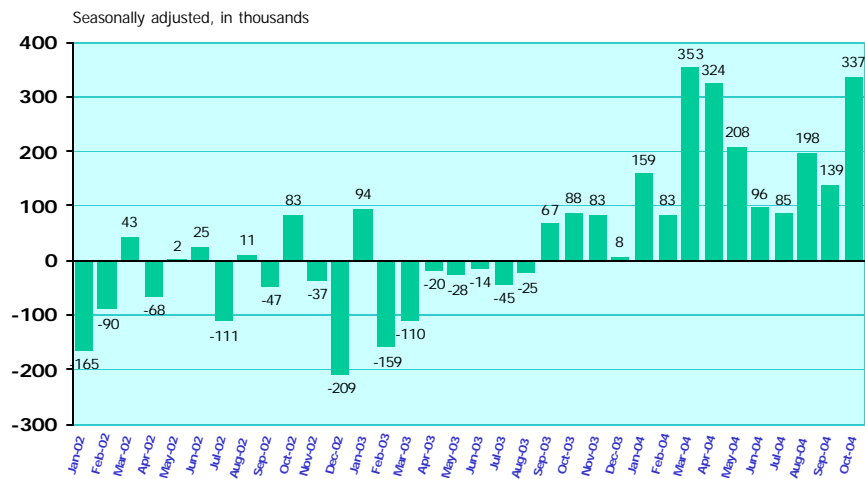




**Current Employment Statistics
Highlights
October 2004**

Bureau of Labor Statistics
November 5, 2004

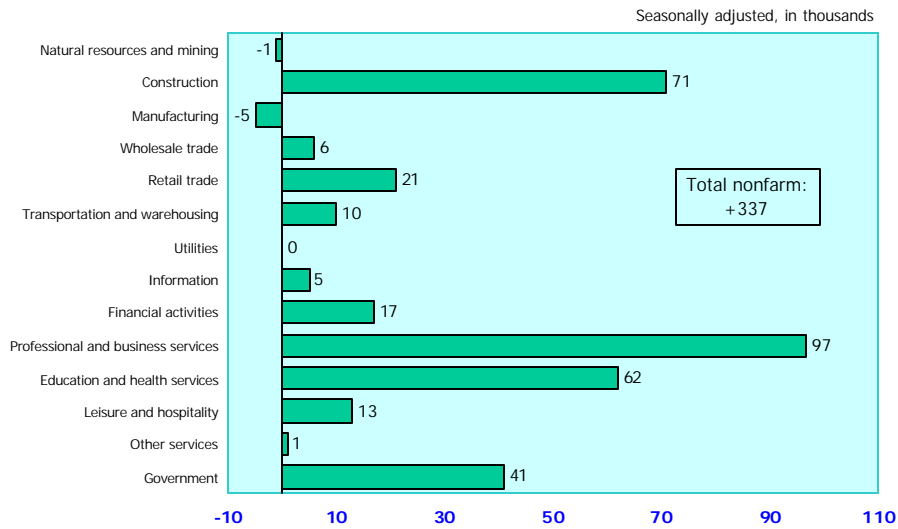
Employment in total nonfarm Over-the-month change, 2002-04



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, November 5, 2004.
Note: Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

- Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 337,000 in October. Since reaching an employment trough in August 2003, 2.2 million jobs have been added to payrolls.
- Average hourly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 5 cents over the month to \$15.83, seasonally adjusted, and by 2.6 percent over the year. The average workweek for these workers remained unchanged at 33.8 hours, seasonally adjusted.

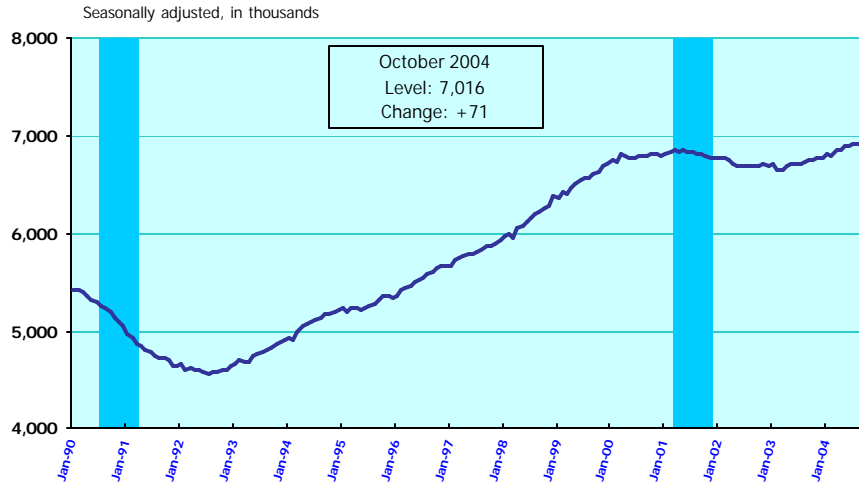
Employment in total nonfarm and supersectors Over-the-month change, October 2004



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, November 5, 2004.
Note: Data are preliminary.

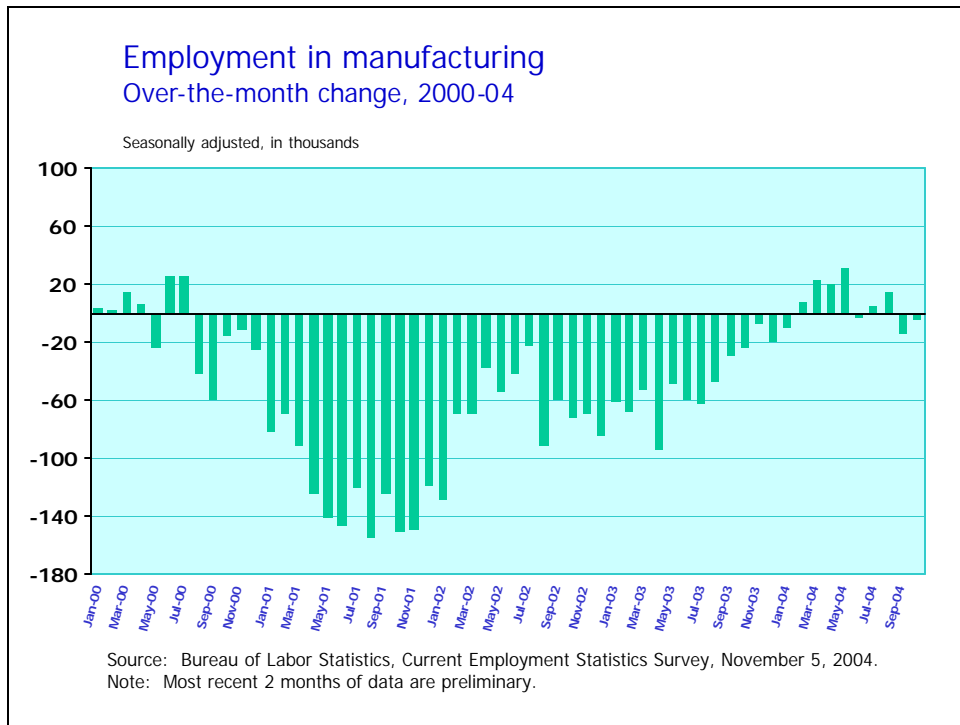
- In October, employment gains in the service-providing industries came mostly from professional and business services, education and health services, and government. Other service-providing industries experienced smaller job gains.
- In the goods-producing industries, construction led the way adding 71,000 jobs to payrolls, while employment in manufacturing and natural resources and mining was little changed.

Employment in construction 1990-2004



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, November 5, 2004.
Notes: Shaded areas denote recessions. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

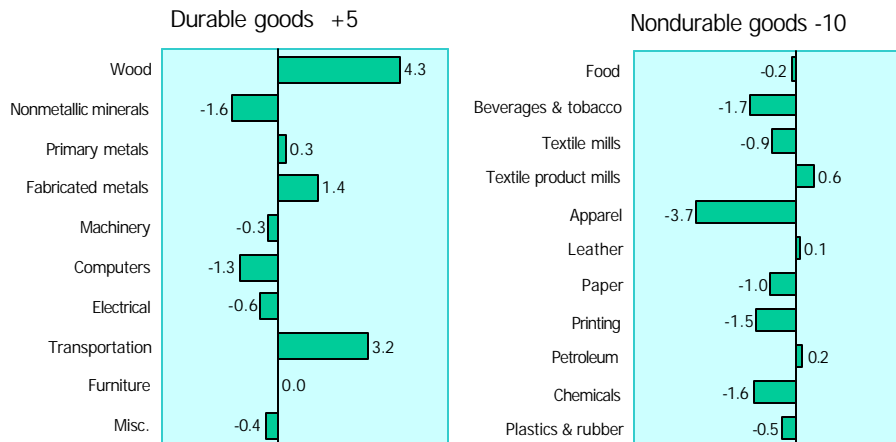
- Boosted by cleanup and reconstruction efforts in hurricane-affected areas of the Southeast, employment in construction increased by 71,000 in October. Jobs gains were concentrated in specialty trade contractors (54,000); employment also rose in construction of buildings (11,000).
- Since reaching an employment trough in March 2003, construction has added 355,000 jobs to payrolls, surpassing a level of 7 million jobs for the first time.



- Manufacturing employment was little changed in October. Since reaching a trough in January 2004, manufacturing had gained 82,000 jobs through May; however, since May, employment has been flat.
- Both average weekly hours and overtime hours in manufacturing edged down by 0.1 hour in October. Since reaching a trough in July 2003, the manufacturing workweek had increased through May 2004, but average weekly hours have subsequently fallen 0.4 hour to a level of 40.7 hours, seasonally adjusted.

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

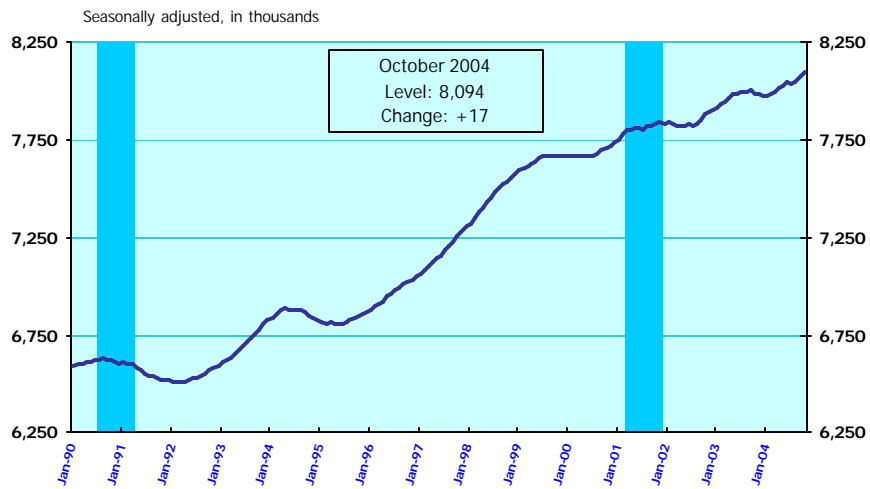
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, November 5, 2004.
Note: Data are preliminary.

- A small job gain in durable goods was more than offset by widespread losses in nondurable goods.
- The job gain in wood products manufacturing was the largest increase in the manufacturing component industries. Since reaching an employment trough in August 2003, wood product manufacturers have added 20,200 jobs to payrolls. Gains in this industry are mostly attributable to a strong construction industry trend.

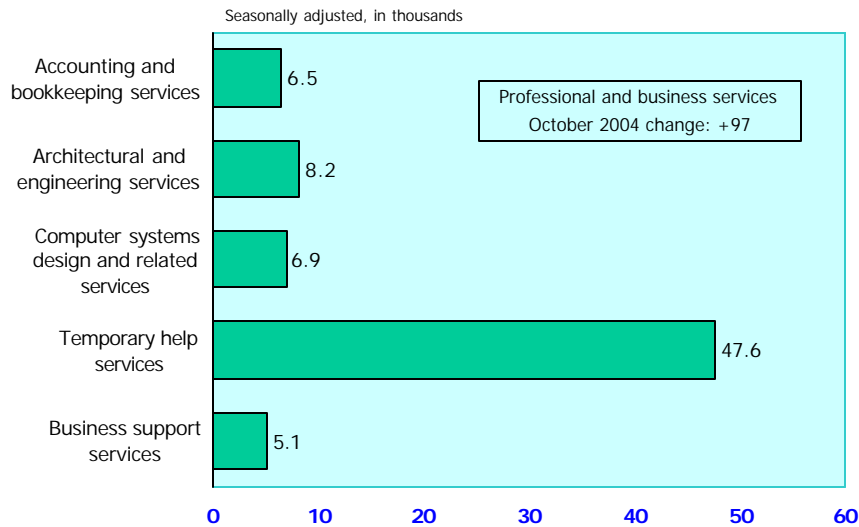
Employment in financial activities 1990-2004



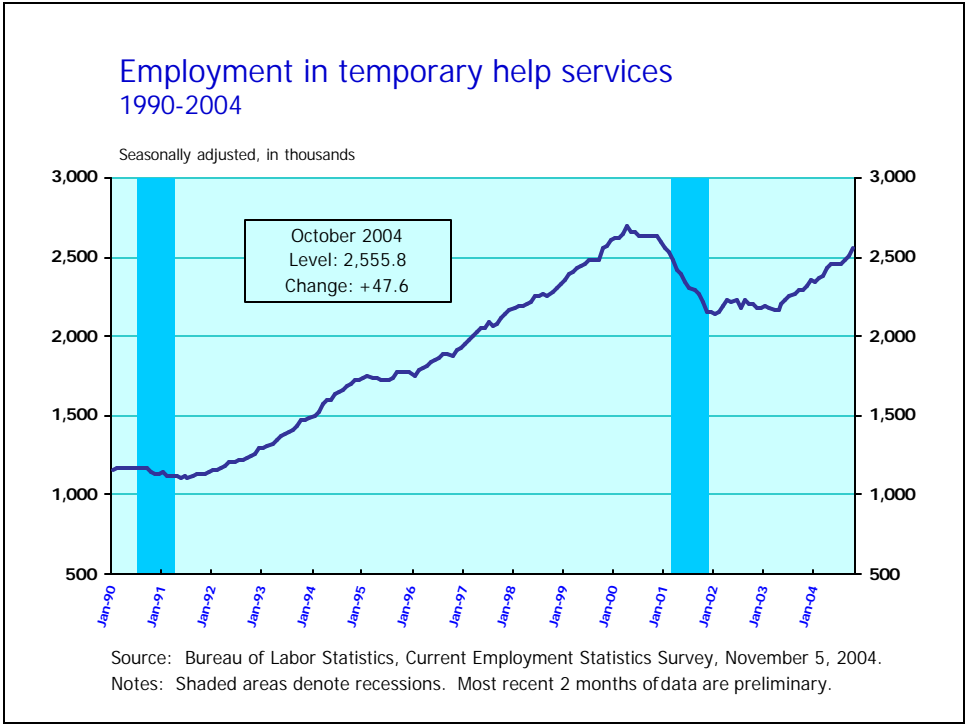
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, November 5, 2004.
Notes: Shaded areas denote recessions. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

- Financial activities added 17,000 jobs to payrolls in October. So far this year, the industry has added 113,000 jobs. The securities, commodity contracts, and investments industry added 8,000, as did the credit intermediation industry. The remaining component industries were essentially unchanged.

Employment in selected professional and business services October 2004 over-the-month change

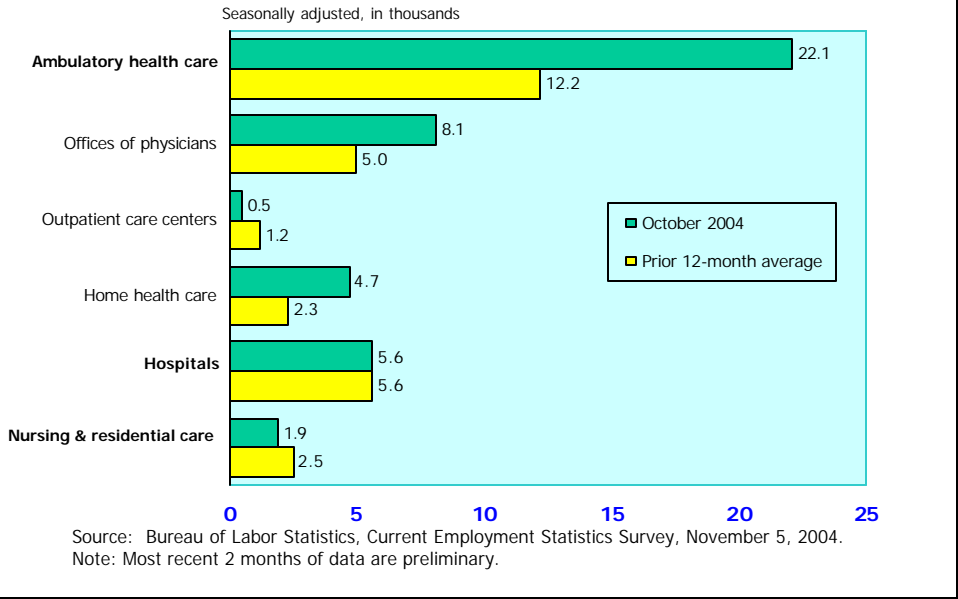


- Employment in professional and business services increased by 97,000 in October. Employment in the sector has risen by 788,000 since reaching an employment trough in March 2003.
- Temporary help accounted for about half of the October increase, while architectural and engineering services added 8,000 jobs to payrolls. Since June 2003, employment in architectural and engineering services has grown by 62,000. This industry has now reached an employment level just above its July 2001 peak.
- Computer systems design and related services continued to add jobs in October. Since reaching an employment trough in August 2003, the industry has added 48,800 jobs. Despite strong employment growth in late 2003 and thus far in 2004, employment is still about 200,000 jobs below its peak in March 2001.



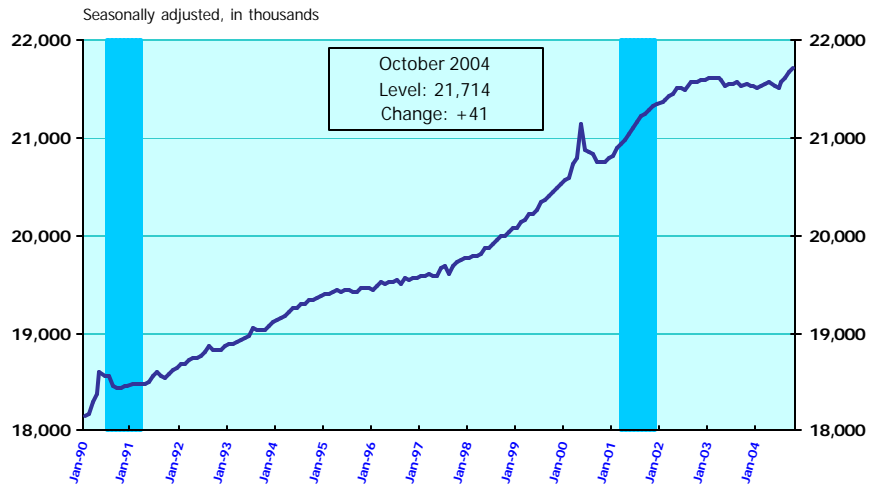
- Temporary help services added about 48,000 jobs to payrolls in October. Since reaching an employment trough in April 2003, the industry has gained 397,000 jobs; however, employment is still about 130,000 below the peak level in April 2000.

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



- Following relatively small increases in September, employment in health-related services continued to expand in October. Taken together, employment growth over the 2 months was in line with the trend over the past year. October job gains occurred in ambulatory health care and hospitals.

Employment in government 1990-2004



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, November 5, 2004.
Notes: Shaded areas denote recessions. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

- Employment in government continued its strong growth, adding 41,000 jobs to payrolls in October. Since reaching a trough in January, 187,000 jobs have been added to payrolls, with the majority of the growth occurring in the last 4 months, primarily in state and local education.