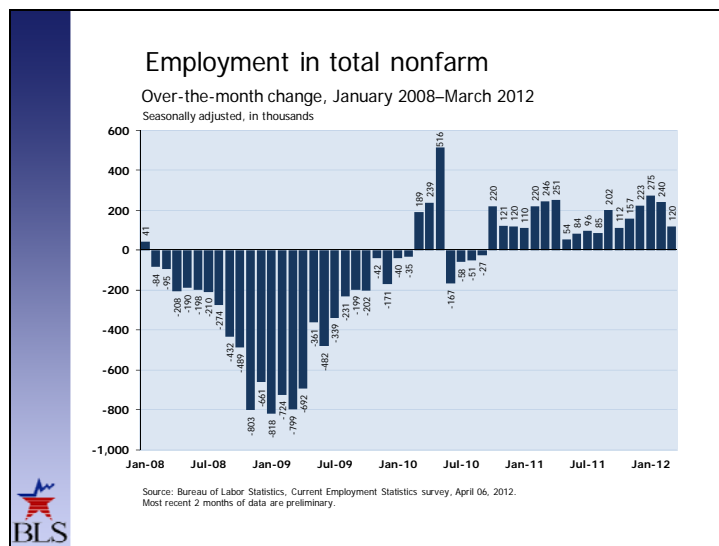


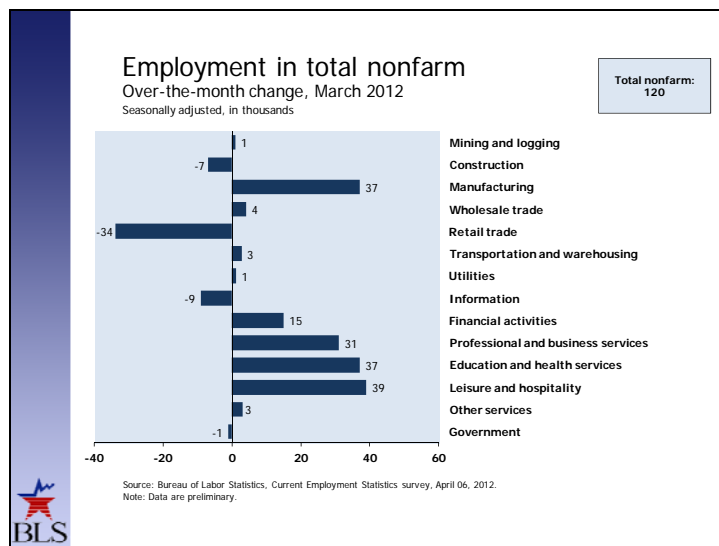
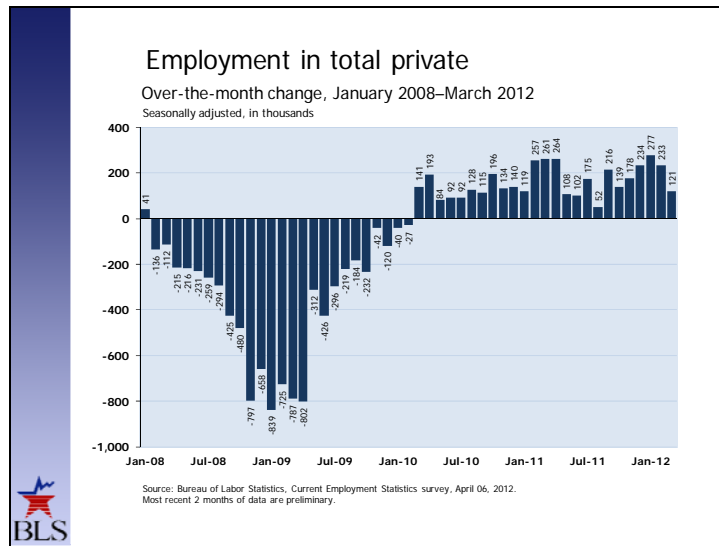


Current Employment Statistics Highlights March 2012

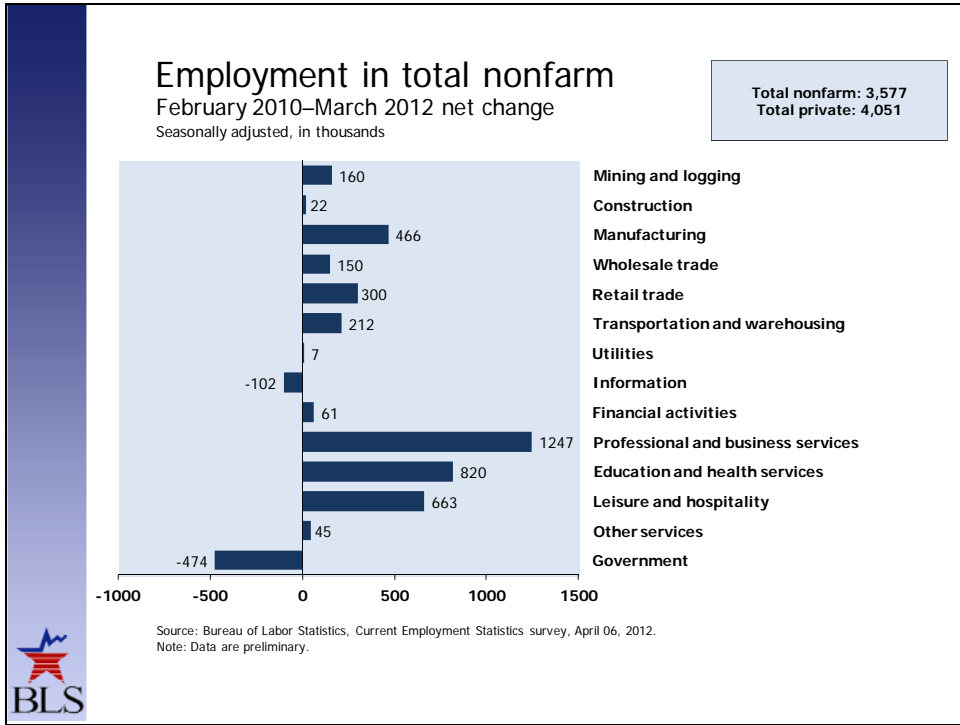
Bureau of Labor Statistics
April 6, 2012



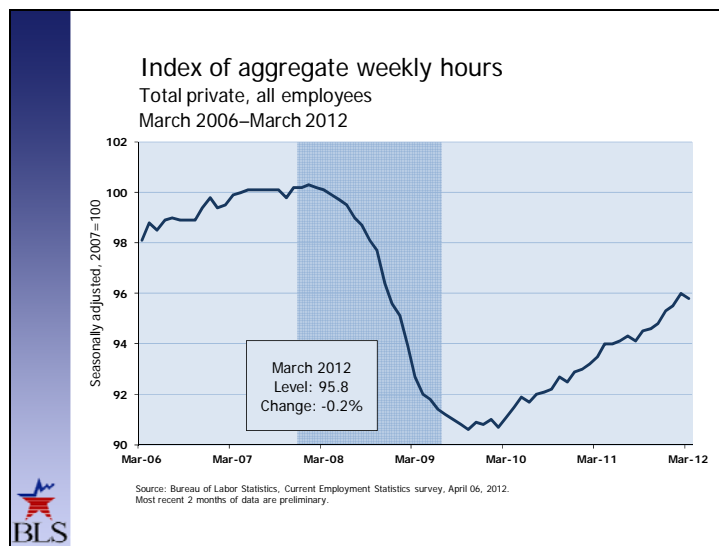
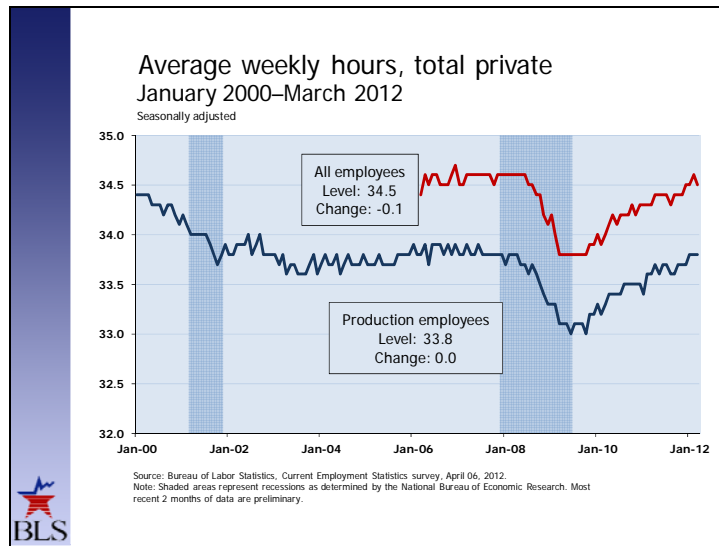
- Total nonfarm employment rose by 120,000 in March, compared to an average monthly increase of 246,000 over the prior 3 months.
- Since a recent employment low in February 2010, nonfarm payrolls have expanded by 3.6 million jobs. Of the 8.8 million jobs lost between January 2008 and February 2010, 41 percent have been recovered.



- Employment in the private sector grew by 121,000 in March.
- In March, employment rose in manufacturing, leisure and hospitality, and in education and health care. Combined, these three industries accounted for nearly all of the jobs added to nonfarm payrolls over the month. Retail employment declined in March.



- Since an employment trough in February 2010, all private-sector industries, except information, have added jobs.
- Excluding information, the private service-providing industries have accounted for 83 percent of the 4.1 million jobs added to private payrolls since February 2010.
- Government employment has declined by nearly half a million jobs since February 2010.



- Average weekly hours for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls edged down by 0.1 hour to 34.5 hours in March, while average weekly hours for production and nonsupervisory employees remained unchanged at 33.8 hours.
- The index of aggregate weekly hours decreased by 0.2 percent in March, following an increase of 0.5 percent in February.

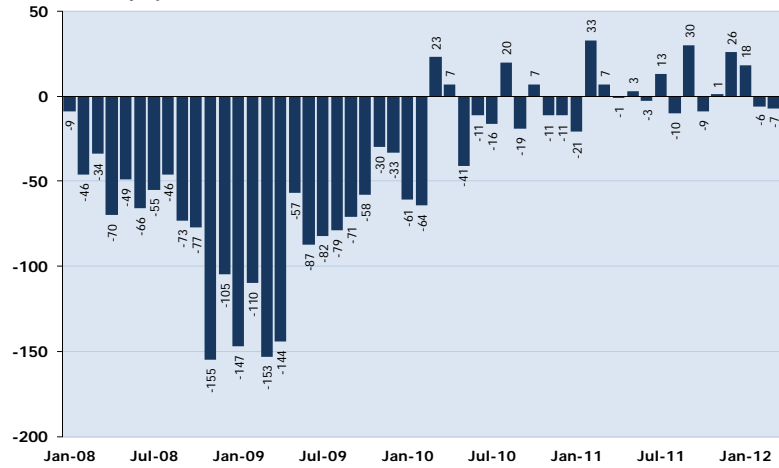


- Average hourly earnings for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 5 cents, or 0.2 percent, in March. Average hourly earnings of private-sector production and nonsupervisory employees rose by 3 cents, or 0.2 percent, in March.
- Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased by 2.1 percent. In February, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) had an over-the-year increase of 2.9 percent; growth in prices has recently been outpacing growth in earnings.

Employment in construction

Over-the-month change, January 2008–March 2012

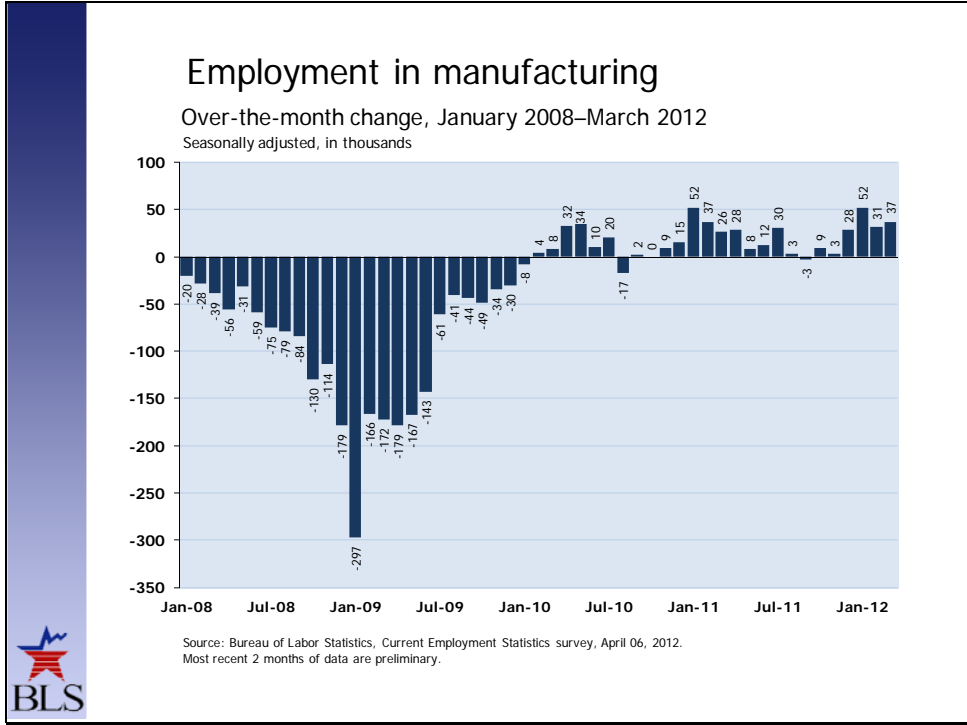
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



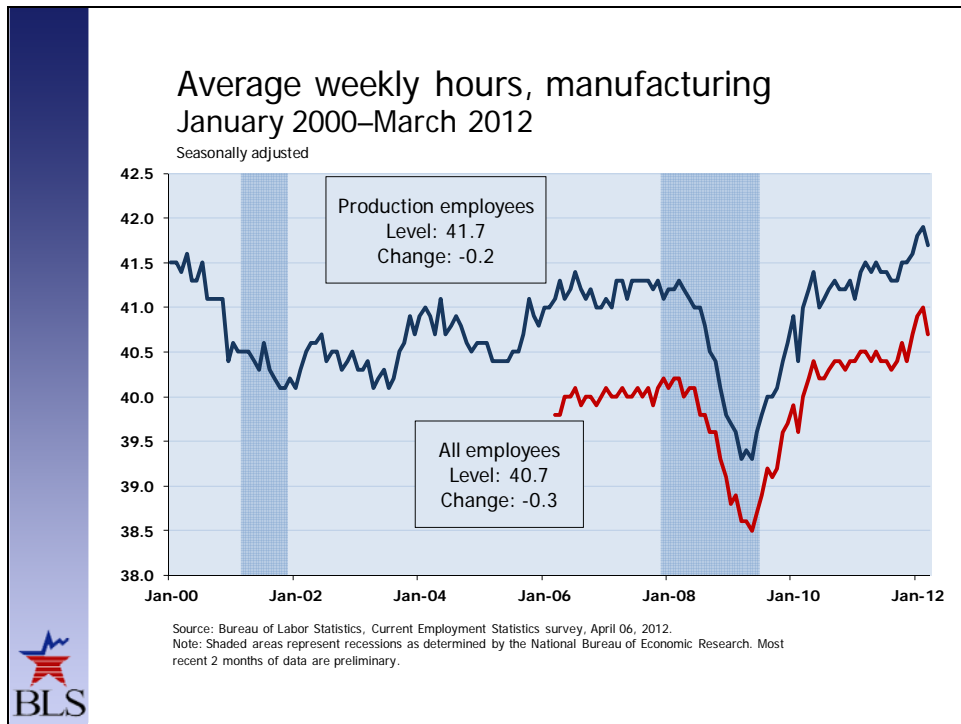
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 06, 2012.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.



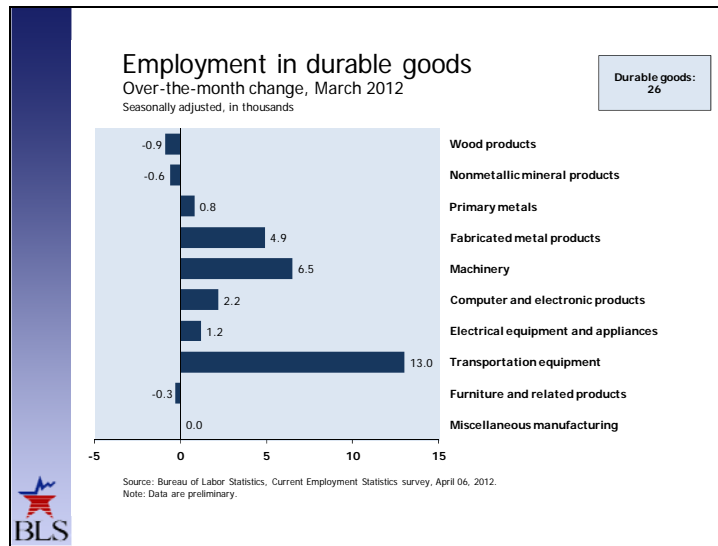
- Construction employment edged down in March, with a loss of 11,000 jobs occurring in construction of buildings.
- Despite the loss in March, employment in construction has increased by 95,000 since a trough in January 2011, with essentially all of the gain split between heavy and civil engineering and specialty trade contractors.



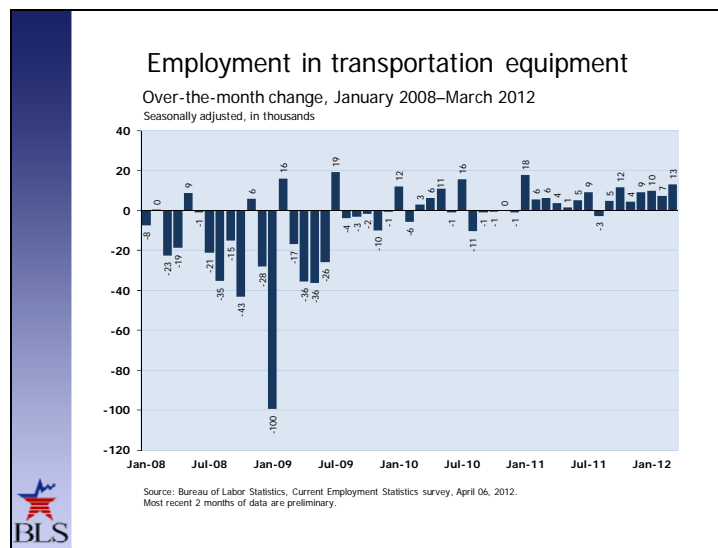
- Manufacturing experienced solid job growth with 37,000 jobs added in March, preceded by 31,000 and 52,000 jobs added in February and January, respectively.
- Since a trough in January 2010, employment in the industry has risen by 470,000.



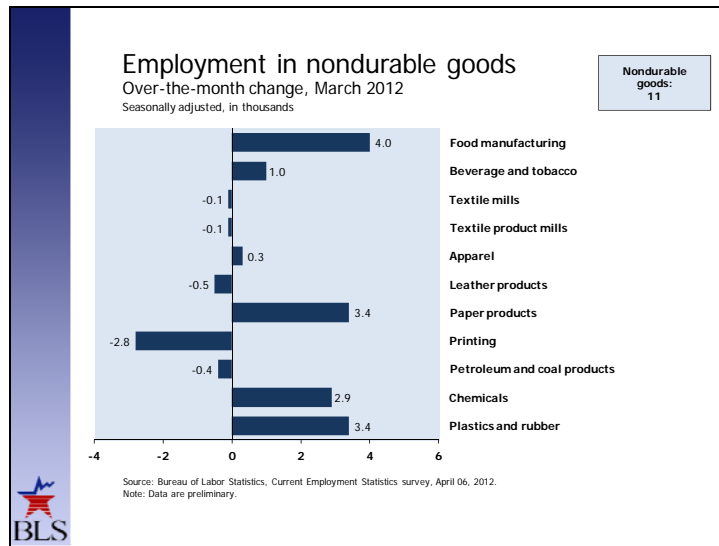
- The 1-month diffusion index of manufacturing employment rose from 59.9 in February to 67.9 in March. This indicates a widening dispersion of the job growth within manufacturing from February to March.
- The factory workweek for all employees fell by 0.3 hour in March. Over the prior 3 months, the average workweek had expanded by 0.6 hour. Average weekly overtime for all employees remained unchanged at 3.4 hours.
- Combining the job gain in manufacturing with the shorter workweek, the index of aggregate weekly hours of all employees decreased by 0.5 percent in March.



- Durable goods manufacturing employment increased by 26,000 in March and has expanded by 465,000 since a recent low in January 2010.
- In March, motor vehicles and parts, machinery, and fabricated metals all experienced job growth.



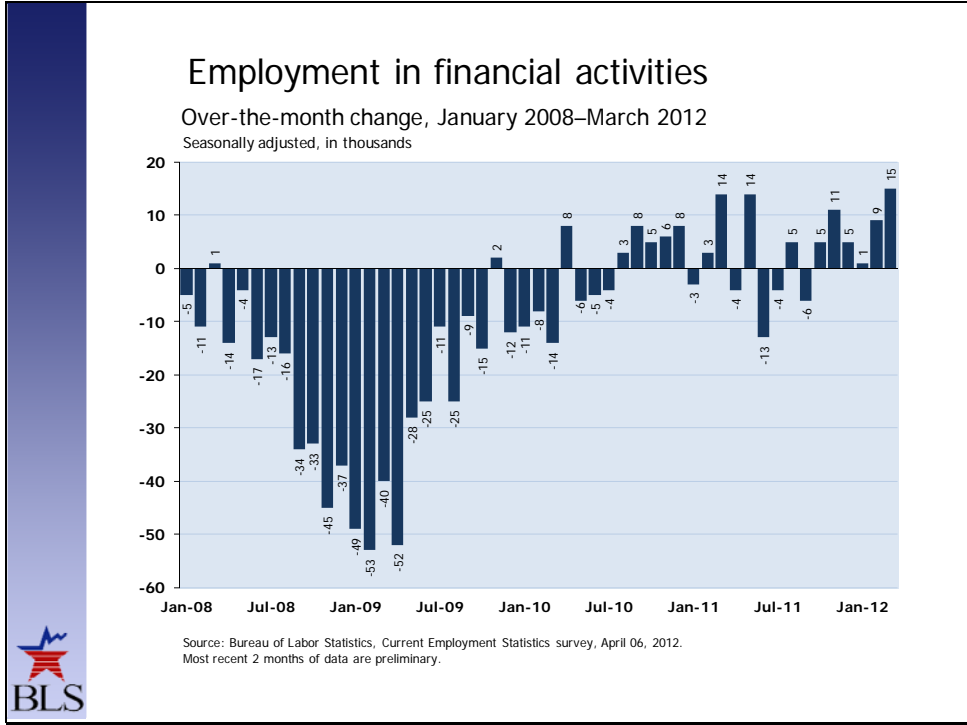
- Transportation equipment boosted employment by 13,000 in March, with motor vehicles and parts accounting for nearly all of the job gains.
- Since reaching an employment trough in December 2009, manufacturers of transportation equipment have added 135,000 jobs.



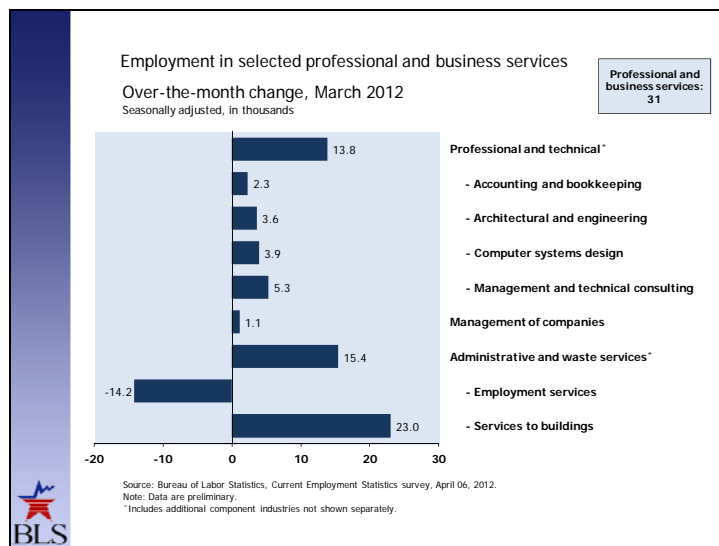
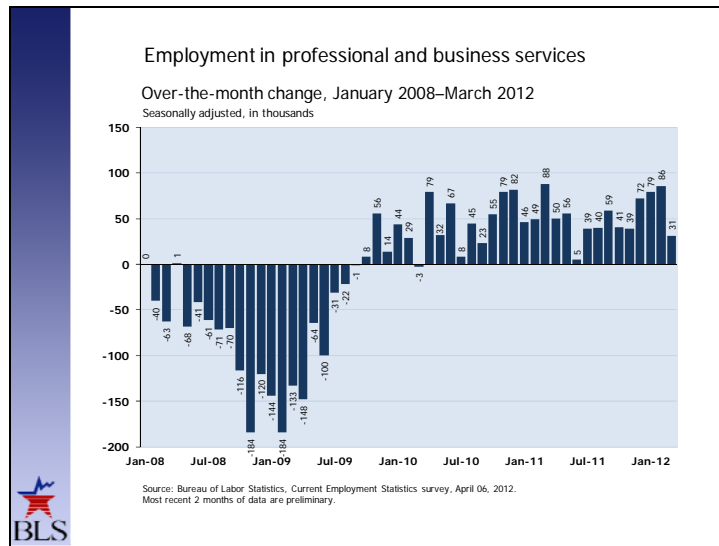
- Employment in nondurable goods edged up by 11,000 in March.
- Paper products manufacturers added 3,000 jobs over the month.



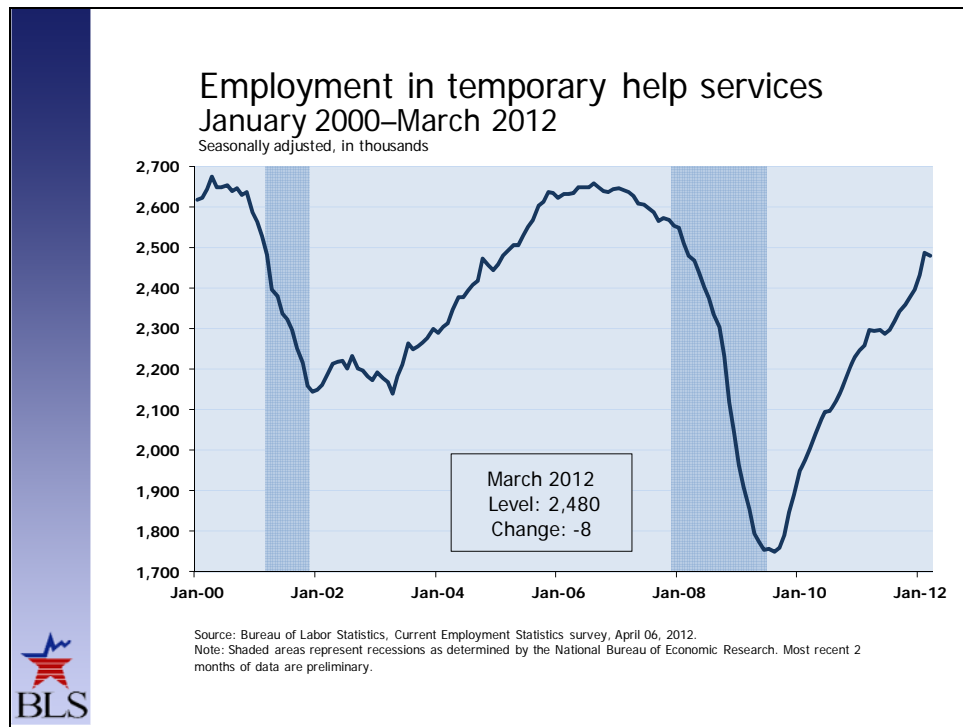
- Retail trade employment fell by 34,000 in March.
- A job loss in general merchandise stores more than offset gains in health and personal care stores (+6,000) and in building material and supply stores (+5,000).



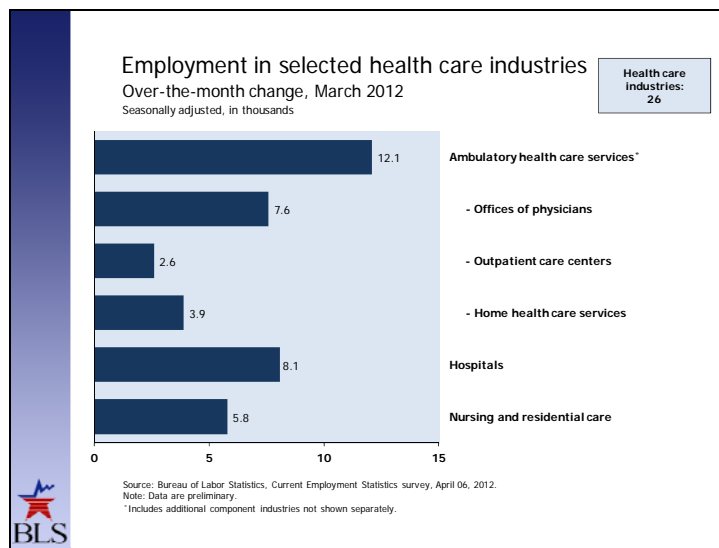
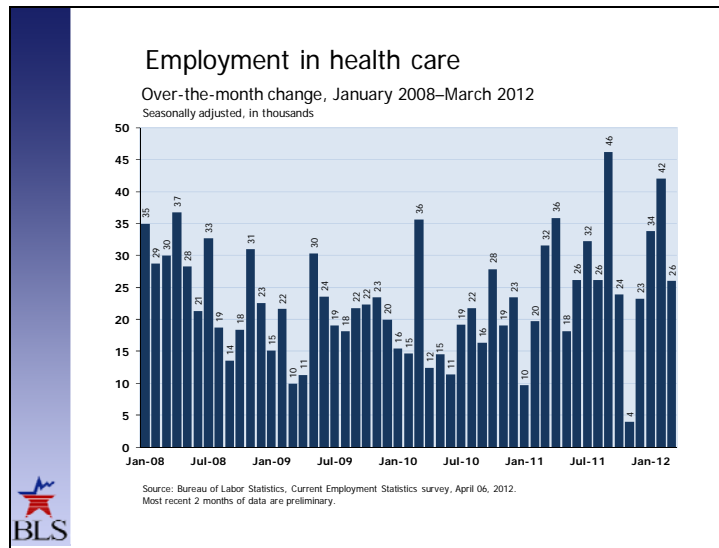
- Financial activities employment rose by 15,000 in March, with most of the gain occurring in credit intermediation (+11,000).
- Employment in the credit intermediation industry reached a trough in June 2010 and has increased by 47,000 since that time; however, 38,000 of the increase has occurred in the past 5 months.



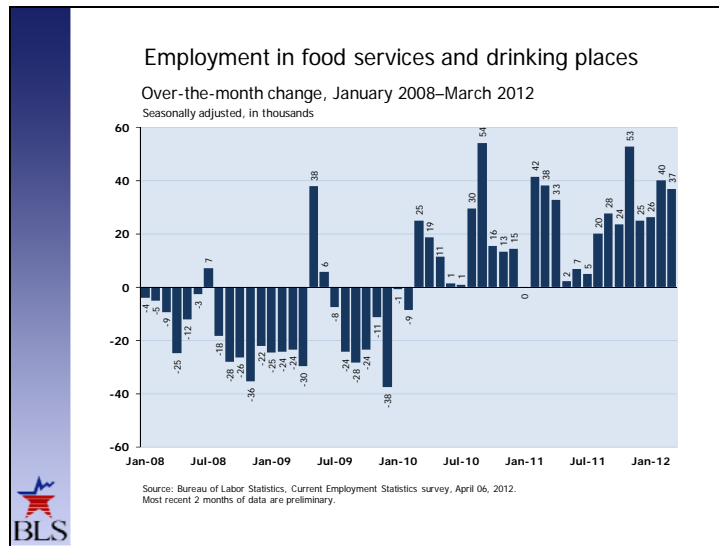
- Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in March, with an increase of 31,000.
- Employment in professional and business services has grown by 1.4 million since a recent low point in September 2009.
- In March, services to buildings and dwellings added 23,000 jobs.



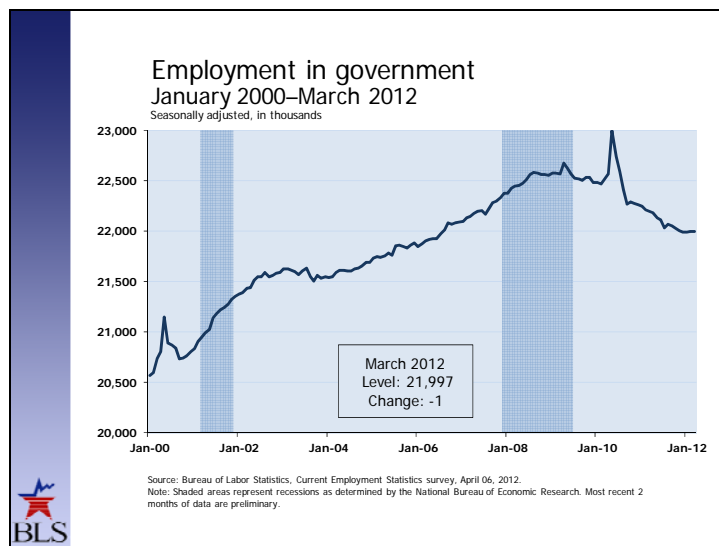
- Employment in temporary help services was about unchanged over the month after increasing by 55,000 in February.
- Since the most recent low in August 2009, temporary help services has added 730,000 jobs, accounting for more than half of the employment gain within professional and business services.



- Employment in health care continued to expand in March, rising by 26,000. This gain is in line with the average change over the prior 12-month period.
- Offices of physicians and hospitals added 8,000 jobs each.



- Food services and drinking places employment rose by 37,000 in March.
- Since a recent low in February 2010, this industry has added 563,000 jobs, averaging 23,000 jobs per month.



- In March, government employment changed little for the third consecutive month, compared with average monthly job losses of 22,000 in 2011.
- Since August 2008, employment at the state and the local levels has declined by 142,000 and 499,000, respectively.