

Executive Summary

This is the 24th edition of state-by-state snapshots issued by the Joint Economic Committee during the 112th Congress and includes state-level data through November 2012.

This month's report shows that more than three out of five states gained private-sector jobs in November. Nationally, private-sector job gains totaled 147,000 during the month. Retail sales increased by 0.3 percent during November, following a 0.3 percent decline in October. Manufacturing activity, as measured by the ISM Manufacturing Index, contracted in November, after two months of moderate expansion. However, according to the Federal Reserve, manufacturing output increased by 1.1 percent during the month after a 1.0 percent decline in October that was attributed, in part, to the impact of Hurricane Sandy, which hit in late October.

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

Report highlights include:

- Thirty-two states added private-sector jobs in November. North Carolina (28,200) had the largest private-sector gains, followed by Florida (24,300), and Texas (20,800). In the past 12 months, 43 states gained private-sector jobs, with California (303,100), Texas (266,400), and Ohio (102,600) recording the largest gains. Alaska, the District of Columbia, Maine, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Rhode Island, West Virginia, and Wyoming lost private-sector positions during the last year. From November 2011 – November 2012, North Dakota (6.3), Utah (3.8 percent), and Hawaii (3.2 percent) had the largest percentage gains in private-sector employment. During this period, just over 1.9 million private-sector positions were added nationally.
- Twenty-three states had statistically significant decreases in the unemployment rate during November. Louisiana (-0.8 percentage point) and Nevada (-0.7 percentage point) had the largest declines. In the past 12 months, 22 states and the District of Columbia reported statistically significant decreases in the unemployment rate, with Nevada (-2.4 percentage points), Mississippi (-2.1 percentage points), and Florida (-2.0 points) recording the largest declines. Nevada (10.8 percent) had the highest unemployment rate in November, followed by Rhode Island (10.4 percent). North Dakota again had the lowest unemployment rate (3.1 percent). The national unemployment rate during the month was 7.7 percent, down from 8.7 percent a year earlier.
- Manufacturing employment expanded in 30 states in November. Ohio added 4,700 manufacturing jobs, North Carolina saw a gain of 3,900, and Wisconsin picked up 2,800

manufacturing positions during the month. In the past 12 months, 31 states added manufacturing positions, with the largest gains in the Midwest. Illinois (22,900), Indiana (21,800), and Michigan (17,900) recorded the biggest gains in the past year. Overall, 174,000 manufacturing positions have been added across the country in the last 12 months.

- Twenty-five states added jobs in the professional and business services sector in November. New York (8,500), New Jersey (8,300), and Illinois (7,300) posted the largest increases. In the past year, 41 states have added professional and business services jobs, with California, New York and Texas recording the largest gains. During this period, 533,000 jobs were added in the professional and business services sector.
- Twenty-seven states added jobs in the leisure and hospitality sector during November. Florida (14,600), Texas (6,500), and North Carolina (4,600) saw the largest gains. In the past 12 months, 42 states added leisure and hospitality jobs. During this time, leisure and hospitality employment increased by 305,000 positions.

Prepared by the Chairman's Staff of the Joint Economic Committee

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