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past years

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In comparison, ADP's February jobs survey illustrated that the private sector added 198,000 jobs, considerably exceeding analysts' estimates of 170,000 jobs, but falling short of January's tally, which was revised upward to 215,000 added jobs.

"Our SBEI returned to positive territory in February, showing consistency with a gradually improving economy and a slowly improving job market," says Philip Noftsinger, business unit president for [CBIZ Payroll Services](#).

Additional take-away points from the February data set include:

At-a-glance: Of the companies surveyed, 23 percent increased staffing while 24 percent decreased employee headcounts and 53 percent maintained their number of employees.

Small business sector: Trends for the past three years all show a small 0.2 percent growth in small business employment for this time period, so 2013 is very consistent with data from prior years.

What to watch: As the economy continues to gain momentum, we will watch to see if jobs become a larger factor in that growth. There are still many uncertainties that

may be affecting the decision to invest in labor, such as the sequester and the talk of

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CBIZ Payroll Services manages payroll services for more than 3,500 businesses. Its Index reflects a broad array of industries and geographies corresponding to the markets across the United States where CBIZ provides human capital services. The data represented by the SBEI is derived from a segment of employers not completely accounted for by the ADP and Federal BLS employment reports.

Accounting • Small Business • Staffing

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