



Kansas Economic Update

April 21, 2015

Summary

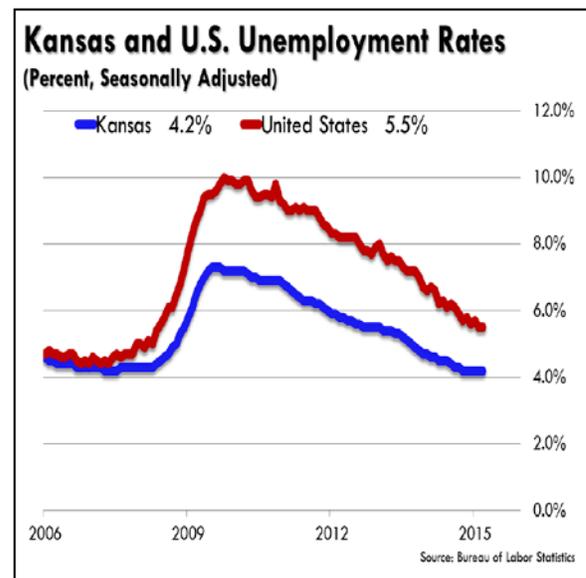
Nonfarm payroll employment in Kansas declined by 2,400 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.2 percent in March according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Kansas Unemployment Rate

During March, the unemployment rate in Kansas was unchanged at 4.2 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 290 in March to 62,532, while the labor force grew by 651 to 1,502,362. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 13 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Kansas. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Kansas stood at 4.6 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Kansas was 7.3 percent in September 2009. This also represents the series high for the unemployment rate in Kansas. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Kansas was 4.2 percent in March 2015. The series low for the unemployment rate in Kansas occurred in August 1978 when the unemployment rate reached 2.9 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.5 percent in March. March's unemployment rate was 1.1 percentage points lower than a year earlier when the rate stood at 6.6 percent. 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.



Kansas Payroll Employment

Kansas nonfarm payrolls declined by 2,400 jobs, or 0.17 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 8,400. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Kansas increased by 15,400, or 1.11 percent. Kansas nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

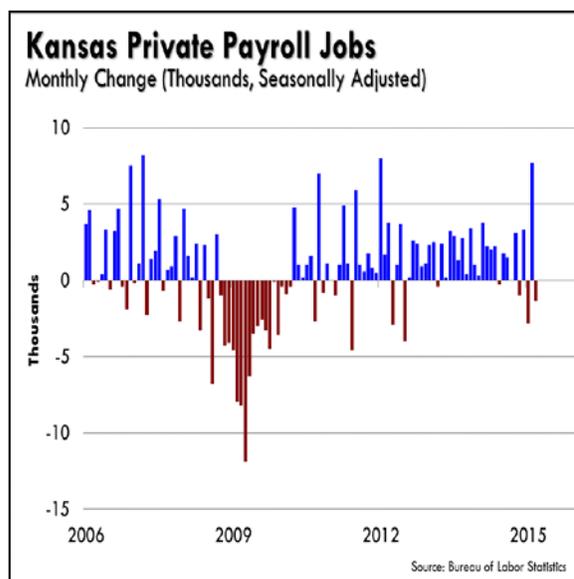
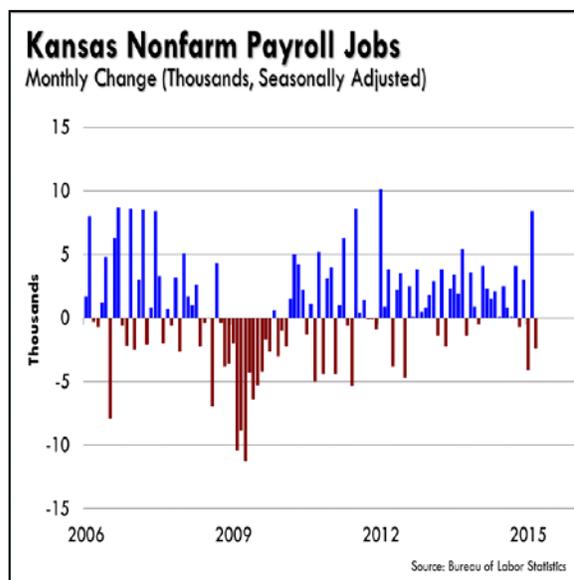
Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 126,000 jobs in March, or 0.09 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in March 2015, nonfarm payrolls grew by 3,128,000 jobs, or 2.27 percent. Kansas ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, Kansas private sector payrolls declined by 1,400, or 0.12 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 7,700 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Kansas increased by 16,100, or 1.42 percent. Kansas private sector payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private sector payroll jobs increased by 129,000 in March, or 0.11 percent. Over past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 3,056,000 private sector payroll jobs, an increase of 2.63 percent.

Kansas ranks 37th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

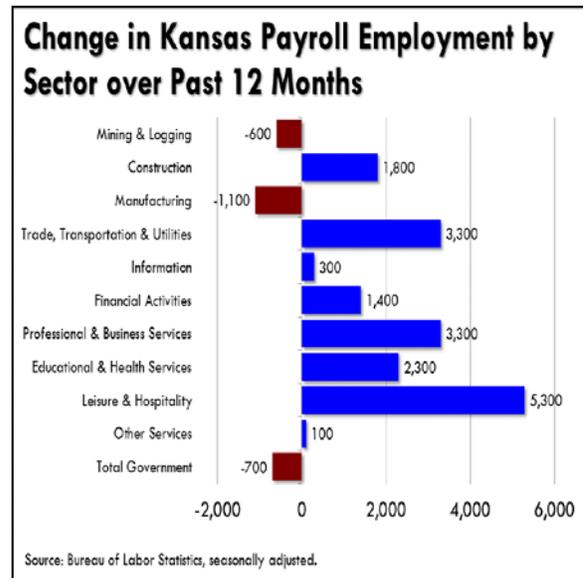
During March, total government payroll employment in Kansas declined by 1,000, or 0.39 percent. Federal government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.19 percent, while local government payroll employment declined by 600, or 0.35 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 700, or 0.27 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 500, or 0.95 percent. Local government payroll employment declined by 1,100, or 0.64 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Financial Activities (+500) and Manufacturing (+400). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Professional & Business Services (-1,100) and Total Government (-1,000).

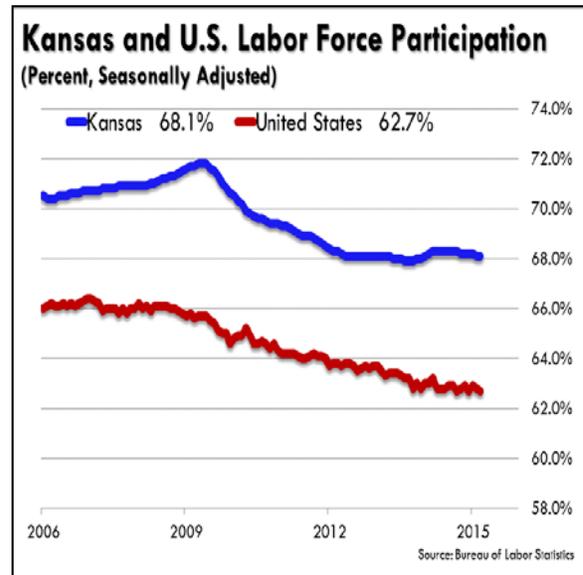
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Leisure & Hospitality (+5,300) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+3,300). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Manufacturing (-1,100) and Total Government (-700).



Other Kansas Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Kansas was unchanged at 68.1 percent in March. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 9 have a higher labor force participation rate than Kansas. The labor force participation rate in Kansas 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 Kansas was 71.8 percent in June 2009. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Kansas occurred in December 1998 when the labor force participation rate hit 72.2 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 67.9 percent in October 2013. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in February 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 64.6 percent.



The national labor force participation rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 62.7 percent in March, equaling the ten year low last reached in December 2014. That rate is 0.5 percentage point below the March 2014 level of 63.2 percent.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Kansas civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 65.3 percent in March. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 7 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Kansas. The employment-to-population ratio in Kansas is 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Kansas was 67.9 percent in July 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Kansas occurred in February 1999 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 69.7 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.2 percent in July 2012. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 61.8 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio was unchanged at 59.3 percent in March. At 59.3 percent, the national employment-to-population ratio is still below the level of 59.4 percent when the recession ended in June 2009. 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 April is scheduled for release on Wednesday, May 27. The national employment situation report for April is scheduled for release on Friday, May 8.

