

# CBIZ Small Business Employment Index Shows Seasonality Strength

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*-Seasonal reduction low compared to past years-*

CLEVELAND--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Feb. 5, 2013-- The [CBIZ Small Business Employment Index](#) (SBEI), a barometer for hiring trends for more than 3,500 companies with 300 or fewer employees, decreased by 2.37 percent during January, following an increase of 0.39 percent in December.

Despite the unemployment rate ticking up from 7.8 to 7.9 percent, ADP's January jobs survey revealed that the private sector added 192,000 jobs, significantly surpassing analysts' estimates of 165,000 jobs and beating December's revised tally of 185,000 added jobs.

"This month's SBEI prints with a decline of 2.37 percent, which is the lowest seasonal reduction in workforce in the past two years of January reports," says Philip Noftsinger, business unit president for [CBIZ Payroll Services](#).

To view and/or use a graphic illustration that tracks and illustrates the employment index, [visit our blog here](#).<sup>1</sup>

Additional take-away points from the January data set include:

- **At-a-glance:** Of the companies surveyed, 21 percent increased staffing while 31 percent of the companies decreased employee headcounts and 48 percent of the companies surveyed maintained their number of employees.
- **Small business sector:** The fact that this month's number is the smallest seasonal decline in the past two years is encouraging and hopefully a sign that the small business labor market is improving.
- **What to watch:** Despite the uncertainty surrounding the debt ceiling last month, the economy seemed quite resilient. It will be interesting to see if the hiring pace will continue to gradually pick up and sustain growth this winter and for the long-term.

"The CBIZ SBEI is not adjusted for seasonality, allowing the user to compare historical results year over year to interpret the raw data to extrapolate what's occurring in the small business labor market," says Noftsinger.

CBIZ Payroll Services manages payroll services for more than 3,500 businesses. Its index reflects a broad array of industries and geographies corresponding to the markets across the United States where CBIZ provides human capital services. The data represented by the SBEI is derived from a segment of employers not completely accounted for by the ADP and Federal BLS employment reports.

## **Editor's note:**

(1) The SBEI illustration is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License](#). Based on a work at <http://blog.cbiz.com>.

## **About [CBIZ, Inc.](#) (NYSE:CBZ)**

CBIZ, Inc. provides professional business services that help clients better manage their finances and employees. CBIZ provides its clients with financial services including accounting, tax and consulting, internal audit, merger and acquisition advisory and valuation services. Employee services include employee benefits consulting, property and casualty insurance, retirement plan consulting, payroll, life insurance, HR consulting, and executive recruitment. CBIZ also provides outsourced technology staffing and support services, healthcare consulting, and medical practice management. As one of the largest benefits specialists and one of the largest accounting, valuation, and medical practice management companies in the United States, the Company's services are provided through more than 130 Company offices in 37 states. Visit our website at [www.cbiz.com](http://www.cbiz.com) and our blog, "Human Capitalizing," at <http://blog.cbiz.com>.



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