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Statement of

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Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 222,000 in June, and the unemployment rate, at 4.4 percent, was little changed. Job gains occurred in health care, social assistance, financial activities, and mining.

Incorporating revisions for April and May, which increased nonfarm payroll employment by 47,000, monthly job gains have averaged 194,000 over the past 3 months.

In June, health care employment rose by 37,000. Job gains occurred in ambulatory health care services (+26,000) and hospitals (+12,000). Job growth in health care has averaged 24,000 per month for the first half of 2017, compared with an average monthly gain of 32,000 in 2016.

The social assistance industry added 23,000 jobs in June and has added 115,000 jobs over the year. Employment continued to trend up in individual and family services (+12,000) and in child day care services (+8,000).

Employment in financial activities rose by 17,000 in June, with a gain in securities, commodity contracts, and investments (+5,000). Financial activities has added 169,000 jobs over the past 12 months.

In June, mining employment increased by 8,000. Since a recent low point last October, mining has added 56,000 jobs, with most of the gain in support activities for mining.

Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in June (+35,000). This industry has added 624,000 jobs over the past year.

Employment in food services and drinking places also continued to trend up over the month (+29,000). Job gains have averaged 26,000 per month thus far in 2017, in line with the average monthly job gain in 2016.

Employment in other major industries--construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, transportation and warehousing, information, and government--showed little change over the month.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 4 cents to \$26.25 in June. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have risen by 2.5 percent. From May 2016 to May 2017, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased by 1.9 percent (on a seasonally adjusted basis).

The major labor market indicators from the survey of households changed little in June. The unemployment rate, at 4.4 percent, changed little over the month but is down by 0.4 percentage point since January. The number of unemployed people, at 7.0 million, was about unchanged in June.

Among the unemployed in June, 1.7 million had been searching for work 27 weeks or longer. These long-term unemployed accounted for 24.3 percent of the total unemployed.

The labor force participation rate, at 62.8 percent, was little changed in June and has shown no clear trend over the past year. The employment-population ratio, at 60.1 percent in June, also changed little. This ratio has held fairly steady during the first half of this year.

Among the employed, the number working part time for economic reasons, also referred to as involuntary part-time workers, was little changed at 5.3 million in June.

Among those neither working nor looking for work in June, 1.6 million people were marginally attached to the labor force, down by 197,000 from a year earlier. Discouraged workers, a subset of the marginally attached who believed that no jobs were available for them, numbered 514,000 in June, little different from a year earlier. (People who are marginally attached to the labor force had not looked for work in the 4 weeks prior to the

survey but wanted a job, were available for work, and had looked for a job within the last 12 months.)

In summary, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 222,000 in June, and the unemployment rate was little changed at 4.4 percent.