

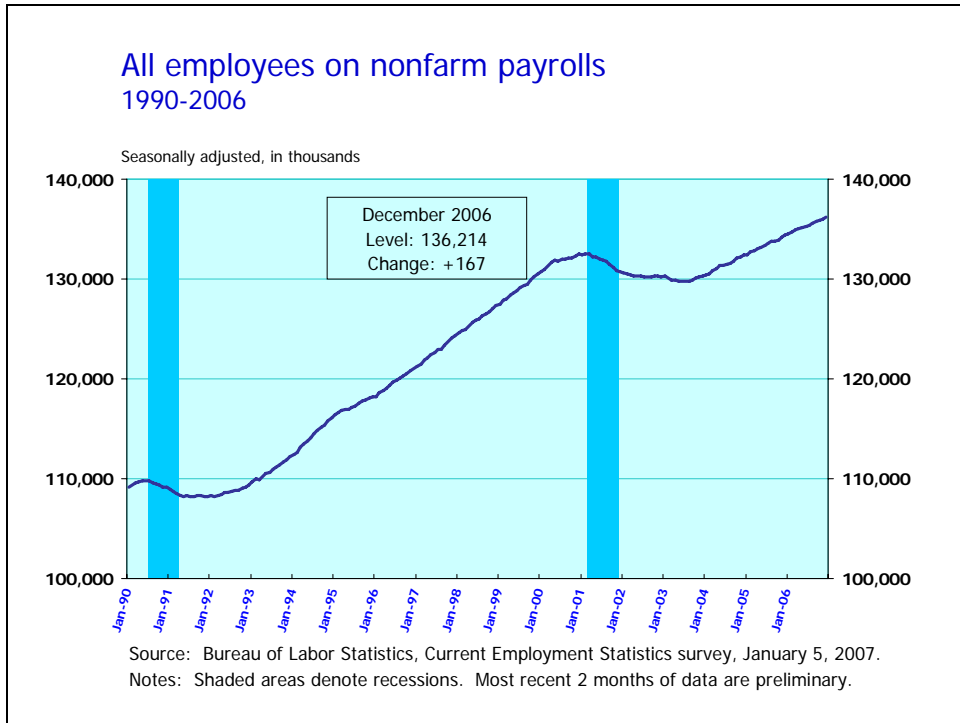


# **Current Employment Statistics**

## **Highlights**

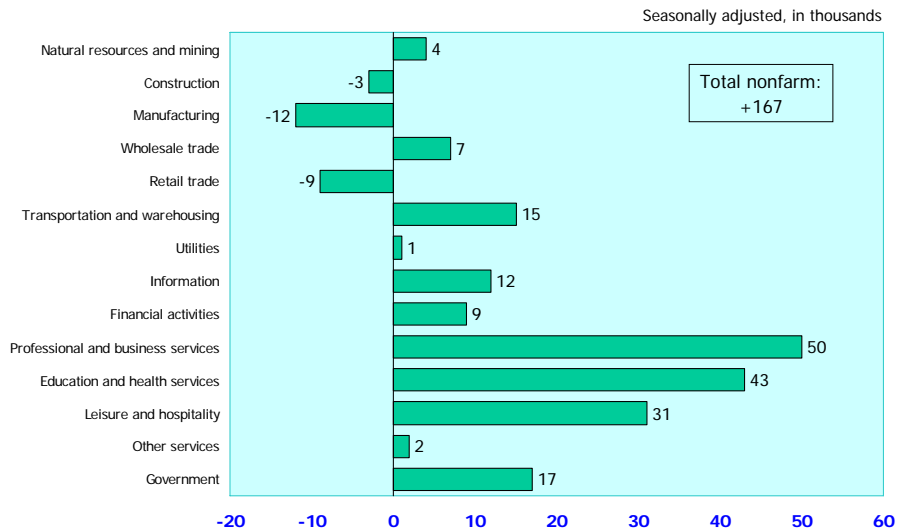
**December 2006**

Bureau of Labor Statistics  
January 5, 2007



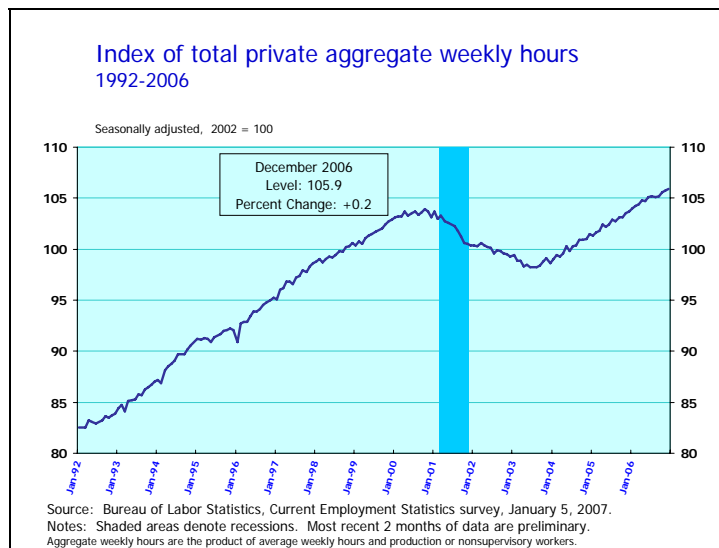
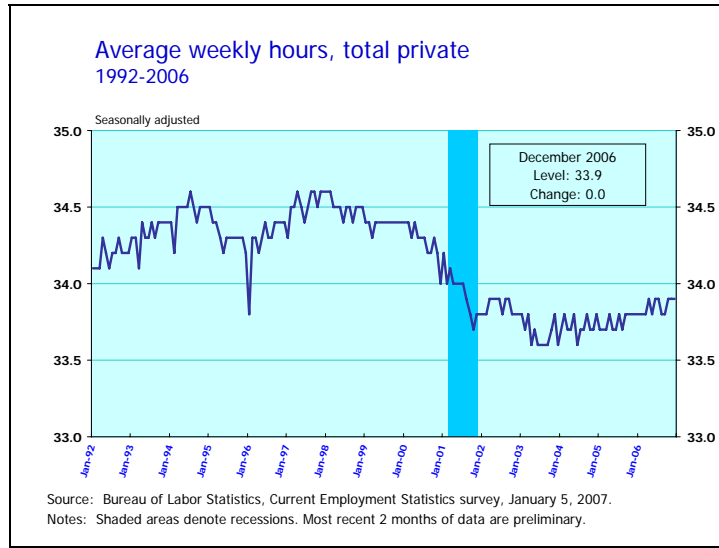
- Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 167,000 in December, following a gain of 154,000 in November.
- Over the year, payroll employment rose by 1.8 million, or an average of 153,000 per month. This is slightly lower than the 2005 employment increase of 2.0 million, or an average of 165,000 per month.

## Employment in total nonfarm and supersectors Over-the-month change, December 2006

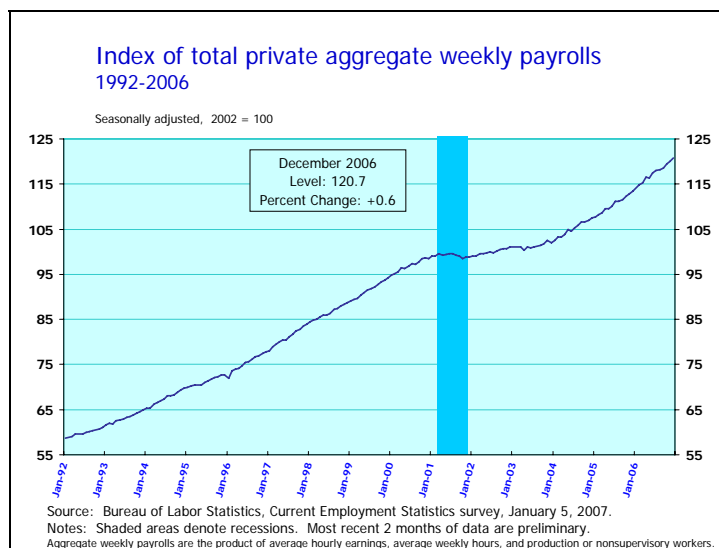
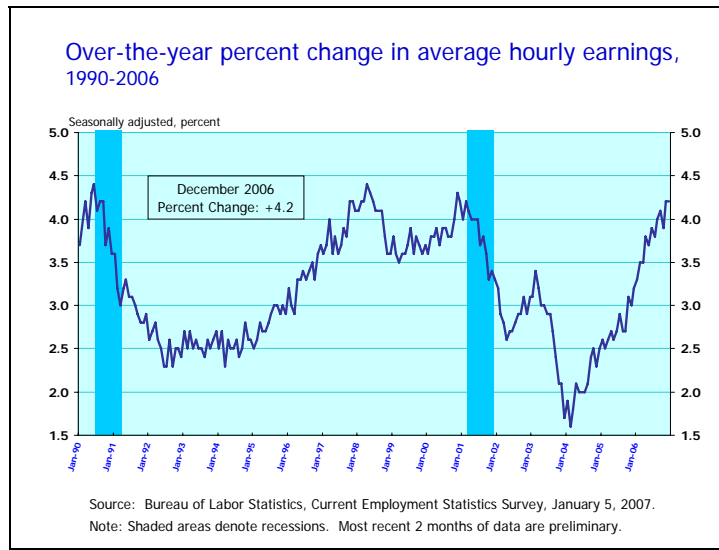


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, January 5, 2007.  
Note: Data are preliminary.

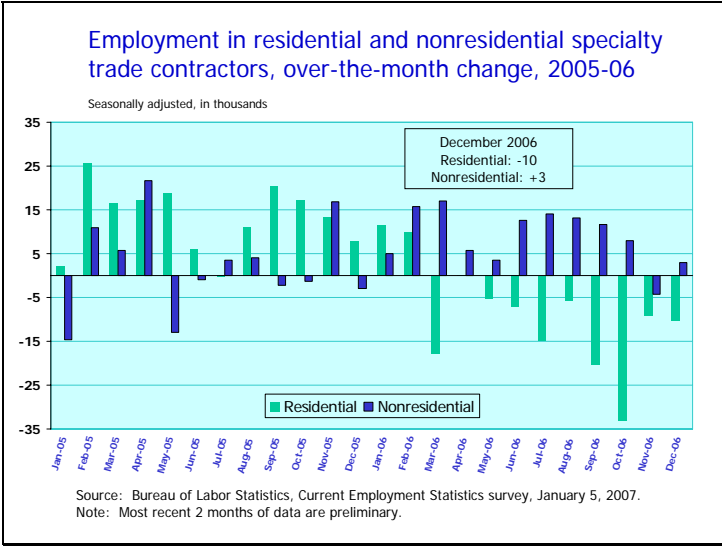
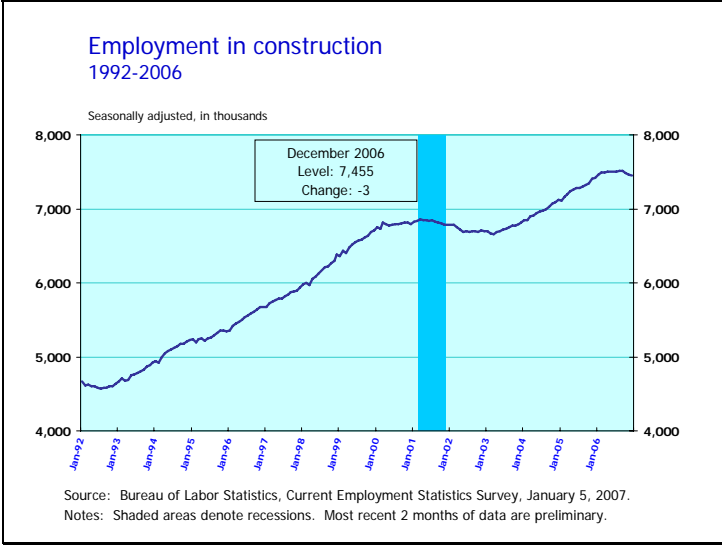
- In December, employment growth continued in several service-providing industries, with professional and business services, health care, and food services providing well over half the growth for the month. These industries also accounted for 1 million of the 1.8 million jobs added in 2006.
- In the goods-producing sector, manufacturing continued to trend downward, mining continued to trend upward, and construction was relatively unchanged.



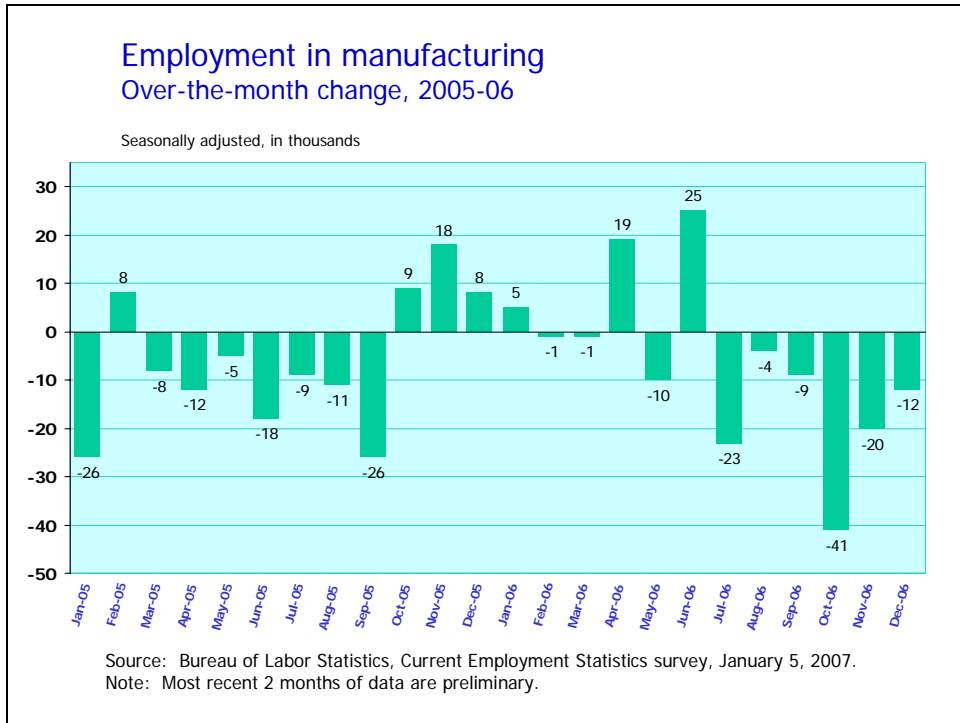
- The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls held steady at 33.9 hours, seasonally adjusted.
- The index of aggregate weekly hours of production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls rose 0.2 percent in December to 105.9, seasonally adjusted. Since the most recent trough in August 2003, the index has increased 7.8 percent.



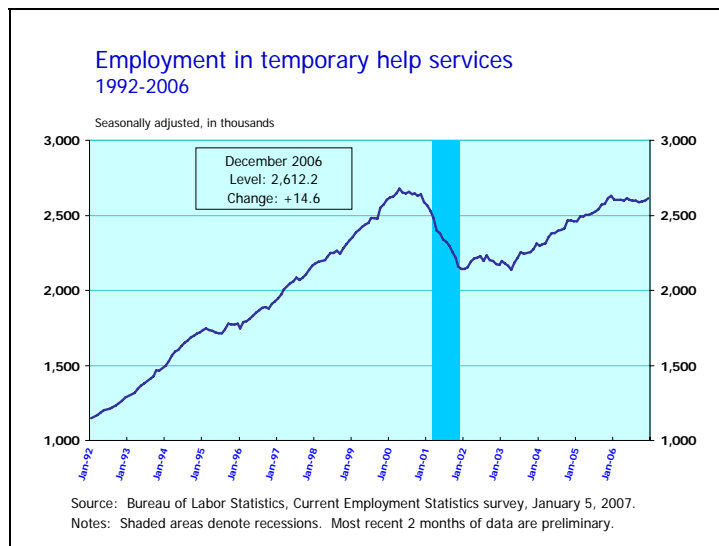
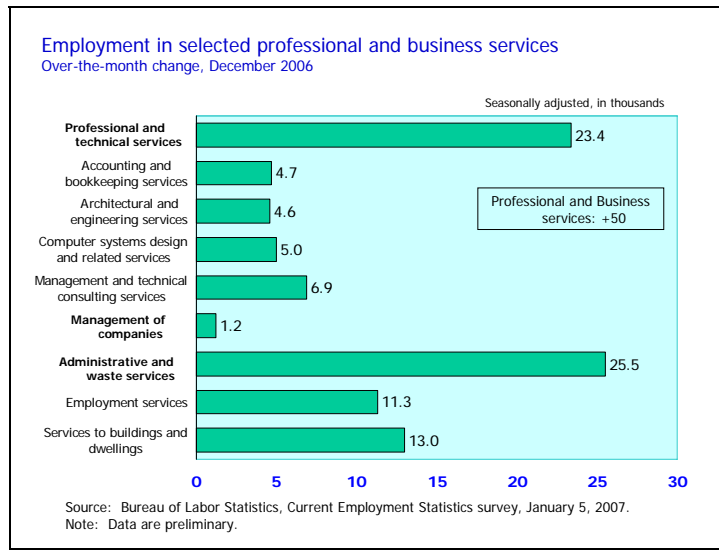
- Average hourly earnings of production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 8 cents in December to \$17.04, seasonally adjusted. This follows an increase of 5 cents in November. Over the year, average hourly earnings rose by 4.2 percent and average weekly earnings rose by 4.5 percent.
- The index of aggregate weekly payrolls of production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls rose 0.6 percent in December to 120.7, seasonally adjusted. Over the year, the index has increased 6.4 percent.



- Construction employment was little changed in December, following job losses in October and November. Over the year, construction employment was little changed compared to an increase of 295,000 jobs in 2005.
- Specialty trade contractors continued its recent downward trend in December. Since reaching a high point in February 2006, residential specialty trade contractors have shed 124,000 jobs. Over the same time period, nonresidential specialty trade contractors have added 84,000 jobs, leaving overall employment in specialty trade contractors about unchanged in 2006.



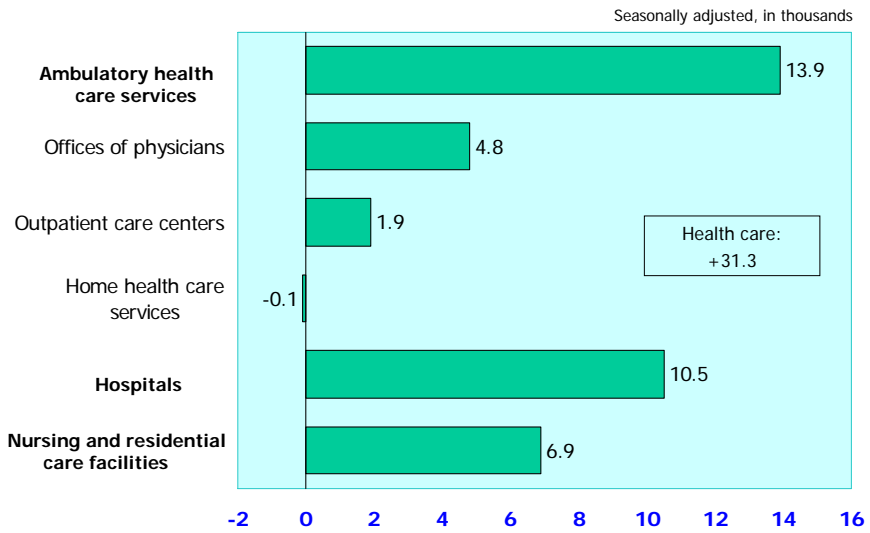
- Manufacturing saw continued job losses in December, with an employment decline of 12,000. Over the year, employment in manufacturing has fallen by 72,000 jobs, primarily in nondurable goods industries.
- Job losses in December were concentrated in motor vehicles and parts, primary metals, and textile mills. Textiles and related manufacturing industries had a combined loss of 44,000 jobs in 2006, which accounts for nearly 67 percent of the losses in nondurable goods.
- The factory workweek held steady at 41.0 hours, seasonally adjusted, while overtime increased by 0.1 hour to 4.3 hours.



- In December, employment growth in professional and business services grew by 50,000, following an increase of 47,000 in November. Services to buildings and dwellings and management consulting services both enjoyed significant gains in December.
- In 2006, over one fifth of total nonfarm job growth occurred in professional and business services, which grew by 420,000 jobs. Accounting services, architectural and engineering services, and computer systems design all experienced significant job growth in 2006. Employment in temporary help services was little changed over the month and over the year.

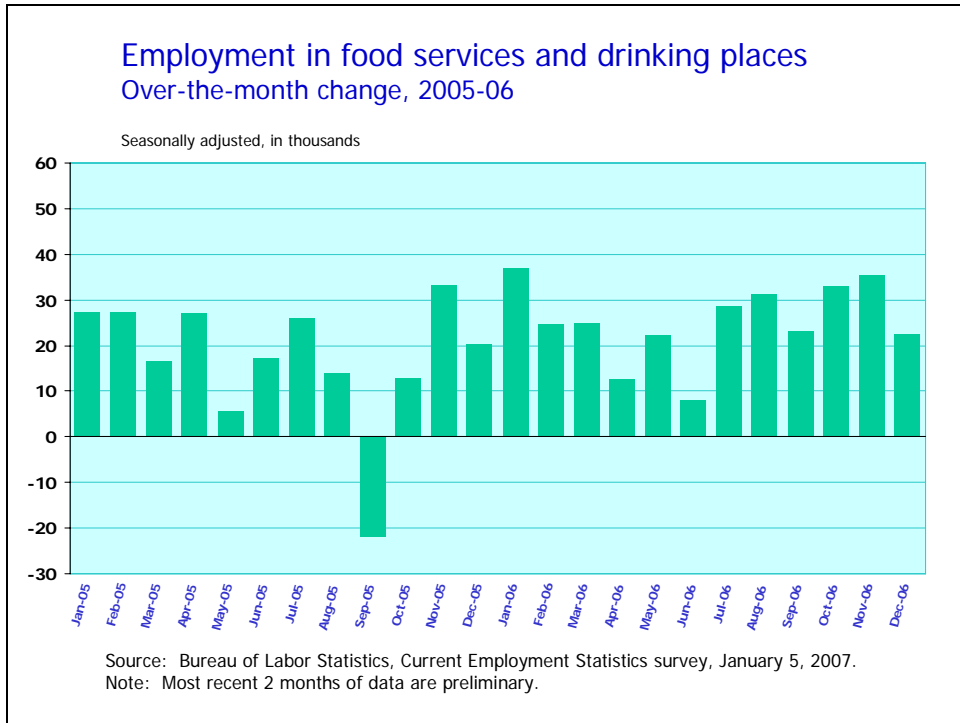


### Employment in health care Over-the-month change, December 2006



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, January 5, 2007.  
Note: Data are preliminary.

- In December, health care continued to add jobs (31,000); health care added 324,000 jobs in 2006, with those gains widespread throughout the component industries.



- Food services and drinking places employment increased by 23,000 in December. Over the year, this industry added 304,000 jobs, or an average of about 25,000 jobs per month, and accounted for most of the growth in leisure and hospitality employment.