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## DATAWATCH

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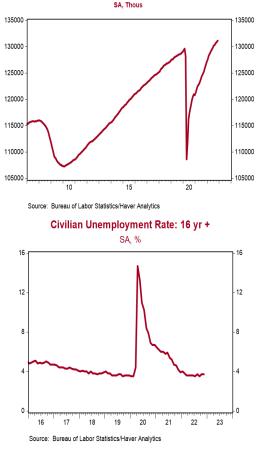
## November Employment Report

Brian S. Wesbury – Chief Economist Robert Stein, CFA – Dep. Chief Economist Strider Elass – Senior Economist Andrew Opdyke, CFA – Senior Economist

All Employees: Total Private Industries

- Nonfarm payrolls increased 263,000 in November, beating the consensus expected 200,000. Payroll gains for September and October were revised down by a total of 23,000, bringing the net gain, including revisions, to 240,000.
- Private sector payrolls rose 221,000 in November but were revised down 49,000 in prior months. The largest increases in November were for education & health services (+82,000) and leisure & hospitality (+88,000). Manufacturing increased 14,000 while government rose 42,000.
- The unemployment rate remained at 3.7% in November.
- Average hourly earnings cash earnings, excluding irregular bonuses/commissions and fringe benefits rose 0.6% in November and are up 5.1% versus a year ago. Aggregate hours declined 0.2% in November but are up 2.4% from a year ago.

**Implications**: The job market in November was not as strong as the payroll headline suggests, but also signals that the Fed needs to keep hiking rates. Nonfarm payrolls rose 263,000 in November, beating the consensus expected 200,000. The gains in November were led by leisure & hospitality, which is still recovering from the COVID shutdowns, and education & health care. The weakest sector was retail, another sign the economy is shifting away from goods and toward services, the opposite of what happened during the first year of COVID. Meanwhile, the details of the report were not as strong as the headline. Civilian employment, an alternative measure of jobs that includes small business start-ups, declined 138,000. The labor force – people who are either working or looking for work – dropped 186,000. As a result, the labor force participation rate ticked down for the third month in a row to 62.1%, tying the lowest level in 2022. Most importantly, the average private-sector workweek slipped to 34.4 hours in November, the lowest level since 2020. As a result, even though more people were working the total number of hours worked declined 0.2%. That's the equivalent of losing about 250,000 jobs. Total hours worked are up at only a 1.1% annualized



rate in the past three months, which is consistent with the late stages of a labor-market recovery and suggests a significant slowdown in the pace of net job creation in the months ahead. Does this mean the Federal Reserve will soon stop hiking rates? Nope! Average hourly earnings rose 0.6% in November and are up 5.1% versus a year ago. That year-ago comparison is slower than inflation, which means a reduction in workers' "real" (inflation-adjusted) purchasing power. But the 0.6% gain in November itself shows that workers might be factoring higher inflation into their wage demands, which is something the Fed is determined to prevent. In other recent news, automakers reported selling cars and light trucks at a 14.4 million annual rate in November, higher than the average 13.9 million pace of the past twelve months.

Employment Report All Data Seasonally Adjusted	Nov-22	Oct-22	Sep-22		6-month moving avg	12-month moving avg
Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7
Civilian Employment (monthly change in thousands)	-138	-328	204	-87	7	262
Nonfarm Payrolls (monthly change in thousands)	263	284	269	272	323	408
Construction	20	9	23	17	15	21
Manufacturing	14	36	17	22	28	35
Retail Trade	-30	-3	-30	-21	1	18
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	14	13	3	10	9	12
Professional and Business Services	6	26	25	19	43	61
Education and Health Services	82	80	82	81	90	78
Leisure and Hospitality	88	60	111	86	67	90
Government	42	36	14	31	31	25
Avg. Hourly Earnings: Total Private*	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	5.8%	5.3%	5.1%
Avg. Weekly Hours: Total Private	34.4	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.6
Index of Aggregate Weekly Hours: Total Private*	-0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	1.1%	1.4%	2.4%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics \*3, 6 and 12 month figures are % change annualized

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