Industry employment



The Bureau develops employment projections for 262 detailed industries and 10 industry divisions that make up the economy. Industry output—the level of goods and services produced—and productivity of the workforce affect employment growth.

Industries with fast growth in output also tend to have fast employment growth. However, large increases in productivity—including those that are due to technology changes or better methods of production—can result in slow employment growth or, in some cases, declines. Each worker produces more output, so fewer workers are needed. This is most apparent in industries such as mining, in which employment historically has declined from one year to the next while output climbs steadily. In service-producing industries, such as education, productivity grows more slowly because there is less opportunity for automation and a greater need for face-toface contact with consumers.

Employment in one industry can be affected by changing practices in another. For example, the use of contractors or independent consultants has resulted in decreased employment in traditional industries, such as construction and janitorial services, but has caused employment to increase in industries such as business services.

Industries fall into either goods-producing or serviceproducing divisions. Goods-producing divisions include:

- ◆ Mining
- Construction
- Manufacturing.
- Service-producing divisions include:
- Transportation
- ♦ Wholesale trade
- ♦ Retail trade
- ◆ Finance, insurance, and real estate
- Services, including schools and hospitals
- ♦ Federal Government
- ◆ State and local government.

Each division includes several major industry groups, which are in turn made up of detailed industries. For example, health services is a major group in the services division; within health services are detailed industries such as offices of physicians, medical laboratories, and private hospitals.

All data included in the following industry charts are for nonfarm wage-and-salary employment only. In contrast, employment figures in the occupational employment section cover all classes of workers: wage and salary, self-employed, and unpaid family workers.

Wage-and-salary employment by industry sector, 2000 and projected 2010



The service-producing sector is projected to account for the most job growth—almost 21 million new jobs—while goods-producing industries are expected to account for about 1.3 million new jobs.

Wage-and-salary employment by industry division, 2000



In 2000, about 38 percent of jobs were in industries in the services division. Another 17 percent were in retail trade; 14 percent were in manufacturing, and about 8 percent were in government.



Wage-and-salary employment change by industry division, projected 2000-10

More than three-fourths of new jobs are expected to be in the services or retail trade divisions. Modest increases in other industries, such as manufacturing, construction, and wholesale trade, are projected to be offset somewhat by continued employment declines in Federal Government and mining.

Wage-and-salary employment growth by selected major industry group within services, projected 2000-10



Within the services division, business services is the category projected to add the most new jobs, with almost 5 million expected. Nine of every ten new jobs in this group will be in personnel supply, computer and data processing, and miscellaneous business services.

Industries gaining the most jobs



Wage-and-salary employment growth in selected industries, projected 2000-10

The 20 industries in this chart are expected to contribute nearly 60 percent of all employment growth. All are in the service-producing sector, and 15 are in the services division. They include personnel supply services, computer and data processing services, and public and private education and make up nearly half of the growth in industries in the services division.

Fastest growing industries

Wage-and-salary employment growth in selected industries, projected 2000-10



Not only are industries in the services division projected to gain more jobs by 2010, they are expected to be among the fastest growing industries, accounting for 10 of the 20 fastest. All of the industries shown here are expected to grow at least twice as fast as the average.

Industries losing the most jobs

Wage-and-salary employment decline in selected industries, projected 2000-10



With the exception of private households and Federal Government, most industries projected to have the largest employment declines are in the goods-producing sector. Decline in Federal Government employment is expected with a shift in responsibility to State and local governments. In private households, employment decline is projected as consumer tastes change and more workers are retained through contracting services than by private households.

Declines in industry employment usually are caused by increased imports of or decreased demand for certain goods and services, technology that increases productivity, or a transfer of duties to different occupations. While declining employment often means unfavorable prospects or limited opportunity, some openings may occur where the number of people leaving an industry is greater than the decline in jobs.