

PRESS RELEASE

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment • 633 17th Street, Suite 1200 • Denver, CO 80202 • (303) 318-8004 • Fax: (303) 318-8070

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Office of Government and Public Relations
Phone: (303) 318-8004
Fax: (303) 318-8070
Web: <http://lmigateway.coworkforce.com/lmigateway/>

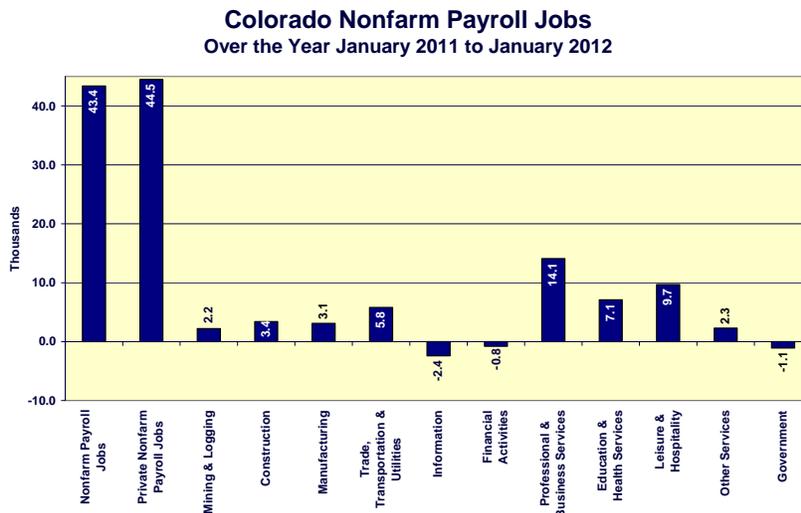
Colorado Employment Situation January 2012

Employers in Colorado added 19,500 nonfarm payroll jobs from December to January for a total of 2,284,800 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private sector payroll jobs increased 22,500 and government decreased 3,000.

According to the survey of households, the unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point to 7.8 percent. The number of people actively participating in the labor force decreased 3,900 to 2,730,100 and total employment decreased 1,900 to 2,517,100 causing the number of unemployed to decline 2,000. The national unemployment rate declined two-tenths of one percentage point over the same period to 8.3 percent.

Over the year, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased from 34.3 to 35.0 hours and average hourly earnings increased from \$24.11 to \$24.52.

The largest over the month private sector job gains were in construction, professional and business services, and leisure and hospitality. There were no significant over the month declines in the private sector.



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

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs increased 43,400 with an increase of 44,500 in the private sector and a decrease of 1,100 in government. The largest private sector job gains were in professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, and education and health services. The largest decline was in information.

Over the year, the unemployment rate is down one percentage point from

8.8 percent in January 2011. The number of Coloradans participating in the labor force increased 7,000, total employment increased 32,400 and the number of unemployed decreased 25,400. The national unemployment rate declined from 9.1 to 8.3 percent from January 2011 to January 2012.

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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>.

Also released are the benchmark revisions to 2007 through 2011 household survey based estimates.

The Current Employment Statistics payroll jobs series for 2010 and 2011 were also revised in the benchmarking process. Updates to seasonal factors caused minor revisions back to the beginning of the series in 1990.

The February 2012 Colorado Employment Situation will be released at 8:00 AM on Friday, March 30, 2012.

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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.