



Michigan Economic Update

May 27, 2015

Summary

Nonfarm payroll employment in Michigan increased by 3,200 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 5.4 percent in April according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Michigan Unemployment Rate

During April, the unemployment rate in Michigan declined by 0.2 percentage point to 5.4 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 9,483 in April to 257,447, while the labor force fell by 6,204 to 4,740,597. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 26 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Michigan. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Michigan stood at 7.5 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Michigan was 14.9 percent in June 2009. The series high for the unemployment rate in Michigan occurred in December 1982 when the unemployment rate reached 16.5 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Michigan was 5.4 percent in April 2015. The series low for the unemployment rate in Michigan occurred in March 2000 when the unemployment rate reached 3.2 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.



Michigan Payroll Employment

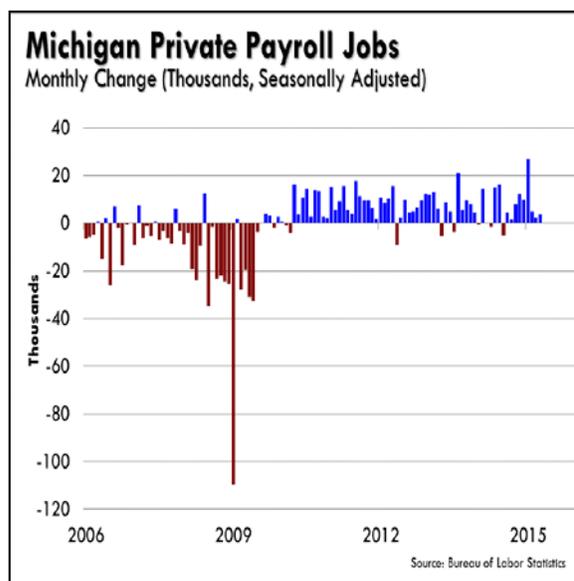
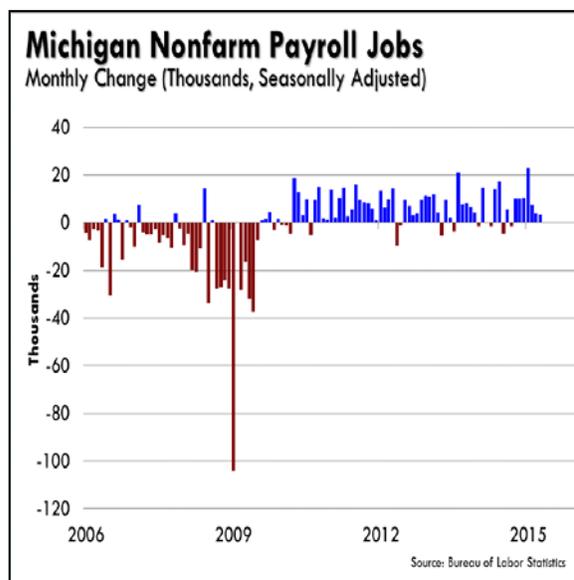
Michigan nonfarm payrolls increased by 3,200 jobs, or 0.08 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during April. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 4,000. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Michigan increased by 98,600, or 2.37 percent. Michigan nonfarm payroll employment has 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. Michigan ranks 14th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During April, Michigan private sector payrolls increased by 3,600, or 0.10 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 2,500 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Michigan increased by 99,400, or 2.79 percent. Michigan private sector payroll employment has increased in 11 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. Michigan ranks 14th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

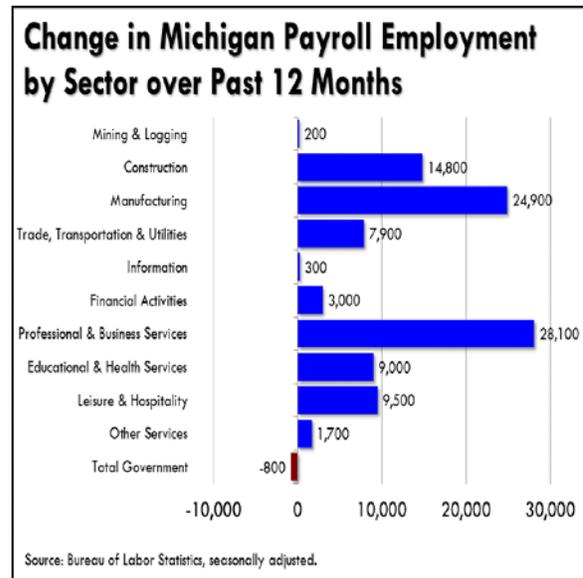
During April, total government payroll employment in Michigan declined by 400, or 0.07 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 500, or 0.97 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 400, or 0.22 percent, while local government payroll employment declined by 500, or 0.14 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 800, or 0.13 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 1,900, or 1.05 percent. Local government payroll employment declined by 3,600, or 0.99 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during April were Professional & Business Services (+2,800) and Construction (+1,700). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Educational & Health Services (-3,200) and Information (-700).

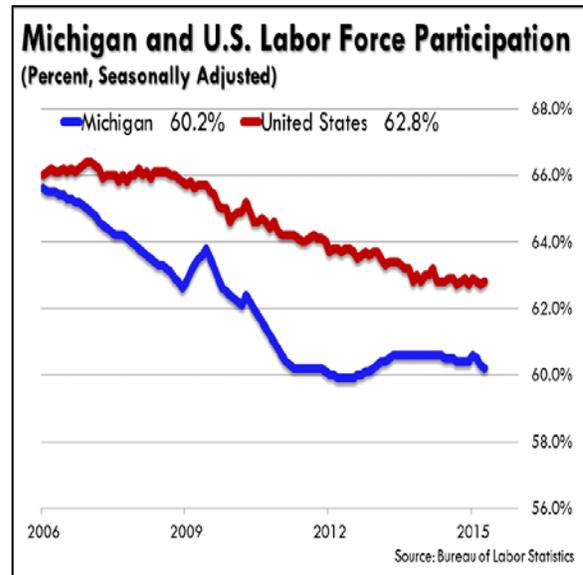
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+28,100) and Manufacturing (+24,900). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Total Government (-800) and Mining & Logging (+200).



Other Michigan Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Michigan declined to 60.2 percent in April from 60.3 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 41 have a higher labor force participation rate than Michigan. The labor force participation rate in Michigan 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 Michigan was 65.8 percent in September 2005. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Michigan occurred in March 2000 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.0 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 59.9 percent in July 2012. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Michigan.



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 Michigan civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged

at 56.9 percent in April. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 40 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Michigan. The employment-to-population ratio in Michigan is 0.8 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Michigan was 61.5 percent in August 2005. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Michigan occurred in March 2000 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 66.8 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 53.7 percent in December 2009. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in January 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 53.2 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.

