



Iowa Economic Update

May 20, 2016

Summary

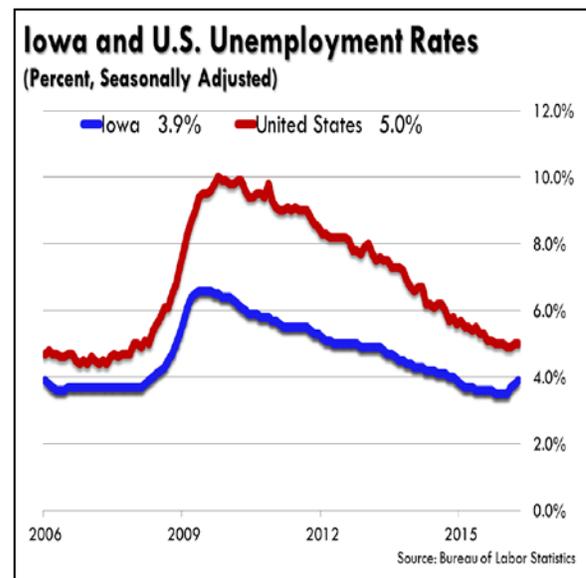
Nonfarm payroll employment in Iowa increased by 4,300 jobs and the unemployment rate rose to 3.9 percent in April according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Iowa Unemployment Rate

During April, the unemployment rate in Iowa increased by 0.1 percentage point to 3.9 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 634 in April to 66,093, while the labor force fell by 1,610 to 1,713,321. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 12 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Iowa. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Iowa stood at 3.7 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Iowa was 6.6 percent in August 2009. The series high for the unemployment rate in Iowa occurred in January 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 9.1 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Iowa was 3.5 percent in January 2016. The series low for the unemployment rate in Iowa occurred in March 2000 when the unemployment rate reached 2.4 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.0 percent in April. April's unemployment rate was 0.4 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.



Iowa Payroll Employment

Iowa nonfarm payrolls increased by 4,300 jobs, or 0.27 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during April. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 2,700. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Iowa increased by 20,000, or 1.28 percent. Iowa nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

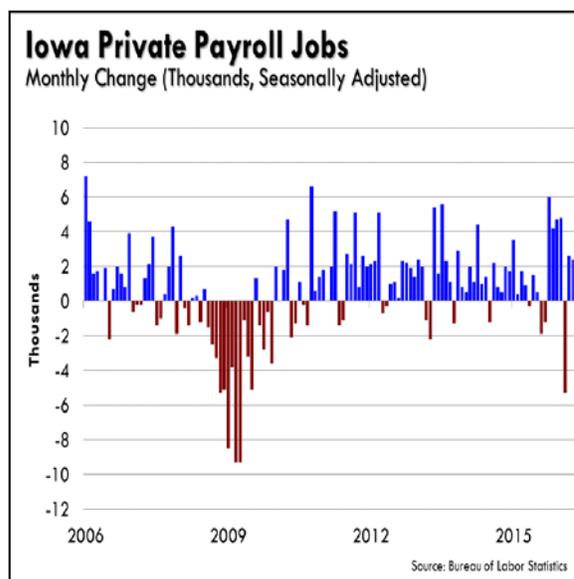
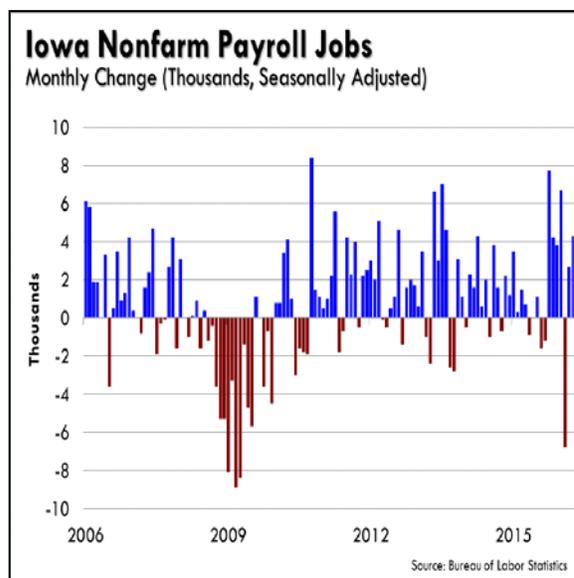
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 160,000 jobs in April, or 0.11 percent. Over the 12-month period ending April 2016 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,692,000 jobs, or 1.91 percent. Iowa ranks 36th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During April, Iowa private sector payrolls increased by 2,400, or 0.18 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 2,600 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Iowa increased by 18,000, or 1.38 percent. Iowa private sector payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 171,000 jobs in April, or 0.14 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,586,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.17 percent.

Iowa ranks 38th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During April, total government payroll employment in Iowa increased by 1,900, or 0.74 percent. Federal government payroll employment declined by 100, or 0.56 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 100, or 0.15 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 2,100, or 1.23 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 2,000, or 0.78 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 900, or 1.34 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 2,800, or 1.64 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during April were Construction (+3,300) and Total Government (+1,900). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-3,500) and Other Services (-600).

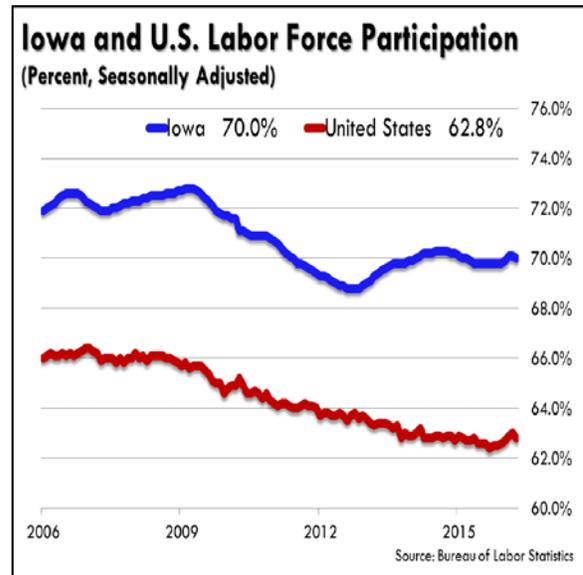
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Construction (+10,600) and Educational & Health Services (+5,100). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Manufacturing (-4,200) and Information (-1,800).



Other Iowa Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Iowa declined to 70.0 percent in April from 70.1 percent the prior month. At 70.0 percent, Iowa has one of the five highest labor force participation rates in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Iowa 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 Iowa was 72.8 percent in April 2009. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Iowa occurred in August 1996 when the labor force participation rate hit 73.6 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 68.8 percent in November 2012. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in January 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 63.8 percent.



The national labor force participation rate declined by 0.2 percentage point to 62.8 percent in April 2016, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Iowa civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 67.3 percent in April from 67.4 percent the prior month. At 67.3 percent, Iowa has one of the five highest employment-to-population ratios in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in Iowa is unchanged from a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Iowa was 69.9 percent in October 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Iowa occurred in August 1996 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 71.0 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 65.4 percent in November 2012. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in April 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 59.9 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio declined by 0.2 percentage point to 59.7 percent in April. That rate was 0.4 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 May is scheduled for release on June 17, 2016. The national employment situation report for May will be released on Friday, June 3, 2016.

