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Statement of

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Commissioner
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Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 148,000 in September, and the unemployment rate, at 7.2 percent, changed little. Over the prior 12 months, job gains averaged 185,000 per month. In September, employment increased in construction, wholesale trade, and transportation and warehousing.

The release of these data comes about 2 weeks later than originally scheduled because of the recent partial Federal government shutdown. Data collection for the estimates in this statement had been completed prior to the shutdown in accordance with our normal schedule. However, the processing of some estimates and other production activities were delayed due to the shutdown.

Construction added 20,000 jobs in September after 6 months of little change. Wholesale trade employment increased by 16,000 in September.

Transportation and warehousing employment increased by 23,000 over the month. This job gain occurred mainly in transit and ground passenger transportation (+18,000).

Professional and business services employment continued to trend up in September (+32,000). Job gains in this industry averaged 52,000 per month over the prior 12 months. Employment in temporary help services continued to trend up in September (+20,000).

Within retail trade, employment rose in building material and garden supply stores (+5,000) and automobile dealers (+4,000).

Health care employment was essentially unchanged in September (+7,000). Since the beginning of 2013, employment growth in health care has averaged 19,000 per month, compared with 27,000 per month in 2012.

In financial activities, credit intermediation lost 8,000 jobs in September. Within leisure and hospitality, food services employment was essentially unchanged (-7,000). Over the prior 12 months, job growth in food services averaged 28,000 per month.

Employment in other major industries showed little change in September.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 3 cents in September. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have risen by 49 cents, or 2.1 percent.

From August 2012 to August 2013, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rose by 1.5 percent.

Turning to our survey of households, the unemployment rate, at 7.2 percent, and the number of unemployed persons, at 11.3 million, were essentially unchanged in September. The jobless rate has declined by 0.4 percentage point since June.

Both the labor force participation rate, at 63.2 percent, and the employment-population ratio, at 58.6 percent, were unchanged over the month.

The number of involuntary part-time workers was unchanged at 7.9 million in September. These individuals would have preferred full-time employment but had their hours cut or were unable to find full-time work.

Among persons who were neither working nor looking for work in September, 2.3 million were classified as marginally attached to the labor force, down by 215,000 from a year earlier. These individuals 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. The number of discouraged workers, a subset of the marginally attached who believed that no jobs were available for them, was 852,000 in September, essentially unchanged from a year earlier.

In summary, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 148,000 in September, and the unemployment rate was little changed at 7.2 percent.