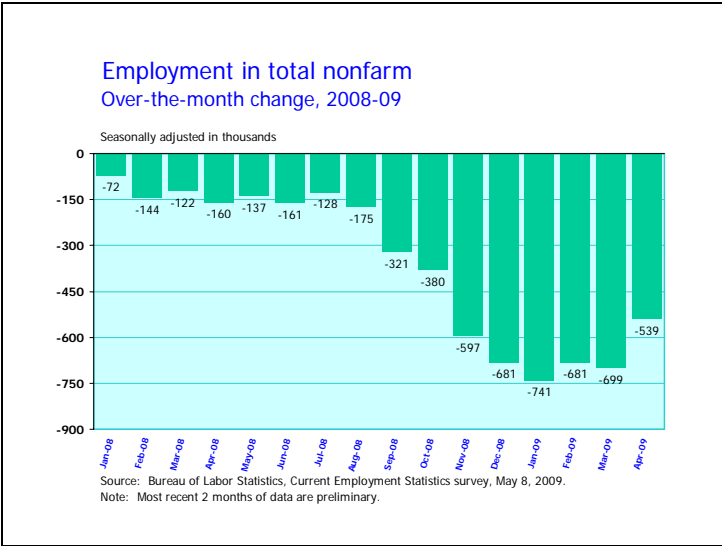
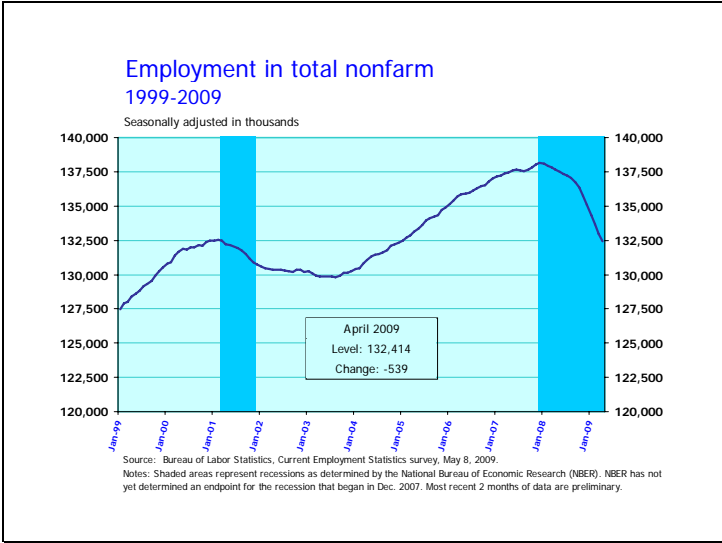


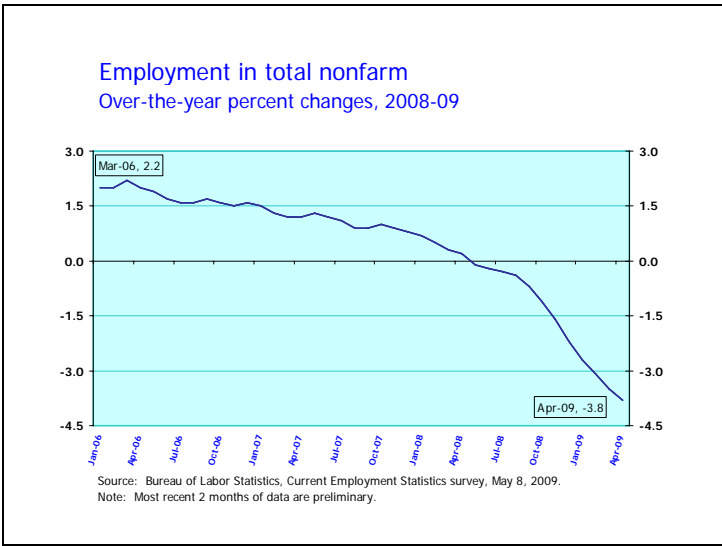
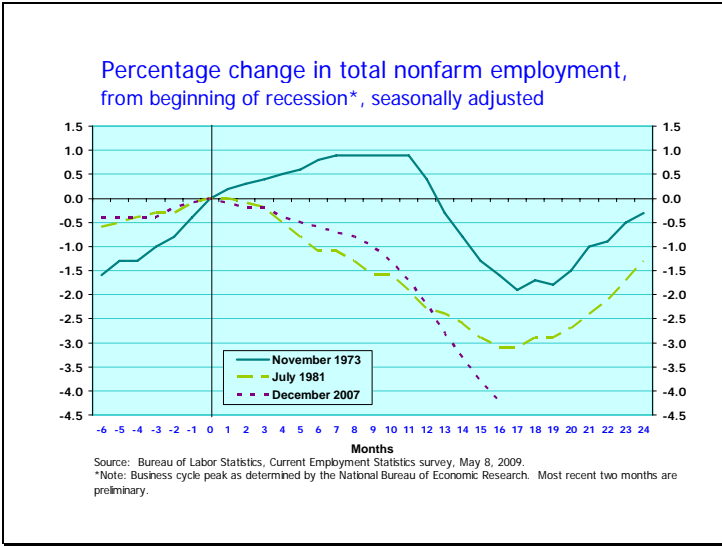


# **Current Employment Statistics Highlights April 2009**

Bureau of Labor Statistics  
May 8, 2009

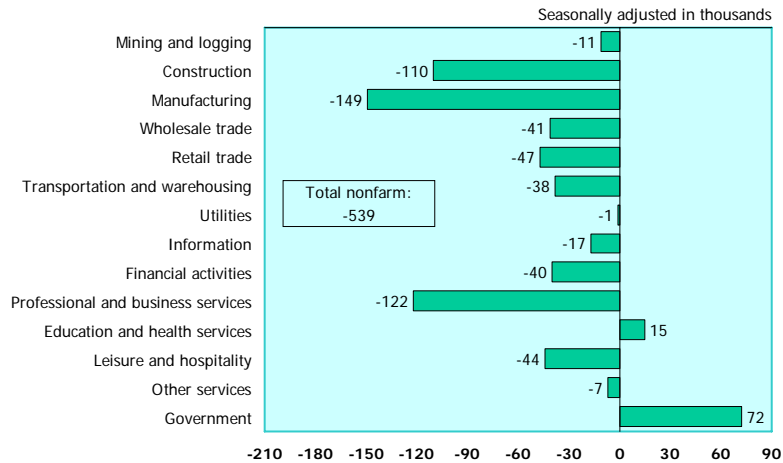


- Nonfarm payroll employment declined by 539,000 in April. Payroll employment has declined by 3.9 million in the past 6 months, or an average of 656,000 per month. This is the largest 6-month decline since the series began in 1939.



- Total nonfarm employment peaked in December 2007, coinciding with the start of the recession as declared by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). With the recent acceleration of job losses, nonfarm employment has fallen by 5.7 million or 4.2 percent since its peak.
- Job losses averaged 180,000 per month in the 10 months immediately following the peak and then accelerated to an average 656,000 per month since October.

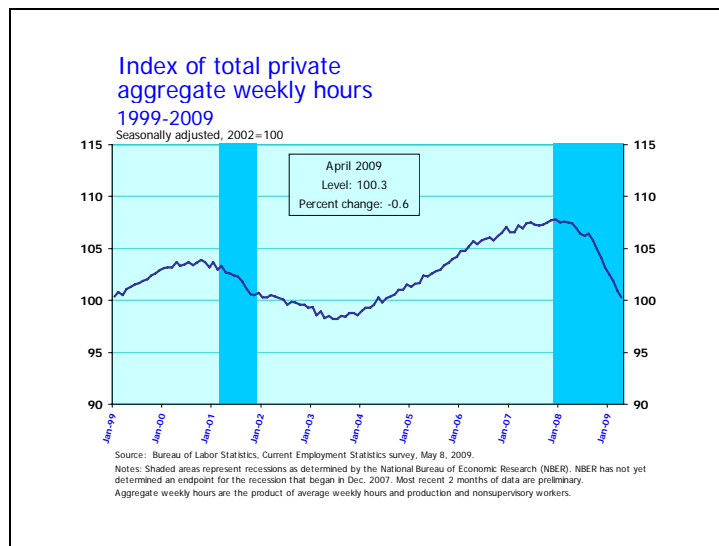
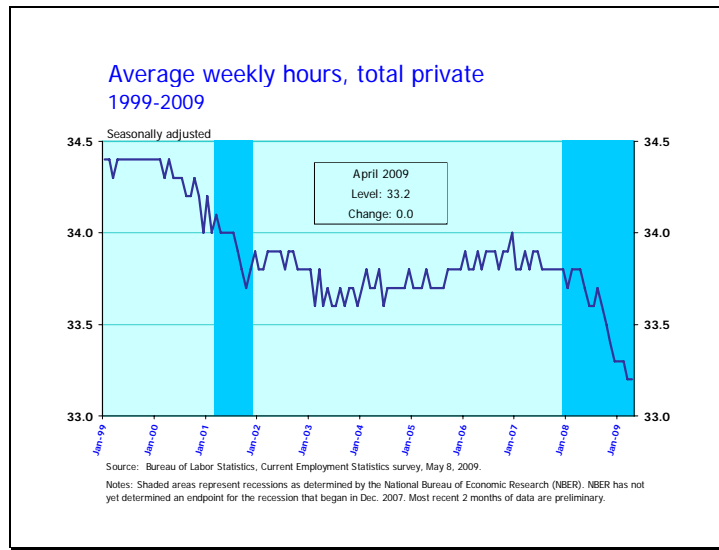
## Employment in total nonfarm Over-the-month change, April 2009



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 8, 2009.

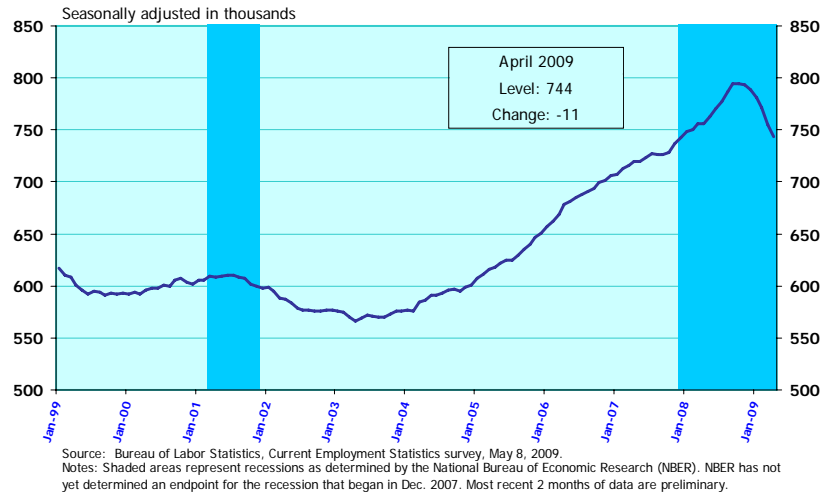
Note: Data are preliminary.

- In April, job losses occurred in most major industry sectors. Manufacturing, construction, and professional and business services continued to have large employment declines.
- Goods-producing industries shed 270,000 jobs in April, while service-providing industries lost 269,000 jobs.
- Government added 72,000 jobs to payrolls in April, the largest one month change since the start of the recession; however, this was largely due to the addition of temporary Census workers.

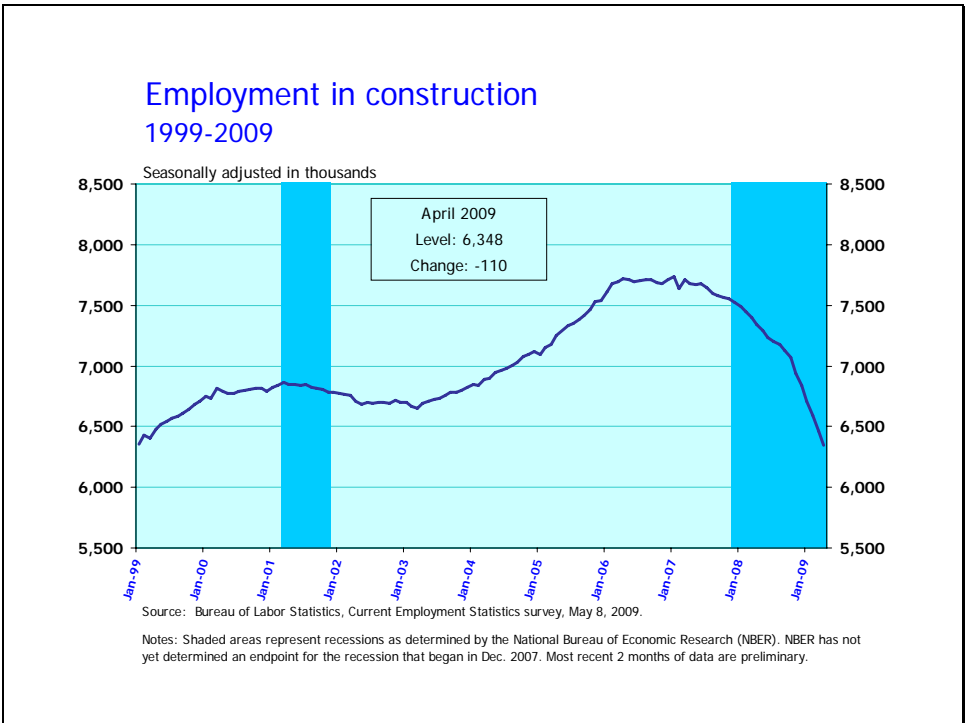


- In April, the average workweek for production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged at 33.2 hours, seasonally adjusted—33.2 hours is the lowest level on record for the series, which began in 1964.
- The index of aggregate weekly hours of production and nonsupervisory workers on nonfarm payrolls fell by 0.6 percent in April. Since peaking in December 2007, the index has decreased by 7.0 percent.

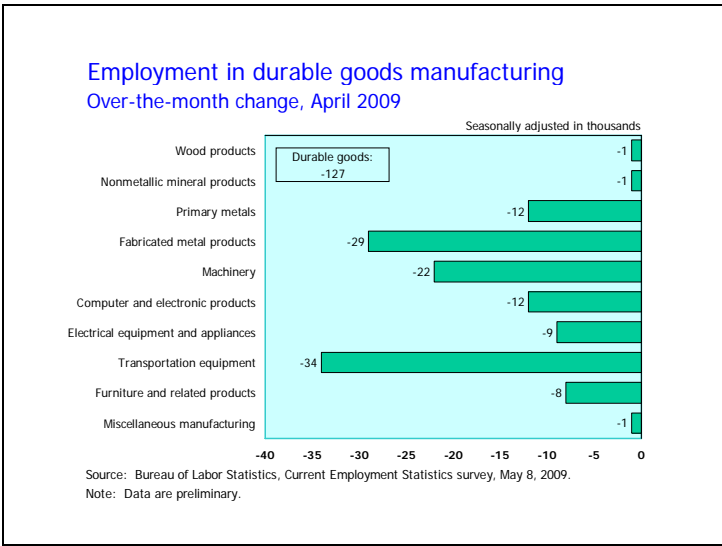
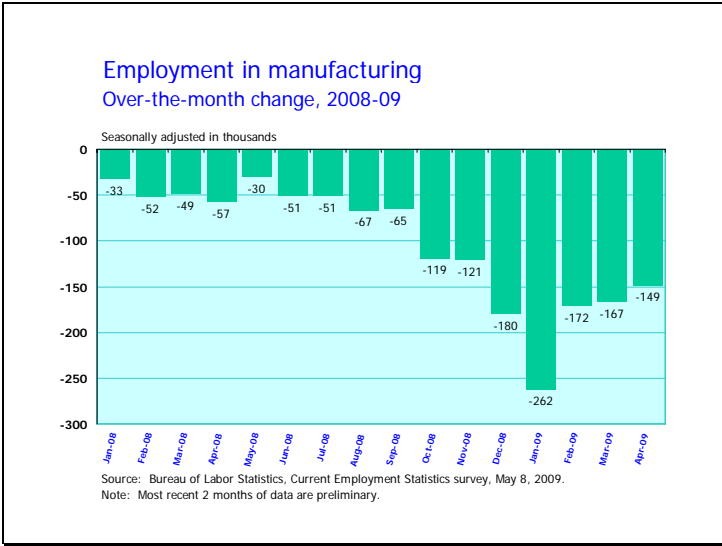
## Employment in mining and logging 1999-2009



- Employment in mining and logging realized a loss of 11,000 jobs in April, continuing the trend of accelerating job loss. Year to date, the industry has shed 45,000 jobs, a sharp contrast to 2008 during which the industry added an average 4,000 jobs per month.



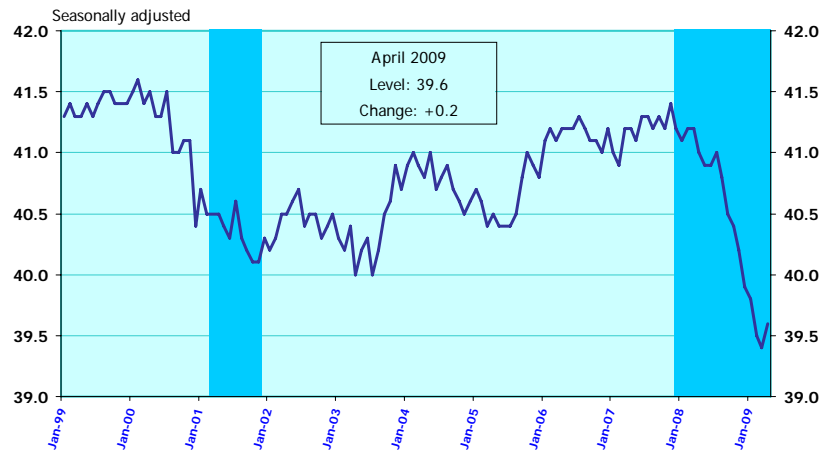
- Construction employment declined by 110,000 in April. Over the past 6 months, job losses have averaged 120,000 per month, compared with 46,000 per month between December 2007 and October 2008.
- Since the beginning of the recession, construction employment has declined by about 1.2 million. Employment in construction currently stands at its lowest level since November 1998, having lost all the jobs gained in the housing-related expansion from March 2003 to January 2007.
- Employment losses in April were widespread throughout the industry as both the residential and nonresidential components shed jobs.



- Employment in manufacturing fell by 149,000 over the month, with widespread job losses among the component industries. Employment losses have accelerated since September 2008, with 1.2 million jobs cut from payrolls since that time.
- Durable goods manufacturing had the lion’s share of this loss, with 127,000 jobs cut from payrolls in April. Three durable goods industries—transportation equipment (-34,000), fabricated metal products (-29,000) and machinery (-22,000)—accounted for about two thirds of the durable goods manufacturing job loss.



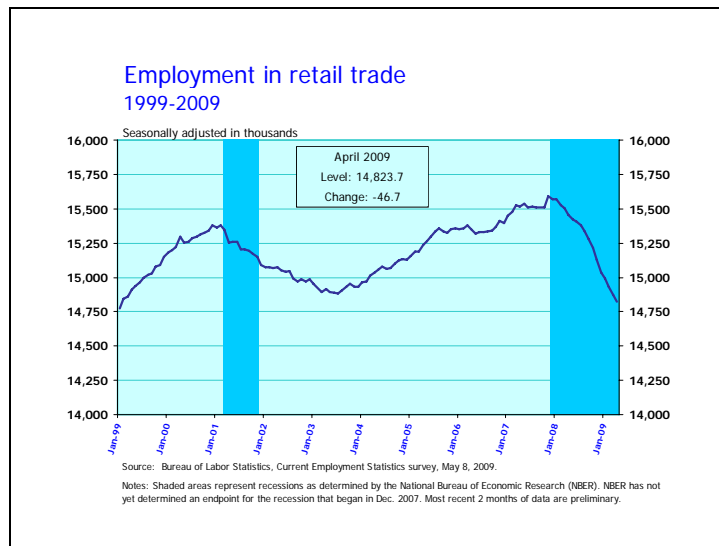
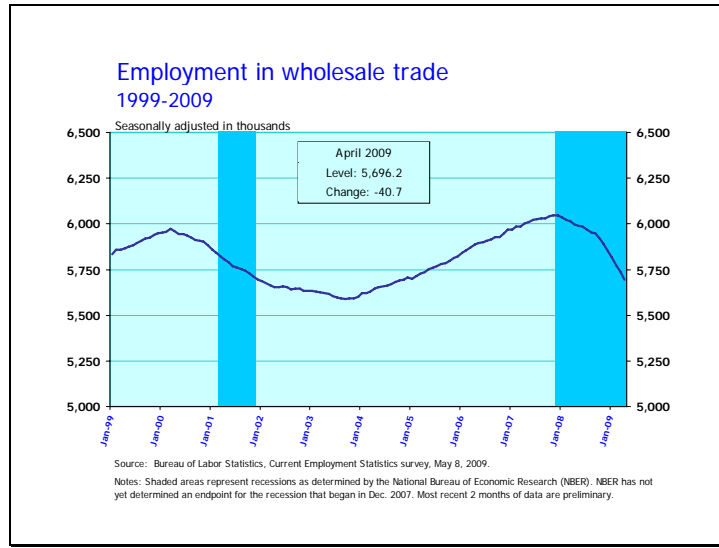
## Average weekly hours, manufacturing 1999-2009



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 8, 2009.

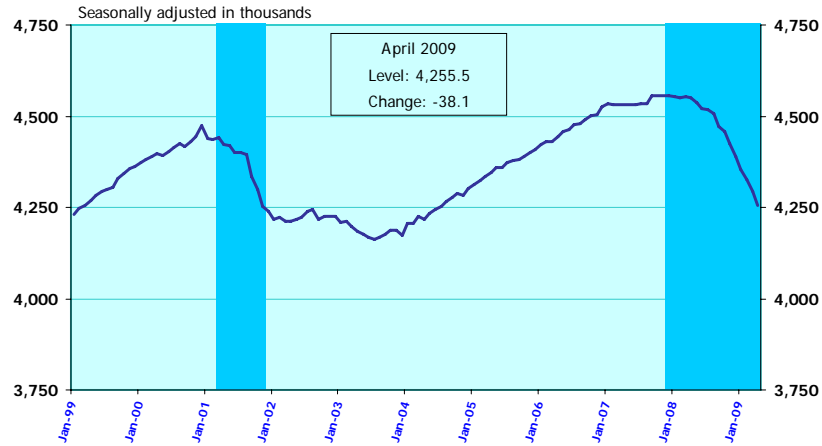
Notes: Shaded areas represent recessions as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). NBER has not yet determined an endpoint for the recession that began in Dec. 2007. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

- The manufacturing workweek increased by 0.2 hour to 39.6 hours, and factory overtime rose by 0.1 hour to 2.7 hours. Despite this uptick, the manufacturing workweek has remained below 40 hours for 5 consecutive months.



- Wholesale trade employment was down 41,000 over the month, with much of the decrease among durable goods wholesalers. The industry has lost 352,000 jobs since employment peaked in November 2007, with 224,000 of those lost in the last 6 months.
- Employment in retail trade fell by 47,000 in April. Since peaking in November 2007, employment has declined by 766,000.
- In April, losses in retail trade employment were widespread, led by department stores (-14,000), automobile dealers (-9,000), and building material and garden supply stores (-8,000).

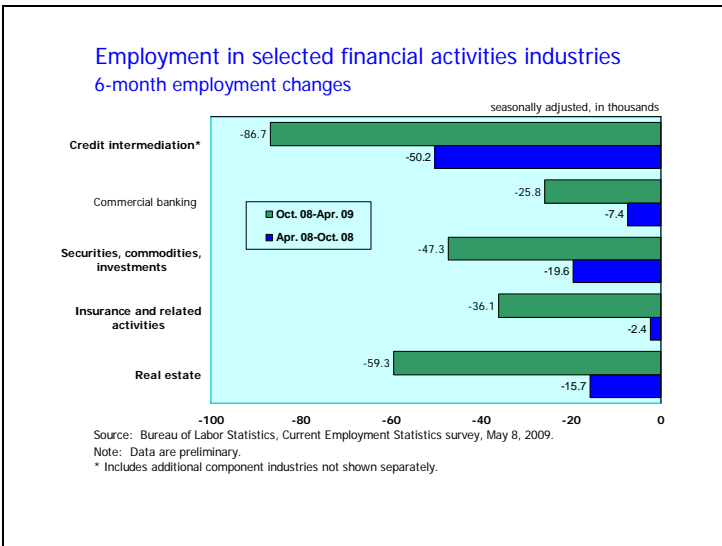
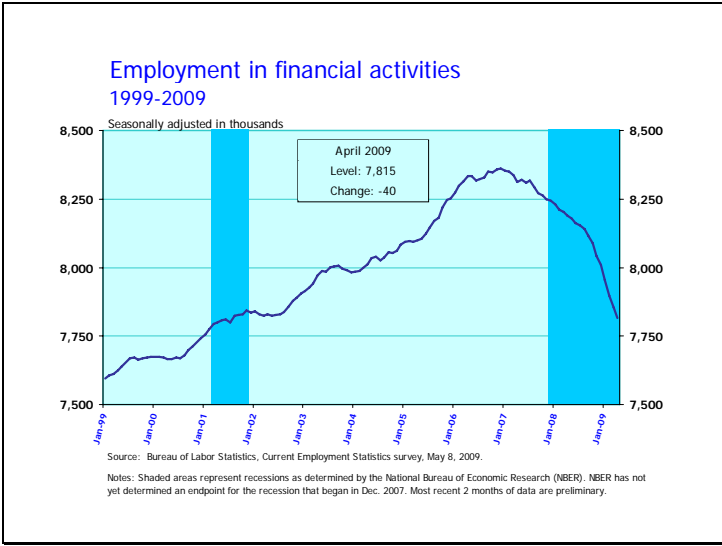
## Employment in transportation and warehousing 1999-2009



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 8, 2009.

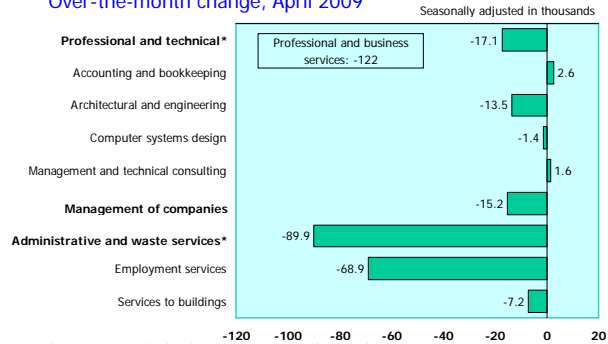
Notes: Shaded areas represent recessions as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). NBER has not yet determined an endpoint for the recession that began in Dec. 2007. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

- Employment in transportation and warehousing declined by 38,000 in April. This loss was slightly above the average monthly decline of 34,000 jobs the industry has experienced over the last 6 months.
- Losses were concentrated in truck transportation (-16,000) and warehousing and storage (-8,000).



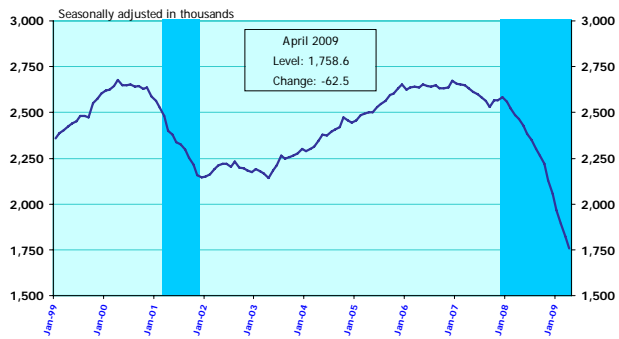
- Employment in financial activities declined by 40,000 over the month. Job losses occurred throughout the sector, including real estate and rental and leasing (-15,000) and credit intermediation and related activities (-14,000).
- Job losses within financial activities have accelerated since October 2008. Over the past 6 months, job losses have averaged 46,000 per month, compared with 16,000 per month between December 2007 and October 2008.

### Employment in selected professional and business services Over-the-month change, April 2009



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 8, 2009.  
Note: Data are preliminary.  
\* Includes additional component industries not shown separately.

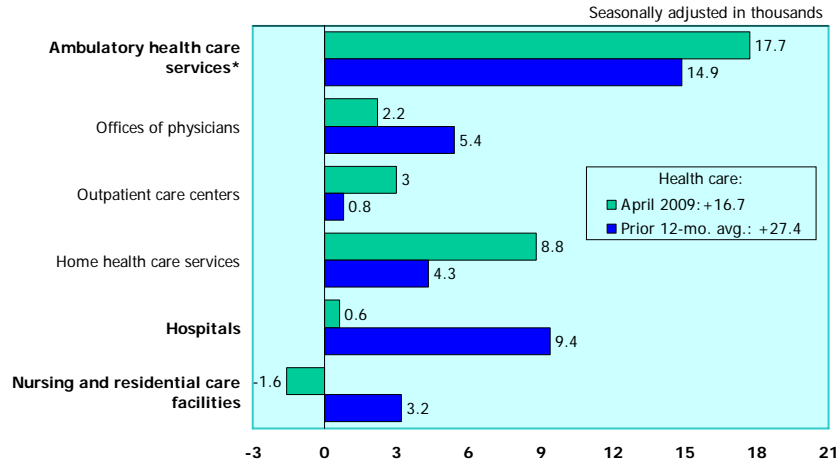
### Employment in temporary help services 1999-2009



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 8, 2009.  
Notes: Shaded areas represent recessions as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). NBER has not yet determined an endpoint for the recession that began in Dec. 2007. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

- The professional and business services industry lost 122,000 jobs in April. This sector has shed an average of 139,000 jobs per month since October 2008, when losses within the industry began to accelerate. Losses were concentrated in administrative and waste services (-90,000).
- Temporary help services lost 63,000 jobs in April. Since December 2007, the industry has averaged a loss of 52,000 jobs per month.

## Employment in selected health care industries Over-the-month change, April 2009



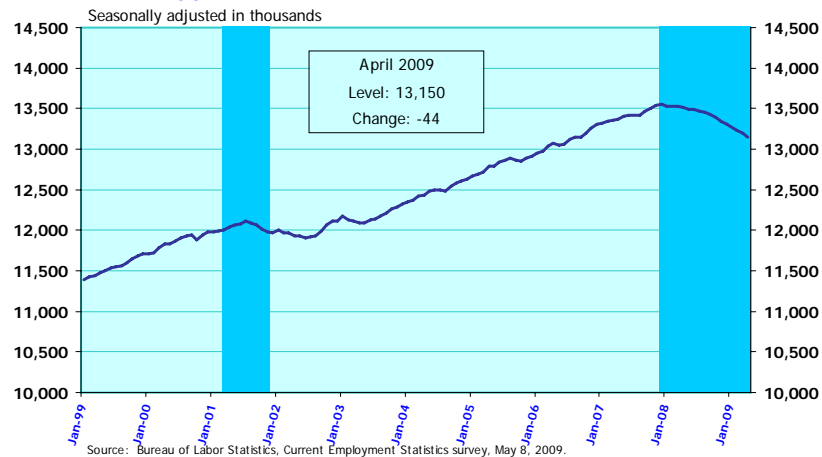
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 8, 2009.

Note: Data are preliminary.

\* Includes additional component industries not shown separately.

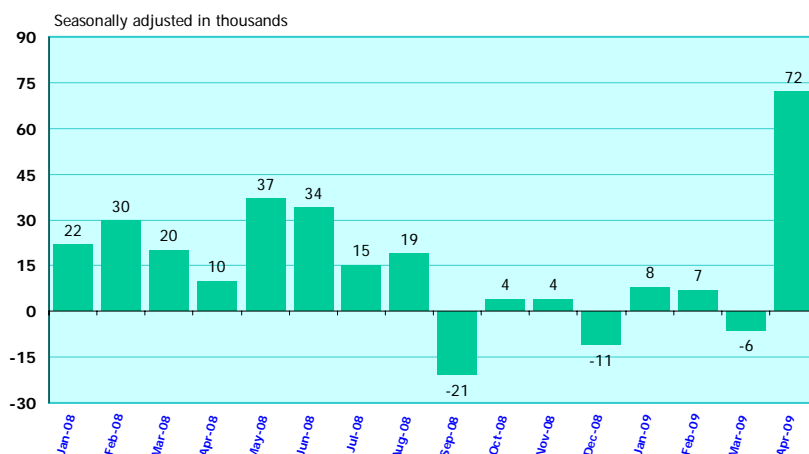
- The health care industry added 17,000 jobs over the month, in line with its average monthly gain since January. In 2008 the average gain was 30,000 jobs per month.
- Employment in hospitals remained flat in April. So far in 2009, the change in employment has averaged 2,000 jobs per month, which is about one-fifth of the 2008 monthly average (11,000).

## Employment in leisure and hospitality 1999-2009



- The leisure and hospitality industry lost 44,000 jobs in April. This industry has shed 401,000 jobs since its most recent peak in December 2007, with 245,000 of those lost in the last 6 months.
- Amusements, gambling and recreation (-22,000) and accommodation (-8,000) accounted for most of the job loss within leisure and hospitality.

## Employment in government Over-the-month change, 2008-09



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 8, 2009.  
Note: Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

- Employment in government rose by 72,000 over the month. Within the federal government, job gains resulted primarily from hiring of temporary workers to prepare for Census 2010.