



Vermont Economic Update

January 28, 2016

Summary

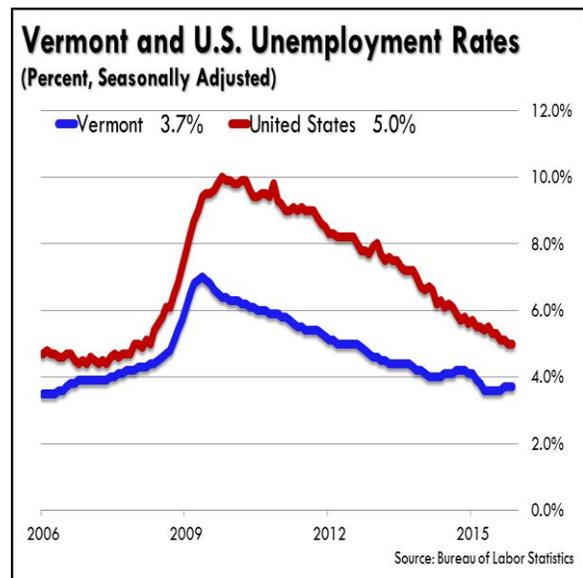
Nonfarm payroll employment in Vermont decreased by 2,100 jobs and the unemployment rate decreased to 3.6 percent in December according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Vermont Unemployment Rate

During December, the unemployment rate in Vermont decreased to 3.6 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed decreased by 500 in December to 12,300, while the labor force decreased by 1,100 to 343,000.

The 10-year peak for the unemployment rate in Vermont was 7 percent in May 2009. The series high for the unemployment rate in Vermont occurred in February 1976 when the unemployment rate reached 8.8 percent. The 10-year low for the unemployment rate in Vermont was 3.4 percent in June 2007. The series low for the unemployment rate in Vermont occurred in March 2000 when the unemployment rate reached 2.6 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.0 percent in December. December's unemployment rate was 0.6 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2006.



Vermont Payroll Employment

Vermont nonfarm payrolls decreased by 2,100 jobs, or 0.7 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during December. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 2,800. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Vermont increased by 2,600, or 0.8 percent. Vermont nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls rose by 292,000 in December, or 0.21 percent. Over the 12-month period ending in December 2015 nonfarm payrolls have increased by 2,650,000 jobs, or 1.9 percent.

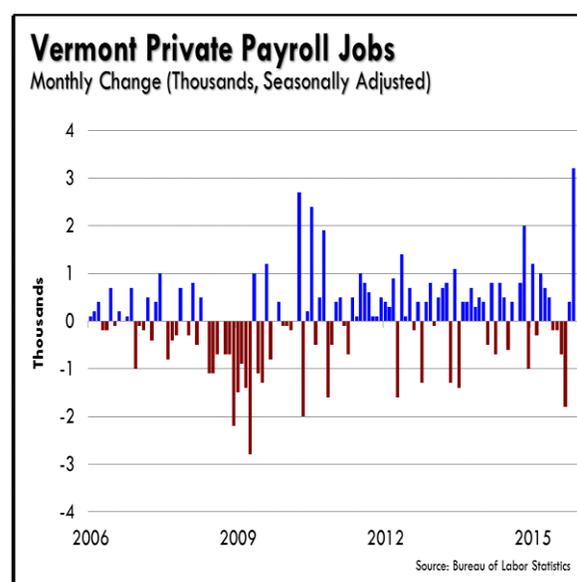
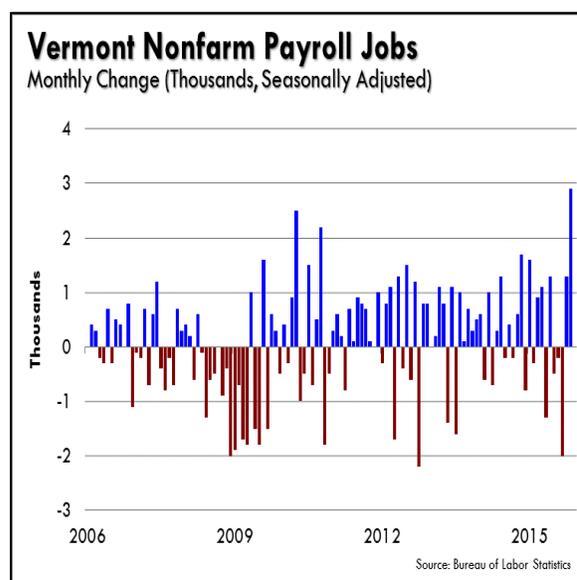
During December, Vermont private-sector payrolls decreased by 2,000, or -0.8 percent. Private-sector payrolls increased by 3,100 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private-sector payrolls in Vermont increased by 3,100, or 0.7 percent. Vermont private-sector payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 275,000 in December, or 0.23 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,551,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.1 percent.

During December, total government payroll employment in Vermont decreased by 100 or 0.2% percent. Federal government payroll employment remained unchanged. State government payroll employment decreased by 100, or 0.5 percent, while local government payroll employment remained unchanged.

Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 900 or 1.6 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 600 or 3.1 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 200 or 0.7 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during December were construction (500) and education and health services (100). The poorest performing



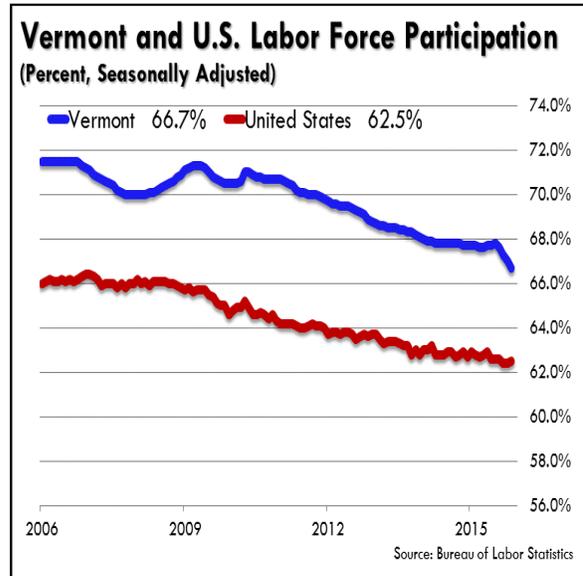
sectors during the month were leisure and hospitality (2,200) and manufacturing, trade, transportation, and utilities, and government (100 for each).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were education and health services (1,900) and government (900). The poorest performing sectors for the year were manufacturing (800) and trade, transportation, and utilities (400).

Other Vermont Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Vermont decreased by 66.5 percent in December. The labor force participation rate in Vermont is decreased 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.

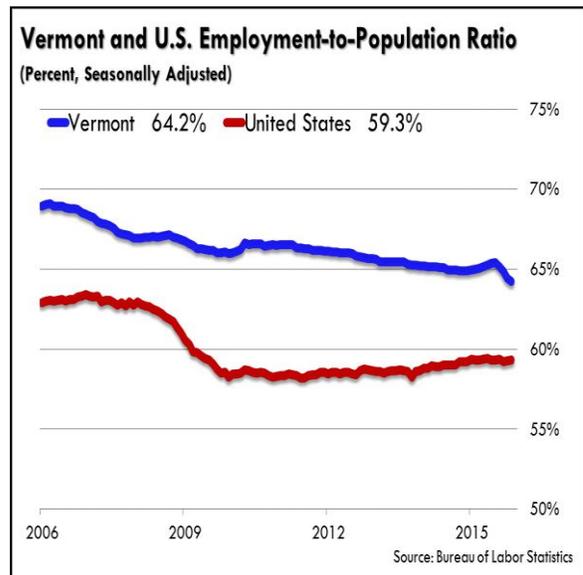
The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Vermont was 71.5 percent in October 2006. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Vermont occurred in September 1999, when the labor force participation rate hit 72.6 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 66.5 percent in December 2015.



The national labor force participation rate increased to 62.6 percent in December. That rate was 0.1 percentage point lower than a year earlier. At 62.6 percent, the labor force participation rate remains near its post-recession low.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Vermont civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, decreased to 64.1 percent in December.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Vermont was 69.1 percent in March 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Vermont occurred in August 1999 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 70.5 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.1 percent in



December 2015. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in February 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 57.2 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 59.5 percent in December. That rate was 0.3 percentage point higher than a year earlier, and 0.1 percentage point higher 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 January is scheduled for release on March 14th. The national employment situation report for January will be released on Friday, February 5th.