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Employment Situation Summary

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION -- DECEMBER 2013

The unemployment rate declined from 7.0 percent to 6.7 percent in December, while total nonfarm payroll employment edged up (+74,000), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Employment rose in retail trade and wholesale trade but was down in information.

Revision of Seasonally Adjusted Household Survey Data

Seasonally adjusted household survey data have been revised using updated seasonal adjustment factors, a procedure done at the end of each calendar year. Seasonally adjusted estimates back to January 2009 were subject to revision. The unemployment rates for January 2013 through November 2013 (as originally published and as revised) appear in table A, along with with additional information about the revisions.

Household Survey Data

The number of unemployed persons declined by 490,000 to 10.4 million in December, and the unemployment rate declined by 0.3 percentage point to 6.7 percent. Over the year, the number of unemployed persons and the unemployment rate were down by 1.9 million and 1.2 percentage points, respectively. (See table A-1.)

Among the major worker groups, the unemployment rates for adult men (6.3 percent) and whites (5.9 percent) declined in December. The rates for adult women (6.0 percent), teenagers (20.2 percent), blacks (11.9 percent), and Hispanics (8.3 percent) showed little change. The jobless rate for Asians was 4.1 percent (not seasonally adjusted), down by 2.5 percentage points over the year. (See tables A-1, A-2, and A-3.)

Among the unemployed, the number of job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs decreased by 365,000 in December to 5.4 million. The number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more), at 3.9 million, showed little change; these individuals accounted for 37.7 percent of the unemployed. The number of long-term unemployed has declined by 894,000 over the year. (See tables A-11 and A-12.)

The civilian labor force participation rate declined by 0.2 percentage point to 62.8 percent in December, offsetting a change of the same magnitude in November. In December, the employment-population ratio was unchanged at 58.6 percent. The labor force participation rate declined by 0.8 percentage point over the year, while the employment-population ratio was unchanged. (See table A-1.)

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons (sometimes referred to as involuntary part-time workers) was essentially unchanged at 7.8 million in December. These individuals were working part time because their hours had been cut back or because they were unable to find full-time work. (See table A-8.)

In December, 2.4 million persons were marginally attached to the labor force, little changed from a year earlier. (The 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 917,000 discouraged workers in December, down by 151,000 from a year earlier. 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 December had not searched for work for reasons such as school attendance or family responsibilities. (See table A-16.)

Establishment Survey Data

Total nonfarm payroll employment edged up in December (+74,000). In 2013, job growth averaged 182,000 per month, about the same as in 2012 (+183,000 per month). In December, job gains occurred in retail trade and wholesale trade, while employment declined in information. (See table B-1.)

Employment in retail trade rose by 55,000 in December. Within the industry, job gains occurred in food and beverage stores (+12,000), clothing and accessories stores (+12,000), general merchandise stores (+8,000), and motor vehicle and parts dealers (+7,000). Retail trade added an average of 32,000 jobs per month in 2013.

In December, wholesale trade added 15,000 jobs. Most of the job growth occurred in electronic markets and agents and brokers (+9,000). Wholesale trade added an average of 8,000 jobs per month in 2013.

Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in December (+19,000). In 2013, job growth in professional and business services averaged 53,000 per month. Within the industry, temporary help services added 40,000 jobs in December, while employment in accounting and bookkeeping services declined by 25,000.

Manufacturing employment continued to trend up in December (+9,000). Employment rose in primary metals (+4,000) and petroleum and coal products (+2,000), while electronic instruments (-4,000) lost jobs. Manufacturing added 77,000 jobs in 2013, compared with an increase of 154,000 jobs in 2012.

Employment in mining edged up in December (+5,000). The industry added 29,000 jobs over the year.

Health care employment changed little in December (-6,000). Employment gains in the industry averaged 17,000 per month in 2013, compared with an average monthly gain of 27,000 in 2012.

Employment in information fell by 12,000 in December, driven by a decline in the motion picture and sound recording industry (-14,000). Employment in information was essentially unchanged over the year.

Construction employment edged down in December (-16,000). However, in 2013, the industry added an average of 10,000 jobs per month. Employment in nonresidential specialty trade contractors declined by 13,000 in December, possibly reflecting unusually cold weather in parts of the country.

Employment in other major industries, including transportation and warehousing, financial activities, leisure and hospitality, and government, changed little in December.

The average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls edged down by 0.1 hour to 34.4 hours in December. The manufacturing workweek was unchanged, at 41.0 hours, and factory overtime edged up by 0.1 hour to 3.5 hours. The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls edged down by 0.1 hour to 33.6 hours. (See tables B-2 and B-7.)

In December, average hourly earnings for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls edged up by 2 cents to \$24.17. Over the year, average hourly earnings have risen by 42 cents, or 1.8 percent. In December, average hourly earnings of private-sector production and nonsupervisory employees increased by 3 cents to \$20.35. (See tables B-3 and B-8.)

The change in total nonfarm payroll employment for October remained at +200,000, and the change for November was revised from +203,000 to +241,000. With these revisions, employment gains in October and November were 38,000 higher than previously reported.

The Employment Situation for January is scheduled to be released on Friday, February 7, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. (EST).

Revisions in the Establishment Survey Data

Effective with the release of The Employment Situation for January 2014 on February 7, 2014, the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey will introduce revisions to nonfarm payroll employment, hours, and earnings data to reflect the annual benchmark adjustment for March 2013 and updated seasonal adjustment factors. Not seasonally adjusted data beginning with April 2012 and seasonally adjusted data beginning with January 2009 are subject to revision.

Upcoming Changes to the Household Survey

Effective with the release of The Employment Situation for January 2014 on February 7, 2014, new population controls will be used in the Current Population Survey (CPS) estimation process. These new controls reflect the annual updating of intercensal population estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau. In accordance with usual practice, historical data will not be revised to incorporate the new controls; consequently, household survey data for January 2014 will not be directly comparable with data for December 2013 or earlier periods. A table showing the effects of the new controls on the major labor force series will be included in the January 2014 release.

Upcoming Change to the Household Survey Tables

Effective with the release of The Employment Situation for January 2014 on February 7, 2014, household survey table A-10 will include two new seasonally adjusted series for women age 55 and over--the number of unemployed persons and the unemployment rate. These will replace the series that are currently displayed for this group, which are not seasonally adjusted.

Revision of Seasonally Adjusted Household Survey Data

At the end of each calendar year, BLS routinely updates the seasonal adjustment factors for the labor force series derived from the Current Population Survey (CPS), or household survey. As a result of this process, seasonally adjusted data for January 2009 through November 2013 were subject to revision.

Table A shows the unemployment rates for January 2013 through November 2013, as first published and as revised. The rates changed by one-tenth of a percentage point in 6 of the 11 months and were unchanged in the remaining 5 months. Revised seasonally adjusted data for other major labor force series beginning in December 2012 appear in table B.

An article describing the seasonal adjustment methodology for the household survey data and revised data for January 2013 through November 2013 is available at www.bls.gov/cps/cpsrs2014.pdf.

Historical data for the household series contained in the A tables of this release can be accessed at www.bls.gov/cps/cpsatabs.htm. Revised historical seasonally adjusted data are available at www.bls.gov/cps/data.htm and <http://download.bls.gov/pub/time.series/ln>.

Table A. Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in 2013 and changes due to revision January - November 2013

Month	As First Computed	As Revised	Change
January.....	7.9	7.9	0.0
February.....	7.7	7.7	.0
March.....	7.6	7.5	-.1
April.....	7.5	7.5	.0
May.....	7.6	7.5	-.1
June.....	7.6	7.5	-.1
July.....	7.4	7.3	-.1
August.....	7.3	7.2	-.1
September.....	7.2	7.2	.0
October.....	7.3	7.2	-.1
November.....	7.0	7.0	.0

HOUSEHOLD DATA

Table B. Employment status of the civilian population by sex and age, seasonally adjusted

[Numbers in thousands]

Employment status, sex, and age	2012		2013									
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	

Employment status, sex, and age	2012	2013									
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
TOTAL											
Civilian noninstitutional population⁽¹⁾	244,350	244,663	244,828	244,995	245,175	245,363	245,552	245,756	245,959	246,168	246,381
Civilian labor force	155,485	155,699	155,511	155,099	155,359	155,609	155,822	155,693	155,435	155,473	154,625
Participation rate	63.6	63.6	63.5	63.3	63.4	63.4	63.5	63.4	63.2	63.2	62.8
Employed	143,212	143,384	143,464	143,393	143,676	143,919	144,075	144,285	144,179	144,270	143,485
Employment-population ratio	58.6	58.6	58.6	58.5	58.6	58.7	58.7	58.7	58.6	58.6	58.2
Unemployed	12,273	12,315	12,047	11,706	11,683	11,690	11,747	11,408	11,256	11,203	11,140
Unemployment rate	7.9	7.9	7.7	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.2
Men, 20 years and over											
Civilian noninstitutional population⁽¹⁾	109,308	109,448	109,541	109,635	109,736	109,839	109,943	110,054	110,172	110,292	110,414
Civilian labor force	79,681	79,984	79,897	79,731	79,868	79,867	79,855	79,871	79,610	79,757	79,267
Participation rate	72.9	73.1	72.9	72.7	72.8	72.7	72.6	72.6	72.3	72.3	71.8
Employed	73,924	74,084	74,183	74,190	74,161	74,137	74,265	74,301	74,015	74,151	73,808
Employment-population ratio	67.6	67.7	67.7	67.7	67.6	67.5	67.5	67.5	67.2	67.2	66.8
Unemployed	5,757	5,900	5,714	5,541	5,707	5,729	5,590	5,570	5,595	5,605	5,459
Unemployment rate	7.2	7.4	7.2	6.9	7.1	7.2	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9
Women, 20 years and over											
Civilian noninstitutional population⁽¹⁾	118,170	118,348	118,433	118,520	118,612	118,708	118,804	118,907	119,018	119,131	119,246
Civilian labor force	70,031	69,817	69,770	69,629	69,764	69,871	70,099	69,986	70,115	69,898	69,652
Participation rate	59.3	59.0	58.9	58.7	58.8	58.9	59.0	58.9	58.9	58.7	58.4
Employed	64,901	64,790	64,911	64,838	65,148	65,323	65,340	65,514	65,743	65,539	65,229
Employment-population ratio	54.9	54.7	54.8	54.7	54.9	55.0	55.0	55.1	55.2	55.0	54.7
Unemployed	5,131	5,027	4,859	4,791	4,616	4,548	4,760	4,473	4,372	4,359	4,423
Unemployment rate	7.3	7.2	7.0	6.9	6.6	6.5	6.8	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.4
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years											
Civilian noninstitutional population⁽¹⁾	16,871	16,867	16,854	16,840	16,827	16,816	16,805	16,795	16,770	16,745	16,721
Civilian labor force	5,773	5,898	5,844	5,739	5,727	5,872	5,868	5,836	5,710	5,818	5,706
Participation rate	34.2	35.0	34.7	34.1	34.0	34.9	34.9	34.7	34.1	34.7	34.1
Employed	4,387	4,510	4,370	4,365	4,368	4,459	4,470	4,470	4,421	4,580	4,448
Employment-population ratio	26.0	26.7	25.9	25.9	26.0	26.5	26.6	26.6	26.4	27.4	26.6
Unemployed	1,385	1,388	1,474	1,374	1,360	1,413	1,398	1,365	1,289	1,239	1,258
Unemployment rate	24.0	23.5	25.2	23.9	23.7	24.1	23.8	23.4	22.6	21.3	22.0

Footnotes

⁽¹⁾The population figures are not adjusted for seasonal variation.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data have been revised to reflect updated seasonal adjustment factors.

Employment status, sex, and age	2012	2013									
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.

- [Employment Situation Summary Table A. Household data, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Employment Situation Summary Table B. Establishment data, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Employment Situation Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Employment Situation Technical Note](#)
- [Table A-1. Employment status of the civilian population by sex and age](#)
- [Table A-2. Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, and age](#)
- [Table A-3. Employment status of the Hispanic or Latino population by sex and age](#)
- [Table A-4. Employment status of the civilian population 25 years and over by educational attainment](#)
- [Table A-5. Employment status of the civilian population 18 years and over by veteran status, period of service, and sex, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-6. Employment status of the civilian population by sex, age, and disability status, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-7. Employment status of the civilian population by nativity and sex, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-8. Employed persons by class of worker and part-time status](#)
- [Table A-9. Selected employment indicators](#)
- [Table A-10. Selected unemployment indicators, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-11. Unemployed persons by reason for unemployment](#)
- [Table A-12. Unemployed persons by duration of unemployment](#)
- [Table A-13. Employed and unemployed persons by occupation, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-14. Unemployed persons by industry and class of worker, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-15. Alternative measures of labor underutilization](#)
- [Table A-16. Persons not in the labor force and multiple jobholders by sex, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table B-1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail](#)
- [Table B-2. Average weekly hours and overtime of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table B-3. Average hourly and weekly earnings of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table B-4. Indexes of aggregate weekly hours and payrolls for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table B-5. Employment of women on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table B-6. Employment of production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted\(1\)](#)
- [Table B-7. Average weekly hours and overtime of production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted\(1\)](#)
- [Table B-8. Average hourly and weekly earnings of production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted\(1\)](#)
- [Table B-9. Indexes of aggregate weekly hours and payrolls for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted\(1\)](#)
- [Access to historical data for the "A" tables of the Employment Situation Release](#)
- [Access to historical data for the "B" tables of the Employment Situation Release](#)
- [HTML version of the entire news release](#)

[The PDF version of the news release](#)[Table of Contents](#)**Last Modified Date:** January 10, 2014RECOMMEND THIS PAGE USING: [!\[\]\(83f22ed94ec5517769dd76d702c6bfd8_img.jpg\) Facebook](#) [!\[\]\(58518edde73d42d67a35a8ed26134c7b_img.jpg\) Twitter](#) [!\[\]\(256548e00e7fa4879dddf376cbbab973_img.jpg\) LinkedIn](#)**TOOLS**

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