



Illinois Economic Update

March 14, 2016

Summary

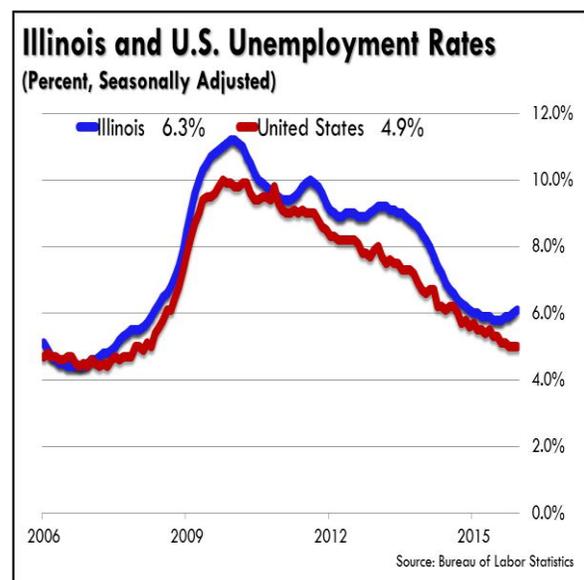
Nonfarm payroll employment in Illinois declined by 6,500 jobs and the unemployment rate rose to 6.3 percent in January according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Illinois Unemployment Rate

During January, the unemployment rate in Illinois increased by 0.2 percentage point to 6.3 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 11,858 in January to 412,582, while the labor force grew by 31,671 to 6,574,564. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 45 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Illinois. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Illinois stood at 6.0 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Illinois was 11.2 percent in January 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Illinois occurred in February 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 13.1 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Illinois was 4.4 percent in November 2006. The series low for the unemployment rate in Illinois occurred in February 1999 when the unemployment rate reached 4.1 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent in February. February's unemployment rate was 0.6 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



Illinois Payroll Employment

Illinois nonfarm payrolls declined by 6,500 jobs, or 0.11 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during January. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 8,300. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Illinois increased by 49,600, or 0.84 percent. Illinois nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

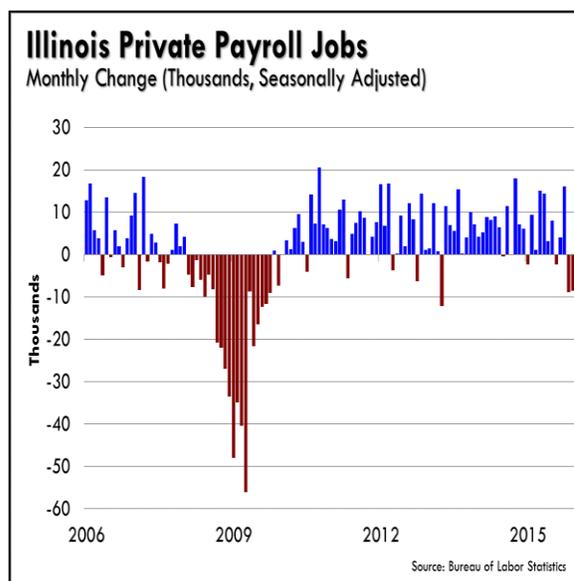
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 242,000 jobs in February, or 0.17 percent. Over the 12-month period ending February 2016 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,672,000 jobs, or 1.9 percent. Illinois ranks 37th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During January, Illinois private sector payrolls increased by 5,000, or 0.10 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 8,600 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Illinois increased by 56,100, or 1.10 percent. Illinois private sector payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 230,000 jobs in 1.9, or 0.19 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,597,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.18 percent.

Illinois ranks 36th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During January, total government payroll employment in Illinois declined by 11,500, or 1.38 percent. Federal government payroll employment declined by 600, or 0.75 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 500, or 0.33 percent, while local government payroll employment declined by 10,400, or 1.73 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 6,500, or 0.79 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 400, or 0.27 percent. Local government payroll employment declined by 6,000, or 1.00 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during January were Professional & Business Services (+2,200) and Manufacturing (+1,900). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Total Government (-11,500) and Other Services (-2,300).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Leisure & Hospitality (+20,700) and Educational & Health Services (+17,800). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Total Government (-6,500) and Manufacturing (-5,100).

Other Illinois Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Illinois rose to 65.0 percent in January from 64.9 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 17 have a higher labor force participation rate than Illinois. The labor force participation rate in Illinois 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 Illinois was 68.7 percent in December 2007. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Illinois occurred in April 2000 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.8 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 64.5 percent in February 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in December 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 62.8 percent.

The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.2 percentage point to 62.9 percent in February, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Illinois civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 61.2 percent in January from 61.0 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 21 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Illinois. The employment-to-population ratio in Illinois is 0.6 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Illinois was 65.0 percent in October 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Illinois occurred in February 2000 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 66.9 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 59.2 percent in December 2009. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in April 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 56.9 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.2 percentage point to 59.8 percent in February. That rate was 0.5 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 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 ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for February is scheduled for release on March 25, 2016. The national employment situation report for February was released on Friday, March 4, 2016.

