



Arizona Economic Update

May 27, 2015

Summary

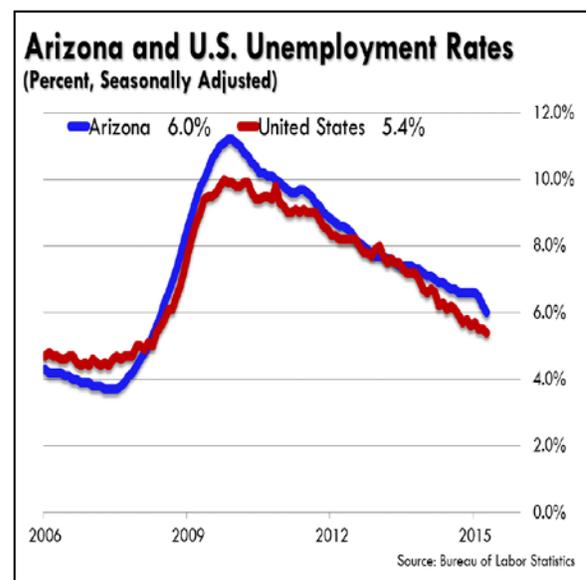
Nonfarm payroll employment in Arizona declined by 3,600 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 6.0 percent in April according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Arizona Unemployment Rate

During April, the unemployment rate in Arizona declined by 0.2 percentage point to 6.0 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 4,950 in April to 191,121, while the labor force grew by 2,504 to 3,164,173. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 35 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Arizona. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Arizona stood at 6.9 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Arizona was 11.2 percent in December 2009. The series high for the unemployment rate in Arizona occurred in December 1982 when the unemployment rate reached 11.5 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate was 3.7 percent in July 2007. This also represents the series low for the unemployment rate in Arizona. 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.



Arizona Payroll Employment

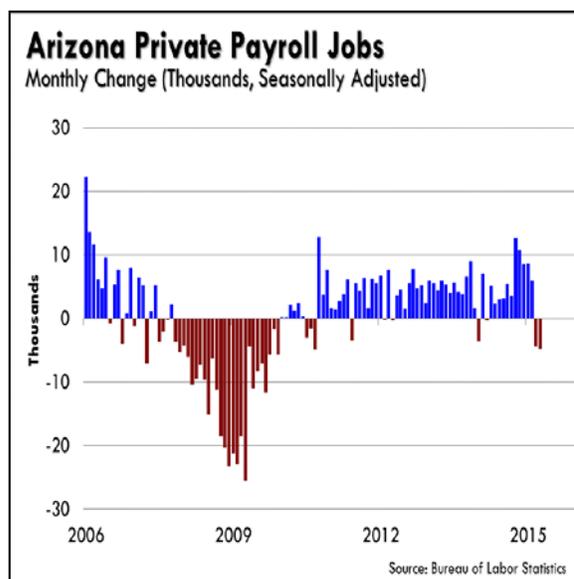
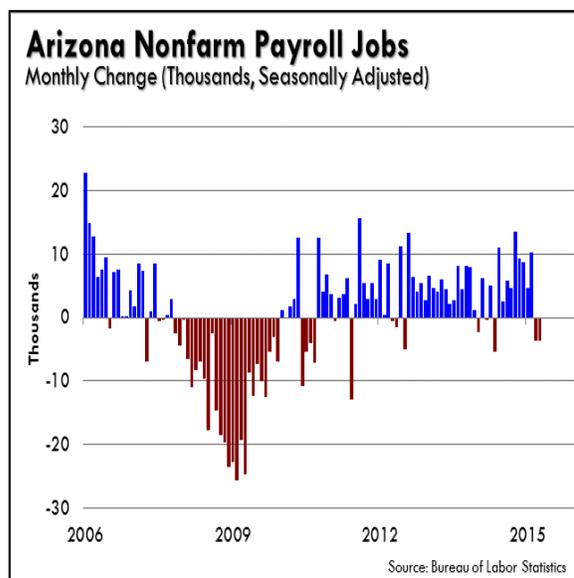
Arizona nonfarm payrolls declined by 3,600 jobs, or 0.14 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during April. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 3,600. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Arizona increased by 57,900, or 2.26 percent. Arizona nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 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. Arizona ranks 16th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During April, Arizona private sector payrolls declined by 4,800, or 0.22 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 4,400 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Arizona increased by 54,500, or 2.54 percent. Arizona 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. Arizona ranks 15th 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 Arizona increased by 1,200, or 0.29 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 900, or 1.65 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 600, or 0.73 percent, while local government payroll employment declined by 600, or 0.22 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 3,400, or 0.83 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 1,700, or 2.09 percent. Local government payroll employment declined by 5,700, or 2.06 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during April were Total Government (+1,200) and Financial Activities (+1,000). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-4,500) and Manufacturing (-1,500).



The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+13,300) and Educational & Health Services (+13,100). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Manufacturing (-1,400) and Mining & Logging (-200).

Other Arizona Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Arizona was unchanged at 60.4 percent in April. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 40 have a higher labor force participation rate than Arizona. The labor force participation rate in Arizona 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 Arizona was 64.7 percent in November 2006. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Arizona occurred in July 1995 when the labor force participation rate hit 66.9 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 59.4 percent in July 2014. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Arizona.



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 Arizona civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 56.7 percent in April. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 41 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Arizona. The employment-to-population ratio in Arizona is 1.3 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Arizona was 62.1 percent in December 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Arizona occurred in August 1995 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 63.3 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 55.0 percent in September 2013. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 53.2 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.

