

U.S. private sector survey shows steady job growth in January

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 (Xinhua) -- The U.S. private sector added more jobs in January than in the previous month, a leading industry report said on Wednesday.

U.S. private companies added 192,000 jobs in January on a seasonally-adjusted basis, up from a revised figure of 185,000 a month earlier, according to the National Employment Report released jointly by Automatic Data Processing (ADP) and Moody's Analytics.

Small and medium businesses accounted for the majority of the employment gains in January, adding roughly 194,000 jobs, while large businesses shed about 2,000 jobs in total, the report said.

By sector, employment in the service sector rose by 177,000, and jobs in the goods-producing sector increased by 15,000, primarily driven by an increase in construction jobs.

"The job market is slowly, but steadily, improving," said Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody's Analytics. "Construction is finally kicking into gear and more than offsetting the weakness in manufacturing."

"U.S. private sector employment got off to a good start in 2013, " Carlos A. Rodriguez, chief executive officer of ADP, said in a statement.

"Private sector employers created an average of 183,000 new jobs per month during the last three months. This is an encouraging sign of steady improvement in the job market."

The ADP survey is based on data from private businesses totaling more than 23 million workers on payrolls and excludes government job growth. The U.S. Labor Department will release the January jobs report on Friday.