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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: AUGUST 2001

HEARING

before the

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: AUGUST 2001

Friday, September 7, 2001

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 1334, Longworth House Office Building, the Honorable Jim Saxton, Chairman of the Committee, presiding.

Present: Representatives Saxton and Dunn; Senators Bennett and Corzine.

Staff Present: Christopher Frenze, Robert Keleher, Colleen J. Healy, Brian Higginbotham, Matthew Salomon, Daphne Clones-Federing, Jason Fichtner, Reed Garfield and Stephen Thompson.

OPENING STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE JIM SAXTON, CHAIRMAN

Representative Saxton. We will get started relatively on time.

We are expecting some other Members to join us as we go along here, but let me just begin by welcoming Commissioner Abraham to report on the release of new economic employment and unemployment data for August.

Recent economic data continue to suggest that the economic slowdown that began in the middle of 2000 continues. The rate of real GDP growth has slowed quite sharply since the second quarter of 2000, barely remaining positive in the second quarter of 2001. Manufacturing employment has fallen sharply since July of 2000, posting cumulative job losses of slightly over with 1 million in the last 13 months. Investment has plunged over the last several quarters, and corporate profits are weak.

Fortunately, however, consumer spending and housing have held up quite well. In addition, since last January the Fed has reduced interest rates, Congress has lowered the tax drag on the economy, and energy prices are falling from their recent highs. These factors could reasonably be expected to lead to a recovery in economic activity by the first quarter of next year, but the report this morning only reinforces my concerns about the current weakness of the domestic and international economy, and I know the administration is likewise concerned as recent data has prompted the President to suggest a further economic stimulus package.

The employment data released today reflect the seriousness of the economic slowdown. Payroll employment plunged by 113,000. The payroll declines were focused on the manufacturing sector and only add to the previous severe job losses in manufacturing under way since the middle of 2000, bringing the total to 1 million jobs lost. The diffusion index, a measure of the breadth of employment growth, declined again, with the manufacturing component falling to especially low levels. The diffusion index has tended downward since June of 2000. The unemployment rate has climbed to 4.9 percent.

As I have noted previously, one way to address the weakness of the domestic and international economy is through the international easing of monetary policy. The steps taken by the U.S., European, and Japanese central banks over the last month show movement in the right direction, but more action along these lines will likely be needed. Further changes in fiscal policy may also be needed, as was recently noted by the President.

In sum, the 13 months of economic stagnation have been costly to the American economy. The manufacturing sector has been especially hard hit and has suffered the brunt of the significant economic losses now totaling over a million. However, the economy has not fallen into recession. Over the next several months policymakers must remain focused on the condition of the economy and the policy alternatives available in the event further action is needed.

Now I would like to turn to my colleague from New Jersey, Senator Corzine.

[The prepared statement of Representative Saxton appears in the Submissions for the Record on page 16.]

Senator Corzine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your holding this hearing.

I think it is particularly apt that we do this on current set of statistics and current environment because certainly it appears to me I think many of us see accumulating weakness occurring, and I know we have serious concern particularly with regard to our current budgetary situation.

I am anxious to hear Ms. Abraham's comments on the underlying context of these statistics and what they mean for personal income and therefore consumer spending and that two-thirds of the economy that has been sort of the lifeline to at least marginal growth in our economy in the first six months of this year. I think the statistics and those implications have real impact on future monetary policy which I certainly hope will continue to be supportive of economic growth but I think raise the question of whether revisiting the nature and structure of our tax program in the country is appropriate with more fiscal stimulus now being in order.

So I look forward to having a good dialogue on what I think are very important indicators of where we are and where we are going and look forward to a good session.

Representative Saxton. Thank you very much.

Commissioner, the floor is yours. We are anxious to hear your perspective this morning, so you may begin.

OPENING STATEMENT OF KATHARINE G. ABRAHAM, COMMISSIONER, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS: ACCOMPANIED BY KENNETH V. DALTON, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER, OFFICE OF PRICES AND LIVING CONDITIONS; AND PHILIP L. RONES, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF CURRENT EMPLOYMENT ANALYSIS

Ms. Abraham. Thank you. As always, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before this Committee to discuss the data that we have to release.

As you have both noted in your opening remarks, the labor market continued to weaken in August. The jobless total swelled by more than a half million over the month, and the unemployment rate rose to 4.9 percent, its highest level in nearly four years. Nonfarm payroll employment fell by 113,000 in August, bringing net job losses since March to 323,000. Manufacturers continued to slash jobs in August, and there was also a large employment decline in transportation and public utilities. Most other major industries showed little or no change in employment over the month.

Manufacturing employment fell by 141,000 in August. Since July of 2000 the industry has lost slightly more than a million jobs. The unemployment rate for manufacturing workers rose in August to 5.7 percent, up from 3.5 percent a year earlier.

Employment reductions occurred throughout manufacturing in August, with almost every component industry losing jobs. Industrial machinery and electrical equipment, however, continued to account for a disproportionate share of the overall decline in manufacturing employment.

Manufacturing woes continued to affect transportation employment, which fell substantially in August, most notably in trucking and warehousing.

Construction employment was little changed over the month. This industry, which had added 221,000 jobs last year in calendar year 2000 and continued to expand into the first part of this year, has shown no net job growth since March.

Services employment rose by 72,000 in August. Even with that gain, however, employment growth in services has averaged only 10,000 per month over the past five months, compared with 93,000 per month in 2000 and 131,000 per month in 1999.

In August the overall gain reflected continued strength in health services. There was also an unusually large gain in social services employment. Combined with a weak July, the August increase put the industry back on its trend growth path.

Computer services employment declined by 5,000 in August. This was the first monthly decline for that industry since February of 1988, although growth in the industry had slowed in recent months.

Employment growth also has slowed in engineering and management services, another industry that had been expanding rapidly. Help supply employment – that is mainly temporary help employment – was about unchanged in August, following sharp declines totaling more than 400,000 since last September.

Turning now to the data from our survey of households, the number of unemployed and the unemployment rate rose sharply in August, and employment fell by nearly a million. Both the increase in the number of unemployed persons and the decrease in employment occurred disproportionately among young workers, by which I mean those age 16 to 24. Overall, the unemployment rate jumped four-tenths of a percentage point to 4.9 percent over the month, after having remained in the 4.4 to 4.5 percent range since April. While still low by historical standards, the August rate is the highest posted since September of 1997.

It is interesting that over the month both the number of newly unemployed persons – those who have been unemployed less than five weeks – and the number of long-term unemployed – those unemployed 15 weeks or more – rose substantially. Long-term unemployment in August total 1.8 million, up from about 1.3 million in at the end of last year.

In summary then, the unemployment rate rose in August to 4.9 percent, its highest level in nearly four years. Job losses continued to mount in manufacturing, and the employment situation in most other industries remained weak.

[The prepared statement of Commissioner Abraham appears in the Submissions for the Record on page 17.]

Representative Saxton. Commissioner, thank you very much. We are obviously always interested in the information that you bring to us, and certainly today is no exception. We wish the news were better. However, as you have pointed out, we continue to see weakness in the economy.

As you also have pointed out many times in the past, the monthly numbers and data that you bring to us are a snapshot in time, and so I would like to explore with you some trends over a longer period of time as well as to ask you about this month's data.

Let me just begin by looking back over where we have been over the last several quarters – over the last year, actually. Let me just ask you this. What were the average monthly gains in payroll employment in the 12 months prior to July of 2000 so that we can put this in some perspective?

Ms. Abraham. Let me just take a July-to-July number. The average monthly gains from July of 1999 through July of 2000 were running at 240,000 per month.

Representative Saxton. $240,000 on the plus side—

Ms. Abraham. 240,000 people per month.

Representative Saxton. 240,000 people.

Ms. Abraham. 240,000 jobs added per month.

Representative Saxton. Right. So that would be considered healthy growth from July of 1999 until July of 2000.

Ms. Abraham. That pace of growth is very much in line with the annual average growth that we were seeing throughout the 1990s, a little higher sometimes and a little lower sometimes, but beginning in 1993 up through the end of 1999, one year that was higher and one year that was below 200,000 but numbers in more or less that range through that whole period.

Representative Saxton. So that was obviously part of the healthy economic climate that we saw, and things were continuing up through July of 2000 to be considered fairly healthy. While you have got your calculator out, then, can you tell us what the average monthly gains were after July of 2000 until perhaps July of 2001 or August of 2001?

Ms. Abraham. Up through the present time, that 13-month period, we have on net added 33,000 jobs per month.

Representative Saxton. So we have seen during the last – was that 12 or 13 months that you did?

Ms. Abraham. I did 13 months, and Phil is going to check my calculation – 33,000.

Representative Saxton. So the average over the past 13 months has been an increase of just 33,000?

Ms. Abraham. I might characterize the data slightly differently in that I think there are two different subperiods within that longer period. If you take December, 1999, through December of 2000, we were still running at a pace of 187,000 jobs per month, dropping down to 101,000 jobs per month between September and March of this year, and then it has really been since March that things have taken another step downwards. From March through August we have in fact lost an average of 65,000 jobs a month. But whichever way you—

Representative Saxton. The slower growth began in July of 2000, though, isn't that correct, particularly in manufacturing jobs?

Ms. Abraham. If you want to focus on manufacturing, that would be correct. Regardless of where exactly you break the numbers and which period you look at, clearly things have weakened substantially.

Representative Saxton. Let us talk about manufacturing for a moment. What has been the trend in the manufacturing employment since July of 2000?

Ms. Abraham. Looking at manufacturing as a whole, since July of 2000 we have lost nearly a million jobs, actually just over a million jobs. So you could figure out the average monthly decline implied it is 78,000 a month from July of 2000 through August of this year.

Representative Saxton. And the chart that we brought with us again this month shows that we had relatively significant – at least a steady manufacturing base up until July of 2000 and that beginning in 2000 we began to see a significant downturn in manufacturing.

Ms. Abraham. Right. We have seen some declines earlier related to the Asian crisis and the impact that had on the manufacturing sector, and then you can see a plateau in employment, some declines beginning, as you said, along about July of last year and then a significant acceleration in the rate of decline beginning around the start of this year.

Representative Saxton. Let me focus on employment trends in some of the major industries within the manufacturing sector. What has been the trend in employment in the fabricated metals since July of 2000?

Ms. Abraham. Fabricated metals had an employment peak in July of 2000 and since that has dropped off by nearly 80,000.

Representative Saxton. How about the primary metals sector?

Ms. Abraham. Primary metals has also dropped significantly. If you want to stick with the July of 2000 reference point, primary metals has shed 55,000 jobs since July of 2000.

Representative Saxton. What has happened to the level of payroll employment in the electronic and electrical equipment industry over the same period of time?

Ms. Abraham. As I noted, that is one of the industries that has been a heavy job loser. Employment in that industry actually peaked in August rather than July. So if we take the year over year change, it has lost 168,000 jobs.

Representative Saxton. And, finally, the industrial machinery and equipment over the same period?

Ms. Abraham. Which again I might note is another significant job loser. Over the 13 month period from July of 2000 to August of this year, it has lost 156,000 jobs.

Representative Saxton. Transportation equipment?

Ms. Abraham. Transportation equipment has lost since July of 2000 just over a hundred thousand jobs, 108,000 jobs.

Representative Saxton. Well, Commissioner, in each of these sectors – and we continue to see a slide which, of course, is negative, but in each of these sectors this trend began 12 or 13 months ago; is that correct?

Ms. Abraham. Some of the industries within manufacturing, not particularly those that you just identified, have been in long-term decline, but I think almost without exception we have seen a worsening of conditions across the board in manufacturing.

Representative Saxton. Thank you very much.

Senator Corzine.

Senator Corzine. Yes. Commissioner Abraham, do you have any historic perspective on income growth tied to the kind of decline in employment data that we have seen that might give us an indication of strength that we might or might not see in consumer spending as a function of this decline in the last 13 months of manufacturing but six months in other categories?

Ms. Abraham. As you are well aware, labor income is a very big share of total income in our economy. We are at this point seeing declines in employment which are going to translate into general declines in – or at least slowing in the growth of aggregate earnings, which is going to have an impact on the personal income, for example, in the GDP. I don't have figures here on what the numbers we have reported today might if you just, you know, push them through and assumed other things weren't changing would imply, though that is a back-of-the-envelope calculation that we could try to do. Clearly, the impact is going to be negative.

Senator Corzine. Right. My premise underlying that is the consumer sector, as said in the opening remarks, has been the sustaining strength of our economy, and this is the most dramatic indicator that this might move away from being that underlying pillar. Do you have any review of consumer sentiment, particularly with regard to job availability? Have you seen some of those surveys and do they parallel what we are seeing here going on in the job market?

Ms. Abraham. We don't do those surveys. There are other private survey organizations that do.

Have you by chance looked at those, Phil?

Senator Corzine. And do you look at and have you over any period of time looked at any of the correlations or at least the relationships between retail spending and these numbers?

Ms. Abraham. No. I am sorry. We have not.

Senator Corzine. Again, I am pressing only because I think these are indicative of real trouble ahead with regard to consumer spending. I think those relationships are one certainly markets and economists are evaluating.

Let me ask – Senator Sarbanes last month asked a question about discouraged workers. What would be the unemployment rate if you included discouraged workers and do we have a read on how much that is increased this year, how much it is growing? Do we have a sense of it?

Ms. Abraham. We do calculate a range of alternative unemployment measures that are either more or less comprehensive than the official unemployment rate. The most comprehensive measure that we produce is one that includes the unemployed, everyone who says that they would like a job who did any looking for work within the last year, even if they didn't look within the last four weeks, which includes the discouraged workers, plus those people who are working part time even though they would have preferred full-time work. So it is a considerably more comprehensive measure.

In fact, the unemployment rate on a not seasonally adjusted basis year over year went up from 4.1 percent a year ago to 4.9 percent this month. That more comprehensive measure was seven percent in August of 2000, and it has gone up to 8.1 percent in August of 2001. So we are also seeing increases in some of those other things.

Senator Corzine. Right. Do you have numbers with regard to women in the workplace?

Ms. Abraham. Yes.

Senator Corzine. And what has gone on with those rates, the changes?

Ms. Abraham. In August of 2001, this past month, the unemployment rate for women age 20 and over was 4.2 percent, slightly below the men's rate of 4.4 percent. The male unemployment rate has actually gone up more than the female rate. The unemployment rate for adult men in the past year has gone up from 3.3 to 4.4 percent. The rate for adult women has only gone up half a point, from 3.7 to 4.2 percent. That may be related to the different employment mix that we see for men as compared to women. It is not—

Senator Corzine. You also keep a statistic, though, on primary support, those who are the primary—

Ms. Abraham. People who are heads of households or people who maintain families?

Senator Corzine. Yes.

Ms. Abraham. We do have an unemployment rate for women who maintain families. Is that the one you are thinking of?

Senator Corzine. Yes.

Ms. Abraham. Over the last year that rate is higher than it is for women overall. The unemployment rate for women who maintain families in August was 6.7 percent, and it has gone up by seven-tenths – from six percent to 6.7 percent.

Senator Corzine. All right. I have other questions, but I will cede for the moment at least.

Representative Saxton. Senator Bennett. Thank you.

Senator Bennett. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have got to turn on the machinery so that you can hear me.

First, just an observation about the economy as a whole. While it is not scientific the way your analysis tries to be, I have learned over the years that there is a fairly good barometer of when we are going into a recession and when we are coming out. And the current slowdown, which I consider a recession even though statistically we are just barely above zero GDP growth, and so statistically the economists say we are not in a recession, the best indicator that we are going to go into a recession is absolute unanimity among forecasters that there is no trouble whatsoever ahead and we are in very, very good shape; and the best indication that we are coming out of one is when there is absolute unanimity that there is no bottom and we have nothing but disaster ahead of us.

As I look at the GDP figures that are available, it comes right at the end of the second quarter of 2000 that everything looks really, really good historically and then third quarter is almost dropping off a cliff by comparison in terms of GDP output. So I guess I am looking for real gloom and doom in your figures in the hope that that will signal that we are coming out of the current slowdown, and I don't see them. 4.9 is, yes, bad in terms of where we have been, but 4.9 historically is by no means recession-level unemployment. Is that an accurate historical observation?

Ms. Abraham. I think you make a good point that we do want to look at these numbers in a longer historical context, and it wasn't all that long ago that people were sure that the natural rate of unemployment, the rate below which we couldn't sustain the unemployment rate, was in the vicinity of six percent, so—

Senator Bennett. That is the number that I was always taught, that if you got to six percent unemployment, you had de facto full employment. So now we are more than a point below that six, and unfortunately, if my observation is correct, we are going to have to get to six or even higher before we begin to see a turnaround in this slowdown that we are in.

In your statement you say that the statistical group where the decrease in employment has occurred disproportionately is young workers, those age 16 to 24. As you quoted the statistics to Senator Corzine about unemployment among adult men and unemployment among adult women, neither group approached 4.9, so it must be the young workers who don't qualify as adult men or women who take the average up to 4.9. Do you have a separate statistic for that age group?

Ms. Abraham. We do. Let me pull that out. The unemployment rate for 16- to 24-years-olds, I need to look at a different sheet here.

Just while I am looking for this I might comment it is always been true as far back as you go that unemployment for young workers has exceeded that for older workers. They are much more likely to be going in and out of the labor force, and that translates into substantially higher unemployment rates.

The unemployment rate for 16- to 24-year-olds as a group in August was 11.5 percent, up from 10.1 percent in July. So that was a—

Senator Bennett. Can you go back a few months as well?

Ms. Abraham. If we go back to August of 2000, it was 9.4 percent. So over the year it was up by 2.1 percentage points. The numbers for that group do jump around a lot from month to month, but I think over the year clearly you have seen a meaningful increase in the unemployment rate for that group.

Senator Bennett. So what percentage of the total work force falls into that category?

Ms. Abraham. The 16- to 24-year-olds accounted in August for about 16 percent of the labor force, about 15 percent of employment. They accounted for 37 percent of the unemployed and for an even bigger share of the over-the-month increase in unemployment, about 47 percent of the over-the-month increase in unemployment.

Senator Bennett. Do you have any statistics as to how many of them are working at minimum wage?

Ms. Abraham. We do have data on minimum wage employment. I would probably have to spend a little time doing the calculation to say of that group what fraction—

Senator Bennett. If it is a problem, you can always furnish that for me. If you have it at your fingertips, I can wait a few more minutes, but I don't want to delay the committee.

Ms. Abraham. What I can tell you is that those young workers do account for a disproportionate share of the minimum wage workers. 53 percent of all minimum wage workers are 16- to 24-year-olds, and that compares to their share of employment of about 15 percent. So they are three and a half times as likely as other workers to be working at the minimum wage.

Senator Bennett. Okay. Fine. Thank you.

Finally, and I know that Senator Corzine wants to get into this, let us talk about regional unemployment and impact in New Jersey and Utah, to pick two states at random. I wouldn't expect you to have those exact figures, but can you give us any kind of sense about regional unemployment? Is the West better than the East Coast? Is the Sun Belt in better shape than the Rust Belt? Do you have any light that you can shed on that concern?

Ms. Abraham. We do have those data. We in fact have some data here, totally at random for Utah and New Jersey, which we could take a look at as well, if you would like. The most recent data that we have on unemployment broken out regionally are for July rather than for August; they lag slightly.

Looking just at the unemployment picture where we have seen the biggest increases in unemployment on a regional basis, we have seen increases in the Midwest, a little less in the South and the Northeast. The increase in unemployment in the West has actually been the smallest of all the four broad regions that we look at though the unemployment—

Senator Bennett. The West includes California, obviously.

Ms. Abraham. Includes California. Though the unemployment rate there has been relatively high.

Senator Bennett. So if you take out California for the West, the rest of us in the West probably are doing better than the rest of the country?

Ms. Abraham. Yes, that is correct. What I have here in front of me is the mountain states, as opposed to the states along the Pacific coast; and the mountain states have been doing relatively better.

Senator Bennett. That is because we are building all those facilities for the Olympics.

Ms. Abraham. I have driven on your roads in the not too distant past and observed that.

Senator Bennett. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Representative Saxton. Senator Corzine, do you have further questions?

Senator Corzine. I think we could both ask for perspective on New Jerseys statistics, mid-Atlantic. If I read our statistics right, we had a huge drop in unemployment in July. We seem to be doing reasonably well by comparison to other areas. Am I reading this right?

Ms. Abraham. Phil's staff was responsible for pulling this information together; so, if I may, I will let him comment on it.

Mr. Rones. There was a half percentage point drop in the unemployment rate in July, but I caution you, as we often do when you go down to the state level estimates, in a single month you may get a change in either direction that perhaps seems exaggerated and that is a good warning sign to kind of wait to see some more data to see if that is confirmed.

Senator Corzine. What was driving that decline in July? I haven't had a chance to review that. Do you see that?

Mr. Rones. Well, other than the overall unemployment rate itself, we don't know very much about the components of unemployment at a state level. The data for demographics that we get from our survey in any individual State are very, very thin. There is not enough sample. We do know a bit about payroll employment change in each state.

Just for perspective, the over-the-year change for the United States in payroll employment was four-tenths of one percent. We had talked about that earlier. For New Jersey, it was five-tenths of one percent. So really the state is about at the national average. And of course that national average, as we said before, is substantially slower than it had been in the prior several years.

Senator Corzine. Right. I am sure my colleague from New Jersey will have some questions that he may have with regard to our rates there, but one macro question is the unemployment rate for blacks and what have we seen happening there? I think, if my staff folks are serving me right, the rise was 1.2 percentage points in August, to 9.1 percent?

Ms. Abraham. That is correct. Just to pick up on a point that Phil was just making with respect to the state data, similarly when you look at data for individual groups such as blacks or Hispanics, those numbers are a lot more volatile. You need a change of 1.2 percent to be in the margin of statistical significance as compared to 0.2 for the overall rate. But the figures that you cited are correct. The rate for blacks did jump up—

Senator Corzine. If we have done the calculations right, that is the highest in seven years, and I do accept that the sample are smaller and you will get more volatility.

Ms. Abraham. It is the highest since July of 1998.

Senator Corzine. 1998?

Ms. Abraham. It blipped up to 9.5 percent in July of 1998. It was above nine for several of the early months of that year.

It is only in the very recent past, I might note, that we essentially ever saw unemployment rates in the single digits for blacks.

Senator Corzine. I was actually talking about the increment from month to month. That is a sizable amount, and I think that is what they are referencing.

Ms. Abraham. That may well be right.

Senator Corzine. I think the concern – the reason I ask about women head of households as well as blacks is that, as is typical when you see these rising levels of unemployment and decline in employment opportunity, it hurts the most vulnerable. I would presume that you would agree with that assessment?

Ms. Abraham. It is certainly the case that you do want to look carefully at the mix of where these increases in unemployment are occurring and think about the groups that are being affected.

Senator Corzine. Thank you.

Representative Saxton. Ms. Dunn.

Representative Dunn. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And I must apologize, Commissioner. I am sorry I wasn't here. I was in another meeting, so I wasn't able to hear your opening statement.

I just caught the end of Senator Corzine's question, so I may be asking you a question you can't answer. But, according to the BLS statistics, the Washington State's unemployment rate has been fairly steady during 2001 at about six percent, which is above – unfortunately above the national level, and even though we are very happy that these days we have a diverse economy, it is no longer like the 1970s when Boeing was our only large employer. In my district it is the innovative sector that is strongest as employers, and I am wondering if you can tell me what accounts for the discrepancy in the unemployment figures? Is it due to the dot-com layoffs, and do you think that these layoffs have impacted the labor sector nationwide as well in a negative way?

Ms. Abraham. We often, as you might imagine, get questions about the dot-coms and the impact that their experience they have been having on the economy overall. We don't keep data for dot-coms specifically. They are spread across a number of industries in the data that we look at.

But what I can say is that as we look at the figures that we have we can identify industries that by virtue of having a lot of research and development workers and other things we might characterize as high tech, and it is clearly the case that we have seen rather sharp declines in employment in the high tech industry as we define it based on those criteria. So that at least is clearly a piece of what is going on.

Representative Dunn. So you are not able to say directly what is affecting Washington State to a greater degree than what is affecting the national economy? I think that is what I am searching for, and that could be the answer.

Ms. Abraham. One thing that we could do would be to go back and take a look at the mix of employment in Washington State and the degree to which it is concentrated in industries that have been especially hard hit. I would be happy to see what we can do on that and try to provide it for you.

Representative Dunn. Would you do that? That would be very helpful.

Ms. Abraham. Certainly.

Representative Dunn. Thank you.

[The information on the employment situation in Washington state appears in the Submissions for the Record on page...]

Representative Dunn. Commissioner, in recent months we have heard or read of massive layoffs in high tech companies like Dell and Motorola, Lucent Technologies, to name a few. Many of these companies rely heavily on exports. In your estimation would increasing or encouraging greater export activity help the manufacturing sector rebound from our economic slowdown that we are seeing now? For example, the engagement in trade agreements that has been very, very slow over the last few years, is that going to be a help in trying to reverse this trend that we have seen in your report of yesterday?

Ms. Abraham. Given our role as an agency responsible for providing objective statistics, what I can tell you is that if you look at our data in the same way that we are able to identify industries that are high tech based on observable criteria, we can isolate those industries that are more heavily dependent on exports than others, and again similarly to the high tech industries, we have seen substantial declines in employment in industries that are export sensitive. It would really be going beyond what I feel I can comment on to go from that to recommendations regarding policy.

You are right that there is an issue in the sense that export-sensitive industries have been losing jobs. I don't have a comment on what one should do about it.

Representative Dunn. Thank you.

I think, Mr. Chairman, this is an area that we do need to look at. I have requested a study on the impact on our labor force of the slowness in the numbers of trade agreements we have been involved in, and I am hopeful that our staff on this Committee will be able to press forward with our report.

Thank you.

Representative Saxton. Thank you.

Commissioner, let me turn to some historic perspective on how we may have gotten where we are. With regard to what causes an economic slowdown, obviously from time to time there are different factors, but I recall during 1999 a great deal of concern about labor shortage and the cost of labor and the pressures that would result as a result of the increased cost of labor on potential inflation, and there was a fair amount of concern with regard to that. You testified earlier – you showed us figures earlier that showed very robust monthly growth in employment during 1999; is that correct?

Ms. Abraham. That is correct.

Representative Saxton. There was, as I recall, a great deal of concern with regard to this employment growth and the potential labor shortage and inflation. As a matter of fact, in June of 1999, the Fed became so concerned that they instituted the first of six interest rate increases; is that correct?

Ms. Abraham. I am sorry? They—

Representative Saxton. In June of 1999 the Fed became so concerned that they instituted the first of six rate increases. I know this is not your bailiwick exactly.

Ms. Abraham. I am certainly aware that the Fed over a period of time did raise rates, but I would hesitate to go on record as to the dates or the number. I will take your word for it.

Representative Saxton. As a matter of fact, it was in June of 1999 that we had the first of six rate increases when rates were increased from four and three quarters percent in the Federal Open Market Committee. The Fed funds rate was increased from four and three quarters to five percent in June of 1999, and following that increase there were five additional increases which peaked the Fed funds rate at six and a half percent in early 2000. Interestingly enough, the interest rate increases apparently had a marked effect. Because in July, just 13 months after the first increase, we began to see a loss or a slowing in the number of jobs created as a result of something.

I would suggest that these interest rate increases over the months ahead when we saw the six rate increases, which began in June and lasted for most of the following 12 months, and then we began to see a slowdown in the economy – at about the same time, interestingly enough, another major economic event was occurring and that was that we saw major increases in energy prices. They actually began in early 1999, and the increase in energy prices lasted for a full two years.

As energy prices, particularly oil prices, increased until the middle of 2000, we saw another negative economic stimulus that occurred at the same time the interest rate increases were occurring; and by the middle of 2000 again, in July of 2000, we began to see this economic downturn that we continue to experience. I wondered if you had any data that would relate to these two occurrences which seem to coincide perfectly as potential causes of this economic downturn that we have seen.

Ms. Abraham. Certainly, the data that we have produced have been used by a variety of analysts who try to look at connections between this sort of external development and what happens with employment. We have not done analyses of those sorts.

Representative Saxton. Something must have happened prior to July of 2000. We were steaming along with the longest, most robust period of economic growth in modern history, and in July of 2000 we saw a downturn, and I find it very curious that we had these interest rate increases in parallel with dramatic increases in energy prices just prior to

July of 2000. It is quite a coincidence that these things occurred and that the economic slowdown took place immediately thereafter.

Ms. Abraham. It would be surprising if developments as major as these didn't have an impact on employment, but, as I said, we have no analysis that would let us quantify it based on our own work.

Representative Saxton. Thank you very much.

Further questions? Ms. Dunn?

Commissioner, thank you for being with us again. This is always very helpful to us as Members of Congress, policymakers who have some responsibility with regard to Federal policy that may have an effect on economic growth. So we thank you again for being here with us, and we look forward to seeing you in the months ahead.

Ms. Abraham. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to be here.

[Whereupon, at 10:27 a.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE RECORD

PREPARED STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE JIM SAXTON, CHAIRMAN

I would like to welcome Commissioner Abraham before the Committee once again to report on the release of new employment and unemployment data for August.

Recent economic data continue to suggest that the economic slowdown that began in the middle of 2000 continues. The rate of real GDP growth has slowed quite sharply since the second quarter of 2000, barely remaining positive in the second quarter of 2001. Manufacturing employment has fallen sharply since July of 2000, posting cumulative job losses of slightly over 1 million over the last 13 months. Investment has plunged over the last several quarters, and corporate profits are weak.

Fortunately, however, consumer spending and housing have held up quite well. In addition, since last January the Fed has reduced interest rates, Congress has lowered the tax drag on the economy, and energy prices are falling from their recent highs. These factors could reasonably be expected to lead to a recovery in economic activity by the first quarter of next year, but the report this morning only reinforces my concerns about the current weakness in the domestic and international economy.

The employment data released today reflect the seriousness of the economic slowdown. Payroll employment plunged by 113,000. The payroll declines were focused in the manufacturing sector; and only add to the previous severe job losses in manufacturing underway since the middle of 2000, bringing the total to 1 million jobs. The diffusion index, a measure of the breadth of employment growth, declined again, with the manufacturing component falling to especially low levels. The diffusion index has trended downward since June of 2000. The unemployment rate climbed to 4.9 percent.

As I have noted previously, one way to address the weakness in the domestic and international economy is through an international easing of monetary policy. The steps taken by the U.S., European, and Japanese central banks over the last month show movement in the right direction, but more actions along these lines will likely be needed. Further changes in fiscal policy may also be needed to stimulate a renewal of healthy economic growth.

In sum, the 13 months of economic stagnation have been costly to the American economy. The manufacturing sector has been especially hard hit, and has suffered the brunt of significant job losses now totaling over 1 million. However, the economy has not fallen into recession. Over the next several months policymakers must remain focused on the condition of the economy and the policy alternatives available in the event further actions are needed.

FOR DELIVERY: 9:30 A.M., E.D.T.
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2001

Advance copies of this statement are made available to the press under lock-up conditions with the explicit understanding that the data are embargoed until 8:30 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Statement of

Katharine G. Abraham
Commissioner
Bureau of Labor Statistics

before the

Joint Economic Committee

UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Friday, September 7, 2001

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the August labor market data we released this morning.

The labor market continued to weaken in August. The jobless total swelled by more than half a million over the month, and the unemployment rate rose to 4.9 percent, its highest level in nearly 4 years. Nonfarm payroll employment fell by 113,000 in August, bringing net job losses since March to 323,000. Manufacturers continued to slash jobs in August, and there was also a large employment decline in transportation and public utilities. Most other major industries showed little or no change in employment over the month.

Manufacturing employment fell by 141,000 in August. Since July 2000, the industry has lost slightly more than 1 million jobs. The unemployment rate for manufacturing workers rose in August to 5.7 percent, up from 3.5 percent a year earlier.

Employment reductions occurred throughout manufacturing in August, with almost every component industry losing jobs. Industrial machinery (-25,000) and electrical equipment (-19,000), however, continued to account for a disproportionate share of the overall decline in manufacturing employment. Two other manufacturing industries with particularly large employment declines in August were apparel (-20,000) and furniture (-10,000).

Manufacturing's woes continued to affect transportation employment, which fell substantially in August, most notably in trucking and warehousing (-8,000).

Construction employment was little changed over the month. This industry, which had added 221,000 jobs in 2000 and continued to expand into the first part of this year, has shown no net job growth since March.

Services employment rose by 72,000 in August. Even with that gain, however, employment growth in the industry has averaged only 10,000 per month over the past 5 months, compared with 93,000 per month in 2000 and 131,000 per month in 1999. In August, the overall gain reflected continued strength in health services (32,000). There was also an unusually large gain in social services employment (33,000); combined with a weak July, this increase put the industry back on its trend growth path. Computer services employment declined by 5,000 in August; this was the first monthly decline since February 1988, although growth in the industry had slowed in recent months. Employment growth also has slowed in engineering and management services, another industry that had been expanding rapidly. Help supply employment was about unchanged in August, following sharp declines totaling more than 400,000 since last September.

Turning now to data from our survey of households, the number of unemployed and the unemployment rate rose sharply in August, and employment fell by nearly 1 million. Both the increase in the number of unemployed persons and the decrease in employment occurred disproportionately among young workers (those aged 16 to 24). Overall, the unemployment rate jumped four-tenths of a percentage point over the month to 4.9 percent, after having remained in the

4.4- to 4.5-percent range since April. While still low by historical standards, the August rate is the highest posted since September 1997. Both the number of newly-unemployed persons (those jobless less than 5 weeks) and the number of long-term unemployed (those jobless 15 weeks and longer) rose substantially in August. Long-term unemployment totaled 1.8 million, up from 1.3 million at the end of last year. The number of discouraged workers—those who have stopped seeking work because of discouragement over their job prospects—was 335,000 in August, somewhat higher than a year earlier.

In summary, the unemployment rate rose in August to 4.9 percent, its highest level in nearly 4 years. Job losses continued to mount in manufacturing, and the employment situation in most other industries remained weak.

My colleagues and I now would be glad to answer your questions.

News

United States Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information:
Household data: (202) 691-6378
http://www.bls.gov/cpshome.htm

Establishment data: 691-6555
http://www.bls.gov/ceshome.htm
Media contact: 691-5902

USDL 01-293

Transmission of material in this release is embargoed until 8:30 A.M. (EDT), Friday, September 7, 2001.

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: AUGUST 2001

Employment fell and the unemployment rate rose sharply to 4.9 percent in August, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Nonfarm payroll employment declined by 113,000, due primarily to another large drop in manufacturing and a decline in transportation and public utilities. Most other major industries showed little or no change in employment over the month.

Chart 1. Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, September 1998 - August 2001
Percent

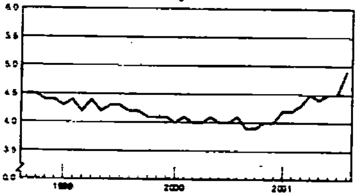
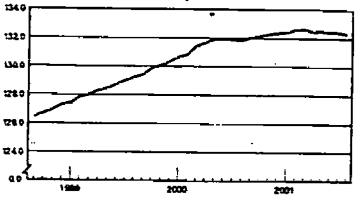


Chart 2. Nonfarm payroll employment, seasonally adjusted, September 1998 - August 2001
Millions



Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons increased by more than half a million to nearly 7 million in August. The unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage point to 4.9 percent, seasonally adjusted, the highest level since September 1997. The jobless rate had been about 4.5 percent since April; its most recent low was 3.9 percent in October 2000. The rates for most major worker groups were up over the month. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

The number of persons unemployed less than 5 weeks and the number unemployed 15 weeks or more both increased over the month. (See table A-6.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total employment dropped by about 1 million in August to 134.4 million, seasonally adjusted. This decline followed an increase of about 450,000 in July. Young workers—those ages 16 to 24—accounted for two-thirds of the over-the-month decline in employment. The employment-population ratio fell by

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted
(Numbers in thousands)

Category	Quarterly averages 2001		Monthly data 2001			July-Aug. change
	I	II	June	July	Aug.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA			Labor force status			
Civilian labor force	141,858	141,461	141,354	141,774	141,350	-424
Employment	135,864	135,130	134,932	135,379	134,393	-986
Unemployment	5,994	6,331	6,422	6,395	6,957	562
Not in labor force	69,171	70,072	70,370	70,147	70,785	638
			Unemployment rates			
All workers	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.9	0.4
Adult men	3.7	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.4	.5
Adult women	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.2	.3
Teenagers	13.7	14.0	14.3	14.8	16.1	1.3
White	3.7	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.3	.3
Black	8.1	8.2	8.4	7.9	9.1	1.2
Hispanic origin	6.2	6.5	6.6	6.0	6.3	.3
ESTABLISHMENT DATA			Employment			
Nonfarm employment	132,559	132,483	132,431	p132,444	p132,331	p-113
Goods-producing[1]	25,621	25,310	25,186	p25,125	p24,989	p-136
Construction	6,878	6,866	6,864	p6,873	p6,878	p5
Manufacturing	18,188	17,882	17,757	p17,686	p17,545	p-141
Service-producing[1]	106,938	107,173	107,245	p107,319	p107,342	p23
Retail trade	23,448	23,546	23,561	p23,596	p23,570	p-26
Services	41,026	41,052	41,085	p41,051	p41,123	p72
Government	20,673	20,782	20,828	p20,923	p20,920	p-3
			Hours of work[2]			
Total private	34.3	34.2	34.2	p34.1	p34.1	p.0
Manufacturing	41.0	40.8	40.7	p40.9	p40.7	p-0.2
Overtime	4.1	3.9	3.9	p4.0	p4.2	p.2
			Indexes of aggregate weekly hours (1982=100)[2]			
Total private	152.0	151.4	151.2	p150.7	p150.1	p-0.6
			Earnings[2]			
Average hourly earnings, total private	$14.10	$14.25	$14.31	p$14.34	p$14.38	p$0.04
Average weekly earnings, total private	484.21	487.46	489.40	p488.99	p490.36	p1.37

[1] Includes other industries, not shown separately.

[2] Data relate to private production or nonsupervisory workers.

p=preliminary.

one-half percentage point in August to 63.4 percent. This series had hit an all-time high of 64.8 percent in April 2000. (See table A-1.)

The civilian labor force fell by about 400,000 in August to 141.4 million, seasonally adjusted. The labor force participation rate—the proportion of the population 16 years of age and older who are either working or looking for work—declined to 66.6 percent.

Persons Not in the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

In August, the number of persons not in the labor force who reported that they currently want a job rose to 4.9 million, seasonally adjusted, up from 4.3 million a year earlier. These individuals are not counted as unemployed because they had not searched for work in the 4-week period preceding the survey. Indeed, most had not searched for over a year. (See table A-1.)

About 1.4 million persons (not seasonally adjusted) were marginally attached to the labor force in August, up from 1.1 million a year earlier. These were people who wanted and were available for work and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months but were not counted as unemployed because they had not searched for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey. In August, the number of discouraged workers was 335,000, up from 205,000 a year earlier. Discouraged workers, a subset of the marginally attached, were not currently looking for work specifically because they believed no jobs were available for them. (See table A-10.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment fell by 113,000 in August to 132.3 million, seasonally adjusted. This was the third loss in the past 5 months, resulting in a net decline of 323,000 jobs over the period. (See table B-1.)

In the goods-producing sector, manufacturing employment continued to fall, and August's decline of 141,000 was the largest this year. Since July 2000, employment in the industry has fallen by 1 million. In August, virtually every major manufacturing industry lost jobs. In durable goods manufacturing, industrial machinery and electrical equipment continued to post the largest employment declines, 25,000 and 19,000, respectively. Furniture experienced its largest employment decline this year, shedding 10,000 jobs. Since July of last year, the industry has lost 46,000 jobs. In nondurable goods manufacturing, August declines in apparel, chemicals, and rubber and miscellaneous plastics followed gains in July.

Construction employment was little changed in August. Employment in the industry has shown no net growth in recent months, following a strong first quarter. Employment in mining was unchanged over the month. Within mining, oil and gas extraction has added 22,000 workers thus far in 2001. Coal mining has added 5,000 workers over the past 4 months, the first sustained gains in this industry in over a decade.

In the service-producing sector, employment in the services industry rose by 72,000. Employment in health services continued on its upward trend, adding 32,000 jobs over the month; hospitals accounted for about half of this increase. Employment in social services rose by 33,000 in August after being little changed in July; the average growth over the 2 months was in line with the average monthly gains in the industry over the last year. Employment in help supply services—which provides workers to employers in a wide array of industries—was about unchanged over the month. The industry has been on a downward trend since last September with job losses totaling 419,000. Employment in engineering and management services, an industry where job growth has slowed this year, was little changed in August. The recent downward trend in hotel employment continued in August; job losses have totaled 42,000 since March. Following slower job growth in recent months, computer services experienced its first employment decline since the late 1980s, losing 5,000 jobs.

Employment in transportation and public utilities fell by 24,000 over the month. The decline in August was the fourth in the past 5 months, and the largest during that period. Trucking lost 8,000 jobs in August, and has lost 16,000 since March. Over the month, employment also fell in other transportation industries. Communications lost 8,000 jobs, concentrated in telephone communications.

Retail trade employment was down in August, as eating and drinking places lost 30,000 jobs following a large increase in July. Employment in wholesale trade and in finance, insurance, and real estate was little changed over the month.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged in August at 34.1 hours, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing workweek decreased by 0.2 hour to 40.7 hours. Manufacturing overtime was up by 0.2 hour to 4.2 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls fell by 0.4 percent in August to 150.1 (1982=100), seasonally adjusted, and is down by 1.4 percent since January. The manufacturing index fell by 1.3 percent to 96.8 in August and has fallen by 8.2 percent over the past 12 months. The current level is the lowest since February 1983. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 4 cents in August to $14.38, seasonally adjusted. Over the month, average weekly earnings rose by 0.3 percent to $490.36. Over the year, average hourly earnings increased by 4.2 percent and average weekly earnings grew by 3.6 percent. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for September 2001 is scheduled to be released on Friday, October 5, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

Explanatory Note

This news release presents statistics from two major surveys, the Current Population Survey (household survey) and the Current Employment Statistics survey (establishment survey). The household survey provides the information on the labor force, employment, and unemployment that appears in the A tables, marked HOUSEHOLD DATA. It is a sample survey of about 60,000 households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

The establishment survey provides the information on the employment, hours, and earnings of workers on nonfarm payrolls that appears in the B tables, marked ESTABLISHMENT DATA. This information is collected from payroll records by BLS in cooperation with State agencies. In June 2001, the sample included about 350,000 establishments employing about 39 million people.

For both surveys, the data for a given month relate to a particular week or pay period. In the household survey, the reference week is generally the calendar week that contains the 12th day of the month. In the establishment survey, the reference period is the pay period including the 12th, which may or may not correspond directly to the calendar week.

Coverage, definitions, and differences between surveys

Household survey. The sample is selected to reflect the entire civilian noninstitutional population. Based on responses to a series of questions on work and job search activities, each person 16 years and over in a sample household is classified as employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force.

People are classified as *employed* if they did any work at all as paid employees during the reference week; worked in their own business, profession, or on their own farm; or worked without pay at least 15 hours in a family business or farm. People are also counted as employed if they were temporarily absent from their jobs because of illness, bad weather, vacation, labor-management disputes, or personal reasons.

People are classified as *unemployed* if they meet all of the following criteria: They had no employment during the reference week; they were available for work at that time; and they made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the 4-week period ending with the reference week. Persons laid off from a job and expecting recall need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed. The unemployment data derived from the household survey in no way depend upon the eligibility for or receipt of unemployment insurance benefits.

The *civilian labor force* is the sum of employed and unemployed persons. Those not classified as employed or unemployed are *not in the labor force*. The *unemployment rate* is the number unemployed as a percent of the labor force. The *labor force participation rate* is the labor force as a percent of the population, and the *employment-population ratio* is the employed as a percent of the population.

Establishment survey. The sample establishments are drawn from private nonfarm businesses such as factories, offices, and stores, as well as Federal, State, and local government entities. *Employees on nonfarm payrolls* are those who received pay for any part of the reference pay period, including persons on paid leave. Persons are counted in each job they hold. *Hours and earnings* data are for private businesses and relate only to production workers in the goods-producing sector and nonsupervisory workers in the service-producing sector.

Differences in employment estimates. The numerous conceptual and methodological differences between the household and establishment surveys result in important distinctions in the employment estimates derived from the surveys. Among these are:

- The household survey includes agricultural workers, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers among the employed. These groups are excluded from the establishment survey.
- The household survey includes people on unpaid leave among the employed. The establishment survey does not.
- The household survey is limited to workers 16 years of age and older. The establishment survey is not limited by age.
- The household survey has no duplication of individuals, because individuals are counted only once, even if they hold more than one job. In the establishment survey, employees working at more than one job and thus appearing on more than one payroll would be counted separately for each appearance.

Other differences between the two surveys are described in "Comparing Employment Estimates from Household and Payroll Surveys," which may be obtained from BLS upon request.

Seasonal adjustment

Over the course of a year, the size of the nation's labor force and the levels of employment and unemployment undergo sharp fluctuations due to such seasonal events as changes in weather, reduced or expanded production, harvests, major holidays, and the opening and closing of schools. The effect of such seasonal variation can be very large; seasonal fluctuations may account for as much as 95 percent of the month-to-month changes in unemployment.

Because these seasonal events follow a more or less regular pattern each year, their influence on statistical trends can be eliminated by adjusting the statistics from month to month. These adjustments make nonseasonal developments, such as declines in economic activity or increases in the participation of women in the labor force, easier to spot. For example, the large number of youth entering the labor force each June is likely to obscure any other changes that have taken place relative to May, making it difficult to determine if the level of economic activity has risen or declined. However, because the effect of students finishing school in previous years is known, the statistics for the current year can be adjusted to allow for a comparable change. Insofar as the seasonal adjustment is made correctly, the adjusted figure provides a more useful tool with which to analyze changes in economic activity.

In both the household and establishment surveys, most seasonally adjusted series are independently adjusted. However, the adjusted series for many major estimates, such as total payroll employment, employment in most major industry divisions, total employment, and unemployment are computed by aggregating independently adjusted component series. For example, total unemployment is derived by summing the adjusted series for four major age-sex components; this differs from the unemployment estimate that would be obtained by directly adjusting the total or by combining the duration, reasons, or more detailed age categories.

The numerical factors used to make the seasonal adjustments are recalculated twice a year. For the household survey, the factors are calculated for the January-June period and again for the July-December period. For the establishment survey, updated factors for seasonal adjustment are calculated for the May-October period and introduced along with new benchmarks, and again for the November-April period. In both surveys, revisions to historical data are made once a year.

Reliability of the estimates

Statistics based on the household and establishment surveys are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. When a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimates may differ from the "true" population values they represent. The exact difference, or *sampling error*, varies depending on the particular sample selected, and this variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. There is about a 90-percent chance, or level of confidence, that an estimate based on a sample will differ by no more than 1.6 standard errors from the "true" population value because of sampling error. BLS analyses are generally conducted at the 90-percent level of confidence.

For example, the confidence interval for the monthly change in total employment from the household survey is on the order of plus or minus 292,000. Suppose the estimate of total employment increases by 100,000 from one month to the next. The 90-percent confidence interval on the monthly change would range from -192,000 to 392,000 (100,000 +/- 292,000). These figures do not mean that the sample results are off by these magnitudes, but rather that there is about a 90-percent chance that the "true" over-the-month change lies within this interval. Since this range includes values of less than zero, we could not say with confidence that employment had, in fact, increased. If, however, the reported employment rise was half a million, then all of the values within the 90-percent confidence interval would be greater than zero. In this case, it is likely (at least a 90-percent chance) that an employment rise had, in fact, occurred. The 90-percent confidence interval for the monthly change in unemployment is +/- 273,000, and for the monthly change in the unemployment rate it is +/- .19 percentage point.

In general, estimates involving many individuals or establishments have lower standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) than estimates which are based on a small number of observations. The precision of estimates is also improved when the data are cumulated over time such as for quarterly and annual averages. The seasonal adjustment process can also improve the stability of the monthly estimates.

The household and establishment surveys are also affected by *nonsampling error*. Nonsampling errors can occur for many reasons, including the failure to sample a segment of the population, inability to obtain information for all respondents in the sample, inability or unwillingness of respondents to provide correct information on a timely basis, mistakes made by respondents, and errors made in the collection or processing of the data.

For example, in the establishment survey, estimates for the most recent 2 months are based on substantially incomplete returns; for this reason, these estimates are labeled preliminary in the tables. It is only after two successive revisions to a monthly estimate, when nearly all sample reports have been received, that the estimate is considered final.

Another major source of nonsampling error in the establishment survey is the inability to capture, on a timely basis, employment generated by new firms. To correct for this systematic underestimation of employment growth (and other sources of error), a process known as bias adjustment is included in the survey's estimating procedures, whereby a specified number of jobs is added to the monthly sample-based change. The size of the monthly bias adjustment is based largely on past relationships between the sample-based estimates of employment and the total counts of employment described below.

The sample-based estimates from the establishment survey are adjusted once a year (on a lagged basis) to universe counts of payroll employment obtained from administrative records of the unemployment insurance program. The difference between the March sample-based employment estimates and the March universe counts is known as a benchmark revision, and serves as a rough proxy for total survey error. The new benchmarks also incorporate changes in the classification of industries. Over the past decade, the benchmark revision for total nonfarm employment has averaged 0.3 percent, ranging from zero to 0.7 percent.

Additional statistics and other information

More comprehensive statistics are contained in *Employment and Earnings*, published each month by BLS. It is available for $26.00 per issue or $50.00 per year from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. All orders must be prepaid by sending a check or money order payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or by charging to Mastercard or Visa.

Employment and Earnings also provides measures of sampling error for the household survey data published in this release. For unemployment and other labor force categories, these measures appear in tables 1-B through 1-D of its "Explanatory Notes." Measures of the reliability of the data drawn from the establishment survey and the actual amounts of revision due to benchmark adjustments are provided in tables 2-B through 2-H of that publication.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.

HOUSEHOLD DATA

Table A-1. Employment status of the civilian population by sex and age

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, sex, and age	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted[1]					
	Aug. 2000	July 2001	Aug. 2001	Aug. 2000	Apr. 2001	May 2001	June 2001	July 2001	Aug. 2001
TOTAL									
Civilian noninstitutional population	209,836	211,921	212,135	209,836	211,349	211,525	211,725	211,921	212,135
Civilian labor force	141,425	143,181	141,862	140,734	141,757	141,272	141,354	141,774	141,350
Participation rate	67.4	67.6	66.9	67.0	67.1	66.8	66.8	66.9	66.6
Employed	135,601	136,383	134,906	134,949	135,354	135,103	134,932	135,379	134,393
Employment-population ratio	64.6	64.4	63.6	64.3	64.0	63.9	63.7	63.9	63.4
Agriculture	3,656	3,447	3,419	3,317	3,192	3,193	2,995	3,045	3,117
Nonagricultural industries	131,945	132,936	131,487	131,632	132,162	131,910	131,937	132,334	131,276
Unemployed	5,824	6,797	6,956	5,785	6,402	6,169	6,422	6,395	6,957
Unemployment rate	4.1	4.7	4.9	4.1	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.9
Not in labor force	68,410	68,738	70,274	69,101	69,592	70,254	70,370	70,147	70,786
Persons who currently want a job	4,441	4,488	5,062	4,254	4,368	4,536	4,800	4,529	4,858
Men, 16 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	100,847	101,885	101,985	100,847	101,593	101,684	101,786	101,885	101,985
Civilian labor force	76,086	76,936	76,102	75,388	75,741	75,344	75,462	75,719	75,818
Participation rate	75.4	75.5	74.6	74.8	74.6	74.1	74.1	74.3	74.3
Employed	73,299	73,441	72,554	72,379	72,245	71,978	71,926	72,279	71,990
Employment-population ratio	72.7	72.1	71.1	71.8	71.1	70.8	70.7	70.9	70.6
Unemployed	2,787	3,494	3,548	3,009	3,496	3,366	3,536	3,440	3,828
Unemployment rate	3.7	4.5	4.7	4.0	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.5	5.1
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	92,754	93,708	93,810	92,754	93,410	93,541	93,616	93,708	93,810
Civilian labor force	71,324	71,818	71,713	71,029	71,575	71,351	71,346	71,588	71,514
Participation rate	76.9	76.6	76.4	76.6	76.6	76.3	76.2	76.4	76.2
Employed	69,176	69,081	68,828	68,710	68,706	68,585	68,466	68,748	68,402
Employment-population ratio	74.6	73.7	73.4	74.1	73.6	73.3	73.1	73.4	72.9
Agriculture	2,441	2,231	2,301	2,276	2,117	2,159	2,036	2,028	2,140
Nonagricultural industries	66,735	66,850	66,527	66,434	66,589	66,426	66,430	66,717	66,262
Unemployed	2,148	2,737	2,885	2,319	2,869	2,766	2,880	2,840	3,112
Unemployment rate	3.0	3.8	4.0	3.3	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.9	4.4
Women, 16 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	108,989	110,035	110,140	108,989	109,756	109,842	109,939	110,035	110,140
Civilian labor force	65,339	66,245	65,759	65,346	66,016	65,928	65,893	66,055	65,533
Participation rate	59.9	60.2	59.7	59.9	60.1	60.0	59.9	60.0	59.5
Employed	62,302	62,943	62,352	62,570	63,109	63,125	63,006	63,100	62,403
Employment-population ratio	57.1	57.2	56.6	57.4	57.5	57.5	57.3	57.3	56.7
Unemployed	3,037	3,302	3,408	2,776	2,907	2,803	2,887	2,956	3,130
Unemployment rate	4.6	5.0	5.2	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.8
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	101,309	102,087	102,165	101,309	101,870	101,939	102,025	102,087	102,165
Civilian labor force	60,939	61,576	61,743	61,265	62,132	62,119	61,890	62,145	62,172
Participation rate	60.2	60.3	60.4	60.5	61.0	60.9	60.7	60.9	60.9
Employed	58,400	58,940	58,851	58,992	59,741	59,765	59,510	59,752	59,562
Employment-population ratio	57.7	57.7	57.6	58.2	58.6	58.6	58.3	58.5	58.3
Agriculture	898	846	820	808	847	822	752	773	766
Nonagricultural industries	57,496	58,094	58,032	58,184	58,895	58,943	58,758	58,979	58,796
Unemployed	2,539	2,636	2,892	2,273	2,390	2,354	2,380	2,394	2,610
Unemployment rate	4.2	4.3	4.7	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.2
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian noninstitutional population	15,972	16,145	16,161	15,972	16,069	16,046	16,085	16,146	16,161
Civilian labor force	9,162	9,788	8,406	8,440	8,050	7,802	8,118	8,074	7,664
Participation rate	57.4	60.6	52.0	52.8	50.1	48.6	50.5	50.0	47.4
Employed	8,025	8,364	7,226	7,237	6,907	6,742	6,956	6,883	6,429
Employment-population ratio	50.4	51.8	44.7	45.3	43.0	42.0	43.2	42.6	39.8
Agriculture	391	378	298	233	229	201	209	244	211
Nonagricultural industries	7,634	7,986	6,928	7,004	6,678	6,541	6,748	6,639	6,218
Unemployed	1,137	1,424	1,180	1,193	1,143	1,060	1,162	1,191	1,235
Unemployment rate	12.4	14.5	14.0	14.2	14.2	13.6	14.3	14.8	16.1

[1] The population figures are not adjusted for seasonal variation; therefore, identical numbers appear in the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted columns.

Table A-2. Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted[1]					
	Aug. 2000	July 2001	Aug. 2001	Aug. 2000	Apr. 2001	May 2001	June 2001	July 2001	Aug. 2001
WHITE									
Civilian noninstitutional population	174,587	175,924	176,069	174,587	175,533	175,653	175,783	175,924	176,069
Civilian labor force	118,018	119,119	118,065	117,554	118,145	117,688	117,733	117,982	117,726
Participation rate	67.6	67.7	67.1	67.3	67.3	67.0	67.0	67.1	66.9
Employed	113,845	114,222	113,084	113,378	113,434	113,185	113,037	113,237	112,703
Employment-population ratio	65.2	64.9	64.2	64.9	64.6	64.4	64.3	64.4	64.0
Unemployed	4,173	4,897	4,981	4,176	4,711	4,503	4,696	4,745	5,024
Unemployment rate	3.5	4.1	4.2	3.6	4.0	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.3
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	60,512	60,714	60,848	60,363	60,598	60,512	60,389	60,432	60,575
Participation rate	77.3	77.0	76.8	77.2	77.0	76.8	76.6	76.6	76.7
Employed	58,994	58,771	58,589	58,681	58,488	58,493	58,244	58,362	58,297
Employment-population ratio	75.4	74.5	74.2	75.0	74.3	74.3	73.9	74.0	73.8
Unemployed	1,518	1,943	2,059	1,682	2,110	2,019	2,145	2,069	2,278
Unemployment rate	2.5	3.2	3.4	2.8	3.5	3.3	3.6	3.4	3.8
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	49,727	50,161	50,268	50,083	50,697	50,611	50,431	50,684	50,656
Participation rate	59.4	59.6	59.6	59.9	60.3	60.2	59.9	60.2	60.1
Employed	47,855	48,240	48,204	48,442	48,907	48,902	48,749	48,925	48,839
Employment-population ratio	57.2	57.3	57.2	57.9	58.2	58.1	57.9	58.1	57.9
Unemployed	1,872	1,921	2,065	1,641	1,790	1,708	1,682	1,759	1,817
Unemployment rate	3.8	3.8	4.1	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.6
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian labor force	7,779	8,244	7,149	7,108	6,850	6,566	6,913	6,866	6,495
Participation rate	61.3	64.4	55.8	56.0	53.7	51.4	54.0	53.6	50.7
Employed	6,996	7,211	6,292	6,255	6,039	5,790	6,044	5,950	5,567
Employment-population ratio	55.1	56.3	49.1	49.3	47.3	45.3	47.2	46.5	43.4
Unemployed	783	1,033	857	853	812	776	869	916	928
Unemployment rate	10.1	12.5	12.0	12.0	11.8	11.8	12.6	13.3	14.3
Men	10.6	12.7	12.8	13.1	12.8	13.1	14.5	13.7	15.8
Women	9.4	12.4	11.0	10.8	10.8	10.5	10.6	13.0	12.7
BLACK									
Civilian noninstitutional population	25,258	25,565	25,604	25,258	25,472	25,501	25,533	25,565	25,604
Civilian labor force	16,630	16,990	16,788	16,540	16,666	16,639	16,756	16,693	16,712
Participation rate	65.8	66.5	65.6	65.5	65.4	65.2	65.6	65.3	65.3
Employed	15,269	15,481	15,215	15,239	15,299	15,311	15,343	15,374	15,195
Employment-population ratio	60.5	60.6	59.4	60.3	60.1	60.0	60.1	60.1	59.3
Unemployed	1,361	1,509	1,572	1,301	1,367	1,328	1,413	1,320	1,517
Unemployment rate	8.2	8.9	9.4	7.9	8.2	8.0	8.4	7.9	9.1
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	7,337	7,439	7,418	7,331	7,369	7,275	7,317	7,395	7,424
Participation rate	72.4	72.6	72.3	72.4	72.2	71.2	71.5	72.1	72.3
Employed	6,824	6,815	6,772	6,802	6,761	6,723	6,744	6,808	6,752
Employment-population ratio	67.4	66.6	66.0	67.2	66.2	65.8	65.9	66.4	65.8
Unemployed	513	624	646	529	608	552	573	586	672
Unemployment rate	7.0	8.4	8.7	7.2	8.2	7.6	7.8	7.9	9.0
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	8,215	8,371	8,387	8,249	8,353	8,421	8,491	8,409	8,424
Participation rate	64.9	65.2	65.3	65.1	65.3	65.8	66.3	65.6	65.6
Employed	7,656	7,808	7,756	7,734	7,892	7,882	7,917	7,903	7,842
Employment-population ratio	60.4	60.8	60.4	61.1	61.7	61.6	61.8	61.6	61.0
Unemployed	559	564	631	515	460	539	573	506	582
Unemployment rate	6.8	6.7	7.5	6.2	5.5	6.4	6.8	6.0	6.9
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian labor force	1,078	1,179	982	960	944	942	948	890	864
Participation rate	43.8	47.5	39.5	39.0	38.2	38.0	38.2	35.8	34.8
Employed	788	858	687	703	646	706	681	663	601
Employment-population ratio	32.0	34.5	27.7	28.5	26.1	28.5	27.5	26.7	24.2
Unemployed	289	321	295	257	299	236	267	227	263
Unemployment rate	26.8	27.3	30.0	26.8	31.6	25.1	28.2	25.5	30.4
Men	31.8	29.7	32.7	31.7	34.9	30.0	30.7	26.8	32.5
Women	22.4	24.9	27.2	22.3	28.6	20.3	26.0	24.3	28.1

See footnotes at end of table.

Table A-2. Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin — Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted[1]					
	Aug. 2000	July 2001	Aug. 2001	Aug. 2000	Apr. 2001	May 2001	June 2001	July 2001	Aug. 2001
HISPANIC ORIGIN									
Civilian noninstitutional population	22,488	23,157	23,222	22,488	22,957	23,021	23,090	23,157	23,222
Civilian labor force	15,357	15,792	15,798	15,312	15,775	15,608	15,570	15,788	15,772
Participation rate	68.3	68.2	68.0	68.1	68.7	67.8	67.4	68.2	67.9
Employed	14,458	14,814	14,778	14,439	14,747	14,634	14,538	14,843	14,778
Employment-population ratio	64.3	64.0	63.6	64.2	64.2	63.6	63.0	64.1	63.6
Unemployed	899	979	1,020	873	1,028	975	1,032	945	994
Unemployment rate	5.9	6.2	6.5	5.7	6.5	6.2	6.6	6.0	6.3

[1] The population figures are not adjusted for seasonal variation; therefore, identical numbers appear in the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted columns.

NOTE: Detail for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups.

Table A-3. Employment status of the civilian population 25 years and over by educational attainment

(Numbers in thousands)

Educational attainment	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted[1]					
	Aug. 2000	July 2001	Aug. 2001	Aug. 2000	Apr. 2001	May 2001	June 2001	July 2001	Aug. 2001
Less than a high school diploma									
Civilian noninstitutional population	28,306	27,679	27,468	28,306	28,328	28,350	28,504	27,679	27,468
Civilian labor force	12,456	11,988	12,034	12,264	12,371	12,319	12,170	12,188	11,799
Percent of population	44.0	43.3	43.8	43.3	43.7	43.5	42.7	44.0	43.0
Employed	11,747	11,221	11,239	11,491	11,558	11,523	11,338	11,380	10,943
Employment-population ratio	41.5	40.5	40.9	40.6	40.8	40.6	39.8	41.1	39.8
Unemployed	709	765	795	773	813	797	831	808	858
Unemployment rate	5.7	6.4	6.6	6.3	6.6	6.5	6.8	6.6	7.3
High school graduates, no college[2]									
Civilian noninstitutional population	56,882	56,947	57,513	56,882	57,456	57,456	57,099	56,947	57,513
Civilian labor force	36,385	36,288	36,674	36,743	37,053	36,852	36,821	36,970	37,006
Percent of population	64.0	63.7	63.8	64.6	64.5	64.3	64.5	64.9	64.6
Employed	35,097	34,796	35,105	35,397	35,650	35,507	35,391	35,468	35,480
Employment-population ratio	61.7	61.1	61.0	62.2	62.0	61.8	62.0	62.3	61.7
Unemployed	1,288	1,491	1,569	1,346	1,403	1,446	1,431	1,502	1,526
Unemployment rate	3.5	4.1	4.3	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.1	4.4
Less than a bachelor's degree[3]									
Civilian noninstitutional population	44,816	45,444	45,338	44,816	44,653	44,576	44,812	45,444	45,338
Civilian labor force	32,980	33,432	33,440	33,039	33,044	33,182	33,314	33,285	33,481
Percent of population	73.9	73.6	73.8	74.1	74.0	74.5	74.3	73.8	73.8
Employed	32,036	32,366	32,310	32,137	32,065	32,180	32,263	32,301	32,407
Employment-population ratio	71.5	71.2	71.3	72.0	71.8	72.2	72.0	71.1	71.5
Unemployed	944	1,066	1,130	902	978	1,004	1,051	984	1,075
Unemployment rate	2.9	3.2	3.4	2.7	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.2
College graduates									
Civilian noninstitutional population	45,718	46,784	46,734	45,718	46,045	46,271	46,348	46,784	46,734
Civilian labor force	35,827	36,636	36,626	35,953	36,846	36,687	36,582	36,634	36,649
Percent of population	78.4	78.3	78.2	78.6	79.6	79.3	78.9	78.3	78.4
Employed	35,039	35,752	35,647	35,324	35,802	35,915	35,786	35,859	35,870
Employment-population ratio	76.6	76.4	76.1	77.3	77.8	77.6	77.2	76.6	76.8
Unemployed	788	883	980	629	846	771	796	775	779
Unemployment rate	2.2	2.4	2.7	1.7	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.1

[1] The population figures are not adjusted for seasonal variation; therefore, identical numbers appear in the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted columns.

[2] Includes high school diploma or equivalent.

[3] Includes the categories, some college, no degree; and associate degree.

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Table A-4. Selected employment indicators

(In thousands)

Category	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Aug. 2000	July 2001	Aug. 2001	Aug. 2000	Apr. 2001	May 2001	June 2001	July 2001	Aug. 2001
CHARACTERISTIC									
Total employed, 16 years and over	135,801	136,385	134,905	134,939	135,354	135,103	134,932	135,379	134,393
Married men, spouse present	43,416	43,251	43,215	43,375	43,516	43,733	43,428	43,294	43,172
Married women, spouse present	32,912	32,931	33,129	33,507	33,882	33,686	33,380	33,803	33,805
Women who maintain families	8,536	8,507	8,389	8,482	8,160	8,319	8,529	8,587	8,323
OCCUPATION									
Managerial and professional specialty	40,863	41,629	41,465	40,917	41,841	41,996	41,987	41,917	41,760
Technical, sales, and administrative support	39,104	39,145	38,625	39,100	39,014	38,743	38,998	39,067	38,884
Service occupations	17,976	18,996	18,287	17,749	18,258	18,224	18,576	18,642	18,052
Precision production, craft, and repair	15,324	15,222	15,200	15,189	14,834	14,962	14,794	14,987	15,050
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	18,722	17,762	17,780	18,561	18,127	17,904	17,584	17,571	17,855
Farming, forestry, and fishing	3,812	3,631	3,548	3,390	3,236	3,251	3,136	3,186	3,154
CLASS OF WORKER									
Agriculture:									
Wage and salary workers	2,253	2,028	2,032	2,049	1,902	1,958	1,775	1,786	1,850
Self-employed workers	1,358	1,382	1,349	1,241	1,223	1,201	1,166	1,258	1,239
Unpaid family workers	46	29	36	36	47	38	36	22	29
Nonagricultural industries:									
Wage and salary workers	123,181	124,182	122,867	122,931	123,395	123,416	123,009	123,432	122,686
Government	18,015	18,371	18,566	18,644	18,854	19,067	18,812	18,919	19,219
Private industries	105,166	105,792	104,301	104,287	104,541	104,349	104,197	104,513	103,467
Private households	753	811	792	781	812	789	744	790	627
Other industries	104,413	104,981	103,509	103,506	103,729	103,559	103,453	103,723	102,840
Self-employed workers	8,858	8,694	8,515	8,618	8,608	8,530	8,741	8,574	8,481
Unpaid family workers	105	79	106	114	93	103	94	88	113
PERSONS AT WORK PART TIME									
All industries:									
Part time for economic reasons	3,120	3,681	3,289	3,170	3,201	3,371	3,637	3,488	3,328
Slack work or business conditions	1,844	2,167	1,946	1,980	2,097	2,215	2,259	2,120	2,086
Could only find part-time work	863	1,113	913	880	873	900	1,025	958	935
Part time for noneconomic reasons	16,052	16,452	16,434	18,704	18,713	18,681	18,472	18,946	19,153
Nonagricultural industries:									
Part time for economic reasons	3,005	3,559	3,177	3,038	3,061	3,197	3,532	3,336	3,198
Slack work or business conditions	1,774	2,094	1,874	1,901	1,965	2,089	2,234	2,059	2,004
Could only find part-time work	843	1,088	888	861	864	876	1,024	985	911
Part time for noneconomic reasons	15,480	15,829	15,886	18,142	18,176	18,061	18,039	18,309	18,590

NOTE: Persons at work excludes employed persons who were absent from their jobs during the entire reference week for reasons such as vacation, illness, or industrial dispute. Part time for noneconomic reasons excludes persons who usually work full time but worked only 1 to 34 hours during the reference week for reasons such as holidays, illness, and bad weather.

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Table A-5. Selected unemployment indicators, seasonally adjusted

Category	Number of unemployed persons (in thousands)			Unemployment rates[1]					
	Aug. 2000	July 2001	Aug. 2001	Aug. 2000	Apr. 2001	May 2001	June 2001	July 2001	Aug. 2001
CHARACTERISTIC									
Total, 16 years and over	5,785	6,395	6,957	4.1	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.8
Men, 20 years and over	2,319	2,810	3,112	3.3	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.9	4.4
Women, 20 years and over	2,273	2,394	2,610	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.2
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years	1,193	1,191	1,235	14.2	14.2	13.6	14.3	14.8	16.1
Married men, spouse present	894	1,170	1,220	2.0	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.7
Married women, spouse present	964	981	1,034	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.8	3.0
Women who maintain families	542	569	600	6.0	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.7
Full-time workers	4,601	5,173	5,583	3.8	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.8
Part-time workers	1,194	1,242	1,370	5.0	5.5	4.6	5.3	5.1	5.6
OCCUPATION[2]									
Managerial and professional specialty	770	955	1,071	1.8	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.5
Technical, sales, and administrative support	1,816	1,608	1,732	4.0	4.1	3.7	4.0	4.0	4.3
Precision production, craft, and repair	512	663	753	3.3	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.2	4.8
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	1,253	1,369	1,478	6.3	6.8	7.2	7.9	7.2	7.7
Farming, forestry, and fishing	230	258	299	6.4	7.5	7.1	6.2	7.3	8.7
INDUSTRY									
Nonagricultural private wage and salary workers	4,469	5,158	5,617	4.1	4.6	4.5	4.8	4.7	5.1
Goods-producing industries	1,249	1,584	1,744	4.3	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.6	6.2
Mining	21	21	25	4.3	5.1	5.5	6.8	3.7	4.3
Construction	520	570	626	6.4	7.1	6.6	6.7	6.8	7.5
Manufacturing	708	994	1,092	3.5	4.6	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.7
Durable goods	380	567	689	3.1	4.3	4.9	5.0	4.7	5.8
Nondurable goods	328	427	403	4.1	5.1	4.7	4.9	5.7	5.5
Service-producing industries	3,220	3,574	3,873	4.0	4.4	4.2	4.5	4.4	4.8
Transportation and public utilities	250	265	288	3.1	4.1	3.8	4.4	3.3	3.5
Wholesale and retail trade	1,411	1,447	1,537	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.6
Finance, insurance, and real estate	189	259	222	2.4	2.7	2.3	2.6	3.2	2.7
Services	1,370	1,603	1,828	3.8	4.1	3.9	4.4	4.3	4.8
Government workers	437	402	410	2.3	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1
Agricultural wage and salary workers	179	219	210	8.0	9.2	8.2	9.6	10.9	10.2

[1] Unemployment as a percent of the civilian labor force.
[2] Seasonally adjusted unemployment data for service occupations are not available because the seasonal component, which is small relative to the trend-cycle and irregular components, cannot be separated with sufficient precision.

Table A-6. Duration of unemployment

(Numbers in thousands)

Duration	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Aug. 2000	July 2001	Aug. 2001	Aug. 2000	Apr. 2001	May 2001	June 2001	July 2001	Aug. 2001
NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED									
Less than 5 weeks	2,513	2,873	2,928	2,567	2,858	2,678	2,808	2,812	3,004
5 to 14 weeks	2,031	2,347	2,333	1,832	1,877	2,028	2,084	2,150	2,100
15 weeks and over	1,280	1,576	1,697	1,373	1,499	1,484	1,540	1,587	1,817
15 to 26 weeks	567	876	843	673	759	852	804	935	982
27 weeks and over	713	700	854	700	740	632	737	652	835
Average (mean) duration, in weeks	12.9	12.3	13.2	13.0	12.6	12.2	13.0	12.5	13.3
Median duration, in weeks	6.5	6.2	6.9	6.1	5.8	6.5	6.2	6.7	6.5
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION									
Total unemployed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 5 weeks	43.2	42.8	42.1	44.5	46.0	43.3	43.7	41.1	43.4
5 to 14 weeks	34.9	34.8	33.5	31.7	30.7	32.8	32.4	33.9	30.3
15 weeks and over	22.0	23.2	24.4	23.8	23.3	24.0	23.9	25.0	26.3
15 to 26 weeks	9.7	12.9	12.1	11.7	11.8	13.8	12.5	14.7	14.2
27 weeks and over	12.2	10.3	12.3	12.1	11.5	10.2	11.4	10.3	12.1

Table A-7. Reason for unemployment

(Numbers in thousands)

Reason	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Aug. 2000	July 2001	Aug. 2001	Aug. 2000	Apr. 2001	May 2001	June 2001	July 2001	Aug. 2001
NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED									
Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs	2,544	3,327	3,334	2,585	3,199	3,159	3,291	3,252	3,409
On temporary layoff	843	1,033	1,000	907	1,053	1,084	940	1,003	1,079
Not on temporary layoff	1,701	2,294	2,334	1,678	2,146	2,075	2,351	2,249	2,330
Permanent job losers	1,154	1,721	1,704	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Persons who completed temporary jobs	546	573	630	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Job leavers	856	825	977	780	749	820	810	774	894
Reentrants	1,902	2,000	2,129	1,930	2,005	1,801	1,906	1,912	2,166
New entrants	522	644	516	503	462	482	477	436	495
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION									
Total unemployed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs	43.7	49.0	47.9	44.6	49.9	50.4	50.8	51.0	49.0
On temporary layoff	14.5	15.2	14.4	15.6	16.4	17.3	14.5	15.7	15.5
Not on temporary layoff	29.2	33.8	33.5	28.9	33.5	33.1	36.3	35.3	33.5
Job leavers	14.7	12.1	14.0	13.5	11.7	13.1	12.5	12.1	12.8
Reentrants	32.7	29.4	30.6	33.3	31.3	28.8	29.4	30.0	31.1
New entrants	9.0	9.5	7.4	8.7	7.2	7.7	7.4	6.8	7.1
UNEMPLOYED AS A PERCENT OF THE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE									
Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs	1.8	2.3	2.4	1.8	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.4
Job leavers	.6	.6	.7	.6	.5	.6	.6	.5	.6
Reentrants	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.5
New entrants	.4	.4	.4	.4	.3	.3	.3	.3	.4

[1] Not available.

Table A-8. Range of alternative measures of labor underutilization

(Percent)

Measure	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Aug. 2000	July 2001	Aug. 2001	Aug. 2000	Apr. 2001	May 2001	June 2001	July 2001	Aug. 2001
U-1 Persons unemployed 15 weeks or longer, as a percent of the civilian labor force	.9	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.3
U-2 Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs, as a percent of the civilian labor force	1.8	2.3	2.4	1.8	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.4
U-3 Total unemployed, as a percent of the civilian labor force (official unemployment rate)	4.1	4.7	4.9	4.1	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.9
U-4 Total unemployed plus discouraged workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers	4.3	5.0	5.1	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
U-5 Total unemployed, plus discouraged workers, plus all other marginally attached workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers	4.9	5.8	5.8	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
U-6 Total unemployed, plus all marginally attached workers, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers	7.0	8.1	8.1	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)

[1] Not available.

NOTE: This range of alternative measures of labor underutilization replaces the U1-U7 range published in table A-7 of this release prior to 1994. Marginally attached workers are persons who currently are neither working nor looking for work but indicate that they want and are available for a job and have looked for work sometime in the recent past. Discouraged workers, a subset of the marginally attached, have given a job-market related reason for not currently looking for a job. Persons employed part time for economic reasons are those who want and are available for full-time work but have had to settle for a part-time schedule. For further information, see "BLS introduces new range of alternative unemployment measures," in the October 1995 issue of the *Monthly Labor Review*.

HOUSEHOLD DATA

Table A-9. Unemployed persons by sex and age, seasonally adjusted

Age and sex	Number of unemployed persons (in thousands)			Unemployment rates[1]					
	Aug. 2000	July 2001	Aug. 2001	Aug. 2000	Apr. 2001	May 2001	June 2001	July 2001	Aug. 2001
Total, 16 years and over	5,785	6,336	6,957	4.1	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.9
16 to 24 years	2,143	2,281	2,544	9.4	10.4	9.9	10.4	10.1	11.5
16 to 19 years	1,193	1,191	1,236	14.2	14.2	13.8	14.3	14.8	16.1
16 to 17 years	580	608	533	16.9	16.7	15.5	16.0	19.3	19.1
18 to 19 years	646	582	701	12.6	12.6	12.2	13.1	11.8	14.7
20 to 24 years	950	1,090	1,308	6.6	8.3	7.9	8.2	7.5	9.0
25 years and over	3,609	4,104	4,423	3.1	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.7
25 to 54 years	3,198	3,604	3,884	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.9
53 years and over	469	521	573	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.8	3.0
Men, 16 years and over	3,009	3,439	3,828	4.0	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.5	5.1
16 to 24 years	1,213	1,228	1,435	10.2	10.9	11.0	11.8	10.4	12.4
16 to 19 years	690	629	716	15.8	15.1	15.3	15.9	15.1	17.9
16 to 17 years	286	304	335	17.1	18.7	17.4	18.8	19.0	22.7
18 to 19 years	407	331	391	15.2	12.8	13.9	14.5	13.0	15.4
20 to 24 years	523	599	720	6.9	8.7	8.7	9.5	7.9	9.5
25 years and over	1,798	2,220	2,384	2.8	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.7
25 to 54 years	1,553	1,910	2,086	2.9	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.8
55 years and over	278	307	345	2.7	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.3
Women, 16 years and over	2,775	2,958	3,130	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.8
16 to 24 years	930	1,053	1,108	8.6	9.8	8.8	8.9	9.7	10.4
16 to 19 years	503	562	520	12.4	13.3	11.8	12.7	14.4	14.2
16 to 17 years	275	305	224	16.8	14.5	13.8	14.0	19.6	15.6
18 to 19 years	239	251	319	9.8	12.4	10.4	11.8	10.8	13.9
20 to 24 years	427	491	588	6.3	7.8	7.1	6.7	7.1	8.4
25 years and over	1,871	1,884	2,039	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.7
25 to 54 years	1,645	1,694	1,798	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.8
55 years and over	210	214	229	2.8	2.8	2.2	2.5	2.5	2.7

[1] Unemployment as a percent of the civilian labor force.

Table A-10. Persons not in the labor force and multiple jobholders by sex, not seasonally adjusted

(Numbers in thousands)

Category	Total		Men		Women	
	Aug. 2000	Aug. 2001	Aug. 2000	Aug. 2001	Aug. 2000	Aug. 2001
NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE						
Total not in the labor force	68,510	70,274	24,762	25,693	43,748	44,580
Persons who currently want a job	4,441	5,062	1,759	2,081	2,682	2,980
Searched for work and available to work now[1]	1,096	1,357	511	711	584	646
Reason not currently looking:						
Discouragement over job prospects[2]	206	336	122	178	83	159
Reasons other than discouragement[3]	890	1,022	389	535	502	487
MULTIPLE JOBHOLDERS						
Total multiple jobholders[4]	7,084	6,963	3,845	3,690	3,238	3,273
Percent of total employed	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.2
Primary job full time, secondary job part time	3,991	3,787	2,386	2,213	1,608	1,574
Primary and secondary jobs both part time	1,398	1,406	423	504	975	901
Primary and secondary jobs both full time	315	292	227	190	88	102
Hours vary on primary or secondary job	1,336	1,442	791	767	546	675

[1] Data refer to persons who have searched for work during the prior 12 months and were available to take a job during the reference week.
[2] Includes thinks no work available, could not find work, lacks schooling or training, employer thinks too young or old, and other types of discrimination.
[3] Includes those who did not actively look for work in the prior 4 weeks for such reasons as child-care and transportation problems, as well as a small number for which reason for nonparticipation was not determined.
[4] Includes persons who work part time on their primary job and full time on their secondary job(s), not shown separately.

Table B-1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry

(In thousands)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted					
	Aug. 2000	June 2001	July 2001p	Aug. 2001p	Aug. 2000	Apr. 2001	May 2001	June 2001	July 2001p	Aug. 2001p
Total	131,637	133,618	132,291	132,168	131,837	132,489	132,530	132,431	132,444	132,331
Total private	112,234	112,727	112,495	112,454	111,237	111,742	111,760	111,603	111,521	111,411
Goods-producing	26,164	25,544	25,466	25,450	25,727	25,421	25,324	25,186	25,125	24,989
Mining	553	573	574	576	543	560	564	565	568	568
Metal mining	41.0	35.6	34.4	33.6	40	37	37	35	34	33
Coal mining	76.0	77.6	78.8	79.3	76	75	76	78	79	80
Oil and gas extraction	317.2	343.3	343.8	346.5	313	335	339	340	340	342
Nonmetallic minerals, except fuels	118.4	116.0	117.1	116.1	114	113	112	112	113	111
Construction	7,037	7,120	7,218	7,216	6,699	6,852	6,881	6,864	6,873	6,878
General building contractors	1,590.7	1,597.1	1,623.6	1,623.1	1,525	1,548	1,556	1,551	1,557	1,557
Heavy construction, except building	975.5	987.9	1,007.8	1,010.9	900	915	923	925	938	935
Special trade contractors	4,470.6	4,534.5	4,586.9	4,581.8	4,274	4,389	4,402	4,388	4,380	4,386
Manufacturing	18,574	17,851	17,674	17,658	18,485	18,009	17,879	17,757	17,686	17,545
Production workers	12,687	12,025	11,866	11,876	12,631	12,166	12,066	11,956	11,897	11,790
Durable goods	11,194	10,754	10,596	10,570	11,172	10,870	10,778	10,692	10,620	10,532
Production workers	7,609	7,207	7,063	7,049	7,608	7,308	7,235	7,157	7,098	7,026
Lumber and wood products	846.2	807.6	808.3	810.3	831	800	797	798	797	794
Furniture and fixtures	562.1	533.0	521.8	520.2	559	543	540	532	529	519
Stone, clay, and glass products	589.4	580.8	581.4	579.4	580	577	574	572	571	569
Primary metal industries	698.8	655.5	645.2	646.5	700	667	660	654	648	645
Blast furnaces and basic steel products	225.7	211.3	208.6	208.0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Fabricated metal products	1,542.3	1,488.2	1,483.1	1,471.0	1,541	1,503	1;488	1,478	1,475	1,467
Industrial machinery and equipment	2,126.7	2,039.9	2,003.5	1,979.1	2,133	2,072	2,054	2,031	2,006	1,981
Computer and office equipment	368.1	358.6	355.2	351.3	365	367	366	357	353	349
Electronic and other electrical equipment	1,739.1	1,628.6	1,590.2	1,574.1	1,740	1,684	1,656	1,624	1,591	1,572
Electronic components and accessories	695.9	652.6	636.5	624.0	695	686	670	650	634	622
Transportation equipment	1,833.6	1,764.7	1,732.3	1,744.6	1,836	1,768	1,757	1,749	1,750	1,747
Motor vehicles and equipment	1,003.9	942.8	915.0	928.2	1,005	950	939	931	934	929
Aircraft and parts	462.2	466.0	465.5	464.9	464	464	465	465	468	465
Instruments and related products	858.6	867.3	866.8	862.3	858	866	865	865	865	859
Miscellaneous manufacturing	398.8	390.0	383.8	382.5	396	390	387	389	388	379
Nondurable goods	7,380	7,097	7,078	7,088	7,313	7,139	7,101	7,065	7,066	7,013
Production workers	5,078	4,818	4,803	4,827	5,023	4,858	4,831	4,799	4,801	4,764
Food and kindred products	1,727.7	1,683.4	1,704.4	1,732.3	1,679	1,687	1,684	1,685	1,680	1,675
Tobacco products	33.0	31.1	31.1	32.6	33	32	33	33	33	34
Textile mill products	530.5	475.0	469.8	468.7	528	489	480	472	471	465
Apparel and other textile products	630.4	575.5	562.7	552.7	625	581	579	567	571	551
Paper and allied products	656.6	638.9	634.3	630.8	655	641	639	635	632	627
Printing and publishing	1,549.0	1,497.8	1,491.3	1,484.5	1,549	1,512	1,502	1,495	1,490	1,484
Chemicals and allied products	1,038.9	1,039.1	1,039.4	1,036.4	1,036	1,036	1,033	1,033	1,038	1,034
Petroleum and coal products	130.5	130.1	131.1	130.6	128	128	127	128	128	127
Rubber and misc. plastics products	1,011.2	960.5	951.9	955.7	1,009	967	959	953	959	953
Leather and leather products	72.2	65.6	61.6	63.4	71	66	65	64	64	63
Service-producing	105,473	108,074	106,825	106,718	106,110	107,068	107,206	107,245	107,319	107,342
Transportation and public utilities	6,948	7,151	7,099	7,086	6,963	7,119	7,130	7,118	7,113	7,089
Transportation	4,527	4,591	4,541	4,535	4,548	4,576	4,584	4,571	4,564	4,547
Railroad transportation	236.5	228.7	228.9	228.7	236	230	230	227	228	227
Local and interurban passenger transit	416.0	480.9	420.5	420.1	478	477	483	483	483	482
Trucking and warehousing	1,891.8	1,882.2	1,887.3	1,888.4	1,860	1,864	1,867	1,867	1,864	1,858
Water transportation	207.9	208.0	214.6	212.6	198	202	203	201	203	201
Transportation by air	1,283.8	1,307.4	1,304.8	1,302.8	1,288	1,313	1,315	1,310	1,305	1,302
Pipelines, except natural gas	13.8	14.1	14.2	14.3	14	14	14	14	14	14
Transportation services	477.4	470.1	470.4	468.5	474	476	472	469	467	465
Communications and public utilities	2,421	2,560	2,558	2,551	2,415	2,543	2,546	2,547	2,549	2,542
Communications	1,566.2	1,707.0	1,702.6	1,697.5	1,565	1,696	1,699	1,700	1,701	1,693
Electric, gas, and sanitary services	855.0	853.2	854.9	853.6	850	847	847	847	848	849
Wholesale trade	7,067	7,069	7,054	7,040	7,037	7,053	7,038	7,022	7,019	7,017
Durable goods	4,218	4,185	4,171	4,162	4,201	4,187	4,174	4,166	4,151	4,142
Nondurable goods	2,849	2,884	2,883	2,878	2,836	2,866	2,864	2,856	2,868	2,875

See footnotes at end of table.

Table B-1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry—Continued

(In thousands)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted					
	Aug. 2000	June 2001	July 2001P	Aug. 2001P	Aug. 2000	Apr. 2001	May 2001	June 2001	July 2001P	Aug. 2001P
Retail trade	23,490	23,772	23,704	23,719	23,348	23,530	23,546	23,561	23,596	23,570
Building materials and garden supplies	1,033.1	1,064.3	1,042.4	1,031.5	1,015	999	1,006	1,014	1,008	1,014
General merchandise stores	2,777.0	2,754.1	2,741.7	2,761.3	2,830	2,804	2,821	2,818	2,812	2,814
Department stores	2,434.7	2,412.6	2,398.7	2,419.8	2,483	2,458	2,473	2,471	2,459	2,461
Food stores	3,542.3	3,558.0	3,562.5	3,560.1	3,528	3,562	3,553	3,544	3,537	3,530
Automotive dealers and service stations	2,442.6	2,454.2	2,459.7	2,462.7	2,418	2,421	2,428	2,431	2,435	2,442
New and used car dealers	1,123.6	1,132.4	1,135.3	1,140.0	1,118	1,122	1,126	1,128	1,130	1,134
Apparel and accessory stores	1,201.1	1,214.8	1,213.3	1,228.8	1,195	1,228	1,231	1,227	1,218	1,224
Furniture and home furnishings stores	1,128.6	1,125.6	1,127.7	1,127.9	1,138	1,140	1,136	1,136	1,138	1,136
Eating and drinking places	8,314.0	8,494.3	8,456.7	8,464.2	8,132	8,213	8,216	8,241	8,297	8,267
Miscellaneous retail establishments	3,051.1	3,107.1	3,099.6	3,102.3	3,094	3,165	3,156	3,150	3,151	3,143
Finance, insurance, and real estate	7,820	7,898	7,709	7,702	7,549	7,626	7,644	7,631	7,617	7,623
Finance	3,724	3,784	3,780	3,780	3,707	3,761	3,770	3,767	3,754	3,757
Depository institutions	2,034.4	2,051.8	2,053.8	2,052.7	2,024	2,032	2,037	2,041	2,040	2,039
Commercial banks	1,433.8	1,435.3	1,435.9	1,434.0	1,425	1,421	1,428	1,428	1,426	1,424
Savings institutions	253.8	257.6	257.2	257.6	253	255	256	258	256	258
Nondepository institutions	675.3	702.0	704.8	711.2	674	691	697	699	702	709
Mortgage bankers and brokers	302.5	318.2	321.8	324.8	301	308	313	317	321	324
Security and commodity brokers	763.1	769.2	763.1	759.9	756	780	776	766	765	752
Holding and other investment offices	251.5	260.6	258.2	258.4	253	258	260	261	257	257
Insurance	2,348	2,365	2,368	2,364	2,341	2,356	2,358	2,356	2,357	2,357
Insurance carriers	1,590.0	1,604.7	1,606.5	1,603.5	1,585	1,596	1,598	1,598	1,599	1,598
Insurance agents, brokers, and service	757.6	760.6	761.4	760.0	756	760	760	758	758	759
Real estate	1,548	1,549	1,561	1,558	1,501	1,509	1,516	1,508	1,506	1,509
Services[2]	40,945	41,493	41,463	41,457	40,613	40,993	41,078	41,065	41,051	41,123
Agricultural services	871.2	918.3	918.2	905.5	801	824	834	833	833	836
Hotels and other lodging places	2,076.7	2,039.9	2,090.6	2,083.8	1,923	1,944	1,936	1,920	1,923	1,918
Personal services	1,212.6	1,248.4	1,231.5	1,238.9	1,258	1,267	1,277	1,279	1,281	1,286
Business services	10,041.9	9,708.2	9,638.3	9,712.1	9,921	9,729	9,702	9,666	9,599	9,601
Services to buildings	1,002.9	1,019.3	1,007.3	1,006.9	994	1,009	1,013	1,008	1,000	1,000
Personnel supply services	4,018.0	3,577.3	3,528.2	3,622.7	3,917	3,600	3,590	3,556	3,519	3,536
Help supply services	3,606.6	3,187.0	3,143.6	3,227.7	3,506	3,202	3,198	3,161	3,130	3,128
Computer and data processing services	2,116.2	2,205.2	2,207.9	2,202.2	2,114	2,199	2,200	2,206	2,206	2,200
Auto repair, services, and parking	1,259.7	1,313.9	1,319.6	1,315.6	1,254	1,300	1,309	1,303	1,313	1,309
Miscellaneous repair services	368.2	363.6	363.1	364.3	366	364	363	361	360	362
Motion pictures	610.0	607.4	605.3	603.2	596	601	587	602	593	596
Amusement and recreation services	2,018.8	2,037.5	2,102.1	2,082.6	1,741	1,764	1,757	1,768	1,776	1,773
Health services	10,131.7	10,365.6	10,378.3	10,403.4	10,114	10,280	10,298	10,329	10,352	10,384
Offices and clinics of medical doctors	1,931.8	1,985.4	1,988.0	1,994.9	1,926	1,967	1,973	1,981	1,982	1,986
Nursing and personal care facilities	1,803.5	1,825.4	1,828.9	1,831.0	1,798	1,816	1,814	1,821	1,823	1,824
Hospitals	3,998.6	4,092.6	4,110.5	4,117.8	3,993	4,062	4,071	4,086	4,097	4,114
Home health care services	644.8	649.5	648.0	651.7	645	646	645	648	848	653
Legal services	1,018.0	1,043.9	1,042.7	1,035.8	1,011	1,021	1,027	1,027	1,028	1,029
Educational services	2,031.7	2,222.2	2,131.0	2,100.0	2,352	2,388	2,431	2,426	2,429	2,438
Social services	2,854.4	3,049.6	3,028.6	3,042.6	2,888	3,023	3,039	3,056	3,055	3,088
Child day care services	658.2	737.5	684.9	704.8	719	743	748	758	764	767
Residential care	811.6	850.8	854.0	858.5	809	835	842	845	847	850
Museums and botanical and zoological gardens	114.7	119.4	121.3	119.2	107	109	110	111	111	111
Membership organizations	2,506.9	2,540.7	2,557.4	2,533.6	2,470	2,489	2,496	2,501	2,498	2,488
Engineering and management services	3,466.6	3,554.0	3,564.5	3,561.6	3,440	3,517	3,512	3,529	3,538	3,542
Engineering and architectural services	1,042.4	1,075.9	1,083.0	1,083.8	1,028	1,063	1,057	1,059	1,064	1,067
Management and public relations	1,104.7	1,134.0	1,130.8	1,130.4	1,098	1,124	1,121	1,124	1,121	1,125
Services, nec	50.3	52.8	52.8	53.0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Government	19,403	20,891	19,798	19,714	20,600	20,747	20,770	20,826	20,823	20,820
Federal	2,659	2,641	2,644	2,629	2,653	2,615	2,612	2,621	2,626	2,619
Federal, except Postal Service	1,802.1	1,796.5	1,795.0	1,782.7	1,780	1,758	1,754	1,772	1,772	1,771
State	4,538	4,701	4,643	4,649	4,794	4,847	4,854	4,881	4,906	4,902
Education	1,745.7	1,877.3	1,806.7	1,814.8	2,037	2,065	2,066	2,089	2,113	2,108
Other State government	2,792.2	2,823.7	2,836.3	2,834.4	2,757	2,782	2,788	2,792	2,793	2,794
Local	12,206	13,549	12,509	12,436	13,153	13,285	13,304	13,326	13,391	13,399
Education	6,277.6	7,544.2	6,376.3	6,388.0	7,456	7,495	7,512	7,515	7,573	7,579
Other local government	5,928.7	6,004.9	6,133.6	6,048.0	5,697	5,790	5,792	5,811	5,818	5,820

[1] These series are not published seasonally adjusted because the seasonal component, which is small relative to the trend-cycle and irregular components, cannot be separated with sufficient precision.

[2] Includes other industries, not shown separately.

P = preliminary.

Table B-2. Average weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers[1] on private nonfarm payrolls by industry

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted					
	Aug. 2000	June 2001	July 2001p	Aug. 2001p	Aug. 2000	Apr. 2001	May 2001	June 2001	July 2001p	Aug. 2001p
Total private	34.7	34.4	34.6	34.4	34.3	34.2	34.2	34.2	34.1	34.1
Goods-producing	41.1	40.6	40.5	40.7	40.8	40.6	40.5	40.4	40.5	40.3
Mining	43.6	43.7	43.7	43.6	43.1	44.0	43.9	43.3	43.3	43.4
Construction	40.2	40.0	40.4	40.1	39.2	39.3	39.7	39.4	39.4	39.2
Manufacturing	41.4	40.8	40.4	40.8	41.4	41.0	40.7	40.7	40.9	40.7
Overtime hours	4.7	4.0	3.9	4.3	4.5	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.2
Durable goods	41.9	41.1	40.6	41.1	41.9	41.3	41.0	40.9	41.2	41.1
Overtime hours	4.7	4.0	3.8	4.3	4.6	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.1
Lumber and wood products	41.1	40.9	40.8	40.9	40.7	40.1	40.6	40.4	41.1	40.6
Furniture and fixtures	40.0	38.6	39.3	40.0	39.6	39.3	38.6	38.4	39.7	39.7
Stone, clay, and glass products	43.8	44.3	44.3	44.3	43.0	43.2	43.9	44.0	44.0	43.6
Primary metal industries	44.5	43.9	43.2	43.6	44.7	44.3	43.5	43.9	43.9	43.7
Blast furnaces and basic steel products	45.9	45.1	44.6	44.8	45.9	45.4	44.6	45.1	44.4	44.8
Fabricated metal products	42.3	41.4	40.7	41.6	42.3	42.0	41.4	41.2	41.5	41.6
Industrial machinery and equipment	41.8	40.5	40.3	40.0	42.1	41.3	40.7	40.4	40.8	40.1
Electronic and other electrical equipment	40.6	39.3	38.4	38.9	40.5	39.8	39.1	39.3	39.0	38.8
Transportation equipment	43.0	42.3	40.9	43.0	43.2	42.4	42.4	41.9	42.4	43.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	44.1	43.6	41.4	44.9	44.3	43.3	43.6	43.0	43.4	45.2
Instruments and related products	40.7	40.7	40.4	40.2	40.9	41.0	41.0	40.8	40.8	40.2
Miscellaneous manufacturing	38.8	38.4	37.9	38.5	38.7	38.2	37.9	38.4	38.5	38.4
Nondurable goods	40.7	40.3	40.1	40.4	40.7	40.5	40.3	40.4	40.4	40.2
Overtime hours	4.5	3.9	4.1	4.5	4.4	3.9	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.2
Food and kindred products	42.1	41.1	40.9	41.5	41.8	41.3	41.1	41.2	40.9	41.0
Tobacco products	41.7	41.3	40.3	41.2	41.0	41.1	39.1	40.4	40.5	41.0
Textile mill products	40.9	40.5	39.3	40.4	40.8	40.3	40.3	40.4	39.9	40.1
Apparel and other textile products	37.8	37.8	37.3	37.5	37.7	38.0	37.8	37.5	37.8	37.3
Paper and allied products	42.3	41.5	41.5	41.2	42.5	42.0	41.6	41.7	41.7	41.2
Printing and publishing	38.2	37.8	38.2	38.3	38.1	38.2	38.0	38.0	38.4	38.1
Chemicals and allied products	42.1	42.2	42.3	42.1	42.3	42.6	42.4	42.2	42.7	42.2
Petroleum and coal products	40.7	42.9	43.2	42.3	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Rubber and misc. plastics products	41.1	40.9	40.1	40.5	41.3	40.8	40.6	40.7	40.7	40.5
Leather and leather products	38.0	36.7	35.0	36.1	37.4	36.6	35.9	36.2	35.5	35.8
Service-producing	33.1	32.9	33.2	32.9	32.7	32.7	32.7	32.8	32.6	32.6
Transportation and public utilities	38.7	38.2	38.7	38.4	38.4	38.1	38.1	38.1	38.0	38.1
Wholesale trade	38.3	38.3	38.6	38.3	38.3	38.2	38.2	38.3	38.3	38.3
Retail trade	29.5	29.0	29.5	29.3	28.9	28.8	28.8	28.7	28.6	28.6
Finance, insurance, and real estate	36.0	36.2	36.7	36.1	36.2	36.3	36.2	36.5	36.2	36.2
Services	32.9	32.8	33.0	32.8	32.6	32.6	32.7	32.8	32.6	32.5

[1] Data relate to production workers in mining and manufacturing; construction workers in construction; and nonsupervisory workers in transportation and public utilities; wholesale and retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and services. These groups account for approximately four-fifths of the total employees on private nonfarm payrolls.

[2] This series is not published seasonally adjusted because the seasonal component, which is small relative to the trend-cycle and irregular components, cannot be separated with sufficient precision.

p = preliminary.

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Table B-3. Average hourly and weekly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers[1] on private nonfarm payrolls by industry

Industry	Average hourly earnings				Average weekly earnings			
	Aug. 2000	June 2001	July 2001p	Aug. 2001p	Aug. 2000	June 2001	July 2001p	Aug. 2001p
Total private	$13.68	$14.22	$14.27	$14.25	$474.70	$489.17	$493.74	$490.54
Seasonally adjusted	13.80	14.31	14.34	14.38	473.34	489.40	488.99	490.36
Goods-producing	15.49	15.90	16.01	16.06	636.64	645.54	648.41	653.64
Mining	17.13	17.59	17.69	17.51	746.87	768.68	773.05	763.44
Construction	18.05	18.21	18.31	18.44	725.61	728.40	739.72	739.44
Manufacturing	14.38	14.79	14.85	14.90	594.50	603.43	599.94	607.92
Durable goods	14.81	15.24	15.27	15.39	620.54	626.36	619.96	632.53
Lumber and wood products	12.02	12.19	12.32	12.39	494.02	496.67	502.66	506.75
Furniture and fixtures	11.83	12.15	12.27	12.45	473.20	468.99	482.21	498.00
Stone, clay, and glass products	14.65	15.13	15.14	15.28	641.67	670.28	670.70	678.02
Primary metal industries	16.49	16.96	17.13	17.04	733.81	744.54	740.02	742.94
Blast furnaces and basic steel products	19.97	20.39	20.60	20.81	916.62	919.59	918.76	918.85
Fabricated metal products	13.85	14.25	14.24	14.36	585.86	589.95	579.57	597.38
Industrial machinery and equipment	15.61	15.82	15.91	15.96	652.50	640.71	641.17	638.00
Electronic and other electrical equipment	13.76	14.51	14.61	14.72	568.66	570.24	561.02	572.61
Transportation equipment	18.37	18.90	18.83	19.09	789.91	799.47	770.15	820.87
Motor vehicles and equipment	18.68	19.25	19.08	19.39	823.79	839.30	790.33	870.81
Instruments and related products	14.44	14.81	14.89	14.96	587.71	602.77	606.60	600.99
Miscellaneous manufacturing	11.58	12.07	12.12	12.19	446.63	463.49	459.35	469.32
Nondurable goods	13.68	14.11	14.22	14.17	568.78	568.63	570.22	572.47
Food and kindred products	12.49	12.88	12.95	12.89	525.83	528.55	529.66	534.94
Tobacco products	22.60	23.17	23.63	22.56	942.42	958.82	952.29	929.47
Textile mill products	11.21	11.32	11.38	11.38	458.49	458.46	447.23	460.16
Apparel and other textile products	9.29	9.45	9.42	9.47	351.18	357.21	351.37	356.13
Paper and allied products	16.27	16.90	16.95	16.86	688.22	701.35	703.43	694.63
Printing and publishing	14.39	14.74	14.82	14.81	549.70	557.17	566.12	567.22
Chemicals and allied products	18.21	18.55	18.70	18.55	766.64	782.81	791.01	780.86
Petroleum and coal products	21.78	21.78	21.95	22.06	886.45	934.36	948.24	933.14
Rubber and misc. plastics products	12.87	13.30	13.40	13.48	528.96	543.97	537.34	546.94
Leather and leather products	10.24	10.30	10.23	10.45	389.12	378.01	358.05	377.25
Service-producing	13.11	13.71	13.76	13.72	433.94	451.06	456.63	451.39
Transportation and public utilities	16.22	16.83	16.88	16.90	627.71	642.91	653.28	648.96
Wholesale trade	15.19	15.77	15.88	15.69	581.78	603.99	612.20	600.93
Retail trade	9.41	9.77	9.77	9.77	277.60	283.33	288.22	286.28
Finance, insurance, and real estate	14.99	15.75	15.85	15.81	539.64	570.15	581.70	570.74
Services	13.74	14.39	14.46	14.43	452.05	471.99	478.85	473.30

[1] See footnote 1, table B-2.

p = preliminary.

Table B-4. Average hourly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers[1] on private nonfarm payrolls by industry, seasonally adjusted

Industry	Aug. 2000	Apr. 2001	May 2001	June 2001	July 2001p	Aug. 2001p	Percent change from: July 2001- Aug. 2001
Total private:							
Current dollars	$13.80	$14.21	$14.24	$14.31	$14.34	$14.38	0.3
Constant (1982) dollars[2]	7.90	7.94	7.93	7.95	8.00	N.A.	(3)
Goods-producing	15.45	15.78	15.86	15.90	15.94	16.02	.5
Mining	17.25	17.53	17.54	17.73	17.76	17.67	-.5
Construction	17.93	18.15	18.22	18.28	18.25	18.36	.6
Manufacturing	14.43	14.72	14.78	14.81	14.87	14.94	.5
Excluding overtime[4]	13.69	14.04	14.09	14.13	14.18	14.23	.4
Service-producing	13.29	13.73	13.76	13.84	13.86	13.90	.3
Transportation and public utilities	16.27	16.74	16.76	16.91	16.87	16.88	.1
Wholesale trade	15.25	15.74	15.70	15.86	15.82	15.75	-.4
Retail trade	9.50	9.74	9.79	9.83	9.84	9.85	.1
Finance, insurance, and real estate	15.13	15.64	15.74	15.86	15.91	15.96	.3
Services	13.97	14.48	14.49	14.54	14.60	14.68	.5

1 See footnote 1, table B-2.

2 The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) is used to deflate this series.

3 Change was .6 percent from June 2001 to July 2001, the latest month available.

4 Derived by assuming that overtime hours are paid at the rate of time and one-half.

N.A. = not available.

p = preliminary.

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Table B-5. Indexes of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers[1] on private nonfarm payrolls by industry

(1982=100)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted					
	Aug. 2000	June 2001	July 2001p	Aug. 2001p	Aug. 2000	Apr. 2001	May 2001	June 2001	July 2001p	Aug. 2001p
Total private	154.4	153.5	154.2	153.4	151.3	151.5	151.5	151.2	150.7	150.1
Goods-producing	119.3	114.2	113.3	113.9	116.0	113.5	112.8	111.5	111.6	110.3
Mining	52.8	56.1	56.4	56.4	51.1	55.0	55.4	55.0	55.0	55.1
Construction	200.8	201.7	206.7	204.7	184.3	190.0	192.5	190.1	190.5	188.8
Manufacturing	106.0	98.9	96.6	97.8	105.5	100.7	99.1	98.1	98.1	96.8
Durable goods	111.2	103.3	100.6	101.1	111.1	105.4	103.6	102.2	102.0	100.7
Lumber and wood products	150.3	141.3	140.8	142.0	145.7	137.2	138.2	137.6	139.5	137.6
Furniture and fixtures	141.2	127.7	128.7	129.4	139.1	133.1	129.5	127.1	129.8	127.9
Stone, clay, and glass products	123.2	122.2	122.5	121.3	118.8	118.3	119.4	118.9	119.2	116.8
Primary metal industries	92.2	84.3	81.4	82.3	92.9	87.0	84.4	84.4	83.2	82.5
Blast furnaces and basic steel products	72.5	68.2	64.4	64.5	72.1	67.6	65.6	65.6	63.8	63.9
Fabricated metal products	122.0	113.7	109.6	112.7	121.9	116.9	114.0	112.5	113.2	112.5
Industrial machinery and equipment	101.9	92.9	90.1	88.1	103.4	98.3	94.0	92.0	91.4	88.7
Electronic and other electrical equipment	108.2	95.8	90.9	90.8	106.4	100.9	97.4	95.9	92.8	90.8
Transportation equipment	119.5	112.7	105.8	111.9	120.8	113.8	112.8	110.0	111.4	112.9
Motor vehicles and equipment	159.9	147.8	134.8	148.7	161.9	149.0	147.7	143.2	145.8	150.5
Instruments and related products	74.6	73.9	73.0	72.0	75.0	74.7	74.2	73.6	73.6	72.0
Miscellaneous manufacturing	93.7	94.9	91.7	92.7	99.1	95.3	93.8	95.0	94.2	91.4
Nondurable goods	98.8	92.9	92.0	93.2	97.7	94.1	93.0	92.5	92.8	91.5
Food and kindred products	122.3	114.4	116.0	120.2	117.2	118.0	114.8	115.3	114.1	114.2
Tobacco products	49.8	45.2	44.1	48.2	50.6	46.8	46.5	48.0	48.1	50.8
Textile mill products	75.5	66.9	64.4	66.1	75.1	68.5	67.1	66.3	65.6	66.3
Apparel and other textile products	54.8	49.3	47.3	46.7	54.2	50.1	49.5	48.0	48.7	46.2
Paper and allied products	102.7	98.2	97.3	98.2	103.0	99.7	98.4	97.8	97.4	95.6
Printing and publishing	120.6	114.0	114.8	115.2	120.3	116.5	115.4	114.8	115.3	114.3
Chemicals and allied products	98.8	97.8	97.8	97.0	99.2	98.7	98.1	97.4	98.9	97.3
Petroleum and coal products	70.1	73.0	74.4	73.4	70.1	72.9	70.1	71.6	71.6	72.1
Rubber and misc. plastics products	147.2	138.1	133.8	135.9	147.8	138.4	137.0	136.4	137.3	135.2
Leather and leather products	31.8	27.8	24.2	26.5	31.0	28.1	27.0	28.7	25.6	25.9
Service-producing	170.2	171.2	172.6	171.1	167.2	168.5	168.9	169.0	168.2	168.0
Transportation and public utilities	138.9	140.3	141.1	139.8	138.1	139.4	139.4	139.2	139.1	138.8
Wholesale trade	132.8	132.0	132.8	131.6	131.7	131.4	131.0	131.2	131.0	130.9
Retail trade	150.4	149.2	151.1	150.1	146.1	146.7	146.5	146.0	145.6	145.4
Finance, insurance, and real estate	139.3	141.6	143.6	140.8	138.1	140.2	140.2	140.9	139.5	139.3
Services	213.8	215.9	217.3	215.5	210.2	211.8	212.9	213.4	212.2	211.9

[1] See footnote 1, table B-2.

p = preliminary.

Table B-6. Diffusion indexes of employment change, seasonally adjusted

(Percent)

Time span	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Private nonfarm payrolls, 353 industries[1].											
Over 1-month span:												
1997	57.2	58.6	62.5	63.2	59.8	57.2	59.8	59.2	62.7	65.2	61.6	62.2
1998	63.2	56.2	59.3	60.2	58.9	57.1	55.4	58.4	54.8	55.0	58.2	56.4
1999	55.1	59.6	52.8	57.2	58.2	54.2	57.1	54.4	55.2	57.9	59.9	58.8
2000	55.7	59.3	61.0	54.2	47.7	60.5	57.8	55.1	52.0	54.8	55.1	54.2
2001	53.7	50.4	55.8	45.0	46.6	44.3	P45.3	P43.6				
Over 3-month span:												
1997	63.5	64.0	66.0	67.0	63.2	63.3	59.8	65.6	67.3	71.1	70.0	69.5
1998	65.3	66.1	64.6	65.7	62.2	57.9	57.5	58.4	59.1	59.2	59.3	59.2
1999	60.8	57.8	58.5	55.8	58.1	57.9	57.2	59.2	59.8	59.1	61.0	60.6
2000	61.6	63.3	61.9	58.2	55.1	57.9	61.5	56.4	54.1	53.3	55.7	53.3
2001	51.7	54.1	48.6	49.2	42.5	P42.2	P39.7					
Over 6-month span:												
1997	66.7	68.6	66.1	66.0	65.3	65.9	66.0	69.1	69.4	70.3	71.1	70.7
1998	70.4	67.4	65.0	62.5	63.6	60.5	59.2	58.6	57.9	59.6	60.6	59.9
1999	59.8	59.8	58.2	60.3	56.7	59.2	61.8	60.8	62.2	61.2	62.3	64.9
2000	63.5	60.6	62.6	63.7	61.5	55.5	56.1	58.6	54.2	54.8	51.8	54.2
2001	52.0	50.6	48.6	P45.2	P43.2							
Over 12-month span:												
1997	69.3	67.4	68.4	70.0	69.7	70.3	70.1	70.8	71.0	70.5	69.7	70.7
1998	69.7	67.6	67.4	66.0	64.0	62.7	61.9	62.0	60.9	59.3	60.8	58.8
1999	61.2	60.2	58.2	60.8	60.8	61.6	62.2	61.3	63.9	63.0	61.3	60.9
2000	62.5	63.0	61.8	59.5	58.4	56.8	55.7	56.5	54.2	53.4	53.0	51.7
2001	P49.9	P47.5										
	Manufacturing payrolls, 136 industries[1]											
Over 1-month span:												
1997	48.2	52.6	55.5	54.8	52.9	53.7	49.3	51.1	57.7	61.8	61.4	54.8
1998	57.4	51.5	53.7	53.3	43.8	48.2	38.2	51.5	41.9	41.5	41.2	43.4
1999	46.0	44.5	43.0	42.3	50.4	39.3	51.5	39.3	45.2	46.3	53.3	46.7
2000	44.9	56.6	55.5	46.7	41.2	54.8	53.7	38.6	34.6	41.5	43.8	44.1
2001	37.9	32.4	41.5	31.3	29.4	33.1	P38.6	P27.2				
Over 3-month span:												
1997	50.0	51.5	55.9	55.5	52.9	52.9	50.4	54.8	59.6	70.6	66.5	64.3
1998	59.6	59.6	55.9	50.4	46.7	37.9	41.5	41.5	41.9	38.2	36.8	40.8
1999	41.2	39.0	38.2	41.5	40.8	45.2	39.0	45.2	40.8	44.9	46.3	46.0
2000	50.0	54.0	52.9	42.3	43.0	48.5	48.2	33.8	28.7	30.5	39.0	35.7
2001	28.3	29.4	24.6	26.5	22.4	P25.7	P19.1					
Over 6-month span:												
1997	53.7	53.7	51.1	52.9	50.7	50.7	54.8	62.1	61.8	64.3	67.3	65.8
1998	63.2	54.4	50.4	40.4	44.5	40.1	37.5	36.4	34.9	40.1	37.1	34.2
1999	36.0	38.2	37.5	41.2	36.8	39.7	43.0	41.5	46.0	40.4	46.3	51.5
2000	51.5	44.5	48.5	55.1	43.8	34.9	33.5	34.6	30.1	29.4	25.0	27.9
2001	26.8	25.4	19.9	P21.0	P19.9							
Over 12-month span:												
1997	55.1	52.6	54.0	54.4	55.5	57.0	57.0	58.8	59.2	57.7	57.4	57.7
1998	54.8	52.2	51.8	46.7	40.4	40.1	38.2	37.5	36.4	34.8	35.7	34.2
1999	38.6	34.6	32.4	36.0	37.9	39.0	40.1	40.4	44.5	46.0	44.9	44.5
2000	46.3	45.2	41.2	37.9	33.8	31.3	31.3	31.3	27.6	25.4	24.3	21.0
2001	P20.2	P17.3										

[1] Based on seasonally adjusted data for 1-, 3-, and 6-month spans and unadjusted data for the 12-month span. Data are centered within the span.

P = preliminary.

NOTE: Figures are the percent of industries with employment increasing plus one-half of the industries with unchanged employment, where 50 percent indicates an equal balance between industries with increasing and decreasing employment.

SEP 20 2001

The Honorable Jennifer B. Dunn
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Dunn:

At the Joint Economic Committee hearing on September 7, you asked about the employment situation in Washington. I have enclosed a package of charts and tables that provide the information we have available.

I hope this material is helpful to you. Philip Rones, Assistant Commissioner for Current Employment Analysis, can be reached at 202--691-6378 and would be happy to answer any follow-up questions that you or your staff may have regarding these data.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

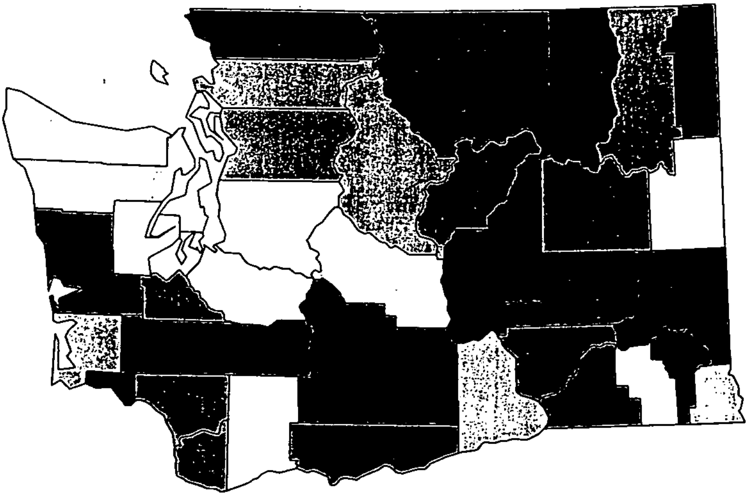
Sincerely yours,

KATHARINE G. ABRAHAM
Commissioner

Enclosure

State of Washington

Employment and Unemployment



U.S. Department of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics

September 2001

Washington State Labor Market Overview

While Washington's labor market performance was strong in the late 1990s, the State still recorded an annual unemployment rate higher than the U.S. average (with the exception of 1997, when it was 0.1 percentage point lower), as it has for most of the last two decades. Unemployment increased in Washington early last year, before it rose for the U.S. as a whole.

Two aspects of the State's labor market are noteworthy in explaining its relatively high unemployment. First, Washington has experienced much higher-than-average population growth over the last decade, ranking eighth in the nation in net domestic in-migration. While many Western states also have experienced high population growth, Washington's growth has exceeded its ability to create enough new jobs to push the jobless rate below that of the U.S. Second, Washington has a bifurcated economy, with a clear distinction between the Eastern and Western portions. The resource-dependent Eastern half of the State, where agriculture and forestry are dominant, has had chronically high unemployment and been subject to both seasonal and cyclical swings. The Western portion historically has been dependent on aerospace, while recently becoming more diverse as service and "high-tech" industries have played an increasing role. Thus, the somewhat static Eastern portion of the State provides a high base of unemployment from which moderate employment declines in manufacturing and other industries in the more populated Western portion, along with large in-migration flows, contribute to a higher-than-average unemployment rate.

Although Washington's manufacturing employment decreased last year, the reduction has not been drastic, and is not the sole cause of Washington's increasing unemployment. To the contrary, the State has a smaller share of its employment concentrated in manufacturing than the U.S. as a whole and also has experienced relatively smaller reductions in this industry over the past year.

Sources in the State have identified several reasons for the weakening performance of Washington's labor market. Seattle was one of the leading areas in web-based technology and business–activities that have suffered sharp reversals of late. (The unemployment rate in California's Silicon Valley has more than doubled over the past year.) Rapidly escalating electricity prices have caused contractions in aluminum smelting. Poor weather conditions, along with increased competition from China for the large Japanese market, have hurt Washington's apple growers. Consolidation in the food processing industry has also had a negative impact on the State's employment, as have tariffs on softwood imports from Canada.

State Unemployment (Seasonally Adjusted)

- The July 2001 unemployment rate for Washington, 5.7 percent, was 1.3 percentage points above the State's historical low, recorded in November 1997, but remained low in the context of the State's 24-year series.
- Washington's unemployment rate has risen by 0.7 percentage point, albeit inconsistently, since the beginning of 2001.
    - Steep over-the-month increases of 0.6 and 0.5 percentage point were recorded in February and June, respectively.
    - These were tempered somewhat by over-the-month declines of 0.3 percentage point in May and July.
- Over the year ending in July 2001, the unemployment rate in Washington was up by 0.4 percentage point. The Pacific division reported no increase, while the U.S. experienced a slightly larger rise of 0.5 point during the same period.
- The Washington unemployment rate was 1.2 percentage points higher than the U.S. rate in July 2001.
    - Since the earliest monthly data in January 1978, Washington's unemployment rate has averaged 0.8 percentage point above that of the U.S.
    - The State has had a higher jobless rate than the Nation continuously since April 1998.
- The gap between unemployment rates in Washington and the Pacific division, which is dominated by California, is, on average, much smaller than the gap between the state and national rates.
    - Washington's rate has averaged 0.1 percentage point above the Pacific division rate since January 1980, when monthly data for the latter became available.
    - The State experienced a lower unemployment rate than the division for most of the 1990s. However, Washington has reported an above-division-average rate since February 2000.

Labor force data for the U.S., Pacific division, and Washington, July 2001, seasonally adjusted

(Levels in thousands)

Area	Month-year	Labor force	Employment	Unemployment			
				Level	Rate	Rate change	
						Over-the-month	Over-the-year
United States	Jul-01	141,774.0	135,379.0	6,395.0	4.5	0.0	0.5
	Jun-01	141,354.0	134,932.0	6,422.0	4.5		
	Jul-00	140,546.0	134,898.0	5,648.0	4.0		
Pacific division	Jul-01	23,131.3	21,947.9	1,183.4	5.1	-0.2	0.0
	Jun-01	23,148.5	21,928.6	1,219.9	5.3		
	Jul-00	22,885.9	21,728.3	1,157.6	5.1		
Washington	Jul-01	3,041.6	2,867.5	174.1	5.7	-0.3	0.4
	Jun-01	3,034.0	2,851.8	182.2	6.0		
	Jul-00	3,033.3	2,871.8	161.5	5.3		

Metropolitan Area Unemployment (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

- Twelve of the thirty-nine counties comprising the State of Washington are components of metropolitan areas.
  - There are eight metropolitan areas contained entirely within Washington. In addition, Clark County in the southwest corner of the State is a component of the Portland-Vancouver, OR-WA interstate metropolitan area.
  - Four of Washington's metropolitan areas--Bremerton, Olympia, Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, and Tacoma--comprise the consolidated Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton metropolitan area.
- None of Washington's areas recorded an unemployment rate below the U.S. average metropolitan area unemployment rate of 4.5 percent in July of 2001. Rates for two areas were below that of the State, 5.6 percent, while the lowest metropolitan area rate, 4.7 percent, was equal to the U.S. rate.
- The largest metropolitan area in Washington--Seattle-Bellevue-Bremerton--is home to nearly half of the State's labor force. This area registered the lowest unemployment rate among Washington's metropolitan areas in July 2001, as well as the only unemployment rate below 5.0 percent.
- The highest unemployment rate was recorded in Yakima, 8.5 percent. This area usually has the highest unemployment rate among metropolitan areas in the State, and often one of the highest in the U.S.
- Three additional Washington areas experienced unemployment rates greater than 6.0 percent.
- Over the year ending in July 2001, three Washington areas registered unemployment rate declines. Rates in Richland-Kennewick-Pasco and Yakima declined by 0.6 percentage point each.
- Five areas had increases in the incidence of joblessness over the year.
  - The largest of these increases, 1.7 percentage points, occurred in the Washington portion of the Portland-Vancouver, OR-WA area, following the entire metropolitan area's increase.
  - Increases of more than 0.5 percentage point were reported for three additional areas.

Labor force data for the U.S., Washington, and its metropolitan areas, July 2001, not seasonally adjusted

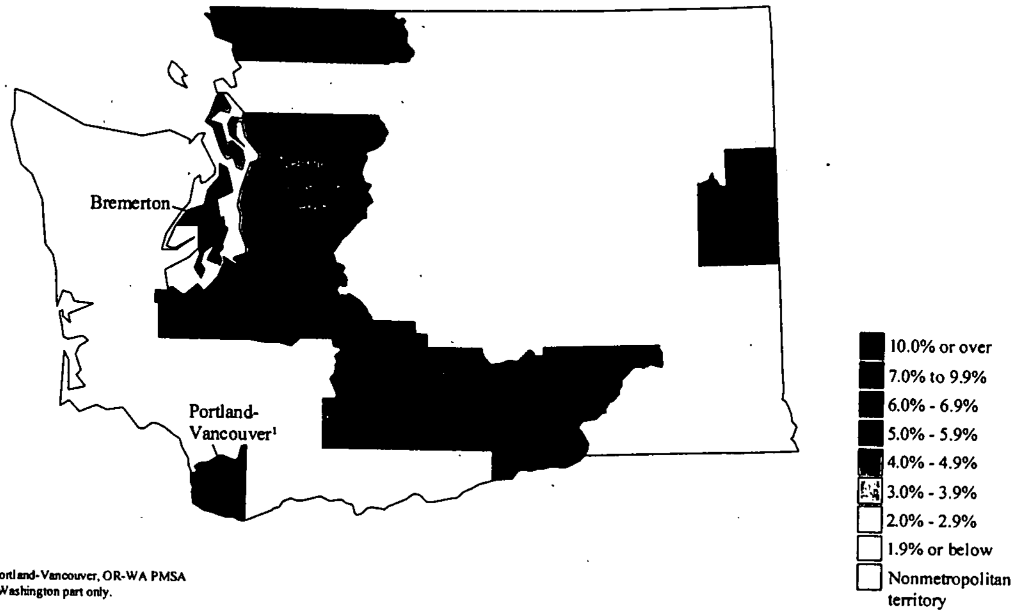
(Levels in thousands)

Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed		
			Level	Rate	Over-the-year rate change
United States	143,181.0	136,385.0	6,797.0	4.7	0.5
Washington	3,094.9	2,921.0	173.8	5.6	0.4
Bellingham MSA	81.1	76.0	5.1	6.2	0.7
Bremerton PMSA	91.5	86.3	5.2	5.7	-0.2
Olympia PMSA	99.8	94.6	5.2	5.2	0.0
Portland-Vancouver, OR-WA PMSA[1]	182.5	170.9	11.6	6.4	1.7
Richland-Kennewick-Pasco MSA	98.8	92.6	6.2	6.3	-0.6
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA	1,422.1	1,355.3	66.9	4.7	0.7
Spokane MSA	205.9	193.7	12.2	5.9	0.6
Tacoma PMSA	328.6	309.2	19.4	5.9	0.1
Yakima MSA	117.4	107.5	9.9	8.5	-0.6

[1] Data pertain to Washington part only.

Unemployment rates by metropolitan area in Washington, July 2001, not seasonally adjusted

(Washington rate = 5.6 percent; U.S. rate = 4.7 percent; all metropolitan area rate = 4.5 percent)



[1] Data for Portland-Vancouver, OR-WA PMSA pertain to Washington part only.

State Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)

- Washington added 23,800 payroll jobs over the year ending in July 2001. The Pacific division and the U.S. saw employment gains of 243,500 and 545,000, respectively, over the same period.
  - In percentage terms, nonfarm payroll employment in the State grew at more than twice the national pace, 0.9 percent compared to 0.4 percent. Above-average employment gains in Washington are partly attributable to the State's relatively high population growth.
  - Employment in the Pacific division grew more quickly, at a rate of 1.2 percent, than in Washington.
- Since April 2000, Washington has been generating jobs at an annual rate above the national average. Job creation in Washington has lagged behind that of the Pacific division, however, since January 1999.
- Among major industry divisions, services and government led in the creation of new jobs, +17,600 and +9,600, respectively, during the year ending in July 2001. Only manufacturing shed jobs in Washington over the year, -13,300.
  - At the 2-digit SIC level, local government employment, eating and drinking places within trade, and health services within services posted the largest employment gains (+8,100, +5,700, and +5,100, respectively).
  - Job losses have been sizeable in both durable and nondurable manufacturing industries (-8,800 and -4,500, respectively). Food and kindred products, within nondurable manufacturing, and lumber and wood products, within durable manufacturing, recorded the largest losses over the year at the 2-digit SIC level (-2,700 and -2,200, respectively).
- Five of the eight major industries in Washington experienced employment growth rates of at least 2.0 percent.
  - Mining, which accounts for a small percentage of employment in both Washington and the U.S., grew most robustly at both the state and national levels (2.8 and 4.4 percent, respectively).
  - The pace of growth in services at the state level, 2.2 percent, was substantially above the national figure, 1.4 percent.
- Manufacturing contracted at a slower rate in the State of Washington than the U.S., -3.8 percent compared to -4.7 percent.
- The three fastest growing 2-digit SIC industries were all in services--amusement and recreation services (5.9 percent), engineering and management services (5.4 percent), and social services (3.4 percent).
- Among Washington's 2-digit SIC industries, those in manufacturing, and particularly durable goods manufacturing, were hardest hit by employment declines. The following industries experienced contractions in excess of 5.0 percent:
  - Primary metal industries (-14.7 percent)
  - Electronic and other electrical equipment (-9.0 percent)
  - Food and kindred products (-6.6 percent)
  - Lumber and wood products (-6.6 percent)
  - Furniture and fixtures (-6.0 percent)
  - Instruments and related products (-5.4 percent).

With the exception of food and kindred products, all of these are in durable manufacturing. Except for instruments and related products, these industries also posted over-the-year declines at the national level. However, all of these but furniture and fixtures declined more sharply in the State than the Nation.

Employees on nonfarm payrolls by selected industry division in Washington, July 2001, seasonally adjusted

(Levels in thousands)

Industry	Employment			
	Level	Industry distribution (%)	Over-the-year change	
			Level	Percent
Total nonfarm	2,744.6	100.0	23.8	0.9
Mining	3.7	0.1	0.1	2.8
Construction	164.2	6.0	3.3	2.1
General building contractors	45.3	1.7	0.9	2.0
Heavy construction, except building	18.6	0.7	0.4	2.2
Special trade contractors	100.3	3.7	2.0	2.0
Manufacturing	338.1	12.3	-13.3	-3.8
Durable goods	234.9	8.6	-8.8	-3.6
Lumber and wood products	31.3	1.1	-2.2	-6.6
Furniture and fixtures	4.6	0.2	-0.3	-6.1
Stone, clay, and glass products	8.8	0.3	-0.4	-4.3
Primary metal industries	9.3	0.3	-1.6	-14.7
Fabricated metal products	15.0	0.5	0.1	0.7
Industrial machinery and equipment	24.8	0.9	-0.9	-3.5
Electronic and other electrical equipment	18.2	0.7	-1.8	-9.0
Transportation equipment	100.7	3.7	-0.7	-0.7
Instruments and related products	13.9	0.5	-0.8	-5.4
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries	8.3	0.3	-0.2	-2.4
Nondurable goods	103.2	3.8	-4.5	-4.2
Food and kindred products	38.5	1.4	-2.7	-6.6
Paper and allied products	14.8	0.5	-0.7	-4.5
Printing and publishing	23.7	0.9	-0.6	-2.5
Chemicals and allied products	6.3	0.2	0.1	1.6
Transportation and public utilities	148.0	5.4	1.1	0.7
Trucking and warehousing	34.7	1.3	0.5	1.5
Water transportation	8.9	0.3	-0.1	-1.1
Transportation by air	27.0	1.0	0.2	0.7
Communications	35.8	1.3	-0.4	-1.1
Electric, gas, and sanitary services	16.3	0.6	0.0	0.0
Trade	656.6	23.9	2.6	0.4
Wholesale trade	155.2	5.7	-1.2	-0.8
Wholesale trade-durable goods	89.2	3.3	-0.8	-0.9
Wholesale trade-nondurable goods	66.0	2.4	-0.4	-0.6
Retail trade	501.4	18.3	3.8	0.8
Building materials and garden supplies	21.4	0.8	-1.1	-4.9
General merchandise stores	50.6	1.8	-0.8	-1.6
Food stores	70.3	2.6	-0.4	-0.6
Automotive dealers and service stations	50.9	1.9	0.3	0.6
Apparel and accessory stores	25.3	0.9	-0.7	-2.7
Eating and drinking places	190.1	6.9	5.7	3.1
Finance, insurance, and real estate	139.6	5.1	2.8	2.0
Real estate	36.1	1.3	0.7	2.0
Services	802.5	29.2	17.6	2.2
Hotels and other lodging places	29.9	1.1	0.2	0.7
Personal services	23.4	0.9	0.1	0.4
Business services	189.0	6.9	-0.7	-0.4
Amusement and recreation services	48.2	1.8	2.7	5.9
Health services	195.4	7.1	5.1	2.7
Legal services	20.6	0.8	0.5	2.5
Educational services	39.1	1.4	0.9	2.4
Social services	66.1	2.4	2.2	3.4
Engineering and management services	75.8	2.8	3.9	5.4
Government	491.9	17.9	9.6	2.0
Federal	68.0	2.5	-1.5	-2.2
State	143.5	5.2	3.0	2.1
Local	280.4	10.2	8.1	3.0

Employees on nonfarm payrolls by selected industry division in the U.S., July 2001, seasonally adjusted

(Levels in thousands)

Industry	Employment			
	Level	Industry distribution (%)	Over-the-year change	
			Level	Percent
Total nonfarm	132,444	100.0	545	0.4
Mining	566	0.4	24	4.4
Construction	6,873	5.2	195	2.9
General building contractors	1,557	1.2	32	2.1
Heavy construction, except building	936	0.7	39	4.3
Special trade contractors	4,380	3.3	124	2.9
Manufacturing	17,686	13.4	-868	-4.7
Durable goods	10,620	8.0	-587	-5.2
Lumber and wood products	797	0.6	-39	-4.7
Furniture and fixtures	529	0.4	-36	-6.4
Stone, clay, and glass products	571	0.4	-10	-1.7
Primary metal industries	648	0.5	-52	-7.4
Fabricated metal products	1,475	1.1	-71	-4.6
Industrial machinery and equipment	2,006	1.5	-131	-6.1
Electronic and other electrical equipment	1,591	1.2	-144	-8.3
Transportation equipment	1,750	1.3	-105	-5.7
Instruments and related products	865	0.7	9	1.1
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries	388	0.3	-8	-2.0
Nondurable goods	7,066	5.3	-281	-3.8
Food and kindred products	1,680	1.3	-6	-0.4
Paper and allied products	632	0.5	-24	-3.7
Printing and publishing	1,490	1.1	-63	-4.1
Chemicals and allied products	1,038	0.8	2	0.2
Transportation and public utilities	7,113	5.4	79	1.1
Trucking and warehousing	1,864	1.4	4	0.2
Water transportation	203	0.2	8	4.1
Transportation by air	1,305	1.0	23	1.8
Communications	1,701	1.3	54	3.3
Electric, gas, and sanitary services	848	0.6	-3	-0.4
Trade	30,615	23.1	274	0.9
Wholesale trade	7,019	5.3	-11	-0.2
Wholesale trade-durable goods	4,151	3.1	-50	-1.2
Wholesale trade-nondurable goods	2,868	2.2	39	1.4
Retail trade	23,596	17.8	285	1.2
Building materials and garden supplies	1,008	0.8	-6	-0.6
General merchandise stores	2,812	2.1	-8	-0.3
Food stores	3,537	2.7	14	0.4
Automotive dealers and service stations	2,435	1.8	23	1.0
Apparel and accessory stores	1,218	0.9	22	1.8
Eating and drinking places	8,297	6.3	174	2.1
Finance, insurance, and real estate	7,617	5.8	81	1.1
Real estate	1,506	1.1	11	0.7
Services	41,051	31.0	556	1.4
Hotels and other lodging places	1,923	1.5	0	0.0
Personal services	1,281	1.0	31	2.5
Business services	9,599	7.2	-285	-2.9
Amusement and recreation services	1,776	1.3	41	2.4
Health services	10,352	7.8	255	2.5
Legal services	1,026	0.8	16	1.6
Educational services	2,429	1.8	92	3.9
Social services	3,055	2.3	172	6.0
Engineering and management services	3,538	2.7	115	3.4
Government	20,923	15.8	204	1.0
Federal	2,626	2.0	-194	-6.9
State	4,906	3.7	124	2.6
Local	13,391	10.1	274	2.1

Metropolitan Area Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Not Seasonally Adjusted)[1]

- Washington added 23,900 nonfarm payroll jobs over the year ending in July 2001. The statewide growth rate of 0.9 percent was more than twice the U.S. rate, 0.4 percent, over the same period.
- More than half of all Washington jobs are located in the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett metropolitan area. Over 80 percent of statewide employment growth from July 2000 results from the 19,600 new jobs that were created in this one area alone.
- The Spokane area saw no net job growth from July 2000, while 1,800 jobs were shed in the Tacoma area.
- The Portland-Vancouver area reported an employment decrease of 8,800 over the year. (Note that the Washington portion of this area consists of only Clark County, while the bulk of its jobs are located within the Oregon portion.)
- At 1.4 percent, the pace of job growth in Seattle-Bellevue-Everett was more than three times the national average and well above the State growth rate. The Tacoma and Portland-Vancouver areas, meanwhile, experienced contractions of 0.7 and 0.9 percent over the year.

Employees on nonfarm payrolls in the U.S., Washington, and its metropolitan areas, July 2001, not seasonally adjusted

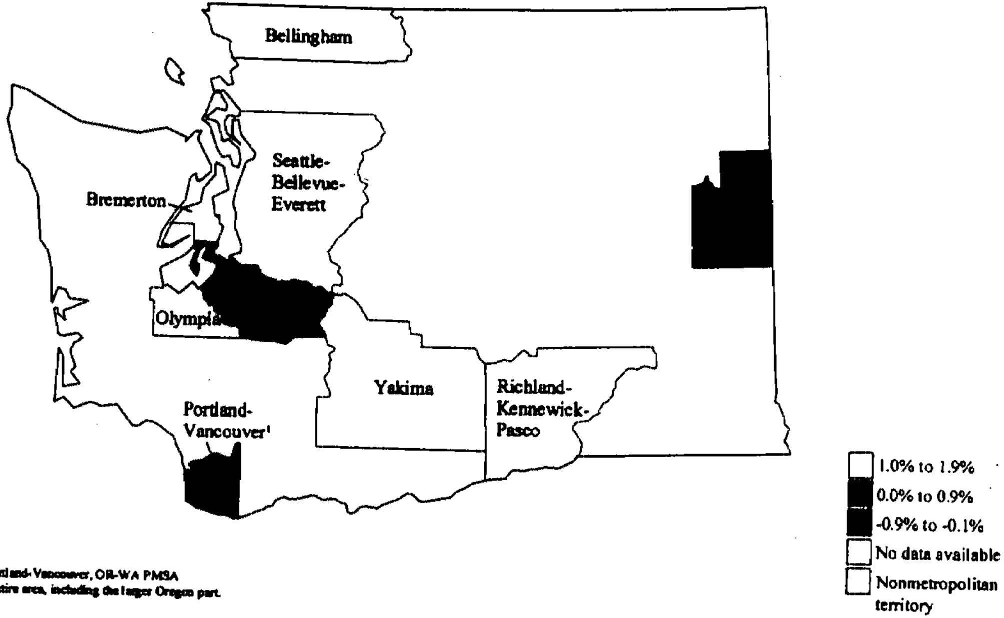
(Levels in thousands)

Area	Employment		
	Level	Over-the-year change	
		Level	Percent
United States	132,291.0	552.0	0.4
Washington	2,746.2	23.9	0.9
Portland-Vancouver, OR-WA PMSA[2]	958.2	-8.8	-0.9
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA	1,447.4	19.6	1.4
Spokane MSA	194.6	0.0	0.0
Tacoma PMSA	241.4	-1.8	-0.7

[1] Due to sample size, data are not available for all Washington areas.
[2] Data pertain to entire area.

Percentage change in nonfarm employment by metropolitan area in Washington, July 2000 - July 2001, not seasonally adjusted

(Washington growth = 0.9 percent; U.S. growth = 0.4 percent)



[1] Data for Portland-Vancouver, OR-WA PMSA pertain to entire area, including the larger Oregon part.

Distribution of Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted)

- Among major industry divisions, the State of Washington exhibited a distribution pattern largely similar to that of the U.S. in July 2001.
  - The percentage of employment accounted for by government was greater at the state level, 17.9 percent compared to 15.8 percent.
  - Services and manufacturing were less concentrated in Washington than in the Nation by 1.8 and 1.1 percentage points, respectively.
  - Differences in the distribution of employment between the State and the U.S. were no greater than 0.8 percentage point for all other major industries.
- Nondurable manufacturing industries were less heavily concentrated in Washington compared to the U.S. (3.8 vs. 5.3 percent), while durable manufacturing industries were more heavily concentrated (8.6 vs. 8.0 percent).
- A positive employment distribution differential of more than 0.5 percentage point between Washington and the U.S. was recorded for three 2-digit SIC industries:
  - Transportation equipment, within durable manufacturing, accounted for 3.7 and 1.3 percent of employment at the state and national levels, respectively, in July 2001. Over the year, this industry contracted by 0.7 percent at the state level, far less sharply than the 5.7 percent decline nationally.
  - State government accounted for 5.2 and 3.7 percent of jobs in Washington and the U.S., respectively. This industry expanded at the relatively similar paces of 2.1 and 2.6 percent in the two areas over the year.
  - Eating and drinking places, within retail trade, accounted for 6.9 and 6.3 percent of employment in the State and Nation, respectively. This industry grew by 3.1 in Washington over the year ending in July 2001, somewhat greater than the 2.1 percent advance nationally.
- At the 2-digit SIC level, the following industries were less concentrated in the State than the U.S. by more than 0.5 percentage point:
  - Health services (7.1 vs. 7.8 percent)
  - Chemicals and allied products in nondurable manufacturing (0.2 vs. 0.8 percent)
  - Fabricated metal products in durable manufacturing (0.5 vs. 1.1 percent)
  - Industrial machinery and equipment in durable manufacturing (0.9 vs. 1.5 percent).

Distribution of nonfarm payroll employment in the U.S. and Washington by selected industry, July 2001, seasonally adjusted

Industry	Industry distribution		Difference
	U.S.	Washington	
Total nonfarm	100.0	100.0	0.0
Mining	0.4	0.1	-0.3
Construction	5.2	6.0	0.8
General building contractors	1.2	1.7	0.5
Heavy construction, except building	0.7	0.7	0.0
Special trade contractors	3.3	3.7	0.4
Manufacturing	13.4	12.3	-1.1
Durable goods	8.0	8.6	0.6
Lumber and wood products	0.6	1.1	0.5
Furniture and fixtures	0.4	0.2	-0.2
Stone, clay, and glass products	0.4	0.3	-0.1
Primary metal industries	0.5	0.3	-0.2
Fabricated metal products	1.1	0.5	-0.6
Industrial machinery and equipment	1.5	0.9	-0.6
Electronic and other electrical equipment	1.2	0.7	-0.5
Transportation equipment	1.3	3.7	2.4
Instruments and related products	0.7	0.5	-0.2
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries	0.3	0.3	0.0
Nondurable goods	5.3	3.8	-1.5
Food and kindred products	1.3	1.4	0.1
Paper and allied products	0.5	0.5	0.0
Printing and publishing	1.1	0.9	-0.2
Chemicals and allied products	0.8	0.2	-0.6
Transportation and public utilities	5.4	5.4	0.0
Trucking and warehousing	1.4	1.3	-0.1
Water transportation	0.2	0.3	0.1
Transportation by air	1.0	1.0	0.0
Communications	1.3	1.3	0.0
Electric, gas, and sanitary services	0.6	0.6	0.0
Trade	23.1	23.9	0.8
Wholesale trade	5.3	5.7	0.4
Wholesale trade-durable goods	3.1	3.3	0.2
Wholesale trade-nondurable goods	2.2	2.4	0.2
Retail trade	17.8	18.3	0.5
Building materials and garden supplies	0.8	0.8	0.0
General merchandise stores	2.1	1.8	-0.3
Food stores	2.7	2.6	-0.1
Automotive dealers and service stations	1.8	1.9	0.1
Apparel and accessory stores	0.9	0.9	0.0
Eating and drinking places	6.3	6.9	0.6
Finance, insurance, and real estate	5.8	5.1	-0.7
Real estate	1.1	1.3	0.2
Services	31.0	29.2	-1.8
Hotels and other lodging places	1.5	1.1	-0.4
Personal services	1.0	0.9	-0.1
Business services	7.2	6.9	-0.3
Amusement and recreation services	1.3	1.8	0.5
Health services	7.8	7.1	-0.7
Legal services	0.8	0.8	0.0
Educational services	1.8	1.4	-0.4
Social services	2.3	2.4	0.1
Engineering and management services	2.7	2.8	0.1
Government	15.8	17.9	2.1
Federal	2.0	2.5	0.5
State	3.7	5.2	1.5
Local	10.1	10.2	0.1