

# PRESS RELEASE

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment • 633 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1200 • Denver, CO 80202 • (303) 318-8004 • Fax: (303) 318-8070

## For Immediate Release

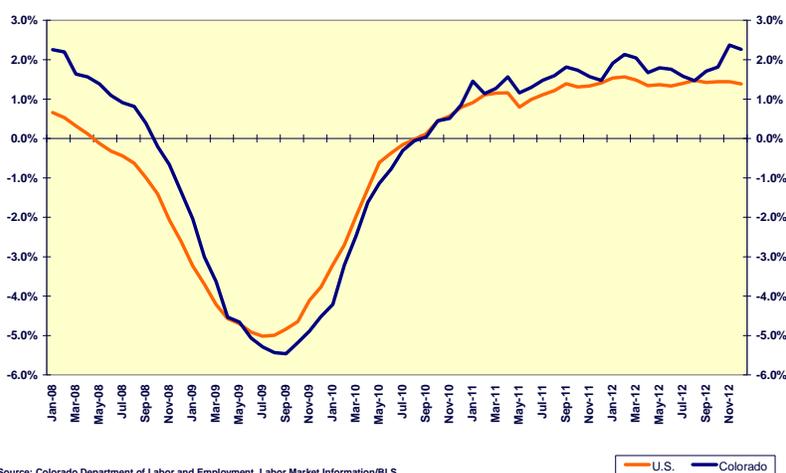
Date: January 18, 2013/ 8:00 A.M.  
Contact: Office of Government and Public Relations  
Phone: Bill Thoennes at (303) 318-8004 or Cher Haavind at (303) 318-8003  
Fax: (303) 318-8070  
Web: <http://www.colmigateway.com>

## Colorado Employment Situation December 2012

Nonfarm payroll jobs decreased 2,400 from November to December to 2,316,600 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private sector payroll jobs decreased 2,500 and government increased 100.

According to the survey of households, the unemployment rate decreased one tenth of one percentage point over the month to 7.6 percent. The decrease in the unemployment rate was caused by a larger increase in the number of people reporting their status as employed than in the number of people actively participating in the labor force. The national unemployment rate was unchanged over the same period at 7.8 percent.

**U.S. and Colorado Nonfarm Payroll Jobs  
Over the Year Growth Rate 2008 to Present**



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

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 \$24.20 to \$25.26.

The largest over the month private sector job gain was in construction. The largest over the month declines were in professional and business services, trade, transportation and utilities, and education and health services.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs increased 51,300. Private sector payroll jobs increased 47,600 and government increased 3,700. The largest private sector job gains were in professional and business services, education and health services, and leisure and hospitality. The only sector that declined over the year was information.

Over the year, the unemployment rate declined three tenths of one percentage point from 7.9 percent in December 2011. The number of Coloradans participating in the labor force

decreased 8,100, total employment decreased 1,200 and the number of unemployed decreased 6,900. The national unemployment rate declined from 8.5 percent in December 2011 to 7.8 percent in December 2012.

###

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 January 2013 Colorado Employment Situation will be released on Monday, March 18, 2013. Revised statewide estimates for 2012 and 2011 and some updated local information will also be released.

###

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.