

North American Employment Trends – September 10, 2010

Issue: Statistics Canada and the US Bureau of Labor Statistics have released August's employment estimates. Employment in Canada remained fairly stable while employment in US was stronger than expected.

US Highlights:

- According to the Establishment Survey, US employment in August 2010 fell by 54,000 as more census workers were dismissed. Job cuts in July and June totaled 54,000 (revised) and 175,000 (revised) respectively.
- Due to revisions made to the payroll employment, the total year-to-date employment gains for 2010 are 723,000.
- The private sector added an unexpected 67,000 jobs to payroll while the service sector lost 54,000 jobs. Employment in the goods producing sector remained unchanged from July. Employment in the education/healthcare, professional/business services and leisure/hospitality increased by 45,000, 20,000 and 13,000 respectively. About 4,900 jobs were lost in the retail sector while the financial services also lost 4,000 jobs.
- According to the (separate) Household Survey, in August, the unemployment rate inched up 0.1 percentage points from July's unemployment rate to 9.6%.

Canadian Highlights:

- In August 2010, Canadian employment rose by 35,800 from July 2010. Public sector employment rose by 57,500 while private sector employment fell 39,900 from July 2010. The number of self-employed individuals and the number of people working as employees all rose by 18,200 and 17,600 respectively over the same period.
- An increase in full-time employment by 79,900 was offset by a decrease in part-time jobs by 44,000 between July and August. Hence, the net 35,800 jobs added to payroll were fulltime jobs.
- The service producing sector gained 43,900 jobs while the goods producing sector lost 8,200 jobs. The largest gains in the service producing sector were from educational services (up 68,400), professional, scientific and technical services (up 28,300), and public administration (up 6,900). All other sectors in the service producing sector registered decreases to payroll. For the goods producing sector, a total of 25,600 manufacturing jobs were lost to payroll while employment in the agriculture sector fell by 4,000. Employment in construction sector rose by 12,000 while employment in the natural resources sector rose by 9,300.
- The unemployment rate edged up 0.1 percentage points from July's to 8.1% in August due to an increase in the size of the labour force.

Alberta Highlights:

- Alberta lost 4,700 jobs between July and August, as full-time jobs rose by 10,900 and part-time jobs fell 15,600. Employment in the goods producing sector fell by 2,000 and employment in the service producing sector fell by 2,700.
- In the goods producing sector, the only job losses was registered for manufacturing (down 5,200) and utilities (1,900). Employment in the forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas sector rose by 2,600 and employment in agriculture sector rose by 1,300.
- In the service sector, the only employment gains were registered for educational services (up 7,300) and retail and wholesale trade (up 4,900). Employment fell in health care and social assistance (down 3,800) and finance, insurance real estate and leasing (down 3,200).
- On a year-over-year basis, employment in August rose 29,000 or 1.5% from August 2010.
- The unemployment rate increased to 6.5% in August from July's 6.3%.

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