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Statement of

Keith Hall  
Commissioner  
Bureau of Labor Statistics

Friday, July 8, 2011

Nonfarm payroll employment was essentially unchanged in June (+18,000), and the unemployment rate, at 9.2 percent, also changed little. Over the past 2 months, job growth has slowed markedly. Employment rose by an average of 215,000 per month from February through April of this year, compared with an average of 22,000 for May and June.

Mining employment continued to expand in June, with a job gain in support activities for mining (+7,000). Employment in professional and technical services also continued to increase (+24,000). The industry has added 245,000 jobs since reaching a recent low in March 2010. Leisure and hospitality employment edged up over the month (+34,000).

Employment in manufacturing was flat in May and June, following 6 months of gains that totaled 164,000. Employment in temporary help services changed little in June and has shown

little net growth so far this year. Most other private-sector industries showed little or no change over the month.

Employment in government continued to trend down (-39,000) in June. Federal employment declined by 14,000. The number of jobs in both state government and local government continued to trend down over the month and has been falling since the second half of 2008.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls were down by 1 cent in June to \$22.99. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have risen by 1.9 percent. From May 2010 to May 2011, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased by 3.4 percent.

Turning now to measures from the household survey, the unemployment rate was 9.2 percent in June, and 14.1 million people were unemployed. Since March, the unemployment rate has risen by 0.4 percentage point, and the number of unemployed persons has increased by 545,000.

The employment-population ratio declined to 58.2 percent in June. Among the employed, the number of individuals working part time who preferred full-time work was essentially unchanged at 8.6 million.

The labor force participation rate was little changed, at 64.1 percent, in June. Among those outside the labor force--persons neither working nor looking for work--the number of

discouraged workers in June was 982,000, down from 1.2 million a year earlier. These individuals were not looking for work because they believed no jobs were available for them.

In summary, nonfarm payroll employment in June was essentially unchanged for the second consecutive month. The unemployment rate, at 9.2 percent, was 0.4 percentage point higher than in March.