Current Employment Statistics Highlights

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Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 178,000 in November. Professional and business services and health care added jobs.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private, nonfarm payrolls declined by 3 cents over the month, following an 11-cent increase in October. Hourly earnings are up 2.5 percent over the year. Average weekly hours were unchanged at 34.4 hours.

The employment change for October was revised down from +161,000 to +142,000, and the change for September was revised up from +191,000 to +208,000. Including revisions, job growth has averaged 176,000 over the past 3 months.

**+63,000 Professional and Business Services**

Employment rose by 63,000 in professional and business services in November. Accounting and bookkeeping services added 18,000 jobs. Employment continued to trend up in administrative and waste services (+38,000), computer systems design and related services (+5,000), and management and technical consulting (+4,000).

**+44,000 Education and Health Services**

Health care added 28,000 jobs in November. Ambulatory health care services accounted for most of the increase (+22,000). Over the year, health care employment has expanded by 407,000.

**+19,000 Construction**

Construction employment continued a recent upward trend, rising by 59,000 over the past 3 months. In November, residential specialty trades added 15,000 jobs, bringing its 3-month gain to 28,000. Employment among residential builders also continued a positive trend, rising by 15,000 over 3 months.
+29,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Employment continued to trend up in food services and drinking places (+19,000). So far this year, employment has increased by an average 19,000 per month, down from an average 30,000 per month in 2015.

+9,000 Transportation and Warehousing

Over the month, employment continued to trend up in couriers and messengers (+6,000) and in warehousing and storage (+3,000). Over the past 12 months, couriers added 26,000 jobs, while warehousing added 47,000 jobs.

-8,000 Retail Trade

Offsetting movements in retail trade component industries left employment little changed in November. Clothing and accessories stores lost 18,000 jobs over the month, while health and personal care stores (+6,000), other general merchandise stores (+6,000), and nonstore retailers (+8,000) added jobs.
Employment in mining changed little in November (+2,000). Domestic oil-rig counts increased 5.4 percent in November. Consistent with recent improvement in rig counts, mining employment has leveled off over the past 3 months, following losses that had persisted since a peak in September 2014. However, the price of West Texas Intermediate oil declined 13.5 percent over the month, reaching $43.39 per barrel in November.
Construction employment edged up by 19,000 in November. Residential specialty trade contractors (+15,000) contributed a majority of the industry’s gain. Over the past 3 months, construction has added 59,000 jobs, mostly in the residential industries.
In November, manufacturing employment was essentially unchanged (-4,000), similar to the prior six-month average change (-6,000).

The 1-month diffusion index declined 1.3 points to 46.8 in November. A value below 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries lost jobs than added them.

Average weekly hours in manufacturing decreased by 0.2 hour to 40.6 hours for all employees, and by 0.2 hour to 41.8 hours for production employees.
Employment in wholesale trade changed little in November (+3,000). Over the most recent 12 months, the industry has added 52,000 jobs.
In November, employment in retail trade was essentially unchanged (-8,000), similar to October (-9,000). Over the 12 months ending in September, this industry had added an average of 26,000 jobs per month.

Clothing and clothing accessories stores lost 18,000 jobs in November, following a similar loss in October.

Employment in nonstore retailers, which includes electronic shopping and electronic auctions, increased by 8,000 in November. E-commerce sales accounted for 8.4 percent of retail sales during the 3rd quarter, up from 7.4 percent during the same period in 2015 (Census Bureau). Over the year, nonstore retailers have added 28,000 jobs to payrolls.

Employment in health and personal care stores increased by 6,000 in November, after posting an average change of +2,000 over the prior 12 months.
Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in November (+9,000), in line with its prior 3-month average change. Over the last 12 months, employment in transportation and warehousing has increased by 61,000, about half the number added in the preceding 12-month period (+124,000).

Couriers and messengers added 6,000 jobs in November, bringing its 6-month average change to 4,000.
Utilities employment did not change in November.
Information employment edged down in November (-10,000). So far this year, this industry has seen little net employment change.
Employment in financial activities changed little in November (+6,000), and job growth has experienced a recent slowdown, averaging +6,000 over the most recent 3 months, compared with an average gain of 14,000 over the 12 months ending in August.

Financial activities has nearly recovered to its prerecession employment peak in December 2006–just 59,000 jobs short of recovery.

Professional and business services added 63,000 jobs in November. So far in 2016, the industry has added 511,000 jobs, 29 percent of all jobs added to total private payrolls.

In November, professional and technical services added 24,000 jobs. The largest contributor to employment was accounting and bookkeeping services, which added 18,000 jobs, while scientific research and development added 3,000 jobs. Employment in computer systems design and related services (+5,000) and management and technical consulting services (+4,000) continued their upward trends.

Employment in administrative and waste services also continued to trend up in November (+38,000). Employment services accounted for 21,000 of the change, including 14,000 in temporary help services.
Employment in private education and health services increased by 44,000 in November. Job growth has averaged 47,000 per month thus far in 2016, notably weaker than in 2015, which saw job gains averaging 58,000 per month.

Health care added 28,000 jobs in November, near its prior 12-month average of 34,000. Over the month, job gains were spread throughout ambulatory health care services. Employment changes in most health care industries were close to their prior 12-month average changes. However, November’s employment change in hospitals (+6,000) was only half of its prior 12-month average gain.
Employment in leisure and hospitality continued its upward trend in November (+29,000). Year to date, this industry has added an average of 24,000 jobs per month, compared to an average monthly gain of 37,000 in 2015.

Food services and drinking places employment continued to trend up in November (+19,000), coinciding with strength seen in the Consumer Confidence Index. Despite recent fluctuations in the index, employment growth within food services has remained steady.
Employment in other services changed little in November (+4,000). So far this year, this industry has added an average 6,000 jobs per month, about the same rate observed in 2015.
Government employment continued to trend up in November (+22,000). Local government, excluding education, continued its upward trend, while most other components saw little change in employment.

So far in 2016, government has added an average 19,000 jobs per month, compared to an average 8,000, per month in 2015. Local government, excluding education, has accounted for 47 percent of the growth thus far in 2016.