

## Executive Summary

This is the 14th edition of state-by-state snapshots issued by the Joint Economic Committee during the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress and includes state-level data through January 2012.

This month's report shows that nearly four of five states gained private-sector jobs in January. Nationally, 285,000 private-sector positions were added in the U.S. during the month. Overall, the economic picture has continued to brighten in the first months of 2012, with the momentum from the 4th quarter of 2011 carrying over into the first quarter of the new year. ISM readings for January and February marked the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> consecutive months, respectively, of expansion in the manufacturing sector. Retail sales grew by 1.1 percent in February, following a gain of 0.6 percent in January.

Against this national backdrop, this report highlights progress at the state level in creating private-sector jobs and reducing unemployment and tracks the employment gains in key sectors, including manufacturing and professional and business services.

Additionally, the report includes new data from BLS showing the 2011 average unemployment rates for Post-9/11 veterans (those who have been on active duty since September 2001) and for all veterans. Post-9/11 veterans faced higher unemployment rates than the overall veteran population in 41 states and the District of Columbia. Post-9/11 veterans in Oregon had the highest unemployment rate (24.1 percent). Oregon also had the largest difference between the Post-9/11 unemployment rate (24.1 percent) and the overall veteran-unemployment rate (11.5 percent) – a gap of 12.6 percentage points. Nationally, Post-9/11 veterans had an average unemployment rate in 2011 almost 4 percentage points higher than overall veteran-unemployment rate, 12.1 percent vs. 8.3 percent.

Other report highlights include:

- Thirty-nine states added private-sector jobs in January. Texas (73,800) had the largest private-sector gains, accounting for more than one quarter of all private-sector jobs added in the United States, followed by New York (45,500) and Ohio (32,700). In the past 12 months, 46 states and the District of Columbia gained private-sector jobs, with Texas (332,600), California (167,500) and New York (136,700) recording the largest gains. Seven other states (Georgia, Michigan, Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Washington) posted private-sector job gains exceeding 50,000 jobs each. Only Mississippi and Rhode Island lost private-sector positions over the past 12 months,

while Alaska and Delaware saw no change. From January 2011 - January 2012, North Dakota (7.4 percent), Texas (3.9 percent) and the District of Columbia (2.9 percent) had the largest percentage gains in private-sector employment.

- Forty-five states and the District of Columbia saw their unemployment rates decline in January, with fourteen states recording statistically significant decreases. Mississippi and Missouri (-0.5 percentage point each) experienced the largest decreases. In the past 12 months, Michigan reported the largest decline in the unemployment rate (-1.9 percentage points), followed by Utah (-1.8 percentage points). Twenty other states recorded statistically significant declines over the past year. Nevada (12.7 percent) had the highest unemployment rate in January, followed by California and Rhode Island (10.9 percent each). North Dakota had the lowest unemployment rate (3.2 percent). The national unemployment rate during the month was 8.3 percent, down from 9.1 percent a year earlier.
- Manufacturing employment expanded in 39 states in January. The largest gains were in Michigan (16,300), followed by Missouri (4,300) and New Jersey (4,000). In the past 12 months, eight states – Michigan, Texas, Ohio, Indiana, Washington, Iowa, South Carolina and Illinois– each added more than 10,000 manufacturing positions.
- Thirty-four states added jobs in the professional and business services sector in January. New York (18,400), Texas (18,100) and Arizona (9,400) posted the largest increases. In the past year, 44 states and the District of Columbia have added professional and business services jobs, with Texas, California and New York recording the largest gains. In the last year, 614,000 jobs were added in the professional and business services sector.
- Thirty-eight states added jobs in the leisure and hospitality sector during January. Texas (17,100), Ohio (6,800) and New York (6,600) saw the largest gains. In the past 12 months, 34 states and the District of Columbia added leisure and hospitality jobs. During this period, 372,000 leisure and hospitality jobs were added.

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