



# North Carolina Economic Update

March 14, 2016

## Summary

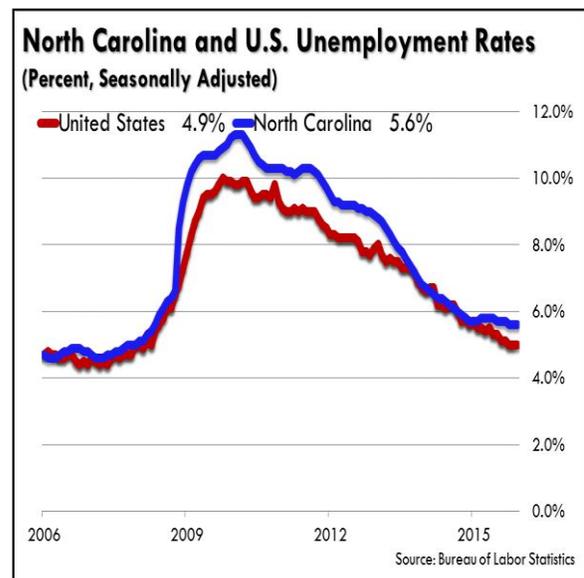
Nonfarm payroll employment in North Carolina increased by 23,200 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.6 percent in January according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## North Carolina Unemployment Rate

During January, the unemployment rate in North Carolina was unchanged at 5.6 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 1,415 in January to 267,017, while the labor force grew by 16,842 to 4,798,627. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 37 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than North Carolina. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in North Carolina stood at 5.7 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in North Carolina was 11.3 percent in March 2010. This also represents the series high for the unemployment rate in North Carolina. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in North Carolina was 4.6 percent in April 2007. The series low for the unemployment rate in North Carolina occurred in April 1999 when the unemployment rate reached 3.0 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.



## North Carolina Payroll Employment

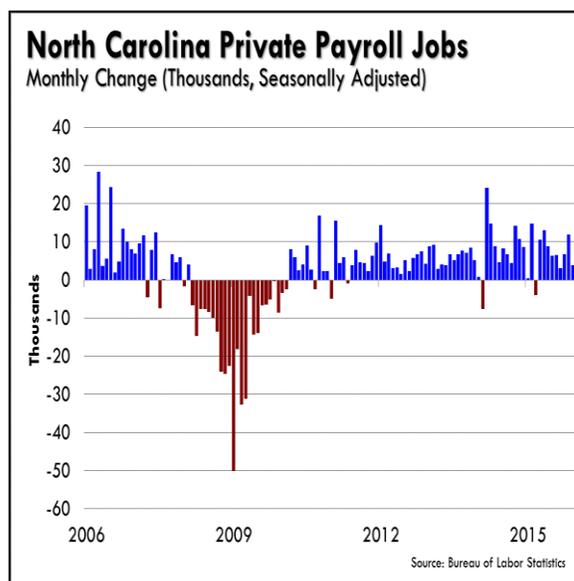
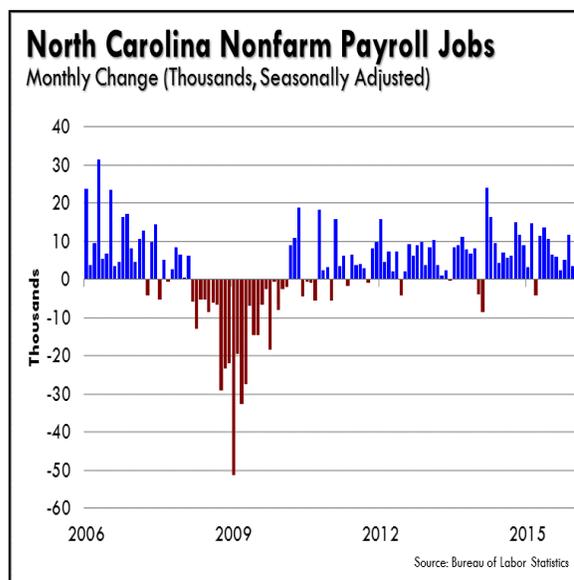
North Carolina nonfarm payrolls increased by 23,200 jobs, or 0.54 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during January. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 3,600. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in North Carolina increased by 104,300, or 2.49 percent. North Carolina nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 11 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. North Carolina ranks 13th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During January, North Carolina private sector payrolls increased by 18,200, or 0.51 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 3,800 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in North Carolina increased by 99,900, or 2.88 percent. North Carolina private sector payroll employment has increased in 11 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. North Carolina ranks 11th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During January, total government payroll employment in North Carolina increased by 5,000, or 0.70 percent. Federal government payroll employment declined by 400, or 0.56 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 400, or 0.19 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 5,000, or 1.13 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 4,400, or 0.61 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 2,300, or 1.10 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 5,700, or 1.29 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during January were Leisure & Hospitality (+5,000) and Total Government (+5,000). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Information (-800) and Professional & Business Services (-500).

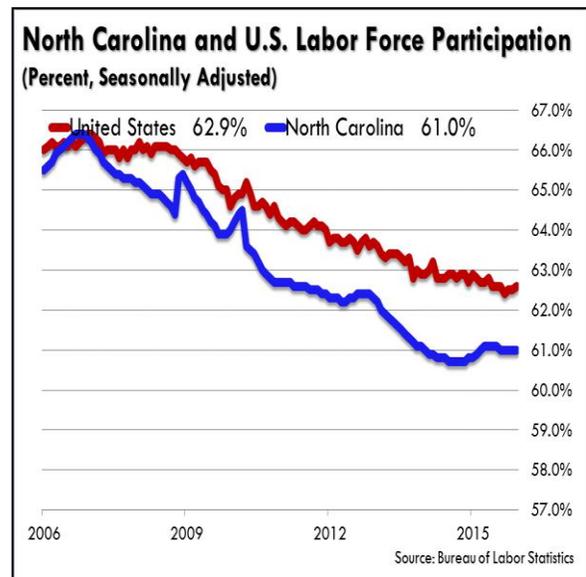
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+24,500) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+22,300). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Mining & Logging (unchanged) and Information (+1,100).

### Other North Carolina Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in North Carolina was unchanged at 61.0 percent in January. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 38 have a higher labor force participation rate than North Carolina. The labor force participation rate in North Carolina 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 North Carolina was 66.4 percent in November 2006. The series high for the labor force participation rate in North Carolina occurred in December 1989 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.0 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 60.7 percent in November 2014. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in North Carolina.

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 North Carolina civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 57.7 percent in January from 57.6 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 39 have higher employment-to-population ratios than North Carolina. The employment-to-population ratio in North Carolina is 0.3 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in North Carolina was 63.2 percent in December 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in North Carolina occurred in December 1989 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 66.7 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 56.1 percent in September 2011. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in October 2011 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 February is scheduled for release on March 25, 2016. The national employment situation report for February was released on Friday, March 4, 2016.

