

PRESS RELEASE

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COLORADO EMPLOYMENT SITUATION February 2010

Labor Forceⁱ

Colorado's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose three-tenths of one percentage point to 7.7 percent in February, according to Donald J. Mares, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. "Moderate fluctuations in the labor market are expected through the first part of the year as we put 2009 behind us," noted Mares. Last February the unemployment rate was 7.3 percent.

The number of working Coloradans declined 3,300 over the month to 2,448,800 out of a civilian labor force of 2,647,700. The number of residents unsuccessfully looking for work increased 6,500 over the month to 202,900. Last February, total employment was 2,535,300, the civilian labor force was 2,734,200 and the number of unemployed was 198,900. Total employment has declined 90,500 since February 2009.

The unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 30 of Colorado's 64 counties, declined in 22 and remained unchanged in 12. The lowest rate was 3.4 percent in Cheyenne County and the highest was 18.7 percent in Dolores County. In February 2009, the unemployment rate increased in 60 counties, declined in two and was unchanged in two. Last year, the lowest rate was 3.4 percent in Cheyenne County and the highest was 13.3 percent in Dolores County.

Wage and Salary Employmentⁱⁱ

The monthly survey of Colorado business establishments indicates the number of nonfarm wage and salary jobs decreased 1,700 in February to 2,205,700.

Employment increased in four of Colorado's eleven major industry sectors over the month. Professional and business services added 2,500 jobs, driven by an increase in

professional, scientific and technical services; education and health increased 2,100, due to an increase in healthcare employment; trade, transportation, and utilities added 1,200 and mining and logging increased 400. Financial activities and leisure and hospitality declined 3,200 and 1,600, respectively, while manufacturing declined 1,100 due to losses in durable goods. Other losses included information (900), other services (700), construction (300), and government (100).

Nonfarm payroll employment decreased over the year by 3.7 percent, or 83,900, from the February 2009 level of 2,289,600.

Employment in two of Colorado's eleven major industry sectors increased over the year. Education and health services added 4,000 jobs and government 2,000. The remaining nine industry sectors all declined over the year. Employment in construction, down 30,300, experienced the largest decline of all industry sectors. Trade, transportation, and utilities and professional and business services declined 14,900 and 12,100, respectively. Manufacturing was down 10,500 and financial activities 7,800. Other losses included leisure and hospitality (5,800), mining and logging (4,300), information (3,700) and other services (500).

Nationalⁱⁱⁱ

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that nonfarm payroll employment was little changed (-36,000) in February, and the unemployment rate held steady at 9.7 percent. Since the start of the recession in December 2007, payroll employment has fallen by 8.4 million. Job losses continued in construction and information, while employment continued to increase in temporary help services.

ⁱ Labor force estimates are calculated from the household survey results, using the Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Statistics methods. The unadjusted statewide and county level estimates are available at the following link:

<http://lmigateway.coworkforce.com/lmigateway/gsipub/index.asp?docid=363>

ⁱⁱ Wage and salary employment estimates are calculated from the establishment survey results, using the Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Employment Statistics methods. The statewide adjusted and unadjusted, and the unadjusted MSA estimates are available at the following link:

<http://lmigateway.coworkforce.com/lmigateway/gsipub/index.asp?docid=364>

ⁱⁱⁱ The Bureau of Labor Statistics homepage is available at the following link: <http://www.bls.gov/>

**LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
COLORADO**

Preliminary Estimates for February 2010 (in thousands)

LABOR FORCE DATA					
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED*				Change from last:	
	Feb-10	Jan-10	Feb-09	Month	Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	2,647.7	2,644.5	2,734.2	3.2	-86.5
Unemployment	202.9	196.4	198.9	6.5	4.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.7	7.4	7.3	--	--
Employment	2,444.8	2,448.1	2,535.3	-3.3	-90.5
UNADJUSTED FOR SEASONALITY:					
	Feb-10	Jan-10	Feb-09	Month	Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	2,636.9	2,637.8	2,718.7	-0.9	-81.8
Unemployment	218.5	218.8	212.9	-0.3	5.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.3	8.3	7.8	--	--
Employment	2,418.4	2,419.0	2,505.8	-0.6	-87.4

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DATA					
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED:	Feb-10	Jan-10	Feb-09	Month	Year
Mining & Logging	23.1	22.7	27.4	0.4	-4.3
Construction	115.0	115.3	145.3	-0.3	-30.3
Manufacturing	124.5	125.6	135.0	-1.1	-10.5
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	398.0	396.8	412.9	1.2	-14.9
Information	72.5	73.4	76.2	-0.9	-3.7
Financial Activities	142.5	145.7	150.3	-3.2	-7.8
Professional & Business Services	326.7	324.2	338.8	2.5	-12.1
Educational & Health Services	259.3	257.2	255.3	2.1	4.0
Leisure & Hospitality	259.2	260.8	265.0	-1.6	-5.8
Other Services	94.1	94.8	94.6	-0.7	-0.5
Government	390.8	390.9	388.8	-0.1	2.0
TOTAL NONAG	2,205.7	2,207.4	2,289.6	-1.7	-83.9
Labor Disputants	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DATA					
UNADJUSTED FOR SEASONALITY:	Feb-10	Jan-10	Feb-09	Month	Year
Mining & Logging	23.0	22.5	27.0	0.5	-4.0
Construction	106.7	106.0	134.8	0.7	-28.1
Manufacturing	124.1	125.2	133.7	-1.1	-9.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	390.9	394.4	406.4	-3.5	-15.5
Information	72.1	73.0	76.2	-0.9	-4.1
Financial Activities	141.6	144.4	149.8	-2.8	-8.2
Professional & Business Services	315.1	313.0	330.2	2.1	-15.1
Educational & Health Services	259.2	255.2	255.8	4.0	3.4
Leisure & Hospitality	258.4	259.7	261.3	-1.3	-2.9
Other Services	94.1	95.3	94.5	-1.2	-0.4
Government	394.8	383.7	392.1	11.1	2.7
TOTAL NONAG	2,180.0	2,172.4	2,261.8	7.6	-81.8
Labor Disputants	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
COLORADO METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS
Preliminary Estimates for February 2010 (in thousands)

DENVER-AURORA-BROOMFIELD MSA (Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin, Jefferson, and Park counties)

LABOR FORCE DATA					
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED*				Change from last:	
	Feb-10	Jan-10	Feb-09	Month	Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	1,357.3	1,356.8	1,397.6	0.5	-40.3
Unemployment	109.1	106.8	108.6	2.3	0.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.0	7.9	7.8	--	--
Employment	1,248.2	1,250.0	1,289.0	-1.8	-40.8
WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DATA					
TOTAL NONAG	1177.9	1175.8	1219.0	2.1	-41.1
UNADJUSTED FOR SEASONALITY:					
				Change from last:	
	Feb-10	Jan-10	Feb-09	Month	Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	1,347.4	1,347.9	1,387.6	-0.5	-40.2
Unemployment	112.6	112.6	112.0	0.0	0.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.4	8.4	8.1	--	--
Employment	1,234.8	1,235.3	1,275.6	-0.5	-40.8
WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DATA					
TOTAL NONAG	1156.9	1154.0	1198.3	2.9	-41.4

BOULDER-LONGMONT MSA (Boulder County)

LABOR FORCE DATA					
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED*				Change from last:	
	Feb-10	Jan-10	Feb-09	Month	Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	172.0	172.4	176.4	-0.4	-4.4
Unemployment	10.8	10.8	11.1	0.0	-0.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.3	6.2	6.3	--	--
Employment	161.2	161.6	165.3	-0.4	-4.1
WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DATA					
TOTAL NONAG	157.8	157.9	162.4	-0.1	-4.6
UNADJUSTED FOR SEASONALITY:					
				Change from last:	
	Feb-10	Jan-10	Feb-09	Month	Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	171.8	170.9	176.1	0.9	-4.3
Unemployment	11.2	11.4	11.4	-0.2	-0.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.5	6.6	6.5	--	--
Employment	160.6	159.5	164.7	1.1	-4.1
WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DATA					
TOTAL NONAG	157.3	155.6	161.5	1.7	-4.2

COLORADO SPRINGS MSA (El Paso and Teller counties)

LABOR FORCE DATA					
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED*				Change from last:	
	Feb-10	Jan-10	Feb-09	Month	Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	307.7	306.0	315.3	1.7	-7.6
Unemployment	26.3	25.8	26.5	0.5	-0.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.5	8.4	8.4	--	--
Employment	281.4	280.2	288.8	1.2	-7.4
WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DATA					
TOTAL NONAG	244.0	244.1	252.7	-0.1	-8.7
UNADJUSTED FOR SEASONALITY:					
				Change from last:	
	Feb-10	Jan-10	Feb-09	Month	Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	304.0	303.8	311.7	0.2	-7.7
Unemployment	27.0	27.1	27.2	-0.1	-0.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.9	8.9	8.7	--	--
Employment	277.0	276.7	284.5	0.3	-7.5
WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DATA					
TOTAL NONAG	240.7	239.8	248.6	0.9	-7.9

FT. COLLINS-LOVELAND MSA (Larimer County)

LABOR FORCE DATA					
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED*				Change from last:	
	Feb-10	Jan-10	Feb-09	Month	Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	173.7	174.3	176.4	-0.6	-2.7
Unemployment	11.8	11.6	11.5	0.2	0.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.8	6.7	6.5	--	--
Employment	161.9	162.7	164.9	-0.8	-3.0
WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DATA					
TOTAL NONAG	132.0	132.2	135.2	-0.2	-3.2
UNADJUSTED FOR SEASONALITY:					
				Change from last:	
	Feb-10	Jan-10	Feb-09	Month	Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	171.8	170.9	174.4	0.9	-2.6
Unemployment	12.3	12.5	12.0	-0.2	0.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.2	7.3	6.9	--	--
Employment	159.5	158.4	162.4	1.1	-2.9
WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DATA					
TOTAL NONAG	129.8	128.6	131.9	1.2	-2.1

GRAND JUNCTION MSA (Mesa County)

LABOR FORCE DATA					
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED*				Change from last:	
	Feb-10	Jan-10	Feb-09	Month	Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	80.0	79.7	84.0	0.3	-4.0
Unemployment	7.7	7.5	5.9	0.2	1.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.7	9.4	7.1	--	--
Employment	72.3	72.2	78.1	0.1	-5.8
WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DATA					
TOTAL NONAG	60.1	59.9	65.1	0.2	-5.0
UNADJUSTED FOR SEASONALITY:					
				Change from last:	
	Feb-10	Jan-10	Feb-09	Month	Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	79.2	78.9	83.2	0.3	-4.0
Unemployment	8.1	8.1	6.3	0.0	1.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.2	10.2	7.6	--	--
Employment	71.1	70.8	76.9	0.3	-5.8
WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DATA					
TOTAL NONAG	59.1	58.5	64.1	0.6	-5.0

GREELEY MSA (Weld County)

LABOR FORCE DATA					
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED*				Change from last:	
	Feb-10	Jan-10	Feb-09	Month	Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	117.2	117.1	121.1	0.1	-3.9
Unemployment	10.9	10.6	9.9	0.3	1.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.3	9.1	8.2	--	--
Employment	106.3	106.5	111.2	-0.2	-4.9
WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DATA					
TOTAL NONAG	77.0	77.1	81.5	-0.1	-4.5
UNADJUSTED FOR SEASONALITY:					
				Change from last:	
	Feb-10	Jan-10	Feb-09	Month	Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	116.5	116.1	120.5	0.4	-4.0
Unemployment	11.4	11.3	10.5	0.1	0.9
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.8	9.7	8.7	--	--
Employment	105.1	104.8	110.0	0.3	-4.9
WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DATA					
TOTAL NONAG	76.3	75.5	80.3	0.8	-4.0

PUEBLO MSA (Pueblo County)

LABOR FORCE DATA					
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED*				Change from last:	
	Feb-10	Jan-10	Feb-09	Month	Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	73.6	73.5	74.7	0.1	-1.1
Unemployment	6.6	6.4	6.4	0.2	0.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.9	8.7	8.6	--	--
Employment	67.0	67.1	68.3	-0.1	-1.3
WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DATA					
TOTAL NONAG	56.9	56.6	57.9	0.3	-1.0
UNADJUSTED FOR SEASONALITY:					
				Change from last:	
	Feb-10	Jan-10	Feb-09	Month	Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	73.2	73.0	74.4	0.2	-1.2
Unemployment	6.9	6.9	6.8	0.0	0.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.5	9.5	9.1	--	--
Employment	66.3	66.1	67.6	0.2	-1.3
WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DATA					
TOTAL NONAG	56.4	55.8	57.3	0.6	-0.9

Seasonally Adjusted MSA Labor Force Data not official BLS series

Labor force estimates are adjusted to Current Population Survey data. Estimates made in cooperation with the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

1/ Residents unemployed during the week including the 12th of the month.

2/ Total resident employment includes nonagricultural wage and salary workers; self-employed, unpaid family and domestic workers; agricultural workers and persons involved in labor disputes.

3/Due to rounding, sum of individual items may not equal total. Industry data represents jobs by place of work coded under the 2002 North American Industry Classification System

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Please reference, "Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Labor Market Information".

