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Statement of

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Friday, December 8, 2006

Payroll employment rose by 132,000 in November, and the unemployment rate was essentially unchanged at 4.5 percent. The November employment gain followed increases of 203,000 in September and 79,000 in October (as revised). Over the month, employment rose in several service-providing industries. Job losses continued in construction and manufacturing.

Employment in professional and business services continued to grow in November (43,000). Over the year, the industry has added 426,000 jobs. Growth has occurred during this period in a number of the component industries, including architectural and engineering services, management consulting services, and computer systems design.

Health care employment rose by 28,000 in November, bringing the increase over the year to 309,000. In November, job growth continued in hospitals and in ambulatory health care services, which includes doctors' offices.

Within the leisure and hospitality sector, employment growth continued in food services and drinking places, which added 34,000 jobs over the month and 295,000 over the year.

Employment in retail trade edged up in November, with gains in health and personal care stores; clothing and accessory stores; sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores; and nonstore retailers, which include catalog and internet retailers. Over the month, job losses continued in general merchandise stores, after seasonal adjustment. Employment in this industry has decreased by 107,000 since August 2005.

Employment continued to grow in mining in November. Since its low point in April 2003, mining employment has risen by 136,000, mainly in support activities.

Construction employment fell sharply for the second month in a row. The November decline (-29,000) was widespread across the component industries. Since peaking in February of this year, residential specialty trades

employment has fallen by 109,000. Nonresidential specialty trades added jobs during the first 10 months of the year, but employment in the industry edged down in November.

Employment in manufacturing continued its downward trend in November (-15,000). The over-the-month decline was concentrated in durable goods manufacturing. Employment continued to fall in motor vehicles and in two construction-related industries--wood products and furniture. In November, both the manufacturing workweek and factory overtime decreased by 0.1 hour to 41.1 and 4.2 hours, respectively.

Average hourly earnings for private production and nonsupervisory workers increased 3 cents in November to \$16.94, a gain of 0.2 percent. Over the year, average hourly earnings rose by 4.1 percent.

Most major indicators from the survey of households showed little or no change in November. The civilian labor force increased by 383,000 persons over the month, and the labor force participation rate was 66.3 percent. The unemployment rate was 4.5 percent in November, essentially unchanged from 4.4 percent in October. The unemployment rate had ranged from 4.6 to 4.8 percent in the first 9 months of the year.

In summary, payroll employment rose by 132,000 in November, and the unemployment rate was 4.5 percent.