



Alaska Economic Update

October 20, 2015

Summary

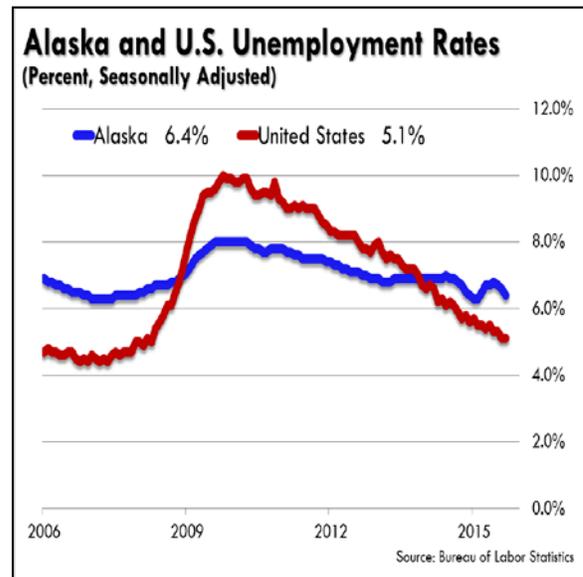
Nonfarm payroll employment in Alaska increased by 100 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 6.4 percent in September according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Alaska Unemployment Rate

During September, the unemployment rate in Alaska declined by 0.2 percentage point to 6.4 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 490 in September to 23,339, while the labor force fell by 388 to 362,450. 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 6.8 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 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.



Alaska Payroll Employment

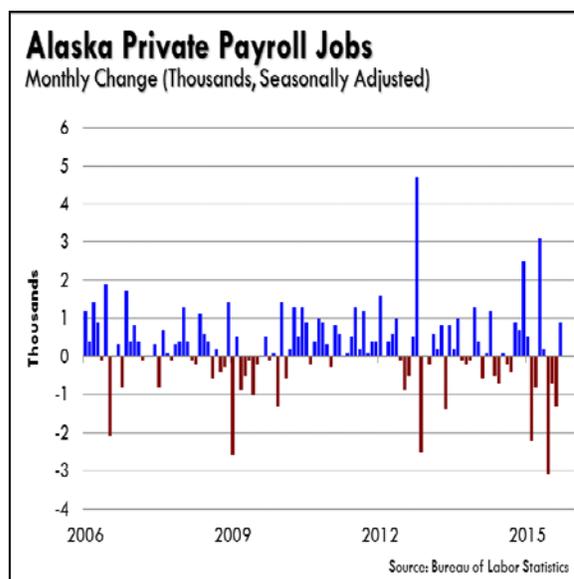
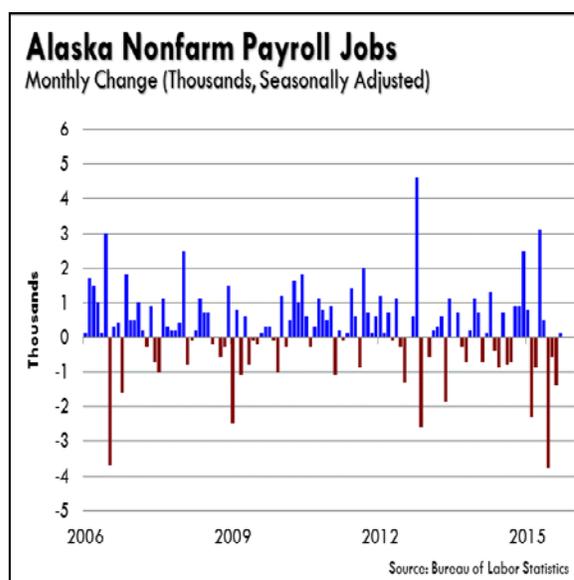
Alaska nonfarm payrolls increased by 100 jobs, or 0.03 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during September. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 1,400. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Alaska declined by 200, or 0.06 percent. Alaska nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 7 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. Alaska ranks 48th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During September, Alaska private sector payrolls increased by 900, or 0.35 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 1,300 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Alaska increased by 700, or 0.28 percent. Alaska private sector payroll employment has increased in 7 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. Alaska ranks 47th 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 Alaska declined by 800, or 0.98 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 200, or 1.33 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 600, or 2.35 percent, while local government payroll employment declined by 400, or 0.97 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 900, or 1.10 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 1,400, or 5.32 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.25 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during September were Construction (+700) and Financial Activities (+500). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Total Government (-800) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-600).

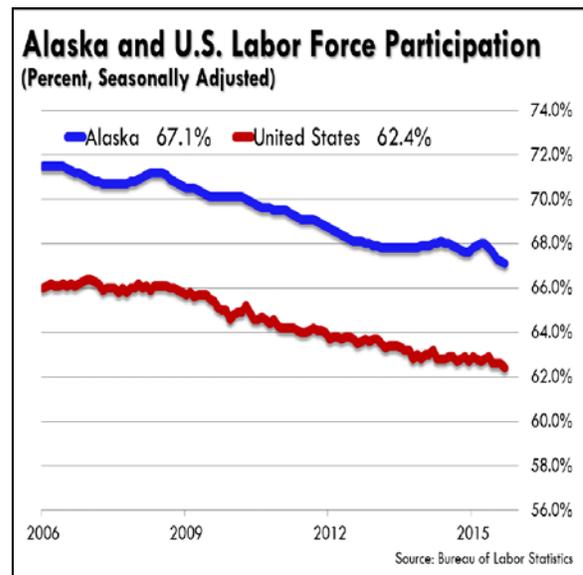
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Construction (+1,900) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+1,500). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Professional & Business Services (-1,700) and Total Government (-900).

Other Alaska Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Alaska declined to 67.1 percent in September from 67.2 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 71.7 percent in October 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 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 Alaska civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 62.8 percent in September. 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 0.4 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 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.