



# Vermont Economic Update

May 27, 2015

## Summary

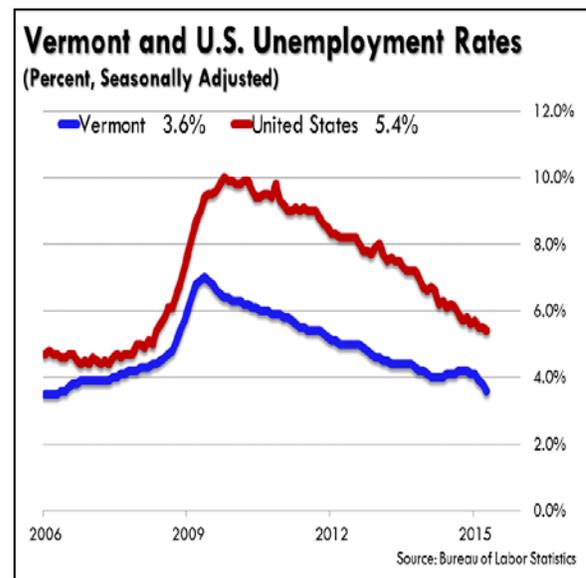
Nonfarm payroll employment in Vermont increased by 1,800 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 3.6 percent in April according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## Vermont Unemployment Rate

During April, the unemployment rate in Vermont declined by 0.2 percentage point to 3.6 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 567 in April to 12,638, while the labor force grew by 58 to 348,311. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, only 3 posted lower unemployment rates. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Vermont stood at 4.0 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Vermont was 7.0 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 2005. 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 5.4 percent in April. April's unemployment rate was 0.8 percentage point lower than a year earlier when the rate stood at 6.2 percent. 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.



## Vermont Payroll Employment

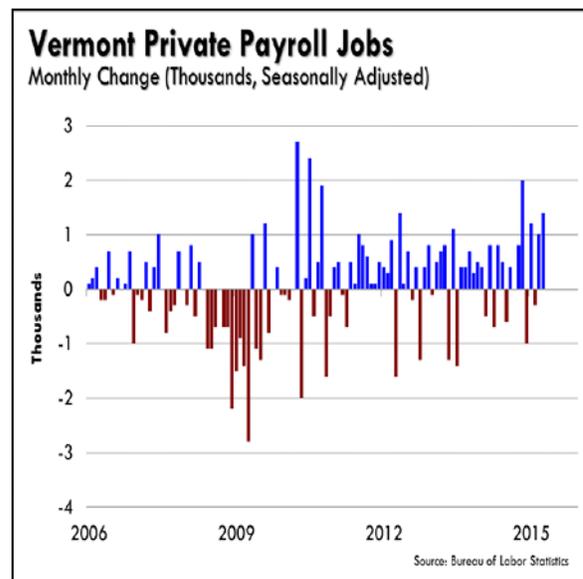
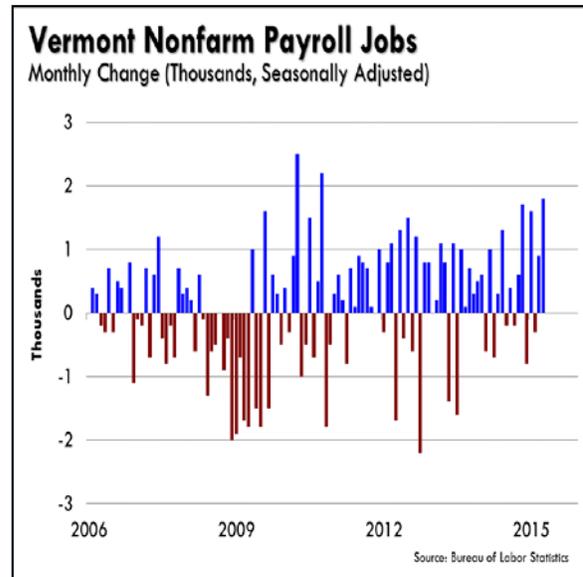
Vermont nonfarm payrolls increased by 1,800 jobs, or 0.57 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during April. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 900. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Vermont increased by 7,100, or 2.30 percent. Vermont nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 223,000 jobs in April, or 0.16 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in April 2015, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,982,000 jobs, or 2.15 percent. Vermont ranks 15th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During April, Vermont private sector payrolls increased by 1,400, or 0.54 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 1,000 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Vermont increased by 6,200, or 2.45 percent. Vermont private sector payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private sector payroll jobs increased by 213,000 in April, or 0.18 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,918,000 private sector payroll jobs, an increase of 2.50 percent. Vermont ranks 17th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During April, total government payroll employment in Vermont increased by 400, or 0.71 percent. Federal government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment increased by 400, or 2.06 percent, while local government payroll employment was unchanged.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 900, or 1.61 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 700, or 3.66 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.33 percent.

The best performing sector on a seasonally adjusted basis during April was Leisure & Hospitality (+1,300). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Construction (-700) and Professional & Business Services (-300).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Leisure & Hospitality (+2,600) and Educational & Health Services (+1,600). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Mining & Logging (-100).



#### Other Vermont Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Vermont was unchanged at 67.6 percent in April. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 12 have a higher labor force participation rate than Vermont. The labor force participation rate in Vermont 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 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 67.6 percent in April 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in February 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 62.6 percent.



The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 62.8 percent in April. That rate is the same as a year earlier.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Vermont civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 65.2 percent in April from 65.1 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 8 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Vermont. The employment-to-population ratio in Vermont is 0.1 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

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 64.9 percent in December 2014. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in April 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 57.2 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio was unchanged at 59.3 percent in April. At 59.3 percent, the national employment-to-population ratio is still below the level of 59.4 percent 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 May is scheduled for release on Friday, June 19. The national employment situation report for April is scheduled for release on Friday, June 5.

