

# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

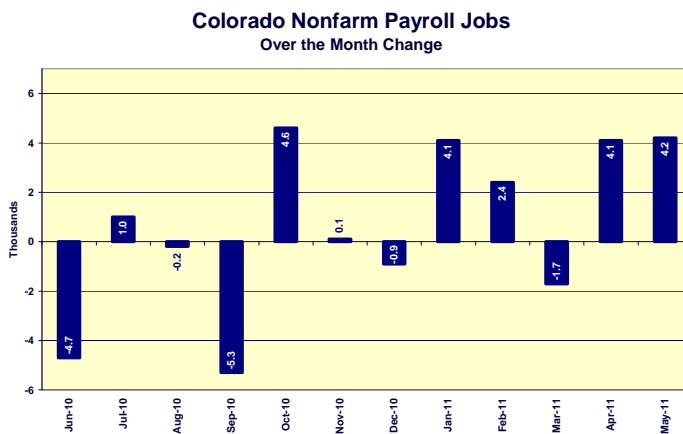
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## Colorado Employment Situation May 2011

Employers in Colorado added 4,200 nonfarm payroll jobs from April to May for a total of 2,234,300 jobs, according to the survey of establishments. Government added 900 payroll jobs and the private sector increased by 3,300.

The unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point to 8.7% based on household survey results. The labor force decreased by 100 to 2,692,200 and total employment increased 4,700. The increase in total employment and the slight decline in labor force caused the number of unemployed to decline by 4,800. The national unemployment rate increased from 9.0 to 9.1 percent over the same period.

Over the year, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased from 34.8 to 35.1 hours and average hourly earnings decreased from \$23.97 to \$23.88.



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

The largest over the month private sector job gains in May were in construction and trade, transportation and utilities. The largest decline was in other services.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs increased 7,700 with an increase of 16,300 in the private sector and a decline of 8,600 in government. The largest job gains were in education and health services, leisure and hospitality, and trade,

transportation and utilities. The largest declines were in construction, information and financial activities.

Over the year, the unemployment rate is down two-tenths of one percentage point from 8.9 percent in May 2010. The number of Coloradans participating in the labor force declined

4,000, total employment increased 3,200 and the number of unemployed decreased 7,200. The national unemployment rate declined from 9.6 to 9.1 percent from May 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 June 2011 Employment Situation will be released on Friday, July 22, 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.