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An employment opportunity sign at a Zara location in Alexandria, Va., on Aug. 22. (Anna Rose Layden/Getty Images)

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Employers added 142,000 jobs in August, continuing a labor market cooling trend that has stoked fears that interest rates have been high for too long.

The unemployment rate ticked down to 4.2 percent.

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since the coronavirus pandemic. The jobs gains were weaker than forecasters' predictions of 161,000 jobs, but improved on July's weak showing of 114,000. Still, downward revisions from the two previous months suggest that the labor market is cooling faster than the initial data may indicate.