



# Nebraska Economic Update

March 28, 2016

## Summary

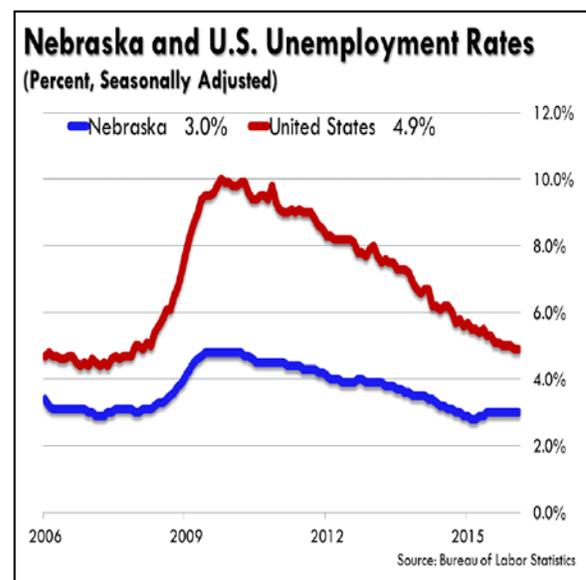
Nonfarm payroll employment in Nebraska declined by 2,500 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.0 percent in February according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## Nebraska Unemployment Rate

During February, the unemployment rate in Nebraska was unchanged at 3.0 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 117 in February to 30,528, while the labor force grew by 289 to 1,018,155. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, only 3 posted lower unemployment rates. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Nebraska stood at 2.8 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Nebraska was 4.8 percent in March 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Nebraska occurred in February 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 6.3 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Nebraska was 2.8 percent in March 2015. The series low for the unemployment rate in Nebraska occurred in October 1990 when the unemployment rate reached 2.3 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.



## Nebraska Payroll Employment

Nebraska nonfarm payrolls declined by 2,500 jobs, or 0.25 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during February. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 2,400. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Nebraska increased by 12,900, or 1.29 percent. Nebraska nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 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. Nebraska ranks 35th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

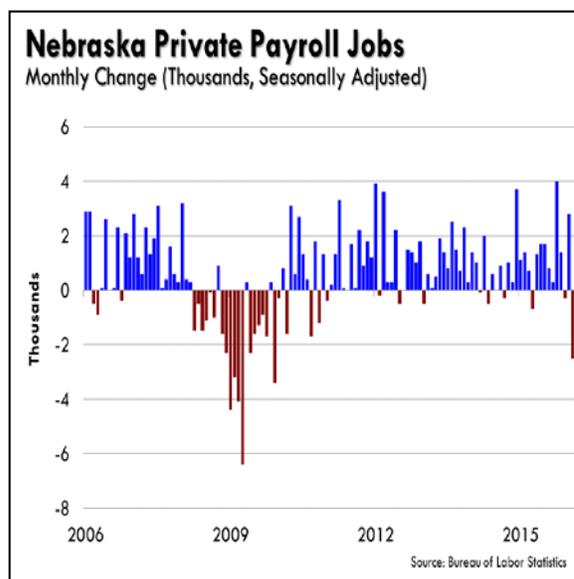
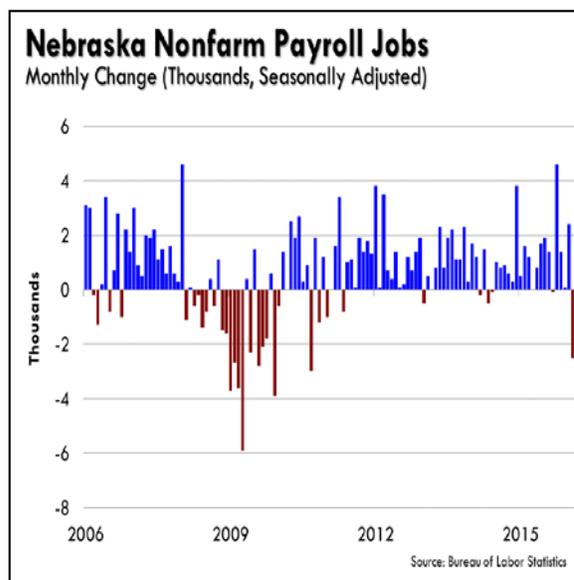
During February, Nebraska private sector payrolls declined by 2,500, or 0.30 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 2,800 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Nebraska increased by 11,200, or 1.35 percent. Nebraska private sector payroll employment has increased 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.

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

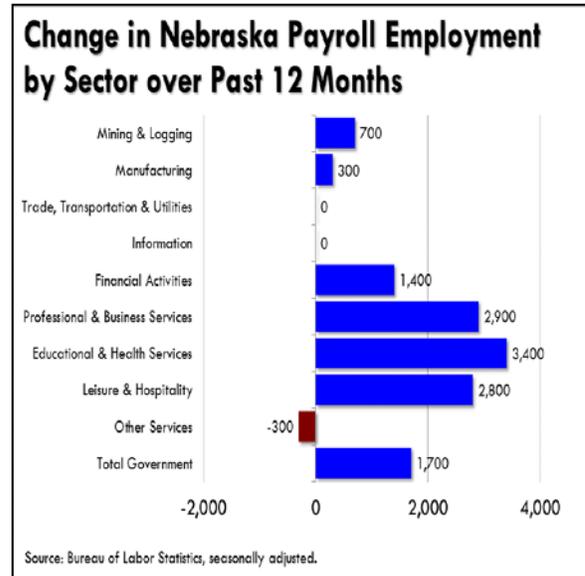
During February, total government payroll employment in Nebraska was unchanged. Federal government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment was unchanged, while local government payroll employment was unchanged.

Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 1,700, or 1.00 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 400, or 0.96 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 1,200, or 1.08 percent.



The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during February were Financial Activities (+100) and Information (unchanged). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Mining & Logging (-1,000) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-600).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+3,400) and Professional & Business Services (+2,900). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Other Services (-300) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (unchanged).

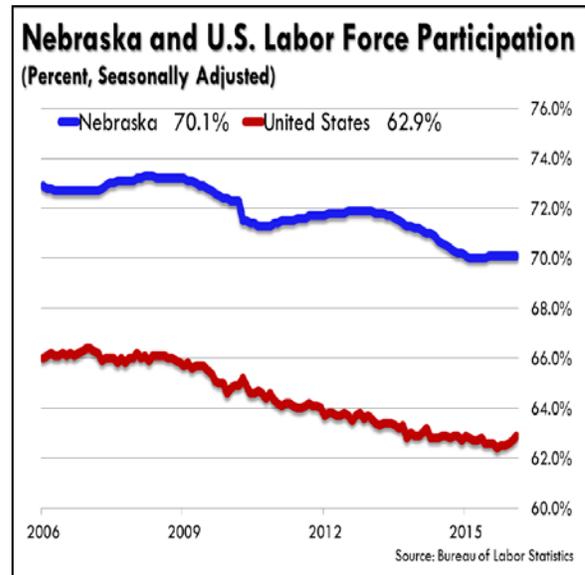


### Other Nebraska Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Nebraska was unchanged at 70.1 percent in February. At 70.1 percent, Nebraska has one of the five highest labor force participation rates in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Nebraska 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 Nebraska was 73.3 percent in May 2008. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Nebraska occurred in April 2003 when the labor force participation rate hit 73.9 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 70.0 percent in June 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in May 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 65.1 percent.

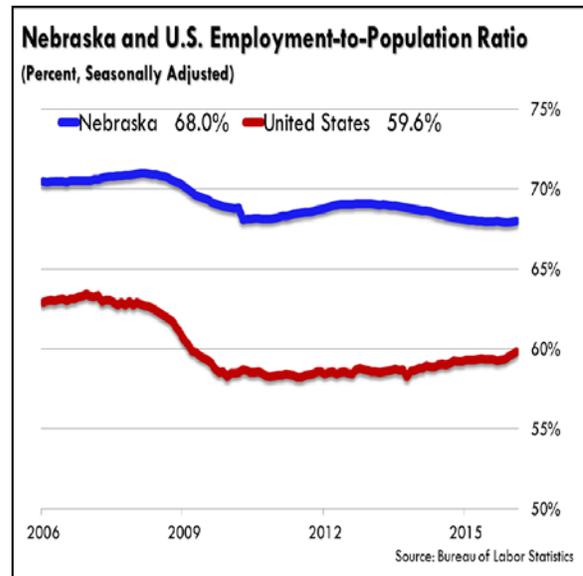


The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.2 percentage point to 62.9 percent in February, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Nebraska civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 68.0 percent in February from 67.9 percent the prior month. At 68.0 percent, Nebraska has one

of the five highest employment-to-population ratios in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in Nebraska is unchanged from a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Nebraska was 71.0 percent in March 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Nebraska occurred in December 1998 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 71.7 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 67.9 percent in January 2016. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 63.0 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 March is scheduled for release on April 15, 2016. The national employment situation report for March will be released on Friday, April 1, 2016.