

Hawaii Economic Update

June 19, 2015

Summary

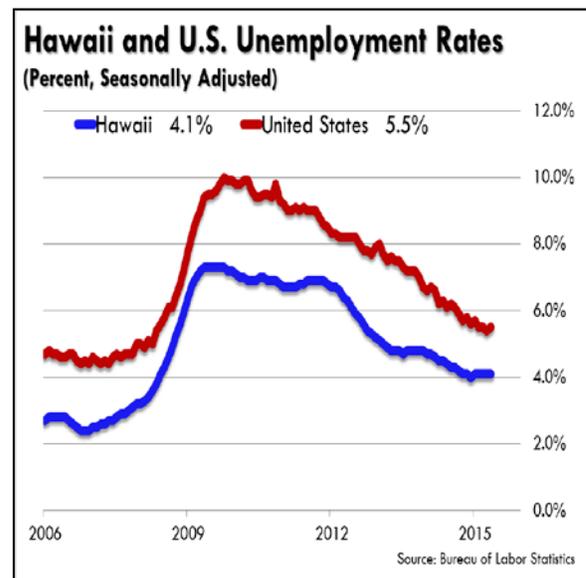
Nonfarm payroll employment in Hawaii increased by 1,700 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.1 percent in May according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Hawaii Unemployment Rate

During May, the unemployment rate in Hawaii was unchanged at 4.1 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 184 in May to 27,421, while the labor force grew by 331 to 676,188. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 10 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Hawaii. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Hawaii stood at 4.5 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 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.



Hawaii Payroll Employment

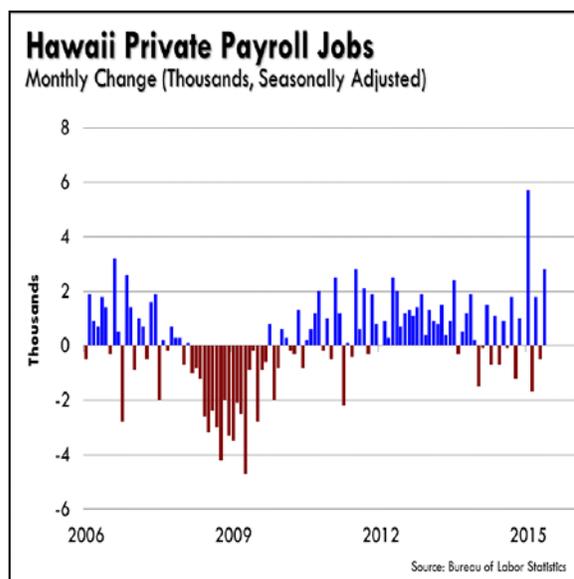
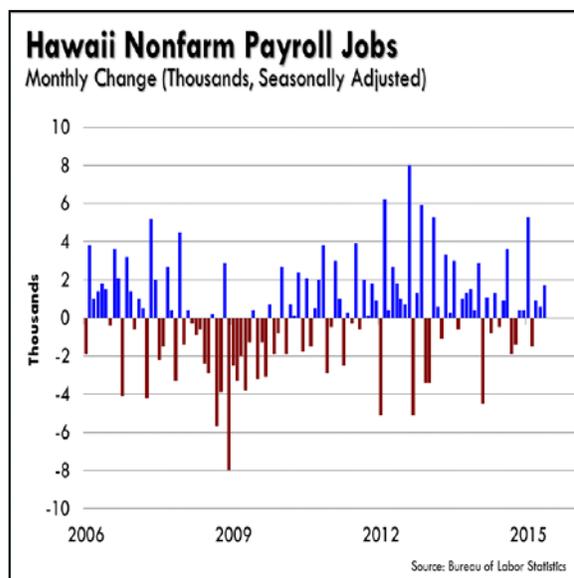
Hawaii nonfarm payrolls increased by 1,700 jobs, or 0.27 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during May. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 600. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Hawaii increased by 8,500, or 1.36 percent. Hawaii nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 8 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. Hawaii ranks 32nd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During May, Hawaii private sector payrolls increased by 2,800, or 0.55 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 500 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Hawaii increased by 9,800, or 1.96 percent. Hawaii private sector payroll employment has increased in 6 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. Hawaii ranks 22nd 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 Hawaii declined by 1,100, or 0.88 percent. Federal government payroll employment declined by 200, or 0.61 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 900, or 1.23 percent, while local government payroll employment was unchanged.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 1,300, or 1.04 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 900, or 1.23 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 400, or 2.15 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during May were Professional & Business Services (+800) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+700). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Total Government (-1,100) and Manufacturing (-200).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+3,600) and Professional & Business Services (+2,400). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Total Government (-1,300) and Manufacturing (-300).

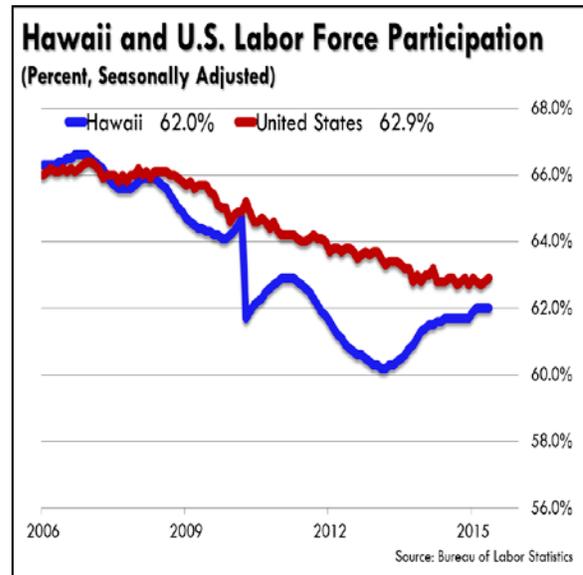
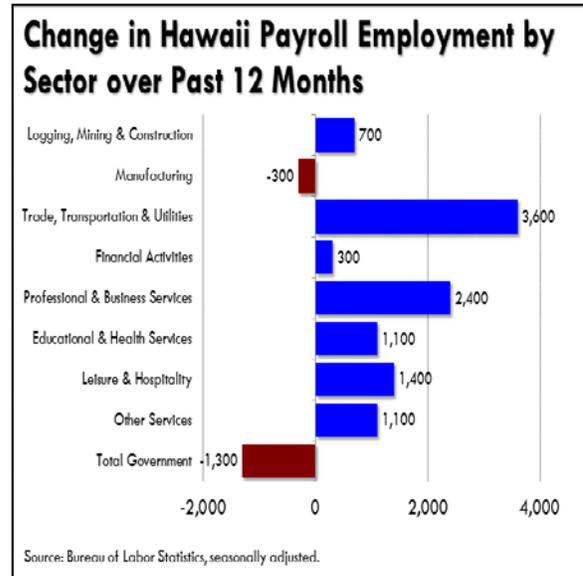
Other Hawaii Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Hawaii was unchanged at 62.0 percent in May. 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.

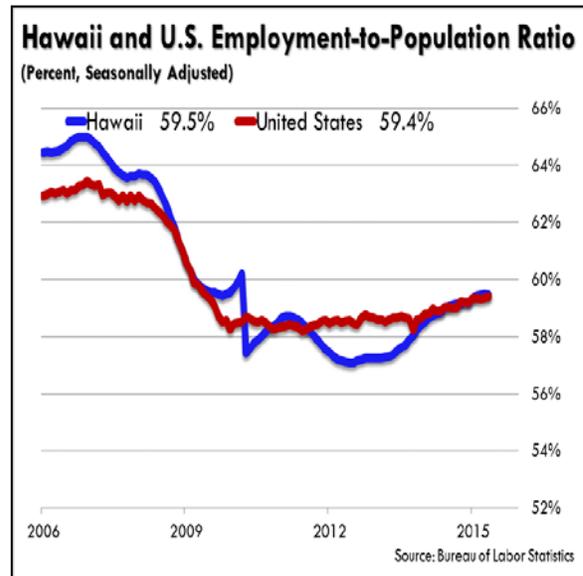
The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 62.9 percent in May. That rate is 0.1 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Hawaii civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged



at 59.5 percent in May. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 30 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Hawaii. The employment-to-population ratio in Hawaii is 0.6 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 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.