

# Jobs Picture – May 2010

## Employment and Unemployment Stats at a Glance

<b>Official unemployment rate</b>	<b>9.7 percent</b>
<b>"Real" unemployment rate</b>	<b>16.6 percent</b>
<b>Number unemployed</b>	<b>15 million</b>
<b>Average duration of unemployment</b>	<b>34.4 weeks</b>
<b>Jobs Deficit: jobs needed for full-employment</b>	<b>11.1 million</b>
<b>Job growth in May</b>	<b>431,000</b>

*"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.*

- Private sector job creation nearly ground to a halt in May with just 41,000 new jobs. Overall, employment was up a healthy 431,000, but nearly all of those jobs are temporary Census jobs. This weak jobs report shows the labor market still has a long road to recovery and workers still need assistance.
- The temporary Census jobs helped bring the unemployment rate down to 9.7 percent from 9.9 percent in April.
- The long-term unemployment crisis continues with the average duration of unemployment increasing to 34.4 weeks in May. Nearly 6.8 million workers have been out of a job for 6 months or more; that's 46 percent of the officially unemployed. If discouraged workers who aren't actively looking for work were included the number would be much higher.
- Manufacturing employment continued to improve, adding 29,000 jobs over the month, including 9,300 in the auto sector. Temporary help services also expanded in May, adding 31,000 jobs.
- Although the jobs deficit declined in May it remains above 11 million jobs. Since January, job growth has averaged 200,000 jobs per month. At that pace it would take over a decade to get back to full-employment.

For the full employment situation release, go to <http://stats.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.toc.htm>  
Next update: Monday, July 12, 2010