

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Date: October 19, 2012/ 8:00 A.M.
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Colorado Employment Situation September 2012

Nonfarm payroll jobs increased 7,000 from August to September to 2,300,200 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private sector payroll jobs increased 4,400 and government increased 2,600. The over the month increase in payroll jobs was driven in large part by greater than expected seasonal gains in private and public sector educational services.

According to the survey of households, the unemployment rate decreased two tenths of one percentage point over the month to 8.0 percent. The decrease in the unemployment rate was caused by a larger increase in the number of people reporting their status as employed than the increase in those actively participating in the labor force. The national unemployment rate decreased three tenths of one percentage point over the same period to 7.8 percent.

Over the year, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased from 34.6 to 35.5 hours and average hourly earnings increased from \$23.87 to \$24.88.

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

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs increased 37,300. Private sector payroll jobs increased 34,400 and government increased 2,900.

The largest private sector job gains were in professional and business services, construction, and education and health services. The only sector that declined over the year was information.

Colorado Nonfarm Payroll Jobs
Over the Month Change



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

Over the year, the unemployment rate declined two tenths of one percentage point from 8.2 percent in September 2011. The number of Coloradans participating in the labor force decreased 800, total employment increased 4,200 and the number of unemployed decreased 5,000. The national unemployment rate declined from 9.0 percent in September 2011 to 7.8 percent in September 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 October 2012 Colorado Employment Situation will be released at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, November 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.