

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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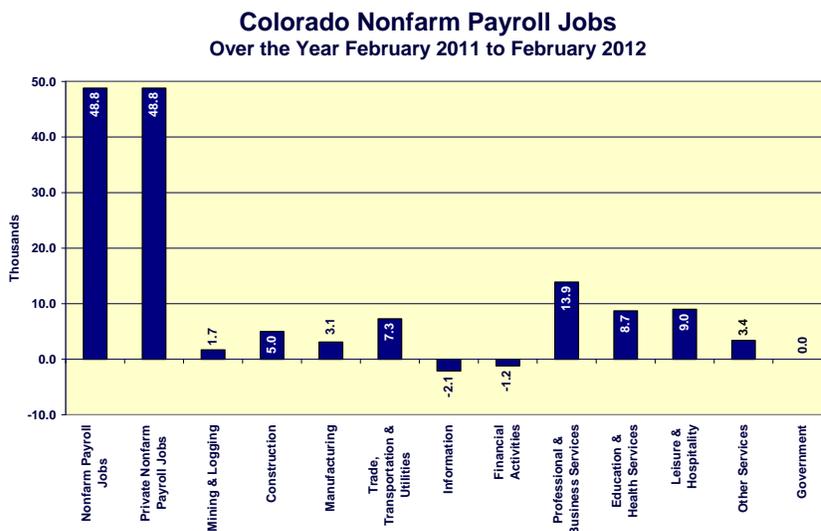
Colorado Employment Situation February 2012

Employers in Colorado added 4,700 nonfarm payroll jobs from January to February for a total of 2,288,900 nonfarm payroll jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private sector payroll jobs increased 2,700 and government increased 2,000.

According to the survey of households, the unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 7.8 percent. The national unemployment rate was also unchanged over the same period at 8.3 percent.

Over the year, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased from 33.9 to 34.4 hours and average hourly earnings increased from \$24.09 to \$24.33.

The largest over the month private sector job gains were in education and health services, and trade, transportation and utilities. The largest decline was in financial activities.



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

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs increased 48,800 with the private sector accounting for the entire increase. Government was unchanged from the prior year. The largest private sector job gains were in professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, and education and health services. Information and financial activities both declined.

Over the year, the unemployment rate is down eight tenths of a percentage point from 8.6 percent in February 2011. The number of Coloradans participating in the labor force increased 7,500, total employment increased 29,300 and the number of unemployed

decreased 21,800. The national unemployment rate declined from 9.0 to 8.3 percent from February 2011 to February 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>.

The March 2012 Colorado Employment Situation will be released at 8:00 AM on Friday, April 20, 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.