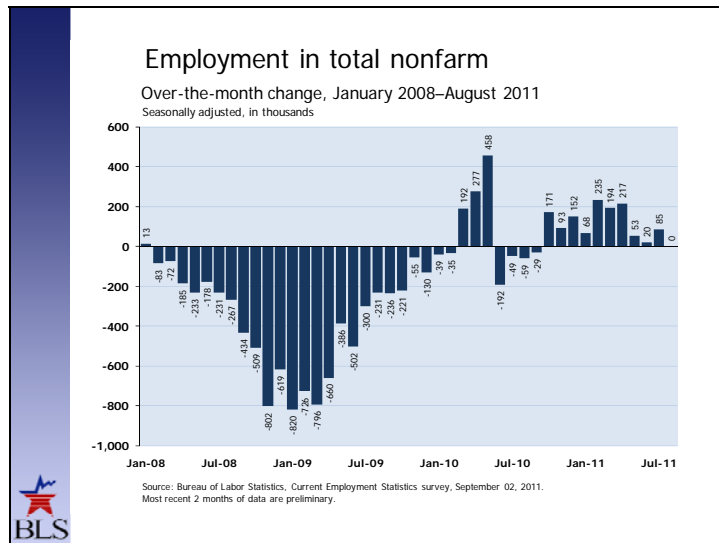
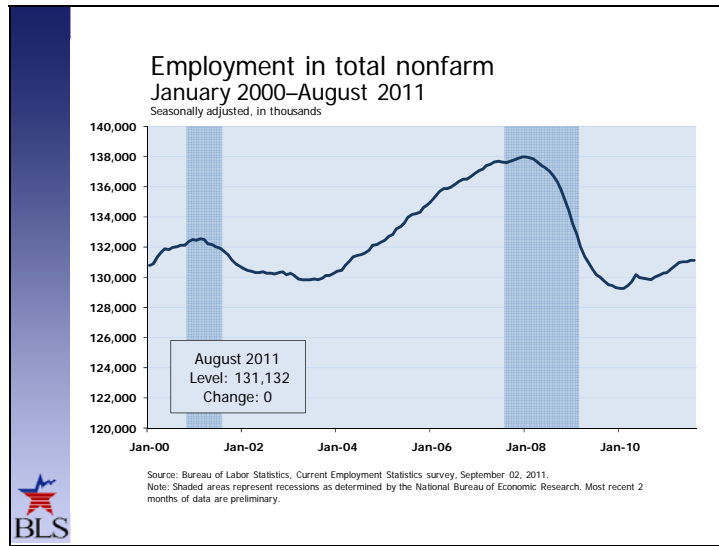


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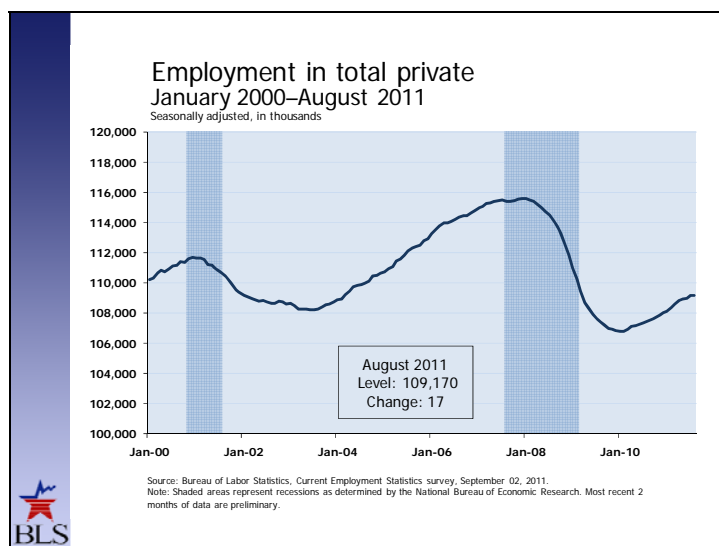
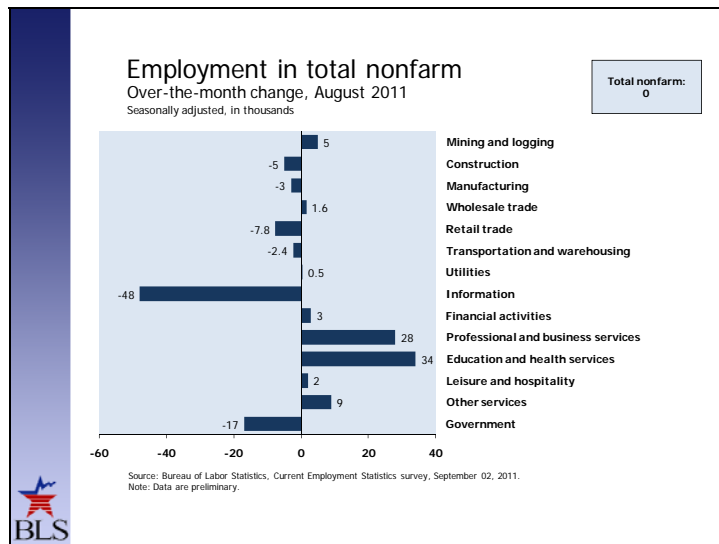


Current Employment Statistics Highlights August 2011

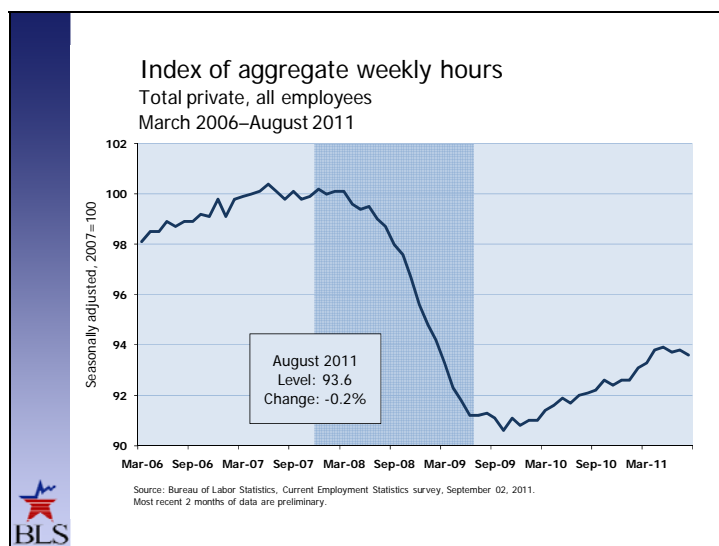
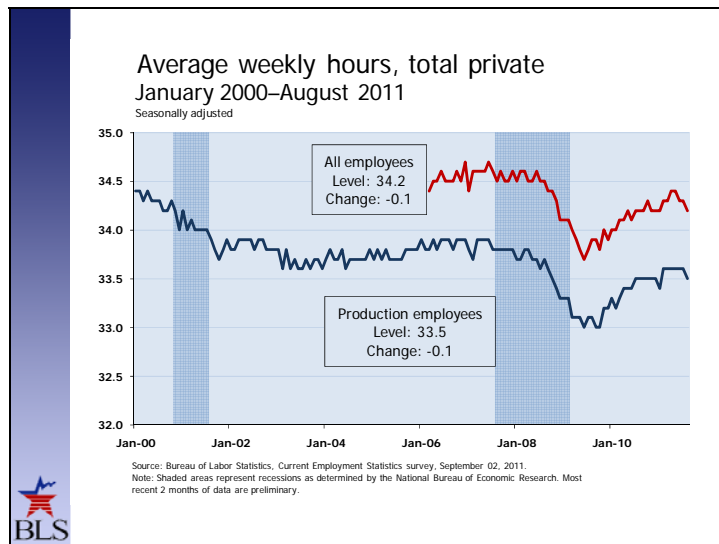
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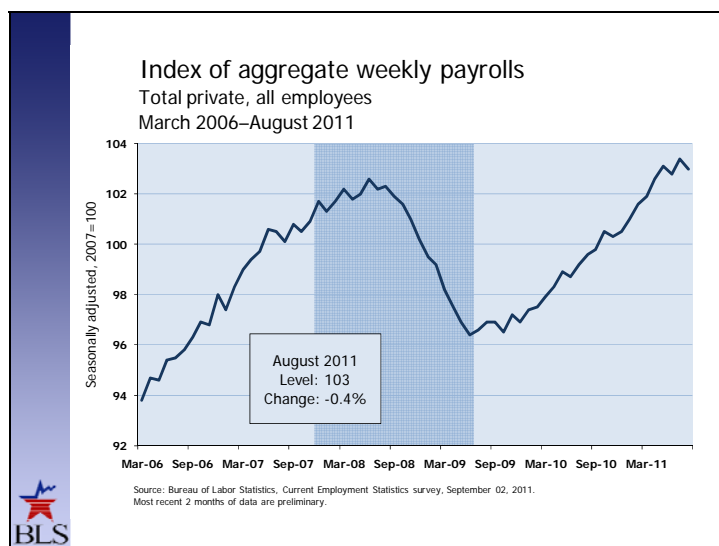
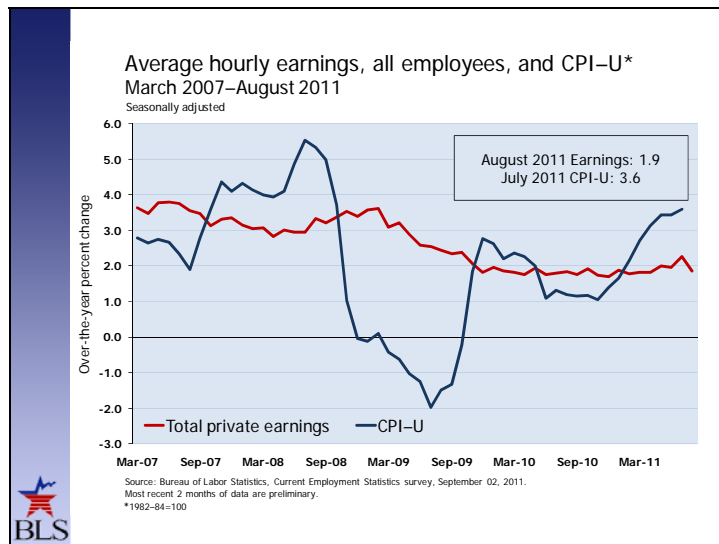
- Nonfarm payroll employment was unchanged in August.
- Monthly job gains have averaged 40,000 per month over the last 4 months, compared to 179,000 per months during the first 4 months of the year.



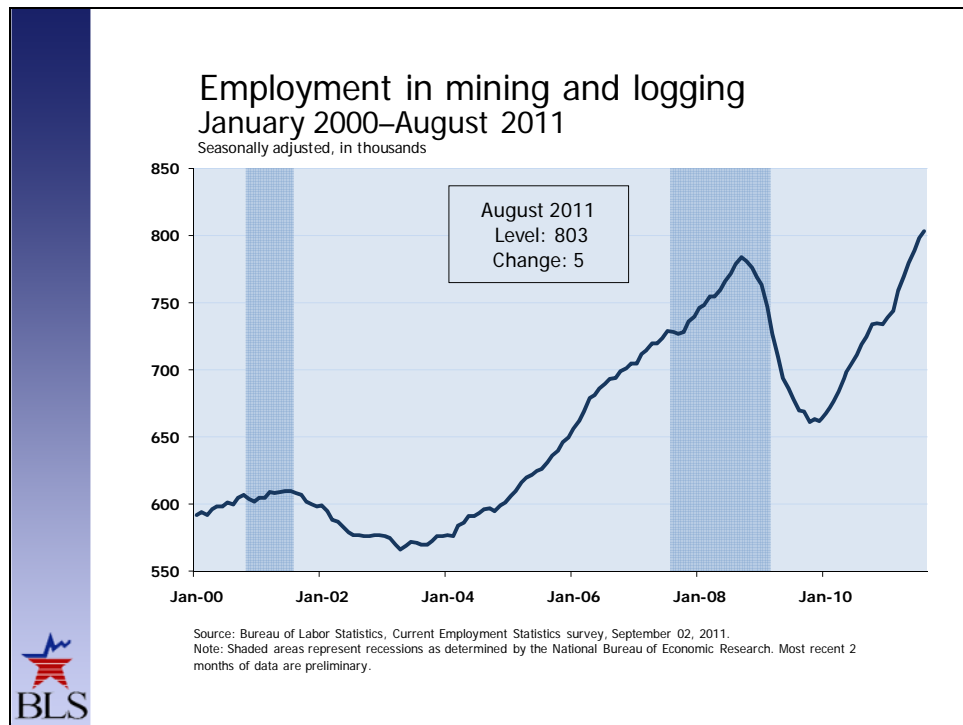
- In August, job gains continued in health care, professional and technical services, and mining. Government employment continued to fall even though Minnesota state government employees returned from a shutdown in July. A strike in telecommunications more than offset the return of those state government workers.
- Employment in the private sector was little changed (+17,000) over the month. Since reaching a recent employment low in February 2010, the private sector has added 2.4 million jobs—an average of 133,000 per month.



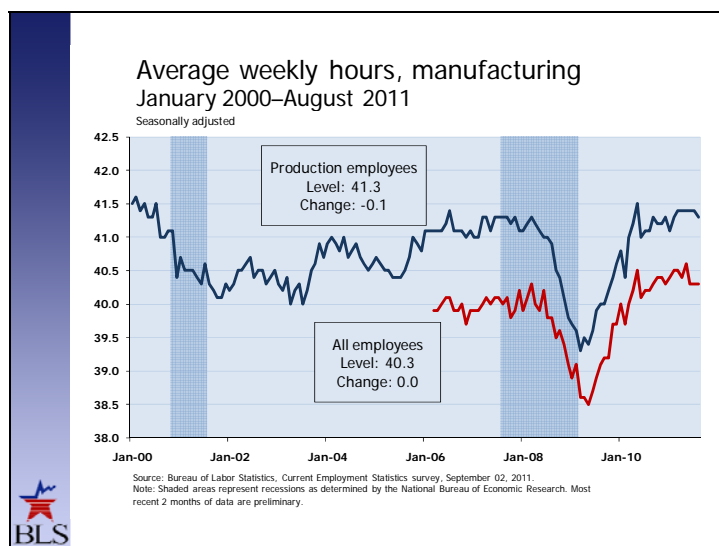
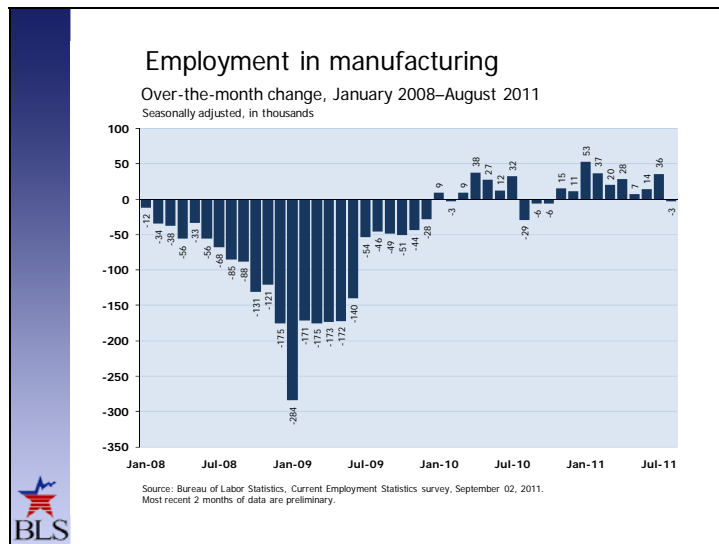
- The average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls edged down by 0.1 hour over the month to 34.2 hours. The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls edged down to 33.5 hours in August, after holding at 33.6 for the prior 6 months.
- The index of aggregate weekly hours for all employees in the private sector declined 0.2 percent in August. Since reaching a low point in October 2009, the index has increased by 3.3 percent.



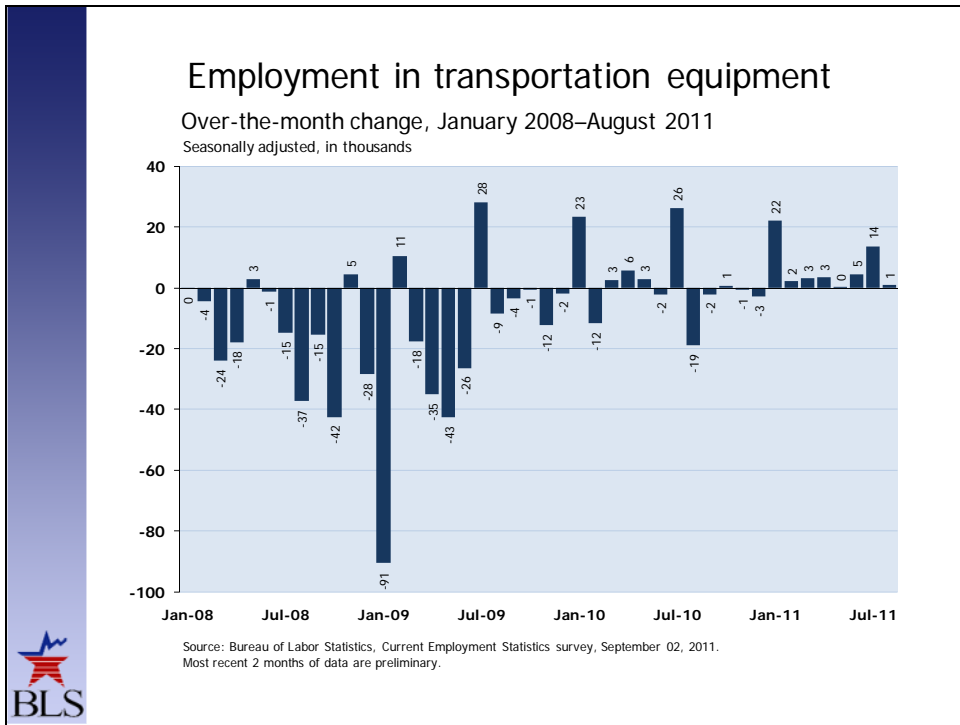
- Average hourly earnings for all employees in the private sector decreased by 3 cents, or 0.1 percent, to \$23.09 in August. This decline followed an 11-cent gain in July. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased by 1.9 percent. The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) was up 3.6 percent over the year ending in July.
- The index of aggregate weekly payrolls of all private sector employees fell 0.4 percent over the month. Since reaching a low point in June 2009, the index has increased by 6.8 percent.



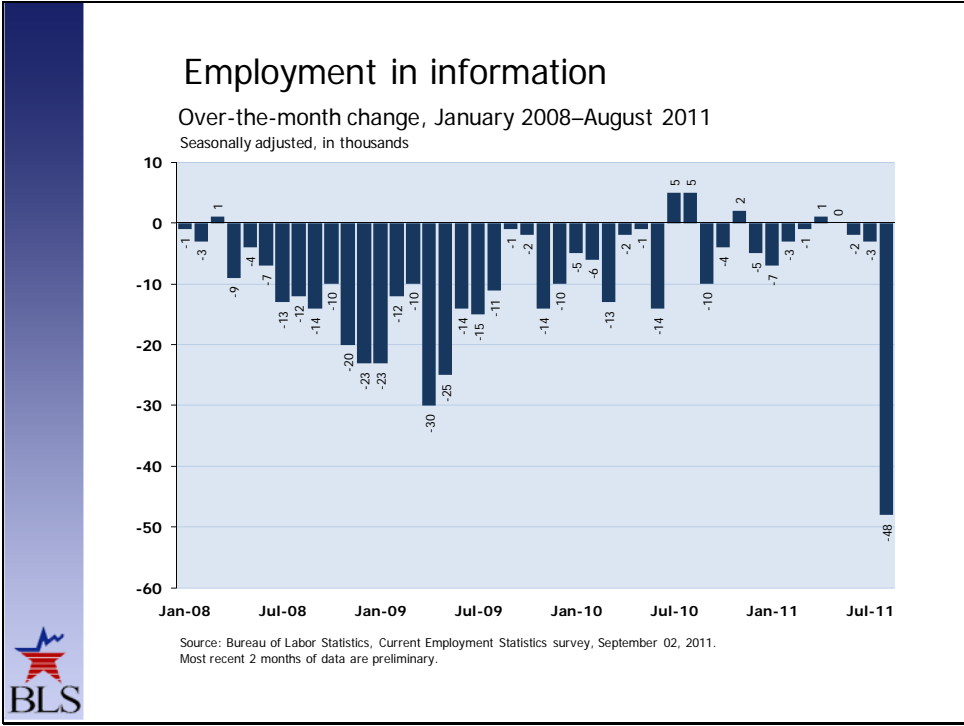
- Employment in mining continued to trend up in August (+6,000). Since reaching a trough in October 2009, employment in mining has risen by 144,000, with support activities for mining accounting for most of the gains.



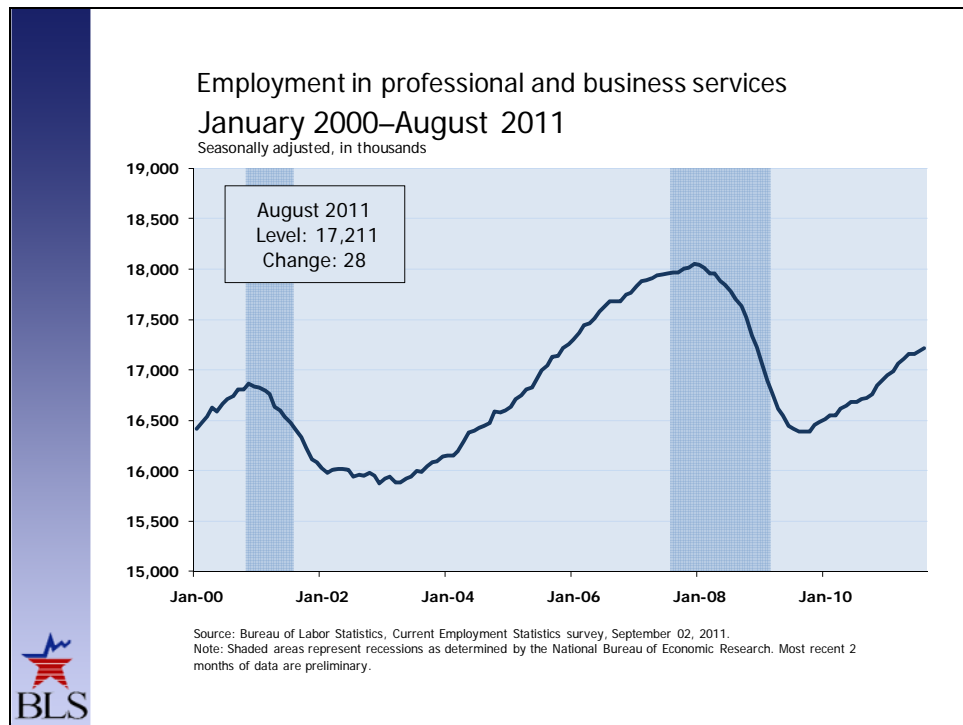
- Manufacturing employment changed little following a large gain of 36,000 in July. From January through April of this year, job growth in the industry averaged 35,000 per month, but has since slowed to an average of 14,000 per month.
- In August, the factory workweek was 0.1 hour shorter for production and nonsupervisory employees, while average weekly hours for all employees remained unchanged.



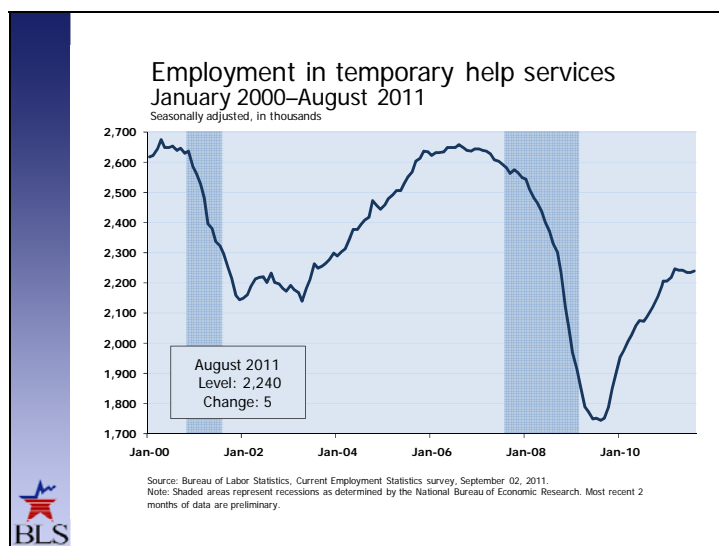
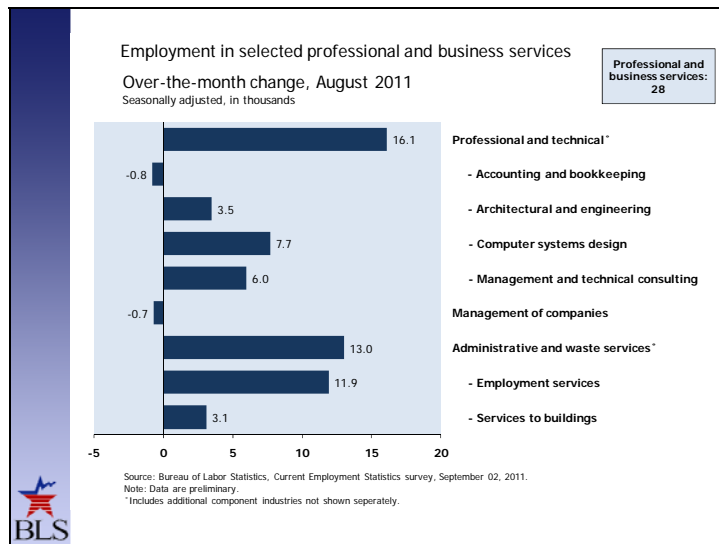
- Transportation equipment employment was little changed (+1,000) in August, following an increase of 14,000 in July.
- These changes resulted primarily from the motor vehicles and parts industry. In August, employment in motor vehicles and parts edged down by 3,000 after rising by 11,000 in July. The industry showed a smaller-than-normal return from July shutdowns in August. Several plants that had traditionally shut down for maintenance and retooling were kept open through the month of July. The result was a seasonally adjusted job gain in July and a seasonally adjusted job loss in August.



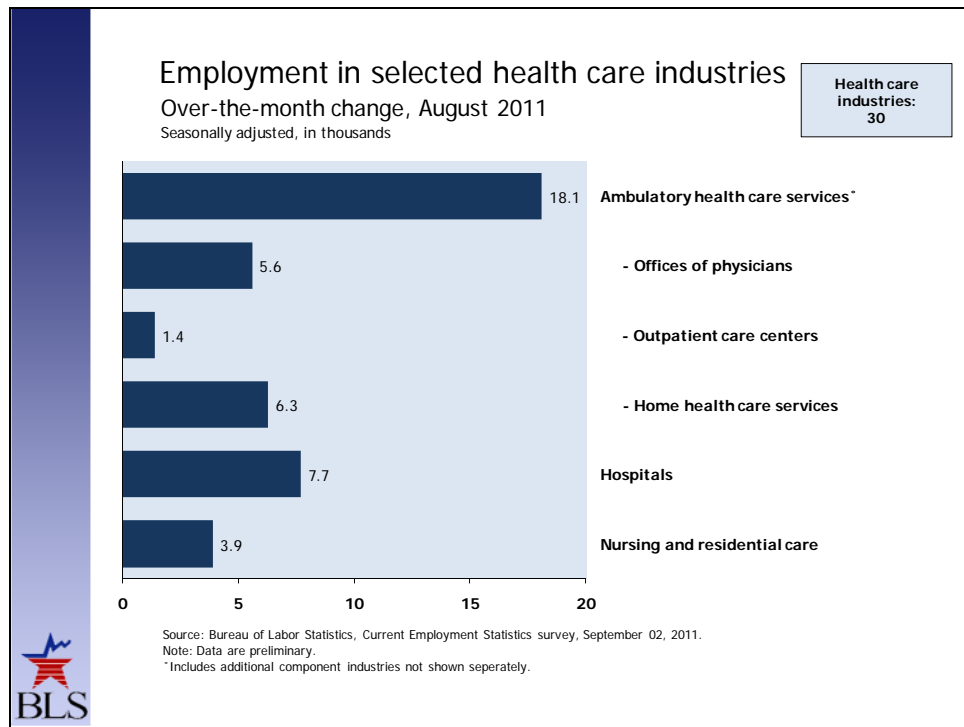
- Employment in the information industry declined by 48,000 in August; about 45,000 telecommunication workers were on strike and thus off company payrolls during the survey reference period.



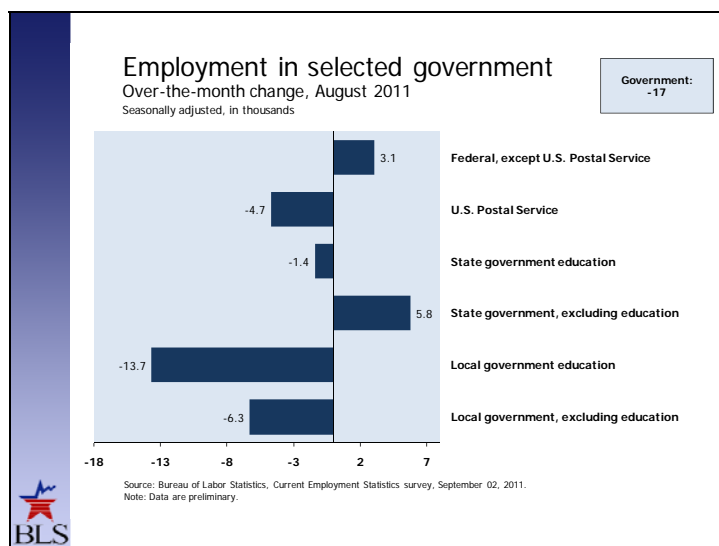
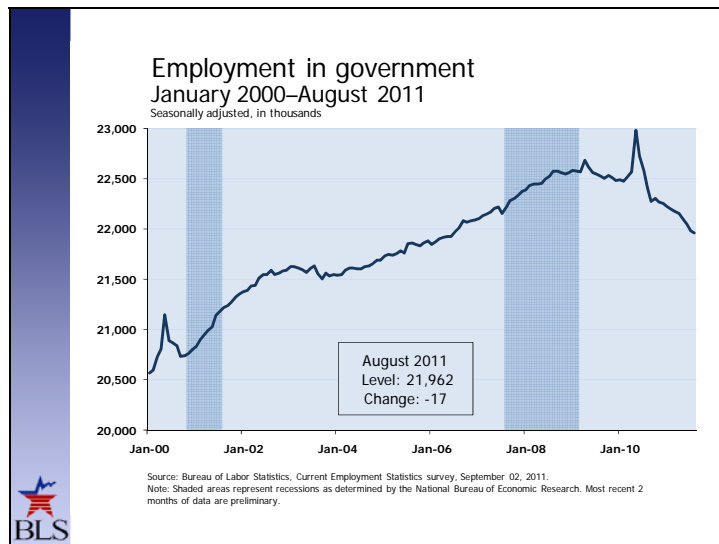
- In August, employment in professional and business services increased by 28,000. Since reaching a low in September 2009, the industry has averaged job growth of 36,000 per month.



- In August, employment in professional and technical services continued to trend up (+16,000). Computer systems design accounted for half of this increase.
- Employment in temporary help services changed little over the month. The industry had been a primary driver of job growth in administrative services after the 2007-2009 recession, but employment in the industry has changed little since March.



- Health care employment rose by 30,000 in August. Ambulatory health care services and hospitals added 18,000 and 8,000 jobs, respectively. Over the past 12 months, health care employment has grown by 306,000.



- Government employment continued to trend down over the month (-17,000).
- Employment in state government was little changed (+5,000) in August, despite the return of about 22,000 Minnesota government workers from a partial government shutdown in July.
- Employment in local government continued to decline. Since employment peaked in September 2008, local government has lost 550,000 jobs.