

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

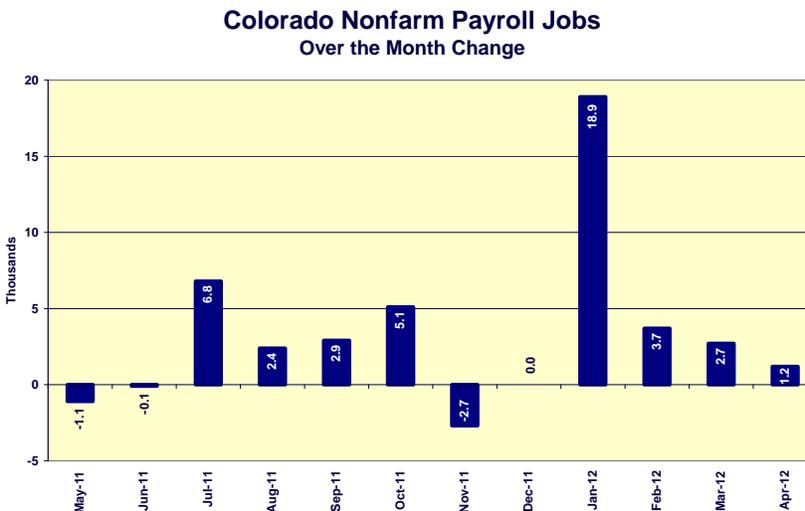
Date: May 18, 2012/ 8:00 A.M.
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Colorado Employment Situation April 2012

Employers in Colorado added 1,200 nonfarm payroll jobs from March to April for a total of 2,291,800 nonfarm payroll jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private sector payroll jobs increased 100 and government increased 1,100.

According to the survey of households, the unemployment rate increased one-tenth of one percentage point over the month to 7.9 percent. The increase in the unemployment rate was caused by an increase in the number of unemployed and a decline in the number of people participating in the labor force. The national unemployment rate decreased one tenth of a percentage point over the same period to 8.1 percent.

Over the year, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased from 34.2 to 35.1 hours and average hourly earnings increased from \$24.02 to \$24.89.



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

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

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs increased 39,800. Private sector payroll jobs increased 40,200 and government declined 400. The largest private sector job gains were in professional and business services,

education and health services, and trade, transportation and utilities. The only significant decline in private sector payroll jobs was in information.

Over the year, the unemployment rate is down one half of a percentage point from 8.4 percent in April 2011. The number of Coloradans participating in the labor force increased 10,100, total employment increased 22,200 and the number of unemployed decreased 12,100. The national unemployment rate declined from 9.0 to 8.1 percent from April 2011 to April 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 May 2012 Colorado Employment Situation will be released at 8:00 AM on Friday, June 15, 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.