ADP: 118,000 new jobs in Nov.

Better than expected in wake of superstorm

By Paul Davidson
USA Today

Businesses added a better-than-expected 118,000 jobs in November even though Superstorm Sandy dampened hiring in the Northeast, private payroll processor ADP reported Wednesday.

"This is especially impressive given the uncertainty created by the presidential election and the fast-approaching fiscal cliff," said Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody's Analytics, which works with ADP to prepare the report.

The storm cut job gains by about 86,000, according to Zandi. It "wreaked havoc on the job market in November," he said, particularly affecting manufacturing, retail, leisure and hospitality, and temporary help services.

The ADP report may foreshadow somewhat stronger-than-expected job growth in the government's more closely-followed employment report on Friday.

In other economic news:

» **Factory orders:** Orders to U.S. factories rose modestly in October, helped by a big gain in demand for equipment that reflects business investment plans. Factory orders edged up 0.8 percent in October, the Commerce Department said.

» **Service sector:** Service companies grew at a slightly faster pace in November because sales and new orders rose, a good sign for the economy.