

Ohio Economic Update

March 28, 2016

Summary

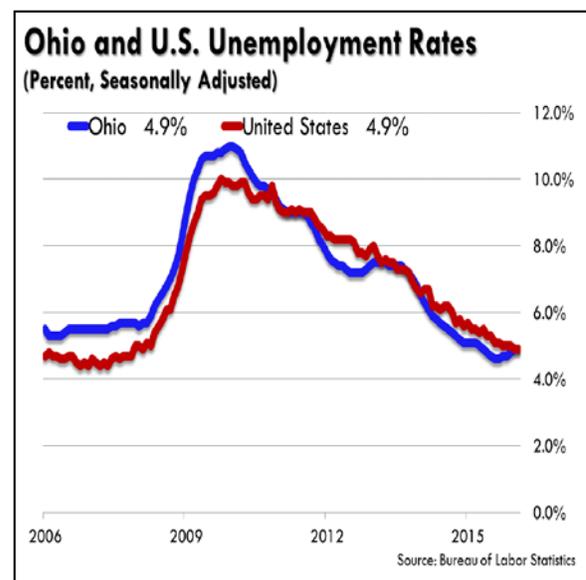
Nonfarm payroll employment in Ohio increased by 12,400 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent in February according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Ohio Unemployment Rate

During February, the unemployment rate in Ohio was unchanged at 4.9 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 5,334 in February to 284,606, while the labor force grew by 33,937 to 5,753,809. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 29 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Ohio. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Ohio stood at 5.1 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Ohio was 11.0 percent in January 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Ohio occurred in January 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 14.0 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Ohio was 4.6 percent in September 2015. The series low for the unemployment rate in Ohio occurred in April 2001 when the unemployment rate reached 3.8 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent in February. February'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 2007.



Ohio Payroll Employment

Ohio nonfarm payrolls increased by 12,400 jobs, or 0.23 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during February. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 10,100. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Ohio increased by 78,700, or 1.46 percent. Ohio nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

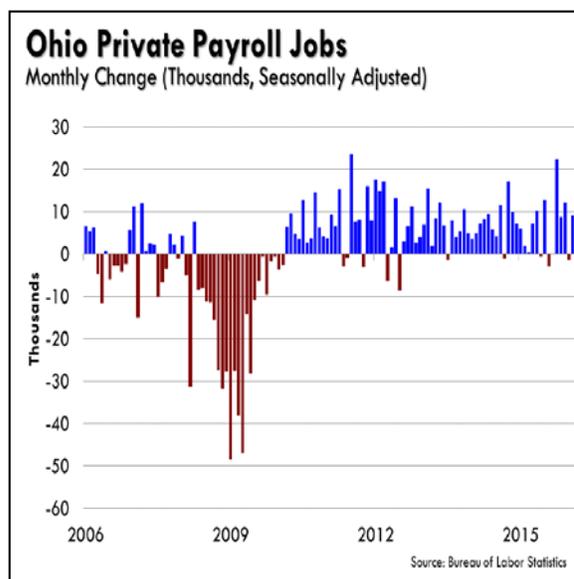
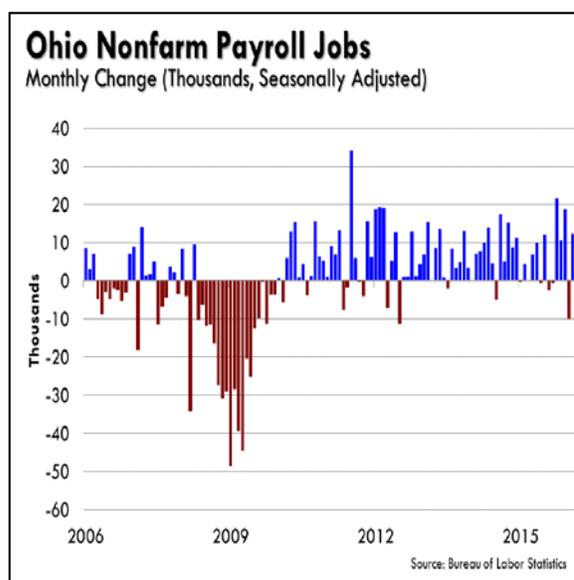
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 242,000 jobs in February, or 0.17 percent. Over the 12-month period ending February 2016 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,672,000 jobs, or 1.9 percent. Ohio ranks 26th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During February, Ohio private sector payrolls increased by 9,000, or 0.19 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 1,400 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Ohio increased by 77,100, or 1.67 percent. Ohio private sector payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 230,000 jobs in 1.9, or 0.19 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,597,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.18 percent.

Ohio ranks 27th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During February, total government payroll employment in Ohio increased by 3,400, or 0.44 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 800, or 1.05 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 2,800, or 1.55 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 5,400, or 1.06 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 1,600, or 0.21 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 1,100, or 0.62 percent. Local government payroll employment declined by 400, or 0.08 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during February were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+5,800) and Educational & Health Services (+4,300). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Manufacturing (-2,300) and Leisure & Hospitality (-2,200).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+21,800) and Leisure & Hospitality (+17,600). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Mining & Logging (-3,200) and Professional & Business Services (-1,700).

Other Ohio Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Ohio rose to 62.9 percent in February from 62.5 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 29 have a higher labor force participation rate than Ohio. The labor force participation rate in Ohio 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 Ohio was 67.4 percent in December 2006. This also represents the series high for the labor force participation rate in Ohio. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 62.2 percent in November 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in September 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 61.3 percent.

The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.2 percentage point to 62.9 percent in February, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Ohio civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 59.8 percent in February from 59.5 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 29 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Ohio. The employment-to-population ratio in Ohio is 0.4 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Ohio was 63.7 percent in December 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Ohio occurred in February 2001 when the

employment-to-population ratio hit 64.7 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 58.2 percent in January 2010. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 54.7 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.2 percentage point to 59.8 percent in February. That rate was 0.5 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 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 ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for March is scheduled for release on April 15, 2016. The national employment situation report for March will be released on Friday, April 1, 2016.

