



Vermont Economic Update

July 21, 2015

Summary

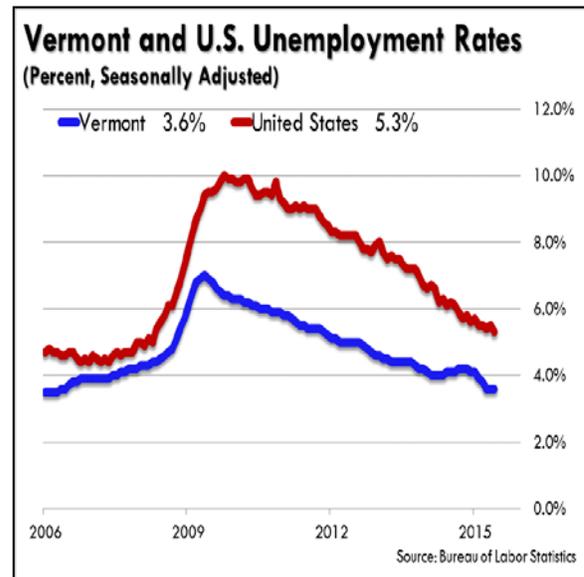
Nonfarm payroll employment in Vermont increased by 1,000 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.6 percent in June according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Vermont Unemployment Rate

During June, the unemployment rate in Vermont was unchanged at 3.6 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 111 in June to 12,388, while the labor force grew by 279 to 348,945. 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 4.1 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 declined to 5.3 percent in June. June's unemployment rate was 0.8 percentage point lower than a year earlier when the rate stood at 6.1 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

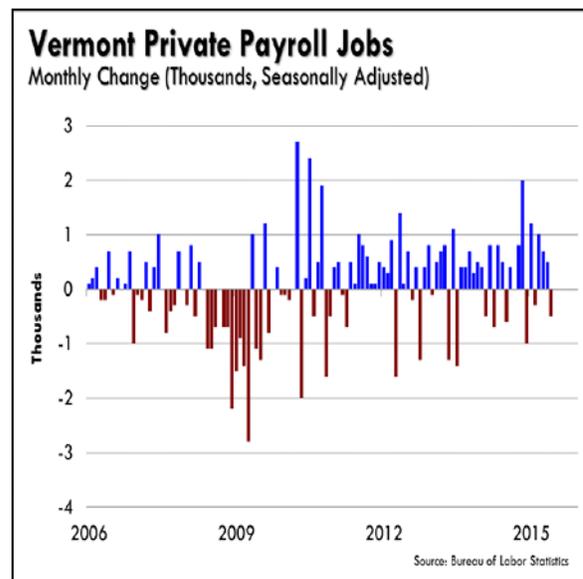
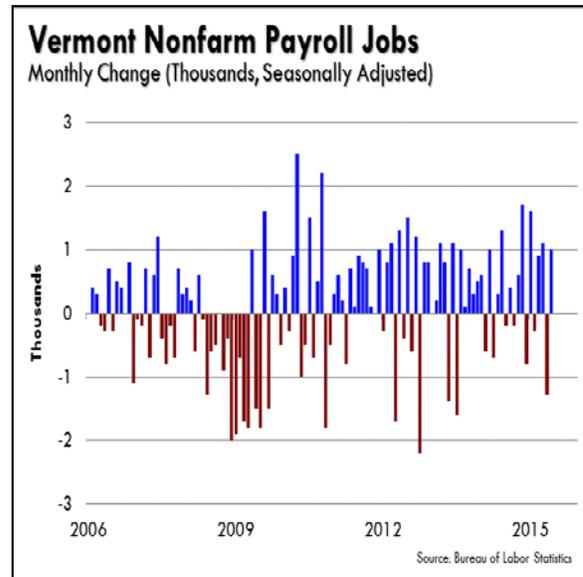
Vermont nonfarm payrolls increased by 1,000 jobs, or 0.32 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during June. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 1,300. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Vermont increased by 4,500, or 1.45 percent. Vermont nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 223,000 jobs in June, or 0.16 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in June 2015, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,935,000 jobs, or 2.11 percent. Vermont ranks 27th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During June, Vermont private sector payrolls declined by 500, or 0.19 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 500 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Vermont increased by 4,200, or 1.65 percent. Vermont private sector payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private sector payroll jobs increased by 223,000 in June, or 0.19 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,880,000 private sector payroll jobs, an increase of 2.46 percent. Vermont ranks 27th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During June, total government payroll employment in Vermont increased by 1,500, or 2.73 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 100, or 1.47 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 1,300, or 7.22 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.33 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 300, or 0.53 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 200, or 1.05 percent. Local government payroll employment declined by 100, or 0.33 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during June were Total Government (+1,500) and Professional & Business Services (+300). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Construction (-500) and Manufacturing (-400).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+2,000) and Leisure & Hospitality (+1,600). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Manufacturing (-500) and Mining & Logging (unchanged).



Other Vermont Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Vermont was unchanged at 67.7 percent in June. 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 declined by 0.3 percentage point to 62.6 percent in June. That rate is 0.2 percentage point lower than a year earlier and 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, rose to 65.4 percent in June from 65.3 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 0.3 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 ticked down to 59.3 percent in June. 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 June 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 June is scheduled for release on Tuesday, July 21. The national employment situation report for June is scheduled for release on Friday, August 21. The national employment situation for July will be released on Friday, August 7.

