

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **COLORADO EMPLOYMENT SITUATION October 2010**

### **Labor Force<sup>i</sup>**

Colorado's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased two-tenths of one percentage point to 8.4 percent in October, according to Donald J. Mares, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. "Despite mixed results in the employment numbers, there are encouraging signs of improvement including recent increases in online job postings," said Mares. "Through our innovative partnerships and programs, the workforce system is focused on ensuring job seekers regain employment as quickly as possible." Last October, the unemployment rate was 7.5 percent.

The number of working Coloradans fell 5,400 over the month to 2,436,300. The civilian labor force decreased 2,200 to 2,658,900. The number of residents unsuccessfully looking for work increased 3,200 over the month to 222,600. One year ago, total employment was 2,462,900 and the number of unemployed was 200,400. The civilian labor force has declined 4,400 since October 2009.

The unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 38 of Colorado's 64 counties, decreased in 14 and was unchanged in 12. The lowest rate was 3.5 percent in Cheyenne County and the highest was 15.7 percent in Dolores County. In October 2009, the unemployment rate declined in 33 counties, rose in 19 and remained unchanged in 12. Last year, the lowest rate was 2.1 percent in Cheyenne County and the highest was 13.2 percent in Dolores County.

### **Wage and Salary Employment<sup>ii</sup>**

The monthly survey of Colorado business establishments indicates the number of nonfarm wage and salary jobs increased 7,100 in October to 2,206,400.

Employment increased over the month in five of Colorado's eleven major industry sectors. Education and health services increased 5,000, construction 1,800, government 1,700, mining and logging 1,600, and other services 500. Leisure and hospitality declined 1,000, financial activities 800, trade, transportation and utilities 700, manufacturing 700, professional and business services 200, and information 100.

Nonfarm payroll employment decreased 0.6 percent over the year, or 12,600, from the October 2009 level of 2,219,000.

Employment in four of Colorado's eleven major industry sectors increased over the year. Education and health services increased 8,200, mining and logging 1,800, professional and business services 700, and other services 300. The remaining seven industry sectors declined over the year. Construction, down 9,200, continues to post the largest decline of all industry sectors. Information declined 3,400, leisure and hospitality 2,900, financial activities 2,800, trade, transportation and utilities 2,500, manufacturing 1,700, and government 1,100.

### **National**<sup>iii</sup>

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the unemployment rate was unchanged at 9.6 percent in October. Nonfarm payroll employment increased 151,000. Since December 2009, nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 874,000, and private-sector employment has increased by 1.1 million.

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Note: Revised estimation procedures mandated by BLS with the 2010 estimates may result in greater month-to-month employment volatility. These survey-based estimates are revised annually based on more complete information filed by employers with the State of Colorado.

<sup>i</sup> 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>

<sup>ii</sup> 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>

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