

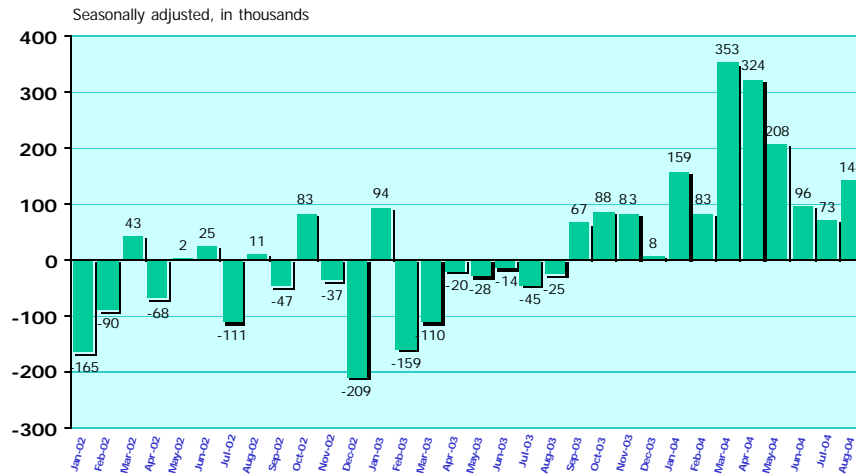


Current Employment Statistics Highlights

August 2004

Bureau of Labor Statistics
September 3, 2004

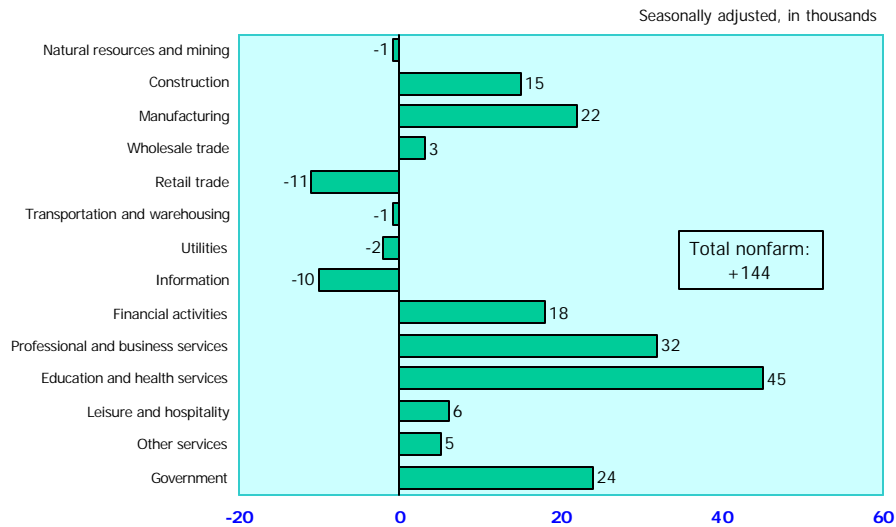
Employment in total nonfarm Over-the-month change, 2002-04



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, September 3, 2004.
Note: Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

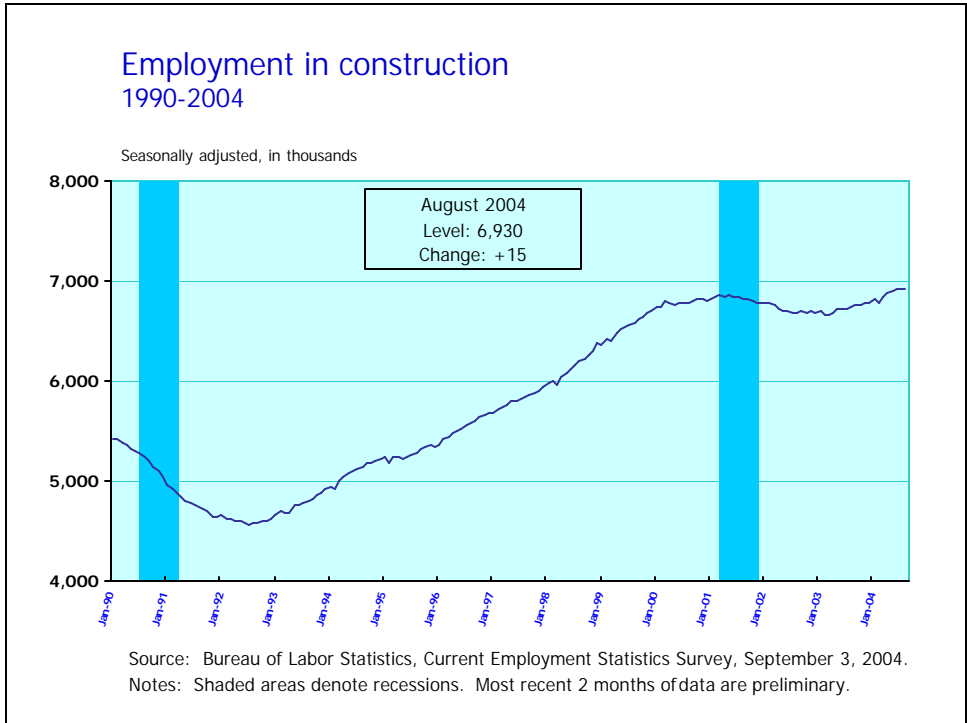
- Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 144,000 in August. Since its most recent low in August 2003, 1.7 million jobs have been added to payrolls, with slightly more than half of the gain, 885,000, occurring from March to May of this year. During that period, job gains averaged nearly 300,000 per month; average growth slowed in the latest 3 months to 104,000.
- Average hourly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 5 cents in August to \$15.77, seasonally adjusted, following a similar gain in the prior month. Hourly earnings are up 2.3 percent over the year. The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged in August at 33.8 hours, seasonally adjusted. The average workweek has been near the same level for almost 2 years.

Employment in total nonfarm and supersectors
Over-the-month change, August 2004



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, September 3, 2004.
Note: Data are preliminary.

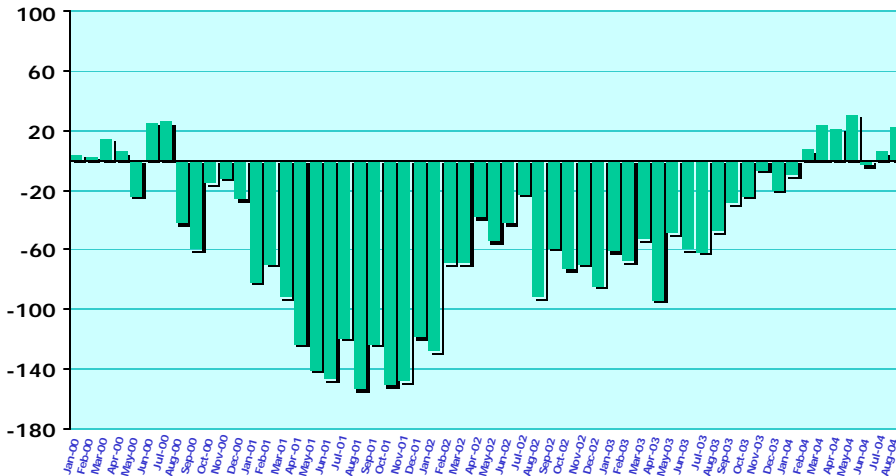
- In August, education and health services, and professional and business services continued to add jobs, 45,000 and 32,000 respectively. The next largest gains were in government, manufacturing, and financial activities. Financial activities added 18,000 jobs to more than offset an employment decline in July.
- Employment in retail trade and information services fell by about 10,000 each. Within the information industry, employment continued to trend down in telecommunications.



- Construction employment edged up 15,000 jobs in August after 2 months of relatively flat employment.
- Since reaching an employment low in March 2003, the industry has added almost 270,000 jobs to payrolls. Growth in residential construction and a modest rebound in nonresidential construction have been responsible for these job gains.

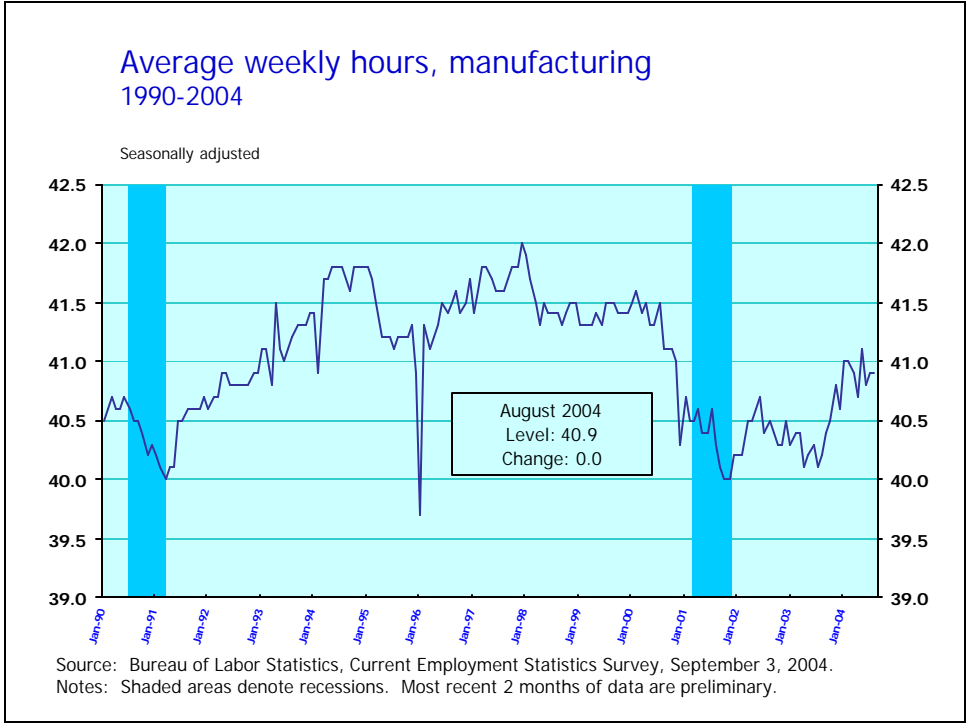
Employment in manufacturing Over-the-month change, 2000-04

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, September 3, 2004.
Note: Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

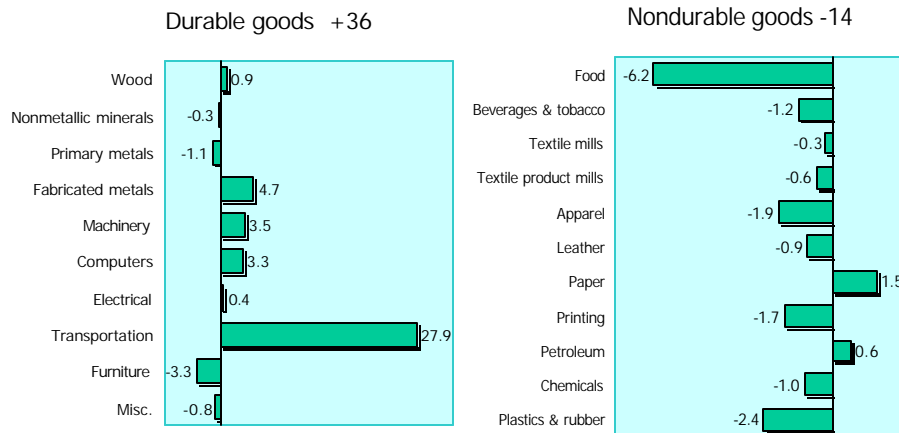
- Manufacturing employment increased by 22,000 in August after showing little change in employment over the prior 2 months. Since its employment trough in January 2004, manufacturing has added 107,000 jobs.
- Employment in transportation equipment rebounded in August as parts and assembly workers returned to factories after larger-than-normal shutdowns for annual retooling in July. Manufacturers of transportation equipment added 10,400 jobs over the past 2 months, after seasonal adjustment.



- Manufacturing average weekly hours and average weekly overtime hours remained unchanged at 40.9 and 4.6 hours, respectively.

Employment in manufacturing durable and nondurable goods Over-the-month change, August 2004

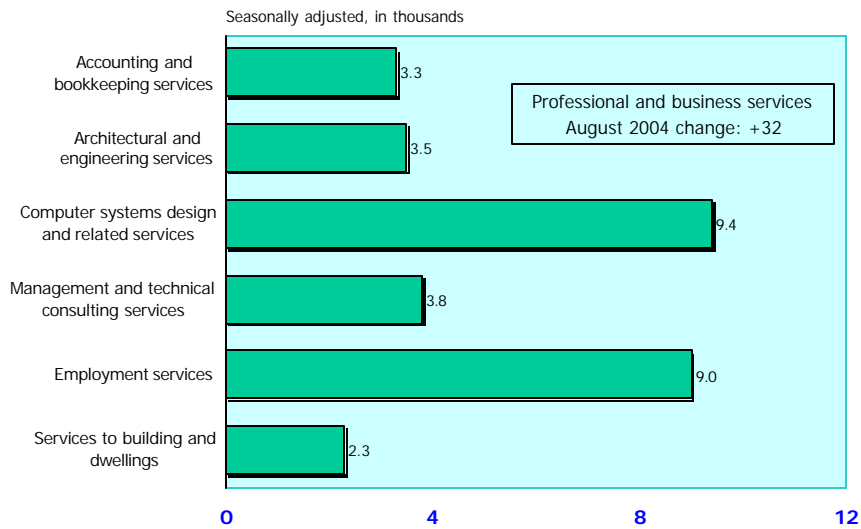
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, September 3, 2004.
Note: Data are preliminary.

- Although durable goods manufacturing growth was concentrated within transportation equipment, several other component industries also added jobs. Demand resulting from the housing market was evident in fabricated metals, which produces materials for construction projects. Employment in machinery, which sells most of its goods to other manufacturing industries, increased by 3,500 and is now 28,400 above its October 2003 low. Computer and electronic factories also added 3,300 jobs in August.
- Employment losses in nondurable goods industries were widespread with the largest decline of 6,200 jobs in food manufacturing. Over the past 2 months, employment in food is close to its 12-month trend of 2,000 jobs lost per month.

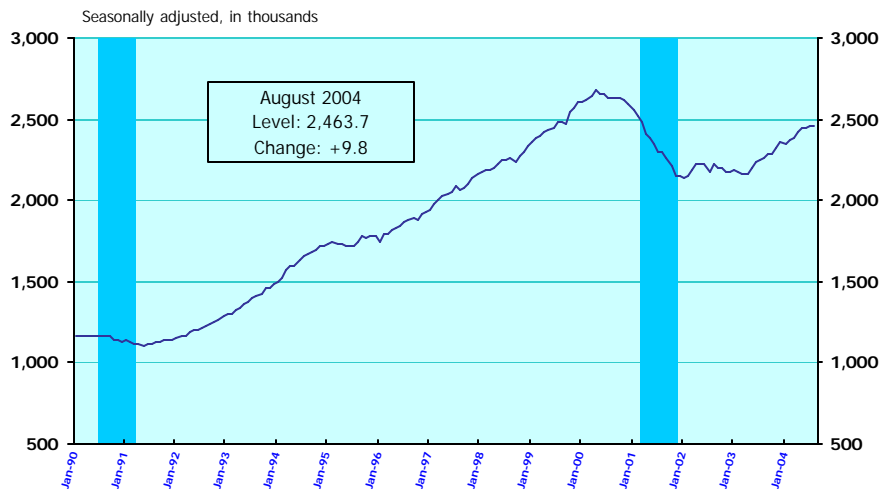
Employment in select professional and business services August 2004 over-the-month change



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, September 3, 2004.
Note: Data are preliminary.

- Professional and business services added 32,000 jobs to payrolls in August and 665,000 jobs since reaching an employment low in March 2003.
- Computer and systems design accounted for about 9,000 of the employment increase in August and has added about 36,000 jobs over the year.

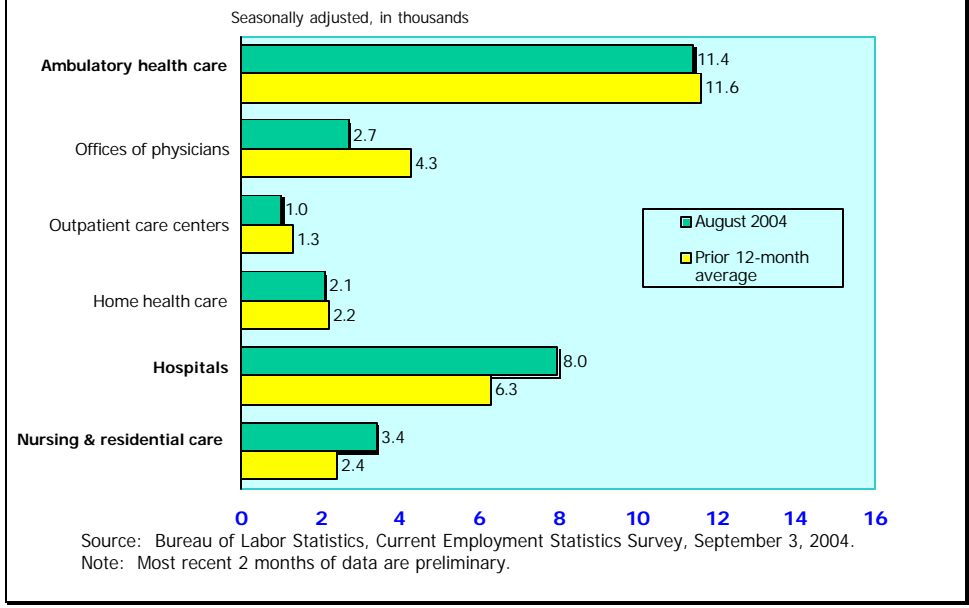
Employment in temporary help services 1990-2004



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, September 3, 2004.
Notes: Shaded areas denote recessions. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

- Temporary help payrolls remained relatively flat in August for the third straight month.
- From April 2003 to May 2004, this industry added 293,000 jobs.
- The temporary help industry has recovered almost 58 percent of the jobs lost during its most recent employment downturn.

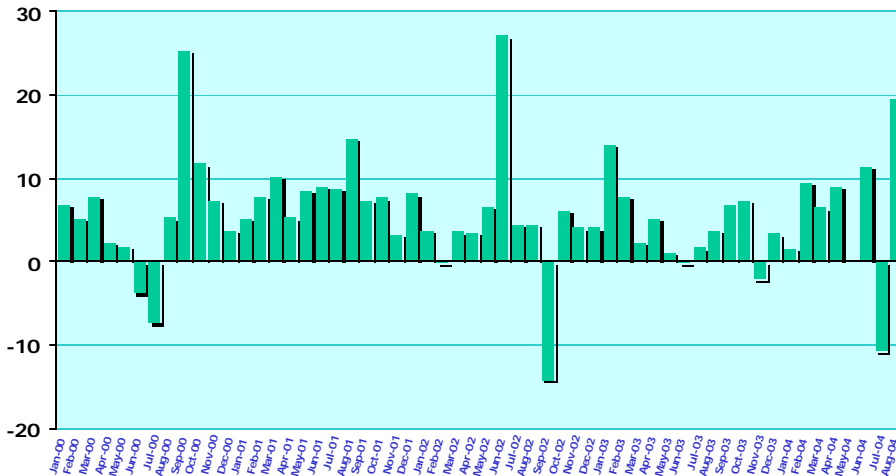
Employment in health-related services
 Over-the-month change, August 2004 and average monthly change
 for the prior 12 months



- Employment continued to expand in health-related industries. Ambulatory care added about 11,000 jobs in August after expanding by almost 140,000 jobs over the prior 12 months. This industry includes medical offices, outpatient care centers, and home health care services. Hospital employment increased by 8,000 in August and has grown by 76,000 over the past year.

Employment in social assistance Over-the-month change, 2000-04

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, September 3, 2004.
Note: Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

- Social assistance added about 20,000 jobs to payrolls in August. Since April, this industry has exhibited a bit more variability than normal, but over the 4-month period, social assistance has experienced about average growth of 5,000 per month.