

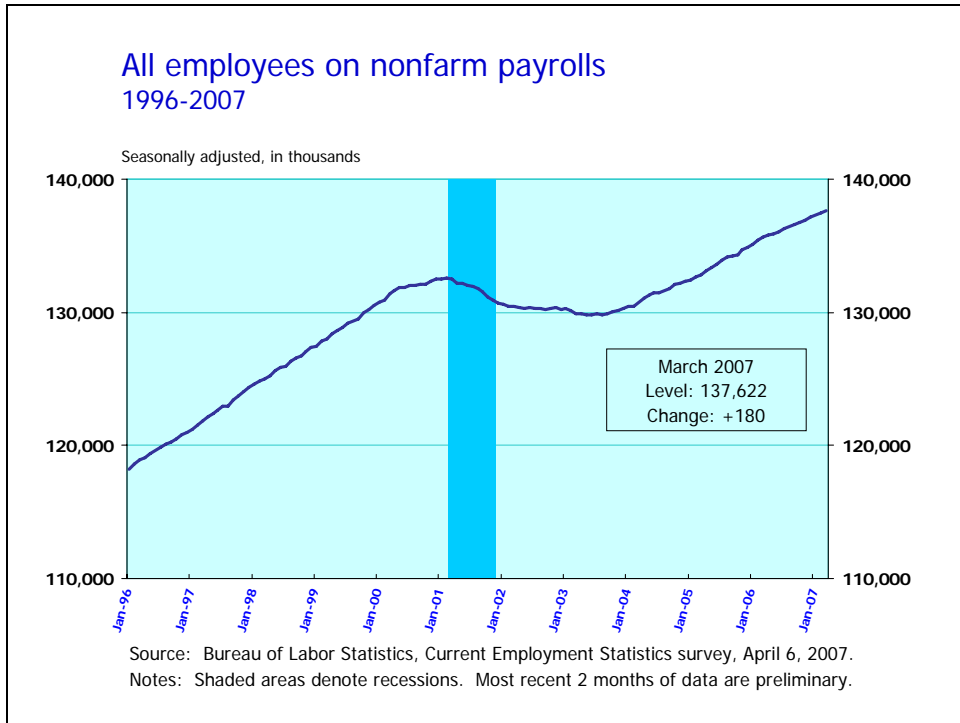


# **Current Employment Statistics**

## **Highlights**

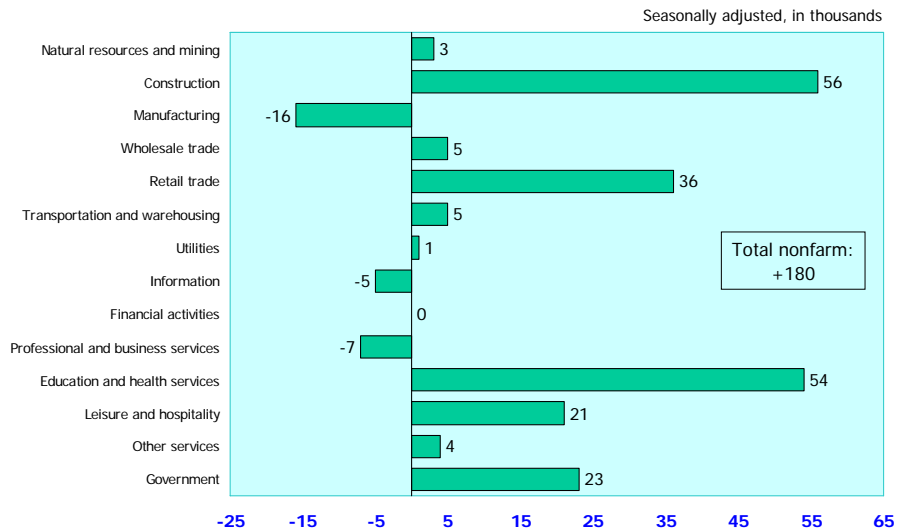
**March 2007**

Bureau of Labor Statistics  
April 6, 2007



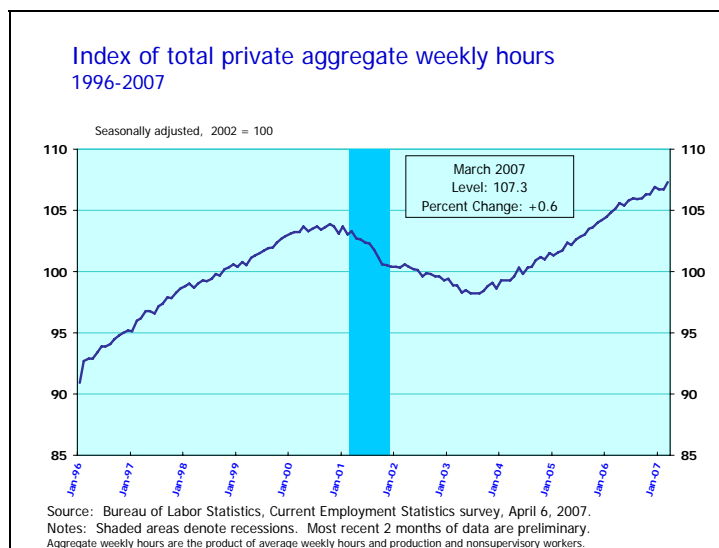
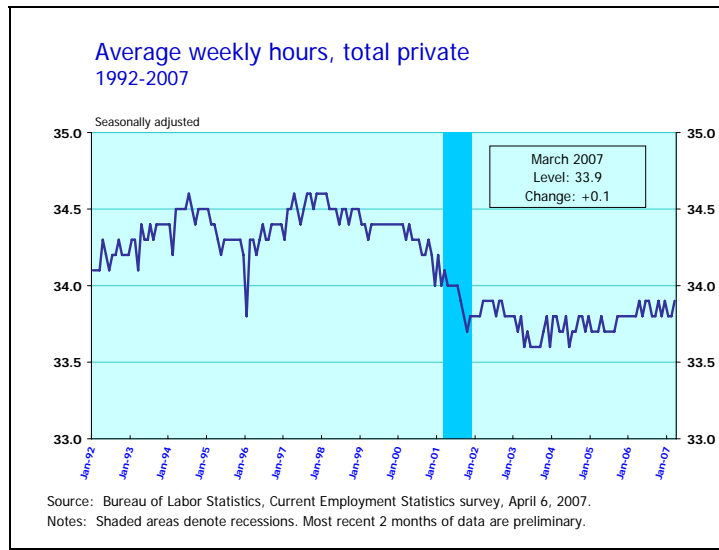
- Nonfarm employment continued to trend upward in March with the addition of 180,000 jobs.
- The employment increase was similar to the prior 12-month average monthly gain.
- Employment has risen by 7.8 million since reaching a low point in August 2003.

## Employment in total nonfarm and supersectors Over-the-month change, March 2007

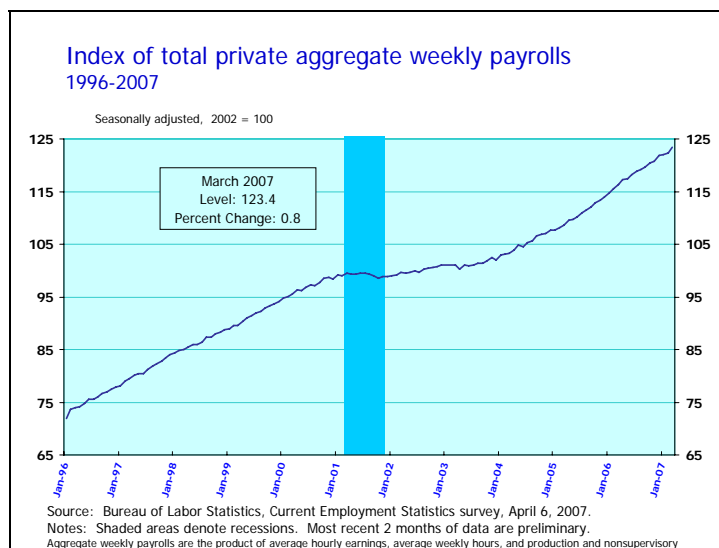
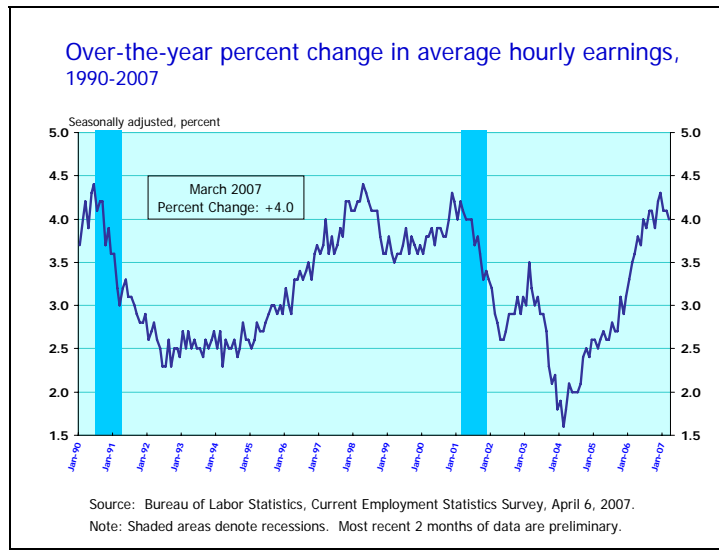


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 6, 2007.  
Note: Data are preliminary.

- Employment growth in March was concentrated in construction, retail trade, and education and health services; these 3 supersectors accounted for about 80 percent of the gain in nonfarm employment.
- Retail trade added 36,000 jobs. This growth was concentrated entirely within general merchandise stores. Continued declines in building material and garden supply stores were offset by gains within food and beverage stores.

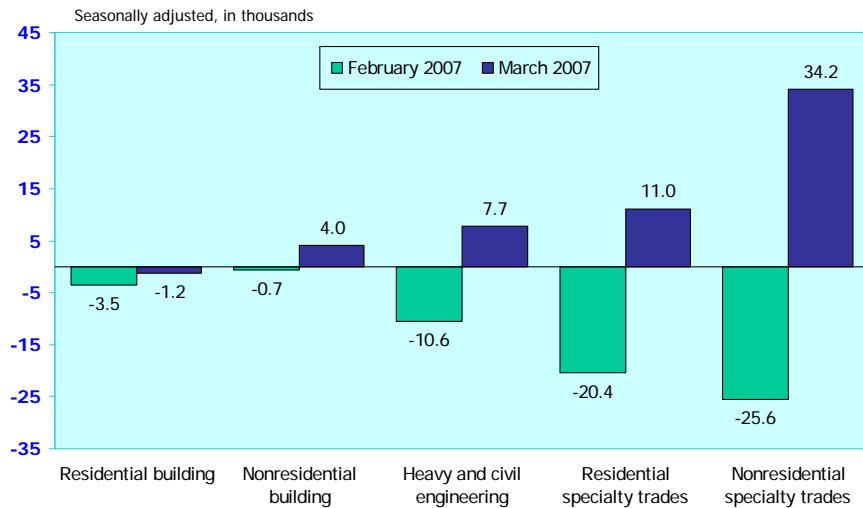


- Average weekly hours of production and nonsupervisory workers on nonfarm payrolls increased 0.1 hour in March. The workweek has held steady recently, remaining within a 0.1 hour range since September 2005.
- The index of total private aggregate weekly hours increased by 0.6 percent in March, following no change in February. The index is now at its highest level in the history of the series. Since reaching a trough in August 2003, the index has increased by over 9 percent.



- Average hourly earnings for production and nonsupervisory workers on nonfarm payrolls rose by 6 cents in March, matching the prior 12-month average gain for this series. Over the year, average hourly earnings have risen by 4 percent.
- The index of total private aggregate weekly payrolls grew by 0.8 percent in March. Over-the-month gains in average weekly hours, average hourly earnings, and production workers contributed to the strength in March.

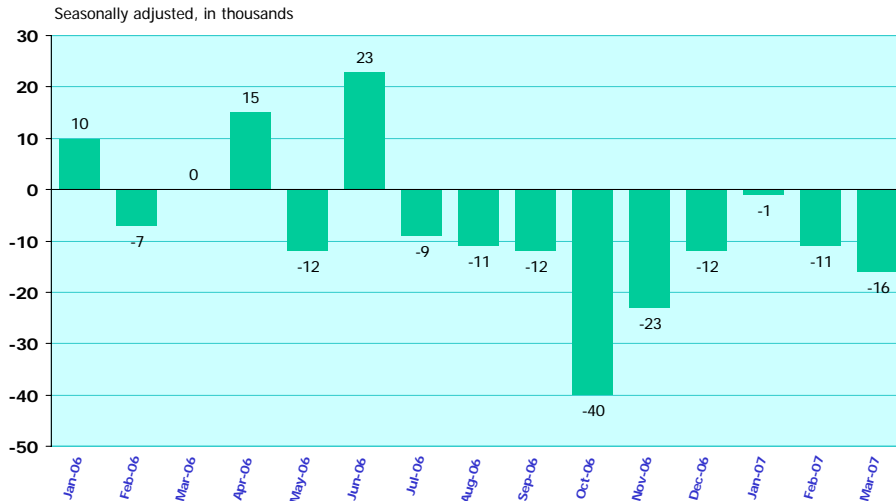
## Employment in construction Over-the-month change



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 6, 2007.  
Note: Data are preliminary.

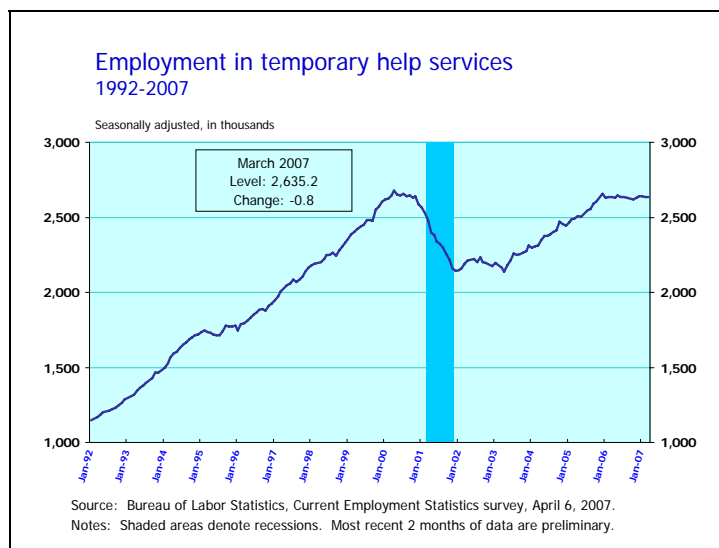
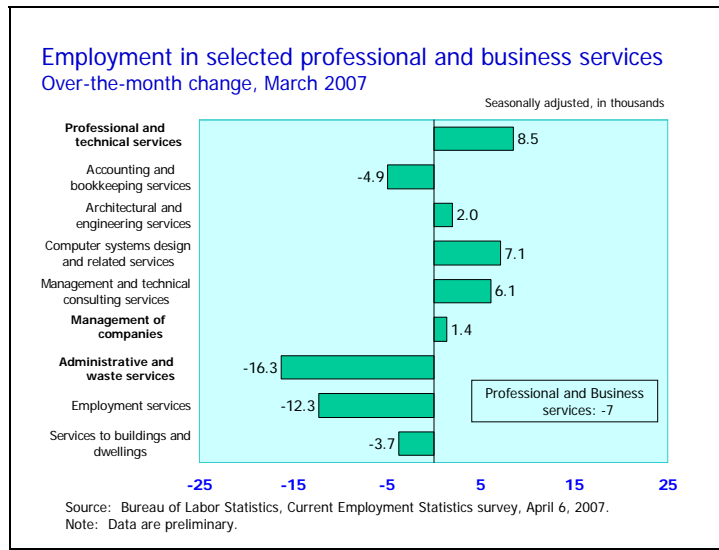
- Construction employment increased by 56,000 in March as employees returned to work after adverse weather conditions contributed to job losses in February. The rebound was broad based, as both heavy construction and specialty trades experienced employment increases.
- Over 2 months, job gains continued in nonresidential specialty trades, and losses persisted in the residential trades.
- Residential building construction continued to shed jobs for the sixth month in a row. Over the past half year, the industry has contracted by 28,000 jobs. Continued weakness in the housing market has contributed to the recent downturn in employment.

## Employment in manufacturing Over-the-month change, 2006-07



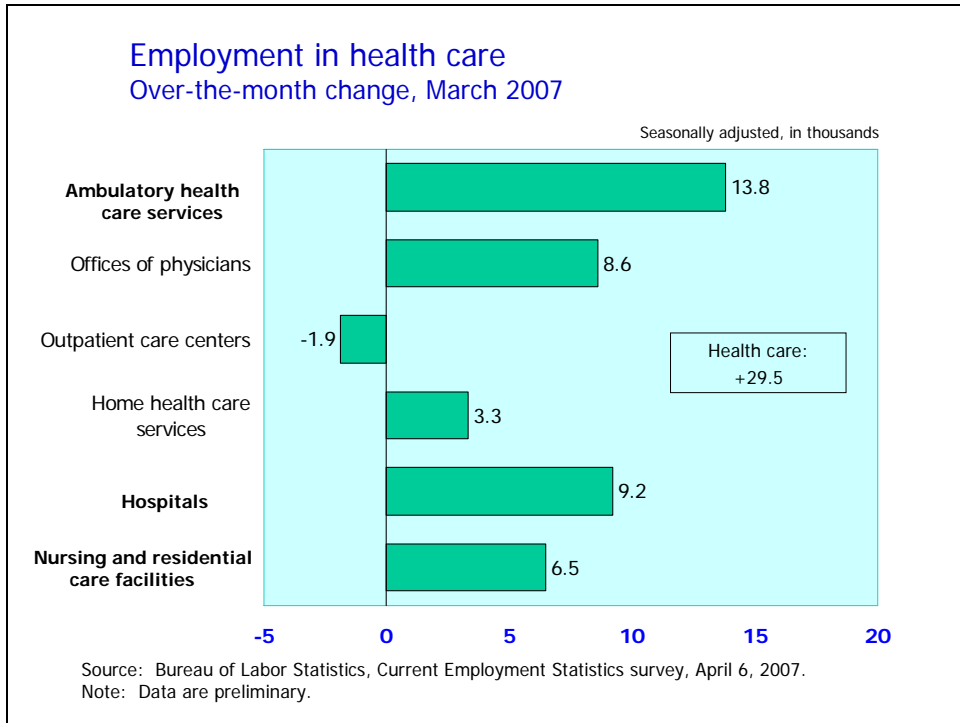
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 6, 2007.  
Note: Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

- Manufacturing continued its long-term decline, cutting 16,000 jobs in March. Losses were widespread, both in durable and nondurable goods industries.
- The average manufacturing workweek for production workers increased by 0.2 hour to 41.1 hours, seasonally adjusted. Despite longer hours, the factory workweek is still 0.4 hour below its most recent peak reached in July 2006.
- Average weekly overtime hours of production workers edged up by 0.1 hour to 4.3 hours in March, seasonally adjusted.



- Employment in professional and business services changed little over the month, and during the first quarter of 2007, growth fell below this supersector's 2006 average of 42,000 jobs gained per month. Losses in administrative and waste services were partially offset by gains in computer systems design and related services, and management and technical consulting services.
- Temporary help services continued its trend of little change in March, with employment flat both over the month and over the year. Since reaching a peak in December 2005, employment has changed little.





- Employment in health care rose by 30,000 in March, on trend when compared to the prior 12-month average change. Nearly all components of this industry added jobs in March.
- Offices of physicians and hospitals added 9,000 jobs each, while nursing and residential care facilities added 7,000.