



Alaska Economic Update

March 28, 2016

Summary

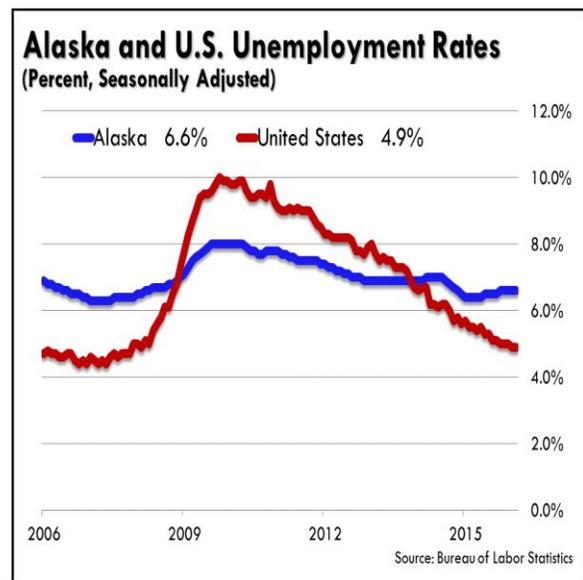
Nonfarm payroll employment in Alaska increased by 400 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.6 percent in February according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Alaska Unemployment Rate

During February, the unemployment rate in Alaska was unchanged at 6.6 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 24 in February to 23,922, while the labor force fell by 452 to 362,952. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 50 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Alaska. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Alaska stood at 6.4 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 June 2007. 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 was unchanged at 4.9 percent in February. February's unemployment rate was 0.6 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.



Alaska Payroll Employment

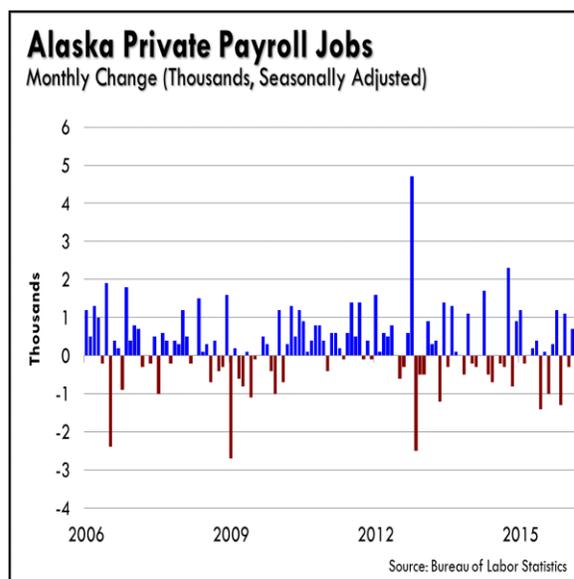
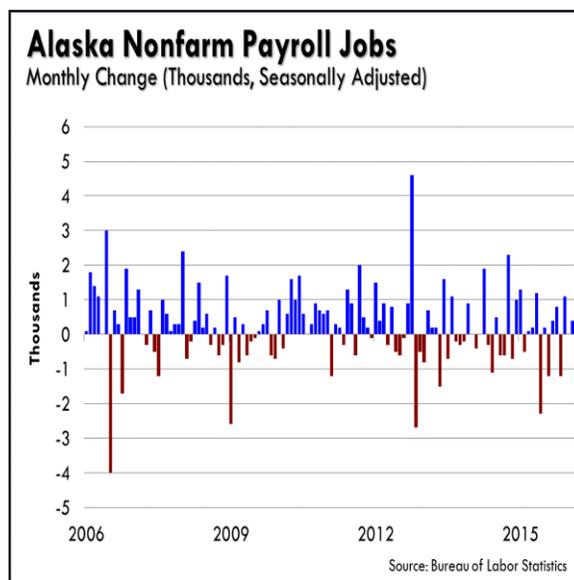
Alaska nonfarm payrolls increased by 400 jobs, or 0.12 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during February. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls was unchanged. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Alaska declined by 300, or 0.09 percent. Alaska nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 242,000 jobs in February, or 0.17 percent. Over the 12-month period ending February 2016 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,672,000 jobs, or 1.9 percent. Alaska ranks 45th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During February, Alaska private sector payrolls increased by 700, or 0.27 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 300 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Alaska was unchanged. Alaska private sector payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 230,000 jobs in 1.9, or 0.19 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,597,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.18 percent. Alaska ranks 45th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During February, total government payroll employment in Alaska declined by 300, or 0.37 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.66 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 300, or 1.20 percent, while local government payroll employment declined by 100, or 0.24 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 300, or 0.37 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 1,400, or 5.36 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 500, or 1.22 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during February were Educational & Health Services (+400) and Leisure & Hospitality (+400). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Professional & Business Services (-400) and Total Government (-300).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+2,300) and Educational & Health Services (+1,200). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Professional & Business Services (-1,700) and Construction (-1,500).

Other Alaska Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Alaska declined to 66.9 percent in February from 67.0 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 71.5 percent in June 2006. 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 66.9 percent in February 2016. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Alaska.

The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.2 percentage point to 62.9 percent in February, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Alaska civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 62.4 percent in February from 62.5 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 0.5 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Alaska was 66.8 percent in June 2006. 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 62.4 percent in February 2016. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 2016 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 62.4 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.2 percentage point to 59.8 percent in February. That rate was 0.5 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 March is scheduled for release on April 15, 2016. The national employment situation report for March will be released on Friday, April 1, 2016.

