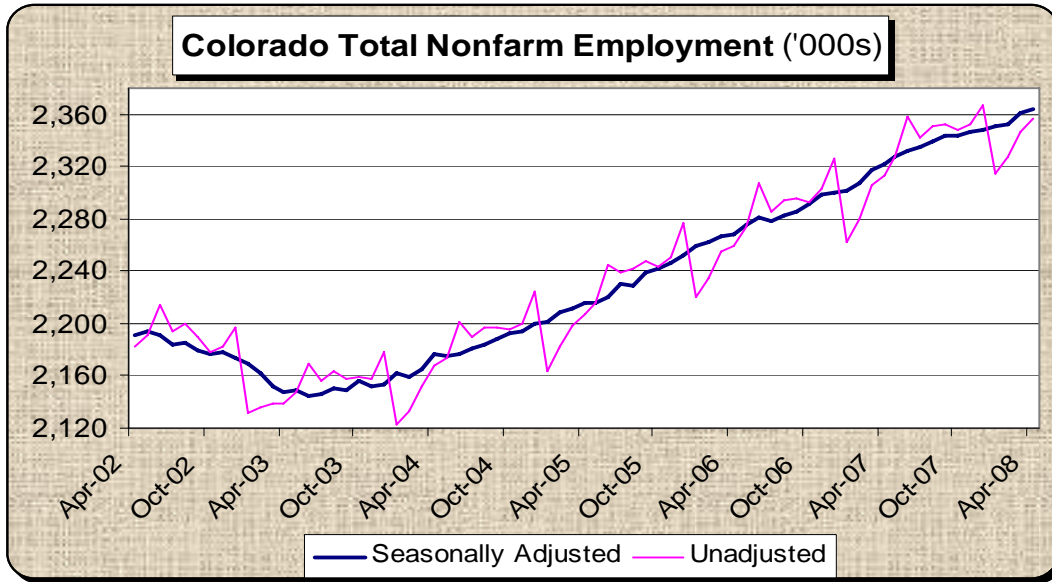


CES Written Comments for Colorado, April 2008

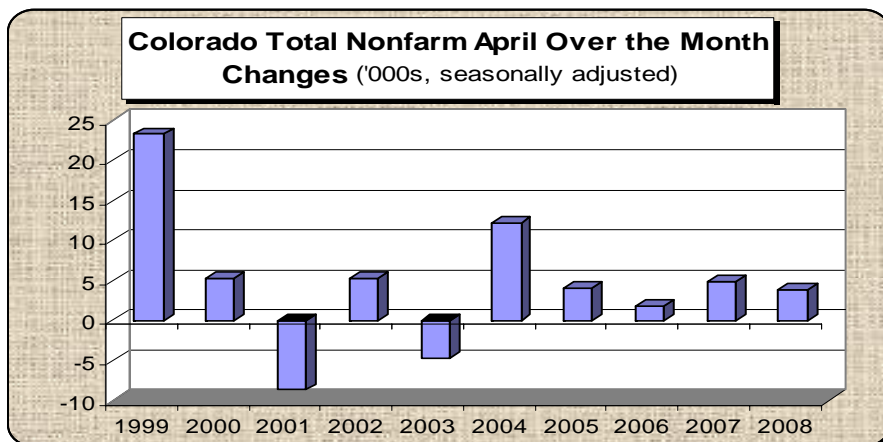
Colorado Preliminary Estimates By: Chris Akers

Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment: + 3,800 (0.2%)

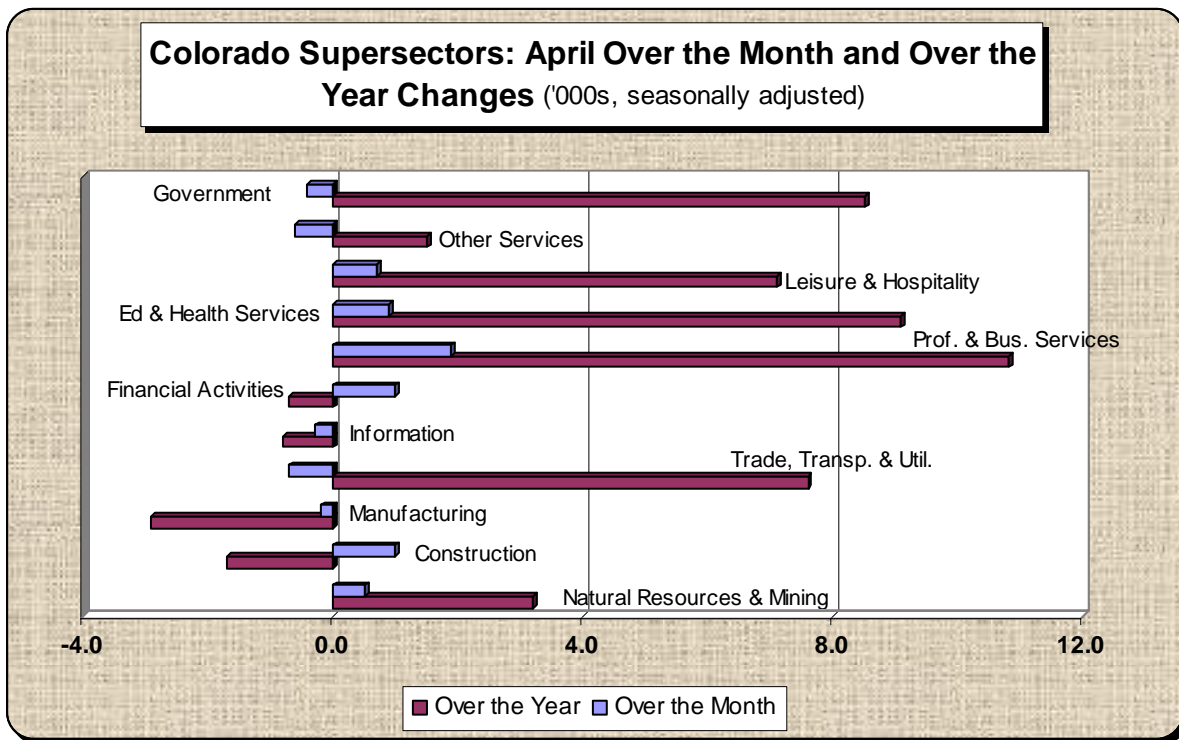
Seasonally adjusted



Colorado added a seasonally adjusted 3,600 nonfarm positions in April. With this increase, payroll employment of 2,364,200 is now 5.1% above the December 2000 peak. Employment changes in the supersectors were mixed, with six adding positions and five paring jobs. Professional & business services experienced its largest increase in one year, growing by 1,900 to lead the gaining industries. Two recently slumping industries, construction and financial activities, posted employment gains of 1,000 apiece. Education & health services followed closely with 900 new hires, leisure & hospitality payrolls rose 700, and natural resources & mining added 500 positions to round out the gainers. Trade, transportation & utilities (TTU) and other services experienced employment declines of 700 and 600, respectively. Public sector payrolls fell, with government paring 400; information trended down 300 jobs and manufacturing fell 200 over the month.

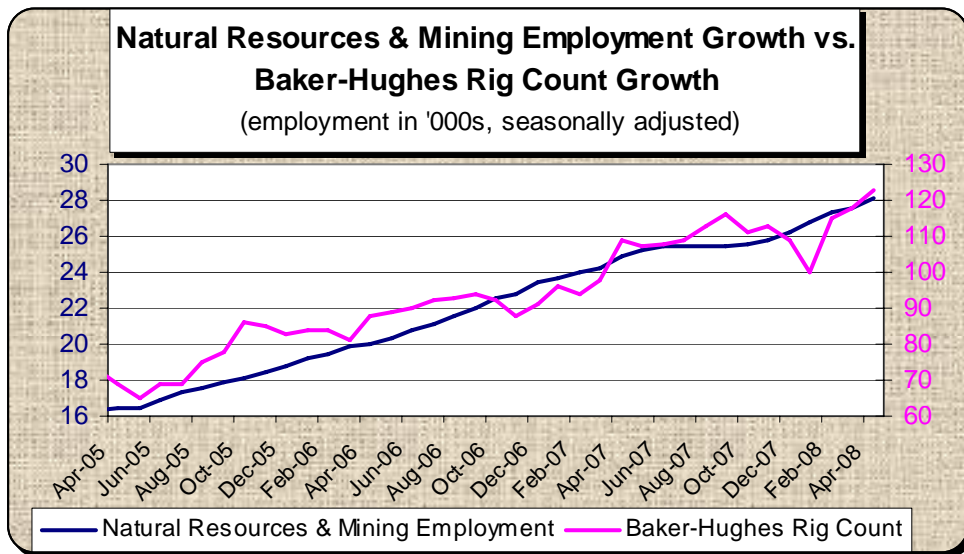


In the last twelve months, wage and salary employment has grown 41,700, or 1.8%. This represents the smallest twelve-month increase in nearly three years and it is 9,600 below the previous year average. Professional & business services remained the largest contributor to this expansion by adding 10,800 jobs. Education & health services added 9,100 positions, government provided 8,500 workers, TTU chipped in 7,600 jobs, and leisure & hospitality donated 7,100 employees to the State's advance. Natural resources & mining continued to enjoy the fastest pace of growth, at 12.9%, and enjoyed the sixth largest payroll increase of major industries with 3,200 new hires. Employment in other services trended up 1,500 positions since last April. Weakness in durable goods caused manufacturing employment to retreat 2,900 and the slump in residential construction resulted in the loss of 1,700 jobs in manufacturing. Information shed 800 positions to experience its first year over year decline in its workforce in twelve months. Financial activities continued to suffer the fallout of the credit crunch; it has shed 700 jobs since last April.



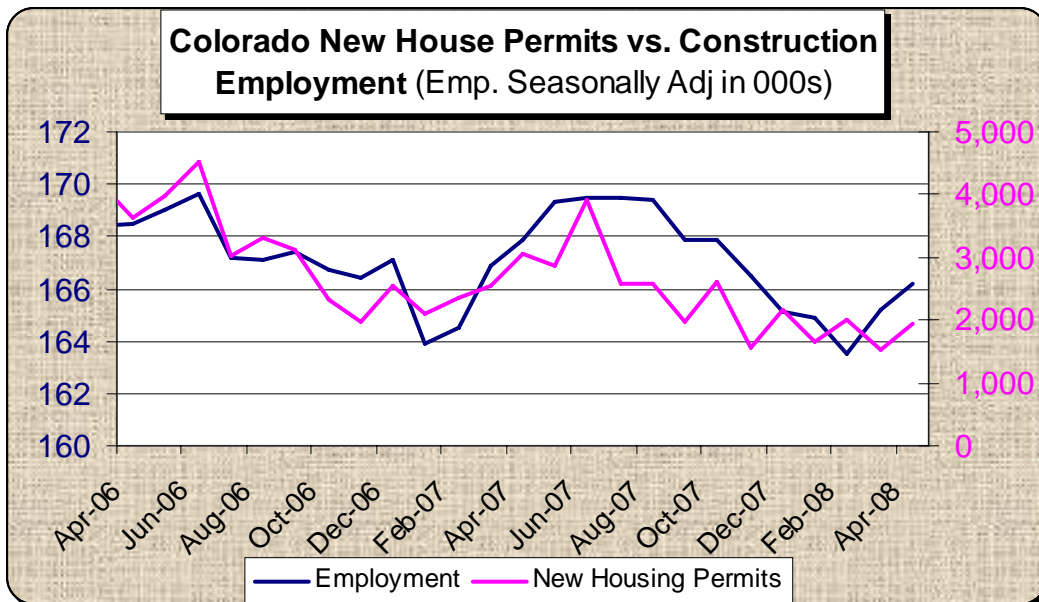
Natural Resources & Mining: + 500 (1.8%)

Employment in natural resources & mining rose by 500 in April. Over the past twelve months, this industry gained 3,200 positions for growth of 12.9%. The expansion in natural resources & mining hit a lull in the summer of 2007 and only 200 positions were created from July through October; due to this ebb, the year over year growth rate in this industry is only 76% of the previous year trend. Despite the slower pace of growth, the drilling of oil and gas wells has continued at a record pace. According to the Baker-Hughes rig count, there were a record 123 rigs working across the State this April, representing a 241% increase over the past four years*. Over this same period, industry employment has nearly doubled to 28,100.



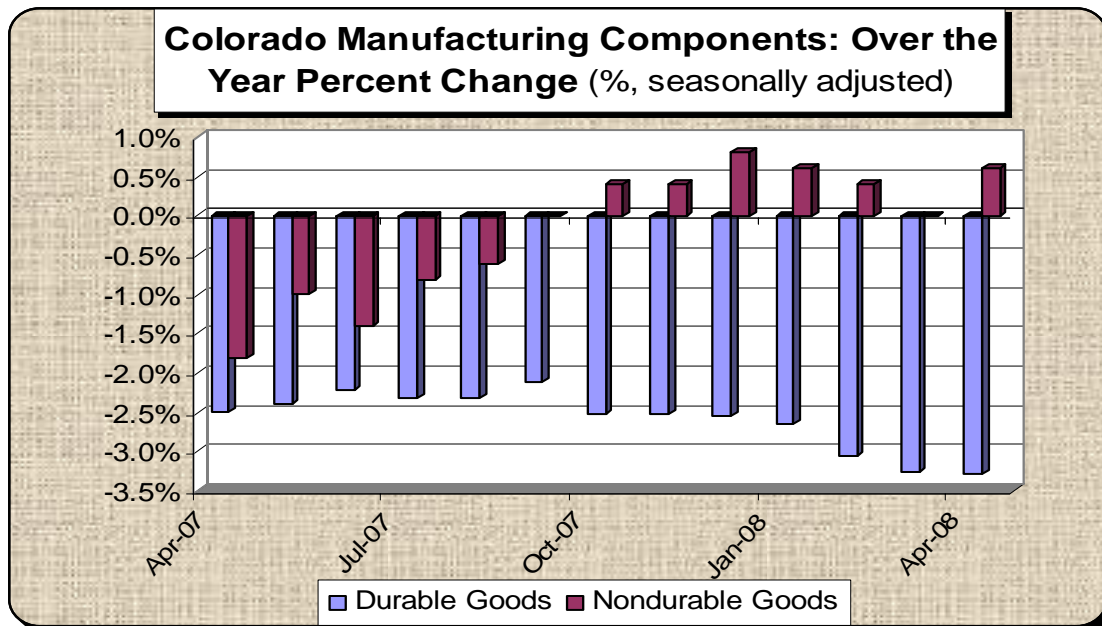
Construction: + 1,000 (0.6%)

Coming on the heels of a 1,700 position increase last month, construction gained 1,000 workers in April. On an unadjusted basis, construction of buildings gained 200 jobs and heavy & civil engineering added 600; however, these seasonal increases were only two-thirds of their average April gain. Specialty trade contractors, on the other hand, realized its largest unadjusted April advance since 2004 with the addition of 2,900 positions. Since this time last year, construction payrolls have fallen 1,700, or 1.0%. While this matches the year over year decline in March, it is decidedly worse than the 200 average year over year employment increase during the past four quarters. Colorado statewide new home building permits, averaging 1,785 over the first four months of 2008, have declined 29.1% from their year ago levels according to data from the Census Bureau. Construction of buildings had been insulated from the weakness in housing due to stable non-residential construction, but the losses residential losses have been overwhelming and this sector has lost an unadjusted 2,000 jobs, a 6.1% decline, over the past year. Heavy & civil engineering pared 300 positions over the past twelve months, to record its first year over year loss since March 2007. Specialty trade contractors partially offset these losses by adding 1,300 positions over the year.



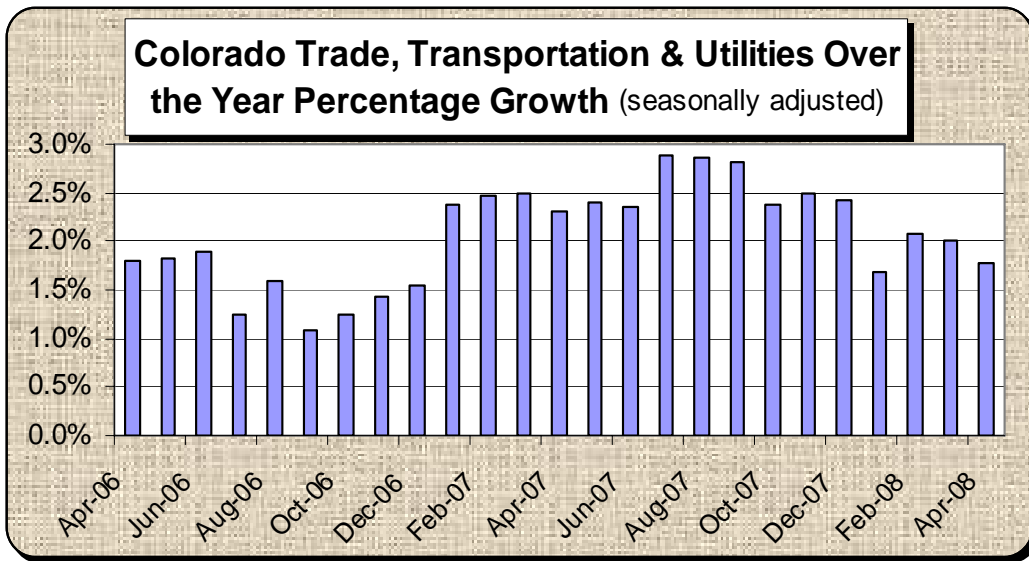
Manufacturing: - 200 (0.1%)

Manufacturing shed 200 positions in April, marking its smallest over the month decline in 2008. The brunt of this contraction fell in durable goods as this sector shed 400 workers for a 0.4% contraction. Nondurable goods partially offset this loss with 200 new hires, a 0.4% increase over the month. Computer & electronic product manufacturing payrolls fell by an unadjusted 100, while transportation equipment manufacturers edged up 100. Over the past twelve months, manufacturing employment has fallen 2,900. This 2.0% contraction is about 11% faster than the prior year trend. The entire loss occurred in durable goods as this sector has pared 3,200 jobs since last April. Computer & electronic product manufacturers and transportation equipment manufacturers posted unadjusted decreases of 1,600 and 1,100, respectively. Non-durable goods negated some of these losses by adding 300 positions in the past year.



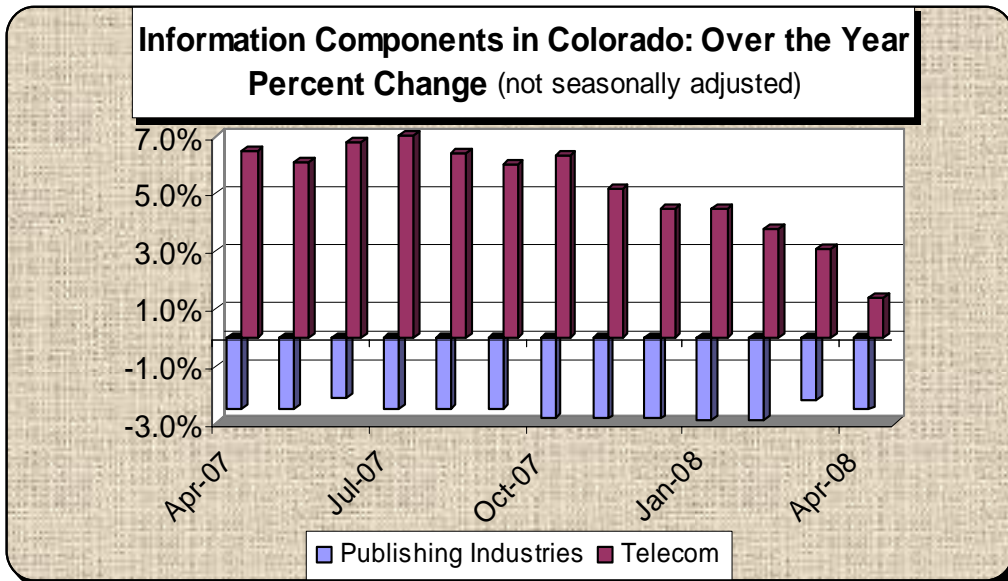
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (TTU): - 700 (0.2%)

TTU experienced the largest April decline of the supersectors with the loss of 700 workers. Wholesale trade was the only sector to record growth this month, but its payrolls inched up only 100. Transportation, warehousing & utilities (TWU) shed 200 positions, with the loss of an unadjusted 100 workers occurring in air transport, along with couriers & messengers and warehousing & storage. Retail trade experienced its first employment decline in six months, paring 600 workers. It is possible that higher gas prices are having a negative effect on retail employment. Unadjusted data shows general merchandise stores realized an over the month loss of 1,000 and food & beverage stores trended down 200. There are now 7,600 more people are working in TTU than at this time last year. This year over year growth of 1.8% is the slowest in the past three months and it is only three-quarters of the prior year average. Retail trade's 2.0% (5,000 jobs) payroll growth is 13% slower than the previous twelve-month trend. Food & beverage stores experienced the most unadjusted growth of the component industries with 1,300 new hires (3.0%). Both TWU and wholesale trade posted year over year growth that was one percentage point slower than their prior year trend at 1.4% and 1.5%, respectively. TWU gained 1,100 positions with unadjusted increases of 700 in air transportation and 400 jobs in couriers & messengers. Wholesale trade matched its smallest over the year increase in thirty-two months, inching up 1,500 since last April.



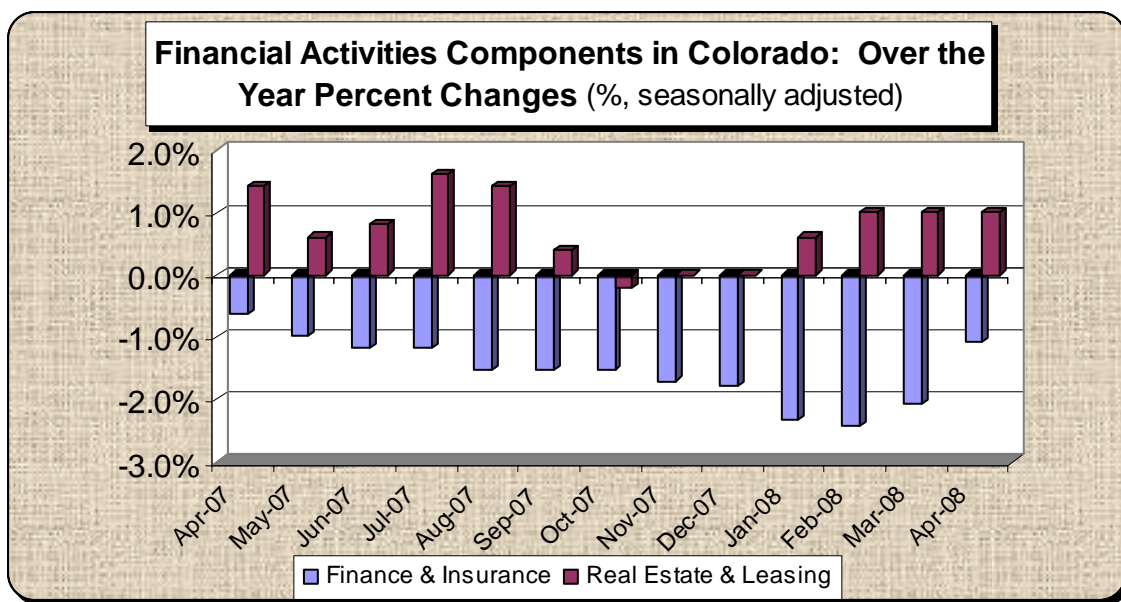
Information: - 300 (0.4%)

Information payrolls experienced the sixth consecutive monthly decline with the loss of 300 positions in April. The two largest component industries, publishing industries and telecommunications, experienced unadjusted losses of 100 jobs apiece. Since last April, the number of people working in information has fallen by 800. This 1.1% contraction marks the first time in thirteen months this industry experienced a year over year decline and it is a stark departure from the prior year trend of a 1.6% expansion. Publishing industries has experienced a twelve-month decline for the past eight years and the 700 positions pared since last April is in line with the previous year trend. Conversely, telecom has posted year over year growth for the past nineteen months, but the 400 workers added to its payrolls in the past twelve months represents only one-quarter of the average over that period. Due to the growth in telecom and the protracted decline in publishing industries, the number of people working in telecom exceeds publishing industries by 2,900 or 10.7%. However, at the end of 2005 there were 1,100 more people working in publishing industries than in telecom.



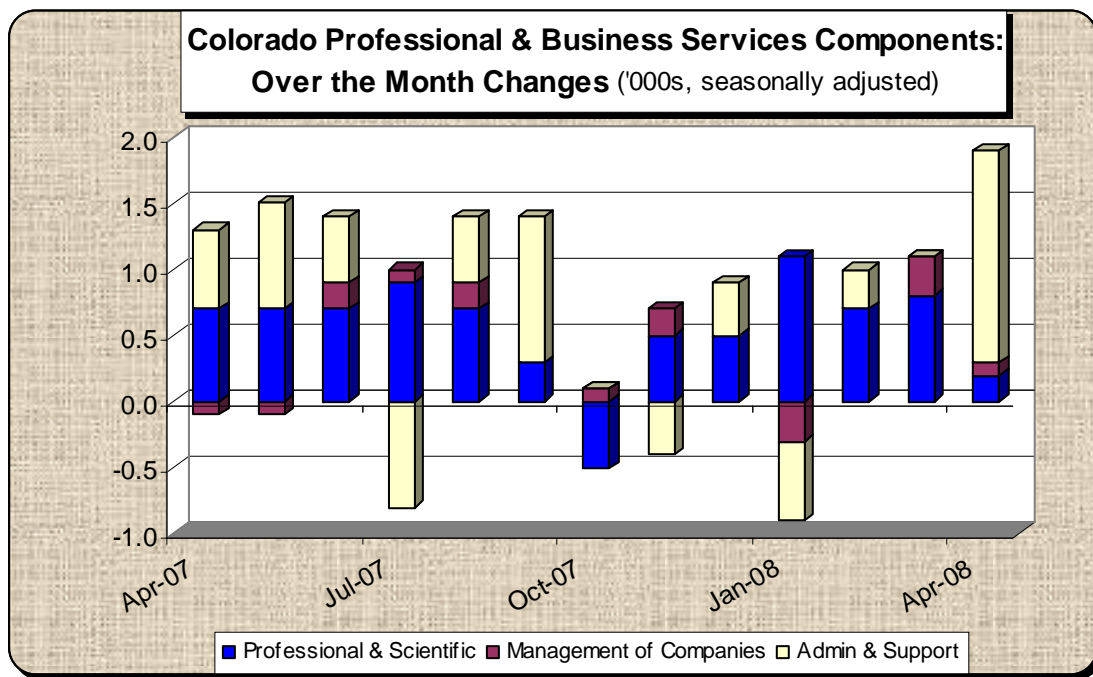
Financial Activities: + 1,000 (0.6%)

Increased demand for tax preparation in April enabled financial activities to record its largest monthly gain in 65 months and its third consecutive month of increasing employment. Nine hundred of the 1,000 positions added in this industry came from the finance & insurance component. Unadjusted gains of 500 workers in both credit intermediation and insurance carriers & related were complimented by a 100 position increase in securities, commodities & other financial investments. Real estate, rental & leasing trended up 100 jobs, despite the loss of an unadjusted 100 positions in the real estate component. Since this time last year, 700 workers have been pared from financial activities payrolls. This 0.4% contraction is the slowest in the past nine months. Finance & insurance payrolls fell 1,200, or 1.1%, during the past year as the unadjusted 700 position gain in securities, commodities & other financial investments was negated by the loss of 1,500 jobs in credit intermediation and 200 in insurance carriers & related. Real estate, rental & leasing was able to overcome weakness in real estate and added 500 new hires since last April, growth of 1.0%.



Professional & Business Services: + 1,900 (0.5%)

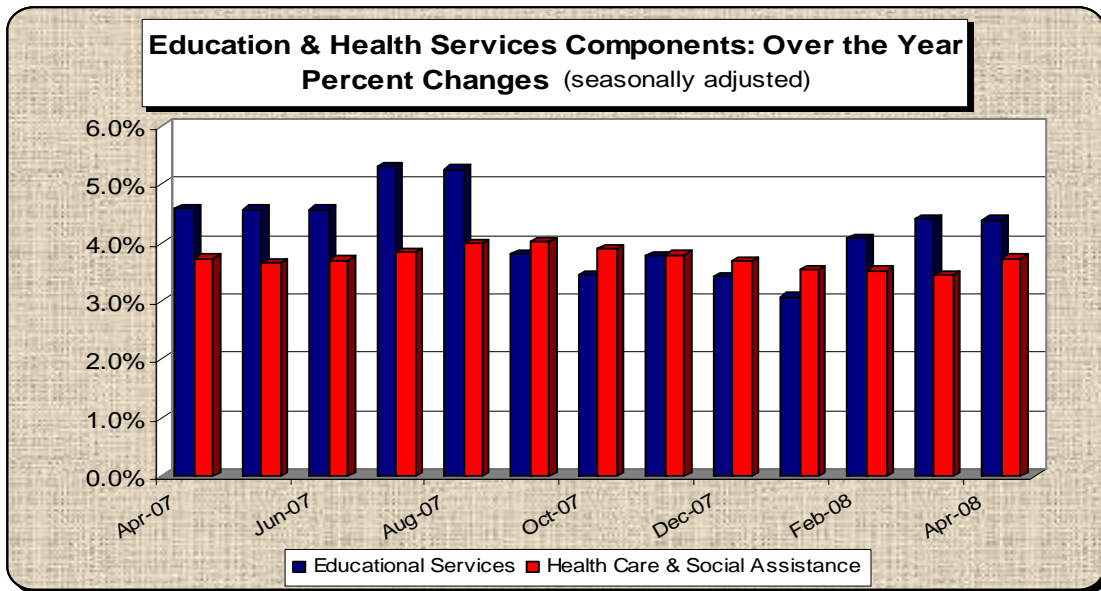
With the addition 1,900 new workers in April, professional & business services has added over 1,000 jobs in each of the past three months. Payrolls in the catchall administrative, support, waste management & remediation sector advanced by 1,600 (1.1%) on the strength of a stronger than usual unadjusted 1,800 position increase in employment services. Management of companies edged up 100 positions this month, and professional, scientific & technical services gained 200 jobs. Architecture, engineering & related services, a precursor of future construction activity, contributed 400 unadjusted workers to the professional services sector and computer systems & design related, along with legal services, edged up 200.



This industry accounted for more than one-quarter of the State's over the year growth by adding 10,800 positions. This 3.1% year over year growth is marginally faster than last month, but it is 30% slower than the prior year trend. Professional, scientific & technical services donated 6,600 workers to the supersector's expansion and was the pace setter for the component industries with growth of 3.9%. Management of companies contributed 800 positions, growth of 2.8%. The catchall administrative sector posted a 2.3% expansion (3,400 jobs). While this twelve-month rate of growth is marginally faster than last month, it is only 52% of the prior year trend. On an unadjusted basis, each of its three service components: employment services, business support services, and services to buildings & dwellings gained between 1,200 and 1,400 positions. Architecture, engineering & related services gained an unadjusted 1,700 positions, computer systems design & related trended up 900, and management, scientific & technical consulting services had 700 new hires.

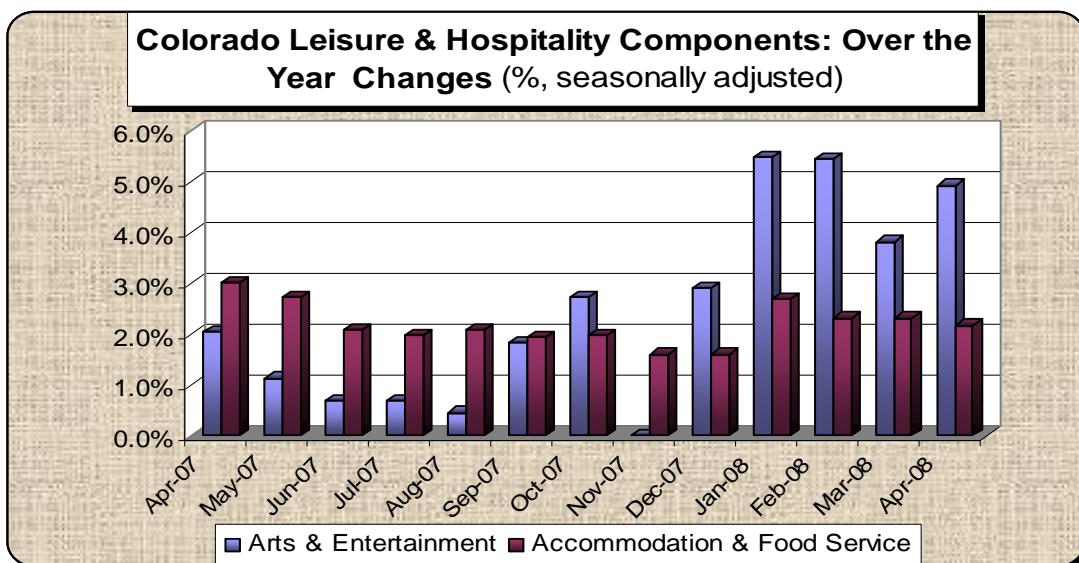
Education & Health Services: + 900 (0.4%)

Education & health services gained 900 positions this month, marking the largest April gain in six years. Health care & social assistance grew in tandem with the supersector and added 800 jobs. Ambulatory care payrolls rose by an unadjusted 600 and hospitals registered a 400 worker increase. The 9,100 positions created in education & health services represent the industry's largest twelve month advance in the past seven months and this 3.8% expansion mirrors the prior year trend. Educational services grew by 4.4%, adding 1,300 jobs. This matches the fastest advance in the past eight months and it exceeds the previous twelve month average by 5%. Similar to the supersector, the 3.7% (7,800 positions) expansion in health care & social assistance mimics the prior year trend and represents the most rapid year over year advance of 2008. On an unadjusted basis, employment in ambulatory care and hospitals rose by 3,000 and 2,400 positions, respectively. Social assistance employment rose 2,000, while nursing & residential care facilities edged up 500 since last April.



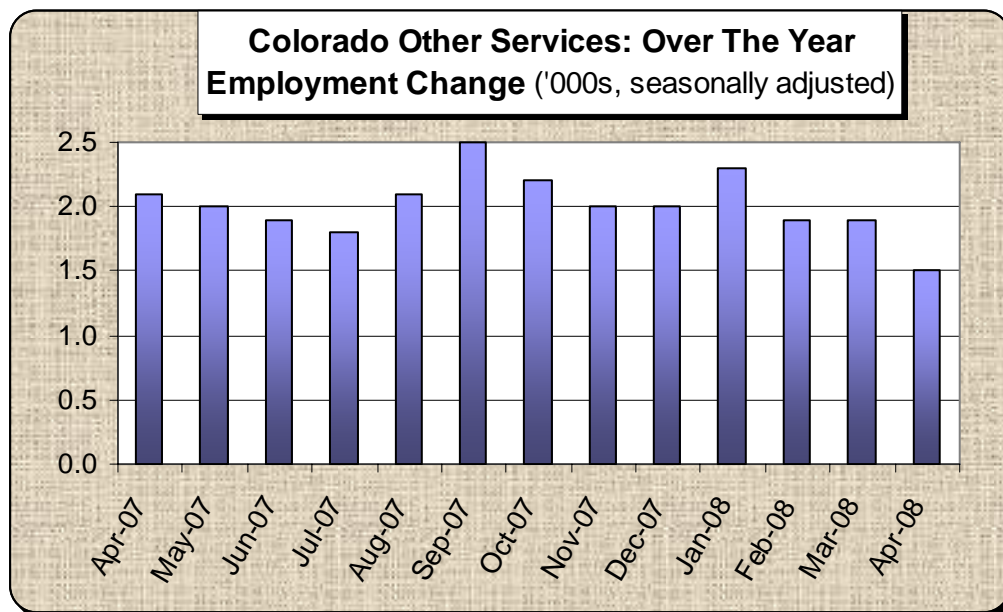
Leisure & Hospitality: + 700 (0.3%)

With many ski resorts remaining open through the reference period of the establishment survey, leisure & hospitality payrolls rose 700 in April. Arts, entertainment & recreation, the component containing ski resorts, was responsible for the entire employment increase as accommodation & food services remained unchanged. The lower amount of destination tourists at the end of the ski season was reflected in the 1,300 position unadjusted decline in accommodation. Food services & drinking places partially offset this drop by gaining 300 jobs. In the past twelve months, 7,100 workers have joined this industry's payrolls. This 2.6% twelve-month expansion matches the slowest of 2008, but it is 18% greater than the prior year average. Arts, entertainment & recreation advanced at a 4.9% rate (2,200 jobs) thanks in part to healthy winter snowfall; this expansion is more than twice the average pace recorded over the previous twelve months. The 2.2% expansion (4,900 new workers) in accommodation & food services is in line with the prior twelve-month average. On an unadjusted basis, both food services & drinking places and accommodation saw year over year employment gains of 2.5%. Full service restaurants and limited service eating places realized over the year payroll growth of 1,200 and 1,900, respectively.



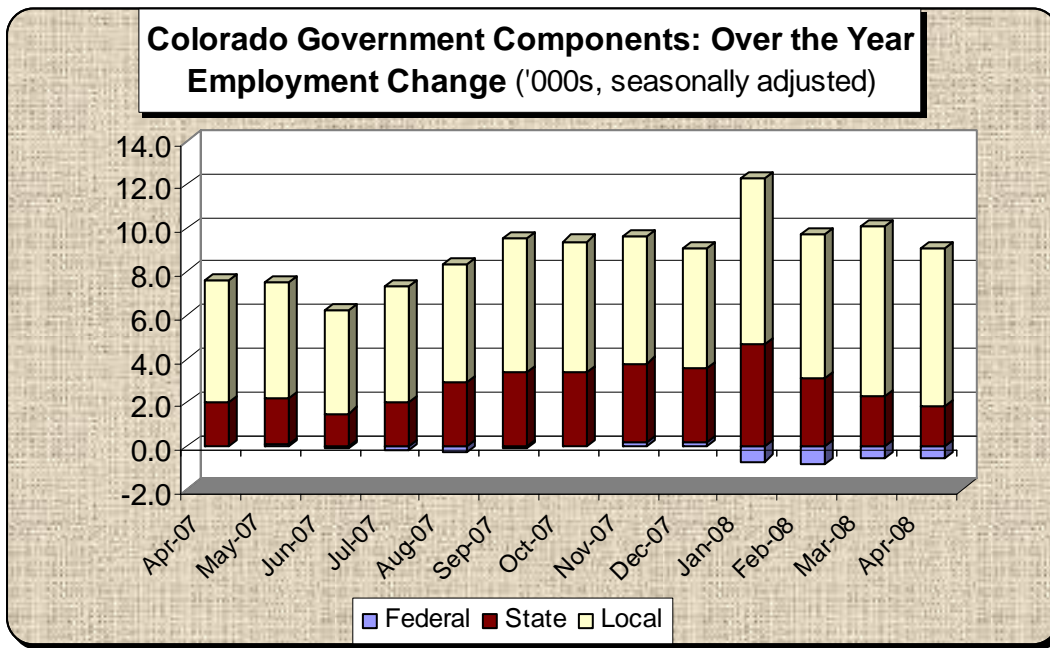
Other Services: - 600 (0.6%)

Other services relinquished its employment gains achieved over the previous two months by paring 600 positions in April. In the unadjusted components, personal & laundry services remained unchanged, while payrolls in both repair & maintenance and the catchall religious, grantmaking, civic, professional & similar organizations notched down 300. Over the year, employment in other services has risen 1,500. This 1.6% expansion is the slowest in twenty-seven months and it is 30% weaker than the average year over year advance during the past year. The catchall organizations sector contributed an unadjusted 1,200 workers, accounting for most of the industry's growth. This 2.8% twelve-month expansion is marginally lower than the prior year average. However, the 1.3% (300 positions) increase in personal & laundry services is only 46% of the average year over year increase during the past four quarters. Repair & maintenance has now posted over the year growth for the past ten months, and its 200 (0.4%) position increase since last April mirrors the average increase over that period.



Government: - 400 (0.1%)

Government shed 400 jobs in April, experiencing its first monthly employment decline since last June. The Federal government shed 200 workers and employment at the State level trended down 300. The number of people working in local government inched up 100 to partially offset the declines in the smaller sectors. In the unadjusted education components, the State shed 300 and 1,400 local educators were pared from payrolls in April. Eight thousand five hundred more people are working in the public sector than at this time last year. Annual growth of 2.3% is the slowest in the past eight months, but it mirrors the previous twelve month average. Local government, with 7,300 new hires, was the driving force behind the industry's employment growth. This 3.1% annual expansion is 19% greater than the prior year trend. The Federal government has experienced year over year employment declines in each month of 2008 and it employs 600 fewer workers than in last April. State government gained 1,800 jobs over the year; however, its 2.1% expansion is the weakest in the past ten months. State government education is up an unadjusted 1,300 jobs and local education payrolls have gained 3,000 since last April.



*Source: Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission

Produced By:

State of Colorado: Bill Ritter, Governor
 Colorado Department of Labor & Employment: Donald J. Mares, Executive Director
 Labor Market Information: Alexandra E. Hall, Director
 Current Employment Statistics (CES): Joseph F. Winter, Program Manager

Contact Information:

Visit the CES Home Page: <http://www.coworkforce.com/lmi/CES/ceshome.asp>
 Phone: Labor Market Information (303) 318-8850
 Email: lmi@state.co.us

These Current Employment Statistics data and any accompanying analysis are in the public domain and, with appropriate credit, may be reproduced without permission.

Please reference, Source: "Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Labor Market Information".