

**Transmission of material in this release is embargoed until
8:30 a.m. (EST) Friday, December 7, 2012**

USDL-12-2366

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION — NOVEMBER 2012

Total **nonfarm payroll employment** rose by 146,000 in November, and the **unemployment rate** edged down to 7.7 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Employment increased in retail trade, professional and business services, and health care.

Chart 1. Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, November 2010 – November 2012

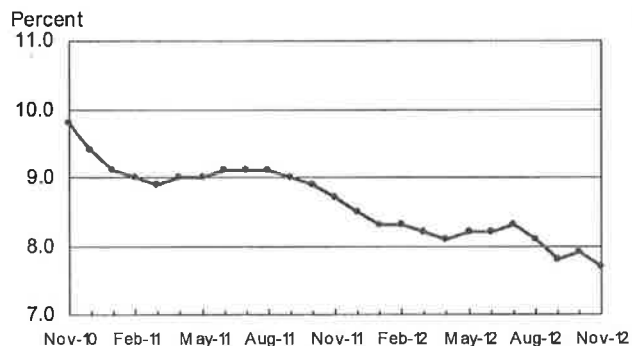
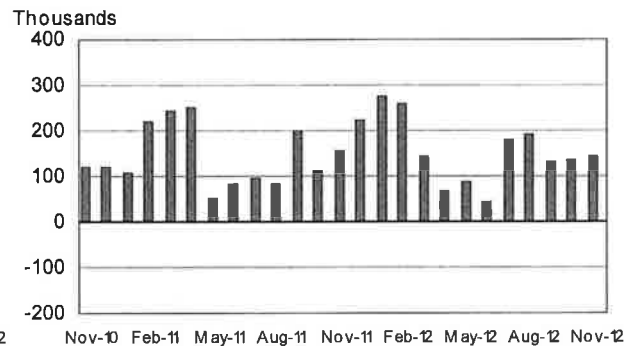


Chart 2. Nonfarm payroll employment over-the-month change, seasonally adjusted, November 2010 – November 2012



Hurricane Sandy

Hurricane Sandy made landfall on the Northeast coast on October 29th, causing severe damage in some states. Nevertheless, our survey response rates in the affected states were within normal ranges. Our analysis suggests that Hurricane Sandy did not substantively impact the national employment and unemployment estimates for November. BLS will release the regional and state estimates on December 21st. For additional information on how severe weather affects employment and unemployment data, see Question 8 in the Frequently Asked Questions section of this release.

Household Survey Data

The **unemployment rate** edged down to 7.7 percent in November. The number of **unemployed persons**, at 12.0 million, changed little. (See table A-1.)

Among the **major worker groups**, the unemployment rates for adult men (7.2 percent), adult women (7.0 percent), teenagers (23.5 percent), whites (6.8 percent), and Hispanics (10.0 percent) showed little or no change in November. The unemployment rate for blacks (13.2 percent) declined over the month. The jobless rate for Asians was 6.4 percent (not seasonally adjusted), little changed from a year earlier. (See tables A-1, A-2, and A-3.)

The number of **long-term unemployed** (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) was little changed at 4.8 million in November. These individuals accounted for 40.1 percent of the unemployed. (See table A-12.)

The **civilian labor force participation rate** declined by 0.2 percentage point to 63.6 percent in November, offsetting an increase of the same amount in October. Total **employment** was about unchanged in November, following a combined increase of 1.3 million over the prior 2 months. The **employment-population ratio**, at 58.7 percent, changed little in November. (See table A-1.)

The number of persons employed **part time for economic reasons** (sometimes referred to as involuntary part-time workers), at 8.2 million in November, was little changed over the month. These individuals were working part time because their hours had been cut back or because they were unable to find a full-time job. (See table A-8.)

In November, 2.5 million persons were **marginally attached to the labor force**, essentially unchanged from a year earlier. (These data are not seasonally adjusted.) These individuals were not in the labor force, wanted and were available for work, and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months. They were not counted as unemployed because they had not searched for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey. (See table A-16.)

Among the marginally attached, there were 979,000 **discouraged workers** in November, little changed from a year earlier. (These data are not seasonally adjusted.) Discouraged workers are persons not currently looking for work because they believe no jobs are available for them. The remaining 1.5 million persons marginally attached to the labor force in November had not searched for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey for reasons such as school attendance or family responsibilities. (See table A-16.)

Establishment Survey Data

Total **nonfarm payroll employment** increased by 146,000 in November. Since the beginning of this year, employment growth has averaged 151,000 per month, about the same as the average monthly job gain of 153,000 in 2011. In November, employment rose in retail trade, professional and business services, and health care. (See table B-1.)

Retail trade employment rose by 53,000 in November and has increased by 140,000 over the past 3 months. Over the month, job gains occurred in clothing and clothing accessory stores (+33,000), in general merchandise stores (+10,000), and in electronics and appliance stores (+9,000). Employment in miscellaneous store retailers decreased by 13,000.

In November, employment in **professional and business services** rose by 43,000. Employment continued to increase in computer systems design and related services.

Health care employment continued to increase in November (+20,000), with gains in hospitals (+8,000) and in nursing care facilities (+5,000). Health care has added an average of 26,000 jobs per month this year.

Employment in **wholesale trade** edged up over the month (+13,000). Since reaching an employment trough in May 2010, the industry has added 228,000 jobs.

Information employment also edged up in November (+12,000), with the increase concentrated in motion picture and sound recording (+15,000). On net, information employment has changed little over the past 12 months.

In November, **leisure and hospitality** employment continued to trend up (+23,000). Over the past 12 months, the industry has added 305,000 jobs.

Employment in **construction** declined by 20,000 in November, with much of the loss occurring in construction of buildings (-11,000). Since early 2010, employment in construction has shown no clear trend.

Manufacturing employment changed little over the month. Within the industry, job losses in food manufacturing (-12,000) and chemicals (-9,000) more than offset gains in motor vehicles and parts (+10,000) and wood products (+3,000). On net, manufacturing employment has changed little since this past spring.

Employment in other major industries, including **mining and logging, transportation and warehousing, financial activities, and government**, showed little change in November.

The **average workweek for all employees** on private nonfarm payrolls remained at 34.4 hours in November. The manufacturing workweek edged up by 0.1 hour to 40.6 hours, and factory overtime was unchanged at 3.2 hours. The average workweek for **production and nonsupervisory employees** on private nonfarm payrolls edged up 0.1 hour to 33.7 hours. (See tables B-2 and B-7.)

In November, **average hourly earnings for all employees** on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 4 cents to \$23.63. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have risen by 1.7 percent. In November, average hourly earnings of private-sector **production and nonsupervisory employees** edged up by 3 cents to \$19.84. (See tables B-3 and B-8.)

The change in total nonfarm payroll employment for September was revised from +148,000 to +132,000, and the change for October was revised from +171,000 to +138,000.

The Employment Situation for December is scheduled to be released on Friday, January 4, 2013, at 8:30 a.m. (EST).

Revision of Seasonally Adjusted Household Survey Data

In accordance with usual practice, The Employment Situation release for December 2012, scheduled for January 4, 2013, will incorporate annual revisions in seasonally adjusted unemployment and other labor force series from the household survey. Seasonally adjusted data for the most recent 5 years are subject to revision.

Household Survey Reference Period

In the household survey, the reference period for November 2012 was the calendar week that included the 5th of the month. Typically, the reference period for the household survey is the calendar week that includes the 12th of the month. In accordance with our usual practice for November, the reference and survey periods were a week earlier this year so that household survey interviews would not be conducted during the Thanksgiving holiday.