



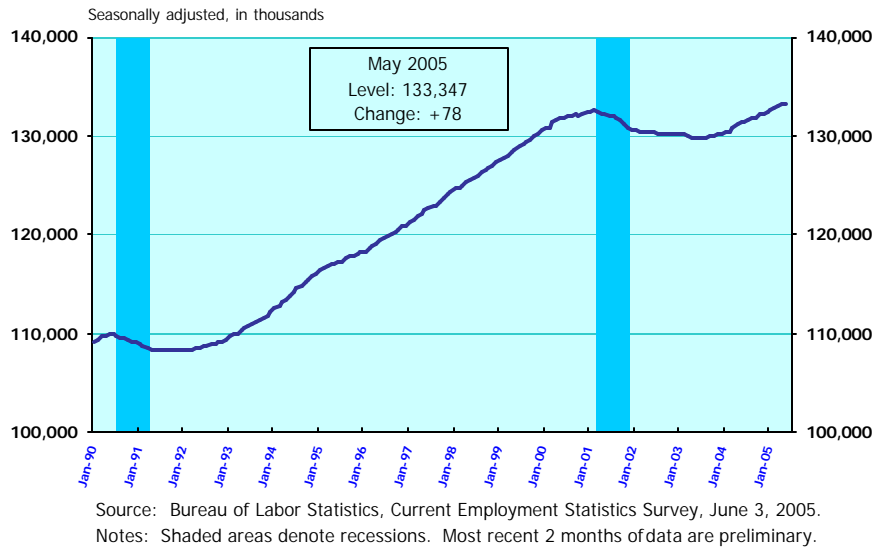
Current Employment Statistics

Highlights

May 2005

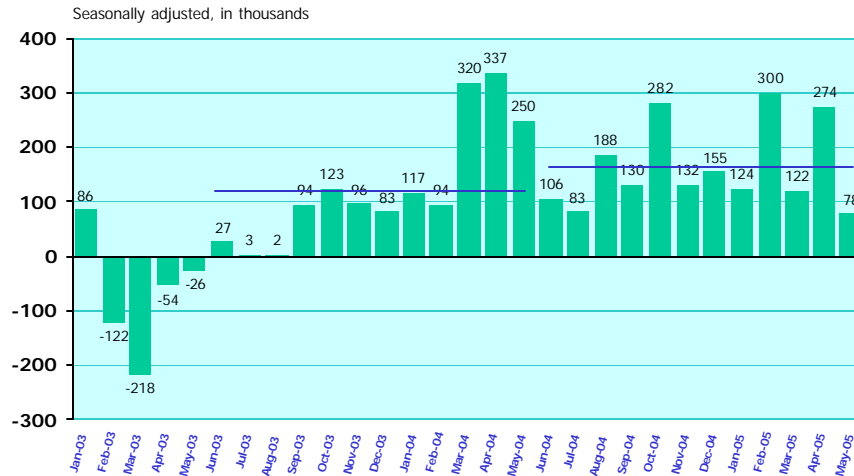
Bureau of Labor Statistics
June 3, 2005

All employees on nonfarm payrolls 1990-2005



- As of May 2005, nonfarm payroll employment had increased by 3.5 million jobs since the trough of May 2003 and exceeded the pre-recession peak (February 2001) level by 801,000.
- So far this year, employment has increased at the annual rate of 1.6 percent, nearly matching the 1.7 percent rate of 2004.

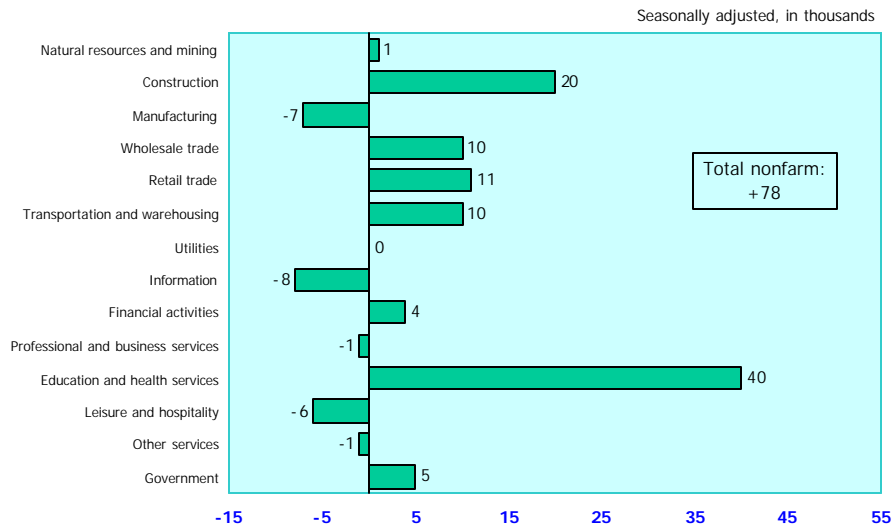
Employment in total nonfarm Over-the-month change, 2003-05



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, June 3, 2005.
Note: Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

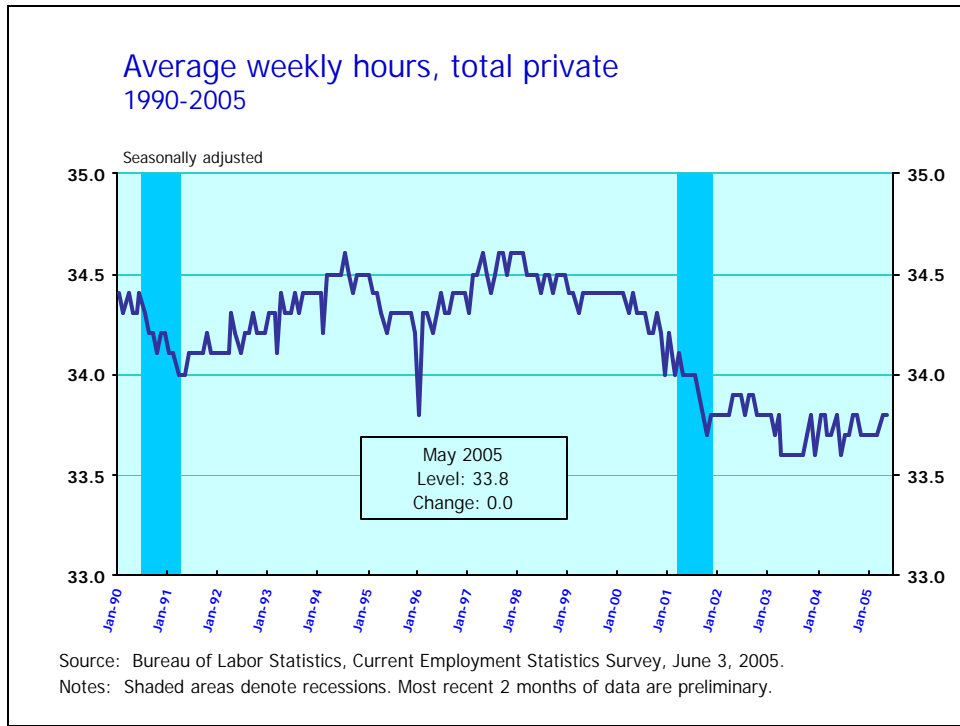
- Nonfarm employment edged up by 78,000 in May following an increase of 274,000 in April. The average of the two increases (176,000) was comparable to the average monthly increase for the 12 prior months (184,000).
- Employment declined from the beginning of the last recession through May 2003, 18 months after the end of the recession. Employment then increased throughout the latest 2 years.

Employment in total nonfarm and supersectors Over-the-month change, May 2005



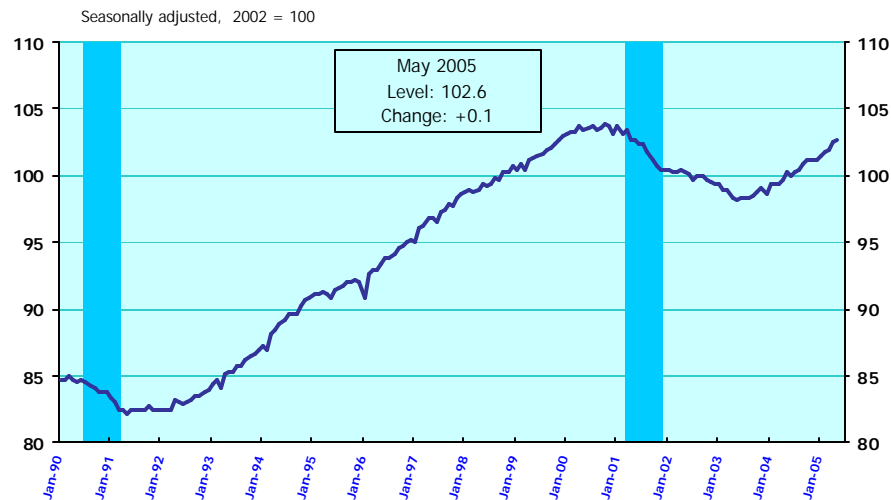
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, June 3, 2005.
Note: Data are preliminary.

- In May, employment continued to grow in education and health services and in construction, but was little changed in the other major industry sectors.
- The upward movements of wholesale trade, retail trade, and transportation and warehousing were comparable to their average gains during the prior 12 months.
- Manufacturing, information, and leisure and hospitality, although basically unchanged, together partly offset small employment gains in other sectors.



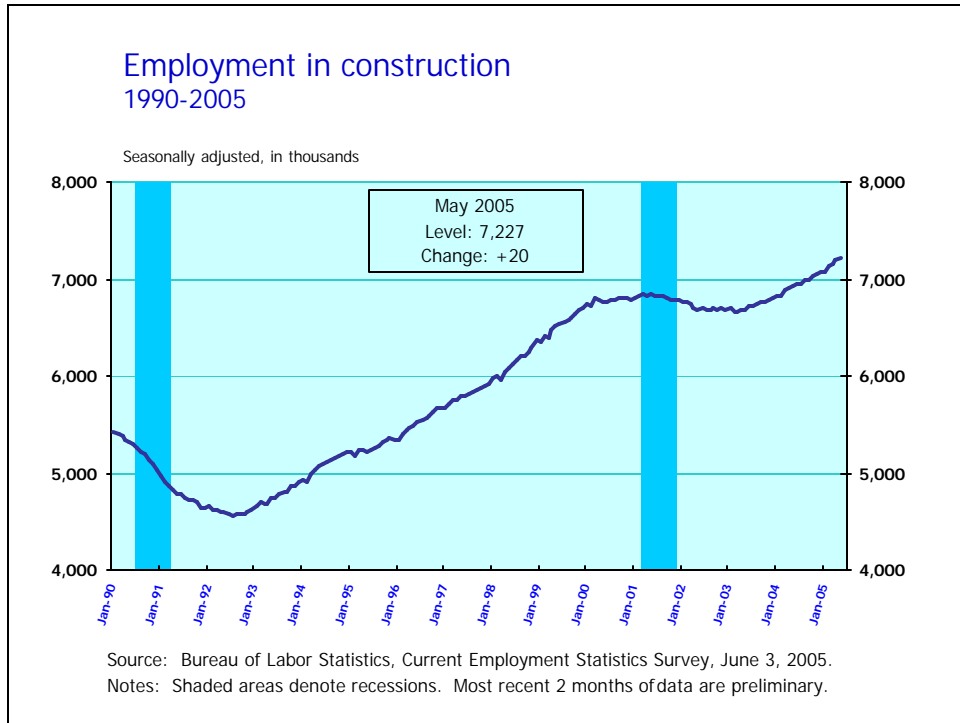
- In May, average weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls, seasonally adjusted, were unchanged from April. May average hours were also unchanged from a year earlier. In the post-recession period, average weekly hours have been at a somewhat lower level than they were during the 1990 to 2000 period.

Index of total private aggregate weekly hours 1990-2005

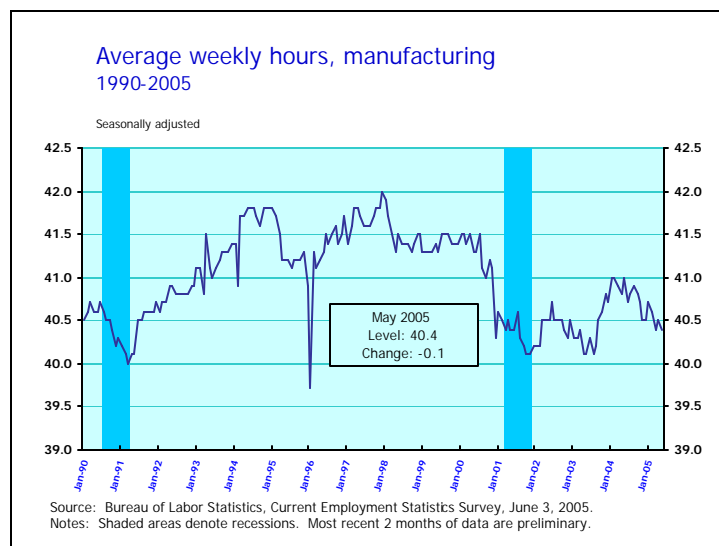
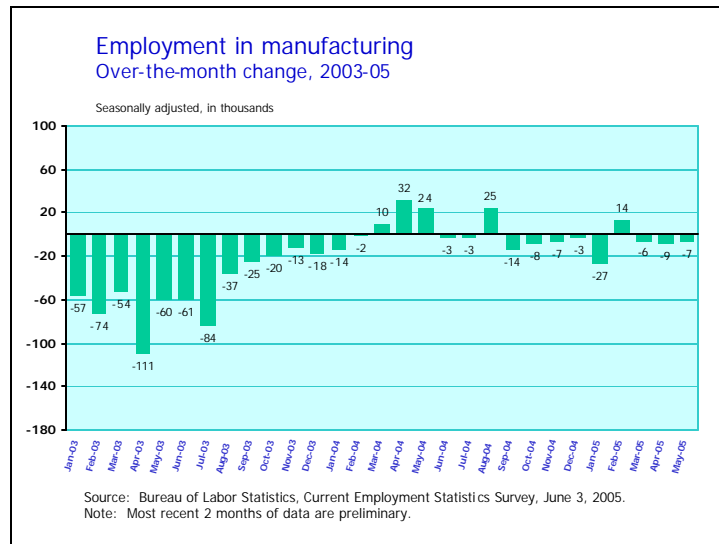


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, June 3, 2005.
 Notes: Shaded areas denote recessions. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.
 Aggregate weekly hours are the product of average weekly hours and production or nonsupervisory workers.

- The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.1 percent from April. From the peak of October 2000 to the trough of May 2003, aggregate hours declined by 5.5 percent. Since the trough, the index has increased by 4.5 percent. Aggregate hours in May 2005 were still 1.3 percent below the peak level.

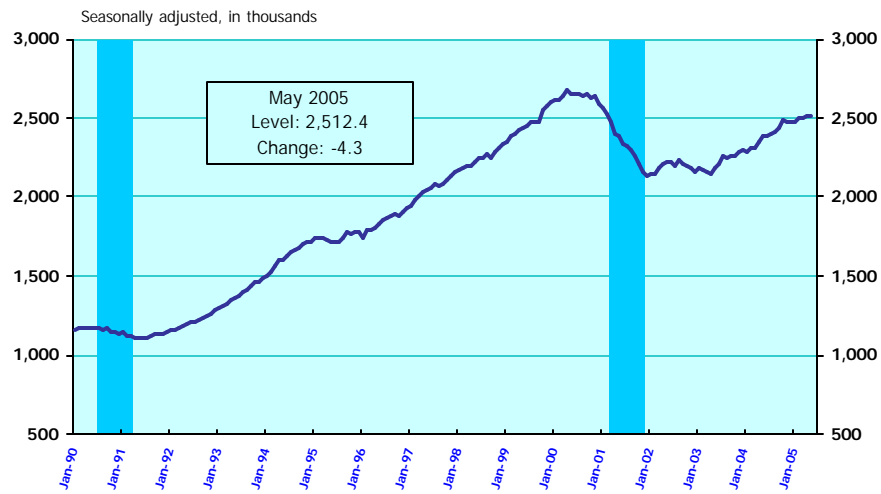


- Construction employment edged up by 20,000 in May, following a much larger increase in April. Strong early seasonal hiring may have borrowed against May hiring. The average of the two months' gains (34,000) exceeds the average monthly gain in the 12-month period ending in March (22,000).
- Residential specialty trade contracting gained 26,000 jobs in May. The latest 4 monthly gains in residential specialty contracting have somewhat exceeded most of those from February 2004 to January 2005.
- Heavy construction added 6,000 jobs in May and has expanded by a total of 34,000 jobs since its trough of February 2004. Increases in the latest 4 months have exceeded most of those in the preceding 12 months as States have increased their construction spending because of greater revenues and anticipation of new Federal funds for construction.



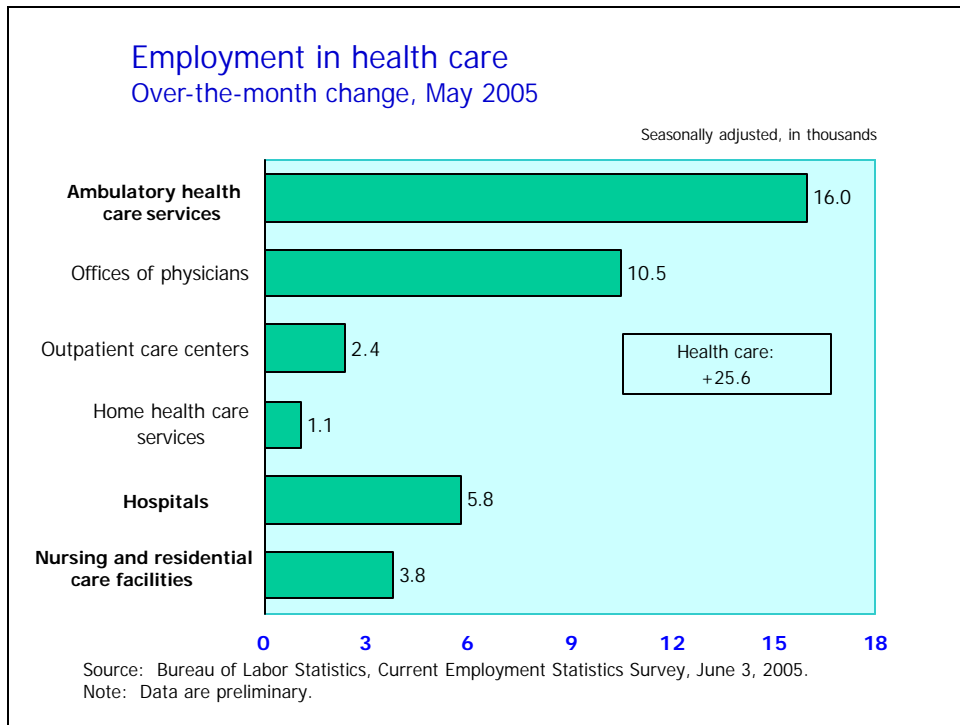
- Manufacturing employment was little changed in May. After increases from March 2004 to August 2004 and a gradual cumulative loss since then, factory employment has nearly returned to its recent low point of February 2004.
- In May, the manufacturing workweek edged down by 0.1 hour to 40.4 hours. The net change in the factory workweek since early 2001 has been relatively slight. The workweek has declined by about 1 hour since the mid to late 1990s.
- Average weekly factory overtime, at 4.4 hours, was unchanged from April to May and was down 0.2 hour from the peak of September 2004.

Employment in temporary help services 1990-2005



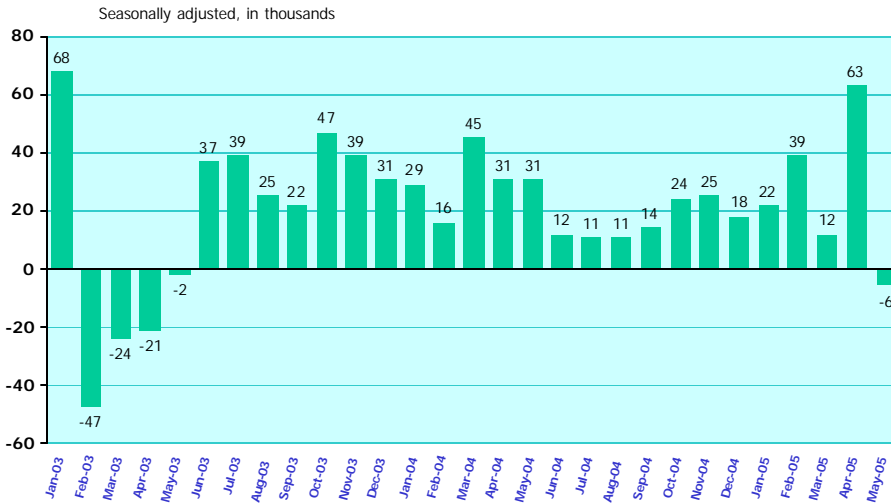
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, June 3, 2005.
Notes: Shaded areas denote recessions. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

- Temporary help employment was about unchanged in May. Monthly employment growth in this industry has averaged only about 4,000 since October, contrasting with an average gain of about 19,000 from the trough of April 2003 to October 2004.



- Health care employment continued to grow in May, rising by 26,000. Offices of physicians and hospitals accounted for most of the job gain.
- Health care has added jobs continuously since July 2003, when a rare job loss occurred. The annual rate of gain in 2005 has been 1.9 percent, exceeding the rate of total nonfarm employment (1.6 percent).

Employment in leisure and hospitality Over-the-month change, 2003-05



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, June 3, 2005.
Note: Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

- Following strong, early seasonal hiring in April, leisure and hospitality jobs were about unchanged in May. The average of the April and May changes (29,000) exceeds the average for the 12 months ending in March (21,000).