



New Mexico Economic Update

September 18, 2015

Summary

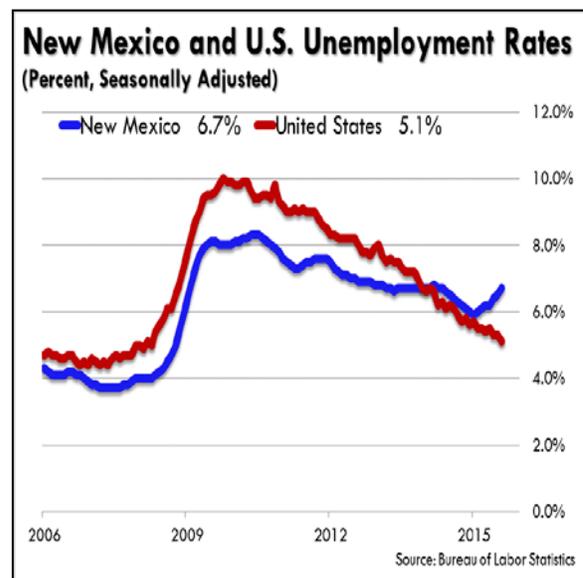
Nonfarm payroll employment in New Mexico declined by 900 jobs and the unemployment rate rose to 6.7 percent in August according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

New Mexico Unemployment Rate

During August, the unemployment rate in New Mexico increased by 0.2 percentage point to 6.7 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 1,254 in August to 61,833, while the labor force fell by 4,120 to 925,691. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 47 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than New Mexico. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in New Mexico stood at 6.4 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in New Mexico was 8.3 percent in July 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in New Mexico occurred in March 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 10.5 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate was 3.7 percent in August 2007. This also represents the series low for the unemployment rate in New Mexico. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage point to 5.1 percent in August. August's unemployment rate was 1.0 percentage point lower than a year earlier. 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.



New Mexico Payroll Employment

New Mexico nonfarm payrolls declined by 900 jobs, or 0.11 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 1,100. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in New Mexico increased by 2,600, or 0.32 percent. New Mexico nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 5 of the past 12 months.

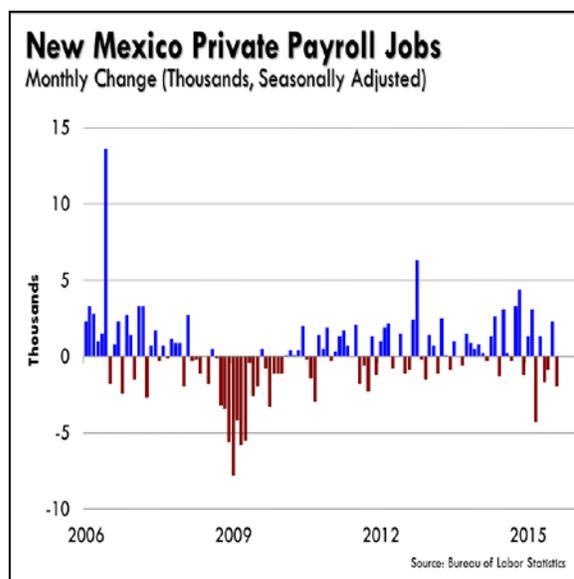
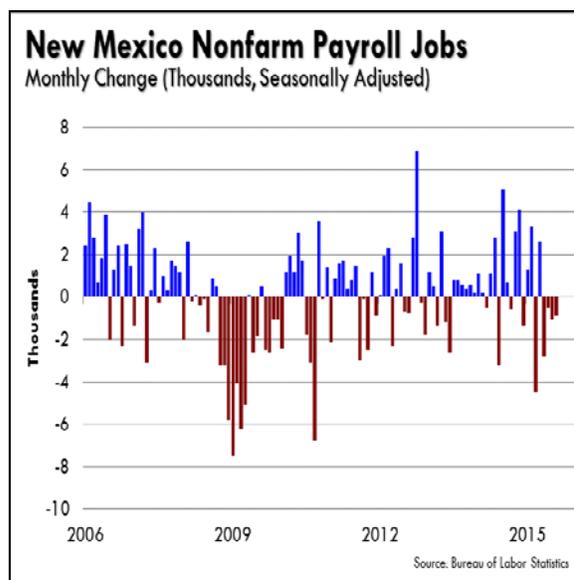
Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 173,000 jobs in August, or 0.12 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in August 2015 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,919,000 jobs, or 2.09 percent. New Mexico ranks 45th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During August, New Mexico private sector payrolls declined by 2,000, or 0.31 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 2,300 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in New Mexico increased by 5,300, or 0.84 percent. New Mexico private sector payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 140,000 jobs in August, or 0.12 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,789,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.37 percent.

New Mexico ranks 41st among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During August, total government payroll employment in New Mexico increased by 1,100, or 0.58 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 800, or 2.79 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.17 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 200, or 0.20 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 2,700, or 1.40 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 100, or 0.17 percent. Local government payroll employment declined by 2,700, or 2.58 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during August were Professional & Business Services (+1,100) and Total Government (+1,100). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Construction (-2,300) and Educational & Health Services (-1,200).

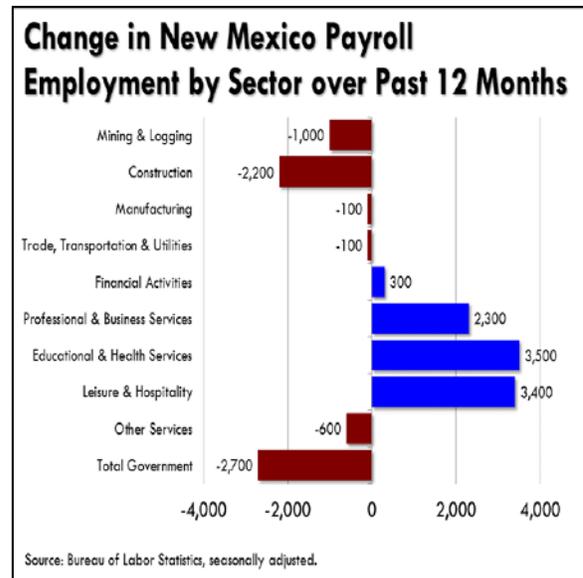
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+3,500) and Leisure & Hospitality (+3,400). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Total Government (-2,700) and Construction (-2,200).

Other New Mexico Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in New Mexico declined to 57.7 percent in August from 58.0 percent the prior month. At 57.7 percent, New Mexico has one of the five lowest labor force participation rates in the nation. The labor force participation rate in New Mexico 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 New Mexico was 63.9 percent in September 2005. The series high for the labor force participation rate in New Mexico occurred in July 1990 when the labor force participation rate hit 64.1 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 57.2 percent in December 2014. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in New Mexico.

The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 62.6 percent in August. That rate was 0.3 percentage point lower than a year earlier. At 62.6 percent, the labor force participation rate is at its lowest level since October 1977.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the New Mexico civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 53.9 percent in August from 54.2 percent the prior month. At 53.9 percent, New Mexico has one of the five lowest employment-to-population ratios in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in New Mexico is 0.4 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in New Mexico was 61.0 percent in June 2006. This also represents the series high for the employment-to-population ratio in New Mexico. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 53.5 percent in August 2014. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in September 2014 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 53.5 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 59.4 percent in August. That rate was 0.4 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The employment-to-population ratio stood at 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 September is scheduled for release on Tuesday, October 20. The national employment situation report for September will be released on Friday, October 2.

