

November 21, 2013

September Employment Report Summary

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Arizona remained flat in September at 8.3%. The U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped one-tenth of a percentage point from 7.3% in August to 7.2% in September. A year ago, the Arizona seasonally adjusted rate was 8.3% and the U.S. rate was 7.8% (see **Figure 1**).

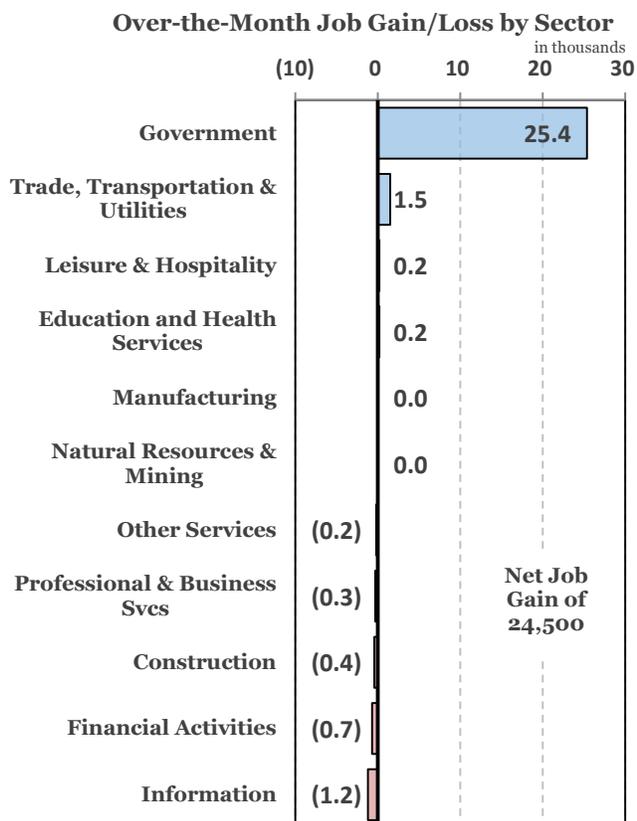
In September, Arizona added 24,500 Nonfarm jobs (1.0%). This gain was slightly above the ten-year-average ('03-'12) gain of 24,000 jobs, but below the post-recession-average ('10-'12) gain of 26,200 jobs. Government was responsible for the majority of Nonfarm job gains, adding 25,400 jobs (6.4%). This gain was more than both the ten-year-average ('03-'12) gain of 21,600 and the post-recession-average ('10-'12) gain of 22,900 jobs. The Private Sector lost 900 jobs (-0.04%). Private Sector losses are atypical in a month that historically ('03-'12) has averaged gains of 2,400 jobs.

Figure 1

Arizona, U.S. Economic Indicators			
Unemployment Rate (Seasonally Adj.)			
	<u>Sep '13</u>	<u>Aug '13</u>	<u>Sep '12</u>
United States	7.2%	7.3%	7.8%
Arizona	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%
Arizona unadjusted rate	8.3%	8.7%	8.2%
Arizona Nonfarm Employment (in Thousands)			
	<u>Sep '13</u>	<u>Aug '13</u>	<u>Sep '12</u>
Overall	2,519.3	2,494.8	2,477.9
Over-Month % Chg.	1.0%	1.7%	1.3%
Year-to-Year % Chg.	1.7%	2.0%	2.3%

See tables starting on Page 8 for metro and county areas unadjusted unemployment rates. Current seasonally adjusted rates for metro areas will be available online next week at www.azstats.gov.

Figure 2



Four of the eleven major sectors gained jobs, five recorded losses and two remained unchanged (see **Figure 2**). Government reported the largest gain of 25,400 jobs (6.4%) in September. Gains were from Local (13,700 jobs) and State (11,800 jobs) Government, primarily in Local (15,800 jobs) and State (11,700 jobs) Education. Federal Government lost 100 jobs. Trade, Transportation and Utilities added 1,500 jobs (0.3%), which were primarily in Transportation and Warehousing (1,200 jobs). Leisure and Hospitality gained 200 jobs, well below its ten-year-average ('03-'12) gain of 2,100 jobs. Education and Health Services gained 200 jobs. Both, Manufacturing and Natural Resources and Mining remained flat. Information recorded the largest over-the-month job loss, shedding 1,200 jobs (-3.0%). Losses are typical for this sector in the month of September. Financial Activities lost 700 jobs (-0.4%); primarily from Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (-1,100 jobs). Construction (-400 jobs), Professional and Business Services (-300 jobs), and Other Services (-200 jobs) also recorded losses.

Arizona added 41,400 Nonfarm jobs (1.7%) over the year in September. All over-the-year gains came from the Private Sector which added 45,100 jobs (2.2%). Government shed 3,700 jobs, most of which came from losses in Local (-2,200 jobs) and Federal (-1,300 jobs) Government. Eight-of-the-eleven major sectors reported gains and three reported losses (see **Figure 3**). The largest gain occurred in Trade, Transportation and Utilities which reported an additional 10,200 jobs over the year (2.1%). Leisure and Hospitality gained 8,600 jobs (3.2%) marking the tenth consecutive month of growth above 3.0%. Education and Health Services added 7,500 jobs (2.0%), most of which came from Health Care (6,700 jobs). Other major sectors reporting gains include Professional and Business Services (7,100 jobs), Financial Activities (6,500 jobs), Construction (5,300 jobs), Information (1,300 jobs), and Natural Resources and Mining (200 jobs). Losses were in Government (-3,700 jobs), Other Services (-1,000 jobs), and Manufacturing (-600 jobs).

Figure 3

Over-the-Year Job Gain/Loss by Sector

