

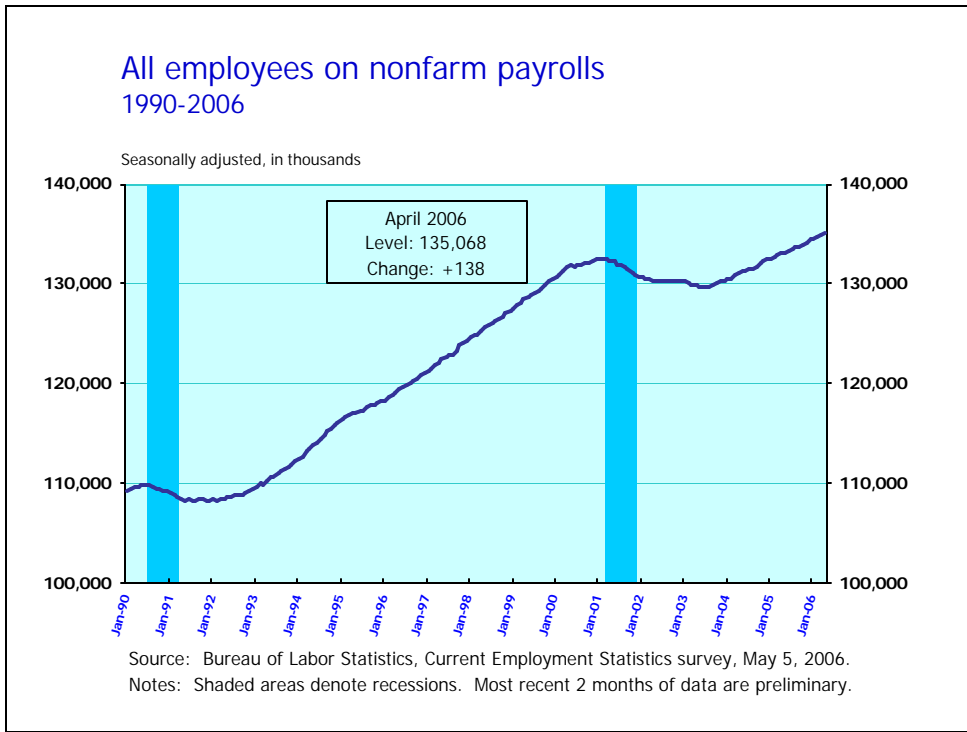


Current Employment Statistics

Highlights

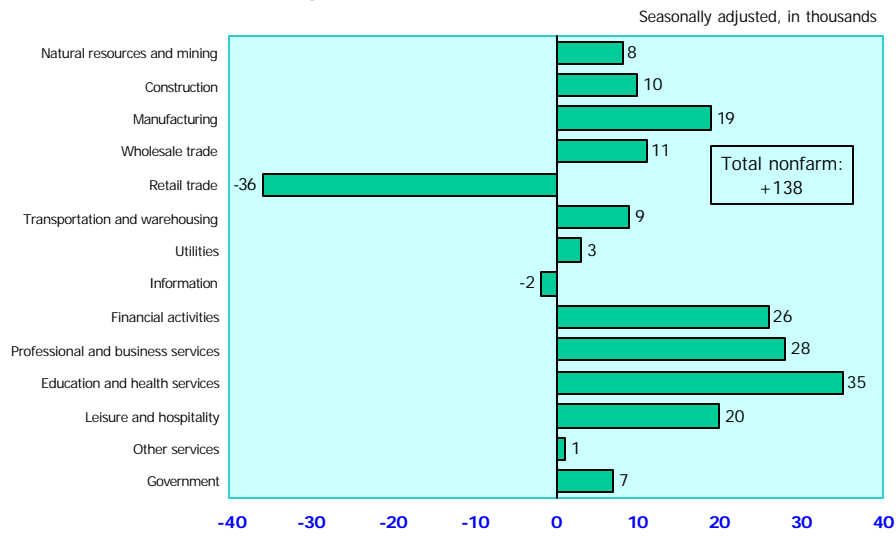
April 2006

Bureau of Labor Statistics
May 5, 2006



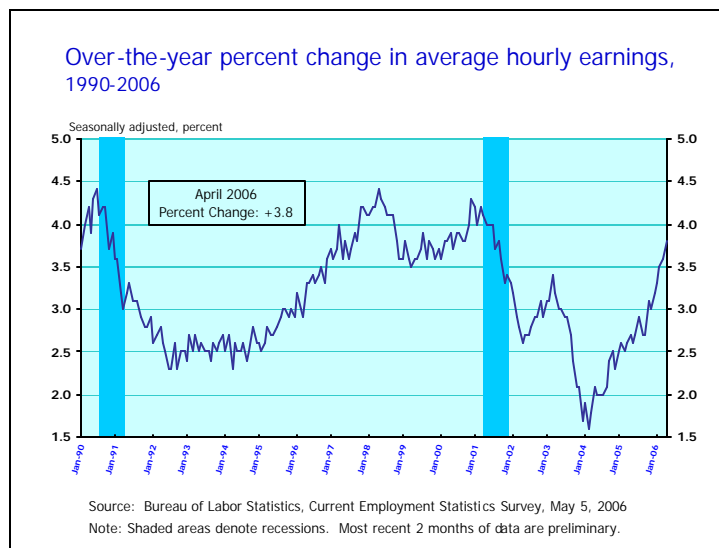
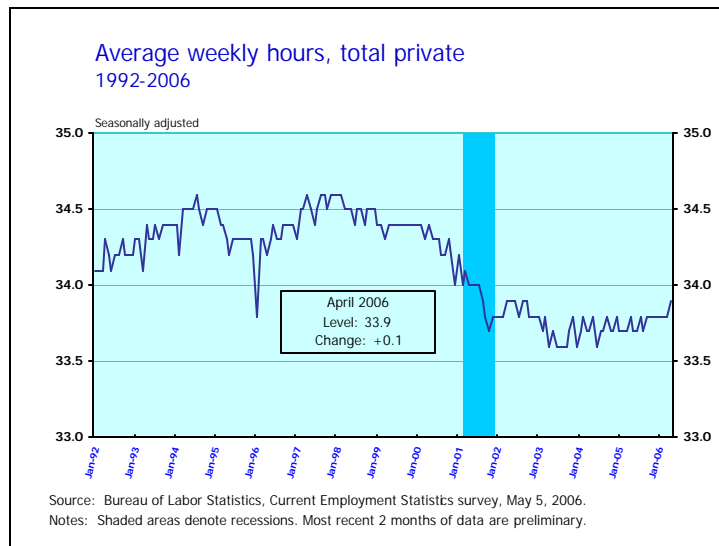
- Nonfarm payrolls increased by 138,000 in April to 135.1 million, seasonally adjusted. This increase follows gains of 200,000 in both February and March. Over the year, payroll employment has risen by almost 2 million or an average of 164,000 per month.

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

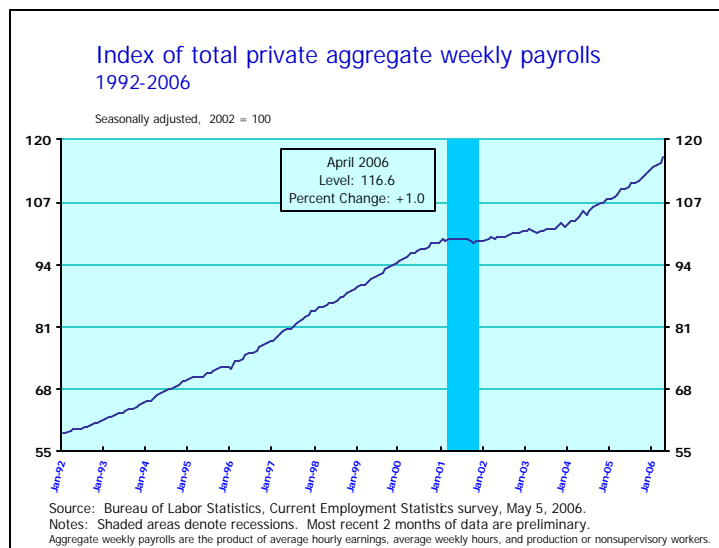
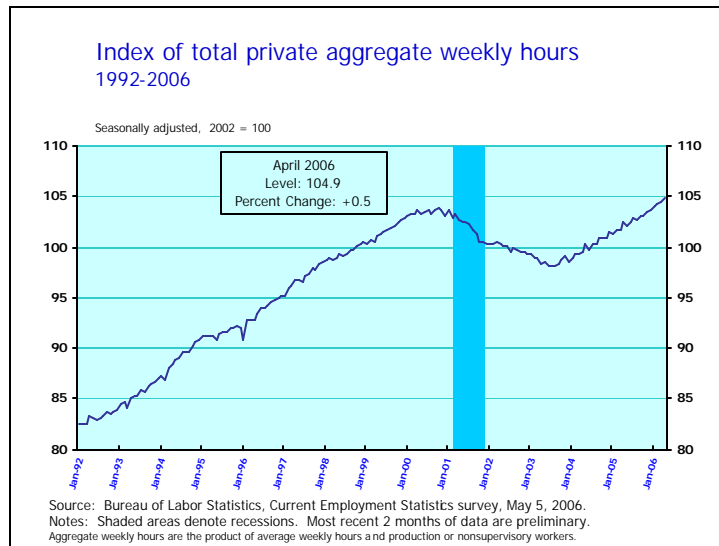


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 5, 2006.
Note: Data are preliminary.

- Employment growth was spread throughout most supersectors.
- Industries with notable employment gains included education and health services, professional and business services, financial activities, leisure and hospitality and manufacturing.
- The retail trade industry experienced the only notable loss of employment in April.

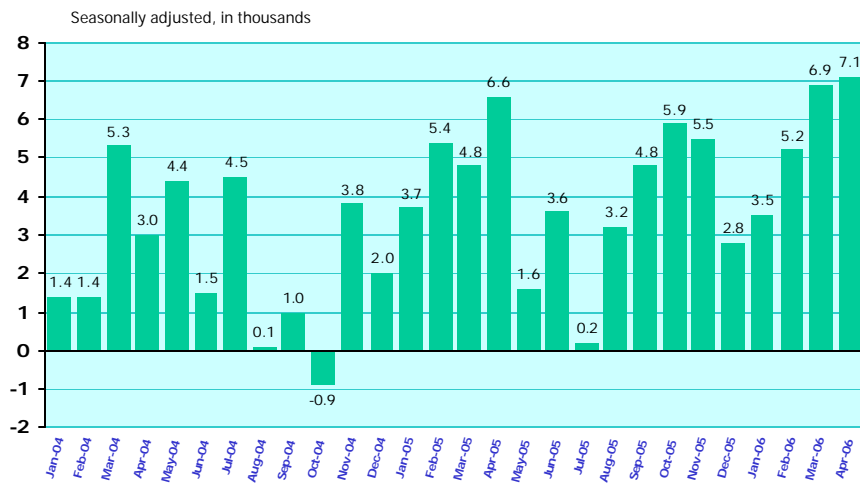


- Average weekly hours for production or nonsupervisory workers increased by 0.1 hours to 33.9 in April, seasonally adjusted. This is the first movement in hours in 7 months and brings the average workweek to its highest level since September 2002.
- Average hourly earnings of production and nonsupervisory workers increased by 9 cents in April to \$16.61, seasonally adjusted. This follows gains of 5 cents in March and 7 cents in February.
- Over the year, average hourly earnings increased by 61 cents or 3.8 percent—the largest over-the-year percent change since August 2001.



- The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.5 percent to 104.9 in April, seasonally adjusted. Since its most recent trough in August 2003, the index has increased by 6.8 percent, surpassing the level of its most recent peak (103.9) in December 2000.
- The index of aggregate weekly payrolls of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 1.0 percent to 116.6 in April, seasonally adjusted--the largest over-the-month percentage increase since February 1997. Over-the-year, this index has grown by 6.4 percent.

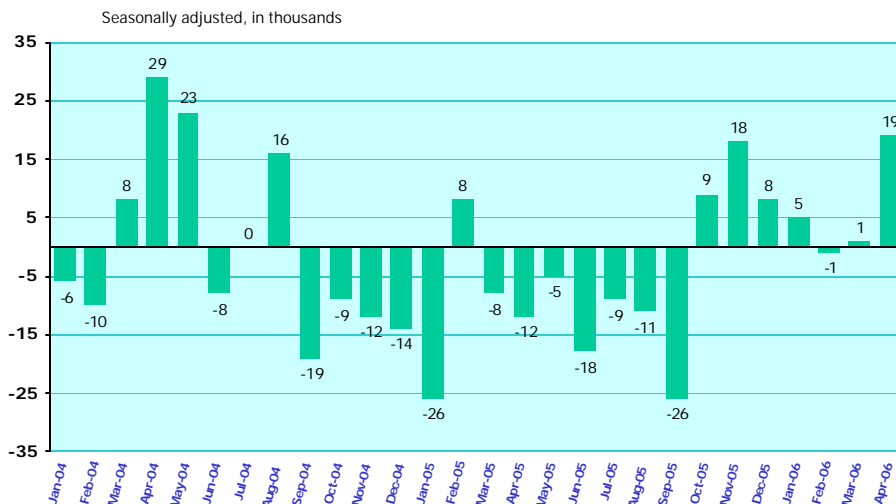
Employment in mining Over-the-month change, 2004-06



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 5, 2006.
Note: Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

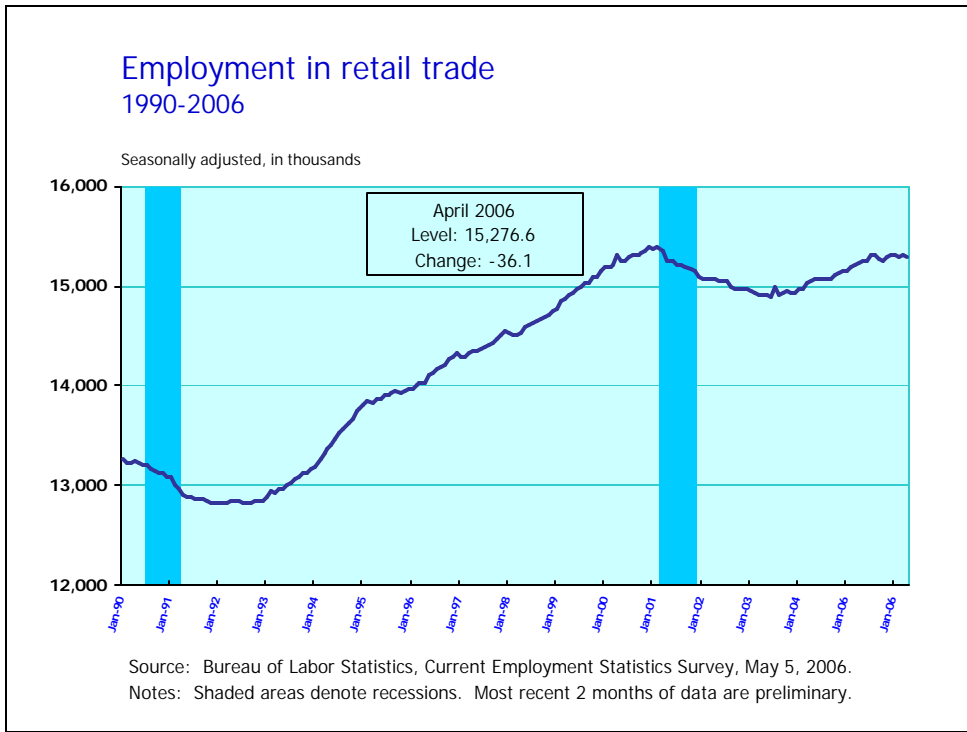
- Employment in mining rose by 7,000 in April. Since its recent low in April 2003, mining employment has increased by 106,000, or 21 percent.
- Gains have been concentrated within support activities, particularly those related to oil and gas. Mining support employment has grown by 79,000 or 45 percent since April 2003.

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



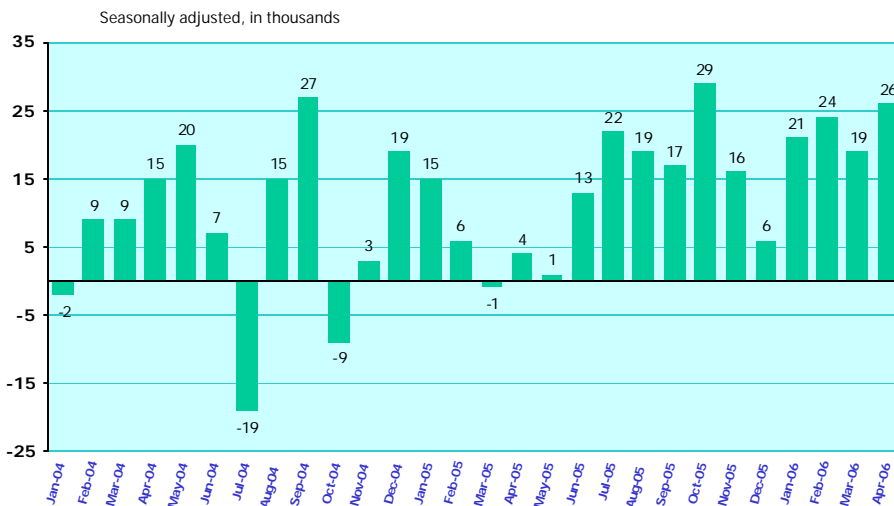
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 5, 2006.
Note: Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

- Manufacturing added 19,000 jobs over the month; factory employment has risen by 50,000 since October 2005.
- Employment increased in motor vehicles and parts (12,000), computer and electronic products (7,000), and fabricated metals (5,000). Small employment declines in primary metals, paper products and textile mills partly offset these gains.
- Manufacturing hours were unchanged, while factory overtime edged down.



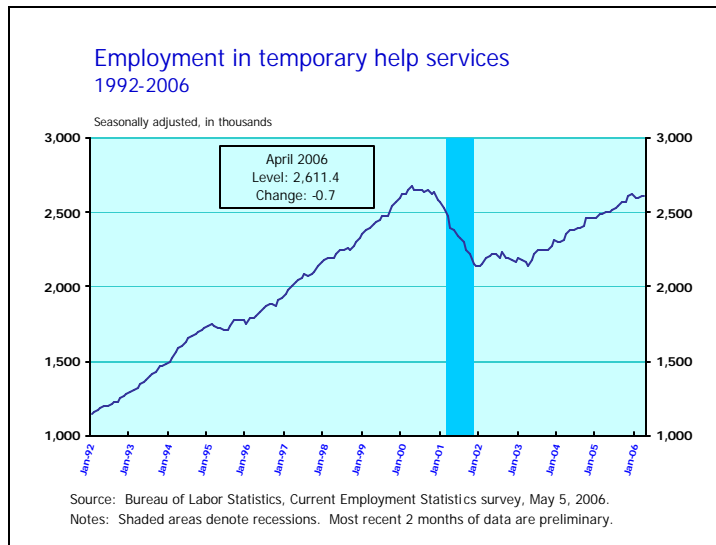
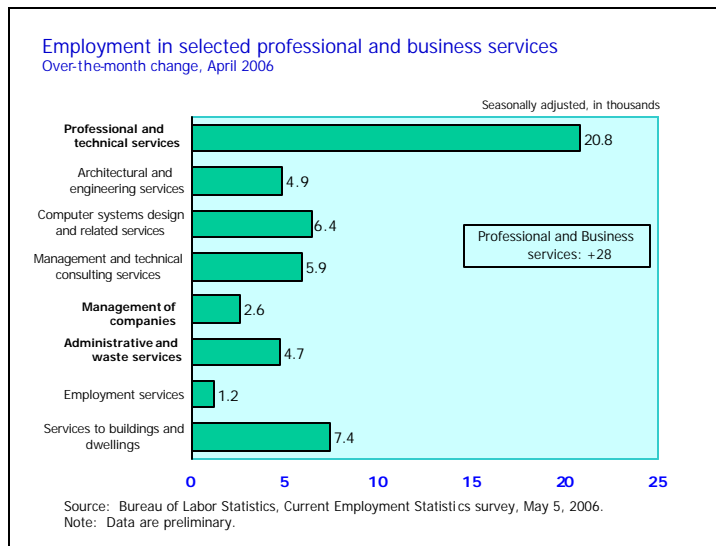
- Retail trade employment declined by 36,000 in April, more than offsetting a large increase in March. Though the industry has added approximately 400,000 jobs since a trough in July 2003, employment has been little changed, on net, since the middle of last year.
- Nearly the entire April decline occurred in general merchandise stores. The decline more than offset an exceptionally large increase in March, and employment has shown a slight negative trend since last August.
- Building material and garden supply stores experienced its sixth consecutive month of above-trend growth. This industry has added 45,300 jobs over this time.

Employment in financial activities Over-the-month change, 2004-06



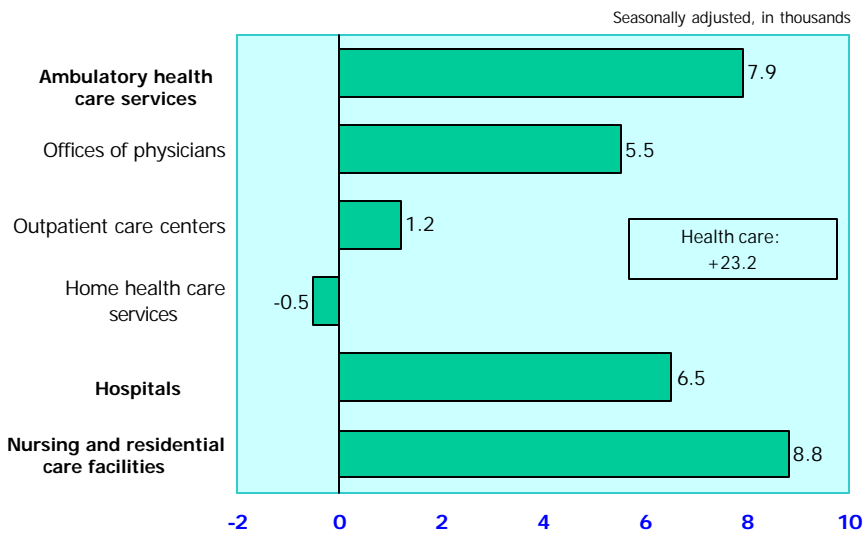
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 5, 2006.
Note: Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

- Employment in financial activities rose by 26,000, marking the ninth month in the past 10 where the industry has had significant employment growth. Over the year, financial activities employment increased by 213,000.
- In April, growth in the industry was led by insurance (10,000), credit intermediation (9,000) and real estate (7,000).



- Hiring in professional and business services continued with 28,000 jobs added in April. Over the past 6 months, employment has grown by an average of 40,300 per month.
- Employment growth was spread amongst several of the professional and technical industries—architectural and engineering services, computer systems design, and management and technical consulting services.
- Employment in temporary help services was flat in April and has been little changed so far this year.

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



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 5, 2006.
Note: Data are preliminary.

- Health care continued with average job growth in April. Over the year, employment has expanded by 296,000.
- Growth was spread amongst the three components--ambulatory health care (7,900), hospitals (6,500), and nursing and residential health care (8,800), which included a 3,800 gain in nursing facilities.