



Illinois Economic Update

August 21, 2015

Summary

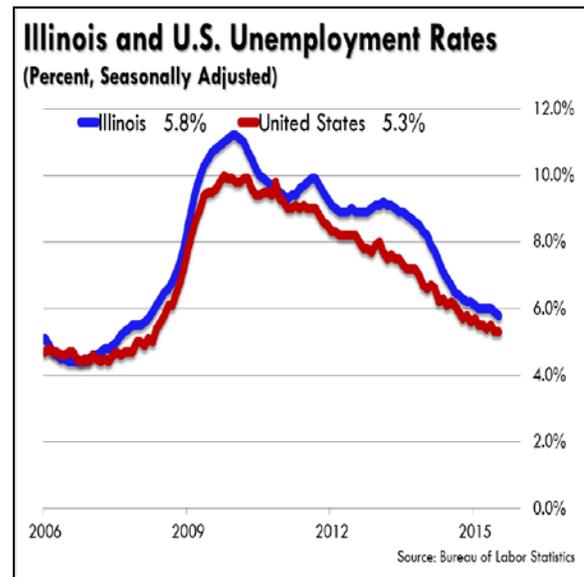
Nonfarm payroll employment in Illinois increased by 1,900 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 5.8 percent in July according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Illinois Unemployment Rate

During July, the unemployment rate in Illinois declined by 0.1 percentage point to 5.8 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 8,844 in July to 373,616, while the labor force fell by 1,894 to 6,489,152. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 33 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Illinois. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Illinois stood at 6.7 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Illinois was 11.2 percent in January 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Illinois occurred in February 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 13.1 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Illinois was 4.4 percent in November 2006. The series low for the unemployment rate in Illinois occurred in February 1999 when the unemployment rate reached 4.1 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.3 percent in July. July's unemployment rate was 0.9 percentage point lower than a year earlier when the rate stood at 6.2 percent. The ten year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The ten year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



Illinois Payroll Employment

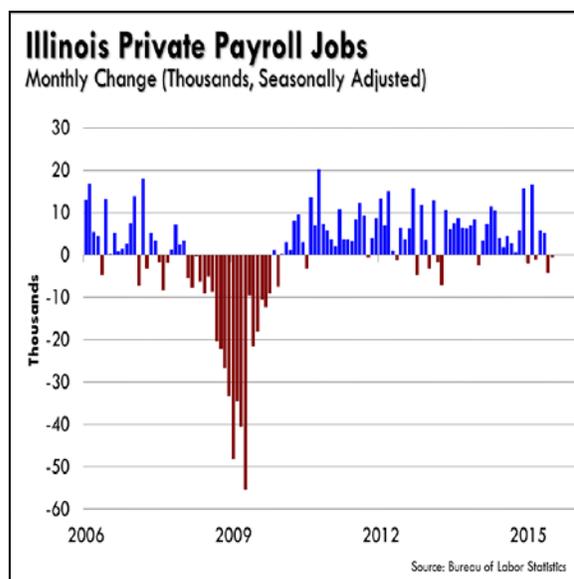
Illinois nonfarm payrolls increased by 1,900 jobs, or 0.03 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during July. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 5,600. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Illinois increased by 50,100, or 0.85 percent. Illinois nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 215,000 jobs in July, or 0.15 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in July 2015, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,915,000 jobs, or 2.09 percent. Illinois ranks 38th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During July, Illinois private sector payrolls declined by 700, or 0.01 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 4,300 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Illinois increased by 48,500, or 0.96 percent. Illinois private sector payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private sector payroll jobs increased by 210,000 in July, or 0.18 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,853,000 private sector payroll jobs, an increase of 2.43 percent. Illinois ranks 39th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During July, total government payroll employment in Illinois increased by 2,600, or 0.31 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 200, or 0.25 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 400, or 0.27 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 2,000, or 0.34 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 1,600, or 0.19 percent. State government payroll employment was unchanged. Local government payroll employment increased by 1,200, or 0.20 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during July were Total Government (+2,600) and Leisure & Hospitality (+2,400). The poorest performing sector during the month was Professional & Business Services (-5,300).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+16,400) and Educational & Health Services (+14,000). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Manufacturing (-5,300) and Other Services (-2,200).



Other Illinois Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Illinois was unchanged at 64.4 percent in July. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 20 have a higher labor force participation rate than Illinois. The labor force participation rate in Illinois is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10 year high for the labor force participation rate in Illinois was 68.7 percent in December 2007. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Illinois occurred in April 2000 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.8 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 64.4 percent in July 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in December 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 62.8 percent.



The national labor force participation rate remained at 62.6 percent in July. That rate is 0.2 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The rate for June and July are the lowest recorded since October 1977.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Illinois civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 60.7 percent in July from 60.6 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 23 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Illinois. The employment-to-population ratio in Illinois is 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Illinois was 65.0 percent in October 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Illinois occurred in February 2000 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 66.9 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 59.2 percent in December 2009. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in April 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 56.9 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio held steady at 59.3 percent in July. At 59.3 percent, the national employment-to-population ratio is below its level of 59.4 percent when the recession ended in June 2009. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 percent in April 2000. The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for August is scheduled for release on Friday, September 18. The national employment situation report for August will be released on Friday, September 4.

