

Texas Economic Update

April 21, 2015

Summary

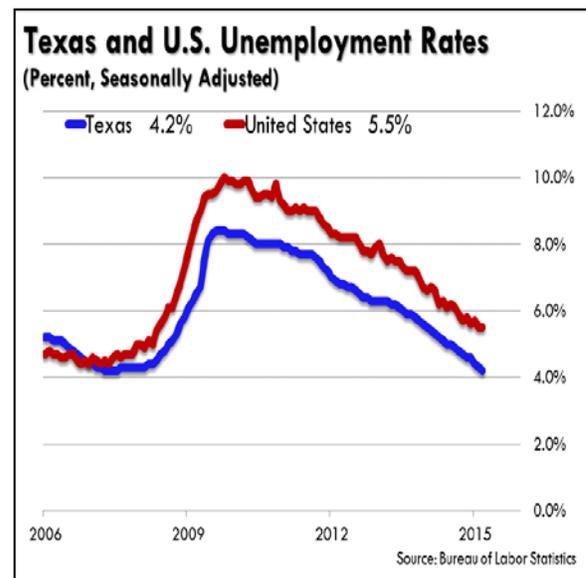
Nonfarm payroll employment in Texas declined by 25,400 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 4.2 percent in March according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Texas Unemployment Rate

During March, the unemployment rate in Texas declined by 0.1 percentage point to 4.2 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 6,606 in March to 558,943, while the labor force fell by 12,559 to 13,173,218. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 13 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Texas. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Texas stood at 5.3 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 March 2015. 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 5.5 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.



Texas Payroll Employment

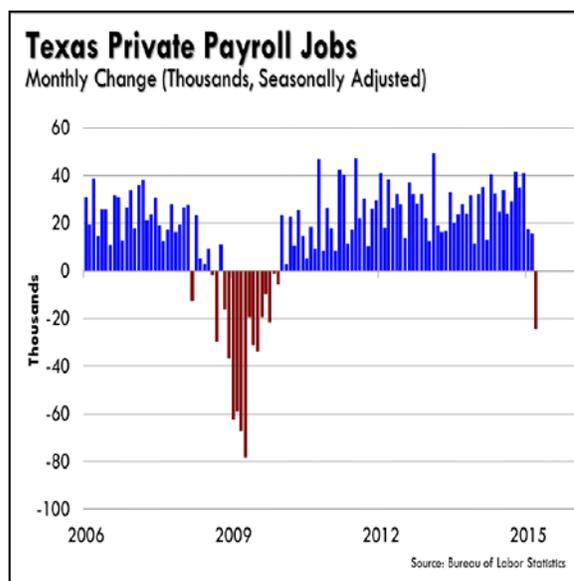
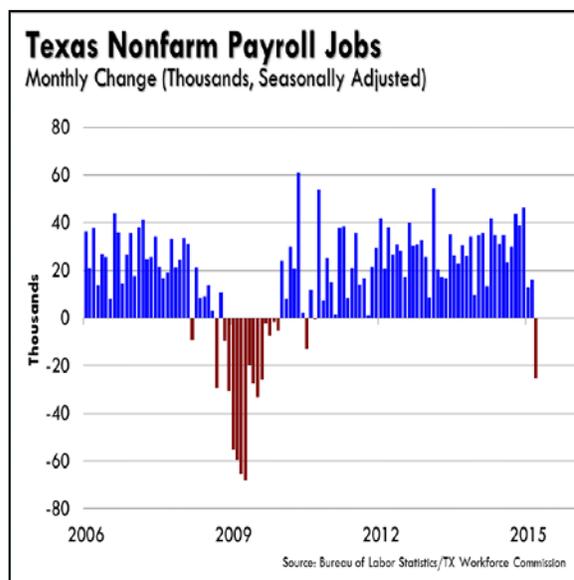
Texas nonfarm payrolls declined by 25,400 jobs, or 0.22 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 16,000. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Texas increased by 327,500, or 2.87 percent. Texas nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 11 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. Texas ranks 9th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, Texas private sector payrolls declined by 24,400, or 0.25 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 15,600 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Texas increased by 311,400, or 3.24 percent. Texas private sector payroll employment has increased in 11 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. Texas ranks 10th 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 Texas declined by 1,000, or 0.05 percent. Federal government payroll employment declined by 800, or 0.41 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 200, or 0.06 percent, while local government payroll employment declined by 400, or 0.03 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 16,100, or 0.88 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 2,500, or 0.69 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 13,600, or 1.07 percent.

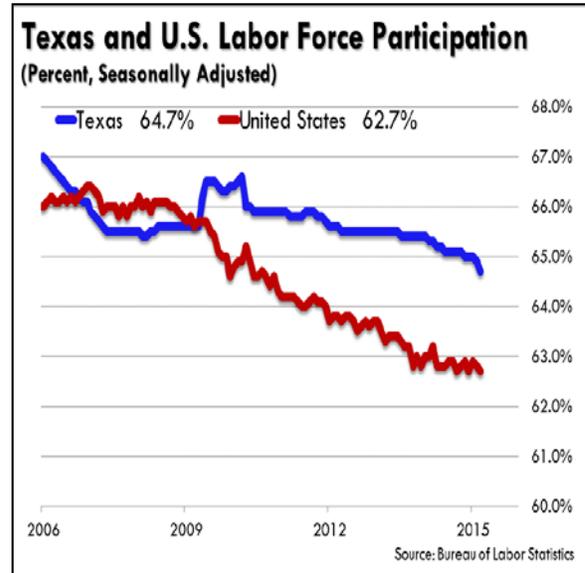
The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Educational & Health Services (+3,400) and Financial Activities (+2,400). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-10,300) and Professional & Business Services (-8,100).



The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+75,700) and Educational & Health Services (+52,200). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Information (+2,100) and Manufacturing (+2,400).

Other Texas Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Texas declined to 64.7 percent in March from 64.9 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 19 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 67.0 percent in January 2006. 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 64.7 percent in March 2015. 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 0.1 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 Texas civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 62.0 percent in March from 62.1 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 19 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Texas. The employment-to-population ratio in Texas is 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Texas was 63.5 percent in February 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 60.6 percent in December 2010. 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 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.

