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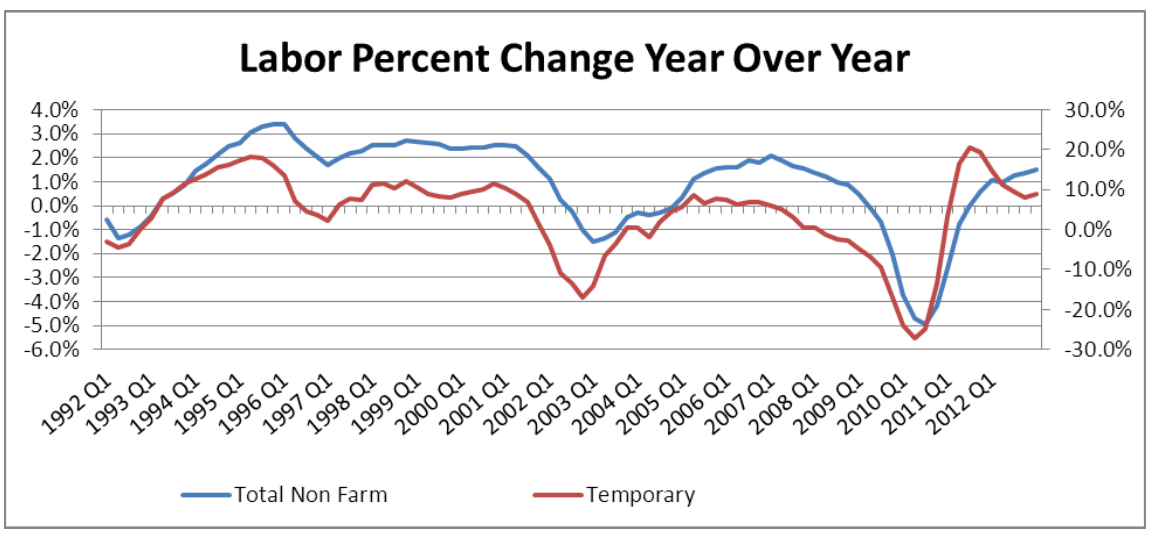
Labor Forecast Predicts 8.2% Increase in Demand for Temporary Workers In 2012 Second Quarter

- - Industry Consulting Firm G. Palmer & Associates' Quarterly Forecast Assists in Previewing Near-Term Hiring Patterns - -

Newport Beach, Calif. April 19, 2012 — Demand for temporary workers in the United States is expected to increase 8.2% on a seasonally adjusted basis for the 2012 second quarter, when compared with the same period in 2011, according to the Palmer Forecast™, released today.

The Palmer Forecast™ indicated a 5.0% increase in temporary help for the just-ended 2012 first quarter. Actual results came in higher than anticipated, at an 8.8% increase. Results, in part, reflected an exceptionally high 2% revision from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' initially published Temporary Help Services numbers for the 2011 fourth quarter.



"Our forecast for the 2012 second quarter follows recent trends showing growth and indicating another increase in demand for temporary workers, marking the tenth-consecutive quarter of year-over-year increases," said Greg Palmer, founder and managing director of G. Palmer & Associates, an Orange County, California-based staffing industry consulting firm.

"There were 167,000 additional temp jobs added in 2011 over 2010, following an increase of 339,000 temp jobs in 2010 over 2009. Additionally, for the first quarter of 2012, temp jobs increased 8.8% over the comparable period in 2011, and reflected an increase of 0.7% from the sequential fourth quarter of 2011. Most of the trends remain relatively positive for continued high single digit temp help growth," Palmer said.

The Labor Department reported that a net of 120,000 non-farm jobs were added in March 2012, including 90,000 service-related and 31,000 goods-producing jobs, offset by the loss of 1,000 jobs in the government sector. There were 1.64 million non-farm jobs created in 2011 vs. 940,000 in 2010 and a monthly average of 212,000 so far in 2012.

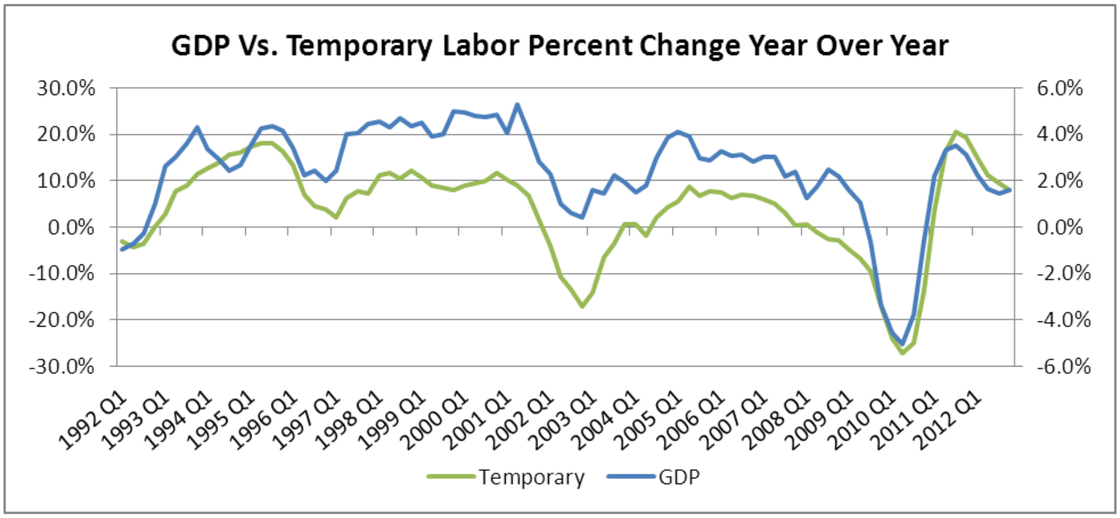
"While these signs are encouraging, it must be kept in perspective that between 2008 and 2009, 8.7 million jobs were shed from the economy. These latest statistics all point to a modestly improving labor market, but with an uneven distribution as it relates to new job growth," Palmer said. "The persistently high unemployment rates continue to have far-reaching effects across a broad spectrum of workers. Those at the lower end of the job market in terms of skills and education, along with workers in the government, as well as the real estate and construction sectors, are experiencing the greatest challenges. The unemployment rates have slowly trended down, but discouraged workers opting out of the ranks of seeking jobs have boosted the rates of improvement."

The commonly referred to unemployment rate, U3, stayed flat at 8.2% in March. As reported by the BLS, workers with college degrees experienced a slight decrease in their unemployment rate in March to 4.2% from 4.3% in February. The unemployment rate for workers with less than a high school degree during the same period decreased to 12.6% in March from 12.9% in February. The U6 unemployment rate, which tracks those who are unemployed, as well as those who are underemployed and are working part-time for economic reasons, was down to 14.5% in March from 14.9% in February. The U6 rate is considered the rate that most broadly depicts those most affected by the downturn and measures the rate of discouraged workers.

The next few quarters…

"We still expect the unemployment rates to remain stubbornly high for the foreseeable future," Palmer said. "One of the key aspects of the high rate continues to be the much talked about skills gap found in available workers, namely, the lack of required skills or education needed for today's increasing technical and skills-based positions. The key skill areas most severely impacted are those in Health Care, Information Technology, Skilled Trades and those positions that require high degrees of math and science. The gaps in these areas are beginning to widen and could cause pressure on wages in the future.

"Two key indicators to watch relative to Temp Help growth will be the GDP growth rate, as well as the Temp Help penetration rate. Historically, there needs to be greater than 2% growth in the GDP to create jobs. The Temp Help penetration rate is significant because it measures Temp Help vs. total employment. The penetration rate has continued to steadily improve to 1.867 % of the total labor market from a low of 1.34% in June 2009," Palmer added.



The Palmer Forecast™ is based, in part, on BLS and other key indicators. The model was initially developed by The A. Gary Anderson Center for Economic Research at Chapman University and serves as an indicator of economic activity. Companies that employ temporary staff use the forecast as a guide to navigate through fluctuating economic conditions in managing their workforce to meet business demands.

About G. Palmer & Associates

G. Palmer & Associates, founded in 2006, advises companies in the human capital sector with sales, operations and margin enhancement, and to explore strategic alternatives for increasing shareholder value. Founder Greg Palmer has served on the board of the American Staffing Association and was president and chief executive officer of RemedyTemp, Inc., one of the nation's largest temporary staffing companies, prior to its sale in June 2006. For more information, visit www.GPalmerandAssociates.com.

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