Current Employment Statistics Highlights

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Current Employment Statistics Highlights

November 2013

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Email CES
Total nonfarm:  + 203,000
Total private:  + 196,000

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 203,000 in November. Over the prior 12 months, job growth had averaged 195,000 per month. In November, job gains occurred in transportation and warehousing, health care, and manufacturing.

The change in total nonfarm employment for September was revised up by 12,000 (from +163,000 to +175,000), and the employment change for October was revised down by 4,000 (from +204,000 to +200,000).

Average hourly earnings of all private-sector employees increased 4 cents over the month, following a 2-cent gain in October. Hourly earnings are up 2.0 percent over the year. Average weekly hours increased by 0.1 hour in November to 34.5 hours.

+ 31,000 Transportation and warehousing

Following little change in October (+3,000), employment in transportation and warehousing rose in November. Couriers and messenger services, trucking, warehousing and storage and air transportation added jobs over the month.

+ 40,000 Education and health care

Employment rose by 28,000 in health care in November. Job gains were concentrated in ambulatory care, including 12,000 in home health care. In contrast to the strength in ambulatory care, nursing care facilities cut 4,000 jobs, and hospital employment remained essentially unchanged over the month.
Manufacturing added 27,000 jobs in November, following modest job gains averaging 13,000 over the prior 3 months. Durable goods industries have accounted for most of the job gains over the past 4 months. In November, motor vehicles and parts contributed 7,000 to payroll employment.

The factory workweek for all employees edged up 0.1 hour to 41.0 hours in November, and average overtime hours notched up by 0.1 hour.

Professional and business services

Employment continued to trend up in professional and business services in November. Job growth in the industry had averaged 55,000 per month for the year ending in October.

Retail trade

Retail trade employment continued to trend up in November. General merchandise stores; sporting good, hobby, book, and music stores; and auto dealers added jobs. Over the prior 12 months, retail employment had risen by an average of 31,000 per month.

Construction

Employment in construction continued to trend up in November. Over the prior 12 months, job growth had averaged 15,000 per month.
+ 17,000 Leisure and hospitality

Within leisure and hospitality, food services employment continued to trend up in November (+18,000). Job growth in food services had averaged 28,000 over the prior 12 months.

+ 7,000 Government

Government employment changed little in November. However, the Federal government continued to cut payroll employment (-7,000). Since a peak in March 2011, Federal government employment has declined by 172,000. The U.S. Postal Service accounted for 57,000 of the loss.
In November, mining and logging employment was unchanged. Mining employment changed little (-2,000) after trending up over the prior 6 months.

Three related indicators provide supporting evidence for November employment. The U.S. Energy Information Administration reported the WTI Crude Oil price fell from $102.17 to $93.80 per barrel, crude oil stocks rose from 374.5 to 388.5 million barrels, and refinery capacity utilization fell from 87.9 to 87.8 percent.
Employment in construction edged up in November (+17,000), bringing the current 6-month net change to 60,000. Since reaching an employment trough in January 2011, the industry has added 416,000 jobs.
In November, manufacturing added 27,000 jobs, following 3 months of modest employment growth. The November payroll increase occurred in both durable goods (+17,000) and nondurable goods (+10,000).

The 1-month diffusion index of manufacturing employment rose from 56.8 in October to 63.0 in November, the highest reading since March 2012. 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. November marks the fourth consecutive month the index registered above 50.
In November, the manufacturing workweek for all employees increased 0.1 hour to 41.0 hours, the longest recorded workweek since the series inception in March 2006. Similarly, the factory workweek for production employees increased 0.1 hour to 42.0 hours, the longest factory workweek since July 1945.

Recent manufacturing-related indicators have been mixed. In November, the Institute for Supply Management PMI (a measure of the manufacturing sector’s economic activity) registered at 57.3, the sixth consecutive month that economic activity expanded. In October, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that new orders of durable goods fell 2.0 percent and durables inventories increased 0.3 percent.
Motor vehicles and parts employment increased by 7,000 in November. Over the past 12 months, the industry has added 42,000 jobs.
Employment in wholesale trade changed little in November (7,000). All three component industries were little changed.

Since reaching an employment trough in May 2010, wholesale trade has gained 351,000 jobs. However, employment in the industry is still 252,000 shy of its most recent peak in November 2007.
Retail trade employment continued to trend up in November. So far in 2013, the industry has added 316,000 jobs. November’s gains were concentrated in motor vehicle and parts dealers (+9,000), sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores (+12,000), and general merchandise stores (+14,000).

Recent retail-related indicators have been mixed. As shown by Census Bureau data, retail sales for October increased by 0.4 percent and were up 3.9 percent over the year. Automotive sales, as measured by MotorIntelligence, rose to an annualized 16.4 million vehicles, after 2 months of declines. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the per-gallon price of gasoline in November was down 13 cents from October levels. Finally, the Conference Board notes that the Consumer Confidence Index decreased by 2 points in November.
NAICS 441 – Motor vehicle and parts dealers
In November, motor vehicle and parts dealers employment increased by 9,000, continuing its upward trend. This industry has added 51,000 jobs so far in 2013, generally aligning with strong growth in automotive sales.

NAICS 451 – Sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores
Employment in sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores increased in November by 12,000, following an increase of 10,000 in October. November’s gain was concentrated in hobby, toy, and game stores and is likely attributable to the holiday build-up.

Holiday-related employment build-up
November is traditionally the month with the largest holiday employment build-up. On a not seasonally adjusted basis, November 2013 is very similar to the build-up seen in November 2012.
In November, employment in transportation and warehousing expanded by 31,000, following essentially no change in October (+3,000). Over the past 12 months, the industry added 76,000 jobs.

**NAICS 481 – Air Transportation**

The air transportation industry added 3,000 jobs in November, the largest positive over-the-month change since February 2008.

**NAICS 492 – Couriers and Messengers**

In November, employment in couriers and messengers increased by 9,000, following an increase of 4,000 in October. Since May, the industry has added 24,000 jobs.

**Transportation and Warehousing**
In November, employment in utilities was little changed (+1,000). The industry has added 8,000 jobs since reaching an employment trough in September 2010.
Employment in information was essentially unchanged in November. Although it has shown some volatility in recent over-the-month changes, information employment has shown no change, on net, since January 2011.
Financial activities employment changed little in November (-3,000).

Credit intermediation and related activities lost 9,000 jobs. This loss was partially offset by a gain in insurance carriers and related activities (+6,000). Employment in other financial activities components changed little.

Financial activities employment has shown zero net change since July.
Professional and business services employment continued to trend up in November (+35,000). So far in 2013, the industry has gained 608,000 jobs. Employment in most of the component industries experienced growth during this period.

In November, the employment change in professional and technical services (+18,000) comprised small movements spread throughout the component industries. Employment in management of companies and enterprises remained relatively flat (+2,000). Administrative and waste services employment continued to trend up (+15,000); the change can be attributed to temporary help services.
Education and health services added 40,000 jobs in November. Health care employment continued to be the largest contributor to growth, adding 28,000 jobs over the month. Employment in educational services (+11,000) and in social assistance (+1,000) changed little.

Health care has added an average of 19,000 jobs per month so far in 2013, compared to an average of 27,000 jobs added per month in 2012. Within health care, hospitals have averaged 1,000 jobs added per month in 2013, compared to 6,000 jobs added per month in 2012.

NAICS 621 - Ambulatory Health Care Services

In November, ambulatory health care services added 26,000 jobs. Home health care employment rose by 12,000 over the month, accounting for nearly half of the gain. Home health care employment growth has increased by an average of 7,000 per month in 2013, compared to 6,000 and 4,000 jobs per month in 2012 and 2011, respectively.

Offices of physicians added 7,000 jobs in November. The rest of the component industries within ambulatory health care showed modest over-the-month employment increases.
Employment in leisure and hospitality edged up in November (+17,000), following a gain of 49,000 jobs in October. In the past 12 months, this industry has added 422,000 jobs, which accounts for over 18 percent of the job growth seen in total nonfarm over the same period.
Employment in other services changed little in November, with no component industry experiencing a significant employment change. This industry had lost 225,000 jobs between April 2008 and June 2010 and, since then, has recovered 184,000 jobs. Personal and laundry services accounted for the majority of jobs regained.
Government employment changed little in November (+7,000).

**NAICS 91 – Federal government**

Federal government employment continued to trend down in November. Within the industry, U.S. Postal Service employment edged down over the month (-2,000). Federal, except U.S. Postal Service employment also continued to trend downward (-4,000). Since its most recent employment peak in March 2011, the federal government has shed 172,000 jobs, a 6-percent decline.
Current Employment Statistics Highlights

Detailed Industry Employment Analysis

CES Analysts

Richa Ajmera
Megan Barker
John Coughlan
Steve Crestol
John Eddlemon
Lyda Ghanbari
Mike McCall
John Mullins
Edward Park
Sutton Puglia
Kara Sullivan
Parth Tikiwala

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