Current Employment Statistics
Highlights
February 2007

Bureau of Labor Statistics
March 9, 2007
Nonfarm payroll employment continued to trend up in February.

The increase, however, was lower than the prior 12-month average.
• Employment grew in several service-providing industries.

• The large decline in construction contrasted with its prior 12-month average growth of 8,000.

• Manufacturing employment continued to trend downward.
The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls was at the lowest level since August 2005.

Little change in production and nonsupervisory worker employment and a slight decline in average weekly hours resulted in a small decrease in aggregate hours.
• The 0.4 percent over-the-month increase in average hourly earnings of production and nonsupervisory workers slightly exceeded the prior 12-month average rate of increase.

• Flat production and nonsupervisory worker employment, a slight drop in hours, and an increase in average hourly earnings resulted in approximately no change in aggregate weekly payroll dollars.
Poor weather conditions in many parts of the country likely contributed to the February decline in construction.

Construction has lost 75,000 jobs since its most recent peak of September 2006.

Job losses occurred across the industry but were concentrated among specialty trade contractors (-46,000) and in heavy construction (-10,000).
Over the month, manufacturing employment declined by 14,000. Declines occurred in wood products (-4,000), semiconductors and electronic components (-3,000), and textile mills (-3,000).
Employment in selected professional and business services
Over-the-month change, February 2007

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

-15 -10 -5 0 5 10 15 20 25

Professional and technical services: +29

Note: Data are preliminary.

- Professional and business services continued to trend up in February.
- Small gains occurred in most components.
• Employment in temporary help services was little changed over the month and, on net, over the year.