



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 16, 2003

CONTACT: MILISSA REIERSON
(615) 741-2257 (OFFICE)
(615) 308-3705 (CELL)

September Unemployment Rate 5.4 Percent *Rate Up Slightly from August*

NASHVILLE - Tennessee's unemployment rate for the month of September is 5.4 percent, up slightly from the seasonally adjusted August rate of 5.1 percent, Commissioner of Labor & Workforce Development James Neeley announced today. The state rate remains below the September national rate of 6.1 percent.

"The slight rise in Tennessee's month-to-month unemployment rate is partially due to seasonal drop-offs in the leisure and hospitality industry. This is fairly typical for this time of year," said Commissioner Neeley. "The September 2002 to September 2003 figures continue to show significant decreases in a few manufacturing industries, but we are seeing some good signals too. The economy is rebounding especially in the services sector, but doing so very slowly. It will be a while before we see a significant turnaround."

The August-to-September figures show increases in local government educational services jobs, up by 9,400. Seasonal increases also occurred in state government educational service jobs, up by 6,300. Month-to-month seasonal decreases took place in accommodations and food service jobs, down by 3,700. Arts, entertainment and recreation jobs decreased 1,900.

From September 2002 to September 2003, health care and social assistance jobs increased by 7,800. Administrative, support and waste management jobs increased by 4,600. Decreases took place in manufacturing, down by 11,000. Construction jobs decreased by 4,700. Transportation and warehousing jobs declined by 4,000.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES SUMMARY - TENNESSEE

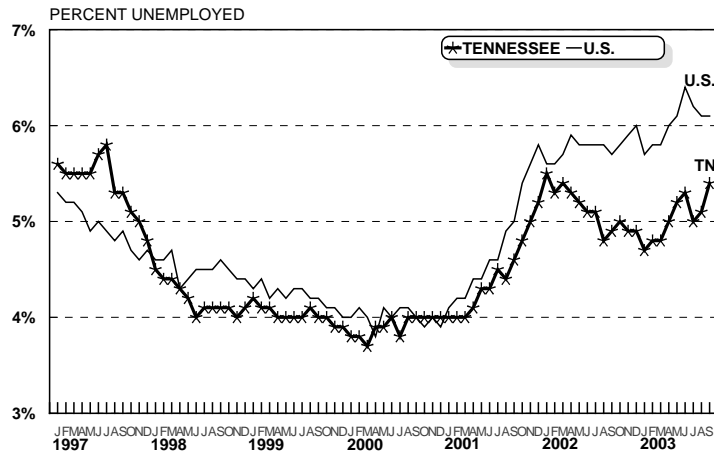
September 2003 (preliminary) - BM 2002

<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate		Rate
				Sep.	Aug.	Change
UNITED STATES	146,546,000	137,573,000	8,973,000	6.1 %	6.1 %	0.0 %
TENNESSEE	2,904,700	2,749,200	155,500	5.4	5.1	0.3

Not Seasonally Adjusted

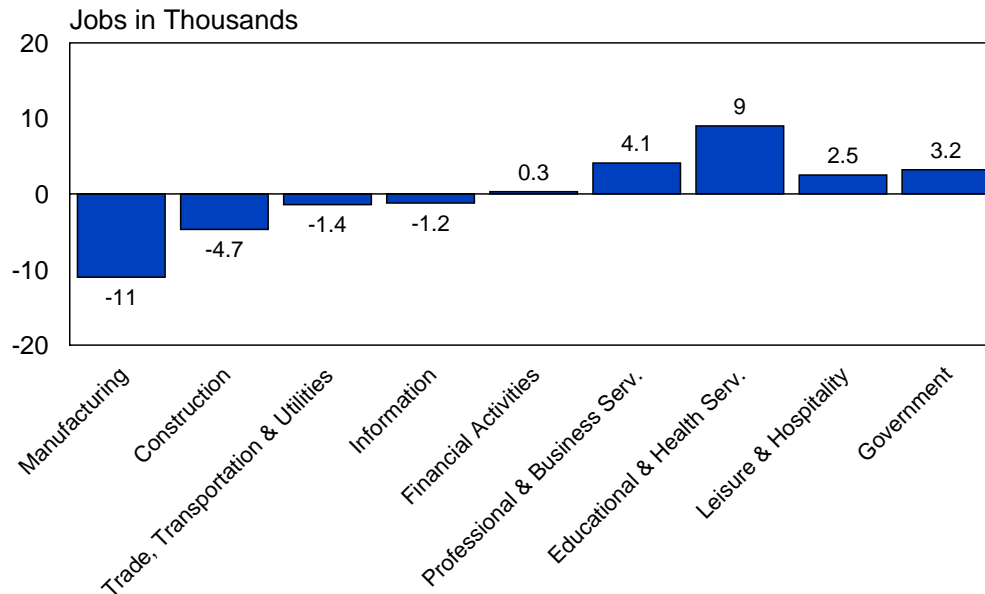
UNITED STATES	146,167,000	137,731,000	8,436,000	5.8 %	6.0 %	-0.2 %
TENNESSEE	2,920,300	2,774,800	145,500	5.0	5.1	-0.1

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - U.S. & TENNESSEE JANUARY 1997 - PRESENT



OVER THE YEAR JOB CHANGES

By Major Industry (Sept. 2002-2003)



* **ATTENTION:** County and MSA rates will be released on Thursday, October 23, 2003.
(03-093)

NOTE: Information will be available on the Internet; enter “ http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/labor_figures.”

NOTE: Tennessee's employment and unemployment statistics are based on two major surveys. The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a survey by place of residence providing estimates on the number of people in the labor force, total employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate. Beginning in January 1992, the CPS data are seasonally adjusted for all states as directed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The business survey collects data by place of work and creates information about jobs in various industries. The business survey data are non-seasonally adjusted at this time.

###

ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER, 8TH FLOOR
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TN 37243
615.741.2257