

PRESS RELEASE

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment • 633 17th Street, Suite 1200 • Denver, CO 80202 • (303) 318-8004 • Fax: (303) 318-8070

For Immediate Release

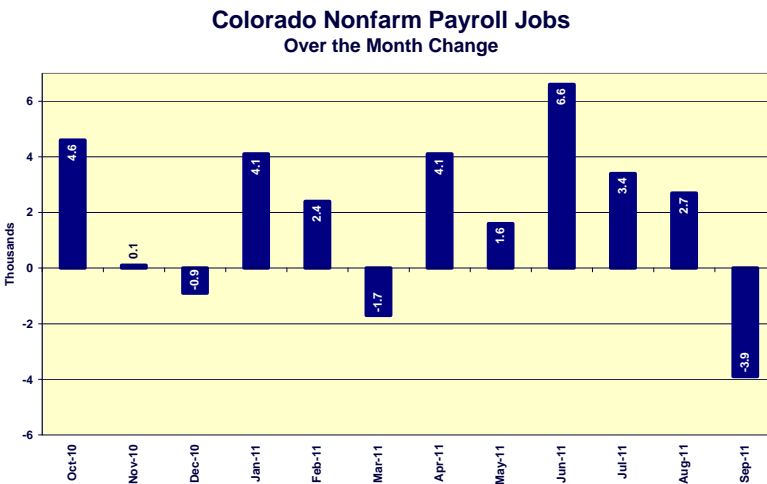
Date: October 21, 2011/ 8:00 A.M.
Contact: Office of Government and Public Relations
Phone: (303) 318-8004
Fax: (303) 318-8070
Web: <http://lmigateway.coworkforce.com/lmigateway/>

Colorado Employment Situation September 2011

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Colorado declined by 3,900 from August to September to 2,240,500 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Government added 1,100 payroll jobs and the private sector lost 5,000.

According to the survey of households, the unemployment rate decreased two-tenths of a percentage point to 8.3 percent. The number of people actively participating in the labor force increased 8,300 to 2,680,900 and total employment increased 13,400 to 2,458,700 causing the number of unemployed to decline 5,000. The national unemployment rate also was unchanged over the same period at 9.1 percent.

Over the year, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased from 34.4 to 34.6 hours and average hourly earnings increased from \$23.62 to \$23.92.



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

The largest over the month private sector job gains in August were in financial activities. The largest declines were in leisure and hospitality, professional and business services, and manufacturing.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs increased 23,100 with an increase of 24,600 in the private sector and a decline of 1,500 in government. The largest private sector job gains were in leisure and hospitality, education and health

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

Over the year, the unemployment rate is down one half of one percentage point from 8.8 percent in September 2010. The number of Coloradans participating in the labor force increased 5,600, total employment increased 20,100 and the number of unemployed decreased 14,500. The national unemployment rate declined from 9.6 to 9.1 percent from August 2010 to 2011.

###

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 October 2011 Colorado Employment Situation will be released on Tuesday, November 22, 2011.

###

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.