• Nonfarm payroll employment was little changed in January. Between a peak in January 2008 and a trough in February 2010, nonfarm employment contracted by 8.8 million. Since then, business establishments have added 1 million jobs.

• In January, both manufacturing and retail trade experienced jobs gains, while job losses occurred in transportation and warehousing and in construction.
• On a year-over-year basis, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 0.8 percent in January. This is the highest year-over-year percent change since December 2007.
• During January, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls fell by 0.1 hour to 34.2 hours. Similarly, the average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls declined by 0.1 hour to 33.4 hours.

• Average hourly earnings of all employees rose by 8 cents in January to $22.86. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have risen by 1.9 percent.

• Between December 2009 and December 2010, the consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) grew by 1.4 percent.
• The index of aggregate weekly hours for all employees declined by 0.2 percent over the month. Since a reaching a low point in October 2009, the index has increased by 2.2 percent.

• In January, the index of aggregate weekly payroll for all employees increased by 0.1 percent.
• Employment in construction continued to trend downward in January, declining by 32,000.

• Job losses occurred in construction of buildings (-10,000) and in nonresidential specialty trade contractors (-22,000).

• Although the January job loss reflects recent trends, severe winter weather also may have impacted employment. The average workweek of all employees in the construction sector declined 0.8 hour in January.
• Manufacturing employment increased by 49,000 over the month. Since reaching an employment low in December 2009, manufacturers have added 161,000 positions.
• The average workweek week of all employees on manufacturing payrolls rose by 0.1 hour to 40.5 hours in January. Factory overtime was unchanged over the month.
Durable-goods industries boosted manufacturing payrolls by 62,000 jobs in January.

Employments gains occurred in motor vehicles and parts (+20,000), fabricated metal products (+13,000), machinery (+10,000), and in computer and electronic products (+5,000). These gains were partially offset by declines in nondurable goods manufacturing, which lost 13,000 jobs over the month.

The motor vehicles and parts industry typically experiences seasonal plant shutdowns in January. However, in 2011, the industry saw a small not seasonally adjusted job gain.
Employment in retail trade rose by 28,000 in January. Since reaching an employment trough in December 2009, retail employment has risen by 123,000.

In January, clothing and clothing accessories stores accounted for about half of the employment gain in retail trade. Clothing stores have added 74,000 jobs since reaching an employment trough in October 2009.
• Transportation and warehousing employment decreased by 38,000 in January; this loss comes on the heels of an employment increase of 49,000 in December.

• In January, couriers and messengers was the main driver of employment losses, cutting 45,000 positions. Courier services had experienced a strong buildup in December for the holiday delivery season, followed by a similarly large seasonal layoff in January. Over the 2-month span, employment in courier services changed little.
Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in January. Since reaching an employment trough in September 2009, the industry has added 546,000 jobs.

Although temporary help services has been the main driver of job growth since the trough, employment in the industry changed little in January.
In January, health care employment continued to trend up over the month (+11,000). Over the prior 12 months, health care has added an average of 22,000 jobs per month.