

Hawaii Economic Update

November 20, 2015

Summary

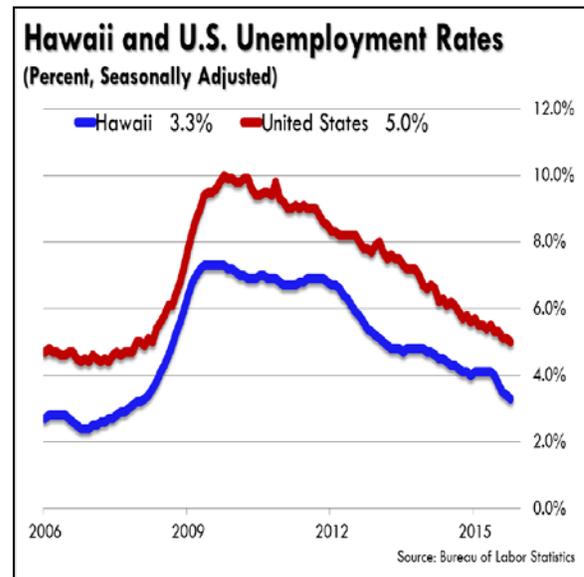
Nonfarm payroll employment in Hawaii increased by 2,600 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 3.3 percent in October according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Hawaii Unemployment Rate

During October, the unemployment rate in Hawaii declined by 0.1 percentage point to 3.3 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 673 in October to 22,505, while the labor force grew by 2,137 to 677,224. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, only 3 posted lower unemployment rates. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Hawaii stood at 4.1 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Hawaii was 7.3 percent in October 2009. The series high for the unemployment rate in Hawaii occurred in January 1976 when the unemployment rate reached 10.4 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate was 2.4 percent in December 2006. This also represents the series low for the unemployment rate in Hawaii. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 5.0 percent in October. October's unemployment rate was 0.7 percentage point lower than a year earlier. 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.



Hawaii Payroll Employment

Hawaii nonfarm payrolls increased by 2,600 jobs, or 0.41 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during October. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 8,100. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Hawaii increased by 11,900, or 1.90 percent. Hawaii nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

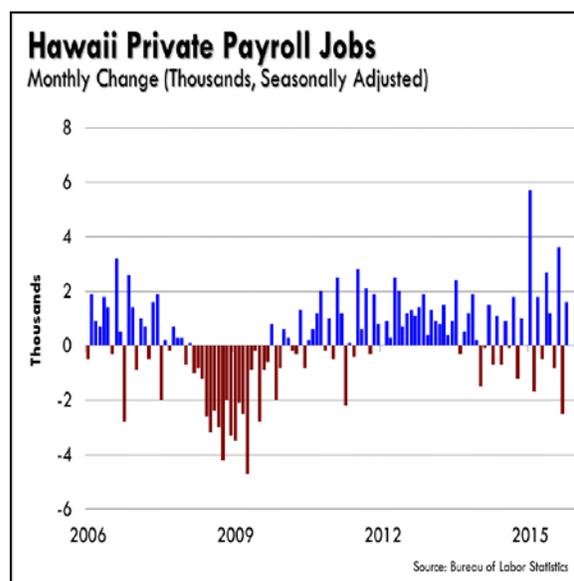
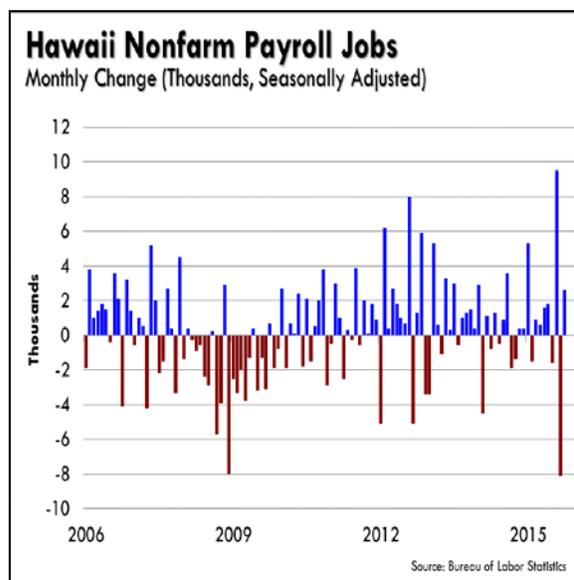
Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 271,000 jobs in October, or 0.19 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in October 2015 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,814,000 jobs, or 2.01 percent. Hawaii ranks 16th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During October, Hawaii private sector payrolls increased by 1,600, or 0.31 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 2,500 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Hawaii increased by 12,100, or 2.42 percent. Hawaii private sector payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 268,000 jobs in 2.01, or 0.22 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,709,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.30 percent.

Hawaii ranks 14th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During October, total government payroll employment in Hawaii increased by 1,000, or 0.81 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 300, or 0.93 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 600, or 0.83 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.53 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 200, or 0.16 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.14 percent. Local government payroll employment was unchanged.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during October were Logging, Mining & Construction (+1,100) and Total Government (+1,000). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-600) and Financial Activities (-500).

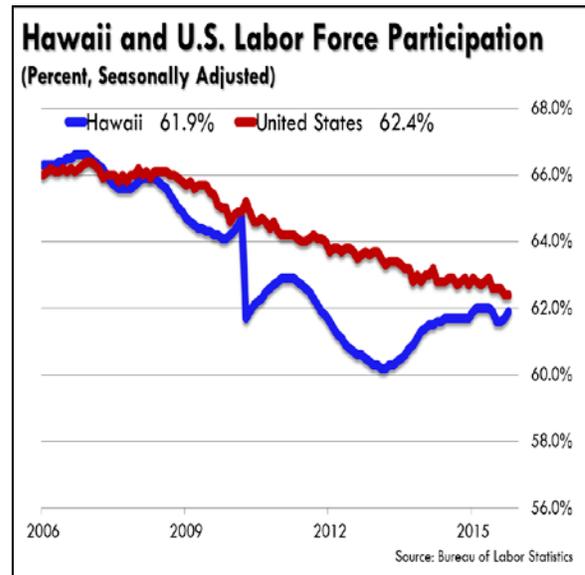
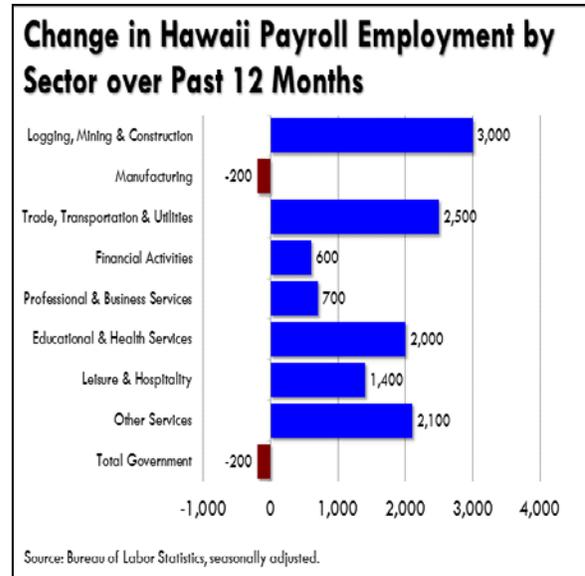
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Logging, Mining & Construction (+3,000) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+2,500). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Total Government (-200) and Manufacturing (-200).

Other Hawaii Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Hawaii rose to 61.9 percent in October from 61.7 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 33 have a higher labor force participation rate than Hawaii. The labor force participation rate in Hawaii 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 Hawaii was 66.6 percent in December 2006. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Hawaii occurred in January 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.9 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 60.2 percent in March 2013. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Hawaii.

The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 62.4 percent in October. That rate was 0.4 percentage point lower than a year earlier. At 62.4 percent, the labor force participation rate is at its lowest level since September 1977.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Hawaii civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 59.8 percent in October from 59.6 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 26 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Hawaii. The employment-to-population ratio in Hawaii is 0.7 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Hawaii was 65.0 percent in December 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Hawaii occurred in May 1991 when the employment-

to-population ratio hit 67.3 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 57.1 percent in July 2012. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in August 2012 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 57.1 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 59.3 percent in October. That rate was 0.1 percentage point higher than a year earlier, but still 0.1 percentage point lower than it was 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 November is scheduled for release on Friday, December 18. The national employment situation report for November will be released on Friday, December 4.

