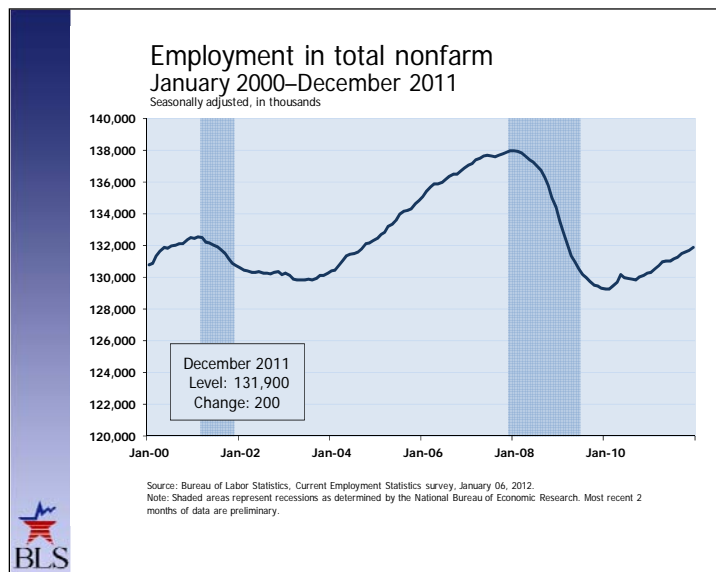
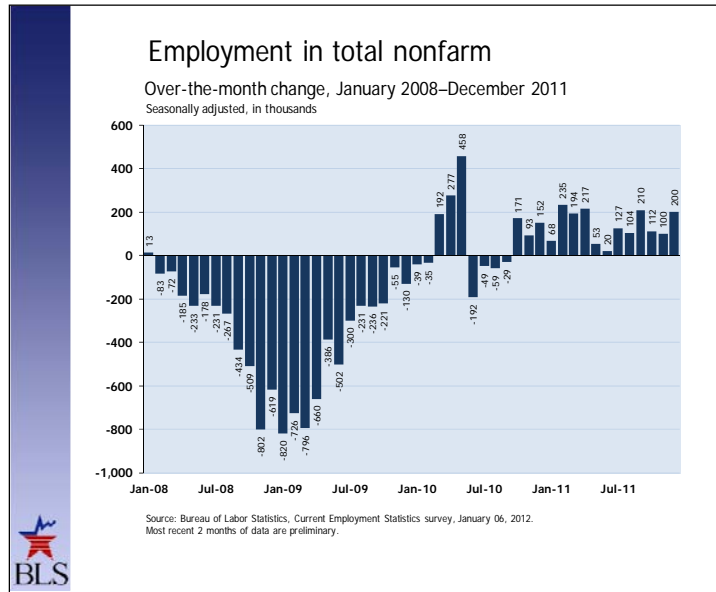


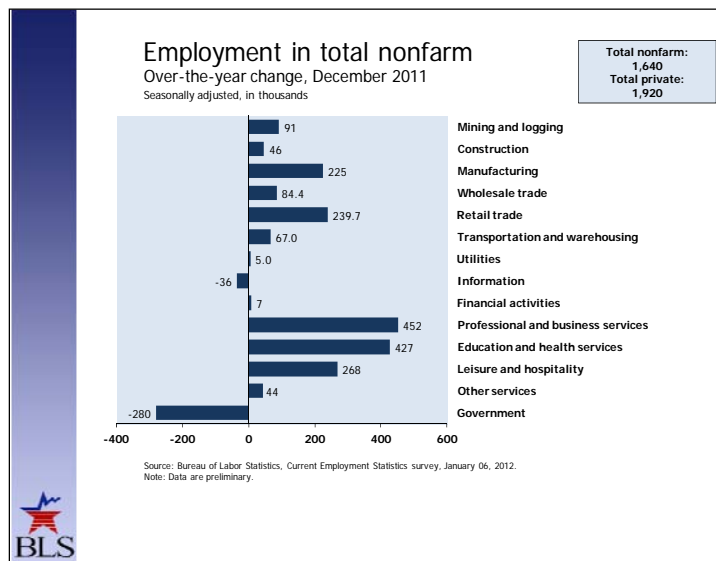
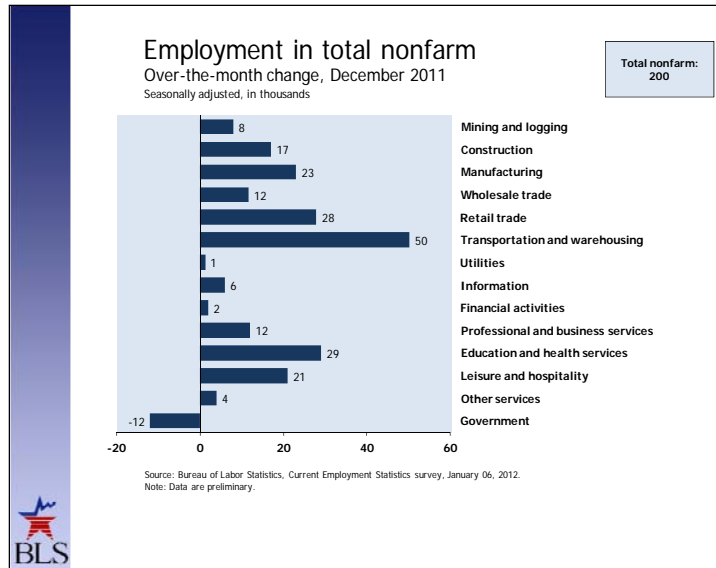


Current Employment Statistics Highlights December 2011

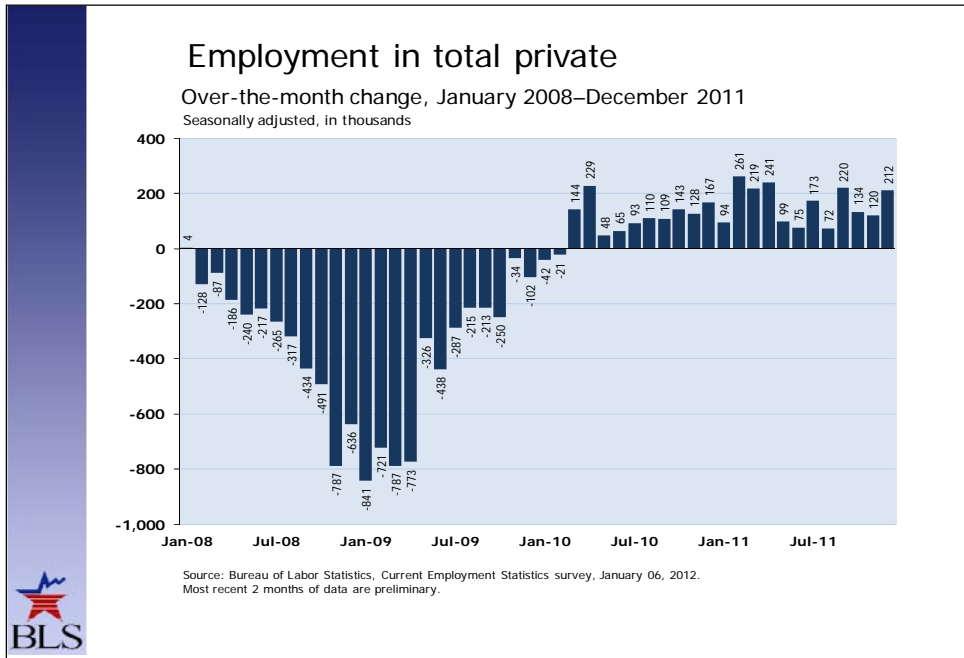
Bureau of Labor Statistics
January 6, 2012



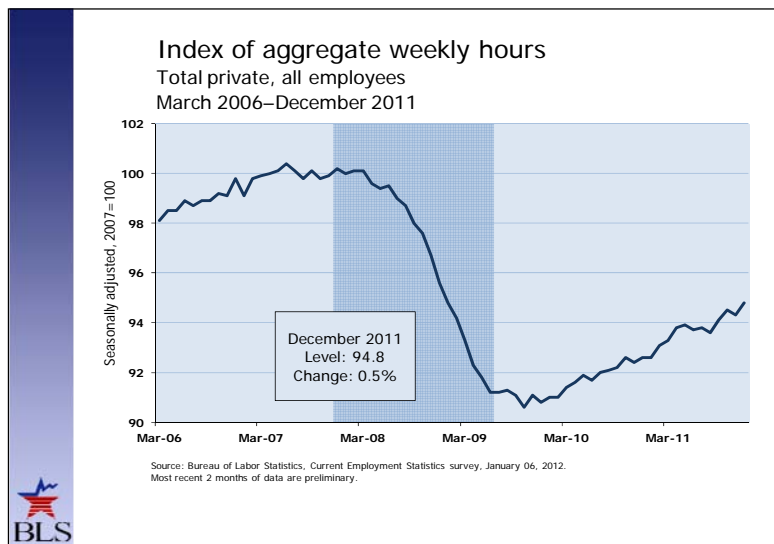
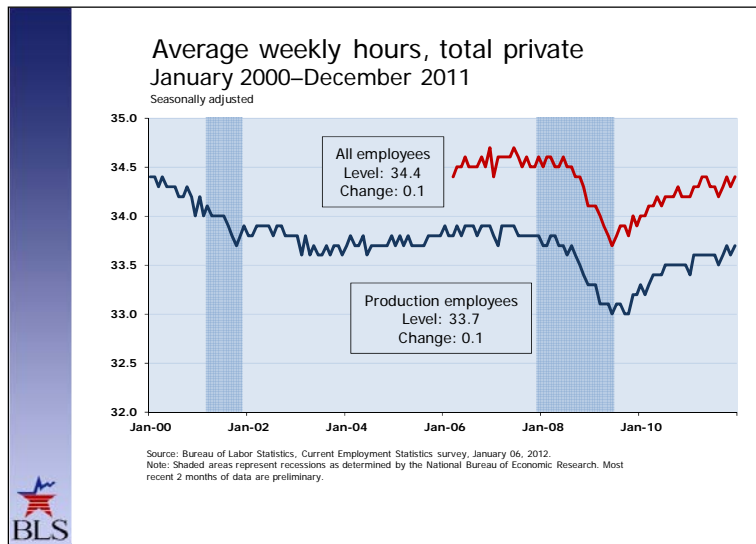
- Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 200,000 in December.
- Over the past year, payroll employment growth averaged 137,000 per month.
- Since reaching an employment trough in February 2010, nonfarm employment has expanded by 2.7 million, or 2.1 percent. During this period, the private sector has added 3.2 million jobs, while government cut about one-half million jobs.



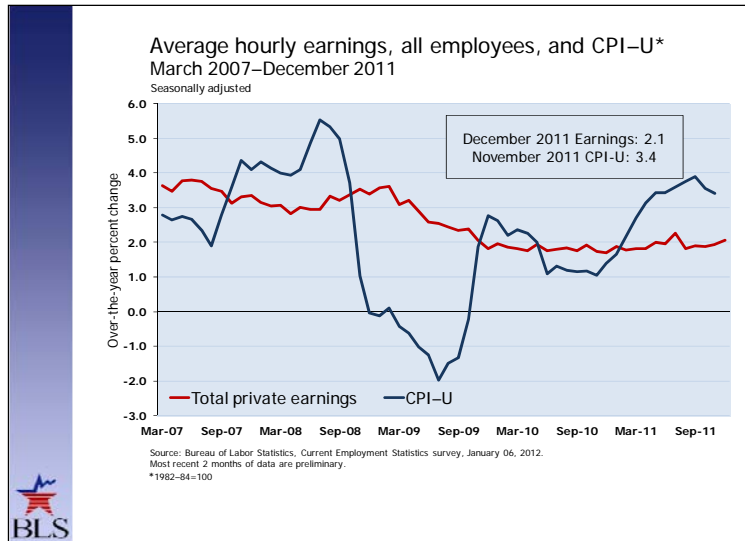
- In December, private-sector employment grew by 212,000. Government employment was little changed. Transportation and warehousing added 50,000 jobs in December, with couriers and messengers adding 42,000 due to particularly strong seasonal hiring. Employment gains also occurred in education and health services, retail trade, and manufacturing.
- In 2011, the private sector added 1.9 million jobs, while government lost 280,000 jobs. Professional and business services had the largest employment gain (+452,000), followed by education and health services and leisure and hospitality (+427,000 and +268,000, respectively). These three industries contributed 60 percent of all private-sector job gains over the year.



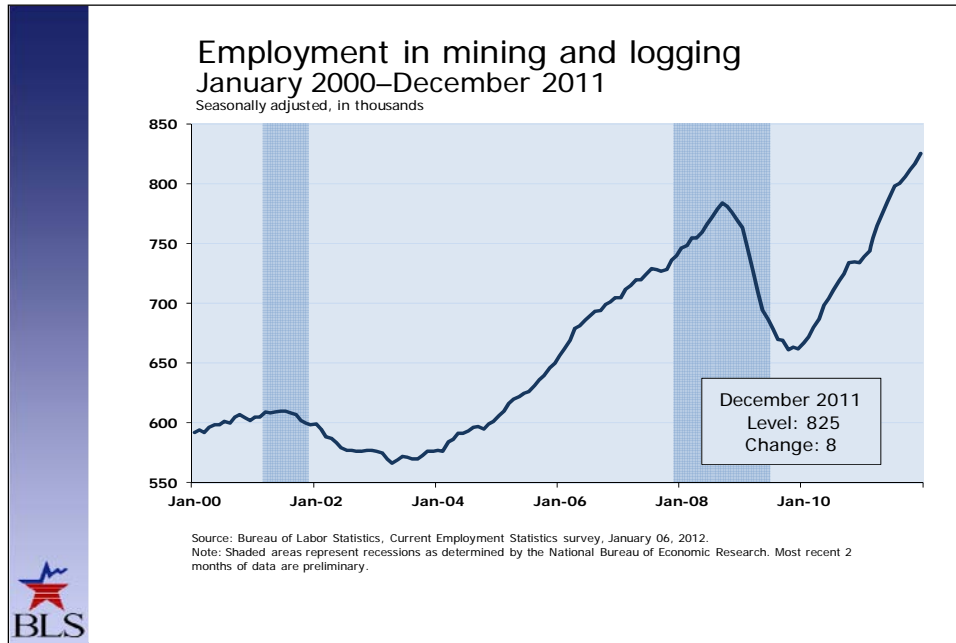
- As of December 2011, the private sector experienced 22 consecutive months of job gains, recovering 36 percent of jobs lost in the peak-to-trough period from January 2008 to February 2010.



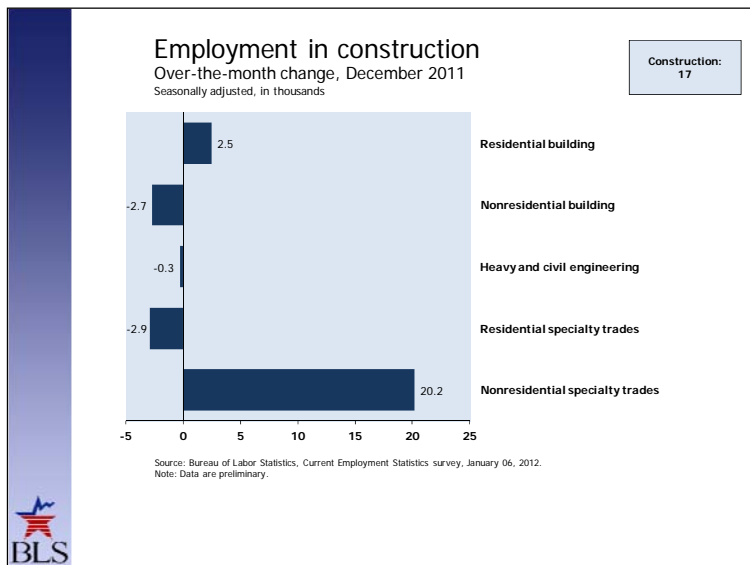
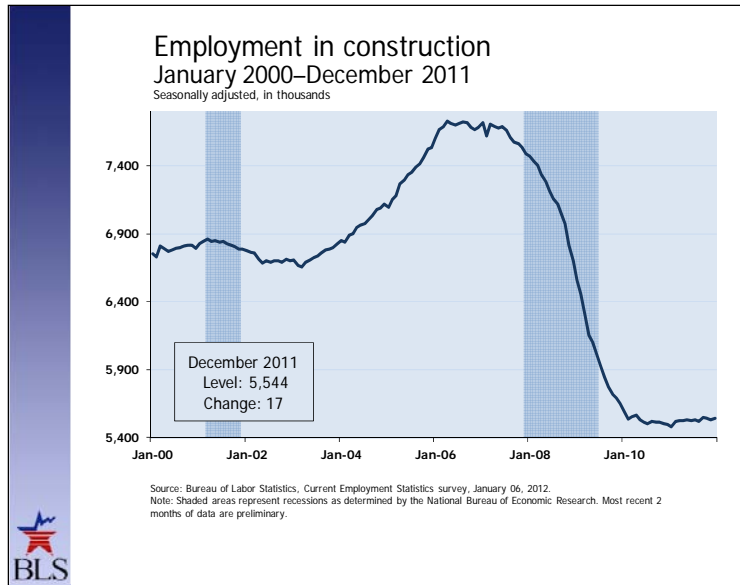
- In December, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.1 hour to 34.4 hours. The all-employee workweek is now 0.7 hour longer than its low in June 2009.
- The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls also edged up 0.1 hour to 33.7 hours in December. The production and nonsupervisory employee workweek has grown 0.7 hour since reaching a trough in October 2009, but remains 0.2 hour below its June 2007 peak.
- The index of aggregate weekly hours for all employees in the private sector rose 0.5 percent in December. Since reaching a low point in October 2009, the index has increased by 4.6 percent.



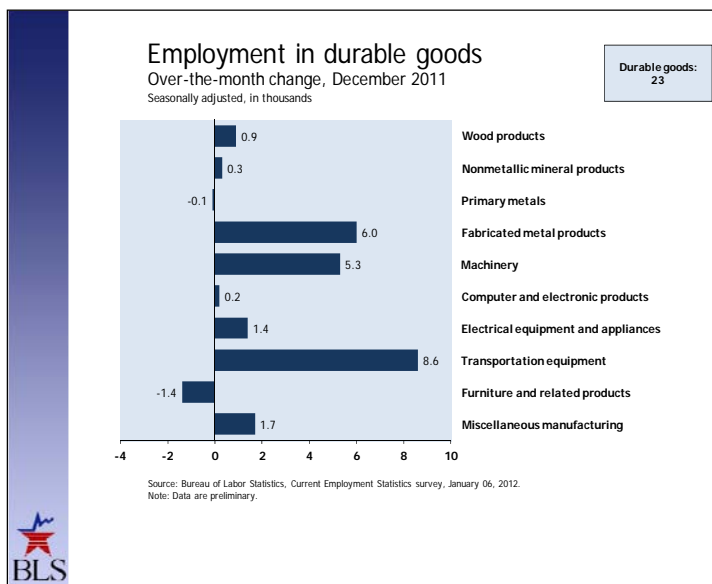
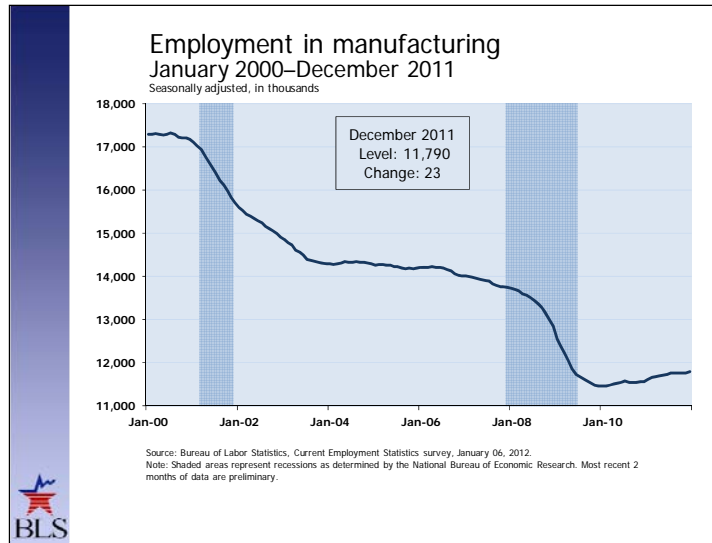
- Average hourly earnings for all employees in the private sector increased by 4 cents to \$23.24 in December.
- Over the past year, average hourly earnings of all private-sector employees have increased by 2.1 percent. The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) was up 3.4 percent from November 2010 to November 2011.
- The index of aggregate weekly payrolls of all private sector employees rose 0.7 percent in December. Since reaching a low point in June 2009, the index has increased by 8.9 percent. The index has also surpassed its June 2008 peak by 2.3 percent.



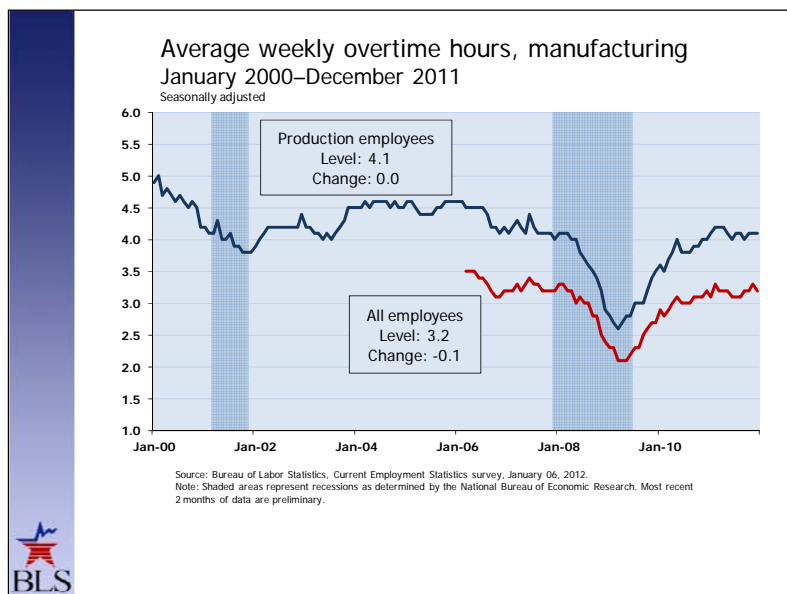
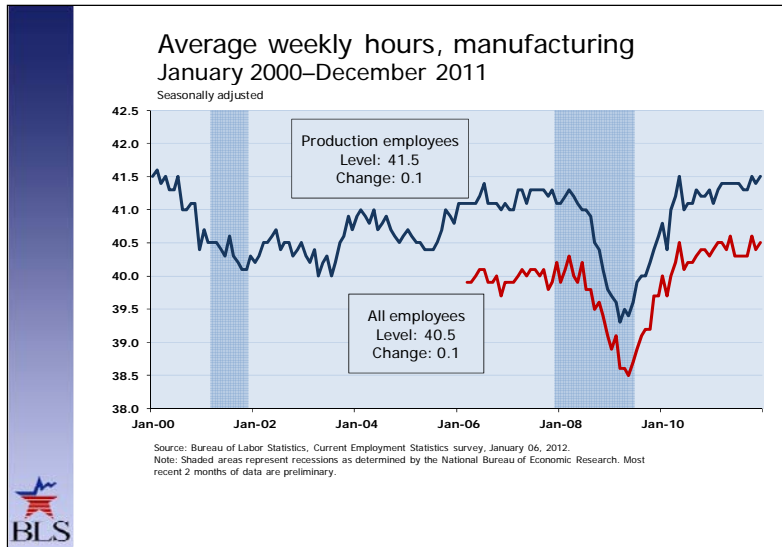
- Mining and logging employment grew by 8,000 in December. Oil and gas extraction and support activities added 3,000 jobs each.
- Since reaching a trough in October 2009, mining employment has risen by 164,000, with support activities for mining accounting for most of the gains (+119,000).



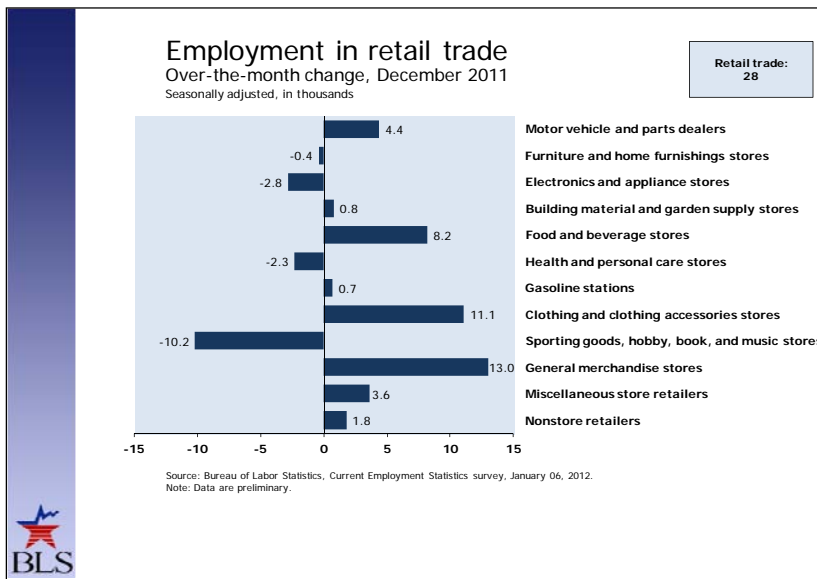
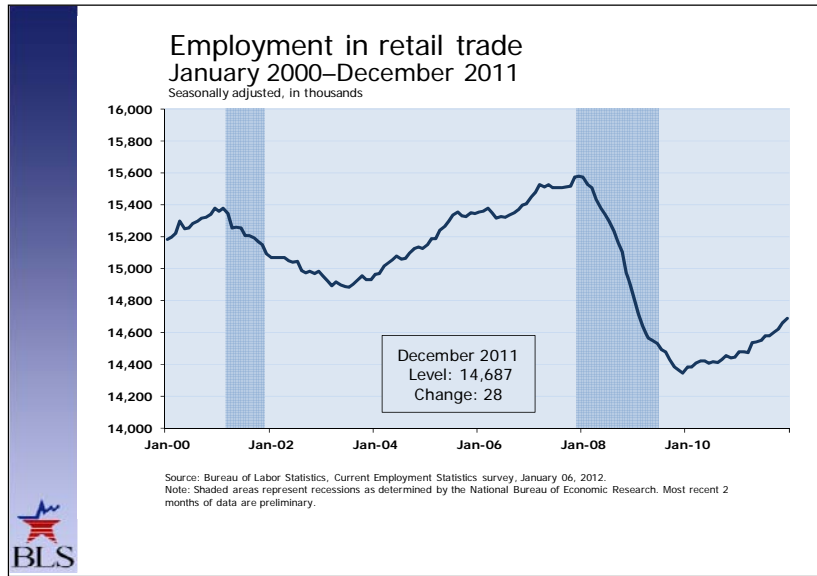
- Construction employment edged up by 17,000 in December.
- Nonresidential specialty trade contractors added 20,000 jobs over the month in December, mostly offsetting losses over the prior 2 months.
- Since reaching a trough in January 2011, employment in construction has remained essentially flat and is currently 2.2 million below its April 2006 peak.



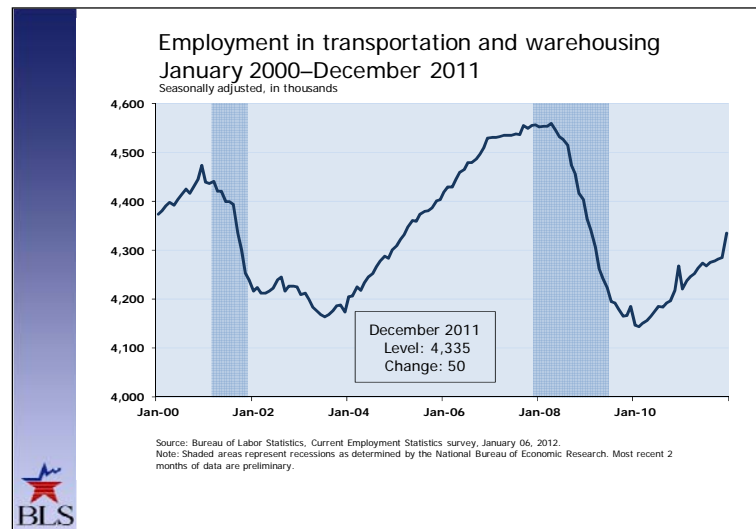
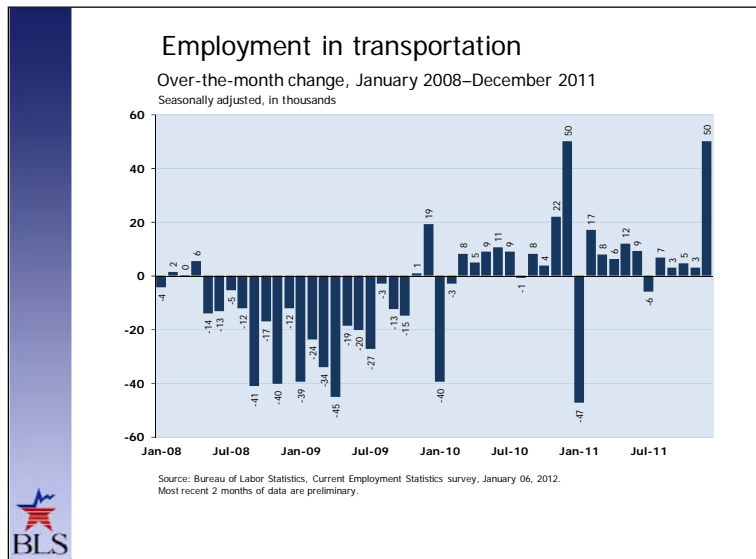
- Manufacturing employment increased by 23,000 in December due entirely to gains in durable goods. In 2011, manufacturing job gains totaled 225,000.
- In December, transportation equipment manufacturers added 9,000 jobs, while fabricated metal products added 6,000 and machinery added 5,000.
- Within transportation equipment, motor vehicles and parts accounted for 7,000 of the job gain and has added 101,000 jobs since reaching an employment trough in June 2009.



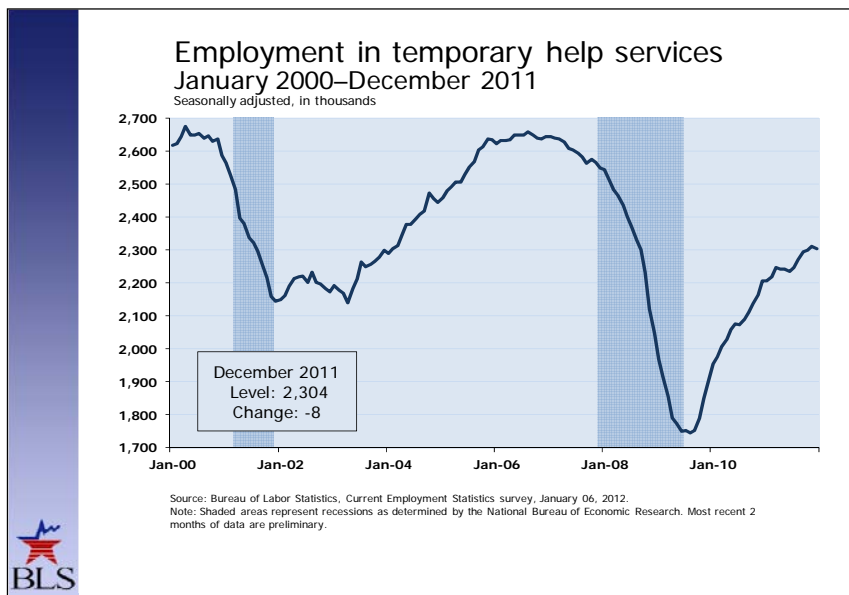
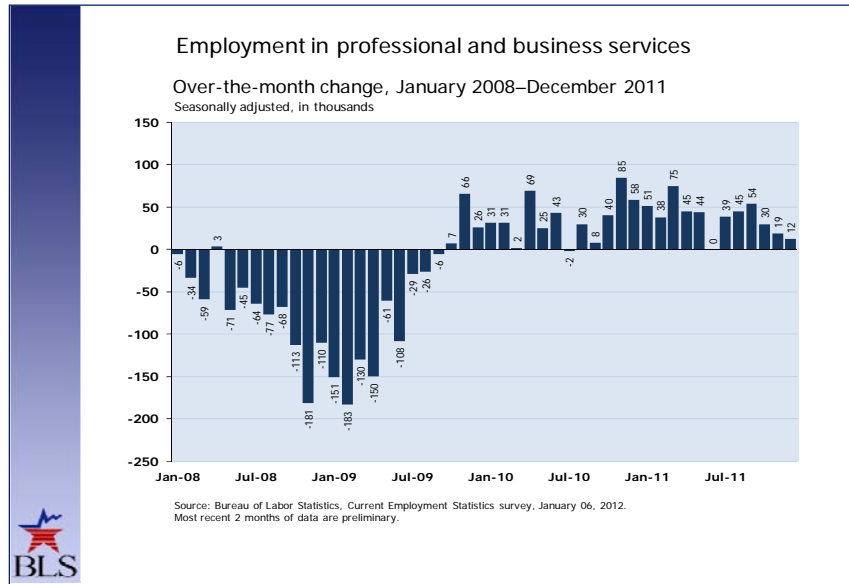
- In December, the factory workweek for all employees rose 0.1 hour, while overtime hours were down 0.1 hour. Both series remain at or near their 5-year highs.
- The factory workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees also rose 0.1 hour, while overtime hours were unchanged.



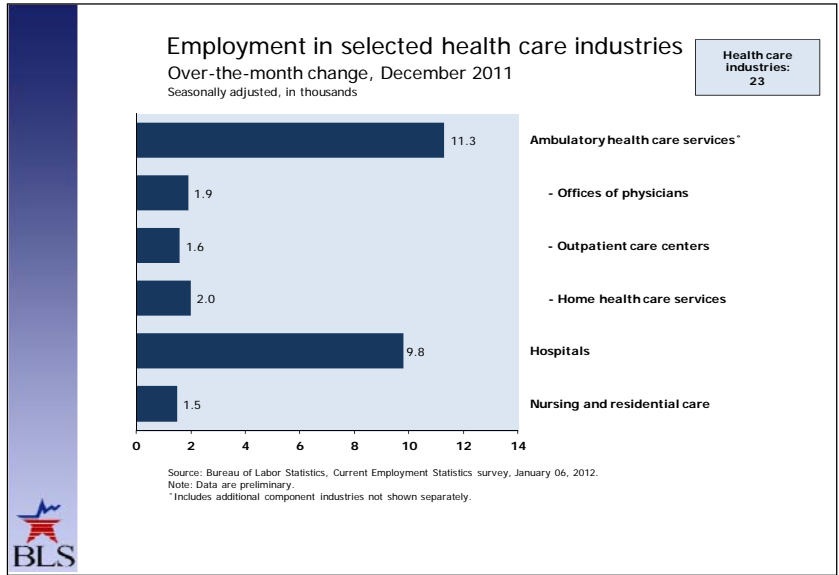
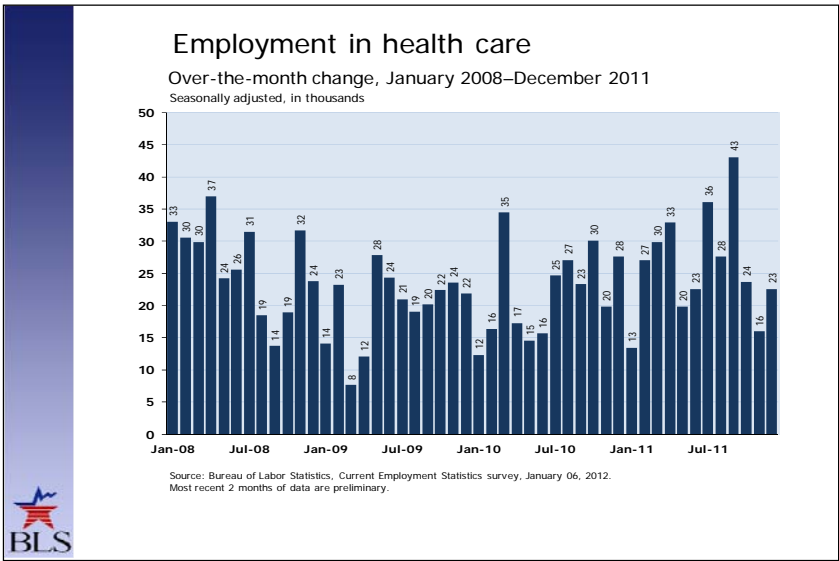
- Retail trade continued to add jobs in December (+28,000).
- In December, job gains continued in both general merchandise stores and clothing and clothing accessories stores.
- Employment in sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores fell by 10,000.
- Retail trade has added 240,000 jobs over the past 12 months.



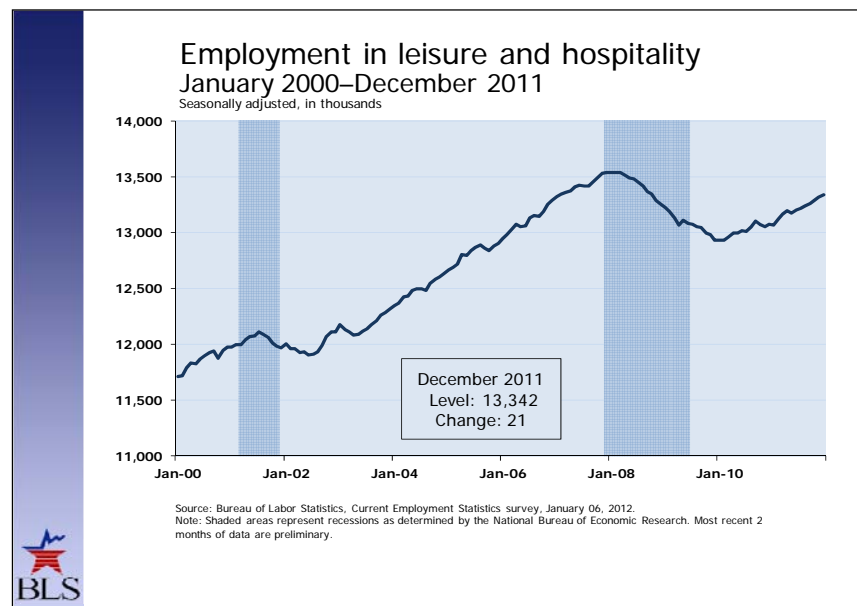
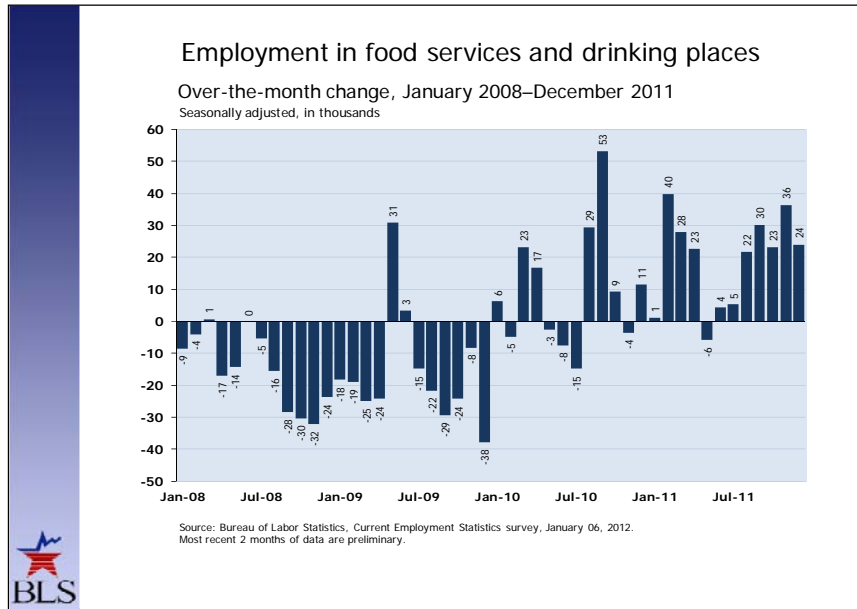
- Employment in transportation and warehousing rose by 50,000 in December. Couriers and messengers accounted for almost all of the gain (+42,000) due to particularly strong seasonal hiring in December for the second year in a row.
- Since reaching a trough in February 2010, transportation and warehousing has added 192,000 jobs.



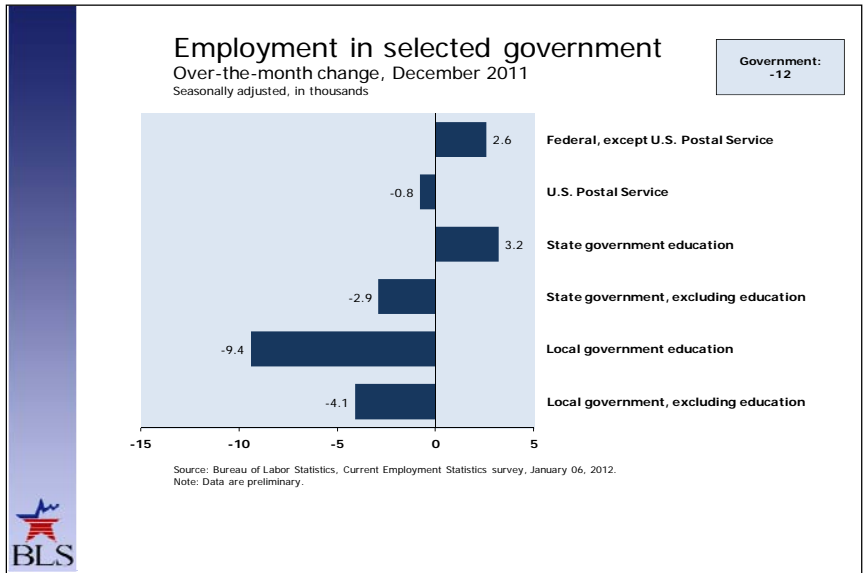
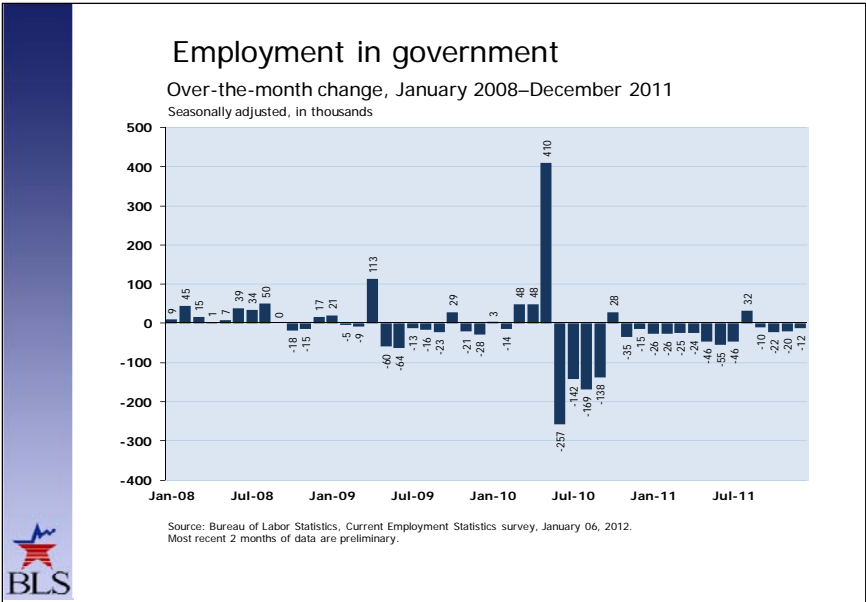
- Employment in professional and business services changed little for the second month in a row in December (+12,000).
- The industry had added an average of 42,000 jobs per month for the first 10 months of 2011.
- After averaging monthly job gains of 15,000 in the prior 5 months, temporary help services employment edged down by 8,000 in December.



- Health care continued to add jobs in December (+23,000). In 2011, health care added 315,000 jobs for an increase of 2.3 percent.
- Employment in hospitals grew by 10,000 in December.



- Leisure and hospitality employment continued to trend up in December (+21,000) due entirely to a gain of 24,000 jobs within food services and drinking places. Food services and drinking places has added an average of 27,000 jobs per month over the last 5 months.
- Since an employment trough in January 2010, leisure and hospitality has added 411,000 jobs.



- Government employment changed little in December (-12,000).
- Government lost 280,000 jobs in 2011. Local government education had lost 113,000 jobs over that span, accounting for 40 percent of the job losses within government.