

November 6, 2020

Job growth slows again

- The U.S. labor market continued to add jobs back in October, but the pace of recovery remains slow. Employers hired 638,000 workers in October, a slight slowdown from 672,000 in September.
- Despite six straight months of job gains, U.S. employment is still down roughly 10 million from its level in February 2020.
- Job gains in October were led by workers returning to the leisure and hospitality sector (271,000). The professional and business services sector also added jobs, with around half the increase coming from temporary workers. Retail hiring also increased ahead of the coming holiday season.
- The unemployment rate fell by a percentage point to 6.9% as some workers re-entered the labor force. Unemployment is still roughly double the rate of a year ago.
- Slowing job growth, along with still-high unemployment and low labor force participation, suggest that the labor market is still reeling from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOTABLE SECTORS

Leisure & Hospitality	+271K
Professional & Business Services	+208K
Retail Trade	+104K
Government	-268K

U.S. EMPLOYMENT ROSE BY

638,000

IN OCTOBER

AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS

\$29.50

4.5% ABOVE LAST YEAR

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FELL TO

6.9%

3.6% LAST OCTOBER

US Monthly Job Change and Unemployment Rate

