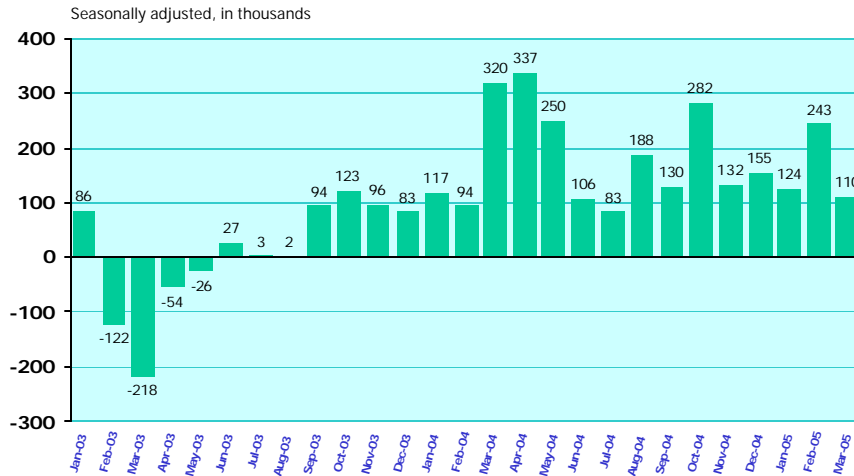




Current Employment Statistics
Highlights
March 2005

Bureau of Labor Statistics
April 1, 2005

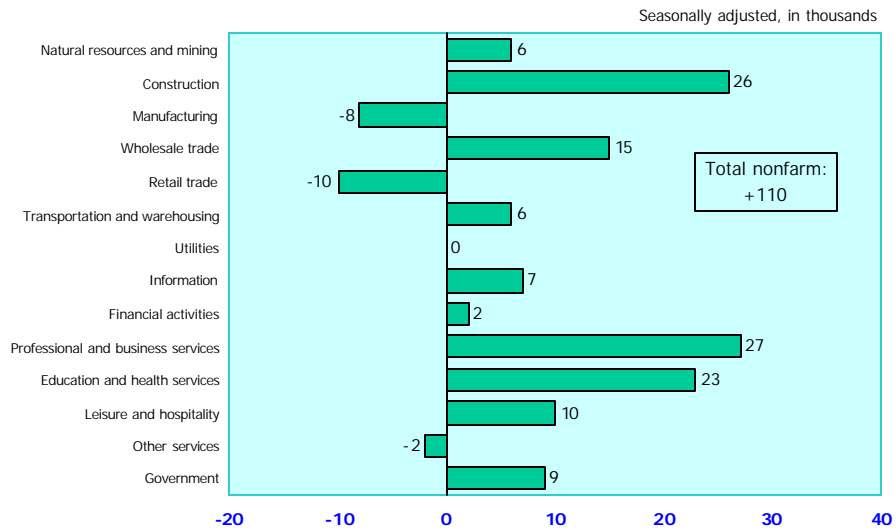
Employment in total nonfarm Over-the-month change, 2003-05



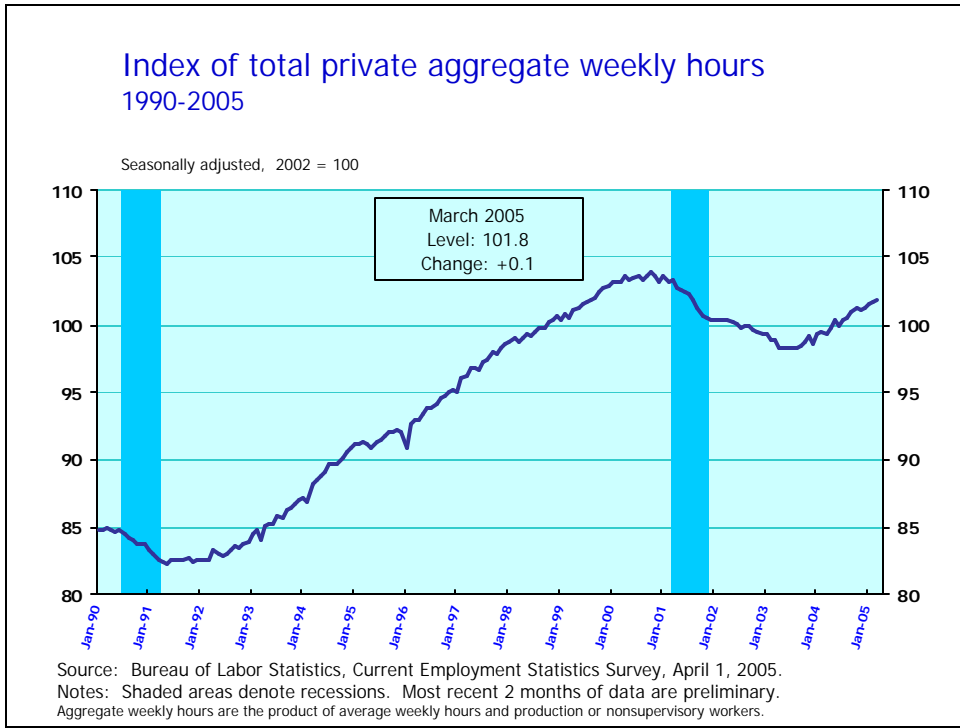
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, April 1, 2005.
Note: Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

- Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 110,000 in March. This followed a gain of 243,000 in February. Payroll employment rose by 2.1 million over the year and is up by 3.1 million since its most recent low point in May 2003.
- Average weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls were unchanged in March, remaining at 33.7 hours, seasonally adjusted. Since late 2002, the average workweek has fluctuated between 33.6 and 33.8 hours.
- Average hourly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 4 cents in March to \$15.95, seasonally adjusted. Average weekly earnings increased by 0.3 percent over the month to \$537.52. Over the year, average hourly and average weekly earnings each grew by 2.6 percent.

Employment in total nonfarm and supersectors Over-the-month change, March 2005

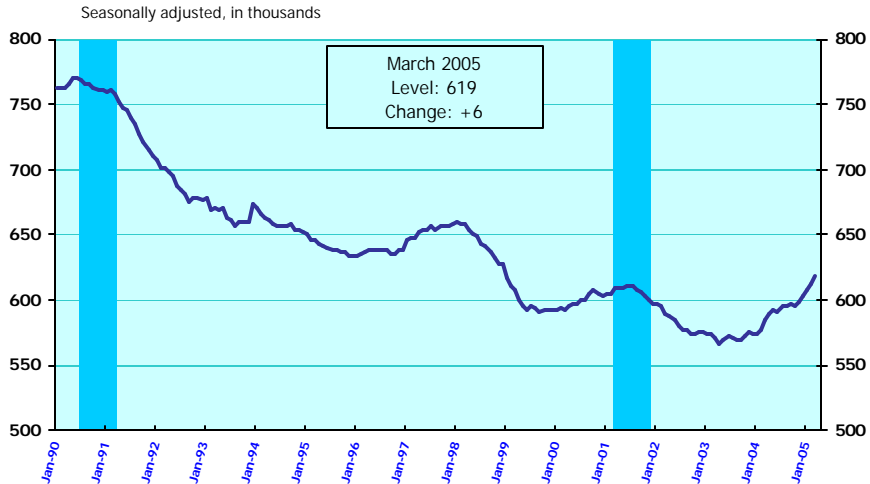


- Job growth in March was spread across several industries, with job gains in both service-providing and goods-producing industries.
- Construction, professional and business services, and education and health services all saw gains of over 20,000 jobs this month, while manufacturing, retail trade, and other services all experienced small changes.



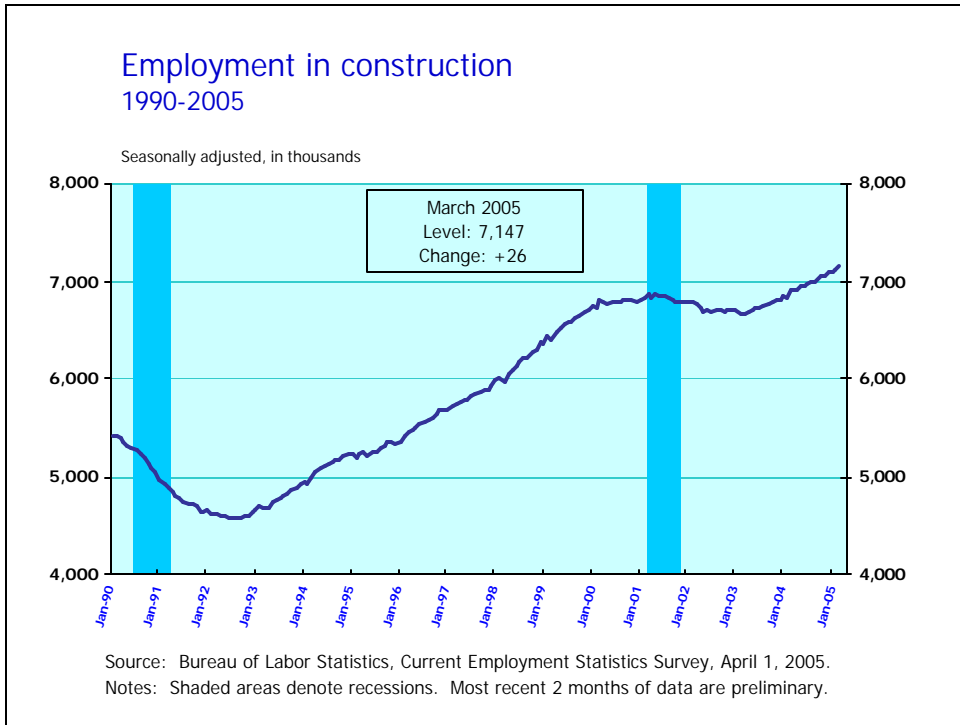
- The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.1 percent in March to 101.8, seasonally adjusted.
- Although the index of total private aggregate weekly hours has not fully recovered from its most recent downturn, it has been growing since the middle of 2003. This growth is attributable to increases in production worker employment, rather than increases in average weekly hours.

Employment in natural resources and mining 1990-2005

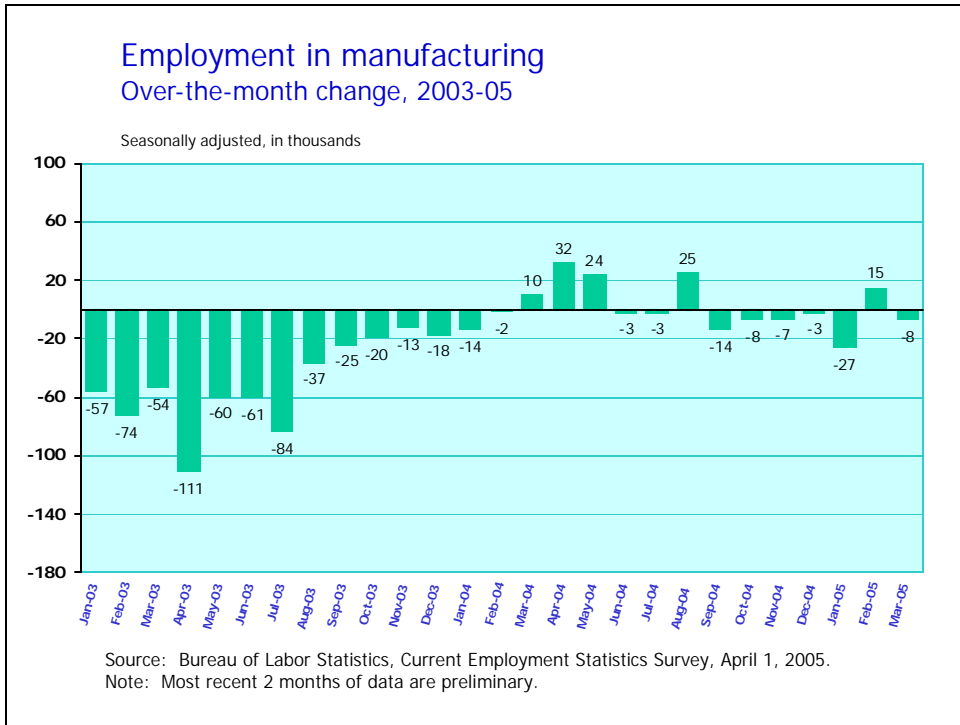


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, April 1, 2005.
Notes: Shaded areas denote recessions. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

- Natural resources and mining added 6,000 jobs in March.
- Mining, which accounts for nearly 90 percent of employment within the industry, added 5,000 jobs in March—its fifth consecutive month of employment growth.
- Mining has added just over 51,000 jobs since its most recent employment trough in April 2003 and has surpassed its June 2001 employment peak by nearly 14,000 jobs.
- A sustained period of high oil prices and increased world-wide demand for many commodities may help explain the recent growth within the industry.

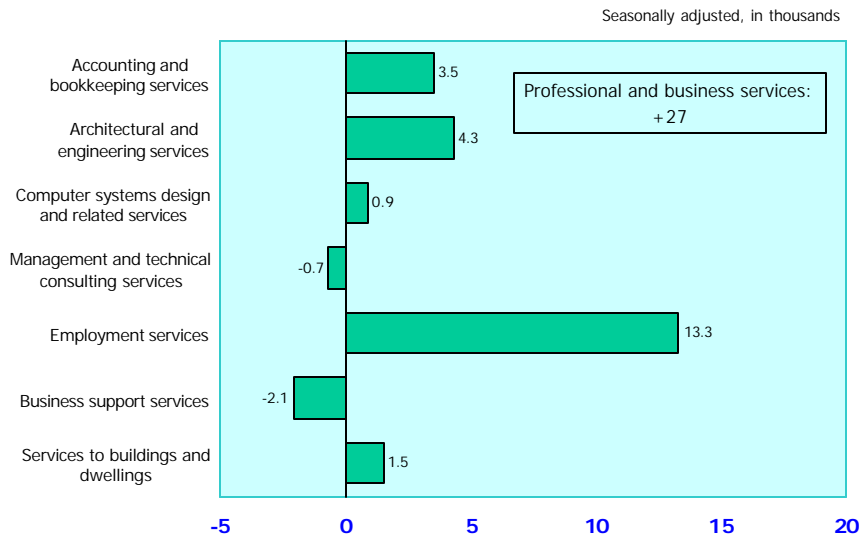


- Employment in construction increased by 26,000 in March, following a similar increase in February.
- Since its trough 2 years ago, this industry has added 489,000 jobs, and has surpassed its March 2001 employment peak by 283,000 jobs.
- Residential building and residential specialty trade contractors, which have been helped by a period of sustained low mortgage rates and strong demand for new housing and remodeling, accounted for 70 percent of this 2-year gain.

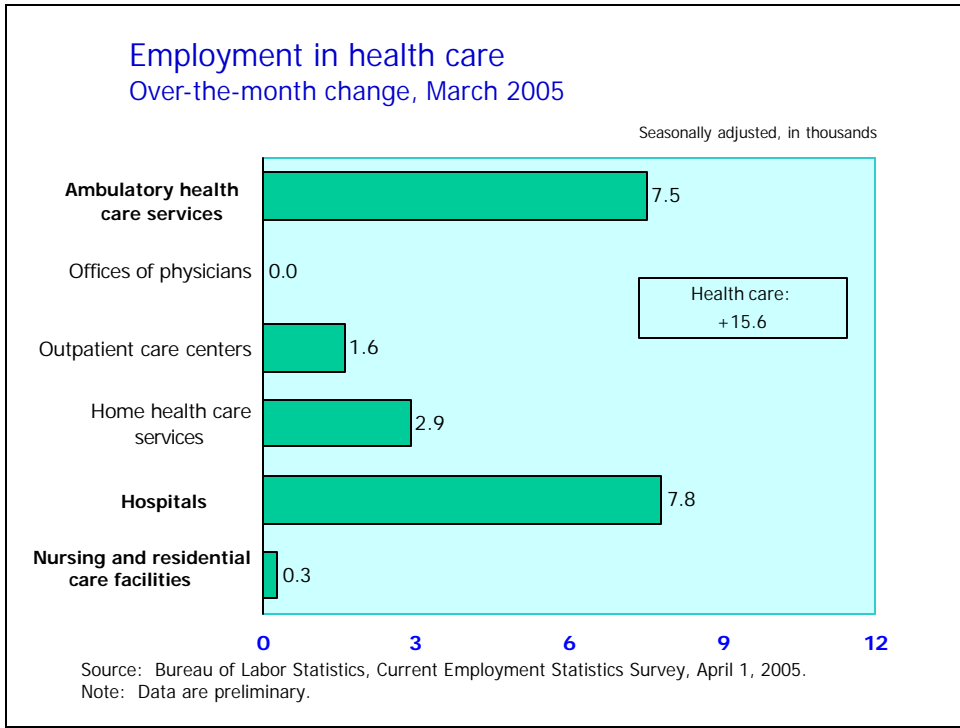


- Manufacturing employment changed little in March. Small job losses occurred in textile and apparel industries, continuing a protracted trend of job declines in these industries.
- From February through August 2004, manufacturing employment grew by 85,000. However, since last summer, the trend has been one of decline, and that gain has been cut substantially.
- The factory workweek declined by 0.1 hour in March to 40.5 hours. After reaching a low point in July 2003, the manufacturing workweek grew steadily, reaching 41.0 hours in January 2004. However, it has since fallen by one-half hour. Manufacturing overtime fell by 0.2 hour over the month to 4.4 hours

Employment in selected professional and business services Over-the-month change, March 2005



- Professional and business services continued to trend upward in March, adding 27,000 jobs, with almost half of this gain occurring within employment services.
- Employment in temporary help services was little changed in March after increasing by 26,000 in February. A job gain in professional employer organizations offset weakness in temporary help.
- Accounting and bookkeeping services and architectural and engineering services experienced small job increases in March, while business support services saw a small employment loss.



- Employment in health care continued to expand in March, with an increase of 16,000. This industry has exhibited impressive growth over the years, seeing only one over-the-month job loss since 1990. Over the year ending March 2005, this industry added 243,000 jobs, accounting for 12 percent of private payroll growth.
- Over the month, ambulatory health care services added about 7,500 jobs, but employment in offices of physicians was uncharacteristically flat. Hospitals added 7,800 jobs to payrolls.