



District of Columbia Economic Update

May 27, 2015

Summary

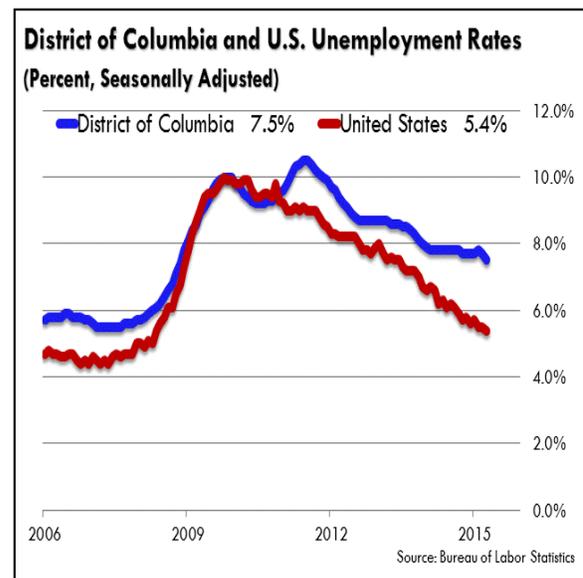
Nonfarm payroll employment in District of Columbia increased by 1,300 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 7.5 percent in April according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

District of Columbia Unemployment Rate

During April, the unemployment rate in District of Columbia declined by 0.2 percentage point to 7.5 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 439 in April to 29,037, while the labor force grew by 1,020 to 385,222. The District of Columbia posted the highest unemployment rate in the nation in April. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in District of Columbia stood at 7.8 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in District of Columbia was 10.5 percent in July 2011. The series high for the unemployment rate in District of Columbia occurred in September 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 11.3 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in District of Columbia was 5.5 percent in August 2007. The series low for the unemployment rate in District of Columbia occurred in September 1989 when the unemployment rate reached 4.8 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.4 percent in April. April's unemployment rate was 0.8 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.



District of Columbia Payroll Employment

District of Columbia nonfarm payrolls increased by 1,300 jobs, or 0.17 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during April. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 2,500. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in District of Columbia increased by 9,900, or 1.32 percent. District of Columbia nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

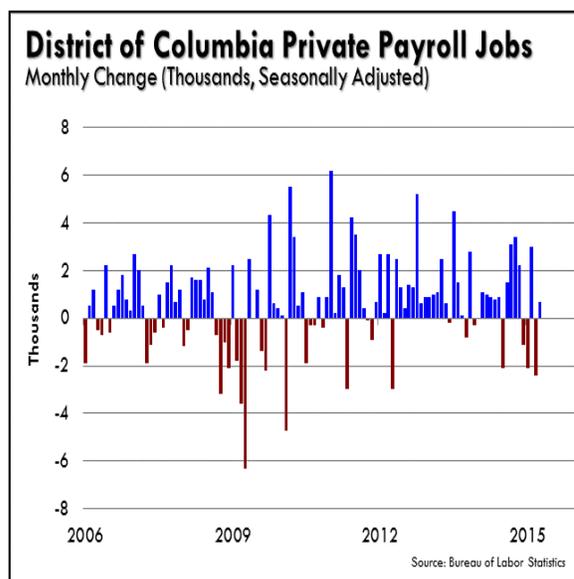
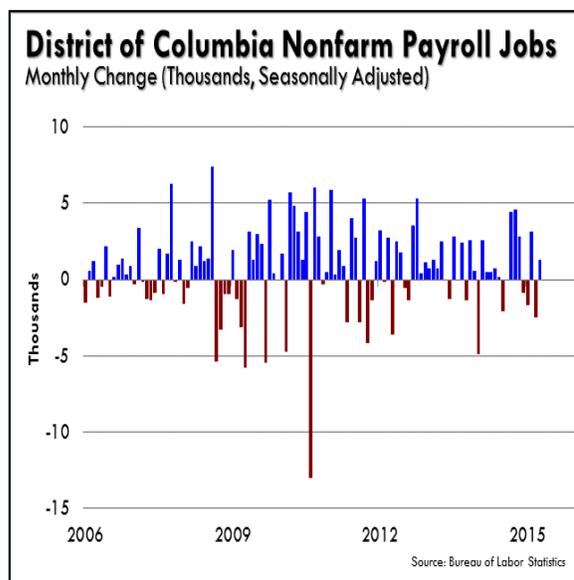
Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 223,000 jobs in April, or 0.16 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in April 2015, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,982,000 jobs, or 2.15 percent. District of Columbia ranks 32nd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During April, District of Columbia private sector payrolls increased by 700, or 0.13 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 2,400 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in District of Columbia increased by 7,900, or 1.53 percent. District of Columbia private sector payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private sector payroll jobs increased by 213,000 in April, or 0.18 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,918,000 private sector payroll jobs, an increase of 2.50 percent. District of Columbia ranks 30th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During April, total government payroll employment in District of Columbia increased by 600, or 0.25 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 500, or 0.25 percent.

Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 2,000, or 0.85 percent.



The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during April were Leisure & Hospitality (+1,000) and Professional & Business Services (+700). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Educational & Health Services (-1,400) and Financial Activities (-200).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+6,300) and Total Government (+2,000). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Educational & Health Services (-1,900) and Information (-300).

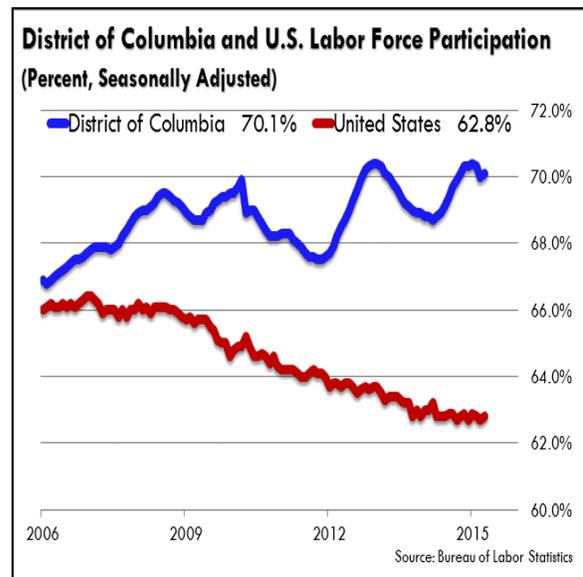
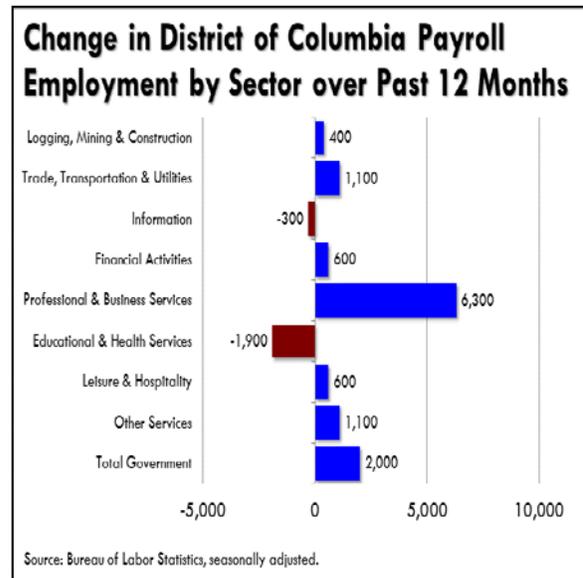
Other District of Columbia Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in District of Columbia rose to 70.1 percent in April from 70.0 percent the prior month. At 70.1 percent, District of Columbia has one of the five highest labor force participation rates in the nation. The labor force participation rate in District of Columbia 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 District of Columbia was 70.4 percent in January 2015. The series high for the labor force participation rate in District of Columbia occurred in July 1988 when the labor force participation rate hit 71.2 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 66.8 percent in February 2006. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in October 1981 when the labor force participation rate hit 62.0 percent.

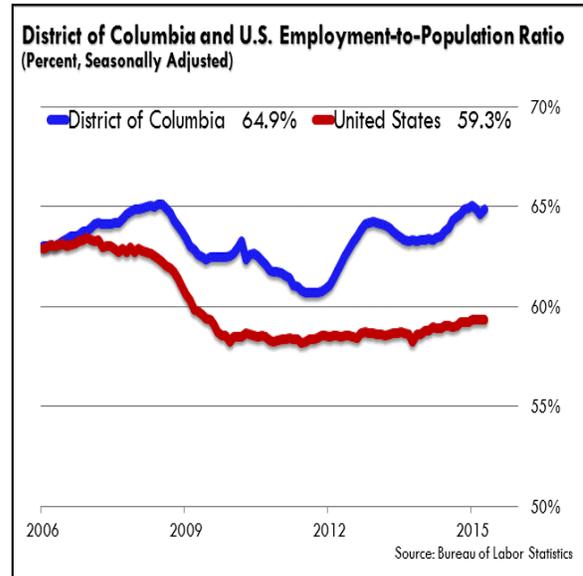
The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 62.8 percent in April. That rate is the same as a year earlier.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the District of Columbia civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 64.9 percent in April from 64.6 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of



Columbia, 11 have higher employment-to-population ratios than the District. The employment-to-population ratio in District of Columbia is 1.4 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in District of Columbia was 65.1 percent in July 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in District of Columbia occurred in July 1988 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 67.7 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 60.7 percent in October 2011. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1982 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 56.3 percent.



The national employment-to-population ratio was unchanged at 59.3 percent in April. At 59.3 percent, the national employment-to-population ratio is still below the 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 May is scheduled for release on Friday, June 19. The national employment situation report for April is scheduled for release on Friday, June 5.