

Maryland Employment Report

Joint Economic Committee

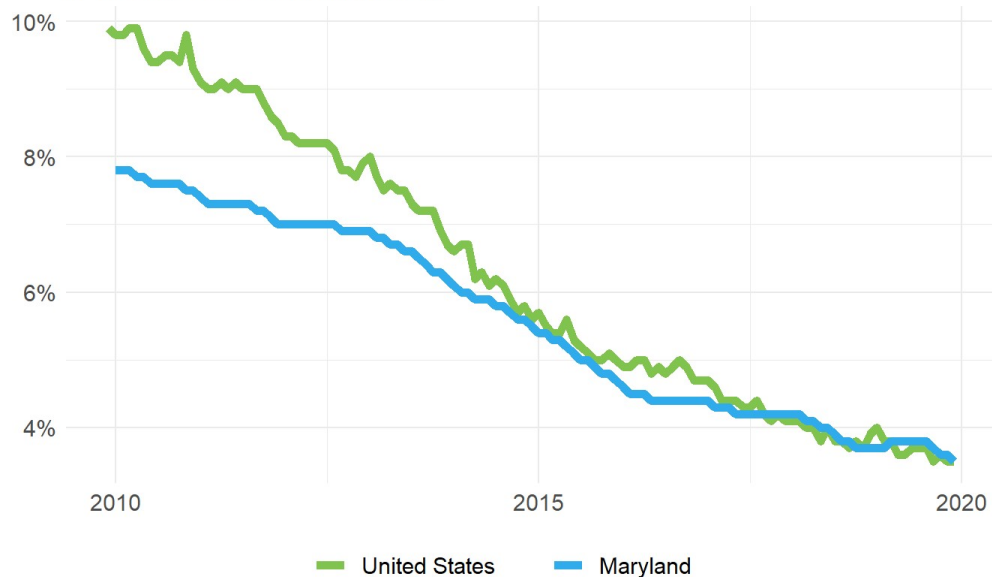
Senator Mike Lee, Chairman

January 24, 2020

Summary

- **Maryland added 6,500 net payroll jobs and the unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point to 3.5 percent in December**, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data released at 10:00am on January 24, 2020.
- **Over the past twelve months, Maryland added 31,000 payroll jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point from 3.7 percent.
- **In December, Maryland's private sector added 6,500 net private payroll jobs** and over the past twelve months it added 26,300 private payroll jobs in the establishment survey.
- In the household survey, the number of **unemployed fell by 2,743 on net in December**, and over the past year employment rose by 98,853.
- Maryland's **labor force participation rate rose to 68.7 percent** in December from 68.6. Since last year, the labor force participation rate rose by 1.7 percentage points.
- The national unemployment rate **remained unchanged in December**. State employment and unemployment data for January is scheduled for release March 16, 2020. The national employment situation report for January will be released February 07, 2020.

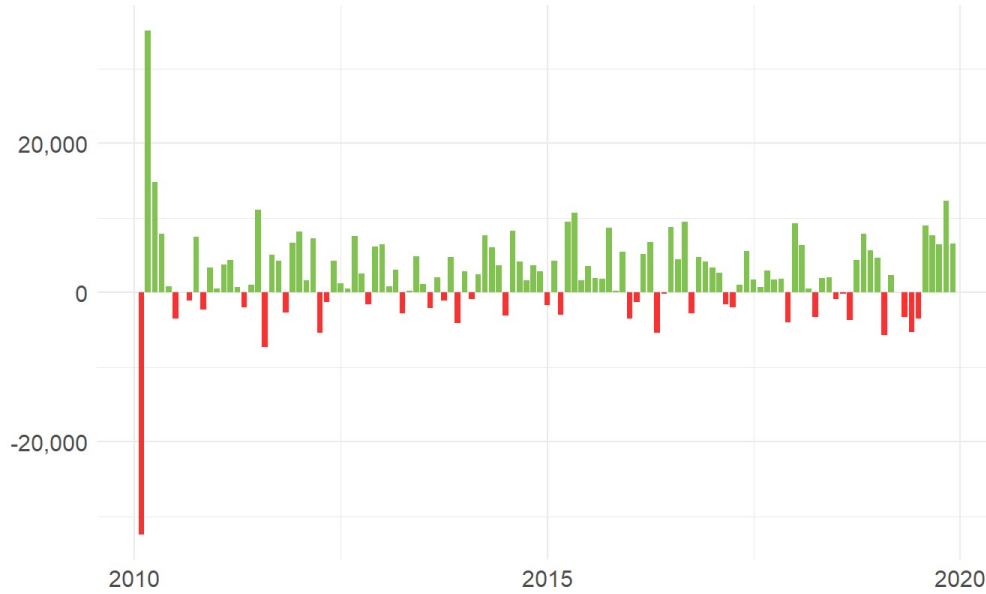
Maryland and U.S. Unemployment Rates (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Maryland Payroll Employment

Maryland Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Monthly Change (Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Maryland added 6,500 net payroll jobs, or 0.2 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during December. In the prior month, Maryland added 12,300 jobs. Over the past twelve months, Maryland added 31,000 payroll jobs, or 1.1 percent. Maryland nonfarm payroll employment had increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls rose by 145,000 in December, or rose by 0.1 percent. Over the 12-month period ending with December, nonfarm payrolls rose by 2,108,000 jobs, or 1.4 percent. Maryland is tied for 25th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During December, Maryland's private-sector added 6,500 jobs, or approximately 0.3 percent. The private-sector in Maryland added 11,600 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Maryland added 26,300, or 1.2 percent. Maryland private-sector payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs rose by 139,000 jobs in December, or 0.1 percent. Over the past 12 months, the national payroll rose by 1,947,000 jobs in the private sector, or rose by 1.5 percent. Maryland is tied for 26th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for a percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

Change in Maryland Payroll Employment by Sector over Past 12 Months



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, seasonally adjusted

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during December were Education and Health Services (2,500) and Leisure and Hospitality (2,000). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Manufacturing (-200) and Information (-700).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional and Business Services tied with Leisure and Hospitality (7,300) and Education and Health Services (6,700). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Manufacturing (-700) and Information (-1,500).

Maryland Labor Force Statistics

Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in Maryland rose to 68.7 percent in December from 68.6 percent in the prior month. At a labor force participation rate of 68.7 percent, Maryland ranks 9th in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Maryland rose by 1.7 percentage points 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 Maryland was 69.1 percent in March 2010. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Maryland occurred in December 1989 when the labor force participation rate hit 71.4 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 66.8 percent, last occurring in November 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate in Maryland last occurred in May 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 64.2 percent.

The national labor force participation rate remained steady at 63.2 percent in December. That rate rose by 0.2 percentage point from a year earlier. The all-time high for the national labor force participation rate was 67.3 percent in April 2000. The 10-year high for the national labor force participation rate was 65.2 percent in April 2010. The recent 10-year low occurred in September

2015 at a level of 62.4 percent. The series low for the national labor force participation rate was 58.1 percent in December 1954.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

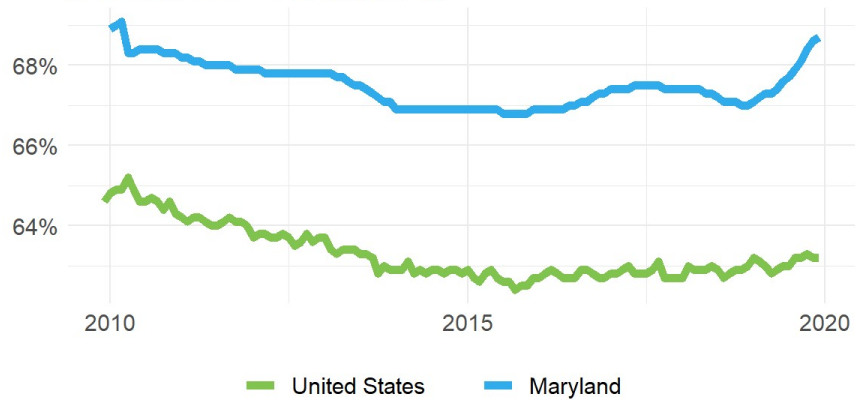
The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Maryland civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, in December rose to 66.4 from 66.1 percent in the prior month. At 66.4 percent, Maryland ranks 10th among state employment-to-population ratios in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in Maryland rose by 1.8 percentage points from a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Maryland was 66.4 percent in December 2019. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Maryland last occurred in December 1989 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 68.7 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 62.8 percent last occurring in February 2014. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio in Maryland last occurred in August 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 60 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio remained steady at 61 percent in December. That rate rose by 0.4 percentage point from a year earlier.

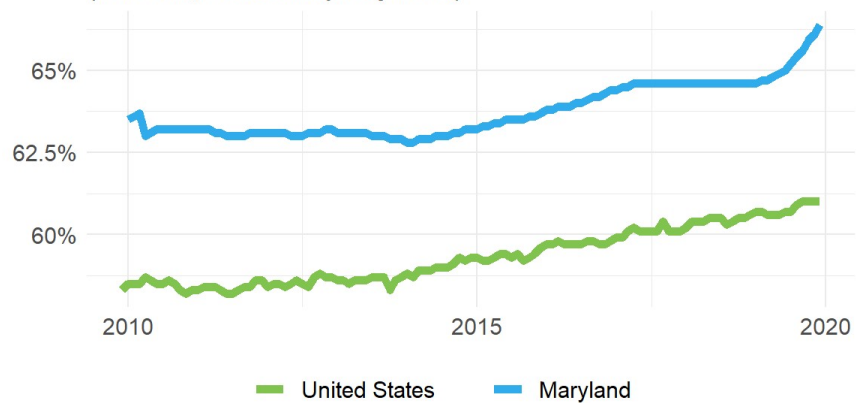
The all-time high for the national employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 percent in April 2000. The 10-year high for the national employment-to-population ratio was 61 percent in December 2019. The recent 10-year low occurred in July 2011 at a level of 58.2 percent. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio was 54.9 percent in October 1949.

Maryland and U.S. Labor Force Participation Rates (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Maryland and U.S. Employment-to-Population Ratios (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics