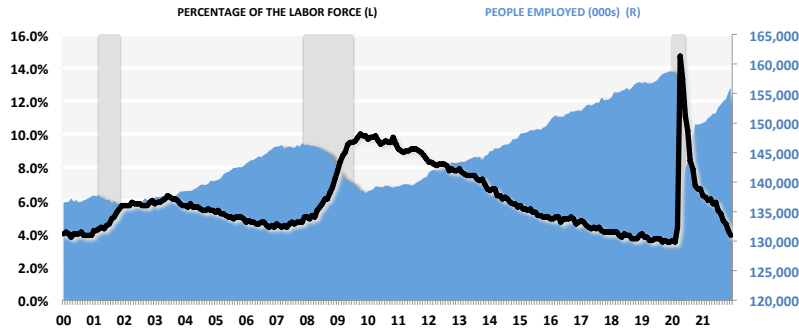




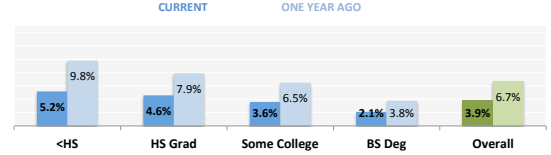
EMPLOYMENT SECTOR

MERIDIAN ECONOMICS
Trusted Insight, Effective Solutions

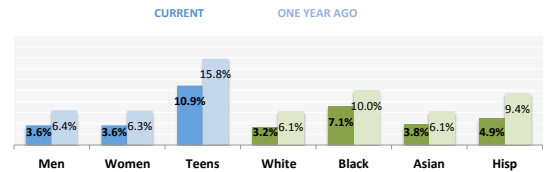
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE & EMPLOYED



UNEMPLOYMENT - BY EDUCATION



UNEMPLOYMENT - DEMOGRAPHICS



(numbers in thousands)	Year-end		Past Six Months						Periodic Changes			
	2019	2020	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	MoM	YoY	Feb-Apr20	Since Apr'20
Non-farm Payrolls SA	152,383	142,503	146,993	147,359	147,553	148,503	148,752	148,951	199	6,448	-21,442	17,906
Private Sector Employment	129,737	121,047	124,920	125,252	125,569	126,562	126,832	127,043	211	5,996	-20,432	17,735
Civilian Population	260,181	261,230	261,469	261,611	261,766	261,908	262,029	262,136	107	906	268	2,240
Civilian Labor Force	164,556	160,567	161,347	161,537	161,354	161,610	162,126	162,294	168	1,623	-8,065	5,813
Employed	158,803	149,830	152,645	153,154	153,680	154,234	155,324	155,975	651	6,092	-25,356	22,572
Unemployed	5,753	10,736	8,702	8,384	7,674	7,375	6,802	6,319	-483	-4,470	17,291	-16,759
Average Hourly Earnings	\$28.32	\$29.91	\$30.56	\$30.73	\$30.85	\$31.01	\$31.12	\$31.31	\$0.19	\$1.40	-\$3.39	\$6.19
Long-term Unemployed	1,186	3,956	3,425	3,179	2,683	2,339	2,193	2,008	-185	-1,971	-163	1,069
Not in Labor Force	95,625	100,663	100,123	100,074	100,412	100,298	99,902	99,842	-60	-717	8,333	-3,573
Underemployed	11,025	18,786	14,844	14,215	13,715	13,252	12,484	11,847	-636	-6,790	24,159	-23,830
Participation Rate	63.2%	61.5%	61.7%	61.7%	61.6%	61.7%	61.9%	61.9%	0.0%	0.4%	-3.2%	1.7%
Employed-Population	61.0%	57.4%	58.4%	58.5%	58.7%	58.9%	59.3%	59.5%	0.2%	2.1%	-9.8%	8.2%
Unemployment Rate	3.5%	6.7%	5.4%	5.2%	4.8%	4.6%	4.2%	3.9%	-0.3%	-2.8%	11.2%	-10.9%
LT Unemp-Total Unemp	20.6%	36.8%	39.4%	37.9%	35.0%	31.7%	32.2%	31.8%	-0.5%	-5.1%	-15.0%	27.7%
Underemployment Rate	6.7%	11.7%	9.2%	8.8%	8.5%	8.2%	7.7%	7.3%	-0.4%	-4.3%	15.8%	-15.5%
Not in LF-Total Population	37%	39%	38%	38%	38%	38%	38%	38%	0%	-0.4%	3.2%	-1.7%

EMPLOYMENT REPORT AND CU STRATEGY

(January 2022)..... The Labor Department reports non-farm payrolls increased by 199 thousand in December while, in a separate survey, the nation's unemployment rate decreased from 4.2 percent to 3.9 percent. Approximately 168 thousand returned to the labor force while the civilian population increased 107 thousand. The number of employed increased 651 thousand. The number of long-term unemployed (>27 weeks) decreased 185 thousand to 2.0 million people, or 38 percent of the unemployed. Approximately 61.9 percent of the civilian population made up the labor force and about 59.5 percent of the population was employed.

The nation's underemployment rate (jobless, part-time desiring full-time and those deferring search over past 60 days) fell from 7.7 percent to 7.3 percent, to about 11.8 million people. Over the past year, private payrolls have increased 6.0 million people while average hourly earnings has increased by \$1.40, or 4.7 percent.

Strategically... The data shows that after losing over 20.4 million private sector jobs during the initial pandemic, the economy has recovered only about 17.7 million jobs, or about 87% of the jobs lost. More concerning, about 2.2 million people have not returned to the labor force. Open positions are abundant and yet employers continue to have difficulty filling them.

The tepid December jobs report adds to growing evidence the recovery has slowed, but it probably won't deter the Federal Reserve from announcing plans soon to start to wean the economy off its easy-money strategy and start to battle its elevated inflationary environment.