

# Jobs Picture –December 2011

## Employment and Unemployment Stats at a Glance

<b>Official unemployment rate</b>	<b>8.5%</b>
<b>"Real" unemployment rate</b>	<b>15.2%</b>
<b>Number unemployed</b>	<b>13.1 million</b>
<b>Number unemployed more than 6 months</b>	<b>5.6 million</b>
<b>Average duration of unemployment</b>	<b>40.8 weeks</b>
<b>Jobs deficit: jobs needed for full employment</b>	<b>12.1 million</b>
<b>Job growth in December</b>	<b>200,000</b>

*"Real" unemployment includes people working part-time for economic reasons and workers who have searched for work recently and are available to work, but are no longer considered officially unemployed because they are not currently looking for work. All figures are adjusted for seasonal variation.*

- Employment growth picked up in December, with 200,000 new jobs added over the month. Average monthly job growth in the second half of the year (142,000) represented a slight improvement over the rate in the first half (131,000). The 8.5% unemployment rate at year's end was the lowest since early 2009.
- Manufacturing employment, which had been essentially flat for several months, strengthened in December, with 23,000 jobs created. Last year was the first time since 1998 that U.S. manufacturing employment has grown on a year-over-year basis. The nation's factories employed 225,000 more people in December 2011 than they did in December 2010. The motor vehicle and parts industry (which includes heavy truck as well as auto) accounts for a disproportionate share of those new manufacturing jobs, with 6,500 added over the month and 49,900 over the year.
- Cuts in the public sector continue to depress the broader job market. Year-end employment in government at all levels was down 280,000 from 2010.
- The jobs deficit – the number of jobs needed to return the country to pre-recession employment levels, factoring in growth in the labor force – was 12.1 million in December. Reducing the unemployment rate to 5 percent within 3 years would require the creation of roughly 461,000 jobs per month.

For the full employment situation release, go to <http://stats.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.toc.htm>  
January data will be released Friday, February 3.