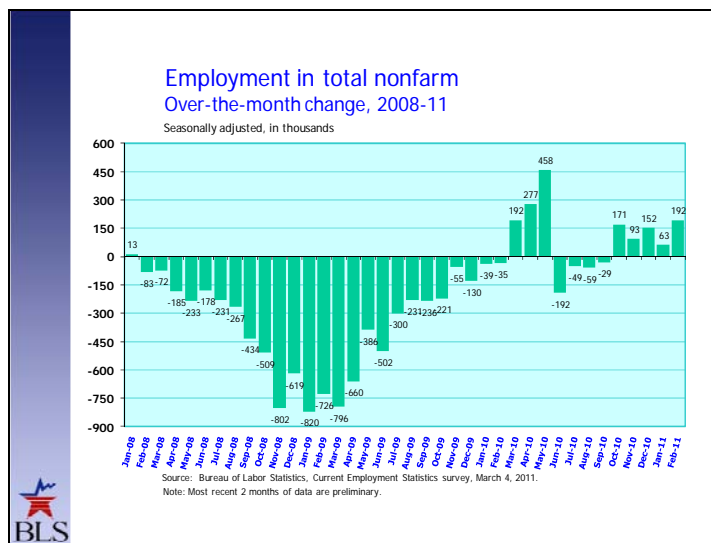
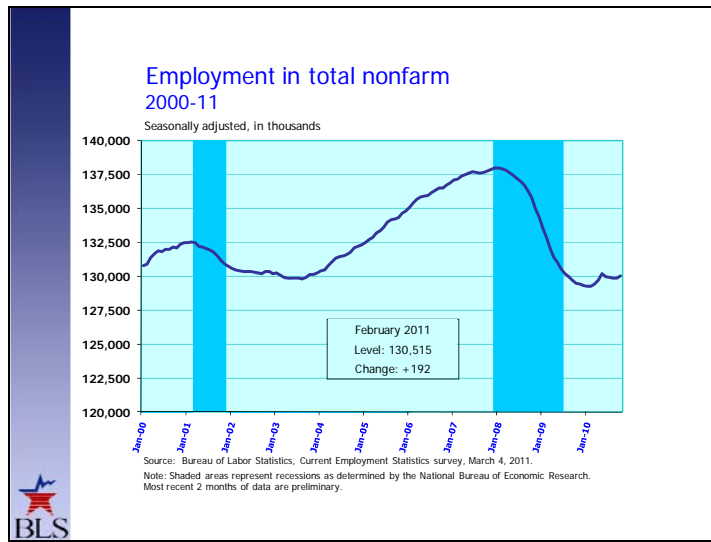


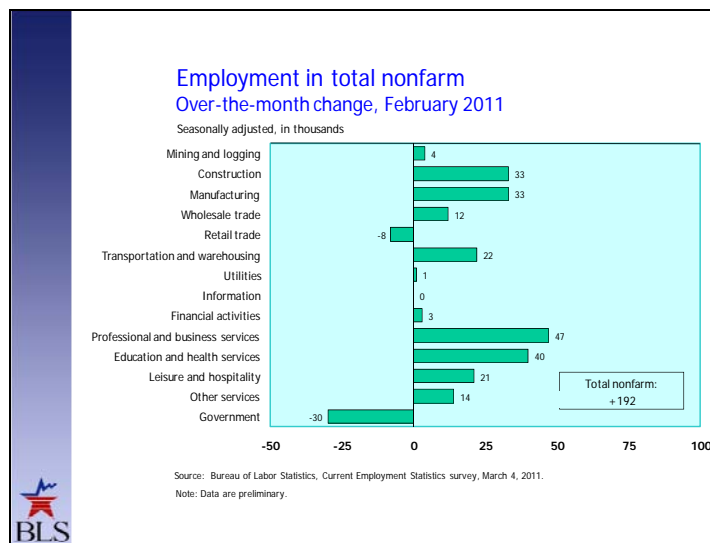
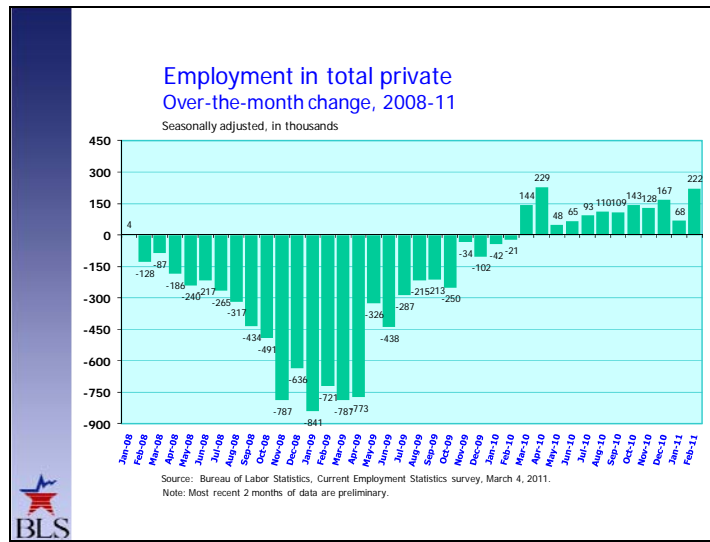


Current Employment Statistics Highlights February 2011

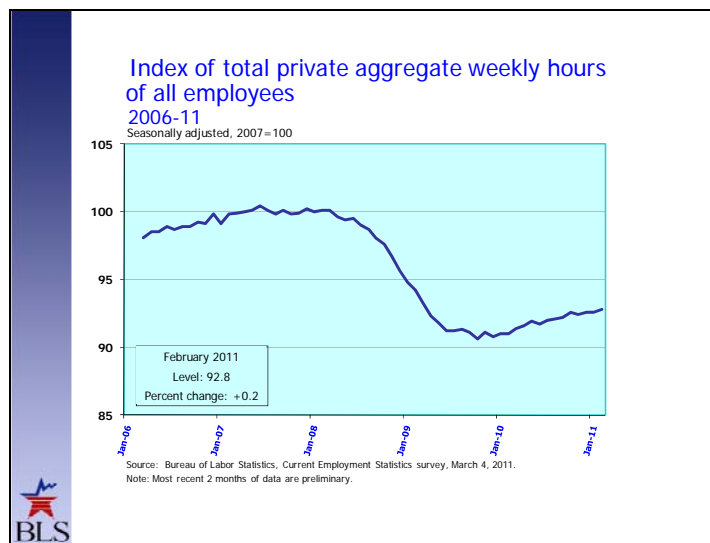
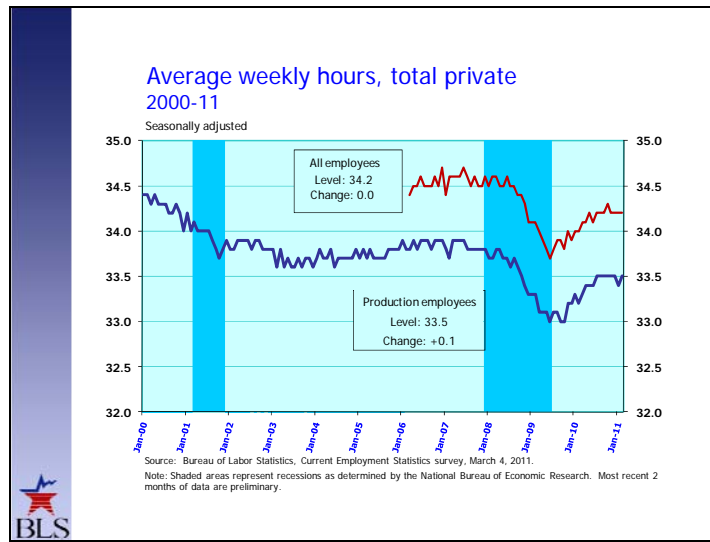
Bureau of Labor Statistics
March 4, 2011



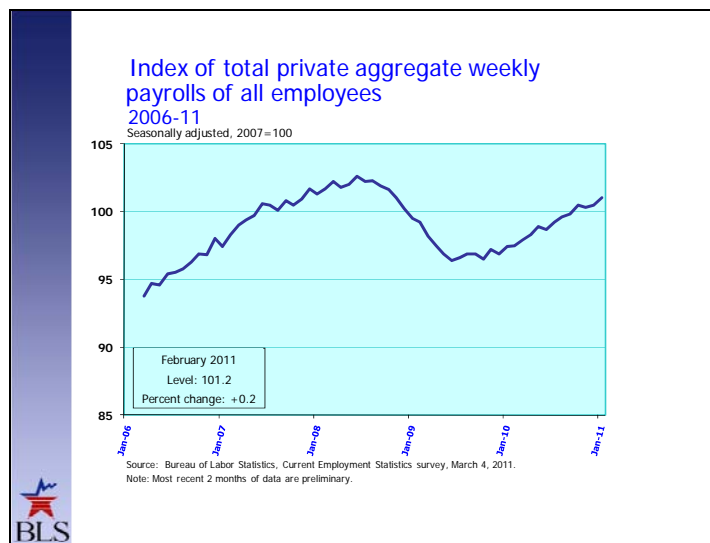
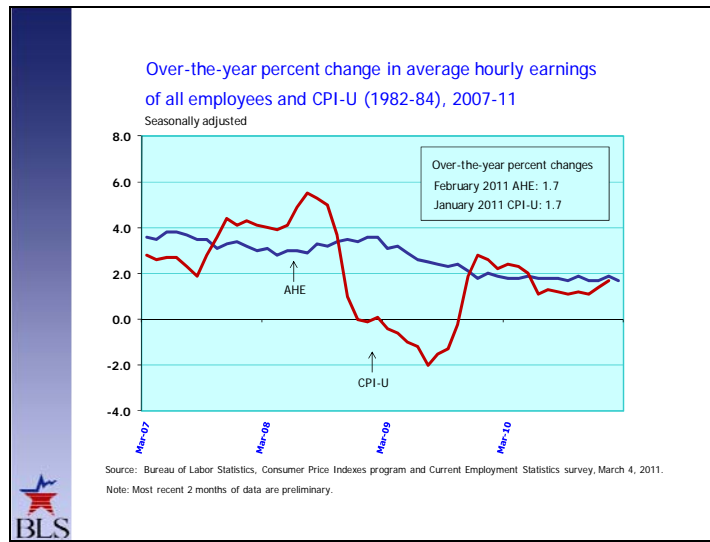
- Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 192,000 in February. Since a recent low in February 2010, employment has grown by 1.3 million, or an average 106,000 per month.



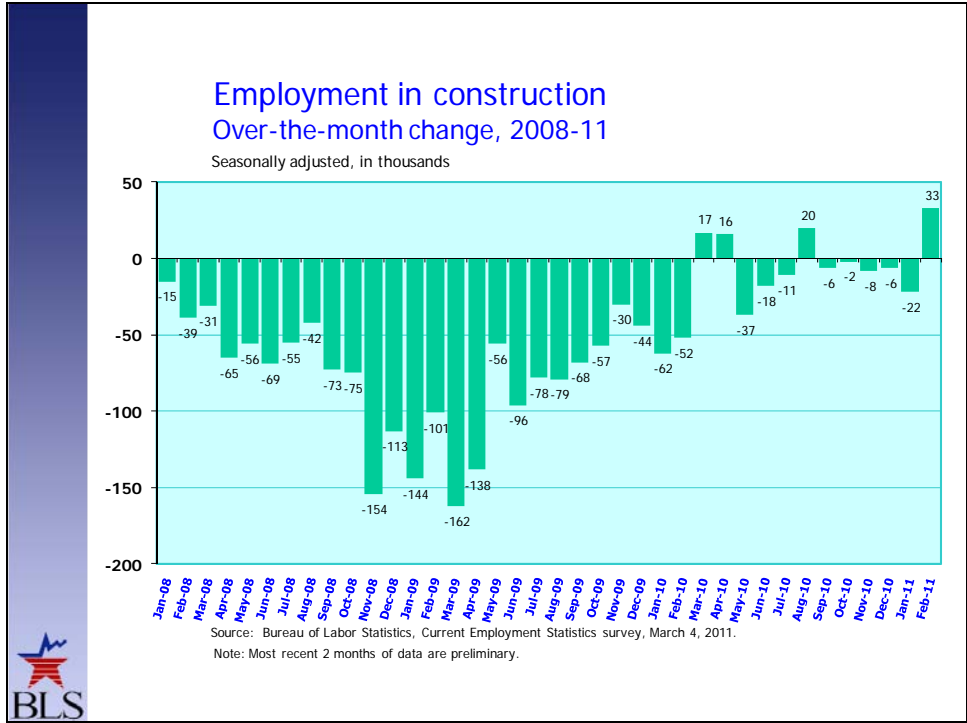
- Employment in the private sector rose by 222,000 in February. In the past 12 months, the private sector has added 1.5 million jobs – an average of 127,000 per month.
- In February, job gains occurred in construction, manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, healthcare, and professional and business services.



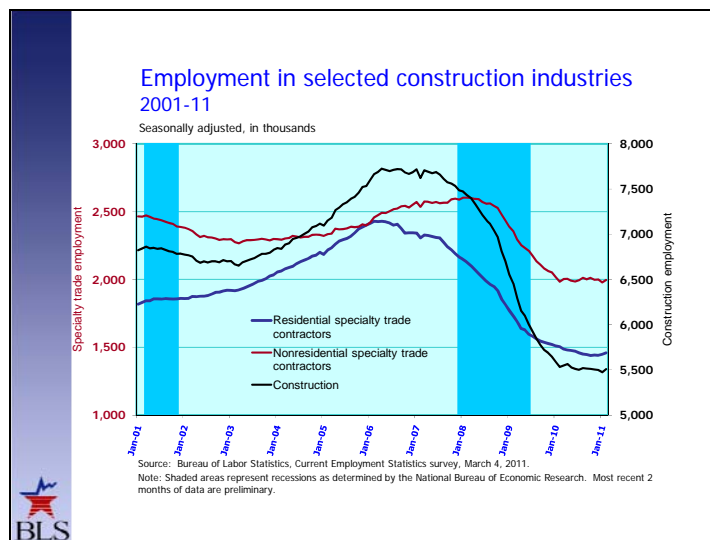
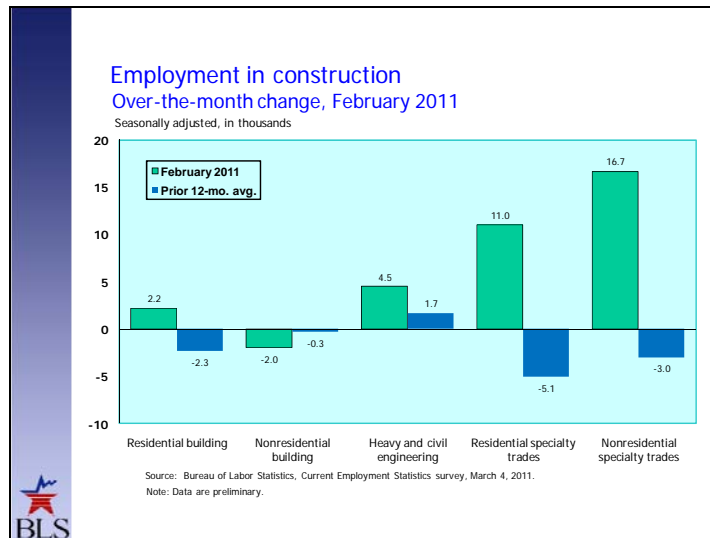
- During February, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged at 34.2 hours. The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.1 hour to 33.5 hours.
- The index of aggregate weekly hours for all employees rose by 0.2 percent over the month. Since reaching a low point in October 2009, the index has increased by 2.4 percent.



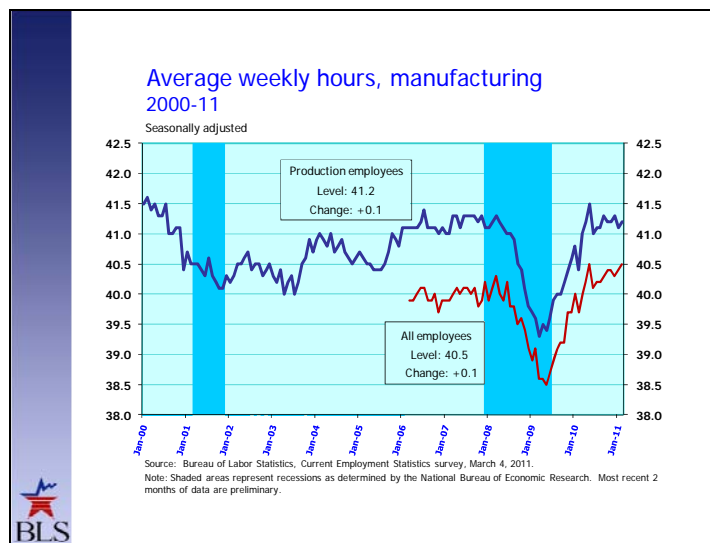
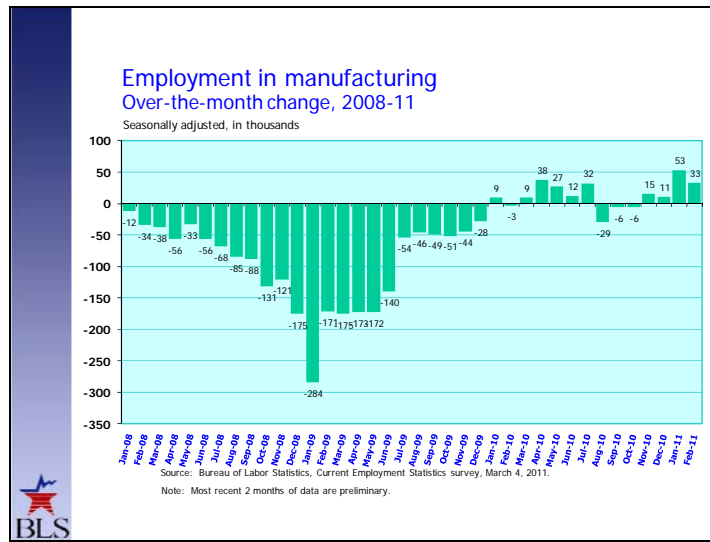
- Average hourly earnings of all employees in the private sector were changed little in February, following a 9-cent gain in January. Hourly earnings are up 1.7 percent over the year.
- Between January 2010 and January 2011, the consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) increased by 1.7 percent.
- In February, the index of aggregate weekly payroll for all employees rose by 0.2 percent. Since reaching a low in June 2009, the index has increased by 5.0 percent.



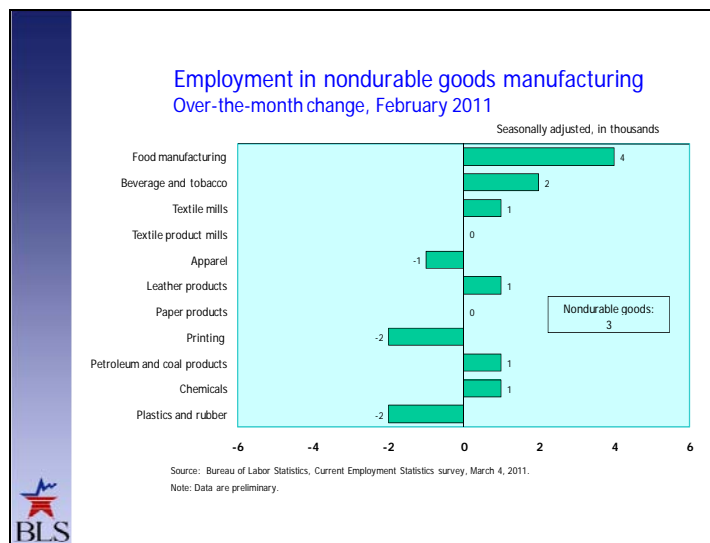
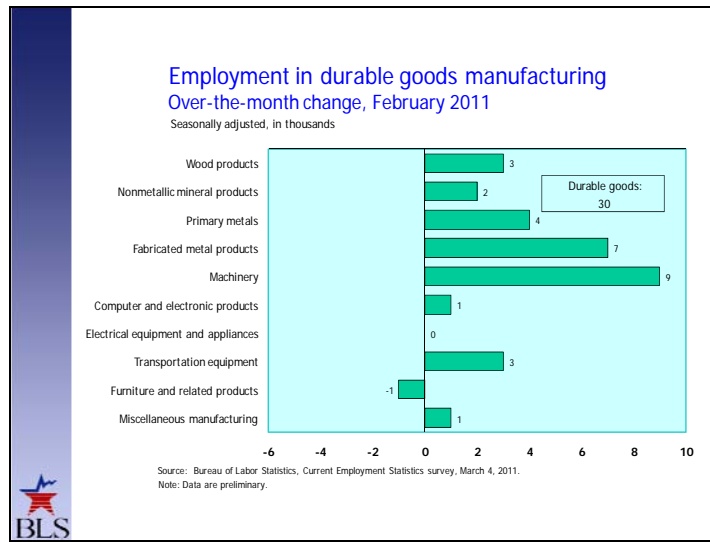
- Construction employment rose by 33,000 in February, following a decline of 22,000 in January. The January figure may have been impacted by severe weather.
- Average weekly hours of construction workers grew by 0.9 hour in February to 38.5, partially offsetting a decrease of 1.0 in January.



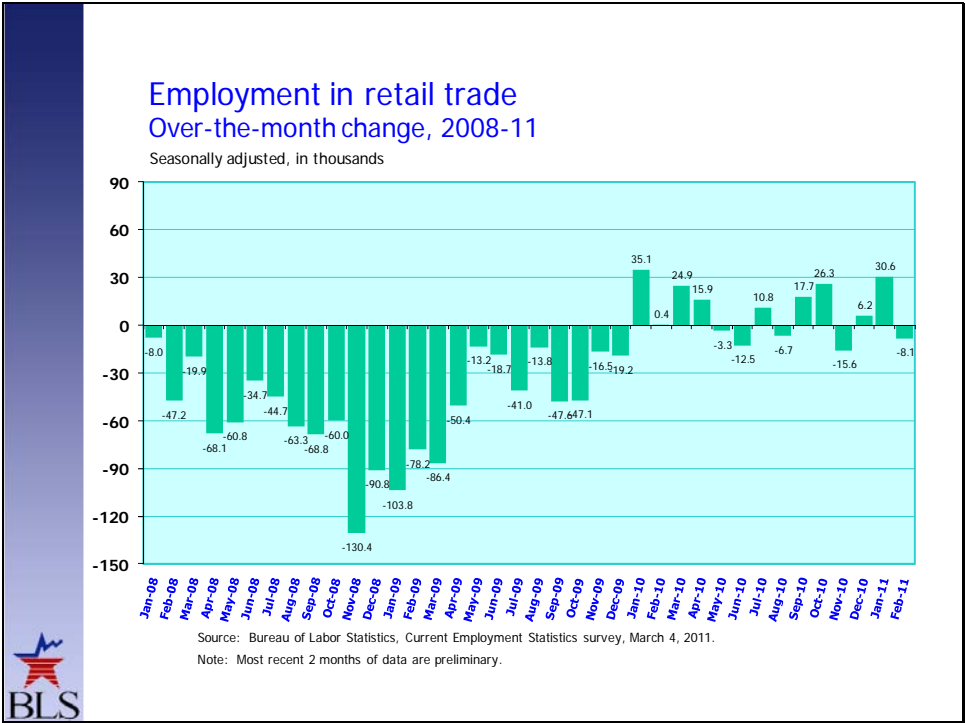
- Over the month, employment increased in both residential and nonresidential specialty trade contractors.
- Employment in nonresidential specialty trade contractors peaked in February 2008 and fell by 619,000 jobs through February 2010; since then, employment has remained unchanged.
- Employment in residential specialty trade contractors peaked 2 years ahead of nonresidential specialty trade contractors and fell by nearly 1 million through October 2010. Employment in residential specialty trade contractors is up 21,000 over the past 4 months.



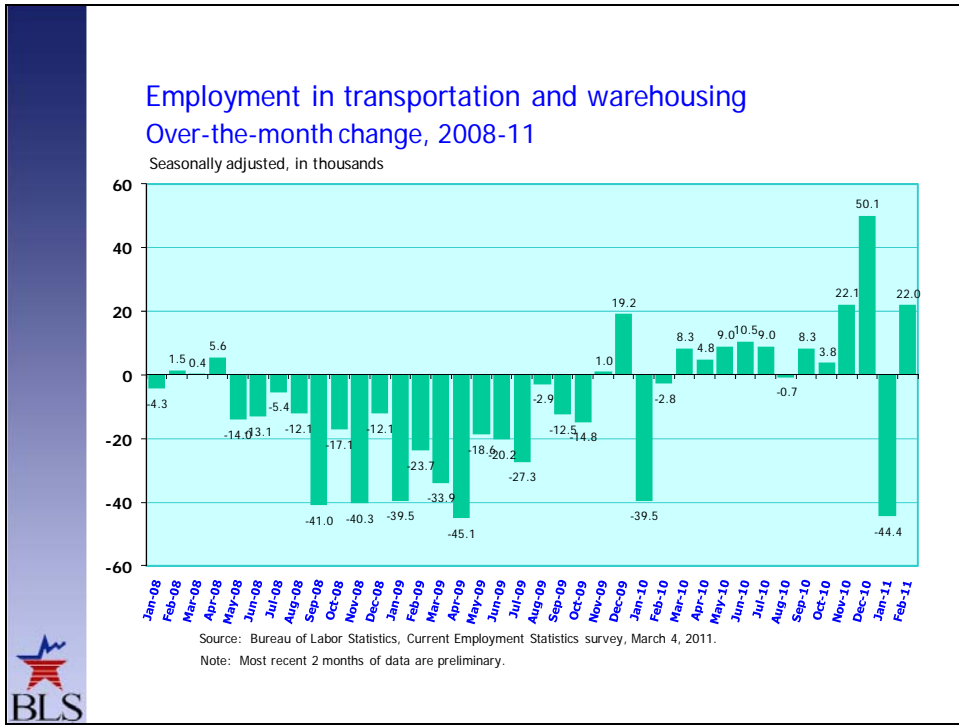
- Manufacturing employment continued to increase in February (+33,000). Since reaching an employment low in December 2009, manufacturers have added 195,000 positions.
- Average weekly hours of all employees in manufacturing rose by 0.1 hour in February. The factory workweek for production employees also increased by 0.1 hour in February.



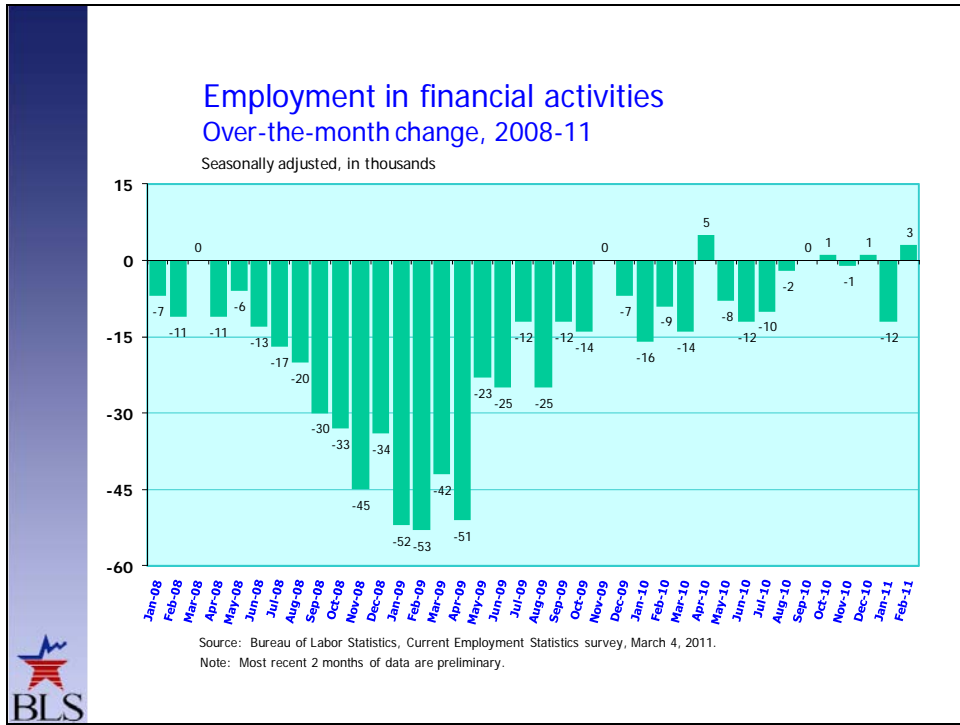
- Durable goods manufacturing boosted employment by 30,000 in February. Employment gains in February were concentrated in machinery (+9,000) and fabricated metal products (+7,000).
- Since a recent employment trough in December 2009, durable goods industries have added 233,000 jobs to payrolls.
- Employment in nondurable goods industries changed little in February.



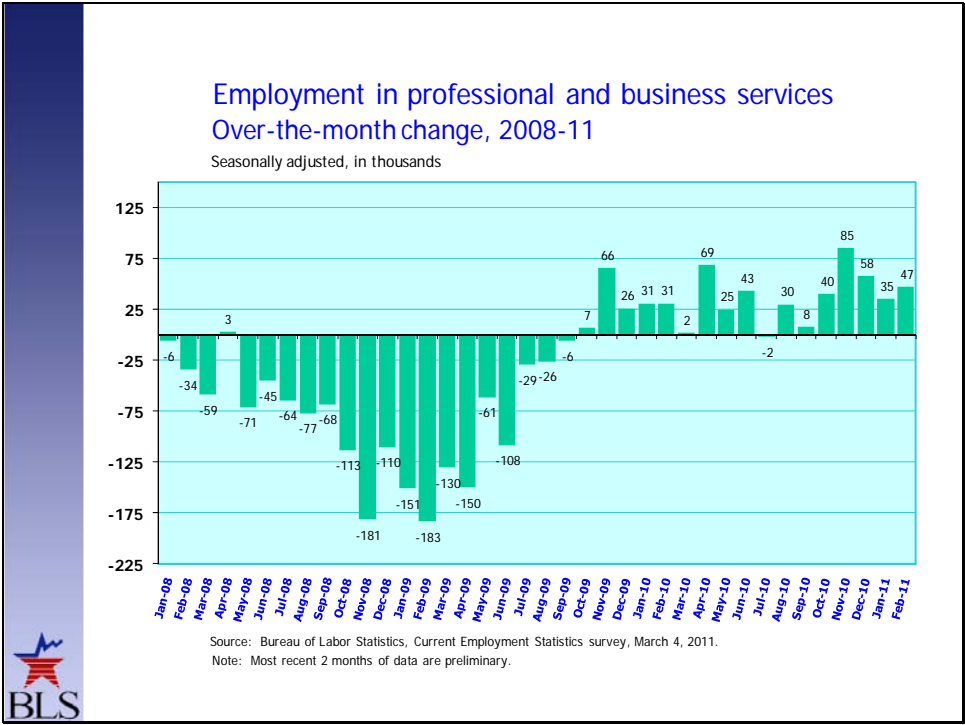
- Retail trade employment changed little in February. Since reaching an employment trough in December 2009, the industry has added 122,000 jobs.



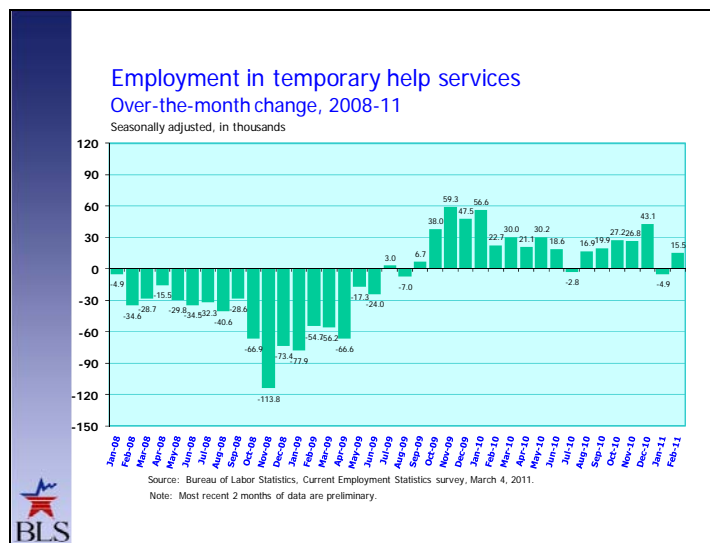
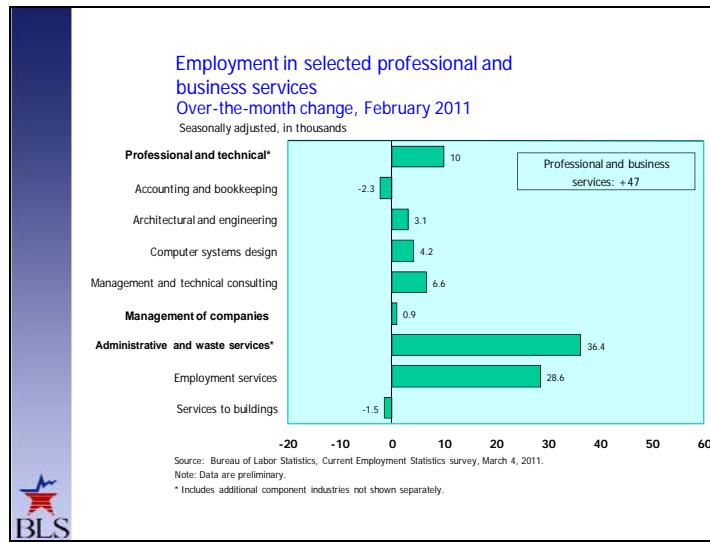
- Transportation and warehousing employment grew by 22,000 in February. Over the past 12 months, this industry has added 103,000 jobs.
- In February, half of the employment increase in transportation and warehousing can be attributed to growth in truck transportation.



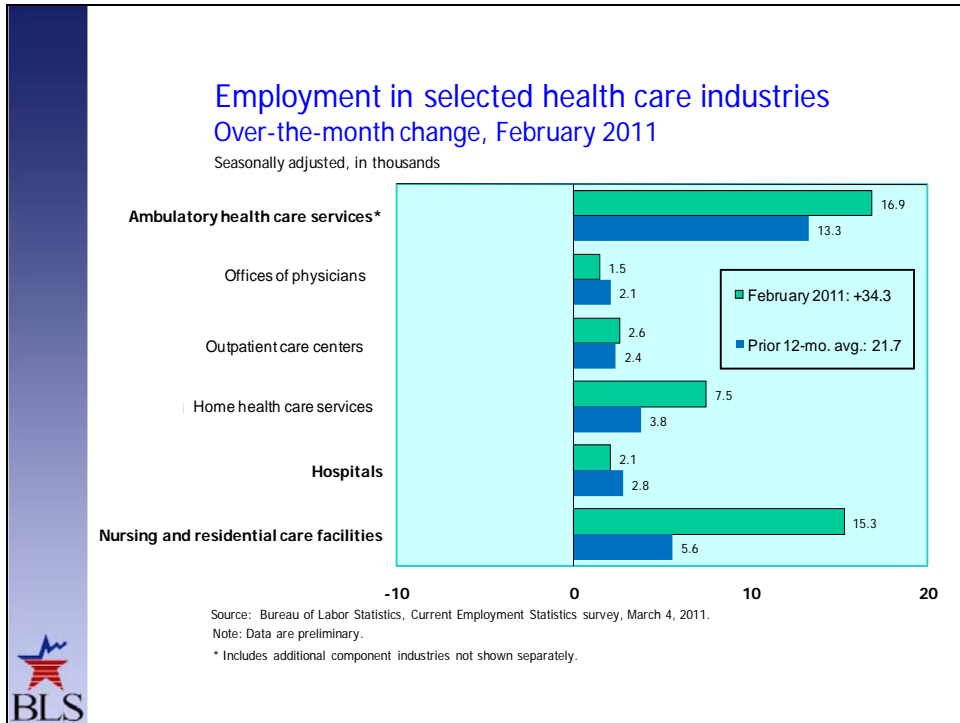
- In February, employment in financial activities changed little. The industry's employment trend has shown relative improvement, with average monthly job losses decelerating from 7,000 in the 6 months ending in August 2010 to essentially no change in the past 6 months.



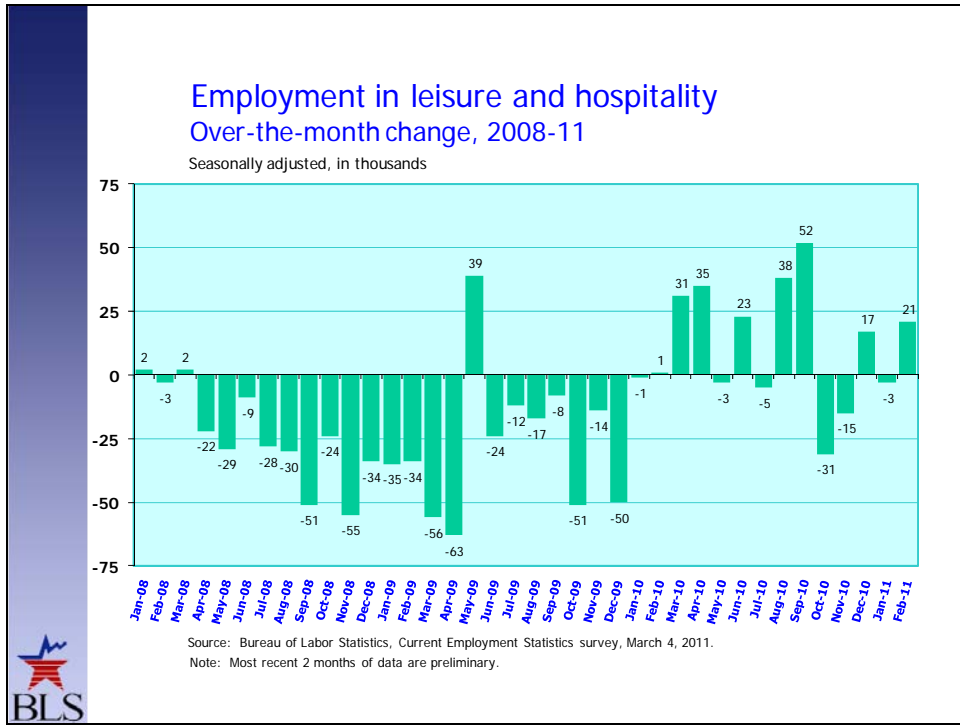
- Employment in professional and business services expanded by 47,000 over the month, and has increased by 601,000 since reaching a trough in September 2009.



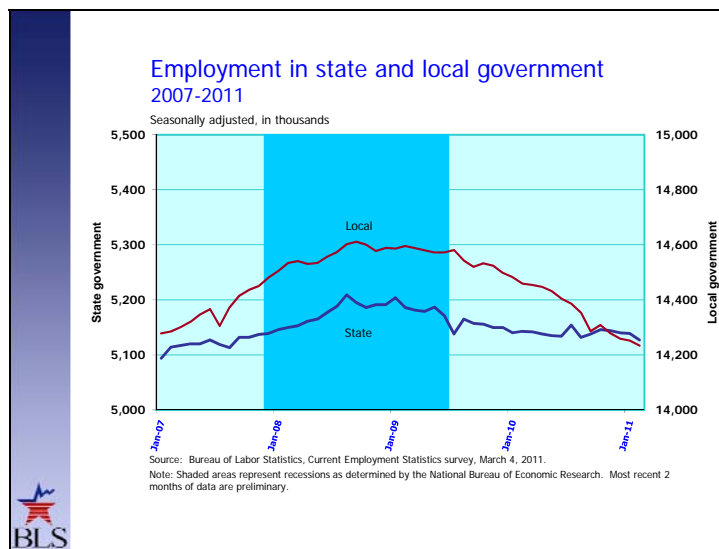
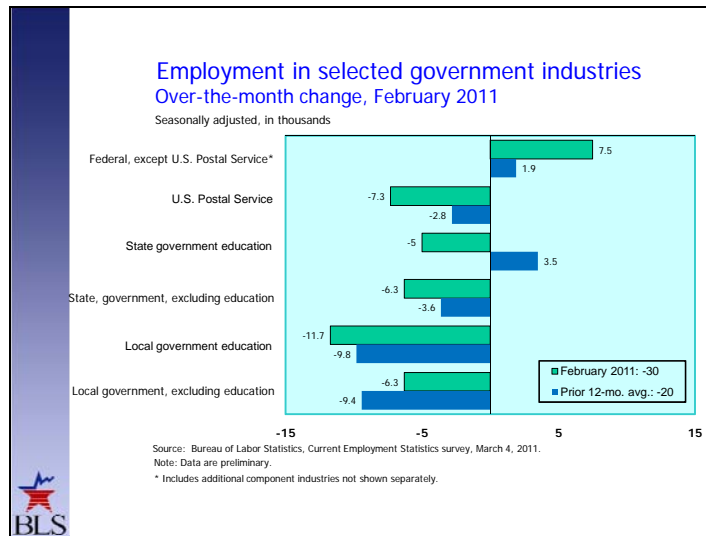
- In February, job gains in professional and business services were concentrated in employment services.
- Since September 2009, employment growth in professional and business services has been driven primarily by temporary help services.



- Health care employment continued to increase in February (+34,000). Over the past 12 months, health care has added 278,000 jobs, or an average of 23,000 jobs per month.
- In February, employment gains in health care were concentrated in ambulatory health care services (+17,000) and nursing and residential care facilities (+15,000).



- Leisure and hospitality employment edged up by 21,000 in February. Since reaching a low in January 2010, employment in leisure and hospitality has increased by 161,000, with food services accounting for most of the job gains during this period.



- Government payroll employment edged down in February (-30,000). In the past 12 months, employment in government has decreased by 257,000.
- Over the month, the majority of the employment losses were concentrated in local government (-18,000). Since a recent peak in September 2008, local government employment has declined by 377,000.