

# News

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Bureau of Labor Statistics  
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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JANUARY 1985

Unemployment rose in January, while the number of nonfarm payroll jobs also rose, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate increased from 7.1 to 7.3 percent, and the rate for civilian workers moved up from 7.2 to 7.4 percent.

The number of nonagricultural payroll jobs--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--advanced by 350,000, seasonally adjusted, to 96.0 million. Civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--was little changed, after seasonal adjustment, at 106.4 million. Despite these over-the-month differences, each series shows employment growth of 7.3 million over the course of the recovery.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The civilian worker unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point to 7.4 percent in January. The number of unemployed persons rose by about 300,000, after seasonal adjustment, to 8.5 million; most of this increase occurred among adult women. (See table A-2.)

The unemployment rate for adult women rose from 6.4 to 6.8 percent in January; it had averaged 6.6 percent during the fourth quarter of 1984. Jobless rates for adult men (6.3 percent) and teenagers (18.9 percent) were

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*           Changes in Household Data Series           *
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*           Effective with data for January 1985, improvements *
* have been introduced into the estimation procedures *
* used in the Current Population Survey, in conjunction *
* with the current redesign of the survey sample. These *
* improvements include a revision in the data for *
* Hispanics back to January 1980. A description of the *
* nature and impact of these changes will appear in the *
* February 1985 issue of Employment and Earnings. *
* This release also introduces new seasonally *
* adjusted series on persons at work on involuntary *
* part-time schedules and modifications in the age *
* coverage of data on the Vietnam-era veteran population. *
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Centennial  
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unchanged from December. The unemployment rate for whites rose from 6.2 to 6.4 percent, while rates for blacks (14.9 percent) and Hispanics (10.6 percent) were about unchanged over the month. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

Short-term (less than 5 weeks) unemployment, at 3.7 million in January, increased substantially over the month, while long-term (15 weeks and over)

**Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted**

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Dec.- Jan. change
	1984		1984		1985	
	III	IV	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	
	<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>					
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1</u> /.....	115,464	115,885	115,773	116,162	116,572	410
Total employment <u>1</u> /.....	107,016	107,652	107,631	107,971	108,088	117
Civilian labor force.....	113,754	114,185	114,074	114,464	114,875	411
Civilian employment.....	105,306	105,951	105,932	106,273	106,391	118
Unemployment.....	8,447	8,233	8,142	8,191	8,484	293
Not in labor force.....	62,841	62,948	63,061	62,842	62,509	-333
Discouraged workers.....	1,211	1,303	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1</u> /.....	7.3	7.1	7.0	7.1	7.3	0.2
All civilian workers.....	7.4	7.2	7.1	7.2	7.4	0.2
Adult men.....	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.3	0
Adult women.....	6.8	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.8	0.4
Teenagers.....	18.6	18.4	17.8	18.8	18.9	0.1
White.....	6.4	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.4	0.2
Black.....	15.8	15.1	15.1	15.0	14.9	-0.1
Hispanic origin <u>2</u> /.....	10.6	10.5	10.3	10.4	10.6	0.2
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm payroll employment..	94,560	95,437p	95,494	95,661p	96,009p	348p
Goods-producing.....	25,056	25,156p	25,123	25,265p	25,347p	82p
Service-producing.....	69,504	70,281p	70,371	70,396p	70,662p	266p
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private nonfarm.....	35.3	35.2p	35.2	35.3p	35.2p	-0.1p
Manufacturing.....	40.5	40.5p	40.5	40.7p	40.6p	-0.1p
Manufacturing overtime....	3.3	3.4p	3.4	3.4p	3.3p	-0.1p

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

2/ Data for 1984 and earlier years have been revised.

N.A.=not available.  
p=preliminary.

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unemployment declined slightly. Both measures of the average duration of unemployment dropped sharply over the month; the mean duration fell by 2 weeks to 15.3 weeks, while median duration dropped from 7.4 to 6.7 weeks. (See table A-7.)

The total number of persons working part time for economic reasons--sometimes referred to as the partially unemployed--fell by 185,000 in January to 5.6 million. Nearly all of this decline occurred among those whose hours had been reduced because of slack work; there was little change in the number of persons who could only find part-time work. (See table A-4.)

#### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment, at 106.4 million, was about unchanged over the month after seasonal adjustment. The proportion of the civilian population with jobs (the employment-population ratio) was 60.0 percent in January, the highest level since early 1980. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force declined less than seasonally expected in January and, after adjustment for seasonality, increased by 410,000 to 114.9 million. Virtually all of the over-the-month increase took place among women 16 years and over. The civilian labor force participation rate increased to 64.8 percent, 0.2 percentage point above the December figure. This is the highest seasonally adjusted level ever recorded.

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment increased by 350,000 in January to 96.0 million, after seasonal adjustment. Increases occurred in nearly three-fifths of the industries in the BLS index of diffusion. The January job count was 3.5 million above its year-earlier level. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

The bulk of the January employment expansion occurred in the service-producing sector, paced by a 130,000 gain in retail trade. Seasonally adjusted increases were pervasive throughout this industry, as employment fell less than it usually has between December and January. This followed exceptionally strong job growth during the holiday period. Retail trade has added 1.6 million jobs since the November 1982 recession trough.

Elsewhere in the service-producing sector, job growth continued in services (65,000), with business services and health services contributing about equally to the increase. Employment in business services has risen by more than 900,000 since November 1982 and by nearly 400,000 over the past year. Two-thirds of the 30,000 over-the-month increase in wholesale trade employment occurred in the durable goods portion.

Manufacturing employment was little changed over the month. Modest gains in motor vehicles, electrical and electronic equipment, and printing

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and publishing were tempered by little movement or small decreases in other manufacturing industries.

Construction employment registered a gain of 70,000 after seasonal adjustment, a partial reflection of the unusually mild weather in early January. Mining employment decreased for the fourth consecutive month.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged down a tenth of an hour in January, seasonally adjusted, as did weekly and overtime hours in manufacturing. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls was unchanged over the month at 114.5 (1977=100), 3.7 percent above the year-earlier level. The manufacturing index decreased by 0.2 percent to 96.6. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings fell 0.4 percent in January, and weekly earnings were down 0.6 percent, seasonally adjusted. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose 3 cents to \$8.49, and average weekly earnings were down \$4.88 to \$295.45. Over the past year, hourly earnings have risen 23 cents and weekly earnings \$6.35. (See table B-3.)

#### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 162.7 (1977=100) in January, seasonally adjusted, a decrease of 0.2 percent from December. For the 12 months ended in January, the increase (before seasonal adjustment) was 2.7 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in overtime in manufacturing and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 0.2 percent during the 12-month period ended in December. (See table B-4.)

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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: FEBRUARY 1985

Employment rose slightly in February, while unemployment was little changed, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate was 7.2 percent, and the rate for civilian workers was 7.3 percent. Both rates have fluctuated within a relatively narrow range since last May, after falling sharply in the preceding year and a half.

Civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--totaled 106.7 million in February, up nearly 300,000 over the month. The number of nonagricultural payroll jobs--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--advanced by 120,000. Both measures of employment have risen by a little more than 400,000 since last December and by about 7-1/2 million since the recovery began in late 1982.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the level of unemployment and the rate for all civilian workers were little changed in February at 8.4 million and 7.3 percent, respectively, after allowing for seasonality. None of the major age-sex groups showed any significant changes, but there were divergent movements between black and white workers. The unemployment rate for blacks rose by 1.4 percentage points to 16.3 percent, largely as a result of increased joblessness among adult men. The rate for whites eased down from 6.4 to 6.2 percent. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The average duration of unemployment rose slightly in February, as the number unemployed for 15 to 26 weeks increased by 175,000 and the number out of work less than 5 weeks edged down. The number of persons jobless for 6 months or longer remained at 1.3 million. The median duration of unemployment was 7.2 weeks, and the average duration was 15.9 weeks. (See table A-7.)

The number of persons working part time for economic reasons--sometimes referred to as the partially unemployed--fell by 295,000 in February to 5.3 million. Almost all of this decline resulted from a drop in the number of people reporting short hours due to slack work; there was little change in the number who were unable to obtain full-time jobs. (See table A-4.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment rose to 106.7 million (seasonally adjusted) in February, continuing an uptrend that has totaled 2.7 million over the past

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year. Virtually all of the over-the-month increase took place among women 16 years of age and over. The civilian employment-population ratio, at 60.1 percent in February, equaled the all-time high for this series, last reached in 1979. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force, at 115.1 million, was little changed in February, and the labor force participation rate remained at 64.8 percent.

**Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted**

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Jan.- Feb. change
	1984		1984	1985		
	III	IV	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	115,464	115,885	116,162	116,572	116,787	215
Total employment <u>1/</u> .....	107,016	107,652	107,971	108,088	108,388	300
Civilian labor force.....	113,754	114,185	114,464	114,875	115,084	209
Civilian employment.....	105,306	105,951	106,273	106,391	106,685	294
Unemployment.....	8,447	8,233	8,191	8,484	8,399	-85
Not in labor force.....	62,841	62,948	62,842	62,509	62,432	-77
Discouraged workers.....	1,211	1,303	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.2	-0.1
All civilian workers.....	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.4	7.3	-0.1
Adult men.....	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.3	0
Adult women.....	6.8	6.6	6.4	6.8	6.7	-0.1
Teenagers.....	18.6	18.4	18.8	18.9	18.4	-0.5
White.....	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.4	6.2	-0.2
Black.....	15.8	15.1	15.0	14.9	16.3	1.4
Hispanic origin.....	10.6	10.5	10.4	10.6	9.7	-0.9
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm payroll employment..	94,560	95,445	95,681	95,993p	96,112p	119p
Goods-producing.....	25,056	25,154	25,258	25,332p	25,196p	-136p
Service-producing.....	69,504	70,291	70,423	70,661p	70,916p	255p
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private nonfarm.....	35.3	35.2	35.3	35.2p	35.0p	-0.2p
Manufacturing.....	40.5	40.5	40.7	40.6p	40.0p	-0.6p
Manufacturing overtime....	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.3p	3.3p	0p

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

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The participation rate for adult women, which had risen sharply in January, edged up to 54.5 percent. Over the year, the labor force grew by 2.2 million, with adult women accounting for 70 percent of the increase.

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment rose by 120,000 in February to 96.1 million, after seasonal adjustment. This increase reflected a continuation of strength within the service-producing sector that was partially offset by declines in the goods-producing industries. The service sector has accounted for four-fifths of the 3.2 million over-the-year increase in employment. February increases occurred in slightly fewer than half of the industries in the BLS index of diffusion, which is heavily weighted toward the goods industries. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

The largest over-the-month increases took place in services and retail trade--about 100,000 each. Finance, insurance, and real estate also posted a sizable employment increase, and there was a modest gain in wholesale trade. Altogether, employment rose by 255,000 in the service-producing sector.

In contrast, employment declined in all three of the goods-producing industries. Manufacturing jobs fell by 75,000. Although declines were fairly pervasive, the bulk of this drop occurred in durable goods, most notably in the automobile industry, which decreased by 25,000. Auto employment levels had remained particularly strong in recent months. Elsewhere in durable goods, large declines occurred in the lumber and wood products, machinery, and fabricated metals industries. Within nondurable goods, the largest over-the-month losses were in the textile mill products and apparel industries.

Construction employment declined by 50,000 in February, after seasonal adjustment, in part the result of the extremely poor weather conditions. Milder-than-usual conditions in December and January had allowed wintertime construction activity to remain unusually high. The February decline in mining sustained a 5-month downtrend; much of the reduction occurred in oil and gas extraction.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

Average weekly hours for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls, at 35.0 hours in February, seasonally adjusted, were down 0.2 hour over the month. (See table B-2.)

The manufacturing workweek decreased by 0.6 hour to 40.0 hours in February, while factory overtime, at 3.3 hours, was unchanged. Declines in the factory workweek were widespread, stemming from the unusually harsh weather that plagued the central portion of the United States during the survey reference week. The largest decrease took place in the automobile industry--2.3 hours.

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Due to the drop in hours, the index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls--which reflects developments in both hours and employment levels--dropped 0.3 percent to 114.4 (1977=100) in February. Indices declined sharply in construction and manufacturing. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings rose 0.5 percent in February, and weekly earnings were about unchanged, after seasonal adjustment. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings increased 1 cent to \$8.51, and average weekly earnings were down \$1.35 to \$295.30. Over the past year, hourly earnings were up 27 cents, and weekly earnings rose \$6.90. (See table B-3.)

#### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 163.7 (1977=100) in February, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.6 percent from January. For the 12 months ended in February, the increase (before seasonal adjustment) was 3.3 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in overtime in manufacturing and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 0.5 percent during the 12-month period ended in January. (See table B-4.)

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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: MARCH 1985

Employment rose markedly in March, and unemployment was unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate of 7.2 percent and the civilian worker rate of 7.3 percent were both the same as in February.

Civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--totaled 107.1 million in March, up 430,000 over the month. At 60.3 percent, the proportion of the civilian population with jobs was the highest ever recorded.

The number of persons on nonagricultural payrolls--as measured by the establishment survey--advanced by 380,000. Strong job growth continued in the service-producing sector, while manufacturing employment was little changed.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The seasonally adjusted level of unemployment, 8.4 million workers, did not change from February to March. Similarly, the March unemployment rates of 7.2 percent for the labor force including the resident Armed Forces, and 7.3 percent for civilian workers only, were unchanged over the month. Unemployment has been little changed since last autumn, after declining sharply from the recession high of late 1982.

Unemployment rates for adult men (6.2 percent), adult women (6.7 percent), and teenagers (18.2 percent) were either the same or virtually unchanged over the month. After rising in February, the unemployment rate for black workers fell 1.1 percentage points to 15.2 percent, about the same as the rates prevailing in the September-January period. The white unemployment rate remained at 6.2 percent, and the rate for workers of Hispanic origin was little changed at 10.2 percent. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The median duration of unemployment was little changed over the month at 7.1 weeks, and the average (mean) duration held at 15.9 weeks. The number unemployed for more than 6 months remained at 1.3 million. (See table A-7.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment rose by 430,000 in March to a seasonally adjusted level of 107.1 million, and the employment-population ratio reached a new

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record of 60.3 percent. Most of the employment advance occurred among adult women, as their employment total rose by a quarter of a million to 44.0 million. Over the year, the number of employed persons rose by 3.0 million; adult women accounted for 56 percent of this gain, adult men 36 percent, and teenagers the remainder. (See table A-2.)

**Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted**

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Feb.- Mar. change
	1984	1985	1985			
	IV	I	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
<b>Thousands of persons</b>						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	115,885	116,858	116,572	116,787	117,215	428
Total employment <u>1/</u> .....	107,652	108,432	108,088	108,388	108,820	432
Civilian labor force.....	114,185	115,158	114,875	115,084	115,514	430
Civilian employment.....	105,951	106,732	106,391	106,685	107,119	434
Unemployment.....	8,233	8,426	8,484	8,399	8,396	-3
Not in labor force.....	62,948	62,364	62,509	62,432	62,153	-279
Discouraged workers.....	1,303	1,253	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
<b>Percent of labor force</b>						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.2	0
All civilian workers.....	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	0
Adult men.....	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2	-0.1
Adult women.....	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.7	0
Teenagers.....	18.4	18.5	18.9	18.4	18.2	-0.2
White.....	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.2	6.2	0
Black.....	15.1	15.5	14.9	16.3	15.2	-1.1
Hispanic origin.....	10.5	10.1	10.6	9.7	10.2	0.5
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
<b>Thousands of jobs</b>						
Nonfarm payroll employment..	95,445	96,247p	96,045	96,157p	96,538p	381p
Goods-producing.....	25,154	25,298p	25,338	25,227p	25,328p	101p
Service-producing.....	70,291	70,949p	70,707	70,930p	71,210p	280p
<b>Hours of work</b>						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private nonfarm.....	35.2	35.1p	35.2	35.0p	35.1p	0.1p
Manufacturing.....	40.5	40.3p	40.6	39.9p	40.4p	0.5p
Manufacturing overtime....	3.4	3.3p	3.3	3.3p	3.3p	0p

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

The civilian labor force also rose by 430,000 in March, reaching a level of 115.5 million. This increase was also concentrated among adult women, whose labor force participation rate continued to set new records. The labor force increased by 2.6 million over the year.

#### Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

In the first quarter of 1985, there were 1.3 million discouraged workers--persons who report that they want to work but had not actively sought a job during the previous 4-week period because they thought they could not find one. Nearly one-third of the discouraged total cited personal factors such as age or lack of training; the remainder cited job market factors. The number of discouraged workers has come down very little in the past year, following a decline of about half a million from the recession high. (See table A-13.)

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment rose by 380,000 in March to 96.5 million, after adjustment for seasonality. The bulk of the job growth occurred in the service-producing sector, with particularly strong advances in services (145,000) and retail trade (80,000). Over the past year, these two industry divisions have accounted for more than half of the total payroll employment expansion of 3.4 million. Over-the-month increases also took place in wholesale trade and finance, insurance, and real estate. (See table B-1.)

Construction employment increased by 130,000 after seasonal adjustment, more than offsetting a weather-induced decline that took place in February. The March employment level was a record 4.6 million, 90,000 above January and up by more than 400,000 from a year earlier.

In contrast, manufacturing employment was little changed in March, following a decline in the prior month. Over-the-month movements among individual manufacturing industries were generally small and somewhat offsetting, although motor vehicle jobs have declined by 35,000 since January. After recovering about three-quarters of the jobs lost during the recession, there has been no net growth in total factory jobs since last summer.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged up 0.1 hour in March to 35.1 hours. The manufacturing workweek rose by half an hour to 40.4 hours, nearly recouping the weather-related cutbacks that occurred in February. Factory overtime hours remained unchanged at 3.3 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 0.7 percent in March to 115.0 (1977=100), reflecting the increase in both employment and hours. The

manufacturing index increased 1.0 percent over the month to 95.4 but was still below the levels which had prevailed throughout most of 1984. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings increased 0.5 percent in March, and average weekly earnings increased 0.8 percent, seasonally adjusted. Before adjustment for seasonality, average hourly earnings rose 1 cent to \$8.53, and weekly earnings increased by \$2.06 to \$297.70. Compared to a year earlier, hourly earnings were up 29 cents, and weekly earnings rose by \$9.30. (See table B-3.)

#### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 164.4 (1977=100) in March, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.4 percent from February. For the 12 months ended in March, the increase (before seasonal adjustment) was 3.3 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in overtime in manufacturing and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 0.1 percent during the 12-month period ended in February. (See table B-4.)

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MAY 3, 1985

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: APRIL 1985

Nonfarm payroll employment rose in April, and unemployment was unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall jobless rate was 7.2 percent and the rate for civilian workers was 7.3 percent; both were the same as in the prior 2 months and have shown little movement since last fall.

The number of nonagricultural payroll jobs--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--rose by 215,000 in April, after seasonal adjustment, to 96.7 million, as there were continued large job advances in services and construction. At 106.9 million, civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--was little changed from March.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

For the third month in a row, there was no change in the seasonally adjusted level of unemployment (8.4 million) and the rate for civilian workers (7.3 percent). Both measures have changed very little since last autumn.

There were also no significant over-the-month changes among any of the major worker groups. Jobless rates for adult men (6.3 percent), adult women (6.8 percent), teenagers (17.7 percent), whites (6.3 percent), blacks (15.3 percent), and workers of Hispanic origin (10.3 percent) all were virtually unchanged. As with the overall figure, there has been little movement in any of these rates since last autumn. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

There was very little change in the measures of unemployment duration in April. The median edged back to the January level of 6.7 weeks, and the mean was about unchanged at 16.1 weeks. Both were down markedly over the year, as was the number unemployed for 6 months or more. (See table A-7.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment rose about in line with usual seasonal patterns over the month and, after seasonal adjustment, was little different from

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the March level. The employment-population ratio, at 60.1 percent, edged down by 0.2 percentage point from the record high level of the prior month. Over the year, the number of employed persons rose by 2.5 million, much smaller than the increase of 4.8 million that had occurred in the prior 12-month period. (See table A-2.)

**Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted**

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Mar.- Apr. change
	1984	1985	1985			
	IV	I	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
<b>Thousands of persons</b>						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	115,885	116,858	116,787	117,215	117,073	-142
Total employment <u>1/</u> .....	107,652	108,432	108,388	108,820	108,647	-173
Civilian labor force.....	114,185	115,158	115,084	115,514	115,371	-143
Civilian employment.....	105,951	106,732	106,685	107,119	106,945	-174
Unemployment.....	8,233	8,426	8,399	8,396	8,426	30
Not in labor force.....	62,948	62,364	62,432	62,153	62,428	275
Discouraged workers.....	1,303	1,253	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
<b>Percent of labor force</b>						
<b>Unemployment rates:</b>						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	0
All civilian workers.....	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	0
Adult men.....	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	0.1
Adult women.....	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8	.1
Teenagers.....	18.4	18.5	18.4	18.2	17.7	-.5
White.....	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.3	.1
Black.....	15.1	15.5	16.3	15.2	15.3	.1
Hispanic origin.....	10.5	10.1	9.7	10.2	10.3	.1
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
<b>Thousands of jobs</b>						
Nonfarm payroll employment..	95,445	p96,240	96,161	p96,514	p96,731	p217
Goods-producing.....	25,154	p25,300	25,235	p25,326	p25,361	p35
Service-producing.....	70,291	p70,940	70,926	p71,188	p71,370	p182
<b>Hours of work</b>						
<b>Average weekly hours:</b>						
Total private nonfarm.....	35.2	p35.1	35.0	p35.2	p35.1	p-0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.5	p40.3	40.0	p40.4	p40.3	p-.1
Manufacturing overtime....	3.4	p3.3	3.3	p3.3	p3.4	p.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

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The civilian labor force was also about unchanged in April at a seasonally adjusted level of 115.4 million. Over the year, the labor force increased by 2.2 million. All of this increase occurred among adults--1.5 million women and 700,000 men.

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural employment, at 96.7 million, rose by 215,000 in April, seasonally adjusted. Three-fourths of this increase took place in services and construction. April job expansion occurred in slightly more than half of the industries in the BLS index of diffusion. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

The over-the-month gain of 90,000 in the services industry was a continuation of the strong employment growth that has long been evident. At 21.6 million in April, the services employment total was 1.1 million above the year-earlier level. Construction employment advanced by 70,000 over the month after seasonal adjustment and, at 4.7 million, was up by 410,000 over the year, reflecting strength in homebuilding and highway construction. Also registering substantial employment gains in April were wholesale trade and finance, insurance, and real estate.

Manufacturing employment fell by 45,000 in April, the third consecutive monthly decline. Since January, 130,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost. Nearly all of the April job decrease occurred in durable goods, where losses were generally small but pervasive, paced by a 15,000 drop in electrical and electronic equipment.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged down a tenth of an hour in April, seasonally adjusted. Weekly hours in manufacturing also dropped 0.1 hour, but factory overtime edged up a tenth to 3.4 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged in April at 115.3 (1977=100). Reflecting reductions in both factory jobs and hours, the manufacturing index dropped 0.4 percent to 95.1. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings increased 0.5 percent in April, and average weekly earnings increased 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose 3 cents to \$8.55, and average weekly earnings were up 20 cents to \$298.40. Over the past year, hourly earnings have risen 26 cents and weekly earnings \$5.76. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 164.4 (1977=100) in April, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.1 percent from March. For the 12 months ended in April, the increase (before seasonal adjustment) was 2.9 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in overtime in manufacturing and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 0.7 percent during the 12-month period ended in March. (See table B-4.)

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*
*   The establishment-based series on nonagricultural *
* payroll employment, hours, and earnings will be revised *
* next month to reflect the annual employment benchmark *
* adjustments and updated seasonal factors. The *
* Employment Situation news release of May data, *
* scheduled for June 7, will introduce these revisions. *
*
*****

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# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information: (202) 523-1371  
523-1944  
523-1959  
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JUNE 7, 1985

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: MAY 1985

Nonfarm payroll employment continued to increase in May, and unemployment was the same for the fourth month in a row, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall jobless rate of 7.2 percent and the civilian worker rate of 7.3 percent have changed very little since last fall.

The number of persons on nonagricultural payrolls--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--rose by 345,000 in May, after seasonal adjustment, to 97.5 million. (Establishment survey data have been revised to reflect annual benchmarks and updated seasonal adjustment factors; see note on page 4.) Civilian employment--as measured by the household survey--was unchanged over the month at 107.0 million.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the seasonally adjusted level of unemployment (8.4 million) and the jobless rate for civilian workers (7.3 percent) were at the levels that have prevailed since February. However, there were significant over-the-month developments for some labor force groups.

Among adult men, for example, there were divergent movements in the jobless rates for prime working age and younger men. For men 25 to 54 years old, the rate fell from 5.8 to 5.2 percent, lower than in any month since just before the 1981-82 recession. In contrast, the rate for men 20 to 24 years of age increased by 1.2 percentage points to 12.5 percent. The unemployment rate for teenagers of both sexes also rose--from 17.7 to 18.9 percent, principally due to increased joblessness for those of college age (18-19 years). Some of the increased unemployment of 18-24 year-olds may stem from the fact that the survey week was late in the month (May 12-18), after many colleges had completed their spring terms. Rates for adult women in most age groups were little changed over the month. As has been true since last autumn, the overall unemployment rates for whites (6.2 percent), blacks (15.6 percent), and persons of Hispanic origin (10.7 percent) remained virtually unchanged. (See tables A-2, A-3, and A-9.)

Despite the lack of change in overall unemployment, the number of job losers decreased to 3.9 million, the lowest level since prior to the recession. Offsetting this decline was an increase in the number of entrants to the labor force. The number of persons unemployed for 6 months or more fell to 1.2 million, and both measures of average duration of unemployment dropped, the median to 6.2 weeks and the mean to 14.9 weeks. (See tables A-7 and A-8.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Apr.- May change
	1984	1985	1985			
	IV	I	Mar.	Apr.	May	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	115,885	116,858	117,215	117,073	117,078	5
Total employment <u>1/</u> .....	107,652	108,432	108,820	108,647	108,665	18
Civilian labor force.....	114,185	115,158	115,514	115,371	115,373	2
Civilian employment.....	105,951	106,732	107,119	106,945	106,960	15
Unemployment.....	8,233	8,426	8,396	8,426	8,413	-13
Not in labor force.....	62,948	62,364	62,153	62,428	62,571	143
Discouraged workers.....	1,303	1,253	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	0
All civilian workers.....	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	0
Adult men.....	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.1	-0.2
Adult women.....	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.9	.1
Teenagers.....	18.4	18.5	18.2	17.7	18.9	1.2
White.....	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.2	-.1
Black.....	15.1	15.5	15.2	15.3	15.6	.3
Hispanic origin.....	10.5	10.1	10.2	10.3	10.7	.4
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm payroll employment..	95,849	96,640	96,910	p97,118	p97,463	p345
Goods-producing.....	24,973	25,077	25,056	p25,098	p25,098	p0
Service-producing.....	70,876	71,563	71,854	p72,020	p72,365	p345
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private nonfarm.....	35.2	35.1	35.2	p35.1	p35.0	p-0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.5	40.4	40.4	p40.1	p40.3	p.2
Manufacturing overtime....	3.4	3.3	3.2	p3.3	p3.1	p-.2

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

NOTE: Establishment data have been revised to reflect March 1984 benchmarks and updated seasonal adjustment factors.

The number of workers on part-time schedules for economic reasons--often referred to as the partially unemployed--rose by 250,000 to 5.9 million. This is the highest level in more than a year. (See table A-4.)

#### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

As in April, civilian employment rose in line with usual seasonal patterns and, after adjustment, was little changed over the month. The employment-population ratio held at 60.1 percent. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force was unchanged over the month at a seasonally adjusted level of 115.4 million. Over the year, the labor force increased by 1.6 million. All of this increase occurred among adult women and men. The teenage labor force has held steady for the past 2 years, as marked increases in their rate of labor force participation have offset a declining population.

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment rose by 345,000 in May to 97.5 million, after adjustment for seasonality. The May job growth was concentrated in the service-producing sector, which has accounted for seven-eighths of the 3.5 million over-the-year increase in employment. (See table B-1.)

The largest over-the-month employment gains took place in services and retail trade--110,000 each--as these two industries continued to account for the bulk of the job expansion. Elsewhere in the service-producing sector, moderate job growth continued in wholesale trade and finance, insurance, and real estate.

Construction employment increased by 30,000, after seasonal adjustment, to 4.7 million. Thus far in 1985, more than 200,000 construction jobs have been added. In contrast, manufacturing employment waned over this period; the May employment total, at 19.4 million, was 160,000 lower than in December. Over the month, declines continued in the apparel and textile mill products industries, which since December posted a combined reduction of 55,000 jobs. Employment in electrical and electronic equipment also edged down in May; after showing strong growth in 1983 and 1984, jobs in this industry have dropped by 35,000 in the first 5 months of this year.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls eased a tenth of an hour in May; seasonally adjusted. However, weekly hours in manufacturing increased by 0.2 hour to 40.3 hours, whereas factory overtime dropped by 0.2 hour to 3.1 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls rose 0.3 percent in May to 116.0

(1977=100). The manufacturing index edged up 0.1 percent over the month to 93.4 but was still below the levels which prevailed during 1984. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings increased 0.1 percent in May, while average weekly earnings decreased 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose one cent to \$8.54, and average weekly earnings increased by \$1.20 to \$298.90. Compared with a year earlier, hourly earnings were up 26 cents, and weekly earnings rose by \$7.44. (See table B-3.)

#### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 164.9 (1977=100) in May, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.1 percent from April. For the 12 months ended in May, the increase (before seasonal adjustment) was 3.1 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in overtime in manufacturing and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 1.2 percent during the 12-month period ended in April. (See table B-4.)

#### Revisions in the Establishment Survey Data

In accordance with the usual practice, the establishment survey data published in this release have been revised to reflect complete counts of employment (benchmarks) derived principally from unemployment insurance tax records for the first quarter of 1984, plus preliminary counts from the same source for the second and third quarters. In addition, new seasonal adjustment factors have been calculated, and all seasonally adjusted series have been revised to take account of the experience through March 1985.

Employment estimates, (not seasonally adjusted) for February 1985 on the old and new benchmarks are presented in Table B. (February 1985 was the last month that published final estimates are available based on the previous benchmark.) As can be seen, the biggest revisions occurred in retail trade (up 394,000), services (up 150,000), and manufacturing (down 173,000). Data on hours and earnings may have changed slightly as a result of the new employment weights.

The June 1985 issue of Employment and Earnings will contain a detailed discussion of the effects of the benchmark, seasonal adjustment factors for use in the ensuing 12-month period, and revised data for all regularly published tables containing national establishment survey data on employment, hours, and earnings.

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information: (202) 523-1371  
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523-1959  
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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JUNE 1985

Nonfarm payroll employment was about unchanged in June, and unemployment remained at the level that has prevailed since February, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate was 7.2 percent and the civilian worker rate was 7.3 percent.

The number of nonagricultural wage and salary jobs--as measured by the survey of establishments--totaled 97.5 million after seasonal adjustment, about the same as in the previous month. Civilian employment--as measured by the household survey--rose by less than seasonally expected and, after seasonal adjustment, declined by 590,000 to 106.4 million.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

For the fifth month in a row, the level of unemployment totaled 8.4 million and the civilian worker unemployment rate was 7.3 percent. There were changes, however, among some labor force groups, most of which reversed movements that had occurred in the previous month. For example, the jobless rate for men 25 to 54 years rose, after declining the month before; conversely, the unemployment rate for youth 16 to 24 years of age, which had risen in May, dropped back in June. The unemployment rate for adult women was little changed over the month; it has held stable over the first half of the year. (See tables A-2 and A-9.)

The jobless rate for white workers rose to 6.5 percent, while the Hispanic rate held at 10.6 percent. The rate for black workers, which is often quite volatile, registered an unusually large decline to 14.0 percent. (See table A-3.)

Consistent with the decline in youth unemployment was a reduction in the unemployed who were new or reentrants to the labor force. In contrast, the number of unemployed job losers increased to 4.1 million in June, after falling in the previous month. These measures returned to the levels that

prevailed earlier in the year. The median duration of unemployment inched up in June, after falling for several months. (See tables A-7 and A-8.)

Part-time employment for economic reasons declined in June on a seasonally adjusted basis, following an increase in May. This group includes both persons whose hours have been cut back due to slack work and those who have opted to work part time because they were unable to find full-time jobs. (See table A-4.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			May-June change
	1985		1985			
	I	II	Apr.	May	June	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	116,858	116,879	117,073	117,078	116,485	-593
Total employment <u>1/</u> .....	108,432	108,461	108,647	108,665	108,072	-593
Civilian labor force.....	115,158	115,176	115,371	115,373	114,783	-590
Civilian employment.....	106,732	106,758	106,945	106,960	106,370	-590
Unemployment.....	8,426	8,417	8,426	8,413	8,413	0
Not in labor force.....	62,364	62,771	62,428	62,571	63,313	742
Discouraged workers.....	1,253	1,145	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	0
All civilian workers.....	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	0
Adult men.....	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.5	0.4
Adult women.....	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.7	-.2
Teenagers.....	18.5	18.3	17.7	18.9	18.3	-.6
White.....	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.5	.3
Black.....	15.5	15.0	15.3	15.6	14.0	-1.6
Hispanic origin.....	10.1	10.5	10.3	10.7	10.6	-.1
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm payroll employment..	96,640	p97,324	97,120	p97,386	p97,466	p80
Goods-producing.....	25,077	p25,053	25,090	p25,063	p25,007	p-56
Service-producing.....	71,563	p72,271	72,030	p72,323	p72,459	p136
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private nonfarm.....	35.1	p35.1	35.0	p35.1	p35.2	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.4	p40.3	40.2	p40.3	p40.4	p.1
Manufacturing overtime.....	3.3	p3.2	3.4	p3.1	p3.2	p.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment and the labor force rose by less from May to June than in recent years, and, after seasonal adjustment, there was a decline of 590,000 in both series.

Adult men and teenagers registered employment declines on a seasonally adjusted basis. The overall employment-population ratio, which had reached a record high of 60.3 percent in March, dropped back to 59.7 percent in June, about the same level as during the last half of 1984.

The over-the-month decline in the labor force was concentrated among teenagers. Labor force participation among teenagers this June was more than 2 percentage points below the level of a year ago. The labor force grew by 1.2 million over the year, with increases among adult men and women. (See table A-2.)

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

The number of discouraged workers--those who want to work but are not looking for jobs because they feel they cannot find work--edged down to 1.1 million in the second quarter, the lowest level in nearly 4 years. Seven out of 10 discouraged workers cited job market factors, while the rest listed personal factors, as their reasons for being discouraged. (See table A-14.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment was virtually unchanged in June at 97.5 million, after seasonal adjustment. Job growth continued in the service-producing sector, though at a slower pace, and there was a further decline in manufacturing. Job expansion occurred in slightly less than half of the industries in the BLS index of diffusion. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

The services industry again showed employment growth, gaining 85,000 jobs in June. At 21.9 million, employment in services was 1.2 million higher than a year earlier and has risen at a rapid pace throughout the recovery. Moderate increases in employment took place in wholesale trade and in finance, insurance, and real estate.

Manufacturing employment fell by 45,000 in June, bringing the decrease since the end of last year to 220,000. The largest over-the-month declines were in electrical and electronic equipment (20,000) and machinery (15,000), both of which have been losing jobs in recent months after showing strong gains earlier in the recovery period. The number of construction jobs was about unchanged in June, following steady growth which continued into 1985, adding close to 200,000 jobs in the first 5 months of the year.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged up a tenth of an hour in June, seasonally adjusted. Both weekly hours in manufacturing and factory overtime also increased a tenth of an hour. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls rose 0.3 percent in June to 116.5 (1977=100). The manufacturing index was unchanged at 93.5 and has declined by 2.1 percent since December. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings increased by 0.2 percent in June and average weekly earnings increased by 0.5 percent, seasonally adjusted. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose by one cent to \$8.55, and average weekly earnings were up \$2.92 to \$302.67. Over the past year, hourly earnings have risen by 25 cents and weekly earnings by \$8.02. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 165.4 (1977=100) in June, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.3 percent from May. For the 12 months ended in June, the increase (before seasonal adjustment) was 3.1 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in overtime in manufacturing and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 0.9 percent during the 12-month period ended in May. (See table B-4.)

# News

United States  
Department  
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Bureau of Labor Statistics

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8:30 A.M. (EDT), FRIDAY,  
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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JULY 1985

Employment rose in July and unemployment was unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate, at 7.2 percent, and the civilian worker rate, at 7.3 percent, have not changed since February.

The number of nonagricultural wage and salary jobs--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--rose by 245,000 in July. Civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--rebounded from a decline in the prior month, rising by nearly 500,000 to 106.9 million.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The civilian unemployment rate remained at 7.3 percent, the same as it has been since February, and the level of unemployment was little changed at 8.5 million. The jobless rate for adult men was 6.3 percent, similar to rates that prevailed prior to May. For adult women, the rate was 6.6 percent, roughly the same as it has been since January. The teenage unemployment rate edged up to 19.5 percent. (See table A-2.)

The unemployment rate for whites (6.4 percent) was about unchanged in July, while the rate for blacks, which had fallen sharply the month before, returned to the level (15 percent) which had prevailed since last fall. For persons of Hispanic origin, the July jobless rate was 11.2 percent, about midway between the rates for whites and blacks. (See table A-3.)

The number of unemployed job losers increased by about 200,000 in July, bringing the level to 4.3 million. Partially offsetting this was a decline in the number of unemployed job leavers. While the mean duration of unemployment was unchanged, the median duration rose to 7.2 weeks. (See tables A-7 and A-8.)

### The Civilian Labor Force and Employment (Household Survey Data)

The civilian labor force grew by 530,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis, nearly returning to the level posted in May. After accounting for

- 2 -

most of the seasonally adjusted decrease in June, teenagers contributed the bulk of the increase in July. On a not-seasonally-adjusted basis, the overall summertime labor force expansion of teenagers between April and July totaled 2.7 million, about the same as in 1984.

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			June- July change
	1985		1985			
	I	II	May	June	July	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	116,858	116,879	117,078	116,485	117,018	533
Total employment <u>1/</u> .....	108,432	108,461	108,665	108,072	108,566	494
Civilian labor force.....	115,158	115,176	115,373	114,783	115,314	531
Civilian employment.....	106,732	106,758	106,960	106,370	106,862	492
Unemployment.....	8,426	8,417	8,413	8,413	8,451	38
Not in labor force.....	62,364	62,771	62,571	63,313	62,949	-364
Discouraged workers.....	1,253	1,145	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	0
All civilian workers.....	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	0
Adult men.....	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.5	6.3	-0.2
Adult women.....	6.7	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.6	-0.1
Teenagers.....	18.5	18.3	18.9	18.3	19.5	1.2
White.....	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.5	6.4	-0.1
Black.....	15.5	15.0	15.6	14.0	15.0	1.0
Hispanic origin.....	10.1	10.5	10.7	10.6	11.2	.6
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm payroll employment..	96,640	p97,330	97,421	p97,449	p97,692	p243
Goods-producing.....	25,077	p25,055	25,066	p25,009	p25,021	p12
Service-producing.....	71,563	p72,275	72,355	p72,440	p72,671	p231
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private nonfarm.....	35.1	p35.1	35.1	p35.1	p34.9	p-0.2
Manufacturing.....	40.4	p40.3	40.4	p40.4	p40.4	p0
Manufacturing overtime....	3.3	p3.2	3.1	p3.2	p3.2	p0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

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Over the past 12 months, the civilian labor force has increased by 1.3 million, with adult women and, to a lesser extent, adult men accounting for the increase.

Civilian employment expanded by nearly 500,000 in July, seasonally adjusted, after falling by a similar magnitude in June. The employment-population ratio rose to 59.9 percent, very high by historical standards but still lower than the levels of the February-May period. (See table A-2.)

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment rose by 245,000 in July to 97.7 million, after adjustment for seasonality. As has been true thus far this year, growth was concentrated in the service-producing sector. Job expansion occurred in about 59 percent of the industries in the BLS index of diffusion. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

The largest over-the-month gains were in retail trade and services--75,000 and 70,000, respectively. These two industries have accounted for two-thirds of the 3.1 million over-the-year increase in nonagricultural employment. In July, moderate job growth continued in finance, insurance, and real estate.

Manufacturing employment was unchanged in July after seasonal adjustment at 19.4 million. Employment declines in machinery and food processing were largely offset by an increase in the apparel industry. Employment in construction, the only goods industry to show growth this year, rose by 25,000 over the month, fully recouping a decline of the previous month.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls fell two-tenths of an hour in July, seasonally adjusted, reflecting declines in the services sector. Both weekly hours in manufacturing and factory overtime were unchanged. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls declined 0.2 percent in July to 116.0 (1977=100). At 93.4, the manufacturing index has been essentially at the same level since April. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings were unchanged in July; however, average weekly earnings fell 0.6 percent, seasonally adjusted, because of the over-the-month drop in weekly hours. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings declined by one cent to \$8.54 and average weekly earnings were down 36 cents to \$301.46. Over the past year, hourly earnings have risen by 22 cents and weekly earnings by \$5.27. (See table B-3.)

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The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 165.5 (1977=100) in July, seasonally adjusted, essentially unchanged from June. For the 12 months ended in July, the increase was 2.8 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 0.9 percent during the 12-month period ended in June. (See table B-4.)

# News

United States  
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Bureau of Labor Statistics

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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: AUGUST 1985

Employment rose in August and unemployment declined, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate fell from 7.2 to 6.9 percent, and the rate for civilian workers dropped from 7.3 to 7.0 percent. Both measures had been unchanged since February.

Civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--rose by 310,000 in August to 107.2 million. The number of nonagricultural payroll jobs--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--was up by 290,000 to 98.0 million.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons decreased by about 325,000 to 8.1 million in August, and the civilian worker unemployment rate fell to 7.0 percent, the lowest level since April 1980. (See table A-2.)

Jobless rates declined for teenagers (to 17.3 percent) and adult men (to 6.0 percent) in August; most of the latter improvement took place among 20-24 year-olds. The rate for adult women, at 6.7 percent, has shown little change since January. Whites, blacks, and Hispanics all shared in the August decline. The rate for black teenagers, which is quite volatile, dipped to 34.4 percent in August. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The over-the-month decline in unemployment took place among persons who had lost their last job and those who were new entrants to the labor force. Following an increase in the prior month, short-term joblessness (less than 5 weeks) declined in August. Both measures of average duration of unemployment (the mean and median) changed little over the month. (See tables A-7 and A-8.)

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The Civilian Labor Force and Employment (Household Survey Data)

The civilian labor force was 115.3 million in August, after seasonal adjustment, unchanged from July. Over the past year, the labor force has increased by 1.6 million, with adult women accounting for 1.2 million of the gain and adult men for 500,000.

**Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted**

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			July-Aug. change
	1985		1985			
	I	II	June	July	Aug.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	116,858	116,879	116,485	117,018	117,025	7
Total employment <u>1/</u> .....	108,432	108,461	108,072	108,566	108,898	332
Civilian labor force.....	115,158	115,176	114,783	115,314	115,299	-15
Civilian employment.....	106,732	106,758	106,370	106,862	107,172	310
Unemployment.....	8,426	8,417	8,413	8,451	8,127	-324
Not in labor force.....	62,364	62,771	63,313	62,949	63,106	157
Discouraged workers.....	1,253	1,145	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	6.9	-0.3
All civilian workers.....	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.0	-.3
Adult men.....	6.3	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.0	-.3
Adult women.....	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.7	.1
Teenagers.....	18.5	18.3	18.3	19.5	17.3	-2.2
White.....	6.3	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.2	-.2
Black.....	15.5	15.0	14.0	15.0	14.0	-1.0
Hispanic origin.....	10.1	10.5	10.6	11.2	10.3	-.9
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm payroll employment..	96,640	97,338	97,473	p97,722	p98,010	p288
Goods-producing.....	25,077	25,055	25,010	p24,978	p25,031	p53
Service-producing.....	71,563	72,283	72,463	p72,744	p72,979	p235
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private nonfarm.....	35.1	35.1	35.1	p35.0	p35.1	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.4	40.3	40.4	p40.3	p40.5	p.2
Manufacturing overtime....	3.3	3.2	3.2	p3.2	p3.3	p.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

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Civilian employment rose by 310,000 in August to 107.2 million. Following declines in the April-June period, employment advanced in both July and August, returning to about the March level. This increase brought the employment-population ratio to 60.1 percent, close to the highest on record (60.3 percent in March).

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Employment Survey Data)

The number of employees on nonagricultural payrolls rose by 290,000 in August, after allowing for normal seasonal movements. Job growth took place in nearly 60 percent of the industries in the BLS index of diffusion. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

Continued strong growth in service-producing employment was paced by the services industry, which rose by 150,000 over the month. Increases also occurred in wholesale and retail trade and finance, insurance, and real estate. A small employment decline in the transportation portion of the transportation and public utilities industry resulted from a since-settled labor dispute.

In the goods-producing sector, construction employment continued to rise, mining declined slightly, and factory jobs held about steady. Within manufacturing, there was a strong job gain in the transportation equipment industry (35,000), especially in motor vehicles and aircraft. In autos, however, the more scattered timing in production of 1986 model cars reduced the extent of usual August plant shutdowns for retooling, resulting in a seasonally adjusted employment increase. Elsewhere in durable goods, movements were generally small except for the steel industry, where there was a decline due to a strike. Among nondurable goods industries, there were small gains in rubber and printing and publishing, while a drop in apparel employment reversed an increase in the prior month.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls was 35.1 hours in August, squarely in the middle of the 35.0-35.2 band it has fluctuated within since last fall. The manufacturing workweek rose 0.2 hour, and factory overtime edged up 0.1 hour. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls rose 0.7 percent in August to 116.7 (1977=100), seasonally adjusted, as both employment and hours rose. With a 0.8-percent rise, the manufacturing index was slightly higher than the levels prevailing in the summer, though still below those recorded throughout 1984 and early this year. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

After adjustment for seasonality, average hourly earnings in August rose 0.4 percent, and average weekly earnings were up 0.6 percent. On an unadjusted basis, hourly earnings were unchanged over the month, and weekly earnings rose by 86 cents. Over the past year, hourly earnings have risen 24 cents, while weekly earnings have gone up \$7.67. (See table B-3.)

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The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 165.5 (1977=100) in August, seasonally adjusted, essentially unchanged from July. For the 12 months ended in August, the increase was 2.9 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 1.0 percent during the 12-month period ended in July. (See table B-4.)

# News

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OCTOBER 4, 1985

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: SEPTEMBER 1985

Employment rose in September and unemployment was about unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate of 7.0 percent and the rate for civilian workers of 7.1 percent were not much different from August, remaining somewhat below the rates prevailing since the beginning of the year.

Civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--totaled 107.5 million in September, an increase of 370,000 over the month. The number of nonagricultural payroll jobs--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments was 98.1 million, as continued job gains in the service-producing sector were tempered by a decline in manufacturing employment.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Unemployment totaled 8.3 million in September, after adjustment for seasonality. The unemployment rate for all civilian workers, at 7.1 percent, was about the same as in August. Jobless rates for adult men (6.0 percent), adult women (6.8 percent), and teenagers (17.8 percent) were virtually unchanged, as were rates for whites (6.1 percent) and Hispanics (10.4 percent). However, the rate for black workers, which had declined in the previous month, rose to 15.3 percent in September, returning to about the July figure. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The average (mean) duration of unemployment was 15.5 weeks in September, about the same as in the 3 previous months, while the median duration figure, which had been edging up, decreased to 6.9 weeks. (See table A-7.)

### The Civilian Labor Force and Employment (Household Survey Data)

The civilian labor force rose by about 500,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis in September, with adult men and women each accounting for a

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little more than 200,000 of the gain. There had not been any sustained growth in the labor force in the preceding 6 months. (See table A-2.)

Civilian employment expanded by 370,000 after seasonal adjustment to a September total of 107.5 million. Adult workers were responsible for virtually all of this increase. The employment-population ratio edged up

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Aug.- Sept. change
	1985		1985			
	II	III	July	Aug.	Sept.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	116,879	117,197	117,018	117,025	117,550	525
Total employment <u>1/</u> .....	108,461	108,913	108,566	108,898	109,276	378
Civilian labor force.....	115,176	115,477	115,314	115,299	115,818	519
Civilian employment.....	106,758	107,193	106,862	107,172	107,544	372
Unemployment.....	8,417	8,284	8,451	8,127	8,274	147
Not in labor force.....	62,771	62,937	62,949	63,106	62,754	-352
Discouraged workers.....	1,145	1,231	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	7.2	7.1	7.2	6.9	7.0	0.1
All civilian workers.....	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.0	7.1	.1
Adult men.....	6.3	6.1	6.3	6.0	6.0	0
Adult women.....	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.8	.1
Teenagers.....	18.3	18.2	19.5	17.3	17.8	.5
White.....	6.3	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.1	-.1
Black.....	15.0	14.8	15.0	14.0	15.3	1.3
Hispanic origin.....	10.5	10.6	11.2	10.3	10.4	.1
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm payroll employment..	97,338	p97,936	97,707	p97,987	p98,115	p128
Goods-producing.....	25,055	p24,985	24,980	p25,026	p24,949	p-77
Service-producing.....	72,283	p72,951	72,727	p72,961	p73,166	p205
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private nonfarm.....	35.1	p35.1	35.0	p35.1	p35.2	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.3	p40.5	40.3	p40.6	p40.7	p.1
Manufacturing overtime....	3.2	p3.3	3.2	p3.3	p3.3	p0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

to 60.2 percent, just a tenth below the record-high figure reached in March of this year.

Over the past 12 months, employment rose by 2.1 million. All of the increase was in nonagricultural industries; agricultural employment declined over the year. (See table A-1.)

#### Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

In the third quarter of 1985, there were 1.2 million discouraged workers--persons who want to work but did not actively look for a job because they believed that they could not find one. About two-thirds of the total cited job market factors. The remainder cited personal factors such as age or lack of training. The number of discouraged workers has shown little change over the past year, after falling by about 600,000 from the recession high. (See table A-14.)

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Overall, the number of employees on nonagricultural payrolls, at 98.1 million, was not much higher in September than it had been in August. Employment growth continued in the service-producing industries at close to the pace over the past year, but there was a marked decline in manufacturing jobs. The BLS index of diffusion, which is heavily weighted toward manufacturing industries, indicated that only about 46 percent of private nonfarm industries experienced job growth over the month. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

Manufacturing job losses, which totaled 110,000, were especially evident in the durable goods industries, particularly motor vehicles, machinery, and electrical and electronic equipment. In the auto industry, the decline was largely related to changed seasonal patterns in model changeover and new strike activity in the reference week. Elsewhere in the goods-producing sector, a pick-up of 40,000 jobs in construction sustained the pattern of strong growth that totaled 370,000 over the year.

In the service-producing sector, there were job gains in services, finance, real estate, and transportation. Much of the increase in transportation involved the return to work of automobile transporters who had been on strike.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged up to 35.2 hours in September. The manufacturing workweek also edged up, to a very high 40.7 hours. Factory overtime was unchanged in September at 3.3 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls rose slightly to 117.2 (1977=100) in September, after allowance for seasonality. Reflecting the sharp decline

in jobs, the manufacturing index edged lower over the month. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

On a seasonally adjusted basis, average hourly and weekly earnings rose 0.6 and 0.9 percent, respectively, in September. Unadjusted hourly earnings were up 14 cents to \$8.68, and weekly earnings rose by \$4.08 to \$306.40; increases in earnings tend to be unusually large in September. Over the past year, hourly earnings have risen 25 cents and weekly earnings \$7.98. (See table B-3.)

#### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 165.6 (1977=100) in September, seasonally adjusted, the same as in August. For the 12 months ended in September, the increase was 2.4 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI was unchanged during the 12-month period ended in August. (See table B-4.)

# News

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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: OCTOBER 1985

Employment rose in October and unemployment was unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate was 7.0 percent, and the civilian worker rate was 7.1 percent; both were the same as in September.

Civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--rose by 325,000 in October to 107.9 million. The number of nonagricultural wage and salary jobs--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--advanced by 415,000, with employment gains widespread among industries.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Unemployment was unchanged in October at 8.3 million, seasonally adjusted. The unemployment rate for the civilian labor force was 7.1 percent, also unchanged over the month but slightly below the levels prevailing earlier in the year. Although the overall unemployment rate was stable in October, there was a decline in the rate for adult women (to 6.4 percent) that was balanced by a sharp increase in the rate for teenagers (20.1 percent). Unemployment rates among blacks (15.0 percent) and whites (6.1 percent) showed little or no change in October, and the rate for Hispanics (11.3 percent) edged up. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

A decline in the number of unemployed who were reentering the labor force was matched by an increase among those who were seeking their first jobs. Together, these two groups accounted for 40 percent of the unemployed; job losers accounted for almost 50 percent, and job leavers a little more than 10 percent. Both the mean and median duration of unemployment, at 15.3 and 7.1 weeks, respectively, indicated little change in the amount of time the unemployed had been jobless. (See tables A-7 and A-8.)

The Civilian Labor Force and Employment (Household Survey Data)

The civilian labor force grew by 340,000 to 116.2 million (seasonally adjusted) in October. The gain was the result of small increases distributed among all three major age/sex groups. Over the year, the

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Sept.- Oct. change
	1985		1985			
	II	III	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	116,879	117,197	117,025	117,550	117,859	309
Total employment <u>1/</u> .....	108,461	108,913	108,898	109,276	109,567	291
Civilian labor force.....	115,176	115,477	115,299	115,818	116,159	341
Civilian employment.....	106,758	107,193	107,172	107,544	107,867	323
Unemployment.....	8,417	8,284	8,127	8,274	8,291	17
Not in labor force.....	62,771	62,937	63,106	62,754	62,611	143
Discouraged workers.....	1,145	1,231	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	7.2	7.1	6.9	7.0	7.0	0
All civilian workers.....	7.3	7.2	7.0	7.1	7.1	0
Adult men.....	6.3	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	0
Adult women.....	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.4	-0.4
Teenagers.....	18.3	18.2	17.3	17.8	20.1	2.3
White.....	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	0
Black.....	15.0	14.8	14.0	15.3	15.0	-.3
Hispanic origin.....	10.5	10.6	10.3	10.4	11.3	.9
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm payroll employment..	97,338	p97,933	97,977	p98,115	p98,529	p414
Goods-producing.....	25,055	p24,983	25,015	p24,955	p25,045	p90
Service-producing.....	72,283	p72,950	72,962	p73,160	p73,484	p324
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private nonfarm.....	35.1	p35.1	35.1	p35.1	p35.0	p-0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.3	p40.5	40.6	p40.7	p40.7	p0
Manufacturing overtime....	3.2	p3.3	3.3	p3.3	p3.4	p.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

civilian labor force has grown by 2.1 million, or 1.8 percent. (See table A-2.)

At 60.3 percent in October, the employment-population ratio matched its record mark attained in March. The over-the-month employment gain of 325,000 occurred primarily among adult women.

Over the year, there was an increase of 2.2 million in the number employed. More than half of the increase was among managers and professionals, and there were also strong gains among administrative support workers. On the other hand, there has been an over-the-year decline in the number of employed machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors, reflecting the decline in manufacturing employment during the January-September period. (See table A-11.)

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment rose by 415,000 in October, seasonally adjusted, to a level of 98.5 million. Job gains were widespread, with 64 percent of the 185 industries in the BLS index of diffusion registering increases. This is in marked contrast with the previous month, when less than half of the industries showed advances. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

Employment in the service-producing sector continued to climb. The largest gain--150,000 jobs--took place in the services industry, with sizeable increases in business and health services. Employment also rose in retail trade, wholesale trade, and finance, insurance, and real estate.

The number of workers on manufacturing payrolls rose by 60,000 (seasonally adjusted), as seasonal job losses in October did not fully materialize. Factory jobs had declined by 330,000 between January and September. Improvements in October were generally small and widespread throughout manufacturing, with larger increases occurring in lumber and wood products and rubber and plastics. Elsewhere in the goods-producing sector, construction jobs continued to advance and employment in mining was virtually unchanged over the month.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged down in October to 35.0 hours. The manufacturing workweek remained at the previous month's high level of 40.7 hours, while factory overtime rose slightly to 3.4 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls rose 0.3 percent, seasonally adjusted, to 117.3 (1977=100), as the large gain in employment more than offset the slight decline in hours. Also reflecting October's job growth, the manufacturing index rose 0.5 percent to a level of 93.8; despite the increase, the manufacturing index was still well below its year-ago level. (See table B-5.)

### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings were unchanged in October, and weekly earnings declined 0.3 percent, after adjustment for seasonality. On an unadjusted basis, hourly earnings fell 2 cents to \$8.65. Weekly earnings, which were also affected by the shorter workweek, declined \$2.43 to \$302.75. Over the past year, hourly earnings increased 25 cents, while weekly earnings advanced \$7.91. (See table B-3.)

### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 166.7 (1977=100) in October, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.1 percent from September. For the 12 months ended in October, the increase was 3.2 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI increased 0.3 percent during the 12-month period ended in September. (See table B-4.)

### Improved Population Estimates for the Household Survey

Effective with data for January 1986, two technical changes will be introduced in the population estimates used as controls for the household survey. One will reflect an explicit allowance for undocumented immigrants since 1980 (largely Hispanic). This change will be offset somewhat by an improved estimate of emigration from the United States, also since 1980. The net effect of these adjustments will be to increase the working age population by roughly 300,000. For the population as a whole, this should have little effect on the data. The adjustment for the Hispanic-origin population, however, may be much larger. If this is the case, BLS will revise the data back to 1980.

# News

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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: NOVEMBER 1985

The number of nonfarm jobs on business payrolls rose in November, and unemployment was about unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate was 6.9 percent, and the civilian worker rate was 7.0 percent. Both rates were about the same as in the prior 3 months and slightly below the levels prevailing earlier in the year.

Nonagricultural payroll employment--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--edged up 180,000 in November, while civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--was little changed. Both series registered substantial growth in recent months, with each about 1 million higher in November than in July. Since the business cycle trough in November 1982, the number of nonfarm payroll jobs has grown by over 10 million. The household survey count of civilian employment increased by close to 9 million over the 3-year period.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The civilian worker unemployment rate (7.0 percent) and the unemployment level (8.1 million) were both little changed in November. While the teenage unemployment rate fell to near the levels prevailing before October's sharp rise, there were no over-the-month changes in adult joblessness. A slight decline in unemployment among whites in November (to 5.9 percent) contrasted with a small rise in unemployment among black workers (to 15.9 percent). The unemployment rate among workers of Hispanic origin (10.7 percent) was about the same as in recent months. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

Half of the unemployed reported that they had lost their last jobs, about in line with the proportions prevailing over the past year. Labor force entrants accounted for 40 percent of the total and job leavers for the remaining 10 percent. The median duration of unemployment was essentially unchanged at 7.0 weeks, but mean duration rose to 16.0 weeks. (See tables A-7 and A-8.)

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The Civilian Labor Force and Employment (Household Survey Data)

Following a large increase in October, the civilian labor force held about steady in November. Moreover, there were no significant changes in the number of men, women, or teenagers in the work force. Over the year,

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Oct.- Nov. change
	1985		1985			
	II	III	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	116,879	117,197	117,550	117,859	117,769	-90
Total employment <u>1/</u> .....	108,461	108,913	109,276	109,567	109,629	62
Civilian labor force.....	115,176	115,477	115,818	116,159	116,067	-92
Civilian employment.....	106,758	107,193	107,544	107,867	107,927	60
Unemployment.....	8,417	8,284	8,274	8,291	8,140	-151
Not in labor force.....	62,771	62,937	62,754	62,611	62,873	262
Discouraged workers.....	1,145	1,231	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.9	-0.1
All civilian workers.....	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.0	-.1
Adult men.....	6.3	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	0
Adult women.....	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.4	6.4	0
Teenagers.....	18.3	18.2	17.8	20.1	18.4	-1.7
White.....	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.1	5.9	-.2
Black.....	15.0	14.8	15.3	15.0	15.9	.9
Hispanic origin.....	10.5	10.6	10.4	11.3	10.7	-.6
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm payroll employment..	97,338	97,967	98,217	p98,571	p98,753	p182
Goods-producing.....	25,055	24,986	24,962	p25,045	p25,073	p28
Service-producing.....	72,283	72,981	73,255	p73,526	p73,680	p154
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private nonfarm.....	35.1	35.1	35.1	p35.1	p35.0	p-0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.3	40.5	40.7	p40.7	p40.7	p0
Manufacturing overtime....	3.2	3.3	3.3	p3.3	p3.4	p.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

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the labor force grew by about 2.0 million, or 1.7 percent, to 116.1 million. Adult women accounted for nearly 70 percent of this increase. (See table A-2.)

At 107.9 million, civilian employment was unchanged in October, and there were no significant changes among the major age, sex, race, or ethnic groupings. The employment-population ratio remained at the record high of 60.3 percent. In the past year, civilian employment rose by about 2.0 million, or 1.9 percent.

The number of persons working short weeks (less than 35 hours), which accounts for nearly a fifth of the total at work, has risen over the year. The number voluntarily at work part time increased by just over half a million to 13.7 million, whereas the number working part time for economic reasons, at 5.5 million, was not much different from a year earlier. (See table A-4.)

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

The number of employees on nonagricultural payrolls edged up in November to 98.8 million, seasonally adjusted. The increase of 180,000 followed larger gains in recent months. Although over-the-month increases were generally small, they were fairly widespread, as the BLS index of diffusion remained at about 60 percent. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

Within the service sector, there were substantial over-the-month advances in the services division (including continued gains in both business and health services) and in finance, insurance, and real estate, with more modest gains in wholesale trade and transportation and public utilities. In contrast, the number of jobs in retail trade was about unchanged after seasonal adjustment, although seasonal hirings in general merchandise stores were below the expected holiday increase.

Employment in the goods-producing sector was basically unchanged in November, following a substantial increase in October. After seasonal adjustment, the level of manufacturing employment in November was not significantly different than in October but was up by nearly 100,000 from September, halting the trend of job losses which had occurred earlier in the year. Construction employment, which has advanced by 335,000 over the year, was about unchanged in November.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

Average weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged down in November to 35.0 hours. The manufacturing workweek remained at 40.7 hours, sustaining the very high level which has been in evidence since August. Factory overtime rose slightly to 3.4 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls, at 117.3 (1977=100) seasonally

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adjusted, was little changed from October, as the modest gain in employment just about offset the somewhat shorter workweek. The manufacturing index also was about unchanged over the month but was up 1.1 percent from July. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings increased by 0.3 percent, while average weekly earnings were little changed in November, after adjustment for seasonality. On an unadjusted basis, hourly earnings rose 2 cents to \$8.67, while weekly earnings fell \$1.04 to \$302.58. Over the past year, hourly earnings rose 24 cents, and weekly earnings advanced \$6.69. (See table B-3.)

#### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 166.9 (1977=100) in November, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.3 percent from October. For the 12 months ended in November, the increase was 2.9 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI increased 0.1 percent during the 12-month period ended in October. (See table B-4.)

#### Improved Population Estimates for the Household Survey

Effective with data for January 1986, two technical changes will be introduced in the population estimates used as controls for the household survey. One will reflect an explicit allowance for undocumented immigrants since 1980 (largely Hispanic). This change will be offset somewhat by an improved estimate of emigration from the United States, also since 1980. The net effect of these adjustments will be to increase the working age population by roughly 300,000. For the population as a whole, this should have little effect on the data. The adjustment for the Hispanic-origin population will be much larger, however, and BLS plans to revise the data to the extent possible back to 1980.

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The Employment Situation for December 1985 will be released on Wednesday, January 8, 1986, at 8:30 A.M. (EST). Release dates for the balance of 1986 are as follows:

Feb. 7	Aug. 1
Mar. 7	Sept. 5
Apr. 4	Oct. 3
May 2	Nov. 7
June 6	Dec. 5
July 3	

# News

United States  
Department  
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Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information: (202) 523-1371  
523-1944  
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Media contact: 523-1913

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8:30 A.M. (EST), WEDNESDAY,  
JANUARY 8, 1986

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: DECEMBER 1985

Employment rose in December and unemployment was little changed, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate was 6.8 percent, and the rate for civilian workers was 6.9 percent. While little different from November, both rates were below those which had prevailed throughout most of 1985.

The number of nonagricultural wage and salary jobs--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--rose by 320,000 in December to 99.1 million. Civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--edged up by 240,000 to 108.2 million. Although both surveys showed substantial job growth in 1985, gains were less than were recorded in the prior 2 years.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The December unemployment level (8.0 million) and the civilian worker unemployment rate (6.9 percent) were little different from their November levels, after seasonal adjustment. Both figures, however, were below those prevailing throughout most of 1985. Jobless rates for most worker groups were about unchanged in December, including those for adult men (5.9 percent), adult women (6.2 percent), teenagers (18.8 percent), whites (5.9 percent), blacks (14.9 percent), and Hispanics (10.4 percent). During the course of 1985, jobless rates for adult men, adult women, and whites declined, whereas rates for teenagers, blacks, and Hispanics have shown no improvement. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

This release incorporates annual revisions in seasonally adjusted unemployment and other labor force series derived from the household survey. Information concerning the revisions appears on page 5.

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Both measures of average duration of unemployment have changed little in recent months. Median duration remained at 6.9 weeks in December, while mean duration was 15.4 weeks. These measures have declined from late 1984 levels. The number of job losers was about unchanged over the month but was somewhat below year-earlier levels. (See tables A-7 and A-8.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Nov.- Dec. change
	1985		1985			
	III	IV	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	117,189	117,858	117,814	117,832	117,927	95
Total employment <u>1/</u> .....	108,921	109,696	109,513	109,671	109,904	233
Civilian labor force.....	115,468	116,158	116,114	116,130	116,229	99
Civilian employment.....	107,200	107,996	107,813	107,969	108,206	237
Unemployment.....	8,268	8,162	8,301	8,161	8,023	-138
Not in labor force.....	62,946	62,783	62,656	62,810	62,883	73
Discouraged workers.....	1,246	1,187	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	7.1	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.8	-0.1
All civilian workers.....	7.2	7.0	7.1	7.0	6.9	-.1
Adult men.....	6.1	6.0	6.1	6.0	5.9	-.1
Adult women.....	6.7	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.2	-.2
Teenagers.....	18.3	19.0	19.8	18.4	18.8	.4
White.....	6.2	6.0	6.1	5.9	5.9	0
Black.....	14.8	15.1	14.9	15.6	14.9	-.7
Hispanic origin.....	10.6	10.7	11.1	10.6	10.4	-.2
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm payroll employment..	97,967	p98,786	98,559	p98,739	p99,059	p320
Goods-producing.....	24,986	p25,088	25,051	p25,076	p25,136	p60
Service-producing.....	72,981	p73,698	73,508	p73,663	p73,923	p260
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private nonfarm.....	35.1	p35.1	35.1	p35.0	p35.1	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.5	p40.8	40.7	p40.7	p41.0	p.3
Manufacturing overtime....	3.3	p3.5	3.4	p3.4	p3.6	p.2

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

NOTE: Household data have been revised based on the experience through December 1985.

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment edged up to a level of 108.2 million in December. Over the year, the number of jobholders rose by 2 million, with adult women accounting for 70 percent of the gain. The proportion of the civilian population with jobs--the employment-population ratio--reached a record high of 60.4 percent in December. Among occupational groups, the largest gains during the year occurred in managerial and professional, administrative support, and service jobs.

The civilian labor force, at 116.2 million in December, was little changed over the month. Over the year, the labor force rose by 1.8 million, with adult women accounting for an even larger share of the labor force growth (80 percent) than of employment.

### Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

At 1.2 million in the fourth quarter, the number of discouraged workers--persons who report that they want a job but are not looking for one because they believe their search would be futile--was about the same as the levels in the first 3 quarters of the year. Despite an over-the-year decline in the number of blacks reporting discouragement over job prospects, they continued to represent a disproportionate share of discouraged workers--about 1 in 3, or three times their share of the labor force. (See table A-14.)

### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

The number of employees on nonagricultural payrolls increased by 320,000 in December to 99.1 million, after seasonal adjustment. Job gains were widespread, as the BLS diffusion index registered 65 percent. The payroll total was 3.0 million above the year-earlier level. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

Continuing the pattern of recent growth, the bulk of the December employment expansion occurred in the service-producing sector, which increased by 260,000. The over-the-month expansion was once again paced by services, which rose by 115,000, with most of this gain taking place in business and health services. Elsewhere in the sector, there were modest increases in wholesale trade and finance, insurance and real estate. In retail trade, seasonal hirings in general merchandise stores were below the expected holiday levels, but there was growth in eating and drinking places, so that the overall job count in the industry was about unchanged in December, after seasonal adjustment.

In the goods-producing sector, employment increased by 60,000. In contrast to nearly continuous job losses between January and September, manufacturing employment edged up for the third month in a row. The December gain of 45,000 reflected small but widespread increases throughout both the durable and nondurable goods industries. Manufacturing job growth since September totaled 140,000. Construction employment was little

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changed for the second straight month, following several months of substantial growth. The number of construction jobs was up 290,000 over the year. Mining employment was about unchanged in December.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged up in December to 35.1 hours, after seasonal adjustment. Weekly hours in manufacturing rose 0.3 hour to 41.0 hours, a very high level, and factory overtime rose 0.2 hour to 3.6 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on nonagricultural payrolls rose 0.7 percent to 118.3 (1977=100), after seasonal adjustment. Reflecting advances in both weekly hours and the level of employment, the manufacturing index increased by 1.3 percent to 95.2. Since September, the manufacturing index has increased 2 percent. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings rose 0.9 percent in December, and weekly earnings were up 1.2 percent, seasonally adjusted. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings increased 5 cents to \$8.73, while weekly earnings were up \$6.11 to \$309.04. Over the past year, hourly earnings have risen 27 cents and weekly earnings \$8.71. (See table B-3.)

#### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 168.4 (1977=100) in December, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.8 percent from November. For the 12 months ended in December, the increase was 3.1 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and inter-industry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 0.5 percent during the 12-month period ended in November. (See table B-4.)

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### Revisions of Seasonally Adjusted Household Survey Data

At the end of each calendar year, the BLS routinely revises the seasonally adjusted labor force series derived from the Current Population Survey (household survey) to incorporate the experience of that year. As a result of the recalculation of the seasonal factors, seasonally adjusted data for the most recent 5 years are subject to revision. (Establishment data are similarly revised concurrent with annual benchmark adjustments about mid-year.)

The revisions slightly altered the overall unemployment rate in January and the rate for civilian workers in August of 1985. The 1985 annual averages, 7.1 percent for all workers and 7.2 percent for civilian workers, are not affected by seasonal adjustment revisions. Table B presents revised seasonally adjusted data for major civilian labor force series for December 1984 through December 1985.

The January 1986 issue of Employment and Earnings will contain the new seasonal adjustment factors that will be used to calculate the civilian labor force and other major series for January-June of 1986, a description of the current seasonal adjustment methodology, and revised data for the most recent 13 months or calendar quarters for all regularly published tables containing seasonally adjusted household survey data. Revised monthly data for the entire 1981-85 revision period for 425 labor force series will be published in the February 1986 issue. Historical seasonally adjusted data in printed and diskette format may be purchased from the Bureau. (Contact Lewis B. Siegel, (202) 523-1821.)

### Improved Population Estimates for the Household Survey

Effective with data for January 1986, two technical changes will be introduced in the population estimates used as controls for the household survey. One will reflect an explicit estimate of the number of undocumented immigrants, largely Hispanic, since 1980. This change will be offset somewhat by an improved estimate of emigration from the United States for the same time period. The net effect of these adjustments will be to increase the working age population by roughly 300,000. For the population as a whole, this should have little effect on the data. Because the adjustment for the Hispanic-origin population will be much larger, BLS will revise the data to the extent possible back to 1980.

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The Employment Situation for January 1986 will be released on Friday, February 7, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information: (202) 523-1371  
523-1944  
523-1959  
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8:30 A.M. (EST), FRIDAY,  
FEBRUARY 7, 1986

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JANUARY 1986

Employment rose in January and unemployment declined, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate fell from 6.8 to 6.6 percent, and the rate for civilian workers dropped from 6.9 to 6.7 percent.

The number of nonagricultural wage and salary jobs--as measured by the monthly survey of business establishments--rose by 565,000 in January, after seasonal adjustment, to 99.6 million. Civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--rose by about 400,000 over the month, after allowance is made for the effect of technical changes introduced in January in the procedure used for developing survey estimates. (See note on page 4.) The proportion of the civilian population with jobs rose to a record 60.6 percent.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons edged down in January to 7.8 million, after seasonal adjustment, and the civilian unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point to 6.7 percent. Both measures have shown gradual improvement since last summer. The rate was at its lowest level since March of 1980. Jobless rates declined for adult men and whites over the month (both falling from 5.9 to 5.7 percent), while rates for adult women (6.1 percent), teenagers (18.4 percent), blacks (14.4 percent), Hispanics (10.1 percent), and most other worker groups were little changed from December. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The number of unemployed persons who had been seeking work for 27 weeks or longer--the very long-term unemployed--declined by 130,000 in January to 1.1 million. This group accounted for 14 percent of the jobless total. There was little change in either mean or median duration of joblessness, however. Among the reasons for unemployment categories, there were declines in the number of other job losers (those who do not expect recall) and labor force reentrants; these were offset partly by an increase in unemployment among job leavers. (See tables A-7 and A-8.)

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Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

After adjusting for the effect of the revised population estimates, civilian employment rose by 400,000 in January to 109.0 million, seasonally adjusted. (Employment normally falls markedly in January, and this year

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Dec.- Jan. change
	1985		1985		1986	
	III	IV	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1</u> /.....	117,189	117,858	117,832	117,927	118,477	(2)
Total employment <u>1</u> /.....	108,921	109,696	109,671	109,904	110,646	(2)
Civilian labor force.....	115,468	116,158	116,130	116,229	116,786	(2)
Civilian employment.....	107,200	107,996	107,969	108,206	108,955	(2)
Unemployment.....	8,268	8,162	8,161	8,023	7,831	(2)
Not in labor force.....	62,946	62,783	62,810	62,883	62,885	(2)
Discouraged workers.....	1,246	1,187	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1</u> /.....	7.1	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.6	-0.2
All civilian workers.....	7.2	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.7	-.2
Adult men.....	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.7	-.2
Adult women.....	6.7	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.1	-.1
Teenagers.....	18.3	19.0	18.4	18.8	18.4	-.4
White.....	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.7	-.2
Black.....	14.8	15.1	15.6	14.9	14.4	-.5
Hispanic origin <u>3</u> /.....	10.6	10.7	10.6	10.4	10.1	-.3
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm payroll employment..	97,967	p98,810	98,801	p99,069	p99,635	p566
Goods-producing.....	24,986	p25,095	25,089	p25,145	p25,335	p190
Service-producing.....	72,981	p73,715	73,712	p73,924	p74,300	p376
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private nonfarm.....	35.1	p35.1	35.0	p35.1	p35.1	p0
Manufacturing.....	40.5	p40.8	40.7	p41.0	p40.9	p-0.1
Manufacturing overtime....	3.3	p3.5	3.4	p3.6	p3.5	p-.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.2/ Change not shown due to the effect of population adjustments. See note on page 4 for changes based on revised estimates.3/ Data for 1985 and earlier

years have been revised.

N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

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the decline was considerably less than usual, resulting in the large seasonally adjusted increase.) The employment-population ratio--the proportion of the civilian population with jobs--reached a record 60.6 percent in January, as there was a sharp increase in the ratio for men.

The civilian labor force stood at 116.8 million in January, not much different from the December level after allowance is made for the change in the estimation procedure. Over the year, the labor force grew by approximately 1.6 million (again, after adjustment).

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment increased by 565,000 in January to 99.6 million, after seasonal adjustment. The January job count was 3.1 million above its year-earlier level. (See table B-1.)

In the service-producing sector, there were especially large seasonally adjusted increases in retail trade and services. Employment in retail trade, which had shown comparatively limited growth during the Christmas buying season, did not show as large a decline as usual in January and, after seasonal adjustment, rose by 205,000. The over-the-year increase, which is not affected by seasonality, totaled more than 800,000. Services continued its pattern of strong job growth with an additional 115,000 jobs in January; the over-the-year gain in this industry was a very robust 1.1 million. Elsewhere in the sector, there were over-the-month increases in transportation and public utilities, wholesale trade, and finance, insurance, and real estate.

In the goods-producing sector, construction employment did not experience as large a decline as it usually does in January. Buoyed by mild weather and strength in the housing industry, construction jobs rose by 155,000 to 4.9 million, seasonally adjusted. This development followed several months of little change. Mining employment was about unchanged in January.

Manufacturing jobs edged up in January, following increases in each of the prior 3 months. At 19.5 million, manufacturing employment was 135,000 less than the previous year's level, as there had been substantial declines between January and September 1985. This January, there were small over-the-month employment increases among many of the individual manufacturing industries.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls remained at 35.1 hours in January, after seasonal adjustment. Weekly hours in manufacturing edged down 0.1 hour to 40.9 hours, still a very high level. Factory overtime also decreased 0.1 hour, to 3.5 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on nonagricultural payrolls rose 0.8 percent to 119.0 (1977=100),

- 4 -

after seasonal adjustment. Following continuous advances since September, the manufacturing index was little changed in January. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly and weekly earnings declined 0.7 percent in January, seasonally adjusted. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose 2 cents to \$8.74, while weekly earnings were down \$4.54 to \$303.28, a reflection of a drop in the workweek which is typical for this time of year. Over the past year, hourly earnings have risen 24 cents and weekly earnings \$8.33. (See table B-3.)

#### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 167.7 (1977=100) in January, seasonally adjusted, a decrease of 0.4 percent from December. For the 12 months ended in January, the increase was 2.9 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 0.5 percent during the 12-month period ended in December. (See table B-4.)

#### Changes in Household Data Series

Beginning with data for January 1986, revised population estimates used as controls for the household survey have been introduced. The revised procedure reflects estimates since 1980 of undocumented immigration (largely Hispanic) and emigration. This adjustment results in higher, more accurate levels for January, but it produces a break in series with data for prior periods. The effect of this change for the overall population was less than half of 1 percent. If revised population controls were applied to December data, the December-January increase would be 169,000 for the labor force and 397,000 for the employed. The level of unemployment would decline by 228,000. The unemployment rate is not affected by the change.

The revised procedure raises the levels of Hispanic labor force and employment counts by about 4 percent. Because of this large magnitude, BLS is revising data for this group, to the extent possible, back to January 1980. All Hispanic data in this release already have been revised.

The changes and their effect on estimates of labor force characteristics are described in "Changes in the Estimation Procedure in the Current Population Survey Beginning in January 1986," to appear in the February 1986 issue of Employment and Earnings.

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The Employment Situation for February 1986 will be released on Friday, March 7, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

# News

United States  
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Washington, D.C. 20212

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MARCH 7, 1986

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: FEBRUARY 1986

Unemployment rose in February, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate, 7.2 percent, and the rate for civilian workers, 7.3 percent, each increased six-tenths of a percentage point from January, returning to the levels that prevailed during the first half of last year.

The two surveys produced contrasting employment developments in February. The number of nonagricultural payroll jobs--as measured by the monthly survey of business establishments--rose by 225,000, seasonally adjusted, despite declines in the goods-producing industries. Total civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--declined by 400,000, following an increase of the same magnitude in January (after allowance is made for population adjustments introduced into the survey in January). Half of the decline was among agricultural workers, who are not covered by the payroll survey.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Civilian unemployment rose by 700,000 to 8.5 million in February. This unusual increase was concentrated in certain groups in the economy. Two-thirds occurred in just three states--California, Texas, and Illinois; one-quarter was among Hispanics; and almost three-quarters was among workers aged 25 and over. (See tables A-2, A-3, and A-13.)

The civilian unemployment rate rose 0.6 percentage point in February to 7.3 percent, seasonally adjusted. The jobless rate had been improving slowly since last summer, and February's rise returns it to the level that prevailed throughout the first half of 1985. Most major labor force groups showed increases in their jobless rates. Rates for adult men (6.2 percent) and women (6.7 percent) and full-time workers (6.9 percent) were all about half a point higher than in the previous month. Joblessness for part-time workers rose a full point to 9.4 percent. The teenage unemployment rate, at 19.0 percent, was not significantly different from a month earlier. While the rates for whites (6.4 percent) and Hispanics (12.3 percent) were

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up sharply, that for blacks (14.8 percent) was at the same general level of recent months. (See tables A-2, A-3, and A-6.)

The rise in unemployment was evident in all duration categories, such that the median and mean were about unchanged in February, at 6.9 and 15.3 weeks, respectively. Unemployment increases were concentrated among those

**Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted**

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Jan.- Feb. change
	1985		1985	1986		
	III	IV	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	117,189	117,858	117,927	118,477	118,779	302
Total employment <u>1/</u> .....	108,921	109,696	109,904	110,646	110,252	-394
Civilian labor force.....	115,468	116,158	116,229	116,786	117,088	302
Civilian employment.....	107,200	107,996	108,206	108,955	108,561	-394
Unemployment.....	8,268	8,162	8,023	7,831	8,527	696
Not in labor force.....	62,946	62,783	62,883	62,885	62,733	-152
Discouraged workers.....	1,246	1,187	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	7.1	6.9	6.8	6.6	7.2	0.6
All civilian workers.....	7.2	7.0	6.9	6.7	7.3	.6
Adult men.....	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.7	6.2	.5
Adult women.....	6.7	6.4	6.2	6.1	6.7	.6
Teenagers.....	18.3	19.0	18.8	18.4	19.0	.6
White.....	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.7	6.4	.7
Black.....	14.8	15.1	14.9	14.4	14.8	.4
Hispanic origin .....	10.6	10.7	10.4	10.1	12.3	2.2
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm payroll employment..	97,967	98,815	99,086	p99,507	p99,733	p226
Goods-producing.....	24,986	25,098	25,155	p25,317	p25,249	p-68
Service-producing.....	72,981	73,717	73,931	p74,190	p74,484	p294
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private nonfarm.....	35.1	35.1	35.1	p35.2	p35.0	p-0.2
Manufacturing.....	40.5	40.8	41.0	p40.9	p40.6	p-.3
Manufacturing overtime....	3.3	3.5	3.6	p3.5	p3.4	p-.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

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who lost their jobs and do not expect recall ("other job losers") and among labor force entrants, particularly reentrants. The number of job leavers and those on layoff were unchanged. (See tables A-7 and A-8.)

#### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment fell almost 400,000 to 108.6 million in February, offsetting gains made in the previous month. Half of the February employment reduction came in agriculture. Adult men and women had reductions in employment of 320,000 and 270,000, respectively, while employment among teens rose 200,000. The employment-population ratio--the proportion of the civilian population with jobs--declined 0.2 percentage point to 60.4 percent, matching December's figure. Except for January's 60.6 percent, these proportions are the highest ever recorded.

The civilian labor force grew by 300,000 to 117.1 million in February. This was about 1.8 million higher than a year earlier (after correcting for revisions in the underlying population estimates that were introduced in January). Adult women accounted for over 1 million of this increase, and adult men added about 850,000, while teenagers were about unchanged.

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

The number of employees on nonagricultural payrolls increased by 225,000 in February to 99.7 million, after seasonal adjustment. The overall change was marked by a continuation of strength within the service-producing sector that was partially offset by declines in the goods-producing industries. The weakness in the goods sector was reflected in the fact that only about half of the industries in the BLS index of diffusion posted gains, in contrast to more widespread increases in the previous 4 months. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

In the service-producing sector, the largest over-the-month gains took place in services and retail trade--nearly 120,000 in each, after seasonal adjustment. Taken together, their employment increased by 1.9 million over the year, accounting for nearly two-thirds of the jobs added to payrolls over this period. Sizable over-the-month employment increases also took place in finance, insurance, and real estate and wholesale trade. Altogether, employment rose by 295,000 in the service-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, mining jobs fell by 15,000. All of this decline occurred in oil and gas extraction, which has been drifting downward since mid-1985. Construction employment dropped by 25,000 in February, after seasonal adjustment. This decline may have resulted from harsh weather conditions in February that followed much milder conditions in the prior month.

Manufacturing employment edged down by 30,000 over the month, after having exhibited small employment gains in each of the prior 4 months. This represented a return to the December employment total of 19.4 million.

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The largest over-the-month decline occurred in the apparel industry, which fell by 15,000. Elsewhere in manufacturing, small declines occurred in fabricated metals, machinery, and motor vehicles and equipment.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

Average weekly hours for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls declined 0.2 hour to 35.0 hours, seasonally adjusted, in February. The manufacturing workweek decreased by 0.3 hour to 40.6 hours, down from the very high levels of the previous 2 months but otherwise in line with the relatively high levels that prevailed in the August-November period. Factory overtime also declined, by 0.1 hour to 3.4 hours. Weekly hours in construction fell markedly over the month, in large part the result of unusually bad weather that plagued much of the country during the survey reference week. (See table B-2.)

Due to the drop in hours, the index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls--which reflects developments in both hours and employment--dropped 0.3 percent to 118.9 (1977=100) in February. Indexes declined sharply over the month in construction, mining, and manufacturing. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings rose 0.5 percent in February, and weekly earnings were little changed, after adjustment for seasonality. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings were unchanged over the month at \$8.74, and average weekly earnings were down \$1.75 to \$302.40. Over the past year, hourly earnings were up 22 cents, and weekly earnings rose \$7.61. (See table B-3.)

#### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 168.5 (1977=100) in February, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.6 percent from January. For the 12 months ended in February, the increase was 2.8 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 1.0 percent during the 12-month period ended in January. (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for March 1986 will be released on Friday, April 4, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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8:30 A.M. (EST), FRIDAY,  
APRIL 4, 1986

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: MARCH 1986

Unemployment was little changed in March, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate, 7.1 percent, and the civilian rate, 7.2 percent, were about the same as in February but somewhat higher than the rates that prevailed between last August and January.

The number of nonagricultural payroll jobs--as measured by the monthly survey of business establishments--edged up by about 190,000 in March. As in the previous month, weakness in the goods-producing sector was more than offset by strength in the service-producing sector. Total civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--was little changed over the month.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons--8.4 million, seasonally adjusted--was about unchanged in March, as was the civilian worker unemployment rate of 7.2 percent. Likewise, most of the major labor force groups showed little or no over-the-month change in joblessness. March's unemployment rates for adult men (6.2 percent), adult women (6.6 percent), and teenagers (18.2 percent) were either the same or were virtually unchanged both from February and a year earlier. The unemployment rate for Hispanics (10.3 percent) decreased 2 percentage points, a return to the levels of recent months, while the jobless rates for whites (6.2 percent) and blacks (14.7 percent) were about the same as in February. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The median duration of unemployment in March stood at 6.8 weeks, close to the levels of recent months. The average (mean) duration dropped to 14.4 weeks. There were essentially no changes in either the major duration or reasons for unemployment categories. (See tables A-7 and A-8.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment was virtually unchanged in March at 108.8 million, after seasonal adjustment. An increase in agricultural employment in March

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reversed the decline of the previous month that may have been weather-related. The proportion of the civilian population with jobs (the employment-population ratio) remained at February's high level of 60.4 percent. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

The civilian labor force stood at 117.2 million, after seasonal adjustment, little different from the prior month. Over the year, the

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Feb.- Mar. change
	1985	1986	1986			
	IV	I	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	117,858	118,718	118,477	118,779	118,900	121
Total employment <u>1/</u> .....	109,696	110,460	110,646	110,252	110,481	229
Civilian labor force.....	116,158	117,027	116,786	117,088	117,207	119
Civilian employment.....	107,996	108,768	108,955	108,561	108,788	227
Unemployment.....	8,162	8,259	7,831	8,527	8,419	-108
Not in labor force.....	62,783	62,798	62,885	62,733	62,778	45
Discouraged workers.....	1,187	1,097	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	6.9	7.0	6.6	7.2	7.1	-0.1
All civilian workers.....	7.0	7.1	6.7	7.3	7.2	-.1
Adult men.....	6.0	6.1	5.7	6.2	6.2	0
Adult women.....	6.4	6.5	6.1	6.7	6.6	-.1
Teenagers.....	19.0	18.5	18.4	19.0	18.2	-.8
White.....	6.0	6.1	5.7	6.4	6.2	-.2
Black.....	15.1	14.6	14.4	14.8	14.7	-.1
Hispanic origin .....	10.7	10.9	10.1	12.3	10.3	-2.0
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm payroll employment..	98,815	p99,662	99,496	p99,649	p99,841	p192
Goods-producing.....	25,098	p25,232	25,300	p25,237	p25,158	p-79
Service-producing.....	73,717	p74,430	74,196	p74,412	p74,683	p271
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private nonfarm.....	35.1	p35.0	35.2	p34.9	p35.0	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.8	p40.8	41.0	p40.6	p40.7	p.1
Manufacturing overtime....	3.5	p3.5	3.6	p3.4	p3.5	p.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

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labor force rose by 1.6 million (after adjustment for the revisions in the population introduced in January).

#### Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

In the first quarter of 1986, there were 1.1 million discouraged workers--persons who wanted to work but did not actively look for jobs because they believed that they could not find work. Seventy percent of the total cited job-market factors as their reason for discouragement. The remainder cited personal factors. Over the year, the number of discouraged workers declined by 170,000. (See table A-14.)

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment edged up by 190,000 in March to 99.8 million, seasonally adjusted, marking the second month of slow job growth. The March change reflected a continuation of strength within the service-producing sector that was partially offset by declines in the goods-producing industries. The service sector has accounted for virtually all of the 2.9 million over-the-year increase in employment. As was the case in February, March increases occurred in only about half of the industries in the BLS index of diffusion, which is heavily weighted toward the goods industries. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

In the service-producing sector, the largest job gain over the month took place in the services industry (150,000), with sizable increases in business and health services. There were also substantial pickups in retail trade (75,000) and finance, insurance, and real estate (20,000) and a modest gain in wholesale trade. Altogether, employment rose by 270,000 in the service-producing sector.

In contrast, employment in the goods-producing sector declined by 80,000. Mining continued its recent slide with a reduction of 30,000, most of it in oil and gas extraction. At 900,000 in March, mining jobs were at their lowest level since June 1978. Manufacturing employment edged down by 40,000 over the month, with nearly all of the decline resulting from small but widespread decreases in the durable goods industries. Employment in the construction industry, at 4.9 million in March, was little changed over the month, after allowance is made for the normal seasonal increase in March construction activity.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged up 0.1 hour in March, as did weekly and overtime hours in manufacturing. Each of these key weekly hours figures had declined sharply in February. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls rose 0.3 percent in March to

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118.9 (1977=100), after seasonal adjustment, returning to about the January figure. The index was 2.7 percent above the year-earlier level. The mining index, at 99.9 in March, was down by 4.4 percent over the month, while the manufacturing index was unchanged at 94.1. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings rose 0.3 percent in March, and weekly earnings were up 0.6 percent, seasonally adjusted. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings were unchanged at \$8.74, and average weekly earnings were up \$2.62 to \$304.15. Over the past year, hourly earnings rose 22 cents and weekly earnings \$5.95. (See table B-3.)

#### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 168.8 (1977=100) in March, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.3 percent from February. For the 12 months ended in March, the increase was 2.7 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 0.3 percent during the 12-month period ended in February. (See table B-4.)

#### Revisions in the Establishment Survey data

The Employment Situation news release of May data, scheduled for June 6, will introduce revisions in the establishment-based series on nonagricultural payroll employment, hours, and earnings to reflect the regular annual benchmark adjustments and updated seasonal factors.

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The Employment Situation for April 1986 will be released on Friday, May 2, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: APRIL 1986

The number of jobs on nonfarm payrolls rose in April, and unemployment was about unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate was 7.0 percent, and the civilian worker rate was 7.1 percent.

Nonagricultural payroll employment--as measured by the survey of business establishments--rose by about 200,000 to reach the 100-million mark in April. Despite weakness in mining and manufacturing, almost 1 million jobs have been added during the first 4 months of 1986. Civilian employment--as measured by the survey of households--was little changed over the month.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons--8.3 million, seasonally adjusted--was virtually unchanged in April, as was the civilian worker unemployment rate of 7.1 percent. There were some minor offsets among the major age-sex groups, however, as the unemployment rate of teenagers rose (to 19.6 percent), while that for adults dropped slightly. Jobless rates for whites (6.1 percent), blacks (14.8 percent), and Hispanics (10.4 percent) were all about the same as in the previous month. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

Among those unemployed in April, there was a decline in the number of job losers, particularly those on layoff, but an increase in the number of job leavers. The mean and median duration of unemployment were about unchanged at 6.5 and 14.3 weeks, respectively. (See tables A-7 and A-8.)

The number of persons working part time for economic reasons--often referred to as the partially unemployed--rose by nearly 400,000 to 5.9 million. This increase was concentrated among persons who usually work full time but had their hours cut as a result of slack work. (See table A-4.)

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

At 108.9 million, seasonally adjusted, civilian employment was virtually unchanged in April, and there were no substantive over-the-month changes among the major age, sex, race, and ethnic groups. The civilian employment-population ratio--the proportion of the civilian population with

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Mar.- Apr. change
	1985	1986	1986			
	IV	I	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
<b>Thousands of persons</b>						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	117,858	117,718	118,779	118,900	118,929	29
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	109,696	110,460	110,252	110,481	110,587	106
Civilian labor force...	116,158	117,027	117,088	117,207	117,234	27
Civilian employment..	107,996	108,768	108,561	108,788	108,892	104
Unemployment.....	8,162	8,259	8,527	8,419	8,342	-77
Not in labor force.....	62,783	62,798	62,733	62,778	62,914	136
Discouraged workers..	1,187	1,097	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
<b>Percent of labor force</b>						
<b>Unemployment rates:</b>						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	6.9	7.0	7.2	7.1	7.0	-0.1
All civilian workers.	7.0	7.1	7.3	7.2	7.1	-.1
Adult men.....	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.0	-.2
Adult women.....	6.4	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.4	-.2
Teenagers.....	19.0	18.5	19.0	18.2	19.6	1.4
White.....	6.0	6.1	6.4	6.2	6.1	-.1
Black.....	15.1	14.6	14.8	14.7	14.8	.1
Hispanic origin ...	10.7	10.9	12.3	10.3	10.4	.1
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
<b>Thousands of jobs</b>						
Nonfarm employment.....	98,815	p99,662	99,656	p99,834	p100,040	p206
Goods-producing.....	25,098	p25,237	25,251	p25,161	p25,182	p21
Service-producing....	73,717	p74,425	74,405	p74,673	p74,857	p185
<b>Hours of work</b>						
<b>Average weekly hours:</b>						
Total private.....	35.1	p35.1	35.0	p35.0	p35.0	p0
Manufacturing.....	40.8	p40.8	40.6	p40.7	p40.6	p-0.1
Overtime.....	3.5	p3.5	3.4	p3.4	p3.5	p.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

- 3 -

jobs--was 60.4 percent, the same as in the previous 2 months. Over the year, civilian employment rose by 1.7 million, after adjustment for the population revisions introduced in January. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The civilian labor force held steady at 117.2 million, after seasonal adjustment. In the past year, the civilian labor force has also grown by about 1.7 million (again, after adjustment for population revisions). Adult women accounted for nearly three-fifths of the increase. Because the teenage population was declining between 1978 and 1985, their teenage labor force also decreased throughout most of that period. Over the past year, however, both the teenage population and labor force levels have stabilized.

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

The number of employees on nonagricultural payrolls rose by 205,000 in April to 100 million, after seasonal adjustment, continuing the recent pattern of modest job growth. The job count was 2.9 million above its year-earlier level. Construction and services paced the April job expansion. (See table B-1.)

In the service-producing sector, the services industry continued its strong job expansion, increasing by 85,000. There was also a gain of 45,000 in finance, insurance, and real estate, in part reflecting the boom in mortgage financing brought on by falling interest rates. Wholesale trade posted an increase of 25,000, while retail trade employment rose about in line with the usual seasonal expectation for April and thus was little changed after seasonal adjustment. Employment in government and transportation and public utilities was unchanged. Overall, employment in the sector rose by 185,000.

In the goods-producing sector, employment in the construction industry, at nearly 5 million in April, increased by 85,000 over the month, after adjustment for seasonality. This increase reflects the continued strength in the housing industry and especially dry weather during the April survey period.

In marked contrast, the oil and gas extraction component of the mining industry continued to trend downward, dropping by 35,000 in April. This industry has lost 1 out of 8 of its jobs in the last 3 months. Manufacturing employment continued to wane, edging down by 25,000 over the month, the third consecutive decline. There were small but widespread declines among many of the individual manufacturing industries.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls remained at 35.0 hours in April, after seasonal adjustment. Weekly hours in manufacturing edged down 0.1 hour to 40.6 hours, while factory overtime increased 0.1 hour to 3.5 hours. (See table B-2.)

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The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls was about unchanged at 119.1 (1977=100), after seasonal adjustment. The mining index declined sharply for the third straight month, falling by 4.0 percent in April to 96.6. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly and weekly earnings were unchanged in April, both on an actual and seasonally adjusted basis. Average hourly earnings were \$8.74, not seasonally adjusted, and average weekly earnings were \$304.15. Over the past year, hourly earnings rose 20 cents and weekly earnings \$6.10. (See table B-3.)

#### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 168.8 (1977=100) in April, seasonally adjusted, unchanged from March. For the 12 months ended in April, the increase was 2.5 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI increased 0.7 percent during the 12-months ended in March. (See table B-4.)

#### Revisions in the Establishment Survey data

The Employment Situation news release of May data will introduce revisions in the establishment-based series on nonagricultural payroll employment, hours, and earnings to reflect the regular annual benchmark adjustments and updated seasonal factors.

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The Employment Situation for May 1986 will be released on Friday, June 6, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL  
8:30 A.M. (EDT), FRIDAY,  
JUNE 6, 1986

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: MAY 1986

Employment and unemployment both rose slightly in May, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate and the rate for civilian workers each moved up two-tenths of a percentage point over the month to 7.2 and 7.3 percent, respectively.

The number of nonagricultural payroll jobs--as measured by the monthly survey of business establishments--edged up by 150,000 to 99.9 million, continuing the pattern of moderate but steady advances which has characterized the past year and a half. Total civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--has also increased moderately over this period. (Establishment survey data have been revised to reflect annual benchmarks and updated seasonal adjustment factors; see note on page 4.)

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The civilian worker unemployment rate edged up 0.2 percentage point to 7.3 percent in May, after seasonal adjustment. Despite the small increase, the jobless rate has shown no definitive trend thus far in 1986, after exhibiting mild improvement in the second half of last year. The number of unemployed persons rose by 210,000 to nearly 8.6 million, with all of the increase occurring among adult men. The unemployment rate for adult men increased from 6.0 to 6.4 percent over the month; it had averaged 6.0 percent since mid-1985. Jobless rates for adult women (6.5 percent), teenagers (19.0 percent), whites (6.2 percent), blacks (14.8 percent), and Hispanics (11.0 percent) all showed little or no change from April. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The May increase in unemployment occurred both among persons on layoff and those who lost their last job and do not expect recall; these increases were only partially offset by a decline in the number of persons who voluntarily left their jobs. The rise in unemployment was distributed throughout all of the duration categories, so that both measures of average duration of unemployment--the mean and the median--were little changed in May, at 14.4 and 6.6 weeks, respectively. (See tables A-7 and A-8.)

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Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment, at 109.1 million in May, was up slightly over the month, after seasonal adjustment. All of the gain occurred among adult women. The proportion of the civilian population with jobs, which has been

**Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted**

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Apr.- May change
	1985	1986	1986			
	IV	I	Mar.	Apr.	May	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	117,858	118,718	118,900	118,929	119,351	422
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	109,696	110,460	110,481	110,587	110,797	210
Civilian labor force...	116,158	117,027	117,207	117,234	117,664	430
Civilian employment..	107,996	108,768	108,788	108,892	109,110	218
Unemployment.....	8,162	8,259	8,419	8,342	8,554	212
Not in labor force.....	62,783	62,798	62,778	62,914	62,647	-267
Discouraged workers..	1,187	1,097	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.0	7.2	0.2
All civilian workers.	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.3	.2
Adult men.....	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.0	6.4	.4
Adult women.....	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.5	.1
Teenagers.....	19.0	18.5	18.2	19.6	19.0	-.6
White.....	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	.1
Black.....	15.1	14.6	14.7	14.8	14.8	0
Hispanic origin ...	10.7	10.9	10.3	10.4	11.0	.6
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	98,668	99,403	99,484	p99,797	p99,946	p149
Goods-producing.....	24,937	25,028	24,945	p25,038	p24,988	p-50
Service-producing....	73,731	74,375	74,539	p74,759	p74,958	p199
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.9	34.9	34.9	p34.8	p34.7	p-0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.8	40.7	40.7	p40.7	p40.6	p-.1
Overtime.....	3.5	3.4	3.4	p3.4	p3.4	p0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

NOTE: Establishment data have been revised to reflect March 1985 benchmarks and updated seasonal adjustment factors.

at very high levels, edged up to 60.5 percent. The employment-population ratio for adult women increased sharply to 51.8 percent, the highest level ever recorded. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force grew by 430,000 to 117.7 million in May. This was nearly 2 million higher than a year earlier (after allowance is made for revisions in the underlying population estimates that were introduced in January). The civilian labor force participation rate also increased over the month, reaching a record-high 65.3 percent.

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

The number of employees on nonagricultural payrolls rose slightly in May to 99.9 million, after seasonal adjustment. Continued job expansion in the service-producing sector was partially offset by declines within the goods-producing sector. Over-the-month increases occurred in just under half of the industries in the BLS index of diffusion. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

Employment in the service-producing sector rose by 200,000 in May, half of which was in the services industry. Business and health services, the two largest components of that division, posted sizable gains. Finance, insurance, and real estate employment rose by about 30,000, reflecting low interest rates and a strong housing market. Retail trade recorded a 45,000 increase, much of it in eating and drinking places. Employment levels were little changed for government, wholesale trade, and transportation and public utilities.

In the goods-producing sector, the number of jobs in the oil and gas extraction component of mining declined almost 30,000 over the month and has fallen by 100,000 so far this year. Manufacturing continued its downward trend, posting an over-the-month decline of 40,000 jobs, mostly in the durable goods industries. Employment in the motor vehicle and equipment industry accounted for about half of the decline in durable goods, falling by 15,000. This industry has lost 50,000 jobs since early 1985. Small decreases also continued in the other four major metal and metal-using industries. Total manufacturing employment was down by 115,000 over the past year and 300,000 since its post-recession high reached in August 1984. Construction employment edged up in May after a very large jump in the previous month.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

Average weekly hours for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged down 0.1 hour to 34.7 hours in May, after seasonal adjustment. The manufacturing workweek also declined 0.1 hour to 40.6 hours, still a fairly high level. Factory overtime, at 3.4 hours, has remained unchanged since February. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls was unchanged in May at 117.7 (1977=100), after seasonal adjustment, and has changed little so far this year. The slow over-the-month job growth was essentially offset by the slight hours decline. As a result of the dropoff in the oil and gas extraction component, the mining index continued its rapid fall with a decrease of 6.5 percent. (See table B-5.)

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Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings rose 0.3 percent, and weekly earnings were about unchanged, after seasonal adjustment. Prior to seasonal adjustment, both average hourly and weekly earnings remained at \$8.72 and \$302.58, respectively. Over the past year, hourly earnings rose 21 cents, and weekly earnings were up \$5.58. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 168.8 (1977=100) in May, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.2 percent from April. For the 12 months ended in May, the increase was 2.6 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI increased 1.4 percent over the 12-month period ended in April. (See table B-4.)

Revisions in the Establishment Survey Data

In accordance with usual practice, the establishment survey data published in this release have been revised to reflect complete counts of employment (benchmarks), derived principally from unemployment insurance tax records for the first quarter of 1985, plus preliminary counts from the same source for the second and third quarters. In addition, new seasonal adjustment factors have been calculated, and all seasonally adjusted series have been revised to take account of the experience through March 1986.

As a result of these changes, establishment data series have been revised from April 1984 forward, and seasonally adjusted series have been revised back to January 1981. The June 1986 issue of Employment and Earnings will contain a discussion of the effects of the benchmark, seasonal adjustment factors for use in the ensuing 12-month period, and revised data for all regularly published tables containing national establishment survey data on employment, hours, and earnings. All of the revised historical series will be published in a special supplement to Employment and Earnings, which is expected to be issued in about a month. This supplement, when combined with the historical volume, Employment, Hours, and Earnings, United States, 1909-84, Bulletin 1312-12, will comprise the full historical series on national data from the establishment survey.

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The Employment Situation for June 1986 will be released on Thursday, July 3, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information: (202) 523-1371  
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8:30 A.M. (EDT), THURSDAY,  
JULY 3, 1986

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JUNE 1986

Unemployment declined slightly in June, returning to the April level, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate was 7.0 percent, and the rate for civilian workers was 7.1 percent.

The two employment series showed different over-the-month movements. Total civilian employment--as measured by the household survey--rose by 560,000 in June, after seasonal adjustment. By contrast, nonfarm payroll employment--as measured by the establishment survey--showed little change, even after accounting for about 170,000 workers who were on strike. Striking workers are not counted as employed in this survey because they are not on a payroll. (In the household survey, persons on strike are counted as employed--"with a job but not at work.")

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Unemployment totaled 8.4 million persons in June, seasonally adjusted, not much different from the levels in the prior 4 months. The civilian worker unemployment rate was 7.1 percent, the same as in April, after rising marginally in May. Although the rate has fluctuated somewhat during the first half of 1986, the June figure is about in line with those that have prevailed for nearly a year.

Jobless rates among most worker groups--including adult women (6.4 percent), teenagers (19.1 percent), whites (6.1 percent), blacks (15.1 percent), and Hispanics (10.6 percent)--were little changed over the month. The unemployment rate for adult men edged down slightly to 6.2 percent, partly offsetting an increase in May. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The average duration of unemployment rose in June, as the number of unemployed for 27 weeks or more increased by 150,000, while the number out of work less than 5 weeks declined sharply. The median duration of unemployment was 7.3 weeks, and the mean duration was 15.2 weeks. (See table A-7.)

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The total number of persons working part time for economic reasons--sometimes referred to as the partially unemployed--fell by 440,000 in June to 5.5 million. The decline was concentrated among persons who usually work full time but whose hours had been cut as a result of slack work. (See table A-4.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			May-June change
	1986		1986			
	I	II	Apr.	May	June	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	118,718	119,359	118,929	119,351	119,796	445
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	110,460	110,912	110,587	110,797	<del>113,359</del>	556 <i>111,353</i>
Civilian labor force...	117,027	117,671	117,234	117,664	118,116	452
Civilian employment..	108,768	109,225	108,892	109,110	109,673	563
Unemployment.....	8,259	8,446	8,342	8,554	8,443	-111
Not in labor force.....	62,798	62,650	62,914	62,647	62,387	-260
Discouraged workers..	1,097	1,101	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	7.0	7.1	7.0	7.2	7.0	-0.2
All civilian workers.	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.3	7.1	-.2
Adult men.....	6.1	6.2	6.0	6.4	6.2	-.2
Adult women.....	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.4	-.1
Teenagers.....	18.5	19.2	19.6	19.0	19.1	.1
White.....	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.1	-.1
Black.....	14.6	14.9	14.8	14.8	15.1	.3
Hispanic origin ...	10.9	10.7	10.4	11.0	10.6	-.4
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	99,403	p99,837	99,783	p99,908	p99,819	p-89
Goods-producing.....	25,028	p24,954	25,038	p24,964	p24,859	p-105
Service-producing.....	74,375	p74,883	74,745	p74,944	p74,960	p16
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.9	p34.8	34.8	p34.8	p34.8	p0
Manufacturing.....	40.7	p40.7	40.7	p40.7	p40.6	p-0.1
Overtime.....	3.4	p3.4	3.4	p3.4	p3.3	p-.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment rose by 560,000 in June to 109.7 million, seasonally adjusted. The bulk of the over-the-month increase occurred among adult women, as fewer than normal left the labor force at the onset of summer. The proportion of the civilian population with jobs rose to a record-high 60.8 percent. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force expanded by 450,000 to 118.1 million in June, after seasonal adjustment. Adult women accounted for nearly all of the growth. The civilian labor force participation rate edged up to 65.4 percent, the highest figure ever recorded.

### Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

At 1.1 million in the second quarter, the number of discouraged workers--persons who want to work but are not actively looking for jobs because they believe that they cannot find any--was about unchanged from both the first quarter and the year-earlier levels. Blacks continued to make up a disproportionately large share of all discouraged workers, 26 percent in the second quarter of 1986. (See table A-14.)

### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment was about unchanged in June, even after accounting for the 170,000 striking workers who were off payrolls. Only the services industry experienced strong employment growth over the month. (See table B-1.)

In the service-producing sector, the strike of some 155,000 American Telephone and Telegraph workers, since settled, affected not only the communications industry within transportation and public utilities but also trade. Nevertheless, job declines in transportation and public utilities and wholesale trade reflected some weakness after adjustment for the strike effects. Services, on the other hand, exhibited a very sharp job gain over the month--145,000--and there was also an increase in finance.

In the goods-producing sector, employment in construction decreased by 30,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis to 4.9 million. Construction jobs were still 290,000 above the year-earlier level. Continuing its recent downtrend, employment in mining was off by 20,000, with most of the decline occurring in oil and gas extraction. Within manufacturing, 40,000 of the 55,000 decrease in employment was the result of labor-management disputes, particularly in primary metals and electrical equipment. The nonelectrical machinery component of manufacturing showed employment losses, partly reflecting continued declines in oil field machinery.

### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

Average weekly hours for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls were unchanged at 34.8 hours in June, after seasonal adjustment. The manufacturing workweek edged down 0.1 hour to 40.6 hours; factory overtime also declined 0.1 hour to 3.3 hours. (See table B-2.)

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The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls declined 0.2 percent in June to 117.5 (1977=100), after seasonal adjustment. Pacing this drop were decreases of 1.7 percent in construction and 2.2 percent in mining. Declines in both manufacturing, and transportation and public utilities were attributable largely to strike activity. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly and weekly earnings were about unchanged, seasonally adjusted. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings were \$8.72 and weekly earnings were \$305.20. Over the past year, average hourly and weekly earnings rose 18 cents and \$4.59, respectively. (See table B-3.)

#### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data )

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 169.4 (1977=100) in June, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.4 percent from May. For the 12 months ended in June, the increase was 2.5 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI increased 1.4 percent during the 12-month period ended in May. (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for July 1986 will be released on Friday, August 1, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL  
8:30 A.M. (EDT), FRIDAY,  
AUGUST 1, 1986

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JULY 1986

Employment rose in July, and unemployment declined for the second straight month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate was 6.8 percent, down from 7.0 percent in June, while the unemployment rate for civilian workers decreased from 7.1 to 6.9 percent.

Civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--after rising sharply in June, increased by 210,000 in July to 109.9 million. Nonagricultural payroll employment--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--rose by 390,000; about 150,000 of this change reflected the return to work of persons on strike in June.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons declined by 250,000 in July to 8.2 million, after seasonal adjustment. The civilian worker unemployment rate fell to 6.9 percent, from 7.1 percent in June and 7.3 percent in May. Jobless rates declined over the month among adult women (to 6.1 percent), blacks (14.0 percent), and teenagers (17.5 percent), while rates for adult men (6.2 percent), whites (6.0 percent), and Hispanics (10.5 percent) showed little or no change. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The number of workers unemployed between 5 and 14 weeks fell by 220,000 in July. Smaller changes in the other duration categories left the average (mean) and median lengths of an unemployment spell little changed at 15.0 and 7.1 weeks, respectively. (See table A-7.)

The number of unemployed persons on layoff remained unchanged in July, while the number of other job losers (those who do not expect recall) declined substantially. (See table A-8.)

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons--sometimes referred to as the partially unemployed--was down markedly since May. The July decline occurred among persons who could not find full-time work, while the drop in June took place largely among those whose hours had been cut back due to slack work. (See table A-4.)

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Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment rose to 109.9 million in July, seasonally adjusted. As in June, most of the over-the-month increase occurred among adult women. The proportion of the civilian population with jobs held steady at the June record of 60.8 percent. The number of nonfarm

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			June- July change
	1986		1986			
	I	II	May	June	July	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	118,718	119,359	119,351	119,796	119,744	-52
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	110,460	110,912	110,797	111,353	111,554	201
Civilian labor force...	117,027	117,671	117,664	118,116	118,072	-44
Civilian employment..	108,768	109,225	109,110	109,673	109,882	209
Unemployment.....	8,259	8,446	8,554	8,443	8,190	-253
Not in labor force.....	62,798	62,650	62,647	62,387	62,610	223
Discouraged workers..	1,097	1,101	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.0	6.8	-0.2
All civilian workers.	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.1	6.9	-.2
Adult men.....	6.1	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.2	0
Adult women.....	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.1	-.3
Teenagers.....	18.5	19.2	19.0	19.1	17.5	-1.6
White.....	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.0	-.1
Black.....	14.6	14.9	14.8	15.1	14.0	-1.1
Hispanic origin ...	10.9	10.7	11.0	10.6	10.5	-.1
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	99,403	p99,855	99,918	p99,864	p100,253	p389
Goods-producing.....	25,028	p24,953	24,965	p24,857	p24,883	p26
Service-producing....	74,375	p74,902	74,953	p75,007	p75,370	p363
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.9	p34.8	34.8	p34.7	p34.6	p-0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.7	p40.7	40.7	p40.6	p40.6	p0
Overtime.....	3.4	p3.4	3.4	p3.4	p3.4	p0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

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self-employed workers increased by 275,000 in July, continuing increases that have totaled one-half million since April. (See tables A-2 and A-4.)

The civilian labor force was unchanged at 118.1 million in July after seasonal adjustment. Over the past year, the labor force has risen by 2.4 million (after adjusting for the introduction of revisions in estimating growth in the population that took place in January). (See table A-2.)

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

The number of employees on nonagricultural payrolls rose by 390,000 in July to 100.3 million, after seasonal adjustment. About 150,000 of this gain, however, resulted from workers returning to their jobs following strike settlements. As has often been the case this year, the service-producing sector and construction provided all of the growth in employment. (See table B-1.)

In the goods-producing sector, gains in construction were countered by a weakness in manufacturing employment. After declining in June, construction employment rebounded in July, climbing by 55,000. Employment in manufacturing, down by 25,000 over the month, would have declined considerably more but for the return of striking workers, most of whom were in electrical and electronic equipment. Elsewhere in manufacturing, changes were small but generally on the downside. Mining and its oil and gas extraction component were little changed, in marked contrast to the sharp losses over the prior 5 months.

Employment in the service-producing sector rose by 245,000, after adjusting for returned strikers. Over the month, the largest job gain was in services--125,000. Finance, insurance, and real estate continued to exhibit strength with an employment increase of 35,000, and retail trade rose by 70,000, although a small part of that increase was the result of strikers returning to work. Employment in both transportation and public utilities and the durable goods component of wholesale trade was little changed, after adjusting for strike returns, and there was weakness in the nondurable goods component of wholesale trade.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

Average weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls were 34.6 in July, down 0.1 hour after seasonal adjustment. Weekly and overtime hours in manufacturing were unchanged at 40.6 and 3.4 hours, respectively. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls returned to the May level of 117.7 (1977=100), an over-the-month increase of 0.3 percent, after seasonal adjustment. Most of the industries were simply recouping losses experienced in the previous month. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings declined by 0.2 percent in July and weekly earnings were down 0.5 percent, after adjusting for seasonality. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings edged down 1 cent to \$8.70, and average weekly earnings declined by 35 cents to \$303.63. Over the past year, average hourly earnings rose 18 cents, while average weekly earnings were up \$4.58. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 169.0 (1977=100) in July, seasonally adjusted, a decrease of 0.1 percent from June. For the 12 months ended in July, the increase was 2.4 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI increased 1.0 percent during the 12-month period ended in June. (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for August 1986 will be released on Friday, September 5, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information: (202) 523-1371  
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8:30 A.M. (EDT), FRIDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 5, 1986

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: AUGUST 1986

Employment rose and unemployment was little changed in August, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate was 6.7 percent and the civilian worker rate was 6.8 percent; each has declined half a percentage point since May.

Civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--rose by about 275,000 in August, while nonagricultural payroll employment--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--increased by 200,000. Over the past year, employment growth in both surveys has totaled roughly 2-1/2 million.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons was little changed in August at 8.0 million, after seasonal adjustment. The civilian worker jobless rate was 6.8 percent, not materially different from the 6.9 percent of the previous month. Unemployment rates this summer have been lower than they were earlier in the year.

Unemployment rates declined among adult men (to 5.9 percent) and white workers (to 5.8 percent) in August. Jobless rates among adult women (6.1 percent), teenagers (17.7 percent), blacks (14.6 percent), and Hispanics (11.0 percent) were all about the same as in July. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The median duration of unemployment was little changed in August, whereas the mean duration increased from 15.0 to 15.8 weeks. The very long-term unemployed (27 weeks and over) was about unchanged over the month but has risen slightly as a percentage of the total unemployed in recent months. (See table A-7.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment increased by 275,000 to 110.2 million. Employment growth was concentrated among white workers, while black workers posted

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small job losses. The proportion of the civilian population with jobs was 60.9 percent in August, another record high; that figure has increased 0.8 percentage point over the past year, as civilian employment grew by 2.6 million. (See table A-2.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			July-Aug. change
	1986		1986			
	I	II	June	July	Aug.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	118,718	119,359	119,796	119,744	119,879	135
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	110,460	110,912	111,353	111,554	111,852	298
Civilian labor force...	117,027	117,671	118,116	118,072	118,182	110
Civilian employment..	108,768	109,225	109,673	109,882	110,155	273
Unemployment.....	8,259	8,446	8,443	8,190	8,027	-163
Not in labor force.....	62,798	62,650	62,387	62,610	62,646	36
Discouraged workers..	1,097	1,101	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	7.0	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.7	-0.1
All civilian workers..	7.1	7.2	7.1	6.9	6.8	-.1
Adult men.....	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.2	5.9	-.3
Adult women.....	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.1	6.1	0
Teenagers.....	18.5	19.2	19.1	17.5	17.7	.2
White.....	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.8	-.2
Black.....	14.6	14.9	15.1	14.0	14.6	.6
Hispanic origin ...	10.9	10.7	10.6	10.5	11.0	.5
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	99,403	99,848	99,843	p100,122	p100,324	p202
Goods-producing.....	25,028	24,952	24,854	p24,861	p24,923	p62
Service-producing....	74,375	74,896	74,989	p75,261	p75,401	p140
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.9	34.8	34.7	p34.7	p34.8	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.7	40.7	40.6	p40.6	p40.8	p.2
Overtime.....	3.4	3.4	3.3	p3.5	p3.5	p0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

- 3 -

The civilian labor force was about unchanged at 118.2 million in August, after seasonal adjustment. Over the past year, the labor force grew by 2.4 million. (Both the over-the-year employment and labor force changes have been adjusted to account for revisions in the population estimating procedures introduced in January.)

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

The number of employees on nonagricultural payrolls rose by 200,000 to 100.3 million in August, seasonally adjusted. The over-the-month gain would have been even larger except for a net increase of some 40,000 workers who were off payrolls because of labor-management disputes. (See table B-1.)

In the goods-producing sector, construction employment increased by 55,000, after seasonal adjustment. Total employment in this industry stood at 5.0 million and has increased by a third since early 1983. Mining employment fell by about 10,000, continuing a pattern of decline extending back to mid-1984, all of which has been in the oil and gas extraction component. Manufacturing employment, which had been on a downtrend over the prior 6 months, held about steady in August. The factory job total was lower by some 20,000 workers who were off payrolls in the steel industry due to labor-management disputes. More than half of the manufacturing industries showed small over-the-month increases.

Employment in the service-producing sector continued to expand in August. Services rose by 65,000 over the month, most of it in the health services component. Finance, insurance, and real estate increased by 40,000; job gains in the industry were a vibrant 6.5 percent over the past year. Employment also rose in wholesale trade over the month. After accounting for the effects of a communication workers strike in the Northeast, employment in transportation and public utilities was unchanged.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

Average weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls were 34.8 in August, up 0.1 hour after seasonal adjustment. In manufacturing, weekly hours rose 0.2 hour, while overtime hours were unchanged. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls increased by 0.5 percent to 118.6 (1977=100), after seasonal adjustment. The factory index was up by 0.8 percent to 93.0. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings rose by 0.5 percent in August, and weekly earnings were up 0.8 percent, after seasonal adjustment. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings were unchanged at \$8.69, and weekly earnings increased by 87 cents to \$305.02. Over the past year, average hourly earnings have risen 17 cents, while average weekly earnings were up \$5.12. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 169.2 (1977=100) in August, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.2 percent from July. For the 12 months ended in August, the increase was 2.2 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI increased 1.1 percent during the 12-month period ended in July. (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for September 1986 will be released on Friday, October 3, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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OCTOBER 3, 1986

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: SEPTEMBER 1986

Unemployment rose in September, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Both the overall unemployment rate, 6.9 percent, and the civilian worker rate, 7.0 percent, were up two-tenths of a percentage point, offsetting some of the improvement made in recent months.

Nonagricultural payroll employment--as measured by the monthly survey of business establishments--was little changed from August. Total civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--fell by 265,000.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

After 3 consecutive months of decline, the civilian worker unemployment rate rose from 6.8 percent in August to 7.0 percent in September. The number of unemployed persons increased by 300,000 to 8.3 million. So far this year, the civilian jobless rate has ranged between 6.7 and 7.3 percent, with the average about the same as the September rate.

Unemployment rates rose over the month for adult men, to 6.2 percent (concentrated among 20-24 year olds), and whites to 6.0 percent, returning both to July levels following declines in August. The jobless rate for teenagers edged up 1 percentage point to 18.7 percent. There was little movement in the unemployment rates for adult women (6.2 percent), blacks (14.8 percent), and Hispanics (11.1 percent). (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The number of unemployed persons who lost their last jobs increased 215,000 to 4.0 million in September, mostly among those who did not expect to be recalled. The mean and median duration of unemployment were essentially unchanged, at 15.6 and 7.2 weeks, respectively. (See tables A-7 and A-8.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Employment normally declines markedly in September with the resumption of school schedules. The decline was slightly more than usual this

September, and, after seasonal adjustment, total civilian employment fell 265,000 to 109.9 million. The employment-population ratio edged down from the record 60.9 percent in August to 60.7 percent in September. (See table A-2.)

Over-the-month seasonally adjusted job losses were concentrated largely among married women, whose employment tends to decline in June and rise in

**Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted**

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Aug.- Sept. change
	1986		1986			
	II	III	July	Aug.	Sept.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force 1/.....	119,359	119,853	119,744	119,879	119,936	57
Total employment 1/..	110,912	111,671	111,554	111,852	111,607	-245
Civilian labor force...	117,671	118,158	118,072	118,182	118,220	38
Civilian employment..	109,225	109,976	109,882	110,155	109,891	-264
Unemployment.....	8,446	8,182	8,190	8,027	8,329	302
Not in labor force.....	62,650	62,677	62,610	62,646	62,777	131
Discouraged workers..	1,101	1,169	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers 1/.....	7.1	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.9	0.2
All civilian workers.	7.2	6.9	6.9	6.8	7.0	.2
Adult men.....	6.2	6.1	6.2	5.9	6.2	.3
Adult women.....	6.4	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.2	.1
Teenagers.....	19.2	18.0	17.5	17.7	18.7	1.0
White.....	6.2	6.0	6.0	5.8	6.0	.2
Black.....	14.9	14.5	14.0	14.6	14.8	.2
Hispanic origin....	10.7	10.8	10.5	11.0	11.1	.1
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	99,848	p100,245	100,105	p100,261	p100,368	p107
Goods-producing.....	24,952	p24,866	24,869	p24,886	p24,843	p-43
Service-producing....	74,896	p75,379	75,236	p75,375	p75,525	p150
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.8	p34.7	34.7	p34.8	p34.7	p-0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.7	p40.7	40.6	p40.8	p40.8	p0
Overtime.....	3.4	p3.5	3.4	p3.5	p3.5	p0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

September and October. Fewer married women than normal left jobs this June, thereby producing a large employment increase, and fewer than normal returned to jobs this September, resulting in the employment decline. (See table A-4.)

At 118.2 million, the civilian labor force was unchanged in September, after seasonal adjustment. Over the year, the labor force has climbed by 2.0 million (after allowance is made for revisions in the underlying population estimates that were introduced in January).

#### Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

In the third quarter of 1986, there were 1.2 million discouraged workers--persons who wanted to work but did not look for jobs because they believed that they could not find any. The level has been largely unchanged for more than a year. About 65 percent of the discouraged workers cited job-market factors as their reason for not looking, while 35 percent cited personal reasons. (See table A-14.)

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonagricultural payroll employment was little changed in September, as declining employment levels in the goods-producing sector were offset by moderate gains in the service-producing sector. The payroll total was 100.4 million, seasonally adjusted. (See table B-1.)

In the service-producing sector, services employment rose by 55,000 over the month, led by the business services component. Finance, insurance, and real estate jobs increased by 20,000. Employment also rose in retail trade but was unchanged in the wholesale trade industry. After accounting for the return to work of communications workers who had been on strike, employment in transportation and public utilities remained unchanged over the month.

Employment in each of the industries that comprise the goods-producing sector either held steady or declined in September. Construction employment, which had been rising in recent months, was unchanged. Manufacturing employment, after holding steady in August, resumed its downward trend. The bulk of the decline in factory jobs occurred in the nonelectrical machinery industry, part of which was due to a strike. Mining employment fell slightly, mostly a continuation of the slide in the oil and gas extraction industry.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

Average weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls were 34.7 in September, down 0.1 hour, after seasonal adjustment. In manufacturing, both weekly hours and overtime hours were unchanged. (See table B-2.)

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The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls remained at 118.4 (1977 = 100), after seasonal adjustment. The factory index was down 0.3 percent to 92.5. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Both average hourly and weekly earnings were about unchanged in September, after seasonal adjustment. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose by 12 cents to \$8.81, and weekly earnings increased by \$2.45 to \$307.47. Over the past year, average hourly earnings have risen by 14 cents, while average weekly earnings were up \$4.02. (See table B-3.)

#### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 169.7 (1977=100) in September, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.3 percent from August. For the 12 months ended in September, the increase was 2.0 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI increased 1.0 percent during the 12-month period ended in August. (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for October 1986 will be released on Friday, November 7, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

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NOVEMBER 7, 1986

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: OCTOBER 1986

Employment rose and unemployment was unchanged in October, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate was 6.9 percent, and the civilian worker rate was 7.0 percent.

Civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--increased by 350,000 in October to 110.2 million. Nonagricultural payroll employment--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--rose by 300,000 to 100.7 million. Virtually all of the payroll job increase occurred in the service-producing sector.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons was little changed in October at 8.2 million, after seasonal adjustment. The civilian worker unemployment rate held steady over the month at 7.0 percent, about the same as a year earlier. Unemployment rates among the major labor force groups--including adult men (6.2 percent), adult women (6.1 percent), teenagers (17.6 percent), whites (6.0 percent), blacks (14.4 percent), and Hispanics (10.5 percent)--showed little or no change from September. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The mean and median duration of unemployment were also little changed, at 15.2 and 7.0 weeks, respectively. There was, however, a decline of 235,000 in the number of individuals who were unemployed for 15 weeks or more. (See table A-7.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment grew by 350,000 over the month to 110.2 million, seasonally adjusted. Increases occurred among persons on part-time schedules, both among those working part time voluntarily and for economic reasons. Overall employment gains were concentrated among adult women and teenagers. The proportion of the civilian population that is employed edged up to 60.8 percent in October. (See tables A-2 and A-4.)

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The civilian labor force increased to 118.5 million in October, after seasonal adjustment. Over the past year, the labor force has grown by 2.0 million (after adjustment is made for revisions in the underlying population estimates that were introduced in January).

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Sept.- Oct. change
	1986		1986			
	II	III	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	119,359	119,853	119,879	119,936	120,231	295
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	110,912	111,671	111,852	111,607	111,989	382
Civilian labor force...	117,671	118,158	118,182	118,220	118,482	262
Civilian employment..	109,225	109,976	110,155	109,891	110,240	349
Unemployment.....	8,446	8,182	8,027	8,329	8,242	-87
Not in labor force.....	62,650	62,677	62,646	62,777	62,704	-73
Discouraged workers..	1,101	1,169	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	7.1	6.8	6.7	6.9	6.9	0
All civilian workers.	7.2	6.9	6.8	7.0	7.0	0
Adult men.....	6.2	6.1	5.9	6.2	6.2	0
Adult women.....	6.4	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.1	-0.1
Teenagers.....	19.2	18.0	17.7	18.7	17.6	-1.1
White.....	6.2	6.0	5.8	6.0	6.0	0
Black.....	14.9	14.5	14.6	14.8	14.4	-0.4
Hispanic origin ...	10.7	10.8	11.0	11.1	10.5	-0.6
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	99,848	p100,279	100,283	p100,448	p100,746	p298
Goods-producing.....	24,952	p24,869	24,888	p24,850	p24,882	p32
Service-producing....	74,896	p75,410	75,395	p75,598	p75,864	p266
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.8	p34.7	34.8	p34.7	p34.6	p-0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.7	p40.7	40.8	p40.8	p40.6	p-.2
Overtime.....	3.4	p3.5	3.5	p3.5	p3.4	p-.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

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Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment rose by 300,000 in October, seasonally adjusted, to a level of 100.7 million. Over-the-month increases occurred in slightly more than half of the 185 industries in the BLS index of diffusion. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

Almost all of the October job growth was in the service-producing sector, with particularly strong advances in services (95,000) and retail trade (80,000). Although these two industry divisions comprise only about 40 percent of payroll jobs, they have accounted for 70 percent of the 2.3 million over-the-year job expansion. Elsewhere in the sector, modest employment gains were registered in local government; wholesale trade; and finance, insurance, and real estate. The job total in transportation and public utilities was essentially unchanged even after accounting for an increase in strike activity.

Little or no job growth occurred in each of the industries in the goods-producing sector. Employment in manufacturing was little changed, after decreasing by 190,000 in the first 9 months of this year. Mining and its oil and gas extraction component, which had both declined for 17 consecutive months, held steady in October. After adjustment for seasonality, the job total in construction was unchanged for the second straight month.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

Average weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls were 34.6 in October, down 0.1 hour after seasonal adjustment. In manufacturing, the average workweek declined 0.2 hour, and overtime hours were down 0.1 hour. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls was unchanged at 118.3 (1977=100), after seasonal adjustment. The factory index edged down 0.1 percent to 92.6. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings increased 0.6 percent in October, and average weekly earnings increased 0.3 percent, seasonally adjusted. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose 2 cents to \$8.83, while average weekly earnings were down by \$1.07 to \$306.40. Compared to a year earlier, average hourly earnings rose by 19 cents, while average weekly earnings were up \$4.86. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 170.3 (1977=100) in October, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.4 percent from September. For the 12 months ended in October, the increase was 2.5 percent. The HEI excludes

- 4 -

the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI increased 0.6 percent during the 12-month period ended in September. (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for November 1986 will be released on Friday, December 5, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: NOVEMBER 1986

The number of jobs on nonfarm business payrolls rose in November and unemployment was unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate was 6.9 percent, and the civilian worker rate was 7.0 percent. Both rates were the same as in September and October as well as in November a year earlier.

Nonagricultural payroll employment--as measured by the survey of business establishments--rose by 250,000 over the month, while civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--was little changed. During the economic recovery period that now covers 4 full years, the number of nonfarm payroll jobs has grown by more than 12 million, while total civilian employment has increased by over 11 million. As is typical in recoveries, however, the pace of job growth has slowed in the 2 most recent years.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons was about unchanged in November at 8.3 million, after seasonal adjustment. The civilian worker unemployment rate remained at 7.0 percent. Unemployment rates for adult men (6.2 percent), adult women (6.1 percent), teenagers (18.4 percent), whites (6.1 percent), and blacks (14.3 percent) showed little or no change from October. The unemployment rate for Hispanics (9.5 percent) fell by 1 percentage point over the month. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The mean and median duration of unemployment were about unchanged, at 14.8 and 7.0 weeks, respectively. The numbers of job losers, job leavers, and reentrants to the labor force also were little different from October levels. By contrast, the total seeking jobs for the first time (new entrants) increased by 150,000 to 1.1 million over the month. (See tables A-7 and A-8.)

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons--sometimes referred to as the partially unemployed--reversed the increase of the prior month with a decline of 220,000 to 5.6 million in November. This decrease occurred among persons who could not find full-time work. (See table A-4.)

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Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment was little changed at 110.4 million, seasonally adjusted. A 275,000 employment increase among adult men was partially offset by a small decline in teenage employment, while employment among adult women was unchanged. The proportion of the civilian population that is employed edged up to 60.9 percent in November, matching the record high set in August. (See table A-2.)

**Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted**

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Oct.- Nov. change
	1986		1986			
	II	III	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
<b>Thousands of persons</b>						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	119,359	119,853	119,936	120,231	120,405	174
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	110,912	111,671	111,607	111,989	112,122	133
Civilian labor force...	117,671	118,158	118,220	118,482	118,654	172
Civilian employment..	109,225	109,976	109,891	110,240	110,371	131
Unemployment.....	8,446	8,182	8,329	8,242	8,283	41
Not in labor force.....	62,650	62,677	62,777	62,704	62,709	5
Discouraged workers..	1,101	1,169	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
<b>Percent of labor force</b>						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	7.1	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	0
All civilian workers.	7.2	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.0	0
Adult men.....	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.2	0
Adult women.....	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	0
Teenagers.....	19.2	18.0	18.7	17.6	18.4	0.8
White.....	6.2	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.1	.1
Black.....	14.9	14.5	14.8	14.4	14.3	-.1
Hispanic origin ...	10.7	10.8	11.1	10.5	9.5	-1.0
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
<b>Thousands of jobs</b>						
Nonfarm employment.....	99,848	100,316	100,560	p100,820	p101,069	p249
Goods-producing.....	24,952	24,872	24,858	p24,872	p24,912	p40
Service-producing....	74,896	75,444	75,702	p75,948	p76,157	p209
<b>Hours of work</b>						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.8	34.7	34.7	p34.7	p34.9	p0.2
Manufacturing.....	40.7	40.7	40.8	p40.7	p40.9	p.2
Overtime.....	3.4	3.5	3.5	p3.5	p3.5	p0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

- 3 -

The civilian labor force was little changed at 118.7 million in November, after seasonal adjustment. Over the past year, the labor force has grown by 2.1 million (after adjustment is made for revisions in the underlying population estimates that were introduced in January).

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment, at 101.1 million, rose by 250,000 in November, seasonally adjusted. Almost all of the job growth was in the service-producing sector, continuing the recent pattern. In fact, the service-producing sector has accounted for all of the 2.4 million job expansion from a year earlier. In the goods-producing sector, over-the-year employment declines in mining and manufacturing were offset by gains in construction. (See table B-1.)

The largest over-the-month increase in the service-producing sector took place in the services industry--120,000--with both business and health services contributing to the increase. Elsewhere in the sector, employment rose in finance, insurance, and real estate and in transportation and public utilities, the latter partly due to the return of communications workers who had been on strike. Job totals in wholesale trade, retail trade, and government were little changed, after adjustment for seasonality. In retail trade, general merchandising, which usually expands in November due to pre-Christmas hiring, grew at a somewhat slower pace this November than is typical.

Employment in manufacturing edged up in November. Changes were small but generally on the upside. As reflected by the BLS index of diffusion, which is made up predominantly of manufacturing industries, over-the-month job gains were more widespread than at any time in the past year. (See table B-6.)

Construction employment dropped about in line with the usual seasonal expectation for November and, for the third straight month, was essentially unchanged after seasonal adjustment. Mining employment has changed little in the past 2 months, in contrast to the sharp losses earlier in the year.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

Average weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls were 34.9 in November, up 0.2 hour, after seasonal adjustment. The manufacturing workweek also rose 0.2 hour to a relatively high 40.9 hours, while overtime hours remained unchanged at 3.5 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls rose by 0.7 percent to 119.5 (1977=100), after seasonal adjustment. The factory index was up by 0.9 percent to 93.5. (See table B-5.)

- 4 -

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings were up 0.5 percent in November, and average weekly earnings increased 1.0 percent, seasonally adjusted. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose 4 cents to \$8.85, while average weekly earnings were up \$1.39 to \$307.98. Compared to a year earlier, average hourly and weekly earnings rose by 19 cents and \$6.61, respectively. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 170.7 (1977=100) in November, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.4 percent from October. For the 12 months ended in November, the increase was 2.3 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI increased 1.1 percent during the 12-month period ended in October. (See table B-4.)

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Revisions in Household Survey Data

In accordance with usual practice, the Employment Situation release of December data will incorporate annual revisions in seasonally adjusted unemployment and other labor force series. Seasonally adjusted data for the most recent 5 years are subject to revision.

The Employment Situation for December 1986 will be released on Friday, January 9, 1987, at 8:30 A.M. (EST). Release dates for the balance of 1987 are as follows:

Feb. 6	Aug. 7
March 6	Sept. 4
April 3	Oct. 2
May 8	Nov. 6
June 5	Dec. 4
July 2	

# News

United States  
Department  
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Bureau of Labor Statistics

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JANUARY 9, 1987

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: DECEMBER 1986

Employment continued to rise in December and unemployment declined, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate was 6.6 percent and the civilian worker rate was 6.7 percent; both were down two-tenths of a percentage point from the revised figures for the prior 2 months.

Nonagricultural payroll employment--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--rose by 270,000 in December while civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--was up by 205,000. Both employment series showed growth in excess of 2 million during 1986.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons declined by 295,000 in December, after adjustment for seasonality, to 7.9 million. After holding steady for 2 months, the civilian jobless rate fell 0.2 percentage point to 6.7 percent. With the exception of December, the unemployment rate fluctuated within two-tenths of the annual average of 7.0 percent throughout 1986. (See table A-2.)

December unemployment rates for adult men (6.0 percent), adult women (5.9 percent), teenagers (17.3 percent), whites (5.8 percent), and blacks (13.7 percent) were slightly below those of the previous month. However, the jobless rate for Hispanics rose to 10.5 percent, offsetting a decline in November. During 1986, jobless rates for adult women, teenagers, whites, and blacks declined, whereas those for adult men and Hispanics showed little or no improvement. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The bulk of the December decline in unemployment took place among the medium-term jobless--those out of work 5 to 14 weeks. The mean and median duration of unemployment were about unchanged at 15.0 and 7.1 weeks,

This release incorporates annual revisions in seasonally adjusted unemployment and other labor force series derived from the household survey. The 1986 overall and civilian worker unemployment rates as first computed and as revised, plus additional information on the revisions, appear on page 5.

respectively. Both measures have changed little over the past year. (See table A-7.)

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment, at 110.6 million, rose by 205,000 in December. Over the year, total employment advanced by 2.2 million, with adult women

**Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted**

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Nov.- Dec. change
	1986		1986			
	III	IV	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	119,866	120,308	120,163	120,426	120,336	-90
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	111,675	112,170	111,941	112,183	112,387	204
Civilian labor force...	118,171	118,558	118,414	118,675	118,586	-89
Civilian employment..	109,980	110,420	110,192	110,432	110,637	205
Unemployment.....	8,191	8,138	8,222	8,243	7,949	-294
Not in labor force.....	62,664	62,807	62,772	62,688	62,961	273
Discouraged workers..	1,150	1,127	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.6	-0.2
All civilian workers.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.7	-.2
Adult men.....	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.0	-.2
Adult women.....	6.1	6.0	6.1	6.1	5.9	-.2
Teenagers.....	18.1	17.8	17.7	18.2	17.3	-.9
White.....	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.8	-.2
Black.....	14.5	14.1	14.3	14.2	13.7	-.5
Hispanic origin....	10.8	10.2	10.4	9.6	10.5	.9
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	100,316	p101,075	100,826	p101,065	p101,334	p269
Goods-producing.....	24,872	p24,897	24,865	p24,895	p24,932	p37
Service-producing....	75,444	p76,178	75,961	p76,170	p76,402	p232
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.7	p34.7	34.7	p34.8	p34.6	p-0.2
Manufacturing.....	40.7	p40.8	40.7	p40.8	p40.9	p.1
Overtime.....	3.5	p3.5	3.5	p3.5	p3.6	p.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

NOTE: Household data have been revised based on the experience through December 1986.

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accounting for 55 percent of the increase. (All yearly comparisons are adjusted for changes in the underlying population estimates introduced in January 1986.)

The civilian labor force was about unchanged at 118.6 million in December, after seasonal adjustment. Over the past year, the labor force rose by 1.9 million. (See table A-2.)

#### Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

In the fourth quarter of 1986, there were 1.1 million discouraged workers--persons who wanted to work but did not look for jobs because they believed that they could not find any. Their number has been essentially unchanged for more than a year. Seventy-five percent of the discouraged workers cited job-market conditions as their reason for not looking, while the remainder cited personal factors. Blacks continued to make up a disproportionately large share (26 percent) of all discouraged workers. (See table A-14.)

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment rose by 270,000 in December, seasonally adjusted, to a level of 101.3 million. For the second month in a row, increases occurred in about three-fifths of the 185 industries in the BLS index of diffusion. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

The service-producing sector accounted for almost all of the over-the-month job growth, as it has for most months over the past year. The services industry itself posted another large monthly increase--140,000. This industry has accounted for 44 percent of the 2.4 million over-the-year expansion in payroll jobs, largely because of the rapid growth in its business and health services components. Employment also rose over the month in finance, insurance, and real estate. Over the past year, this rapidly growing industry has added 370,000 jobs, a 6 percent increase. Employment in transportation and public utilities, wholesale trade, retail trade, and government were all little changed over the month, after seasonal adjustment.

In the goods-producing sector, manufacturing employment edged up for the third month in a row in December. Since September, manufacturing employment has increased by 85,000, regaining almost half the jobs lost in the first 9 months of the year. Employment in construction was little changed, continuing the recent pattern. In mining, there was a further, although small, job decline in the oil and gas extraction industry, following 2 months of relatively stable employment.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

Average weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls were 34.6, down 0.2 hour, after seasonal adjustment. In manufacturing, however, both the average workweek and overtime hours edged up by a tenth of an hour. (See table B-2.)

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The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls declined by 0.3 percent to 119.0 (1977=100), after seasonal adjustment. The factory index rose by 0.4 percent to 93.6. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings were about unchanged in December, and average weekly earnings declined 0.7 percent, seasonally adjusted. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings slipped 1 cent to \$8.85, while average weekly earnings increased by \$1.43 to \$308.87. Over the past year, average hourly earnings have risen by 14 cents, and average weekly earnings were up \$2.28. (See table B-3.)

#### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 170.8 (1977=100) in December, seasonally adjusted, a decrease of 0.1 percent from November. For the 12 months ended in December, the increase was 1.8 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI increased 1.5 percent during the 12-month period ended in November. (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for January 1987 will be released on Friday, February 6, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

Revisions of Seasonally Adjusted Household Survey Data

At the end of each calendar year, the BLS routinely revises the seasonally adjusted labor force series derived from the Current Population Survey (household survey) to incorporate the experience of that year. As a result of the recalculation of the seasonal factors, seasonally adjusted data for the most recent 5 years are subject to revision. (Establishment data are similarly revised concurrent with annual benchmark adjustments about mid-year.)

Table B summarizes the effects of the revisions on the overall and civilian worker unemployment rates in 1986. The 1986 annual averages, 6.9 percent for all workers and 7.0 percent for civilian workers, are, of course, not affected by seasonal adjustment revisions. Table C presents revised seasonally adjusted data for major civilian labor force series for December 1985 through December 1986.

The January 1987 issue of Employment and Earnings will contain the new seasonal adjustment factors that will be used to calculate the civilian labor force and other major series for January-June of 1987, a description of the current seasonal adjustment methodology, and revised data for the most recent 13 months or calendar quarters for all regularly published tables containing seasonally adjusted household survey data. Revised monthly data for the entire 1982-86 revision period for 425 labor force series will be published in the February 1987 issue. Historical seasonally adjusted data (monthly and quarterly) may be purchased from the Bureau. (Contact Gloria P. Green, (202) 523-1959.)

**Table B. Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in 1986 and change due to revision**

Month	As first computed		As revised		Change due to revision	
	Overall	Civilian	Overall	Civilian	Overall	Civilian
January.....	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.8	0.1	0.1
February.....	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.2	-.1	-.1
March.....	7.1	7.2	7.0	7.2	-.1	0
April.....	7.0	7.1	7.0	7.1	0	0
May.....	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.2	-.1	-.1
June.....	7.0	7.1	7.0	7.1	0	0
July.....	6.8	6.9	6.9	7.0	.1	.1
August.....	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.8	0	0
September.....	6.9	7.0	6.9	7.0	0	0
October.....	6.9	7.0	6.8	6.9	-.1	-.1
November.....	6.9	7.0	6.8	6.9	-.1	-.1
December.....	*6.5	*6.6	6.6	6.7.	.1	.1

\* Not published.

# News

United States  
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Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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523-1944  
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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JANUARY 1987

Employment continued to rise in January and unemployment was unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate of 6.6 percent and the civilian worker rate of 6.7 percent remained at the levels to which they had declined in December.

Nonagricultural payroll employment--as measured by the monthly survey of business establishments--rose by 450,000, and civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--advanced by 375,000. Both surveys continued to show over-the-year employment gains in excess of 2 million.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons (seasonally adjusted) was about unchanged in January at 8.0 million, as were the jobless rates for nearly all major labor force groups. The rates for adult men (6.0 percent), adult women (5.9 percent), teenagers (17.7 percent), whites (5.9 percent), blacks (14.3 percent), and Hispanics (10.6 percent) showed little or no change from December. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

There were also few changes in the distribution of unemployment by duration in January, and the mean and median duration figures remained at 15.0 and 7.0 weeks, respectively. The numbers of unemployed job losers and labor force entrants also were little different from December levels. (See tables A-7 and A-8.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment, which usually declines substantially from December to January, fell less than seasonally expected this January. As a result, employment showed a seasonally adjusted increase of 375,000, and the proportion of the civilian population that is employed rose to a very high 61.1 percent. (See tables A-2 and A-4.)

The civilian labor force expanded by 450,000 to 119.0 million in January, after seasonal adjustment. Over the year, the labor force was up

- 2 -

by 2.3 million, with adult women accounting for 55 percent of the gain. The civilian labor force participation rate increased to 65.5 percent.

### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment rose by 450,000 in January, after adjustment for seasonality, to 101.7 million. Over-the-month

**Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted**

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Dec.- Jan. change
	1986		1986		1987	
	III	IV	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	119,866	120,308	120,426	120,336	120,782	446
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	111,675	112,170	112,183	112,387	112,759	372
Civilian labor force...	118,171	118,558	118,675	118,586	119,034	448
Civilian employment..	109,980	110,420	110,432	110,637	111,011	374
Unemployment.....	8,191	8,138	8,243	7,949	8,023	74
Not in labor force.....	62,664	62,807	62,688	62,961	62,793	-168
Discouraged workers..	1,150	1,127	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.6	0
All civilian workers.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.7	0
Adult men.....	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.0	6.0	0
Adult women.....	6.1	6.0	6.1	5.9	5.9	0
Teenagers.....	18.1	17.8	18.2	17.3	17.7	0.4
White.....	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.9	.1
Black.....	14.5	14.1	14.2	13.7	14.3	.6
Hispanic origin....	10.8	10.2	9.6	10.5	10.6	.1
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	100,316	p101,062	101,068	p101,293	p101,741	p448
Goods-producing.....	24,872	p24,892	24,891	p24,920	p25,054	p134
Service-producing....	75,444	p76,170	76,177	p76,373	p76,687	p314
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.7	p34.7	34.8	p34.6	p34.7	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.7	p40.8	40.8	p40.8	p40.9	p.1
Overtime.....	3.5	p3.5	3.5	p3.5	p3.6	p.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

- 3 -

increases occurred in 56 percent of the 185 industries in the BLS index of diffusion. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

In the service-producing sector, after seasonal adjustment, large job gains were registered in retail trade--165,000--and the services industry--115,000. Retail employment typically declines in January following the end of the holiday shopping season. However, because pre-Christmas hiring this season was less than in the past, post-holiday job cutbacks were smaller than usual, resulting in a sharp increase in retail trade employment after seasonal adjustment. Employment also increased in the wholesale trade and finance, insurance, and real estate industry, while it was little changed in transportation and public utilities and government.

Within the goods sector, employment in construction also declined less than usually expected in January and, after seasonal adjustment, rose by 140,000. Manufacturing employment was unchanged in January, after edging up in each of the previous 3 months. Changes were small and offsetting among the 21 industries within manufacturing. Employment in mining, which has been particularly weak since the beginning of 1986, declined further over the month.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

Average weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged up 0.1 hour to 34.7, after seasonal adjustment. In manufacturing, both the workweek and overtime hours rose a tenth of an hour, reaching the relatively high levels of 40.9 and 3.6 hours, respectively. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls rose by 0.7 percent to 119.8 (1977=100), after seasonal adjustment. The factory index rose by 0.5 percent to 93.8. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings were about unchanged in January, while average weekly earnings rose 0.4 percent, seasonally adjusted. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings increased 5 cents to \$8.88, but, owing to a seasonal decline in the workweek, average weekly earnings were down \$2.70 to \$305.47. Over the past year, average hourly earnings have risen by 16 cents, and average weekly earnings were up \$2.89. (See table B-3.)

#### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 170.8 (1977=100) in January, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.1 percent from December. For the 12 months ended in January, the increase was 2.0 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry

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employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI increased 1.0 percent during the 12-month period ended in December. (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for February 1987 will be released on Friday, March 6, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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MARCH 6, 1987

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: FEBRUARY 1987

Employment continued to rise in February, and unemployment was at the same level for the third straight month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate was 6.6 percent and the civilian worker rate was 6.7 percent; both were half a percentage point below year-earlier figures.

Nonagricultural payroll employment--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--rose by 335,000 in February, while civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--was up by 370,000. Both employment series have increased by nearly 1.2 million since last October.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons was unchanged in February, remaining at a seasonally adjusted level of about 8.0 million. The jobless rate for civilian workers of 6.7 percent remained at its lowest point in nearly 7 years.

Jobless rates for most major labor force groups--adult men (5.9 percent), adult women (5.8 percent), teenagers (18.0 percent), whites (5.7 percent), and blacks (14.3 percent)--showed little or no movement from their January levels. The unemployment rate for Hispanics, which is relatively volatile, dropped to 9.6 percent. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons--sometimes referred to as the partially unemployed--increased by 275,000 in February. Their total has generally fluctuated in the 5.5 to 5.8 million range for the past 3 years. (See table A-4.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment rose by 370,000 in February, after seasonal adjustment, following a similar increase in the prior month, as the proportion of the civilian population that is employed edged up to a new high of 61.2 percent. The gain was concentrated among married women, whose employment rose by 290,000. (See tables A-2 and A-4.)

The civilian labor force continued to expand, rising by 315,000 to a seasonally adjusted level of 119.3 million. The labor force participation rate rose to 65.6 percent, also a new high. Over the year, the labor force was up by 2.2 million, with adult women accounting for nearly 3 out of every 5 added members.

**Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted**

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Jan.- Feb. change
	1986		1986	1987		
	III	IV	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	119,866	120,308	120,336	120,782	121,089	307
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	111,675	112,170	112,387	112,759	113,122	363
Civilian labor force...	118,171	118,558	118,586	119,034	119,349	315
Civilian employment..	109,980	110,420	110,637	111,011	111,382	371
Unemployment.....	8,191	8,138	7,949	8,023	7,967	-56
Not in labor force.....	62,664	62,807	62,961	62,793	62,649	-144
Discouraged workers..	1,150	1,127	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.6	0
All civilian workers.	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.7	0
Adult men.....	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.9	-0.1
Adult women.....	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.8	-.1
Teenagers.....	18.1	17.8	17.3	17.7	18.0	.3
White.....	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.7	-.2
Black.....	14.5	14.1	13.7	14.3	14.3	0
Hispanic origin....	10.8	10.2	10.5	10.6	9.6	-1.0
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	100,316	101,072	101,322	p101,641	p101,978	p337
Goods-producing.....	24,872	24,892	24,920	p25,009	p25,059	p50
Service-producing....	75,444	76,180	76,402	p76,632	p76,919	p287
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.7	34.7	34.6	p34.8	p35.0	p0.2
Manufacturing.....	40.7	40.8	40.8	p40.9	p41.2	p.3
Overtime.....	3.5	3.5	3.5	p3.6	p3.6	p0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment rose by 335,000 in February, reaching a seasonally adjusted level of nearly 102 million. There have been increases of at least 240,000 in each of the last 6 months, with the largest in January and February. As in previous months, the February gain occurred largely in the service-producing sector, reflecting increases in the services and retail trade industries; the latter particularly in general merchandise stores. The finance, insurance, and real estate industry also experienced an employment increase. (See table B-1.)

Manufacturing employment rose by 50,000, due in large part to the return of workers after settlement of labor disputes in the steel and machinery industries. While there was a small rebound in motor vehicles and equipment, most other factory payrolls, both in durables and nondurables, were little changed.

Employment in the other goods-producing industries was essentially unchanged. Mining remained at a very low level, and the construction industry, which had risen markedly in January after seasonal adjustment, was unchanged in February.

### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls expanded by 0.2 hour to 35.0 hours, seasonally adjusted. Weekly hours in manufacturing rose 0.3 hour to 41.2. This was the longest factory workweek since November 1966. (See table B-2.)

As a result of the increase in both employment and hours of work, the index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls rose by 1.1 percent to 121.1 (1977=100), seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing index rose by almost the same magnitude to 94.5. (See table B-5.)

### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings rose 0.5 percent in February, after allowance for seasonality, while weekly earnings increased 1.0 percent. Prior to seasonal adjustment, hourly earnings rose by 2 cents to \$8.89 and weekly earnings were up \$2.46 to \$307.59. Over the year, hourly earnings rose 15 cents and weekly earnings were up \$6.93. (See table B-3.)

### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 171.4 (1977=100) in February, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.5 percent from January. For the 12 months ended in February, the increase was 1.9 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate

- 4 -

movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI increased 0.9 percent during the 12-month period ended in January. (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for March 1987 will be released on Friday, April 3, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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APRIL 3, 1987

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: MARCH 1987

The number of jobs on nonfarm payrolls rose slightly in March, and unemployment was about unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate was 6.5 percent and the civilian rate was 6.6 percent; these rates had been 6.6 and 6.7 percent, respectively, for 3 consecutive months.

Nonagricultural payroll employment--as measured by the survey of business establishments--edged up by 165,000 in March, following several months of more substantial increases. Civilian employment--as measured through the household survey--was unchanged in March, after also showing large increases in recent months.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the number of unemployed persons--7.9 million in March--and the civilian worker unemployment rate--6.6 percent--were little changed from their February marks, after seasonal adjustment. Likewise, jobless rates for most of the major labor force groups showed little or no over-the-month change. March's unemployment rates for adult men (5.8 percent), adult women (5.8 percent), teenagers (18.1 percent), whites (5.6 percent), blacks (13.9 percent), and Hispanics (9.0 percent) were either the same or little different from February. Jobless rates have declined, however, for most of these groups over the past year. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons--sometimes referred to as the partially unemployed--decreased by 325,000 in March to 5.5 million, following a rise of a similar magnitude in February. (See table A-4.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment, at 111.4 million in March, was unchanged after seasonal adjustment. There were no substantive over-the-month changes among any of the major demographic groups. At 61.1 percent, the proportion of the civilian population with jobs edged down 0.1 percentage point from its record high of the prior month. Over the past 12 months, civilian employment has risen by 2.6 million. About half of the increase has occurred within the managerial and professional occupations, and one-fifth

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has taken place in sales and administrative support occupations. (See tables A-2, A-3, and A-11.)

The civilian labor force was also unchanged over the month, and the labor force participation rate edged down to 65.4 percent. Over the year, the labor force has risen by 2.0 million.

**Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted**

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Feb.- Mar. change
	1986	1987	1987			
	IV	I	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	120,308	120,943	120,782	121,089	120,958	-131
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	112,170	112,995	112,759	113,122	113,104	-18
Civilian labor force...	118,558	119,202	119,034	119,349	119,222	-127
Civilian employment..	110,420	111,254	111,011	111,382	111,368	-14
Unemployment.....	8,138	7,948	8,023	7,967	7,854	-113
Not in labor force.....	62,807	62,800	62,793	62,649	62,957	308
Discouraged workers..	1,127	1,168	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.5	-0.1
All civilian workers.	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6	-.1
Adult men.....	6.1	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.8	-.1
Adult women.....	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	0
Teenagers.....	17.8	17.9	17.7	18.0	18.1	.1
White.....	6.0	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.6	-.1
Black.....	14.1	14.2	14.3	14.3	13.9	-.4
Hispanic origin....	10.2	9.7	10.6	9.6	9.0	-.6
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	101,072	p101,838	101,626	p101,862	p102,026	p164
Goods-producing.....	24,892	p25,007	25,008	p25,040	p24,972	p-68
Service-producing....	76,180	p76,831	76,618	p76,822	p77,054	p232
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.7	p34.9	34.8	p35.0	p34.8	p-0.2
Manufacturing.....	40.8	p41.0	41.0	p41.2	p40.9	p-.3
Overtime.....	3.5	p3.6	3.6	p3.6	p3.7	p.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

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Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

In the first quarter of 1987, there were 1.2 million discouraged workers--persons who wanted to work but had not looked for jobs because they believed that they could not find work. The number of discouraged workers has fluctuated between 1.1 and 1.3 million for the past 3 years. Blacks and women continued to be disproportionately represented among the discouraged. (See table A-14.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey)

Total nonagricultural employment rose by 165,000 in March, a modest increase compared to those of the prior 6 months. Virtually all of the over-the-month employment gain occurred in the service-producing industries. (See table B-1.)

The services industry continued its strong expansion, with a 75,000 increase in jobs, two-thirds of which occurred in business and health services. Employment growth also continued in finance, insurance, and real estate. In retail trade, where there had been strong increases in the prior 2 months (after seasonal adjustment), there was a relatively small employment gain in March.

In the goods-producing sector, manufacturing employment edged down by 25,000. At 19.2 million, factory employment was about the same in March as it was at the end of 1986. Much of the over-the-month decline was concentrated in motor vehicles and in electrical and electronic equipment; each has lost about 30,000 jobs over the past year. Construction employment was down about 45,000, seasonally adjusted, but was still 50,000 above its year-end level. Mining employment changed little over the month, and has experienced little further erosion since the rapid job losses that occurred in its oil and gas extraction component during the first 9 months of 1986.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls was down 0.2 hour to 34.8 hours, seasonally adjusted, the same as the January level. The manufacturing workweek also reversed its increase of the prior month with a decline of 0.3 hour to 40.9, still quite high by historical standards. (See table B-2.)

Due to the drop in hours, the index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls was down 0.4 percent to 120.4 (1977=100), seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing index fell by 0.8 percent to 93.8, reflecting both the decline in hours and in employment. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings rose 0.3 percent in March after allowance for seasonality, while weekly earnings decreased 0.2 percent. Before seasonal

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adjustment, hourly earnings increased by 1 cent to \$8.90, and weekly earnings were up by \$1.23 to \$307.94. Over the year, hourly earnings rose by 17 cents and weekly earnings were up \$5.01. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 171.8 (1977=100) in March, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.3 percent from February. For the 12 months ended in March, the increase was 2.0 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI increased 0.1 percent during the 12-month period ended in February. (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for April 1987 will be released on Friday, May 8, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: APRIL 1987

Unemployment declined in April and employment rose substantially, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate and the rate for civilian workers each were down three-tenths of a percentage point to 6.2 percent and 6.3 percent, respectively.

Total civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--rose by 470,000 in April, and nonagricultural payroll employment--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--was up by 315,000. The two employment series have advanced by 2.8 and 2.5 million, respectively, over the past year.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons declined by 350,000 in April to a seasonally adjusted level of 7.5 million. The civilian worker unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage point to 6.3 percent, matching the rates last reached in January-March of 1980.

Unemployment rates for virtually all labor force groups declined to their lowest levels for the current expansionary period. The rates for adult men and adult women each decreased by three-tenths of a point to 5.5 percent, while the rate for teenagers edged down to 17.4 percent. Jobless rates for both whites (5.4 percent) and blacks (13.0 percent) improved over the month, while the rate for Hispanics (9.2 percent) was about unchanged. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

Most of the over-the-month decline in unemployment occurred among those jobless for less than 15 weeks. The average (mean) duration of unemployment was unchanged at 14.9 weeks, while median duration edged up to 7 weeks. (See table A-7.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment rose more than usual in April and, after adjustment for seasonality, advanced by 470,000 to 111.8 million. Adult women accounted for more than half of this increase. The proportion of the

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civilian population that was employed rose 0.2 percentage point to 61.3 percent. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force participation rate, at 65.4 percent, was unchanged in April. Over the past 12 months, the civilian labor force has

**Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted**

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Mar.- Apr. change
	1986	1987	1987			
	IV	I	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force 1/.....	120,308	120,943	121,089	120,958	121,070	112
Total employment 1/..	112,170	112,995	113,122	113,104	113,570	466
Civilian labor force...	118,558	119,202	119,349	119,222	119,335	113
Civilian employment..	110,420	111,254	111,382	111,368	111,835	467
Unemployment.....	8,138	7,948	7,967	7,854	7,500	-354
Not in labor force.....	62,807	62,800	62,649	62,957	63,009	52
Discouraged workers..	1,127	1,168	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers 1/.....	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.2	-0.3
All civilian workers.	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.3	-.3
Adult men.....	6.1	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.5	-.3
Adult women.....	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.5	-.3
Teenagers.....	17.8	17.9	18.0	18.1	17.4	-.7
White.....	6.0	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.4	-.2
Black.....	14.1	14.2	14.3	13.9	13.0	-.9
Hispanic origin....	10.2	9.7	9.6	9.0	9.2	.2
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	101,072	p101,830	101,854	p102,009	p102,325	p316
Goods-producing.....	24,892	p25,017	25,038	p25,004	p25,046	p42
Service-producing....	76,180	p76,813	76,816	p77,005	p77,279	p274
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.7	p34.9	35.0	p34.8	p34.7	p-0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.8	p41.1	41.3	p41.0	p40.5	p-.5
Overtime.....	3.5	p3.6	3.6	p3.7	p3.4	p-.3

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

grown by 2.0 million to 119.3 million persons. Adult women have accounted for three-fifths of this increase.

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment rose by 315,000 in April. As usual, the increase was mostly among service-producing industries, where there was a gain of 275,000 jobs. Since April 1986, the industries in this sector have added over 2.5 million workers to its payrolls, accounting for practically all of the over-the-year job growth. (See table B-1.)

Jobs in the services industry increased by 105,000 in April, with almost half of the gain occurring in business and health services. Over 1 million jobs have been added in this industry during the past year. Retail trade also posted strong gains, increasing by about 65,000. Employment grew by 35,000 in the finance, insurance, and real estate industry, with finance alone rising by 20,000.

In the goods-producing sector, the construction industry posted a gain of about 25,000 jobs (seasonally adjusted). Manufacturing employment was little changed, as a decline in motor vehicles and equipment offset small but widespread gains elsewhere. Jobs in mining and its oil and gas extraction component have edged up over the last 3 months, in contrast to the large and steady losses of the prior 2 years.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged down 0.1 hour to 34.7, after seasonal adjustment. Weekly hours in manufacturing declined by 0.5 hour to 40.5 hours, and factory overtime declined by 0.3 hour to 3.4; both movements resulted from religious observances in the reference period. (See table B-2.)

Despite employment gains, declining hours caused the index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls to edge down 0.1 percent to 120.5 (1977=100) in April. This level was still 2.4 percent higher than a year earlier. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings were down 0.2 percent in April, and average weekly earnings declined by 0.5 percent, after adjustment for seasonality. Before seasonal adjustment, hourly earnings were unchanged at \$8.89, while average weekly earnings were down 88 cents to \$306.71. (See table B-3.)

#### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 172.2 (1977=100) in April, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.3 percent from March. For the 12

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months ended in April, the increase was 2.2 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 0.9 percent during the 12-month period ended in March. (See table B-4.)

#### Revisions in the Establishment Survey Data

The Employment Situation news release of data for May will introduce revisions in the establishment-based series on nonagricultural payroll employment, hours, and earnings to reflect the regular annual benchmark adjustments and updated seasonal adjustment factors.

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The Employment Situation for May 1987 will be released on Friday, June 5, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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JUNE 5, 1987

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: MAY 1987

Employment rose in May and the unemployment rate was unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Following a marked decline in April, the overall unemployment rate remained at 6.2 percent and the civilian worker rate at 6.3 percent. Both were nearly a percentage point lower than a year earlier.

Total civilian employment--as estimated through the monthly survey of households--showed an increase of about 600,000, seasonally adjusted, whereas nonagricultural payroll employment--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--rose by 125,000.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The civilian unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.3 percent in May, and the number of persons unemployed remained at 7.5 million, about 800,000 less than a year earlier. The unemployment rates for adult men (5.5 percent) and women (5.4 percent), while unchanged over the month, have dropped substantially during the last year. The unemployment rates for teenagers (17.7 percent), whites (5.3 percent), and Hispanics (8.7 percent) were little changed, although the Hispanic rate has fallen 2 percentage points so far this year. The jobless rate for blacks (13.8 percent) returned to its March level after falling in April. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

Among the unemployed, there was a small increase in May in the number seeking their first jobs. In terms of duration, there was also a small increase in the number of persons unemployed for less than 5 weeks. The median duration of unemployment declined to 6.5 weeks. (See tables A-7 and A-8.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment rose to 112.4 million, a seasonally adjusted gain of about 600,000. Most of the increase was among adults, particularly women. The employment-population ratio--the proportion of the working age population who held jobs--increased by three-tenths of a percentage point. (See table A-2.)

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The civilian labor force also showed a sharp increase (660,000), following 2 months of little change. The labor force participation rate was up three-tenths of a percentage point to 65.7 percent.

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Apr.- May change
	1986	1987	1987			
	IV	I	Mar.	Apr.	May	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	120,308	120,943	120,958	121,070	121,719	649
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	112,170	112,995	113,104	113,570	114,173	603
Civilian labor force...	118,558	119,202	119,222	119,335	119,993	658
Civilian employment..	110,420	111,254	111,368	111,835	112,447	612
Unemployment.....	8,138	7,948	7,854	7,500	7,546	46
Not in labor force.....	62,807	62,800	62,957	63,009	62,540	-469
Discouraged workers..	1,127	1,168	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	6.8	6.6	6.5	6.2	6.2	0
All civilian workers.	6.9	6.7	6.6	6.3	6.3	0
Adult men.....	6.1	5.9	5.8	5.5	5.5	0
Adult women.....	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.5	5.4	-0.1
Teenagers.....	17.8	17.9	18.1	17.4	17.7	.3
White.....	6.0	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.3	-.1
Black.....	14.1	14.2	13.9	13.0	13.8	.8
Hispanic origin....	10.2	9.7	9.0	9.2	8.7	-.5
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA<sup>2/</sup></b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	100,397	101,133	101,329	p101,609	p101,732	p123
Goods-producing.....	24,634	24,733	24,749	p24,757	p24,747	p-10
Service-producing....	75,773	76,399	76,580	p76,852	p76,985	p133
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.7	34.8	34.8	p34.7	p34.8	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.8	41.0	40.9	p40.6	p41.0	p.4
Overtime.....	3.5	3.6	3.6	p3.5	p3.8	p.3

<sup>1/</sup> Includes the resident Armed Forces.

N.A.=not available.

<sup>2/</sup> Establishment data have been revised to reflect March 1986 benchmarks and updated seasonal adjustment factors.

p=preliminary.

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

The data from the establishment survey showed a relatively small job gain for May, bringing nonagricultural payroll employment to a level of 101.7 million, after seasonal adjustment. This level reflects the results of the annual benchmark adjustment of these data, which has produced a downward revision. (See the explanatory note on pages 4-5 for a description of the benchmark process.)

Gains in May were essentially limited to the services industry and in finance, insurance, and real estate. Continuing the strong growth in evidence during the current expansion, employment in the services industry rose by 95,000 in May. About half of the increase was in business and health services. Finance, insurance, and real estate also continued to expand with an over-the-month employment gain of 15,000. Employment in both wholesale and retail trade was unchanged after seasonal adjustment. (See table B-1.)

In the goods-producing sector, construction employment rose a little less than expected for this time of the year and, after seasonal adjustment, was down slightly from the April level. Mining and its oil and gas extraction component have shown small increases over the last few months. Manufacturing employment remained unchanged in May, as movements among individual industries were small and generally offsetting.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged up 0.1 hour to 34.8 hours, seasonally adjusted, returning to the March level. In manufacturing, the workweek rose by 0.4 hour to 41.0, rebounding from the previous month's dip, which had stemmed from religious observances in the reference week. Factory overtime rose by 0.3 hour to 3.8, the highest level since April 1978. (See table B-2.)

Largely as a result of the increase in hours of work, the index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls rose by 0.4 percent to 120.1 (1977=100), seasonally adjusted. This was 2.5 percent higher than the May 1986 index. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings rose by 0.4 percent in May, while average weekly earnings rose 0.7 percent, seasonally adjusted. Prior to seasonal adjustment, hourly earnings increased by 2 cents to \$8.92, and weekly earnings were up \$2.48 to \$310.42. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 172.6 (1977=100) in May, seasonally adjusted, essentially unchanged from April. For the 12 months ended in May, the increase was 2.2 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry

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employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 1.3 percent during the 12-month period ended in April. (See table B-4.)

#### Revisions in the Establishment Survey Data

In accordance with annual practice, the establishment survey data published in this release have been revised to reflect complete counts of employment (benchmarks). The counts are principally derived from unemployment insurance tax records for the first quarter of 1986. In addition, new seasonal adjustment factors have been calculated to take account of the experience through March 1987.

The effects of these adjustments on current data are shown in table B, which presents data prior to seasonal adjustment for February 1987, the last month of final published estimates prior to this benchmark revision.

To reflect these changes, establishment data series have been revised from April 1985 forward, and seasonally adjusted series have been revised back to January 1982. The June 1987 issue of Employment and Earnings will contain a discussion of the effects of the benchmark, seasonal adjustment factors for use in the ensuing 12-month period, and revised data for all regularly published tables containing national establishment survey data on employment, hours, and earnings. All of the revised historical series will be published in a special supplement to Employment and Earnings, which is expected to be issued in about a month. This supplement, when combined with the historical volume, Employment, Hours, and Earnings, United States, 1909-84, Bulletin 1312-12, will comprise the full historical series on national data from the establishment survey.

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The Employment Situation for June 1987 will be released on Thursday, July 2, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

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**Table B. Establishment survey employment estimates for February 1987, not seasonally adjusted**

(In thousands)

Industry	February 1987 employment estimates		Difference
	As revised	Before revision	
Total nonfarm employment.....	99,792	100,494	-702
Total private.....	82,587	83,316	-729
Mining.....	713	723	-10
Construction.....	4,506	4,559	-53
Manufacturing.....	18,853	19,061	-208
Transportation and public utilities.....	5,252	5,321	-69
Wholesale trade.....	5,707	5,827	-120
Retail trade.....	17,644	17,872	-228
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....	6,438	6,462	-24
Services.....	23,474	23,491	-17
Government.....	17,205	17,178	27
Federal.....	2,897	2,897	-
State.....	4,020	4,072	-52
Local.....	10,288	10,209	79

# News

United States  
Department  
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Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JUNE 1987

Employment was little changed in June and unemployment declined, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall jobless rate was 6.0 percent and the civilian rate was 6.1 percent, each two-tenths of a point below May levels.

Nonagricultural payroll employment--as measured by the survey of business establishments--and total civilian employment--as measured by the survey of households--were about unchanged in June, after seasonal adjustment. Both surveys showed increases of roughly 2-1/2 million over the past year.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed declined by 285,000 to 7.3 million, and the civilian unemployment rate fell two-tenths of a percentage point to 6.1 percent. The June jobless rate represented an improvement of six-tenths of a point in the first half of 1987 and was at its lowest point since December 1979.

Fewer young people than normal had entered the labor force as of the June survey week, which was unusually early this year. As a consequence, after seasonal adjustment, declines occurred for both youth employment and unemployment. Teenagers accounted for more than two-thirds of the decline in the number of jobseekers. Their jobless rate fell almost 2 percentage points to 15.9 percent, and that for black teenagers was down nearly 6 percentage points to 33.3 percent. There was also a decline in unemployment among adult women, with their rate edging down two-tenths of a point to 5.2 percent. The rate for adult men was unchanged at 5.5 percent.

Unemployment rates for whites (5.2 percent) and Hispanics (8.5 percent) were little changed, but the rate for blacks (12.7 percent) was down about a percentage point. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment, following an unusually large rise in the previous month, changed little in June, after seasonal adjustment. Much of the

- 2 -

lackluster June employment performance was attributable to agriculture, which picked up fewer than half of its normal May-to-June employment rise, thus falling by 155,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis. Despite June's weakness, the employment total of 112.3 million was 2.6 million higher than a year earlier. (See table A-1.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			May-June change
	1987		1987			
	I	II	Apr.	May	June	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	120,943	121,341	121,070	121,719	121,235	-484
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	112,995	113,906	113,570	114,173	113,975	-198
Civilian labor force...	119,202	119,615	119,335	119,993	119,517	-476
Civilian employment..	111,254	112,180	111,835	112,447	112,257	-190
Unemployment.....	7,948	7,435	7,500	7,546	7,260	-286
Not in labor force.....	62,800	62,912	63,009	62,540	63,187	647
Discouraged workers..	1,168	1,037	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	6.6	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.0	-0.2
All civilian workers.	6.7	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.1	-.2
Adult men.....	5.9	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	0
Adult women.....	5.8	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.2	-.2
Teenagers.....	17.9	17.0	17.4	17.7	15.9	-1.8
White.....	5.7	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.2	-.1
Black.....	14.2	13.2	13.0	13.8	12.7	-1.1
Hispanic origin....	9.7	8.8	9.2	8.7	8.5	-.2
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	101,133	p101,686	101,598	p101,672	p101,788	p116
Goods-producing.....	24,733	p24,761	24,759	p24,755	p24,769	p14
Service-producing....	76,399	p76,925	76,839	p76,917	p77,019	p102
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.8	p34.8	34.7	p34.9	p34.8	p-0.1
Manufacturing.....	41.0	p40.9	40.6	p41.0	p41.0	p0
Overtime.....	3.6	p3.7	3.5	p3.8	p3.7	p-.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

- 3 -

After rising in May, the rate of labor force participation returned to the April level of 65.4 percent. Participation rates for adult men and women were each down two-tenths of a percentage point to 78.0 and 56.1 percent, respectively. The rate for teens fell more than 2 points to 53.0 percent. While the labor force declined in June, it has grown by 1.5 million over the past 12 months to a level of 121.2 million.

#### Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

In the second quarter of 1987, there were about 1.0 million discouraged workers--persons who wanted to work but had not looked for jobs because they believed they could not find any. This was a slight improvement from the 1.1 million in the previous quarter. Two-thirds of these persons cited problems with the job market as their reason for not searching for work, while the rest cited personal factors (such as age or educational deficiencies). Blacks accounted for a disproportionately large share of the discouraged workers--29 percent. (See table A-14.)

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment rose about in line with what is expected for this time of year and, after seasonal adjustment, was about unchanged at 101.8 million in June. This was the second month in a row that there was little job growth in business establishments. The job count was 2.5 million above its year-earlier level, however, with nearly all the growth in the service-producing sector. (See table B-1.)

In June, job growth slowed in the service-producing sector. A small gain occurred in the services industry, most of it in health services. In the goods-producing sector, construction employment remained near its May level after seasonal adjustment. Job gains in the industry this spring have barely kept up with seasonally-expected growth. Employment in mining and its oil and gas extraction component was unchanged from May but has shown small gains thus far in 1987, following large declines in 1986. Manufacturing employment was unchanged over the month, after also posting small gains earlier in the year.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged down 0.1 hour to 34.8 hours, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing workweek was unchanged at 41.0 hours, and factory overtime inched down by 0.1 hour to 3.7. Both figures have recently been very high by historical standards. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls was virtually unchanged at 120.1 (1977=100) in June, seasonally adjusted. This was nearly 3 percent higher than the June 1986 index. (See table B-5.)

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Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

On a seasonally adjusted basis, average hourly earnings and average weekly earnings were about unchanged in June. Prior to seasonal adjustment, hourly earnings remained at \$8.93, while weekly earnings were up \$1.79 to \$312.55. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 173.1 (1977=100) in June seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.2 percent from May. For the 12 month period ended in June, the increase was 2.3 percent. The HEI excludes the effect of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 1.4 percent during the 12-month period ended in May. (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for July 1987 will be released on Friday, August 7, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

# News

United States  
Department  
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Bureau of Labor Statistics

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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JULY 1987

Employment rose substantially in July, while unemployment was little changed, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate was 5.9 percent, and the rate for civilian workers was 6.0 percent. Both were a full percentage point lower than a year earlier, with the improvement particularly strong since February.

Total civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--rose by 470,000 in July. The number of nonagricultural payroll jobs--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--was up by 300,000. Over the past year, the two employment series have advanced by 2.8 and 2.5 million, respectively.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the number of unemployed persons, 7.2 million in July, and the civilian unemployment rate, 6.0 percent, were little changed from June, after seasonal adjustment. Similarly, jobless rates for adult men and women (both at 5.4 percent), teenagers (15.5 percent), whites (5.1 percent), blacks (12.6 percent), and Hispanics (7.9 percent) all showed little change between June and July. Over the past year, however, unemployment rates dropped considerably for all these worker groups. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The number of persons jobless for 15 weeks or more fell by about 150,000 in July to 1.9 million, the lowest level since June 1980. The average (mean) duration of unemployment fell from 14.8 weeks in June to 14.0 weeks in July. (See table A-7.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment rose by 470,000 in July to 112.7 million on a seasonally adjusted basis. Over the year, employment increased by 2.8 million, with adult women accounting for 1.4 million of the gain, adult men for 1.2 million, and teenagers for 200,000. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force increased by about 435,000 in July, after seasonal adjustment, following a drop of similar magnitude in the previous

month. Prior to seasonal adjustment, very large labor force increases typically occur in the April-to-July period, as young people leave school and enter the summer job market. This often results in uneven

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			June-July change
	1987		1987			
	I	II	May	June	July	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	120,943	121,341	121,719	121,235	121,672	437
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	112,995	113,906	114,173	113,975	114,447	472
Civilian labor force...	119,202	119,615	119,993	119,517	119,952	435
Civilian employment..	111,254	112,180	112,447	112,257	112,727	470
Unemployment.....	7,948	7,435	7,546	7,260	7,224	-36
Not in labor force.....	62,800	62,912	62,540	63,187	62,933	-254
Discouraged workers..	1,168	1,037	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	6.6	6.1	6.2	6.0	5.9	-0.1
All civilian workers.	6.7	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.0	-.1
Adult men.....	5.9	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.4	-.1
Adult women.....	5.8	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.4	.2
Teenagers.....	17.9	17.0	17.7	15.9	15.5	-.4
White.....	5.7	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.1	-.1
Black.....	14.2	13.2	13.8	12.7	12.6	-.1
Hispanic origin...	9.7	8.8	8.7	8.5	7.9	-.6
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	101,133	p101,706	101,708	p101,811	p102,115	p304
Goods-producing.....	24,733	p24,762	24,752	p24,775	p24,849	p74
Service-producing....	76,399	p76,944	76,956	p77,036	p77,266	p230
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.8	p34.8	34.9	p34.8	p34.7	p-0.1
Manufacturing.....	41.0	p40.9	41.0	p41.0	p41.0	p0
Overtime.....	3.6	p3.7	3.8	p3.7	p3.8	p.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

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month-to-month changes in the labor force, even after seasonal adjustment. During this year's summer expansion period, the labor force was up about 600,000 after seasonal adjustment. (See table A-2.)

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural employment rose by about 300,000 in July to 102.1 million, after seasonal adjustment. This increase followed 2 months of slow job growth in business establishments. While the service-producing sector accounted for most of the over-the-month employment increase, as it usually does, job gains were also widespread in manufacturing industries, after seasonal adjustment. (See table B-1.)

In the goods-producing sector, manufacturing employment rose by 70,000, to 19.1 million in July. This gain occurred despite an employment decline of 40,000 in motor vehicles and equipment, primarily reflecting model changeover and inventory adjustments. Construction employment was unchanged in July and has experienced little movement, on a seasonally adjusted basis, since January. The number of jobs in mining and its oil and gas extraction component edged up, continuing a recent trend of small employment gains.

In the service-producing sector, the services industry rose by 80,000 in July, paced by a 35,000 gain in its health services component. Employment in retail trade advanced by 60,000, following 2 months of little change. The finance, insurance, and real estate industry continued to expand, gaining 20,000 jobs in July.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged down 0.1 hour in July to 34.7 hours, seasonally adjusted. Manufacturing hours remained at very high levels. The workweek was at 41.0 hours for the third month in a row, and factory overtime edged back up to 3.8 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls increased 0.3 percent to 120.3 (1977=100), seasonally adjusted. Reflecting July's employment gains, the manufacturing index rose by 0.5 percent to 93.7. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings and average weekly earnings were little changed on a seasonally adjusted basis in July. Prior to seasonal adjustment, hourly earnings decreased by 1 cent to \$8.91, and weekly earnings were down 35 cents to \$311.85. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 173.2 (1977=100) in July, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.2 percent from June. For the 12 months ended in July, the increase was 2.4 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 1.4 percent during the 12-month period ended in June. (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for August 1987 will be released on Friday, September 4, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: AUGUST 1987

Employment rose in August and unemployment was unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate and the civilian worker rate remained at 5.9 and 6.0 percent, respectively. Both rates have declined by 0.7 percentage point since the beginning of this year.

Total civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--rose by 355,000 in August after seasonal adjustment. Nonfarm payroll employment--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--was up by 155,000.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons was unchanged at 7.2 million in August, after seasonal adjustment, as were the jobless rates for nearly all major labor force groups. The rates for adult men (5.2 percent), adult women (5.3 percent), teenagers (16.0 percent), whites (5.1 percent), blacks (12.4 percent), and Hispanics (8.0 percent) showed little or no over-the-month change. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The length of unemployment was also little changed in August. The average (mean) duration of unemployment was about unchanged at 14.3 weeks, while the median duration edged down slightly to 6.4 weeks. (See table A-7.)

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons--sometimes referred to as the partially unemployed--declined in August to 5.3 million, returning to the May-June levels. Although this figure has edged down slightly thus far in 1987, it remains relatively high by historical standards. (See table A-4.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment declined less than usual in August and, after seasonal adjustment, advanced by 355,000 to 113.1 million. Most of this increase occurred among teenagers. The proportion of the population that is employed rose 0.2 percentage point to a new high of 61.8 percent. (See table A-2.)

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The civilian labor force increased to 120.3 million in August, after seasonal adjustment, with the labor force participation rate edging up to 65.7 percent. Over the past year, the labor force has grown by 2.1 million, with about half of the increase occurring among adult women.

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			July-Aug. change
	1987		1987			
	I	II	June	July	Aug.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1</u> /.....	120,943	121,341	121,235	121,672	122,038	366
Total employment <u>1</u> /..	112,995	113,906	113,975	114,447	114,817	370
Civilian labor force...	119,202	119,615	119,517	119,952	120,302	350
Civilian employment..	111,254	112,180	112,257	112,727	113,081	354
Unemployment.....	7,948	7,435	7,260	7,224	7,221	-3
Not in labor force.....	62,800	62,912	63,187	62,933	62,700	-233
Discouraged workers..	1,168	1,037	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1</u> /.....	6.6	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.9	0
All civilian workers.	6.7	6.2	6.1	6.0	6.0	0
Adult men.....	5.9	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.2	-0.2
Adult women.....	5.8	5.4	5.2	5.4	5.3	-.1
Teenagers.....	17.9	17.0	15.9	15.5	16.0	.5
White.....	5.7	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.1	0
Black.....	14.2	13.2	12.7	12.6	12.4	-.2
Hispanic origin....	9.7	8.8	8.5	7.9	8.0	.1
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	101,133	101,708	101,818	p102,114	p102,270	p156
Goods-producing.....	24,733	24,757	24,761	p24,857	p24,857	p0
Service-producing....	76,399	76,951	77,057	p77,257	p77,413	p156
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.8	34.8	34.8	p34.8	p35.0	p0.2
Manufacturing.....	41.0	40.9	41.0	p41.0	p41.0	p0
Overtime.....	3.6	3.7	3.7	p3.8	p3.8	p0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural employment rose by 155,000 in August to a seasonally adjusted level of 102.3 million. Virtually all of the job growth occurred in the service-producing sector. (See table B-1.)

Within the service sector, the services industry component continued its strong job expansion, increasing by 90,000 in August. Over the year, 1 million jobs have been added in the industry. As usual, health and business services accounted for most of the over-the-month gain. Job growth continued in finance, insurance, and real estate as employment advanced by 25,000 over the month. Employment in retail and wholesale trade was about unchanged from July levels.

In the goods-producing sector, manufacturing employment was unchanged in August, following a substantial increase (90,000) in July. Employment in automobiles rose by 20,000, after declining by 30,000 in July (seasonally adjusted). Most of the recent employment fluctuations in this industry result from early plant shutdowns for model changeover and extended layoffs for inventory reductions. In contrast, employment in apparel and other textile products declined by 20,000, a return to the June level. Construction employment was unchanged at 5.0 million in August. Mining and its oil and gas extraction component continued the gradual recovery from the job losses of the 1985-86 period.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls expanded by 0.2 hour after seasonal adjustment, reaching 35.0 hours. Most of this increase occurred in retail trade and wholesale trade. Manufacturing hours remained at 41.0 for the fourth consecutive month, and overtime hours were unchanged from July at 3.8, both historically high levels. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls increased 0.5 percent in August to 121.2 (1977=100), seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing index was about unchanged at 93.7. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings rose 0.8 percent in August, while average weekly earnings rose 1.4 percent, seasonally adjusted. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose by 4 cents to \$8.95, and average weekly earnings were up \$4.09 to \$315.94. Over the year, hourly earnings were up 25 cents and weekly earnings rose \$10.57.

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 173.9 (1977=100) in August, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.4 percent from July. For the 12 months ended in August, the increase was 2.6 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 1.4 percent during the 12-month period ended in July. (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for September 1987 will be released on Friday, October 2, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: SEPTEMBER 1987

Unemployment was little changed in September, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate was 5.8 percent, and the rate for civilian workers was 5.9 percent. Both rates were 1.1 percentage points lower than a year earlier, with the improvement having been particularly strong since February.

The number of nonagricultural payroll jobs--as measured by the monthly survey of business establishments--edged up about 130,000, after seasonal adjustment. Total civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--declined by 310,000, following an increase of a similar magnitude in August. Over the past year, employment levels in the establishment and household series have advanced by 2.4 and 2.8 million, respectively.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the number of unemployed persons in September--7.1 million--and the civilian worker unemployment rate--5.9 percent--were little changed from August, after seasonal adjustment. Similarly, jobless rates for adult men (5.0 percent), adult women (5.4 percent), teenagers (16.3 percent), whites (5.1 percent), blacks (12.3 percent), and Hispanics (8.2 percent) showed little or no over-the-month change. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The mean duration of unemployment, at 14.2 weeks, was also little changed in September, while median duration declined to 5.7 weeks. In recent months, both measures have edged down below levels posted earlier this year. (See table A-7.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment declined more than usual in September and, after adjustment for seasonality, was down 310,000 to 112.8 million, offsetting an increase of similar magnitude in August. The August increase and September decline can be largely traced to the pattern of youth employment this summer. Teenage employment normally declines markedly (before seasonal adjustment) during the months of August and especially September, as young workers leave summer jobs in preparation for their return to school. This year, however, an unusually large group of

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teenagers remained in their jobs through the August reference week. This resulted in the unusually large seasonally adjusted increase in youth employment in August and the decline of similar magnitude in September.

Reflecting these developments, the percentage of the total civilian population that is employed--the employment-population ratio--receded to 61.6 percent in September, the same as in July. (See table A-2.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Aug.- Sept. change
	1987		1987			
	II	III	July	Aug.	Sept.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	121,341	121,771	121,672	122,038	121,604	-434
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	113,906	114,593	114,447	114,817	114,515	-302
Civilian labor force...	119,615	120,038	119,952	120,302	119,861	-441
Civilian employment..	112,180	112,860	112,727	113,081	112,772	-309
Unemployment.....	7,435	7,178	7,224	7,221	7,089	-132
Not in labor force.....	62,912	62,978	62,933	62,700	63,300	600
Discouraged workers..	1,037	1,011	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	6.1	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.8	-0.1
All civilian workers.	6.2	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.9	-.1
Adult men.....	5.5	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.0	-.2
Adult women.....	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	.1
Teenagers.....	17.0	15.9	15.5	16.0	16.3	.3
White.....	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	0
Black.....	13.2	12.4	12.6	12.4	12.3	-.1
Hispanic origin....	8.8	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.2	.2
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	101,708	p102,271	102,126	p102,278	p102,410	p132
Goods-producing.....	24,757	p24,882	24,850	p24,885	p24,912	p27
Service-producing....	76,951	p77,389	77,276	p77,393	p77,498	p105
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.8	p34.8	34.8	p34.9	p34.6	p-0.3
Manufacturing.....	40.9	p40.8	41.0	p41.0	p40.4	p-.6
Overtime.....	3.7	p3.7	3.8	p3.8	p3.6	p-.2

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

After seasonal adjustment, the civilian labor force declined by 440,000 in September to 119.9 million; this drop also was confined largely to teenagers. With this decline, the labor force participation rate fell to 65.4 percent, still high by historical standards. The labor force has grown by 1.6 million over the past year.

#### Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

At 1.0 million in the third quarter, the number of discouraged workers--persons who report that they want to work but are not looking for jobs because they believe they cannot find any--was little changed from the level for the second quarter. Blacks and women continue to be disproportionately represented among the discouraged. (See table A-14.)

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

The number of nonagricultural payroll jobs edged up 130,000 in September to 102.4 million, seasonally adjusted. The figures were dampened by the absence from payrolls of about 65,000 teachers and support workers due to labor disputes. (See table B-1.)

Manufacturing employment rose by 55,000 in September to 19.2 million, seasonally adjusted, as growth was widespread in both the durable and nondurable goods components. Job gains were particularly notable in primary metals and machinery. Factory employment increases have totaled 165,000 since June, raising the employment level to its highest point since August 1985.

Elsewhere in the goods sector, employment in mining continued its gradual recovery. Growth in the industry has totaled 40,000 since its January low, mostly in its oil and gas extraction component. In contrast, construction employment declined by 35,000 in September and was down by 60,000 so far this year.

In the service-producing sector, employment growth was generally moderate in September. Job gains were unusually slow in the services industry, which increased by 35,000, compared with an average increase of close to 90,000 over the current expansion. There was no increase at all in finance, insurance, and real estate; wholesale trade; and government, where employment was held down by teacher strikes. In contrast, retail trade employment increased by 70,000, more than offsetting the small decline of the previous month.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls was down 0.3 hour to 34.6 hours, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing workweek dropped by 0.6 hour to 40.4, and factory overtime fell by 0.2 hour to 3.6 hours. These declines reflected the unusual occurrence of Labor Day in the survey period, as some employees were not paid for the holiday and others worked fewer overtime hours.

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As a result of the decline in the average workweek, the index of aggregate weekly hours of production on nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls dropped by 0.8 percent to 120.2 (1977=100), seasonally adjusted. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings were unchanged in September, while average weekly earnings fell by 0.9 percent, seasonally adjusted, also reflecting the decline in the workweek. Prior to seasonal adjustment, hourly earnings increased by 12 cents to \$9.06, and weekly earnings were down \$1.20 to \$314.38. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 174.7 (1977=100) in September, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.3 percent from August. For the 12 months ended in September, the increase was 2.9 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 1.6 percent during the 12-month period ended in August. (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for October 1987 will be released on Friday, November 6, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

# News

United States  
Department  
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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: OCTOBER 1987

Employment was up sharply in October while unemployment was essentially unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate, 5.9 percent, and the rate for civilian workers, 6.0 percent, were about the same as in September.

The number of nonagricultural payroll jobs, as measured by the survey of business establishments, rose by 550,000, following moderate increases in the previous 2 months. Total civilian employment, as measured by the survey of households, posted a gain of more than 400,000. (The reference period for both surveys was the week of October 11-17.)

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the number of unemployed persons, at 7.2 million in October, and the civilian unemployment rate, at 6.0 percent, were about unchanged from September, as the increase in employment was matched by a large gain in the labor force.

Jobless rates for adult men (5.1 percent), adult women (5.2 percent), whites (5.2 percent), blacks (12.0 percent), and Hispanics (8.3 percent) showed little or no movement over the month, but have declined considerably over the year. In contrast, the teenage rate has risen 2 percentage points since midsummer and, at 17.4 percent in October, was about the same as a year earlier. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The average (mean) duration of unemployment, at 14.0 weeks, was about unchanged in October. At 6.2 weeks, median duration was up slightly over the month, but was still below the levels registered prior to September. (See table A-7.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment, which had declined in September, rose by 415,000 in October to 113.2 million, after seasonal adjustment. Over the past 12 months, employment has grown by 3.0 million, with adult women accounting for 1.5 million of the gain, adult men 1.4 million, and teenagers 120,000. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force rebounded by 500,000 in October, reaching a seasonally adjusted level of 120.4 million. The proportion of the population in the labor force edged up slightly to 65.7 percent, matching the peak ratio reached in May and August. Since October 1986, increases in the labor force have totalled 2.0 million.

**Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted**

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Sept.- Oct. change
	1987		1987			
	II	III	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	121,341	121,771	122,038	121,604	122,102	498
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	113,906	114,593	114,817	114,515	114,928	413
Civilian labor force...	119,615	120,038	120,302	119,861	120,361	500
Civilian employment..	112,180	112,860	113,081	112,772	113,187	415
Unemployment.....	7,435	7,178	7,221	7,089	7,174	85
Not in labor force.....	62,912	62,978	62,700	63,300	62,950	-350
Discouraged workers..	1,037	1,011	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	6.1	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.9	0.1
All civilian workers.	6.2	6.0	6.0	5.9	6.0	.1
Adult men.....	5.5	5.2	5.2	5.0	5.1	.1
Adult women.....	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.2	-.2
Teenagers.....	17.0	15.9	16.0	16.3	17.4	1.1
White.....	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.2	.1
Black.....	13.2	12.4	12.4	12.3	12.0	-.3
Hispanic origin....	8.8	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.3	.1
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	101,708	p102,266	102,275	p102,396	p102,945	p549
Goods-producing.....	24,757	p24,882	24,886	p24,910	p25,018	p108
Service-producing....	76,951	p77,384	77,389	p77,486	p77,927	p441
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.8	p34.8	34.9	p34.6	p34.8	p0.2
Manufacturing.....	40.9	p40.8	41.0	p40.4	p41.1	p.7
Overtime.....	3.7	p3.7	3.8	p3.6	p4.0	p.4

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural employment rose by 550,000 in October, seasonally adjusted, to a level of 102.9 million. For the second month in a row, increases occurred in more than three-fifths of the 185 industries in the BLS index of diffusion. Over the past 12 months, payroll employment has grown by 2.8 million. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

In the goods-producing sector, employment rose by 110,000 in October, with factory jobs increasing by 65,000 and reaching 19.2 million. Since June, factory employment has expanded by 220,000. Most of the October improvement occurred in durable goods industries, with sizable gains in electrical equipment, machinery, and fabricated metal products. The number of construction jobs rose by 40,000, following a 30,000 decline in September, and mining employment continued to edge upward.

In the service-producing sector, employment rose sharply in October, after showing only moderate increases in September. The largest increases were in the services industry (150,000) and in local government (165,000), the latter due partly to the return to the payroll of about 65,000 teachers and other school personnel after labor disputes. Retail trade employment increased by about 70,000, following a 60,000 advance in September. In contrast, employment in wholesale trade; in finance, insurance, and real estate; and in transportation and public utilities was essentially unchanged in October. Altogether, jobs in the service sector increased by 440,000.

### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

Reversing the Labor Day-related curtailment in hours in September, the average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls rose 0.2 hour in October, after seasonal adjustment, reaching 34.8 hours. The manufacturing workweek, at 41.1 hours, also rebounded, and factory overtime rose to 4.0 hours, the highest level in 14 years. (See table B-2.)

Reflecting increases in both employment and the average workweek, the index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls rose 1.1 percent to 121.5 (1977=100) seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing index rose 2.0 percent to 94.7. (See table B-5.)

### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings rose by 0.7 percent in October, while average weekly earnings increased by 1.2 percent, seasonally adjusted. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose by 3 cents to \$9.08, and average weekly earnings were up \$2.85 to \$316.89. Over the past 12 months, hourly earnings have risen 26 cents and weekly earnings have increased \$10.84. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 174.6 (1977=100) in October, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.1 percent from September. For the 12 months ended in October, the increase was 2.6 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 1.5 percent during the 12-month period ending in September. (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for November 1987 will be released on Friday, December 4, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information: (202) 523-1371  
523-1944  
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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: NOVEMBER 1987

Employment continued to rise in November, while unemployment remained at about the same level that has prevailed since early summer, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall jobless rate was 5.8 percent, and the civilian worker rate was 5.9 percent.

Nonagricultural payroll employment, as measured by the monthly survey of business establishments, rose by 275,000, and civilian employment, as measured by the household survey, rose by 315,000. Both surveys showed increases of roughly 3 million from a year earlier.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons, at 7.1 million in November, and the civilian unemployment rate, at 5.9 percent, were little changed from October, after seasonal adjustment. These measures have shown little or no movement since June. However, the November unemployment level was 1.1 million lower than a year earlier, and the jobless rate was down a full percentage point over this period. (See table A-2.)

Unemployment rates for virtually all major labor force groups were about unchanged from October to November, but, as with the overall rate, there has been considerable improvement for most groups over the past year. For example, jobless rates for adult men (5.0 percent), adult women (5.2 percent), whites (5.1 percent), and blacks (12.1 percent) all were down substantially from November 1986. The teenage rate (16.8 percent) has edged down only slightly. The jobless rate for manufacturing workers, at 5.3 percent, was down nearly 2 percentage points from a year earlier. (See tables A-2, A-3, and A-6.)

Both the mean and median duration of unemployment, at 13.8 and 6.1 weeks, respectively, were about unchanged from October. (See table A-7.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment rose by 315,000 in November, after seasonal adjustment, following a substantial increase in the prior month. All of the employment growth occurred among adults. The proportion of the population that is employed increased by two-tenths of a percentage point, reaching a new high of 61.9 percent. (See table A-7.)

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The civilian labor force continued to expand, rising by 255,000 in November to a seasonally adjusted level of 120.6 million. The labor force participation rate remained at a high of 65.7 percent. Over the year, the labor force has grown by 2.0 million, with adult women accounting for about three-fifths of the increase. Hispanics comprised about a quarter of the over-the-year gain.

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Oct.- Nov. change
	1987		1987			
	II	III	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
<b>Thousands of persons</b>						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	121,341	121,771	121,604	122,102	122,371	269
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	113,906	114,593	114,515	114,928	115,255	327
Civilian labor force...	119,615	120,038	119,861	120,361	120,616	255
Civilian employment..	112,180	112,860	112,772	113,187	113,500	313
Unemployment.....	7,435	7,178	7,089	7,174	7,116	-58
Not in labor force.....	62,912	62,978	63,300	62,950	62,854	-96
Discouraged workers..	1,037	1,011	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
<b>Percent of labor force</b>						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	6.1	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.8	-0.1
All civilian workers.	6.2	6.0	5.9	6.0	5.9	-.1
Adult men.....	5.5	5.2	5.0	5.1	5.0	-.1
Adult women.....	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.2	0
Teenagers.....	17.0	15.9	16.3	17.4	16.8	-.6
White.....	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.1	-.1
Black.....	13.2	12.4	12.3	12.0	12.1	.1
Hispanic origin....	8.8	8.0	8.2	8.3	9.1	.8
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
<b>Thousands of jobs</b>						
Nonfarm employment....	101,708	102,278	102,434	p102,970	p103,244	p274
Goods-producing.....	24,757	24,884	24,917	p25,053	p25,152	p99
Service-producing....	76,951	77,394	77,517	p77,917	p78,092	p175
<b>Hours of work</b>						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.8	34.8	34.6	p34.9	p34.9	p0
Manufacturing.....	40.9	40.9	40.6	p41.3	p41.2	p-0.1
Overtime.....	3.7	3.7	3.6	p4.0	p3.9	p-.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural employment, at 103.2 million, rose by 275,000 in November, seasonally adjusted. The goods-producing sector was unusually strong, accounting for more than a third of the job gain. (See table B-1.)

Factory employment rose by 70,000 in November, following a similar advance in October. Job growth was widespread in both the durable and nondurable goods components, as nearly all of the 20 individual industries showed gains. Since June, the number of factory jobs has increased by 300,000. Elsewhere in the goods sector, construction employment increased by 35,000 after seasonal adjustment, as seasonal layoffs were fewer than usual (following weak summer hiring).

Employment in the service-producing sector rose by 175,000 in November. There was a 90,000 increase in the services industry, paced by gains in health services; transportation and public utilities and wholesale trade each added 25,000 jobs; and the finance, insurance, and real estate industry posted a 15,000 gain. However, retail trade employment was about unchanged after seasonal adjustment, primarily because holiday-related hiring in one of its major components--general merchandise stores--was less than seasonally expected.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls was unchanged at 34.9 hours in November, seasonally adjusted. In manufacturing, both the workweek (41.2 hours) and overtime (3.9 hours), while down fractionally over the month, were at historically high levels. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls rose 0.2 percent to 122.2 (1977=100) seasonally adjusted, as a result of the employment gains. The manufacturing index rose 0.3 percent to 95.3. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Both average hourly earnings and average weekly earnings rose by 0.6 percent in November, seasonally adjusted. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose by 5 cents to \$9.14, and average weekly earnings were up 83 cents to \$318.07. Over the past 12 months, hourly earnings have risen 26 cents and weekly earnings have increased by \$9.93. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 175.7 (1977=100) in November, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.5 percent from October. For the 12 months ended in November, the increase was 2.6 percent. The HEI excludes

the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 1.8 percent during the 12-month period ended in October. (See table B-4.)

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#### Revisions in Household Survey Data

In accordance with usual practice, the Employment Situation release of December data will incorporate annual revisions in seasonally adjusted unemployment and other labor force series. Seasonally adjusted data for the most recent 5 years are subject to revision.

The Employment Situation for December 1987 will be released on Friday, January 8, 1988, at 8:30 A.M. (EST). Release dates for the balance of 1988 are as follows:

Feb. 5	May 6	Aug. 5	Nov. 4
March 4	June 3	Sept. 2	Dec. 2
April 1	July 8	Oct. 7	

# News

United States  
Department  
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Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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523-1944  
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Media Contact: 523-1913

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8:30 A.M. (EST), FRIDAY,  
JANUARY 8, 1988

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: DECEMBER 1987

Employment continued to increase in December and unemployment was little changed, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate was 5.7 percent, and the rate for civilian workers was 5.8 percent. While little different from November, both rates have declined nearly a percentage point during 1987.

The number of nonagricultural wage and salary jobs--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--increased by 325,000 in December to 103.6 million. Civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--rose by 240,000 to 113.7 million. Over the past year, job growth in both surveys has totaled about 3 million.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons, at 7.0 million in December, and the civilian unemployment rate, at 5.8 percent, seasonally adjusted, were little changed from November but have edged down from this past summer's levels. Both of these measures have improved markedly during 1987. This improvement largely reflects a decline in the number of unemployed persons who lost their last job. (See tables A-2 and A-8.)

In December, there was little or no change in the jobless rates for adult men (4.9 percent), adult women (5.2 percent), teenagers (16.1 percent), whites (4.9 percent), and blacks (12.2 percent). The unemployment rate for Hispanics, which is often more volatile than those for whites and blacks, declined to 8.1 percent in December, a return to its general level of the July-to-October period. Jobless rates for nearly all worker groups showed considerable improvement over the year. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The mean duration of unemployment, at 14.2 weeks, and the median duration, at 6.0 weeks, were about unchanged from November. However, in

This release incorporates annual revisions in seasonally adjusted unemployment and other labor force series derived from the household survey. Information on the revisions appears on page 5.

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line with the general improvement in unemployment, both measures showed a decline in duration of about 1 week compared with year-earlier levels.

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment rose by 240,000 in December to 113.7 million, and the percentage of the population with jobs held at a high of 61.9 percent.

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Nov.- Dec. change
	1987		1987			
	III	IV	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	121,786	122,316	122,128	122,349	122,472	123
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	114,587	115,235	114,951	115,259	115,494	235
Civilian labor force...	120,053	120,568	120,387	120,594	120,722	128
Civilian employment..	112,854	113,486	113,210	113,504	113,744	240
Unemployment.....	7,199	7,082	7,177	7,090	6,978	-112
Not in labor force.....	62,963	62,899	62,924	62,876	62,898	22
Discouraged workers..	992	910	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.7	-0.1
All civilian workers.	6.0	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.8	-.1
Adult men.....	5.2	5.0	5.1	5.0	4.9	-.1
Adult women.....	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	0
Teenagers.....	16.1	16.6	17.2	16.6	16.1	-.5
White.....	5.1	5.0	5.2	5.1	4.9	-.2
Black.....	12.5	12.2	12.1	12.2	12.2	0
Hispanic origin....	8.1	8.5	8.3	9.0	8.1	-.9
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	102,278	p103,267	102,983	p103,246	p103,572	p326
Goods-producing.....	24,884	p25,169	25,064	p25,173	p25,270	p97
Service-producing....	77,394	p78,098	77,919	p78,073	p78,302	p229
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.8	p34.8	34.9	p34.9	p34.7	p-0.2
Manufacturing.....	40.9	p41.2	41.3	p41.2	p41.1	p-.1
Overtime.....	3.7	p3.9	4.0	p3.9	p3.9	p0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

NOTE: Household data have been revised based on the experience through December 1987.

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During the course of 1987, civilian employment has increased by 3.1 million, the largest annual gain since 1984. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force was little changed in December at 120.7 million. Over the past year, the labor force grew by 2.2 million, with adult women comprising about two-thirds of the increase.

#### Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

The number of discouraged workers--persons who want to work but do not look for jobs because they believe that they cannot find any--declined to about 900,000 in the fourth quarter of 1987, the lowest level since the fourth quarter of 1979. The discouraged total was down by more than 200,000, or 20 percent, from a year earlier. Women and blacks continued to comprise disproportionately large shares of all discouraged workers. (See table A-14.)

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural employment rose by 325,000 in December, seasonally adjusted, to a level of 103.6 million. As has often been the case in recent years, the services industry paced the over-the-month gains, but there were also further job increases in construction and manufacturing. (See table B-1.)

Manufacturing employment grew for the sixth straight month, adding another 40,000 jobs in December. The growth was not quite as widespread as the month before, however, as two components, machinery and electrical equipment, were responsible for half of manufacturing's overall increase. Employment in the motor vehicles and equipment industry was essentially unchanged over the month but, in contrast to the trend for the whole of manufacturing, has been edging down; it is now nearly 60,000 below its early 1986 level.

Construction, up 55,000, after seasonal adjustment, ended the year with its third consecutive monthly increase. At 5.1 million, construction employment was 200,000 above a year earlier.

Within the service-producing sector, the services industry rose sharply in December, by 145,000, as business services (35,000) and health services (40,000) led the way. Wholesale trade, dominated by an increase in its durable goods component, rose 20,000. Retail trade employment, in contrast, was flat for the second consecutive month, as jobs in general merchandise stores showed a seasonally adjusted drop of 35,000 over the October-December period. Employment in finance, insurance, and real estate, which has been growing at a slower pace in recent months compared to the prior 4 years, was unchanged in December. The industry's finance component was also unchanged from November and has shown hardly any growth since July.

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Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls fell 0.2 hour in December, after seasonal adjustment, to 34.7 hours. The manufacturing workweek, while slipping a tenth of an hour for the second consecutive month, was still at a very high 41.1 hours. Factory overtime, which held at 3.9 hours, also was quite high by historical standards. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged down by 0.2 percent to 122.0 (1977=100), seasonally adjusted, reflecting the decline in the workweek. The manufacturing index was little changed, at 95.5, but has risen by 3.5 percent over the past year. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings edged down by 0.2 percent in December, seasonally adjusted, and average weekly earnings fell by 0.8 percent. Prior to seasonal adjustment, hourly earnings dropped by 1 cent to \$9.13, while weekly earnings edged up 57 cents to \$318.64. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 175.6 (1977=100) in December, seasonally adjusted, a decrease of 0.1 percent from November. For the 12 months ended in December, the index rose 2.7 percent. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 1.8 percent during the 12-month period ending in November. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for January 1988 will be released on Friday, February 5, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

Revisions of Seasonally Adjusted Household Survey Data

At the end of each calendar year, the BLS routinely revises the seasonally adjusted labor force series derived from the Current Population Survey (household survey) to incorporate the experience of that year. As a result of the recalculation of the seasonal factors, seasonally adjusted data for the most recent 5 years are subject to revision. (Establishment data are similarly revised at about mid-year, concurrently with the introduction of annual benchmark adjustments.)

Revisions were minimal for the aggregate unemployment rates published during 1987. For example, the overall and the civilian worker unemployment rates for February and March each were revised by a tenth, and the overall rate also was revised by a tenth in July. The 1987 annual averages, 6.1 percent for all workers and 6.2 percent for civilian workers, are, of course, not affected by seasonal adjustment revisions. Table B presents revised seasonally adjusted data for major civilian labor force series for December 1986 through December 1987.

The January 1988 issue of Employment and Earnings will contain the new seasonal adjustment factors that will be used to calculate the civilian labor force and other major series for January-June of 1988. The publication will also contain a description of the current seasonal adjustment methodology and revised data for the most recent 13 months or calendar quarters for all regularly published tables containing seasonally adjusted household survey data. Revised monthly data for the 1983-87 revision period for 430 labor force series will be published in the February 1988 issue. Historical seasonally adjusted data (monthly and quarterly) may be purchased from the Bureau. (Contact Gloria P. Green, (202) 523-1959).

# News

United States  
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Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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FEBRUARY 5, 1988

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JANUARY 1988

Unemployment was unchanged in January, and the growth in nonfarm payroll jobs slowed, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall jobless rate was 5.7 percent and the civilian worker rate was 5.8 percent. Both rates have shown little change since last summer.

Nonagricultural payroll employment, as measured by the monthly survey of business establishments, increased marginally in January--by 105,000--while total civilian employment, as measured by the monthly survey of households, rose more markedly--385,000. Over the past year, employment levels in the establishment and household surveys have advanced by 2.8 and 3.1 million, respectively.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the number of unemployed persons in January--7.0 million--and the civilian unemployment rate--5.8 percent--were unchanged from December, after seasonal adjustment. Jobless rates for adult men and women (each at 5.1 percent), teenagers (16.0 percent), whites (5.0 percent), and blacks (12.2 percent) also showed little or no change over the month. The unemployment rate for Hispanics, which tends to fluctuate more than those of whites and blacks, edged down to 7.2 percent over the month. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The average (mean) duration of unemployment, at 14.4 weeks, was little changed in January, while median duration was up slightly to 6.4 weeks. (See table A-7.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment rose by 385,000 in January to 114.1 million, after seasonal adjustment, and the proportion of the population with jobs increased two-tenths of a percentage point to a high of 62.1 percent. Over the past year, civilian employment has increased by 3.1 million. Hispanics, who make up about 7 percent of employed persons, accounted for more than 20 percent of the over-the-year gain. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The civilian labor force expanded by 450,000 in January to a seasonally adjusted level of 121.2 million. The labor force has grown by

- 2 -

2.0 million over the past year, with the labor force participation rate rising to a record 65.9 percent in January. (See table A-2.)

### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonagricultural payroll employment edged up by 105,000 in January to a seasonally adjusted level of 103.7 million. In the prior 3 months, the month-to-month gains had averaged nearly 400,000. (See table B-1.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Dec.- Jan. change
	1987		1987		1988	
	III	IV	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
	Thousands of persons					
Labor force <sup>1/</sup> .....	121,786	122,316	122,349	122,472	122,924	452
Total employment <sup>1/</sup> ..	114,587	115,235	115,259	115,494	115,878	384
Civilian labor force...	120,053	120,568	120,594	120,722	121,175	453
Civilian employment...	112,854	113,486	113,504	113,744	114,129	385
Unemployment.....	7,199	7,082	7,090	6,978	7,046	68
Not in labor force.....	62,963	62,899	62,876	62,898	62,647	-251
Discouraged workers..	992	910	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <sup>1/</sup> .....	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	0
All civilian workers..	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	0
Adult men.....	5.2	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.1	0.2
Adult women.....	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1	-.1
Teenagers.....	16.1	16.6	16.6	16.1	16.0	-.1
White.....	5.1	5.0	5.1	4.9	5.0	.1
Black.....	12.5	12.2	12.2	12.2	12.2	0
Hispanic origin....	8.1	8.5	9.0	8.1	7.2	-9.9
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	102,278	p103,288	103,285	p103,596	p103,703	p107
Goods-producing.....	24,884	p25,164	25,169	p25,258	p25,219	p-39
Service-producing....	77,394	p78,124	78,116	p78,338	p78,484	p146
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.8	p34.8	34.9	p34.7	p34.7	p0
Manufacturing.....	40.9	p41.2	41.2	p41.0	p41.1	p0.1
Overtime.....	3.7	p3.9	3.9	p3.9	p3.9	p0

<sup>1/</sup> Includes the resident Armed Forces.

N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

In the service-producing sector, the usually robust services industry grew by only 30,000, whereas retail trade showed a large increase of 155,000, after seasonal adjustment. The developments in retail trade reflect the fact that fewer workers than normal lost their jobs in post-holiday cutbacks. Wholesale trade continued to grow in January, adding 20,000 jobs. Government employment fell by 65,000, returning to the November level. Employment in finance, insurance, and real estate has shown little change since October.

Manufacturing exhibited only moderate growth in January, adding 25,000 jobs. While durable goods industries related to construction and auto manufacturing demonstrated weakness, machinery and electrical equipment continued to increase. Within nondurable industries, job gains in printing and publishing and the volatile food industry were partly offset by losses in textiles and apparel. Factory job gains had averaged 60,000 per month in the second half of last year. Elsewhere in the goods-producing sector, there was a seasonally adjusted drop of 15,000 in mining, most of it in oil and gas extraction, while construction employment, which had shown strength in the October-to-December period, fell 50,000.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls was unchanged in January at 34.7 hours, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing workweek edged up by a tenth of an hour to 41.1 hours, and factory overtime (3.9 hours) remained very high. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls rose by 0.2 percent to 122.2 (1977=100), seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing index, at 95.4, was little changed from December. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Both average hourly and weekly earnings rose by 0.4 percent in January, seasonally adjusted. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose by 6 cents to \$9.18; average weekly earnings, however, fell \$2.50 to \$315.79, as a result of a seasonal decline in the workweek. (See table B-3.)

#### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 176.3 (1977=100) in January, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.5 percent from December. For the 12 months ended in January, the increase was 2.9 percent. In dollars of

constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 1.8 percent during the 12-month period ending in December. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. (See table B-4.)

The Employment Situation for February 1988 will be released on Friday, March 4, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical Information: (202) 523-1371 USDL 88-103  
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MARCH 4, 1988

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: FEBRUARY 1988

Employment growth was quite strong in February, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall jobless rate was 5.6 percent, and the civilian worker rate was 5.7 percent. Both have edged down in recent months--by three-tenths of a percentage point since last October.

Nonagricultural payroll employment, as measured by the survey of business establishments, surged by 530,000 in February, following a relatively small increase in the prior month. Total civilian employment, as measured by the household survey, rose by nearly 300,000 over the month.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of persons unemployed in February, at 6.9 million, seasonally adjusted, was about the same as in January. The civilian worker unemployment rate, at 5.7 percent, also showed little over-the-month change. However, it has edged down by three-tenths since last October and was nearly a full percentage point lower than a year ago.

Jobless rates for adult men (4.9 percent), adult women (5.2 percent), teenagers (15.4 percent), whites (4.8 percent), and blacks (12.6 percent) showed little change in February. After dipping in January, the Hispanic unemployment rate (8.3 percent) returned to the levels that generally prevailed in the latter half of last year. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The median duration of unemployment--6.4 weeks--was unchanged from January and was slightly lower than a year earlier. The number and proportion of the total unemployed who had lost their last jobs declined markedly over the past year. (See tables A-7 and A-8.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment rose by 280,000 in February to 114.4 million, seasonally adjusted, with almost the entire gain taking place among adult men. The proportion of the population with jobs was at a record 62.2 percent. Recent employment growth has been particularly strong in executive, administrative, and managerial occupations. Over the past year, employment in these occupations has accounted for more than a third of the 3 million growth in total civilian employment. (See tables A-2 and A-11.)

The civilian labor force grew to a level of 121.4 million in February, seasonally adjusted, with the labor force participation rate edging up to 66.0 percent. Since last February, the labor force has grown by 2.0 million, with nearly two-thirds of the increase occurring among adult women. (See table A-2.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Jan.- Feb. change
	1987		1987	1988		
	III	IV	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force 1/.....	121,786	122,316	122,472	122,924	123,084	160
Total employment 1/..	114,587	115,235	115,494	115,878	116,145	267
Civilian labor force...	120,053	120,568	120,722	121,175	121,348	173
Civilian employment..	112,854	113,486	113,744	114,129	114,409	280
Unemployment.....	7,199	7,082	6,978	7,046	6,938	-108
Not in labor force....	62,963	62,899	62,898	62,647	62,621	-26
Discouraged workers..	992	910	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers 1/.....	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.6	-0.1
All civilian workers..	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	-.1
Adult men.....	5.2	5.0	4.9	5.1	4.9	-.2
Adult women.....	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	.1
Teenagers.....	16.1	16.6	16.1	16.0	15.4	-.6
White.....	5.1	5.0	4.9	5.0	4.8	-.2
Black.....	12.5	12.2	12.2	12.2	12.6	.4
Hispanic origin....	8.1	8.5	8.1	7.2	8.3	1.1
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment....	102,278	103,293	103,612	p103,786	p104,317	p531
Goods-producing.....	24,884	25,164	25,259	p25,204	p25,332	p128
Service-producing....	77,394	78,129	78,353	p78,582	p78,985	p403
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.8	34.8	34.6	p34.7	p34.9	p0.2
Manufacturing.....	40.9	41.2	41.0	p41.1	p40.9	p-.2
Overtime.....	3.7	3.9	3.8	p3.9	p3.8	p-.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment rose by 530,000 in February, seasonally adjusted, to a level of 104.3 million. This large gain, which followed a much smaller increase in January (175,000), occurred mostly in the service-producing sector. While construction also advanced, manufacturing was little changed. (See table B-1.)

Within the service-producing sector, employment in the services industry increased sharply (200,000), following a modest rise in January. Job gains were widespread, with health and business services rising by 60,000 and 55,000, respectively. Other industries with increases were retail trade, which rose by 110,000 after seasonal adjustment, and wholesale trade. Employment in finance, insurance, and real estate was little changed over the month, although the finance component declined by 10,000; this drop represents the first tangible impact on business payrolls of the October stock market crash.

In the goods-producing sector, construction jobs rose by 105,000 after seasonal adjustment, following a substantial decline in January. After showing large gains in the second half of 1987, manufacturing jobs were up only slightly for the second month in a row. Changes among the component industries were all quite small. Since last June, manufacturing payrolls have added 400,000 jobs. Mining was about unchanged in February.

### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for all production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls increased 0.2 hour in February to 34.9 hours, seasonally adjusted. By contrast, the manufacturing workweek declined 0.2 hour to 40.9 hours, and factory overtime edged down 0.1 hour to 3.8 hours; both measures, however, were still relatively high by historical standards. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls rose by 0.7 percent to 123.2 (1977=100), seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing index slipped to 95.3, reflecting the decline in the factory workweek. (See table B-5.)

### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers edged down by 0.2 percent in February, seasonally adjusted, while average weekly earnings rose 0.4 percent due to the increase in the workweek. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings inched down 1 cent to \$9.17, and average weekly earnings rose 58 cents to \$316.37. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 176.5 (1977=100) in February, seasonally adjusted, virtually unchanged from January. For the 12 months ended in February, the increase was 2.7 percent. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 1.0 percent during the 12-month period ending in January. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for March 1988 will be released on Friday, April 1, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: MARCH 1988

Nonagricultural payroll employment continued to rise in March, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall jobless rate was 5.5 percent, and the civilian worker rate was 5.6 percent; each has declined four-tenths of a percentage point in the last 5 months and nearly a point over the past year.

Payroll employment, as measured by the monthly survey of business establishments, rose by 260,000 in March, seasonally adjusted, about in line with the average gains over the past year. On the other hand, total civilian employment, as estimated through the survey of households, showed a drop of 300,000, returning to the January level.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons, at 6.8 million in March, seasonally adjusted, and the civilian worker unemployment rate, at 5.6 percent, were little changed from February. Both measures, however, have been drifting down in recent months. Compared with a year ago, the level of unemployment has fallen by a million, and the civilian worker unemployment rate has declined nearly a full percentage point. More than two-thirds of the over-the-year improvement in total unemployment was attributable to a drop in the number of unemployed persons who had lost their last jobs. (See tables A-2 and A-8.)

The unemployment rate for adult women fell four-tenths of a percentage point to 4.8 percent in March, the only significant decline among the major demographic groups. Jobless rates for adult men (4.9 percent), whites (4.7 percent), blacks (12.8 percent), and Hispanics (8.2 percent) showed little or no change, while the rate for teenagers (16.5 percent) rose. (See table A-3.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment showed a decline of 300,000 in March, returning to the January level of 114.1 million, seasonally adjusted. The March movement followed gains averaging 300,000 per month from September to February. The percentage of the total civilian population that was working--the employment-population ratio--slipped to 62.0 percent, slightly below recent record highs. (See table A-2.)

- 2 -

After seasonal adjustment, the civilian labor force declined by 450,000 in March to 120.9 million. Accordingly, the labor force participation rate fell 0.3 percentage point to 65.7 percent. The March labor force was 1.6 million higher than a year earlier. (See table A-2.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Feb.- Mar. change
	1987	1988	1988			
	IV	I	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	122,316	122,882	122,924	123,084	122,639	-445
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	115,235	115,954	115,878	116,145	115,839	-306
Civilian labor force...	120,568	121,142	121,175	121,348	120,903	-445
Civilian employment..	113,486	114,214	114,129	114,409	114,103	-306
Unemployment.....	7,082	6,928	7,046	6,938	6,801	-137
Not in labor force....	62,899	62,825	62,647	62,621	63,208	587
Discouraged workers..	910	1,027	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.5	-0.1
All civilian workers.	5.9	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.6	-.1
Adult men.....	5.0	5.0	5.1	4.9	4.9	0
Adult women.....	5.2	5.0	5.1	5.2	4.8	-.4
Teenagers.....	16.6	16.0	16.0	15.4	16.5	1.1
White.....	5.0	4.8	5.0	4.8	4.7	-.1
Black.....	12.2	12.5	12.2	12.6	12.8	.2
Hispanic origin....	8.5	7.9	7.2	8.3	8.2	-.1
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment....	103,293	p104,259	103,827	p104,344	p104,606	p262
Goods-producing.....	25,164	p25,324	25,205	p25,342	p25,426	p84
Service-producing....	78,129	p78,935	78,622	p79,002	p79,180	p178
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.8	p34.7	34.8	p34.8	p34.6	p-0.2
Manufacturing.....	41.2	p41.0	41.2	p41.0	p40.9	p-.1
Overtime.....	3.9	p3.8	3.9	p3.7	p3.7	p0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

The number of discouraged workers--persons who want to work but do not look for jobs because they believe that they cannot find any--rose slightly, by about 115,000, to 1.0 million in the first quarter of 1988. Over the previous 4 quarters, the number of discouraged workers had declined by a total of 230,000. Men accounted for most of the first quarter rise. (See table A-14.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment rose by 260,000 in March to a seasonally adjusted level of 104.6 million. The largest over-the-month gains occurred in the services and construction industries. Manufacturing employment was unchanged. (See table B-1.)

The services industry, with widespread employment gains totaling 85,000, again led the over-the-month growth in the service-producing sector. Wholesale trade, which has grown steadily since July, added 15,000 jobs in March, almost entirely in its durable goods component. Retail trade, which had added a quarter of a million jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis during the first 2 months of this year, showed no further employment growth in March. In finance, insurance, and real estate, a rise in real estate payrolls (10,000) was partially offset by the second straight monthly decline in finance (5,000).

In the goods-producing sector, construction posted a second strong over-the-month gain (80,000). Since September, employment in that industry has risen by 270,000. Manufacturing employment, which has slowed in recent months following strong growth in the second half of 1987, was unchanged in March. Job gains in machinery and printing and publishing were offset by small declines in other manufacturing industries.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for all production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls decreased 0.2 hour in March to 34.6 hours, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing workweek edged down 0.1 hour to 40.9. This is the same level as a year earlier but slightly below the historically high levels of last fall. Factory overtime was unchanged in March at 3.7 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls declined by 0.4 percent to 122.9 (1977=100), seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing index, at 95.3, was little changed from February. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls rose by 0.7 percent in March, seasonally adjusted, while average weekly earnings were virtually unchanged. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings edged up 2 cents to \$9.20, while average weekly earnings decreased 23 cents, reflecting a small decline in the workweek. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 177.1 (1977=100) in March, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.4 percent from February. For the 12 months ended in March, the increase was 2.9 percent. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 1.1 percent during the 12-month period ending in February. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements—fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for April 1988 will be released on Friday, May 6, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: APRIL 1988

Employment rose and unemployment declined further in April, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Both the overall and the civilian worker jobless rates edged down to 5.4 percent.

Nonagricultural payroll employment--as measured by the monthly survey of business establishments--rose by 175,000 in April. Total civilian employment--as estimated through the monthly survey of households--showed an increase of about 600,000, following a decline of about half that amount in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, the employment estimates from the establishment and the household surveys have risen by 3.2 and 2.9 million, respectively.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

About 6.6 million persons were unemployed in April, almost 200,000 fewer than in March (after seasonal adjustment). Practically all of the improvement resulted from a decline in the number of unemployed persons who had lost their last jobs. The civilian worker unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage point over the month to 5.4 percent. (See tables A-2 and A-8.)

Unemployment resumed its downward trend in late 1987, following several months of little or no change. Since October 1987, the jobless total has fallen by more than half a million and the jobless rate by more than half a percentage point.

Nearly all of the March-to-April decline in unemployment occurred among adult men, as their jobless rate fell three-tenths of a point to 4.6 percent. The jobless rate for adult women, which had declined in March, was unchanged at 4.8 percent, while rates for the other major demographic groups--teenagers (15.9 percent), whites (4.6 percent), blacks (12.2 percent), and Hispanics (9.3 percent)--were little changed. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The median duration of unemployment declined by a full week to 5.6 weeks, the lowest level since early 1980. (See table A-7.)

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment rose by 610,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis in April to a level of 114.7 million. This followed a decline of 300,00 in March. The percentage of the total civilian population that was working—the employment population ratio—was a record 62.3 percent. (See table A-2.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Mar.- Apr. change
	1987	1988	1988			
	IV	I	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
<b>Thousands of persons</b>						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	122,316	122,882	123,084	122,639	123,055	416
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	115,235	115,954	116,145	115,839	116,445	606
Civilian labor force...	120,568	121,142	121,348	120,903	121,323	420
Civilian employment..	113,486	114,214	114,409	114,103	114,713	610
Unemployment.....	7,082	6,928	6,938	6,801	6,610	-191
Not in labor force.....	62,899	62,825	62,621	63,208	62,909	-299
Discouraged workers..	910	1,027	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
<b>Percent of labor force</b>						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.4	-0.1
All civilian workers.	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.4	-0.2
Adult men.....	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.6	-0.3
Adult women.....	5.2	5.0	5.2	4.8	4.8	0
Teenagers.....	16.6	16.0	15.4	16.5	15.9	-0.6
White.....	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.6	-0.1
Black.....	12.2	12.5	12.6	12.8	12.2	-0.6
Hispanic origin....	8.5	7.9	8.3	8.2	9.3	1.1
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
<b>Thousands of jobs</b>						
Nonfarm employment.....	103,293	p104,284	104,365	p104,661	p104,835	p174
Goods-producing.....	25,164	p25,336	25,354	p25,449	p25,506	p57
Service-producing....	78,129	p78,948	79,011	p79,212	p79,329	p117
<b>Hours of work</b>						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.8	p34.8	34.9	p34.6	p34.9	p0.3
Manufacturing.....	41.2	p41.1	41.0	p41.0	p41.2	p.2
Overtime.....	3.9	p3.8	3.7	p3.7	p4.0	p.3

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

The civilian labor force also rebounded in April. It rose by 420,000 to 121.3 million, returning to about the February level. As a result, the labor force participation rate rose two-tenths of a percentage point to 65.9 percent. Over the year, the labor force grew by 1.9 million, with adult women comprising about 3 out of every 5 added workers. (See table A-2.)

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment increased by 175,000 in April to a level of 104.8 million, seasonally adjusted. This growth followed gains averaging 350,000 during the first quarter. April's rather modest growth featured renewed strength in both manufacturing and mining. (See table B-1.)

In the goods-producing sector, factory jobs rose by 45,000, mostly in industries which have increased their exports in recent months. Two component industries--fabricated metal products and machinery--accounted for half of the gain. Mining posted an unusually strong pickup of 15,000. Construction employment, which had posted substantial gains in the previous 2 months, was unchanged in April on a seasonally adjusted basis.

In the service-producing sector, the services industry showed a modest employment gain of 55,000, with much of the increase in health services. Wholesale trade continued its pattern of consistent job growth, rising by 15,000 in April, and by 175,000 over the year. Employment in finance, insurance, and real estate also increased, with the insurance component accounting for most of the gain. There was little growth in retail trade, government, and transportation and public utilities.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls rose 0.3 hour in April to 34.9 hours, seasonally adjusted. Similarly, the manufacturing workweek increased 0.2 hour to 41.2. Factory overtime rose 0.3 hour to 4.0 hours, matching the historically high level attained last October. These seasonally adjusted increases, however, may overstate the underlying movement, because of technical factors associated with the way the seasonal adjustment process deals with the timing of Easter week. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls, at 124.3 (1977=100), climbed 1.0 percent in April, after seasonal adjustment. The manufacturing index rose 0.8 percent to 96.1. (See table B-5.)

### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers increased 0.5 percent in April, seasonally adjusted, while average weekly earnings climbed by 1.4 percent, largely reflecting the increase in the workweek. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose by 3 cents to \$9.22, and average weekly earnings jumped \$3.80 to \$320.86. (See table B-3.)

### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 177.6 (1977=100) in April, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.5 percent from March. For the 12 months ended in April, the increase was 2.9 percent. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 1.0 percent during the 12-month period ending in March. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. (See table B-4.)

### Revisions in the Establishment Survey Data

The Employment Situation news release of data for May will introduce revisions in the establishment-based series on nonagricultural payroll employment, hours, and earnings to reflect the regular annual benchmark adjustments and updated seasonal adjustment factors.

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The Employment Situation for May 1988 will be released on Friday, June 3, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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JUNE 3, 1988

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: MAY 1988

Nonagricultural payroll employment continued to increase in May, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Both the overall and the civilian worker jobless rates, which had dipped slightly in April, returned to their March levels of 5.5 and 5.6 percent, respectively.

Payroll employment, as measured by the monthly survey of business establishments, rose by 210,000 in May. In contrast, total civilian employment, as estimated through the monthly survey of households, showed a drop of 520,000 following a 600,000 increase in April. Recent over-the-month movements in the household employment series have been somewhat erratic.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the number of unemployed persons and the unemployment rate, which had been drifting downward since last fall, edged up in May, returning to their March levels. About 6.8 million persons were unemployed in May, and the civilian worker unemployment rate was 5.6 percent, seasonally adjusted. Since May 1987, the unemployment level has decreased by about 800,000, and the jobless rate has declined by 0.7 percentage point. (See table A-2.)

Most of the over-the-month change in joblessness occurred among adult men, whose unemployment rate rose 0.3 percentage point to 4.9 percent, following a drop of the same magnitude in April. The rates for adult women (4.9 percent), teenagers (15.6 percent), whites (4.7 percent), blacks (12.4 percent), and Hispanics (9.0 percent) all were little changed over the month. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

At 5.9 weeks, the median duration of unemployment was about unchanged in May, remaining at one of its lowest levels during the 1980's. (See table A-7.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

The estimate of total civilian employment--114.2 million--showed a drop of about 520,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis in May, nearly offsetting April's large increase. Consequently, the employment-population ratio fell to 61.9 percent. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force also declined in May, to 121.0 million about the same level as in March. As a result, the labor force participation rate decreased, to 65.6 percent. (See table A-2.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Apr.- May change
	1987	1988	1988			
	IV	I	Mar.	Apr.	May	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force 1/.....	122,316	122,882	122,639	123,055	122,692	-363
Total employment 1/..	115,235	115,954	115,839	116,445	115,909	-536
Civilian labor force...	120,568	121,142	120,903	121,323	120,978	-345
Civilian employment..	113,486	114,214	114,103	114,713	114,195	-518
Unemployment.....	7,082	6,928	6,801	6,610	6,783	173
Not in labor force.....	62,899	62,825	63,208	62,909	63,396	487
Discouraged workers..	910	1,027	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers 1/.....	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.5	0.1
All civilian workers.	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.6	.2
Adult men.....	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.6	4.9	.3
Adult women.....	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.9	.1
Teenagers.....	16.6	16.0	16.5	15.9	15.6	-.3
White.....	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.7	.1
Black.....	12.2	12.5	12.8	12.2	12.4	.2
Hispanic origin...	8.5	7.9	8.2	9.3	9.0	-.3
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA<sup>2/</sup></b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	103,683	104,670	105,020	p105,269	p105,478	p209
Goods-producing.....	25,116	25,260	25,330	p25,438	p25,446	p8
Service-producing.....	78,567	79,410	79,690	p79,831	p80,032	p201
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.8	34.7	34.6	p34.9	p34.7	p-0.2
Manufacturing.....	41.1	41.0	40.9	p41.2	p41.1	p-.1
Overtime.....	3.9	3.8	3.7	p4.0	p4.0	p0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

N.A.=not available.

2/ Establishment data have been revised to reflect March 1987 benchmarks and updated seasonal adjustment factors.

p=preliminary.

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Employment growth in nonagricultural establishments moderated in May, as payroll jobs increased by 210,000 to 105.5 million, seasonally adjusted. Employment gains were essentially confined to the service-producing sector. (See table B-1.) The payroll employment estimates shown in this news release have been adjusted to reflect annual benchmark revisions and the incorporation of new seasonal factors. (See the explanatory note on pages 4-5.)

Following 3 months of growth, payroll employment in the goods-producing sector showed little movement in May. Construction employment, which had posted strong gains over the prior 3 months, was unchanged. There was also no change in mining and manufacturing jobs. Within manufacturing, however, there were small gains in several industries--fabricated metals, machinery, and rubber and plastics products--where employment has been boosted by rising exports. These increases were largely offset by small declines in several other industries.

In the service-producing sector, the services industry led over-the-month increases with an employment gain of 80,000, slightly less than average. Within services, business services has had slower than usual growth in recent months, while health services has been particularly strong. Wholesale trade added 25,000 jobs, mostly in its durable goods component. Over the year, wholesale trade employment has risen by 275,000, three-fourths of which was in durable-goods distribution. Employment in the finance, insurance, and real estate industry was down slightly in May. The finance component, which had been one of the best performers throughout much of the expansion, has lost about 10,000 jobs since January.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls declined by 0.2 hour in May to 34.7 hours, seasonally adjusted, while the factory workweek edged down 0.1 hour to 41.1 hours. These declines followed sharp increases in the previous month. Manufacturing overtime was unchanged at 4.0 hours, after seasonal adjustment. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls, at 124.5 (1977=100), fell 0.4 percent, seasonally adjusted. The index for manufacturing also declined, 0.3 percent, to 95.8. Both series were up slightly from March. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers rose 0.7 percent in May, seasonally adjusted, while average weekly earnings were unchanged. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose by 4 cents to \$9.26, and average weekly earnings increased 47 cents to \$320.40. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 178.8 (1977=100) in May, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.5 percent from April. For the 12 months ended in May, the increase was 3.4 percent. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 0.7 percent during the 12-month period ending in April. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. (See table B-4.)

## REVISIONS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT SURVEY DATA

In accordance with annual practice, the establishment survey data have been revised to reflect complete counts of employment (benchmarks). The counts are principally derived from unemployment insurance tax records for the first quarter of 1987. In addition, new seasonal adjustment factors have been calculated to take account of the experience through March 1988.

The effects of these adjustments on current data are shown in table B, which presents data prior to seasonal adjustment for February 1988, the last month of final published estimates prior to this benchmark revision.

Reflecting these changes, all establishment data series have been revised from April 1986 forward, and the seasonally adjusted series have been revised from January 1983 forward. The June 1988 issue of Employment and Earnings will contain a discussion of the effects of the benchmark, current seasonal adjustment factors, and revised estimates for all regularly published tables containing national establishment survey data on employment, hours, and earnings. All of the revised historical series will be published in a special supplement to Employment and Earnings, which is expected to be issued in about a month. This supplement, when combined with the historical volume, Employment, Hours, and Earnings, United States, 1909-84 (BLS Bulletin 1312-12), will comprise the full historical series on national data from the establishment survey.

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The Employment Situation for June 1988 will be released on Friday, July 8, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

**Table B. Establishment survey employment estimates for February 1988, not seasonally adjusted**

(In thousands)

Industry	February 1988 employment estimates		Difference
	As revised	Before revision	
<b>Total nonfarm employment.....</b>	<b>103,373</b>	<b>102,969</b>	<b>404</b>
<b>Total private.....</b>	<b>85,844</b>	<b>85,396</b>	<b>448</b>
Mining.....	720	742	-22
Construction.....	4,628	4,641	-13
Manufacturing.....	19,261	19,288	-27
Transportation and public utilities.....	5,446	5,441	5
Wholesale trade.....	5,979	5,855	124
Retail trade.....	18,521	18,201	320
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....	6,571	6,625	-54
Services.....	24,718	24,603	115
<b>Government.....</b>	<b>17,529</b>	<b>17,573</b>	<b>-44</b>
Federal.....	2,955	2,955	0
State.....	4,109	4,098	11
Local.....	10,465	10,520	-55

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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8:30 A.M. (EDT), FRIDAY,  
JULY 8, 1988

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JUNE 1988

Employment rose markedly in June and unemployment declined, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Both the overall and civilian worker jobless rates, which had risen slightly in May, declined three-tenths of a percentage point, to 5.2 and 5.3 percent, respectively.

Nonfarm payroll employment, as measured by the monthly survey of business establishments, rose by 345,000 in June. Job gains occurred in most of the major industry divisions. Total civilian employment, as measured by the monthly survey of households, increased by about 800,000 in June; this followed a decline of 500,000 in May.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons fell by 330,000 in June to a seasonally adjusted level of 6.5 million. The civilian worker unemployment rate of 5.3 percent was down from 5.6 percent in May and was the lowest figure since May 1974, when it was 5.1 percent. (See table A-2.)

Adult men accounted for about three-fifths of the drop in unemployment in June, as their jobless rate fell to 4.6 percent. The rest of the decline occurred among teenagers, whose jobless rate dropped 2 full percentage points to 13.6 percent. The unemployment rate for adult women was unchanged at 4.9 percent. There was some improvement in the rates for blacks (11.5 percent) and whites (4.5 percent), while the rate for Hispanics (9.0 percent) was unchanged. The rate for black teenagers fell 6 percentage points to 28.4 percent; this rather volatile measure was still far higher than the 12.0-percent rate for white teens. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment jumped by 820,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis to 115.0 million, more than offsetting the 500,000 decrease reported between April and May. This large increase was affected in part by the timing of the survey reference period (the week that contains the 12th day of the month) which occurred very late in June, allowing extra time for students, graduates, and seasonal workers to find jobs. Three-fourths of the seasonally adjusted increase occurred among youth 16-24 years of age.

The sharp employment increase in June restored the civilian employment-population ratio to its April high of 62.3 percent. The number of persons working at part-time jobs for economic reasons--persons who would prefer full-time jobs--rose by 470,000 to 5.3 million in June; this was about the same level as in March. (See tables A-2, A-3, and A-4.)

**Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted**

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			May-June change
	1988		1988			
	I	II	Apr.	May	June	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
<b>Thousands of persons</b>						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	122,882	122,968	123,055	122,692	123,157	465
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	115,954	116,352	116,445	115,909	116,703	794
Civilian labor force...	121,142	121,258	121,323	120,978	121,472	494
Civilian employment..	114,214	114,642	114,713	114,195	115,018	823
Unemployment.....	6,928	6,616	6,610	6,783	6,455	-328
Not in labor force.....	62,825	63,131	62,909	63,396	63,090	-306
Discouraged workers..	1,027	910	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
<b>Percent of labor force</b>						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.2	-0.3
All civilian workers.	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.6	5.3	-.3
Adult men.....	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.9	4.6	-.3
Adult women.....	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.9	0
Teenagers.....	16.0	15.0	15.9	15.6	13.6	-2.0
White.....	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.5	-.2
Black.....	12.5	12.0	12.2	12.4	11.5	-.9
Hispanic origin....	7.9	9.1	9.3	9.0	9.0	0
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
<b>Thousands of jobs</b>						
Nonfarm employment.....	104,670	p105,544	105,281	p105,502	p105,848	p346
Goods-producing.....	25,260	p25,489	25,435	p25,464	p25,569	p105
Service-producing....	79,410	p80,054	79,846	p80,038	p80,279	p241
<b>Hours of work</b>						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.7	p34.8	34.9	p34.7	p34.8	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	41.0	p41.1	41.2	p41.0	p41.0	p0
Overtime.....	3.8	p3.9	3.9	p3.9	p3.9	p0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

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The civilian labor force rose by 490,000 to 121.5 million in June, with teenagers accounting for about three-fifths of the rise. Over the year, the labor force grew by 1.9 million, about average for the 1980's. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

### Discouraged Workers

In the second quarter of 1988, there were 910,000 discouraged workers -- persons who were reported as wanting to work but who had not looked for jobs because they believed they could not find any. This number was the same as in the fourth quarter of 1987, after rising a bit in the first quarter of the year. Just under two-thirds of these nonworkers cited job-market conditions as their reason for not seeking work, while the rest cited personal factors (such as age, education, or other personal handicap). (See table A-14.)

### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Employment in nonagricultural establishments rose by 345,000 in June, reaching 105.8 million, seasonally adjusted. Increases were widespread, occurring in all industry divisions except government. (See table B-1.)

After slowing in May, employment in the goods-producing sector resumed more vigorous growth. Construction employment rose by 55,000, and manufacturing jobs increased by 45,000. Within manufacturing, most of the over-the-month increase was in durable goods, particularly in fabricated metals and machinery.

Employment gains in the service-producing sector totaled 240,000 in June. Increases in services and retail trade industries were especially sharp, totaling 160,000 and 75,000, respectively. Smaller, but noteworthy, increases (25,000 each) also occurred in wholesale trade (especially in the distribution of durable goods) and transportation and public utilities (mostly in the transportation component). The continuing growth in these distributive industries reflects the strength in factory output. Employment in finance, insurance, and real estate rose by 15,000, with the gain concentrated in the real estate component.

### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged up to 34.8 hours in June, seasonally adjusted, while the factory workweek and overtime were unchanged at 41.0 hours and 3.9 hours, respectively. The factory figures continue to be very high by historical standards. (See table B-2.)

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The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls, at 125.3 (1977=100), rose 0.7 percent, seasonally adjusted. The index for manufacturing was also up, by 0.4 percent, to 96.1. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were unchanged in June, seasonally adjusted, while average weekly earnings rose by nearly a dollar. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings declined by 2 cents to \$9.23, and average weekly earnings increased by \$3.00 to \$323.05. (See table B-3.)

#### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 178.5 (1977=100) in June, seasonally adjusted, a decrease of 0.1 percent from May. For the 12 months ended in June, the increase was 3.2 percent. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 0.5 percent during the 12-month period ending in May. The HEI is computed so as to exclude the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for July 1988 will be released on Friday, August 5, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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8:30 A.M. (EDT), FRIDAY,  
AUGUST 5, 1988

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JULY 1988

Payroll employment continued to increase in July and unemployment was little changed, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor reported today. Both the overall and the civilian worker jobless rates were 5.4 percent.

Nonagricultural payroll employment, as measured by the survey of business establishments, rose by 285,000 in July, seasonally adjusted. By contrast, total civilian employment, as measured by the household survey, was about unchanged, after increasing by an unusually large amount in June.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons in July totaled 6.6 million, seasonally adjusted, and the unemployment rate for civilian workers was 5.4 percent. Both figures were little changed from June. Since July of last year, the number of unemployed persons has fallen by 630,000, and the jobless rate has declined six-tenths of a percentage point.

A large part of the over-the-year improvement in unemployment occurred among adult men. Their jobless rate for July (4.5 percent) and that for adult women (5.1 percent) were essentially unchanged, while the rate for teenagers rose by 1.6 percentage points to 15.2 percent, near its May level. The rates for whites (4.7 percent) and blacks (11.4 percent)--including black teenagers (31.1 percent)--were little changed from June. The rate for Hispanics fell to 8.0 percent. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment was essentially unchanged at 115.1 million in July, following large swings in recent months. The employment-population ratio held at a high of 62.3 percent. The civilian labor force edged upward by 210,000 in July to 121.7 million. This was 1.8 million above the July 1987 level. (See table A-2.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Employment in nonagricultural establishments rose by 285,000 in July. This increase, coupled with a substantial upward revision of the preliminary June estimates, brought the number of payroll jobs to 106.3 million, seasonally adjusted. Strong gains occurred in manufacturing and several industries in the service-producing sector. (See table B-1.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			June-July change
	1988		1988			
	I	II	May	June	July	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	122,882	122,968	122,692	123,157	123,357	200
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	115,954	116,352	115,909	116,703	116,732	29
Civilian labor force...	121,142	121,258	120,978	121,472	121,684	212
Civilian employment..	114,214	114,642	114,195	115,018	115,059	41
Unemployment.....	6,928	6,616	6,783	6,455	6,625	170
Not in labor force.....	62,825	63,131	63,396	63,090	63,045	-45
Discouraged workers..	1,027	910	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	5.6	5.4	5.5	5.2	5.4	0.2
All civilian workers.	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.3	5.4	.1
Adult men.....	5.0	4.7	4.9	4.6	4.5	-.1
Adult women.....	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.1	.2
Teenagers.....	16.0	15.0	15.6	13.6	15.2	1.6
White.....	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.7	.2
Black.....	12.5	12.0	12.4	11.5	11.4	-.1
Hispanic origin....	7.9	9.1	9.0	9.0	8.0	-1.0
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	104,670	p105,597	105,489	p106,021	p106,304	p283
Goods-producing.....	25,260	p25,497	25,466	p25,590	p25,672	p82
Service-producing....	79,410	p80,100	80,023	p80,431	p80,632	p201
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.7	p34.8	34.7	p34.7	p34.9	p0.2
Manufacturing.....	41.0	p41.1	41.0	p41.1	p41.1	p0
Overtime.....	3.8	p3.9	3.9	p3.9	p3.9	p0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

- 3 -

Manufacturing continued to display vigorous employment growth, as the number of factory jobs rose by 70,000 to reach 19.6 million. As in the previous month, most of this increase was in durable goods manufacturing, especially machinery. Elsewhere in the goods sector, employment in construction rose very slightly in July, after increasing by 70,000 in June. While jobs in general building contracting have shown little strength this summer, there have been strong gains in the special trades (plumbing, electrical, masonry, etc.).

Employment in the service-producing sector rose by about 200,000 in July. Retail trade gained 80,000 jobs, equaling June's strong growth; recent increases have been widespread throughout the industry, except for general merchandise stores. Employment in the fast-growing services division was up by a relatively modest 65,000 in July but has gained about 360,000 jobs since April. Wholesale trade continued to exhibit strong job growth with an increase of 25,000, entirely in durable goods distribution.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls rose by 0.2 hour to 34.9 hours in July, seasonally adjusted. While the factory workweek and overtime were unchanged at 41.1 and 3.9 hours, respectively, they remained very high by historical standards. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls, at 126.3 (1977=100), rose by 0.7 percent, seasonally adjusted. The index for manufacturing rose by 0.6 percent to 96.7. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers rose 0.4 percent in July to \$9.32, seasonally adjusted, and average weekly earnings rose by 1.0 percent, reflecting the increases in hourly earnings and in the length of the workweek. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose by 2 cents to \$9.25, and average weekly earnings increased by \$1.63 to \$324.68. (See table B-3.)

#### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 178.9 (1977=100) in July, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.5 percent from June. For the 12 months ended in July, the increase was 3.6 percent. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 0.5 percent during the 12-month period ending in June. The HEI is computed so as to exclude the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. (See table B-4.)

- 4 -

Beginning in 1989, the Hourly Earnings Index will no longer be published in this release. For further information, see "Employment Cost Index Series to Replace Hourly Earnings Index," Monthly Labor Review, July 1988, pp. 32-34. ECI data are currently published quarterly in a news release, in the Monthly Labor Review, and in Current Wage Developments.

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The Employment Situation for August 1988 will be released on Friday, September 2, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

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SEPTEMBER 2, 1988

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: AUGUST 1988

The number of nonfarm payroll jobs grew moderately in August, and unemployment edged up, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall jobless rate was 5.5 percent and the civilian worker rate 5.6 percent, compared with 5.4 percent for both measures in July.

Nonagricultural payroll employment, as measured by the monthly survey of business establishments, increased by 220,000 in August to 106.5 million, substantially less than the average monthly gain so far this year. Total civilian employment, as measured by the monthly survey of households, was about unchanged at 115.2 million in August.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the number of unemployed persons and the unemployment rate edged up in August. About 6.9 million persons were unemployed, and the civilian worker jobless rate was 5.6 percent, seasonally adjusted. Since March, the rate has moved within the narrow range of 5.3 to 5.6 percent. (See table A-2.)

Most of the over-the-month increase in joblessness occurred among adult men, whose unemployment rate rose 0.4 percentage point to 4.9 percent. In contrast, the rate for adult women edged down to 4.8 percent. The incidence of joblessness rose slightly for whites to 4.9 percent, while it was little changed for blacks (11.3 percent), teenagers (15.8 percent), and Hispanics (8.4 percent). (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment was about unchanged at 115.2 million in August, and the employment-population ratio remained at its high of 62.3 percent. The civilian labor force rose substantially--by almost 350,000--as the labor force participation rate edged up to 66.0 percent, matching the high reached in February. (See table A-2.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Employment in nonagricultural establishments increased moderately in August, as payroll jobs rose by 220,000 to a level of 106.5 million, seasonally adjusted. This gain, and July's increase of 200,000, followed larger increases during the first half of the year. Employment in private nonfarm industries rose only modestly (155,000), and the goods-producing sector did not increase for the first time since January. (See table B-1.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			July-Aug. change
	1988		1988			
	I	II	June	July	Aug.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force 1/.....	122,882	122,968	123,157	123,357	123,723	366
Total employment 1/..	115,954	116,352	116,703	116,732	116,872	140
Civilian labor force...	121,142	121,258	121,472	121,684	122,031	347
Civilian employment...	114,214	114,642	115,018	115,059	115,180	121
Unemployment.....	6,928	6,616	6,455	6,625	6,851	226
Not in labor force.....	62,825	63,131	63,090	63,045	62,799	-246
Discouraged workers..	1,027	910	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers 1/.....	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.4	5.5	0.1
All civilian workers.	5.7	5.5	5.3	5.4	5.6	.2
Adult men.....	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.9	.4
Adult women.....	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.1	4.8	-.3
Teenagers.....	16.0	15.0	13.6	15.2	15.8	.6
White.....	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.9	.2
Black.....	12.5	12.0	11.5	11.4	11.3	-.1
Hispanic origin...	7.9	9.1	9.0	8.0	8.4	.4
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment....	104,670	105,609	106,057	p106,257	p106,476	p219
Goods-producing.....	25,260	25,498	25,592	p25,655	p25,647	p-8
Service-producing....	79,410	80,111	80,465	p80,602	p80,829	p227
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.7	34.8	34.7	p34.9	p34.6	p-0.3
Manufacturing.....	41.0	41.1	41.1	p41.2	p41.0	p-.2
Overtime.....	3.8	3.9	3.9	p3.9	p3.8	p-.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

After 4 months of fairly strong growth, factory employment was unchanged in August, on a seasonally adjusted basis. Although job gains were registered in the machinery, electrical equipment, and printing and publishing industries, these were offset by a drop in textile employment and smaller declines in 11 other industries. Elsewhere in the goods-producing sector, employment in the oil and gas component of the mining industry edged down. Construction industry employment, which has risen rather vigorously over the past year, was unchanged in August.

In the service-producing sector, the services industry rose by 95,000 in August, about in line with the recent average for that industry. Both business and health services, however, posted below-average increases. Wholesale trade added 20,000 jobs, nearly all in its durable goods component. Over the year, employment in that industry has risen by 300,000, more than three-fourths of which was in durable-goods distribution. After 2 months of strong growth, employment in retail trade showed little over-the-month movement, as only food stores posted a substantial job increase. Similarly, employment in the other private service sector industries--transportation and public utilities and finance, insurance, and real estate--was little changed in August.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls dropped by 0.3 hour to 34.6 hours in August, seasonally adjusted. The factory workweek declined by 0.2 hour to 41.0 hours, and manufacturing overtime edged down 0.1 hour to 3.8 hours. The average workweek in manufacturing has been at or above 41 hours throughout most of 1987 and 1988, quite high by historical standards. (See table B-2.)

As a result of the August drop in the workweek, the index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls, at 125.5 (1977=100), declined 0.7 percent, seasonally adjusted. The index for manufacturing was also down, by 0.5 percent to 96.1. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were unchanged in August, seasonally adjusted. Average weekly earnings fell 0.9 percent, reflecting the decline in the average workweek. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average weekly earnings dropped 92 cents to \$323.40, while average hourly earnings were unchanged at \$9.24. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 179.4 (1977=100) in August, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.1 percent from July. For the 12 months ended in August, the increase was 3.1 percent. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 0.5 percent during the 12-month period ended in July. The HEI is computed so as to exclude the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. (Beginning in 1989, the Hourly Earnings Index will no longer be published in this release.) (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for September 1988 will be released on Friday, October 7, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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OCTOBER 7, 1988

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: SEPTEMBER 1988

Employment rose and unemployment edged down in September, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Both the overall and civilian worker jobless rates, which had risen slightly in August, fell two-tenths of a percentage point to 5.3 and 5.4 percent, respectively.

Nonfarm payroll employment, as measured by the monthly survey of business establishments, rose by 255,000 to 106.7 million in September. More than 100,000 of this increase occurred in government employment, largely related to gains in public education. Total civilian employment, as measured by the monthly survey of households, edged up to 115.3 million.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

After rising slightly in August, both the level and rate of unemployment eased back down in September. The number of unemployed persons fell by 250,000 in September to 6.6 million, and the civilian worker unemployment rate declined from 5.6 to 5.4 percent, seasonally adjusted. Both of these measures have moved within relatively narrow ranges most of this year. (See table A-2.)

Adult men accounted for the over-the-month decline in unemployment as their jobless rate returned to the July level of 4.5 percent. In contrast, the rates for adult women (4.8 percent), teenagers (15.7 percent), whites (4.8 percent), and blacks (10.8 percent) showed little or no change over the month. The jobless rate for Hispanics dropped by a percentage point to 7.4 percent. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The median duration of unemployment declined slightly over the month to 5.5 weeks. The number of persons working part time for economic reasons--persons often referred to as the partially unemployed--was little changed at 5.1 million. (See tables A-7 and A-4.)

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment edged up to 115.3 million, and the employment-population ratio was at a high of 62.4 percent. The civilian labor force numbered 121.9 million. Labor force growth has been relatively slow thus far in 1988. (See table A-2.)

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

In the third quarter of 1988, there were 930,000 discouraged workers-- persons who want to work but have not looked for jobs because they believe they could not find any. Their number was about the same as in the second quarter of 1988. More than half of the discouraged total were women, and a third were black. (See table A-14.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Aug.- Sept. change
	1988		1988			
	II	III	July	Aug.	Sept.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	122,968	123,569	123,357	123,723	123,628	-95
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	116,352	116,878	116,732	116,872	117,032	160
Civilian labor force...	121,258	121,880	121,684	122,031	121,924	-107
Civilian employment...	114,642	115,189	115,059	115,180	115,328	148
Unemployment.....	6,616	6,691	6,625	6,851	6,596	-255
Not in labor force.....	63,131	62,960	63,045	62,799	63,038	239
Discouraged workers..	910	930	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:\						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.3	-0.2
All civilian workers.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.6	5.4	-.2
Adult men.....	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.9	4.5	-.4
Adult women.....	4.9	4.9	5.1	4.8	4.8	0
Teenagers.....	15.0	15.6	15.2	15.8	15.7	-.1
White.....	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.9	4.8	-.1
Black.....	12.0	11.2	11.4	11.3	10.8	-.5
Hispanic origin....	9.1	7.9	8.0	8.4	7.4	-1.0
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	105,609	p106,469	106,271	p106,440	p106,695	p255
Goods-producing.....	25,498	p25,649	25,663	p25,646	p25,637	p-9
Service-producing....	80,111	p80,820	80,608	p80,794	p81,058	p264
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.8	p34.7	34.9	p34.6	p34.7	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	41.1	p41.1	41.1	p41.0	p41.2	p.2
Overtime.....	3.9	p3.9	3.9	p3.9	p4.0	p.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Employment in nonagricultural establishments was up by 255,000 in September to a level of 106.7 million, seasonally adjusted. This job gain was slightly larger than those posted in the previous 2 months but much smaller than the average increase of 345,000 experienced during the first half of the year. Employment growth in September was concentrated in the service-producing sector, particularly in government. For the second straight month, private industries posted a small employment gain; increases averaged only 120,000, compared with over 300,000 a month in the first 7 months of the year. (See table B-1.)

In the service-producing sector, government jobs increased by 115,000, seasonally adjusted, paced by strong fall hiring in state and local education. Employment in the services industry showed a relatively modest employment increase of 65,000 in September. Health services jobs, which have risen by 430,000 over the year, accounted for most of the services increase. In contrast, business services, one of the strongest performers throughout the expansion, has shown little growth in the last 2 months. Wholesale trade continued its pattern of consistent job growth with an increase of 25,000 jobs. The transportation and public utilities industry also added 25,000 jobs, concentrated in the transportation component. Employment in the other private service sector industries--retail trade, and finance, insurance, and real estate--was little changed in September.

In the goods-producing sector, factory employment edged down for the second consecutive month, after having risen consistently over the prior year and a half. Small job gains in machinery and autos were more than offset by small but widespread declines in other manufacturing industries. In the construction industry, the number of jobs was also little changed, while employment in the oil and gas component of the mining industry has edged down over the last 2 months.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged up by 0.1 hour to 34.7 hours in September, seasonally adjusted, following a sharp decline in the previous month. The factory workweek rose by 0.2 hour to 41.2 hours, and manufacturing overtime edged up 0.1 hour to 4.0 hours. Both factory hours and overtime continue to be quite high by historical standards. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls, at 126.0 (1977=100), rose 0.4 percent, seasonally adjusted. The index for manufacturing was also up by 0.4 percent, to 96.5. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers increased 0.5 percent in September, seasonally adjusted. Average weekly earnings rose 0.8 percent. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings increased 15 cents to \$9.40, while average weekly earnings were up by \$3.37 to \$327.12. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 180.4 (1977=100) in September, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.5 percent from August. For the 12 months ended in September, the increase was 3.3 percent. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 0.8 percent during the 12-month period ended in August. The HEI is computed so as to exclude the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. (Beginning in 1989, the Hourly Earnings Index will no longer be published in this release.) (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for October 1988 will be released on Friday, November 4, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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8:30 A.M. (EST), FRIDAY,  
NOVEMBER 4, 1988

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: OCTOBER 1988

Employment rose in October and unemployment was little changed, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate was 5.2 percent, and the civilian worker rate was 5.3 percent. Both have fluctuated within a narrow range since the spring.

Nonagricultural payroll jobs, as measured by the survey of business establishments, grew by 325,000 in October to 107.1 million. All of this increase was in private industries. Total civilian employment, as measured by the household survey, edged up to 115.5 million. The household survey continues to show much slower employment growth than the business survey--2.4 million over the past year, versus 3.7 million.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The civilian worker unemployment rate was essentially unchanged in October at 5.3 percent; the number of unemployed persons was 6.5 million. Since the spring, the jobless rate has moved within a narrow range of 5.3 to 5.6 percent, and the number of unemployed persons has ranged between 6.5 and 6.8 million. (See table A-2.)

The October jobless rates for adult men (4.6 percent), adult women (4.7 percent), and teenagers (14.9 percent) were little different from September, as were the rates for whites (4.6 percent), blacks (11.0 percent), and Hispanics (7.7 percent). (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The number of persons who cited job loss as their reason for unemployment declined by 180,000 to 2.9 million in October. Declines in the number of unemployed job losers and new entrants to the labor force accounted for most of the nearly 700,000 fall in unemployment over the past year; the number of job leavers and labor force reentrants was little changed. (See table A-8.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment rose slightly to 115.5 million in October, and the employment-population ratio sustained its high of 62.4 percent reached in the previous month. Employment among adult women grew by 320,000, and their employment-population ratio rose 0.3 percentage point to a new high of 54.3 percent.

At 122.0 million, the civilian labor force has been little changed since August, while the labor force participation rate remained at 65.9 percent. The labor force rose by 1.7 million over the past year. (See table A-2.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural employment rose by 325,000 in October, seasonally adjusted, to a level of 107.1 million. This gain was in line with average job growth so far this year. All of the October gains were in private industries, which had shown slower growth in the prior 2 months. (See table B-1.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Sept.- Oct. change
	1988		1988			
	II	III	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force 1/.....	122,968	123,569	123,723	123,628	123,699	71
Total employment 1/..	116,352	116,878	116,872	117,032	117,208	176
Civilian labor force...	121,258	121,880	122,031	121,924	122,012	88
Civilian employment..	114,642	115,189	115,180	115,328	115,521	193
Unemployment.....	6,616	6,691	6,851	6,596	6,491	-105
Not in labor force.....	63,131	62,960	62,799	63,038	63,102	64
Discouraged workers..	910	930	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers 1/.....	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.2	-0.1
All civilian workers.	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.3	-.1
Adult men.....	4.7	4.6	4.9	4.5	4.6	.1
Adult women.....	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.7	-.1
Teenagers.....	15.0	15.6	15.8	15.7	14.9	-.8
White.....	4.6	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.6	-.2
Black.....	12.0	11.2	11.3	10.8	11.0	.2
Hispanic origin....	9.1	7.9	8.4	7.4	7.7	.3
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	105,609	p106,475	106,425	p106,729	p107,052	p323
Goods-producing.....	25,498	p25,648	25,639	p25,642	p25,734	p92
Service-producing.....	80,111	p80,827	80,786	p81,087	p81,318	p231
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.8	p34.7	34.6	p34.7	p34.8	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	41.1	p41.1	41.0	p41.2	p41.1	p-.1
Overtime.....	3.9	p3.9	3.9	p3.9	p4.0	p.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

Manufacturing employment rose by 100,000, seasonally adjusted, more than offsetting declines totaling 45,000 in the previous 2 months. Job gains were widespread throughout the durable and nondurable industries. The largest increase was in food processing, which experienced fewer fall cutbacks than usual following light summer hiring due to the drought. Other industries showing sizable increases included lumber and wood products, primary metals, fabricated metals, machinery, motor vehicles, and rubber and plastics. Despite October's strong growth, only 9 of the 20 manufacturing industries were above July levels.

Elsewhere in the goods-producing sector, construction employment was about unchanged, following fairly substantial growth during most of the year. Mining employment was also about unchanged in October.

In the services industry, an October gain of 145,000 was led by health services. Business services continued to show slow growth. Retail trade employment rose by 50,000 over the month; there were substantial increases in food stores and eating and drinking places, while holiday hiring in general merchandise stores was less than expected. Wholesale trade added 20,000 jobs, mostly in durable goods distribution. Virtually no employment change occurred in government, following a large increase in public school employment in September. Employment in both finance, insurance, and real estate and transportation and public utilities was also little changed in October.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged up by 0.1 hour to a level of 34.8 hours in October, seasonally adjusted. The factory workweek fell slightly to 41.1 hours, while manufacturing overtime edged up 0.1 hour to 4.0 hours. Both the average workweek and overtime in manufacturing continued to be very high by historical standards. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls, at 126.9 (1977=100), rose by 0.7 percent, seasonally adjusted. The index for manufacturing increased by 0.5 percent to 96.8. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers rose 0.7 percent in October, seasonally adjusted. Average weekly earnings increased 1.0 percent, reflecting the increases in both hourly earnings and the length of the workweek. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose 5 cents to \$9.45, and average weekly earnings increased by \$2.69 to \$329.81. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 181.6 (1977=100) in October, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.8 percent from September. For the 12 months ended in October, the increase was 3.8 percent. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 0.9 percent during the 12-month period ending in September. The HEI is computed so as to exclude the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. (Beginning in 1989, the HEI will no longer be published in this release.) (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for November 1988 will be released on Friday, December 2, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

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8:30 A.M. (EST), FRIDAY,  
DECEMBER 2, 1988

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: NOVEMBER 1988

Employment rose sharply in November, and the unemployment rate was little changed, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate was 5.3 percent, and the civilian worker rate was 5.4 percent. Both have shown little movement since the spring.

Nonagricultural payroll jobs, as measured by the survey of business establishments, increased by 465,000 to 107.4 million. Total civilian employment, as measured by the household survey, rose by a similar amount to 116.0 million.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The civilian worker unemployment rate and the number of unemployed persons were essentially unchanged in November at 5.4 percent and 6.6 million persons, respectively. These series have moved within relatively narrow ranges for most of this year--5.3 to 5.6 percent for the jobless rate and 6.5 to 6.8 million persons for the level of unemployment. (See table A-2.)

Jobless rates for adult men (4.8 percent), adult women (4.8 percent), teenagers (13.9 percent), whites (4.6 percent), blacks (11.2 percent), and Hispanics (8.1 percent) showed little or no movement in November. Whereas all of these groups have shown some improvement over the past year, the largest drop occurred among teenagers--3 percentage points. Most of this was among white teens, as the rate for black teenagers continues to remain above 30 percent. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The number of newly unemployed persons, those unemployed less than 5 weeks, has been between 3.0 and 3.2 million every month since mid-1987. In contrast, the number of long-term unemployed, those jobless for more than half a year, has declined over this period, from 1.1 million to about 700,000. (See table A-7.)

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment expanded by 455,000 to 116.0 million in November, and the employment-population ratio gained 0.2 percentage point to reach a record high of 62.6 percent. Most of November's employment gain occurred among adult women, whose employment increased by 380,000. Over the year, total civilian employment has increased by 2.5 million. The number of persons voluntarily working part-time schedules, at 15.5 million in November, was 1.1 million more than a year earlier. (See tables A-2 and A-4.)

After remaining essentially unchanged from August to October, the civilian labor force jumped by 560,000 to 122.6 million in November. As a result, the labor force participation rate rose 0.3 percentage point to a record 66.5 percent. Over the year, the labor force has expanded by 2.0 million, 1.4 million of whom were adult women. (See table A-2.)

**Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted**

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Oct.- Nov. change
	1988		1988			
	II	III	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	122,968	123,569	123,628	123,699	124,277	578
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	116,352	116,878	117,032	117,208	117,681	473
Civilian labor force...	121,258	121,880	121,924	122,012	122,572	560
Civilian employment..	114,642	115,189	115,328	115,521	115,976	455
Unemployment.....	6,616	6,691	6,596	6,491	6,595	104
Not in labor force.....	63,131	62,960	63,038	63,102	62,672	-430
Discouraged workers..	910	930	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.3	0.1
All civilian workers.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.4	.1
Adult men.....	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.8	.2
Adult women.....	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.8	.1
Teenagers.....	15.0	15.6	15.7	14.9	13.9	-1.0
White.....	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.6	0
Black.....	12.0	11.2	10.8	11.0	11.2	.2
Hispanic origin....	9.1	7.9	7.4	7.7	8.1	.4
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	105,609	106,478	106,737	p106,975	p107,438	p463
Goods-producing.....	25,498	25,650	25,648	p25,741	p25,860	p119
Service-producing....	80,111	80,828	81,089	, 31,234	p81,578	p344
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.8	34.7	34.7	p34.9	p34.7	p-0.2
Manufacturing.....	41.1	41.1	41.2	p41.2	p41.2	p0
Overtime.....	3.9	3.9	3.9	p4.0	p4.0	p0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural employment rose by 465,000 in November, seasonally adjusted, to a level of 107.4 million. Increases were widespread, occurring in both goods-producing and service-producing industries. (See table B-1.)

The service-producing sector added 345,000 jobs in November, after seasonal adjustment. Following more moderate growth in recent months, employment gains in the services industry itself totaled 195,000, with increases spread across most of its major industries. Elsewhere in the sector, transportation and public utilities jobs increased by 40,000, mostly in the transportation component. Job growth of 30,000 in wholesale trade occurred mainly in the distribution of durable goods. Employment in finance, insurance, and real estate rose by about 20,000 for the second month in a row. Employment in retail trade and in government was little changed after seasonal adjustment.

In the goods-producing sector, manufacturing employment rose sharply for the second month in a row. The 70,000 increase reflected widespread gains among durable and nondurable goods industries, with particular strength in machinery, electrical equipment, and lumber and wood products. Construction employment rose by 55,000, after seasonal adjustment, as seasonal cutbacks were smaller than usual. In contrast, the number of mining jobs continued to edge downward in November, having declined by nearly 20,000 in the past 4 months, all of it in the oil and gas extraction component.

### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls dropped by 0.2 hour in November, seasonally adjusted, to 34.7 hours, the same level as in September. In manufacturing, both the workweek and overtime were unchanged at historically high levels of 41.2 and 4.0 hours, respectively. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls, at 127.0 (1977=100), was essentially unchanged in November, as the drop in the workweek about offset the gain in employment. The index for manufacturing rose by 0.5 percent to 97.4. (See table B-5.)

### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were little changed in November on a seasonally adjusted basis. Average weekly earnings declined 0.7 percent, reflecting the decrease in the workweek. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings remained at \$9.45, and average weekly earnings fell by \$1.89 to \$327.92. (See table B-3.)

The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 181.5 (1977=100) in November, seasonally adjusted, unchanged from October. For the 12 months ended in November, the increase was 3.3 percent. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 0.4 percent during the 12-month period ending in October. The HEI is computed so as to exclude the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. (Beginning in 1989, the Hourly Earnings Index will no longer be published in this release.) (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for December 1988 will be released on Friday, January 6, 1989, at 8:30 A.M. (EST). Release dates for the balance of 1989 are as follows:

Feb. 3	May 5	Aug. 4	Nov. 3
March 10	June 2	Sept. 1	Dec. 8
April 7	July 7	Oct. 6	

## Revisions in Household Survey Data

In accordance with usual practice, the Employment Situation release of December data will incorporate annual revisions in seasonally adjusted unemployment and other labor force series. Seasonally adjusted data for the most recent 5 years are subject to revision.

## Changes in Data Presentation

Beginning with data for January 1989, this release will introduce a new table showing seasonally adjusted average hourly earnings series for major industry divisions, manufacturing earnings excluding overtime, and total private real earnings. This will coincide with the Bureau's discontinuance of the Hourly Earnings Index, now shown in table B-4.

In addition, a broader-based diffusion index of employment change, comprised of 349 private nonagricultural industries, will replace the 185-industry index shown in table B-6. This table will also include a diffusion index for manufacturing, comprised of 143 industries.

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information: (202) 523-1371  
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JANUARY 6, 1989

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: DECEMBER 1988

The number of nonfarm payroll jobs continued to increase in December and unemployment was about unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Both the overall and the civilian worker jobless rates were 5.3 percent in December.

Nonagricultural payroll employment, as measured by the monthly survey of business establishments, rose by 280,000 in December to 107.7 million, seasonally adjusted. Total civilian employment, as measured by the monthly survey of households, was about unchanged at 116.0 million. Both series had shown increases of about 400,000 in the prior month.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons (6.6 million) and the civilian worker unemployment rate (5.3 percent) were about unchanged in December, after seasonal adjustment. Although essentially unchanged over the month, both trended downward during 1988. Most of the decline occurred early in the year, but there was also a slight improvement in the final quarter. (See tables A and A-2.)

Jobless rates among the major worker groups--adult men (4.7 percent), adult women (4.7 percent), teenagers (14.8 percent), whites (4.6 percent), blacks (11.6 percent), and Hispanics (7.6 percent)--also showed little or no change over the month. Nearly all exhibited some modest improvement over the past year, however. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

Both the mean and median duration of unemployment were about unchanged in December. Most of the decline of nearly 400,000 in unemployment over the past year occurred among persons who were jobless for 15 weeks or longer. (See table A-7.)

This release incorporates annual revisions in seasonally adjusted unemployment and other labor force series derived from the household survey. Information on the revisions appears on page 5.

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment, at 116.0 million, was about unchanged over the month, after seasonal adjustment. The proportion of the civilian population with jobs (the employment-population ratio) was 62.6 percent in December, sustaining the record-high level set in the prior month. Over the past year, civilian employment increased by 2.3 million, with about two-thirds of the gain accounted for by adult women and one-third by adult men. (See table A-2.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Nov.- Dec. change
	1988		1988			
	III	IV	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force 1/.....	123,570	124,084	123,778	124,215	124,259	44
Total employment 1/..	116,892	117,539	117,260	117,652	117,705	53
Civilian labor force...	121,881	122,388	122,091	122,510	122,563	53
Civilian employment..	115,202	115,843	115,573	115,947	116,009	62
Unemployment.....	6,678	6,545	6,518	6,563	6,554	-9
Not in labor force.....	62,959	62,865	63,023	62,734	62,839	105
Discouraged workers..	941	951	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers 1/.....	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	0
All civilian workers.	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.3	-0.1
Adult men.....	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.7	-.1
Adult women.....	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	0
Teenagers.....	15.3	14.6	15.0	14.1	14.8	.7
White.....	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	0
Black.....	11.2	11.3	11.2	11.2	11.6	.4
Hispanic origin....	8.0	7.8	7.8	8.0	7.6	-.4
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	106,478	p107,335	106,973	p107,377	p107,656	p279
Goods-producing.....	25,650	p25,827	25,743	p25,844	p25,893	p49
Service-producing....	80,828	p81,509	81,230	p81,533	p81,763	p230
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.7	p34.8	34.9	p34.8	p34.7	p-0.1
Manufacturing.....	41.1	p41.1	41.2	p41.2	p41.0	p-.2
Overtime.....	3.9	p3.9	4.0	p3.9	p3.9	p0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

NOTE: Household data have been revised based on the experience through December 1988.

The civilian labor force was 122.6 million in December, essentially the same as in November, and the labor force participation rate held steady at 66.1 percent. During the course of 1988, the labor force expanded by 1.9 million. (See table A-2.)

#### Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

At 950,000 in the fourth quarter, the number of discouraged workers--persons who report that they want to work but are not looking for jobs because they believe they cannot find any--was the same as in the third quarter and has changed very little since early 1987. Just under two-thirds of the discouraged total cited job-market conditions as their reasons for not looking, while the remainder cited personal factors (such as age or lack of education). Black workers continued to make up a disproportionately large share of all discouraged workers. (See table A-14.)

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural employment rose by 280,000 in December, after seasonal adjustment, to a level of 107.7 million. Most of the employment growth occurred in the service-producing industries, but there was also a moderate gain in manufacturing. (See table B-1.)

Employment in the services sector rose by 230,000, with the growth concentrated in trade and the services industry. Retail trade added 50,000 jobs, with nearly all of the increase in general merchandise stores. Wholesale trade followed its year-long pattern of consistent job growth, adding 25,000 workers to its payrolls. In the services industry, employment rose by 125,000, with business services increasing by 45,000 and health services by 60,000. Over the year, health services employment rose by nearly 500,000.

In the goods-producing sector, manufacturing added 35,000 jobs, following much stronger increases in the previous 2 months. The manufacturers of durable goods accounted for nearly all of December's job gains, as most of the component industries showed an increase. During the course of 1988, manufacturing industries added 410,000 jobs, with the machinery industry alone accounting for about 30 percent of this increase. After a year of strong growth, construction employment showed little change in December. Mining employment, which was fairly weak in the last half of the year, also changed little in December.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls declined by 0.1 hour in December, seasonally adjusted, to 34.7 hours. In manufacturing, the workweek fell by 0.2 hour to a still high 41.0 hours, while overtime work was unchanged at 3.9 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls, at 127.1 (1977=100), was little changed in December, as was the manufacturing index at 97.0. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers edged up by 0.2 percent in December on a seasonally adjusted basis. Average weekly earnings were virtually unchanged. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings remained at \$9.45, and average weekly earnings rose by \$1.89 to \$329.81. (See table B-3.)

#### The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 181.7 (1977=100) in December, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.2 percent from November. For the 12 months ended in December, the increase was 3.4 percent. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 0.9 percent during the 12-month period ending in November. The HEI is computed so as to exclude the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and interindustry employment shifts. (Beginning with data for January 1989, the Hourly Earnings Index will no longer be published in this release.) (See table B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for January 1989 will be released on Friday, February 3, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

Revision of Seasonally Adjusted Household Survey Data

At the end of each calendar year, the BLS routinely revises the seasonally adjusted labor force series derived from the Current Population Survey (household survey) to incorporate the experience of that year. As a result of the recalculation of the seasonal adjustment factors, seasonally adjusted data for the most recent 5 years are subject to revision. (Establishment data are similarly revised at about mid-year, concurrently with the introduction of annual benchmark adjustments.)

Revisions were minimal for the aggregate unemployment rates published during 1988. For example, the civilian worker rate was revised by a tenth of a percentage point in April and June. The 1988 annual averages, 5.4 percent for all workers and 5.5 percent for civilian workers, are, of course, not affected by seasonal adjustment revisions. Table B presents revised seasonally adjusted data for major civilian labor force series for December 1987 through December 1988.

The January 1989 issue of Employment and Earnings will contain the new seasonal adjustment factors that will be used to calculate the civilian labor force and other major series for January-June of 1989. The publication will also contain a description of the current seasonal adjustment methodology and revised data for the most recent 13 months or calendar quarters for all regularly published tables containing seasonally adjusted household survey data. Revised monthly data for the 1984-88 revision period for 430 labor force series will be published in the February 1989 issue. Special tabulations of historical seasonally adjusted data (monthly and quarterly) may be purchased from the Bureau. (Contact Gloria P. Green on Area Code 202--523-1959.)

# News

United States  
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Bureau of Labor Statistics

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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JANUARY 1989

Employment rose substantially in January and unemployment was little changed, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Both the overall and the civilian worker jobless rates were 5.4 percent and have shown little movement in recent months.

The number of nonagricultural payroll jobs, as measured by the monthly survey of business establishments, increased by 410,000 in January, after seasonal adjustment. Total civilian employment derived from the survey of households, which has generally shown smaller gains than payroll employment over the past year, rose by 700,000.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the level and the rate of unemployment were little changed in January, at 6.7 million and 5.4 percent, respectively, after seasonal adjustment. These measures have hovered near their present levels for the past several months. (See table A-2.)

Similarly, jobless rates for most major worker groups, including adult men (4.6 percent), adult women (4.7 percent), whites (4.6 percent), and blacks (12.0 percent), showed little or no movement from December. The rates for teenagers (16.4 percent) and Hispanics (8.4 percent) edged up over the month. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

Both the mean and median duration of unemployment, at 12.7 and 5.7 weeks, respectively, were about unchanged from December. Persons jobless for 6 months or more, at about 750,000 in January, accounted for 11 percent of the unemployed total. (See table A-7.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment increased by 700,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis in January to a level of 116.7 million. This gain followed much smaller monthly increases during most of 1988. With the large January rise in employment, the employment-population ratio--the proportion of the working-age population that is working--rose to a record 62.9 percent. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force rose by 870,000 after seasonal adjustment to 123.4 million. As a result, the labor force participation rate also was at a record level--66.5 percent. (See table A-2.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

The number of nonagricultural payroll jobs rose by 410,000 in January, on a seasonally adjusted basis, to a level of 108.0 million. Employment growth occurred in both the goods- and service-producing sectors, with the largest gains in construction and retail trade. These two industries undergo very large seasonal movements from December to January, often resulting in erratic seasonally adjusted changes. (See table B-1.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Dec.- Jan. change
	1988		1988		1989	
	III	IV	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	123,570	124,084	124,215	124,259	125,124	865
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	116,892	117,539	117,652	117,705	118,407	702
Civilian labor force...	121,881	122,388	122,510	122,563	123,428	865
Civilian employment...	115,202	115,843	115,947	116,009	116,711	702
Unemployment.....	6,678	6,545	6,563	6,554	6,716	162
Not in labor force.....	62,959	62,865	62,734	62,839	62,216	-623
Discouraged workers..	941	951	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.4	0.1
All civilian workers.	5.5	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	.1
Adult men.....	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.6	-.1
Adult women.....	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	0
Teenagers.....	15.3	14.6	14.1	14.8	16.4	1.6
White.....	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	0
Black.....	11.2	11.3	11.2	11.6	12.0	.4
Hispanic origin....	8.0	7.8	8.0	7.6	8.4	.8
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	106,478	p107,344	107,419	p107,640	p108,048	p408
Goods-producing.....	25,650	p25,828	25,849	p25,892	p26,040	p148
Service-producing....	80,828	p81,516	81,570	p81,748	p82,008	p260
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.7	p34.8	34.8	p34.7	p34.9	p0.2
Manufacturing.....	41.1	p41.1	41.2	p40.9	p41.0	p.1
Overtime.....	3.9	p3.9	3.9	p3.9	p3.9	p0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

- 3 -

In the goods-producing sector, manufacturing posted its fourth consecutive monthly gain, adding 45,000 jobs. Growth was split between durable and nondurable goods industries, with increases in fabricated metals, motor vehicle equipment, food processing, and printing and publishing. Aided by unseasonably warm weather across much of the country, construction employment declined less than usual from December to January, increasing by 100,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Among the service-producing industries, retail trade had the largest over-the-month increase--135,000, seasonally adjusted. Wholesale trade continued to exhibit strength, with the addition of 35,000 jobs. Transportation and public utilities employment rose by 45,000, with most of the gain in transportation. The services industry saw a modest employment increase of 75,000; the health services component rose by 35,000, while business services experienced a small decline. After increasing in the prior 4 months, finance lost nearly 10,000 jobs in January.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls increased by 0.2 hour in January, seasonally adjusted, to 34.9 hours. The manufacturing workweek edged up 0.1 hour to 41.0 hours, and factory overtime remained at 3.9 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls, at 128.5 (1977=100), rose by 1.0 percent, after seasonal adjustment. The index for manufacturing increased by 0.7 percent to 97.3. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers, which had shown relatively little change in the prior 2 months, climbed by 0.6 percent in January, seasonally adjusted. Average weekly earnings rose 1.2 percent. On an unadjusted basis, average hourly earnings increased by 9 cents to \$9.55, while weekly earnings edged down 67 cents to \$329.48. Over the year, both hourly and weekly earnings increased by about 4 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for February 1989 will be released on Friday, March 10, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

# News

United States  
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Bureau of Labor Statistics

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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: FEBRUARY 1989

Employment continued to increase in February and unemployment declined, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Both the overall and the civilian worker unemployment rates were 5.1 percent, down from 5.4 percent in January.

Nonagricultural payroll jobs, as measured by the survey of business establishments, rose by 290,000 in February, with the gains confined to the service-producing industries. Total civilian employment, as measured by the household survey, rose only slightly, following a very large gain in January.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons dropped to a seasonally adjusted level of 6.3 million in February. As a result, the civilian worker unemployment rate fell to 5.1 percent, the lowest since May 1974. The rate was 5.3 or 5.4 percent in the prior 5 months. (See table A-2.)

The February decline in unemployment was limited essentially to youth 16-24 years of age. The rate for teenagers dropped by 1.6 percentage points to 14.8 percent, after rising by the same magnitude in January, and the 20-24 young adult rate fell 1.2 points to 8.1 percent. There was little change among adults 25 years and over. The unemployment rate for Hispanics, which often fluctuates from month to month, fell by 1.6 percentage points to 6.8 percent. The rate for white workers (4.3 percent) also declined, while that for blacks (11.9 percent) was about unchanged. (See tables A-2, A-3, and A-9.)

The unemployment decrease in February occurred among persons jobless for more than 5 weeks. The proportion jobless for 27 weeks and over fell to 10 percent of the unemployed, the lowest in nearly 9 years. Both the mean (average) and median duration of unemployment declined--to 12.1 and 5.3 weeks, respectively. The number of unemployed persons who had lost their jobs also dropped over the month to 2.9 million. (See tables A-7 and A-8.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Following a large increase in January, civilian employment rose only slightly in February, to a seasonally adjusted level of 116.9 million. The proportion of the population with jobs (the employment-population ratio) held at the record high level of 62.9 percent attained in the previous month. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force, which had also increased markedly in January, showed a small decline in February. As a result, the labor force participation rate edged down to 66.3 percent. Over the year, the labor force expanded by about 2.0 million. (See table A-2.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Jan.- Feb. change
	1988		1988	1989		
	III	IV	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
	Thousands of persons					
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	123,570	124,084	124,259	125,124	124,865	-259
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	116,892	117,539	117,705	118,407	118,537	130
Civilian labor force...	121,881	122,388	122,563	123,428	123,181	-247
Civilian employment..	115,202	115,843	116,009	116,711	116,853	142
Unemployment.....	6,678	6,545	6,554	6,716	6,328	-388
Not in labor force.....	62,959	62,865	62,839	62,216	62,596	380
Discouraged workers..	941	951	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.1	-0.3
All civilian workers..	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.1	-0.3
Adult men.....	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.5	-0.1
Adult women.....	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.5	-0.2
Teenagers.....	15.3	14.6	14.8	16.4	14.8	-1.6
White.....	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.3	-0.3
Black.....	11.2	11.3	11.6	12.0	11.9	-0.1
Hispanic origin....	8.0	7.8	7.6	8.4	6.8	-1.6
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment.....	106,478	107,344	107,641	p108,056	p108,345	p289
Goods-producing.....	25,650	25,827	25,889	p26,044	p26,012	p-32
Service-producing....	80,828	81,517	81,752	p82,012	p82,333	p321
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.7	34.8	34.7	p34.8	p34.7	p-0.1
Manufacturing.....	41.1	41.1	40.8	p41.0	p41.0	p0
Overtime.....	3.9	3.9	3.9	p3.9	p3.9	p0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural employment increased by 290,000 in February, after seasonal adjustment, to a level of 108.3 million. This followed an increase of 415,000 in January. The February gain was confined to the service-producing sector; employment in the goods sector decreased slightly, largely because of a weather-related decline in construction. (See table B-1.)

In the service-producing sector, the services industry led the over-the-month gains with an employment increase of 130,000. Within services, employment in the health services component rose by 45,000, and business services, which had declined in January, rebounded by 40,000. Elsewhere in the sector, retail trade added 75,000 jobs, and wholesale trade, with an increase of 30,000, continued its pattern of strong job growth.

In the goods-producing sector, the construction industry, which posted a very large increase in January, lost 20,000 jobs in February. This swing in construction employment probably reflects the shift in weather conditions from unusually mild to harsh over the 2 months. Employment in manufacturing, which had been increasing since September, showed little movement in February. The only sizable change was a decline of 15,000 in auto employment; this followed a similar increase in the prior month. In mining, employment was also about unchanged over the month.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged down by 0.1 hour to 34.7 hours in February, after seasonal adjustment, while both the factory workweek and overtime were unchanged at 41.0 and 3.9 hours, respectively. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls, at 127.9 (1977=100), declined by 0.3 percent, seasonally adjusted. The index for manufacturing, at 97.2, showed little change. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Both average hourly and average weekly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were little changed in February, after seasonal adjustment, following large increases in January. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings remained at \$9.54, and average weekly earnings declined by \$1.91 to \$327.22. Hourly earnings rose by 4.0 percent over the past year, and weekly earnings were up 3.4 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for March 1989 will be released on Friday, April 7, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

# News

United States  
Department  
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Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: MARCH 1989

Employment grew moderately in March and unemployment edged down, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall jobless rate was 4.9 percent and the civilian worker rate was 5.0 percent, compared with 5.1 percent for both measures in February. Both rates were at their lowest points since December 1973.

Nonagricultural payroll employment, as measured by the survey of business establishments, grew by 180,000 in March, well below the monthly average of 300,000 over the prior 12 months. Total civilian employment, as measured by the survey of households, rose by 285,000.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the number of unemployed persons and the civilian worker unemployment rate edged down in March after seasonal adjustment, to 6.1 million and 5.0 percent, respectively. Over the past year, the unemployment rate has fallen six-tenths of a percentage point, and the number of unemployed persons has declined by 700,000. (See table A-2.)

The jobless rate for adult men fell to 4.2 percent in March, with improvement concentrated among 20 to 24 year-olds and those 55 and over. Jobless rates for blacks (10.9 percent) and teenagers (13.7 percent) also edged down over the month. Following a substantial drop in February, the unemployment rate for Hispanics (6.5 percent) was little changed in March, as were the rates for adult women (4.6 percent) and whites (4.2 percent). (See tables A-2, A-3, and A-9.)

Both the mean and median duration of unemployment were about unchanged in March. The number of unemployed persons who were jobless for less than 5 weeks declined by 190,000 to a seasonally adjusted level of 3.1 million. Over the year, however, the bulk of the decline in unemployment occurred among persons jobless for 15 weeks or longer--the long-term unemployed. (See table A-7.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment increased by 285,000 in March to a seasonally adjusted level of 117.1 million--3.0 million more than a year earlier. All of the over-the-month increase occurred among men, whereas the over-the-year gain was split about equally among men and women. The proportion of

the population with jobs (the employment-population ratio) reached a new high of 63.0 percent in March. The civilian labor force was little changed over the month, and the labor force participation rate held at 66.3 percent. (See table A-2.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Feb.- Mar. change
	1988	1989	1989			
	IV	I	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	124,084	124,979	125,124	124,865	124,948	83
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	117,539	118,588	118,407	118,537	118,820	283
Civilian labor force...	122,388	123,291	123,428	123,181	123,264	83
Civilian employment..	115,843	116,900	116,711	116,853	117,136	283
Unemployment.....	6,545	6,391	6,716	6,328	6,128	-200
Not in labor force.....	62,865	62,482	62,216	62,596	62,633	37
Discouraged workers..	951	855	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	5.3	5.1	5.4	5.1	4.9	-0.2
All civilian workers.	5.3	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.0	-.1
Adult men.....	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.2	-.3
Adult women.....	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.6	.1
Teenagers.....	14.6	15.0	16.4	14.8	13.7	-1.1
White.....	4.6	4.4	4.6	4.3	4.2	-.1
Black.....	11.3	11.6	12.0	11.9	10.9	-1.0
Hispanic origin....	7.8	7.2	8.4	6.8	6.5	-.3
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	107,344	p108,312	108,065	p108,345	p108,525	p180
Goods-producing.....	25,827	p26,017	26,048	p26,014	p25,988	p-26
Service-producing....	81,517	p82,295	82,017	p82,331	p82,537	p206
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.8	p34.7	34.8	p34.6	p34.6	p0
Manufacturing.....	41.1	p41.0	41.1	p41.1	p40.9	p-0.2
Overtime.....	3.9	p3.9	3.9	p3.9	p3.9	p0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

The number of discouraged workers--persons who want to work but have not looked for jobs because they believe they cannot find any--edged down by about 100,000 in the first quarter of 1989 to a seasonally adjusted level of 855,000. Blacks accounted for 3 out of 10 discouraged workers, even though they make up only about 1 in 10 of the working-age population. (See table A-14.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Employment growth in nonagricultural establishments moderated in March, as payroll jobs increased by 180,000 to 108.5 million, seasonally adjusted. (See table B-1.) The over-the-month gain would have been somewhat larger except for about 25,000 airline workers who were off payrolls because of labor-management disputes.

Virtually all of the employment growth in March was in the service-producing sector, with gains concentrated in the services and trade industries. In the services industry, employment rose by 110,000, about in line with recent average growth for that industry. Within services, employment in the fast-growing health services component increased by 55,000. Retail trade added 75,000 jobs, and employment in wholesale trade increased by 25,000, with most of the gain occurring in durable goods distribution. There was little over-the-month change in finance, insurance, and real estate; government; and in transportation and public utilities, where employment was held down by the airline workers' strike.

In the goods-producing sector, employment in the construction industry declined by 50,000 in March, after seasonal adjustment. There was also a decline in February, following a very large increase in January. Construction employment patterns often vary substantially in the early months of the year owing to changeable weather conditions in many parts of the country. However, some of the recent employment weakness in the industry may reflect a more general slowdown in construction activity, particularly in the residential sector. Manufacturing employment showed little movement for the second straight month, following strong growth in the previous 4 months. In mining, employment in the oil and gas extraction component rose slightly in March.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

Average weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls were unchanged in March at 34.6, after seasonal adjustment. In manufacturing, the workweek declined by 0.2 hour to 40.9 hours, while overtime was unchanged at 3.9 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls, at 127.9 (1977=100), was little changed in March after seasonal adjustment. The index for the manufacturing industry was unchanged at 97.3. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Both average hourly and average weekly earnings rose by 0.4 percent in March, after seasonal adjustment. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings increased by 2 cents to \$9.56 in March, and average weekly earnings rose by \$1.64 to \$328.86. Over the year, both hourly and weekly earnings increased by 4.1 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for April 1989 will be released on Friday, May 5, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

**NEWS**United States  
Department  
of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information: (202) 523-1371  
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**THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: APRIL 1989**

Unemployment rose in April and payroll employment showed little growth, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall jobless rate was 5.2 percent and the civilian worker rate was 5.3 percent, each three-tenths of a point above March levels.

Nonagricultural payroll employment, as measured by the survey of business establishments, rose by 115,000 in April, the second straight month that the payroll survey has shown relatively small job gains. Total civilian employment, as measured by the survey of households, was about unchanged over the month.

**Unemployment (Household Survey Data)**

Both the number of unemployed persons and the civilian worker unemployment rate increased in April, after seasonal adjustment, offsetting much of the improvement that had occurred in February and March. The number of unemployed persons increased by 420,000 to a seasonally adjusted level of 6.5 million, and the civilian worker unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point to 5.3 percent. The increase returned both figures to the levels that prevailed in the last quarter of 1988. (See table A-2.)

The unemployment rate for adult men rose four-tenths of a percentage point in April to 4.6 percent. The rate for whites also rose to 4.6 percent; the rate for Hispanics was up sharply over the month to 8.3 percent, reversing a decline of a similar magnitude in February. Jobless rates for adult women (4.7 percent), teenagers (14.4 percent), and blacks (10.8 percent) were little changed in April. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The median duration of unemployment, at 5.4 weeks, was unchanged from the previous month. The number of persons working part time for economic reasons--often referred to as the partially unemployed--edged up by 175,000 over the month to a seasonally adjusted level of 5.1 million. (See tables A-7 and A-4.)

**Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)**

Total civilian employment was unchanged in April, after seasonal adjustment, at 117.1 million, and the employment-population ratio--the proportion of the population that is employed--held steady at 63.0 percent, the record high reached in March. (See table A-2.)

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The civilian labor force rose by 400,000 over the month to 123.7 million. The labor force participation rate rose to 66.5 percent, returning to the high reached in January. Over the year, the civilian labor force has grown by 2.3 million, three-fifths of which occurred among adult women. (See table A-2.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Mar.- Apr. change
	1988	1989	1989			
	IV	I	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	124,084	124,979	124,865	124,948	125,343	395
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	117,539	118,588	118,537	118,820	118,797	-23
Civilian labor force..	122,388	123,291	123,181	123,264	123,659	395
Civilian employment..	115,843	116,900	116,853	117,136	117,113	-23
Unemployment.....	6,545	6,391	6,328	6,128	6,546	418
Not in labor force....	62,865	62,482	62,596	62,633	62,365	-268
Discouraged workers..	951	855	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	5.3	5.1	5.1	4.9	5.2	0.3
All civilian workers:	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.3	.3
Adult men.....	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.2	4.6	.4
Adult women.....	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.7	.1
Teenagers.....	14.6	15.0	14.8	13.7	14.4	.7
White.....	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.6	.4
Black.....	11.3	11.6	11.9	10.9	10.8	-.1
Hispanic origin...	7.8	7.2	6.8	6.5	8.3	1.8
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment....	107,344	p108,306	108,341	p108,512	p108,629	p117
Goods-producing.....	25,827	p26,015	26,011	p25,986	p25,991	p5
Service-producing....	81,517	p82,291	82,330	p82,526	p82,638	p112
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.8	p34.7	34.6	p34.6	p35.0	p0.4
Manufacturing.....	41.1	p41.1	41.1	p41.0	p41.3	p.3
Overtime.....	3.9	p3.9	3.9	p3.9	p4.0	p.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.  
p=preliminary

N.A.=not available.

### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Employment growth in nonagricultural establishments continued to slow, as payroll jobs increased by 115,000 in April to a seasonally adjusted level of 108.6 million. Payroll employment gains have averaged only 145,000 for the last 2 months, compared to 300,000 per month in the prior 12 months. In addition to being relatively weak, employment growth in April was very narrowly concentrated; the services industry alone accounted for 100,000 of the over-the-month gain.

The number of jobs in the goods-producing sector was unchanged in April, following 2 months of decline. Manufacturing employment was flat for the third consecutive month, in contrast to the October-to-January period when it added some 250,000 jobs. Employment in machinery, which has accounted for a quarter of manufacturing's growth in the last 2 years, has shown little change over the last 2 months. The number of jobs in electrical equipment has fallen by 25,000 in the last 5 months. The lumber and wood products industry has also declined recently, as employment was down by about 15,000 since January, largely a reflection of recent weakness in the construction industry.

Construction employment was unchanged in April, seasonally adjusted, following back-to-back declines in February and March. Employment in mining rose for the second consecutive month, as oil and gas extraction added 10,000 jobs in the last 3 months, following 7 months of job losses.

In the service-producing sector, the only significant employment growth took place in the services industry. Employment in that industry grew by 100,000 in April, even though health services was not as strong as usual (up 35,000) and business services, following an erratic pattern recently, was also weak (up about 15,000). Above-average growth was reported in several other services industries. After rising rapidly in the first quarter, employment in retail trade was unchanged over the month. Wholesale trade added 10,000 jobs in April, much less than its average pace of more than 25,000 per month since the end of 1987. Except for a slight decline in the real estate component, employment in the finance, insurance, and real estate industry was about unchanged.

### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls showed an increase of 0.4 hour in April, seasonally adjusted, to 35.0 hours. Similarly, the manufacturing workweek increased 0.3 hour to 41.3 hours, while manufacturing overtime edged up 0.1 hour to 4.0 hours. These seasonally adjusted gains in weekly hours are overstated, however, because of the way the seasonal adjustment process is affected by the timing of the Easter week; historically, large April movements in hours (both increases and decreases) have been reversed in May. (See table B-2.)

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The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls, at 129.5 (1977=100), climbed 1.1 percent in April, after seasonal adjustment. The manufacturing index rose 0.6 percent to 97.7. These increases were also affected by the overstatement in hours discussed above. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers increased 0.7 percent in April, seasonally adjusted, following increases totaling only 0.3 percent over the prior 2 months. Average weekly earnings climbed by 1.9 percent, largely reflecting the movement in the hours series. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose by 5 cents to \$9.60, and average weekly earnings jumped \$5.56 to \$334.08. Over the past year, hourly earnings have risen by 4.0 percent and weekly earnings were up 4.3 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

#### Revisions in the Establishment Survey Data

The Employment Situation news release of data for May will introduce revisions in the establishment-based series on nonagricultural payroll employment, hours, and earnings to reflect the regular annual benchmark adjustments and updated seasonal adjustment factors.

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The Employment Situation for May 1989 will be released on Friday, June 2, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

# News

United State  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: MAY 1989

Employment and unemployment were little changed in May, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate was 5.1 percent and the civilian worker rate was 5.2 percent. This compares with 5.2 and 5.3 percent, respectively, in the previous month.

Nonagricultural payroll employment--as measured by the survey of business establishments--edged up by 100,000 in May, after seasonal adjustment, and total civilian employment--as measured by the household survey--showed little growth. Results from both surveys indicate that the pace of employment growth has moderated in recent months.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the number of unemployed persons and the civilian worker unemployment rate were little changed in May, after seasonal adjustment. A total of 6.4 million persons were unemployed; the civilian worker jobless rate was 5.2 percent. Both figures are somewhat below those of a year earlier. (See table A-2.)

Jobless rates for adult women (4.8 percent), teenagers (15.2 percent), blacks (11.0 percent), whites (4.4 percent), and Hispanics (7.9 percent) all held about steady from April to May. An exception to this pattern was a three-tenths of a percentage point decrease in the jobless rate for adult men to 4.3 percent; this followed an increase of a similar magnitude in April. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

Average (mean) duration of unemployment, at 11.8 weeks, declined nearly a full week over the month, as the number of very long-term unemployed--those who are jobless for 6 months or more--declined by 125,000. Median duration, at 5.3 weeks, was about unchanged. (See table A-7.)

The number of persons working part time for economic reasons--often referred to as the partially unemployed--decreased by about 300,000 in May to 4.8 million. (See table A-4.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment was little changed over the month at a seasonally adjusted level of 117.2 million. The employment-population ratio--the proportion

of the population that is employed--maintained its record high 63.0 percent for the third consecutive month. (See table A-2.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Apr.- May change
	1988	1989	1989			
	IV	I	Mar.	Apr.	May	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
	Thousands of persons					
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	124,084	124,979	124,948	125,343	125,283	-60
Total employment <u>1/</u> ...	117,539	118,588	118,820	118,797	118,888	91
Civilian labor force....	122,388	123,291	123,264	123,659	123,610	-49
Civilian employment...	115,843	116,900	117,136	117,113	117,215	102
Unemployment.....	6,545	6,391	6,128	6,546	6,395	-151
Not in labor force... ..	62,865	62,482	62,633	62,365	62,571	206
Discouraged workers...	951	855	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	5.3	5.1	4.9	5.2	5.1	-0.1
All civilian workers	5.3	5.2	5.0	5.3	5.2	-.1
Adult men.....	4.7	4.5	4.2	4.6	4.3	-.3
Adult women.....	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.8	.1
Teenagers.....	14.6	15.0	13.7	14.4	15.2	.8
White.....	4.6	4.4	4.2	4.6	4.4	-.2
Black.....	11.3	11.6	10.9	10.8	11.0	.2
Hispanic origin.....	7.8	7.2	6.5	8.3	7.9	-.4
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA <u>2/</u></b>						
	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment.....	106,799	107,680	107,888	p108,094	p108,195	p101
Goods-producing.....	25,452	25,634	25,646	p25,664	p25,631	p-33
Service-producing.....	81,346	82,047	82,242	p82,430	p82,564	p134
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.7	34.7	34.7	p34.9	p34.6	p-0.3
Manufacturing.....	41.1	41.1	41.0	p41.2	p41.0	p-.2
Overtime.....	3.9	3.9	4.0	p4.0	p3.8	p-.2

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

2/ Establishment data have been revised to reflect March 1988 benchmarks and updated seasonal adjustment factors.

N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

After rising substantially in the prior month, the civilian labor force was little changed in May at 123.6 million. Over the year, the civilian labor force rose by 2.4 million, with adult women accounting for 1.7 million of the gain and adult men 800,000. (See table A-2.)

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Growth in nonagricultural employment continued to slow in May, as the number of payroll jobs edged up by 100,000 to a level of 108.2 million, seasonally adjusted. (See table B-1.) Averaging 160,000 over the last 3 months, payroll employment gains have been well off their average pace of 275,000 in the prior 12-month period. Virtually all of May's modest employment growth occurred in the service-producing sector, as the goods-producing industries experienced a small job decline.

Employment in the goods sector lost what small gains it had made between February and April, with a decline of 35,000 in May. Manufacturing employment, off by 30,000 in the last 2 months, returned to its January level. The weakness in manufacturing was widespread, as the number of jobs in most of its major industry groups declined slightly or showed little change. Employment in the electrical equipment industry declined for the sixth consecutive month. Construction hiring was just short of seasonal expectations, and, as a result, the number of construction jobs decreased slightly on a seasonally adjusted basis. Construction employment has shown no consistent growth since January. The number of mining jobs, which had edged up in March and April, was unchanged in May.

Job gains in the service-producing sector have also slowed in recent months. Employment in wholesale trade showed no change in May, following a gain of only 10,000 in April; this is in contrast to monthly gains averaging 20,000 in the prior year. Retail trade has also shown little or no job growth in the last 2 months, after posting strong gains in late 1988 and early this year. Employment in the services industry rose by 65,000 in May, well below its monthly average of about 110,000 over the prior year. Gains in business services (up only 10,000 in May and 40,000 over the last 3 months) have been well off the pace sustained throughout most of the expansion. In contrast, health services, with a job gain of 35,000 in May, has shown steady monthly growth. Another consistent job gainer has been the transportation industry, where a May increase of 15,000 was about average for that industry. Slight employment expansion continued to be registered in finance, insurance, and real estate.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls decreased 0.3 hour to 34.6 hours in May, after seasonal adjustment. This marked a return to the levels prevailing in February and March, following an overstated increase in April. Similarly, both the factory workweek and overtime fell 0.2 hour, to 41.0 and 3.8 hours, respectively. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls, at 127.5 (1977=100), fell 0.9 percent in May, on a seasonally-adjusted basis, reversing a similar increase in April. The manufacturing index declined by 0.7 percent to 96.5. Both movements were responses to the April overstatement in hours. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Following a sizable increase in April, average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were about unchanged in May, seasonally adjusted. Reflecting the drop in the hours series, average weekly earnings showed a seasonally adjusted decline of 0.8 percent. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings were little changed, while average weekly earnings rose 1.0 percent. Over the past year, hourly earnings have risen by 3.7 percent and weekly earnings by 3.4 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

#### Revisions in the Establishment Survey Data

In accordance with annual practice, the establishment survey data have been revised to reflect complete counts of employment (benchmarks). These counts are principally derived from unemployment insurance tax records for March 1988. The effects of the benchmark revision on current data are shown in table B, which presents data for February 1989. February data are used because they represent the last month of final published estimates prior to this benchmark revision.

Also in accordance with usual practice, seasonal adjustment factors have been recalculated to incorporate the experience through March 1989. As a result, seasonally adjusted series for the past 5 years are subject to revision. The BLS uses the X-11 ARIMA (Auto-Regressive Integrated Moving Average) seasonal adjustment methodology to seasonally adjust establishment-based employment, hours, and earnings data. In the past, the X-11 ARIMA program has been run once each year after benchmarking and seasonal adjustment factors have been projected and published for 12 months ahead. This year, the Bureau is introducing a modification to this procedure to parallel that used in seasonally adjusting household survey data. Projected seasonal adjustment factors are now calculated only for the first 6 months after benchmarking. A second set of projected seasonal factors, for use during the subsequent period, will be computed based upon data through September and introduced with the release of data for October. Revisions of historical data for the most recent 5 years will continue to be made once a year, coincident with the benchmark revisions.

The BLS is also working on an extension to X-11 ARIMA to allow it to adjust more adequately for the effects of the presence or absence of religious holidays in the April survey reference period (as well as for the occasional effects of Labor Day in the September survey reference period). If this research proves successful, this extension will be introduced for the computation of the seasonal adjustment factors to be published in November 1989.

All unadjusted establishment data series from April 1987 forward and all seasonally adjusted series from January 1984 forward are affected by the annual revisions announced today. The June 1989 issue of Employment and Earnings will contain a discussion of the effects of the benchmark revisions, revised seasonal adjustment factors to be used during April-September 1989, and an explanation of

the seasonal adjustment methodology. This issue will also present revised estimates for all regularly published tables containing national establishment survey data on employment, hours, and earnings. All of the revised historical series will be published in a special supplement to Employment and Earnings, which is expected to be issued in July. This supplement, when combined with the historical volume, Employment, Hours, and Earnings, United States, 1909-84 (BLS Bulletin 1312-12), will comprise the full historical series on national data obtained from the establishment survey.

Table B. Establishment survey employment estimates for February 1989, not seasonally adjusted

(In thousands)

Industry	February 1989 employment estimates		Difference
	Before revision	As revised	
Total nonfarm employment.....	106,937	106,342	-595
Total private.....	89,041	88,463	-578
Mining.....	705	696	-9
Construction.....	4,957	4,747	-210
Manufacturing.....	19,652	19,518	-134
Transportation and public utilities.....	5,635	5,597	-38
Wholesale trade.....	6,305	6,115	-190
Retail trade.....	19,089	18,937	-152
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....	6,689	6,698	9
Services.....	26,009	26,155	146
Government.....	17,896	17,879	-17
Federal.....	2,969	2,969	0
State.....	4,177	4,189	12
Local.....	10,750	10,721	-29

The Employment Situation for June 1989 will be released on Friday, July 7, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information: (202) 523-1371  
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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JUNE 1989

Unemployment was little changed in June, and employment rose moderately, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall unemployment rate was 5.2 percent and the civilian worker rate was 5.3 percent; they had been 5.1 and 5.2 percent, respectively, in May.

Nonagricultural payroll employment--as measured by the survey of business establishments--increased by 180,000 in June, seasonally adjusted, about in line with recent gains. However, the number of jobs in the goods-producing sector declined by 50,000. Total civilian employment--as measured by the survey of households--rose by 325,000 over the month.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons, 6.6 million, and the civilian worker unemployment rate, 5.3 percent, were little changed in June, after seasonal adjustment. Both series were also at about the same levels as a year earlier. (See table A-2.)

The jobless rates for adult men (4.3 percent), adult women (4.9 percent), teenagers (15.6 percent), whites (4.5 percent), and Hispanics (8.1 percent) were essentially unchanged from the previous month. There was an increase in the rate for young adult workers (20-24 year-olds), from 7.7 to 8.9 percent. Black workers (11.9 percent) also experienced an increase in their unemployment rate, as there was a rise in joblessness among young black women. (See tables A-2, A-3, and A-9.)

The median duration of unemployment, at 5.5 weeks, was about unchanged from the previous month and was down only slightly over the year. Average (mean) duration of unemployment declined seven-tenths of a week in June to a seasonally adjusted level of 11.1 weeks. This measure has fallen by more than 2 weeks over the past year, largely due to a decline in the number of long-term unemployed. The number of newly unemployed persons, those jobless for less than 5 weeks, rose to 3.3 million in June, after having held at 3.0 or 3.1 million for most of the last year and a half. Paralleling this was an increase of 200,000 in unemployed reentrants to the labor force. (See tables A-7 and A-8.)

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment increased by 325,000 in June to a seasonally adjusted level of 117.5 million, as the employment-population ratio--the proportion of the population that is employed--reached a new high of 63.1 percent. Over the past year, employment has risen by 2.5 million. (See table A-2.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			May-June change
	1989	1989	1989			
	I	II	Apr.	May	June	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	124,979	125,464	125,343	125,283	125,768	485
Total employment <u>1/</u> ...	118,588	118,964	118,797	118,888	119,207	319
Civilian labor force....	123,291	123,790	123,659	123,610	124,102	492
Civilian employment...	116,900	117,289	117,113	117,215	117,541	326
Unemployment.....	6,391	6,501	6,546	6,395	6,561	166
Not in labor force.....	62,482	62,388	62,365	62,571	62,228	-343
Discouraged workers...	855	869	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
<b>Unemployment rates:</b>						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	0.1
All civilian workers	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	.1
Adult men.....	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.3	4.3	0
Adult women.....	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.9	.1
Teenagers.....	15.0	15.1	14.4	15.2	15.6	.4
White.....	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.5	.1
Black.....	11.6	11.2	10.8	11.0	11.9	.9
Hispanic origin.....	7.2	8.1	8.3	7.9	8.1	.2
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment.....	p107,680	p108,299	108,101	p108,308	p108,488	p180
Goods-producing.....	p25,634	p25,647	25,671	p25,661	p25,610	p-51
Service-producing.....	p82,047	p82,652	82,430	p82,647	p82,878	p231
Hours of work						
<b>Average weekly hours:</b>						
Total private.....	34.7	p34.7	34.9	p34.6	p34.6	p 0
Manufacturing.....	41.1	p41.1	41.3	p41.0	p40.9	p-0.1
Overtime.....	3.9	p3.8	3.9	p3.8	p3.8	p 0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

p=preliminary

N.A.=not available.

The civilian labor force increased by 490,000 in June to a seasonally adjusted level of 124.1 million. The labor force participation rate, at 66.6 percent, was at a record high. Over the year, the civilian labor force has risen by 2.5 million, 1.5 million of which occurred among adult women and 1.2 million among adult men. (See table A-2.)

#### Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

The quarterly estimate of discouraged workers--persons who want to work but have not looked for jobs because they believe they cannot find any--was about unchanged in the April-June period, at a seasonally adjusted level of 870,000. Blacks accounted for 37 percent of discouraged workers, even though they make up only 11 percent of the civilian working-age population. (See table A-14.)

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment rose by 180,000 in June to a level of 108.5 million, seasonally adjusted. This gain was about the same as the increase for the previous month, as revised, and occurred entirely within the service-producing sector. (See table B-1.)

In the goods sector, employment decreased by 50,000 in June, returning the job total to its January level. Manufacturing employment fell for the third consecutive month and was 50,000 below the March level. Employment in auto manufacturing was down by 15,000, as production was cut back because of large inventories. Employment in the electrical equipment industry continued its downward trend; since November, the industry has lost 30,000 jobs. There were also small but widespread over-the-month declines in other industries, particularly in the durable goods sector. One exception to this pattern of job loss was the machinery industry, where employment has continued to increase in each month of 1989, although at a slower pace than in 1988.

The number of mining jobs fell over the month, as about 10,000 workers were off payrolls for the entire reference period due to labor-management disputes. Construction employment was little changed for the second straight month.

The service-producing sector continued to show job gains. Employment in the services industry itself rose by 160,000 in June, with business and health services both posting large increases. Employment in the transportation industry, which had increased on a consistent basis for the last 3 years, rose by another 20,000. Insurance and real estate jobs continued to rise. After exhibiting strong-to-moderate growth during 1988 and early this year, employment levels were little changed in both wholesale and retail trade.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

Average weekly hours for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls, at 34.6 hours in June, seasonally adjusted, were unchanged over the month. The manufacturing workweek decreased by 0.1 hour to 40.9 in June, while factory overtime (3.8 hours) was unchanged. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls, at 127.8 (1977=100), increased by 0.2 percent, after seasonal adjustment. The index for manufacturing declined 0.3 percent to 96.2, due to the drop in both the hours and employment levels. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Both the average hourly and weekly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were about unchanged in June, after seasonal adjustment. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings inched down by 1 cent to \$9.58 and average weekly earnings increased by \$1.57 to \$332.43. Average hourly earnings rose 3.8 percent over the past year. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for July 1989 will be released on Friday, August 4, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JULY 1989

Payroll employment continued to increase in July and unemployment was little changed, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor reported today. Both the overall jobless rate and that for civilian workers were 5.2 percent.

Nonagricultural payroll employment, as measured by the survey of business establishments, rose by 170,000. Jobs in the private sector (excluding government) increased by 195,000. Total civilian employment, as measured by the survey of households, showed little change over the month.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons, 6.5 million, and the civilian worker unemployment rate, 5.2 percent, were virtually unchanged in July, after seasonal adjustment. In fact, the civilian worker rate has been either 5.2 or 5.3 percent for 4 consecutive months. Jobless rates for adult men (4.3 percent), adult women (5.0 percent), and whites (4.6 percent) held steady from the previous month. There was a small decline among teenagers (to 14.7 percent). The rate for Hispanic workers (9.0 percent) rose, while that for black workers (10.9 percent) showed a decrease, largely because the quite volatile rate for black teenagers (27.4 percent) fell markedly. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The number of persons working part time for economic reasons--sometimes referred to as the partially unemployed--was at a seasonally adjusted level of 4.8 million in July. This series has been trending down over the past year. (See table A-4.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment was essentially unchanged in July at a seasonally adjusted level of 117.5 million. The proportion of the working-age population that is employed (the employment-population ratio) was 63.0 percent, about where it has been for the past 7 months. Civilian employment has grown by 2.4 million over the past year. (See table A-2.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			June July change
	1989		1989			
	I	II	May	June	July	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force 1/.....	124,979	125,464	125,283	125,768	125,622	-146
Total employment 1/.	118,588	118,964	118,888	119,207	119,125	- 82
Civilian labor force..	123,291	123,790	123,610	124,102	123,956	-146
Civilian employment..	116,900	117,289	117,215	117,541	117,459	- 82
Unemployment.....	6,391	6,501	6,395	6,561	6,497	- 64
Not in labor force....	62,482	62,388	62,571	62,228	62,527	299
Discouraged workers.	855	869	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers 1/.....	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.2	0
All civilian workers:	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.2	-0.1
Adult men.....	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	0
Adult women.....	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.0	.1
Teenagers.....	15.0	15.1	15.2	15.6	14.7	-.9
White.....	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.6	.1
Black.....	11.6	11.2	11.0	11.9	10.9	-1.0
Hispanic origin...	7.2	8.1	7.9	8.1	9.0	.9
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment....	107,680	p108,324	108,310	p108,560	p108,729	p169
Goods-producing.....	25,634	p25,665	25,672	p25,651	p25,680	p29
Service-producing....	82,047	p82,659	82,638	p82,909	p83,049	p140
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.7	p34.7	34.6	p34.6	p34.9	p0.3
Manufacturing.....	41.1	p41.1	41.0	p41.0	p41.0	p 0
Overtime.....	3.9	p3.8	3.8	p3.8	p3.9	p .1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

The civilian labor force, at 124.0 million, and the labor force participation rate, 66.5 percent, were also about unchanged from the previous month. Over the past year, the civilian labor force has risen by 2.4 million, as the number of adult women and men in the labor force expanded by 1.6 million and 1.0 million, respectively, while the number of teenagers--a declining population group--fell by 270,000. (See table A-2.)

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment rose by 170,000 in July to a level of 108.7 million, seasonally adjusted. Private sector employment rose by 195,000. Over the past year, payroll jobs have increased by 2.9 million. (See table B-1.)

In the goods-producing sector, job growth was confined to the construction industry, where employment rose by about 35,000 in July, after being about unchanged during the prior 2 months. Mining employment was down for the second month in a row, due to labor-management disputes.

In manufacturing, employment held steady in July, following 3 consecutive months of decline. Increases in nondurable goods, particularly in food processing, were offset by decreases in durable goods industries. The durable goods sector has lost 55,000 jobs over the past 4 months, thus reversing much of the job growth that occurred in late 1988 and early 1989. Employment in the auto industry dropped sharply for the second straight month, losing over 10,000 jobs in July, as companies continued to slow production because of large inventories and slow sales. Employment in the electrical equipment industry continued its downward trend. The machinery industry, however, showed a small increase.

In the service-producing sector, jobs in the services industry grew by a modest 75,000, following a gain of 210,000 in the prior month. The health services component rose by 30,000, while business services was about unchanged. Retail trade rose by 50,000 over the month, with the largest increases occurring in food stores and eating and drinking places. The transportation industry continued to exhibit strength, with an addition of 25,000 jobs. Employment in finance, insurance, and real estate rose by 10,000 in July. Little employment growth occurred in wholesale trade. Recent employment growth in this industry has been at a much slower pace than earlier in the year.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls increased 0.3 hour to 34.9 hours, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing workweek held at 41.0 hours, while factory overtime, at 3.9 hours, was up 0.1 hour. (See table B-2.)

Mainly reflecting the increase in the workweek, the index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls increased by 1.1 percent to 129.4 (1977=100), after seasonal adjustment. The index for manufacturing rose slightly over the month to 96.5. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers increased 0.8 percent in July, seasonally adjusted, while average weekly earnings climbed by 1.7 percent. The large increase in hourly earnings followed 2 months of very small changes. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings increased by 5 cents to \$9.63 and average weekly earnings jumped \$4.63 to \$338.01. Over the year, both average hourly earnings and average weekly earnings increased by 4.2 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for August 1989 will be released on Friday, September 1, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

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SEPTEMBER 1, 1989

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: AUGUST 1989

Employment rose moderately and unemployment was unchanged in August, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall jobless rate was 5.1 percent and the civilian worker rate was 5.2 percent; both measures were 5.2 percent in July.

Nonagricultural payroll employment, as measured by the survey of business establishments, rose by 110,000 in August to 108.9 million. The overall increase would have been twice as large were it not for the effects of strike activity during the survey reference period. Total civilian employment, as measured by the survey of households, was little changed over the month.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

At 6.4 million, seasonally adjusted, the number of unemployed persons was essentially unchanged in August. The civilian unemployment rate held at 5.2 percent over the month and has shown little movement since April. August jobless rates for adult men (4.4 percent), teenagers (14.5 percent), whites (4.5 percent), blacks (11.1 percent), and Hispanics (9.0 percent) were all about the same as in the previous month. The rate for adult women fell 0.3 percentage point to 4.7 percent, after rising by half a point over the prior 5 months. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

At 11.3 weeks in August, mean duration of unemployment declined over the month, as the number of long-term unemployed--those jobless for 15 weeks or more--fell by 170,000. Median duration of unemployment was also lower in August than in July, but that change resulted primarily from an improved method of calculating the median. (See table A-7.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment was 117.6 million, seasonally adjusted, in August, little changed from the previous month. The proportion of the working-age population that was employed (the employment-population ratio) held at 63.0 percent. It has been at or near that high level since the beginning of the year. (See table A-2.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted<sup>1/</sup>

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			July-Aug. change
	1989		1989			
	I	II	June	July	Aug.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force 1/.....	124,979	125,464	125,768	125,622	125,706	84
Total employment 1/..	118,588	118,964	119,207	119,125	119,285	160
Civilian labor force...	123,291	123,790	124,102	123,956	124,018	62
Civilian employment...	116,900	117,289	117,541	117,459	117,597	138
Unemployment.....	6,391	6,501	6,561	6,497	6,421	-76
Not in labor force....	62,482	62,388	62,228	62,527	62,580	53
Discouraged workers..	855	869	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
<b>Unemployment rates:</b>						
All workers 1/.....	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1	-0.1
All civilian workers:	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	.0
Adult men.....	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.4	.1
Adult women.....	4.6	4.8	4.9	5.0	4.7	-.3
Teenagers.....	15.0	15.1	15.6	14.7	14.5	-.2
White.....	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5	-.1
Black.....	11.6	11.2	11.9	10.9	11.1	.2
Hispanic origin...	7.2	8.1	8.1	9.0	9.0	.0
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment....	107,680	108,339	108,607	p108,791	p108,901	p110
Goods-producing....	25,634	25,664	25,648	p25,683	p25,724	p41
Service-producing...	82,047	82,676	82,959	p83,108	p83,177	p69
Hours of work						
<b>Average weekly hours:</b>						
Total private.....	34.7	34.7	34.6	p34.8	p34.6	p-0.2
Manufacturing.....	41.1	41.1	41.0	p41.0	p40.9	p-.1
Overtime.....	3.9	3.8	3.8	p3.9	p3.8	p-.1
1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces. p=preliminary.						
N.A.=not available.						

The civilian labor force (124.0 million) and the labor force participation rate (66.5 percent) both were unchanged from July, after seasonal adjustment. Over the past year, the labor force has risen by 2.0 million. (See table A-2.)

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment rose by 110,000 in August to a seasonally adjusted level of 108.9 million. The size of the increase was reduced by a net loss of 108,000 workers from payrolls due to labor-management disputes. Over the past year, nonfarm employment has increased by 3.0 million. (See table B-1.)

In the goods-producing sector, mining employment grew by 20,000 in August, as workers in the coal industry returned to work from wildcat strikes. Construction employment increased slightly in August, following a large job gain in the previous month.

Manufacturing employment showed little growth over the month. In the durable goods sector, only the auto industry posted a substantial gain, as an increase of 25,000 offset declines in the previous 2 months. Job losses continued in the electrical equipment industry, where employment has declined by more than 40,000 since last November. Employment in nondurable goods was virtually unchanged in August. Food industry employment fell slightly after showing gains in the previous 2 months, and printing and publishing continued its pattern of small job gains.

In the service-producing sector, employment in communication and public utilities fell by 130,000, due to the strikes in the telephone communications industry. Job growth in finance, insurance, and real estate was especially strong--25,000. Employment in the services industry rose by 85,000; the health services component increased by 50,000, continuing its strong growth, while employment in business services rose by 20,000, reversing a decrease in the previous month. Over the year, employment in services has grown by 1.3 million. Retail and wholesale trade both showed little job growth in August.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls declined by 0.2 hour in August to 34.6 hours, seasonally adjusted, following an increase of the same magnitude in July. The manufacturing workweek and factory overtime both edged down 0.1 hour to 40.9 hours and 3.8 hours, respectively. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls declined by 0.5 percent to 128.5 (1977=100), after seasonal adjustment. The manufacturing index was 96.4 for the fourth consecutive month. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were about unchanged in August, after seasonal adjustment, while average weekly earnings declined by 0.7 percent. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings fell 3 cents to \$9.60, and average weekly earnings declined \$2.01 to \$336.00. Over the year, both average hourly and average weekly earnings increased by 3.9 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for September 1989 will be released on Friday, October 6, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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OCTOBER 6, 1989

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: SEPTEMBER 1989

Payroll employment showed little growth and unemployment was about unchanged in September, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall jobless rate was 5.2 percent and the civilian worker rate was 5.3 percent; they had been 5.1 and 5.2 percent, respectively, in August.

Nonagricultural payroll employment, as measured by the survey of business establishments, rose by 210,000 in September to 109.1 million, but about 75,000 of the increase represented a return to work of persons who had been on strike. Total civilian employment, as measured by the survey of households, was about unchanged over the month.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of persons unemployed, 6.6 million, and the civilian worker unemployment rate, 5.3 percent, were essentially unchanged in September. Both measures have shown little movement since the spring. Jobless rates were about unchanged over the month for teenagers (15.1 percent), whites (4.5 percent), Hispanics (8.3 percent), and blacks (11.6 percent), although the rate for black teenagers rose to 37.3 percent. While the unemployment rate for adult men increased 0.4 percentage point to 4.8 percent, the rate for adult women edged down to 4.5 percent. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment was virtually unchanged in September at a seasonally adjusted level of 117.5 million. At 62.9 percent, the employment-population ratio (the proportion of the working-age population that was employed) remained close to the level that has held throughout 1989. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force (124.0 million) and the labor force participation rate (66.4 percent) were also about the same as in the previous month, after seasonal adjustment. The labor force has increased by 2.0 million over the past 12 months. (See table A-2.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Aug.- Sept. change
	1989		1989			
	II	III	July	Aug.	Sept.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
	Thousands of persons					
Labor force <u>1</u> /.....	125,464	125,690	125,622	125,706	125,742	36
Total employment <u>1</u> /.	118,964	119,189	119,125	119,285	119,158	-127
Civilian labor force..	123,790	124,005	123,956	124,018	124,040	22
Civilian employment.	117,289	117,504	117,459	117,597	117,456	-141
Unemployment.....	6,501	6,501	6,497	6,421	6,584	163
Not in labor force....	62,388	62,597	62,527	62,580	62,686	106
Discouraged workers.	869	815	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1</u> /.....	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	0.1
All civilian workers	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3	.1
Adult men.....	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.8	.4
Adult women.....	4.8	4.7	5.0	4.7	4.5	-.2
Teenagers.....	15.1	14.8	14.7	14.5	15.1	.6
White.....	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.5	.0
Black.....	11.2	11.2	10.9	11.1	11.6	.5
Hispanic origin...	8.1	8.8	9.0	9.0	8.3	-.7
	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	108,339	p108,895	108,767	p108,855	p109,064	p209
Goods-producing.....	25,664	p25,651	25,669	p25,696	p25,588	p-108
Service-producing...	82,676	p83,244	83,098	p83,159	p83,476	p317
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.7	p34.7	34.8	p34.6	p34.6	p0
Manufacturing.....	41.1	p41.0	41.0	p40.9	p41.0	p0.1
Overtime.....	3.8	p3.8	3.9	p3.7	p3.8	p.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

At a seasonally adjusted level of 815,000 in the July-September period, the number of discouraged workers--persons who want to work but have not looked for jobs because they believe they cannot find any--was about unchanged from the second quarter. Over the past year, the number of discouraged workers has declined by about 115,000. (See table A-14.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment increased by 210,000 in September to 109.1 million, seasonally adjusted. This increase would have been much smaller if not for the return to payrolls of about 75,000 workers involved in strikes in August. The diffusion index of 349 industries fell below 50 percent, indicating that more industries lost than gained jobs in September. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

In the goods-producing sector, factory employment fell by 105,000. Whereas the bulk of the decrease occurred in the durable goods sector, it was very widespread, with 16 of the 20 individual manufacturing industries showing employment reductions. The largest occurred in the auto industry--35,000. Employment in the electrical equipment industry fell by 10,000 over the month and has declined by 55,000 since last November. In primary metals, where employment had changed little since late last year, the number of workers fell by 10,000 in September. Fabricated metal products has had small job losses for 7 consecutive months. Employment in apparel and other textile products fell by 10,000 over the month, returning to last October's employment level. The mining industry also showed a small job loss, while construction employment was unchanged for the second consecutive month.

In the service-producing sector, employment in transportation and public utilities increased by 90,000 over the month, primarily reflecting the return to work of telephone workers from strikes. Services industry employment rose by 105,000, as both business and health services showed strong job gains of 45,000. Government employment was also a strong gainer, with an increase of 95,000 over the month; most of this occurred in local education. Finance, insurance, and real estate employment grew by 10,000 in September. Wholesale trade showed a small job gain, while employment in retail trade was little changed; job growth in these two industries has been quite slow for most of this year.

Despite the slower growth in recent months, total payroll employment in September was nearly 2.9 million above its year-ago level. Virtually all of this gain--2.6 million--took place in the service-producing sector.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls was unchanged in September at 34.6 hours, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing workweek and factory overtime both edged up 0.1 hour to 41.0 and 3.8 hours, respectively, offsetting small decreases in the previous month. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers rose 0.2 percent in September to 128.6 (1977=100), after seasonal adjustment. This follows a decrease of 0.6 percent in the previous month. The manufacturing index fell 0.7 percent to 95.6. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Both average hourly and average weekly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers increased 0.5 percent in September, after seasonal adjustment. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose 16 cents to \$9.76 and average weekly earnings increased \$3.63 to \$338.67, as many youths earning comparatively low wages left summer jobs and returned to school. Over the year, average hourly earnings increased by 3.8 percent, while average weekly earnings rose 3.5 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for October 1989 will be released on Friday, November 3, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

# News

United States  
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Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: OCTOBER 1989

Nonfarm payroll employment rose moderately in October and unemployment was unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall jobless rate remained at 5.2 percent, and the civilian worker rate remained at 5.3 percent.

The number of employees on nonagricultural payrolls, as measured by the survey of business establishments, rose by 235,000, with most of the growth occurring in government and services. Total civilian employment, as measured by the survey of households, was essentially unchanged.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons, at 6.6 million, and the civilian worker unemployment rate, 5.3 percent, were unchanged in October. Both measures have shown little movement since September 1988. The unemployment rate for adult men edged down to 4.5 percent in October, and that for adult women edged up to 4.7 percent, returning both rates to about their August values. Jobless rates were essentially unchanged for teenagers (14.9 percent), whites (4.4 percent), blacks (11.8 percent), and Hispanics (7.9 percent). (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment was about unchanged in October, at a seasonally adjusted level of 117.5 million. Although employment has changed little since June, it is about 2 million higher than a year earlier. The employment-population ratio, at 62.9 percent in October, has also changed little over the past several months, but is well above last October's 62.4 percent. (See table A-2.)

The seasonally adjusted civilian labor force was unchanged in October, at 124.1 million, and has shown no growth since June. The civilian labor force participation rate, 66.4 percent, remained at the September level. (See table A-2.)

### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment increased by 235,000 in October to 109.3 million, seasonally adjusted. Employment growth continued in the service-producing sector, while the number of goods-producing jobs was unchanged over the month, following a sharp decline in September. (See table B-1.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Sept.- Oct. change
	1989		1989			
	II	III	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force 1/.....	125,464	125,690	125,706	125,742	125,814	72
Total employment 1/..	118,964	119,189	119,285	119,158	119,254	96
Civilian labor force...	123,790	124,005	124,018	124,040	124,105	65
Civilian employment...	117,289	117,504	117,597	117,456	117,545	89
Unemployment.....	6,501	6,501	6,421	6,584	6,561	-23
Not in labor force....	62,388	62,597	62,580	62,686	62,766	80
Discouraged workers..	869	815	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers 1/.....	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.2	.0
All civilian workers	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.3	.0
Adult men.....	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.8	4.5	-0.3
Adult women.....	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.7	.2
Teenagers.....	15.1	14.8	14.5	15.1	14.9	-2
White.....	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	-1
Black.....	11.2	11.2	11.1	11.6	11.8	.2
Hispanic origin...	8.1	8.8	9.0	8.3	7.9	-4
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment....	108,339	p108,914	108,887	p109,088	p109,321	p233
Goods-producing.....	25,664	p25,657	25,694	p25,607	p25,604	p-3
Service-producing...	82,676	p83,257	83,193	p83,481	p83,717	p236
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.7	p34.7	34.6	p34.7	p34.8	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	41.1	p41.0	41.0	p41.1	p40.8	p-.3
Overtime.....	3.8	p3.8	3.8	p3.8	p3.8	p.0
1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.						
N.A.=not available.						
p=preliminary.						

Within the goods sector, factory employment was little changed in October at 19.5 million, after falling sharply in the prior month. However, employment in durable goods continued to decline. This was led by a drop of 15,000 jobs in the auto industry; since January, employment in that industry has decreased by 50,000. Employment in fabricated metal products and electrical equipment also continued to trend downward. An over-the-month decline in the machinery industry primarily reflected a strike. In contrast, there were small over-the-month employment gains in several nondurable goods industries. Jobs in the oil and gas extraction component of the mining industry continued to edge up, while the number of construction jobs was about unchanged.

In the service-producing sector, the largest over-the-month gain occurred in local government (95,000), primarily in local education. Another major component of the overall increase was the services industry itself, where employment rose by 85,000, partly reflecting continued strong gains in health services. Employment in the transportation industry rose by 25,000 in October, while the number of wholesale and retail trade jobs was little changed over the month.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged up by 0.1 hour in October to 34.8 hours, seasonally adjusted. However, the manufacturing workweek, at 40.8 hours, was down 0.3 hour; this was due in part to declines in the aircraft industry, where a strike affected hours at work but not the employment counts (because the strike started after the pay period began). Factory overtime was unchanged at 3.8 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls increased by 0.5 percent to 129.4 (1977=100), after seasonal adjustment. The index for manufacturing fell 0.6 percent to 95.3. (See table B-5.)

#### Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private nonagricultural production or nonsupervisory workers increased 0.7 percent in October, seasonally adjusted, while average weekly earnings rose by 1 percent. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings increased by 6 cents to \$9.83 and average weekly earnings, at \$343.07, were up \$3.07. Over the year, both average hourly and weekly earnings increased 4 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for November 1989 will be released on Friday, December 8, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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8:30 A.M. (EST), FRIDAY,  
DECEMBER 8, 1989

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: NOVEMBER 1989

Employment rose in November and unemployment was little changed, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall jobless rate was 5.3 percent and the civilian worker rate was 5.4 percent; they had been 5.2 and 5.3 percent, respectively, in the prior 2 months.

Nonagricultural payroll employment, as measured by the survey of business establishments, rose by 210,000 from the October level, which has been revised downward. Total civilian employment, as measured by the survey of households, increased by 240,000 in November.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons, 6.7 million, and the civilian worker unemployment rate, 5.4 percent, were about unchanged in November. The jobless rate has hovered between 5.0 and 5.4 percent for more than a year now. There were also few changes in the jobless rates among individual worker groups. The rate for adult men was 4.7 percent, identical to that for adult women. Unemployment rates were virtually unchanged for teenagers (15.5 percent), whites (4.6 percent), blacks (12.1 percent), and Hispanics (7.8 percent). (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

Although the total number of unemployed was little changed, the number of jobless persons who were on layoff from their jobs rose substantially over the month; the November level was nearly 1 million, up from a range of 750,000-875,000 over the past year. (See table A-8.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment rose by 240,000 in November to a seasonally adjusted level of 117.8 million. Adult women accounted for all of this gain. Over the past year, civilian employment has expanded by 1.9 million, with the increase about evenly divided between adult men and adult women. This raised the proportion of the working-age population that is employed to 63.0 percent, as compared with 62.6 percent a year earlier. (See table A-2.)

The seasonally adjusted civilian labor force rose by 410,000 in November to 124.5 million, and the labor force participation rate matched June's all-time high of 66.6 percent. Over the past 12 months, the labor force grew by 2 million persons. (See table A-2.)

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Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Oct.- Nov. change
	1989		1989			
	II	III	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force 1/.....	125,464	125,690	125,742	125,814	126,219	405
Total employment 1/..	118,964	119,189	119,158	119,254	119,490	236
Civilian labor force...	123,790	124,005	124,040	124,105	124,515	410
Civilian employment...	117,289	117,504	117,456	117,545	117,786	241
Unemployment.....	6,501	6,501	6,584	6,561	6,729	168
Not in labor force....	62,388	62,597	62,686	62,766	62,502	-264
Discouraged workers..	869	815	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers 1/.....	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3	0.1
All civilian workers..	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.4	.1
Adult men.....	4.4	4.5	4.8	4.5	4.7	.2
Adult women.....	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.7	4.7	.0
Teenagers.....	15.1	14.8	15.1	14.9	15.5	.6
White.....	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.6	.2
Black.....	11.2	11.2	11.6	11.8	12.1	.3
Hispanic origin...	8.1	8.8	8.3	7.9	7.8	-.1
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment....	108,339	108,917	109,096	p109,189	p109,399	p210
Goods-producing.....	25,664	25,659	25,614	p25,607	p25,604	p-3
Service-producing...	82,676	83,258	83,482	p83,582	p83,795	p213
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.7	34.7	34.7	p34.7	p34.6	p-0.1
Manufacturing.....	41.1	41.0	41.0	p40.8	p40.7	p-.1
Overtime.....	3.8	3.8	3.8	p3.7	p3.7	p-0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

p=preliminary

N.A.=not available.

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment increased by 210,000 in November to 109.4 million, seasonally adjusted, following an increase of 95,000 (as revised) in October. The November increase was virtually all in the service-producing sector, particularly in the services industry and trade. While payroll job growth has totaled 2.6 million over the past year, gains averaged only 160,000 a month since June. (See table B-1.)

Manufacturing jobs continued to decline in November, falling by 25,000 to 19.5 million. The largest job losses were in the auto industry and electrical equipment; several other industries posted small declines. These movements were partially offset by increases in printing and publishing and the machinery industry, the latter due mainly to workers returning from a strike. The number of jobs in the oil and gas extraction component of the mining industry continued to grow, and construction employment edged up (after seasonal adjustment), as seasonal cutbacks were less than expected.

In the service-producing sector, the largest increase was in the services industry itself, where the number of jobs grew by 125,000, partly reflecting continued strength in health services. Jobs in wholesale trade, finance, and real estate also increased over the month. In retail trade, employment in food stores and eating and drinking places rose in November; the buildup of holiday seasonal hiring in general merchandise and other retail stores about equaled seasonal expectations.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged down by 0.1 hour in November to 34.6 hours, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing workweek also moved down by 0.1 hour to 40.7 hours. Factory overtime was unchanged at 3.7 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls fell by 0.2 percent to 129.0 (1977=100), after seasonal adjustment. The index for manufacturing fell 0.4 percent to 94.8. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private nonagricultural production or nonsupervisory workers were about unchanged in November, seasonally adjusted, while average weekly earnings declined by 0.4 percent. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings were \$9.80, and average weekly earnings were down \$3.29 to \$338.10. Over the year, average hourly

earnings increased by 3.6 percent, while average weekly earnings grew by 3.0 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for December 1989 will be released on Friday, January 5, 1990, at 8:30 A.M. (EST). Release dates for the balance of 1990 are as follows:

Feb. 2	May 4	Aug. 3	Nov. 2
March 9	June 1	Sept. 7	Dec. 7
April 6	July 6	Oct. 5	

#### Revisions in Household Survey Data

In accordance with usual practice, the Employment Situation release of December data will incorporate annual revisions in seasonally adjusted unemployment and other labor force series. Seasonally adjusted data for the most recent 5 years are subject to revision.

# News

United States  
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Bureau of Labor Statistics

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JANUARY 5, 1990

## THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: DECEMBER 1989

Employment showed little growth in December and unemployment was unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Both the overall jobless rate and the civilian worker rate remained at 5.3 percent.

Employment, as measured by the survey of business establishments, edged up by 140,000 in December to 109.5 million; about 55,000 of the increase represented a return to work of persons who had been on strike. Total civilian employment, as measured by the survey of households, was about unchanged over the month.

### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons, at 6.7 million, and the unemployment rate, 5.3 percent, were unchanged in December, after seasonal adjustment. Both showed very little month-to-month movement during all of 1989, particularly in the second half of the year. (See table A-2.)

Jobless rates for individual worker groups--adult men (4.6 percent), adult women (4.8 percent), teenagers (15.2 percent), whites (4.6 percent), blacks (11.8 percent), and Hispanics (8.5 percent)--also showed little or no change, both over the month and the year. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

### Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment was about unchanged in December at 117.9 million, seasonally adjusted. The employment-population ratio held at 63.0 percent, close to the record high set last June. Employment rose by 1.7 million during 1989, compared with 2.3 million in the prior year. (See table A-2.)

This release incorporates annual revisions in seasonally adjusted unemployment and other labor force series from the household survey. Information on the revisions appears on page 5.

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Nov.- Dec. change
	1989		1989			
	III	IV	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u> .....	125,720	126,098	125,857	126,192	126,246	54
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	119,153	119,474	119,294	119,540	119,588	48
Civilian labor force...	124,035	124,394	124,148	124,488	124,546	58
Civilian employment...	117,468	117,770	117,585	117,836	117,888	52
Unemployment.....	6,567	6,624	6,563	6,652	6,658	6
Not in labor force....	62,567	62,624	62,723	62,529	62,619	90
Discouraged workers..	817	827	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u> .....	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.3	.0
All civilian workers:	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	.0
Adult men.....	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.6	.0
Adult women.....	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	.0
Teenagers.....	15.0	15.2	14.9	15.3	15.2	-0.1
White.....	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	.1
Black.....	11.3	11.8	11.7	11.9	11.8	-.1
Hispanic origin...	8.6	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.5	.5
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment....	108,917	p109,366	109,171	p109,393	p109,535	p142
Goods-producing....	25,659	p25,584	25,603	p25,607	p25,543	p-64
Service-producing....	83,258	p83,782	83,568	p83,786	p83,992	p206
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.7	p34.6	34.7	p34.6	p34.5	p-0.1
Manufacturing.....	41.0	p40.7	40.8	p40.7	p40.7	p.0
Overtime.....	3.8	p3.7	3.7	p3.7	p3.7	p.0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

p=preliminary

NOTE: Household data have been revised based on the experience through December 1989.

N.A.=not available

The civilian labor force (124.5 million) and the labor force participation rate (66.5 percent) were essentially the same as in November. During the course of 1989, the labor force expanded by 1.9 million, with the entire increase about equally divided between adult men and women. (See Table A-2.)

#### Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

At a seasonally adjusted level of 830,000 in the fourth quarter, the number of discouraged workers--persons who report they want to work but are not looking for jobs because they believe they cannot find any--was about the same as in the third quarter. Over the past year, the number of discouraged workers has declined by more than 100,000. About two-thirds of the total cited job-market conditions as their reasons for not seeking work, while the remainder cited personal factors (such as age or lack of education). Blacks and women make up a disproportionately large share of all discouraged workers. (See table A-14.)

#### Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural employment edged up by 140,000 in December, after seasonal adjustment, to a level of 109.5 million. Strike settlements accounted for about 55,000 of this increase. The December gain was confined to the service-producing sector; employment in goods-producing industries fell because of a weather-related decline in construction jobs and a continued slide in manufacturing. (See table B-1.)

In the service-producing sector, the services industry led the over-the-month job gains with an increase of 85,000. Within services, the rapidly expanding health services industry accounted for more than half of the overall gain and has added 525,000 jobs over the past year. The return of nearly 55,000 communications workers from a strike and continued growth in transportation employment were largely responsible for December's 75,000 increase in transportation and public utilities jobs. Employment in wholesale trade and finance, insurance, and real estate also increased over the month. Retail trade employment was little changed, as less than usual seasonal hiring in general merchandise stores and specialty retailers and job losses at automotive dealers and service stations offset gains in food stores and eating and drinking places.

In the goods-producing sector, construction employment declined by 40,000, after seasonal adjustment, as especially harsh weather in December curtailed work activity. Manufacturing employment continued its downtrend, falling by 25,000 to 19.5 million. Since March, factory jobs have declined by 195,000. December's decrease was led by a drop of nearly 15,000 jobs in electrical equipment. Following recent declines, auto industry employment was unchanged, while small losses occurred in several other durable goods industries. Within nondurable goods industries, offsetting movements left the total little changed. Elsewhere in the goods sector, mining employment was about unchanged over the month.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls declined by 0.1 hour in December to 34.5 hours, seasonally adjusted. Both the factory workweek and overtime were unchanged at 40.7 and 3.7 hours, respectively. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls, at 128.6 (1977=100), declined by 0.3 percent in December. The index for manufacturing also fell 0.3 percent, to 94.6. Reflecting the recent weakness in the industry, the manufacturing index declined 1.6 percent during 1989. In contrast, continued growth in service sector jobs resulted in an increase of 1.4 percent in total private aggregate hours. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers rose 0.6 percent in December on a seasonally adjusted basis. Average weekly earnings were up by 0.3 percent. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings increased by 4 cents to \$9.85, and average weekly earnings rose by \$2.36 to \$340.81. Over the year, average hourly earnings increased by 4.1 percent and average weekly earnings by 3.2 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

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The Employment Situation for January 1990 will be released on Friday, February 2, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

Revision of Seasonally Adjusted Household Survey Data

At the end of each calendar year, BLS routinely updates the seasonal adjustment factors for labor force series derived from the Current Population Survey (household survey) to incorporate the experience of that year. As a result, seasonally adjusted data for the most recent 5 years are subject to revision. (Establishment data are also revised, later in the year, concurrently with the introduction of annual benchmark adjustments.)

Table B summarizes the effects of the revisions on the overall and civilian worker unemployment rates in 1989. The 1989 annual averages, 5.2 percent for all workers and 5.3 percent for civilian workers, are, of course, not affected by seasonal adjustment revisions. Table C presents revised seasonally adjusted data for major civilian labor force series for December 1988 through December 1989.

The January 1990 issue of Employment and Earnings will contain the new seasonal adjustment factors that will be used to calculate the civilian labor force and other major series for January-June of 1990. The publication will also contain a description of the current seasonal adjustment methodology and revised data for the most recent 13 months or calendar quarters for all regularly published tables containing seasonally adjusted household survey data. Revised monthly data for the 1985-89 revision period for 430 labor force series will be published in the February 1990 issue. Special tabulations of historical seasonally adjusted data (monthly and quarterly) may be purchased from the Bureau. (Contact Gloria P. Green on 202-523-1959.)

**Table B. Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in 1989 and change due to revision**

Month	As first computed		As revised		Change due to revision	
	Overall	Civilian	Overall	Civilian	Overall	Civilian
January.....	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	-0.1	0
February.....	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.2	0	0.1
March.....	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	.1	0
April.....	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	0	0
May.....	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	0	0
June.....	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	0	0
July.....	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3	0	.1
August.....	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.3	.1	.1
September.....	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.3	.1	0
October.....	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	0	0
November.....	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3	0	-.1
December.....	*5.3	*5.4	5.3	5.3	0	-.1

\* Not published.