

A POSITIVE EMPLOYMENT REPORT

The April [employment report](#) exceeded consensus expectations with 165,000 jobs added and the unemployment rate dropping for the third month in a row. Once again, the professional and business services sector reported the largest growth with 73,000 jobs added in April. [IT employment](#) has also hit another all-time high with employment in this industry growing for the 17th consecutive month.

Meanwhile, the temporary penetration rate (the percentage of temporary workers as a percentage of the total workforce) increased to 1.967 percent – the highest so far in this cycle, breaking the previous cycle’s peak and closing in on the all-time high.

The “Flex Super-cycle” thesis also remains firmly intact as we continue to see a disproportionate percentage of new job creation added through temporary sector. In fact, in the latest employment report, more than 20 percent of new jobs created were temporary roles.

In addition, we continue to see strong demand in permanent placement as well, as employers increasingly recognize the difficulty of attracting, and successfully recruiting top talent. Particularly, employers can expect to see continued shortages of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) workers.

CURRENT LABOR INDICATORS

- Total Unemployment: 7.5%
- College Educated Unemployment: 3.9%
- Total Job Loss/Gain: +165,000
- Temporary Penetration Rate: 1.9%

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

As Chief Corporate Development Officer at Kforce, Michael Blackman, a twenty year Kforce veteran, is the primary focal point for the Firm with the Wall Street investment and financial communities. He is regularly sought out by leading economists for his perspectives on the economy and labor markets, and contributes to a number of key proprietary economic publications.



Michael Blackman
Chief Corporate
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TEMPORARY WORKERS ON THE RISE

Temporary Help Services Jobs (000s), seasonally adjusted

SOURCE:
Staffing Industry Analysts

