Current Employment Statistics Highlights

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Nonfarm employment increased by 151,000 in January 2016. Retail trade, food services and drinking places, and health care led job gains. Private education, transportation and warehousing, and mining lost jobs over the month.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls rose by 12 cents (+0.5 percent) following no change in December. Over the past 12 months, hourly earnings have increased by 2.5 percent. In January average weekly hours increased by 0.1 hour to 34.6 hours.

The employment change for November was revised up from +252,000 to +280,000. The change for December was revised down from +292,000 to +262,000. Over the past 3 months, job growth has averaged 231,000 per month.

In accordance with annual practice, establishment survey data have been revised to reflect comprehensive counts of payroll jobs, or benchmarks, derived principally from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, which enumerates jobs covered by unemployment insurance tax records. Nonfarm employment for March 2015 was revised down by 206,000 (down 199,000 on a not seasonally adjusted basis). An article analyzing the benchmark revisions can be accessed through the BLS website (www.bls.gov/web/empsit/cesbmar.htm).

**+58,000 Retail Trade**

In January, employment rose in retail trade following essentially no change in December. General merchandise stores (+15,000), electronics and appliance stores (+9,000), and furniture and home furnishings stores (+7,000) added jobs over the month, more than...
offsetting small ticks down in December. Motor vehicle and parts dealers continued to add jobs over the month. Over the past 12 months, motor vehicle and parts dealers have added 79,000 jobs, including 8,000 in January.

**+44,000 Leisure and Hospitality**

In January, employment rose by 47,000 in food services and drinking places. Over the year, the industry has expanded payroll employment by 384,000.

**+29,000 Manufacturing**

Manufacturers added 29,000 jobs in January. Food manufacturing (+11,000), fabricated metal products (+7,000), and furniture and related products (+3,000) contributed to job growth over the month.

**+18,000 Financial Activities**

Employment in financial activities increased by an above-average 18,000 in January, with small changes across the component industries. Job growth in the industry had averaged 13,000 per month in 2015.

**+18,000 Construction**

In construction, both residential building and residential specialty trades added jobs in January. Over the past 12 months, construction employment has risen by 264,000; the residential construction industries accounted for 150,000 (57 percent) of this increase, while representing about 39 percent of all construction jobs.

**+6,000 Education and Health Services**

Private education lost 39,000 jobs in January to more than offset gains totaling 37,000 in health care. Within health care, hospital employment rose by a healthy 24,000 over the month; job growth in the industry had averaged 15,000 per month in 2015. Employment in social assistance changed little over the month (+7,000).

**+9,000 Professional and Business Services**

Employment increased by 25,000 in professional and technical services in January; small increases were distributed across most of the component industries. Within administrative and waste services, temporary help services employment edged lower (-25,000).

**-20,000 Transportation and Warehousing**

Within transportation and warehousing, employment decreased by 14,000 in couriers and messengers. The job loss followed stronger seasonal hiring in the prior 2 months.

**-7,000 Mining and Logging**

Mining employment continued to decline in January. Since reaching a peak in September 2014, employment in the industry has fallen by 146,000 or 17 percent. Support activities for mining accounted for 114,000 of the jobs lost.

**-7,000 Government**

Within government, the U.S. Postal Service lost 6,000 jobs in January following stronger seasonal hiring in November and December. Over the past 3 months, postal employment was up by 3,000.
Mining and logging lost 7,000 jobs in January. The decline in the industry can be attributed to mining.

Employment in support activities for mining continued to trend down in January (-5,000); since reaching a peak in September 2014, employment in this industry has decreased by 114,000 or 25 percent. Coal mining lost 1,000 jobs in January, in line with its prior 6-month average change.
Construction employment edged up by 18,000 in January. Employment in construction of buildings grew by 13,000, and residential building accounted for 8,000 of the gain. Residential specialty trade contractors added 13,000 jobs in January.
Manufacturing added 29,000 jobs in January, the largest over-the-month gain since November 2014. Durable goods led the employment gains (+17,000), with increases in fabricated metal products (+7,000) and furniture and related products (+3,000). The 1-month diffusion index increased from 55.1 to 63.9. The diffusion index measures the dispersion of employment change in manufacturing, with a value above 50 indicating that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than losing.

Average weekly hours edged up 0.1 hour for both production employees and all employees. Over the past 12 months, average weekly hours have declined 0.3 hour for both production and all employees.

Employment in food manufacturing rose by 11,000 in January, and the industry has grown by 23,000 jobs over the past 3 months.
Employment in wholesale trade continued to edge up in January (+9,000), bringing the current 6-month employment gain to 35,000.
Retailers added 58,000 jobs in January. Over the past 12 months, the industry has added 301,000 jobs. Employment gains occurred in most of the component industries, led by general merchandise stores.

Motor vehicle and parts dealers continued to add jobs in January (+8,000). Over the past 12 months, the industry has added 79,000 jobs following.

Following weak seasonal hiring in November and December, employment in general merchandise stores increased by 15,000. Department stores accounted for the majority of the increase in January (+13,000). Over the past 3 months, employment in general merchandise stores has shown little net change (+11,000).

Electronic and appliance stores (+9,000) and furniture and home furnishings stores (+7,000) also added jobs in January following weaker seasonal hiring. Over the past 4 months, employment in these industries has shown little net change.
Transportation and warehousing lost 20,000 jobs in January. This is the largest monthly job loss since January 2011.

Most of the employment decline can be attributed to job losses in couriers and messengers (-14,000); this decline followed 2 months of strong job growth. Employment in the industry is up 4,000 over the past 3 months.
Employment in utilities was essentially unchanged in January.

Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.
Information employment remained essentially unchanged in January (+1,000). This is in line with its prior 12-month average change of +2,000 per month.

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Financial activities added 18,000 jobs in January, above the prior 12-month average gain of 13,000 jobs. The changes were widespread. Credit intermediation added about 7,000 jobs.
Professional and business services employment changed little in January (+9,000), the lowest 1-month change since January 2015. Employment movements in professional and technical services and management of companies and enterprises remained in line with their prior 3-, 6-, and 12-month averages. The change in administrative and waste services employment (-21,000) essentially offset the employment gain in professional and technical services.

Professional and technical services added 25,000 jobs in January. Employment in most of the component industries trended up, led by other professional and technical services (+7,000). This is a diverse set of industries including marketing research, photographic services, and veterinary services.

Temporary help services employment edged downward (-25,000) in January.
Employment in education and health services changed little in January (+6,000). Within the industry, health care added 37,000 jobs over the month, while employment in social assistance (+7,000) continued to trend up. Private educational services employment declined by 39,000 in January, after trending up for 7 consecutive months.

Hospitals added 24,000 jobs in January, the largest over-the-month employment gain in the industry series’ history. Hospitals accounted for 40 percent of jobs added in all of health care since January 2015.
Within leisure and hospitality, food services and drinking places gained 47,000 jobs in January. Over the year, employment in leisure and hospitality has expanded by 458,000. Food services accounted for 84 percent of the gains.
Employment in other services changed little (-5,000) in January. Since its most recent employment trough in June 2010, other services has added 340,000 workers to payrolls.
Government employment changed little in January (-7,000). Employment at the federal level declined by 8,000, following a similar gain in December. The job loss was split between the U.S. Postal Service and federal, excluding U.S. Postal Service. State and local government employment remained flat in January.

Government has added 225,000 jobs since an employment trough in January 2014, with two-thirds of the gain occurring in local government.