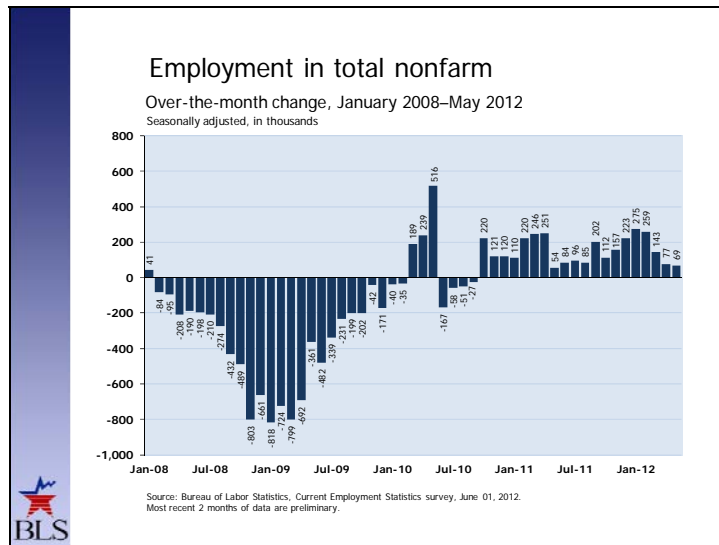
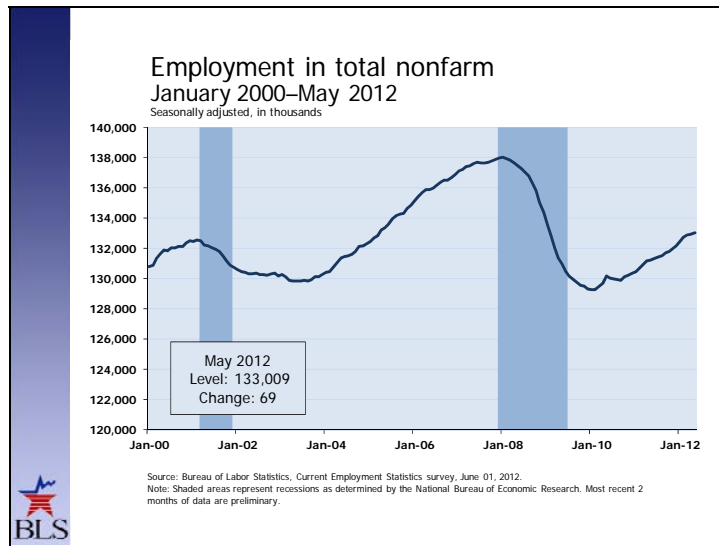


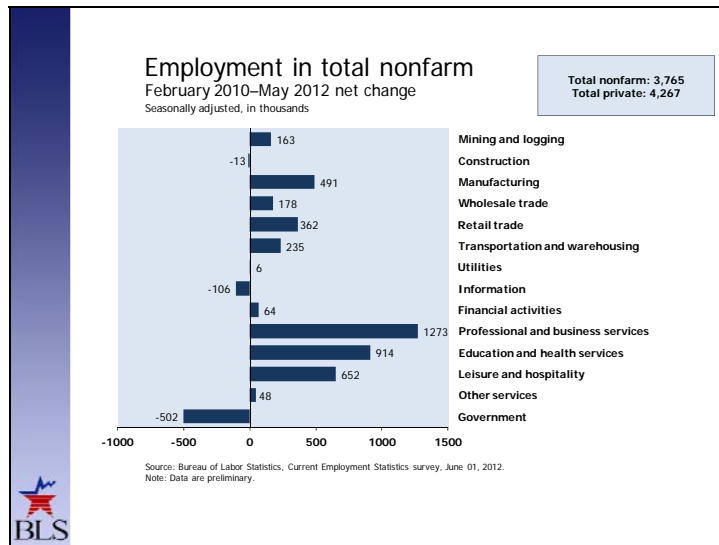
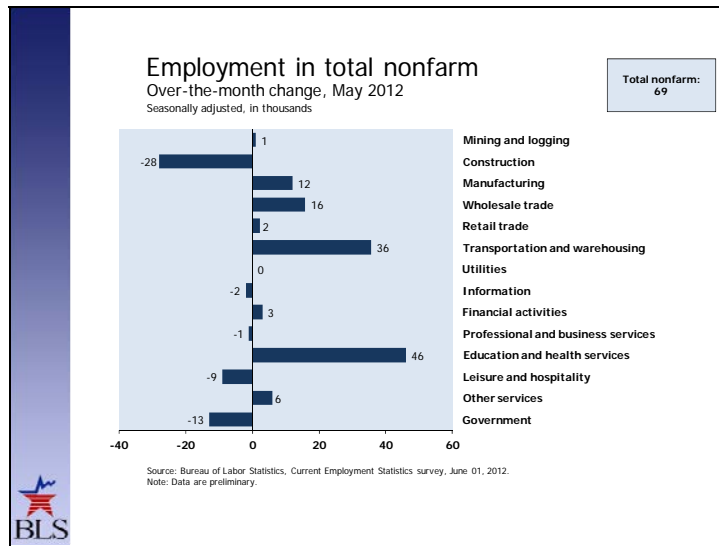


# **Current Employment Statistics Highlights May 2012**

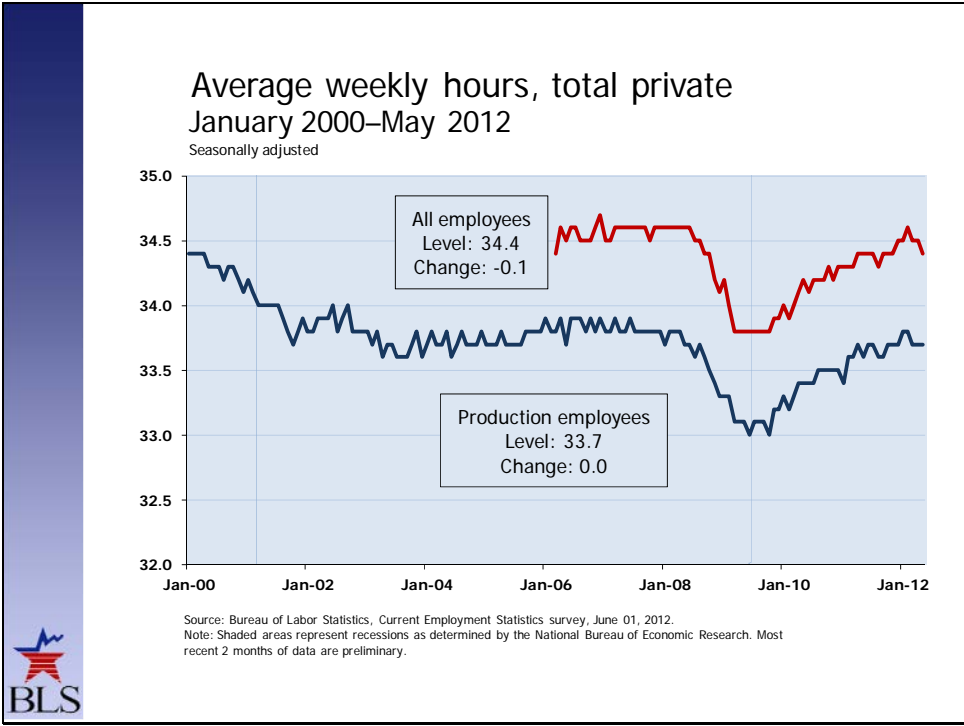
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
June 1, 2012



- Nonfarm employment continued to trend up in May (+69,000).
- Job growth has decelerated each month since January.



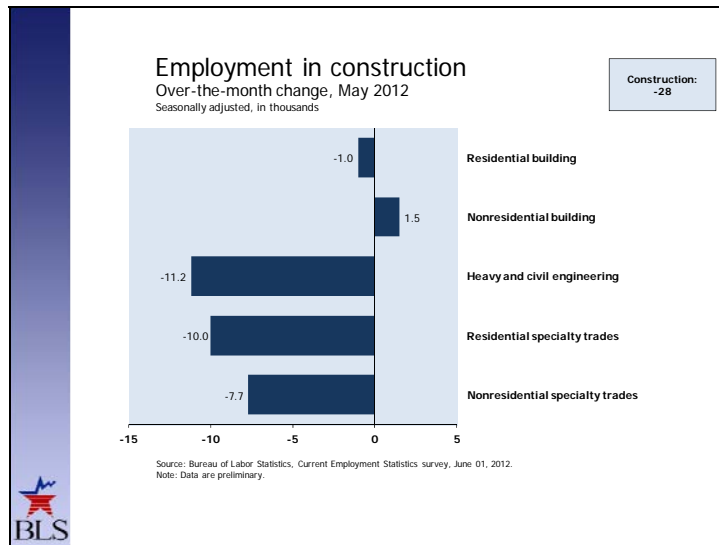
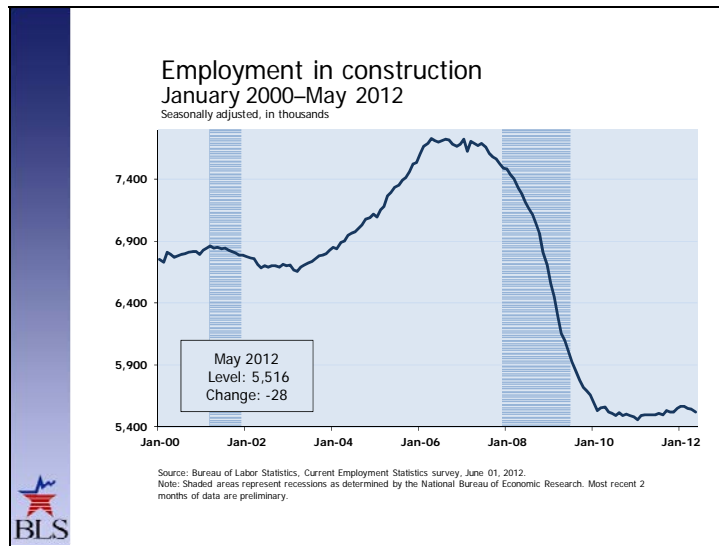
- Employment in construction fell; Government employment continued to trend down.
- Education and health care, transportation and warehousing, and wholesale trade all experienced job growth in May. Manufacturing employment continued to trend up.
- Since an employment trough in February 2010, most nonfarm job gains have come in professional and business services, education and health services, and leisure and hospitality.



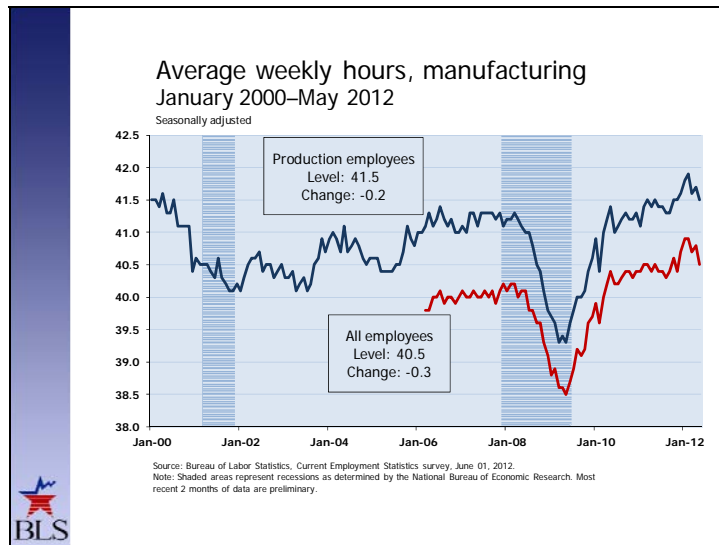
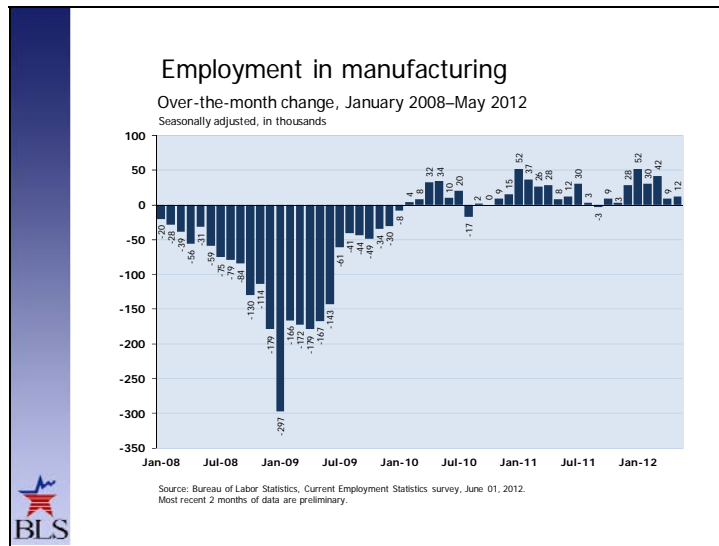
- Average weekly hours for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls declined to 34.4 hours in May. Average weekly hours for production and nonsupervisory employees remained unchanged at 33.7 hours.



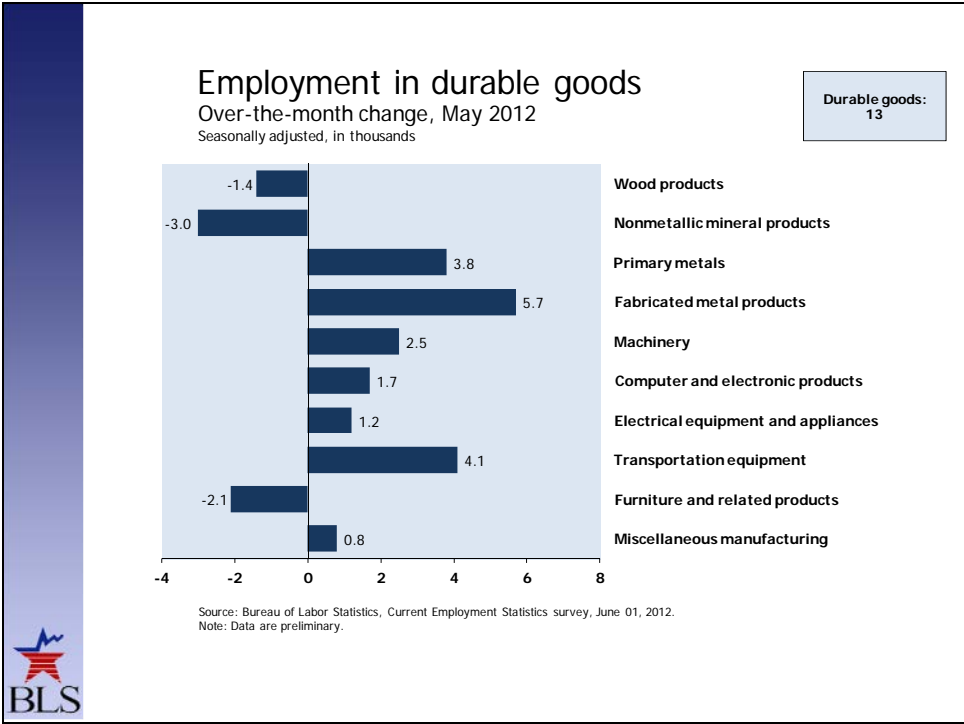
- Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased by 1.7 percent. In April, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) had an over-the-year increase of 2.3 percent.
- For about a year beginning in late 2010, price increases outpaced increases in earnings. Since the third quarter of 2011, however, the gap between the two has narrowed.
- In May 2012, average hourly earnings rose by 2 cents or 0.1 percent.



- Construction employment declined by 28,000 in May.
- Job losses were concentrated in specialty trade contractors and heavy and civil engineering construction.

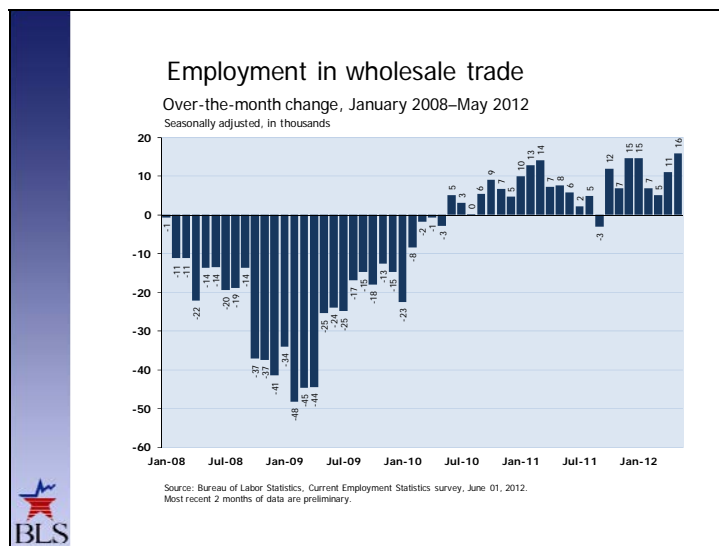
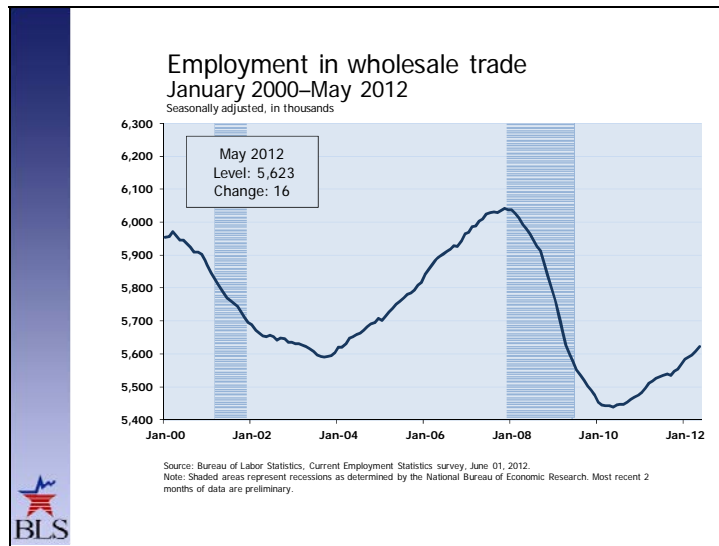


- Manufacturing employment continued to trend up (+12,000) in May, just as it did in April (+9,000). These changes reflect a slowdown from the average monthly gains of 41,000 in the first quarter of 2012.
- The manufacturing workweek for all employees fell by 0.3 hour in May to 40.5 hours, while the average hours of production employees declined by 0.2 hour to 41.5

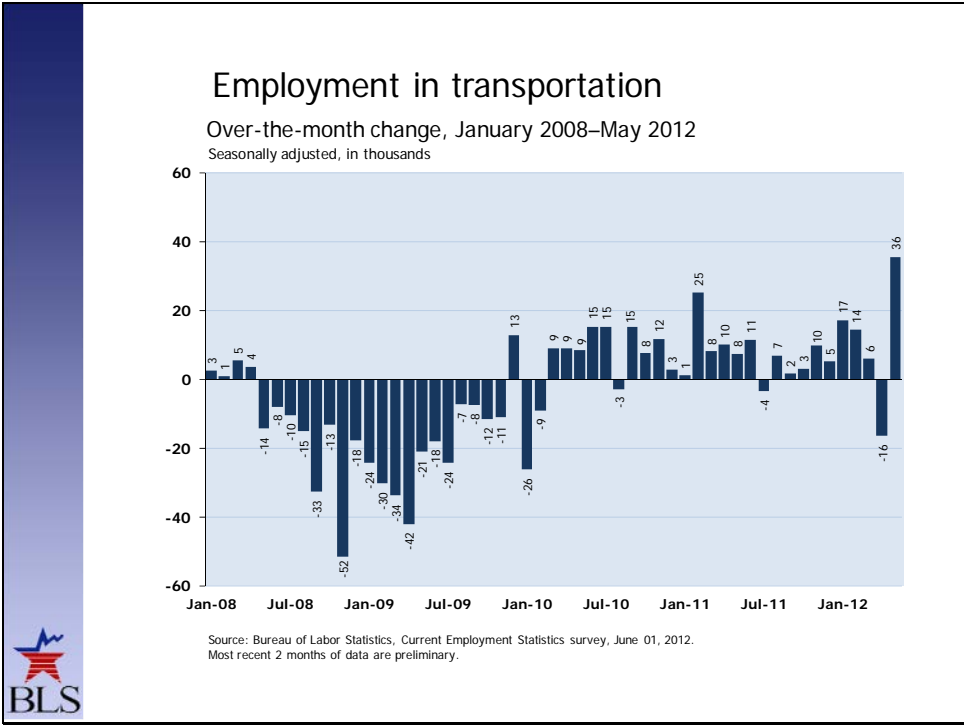


- Employment in durable goods manufacturing increased by 13,000 in May and has expanded by 489,000 since a recent low in January 2010.
- In May, job gains in durable goods were spread out across most of the component industries.

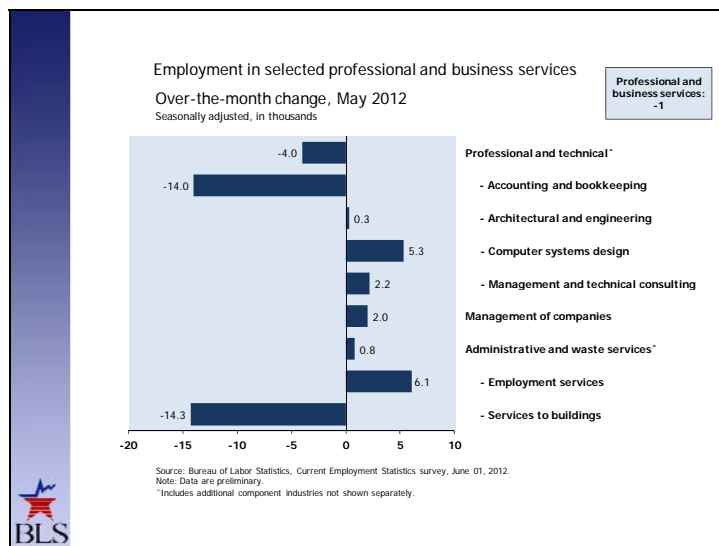
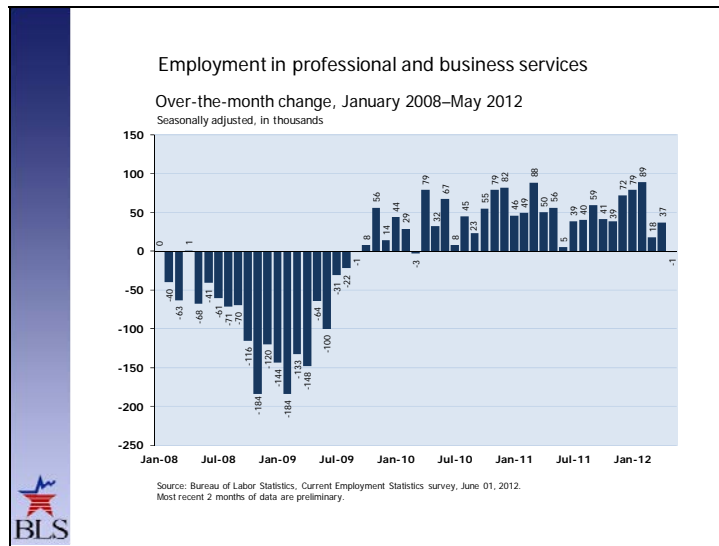




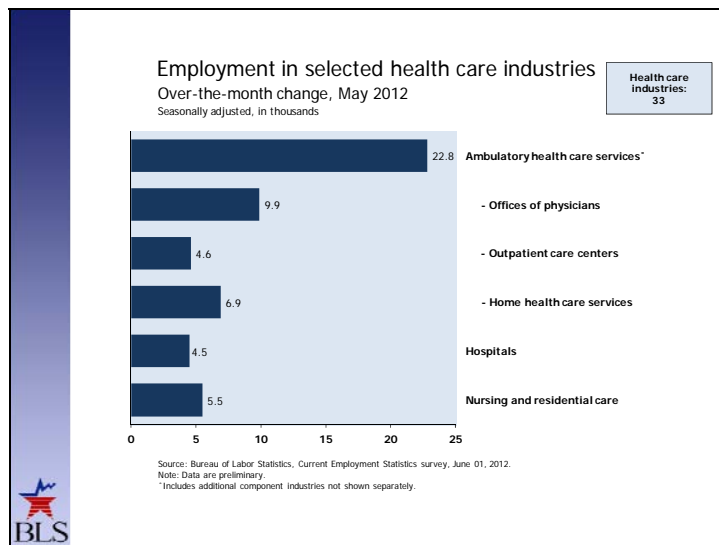
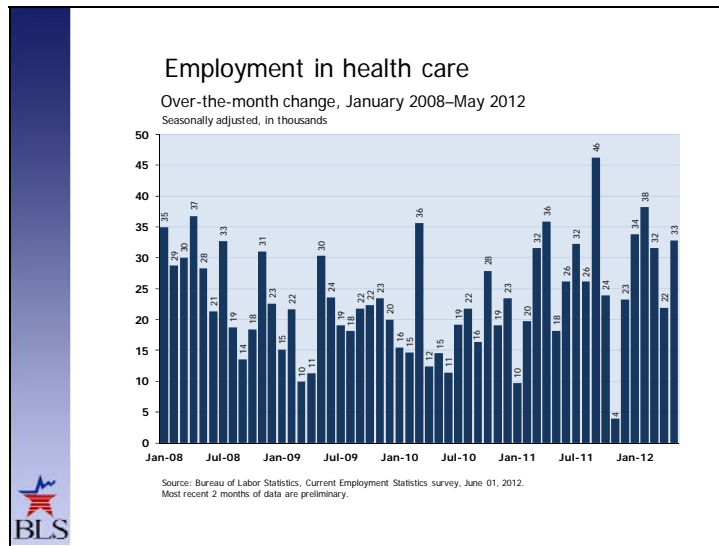
- Wholesale trade employment increased by 16,000 in May, in line with its prior 6-month average.
- Wholesale trade has recovered 184,000 jobs since its most recent trough, in May 2010, representing a recovery of about one-third of the jobs lost during the industry’s most recent downturn.



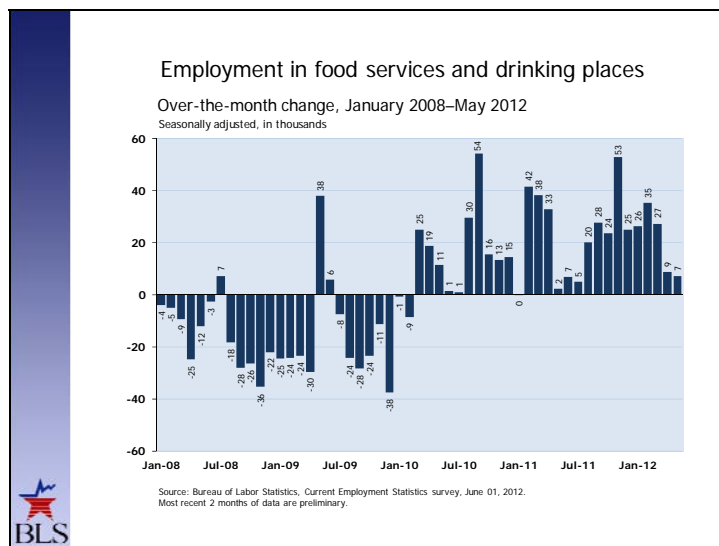
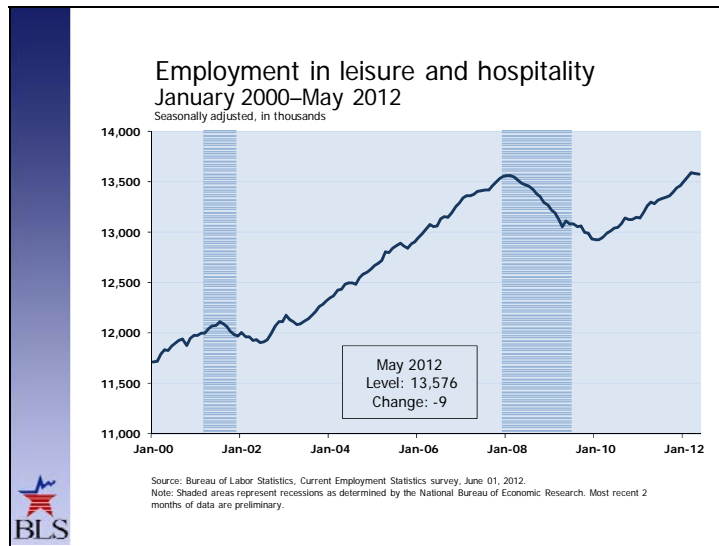
- In May, employment in transportation and warehousing increased by 36,000 partially offsetting declines in April.
- These 2 months of large fluctuations can be traced to employment for transit and ground passenger transportation and for courier services, which both drove the large changes in April and May. Employment in these two industries has shown little net change over the past 12 months.



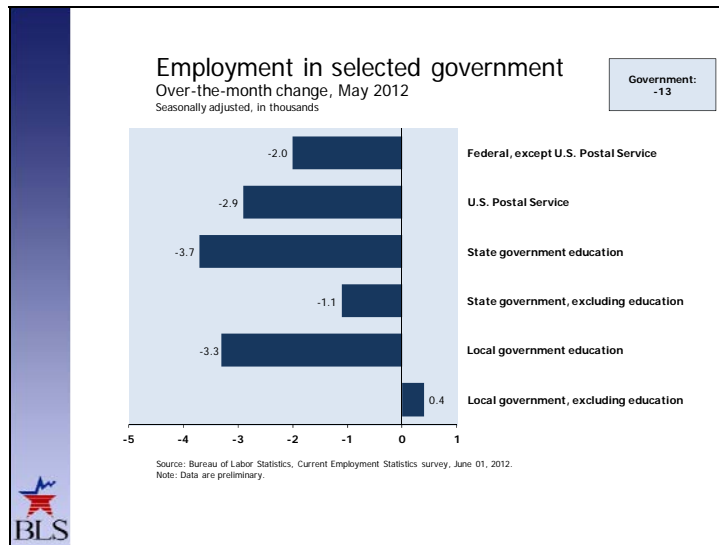
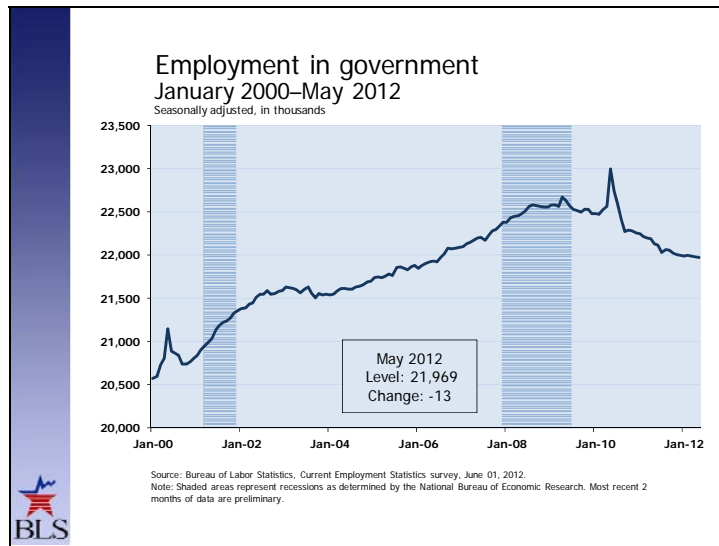
- Although employment in professional and business services was essentially unchanged in May, it has grown by 1.4 million since a recent low point in September 2009.
- In May, losses in accounting and bookkeeping services (-14,000) and services to buildings and dwellings (-14,000) were offset by small gains elsewhere in the industry.



- Employment in health care, continued to expand in May, rising by 33,000. Ambulatory health care services drove job growth, over the month.
- Health care has added 340,000 jobs to its payrolls over the past year.



- Leisure and hospitality employment edged down for the second consecutive month in May (-9,000).
- The industry’s average monthly job gain was 38,000 over the 6 months ending in March. These gains came mostly in food services and drinking places.



- Government employment continued to edge downward in May (-13,000), with small declines distributed throughout the sector.
- The industry has averaged monthly job losses of 5,000 year-to-date, compared with average monthly job losses of 22,000 throughout 2011.