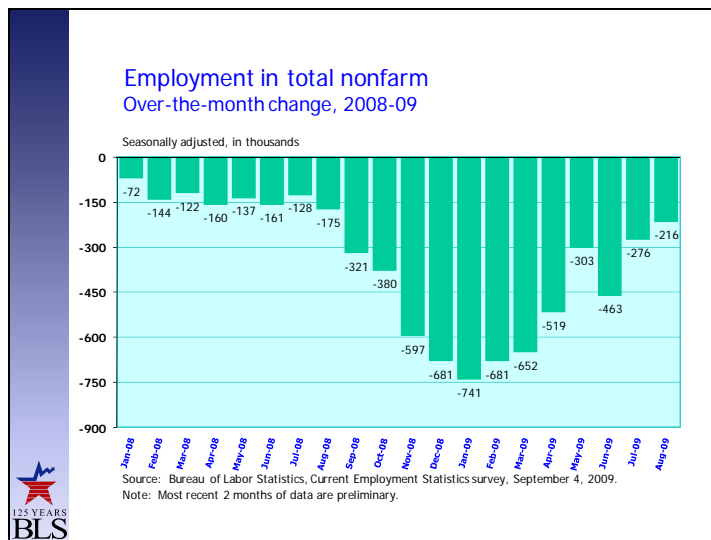
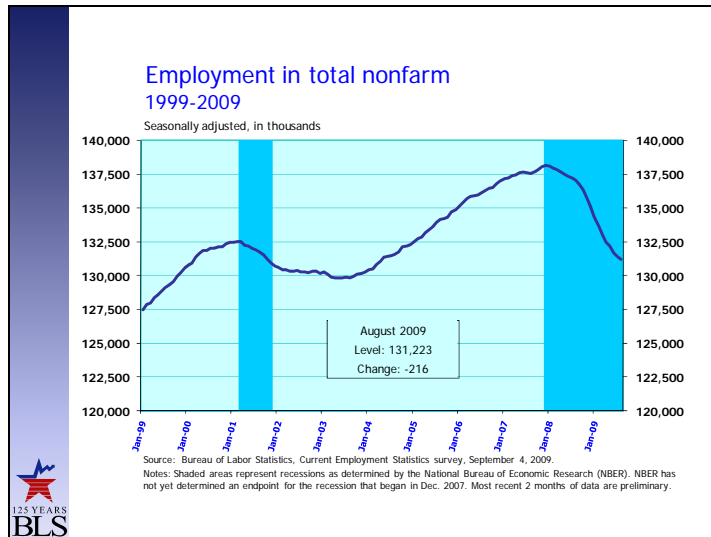


Bureau of Labor Statistics

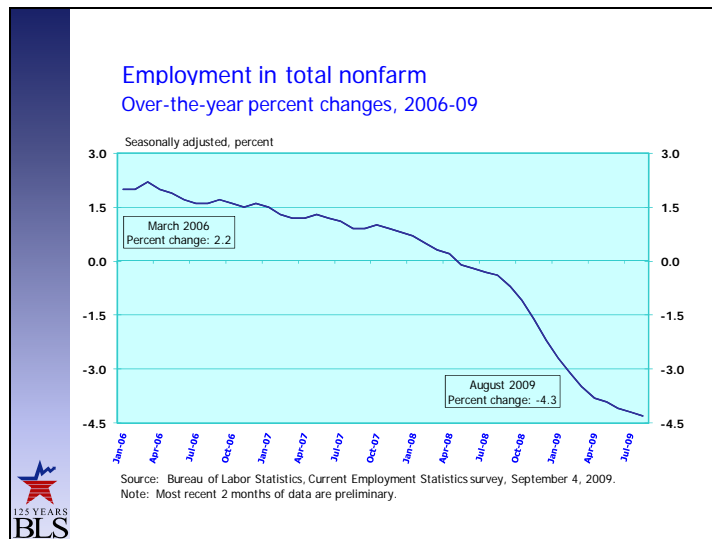
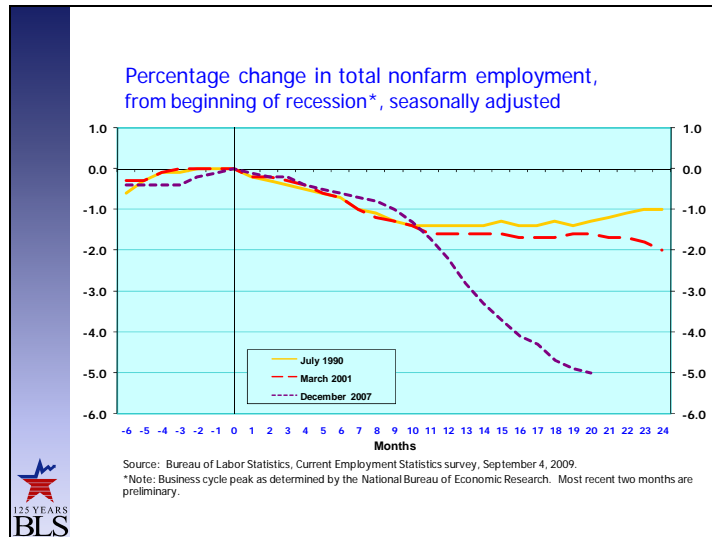


# **Current Employment Statistics Highlights August 2009**

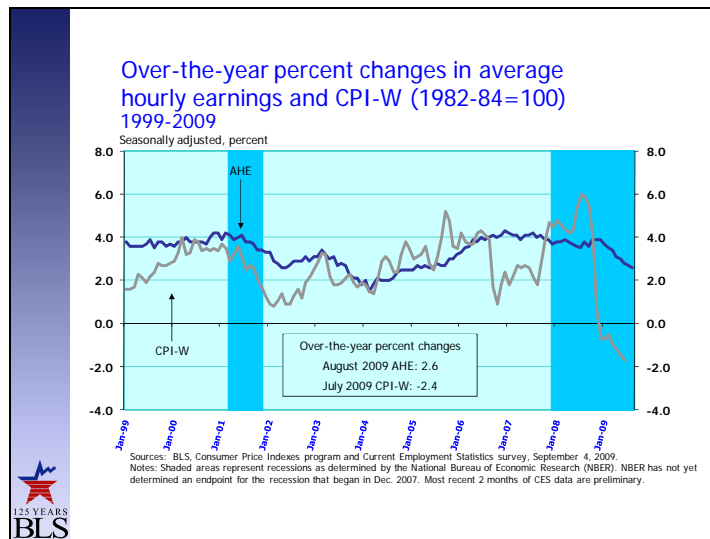
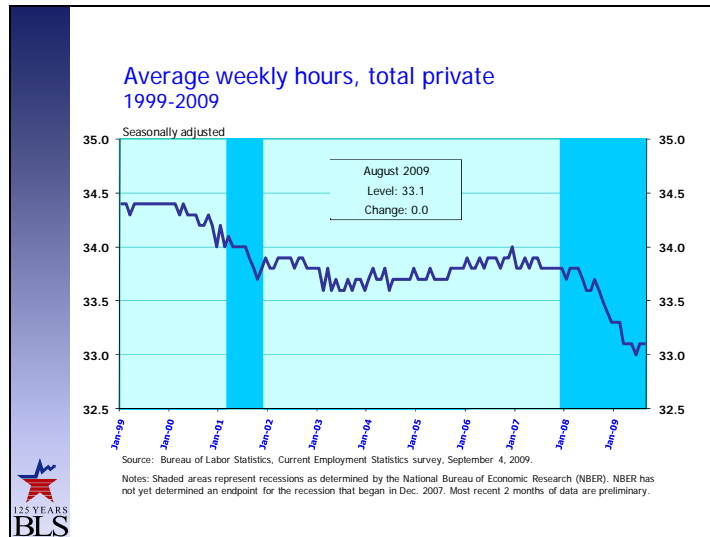
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
September 4, 2009



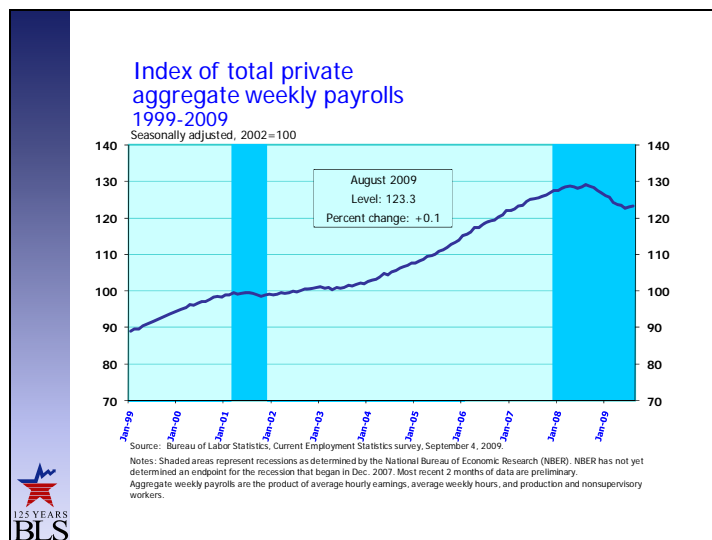
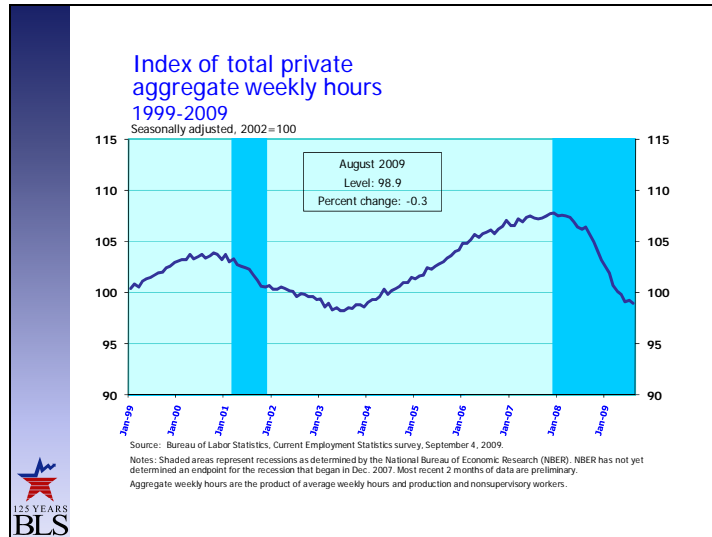
- Nonfarm payroll employment declined by 216,000 in August.
- In recent months, job losses continued, although they have moderated in many industry sectors.



- Nonfarm payroll employment has decreased in each of the 20 months, including August, and job losses have totaled 6.9 million since the recession started in December 2007, an unprecedented period of decline in terms of length and depth.
- Total nonfarm payroll employment was down 4.3 percent from August 2008; this is the largest 12-month percent decline since November 1949.

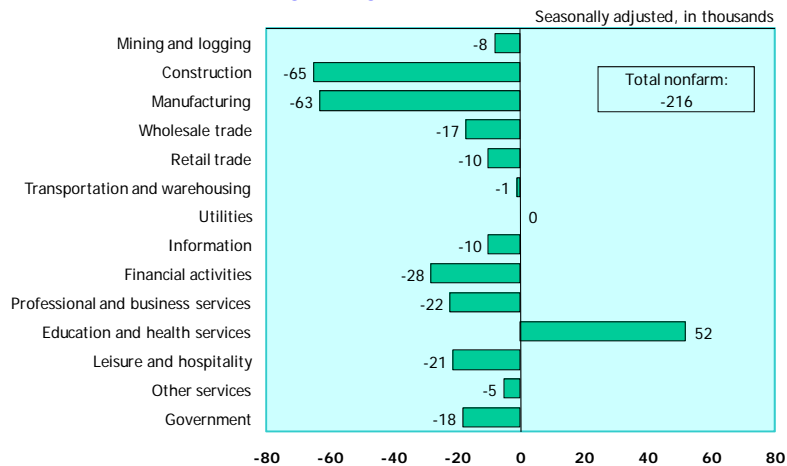


- The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged in August at 33.1 hours.
- In August, average hourly earnings of production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 6 cents to \$18.56, following a 5-cent gain in July. Hourly earnings are up 2.6 percent over the year.



- The index of aggregate weekly hours of production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls fell by 0.3 percent in August. Since peaking in December 2007, the index has decreased by 8.3 percent.
- The index of aggregate weekly payrolls of production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 0.1 percent in August, following a rise of 0.3 percent in July. These increases follow 10 consecutive months of decline.

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



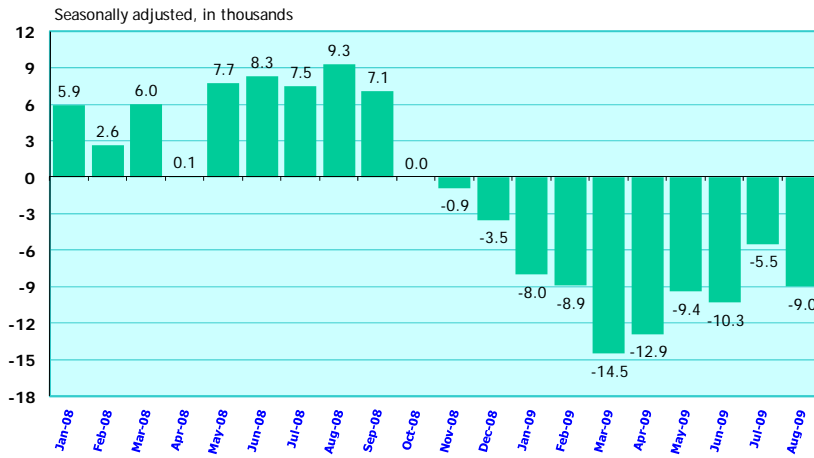
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 4, 2009.

Note: Data are preliminary.



- Job losses were widespread across major industry sectors in August. There were significant declines in construction, manufacturing, financial activities, and wholesale trade. Education and health services continued to add jobs.

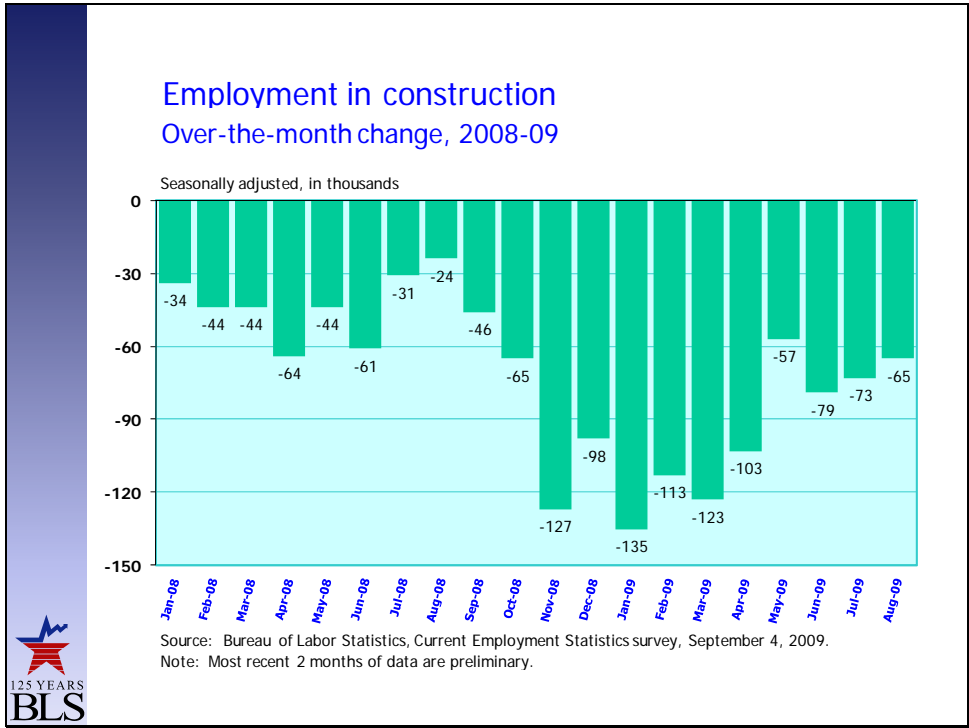
## Employment in mining Over-the-month change, 2008-09



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 4, 2009.  
Note: Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

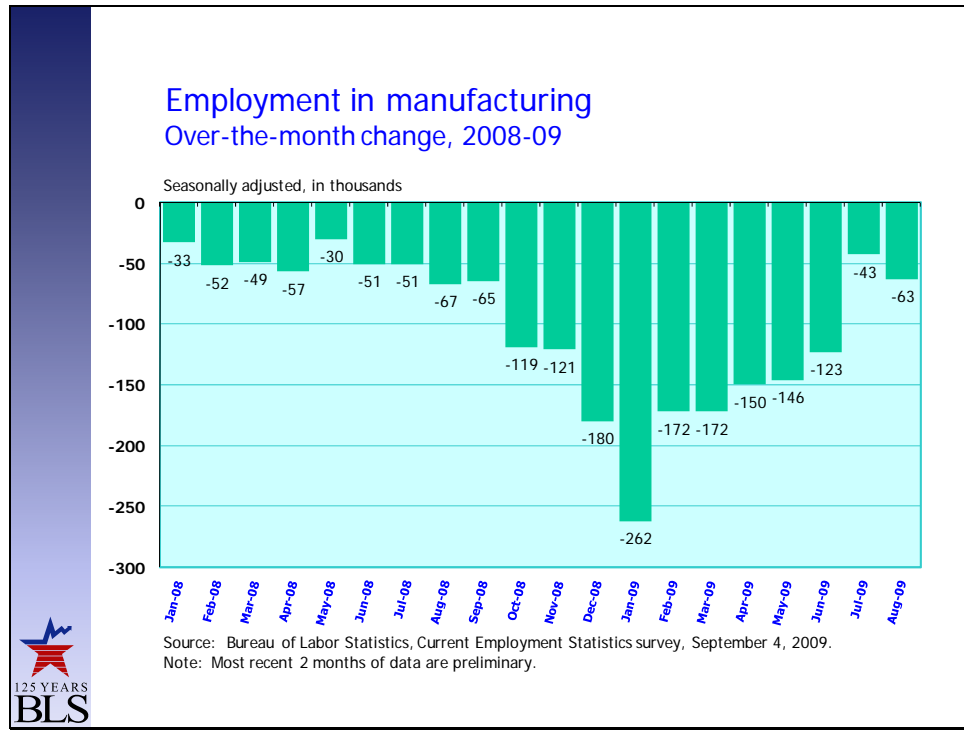


- Mining employment fell by 9,000 in August.
- Support activities for mining lost 8,000 jobs in August. Employment in this industry peaked in September 2008 and, since then, has decreased by 67,000, or 19.5 percent.

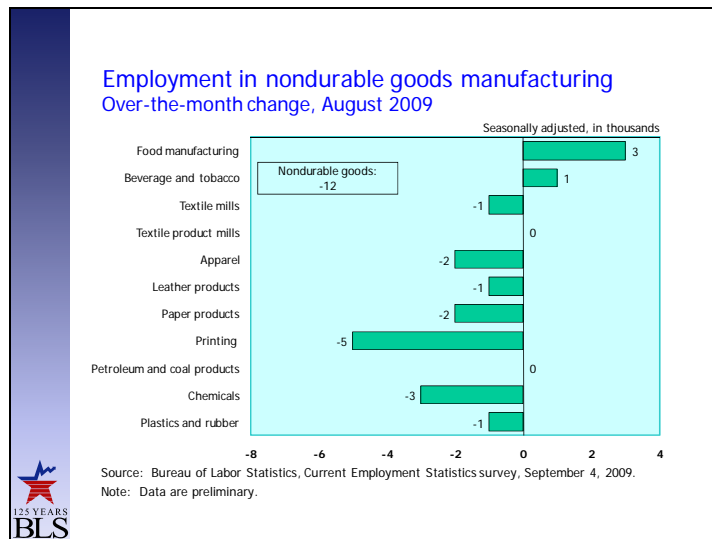
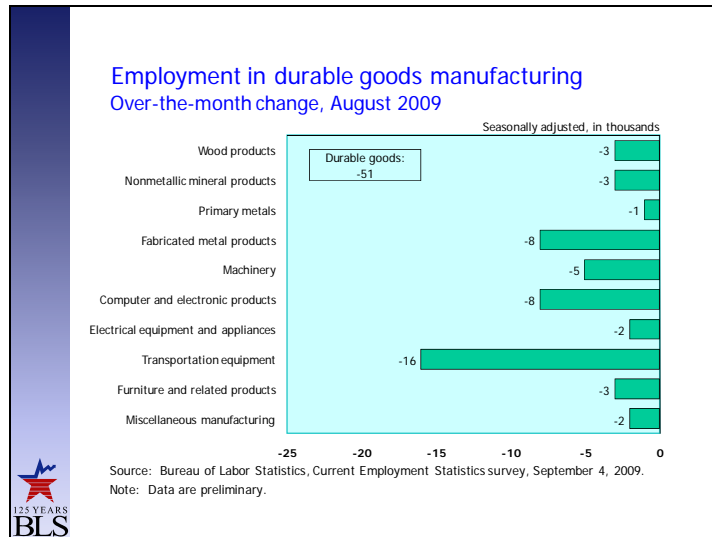


- Construction employment fell by 65,000 in August. Most of the job losses occurred in specialty trades, with employment down by 20,000 in residential specialty trades and by 34,000 in nonresidential specialty trades.
- Job losses in August were about the same as the prior 3-month average (-70,000). Employment declines had averaged 117,000 during the 6 months ending in April.

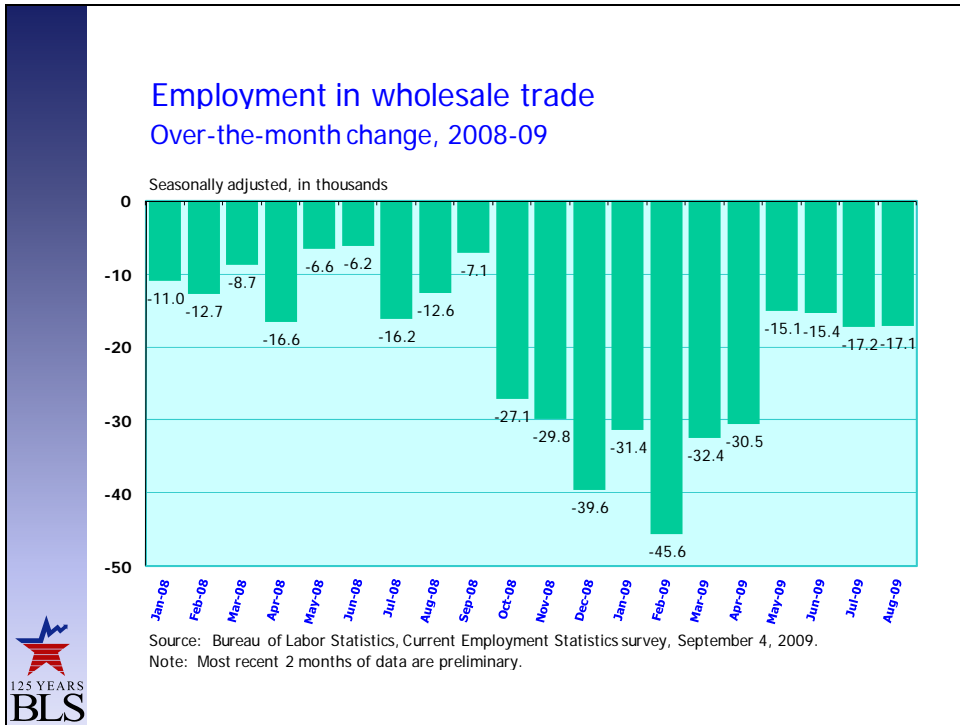




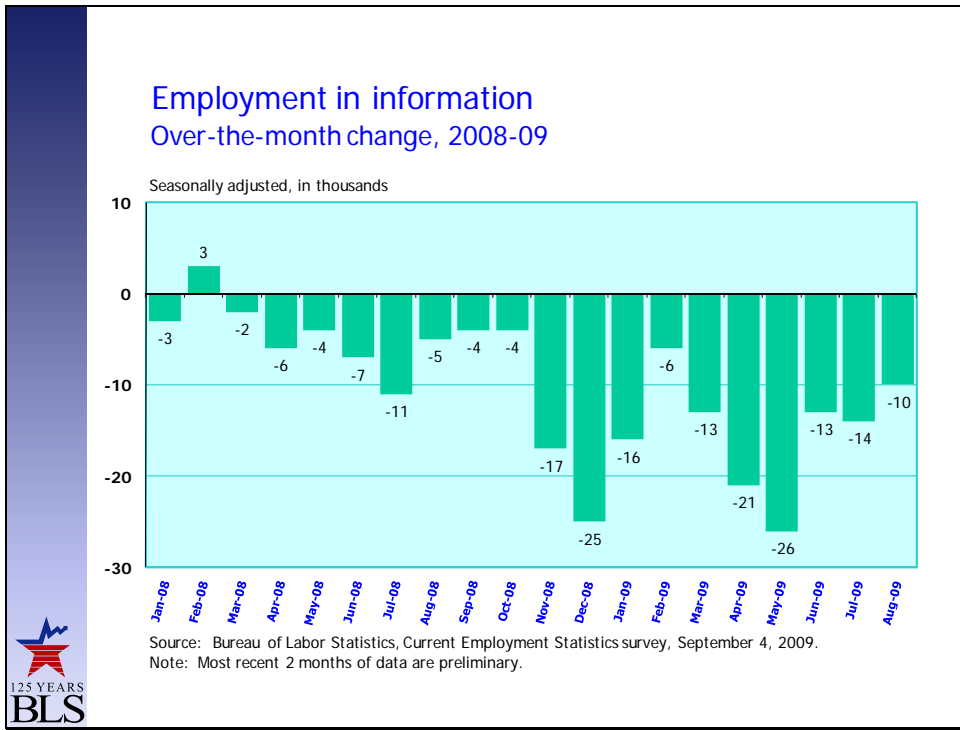
- Manufacturers cut 63,000 jobs in August, although the pace of decline has slowed in recent months. Monthly employment losses averaged 176,000 for the 6 months ending in April, compared to an average of 94,000 during the last 4 months. The industry has lost 2.0 million jobs since the start of the current recession (December 2007), and has accounted for over a quarter of total nonfarm payroll jobs lost.
- More industries within manufacturing have started posting job gains. The 1-month diffusion index for manufacturing in August stood at 29.5, meaning that more industries are cutting jobs than gaining jobs; however, this index has steadily improved from a recent low point of 6.0 in January. This index measures the dispersion of employment change, with a value below 50 indicating that more manufacturing component industries are shedding jobs than adding them over the month.



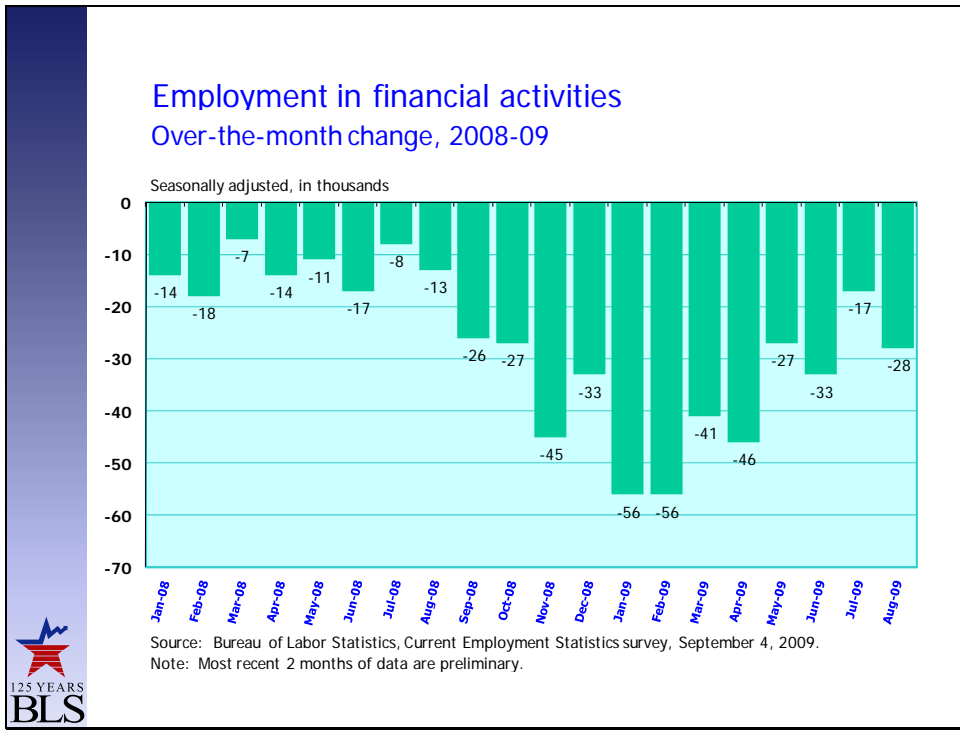
- Durable goods manufacturing was responsible for the majority of manufacturing job losses, with 51,000 jobs cut from payrolls in August.
- Factory job losses remain widespread, although they have moderated in most industries over recent months.
- The largest employment declines within manufacturing were seen in transportation equipment (-16,000), as job losses resumed in its component industry, motor vehicles and parts (-15,000), following an employment increase in July (after seasonal adjustment).



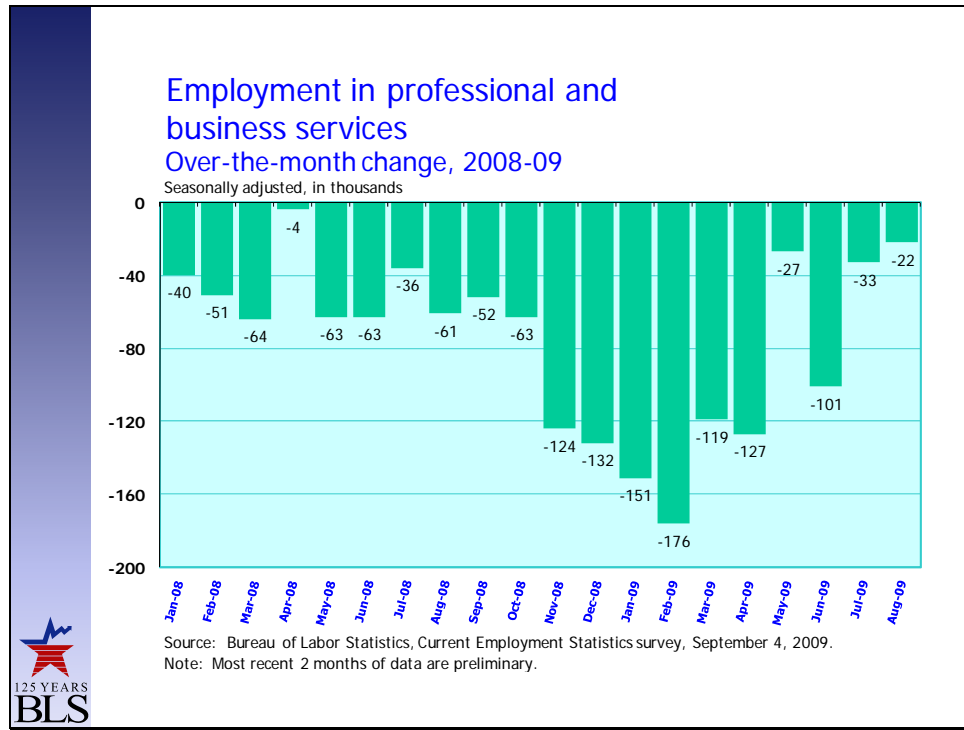
- In August, wholesale trade employment fell by 17,000. Over the past 4 months, the industry averaged employment losses of 16,000 per month, roughly half the average monthly rate of decline experienced in the prior 6-month period.



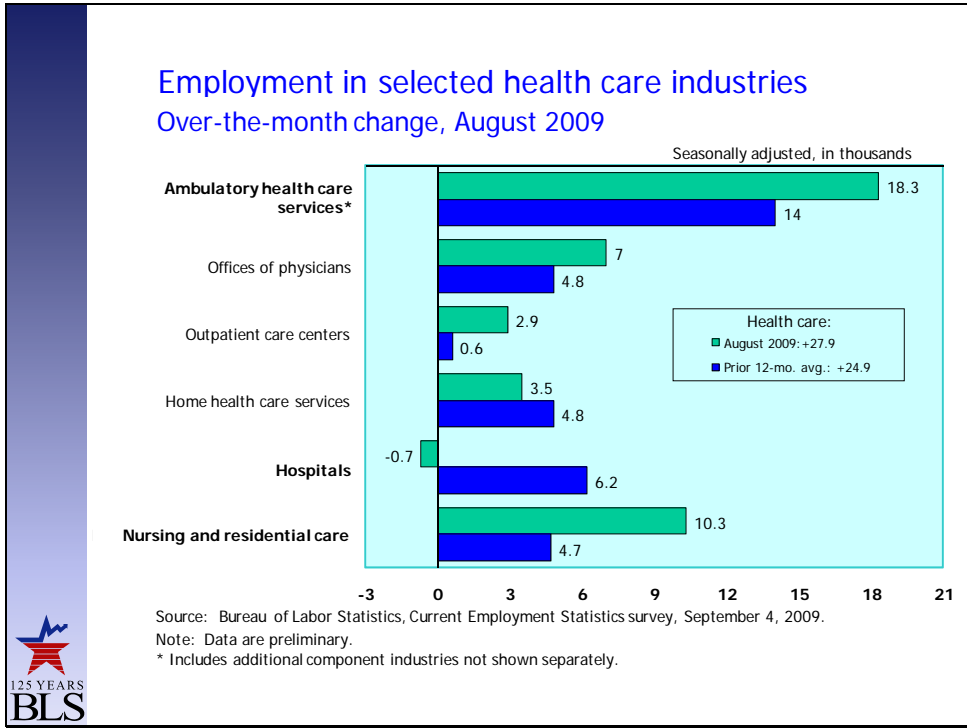
- Information employment fell by 10,000 in August, continuing its declining trend.
- Publishing (-8,000) accounted for the majority of the employment decline in information as newspaper publishers continued to show consistent jobs losses.



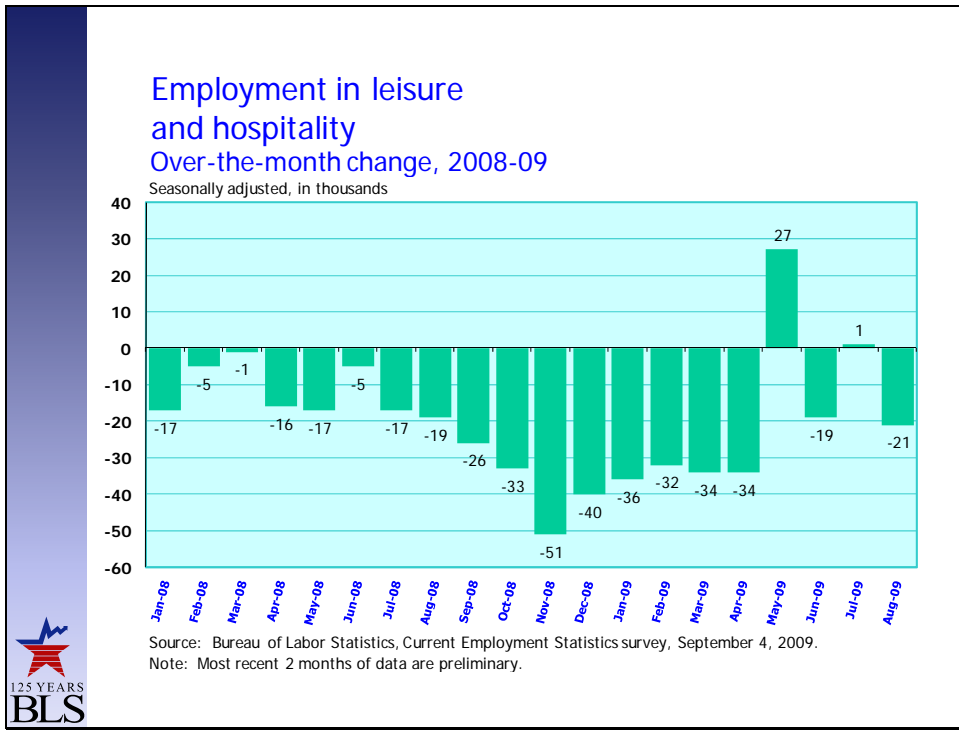
- Employment in financial activities continued to fall in August, declining by 28,000. Job losses have averaged 26,000 over the past 4 months, reflecting a slower rate of decline compared to average declines of 46,000 during the prior 6-month period. Since the start of the current recession in December 2007, financial activities has shed 537,000 jobs.



- Professional and business services employment was little changed in August. Monthly job losses have averaged 46,000 over the past 4 months, compared to the average job loss of 138,000 experienced from November 2008 to April 2009. Since reaching an employment peak in December 2007, professional and business services has shed 1.5 million jobs.
- Most of the leveling off in recent months in professional and business services employment has been centered in temporary help services, which was also little changed in August. Jobs losses in this industry have slowed markedly in recent months, although temporary help services has lost nearly a third of its employment since the start of the recession.



- Employment in health care continued to rise in August, with the addition of 28,000 jobs. Employment in this industry has risen by 544,000 since the start of the recession.
- With the exception of hospitals, the August employment increase in all of the industries within health care exceeded the average monthly job gain experienced during the prior 6 months.
- Employment in hospitals was little changed in August; job growth in the industry slowed in early 2009 and has been flat since May.



- Employment in leisure and hospitality edged lower in August. Job losses in leisure were spread among the component industries. Since reaching a high point in December 2007, the industry has shed 395,000 jobs or 2.9 percent of its workforce.
- The current downturn has taken a significant toll on leisure employment, with losses roughly doubling those seen during the previous downturn in 2001.