

## U.S. Labor Market Data

US Talent Monthly Market sourced from the U.S. Labor Market Data:



### MODEST JOB GROWTH IN APRIL

- \* Employment gains were led by the professional and business services, healthcare, and manufacturing sectors.
- \* The unemployment rate fell below 4% for the first time since late 2000, as more workers left the labor force.
- \* Although the headline numbers appear healthy, concerns remain over persistently sluggish wage growth and low labor force participation.

### APPRENTICED TO TRADE

In a tight labor market environment that shows no signs of loosening, finding workers with the right skills to fill open positions continues to take on greater importance. One way of boosting workers' skills and increasing employability is via apprenticeship programs, a model that has been used effectively in countries like Germany and is gaining traction in the United States. Combining classroom learning with paid on-the-job training under the instruction of an experienced mentor, apprenticeships provide workers with pathways to good careers and employers with a pipeline of tailor-made talent.

The US Department of Labor counted more than 533,000 active apprentices in more than 22,000 programs across the country in 2017, a steady increase from 375,000 apprentices in 19,000 programs in 2013. More than 64,000 Americans completed apprenticeship programs in 2017, an increase of nearly 22% over 2013. The growth outlook also appears positive: the recent Omnibus Appropriations Act increased federal funding for apprenticeship programs, and several governors recently referenced support for apprenticeships at the state level.

*Sources: States equip employers to drive apprenticeship, Brookings, 04.23.18; US DOL*