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

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

Industry
- Natural resources and mining
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Trade, transportation, and utilities
- Information
- Financial activities
- Professional and business services
- Education and health services
- Leisure and hospitality
- Other services

Percent
-8 -6 -4 -2 0 2 4 6 8 10 12

Employment
Annual average wages per employee