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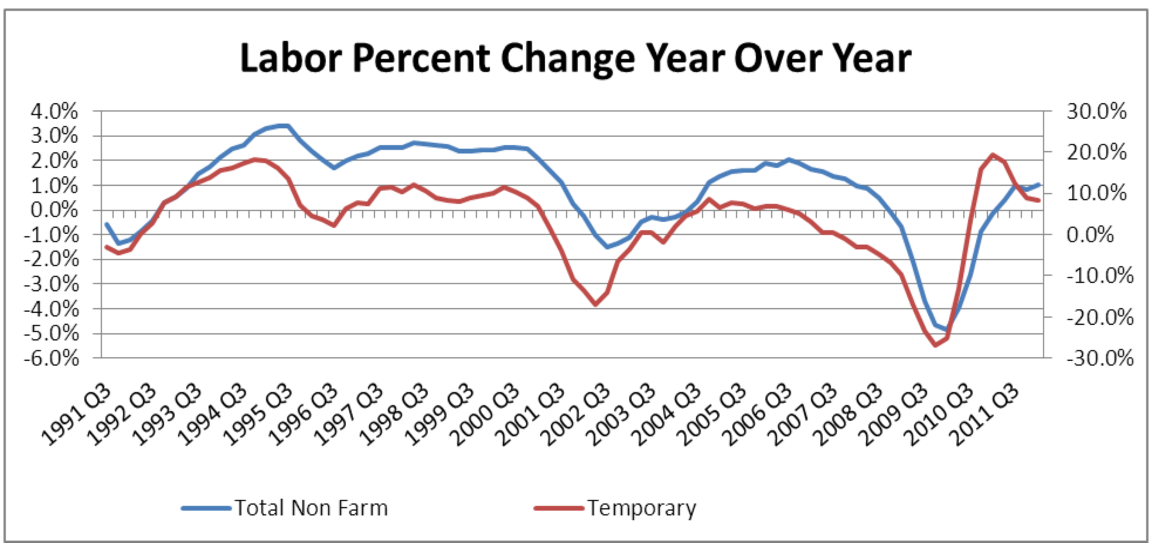
Labor Forecast Predicts 8.8% Increase in Demand for Temporary Workers In 2011 Fourth Quarter

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

Newport Beach, Calif., October 19, 2011 — Demand for temporary workers in the United States is expected to increase 8.8% on a seasonally adjusted basis for the 2011 fourth quarter, when compared with the same period in 2010, according to the Palmer Forecast™, released today.

The Palmer Forecast™ indicated a 9.9% increase in temporary help for the just-ended 2011 third quarter. Actual results came in at an 8.5% increase, which was lower than anticipated, reflecting a lower than expected increase in Q3 GDP.



"Following recent trends, our 2011fourth-quarter forecast shows growth and indicates another increase in demand for temporary workers, marking the eighth-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 have been three consecutive months of consistent 8.4% to 8.5% increases, compared with 2010. In addition, there was a surprising sequential increase of 0.9% vs. the normal 0.2% from August to September.

"In 2010, there was an increase of 310,000 temp jobs over the prior year, and there are 80,000 additional temp jobs thus far in 2011. It is important, however, to be cognizant that consumer spending is relatively soft, the real estate and construction sectors are still depressed in many markets, and both state and local governments continue to make additional job cuts," Palmer said.

The Labor Department also reported that a net of 103,000 non-farm jobs were added in September, including 119,000 service-related and 18,000 goods-producing jobs, offset by the loss of 34,000 jobs. There have been 995,000 jobs lost in the last 16 months, with the largest employment decline continuing to remain in the government sector.

"These latest statistics all point to uncertainly and 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."

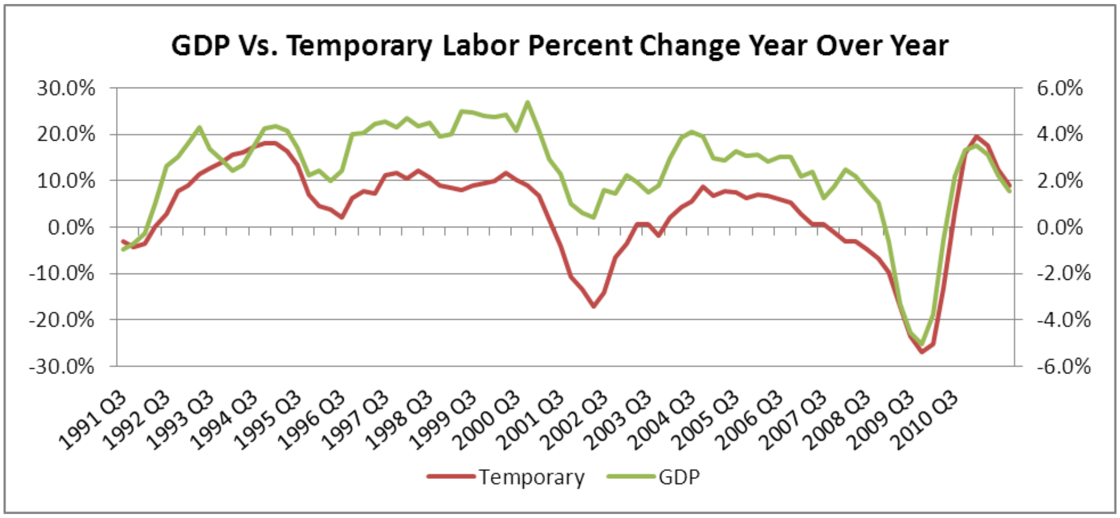
The commonly referred to unemployment rate, U3, remained stable at 9.1% in September, with 25,000 added to the ranks of the unemployed. As reported by the BLS, workers with college degrees experienced a slight decrease in their unemployment rate in September to 4.2% from 4.5% in August. The unemployment rate for workers with less than high school degrees during the same period decreased to 14.0% in September from 14.3% in August. 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 up slightly at 16.5%. 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 rate 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 for today's increasing technical and skills-based positions."

The Labor Department further reported that 6.5 million workers reached a new level of despair by being unemployed for longer than 6 months.

"The key indicator to watch is the GDP rate. Historically, there needs to be greater than 2% growth to create jobs, and in the last two quarters, the rates have been slightly below that figure," 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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