



February 2026



Square Set Metals Recruiting, LLC

## Employment Trends in the Market

### February Hiring Trends 2026

Total non-farm payroll decreased by 92,000 in February. The unemployment rate came in at 4.4%. This is a slight increase from January. Note: Healthcare saw a decrease in employment because of strikes. Both Information and the Federal Government saw decreases.

Bureau of Labor Statistics

#### Job Increases/Decreases

Federal: (-10,000)  
Healthcare: (-28,000)  
Construction: Unchanged  
Transportation and Warehouse: (-11,000)

#### Industry Notes

The Primary Metal Manufacturing industry saw a decrease in payroll of 1,700 jobs and Fabricated Metal Products saw an increase of 2100 jobs.

### Civilian Unemployment Rate

