

Texas Economic Update

May 20, 2016

Summary

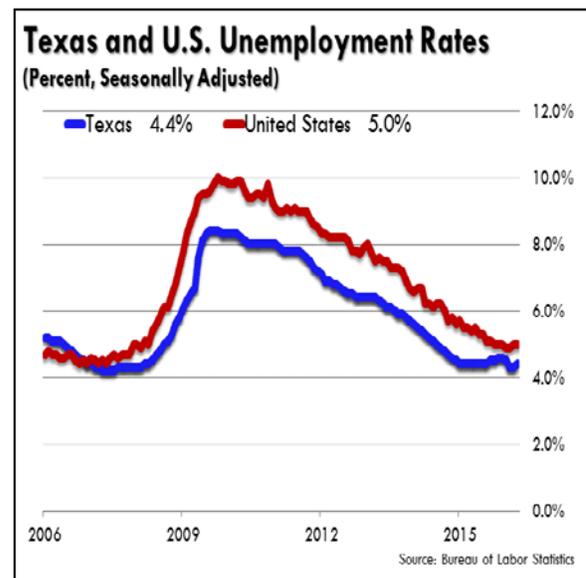
Nonfarm payroll employment in Texas increased by 8,300 jobs and the unemployment rate rose to 4.4 percent in April according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Texas Unemployment Rate

During April, the unemployment rate in Texas increased by 0.1 percentage point to 4.4 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 10,059 in April to 587,112, while the labor force grew by 29,431 to 13,302,952. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 20 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Texas. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Texas stood at 4.4 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Texas was 8.4 percent in October 2009. The series high for the unemployment rate in Texas occurred in November 1986 when the unemployment rate reached 9.2 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Texas was 4.2 percent in July 2007. The series low for the unemployment rate in Texas occurred in December 2000 when the unemployment rate reached 4.0 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.0 percent in April. April's unemployment rate was 0.4 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.



Texas Payroll Employment

Texas nonfarm payrolls increased by 8,300 jobs, or 0.07 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during April. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 9,400. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Texas increased by 189,600, or 1.61 percent. Texas nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 11 of the past 12 months.

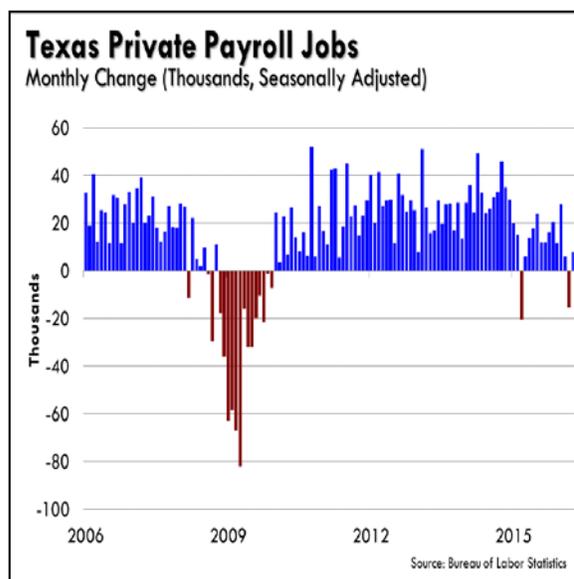
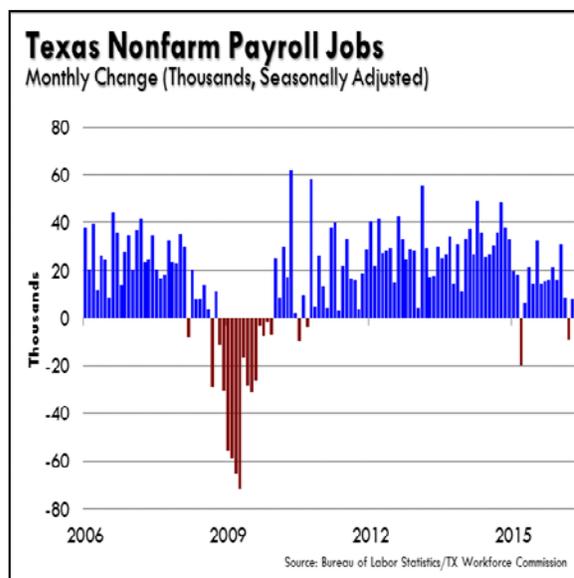
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 160,000 jobs in April, or 0.11 percent. Over the 12-month period ending April 2016 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,692,000 jobs, or 1.91 percent. Texas ranks 24th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During April, Texas private sector payrolls increased by 8,000, or 0.08 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 15,300 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Texas increased by 154,200, or 1.55 percent. Texas private sector payroll employment has increased in 11 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 171,000 jobs in 1.91, or 0.14 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,586,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.17 percent.

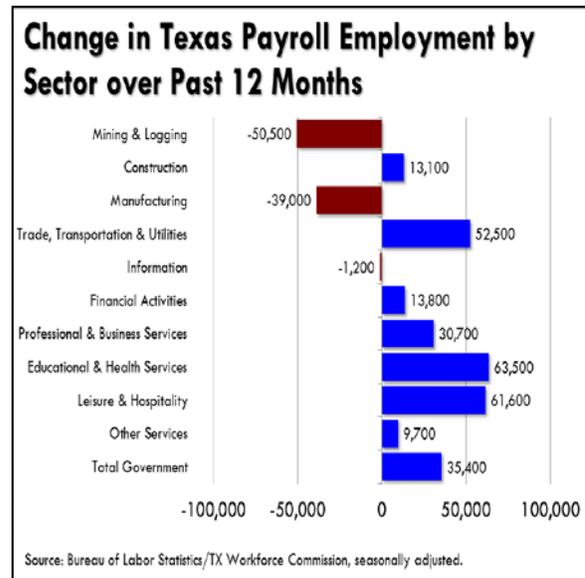
Texas ranks 33rd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During April, total government payroll employment in Texas increased by 300, or 0.02 percent. Federal government payroll employment declined by 1,600, or 0.82 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 600, or 0.16 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 1,300, or 0.10 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 35,400, or 1.92 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 5,300, or 1.44 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 29,300, or 2.28 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during April were Educational & Health Services (+10,900) and Professional & Business Services (+6,600). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Mining & Logging (-6,600) and Manufacturing (-4,800).



The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+63,500) and Leisure & Hospitality (+61,600). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Mining & Logging (-50,500) and Manufacturing (-39,000).

Other Texas Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Texas was unchanged at 63.8 percent in April. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 24 have a higher labor force participation rate than Texas. The labor force participation rate in Texas 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 Texas was 66.6 percent in March 2010. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Texas occurred in September 1995 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.4 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 63.4 percent in January 2016. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in January 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 63.2 percent.

The national labor force participation rate declined by 0.2 percentage point to 62.8 percent in April 2016, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Texas civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 61.0 percent in April. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 25 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Texas. The employment-to-population ratio in Texas is unchanged from a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Texas was 63.3 percent in May 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Texas occurred in November 1998 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 65.7 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 60.5 percent in December 2015. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 59.5 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio declined by 0.2 percentage point to 59.7 percent in April. That rate was 0.4 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 May is scheduled for release on June 17, 2016. The national employment situation report for May will be released on Friday, June 3, 2016.

