

# 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

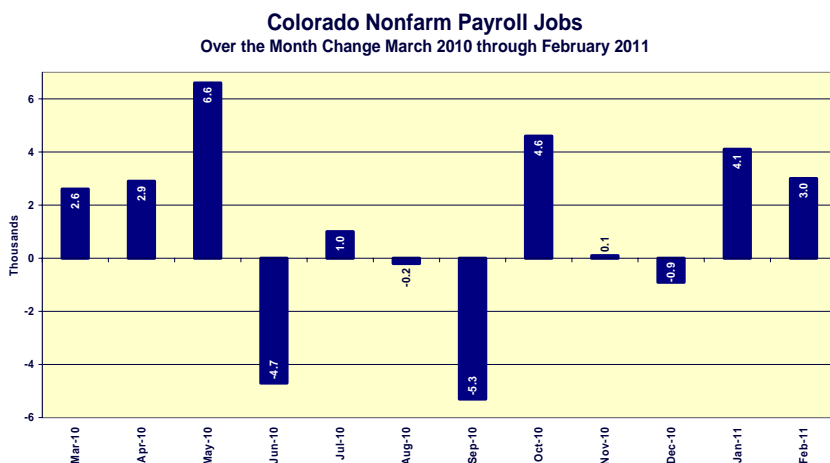
Date: March 25, 2011/ 8:00 A.M.  
Contact: Office of Government and Public Relations  
Phone: (303) 318-8004  
Fax: (303) 318-8070  
Web: <http://lmigateway.coworkforce.com/lmigateway/>

## Colorado Employment Situation February 2011

Employers in Colorado added 3,000 nonfarm payroll jobs from January to February for a total of 2,228,300 jobs, according to the survey of establishments, with private sector payroll jobs increasing by 2,900.

The unemployment rate increased two-tenths of a percentage point to 9.3% based on household survey results. The labor force increased 7,100 to 2,677,900 and total employment increased 2,600. The increase in total employment was not enough to offset the increase in labor force participation, causing the number of unemployed to increase 4,500. The national unemployment rate dropped from 9.0 to 8.9 percent over the same period.

Over the year, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased from 33.6 to 33.9 hours and average hourly earnings increased from \$23.69 to \$24.15.



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

The largest over the month private sector job gains in February were in professional and business services, trade, transportation and utilities, and leisure and hospitality. The largest declines were in construction and financial activities.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs increased 13,800 with an increase of 16,400 in the private

sector and a decline of 2,600 in government. The largest job gains were in education and health services, professional and business services and leisure and hospitality. The largest declines were in construction, financial activities and information.

Over the year, the unemployment rate is up three-tenths of one percentage point from 9.0 percent in February 2010. The number of Coloradans participating in the labor force declined 25,800 to 2,677,900, total employment declined 30,600 to 2,430,100, and the number of unemployed increased 4,800 to 247,800. The national unemployment rate declined from 9.7 to 8.9 percent from February 2010 to 2011.

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

The March 2011 Employment Situation will be released on Tuesday, April 19, 2011.

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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.