ADP National Employment Report: Private Sector Employment Decreased by 2,760,000 Jobs in May; the May NER Utilizes Data Through May 12 and Does Not Reflect the Full Impact of COVID-19 on the Overall Employment Situation

ROSELAND, N.J. – June 3, 2020 – Private sector employment decreased by 2,760,000 jobs from April to May according to the May ADP National Employment Report®. The report utilizes data through the 12th of the month. The NER uses the same time period the Bureau of Labor and Statistics uses for their survey. As such, the May NER does not reflect the full impact of COVID-19 on the overall employment situation.

Broadly distributed to the public each month, free of charge, the ADP National Employment Report is produced by the ADP Research Institute® in collaboration with Moody’s Analytics. The report, which is derived from ADP’s actual payroll data, measures the change in total nonfarm private employment each month on a seasonally-adjusted basis.

May 2020 Report Highlights*


Total U.S. Nonfarm Private Employment: -2,760,000

By Company Size
- Small businesses: -435,000
  o 1-19 employees -253,000
  o 20-49 employees -182,000
- Medium businesses: -722,000
  o 50-499 employees -722,000
- Large businesses: -1,604,000
  o 500-999 employees -272,000
  o 1,000+ employees -1,332,000

By Sector
- Goods-producing: -794,000
  o Natural resources/mining -52,000
  o Construction -22,000
  o Manufacturing -719,000
- Service-providing: -1,967,000
  o Trade/transportation/utilities -826,000
  o Information -115,000
  o Financial activities -196,000
  o Professional/business services -250,000
    ▪ Professional/technical services -221,000
    ▪ Management of companies/enterprises -70,000
    ▪ Administrative/support
services 40,000
  o Education/health services -168,000
    ▪ Health care/social assistance -333,000
    ▪ Education 166,000
  o Leisure/hospitality -105,000
  o Other services -307,000

* Sum of components may not equal total, due to rounding.

- Franchise Employment**
  o Franchise jobs -254,100

**Complete details on franchise employment can be found here.

“The impact of the COVID-19 crisis continues to weigh on businesses of all sizes,” said Ahu Yildirmaz, co-head of the ADP Research Institute. “While the labor market is still reeling from the effects of the pandemic, job loss likely peaked in April, as many states have begun a phased reopening of businesses.”

Chart 1. Change in Total Nonfarm Private Employment

Thousands

[Chart showing changes in nonfarm private employment from May 2019 to May 2020, with significant drops in March and April.]
Chart 2. Historical Trend – Change in Total Nonfarm Private Employment

Chart 3. Change in Nonfarm Private Employment by Industry

May 2020

Sources: ADP Research Institute®
The matched sample used to develop the ADP National Employment Report was derived from ADP payroll data, which represents 460,000 U.S. clients employing nearly 26 million workers in the U.S. The April total of jobs lost was revised from -20,236,000 to -19,557,000.

To obtain additional information about the ADP National Employment Report, including additional charts, supporting data and the schedule of future release dates, or to subscribe to the monthly email alerts and RSS feeds, please visit www.adpemploymentreport.com.

The June 2020 ADP National Employment Report will be released at 8:15 a.m. ET on July 1, 2020.

About the ADP National Employment Report®
The ADP National Employment Report® is a monthly measure of the change in total U.S. nonfarm private employment derived from actual, anonymous payroll data of client companies served by ADP®, a leading provider of human capital management solutions. The report, which measures nearly 26 million U.S. workers, is produced by the ADP Research Institute®, a specialized group within the company that provides insights around employment trends and workforce strategy, in collaboration with Moody’s Analytics, Inc.

Each month, ADP Research Institute issues the ADP National Employment Report as part of the company’s commitment to adding deeper insights into the U.S. labor market and providing businesses, governments and others with a source of credible and valuable information. The ADP National Employment Report is broadly distributed to the public each month, free of charge.
The data for this report is collected for pay periods that can be interpolated to include the week of the 12th of each month, and processed with statistical methodologies similar to those used by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to compute employment from its monthly survey of establishments. Due to this processing, this subset is modified to make it indicative of national employment levels; therefore, the resulting employment changes computed for the ADP National Employment Report are not representative of changes in ADP’s total base of U.S. business clients.

For a description of the underlying data and the statistical model used to create this report, please see the ADP National Employment Report: Development Methodology.

About the ADP Research Institute
The mission of the ADP Research Institute is to generate data-driven discoveries about the world of work, and to derive reliable economic indicators from these insights. We offer these findings to the world at large as our unique contribution to making the world of work better and more productive, and to bring greater awareness to the economy at large.

About Moody’s Analytics
Moody’s Analytics provides financial intelligence and analytical tools to help business leaders make better, faster decisions. Our deep risk expertise, expansive information resources, and innovative application of technology help our clients confidently navigate an evolving marketplace. We are known for our industry-leading and award-winning solutions, made up of research, data, software, and professional services, assembled to deliver a seamless customer experience. We create confidence in thousands of organizations worldwide, with our commitment to excellence, open mindset approach, and focus on meeting customer needs.

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