

September 4, 2020

## Gradual labor market recovery continues

- After adding over 1.7 million jobs in July, the U.S. labor market added back nearly 1.4 million workers in August, matching consensus expectations.
- Despite gains of more than 10 million from May to August, U.S. employment remains down by 11.5 million compared to February 2020.
- The government sector accounted for nearly one-quarter of August's job gains, boosted by temporary hiring for the U.S. Census. The hard-hit retail sector added back nearly 250,000 workers. Other notable gains were in professional and business services and hospitality; however, employment in these sectors is still down by 1.5 million and 2.5 million respectively compared to February.
- The unemployment rate fell into single digits at 8.4% but remains more than twice the 3.7% rate seen last August.
- The labor market is progressing but still has a steep climb to recover from the massive job losses caused by COVID-19.

### NOTABLE SECTORS

|                                  |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Government                       | <b>+344K</b> |
| Retail Trade                     | <b>+249K</b> |
| Professional & Business Services | <b>+197K</b> |
| Leisure & Hospitality            | <b>+174K</b> |

U.S. EMPLOYMENT ROSE BY  
**1.4 MILLION**  
IN AUGUST

AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS  
**\$29.47**  
4.7% ABOVE LAST YEAR

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FELL TO  
**8.4%**  
3.7% LAST AUGUST

### US Monthly Job Change and Unemployment Rate

