Current Employment Statistics
Highlights
October 2010

Bureau of Labor Statistics
November 5, 2010
• Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 151,000 in October.

• Since December 2009, nonfarm payroll employment has risen by 874,000.

• October employment growth reflects job gains in mining and a number of service-providing industries.
• Total nonfarm employment has increased by 0.6 percent over the year, the highest 12-month rate since January 2008.

• The private sector added 159,000 jobs in October; this gain is the 10th consecutive month of job growth.

• Private-sector employment has increased by 1.1 million since December 2009.
In October, average weekly hours for all employees and for production and nonsupervisory employees increased by 0.1 hour. The workweek for both employee groups has increased 0.6 hour since reaching lows in October 2009.

In October, average hourly earnings of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 5 cents to $22.73. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have risen by 1.7 percent.

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rose by 1.1 percent from September 2009 to September 2010.
• In October, the index of private aggregate weekly hours rose 0.4 percent. Since reaching a low in October 2009, the index has increased by 2.8 percent.

• The index of private aggregate payrolls increased by 0.6 percent in October. Since reaching a low in October 2009, the index has increased by 4.6 percent.
Mining employment continued to trend up (+8,000) over the month. Since a recent low in October 2009, mining has added 88,000 jobs.

Employment in manufacturing changed little in October (-7,000) and, on net, has been essentially flat since May. The industry had added 134,000 jobs during the first 5 months of this year.
The manufacturing workweeks for all employees and for production employees increased by 0.1 hour each in October. The workweek has risen by 1.6 hours for all employees since a low in June 2009.

Factory overtime was unchanged for both employee types.

Overtime hours for all employees have expanded by 0.9 hour since April 2009. Overtime hours for production employees have expanded by 1.3 hours since March 2009. Despite the increase, overtime hours for all employees and production employees remain below pre-recession levels.
- Retail trade employment rose by 28,000 in October, increases were distributed throughout most of the industries.

- Since reaching a trough in December 2009, employment in retail trade has expanded by 128,000.
• Professional and business services added 46,000 jobs in October.

• Employment in temporary help services continued to increase in October, with a gain of 35,000. Employment in temporary help services has risen by 451,000 since a recent low in September 2009.

• Computer systems design also added jobs in October; this industry has added 53,000 jobs since an employment trough in June 2009.
• Health care continued to add jobs in October (+24,000); in line with the average increase over the prior 12 months (+20,000).

• Health care employment has risen by 204,000 thus far in 2010.
Government employment was little changed overall in October.

The number of temporary decennial census workers fell by 5,000 in October; about 1,000 temporary decennial census workers remain on Federal payrolls.
• Unlike the prior two recessions when jobs were added, local government began to shed jobs at the conclusion of the recent 2007–09 recession.

• Since reaching a peak in September 2008, local government employment has fallen by 368,000; two thirds of the losses have occurred so far in 2010.
• During and following the 1991 and 2001 recessions, employment rose in local government education.

• Since reaching a peak in July 2008, local government education employment has fallen by 213,000; 67 percent of the losses have occurred so far in 2010.

• Employment in local government, excluding education, decreased by 14,000 in October and has fallen by 174,000 since reaching a peak in November 2008.