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

Current Employment Statistics Highlights

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Nonfarm employment increased by 160,000 in April. Professional and business services, health care, and financial activities added jobs, while mining lost jobs over the month.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls increased by 8 cents in April, following a 6-cent increase in March. Over the past 12 months, hourly earnings have increased by 2.5 percent. In April, average weekly hours increased by 0.1 hour to 34.5 hours.

The employment change for February was revised down from +245,000 to +233,000. The change for March was revised down from +215,000 to +208,000. Over the past 3 months, job growth has averaged 200,000 per month.

**+65,000 Professional and Business Services**

Professional and business services added 65,000 jobs in April. Over the prior 12 months, employment growth had averaged 51,000 per month.

Management and technical consulting services added 21,000 jobs over the month. Employment growth in this industry had averaged 5,000 per month over the prior 12 months. Computer systems design and related services also added jobs in April (+7,000).

**+54,000 Education and Health Services**

Employment in health care rose by 44,000 in April, with hospitals (+23,000) accounting for about half of the increase. Ambulatory health care employment grew by 19,000 over the month, including 6,000 in outpatient care centers. Over the year, health care has added 502,000 jobs.

**+20,000 Financial Activities**

Financial activities continued to add jobs in April. Credit intermediation and related activities added 8,000 jobs, with nondepository credit intermediation
accounting for 5,000 of the increase. Over the year, financial activities has added 160,000 jobs.

**+9,000 Transportation and Warehousing**

Within transportation and warehousing, job growth in warehousing and storage (+7,000) and in couriers and messengers (+3,000) was partly offset by a job loss in rail transportation (-4,000). Since reaching a peak in March 2015, employment in rail transportation has declined by 32,000, or 12.9 percent.

**-8,000 Mining and Logging**

Mining continued to cut jobs in April (-7,000). Since last reaching a peak in September 2014, employment in the industry has fallen by 191,000, or 22.4 percent. Support activities for mining has accounted for 149,000 of the jobs lost during this period, including 5,000 in April.
Mining and logging employment declined by 8,000 in April. Most losses were contained within mining (-7,000). Since reaching a peak in September 2014, mining employment has declined by 191,000.
Construction employment was essentially unchanged in April following a gain of 41,000 in March. The average change over these 2 months is similar to the average monthly change over the preceding 12-month period.
After shedding 45,000 jobs during February and March, manufacturing employment changed little in April (+4,000). The 1-month manufacturing diffusion index gained 11 points to reach 47.5. A value below 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries are losing jobs than adding.

Durable goods added 6,000 jobs, essentially all in transportation equipment. Nondurable goods employment changed little over the month (-2,000).

Average weekly hours for all employees in manufacturing were unchanged at 40.7 hours. The workweek increased 0.2 hour for production employees.
Employment in wholesale trade continued to trend up in April (+3,000). The industry has added 67,000 jobs over the last 12 months.
After growing by 158,000 during the first 3 months of 2016, employment in retail trade was essentially unchanged in April. The flat employment for this industry resulted from little change among the component industries.

Recently, most indicators for retail trade have been weak, including retail sales.
Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in April (+9,000).

Warehousing and storage (+7,000) and couriers and messengers (+3,000) both added jobs. Rail transportation was the only component industry to shed jobs (-4,000).
Employment in utilities was unchanged in April.
Employment in information was unchanged in April.
Financial activities added 20,000 jobs in April. Employment in the industry is up 59,000 so far this year. In April, credit intermediation and related activities led the other major component industries, accounting for 8,000 jobs added, most of which were within nondepository credit intermediation. Employment in most other component industries tracked near their prior 6-month averages.
Employment in professional and business services increased by 65,000 in April, above its prior 12-month average change. The employment gain in April was split between professional and technical services and administrative and waste services.

Within professional and technical services, management and technical consulting services added 21,000 jobs. Employment in computer systems design and related services continued to trend up in April (+7,000).

Administrative and support services employment continued to trend up in April (+29,000). Employment in temporary help services changed little.
Education and health services added 54,000 jobs in April, in line with its prior 12-month employment trend. Within the industry, health care added 44,000 jobs over the month, while educational services employment continued to trend up (+16,000) and social assistance employment changed little (-6,000).

Within health care, ambulatory care added 19,000 jobs. Outpatient care centers accounted for 6,000 of the April gain. Employment in outpatient care has increased by 35,000 over the past 12 months. Hospital employment increased by 23,000 in April, the largest over-the-month gain in the series’ history (since 1990). Over the past 12 months, hospital employment increased by 194,000, accounting for nearly 40 percent of the job gain in health care within the same period.
Employment in leisure and hospitality continued to trend up in April (+22,000). So far this year, this industry has added 117,000 jobs.

Food services and drinking places employment continued to trend up in April (+18,000), in line with the average employment change during the first quarter of 2016 (23,000).

Employment in food services and drinking places
Over-the-month change, January 2012–April 2016
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Employment in other services
changed little in April (+5,000). The
industry has added 73,000 jobs over the
year.

Employment in other services
January 2006–April 2016
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

April 2016 Level: 5,687
OTM Change: 5

Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.
Government employment changed little in April (-11,000). Within government, the U.S. Postal Service lost 8,000 jobs over the month. Government has added 270,000 jobs since an employment trough in January 2014, with local government, excluding education accounting for half of the employment gain.
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Detailed Industry Employment Analysis

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