Current Employment Statistics
Highlights
May 2010

Bureau of Labor Statistics
June 4, 2010
• Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 431,000 in May, following an increase of 290,000 in April.

• Since falling by 8.4 million between December 2007 and December 2009, employment has grown by 982,000 about half of which was gained in May.
• The job growth in May resulted largely from hiring by the Federal government of 411,000 temporary workers to assist with Census 2010.

• Manufacturing, temporary help services, and mining also added jobs, while employment in construction declined.
• Private-sector employment showed little change over the month (+41,000), following increases in March and April.

• The diffusion index over a 1-month span was 54.1 in May, declining from 66.7 in April. Despite the decrease in May, the index remains well above the low of 16.5 in March 2009. The diffusion index is a measure of the breadth of employment change; a value above 50 means that more industries are showing employment increases, while a value below 50 means that more industries are showing employment declines.
In May, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.1 to 34.2 hours. The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls also increased by 0.1 to 33.5 hours.

Since reaching a low in October 2009, hours both for all employees and for production and non-supervisory employees have risen by 0.5 hour.

In May, the index of aggregate weekly hours of all employees rose by 0.3 percent. Since a low in October 2009, the index has increased by 1.9 percent.
In May, the index of total private aggregate weekly payrolls of all employees rose by 0.7 percent.

The index of aggregate payrolls reached a low in October 2009 and has since increased by 3.0 percent.
- Employment in mining continued to increase in May as support activities for mining added 8,000 jobs.
- Since reaching a low in October 2009, mining employment has expanded by 50,000.
- Construction employment declined by 35,000 in May, largely offsetting gains in the prior 2 months (+41,000). The industry has shed 2.1 million jobs since employment peaked in August 2006.
• Manufacturing employment increased by 29,000 over the month. Factory employment has risen by 126,000 over the past 5 months.

• The industry had lost 2.2 million jobs in the prior 2 years.
The manufacturing workweek increased by 0.3 hour for both all employees and production employees.

Factory overtime was flat for all employees, while production employee overtime increased by 0.2 hour in May.
• Employment in wholesale trade changed little over the month.

• Employment in retail trade changed little in May. So far this year, retail employment has risen by 91,000, after falling by 1.2 million during the prior 2 years.
• Employment in transportation and warehousing has shown little net change since January.

• Couriers and messengers continued to shed jobs (-3,000) in May.
• Employment in information was unchanged for the second consecutive month.

• Employment in financial activities changed little in May. The industry has lost 58,000 jobs so far this year.
• Employment in professional and business services continued to rise in May. Since September 2009, this industry has added 314,000 jobs.

• Temporary help services continued to add jobs (+31,000), and employment has increased by 362,000 since reaching a low in September 2009.
• Health care employment was little changed in May (+8,000). Over the prior 12 months, health care employment has increased by an average 20,000 per month.
Leisure and hospitality employment was little changed in May.

Employment in food services and drinking places was essentially flat in May.
Government employment rose by 390,000 in May. The Federal government added 411,000 temporary workers for Census 2010, bringing total employment of Decennial Census workers to 564,000 as of the survey reference period.