



North Carolina Economic Update

October 20, 2015

Summary

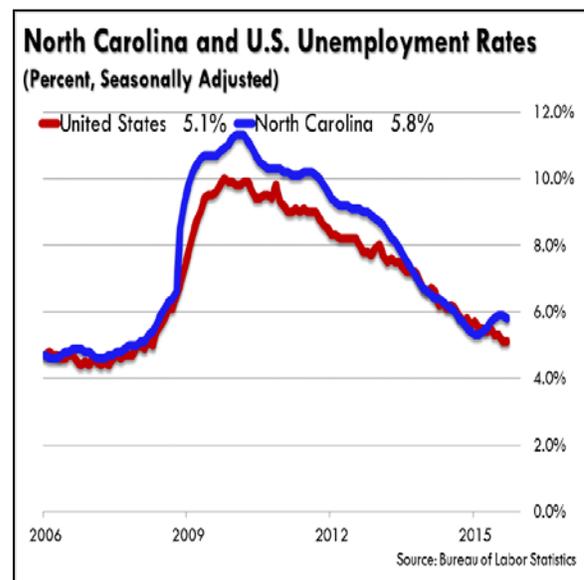
Nonfarm payroll employment in North Carolina increased by 4,700 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 5.8 percent in September according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

North Carolina Unemployment Rate

During September, the unemployment rate in North Carolina declined by 0.1 percentage point to 5.8 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 4,664 in September to 276,072, while the labor force fell by 994 to 4,752,391. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 38 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than North Carolina. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in North Carolina stood at 5.8 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in North Carolina was 11.3 percent in March 2010. This also represents the series high for the unemployment rate in North Carolina. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in North Carolina was 4.6 percent in April 2007. The series low for the unemployment rate in North Carolina occurred in April 1999 when the unemployment rate reached 3.0 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.1 percent in September. September's unemployment rate was 0.8 percentage point lower than a year earlier. 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.



North Carolina Payroll Employment

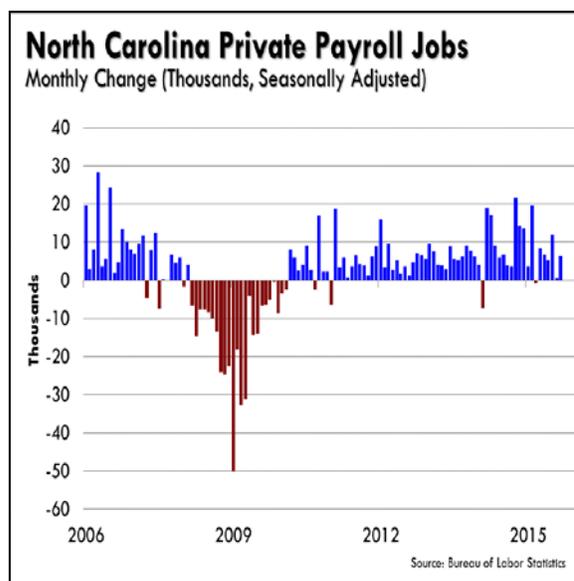
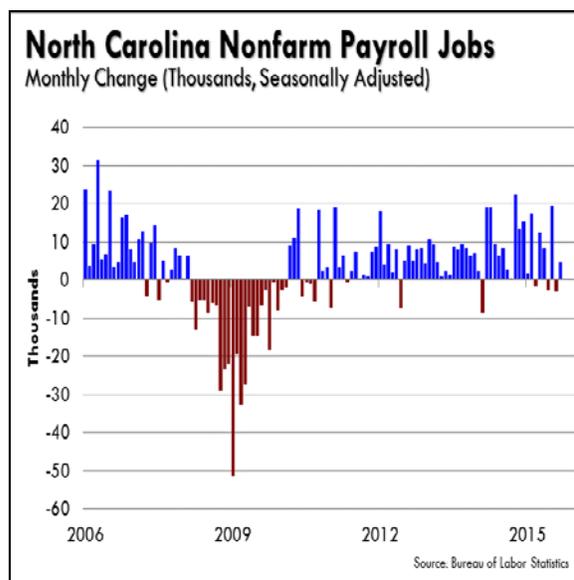
North Carolina nonfarm payrolls increased by 4,700 jobs, or 0.11 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during September. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 3,000. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in North Carolina increased by 107,600, or 2.59 percent. North Carolina nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 142,000 jobs in September, or 0.10 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in September 2015 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,752,000 jobs, or 1.97 percent. North Carolina ranks 9th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During September, North Carolina private sector payrolls increased by 6,300, or 0.18 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 600 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in North Carolina increased by 111,000, or 3.23 percent. North Carolina private sector payroll employment has increased in 11 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 118,000 jobs in September, or 0.10 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,603,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.21 percent. North Carolina 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.

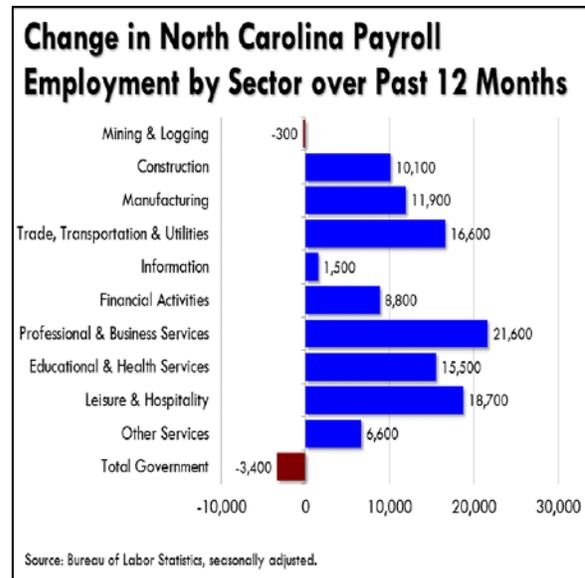
During September, total government payroll employment in North Carolina declined by 1,600, or 0.22 percent. Federal government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment declined by 1,400, or 0.68 percent, while local government payroll employment declined by 200, or 0.05 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 3,400, or 0.48 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 1,400, or 0.68 percent. Local government payroll employment declined by 3,100, or 0.71 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during September were Leisure & Hospitality (+4,000) and Financial Activities (+3,100). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Construction (-3,300) and Total Government (-1,600).

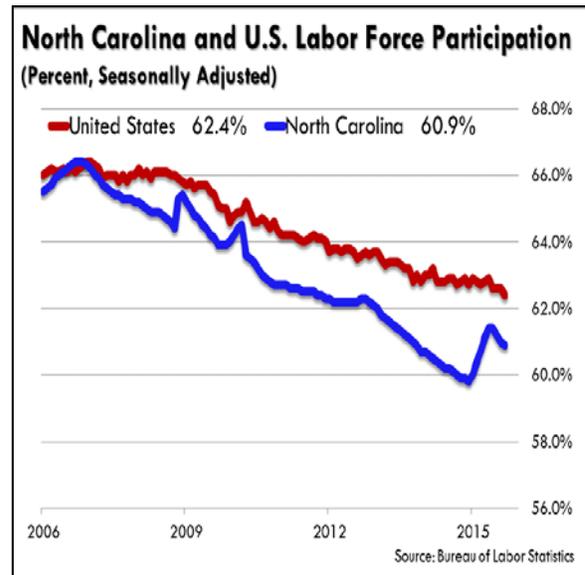
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+21,600) and Leisure & Hospitality (+18,700). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Total Government (-3,400) and Mining & Logging (-300).



Other North Carolina Labor Force Statistics

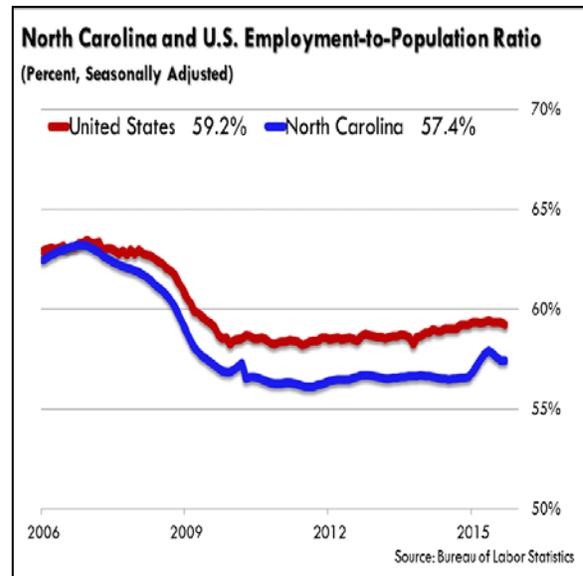
The labor force participation rate in North Carolina declined to 60.9 percent in September from 61.0 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 35 have a higher labor force participation rate than North Carolina. The labor force participation rate in North Carolina is 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 North Carolina was 66.4 percent in November 2006. The series high for the labor force participation rate in North Carolina occurred in December 1989 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.0 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 59.8 percent in December 2014. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in North Carolina.



The national labor force participation rate declined by 0.2 percentage point to 62.4 percent in September. That rate was 0.3 percentage point lower than a year earlier. At 62.4 percent, the labor force participation rate is at its lowest level since September 1977.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the North Carolina civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 57.4 percent in September. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 36 have higher employment-to-population ratios than North Carolina. The employment-to-population ratio in North Carolina is 0.9 percentage point higher than a year earlier.



The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in North Carolina was 63.2 percent in December 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in North Carolina occurred in December 1989 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 66.7 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 56.1 percent in September 2011. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in October 2011 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 56.1 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio declined by 0.2 percentage point to 59.2 percent in September. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The employment-to-population ratio stood at 59.4 percent when the recession ended in June 2009 and at 62.7 percent when it began in December 2007. 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 October is scheduled for release on Friday, November 20. The national employment situation report for October will be released on Friday, November 6.