

# JOBS REPORT AT A GLANCE

DECEMBER 2021

## QUICK FACTS

- Employers looking to hire can take some encouragement from the modest 199,000 jobs added in December 2021.
- Unemployment continues to decline and labor force participation continues to inch up. Yet, employers still face significant obstacles reaching the long-term unemployed, who now account for a third of the total unemployed workforce as well as retaining workers as “The Great Resignation” continues.
- While the BLS numbers are weaker than expected, there likely will be retroactive upward revisions to come, as has been the case for several months.
- The BLS survey also falls mid-month, so we can expect to see the ripple effects of the omicron variant in the January and February 2022 job reports.
- It’s more important than ever that employers understand the drivers of today’s workforce, including wages, flexibility, and safety.
- Average hourly wages rose nominally (+0.90% m/m) in December and we continue to see our clients who raise wages competing effectively in the limited pool of workers.
- We also find that with whole sectors of hiring diminished by the pandemic (hospitality added only 53,000 jobs this month), attracting long-term unemployed may require offering training them to enter a new field.

Unemployment Rate

**3.9%**

Down 7.14% month  
over month

Hourly Wages

**\$31.31**

Up 0.90% month  
over month

Labor Participation

**61.9%**

Up 0.16% month  
over month

Jobs added in  
December

**199K**

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics