



Wyoming Economic Update

September 18, 2015

Summary

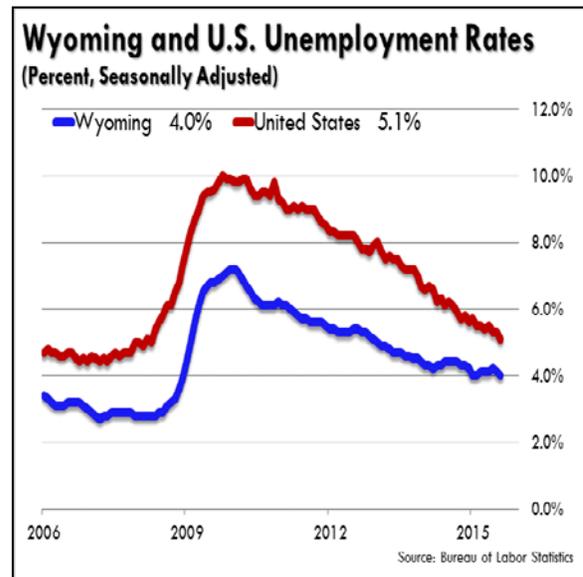
Nonfarm payroll employment in Wyoming declined by 700 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 4.0 percent in August according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Wyoming Unemployment Rate

During August, the unemployment rate in Wyoming declined by 0.1 percentage point to 4.0 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 209 in August to 12,564, while the labor force grew by 145 to 310,541. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 8 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Wyoming. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Wyoming stood at 4.4 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Wyoming was 7.2 percent in January 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Wyoming occurred in December 1986 when the unemployment rate reached 9.4 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Wyoming was 2.7 percent in March 2007. The series low for the unemployment rate in Wyoming occurred in May 1979 when the unemployment rate reached 2.5 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage point to 5.1 percent in August. August's unemployment rate was 1.0 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.



Wyoming Payroll Employment

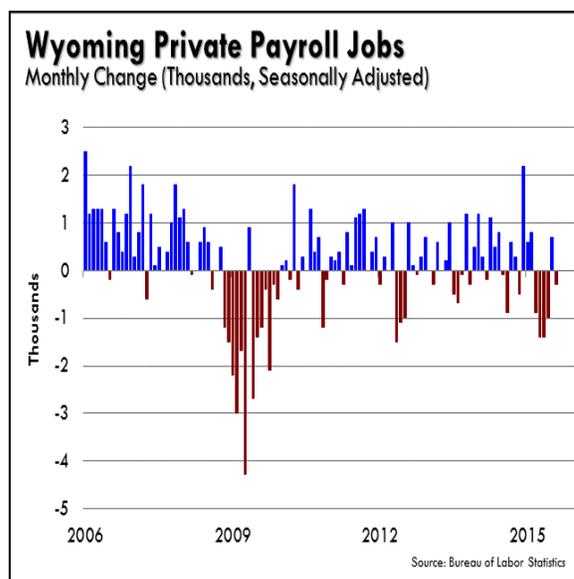
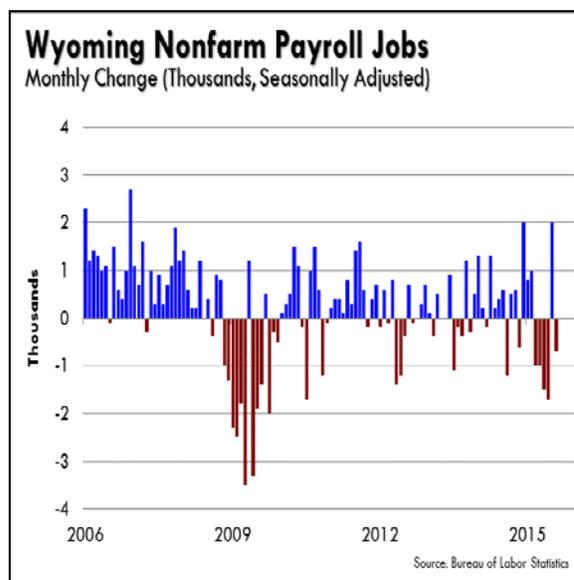
Wyoming nonfarm payrolls declined by 700 jobs, or 0.24 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 2,000. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Wyoming increased by 400, or 0.14 percent. Wyoming nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 173,000 jobs in August, or 0.12 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in August 2015 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,919,000 jobs, or 2.09 percent. Wyoming ranks 47th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During August, Wyoming private sector payrolls declined by 300, or 0.14 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 700 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Wyoming declined by 300, or 0.14 percent. Wyoming private sector payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 140,000 jobs in August, or 0.12 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,789,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.37 percent. Wyoming ranks 48th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

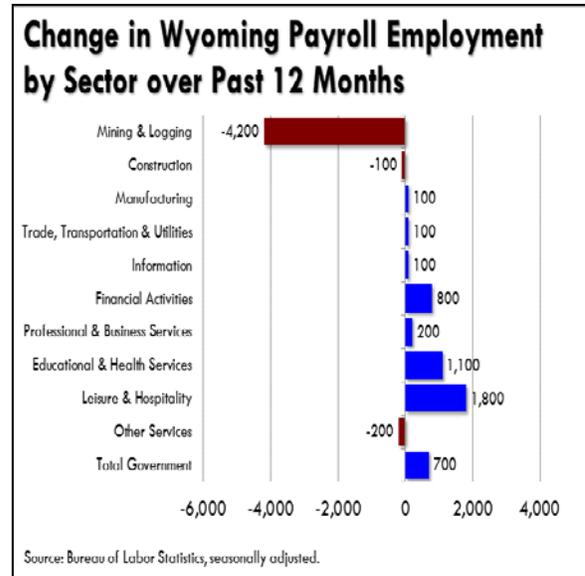
During August, total government payroll employment in Wyoming declined by 400, or 0.55 percent. Federal government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment was unchanged, while local government payroll employment declined by 400, or 0.81 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 700, or 0.98 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 400, or 2.60 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 300, or 0.62 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during August were Leisure & Hospitality (+200) and Construction (+100). The poorest performing sector during the month was Total Government (-400).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Leisure & Hospitality (+1,800) and Educational & Health Services (+1,100). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Mining & Logging (-4,200) and Other Services (-200).



Other Wyoming Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Wyoming was unchanged at 68.7 percent in August. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 7 have a higher labor force participation rate than Wyoming. The labor force participation rate in Wyoming 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 Wyoming was 72.0 percent in May 2009. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Wyoming occurred in January 1983 when the labor force participation rate hit 72.7 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 67.7 percent in February 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in January 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 64.4 percent.



The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 62.6 percent in August. That rate was 0.3 percentage point lower than a year earlier. At 62.6 percent, the labor force participation rate is at its lowest level since October 1977.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Wyoming civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 65.9 percent in August from 65.8 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 7 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Wyoming. The employment-to-population ratio in Wyoming is 0.8 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Wyoming was 69.3 percent in September 2008. This also represents the series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Wyoming. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.9 percent in December 2014. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 61.7 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 59.4 percent in August. That rate was 0.4 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The employment-to-population ratio stood at 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 September is scheduled for release on Tuesday, October 20. The national employment situation report for September will be released on Friday, October 2.

