Current Employment Statistics Highlights

Contents

Summary
Mining & Logging
Construction
Manufacturing
Wholesale Trade
Retail Trade
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities
Information
Financial Activities
Professional & Business Services
Private Education & Health Services
Leisure & Hospitality
Other Services
Government

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U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
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Current Employment Statistics Summary, April 2013

Total nonfarm: + 165,000
Total private: + 176,000

Nonfarm employment increased by 165,000 in April. Over the prior 12 months, job growth had averaged 169,000 per month. In April, professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, and retail trade added jobs.

Average hourly earnings rose 4 cents over the month and are up 1.9 percent over the year. Average weekly hours declined 0.2 hour in April.

+ 73,000 Professional and business services

Temporary help services added 31,000 jobs in April. Employment in the industry has expanded by 184,000 or 7.4 percent over the past 12 months. In April, small employment changes totaled 23,000 in professional and technical services, similar to the prior 12-month average change (+20,000).

+ 43,000 Leisure and hospitality

Within leisure and hospitality, food services and drinking places added 38,000 jobs in April.

Monthly job growth in food services had averaged 25,000 over the prior 12 months.

+ 29,000 Retail trade

Retail trade added 29,000 jobs in April, with general merchandise stores and health and personal care stores adding 15,000 and 5,000 jobs, respectively. Over the previous 12
months, employment in the retail sector had expanded by an average 21,000 per month.

**+ 28,000 Education and health services**

Health care and social assistance added 26,000 jobs in April, with employment continuing to expand among the component industries. Over the prior 12 months, job growth in these industries had averaged 29,000 per month.

### Other Employment Changes*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mining and logging</td>
<td>-3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>-6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale trade</td>
<td>+4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation &amp; warehousing</td>
<td>+4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>-9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial activities</td>
<td>+9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services</td>
<td>+4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>-11,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Over-the-month changes in this table are not statistically significant (based on a 90% confidence interval)

In April, employment in mining and logging changed little. Over the past 3 months employment in mining and logging experienced little net change after increasing by 22,000 from November through January. The slowdown in employment growth for this industry coincides with the slackening of the pace of petroleum exploration (Source: Hughes Rig Count).
Construction employment changed little (-6,000) in April after advancing by 163,000 over the prior 6 months.

NAICS 2361–Residential building construction

Employment in residential building rose by 6,000 in April, bringing the total job gain since January to 12,000. Recent job growth corresponds with the Census Bureau's report that privately-owned housing starts rose 7 percent over the month in March.
In April, manufacturing employment was unchanged, following a 6-month period when employment increased by an average of 11,000 per month.

The 1-month diffusion index of manufacturing employment fell from 51.9 in March to 44.4 in April. The diffusion index measures the dispersion of employment change in manufacturing, with a value below 50 indicating that more manufacturing industries are losing jobs than adding them.

In April, the factory workweek for production employees was 0.1 hour shorter. The factory workweek is considered a leading economic indicator. The shorter workweek combined with unchanged employment led to a 0.2 percent decrease in the April index of aggregate weekly hours for production employees in manufacturing.

**NAICS 3361, 3362, and 3363 combined – Motor vehicles and parts**

In April, employment in motor vehicles and parts manufacturing was essentially unchanged. However, since reaching an employment trough in June 2009, the industry has added 176,000 jobs.
Wholesale trade employment continued to trend up (+4,000) in April. Since reaching an employment trough in May 2010, the industry has added 302,000 jobs.

Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.
Retail trade employment increased by 29,000 in April. This employment increase was primarily due to gains in health and personal care stores (+5,000) and general merchandise stores (+15,000).

Recent retail-related indicators have been mixed. As Census Bureau data shows, retail sales for March registered a small decline of 0.4 percent. This decrease, however, was driven primarily by a 2.2 percent decrease in gasoline station sales. Automotive sales, as measured by MotorIntelligence, declined in April, but were up 800,000 over the year. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the per-gallon price of gasoline fell 15 cents in April and was down 37 cents over the year.

The Conference Board noted that the Consumer Confidence Index rose in April, continuing a recent up-and-down pattern.
Retail Trade

NAICS 446 – Health and personal care stores

Employment in health and personal care stores increased by 5,000 in April. The industry has experienced an overall upward trend since reaching an employment trough in March 2011. Gains have been concentrated in pharmacies and drug stores as well as in cosmetic and beauty supply stores.

NAICS 452 – General merchandise stores

In April, general merchandise stores employment increased by 15,000, with gains split between department stores and other general merchandise stores. Since August of 2012, employment in general merchandise stores has increased by 54,000.
### Retail Trade

**Building material and garden supply stores spring build up**

**Over-the-month employment change in thousands, not seasonally adjusted**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>Buildup through April</th>
<th>May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>35</strong></td>
<td><strong>47</strong></td>
<td><strong>88</strong></td>
<td><strong>27</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2013 | 17  | 36  | 58  | 111                   |     |

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**NAICS 444 – Building material and garden supply stores**

Employment changed little in building material and garden supply stores in April. Traditionally, April is the month with the largest seasonal employment gains. Thus far, the unadjusted buildup through April is in line with the prior 2 years.
Employment within transportation and warehousing changed little in April.

**NAICS 484 – Truck transportation**

Truck transportation gained 12,000 jobs in April, well over its prior 6-month average employment change. April’s employment gain follows positive freight indicators from the Truck Tonnage Index (Source: American Trucking Associations) and the Cass Freight Index (Source: Cass information Systems).

**NAICS 492 – Couriers and messengers**

Employment in couriers and messengers edged down in April. Employment has trended downward each month in 2013, bringing its level to near pre-holiday levels.
In April, employment in utilities was unchanged.
Information employment edged down (-9,000) in April. This change was attributable to a loss of 11,000 jobs in motion picture and sound recording industries. April’s employment decline partially offsets gains which occurred over the prior 2 months.

The past year has seen little movement, on net, in information employment, but the trend over the longer term has been one of sustained job loss. Since reaching an historical high point in March 2001, information employment has fallen by over 1 million—a decline of about 28 percent. Although job losses over this time have been widespread among information industries, they have been especially severe in wired telecommunications and publishing industries, except internet.
Employment in financial activities continued to trend up in April (+9,000), largely due to an increase in credit intermediation and related services, which added 9,000 jobs over the month. Employment in other components within financial activities changed little.

Employment in financial activities has increased by an average of 7,000 per month since reaching a trough in February 2011.
Professional and business services

Employment in professional and business services
Over-the-month change, January 2008–April 2013
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Employment in temporary help services
January 2000–April 2013
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Professional and business services added 73,000 jobs in April. Employment gains were seen in professional and technical services and administrative and waste services, which added 23,000 and 43,000 jobs, respectively. Employment in management of companies and enterprises grew by 7,000, greater than its prior 6-month average monthly change (+3,000).

So far in 2013, professional and business services employment has averaged monthly gains of 69,000, totaling 276,000.

NAICS 56132 – Temporary help services
Employment in temporary help services grew by 31,000 in April. The industry has recovered all of the jobs lost in its most recent downturn.
Education and health services employment continued to trend up in April (+28,000). Within the industry, health care employment grew by 19,000, and social assistance employment continued to trend up over the month.

**NAICS 62 – Health care**

The employment increase in health care was mostly attributable to small job gains in ambulatory healthcare services. Health care has added 997,000 jobs since June 2009, the end of the most recent recession. Health care makes up 13 percent of private nonfarm employment.
Leisure and hospitality added 43,000 jobs in April. This increase is directly in line with the prior 3-month average. Over 80 percent of April’s job gains occurred in food services and drinking places.

Since reaching an employment trough in December 2009, leisure and hospitality has added an average of 29,000 jobs per month, totaling over 1.1 million since the trough. As a result, employment in leisure and hospitality currently stands 526,000 above its most recent December 2007 peak.
Food services and drinking places added 38,000 jobs in April, which is stronger than the industry’s prior 3-, 6-, and 12-month averages and marks the 38th consecutive month of job gains in the industry. The majority of April’s increase was approximately split between full- and limited-service restaurants.

Since reaching a trough in December 2009, food services and drinking places has added 938,000 jobs, accounting for more than 80 percent of the job gains in leisure and hospitality over the same period. Employment in food services and drinking places is now 559,000 jobs above its most recent peak reached in December 2007.
Employment in other services changed little in April. Since reaching an employment trough in June 2010, the industry has recovered 156,000 jobs, or 69 percent, of the 225,000 jobs it lost in its most recent downturn.
Government employment continued to trend down in April (-11,000), with small declines occurring in most of its component industries. Federal government experienced job losses totaling -25,000 over the past 3 months. Alternately, state government education employment has increased by 34,000 over the same time period.

**NAICS 91 – Federal government**

Federal government employment continued to trend down in April after declining by 16,000 in March. Federal government, except U.S. Postal Service has lost 13,000 jobs over the past 3 months, and the U.S. Postal Service has lost 12,000 jobs over the same time frame. These job decreases within the federal government coincide with an 8.4 percent decrease in federal government expenditures for the first quarter of 2013, as reported by the Bureau of Economic Analysis.