Current Employment Statistics Highlights

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Current Employment Statistics Summary, June 2021

Payroll employment rose by 850,000 in June, marking a recovery of 15.6 million jobs, or 70 percent, of 22.4 million jobs lost in March and April of 2020. Over the month, job growth was widespread, including gains in leisure and hospitality, public and private education, professional and business services, retail trade, and other services.

The employment change for April revised down from +278,000 to +269,000, and the change for May revised up from +559,000 to +583,000. On net, employment over April and May is 15,000 higher than previously reported.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls increased by 10 cents, or 0.3 percent, in June. Over the year, hourly earnings have increased by 3.6 percent. In June, average weekly hours fell 0.1 hour to 34.7 hours.

+343,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Leisure and hospitality added 343,000 jobs in June, with food services and drinking places (+194,000) accounting for most of the growth. Accommodation (+75,000) and arts, entertainment, and recreation (+74,000) also added jobs over the month. Employment in leisure and hospitality has risen by 6.0 million since April 2020, but it is 2.2 million lower than in February 2020.

+188,000 Government

Within government, job losses in local government, excluding education, (-32,000) and in the Federal government (-5,000) were more than offset by gains in public education.
Local government education (+155,000) and state government education (+75,000) added jobs in June. Since early 2020, staffing fluctuations due to the pandemic, partially reflecting the return to in-person learning and other school-related activities, have distorted the normal seasonal buildup and layoff patterns, likely contributed to the job gains in June after seasonal adjustment. Government employment is 995,000 lower than its employment peak in February 2020.

**+72,000 Professional and Business Services**

Professional and technical services added 34,000 jobs in June, including gains in advertising and related services (+8,000), in scientific research and development services (+7,000) and in legal services (+6,000). Within administrative and waste services, temporary help services also added jobs over the month (+33,000). Employment in professional and business services has risen by 1.8 million since falling by 2.4 million in March and April 2020.

**+67,000 Retail Trade**

Employment in retail trade increased by 67,000 in June. Job gains in clothing and clothing accessories stores (+28,000), general merchandise stores (+25,000), miscellaneous store retailers (+13,000), motor vehicle and parts dealers (+9,000), sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores (+7,000), and gasoline stations (+5,000) were slightly offset by job losses in food and beverage stores (-13,000) and health and personal care stores (-7,000). Although retail employment has trended up since April 2020, it is 303,000 lower than in February 2020.

**+59,000 Education and Health Services**

Private educational services added 39,000 jobs, after seasonal adjustment, as private schools laid off fewer employees than normal,
following a school year that brought on fewer employees than usual. Employment in social assistance continued to trend up over the month (+32,000), with child day care services (+25,000) accounting for most of the increase. Health care employment changed little over the month (-12,000), as nursing and residential care facilities lost 10,000 jobs. Education and health services has recovered 1.8 million jobs since losing 2.8 million jobs in March and April 2020.

**+56,000 Other Services**

Employment in other services grew by 56,000 in June. Personal and laundry services (+29,000) and membership associations and organizations (+18,000) added jobs over the month. Other services has recovered 1.1 million of 1.4 million jobs lost in March and April 2020.

**+21,000 Wholesale Trade**

Wholesale trade added 21,000 jobs over the month. Job growth came in durable goods (+14,000) and nondurable goods (+9,000). Although wholesale trade has recovered 217,000 jobs since April 2020, employment is 198,000 below its January 2020 peak.

**+15,000 Manufacturing**

Durable goods manufacturing added 18,000 jobs in June. Over the month, furniture and related products (+9,000), fabricated metal products (+6,000), primary metals (+3,000) and miscellaneous durable goods (+3,000) added jobs. Motor vehicles and parts lost 12,000 jobs in June. Manufacturing has recovered 904,000 of 1.4 million jobs lost in March and April 2020.

**+12,000 Mining and Logging**

Mining employment rose by 10,000 in June, mostly in support activities for mining (+10,000). Mining has added 41,000 jobs since a recent low in August 2020.

**+11,000 Transportation and Warehousing**

Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in June. Within the industry, a job loss in couriers and messengers (-24,000) was more than offset by job gains in warehousing and storage (+14,000), air transportation (+8,000), and scenic and sightseeing transportation (+3,000). Transportation and warehousing has recovered all but 94,000 jobs lost between March and April 2020.

**-7,000 Construction**

Employment in construction changed little in June (-7,000) but has fallen by 38,000 over the past 3 months. June job gains in residential specialty trade contractors (+13,000) were more than offset by losses in nonresidential specialty trade contractors (-15,000). Heavy and civil engineering construction also lost jobs over the month (-10,000). Employment in construction is 238,000 lower than in February 2020.
Employment in mining increased by 10,000 in June, due to a gain in support activities for mining (+10,000). Mining has added 35,000 jobs over the last 6 months. Employment in logging increased by 2,000 in June.

Recent strength in mining employment has coincided with an increase in the count of North American rotary rigs and an increase in the average weekly price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil.
Construction employment was essentially unchanged in June (-7,000) and has fallen by 38,000 over the last 3 months. Employment in construction is 238,000 below its February 2020 level.

In June, nonresidential specialty trade contractors lost 15,000 jobs for the second consecutive month. The loss in June was partially offset by a gain of 13,000 in residential specialty trade contractors. Heavy and civil engineering construction shed 11,000 jobs over the month.

Weakness in construction employment in June follows declines in residential building permits and new home sales in May.
Manufacturing employment changed little in June (+15,000). Motor vehicles and parts lost 12,000 jobs after adding 23,000 in May. Since March 2021, the industry has lost a net 31,000 jobs.

The manufacturing 1-month diffusion index declined by 1.3 points to 62.0. Despite the decline, a number above 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries added jobs than lost jobs.

In June, average hourly earnings for all employees in manufacturing increased by 13 cents to $29.66. Average hourly earnings of production workers increased by 15 cents to $23.75.

Average weekly hours of all employees in June decreased 0.2 hour to 40.2 hours. The average workweek of production workers decreased 0.2 hour to 41.3 hours.
Wholesale trade employment grew by 21,000 in June, with durable goods and nondurable goods adding 14,000 and 9,000 jobs, respectively. Since reaching a low point in April 2020, employment in wholesale trade has increased by 217,000, but is 198,000 below its recent high in January 2020.
In June, employment in retail trade rose by 67,000, and has increased by 147,000 over the past 6 months. However, since February 2020, industry employment is down by 303,000.

Job gains were pervasive in June, led by clothing and clothing accessories stores (+28,000), general merchandise stores (+25,000), and miscellaneous store retailers (+13,000). These gains were partially offset by job losses in food and beverage stores (-13,000), and in health and personal care stores (-7,000).

Retail-related economic indicators are mixed. Retail Sales and Light Weight Vehicle Sales both declined in May, and the per gallon price of regular gasoline increased in June. Conversely, the Consumer Confidence Index increased in June.
Employment in transportation and warehousing edged up in June (+11,000), although it is 94,000 below the February 2020 level.

In June, a job loss in couriers and messengers (-24,000) was more than offset by gains in warehousing and storage (+14,000), air transportation (+8,000), and trucking (+6,000). Employment in air transportation is 83,000 below its February 2020 level, amid news reports of flight cancellations and airline worker shortages.

Despite the June loss, couriers and messengers has added 117,000 jobs since February 2020, an average of 7,000 jobs added per month. Warehousing and storage has added 101,000 jobs over the same period, an average of 6,000 added per month.
Utilities employment was unchanged in June. Since April 2018, employment has fallen by 18,000.
Employment in information changed little in June (+14,000) and is 178,000—or 6.1 percent—below its February 2020 level.

In June, data processing, hosting and related services added 13,000 jobs.
In June, employment in financial activities changed little (-1,000). The industry has recovered 204,000 of 279,000 jobs lost in March and April 2020.

In June, weakness in financial activities was driven by a job loss in commercial banking (-4,000).
Professional and Business Services

Professional and business services added 72,000 jobs in June; however, employment is 633,000 below its level in February 2020.

In June, Professional and technical services added 34,000 jobs. Employment gains occurred in advertising and related services (+8,000), in scientific research and development services (+7,000), and in legal services (+6,000).

In June, administrative and waste services added 40,000 jobs, with temporary help services accounting for 33,000 of the gain.
In June, employment in private education and health services increased by 59,000, with educational services accounting for 39,000 of the gain. Within health care, nursing and residential care facilities lost 10,000 jobs over the month. Private education and health services has added a net 1.8 million jobs since April 2020, but employment is 1.0 million lower than in February 2020.

Within social assistance, child day care services added 25,000 jobs in June and has recovered 258,000 of 373,000 jobs lost in March and April 2020.
Leisure and hospitality added 343,000 jobs in June as consumer confidence grew substantially. Although the industry has added 6.0 million jobs since April 2020, employment is 2.2 million below its February 2020 level.

Average hourly earnings for nonsupervisory workers in leisure and hospitality rose by 37 cents to $16.21 in June.

In June, food services and drinking places added 194,000 jobs and has recovered 4.7 million of 6.0 million jobs lost in March and April 2020. The June employment gain follows an increase in restaurant sales in May to pre-pandemic levels.

Accommodation (+75,000) and arts, entertainment, and recreation (+74,000) also added jobs in June.
Employment in other services grew in June (+56,000). The industry has recovered 1.1 million of 1.4 million jobs lost in March and April 2020.

In June, employment gains occurred in personal and laundry services (+29,000) and membership associations and organizations (+18,000).
Government employment increased by 188,000 in June. Jobs gains in local education (+155,000) and state education (+75,000) were partially offset by losses in local government, excluding education (-32,000) and in the Federal government (-5,000). Government employment is 995,000 lower than its February 2020 peak.