



Louisiana Economic Update

April 21, 2015

Summary

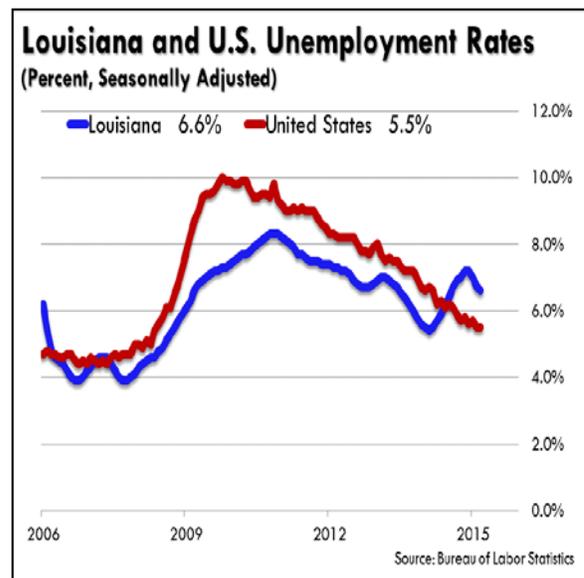
Nonfarm payroll employment in Louisiana declined by 3,000 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 6.6 percent in March according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Louisiana Unemployment Rate

During March, the unemployment rate in Louisiana declined by 0.1 percentage point to 6.6 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 2,851 in March to 145,380, while the labor force grew by 3,476 to 2,205,427. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 45 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Louisiana. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Louisiana stood at 5.5 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Louisiana was 9.5 percent in October 2005. The series high for the unemployment rate in Louisiana occurred in November 1986 when the unemployment rate reached 13.1 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate was 3.9 percent in October 2007. This also represents the series low for the unemployment rate in Louisiana. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.5 percent in March. March's unemployment rate was 1.1 percentage points lower than a year earlier when the rate stood at 6.6 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.



Louisiana Payroll Employment

Louisiana nonfarm payrolls declined by 3,000 jobs, or 0.15 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 2,000. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Louisiana increased by 13,900, or 0.71 percent. Louisiana nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

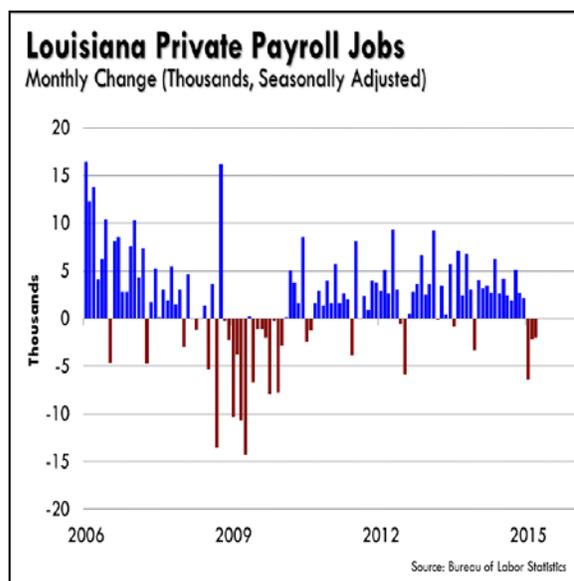
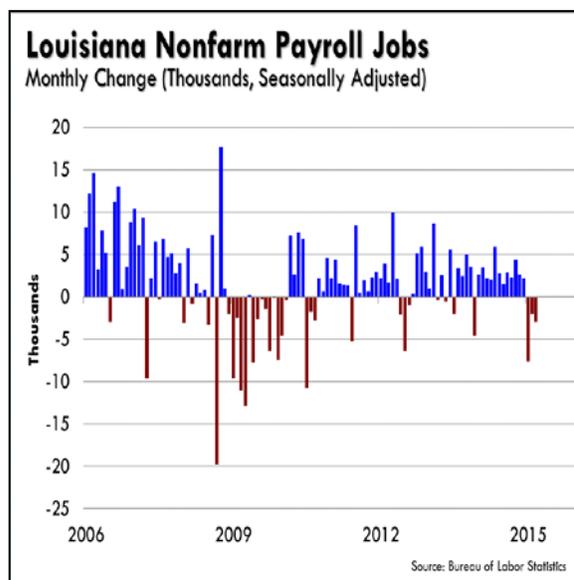
Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 126,000 jobs in March, or 0.09 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in March 2015, nonfarm payrolls grew by 3,128,000 jobs, or 2.27 percent. Louisiana ranks 47th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, Louisiana private sector payrolls declined by 2,000, or 0.12 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 2,200 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Louisiana increased by 19,400, or 1.18 percent. Louisiana private sector payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private sector payroll jobs increased by 129,000 in March, or 0.11 percent. Over past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 3,056,000 private sector payroll jobs, an increase of 2.63 percent.

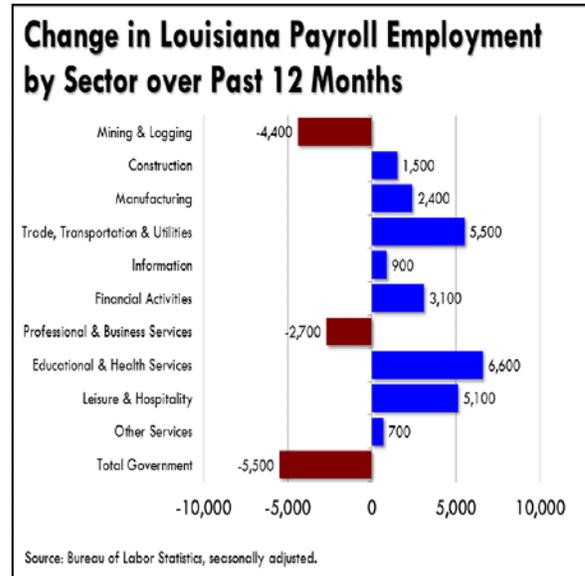
Louisiana ranks 45th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, total government payroll employment in Louisiana declined by 1,000, or 0.31 percent. Federal government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment declined by 600, or 0.70 percent, while local government payroll employment declined by 400, or 0.19 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 5,500, or 1.66 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 4,100, or 4.58 percent. Local government payroll employment declined by 1,300, or 0.62 percent.

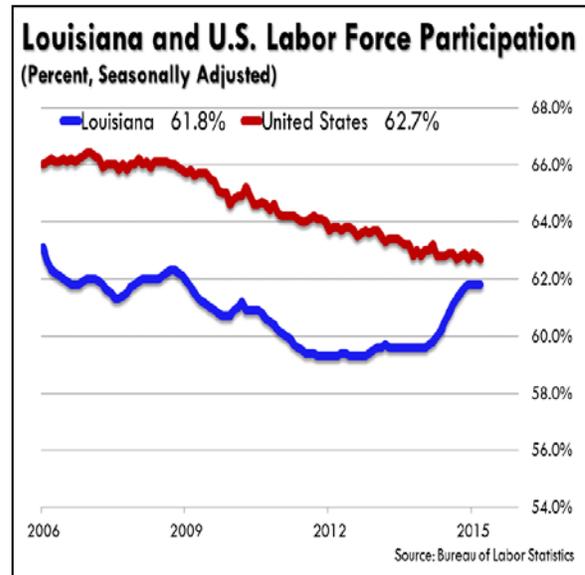
The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Educational & Health Services (+1,700) and Information (+500). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-1,900) and Total Government (-1,000).



The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+6,600) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+5,500). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Total Government (-5,500) and Mining & Logging (-4,400).

Other Louisiana Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Louisiana was unchanged at 61.8 percent in March. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 33 have a higher labor force participation rate than Louisiana. The labor force participation rate in Louisiana 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 Louisiana was 66.5 percent in September 2005. This also represents the series high for the labor force participation rate in Louisiana. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 59.3 percent in October 2012. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in December 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 56.3 percent.

The national labor force participation rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 62.7 percent in March, equaling the ten year low last reached in December 2014. That rate is 0.5 percentage point below the March 2014 level of 63.2 percent.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Louisiana civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 57.8 percent in March from 57.6 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 36 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Louisiana. The employment-to-population ratio in Louisiana is 1.3 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Louisiana was 60.3 percent in September 2005. This also represents the series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Louisiana. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 54.9 percent in February 2012. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1977 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 52.4 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio was unchanged at 59.3 percent in March. 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 April is scheduled for release on Wednesday, May 27. The national employment situation report for April is scheduled for release on Friday, May 8.

