



Vermont Economic Update

August 21, 2015

Summary

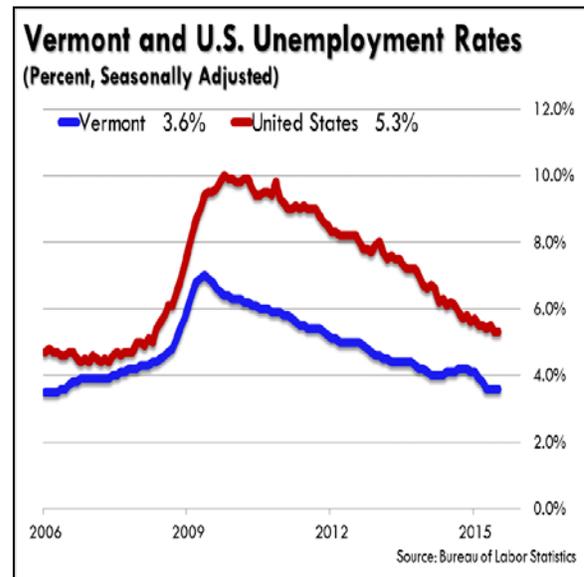
Nonfarm payroll employment in Vermont declined by 200 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.6 percent in July according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Vermont Unemployment Rate

During July, the unemployment rate in Vermont was unchanged at 3.6 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 12 in July to 12,405, while the labor force grew by 417 to 349,412. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, only 2 posted lower unemployment rates. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Vermont stood at 4.1 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 3.5 percent in April 2006. 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 5.3 percent in July. July's unemployment rate was 0.9 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

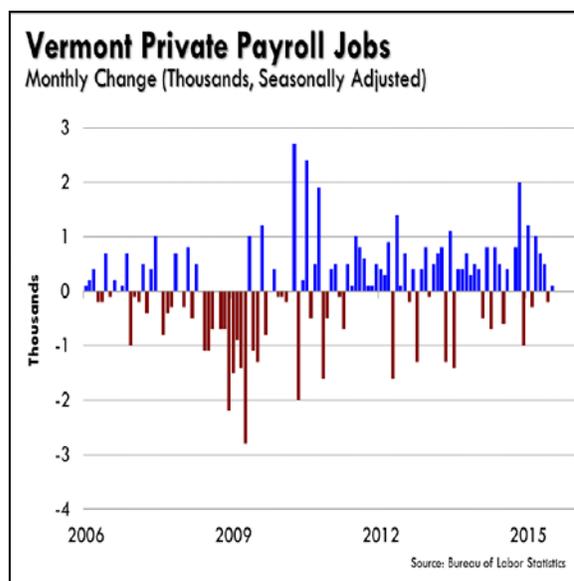
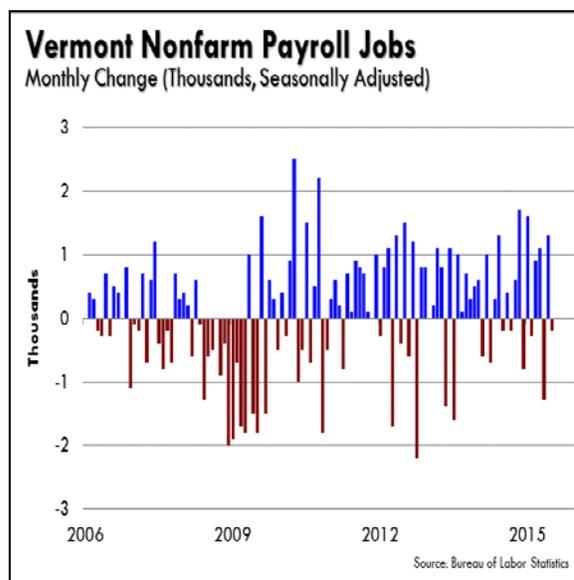
Vermont nonfarm payrolls declined by 200 jobs, or 0.06 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during July. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 1,300. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Vermont increased by 4,800, or 1.55 percent. Vermont nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 215,000 jobs in July, or 0.15 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in July 2015, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,915,000 jobs, or 2.09 percent. Vermont ranks 28th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During July, Vermont private sector payrolls increased by 100, or 0.04 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 200 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Vermont increased by 5,200, or 2.05 percent. Vermont private sector payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private sector payroll jobs increased by 210,000 in July, or 0.18 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,853,000 private sector payroll jobs, an increase of 2.43 percent. Vermont ranks 23rd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During July, total government payroll employment in Vermont declined by 300, or 0.53 percent. Federal government payroll employment declined by 100, or 1.45 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 400, or 2.07 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 200, or 0.66 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 400, or 0.71 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 200, or 1.05 percent. Local government payroll employment declined by 300, or 0.98 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during July were Educational & Health Services (+600) and Other Services (+300). The poorest performing sector during the month was Financial Activities (-400).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+3,000) and Leisure & Hospitality (+2,200). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Manufacturing (-500) and Total Government (-400).



Other Vermont Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Vermont rose to 67.8 percent in July from 67.7 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 9 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 remained at 62.6 percent in July. That rate is 0.2 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The rate for June and July are the lowest recorded since October 1977.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Vermont civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 65.4 percent in July. 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 0.5 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 held steady at 59.3 percent in July. At 59.3 percent, the national employment-to-population ratio is below its 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 August is scheduled for release on Friday, September 18. The national employment situation report for August will be released on Friday, September 4.

