

January 7, 2022

## Job growth remains slow

- The U.S. labor market remained sluggish in December with the addition of 199,000 jobs, less than half of analyst expectations. December's job gains, along with revisions, brought total job creation in 2021 to 6.4 million, but overall U.S. employment remains down by around 3.6 million compared to pre-pandemic levels.
- U.S. job gains were primarily driven by the leisure and hospitality sector, which added 53K jobs in December. The professional and business services sector added 43K jobs, while the manufacturing and the construction sectors each added more than 20K jobs during the month.
- The unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 3.9% in December while the labor force participation rate held at 61.9% and remains well below pre-pandemic levels.
- Average hourly earnings increased to \$31.31, a 19-cent increase over November and up 4.8% year-over-year as employers continue to raise wages in order to attract and retain talent.
- It's important to note that December's sluggish job creation figures do not reflect the full impact of the ongoing omicron surge which is likely to add more disruption and uncertainty to labor markets in early 2022.

### NOTABLE SECTORS

Leisure and Hospitality	+53K
Professional and Business Services	+43K
Manufacturing	+26K
Construction	+22K

U.S. EMPLOYMENT ROSE BY  
**199,000**  
IN DECEMBER

AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS  
**\$31.31**  
4.7% ABOVE LAST YEAR

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FELL TO  
**3.9%**  
6.7% LAST DECEMBER

### US Monthly Job Change and Unemployment Rate

