Current Employment Statistics
Highlights
January 2010

Bureau of Labor Statistics
February 5, 2010
• Nonfarm payroll employment was essentially unchanged in January (-20,000).

• Following steep job losses toward the end of 2008 and in the first quarter of 2009, job losses began to moderate. Over the past 3 months, nonfarm payroll employment has shown little net change.

• Since the start of the recession in December 2007, job losses total 8.4 million.
Job losses continued in construction and in transportation and warehousing, while employment increased in professional and business services and in retail trade.
• January marks the first official release of CES hours and earnings data for all employees in the private sector. Weekly hours increased for both all employees and production and nonsupervisory employees.

• Average hourly earnings of all employees on private, nonfarm payrolls increased by 4 cents in January to $22.45. Hourly earnings of production and nonsupervisory employees were $18.89 in January.

• Production and nonsupervisory employees include production employees in mining and logging and manufacturing, construction employees in construction, and nonsupervisory employees in the private service-providing industries.
• The index of total private aggregate weekly hours rose by 0.2 percent in January and has been essentially flat over the past 5 months.

• The index of total private aggregate weekly payrolls increased by 0.5 percent in January. Over the last 3 months, the index has trended up by 1.0 percent.
• Construction shed 75,000 in January and has lost 1.9 million jobs since the current recession started in December 2007.

• In 2008, the majority of the losses were in residential construction, while in 2009 nonresidential construction was weaker. That trend continued in January, as nonresidential specialty trades accounted for the bulk of the employment decline.
- Manufacturing employment showed little change in January.

- In the second half of 2009, manufacturing lost an average 42,000 jobs per month – marked improvement compared to average monthly loss of 173,000 jobs in the first half of 2009.
- The factory workweek increased for all employees and for production and nonsupervisory employees in January.

- The manufacturing workweek for all employees is shorter than the workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees. This contrasts with the total private sector, where all employees tend to have longer hours.

- Since reaching a low point in March 2009, the manufacturing average workweek of all employees has increased by 1.2 hours, while the workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees has increased by 1.4 hours over the same period.
Durable goods employment edged up by 13,000 in January.

Transportation equipment gained jobs in January as employment in motor vehicles and parts increased by 23,000.

Since July 2009, motor vehicles and parts employment had shown little change until January.
Employment in nondurable goods manufacturing
Over-the-month change, January 2010

- Employment in nondurable goods manufacturing was little changed in January. Since the start of the recession in December 2007, nondurable goods has lost 539,000 jobs.
Following 2 months of little net change, retail trade gained 42,000 jobs in January. Over the month, gains were spread throughout the component industries.

Since the start of the recession in December 2007, retail trade has shed nearly 1.2 million jobs.
- Employment in transportation and warehousing fell by 19,000 in January, and the industry has lost 412,000 jobs since the start of the recession in December 2007.

- Couriers and messengers lost 23,000 jobs in January, a significant drop for an industry that lost a total of 21,000 jobs in 2009.
• Financial activities employment edged down by 16,000 in January.

• Job losses decelerated in financial activities throughout 2009, and the industry has shown little change in employment over the past 3 months.
• Professional and businesses services has added 181,000 jobs since September 2009.

• The majority of the gains have occurred in temporary help services, which has added nearly 250,000 jobs over the past 4 months.
• Health care employment continued to expand in January. The industry’s payroll employment has increased by 549,000 since the start of the recession.

• Ambulatory health care services added 15,000 jobs, accounting for January’s job gain.