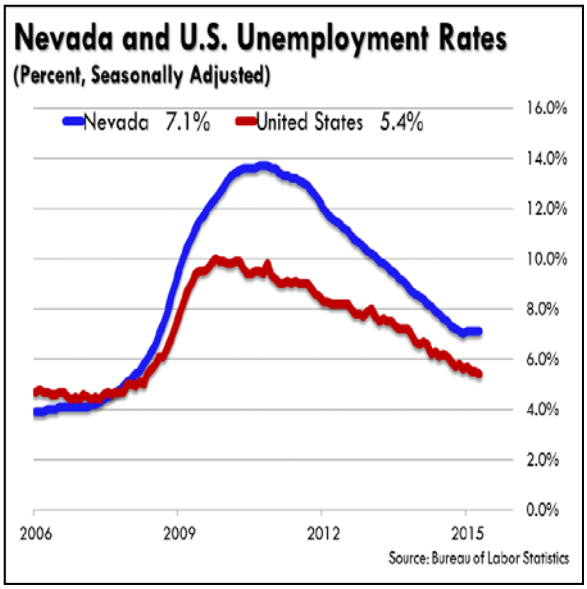
Nevada Economic Update

May 27, 2015

Summary

Nonfarm payroll employment in Nevada increased by 12,800 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 7.1 percent in April according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Nevada Unemployment Rate



During April, the unemployment rate in Nevada was unchanged at 7.1 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 244 in April to 100,293, while the labor force grew by 4,966 to 1,412,535. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 49 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Nevada. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Nevada stood at 8.1 percent.

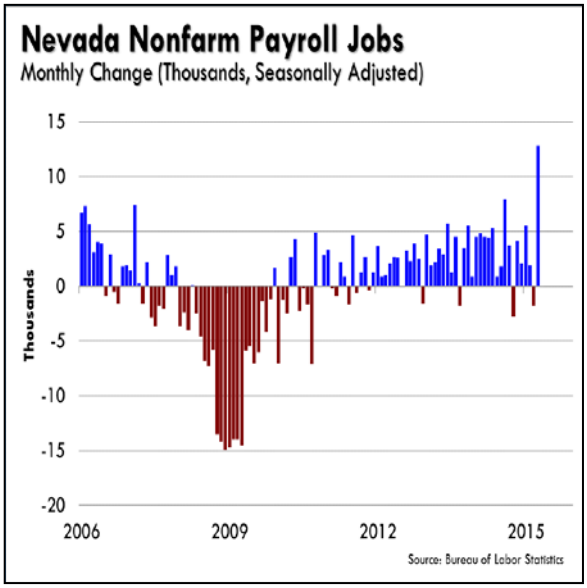
The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Nevada was 13.7 percent in November 2010. This also represents the series high for the unemployment rate in Nevada. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Nevada was 3.9 percent in March 2006. The series low for the unemployment rate in Nevada occurred in January 1999 when the unemployment rate reached 3.7 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.

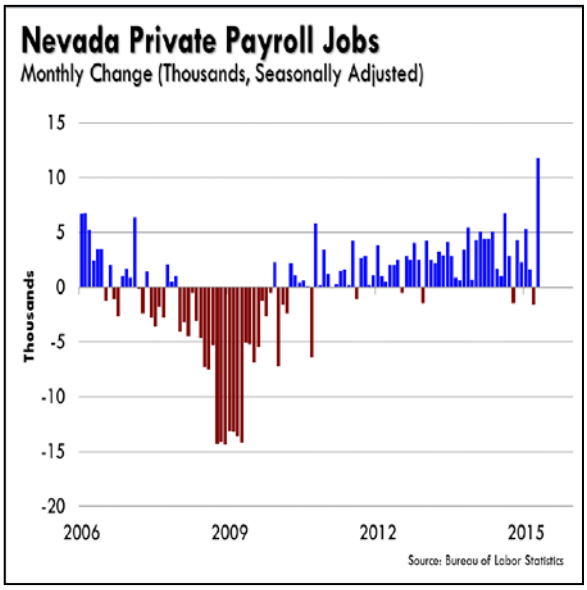
Prepared by the Joint Economic Committee
Senator Dan Coats, Chairman Rep. Kevin Brady, Vice Chairman

Nevada Payroll Employment

Nevada nonfarm payrolls increased by 12,800 jobs, or 1.04 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during April. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 1,800. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Nevada increased by 41,400, or 3.43 percent. Nevada nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 10 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. Nevada posted the fourth highest percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment among the 50 states and the District of Columbia over the past 12 months.

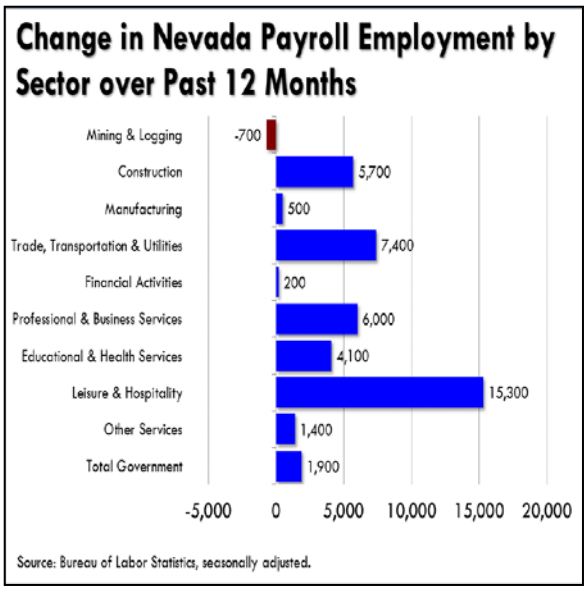


During April, Nevada private sector payrolls increased by 11,800, or 1.09 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 1,600 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Nevada increased by 39,500, or 3.74 percent. Nevada private sector payroll employment has increased in 10 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. Nevada posted the fourth highest percentage gain in private sector payroll employment among the 50 states and the District of Columbia over the past 12 months.

During April, total government payroll employment in Nevada increased by 1,000, or 0.65 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 500, or 2.78 percent. State government payroll employment was unchanged, while local government payroll employment increased by 500, or 0.52 percent.

Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 1,900, or 1.25 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 800, or 2.14 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 400, or 0.41 percent.

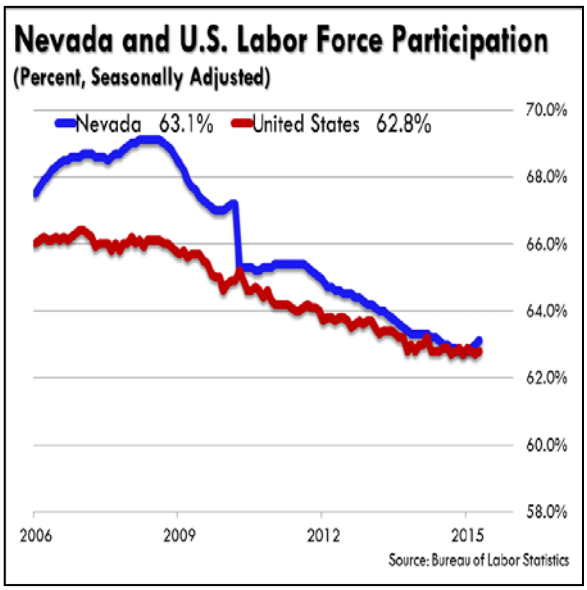


The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during April were Leisure & Hospitality (+5,400) and Construction (+2,200). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Mining & Logging (-100) and Manufacturing (unchanged).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Leisure & Hospitality (+15,300) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+7,400). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Mining & Logging (-700) and Financial Activities (+200).

<u>Other Nevada Labor Force Statistics</u>

The labor force participation rate in Nevada rose to 63.1 percent in April from 63.0 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 27 have a higher labor force participation rate than Nevada. The labor force participation rate in Nevada 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.

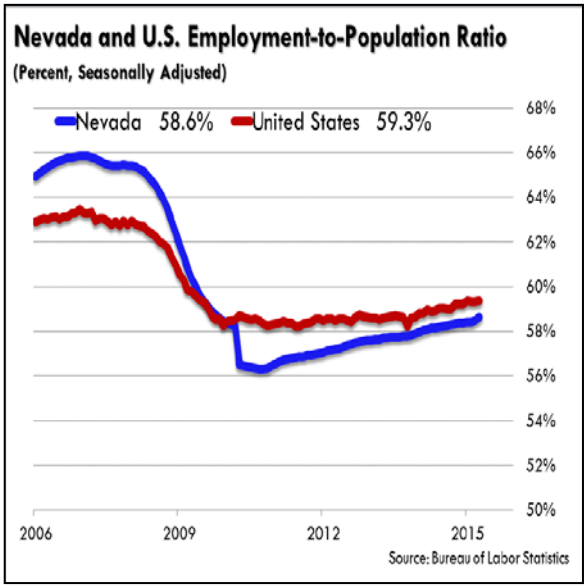


The 10 year high for the labor force participation rate in Nevada was 69.1 percent in August 2008. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Nevada occurred in January 1982 when the labor force participation rate hit 74.3 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 62.8 percent in January 2015. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Nevada.

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 Nevada civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 58.6

percent in April from 58.5 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 33 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Nevada. The employment-to-population ratio in Nevada is 0.5 percentage point higher than a year earlier.



The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Nevada was 65.9 percent in December 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Nevada occurred in October 1988 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 69.2 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 56.3 percent in November 2010. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in December 2010 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 56.3 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.