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Current Employment Statistics Highlights

September 2017
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Prepared by Analysts of the National Estimates Branch
Current Employment Statistics Survey
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Email CES
Nonfarm payroll employment changed little in September (-33,000). Likely reflecting effects from Hurricanes Irma and Harvey, there was below-average job growth in several industries, with a particularly large decline in food services and drinking places. Over the 12 months ending in August, nonfarm employment had increased by an average 172,000 per month.

Employment, hours, and earnings data for September reflect ongoing job market trends along with effects of both Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Hurricane Irma in Florida. For more information on how these hurricanes may have affected CES national data, see https://www.bls.gov/ces/cesharveyirma.htm. CES estimates by state and area are scheduled for release on October 20, 2017.

The employment change for July was revised down from +189,000 to +138,000, and the change for August revised up from +156,000 to +169,000.

Average hourly earnings rose by 12 cents or 0.5 percent over the month, following a 4-cent gain in August. Hourly earnings were up 2.9 percent over the year. Average weekly hours were unchanged at 34.4 hours.

-111,000 Leisure and Hospitality
Employment in food services and drinking places, declined by 105,000 in September, reflecting, in large part, the effects from Hurricanes Irma and Harvey. This industry had added an average 24,000 jobs per month in the preceding 12 months.

+22,000 Transportation and Warehousing
Transportation and warehousing added 22,000 jobs in September. Employment
increased in couriers and messengers and air transportation.

**+27,000 Education and Health Services**
Employment in health care continued to trend up in ambulatory health care services (+25,000) and in hospitals (+5,000). Partly offsetting these increases, nursing care facilities lost 9,000 jobs over the month.

**+13,000 Professional and Business Services**
Employment changed little in professional and business services in September. Job growth had averaged 50,000 per month over the prior 12 months.

**+10,000 Financial Activities**
Employment continued to trend up in financial activities. An 11,000-job gain in insurance was partly offset by losses in activities related to credit intermediation (-4,000) and commercial banking (-3,000).

**+8,000 Construction**
Employment in construction changed little in September and has shown little net movement (+40,000) since February.

**-3,000 Retail Trade**
Employment in retail trade changed little in September. Since an employment peak in January, the industry has lost 107,000 jobs.

**-1,000 Manufacturing**
Manufacturing employment remained unchanged in September. Since reaching an employment trough in November, the industry had added an average of 14,000 jobs per month through August.

### Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, September 2017

#### Employment in total nonfarm

**Over-the-month change, September 2017**
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands


Data are preliminary.

* denotes significance
Employment in mining changed little (+2,000) in September. Since an employment trough in October 2016, the industry has added 64,000 jobs.
Construction employment changed little in September (+8,000) and has shown little net movement since February (+40,000).
Employment in manufacturing was flat in September (-1,000), after having increased by an average of 14,000 per month between November and August.

Employment in the component industries was mostly flat, with small offsetting movements. However, printing and related activities (-4,000) lost jobs in September.
Employment in wholesale trade changed little in September (+7,000). Over the year, the industry has added 55,000 jobs, with durable goods accounting for 35,000 of those gains.
In September, employment in retail trade was essentially unchanged (-3,000), with little movement among the component industries. Since reaching an employment peak in January 2017, retail trade has lost 107,000 jobs.
Employment in transportation and warehousing increased by 22,000 in September. The average over-the-month change in 2017 is 7,000.

Among the components, both air transportation (+3,000) and couriers and messengers (+4,000) added jobs. Employment in transit and ground passenger transportation edged up (+9,000).
In September, employment in utilities was unchanged.
Employment in information continued to trend down in September (-9,000). The majority of the weakness came in motion picture and sound recording industries. Since the most recent peak one year ago, information employment has trended down by 79,000.

Employment in information continued to trend down in September (-9,000). The majority of the weakness came in motion picture and sound recording industries. Since the most recent peak one year ago, information employment has trended down by 79,000.
Employment in financial activities continued to trend up in September (+10,000). This industry has added 149,000 jobs over the past 12 months.

September’s employment change was driven primarily by an increase of 11,000 in insurance carriers and related activities, likely reflecting response activities following the hurricanes.
Professional and business services employment came in below trend in September (+13,000).

All major component industries also fell below their respective prior-months’ averages. Professional and technical services employment edged up in September (+12,000), with widespread small changes throughout the industry. Employment in management of companies and enterprises (-4,000) and administrative and waste services (+5,000) remained relatively flat in September.

Professional and Business Services

Employment in Professional and business services
Over-the-month change, January 2014 - September 2017
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Employment in Professional and business services component industries
Over-the-month change and prior averages, September 2017
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands
Private education and health services employment continued to trend up in September (+27,000), with health care adding 23,000 jobs. Employment in ambulatory health care services increased by 25,000, led by offices of physicians (+9,000). Over the past year ambulatory health care services has added 224,000 jobs, with offices of physicians accounting for about 30 percent of that gain. Within nursing and residential care, nursing care facilities lost 9,000 jobs in September.
NAICS 700 – Leisure and hospitality

Leisure and hospitality employment declined by 111,000 jobs in September, following no employment change in August. Hurricanes affected large states with service-oriented economies, with many of these services provided by the leisure and hospitality industry. Many workers in this industry are paid hourly and are usually not paid while not at work.

NAICS 722 – Food services and drinking places

Food services and drinking places employment fell sharply in September (-105,000). Job losses were concentrated in full-service restaurants and in special food services. The Consumer Confidence Index declined marginally in September, but the report noted that consumer confidence in Texas and Florida fell considerably. Any weather-related impacts, as well as normal labor market trends, are reflected in the September employment estimate.
Employment in other services changed little in September (-5,000). However, this industry has added 53,000 jobs over the year, a change of 0.9 percent. Personal and laundry services accounted for 63 percent of the job gains over this period.
Government employment changed little in September (+7,000) and has been trending flat since late 2016. Employment in federal agencies has decreased by 5,000 over the past 12 months while state and local government employment has not changed significantly over the same period.