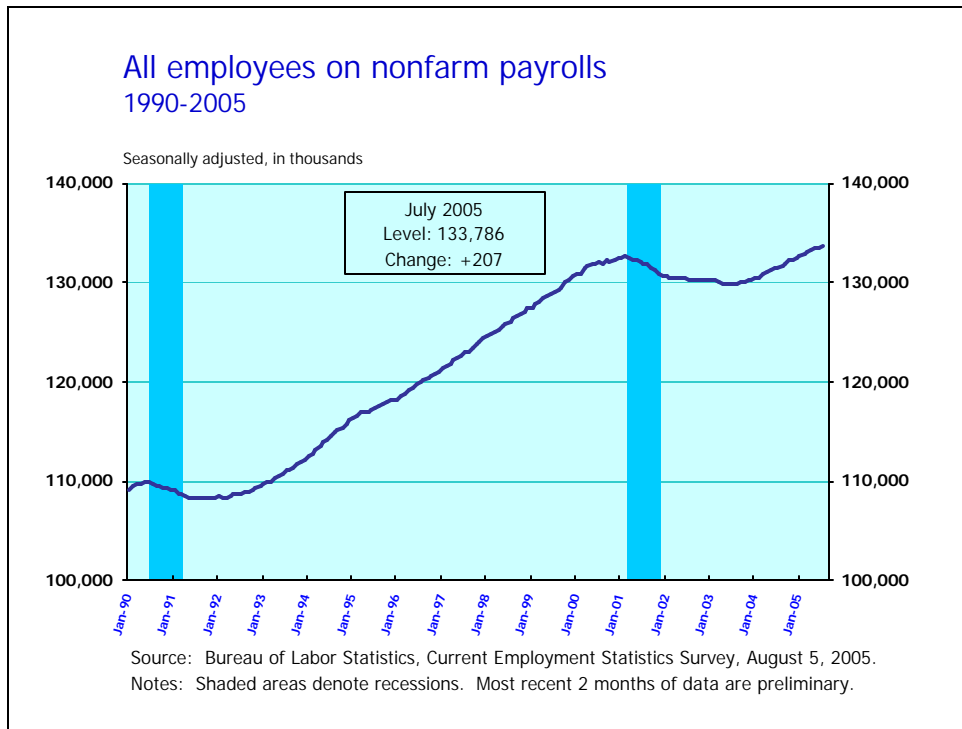




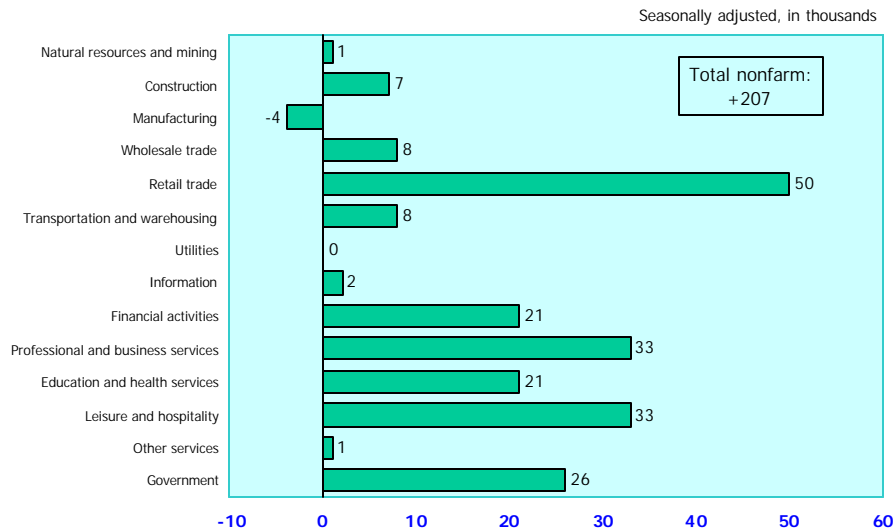
Current Employment Statistics Highlights July 2005

Bureau of Labor Statistics
August 5, 2005

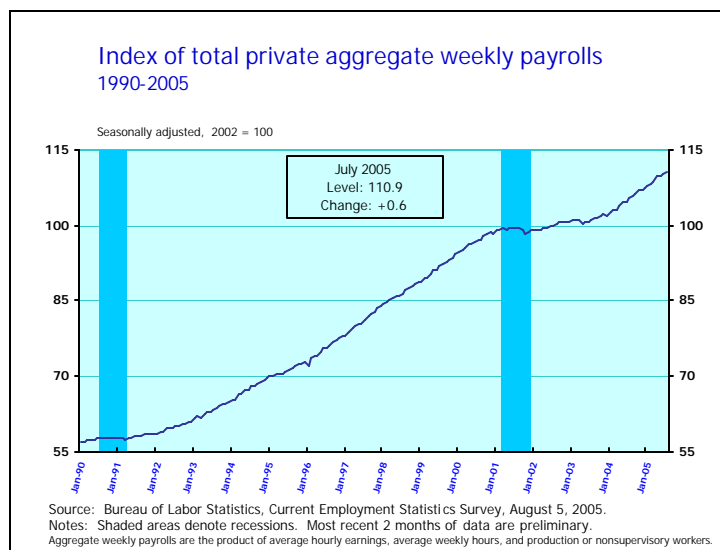
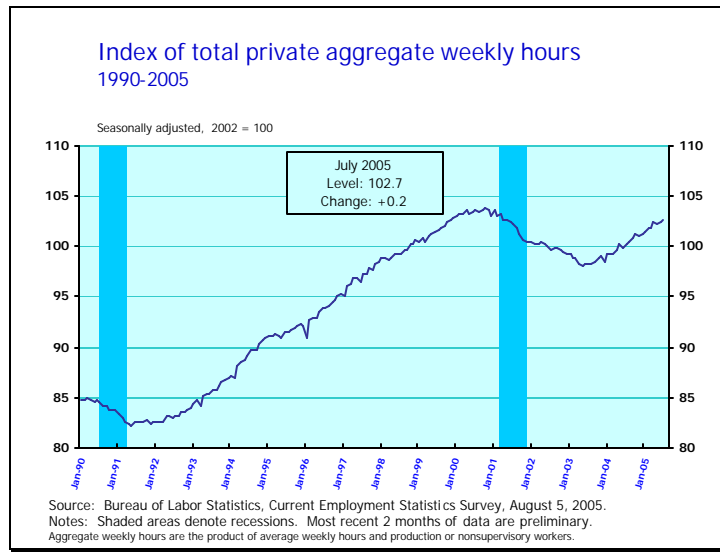


- Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 207,000 in July, following a gain of 166,000 in June. Employment gains since a low in May 2003 total nearly 4 million.
- Average weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls were unchanged in July at 33.7 hours, seasonally 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 6 cents in July to \$16.13, seasonally adjusted. This is the biggest one-month gain in average hourly earnings since July 2004. Over the year, average hourly earnings have grown 2.7 percent.

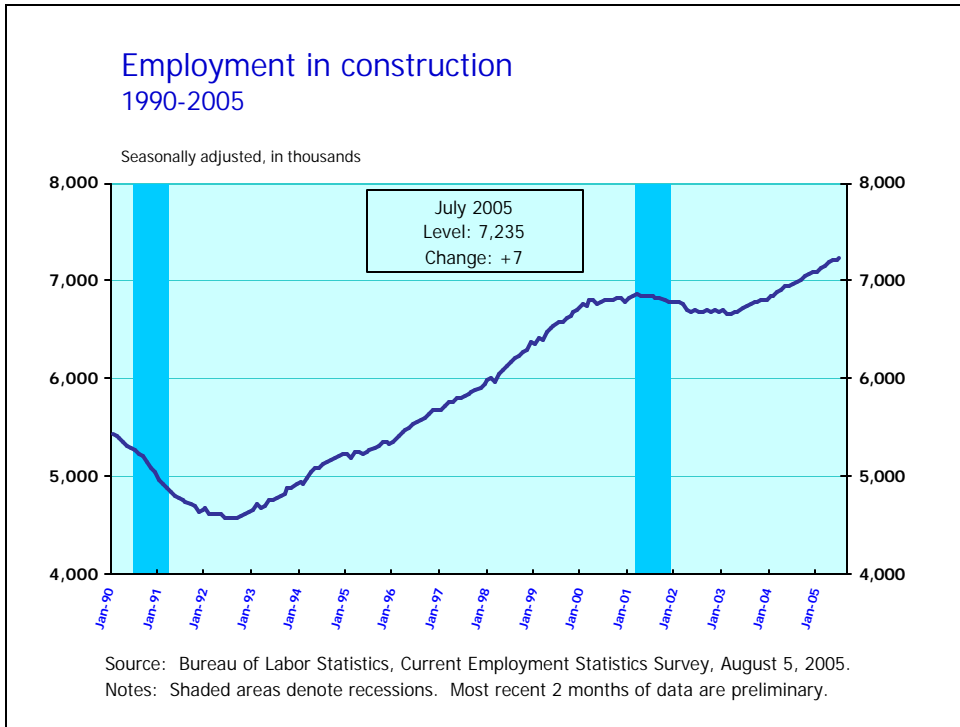
Employment in total nonfarm and supersectors Over-the-month change, July 2005



- In July, job growth was concentrated among service-providing industries, with significant gains occurring in retail trade, financial activities, professional and technical services, health care, and leisure and hospitality.
- July was a weak month for the goods-producing industries, with employment in construction and natural resources and mining showing little change. Manufacturing continued to lose jobs in July.

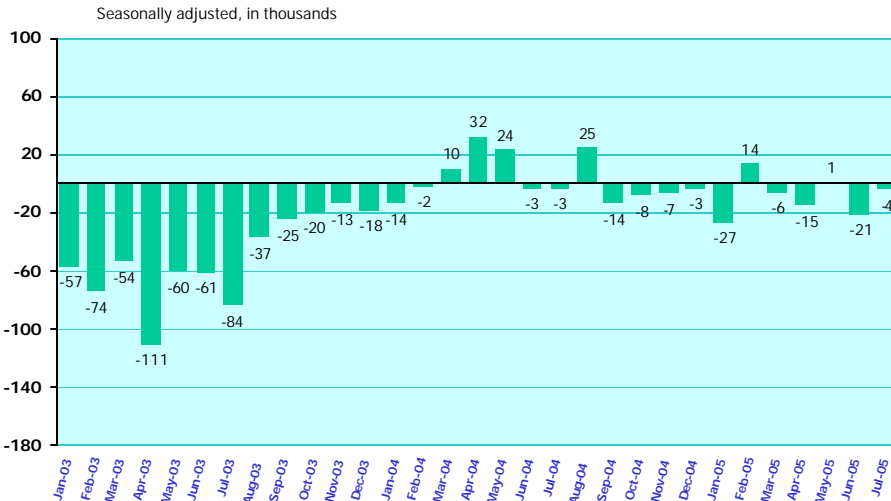


- The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.2 percent to 102.7 (2002=100) in July. Since its most recent trough in May 2003, the index has increased by 4.6 percent, although it still has not fully recovered to its prior peak level in October 2000.
- The index of aggregate weekly payrolls of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.5 percent to 110.9 (2002=100) in July. Since January 2002, the index has increased by 12.1 percent.



- Employment in construction edged up (7,000) in July. Over the last 3 months gains have averaged 9,300 jobs, compared with strong hiring during the spring months. So far this year, average growth is 21,000 per month compared to 23,000 per month in 2004.
- Since reaching an employment low in March 2003, construction has added over half a million jobs to payrolls.

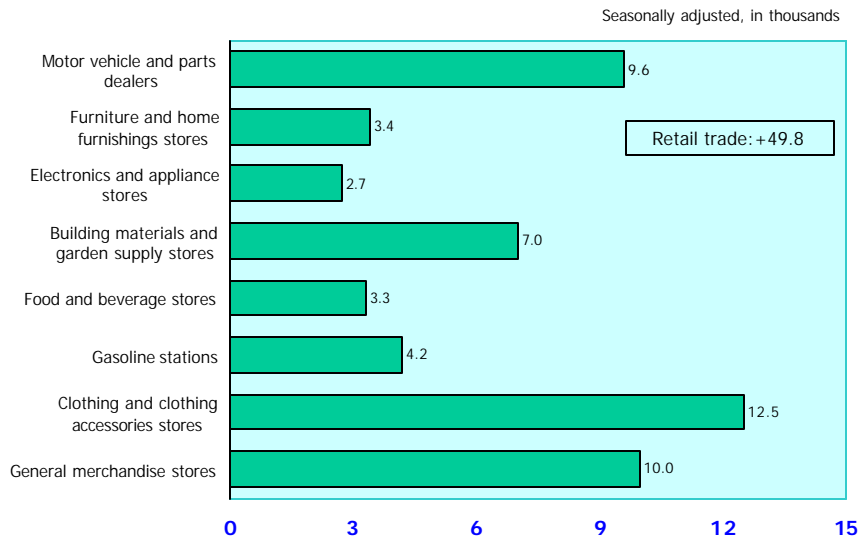
Employment in manufacturing Over-the-month change, 2003-05



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, August 5, 2005.
Note: Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

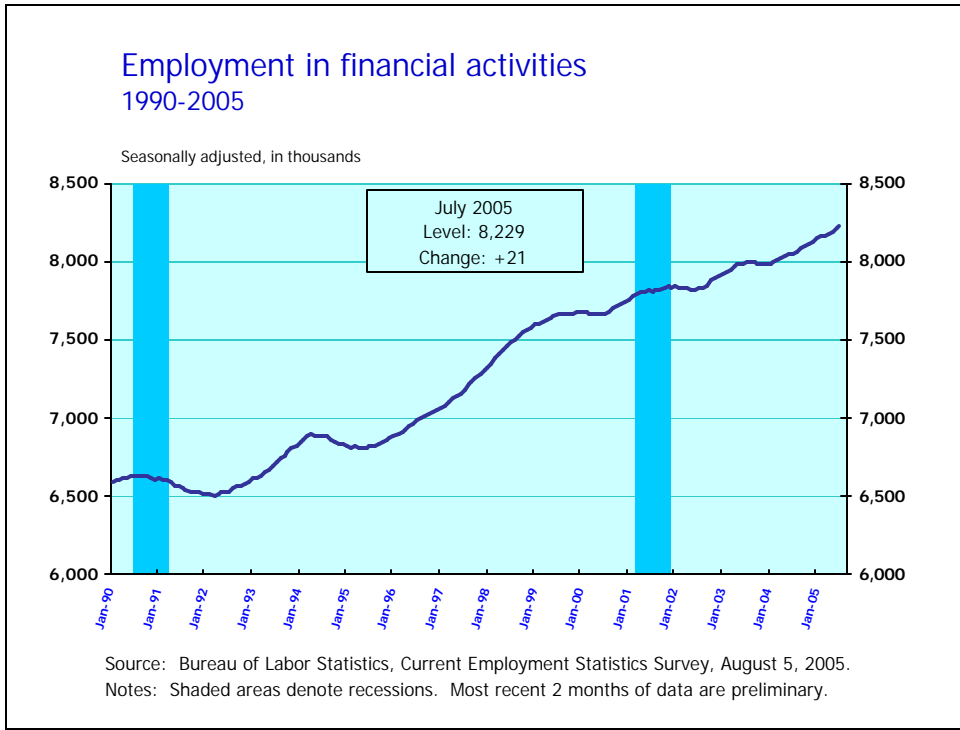
- Manufacturing lost 4,000 jobs in July, close to the industry's average monthly employment change over the prior 12-month period. Following a short-lived recovery in early 2004, manufacturers have shed 90,000 jobs, and employment is now 5,000 lower than in February 2004.
- July's employment loss was concentrated in durable goods manufacturing, while nondurable goods manufacturing posted a small employment increase. The durable goods job loss was concentrated in transportation equipment. The largest employment gain in non-durable goods was in food manufacturing; this gain was offset by a job loss in printing and related support activities.
- The factory workweek was flat in July, remaining at 40.4 hours. Manufacturing overtime rose by 0.1 hour over the month to 4.5 hours.

Employment in selected retail trade industries Over-the-month change, July 2005



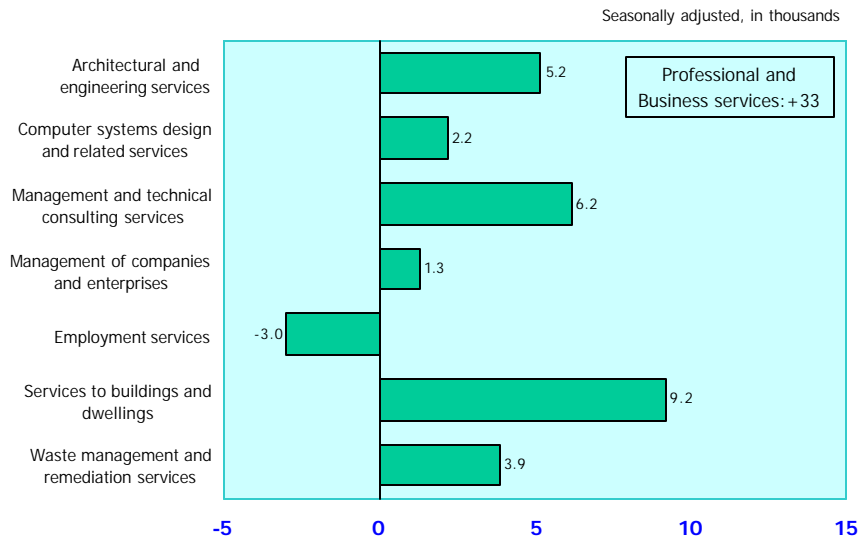
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, August 5, 2005.
Note: Data are preliminary.

- Employment in retail trade experienced a substantial increase in July, as about 50,000 jobs were added to payrolls. July's employment gain is the largest since April 2000.
- Statistically significant job gains occurred within motor vehicle and parts dealers, building material and garden supply stores, and clothing and clothing accessories stores.
- In July, employment in clothing and clothing accessories stores increased by about 13,000. This industry has been the fastest growing retail component over the past 2 years, accounting for 34 percent of all jobs gained in the retail trade sector.
- Motor vehicle and parts dealers gained about 10,000 jobs, driven largely by pricing incentives and the ensuing record sales. This is the largest job gain for this industry since November 1994.



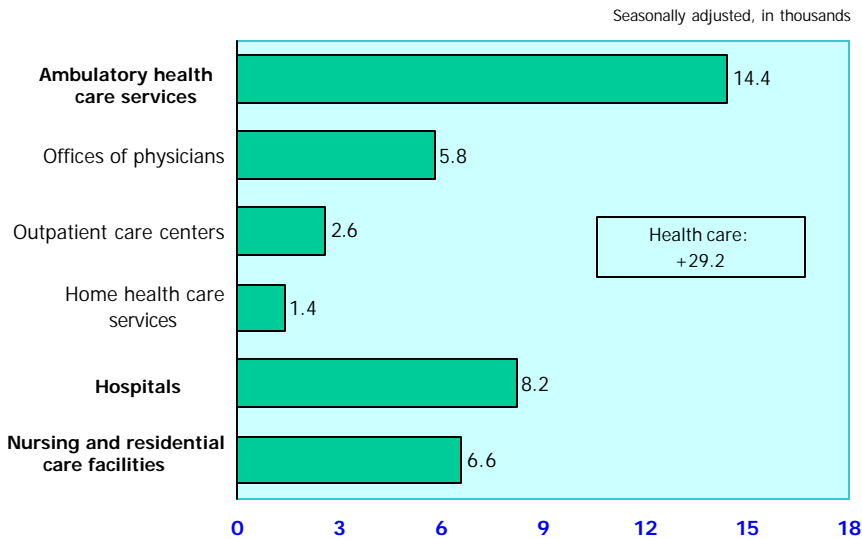
- Financial activities continued to grow in July, adding 21,000 jobs to payrolls. Real estate and mortgage activity has fueled the sustained growth in this industry.
- Employment in real estate jumped by about 10,000, and experienced the largest 1-month gain in 2 years. Since January 2004, employment in offices of real estate agents and brokers has grown by 12 percent, far exceeding the 3 percent gain in all financial activities over the same time period.

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



- Professional and business services gained 33,000 jobs in July. Architectural and engineering services, management and technical consulting services, and services to buildings and dwellings accounted for more than half of the gains.
- Employment services, which accounts for about 22 percent of total employment in this sector, was flat in July. Employment in temporary help services has shown little net change since April. Employment in the temporary help industry has grown at an annualized rate of 3.2 percent so far this year, which is about half of the 7.8 percent growth in 2004.

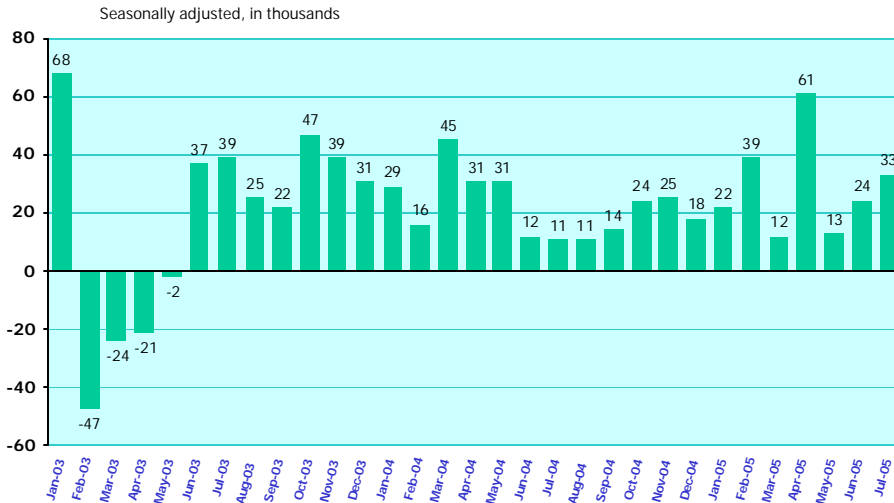
Employment in health care Over-the-month change, July 2005



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, August 5, 2005.
Note: Data are preliminary.

- Health care employment continued to rise, expanding by about 29,000 in July. This industry has experienced consistent growth over the years, with average annual growth registering at 2.5 percent since 2000.
- Over the month, ambulatory health care services, hospitals, and nursing and residential care facilities all posted significant gains.

Employment in leisure and hospitality Over-the-month change, 2003-05



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, August 5, 2005.
Note: Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

- Leisure and hospitality employment rose by 33,000 in July and 296,000 over the year. Food services and drinking places accounted for the majority of the gain this month, and for 89 percent of the employment gains over the year.