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

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Total nonfarm:  + 148,000
Total private:  + 126,000

Nonfarm employment increased by 148,000 in September. Job growth had averaged 185,000 per month over the prior 12 months.

The employment change for July was revised down by 15,000 (from +104,000 to +89,000), and the employment change for August was revised up by 24,000 (from +169,000 to +193,000).

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private sector payrolls increased 3 cents over the month, following a 7-cent gain in August. Hourly earnings are up 2.1 percent over the year. Average weekly hours were unchanged at 34.5 hours.

+ 20,000  Construction

Construction added 20,000 jobs in September. Employment in the industry had shown little change over the prior 6-month period.

+ 16,000  Wholesale trade

Employment in wholesale trade rose by 16,000 in September, with nondurable goods accounting for about half of the increase (+9,000). Monthly job growth in wholesale trade averaged 13,000 in the third quarter, compared to 7,000 in the first half of the year.

+ 23,000  Transportation and warehousing

Employment in transportation and warehousing rose in September. Transit and
ground passenger transportation accounted for 18,000 jobs added over the month, largely due to strong hiring in school and employee bus transportation.

**+ 21,000 Retail trade**

Employment in retail trade continued to trend up in September. Job growth had averaged 31,000 per month over the prior 12 months.

**+ 32,000 Professional and business services**

In September, job growth continued in professional and business services. Employment gains averaged 32,000 per month in the third quarter, compared to 68,000 per month in the second quarter.

**+ 22,000 Government**

Within Government, employment in State education notched up by 20,000 in September but has shown little net change over the year (-16,000). The Federal government continued to lose jobs in September (-6,000). Since a peak in March 2011, Federal employment has decreased by 155,000.

**+ 14,000 Education and health care**

Employment in health care changed little (+7,000) in September. Health care has added an average 19,000 jobs per month in 2013, compared to an average 27,000 jobs per month in 2012. In September, a job gain of 5,000 in outpatient care centers was mostly offset by a job loss of 4,000 in nursing care facilities.
Employment in leisure and hospitality changed little in September and has remained essentially flat in the third quarter (+5,000). Job growth had averaged 45,000 per month during the first 6 months of the year. Within the sector, food services employment was also little changed (-7,000) in September.
In September, mining and logging employment continued to edge up (+4,000) with nearly all the change occurring in mining.

Over the past 12 months, mining has added 32,000 jobs. Support activities for mining accounts for 23,000 of the employment increase over this period.
Employment in construction increased in September (+20,000), bringing the current 6-month average monthly change to +5,000. This trend represents a deceleration from the average monthly gain (28,000) in the prior 6-month period.
Manufacturing employment was essentially unchanged in September. The change in durable goods employment (+9,000) was about offset by nondurable goods (-7,000). Within durable goods, fabricated metal products and machinery added jobs.

Over the last 12 months, manufacturing employment has changed little. During this period, durable goods added 64,000 jobs, while nondurable goods employment changed little (-26,000).

The 1-month diffusion index of manufacturing employment rose from 48.8 in August to 51.2 in September. The diffusion index measures the dispersion of employment change in manufacturing, with a value above 50 indicating that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than losing them. September marks the first month since March that the index registered above 50.

In September, the manufacturing workweek was unchanged for all employees and fell 0.1 hour for production employees. In 2013, employees are working longer hours compared to the period before the most recent recession – between November 2001 and December 2007.

Recent manufacturing-related indicators have been positive. In September, the Institute for Supply Management PMI (a measure of the manufacturing sector’s economic activity) registered at 56.2 percent, the highest reading of the year and the fourth consecutive month that economic activity in this industry expanded. In August, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that new orders of durable goods increased 0.1 percent and durables inventories increased 0.1 percent.

![Average weekly hours, manufacturing](image)
Employment in fabricated metal products

Over-the-month change, January 2009–September 2013

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

In September, employment rose by 6,000 in fabricated metal products. Over the past 12 months, the industry has added 26,000 jobs.

NAICS 332 – Fabricated metal products

Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.
NAICS 333 – Machinery Manufacturing

Machinery manufacturing employment grew by 5,000 in September. Over the past 3 months, machinery has added 10,000 jobs, following 6,000 jobs lost in the prior 3 months.

NAICS 3361, 3362, and 3363 combined – Motor vehicles and parts

Employment in motor vehicles and parts was unchanged in September. Since reaching an employment low in June 2009, motor vehicles and parts manufacturing has added 188,000 jobs.
Employment in wholesale trade grew by 16,000 in September. Most of the job gains over the month came from nondurable goods (+9,000). The wholesale trade industry has added 356,000 jobs since its most recent trough in May 2010.
Retail trade employment continued to edge up in September (+21,000), and has increased by 194,000 over the past 6 months. In September, automobile dealers added 4,000 jobs and building material and garden supply stores added 5,000 jobs.

Recent retail-related indicators have been mostly positive. As shown by Census Bureau data, retail sales for August increased by 0.2 percent and were up 4.7 percent over the year. Automotive sales, as measured by MotorIntelligence, declined to an annualized 15.3 million vehicles. This decline, however, is in part due to the timing of the Labor Day holiday (Source: Reuters). Additionally, automobile sales are up over September 2012.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the per-gallon price of gasoline in September was unchanged from August levels. Finally, the Conference Board notes that the Consumer Confidence Index decreased in September.
Employment in transportation and warehousing grew by 23,000 in September.

**NAICS 485 – Transit and ground passenger transportation**

Transit and ground passenger transportation employment increased by 18,000 in September, following a decline of 22,000 in July and essentially no change in August. These changes were concentrated in school and employee bus transportation.
In September, employment in utilities was unchanged. Over the last 12 months, the industry’s employment has shown no net change.
Information employment changed little (+4,000) in September. No component industry experienced a significant change in September. In recent years, information employment has changed little.
Financial activities employment changed little in September (-2,000), as it did in August. These 2 months mark a departure from the growth the industry had experienced since March 2011.

Between an employment trough in February 2011 and July 2013, financial activities had added an average of 8,000 jobs per month.
Professional and business services employment continued to trend up in September (+32,000). Employment in temporary help services edged up by 20,000 over the month and, over the past 12 months, has risen by 228,000.
Education and health services employment changed little in September (+14,000), after the industry had added 61,000 jobs in August.

**NAICS 6214 – Outpatient care centers**

Outpatient care centers gained 5,000 jobs over the month, with most of the gain coming from outpatient care centers, except mental health. Over the past year, employment in HMO medical centers, kidney dialysis centers, and miscellaneous outpatient care centers has expanded by 9 percent each.

**NAICS 6231 – Nursing care facilities**

Nursing care facilities employment declined by 4,000 in September, partly offsetting an increase of 9,000 in August. Over the past year, employment in the industry has changed little (-2,000), on net.
Employment in leisure and hospitality changed little (-13,000) in September. There has been virtually no net change in employment over the past 3 months—a departure from the robust job growth the industry had experienced after reaching an employment trough in December 2009. Employment in most component industries within leisure and hospitality changed little in September. Museums, historical sites, and similar institutions, however, did add 3,000 jobs, following several months of small declines.

**NAICS 722 – Food services and drinking places**

Food services and drinking places employment changed little (-7,000) in September. This industry—the largest component within leisure and hospitality—has driven job growth over the past several years.
Employment in other services changed little (+5,000) in September. No component industry experienced any significant employment change over the month.

Other services has regained about 79 percent of the jobs lost between April 2008 and June 2010, but the pace of job growth has recently slowed. The annualized rate of employment growth in 2013—0.5 percent—is about half of the rate that the industry enjoyed in each of the prior 2 years.
Within government, employment in state education notched up by 20,000 in September but has shown little net change over the year (-16,000). Federal government employment continued to trend downward (-6,000), while local government employment continued its upward trend (+6,000).

**NAICS 91 – Federal government**

Federal employment continues to trend lower in September. The industry has shed 87,000 jobs over the past 12 months, with the majority of jobs lost in federal, except U.S. Postal Service.

**NAICS 92 – State government**

State government added 22,000 jobs in September, with state government education accounting for nearly all of the gain.