



Missouri Economic Update

March 28, 2016

Summary

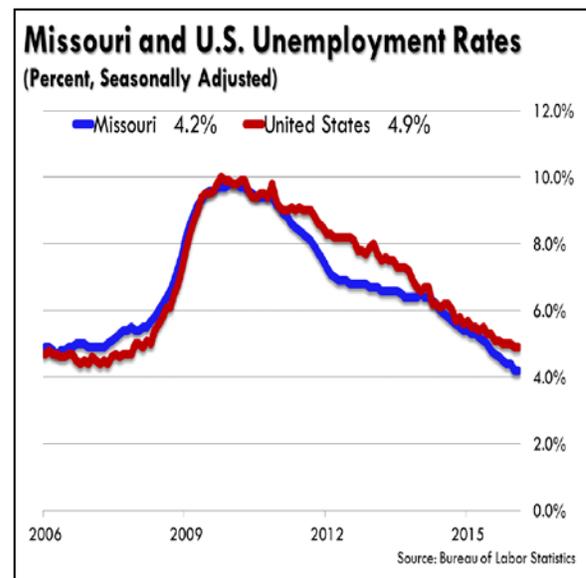
Nonfarm payroll employment in Missouri increased by 9,400 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.2 percent in February according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Missouri Unemployment Rate

During February, the unemployment rate in Missouri was unchanged at 4.2 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 1,202 in February to 131,995, while the labor force grew by 16,512 to 3,152,715. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 14 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Missouri. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Missouri stood at 5.3 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Missouri was 9.8 percent in February 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Missouri occurred in April 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 10.6 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Missouri was 4.2 percent in February 2016. The series low for the unemployment rate in Missouri occurred in January 2000 when the unemployment rate reached 3.1 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.



Missouri Payroll Employment

Missouri nonfarm payrolls increased by 9,400 jobs, or 0.34 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during February. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 5,800. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Missouri increased by 18,700, or 0.67 percent. Missouri nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

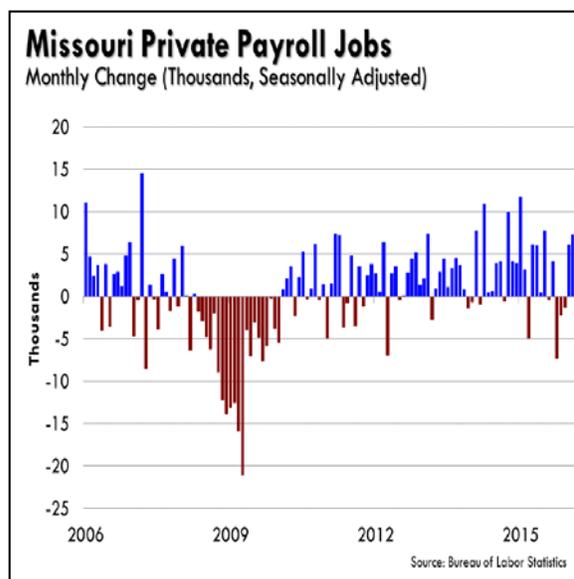
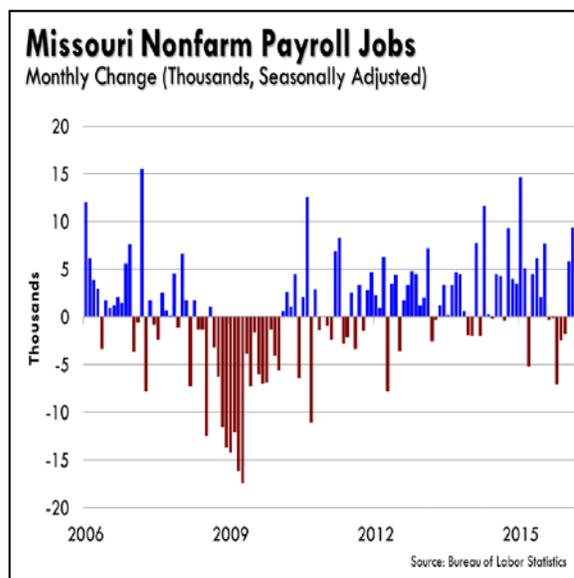
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 242,000 jobs in February, or 0.17 percent. Over the 12-month period ending February 2016 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,672,000 jobs, or 1.9 percent. Missouri ranks 43rd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During February, Missouri private sector payrolls increased by 7,300, or 0.31 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 6,100 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Missouri increased by 21,100, or 0.90 percent. Missouri private sector payroll employment has increased in 7 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.

Missouri ranks 42nd 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 Missouri increased by 2,100, or 0.49 percent. Federal government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment increased by 1,100, or 1.08 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 1,000, or 0.36 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 2,400, or 0.55 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 900, or 0.88 percent. Local government payroll employment declined by 3,500, or 1.25 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during February were Leisure & Hospitality (+5,400) and Total Government (+2,100). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Manufacturing (-1,300) and Information (-1,200).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+8,500) and Professional & Business Services (+8,400). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Information (-2,600) and Total Government (-2,400).



Other Missouri Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Missouri rose to 66.2 percent in February from 65.9 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 15 have a higher labor force participation rate than Missouri. The labor force participation rate in Missouri 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 Missouri was 67.8 percent in November 2006. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Missouri occurred in September 1996 when the labor force participation rate hit 71.4 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 64.2 percent in November 2013. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in January 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 59.8 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 Missouri civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 63.4 percent in February from 63.1 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 13 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Missouri. The employment-to-population ratio in Missouri is 1.3 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Missouri was 64.4 percent in December 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Missouri

occurred in September 1996 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 68.0 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 59.4 percent in February 2010. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in April 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 56.1 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.

