

US November jobs report







The November US jobs report showed the unemployment rate increasing to 4.2% from 4.1% while 227k jobs were created, bouncing back from the upwardly revised October numbers of 36k. The November jobs data reflected workers getting back to work after Hurricane Helene hit the US at the end of September and Hurricane Milton hit Florida in early October. This report is unlikely to change the Fed's trajectory of rate cuts, meaning they will likely cut by another 25bps at their next meeting in a couple of weeks.

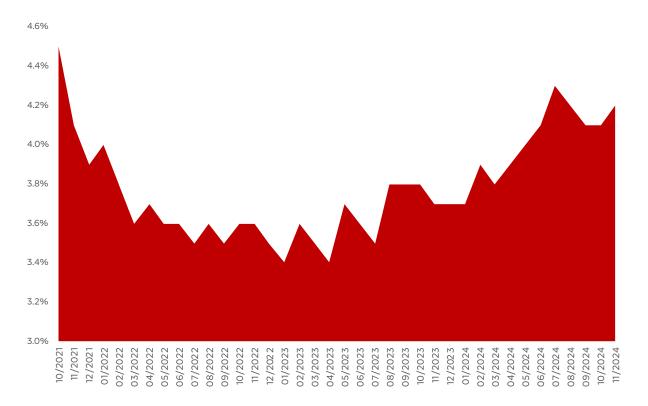
Manufacturing jobs saw a boost after the Boeing strike was settled. The sector added 22k jobs during the month though the Transportation Equipment industry added 32k jobs. The strike started in mid-September and union members had rejected an offer earlier in October but Boeing had presented an improved offer which the union members accepted at the end of October. The Health Care sector continues to add workers at a strong pace, the sector added 72k jobs in November and has averaged 77k jobs added since February of 2022. Leisure and Hospitality also saw a rebound in jobs added, likely linked to the holiday season while 33k Government jobs were added. Trade and Transportation was the only sector were jobs decreased. The sector erased 23k jobs though all of that came from Retail Trade, which dropped 28k jobs in November.

The past two months of jobs were revised higher by 56k. October's initial reading of 12k was revised higher by 24k jobs to 36k, while September's number was revised to 255k from 223k. The unemployment rate increased to 4.2% from 4.1%, but still reflects a labor market that remains healthy. Of slight concern is a second consecutive decline in the labor force participation rate to 62.5% from 62.6% while analyst expected it to climb back to 62.7%. The participation rate has been in its current range for much of the past year but has struggled to climb to higher pre-pandemic levels.

The report also showed average weekly hours remained at 34.3 while the average hourly earnings grew at a pace of 4% from a year ago and 0.4% from a month ago, both at the same pace as in October. The strong pace of wage growth should support consumer spending in the coming months but also shows that underlying inflation pressures remain. While the Fed will likely cut rates by 0.25% at its December meeting, persistent high inflation means the Fed may need to pause in its rate cutting cycle in 2025.

The overall picture shows the US economy remains healthy. The Fed seems to be on track to deliver another cut at their next meeting on December 18, after delivering a cut of 50bps in September and a 25bps cut in November. During the December meeting, the Fed will publish its updated economic outlook, and we believe there is a possibility that it will indicate less rate cuts in 2025 than it had originally expected due to the strong economy. The Fed must for now ignore the effects of Trump's election in early November and continue delivering what they believe is the right path to reach the terminal rate until his policies are fully known. However, Trump's policies are seen as largely inflationary and could even have a negative effect on the growth of the economy. We believe that the Fed will deliver a 0.25% cut at the next meeting and then deliver only two cuts of 0.25% in 2025, as opposed to the 4 cuts in 2025 that the Fed currently has in its outlook.

Unemployment rate increases to 4.2% from 4.1%



Jobs bounce back, adding 227k jobs during November



Source: Bloomberg/Bradesco

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