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Statement of

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Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 428,000 in April, and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.6 percent. Job growth was widespread, led by gains in leisure and hospitality, in manufacturing, and in transportation and warehousing.

Nonfarm employment is down by 1.2 million, or 0.8 percent, from its February 2020 level before the onset of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

In April, employment growth continued in leisure and hospitality (+78,000), with gains in food services and drinking places (+44,000) and accommodation (+22,000). Employment in leisure and hospitality is down by 1.4 million, or 8.5 percent, from its February 2020 level.

Manufacturing employment increased by 55,000 in April. Employment rose by 31,000 in durable goods, with gains in transportation equipment (+14,000) and machinery (+7,000). Nondurable goods added 24,000 jobs, including gains in food

manufacturing (+8,000) and plastics and rubber products (+6,000). Employment in durable goods is 105,000 below its February 2020 level, while employment in nondurable goods is 49,000 above its February 2020 level. Overall, manufacturing employment is down by 56,000 since February 2020.

In April, transportation and warehousing added 52,000 jobs. Employment increased in warehousing and storage (+17,000), couriers and messengers (+15,000), truck transportation (+13,000), and air transportation (+4,000). Employment in transportation and warehousing is 674,000 above its February 2020 level, with particularly strong growth in warehousing and storage (+467,000) and in couriers and messengers (+259,000).

Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in April (+41,000) and is up by 738,000 since February 2020.

In April, employment rose by 35,000 in financial activities. Job gains occurred in insurance carriers and related activities (+20,000); in nondepository credit intermediation (+6,000); and in securities, commodity contracts, and investments (+5,000). Employment in financial activities is 71,000 higher than in February 2020.

Health care added 34,000 jobs in April, with most of the gain occurring in ambulatory health care services (+28,000). Health care employment is 250,000 below its February 2020 level.

Employment in retail trade increased by 29,000 in April. Job gains in food and beverage stores (+24,000) and in general merchandise stores (+12,000) were partially offset by losses in building material and garden supply stores (-16,000) and health and personal care stores (-9,000). Retail trade employment is 284,000 higher than in February 2020.

Employment growth continued in wholesale trade, with the addition of 22,000 jobs in April. Employment in the industry is down by 57,000 since February 2020.

Employment in mining increased by 9,000 in April, with a gain in oil and gas extraction (+5,000). Since a recent low in February 2021, mining employment has grown by 73,000.

Employment showed little change over the month in other major industries, including construction, information, other services, and government.

The average workweek for all private sector workers was unchanged at 34.6 hours in April. The average workweek for manufacturing fell by 0.2 hour to 40.5 hours.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 10 cents, or 0.3 percent, to \$31.85 in April. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased by 5.5 percent.

Turning to the labor market indicators from the household survey, the unemployment rate held at 3.6 percent in April, and

the number of unemployed people was essentially unchanged at 5.9 million. Both measures are little different than their February 2020 levels (3.5 percent and 5.7 million, respectively).

In April, the unemployment rates for adult men (3.5 percent), adult women (3.2 percent), teenagers (10.2 percent), Whites (3.2 percent), Blacks (5.9 percent), Asians (3.1 percent), and Hispanics (4.1 percent) showed little or no change.

Among the unemployed, the number of permanent job losers remained at 1.4 million in April. This measure is little different from its February 2020 level. The number of people on temporary layoff changed little at 853,000 in April and is also little different from its February 2020 level.

In April, the number of people unemployed for 27 weeks or more (often referred to as the long-term unemployed) was little changed at 1.5 million. This measure is 362,000 above its February 2020 level. The long-term unemployed accounted for 25.2 percent of the total unemployed in April.

The labor force participation rate, at 62.2 percent, and the employment-population ratio, at 60.0 percent, changed little in April. Both measures are up over the year but are 1.2 percentage points below their February 2020 levels.

In April, 4.0 million people were working part time for economic reasons, little changed from the previous month. The

number of people affected by this type of underemployment is below its February 2020 level of 4.4 million.

The number of people not in the labor force who currently want a job was little changed at 5.9 million in April. This measure remains above its February 2020 level of 5.0 million.

Among those who were not in the labor force but wanted a job, the number of people marginally attached to the labor force increased by 262,000 to 1.6 million in April. (People who are marginally attached to the labor force had not actively looked for work in the 4 weeks prior to the survey but wanted a job, were available for work, and had looked for a job within the last 12 months.) The number of discouraged workers, a subset of the marginally attached who believed that no jobs were available for them, changed little at 456,000 in April.

Looking at supplemental pandemic-related measures from the household survey (these supplemental data are not seasonally adjusted), the share of employed people who teleworked because of the pandemic declined to 7.7 percent in April. These data refer only to employed people who teleworked or worked from home for pay at some point in the last 4 weeks specifically because of the pandemic; they do not include all instances of telework.

In April, the number of people who reported that they had been unable to work because their employer closed or lost business due to the pandemic fell to 1.7 million. (These

individuals did not work at all or worked fewer hours at some point in the last 4 weeks due to the pandemic.) Among those who reported in April that they were unable to work because of pandemic-related closures or lost business, 19.0 percent received at least some pay from their employer for the hours not worked, little changed from the prior month.

Among those not in the labor force in April, 586,000 people were prevented from looking for work due to the pandemic, down from March. (To be counted as unemployed, by definition, individuals must either be actively searching for work or on temporary layoff.)

In summary, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 428,000 in April, and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.6 percent.