



# Alaska Economic Update

July 21, 2015

## Summary

Nonfarm payroll employment in Alaska declined by 3,900 jobs and the unemployment rate rose to 6.8 percent in June according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## Alaska Unemployment Rate

During June, the unemployment rate in Alaska increased by 0.1 percentage point to 6.8 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 112 in June to 24,835, while the labor force fell by 1,311 to 365,114. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 47 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Alaska. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Alaska stood at 7.0 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Alaska was 8.0 percent in April 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Alaska occurred in August 1986 when the unemployment rate reached 11.2 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate was 6.3 percent in February 2015. This also represents the series low for the unemployment rate in Alaska. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate declined to 5.3 percent in June. June's unemployment rate was 0.8 percentage point lower than a year earlier when the rate stood at 6.1 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.



## Alaska Payroll Employment

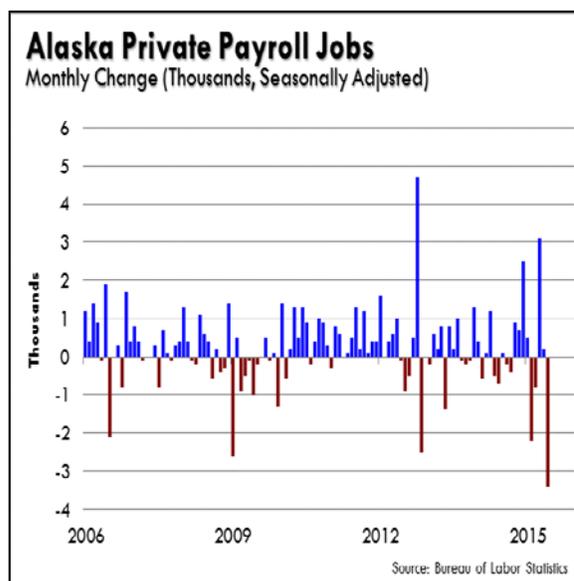
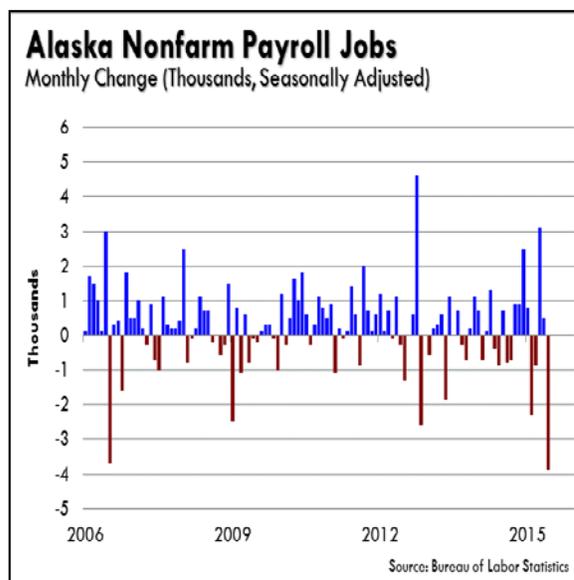
Alaska nonfarm payrolls declined by 3,900 jobs, or 1.14 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during June. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 500. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Alaska increased by 800, or 0.24 percent. Alaska nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 223,000 jobs in June, or 0.16 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in June 2015, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,935,000 jobs, or 2.11 percent. Alaska ranks 49th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During June, Alaska private sector payrolls declined by 3,400, or 1.31 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 200 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Alaska increased by 1,000, or 0.39 percent. Alaska private sector payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private sector payroll jobs increased by 223,000 in June, or 0.19 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,880,000 private sector payroll jobs, an increase of 2.46 percent. Alaska ranks 47th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During June, total government payroll employment in Alaska declined by 500, or 0.61 percent. Federal government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.39 percent, while local government payroll employment declined by 600, or 1.44 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 200, or 0.24 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 300, or 1.14 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.24 percent.

The best performing sector on a seasonally adjusted basis during June was Other Services (+100). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-1,200) and Leisure & Hospitality (-700).

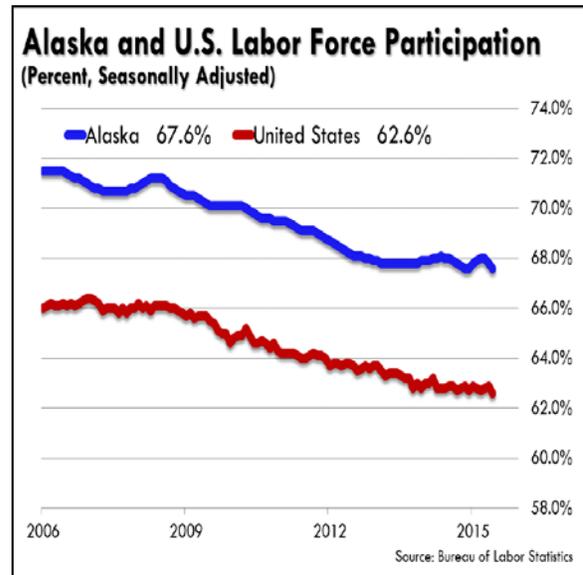
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+2,300) and Educational & Health Services (+1,300). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Manufacturing (-1,600) and Professional & Business Services (-900).

#### Other Alaska Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Alaska declined to 67.6 percent in June from 67.8 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 10 have a higher labor force participation rate than Alaska. The labor force participation rate in Alaska 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 Alaska was 71.8 percent in September 2005. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Alaska occurred in December 1989 when the labor force participation rate hit 74.4 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 67.6 percent in June 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in March 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 67.4 percent.

The national labor force participation rate declined by 0.3 percentage point to 62.6 percent in June. That rate is 0.2 percentage point lower than a year earlier and the lowest recorded since October 1977.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Alaska civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 63.0 percent in June from 63.3 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 15 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Alaska. The employment-to-population ratio in Alaska is 0.3 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Alaska was 67.0 percent in July 2005. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Alaska occurred in March 1998 when the

employment-to-population ratio hit 69.5 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.0 percent in June 2015. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in September 1977 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 62.5 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio ticked down to 59.3 percent in June. 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 June 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 June is scheduled for release on Tuesday, July 21. The national employment situation report for June is scheduled for release on Friday, August 21. The national employment situation for July will be released on Friday, August 7.

