

## Unemployment Rates Fall In 27 US States Amid Broad Hiring

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Unemployment rates fell in more than half of U.S. states in November as employers stepped up hiring.

The Labor Department said Friday that jobless rates fell in 27 states, rose in 11, and were unchanged in 12 states. Employers added jobs in 35 states, while employment fell in 14. Montana's job total was flat last month.

The widespread improvement suggests employers in most parts of the country are confident enough to hire more. Nationwide, the economy generated a robust 211,000 jobs last month and the U.S. unemployment rate remained 5 percent, a 7-year low.

New Mexico had the nation's highest unemployment rate in November, at 6.8 percent, though it was unchanged from the

previous month. West Virginia's unemployment rate, which had been the highest, fell to 6.5 percent from 6.9 percent. That's the second-highest, along with Nevada's, which is also at 6.5 percent.

North Dakota had the lowest unemployment rate, at 2.7 percent, even though it has lost more than 13,000 jobs, or nearly 3 percent of its total, in the past year. Falling oil and gas prices have caused widespread job cuts in the state's drilling industry.

Nebraska's unemployment rate was the second-lowest, at 2.9 percent, followed by South Dakota, at 3 percent.

Florida reported the largest job gain in November, with 35,200, followed by Texas with 16,300. Big gains in construction jobs boosted hiring in both states.

Virginia added the third-largest number, with 14,400, led by greater hiring for hotels and restaurants.

## Tribe Approves Marijuana Sales Project

BY GOSIA WOZNACKA  
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs have approved a plan to build a facility to grow marijuana on their reservation in central Oregon and sell it at tribe-owned stores outside the reservation.

The vote comes a year after a U.S. Department of Justice policy indicated tribes could grow and sell pot under the same guidelines as states that opt to legalize. The tribe is one of the first in the country to enter the pot business.

Tribal officials said more than 80 percent of tribal voters favored the proposal. 1,450 of the 3,300 eligible voters turned out for the referendum Thursday.

Warm Springs' plan is to build a 36,000-square-foot greenhouse to grow and process the cannabis. Officials expect the project will create more than 80 jobs. Net revenue from the three proposed tribal-owned retail would top \$26 million annually.

The tribes say they will enter into an agreement with state agencies to ensure testing and other regulations are consistent with state law. Sales are slated to start in winter 2016.

"Our main purpose is to create jobs on the reservation and produce revenue for the tribes," said Don Sampson, of the tribes' economic development corporation. "We think we will have a model other tribes will look to as they investigate this business and industry."

The proposal doesn't change the law that bans marijuana possession on the reservation, about 90 miles southeast of Portland.

Many tribes have opposed legalization and marijuana sales, due to the potential to compound alcohol and drug problems already present on

reservations. Some tribes, like the Yakama Nation in Washington state, outright banned marijuana.

But at least a half dozen tribes this year have legalized marijuana on their reservations or have pursued marijuana projects, hoping to bolster their tribal economies with the revenue.

Last month, the Squaxin Island Tribe in Washington state opened what is believed to be the first retail marijuana store on a reservation. The tribe isn't growing the marijuana but is buying it wholesale from the state-regulated system used by the recreational pot industry.

Washington allows for medical and recreational marijuana use, and the Squaxin entered into a compact with the state that sets guidelines for taxing pot sales. Another Washington tribe, the Suquamish, has also signed a tribal compact with the state for a marijuana store. That store is still under construction.

Other tribes are also considering the move. The Passamaquoddy Tribe in Maine signed a letter of intent in September with a medical marijuana management and consulting company to build a cultivation facility on tribal land. The tribe wants to use the facility to make industrial hemp, not marijuana, though officials said they might consider expanding operations when laws around marijuana change.

And leaders of the Omaha Tribe in Nebraska are considering land in western Iowa for growing marijuana. That's after tribal members approved three referendums last month giving the Tribal Council the authority to legalize marijuana for medicinal and recreational use and to grow plants for industrial hemp. The tribe will launch a study will examine whether the business would make financial sense.

Some tribes have faced

challenges in the pot business — especially those within states where marijuana isn't legal.

The Flandreau Santee Sioux in South Dakota — a state where both medical and recreational marijuana is prohibited — decided in November to burn its cannabis crop amid fears it could face a federal raid. The tribe was the first tribal nation to legalize recreational marijuana and had big plans to open the country's first marijuana resort — complete with smoking lounge, nightclub, bar and private rooms for medical marijuana patients — on its reservation north of Sioux Falls.

Tribal officials said the main challenges centered on whether the tribe could sell marijuana to non-Indians, along with issues over where the seed used for planting originated. The tribe vowed to move forward with its operation in the future.

In October, federal agents raided the Menominee Nation's reservation in Wisconsin, a state where marijuana is illegal, eradicating 30,000 cannabis plants. Tribal leaders said the plants were intended for research into growing hemp, but authorities believed the tribe was growing pot. The Menominee Nation has since sued two federal agencies over the raid.

And this summer in northern California, where medical marijuana is legal, federal authorities raided the tribal cannabis operations of the Alturas and Pit River Indian rancherias, with agents seizing 12,000 marijuana plants and some process marijuana.

The regional U.S. attorney's office said in a statement that the two neighboring tribes planned to distribute the pot off tribal lands and the large-scale operations may have been financed by a foreign third-party.

## Former Omaha World-Herald Publisher Dies

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Harold W. Andersen, the former publisher of Nebraska's largest daily newspaper and first American to be president of the International Federation of Newspaper Publishers, has died. He was 92.

Andersen died of natural causes late Thursday night at the Nebraska Medical Center, his wife, Marian, said Friday.

"He loved being a journalist," she said. "That's what drove him."

Andersen started his career as a reporter in 1945, and was publisher and chief executive of the Omaha World-Herald from 1966 until 1989. He also served high-profile roles for groups representing newspapers around the country and the world, including the American Newspaper Publishers Association and the World Press Freedom Committee. He also served on The Associated Press Board of Directors from 1980 to 1986.

"As I look back over those 61½ years of affiliation with the World-Herald, I recall gratefully the opportunity that my World-Herald posi-

tion gave me to serve the cause of press freedom nationally and internationally," Andersen wrote in his final printed column in the World-Herald on Sept. 30, 2007.

Andersen and the World-Herald helped fund a legal challenge that resulted in a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision for journalists in 1976, preventing a Nebraska district judge from imposing a gag order on journalists covering a preliminary hearing in a murder trial.

The district judge had said that pretrial publicity was "destroying our legal system," prompting Andersen to say the judge had "flipped his lid."

"The area of the legal system that can be affected by pretrial publicity is very narrow," Andersen said.

Andersen retired as publisher in 1989, but continued as a contributing editor, and his columns appeared in the newspaper until 2007. He continued writing columns online at HaroldAndersen.com.

Andersen was born in Omaha on July 30, 1923, the

youngest of four children. His first job came via the Omaha World-Herald as a newspaper delivery boy when he was still in elementary school.

He graduated from North High School, where he was sports editor of the North Star newspaper, and won a \$200 World-Herald scholarship, the World-Herald reported Friday. He attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, where he was editor of the student newspaper and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1945. For a year after graduation, he worked as a reporter for the Lincoln Star before being hired in 1946 by The World-Herald.

He married Marian Battey in 1952, and they had two children, David and Nancy.

"He was a great man," David Andersen, of Omaha, told the World-Herald. "He knew everybody, and everyone seemed to know him and like him. He treated people with respect. For my sister and me, he was a good dad and someone we respected utterly and looked up to."

Andersen is survived by his wife, two children and six grandchildren.

## CEO Has Promise To Fill As Retirement Nears

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The head of Dakotas-based Sanford Health says he plans to retire in seven years but that he has one big promise to fill first.

President and CEO Kelby Krabbenhoft, who turned 58 years old on Monday, told the *Argus Leader* newspaper that he plans to step down when he turns 65.

"In merger transactions, I've been on the other side of the table from guys approaching an age beyond 70 and I see what happens," he

said. "I have an obligation to get my affairs in order so that I (retire) before people start saying, 'When is he going to get out of here?'"

Krabbenhoft said he wants to make good on his promise to philanthropist and health system namesake T. Denny Sanford — who has given nearly \$1 billion to the health system — that Sanford Health would find a cure for Type 1 diabetes.

"I made a promise to Denny that we would find a cure before he dies," Krab-

benhoft said. Sanford turns 80 next week.

Sanford Health was formed in 2009 when Sanford, based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, merged with Meritcare in Fargo, North Dakota. It bills itself as one of the largest health systems in the nation, with hundreds of hospitals and clinics in nine states and three countries and 27,000 employees. It's the largest employer in the Dakotas.

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