



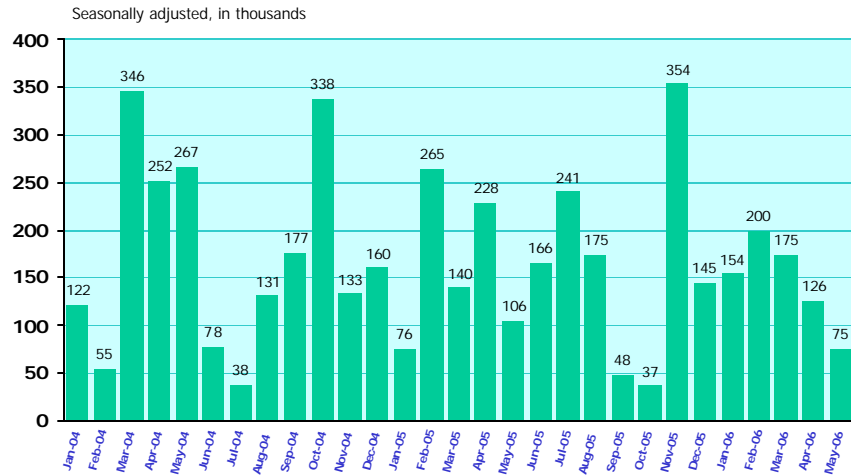
# **Current Employment Statistics**

## **Highlights**

**May 2006**

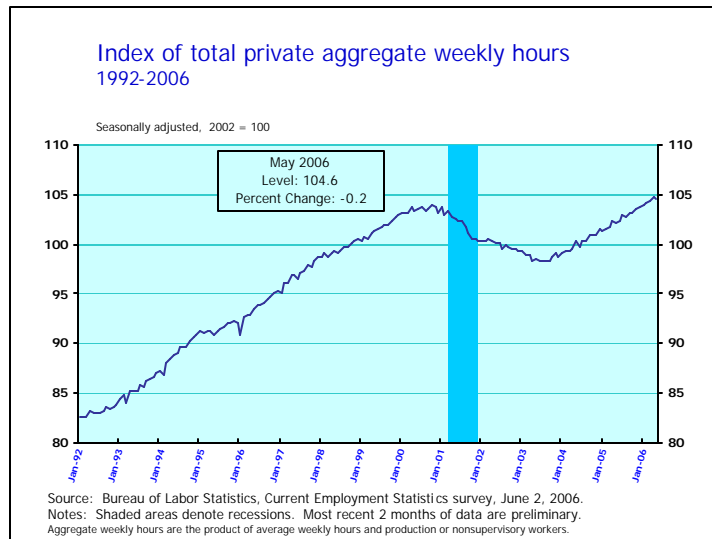
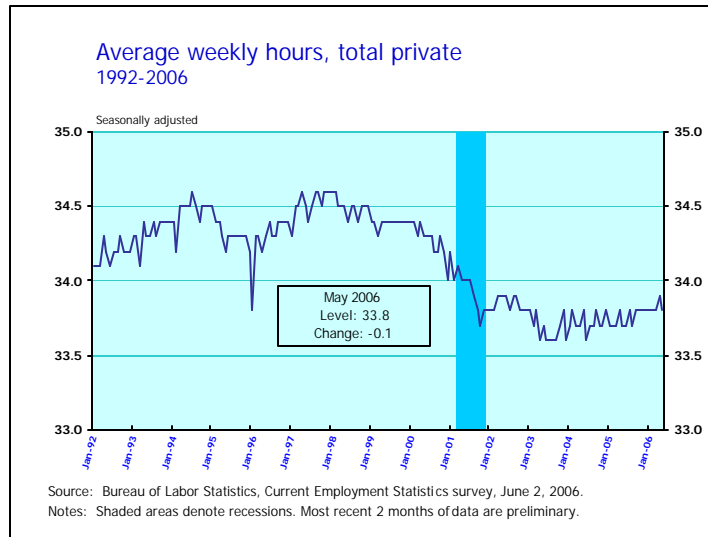
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
June 2, 2006

## Employment in total nonfarm Over-the-month change, 2004-06

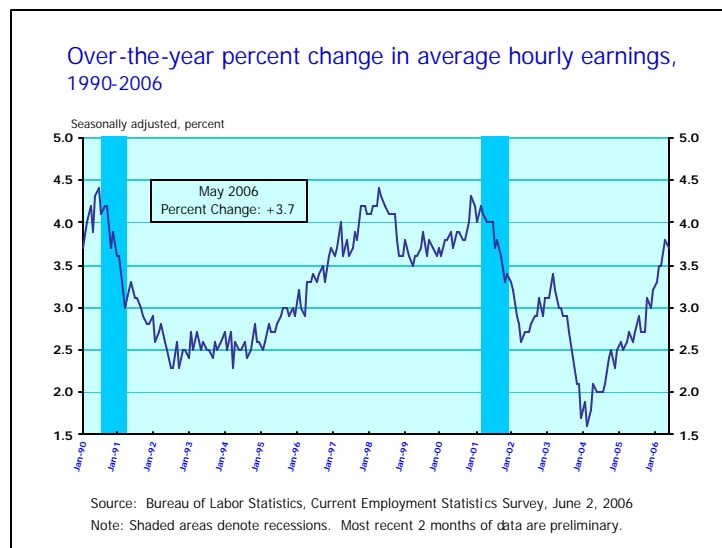
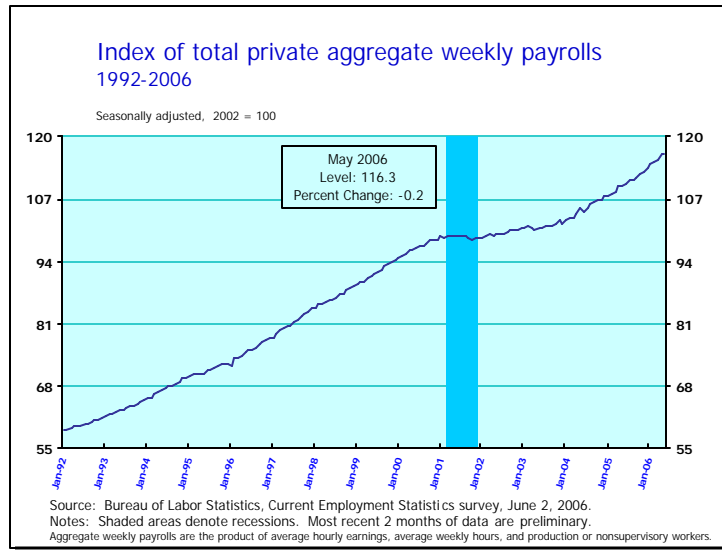


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 2, 2006.  
Note: Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

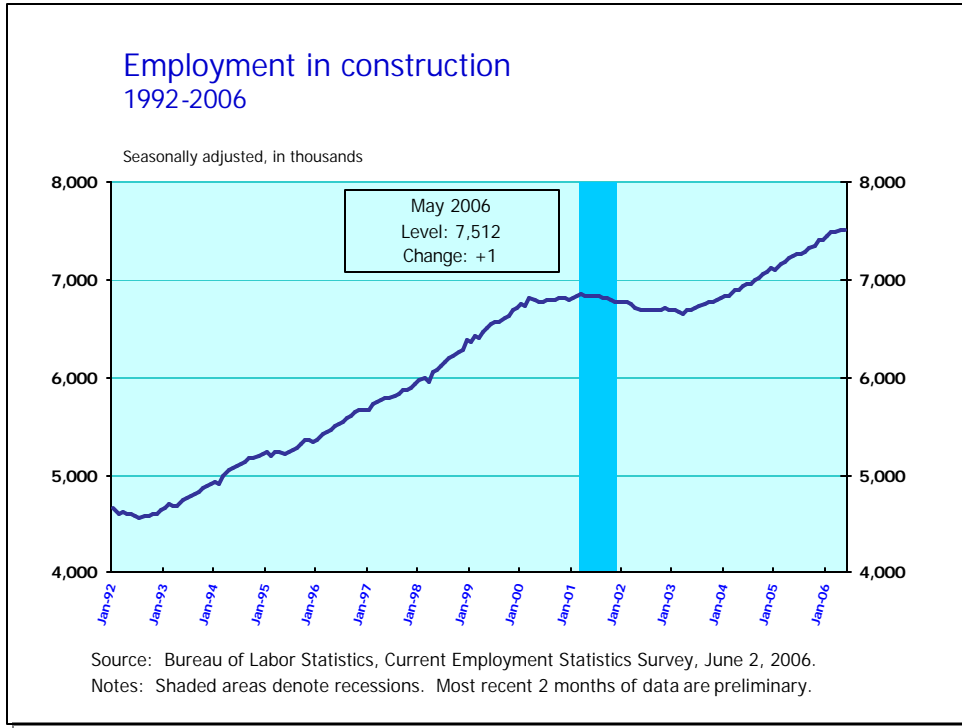
- Nonfarm payrolls edged up 75,000 in May to 135.1 million. From January through April, payroll employment growth has averaged 164,000 per month.



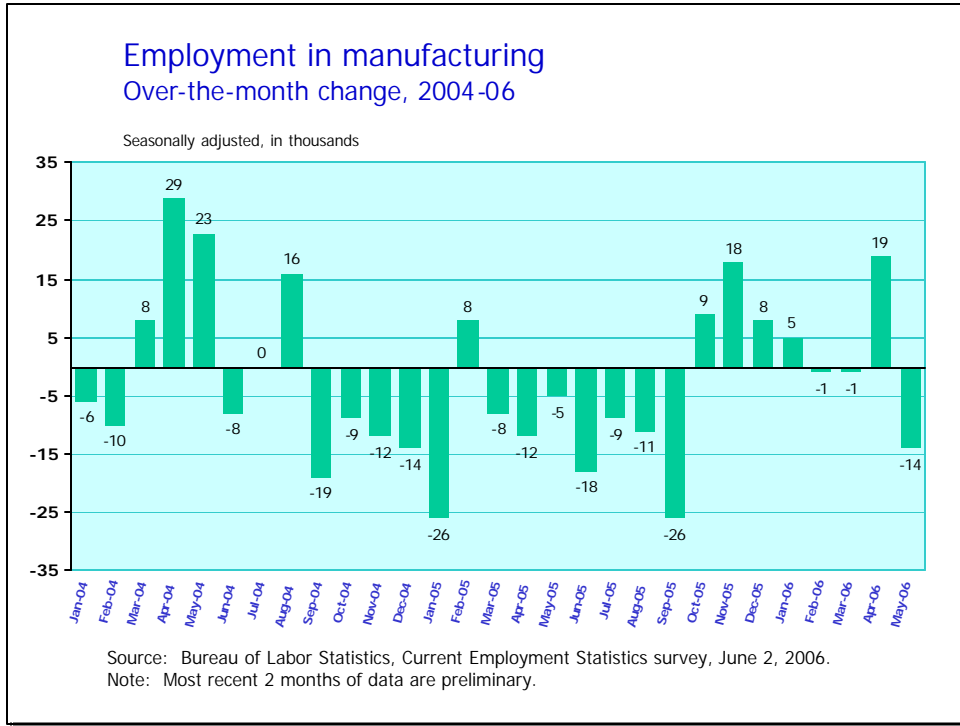
- Average weekly hours for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls decreased by 0.1 hour in May to 33.8, seasonally adjusted. Average weekly hours have been little-changed since reaching a trough in December 2003.
- The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls declined 0.2 percent over the month to 104.6, the first decline since August 2005. This decline offsets an increase of 0.4 percent in April.



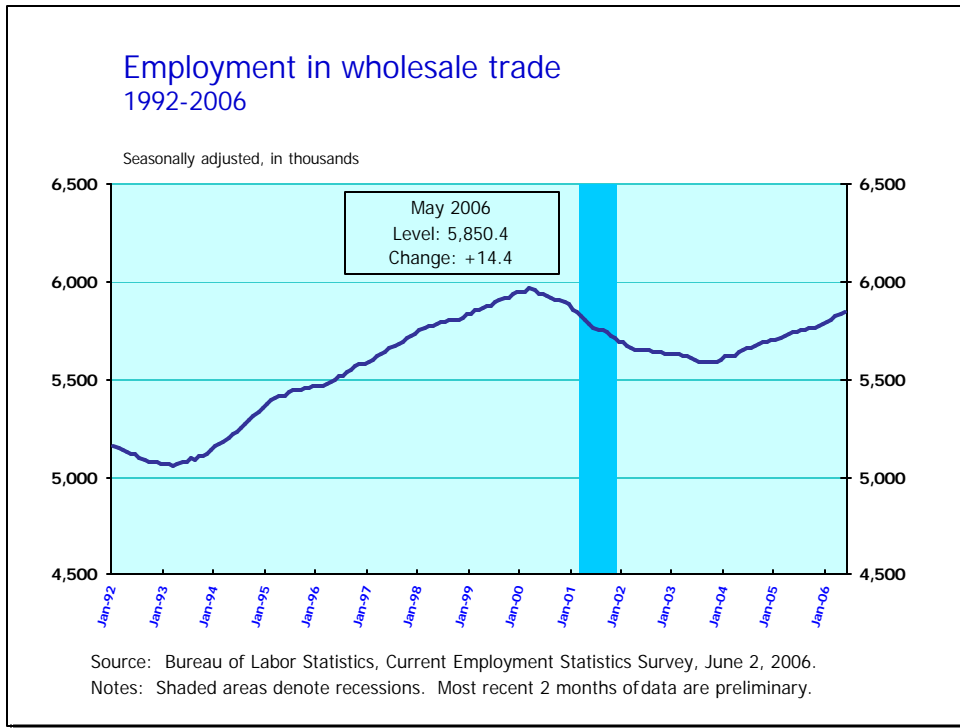
- The index of aggregate weekly payrolls of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls declined 0.2 percent in May to 116.3, seasonally adjusted, following an increase of 1.0 percent in April. Over the year, the index has increased 6.1 percent.
- Average hourly earnings for private sector production or nonsupervisory workers edged up by 1 cent in May to \$16.62, seasonally adjusted, following a gain of 10 cents in April. Over the year, average hourly earnings have risen by 3.7 percent.



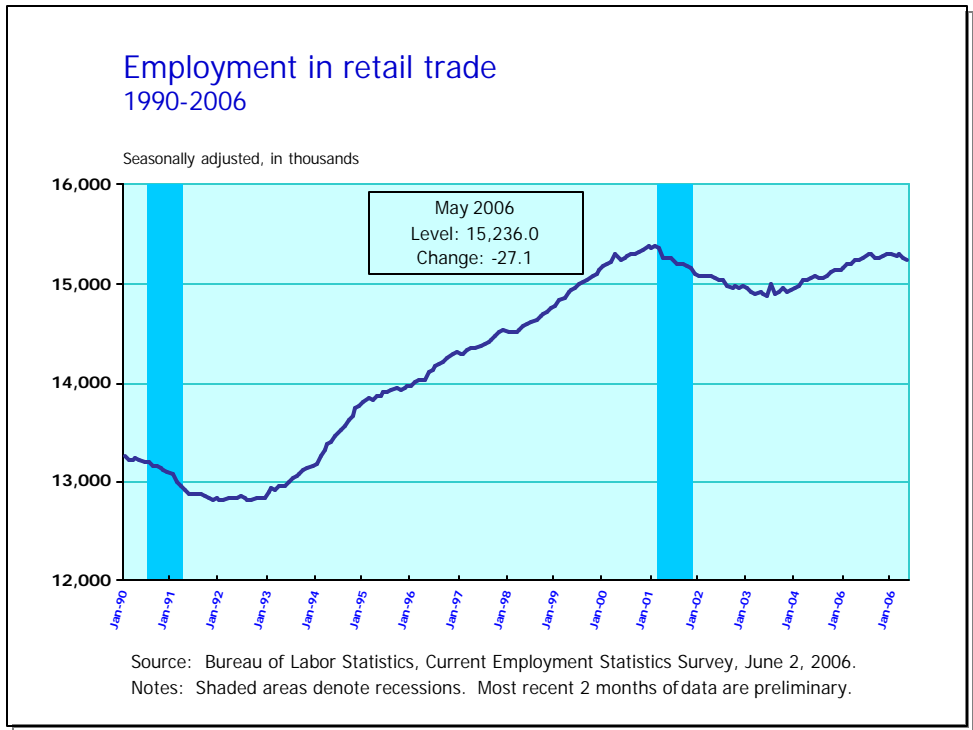
- Employment in the construction industry was essentially unchanged in May, marking 3 consecutive months of relatively weak job growth. Weakness was widespread throughout the industry.
- Average weekly hours for construction workers declined by 0.6 hour in May to 38.5, seasonally adjusted.



- Manufacturing employment declined by 14,000 in May following an increase of 19,000 in April. Job losses came in both durable and nondurable goods industries.
- Durable goods manufacturing employment decreased by 9,000 in May. The largest declines came in transportation equipment and in computer and electronics, offsetting April gains in their respective industries.
- Nondurable goods manufacturing employment fell by 5,000 in May, the sixth consecutive month of employment decline. There were small job losses among most component industries.
- The average manufacturing workweek declined 0.1 hour in May, offsetting the 0.1-hour gain in April. Since reaching a low in June 2005, the manufacturing workweek has increased by 0.7 hours. Average weekly overtime was unchanged in May.
- Average hourly earnings were unchanged following a 6 cent increase in April.

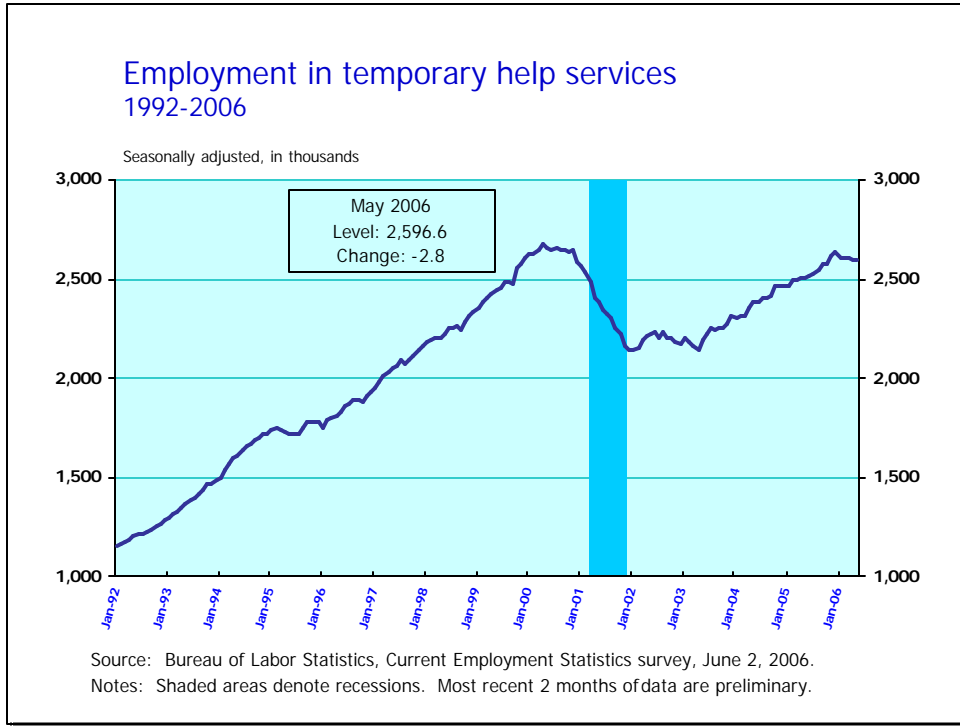


- Employment in wholesale trade continued its strong upward trend in May, increasing by 14,000. Durable goods led the employment growth, while nondurable goods experienced above trend growth.
- Durable goods added 7,000 jobs in April, slightly above trend for the past twelve months. Nearly all of the components had small increases in April.
- Nondurable goods added an above-trend 5,000 jobs to payrolls in May. Most industries within nondurable goods experienced small job gains.
- Employment in electronic markets and agents continued on trend in May, rising by 2,000. Since reaching a trough in April 2001, this industry has gained 152,000 jobs. During this time, growth has been concentrated in wholesale trade agents and brokers.

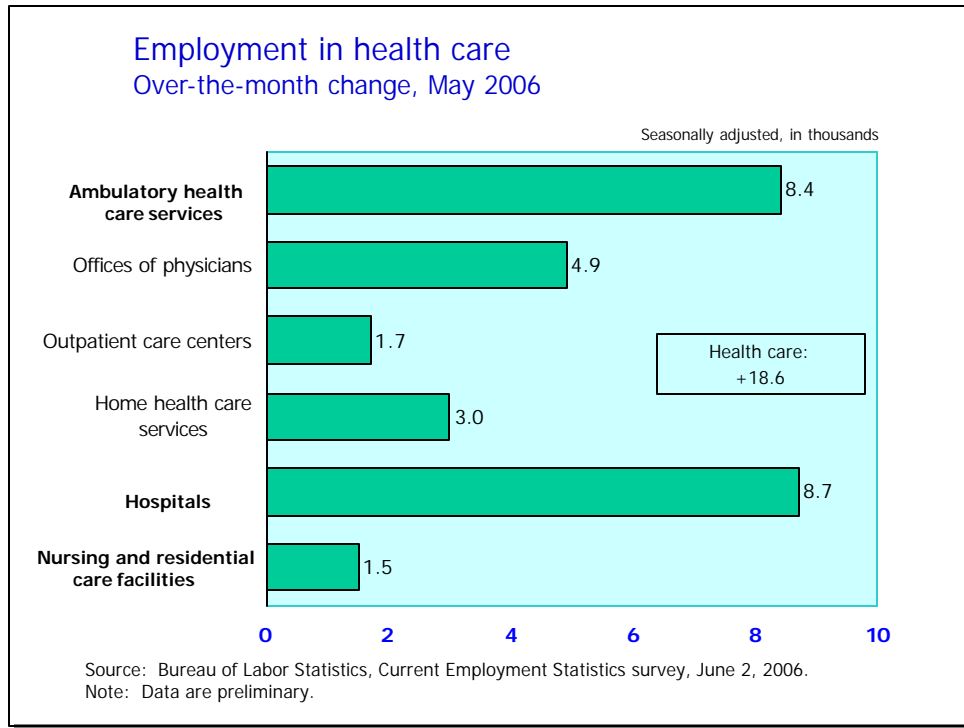


- Retail trade employment declined by a significant 27,000 in May. Throughout 2005, the industry grew by an average 13,000 jobs per month, compared to an average of 13,000 jobs lost per month so far in 2006. Despite recent declines, employment has remained little changed over the year. Weakness was widespread in May, with two-thirds of the components posting employment declines.
- Employment in clothing and clothing accessories stores declined by 9,000 in May. The trend for this industry has changed in 2006, with job losses occurring every month so far this year, compared to an average gain of 5,000 jobs per month in 2005.
- Employment in general merchandise stores declined by a significant 9,000 in May. Since reaching a peak in August 2005, employment has fallen by 46,000.





- Employment in temporary help services edged lower in May. So far in 2006, this industry has shed an average 6,000 jobs per month, compared with an average monthly job gain of 14,000 during 2005.



- Employment growth in health care was below average in May with the addition of 19,000 jobs. Growth was widespread throughout the components.
- Hospitals experienced the largest employment increase in the health care industry, adding 9,000 jobs. This gain is above trend when compared to the previous 12 months.
- Ambulatory health care services posted a gain of 8,000 jobs, below its prior 12-month average gain of 14,000.