

Executive Summary

This is the 22nd edition of state-by-state snapshots issued by the Joint Economic Committee during the 112th Congress and includes state-level data through September 2012.

This month's report shows that two out of three states gained private-sector jobs in September. Nationally, private-sector job gains totaled 104,000 during the month. Retail sales increased in September by 1.1 percent, after a gain of 1.2 percent in August. Manufacturing activity, as measured by the ISM Manufacturing Index, expanded in September, after three consecutive months of contraction.

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-three states and the District of Columbia added private-sector jobs in September. Texas (29,600) had the largest private-sector gains, followed by Pennsylvania (17,200) and California (14,900). In the past 12 months, 44 states and the District of Columbia gained private-sector jobs, with California (303,100), Texas (272,400) and New York (125,900) recording the largest gains. Maine, Mississippi, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Wisconsin and West Virginia lost private-sector positions during the last year. From September 2011 – September 2012, North Dakota (7.2 percent), Kentucky (3.2) and Texas (3.1 percent) had the largest percentage gains in private-sector employment. During this period, nearly 1.9 million private-sector positions were added nationally.
- Seventeen states had statistically significant decreases in the unemployment rate during September and the remaining states and the District of Columbia did not have changes that were significant. South Carolina (-0.5 percentage point) and California, Hawaii, Louisiana and Utah (-0.4 point each) had the largest declines. In the past 12 months, 20 states and the District of Columbia reported statistically significant decreases in the unemployment rate, with Nevada (-1.8 percentage points) recording the largest decline. Nevada (11.8 percent) had the highest unemployment rate in September, followed by Rhode Island (10.5 percent) and California (10.2 percent). North Dakota again had the lowest unemployment rate (3.0 percent). The national unemployment rate during the month was 7.8 percent, down from 9.0 percent a year earlier.

- Manufacturing employment expanded in just 13 states in September, as the nation lost 16,000 manufacturing jobs during the month. Texas added 3,800 manufacturing jobs, New Jersey gained 900 and Florida, Oklahoma, South Carolina and South Dakota each saw a gain of 700. In the past 12 months, 30 states added manufacturing positions, with the largest gains in the Midwest. Illinois (21,000), Indiana (19,500) and Texas (17,300) recorded the biggest gains in the past year. Overall, 174,000 manufacturing positions have been added across the country in the last 12 months.
- Thirty-two states added jobs in the professional and business services sector in September. Texas (13,600), Pennsylvania (7,900) and Illinois (7,800) posted the largest increases. In the past year, 40 states have added professional and business services jobs, with California, New York and Texas recording the largest gains. In the last year, 515,000 jobs were added in the professional and business services sector.
- Twenty-six states and the District of Columbia added jobs in the leisure and hospitality sector during September. California (10,700), Massachusetts (6,200) and Washington (4,700) saw the largest gains. In the past 12 months, 39 states and the District of Columbia added leisure and hospitality jobs. During this period, leisure and hospitality employment increased by 306,000 positions.

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