

Jobs Picture – January 2010

Employment and Unemployment Stats at a Glance

Official unemployment rate	9.7 percent
"Real" unemployment rate	16.5 percent
Number unemployed	14.8 million
Average duration of unemployment	30.2 weeks
Jobs lost since recession started (12/07)	8.4 million
Manufacturing job losses since recession started	2.2 million

"Real" unemployment includes people working part-time for economic reasons and workers who have searched for work and are available to work but are no longer considered officially unemployed. All figures are adjusted for seasonal variation.

- Employment showed very little movement in January as 20,000 jobs were lost. The unemployment rate dropped to 9.7 percent from 10 percent in December. Reinforcing the improvement in the unemployment rate was a small increase in the employment to population ratio.
- In another sign of modest improvement in the labor market, hours worked increased and temporary help employment continued to grow.
- Manufacturing's job loss streak came to an end as the sector added 11,000 jobs on the strength of auto which added 23,000 jobs over the month.
- Other sectors adding jobs in January included retail (42,000), professional and business services (44,000), health care (14,500) and federal government (33,000).
- Although the labor market may be at a turning point, it remains at a seriously depressed level. The average duration of unemployment is 30 weeks and over 40 percent of the officially unemployed have been out of work for over 6 months.
- Revisions to employment data resulted in an increase in the number of jobs lost since the recession started to 8.4 million from 7.2 million as reported in December.

For the full employment situation release, go to <http://stats.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.toc.htm>
Next update: Friday, March 5, 2010