Current Employment Statistics
Highlights
September 2012

Bureau of Labor Statistics
October 5, 2012
Total nonfarm employment rose by 114,000 in September.

Since the beginning of the year, job growth has averaged 146,000 per month, compared with an average gain of 153,000 in 2011.
In September, total private employment rose by 104,000, bringing the year-to-date gain to 1.3 million.

Thus far in 2012, job growth has averaged 145,000 per month, compared with an average gain of 175,000 in 2011.

Since reaching an employment trough in February 2010, the private sector has added 4.7 million jobs.
• In September, employment rose in health care and in transportation and warehousing, but changed little in other industries.

• Since an employment trough in February 2010, most nonfarm job gains have occurred in professional and business services, education and health services, and leisure and hospitality.
Average weekly hours for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls edged up 0.1 hour to 34.5 hours in September.

The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged in September at 33.7 hours.

The September employment gain combined with a longer workweek resulted in a 0.4-percent increase in the index of aggregate weekly hours for all employees. Since reaching a trough in October 2009, the index has risen 6.4 percent.
• Average hourly earnings of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 7 cents in September to $23.58. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have risen by 1.8 percent.

• The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased by 1.7 percent from August 2011 to August 2012.
• Construction employment was essentially unchanged in September (+5,000) for the fourth consecutive month.

• Since February 2010, employment in the industry has shown essentially no net change.
• Manufacturing employment edged down in September (-16,000), following a decline of 22,000 in August. On net, manufacturing employment has been unchanged since April.

• Between an employment trough in January 2010 and April 2012, manufacturing had added 484,000 jobs or an average of 18,000 jobs per month.

• In September, computer and electronic product manufacturers lost 6,000 jobs, with computer and peripheral equipment makers accounting for about half of the loss. There was widespread weakness in other durable goods industries.
Transportation and warehousing employment increased by 17,000 in September. Over the year, industry employment has risen by 104,000.

Within transportation and warehousing, transit and ground passenger transportation gained 9,000 jobs over the month as seasonal increases in school and employee buses were stronger than expected.
- Employment in financial activities edged up (+13,000), reflecting modest job growth in credit intermediation (+6,000) and real estate (+7,000).

- Over the past 12 months, financial activities has added 83,000 jobs.
Employment in professional and business services changed little in September (+13,000); however, since an employment low in September 2009, the industry has added 1.6 million jobs.
Within professional and technical services, employment in computer systems design and related services continued to trend up in September. Since reaching an employment low in August 2009, the industry has added an average of 5,000 jobs per month.

Employment in temporary help services was essentially flat in September (-2,000) for the second consecutive month.
• Health care employment rose by 44,000 in September, largely due to gains in ambulatory health care services.

• Job growth in health care had averaged 16,000 per month from June through August.

• Hospitals added 8,000 jobs over the month.
• Employment in leisure and hospitality continued to rise in September.

• As of March, the industry had recovered all of the jobs lost during its most recent employment downturn. Since March, job growth in the industry has averaged 13,000 per month, which puts industry employment 110,000 above its most recent employment peak in January 2008.

• Food services and drinking places continued to add jobs in September and accounts for most of the employment growth in leisure and hospitality since January 2008.
Government employment changed little in September (+10,000) and is up 73,000 over the past 3-months. However, government employment remains 569,000 below its level at the end of the most recent recession in June 2009.

A job loss in local government (-7,000) partially offset modest gains elsewhere in the sector.