



Alaska Economic Update

November 20, 2015

Summary

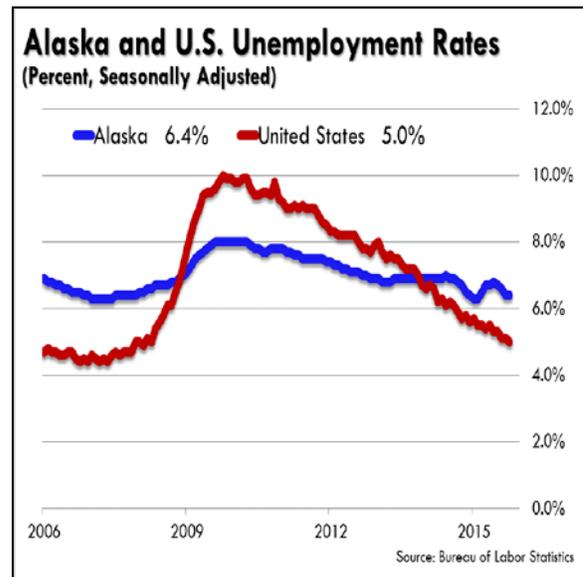
Nonfarm payroll employment in Alaska increased by 3,000 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.4 percent in October according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Alaska Unemployment Rate

During October, the unemployment rate in Alaska was unchanged at 6.4 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 4 in October to 23,325, while the labor force grew by 229 to 362,716. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 46 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Alaska. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Alaska stood at 6.7 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 February 2015. 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 declined by 0.1 percentage point to 5.0 percent in October. October's unemployment rate was 0.7 percentage point lower than a year earlier. 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.



Alaska Payroll Employment

Alaska nonfarm payrolls increased by 3,000 jobs, or 0.89 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during October. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 600. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Alaska increased by 2,400, or 0.71 percent. Alaska nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

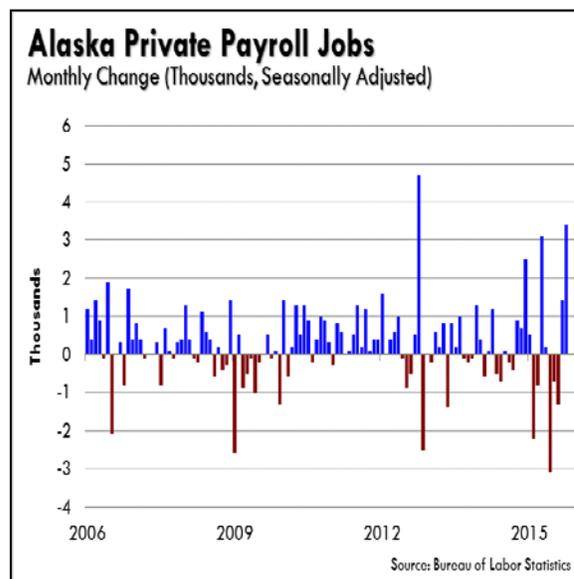
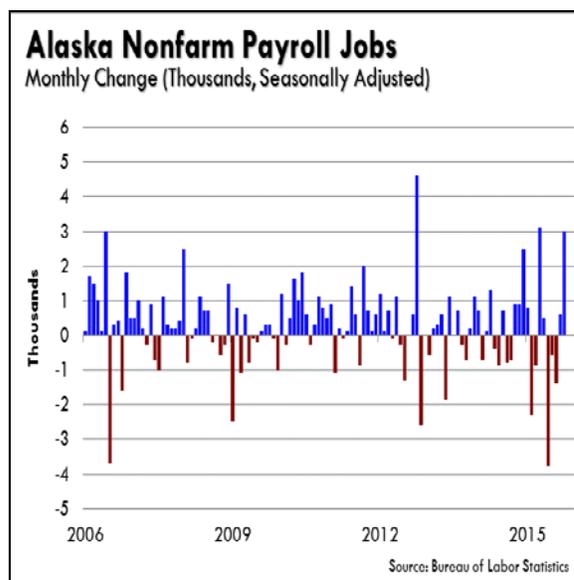
Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 271,000 jobs in October, or 0.19 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in October 2015 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,814,000 jobs, or 2.01 percent. Alaska ranks 44th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During October, Alaska private sector payrolls increased by 3,400, or 1.33 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 1,400 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Alaska increased by 3,700, or 1.45 percent. Alaska private sector payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 268,000 jobs in 2.01, or 0.22 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,709,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.30 percent.

Alaska ranks 33rd 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 Alaska declined by 400, or 0.49 percent. Federal government payroll employment declined by 700, or 4.61 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.40 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 200, or 0.49 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 1,300, or 1.59 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 1,400, or 5.30 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 300, or 0.74 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during October were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+2,800) and Professional & Business Services (+600). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Construction (-900) and Total Government (-400).

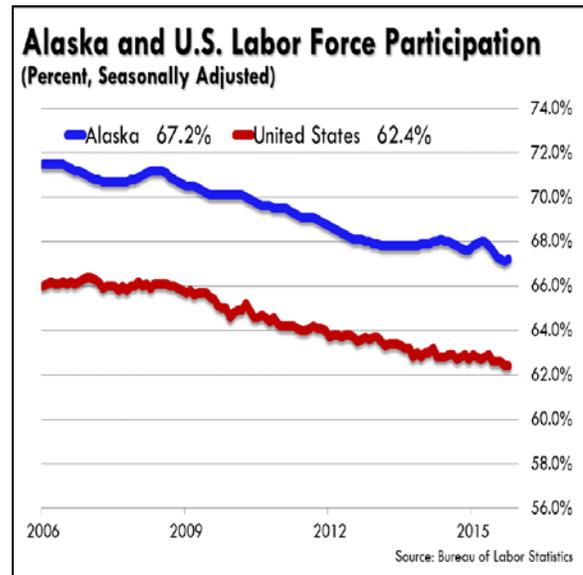
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+3,100) and Educational & Health Services (+1,300). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Total Government (-1,300) and Leisure & Hospitality (-700).

Other Alaska Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Alaska rose to 67.2 percent in October from 67.1 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 11 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 71.6 percent in December 2005. 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 67.1 percent in September 2015. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Alaska.

The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 62.4 percent in October. That rate was 0.4 percentage point lower than a year earlier. At 62.4 percent, the labor force participation rate is at its lowest level since September 1977.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Alaska civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 62.9 percent in October from 62.8 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 14 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Alaska. The employment-to-population ratio in Alaska is 0.3 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 62.8 percent in September 2015. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in September 1977 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 62.5 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 59.3 percent in October. That rate was 0.1 percentage point higher than a year earlier, but still 0.1 percentage point lower than it was 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 November is scheduled for release on Friday, December 18. The national employment situation report for November will be released on Friday, December 4.

