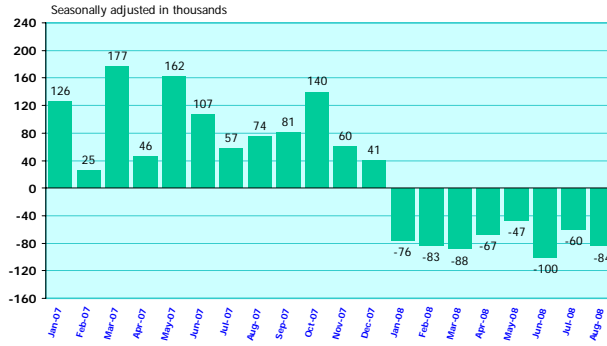




# **Current Employment Statistics Highlights August 2008**

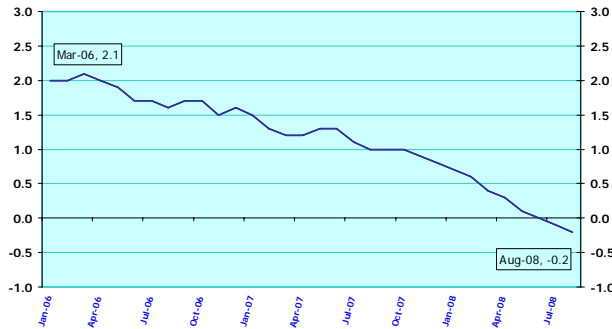
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
September 5, 2008

### Employment in total nonfarm Over-the-month change, 2007-08



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 5, 2008.  
Note: Most recent two months of data are preliminary.

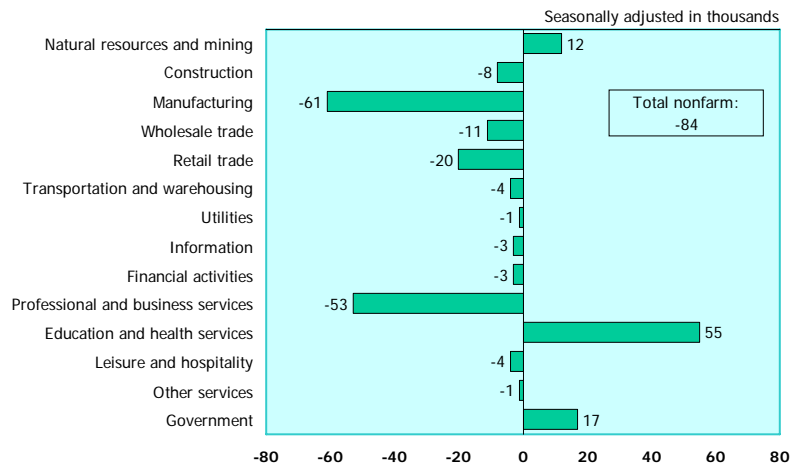
### Employment in total nonfarm Over-the-year percent changes, 2006-08



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 5, 2008.  
Note: Most recent two months of data are preliminary.

- Nonfarm payroll employment continued to trend down in August; 84,000 jobs were lost. Since peaking in December, nonfarm payroll employment has declined by 605,000, for an average monthly job loss of 76,000.
- In August, the 12-month percent change in payroll employment fell to -0.2 percent. This is in contrast to the over-the-year increase of 1.0 percent a year earlier.

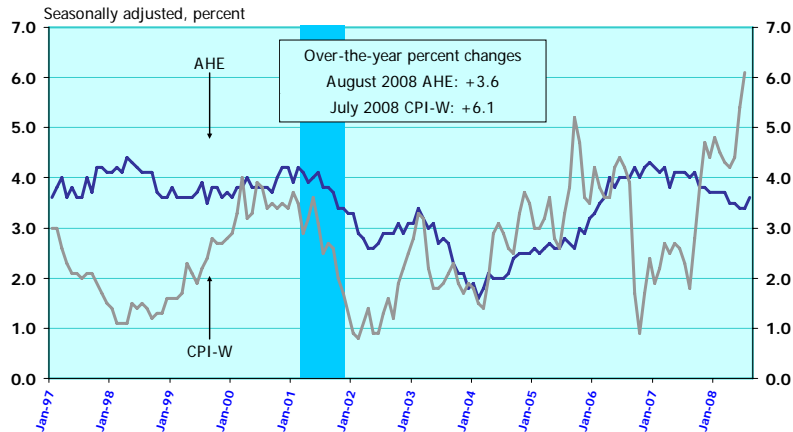
## Employment in total nonfarm Over-the-month change, August 2008



- In August, large job losses occurred in manufacturing and in professional and business services. Education and health care services and natural resources and mining continued to add jobs.

## Over-the-year percent changes in average hourly earnings and CPI-W (1982-84=100)

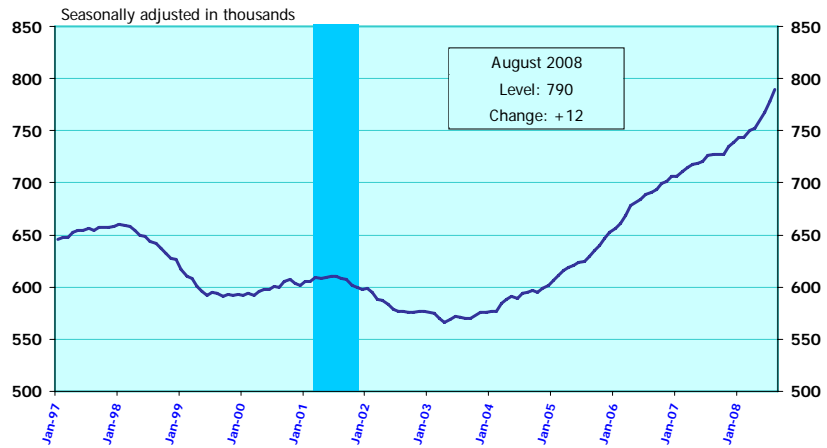
1997-2008



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Indexes program and Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 5, 2008.  
Notes: Shaded area denotes recession. Most recent two months of CES data are preliminary.

- Average hourly earnings for production and nonsupervisory workers in the private sector rose by 7 cents to \$18.14 in August; this amounts to a 0.4 percent increase.
- Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings rose by 3.6 percent. From July 2007 to July 2008 (the latest month available for prices), the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) rose 6.1 percent. The over-the-year percent change in the CPI-W has outpaced the over-the-year change in average hourly earnings since November 2007.

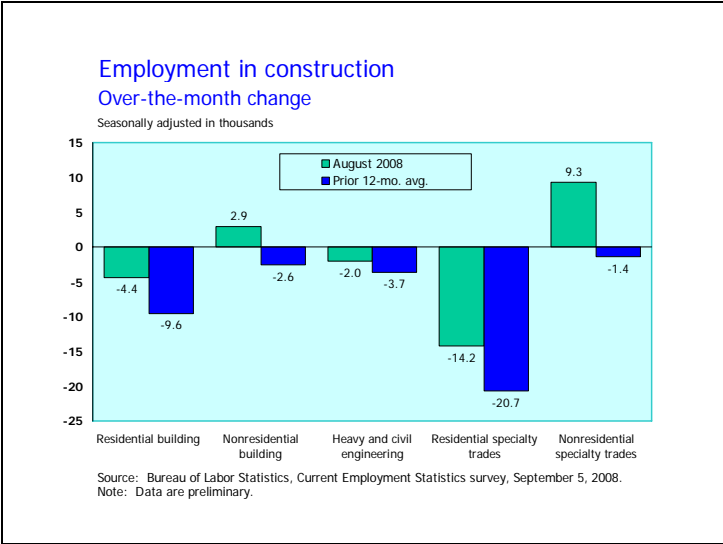
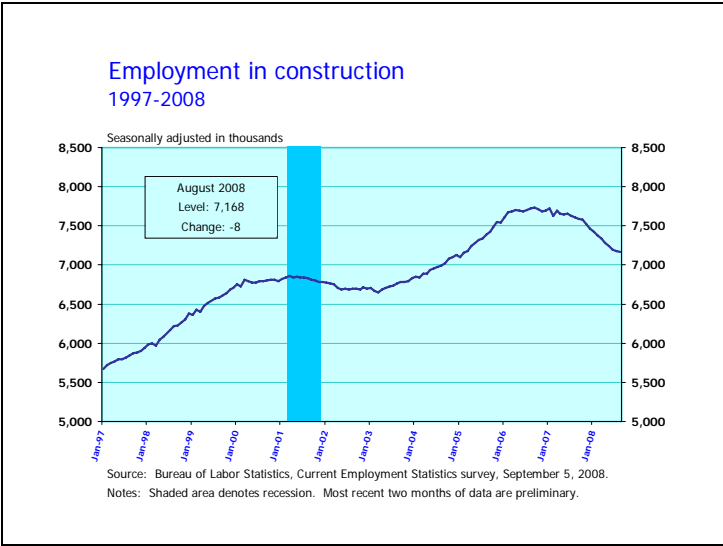
## Employment in natural resources and mining 1997-2008



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 5, 2008.

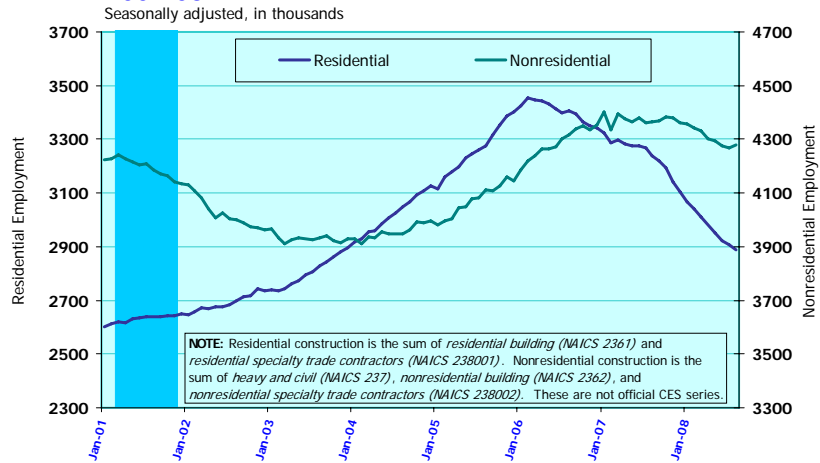
Notes: Shaded area denotes recession. Most recent two months of data are preliminary.

- Employment in natural resources and mining continued to expand in August, rising by 12,000 with increases in all component industries.
- Over the past 12 months, job growth has been especially strong in support activities for mining (39,000) and oil and gas extraction (17,000).



- Construction employment was essentially unchanged in August. Job losses in July and August averaged 14,000, compared with an average monthly loss of 45,000 during the first half of 2008.
- Construction has shed 564,000 jobs since employment peaked in September 2006, with over half the decline occurring in 2008.

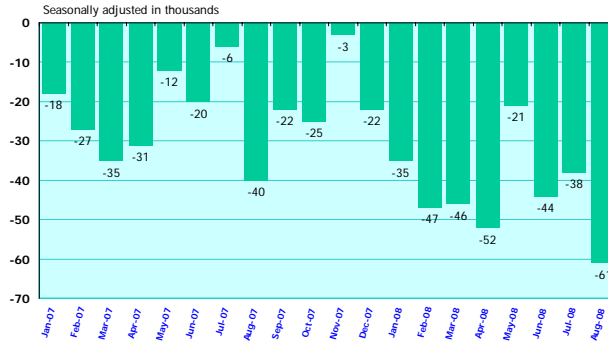
## Residential and nonresidential construction employment 2001-08



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 5, 2008.  
 Notes: Shaded area denotes recession. Most recent two months of data are preliminary.

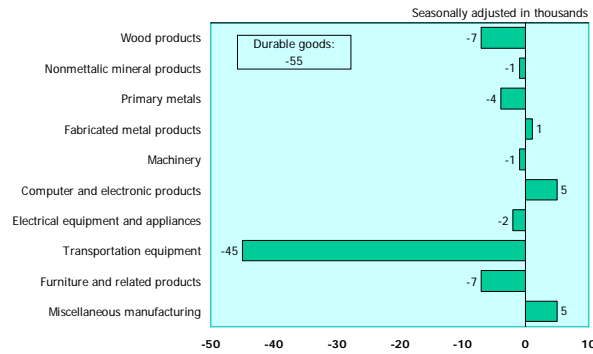
- In August, residential specialty contractors lost 14,000 jobs; since a peak in February 2006, employment in the industry has declined by 388,000.

**Employment in manufacturing**  
Over-the-month change, 2007-08



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 5, 2008.  
Note: Most recent two months of data are preliminary.

**Employment in durable goods manufacturing**  
Over-the-month change, August 2008



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 5, 2008.  
Note: Data are preliminary.

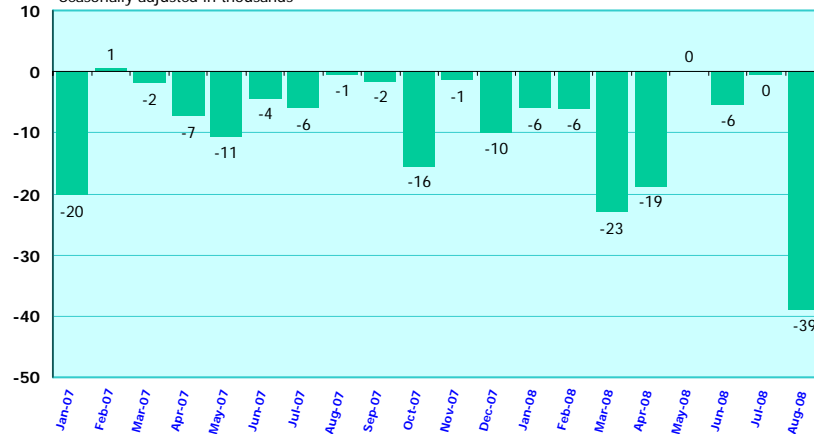
- Manufacturing employment fell by 61,000 in August. Job losses in the industry have accelerated in 2008, averaging 43,000 per month, compared to 22,000 jobs lost per month in 2007.
- Over-the-month job losses occurred in durable goods industries, with notable declines in transportation equipment (-45,000), as well as 2 industries related to home building--wood products (-7,000), and furniture and related products (-7,000). Computer and electronics products manufacturing added 5,000 jobs over the month.
- Both the manufacturing workweek and factory overtime declined by 0.1 hour.



## Employment in motor vehicles and parts

### Over-the-month change, 2007-08

Seasonally adjusted in thousands



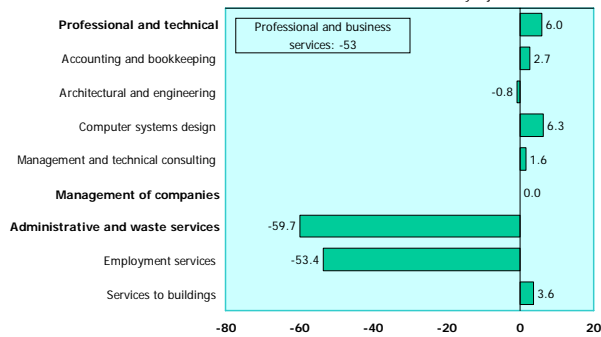
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 5, 2008.

Note: Most recent two months of data are preliminary.

- In August, motor vehicle and parts makers cut 39,000 jobs. This is the largest over-the-month employment decline in this industry since a strike-related job loss in 1998. Employment in the industry has declined by 128,000 in the past 12 months.

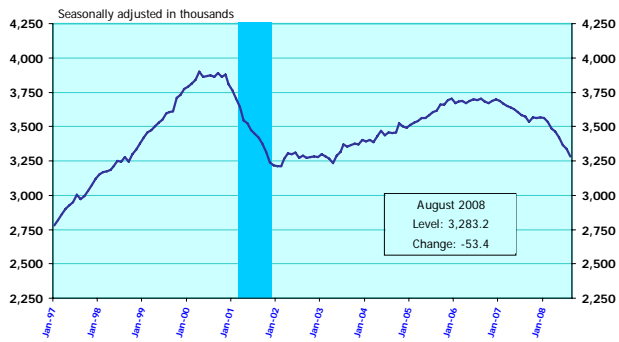
### Employment in selected professional and business services

Over-the-month change, August 2008



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 5, 2008.  
Note: Data are preliminary.

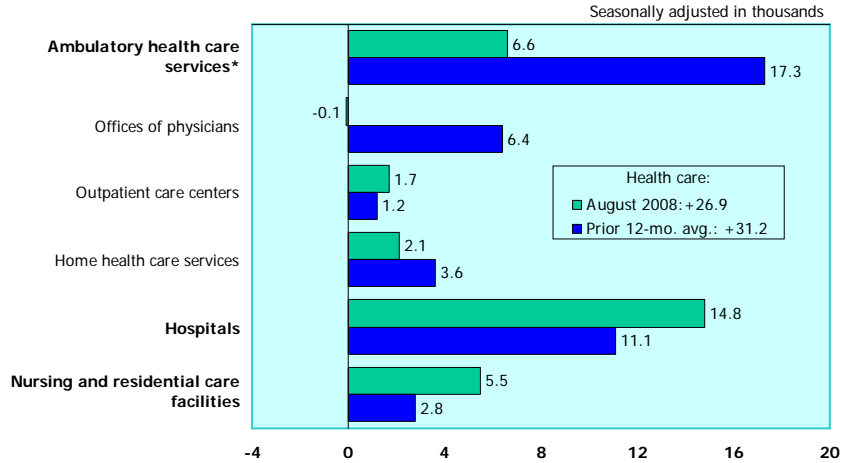
### Employment in employment services 1997-2008



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 5, 2008.  
Notes: Shaded area denotes recession. Most recent two months of data are preliminary.

- In August, professional and business services payrolls contracted by 53,000 jobs; mostly in the employment services industry. Within employment services, over two-thirds of job losses occurred in temporary help services. In the past 12 months, employment in temporary help services has decreased by 235,000.
- Employment in professional and technical services notched up in August by 6,000. Growth in the industry has decelerated substantially, with average monthly gains of 6,000 in 2008 compared to 27,000 per month in 2007.

## Employment in health care Over-the-month change, August 2008



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 5, 2008.

Note: Data are preliminary.

\* Includes additional component industries not shown separately.

- Employment in health care continued to grow, expanding by 27,000 in August. This industry has added 367,000 jobs over the past 12 months. More than half the gain in health care in August occurred in hospitals, which continued to show strength by adding 15,000 for the month.