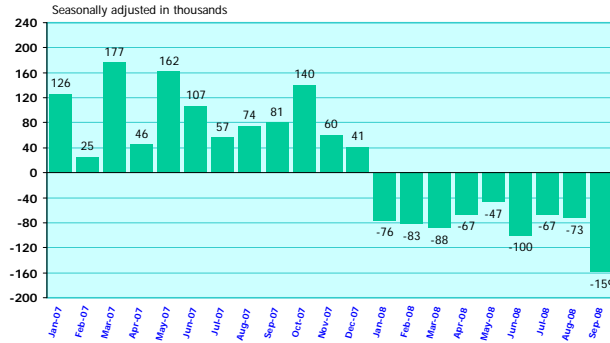




Current Employment Statistics Highlights September 2008

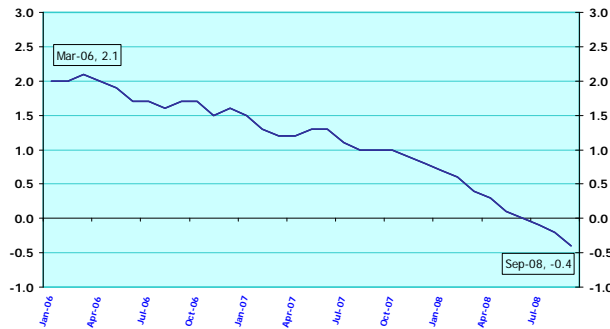
Bureau of Labor Statistics
October 3, 2008

Employment in total nonfarm Over-the-month change, 2007-08



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 3, 2008.
Note: Most recent two months of data are preliminary.

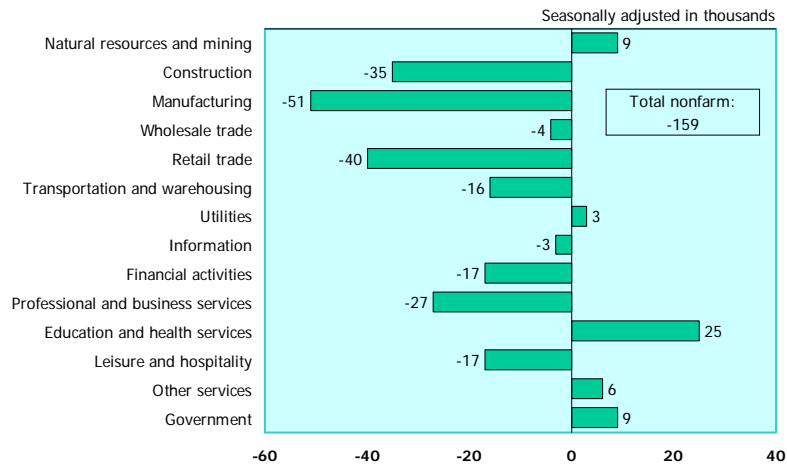
Employment in total nonfarm Over-the-year percent changes, 2006-08



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 3, 2008.
Note: Most recent two months of data are preliminary.

- Nonfarm payroll employment continued to trend down in September; 159,000 jobs were lost. Since peaking in December, nonfarm payroll employment has declined by 760,000, for an average monthly job loss of 84,000.
- In September, the 12-month percent change in payroll employment fell to -0.4 percent. This is in contrast to the over-the-year increase of 1.0 percent a year earlier.

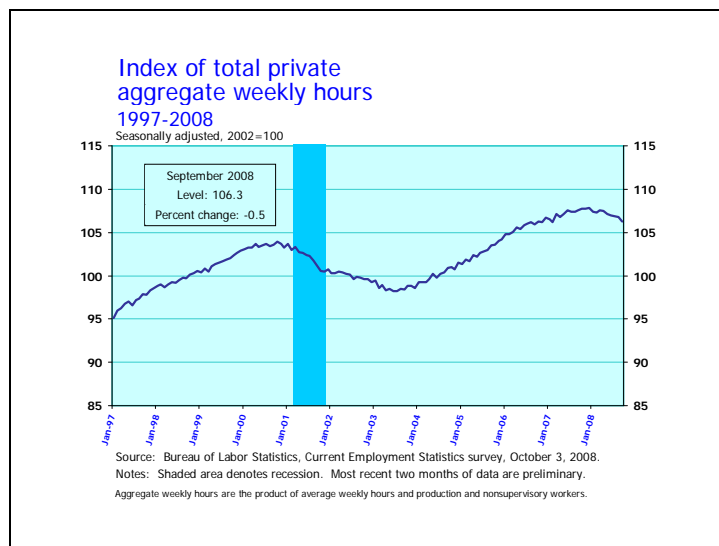
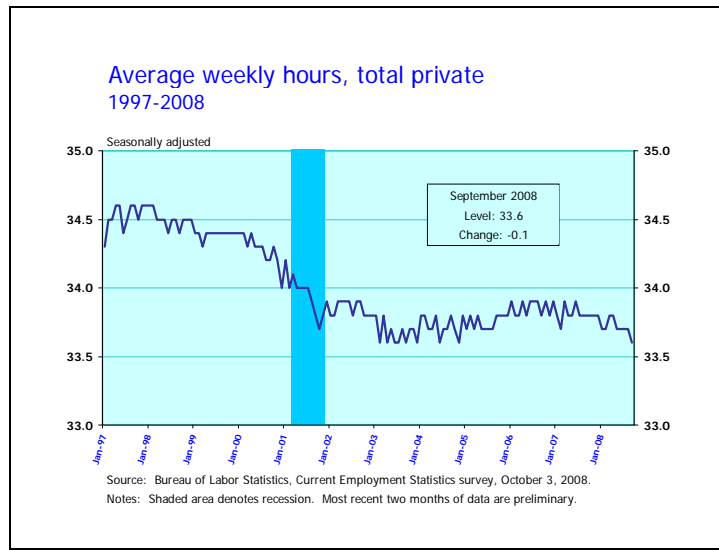
Employment in total nonfarm Over-the-month change, September 2008



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 3, 2008.

Note: Data are preliminary.

- In September, job losses continued in manufacturing, construction, and retail trade. With the exception of health care, employment in the major service-providing industries was flat or down. Mining employment continued to trend up.

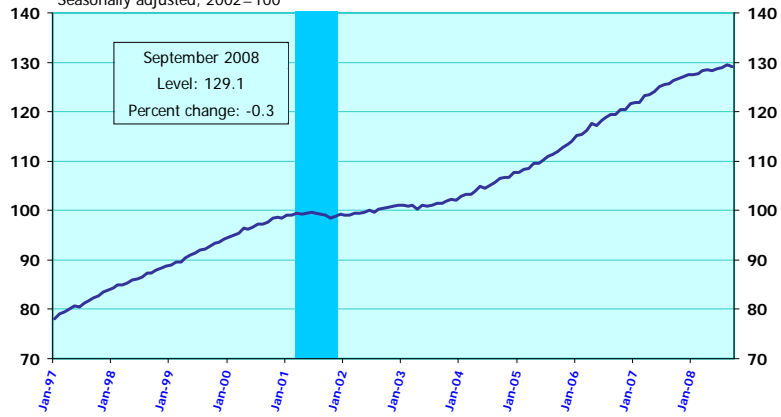


- In September, the average workweek for production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls fell by 0.1 hour to 33.6 hours, seasonally adjusted. The last time the workweek was at its current level was in November 2004.
- The index of aggregate weekly hours of production and nonsupervisory workers on nonfarm payrolls fell by 0.5 percent in September to 106.3 (2002=100).

Index of total private aggregate weekly payrolls

1997-2008

Seasonally adjusted, 2002=100



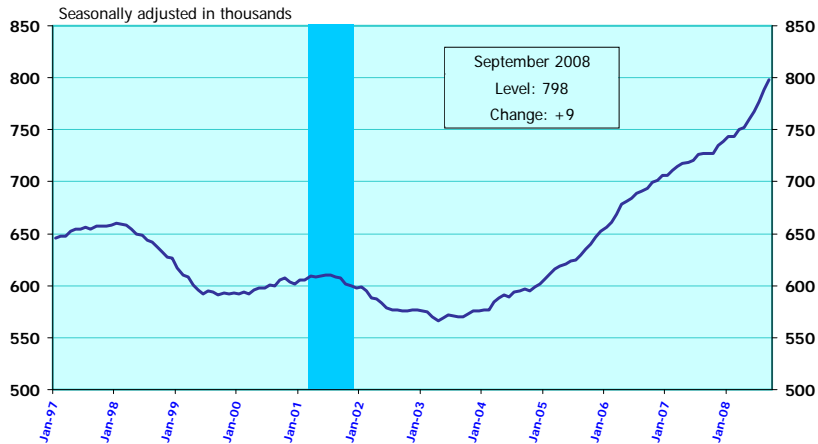
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 3, 2008.

Notes: Shaded area denotes recession. Most recent two months of data are preliminary.

Aggregate weekly payrolls are the product of average hourly earnings, average weekly hours, and production and nonsupervisory workers.

- The index of aggregate weekly payrolls for production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls fell by 0.3 percent in September to 129.1 (2002=100). The decline resulted from a 0.2 percent loss in the number of production and nonsupervisory workers in combination with a small decrease in weekly earnings.

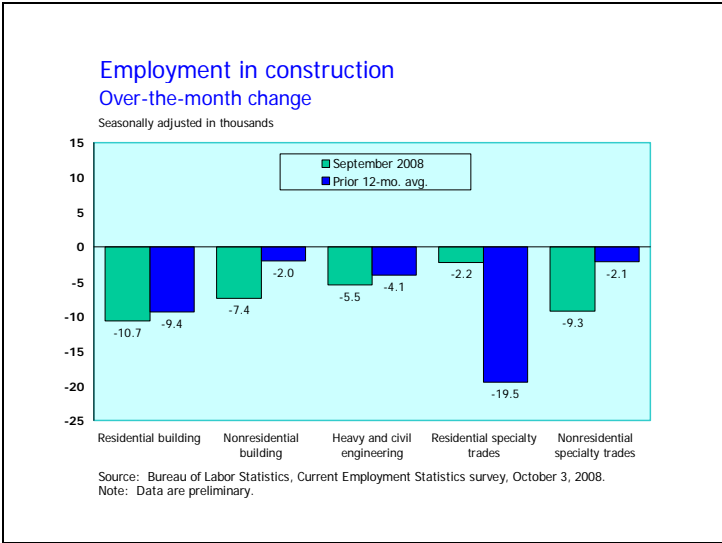
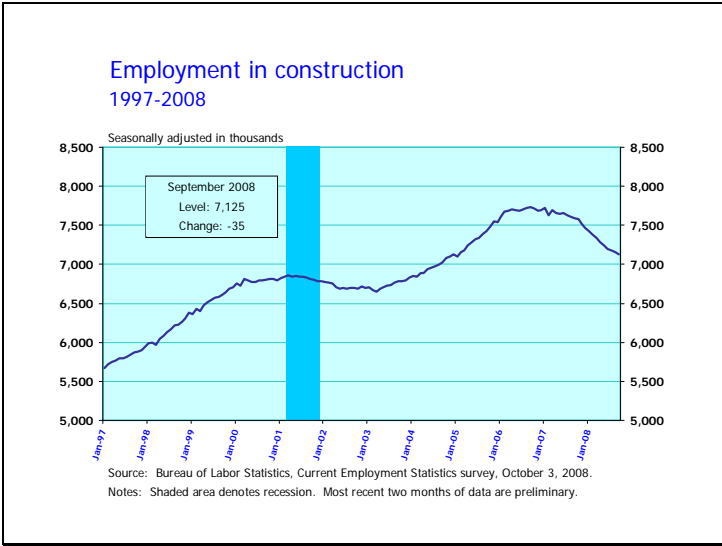
Employment in natural resources and mining 1997-2008



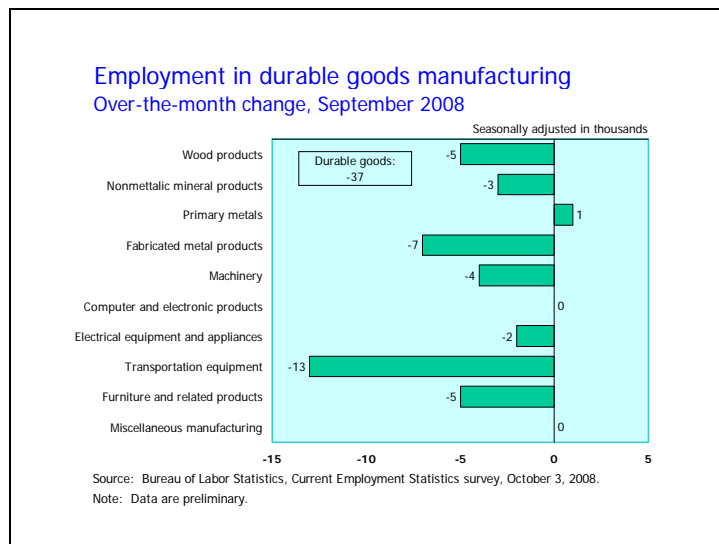
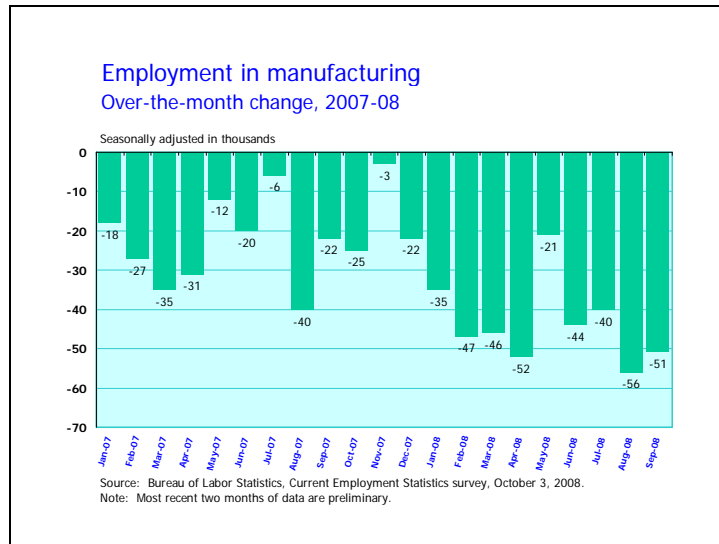
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 3, 2008.

Notes: Shaded area denotes recession. Most recent two months of data are preliminary.

- Employment in natural resources and mining continued to expand in September, rising by 9,000 with widespread gains throughout the component industries.
- After growing at a steady pace over much of the past year, employment growth has accelerated in the last 5 months, with 46,000 positions added in that time. With the industry's recent acceleration in growth, natural resource and mining employment is growing at an annualized rate of 10.8 percent in 2008, its fastest rate since 1981.

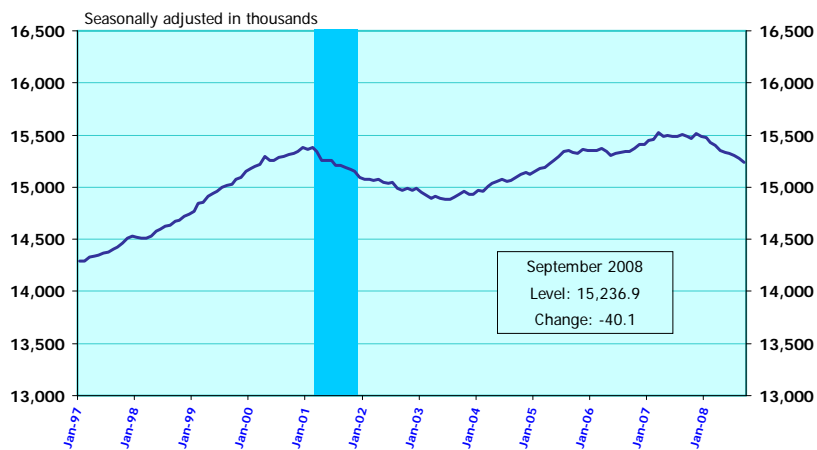


- Construction employment continued to decline in September, as the industry lost 35,000 positions. The results were in line with the industry’s prior 12-month average (-37,000). Job losses were widespread throughout construction; however, nonresidential construction accounted for most of the September loss.
- Construction has lost 607,000 jobs since employment peaked in September 2006, with 56 percent of the decline occurring in 2008.
- Residential construction employment fell by 13,000 jobs; this was the industry’s smallest decline since July 2007.



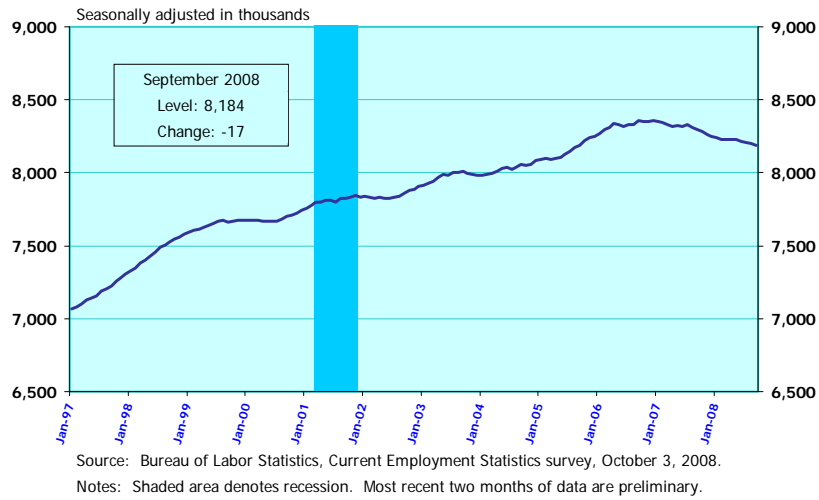
- Manufacturing employment fell by 51,000 jobs in September, the 27th consecutive month of job loss in this industry. Factories shed a cumulative 392,000 jobs in the first 9 months of 2008.
- Over-the-month job losses occurred in durable goods industries, with notable declines in transportation equipment (-13,000) and fabricated metals (-7,000), as well as 2 industries related to home building--wood products (-5,000) and furniture and related products (-5,000).
- The manufacturing workweek and factory overtime decreased over the month by 0.2 and 0.1 hour, respectively. Average weekly overtime is at its lowest level since 1991.

Employment in retail trade 1997-2008

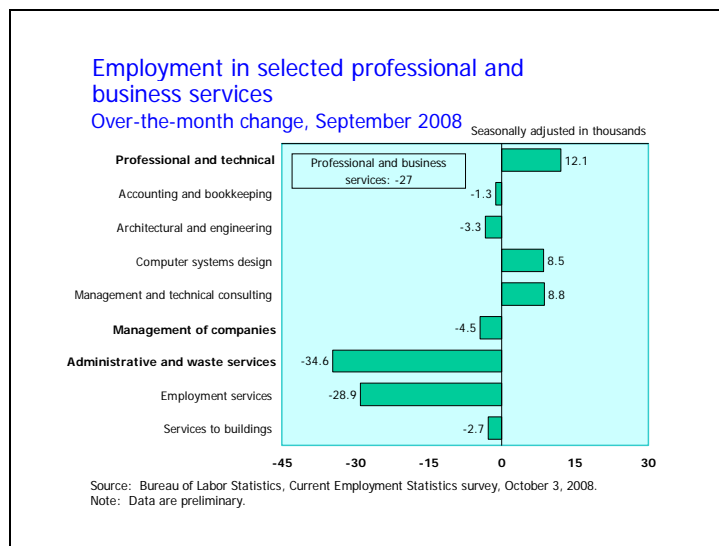
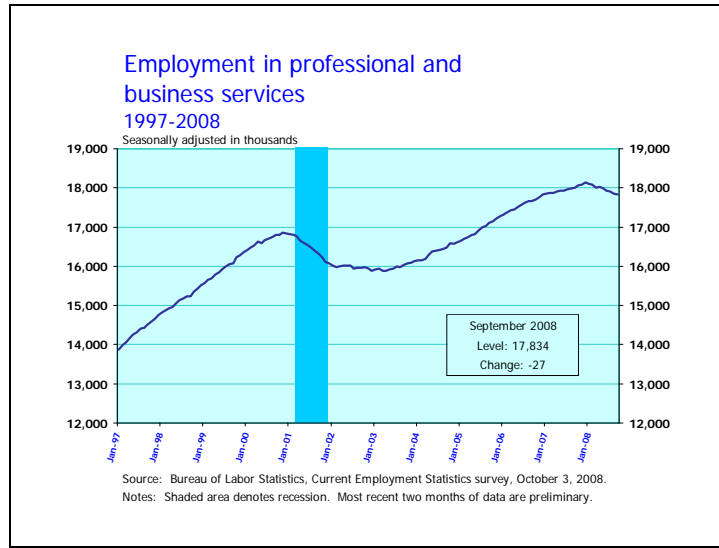


- Retail trade employment dropped by 40,000 in September, doubling the average monthly job loss over the prior 3 months. Since its peak in March 2007, retail trade employment has declined by 283,000.
- Department stores lost 11,000 jobs in September and 68,000 jobs so far this year. Employment in motor vehicle and parts dealers declined by 10,000 in September and the industry has lost 48,000 jobs in the past 4 months.

Employment in financial activities 1997-2008

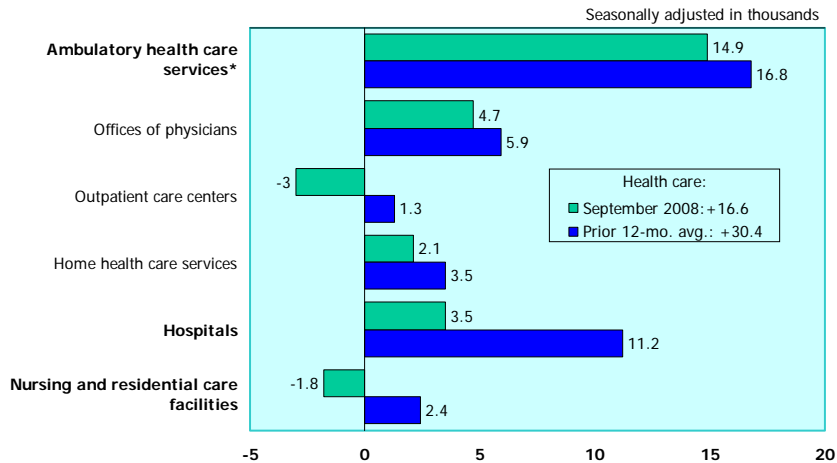


- Employment in financial activities contracted by 17,000 in September, with nearly half of the decline occurring in security brokerages. Since reaching a peak in December 2006, employment in financial activities has fallen by 172,000.
- Employment in the industry has fallen over each of the last 7 quarters, the longest stretch of job declines in the history of the employment series.



- Professional and business services continued to cut jobs in September, with 27,000 jobs lost. The industry has lost 297,000 jobs so far in 2008.
- Employment in temporary help services declined by 24,000 in September and the industry has cut 325,000 jobs since an employment peak in December 2006.
- Employment in professional and technical services added 12,000 jobs in September. Growth in the industry has decelerated substantially, with average monthly gains of 6,000 in 2008 compared to 27,000 per month in 2007.

Employment in health care Over-the-month change, September 2008



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 3, 2008.

Note: Data are preliminary.

* Includes additional component industries not shown separately.

- Employment in health care continued to grow, up 17,000 in September. The industry has added 351,000 jobs over the past 12 months.
- The majority of September's employment gain came in ambulatory health care services, which continued to show strength by adding 15,000 jobs during the month and 198,000 over the past 12 months.