Current Employment Statistics Highlights

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Current Employment Statistics Highlights

March 2014

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Employment in total nonfarm
January 2003–March 2014
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Employment in total private
January 2003–March 2014
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total Nonfarm + 192,000
Total Private + 192,000

Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 192,000 in March. Essentially all of the job growth occurred in private-sector industries. Professional and business services, health care, and mining and logging added jobs.

March 2014 marked a full recovery for private-sector employment. Between December 2007 and February 2010, private industries had lost a net 8.8 million jobs.

The employment change for January revised up from +129,000 to +144,000, and the change for February revised up from +175,000 to +197,000. Including the revisions, employment has grown by an average 178,000 per month in the first quarter.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private, nonfarm payrolls edged lower over the month (-1 cent), following a 9-cent gain in February. Hourly earnings are up 2.1 percent over the year. Average weekly hours rose 0.2 hour, offsetting a net decline in the prior 3 months.

+57,000 Professional and business services

Professional and business services added jobs in March. Employment services

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contributed 42,000 to job growth, including 29,000 in temporary help services. Over the year, employment in temporary help has increased by an average 21,000 per month.

**+34,000 Education and health services**

Health care employment continued to increase in March. Ambulatory health care added 20,000 jobs over the month, including a gain of 9,000 in home health care services. Nursing care facilities lost 5,000 jobs over the month.

**+7,000 Mining and Logging**

Employment rose in mining and logging in March, with support activities contributing 5,000 to the gain. Monthly job growth in mining and logging averaged 5,000 in the first quarter of 2014, compared to an average 2,000 per month in the prior quarter.

**+29,000 Leisure and hospitality**

Within leisure and hospitality, employment continued to trend up in food services and drinking places (+30,000). Over the year, job gains in food services have averaged 27,000 per month.

**+21,000 Retail Trade**

Within retail trade, employment in food and beverage stores rose by 9,000, while employment changed little elsewhere in the retail sector. Over the year, food and beverage stores have added an average 7,000 jobs per month.

**+19,000 Construction**

Construction employment continued to trend upward in March. Over the past 6 months, job growth totals 115,000, with more than half of the gains occurring in residential construction.
+7,000 Wholesale Trade

Employment in wholesale trade continued to trend up in March, with durable goods adding 10,000 jobs. Over the year, wholesale employment has grown by an average 10,000 per month.

Unchanged Government

Within government, the Federal government lost 9,000 jobs, offsetting a gain of 8,000 jobs in local government excluding education. Over the past year, employment in government has shown little net change. Federal government reduced payroll employment by 85,000 over the year; however, modest job gains in local government mostly offset the losses.
In March, mining and logging added 7,000 jobs, with the majority of the gains occurring in mining. Support activities for mining added 5,000 jobs in March.

Over the last 12 months, expansion in mining employment has been led by support activities for mining (+22,000), followed by oil and gas extraction (+14,000).
Employment in construction edged up (+19,000) in March. Since reaching an employment trough in January 2011, the industry has recovered 532,000 jobs, or 23.2 percent of the jobs lost during the recent employment downturn.

In March, average weekly hours for all employees in construction grew by 1.0 hour to 39.1 hours, reversing most of a cumulative decline of 1.1 hour over the prior 3 months. Average weekly hours for production and nonsupervisory employees grew by 1.1 hours to 39.5 hours in March, reversing most of a cumulative decline of 1.3 hours over the prior 3 months.
In March, manufacturing employment was about unchanged, below its prior 6-month average job gain of 15,000. Employment in durable goods and nondurable goods changed little over the month.

The 1-month diffusion index of manufacturing employment fell from 51.9 in February to 50.0 in March. The diffusion index measures the dispersion of employment change in manufacturing, with a value equal to 50.0 indicating that the same number of manufacturing industries are adding jobs as losing them.

Average weekly hours for production and nonsupervisory employees increased by 0.4 hour, returning to its November 2013 level of 42.0 hours after 3 months of declines. The last time the factory workweek was longer occurred in July 1945 when production employees clocked 44.7 hours on the job.

Average weekly hours for all employees expanded by 0.3 hour to 41.1 hours, the longest workweek recorded since the series inception in March 2006.
Wholesale trade employment edged up by 7,000 in March. The entire gain was concentrated in durable goods.

**NAICS 423-Durable goods**

In March, durable goods employment increased by 10,000. The industry has added 67,000 jobs over the year and has been the strongest component within wholesale trade during this period.
Retail trade employment edged up in March. Employment in food and beverage stores continued to trend up (+9,000) but little changed elsewhere in the retail sector. Over the past year, retail trade employment has grown by more than 300,000.

Recent retail-related indicators have been positive. As shown by Census Bureau data, retail sales for February increased by 0.3 percent and were up 1.5 percent over the year. Additionally, the Conference Board notes that the Consumer Confidence Index increased by 4 points in March.
NAICS 444 – Building material and garden supply stores

Employment in building material and garden supply stores edged down in March. March is the second month in the building material and garden supply spring build up period. Not seasonally adjusted, the employment build up in March was slightly below gains seen in prior years, potentially due to lingering adverse weather conditions.

NAICS 445 – Food and beverage stores

In March, food and beverage stores employment continued its upward trend (+9,000). Over the year, food stores added 90,000 jobs, accounting for nearly 30 percent of the net growth in retail trade.
Employment in transportation and warehousing was essentially unchanged (+8,000) in March. Over the past 12 months, the industry has added 95,000 jobs, compared to 78,000 jobs in the 12 months before.

**NAICS 492 – Couriers and Messengers**

Couriers and messengers employment fell by 2,000 in March, following a seasonally-adjusted drop of 13,000 in February.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, from January through March, the industry laid off 94 percent of the employment that it built up during the holiday season at the end of 2013. Seasonally adjusted, employment in couriers and messengers has increased by 11,000, on net, over the 5-month buildup-layoff period.
Employment in utilities edged up by 1,000 in March. Since reaching a trough in September 2010, employment in the industry has shown little net change (+2,000).
Information employment was essentially unchanged in March (+2,000) with none of the component industries showing significant changes.

Employment in this industry has oscillated between periods of decline and stagnation for over a decade, shedding over 1 million jobs since March 2001.
Financial activities employment was essentially unchanged in March; however, since reaching a low point in employment in February 2011, financial activities has added an average 6,000 jobs per month.

Employment in credit intermediation and related activities declined by 7,000 in March. Since reaching a high point in employment in July 2013, the industry has shed an average 6,000 jobs per month.
In March, professional and business services gained 57,000 jobs. Among the major component industries, employment in professional and technical services (+10,000) and management of companies and enterprises (+3,000) continued to trend up, while the majority of the employment gain in professional and business services stemmed from a 43,000 over-the-month gain in administrative and waste services.

Nearly all of the employment gain in administrative and waste services occurred in employment services. The largest component in employment services, temporary help services, added 29,000 jobs in March. Over the past 12 months, employment in temporary help has expanded by nearly 250,000.
In March, education and health services added 34,000 jobs. The majority of the gain occurred in health care. Employment in educational services (+7,000) and social assistance (+8,000) continued to trend up over the month.

**NAICS 621 - Ambulatory health care services**

Ambulatory health care services added 20,000 jobs in March, with nearly half of the gain concentrated in home health care services (+9,000). Since January 2004, home health care services employment has expanded by 68 percent. Employment in outpatient care centers and offices of physicians has expanded by 62 percent and 22 percent, respectively, over the same time period.
Employment in leisure and hospitality edged up in March (+29,000), following a similar movement in February. Over the past 12 months, this industry added 406,000 jobs; food services and drinking places accounted for 80 percent of the job growth.

Led by improvement in Consumer Confidence (source: The Conference Board), employment in Leisure and Hospitality has expanded by 1.6 million since January 2010.
Employment in other services was about unchanged in March, with no component industry experiencing a significant employment change. However, personal and laundry services—which has driven much of the job recovery in other services over the past few years—has seen significant job growth over the past 12 months (+26,000). The repair and maintenance industry had also contributed to the recovery in other services employment, which began in early 2010. Over the past year, however, employment in this industry group has changed little.
Government employment remained unchanged in March. Over the month, a job loss in federal, except U.S. Postal Service offset an employment gain in local government, excluding education. Employment in the other sectors of government changed little.

**NAICS 911- Federal, except U.S. Postal Service**

In March, federal, except U.S. Postal Service employment continued to decline. Employment in the industry has declined by 119,000 since it reached its peak in May 2011. The industry has lost an average of 8,000 jobs per month in the first quarter of 2014, compared to an average monthly job loss of 6,000 for 2013.

**NAICS 932- Local government, excluding education**

The non-education portion of local government added 8,000 jobs over the month, and has gained an average of 6,000 jobs per month in the first quarter of 2014. After an employment downturn that started in December 2008 in which 256,000 jobs were lost, the industry reached an employment low in March 2013. Since then, the industry has recovered 47,000 jobs.