Current Employment Statistics Highlights

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Current Employment Statistics Highlights

October 2013

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Current Employment Statistics Survey, October 2013

Total nonfarm: + 204,000
Total private: + 212,000

Nonfarm employment increased by 204,000 in October, and job growth has averaged 202,000 per month over the past 3 months. In October, leisure and hospitality, retail trade, professional and technical services, manufacturing, and health care added jobs. Federal government continued to shed jobs over the month.

The change in total nonfarm employment for August revised up by 45,000 (from +193,000 to +238,000), and the employment change for September revised up by 15,000 (from +148,000 to +163,000).

Average hourly earnings for all private-sector employees continued to edge up in October (+2 cents) and are up 2.2 percent over the year. Average weekly hours were unchanged from September to October.

+ 53,000 Leisure and hospitality

Leisure and hospitality added 53,000 jobs in October, mostly in food services and drinking places, which added 29,000 jobs. Job growth in food services has averaged 30,000 jobs per month over the past year.

+ 44,000 Retail trade

In October, retail trade added 44,000 jobs. Job growth was widespread with electronics and appliance stores, building material and garden supply stores, food and beverage stores, sporting goods and hobby stores, and general merchandise stores contributing to the gain.

Clothing and clothing accessories stores employment fell over the month. Over the year, employment in the retail sector has expanded by an average 31,000 per month.
Current Employment Statistics Survey, October 2013

+ 44,000 Professional and business services

Professional and business services continued to add jobs in October and has added 644,000 jobs over the past year. In October, professional and technical services added 21,000 jobs, including 8,000 in management and technical consulting services. Temporary help services employment remained essentially unchanged over the month.

+ 19,000 Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment rose by 19,000 in October but has shown little net change since reaching a peak in February 2013. In October, wood products, motor vehicles and parts, and furniture and related products added jobs.

+ 23,000 Education and health care

Health care continued to add jobs (+15,000) in October. Job growth in health care has averaged 17,000 per month so far this year, compared to an average gain of 27,000 per month in 2012.

-8,000 Government

Federal government employment fell by 12,000 in October. Federal government, except postal service, lost 8,000 jobs over the month and has lost 74,000 over the past year. Pay was restored to Federal government employees who were furloughed from October 1, 2013 to October 16, 2013 due to the lapse in funding; thus, those workers were counted as employed during the reference period. (For more information, see http://www.bls.gov/bls/shutdown_2013_cps_ce.s.htm ) The U.S. Postal Service lost 4,000 jobs in October and has lost 20,000 jobs over the past year.

Employment in state and local government was essentially unchanged in October.
In October, mining and logging employment continued to edge up (+5,000), with nearly all the change occurring in mining.

Over the most recent 12 months, mining has added 45,000 jobs. Support activities for mining accounted for 30,000 of the employment increase.

In October, mining-related indicators included a muted hurricane season and reduced Middle East tensions. Between September and October for the week that includes the 12th of the month, the U.S. Energy Information Administration reported the WTI Crude Oil price fell from $108.31 to $102.17 per barrel, crude oil stocks rose from 355.6 to 374.5 million barrels, and refinery capacity utilization fell from 92.0 to 87.9 percent.
Employment in construction edged up in October (+11,000). Over the last 12 months, the industry has added 185,000 jobs, with two-thirds of the gains occurring in specialty trade contractors.

In October, manufacturing added 19,000 jobs, following an 8-month period when employment changed little. Within durable goods, wood products, motor vehicles and parts, and furniture and related products added jobs.

The 1-month diffusion index of manufacturing employment rose from 51.9 in September to 56.2 in October. 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. October marks the third consecutive month the index registered above 50.
In October, the manufacturing workweek was unchanged for all employees and for production employees, but remains at historically high levels.

Recent manufacturing-related indicators have been positive. In October, the Purchasing Managers Index (Institute for Supply Management) registered the fifth consecutive month that economic activity expanded. In September, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that new orders of durable goods increased 3.7 percent.
In October, wood products added 3,000 jobs, and employment has expanded by 13,000 over the past 12 months. This growth reflects recent increases in residential construction spending (Source: U.S. Census Bureau).
Motor vehicles and parts employment increased by 6,000 in October. Job growth had averaged 3,000 per month over the prior 12 months.

Since the most recent trough in June 2009, the industry has added 198,000 jobs, recovering about 60 percent of the employment lost during the recession between December 2007 and June 2009.
Employment in wholesale trade changed little in October (-5,000) after increasing by 14,000 in September.
Retail trade employment increased in October (+44,000), continuing an upward trend in which the industry added a net 224,000 jobs over the past 6 months. Gains were widespread, although clothing and clothing accessories stores lost jobs.

Recent retail-related indicators have been mixed. As shown by Census Bureau data, retail sales for September declined by 0.1 percent, although sales were up 3.2 percent over the year. Automotive sales, as measured by MotorIntelligence, declined to an annualized 15.2 million vehicles, however, automobile sales are up over October 2012. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the per-gallon price of regular gasoline in October was down 19 cents from September levels. Finally, the Conference Board notes that the Consumer Confidence Index decreased by 9 points in October, largely related to the government shutdown and debt ceiling concerns.
Retail Trade

NAICS 444 – Building material and garden supply stores
In October, building material and garden supply stores employment increased by 7,000, continuing its upward trend. Over the past 6 months, this industry added 30,000 jobs.

NAICS 448 – Clothing and clothing accessories stores
Employment in clothing and clothing accessories stores declined in October by 13,000. However, this industry has recently seen some oscillating movements and the current 12-month change is essentially flat.

Holiday-related employment build-up
In October, the start of the holiday build-up season, employment gains in several retail sectors were stronger than their prior 12-month average, including job gains in electronics and appliance stores (+10,000), building material and garden supply stores (+7,000), food and beverage stores (+12,000), and sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores (+8,000). The job gain in general merchandise stores (+8,000) was about average.
Employment in transportation and warehousing was unchanged in October, following an increase of 30,000 in September. Over the past 12 months, the industry has added 55,000 jobs.
In October, employment in utilities was unchanged. The industry has added 7,000 jobs since reaching an employment trough in September 2010.
Employment in information changed little in October (+5,000).

**NAICS 519 – Other information services**

Other information services gained 3,000 jobs in October. This industry has added 11,000 jobs in the last 12 months, with almost all of the gain seen in internet publishing and broadcasting and web search portals.
Financial activities employment changed little in October (+7,000). Since reaching an employment trough in February 2011, financial activities has added an average of 7,000 jobs per month.
Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in October (+44,000). Since reaching an employment trough in August 2009, the industry has added 2.3 million jobs. All major component industries have experienced job gains during this period.

NAICS 5416 – Management and technical consulting services

In October, management and technical consulting services added 8,000 jobs. The job growth was concentrated in management consulting services.
Education and health services employment changed little over the month (+23,000). After little change in September, health care employment continued on its long-term upward trend in October (+15,000). Health care has added an average of 17,000 jobs per month so far in 2013, compared to an average of 27,000 jobs per month in 2012. Within health care, hospitals have added an average of 1,000 jobs per month in 2013, compared to 6,000 jobs per month in 2012.

NAICS 624 – Social Assistance

Social assistance has added 6,000 jobs on average per month so far this year, compared to an average of 5,000 jobs added per month in 2012.
Leisure and hospitality added 53,000 jobs in October, following a modest change (+13,000) in September. Over the last 12 months, leisure and hospitality has added 444,000 jobs.

**NAICS 71 – Arts, entertainment, and recreation**

Over the last 12 months, arts, entertainment, and recreation has added 65,000 jobs, or 15 percent of the total growth seen in leisure and hospitality. Growth has been split between performing arts and spectator sports and amusements, gambling, and recreation.

**NAICS 72 – Accommodation and food services**

In October, accommodation and food services added 37,000 jobs, following an uptick of 18,000 in September. This industry has added a total of 379,000 jobs in the last 12 months, accounting for 85 percent of the total jobs gained in leisure and hospitality during that period. The primary source of job growth has been food services and drinking places, which has added 357,000 jobs in the last 12 months.
Employment in other services changed little (+6,000) in October. No component industry experienced a significant employment change over the month. The personal and laundry services industry, however, has seen significant job gains over the past 12-month period. This industry accounted for about half of jobs regained by other services since the industry’s most recent employment trough, reached in June 2010.

Employment in other services January 2000–October 2013
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

October 2013 Level: 5,496
OTM Change: 6

Shaded areas represent recessions as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.
Government employment changed little in October (-8,000), with Federal government employment declining by 12,000 and state and local government employment changing little over the month.

NAICS 91 – Federal government

The federal government continued to shed jobs in October. Within the industry, U.S. Postal Service employment decreased by 4,000 over the month. Federal, except U.S. Postal Service employment also continued to trend downward (-8,000). Since its most recent peak in May 2011, federal, except U.S. Postal Service has lost 110,000 jobs, while the U.S. Postal Service has lost 49,000 within the same period.

The partial federal government shutdown occurred from October 1, 2013 to October 16, 2013. The legislation that ended the shutdown established that federal employees would be paid for the time their agencies were closed, thus, federal employees who were off work due to the lapse in funding were counted as employed in the payroll survey.