

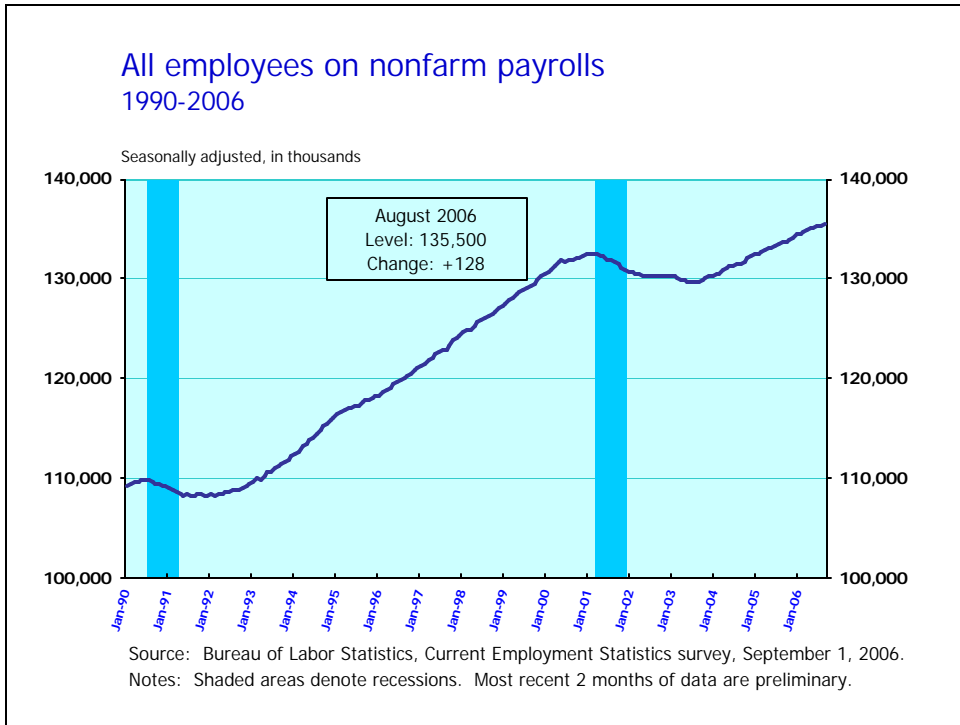


Current Employment Statistics

Highlights

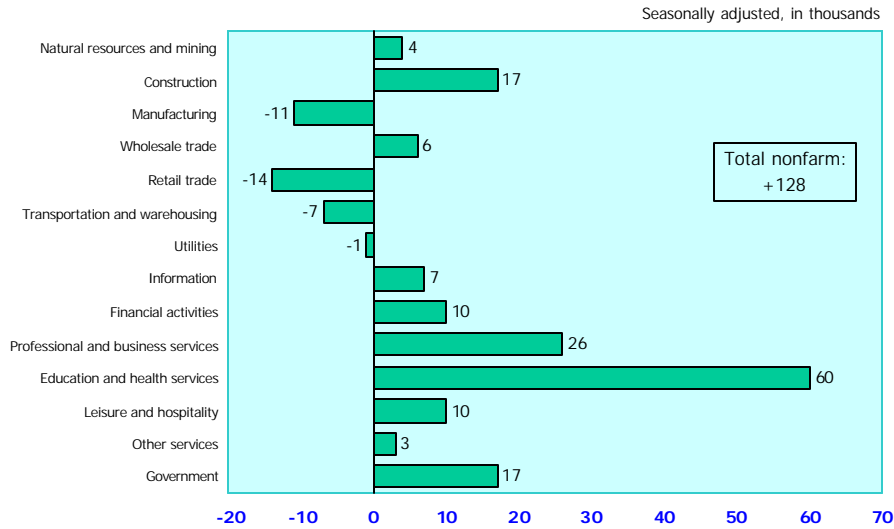
August 2006

Bureau of Labor Statistics
September 1, 2006



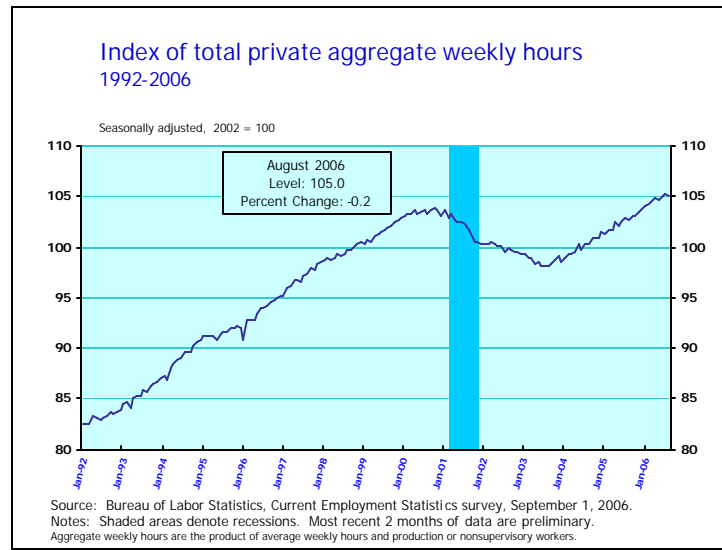
- Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 128,000 in August, which was in line with the average monthly gain of 117,000 for the 4-month period ending in July.
- Job growth averaged 169,000 during the 12-month period ending in March, and 5.7 million jobs have been added since the most recent employment trough in August 2003.

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

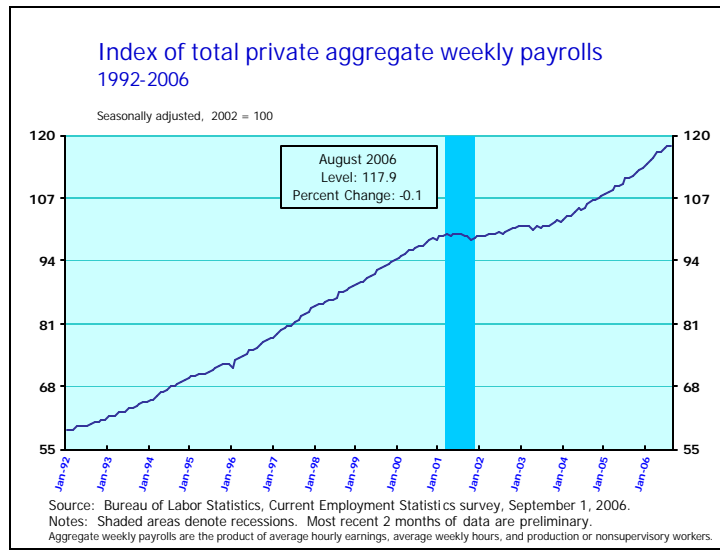


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 1, 2006.
Note: Data are preliminary.

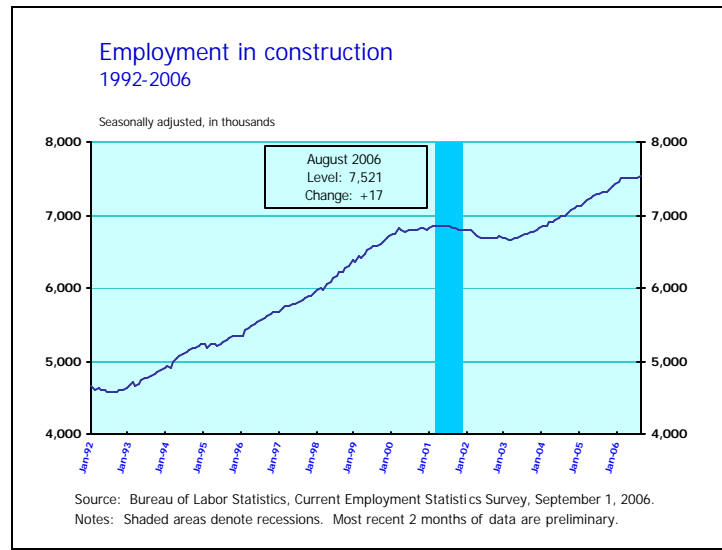
- Education and health services added 60,000 jobs to payrolls, accounting for nearly half of the total nonfarm gain.
- Elsewhere in the service-providing sector, employment in professional and business services grew by 26,000, and employment in other industries trended up at a more modest pace.
- Manufacturing and retail trade reduced employment in August.



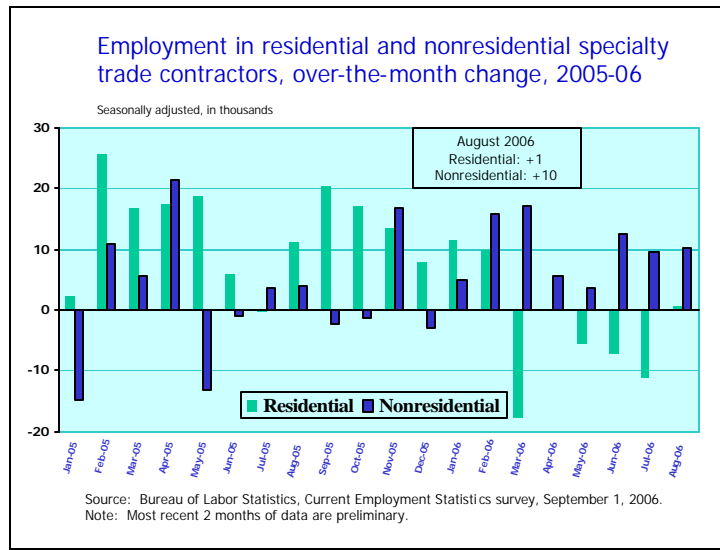
- The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls ticked down 0.2 percent in August, seasonally adjusted. This index has increased by 6.9 percent since its most recent trough in August 2003, but has expanded just 1.1 percent above its most recent peak in October 2000.
- The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls fell by 0.1 hour to 33.8 hours, seasonally adjusted.



- The index of aggregate weekly payrolls of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls fell 0.1 percent in August to 117.9, seasonally adjusted. However, the index has risen by 6.1 percent over-the-year.
- 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 3.9 percent over-the-year. During the same time span the numbers of production workers on private nonfarm payrolls have increased by 1.9 percent and the average weekly hours of production workers have edged up just 0.3 percent, seasonally adjusted.

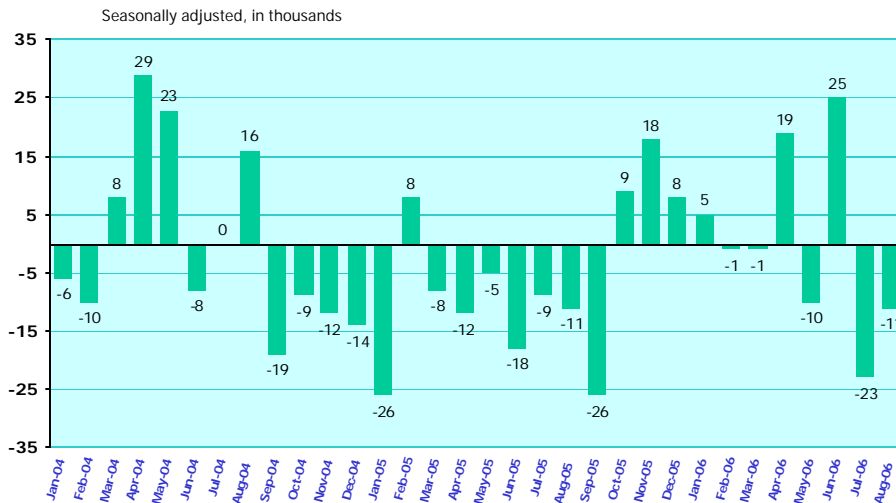


- Construction employment edged up 17,000 in August following 5 months in which employment remained relatively unchanged. During the most recent 6 months, construction has added an average of only 5,000 jobs per month.
- Prior to the latest 6-month period, employment had grown by an average of 24,000 per month since its most recent trough in March 2003.



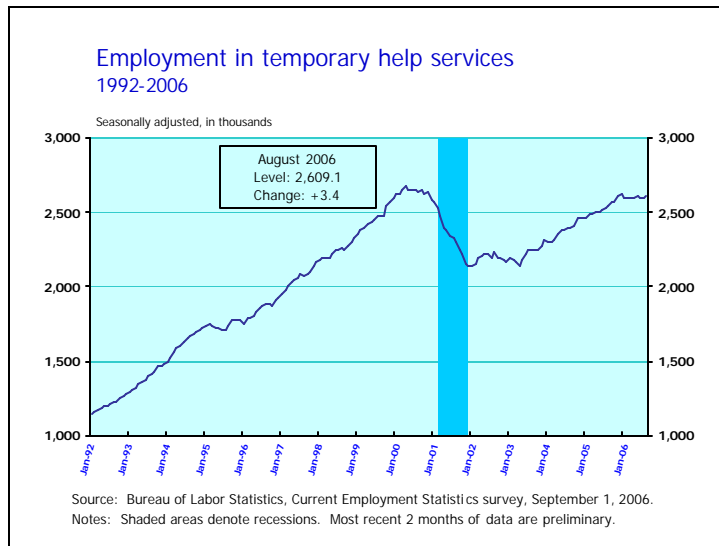
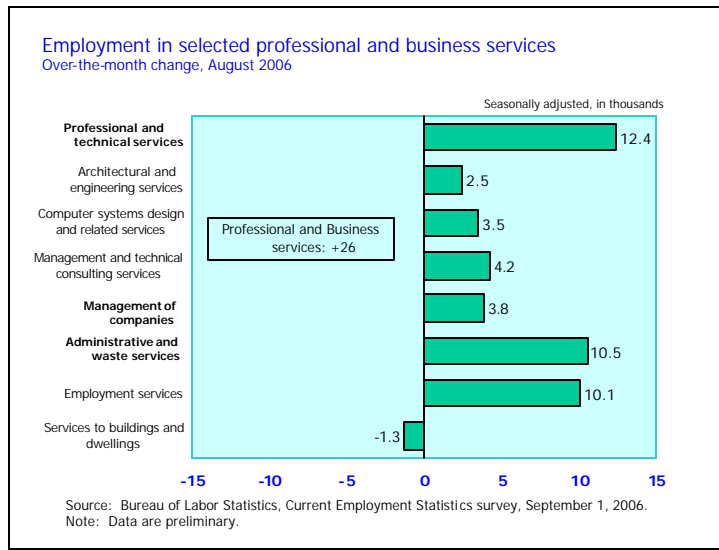
- Much of August's growth in construction occurred within nonresidential specialty trade contractors (+10,000). This makes 7 consecutive months in which nonresidential specialty trade contractors have outpaced the residential component. Since reaching a high point in February 2006, residential specialty trade contractors have shed 41,000 jobs. Over the same time period, nonresidential specialty trade contractors have added 59,000.
- Construction of buildings has experienced similar weakness within its residential component in recent months. Residential building construction has added just 3,000 jobs to payrolls since February 2006 while employment in nonresidential building construction increased by 14,000.

Employment in manufacturing Over-the-month change, 2004-06



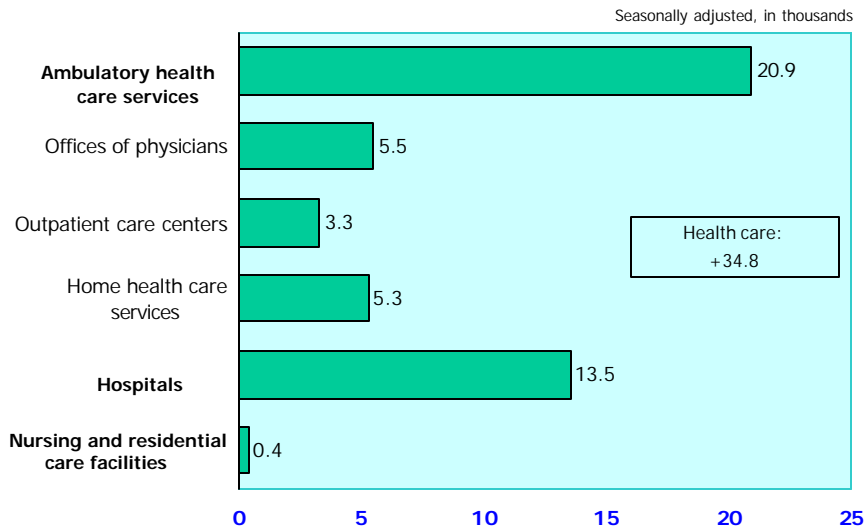
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 1, 2006.
Note: Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

- Manufacturing employment edged down by 11,000 in August, following a 23,000 loss in July. Motor vehicles and parts, wood products, and furniture and related products accounted for most of the employment decline in August.
- Employment in motor vehicles and parts decreased by 7,000 in August, following a decline of 22,000 in July. August traditionally marks the return to payrolls of employees furloughed in July for model year plant retooling. However, smaller-than-usual August rebounds in production were matched by smaller-than-usual rebounds in employment.
- The manufacturing workweek fell 0.1 hour to 41.3, while factory overtime was unchanged at 4.5 hours, seasonally adjusted.



- Professional and business services added 26,000 jobs in August. The August job gain was more modest than the average gain of 52,000 per month for the prior 3 months.
- Over the year, professional and business services employment grew by 461,000.
- Employment in temporary help services has changed little since January; the industry added 3,000 jobs in August.

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



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 1, 2006.
Note: Data are preliminary.

- Health care employment rose by 35,000 jobs, with ambulatory health care services contributing 21,000 of the net increase and hospitals contributing 14,000.
- Health care has added an average of 27,000 jobs to payrolls per month this year—an annualized growth rate of 2.6 percent. This compares to an annualized growth rate of only 1.3 percent for total nonfarm employment.