



Wisconsin Economic Update

March 14, 2016

Summary

Nonfarm payroll employment in Wisconsin declined by 200 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.6 percent in January according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

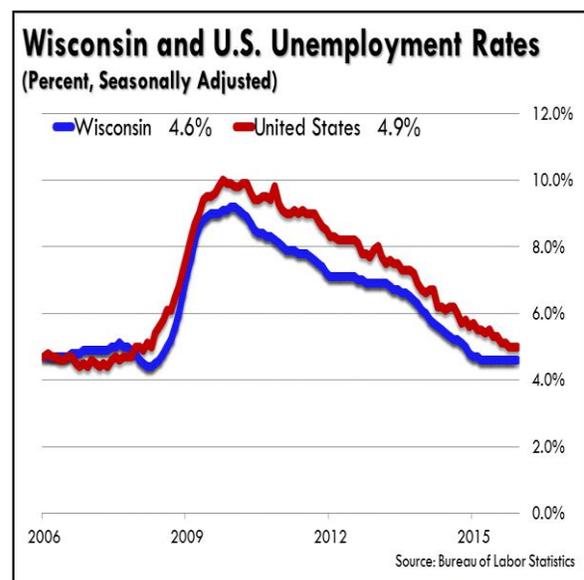
Wisconsin Unemployment Rate

During January, the unemployment rate in Wisconsin was unchanged at 4.6 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 1,517 in January to 144,704, while the labor force grew by 14,323 to 3,122,985. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 20 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Wisconsin. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Wisconsin stood at 4.7 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Wisconsin was 9.2 percent in January 2010.

The series high for the unemployment rate in Wisconsin occurred in January 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 11.9 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Wisconsin was 4.4 percent in April 2008. The series low for the unemployment rate in Wisconsin occurred in July 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.



Wisconsin Payroll Employment

Wisconsin nonfarm payrolls declined by 200 jobs, or 0.01 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during January. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 1,000. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Wisconsin increased by 27,000, or 0.94 percent. Wisconsin nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

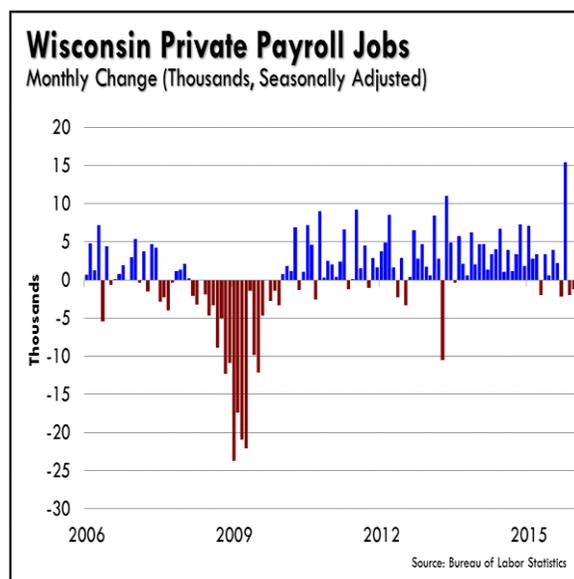
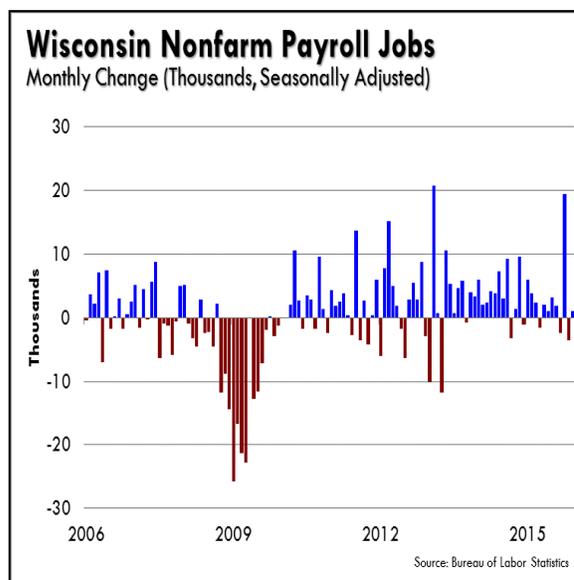
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 242,000 jobs in February, or 0.17 percent. Over the 12-month period ending February 2016 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,672,000 jobs, or 1.9 percent. Wisconsin ranks 35th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During January, Wisconsin private sector payrolls declined by 1,400, or 0.06 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 1,200 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Wisconsin increased by 22,900, or 0.93 percent. Wisconsin 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.

Wisconsin ranks 39th 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 Wisconsin increased by 1,200, or 0.29 percent. Federal government payroll employment declined by 100, or 0.35 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 200, or 0.20 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 1,500, or 0.52 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 4,100, or 1.00 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 500, or 0.51 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 4,500, or 1.59 percent.

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+7,400) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+5,800). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Mining & Logging (-300) and Information (-300).

Other Wisconsin Labor Force Statistics

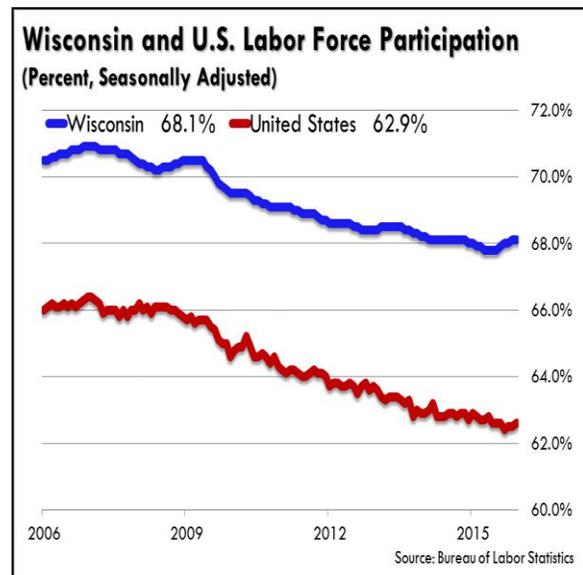
The labor force participation rate in Wisconsin was unchanged at 68.1 percent in January. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 6 have a higher labor force participation rate than Wisconsin. The labor force participation rate in Wisconsin is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force 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 Wisconsin was 70.9 percent in February 2007. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Wisconsin occurred in October 1997 when the labor force participation rate hit 74.8 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 67.8 percent in July 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in March 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 65.3 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.

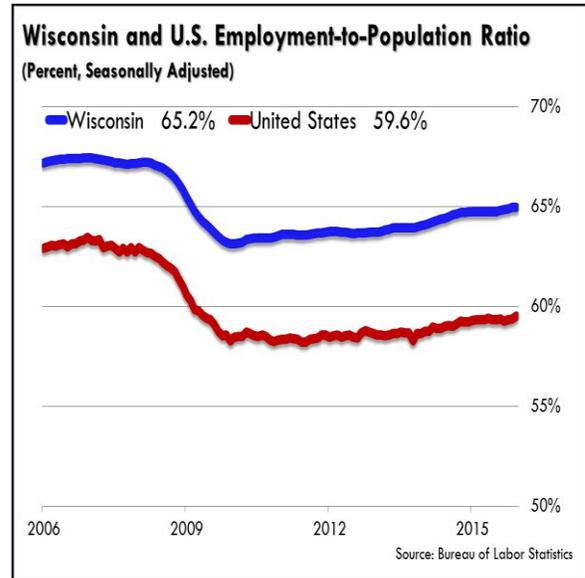
The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Wisconsin civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 65.2 percent in January from 65.0 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 9 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Wisconsin. The employment-to-population ratio in Wisconsin is 0.5 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Wisconsin was 67.4 percent in March 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Wisconsin occurred in December 1997 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 72.2 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.1 percent in February



2010. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in April 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 60.4 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.