THE TOP LINE: U.S. EMPLOYMENT REPORT

January 2021 (Released February 5, 2021)

JOB GROWTH

Monthly Change in Nonfarm Payroll Employment, Thousands



36k 13.7 Local Government Down 0.4 percentage point from December 2020, 31k 5.0 State Government Up 2.8 percentage points from January 2020 2.7 Information 16k Mining and Logging 9k 0.6 8.8 6.3% **Financial Activities** 8k 5.5 Other Services 7k 7.4 Construction -3k 23.2 3.4% Education and Health Services -7k 12.2 Manufacturing -10k 2.9 Federal Government -24k 27.1 Trade, Transportation, and Utilities -50k Long-Term Official Broad 13.0 Leisure and Hospitality -61k Unemployment* Unemployment* Unemployment*

* Long-term unemployment accounts for those that have been unemployed for 15 weeks or more (U1); Official unemployment accounts for all those unemployed (U3); Broad unemployment accounts for all those unemployed plus all persons marginally attached to the labor force and those employed part-time for economic reasons (U6).

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Top Line

The U.S. economy gained 49k jobs in January, in line with consensus estimates but coming off an especially weak December jobs report after revisions showed 87k more jobs lost last month than originally estimated. The headline unemployment rate declined to 6.3%, while the labor force participation rate fell lower to 61.4%. Will a lackluster jobs report bolster support for a larger federal stimulus package?

+49k Change in Payroll Employment

The US labor market gained 49k jobs in January, in line with expectations. However, a downward revision to December employment indicates January's increase is weaker than the headline number suggests. The increase was concentrated in Professional & Business Services, Local Government, and State Government.

6.3%

Unemployment Rate

The headline unemployment rate fell 0.4 percentage point to 6.3% in January. As in prior months during the pandemic, part of the decline can be attributed to a worrying fall in labor force participation. Long-term unemployment, the share of the labor force unemployed for 15 weeks or longer, was unchanged at 3.4%.

61.4% Labor Force Participation Rate

The labor force participation rate ticked down 0.1 percentage point to 61.4% in January and is down 2.0 percentage points from January of last year.

5.4%

Annual Change in Average Hourly Earnings

Average hourly earnings rose six cents in January to \$29.96, 5.4% above year-ago levels. Average earnings remain artificially elevated because pandemic job losses to date have been concentrated in lower-wage occupations.

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