



# Minnesota Economic Update

April 15, 2016

## Summary

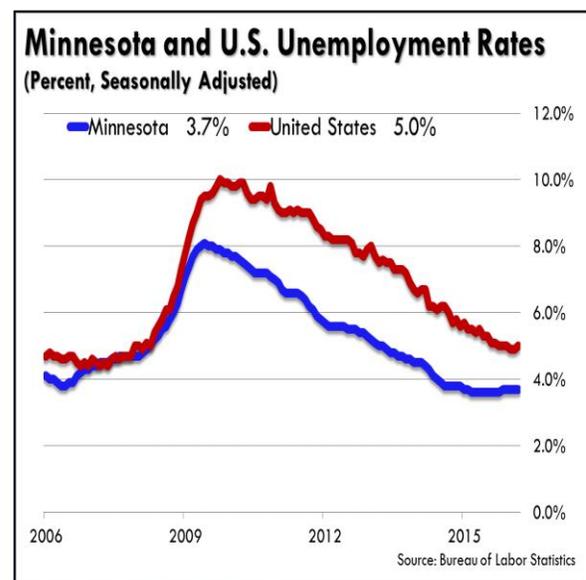
Nonfarm payroll employment in Minnesota declined by 2,900 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.7 percent in March according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## Minnesota Unemployment Rate

During March, the unemployment rate in Minnesota was unchanged at 3.7 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 2,140 in March to 114,858, while the labor force grew by 11,957 to 3,067,799. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 9 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Minnesota. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Minnesota stood at 3.6 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Minnesota was 8.1 percent in June 2009. The series high for the unemployment rate in Minnesota occurred in January 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 8.9 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Minnesota was 3.6 percent in October 2015. The series low for the unemployment rate in Minnesota occurred in March 1999 when the unemployment rate reached 2.5 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.



## Minnesota Payroll Employment

Minnesota nonfarm payrolls declined by 2,900 jobs, or 0.10 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 8,700. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Minnesota increased by 31,000, or 1.09 percent. Minnesota nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

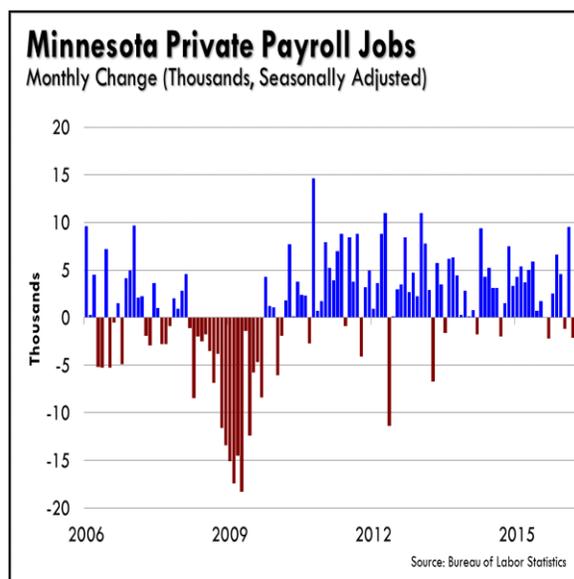
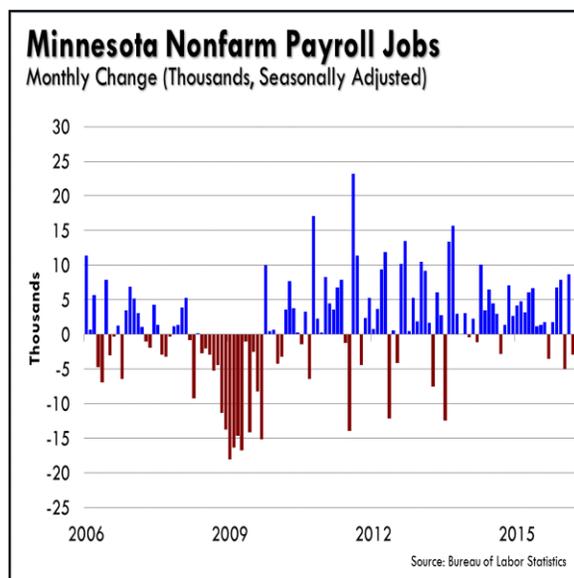
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 215,000 jobs in March, or 0.15 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2016 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,802,000 jobs, or 1.99 percent. Minnesota ranks 37th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, Minnesota private sector payrolls declined by 2,100, or 0.09 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 9,500 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Minnesota increased by 31,000, or 1.28 percent. Minnesota private sector payroll employment has increased in 8 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.

Minnesota 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 March, total government payroll employment in Minnesota declined by 800, or 0.19 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.32 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 300, or 0.30 percent, while local government payroll employment declined by 600, or 0.21 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment declined by 1,300, or 1.28 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 1,200, or 0.42 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Professional & Business Services (+1,500) and Manufacturing (+1,000). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Educational & Health Services (-1,700) and Construction (-1,600).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+15,300) and Construction (+7,000). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Information (-1,700) and Mining & Logging (-1,200).

#### Other Minnesota Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Minnesota rose to 71.2 percent in March from 70.9 percent the prior month. At 71.2 percent, Minnesota has the highest labor force participation rate in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Minnesota 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 Minnesota was 72.8 percent in April 2006. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Minnesota occurred in February 2001 when the labor force participation rate hit 75.6 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 70.0 percent in December 2014. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in April 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 65.5 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 Minnesota civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 68.5 percent in March from 68.3 percent the prior month. At 68.5 percent, Minnesota has the highest employment-to-population ratio in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in Minnesota is 0.9 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Minnesota was 69.9 percent in May 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Minnesota occurred in April 2000 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 73.1 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 66.0 percent in October 2010. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 61.4 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.

