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Jobs Report Today: Hiring Remains Strong; Unemployment Rises

Follow the latest news and analysis of the February nonfarm payrolls report.

Last Updated: March 8, 2024 at 9:54 AM EST

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A Look at the Data

The U.S. added **275,000 nonfarm jobs** in February, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data released today.

That was a higher hiring rate than the 200,000 jobs economists surveyed by Factset forecast. The result compares with January's **revised gains** of 229,000 and the revised 290,000 positions added in December.

The **unemployment rate** rose to 3.9%, up from the 3.7% pace that unemployment has hovered around for the previous three months.

Wage growth, a metric that many economists and Federal Reserve officials are watching closely for signs of cooling, was **slower than expected**.

The data were **broadly positive** for Fed officials looking to see the labor market holding up without creating inflationary pressures.

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Growth in Wages Slows Down

By **Megan Leonhardt**

Wage growth, a metric that many economists and Federal Reserve officials are watching closely for signs of cooling, delivered slower gains than expected in February.

Average hourly earnings rose by 4.3% over the year, compared with the 4.5% annual pace economists expected to see. In January, average hourly earnings growth for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls was revised to 4.4%