

Executive Summary

This is the eighth edition of state-by-state snapshots issued by the Joint Economic Committee during the 112th Congress and includes data through July 2011.

This month's report shows that more than four out of five states added private-sector jobs in July. Nationally, the pace of private-sector job gains increased in July to 154,000, from gains of 80,000 and 99,000 in June and May, respectively. Retail sales, a key indicator of consumer health, increased by 0.5 percent in July, the strongest growth achieved since March of this year. Manufacturing data from July, on the other hand, suggest that the pace of recovery may be decelerating, with the ISM Manufacturing Index dropping to 50.9 percent in July. While July marked the 24th consecutive month of expansion in the manufacturing sector, July's ISM reading was the lowest since July 2009.

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.

Report highlights include:

- Forty-one states and the District of Columbia added private-sector jobs in July. Texas's private sector saw the largest expansion during the month, adding 38,700 jobs, followed by New York (14,100) and Pennsylvania (12,500). In the past 12 months, 10 states (Texas, California, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Massachusetts, Illinois, Washington and Florida) have each added 45,000 or more private-sector jobs. Only Delaware and Indiana lost private-sector positions in the past year. From July 2010 - July 2011, North Dakota (6.5 percent), Oklahoma (3.4 percent) and Texas (3.4 percent) had the largest percentage gains in private-sector employment.
- Despite private-sector job growth in a majority of the states, 28 states and the District of Columbia saw their unemployment rates increase in July, with ten of those states and DC recording statistically significant increases. Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, South Carolina and the District of Columbia saw the largest increases in the unemployment rate (each increasing by 0.4 percentage point.) New Hampshire, California, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas also recorded statistically significant increases while the remaining 40 states did not have changes in the unemployment rate that were statistically significant. In the past 12 months, Nevada (-2.0 percentage points), New Mexico (-1.8 percentage points) and Indiana (-1.6 percentage points) had the largest decreases in the unemployment rate. Eight other states (Michigan, Oklahoma, Oregon, Wyoming, Ohio, Florida, Virginia and North Dakota) had statistically significant

unemployment rate declines in the past 12 months. The remaining 39 states and DC did not have statistically significant changes in the unemployment rate in the past year. Nevada (12.9 percent) and California (12.0 percent) had the highest unemployment rates in July. The national unemployment rate during the month was 9.1 percent.

- Manufacturing employment expanded in 32 states in July. The largest gains were in Ohio which added 7,900 manufacturing jobs, followed by Michigan (4,900) and Tennessee (4,000). Overall, the United States has added 165,000 manufacturing jobs in the past twelve months. Seven states – Texas (20,000), Michigan (15,200), California (15,000), Wisconsin (15,000), Missouri (12,600), Ohio (11,900) and Illinois (11,300) – have each added more than 10,000 manufacturing positions during the past year.
- Thirty states and the District of Columbia added jobs in the professional and business services sector in July. New York (7,200), Ohio (6,000) and Kentucky (4,800) posted the largest increases. In the past year, 42 states and the District of Columbia have added professional and business services jobs, with California, Texas and New York recording the largest gains.
- A slim majority of states (26) added jobs in the leisure and hospitality sector during July. Texas (7,500), Colorado (3,100) and Pennsylvania (2,900) saw the largest gains. In the past 12 months, 43 states have added leisure and hospitality jobs. During this period, 212,000 leisure and hospitality jobs have been added.

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