COLORADO
Department of
Labor and Employment

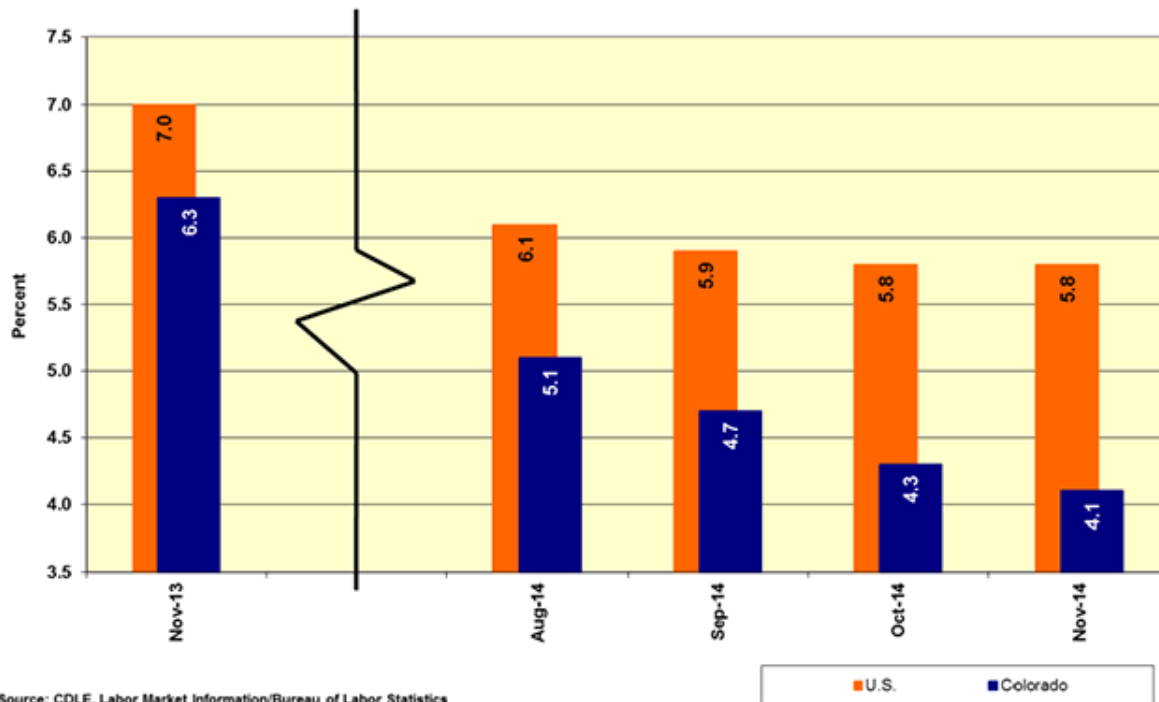Home | Jobs & Training | Employers | Unemployment | Labor Laws |

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November 2014 Colorado Employment Situation

Nonfarm payroll jobs decreased 2,500 over the month from October to November to 2,457,300 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private sector payroll jobs decreased 3,700 and government increased 1,200 over the month.

According to the survey of households, the unemployment rate decreased two tenths of a percentage point in November to 4.1 percent. The last time the Colorado unemployment rate was as low as 4.1 percent was January 2008.

U.S. and Colorado Unemployment Rate

The number of people participating in the labor force increased 1,600 over the month and the number of people reporting themselves as employed increased 8,200. The larger increase in total employment than in labor force caused the number of unemployed to decrease 6,600 and the unemployment rate to decline to 4.1 percent. The national unemployment rate was unchanged in November at 5.8 percent.

Over the year, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls decreased from 34.8 to 34.4 hours and average hourly earnings increased from $25.98 to $26.72.

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

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs increased 54,400. Private sector payroll jobs increased 47,400 and government increased 7,000. The largest private sector job gains were in leisure and hospitality, education and health services, and construction. Financial activities, information and other services declined over the year.

Over the year, the unemployment rate declined two and two tenths of a percentage point from 6.3 percent in November 2013. The number of Coloradans participating in the labor force increased 57,100, total employment increased 117,200 and the number of unemployed decreased 60,100. The national unemployment rate declined from 7.0 percent in November

2013 to 5.8 percent in November 2014.

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

The December 2014 Colorado Employment Situation will be released on Tuesday, January 27, 2015. The full schedule of release dates for calendar year 2014 estimates is available at http://www.colmigateway.com.

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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 persons employed and unemployed by household, estimates based on these surveys may provide seemingly conflicting results.

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