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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: SEPTEMBER 2008

HEARING

BEFORE THE

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

OCTOBER 3, 2008

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: SEPTEMBER 2008

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2008

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE,
Washington, DC

The Committee met at 9:30 a.m., in room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, the Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney (Vice Chair) presiding.

Representatives present: Maloney and Hinchey.

Majority staff members present: Heather Boushey, Tanya Doriss, Nan Gibson, Colleen Healy, Aaron Kabaker, Annabelle Tamerjan, and Justin Ungson.

Ranking Republican staff (Saxon) present: Ted Boll, Chris Frenze, Bob Keleher, Tyler Kurtz, Dan Miller, and Gordon Brady.

Senate Republican staff (Brownback) present: Jeff Wrase.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY, VICE CHAIR, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM NEW YORK

Vice Chair Maloney. It is 9:30. The meeting will come to order. Chairman Schumer is unable to attend today's hearing on the employment situation and has asked me to chair.

Commissioner Hall, we thank you for testifying today. We also thank Mr. Galvin and Dr. Horrigan for joining us today. I understand that other Members may be coming, but we must proceed because I know your time is valuable. We hope that my colleague from the other side of the aisle will be able to join us at some point later on today, although it will be later, not at the opening.

I want to thank Commissioner Hall and his staff for appearing before us today. This is an important time for Congress to be examining the employment situation of U.S. workers as we assess the broader impact of the financial crisis on the economy.

Today the House will vote on the financial rescue plan that passed the Senate on Wednesday. If we do not pass the financial rescue plan today, credit markets will freeze and American families and businesses will suffer greatly. The risk of not acting is simply too great for Americans to bear.

The troubles at our major financial institutions are already working their way down to Main Street. Today's grim unemployment data show that the problems facing working families are mounting as job prospects dim.

The economy has shed nearly a million private-sector jobs over the past 9 months, and 9.5 million workers are unemployed—2.2 million more than a year ago.

Indeed, the labor market has been deteriorating for nearly a year, as this chart shows. Job growth began to slow in 2005 and job losses appeared at the beginning of 2008. The last time the economy lost jobs for 9 months in a row it was in the midst of a recession. As of this month, the labor market is really suffering levels of job losses.

Wages have not been keeping pace with the rising prices for basic necessities like fuel and food, as this chart shows.

As a result, U.S. workers have lost all the ground that they gained over the 2000s recovery. The Census Bureau recently reported that by the end of last year inflation-adjusted household income had still not recovered from the last recession, and all indications are that household finances have only deteriorated since then.

The credit crisis will likely make the employment situation even worse. The lack of access to credit, combined with the sharp drop in home prices, and the lack of growth in real incomes are putting unbearable financial pressure on families.

Families have already begun curtailing their spending, so much so that for the first time since 1991 real personal consumption expenditures fell for 3 months in a row.

Consumer spending makes up nearly three-quarters of our gross domestic product. As consumers cut back on their spending, this will drag down economic growth, jobs, and wages.

Congress has already taken numerous steps to help buffer families from the effects of the downturn. More than 130 million American households received Recovery Rebates by July. Extended Unemployment Benefits for 3.5 million Americans looking for work were enacted. And a housing package aimed at stemming the tide of foreclosures was also enacted into law.

In the wake of the financial crisis, clearly we must do even more. Last week the House approved a $60 billion economic stimulus package that would have provided an extension of Unemployment Benefits, an increase in Food Stamps, and aid to States to preserve health insurance for families and create jobs through investment in our Nation's infrastructure. But efforts to provide this relief to families and boost our sagging economy have been blocked by Republicans in the Senate and received a veto threat from the White House.

As the chart behind me shows, unemployment is particularly high in nearly half of all the States.

[Chart entitled "State Unemployment Rates Soar" appears in the Submissions for the Record on page 17.]

In high-unemployment States, over a third of workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own are exhausting even their extended Unemployment Benefits, as this chart shows.

[Chart entitled "Too Many Workers Can't Find Jobs Before Their Benefits Run Out" appears in the Submissions for the Record on page 18.]

Starting next week, nearly 800,000 workers will be left without additional Federal jobless benefits when their extension is set to run out. Over half of these workers live in high unemployment States. Congress has extended benefits to the States hardest hit by unemployment in every other recession in the past 25 years, as this chart shows.

[Chart entitled "Congress Has Extended Benefits for Hard-Hit States in Every Other Recession of the Last 25 Years" appears in the Submissions for the Record on page 19.]

In light of today's jobless numbers, I hope that the House will pass an extension of Unemployment Benefits. Congress and the President need to work together as never before to get Americans back to work as quickly as possible.

I look forward to the continued focus on labor market conditions by this Committee.

That concludes my testimony, and I would like to now introduce Commissioner Hall.

Dr. Keith Hall is the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics at the U.S. Department of Labor. Before becoming BLS's Commissioner, Dr. Hall served as Chief Economist for the White House Council of Economic Advisers during the current Administration.

Prior to that, he was Chief Economist for the United States Department of Commerce. Dr. Hall received his B.A. Degree from the University of Virginia, and his M.S. and Ph.D. Degrees in Economics from Purdue University.

Thank you for your public service and for being here today, Commissioner Hall.

[The prepared statement of Vice Chair Maloney appears in the Submissions for the Record on page 15.]

STATEMENT OF DR. KEITH HALL, COMMISSIONER, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, ACCOMPANIED BY DR. MICHAEL W. HORRIGAN, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR PRICES AND LIVING CONDITIONS; AND MR. JOHN GALVIN, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Commissioner Hall. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the employment and unemployment data that we released this morning. Nonfarm payroll employment declined by 159,000 in September. By comparison, from January through August payroll employment decreased by 75,000 a month on average.

In September, job losses continued in manufacturing, construction, and retail trade. Mining and health care employment continued to trend up. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.1 percent following an increase of 0.4 percentage point in August.

Manufacturing job losses continued in September with employment declines occurring throughout much of the sector. In particular, motor vehicle and parts manufacturers shed 18,000 jobs. And over the past 12 months, employment in this industry has fallen by 140,000. In September, manufacturing hours and overtime declined by 0.2 of an hour, and 0.1 of an hour respectively.

Construction employment was down by 35,000 over the month. Since its peak in September 2006, employment in this industry has fallen by 607,000. Eighty-five percent of the job losses over this 2-year period have occurred in residential building and residential specialty trades.

Mining employment continued to expand with an increase of 8,000 in September. Mining has added 241,000 jobs since April of 2003, with most of the growth in oil and gas extraction and support activities.

In the service-providing sector, retail employment fell by 40,000 over the month with the largest job losses occurring among department stores and motor vehicle and parts dealers. Over the past 4 months, auto and parts dealerships have shed an average of 12,000 jobs per month, four times the average decline in the first 5 months of the year.

Elsewhere in the service-providing sector, employment in financial activities declined by 17,000; securities and investment firms accounted for 8,000 of this loss.

The employment services industry, which includes temporary help agencies, continued to contract in September and has lost 303,000 jobs so far this year.

Health care employment continued to trend up over the month. However, the September increase of 17,000 was only about half the average monthly gain for the prior 12 months.

Average hourly earnings for production and nonsupervisory workers in the private sector edged up by three cents in September. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased by 3.4 percent, while from August 2007 to August 2008 the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers rose by 5.9 percent.

Although Hurricane Ike struck the east coast of Texas and portions of coastal Louisiana during the September reference period for the establishment survey, we believe the storm did not substantially impact the payroll estimates that we released today. For weather conditions to have affected payroll employment, people would have had to be off work for the entire pay period and not paid for the time missed.

Turning to the labor market measures from the survey of households, the unemployment rate held at 6.1 percent in September; it is now 1.4 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

Among the major worker groups, the jobless rate for adult men rose by 0.5 percentage point over the month to 6.1 percent, and the rate for blacks increased to 11.4 percent. The unemployment rate for adult women declined to 4.9 percent in September, partially offsetting a sharp increase in August.

Approximately 9.5 million persons were unemployed in September, little changed from August. Two million of these individuals had been employed for 27 weeks or more, an increase of 167,000 over the month, and 728,000 over the past 12 months.

Both the labor force participation rate at 66.0 percent and the employment-to-population ratio at 62 percent were little changed over the month. Labor force participation has shown virtually no movement over the past 12 months, while the employment-to-population ratio has declined by 0.9 percentage point.

The number of persons working part-time who would have preferred full-time work increased by 337,000 in September to nearly 6.1 million. Over the past 12 months, the number of such workers has grown by 1.6 million.

In keeping with standard practice, this month we are also providing a preliminary estimate of the next benchmark revision to nonfarm payroll employment. Each year the Bureau revises, or benchmarks, the payroll survey's sample-based employment estimates to reflect a comprehensive employment count derived primarily from State unemployment insurance tax reports.

Preliminary tabulations of employment from the State tax reports indicated that the March 2008 payroll employment will require a very small downward revision of 21,000. The final benchmark will be incorporated into the establishment survey data released on February 6 2009.

In summary, nonfarm payroll employment declined by 159,000 in September, and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.1 percent.

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

[The prepared statement of Dr. Hall, together with Press Release No. 08–1367, appear in the Submissions for the Record on page 20.]

Vice Chair Maloney. Thank you very much for your testimony. I would now like to recognize my colleague from the State of New York, Mr. Hinchey, for his opening statement.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM NEW YORK

Mr. Hinchey. Well thank you very much, Madam Chairwoman, and I appreciate being here.

I thank you very much for being with us and providing this information. I think the information that you are providing is very interesting and also very important in terms of the responsibilities of this Congress, because I think the employment situation in our country is continuing to decline.

The dramatic increase in the unemployment rate just makes that very clear. Even though the specific rate in unemployment, as I understand it, is still about the same, 6.1 percent.

In any case, I thank you very much for being here and for giving us this information. I think it is particularly valuable as well in the context of this legislation which we have before the Congress at this time.

One of the things that we have to do is to upgrade this economy, and that is going to require some significant investments in the appropriate way. So I thank you very, very much.

Vice Chair Maloney. Thank you, and the Chair recognizes herself for 5 minutes of questions.

First of all, Commissioner Hall, the labor market has been shedding jobs for 9 straight months, and I am concerned that we are in a recession.

Can you tell us what the big picture is on employment this month? How many jobs were lost in the private sector last month?

Commissioner Hall. Sure. This month's Employment Report shows a continually weak and broadly weak labor market. The unemployment rate that we saw in August jumped from 5.7 percent to 6.1 percent unfortunately held in September.

Now on a quarterly basis we have now seen the rise in the unemployment rate fairly steadily grow from 4.9 percent in the first quarter, to 5.3 percent in the second quarter, to 6 percent now in the third quarter.

We have also had perhaps an acceleration in the payroll job loss. After losing about 75,000 jobs a month through this year, through August, we have now lost—we are now losing 159,000 in September.

The labor market weakness has been broad. The only consistent job growth over the past few months has been in education and health services, mining, and government. Just about every other portion of the economy has been weak. And wage growth has hovered somewhere around 3.5 percent, but high energy costs continue to keep inflation well above this, somewhere around 5.5 percent right now.

The private-sector job loss has been generally higher than the job loss overall. This month we lost 168,000 private-sector jobs. Prior to that we had been averaging about 100,000 jobs lost in 2008 in the private sector.

Vice Chair Maloney. Do consecutive months of job losses mean that the economy is in a recession?

Commissioner Hall. It is generally accepted that a recession is a significant decline in economic activities spread across the economy that last for more than a few months. It's sort of three components.

We have now had nine consecutive months of job loss for a total of 760,000 jobs. That job loss has been very widespread. We do not typically get nine consecutive months of job losses except for when we are going into a recession. So this would be unusual.

However, the one bright spot, if it is a bright spot, is that the job loss has been 760,000 jobs. In the last two recessions, 9 months into job loss we had about twice as much job loss. So it has not been as severe as say the 2001 recession and the 1990 recession.

Vice Chair Maloney. So how many months of job losses do we need to see before we say we are in a recession?

Commissioner Hall. Well in the past the National Bureau of Economic Research, the group that actually makes the recession call, they have called the recession after around 9 or 10 months of job loss.

I do think the big difference—and it is going to have to be their judgment—is whether we have had as deep a job loss as we have in the past and whether that constitutes a recession.

Vice Chair Maloney. Some economists have argued that a recession began in late 2007 or early 2008. Is this conclusion consistent with the trends you see in the labor market?

Commissioner Hall. That is when we started to see job loss happen, and consistent job loss happen.

Vice Chair Maloney. Can the labor market be in a recession—that is, can unemployment be at recession levels—even if an official recession has not yet been called?

Commissioner Hall. I would say that is true. When an official recession is called, it is typically such a backward looking call that typically when it is made it is made several months down the road.

Vice Chair Maloney. And typically in a recession how long does it take for employment to recover to its pre-recession peak?

Commissioner Hall. Well, at least in my mind, this is one of the real serious costs of any recession. It takes the labor market a long time to recover from a recession. Since the end of the 2001 recession in November 2001, the last recession it took months for the labor market to recover, which is obviously quite a long time.

Vice Chair Maloney. So how long do wages and other compensation take to recover? The full 39 months, you would say?

Commissioner Hall. Well the level never goes down that much, but the growth rate in wages in the past has typically never recovered from a recession. With every recession we have had, real wage growth has declined and never recovered to pre-recession levels.

Vice Chair Maloney. So it appears that we are in a difficult time in our economy for the labor market in the months to come. My time has expired, and I recognize my colleague, Mr. Hinchey, for 5 minutes.

Mr. Hinchey. Well thank you very much, Madam Chairman.

Could you tell us a little bit more specifically what are some of the specific industries that are experiencing the most several drops in employment?

Commissioner Hall. Sure. We have not had consistent job growth in any private-sector industry, with the exception of mining, and health care, and education. Health care and education seems to be sort of a counter-cyclical industry. So I have to say it has been a very broad loss.

In September, we have seen job loss in construction, with a concentrated loss in residential building and specialty trades. We have seen job loss in credit intermediation, in real estate, and in automobile production and sales.

Mr. Hinchey. We have also seen losses in manufacturing, haven't we? I recall back in August the drop in employment was about 84,000 jobs lost. I think more than 60,000 of those were manufacturing jobs, and the September figures are something in the neighborhood of 59,000, isn't it, manufacturing jobs that have been lost?

Commissioner Hall. Yes, it was significant. It was 51,000 manufacturing jobs lost.

Mr. Hinchey. 51,000?

Commissioner Hall. 51,000. And it is very broad through manufacturing. Notably, though, a large loss has been in motor vehicles.

Mr. Hinchey. What is the reason for the loss in manufacturing jobs, particularly?

Commissioner Hall. Well the long-run trend in the United States has been that manufacturing has been losing jobs consistently on a long-run trend, but at a fairly slow rate since 2004.

What we have seen is, with this economic downturn beginning sometime in the last year, a real acceleration in job loss in manufacturing. It has just sort of mirrored the general decline in the labor market throughout the whole economy.

Mr. Hinchey. A significant number of these manufacturing jobs are being exported, aren't they? I mean, we are sending specific kinds of jobs, particularly some of the highest-paying jobs, outside of the country?

Commissioner Hall. Well I certainly think that that may be an issue in the long run picture of manufacturing job loss, and I am not sure how manufacturing is going to do during this downturn in terms of these jobs recovering.

I will say that the manufacturing jobs lost in the 2001 recession generally did not return.

Mr. Hinchey. Did not return?

Commissioner Hall. No.

Mr. Hinchey. They were gone, and they are not showing any indication of coming back?

Commissioner Hall. That is correct.

Mr. Hinchey. So while we are losing these jobs, we are also seeing a downturn in the economic circumstances of working people, and I think that that is very significant because we know that the Gross Domestic Product in America is driven for the most part, at least two-thirds or so, by middle-income working people, particularly blue- and white-collar working people.

So the economic circumstances of working people is declining, while income has gone up slightly, something in the neighborhood of, what, three cents, or .02 percent in September. Over the past 12 months, our average hourly earnings have increased by 3.4 percent, but the Price Index rose by almost 6 percent.

So how do you evaluate that? It seems to me that the standard of living of the American worker is in some serious predicament at the moment because this situation that you have outlined for us is not unique in September. It is something that has been going on for some time, has it not?

Commissioner Hall. Yes, that is correct. The Average Hourly Earnings Growth of roughly 3.5 percent is not particularly strong, but it is not terribly weak; but it has not kept up in particular with energy inflation and now food inflation for quite some time now.

Mr. Hinchey. Yes. So we are seeing the cost of living going up, but the income of the workers who have to pay for the cost of living not going up, and so we are seeing essentially a decline in the standard of living of American workers. Is that true?

Commissioner Hall. The Labor Market Data would seem to indicate that.

Mr. Hinchey. Yes. It seems to me that that is just another example of what Mrs. Maloney was saying just a few moments ago. I think it is very clear that we are in a recession, and I think we have been in this recession for some time. A lot of us have been talking about that. I have been mentioning it to Chairman Bernanke on a number of occasions.

But I think part of the problem that we are dealing—one of the issues that we are dealing with now has been not recognizing this issue in the right way, and then dealing with it in an effective way.

It seems also that the unemployment rate, or the number of workers that are partly employed, temporarily employed, partly employed but looking for full-time employment, that number continues to go up.

My estimation is that the unemployment rate now being 6.1 percent, if you included in that people who have been unemployed for more than 27 weeks, and people who are looking for full-time employment but can only find part-time employment, if you include them in the unemployment number, what would that number be? I suspect it will be something in the neighborhood of 10 percent, or even higher?

Commissioner Hall. Yes, that is correct. It is currently actually 11 percent.

Mr. Hinchey. Eleven percent?

Commissioner Hall. Yes. And that is up from 10.7 percent last month.

Mr. Hinchey. Thank you very much.

Vice Chair Maloney. Thank you.

Commissioner Hall, later today the House is expected to vote on an extension of Jobless Benefits. An estimated 800,000 workers are expected to run out of their benefits beginning next week, and it is my understanding that some parts of the country are experiencing higher joblessness than others. Which regions are seeing the highest job losses?

Commissioner Hall. Two regions, the Midwest and West, have had the highest unemployment rates: 6.7 percent and 6.6 percent, respectively. And three regions: the Northeast, West, and the South have seen statistically significant unemployment rate increases. But it is fairly widespread. All four regions have had significant increases in the unemployment rate over the past 12 months.

Vice Chair Maloney. How many, and which States, have unemployment rates above 7 percent? Any? Is 6.7 the highest percentage?

Commissioner Hall. No. There are a number of States. Eight States had unemployment rates above 7 percent.

Vice Chair Maloney. Which ones are they?

Commissioner Hall. Michigan had the highest rate at 8.9 percent and Rhode Island was second at 8.5 percent. California and Mississippi had 7.7 percent unemployment rates. South Carolina had 7.6. Ohio had 7.4. Illinois had 7.3. And Nevada had 7.1.

Vice Chair Maloney. Well I worry that a lot more States may find themselves in the situation sooner rather than later. Do you think unemployment has risen at a surprisingly fast pace?

Commissioner Hall. I think that unemployment has risen consistent with the overall picture of the labor market. We have had a weak labor market now for 9 months. Unfortunately we have seen a bit of an increase in the unemployment rate in the last month or two, which has signalled a slight worsening, at least a slight worsening in the conditions of the labor market.

Vice Chair Maloney. New applications for Unemployment Benefits rose slightly last week to a 7-year high, hovering around 500,000. Are these initial claim figures consistent with recessionary levels?

Commissioner Hall. They are consistent with levels during past recessions. The only thing I would say about that is these are weekly numbers.

Vice Chair Maloney. Could you define for me "long-term unemployment"? And tell us what percentage of unemployed workers are among the long-term unemployed?

Commissioner Hall. Sure. Long-term unemployment are people that are unemployed for basically 6 months. And at the moment, there are about 2 million people who are long-term unemployed, and that is about 21 percent of the total unemployed.

Vice Chair Maloney. In my home State of New York more than one-third, 36 percent, of the unemployed have reached the end of their standard Unemployment Benefits. How many will make use of the Extended Unemployment Benefits this year in New York and around the Nation?

Commissioner Hall. We do not actually forecast anything like that. We do not actually collect the Unemployment Benefits data. I have seen an estimate for the national number, if I can find it here, oh, good, I have seen an estimate of about 3.3 million workers nationally through June of 2009, but that is not one of our numbers so I do not know what is behind that forecast.

Vice Chair Maloney. Getting back to regions and the impact on the economy, which regions are being most impacted by fall offs in housing or credit-related industries, and which are being hit hardest by manufacturing decline?

Commissioner Hall. On housing related, 38 States had construction declines over the past 12 months, with the highest declines in percentage terms in Arizona, Utah, South Carolina, and Florida. And in financial activities, we have seen the biggest declines in Rhode Island, California, Oregon, Nevada, New Jersey, Arizona, and Georgia.

And then with respect to manufacturing, the kinds of manufacturing have been pretty widespread. The most affected States are New Mexico, Michigan, Florida, Idaho, Rhode Island.

Vice Chair Maloney. In my home State of New York, the employment-to-population ratio—that is the fraction of the working age population with a job—is falling. The information you reported on today shows that the percentage of the U.S. population with jobs is also quite low, wouldn't you agree?

Commissioner Hall. In September, 62 percent of the working-age population was employed. That has fallen since late 2006. This is lower than the second half of the 1990's. It is still higher than it was say back in the late 1980's, but it is still a lower level compared to the more recent time.

Vice Chair Maloney. When was the last time the National Employment-To-Population Ratio was as low as it has been recently?

Commissioner Hall. The last time was in September of 2003, immediately following the recession—following the recession, I should say.

Vice Chair Maloney. Well when you put it all together, the employment situation looks rather grim in our country now, wouldn't you agree?

Commissioner Hall. This is not a strong employment report.

Vice Chair Maloney. The Chair recognizes Mr. Hinchey for 5 minutes.

Mr. Hinchey. Thank you.

As I understand it, there are nearly 5 million people who would like a job but who have dropped out of the labor force. What effect is that having on the circumstances that you are monitoring? And what effect do you think that is having on the general economic circumstances across the board?

Commissioner Hall. The increase is similar to the overall picture with the job market. You know, we are seeing job loss. We are seeing the unemployment rate go up. And so we are also seeing people who are leaving the labor force. That is all consistent with a generally weak labor market.

Mr. Hinchey. It is all consistent with the general decline in the labor market, and the general decline of the economic set of circumstances for working people?

Commissioner Hall. Yes.

Mr. Hinchey. So I think that that is the indicator of what we have to deal with. I think the focus of attention of this Congress has got to be on the economic circumstances of working Americans, and I do not think they are getting nearly enough attention.

Some of the things that we have tried to do is investment in the basic infrastructure, in education, things that are going to promote jobs and raise the income of working people. Do you think that something like that makes sense?

Commissioner Hall. Well I am going to try to steer clear of talking about policy issues——

Mr. Hinchey. OK.

Commissioner Hall [continuing]. Because we collect the data.

Mr. Hinchey. OK. I would like to hear a little bit more about unemployment, the effects on particular groups. Can you tell me, for example, what is the labor market looking like for people who have graduated from college?

Commissioner Hall. We have seen, the unemployment rate for folks with bachelor's degrees—now these are not necessarily people who are just out of college—has actually been fairly constant, somewhere around 2.5 percent unemployment rate the last few months, but it has ticked up over the past year. It is about a half a percentage point higher. It has gone from about 2 percent unemployment to about 2.5 percent unemployment for college graduates.

Mr. Hinchey. What is the situation with people with high school diplomas?

Commissioner Hall. With high school diplomas, their unemployment rate is above the national average, about 6.3 percent, and that has grown more significantly. That has grown from about 4.6 percent to 6.3 percent over the past 12 months. So they have had a much harder time.

Mr. Hinchey. So this is another indication that we should be providing more concentration on education, making education more available. And the reason for that being, obviously, that the better education you have, particularly if you have a graduate degree, you are going to more likely get a decent job. That appears to be the case in the statistics that you put together. Is that right?

Commissioner Hall. Absolutely. The unemployment rate is consistently lower the higher the education level in this country, shockingly lower, actually.

Mr. Hinchey. Yes. Just one more question about that. What about teens? What is the situation with teenagers? Do you have any information on that?

Commissioner Hall. Yes. With teens we have actually a rather high unemployment rate. We always do. The unemployment rate for individuals between 16 to 19 years old is 19.1 percent, and that is up from about 16 percent a year ago.

Mr. Hinchey. OK. Thanks. The productivity rate has gone up. I think it is something above 4 percent, 4.3 percent approximately. I am interested to know what you may have found out with regard to how wages are keeping pace with the productivity rates and the growth in productivity rates.

Commissioner Hall. Sure. Over the past year through the second quarter, we have only got productivity through the second quarter at the moment, nonfarm business productivity grew about 3.4 percent.

Over the same period, real labor compensation—which is not just wages but all nonwage compensation—actually declined by .2 percent over that time period.

So these two numbers are normally much closer. They do in the long run tend to follow much closer together. Over the past year they have not followed very well.

Mr. Hinchey. Last year with the change in the majority of the Congress we were able to increase the Minimum Wage. The Minimum Wage now has gone up recently to $6.55 an hour, and it will increase next year to $7.25 an hour.

But that still does not bring the Minimum Wage up to where it has been in recent history, and I think with regard to the situation with productivity, with regard to unemployment, do you have any view as to what the unemployment rate actually should be if we had been consistent with the economic needs that we are dealing with, and with the way in which Minimum Wage has been handled in the past? Does it make sense to have that Minimum Wage at $7.25? What would you think the best Minimum Wage ought to be?

Commissioner Hall. I think I want to avoid policy opinions like that because we produce the data.

Mr. Hinchey. It is not policy. It is just a number.

[Laughter.]

Commissioner Hall. Well, we have a reputation to uphold for providing objective, factual data and I don't want to speculate or offer an opinion that's mine.

Mr. Hinchey. My view is that it should be up close to $10 an hour. Does that make any sense?

Commissioner Hall. I don't——

Mr. Hinchey. It's still off the board, right?

Commissioner Hall. I don't have an opinion on that.

Mr. Hinchey. All right, well thank you very much.

Vice Chair Maloney. Thank you.

Commissioner Hall, you testified that teen unemployed workers were 19 percent. So that more or less says that the unemployment rolls last month were mainly adults, would you say?

Commissioner Hall. Yes.

Vice Chair Maloney. OK, could you say, you know, workers over the age of 45, how many workers over the age of 55? Where was the most unemployment, and in what age group? 35? 30? In 10-year separations?

Commissioner Hall. Yes, let's see, I don't have that number handy.

Vice Chair Maloney. You said teens were 19 percent.

Commissioner Hall. Right. In the monthly data we do not publish quite that much detail.

Vice Chair Maloney. But roughly, it was adults that lost the jobs. Do you have a general—how do you define an "adult"?

Commissioner Hall. Well we do have individuals age 20 and over.

Vice Chair Maloney. OK, 20 and over. What percentage of individuals of age 20 and over are unemployed now?

Commissioner Hall. Oh, I'm sorry. I do have some numbers. Twenty years and over the unemployment rate is around 5.5 percent. And in terms of numbers, it is about 8.1 million people out of a total of 9.4 million, 9.5 million.

Vice Chair Maloney. I want to understand how unemployment for particular demographics compares to the unemployment peaks during the last recession in 2001, and extended period of high job losses that followed it.

For men, what is unemployment now and how does it compare to the highest unemployment rate reached in the early 2000s?

I would like the number also for women, for white workers, black workers, Hispanic workers. You gave the number for teen workers. Workers over age 55. For less-educated workers. And for higher-educated workers.

I have been called for a vote, so I am going to have to leave, but I do want, if you could get me that, either testify it here or get it to me in writing.

But I am also very interested in how this recession is impacting women in the employment situation. Earlier we did a study that showed that in this economic downturn, unlike other recessions where women held onto their jobs and were a buffer to the family, that women are losing their jobs at an even higher pace than men are.

Are you still seeing that trend in your numbers?

Commissioner Hall. I am not sure that we are. A lot of that is a matter of what industries men and women are concentrated in. I can follow up with more specific details if you like.

Vice Chair Maloney. Well you did mention a series of industries that were losing jobs, and are women in those industries losing jobs at the same rate as men, or higher? That is one question.

And I am interested in how women are faring in the job market, and have they been losing jobs in these industries at the same rate that men have, or higher?

In any event, I have to run and vote. We have a very important economic vote before our Congress today to respond to a request from Secretary Paulson and Chairman Bernanke to put a backstop out to help our financial markets and restore access to credit for men and women working in America and their access to credit for their cars, their loans, their homes, their credit cards, their student loans. It is a very important vote. So I have to adjourn the meeting and go to that vote.

I would like these questions, if you could answer in writing or to the Joint Economic staff on both the Republican and Democratic side. This of course is a bipartisan committee and we are working hard to get these numbers accurate.

I want to thank you for all your hard work and dedication. Thank you for being here today, and let us hope the numbers improve next month. Thank you.

[A letter to Vice Chair Maloney from Commissioner Hall (together with the information referenced above) appears in the Submissions for the Record on page 52.]

Commissioner Hall. Thank you.

Vice Chair Maloney. Adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:10 a.m., Friday, October 3, 2008, the meeting was adjourned.]

Submissions for the Record

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
SENATOR CHARLES E. SCHUMER, CHAIRMAN
REPRESENTATIVE CAROLYN B. MALONEY, VICE CHAIR

PREPARED STATEMENT OF CAROLYN MALONEY, JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE HEARING, OCTOBER 3, 2008

I want to thank Commissioner Hall and his staff for appearing before us today. This is an important time for Congress to be examining the employment situation of U.S. workers, as we assess the broader impact of the financial crisis on the economy.

Today, the House will vote on the financial rescue plan that passed the Senate on Wednesday. If we don't pass the financial rescue plan today, credit markets will freeze and American families and businesses will suffer greatly. The risk of not acting is simply too great for Americans to bear.

The troubles at our major financial institutions are already working their way down to Main Street. Today's grim unemployment data show that the problems facing working families are mounting as jobs prospects dim. The economy has shed nearly a million private sector jobs over the past nine months and 9.5 million workers are unemployed, 2.2 million more than a year ago.

Indeed, the labor market has been deteriorating for nearly a year. Job growth began to slow in 2005 and job losses appeared at the beginning of 2008. The last time the economy lost jobs for nine months in a row, it was in the midst of a recession. As of this month, the labor market is at recessionary levels of job losses.

Wages have not been keeping pace with the rising prices for basic necessities, like fuel and food As a result, U.S. workers have lost all the ground that they gained over the 2000s recovery. The Census Bureau recently reported that by the end of last year, inflation-adjusted household income had still not recovered from the last recession and all indications are that household finances have only deteriorated since then.

The credit crisis will likely make the employment situation even worse. The lack of access to credit, combined with the sharp drop in home prices and the lack of growth in real incomes are putting unbearable financial pressure on families.

Families have already begun curtailing their spending, so much so that for the first time since 1991, real personal consumption expenditures fell for three months in a row.

Consumer spending makes up nearly three-quarters of our gross domestic product. As consumers cut back on their spending, this will drag down economic growth, jobs and wages.

Congress has already taken numerous steps to help buffer families from the effects of the downturn. More than 130 million American households received Recovery Rebates by July,extended Unemployment Benefits for 3.5 million Americans looking for work were enacted, and a housing package aimed at stemming the tide of foreclosures was also enacted into law.

In the wake of the financial crisis, clearly, we must do even more.

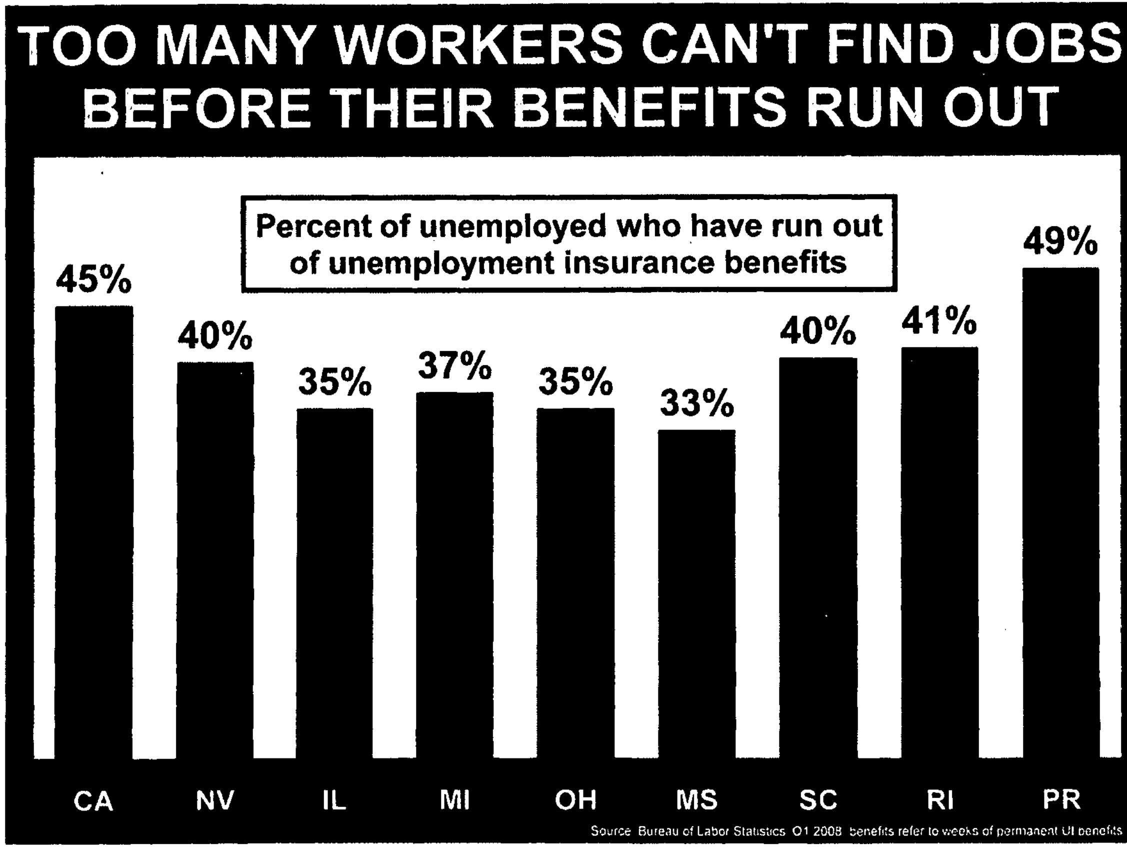
Last week, the House approved a $60 billion economic stimulus package that would have provided an extension of unemployment benefits, an increase in food stamps, and aid to states to preserve health insurance for families and create jobs through investment in our nation's infrastructure. But efforts to provide this relief to families and boost our sagging economy stalled in the Senate and received a veto threat from the White House.

As the chart behind me shows, unemployment is particularly high in nearly half of all states. In high-unemployment states, over a third of workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own are exhausting even their extended UI benefits. Starting next week, nearly 800,000 workers will be left without additional federal jobless benefits when their extension is set to run out. Over half of these workers live in high unemployment states. Congress has extended benefits to the states hardest hit by unemployment in every other recession in the past 25 years. In light of today's jobless numbers, I hope that the House will pass an extension of unemployment benefits.

Congress and the President need to work together as never before to get Americans back to work as quickly as possible.

I look forward to the continued focus on labor market conditions by this committee.


STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES SOAR
MT
ND
ID
WY
SD
NE
IA
UT
KS
NM
OK
AR
AL
LA
HI
ME
NH
VT
MA
RI
CT
NJ
DE
WV
VA
MD
DC
6% and over
5.0% to 5.9%
4.0% to 4.9%
3.0% to 3.9%
Rates are seasonally adjusted
Source. Department of Labor, August 2008


TOO MANY WORKERS CAN'T FIND JOBS BEFORE THEIR BENEFITS RUN OUT
Percent of unemployed who have run out of unemployment insurance benefits
45%
40%
35%
37%
35%
33%
40%
41%
49%
CA
NV
IL
MI
OH
MS
SC
RI
PR
Source Bureau of Labor Statistics Q1 2008 benefits refer to weeks of permanent UI benefits

CONGRESS HAS EXTENDED BENEFITS FOR HARD-HIT STATES IN EVERY OTHER RECESSION OF THE LAST 25 YEARS

Date	Temporary Unemployment Benefits Granted to All States	Additional Benefits Granted to High Unemployment States
1982	8 weeks	Up to 14 weeks
1991	26 weeks	7 weeks
2002	13 weeks	13 weeks
2008	13 weeks	

Source: Congressional Research Service.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF KEITH HALL, COMMISSIONER, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS BEFORE THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, UNITED STATES CONGRESS, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2008

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the employment and unemployment data we released this morning.

Nonfarm payroll employment declined by 159,000 in September. By comparison, from January through August, payroll employment decreased by 75,000 a month on average. In September, job losses continued in manufacturing, construction, and retail trade. Mining and health care employment continued to trend up. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.1 percent, following an increase of 0.4 percentage point in August.

Manufacturing job losses continued in September (-51,000), with employment declines occurring throughout much of the sector. In particular, motor vehicle and parts manufacturers shed 18,000 jobs; over the past 12 months, employment in this industry has fallen by 140,000. In September, manufacturing hours and overtime declined by 0.2 hour and 0.1 hour, respectively.

Construction employment was down by 35,000 over the month. Since its peak in September 2006, employment in this industry has fallen by 607,000. Eighty-five percent of the job losses over this 2-year period have occurred in residential building and residential specialty trades.Mining employment continued to expand, with an increase of 8,000 in September. Mining has added 241,000 jobs since April 2003, with most of the growth in oil and gas extraction and support activities.

In the service-providing sector, retail employment fell by 40,000 over the month, with the largest job losses occurring among department stores and motor vehicle and parts dealers. Over the past 4 months, auto and parts dealerships have shed an average of 12,000 jobs per month, four times the average decline in the first 5 months of the year (-3,000).

Elsewhere in the service-providing sector, employment in financial activities declined by 17,000 in September; securities and investment firms accounted for 8,000 of the loss. The employment services industry, which includes temporary help agencies, continued to contract in September and has lost 303,000 jobs thus far this year.

Health care employment continued to trend up over the month. However, the September increase of 17,000 was only about half the average monthly gain for the prior 12 months (30,000).

Average hourly earnings for production and nonsupervisory workers in the private sector edged up by 3 cents, or 0.2 percent, in September. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased by 3.4 percent. From August 2007 to August 2008, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) rose by 5.9 percent.

Although Hurricane Ike struck the east coast of Texas and portions of coastal Louisiana during the September reference period for the establishment survey, we believe the storm did not substantially impact the payroll employment estimates that we released today. For weather conditions to have affected payroll employment, people would have had to be off work for the entire pay period and not paid for the time missed.

Turning to labor market measures from the survey of households, the unemployment rate held at 6.1 percent in September; it is 1.4 percentage points higher than a year earlier. Among the major worker groups, the jobless rate for adult men rose by 0.5 percentage point over the month to 6.1 percent, and the rate for blacks increased to 11.4 percent. The unemployment rate for adult women declined to 4.9 percent in September, partially offsetting a sharp increase in August.

Approximately 9.5 million persons were unemployed in September, little changed from August. Two million of these individuals had been unemployed for 27 weeks or more, an increase of 167,000 over the month and 728,000 over the past 12 months.

Both the labor force participation rate, at 66.0 percent, and the employment-population ratio, at 62.0 percent, were little changed over the month. Labor force participation has shown virtually no movement over the past 12 months, while the employment-population ratio has declined by 0.9 percentage point.

The number of persons working part time who would have preferred full-time employment increased by 337,000 in September to nearly 6.1 million. Over the last 12 months, the number of such workers has grown by 1.6 million.

In keeping with standard practice, this month we are providing a preliminary estimate of the next benchmark revision to nonfarm payroll employment. Each year the Bureau revises, or benchmarks, the payroll survey's sample-based employment estimates to reflect comprehensive employment counts derived primarily from state unemployment insurance tax reports.

Preliminary tabulations of employment from the state tax reports indicate the March 2008 payroll employment will require a small downward revision of 21,000. The final benchmark will be incorporated into the establishment survey data released on February 6, 2009.In summary, nonfarm payroll employment declined by 159,000 in September, and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.1 percent.

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/cps/

Establishment data: (202) 691-6555
http://www.bls.gov/ces/

Media contact: (202) 691-5902

USDL 08-1367

Transmission of material in this release is embargoed until 8:30 A.M. (EDT), Friday, October 3, 2008.

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: SEPTEMBER 2008

Nonfarm payroll employment declined by 159,000 in September, and the unemployment rate held at 6.1 percent, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Employment continued to fall in construction, manufacturing, and retail trade, while mining and health care continued to add jobs.

Chart 1. Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, October 2005 - September 2008

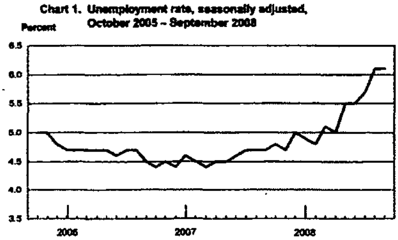
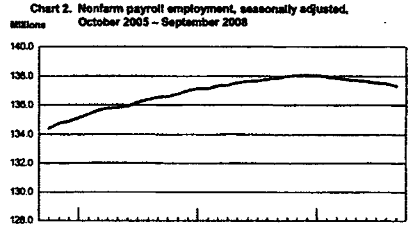


Chart 2. Nonfarm payroll employment, seasonally adjusted, October 2005 - September 2008



Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The unemployment rate (6.1 percent) was unchanged in September, following a 0.4 percentage point rise in August. The number of unemployed persons was little changed at 9.5 million. Over the past 12 months, the number of unemployed persons has increased by 2.2 million and the unemployment rate has risen by 1.4 percentage points. (See table A-1.)

The unemployment rates for adult men (6.1 percent) and blacks (11.4 percent) rose in September. The jobless rates for teenagers (19.1 percent), whites (5.4 percent), and Hispanics (7.8 percent) were essentially unchanged. The unemployment rate for adult women declined to 4.9 percent, partly offsetting an increase in August. The unemployment rate for Asians in September was 3.8 percent, not seasonally adjusted. (See tables A-1, A-2, and A-3.)

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Aug.-Sept. change
	II 2008	III 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Labor force status					
Civilian labor force	154,294	154,730	154,603	154,853	154,732	-121
Employment	146,089	145,517	145,819	145,477	145,255	-222
Unemployment	8,204	9,213	8,784	9,376	9,477	101
Not in labor force	79,117	79,381	79,261	79,253	79,628	375
	Unemployment rates					
All workers	5.3	6.0	5.7	6.1	6.1	0.0
Adult men	4.9	5.7	5.3	5.6	6.1	.5
Adult women	4.6	4.9	4.6	5.3	4.9	-.4
Teenagers	17.4	19.5	20.3	18.9	19.1	.2
White	4.7	5.3	5.1	5.4	5.4	.0
Black or African American	9.1	10.6	9.7	10.6	11.4	.8
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	7.2	7.7	7.4	8.0	7.8	-.2
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Employment					
Nonfarm employment	137,699	p 137,448	137,550	p 137,477	p 137,318	p -159
Goods-producing [1]	21,565	p 21,373	21,437	p 21,380	p 21,303	p -77
Construction	7,242	p 7,153	7,173	p 7,160	p 7,125	p -35
Manufacturing	13,563	p 13,433	13,487	p 13,431	p 13,380	p -51
Service-providing [1]	116,134	p 116,075	116,113	p 116,097	p 116,015	p -82
Retail trade [2]	15,337	p 15,272	15,302	p 15,277	p 15,237	p -40
Professional and business service	17,980	p 17,866	17,904	p 17,861	p 17,834	p -27
Education and health services	18,823	p 18,983	18,935	p 18,994	p 19,019	p 25
Leisure and hospitality	13,683	p 13,643	13,655	p 13,645	p 13,628	p -17
Government	22,439	p 22,526	22,502	p 22,533	p 22,542	p 9
	Hours of work [3]					
Total private	33.7	p 33.7	33.7	p 33.7	p 33.6	p -0.1
Manufacturing	41.0	p 40.9	41.0	p 40.9	p 40.7	p -.2
Overtime	3.9	p 3.7	3.8	p 3.7	p 3.6	p -.1
	Indexes of aggregate weekly hours (2002=100) [3]					
Total private	107.2	p 106.7	106.9	p 106.8	p 106.3	p -0.5
	Earnings [3]					
Average hourly earnings, total private	$17.95	p $18.12	$18.06	p $18.14	p $18.17	p $0.03
Average weekly earnings, total private	605.40	p 610.15	608.62	p 611.32	p 610.51	p -.81

[1] Includes other industries, not shown separately.
[2] Quarterly averages and the over-the-month change are calculated using unrounded data.
[3] Data relate to private production and nonsupervisory workers.
p = preliminary.

Among the unemployed, the number of persons who lost a job rose by 347,000 to 5.2 million in September, with increases occurring both for those on temporary layoff and for those who do not expect to be recalled to work. (See table A-8.)

In September, the number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) rose by 167,000 to 2.0 million, an increase of 728,000 over the past 12 months. The long-term unemployed accounted for 21.1 percent of total unemployment in September. (See table A-9.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

The civilian labor force (154.7 million) and the labor force participation rate (66.0 percent) were essentially unchanged over the month. Total employment (145.3 million) and the employment-population ratio (62.0 percent) were little changed. Since a recent high in December 2006, the employment-population ratio has declined by 1.4 percentage points. (See table A-1.)

The number of persons who worked part time for economic reasons rose by 337,000 to 6.1 million in September, an increase of 1.6 million over the past 12 months. This category includes persons who would like to work full time but were working part time because their hours had been cut back or because they were unable to find full-time jobs. (See table A-5.)

The number of multiple jobholders fell by 398,000 in September to 7.7 million; multiple jobholders made up 5.3 percent of all employed persons. (See table A-6.)

Persons Not in the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

About 1.6 million persons (not seasonally adjusted) were marginally attached to the labor force in September, 336,000 more than 12 months earlier. These individuals wanted and were available for work and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months. They are not counted as unemployed because they had not searched for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey. Among the marginally attached, there were 467,000 discouraged workers in September; the number of discouraged workers has increased by 191,000 from a year earlier. Discouraged workers are persons not currently looking for work specifically because they believe no jobs are available for them. The other 1.1 million persons marginally attached to the labor force in September had not searched for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey for reasons such as school attendance or family responsibilities. (See table A-13.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 159,000 in September. Thus far in 2008, payroll employment has fallen by 760,000. Over the month, employment continued to decline in manufacturing, construction, and retail trade. Health care and mining continued to add jobs in September. (See table B-1.)

Manufacturing employment fell by 51,000 over the month, bringing the decline in factory jobs to 442,000 over the past 12 months. In September, job losses continued in motor vehicles and parts (-18,000); this industry has shed 140,000 jobs over the past 12 months. Elsewhere among durable goods manufacturers, employment decreased in fabricated metals (-7,000), wood products (-5,000), and furniture and related products (-5,000). In nondurable goods manufacturing, paper products (-3,000) and plastics and rubber products (-4,000) lost jobs over the month.

Construction lost 35,000 jobs over the month. Thus far this year, all of the components of construction have experienced employment declines; the majority of the losses have been in the residential components.

Employment in retail trade dropped by 40,000 in September and by 250,000 over the last 12 months. Department stores lost 11,000 jobs in September and 70,000 over the last 12 months. Employment also continued to decline in motor vehicle and parts dealers (-10,000); this industry has lost 48,000 jobs in the past 4 months. Gasoline stations also lost jobs in September (-6,000).

Employment in transportation and warehousing declined by 16,000 in September and by 57,000 since its peak 12 months earlier. Over the month, job losses occurred in trucking (-12,000) and air transportation (-5,000).

In September, employment in financial activities fell by 17,000, with nearly half of the decline occurring in securities and investment firms. The financial activities industry has lost 172,000 jobs since its employment peak in December 2006.

Employment in professional and business services continued to trend down over the month (-27,000), largely reflecting further job cuts in employment services. Computer systems design services and management and technical consulting services each added 9,000 jobs in September.

Health care employment continued to increase in September with a gain of 17,000. Job growth in the industry averaged 30,000 a month over the prior 12 months. In September, employment also continued to grow in mining (8,000). Mining employment has expanded by 241,000 since reaching a low in April 2003.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

In September, the average workweek for production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls fell by 0.1 hour to 33.6 hours, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing workweek decreased by 0.2 hour, and factory overtime decreased by 0.1 hour. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production and nonsupervisory workers on nonfarm payrolls fell by 0.5 percent in September to 106.3 (2002=100). The manufacturing index decreased by 1.0 percent to 89.6. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

In September, average hourly earnings of production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 3 cents, or 0.2 percent, to $18.17, seasonally adjusted. This followed gains of 6 cents in July and 8 cents in August. Average weekly earnings were $610.51 in September. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings increased by 3.4 percent and average weekly earnings rose by 2.8 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

The Employment Situation for October 2008 is scheduled to be released on Friday, November 7, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

Hurricane Ike

Hurricane Ike struck the east coast of Texas and portions of coastal Louisiana on September 13th in the midst of the establishment survey reference period. For the weather conditions to have affected payroll employment, people would have had to be off work for the entire pay period and not paid for the time missed. Therefore, it is unlikely the storm had substantial effects on the national employment estimates.

In the household survey, people who miss work for weather-related events are counted as employed whether or not they are paid for the time off.

Preliminary Estimates of Benchmark Revisions to the Establishment Survey

In accordance with usual practice, the Bureau of Labor Statistics is announcing its preliminary estimates of the upcoming annual benchmark revision to the establishment survey employment series. The final benchmark revision will be issued on February 6, 2009, with the publication of the January 2009 Employment Situation news release.

Each year, the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey employment estimates are benchmarked to comprehensive counts of employment for the month of March derived from state unemployment insurance tax records that nearly all employers are required to file. For national CES employment series, the annual benchmark revisions over the last 10 years have averaged plus or minus two-tenths of one percent at the total nonfarm level. The preliminary estimate of the benchmark revision shows that there was an accumulated overstatement of CES employment between March 2007 and March 2008 of 21,000 (0.02 percent of total nonfarm employment in March 2008).

Table B shows the March 2008 preliminary benchmark revisions by major industry sector. As is typically the case, many of the individual industry series show larger percentage revisions than the total nonfarm series, primarily because statistical sampling error is greater at more detailed levels than at a total level.

Table B. National Current Employment Statistics March 2008 preliminary benchmark revisions by major industry sector

Industry	Benchmark revision (in thousands)	Percent benchmark revision
Total nonfarm	-21,000	(1)
Total private	-81,000	-0.1
Natural resources and mining	0	.0
Construction	56,000	.8
Manufacturing	-7,000	-.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	85,000	.3
Information	16,000	.5
Financial activities	-20,000	-.2
Professional and business services	-46,000	-.3
Education and health services	-17,000	-.1
Leisure and hospitality	-154,000	-1.2
Other services	6,000	.1
Government	60,000	.3

[1] Less than 0.05 percent.

Frequently Asked Questions about Employment and Unemployment Estimates

Why are there two monthly measures of employment?

The household survey and establishment survey both produce sample-based estimates of employment and both have strengths and limitations. The establishment survey employment series has a smaller margin of error on the measurement of month-to-month change than the household survey because of its much larger sample size. An over-the-month employment change of 104,000 is statistically significant in the establishment survey, while the threshold for a statistically significant change in the household survey is about 400,000. However, the household survey has a more expansive scope than the establishment survey because it includes the self-employed, unpaid family workers, agricultural workers, and private household workers, who are excluded by the establishment survey. The household survey also provides estimates of employment for demographic groups.

Are undocumented immigrants counted in the surveys?

Neither the establishment nor household survey is designed to identify the legal status of workers. Thus, while it is likely that both surveys include at least some undocumented immigrants, it is not possible to determine how many are counted in either survey. The household survey does include questions about whether respondents were born outside the United States. Data from these questions show that foreign-born workers accounted for 15.7 percent of the labor force in 2007 and 47.7 percent of the net increase in the labor force from 2000 to 2007.

Why does the establishment survey have revisions?

The establishment survey revises published estimates to improve its data series by incorporating additional information that was not available at the time of the initial publication of the estimates. The establishment survey revises its initial monthly estimates twice, in the immediately succeeding 2 months, to incorporate additional sample receipts from respondents in the survey. For more information on the monthly revisions, please visit http://www.bls.gov/ces/cesrevinfo.htm.

On an annual basis, the establishment survey incorporates a benchmark revision that re-anchors estimates to nearly complete employment counts available from unemployment insurance tax records. The benchmark helps to control for sampling and modeling errors in the estimates. For more information on the annual benchmark revision, please visit http://www.bls.gov/web/cesbmart.htm.

Has the establishment survey understated employment growth because it excludes the self-employed?

While the establishment survey excludes the self-employed, the household survey provides monthly estimates of unincorporated self-employment. These estimates have shown no substantial growth in recent years.

Does the establishment survey sample include small firms?

Yes; about 40 percent of the establishment survey sample is comprised of business establishments with fewer than 20 employees. The establishment survey sample is designed to maximize the reliability of the total nonfarm employment estimate; firms from all size classes and industries are appropriately sampled to achieve that goal.

Does the establishment survey account for employment from new businesses?

Yes; monthly establishment survey estimates include an adjustment to account for the net employment change generated by business births and deaths. The adjustment comes from an econometric model that forecasts the monthly net jobs impact of business births and deaths based on the actual past values of the net impact that can be observed with a lag from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. The establishment survey uses modeling rather than sampling for this purpose because the survey is not immediately able to bring new businesses into the sample. There is an unavoidable lag between the birth of a new firm and its appearance on the sampling frame and availability for selection. BLS adds new businesses to the survey twice a year.

Is the count of unemployed persons limited to just those people receiving unemployment insurance benefits?

No; the estimate of unemployment is based on a monthly sample survey of households. All persons who are without jobs and are actively seeking and available to work are included among the unemployed. (People on temporary layoff are included even if they do not actively seek work.) There is no requirement or question relating to unemployment insurance benefits in the monthly survey.

Does the official unemployment rate exclude people who have stopped looking for work?

Yes; however, there are separate estimates of persons outside the labor force who want a job, including those who have stopped looking because they believe no jobs are available (discouraged workers). In addition, alternative measures of labor underutilization (discouraged workers and other groups not officially counted as unemployed) are published each month in the Employment Situation news release.

Technical 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. The sample includes about 160,000 businesses and government agencies covering approximately 400,000 individual worksites. The active sample includes about one-third of all nonfarm payroll workers. The sample is drawn from a sampling frame of unemployment insurance tax accounts.

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-providing sector. Industries are classified on the basis of their principal activity in accordance with the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System.

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.

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.

Most seasonally adjusted series are independently adjusted in both the household and establishment surveys. However, the adjusted series for many major estimates, such as total payroll employment, employment in most supersectors, 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.

For both the household and establishment surveys, a concurrent seasonal adjustment methodology is used in which new seasonal factors are calculated each month, using all relevant data, up to and including the data for the current month. In the household survey, new seasonal factors are used to adjust only the current month's data. In the establishment survey, however, new seasonal factors are used each month to adjust the three most recent monthly estimates. 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 430,000. 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 -330,000 to 530,000 (100,000 +/- 430,000). 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. At an unemployment rate of around 5.5 percent, the 90-percent confidence interval for the monthly change in unemployment is about +/- 280,000, and for the monthly change in the unemployment rate it is about +/- .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 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, an estimation procedure with two components is used to account for business births. The first component uses business deaths to impute employment for business births. This is incorporated into the sample-based link relative estimate procedure by simply not reflecting sample units going out of business, but imputing to them the same trend as the other firms in the sample. The second component is an ARIMA time series model designed to estimate the residual net birth/death employment not accounted for by the imputation. The historical time series used to create and test the ARIMA model was derived from the unemployment insurance universe micro-level database, and reflects the actual residual net of births and deaths over the past five years.

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 0.2 percent, ranging from less than 0.1 percent to 0.6 percent.

Other Information

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.

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]					
	Sept. 2007	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008	Sept. 2007	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008
TOTAL									
Civilian noninstitutional population	232,461	234,107	234,360	232,461	233,405	233,627	233,864	234,107	234,360
Civilian labor force	153,400	155,387	154,509	153,506	154,534	154,390	154,603	154,853	154,732
Participation rate	66.0	66.4	65.9	66.0	66.2	66.1	66.1	66.1	66.0
Employed	146,448	145,909	145,310	146,260	146,046	145,891	145,819	145,477	145,255
Employment-population ratio	63.0	62.3	62.0	62.9	62.6	62.4	62.4	62.1	62.0
Unemployed	6,952	9,479	9,199	7,246	8,487	8,499	8,784	9,376	9,477
Unemployment rate	4.5	6.1	6.0	4.7	5.5	5.5	5.7	6.1	6.1
Not in labor force	79,061	78,719	79,851	78,955	78,871	79,237	79,261	79,253	79,628
Persons who currently want a job	4,503	5,024	4,895	4,728	4,766	4,888	4,997	4,796	5,067
Men, 16 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	112,486	113,281	113,414	112,486	112,912	113,029	113,154	113,281	113,414
Civilian labor force	82,047	83,296	82,654	82,237	82,602	82,528	82,889	82,807	82,945
Participation rate	72.9	73.5	72.9	73.1	73.2	73.0	73.3	73.1	73.1
Employed	78,407	78,423	77,501	78,229	77,954	77,794	77,823	77,632	77,396
Employment-population ratio	69.7	69.2	68.3	69.5	69.0	68.8	68.8	68.5	68.2
Unemployed	3,640	4,872	5,153	4,008	4,648	4,734	5,066	5,176	5,549
Unemployment rate	4.4	5.8	6.2	4.9	5.6	5.7	6.1	6.3	6.7
Not in labor force	30,439	29,986	30,760	30,249	30,310	30,502	30,264	30,474	30,469
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	103,847	104,613	104,741	103,847	104,258	104,371	104,490	104,613	104,741
Civilian labor force	78,667	79,476	79,307	78,689	78,878	79,037	79,327	79,318	79,444
Participation rate	75.8	76.0	75.7	75.8	75.7	75.7	75.9	75.8	75.8
Employed	75,628	75,305	74,844	75,332	75,001	74,998	75,094	74,866	74,631
Employment-population ratio	72.8	72.0	71.5	72.5	71.9	71.9	71.9	71.6	71.3
Unemployed	3,039	4,171	4,463	3,357	3,877	4,038	4,234	4,452	4,813
Unemployment rate	3.9	5.2	5.6	4.3	4.9	5.1	5.3	5.6	6.1
Not in labor force	25,180	25,137	25,434	25,158	25,380	25,334	25,163	25,295	25,296
Women, 16 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	119,975	120,825	120,946	119,975	120,493	120,598	120,710	120,825	120,946
Civilian labor force	71,353	72,092	71,855	71,269	71,931	71,862	71,714	72,046	71,787
Participation rate	59.5	59.7	59.4	59.4	59.7	59.6	59.4	59.6	59.4
Employed	68,041	67,485	67,809	68,030	68,092	68,097	67,996	67,845	67,860
Employment-population ratio	56.7	55.9	56.1	56.7	56.5	56.5	56.3	56.2	56.1
Unemployed	3,312	4,606	4,046	3,238	3,839	3,765	3,718	4,201	3,928
Unemployment rate	4.6	6.4	5.6	4.5	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.8	5.5
Not in labor force	48,622	48,734	49,091	48,706	48,562	48,735	48,996	48,779	49,159
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	111,590	112,401	112,518	111,590	112,083	112,183	112,290	112,401	112,518
Civilian labor force	68,026	68,440	68,635	67,795	68,390	68,446	68,303	68,672	68,423
Participation rate	61.0	60.9	61.0	60.8	61.0	61.0	60.8	61.1	60.8
Employed	65,170	64,462	65,149	65,033	65,138	65,238	65,167	65,047	65,072
Employment-population ratio	58.4	57.3	57.9	58.3	58.1	58.2	58.0	57.9	57.8
Unemployed	2,855	3,979	3,486	2,762	3,252	3,208	3,135	3,625	3,351
Unemployment rate	4.2	5.8	5.1	4.1	4.8	4.7	4.6	5.3	4.9
Not in labor force	43,564	43,961	43,883	43,795	43,693	43,737	43,988	43,729	44,094
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian noninstitutional population	17,024	17,092	17,101	17,024	17,064	17,073	17,084	17,092	17,101
Civilian labor force	6,707	7,471	6,567	7,021	7,266	6,907	6,973	6,863	6,865
Participation rate	39.4	43.7	38.4	41.2	42.6	40.5	40.8	40.2	40.1
Employed	5,649	6,142	5,317	5,895	5,907	5,655	5,558	5,563	5,552
Employment-population ratio	33.2	35.9	31.1	34.6	34.6	33.1	32.5	32.6	32.5
Unemployed	1,058	1,329	1,250	1,126	1,358	1,253	1,415	1,299	1,313
Unemployment rate	15.8	17.8	19.0	16.0	18.7	18.1	20.3	18.9	19.1
Not in labor force	10,317	9,621	10,534	10,003	9,798	10,166	10,110	10,229	10,236

[1] The population figures are not adjusted for seasonal variation; therefore, identical numbers appear in the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted columns.
NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

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

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, race, sex, and age	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted [1]					
	Sept. 2007	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008	Sept. 2007	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008
WHITE									
Civilian noninstitutional population	188,644	189,747	189,916	188,644	189,281	189,428	189,587	189,747	189,916
Civilian labor force	125,191	126,337	125,853	125,316	125,762	125,704	125,971	125,981	125,955
Participation rate	66.4	66.6	66.3	66.4	66.4	66.4	66.4	66.4	66.3
Employed	120,103	119,475	119,294	119,992	119,661	119,518	119,542	119,222	119,180
Employment-population ratio	63.7	63.0	62.8	63.6	63.2	63.1	63.1	62.8	62.8
Unemployed	5,089	6,862	6,559	5,324	6,101	6,186	6,428	6,760	6,775
Unemployment rate	4.1	5.4	5.2	4.2	4.9	4.9	5.1	5.4	5.4
Not in labor force	63,453	63,410	64,063	63,329	63,519	63,724	63,616	63,766	63,961
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	65,220	65,729	65,645	65,257	65,392	65,402	65,789	65,690	65,747
Participation rate	76.2	76.3	76.1	76.2	76.1	76.1	76.4	76.2	76.2
Employed	62,928	62,683	62,400	62,690	62,491	62,447	62,695	62,446	62,239
Employment-population ratio	73.5	72.7	72.3	73.2	72.7	72.6	72.8	72.5	72.2
Unemployed	2,292	3,046	3,245	2,567	2,901	2,955	3,094	3,244	3,508
Unemployment rate	3.5	4.6	4.9	3.9	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.9	5.3
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	54,350	54,491	54,809	54,229	54,400	54,582	54,424	54,668	54,603
Participation rate	60.4	60.2	60.5	60.3	60.3	60.4	60.2	60.4	60.3
Employed	52,342	51,630	52,421	52,306	52,177	52,282	52,184	52,118	52,309
Employment-population ratio	58.2	57.1	57.9	58.1	57.8	57.9	57.7	57.6	57.8
Unemployed	2,008	2,861	2,388	1,924	2,223	2,280	2,240	2,551	2,294
Unemployment rate	3.7	5.3	4.4	3.5	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.7	4.2
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian labor force	5,621	6,117	5,399	5,830	5,971	5,740	5,758	5,623	5,606
Participation rate	43.0	46.7	41.2	44.6	45.7	43.9	44.0	43.0	42.8
Employed	4,833	5,162	4,473	4,996	4,993	4,789	4,664	4,658	4,632
Employment-population ratio	37.0	39.4	34.2	38.2	38.2	36.6	35.6	35.6	35.4
Unemployed	788	954	926	834	978	951	1,094	965	974
Unemployment rate	14.0	15.6	17.2	14.3	16.4	16.6	19.0	17.2	17.4
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN									
Civilian noninstitutional population	27,584	27,896	27,939	27,584	27,780	27,816	27,854	27,896	27,939
Civilian labor force	17,527	18,057	17,756	17,483	17,742	17,716	17,767	17,973	17,737
Participation rate	63.5	64.7	63.6	63.4	63.9	63.7	63.8	64.4	63.5
Employed	16,142	16,132	15,767	16,046	16,029	16,085	16,040	16,074	15,714
Employment-population ratio	58.5	57.8	56.4	58.2	57.7	57.8	57.6	57.6	56.2
Unemployed	1,384	1,925	1,989	1,437	1,713	1,632	1,726	1,899	2,023
Unemployment rate	7.9	10.7	11.2	8.2	9.7	9.2	9.7	10.6	11.4
Not in labor force	10,057	9,839	10,183	10,101	10,038	10,100	10,088	9,923	10,202
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	7,932	8,133	8,021	7,882	7,909	7,997	7,979	8,066	8,004
Participation rate	71.5	72.5	71.4	71.0	70.8	71.5	71.3	71.9	71.2
Employed	7,384	7,329	7,126	7,290	7,202	7,254	7,184	7,239	7,052
Employment-population ratio	66.5	65.3	63.4	65.7	64.5	64.9	64.2	64.5	62.8
Unemployed	549	804	895	592	707	742	795	827	951
Unemployment rate	6.9	9.9	11.2	7.5	8.9	9.3	10.0	10.3	11.9
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	8,905	9,022	9,003	8,839	9,008	8,973	8,985	9,052	8,921
Participation rate	64.4	64.5	64.2	63.9	64.6	64.3	64.3	64.7	63.6
Employed	8,268	8,173	8,122	8,215	8,268	8,305	8,311	8,225	8,089
Employment-population ratio	59.8	58.4	57.9	59.4	59.3	59.5	59.5	58.8	57.7
Unemployed	637	849	881	625	740	668	674	826	833
Unemployment rate	7.2	9.4	9.8	7.1	8.2	7.4	7.5	9.1	9.3
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian labor force	689	903	732	762	825	747	802	856	812
Participation rate	26.0	33.7	27.3	28.7	30.9	27.9	30.0	31.9	30.3
Employed	491	631	519	541	558	525	545	609	573
Employment-population ratio	18.5	23.5	19.3	20.4	20.9	19.6	20.4	22.7	21.4
Unemployed	198	272	213	220	266	221	257	246	239
Unemployment rate	28.8	30.1	29.1	28.9	32.3	29.6	32.0	28.8	29.4

See footnotes at end of table.

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

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, race, sex, and age	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted [1]					
	Sept. 2007	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008	Sept. 2007	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008
ASIAN									
Civilian noninstitutional population	10,698	10,840	10,820	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Civilian labor force	6,997	7,301	7,179	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Participation rate	65.4	67.4	66.4	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Employed	6,776	6,978	6,904	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Employment-population ratio	63.3	64.4	63.8	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Unemployed	222	323	276	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Unemployment rate	3.2	4.4	3.8	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Not in labor force	3,700	3,539	3,640	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)

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

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups will not sum to totals shown in table A-1 because data are not presented for all races. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table A-3. Employment status of the Hispanic or Latino population by sex and age

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, sex, and age	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted [1]					
	Sept. 2007	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008	Sept. 2007	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008
HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY									
Civilian noninstitutional population	31,617	32,273	32,369	31,617	31,998	32,087	32,179	32,273	32,369
Civilian labor force	21,759	22,262	22,160	21,872	22,102	22,131	22,071	22,226	22,258
Participation rate	68.8	69.0	68.5	69.2	69.1	69.0	68.6	68.9	68.8
Employed	20,546	20,485	20,470	20,619	20,573	20,420	20,435	20,452	20,531
Employment-population ratio	65.0	63.5	63.2	65.2	64.3	63.6	63.5	63.4	63.4
Unemployed	1,213	1,777	1,691	1,253	1,529	1,711	1,636	1,774	1,727
Unemployment rate	5.6	8.0	7.6	5.7	6.9	7.7	7.4	8.0	7.8
Not in labor force	9,857	10,011	10,209	9,745	9,896	9,956	10,108	10,048	10,111
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	12,424	12,697	12,773	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Participation rate	84.2	84.5	84.7	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Employed	11,850	11,824	11,892	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Employment-population ratio	80.3	78.7	78.9	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Unemployed	574	873	881	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Unemployment rate	4.6	6.9	6.9	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	8,242	8,399	8,298	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Participation rate	59.3	59.2	58.3	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Employed	7,796	7,761	7,760	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Employment-population ratio	56.1	54.7	54.6	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Unemployed	446	638	538	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Unemployment rate	5.4	7.6	6.5	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian labor force	1,093	1,166	1,099	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Participation rate	36.8	38.1	35.5	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Employed	901	901	818	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Employment-population ratio	30.3	29.5	26.7	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Unemployed	193	265	271	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Unemployment rate	17.6	22.8	24.9	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)

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

NOTE: Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

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Table A-4. Employment status of the civilian population 25 years and over by educational attainment

(Numbers in thousands)

Educational attainment	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Sept. 2007	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008	Sept. 2007	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008
Less than a high school diploma									
Civilian labor force	12,250	12,129	12,177	12,181	12,119	12,178	12,168	12,197	12,161
Participation rate	46.6	47.2	47.1	46.3	45.4	45.9	47.8	47.5	47.0
Employed	11,397	11,020	11,081	11,271	11,118	11,117	11,135	11,022	10,992
Employment-population ratio	43.3	42.9	42.9	42.8	41.6	41.9	43.7	42.9	42.5
Unemployed	853	1,108	1,097	910	1,001	1,061	1,033	1,175	1,169
Unemployment rate	7.0	9.1	9.0	7.5	8.3	8.7	8.5	9.6	9.6
High school graduates, no college [1]									
Civilian labor force	39,013	38,185	38,415	38,810	38,323	38,170	38,872	38,373	38,313
Participation rate	63.3	62.6	62.6	62.9	62.8	62.8	63.5	62.9	62.5
Employed	37,398	36,059	36,197	37,036	36,349	36,233	36,854	36,191	35,908
Employment-population ratio	60.7	59.1	59.0	60.1	59.5	59.6	60.2	59.3	58.6
Unemployed	1,615	2,126	2,218	1,774	1,974	1,937	2,018	2,182	2,405
Unemployment rate	4.1	5.6	5.8	4.6	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.7	6.3
Some college or associate degree									
Civilian labor force	36,077	36,768	37,054	36,045	36,791	36,824	36,444	36,685	36,991
Participation rate	72.0	71.7	72.0	72.0	72.4	71.9	71.1	71.5	71.9
Employed	34,907	34,910	35,253	34,801	35,219	35,264	34,813	34,912	35,129
Employment-population ratio	69.7	68.0	68.5	69.5	69.3	68.9	67.9	68.0	68.3
Unemployed	1,170	1,857	1,802	1,243	1,572	1,559	1,631	1,774	1,862
Unemployment rate	3.2	5.1	4.9	3.4	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.8	5.0
Bachelor's degree and higher [2]									
Civilian labor force	44,143	45,220	45,140	44,117	44,566	44,993	45,071	45,422	45,200
Participation rate	77.5	77.2	77.6	77.5	77.7	78.1	77.2	77.5	77.7
Employed	43,248	43,823	43,961	43,253	43,588	43,964	43,993	44,182	44,072
Employment-population ratio	76.0	74.8	75.5	76.0	76.0	76.3	75.3	75.4	75.7
Unemployed	895	1,397	1,178	863	978	1,029	1,078	1,240	1,128
Unemployment rate	2.0	3.1	2.6	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.7	2.5

[1] Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.
[2] Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.
NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table A-5. Employed persons by class of worker and part-time status

(In thousands)

Category	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Sept. 2007	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008	Sept. 2007	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008
CLASS OF WORKER									
Agriculture and related industries	2,147	2,302	2,276	2,065	2,122	2,137	2,123	2,142	2,189
Wage and salary workers	1,248	1,419	1,415	1,178	1,241	1,244	1,258	1,289	1,331
Self-employed workers	875	850	834	861	849	840	844	817	820
Unpaid family workers	24	33	28	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])
Nonagricultural industries	144,300	143,607	143,034	144,259	143,898	143,650	143,589	143,284	143,064
Wage and salary workers	134,553	134,033	133,660	134,573	134,385	134,132	133,951	133,822	133,725
Government	21,153	20,821	21,204	21,084	21,263	21,186	21,098	21,259	21,168
Private industries	113,400	113,212	112,456	113,502	113,116	113,001	112,956	112,607	112,588
Private households	823	799	820	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])
Other industries	112,577	112,413	111,636	112,694	112,315	112,155	112,157	111,851	111,778
Self-employed workers	9,631	9,490	9,293	9,534	9,384	9,430	9,518	9,381	9,228
Unpaid family workers	116	84	81	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])
PERSONS AT WORK PART TIME [2]									
All industries:									
Part time for economic reasons	4,137	5,736	5,701	4,499	5,233	5,416	5,724	5,718	6,055
Slack work or business conditions	2,768	4,011	3,983	2,991	3,595	3,816	4,194	4,112	4,232
Could only find part-time work	1,091	1,305	1,467	1,166	1,281	1,336	1,286	1,362	1,516
Part time for noneconomic reasons	20,037	17,698	19,582	19,812	19,428	19,496	19,406	19,712	19,371
Nonagricultural industries:									
Part time for economic reasons	4,085	5,650	5,621	4,397	5,184	5,308	5,599	5,641	5,941
Slack work or business conditions	2,736	3,947	3,919	2,922	3,531	3,744	4,156	4,032	4,121
Could only find part-time work	1,088	1,294	1,465	1,153	1,288	1,328	1,277	1,350	1,537
Part time for noneconomic reasons	19,679	17,302	19,242	19,451	19,047	19,106	19,051	19,281	19,033

[1] Data not available.

[2] 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.

NOTE: Detail for the seasonally adjusted data shown in this table will not necessarily add to totals because of the independent seasonal adjustment of the various series. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

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Table A-6. Selected employment indicators

(In thousands)

Characteristic	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Sept. 2007	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008	Sept. 2007	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008
AGE AND SEX									
Total, 16 years and over	146,448	145,909	145,310	146,260	146,046	145,891	145,819	145,477	145,255
16 to 19 years	5,649	6,142	5,317	5,895	5,907	5,655	5,558	5,563	5,552
16 to 17 years	2,218	2,247	2,007	2,263	2,040	1,966	1,974	1,988	2,029
18 to 19 years	3,431	3,895	3,311	3,641	3,807	3,678	3,619	3,570	3,546
20 years and over	140,799	139,767	139,993	140,365	140,139	140,236	140,261	139,914	139,703
20 to 24 years	13,849	13,954	13,501	13,976	13,704	13,720	13,724	13,683	13,637
25 years and over	126,950	125,812	126,492	126,481	126,394	126,565	126,611	126,281	126,093
25 to 54 years	100,813	99,109	99,534	100,475	99,774	99,813	99,733	99,345	99,236
25 to 34 years	31,717	31,444	31,491	31,598	31,545	31,488	31,468	31,467	31,397
35 to 44 years	34,335	33,194	33,397	34,219	33,701	33,692	33,613	33,287	33,300
45 to 54 years	34,761	34,471	34,646	34,659	34,528	34,634	34,651	34,591	34,540
55 years and over	26,137	26,704	26,958	26,006	26,620	26,751	26,879	26,936	26,856
Men, 16 years and over	78,407	78,423	77,501	78,229	77,954	77,794	77,823	77,632	77,396
16 to 19 years	2,779	3,118	2,657	2,897	2,953	2,795	2,729	2,766	2,764
16 to 17 years	1,040	1,100	945	1,065	990	938	931	947	960
18 to 19 years	1,738	2,018	1,712	1,833	1,946	1,879	1,799	1,831	1,811
20 years and over	75,628	75,305	74,844	75,332	75,001	74,998	75,094	74,866	74,631
20 to 24 years	7,235	7,377	7,114	7,294	7,250	7,202	7,179	7,165	7,173
25 years and over	68,393	67,928	67,731	68,029	67,742	67,832	67,952	67,758	67,449
25 to 54 years	54,511	53,661	53,424	54,237	53,652	53,605	53,643	53,480	53,222
25 to 34 years	17,588	17,326	17,243	17,455	17,309	17,298	17,245	17,221	17,138
35 to 44 years	18,653	18,157	18,096	18,567	18,147	18,133	18,122	18,092	18,030
45 to 54 years	18,269	18,179	18,085	18,215	18,196	18,174	18,276	18,167	18,054
55 years and over	13,882	14,267	14,307	13,792	14,091	14,227	14,309	14,278	14,227
Women, 16 years and over	68,041	67,485	67,809	68,030	68,092	68,097	67,996	67,845	67,860
16 to 19 years	2,871	3,024	2,660	2,998	2,954	2,859	2,829	2,798	2,787
16 to 17 years	1,178	1,147	1,061	1,198	1,050	1,028	1,043	1,041	1,068
18 to 19 years	1,693	1,877	1,599	1,807	1,861	1,799	1,820	1,739	1,735
20 years and over	65,170	64,462	65,149	65,033	65,138	65,238	65,167	65,047	65,072
20 to 24 years	6,613	6,577	6,387	6,680	6,454	6,518	6,544	6,518	6,464
25 years and over	58,557	57,885	58,762	58,452	58,652	58,733	58,660	58,523	58,643
25 to 54 years	46,303	45,448	46,110	46,238	46,122	46,208	46,090	45,865	46,014
25 to 34 years	14,129	14,118	14,248	14,143	14,236	14,190	14,224	14,246	14,259
35 to 44 years	15,681	15,038	15,301	15,652	15,555	15,559	15,491	15,195	15,269
45 to 54 years	16,492	16,292	16,561	16,444	16,332	16,459	16,376	16,424	16,486
55 years and over	12,254	12,437	12,652	12,214	12,529	12,525	12,570	12,658	12,629
MARITAL STATUS									
Married men, spouse present	46,244	45,767	45,953	46,235	45,862	45,911	46,120	45,829	45,958
Married women, spouse present	35,796	35,478	35,955	35,712	36,171	36,270	36,185	36,055	35,913
Women who maintain families	9,618	9,036	9,312	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])
FULL- OR PART-TIME STATUS									
Full-time workers [2]	121,728	121,556	120,213	121,387	120,989	120,542	120,537	119,908	119,928
Part-time workers [3]	24,720	24,353	25,097	24,966	24,970	25,419	25,431	25,649	25,366
MULTIPLE JOBHOLDERS									
Total multiple jobholders	7,621	7,706	7,724	7,510	7,679	7,794	7,757	8,055	7,657
Percent of total employed	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.3

[1] Data not available.

[2] Employed full-time workers are persons who usually work 35 hours or more per week.

[3] Employed part-time workers are persons who usually work less than 35 hours per week.

NOTE: Detail for the seasonally adjusted data shown in this table will not necessarily add to totals because of the independent seasonal adjustment of the various series. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table A-7. Selected unemployment indicators, seasonally adjusted

Characteristic	Number of unemployed persons (in thousands)			Unemployment rates [1]					
	Sept. 2007	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008	Sept. 2007	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008
AGE AND SEX									
Total, 16 years and over	7,246	9,376	9,477	4.7	5.5	5.5	5.7	6.1	6.1
16 to 19 years	1,126	1,299	1,313	16.0	18.7	18.1	20.3	18.9	19.1
16 to 17 years	519	564	559	18.6	21.2	23.3	24.9	22.1	21.6
18 to 19 years	607	739	759	14.3	17.5	15.6	17.3	17.1	17.6
20 years and over	6,120	8,077	8,164	4.2	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.5	5.5
20 to 24 years	1,342	1,612	1,605	8.8	10.4	10.1	10.2	10.5	10.5
25 years and over	4,813	6,507	6,630	3.7	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.9	5.0
25 to 54 years	3,966	5,333	5,465	3.8	4.4	4.5	4.6	5.1	5.2
25 to 34 years	1,622	2,076	2,055	4.9	5.3	5.4	5.6	6.2	6.1
35 to 44 years	1,205	1,723	1,816	3.4	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.9	5.2
45 to 54 years	1,139	1,533	1,593	3.2	3.7	3.8	3.7	4.2	4.4
55 years and over	840	1,161	1,162	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.6	4.1	4.1
Men, 16 years and over	4,008	5,176	5,549	4.9	5.6	5.7	6.1	6.3	6.7
16 to 19 years	650	724	737	18.3	20.7	19.9	23.4	20.7	21.0
16 to 17 years	298	300	287	21.9	23.3	26.2	29.4	24.0	23.0
18 to 19 years	355	418	457	16.2	19.6	17.1	19.9	18.6	20.1
20 years and over	3,357	4,452	4,813	4.3	4.9	5.1	5.3	5.6	6.1
20 to 24 years	765	933	933	9.5	11.0	11.2	11.6	11.5	11.5
25 years and over	2,586	3,542	3,917	3.7	4.2	4.3	4.6	5.0	5.5
25 to 54 years	2,122	2,909	3,259	3.8	4.4	4.6	4.9	5.2	5.8
25 to 34 years	903	1,173	1,251	4.9	5.4	5.4	6.1	6.4	6.8
35 to 44 years	634	926	1,070	3.3	4.1	4.5	4.9	4.9	5.6
45 to 54 years	584	810	939	3.1	3.7	3.8	3.8	4.3	4.9
55 years and over	464	633	658	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.7	4.2	4.4
Women, 16 years and over	3,238	4,201	3,928	4.5	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.8	5.5
16 to 19 years	476	576	576	13.7	16.6	16.3	17.1	17.1	17.1
16 to 17 years	221	264	272	15.6	19.0	20.3	20.4	20.2	20.3
18 to 19 years	253	320	302	12.3	15.2	13.9	14.6	15.6	14.8
20 years and over	2,762	3,625	3,351	4.1	4.8	4.7	4.6	5.3	4.9
20 to 24 years	577	679	672	7.9	9.6	8.8	8.7	9.4	9.4
25 years and over	2,227	2,965	2,713	3.7	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.8	4.4
25 to 54 years	1,844	2,423	2,205	3.8	4.4	4.4	4.3	5.0	4.6
25 to 34 years	719	903	805	4.8	5.1	5.4	5.0	6.0	5.3
35 to 44 years	570	797	746	3.5	4.4	4.2	4.3	5.0	4.7
45 to 54 years	555	723	655	3.3	3.8	3.7	3.7	4.2	3.8
55 years and over [2]	379	587	516	3.0	2.8	3.4	4.3	4.5	3.9
MARITAL STATUS									
Married men, spouse present	1,181	1,646	1,826	2.5	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.5	3.8
Married women, spouse present	1,053	1,390	1,285	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.7	3.5
Women who maintain families [2]	658	954	830	6.4	6.9	7.9	8.5	9.6	8.2
FULL- OR PART-TIME STATUS									
Full-time workers [3]	6,053	7,928	7,980	4.7	5.5	5.5	5.7	6.2	6.2
Part-time workers [4]	1,241	1,543	1,577	4.7	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.7	5.9

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

[2] Not seasonally adjusted.

[3] Full-time workers are unemployed persons who have expressed a desire to work full time (35 hours or more per week) or are on layoff from full-time jobs.

[4] Part-time workers are unemployed persons who have expressed a desire to work part time (less than 35 hours per week) or are on layoff from part-time jobs.

NOTE: Detail for the seasonally adjusted data shown in this table will not necessarily add to totals because of the independent seasonal adjustment of the various series. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

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Table A-8. Unemployed persons by reason for unemployment

(Numbers in thousands)

Reason	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Sept. 2007	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008	Sept. 2007	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008
NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED									
Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs	3,208	4,735	4,699	3,622	4,282	4,370	4,407	4,824	5,171
On temporary layoff	613	1,126	904	963	1,113	1,077	1,037	1,266	1,407
Not on temporary layoff	2,596	3,609	3,795	2,660	3,169	3,292	3,370	3,559	3,764
Permanent job losers	1,831	2,656	2,814	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Persons who completed temporary jobs	764	953	980	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Job leavers	902	1,105	1,075	839	870	833	861	999	974
Reentrants	2,190	2,729	2,624	2,154	2,460	2,498	2,705	2,652	2,555
New entrants	652	909	801	685	828	748	811	820	822
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	48.1	50.0	51.1	49.6	50.7	51.7	50.2	51.9	54.3
On temporary layoff	8.8	11.9	9.8	13.2	13.2	12.7	11.8	13.6	14.8
Not on temporary layoff	37.3	38.1	41.3	36.4	37.5	39.0	38.4	38.3	39.5
Job leavers	13.0	11.7	11.7	11.5	10.3	9.9	9.8	10.7	10.2
Reentrants	31.5	28.8	28.5	29.5	29.1	29.6	30.8	28.5	26.8
New entrants	9.4	9.6	8.7	9.4	9.8	8.9	9.2	8.8	8.6
UNEMPLOYED AS A PERCENT OF THE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE									
Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs	2.1	3.0	3.0	2.4	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.3
Job leavers	.6	.7	.7	.5	.6	.5	.6	.6	.6
Reentrants	1.4	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7
New entrants	.4	.6	.5	.4	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5

[1] Data not available.

NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table A-9. Unemployed persons by duration of unemployment

(Numbers in thousands)

Duration	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Sept. 2007	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008	Sept. 2007	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008
NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED									
Less than 5 weeks	2,563	3,142	2,851	2,537	3,244	2,712	2,835	3,235	2,853
5 to 14 weeks	2,118	2,999	2,840	2,330	2,469	2,999	2,823	2,821	3,051
15 weeks and over	2,271	3,338	3,508	2,392	2,773	2,916	3,118	3,402	3,607
15 to 26 weeks	1,009	1,468	1,491	1,112	1,223	1,328	1,440	1,561	1,598
27 weeks and over	1,261	1,870	2,018	1,280	1,550	1,587	1,678	1,841	2,008
Average (mean) duration, in weeks	16.7	17.6	19.1	16.6	16.6	17.5	17.1	17.4	18.4
Median duration, in weeks	8.7	9.5	10.3	8.9	8.3	10.0	9.7	9.2	10.2
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	36.9	33.1	31.0	34.9	38.2	31.4	32.3	34.2	30.0
5 to 14 weeks	30.5	31.6	30.9	32.1	29.1	34.8	32.2	29.8	32.1
15 weeks and over	32.7	35.2	38.1	33.0	32.7	33.8	35.5	36.0	37.9
15 to 26 weeks	14.5	15.5	16.2	15.3	14.4	15.4	16.4	16.5	16.8
27 weeks and over	18.1	19.7	21.9	17.6	18.3	18.4	19.1	19.5	21.1

NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table A-10. Employed and unemployed persons by occupation, not seasonally adjusted

(Numbers in thousands)

Occupation	Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rates	
	Sept. 2007	Sept. 2008	Sept. 2007	Sept. 2008	Sept. 2007	Sept. 2008
Total, 16 years and over [1]	146,448	145,310	6,952	9,199	4.5	6.0
Management, professional, and related occupations	51,908	53,104	1,098	1,539	2.1	2.8
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	21,528	22,364	401	648	1.8	2.8
Professional and related occupations	30,380	30,741	697	890	2.2	2.8
Service occupations	24,659	24,544	1,509	1,810	5.8	6.9
Sales and office occupations	35,761	35,287	1,648	2,074	4.4	5.6
Sales and related occupations	16,277	16,232	901	984	5.2	5.7
Office and administrative support occupations	19,484	19,055	747	1,091	3.7	5.4
Nat[illegible] resources, construction, and maintenance occ[illegible]ns	15,926	14,941	885	1,288	5.3	7.9
Far[illegible]ing, and forestry occupations	969	1,063	59	92	5.7	8.0
Con[illegible] extraction occupations	9,503	8,744	633	946	6.2	9.8
Insta[illegible]nce, and repair occupations	5,454	5,134	193	250	3.4	4.6
Produc[illegible] mate[illegible] occupa[illegible]	18,194	17,434	1,135	1,666	5.9	8.7
Produ[illegible]	9,371	8,830	542	830	5.5	8.6
Transp[illegible]ions	8,823	8,605	592	836	6.3	8.9

[1] Pers[illegible] and persons whose last job was in the Armed Forces are included in the unemployed total.
NOTE: [illegible]oduced annually with the release of January data.

Table A-11. Unemployed persons by industry and class of worker, not seasonally adjusted

Industry and class of worker	Number of unemployed persons (in thousands)		Unemployment rates	
	Sept. 2007	Sept. 2008	Sept. 2007	Sept. 2008
Total, 16 years and over [1]	6,952	9,199	4.5	6.0
Nonagricultural private wage and salary workers	5,418	7,328	4.6	6.1
Mining	25	25	3.2	2.8
Construction	596	970	5.8	9.9
Manufacturing	673	984	4.1	6.0
Durable goods	407	688	3.9	6.5
Nondurable goods	266	296	4.3	5.1
Wholesale and retail trade	1,027	1,277	5.1	6.2
Transportation and utilities	224	337	3.7	5.8
Information	124	166	3.7	5.0
Financial activities	316	380	3.3	4.0
Professional and business services	655	951	4.7	6.9
Education and health services	630	835	3.2	4.1
Leisure and hospitality	892	1,029	7.4	8.2
Other services	257	374	4.2	5.8
Agriculture and related private wage and salary workers	53	84	4.3	5.8
Government workers	525	573	2.4	2.6
Self employed and unpaid family workers	304	414	2.8	3.9

[1] Persons with no previous work experience are included in the unemployed total.
NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table A-12. Alternative measures of labor underutilization

(Percent)

Measure	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Sept. 2007	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008	Sept. 2007	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Sept. 2008
U-1 Persons unemployed 15 weeks or longer, as a percent of the civilian labor force	1.5	2.1	2.3	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.3
U-2 Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs, as a percent of the civilian labor force	2.1	3.0	3.0	2.4	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.3
U-3 Total unemployed, as a percent of the civilian labor force (official unemployment rate)	4.5	6.1	6.0	4.7	5.5	5.5	5.7	6.1	6.1
U-4 Total unemployed plus discouraged workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers	4.7	6.3	6.2	4.9	5.7	5.8	6.0	6.3	6.4
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	5.3	7.1	6.9	5.5	6.4	6.4	6.6	7.0	7.1
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	8.0	10.7	10.6	8.4	9.7	9.9	10.3	10.7	11.0

NOTE: 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 looking currently 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 more information, see "BLS introduces new range of alternative unemployment measures," in the October 1995 issue of the Monthly Labor Review. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table A-13. Persons not in the labor force and multiple jobholders by sex, not seasonally adjusted

(Numbers in thousands)

Category	Total		Men		Women	
	Sept. 2007	Sept. 2008	Sept. 2007	Sept. 2008	Sept. 2007	Sept. 2008
NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE						
Total not in the labor force	79,081	79,851	30,439	30,760	48,622	49,091
Persons who currently want a job	4,503	4,895	1,956	2,133	2,548	2,763
Searched for work and available to work now [1]	1,268	1,604	657	793	611	811
Reason not currently looking:						
Discouragement over job prospects [2]	276	467	168	265	108	203
Reasons other than discouragement [3]	992	1,137	489	529	503	608
MULTIPLE JOBHOLDERS						
Total multiple jobholders [4]	7,621	7,724	3,823	3,997	3,798	3,727
Percent of total employed	5.2	5.3	4.9	5.2	5.6	5.5
Primary job full time, secondary job part time	4,266	4,199	2,325	2,417	1,941	1,782
Primary and secondary jobs both part time	1,652	1,844	480	638	1,173	1,206
Primary and secondary jobs both full time	275	299	193	194	82	105
Hours vary on primary or secondary job	1,385	1,335	804	717	581	618

[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 school or family responsibilities, ill health, 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.

NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table B-1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail

(In thousands)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted						
	Sept. 2007	July 2008	Aug. 2008p	Sept. 2008p	Sept. 2007	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008p	Sept. 2008p	Change from: Aug. 2008-Sept. 2008p
Total nonfarm	138,075	137,259	137,231	137,476	137,837	137,717	137,617	137,550	137,477	137,318	-159
Total private	116,013	115,968	115,856	115,103	115,610	115,264	115,154	115,048	114,944	114,776	-168
Goods-producing	22,437	21,778	21,792	21,601	22,138	21,577	21,491	21,437	21,380	21,303	-77
Natural resources and mining	736	790	806	808	727	760	768	777	789	798	9
Logging	62.6	59.3	60.6	62.2	59.7	59.5	57.3	57.7	58.3	59.6	1.3
Mining	673.8	731.1	745.1	745.9	667.4	700.6	710.2	719.4	730.3	738.5	8.2
Oil and gas extraction	147.0	164.7	168.9	166.0	147.3	158.3	160.1	162.4	164.5	165.9	1.4
Mining, except oil and gas[1]	231.5	239.4	242.3	238.9	226.7	229.6	230.9	231.3	233.6	233.5	-.1
Coal mining	77.7	81.8	83.9	84.2	78.0	80.5	81.3	81.2	83.5	84.2	.7
Support activities for mining	295.3	327.0	335.9	341.0	293.4	312.7	319.2	325.7	332.2	339.1	6.9
Construction	7,811	7,462	7,465	7,350	7,589	7,246	7,196	7,173	7,160	7,125	-35
Construction of buildings	1,786.0	1,669.6	1,671.1	1,635.0	1,749.4	1,634.9	1,621.5	1,618.3	1,614.9	1,596.8	-18.1
Residential building	961.4	867.5	864.3	844.0	940.6	855.5	845.0	837.6	832.7	822.0	-10.7
Nonresidential building	824.6	802.1	806.8	791.0	808.8	779.4	776.5	780.7	782.2	774.8	-7.4
Heavy and civil engineering construction	1,058.2	1,016.4	1,015.2	1,003.6	998.8	965.3	959.5	955.5	950.1	944.6	-5.5
Specialty trade contractors	4,966.9	4,775.8	4,778.8	4,711.4	4,840.3	4,645.6	4,615.1	4,598.7	4,595.1	4,583.6	-11.5
Residential specialty trade contractors	2,334.7	2,159.5	2,142.1	2,113.1	2,280.6	2,094.7	2,077.2	2,070.0	2,060.1	2,057.9	-2.2
Nonresidential specialty trade contractors	2,632.2	2,616.3	2,636.7	2,598.3	2,559.7	2,550.9	2,537.9	2,528.7	2,535.0	2,525.7	-9.3
Manufacturing	13,890	13,526	13,521	13,443	13,822	13,571	13,527	13,487	13,431	13,380	-51
Production workers	10,020	9,717	9,718	9,640	9,958	9,784	9,738	9,692	9,643	9,587	-56
Durable goods	8,799	8,539	8,526	8,467	8,778	8,594	8,564	8,541	8,489	8,452	-37
Production workers	6,263	6,024	6,017	5,953	6,245	6,100	6,064	6,033	5,988	5,943	-45
Wood products	518.9	483.0	477.4	468.1	513.1	482.4	477.3	473.3	467.8	463.3	-4.5
Nonmetallic mineral products	509.0	487.7	487.0	481.2	501.0	482.1	479.3	476.6	476.0	473.4	-2.6
Primary metals	452.8	445.4	443.7	444.5	451.6	448.7	446.8	446.0	442.1	443.5	1.4
Fabricated metal products	1,566.0	1,533.1	1,539.3	1,528.8	1,565.0	1,544.2	1,537.1	1,531.8	1,534.4	1,527.1	-7.3
Machinery	1,183.4	1,203.7	1,194.7	1,184.9	1,188.2	1,195.1	1,194.4	1,196.5	1,192.7	1,188.7	-4.0
Computer and electronic products[1]	1,260.3	1,251.3	1,253.0	1,248.0	1,260.5	1,250.1	1,247.1	1,246.1	1,249.0	1,249.0	.0
Computer and peripheral equipment	185.8	185.8	185.7	186.1	185.9	186.2	184.6	185.1	185.8	186.2	.4
Communications equipment	127.9	130.8	130.7	130.4	128.5	130.4	131.8	130.8	131.2	131.0	-.2
Semiconductors and electronic components	437.2	425.6	426.0	424.8	437.4	424.2	422.1	423.2	424.5	425.2	.7
Electronic instruments	442.1	445.9	447.8	444.7	442.0	445.6	444.9	444.1	444.9	444.8	-.1
Electrical equipment and appliances	426.7	424.9	421.2	417.1	426.0	422.1	422.0	422.4	418.8	416.4	-2.4
Transportation equipment[1]	1,712.7	1,588.6	1,587.8	1,578.5	1,706.1	1,636.8	1,631.9	1,624.8	1,588.5	1,575.6	-12.9
Motor vehicles and parts[2]	998.1	864.0	866.5	854.7	989.6	908.4	902.8	902.2	867.8	849.6	-18.2
Furniture and related products	531.8	497.0	490.7	483.9	530.6	503.5	499.5	495.6	488.8	483.5	-5.3
Miscellaneous manufacturing	637.9	624.6	630.9	631.7	637.6	629.1	628.8	627.7	630.7	631.1	.4
Nondurable goods	5,091	4,987	4,995	4,976	5,044	4,977	4,963	4,946	4,942	4,928	-14
Production workers	3,757	3,693	3,701	3,687	3,713	3,684	3,674	3,659	3,655	3,644	-11
Food manufacturing	1,509.7	1,491.3	1,506.4	1,512.3	1,476.0	1,473.5	1,472.4	1,469.8	1,472.4	1,475.8	3.4
Beverages and tobacco products	201.1	198.0	197.2	196.5	195.7	193.7	192.5	192.2	191.6	191.0	-.6
Textile mills	165.5	148.9	150.2	149.4	164.8	155.1	152.2	149.9	150.3	149.0	-1.3
Textile product mills	155.6	148.6	147.5	147.6	156.3	151.0	149.3	148.7	147.9	148.1	.2
Apparel	211.2	196.0	198.0	197.1	209.2	196.6	196.4	195.9	197.2	194.8	-2.4
Leather and allied products	34.0	33.1	35.1	35.5	34.0	33.7	34.6	33.9	35.2	35.1	-.1
Paper and paper products	459.1	458.4	453.6	448.4	459.0	458.1	456.6	454.9	452.4	449.4	-3.0
Printing and related support activities	623.2	599.0	599.2	596.4	623.0	607.3	601.9	598.9	599.4	596.6	-2.8
Petroleum and coal products	115.0	118.1	117.3	116.0	112.9	113.4	113.8	114.6	114.1	113.7	-.4
Chemicals	865.6	863.4	859.7	851.7	864.3	861.6	859.8	857.1	854.9	852.0	-2.9
Plastics and rubber products	750.8	731.7	730.4	724.6	748.4	732.8	733.9	730.2	726.6	722.3	-4.3

See footnotes at the end of table.

Table B-1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail—Continued

(In thousands)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted						
	Sept. 2007	July 2008	Aug. 2008p	Sept. 2008p	Sept. 2007	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008p	Sept. 2008p	Change from: Aug. 2008-Sept. 2008p
Service-providing	115,638	115,481	115,439	115,875	115,699	116,140	116,126	116,113	116,097	116,015	-82
Private service-providing	93,576	94,190	94,064	93,502	93,472	93,687	93,663	93,611	93,564	93,473	-91
Trade, transportation, and utilities	26,584	26,378	26,335	26,221	26,649	26,451	26,431	26,393	26,356	26,298	-58
Wholesale trade	6,056.6	6,050.8	6,024.2	6,004.3	6,055.6	6,038.4	6,034.6	6,017.6	6,008.3	6,004.2	-4.1
Durable goods	3,140.7	3,111.7	3,094.3	3,081.7	3,143.4	3,109.8	3,103.6	3,094.3	3,086.6	3,084.2	-2.4
Nondurable goods	2,085.0	2,092.2	2,082.7	2,073.2	2,078.5	2,089.3	2,088.4	2,078.4	2,074.3	2,068.7	-5.6
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	830.9	846.9	847.2	849.4	833.7	839.3	842.6	844.9	847.4	851.3	3.9
Retail trade	15,387.6	15,286.7	15,274.1	15,127.1	15,487.3	15,331.8	15,324.2	15,302.4	15,277.0	15,236.9	-40.1
Motor vehicle and parts dealers[1]	1,927.1	1,888.9	1,871.6	1,855.6	1,916.0	1,892.9	1,883.3	1,870.6	1,855.6	1,845.4	-10.2
Automobile dealers	1,252.3	1,212.1	1,197.6	1,186.6	1,246.6	1,224.2	1,215.2	1,204.3	1,191.2	1,182.6	-8.6
Furniture and home furnishings stores	568.2	561.3	561.1	556.5	576.2	568.5	568.9	569.2	567.3	565.0	-2.3
Electronics and appliance stores	532.7	528.1	527.4	522.1	540.1	539.3	534.9	535.2	534.7	530.8	-3.9
Building material and garden supply stores	1,283.6	1,270.0	1,258.0	1,225.6	1,291.9	1,240.3	1,238.2	1,230.1	1,234.7	1,231.4	-3.3
Food and beverage stores	2,854.4	2,896.8	2,877.0	2,854.3	2,856.0	2,880.7	2,879.2	2,879.5	2,868.8	2,863.0	-5.8
Health and personal care stores	987.3	986.7	983.8	981.2	990.1	990.9	990.4	990.0	985.4	986.2	.8
Gasoline stations	870.5	853.6	852.4	839.3	864.2	841.2	844.4	841.3	840.2	834.5	-5.7
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	1,472.9	1,490.5	1,517.4	1,472.3	1,502.4	1,494.5	1,494.8	1,494.8	1,498.3	1,500.9	2.6
Sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores	660.8	625.2	648.9	647.0	665.1	653.2	654.5	649.3	654.1	651.4	-2.7
General merchandise stores[1]	2,922.9	2,908.9	2,904.6	2,884.2	2,976.5	2,928.5	2,939.6	2,948.4	2,946.4	2,935.3	-11.1
Department stores	1,530.8	1,481.9	1,474.3	1,461.3	1,570.5	1,514.7	1,516.3	1,517.2	1,511.1	1,500.3	-10.8
Miscellaneous store retailers	873.5	857.7	853.3	858.7	873.3	860.8	858.9	857.4	856.4	857.5	1.1
Nonstore retailers	433.7	419.0	420.6	430.3	435.5	441.0	437.1	436.6	435.1	435.5	.4
Transportation and warehousing	4,585.7	4,476.3	4,473.4	4,527.5	4,551.2	4,524.1	4,514.0	4,513.6	4,510.5	4,494.4	-16.1
Air transportation	497.8	496.6	494.6	488.5	494.5	501.3	497.6	495.2	491.0	486.4	-4.6
Rail transportation	235.3	233.0	232.1	232.1	234.6	233.0	230.0	232.1	230.2	231.4	1.2
Water transportation	66.6	64.7	63.9	60.9	65.0	61.3	61.8	61.9	60.6	59.6	-1.0
Truck transportation	1,458.4	1,413.2	1,421.5	1,405.8	1,440.6	1,409.8	1,400.1	1,398.3	1,401.1	1,388.8	-12.3
Transit and ground passenger transportation	427.7	354.9	351.8	435.2	417.8	412.9	416.4	417.1	418.8	422.6	3.8
Pipeline transportation	39.8	43.7	43.2	43.0	40.1	42.2	42.8	43.3	43.0	43.3	.3
Scenic and sightseeing transportation	34.7	39.7	39.0	34.7	29.8	31.1	31.3	30.6	30.5	30.3	-.2
Support activities for transportation	585.3	591.1	591.8	589.3	588.5	587.1	587.0	590.3	590.7	589.8	-.9
Couriers and messengers	577.3	581.3	577.9	578.6	580.3	587.2	587.7	586.5	587.1	584.9	-2.2
Warehousing and storage	662.8	656.1	657.4	659.4	662.0	658.2	659.3	658.3	657.5	657.3	-.2
Utilities	554.2	564.5	562.9	562.4	554.8	557.1	558.1	559.8	559.7	562.6	2.9
Information	3,016	2,997	2,988	2,966	3,031	3,002	2,997	2,988	2,983	2,980	-3
Publishing industries, except Internet	890.9	875.7	871.7	866.0	893.7	879.7	877.0	873.0	870.6	868.8	-1.8
Motion picture and sound recording industries	378.5	385.9	383.9	375.9	384.3	380.9	382.0	379.1	379.0	380.7	1.7
Broadcasting, except Internet	327.8	320.8	319.1	321.0	327.0	321.2	319.6	320.4	318.3	319.8	1.5
Telecommunications	1,019.8	1,016.0	1,014.7	1,008.4	1,024.4	1,017.7	1,018.9	1,016.1	1,016.3	1,012.9	-3.4
Data processing, hosting and related services	271.3	267.4	266.3	264.9	273.1	272.1	269.8	268.3	267.7	266.8	-.9
Other information services	128.0	131.6	132.1	130.0	128.8	130.1	130.0	130.8	131.3	130.5	-.8
Financial activities	8,282	8,279	8,258	8,172	8,294	8,226	8,213	8,206	8,201	8,184	-17
Finance and insurance	6,115.7	6,105.4	6,088.7	6,046.3	6,136.0	6,098.8	6,088.0	6,081.1	6,078.7	6,067.6	-11.1
Monetary authorities - central bank	20.8	21.1	21.0	20.8	20.9	21.0	20.9	20.9	20.9	20.9	.0
Credit intermediation and related activities[1]	2,840.6	2,799.5	2,789.8	2,773.5	2,856.7	2,800.5	2,794.0	2,788.6	2,786.9	2,789.4	2.5
Depository credit intermediation[1]	1,824.7	1,824.1	1,821.3	1,806.1	1,831.0	1,820.6	1,818.1	1,815.3	1,814.3	1,812.2	-2.1
Commercial banking	1,344.9	1,347.0	1,345.6	1,335.4	1,350.1	1,343.4	1,343.1	1,340.9	1,340.8	1,340.7	-.1
Securities, commodity contracts, investments	852.9	862.9	865.3	853.2	853.2	866.6	866.0	860.6	862.2	854.4	-7.8
Insurance carriers and related activities	2,313.4	2,333.9	2,324.3	2,310.6	2,317.0	2,323.2	2,319.2	2,323.2	2,320.3	2,314.7	-5.6
Funds, trusts, and other financial vehicles	88.0	88.0	88.5	88.2	88.2	87.5	87.9	87.8	88.4	88.2	-.2
Real estate and rental and leasing	2,166.1	2,173.9	2,169.7	2,125.9	2,157.7	2,127.3	2,125.1	2,125.3	2,122.4	2,116.0	-6.4
Real estate	1,493.6	1,492.7	1,497.5	1,466.1	1,489.8	1,466.4	1,468.2	1,463.7	1,464.8	1,460.0	-4.8
Rental and leasing services	642.2	648.0	640.0	627.4	637.8	629.5	627.2	629.3	625.5	623.7	-1.8
Lessors of nonfinancial intangible assets	30.3	33.2	32.2	32.4	30.1	31.4	31.7	32.3	32.1	32.3	.2

See footnotes at the end of table.

Table B-1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail—Continued

(In thousands)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted						
	Sept. 2007	July 2008	Aug. 2008p	Sept. 2008p	Sept. 2007	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008p	Sept. 2008p	Change from: Aug. 2008-Sept. 2008p
Professional and business services	18,133	18,022	18,016	17,933	18,000	17,982	17,927	17,904	17,861	17,834	-27
Professional and technical services[1]	7,655.9	7,834.4	7,816.4	7,789.3	7,729.7	7,839.1	7,850.3	7,855.4	7,861.2	7,873.3	12.1
Legal services	1,170.2	1,183.9	1,171.1	1,156.6	1,178.6	1,172.2	1,171.3	1,168.8	1,167.1	1,165.1	-2.0
Accounting and bookkeeping services	891.0	896.0	892.8	897.1	964.5	973.8	978.0	976.3	977.7	976.4	-1.3
Architectural and engineering services	1,449.8	1,491.5	1,487.7	1,467.7	1,443.2	1,464.9	1,466.2	1,466.0	1,466.1	1,462.8	-3.3
Computer systems design and related services	1,372.2	1,421.6	1,426.3	1,431.3	1,375.5	1,408.9	1,411.7	1,419.7	1,425.8	1,434.3	8.5
Management and technical consulting services	968.4	1,024.0	1,025.2	1,030.2	967.2	1,006.9	1,014.6	1,019.0	1,020.5	1,029.3	8.8
Management of companies and enterprises	1,850.5	1,841.6	1,841.4	1,823.8	1,854.7	1,836.4	1,837.8	1,830.2	1,830.3	1,825.8	-4.5
Administrative and waste services	8,626.5	8,346.1	8,357.9	8,320.3	8,415.3	8,306.0	8,239.2	8,218.1	8,169.4	8,134.8	-34.6
Administrative and support services[1]	8,266.3	7,972.2	7,983.8	7,951.2	8,057.4	7,939.8	7,873.5	7,852.3	7,801.6	7,767.3	-34.3
Employment services[1]	3,672.2	3,337.6	3,373.6	3,380.9	3,533.0	3,421.8	3,363.3	3,339.9	3,292.5	3,263.6	-28.9
Temporary help services	2,682.1	2,383.3	2,413.7	2,429.9	2,565.1	2,451.6	2,415.3	2,391.6	2,356.5	2,332.4	-24.1
Business support services	797.2	778.5	775.2	776.1	802.7	789.2	785.2	786.2	784.6	783.8	-.8
Services to buildings and dwellings	1,930.8	1,987.9	1,972.9	1,932.1	1,863.2	1,865.9	1,867.4	1,864.4	1,866.5	1,863.8	-2.7
Waste management and remediation services	360.2	373.9	374.1	369.1	357.9	366.2	365.7	365.8	367.8	367.5	-.3
Education and health services	18,372	18,593	18,653	18,947	18,451	18,820	18,891	18,935	18,994	19,019	25
Educational services	2,917.5	2,776.9	2,785.8	3,086.8	2,967.7	3,047.3	3,099.2	3,111.6	3,127.0	3,131.2	4.2
Health care and social assistance	15,454.1	15,815.7	15,867.2	15,860.6	15,483.0	15,772.4	15,791.3	15,823.3	15,867.1	15,887.7	20.6
Health care[3]	13,019.6	13,372.3	13,405.2	13,373.3	13,027.5	13,274.7	13,298.3	13,333.1	13,362.2	13,378.8	16.6
Ambulatory health care services[1]	5,514.5	5,699.0	5,720.2	5,716.2	5,523.1	5,649.9	5,667.7	5,693.2	5,706.4	5,721.3	14.9
Offices of physicians	2,216.5	2,283.3	2,286.8	2,284.9	2,219.1	2,265.2	2,273.1	2,281.1	2,282.9	2,287.6	4.7
Outpatient care centers	507.5	520.5	522.8	517.7	509.3	516.6	516.7	520.3	522.5	519.5	-3.0
Home health care services	924.3	963.1	969.7	968.1	925.2	951.0	954.5	960.8	964.6	966.7	2.1
Hospitals	4,543.0	4,678.0	4,684.3	4,673.3	4,541.6	4,635.0	4,642.9	4,653.5	4,667.4	4,670.9	3.5
Nursing and residential care facilities[1]	2,962.1	2,995.3	3,000.7	2,983.8	2,962.8	2,989.8	2,987.7	2,986.4	2,988.4	2,986.6	-1.8
Nursing care facilities	1,606.7	1,608.9	1,610.2	1,601.9	1,604.3	1,612.1	1,608.9	1,606.5	1,605.2	1,601.4	-3.8
Social assistance[1]	2,434.5	2,443.4	2,462.0	2,487.3	2,455.5	2,497.7	2,493.0	2,490.2	2,504.9	2,508.9	4.0
Child day care services	851.9	790.0	806.1	848.4	857.4	860.2	848.8	842.2	849.2	853.1	3.9
Leisure and hospitality	13,712	14,324	14,253	13,753	13,552	13,679	13,679	13,655	13,645	13,628	-17
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	2,045.2	2,306.7	2,264.3	2,029.8	1,985.3	2,013.1	2,011.7	1,999.5	1,995.4	1,984.4	-11.0
Performing arts and spectator sports	427.6	462.2	465.4	437.5	414.3	434.7	438.0	433.1	433.0	429.0	-4.0
Museums, historical sites, zoos, and parks	134.2	147.1	143.0	132.5	131.6	133.9	132.7	132.1	131.9	130.8	-1.1
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	1,483.4	1,697.4	1,655.9	1,459.8	1,439.4	1,444.5	1,441.0	1,434.3	1,430.5	1,424.6	-5.9
Accommodation and food services	11,667.1	12,016.9	11,989.1	11,722.9	11,567.0	11,665.8	11,667.4	11,655.6	11,649.1	11,643.4	-5.7
Accommodation	1,891.3	1,976.6	1,957.4	1,859.9	1,856.4	1,849.0	1,843.4	1,835.8	1,827.5	1,826.6	-.9
Food services and drinking places	9,775.8	10,040.3	10,031.7	9,863.0	9,710.6	9,816.8	9,824.0	9,819.8	9,821.6	9,816.8	-4.8
Other services	5,477	5,597	5,561	5,510	5,495	5,527	5,525	5,530	5,524	5,530	6
Repair and maintenance	1,264.3	1,250.4	1,237.6	1,237.6	1,262.5	1,251.7	1,245.6	1,243.8	1,234.4	1,236.6	2.2
Personal and laundry services	1,302.1	1,323.7	1,324.7	1,317.0	1,304.4	1,310.6	1,312.8	1,315.1	1,318.1	1,319.0	.9
Membership associations and organizations	2,910.3	3,023.0	2,998.3	2,955.2	2,927.6	2,964.3	2,966.5	2,970.8	2,971.3	2,974.8	3.5
Government	22,062	21,291	21,375	22,373	22,227	22,453	22,463	22,502	22,533	22,542	9
Federal	2,729	2,776	2,767	2,758	2,721	2,740	2,744	2,750	2,747	2,750	3
Federal, except U.S. Postal Service	1,968.9	2,043.4	2,048.0	2,040.7	1,961.4	2,006.5	2,013.1	2,018.6	2,025.2	2,031.8	6.6
U.S. Postal Service	759.9	732.3	719.4	717.4	759.3	733.3	731.0	731.5	721.6	717.8	-3.8
State government	5,139	4,911	4,938	5,215	5,138	5,174	5,179	5,193	5,203	5,208	5
State government education	2,333.6	2,059.1	2,080.8	2,393.3	2,327.7	2,344.4	2,354.3	2,366.7	2,372.2	2,379.7	7.5
State government, excluding education	2,805.0	2,851.9	2,857.3	2,821.7	2,810.3	2,829.7	2,824.9	2,826.5	2,830.7	2,828.6	-2.1
Local government	14,194	13,604	13,670	14,400	14,368	14,539	14,540	14,559	14,583	14,584	1
Local government education	7,803.9	6,896.4	7,014.0	7,931.1	7,970.6	8,060.0	8,053.2	8,072.5	8,082.1	8,098.4	16.3
Local government, excluding education	6,389.7	6,707.1	6,655.9	6,468.8	6,397.5	6,479.2	6,486.8	6,486.5	6,501.2	6,485.2	-16.0

[1] Includes other industries, not shown separately.

[2] Includes motor vehicles, motor vehicle bodies and trailers, and motor vehicle parts.

[3] Includes ambulatory health care services, hospitals, and nursing and residential care facilities.

p = preliminary.

NOTE: Data reflect the conversion to the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) as the basis for the assignment and tabulation of economic data by industry, replacing NAICS 2002. See http://www.bls.gov/ces/cesnaics07.htm for more details.

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

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted						
	Sept. 2007	July 2008	Aug. 2008[p]	Sept. 2008[p]	Sept. 2007	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008[p]	Sept. 2008[p]	Change from: Aug. 2008-Sept. 2008[p]
Total private	34.2	33.7	33.9	33.7	33.8	33.7	33.7	33.7	33.7	33.6	-0.1
Goods-producing	41.1	40.3	40.7	40.4	40.6	40.2	40.3	40.3	40.3	40.0	-.3
Natural resources and mining	46.8	44.9	45.7	44.8	46.2	44.6	45.0	44.8	45.4	44.4	-1.0
Construction	39.5	39.2	39.5	38.9	38.9	38.5	38.7	38.7	38.7	38.5	-.2
Manufacturing	41.7	40.6	41.1	41.0	41.4	41.0	41.0	41.0	40.9	40.7	-.2
Overtime hours	4.4	3.7	3.9	3.8	4.2	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.6	-.1
Durable goods	42.0	40.8	41.4	41.2	41.6	41.2	41.2	41.3	41.2	40.9	-.3
Overtime hours	4.4	3.6	3.9	3.7	4.2	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.5	-.2
Wood products	40.2	39.3	39.4	38.9	39.7	39.1	39.3	39.0	39.0	38.4	-.6
Nonmetallic mineral products	43.4	42.9	43.2	42.5	42.7	42.3	42.1	42.5	42.4	41.8	-.6
Primary metals	42.8	42.1	42.8	42.5	42.6	42.2	42.5	42.4	42.8	42.4	-.4
Fabricated metal products	42.1	40.8	41.4	41.4	41.9	41.4	41.2	41.2	41.3	41.2	-.1
Machinery	42.8	41.8	42.6	42.1	42.7	42.1	42.1	42.1	42.8	42.1	-.7
Computer and electronic products	41.0	40.8	41.0	41.2	40.6	41.2	41.2	41.1	41.1	40.9	-.2
Electrical equipment and appliances	41.4	40.4	40.7	41.2	41.2	41.1	41.0	40.9	40.9	41.1	.2
Transportation equipment	43.2	41.2	42.0	42.1	42.8	42.1	42.2	42.6	41.8	41.8	.0
Motor vehicles and parts[2]	42.7	40.1	41.3	41.4	42.1	41.6	41.8	42.1	40.6	41.0	.4
Furniture and related products	39.9	38.4	38.8	37.9	39.4	38.8	39.0	38.3	38.0	37.5	-.5
Miscellaneous manufacturing	39.8	38.7	39.5	38.7	39.7	39.2	39.2	39.1	39.4	38.6	-.8
Nondurable goods	41.3	40.3	40.6	40.7	40.9	40.5	40.5	40.5	40.5	40.2	-.3
Overtime hours	4.5	3.7	3.9	4.0	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	.0
Food manufacturing	41.5	40.5	40.7	41.0	40.7	40.8	40.6	40.5	40.4	40.3	-.1
Beverages and tobacco products	40.6	39.1	38.6	38.0	40.8	39.7	39.0	38.9	38.3	38.3	.0
Textile mills	40.8	38.9	39.7	39.7	40.4	39.0	38.9	39.4	39.6	39.2	-.4
Textile product mills	39.9	39.2	39.0	38.2	39.9	38.7	39.1	39.2	38.8	38.2	-.6
Apparel	37.1	36.7	36.4	36.2	37.2	36.0	36.4	37.0	36.5	36.4	-.1
Leather and allied products	37.8	37.8	37.2	37.6	37.9	38.7	38.5	38.4	37.7	37.9	.2
Paper and paper products	43.9	42.3	42.9	43.0	43.2	42.5	42.7	42.6	43.0	42.5	-.5
Printing and related support activities	39.4	37.5	38.3	38.5	38.9	38.5	38.1	38.0	38.2	38.0	-.2
Petroleum and coal products	44.1	46.1	44.7	45.1	43.4	44.2	44.4	45.4	44.8	44.5	-.3
Chemicals	42.1	41.7	41.7	41.8	42.0	41.3	41.8	41.9	41.6	41.6	.0
Plastics and rubber products	41.9	40.7	41.2	41.1	41.6	41.0	41.1	41.3	41.3	40.9	-.4
Private service-providing	32.8	32.4	32.5	32.3	32.4	32.4	32.4	32.3	32.4	32.3	-.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	33.9	33.4	33.4	33.5	33.3	33.3	33.3	33.2	33.2	33.2	.0
Wholesale trade	38.7	38.3	38.3	38.1	38.2	38.3	38.3	38.4	38.3	38.1	-.2
Retail trade	30.7	30.3	30.3	30.4	30.2	30.1	30.1	30.0	30.1	30.1	.0
Transportation and warehousing	37.2	36.4	36.7	36.6	36.9	36.5	36.5	36.4	36.4	36.4	.0
Utilities	43.0	42.3	42.1	43.2	42.5	42.4	42.8	42.4	42.3	42.8	.5
Information	37.0	36.8	36.9	37.0	36.5	36.6	36.6	36.7	36.7	36.8	.1
Financial activities	36.3	35.6	35.8	35.6	35.7	36.0	35.9	35.7	36.0	35.9	-.1
Professional and business services	35.2	34.7	35.0	34.9	34.8	34.8	34.8	34.8	34.9	34.9	.0
Education and health services	32.9	32.6	32.6	32.5	32.6	32.7	32.6	32.6	32.6	32.5	-.1
Leisure and hospitality	25.6	25.8	25.8	24.9	25.4	25.3	25.3	25.2	25.2	25.1	-.1
Other services	31.1	30.9	31.1	30.8	30.9	30.8	30.8	30.8	30.9	30.8	-.1

[1] Data relate to production workers in natural resources and mining and manufacturing, construction workers in construction, and nonsupervisory workers in the service-providing industries. These groups account for approximately four-fifths of the total employment on private nonfarm payrolls.

[2] Includes motor vehicles, motor vehicle bodies and trailers, and motor vehicle parts.

p = preliminary.

NOTE: Data reflect the conversion to the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) as the basis for the assignment and tabulation of economic data by industry, replacing NAICS 2002. See http://www.bls.gov/ces/cesnaics07.htm for more details.

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

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

Industry	Average hourly earnings				Average weekly earnings			
	Sept. 2007	July 2008	Aug. 2008[p]	Sept. 2008[p]	Sept. 2007	July 2008	Aug. 2008[p]	Sept. 2008[p]
Total private	$17.64	$17.98	$18.05	$18.20	$603.29	$605.93	$611.90	$613.34
Seasonally adjusted	17.57	18.06	18.14	18.17	593.87	608.62	611.32	610.51
Goods-producing	18.91	19.37	19.50	19.58	777.20	780.61	793.65	791.03
Natural resources and mining	20.93	22.41	23.02	23.17	979.52	1,006.21	1,052.01	1,038.02
Construction	21.32	21.90	22.15	22.28	842.14	858.48	874.93	866.69
Manufacturing	17.39	17.71	17.74	17.82	725.16	719.03	729.11	730.62
Durable goods	18.35	18.63	18.70	18.80	770.70	760.10	774.18	774.56
Wood products	13.65	14.22	14.23	14.33	548.73	558.85	560.66	557.44
Nonmetallic mineral products	16.94	16.94	16.86	16.97	735.20	726.73	728.35	721.23
Primary metals	19.83	20.42	20.30	20.35	848.72	859.68	868.84	864.88
Fabricated metal products	16.61	16.94	17.07	17.15	699.28	691.15	706.70	710.01
Machinery	17.79	17.93	17.91	18.00	761.41	749.47	762.97	757.80
Computer and electronic products	20.20	21.15	21.24	21.30	828.20	862.92	870.84	877.56
Electrical equipment and appliances	16.10	15.87	15.96	15.98	666.54	641.15	649.57	658.38
Transportation equipment	23.42	23.68	23.86	23.94	1,011.74	975.62	1,002.12	1,007.87
Furniture and related products	14.36	14.52	14.60	14.56	572.96	557.57	566.48	551.82
Miscellaneous manufacturing	14.78	15.35	15.34	15.42	588.24	594.05	605.93	596.75
Nondurable goods	15.77	16.19	16.13	16.23	651.30	652.46	654.88	660.56
Food manufacturing	13.65	14.01	13.99	14.03	566.48	567.41	569.39	575.23
Beverages and tobacco products	18.40	18.86	18.43	18.85	747.04	737.43	711.40	716.30
Textile mills	13.16	13.77	13.65	13.71	536.93	535.65	541.91	544.29
Textile product mills	11.73	11.80	11.75	11.87	468.03	462.56	458.25	453.43
Apparel	11.17	11.35	11.31	11.45	414.41	416.55	411.68	414.49
Leather and allied products	12.24	12.85	12.94	12.80	462.67	485.73	481.37	481.28
Paper and paper products	18.54	19.07	18.80	18.95	813.91	806.66	806.52	814.85
Printing and related support activities	16.37	16.82	16.80	16.87	644.98	630.75	643.44	649.50
Petroleum and coal products	25.95	27.70	27.76	28.35	1,144.40	1,276.97	1,240.87	1,276.59
Chemicals	19.52	19.46	19.50	19.72	821.79	811.48	813.15	824.30
Plastics and rubber products	15.45	15.84	15.87	15.94	647.36	644.69	653.84	655.13
Private service-providing	17.31	17.63	17.68	17.86	567.77	571.21	574.60	576.88
Trade, transportation, and utilities	16.00	16.21	16.25	16.29	542.40	541.41	542.75	545.72
Wholesale trade	19.85	20.12	20.23	20.21	768.20	770.60	774.81	770.00
Retail trade	12.91	12.93	12.96	13.02	396.34	391.78	392.69	395.81
Transportation and warehousing	17.96	18.53	18.52	18.51	668.11	674.49	679.68	677.47
Utilities	28.27	28.48	28.61	28.80	1,215.61	1,204.70	1,204.48	1,244.16
Information	24.22	24.70	24.75	24.97	896.14	908.96	913.28	923.69
Financial activities	19.88	20.20	20.28	20.41	721.64	719.12	726.02	726.60
Professional and business services	20.34	20.99	21.05	21.27	715.97	728.35	736.75	742.32
Education and health services	18.33	18.85	18.84	18.93	603.06	614.51	614.18	615.23
Leisure and hospitality	10.53	10.72	10.80	10.89	269.57	276.58	278.64	271.16
Other services	15.58	15.80	15.84	15.99	484.54	488.22	492.62	492.49

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

[p] = preliminary.

NOTE: Data reflect the conversion to the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) as the basis for the assignment and tabulation of economic data by industry, replacing NAICS 2002. See http://www.bls.gov/ces/cesnaics07.htm for more details.

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

Industry	Sept. 2007	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008[p]	Sept. 2008[p]	Percent change from: Aug. 2008-Sept. 2008[p]
Total Private:							
Current dollars	$17.57	$17.95	$18.00	$18.06	$18.14	$18.17	0.2
Constant (1982) dollars [2]	8.35	8.24	8.17	8.12	8.17	N.A.	([3])
Goods-producing	18.78	19.17	19.25	19.33	19.40	19.45	.3
Natural resources and mining	20.99	21.71	22.01	22.54	23.02	23.17	.7
Construction	21.12	21.70	21.77	21.84	22.01	22.06	.2
Manufacturing	17.34	17.65	17.71	17.78	17.75	17.79	.2
Excluding overtime [4]	16.50	16.85	16.93	16.99	16.98	17.04	.4
Durable goods	18.28	18.61	18.67	18.75	18.70	18.74	.2
Nondurable goods	15.74	16.04	16.11	16.14	16.16	16.21	.3
Private service-providing	17.26	17.64	17.69	17.74	17.82	17.85	.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	15.90	16.16	16.19	16.20	16.26	16.24	-.1
Wholesale trade	19.72	20.08	20.12	20.16	20.30	20.25	-.2
Retail trade	12.83	12.90	12.90	12.90	12.95	12.93	-.2
Transportation and warehousing	17.86	18.38	18.39	18.41	18.47	18.45	-.1
Utilities	28.14	28.81	29.14	28.65	28.86	28.74	-.4
Information	24.01	24.67	24.74	24.82	24.86	24.85	.0
Financial activities	19.76	20.23	20.26	20.30	20.38	20.44	.3
Professional and business services	20.36	20.90	21.01	21.12	21.28	21.38	.5
Education and health services	18.29	18.71	18.75	18.81	18.85	18.89	.2
Leisure and hospitality	10.55	10.81	10.85	10.86	10.90	10.91	.1
Other services	15.55	15.81	15.85	15.90	15.93	15.97	.3

[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 0.6 percent from July 2008 to Aug. 2008, 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.
NOTE: Data reflect the conversion to the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) as the basis for the assignment and tabulation of economic data by industry, replacing NAICS 2002. See http://www.bls.gov/ces/cesnaics07.htm for more details.

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

(2002=100)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted						
	Sept. 2007	July 2008	Aug. 2008[p]	Sept. 2008[p]	Sept. 2007	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008[p]	Sept. 2008[p]	Percent change from: Aug. 2008-Sept. 2008[p]
Total private	109.2	107.9	108.4	107.0	107.6	107.1	107.0	106.9	106.8	106.3	-0.5
Goods-producing	104.6	99.1	100.3	98.4	101.6	97.9	97.6	97.2	97.0	95.7	-1.3
Natural resources and mining	138.8	140.8	147.4	145.2	134.5	134.6	137.0	138.3	143.3	141.6	-1.2
Construction	120.3	113.5	114.8	110.9	114.3	107.5	107.3	106.7	106.9	105.5	-1.3
Manufacturing	95.9	90.5	91.7	90.7	94.6	92.1	91.6	91.2	90.5	89.6	-1.0
Durable goods	98.8	92.3	93.6	92.1	97.6	94.4	93.9	93.6	92.7	91.3	-1.5
Wood products	91.7	83.2	82.7	79.4	89.3	82.0	81.6	80.5	79.6	77.3	-2.9
Nonmetallic mineral products	101.9	98.0	99.0	95.9	98.3	95.1	94.5	94.2	94.5	92.5	-2.1
Primary metals	90.7	87.9	88.9	88.5	90.1	89.2	89.4	89.0	88.9	88.2	-.8
Fabricated metal products	106.0	100.1	102.2	101.3	105.3	103.0	101.7	101.2	101.7	100.8	-.9
Machinery	103.7	102.7	103.4	101.0	103.7	103.1	102.6	102.9	103.9	101.3	-2.5
Computer and electronic products	102.7	101.0	101.6	100.6	101.5	102.9	102.3	101.6	101.7	99.9	-1.8
Electrical equipment and appliances	89.2	87.6	87.5	87.7	88.8	88.6	88.4	88.3	87.5	87.5	.0
Transportation equipment	99.7	85.6	87.1	86.6	98.5	91.5	91.0	90.9	86.8	86.0	-.9
Motor vehicles and parts[2]	87.4	68.6	70.8	69.5	85.6	76.3	75.4	75.9	69.7	68.4	-1.9
Furniture and related products	87.5	77.8	77.6	74.7	86.3	79.8	79.3	77.2	75.6	74.0	-2.1
Miscellaneous manufacturing	92.4	87.7	91.2	89.2	92.1	89.9	89.8	89.5	90.8	88.9	-2.1
Nondurable goods	91.4	87.7	88.5	88.4	89.5	87.9	87.7	87.3	87.2	86.3	-1.0
Food manufacturing	105.4	101.5	103.1	104.6	100.7	101.1	100.5	99.9	99.8	99.9	.1
Beverages and tobacco products	103.5	94.6	93.3	91.5	100.1	90.7	90.5	89.5	87.9	87.7	-.2
Textile mills	55.4	47.5	48.8	48.4	54.7	49.7	48.8	48.8	49.0	47.9	-2.2
Textile product mills	76.4	72.4	71.4	70.4	76.4	72.8	72.5	72.6	71.1	70.4	-1.0
Apparel	60.9	56.6	56.7	56.3	60.2	55.1	55.8	56.9	56.7	55.8	-1.6
Leather and allied products	70.2	69.7	73.3	75.3	70.3	72.1	74.3	72.6	74.7	74.9	.3
Paper and paper products	87.8	85.1	85.6	84.8	86.2	85.3	85.3	84.9	85.2	83.7	-1.8
Printing and related support activities	93.0	84.7	86.7	86.6	92.1	86.6	86.6	85.8	86.5	85.7	-.9
Petroleum and coal products	99.5	106.5	104.6	104.5	95.6	97.8	98.5	101.5	101.3	100.0	-1.3
Chemicals	95.4	97.4	96.2	95.1	94.8	96.3	97.1	96.9	95.5	95.0	-.5
Plastics and rubber products	91.9	87.1	88.0	86.8	90.9	88.0	88.3	88.3	87.8	86.2	-1.8
Private service-providing	110.7	110.5	110.6	109.2	109.3	109.7	109.7	109.3	109.6	109.1	-.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	106.4	104.4	104.2	104.0	104.8	104.4	104.3	103.8	103.6	103.4	-.2
Wholesale trade	111.8	110.9	110.3	109.2	110.3	110.6	110.5	110.5	110.0	109.2	-.7
Retail trade	102.5	100.8	100.7	99.9	101.7	100.4	100.3	99.9	100.0	99.8	-.2
Transportation and warehousing	111.3	107.2	107.9	109.1	109.4	108.8	108.4	108.2	107.9	107.6	-.3
Utilities	97.6	98.8	97.8	99.8	96.7	97.2	98.7	97.9	97.6	99.0	1.4
Information	100.9	100.7	100.5	100.1	100.1	100.2	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.3	.4
Financial activities	109.9	108.8	109.1	107.4	108.3	108.9	108.6	107.9	108.9	108.4	-.5
Professional and business services	118.2	115.7	116.5	115.7	115.9	115.6	115.3	115.1	115.0	114.8	-.2
Education and health services	113.9	114.4	114.8	116.2	113.4	116.1	116.2	116.5	117.0	116.8	-.2
Leisure and hospitality	113.7	120.1	119.4	111.0	111.6	112.0	112.0	111.5	111.4	110.8	-.5
Other services	99.6	101.4	101.3	99.2	99.4	99.6	99.5	99.6	99.9	99.7	-.2

[1] See footnote 1, table B-2.
[2] Includes motor vehicles, motor vehicle bodies and trailers, and motor vehicle parts.
[p] = preliminary.

NOTE: The indexes of aggregate weekly hours are calculated by dividing the current months estimates of aggregate hours by the corresponding 2002 annual average levels. Aggregate hours estimates are the product of estimates of average weekly hours and production and nonsupervisory worker employment.

Data reflect the conversion to the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) as the basis for the assignment and tabulation of economic data by industry, replacing NAICS 2002. See http://www.bls.gov/ces/cesnaics07.htm for more details.

Table B-6. Indexes of aggregate weekly payrolls of production and nonsupervisory workers[1] on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail

(2002=100)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted						
	Sept. 2007	July 2008	Aug. 2008p	Sept. 2008p	Sept. 2007	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008p	Sept. 2008p	Percent change from: Aug. 2008-Sept. 2008p
Total private	128.8	129.6	130.8	130.1	126.3	128.4	128.7	129.0	129.5	129.1	-0.3
Goods-producing	121.2	117.5	119.8	118.0	116.8	114.9	115.1	115.0	115.2	114.0	-1.0
Natural resources and mining	168.9	183.5	197.4	195.7	164.2	170.0	175.4	181.3	191.9	190.8	-.6
Construction	138.5	134.2	137.3	133.4	130.4	126.0	126.2	125.9	127.0	125.7	-1.0
Manufacturing	109.1	104.9	106.3	105.7	107.3	106.3	106.1	106.0	105.1	104.2	-.9
Durable goods	113.2	107.4	109.3	108.1	111.4	109.7	109.4	109.6	108.2	106.8	-1.3
Nondurable goods	101.9	100.3	100.9	101.4	99.5	99.8	99.8	99.6	99.6	98.9	-.7
Private service-providing	131.4	133.5	134.1	133.7	129.3	132.7	133.0	133.0	133.9	133.6	-.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	121.4	120.7	120.8	120.8	118.9	120.3	120.4	120.0	120.2	119.8	-.3
Wholesale trade	130.7	131.5	131.4	130.0	128.1	130.7	131.0	131.2	131.5	130.2	-1.0
Retail trade	113.4	111.7	111.8	111.5	111.8	111.0	110.9	110.4	111.0	110.6	-.4
Transportation and warehousing	126.8	126.0	126.8	128.1	124.0	126.8	126.4	126.3	126.4	126.0	-.3
Utilities	115.2	117.5	116.8	120.0	113.6	116.9	120.0	117.1	117.6	118.8	1.0
Information	121.0	123.1	123.2	123.7	119.0	122.3	122.5	122.9	123.0	123.4	.3
Financial activities	135.1	135.9	136.9	135.5	132.3	136.2	136.0	135.5	137.2	137.0	-.1
Professional and business services	143.0	144.5	145.9	146.4	140.4	143.8	144.2	144.7	145.6	146.0	.3
Education and health services	137.3	141.8	142.2	144.6	136.4	142.8	143.2	144.1	144.9	145.0	.1
Leisure and hospitality	136.0	146.3	146.5	137.3	133.7	137.5	138.1	137.5	137.9	137.3	-.4
Other services	113.1	116.8	117.0	115.6	112.6	114.8	115.0	115.4	116.0	116.0	.0

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

p = preliminary.

NOTE: The indexes of aggregate weekly payrolls are calculated by dividing the current months estimates of aggregate payrolls by the corresponding 2002 annual average levels. Aggregate payroll estimates are the product of estimates of average hourly earnings, average weekly hours, and production and nonsupervisory worker employment.

Data reflect the conversion to the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) as the basis for the assignment and tabulation of economic data by industry, replacing NAICS 2002. See http://www.bls.gov/ces/cesnaics07.htm for more details.

Table B-7. Diffusion indexes of employment change

(Percent)

Time span	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Private nonfarm payrolls, 274 industries[1]											
Over 1-month span:												
2004	50.5	50.5	64.1	62.6	61.7	58.9	56.0	50.0	56.9	56.9	51.3	51.8
2005	52.2	60.6	54.2	58.2	55.8	58.2	58.0	61.3	54.7	53.6	62.4	54.7
2006	65.1	60.9	64.4	59.3	53.3	52.7	60.4	58.9	53.5	55.8	57.1	56.0
2007	51.6	51.8	52.7	51.1	56.6	50.4	52.2	51.8	58.4	54.8	48.2	48.5
2008	45.4	41.4	47.4	45.6	46.4	42.3	38.3	P 44.7	P 38.1			
Over 3-month span:												
2004	54.4	52.9	57.3	63.5	68.8	66.6	61.3	56.4	57.7	59.5	61.9	54.6
2005	52.2	55.5	57.5	60.8	58.9	61.9	60.4	63.9	61.1	54.4	54.9	61.3
2006	67.2	68.2	66.6	65.5	60.6	58.2	56.0	58.9	55.7	56.4	57.1	58.4
2007	58.4	54.7	55.3	54.7	56.2	53.3	53.1	54.7	58.4	56.8	54.7	52.4
2008	46.7	42.7	42.3	44.0	43.1	44.0	36.3	P 38.3	P 36.1			
Over 6-month span:												
2004	50.0	51.6	55.3	60.9	63.7	65.1	65.1	63.9	60.4	61.7	58.2	56.0
2005	54.6	57.3	56.8	57.5	57.5	58.2	64.4	62.8	62.0	59.3	61.5	62.0
2006	63.1	64.4	67.2	67.0	64.4	66.4	61.5	61.7	60.4	59.7	60.8	56.0
2007	59.1	56.4	57.5	56.8	58.8	58.2	56.2	58.0	58.2	57.1	54.6	53.8
2008	51.5	49.6	44.7	46.5	43.6	39.1	37.6	P 38.9	P 37.2			
Over 12-month span:												
2004	40.5	42.3	45.1	48.9	51.3	58.2	57.5	55.7	57.3	58.8	60.6	60.8
2005	60.6	60.8	59.7	58.9	58.0	60.0	60.9	63.3	60.4	58.9	59.5	61.7
2006	67.2	65.1	65.5	62.6	64.8	66.4	64.4	64.4	66.2	65.1	64.4	65.5
2007	62.6	59.1	60.4	58.9	59.5	58.4	57.5	58.8	61.7	60.4	59.9	57.7
2008	53.8	54.6	52.6	50.4	49.3	45.6	44.7	P 42.3	P 41.2			
	Manufacturing payrolls, 84 industries[1]											
Over 1-month span:												
2004	43.5	47.6	47.0	63.7	50.6	51.2	58.3	42.9	42.9	48.2	42.3	39.9
2005	36.3	48.8	42.9	44.6	42.3	35.1	38.1	47.0	45.8	46.4	47.0	47.0
2006	57.7	45.8	54.8	48.8	38.1	53.0	50.6	44.0	36.3	40.5	38.1	39.3
2007	47.6	35.7	30.4	29.8	37.5	39.3	41.7	33.3	40.5	45.2	44.6	36.3
2008	40.5	26.6	38.1	35.1	44.6	30.4	26.8	P 34.5	P 26.8			
Over 3-month span:												
2004	41.1	40.5	43.5	56.5	58.9	61.3	57.7	47.0	46.4	41.7	44.6	38.7
2005	38.1	39.3	42.3	44.6	36.3	37.5	33.3	39.9	45.8	41.7	38.7	49.4
2006	54.8	52.4	47.6	48.8	44.6	50.6	42.9	47.6	36.3	37.5	32.1	34.5
2007	33.9	28.6	32.1	27.4	29.8	32.7	31.0	34.5	32.1	39.3	44.0	41.7
2008	35.7	27.4	26.8	29.2	29.8	35.7	24.4	P 23.2	P 20.8			
Over 6-month span:												
2004	29.2	31.5	32.7	44.6	49.4	64.8	59.5	56.0	51.2	51.8	44.0	38.7
2005	33.9	38.1	35.1	36.9	32.1	32.1	41.7	35.7	38.3	36.9	37.5	42.3
2006	42.9	45.2	50.6	47.6	48.2	47.6	46.4	48.8	43.5	41.7	38.7	29.8
2007	34.5	27.4	23.8	27.4	31.5	34.5	33.3	31.0	29.2	35.1	34.5	32.7
2008	34.5	33.9	32.1	28.0	26.8	20.8	19.6	P 20.2	P 21.4			
Over 12-month span:												
2004	13.1	14.3	13.1	20.2	23.2	35.7	36.9	38.1	36.9	44.0	44.6	44.6
2005	44.6	43.5	41.7	40.5	36.3	35.1	32.1	33.9	32.7	33.3	33.3	38.1
2006	44.6	40.5	40.5	39.3	39.3	44.6	41.7	42.3	46.4	48.2	45.2	44.0
2007	39.3	36.3	36.9	28.6	29.8	26.2	26.8	29.2	30.4	29.8	33.3	33.9
2008	29.8	29.8	29.8	24.4	27.4	24.4	23.8	P 22.0	P 25.0			

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

Data reflect the conversion to the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) as the basis for the assignment and tabulation of economic data by industry, replacing NAICS 2002. See http://www.bls.gov/ces/cesnaics07.htm for more details.

U. S. Department of Labor

Commissioner
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Washington, D.C. 20212

OCT 17 2008

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Maloney:

I appreciated the opportunity to participate in the Joint Economic Committee's October 3, 2008, hearing on the Employment Situation report. At that hearing, you requested data on 1) comparisons of job loss among women and men by industry and 2) comparisons of current unemployment rates for various demographic groups recently and during the 2001 recession.

I have enclosed a table showing changes in nonfarm payroll employment for women and men by industry over the first 8 months of this year. As shown in table 1, employment changes among women and men vary by industry. For example, men have experienced steeper job declines than women in construction and retail trade. At the same time, women have shown greater job growth than men in education and health services.

Table 2 presents unemployment rates for demographic groups at the beginning and end of the 2001 recession (March and November 2001, business cycle turning points as designated by the National Bureau of Economic Research) and also for June 2003, when the overall jobless rate peaked following the 2001 recession. The table also shows jobless rates for December 2007 (the recent peak in payroll employment) and for September of this year. There are a number of patterns evident in the data presented in this table. For example, during the recent period of labor market weakness, the jobless rate for women did not go up as much as that for men.

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney--2

OCT 17 2008

I hope you will find this information useful, and I look forward to continued discussions with you and the Committee about economic developments.

Sincerely yours,

KEITH HALL
Commissioner

Enclosures

From December 2007 to August 2008 (women worker data are not yet available for September), women workers have lost the most jobs in the following industries: Manufacturing (121,000), Professional and Business Services (119,000), Retail Trade (62,900), and Financial Services (60,000).

During the same time period, men have lost the most jobs in the following industries: Construction (294,000), Manufacturing (220,000), Professional and Business Services (151,000), and Retail Trade (147,900).

Women workers have lost jobs at a faster rate than men in several industries, including Manufacturing, Transportation and warehousing, and Utilities.

Women have gained jobs at a faster rate than men in the following industries: Education and health services and Government.

Table 1.—Change in Payroll Employment among Women and Men, by Industry, December 2007 to August 2008

[in thousands]

Industry	Change in women workers	Change in male workers	Change in all employees	Percent change in women workers	Percent change in male workers	Percent change in all employees
Total	164	-765	-601	0.2	-1.1	-0.4
Total Private	-60	-741	-801	-0.1	-1.2	-0.7
Natural Resources and Mining	5	45	50	5.1	7.0	6.8
Construction	-11	-294	-305	-1.2	-4.5	-4.1
Manufacturing	-121	-220	-341	-3.0	-2.2	-2.5
Wholesale Trade	-12.8	-51.8	-64.6	-0.7	-1.2	-1.1
Retail Trade	-62.9	-147.9	-210.8	-0.8	-1.9	-1.4
Transportation and Warehousing	-23.6	-5.8	-29.4	-2.1	-0.2	-0.6
Utilities	-3.7	6.3	2.6	-2.4	1.6	0.5
Information	-18	-17	-35	-1.4	-1.0	-1.2
Financial Activities	-60	9	-51	-1.2	0.3	-0.6
Professional and Business Services	-119	-151	-270	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5
Education and Health Services	343	83	426	2.4	2.0	2.3
Leisure and Hospitality	9	1	10	0.1	0.0	0.1
Other Services	15	2	17	0.5	0.1	0.3
Government	224	-24	200	1.8	-0.2	0.9

Source: Current Employment Statistics Survey, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Table 2.—Unemployment Rates for Selected Demographic Groups

[seasonally adjusted, except where noted]

Characteristic	Time Period				
	September 2008	December 2007 (CES Employment Peak)	June 2003 (Overall Unemployment Rate Peak)	November 2001 (Official End of Recession)	March 2001 (Official Start of Recession)
Sex					
Total, 16 and over	6.1	5.0	6.3	5.5	4.3
Men, 16 and over	6.7	5.1	6.7	5.7	4.3
Adult Men, 20 and over	6.1	4.4	6.0	5.0	3.8
Women, 16 and over	5.5	4.9	5.9	5.4	4.2
Adult Women, 20 and over	4.9	4.4	5.2	4.8	3.6
Age					
16-19 years	19.1	17.1	19.0	15.9	13.8
20-24 years	10.5	9.4	10.4	9.3	7.6
25-54 years	5.2	4.1	5.2	4.6	3.3
55 years and over	4.1	3.2	4.4	3.5	2.7
Race and Ethnicity					
White	5.4	4.4	5.5	4.9	3.7
Black	11.4	9.0	11.5	9.8	8.3
Asian (not seasonally adjusted)	3.8	3.7	7.8	5.4	3.2
Hispanic or Latino	7.8	6.3	8.4	7.3	6.2

Table 2.—Unemployment Rates for Selected Demographic Groups—Continued
[seasonally adjusted, except where noted]

Characteristic	Time Period				
	September 2008	December 2007 (CES Employment Peak)	June 2003 (Overall Unemployment Rate Peak)	November 2001 (Official End of Recession)	March 2001 (Official Start of Recession)
Educational Attainment, 25 years and over					
Less than a high school diploma	9.6	7.6	9.4	8.0	6.8
High school graduates, no college	6.3	4.7	5.7	5.0	3.8
Some college or associate degree	5.0	3.7	4.9	4.2	2.7
Bachelor's degree and higher	2.5	2.2	3.1	2.9	2.0

Source: Current Population Survey, Bureau of Labor Statistics

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