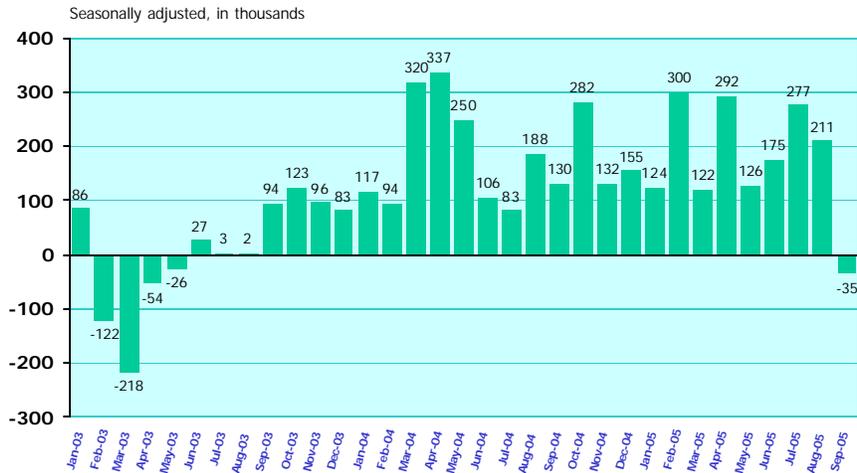




**Current Employment Statistics**  
**Highlights**  
**September 2005**

Bureau of Labor Statistics  
October 7, 2005

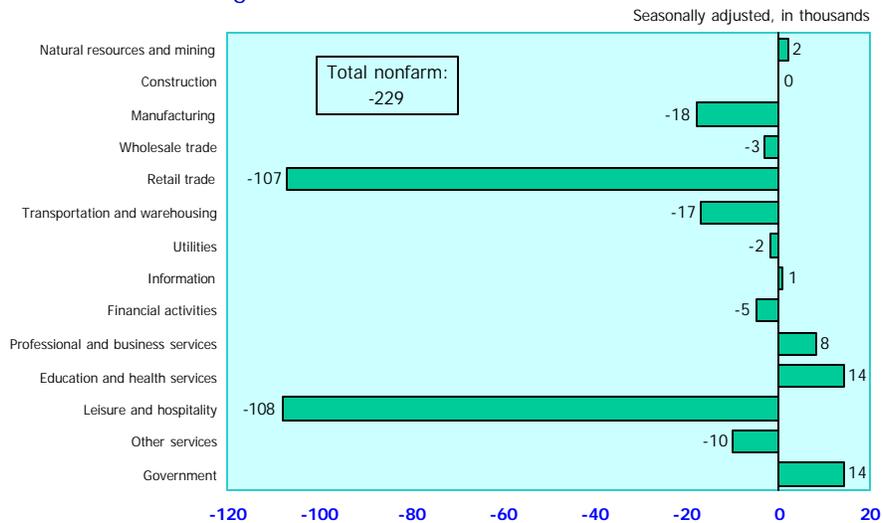
## Employment in total nonfarm Over-the-month change, 2003-05



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 7, 2005.  
Note: Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

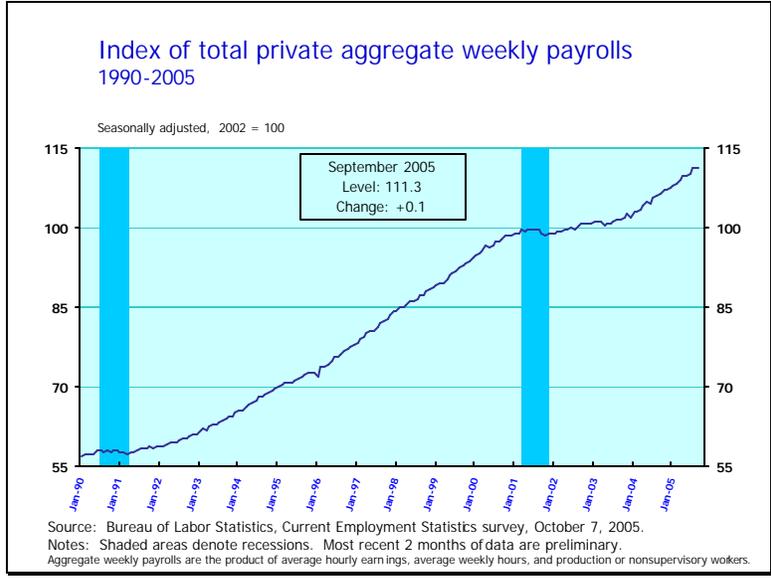
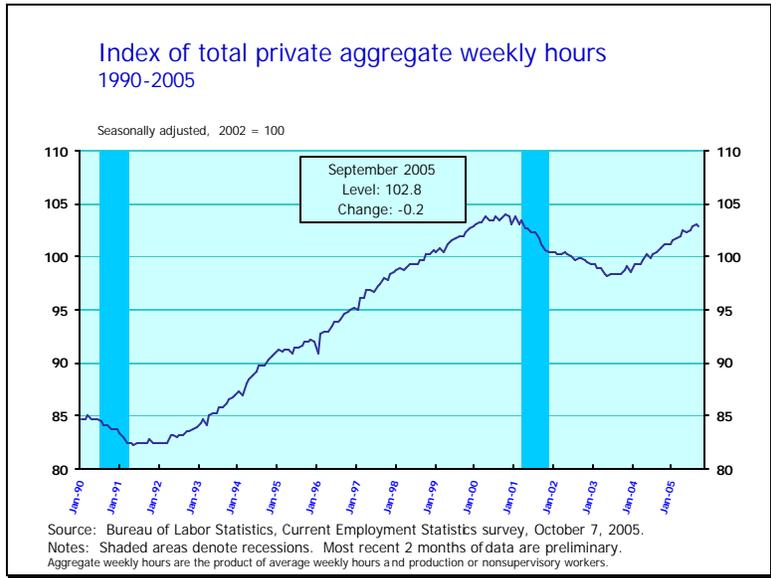
- Total nonfarm payroll employment was little changed (-35,000) in September, reflecting the impact of Hurricane Katrina and developments in the rest of the nation. Significant declines occurred in retail trade, leisure and hospitality, and manufacturing, while significant growth was experienced by professional and business services and education and health services.
- Average weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls were unchanged in September, and remain at 33.7 hours, seasonally adjusted. Since late 2002, the average workweek has been flat, fluctuating between 33.6 and 33.8 hours.
- Average hourly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 3 cents in September to \$16.18, seasonally adjusted. Average weekly earnings grew by 0.2 percent over the month to \$545.27. Over the year, average hourly earnings increased by 2.6 percent and average weekly earnings grew by 2.3 percent.

Employment in total nonfarm and supersectors  
 September 2005 over-the-month change's departure from prior  
 12-month average

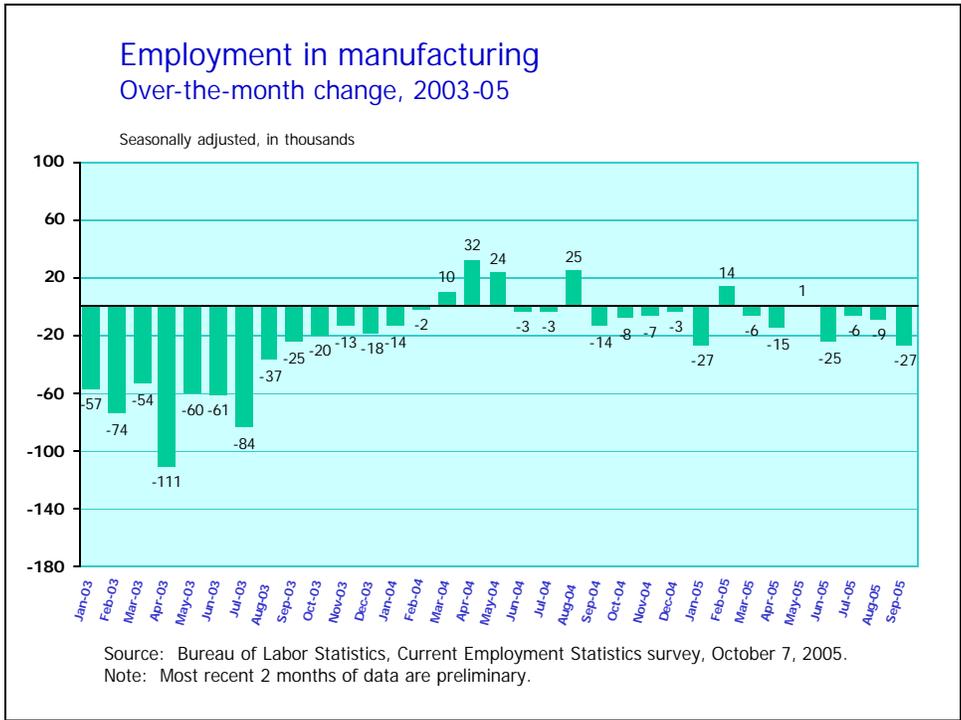


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 7, 2005.  
 Note: Data are preliminary. The departure was calculated by subtracting the prior 12-month average employment change from September's over-the-month change.

- Over the year ending in August, payroll employment had grown by an average of 194,000 a month, thus September's job loss fell about 230,000 below the 1-year trend. A large share of the departure from trend occurred in retail trade and leisure and hospitality. Education and health services, government, and professional and business services experienced small above average gains.

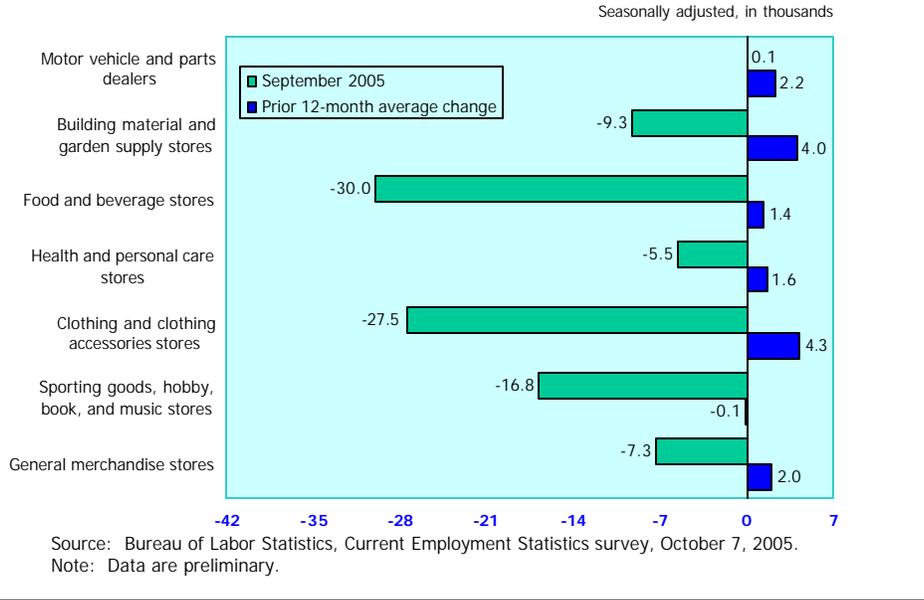


- The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls decreased by 0.2 percent to 102.8 in September, negating last month's increase. Since its most recent trough in May 2003, the index has increased by 4.7 percent, although it still has not fully recovered to its prior peak level of 103.9 in October 2000.
- The index of aggregate weekly payrolls of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.1 percent to 111.3 in September.



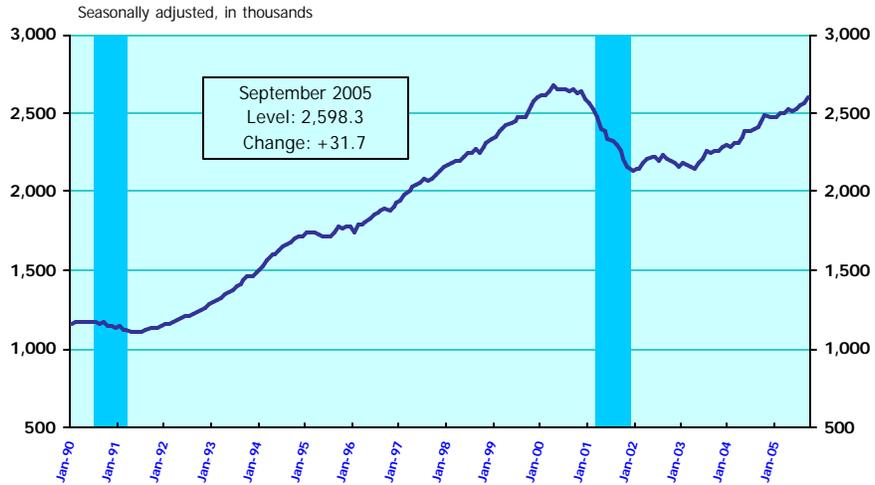
- Employment in manufacturing was down by 27,000 in September and has declined by 118,000 over the year.
- The September job decline was concentrated in transportation equipment manufacturers, which shed 22,000 jobs in September. This industry was affected by a strike of 18,000 in the aerospace industry.
- Other manufacturing employment changes included declines in electrical equipment and appliances (-4,000) and paper and paper products (-3,000) and a gain in machinery manufacturing (7,000).
- The factory workweek was unchanged at 40.5 hours, while manufacturing overtime was down by 0.1 hour to 4.4 hours.

**Employment in selected retail trade industries**  
 Over-the-month change for September 2005 and average monthly change for the prior 12 months



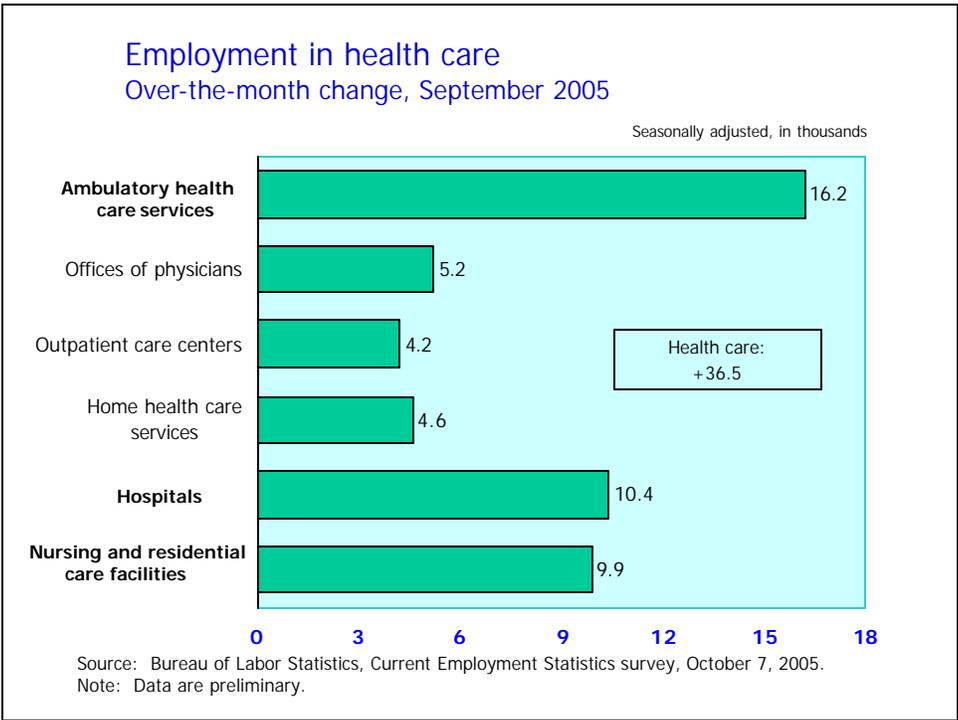
- Retail trade employment declined by 88,000 in September, its largest 1-month decline since April 2001. Employment in most components fell short of their 12-month trend. Rising gas prices, plummeting consumer confidence, and Hurricane Katrina contributed to September's decline.
- Employment in food and beverage stores fell by 30,000 in September. Store closings and restructuring by a supermarket chain, Hurricane Katrina, plus continued weak conditions in the industry contributed to the decline.
- Clothing and clothing accessories stores employment dropped by about 28,000 in September, the largest one-month employment decline in recent history. Much of this is attributed to weak market conditions.
- Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores, and building material and garden supply stores also reduced payroll employment.

## Employment in temporary help services 1990-2005

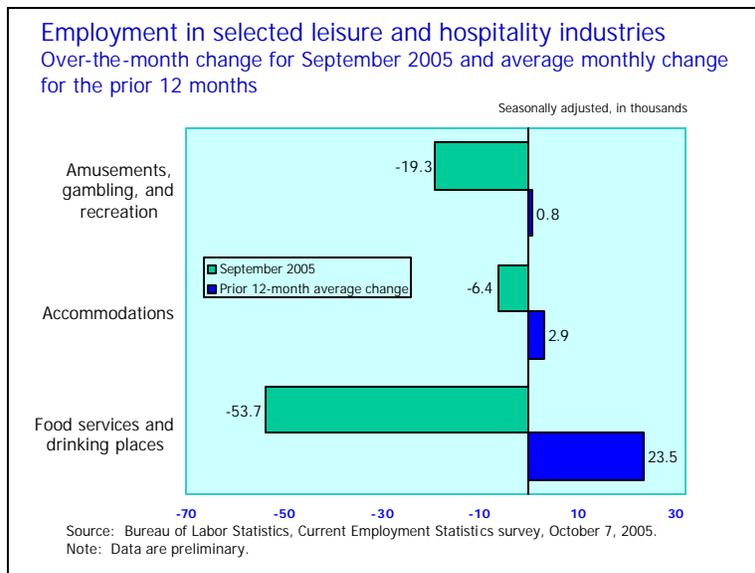
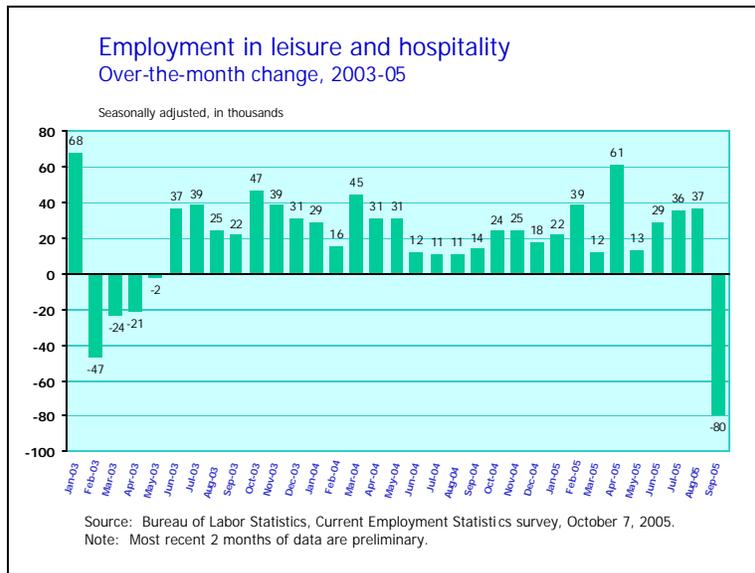


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 7, 2005.  
Notes: Shaded areas denote recessions. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

- Temporary help accounted for much of the gain in professional and business services employment in September.
- Temporary help services (32,000) grew by more than twice its average monthly gain for the previous 12-months. It is possible that some of the September growth is due to the hiring of workers to assist in the post-hurricane recovery efforts.



- Health care employment continued to grow in September (37,000). This industry has experienced consistent growth over the years, with annual growth registering between 2.0 and 3.5 percent since 2000.
- All three components in health care--ambulatory health care, hospitals, and nursing and residential care facilities--experienced strong employment growth in September.



- Leisure and hospitality employment experienced job losses totaling 80,000, after increasing for 27 consecutive months with an average of 28,000 jobs gained per month. It is the largest 1-month job decline since August 1989.
- Over the month, food services and drinking places accounted for most of the decline in leisure and hospitality, shedding 54,000 jobs in September. September's job loss is largely due to Hurricane Katrina, although weak market conditions also contributed to the loss. Amusement, gambling, and recreation had an employment decline of 19,000.