



Nebraska Economic Update

June 19, 2015

Summary

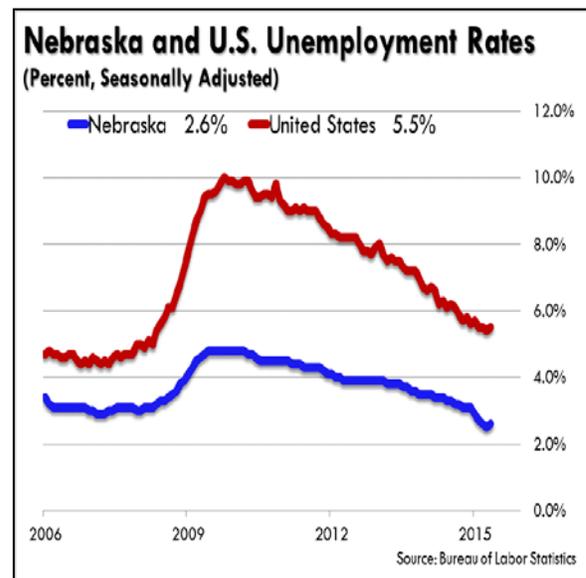
Nonfarm payroll employment in Nebraska declined by 4,800 jobs and the unemployment rate rose to 2.6 percent in May according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Nebraska Unemployment Rate

During May, the unemployment rate in Nebraska increased by 0.1 percentage point to 2.6 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 284 in May to 25,867, while the labor force fell by 2,813 to 1,012,258. Nebraska posted the lowest unemployment rate in the nation. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Nebraska stood at 3.4 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Nebraska was 4.8 percent in March 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Nebraska occurred in February 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 6.3 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Nebraska was 2.5 percent in April 2015. The series low for the unemployment rate in Nebraska occurred in October 1990 when the unemployment rate reached 2.3 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was inched up to 5.5 percent in May. May's unemployment rate was 0.8 percentage point lower than a year earlier when the rate stood at 6.3 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.



Nebraska Payroll Employment

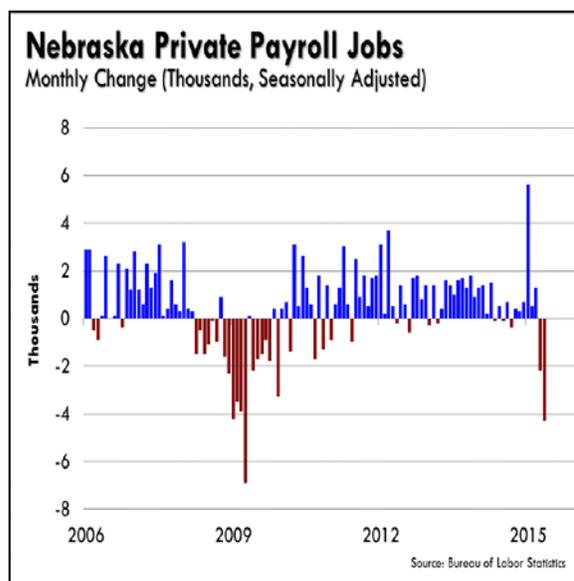
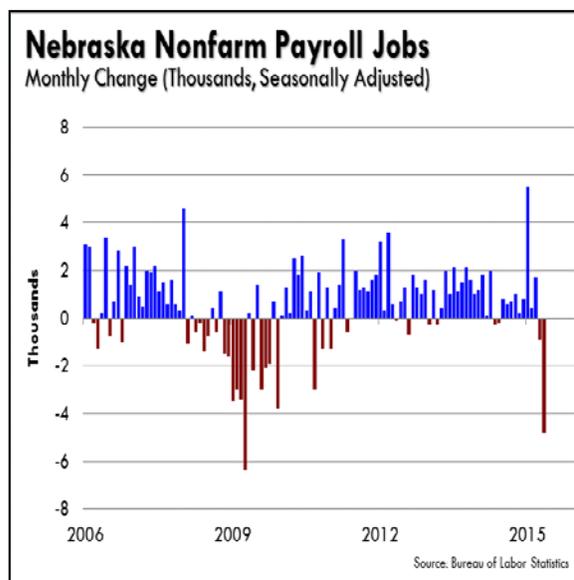
Nebraska nonfarm payrolls declined by 4,800 jobs, or 0.48 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during May. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 900. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Nebraska increased by 5,800, or 0.58 percent. Nebraska nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 280,000 jobs in May, or 0.20 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in May 2015, nonfarm payrolls grew by 3,058,000 jobs, or 2.21 percent. Nebraska ranks 48th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During May, Nebraska private sector payrolls declined by 4,300, or 0.52 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 2,200 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Nebraska increased by 3,000, or 0.36 percent. Nebraska private sector payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private sector payroll jobs increased by 262,000 in May, or 0.22 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,958,000 private sector payroll jobs, an increase of 2.53 percent. Nebraska ranks 49th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

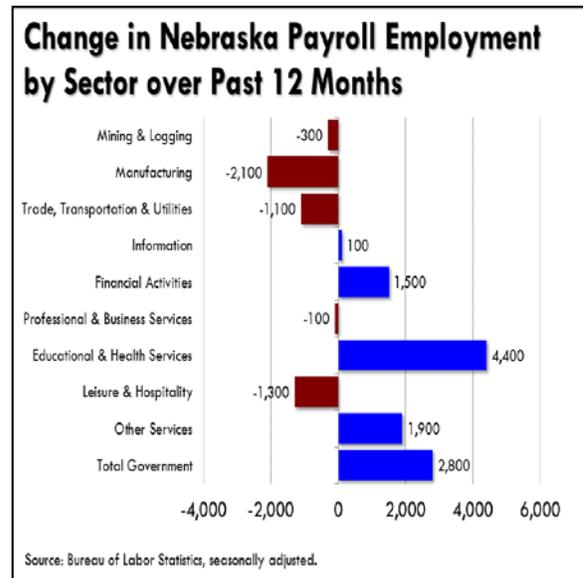
During May, total government payroll employment in Nebraska declined by 500, or 0.29 percent. Federal government payroll employment declined by 100, or 0.60 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 700, or 1.61 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 300, or 0.27 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 2,800, or 1.65 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 900, or 2.15 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 1,800, or 1.62 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during May were Mining & Logging (+300) and Other Services (+300). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Leisure & Hospitality (-2,200) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-1,100).

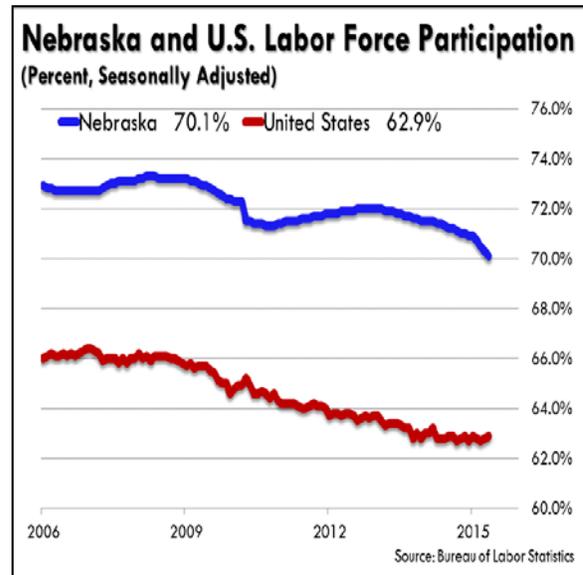
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+4,400) and Total Government (+2,800). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Manufacturing (-2,100) and Leisure & Hospitality (-1,300).



Other Nebraska Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Nebraska declined to 70.1 percent in May from 70.3 percent the prior month. At 70.1 percent, Nebraska has one of the five highest labor force participation rates in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Nebraska 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 Nebraska was 73.5 percent in June 2005. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Nebraska occurred in April 2003 when the labor force participation rate hit 73.9 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 70.1 percent in May 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in May 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 65.1 percent.



The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 62.9 percent in May. That rate is 0.1 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Nebraska civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 68.3 percent in May from 68.6 percent the prior month. At 68.3 percent, Nebraska has one of the five highest employment-to-population ratios in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in Nebraska is 0.7 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Nebraska was 71.0 percent in March 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Nebraska occurred in December 1998 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 71.7 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 68.1 percent in November 2010. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 63.0 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio ticked up to 59.4 percent in May. At 59.4 percent, the national employment-to-population ratio has finally risen back to the level it was at when the recession ended in June 2009. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 percent in May 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 Tuesday, July 21. The national employment situation report for June is scheduled for release on Thursday, July 2. The national employment report is being released on Thursday instead of Friday due to the Independence Day holiday.

