

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

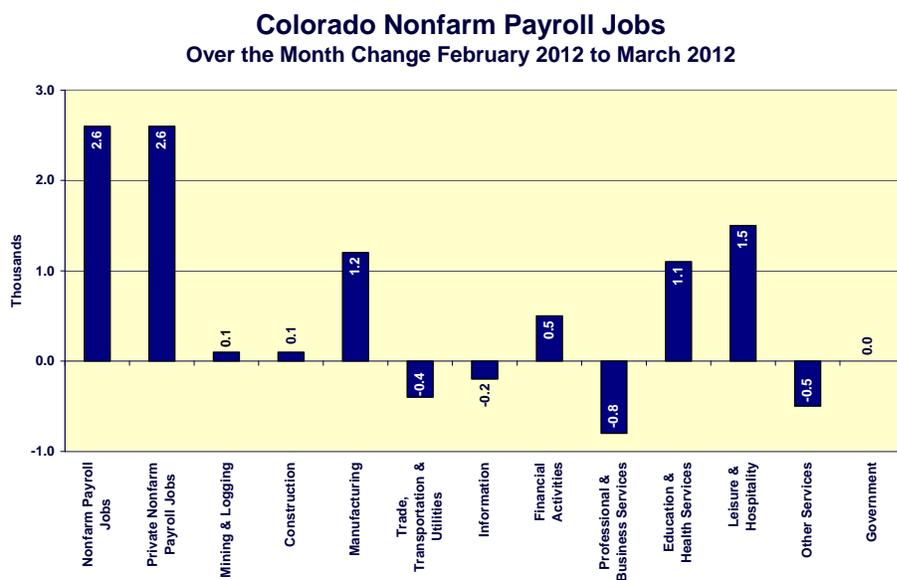
Date: April 20, 2012/ 8:00 A.M.
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Colorado Employment Situation March 2012

Employers in Colorado added 2,600 nonfarm payroll jobs from February to March for a total of 2,290,500 nonfarm payroll jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private sector payroll jobs increased 2,600 and government was unchanged.

According to the survey of households, the unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 7.8 percent. The national unemployment rate decreased one tenth of a percentage point over the same period to 8.2 percent.

Over the year, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased from 33.9 to 34.3 hours and average hourly earnings increased from \$23.87 to \$24.16.



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

The largest over the month private sector job gains were in leisure and hospitality, manufacturing, and education and health services.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs increased 45,800. The private sector payroll jobs increased 46,400 and government declined 600. The largest private sector job gains were in

professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, and education and health services. The only significant decline in private sector payroll jobs was in information.

Over the year, the unemployment rate is down seven tenths of a percentage point from 8.5 percent in March 2011. The number of Coloradans participating in the labor force increased 12,100, total employment increased 29,200 and the number of unemployed decreased 17,100. The national unemployment rate declined from 8.9 to 8.2 percent from March 2011 to March 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 April 2012 Colorado Employment Situation will be released at 8:00 AM on Friday, May 18, 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.