

CBIZ Small Business Employment Index Reveals Another Monthly Decline

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Payroll Indicator Previews Monthly BLS report for Sub-300 Employee Businesses

CLEVELAND, Oct 07, 2010 (BUSINESS WIRE) --

Today, CBIZ Payroll Services - a business unit within professional and financial services firm [CBIZ, Inc.](#) (NYSE: CBZ) - announced the CBIZ Small Business Employment Index for September decreased by 1.02 percent, following a 1.01 decline for the month of August. This was the third consecutive month that a decline in employee payrolls occurred within the small businesses surveyed - an indication that small businesses still remain tepid and guarded about the economy's recovery.

The index has seen correlation with the federal government's Bureau of Labor Statistics' report throughout 2010 and serves as a preview to the report to be released on Friday, October 8.

Additional take-away points from the August data includes:

- **More companies are cutting staff:** The payroll data showed that 26.6 percent of the companies managed by CBIZ Payroll Services reduced their headcount during the month of September, compared to 28 percent of companies doing so in August. Year-to-date, the data shows more jobs have been lost than added.
- **More signs of caution:** Of the 3,013 companies included in the survey in September, only 23.3 percent added employees and 49.9 percent made no change. August data showed that 22.9 is the real number percent of companies added staff; while 50 percent maintained headcount (2,964 companies represented the total companies during the August index).
- **What to watch:** Outcomes from the latest round of stimulus aimed at spurring job growth at U.S. small businesses, which was recently signed into legislation by President Obama, may offer us an improvement in future hiring.

Philip Noftsinger, Business Unit President for CBIZ Payroll Services offers, "September numbers again demonstrated a modest decline in net employment figures, which is consistent with weekly initial claims data still hovering around the 450,000. The pattern of no significant investment in new workers, yet no significant decrease, appears to have continued into September and is holding steady. Among companies with fewer than 300 employees, the attitude truly remains 'wait-and-see' as business owners eagerly await greater strength in the economy and more certainty on the future of hiring incentives and tax changes coming from Washington."

This percentage of companies maintaining or cutting payrolls during September 2010 was 76.7 percent, which is slight increase over the September 2009 total of 76.5 percent - another signal that small business hiring confidence has stagnated over the past year says Noftsinger.

Currently, CBIZ Payroll Services manages payrolls for more than 3,000 businesses that employ fewer than 300 people. The sample reflects a broad array of industries and geographies corresponding to the markets across the United States where CBIZ provides services.

Noftsinger is available for media interviews to discuss small to mid-market employment trends and other payroll trends impacting the American business environment.

(Editor's Note: The United States Department of Labor's "Employment Situation for August 2010" numbers are announced on October 8, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. ET. Also, a chart illustrating the trend lines is available for interested editorial outlets).

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 and tax, internal audit, merger and acquisition advisory, and valuation services. Employee services include group benefits, property and casualty insurance, retirement planning, payroll, HR consulting and wealth management. CBIZ also provides outsourced technology staffing 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 150 Company offices in 36 states.



SOURCE: CBIZ

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