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Markets Economics

'Crazy Mess' of Jobs Data Has Economists G It Wrong Again

- U.S. added 467,000 payrolls in January, above all estimates
- Omicron, seasonal adjustment made this one hard to predict

By Olivia Rockeman

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After some estimates called for U.S. payrolls to decline by as much as 400,000, the labor market shockingly added that many jobs in January -- and then some. It's not just last month: the median estimate has missed by an average of about 95,000 in the past year before revisions, versus less than 20,000 in the six months through March 2020.