



Tennessee Economic Update

October 20, 2015

Summary

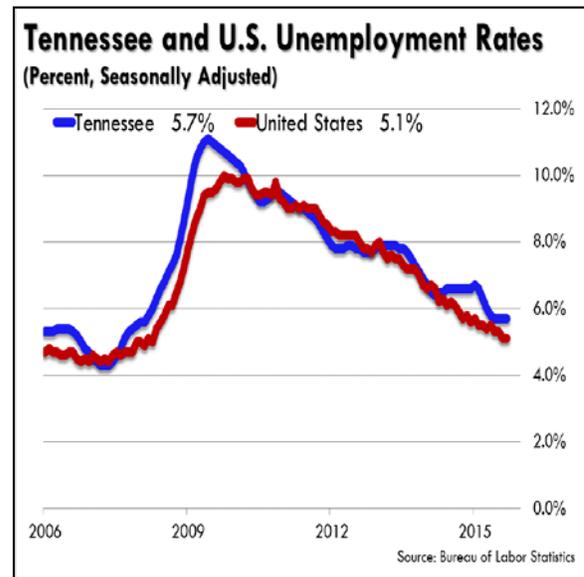
Nonfarm payroll employment in Tennessee increased by 1,900 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.7 percent in September according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Tennessee Unemployment Rate

During September, the unemployment rate in Tennessee was unchanged at 5.7 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 332 in September to 173,255, while the labor force fell by 12,282 to 3,043,046. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 36 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Tennessee. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Tennessee stood at 6.6 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Tennessee was 11.1 percent in June 2009. The series high for the unemployment rate in Tennessee occurred in January 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 12.9 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Tennessee was 4.3 percent in May 2007. The series low for the unemployment rate in Tennessee occurred in March 2000 when the unemployment rate reached 3.7 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.



Tennessee Payroll Employment

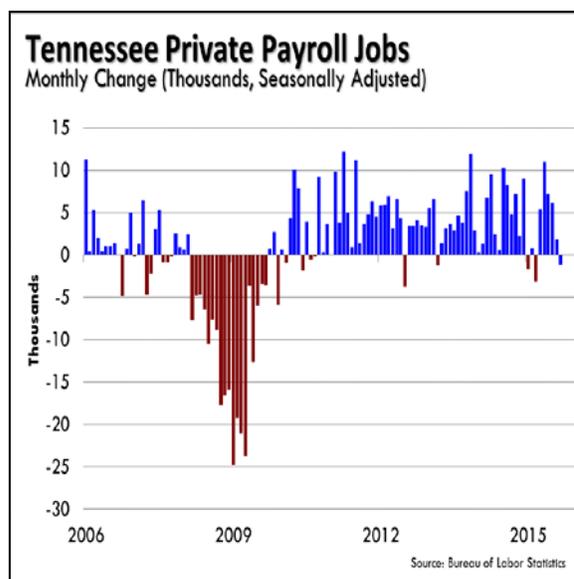
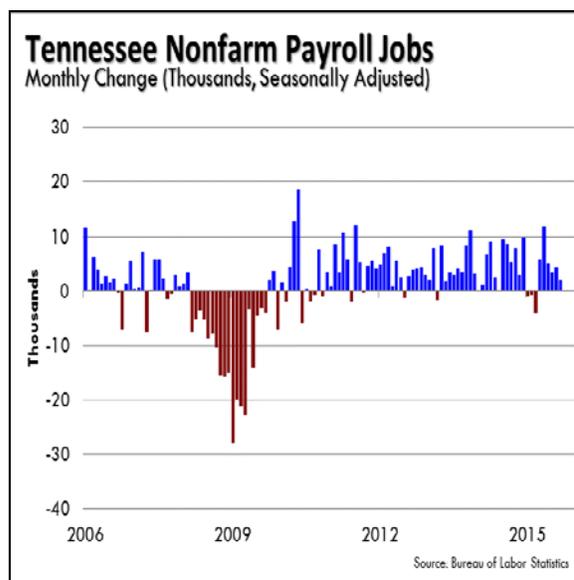
Tennessee nonfarm payrolls increased by 1,900 jobs, or 0.07 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during September. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 4,300. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Tennessee increased by 46,700, or 1.65 percent. Tennessee nonfarm payroll employment 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. Tennessee ranks 22nd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During September, Tennessee private sector payrolls declined by 1,200, or 0.05 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 1,800 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Tennessee increased by 44,600, or 1.85 percent. Tennessee private sector payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

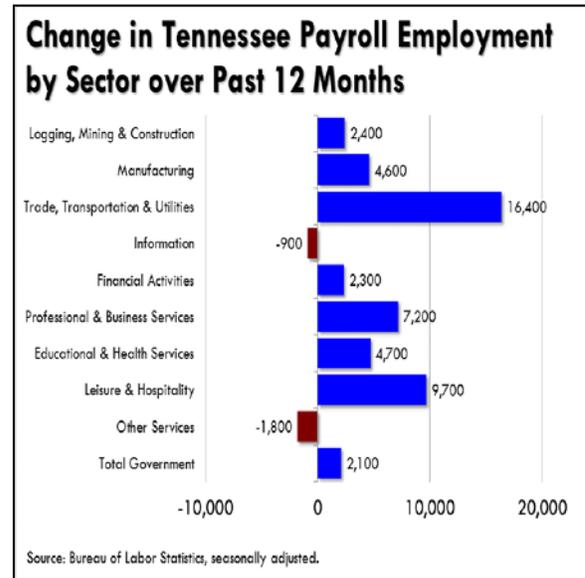
Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 118,000 jobs in September, or 0.10 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,603,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.21 percent. Tennessee ranks 20th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During September, total government payroll employment in Tennessee increased by 3,100, or 0.73 percent. Federal government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment increased by 5,300, or 5.78 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 200, or 0.07 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 2,100, or 0.49 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 1,700, or 1.78 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 1,100, or 0.39 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during September were Total Government (+3,100) and Educational & Health Services (+1,600). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-1,500) and Other Services (-1,300).

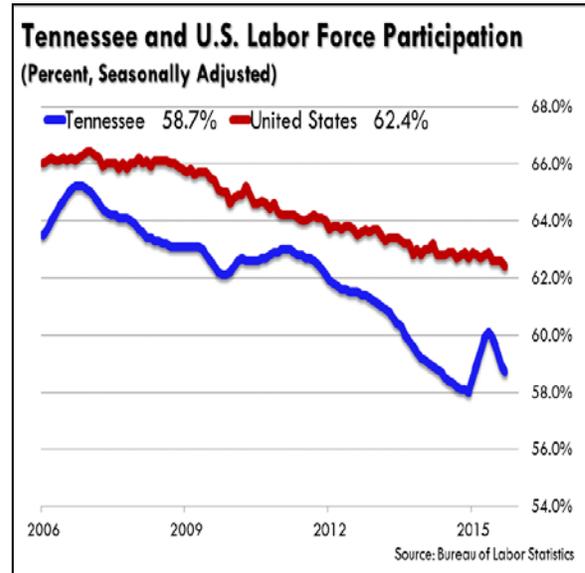


The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+16,400) and Leisure & Hospitality (+9,700). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Other Services (-1,800) and Information (-900).

Other Tennessee Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Tennessee declined to 58.7 percent in September from 59.0 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 43 have a higher labor force participation rate than Tennessee. The labor force participation rate in Tennessee 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 Tennessee was 65.2 percent in November 2006. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Tennessee occurred in January 1995 when the labor force participation rate hit 67.4 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 58.0 percent in December 2014. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Tennessee.



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 Tennessee civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 55.4 percent in September from 55.7 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 43 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Tennessee. The employment-to-population ratio in Tennessee is 1.1 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Tennessee was 62.1 percent in December 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Tennessee occurred in January 1995 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 64.3 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 54.2 percent in December 2014. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 53.8 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.

