



Virginia Economic Update

October 20, 2015

Summary

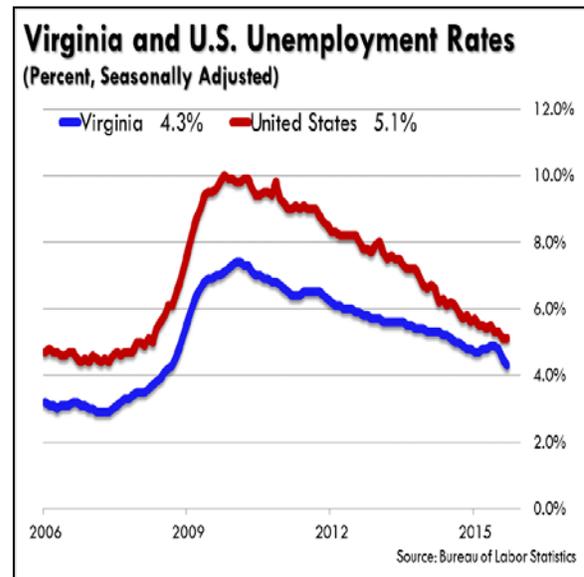
Nonfarm payroll employment in Virginia declined by 200 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 4.3 percent in September according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Virginia Unemployment Rate

During September, the unemployment rate in Virginia declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.3 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 9,561 in September to 182,465, while the labor force fell by 9,926 to 4,223,666. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 14 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Virginia. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Virginia stood at 5.0 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Virginia was 7.4 percent in February 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Virginia occurred in December 1982 when the unemployment rate reached 7.9 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Virginia was 2.9 percent in May 2007. The series low for the unemployment rate in Virginia occurred in November 2000 when the unemployment rate reached 2.1 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.



Virginia Payroll Employment

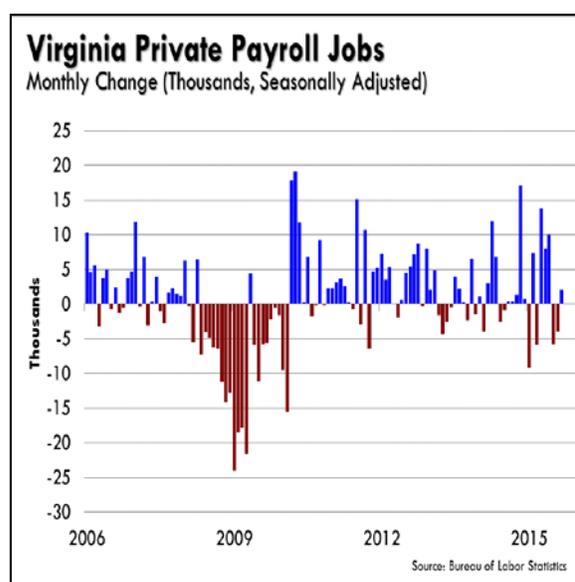
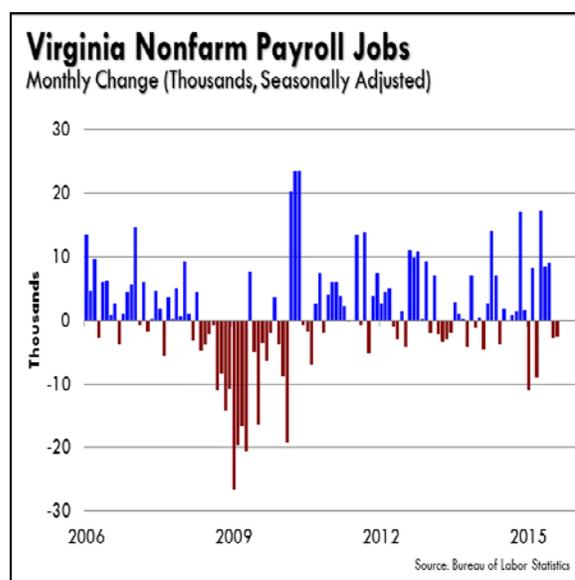
Virginia nonfarm payrolls declined by 200 jobs, or 0.01 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during September. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 2,600. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Virginia increased by 36,700, or 0.97 percent. Virginia nonfarm payroll employment has 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. Virginia ranks 33rd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During September, Virginia private sector payrolls increased by 2,100, or 0.07 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 3,900 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Virginia increased by 35,400, or 1.15 percent. Virginia private sector payroll employment has increased in 8 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. Virginia ranks 33rd 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 Virginia declined by 2,300, or 0.32 percent. Federal government payroll employment declined by 1,000, or 0.59 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 700, or 0.42 percent, while local government payroll employment declined by 600, or 0.16 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 1,300, or 0.18 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 2,300, or 1.42 percent. Local government payroll employment declined by 500, or 0.13 percent.

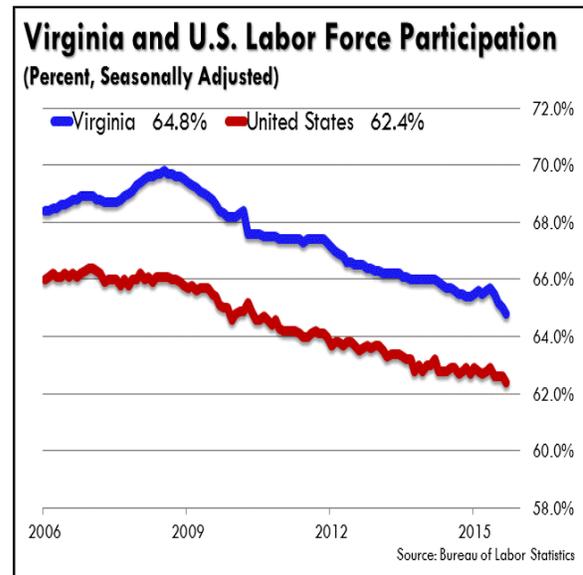
The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during September were Leisure & Hospitality (+3,600) and Construction (+1,200). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Professional & Business Services (-4,200) and Total Government (-2,300).



The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+9,900) and Construction (+7,200). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Information (-1,700) and Mining & Logging (-1,200).

Other Virginia Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Virginia declined to 64.8 percent in September from 65.0 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 18 have a higher labor force participation rate than Virginia. The labor force participation rate in Virginia 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 Virginia was 69.8 percent in July 2008. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Virginia occurred in May 1992 when the labor force participation rate hit 71.5 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 64.8 percent in September 2015. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Virginia.

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 Virginia civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 62.0 percent in September from 62.1 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 16 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Virginia. The employment-to-population ratio in Virginia is 0.3 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Virginia was 67.1 percent in April 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Virginia

occurred in December 1989 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 67.2 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 62.0 percent in September 2015. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in November 1982 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 61.0 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.

