Current Employment Statistics Highlights

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July 2019

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Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 164,000 in July. Employment rose in professional and technical services, health care, social assistance, and financial activities.

The employment change for June decreased from +224,000 to +193,000, and the change for May decreased from +72,000 to +62,000. Including these revised data, job growth in 2019 has averaged 165,000 per month, compared to 223,000 per month in 2018.

Average hourly earnings rose by 8 cents or 0.3 percent in July. Over the year, hourly earnings have increased by 3.2 percent. In July, average weekly hours decreased by 0.1 hour to 34.3 hours. The workweek is down 0.2 hour since December.

**+66,000 Education and Health Services**

Employment rose by 30,000 in health care. Ambulatory care services accounted for essentially all of the jobs gained, led by home health care services with an 11,000 increase. Over the year, health care providers have added 405,000 jobs, and ambulatory care services accounted for about two-thirds of the increase.

Social assistance also added jobs in July (+20,000). This industry has added 143,000 jobs over the year, with individual and family services (+99,000) and child day care (+42,000) accounting for essentially all of the job gains over the period.

**+38,000 Professional and Business Services**

Professional and technical services continued to add jobs in July (+31,000). Over the past 12 months, this industry has added 300,000 payroll jobs. Computer systems
design and related services accounted for 11,000 of the job gain in July and 96,000 over the year.

Over the month, employment was essentially flat in administrative and waste services (+6,000) and management of companies and enterprises (+1,000).

**+18,000 Financial Activities**
Within financial activities, insurance carriers and related activities added 11,000 jobs in July.

**+16,000 Manufacturing**
Manufacturing employment changed little in July (+16,000). Motor vehicles and parts added 7,000 jobs over the month, but employment in the industry has shown zero net change thus far in 2019, after increasing by an average 2,000 per month in 2018.

**-5,000 Mining and Logging**
Mining employment declined by 5,000 in July and, on net, has demonstrated little change in 2019 (-1,000) after rising by 63,000 in 2018.
Employment in mining decreased by 5,000 in July. So far in 2019, mining employment has changed little (-1,000). The July job loss in mining is reflected by the price of West Texas Intermediate, which fell by 17.3 percent over the month.
Construction employment was little changed in July (+4,000). So far in 2019, construction has added an average 15,000 jobs per month, largely by specialty trade contractors (+14,000). In 2018, construction had added an average 26,000 jobs per month.
Manufacturing employment changed little in July (+16,000). Manufacturing has added an average of 8,000 jobs per month so far in 2019, after adding 22,000 jobs per month in 2018.

The 1-month diffusion index edged down 0.6 point to 56.6 in July, demonstrating the degree of dispersion of job gains in the industry was similar to June.

Within durable goods, motor vehicles and parts added 7,000 jobs. Despite the employment gain in July, motor vehicles and parts has shown no net job change so far in 2019, after adding an average 2,000 jobs per month in 2018.

Average weekly hours of all employees in manufacturing dropped by 0.3 hour to 40.4 hours in July. The manufacturing workweek has decreased by 0.6 hour since reaching a peak in August 2018. The average workweek of production employees ticked down by 0.1 hour to 41.5 hours in July, which is 0.9 hour lower than the last peak in April 2018.
Employment in wholesale trade changed little in July (+7,000). The industry has added 91,000 jobs over the last 12 months, with durable goods accounting for 74 percent of those gains.
In July, employment in retail trade changed little (-4,000). Since reaching a peak in January 2017, industry employment has declined by 176,000 or 1.1 percent.

Over the month, employment in electronics and appliance stores declined by 6,000.

Despite weak employment, retail-related economic indicators are mostly positive. Personal income rose by 0.4 percent in June, while retail sales grew by 0.4 percent. The Consumer Confidence Index increased by 9.2 percentage points in July.
Employment in transportation and warehousing was flat in July. Among the component industries, couriers and messengers added jobs (+7,000). This gain was offset by a decline in transit and ground passenger transportation (-8,000). Other components experienced small, offsetting movements.
Employment in utilities changed little from June to July and has remained essentially unchanged in 2019.

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Information employment changed little in July (-10,000). Telecommunications lost 5,000 jobs over the month. Employment in other component industries was flat.

Information employment also changed little over the year (-13,000). During this period, telecommunications lost 38,000 jobs, while other information services—such as news syndicates, libraries and archives, and web search portals—added 26,000 jobs.
Financial activities added 18,000 jobs in July. So far this year, the industry has added 62,000 jobs. In July, insurance carriers and related activities added 11,000 jobs, while employment in most other component industries changed little.
Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in July (+38,000). So far this year, this industry has added an average of 33,000 jobs per month, compared to 47,000 per month in 2018.

Professional and technical services accounted for 78 percent (+179,000) of the jobs added in professional and business services in 2019. Administrative and waste services has added 32,000 in 2019, reflecting an annualized growth rate of 0.6 percent, and slowing from 2.2 percent in 2018.

In July, professional and technical services added 31,000 jobs, with computer systems design and related services adding 11,000 jobs.

Employment in management of companies and enterprises (+1,000) and administrative and waste services (+6,000) was flat over the month.
Health care added 30,000 jobs in July, in line with its prior-12 month average over-the-month change (+33,000). Employment increased in ambulatory health care services (+29,000), led by home health care services (+11,000).

Employment in social assistance rose by 20,000 in July, with the increase coming in individual and family services (+13,000). Over the year, social assistance has added 143,000 jobs, with individual and family services accounting for 70 percent of the increase.
Employment in leisure and hospitality changed little in July (+10,000).

Employment in the industry has not changed significantly in the last 6 months (+69,000), but had increased by 269,000 jobs in the preceding 6-month period.
Employment in other services changed little in July (+8,000). Over the most recent 12 months, the industry has added 102,000 jobs. Over this time, the largest job gain (+41,000) came in membership associations and organizations.
Government employment changed little in July (+16,000). Over the last 12 months, government employment has increased by 84,000. Local government, excluding education accounted for three-fourths of the increase.

Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.
* denotes significance