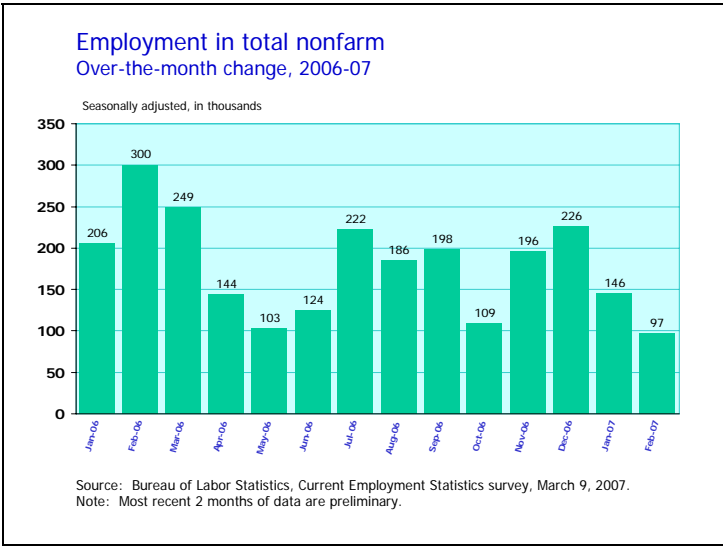
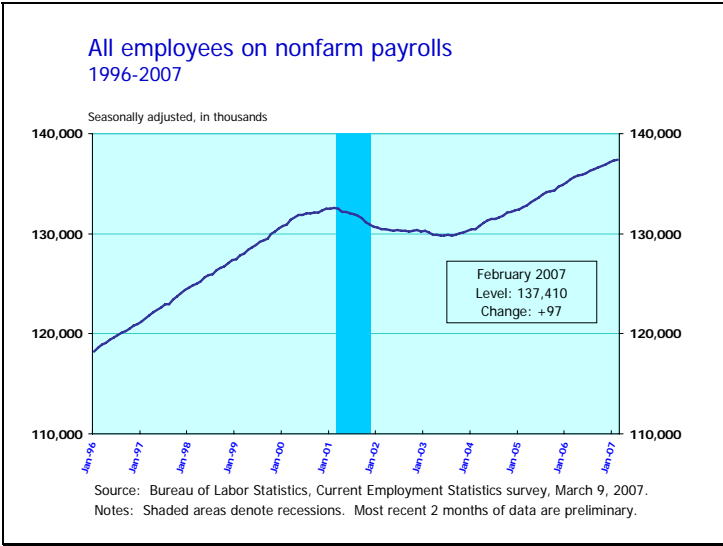




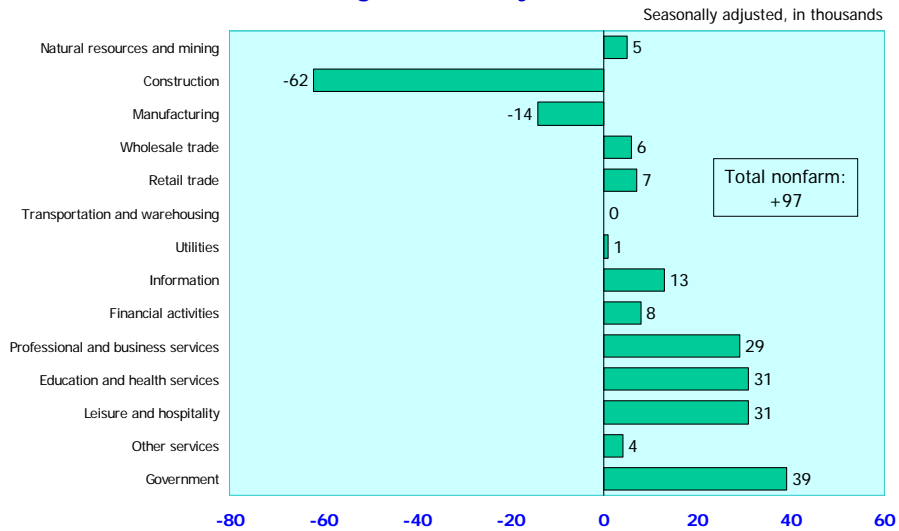
Current Employment Statistics
Highlights
February 2007

Bureau of Labor Statistics
March 9, 2007



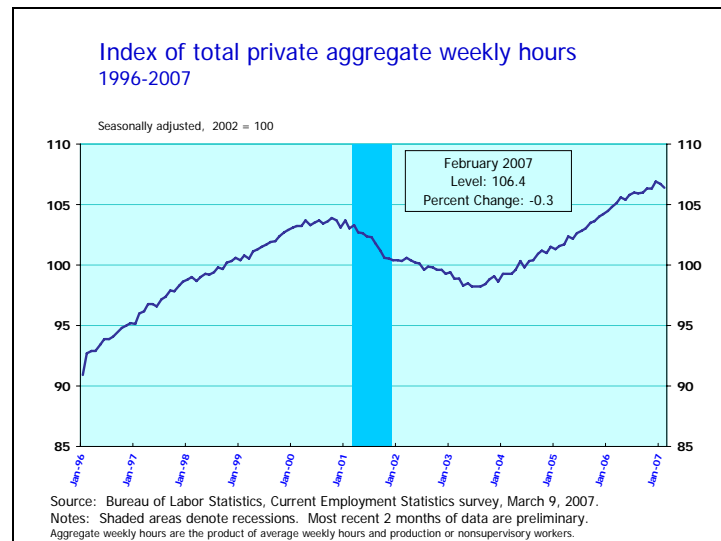
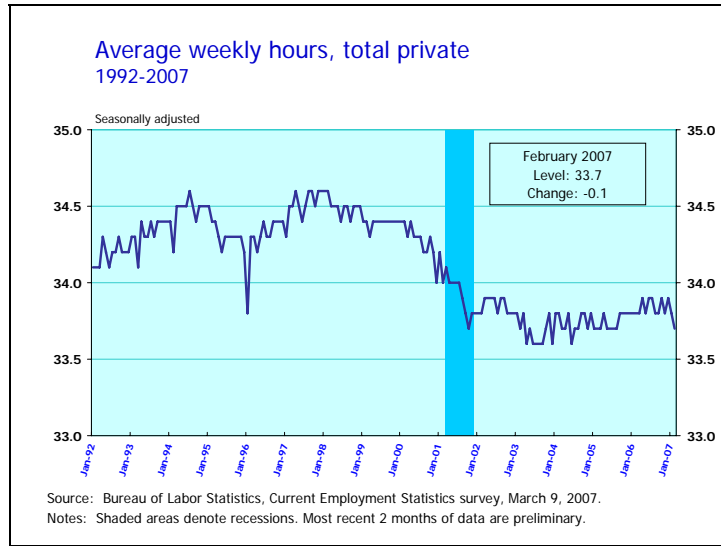
- Nonfarm payroll employment continued to trend up in February.
- The increase, however, was lower than the prior 12-month average.

Employment in total nonfarm and supersectors Over-the-month change, February 2007

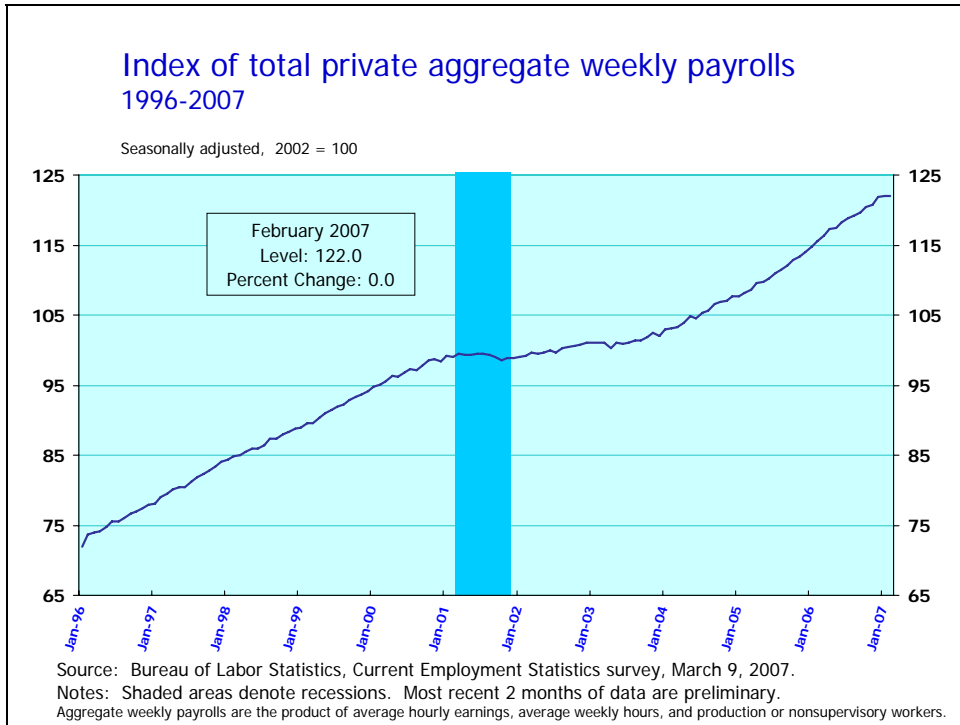


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 9, 2007.
Note: Data are preliminary.

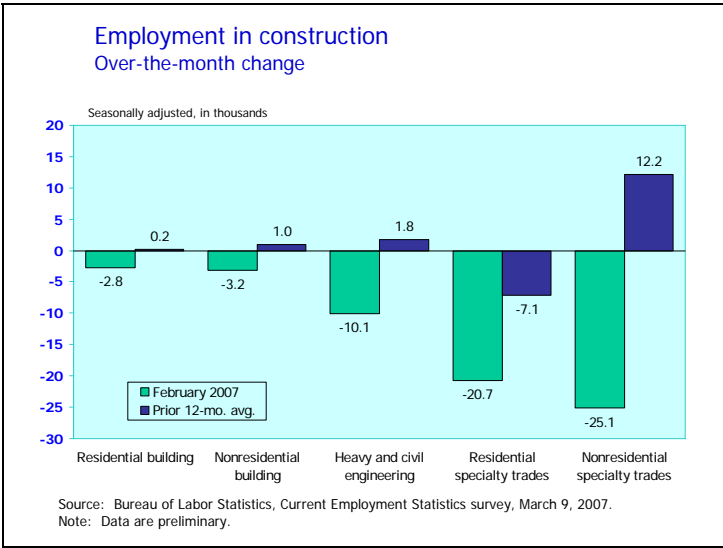
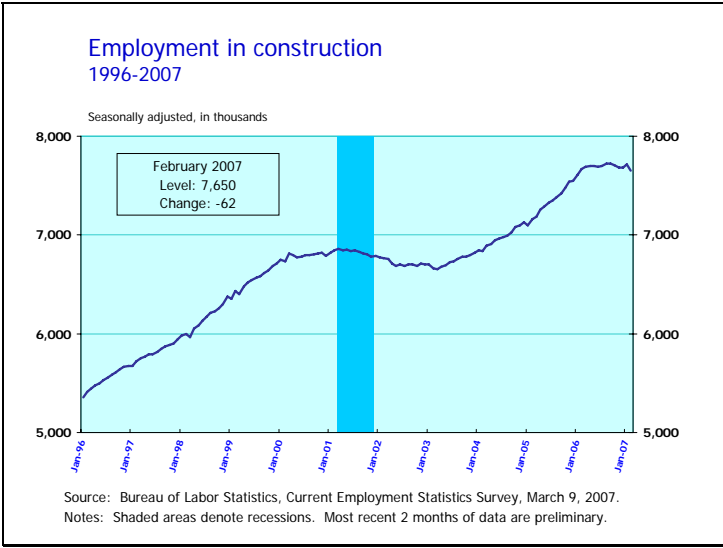
- Employment grew in several service-providing industries.
- The large decline in construction contrasted with its prior 12-month average growth of 8,000.
- Manufacturing employment continued to trend downward.



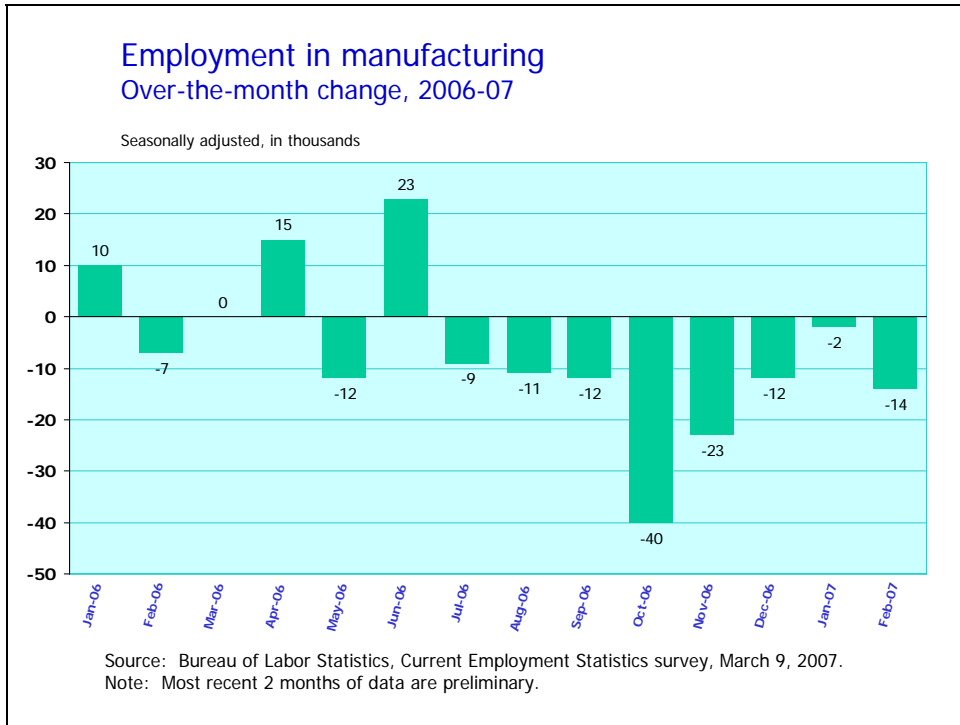
- The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls was at the lowest level since August 2005.
- Little change in production and nonsupervisory worker employment and a slight decline in average weekly hours resulted in a small decrease in aggregate hours.



- The 0.4 percent over-the-month increase in average hourly earnings of production and nonsupervisory workers slightly exceeded the prior 12-month average rate of increase.
- Flat production and nonsupervisory worker employment, a slight drop in hours, and an increase in average hourly earnings resulted in approximately no change in aggregate weekly payroll dollars.

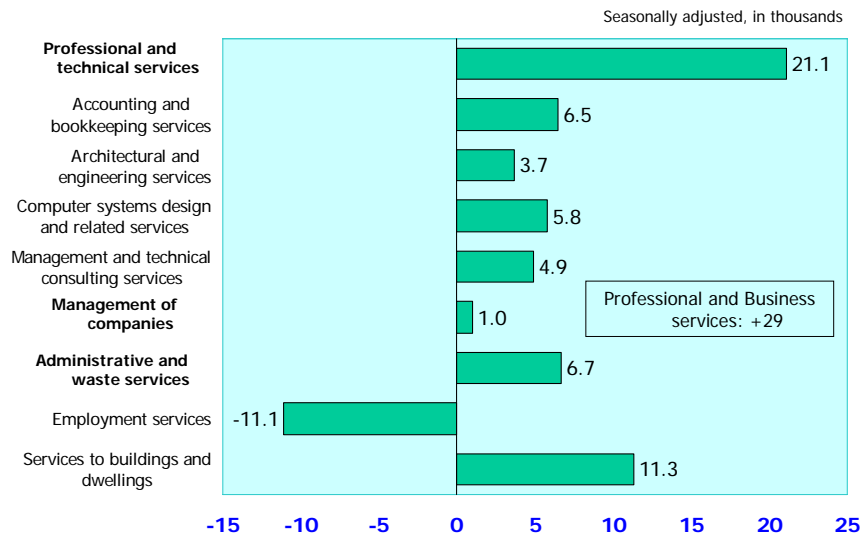


- Poor weather conditions in many parts of the country likely contributed to the February decline in construction.
- Construction has lost 75,000 jobs since its most recent peak of September 2006.
- Job losses occurred across the industry but were concentrated among specialty trade contractors (-46,000) and in heavy construction (-10,000).

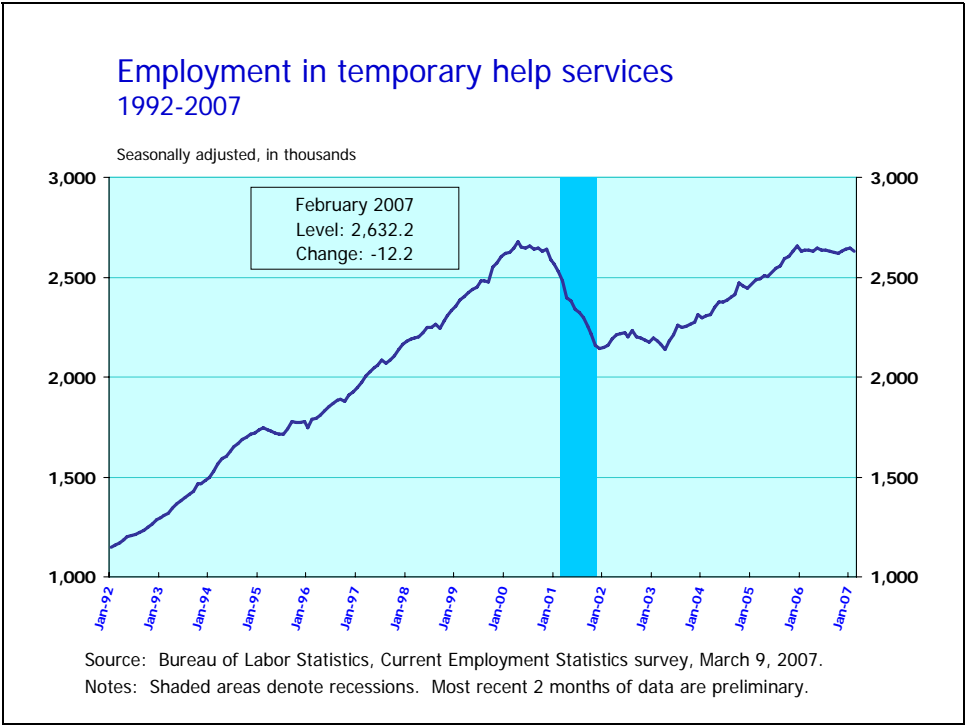


- Over the month, manufacturing employment declined by 14,000. Declines occurred in wood products (-4,000), semiconductors and electronic components (-3,000), and textile mills (-3,000).

Employment in selected professional and business services Over-the-month change, February 2007



- Professional and business services continued to trend up in February.
- Small gains occurred in most components.



- Employment in temporary help services was little changed over the month and, on net, over the year.