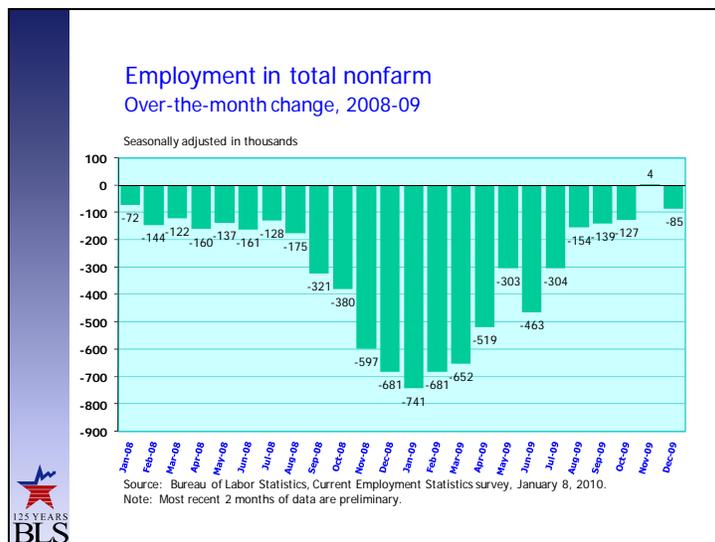
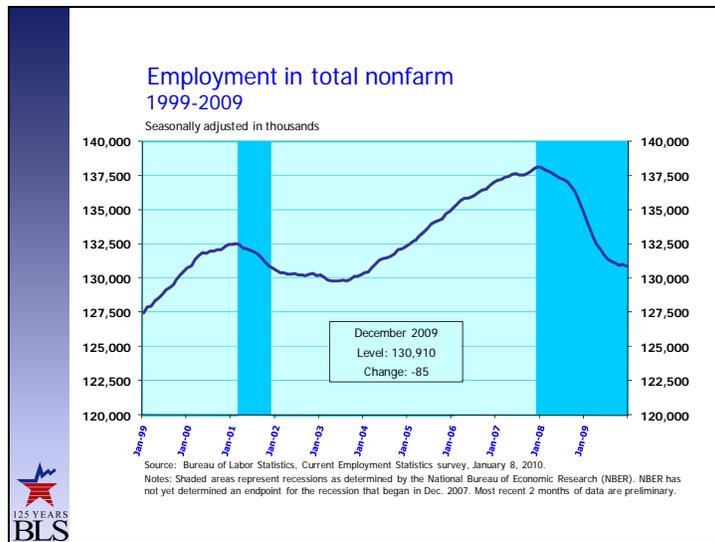


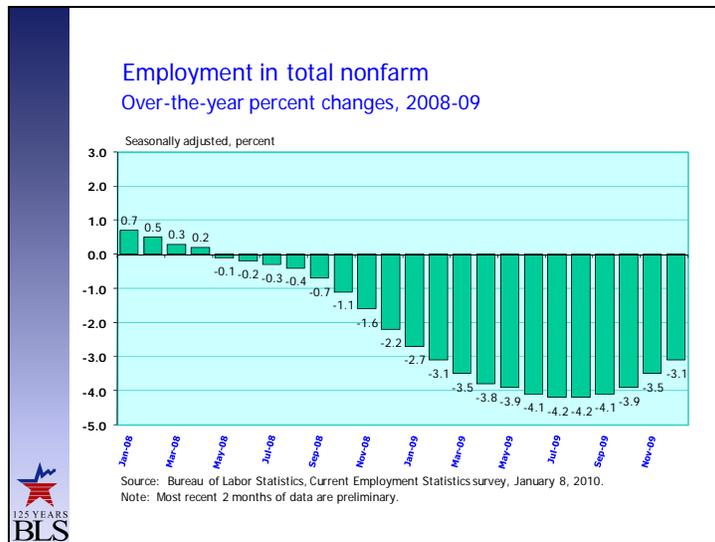


Current Employment Statistics Highlights December 2009

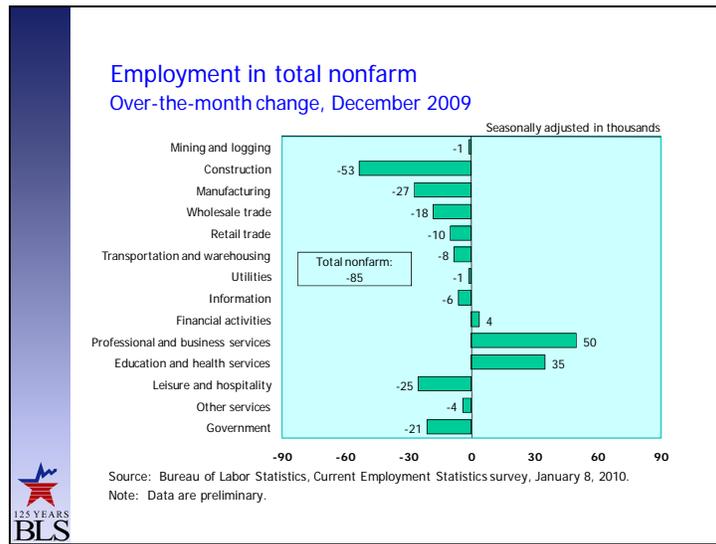
Bureau of Labor Statistics
January 8, 2010



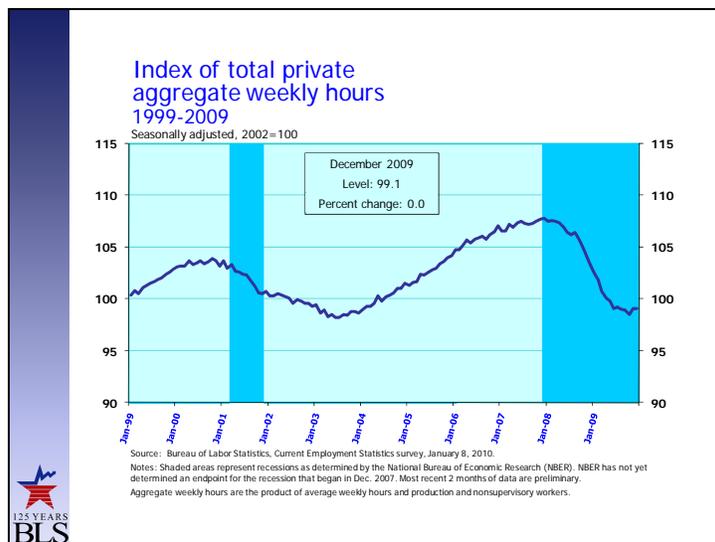
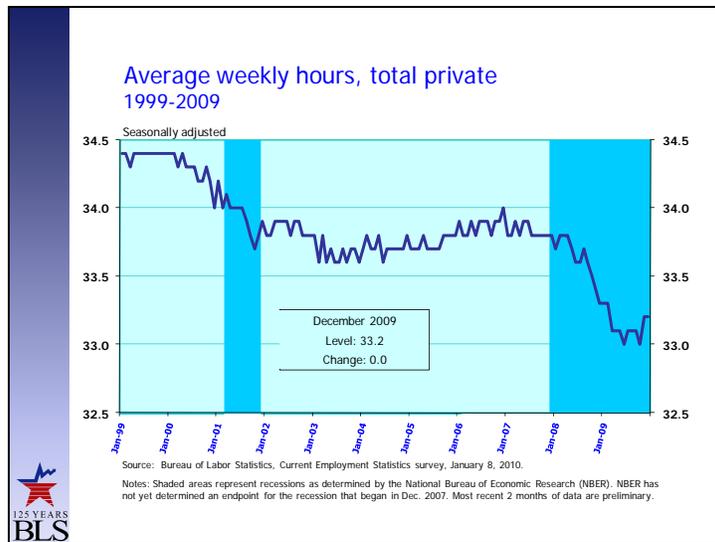
- Nonfarm payroll employment edged down (-85,000) in December.
- Monthly job losses averaged 691,000 in the first quarter of the year and then slowed in each successive quarter with the 4th quarter averaging 69,000 per month.
- In 2009, employment in nonfarm payrolls fell by 4.2 million, the largest annual decrease in the history of the series. Since the recession began in December 2007, payroll employment has decreased by 7.2 million.



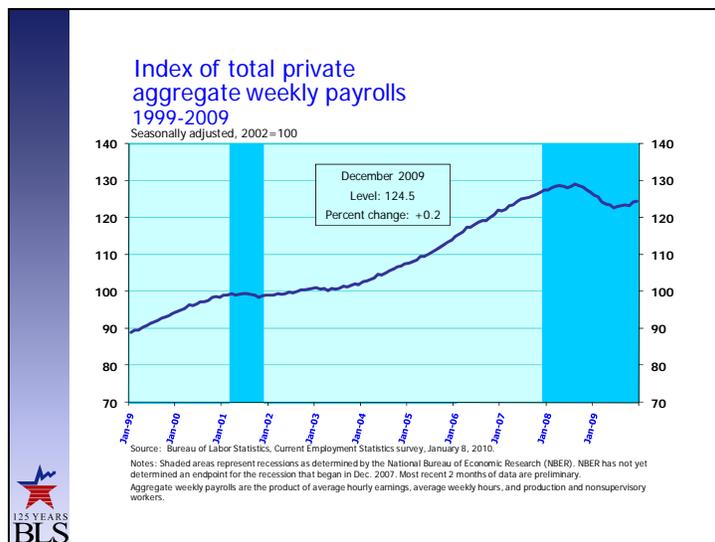
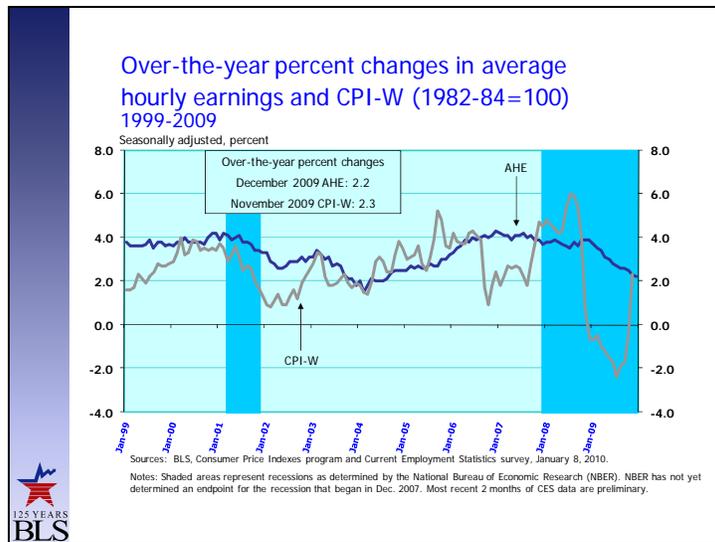
- The 12-month rate of job loss has slowed from 4.2 percent in August to 3.1 percent in December. The over-the-year rate of change is now at a pace last seen in February.



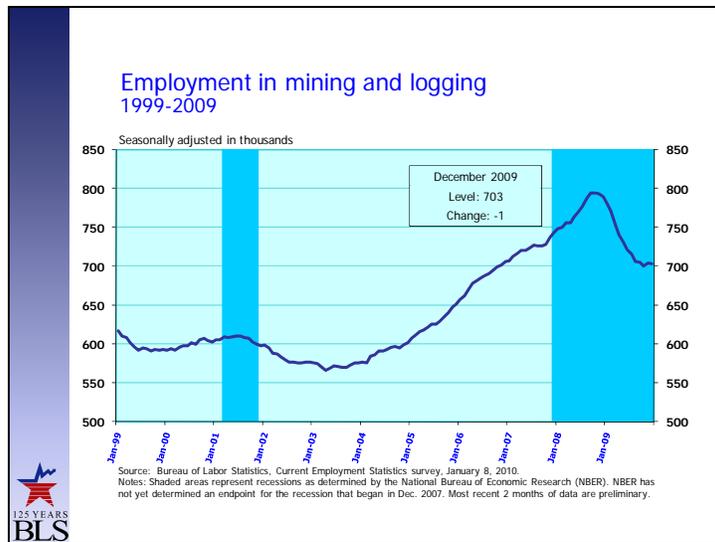
- In December, job losses, led by construction and manufacturing, were widespread throughout most industry sectors.
- During 2009, job losses have moderated in most industry sectors.
- Only professional and business services and education and health services experienced job gains.



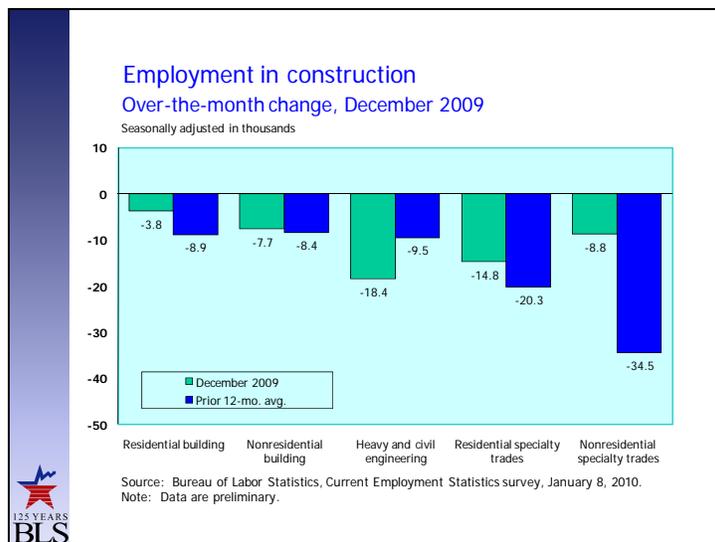
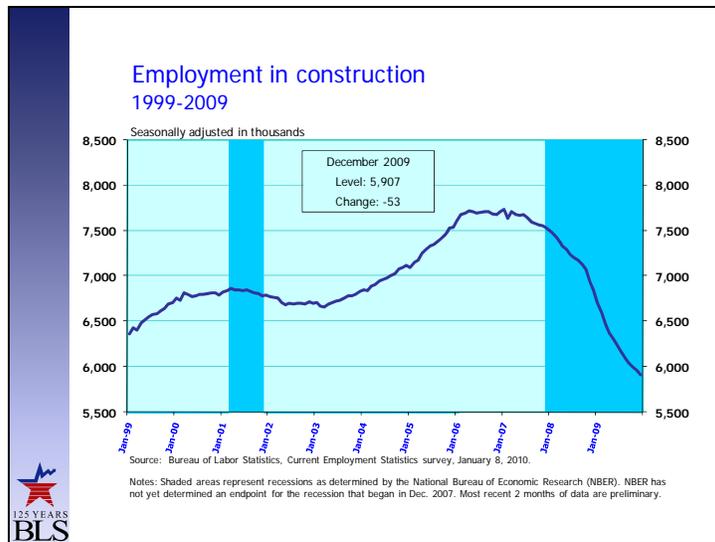
- In December, average weekly hours of production and nonsupervisory employees remained unchanged at 33.2 hours.
- In December, the index of total private aggregate weekly hours remained unchanged. Since reaching a peak in December 2007, the index has fallen by 8.1 percent.



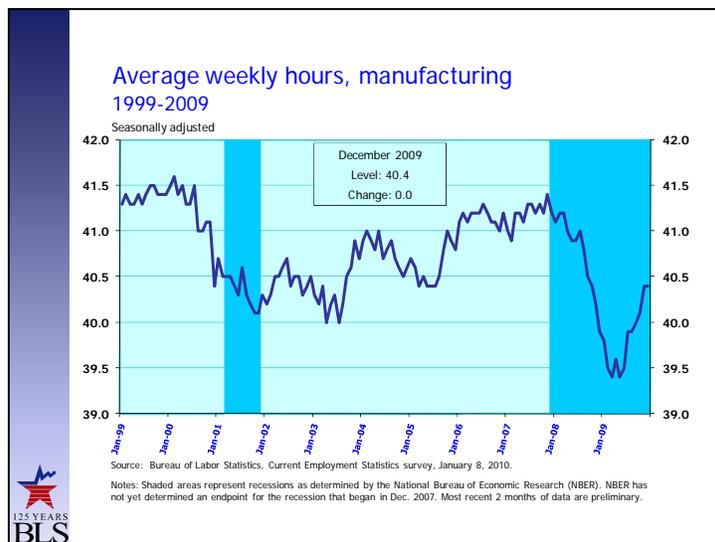
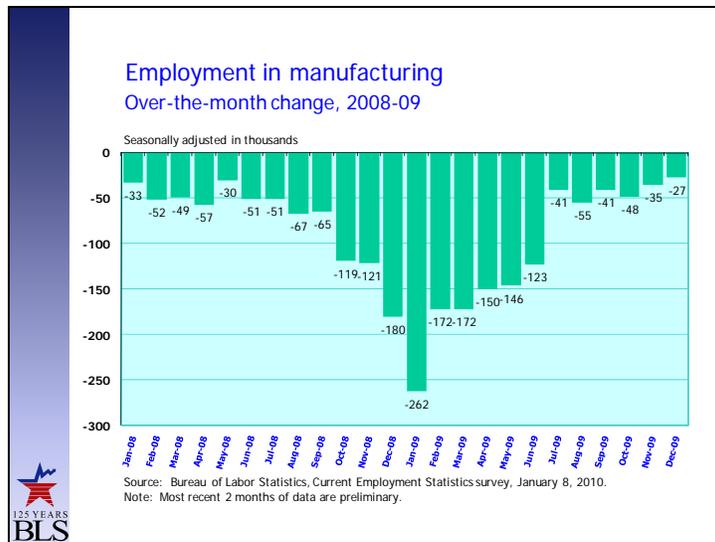
- In December, average hourly earnings of production and nonsupervisory employees rose 3 cents to \$18.80. Over the past year, average hourly earnings have risen by 2.2 percent, similar to the November over-the-year change in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W).
- The index of total private aggregate weekly payrolls rose by 0.2 percent in December after a 0.8 percent increase in November. However, the index is still 3.6 percent below its peak in August 2008.



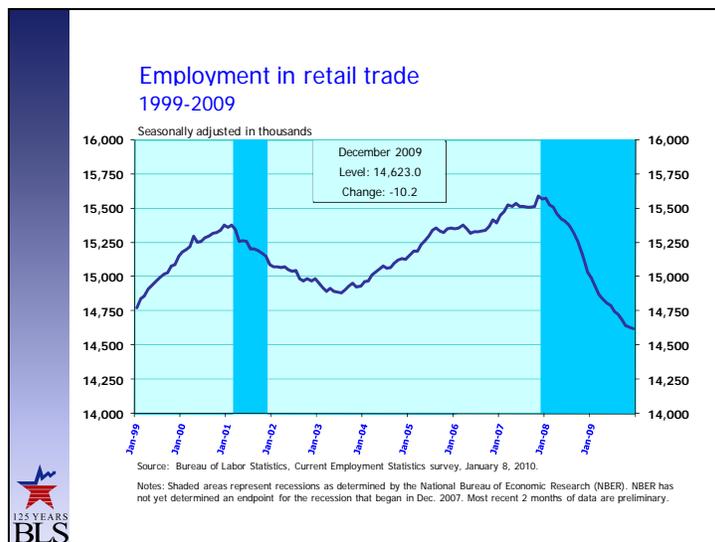
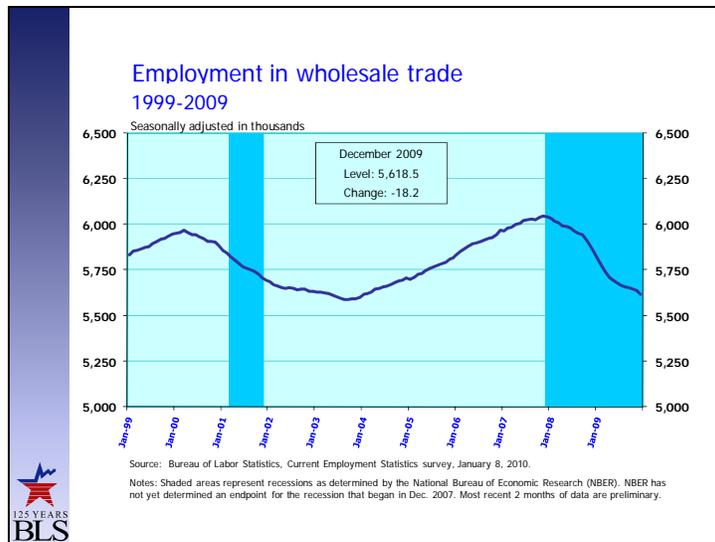
- Employment in mining and logging was flat in December.
- Since reaching a peak in October 2008, employment in the industry has decreased by 91,000 or 11.5 percent.



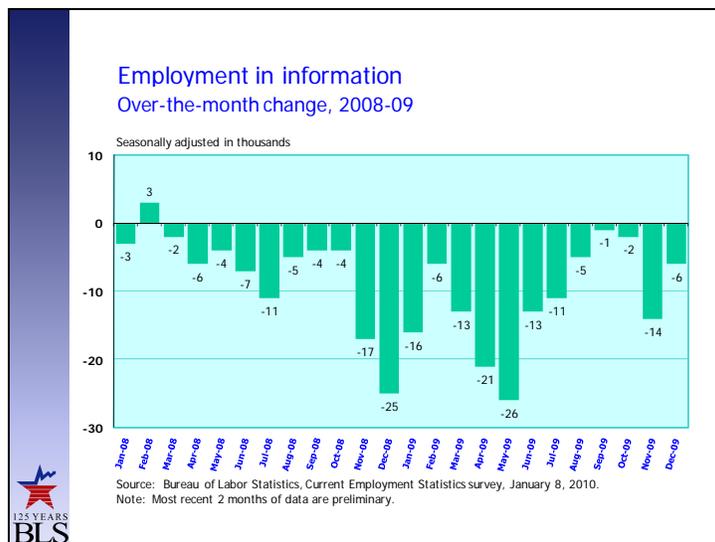
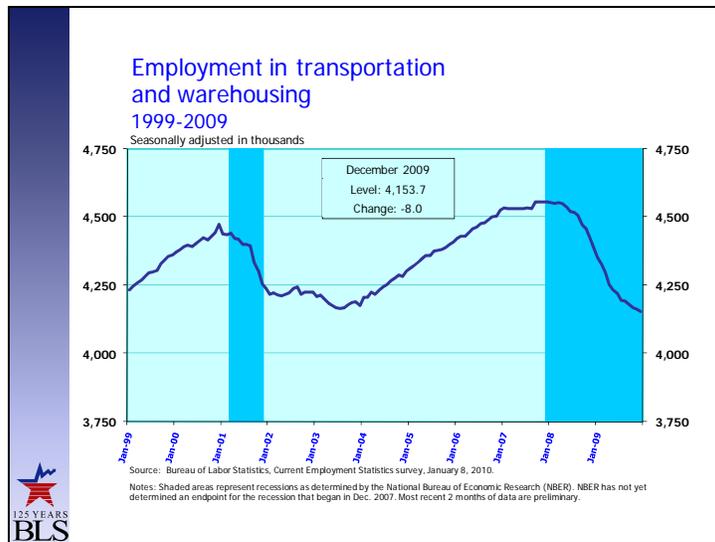
- Construction employment fell by 53,000 in December, similar to its prior 6-month average. In 2009, the industry shed 934,000 jobs.
- In December, losses were concentrated in nonresidential and heavy construction (-35,000). Over the current 6 months, 75 percent of the decline in construction has occurred in these components.



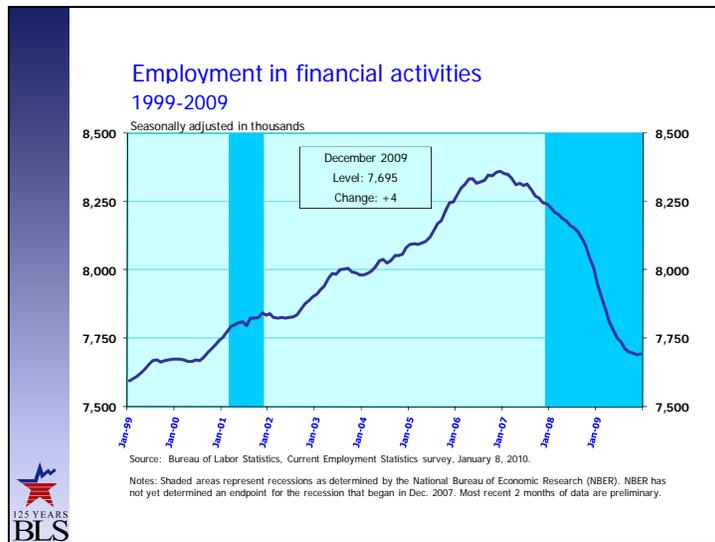
- In December, manufacturing shed 27,000 jobs. Average monthly job losses in the second half of 2009 were about one-fourth as large as those in the first half of the year.
- In December, the factory workweek was unchanged at 40.4 and overtime held at 3.4 hours. Since May, the manufacturing workweek has increased by 1.0 hour.



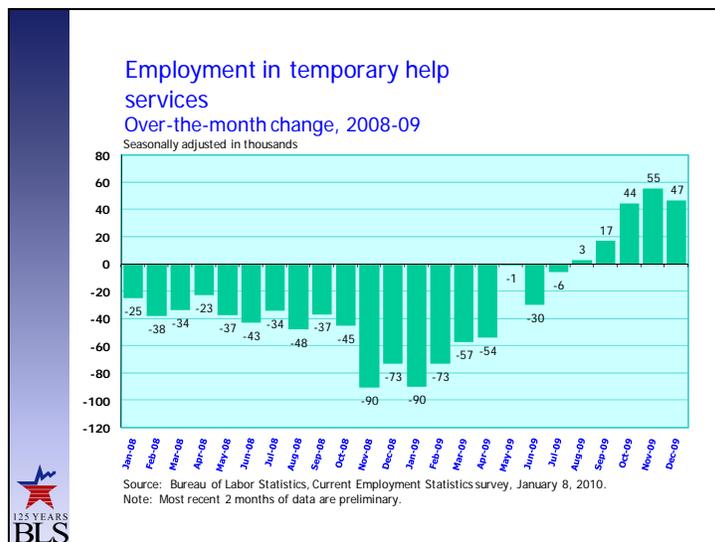
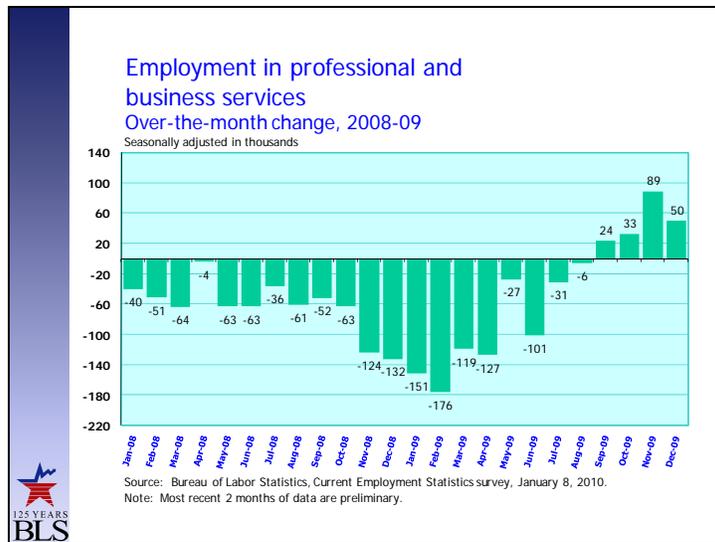
- Wholesale trade employment declined by 18,000 in December, bringing the total job loss to 232,000 in 2009. Nearly all of the jobs lost, over the month and over the year, were in durable goods.
- Retail trade employment edged down in December, as employment in general merchandise stores fell by 15,000.
- The retail industry shed 415,000 jobs in 2009 and 945,000 jobs since the beginning of the recession.



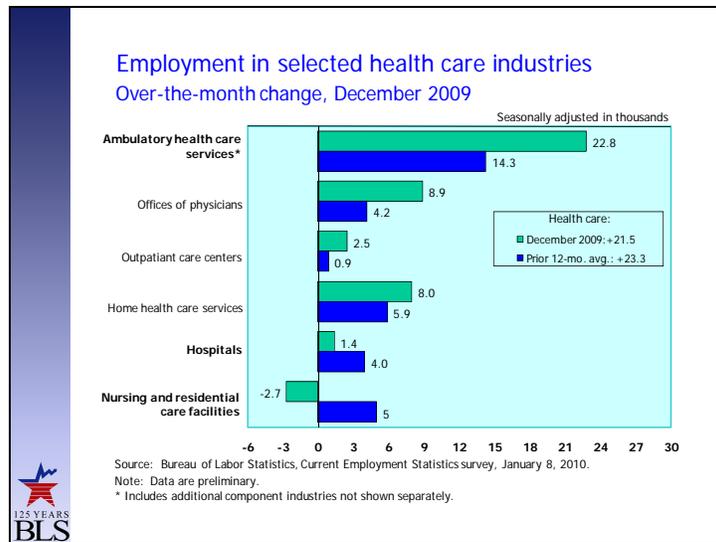
- Transportation and warehousing employment edged down in December. The industry shed 236,000 jobs in 2009, the largest annual job loss in the history of the series. Trucking shed 94,000 jobs in 2009.
- Employment in information was little change in December. The industry shed 134,000 jobs in 2009, the largest annual job loss since 2003. Publishing accounted for the majority of the industry job loss in 2009.



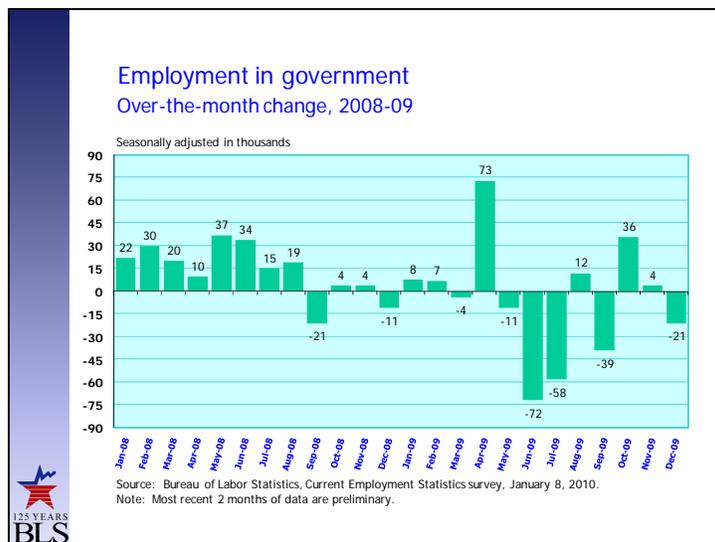
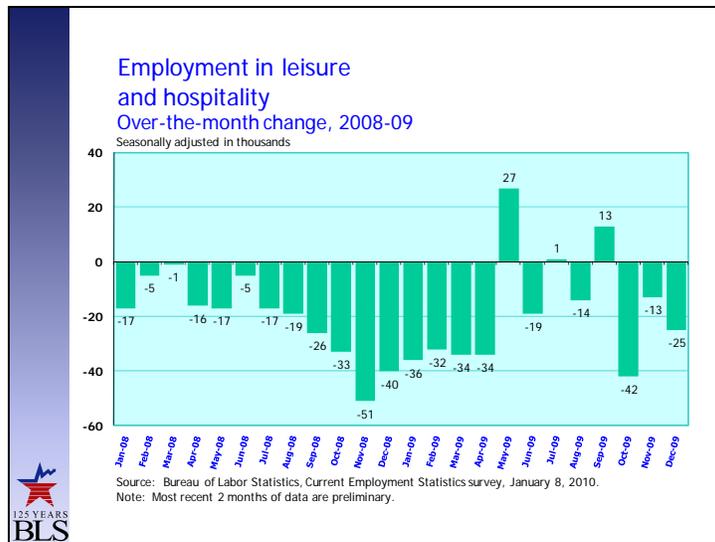
- Employment in financial activities was little changed in December. Over the year, the industry shed 315,000 jobs, the largest annual job loss in the history of the series. Finance and insurance (-200,000) accounted for the majority of the industry job loss in 2009.



- Employment in professional and business services rose by 50,000 in December. Temporary help services accounted for nearly all of this increase. Since reaching a recent employment low in July, temporary help services has added 166,000 jobs.
- In 2009, professional and business services cut 542,000 jobs.



- Health care employment continued to rise in December (22,000). The industry’s payroll employment has increased by 631,000 since the start of the recession.
- In December, notable gains occurred in the offices of physicians (9,000) and home health care services (8,000).
- Ambulatory and health care services added 179,000 jobs during 2009, led by home health care services.



- Employment in leisure and hospitality edged down in December. Since the beginning of the recession, the industry shed 455,000 jobs, with three-quarters of the job loss in accommodations and food services.
- Employment in government edged down in December as most of this loss was divided between federal and local government.
- In 2009, government employment fell by 65,000; all of the job loss occurred in the second half of the year. Local government employment declined by 98,000 jobs over the year.