



Kansas Economic Update

November 20, 2015

Summary

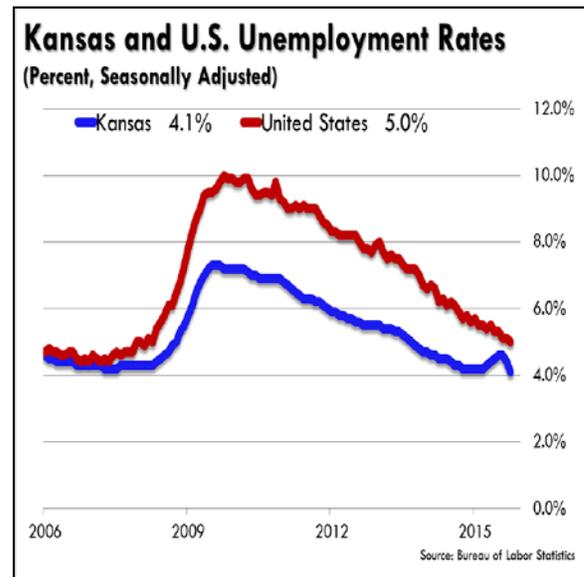
Nonfarm payroll employment in Kansas increased by 2,500 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 4.1 percent in October according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Kansas Unemployment Rate

During October, the unemployment rate in Kansas declined by 0.3 percentage point to 4.1 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 2,739 in October to 61,788, while the labor force grew by 10,080 to 1,491,555. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 12 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Kansas. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Kansas stood at 4.2 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Kansas was 7.3 percent in September 2009. This also represents the series high for the unemployment rate in Kansas. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Kansas was 4.1 percent in October 2015. The series low for the unemployment rate in Kansas occurred in August 1978 when the unemployment rate reached 2.9 percent. 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.



Kansas Payroll Employment

Kansas nonfarm payrolls increased by 2,500 jobs, or 0.18 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during October. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 8,700. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Kansas increased by 10,900, or 0.78 percent. Kansas nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 5 of the past 12 months.

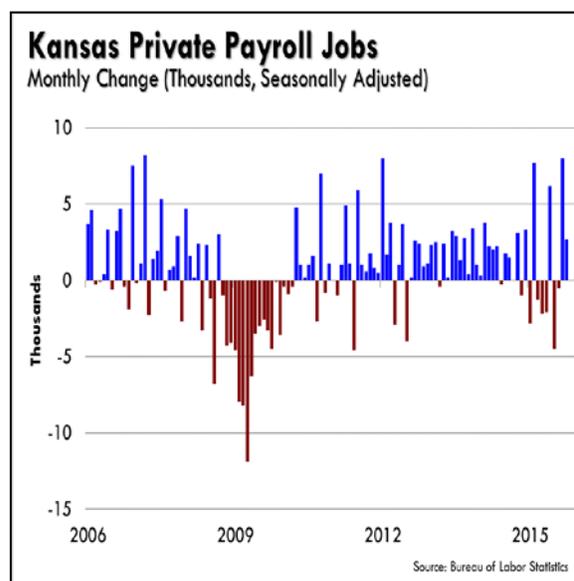
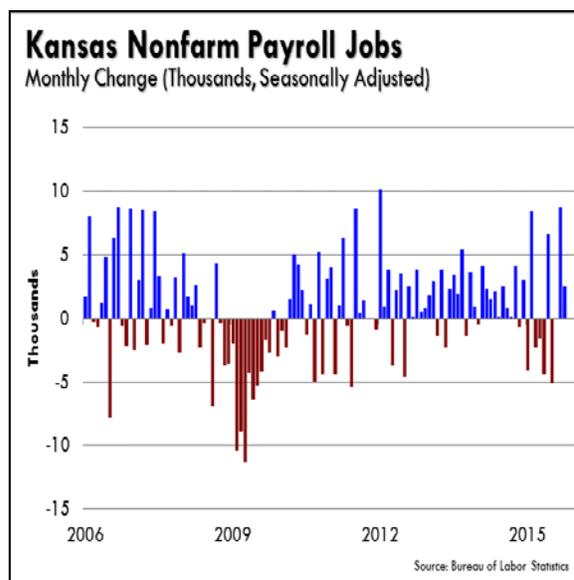
Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 271,000 jobs in October, or 0.19 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in October 2015 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,814,000 jobs, or 2.01 percent. Kansas ranks 42nd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During October, Kansas private sector payrolls increased by 2,700, or 0.23 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 8,000 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Kansas increased by 13,500, or 1.18 percent. Kansas private sector payroll employment has increased in 5 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.

Kansas ranks 37th 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 Kansas declined by 200, or 0.08 percent. Federal government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment was unchanged, while local government payroll employment declined by 100, or 0.06 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 2,600, or 1.01 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 600, or 1.15 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 1,700, or 0.99 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during October were Construction (+1,600) and Manufacturing (+600). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Leisure & Hospitality (-600) and Total Government (-200).

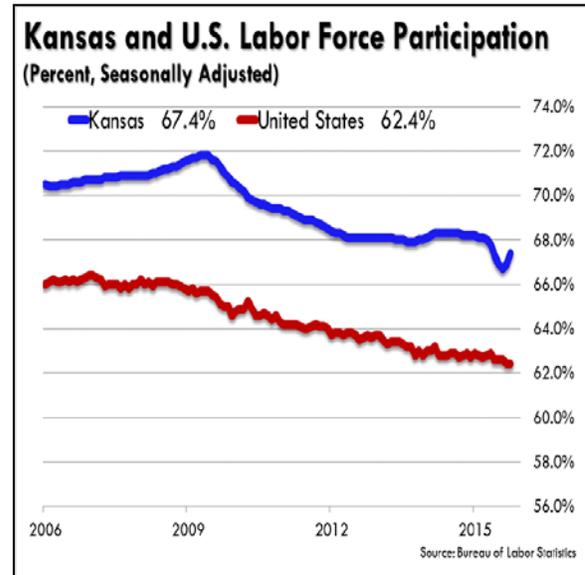
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Construction (+6,900) and Professional & Business Services (+2,300). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Total Government (-2,600) and Manufacturing (-900).



Other Kansas Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Kansas rose to 67.4 percent in October from 66.9 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 10 have a higher labor force participation rate than Kansas. The labor force participation rate in Kansas 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 Kansas was 71.8 percent in June 2009. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Kansas occurred in December 1998 when the labor force participation rate hit 72.2 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 66.7 percent in August 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in February 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 64.6 percent.



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 Kansas civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 64.6 percent in October from 64.0 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 10 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Kansas. The employment-to-population ratio in Kansas is 0.8 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Kansas was 67.9 percent in July 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Kansas occurred in February 1999 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 69.7 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.7 percent in August 2015. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 61.8 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.

