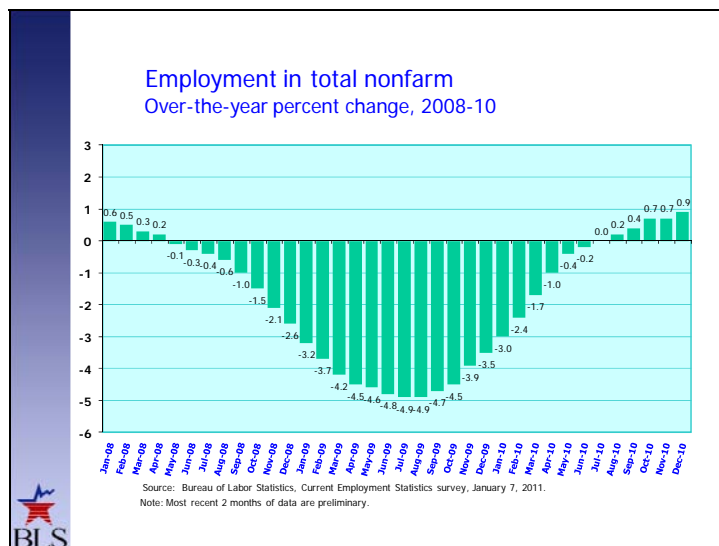
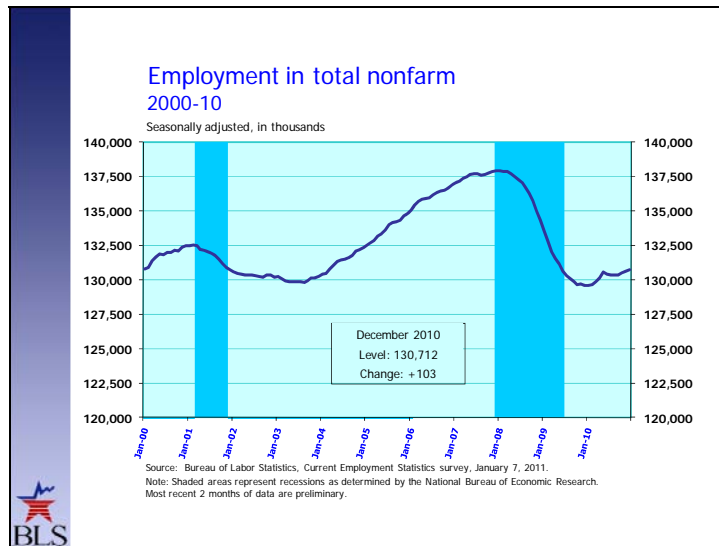


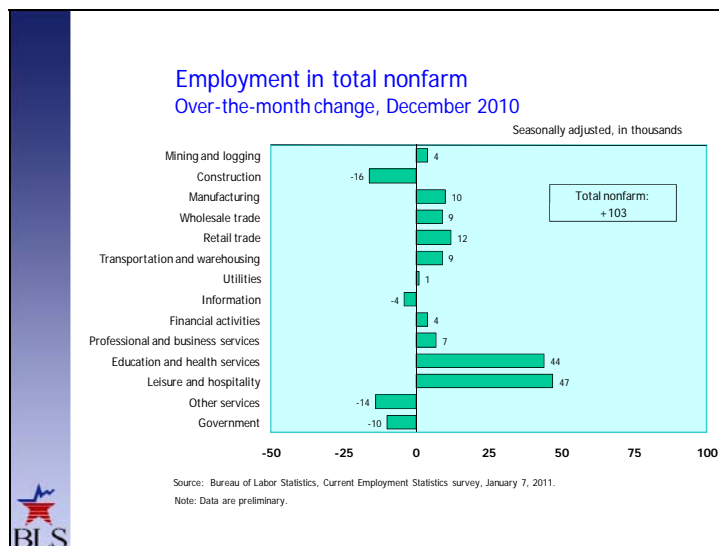
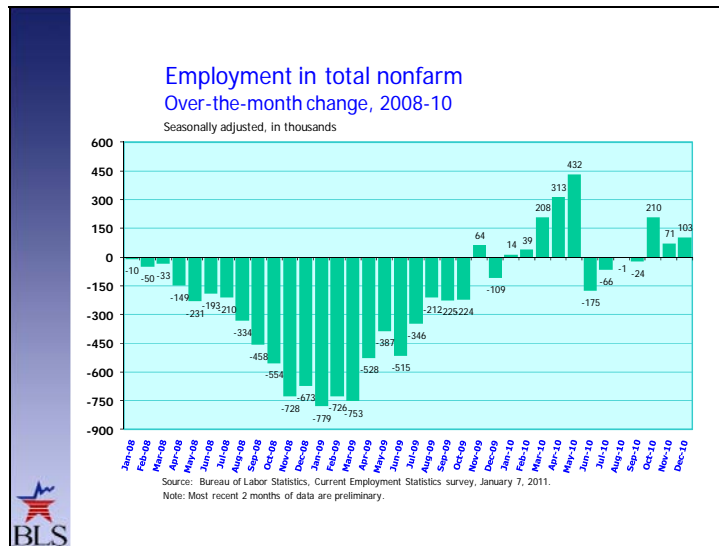


Current Employment Statistics Highlights December 2010

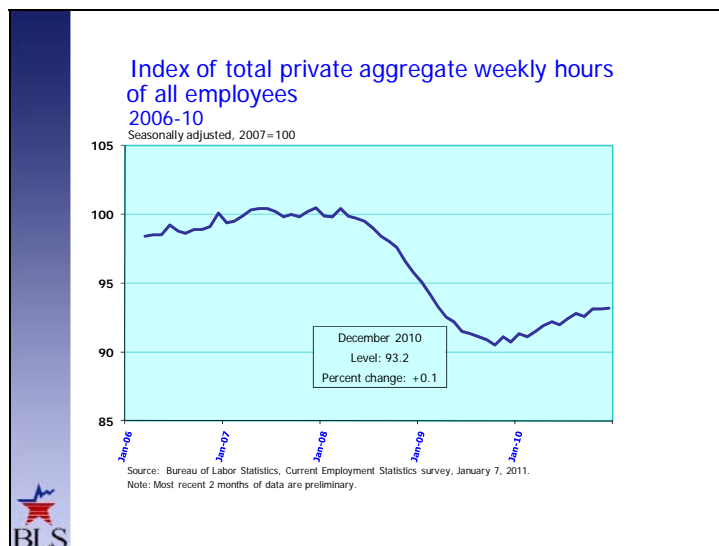
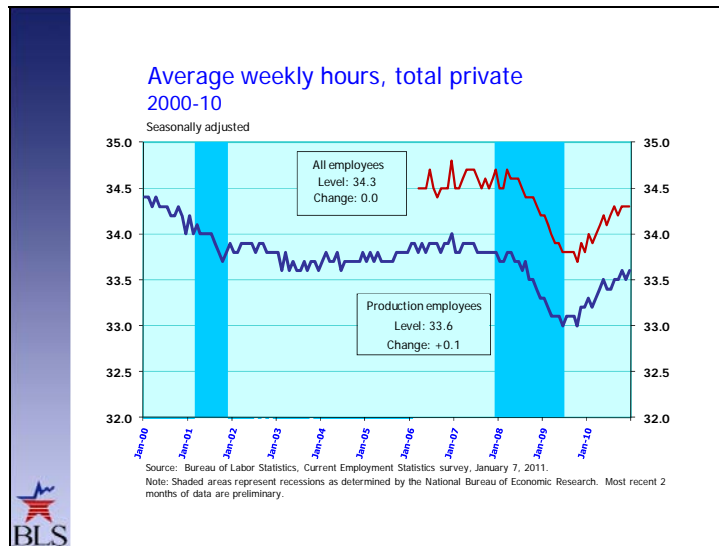
Bureau of Labor Statistics
January 7, 2011



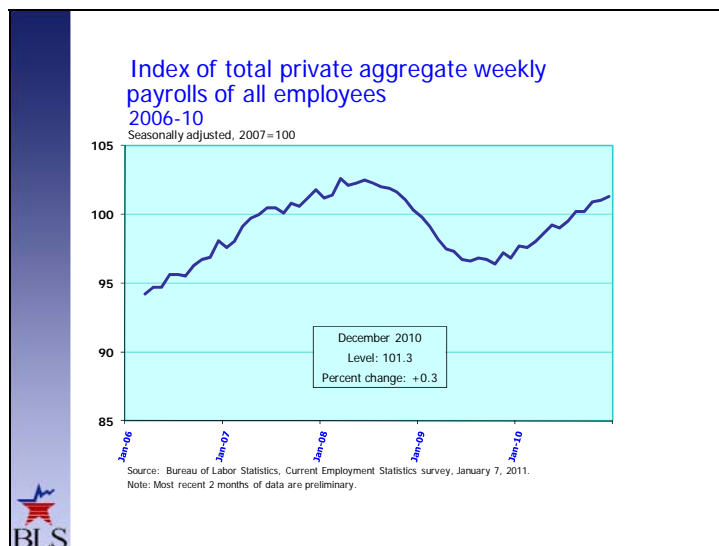
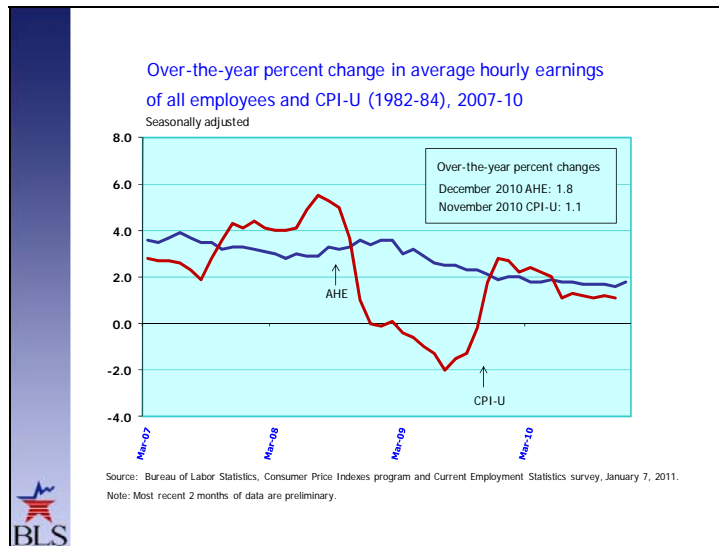
- Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 103,000 in December.
- Since a recent low in December 2009, nonfarm employment has expanded by 1.1 million, or 0.9 percent.



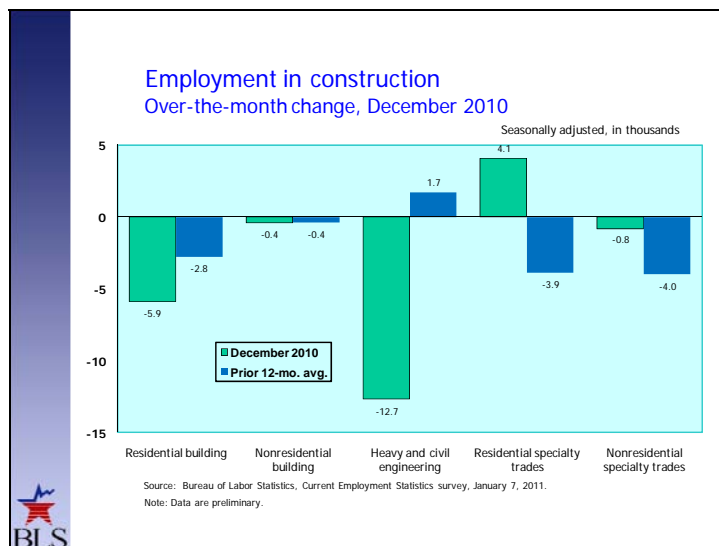
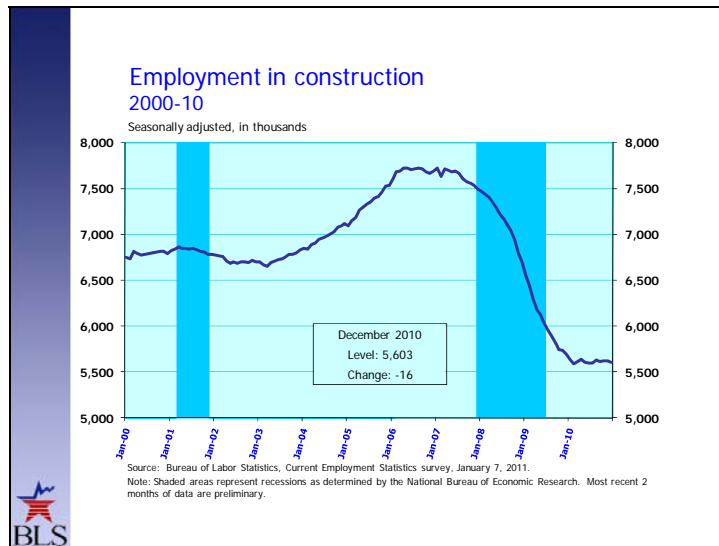
- December marked the third consecutive month of nonfarm employment growth.
- Education and health services and leisure and hospitality added jobs in December, while all other industries showed little employment change.



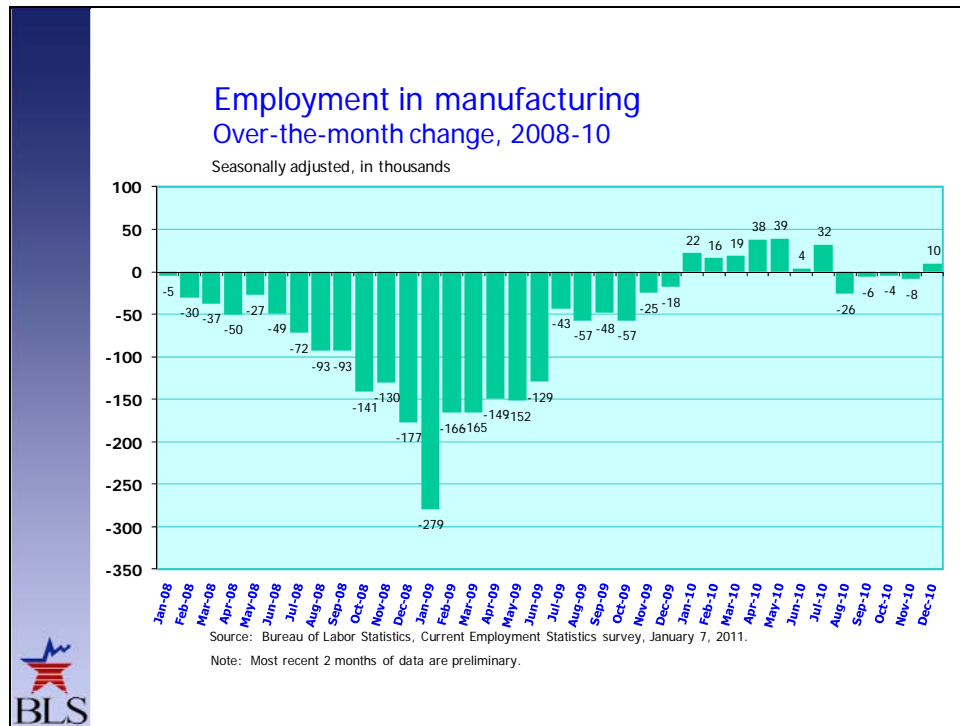
- Average weekly hours for all employees remained unchanged at 34.3 in December, while production worker hours increased by 0.1 hour to 33.6.
- The index of aggregate weekly hours for all employees increased by 0.1 percent over the month; since a recent low in October 2009, the index has increased by 3.0 percent.



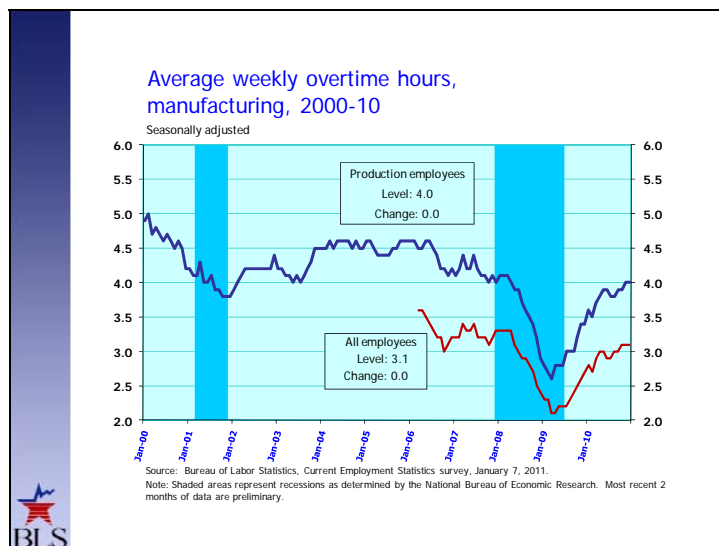
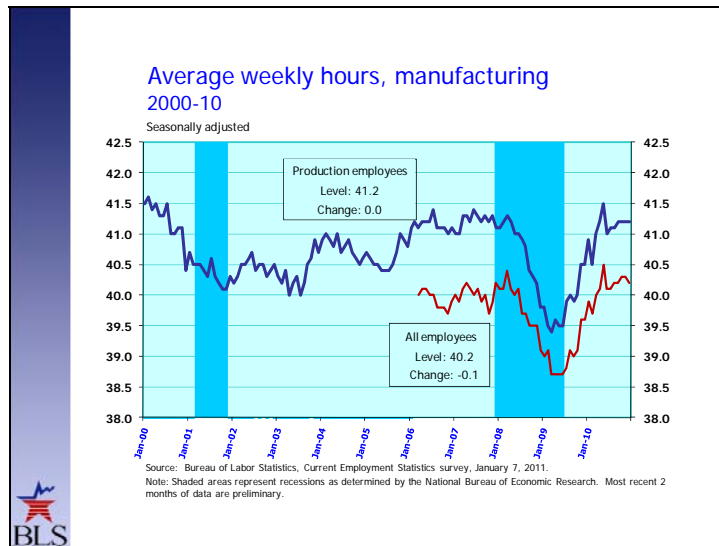
- Average hourly earnings for all employees increased by 3 cents in December to \$22.78.
- Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased by 40 cents, or 1.8 percent. The Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers rose by 1.1 percent between November 2009 and November 2010.
- In December, the index of private aggregate weekly payrolls for all employees increased by 0.3 percent to 101.3, its highest level since October 2008. Since a recent low in October 2009, the index has increased by 5.1 percent but is still 1.3 percent below the March 2008 peak.



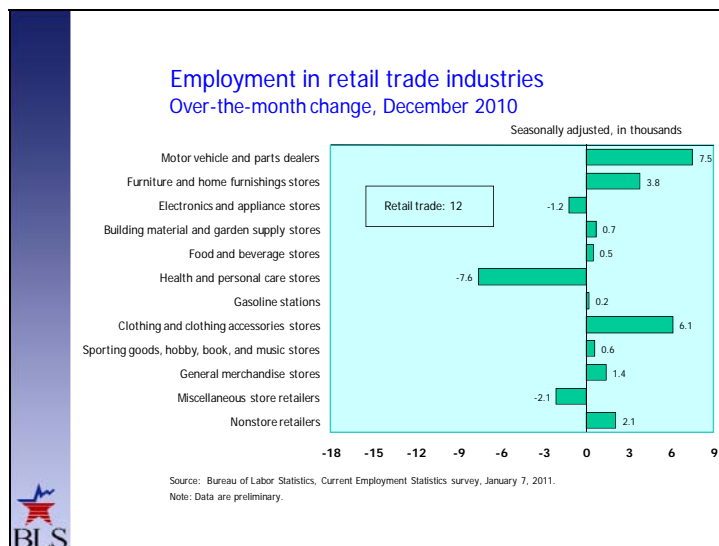
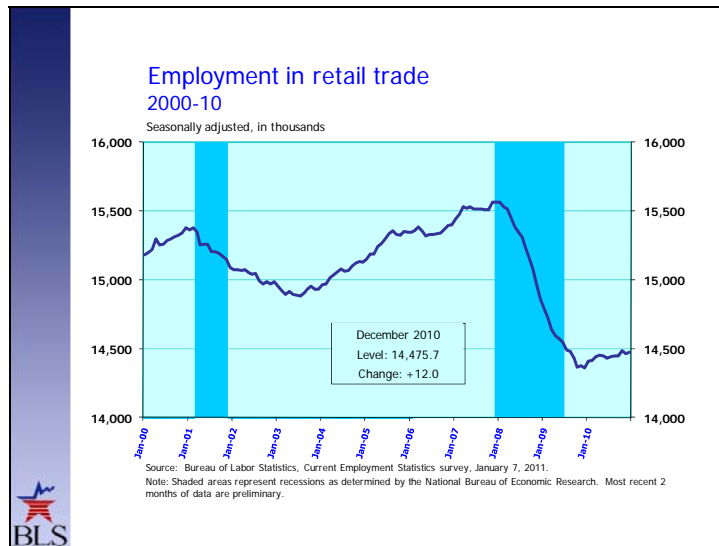
- Construction employment showed little change in December and, on net, has been essentially flat since March.
- Heavy and civil engineering construction lost 13,000 jobs, while employment in building construction and specialty trades was unchanged. Extremely cold weather in the eastern half of the country and heavy precipitation in the West and Northeast may have suppressed employment.



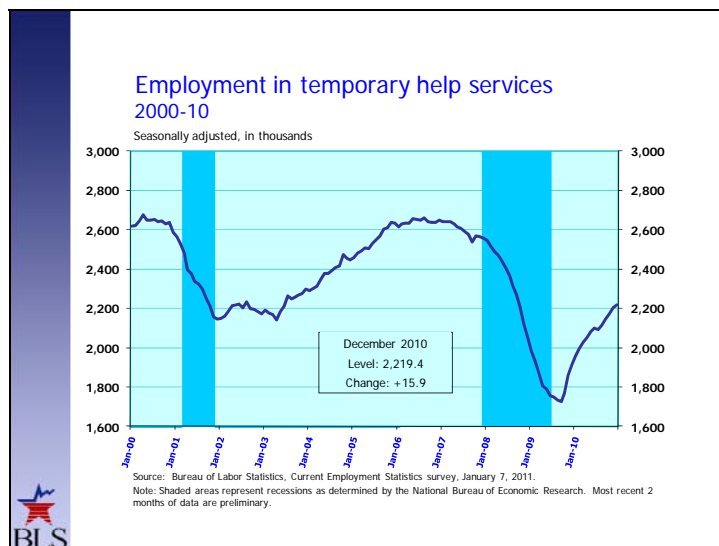
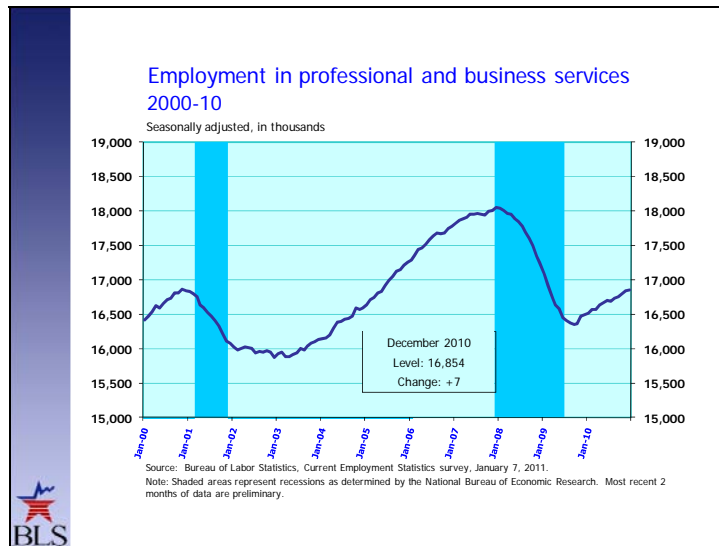
- Manufacturing employment changed little in December.
- The industry added 136,000 jobs in 2010. Most of the job gains occurred early in the year, and employment has shown little net change since May.



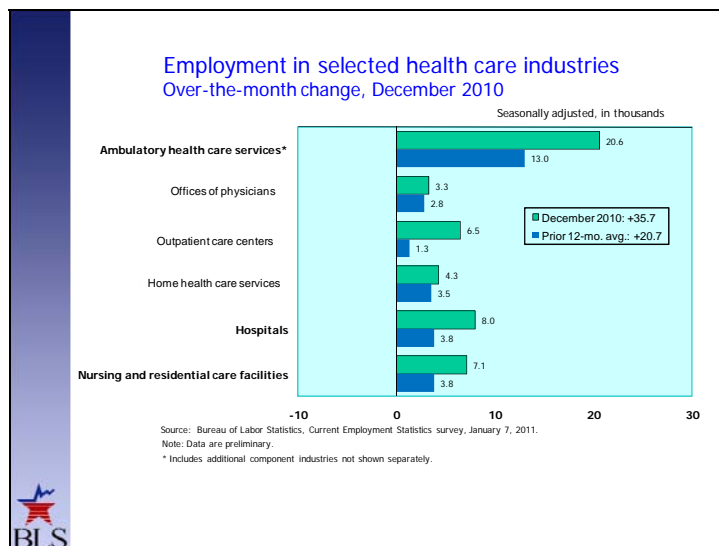
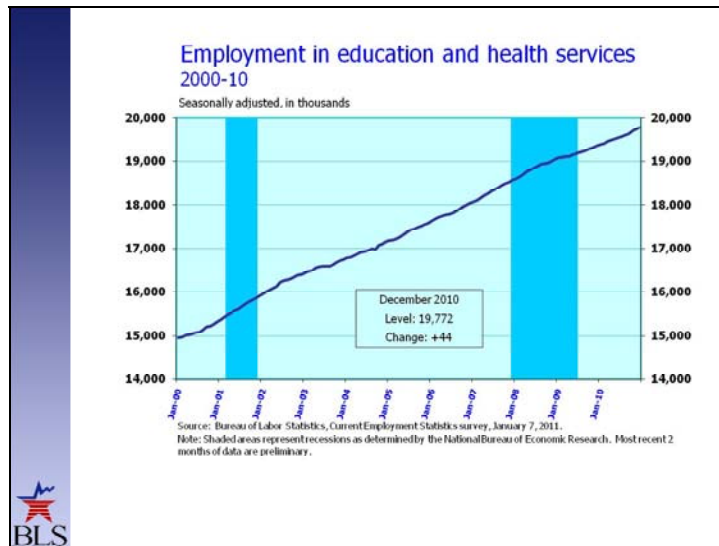
- Average weekly hours for all employees in manufacturing edged down by 0.1 hour to 40.2 in December, while the production employee workweek was unchanged at 41.2 hours.
- Average weekly overtime hours for both all employees and production employees were unchanged over the month.
- Since recent lows in March 2009, the workweek for production employees has increased by 1.8 hours, and production employee overtime has increased by 1.4 hours.



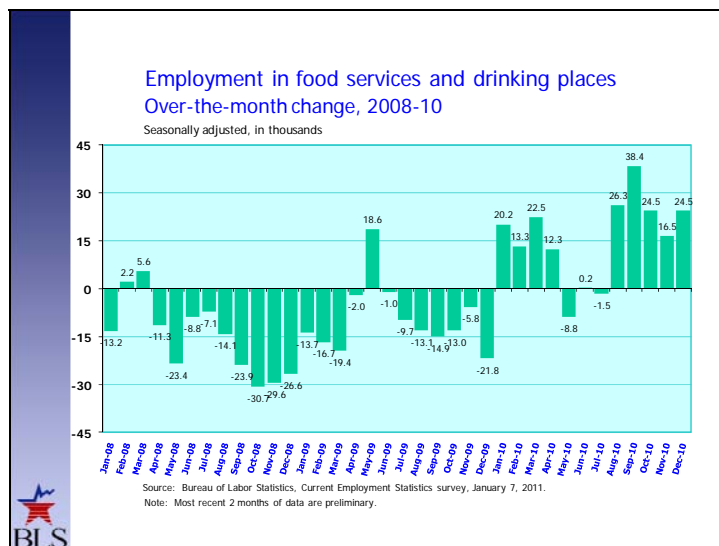
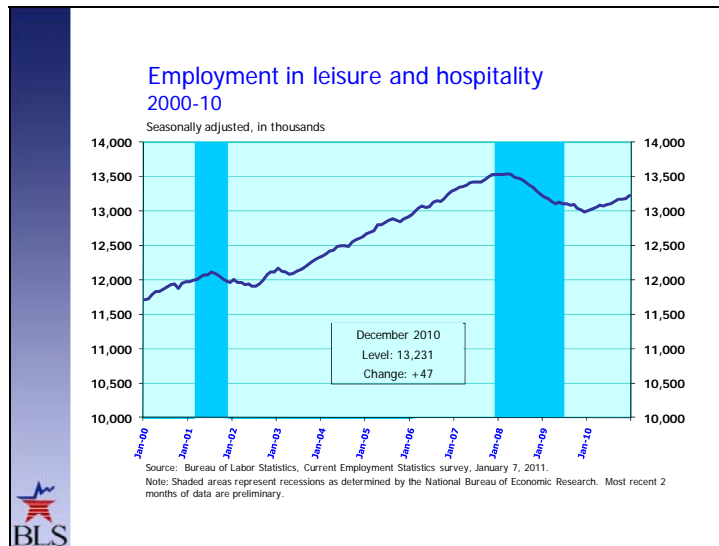
- Retail trade employment was essentially flat in December, although over the year, employment in retail trade has expanded by 116,000.
- During December, job gains in motor vehicles and parts dealers (+8,000) offset losses in health and personal care stores (-8,000). Employment in other component industries changed little.



- Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in December as job growth continued in temporary help services.
- Temporary help services has added 495,000 jobs since a recent low in September 2009.



- Education and health services added 44,000 jobs over the month; employment in the industry expanded by 422,000 in 2010.
- Health care accounted for the majority of December's employment growth in education and health services as ambulatory health care services (+21,000) and hospitals (+8,000) added jobs.



- Leisure and hospitality added 47,000 jobs in December. Since a recent low in December 2009, employment in the industry has increased by 240,000.
- Food services and drinking places continued to add jobs in December 2010. Employment in this industry has increased by 188,000 since the most recent trough one year ago.