



South Dakota Economic Update

April 21, 2015

Summary

Nonfarm payroll employment in South Dakota increased by 1,600 jobs and the unemployment rate rose to 3.5 percent in March according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

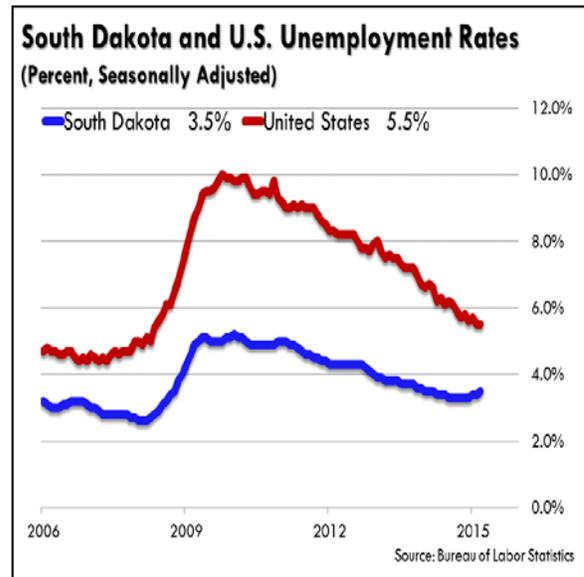
South Dakota Unemployment Rate

During March, the unemployment rate in South Dakota increased by 0.1 percentage point to 3.5 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 648 in March to 16,001, while the labor force grew by 1,309 to 451,590. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, only 3 posted lower unemployment rates. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in South Dakota stood at 3.5 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in South Dakota was 5.2 percent in January 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in South Dakota occurred in January 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 5.9 percent.

The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in South Dakota was 2.6 percent in March 2008. The series low for the unemployment rate in South Dakota occurred in July 2000 when the unemployment rate reached 2.4 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.



South Dakota Payroll Employment

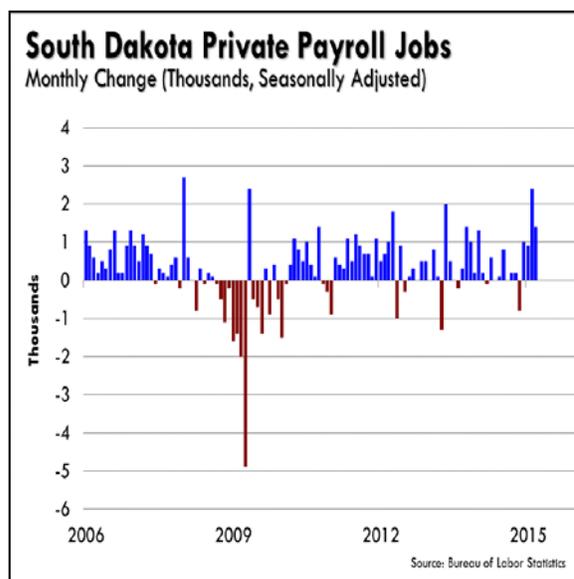
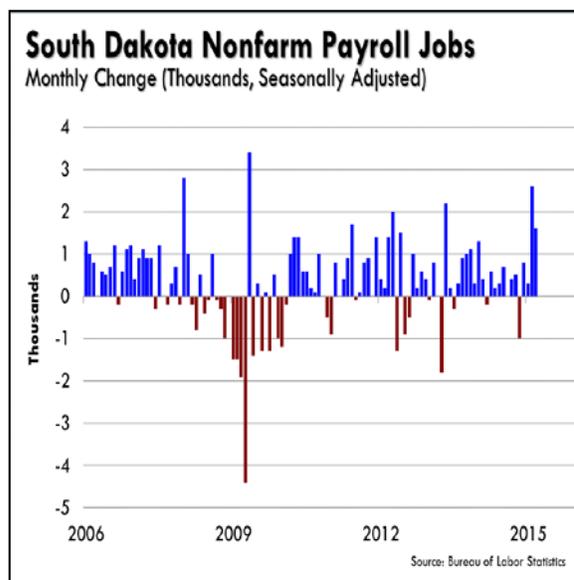
South Dakota nonfarm payrolls increased by 1,600 jobs, or 0.37 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 2,600. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in South Dakota increased by 7,000, or 1.66 percent. South Dakota nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 10 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. South Dakota ranks 25th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, South Dakota private sector payrolls increased by 1,400, or 0.40 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 2,400 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in South Dakota increased by 6,800, or 1.97 percent. South Dakota private sector payroll employment has increased in 9 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. South Dakota ranks 22nd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

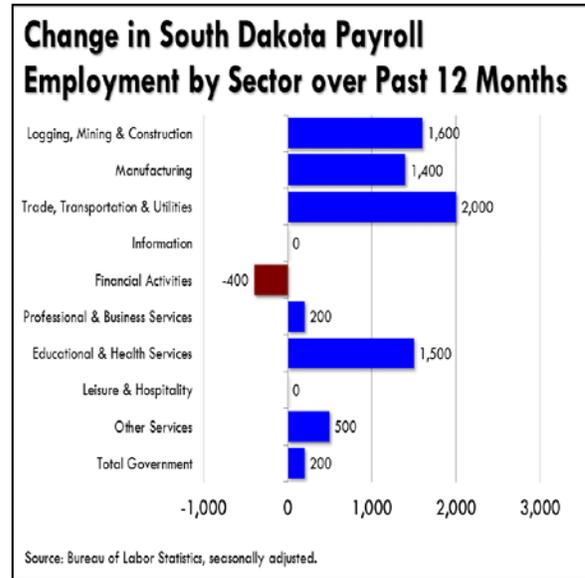
During March, total government payroll employment in South Dakota increased by 200, or 0.26 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.92 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 100, or 0.54 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 200, or 0.41 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 200, or 0.26 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 200, or 1.08 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 400, or 0.83 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+500) and Other Services (+300). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Manufacturing (-200) and Leisure & Hospitality (unchanged).

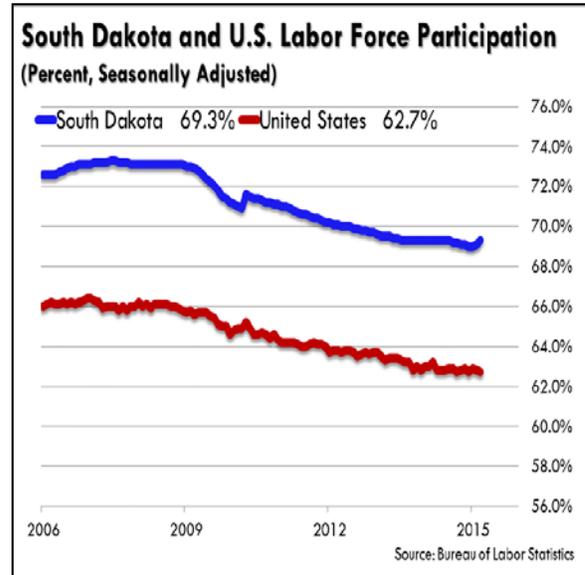
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+2,000) and Logging, Mining & Construction (+1,600). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Financial Activities (-400) and Information (unchanged).



Other South Dakota Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in South Dakota rose to 69.3 percent in March from 69.1 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 5 have a higher labor force participation rate than South Dakota. The labor force participation rate in South 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 South Dakota was 73.3 percent in July 2007. The series high for the labor force participation rate in South Dakota occurred in July 2004 when the labor force participation rate hit 73.4 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 69.0 percent in January 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in August 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 64.3 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 South Dakota civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 66.8 percent in March. At 66.8 percent, South Dakota has one of the five highest employment-to-population ratios in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in South Dakota is 0.1 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in South Dakota was 71.2 percent in February 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in South Dakota occurred in February 2000 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 71.4 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 66.7 percent in January 2015. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in September 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 62.2 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.

