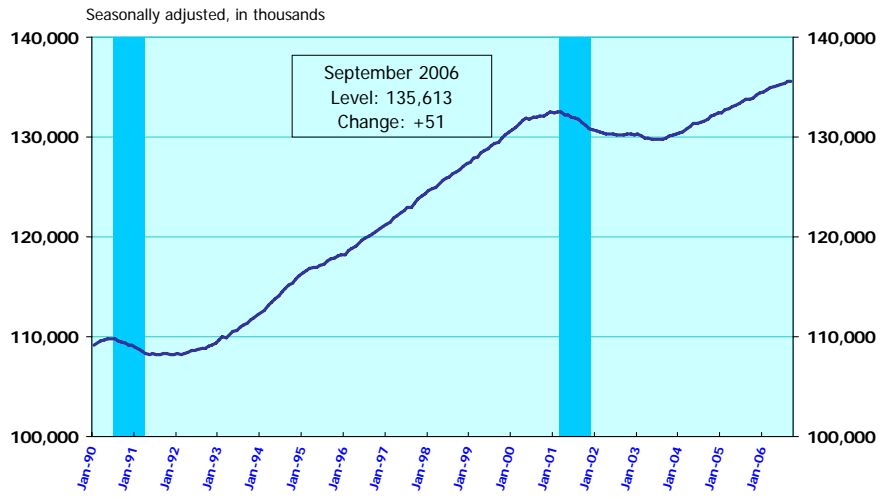




Current Employment Statistics
Highlights
September 2006

Bureau of Labor Statistics
October 6, 2006

All employees on nonfarm payrolls 1990-2006

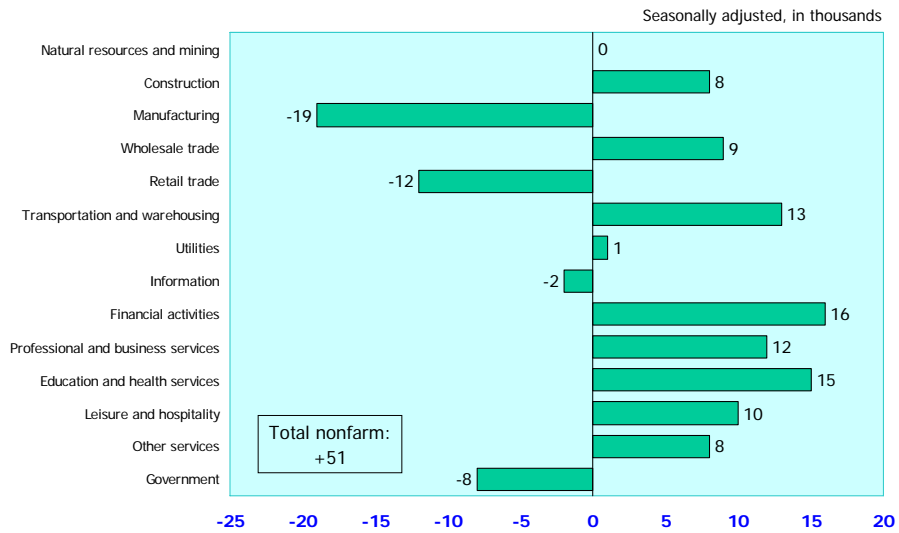


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 6, 2006.

Notes: Shaded areas denote recessions. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

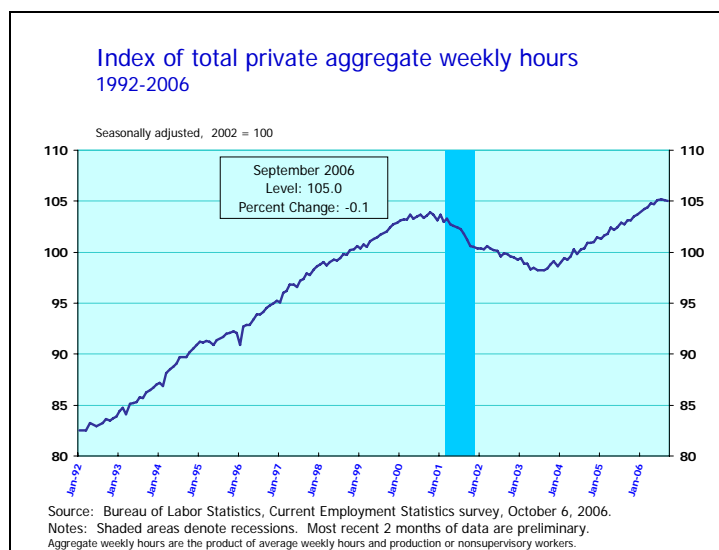
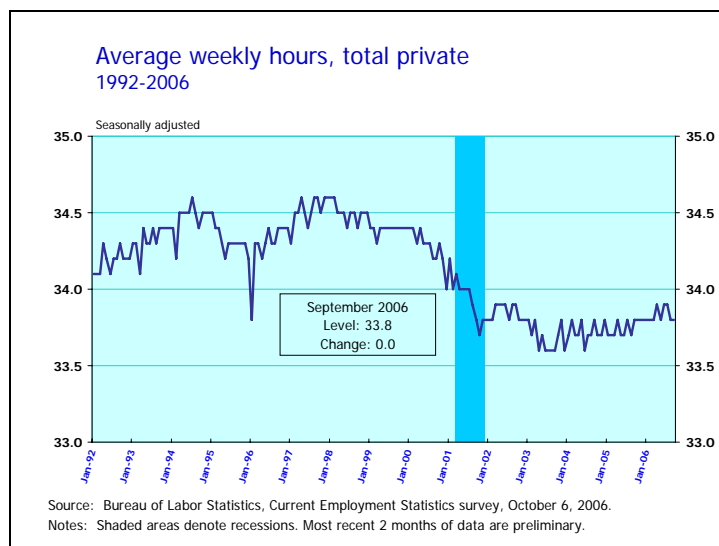
- Nonfarm payroll employment was little changed (+51,000) in September following 188,000 jobs gained in August.
- Job growth in 2004 averaged 175,000 per month. In 2005, despite hurricane-related job losses at the end of the year, employment growth averaged 165,000 per month.
- So far this year, growth has averaged 137,000 jobs per month. Since the most recent employment trough in August 2003, 5.8 million jobs have been added.

Employment in total nonfarm and supersectors Over-the-month change, September 2006

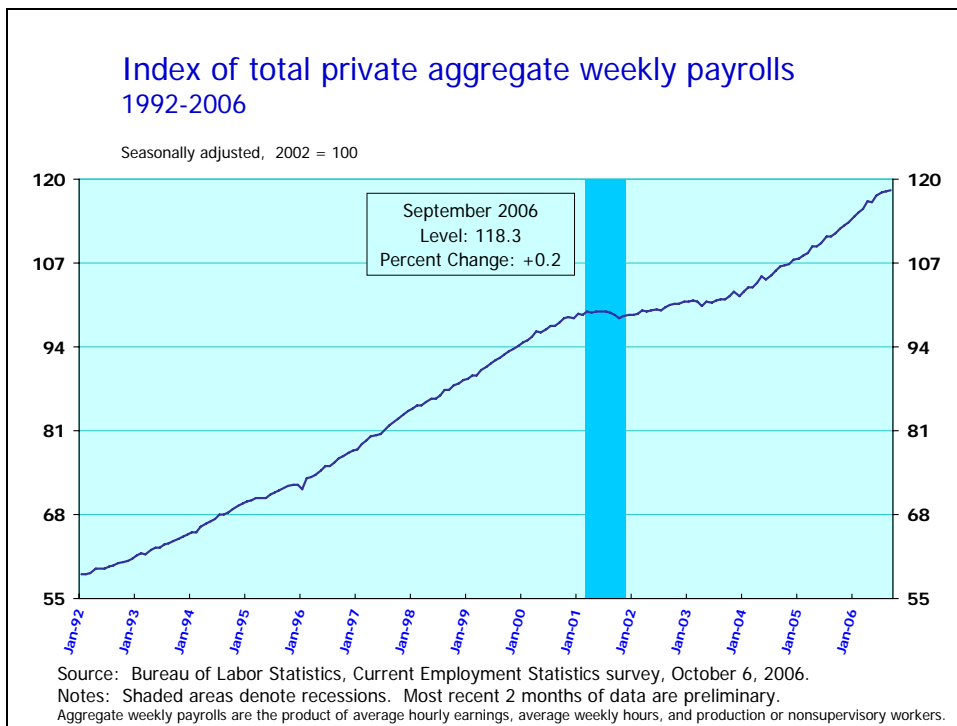


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 6, 2006.
Note: Data are preliminary.

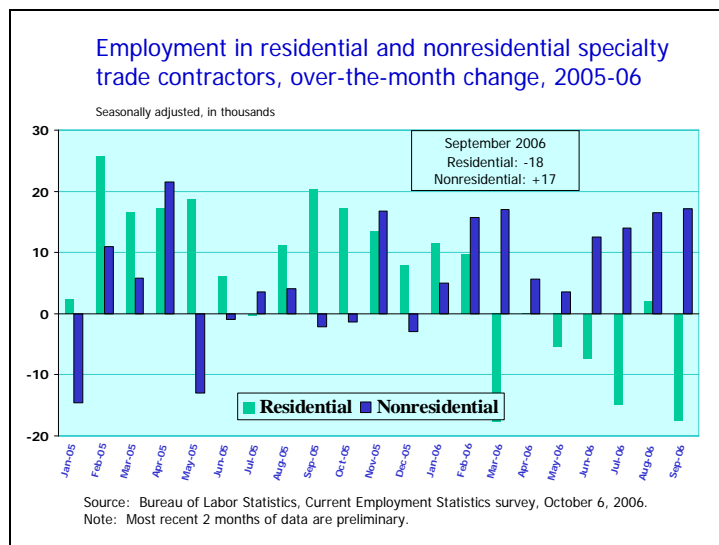
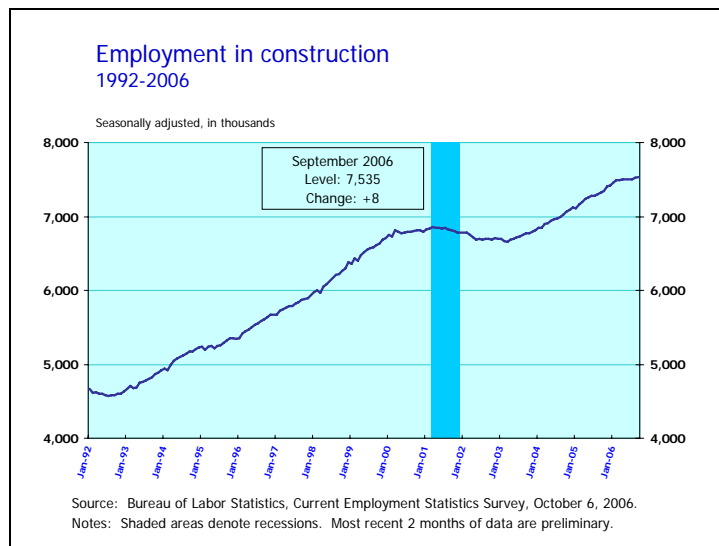
- Financial activities employment grew by 16,000 in September, while education and health services added 15,000 jobs.
- Elsewhere in the service-providing sector, most of the other industries trended up at a more modest pace.
- Manufacturing and retail trade reduced employment in September.



- The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged at 33.8 hours, seasonally adjusted.
- The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls ticked down 0.1 percent in September, seasonally adjusted. This index has increased by 6.9 percent since its most recent trough in August 2003, but has expanded just 1.1 percent above its most recent peak in October 2000.

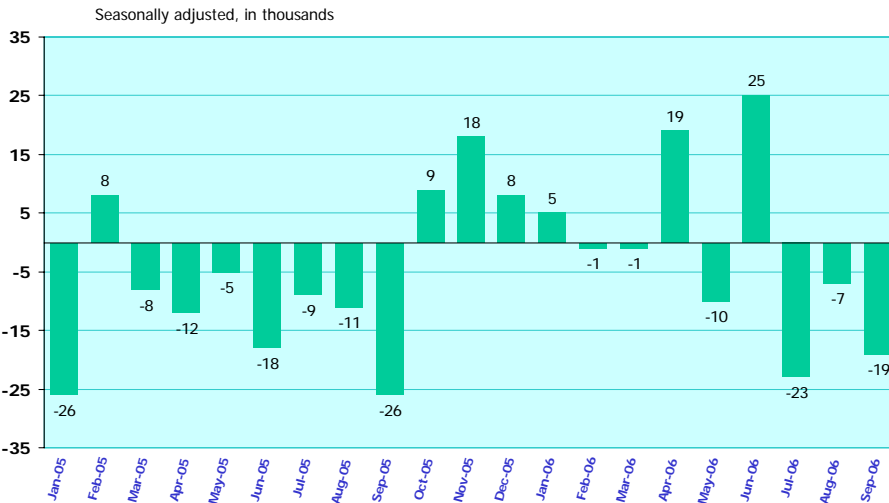


- The index of aggregate weekly payrolls of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased 0.2 percent in September to 118.3, seasonally adjusted. The index has risen by 6 percent over-the-year.
- Aggregate payroll growth has slowed in the third quarter, and is reflected in the payroll index. The index increased 0.8 percent in the third quarter compared to an average 1.8 percent in the prior 2 quarters.
- Much of the recent rise in this index has been driven by increases in the average hourly earnings of production workers. Seasonally adjusted, earnings have increased 4 percent over-the-year. During the same time span the numbers of production workers on private nonfarm payrolls have increased by 1.8 percent and the average weekly hours of production workers have been flat.



- Construction employment edged up 8,000 in September. Employment has changed little since February (+6,000 per month).
- Employment had grown by an average of 27,000 per month for the year ending in February 2006.
- Nonresidential specialty trade contractors gained 17,000 jobs in September. This makes 8 consecutive months in which nonresidential specialty trade contractors have outpaced the residential component. Since reaching a high point in February 2006, residential specialty trade contractors have shed 60,800 jobs. Over the same time period, nonresidential specialty trade contractors have added 86,700.
- Construction of buildings has experienced similar weakness within its residential component in recent months. Residential building construction has added just 6,700 jobs to payrolls since February 2006 while employment in nonresidential building construction increased by 8,300.

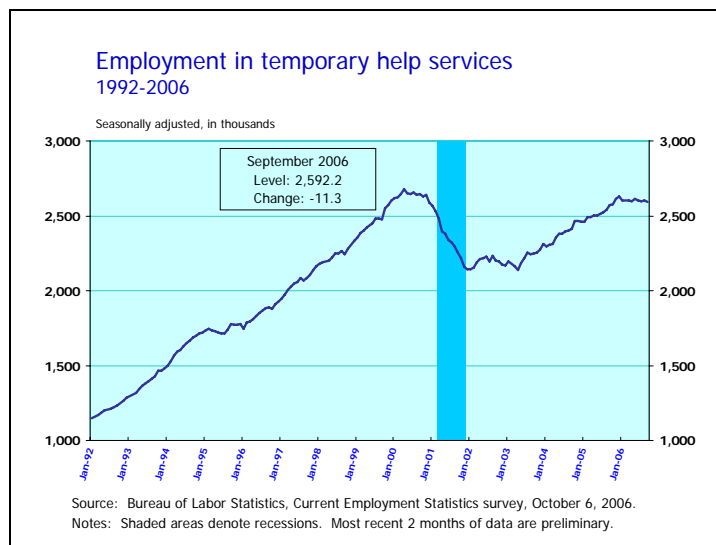
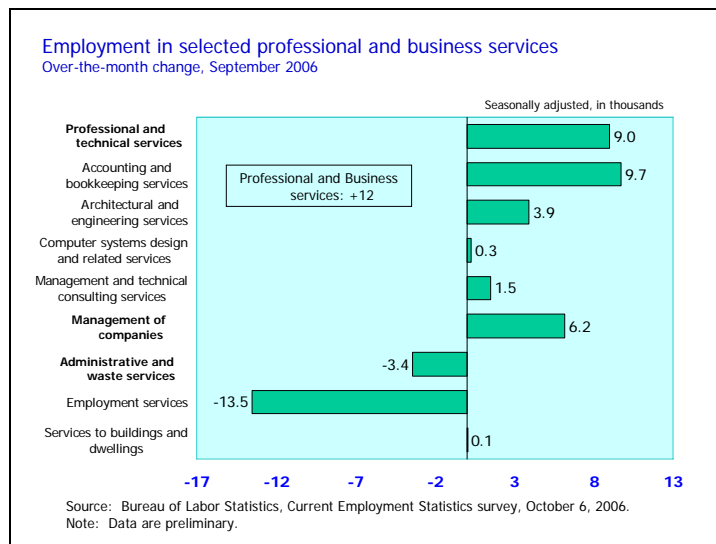
Employment in manufacturing Over-the-month change, 2005-06



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 6, 2006.

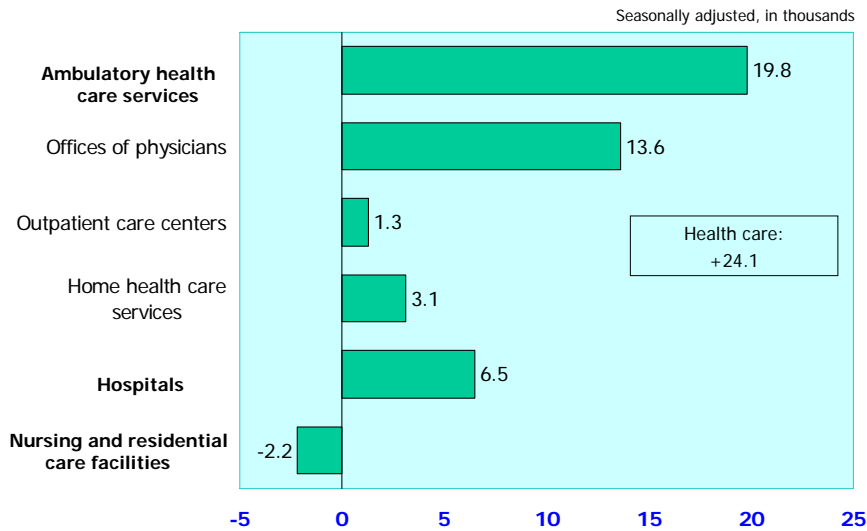
Note: Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

- Manufacturing employment declined by 19,000 in September. Job losses continued in wood products, nonmetallic mineral products, and furniture and related products—industries related to home building.
- Employment also continued to trend down in a number of nondurable components, including textile mills, paper and paper products, and plastics and rubber products.
- The manufacturing workweek fell 0.2 hour to 41.1, while factory overtime was down by 0.1 hour to 4.3 hours, seasonally adjusted.



- For September, employment growth in professional and business services amounted to 12,000, well below the trend of 39,000 for the prior 12-month period.
- Employment in both computer systems design and temporary help services was little changed over the month. Computer systems design had been adding jobs on a regular basis, while temporary help employment has been relatively flat thus far this year.

Employment in health care Over-the-month change, September 2006



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 6, 2006.
Note: Data are preliminary.

- Health care employment rose by 24,000 jobs, with ambulatory health care services contributing 20,000 of the net increase. September's employment change is in line with the average monthly gain this year.
- Health care employment has expanded by 231,000 since December.