



# Utah Economic Update

August 19, 2016

## Summary

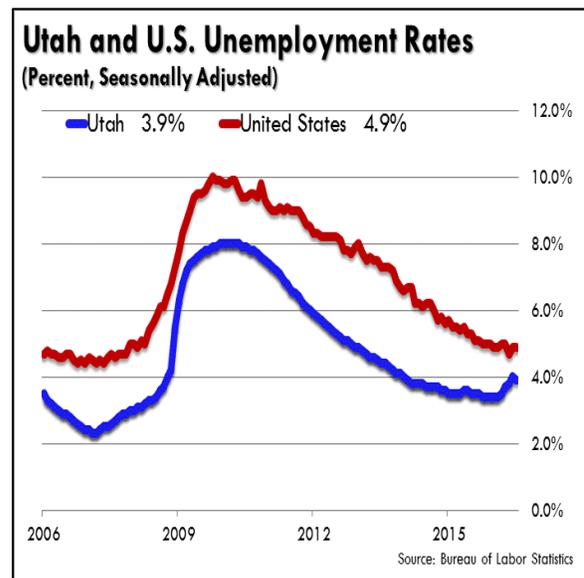
Nonfarm payroll employment in Utah increased by 6,800 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 3.9 percent in July according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## Utah Unemployment Rate

During July, the unemployment rate in Utah declined by 0.1 percentage point to 3.9 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 637 in July to 58,571, while the labor force grew by 1,326 to 1,499,763. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 9 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Utah. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Utah stood at 3.5 percent.

The 10-year peak for the unemployment rate in Utah was 8.0 percent in May 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Utah occurred in March 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 9.6 percent. The 10-year low for the unemployment rate was 2.3 percent in March 2007. This also represents the series low for the unemployment rate in Utah. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent in July. July's unemployment rate was 0.4 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



## Utah Payroll Employment

Utah nonfarm payrolls increased by 6,800 jobs, or 0.48 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during July. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 2,300. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Utah increased by 42,300, or 3.06 percent. Utah nonfarm payroll employment has increased in each of the past 36 months.

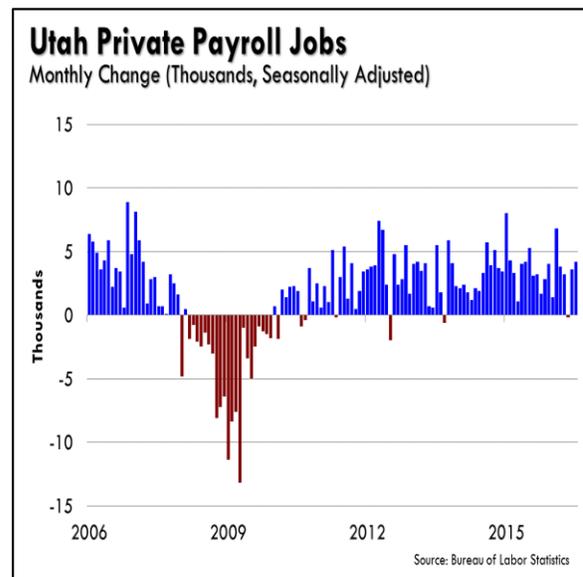
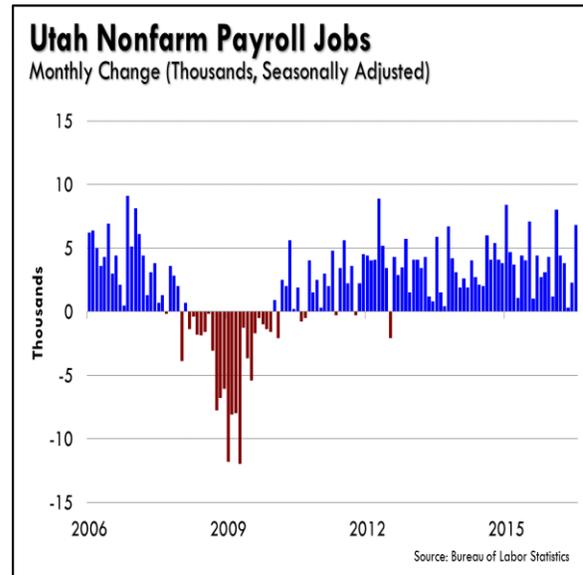
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 255,000 jobs in July, or 0.18 percent. Over the 12-month period ending July 2016, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,447,000 jobs, or 1.72 percent. Utah posted the fourth highest percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment among the 50 states and the District of Columbia over the past 12 months.

During July, Utah private sector payrolls increased by 4,200, or 0.36 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 3,600 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Utah increased by 37,600, or 3.28 percent. Utah private sector payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 217,000 jobs in July, or 0.18 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,293,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 1.91 percent. Utah posted the fourth highest percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment among the 50 states and the District of Columbia over the past 12 months.

During July, total government payroll employment in Utah increased by 2,600, or 1.10 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 500, or 1.39 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 1,800, or 2.29 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 3,900, or 3.18 percent.

Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 4,700, or 2.00 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 700, or 0.92 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 2,200, or 1.77 percent.



The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during July were Total Government (+2,600) and Financial Activities (+1,300). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Leisure & Hospitality (-1,300) and Other Services (-300).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+8,300) and Educational & Health Services (+8,300). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Mining & Logging (-1,000) and Information (+200).

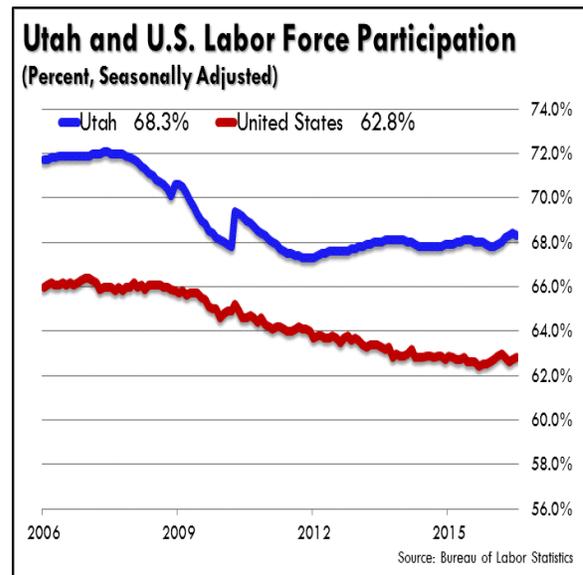
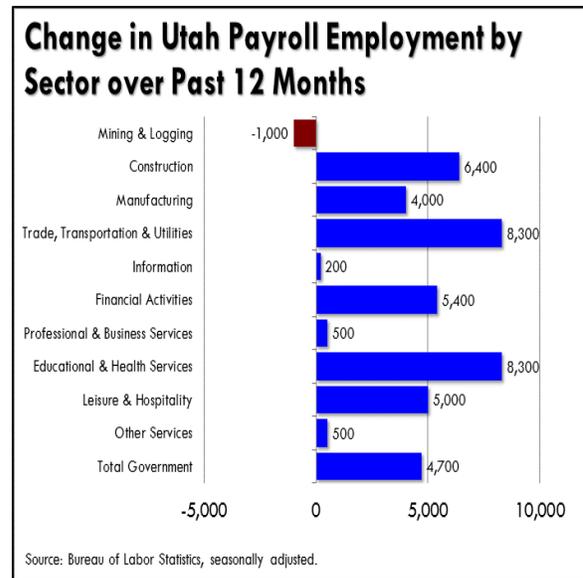
### Other Utah Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Utah declined to 68.3 percent in July from 68.4 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 7 have a higher labor force participation rate than Utah. The labor force participation rate in Utah 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 Utah was 72.1 percent in June 2007. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Utah occurred in June 1994 when the labor force participation rate hit 73.2 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 67.3 percent in January 2012. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in December 1977 when the labor force participation rate hit 62.6 percent.

The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 62.8 percent in July, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Utah civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 65.6 percent in July from 65.7 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 7 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Utah. The employment-to-population ratio in Utah is 0.1 percentage point lower than a year earlier.



The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Utah was 70.3 percent in May 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Utah occurred in June 1994 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 70.4 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 62.4 percent in March 2010. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 58.9 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 59.7 percent in July. That rate was 0.4 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 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 ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for August is scheduled for release on September 20, 2016. The national employment situation report for August will be released on Friday, September 2, 2016.

