



South Dakota Economic Update

April 15, 2016

Summary

Nonfarm payroll employment in South Dakota was unchanged, and the unemployment rate fell to 2.5 percent in March according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

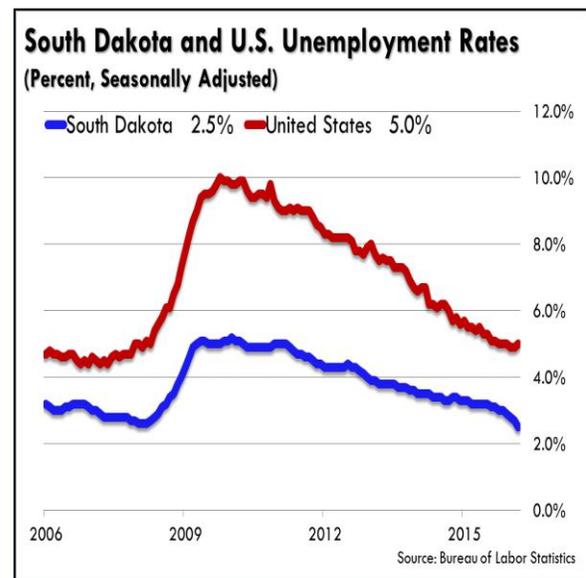
South Dakota Unemployment Rate

During March, the unemployment rate in South Dakota declined by 0.2 percentage point to 2.5 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 703 in March to 11,569, while the labor force grew by 18 to 454,469. South Dakota posted the lowest unemployment rate in the nation. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in South Dakota stood at 3.2 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in South Dakota was 5.2 percent in January 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in South Dakota occurred in January 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 5.9 percent.

The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in South Dakota was 2.5 percent in March 2016. The series low for the unemployment rate in South Dakota occurred in July 2000 when the unemployment rate reached 2.4 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 5.0 percent in March. March's unemployment rate was 0.5 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.



South Dakota Payroll Employment

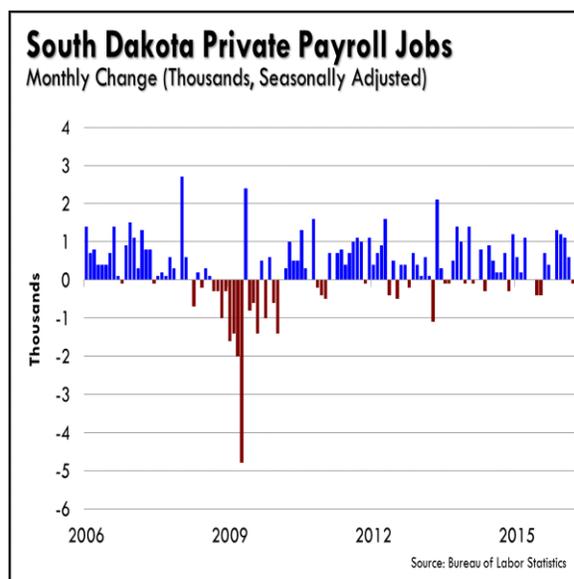
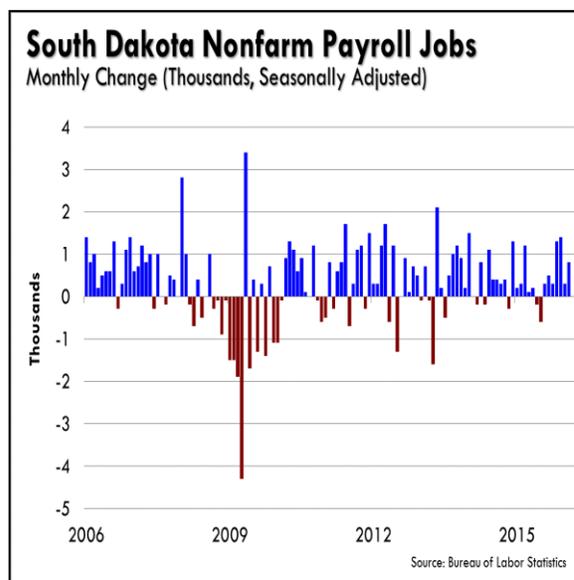
South Dakota nonfarm payrolls were unchanged. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 800. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in South Dakota increased by 4,400, or 1.03 percent. South Dakota nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 215,000 jobs in March, or 0.15 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2016 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,802,000 jobs, or 1.99 percent. South Dakota ranks 38th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, South Dakota private sector payrolls declined by 100, or 0.03 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 600 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in South Dakota increased by 4,400, or 1.26 percent. South Dakota private sector payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 195,000 jobs in 1.99, or 0.16 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,681,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.25 percent. South Dakota ranks 40th 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 South Dakota increased by 100, or 0.13 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.91 percent. State government payroll employment was unchanged, while local government payroll employment was unchanged.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment declined by 100, or 0.54 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.21 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Logging, Mining & Construction (+600) and Educational & Health Services (+300). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Professional & Business Services (-600) and Leisure & Hospitality (-200).

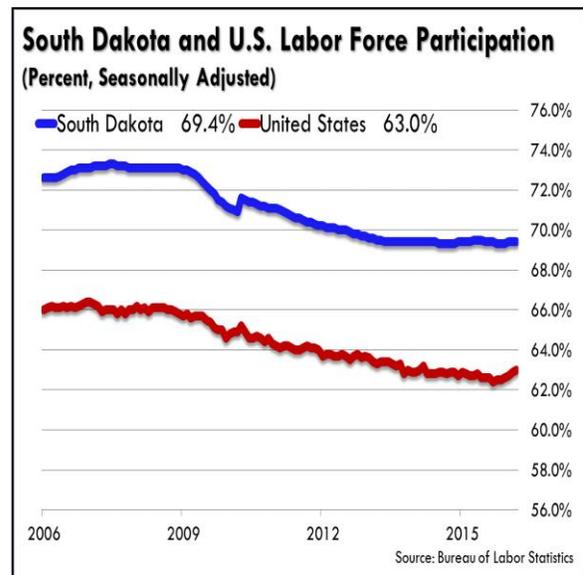
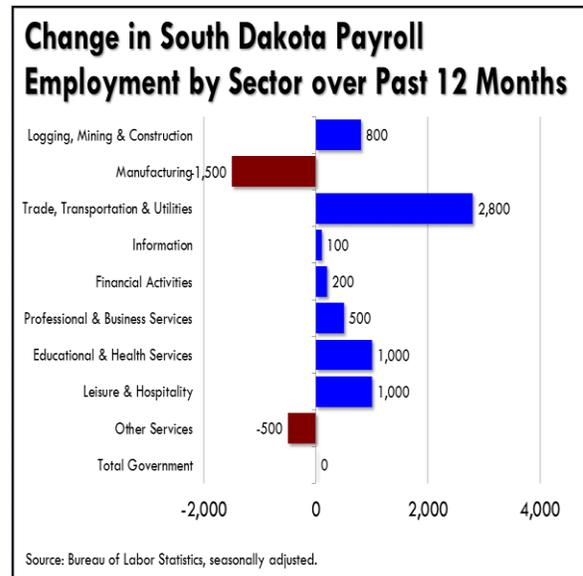
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+2,800) and Educational & Health Services (+1,000). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Manufacturing (-1,500) and Other Services (-500).

Other South Dakota Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in South Dakota was unchanged at 69.4 percent in March. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 5 have a higher labor force participation rate than South Dakota. The labor force participation rate in South Dakota 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 South Dakota was 73.3 percent in July 2007. The series high for the labor force participation rate in South Dakota occurred in July 2004 when the labor force participation rate hit 73.4 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 69.3 percent in December 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in August 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 64.3 percent.

The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 63.0 percent in March, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the South Dakota civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 67.6 percent in March. At 67.6 percent, South Dakota has one of the five highest employment-to-population ratios in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in South Dakota is 0.4 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in South Dakota was 71.2 percent in February 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in South Dakota occurred in February 2000 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 71.4 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 66.8 percent in November 2013. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in September 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 62.2 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 59.9 percent in March. That rate was 0.6 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 April is scheduled for release on May 20, 2016. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 6, 2016.

