



# California Economic Update

October 20, 2015

## Summary

Nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 8,200 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 5.9 percent in September according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## California Unemployment Rate

During September, the unemployment rate in California declined by 0.2 percentage point to 5.9 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 43,477 in September to 1,120,551, while the labor force fell by 31,596 to 19,004,163. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 40 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than California. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in California stood at 7.3 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in California was 12.2 percent in October 2010. This also represents the series high for the unemployment rate in California. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in California was 4.9 percent in December 2006. The series low for the unemployment rate in California occurred in December 2000 when the unemployment rate reached 4.7 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.1 percent in September. September's unemployment rate was 0.8 percentage point lower than a year earlier. 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.



## California Payroll Employment

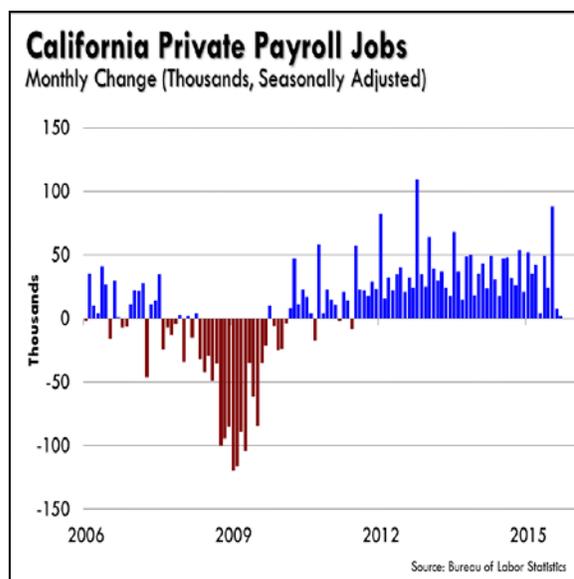
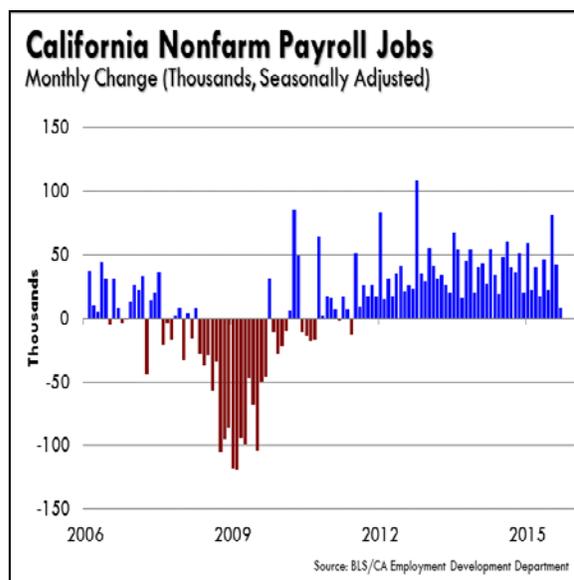
California nonfarm payrolls increased by 8,200 jobs, or 0.05 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during September. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 41,900. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in California increased by 444,300, or 2.82 percent. California nonfarm payroll employment has increased in each of the past 36 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 142,000 jobs in September, or 0.10 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in September 2015 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,752,000 jobs, or 1.97 percent. California ranks 6th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During September, California private sector payrolls increased by 2,000, or 0.01 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 7,900 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in California increased by 405,600, or 3.04 percent. California private sector payroll employment has increased in each of the past 36 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 118,000 jobs in September, or 0.10 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,603,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.21 percent. California ranks 8th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During September, total government payroll employment in California increased by 6,200, or 0.25 percent. Federal government payroll employment declined by 1,000, or 0.41 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 1,000, or 0.20 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 8,200, or 0.48 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 38,700, or 1.60 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 11,200, or 2.26 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 26,800, or 1.59 percent.

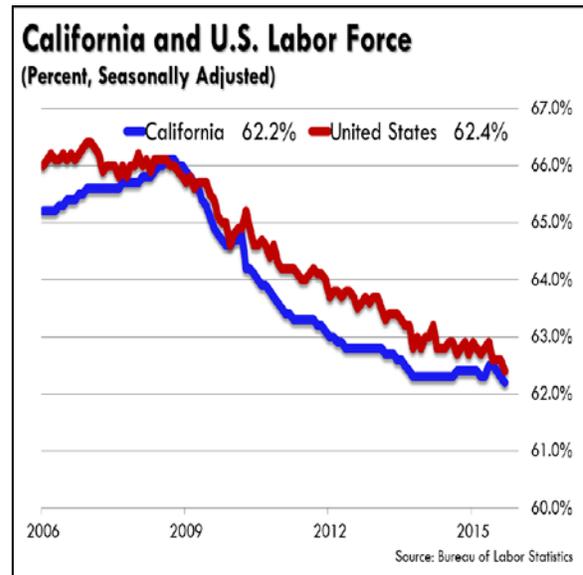
The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during September were Total Government (+6,200) and Information (+4,900). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Financial Activities (-5,900) and Educational & Health Services (-2,000).



The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+130,200) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+76,400). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Manufacturing (-3,500) and Mining & Logging (-3,200).

### Other California Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in California declined to 62.2 percent in September from 62.3 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 31 have a higher labor force participation rate than California. The labor force participation rate in California 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 California was 66.1 percent in October 2008. The series high for the labor force participation rate in California occurred in December 1989 when the labor force participation rate hit 67.9 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 62.2 percent in September 2015. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in California.

The national labor force participation rate declined by 0.2 percentage point to 62.4 percent in September. That rate was 0.3 percentage point lower than a year earlier. At 62.4 percent, the labor force participation rate is at its lowest level since September 1977.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the California civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 58.5 percent in September. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 34 have higher employment-to-population ratios than California. The employment-to-population ratio in California is 0.7 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in California was 62.3 percent in March 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in California occurred in December 1989 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 64.4 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 55.9 percent in July 2011. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in August 2011 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 55.9 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio declined by 0.2 percentage point to 59.2 percent in September. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The employment-to-population ratio stood at 59.4 percent when the recession ended in June 2009 and at 62.7 percent when it began in December 2007. 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 October is scheduled for release on Friday, November 20. The national employment situation report for October will be released on Friday, November 6.

