



# Missouri Economic Update

April 21, 2015

## Summary

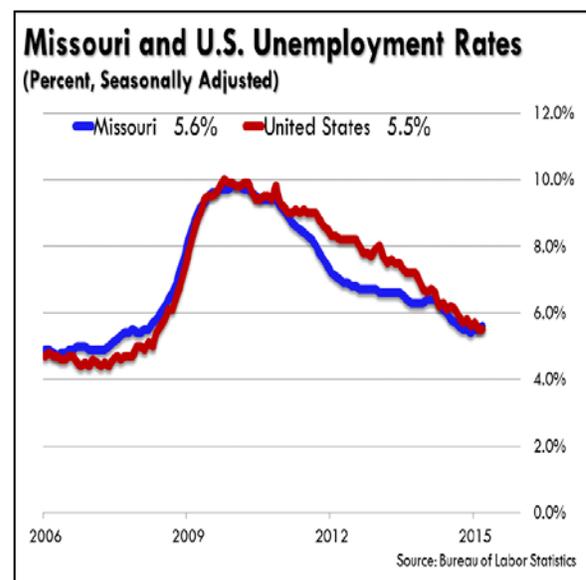
Nonfarm payroll employment in Missouri declined by 10,300 jobs and the unemployment rate rose to 5.6 percent in March according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## Missouri Unemployment Rate

During March, the unemployment rate in Missouri increased by 0.1 percentage point to 5.6 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 2,554 in March to 174,463, while the labor force grew by 9,030 to 3,117,379. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 27 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Missouri. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Missouri stood at 6.4 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Missouri was 9.8 percent in February 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Missouri occurred in April 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 10.6 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Missouri was 4.7 percent in April 2006. The series low for the unemployment rate in Missouri occurred in January 2000 when the unemployment rate reached 3.1 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.5 percent in March. March's unemployment rate was 1.1 percentage points lower than a year earlier when the rate stood at 6.6 percent. 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.



## Missouri Payroll Employment

Missouri nonfarm payrolls declined by 10,300 jobs, or 0.37 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 12,200. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Missouri increased by 36,200, or 1.33 percent. Missouri nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

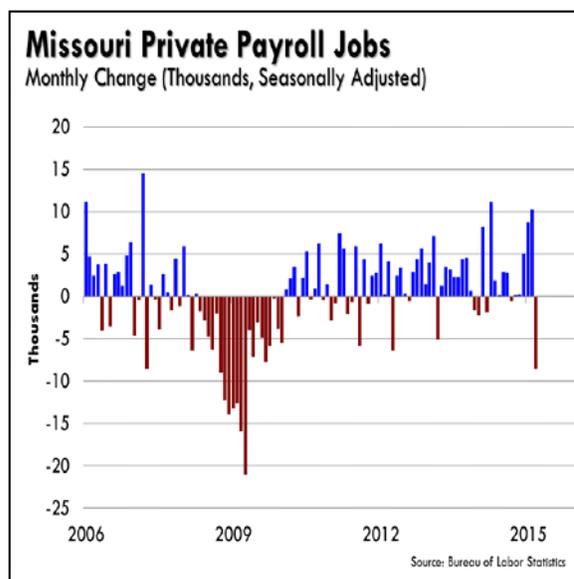
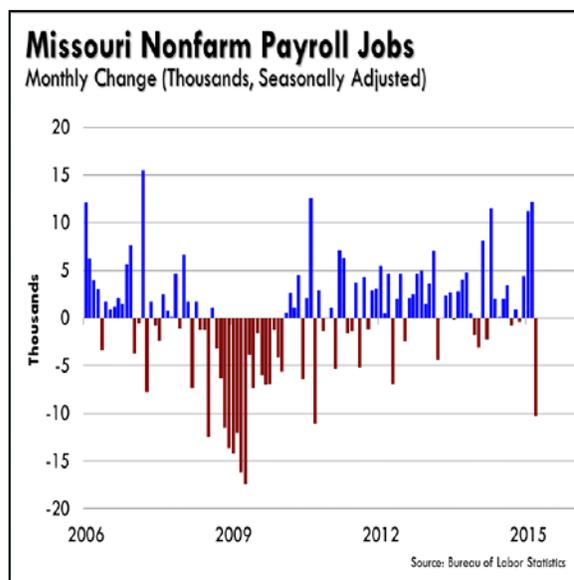
Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 126,000 jobs in March, or 0.09 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in March 2015, nonfarm payrolls grew by 3,128,000 jobs, or 2.27 percent. Missouri ranks 35th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, Missouri private sector payrolls declined by 8,600, or 0.37 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 10,200 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Missouri increased by 33,700, or 1.47 percent. Missouri private sector payroll employment has increased in 10 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private sector payroll jobs increased by 129,000 in March, or 0.11 percent. Over past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 3,056,000 private sector payroll jobs, an increase of 2.63 percent.

Missouri ranks 36th 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 Missouri declined by 1,700, or 0.39 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 400, or 0.75 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 200, or 0.19 percent, while local government payroll employment declined by 1,900, or 0.68 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 2,500, or 0.58 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 2,500, or 2.50 percent. Local government payroll employment declined by 700, or 0.25 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+800) and Information (unchanged). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Construction (-3,000) and Professional & Business Services (-2,800).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+7,600) and Leisure & Hospitality (+6,200). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Mining & Logging (-200) and Construction (-100).

#### Other Missouri Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Missouri rose to 65.8 percent in March from 65.6 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 17 have a higher labor force participation rate than Missouri. The labor force participation rate in Missouri 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 Missouri was 67.8 percent in November 2006. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Missouri occurred in September 1996 when the labor force participation rate hit 71.4 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 64.2 percent in November 2013. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in January 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 59.8 percent.

The national labor force participation rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 62.7 percent in March, equaling the ten year low last reached in December 2014. That rate is 0.5 percentage point below the March 2014 level of 63.2 percent.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Missouri civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 62.1 percent in March from 62.0 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 18 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Missouri. The employment-to-population ratio in Missouri is 1.6 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Missouri was 64.4 percent in December 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Missouri

occurred in September 1996 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 68.0 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 59.4 percent in February 2010. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in April 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 56.1 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio was unchanged at 59.3 percent in March. At 59.3 percent, the national employment-to-population ratio is still below the level of 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 April is scheduled for release on Wednesday, May 27. The national employment situation report for April is scheduled for release on Friday, May 8.

