Construction experienced the largest decrease in employment, dropping 5.8 percent.

- In 2008, national private-sector employment declined by 0.7 percent, but average annual pay grew by 2.3 percent.

- Natural resources and mining experienced both the largest wage growth (7.5 percent) and employment growth (3.1 percent).

BLS
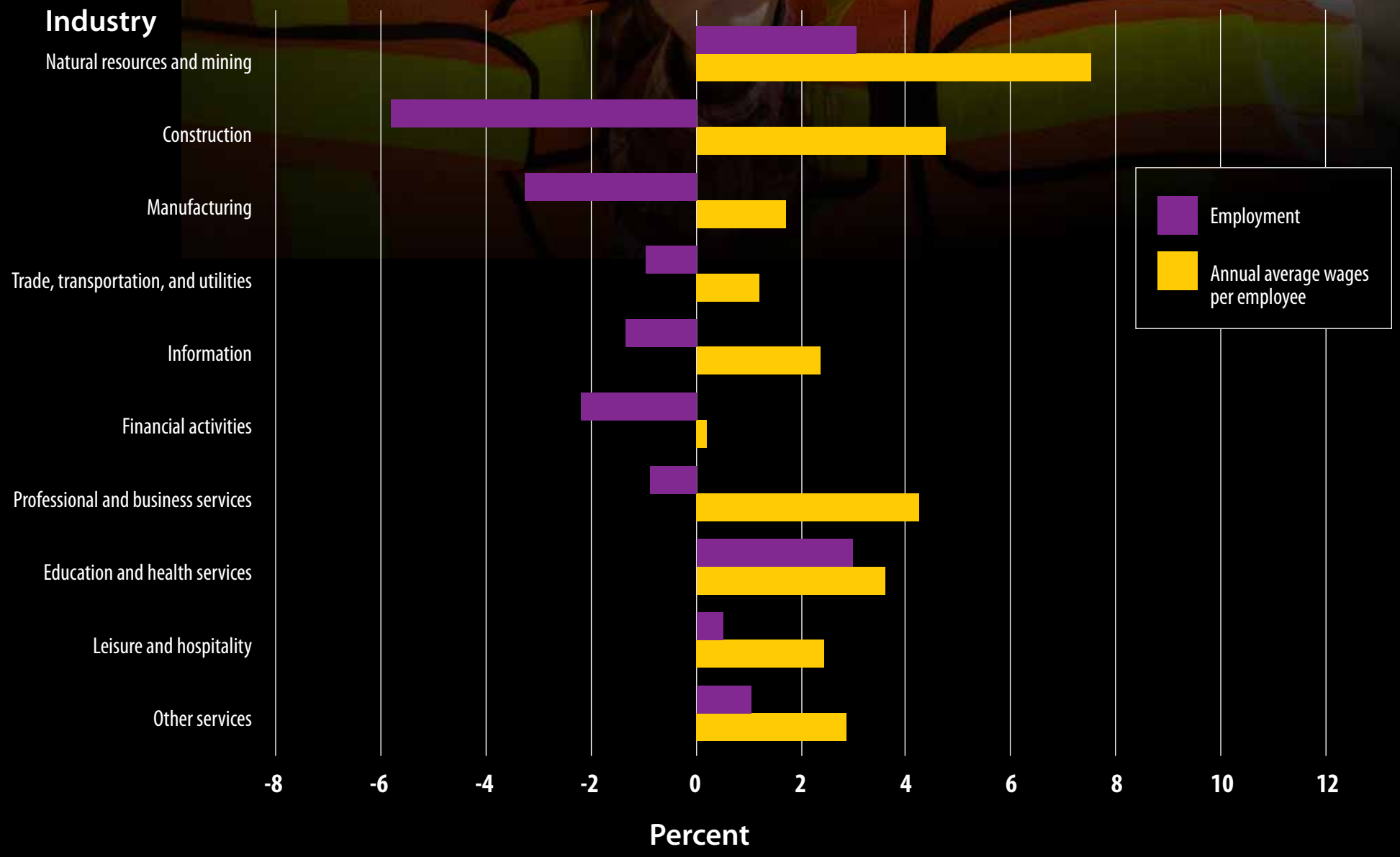
FIGURE 3 Percent change in annual average private-sector employment and wages by industry, 2007–2008