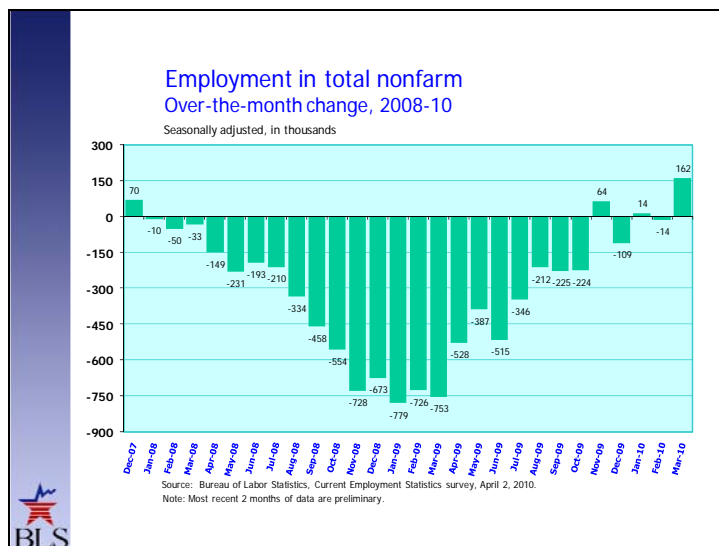
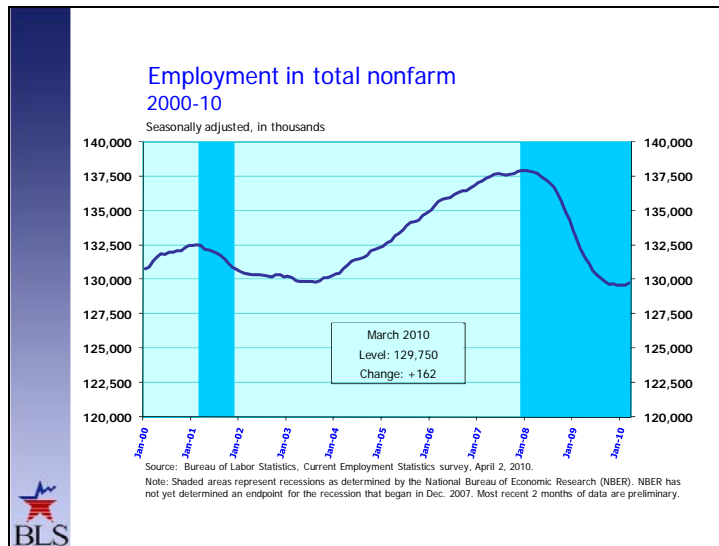


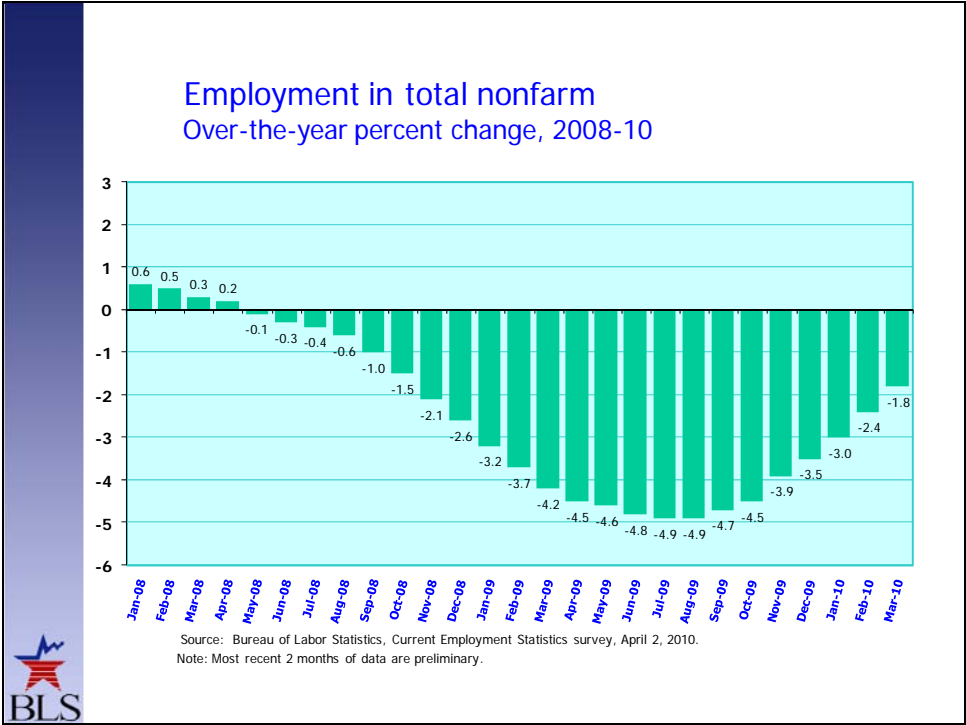


Current Employment Statistics Highlights March 2010

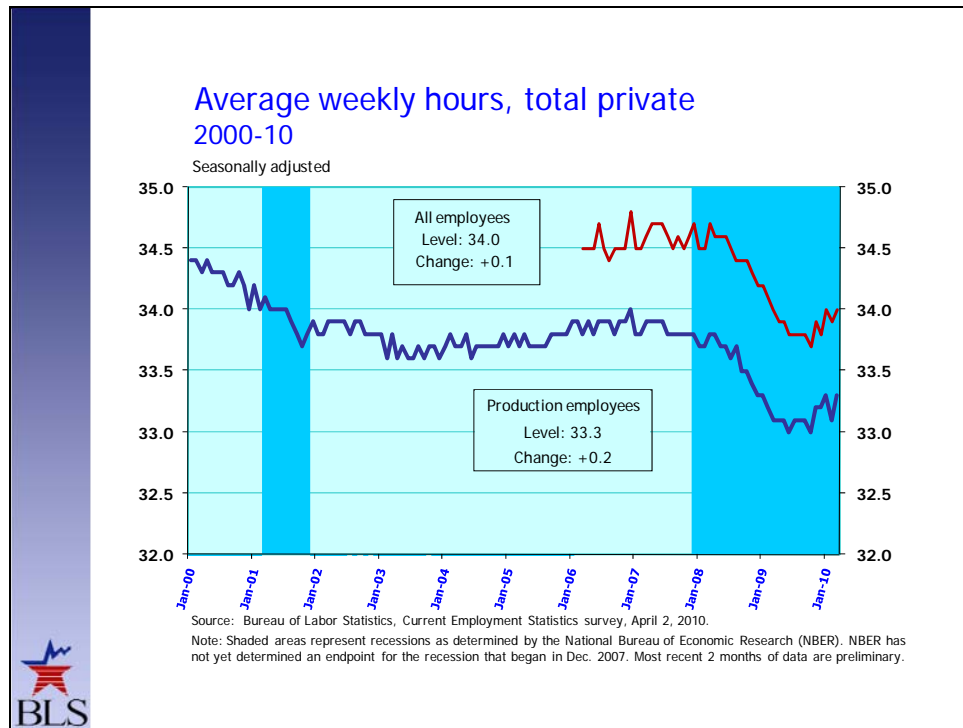
Bureau of Labor Statistics
April 2, 2010



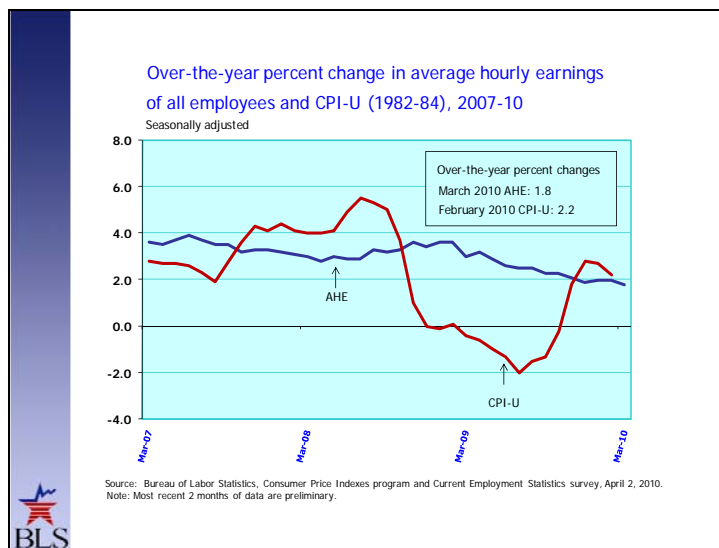
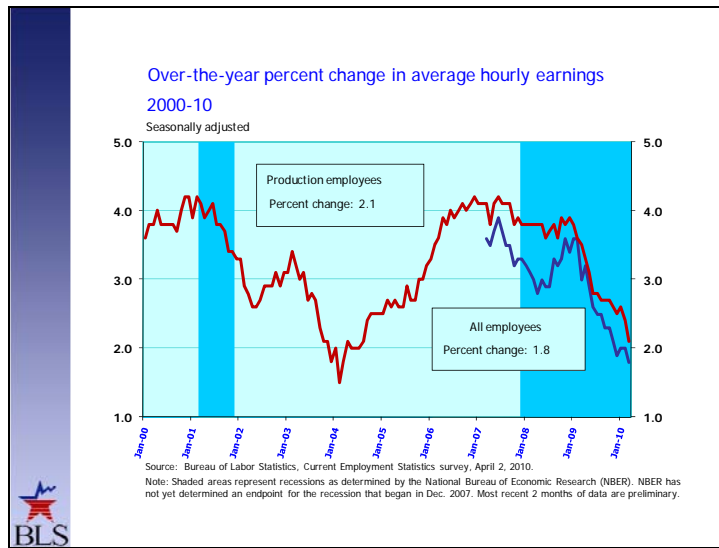
- In March, nonfarm payroll employment rose by 162,000.
- During the first quarter of 2009, monthly job losses averaged 753,000. Job losses moderated in subsequent months and in the past 5 months employment has shown little net change.



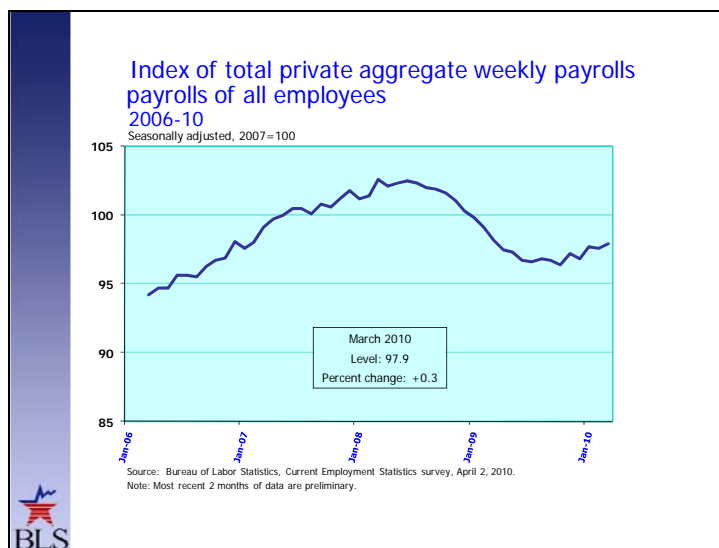
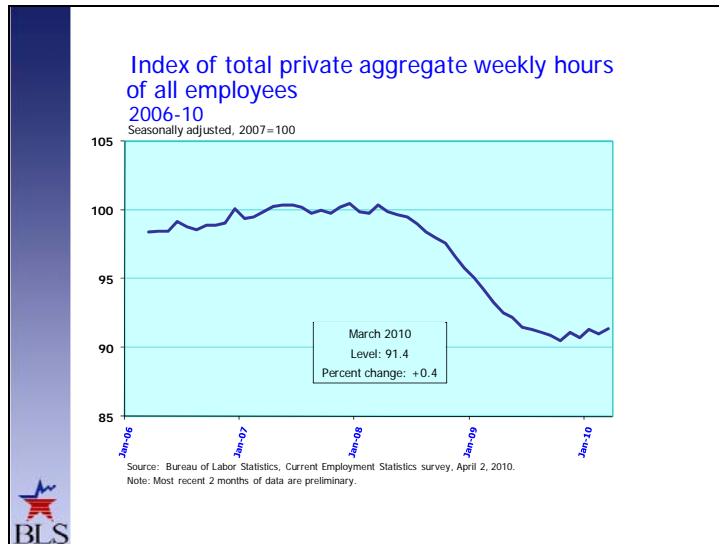
- The 12-month rate of job loss has slowed from 4.9 percent in August 2009 to 1.8 percent in March 2010.
- The over-the-year rate of change is now at a pace last seen in late 2008.



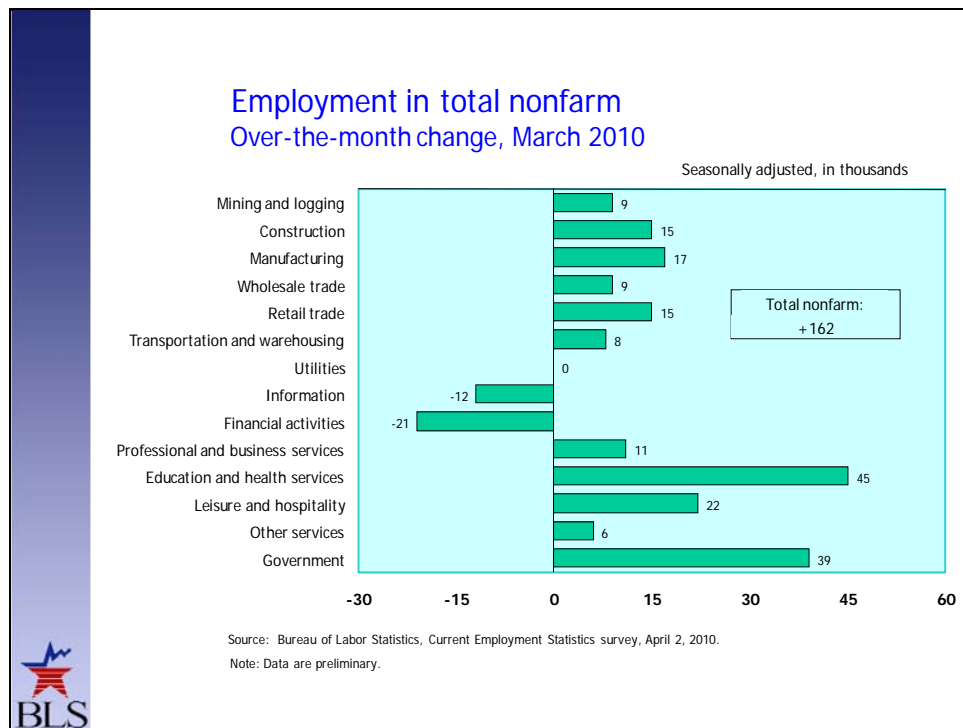
- In March, the average workweek of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls notched up 0.1 to 34.0 hours. Average weekly hours of production and nonsupervisory employees rose by 0.2 to 33.3 hours.
- The increases offset declines of equal magnitude in February.



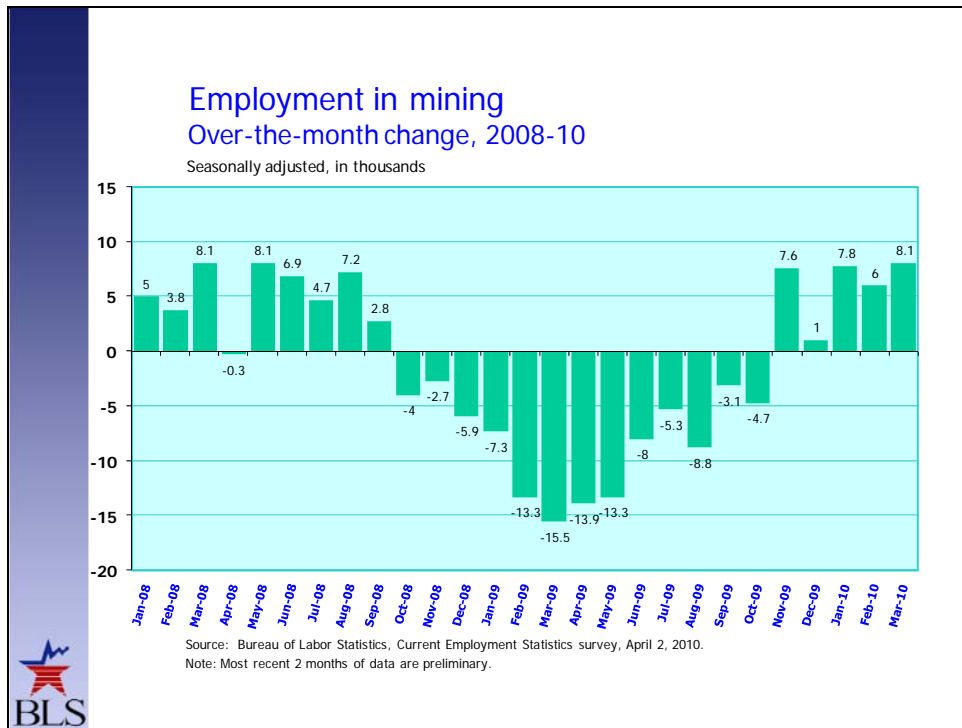
- In March, average hourly earnings of all employees fell by 2 cents to \$22.47, following a 4-cent gain in February. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have risen by 1.8 percent.
- Average hourly earnings of production and nonsupervisory employees fell by 2 cents to \$18.90 in March.
- The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rose by 2.2 percent over the year ending in February.



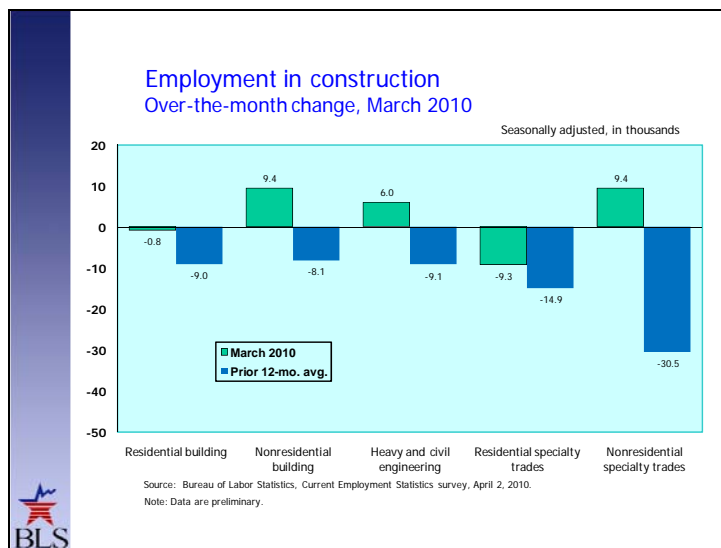
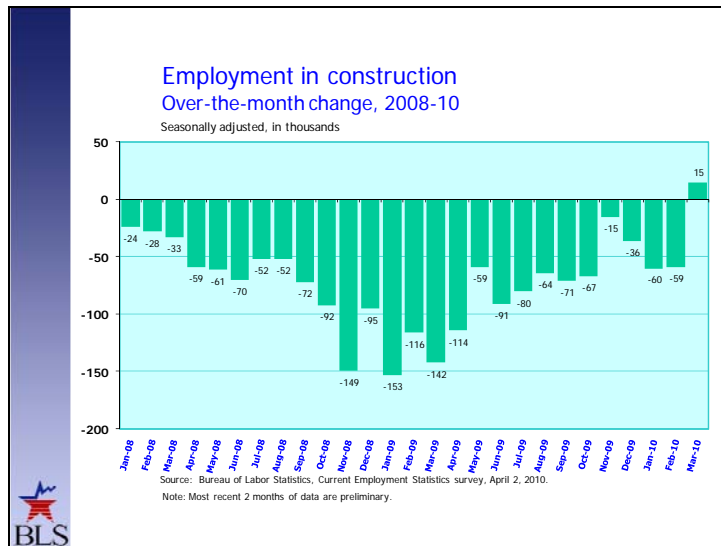
- The index of total private aggregate weekly hours rose by 0.4 percent in March. Over the last 5 months, the index has trended up by 1.0 percent.
- The index of total private aggregate weekly payrolls rose by 0.3 percent in March. Since reaching a low point in October 2009, the index has risen by 1.6 percent.



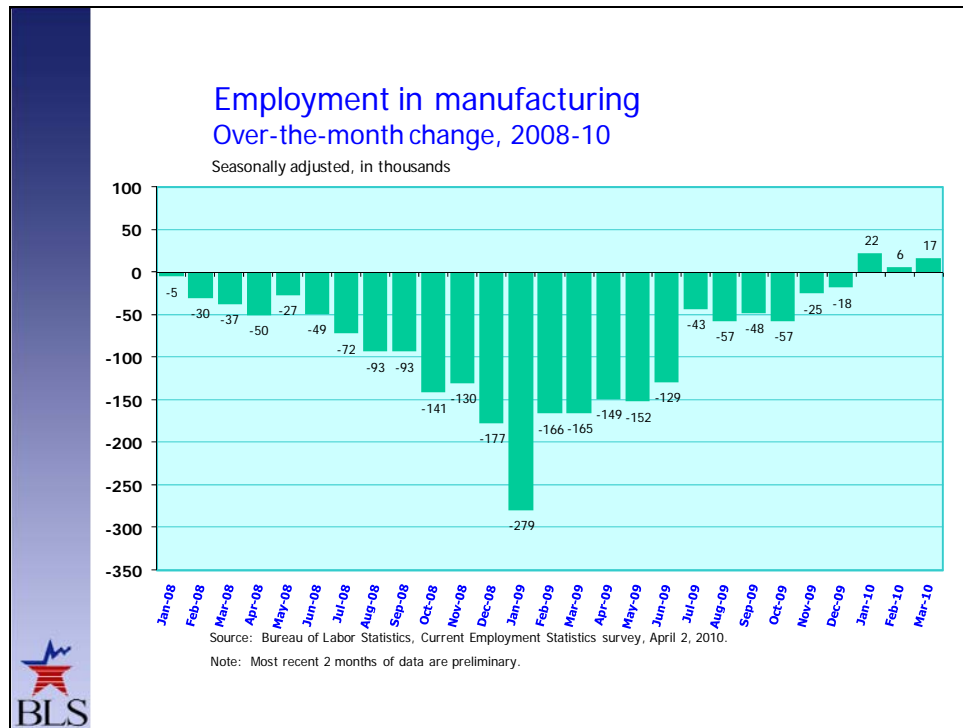
- Temporary help services and health care continued to add jobs over the month. Employment in the federal government also rose, reflecting the hiring of temporary workers for Census 2010.
- Employment fell in financial activities.
- March is the first month in 2 years in which most private-sector industries added jobs. The diffusion index over a 1-month span jumped 10 points to 60.0. This index measures the dispersion of employment change, with a value above 50 indicating that more industries are adding jobs than losing them over the month.



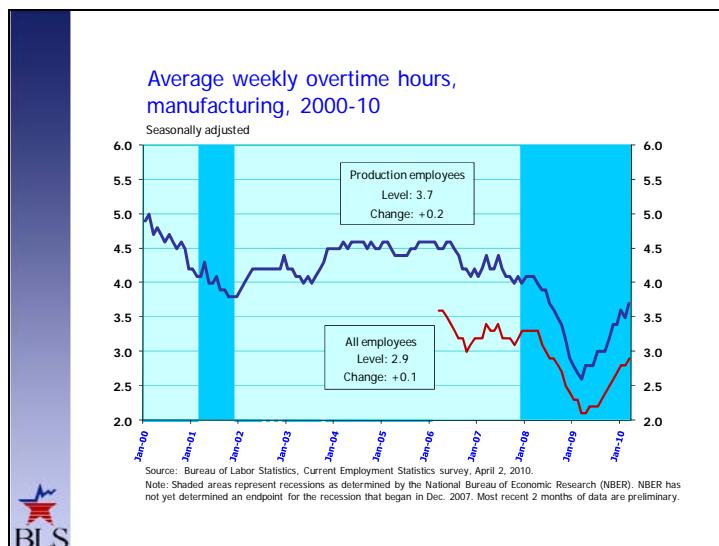
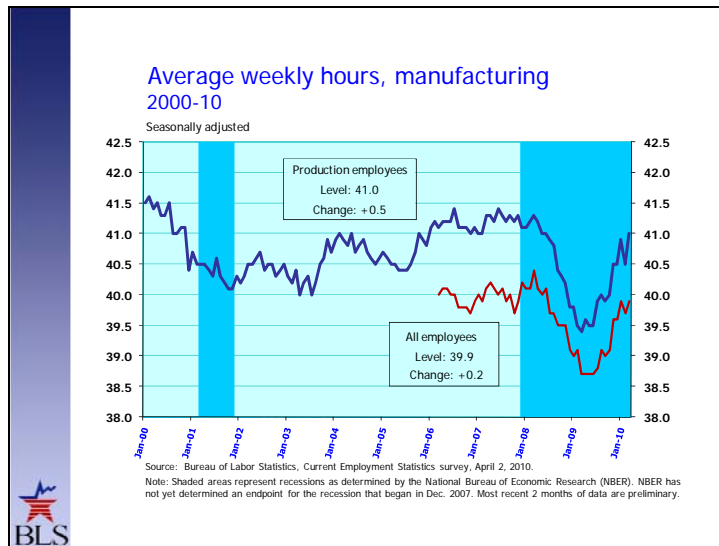
- Mining employment rose by 8,000 in March. This industry has added 31,000 jobs since last October, following job losses totaling 106,000 over the prior 13 months.
- Support activities for mining has been the primary driver of these employment changes, although mining excluding oil and gas has also added jobs over the past 5 months after more than 1 year of employment declines.



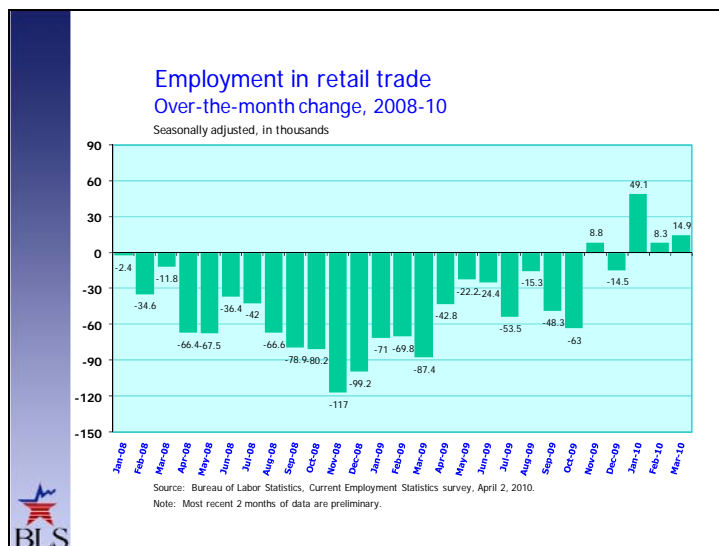
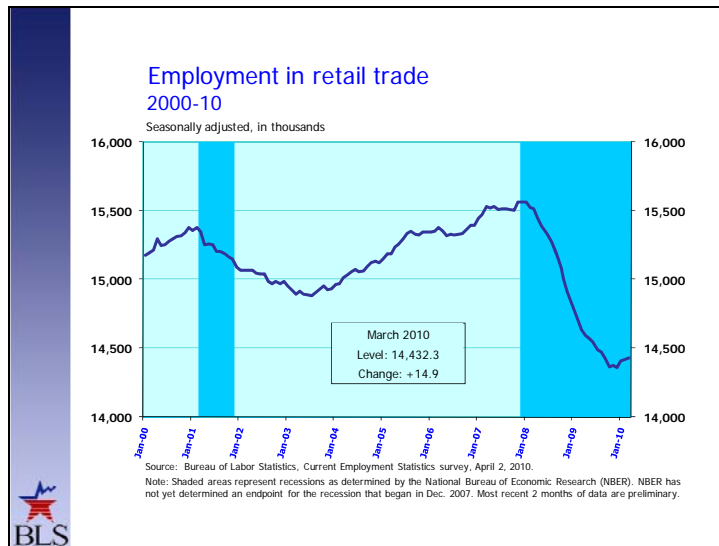
- Construction employment held steady in March. This industry had shed an average of 72,000 jobs per month in the prior 12 months.
- Nonresidential builders added 9,000 jobs in March, while employment movements were small and offsetting in the specialty trades.



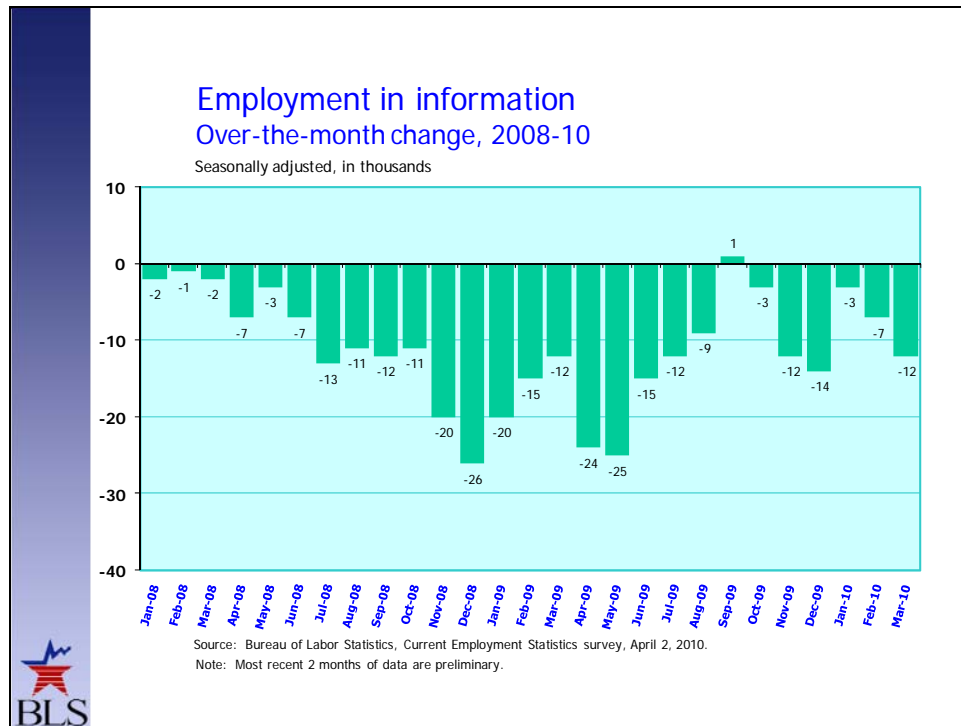
- Manufacturing employment edged up in March. Over the last 3 months, manufacturing has added 45,000 jobs, with most of the gains in durable goods industries.
- Fabricated metal products and machinery accounted for more than half of the manufacturing job growth in March.
- Manufacturing had seen broad-based job losses among the component industries since before the start of the recession. However, in the past 2 months more industries have shown employment gains than employment losses. The 1-month manufacturing diffusion index rose from 54.3 to 58.5 in March.



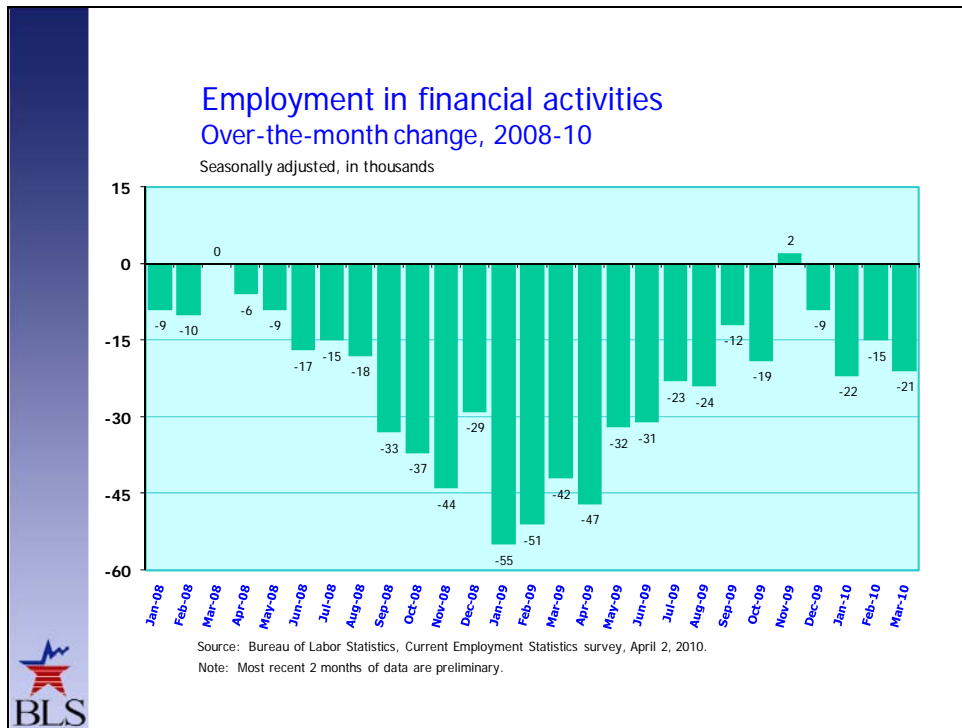
- Average weekly hours of all employees in manufacturing rose by 0.2 hour in March. Some of this increase may represent a rebound following severe weather in February. The factory workweek has risen by 1.2 hours over the last 12 months. Factory overtime rose by 0.1 hour in March.
- In March, the average manufacturing workweek for production employees increased by 0.5 hour. Since reaching a trough in March 2009, the average workweek for production employees in manufacturing has increased by 1.6 hours. Average weekly overtime for production employees rose by 0.2 hour in March.



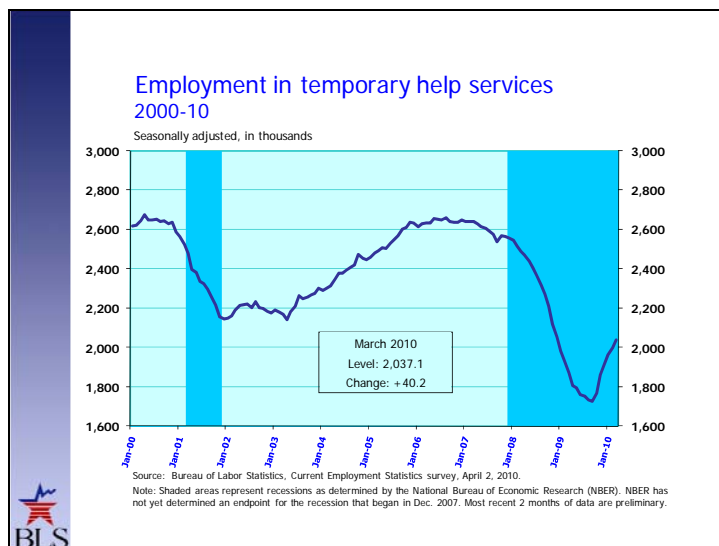
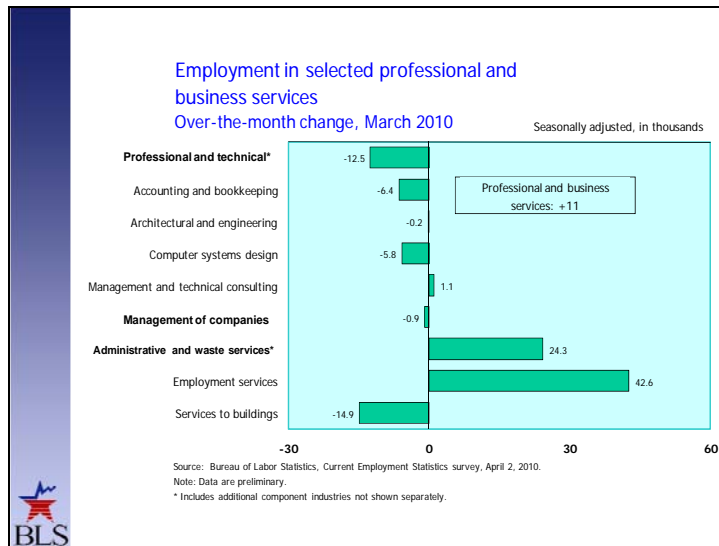
- Employment edged up in retail trade in March. During the first quarter of 2010, retail trade added an average of 24,000 jobs per month, in contrast to 42,000 jobs lost per month in 2009.
- Despite the gains over the past 3 months, the industry has shed 1.1 million jobs since reaching a peak in December 2007.
- In March, employment levels among the component industries were little changed with the exception of building material and garden supply stores, which added 12,000 jobs over the month.



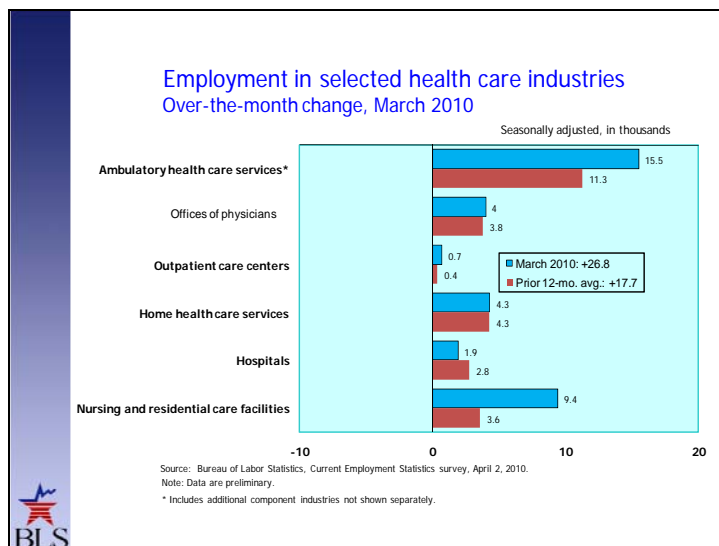
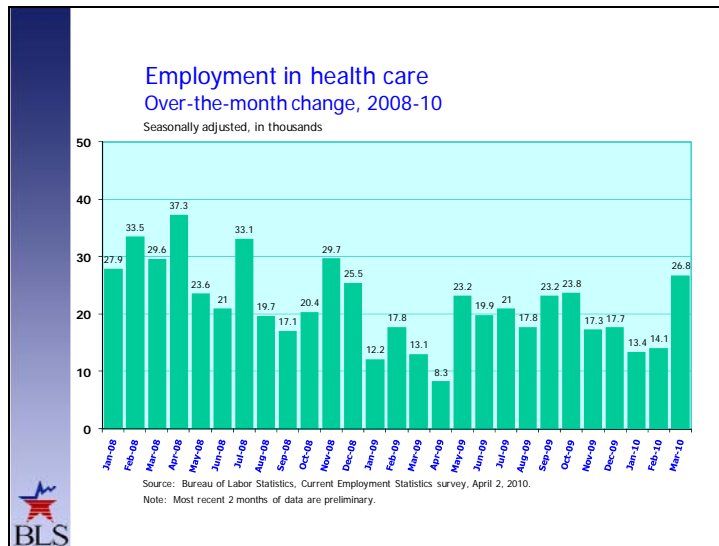
- Employment in information edged down in March, continuing a trend of job losses.
- Since last reaching an employment peak in May 2007, the information industry has shed 315,000 jobs, or 10 percent of its workforce.



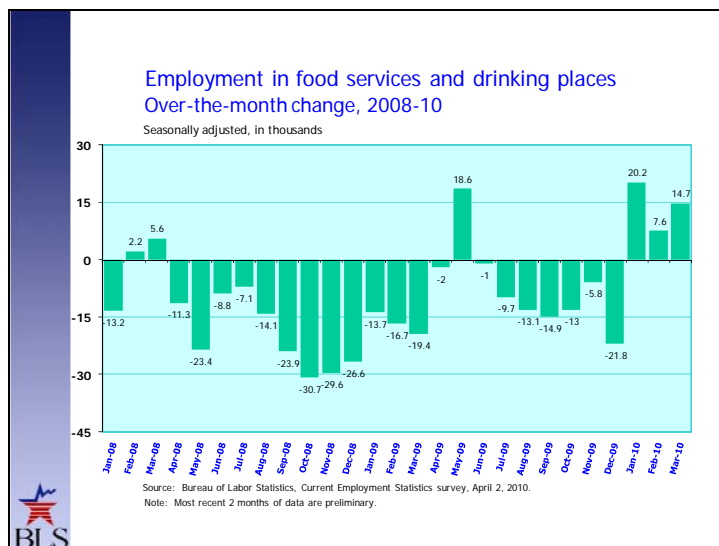
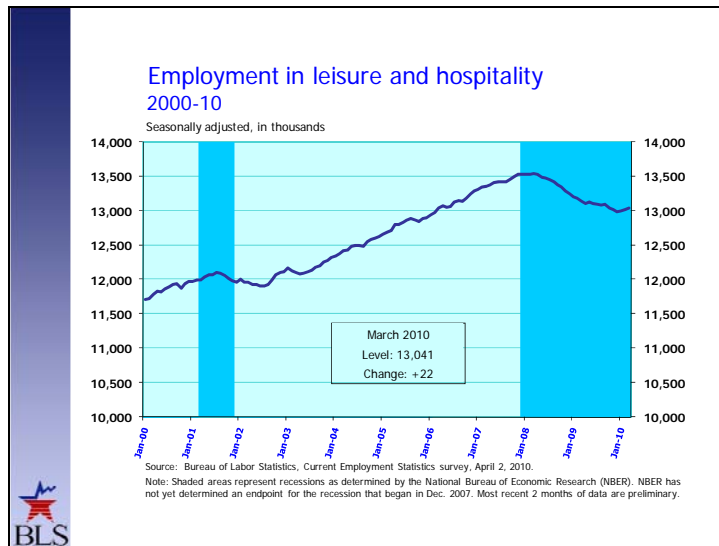
- Employment in financial activities continued to decrease in March, and job losses total 253,000 over the year.
- In March, insurance carriers and related activities reduced payrolls by 9,000 positions. Over the year, this industry has accounted for almost 30 percent of the job losses in financial activities.



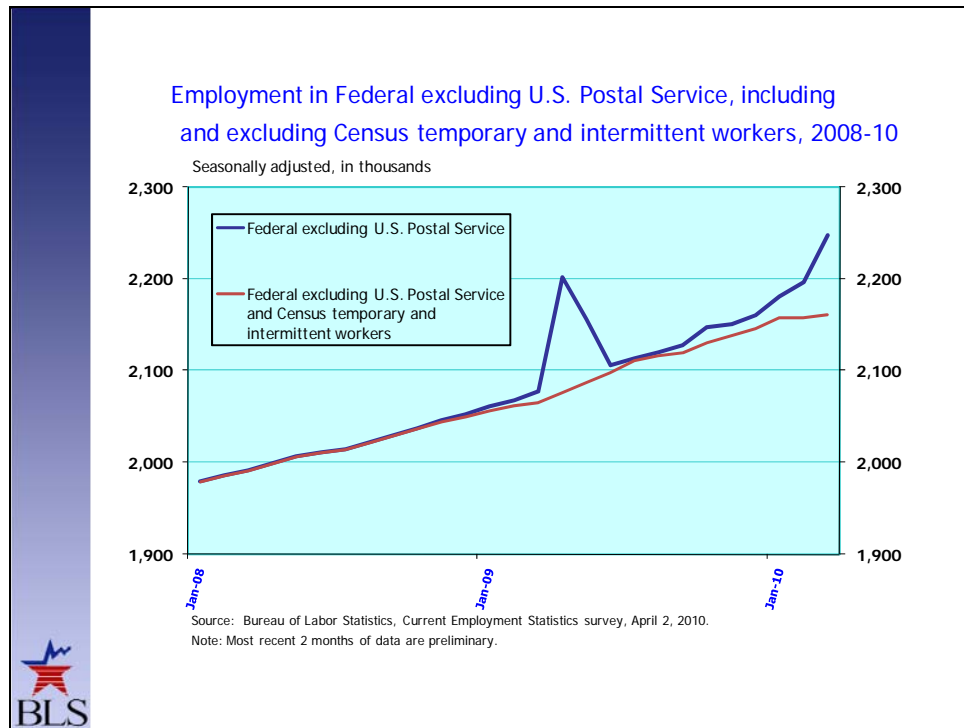
- Employment in professional and business services changed little in March.
- Services to buildings and dwellings cut 15,000 jobs in March.
- Employment in temporary help services rose by 40,000 in March. Since September 2009, employment in this industry has grown by 313,000, or 18 percent.



- Health care added 27,000 jobs in March, compared with an average gain of 18,000 over the prior 12 months. The largest gains occurred in ambulatory health care services and in nursing and residential care facilities.



- Employment in leisure and hospitality edged up in March.
- So far in 2010, food services and drinking places has added 43,000 jobs. Employment fell by 293,000 from December 2007 to December 2009.



- The Federal government boosted payroll employment by 48,000 in March, due to hiring of temporary workers for Census 2010 activities.
- State and local government employment changed little over the month.