Current Employment Statistics Highlights
November 2012

Bureau of Labor Statistics
December 7, 2012
- Total nonfarm employment rose by 146,000 in November.
- Since the beginning of the year, job growth has averaged 151,000 per month, similar to the average monthly gain of 153,000 in 2011.
In November, total private employment rose by 147,000. Thus far in 2012, job growth has averaged 154,000 per month, compared to an average monthly gain of 175,000 in 2011.

Since reaching an employment trough in February 2010, the private sector has added 5.1 million jobs.
In November, retail trade contributed more than one-third of the total nonfarm job gain. Employment continued to rise in professional and business services, health care, and leisure and hospitality. These gains were partially offset by job losses in construction.

Since an employment trough in February 2010, nonfarm job gains total 4.6 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 November. The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls edged up by 0.1 hour to 33.7 hours.

• The November employment gain combined with the unchanged workweek resulted in a 0.2-percent increase in the index of aggregate weekly hours for all employees. Since reaching a trough in October 2009, the index has risen 6.5 percent.
• Average hourly earnings of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 4 cents in November to $23.63. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have risen by 1.7 percent.

• The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased by 2.2 percent from October 2011 to October 2012.
Employment in construction decreased in November (-20,000) after ticking up in October. Since early 2010, employment in construction has shown no clear trend.

In November, construction of buildings accounted for 11,000 jobs lost, largely in residential building.
• Manufacturing employment changed little in November (-7,000), and has been essentially unchanged over the past 6 months.

• The factory workweek for all employees edged up by 0.1 hour in November to 40.6 hours following a 0.1-hour decrease the prior month. Combining the flat employment with the longer workweek, the index of aggregate weekly hours in manufacturing increased by 0.2 percent.
Over the month, employment gains in the motor vehicles and parts component of transportation equipment and in wood products were more than offset by job losses in food manufacturing and chemicals.
• Employment in wholesale trade continued to trend up over the month. Since reaching an employment trough in May 2010, the industry has added 228,000 jobs.
- Employment rose by 53,000 in retail trade in November. Over the past 3 months, the retail trade industry has boosted employment by 140,000, with nearly half of the gain occurring in clothing and accessory stores.

- Clothing and accessory stores added 33,000 jobs to payrolls over the month. General merchandise stores and electronics and appliance stores also added jobs. In contrast to these increases, miscellaneous store retailers lost 13,000 jobs in November.
• Employment continued to grow in professional and business services in November (+43,000).

• Since reaching a trough in September 2009, employment in the sector has expanded by 1.7 million, fully recovering the jobs lost during the most recent recession.
• In November, employment continued to trend up in computer systems design and related services (+7,000).

• Employment in temporary help services edged up by 18,000 over the month, about in line with the average monthly increase over the prior 12 months.
• Health care added 20,000 jobs in November, continuing a long-run growth trend.

• Over the month, employment rose in hospitals (+8,000) and nursing and residential care facilities (+7,000), while employment in ambulatory health care services changed little.
Leisure and hospitality industries continued to add jobs to payrolls in November (+23,000).

Since a trough in January 2010, employment in the industry has expanded by 818,000, mostly in food services and drinking places.
• Government employment changed little in November after a decrease in October.

• Government employment is 618,000 below its August 2008 level, when employment in both state and local governments reached peaks.