



Wyoming Economic Update

October 20, 2015

Summary

Nonfarm payroll employment in Wyoming declined by 1,900 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.0 percent in September according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Wyoming Unemployment Rate

During September, the unemployment rate in Wyoming was unchanged at 4.0 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 221 in September to 12,346, while the labor force fell by 699 to 309,784. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 9 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Wyoming. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Wyoming stood at 4.4 percent.

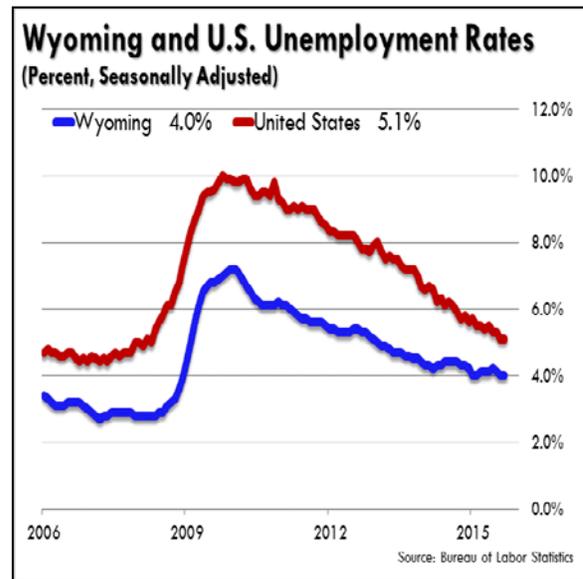
The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Wyoming was 7.2 percent in January 2010.

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 was unchanged at 5.1 percent in September. September's unemployment rate was 0.8 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

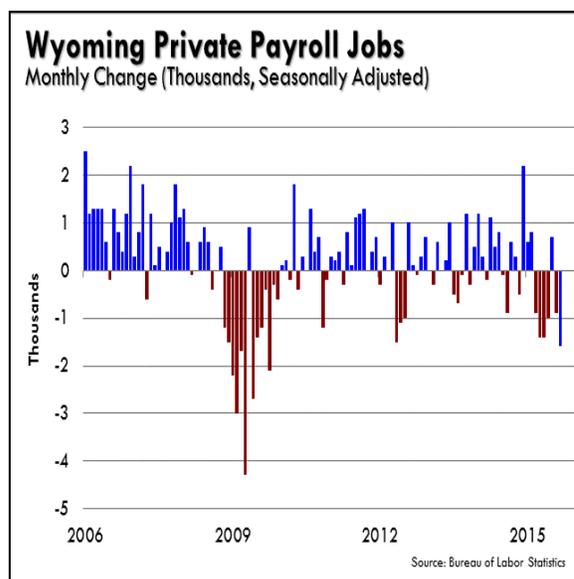
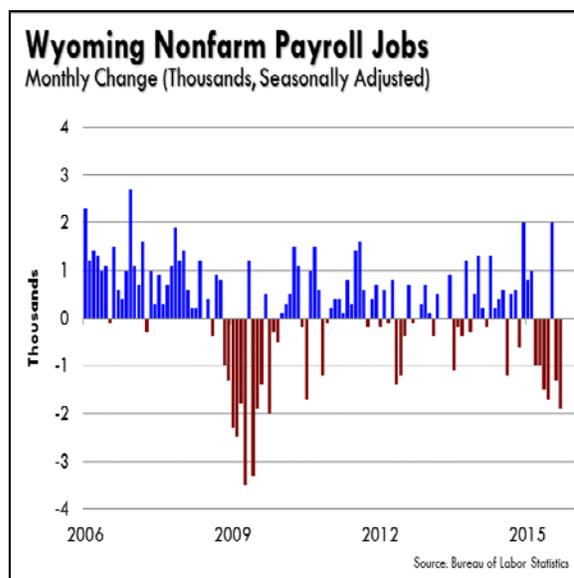
Wyoming nonfarm payrolls declined by 1,900 jobs, or 0.65 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during September. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 1,300. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Wyoming declined by 2,600, or 0.89 percent. Wyoming nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 5 of the past 12 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 142,000 jobs in September, or 0.10 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in September 2015 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,752,000 jobs, or 1.97 percent. Wyoming ranks 49th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During September, Wyoming private sector payrolls declined by 1,600, or 0.73 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 900 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Wyoming declined by 3,100, or 1.40 percent. Wyoming private sector payroll employment has increased in 5 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 118,000 jobs in September, or 0.10 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,603,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.21 percent. Wyoming ranks 49th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

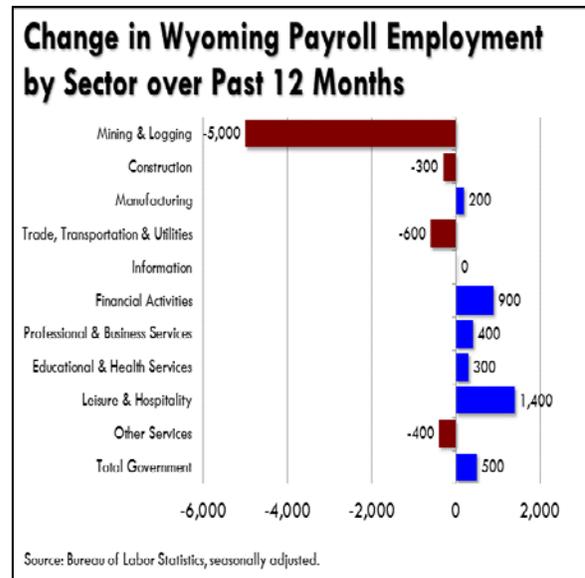
During September, total government payroll employment in Wyoming declined by 300, or 0.42 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 100, or 1.37 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 200, or 1.27 percent, while local government payroll employment declined by 200, or 0.41 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 500, or 0.70 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 200, or 1.30 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 200, or 0.41 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during September were Manufacturing (+200) and Construction (+100). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Educational & Health Services (-700) and Mining & Logging (-600).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Leisure & Hospitality (+1,400) and Financial Activities (+900). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Mining & Logging (-5,000) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-600).



Other Wyoming Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Wyoming declined to 68.6 percent in September from 68.7 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 6 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 declined by 0.2 percentage point to 62.4 percent in September. That rate was 0.3 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 Wyoming civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 65.8 percent in September from 65.9 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 0.7 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 declined by 0.2 percentage point to 59.2 percent in September. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The employment-to-population ratio stood at 59.4 percent when the recession ended in June 2009 and at 62.7 percent when it began in December 2007. 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 October is scheduled for release on Friday, November 20. The national employment situation report for October will be released on Friday, November 6.

