Chart 1-7. Nonfarm payroll employment has risen by 4.6 million since its recent low in August 2003

- Nonfarm payroll employment fell by about 2.7 million from the beginning of the recession in March 2001 to August 2003.

- Between August 2003 and December 2005, payroll employment increased by about 4.6 million, with large gains in construction, professional and business services, health care, and leisure and hospitality.