

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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COLORADO EMPLOYMENT SITUATION September 2010

Labor Forceⁱ

Colorado's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased one-tenth of one percentage point to 8.2 percent in September from the revised August rate of 8.1 percent, according to Donald J. Mares, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. "Labor market conditions were little changed in September," noted Mares. Last September, the unemployment rate was 7.7 percent.

The number of working Coloradans rose 1,600 over the month to 2,441,500. The civilian labor force increased 4,000 to 2,660,400. The number of residents unsuccessfully looking for work increased 2,400 over the month to 218,900. One year ago, total employment was 2,469,500 and the number of unemployed was 206,500. The civilian labor force has declined 15,600 since September 2009.

The unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 28 of Colorado's 64 counties, decreased in 24 and was unchanged in 12. The lowest rate was 3.2 percent in Cheyenne County and the highest was 14.9 percent in Dolores County. In September 2009, the unemployment rate declined in 52 counties, rose in 9 and remained unchanged in 3. Last year, the lowest rate was 2.1 percent in Cheyenne County and the highest was 13.6 percent in Dolores County.

Wage and Salary Employmentⁱⁱ

The monthly survey of Colorado business establishments indicates the number of nonfarm wage and salary jobs was little changed in September, up 200, to 2,196,200.

Employment increased over the month in five of Colorado's eleven major industry sectors. Professional and business services employment increased 1,400, other services 900, government 700, leisure and hospitality 400 and mining and logging 100. Construction and manufacturing were unchanged over the month. Employment declined

in financial activities (1,200), education and health services (800), trade, transportation and utilities (700) and information (600).

Nonfarm payroll employment decreased 1.0 percent over the year, or 22,200, from the September 2009 level of 2,218,400.

Employment in four of Colorado's eleven major industry sectors increased over the year. Education and health services increased 6,300, other services and professional & business services increased 700 and 600, respectively, and mining and logging gained 300. The remaining seven industry sectors declined over the year. Construction, down 14,200, continues to post the largest decline of all industry sectors. Trade, transportation & utilities declined 4,300 and information fell 3,800. Other losses include: financial activities (3,100), manufacturing (2,700), leisure and hospitality (1,300), and government (700).

Nationalⁱⁱⁱ

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the unemployment rate was unchanged at 9.6 percent in September. Nonfarm payroll employment declined 95,000. Government employment declined 159,000, reflecting a drop in both the number of temporary census workers and job losses in local government. Private-sector payroll employment continued to rise moderately, increasing 64,000, due to growth in mining, health care, and leisure and hospitality.

ⁱ Labor force estimates are calculated from the household survey results, using the Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Statistics methods. The unadjusted statewide and county level estimates are available at the following link:

<http://lmigateway.coworkforce.com/lmigateway/gsipub/index.asp?docid=363>

ⁱⁱ Wage and salary employment estimates are calculated from the establishment survey results, using the Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Employment Statistics methods. The statewide adjusted and unadjusted, and the unadjusted MSA estimates are available at the following link:

<http://lmigateway.coworkforce.com/lmigateway/gsipub/index.asp?docid=364>

ⁱⁱⁱ The Bureau of Labor Statistics homepage is available at the following link: <http://www.bls.gov/>