

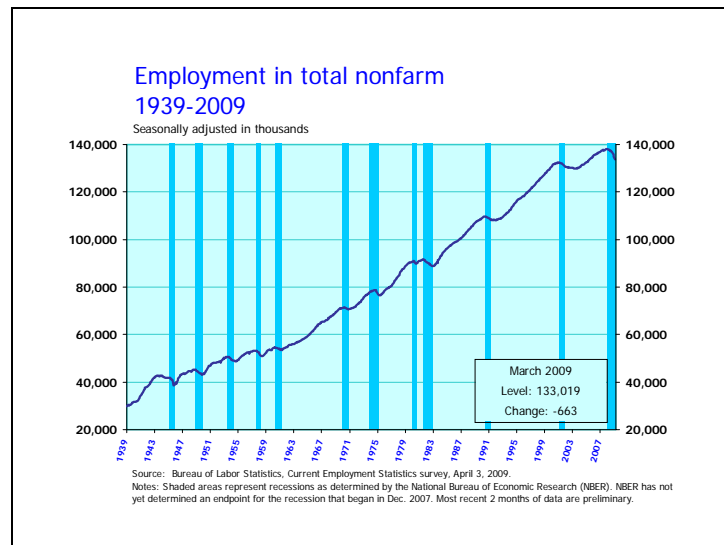
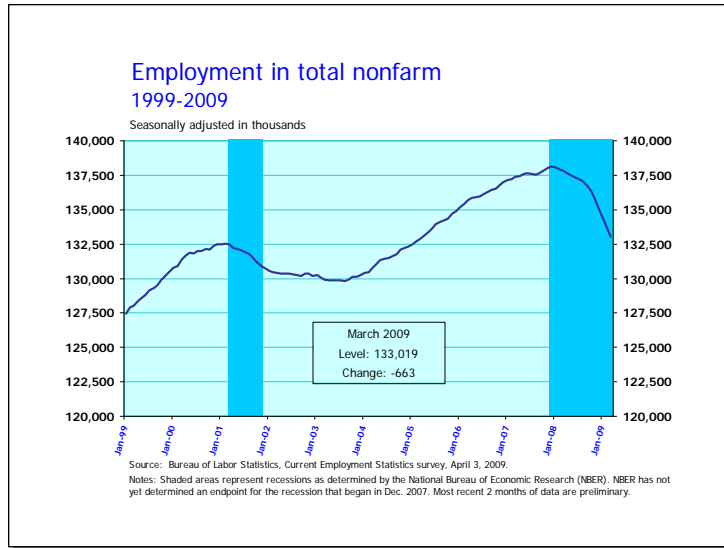


# **Current Employment Statistics**

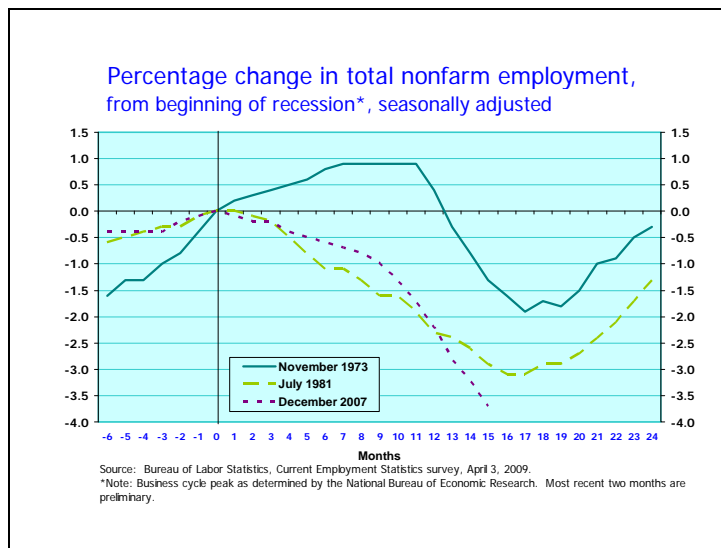
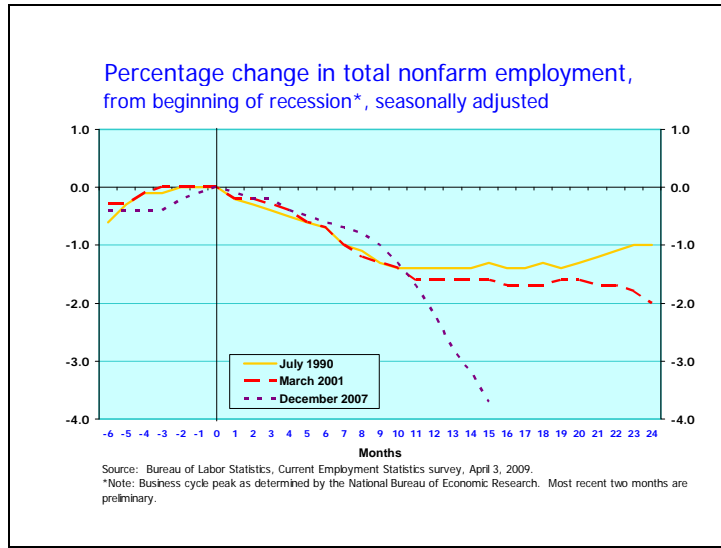
## **Highlights**

### **March 2009**

Bureau of Labor Statistics  
April 3, 2009

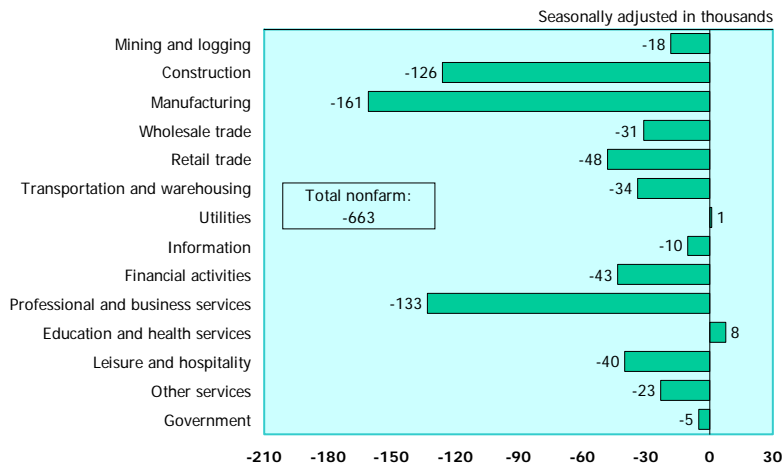


- Total nonfarm payroll employment continued to fall sharply (-663,000) in March. Payroll employment has declined by 3.3 million in the past 5 months, or an average of 667,000 per month. This is the largest 5-month decline since the series began in 1939

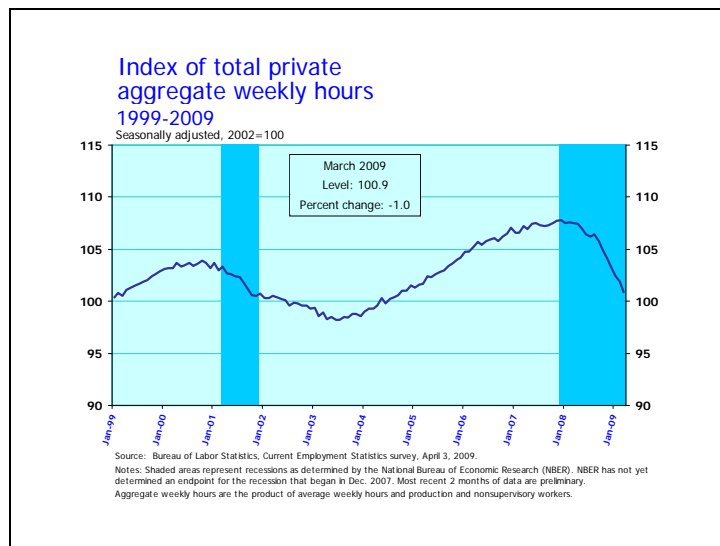
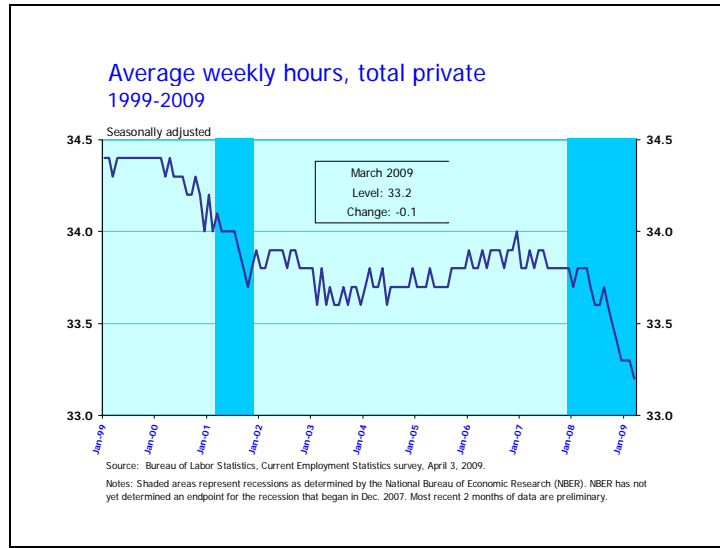


- Total nonfarm employment peaked in December 2007, coinciding with the start of the recession as declared by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). With the recent acceleration of job losses, nonfarm employment has fallen by 5.1 million since its peak – 65 percent occurring in the past 5 months.
- In the 15 months since the start of the recession, employment has fallen by 3.7 percent. The decline is larger than has typically been experienced in the past few recessions. Of the 4 most recent recessions, only the 1981 recession is similar to the current downturn in terms of relative job loss.

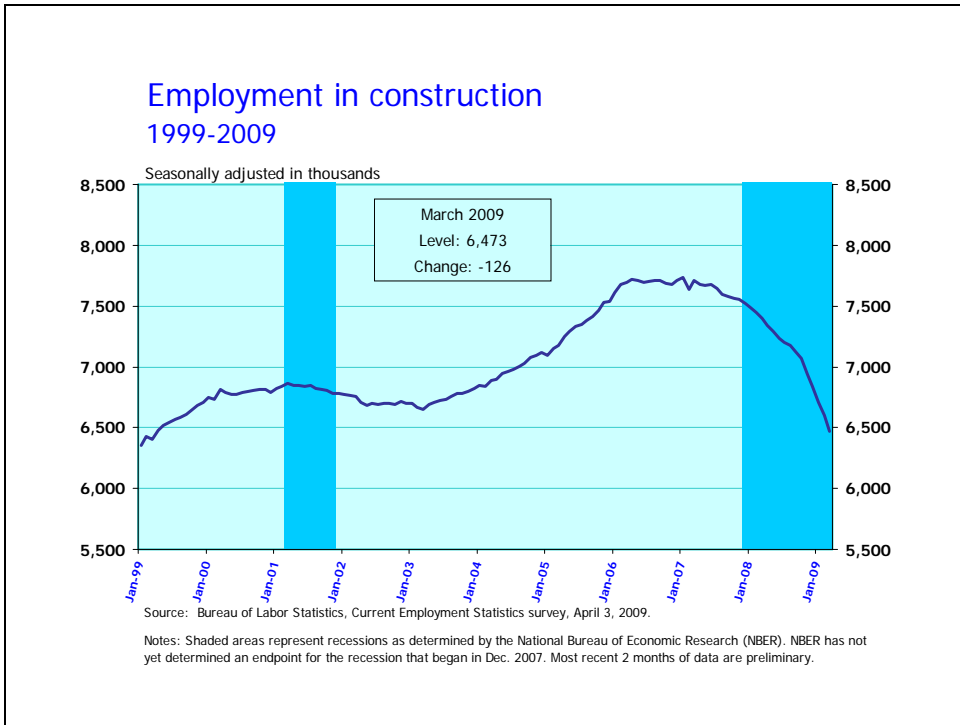
## Employment in total nonfarm Over-the-month change, March 2009



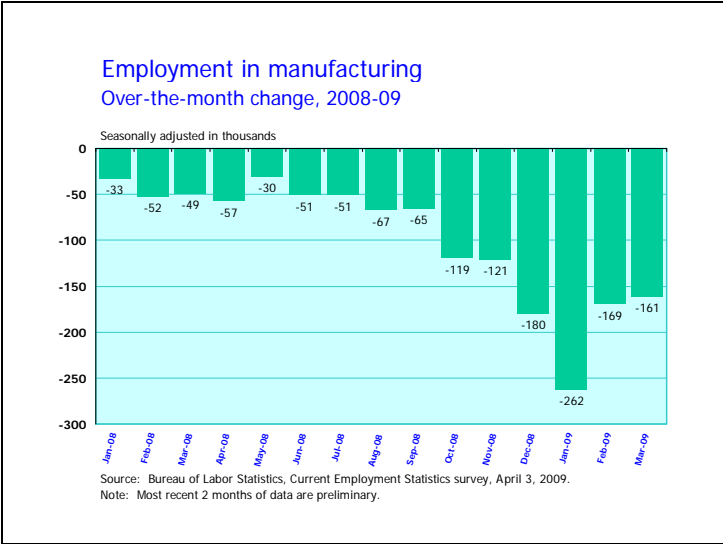
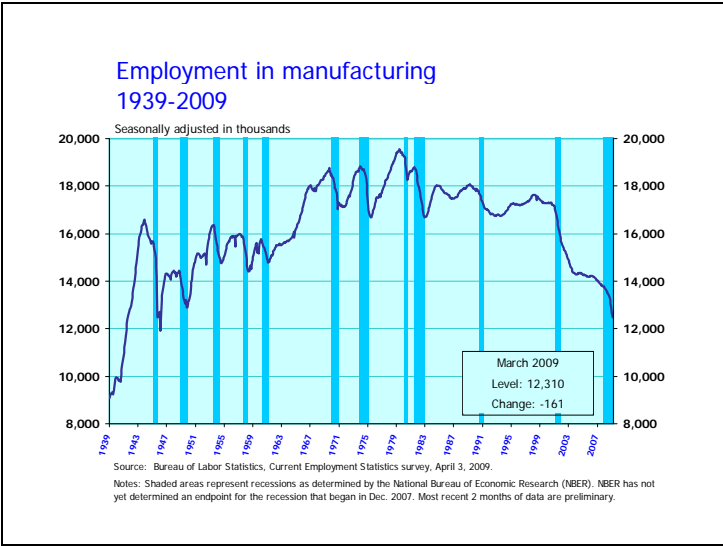
- In March, job losses were large and extended across nearly all major industry sectors. Losses were particularly sharp in manufacturing, professional and business services, and construction.
- Goods-producing industries shed 305,000 jobs in March, while service-providing industries lost 358,000 jobs.



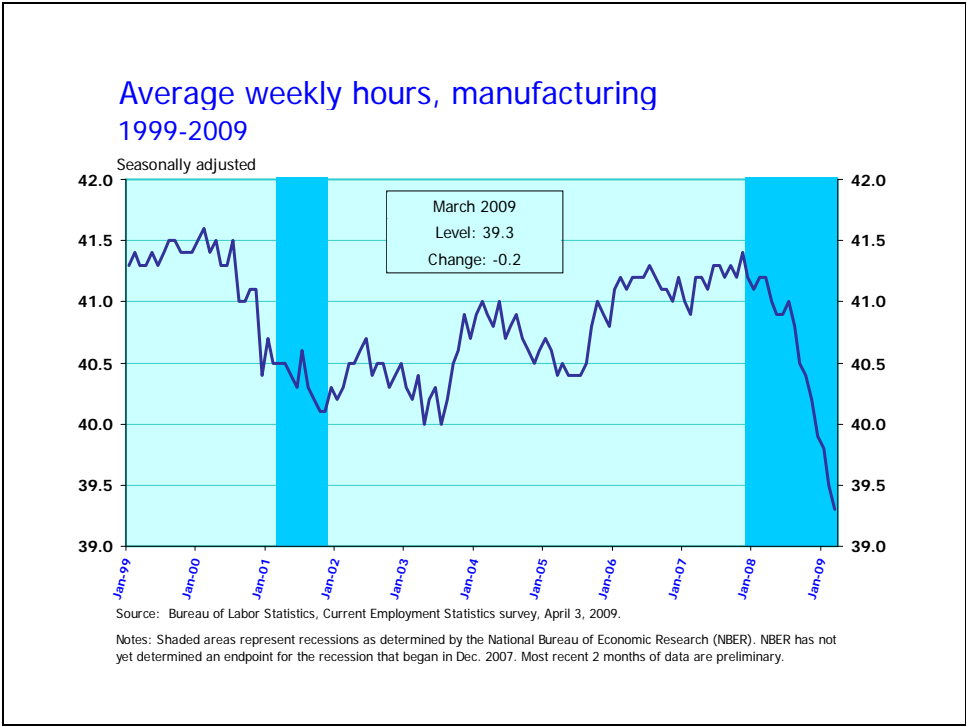
- In March, the average workweek for production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls fell 0.1 hour to 33.2 hours, seasonally adjusted - the lowest level on record for the series, which began in 1964.
- The index of aggregate weekly hours of production and nonsupervisory workers on nonfarm payrolls fell by 1.0 percent in March. Since peaking in December 2007, the index has decreased by 6.4 percent.



- Construction employment continued to contract in March as the industry shed 126,000 jobs. Nearly half of the total losses since the most recent industry peak in January 2007 have occurred in the past 5 months.
- Since the beginning of the recession, employment has dropped by about 1.1 million. Employment in construction now stands at its lowest level since March 1999, offsetting jobs gained in the housing-related expansion from March 2003 to January 2007.
- As with recent months, employment losses were widespread across the industry. Both the residential and nonresidential components shed jobs, as firms continued to reduce staff to cope with weak demand.



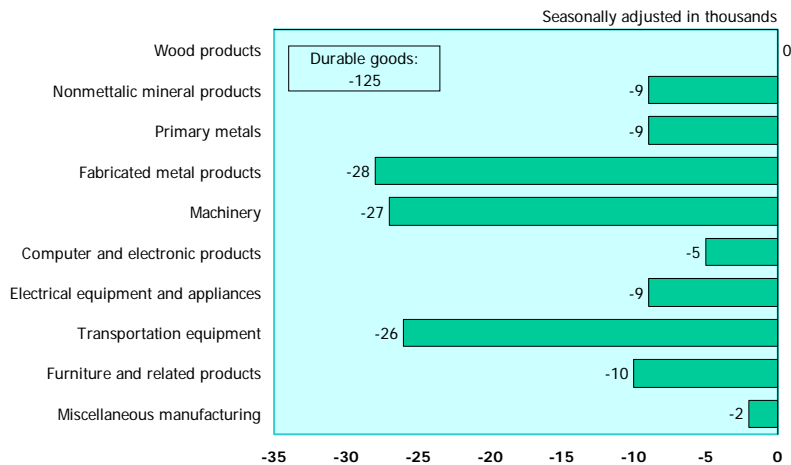
- Manufacturing employment fell by 161,000 in March, with widespread job losses occurring among the component industries. Manufacturing has lost 1.5 million jobs since the start of the current recession, bringing employment to a level last experienced in February 1946.
- Durable goods manufacturing continued to bear the brunt of the employment losses, accounting for 125,000 or 78 percent of manufacturing's total decline in March.



- Average weekly hours in manufacturing fell by 0.2 hour to 39.3 hours in March. Since the start of the current recession, average weekly hours and overtime have fallen steeply; both are at their lowest levels since 1983.



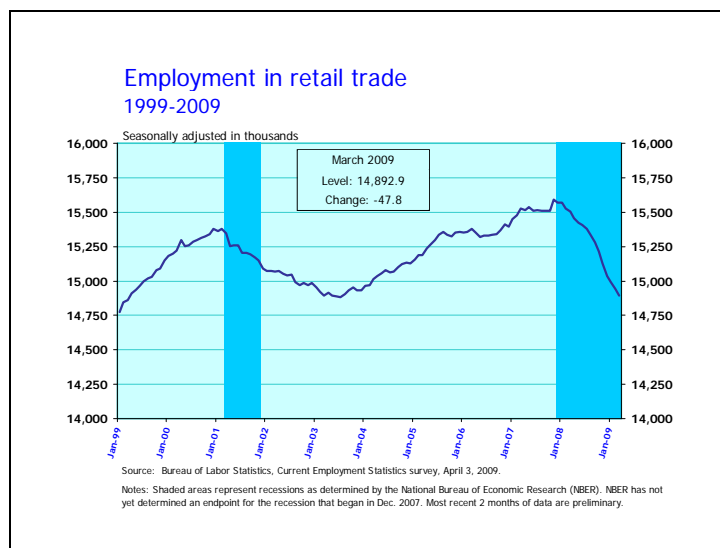
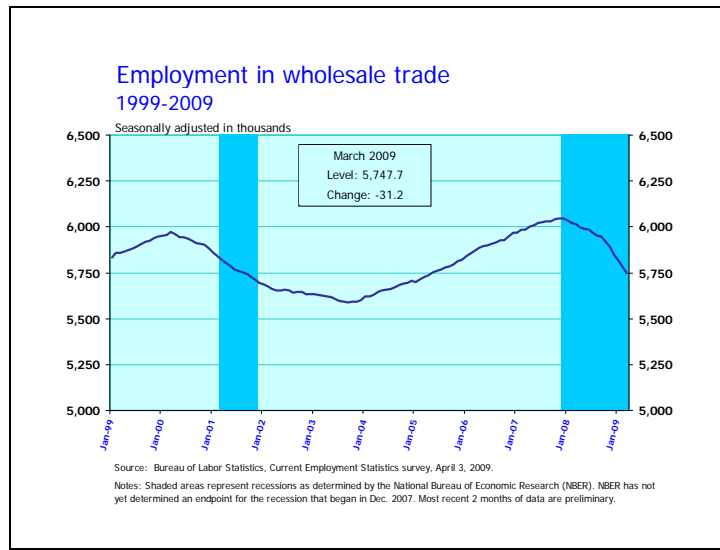
## Employment in durable goods manufacturing Over-the-month change, March 2009



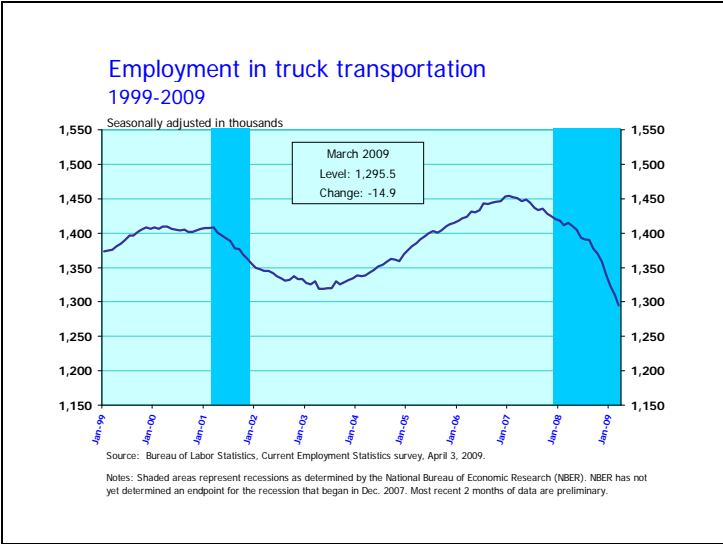
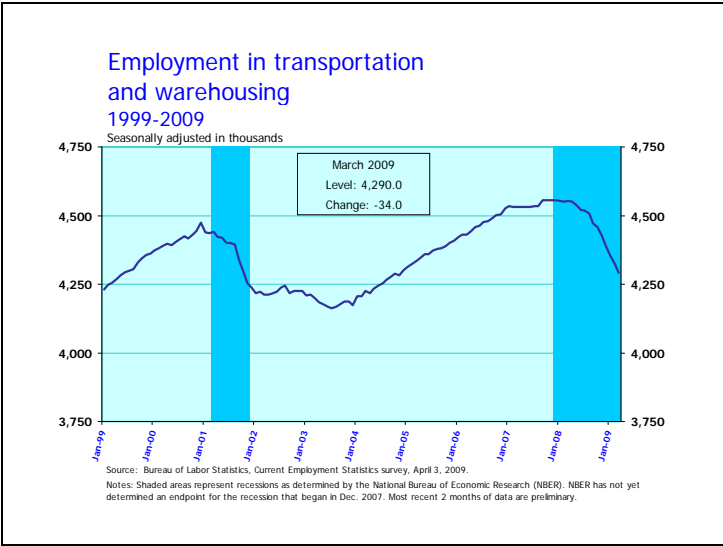
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 3, 2009.

Note: Data are preliminary.

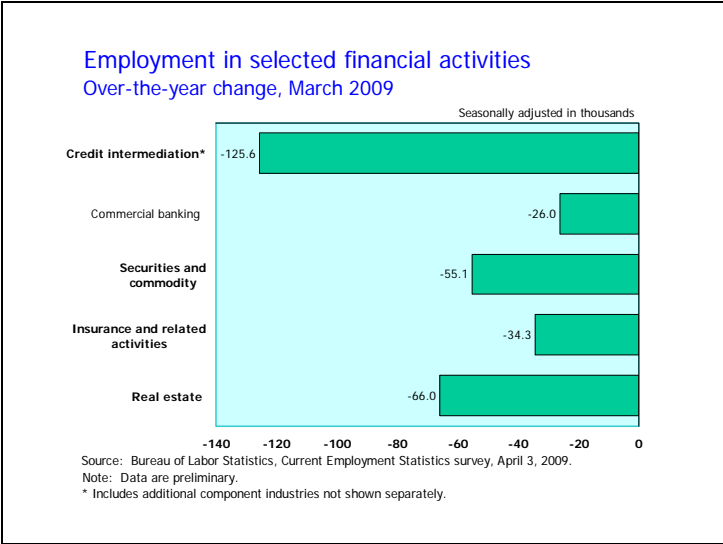
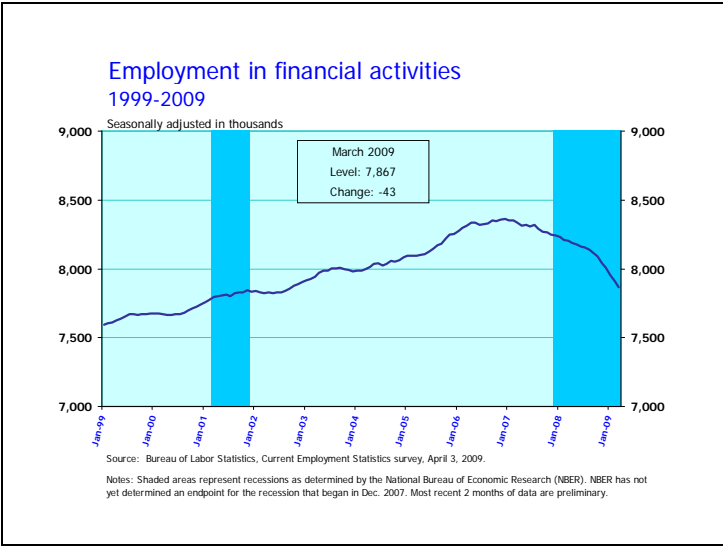
- The losses in durable goods manufacturing were widespread in March led by fabricated metal products (-28,000), machinery (-27,000), and transportation equipment (-26,000).
- Fabricated metal products exhibited the heaviest job loss in manufacturing in March, declining by 28,000. Job losses have accelerated in the past 5 months, with employment declining by 134,000 or 9 percent.
- The machinery industry cut 27,000 jobs in March, the largest 1-month loss in the history of the series dating back to January 1990. The industry has shed 106,000 jobs over the past 5 months, which account for 88 percent of jobs lost since employment peaked in March 2008



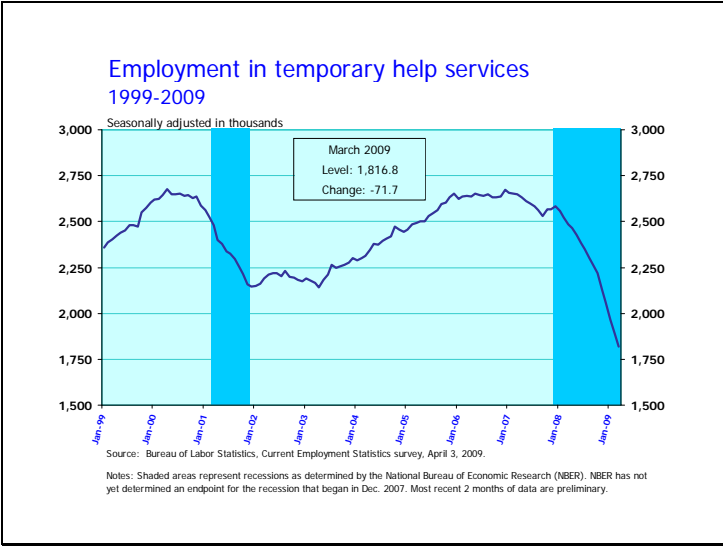
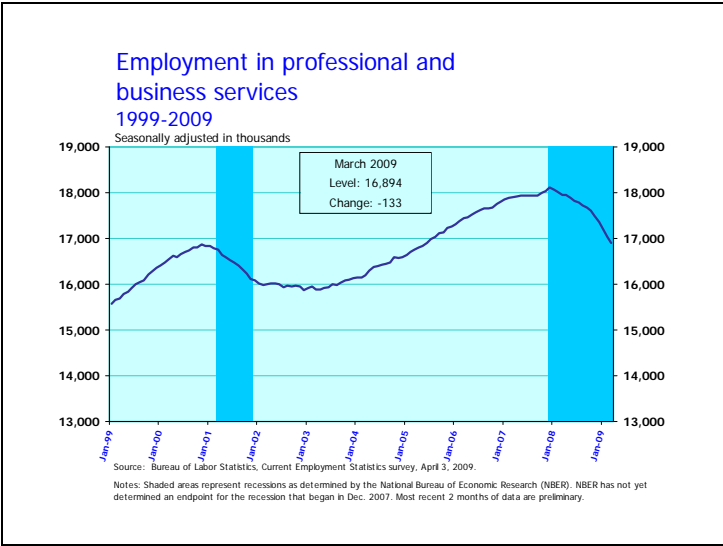
- Employment in wholesale trade fell by 31,000 over the month, with nearly all of the declines in durable goods wholesalers. The industry has lost 300,000 jobs since employment peaked in November 2007. Two-thirds of that loss has come in the last 6 months.
- Retail trade employment fell by 48,000 in March. Since peaking in November 2007, employment has declined by an average of 44,000 per month.
- In March, weakness in retail trade employment was widespread, led by building materials and garden supply stores (-13,000), automobile dealerships (-12,000), and electronics and appliance stores (-10,000).



- Transportation and warehousing lost 34,000 jobs in March, raising total job losses to 265,000 since employment peaked in December 2007.
- Truck transportation cut 15,000 jobs in March, marking 12 straight months of decline. Since the most recent employment peak in January 2007, trucking has lost 159,000 jobs or 11 percent of its workforce.

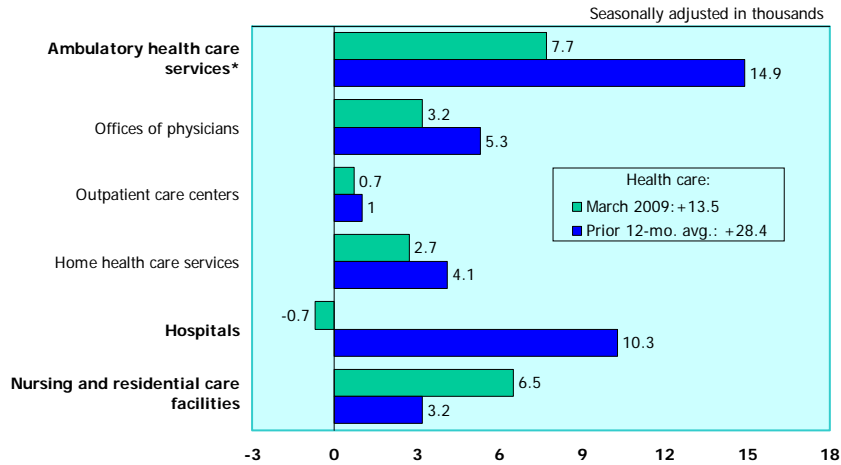


- Employment in financial activities continued to decline in March as 43,000 jobs were eliminated from industry payrolls. Most of the job cuts occurred in credit intermediation (-15,000); real estate (-12,000); and securities, commodity contracts, and investments (-7,000).
- Financial activities has shed about 495,000 jobs since December 2006, with more than half of the losses occurring in the past 7 months.



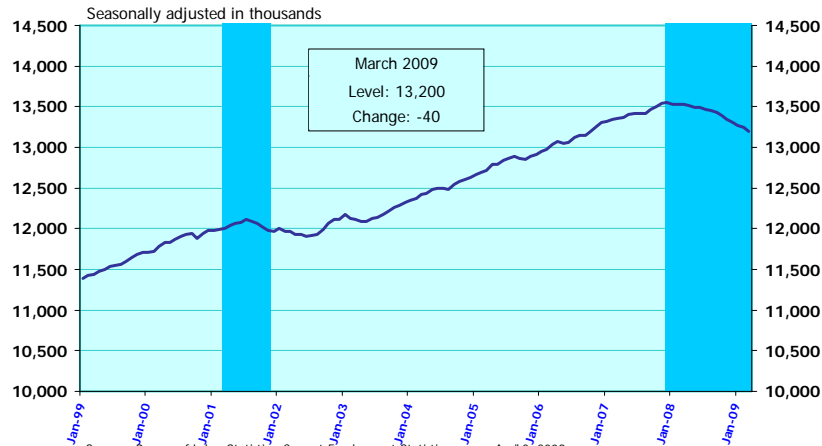
- Employment in professional and business services fell by 133,000 in March. Over the current 5-month period, the industry has averaged job losses of 144,000 per month. Since peaking in December 2007, professional and business services employment has fallen by 1.2 million.
- Temporary help services cut 72,000 positions in March, bringing its recessionary job loss to 767,000, or 30 percent of employment. With the accelerated losses in payrolls over the past 5 months, temporary help services is at the lowest employment level since April 1996.

## Employment in health care Over-the-month change, March 2009



- Health care continued to add jobs in March (14,000) but at a reduced rate. In the first quarter of 2009, health care added an average of 17,000 jobs per month, about half the average monthly gain (30,000) seen in 2008.

## Employment in leisure and hospitality 1999-2009



- Leisure and hospitality shed 40,000 jobs in March. Employment in the industry has fallen by 351,000 jobs since the start of the recession in December 2007. Most of the job losses in March occurred in accommodation (-23,000) and food services and drinking places (-9,000).