



## Construction Industry Round Table

## Economic News

*A force for positive change in the design / construction industry*

### **2/10/14 - Unemployment Picture Confused for January 2014**

The Department of Labor's latest unemployment numbers seem to indicate a confused or muddled picture of hiring trends, with some contradictory stats in January. Only 113,000 jobs were added in January (confirming the weak numbers for December '13), which included a large improvement in construction related jobs that were up 48,000 (the most since the recession ended in 2009). The resulting non-seasonally adjusted unemployment figure was 12.3% (almost four full points lower than in January '13). Even though it is generally accepted that it takes approximately 130,000 new jobs a month, just to sop-up the expanding workforce to stay even, the general unemployed number fell to 6.6%, even in the face of workforce participation inching-up from its 36 year low in December, to a still weak 63.0%.

[See CIRT Table for details and trends.](#)