Current Employment Statistics Highlights

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Current Employment Statistics Highlights

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Nonfarm employment increased by 271,000 in October. Over the prior 12 months, nonfarm employment grew by an average of 230,000 per month. In October, professional and business services, health care, retail trade, food services and drinking places, and construction added jobs.

The employment change for August revised up from +136,000 to +153,000, and the change for September revised down from +142,000 to +137,000. Incorporating revisions, employment has increased by an average 187,000 per month over the past 3 months.

Average hourly earnings for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 9 cents in October, following little change in September (+1 cent). Hourly earnings are up 2.5 percent over the year. In October, average weekly hours for all employees held at 34.5 hours.

+78,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment in professional and business services rose in October. Over the prior 12 months, employment growth had averaged 52,000 per month.

In October, employment rose in administrative and support services (+46,000), computer systems design and related services (+10,000), and architectural and engineering services (+8,000).

+57,000 Education and Health Services

Employment in health care rose by 45,000 in October. Health care employment has expanded by an average of 41,000 per month over the past 12 months.

In October, employment rose in ambulatory health care services (+27,000), which includes offices of physicians (+8,000) and home health care services (+8,000). Job growth continued in hospitals (+18,000). Since reaching an employment trough in February 2014, hospitals have added 197,000 jobs; 75 percent of these jobs have been added in 2015.
+44,000 Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade rose by 44,000 in October. Within this industry, employment rose in clothing and clothing accessories stores (+20,000), general merchandise stores (+11,000), and automobile dealers (+6,000). Over the past 12 months, employment in retail trade has grown by 313,000.

+41,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Within leisure and hospitality, employment continued to trend up in food services and drinking places (+42,000). Over the past 12 months, food services and drinking places has added 368,000 jobs.

+31,000 Construction

In October, construction added 31,000 jobs, with growth concentrated in nonresidential specialty trade contractors (+21,000). Over the past 12 months, construction has added 233,000 jobs.
Mining and logging continued its trend of employment losses in October (-4,000). Mining accounted for all of the industry’s job loss in October and for 109,000 jobs lost since December.
Employment in construction had significant growth in October (+31,000). Specialty trade contractors added 25,000 jobs. Nonresidential specialty trade contractors led growth, adding 21,000 to construction employment.
Manufacturing employment was unchanged in October and, year to date, has shown little net change.

The 1-month diffusion index increased to 50.1 in October from 37.5 the previous month. 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.

Average weekly hours increased by 0.1 hour to 41.8 hours for production employees and by 0.1 hour to 40.7 hours for all employees, partially offsetting declines in both series in September.
Employment in wholesale trade changed little (+10,000) in October.

October 2015 Level: 5,930
OTM Change: 10

Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.
In October, retail trade employment increased by 44,000, following 2 months of little change. October’s over-the-month change is the largest so far in 2015.

**NAICS 4411 – Automobile Dealers**

Automobile dealers added 6,000 jobs in October, bringing the current 12-month increase to 52,000 jobs. October’s employment growth coincides with 2 months of strong auto sales (Source: Motor Intelligence).

**NAICS 448 – Clothing and clothing accessories stores**

Employment in clothing stores increased by 20,000 in October, more than offsetting a loss of 12,000 in September.

**NAICS 452 – General merchandise stores**

General merchandise stores added 11,000 jobs in October, following an increase of 9,000 jobs in September.
Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in October (-2,000). Over the year, however, employment in transportation and warehousing has increased by 122,000, or 2.6 percent.

NAICS 488 – Support activities for transportation

Support activities for transportation shed 8,000 jobs in October. This change represents a departure from the prior 12-month average of +2,000 per month.
Employment in utilities was essentially unchanged in October.

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In October, employment in information changed little (-1,000), after increasing by 11,000 in September. Over the last 12 months, information has added 46,000 jobs, on net.
Employment in financial activities changed little in October (+5,000). The average over-the-month change for 2015 (+11,000) falls in line with the average change for 2014.
Professional and business services added 78,000 jobs in October, the largest 1-month gain in 2015. Year to date, the 2015 average monthly change is in line with the prior 3 years.

In October, all 3 major component industries of professional and business services contributed to the employment gain. Professional and technical services and administrative and waste services added 27,000 and 46,000 jobs, respectively. Employment in management of companies and enterprises continued to trend up (+5,000).

October’s employment gain in professional and technical services is in line with the average monthly gain in 2015. In October, computer systems design and related services and architectural and engineering services led the gains in professional and technical services.

Job growth in administrative and waste services was about double the prior 12-month average change of 22,000. The October employment gain can be attributed to administrative and support services—temporary help services accounted approximately half of the employment gains.
National Association of Broadcasters

Professional and Business Services

NAICS 5413 – Architectural and engineering services

In October, architectural and engineering services added 8,000 jobs, offsetting weakness in the prior 2 months. The October employment increase falls in line with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Architecture Billings Index (ABI) for September. The ABI tends to lead CES employment by 1 month.

NAICS 5415 – Computer systems design and related services

Employment in computer systems design and related services continued to trend up in October, (+10,000); the gain falls directly in line with the industry’s prior 12-month average change. Computer systems design and related services continues to be a major employment driver within professional and technical services and continues to grow in its share of industry employment. Thus far in 2015, computer systems design and related services accounts for 36 percent of the employment gain and represents about 22 percent of total employment in professional and technical services.
Employment in education and health services grew by 57,000 in October, with most of the gain occurring in health care (+45,000). Over the past 12 months, private education and health services has expanded by 623,000 jobs.

**NAICS 622—Hospitals**

Hospitals added 18,000 jobs in October. Employment in the industry has increased by 167,000 over the past 12 months, accounting for over one-third of the job gains in health care (+495,000) within the same period.
Employment in leisure and hospitality continued to trend up in October (+41,000). Food services and drinking places added 42,000 jobs. This industry has expanded by 368,000 jobs in the last 12 months, representing an increase of 3.4 percent.
Employment in other services changed little (+10,000) in October. Within the industry, repair and maintenance added 9,000 jobs.
Government employment changed little in October (+3,000). Employment at the federal, state, and local levels remained flat over the month. Government has added 86,000 jobs so far in 2015, with nearly half of the job gain occurring in local government, excluding education.
Current Employment Statistics Highlights

Detailed Industry Employment Analysis

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