Current Employment Statistics
Highlights
July 2011

Bureau of Labor Statistics
August 5, 2011
Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 117,000 in July, following little change over the prior 2 months.

Monthly job gains had averaged 179,000 during the first 4 months of the year.
In July, job gains occurred in health care, retail trade, manufacturing, and mining. Government employment continued to trend down.

Employment in the private sector rose by 154,000 over the month. Since reaching a recent low in February 2010, the private sector has added 2.4 million jobs—an average of 140,000 per month.
In July, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged at 34.3 hours. The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls was 33.6 for the sixth consecutive month.

The index of aggregate weekly hours for all employees in the private sector declined by 0.1 percent in July. Since reaching a low point in October 2009, the index has increased by 3.5 percent.
Average hourly earnings for all employees in the private sector increased by 10 cents, or 0.4 percent, to $23.13 in July. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased by 2.3 percent. The consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) was up 3.4 percent over the year ending in June.

The index of aggregate weekly payrolls of all private sector employees rose by 0.6 percent. Since reaching a low point in June 2009, the index has increased by 7.4 percent.
Employment in mining rose by 9,000 in July; virtually all of the gain (+8,000) occurred in support activities for mining. Since the most recent low in October 2009, mining employment has risen by 140,000, or about 7,000 per month. Support activities for mining has accounted for most of the growth.
Manufacturers continued to post employment gains (+24,000) in July, primarily in durable goods industries.

Since an employment low in December 2009, employment in durable goods manufacturing has increased by 327,000. In nondurable goods manufacturing industries, employment edged down in 2010 and has changed little in 2011.
- The factory workweek and overtime hours for all employees in manufacturing were unchanged in July.
Transportation equipment added 14,000 jobs in July; the majority of the gains were in motor vehicles and parts (+12,000).

The motor vehicles and parts industry had fewer seasonal layoffs than usual for July, contributing to a seasonally adjusted employment increase of 12,000.
Employment in retail trade increased by 26,000 in July. Employment in health and personal care stores rose by 9,000 over the month; there were with small increases distributed among several other retail industries. Retail trade has added 228,000 jobs since a recent employment low in December 2009.
Employment in professional and business services

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands


Professional and business services employment continued to trend up (+34,000) in July, and has increased by 810,000 since a recent low in August 2009.

Professional and technical services continued to add jobs (+18,000) in July; the industry has added 246,000 jobs since reaching an employment low in March 2010.
Employment in temporary help services changed little over the month and has shown little movement on net so far this year.
Health care employment increased by 31,000 in July. Over the past 12 months, health care has added 299,000 jobs, or an average of 25,000 jobs per month.

In July, ambulatory health care services and hospitals added 14,000 jobs each.
Leisure and hospitality employment has shown little net change over the last 3 months. Food services and drinking places typically drives employment trends within the industry, however; food services employment has been flat over the past 3 months.
Government payroll employment continued its downward trend in July (-37,000).

Employment in state government excluding education dropped by 24,000 in July. The decline was mostly due to the partial government shutdown in Minnesota. (State and area estimates will be released on Friday, August 19, 2011 at 10:00 A.M.).
Local government employment continued to trend down over the month. Since reaching an employment peak in September 2008, local government has lost 475,000 jobs.