



New Mexico Economic Update

October 20, 2015

Summary

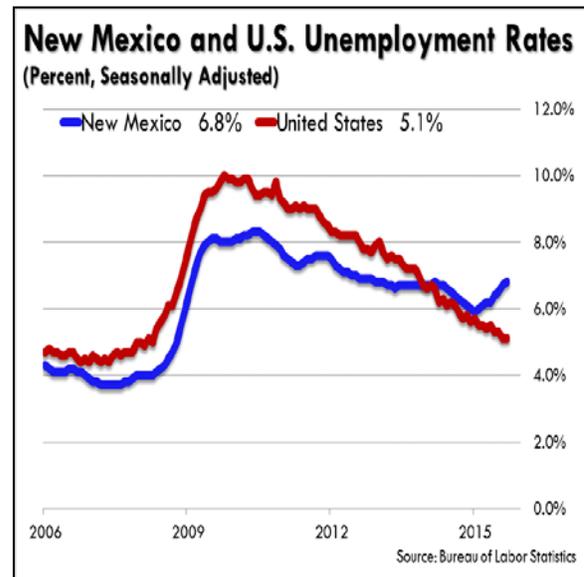
Nonfarm payroll employment in New Mexico was unchanged and the unemployment rate rose to 6.8 percent in September according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

New Mexico Unemployment Rate

During September, the unemployment rate in New Mexico increased by 0.1 percentage point to 6.8 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 654 in September to 62,483, while the labor force fell by 2,652 to 923,670. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 49 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than New Mexico. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in New Mexico stood at 6.3 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in New Mexico was 8.3 percent in July 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in New Mexico occurred in March 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 10.5 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate was 3.7 percent in August 2007. This also represents the series low for the unemployment rate in New Mexico. 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.



New Mexico Payroll Employment

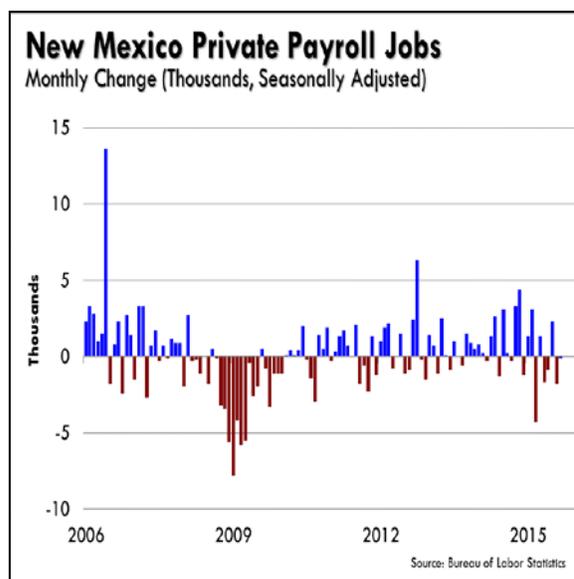
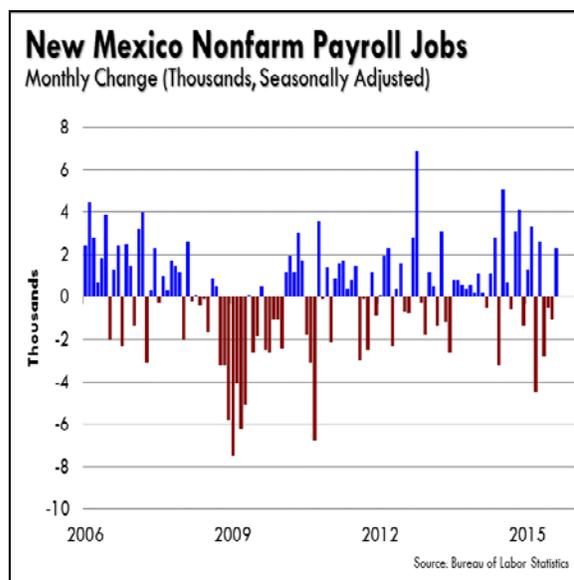
New Mexico nonfarm payrolls were unchanged on a seasonally adjusted basis during September. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 2,300. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in New Mexico increased by 6,400, or 0.78 percent. New Mexico nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 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. New Mexico ranks 37th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During September, New Mexico private sector payrolls declined by 100, or 0.02 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 1,800 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in New Mexico increased by 5,700, or 0.91 percent. New Mexico private sector payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 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. New Mexico ranks 39th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

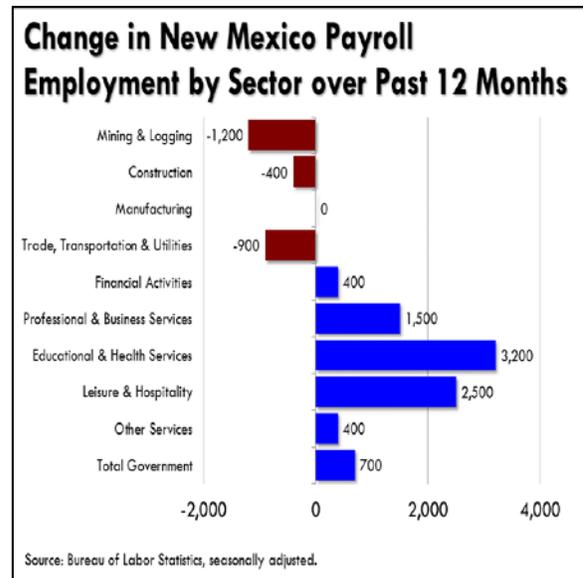
During September, total government payroll employment in New Mexico increased by 100, or 0.05 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.34 percent. State government payroll employment was unchanged, while local government payroll employment was unchanged.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 700, or 0.36 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 100, or 0.17 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 600, or 0.58 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during September were Construction (+1,300) and Other Services (+1,100). The poorest performing sector during the month was Professional & Business Services (-1,300).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+3,200) and Leisure & Hospitality (+2,500). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Mining & Logging (-1,200) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-900).



Other New Mexico Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in New Mexico declined to 57.6 percent in September from 57.8 percent the prior month. At 57.6 percent, New Mexico has one of the five lowest labor force participation rates in the nation. The labor force participation rate in New Mexico 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 New Mexico was 63.7 percent in October 2005. The series high for the labor force participation rate in New Mexico occurred in July 1990 when the labor force participation rate hit 64.1 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 57.2 percent in December 2014. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in New Mexico.



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 New Mexico civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 53.7 percent in September from 53.9 percent the prior month. At 53.7 percent, New Mexico has one of the five lowest employment-to-population ratios in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in New Mexico is 0.1 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in New Mexico was 61.0 percent in June 2006. This also represents the series high for the employment-to-population ratio in New Mexico. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 53.5 percent in August 2014. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in September 2014 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 53.5 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.

