

PRESS RELEASE

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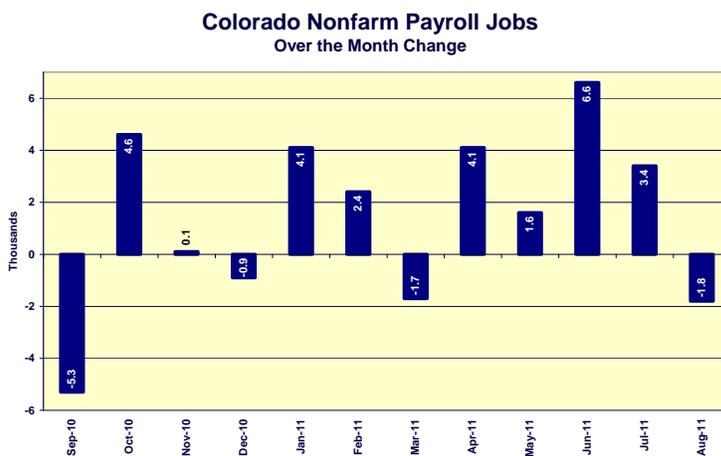
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Colorado Employment Situation August 2011

Colorado nonfarm payroll jobs declined by 1,800 from July to August for a total of 2,239,900 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Government added 500 payroll jobs and the private sector lost 2,300.

At 8.5 percent, the unemployment rate was unchanged from the previous month based on household survey results. The labor force decreased by 2,500 to 2,672,400 and total employment decreased 2,700 to 2,445,200 causing the number of unemployed to increase 200. The slight increase in the number of unemployed was not enough to impact the unemployment rate. The national unemployment rate also was unchanged over the same period at 9.1 percent.

Over the year, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls decreased from 35.0 to 34.5 hours and average hourly earnings decreased from \$23.78 to \$23.68.



Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Labor Market Information

sector job gains were in leisure and hospitality, education and health services, and professional and business services. The largest declines were in financial activities, construction and information.

The largest over the month private sector job gains in August were in construction, education and health services, and other services. The largest declines were in leisure and hospitality, trade, transportation and utilities, and financial activities.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs increased 17,200 with an increase of 20,100 in the private sector and a decline of 2,900 in government. The largest private

Over the year, the unemployment rate is down three-tenths of one percentage point from 8.8 percent in August 2010. The number of Coloradans participating in the labor force declined 5,900, total employment increased 3,200 and the number of unemployed decreased 9,100. The national unemployment rate declined from 9.6 to 9.1 percent from August 2010 to 2011.

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All Colorado estimates from the establishment and household surveys, including greater geographic detail, are available at: <http://lmigateway.coworkforce.com/lmigateway>. Estimates for all states and the nation are available at: <http://www.bls.gov>.

The September 2011 Colorado Employment Situation will be released on Friday, October 21, 2011.

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Nonfarm payroll jobs estimates are based on a survey of business establishments and government agencies, and are intended to measure the number of jobs, not the number of people employed. Other series based on this survey include private sector average weekly hours, average hourly earnings and average weekly earnings.

The unemployment rate, labor force, labor force participation, total employment and the number of unemployed are based on a survey of households. The total employment estimate derived from this survey is intended to measure the number of people employed.

The business establishment survey covers about seven times the number of households surveyed and is therefore considered a more reliable indicator of economic conditions. Because the estimates are based on two separate surveys, one measuring jobs by worksite and the other measuring employment and unemployment by household, estimates based on these surveys may provide seemingly conflicting results.