

# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

Date: August 17, 2012/ 8:00 A.M.  
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## Colorado Employment Situation July 2012

Nonfarm payroll jobs increased 4,500 from June to July for a total of 2,294,900 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private sector payroll jobs increased 4,200 and government increased 300.

According to the survey of households, the unemployment rate increased one tenth of one percentage point over the month to 8.3 percent. The increase in the unemployment rate was caused by a larger decline in the number of people reporting their status as employed than the decline in the number of people actively participating in the labor force. The national unemployment rate also increased one tenth of one percentage point over the same period to 8.3 percent. Prior to the last two months the last time the Colorado unemployment rate matched that of the nation was October 2005.

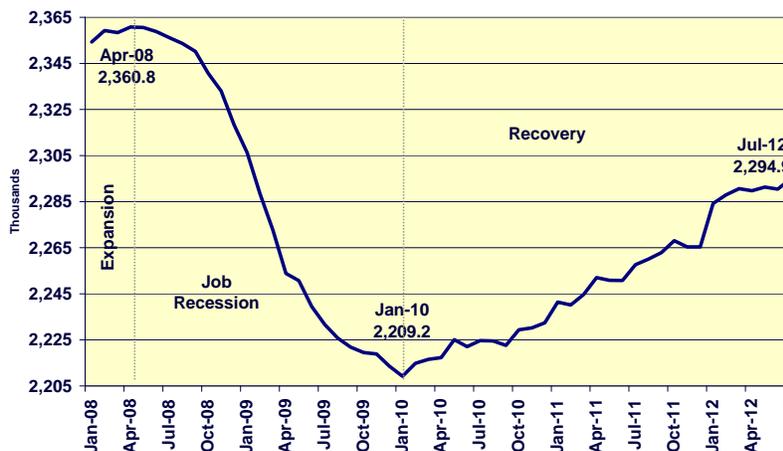
Over the year, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased from 34.7 to 35.7 hours and average hourly earnings increased from \$23.75 to \$24.68.

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

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs increased 37,300. Private sector payroll jobs increased 35,700 and government increased 1,600. The

largest private sector job gains were in professional and business services, construction, and trade, transportation and utilities. The only significant decline in private sector payroll jobs was in information.

Colorado Nonfarm Payroll Jobs 2008 to Present



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

Over the year, the unemployment rate is unchanged from 8.3 percent in July 2011. The number of Coloradans participating in the labor force increased 16,200, total employment increased 15,400 and the number of unemployed increased 800. The national unemployment rate declined from 9.1 percent in July 2011 to 8.3 percent in July 2012.

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

The August 2012 Colorado Employment Situation will be released at 8:00 AM on Friday, September 21, 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.