



North Dakota Economic Update

May 27, 2015

Summary

Nonfarm payroll employment in North Dakota increased by 1,200 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.1 percent in April according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

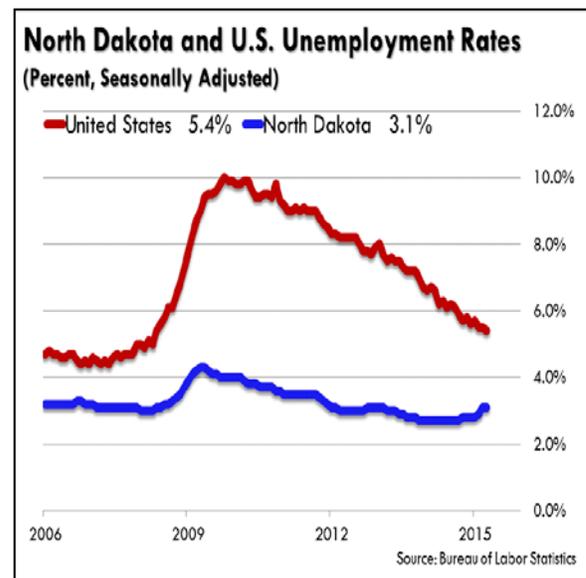
North Dakota Unemployment Rate

During April, the unemployment rate in North Dakota was unchanged at 3.1 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 4 in April to 13,016, while the labor force fell by 827 to 420,592. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, only 1 posted lower unemployment rates. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in North Dakota stood at 2.7 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in North Dakota was 4.3 percent in May 2009. The series high for the unemployment rate in North Dakota occurred in March 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 6.2 percent.

The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in North Dakota was 2.7 percent in September 2014. The series low for the unemployment rate in North Dakota occurred in January 1998 when the unemployment rate reached 2.5 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.4 percent in April. April's unemployment rate was 0.8 percentage point lower than a year earlier when the rate stood at 6.2 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.



North Dakota Payroll Employment

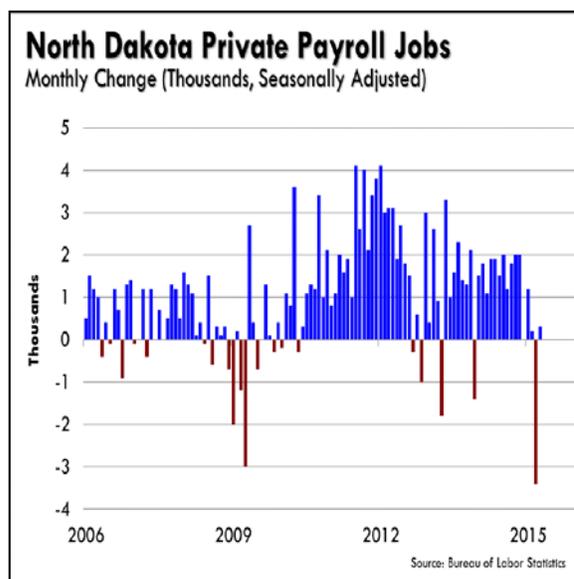
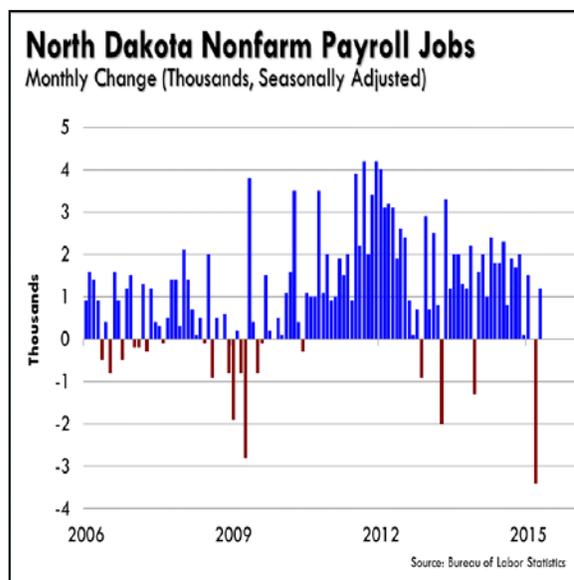
North Dakota nonfarm payrolls increased by 1,200 jobs, or 0.26 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during April. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 3,400. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in North Dakota increased by 11,700, or 2.56 percent. North Dakota nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 10 of the past 12 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 223,000 jobs in April, or 0.16 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in April 2015, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,982,000 jobs, or 2.15 percent. North Dakota ranks 12nd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During April, North Dakota private sector payrolls increased by 300, or 0.08 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 3,400 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in North Dakota increased by 10,700, or 2.84 percent. North Dakota private sector payroll employment has increased in 10 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private sector payroll jobs increased by 213,000 in April, or 0.18 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,918,000 private sector payroll jobs, an increase of 2.50 percent. North Dakota ranks 11st among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During April, total government payroll employment in North Dakota increased by 900, or 1.12 percent. Federal government payroll employment declined by 200, or 0.80 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 1,000, or 2.14 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 1,500, or 0.12 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 1,000, or 1.24 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 1,100, or 2.36 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 13,600, or 1.07 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during April were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+1,000) and Total Government (+900). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Mining & Logging (-1,400) and Professional & Business Services (-200).

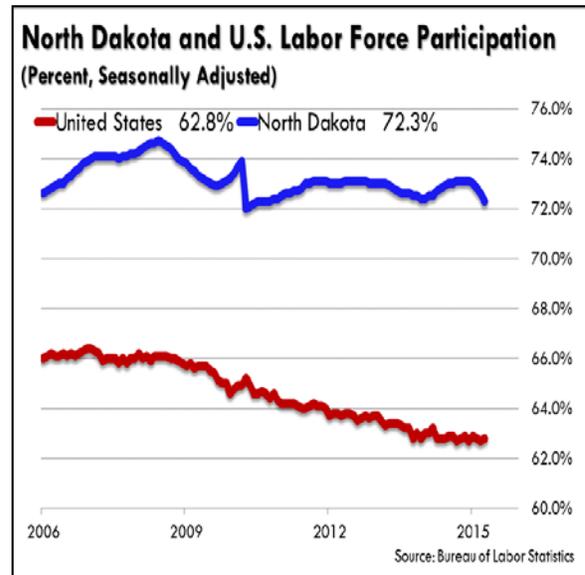


The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Construction (+3,300) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+3,000). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Mining & Logging (-200) and Professional & Business Services (-200).

Other North Dakota Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in North Dakota declined to 72.3 percent in April from 72.6 percent the prior month. At 72.3 percent, North Dakota has the highest labor force participation rate in the nation. The labor force participation rate in North 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 North Dakota was 74.7 percent in June 2008. This also represents the series high for the labor force participation rate in North Dakota. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 72.0 percent in April 2010. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in February 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 62.0 percent.



The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 62.8 percent in April. That rate is the same as a year earlier.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the North Dakota civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 70.0 percent in April from 70.3 percent the prior month. At 70.0 percent, North Dakota has the highest employment-to-population ratio in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in North Dakota is 0.7 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in North Dakota was 72.4 percent in May 2008. This also represents the series high for the employment-to-population ratio in North Dakota. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 69.2 percent in April 2010. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in April 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 60.0 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio was unchanged at 59.3 percent in April. 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 May is scheduled for release on Friday, June 19. The national employment situation report for April is scheduled for release on Friday, June 5.

