Current Employment Statistics
Highlights
October 2012

Bureau of Labor Statistics
November 2, 2012
• Total nonfarm employment rose by 171,000 in October.
• Since the beginning of the year, job growth has averaged 157,000 per month, compared to an average monthly gain of 153,000 in 2011.
• In October, total private employment rose by 184,000, bringing the year-to-date gain to 1.6 million.
• Thus far in 2012, job growth has averaged 155,000 per month, compared to the average monthly gain of 175,000 in 2011.
• Since reaching an employment trough in February 2010, the private sector has added 5.0 million jobs.
• In October, employment rose in retail trade, professional and business services, and health care but changed little in other industries over the month.

• Since an employment trough in February 2010, nonfarm job gains total 4.5 million. The largest increases have occurred in professional and business services, education and health services, and leisure and hospitality. Government lost the largest number of jobs during this period.
Average weekly hours for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls remained unchanged at 34.4 hours in October.

The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls edged down by 0.1 hour to 33.6 hours.

The October employment gain combined with the unchanged workweek resulted in a 0.1-percent increase in the index of aggregate weekly hours for all employees. Since reaching a trough in October 2009, the index has risen 6.3 percent.
• Average hourly earnings of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls edged down by 1 cent in October to $23.58. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have risen by 1.6 percent.
• The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased by 2.0 percent from September 2011 to September 2012.
• Mining and logging lost 9,000 jobs in October, with most of the decline occurring in support activities for mining.
• Since May of this year, employment in mining has decreased by 17,000.
• Support activities for mining accounted for most of the job losses between May and October.
Employment in construction edged up in October (+17,000) after remaining flat over the prior 4 months.

Virtually all of October’s gain was concentrated in specialty trade contractors (+17,000).
• Manufacturing employment changed little in October (+13,000), with no significant changes among the component industries. On net, manufacturing employment has changed little since April.

• The factory workweek for all employees edged down by 0.1 hour. Combining the employment change with the shorter workweek, the index of aggregate weekly hours in manufacturing edged down 0.1 percent.
Employment rose by 36,000 in retail trade. Motor vehicle and parts dealers added 7,000 jobs, and furniture and home furnishing stores added 4,000 jobs.

Over the past 3 months, the retail industry has boosted employment by 82,000, with motor vehicles and parts dealers, clothing and accessory stores, and miscellaneous store retailers contributing 18,000 jobs each.
• Professional and business services added 51,000 jobs in October.
• Since reaching a trough in September 2009, employment in the sector has expanded by 1.6 million, or by an average of 44,000 per month.
Job growth continued in professional and technical services (+16,000). Within administrative services, services to buildings added 13,000 jobs over the month.

Employment in temporary help services changed little in October and has shown little net change over the past 3 months.
• Health care added 31,000 jobs in October.
• Over the past 12 months, employment in health care has risen by 296,000.
• Within health care, gains continued in ambulatory health care services (+25,000) and hospitals (+6,000) in October.
Employment in leisure and hospitality continued to trend up (+28,000) over the month.

As of March, the industry had recovered all of the jobs lost during its most recent employment downturn. Employment is currently 174,000 above its most recent peak in January 2008.

In October, food services and drinking places employment continued to rise (+23,000). Since reaching a trough in February 2010, employment in the industry has expanded by 701,000 or an average of 22,000 per month.
• Government employment changed little in October (-13,000) after 3 months of increases. Government employment is 569,000 below its August 2008 level, when both state and local governments reached peaks.