

PRESS RELEASE

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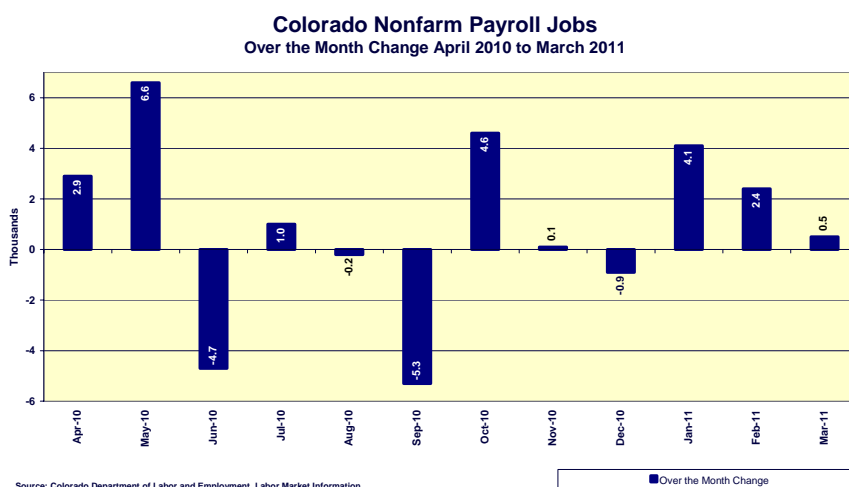
Date: April 19, 2011/ 8:00 A.M.
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Colorado Employment Situation March 2011

Employers in Colorado added 500 nonfarm payroll jobs from February to March for a total of 2,228,200 jobs, according to the survey of establishments. Government increased by 1,100 payroll jobs and the private sector declined by 600.

The unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point to 9.2% based on household survey results. The labor force increased 8,700 to 2,686,400 and total employment increased 10,100. The increase in total employment was greater than the increase in labor force participation, causing the number of unemployed to decline by 1,500. The national unemployment rate dropped from 8.9 to 8.8 percent over the same period.

Over the year, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased from 33.5 to 34.0 hours and average hourly earnings increased from \$23.76 to \$23.88.



The largest over the month private sector job gain in March was in Manufacturing. The largest declines were in professional and business services and construction.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs increased 11,100 with an increase of 14,200 in the private sector

and a decline of 3,100 in government. The largest job gains were in education and health services, leisure and hospitality, and professional and business services. The largest declines were in construction, financial activities and information.

Over the year, the unemployment rate is up two-tenths of one percentage point from 9.0 percent in March 2010. The number of Coloradans participating in the labor force declined

18,100, total employment declined 20,600 and the number of unemployed increased 2,500. The national unemployment rate declined from 9.7 to 8.8 percent from March 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 April 2011 Employment Situation will be released on Friday, May 20, 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.