

# Texas Economic Update

May 27, 2015

## Summary

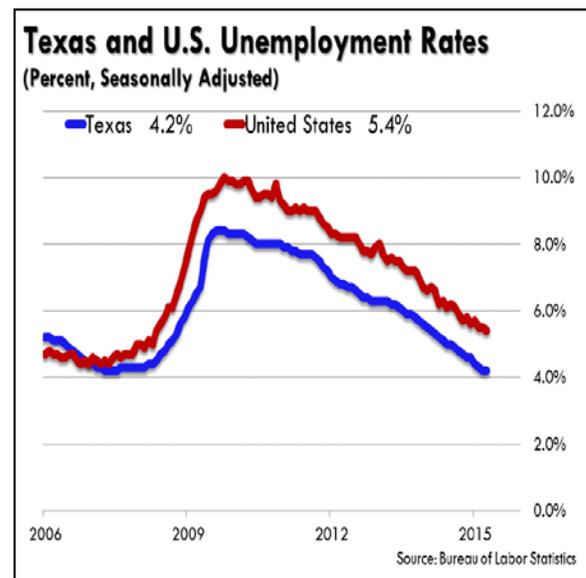
Nonfarm payroll employment in Texas increased by 1,200 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.2 percent in April according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## Texas Unemployment Rate

During April, the unemployment rate in Texas was unchanged at 4.2 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 732 in April to 558,169, while the labor force fell by 18,630 to 13,154,897. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 13 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Texas. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Texas stood at 5.2 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Texas was 8.4 percent in October 2009. The series high for the unemployment rate in Texas occurred in November 1986 when the unemployment rate reached 9.2 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Texas was 4.2 percent in April 2015. The series low for the unemployment rate in Texas occurred in December 2000 when the unemployment rate reached 4.0 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.4 percent in April. April's unemployment rate was 0.8 percentage point lower than a year earlier when the rate stood at 6.2 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.



## Texas Payroll Employment

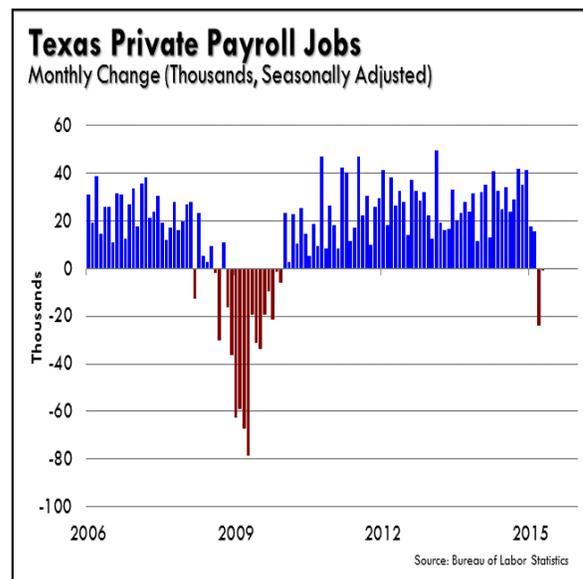
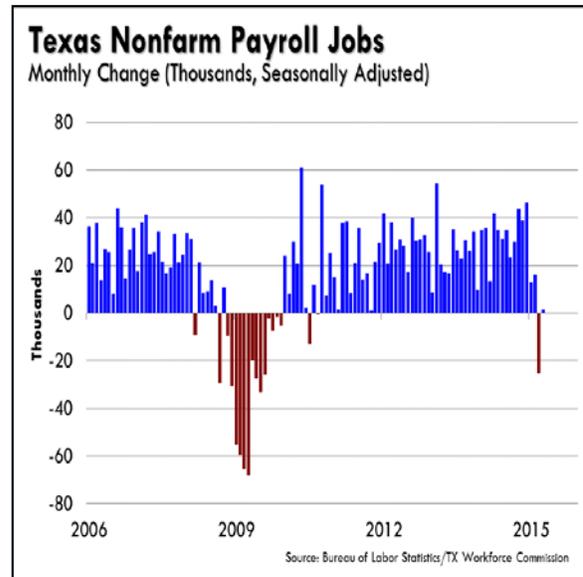
Texas nonfarm payrolls increased by 1,200 jobs, or 0.01 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during April. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 25,200. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Texas increased by 287,000, or 2.50 percent. Texas nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 11 of the past 12 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 223,000 jobs in April, or 0.16 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in April 2015, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,982,000 jobs, or 2.15 percent. Texas ranks 13rd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During April, Texas private sector payrolls declined by 700, or 0.01 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 24,200 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Texas increased by 270,400, or 2.80 percent. Texas private sector payroll employment has increased in 10 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private sector payroll jobs increased by 213,000 in April, or 0.18 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,918,000 private sector payroll jobs, an increase of 2.50 percent. Texas ranks 13rd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During April, total government payroll employment in Texas increased by 1,900, or 0.10 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 1,300, or 0.67 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 900, or 0.25 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 1,500, or 0.12 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 16,600, or 0.91 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 1,300, or 0.36 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 13,600, or 1.07 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during April were Leisure & Hospitality (+6,900) and Information (+3,400). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Mining & Logging (-8,300) and Construction (-5,400).

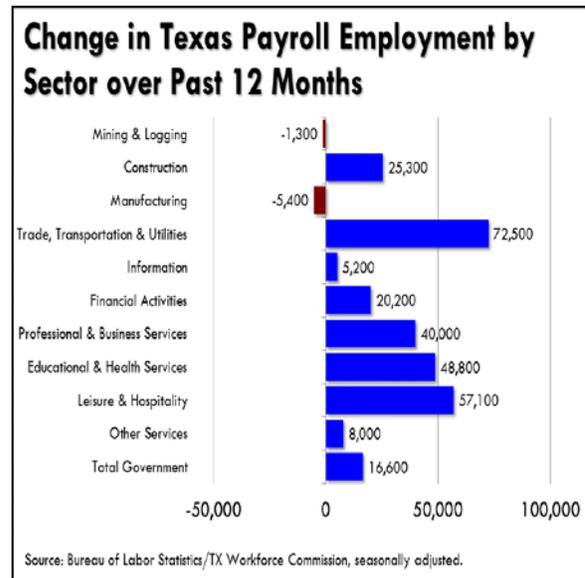
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+72,500) and Leisure & Hospitality (+57,100). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Manufacturing (-5,400) and Mining & Logging (-1,300).

#### Other Texas Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Texas declined to 64.5 percent in April from 64.7 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 20 have a higher labor force participation rate than Texas. The labor force participation rate in Texas 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 Texas was 67.0 percent in January 2006. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Texas occurred in September 1995 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.4 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 64.5 percent in April 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in January 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 63.2 percent.

The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 62.8 percent in April. That rate is the same as a year earlier.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Texas civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 61.8 percent in April from 62.0 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 19 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Texas. The employment-to-population ratio in Texas is unchanged from a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Texas was 63.5 percent in February 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Texas occurred in November 1998 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 65.7 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 60.6 percent in December 2010. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 59.5 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio was unchanged at 59.3 percent in April. At 59.3 percent, the national employment-to-population ratio is still below the 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 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 posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for May is scheduled for release on Friday, June 19. The national employment situation report for April is scheduled for release on Friday, June 5.

