



North Carolina Economic Update

November 18, 2016

Summary

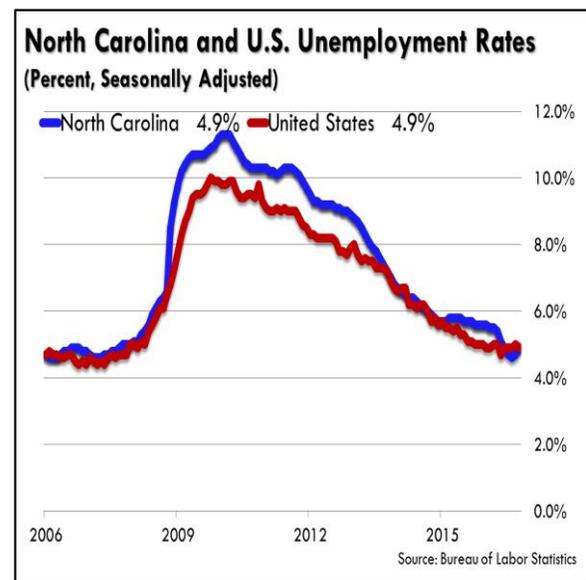
Nonfarm payroll employment in North Carolina increased by 5,700 jobs, and the unemployment rate rose to 4.9 percent in October according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

North Carolina Unemployment Rate

During October, the unemployment rate in North Carolina increased by 0.2 percentage point to 4.9 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 10,095 in October to 237,205, while the labor force grew by 30,261 to 4,853,891. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 26 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than North Carolina. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in North Carolina stood at 5.6 percent.

The 10-year peak for the unemployment rate in North Carolina was 11.3 percent in March 2010. This also represents the series high for the unemployment rate in North Carolina. The 10-year low for the unemployment rate in North Carolina was 4.6 percent in August 2016. The series low for the unemployment rate in North Carolina occurred in April 1999 when the unemployment rate was 3.0 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 4.9 percent in October. October's unemployment rate was 0.1 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.



North Carolina Payroll Employment

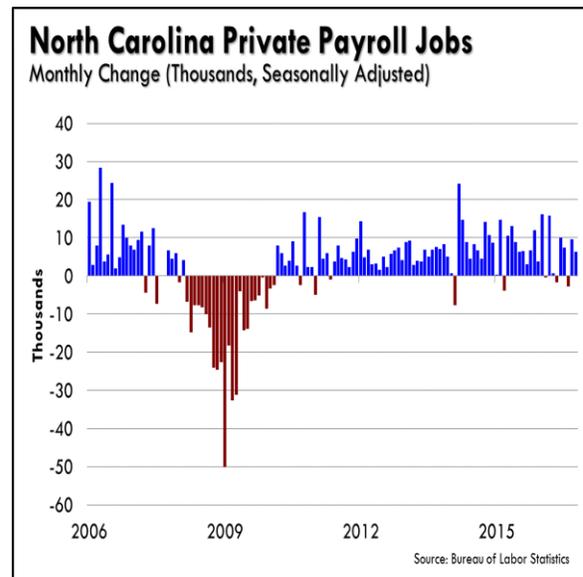
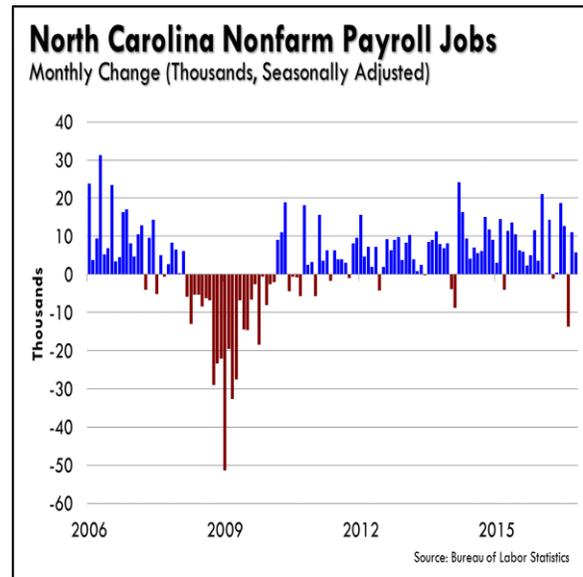
North Carolina nonfarm payrolls increased by 5,700 jobs, or 0.13 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during October. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 11,100. Over the past 12 months, nonfarm payrolls in North Carolina increased by 84,700, or 1.99 percent. North Carolina nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 10 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 161,000 jobs in October, or 0.11 percent. Over the 12-month period ending October 2016, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,357,000 jobs, or 1.65 percent. North Carolina ranks 17th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During October, North Carolina private-sector payrolls increased by 6,300, or 0.17 percent. Private-sector payrolls increased by 9,600 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private-sector payrolls in North Carolina increased by 76,800, or 2.17 percent. North Carolina private-sector payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 142,000 jobs in October, or 0.12 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,149,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.78 percent. North Carolina ranks 18th 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 North Carolina declined by 600, or 0.08 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 700, or 0.97 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 1,300, or 0.62 percent, while local government payroll employment was unchanged.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 7,900, or 1.10 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 200, or 0.10 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 5,700, or 1.29 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during October were Professional & Business Services (+5,500) and Leisure & Hospitality (+3,600). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Other Services (-2,200) and Educational & Health Services (-1,200).

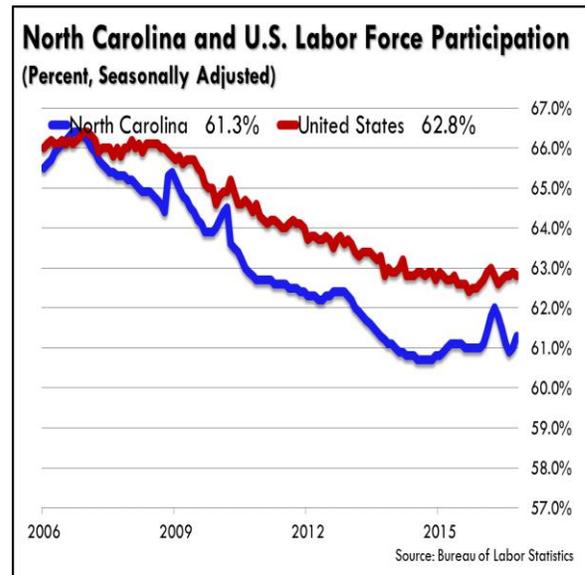
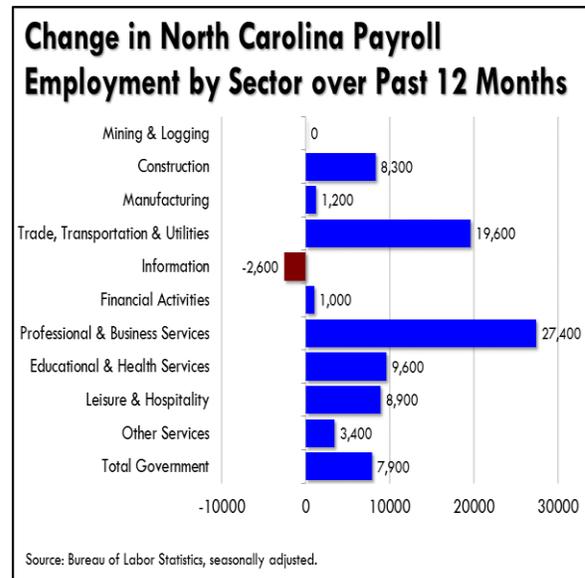
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+27,400) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+19,600). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Information (-2,600) and Mining & Logging (unchanged).

Other North Carolina Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in North Carolina rose to 61.3 percent in October from 61.0 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 36 have a higher labor force participation rate than North Carolina. The labor force participation rate in North Carolina 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 North Carolina was 66.4 percent in November 2006. The series high for the labor force participation rate in North Carolina occurred in December 1989 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.0 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 60.7 percent in November 2014. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in North Carolina.

The national labor force participation rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 62.8 percent in October 2016, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the North Carolina civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 58.3 percent in October from 58.1 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 36 have higher employment-to-population ratios than North Carolina. The employment-to-population ratio in North Carolina is 0.7 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in North Carolina was 63.1 percent in November 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in North Carolina occurred in November 1989 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 66.5 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 56.1 percent in October 2011. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in November 2011 when the employment-to-population ratio was 56.1 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio declined by 0.1 percentage point to 59.7 percent in October. 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 November is scheduled for release on December 16, 2016. The national employment situation report for November will be released on Friday, December 2, 2016.

