Current Employment Statistics
Highlights
July 2012

Bureau of Labor Statistics
August 3, 2012
• Total nonfarm employment rose by 163,000 in July.

• Thus far in 2012, job growth has averaged 151,000 per month, about the same as the monthly average for 2011 (+153,000).
• In July, employment rose in professional and business services, education and health services, leisure and hospitality, and manufacturing, but changed little in most other major industries over the month.

• Since an employment trough in February 2010, most nonfarm job gains have come in professional and business services, health care, and leisure and hospitality.
• Average weekly hours for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls remained unchanged at 34.5 hours in July. The workweek has changed little thus far in 2012.

• Average weekly hours for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls also remained unchanged at 33.7 hours.
- Average hourly earnings of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 2 cents in July to $23.52.

- Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased by 1.7 percent. In June, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) had an over-the-year increase of 1.7 percent.

- From the latter part of 2010 until the end of 2011, price increases outpaced increases in hourly earnings; however, since the third quarter of 2011 the growth rate of prices and earnings have converged.
Construction employment was essentially unchanged in July, in line with the industry’s prior 12-month average change of +2,000.
• Manufacturing employment rose in July (+25,000), an increase above the prior 3-month average.

• Over the past 12 months, the industry has added 222,000 jobs, most of them in durable goods manufacturing.

• Both the manufacturing workweek and overtime hours for all employees remained unchanged at 40.7 and 3.2 hours, respectively.

• Average weekly hours for production employees in manufacturing also remained unchanged at 41.7 hours.

• In July, overtime hours for production employees in manufacturing fell 0.1 hour to 4.1 hours.
Within durable goods, motor vehicles and parts industry employment rose by 13,000 due to fewer seasonal layoffs than is typical for July.

July is the eleventh consecutive month that the industry has added jobs—on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- Employment in professional and business services increased by 49,000 in July.
- The industry has added 1.5 million jobs since a recent low point in September 2009.
Within professional and business services, administrative and waste services displayed the largest employment gain in July (+27,000); temporary help services accounted for about half of the employment gain (+14,000).

Temporary help services has recovered 98 percent of the jobs lost during the most recent downturn.
• Employment in computer systems design and related services rose by 7,000 in July.

• This employment increase is in line with the prior 2-year average (+7,000).
Health care employment continued to trend up in July (+12,000), with over-the-month gains in outpatient care centers (+4,000) and in hospitals (+5,000).

Most other health care component industries saw little change over the month.
Leisure and hospitality employment increased by 27,000 in July, following a 3-month lull in employment gains.

Within leisure and hospitality, employment in food services and drinking places rose by 29,000 over the month. Over the past 12 months, food services has added 292,000 jobs.
Government employment continued to trend down in July (-9,000).

Since the end of the most recent recession in June 2009, government has shed 642,000 jobs, or 2.8 percent.
• Employment in local government, excluding education increased by 6,000 in July, the fourth consecutive month of employment increase.

• Local government, excluding education had lost 256,000 jobs between July 2009 and December 2011.