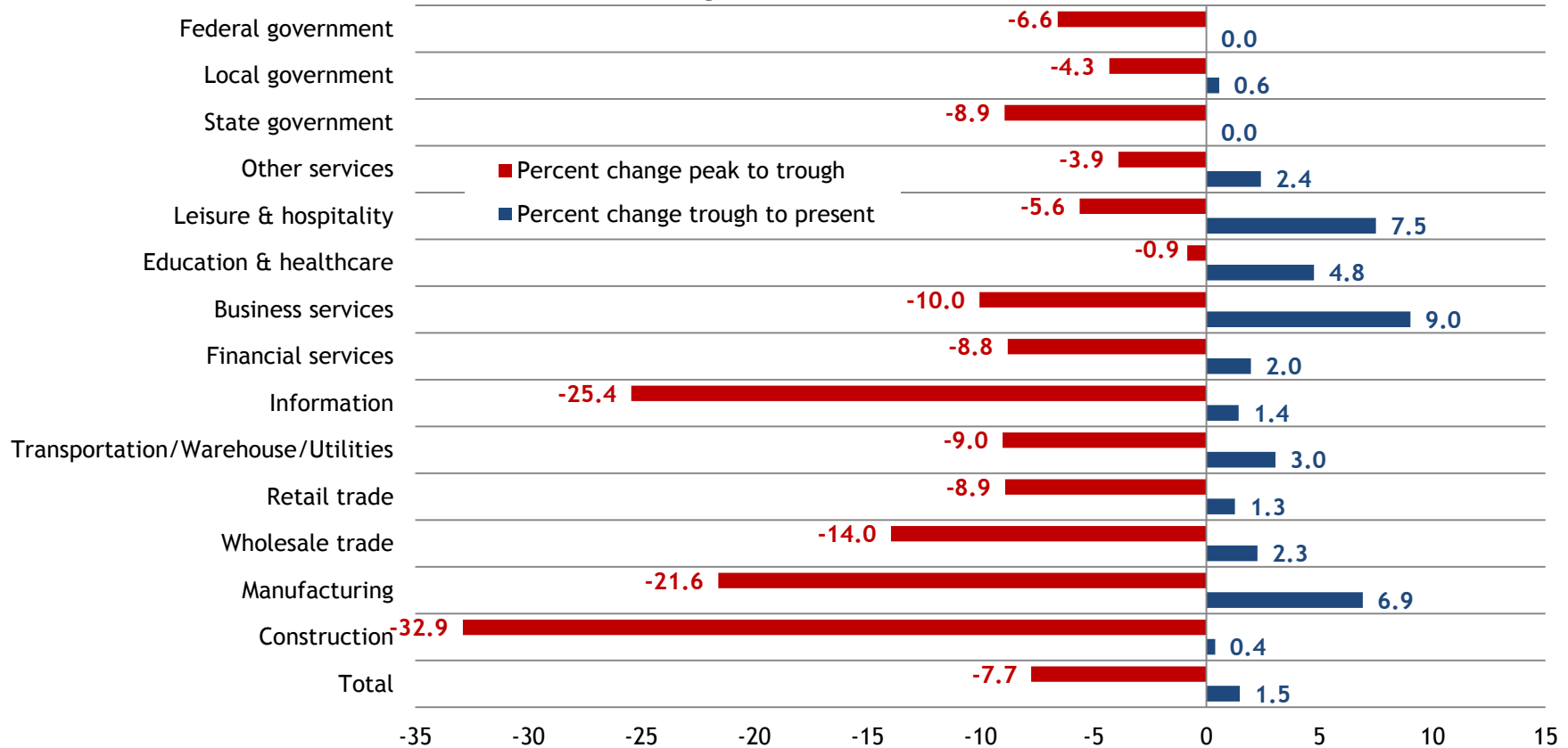
Thousands,
seasonally adjusted



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

All industries lost jobs during the downturn, with the construction industry losing more than 32 percent of its jobs. The federal and state government sectors continued to shed jobs in October.

Employment Loss and Gain by Industry: Alabama October 2013

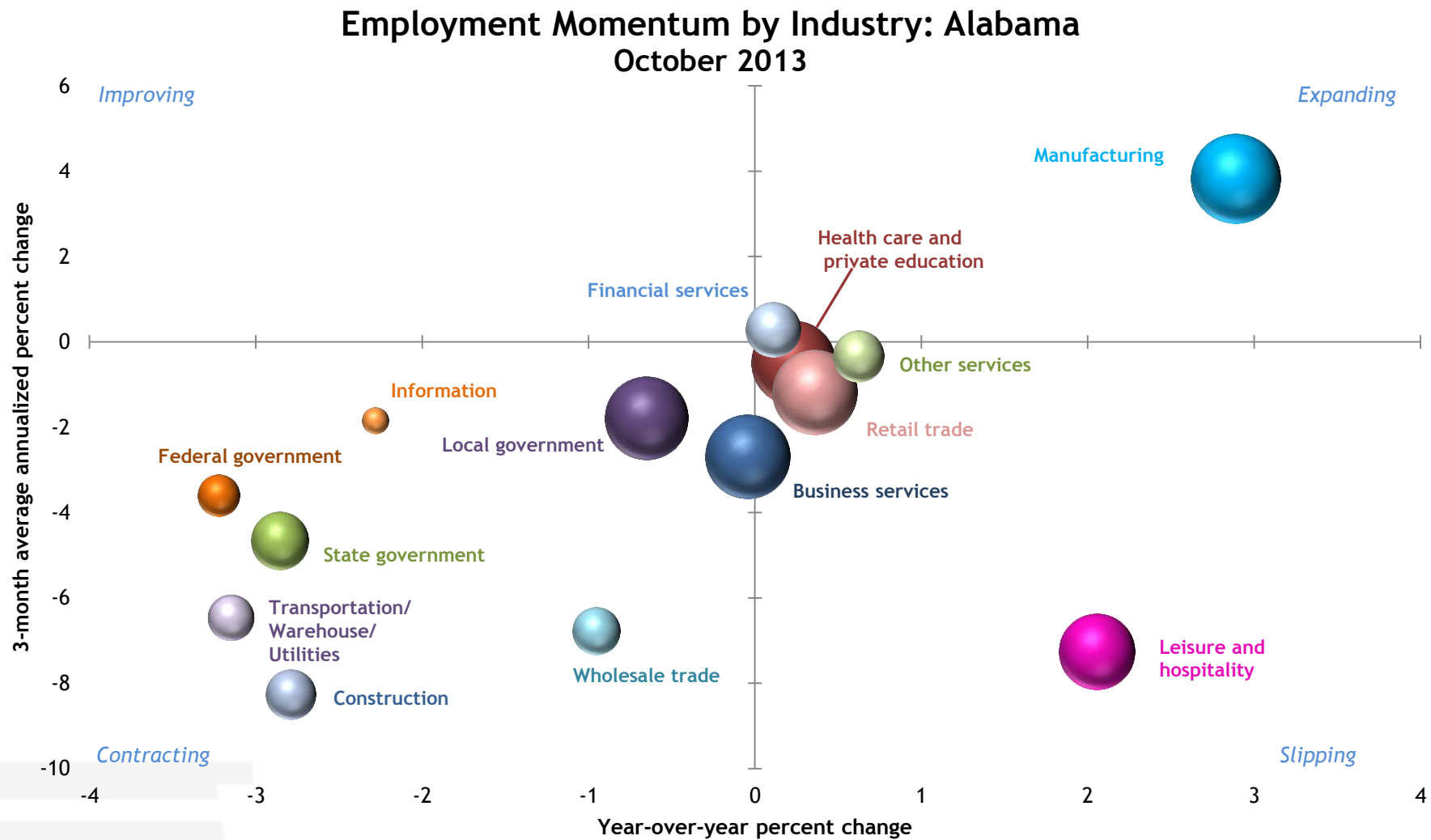


Note: A reading of 0.0 in the “trough to present” measure indicates that employment continues to decline in these industries. Likewise, a reading of 0.0 in the “peak to trough” measure indicates that employment continues to increase in these industries; in this instance “trough to present” is the percent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

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

Manufacturing and, to a much lesser degree, financial services were the only Alabama sectors to experience expanding momentum in October. All other sectors either slipped or contracted.

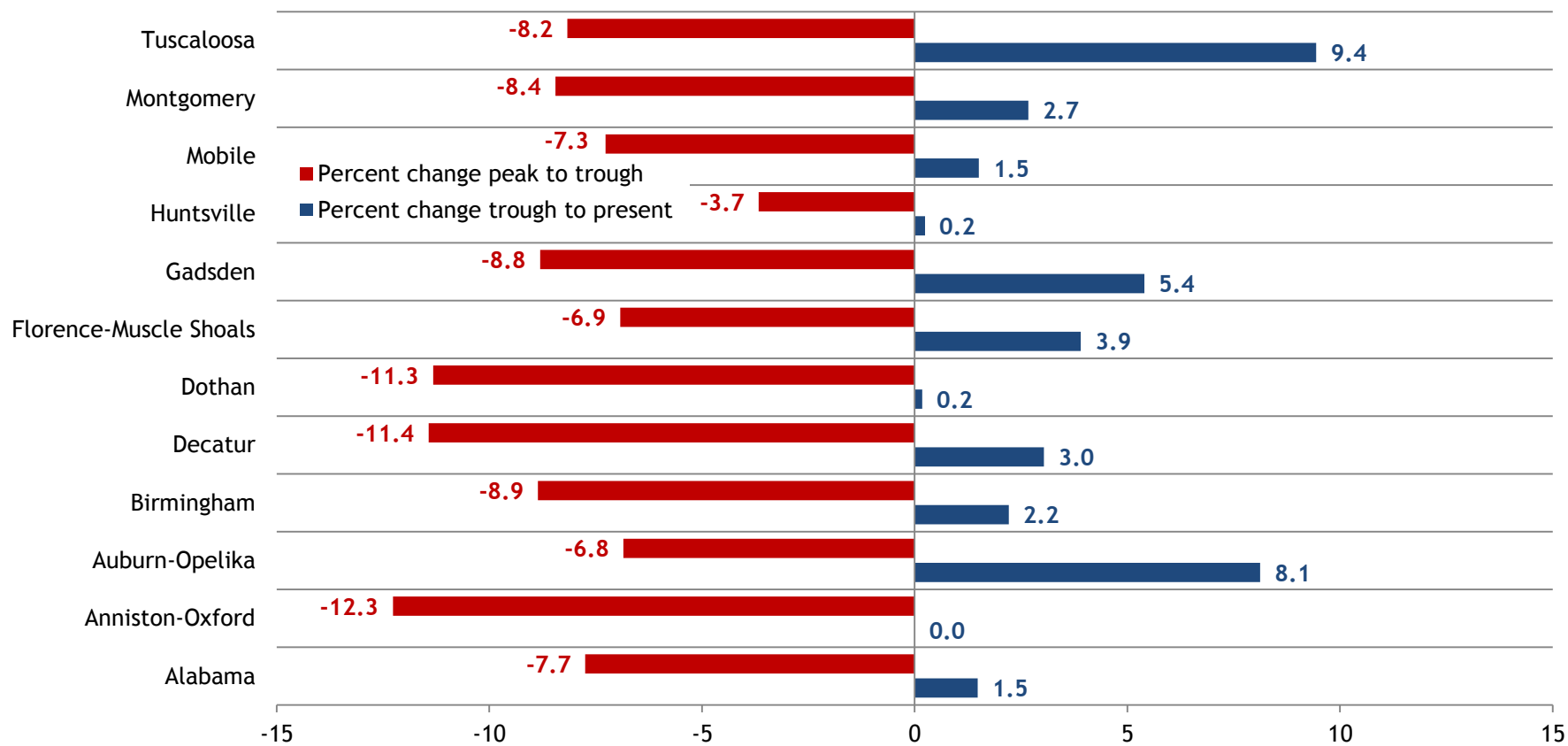
[About Employment Momentum](#)



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

Job losses occurred throughout the state during the downturn, but many of Alabama’s metro areas have slowly begun to rebound. Auburn-Opelika and Tuscaloosa have regained all of the jobs they lost while Anniston-Oxford continued to lose jobs in October.

Employment Loss and Gain by Metro Area: Alabama
October 2013

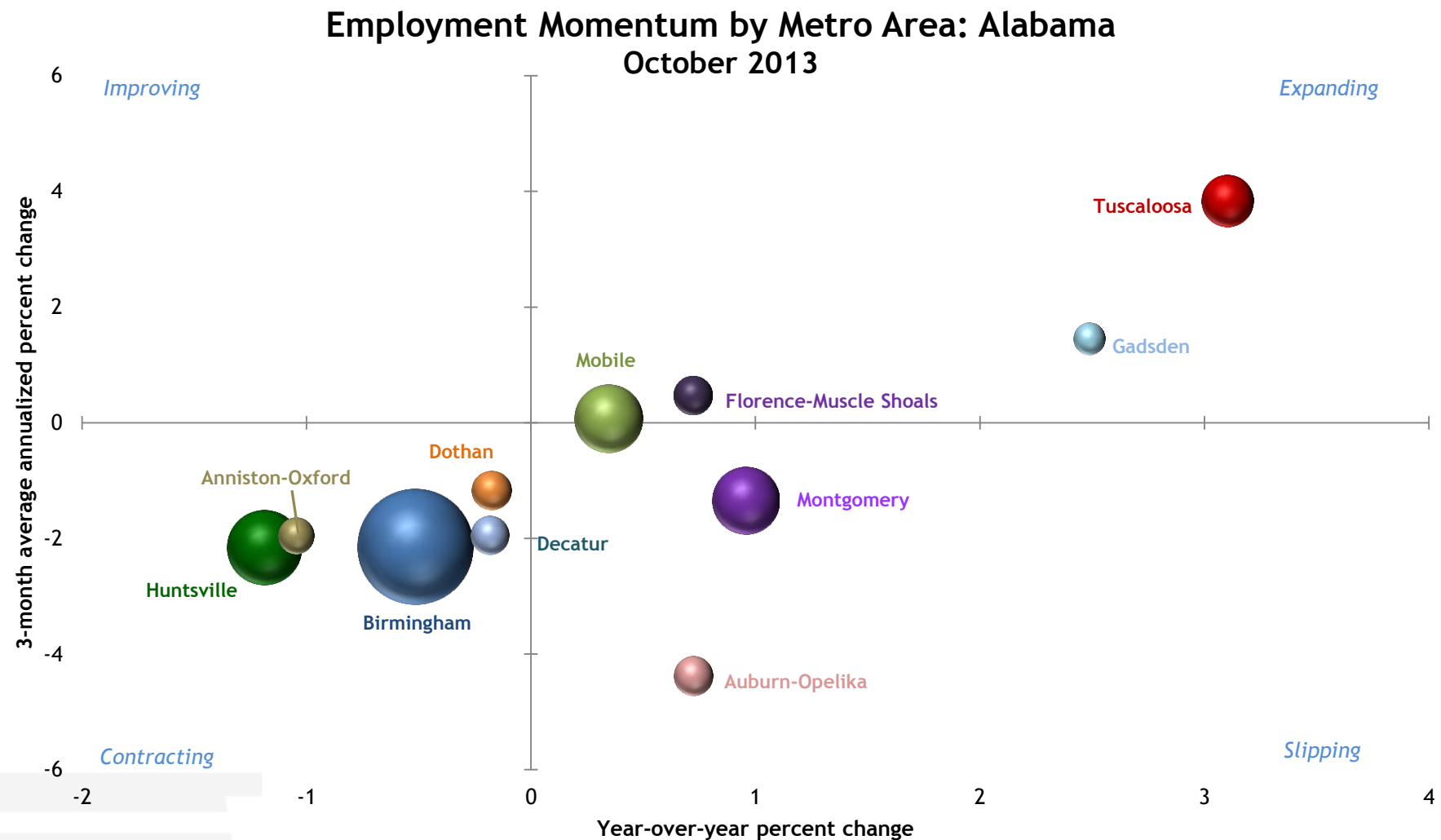


Note: A reading of 0.0 in the “trough to present” measure indicates that employment continues to decline in these metro areas. Likewise, a reading of 0.0 in the “peak to trough” measure indicates that employment continues to increase in these metro areas; in this instance “trough to present” is the percent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

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

Tuscaloosa and Gadsden continued to exhibit strong employment momentum in October.

[About Employment Momentum](#)

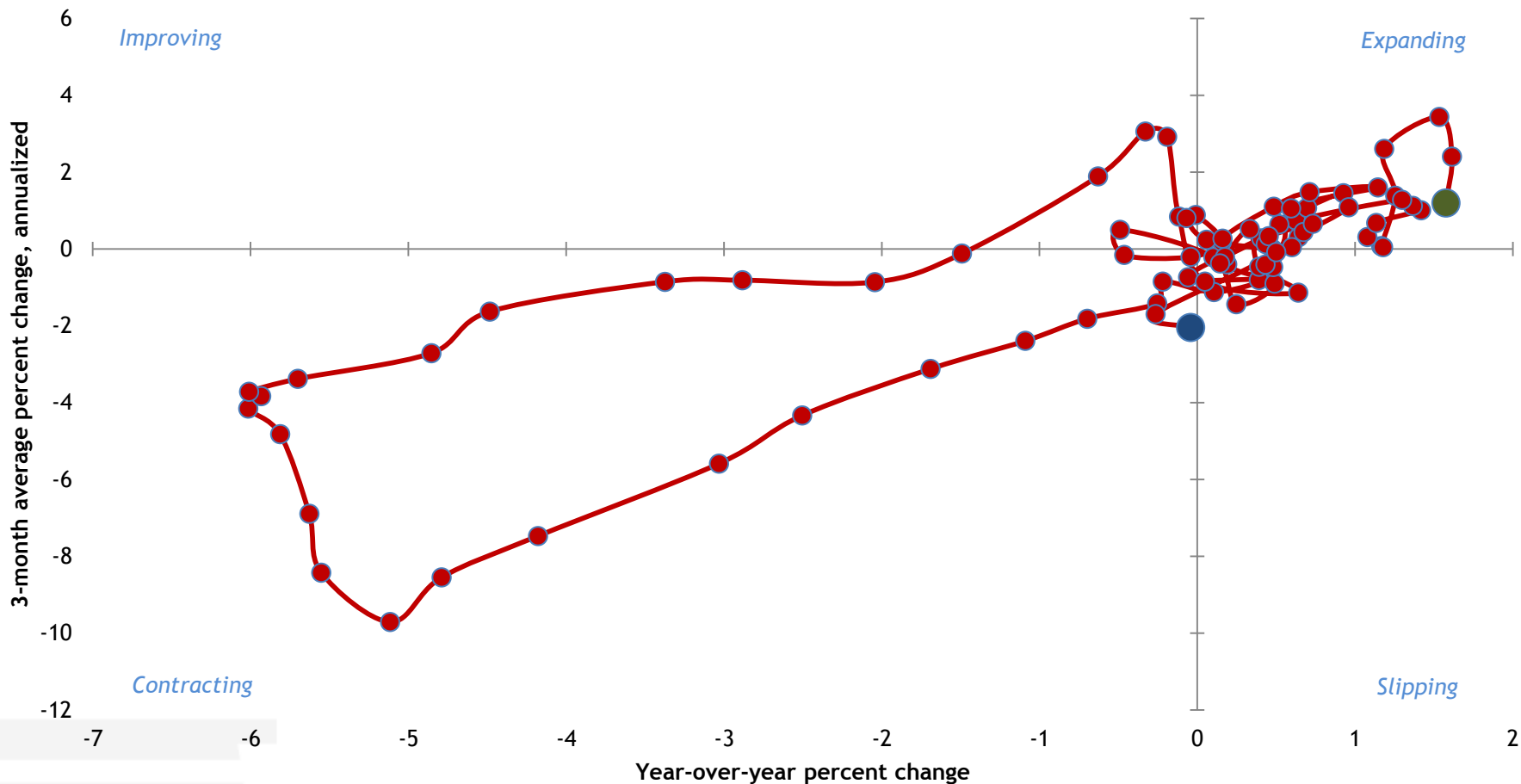


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

The state's employment momentum track varied extensively during the past year. It was in the “contracting” quadrant during September and October.

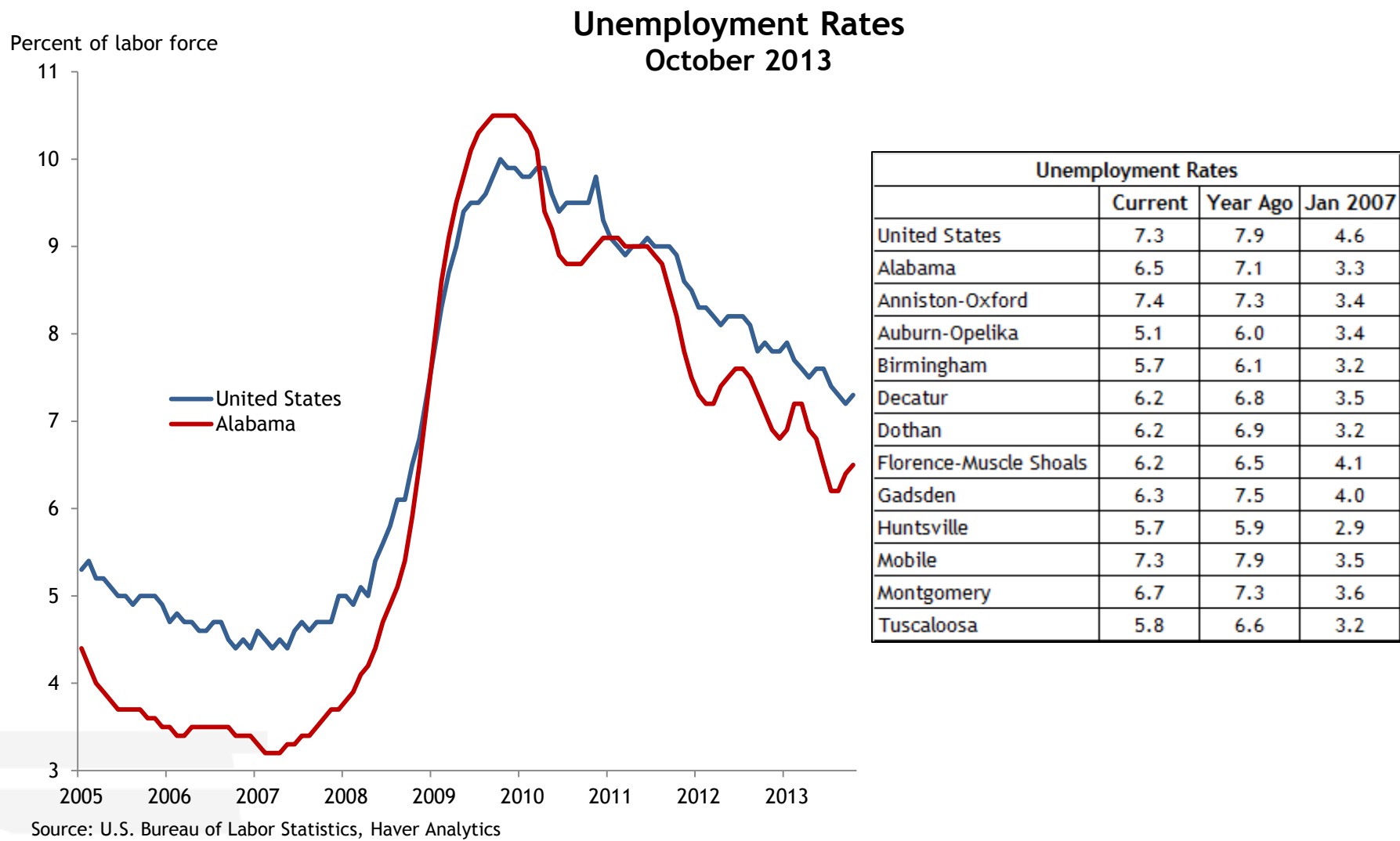
[About Employment Momentum Track](#)

Employment Momentum Track January 2007–October 2013

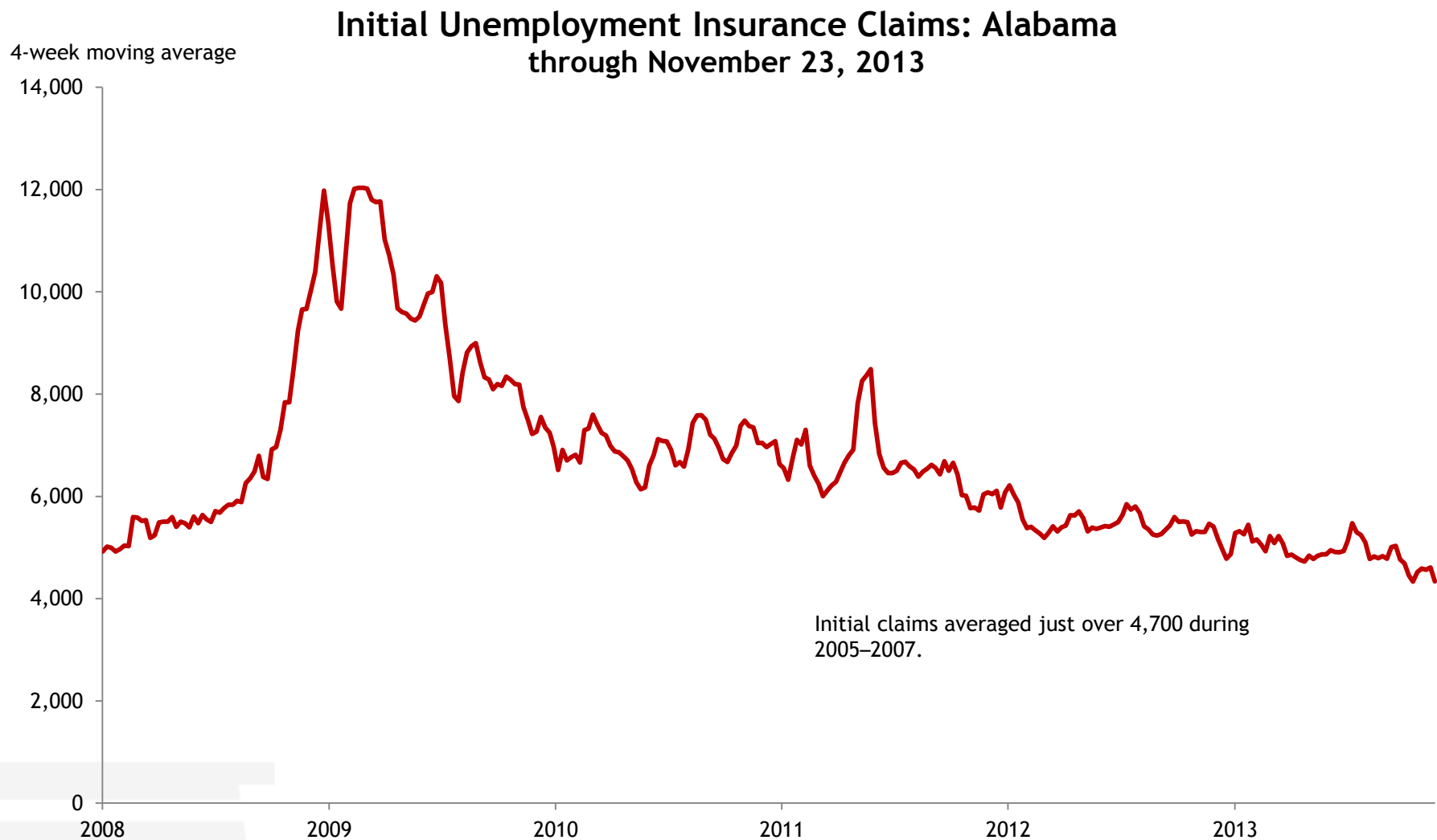


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Alabama's unemployment rate ticked up in September and October but remains lower than the national rate.

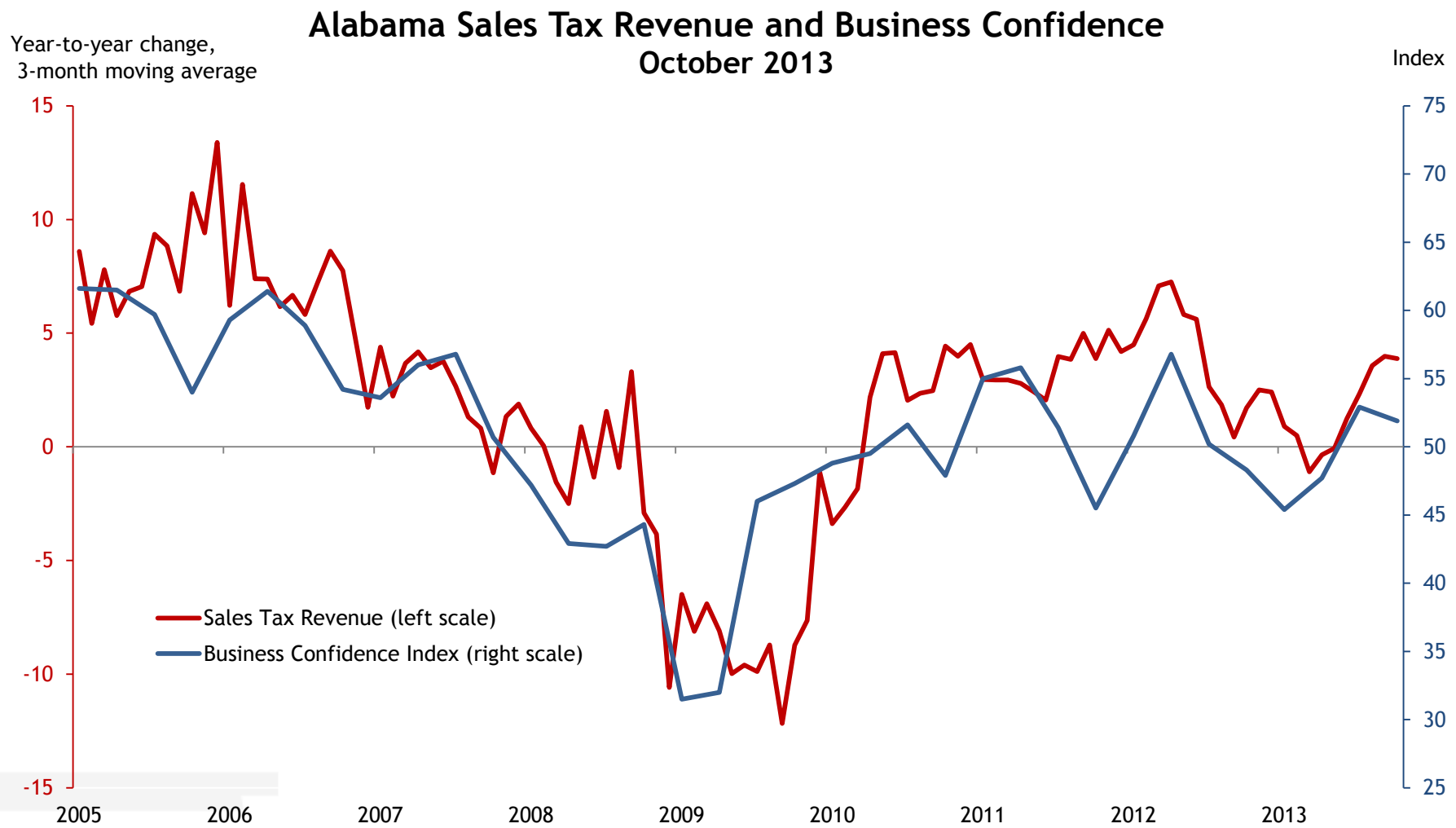


Since October, the number of individuals filing initial claims for unemployment insurance has been below the prerecession average.



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

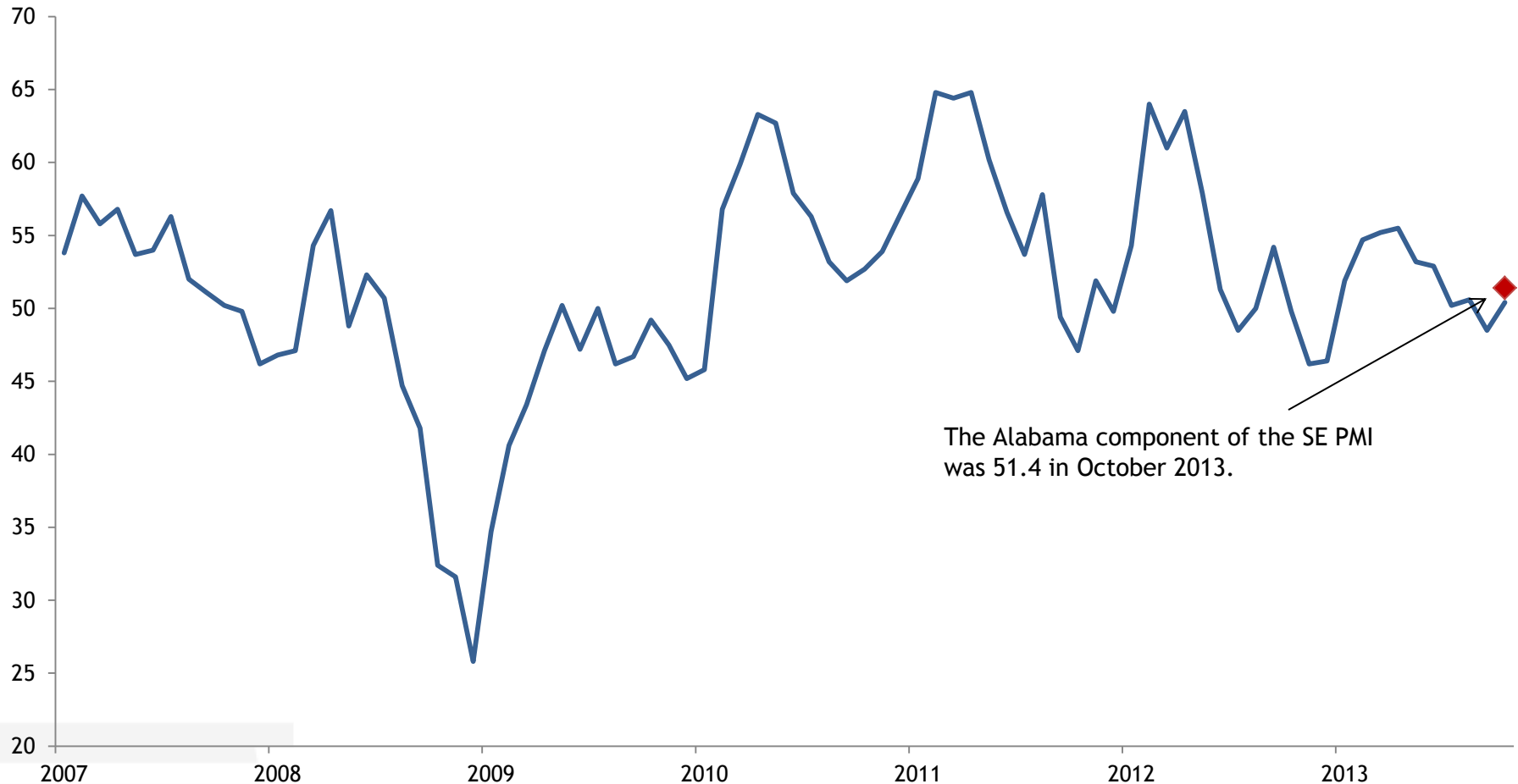
Business sentiment, as measured by the University of Alabama's fourth quarter 2013 survey, pulled back somewhat, but it remained in positive territory. For the fifth consecutive month, sales tax revenue experienced positive year-over-year growth.



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

Regional manufacturing activity moved back into expansionary territory in October, according to the Southeast Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) produced by Kennesaw State University. The overall regional reading was 50.4. Alabama's component of the PMI fell slightly, but remained in expansionary territory at 51.4.

Southeast Purchasing Managers Index October 2013



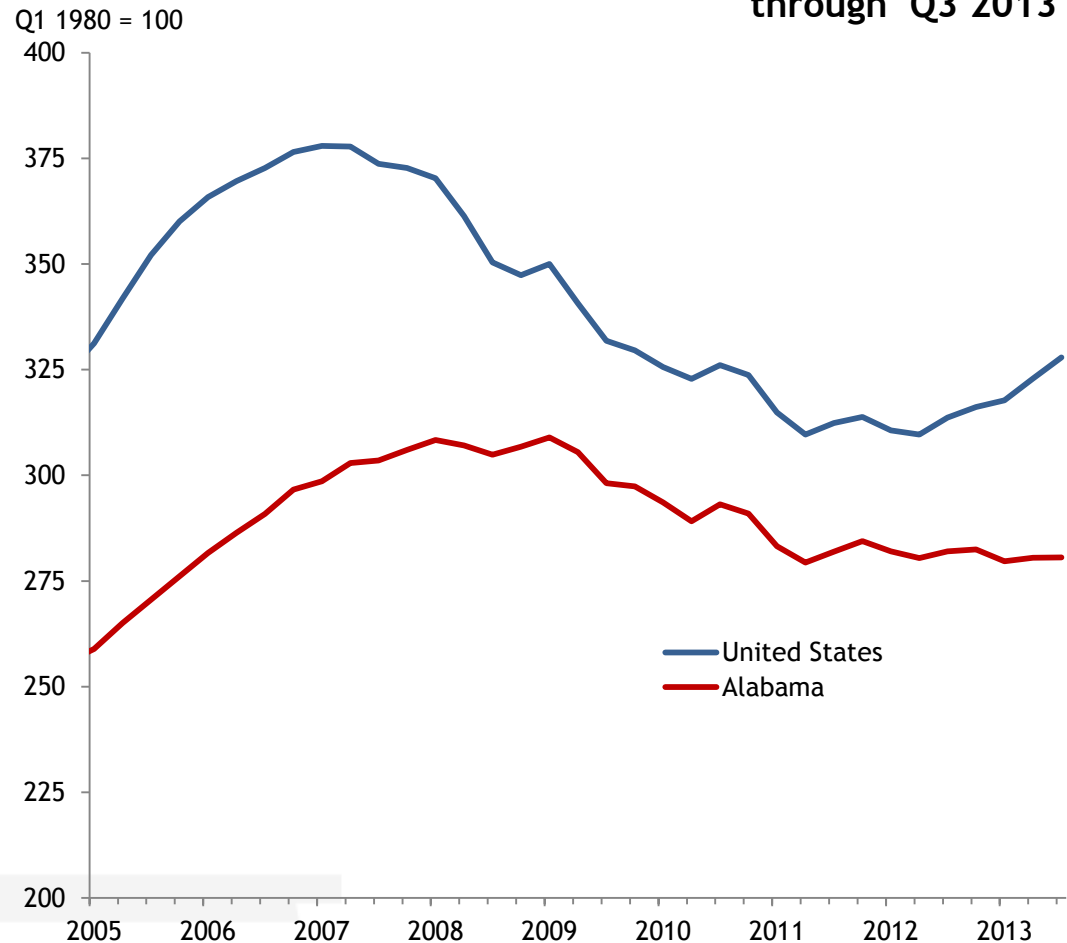
The Alabama component of the SE PMI was 51.4 in October 2013.

Note: 50+ = Expansion

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

Home prices for Alabama have been relatively flat during 2013 even as U.S. housing prices increased for the fifth consecutive quarter.

Federal Housing Finance Agency Home Price Index
through Q3 2013

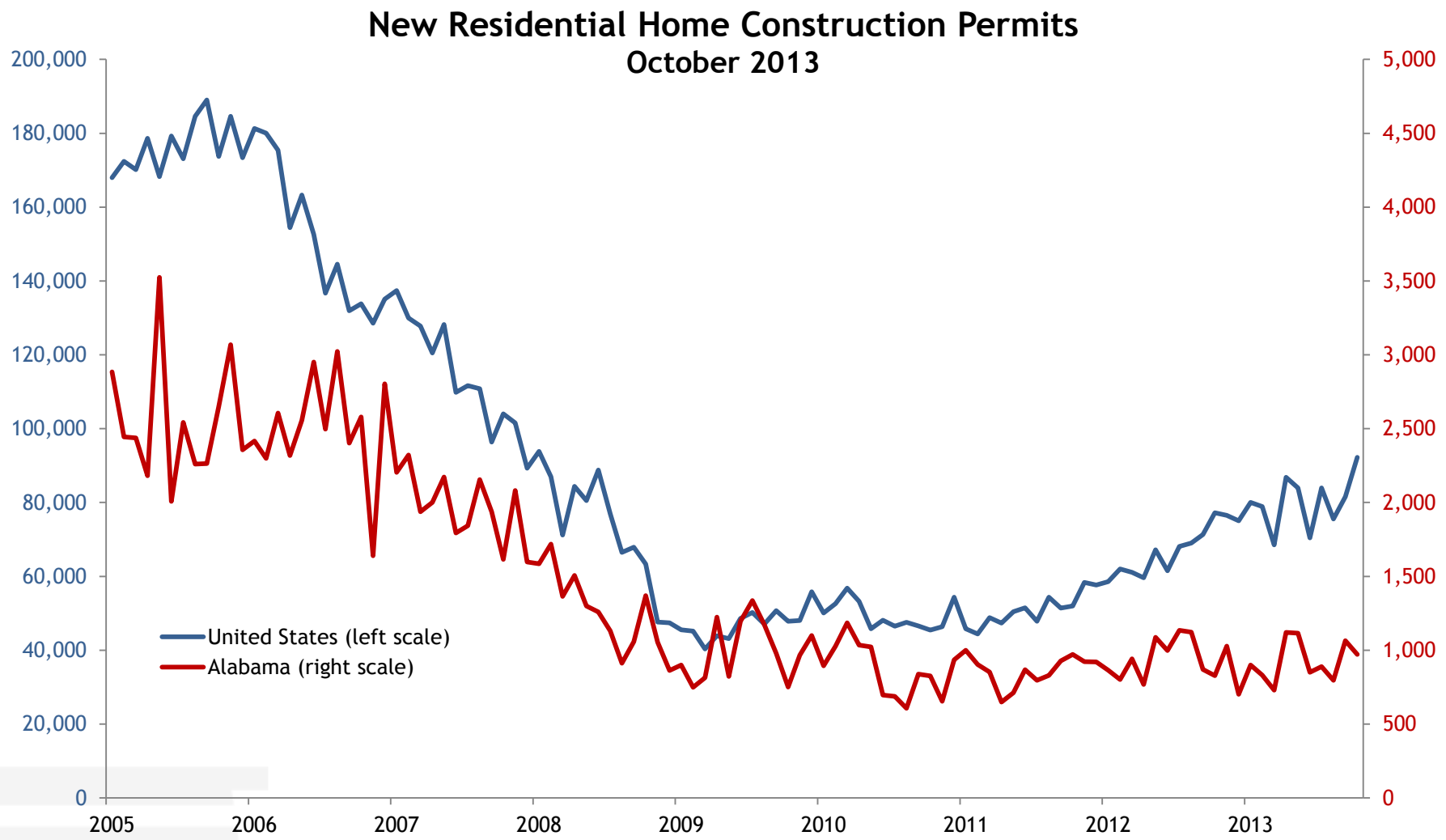


FHFA House Price Index: Q3 2013	1-yr % change	5-yr % change	10-yr % change
USA	4.5	-6.4	14.8
Alabama	-0.5	-8.0	16.0
Anniston-Oxford	-2.6	-9.7	10.7
Auburn-Opelika	-1.8	-12.0	16.2
Birmingham	-0.1	-8.1	11.6
Decatur	1.6	-2.6	16.7
Dothan	0.2	-8.3	14.9
Florence-Muscle Shoals	0.4	0.4	23.8
Gadsden	-1.6	-3.8	17.4
Huntsville	-0.7	-3.2	22.8
Mobile	-1.4	-17.0	11.9
Montgomery	1.3	-9.0	11.6
Tuscaloosa	-0.1	-2.7	21.9

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.