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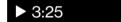
US Employers Add 235,000 Jobs, More Than Forecast

- Companies added 235,000 jobs in December, led by smaller firms
- Initial and continuing jobless claims declined in latest data

By Reade Pickert

January 5, 2023, 7:18 AM CST Updated on January 5, 2023, 7:48 AM CST

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US companies added more jobs than expected in December, driven by small- and medium-sized businesses, and highlighting the resilience of labor demand that's underpinning wage growth.

Job gains were concentrated in businesses with less than 500 employees. The largest companies cut 151,000 workers from payrolls, the most since April 2020. Leisure