

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JANUARY 1990

Payroll employment rose in January and unemployment was about unchanged, 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. Both had been 5.3 percent in December.

Employment, as measured by the survey of nonfarm business establishments, rose by 275,000 in January to 109.8 million. A strong, largely weather-related, rebound in construction and continuing growth in the service-producing sector offset sizable cutbacks in factory employment that were concentrated in auto manufacturing. Total civilian employment, as measured by the survey of households, remained at 117.9 million in January.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons was about unchanged in January at 6.5 million, seasonally adjusted, and the civilian worker unemployment rate remained at 5.3 percent. The civilian worker rate has been 5.3 percent for 8 consecutive months. (See table A-2.)

Jobless rates were little changed over the month for most individual worker groups--adult men (4.7 percent), adult women (4.6 percent), teenagers (14.5 percent), and whites (4.5 percent). The rate for all blacks (11.3 percent) was also little changed, but that for black teenagers, which is quite volatile, dipped to 26.7 percent. The rate for Hispanics, which also fluctuates considerably, fell by 1.4 percentage points to 7.1 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 slightly in January. This total has been trending upward since mid-1989. Over the same period, the jobless rate for workers in the manufacturing industry has also increased significantly, rising by nearly a full percentage point to 5.9 percent. (See tables A-8 and A-6.)

The number of persons working part time for economic reasons--often referred to as the partially unemployed--rose by 180,000 in January to about 5 million. (See table A-4.)

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Dec.- Jan. change
	1989		1989		1990	
	III	IV	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA						
	Thousands of persons					
Labor force 1/.....	125,720	126,098	126,192	126,246	126,094	-152
Total employment 1/..	119,153	119,474	119,540	119,588	119,560	-28
Civilian labor force...	124,035	124,394	124,488	124,546	124,397	-149
Civilian employment...	117,468	117,770	117,836	117,888	117,863	-25
Unemployment.....	6,567	6,624	6,652	6,658	6,535	-123
Not in labor force....	62,567	62,624	62,529	62,619	62,896	277
Discouraged workers...	817	827	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers 1/.....	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	-0.1
All civilian workers:	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	.0
Adult men.....	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7	.1
Adult women.....	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.6	-2
Teenagers.....	15.0	15.2	15.3	15.2	14.5	-7
White.....	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5	-1
Black.....	11.3	11.8	11.9	11.8	11.3	-5
Hispanic origin...	8.6	8.1	8.0	8.5	7.1	-1.4
	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	108,917	p109,390	109,452	p109,548	p109,823	p275
Goods-producing.....	25,659	p25,582	25,609	p25,533	p25,526	p-7
Service-producing...	83,258	p83,809	83,843	p84,015	p84,297	p282
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.7	p34.6	34.6	p34.5	p34.6	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	41.0	p40.7	40.7	p40.8	p40.7	p.0
Overtime.....	3.8	p3.7	3.7	p3.8	p3.8	p.0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

N.A.=not available.

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment held at 117.9 million in January, seasonally adjusted, and the employment-population ratio was essentially unchanged at 62.9 percent. The civilian labor force (124.4 million) and the labor force participation rate (66.4 percent) were also little changed in January. (See table A-2.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonagricultural payroll employment increased by 275,000 in January to a seasonally adjusted level of 109.8 million. Over the year, the number of payroll jobs has risen by 2.4 million. (See table B-1.)

In the goods-producing sector, construction employment increased by 105,000 (seasonally adjusted) in January, following a 50,000 decrease in December due to unusually poor weather. In contrast, the weather in January was unusually mild. Job cutbacks continued in manufacturing, with employment falling by 110,000 over the month. Temporary plant shutdowns in the auto industry accounted for most of the over-the-month decrease. Employment also fell in two related industries--fabricated metal products and rubber and plastics. Elsewhere in manufacturing, there was little over-the-month movement in the individual industries.

In the service-producing sector, retail trade employment rose by 115,000 in January after seasonal adjustment, following a decrease in the previous month. Within retail trade, general merchandise stores, food stores, and restaurants all had job gains of 25,000. The services industry experienced employment gains of 105,000, with health services accounting for nearly half the increase. Both the transportation and wholesale trade industries had job gains of 25,000 in January, and finance, insurance, and real estate had a small employment increase.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged up 0.1 hour in January to 34.6 hours, seasonally adjusted. In manufacturing, both the average workweek and average overtime were unchanged at 40.7 and 3.6 hours, respectively. (See table B-2.)

Largely reflecting the changes in employment, the index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers rose 0.6 percent in January to 129.6 (1977=100), while the manufacturing index fell by the same amount to 93.9. Since last April, the manufacturing index has fallen by 3.4 percent. (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 0.1 percent in January on a seasonally adjusted basis, while average weekly earnings rose by 0.4 percent. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose 5 cents to \$9.89, and average weekly earnings fell \$2.22 to \$338.24. Over the year, average hourly earnings increased by 3.7 percent, and average weekly earnings rose by 2.8 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

The Employment Situation for February 1990 will be released on Friday, March 9, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

News

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: FEBRUARY 1990

Employment rose and unemployment held steady, 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. These have changed very little in the last year and a half.

Payroll employment, as measured by the survey of nonfarm business establishments, rose by about 370,000 in February, on a seasonally adjusted basis, to 110.3 million. The large increase reflected the return of temporarily laid-off workers in automobile manufacturing, milder-than-normal weather which aided construction activity, and continued strength in services. Total civilian employment, as measured by the household survey, rose slightly in February.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons was about unchanged in February at 6.6 million, seasonally adjusted. The civilian worker unemployment rate, at 5.3 percent, has been the same for 9 consecutive months. (See table A-2.)

The jobless rate for blacks dropped to 10.5 percent in February, reflecting improvement among adult black men. Jobless rates for other major worker groups--adult men (4.6 percent), adult women (4.8 percent), teenagers (14.8 percent), and whites (4.6 percent)--were about unchanged. (See tables A-2 and A-3.) The unemployment rate for auto workers, which had soared to 20 percent in January because of temporary plant shutdowns, fell back to 8 percent in February.

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment edged up in February to 118.0 million, seasonally adjusted, and the employment-population ratio was essentially unchanged at 63 percent, about where it has held for the past year.

The civilian labor force (124.6 million) also rose by a small amount over the month, and the labor force participation rate (66.5 percent) was little changed. Over the past year, the labor force has increased by 1.5 million, with the participation rate remaining relatively steady around the 66-percent mark. (See table A-2.)

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Jan.- Feb. change
	1989		1989	1990		
	III	IV	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	
	HOUSEHOLD DATA					
Thousands of persons						
Labor force 1/.....	125,720	126,098	126,246	126,094	126,308	214
Total employment 1/..	119,153	119,474	119,588	119,560	119,713	153
Civilian labor force..	124,035	124,394	124,546	124,397	124,630	233
Civilian employment..	117,468	117,770	117,888	117,863	118,035	172
Unemployment.....	6,567	6,624	6,658	6,535	6,594	59
Not in labor force....	62,567	62,624	62,619	62,896	62,782	-114
Discouraged workers..	817	827	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers 1/.....	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	.0
All civilian workers	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	.0
Adult men.....	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.6	-0.1
Adult women.....	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.8	.2
Teenagers.....	15.0	15.2	15.2	14.5	14.8	.3
White.....	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	.1
Black.....	11.3	11.8	11.8	11.3	10.5	-0.8
Hispanic origin...	8.6	8.1	8.5	7.1	7.8	.7
ESTABLISHMENT DATA						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment....	108,917	109,398	109,570	p109,902	p110,274	p372
Goods-producing.....	25,659	25,581	25,532	p25,513	p25,664	p151
Service-producing...	83,258	83,816	84,038	p84,389	p84,610	p221
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.7	34.6	34.5	p34.5	p34.6	p.1
Manufacturing.....	41.0	40.7	40.6	p40.7	p40.7	p.0
Overtime.....	3.8	3.7	3.6	p3.7	p3.6	p-.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

N.A.=not available.

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Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total payroll employment rose by 370,000 in February, after seasonal adjustment, to a level of 110.3 million. The gain reflected a rebound in auto employment, favorable weather for construction and other outdoor activities, and strong increases in services. (See table B-1.)

Manufacturing employment increased by 90,000 in February, seasonally adjusted, following steady declines over the past year. The gain resulted from the recall of workers in the auto industry, as many plants reopened after January shutdowns. A related rebound took place in fabricated metals employment, which was up by 10,000 over the month, after declining by 20,000 in the prior month. Otherwise, factory employment was weak, as evidenced by the diffusion index of employment change that was below 50 percent for the fourth straight month. Weakness was particularly apparent in nondurables where declines occurred in six industries, including textiles, apparel, and rubber and plastics. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

Elsewhere in the goods-producing sector, construction employment rose by 60,000, after seasonal adjustment, as the unusually mild weather experienced in January continued into the February reference period, leading to fewer layoffs than usual for the second month in a row. Mining employment was about unchanged in February; the industry has added 40,000 jobs since last July.

In the service-producing sector, the services industry added 145,000 jobs for the second straight month, after seasonal adjustment, which were broadly distributed among the various component industries, such as health, business, personal, and social services. Smaller increases occurred in transportation and public utilities (20,000) and finance, insurance, and real estate (15,000). Trade employment was little changed in February.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls edged up 0.1 hour in February to 34.6 hours, seasonally adjusted. The average workweek in manufacturing was unchanged at 40.7 hours, and factory overtime moved down 0.1 hour to 3.6 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers rose by 0.7 percent in February to 130.3 (1977=100), after seasonal adjustment. The index for manufacturing, at 94.4, also rose 0.7 percent, reversing a similar decline in January. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.5 percent in February, seasonally adjusted, after showing little movement in January. Average weekly

- 4 -

earnings rose by 0.8 percent. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings increased 3 cents to \$9.90, and average weekly earnings rose \$2.02 to \$339.57. Over the year, both hourly and weekly earnings increased by 3.7 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

The Employment Situation for March 1990 will be released on Friday, April 6, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

News

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: MARCH 1990

Unemployment was about unchanged in March, 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. These rates have changed very little in the last year and a half.

After showing marked strength in January and February, private sector employment, as reported by the survey of business establishments, showed no growth in March. Government employment was buoyed by hiring for the decennial census. The household survey did register a gain in March, but growth as measured by that survey has lagged far behind that from the payroll survey for some time.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons was little changed in March at 6.5 million, seasonally adjusted, and the unemployment rate was about unchanged at 5.2 percent. The jobless rates for all major worker groups--whites (4.5 percent), blacks (10.6 percent), Hispanics (7.7 percent), adult men (4.5 percent), adult women (4.7 percent), and teenagers (14.4 percent)--were also about unchanged in March. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

There were 1.3 million persons in March who had been jobless for 15 weeks or longer, representing 20 percent of the unemployed total. The median duration was a comparatively low 5.1 weeks, meaning that half of the unemployed had been looking for work for less than this time and half for longer. (See table A-7.)

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment rose slightly in March to 118.3 million, seasonally adjusted, and the employment-population ratio, at 63.1 percent, equaled the all-time high reached last June. Over the past year, total employment increased by only 1.2 million (versus 2.5 million, as measured by the survey of businesses). (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force (124.8 million) edged up over the month, while the labor force participation rate (66.6 percent) was about unchanged. Over the year, the labor force rose by nearly 1.6 million. (See table A-2.)

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Feb.- Mar. change
	1989	1990	1990			
	IV	I	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u>	126,098	126,300	126,094	126,308	126,498	190
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	119,474	119,758	119,560	119,713	120,003	290
Civilian labor force..	124,394	124,619	124,397	124,630	124,829	199
Civilian employment..	117,770	118,077	117,863	118,035	118,334	299
Unemployment.....	6,624	6,541	6,535	6,594	6,495	-99
Not in labor force....	62,624	62,793	62,896	62,782	62,700	-82
Discouraged workers..	827	747	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u>	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1	-0.1
All civilian workers:	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2	-.1
Adult men.....	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.5	-.1
Adult women.....	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.7	-.1
Teenagers.....	15.2	14.5	14.5	14.8	14.4	-.4
White.....	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.5	-.1
Black.....	11.8	10.8	11.3	10.5	10.6	.1
Hispanic origin...	8.1	7.5	7.1	7.8	7.7	-.1
ESTABLISHMENT DATA						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment....	109,398	p110,177	109,931	p110,287	p110,313	p26
Goods-producing.....	25,581	p25,595	25,518	p25,682	p25,586	p-96
Service-producing...	83,816	p84,582	84,413	p84,605	p84,727	p122
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.6	p34.6	34.5	p34.6	p34.6	p.0
Manufacturing.....	40.7	p40.7	40.7	p40.7	p40.7	p.0
Overtime.....	3.7	p3.7	3.7	p3.6	p3.7	p0.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.
N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

At a seasonally adjusted level of 750,000 in the first quarter, the number of discouraged workers--persons who report they want to work but are not looking for jobs because they believe they could not find any--was slightly lower than in the fourth quarter of 1989. Over the year, the number of discouraged workers has declined by about 100,000 to the lowest level since 1979. About two-thirds of the total cited job-market conditions 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 nonfarm employment was about unchanged in March, after seasonal adjustment, at a level of 110.3 million. This followed unusually large job gains in January and February. (See table B-1.)

In the goods-producing sector, construction employment fell by 65,000, after seasonal adjustment. This followed very sizable employment increases (seasonally adjusted) in the first 2 months of this year, when mild weather allowed builders to retain more workers than usual through the winter months.

Manufacturing employment declined by 30,000, seasonally adjusted, continuing the pattern of weakness that has characterized the industry over the past year. Small declines were widespread, although auto employment, which had declined markedly in the second half of 1989, held steady in March. Overall, manufacturing has lost nearly 250,000 jobs since reaching a post-recession high in March 1989, with most of the weakness occurring in the major metal and metal-using industries within durable goods.

In the service-producing sector, government employment advanced by 75,000 in March, primarily reflecting the hiring of workers to assist in conducting the 1990 census. The services industry added 50,000 jobs, mostly in health services. The overall services increase, which was much smaller than average for the industry, followed 2 months of strong job growth. Small job gains (about 10,000 each) also occurred in wholesale trade and in the insurance component of the finance, insurance, and real estate industry. Retail trade employment declined for the second straight month, falling by 25,000 in March; despite a large increase in January, job growth in this industry thus far in 1990 is well below last year's pace. Finally, growth was held down in transportation and public utilities because of a bus strike.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged in March at 34.6 hours, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing workweek was also unchanged, at 40.7 hours, while factory overtime edged up 0.1 hour to 3.7 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers was unchanged in March at 130.1 (1977=100), after seasonal adjustment. The index for manufacturing edged down over the month to 94.2. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Both average hourly and weekly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers rose by 0.4 percent in March, after seasonal adjustment. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose 2 cents to \$9.93 and average weekly earnings increased \$1.68 to \$341.59. Over the year, both average hourly and weekly earnings increased by 3.9 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

The Employment Situation for April 1990 will be released on Friday, May 4, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

News

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: APRIL 1990

Unemployment edged up in April and the number of payroll jobs was about unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The overall jobless rate of 5.3 percent and the civilian worker rate of 5.4 percent were both up by 0.2 percentage point from the previous month but remained within the narrow range that has prevailed for the past year and a half.

Payroll employment, as measured by the survey of nonfarm business establishments, was virtually unchanged at 110.5 million in April, after seasonal adjustment, despite the addition of 80,000 temporary census workers. Total civilian employment, as measured by the survey of households, fell slightly to a seasonally adjusted level of 118.1 million.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the number of unemployed persons and the civilian worker unemployment rate edged up in April, reaching 6.8 million and 5.4 percent, respectively. Most of the increased joblessness occurred among 20-24 year-olds. Among the major worker groups, the unemployment rate for adult men rose 0.3 percentage point to 4.8 percent, as did the rate for whites. Jobless rates for adult women (4.8 percent), teenagers (14.7 percent), blacks (10.4 percent), and Hispanics (8.0 percent) were little changed over the month. (See tables A-2, A-3, and A-9.)

Both the mean and median duration of unemployment, at 12.1 and 5.0 weeks, respectively, were about unchanged in April. The number working part time for economic reasons--often referred to as underemployed workers--was also about unchanged, at 4.9 million. (See tables A-7 and A-4.)

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment declined slightly in April to a seasonally adjusted level of 118.1 million. As a result, the proportion of the working-age population that is employed (the employment-population ratio) edged down to 62.9 percent in April, the same as a year earlier. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force, 124.9 million, and the labor force participation rate, 66.5 percent, were little changed over the month. Over

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Mar.- Apr. change
	1989	1990	1990			
	IV	I	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u>	126,098	126,300	126,308	126,498	126,543	45
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	119,474	119,758	119,713	120,003	119,773	-230
Civilian labor force...	124,394	124,619	124,630	124,829	124,886	57
Civilian employment...	117,770	118,077	118,035	118,334	118,116	-218
Unemployment.....	6,624	6,541	6,594	6,495	6,770	275
Not in labor force....	62,624	62,793	62,782	62,700	62,783	83
Discouraged workers..	827	747	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u>	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.3	0.2
All civilian workers:	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.4	.2
Adult men.....	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.8	.3
Adult women.....	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8	.1
Teenagers.....	15.2	14.5	14.8	14.4	14.7	.3
White.....	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.8	.3
Black.....	11.8	10.8	10.5	10.6	10.4	-.2
Hispanic origin...	8.1	7.5	7.8	7.7	8.0	.3
ESTABLISHMENT DATA						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment....	109,398	p110,214	110,304	p110,407	p110,471	p64
Goods-producing....	25,581	p25,603	25,686	p25,604	p25,489	p-115
Service-producing...	83,816	p84,611	84,618	p84,803	p84,982	p179
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.6	p34.6	34.6	p34.6	p34.6	p.0
Manufacturing.....	40.7	p40.7	40.7	p40.8	p40.6	p-0.2
Overtime.....	3.7	p3.7	3.6	p3.7	p3.5	p-.2

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

the past year, the labor force has expanded by only 1.2 million, with adult women accounting for three-fourths of the gain. (See table A-2.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonfarm employment, at 110.5 million in April, was little changed for the second consecutive month. In the goods-producing sector, employment fell by 115,000, after seasonal adjustment. Service sector jobs rose by 180,000, but nearly half of the increase occurred in Federal government, reflecting the additional hiring of temporary workers to assist with the 1990 census. Excluding the Federal government, job growth has averaged 175,000 a month so far in 1990, down slightly from the pace of 1989. (See table B-1.)

Construction employment fell by 100,000, after seasonal adjustment. After large fluctuations in seasonally adjusted employment, reflecting a winter marked by unusual weather, the April count of construction jobs was about the same as that recorded last fall. Manufacturing employment showed further weakness; the decline was concentrated in the durable goods component, with the largest job loss occurring in the machinery industry. In nondurable goods, an increase of nearly 10,000 in apparel reflected the return from March layoffs. Factory jobs have decreased by 280,000 over the past 13 months. Mining employment increased slightly in April; since the beginning of 1989, mining jobs have risen by 45,000, mostly in oil and gas extraction.

In the service-producing sector, the number of government employees increased by 130,000, as an estimated 80,000 temporary census workers were added to the payrolls, bringing the total hired thus far to nearly 200,000. Elsewhere, job gains were quite modest. Employment in retail trade and in transportation and public utilities was unchanged. Within the finance, insurance, and real estate industry, a small gain in insurance was offset by a decline in real estate. After strong growth in the first quarter, employment in the services industry was about unchanged overall, even though the health services component added another 45,000 jobs.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged in April at 34.6 hours, seasonally adjusted. In manufacturing, the workweek declined 0.2 hour to 40.6 hours, and factory overtime also fell 0.2 hour to 3.5 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers was about unchanged in April at 130.2 (1977=100), after seasonal adjustment. The index for manufacturing declined by 0.5 percent to 93.9, and the construction index fell 4.6 percent to 139.9. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Both hourly and weekly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls rose 0.3 percent in April, on a seasonally adjusted basis. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose 4 cents to \$9.97 and average weekly earnings advanced \$2.38 to \$343.97. Over the year, average hourly earnings rose 3.6 percent and weekly earnings were up 2.7 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

Note on Establishment Survey Data

Establishment survey data will be revised based on new benchmark levels with the release of August data in September, to incorporate the introduction of the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification codes.

The Employment Situation for May 1990 will be released on Friday, June 1, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

News

United States
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Bureau of Labor Statistics

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: MAY 1990

Employment showed little growth in May and unemployment was about 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 were 5.3 percent. There have been few changes in unemployment for over a year and a half.

Private sector employment, as reported by the survey of business establishments, was about unchanged in May, the third successive month of weakness. Government employment rose by 155,000; nearly all of this increase resulted from additional hiring of temporary workers to assist with the 1990 decennial census. Total civilian employment, as measured by the survey of households, rose by 230,000 in May, following a decline of a similar magnitude in April.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons, 6.7 million, and the civilian worker unemployment rate, 5.3 percent, were essentially unchanged in May, after seasonal adjustment. The rate has hovered between 5.0 and 5.4 percent for the past 21 months. Jobless rates for all major worker groups--adult men (4.7 percent), adult women (4.6 percent), teenagers (15.5 percent), whites (4.6 percent), blacks (10.4 percent), and Hispanics (7.7 percent)--also showed little or no change in May. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The median duration of unemployment edged up in May to 5.4 weeks. About 1.4 million, or 1 in 5 unemployed workers, had been jobless for 15 weeks or longer, a situation that has prevailed for the past year and a half. (See table A-7.)

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment rose by 230,000 in May to a seasonally adjusted level of 118.4 million. The proportion of the working-age population that is employed (the employment-population ratio) was little changed at 63.0 percent; it has fluctuated around this high level for the past 15 months. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force, at 125.0 million, and the labor force participation rate, at 66.6 percent, were little changed over the month.

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Apr.- May change
	1989	1990	1990			
	IV	I	Mar.	Apr.	May	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Labor force 1/.....	126,098	126,300	126,498	126,543	126,643	100
Total employment 1/.	119,474	119,758	120,003	119,773	119,989	216
Civilian labor force..	124,394	124,619	124,829	124,886	125,004	118
Civilian employment..	117,770	118,077	118,334	118,116	118,350	234
Unemployment.....	6,624	6,541	6,495	6,770	6,653	-117
Not in labor force....	62,624	62,793	62,700	62,783	62,824	41
Discouraged workers..	827	747	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers 1/.....	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.3	.0
All civilian workers:	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.4	5.3	-0.1
Adult men.....	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.8	4.7	-.1
Adult women.....	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.6	-.2
Teenagers.....	15.2	14.5	14.4	14.7	15.5	.8
White.....	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.8	4.6	-.2
Black.....	11.8	10.8	10.6	10.4	10.4	.0
Hispanic origin...	8.1	7.5	7.7	8.0	7.7	-.3
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	109,398	110,221	110,427	p110,404	p110,568	p164
Goods-producing....	25,581	25,603	25,606	p25,491	p25,439	p-52
Service-producing...	83,816	84,617	84,821	p84,913	p85,129	p216
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.6	34.6	34.6	p34.6	p34.6	p.0
Manufacturing.....	40.7	40.7	40.8	p40.7	p41.1	p0.4
Overtime.....	3.7	3.6	3.6	p3.5	p4.0	p.5

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

p=preliminary.

N.A.=not available.

Over the past 12 months, the labor force has increased by 1.4 million, with adult women accounting for about 70 percent of the gain. (See table A-2.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

With the addition of an estimated 145,000 temporary census workers, total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 165,000 in May to a level of 110.6 million, after seasonal adjustment. Private payrolls, however, were little changed, following a loss of 125,000 jobs (as revised) in the previous month. (See table B-1.)

In May, the goods-producing sector suffered employment declines for the seventh month out of the last nine. Manufacturing employment fell by 35,000, with small losses throughout both the durable and nondurable goods components. Since reaching a post-recession peak in March 1989, 310,000 factory jobs have been lost; industries hardest hit include electrical equipment (-85,000), motor vehicles (-55,000), apparel (-50,000), fabricated metals (-35,000), and textile mills (-25,000). Reflecting continued weakness in the housing market, the construction industry added fewer workers than usual in May, resulting in a seasonally adjusted employment decline of 20,000. Mining employment rose slightly and has increased by 35,000 over the past year.

In the service-producing sector, government jobs rose by 155,000, with almost all of the net additions being temporary census workers. Elsewhere in the sector, employment in wholesale trade increased by 15,000 in May, with most of the increase in the nondurable goods component. For the second straight month, employment was little changed in transportation and public utilities and in finance, insurance, and real estate. Retail trade payrolls were also unchanged in May. Employment in this industry has been weak for the past 4 months, particularly in its general merchandise stores component, where 55,000 jobs have been lost. In the services industry, employment rose by only 35,000, following a small decline in the previous month. May gains were concentrated in health services, which added 45,000 workers; over the past year, health services accounted for half of the employment gain in the services industry and a third of the increase in total private jobs.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged in May at 34.6 hours, seasonally adjusted, and has shown little movement thus far in 1990. The manufacturing workweek rose 0.4 hour in May to 41.1 hours, as factory overtime climbed 0.5 hour to 4 hours. These increases were paced by large gains in overtime hours that were principally in the durable goods sector, particularly in motor vehicles and steel. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers was unchanged in May at 130.0 (1977=100), after seasonal adjustment. The manufacturing index rose 0.7 percent to 94.8, as the increase in hours more than offset the decline in employment. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Both hourly and weekly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls rose 0.4 percent in May, on a seasonally adjusted basis. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose 2 cents to \$9.98 and average weekly earnings advanced 69 cents to \$344.31. Both series increased by 4.1 percent over the past 12 months. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

Note on Establishment Survey Data

Establishment survey data will be revised based on 1989 benchmark levels with the release of August data in September. The revision will also incorporate the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification codes.

The Employment Situation for June 1990 will be released on Friday, July 6, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

News

United States
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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JUNE 1990

Both employment and unemployment were little changed in June, 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 5.3 percent in May.

Nonfarm payroll employment, as reported by the survey of business establishments, was about unchanged in June, after seasonal adjustment. Private sector employment edged up, however, but job growth in this sector has been generally weak over the past several months. Government employment decreased in June, as jobs ended for some temporary workers who had been hired to conduct the decennial census. Total civilian employment, as measured by the household survey, was unchanged in June.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons totaled 6.4 million in June. There were declines in unemployment among teenagers and new entrants into the labor force. The civilian worker unemployment rate, 5.2 percent, was little different from May's 5.3 percent. Unemployment has changed very little over the past 2 years. (See tables A-2 and A-8.)

Jobless rates for most individual worker groups--adult men (4.7 percent), adult women (4.5 percent), whites (4.5 percent), and Hispanics (7.1 percent)--held about steady from May to June. The rate for teenagers fell by 1.4 percentage points to 14.1 percent, returning to about the level which prevailed earlier this year. The rate for blacks has been 10.4 percent for the last 3 months, its lowest level in 16 years. The rate for black teenagers was 31.4 percent in June. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Both civilian employment, 118.4 million, and the employment-population ratio, 63.0 percent, were unchanged over the month, after seasonal adjustment. Over the past year, employment has increased by only about 900,000, considerably less than in recent years. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force, 124.8 million, and the labor force participation rate, 66.4 percent, were also little changed over the month, after seasonal adjustment. The labor force has increased by only 740,000

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			May-June change
	1990		1990			
	I	II	Apr.	May	June	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Labor force <u>1</u> /.....	126,300	126,550	126,543	126,643	126,466	-177
Total employment <u>1</u> /.....	119,758	119,927	119,773	119,989	120,019	30
Civilian labor force..	124,619	124,908	124,886	125,004	124,836	-168
Civilian employment..	118,077	118,285	118,116	118,350	118,389	39
Unemployment.....	6,541	6,623	6,770	6,653	6,447	-206
Not in labor force....	62,793	62,916	62,783	62,824	63,141	317
Discouraged workers..	747	893	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1</u> /.....	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.1	-0.2
All civilian workers	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.2	-.1
Adult men.....	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	.0
Adult women.....	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.5	-.1
Teenagers.....	14.5	14.8	14.7	15.5	14.1	-1.4
White.....	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.5	-.1
Black.....	10.8	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.4	.0
Hispanic origin...	7.5	7.6	8.0	7.7	7.1	-.6
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	110,221	p110,652	110,401	p110,757	p110,797	p40
Goods-producing.....	25,603	p25,439	25,481	p25,440	p25,397	p-43
Service-producing...	84,617	p85,212	84,920	p85,317	p85,400	p83
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.6	p34.6	34.6	p34.6	p34.7	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.7	p40.9	40.6	p41.0	p41.0	p.0
Overtime.....	3.6	p3.7	3.5	p3.8	p3.8	p.0

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.
N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

since June 1989, and the participation rate has remained essentially unchanged. Much of this reduced growth stems from a declining labor force of teenagers, whose population was down by 400,000 from a year earlier. (See table A-2.)

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

The number of discouraged workers--persons who report they want to work but are not looking for jobs because they believe they could not find any--rose by 150,000 in the second quarter of 1990 to a seasonally adjusted level of about 900,000. (See table A-14.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment was about unchanged in June, following an increase of 355,000 in May, as revised. This large swing in employment growth reflected the hiring in May of an additional 200,000 temporary workers for the decennial census and the reduction of an estimated 55,000 in June. Looking at the private sector only, nonfarm payroll job growth averaged only 110,000 during the first 6 months of 1990, compared with 220,000 and 135,000, respectively, during the first and second halves of 1989. (See table B-1.)

The goods-producing sector showed continued weakness in June. Manufacturing payrolls were down 30,000 over the month, with small declines spread among several durable goods industries and in food processing and apparel within nondurables. Factory job losses have totaled 335,000 since March 1989. Construction employment declined for the fourth consecutive month, after seasonal adjustment. At 5.3 million, the employment level in that industry was about the same as a year earlier. In mining, by contrast, small but consistent gains have brought employment in that industry to 760,000--45,000 more than a year earlier and the highest level since June 1986.

June growth in the service-producing sector was essentially limited to the services industry, where employment expanded by 115,000. The health services component continued its pattern of strong growth, adding 40,000 jobs. There was also a small increase in transportation and public utilities. Employment was about unchanged in retail trade and finance, insurance, and real estate. In government, employment declines totaling 50,000 were limited to the Federal sector, principally due to the curtailment in decennial census work.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls edged up 0.1 hour in June to 34.7 hours, seasonally adjusted. The May increase in manufacturing hours was sustained, with the factory workweek holding at 41.0 hours. Manufacturing overtime was also unchanged from May at 3.8 hours (after revision).

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers rose 0.2 percent to 130.5 (1977=100) in June, after

seasonal adjustment. The index for manufacturing was little changed at 94.5. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls edged up 0.3 percent in June, seasonally adjusted. Average weekly earnings rose 0.6 percent. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings declined 1 cent to \$9.96 and average weekly earnings increased \$2.64 to \$346.61. Both hourly and weekly earnings were up 4.0 percent over the year. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

Note on Establishment Survey Data

Establishment survey data will be revised based on 1989 benchmark levels with the release of August data in September. The revision will also incorporate the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification codes.

The Employment Situation for July 1990 will be released on Friday, August 3, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

News

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Bureau of Labor Statistics

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JULY 1990

Employment declined in July and unemployment rose, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The civilian worker unemployment rate increased from June's 5.2 percent to 5.5 percent.

Nonfarm payroll employment, as measured by the survey of business establishments, fell by 220,000 in July. About 175,000 of this decline was in Federal government employment, largely among temporary workers hired to conduct the decennial census. Total civilian employment, as measured by the survey of households, fell by more than 400,000.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons increased by 370,000 in July to a seasonally adjusted level of 6.8 million. The civilian worker unemployment rate rose 0.3 percentage point to 5.5 percent. Much of July's increase occurred among teenagers, although unemployment was up for other worker groups as well. (See table A-2.)

The jobless rate for 16-to-19-year-olds rose 2.2 percentage points to 16.3 percent in July, despite a relatively small influx of teens into the summer job market. The jobless rate for adult men, at 4.9 percent, was half a percentage point above a year earlier. In contrast, the rate for adult women, although up slightly in July to 4.7 percent, was in line with the rates that have generally prevailed since late 1988. The unemployment rate for whites was little changed at 4.6 percent, while the rate for blacks rose to 11.3 percent. Unemployment among Hispanics, which had fallen in June, increased to 7.9 percent of their labor force. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The great majority of the persons added to unemployment in July were either reentering the labor force or seeking their first jobs. There was no significant increase in the number of unemployed who had lost a job. (See table A-8.)

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Following little movement from March through June, total civilian employment showed a decline of 440,000 in July to a seasonally adjusted

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			June- July change
	1990		1990			
	I	II	May	June	July	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Labor force <u>1</u> /.....	126,300	126,550	126,643	126,466	126,394	-72
Total employment <u>1</u> /.	119,758	119,927	119,989	120,019	119,580	-439
Civilian labor force..	124,619	124,908	125,004	124,836	124,767	-69
Civilian employment.	118,077	118,285	118,350	118,389	117,953	-436
Unemployment.....	6,541	6,623	6,653	6,447	6,814	367
Not in labor force....	62,793	62,916	62,824	63,141	63,369	228
Discouraged workers.	747	893	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1</u> /.....	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.4	0.3
All civilian workers	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.5	.3
Adult men.....	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.9	.2
Adult women.....	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.7	.2
Teenagers.....	14.5	14.8	15.5	14.1	16.3	2.2
White.....	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.6	.1
Black.....	10.8	10.4	10.4	10.4	11.3	.9
Hispanic origin...	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.1	7.9	.8
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	110,221	p110,699	110,770	p110,925	p110,706	p-219
Goods-producing....	25,603	p25,445	25,450	p25,405	p25,346	p-59
Service-producing...	84,617	p85,253	85,320	p85,520	p85,360	p-160
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.6	p34.6	34.6	p34.7	p34.7	p 0
Manufacturing.....	40.7	p40.8	40.9	p41.0	p40.9	p-0.1
Overtime.....	3.6	p3.7	3.8	p3.8	p3.7	p-.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.
N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

level of 118.0 million. The July employment level was only 450,000 above its level of a year earlier. The proportion of the population holding jobs declined three-tenths of a percentage point over the month to 62.7 percent. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force was unchanged in July at 124.8 million, seasonally adjusted. Since July 1989, the labor force has grown by only 660,000. In contrast, over the prior 5 years, July-to-July labor force growth averaged about 2 million.

The recent slowdown in labor force growth largely reflects declines in the youth population and in their labor force participation rates. The population of 16-to-24-year-olds declined by more than 600,000 over the year. Also, the proportion of these youths in the labor force, at 66.6 percent in July, was 2.3 percentage points below a year earlier and the lowest since 1983. (See table A-2.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonfarm payroll employment declined by 220,000 in July, after seasonal adjustment, to a level of 110.7 million. This large decrease stemmed mostly from the reduction of an estimated 160,000 in the number of temporary census workers, as reductions in data collection began. (See table B-1.)

Private sector employment, which has shown weakness in recent months, also edged down in July, mostly in the construction industry. Construction employment fell by 50,000, after seasonal adjustment, and has declined by more than 100,000 since last fall.

Manufacturing employment continued to trend downward in July, though at a slower pace than in recent months. July losses were essentially limited to electrical equipment and the industries that produce materials used in construction. Somewhat offsetting this were increases in fabricated metals and several of the nondurable goods industries, including textiles. The number of factory jobs has declined by 325,000 since March 1989.

In the service-producing sector, the number of government employees fell by 175,000 in July, reflecting the winding down of decennial census work. Services-industry employment was about unchanged overall in July. Within services, however, the rapidly expanding health services industry posted only a moderate gain of 25,000 workers. Retail trade added 20,000 jobs, about equal to the average monthly growth this year. Employment in wholesale trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and transportation and public utilities was little changed in July. Growth in these four industries has been considerably less thus far this year than during most of the expansion of the 1980s.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged in July at 34.7 hours, seasonally adjusted. In manufacturing, the workweek declined by 0.1 hour to 40.9 hours, and manufacturing overtime also fell 0.1 hour to 3.7 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers was about unchanged in July at 130.8 (1977=100), after seasonal adjustment. This index has been relatively flat thus far in 1990. The index for manufacturing was unchanged at 94.5, and the construction index fell 3.4 percent to 138.0. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Both average hourly and weekly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls edged up 0.6 percent in July, seasonally adjusted. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings increased 4 cents to \$10.02, and average weekly earnings increased \$2.40 to \$350.70. Over the year, average hourly earnings rose 4.0 percent and average weekly earnings were up 3.8 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

Revisions in Establishment Survey Data

With the release of data for August 1990, national estimates of nonfarm payroll employment, hours, and earnings will be revised to incorporate March 1989 benchmark levels, the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification structure, and updated seasonal adjustment factors. In addition, all constant dollar and other 1977-based series will be rebased to 1982=100.

The Employment Situation for August 1990 will be released on Friday, September 7, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: AUGUST 1990

Employment continued to be weak in August and unemployment rose slightly, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The civilian worker unemployment rate edged up to 5.6 percent in August, after a more substantial increase in July.

Nonfarm payroll employment, as measured by the survey of business establishments, was little changed at 110.7 million in August, the second consecutive month it has failed to show any growth. Total civilian employment, as measured by the survey of households, fell for the second month in a row, to 117.7 million in August.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the number of unemployed persons and the civilian worker unemployment rate edged up in August, after seasonal adjustment, with the number of unemployed reaching 7.0 million and the rate 5.6 percent. Prior to July, the jobless rate had fluctuated around the 5.3-percent mark for nearly 2 years. (See table A-2.)

Over-the-month movements in the jobless rates for most individual worker groups were very small but generally upward. August rates were 5.0 percent for adult men, 4.9 percent for adult women, 16.7 percent for teenagers, 4.8 percent for whites, 11.8 percent for blacks, and 7.8 percent for Hispanics. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The number of unemployed persons who lost their last jobs rose by 280,000 in August, while there was little change in the number who voluntarily left their last jobs or in the number who were entering the

The establishment data shown in this news release have been adjusted to reflect annual benchmark revisions, the conversion of the industry series to 1987 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes, and updated seasonal adjustment factors. In addition, all constant-dollar and indexed series have been rebased to 1982=100. See the note on the revisions beginning on page 4.

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			July-Aug. change
	1990		1990			
	I	II	June	July	Aug.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA						
	Thousands of persons					
Labor force <u>1/</u>	126,300	126,550	126,466	126,394	126,300	-94
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	119,758	119,927	120,019	119,580	119,298	-282
Civilian labor force...	124,619	124,908	124,836	124,767	124,660	-107
Civilian employment...	118,077	118,285	118,389	117,953	117,658	-295
Unemployment.....	6,541	6,623	6,447	6,814	7,003	189
Not in labor force....	62,793	62,916	63,141	63,369	63,601	232
Discouraged workers..	747	893	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u>	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.4	5.5	0.1
All civilian workers	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.5	5.6	.1
Adult men.....	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.9	5.0	.1
Adult women.....	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.9	.2
Teenagers.....	14.5	14.8	14.1	16.3	16.7	.4
White.....	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.8	.2
Black.....	10.8	10.4	10.4	11.3	11.8	.5
Hispanic origin...	7.5	7.6	7.1	7.9	7.8	-.1
ESTABLISHMENT DATA <u>2/</u>						
	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	109,911	110,541	110,829	p110,740	p110,665	p-75
Goods-producing.....	25,262	25,178	25,162	p25,100	p25,008	p-92
Service-producing...	84,649	85,363	85,667	p85,640	p85,657	p17
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.5	34.6	34.7	p34.5	p34.5	p.0
Manufacturing.....	40.8	40.9	41.0	p40.9	p41.0	p.1
Overtime.....	3.6	3.7	3.8	p3.8	p 3.9	p.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

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

2/ Data have been revised to reflect March 1989 benchmarks, conversion to the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) structure, and updated seasonal adjustment factors.

labor force. The number of newly unemployed persons, those jobless for less than 5 weeks, rose by 200,000 to 3.3 million. (See tables A-7 and A-8.)

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment fell by 300,000, seasonally adjusted, to a level of 117.7 million. Most of this decline occurred among teenagers. Total employment has declined by 730,000 in the last 2 months. As a result, the proportion of the working-age population that is employed (the employment-population ratio) declined to 62.5 percent in August, down by half a percentage point over the past 2 months. (See table A-2.)

The number of persons in the civilian labor force, 124.7 million, and the labor force participation rate, 66.2 percent, were little changed over the month, after seasonal adjustment. Over the past year, the labor force has increased by only 570,000, as growth in the working-age population has slowed and the percentage participating in the labor force has diminished. Virtually all of the reduced labor force participation has occurred among teenagers, whose participation rate was down by about 5-1/2 percentage points from a year earlier. (See table A-2.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Payroll employment continued to be weak in August, as job declines occurred throughout the goods-producing sector. These losses were only partly offset by small gains in the service-producing sector. Largely because of a further decline in the number of temporary census workers, total payroll employment edged down by 75,000 over the month, following a decrease of 90,000 (as revised) in July. Employment growth in the private sector, which had been slowing since early 1989, has essentially halted during the last 2 months. (See table B-1.)

Goods-producing employment fell by 90,000 in August. The number of manufacturing jobs declined by 45,000, with virtually all of the losses occurring in durable goods industries, particularly in electronic equipment and transportation equipment. Since reaching a post-recession peak in January 1989, the number of factory jobs has declined by 455,000. The industries with the largest losses include electronic equipment (-100,000), motor vehicles (-80,000), apparel (-55,000), fabricated metals (-50,000), and instruments (-40,000).

Construction employment continued its recent downtrend with a 40,000 reduction in August and has lost nearly 100,000 jobs in the last 3 months. Employment in mining, which had grown by 60,000 since last July, decreased by 7,000 in August.

In the service-producing sector, the number of services industry jobs rose by 70,000 in August. Much of the gain came from health services, which has accounted for more than a quarter of the total job growth over the past year. In contrast, business services showed no change in August, following a small decline in July; this industry, which had seen rapid job gains during much of the expansion, has had much slower growth since early 1989.

State and local governments continued their employment expansion in August, adding 60,000 jobs. Overall government employment fell by 65,000 jobs, however, because of further reductions in the number of decennial census workers (which was down by an estimated 120,000 over the month). Retail trade showed little change over the month and has been unusually sluggish for most of this year. The wholesale trade, transportation and public utilities, and finance, insurance, and real estate industries all experienced small job gains in August after incurring small losses in the prior month.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged in August at 34.5 hours, seasonally adjusted. In manufacturing, the workweek and overtime each edged up by 0.1 hour to 41.0 and 3.9 hours, respectively. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers--which combines the effects of employment and hours--inched downward in August to 124.6 (1982=100), after seasonal adjustment. The index for manufacturing also edged down, to 107.2. Both indexes have shown little change thus far during 1990. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

After seasonal adjustment, average hourly and weekly earnings each edged up 0.2 percent. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings declined 1 cent to \$9.99, while average weekly earnings fell \$1.35 to \$347.65. Over the year, average hourly earnings rose 4.0 percent and average weekly earnings were up 3.7 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

Revisions in Establishment Survey Data

In accordance with annual practice, the establishment survey data have been revised to reflect comprehensive universe counts of payroll jobs (benchmarks). These counts were derived principally from unemployment insurance tax records for March 1989. In addition, all industry series have been converted to 1987 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes. This structure replaces the 1972 SIC coding structure previously in effect for industry estimates.

The impact of SIC restructuring was negligible at the total nonfarm and major industry division levels, but more significant in some of the detailed industries presented in this release. In particular, electronic and other electrical equipment (SIC 36), instruments and related products (SIC 38), and business services (SIC 73) were affected by sizable coverage changes due to the SIC revision.

As is the usual practice with the introduction of new benchmarks, seasonal adjustment factors have been recalculated based on the experience through May 1990. As a result, seasonally adjusted series back to January 1985 are subject to revision. 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 June 1989, BLS began the computation of projected factors twice a year for use in seasonally adjusting establishment-based employment, hours, and earnings data. This schedule was interrupted by the timing delays in the benchmark adjustment occasioned by the incorporation of the SIC revision (which affected some 3,600 industry series). As a result, with the release of data this month, new seasonal adjustment factors for the 9-month period, August 1990 through April 1991, are being introduced. Factors for the 6-month period May-October 1991 will be computed and incorporated with the release of May 1991 estimates, reestablishing the practice of publishing 6 months of factors in advance.

A new moving-holiday extension of X-11 ARIMA was introduced in April 1990 and was used to seasonally adjust the average weekly hours series and manufacturing overtime series. Historical seasonally adjusted series have now been recomputed from January 1980 forward to incorporate this adjustment.

All unadjusted establishment data series from April 1988 forward and all seasonally adjusted series from January 1985 forward are affected by both the benchmark and SIC revisions announced today. Industry series that are affected by revisions in the SIC have been revised back to the inception of the series, to the extent possible. Also, all published constant-dollar and indexed series have been recomputed on a 1982 base, replacing the previously published 1977-based data.

The September 1990 issue of *Employment and Earnings* will contain a more detailed description of the effects of the benchmark and SIC revisions, seasonal adjustment methodology, and the revised seasonal adjustment factors to be used for August 1990-April 1991. That 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, as well as historical series unaffected by the revisions, will be published in a historical bulletin, *Employment, Hours, and Earnings, United States, 1909-1990*. Persons wishing further explanation of these revisions may call BLS staff members on 202-523-1172.

The Employment Situation for September 1990 will be released on Friday, October 5, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

News

United States
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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: SEPTEMBER 1990

Employment continued to show weakness in September, and unemployment was essentially unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The civilian worker unemployment rate was 5.7 percent, about half a percentage point higher than it had been earlier in the year.

Nonfarm payroll employment, as measured by the survey of business establishments, edged down by 100,000 in September, reflecting the further curtailment of decennial census work and weakness in most industries. Total civilian employment, as measured by the survey of households, rose slightly on a seasonally adjusted basis, after declining substantially in the prior 2 months.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The civilian worker unemployment rate was 5.7 percent in September, not substantially different from the previous month but nearly half a percentage point higher than the rates which had prevailed from the fall of 1988 to mid-1990. Unemployment rates for most major worker groups--adult men (5.1 percent), adult women (5.0 percent), whites (4.8 percent), and blacks (12.1 percent)--changed little over the month. The rate for Hispanics, however, rose to 8.7 percent, while that for teenagers fell slightly to 15.5 percent. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

At 7.1 million, seasonally adjusted, the number of unemployed persons also was little changed over the month. There was an increase of about 150,000 in the number of unemployed on temporary layoff, but there was little change in the other unemployment categories--persons who had been permanently separated, job leavers, and labor force entrants. The number of persons working part time for economic reasons (often referred to as the partially unemployed) rose by 330,000 in September to 5.4 million. (See tables A-2, A-4, and A-8.)

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment, at 117.9 million, seasonally adjusted, rose a bit in September, after declining by 700,000 in the prior 2 months. The proportion of the working-age population that is employed (the employment-population ratio) was 62.6 percent in September, little different from the July and August figures. While there was a seasonally adjusted rise in the

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Aug.- Sept. change
	1990		1990			
	II	III	July	Aug.	Sept.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Labor force <u>1/</u>	126,550	126,421	126,394	126,300	126,568	268
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	119,927	119,459	119,580	119,298	119,499	201
Civilian labor force..	124,908	124,798	124,767	124,660	124,967	307
Civilian employment..	118,285	117,836	117,953	117,658	117,898	240
Unemployment.....	6,623	6,962	6,814	7,003	7,069	66
Not in labor force....	62,916	63,468	63,369	63,601	63,434	-167
Discouraged workers..	893	835	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u>	5.2	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.6	0.1
All civilian workers:	5.3	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.7	.1
Adult men.....	4.8	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.1	.1
Adult women.....	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.9	5.0	.1
Teenagers.....	14.8	16.2	16.3	16.7	15.5	-1.2
White.....	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.8	.0
Black.....	10.4	11.7	11.3	11.8	12.1	.3
Hispanic origin...	7.6	8.1	7.9	7.8	8.7	.9
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	110,541	p110,651	110,740	p110,657	p110,556	p-101
Goods-producing.....	25,178	p25,016	25,105	p25,013	p24,929	p-84
Service-producing...	85,363	p85,635	85,635	p85,644	p85,627	p-17
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.6	p34.6	34.5	p34.5	p34.7	p0.2
Manufacturing.....	40.9	p41.0	40.9	p41.0	p41.0	p.0
Overtime.....	3.7	p3.7	3.7	p3.8	p3.7	p-.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

number of working teens in September that offset somewhat the declines occurring during the summer months, these movements seem to reflect an unusual teenage employment pattern this summer. Substantially fewer teens than usual found jobs this summer; consequently, fewer than usual left the workforce when school resumed. (See table A-2.)

The total number of persons in the civilian labor force (125.0 million) and the labor force participation rate (66.3 percent) were little changed over the month, after seasonal adjustment. The labor force was up by 950,000 from a year earlier. (See table A-2.)

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

The number of discouraged workers--persons who report they want to work but have not looked for jobs because they believed that none was available--totaled 835,000 in the third quarter of 1990, after seasonal adjustment, essentially unchanged from the previous quarter. (See table A-14.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Payroll employment exhibited further weakness in September. Job losses continued among goods-producing industries, and the service-producing sector showed virtually no net job growth. At a level of 110.6 million, total nonfarm employment was down by 100,000 over the month. About 40,000 of this decline, however, was among temporary census workers. (See table B-1.)

The number of factory jobs fell by 65,000 in September, after seasonal adjustment. Manufacturing has lost 520,000 jobs since its peak in January 1989, with 115,000 of that occurring in just the last 2 months. Durable goods industries continued to account for most of the declines, as transportation equipment, electronic equipment, and industrial machinery each lost nearly 15,000 jobs in September. Smaller but still significant losses occurred in fabricated metals, furniture, and stone, clay, and glass products.

Elsewhere in the goods-producing sector, construction employment fell by 20,000 in September, after seasonal adjustment, as job losses in the last 4 months have totaled over 100,000. In mining and its oil and gas extraction component, employment was about unchanged over the month.

Within the service-producing sector, only a few industries provided evidence of employment growth in September. Health services added 45,000 jobs over the month and has accounted for nearly two-fifths of total job growth thus far this year. Local government employment grew by 25,000 in September and has increased by 325,000 over the past year; much of the September increase was in local education, reflecting growth in school enrollments. Transportation employment rose by 15,000 over the month, partially due to increased hiring by school bus companies.

Among the industries losing jobs, business services declined by 15,000 over the month. The finance, insurance, and real estate industry experienced a further small decline; its real estate component has slipped

by 15,000 since May. Employment in retail trade edged down for the second consecutive month; general merchandise stores have led the dropoff in this industry, having lost 70,000 jobs since May 1989. Total government employment fell by 35,000 in September, as the gain in local government hiring was more than offset by declines at the state and federal levels (the latter due to continued cutbacks in the number of decennial census workers).

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 0.2 hour in September to 34.7 hours, seasonally adjusted. The factory workweek was unchanged at 41.0 hours, while factory overtime edged down by 0.1 hour to 3.7 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls, at 124.7 (1982=100), edged up by 0.2 percent in September. By contrast, the index for manufacturing fell 0.5 percent, to 106.6. This index was down 2.2 percent over the past year, reflecting the cutbacks in manufacturing employment.

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers rose 0.5 percent in September on a seasonally adjusted basis. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings increased by 17 cents to \$10.17, and average weekly earnings rose by \$5.92 to \$353.92. Over the year, average hourly earnings increased by 4.1 percent and average weekly earnings by 4.4 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

The Employment Situation for October 1990 will be released on Friday, November 2, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

News

United States
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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: OCTOBER 1990

The nation's job market showed further weakness in October, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Nonfarm payroll employment fell slightly, as large job losses in construction and manufacturing were only partly offset by gains in the services industry. The civilian worker unemployment rate held steady at 5.7 percent.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

After inching upward since June, both the number of unemployed, 7.1 million, and the civilian worker unemployment rate, 5.7 percent, were unchanged in October. The unemployment rate for all of the major worker groups—adult men (5.1 percent), adult women (4.9 percent), teenagers (16.2 percent), whites (4.9 percent), blacks (11.8 percent), and Hispanics (8.1 percent)—were little changed or unchanged in October. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The proportion of the unemployed who lost their last jobs was about unchanged in October. At 3.5 million, the number of job losers was about 400,000 higher than the June level. The number of persons working part time who would prefer full-time work (workers on part time for economic reasons) also was little changed in October but has risen by 450,000 since June. (See tables A-4 and A-8.)

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment edged down to 117.7 million in October. Employment had risen by 500,000 during the first half of the year but since then has dropped by nearly 700,000. The proportion of the working-age population that is employed (the employment-population ratio) was 62.4 percent in October. That measure had hovered around 63.0 percent during all of 1989 and the first half of 1990. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force, at 124.8 million, has shown no growth since spring, although the working-age population has continued to increase. As a result, the labor force participation rate has begun to inch down. Most of this declining participation has occurred among teenagers, but even the rate for adult women, which had been on a long upward trend, has been edging down in recent months. (See table A-2.)

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Sept.- Oct. change
	1990		1990			
	II	III	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA						
Thousands of persons						
Labor force <u>1/</u>	126,550	126,421	126,300	126,568	126,354	-214
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	119,927	119,459	119,298	119,499	119,281	-218
Civilian labor force...	124,908	124,798	124,660	124,967	124,784	-183
Civilian employment..	118,285	117,836	117,658	117,898	117,711	-187
Unemployment.....	6,623	6,962	7,003	7,069	7,073	4
Not in labor force....	62,916	63,468	63,601	63,434	63,741	307
Discouraged workers..	893	835	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u>	5.2	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.6	.0
All civilian workers	5.3	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.7	.0
Adult men.....	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.1	.0
Adult women.....	4.6	4.8	4.9	5.0	4.9	-0.1
Teenagers.....	14.8	16.2	16.7	15.5	16.2	.7
White.....	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9	.1
Black.....	10.4	11.7	11.8	12.1	11.8	-.3
Hispanic origin...	7.6	8.1	7.8	8.7	8.1	-.6
ESTABLISHMENT DATA						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment....	110,541	p110,638	110,613	p110,561	p110,493	p-68
Goods-producing.....	25,178	p25,018	25,013	p24,936	p24,794	p-142
Service-producing...	85,363	p85,620	85,600	p85,625	p85,699	p74
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.6	p34.6	34.5	p34.7	p34.2	p-0.5
Manufacturing.....	40.9	p41.0	41.0	p41.1	p40.8	p-.3
Overtime.....	3.7	p3.7	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)

Nonfarm payroll employment signaled continued weakness in October, as substantial job losses in construction, manufacturing, and retail trade more than offset gains in services and state and local government. Total payroll employment edged down by 70,000 over the month, and, unlike recent months, temporary census workers accounted for a very small portion of that decrease. (See table B-1.)

Construction lost the most jobs in October, with a decline of 80,000 that was widespread throughout the industry. With building activity having slowed considerably, the industry has had decreases of 185,000 jobs over the last 5 months. Employment in mining was little changed over the month, despite a small increase in oil and gas extraction.

In manufacturing, employment declined by 60,000 in October, continuing a downward trend which has seen the number of jobs in the nation's factories drop by 175,000 in the last 3 months and by 580,000 since the peak level in January 1989. Durable goods industries have borne the brunt of these job losses, with widespread employment declines in October including losses in electronic equipment, fabricated metals, transportation equipment, lumber, and furniture. Reductions also occurred in several of the nondurable goods industries, including textiles, apparel, rubber and plastics, and leather.

In the service-producing sector, retail trade experienced a drop of 50,000 in October, following 2 months of smaller declines. Wholesale trade decreased by 10,000, as the problems in manufacturing and construction continue to affect adversely employment among the distributors of goods. The durable goods component of wholesale trade has lost 25,000 jobs since June.

Elsewhere in the service sector, the services industry itself added 95,000 jobs in October. As has been the case in recent months, health services accounted for most of this gain, but there were also increases in several other services industries in October, including social services and private education. Employment in business services edged down; this industry has shown no clear employment trend since May. Employment in state and local government rose over the month, mainly in education.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls fell by half an hour in October to 34.2 hours, seasonally adjusted. The decline in hours was widespread across industries. In manufacturing, the workweek declined by 0.3 hour to 40.8 hours, while overtime was unchanged at 3.7 hours. (See table B-2.)

Declines in both employment and the workweek resulted in steep declines in the indexes of aggregate weekly hours. The index for private production or nonsupervisory workers declined by 1.6 percent to 123.3 (1982=100) in October, seasonally adjusted. The construction index fell 5.6 percent to 132.4, and the index for manufacturing, at 105.8, was down about 1.0 percent over the month and 2.2 percent over the past year. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls were unchanged in October at \$10.17. Average weekly earnings, however, were down 1.4 percent, seasonally adjusted, as a result of the sharp drop in weekly hours. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average weekly earnings decreased \$4.07 to \$349.85. Over the year, average hourly earnings rose 3.7 percent and average weekly earnings were up 2.5 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

The Employment Situation for November 1990 will be released on Friday, December 7, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: NOVEMBER 1990

Employment fell sharply in November and unemployment rose, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The civilian worker unemployment rate increased from 5.7 to 5.9 percent.

Nonfarm payroll employment declined by 265,000, as manufacturing, construction, and retail trade were particularly hard hit. The household survey reflected similar weakness, with a decline of 450,000 in November.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons rose about 300,000 to 7.4 million in November, and the civilian worker unemployment rate increased to 5.9 percent. It had been 5.7 percent in both September and October and was 5.2 percent as recently as June. (See table A-2.) November's unemployment rate was the highest since October 1987, when it was 6.0 percent.

Most of the increase in joblessness in November occurred among adult men. Their unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point to 5.4 percent and has been trending upward since midyear. Unemployment rates for other major worker groups in November--adult women (5.1 percent), teenagers (16.5 percent), whites (5.1 percent), blacks (12.4 percent), and Hispanics (8.6 percent)--were also generally up in recent months. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

Reflecting the escalating pace of factory job cutbacks, the unemployment rate for manufacturing workers rose nearly a percentage point in November, to 6.6 percent. The rate for construction workers, which has been inching up for several months, reached 13.6 percent. (See table A-6.)

The number of job losers, who now make up more than half of the unemployed, increased by almost 300,000 over the month and was nearly 700,000 higher than in June. November's increase resulted from a rise in both the number of permanent job losers and those who expected to be recalled from layoff. Increases occurred in both the newly unemployed--those jobless for less than 5 weeks--and in the very long-term unemployed--those jobless for 27 weeks or longer. The number of workers who would prefer full-time work but were employed part time due to slack work increased by nearly 200,000. (See tables A-4, A-7, and A-8.)

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Oct.- Nov. change
	1990		1990			
	II	III	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA						
	Thousands of persons					
Labor force 1/.....	126,550	126,421	126,568	126,354	126,231	-123
Total employment 1/..	119,927	119,459	119,499	119,281	118,876	-405
Civilian labor force..	124,908	124,798	124,967	124,784	124,616	-168
Civilian employment..	118,285	117,836	117,898	117,711	117,261	-450
Unemployment.....	6,623	6,962	7,069	7,073	7,355	282
Not in labor force....	62,916	63,468	63,434	63,741	64,081	340
Discouraged workers..	893	835	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers 1/.....	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.8	0.2
All civilian workers..	5.3	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.9	.2
Adult men.....	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.4	.3
Adult women.....	4.6	4.8	5.0	4.9	5.1	.2
Teenagers.....	14.8	16.2	15.5	16.2	16.5	.3
White.....	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.1	.2
Black.....	10.4	11.7	12.1	11.8	12.4	.6
Hispanic origin...	7.6	8.1	8.7	8.1	8.6	.5
	Thousands of jobs					
ESTABLISHMENT DATA						
Nonfarm employment....	110,541	110,655	110,612	p110,434	p110,167	p-267
Goods-producing.....	25,178	25,016	24,931	p24,779	p24,524	p-255
Service-producing....	85,363	85,639	85,681	p85,655	p85,643	p-12
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.6	34.6	34.7	p34.2	p34.4	p0.2
Manufacturing.....	40.9	41.0	41.0	p40.7	p40.5	p-.2
Overtime.....	3.7	3.7	3.7	p3.6	p3.5	p-.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.
N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment declined by 450,000 to 117.3 million in November and has been trending downward since June. Employment among teenagers has been declining even longer--since March--and continued to trend downward in November. Most of the over-the-month losses were attributable to adult women. The proportion of the working-age population that is employed (the employment-population ratio) was 62.1 percent in November. This ratio had been holding at around 63.0 percent in 1989 and in the first half of 1990. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The civilian labor force was little changed at 124.6 million. As the working-age population continued to increase, the labor force participation rate edged down to 66.0 percent in November and is down by more than half a percentage point since May. Most of this decline in participation has occurred among teenagers, but there has also been a small reduction among adult women, whose participation rate has been trending upward historically. (See table A-2.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment showed marked deterioration in November with a decline of 265,000. This came on the heels of a drop of 180,000 for October, as revised. Exceptionally large job losses occurred in manufacturing, particularly in durable goods. Also, construction and retail trade had substantial declines for the second month in a row, and weakness was evident in most other industries. Only mining and the services industry added jobs over the month. (See table B-1.)

The decline in manufacturing totaled 200,000, as reductions were widespread throughout the industry. The largest decline occurred in motor vehicle manufacturing, where employment had been inching down since July. November's drop in this industry (55,000) reflected the temporary shutdowns of plants to avoid excessive inventory buildup. Employment also fell in several other industries that supply materials for auto manufacturing such as fabricated metals, rubber and plastics, and apparel and other textile products. Elsewhere in manufacturing, employment decreased substantially in industrial machinery and electronic equipment, about 15,000 each, and in industries tied to the slumping construction industry such as lumber and furniture. In total, manufacturing has now lost more than three-quarters of a million jobs since the peak level of January 1989.

The construction industry, which has been trending downward since spring, lost 60,000 jobs in November, following an even larger drop in October. In the last 6 months, the industry has shed about a quarter of a million jobs, with general building contractors (particularly residential) suffering disproportionately large losses. In mining, there was a 5,000 job gain in November, mainly in oil and gas extraction, which is reacting to the rise in fuel prices.

Widespread weakness was also evident in the service-producing sector. Seasonal hirings have been far short of normal in retail trade this fall. In November, employment in the industry fell by 70,000, after seasonal adjustment, following a drop of 55,000 in October; general merchandise stores accounted for the bulk of the declines. Employment also fell in wholesale trade and in finance, insurance, and real estate. Job losses in wholesale trade, which is closely tied to manufacturing and construction, have totaled 40,000 since August.

Employment in the services industry rose by 80,000 in November, with gains confined principally to health services and social services. Business services, which has been especially weak since June, declined by about 20,000 over the month.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 0.2 hour in November to 34.4 hours, seasonally adjusted, but this followed a decline of 0.5 hour in October. The manufacturing workweek decreased by 0.2 hour to 40.5 hours, and factory overtime edged down 0.1 hour to 3.5 hours. The factory workweek has declined by half an hour since September. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers was little changed in November at 123.4 (1982=100), seasonally adjusted. The index for manufacturing, at 103.6, declined by 1.8 percent over the month, reflecting the drops in both employment and hours. This index has fallen by 3.9 percent over the past year. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls were essentially unchanged in November. Average weekly earnings rose by 0.7 percent, seasonally adjusted, as a result of the partial rebound in hours. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average weekly earnings edged down to \$348.49. Over the year, average hourly earnings increased by 3.6 percent and average weekly earnings by 3.0 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

The Employment Situation for December 1990 will be released on Friday, January 4, 1991, 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: DECEMBER 1990

The nation's employment situation deteriorated further in December, as the civilian worker unemployment rate rose from 5.9 to 6.1 percent, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Nonfarm payroll employment declined, though not as much as in the prior 2 months. Total civilian employment, which has also fallen substantially in recent months, was little changed in December.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons rose by 260,000 to 7.6 million in December, and the civilian worker unemployment rate rose to 6.1 percent. Since June, the jobless count has risen by 1 million and the jobless rate has increased by eight-tenths of a percentage point, reaching its highest level since June 1987.

Jobless rates for most major worker groups continued their upward trend in December. Specifically, the rates rose to 5.6 percent for adult men, 5.3 percent for adult women, 5.3 percent for whites, and 9.3 percent for Hispanics. The rate for teenagers (16.6 percent) was little changed and that for blacks (12.2 percent) was unchanged over the month, but, as with the rates for the other groups, both have trended upward since mid-1990. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

Persons reentering the labor force accounted for most of the increased unemployment in December. The number of unemployed who lost their last jobs was about unchanged but, at 3.8 million, was 600,000 higher than in June. The number of persons working part time for economic reasons--sometimes referred to as the partially unemployed--edged up by 150,000 to 5.6 million in December and has risen by 560,000 since June. (See tables A-8 and A-4.)

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.

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Nov.- Dec. change
	1990		1990			
	III	IV	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Labor force 1/.....	126,418	126,525	126,445	126,338	126,791	453
Total employment 1/..	119,441	119,165	119,303	119,001	119,191	190
Civilian labor force..	124,795	124,924	124,875	124,723	125,174	451
Civilian employment..	117,818	117,564	117,733	117,386	117,574	188
Unemployment.....	6,976	7,360	7,142	7,337	7,600	263
Not in labor force....	63,471	63,772	63,650	63,974	63,692	-282
Discouraged workers..	831	941	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers 1/.....	5.5	5.8	5.6	5.8	6.0	0.2
All civilian workers:	5.6	5.9	5.7	5.9	6.1	.2
Adult men.....	5.0	5.4	5.2	5.4	5.6	.2
Adult women.....	4.9	5.1	4.9	5.1	5.3	.2
Teenagers.....	16.0	16.4	16.2	16.4	16.6	.2
White.....	4.8	5.1	4.9	5.0	5.3	.3
Black.....	11.6	12.0	11.7	12.2	12.2	.0
Hispanic origin...	8.1	8.7	8.2	8.6	9.3	.7
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	110,655	p110,234	110,432	p110,173	p110,097	p-76
Goods-producing....	25,016	p24,578	24,777	p24,506	p24,451	p-55
Service-producing...	85,639	p85,656	85,655	p85,667	p85,646	p-21
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.6	p34.4	34.2	p34.4	p34.6	p0.2
Manufacturing.....	41.0	p40.7	40.7	p40.5	p40.8	p-.3
Overtime.....	3.7	p3.6	3.6	p3.5	p3.7	p-.2

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.
 Note: Household data have been revised
 based on the experience through December 1990.

N.A.=not available
 p=preliminary

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Following declines in October and November, total civilian employment was little changed in December at 117.6 million. Since June, the number of employed persons has fallen by nearly 700,000 (some of which stemmed from cutbacks in employment of temporary census workers). At 62.3 percent in December, the percentage of the population that is employed (the employment-population ratio) was six-tenths of a percentage point lower than in June. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force showed an increase of 450,000 in December, reaching 125.2 million. Over the past year, however, the labor force has risen by only 630,000. The civilian labor force participation rate edged back up to 66.3 percent in December, following steady declines during most of the second half of the year. (See table A-2.)

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

The number of discouraged workers--persons who want to work but are not looking for jobs because they believe they could not find any--increased by 110,000 in the fourth quarter of 1990 to a seasonally adjusted level of 940,000. This was the highest level since the first quarter of 1988. Women accounted for all of the increase in discouragement in the fourth quarter. (See table A-14.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 75,000 in December to 110.1 million. While much smaller than in the prior 2 months, job losses were still widespread. The largest declines occurred in retail trade, manufacturing, and construction. (See table B-1.)

Following extremely large cutbacks in November, manufacturing employment declined by 35,000 in December. Most manufacturing industries showed only small declines, but noteworthy losses occurred in industrial machinery as well as in several construction and auto-related industries--lumber; stone, clay, and glass; fabricated metals; and rubber and plastics. Employment in motor vehicles and equipment was up by 20,000 in December, reflecting the return of some auto workers from temporary layoffs; still, auto employment was about 55,000 lower than in mid-1990.

Employment in construction (seasonally adjusted) was down by 30,000 in December, following substantially larger losses in the prior 2 months. Since May, construction declines have totaled 290,000. Mining had a small job gain in December, mostly in oil and gas extraction.

In the service-producing sector, retail trade lost 50,000 jobs in December, after seasonal adjustment, with half of the decline in general merchandise (department and variety) stores. In part because employers did not staff up as much as they usually do for the Christmas buying period, retail employment fell by 150,000 over the past 3 months. Wholesale trade had its fourth straight monthly employment decrease in December; employment in this industry is down 55,000 since June.

In the services industry, health services added 55,000 jobs in December and has increased its employment at about that pace throughout the year. In contrast, employment in business services declined for the third straight month and has lost 40,000 jobs since September.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 0.2 hour in December to 34.6 hours, seasonally adjusted, bringing the average workweek close to the September level. The manufacturing workweek increased 0.3 hour to 40.8 hours, seasonally adjusted, and factory overtime rose by 0.2 hour to 3.7 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers increased by 0.6 percent to 124.2 (1982=100) in December, seasonally adjusted. The index for manufacturing rose by 0.7 percent to 104.2, seasonally adjusted. Over the year, however, the manufacturing index was down by 3.3 percent, reflecting the declines in employment. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers rose by 0.6 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis to \$10.20 in December. Average weekly earnings rose by 1.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, to \$352.92. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings were up 4 cents and average weekly earnings increased by \$6.48. Over the past year, average hourly earnings increased by 3.8 percent and average weekly earnings by 4.4 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

The Employment Situation for January 1991 will be released on Friday, February 1, at 8:30 A.M. (EST). Release dates for the balance of 1991 are as follows:

March 8	Aug. 2
April 5	Sept. 6
May 3	Oct. 4
June 7	Nov. 1
July 5	Dec. 6

Changes in Data Presentation

Beginning with next month's issue, this release will include new seasonally adjusted data for broad occupational groupings. These data will be incorporated into existing tables A-4 and A-6 and will replace not seasonally adjusted data in table A-11, which will be discontinued. Table A-10 (data for "black and other" workers) also will be discontinued. The unadjusted occupational data and the "black and other" data series will continue to be published in Employment and Earnings and also will be available upon request. Data for specific race and ethnic groups (black, white, and Hispanic) will continue to appear in table A-3 of this release.

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. (Seasonally adjusted establishment data are 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 1990. Table C presents revised seasonally adjusted data for major civilian labor force series for December 1989 through December 1990.

The January 1991 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 1991. 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 1986-90 revision period for nearly 450 labor force series will be published in the February 1991 issue. Microcomputer diskettes 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 1990 and change due to revision

Month	Civilian worker rate			Overall rate		
	As first computed	As revised	Change	As first computed	As revised	Change
January.....	5.3	5.3	0	5.2	5.2	0
February.....	5.3	5.3	0	5.2	5.2	0
March.....	5.2	5.3	0.1	5.1	5.2	0.1
April.....	5.4	5.4	0	5.3	5.3	0
May.....	5.3	5.3	0	5.3	5.3	0
June.....	5.2	5.3	.1	5.1	5.2	.1
July.....	5.5	5.5	0	5.4	5.4	0
August.....	5.6	5.6	0	5.5	5.6	.1
September.....	5.7	5.7	0	5.6	5.6	0
October.....	5.7	5.7	0	5.6	5.6	0
November.....	5.9	5.9	0	5.8	5.8	0
December.....	*6.2	6.1	-.1	*6.1	6.0	-.1

* Not published.

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JANUARY 1991

Employment declined in January and unemployment continued its upward trend, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The civilian worker unemployment rate was 6.2 percent, compared with 6.1 percent in December and 5.3 percent last June.

Nonfarm payroll employment, as measured by the survey of business establishments, dropped by 230,000 in January and has declined by about 1 million since last June. Total civilian employment, as estimated through the survey of households, fell substantially in January and since June has declined by over 1 million workers.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons edged up to 7.7 million, seasonally adjusted, in January, and the civilian worker unemployment rate moved up to 6.2 percent, continuing the uptrend which began last summer. Since June, the jobless count has risen by 1.2 million and the jobless rate has increased by nine-tenths of a percentage point. Both measures were at their highest points in more than 3-1/2 years.

Teenagers accounted for the upward movement in unemployment in January. Their jobless rate rose substantially, from 16.6 to 18.2 percent, while the rates for adult men (5.6 percent) and adult women (5.3 percent) were unchanged over the month. Among the major race-ethnic groups, the jobless rate for whites rose 0.2 percentage point to 5.5 percent in January, the rate for blacks (12.1 percent) was about the same as in December, and the rate for Hispanics (9.3 percent) was unchanged. Rates for each of these groups have increased substantially since mid-1990. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The number of unemployed persons who lost their last jobs rose by 270,000 in January to 4.1 million. The number of job losers has increased by about 850,000 since June and now account for 53 percent of the total unemployed. The number of unemployed persons who had voluntarily left their last jobs declined over the month. (See table A-7.)

The number of persons working part time for economic reasons--sometimes referred to as the partially unemployed--was about unchanged but, at 5.5 million in January, was up substantially from the levels that prevailed during the first half of 1990. (See table A-4.)

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Dec.- Jan. change
	1990		1990		1991	
	III	IV	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Labor force 1/.....	126,418	126,525	126,338	126,791	126,253	-538
Total employment 1/..	119,441	119,165	119,001	119,191	118,537	-654
Civilian labor force..	124,795	124,924	124,723	125,174	124,638	-536
Civilian employment..	117,818	117,564	117,386	117,574	116,922	-652
Unemployment.....	6,976	7,360	7,337	7,600	7,715	115
Not in labor force....	63,471	63,772	63,974	63,692	64,339	647
Discouraged workers..	831	941	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers 1/.....	5.5	5.8	5.8	6.0	6.1	0.1
All civilian workers:	5.6	5.9	5.9	6.1	6.2	.1
Adult men.....	5.0	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.6	.0
Adult women.....	4.9	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.3	.0
Teenagers.....	16.0	16.4	16.4	16.6	18.2	1.6
White.....	4.8	5.1	5.0	5.3	5.5	.2
Black.....	11.6	12.0	12.2	12.2	12.1	-.1
Hispanic origin...	8.1	8.7	8.6	9.3	9.3	.0
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	110,655	p110,205	110,165	p110,017	p109,785	p-232
Goods-producing.....	25,016	p24,571	24,511	p24,426	p24,197	p-229
Service-producing...	85,639	p85,633	85,654	p85,591	p85,588	p-3
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.6	p34.4	34.4	p34.6	p34.1	p-0.5
Manufacturing.....	41.0	p40.6	40.5	p40.7	p40.2	p-.5
Overtime.....	3.7	p3.6	3.5	p3.6	p3.4	p-.2
1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.						p=preliminary.
N.A.=not available.						

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment, which had shown a small increase in December, fell by 650,000 in January to a seasonally adjusted level of 116.9 million. The percentage of the population that is employed (the employment-population ratio) dropped by four-tenths of a point in January to 61.9 percent, its lowest level since March 1988. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force fell by 540,000 in January to 124.6 million; this followed an increase of 450,000 in December. Over the past year, the labor force has grown only negligibly--by 300,000--while the working-age population has continued to increase at a faster pace. As a result, the civilian labor force participation rate dropped by half a percentage point over the past year to 66.0 percent in January. Most of the decreasing participation has occurred among teenagers. (See table A-2.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 230,000 in January to 109.8 million, following a decline of 150,000 in December, as revised. Job losses now total over a million since last June, with about three-fourths of the decline occurring in the private sector. The construction and manufacturing industries were the hardest hit in January. (See table B-1.)

Construction employment fell by 155,000, seasonally adjusted, with some portion of the decline probably resulting from unusually bad weather during the January survey period. This industry has lost 450,000 jobs since last May.

Manufacturing employment declined by 70,000 over the month, continuing a downtrend which has resulted in the loss of 900,000 jobs since the beginning of 1989. Factory employment declines were concentrated in the durable goods industries, with large losses in construction-related industries--lumber and wood products, furniture and fixtures, and stone, clay, and glass products--and in industries engaged in or related to auto manufacturing--motor vehicles and equipment and fabricated metals.

Employment in the service-producing sector was unchanged in January following losses of 60,000 in December. Weakness in many of the service-sector industries was offset by a seasonally adjusted increase in retail trade, where a very weak pre-Christmas buildup led to smaller-than-expected January cutbacks.

Wholesale trade employment edged down in January; the industry has lost 70,000 jobs since it peaked in June. All of the over-the-month decline was in durable goods distribution, mostly in machinery and motor vehicles.

The services industry, which had continued to add jobs through November, now has had 2 consecutive months without further growth. Business services continued to experience large losses, as employment was down more than 30,000 over the month and 90,000 over the past 4 months. Health services added about 40,000 jobs.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls, which has been quite volatile during the economic downturn, decreased by 0.5 hour in January to 34.1 hours, seasonally adjusted, following increases in the prior 2 months. The manufacturing workweek also decreased by half an hour to 40.2 hours, and factory overtime, at 3.4 hours, declined by 0.2 hour. While both the manufacturing workweek and overtime had increased in December, they have been generally trending downward in recent months. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers decreased by 1.9 percent to 121.7 (1982=100) in January, seasonally adjusted, as a result of the sizable declines in both employment and working hours. The index for manufacturing decreased 1.4 percent to 102.2, seasonally adjusted. Over the year, the index for manufacturing was down by 4.4 percent. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were essentially unchanged in January, on a seasonally adjusted basis, at \$10.18. Average weekly earnings decreased 1.5 percent to \$347.14. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average weekly earnings were down \$8.85. Over the past year, average hourly earnings increased by 3.7 percent and average weekly earnings by 2.5 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

The Employment Situation for February 1991 will be released on Friday, March 8, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

Changes in Data Presentation

As announced in last month's issue, this release includes new seasonally adjusted data for broad occupational groupings. These data are incorporated into tables A-4 and A-5 and replace not seasonally adjusted data in old table A-11, which has been discontinued. Data for "black and other" workers (old table A-10) also has been discontinued. The data for more detailed occupational groups and the "black and other" data series will continue to be published in Employment and Earnings and also will be available upon request. Data for specific race and ethnic groups (black, white, and Hispanic) continue to appear in table A-3 of this release.

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: FEBRUARY 1991

Employment continued to decline in February and unemployment rose sharply, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The civilian worker unemployment rate was 6.5 percent, up from 6.2 percent in January and 5.3 percent last June.

Nonfarm payroll employment, as measured by the survey of business establishments, fell by 185,000 in February, as manufacturing, transportation, and retail trade experienced particularly large job losses. Total civilian employment, as measured through the household survey, was unchanged, following a large decline in January.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons increased by 440,000 in February to a level of 8.2 million (after seasonal adjustment), and the civilian worker unemployment rate rose to 6.5 percent. This was the highest rate since March 1987. Since June of last year, the number of jobless workers has climbed by 1.6 million, and the unemployment rate has risen by 1.2 percentage points. (See table A-2.)

Adult men accounted for the upward movement in unemployment in February. Their jobless rate rose sharply, from 5.6 to 6.3 percent, while the rates for adult women (5.4 percent) and teenagers (17.1 percent) were little changed. Among the race-ethnic groups, the unemployment rate for whites rose from 5.5 to 5.9 percent, while those for blacks (11.8 percent) and Hispanics (9.5 percent) were essentially unchanged. The jobless rates in two male-dominated industries--construction and durable goods manufacturing--continued to rise in February. Over the past year, the workers in these industries experienced by far the greatest increases in unemployment. (See tables A-2, A-3, and A-5.)

The number of unemployed persons who lost their last jobs rose by 450,000 in February to 4.5 million. This figure has risen by 1.4 million since last July. Job losers now comprise 55.5 percent of the unemployed, the highest proportion since October 1983. (See table A-7.)

The number of persons working part time for economic reasons--sometimes called the underemployed or partially unemployed--increased by 550,000 to 6.1 million in February. This figure has risen substantially from the 4.9 million level that generally prevailed throughout the first half of 1990. (See table A-4.)

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Jan.- Feb. change
	1990		1990	1991		
	III	IV	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Labor force 1/.....	126,418	126,525	126,791	126,253	126,678	425
Total employment 1/.	119,441	119,165	119,191	118,537	118,520	-17
Civilian labor force..	124,795	124,924	125,174	124,638	125,076	438
Civilian employment..	117,818	117,564	117,574	116,922	116,918	-4
Unemployment.....	6,976	7,360	7,600	7,715	8,158	443
Not in labor force....	63,471	63,772	63,692	64,339	64,039	-300
Discouraged workers.	831	941	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers 1/.....	5.5	5.8	6.0	6.1	6.4	0.3
All civilian workers	5.6	5.9	6.1	6.2	6.5	.3
Adult men.....	5.0	5.4	5.6	5.6	6.3	.7
Adult women.....	4.9	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.4	.1
Teenagers.....	16.0	16.4	16.6	18.2	17.1	-1.1
White.....	4.8	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.9	.4
Black.....	11.6	12.0	12.2	12.1	11.8	-.3
Hispanic origin...	8.1	8.7	9.3	9.3	9.5	.2
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	110,655	110,200	110,004	p109,771	p109,587	p-184
Goods-producing.....	25,016	24,568	24,416	p24,184	p24,086	p-98
Service-producing...	85,639	85,632	85,588	p85,587	p85,501	p-86
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.6	34.4	34.6	p34.1	p34.3	p0.2
Manufacturing.....	41.0	40.6	40.7	p40.4	p40.2	p-.2
Overtime.....	3.7	3.6	3.6	p3.4	p3.3	p-.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.
N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Following a decline of 650,000 in January, total civilian employment was unchanged in February at 116.9 million, seasonally adjusted. The percentage of the working-age population that is employed (the employment-population ratio) was 61.8 percent in February, down from 63.0 percent a year earlier. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force, which has shown erratic movements in recent months, increased by 440,000 in February to 125.1 million. Over the past year, however, the civilian labor force has grown by a modest 630,000--an increase of only 0.5 percent. The labor force participation rate--the proportion of the working-age population that is either employed or actively seeking employment--was 66.1 percent in February, little different from the previous month and 0.4 percentage point lower than a year earlier. (See table A-2.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 185,000 in February to 109.6 million. The bulk of the decline occurred in manufacturing, and there were also substantial losses in retail and wholesale trade and in transportation and public utilities. For the seventh consecutive month, more industries had declines than increases. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

Manufacturing employment fell by 125,000 in February, continuing a downward trend which started 2 years ago. Since January 1989, the number of factory jobs has decreased by over 1 million. Manufacturing job losses in February continued to be concentrated in durable goods, particularly in industrial machinery, autos and other transportation equipment, and fabricated metals. Smaller declines occurred among industries tied to construction--lumber and wood products and furniture and fixtures--as well as in primary metals and electronic equipment. In nondurable goods, small job losses took place in textiles and rubber and plastics. The only manufacturing industry in which there was an over-the-month employment gain was food processing, which has added more than 20,000 jobs in the last 8 months.

Despite relatively mild weather in February, construction employment showed only a slight rebound from the drop of 150,000 in the prior month (seasonally adjusted). The recent string of job losses in this industry totals about 425,000 since last May.

The service-producing sector also lost jobs in February. Employment in retail trade fell by 70,000, after seasonal adjustment. In transportation, there was a 35,000 cutback, reflecting temporary layoffs and job terminations in the airline industry and continued declines in trucking. Also, employment declined by 25,000 in wholesale trade and 10,000 in finance, insurance, and real estate. Retail and wholesale trade combined has lost a total of 350,000 jobs since last summer.

The services industry, which had been growing robustly until late last year, has shown only small employment gains for the past 3 months. Health services has continued to grow, but at a more moderate pace, with an increase of 30,000 jobs in February. There was a further job decline (20,000) in business services, where reductions have totaled 75,000 since last September.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls edged up by 0.2 hour in February to 34.3 hours, seasonally adjusted, following a decline of 0.5 hour in January. The manufacturing workweek declined by 0.2 hour from its revised January level to 40.2 hours, and factory overtime edged down to 3.3 hours. The manufacturing workweek and overtime have been trending downward in recent months. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers increased by 0.3 percent to 122.3 (1982=100) in February, seasonally adjusted, as a result of the slight increase in hours. The index for manufacturing declined by 1.2 percent to 101.0, seasonally adjusted. Over the year, the index for manufacturing was down by 6.1 percent. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were unchanged at \$10.20, seasonally adjusted. Average weekly earnings increased by 0.6 percent to \$349.86. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average weekly earnings were up by \$1.03. Over the past year, average hourly earnings increased by 3.3 percent and average weekly earnings by 2.4 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

The Employment Situation for March 1991 will be released on Friday, April 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: MARCH 1991

Employment fell in March and unemployment rose sharply, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The civilian worker unemployment rate was 6.8 percent, up from 6.5 percent in February and 5.3 percent last June.

Nonfarm payroll employment, as measured by the survey of business establishments, declined by 205,000 in March, as manufacturing, construction, and trade experienced particularly large job losses. Total civilian employment, as measured by the household survey, was little changed but has been trending downward since last June.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons increased by 410,000 in March to a level of 8.6 million (after seasonal adjustment). The civilian worker unemployment rate rose three-tenths of a percentage point for the second straight month, reaching 6.8 percent, the highest since November 1986. Since June of last year, the number of unemployed workers has risen by 2 million and the jobless rate has climbed by 1.5 percentage points. (See table A-2.)

Jobless rates continued their upward trend for all major worker groups in March. The rate for adult women rose three-tenths of a percentage point to 5.7 percent, and that for adult men, which had increased substantially in February, edged up two-tenths to 6.5 percent. The rate for teenagers rose to 18.7 percent. Among the race-ethnic groups, the unemployment rate for whites increased to 6.2 percent, and the rates for blacks (12.3 percent) and Hispanics (10.3 percent) rose slightly. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

Persons who have lost their last jobs accounted for 55 percent of the total jobless in March, up from 47 percent a year earlier (seasonally adjusted). Similarly, long-term unemployment (15 weeks and over) as a percent of the total has risen 5 percentage points over the past year to 25 percent. (See tables A-6 and A-7.)

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment was little changed in March but, at a seasonally adjusted level of 116.8 million, was down about 1.5 million from last June. The employment-population ratio--the proportion of the working-

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Feb.- Mar. change
	1990	1991	1991			
	IV	I	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA		Thousands of persons				
Labor force 1/.....	126,525	126,572	126,253	126,678	126,786	108
Total employment 1/..	119,165	118,424	118,537	118,520	118,214	-306
Civilian labor force...	124,924	125,013	124,638	125,076	125,326	250
Civilian employment...	117,564	116,865	116,922	116,918	116,754	-164
Unemployment.....	7,360	8,149	7,715	8,158	8,572	414
Not in labor force....	63,772	64,099	64,339	64,039	63,917	-122
Discouraged workers..	941	997	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
		Percent of labor force				
Unemployment rates:						
All workers 1/.....	5.8	6.4	6.1	6.4	6.8	0.4
All civilian workers:	5.9	6.5	6.2	6.5	6.8	.3
Adult men.....	5.4	6.1	5.6	6.3	6.5	.2
Adult women.....	5.1	5.5	5.3	5.4	5.7	.3
Teenagers.....	16.4	18.0	18.2	17.1	18.7	1.6
White.....	5.1	5.8	5.5	5.9	6.2	.3
Black.....	12.0	12.1	12.1	11.8	12.3	.5
Hispanic origin...	8.7	9.7	9.3	9.5	10.3	.8
ESTABLISHMENT DATA		Thousands of jobs				
Nonfarm employment....	110,200	p109,550	109,813	p109,522	p109,316	p-206
Goods-producing.....	24,568	p24,051	24,193	p24,063	p23,897	p-166
Service-producing...	85,632	p85,499	85,620	p85,459	p85,419	p-40
		Hours of work				
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.4	p34.2	34.1	p34.3	p34.2	p-0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.6	p40.3	40.4	p40.3	p40.1	p-.2
Overtime.....	3.6	p3.3	3.4	p3.3	p3.2	p-.1
1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces. See note on table A-1.					N.A.=not available. p=preliminary.	

age population that is employed--was 61.7 percent in March, down from 62.9 percent last June. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force, at 125.3 million in March, was little changed from the previous month. Over the past year, the labor force has increased by only 650,000. (Over the past decade, the labor force grew by an average of 1.8 million a year.) While the labor force levels for adult men and women each grew by about 1 percent over the year, the teenage labor force declined by 8 percent. The labor force participation rate--the proportion of working age persons either employed or actively seeking employment--was 66.2 percent in March, 0.3 percentage point lower than a year earlier. (See table A-2.)

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

The number of discouraged workers--persons who want a job but are not actively seeking employment because they feel their job search would be in vain--was 1 million in the first quarter of 1991. Though little changed from late 1990, this represented an increase of 210,000 over the past year. (See table A-12.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment declined by 205,000 in March to 109.3 million. This followed a drop of 290,000, as revised, in February. March job losses were concentrated in manufacturing, construction, and trade. Since last September, the number of payroll jobs has declined by 1.3 million.

Manufacturing employment fell by 90,000 in March, following a drop of 150,000 in February. Factory jobs have been on a downward course since January 1989, with cutbacks totaling 1.2 million. Job losses continued to be concentrated in durable goods; in March, declines were particularly large in machinery, electronic equipment, fabricated metals, transportation equipment, and stone, clay, and glass products. In nondurable goods, sizable job declines occurred in printing and publishing and in rubber and plastics.

The number of construction jobs dropped by 70,000 in March (seasonally adjusted). Employment in construction has been on a downtrend since May of last year, for a loss of half a million jobs.

Employment in retail trade declined by 50,000 in March, following an unusually large drop of 110,000 in February, as revised. The number of jobs in wholesale trade also continued to decrease, mostly in durable goods distribution. Since last summer, the trade industries have lost a total of 460,000 jobs.

The number of jobs in the transportation industry was little changed in March, following a large decline in February. Temporary layoffs and job terminations in the airline and travel services industries and continued reductions in trucking account for the loss of 40,000 transportation jobs so far this year.

Job growth in the services industry, which had been robust until late last year, has halted in the past 2 months. The business services component has been losing jobs over the past 6 months, with the decline totaling 100,000. In contrast, employment in health services has continued to grow, as reflected by a March increase of 40,000 jobs.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls edged down by 0.1 hour in March to 34.2 hours, seasonally adjusted, following an increase of 0.2 hour in February. The manufacturing workweek declined by 0.2 hour from its February level to 40.1 hours, and factory overtime edged down to 3.2 hours. Both the manufacturing workweek and overtime have been trending downward over the past half year. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers decreased by 0.7 percent to 121.3 (1982=100) in March, seasonally adjusted. The index for manufacturing declined by 0.9 percent to 100.1. Over the year, the index for manufacturing was down by 6.9 percent. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers increased by 0.5 percent to \$10.25, seasonally adjusted. Average weekly earnings increased by 0.2 percent to \$350.55. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings edged up by 2 cents, and average weekly earnings were up by \$1.70. Over the past year, average hourly earnings increased by 3.3 percent and average weekly earnings by 2.4 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

The Employment Situation for April 1991 will be released on Friday, May 3, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

News

United States
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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: APRIL 1991

The decline in nonfarm payroll employment moderated in April, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. After 2 months of steep increases, the civilian worker unemployment rate fell from 6.8 to 6.6 percent.

Nonfarm payroll employment--as measured by the survey of establishments--decreased by 125,000, considerably less than the declines of the previous 6 months. In contrast, total civilian employment--as measured by the survey of households--showed an unusually large increase in April.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons declined by 300,000 in April. At 8.3 million, seasonally adjusted, the number of jobless persons was still more than half a million higher than at the beginning of this year and 1.4 million higher than last July, when the current recession began. The civilian worker unemployment rate, which had risen sharply in February and March, fell by 0.2 percentage point in April to 6.6 percent. The jobless rate now stands 1.1 percentage points higher than in July. (See table A-2.)

Unemployment rates for adult men (6.2 percent), adult women (5.5 percent), whites (5.8 percent), and Hispanics (9.0 percent) were down somewhat in April, while the rates for teenagers (18.1 percent) and blacks (12.6 percent) were little changed. Jobless rates for all major worker groups remained substantially higher than they were in mid-1990. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The number of persons unemployed because they had lost their last jobs decreased by 175,000 in April, after rising steadily since last summer. Job losers still account for 55 percent of the total unemployed, as they did in February and March. The number of workers unemployed for less than 15 weeks also declined over the month, and both the average and median duration of unemployment rose slightly. (See tables A-6 and A-7.)

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

At 117.4 million, seasonally adjusted, total civilian employment rose by 640,000 in April but was still about half a million below the level of last July. About half of the April increase was in self-employment. Reflecting the unusually large over-the-month gain in employment, the

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Mar.- Apr. change
	1990	1991	1991			
	IV	I	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Labor force <u>1/</u>	126,525	126,572	126,678	126,786	127,128	342
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	119,165	118,424	118,520	118,214	118,854	640
Civilian labor force..	124,924	125,013	125,076	125,326	125,672	346
Civilian employment..	117,564	116,865	116,918	116,754	117,398	644
Unemployment.....	7,360	8,149	8,158	8,572	8,274	-298
Not in labor force....	63,772	64,099	64,039	63,917	63,708	-209
Discouraged workers..	941	997	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u>	5.8	6.4	6.4	6.8	6.5	-0.3
All civilian workers:	5.9	6.5	6.5	6.8	6.6	-.2
Adult men.....	5.4	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.2	-.3
Adult women.....	5.1	5.5	5.4	5.7	5.5	-.2
Teenagers.....	16.4	18.0	17.1	18.7	18.1	-.6
White.....	5.1	5.8	5.9	6.2	5.8	-.4
Black.....	12.0	12.1	11.8	12.3	12.6	.3
Hispanic origin...	8.7	9.7	9.5	10.3	9.0	-1.3
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	110,200	p109,542	109,527	p109,286	p109,162	p-124
Goods-producing.....	24,568	p24,053	24,068	p23,899	p23,833	p-66
Service-producing...	85,632	p85,489	85,459	p85,387	p85,329	p-58
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.4	p34.2	34.3	p34.2	p34.1	p-0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.6	p40.3	40.3	p40.1	p40.2	p.1
Overtime.....	3.6	p3.3	3.3	p3.2	p3.3	p.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.
N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

employment-population ratio--the proportion of the working-age population with jobs--rose by 0.3 percentage point to 62.0 percent, about where it stood in January. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force rose by 350,000 over the month to 125.7 million. Over the past 12 months, the labor force has grown by 900,000, with all of the increase among adults. The labor force participation rate--the proportion of working-age persons either employed or actively seeking employment--was 66.4 percent in April, about the same as a year earlier. (See table A-2.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment declined by 125,000 in April to 109.2 million. This decline was only half the average of the prior 3 months and was less widespread, as the index of diffusion was at its highest level in 7 months. Since the beginning of the recession in July of 1990, the number of payroll jobs has fallen by 1.6 million. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

Manufacturing employment decreased by 40,000 in April, considerably less than the average of 115,000 in the previous 5 months. Most manufacturing industries showed only small movements, but large losses occurred in industrial machinery and transportation equipment other than autos (especially aircraft). The auto industry added nearly 15,000 workers, reflecting the resumption of production by some plants following inventory control shutdowns.

Employment in construction was down by 20,000 in April, as hiring fell short of seasonal expectations for the second straight month. This industry has lost half a million jobs since last May.

The number of retail trade jobs declined by 40,000 in April, following a combined loss of 180,000 in February and March. Job losses in wholesale trade, an industry closely tied to construction and manufacturing, totaled 15,000 in April and 145,000 since the beginning of last summer.

Employment in transportation and public utilities was little changed in April, after declining by 50,000 in the prior 7 months. In finance, the number of jobs increased for the first time since last August.

In the services industry, while the overall April change was quite small, business services gained employment for the first time since last September. Health services added 40,000 jobs, close to its average growth pace of the past 2 years.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls edged down by 0.1 hour in April to 34.1 hours, seasonally adjusted, 0.4 hour less than last July. The manufacturing workweek and factory overtime both increased by 0.1 hour over the month to 40.2 hours and 3.3 hours, respectively. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers decreased by 0.3 percent to 121.0 (1982=100) in April, seasonally adjusted. The index for manufacturing was little changed at 100.0. That index was down by 7 percent since the recession began. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers increased by 0.5 percent to \$10.29, seasonally adjusted, in April. Average weekly earnings increased by 0.2 percent to \$350.89. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings edged up by 5 cents and average weekly earnings were up by \$2.73. Over the past year, average hourly earnings increased by 3.3 percent and average weekly earnings by 2.4 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 nonfarm payroll employment, hours, and earnings to reflect the regular annual benchmark adjustments and updated seasonal adjustment factors.

The Employment Situation for May 1991 will be released on Friday, June 7, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

News

United States
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Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: MAY 1991

Nonfarm payroll employment held steady in May, after declining markedly during the first 4 months of this year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Changes in the civilian worker unemployment rate in April and May were generally offsetting. The rate rose by three-tenths of a point in May to 6.9 percent, following a roughly similar decline in April.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the number of unemployed persons and the civilian worker unemployment rate rose in May (after seasonal adjustment), following declines of similar magnitudes in April. The number of unemployed persons rose by 370,000 in May to a level of 8.6 million, and the civilian worker unemployment rate rose from 6.6 to 6.9 percent. Both measures, however, were about the same in May as they were in March. The May jobless rate was 1.4 percentage points higher than it was at the start of the current recession in July 1990. (See table A-2.)

Although unemployment rates for all major worker groups rose in May, the increases generally offset April declines. Thus, the rates for adult women (5.8 percent), adult men (6.5 percent), teenagers (19.1 percent), whites (6.1 percent), and Hispanics (9.7 percent) were about the same as they had been in March. The jobless rate for blacks, however, at 13.0 percent in May, has edged upward steadily during the last 3 months. Unemployment rates for all major worker groups are substantially higher than they were in mid-1990. (See tables A-2 and A-3.)

The number of workers unemployed for less than 5 weeks rose by 370,000 in May, following a large decline in April. Long-term unemployment held steady in both April and May. At 12.9 and 6.5 weeks, respectively, both

The establishment data shown in this news release have been adjusted to reflect annual benchmark revisions and updated seasonal adjustment factors. See the note on the revisions beginning on page 5.

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Apr.- May change
	1990	1991	1991			
	IV	I	Mar.	Apr.	May	
HOUSEHOLD DATA						
	Thousands of persons					
Labor force <u>1/</u>	126,525	126,572	126,786	127,128	126,690	-438
Total employment <u>1/</u> ..	119,165	118,424	118,214	118,854	118,049	-805
Civilian labor force..	124,924	125,013	125,326	125,672	125,232	-440
Civilian employment..	117,564	116,865	116,754	117,398	116,591	-807
Unemployment.....	7,360	8,149	8,572	8,274	8,640	366
Not in labor force....	63,772	64,099	63,917	63,708	64,291	583
Discouraged workers..	941	997	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers <u>1/</u>	5.8	6.4	6.8	6.5	6.8	0.3
All civilian workers..	5.9	6.5	6.8	6.6	6.9	.3
Adult men.....	5.4	6.1	6.5	6.2	6.5	.3
Adult women.....	5.1	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.8	.3
Teenagers.....	16.4	18.0	18.7	18.1	19.1	1.0
White.....	5.1	5.8	6.2	5.8	6.1	.3
Black.....	12.0	12.1	12.3	12.6	13.0	.4
Hispanic origin...	8.7	9.7	10.3	9.0	9.7	.7
	Thousands of jobs					
ESTABLISHMENT DATA <u>2/</u> :						
Nonfarm employment....	109,788	109,160	108,902	p108,722	p108,781	p59
Goods-producing.....	24,520	24,032	23,877	p23,793	p23,812	p19
Service-producing...	85,268	85,128	85,025	p84,929	p84,969	p40
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.4	34.2	34.2	p34.0	p34.3	p0.3
Manufacturing.....	40.7	40.3	40.3	p40.3	p40.4	p.1
Overtime.....	3.5	3.3	3.3	p3.3	p3.4	p.1

1/ Includes the resident Armed Forces.

2/ Establishment data have been revised to reflect March 1990 benchmarks and updated seasonal adjustment factors.

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

the average and median durations of unemployment returned to their March levels, after rising in April. (See table A-6.)

The number of workers employed part time for economic reasons decreased by 230,000 in May. At 5.9 million, this group (often referred to as the partially unemployed) remains about 900,000 higher than it was at the start of the current recession. (See table A-4.)

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Movements in civilian employment and in the labor force were also offsetting in April and May. At 116.6 million, seasonally adjusted, total civilian employment fell by 810,000 in May, following a gain of 640,000 in April. The bulk of these changes have occurred among the self-employed. (See tables A-2 and A-4.)

Since July of last year, total employment has fallen by 1.3 million. The employment-population ratio--the proportion of the working-age population with jobs--dropped half a percentage point in May, more than offsetting an increase in April. At 61.5 percent, the ratio is nearly 1-1/2 percentage points lower than its peak in the middle of last year. (See table A-2.)

The civilian labor force declined by 440,000 in May to 125.2 million, following an increase of similar magnitude in April. The labor force participation rate--the proportion of working-age persons either employed or actively seeking employment--was 66.1 percent in May, down 0.4 percentage point from a year earlier. The largest decline in labor force participation over the year has occurred among teenagers, whose rate has dropped 2.4 percentage points, but there were also small declines among adult men and women. (See table A-2.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment held steady in May at 108.8 million. This followed a drop of 180,000 (as revised) in April and declines averaging 240,000 in the first quarter. Small employment improvements in May were widespread, as the index of diffusion was up to 50.8 percent. This was the first time in a year that as many industries added jobs as lost them. (See tables B-1 and B-6.)

Employment in the goods-producing sector, which had experienced declines each month for over a year, was little changed in May, as manufacturing and construction firmed up. Manufacturing payrolls were buoyed for the second consecutive month by returns of laid-off auto workers. Other manufacturing industries, most notably industrial machinery and instruments, continued to lose jobs. Nevertheless, about as many manufacturing industries gained employees as lost them, the best showing since early 1989.

Construction employment was unchanged in May; the industry had lost about a tenth of its jobs during the prior year. Continued reductions in nonresidential general contractors were offset by the first gains in special trades in over a year. In mining, 6,000 jobs were lost, half in oil and gas extraction.

In the service-producing sector, there was renewed job growth in May, after substantial losses in the prior 3 months. Improvement was largely concentrated in the services industry, which showed its first gain since January. Employment in business services was up 15,000, and health services continued its steady employment gains, adding 30,000 workers. A small employment increase also occurred in transportation. Real estate employment was unchanged in May, a positive sign in an industry that has had steady losses for a year. Retail trade employment was little changed in May following eight consecutive declines that averaged 50,000 a month. A similar occurrence was evident in wholesale trade.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.3 hour in May to 34.3 hours, seasonally adjusted, following decreases in the prior 2 months. Both the manufacturing workweek and factory overtime edged up a tenth of an hour, to 40.4 and 3.4 hours, respectively. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers increased by 0.9 percent to 121.1 (1982=100) in May, seasonally adjusted. The index for manufacturing increased by 0.4 percent to 101.1. Over the year, the index for manufacturing was down by 6.3 percent. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers increased by 0.4 percent to \$10.32, seasonally adjusted, in May. Average weekly earnings increased by 1.3 percent to \$353.98. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings edged up by 1 cent and average weekly earnings were up by \$1.37. Over the year, average hourly earnings increased by 3.4 percent and average weekly earnings by 2.8 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 comprehensive universe counts of payroll jobs (benchmarks). These counts are derived principally from unemployment insurance tax records for March 1990. The effects of the benchmark revision on current data are shown in table B, which presents data for February 1991. February data are used because they represent the last month of final published estimates prior to this benchmark revision.

As is the practice with the introduction of new benchmarks, seasonal adjustment factors have been recalculated to incorporate the experience through March 1991. As a result, seasonally adjusted series for the past 5 years (1986-91) 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. Projected seasonal adjustment factors are now calculated only for the first 6 months after the introduction of new benchmarks. A second set of projected seasonal adjustment factors, for use during the subsequent 6-month period, will be computed based upon data through October and introduced with the release of data for November. Revisions of historical data for the most recent 5 years will continue to be made once a year, coincident with the benchmark revisions.

All unadjusted establishment data series from April 1989 forward and all seasonally adjusted series from January 1986 forward are affected by the annual revisions announced today. The June 1991 issue of *Employment and Earnings* will contain a discussion of the effects of the benchmark revisions, revised seasonal adjustment factors to be used during May-October 1991, 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, 1909-90* (BLS Bulletin 2370), will comprise the full historical series on national data obtained from the establishment survey. Five years of history for the "B" tables published in this release are available on diskette (202-523-1172); the full history for all establishment data series is available on magnetic tape (202-523-1260).

Table B. Establishment survey employment estimates for February 1991, not seasonally adjusted.

(In thousands)

Industry	February 1991 employment estimates		Difference
	Before revision	As revised	
Total nonfarm employment.....	108,307	107,887	-420
Total private.....	89,662	89,204	-458
Mining.....	724	699	-25
Construction.....	4,394	4,333	-61
Manufacturing.....	18,340	18,387	47
Transportation and public utilities.....	5,772	5,759	-13
Wholesale trade.....	6,219	6,062	-157
Retail trade.....	19,094	18,965	-129
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....	6,764	6,669	-95
Services.....	28,355	28,330	-25
Government.....	18,645	18,683	38
Federal.....	2,936	2,936	0
State.....	4,427	4,449	22
Local.....	11,282	11,298	16

Changes in data presentation

Beginning with next month's issue, tables A and A-1 of this release will no longer contain labor force series which incorporate data on Armed Forces stationed in the United States. The estimates of resident troop strength have had limitations of timeliness and reliability which were exacerbated during the recent Persian Gulf operations. (See note on table A-1.) The rate containing the resident Armed Forces will continue to be included in the range of measures of varying definitions of unemployment (current table A-8). Series incorporating the resident Armed Forces will continue to be included in the BLS publication, Employment and Earnings.

The Employment Situation for June 1991 will be released on Friday, July 5, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

News

United States
Department
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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JUNE 1991

The nation's employment situation was little changed in June, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The unemployment rate was 7.0 percent, little different from the May level of 6.9 percent. Nonfarm payroll employment was essentially unchanged over the month. Although manufacturing experienced job declines, the factory workweek showed a strong increase for the second straight month.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons totaled 8.7 million in June, and the unemployment rate was 7.0 percent; both were little changed from May levels. Since the start of the recession last July, the number of unemployed workers has risen by nearly 2 million and the jobless rate has increased by 1.5 percentage points. The pace of these increases has slowed markedly in recent months. (See table A-1.)

Jobless rates for all major worker groups were essentially the same as in May. June rates were 6.6 percent for adult men, 5.9 percent for adult women, 19.2 percent for teenagers, 6.2 percent for whites, 13.1 percent for blacks, and 9.8 percent for Hispanics. Whereas overall unemployment increases have been modest since March, unemployment rates of black adults have continued to rise. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

The number of unemployed persons who had lost their last jobs, at 4.9 million, has risen by 1.7 million since last July. Job losers now comprise 55 percent of the total unemployed, up from 47 percent in July. Long-term unemployment (15 weeks and over) rose by 340,000 in June and, as a percent of the total unemployed, has risen 7 percentage points over the past year to 29 percent. The over-the-month increase in long-term unemployment was countered by a decline in the number of newly unemployed--those jobless for less than 5 weeks. (See tables A-5 and A-6.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total employment edged up to 116.9 million in June, following a very large loss in May. The June figure was about the same as in the beginning of the year, after exhibiting erratic movements in the interim. The percentage of the working-age population that is employed (the employment-population ratio) was 61.6 percent in June and has not changed appreciably thus far in 1991. (See table A-1.)

The civilian labor force rose by 400,000 over the month to 125.6 million. The underlying trend has been one of very modest growth; over the past year, the labor force rose by 750,000, an increase of only 0.6

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			May-June change
	1991		1991			
	I	II	Apr.	May	June	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Civilian labor force...	125,013	125,511	125,672	125,232	125,629	397
Employment.....	116,865	116,958	117,398	116,591	116,884	293
Unemployment.....	8,149	8,553	8,274	8,640	8,745	105
Not in labor force....	64,099	64,012	63,708	64,291	64,039	-252
Discouraged workers..	997	981	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.....	6.5	6.8	6.6	6.9	7.0	0.1
Adult men.....	6.1	6.4	6.2	6.5	6.6	.1
Adult women.....	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.8	5.9	.1
Teenagers.....	18.0	18.8	18.1	19.1	19.2	.1
White.....	5.8	6.0	5.8	6.1	6.2	.1
Black.....	12.1	12.9	12.6	13.0	13.1	.1
Hispanic origin...	9.7	9.5	9.0	9.7	9.8	.1
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	109,160	p108,799	108,736	p108,855	p108,805	p-50
Goods-producing.....	24,032	p23,796	23,794	p23,833	p23,762	p-71
Service-producing....	85,128	p85,002	84,942	p85,022	p85,043	p21
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.2	p34.3	34.0	p34.3	p34.5	p0.2
Manufacturing.....	40.3	p40.5	40.2	p40.4	p40.8	p.4
Overtime.....	3.3	p3.5	3.3	p3.4	p3.7	p.3

N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

percent. The labor force participation rate, at 66.2 percent, was down 0.2 percentage point from a year earlier. (See table A-1.)

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

The number of discouraged workers--those who would like to have a job but are not looking for one because they think their search would be in vain--averaged 980,000, seasonally adjusted, in the April-June quarter. This was about unchanged from the previous quarter and only about 100,000 higher than a year earlier. In the 1981-82 recession, the number of such workers had exhibited a much greater rise. (See table A-11.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment was essentially unchanged in June, following a modest increase in May. The pattern over the past 2 months has thus been in sharp contrast to the January-April period, when the number of payroll jobs had declined by an average of 220,000 a month. (See table B-1.)

Manufacturing jobs decreased by 60,000 in June, after increasing slightly in May. Most of this decline was in durable goods manufacturing, especially transportation equipment, electronic equipment, industrial machinery, and instruments. In nondurable goods manufacturing, printing and publishing showed the only large job decline.

Employment in construction was about unchanged in June at 4.7 million, following some improvement in May. Mining employment continued its moderate slide; about 15,000 jobs have been lost during the past year, largely in the coal industry.

In the service-producing sector, employment in the services industry rose for the second month in a row, following 3 months of little change. The June increase was led by a 40,000 gain in health services and continued growth in business services. In contrast, after holding steady in May, employment in wholesale trade fell by about 15,000 in June, resuming its 2-year downtrend. Employment in retail trade and other industries in the service-producing sector was little changed in June.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.2 hour in June to 34.5 hours, seasonally adjusted. The workweek in manufacturing rose by a very robust 0.4 hour over the month to 40.8 hours, and factory overtime increased by 0.3 hour to 3.7 hours. All of these gains followed increases in the prior month. (See table B-2.)

As a result of the workweek increases, the index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers rose by 0.5 percent to 121.7 (1982=100) in June, seasonally adjusted. The index for manufacturing increased by 0.9 percent to 102.0. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers increased by 0.6 percent in June to \$10.38, seasonally adjusted. This followed increases of 0.4 percent in each of the prior 2 months. Average weekly earnings increased by 1.2 percent in June to \$358.11. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings edged up by 2 cents and average weekly earnings were up by \$5.85. Over the year, average hourly earnings increased by 3.6 percent and average weekly earnings by 3.3 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

Changes in Data Presentation

As announced last month, publication of labor force estimates which include the resident Armed Forces has been discontinued in this news release. One of the measures which includes the resident Armed Forces, the overall unemployment rate, continues to be included in the range of unemployment measures based on varying definitions of unemployment and the labor force (table A-7). Series incorporating the resident Armed Forces continue to be available monthly in the BLS publication, Employment and Earnings.

The Employment Situation for July 1991 will be released on Friday, August 2, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

News

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JULY 1991

The unemployment rate receded from 7.0 percent in June to 6.8 percent in July, after edging up in prior months, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Employment as measured in both the business and household surveys changed little over the month. In general, the labor market has shown no clear trend over the past few months.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons eased back to 8.5 million in July (seasonally adjusted). The jobless level was still 1.6 million higher than in July 1990, when the recession began. The unemployment rate fell by two-tenths of a percentage point to 6.8 percent and stands 1.3 percentage points higher than its year-earlier level. (See table A-1.)

Jobless rates for blacks and adult women declined over the month. The rate for black workers (11.8 percent) was 1.3 percentage points lower than in June. The rate for adult women (5.4 percent) fell five-tenths of a percentage point in July, while the rate for adult men (6.5 percent) was about the same in July as it was in June. Since the beginning of the recession, the adult female rate has risen 0.7 percentage point, whereas the male rate increased by 1.6 points. The unemployment rate for teens increased to 20.6 percent in July, up 4.8 percentage points since the beginning of the recession and the highest level since October 1983. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

The number of persons unemployed because they had lost their last jobs (as distinguished from persons who left their jobs voluntarily and searched for other jobs, and those who entered the labor force to seek work) decreased by 270,000 in July, reversing an increase in the prior month. At 5.9 million, the number of persons who were employed part time for economic reasons (often referred to as the partially unemployed) was little changed over the month but was 940,000 higher than a year earlier. (See tables A-3 and A-6.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

At 116.7 million, total employment was little changed in July. While 1.2 million lower than a year earlier, the series has shown no clear trend over the past 4 months. The employment-population ratio--the proportion of

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			June- July change
	1991		1991			
	I	II	May	June	July	
HOUSEHOLD DATA						
Thousands of persons						
Civilian labor force..	125,013	125,511	125,232	125,629	125,214	-415
Civilian employment..	116,865	116,958	116,591	116,884	116,712	-172
Unemployment.....	8,149	8,553	8,640	8,745	8,501	-244
Not in labor force....	64,099	64,012	64,291	64,039	64,625	586
Discouraged workers..	997	981	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.....	6.5	6.8	6.9	7.0	6.8	-0.2
Adult men.....	6.1	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.5	-.1
Adult women.....	5.5	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.4	-.5
Teenagers.....	18.0	18.8	19.1	19.2	20.6	1.4
White.....	5.8	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.2	.0
Black.....	12.1	12.9	13.0	13.1	11.8	-1.3
Hispanic origin...	9.7	9.5	9.7	9.8	9.5	-.3
ESTABLISHMENT DATA						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment....	109,160	p108,830	108,887	p108,866	p108,815	p-51
Goods-producing <u>1/</u> ..	24,032	p23,810	23,847	p23,789	p23,779	p-10
Construction.....	4,770	p4,704	4,715	p4,709	p4,687	p-22
Manufacturing.....	18,549	p18,399	18,426	p18,376	p18,389	p13
Service-producing <u>1/</u>	85,128	p85,020	85,040	p85,077	p85,036	p-41
Retail trade.....	19,461	p19,334	19,339	p19,340	p19,358	p18
Services.....	28,583	p28,649	28,645	p28,727	p28,705	p-22
Government.....	18,387	p18,430	18,440	p18,426	p18,416	p-10
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.2	p34.3	34.3	p34.5	p34.1	p-0.4
Manufacturing.....	40.3	p40.5	40.4	p40.8	p40.7	p-.1
Overtime.....	3.3	p3.5	3.4	p3.7	p3.7	p.0
<u>1/</u> Includes other industries, not shown separately.						
N.A.=not available. p=preliminary.						

the working-age population with jobs--was 61.5 percent in July, about the same as in the prior 2 months but down from 62.7 percent at the start of the recession. (See table A-1.)

The labor force declined by 420,000 in July to 125.2 million, reversing an increase of similar magnitude in June. Since last July, the overall labor force has risen by only 430,000, while that for teenagers has actually declined by about 600,000. The labor force participation rate--the proportion of working-age persons either employed or actively seeking employment--was 66.0 percent in July, down slightly from a year earlier. (See table A-1.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment was essentially unchanged in July. This was the second consecutive month of stability, following a moderate increase in May. In contrast to this recent pattern, employment had declined by about 220,000 a month, on average, during the January-April period. (See table B-1.)

The number of factory jobs was unchanged in July at 18.4 million, after declining by 50,000 in June. Employment in motor vehicles, textiles, and apparel rose, after seasonal adjustment, primarily because some temporary plant shutdowns and layoffs that usually happen at this time of year did not occur until after the survey period. These developments were largely offset by continued job losses in industrial machinery and electronic equipment and a large reduction in the volatile food processing industry.

Employment in mining was also unchanged in July for the second month in a row. Construction employment fell by 20,000, seasonally adjusted, as fewer workers than normal were hired.

Employment in each of the major industries in the service-producing sector was about unchanged in July, with the exception of wholesale trade. Declines in this industry have shown no sign of abating, as the number of jobs fell by about 20,000, almost entirely in the distribution of durable goods. In contrast, the number of retail trade jobs held about steady, but has shown limited growth since April after declining markedly over the prior 8-month period. Jobs in the services industry, which had increased in each of the prior 2 months, also were unchanged in July, even though employment in the health services component continued to increase.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls fell by 0.4 hour in July to 34.1 hours, seasonally adjusted. This decline essentially erased gains that had occurred in the prior 2 months. The manufacturing workweek, however, edged down by only a tenth of an hour to 40.7 hours, thus preserving most of its strong upsurge since April. Manufacturing overtime remained at 3.7 hours. (See table B-2.)

As a result of the decline in the workweek, the index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers fell by 1.4 percent to 120.4 (1982=100) in July, seasonally adjusted. The index for manufacturing was unchanged at 102.1. Over the year, the factory index was down by 4.8 percent. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were about unchanged in July at \$10.36, seasonally adjusted. This followed an increase of 0.5 percent in June. Due to the decline in the workweek, average weekly earnings decreased by 1.3 percent to \$353.28 in July. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings edged down by 1 cent and average weekly earnings were down by \$2.41. Over the year, average hourly earnings increased by 3.1 percent and average weekly earnings by 1.9 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

The Employment Situation for August 1991 will be released on Friday, September 6, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

News

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: AUGUST 1991

The nation's employment situation was little changed in August, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Following a decline from 7.0 to 6.8 percent in July, the unemployment rate held steady in August. Payroll employment showed little movement over the month, as gains in manufacturing and services were nearly offset by declines in other industries. Weekly hours rebounded from the July drop.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

After edging downward in July, the unemployment rate, 6.8 percent, and the number of unemployed, 8.5 million, were unchanged in August. The unemployment rate has shown little sustained movement in recent months and remains 1.3 percentage points higher than it was in July 1990, when the recession began. Over the 13-month period, the number of jobless persons rose by 1.7 million. (See table A-1.)

While the overall jobless rate remained steady in August, there were changes for adult women and teenagers. The women's rate rose three-tenths of a percentage point to 5.7 percent, following a decline of five-tenths in July. The rate for teenagers declined by 1.6 percentage points, reversing a similar increase in July. The jobless rate for adult men (6.5 percent) was unchanged in August, and rates for whites (6.1 percent), blacks (12.3 percent), and Hispanics (9.9 percent) changed little over the month. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

The number of unemployed who had lost their last jobs, at 4.7 million, was little changed in August. They accounted for 55.4 percent of the total unemployed, up from 46.5 percent in July 1990. The median duration of unemployment was 7.2 weeks in August, up about half a week over the month and 2 weeks from the onset of the recession in July 1990. Long-term unemployment (15 weeks and over) rose by more than 800,000 in the past 13 months. (See tables A-5 and A-6.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total employment fell by about 300,000 to 116.4 million in August. The number of employed persons was 1.5 million lower than it was in July 1990. The proportion of the working-age population with jobs (the

- 2 -

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			July-Aug. change
	1991		1991			
	I	II	June	July	Aug.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA						
Thousands of persons						
Civilian labor force..	125,013	125,511	125,629	125,214	124,904	-310
Employment.....	116,865	116,958	116,884	116,712	116,416	-296
Unemployment.....	8,149	8,553	8,745	8,501	8,488	-13
Not in labor force....	64,099	64,012	64,039	64,625	65,069	444
Discouraged workers..	997	981	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.....	6.5	6.8	7.0	6.8	6.8	.0
Adult men.....	6.1	6.4	6.6	6.5	6.5	.0
Adult women.....	5.5	5.7	5.9	5.4	5.7	0.3
Teenagers.....	18.0	18.8	19.2	20.6	19.0	-1.6
White.....	5.8	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.1	-.1
Black.....	12.1	12.9	13.1	11.8	12.3	.5
Hispanic origin...	9.7	9.5	9.8	9.5	9.9	.4
ESTABLISHMENT DATA						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment....	109,160	108,836	108,885	p108,812	p108,846	p34
Goods-producing 1/..	24,032	23,811	23,792	p23,792	p23,816	p24
Construction.....	4,770	4,704	4,710	p4,689	p4,677	p-12
Manufacturing.....	18,549	18,400	18,378	p18,403	p18,445	p42
Service-producing 1/	85,128	85,025	85,093	p85,020	p85,030	p10
Retail trade.....	19,461	19,336	19,345	p19,343	p19,328	p-15
Services.....	28,583	28,644	28,712	p28,729	p28,786	p57
Government.....	18,387	18,440	18,456	p18,387	p18,356	p-31
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.2	34.3	34.6	p34.1	p34.4	p0.3
Manufacturing.....	40.3	40.5	40.8	p40.7	p40.9	p.2
Overtime.....	3.3	3.5	3.7	p3.7	p3.8	p.1

1/ Includes other industries, not shown separately.
N.A.=not available.

p=preliminary.

employment-population ratio) declined to 61.3 percent in August, down by 1.4 percentage points over the past 13 months. (See table A-1.)

The labor force declined by 310,000 in August to 124.9 million, following a decrease of 415,000 in July. Over the past year, the labor force has shown very little growth, and the teenage component has actually declined by 580,000, reflecting reductions in both their population and rate of labor force participation. The overall labor force participation rate--the proportion of the working-age population either employed or actively seeking employment--was 65.7 percent in August, down half a percentage point from a year earlier. Over this one-year period, the participation rate for teenagers has dropped by 2.8 percentage points, and there have also been small declines for both adult men (concentrated among those 55 and over) and women (those 20-34 years of age).

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment was basically unchanged in August. Job gains in manufacturing and services were largely offset by declines in other industries, particularly trade and government.

Manufacturing employment increased by 42,000, with gains occurring in both durable and nondurable goods industries. Within durables, the most notable increase came in fabricated metals, which has regained 16,000 jobs since April, mainly in response to increased auto production. Similarly, rubber and plastics within nondurable goods has added 15,000 jobs since April, also mostly in support of the auto industry. Elsewhere in nondurables, there were over-the-month gains in the volatile food processing industry, as well as in paper and chemicals. Additionally, recent employment increases in autos, textiles, and apparel were sustained in August. There were, however, further small declines in mining and construction, resulting in little over-the-month change in the goods-producing sector as a whole. (See table B-1.)

In the service-producing sector, there was essentially no net job growth in August, as offsetting movements occurred within some of the component industries. The services industry added 57,000 jobs and has gained 210,000 since resuming growth in May. In August, health services continued its large monthly gains and business services showed renewed strength. By contrast, wholesale trade employment continued to decline, losing another 18,000 jobs in August. This industry has lost 165,000 jobs in the last year. In addition, government payrolls continued to feel the effects of the financial difficulties in many jurisdictions. State and local governments have lost 100,000 jobs since May.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.3 hour in August, following a decline of 0.5 hour in July. The workweek has been rather volatile throughout this year. In manufacturing, the workweek rose two-tenths of an hour to 40.9 hours, its highest level in nearly a year and 0.7 hour above its lowpoint in April. Overtime hours in manufacturing increased by a tenth of an hour to 3.8 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers increased by 0.7 percent to 121.5 (1982=100) in August, after seasonal adjustment. The index for manufacturing was up 0.8 percent to 103.1. The manufacturing index has increased in each of the last 4 months but was still 3.6 percent below the level of August 1990. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were up 0.4 percent in August to \$10.40, seasonally adjusted. Average weekly earnings increased by 1.3 percent to \$357.76, largely due to the increase in average weekly hours. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings were unchanged, and average weekly earnings rose by \$2.06. Over the year, average hourly earnings increased by 3.2 percent and average weekly earnings by 2.9 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

The Employment Situation for September 1991 will be released on Friday, October 4, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

News

United States
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Bureau of Labor Statistics

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: SEPTEMBER 1991

Both unemployment and payroll employment were little changed in September, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The unemployment rate was 6.7 percent; it had been 6.8 percent in both July and August.

Payroll employment, as measured by the business survey, was about unchanged in September and has shown little growth since May. While total employment, as measured by the survey of households, showed an unusually large seasonally adjusted increase in September, this followed a large decline over the prior 2 months.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the number of unemployed persons, 8.4 million, and the unemployment rate, 6.7 percent, were little changed in September after seasonal adjustment. The number of unemployed workers is 1.6 million above July 1990, when the recession began, and the jobless rate is 1.2 percentage points higher. (See table A-1.)

Jobless rates for adult men (6.5 percent), whites (6.0 percent), and blacks (12.1 percent) were about the same as they had been in August, while rates for adult women (5.5 percent) and teenagers (18.0 percent) declined slightly. In contrast, the rate for Hispanics rose by 1.2 percentage points to 11.1 percent in September. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

The number of unemployed persons who have lost their last jobs edged up over the month to 4.8 million; this was 1.7 million higher than in July 1990. Job losers now comprise 56.3 percent of the total unemployed, up from 46.5 percent in July 1990. (See table A-6.)

Long-term unemployment (15 weeks and over) has held about steady in the past 2 months at a level (2.4 million) that is about 850,000 above the July 1990 figure. The average and the median duration of unemployment, at 14.0 and 7.5 weeks, respectively, were also considerably higher than at the onset of the recession. (See table A-5.)

At 6.4 million, the number of persons employed part time involuntarily (often referred to as the partially unemployed) was up substantially in September and was 1.4 million above the July 1990 level. (See table A-3.)

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Aug.- Sept. change
	1991		1991			
	II	III	July	Aug.	Sept.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA		Thousands of persons				
Civilian labor force..	125,511	125,242	125,214	124,904	125,607	703
Employment.....	116,958	116,764	116,712	116,416	117,165	749
Unemployment.....	8,553	8,477	8,501	8,488	8,442	-46
Not in labor force....	64,012	64,736	64,625	65,069	64,515	-554
Discouraged workers.	981	1,075	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
		Percent of labor force				
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.....	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7	-0.1
Adult men.....	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	.0
Adult women.....	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.7	5.5	-.2
Teenagers.....	18.8	19.2	20.6	19.0	18.0	-1.0
White.....	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.0	-.1
Black.....	12.9	12.1	11.8	12.3	12.1	-.2
Hispanic origin...	9.5	10.2	9.5	9.9	11.1	1.2
ESTABLISHMENT DATA		Thousands of jobs				
Nonfarm employment....	108,836	p108,918	108,859	p108,936	p108,960	p24
Goods-producing 1/..	23,811	p23,800	23,798	p23,820	p23,783	p-37
Construction.....	4,704	p4,690	4,695	p4,691	p4,685	p-6
Manufacturing.....	18,400	p18,417	18,402	p18,436	p18,414	p-22
Service-producing 1/	85,025	p85,118	85,061	p85,116	p85,177	p61
Retail trade.....	19,336	p19,349	19,347	p19,343	p19,357	p14
Services.....	28,644	p28,811	28,733	p28,812	p28,888	p76
Government.....	18,440	p18,404	18,420	p18,409	p18,382	p-27
		Hours of work				
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.3	p34.3	34.1	p34.4	p34.5	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.5	p40.9	40.7	p41.0	p40.9	p-.1
Overtime.....	3.5	p3.7	3.7	p3.8	p3.7	p-.1

1/ Includes other industries, not shown separately. p=preliminary.
N.A.=not available.

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total employment was up by 750,000 in September, after seasonal adjustment, following a decline of 470,000 over the prior 2 months. The number of employed persons is still about 715,000 lower than it was in July 1990. With the large over-the-month increase, the proportion of the working-age population with jobs (the employment-population ratio) rose three-tenths of a percentage point to 61.6 percent, still 1.1 points below the July 1990 figure. (See table A-1.)

The labor force increased by 700,000 in September to 125.6 million, about offsetting declines totaling 725,000 in July and August. Even with this development, remarkably little growth has occurred over the past year (625,000). The number of teenage workers has actually declined by 430,000 over the year, with the drop stemming both from a shrinking of their population and lower participation rates. Participation was also down over the year among adult men and was little changed among adult women.

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

The number of discouraged workers--persons who want to work but are not looking for jobs because they could not find any--increased by about 100,000 in the third quarter of 1991 to a seasonally adjusted level of 1.1 million, the highest level since the first quarter of 1987. This figure was about a quarter of a million higher than a year earlier but was still much lower than the levels attained in the 1981-82 recession. (See table A-11.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Payroll employment changed little in September, following an increase of 77,000 in August. Offsetting movements among the major industries continued to limit job growth. September declines in the goods-producing sector and in state and local government largely offset gains in the private service-producing sector.

Manufacturing jobs declined by 22,000 in September, following increases in the prior 2 months. Employment in most industries in both durable and nondurable goods either remained flat or declined slightly. The downward slide in the number of electronic equipment and aircraft manufacturing jobs continued, and employment in the food processing industry also decreased, returning to its June level.

Elsewhere in the goods-producing sector, mining employment declined by 9,000, following a similar decrease in August. The number of construction jobs edged down as well.

The private service-producing sector added 88,000 jobs in September, but government lost another 27,000, as cutbacks at state and local levels have begun to mount in recent months. Employment in the services industry increased by 76,000, marking the fifth consecutive month of growth. There was little growth in retail trade, which has edged up by 35,000 since April following recessionary losses totaling nearly 400,000. Very little employment change took place elsewhere in the service-producing sector.

- 4 -

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls inched upward 0.1 hour in September to 34.5 hours. The overall workweek has risen by half an hour since April and is at about the same level as when the recession began. In manufacturing, the workweek edged down a tenth of an hour to 40.9 hours, still quite high by historical standards and 0.7 hour above the low of 40.2 hours reached in April. Overtime hours in manufacturing also slid back 0.1 hour in September to 3.7 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers increased by 0.5 percent to 122.1 (1982=100) in September, after seasonal adjustment. For manufacturing, the index was down 0.3 percent to 102.8, 4.3 percent below the level of July 1990 when the recession began. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were up by 0.2 percent in September, seasonally adjusted. Average weekly earnings increased by 0.5 percent. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings increased by 16 cents to \$10.46, and average weekly earnings increased by \$4.51 to \$361.92. Over the year, average hourly earnings increased by 3.1 percent and average weekly earnings by 2.5 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

The Employment Situation for October 1991 will be released on Friday, November 1, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

News

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Bureau of Labor Statistics

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: OCTOBER 1991

Both employment and unemployment were essentially unchanged in October, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The unemployment rate was 6.8 percent, little different from the 6.7 percent in September and the same as in July and August.

October job losses in the goods-producing sector and in retail trade were offset by gains in the services industry, based on data from the survey of establishments. Total employment, as estimated from the household survey, was little changed, after a large increase the previous month.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The unemployment rate, 6.8 percent, and the number of unemployed persons, 8.6 million, were about the same in October as in the prior month. In fact, the unemployment situation has shown little change since March. The October unemployment rate was 1.3 percentage points higher than in July 1990, when the recession began; the number of unemployed persons was up by 1.8 million. (See table A-1.)

The unemployment rate for adult men was unchanged in October, at 6.4 percent, while the rate for adult women edged up 0.3 percentage point to 5.8 percent, after declining the previous month. The jobless rate for teenagers held fairly steady at 18.8 percent. Unemployment rates for whites (6.0 percent), blacks (12.7 percent), and persons of Hispanic origin (10.6 percent) were about the same as in September as well. About 2-1/2 million persons had been jobless 15 weeks or more, an increase of 175,000 from September. (See tables A-1, A-2, and A-5.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total employment, at 117.0 million, was little changed in October, following a large increase in the prior month. The number of employed persons was about 900,000 lower than in July 1990. The proportion of the working-age population with jobs (the employment-population ratio) was 61.5 percent; it has been near that level since May and was 1.2 percentage points below the figure for July 1990. (See table A-1.)

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Sept-Oct. change
	1991		1991			
	II	III	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA						
Thousands of persons						
Civilian labor force..	125,511	125,242	124,904	125,607	125,549	-58
Employment.....	116,958	116,764	116,416	117,165	116,967	-198
Unemployment.....	8,553	8,477	8,488	8,442	8,582	140
Not in labor force....	64,012	64,736	65,069	64,515	64,740	225
Discouraged workers.	981	1,075	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.....	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	0.1
Adult men.....	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.4	-.1
Adult women.....	5.7	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.8	.3
Teenagers.....	18.8	19.2	19.0	18.0	18.8	.8
White.....	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	.0
Black.....	12.9	12.1	12.3	12.1	12.7	.6
Hispanic origin...	9.5	10.2	9.9	11.1	10.6	-.5
ESTABLISHMENT DATA						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment....	108,836	p108,950	108,971	p109,019	p109,018	p-1
Goods-producing <u>1/</u> ..	23,811	p23,805	23,826	p23,792	p23,727	p-65
Construction.....	4,704	p4,694	4,691	p4,697	p4,668	p-29
Manufacturing.....	18,400	p18,418	18,442	p18,411	p18,379	p-32
Service-producing <u>1/</u>	85,025	p85,144	85,145	p85,227	p85,291	p64
Retail trade.....	19,336	p19,343	19,343	p19,339	p19,292	p-47
Services.....	28,644	p28,827	28,831	p28,918	p29,019	p101
Government.....	18,440	p18,414	18,414	p18,407	p18,413	p6
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.3	p34.3	34.3	p34.5	p34.3	p-0.2
Manufacturing.....	40.5	p40.9	41.0	p41.0	p40.9	p-.1
Overtime.....	3.5	p3.7	3.8	p3.7	p3.7	p.0

1/ Includes other industries, not shown separately. p=preliminary.
N.A.=not available.

The number of persons in the labor force changed little in October at 125.5 million workers, seasonally adjusted. Since October of 1990, only about half a million workers have been added to the labor force. Over this period, a declining youth population and small reductions in labor force participation rates (the proportion of the working-age population either employed or actively seeking employment) among several groups have accounted for the very slow labor force growth. The participation rate was about unchanged in October at 66.0 percent. (See table A-1.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment was unchanged in October, following 2 months of small increases. Moderate declines in manufacturing, construction, and retail trade were offset by an increase in services.

The number of manufacturing jobs fell by about 30,000 for the second consecutive month, erasing the job gains in July and August. The October declines were concentrated in durable goods industries, especially transportation equipment, machinery, electronic equipment, instruments, and primary metals. (See table B-1.)

Construction employment also fell by about 30,000 in October, continuing a downward trend which has reduced the industry payrolls by 10 percent since May 1990. Mining employment continued to slide in October and was 5 percent below the February level.

The number of jobs in retail trade fell by about 45,000, as hiring for the holiday season in general merchandise stores was less than usual and cutbacks in eating and drinking places were greater than average. Employment in wholesale trade edged down in October, for the sixteenth consecutive over-the-month decline. In contrast, there was job growth in the services industry for the sixth month in a row. The gain of 100,000 in October was divided among business, health, and other services.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls decreased by 0.2 hour in October, reversing a similar increase in September. The manufacturing workweek edged down by 0.1 hour but, at 40.9 hours, was still high by recent historical standards. Overtime hours in manufacturing remained at 3.7 hours, also a relatively high level. (See table B-2.)

As a result of the decline in the workweek, the index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers fell by 0.7 percent to 121.4 (1982=100) in October, seasonally adjusted. The index for manufacturing was down 0.2 percent to 102.8, 2.6 percent below its October 1990 level. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were little changed in October after seasonal adjustment. Average weekly earnings decreased by 0.7 percent. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings were down 1 cent to \$10.45 and average weekly earnings declined by \$3.48 to \$359.48. Over the year, average hourly and weekly earnings rose by 3.1 and 3.4 percent, respectively. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for November 1991 will be released on Friday, December 6, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

News

United States
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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: NOVEMBER 1991

The nation's labor market weakened in November, as the number of workers on employers' payrolls fell, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. There were large employment declines in construction, partly due to severe weather conditions, and pre-holiday hiring in retail trade fell far short of its normal levels. The unemployment rate remained at 6.8 percent in November and has changed little since March.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The unemployment situation was again virtually unchanged in November. The unemployment rate, 6.8 percent, was the same as in October, remaining 1.3 percentage points higher than when the recession began in July 1990. The number of persons unemployed, 8.5 million in November, was 1.7 million higher. (See table A-1.)

There was also very little month-to-month change in unemployment within the major population groups. The jobless rate for adult men was 6.3 percent and that for adult women was 5.9 percent, not significantly different than in October. Since mid-year, the rate for adult men has receded a bit, while the women's rate has been on a slow upswing. The teenage unemployment rate was 18.5 percent in November, also little changed from the prior month. The jobless rate for white workers was 6.1 percent, the rate for blacks was 12.1 percent, and the rate for persons of Hispanic origin was 10.2 percent. The number of persons unemployed for more than 6 months increased by 180,000 to 1.3 million. (See tables A-1, A-2, and A-5.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total employment edged down by about 200,000 in November. At 117.0 million, employment was about 1.1 million less than when the recession started. The proportion of the working-age population with jobs (the employment-population ratio) was 61.3 percent, about a point and a half below its level in July 1990. (See table A-1.)

The number of persons in the labor force also edged down in November to 125.3 million, seasonally adjusted, and was only 575,000 above its year-

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Oct.- Nov. change
	1991		1991			
	II	III	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA						
Thousands of persons						
Civilian labor force..	125,511	125,242	125,607	125,549	125,257	-292
Employment.....	116,958	116,764	117,165	116,967	116,758	-209
Unemployment.....	8,553	8,477	8,442	8,582	8,499	-83
Not in labor force....	64,012	64,736	64,515	64,740	65,195	455
Discouraged workers.	981	1,075	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.....	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.8	.0
Adult men.....	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.3	-0.1
Adult women.....	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.8	5.9	.1
Teenagers.....	18.8	19.2	18.0	18.8	18.5	-.3
White.....	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.1	.1
Black.....	12.9	12.1	12.1	12.7	12.1	-.6
Hispanic origin...	9.5	10.2	11.1	10.6	10.2	-.4
ESTABLISHMENT DATA						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment....	108,836	108,965	109,066	p109,070	p108,829	p-241
Goods-producing <u>1/</u> ..	23,811	23,807	23,797	p23,723	p23,593	p-130
Construction.....	4,704	4,695	4,699	p4,671	p4,576	p-95
Manufacturing.....	18,400	18,419	18,414	p18,374	p18,341	p-33
Service-producing <u>1/</u>	85,025	85,158	85,269	p85,347	p85,236	p-111
Retail trade.....	19,336	19,343	19,338	p19,294	p19,183	p-111
Services.....	28,644	28,834	28,937	p29,023	p29,042	p19
Government.....	18,440	18,419	18,424	p18,460	p18,451	p-9
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.3	34.3	34.5	p34.3	p34.4	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.5	40.9	41.0	p40.9	p40.9	p.0
Overtime.....	3.5	3.7	3.7	p3.7	p3.8	p.1

1/ Includes other industries, not shown separately. p-preliminary.
N.A.= not available.

earlier level. In contrast, during the 1980s, labor force growth averaged nearly 2 million per year. The labor force participation rate (which represents the proportion of the working-age population either employed or actively seeking employment) declined in November to 65.8 percent. The rate for whites has changed little over the past year, while black participation has trended downward. This decline was particularly pronounced for black youth. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment showed a seasonally adjusted decline of about 240,000 in November, erasing the job gains that had occurred in recent months. Large job losses occurred in construction and retail trade. A portion of the overall decline was attributable to the normal semi-annual updating of the factors used in seasonally adjusting the data.

The number of construction jobs fell by 95,000, seasonally adjusted, as continued weakness in the industry was compounded by severe weather conditions in some parts of the country. Employment in manufacturing edged down for the third month in a row. The November decline was concentrated in durable goods industries, especially industrial machinery (in which 8,000 were out on strike) and primary and fabricated metals. In contrast, the number of jobs in auto manufacturing rose, offsetting declines in the prior 2 months. (See table B-1.)

Employment in retail trade fell by 110,000, as the level of pre-holiday hiring in department stores and specialty shops was well below that in recent years and seasonal declines in eating and drinking places were greater than normal. Wholesale trade employment continued to edge down. Over the past 16 months, the number of wholesale trade jobs has declined by nearly 200,000.

Following 3 months of fairly strong gains, employment growth in the services industry moderated in November. Continued growth in health services was just about offset by losses in business and other services.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls edged up 0.1 hour in November to 34.4 hours. The manufacturing workweek was unchanged at 40.9 hours, while factory overtime rose slightly to 3.8 hours. Both the workweek and overtime in factories continued to be high by recent standards. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers edged down by 0.1 percent to 121.4 (1982=100) in November, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing index was also down by 0.1 percent to 102.5. Both decreased by more than 1 percent over the past year. (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 November after seasonal adjustment. Average weekly earnings increased by 0.7 percent. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings edged up 2 cents to \$10.46, while average weekly earnings fell by 36 cents to \$358.78. Over the year, both average hourly and weekly earnings rose by 3.0 percent. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for December 1991 will be released on Friday, January 10, 1992, at 8:30 A.M. (EST). Release dates for the balance of 1992 are as follows:

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

Revisions in Household Survey Data

In accordance with usual practice, the 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

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: DECEMBER 1991

The nation's job market showed continued weakness in December, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The unemployment rate rose two-tenths of a percentage point to 7.1 percent from a revised 6.9 percent in both October and November. Nonfarm payroll employment was little changed in December, following a large decline in November.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons rose by 290,000 in December to 8.9 million (after seasonal adjustment), and the unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage point to 7.1 percent. Prior to December, the unemployment rate had held at about 6.8 percent between May and September before edging up to 6.9 percent in October and November. Since the recession began in July 1990, the jobless total has grown by 2.1 million and the unemployment rate has risen 1.7 percentage points. (See table A-1.)

Jobless rates for adult men (6.6 percent) and adult women (6.1 percent) edged up in December. Rates for teenagers (19.3 percent), whites (6.3 percent), blacks (12.7 percent), and Hispanics (9.7 percent) were little changed over the month, though mostly in an upward direction. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

Nearly all of the December increase in unemployment occurred among persons who had lost their last jobs, primarily those who had no expectation of being called back to work. Since July 1990, the total number of job losers (including those on layoff anticipating recall) has increased by 1.8 million. Job losers accounted for 56 percent of the unemployed in December. (See table A-6.)

Long-term unemployment (15 weeks and over) rose by 220,000 in December to a level of 2.8 million; the long-term unemployed accounted for about 1 out of every 3 unemployed persons in December, up from 1 in 5 at the onset of the recession. Most of the over-the-month increase in long-term unemployment was accounted for by persons jobless for 6 months or longer. (See table A-5.)

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.

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Nov.- Dec. change
	1991		1991			
	III	IV	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Civilian labor force..	125,266	125,500	125,508	125,374	125,619	245
Employment.....	116,767	116,789	116,867	116,772	116,728	-44
Unemployment.....	8,499	8,711	8,641	8,602	8,891	289
Not in labor force....	64,712	64,949	64,781	65,078	64,986	-92
Discouraged workers.	1,064	1,094	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.....	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.1	0.2
Adult men.....	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.6	.2
Adult women.....	5.6	6.0	5.8	5.9	6.1	.2
Teenagers.....	19.0	19.0	18.9	18.7	19.3	.6
White.....	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.3	.1
Black.....	12.2	12.6	12.8	12.3	12.7	.4
Hispanic origin...	10.1	10.1	10.5	10.2	9.7	-.5
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	108,965	p108,907	109,073	p108,808	p108,839	p31
Goods-producing 1/..	23,807	p23,631	23,727	p23,595	p23,572	p-23
Construction.....	4,695	p4,617	4,671	p4,583	p4,596	p13
Manufacturing.....	18,419	p18,340	18,377	p18,338	p18,306	p-32
Service-producing 1/	85,158	p85,275	85,346	p85,213	p85,267	p54
Retail trade.....	19,343	p19,221	19,288	p19,196	p19,180	p-16
Services.....	28,834	p29,025	29,019	p29,009	p29,047	p38
Government.....	18,419	p18,488	18,467	p18,465	p18,531	p66
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.3	p34.4	34.3	p34.4	p34.5	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.9	p41.0	40.9	p41.0	p41.1	p.1
Overtime.....	3.7	p3.7	3.7	p3.7	p3.8	p.1

1/ Includes other industries, not shown separately. N.A. = not available.
 NOTE: Household data have been revised based on the experience through December 1991. p=preliminary.

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total employment was little changed in December at a seasonally adjusted level of 116.7 million. The number of employed persons was about 1.2 million lower than when the recession began. The employment-population ratio--the proportion of the working-age population that is employed--was 61.2 percent in December, down 1-1/2 percentage points since July 1990. (See table A-1.)

The civilian labor force rose slightly in December, to 125.6 million, and the labor force participation rate, at 65.9 percent, was about unchanged. Over the past year, the labor force has grown by only about half a million, reflecting the net effect of a pronounced decline in the teenage labor force and only modest growth among adults.

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

The number of discouraged workers--persons who want a job but are not looking for one because they think that their search would be futile--was 1.1 million in the fourth quarter of 1991, little changed from the previous quarter. Since the recession began, the discouraged total has expanded by some 270,000 persons, much less than the increase registered during the 1981-82 downturn (about 700,000). (See table A-11.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment changed little in December following a 265,000 decline in November. Private sector employment declined throughout the entire fourth quarter, led by decreases in goods-producing industries. (See table B-1.)

Manufacturing lost 32,000 jobs; the industry's employment has shrunk by 1.2 million since January of 1989, mostly in durable goods. Much of the December decline came in transportation equipment, with autos losing 7,000 jobs (in a continuation of month-to-month fluctuations) and aircraft manufacturing experiencing further declines. Industrial machinery, fabricated metals, and instruments sustained further job losses as well. In contrast, employment edged up in textiles, which, along with apparel, has had steady gains since April.

Jobs in the construction industry held about steady in December after declining by 88,000 in November. Seasonal layoffs normally occurring in both months were more concentrated in November because of unusually bad weather. About 600,000 construction jobs have been lost since May of 1990. Mining employment continued its pattern of small but persistent losses.

In the service-producing sector, wholesale trade continued to lose jobs--15,000 in December--reflecting the overall weakness in manufacturing and retail trade. Employment in retail trade changed little in December on a seasonally adjusted basis, but overall Christmas hiring was much weaker than usual in 1991. Transportation and public utilities lost 23,000 jobs, largely because two air carriers ceased operations. Services added 38,000 jobs following a slight decline in November; the December gains were

- 4 -

limited to the health services industry. Government employment has risen by about 100,000 in the last 3 months.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls edged up by 0.1 hour in December to 34.5 hours, following an equivalent increase in the prior month. After dropping to 34.0 in April 1991, the average workweek is back to the level of mid-1989. The factory workweek and overtime also increased 0.1 hour to 41.1 and 3.8 hours, respectively. Manufacturing hours continue to be high by historical standards. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours increased by two-tenths of a percent to 121.7 (1982=100) in December, seasonally adjusted, following a slight increase in November. The index of manufacturing hours also gained 0.2 percent to 102.7, after declining for 3 months. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers increased by 0.7 percent in December, seasonally adjusted. As a result of this and the small increase in weekly hours, average weekly earnings increased 1.0 percent. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings increased by 5 cents to \$10.51, while average weekly earnings were up \$5.92 to \$362.25. Over the past year, hourly and weekly earnings both rose 3.1 percent. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for January 1992 will be released on Friday, February 7, 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 the labor force series derived from the Current Population Survey (household survey) to incorporate the experience of that year. Seasonally adjusted data for the most recent 5 years are subject to revision. (Seasonally adjusted establishment data are revised later in the year, concurrently with the introduction of annual benchmark adjustments.)

Table B summarizes the effects of the revisions on the overall unemployment rate in 1991, showing that 6 of the 12 months had revisions of 0.1 percentage point. Table C presents revised seasonally adjusted data for major labor force series for December 1990 through December 1991.

The January 1992 issue of Employment and Earnings will contain new seasonal adjustment factors that will be used to calculate the civilian labor force and other major series for January-June of 1992. 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 1987-91 revision period for nearly 450 labor force series will be published in the February 1992 issue. Microcomputer diskettes 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 1991 and change due to revision

Month	As first computed	As revised	Change
January.....	6.2	6.2	0
February.....	6.5	6.5	0
March.....	6.8	6.7	-0.1
April.....	6.6	6.6	0
May.....	6.9	6.8	-.1
June.....	7.0	6.9	-.1
July.....	6.8	6.8	0
August.....	6.8	6.8	0
September.....	6.7	6.8	.1
October.....	6.8	6.9	.1
November.....	6.8	6.9	.1
December.....	*7.1	7.1	0

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JANUARY 1992

The nation's labor market remained weak in January, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The number of nonfarm payroll jobs fell, with substantial declines in manufacturing and retail trade. The unemployment rate remained at 7.1 percent, following an increase in December.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the number of unemployed persons, 8.9 million (seasonally adjusted), and the unemployment rate, 7.1 percent, were unchanged in January. While the overall unemployment rate held steady, there were changes in jobless rates among the major population groups. The unemployment rate for adult men increased for the second month in a row, to 6.9 percent in January, while the rates for adult women (5.9 percent) and teenagers (18.3 percent) edged down over the month. The unemployment rate for adult men has risen 2 percentage points since the recession began in July 1990. Jobless rates for blacks and Hispanics also rose in January, to 13.7 and 11.3 percent, respectively, while that for white workers was about unchanged at 6.2 percent. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

The average length of time a person has been unemployed rose in January. The mean duration of unemployment increased to 16.4 weeks, and the median duration was up to 8.1 weeks. Both measures have risen considerably since the recession began. One out of every 3 unemployed persons in January had been without work for 15 weeks or longer, and about 1 in 6 had been unemployed for 6 months or longer. (See table A-5.)

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons, sometimes referred to as the underemployed or partially unemployed, increased by 400,000 in January to 6.7 million. All of the increase occurred among persons who wanted full-time work but could only find part-time jobs. Since the onset of the recession, the total number of persons employed part time involuntarily has risen by 1.7 million. (See table A-3.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total employment, which has been fluctuating without any clear trend in recent months, increased 390,000 in January, after seasonal adjustment.

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Dec. - Jan. change
	1991		1991		1992	
	III	IV	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Civilian labor force..	125,266	125,500	125,374	125,619	126,046	427
Employment.....	116,767	116,789	116,772	116,728	117,117	389
Unemployment.....	8,499	8,711	8,602	8,891	8,929	38
Not in labor force....	64,712	64,949	65,078	64,986	64,713	-273
Discouraged workers.	1,064	1,094	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.....	6.8	6.9	6.9	7.1	7.1	.0
Adult men.....	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.6	6.9	0.3
Adult women.....	5.6	6.0	5.9	6.1	5.9	-.2
Teenagers.....	19.0	19.0	18.7	19.3	18.3	-1.0
White.....	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.2	-.1
Black.....	12.2	12.6	12.3	12.7	13.7	1.0
Hispanic origin...	10.1	10.1	10.2	9.7	11.3	1.6
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	108,965	p108,921	108,843	p108,846	p108,755	p-91
Goods-producing 1/..	23,807	p23,625	23,595	p23,554	p23,492	p-62
Construction.....	4,695	p4,616	4,584	p4,593	p4,587	p-6
Manufacturing.....	18,419	p18,335	18,337	p18,290	p18,238	p-52
Service-producing 1/	85,158	p85,295	85,248	p85,292	p85,263	p-29
Retail trade.....	19,343	p19,243	19,227	p19,215	p19,164	p-51
Services.....	28,834	p29,023	29,008	p29,043	p29,050	p7
Government.....	18,419	p18,485	18,469	p18,520	p18,531	p11
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.3	p34.4	34.4	p34.5	p34.3	p-0.2
Manufacturing.....	40.9	p41.0	41.0	p41.1	p40.8	p-.3
Overtime.....	3.7	p3.7	3.7	p3.8	p3.6	p-.2

1/ Includes other industries, not shown separately. p=preliminary.
N.A.= not available.

After falling sharply earlier in the recession, total employment has, in effect, shown little sustained movement since the beginning of 1991. Over this period, however, there has been a decline in the proportion of workers employed full time and a corresponding increase in the proportion working part time (all of which has occurred among those who would prefer full-time work). The employment-population ratio--the proportion of the working-age population that is employed--was 61.4 percent in January, an increase from December but still 1.3 percentage points below the July 1990 figure. (See tables A-1 and A-3.)

At 126.0 million, seasonally adjusted, the labor force rose by 430,000 in January. The labor force participation rate--the proportion of working-age persons either employed or actively seeking employment--was 66.1 percent, little different from a year earlier.

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment weakened in January, falling 91,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis, with further losses in manufacturing and trade. (See table B-1.)

Job cutbacks in manufacturing industries totaled 52,000, primarily in durable goods. Employment decreased by 25,000 in transportation equipment, with more than half of it due to the temporary idling of some auto plants for inventory control. Declines also continued in industrial machinery, which lost another 9,000 jobs in January. Other losses in durable goods included the stone, clay, and glass industry, primary metals, and electronic equipment. Within nondurables, textiles and apparel showed job declines for the first time since August.

Elsewhere in the goods-producing sector, mining experienced its eleventh consecutive employment decline, losing another 4,000 jobs in January. Seasonal layoffs in the construction industry were about normal for the month, and hence employment was essentially unchanged on a seasonally adjusted basis. Construction employment has shown little movement since an unusually large decline in November.

In the service-producing sector, employment declines continued in wholesale and retail trade. The decline in retail trade was particularly large (51,000), half of it in department and variety stores. Since July 1990, retail trade employment has decreased by about 550,000. There was no net job growth in the services industry over the month; jobs in business services decreased by 39,000, while health services added just 17,000 jobs, well below its average monthly growth. Employment rose in finance, reflecting increased activity in the wake of low interest rates, and in the transportation industry, where December losses were recouped.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls declined 0.2 hour in January to 34.3 hours, following a slight increase the previous month. The factory workweek fell by 0.3 hour to 40.8 hours; overtime decreased 0.2 hour to 3.6 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours declined 0.8 percent to 120.9 (1982=100) in January, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing index decreased 1.2 percent, reflecting both the hours and employment losses. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers decreased by 0.1 percent in January, seasonally adjusted, following a rise in December. Average weekly earnings decreased 0.7 percent, offsetting an increase in the prior month. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings increased by 2 cents to \$10.51, while average weekly earnings decreased by \$8.76 to \$355.24, due to the decline in hours. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for February 1992 will be released on Friday, March 6, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

News

United States
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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: FEBRUARY 1992

Nonfarm payroll employment rose in February, offsetting January's loss, but unemployment increased further, with the jobless rate rising to 7.3 percent, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The gain in payroll employment was concentrated in retail trade, services, and auto manufacturing. The average workweek rose sharply.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed workers increased by 315,000 in February to 9.2 million. The unemployment rate was up two-tenths of a percentage point to 7.3 percent, its highest level since July 1985. Since the start of the recession in July of 1990, the jobless rate has increased by 1.9 percentage points. (See table A-1.)

The jobless rate for teenagers increased by 1.7 percentage points in February to 20.0 percent, following a decline in January. The rate for men 20 years of age and over continued its upward movement, to 7.0 percent, six-tenths of a point above November's rate. The rate for adult women edged up to 6.1 percent. The unemployment rate for white workers moved up three-tenths of a point to 6.5 percent, while the rate for blacks was about unchanged at 13.8 percent, after rising by a percentage point in January. The rate for Hispanic workers was also little changed at 11.6 percent, after increasing substantially the prior month. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

The number of persons unemployed for 6 months or longer continued to rise in February and, at 1.7 million, has nearly doubled over the past year. Nearly 1 in 5 of the persons who were unemployed in February had been jobless for longer than 6 months. The number of persons jobless for 5 to 14 weeks also rose over the month, while the number of newly unemployed, those jobless for less than 5 weeks, fell. The number of unemployed who had lost their last jobs was up by 540,000 in February to 5.3 million. (See tables A-5 and A-6.)

After increasing by 400,000 in January to 6.7 million, the number of persons working part time for economic reasons (often referred to as the partially unemployed) edged back a bit to 6.5 million in February. (See table A-3.)

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Jan.- Feb. change
	1991		1991	1992		
	III	IV	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Civilian labor force..	125,266	125,500	125,619	126,046	126,287	241
Employment.....	116,767	116,789	116,728	117,117	117,043	-74
Unemployment.....	8,499	8,711	8,891	8,929	9,244	315
Not in labor force....	64,712	64,949	64,986	64,713	64,597	-116
Discouraged workers.	1,064	1,094	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.....	6.8	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.3	0.2
Adult men.....	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.9	7.0	.1
Adult women.....	5.6	6.0	6.1	5.9	6.1	.2
Teenagers.....	19.0	19.0	19.3	18.3	20.0	1.7
White.....	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.5	.3
Black.....	12.2	12.6	12.7	13.7	13.8	.1
Hispanic origin...	10.1	10.1	9.7	11.3	11.6	.3
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	108,965	108,933	108,882	p108,733	p108,897	p164
Goods-producing 1/..	23,807	23,625	23,552	p23,503	p23,485	p-18
Construction.....	4,695	4,615	4,589	p4,600	p4,570	p-30
Manufacturing.....	18,419	18,336	18,293	p18,237	p18,249	p12
Service-producing 1/	85,158	85,308	85,330	p85,230	p85,412	p182
Retail trade.....	19,343	19,246	19,224	p19,161	p19,294	p133
Services.....	28,834	29,028	29,057	p29,065	p29,112	p47
Government.....	18,419	18,483	18,514	p18,509	p18,497	p-12
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.3	34.4	34.5	p34.3	p34.7	p0.4
Manufacturing.....	40.9	41.0	41.1	p40.8	p41.1	p.3
Overtime.....	3.7	3.7	3.8	p3.6	p3.8	p.2

1/ Includes other industries, not shown separately. p=preliminary.
N.A. = not available.

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total employment was about unchanged in February, at a seasonally adjusted level of 117.0 million. There has been very little movement in this measure over the last year, after a sharp drop during the first 6 months of the recession. The employment-population ratio--the proportion of the working-age population with a job--though also little changed at 61.3 percent in February, was 1.4 percentage points lower than at the start of the recession. (See table A-1.)

The labor force increased slightly, after seasonal adjustment, reaching 126.3 million in February. After a lengthy period of very slow growth, the labor force increased by nearly a million over the last 3 months. The labor force participation rate--the proportion of the working-age population either working or looking for a job--was 66.2 percent, a rise of four-tenths of a percentage point since November. Since the start of the recession, labor force growth has just kept pace with the rise in the working-age population. (See table A-1.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 164,000 in February to 108.9 million, after seasonal adjustment. Retail trade employment showed an increase of 133,000 (seasonally adjusted), offsetting declines of the prior 3 months. Nevertheless, employment in this industry remains 415,000 below the July 1990 level. (See table B-1.)

The services industry resumed growth in February, with gains of 25,000 and 31,000, respectively, in the business and health components. Transportation and public utilities gained 15,000 jobs, following 4 months of employment declines totaling 31,000. Employment declines continued in wholesale trade, with durable goods distribution sustaining most of the losses. This industry has lost about 220,000 jobs since the recession began.

Factory employment was little changed in February after seasonal adjustment, following a 5-month string of declines. There was a large increase in auto manufacturing, due to returns from layoff, and gains in several auto-related industries. These movements were partially offset by further declines in electronic equipment, instruments, apparel, and printing.

Construction employment fell by 30,000 in February, more than offsetting gains made in the prior 2 months. About 635,000 construction jobs have been lost since May 1990. Employment in the mining industry held steady in February, following declines for the prior 11 months.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased sharply, by 0.4 hour, to 34.7 hours in February, following a decline of 0.2 hour in the previous month. The

- 4 -

factory workweek rose 0.3 hour to 41.1 hours, the same level as in December; factory overtime rose by 0.2 hour to 3.8 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers rose by 1.5 percent to 122.6 (1982=100) in February, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing index gained 0.9 percent to 102.4, after decreasing in each of the prior 2 months. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were up 0.3 percent in February to \$10.50, seasonally adjusted. Average weekly earnings increased by 1.5 percent to \$364.35, largely due to the increase in average weekly hours. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose by 3 cents to \$10.53 and average weekly earnings increased by \$6.28 to \$361.18. Over the past year, average hourly earnings increased by 2.9 percent and average weekly earnings rose by 4.1 percent. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for March 1992 will be released on Friday, April 3, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: MARCH 1992

The labor market was little changed in March, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The nation's unemployment rate remained at 7.3 percent, although total employment, as measured by the survey of households, showed an increase over the month. The number of nonfarm jobs, as measured by the survey of employers, was essentially unchanged.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The unemployment rate, 7.3 percent, and the number of unemployed persons, 9.2 million, were both unchanged in March. The jobless rate remained 1.9 percentage points above the level in July of 1990, when the recession started. The level of unemployment rose by 2.5 million over this period. There were no significant changes in unemployment among the major demographic groups over the month. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

The number of people unemployed for less than 5 weeks rose in March, but this increase was offset by a drop among those jobless from 5 to 14 weeks. The number unemployed for 6 months or longer, at 1.8 million, was up in excess of 1 million since the beginning of the recession. (See table A-5.)

The number of persons working part time even though they would have preferred full-time work was unchanged in March at 6.5 million. Persons in this category, shown in table A-3 as working "part time for economic reasons," are often referred to as the "partially unemployed" or the "underemployed."

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

The total number of employed persons increased by 300,000 in March, to 117.3 million. After trending downward from mid-1990 to the end of 1991, total employment has since grown by about 600,000. The population of working age has also continued to grow, however, so that the employment-population ratio--the proportion of the working-age population that is employed (61.4 percent)--has risen only marginally in recent months. (See table A-1.)

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Feb.- Mar. change
	1991	1992	1992			
	IV	I	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Civilian labor force...	125,500	126,308	126,046	126,287	126,590	303
Employment.....	116,789	117,169	117,117	117,043	117,348	305
Unemployment.....	8,711	9,138	8,929	9,244	9,242	-2
Not in labor force....	64,949	64,580	64,713	64,597	64,432	-165
Discouraged workers.	1,094	1,084	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.....	6.9	7.2	7.1	7.3	7.3	.0
Adult men.....	6.5	6.9	6.9	7.0	6.9	-0.1
Adult women.....	6.0	6.0	5.9	6.1	6.1	.0
Teenagers.....	19.0	19.6	18.3	20.0	20.6	.6
White.....	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.5	6.5	.0
Black.....	12.6	13.9	13.7	13.8	14.1	.3
Hispanic origin...	10.1	11.5	11.3	11.6	11.6	.0
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	108,933	p108,838	108,760	p108,867	p108,886	p19
Goods-producing 1/...	23,625	p23,496	23,506	p23,490	p23,492	p2
Construction.....	4,615	p4,587	4,602	p4,574	p4,584	p10
Manufacturing.....	18,336	p18,246	18,238	p18,252	p18,249	p-3
Service-producing 1/...	85,308	p85,342	85,254	p85,377	p85,394	p17
Retail trade.....	19,246	p19,243	19,168	p19,292	p19,268	p-24
Services.....	29,028	p29,078	29,073	p29,076	p29,086	p10
Government.....	18,483	p18,527	18,519	p18,511	p18,550	p39
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.4	p34.5	34.2	p34.6	p34.6	p.0
Manufacturing.....	41.0	p41.0	40.8	p41.1	p41.1	p.0
Overtime.....	3.7	p3.7	3.6	p3.7	p3.7	p.0

1/ Includes other industries, not shown separately.

p=preliminary.

N.A.= not available.

The civilian labor force also grew by 300,000 in March to a level of 126.6 million, marking the fourth straight month of increases in this measure. The number of teenagers in the labor force dropped by about 175,000 but substantial increases continued among adult men and women. Since November, about 1.2 million workers have been added to the labor force. In marked contrast, the labor force had grown by less than 700,000 between July 1990 and November 1991. The labor force participation rate--the proportion of the working-age population that is either employed or seeking employment--continued to edge up and, at 66.3 percent, was half a percentage point higher than in November. (See table A-1.)

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

The number of discouraged workers--persons who want jobs but are not looking because they feel that their search would be fruitless--was about unchanged in the first quarter of 1992 at 1.1 million workers. Although this total is about 260,000 higher than at the beginning of the recession, it has been at approximately the same level for 3 consecutive quarters. During the 1981-82 recession, the number of discouraged workers rose by a much greater amount--about 700,000. (See table A-11.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonfarm payroll employment was virtually unchanged in March, after seasonal adjustment, following essentially offsetting movements in January and February. (See table B-1.)

At 18.2 million, the number of factory jobs was about unchanged for the second consecutive month, following a 5-month string of job losses. March was characterized by generally small changes among the component industries, the largest being a 6,000 pickup in the auto industry. Employment in this industry has rebounded by 73,000 from its March 1991 low point but remains 83,000 below the pre-recession high.

Elsewhere in the goods-producing sector, construction employment edged up very slightly in March, after seasonal adjustment. Employment levels in the industry seem to have stabilized in recent months, after declining sharply since the spring of 1990. Mining employment, on the other hand, has continued to experience losses; it is now 8 percent lower than when the recession began.

Employment in the service-producing sector was about unchanged in March, as offsetting movements occurred within some of the component industries. Retail trade employment edged down after seasonal adjustment, following a very large February increase; most of the job losses occurred in eating and drinking places. Employment declines continued in wholesale trade in March, with most of the losses occurring in nondurable goods distribution. The number of jobs in the services industry was little changed in March, even though employment in the health services component continued to show growth. Government employment rose by 39,000 in March, largely because local governments hired temporary workers to help with elections.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls held steady at 34.6 hours in March, following an increase of 0.4 hour in February. Both the average factory workweek and the overtime component were unchanged at 41.1 hours and 3.7 hours, respectively, in March. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers was down by 0.2 percent to 122.1 (1982=100) in March, seasonally adjusted, and the index for manufacturing was unchanged. Both indexes had large gains in the previous month. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were up 0.4 percent in March to \$10.55, seasonally adjusted. Average weekly earnings also increased by 0.4 percent to \$365.03. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose by 3 cents to \$10.56, and average weekly earnings increased by \$2.08 to \$362.21. Over the past year, average hourly earnings increased by 3.1 percent and average weekly earnings rose by 4.0 percent. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for April 1992 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

Technical information: (202) 523-1371
523-1944
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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: APRIL 1992

Employment rose in April and unemployment was about unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The nation's jobless rate was 7.2 percent, compared with 7.3 percent in both February and March.

Nonfarm payroll employment, which had begun to show a little growth in recent months, rose by 126,000 in April, with the gain concentrated in services and retail trade. Total employment, as estimated through the household survey, continued its uptrend with an increase of 327,000.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the number of unemployed persons, 9.2 million, and the unemployment rate, 7.2 percent, were little different from their March levels. Jobless rates were somewhat lower in April, however, for teenagers (19.2 percent), whites (6.3 percent), and Hispanics (10.3 percent). Rates for adult men (6.8 percent), adult women (6.3 percent), and blacks (13.9 percent) were about unchanged over the month. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

The number of persons jobless for 15 weeks or longer dropped back by 167,000 in April to 3.0 million. This was still about twice the number of long-term jobless as when the recession began in July of 1990. (See table A-5.)

The number of persons working part time for economic reasons--sometimes referred to as the partially unemployed--declined by 227,000 to 6.3 million in April. This measure has declined by about 450,000 since January. (See table A-3.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total employment continued its strong upward trend of recent months; at 117.7 million, it was up by 327,000 in April. Since December, the number of employed persons has risen by an estimated 950,000. The employment-population ratio--the percentage of the working-age population that is employed--rose to 61.6 percent, the highest level since last September. (See table A-1.)

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Mar.- Apr. change
	1991	1992	1992			
	IV	I	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Civilian labor force..	125,500	126,308	126,287	126,590	126,830	240
Employment.....	116,789	117,169	117,043	117,348	117,675	327
Unemployment.....	8,711	9,138	9,244	9,242	9,155	-87
Not in labor force....	64,949	64,580	64,597	64,432	64,338	-94
Discouraged workers.	1,094	1,084	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.....	6.9	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.2	-0.1
Adult men.....	6.5	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.8	-.1
Adult women.....	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.3	.2
Teenagers.....	19.0	19.6	20.0	20.6	19.2	-1.4
White.....	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.3	-.2
Black.....	12.6	13.9	13.8	14.1	13.9	-.2
Hispanic origin...	10.1	11.5	11.6	11.6	10.3	-1.3
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	108,933	p108,844	108,866	p108,905	p109,031	p126
Goods-producing 1/..	23,625	p23,498	23,486	p23,501	p23,492	p-9
Construction.....	4,615	p4,591	4,578	p4,594	p4,583	p-11
Manufacturing.....	18,336	p18,243	18,245	p18,246	p18,254	p8
Service-producing 1/	85,308	p85,346	85,380	p85,404	p85,539	p135
Retail trade.....	19,246	p19,241	19,296	p19,260	p19,306	p46
Services.....	29,028	p29,080	29,075	p29,091	p29,163	p72
Government.....	18,483	p18,532	18,510	p18,567	p18,581	p14
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.4	p34.5	34.7	p34.5	p34.4	p-0.1
Manufacturing.....	41.0	p41.0	41.1	p41.1	p41.1	p.0
Overtime.....	3.7	p3.7	3.7	p3.7	p4.0	p.3

1/ Includes other industries, not shown separately. p=preliminary.
N.A.= not available.

The civilian labor force edged up by 240,000 in April to a level of 126.8 million. Since November, the labor force has grown at a brisk pace of 290,000 a month, after showing very little growth from the onset of the recession. The labor force participation rate--the percentage of the working-age population that is either employed or unemployed--held steady at 66.3 percent in April but was up half a percentage point from last November's figure. (See table A-1.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment grew by 126,000 in April, after seasonal adjustment, with nearly all the gains taking place in services and retail trade. The increase marks the third consecutive month of small gains in payroll employment totaling 270,000 since January. (See table B-1.)

The service-producing sector added 135,000 jobs in April, its largest single-month increase since June of 1990. The services industry dominated April's gain by adding 72,000 jobs, following weak growth in the prior 3 months. Business services added jobs for the second straight month, and health services sustained its strong growth pattern. Retail trade also showed signs of renewed strength, as employment was up by 46,000. Wholesale trade employment was steady after falling in each of the previous 21 months.

Both manufacturing and construction employment were essentially unchanged in April. Nevertheless, more manufacturing industries added jobs than lost them for the first time since last August, as indicated by the diffusion index of employment change (table B-6). Construction employment has been essentially flat since December. The number of mining jobs continued to decline in April, with a drop of 5,000 in oil and gas extraction. The mining industry has lost 63,000 jobs since its most recent high of June 1990, a decline of nearly 9 percent.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls edged down by 0.1 hour in April to 34.4 hours. The manufacturing workweek was unchanged at a very high 41.1 hours. Factory overtime jumped by three-tenths of an hour to 4.0 hours, its highest level since February 1989. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers dropped three-tenths of a percent to 121.6 (1982=100) after seasonal adjustment, following a similar drop in March. The index of manufacturing hours edged up a tenth of a percent to 102.7, its highest point since last September. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were about unchanged in April at \$10.54, seasonally adjusted, while average weekly earnings edged down by \$1.40 to \$362.58. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings were about unchanged at \$10.56, and average weekly earnings declined by 72 cents to \$361.15. Over the year, average hourly earnings have risen by 2.5 percent and average weekly earnings by 3.1 percent. (See table B-3.)

Revisions in the Establishment Survey Data

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

The Employment Situation for May 1992 will be released on Friday, June 5, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

News

United States
Department
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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: MAY 1992

Unemployment rose in May, as the labor force continued its rapid expansion of recent months, and payroll employment edged up, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The nation's jobless rate, which had shown little change over the prior 3 months, rose by 0.3 percentage point to 7.5 percent in May.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 68,000 in May, continuing the slow upward trend evident since the beginning of the year. Total employment, as estimated through the household survey, was unchanged in May, following large gains over the prior 2 months.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons increased by 349,000 to 9.5 million in May, and the unemployment rate rose to 7.5 percent, the highest level since August 1984. The rate had been 7.3 percent in both February and March and 7.2 percent in April. (See table A-1.)

The rise in unemployment occurred among youth (16- to 24-year-olds) and men 25 years and over. The jobless rate for youth rose by a full percentage point to 14.5 percent in May, and the rate for men 25 years and over increased from 6.2 to 6.5 percent. The rate for women 25 and over, at 5.6 percent in May, was little changed over the month. Jobless rates for whites (6.5 percent), blacks (14.7 percent), and Hispanics (11.3 percent) were up in May. (See tables A-1, A-2, and A-8.)

There were increases in both the number of persons who had recently become unemployed as well as those who had been jobless for several months. The number unemployed for less than 5 weeks rose by 215,000 in May, reaching 3.4 million. The number jobless for 15 weeks or longer, which had declined in April, rose by 343,000 in May to 3.4 million, the highest level since November 1983; most of this increase occurred in the 6 months and over group. Both the mean and median duration, at 18.3 and 9.0 weeks,

The establishment data shown in this news release have been adjusted to reflect annual benchmark revisions and updated seasonal adjustment factors. See the note on the revisions beginning on page 5.

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Apr. - May change
	1991	1992	1992			
	IV	I	Mar.	Apr.	May	
HOUSEHOLD DATA						
Thousands of persons						
Civilian labor force..	125,500	126,308	126,590	126,830	127,160	330
Employment.....	116,789	117,169	117,348	117,675	117,656	-19
Unemployment.....	8,711	9,138	9,242	9,155	9,504	349
Not in labor force....	64,949	64,580	64,432	64,338	64,147	-191
Discouraged workers.	1,094	1,084	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.....	6.9	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.5	0.3
Adult men.....	6.5	6.9	6.9	6.8	7.3	.5
Adult women.....	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.3	6.1	-.2
Teenagers.....	19.0	19.6	20.6	19.2	20.0	.8
White.....	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.5	.2
Black.....	12.6	13.9	14.1	13.9	14.7	.8
Hispanic origin...	10.1	11.5	11.6	10.3	11.3	1.0
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment....	108,193	108,147	108,200	p108,382	p108,450	p68
Goods-producing 1/..	23,634	23,528	23,532	p23,531	p23,523	p-8
Construction.....	4,606	4,591	4,603	p4,602	p4,609	p7
Manufacturing.....	18,359	18,284	18,278	p18,283	p18,273	p-10
Service-producing 1/	84,559	84,619	84,668	p84,851	p84,927	p76
Retail trade.....	19,139	19,118	19,092	p19,175	p19,131	p-44
Services.....	28,533	28,601	28,643	p28,702	p28,811	p109
Government.....	18,428	18,475	18,507	p18,549	p18,559	p10
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.4	34.5	34.5	p34.4	p34.5	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.9	41.0	41.1	p41.1	p41.3	p.2
Overtime.....	3.7	3.7	3.8	p3.9	p4.0	p.1

1/ Establishment data have been revised to reflect March 1991 benchmarks and updated seasonal adjustment factors.

2/ Includes other industries, not shown separately.

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

respectively, rose in May and were at their highest levels since May 1984. (See table A-5.)

The number of unemployed who had lost their last jobs rose by 333,000 in May to 5.5 million, reversing the declines of March and April. The number of persons limited to working part time for economic reasons--sometimes referred to as the partially unemployed--which had been declining since the beginning of the year, increased by 252,000 to 6.5 million in May. (See tables A-3 and A-6.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Following substantial increases in both March and April, total employment held steady in May at 117.7 million. The employment-population ratio (the percentage of the population that is employed) was about unchanged at 61.5 percent. (See table A-1.)

The civilian labor force rose by 331,000 in May, reaching 127.2 million. Labor force growth--which had been anemic during most of the recession--has been very strong since late last year, averaging about 300,000 a month since November. Nearly half of the May increase was among 16- to 24-year-old youth. The labor force participation rate--the percentage of the working-age population that is either employed or unemployed--rose 0.2 percentage point to 66.5 percent in May; this was 0.7 percentage point higher than last November. (See table A-1.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment continued its modest upward trend of recent months, edging up by 68,000 in May. Since January, the number of nonfarm jobs has grown by 350,000. (See table B-1.)

Employment in the service-producing sector grew for the sixth consecutive month in May, with an increase of 76,000. The services industry itself added 109,000 jobs, its largest single-month gain since March 1990. Business services accounted for 39,000 of this increase, continuing its strong upward trend of recent months. Employment in the health services industry continued its long-term uptrend with an increase of 20,000 in May. Retail trade lost 44,000 jobs, after an increase of 83,000 in April, and has shown no clear employment trend since January. Finance continued to grow, adding 11,000 jobs.

In the goods-producing sector, total manufacturing employment was little changed in May. Most industries within manufacturing also showed little change; there was continued weakness in the defense-dependent transportation equipment and electronic equipment industries and small job gains in furniture and rubber and plastics. An employment increase in machinery resulted solely from a return of striking workers. Construction has still failed to generate any substantial job growth, and mining lost another 5,000 jobs, all of them in oil and gas extraction.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls edged up by a tenth of an hour to 34.5 hours, following an identical decline in the prior month. The average factory workweek rose two-tenths of an hour to 41.3 hours; this was its highest level since October 1966. Average overtime for factory workers, which posted its fourth consecutive monthly increase, was 4.0 hours, a level which has not been exceeded since April 1973. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers increased by 0.5 percent to 121.5 (1982=100) in May, after seasonal adjustment. The manufacturing index also rose by 0.5 percent, to 103.4; this index has been on a steady upward trend over the past 6 months. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers edged up by 0.3 percent to \$10.56, seasonally adjusted. Average weekly earnings increased by 0.6 percent to \$364.32. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose by 1 cent and average weekly earnings were up by \$2.45. Over the year, average hourly earnings increased by 2.5 percent and average 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 comprehensive universe counts of payroll jobs (benchmarks). These counts are derived principally from unemployment insurance tax records for March 1991. The benchmark adjustment to March 1991 employment levels is -640,000 or -0.6 percent, before seasonal adjustment, and -558,000 after seasonal adjustment. Table B presents revised total nonfarm employment data on a seasonally adjusted basis for the period April 1990-February 1992; February 1992 represents the last month of final published estimates prior to this benchmark revision. These revised data incorporate new seasonal adjustment factors, revised bias adjustments, and the effect of applying the rate of change measured by the sample to a new benchmark level. These adjustments have brought down employment levels since March 1991 but have not materially affected trends for that period.

All unadjusted establishment data series from April 1990 forward and all seasonally adjusted series from January 1987 forward are affected by the annual revisions announced today. The June 1992 issue of *Employment and Earnings* will contain an article that discusses the effects of the benchmark revisions, revised seasonal adjustment factors to be used during May-October 1992, 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, 1909-90* (BLS Bulletin 2370), will comprise the full historical series on national data obtained from the establishment survey. Five years of data for the "B" tables published in this release are available on diskette (202-523-1172); the full history for all establishment data series is available on magnetic tape (202-606-5957).

A special press briefing on the benchmark revisions was held on Wednesday, June 3. Detailed information on the revision and its cause and effects are described in the pamphlet, "Revision of Payroll Survey Employment Estimates to March 1991 Benchmarks," which is available upon request from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Call 202-523-1487.

Table B. Revisions in total nonfarm employment, April 1990-February 1992, seasonally adjusted

(Numbers in thousands)

Year and month	Levels			Over-the-month changes		
	As previously published	As revised	Difference	As previously published	As revised	Difference
1990:						
April.....	109,934	109,969	35	1	-28	-29
May.....	110,304	110,241	-63	370	272	-98
June.....	110,435	110,304	-131	131	63	-68
July.....	110,269	110,078	-191	-166	-226	-60
August.....	110,160	109,877	-283	-109	-201	-92
September..	110,113	109,737	-376	-47	-140	-93
October....	109,982	109,548	-434	-131	-189	-58
November...	109,761	109,284	-477	-221	-264	-43
December...	109,621	109,101	-520	-140	-183	-43
1991:						
January....	109,418	108,845	-573	-203	-256	-53
February...	109,160	108,557	-603	-258	-288	-30
March.....	108,902	108,344	-558	-258	-213	45
April.....	108,736	108,178	-558	-166	-166	0
May.....	108,887	108,265	-622	151	87	-64
June.....	108,885	108,227	-658	-2	-38	-36
July.....	108,859	108,190	-669	-26	-37	-11
August.....	108,971	108,267	-704	112	77	-35
September..	109,066	108,293	-773	95	26	-69
October....	109,073	108,285	-788	7	-8	-15
November...	108,843	108,139	-704	-230	-146	84
December...	108,882	108,154	-728	39	15	-24
1992:						
January....	108,760	108,100	-660	-122	-54	68
February...	108,866	108,142	-724	106	42	-64

The Employment Situation for June 1992 will be released on Thursday, July 2, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

On July 13, 1992, BLS personnel responsible for the technical information contained in this release will have new telephone numbers. Telephone contacts will be as follows: National household data, 202-606-6373 and 6378; state and area labor force data, 606-6392; and national establishment survey data, 606-6555.

News

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JUNE 1992

Unemployment increased in June and payroll employment declined, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The nation's jobless rate rose three-tenths of a percentage point for the second month in a row, reaching 7.8 percent.

Nonfarm payroll employment, as measured by the survey of establishments, declined by 117,000 in June, with most of the job losses occurring in manufacturing and construction. Total employment, as measured by the survey of households, has shown no growth since April, after increasing rapidly earlier this year. The labor force continued to expand at a rapid pace.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons rose by 471,000 to nearly 10.0 million in June, and the unemployment rate climbed to 7.8 percent, the highest level since March 1984. Since last September, the number of jobless persons has increased by 1.5 million, and the unemployment rate has risen a full percentage point--with most of the rise occurring since January. The jobless rate had been 5.4 percent in July 1990, when the recent recession began. (See table A-1.)

More than half of the increase in joblessness between May and June was among teenagers, whose unemployment rate rose 3.6 percentage points to 23.6 percent, its highest since June 1983. The unemployment rate for men 25 years and over (6.8 percent) rose by three-tenths of a point for the second month in a row. The rate for women 25 years and over (5.9 percent) also rose by three-tenths over the month. (See tables A-1 and A-8.)

The bulk of the over-the-month increase in unemployment was found among those entering the labor force for the first time and those who were laid off from jobs to which they expected to be recalled. Unemployment increased across all of the duration categories. The number of persons jobless for 15 weeks or longer rose by 314,000 over the month, following a similar increase in May. (See tables A-5 and A-6.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

After rising rapidly between December and April, total employment has shown no further gains (after seasonal adjustment). The number of persons

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			May-June change
	1992		1992			
	I	II	Apr.	May	June	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Civilian labor force...	126,308	127,180	126,830	127,160	127,549	389
Employment.....	117,169	117,635	117,675	117,656	117,574	-82
Unemployment.....	9,138	9,545	9,155	9,504	9,975	471
Not in labor force....	64,580	64,130	64,338	64,147	63,906	-241
Discouraged workers.	1,084	1,125	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.....	7.2	7.5	7.2	7.5	7.8	0.3
Adult men.....	6.9	7.2	6.8	7.3	7.4	.1
Adult women.....	6.0	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.4	.3
Teenagers.....	19.6	21.0	19.2	20.0	23.6	3.6
White.....	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.5	6.8	.3
Black.....	13.9	14.5	13.9	14.7	14.9	.2
Hispanic origin...	11.5	11.2	10.3	11.3	12.1	.8
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	108,147	p108,400	108,377	p108,470	p108,353	p-117
Goods-producing 1/...	23,528	p23,505	23,530	p23,540	p23,444	p-96
Construction.....	4,591	p4,609	4,605	p4,627	p4,595	p-32
Manufacturing.....	18,284	p18,254	18,279	p18,271	p18,213	p-58
Service-producing 1/...	84,619	p84,895	84,847	p84,930	p84,909	p-21
Retail trade.....	19,118	p19,144	19,177	p19,137	p19,117	p-20
Services.....	28,601	p28,777	28,707	p28,820	p28,805	p-15
Government.....	18,475	p18,562	18,542	p18,559	p18,584	p25
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.5	p34.4	34.3	p34.6	p34.3	p-0.3
Manufacturing.....	41.0	p41.2	41.1	p41.3	p41.1	p-.2
Overtime.....	3.7	p3.9	3.9	p4.0	p3.9	p-.1

1/ Includes other industries, not shown separately.

p=preliminary.

N.A.= not available.

working part time voluntarily rose by 727,000 in June, while the number at work part time for economic reasons (those who preferred full-time work) fell by 484,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis. The employment-population ratio (the percentage of the population that is employed) was 61.4 percent--about unchanged from May. (See tables A-1 and A-3.)

The civilian labor force continued its strong expansion in June, growing by 389,000 to 127.5 million. Virtually all of this increase was accounted for by adult women. The labor force participation rate was 66.6 percent and has returned to its pre-recession high. Since last November, the labor force has grown quite rapidly, expanding by about 2.2 million. (See table A-1.)

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

The number of discouraged workers--persons who want to work but are not looking for a job because they think they cannot find one--remained at 1.1 million in the second quarter of 1992. In fact, their number has shown little change for 3 straight quarters but was 173,000 higher than a year earlier. (See table A-11.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

After showing modest job growth in recent months, nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 117,000 in June, seasonally adjusted. Both manufacturing and construction failed to add jobs to the extent they normally do at this time of year, resulting in large job losses after seasonal adjustment. There was also some weakness in the service-producing sector. (See table B-1.)

The number of manufacturing jobs fell by 58,000 over the month following little movement in the prior 4 months. Employment continued to drop in the defense-dependent transportation equipment and electronic equipment industries, and there were also over-the-month decreases in food processing, industrial machinery, apparel, and fabricated metals.

Elsewhere in the goods-producing sector, the number of construction jobs fell by 32,000 in June, negating much of the employment growth that had occurred in recent months. The number of mining jobs continued to decline, as a large drop occurred in oil and gas extraction.

The over-the-month weakness in the service-producing sector followed steady job growth earlier this year. Employment in wholesale trade dropped markedly--by 16,000--following smaller declines in recent months. The number of jobs in retail trade showed no growth in June, after adjustment for seasonality. The industry has yet to show any sustained recovery from the string of losses which began in early 1990.

Following healthy job gains in the prior 3 months, employment in the services industry was essentially unchanged in June. Similarly, the number of jobs failed to grow in finance, following 6 months of gain. Employment in transportation and public utilities edged up by 10,000 over the month.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls declined by three-tenths of an hour to 34.3 hours in June, following an increase of the same magnitude in the prior month. The factory workweek declined 0.2 hour to 41.1 hours, also erasing the May gain. Average overtime for factory workers, at 3.9 hours, edged down by 0.1 hour over the month. Both the average workweek and overtime in factories continued to be high by historical standards, however. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers--which shows the combined effect of changes in employment and hours--declined by 0.8 percent to 120.7 (1982=100) in June, after seasonal adjustment. The manufacturing index declined by 0.9 percent to 102.5.

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers edged up by 0.2 percent in June, after seasonal adjustment. Reflecting the decline in the workweek, average weekly earnings declined by 0.7 percent. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings were down by 2 cents to \$10.53, and average weekly earnings rose by \$1.42 to \$364.34. Over the year, average hourly earnings increased by 2.2 percent and average weekly earnings by 1.9 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

The Employment Situation for July 1992 will be released on Friday, August 7, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

Beginning July 13, 1992, BLS personnel responsible for the technical information contained in this release will have new telephone numbers. Telephone contacts will be as follows: National household data, 202-606-6373 and 6378; state and area labor force data, 202-606-6392; and national establishment survey data, 202-606-6555.

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information:

USDL 92-504

Household data:

National

(202) 606-6373

606-6378

TRANSMISSION OF MATERIAL IN THIS
RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL

State

606-6392

8:30 A.M. (EDT), FRIDAY,

Establishment data

606-6555

AUGUST 7, 1992

Media contact:

523-1913

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JULY 1992

The nation's employment situation improved slightly in July. The unemployment rate eased back from 7.8 to 7.7 percent, after increasing sharply in the prior 2 months. Payroll employment rose by nearly 200,000 following a small decline in June. The increase was confined to the service-producing sector, and some of it was attributable to an expansion in Federally-funded summer youth employment programs.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the number of unemployed persons, 9.8 million, and the unemployment rate, 7.7 percent, edged down slightly from their June levels. The rate had risen six-tenths of a percentage point over the April-June period. The jobless rate for teenagers dropped 2.6 percentage points in July to 21.0 percent; for men 25 years and over, the rate fell 0.3 point to 6.5 percent. Rates for other major demographic groups were about unchanged--5.9 percent for women 25 years and over, 6.7 percent for whites, 14.6 percent for blacks, and 11.9 percent for Hispanics. (See tables A-1, A-2, and A-8.)

The number of persons working part time for economic reasons--sometimes referred to as the partially unemployed--rose by 284,000 to about 6.3 million in July. This increase followed a large decline in June. (See table A-3.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total employment in July was not materially changed from its June level and has shown little movement since April. Nonetheless, the total was 1.0 million higher than in July 1991. The employment-population ratio--the percentage of the working-age population that is employed--was about unchanged at 61.5 percent in July, the same as a year earlier. Over this 1-year period, the ratio has hovered in the 61.2 to 61.6 percent range. (See table A-1.)

The civilian labor force did not show any further growth in July, after expanding very rapidly--by 2.2 million--from November to June. The labor force participation rate--the percentage of the working-age population that is either working or looking for work--remained at its all-time high of 66.6 percent. (See table A-1.)

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			June- July change
	1992		1992			
	I	II	May	June	July	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Civilian labor force..	126,308	127,180	127,160	127,549	127,532	-17
Employment.....	117,169	117,635	117,656	117,574	117,772	198
Unemployment.....	9,138	9,545	9,504	9,975	9,760	-215
Not in labor force....	64,580	64,130	64,147	63,906	64,090	184
Discouraged workers.	1,084	1,125	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.....	7.2	7.5	7.5	7.8	7.7	-0.1
Adult men.....	6.9	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.2	-.2
Adult women.....	6.0	6.2	6.1	6.4	6.5	.1
Teenagers.....	19.6	21.0	20.0	23.6	21.0	-2.6
White.....	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.8	6.7	-.1
Black.....	13.9	14.5	14.7	14.9	14.6	-.3
Hispanic origin...	11.5	11.2	11.3	12.1	11.9	-.2
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	108,147	p108,435	108,496	p108,433	p108,631	p198
Goods-producing 1/..	23,528	p23,513	23,548	p23,460	p23,443	p-17
Construction.....	4,591	p4,613	4,632	p4,603	p4,588	p-15
Manufacturing.....	18,284	p18,259	18,275	p18,223	p18,224	p1
Service-producing 1/	84,619	p84,923	84,948	p84,973	p85,188	p215
Retail trade.....	19,118	p19,159	19,150	p19,151	p19,186	p35
Services.....	28,601	p28,800	28,833	p28,860	p28,970	p110
Government.....	18,475	p18,551	18,546	p18,565	p18,653	p88
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.5	p34.4	34.6	p34.3	p34.3	p0.0
Manufacturing.....	41.0	p41.1	41.3	p41.0	p41.0	p.0
Overtime.....	3.7	p4.0	4.1	p3.9	p3.8	p-.1

1/ Includes other industries, not shown separately.

p=preliminary.

N.A.= not available.

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment grew by 198,000 in July, seasonally adjusted. This followed a decline of 63,000 (as revised) in June. July gains were concentrated in services and local government. (See table B-1.)

The July increase in local government jobs--92,000--was unusually large. About two-thirds of this gain stemmed from a boost in Federally-funded summer jobs for youth. The services industry added 110,000 jobs in July, a small portion of which also resulted from the step-up in summer jobs funded by the Federal government but sponsored by various nonprofit service organizations. Employment in health services continued its long-term upward trend, with an increase of 36,000 in July. Business services added 21,000 jobs as gains continued in the help supply industry.

Elsewhere in the service-producing sector, employment edged up in retail trade, largely due to added jobs in eating and drinking places. Wholesale trade continued its slide that has seen reduced jobs totaling 275,000 since March of 1989. Transportation and public utilities and finance, insurance, and real estate both were little changed over the month.

Total manufacturing employment was virtually unchanged in July, following a drop of 52,000 in June. The number of jobs in food processing, apparel, and motor vehicles increased after seasonal adjustment. Employment in industrial machinery and in three defense-related industries--electronics, aircraft and parts (within transportation equipment), and instruments--continued to decline. The total number of jobs in industries heavily dependent on defense purchases declined by 17,000 in July.

The number of construction jobs, which had shown some signs of recovery during the spring, edged down for the second month in a row, after seasonal adjustment, as the industry again failed to add as many jobs as it usually does at this time of the year. The number of mining jobs continued its string of small declines in July. Mining has lost 12 percent of its employment since its most recent peak in June 1990, mostly in oil and gas extraction.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls held steady at 34.3 hours in July. The factory workweek--at 41.0 hours--was also unchanged in July, while average overtime for factory workers edged down 0.1 hour over the month. Both the average workweek and overtime in factories continued to be high by historical standards. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers--which shows the combined effect of changes in employment and hours--was unchanged at 120.9 (1982=100) in July, after seasonal adjustment. The manufacturing index declined by 0.2 percent to 102.3, about the same level as a year earlier. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Both average hourly and weekly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were unchanged in July, after seasonal adjustment. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings were down by 1 cent to \$10.52, and average weekly earnings decreased 35 cents to \$363.99. Over the past year, average hourly earnings increased by 2.2 percent and average weekly earnings by 2.5 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

The Employment Situation for August 1992 will be released on Friday, September 4, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

After August 28, 1992, the new telephone number for the media contact for this release will be 202-606-5902.

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information:

Household data:		USDL 92-568
National	(202) 606-6373	
	606-6378	TRANSMISSION OF MATERIAL IN THIS
State	606-6392	RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL
Establishment data	606-6555	8:30 A.M. (EDT), FRIDAY,
Media contact:	606-5902	SEPTEMBER 4, 1992

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: AUGUST 1992

Nonfarm payroll employment declined in August and unemployment was about unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The number of payroll jobs, which had increased in July, declined by 83,000 in August. Private payrolls fell by 167,000, with especially large job losses in manufacturing and retail trade. At 7.6 percent in August, the jobless rate has come down slightly from its recent June high of 7.8 percent. The 2-month decline, however, was essentially confined to teenagers.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the number of unemployed persons, 9.7 million, and the unemployment rate, 7.6 percent, were virtually unchanged in August from the prior month. The unemployment rate for teenagers (19.8 percent) improved slightly, while jobless rates for adult men (7.3 percent), adult women (6.5 percent), whites (6.6 percent), blacks (14.3 percent), and Hispanics (11.2 percent) all showed little or no movement. The decrease in the teenage unemployment rate was the second consecutive monthly decline, following a sharp rise in June, and reflects the impact of the special summer jobs program. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

Two other key unemployment measures, the number of long-term unemployed and job losers, held at about their July levels. (See tables A-5 and A-6.)

Over the past year, the number of unemployed persons increased by 1.2 million and the rate rose by 0.8 percentage point. About two-thirds of the increase in unemployment has been among persons who lost a job to which they do not expect to be recalled--"other job losers." (See table A-6.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

At 117.7 million in August, total employment was about the same as in the prior month. The employment-population ratio--the percentage of the working-age population that is employed--was 61.4 percent. The ratio has remained in a range from 61.2 to 61.6 percent since the spring of 1991, well below the peak of 63.1 percent reached in March 1990. (See table

A-1.)

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			July-Aug. change
	1992		1992			
	I	II	June	July	Aug.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Civilian labor force..	126,308	127,180	127,549	127,532	127,437	-95
Employment.....	117,169	117,635	117,574	117,772	117,737	-35
Unemployment.....	9,138	9,545	9,975	9,760	9,700	-60
Not in labor force....	64,580	64,130	63,906	64,090	64,353	263
Discouraged workers.	1,084	1,125	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.....	7.2	7.5	7.8	7.7	7.6	-0.1
Adult men.....	6.9	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.3	.1
Adult women.....	6.0	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.5	.0
Teenagers.....	19.6	21.0	23.6	21.0	19.8	-1.2
White.....	6.4	6.5	6.8	6.7	6.6	-.1
Black.....	13.9	14.5	14.9	14.6	14.3	-.3
Hispanic origin...	11.5	11.2	12.1	11.9	11.2	-.7
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	108,147	108,432	108,423	p108,600	p108,517	p-83
Goods-producing 1/..	23,528	23,516	23,470	p23,464	p23,356	p-108
Construction.....	4,591	4,612	4,600	p4,584	p4,577	p-7
Manufacturing.....	18,284	18,263	18,236	p18,247	p18,150	p-97
Service-producing 1/	84,619	84,916	84,953	p85,136	p85,161	p25
Retail trade.....	19,118	19,161	19,156	p19,180	p19,109	p-71
Services.....	28,601	28,798	28,854	p28,954	p28,976	p22
Government.....	18,475	18,542	18,538	p18,620	p18,704	p84
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.5	34.4	34.3	p34.3	p34.7	p0.4
Manufacturing.....	41.0	41.1	41.0	p41.0	p41.0	p.0
Overtime.....	3.7	3.9	3.8	p3.8	p3.8	p.0

1/ Includes other industries, not shown separately. p=preliminary.
N.A.= not available.

The civilian labor force, at 127.4 million in August, was little changed from the June-July levels. Between last November and June, the labor force had grown by 2.2 million. The labor force participation rate--the percentage of the working-age population that is either working or looking for work--edged down to 66.4 percent from its all-time high of 66.6 percent last reached in the prior 2 months. (See table A-1.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment declined by 83,000 in August, despite further increases in local government jobs. Excluding government, payroll employment declined by 167,000 in August, following a 95,000 gain in the prior month. The large increases in local government employment--63,000 in July and 88,000 in August--reflected the special Federally funded summer youth job programs. (See table B-1.)

Manufacturing employment declined sharply in August, falling by 97,000. This was the second decrease in the last 3 months, following a short period of stability. Job losses were widespread over the month. Some were part of longer-term cutbacks--industrial machinery, electronic equipment, transportation equipment (mostly aircraft), and instruments. Other losses, such as those in apparel and food processing, followed unusually large increases in July. In all, 16 of the 20 individual industries within manufacturing had employment losses in August, as the factory job total reached its lowest point since April 1983.

Construction industry employment remained weak in August. After seasonal adjustment, the number of construction jobs was slightly lower than last winter, as losses in summer months offset gains in the spring.

Retail trade employment declined by 71,000 in August. Job losses continued in general merchandise stores, and an employment decrease in eating and drinking places reversed an increase in the prior month. Wholesale trade edged down by 8,000 in August; this industry has not shown an increase in over 2 years.

The services industry added 22,000 jobs over the month--well below the average monthly gain of 50,000 over the past year. Business services continued to grow at a relatively slow pace, after a more vigorous expansion during the spring months. Similarly, the August job gain in health services was slightly smaller than this industry's average so far in 1992. A small employment increase in finance, insurance, and real estate, on the other hand, offset some of the losses in prior months.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for private production or nonsupervisory workers increased 0.4 hour to 34.7 hours. There were no changes in the manufacturing workweek and factory overtime, which have held at 41.0 and 3.8 hours, respectively, throughout the summer. (See table B-2.)

- 4 -

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers increased 0.8 percent to 121.8 (1982=100) in August, after seasonal adjustment, as the large increase in hours more than offset the employment decline. In contrast, the manufacturing index declined 0.7 percent to 101.9. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings rose by 0.7 percent in August and weekly earnings were up 1.8 percent, after seasonal adjustment. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings increased 4 cents to \$10.56 and average weekly earnings increased \$5.61 to \$369.60. Over the past year, average hourly and weekly earnings increased 2.6 and 3.5 percent, respectively. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for September 1992 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

Technical information:

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	606-6378	TRANSMISSION OF MATERIAL IN THIS
State	606-6392	RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL
Establishment data	606-6555	8:30 A.M. (EDT), FRIDAY,
Media contact:	606-5902	OCTOBER 2, 1992

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: SEPTEMBER 1992

Both employment and unemployment were about unchanged in September the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. At 7.5 percent in September, the unemployment rate was little different from the August figure but three-tenths of a percentage point below the June rate of 7.8 percent.

Nonfarm payroll jobs were little changed in September, after declining in the prior month. In the private sector, job gains in services were accompanied by further job losses in manufacturing and construction. Government employment fell at the local level, as many jobs funded through the special summer youth program came to an end.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The unemployment rate, 7.5 percent, and the number of unemployed persons, 9.6 million, were little changed in September from the previous month, though both have edged down from June levels. Jobless rates for each of the major demographic groups showed little movement over the month. Rates in September were 7.1 percent for adult men, 6.3 percent for adult women, 20.4 percent for teenagers, 6.7 percent for whites, 13.7 percent for blacks, and 11.9 percent for Hispanics. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

Both the number of job losers and long-term unemployed--two other key unemployment measures--were also little changed in September. (See tables A-5 and A-6.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total employment held at 117.7 million in September, after seasonal adjustment. The employment-population ratio--the percentage of the working-age population that is employed--was 61.3 percent. This ratio has shown no clear movement for about a year. (See table A-1.)

The rapid labor force growth between last November and June ceased over the summer. At 127.3 million in September, the civilian labor force was little changed both over the month and from the June level. The labor force participation rate--the percentage of the working-age population that is either working or looking for work--was 66.3 percent in September, down 0.3 percentage point from its all-time high of 66.6 percent last reached in June and July. (See table A-1.)

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Aug. - Sept. change
	1992		1992			
	II	III	July	Aug.	Sept.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Civilian labor force..	127,180	127,414	127,532	127,437	127,273	-164
Employment.....	117,635	117,737	117,772	117,737	117,701	-36
Unemployment.....	9,545	9,677	9,760	9,700	9,572	-128
Not in labor force....	64,130	64,372	64,090	64,353	64,674	321
Discouraged workers.	1,125	1,148	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.....	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.5	-0.1
Adult men.....	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.1	-.2
Adult women.....	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.3	-.2
Teenagers.....	21.0	20.4	21.0	19.8	20.4	.6
White.....	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.7	1
Black.....	14.5	14.2	14.6	14.3	13.7	-.6
Hispanic origin...	11.2	11.7	11.9	11.2	11.9	.7
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs.					
Nonfarm employment....	108,432	p108,490	108,594	p108,466	p108,409	p-57
Goods-producing <u>1/</u> ..	23,516	p23,380	23,459	p23,364	p23,318	p-46
Construction.....	4,612	p4,578	4,584	p4,586	p4,565	p-21
Manufacturing.....	18,263	p18,172	18,242	p18,150	p18,124	p-26
Service-producing <u>1/</u>	84,916	p85,109	85,135	p85,102	p85,091	p-11
Retail trade.....	19,161	p19,131	19,184	p19,105	p19,105	p0
Services.....	28,798	p28,990	28,971	p28,964	p29,036	p72
Government.....	18,542	p18,627	18,606	p18,681	p18,593	p-88
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.4	p34.4	34.3	p34.6	p34.3	p-0.3
Manufacturing.....	41.1	p40.9	41.0	p41.0	p40.8	p-.2
Overtime.....	3.9	p3.7	3.8	p3.7	p3.5	p-.2

1/ Includes other industries, not shown separately. p=preliminary.
N.A.= not available.

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

The number of discouraged workers--persons who want to work but are not looking for jobs because they think their search would be in vain--was essentially unchanged at 1.1 million in the third quarter of 1992. There has been little movement in the size of this group over the past year. (See table A-11.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment was little changed in September, following a decline of 128,000 (as revised) in August. Gains took place in the services industry, but there were also further declines in construction and manufacturing and a drop in local government employment. (See table B-1.)

Manufacturing employment declined by 26,000 in September. Although not nearly as large as the August drop (92,000), this movement indicates that the manufacturing industry continues to be weak. Job losses over the past year totaled nearly 300,000. Notable over-the-month declines occurred in aircraft, apparel, and furniture, as well as in the automobile and food processing industries, which tend to be relatively volatile on a monthly basis. In contrast, employment increased in industrial machinery, textiles, and paper products.

The construction industry, which has exhibited renewed weakness following small employment gains in the spring, lost another 21,000 jobs in September. Employment in mining was unchanged in September, marking the first month in over a year and a half that this industry did not lose jobs.

Wholesale trade employment declined by 9,000 in September, continuing its 3-1/2 year trend of monthly job losses. Retail trade was unchanged, after falling sharply in August.

In the services industry, employment has risen at an uneven pace over the past year, averaging 50,000 a month. A rise of 72,000 in September followed little change in the prior month. Finance employment edged up by 7,000, and the transportation industry gained 9,000 jobs, recovering most of its August decline.

Total government employment declined by 88,000, partially offsetting increases in July and August. Local jurisdictions have accounted for most of these employment swings, which are largely a reflection of a build-up and subsequent wind-down of special summer youth job programs.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls declined 0.3 hour in September, reversing the increase in August and returning to the June and July levels. The workweek for manufacturing production workers declined 0.2 hour to 40.8 hours. Factory overtime also declined 0.2 hour in September to 3.5 hours. (See table B-2.)

- 4 -

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers declined 1.1 percent to 120.4 (1982=100) in September, after seasonal adjustment. The manufacturing index declined 0.8 percent to 101.1. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Both average hourly and weekly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were down in September, after seasonal adjustment, by 0.2 and 1.1 percent, respectively. Unadjusted average hourly earnings were up 11 cents to \$10.67 in September, while average weekly earnings declined \$3.62 to \$365.98. Over the past year, average hourly and weekly earnings increased 2.2 and 1.3 percent, respectively. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for October 1992 will be released on Friday, November 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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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: OCTOBER 1992

The nation's job market in October was little different from September, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The unemployment rate, 7.4 percent, was little changed from the prior month's rate of 7.5 percent but has been edging downward from the June high of 7.8 percent. Employment, as measured through both the household and establishment surveys, remained at about the previous month's levels.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons, 9.3 million, and the unemployment rate, 7.4 percent, were little changed over the month, though both have continued to inch downward from their June high points. Over this 4-month period, the number of unemployed has receded by about 640,000 and the jobless rate has declined by four-tenths of a percentage point.

The jobless rates for most major demographic groups were essentially unchanged in October, but there was a slight drop for whites (from 6.7 to 6.5 percent), mostly among teenagers. October rates were 7.2 percent for adult men, 6.1 percent for adult women, 13.9 percent for blacks, and 11.8 percent for Hispanics. The rate for teenagers was down 2.1 percentage points to 18.3 percent, as their labor force dropped markedly. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

Unemployment of less than 15 weeks duration declined in October, while the number of persons jobless for longer periods was essentially unchanged at 3.5 million. About 2.1 million workers were jobless for more than 6 months; that number had more than tripled between mid-1990 and June of 1992, but has not risen since. (See table A-5.)

Among that portion of the total unemployed classified as job losers, fewer were expecting to be recalled (those shown as "on layoff" in table A-6) and more were permanent job losers. The latter group accounted for an unusually large share of job losers--77 percent.

The number of persons working part time even though they would have preferred full-time work was 6.5 million in October; it has been as high as 6.7 million and as low as 6.0 million this year, showing no clear direction. Persons in this category are often referred to as the "partially unemployed," and are shown in table A-3 as working "part time for economic reasons."

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Sept. - Oct. change
	1992		1992			
	II	III	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Civilian labor force..	127,180	127,414	127,437	127,273	126,959	-314
Employment.....	117,635	117,737	117,737	117,701	117,625	-76
Unemployment.....	9,545	9,677	9,700	9,572	9,334	-238
Not in labor force....	64,130	64,372	64,353	64,674	65,172	498
Discouraged workers.	1,125	1,148	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.....	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.4	-0.1
Adult men.....	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.2	.1
Adult women.....	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.1	-.2
Teenagers.....	21.0	20.4	19.8	20.4	18.3	-2.1
White.....	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.5	-.2
Black.....	14.5	14.2	14.3	13.7	13.9	.2
Hispanic origin...	11.2	11.7	11.2	11.9	11.8	-.1
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	108,432	p108,497	108,485	p108,413	p108,440	p27
Goods-producing 1/..	23,516	p23,376	23,362	p23,307	p23,271	p-36
Construction.....	4,612	p4,583	4,591	p4,575	p4,595	p20
Manufacturing.....	18,263	p18,165	18,145	p18,107	p18,051	p-56
Service-producing 1/	84,916	p85,121	85,123	p85,106	p85,169	p63
Retail trade.....	19,161	p19,133	19,106	p19,108	p19,098	p-10
Services.....	28,798	p28,996	28,981	p29,035	p29,124	p89
Government.....	18,542	p18,633	18,682	p18,612	p18,573	p-39
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.4	p34.4	34.6	p34.3	p34.5	p0.2
Manufacturing.....	41.1	p41.0	41.0	p40.9	p41.1	p.2
Overtime.....	3.9	p3.7	3.7	p3.5	p3.8	p.3

1/ Includes other industries, not shown separately.

p=preliminary.

N.A.= not available.

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

The total number of employed persons was little changed in October at 117.6 million. The employment-population ratio, which is the percentage of the working-age population that is employed, was also little different from the previous month, at 61.2 percent, but has been declining since July. (See table A-1.)

The civilian labor force declined by 300,000 to 127.0 million in October; this occurred largely among teenagers, whose labor force had shown an increase in the previous month. After rising sharply between November 1991 and June of this year--2.2 million--the labor force has since decreased by 600,000. This decline has been concentrated among women, whose historically rising participation rate has declined six-tenths of a percentage point over this 4-month span. (See table A-1.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment was virtually unchanged in October. Gains in construction and several service sector industries were offset by further losses in manufacturing and a decline in government jobs. (See table B-1.)

Manufacturing employment declined by 56,000 in October; cutbacks have totaled 225,000 in the past 5 months. October job losses were widespread, with the largest taking place in transportation equipment (16,000), which was heavily impacted by reductions in defense spending. Other industries with decreases included fabricated metals, industrial machinery, instruments, textiles, paper, rubber and plastics, and printing. The lumber industry gained employment, reflecting increased activity in construction.

The construction industry added 20,000 jobs in October, resulting in part from rebuilding efforts in the wake of the damage caused by hurricane Andrew. In mining, there was some limited improvement in the oil and gas extraction component after a long string of small monthly losses.

The services industry added 89,000 jobs in October, considerably above the average job growth of 53,000 per month in the first 9 months of this year. Gains occurred in a variety of industries, including help supply and other business services, educational services, and health services. Employment in finance, insurance, and real estate grew by 14,000, and there was a gain of 7,000 in wholesale trade, the first increase in over 2 years. Retail trade employment was about unchanged (after seasonal adjustment).

Government employment fell by 39,000, reflecting early retirements by Postal Service employees, cutbacks at the state level, and a net gain in local government jobs. In local governments, the final closeout of Federally funded special summer jobs for youth was more than offset by gains elsewhere, including a return to work of school system employees who had been on strike.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased 0.2 hour in October. This series has fluctuated within an 0.3 hour range for over a year. The workweek for manufacturing production workers also rose 0.2 hour to 41.1 hours, and factory overtime increased 0.3 hour to 3.8 hours. Both the factory workweek and overtime hours were at historically high levels. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers rose 0.6 percent to 121.3 (1982=100) in October, after seasonal adjustment. The manufacturing index was 101.4, little changed from September, as the gain in the workweek was offset by declining employment. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers rose by 0.2 percent in October and weekly earnings were up 0.8 percent, after seasonal adjustment. These increases followed somewhat larger reductions in the prior month. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings increased 3 cents to \$10.70 and average weekly earnings increased \$2.10 to \$369.15. Over the past year, average hourly and weekly earnings increased 2.6 and 2.9 percent, respectively. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for November 1992 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

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DECEMBER 4, 1992

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: NOVEMBER 1992

The labor market showed modest improvement in November, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. There were some gains in both employment and hours, and the unemployment rate, 7.2 percent, followed its path of small but steady declines since June.

Payroll employment, as measured by the survey of establishments, rose by 105,000; part of this gain stemmed from a temporary increase in local government jobs related to the November elections. Private-sector employment has risen slowly over the last 3 months, growing by a total of 155,000. Total employment, as estimated from the survey of households, showed the first substantial gain since April, rising by 420,000.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the unemployment rate, 7.2 percent, and the number of unemployed persons, 9.2 million, continued their slow downward trend in November. Since June, the jobless total has fallen by nearly 800,000, while the unemployment rate has declined by six-tenths of a percentage point.

The November decrease in joblessness was concentrated among men age 25 and over, whose unemployment rate declined by half of a percentage point to 6.1 percent. The unemployment rate for teenagers, on the other hand, rose by 1.9 percentage points to 20.2 percent, reversing an October decline. Adult women (20 and over) maintained their jobless rate of 6.1 percent. The overall jobless rates for whites (6.3 percent), blacks (13.8 percent), and Hispanics (12.0 percent) showed little change from October. (See tables A-1, A-2, and A-8.)

The number of unemployed job losers decreased by 435,000, with three-fourths of the drop coming among those who had been permanently separated from their previous jobs. Nevertheless, this category of unemployed was still half a million larger than a year earlier. Unemployment of more than a half year's duration fell by 170,000 to 1.9 million, the first significant decline in this measure since it began its rise from about 600,000 in mid-1989. (See tables A-5 and A-6.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment, essentially flat since April, showed an increase of 420,000 in November to 118 million. This was the largest gain

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Oct.- Nov. change
	1992		1992			
	II	III	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Civilian labor force..	127,180	127,414	127,273	126,959	127,238	279
Employment.....	117,635	117,737	117,701	117,625	118,045	420
Unemployment.....	9,545	9,677	9,572	9,334	9,193	-141
Not in labor force....	64,130	64,372	64,674	65,172	65,078	-94
Discouraged workers.	1,125	1,148	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.....	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.2	-0.2
Adult men.....	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.2	6.8	-.4
Adult women.....	6.2	6.5	6.3	6.1	6.1	.0
Teenagers.....	21.0	20.4	20.4	18.3	20.2	1.9
White.....	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.3	-.2
Black.....	14.5	14.2	13.7	13.9	13.8	-.1
Hispanic origin...	11.2	11.7	11.9	11.8	12.0	.2
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	108,432	108,525	108,497	p108,531	p108,636	p105
Goods-producing 1/..	23,516	23,372	23,296	p23,257	p23,281	p24
Construction.....	4,612	4,583	4,574	p4,598	p4,587	p-11
Manufacturing.....	18,263	18,163	18,102	p18,037	p18,072	p35
Service-producing 1/	84,916	85,153	85,201	p85,274	p85,355	p81
Retail trade.....	19,161	19,137	19,122	p19,138	p19,092	p-46
Services.....	28,798	29,006	29,065	p29,142	p29,206	p64
Government.....	18,542	18,646	18,650	p18,618	p18,678	p60
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.4	34.4	34.3	p34.5	p34.7	p0.2
Manufacturing.....	41.1	41.0	40.9	p41.1	p41.3	p.2
Overtime.....	3.9	3.7	3.5	p3.8	p3.9	p.1

1/ Includes other industries, not shown separately. p=preliminary.
N.A.= not available.

since September of 1991. Two-thirds of the November increase was accounted for by adult women. The employment-population ratio, which is the percentage of the working-age population that is employed, rose two-tenths of a percentage point to 61.4 percent, still well below its peak of 63.1 percent reached prior to the recession. (See table A-1.)

The civilian labor force rose by about 280,000 in November to 127.2 million; this followed losses totaling 600,000 between June and October. Over-the-month increases occurred among adult women and teenagers. (See table A-1.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment edged up by 105,000 in November. While this gain reflected, in part, the temporary hiring of Election Day workers by local governments, manufacturing and services employment also rose. (See table B-1.)

Manufacturing added 35,000 jobs in November, following declines totaling 205,000 in the prior 3 months. Job gains were widespread among the durable and nondurable goods industries (table B-6). Employment in food processing rose by 9,000, after seasonal adjustment, following declines in the prior 2 months. Also increasing last month were jobs in motor vehicles, lumber and wood products, rubber and plastics, textiles, fabricated metal products, and miscellaneous manufacturing. In contrast, several industries lost jobs, including aircraft, instruments, and printing and publishing.

Construction employment was down 11,000 in November. Although fluctuating from month to month, the number of jobs in this industry has been basically unchanged for a year, after declining substantially during most of 1990 and 1991. The number of mining jobs was unchanged in November; this was the second consecutive month that employment did not decline, as it had for the prior 19 months.

Employment in the services industry increased by 64,000 in November. This strong gain reflected growth in business (especially personnel supply), health, social, and educational services. Government employment showed a 60,000 increase, but this was due largely to the temporary hiring of workers to staff polling places on Election Day.

Retail trade lost 46,000 jobs in November (seasonally adjusted), as hiring for the holiday season in department and specialty stores was lighter than usual. In contrast, there were job gains in restaurants and auto dealers and service stations.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased 0.2 hour in November. The workweek in manufacturing also rose 0.2 hour to 41.3 hours, and factory overtime

increased 0.1 hour to 3.9 hours. Both the workweek and overtime in factories were at high levels by historical standards. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers rose 0.7 percent to 122.2 (1982=100) in November, after seasonal adjustment. The manufacturing index was 102.1, an increase of 0.8 percent, reflecting both higher employment and the longer workweek. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers rose by 0.6 percent in November and weekly earnings were up 1.1 percent, after seasonal adjustment. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings increased 4 cents to \$10.73 and average weekly earnings increased \$2.45 to \$371.26. Over the past year, average hourly earnings increased 2.7 percent and average weekly earnings rose 3.6 percent. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation news release for December 1992 will be released on Friday, January 8, 1993, at 8:30 A.M. (EST). Release dates for the balance of 1993 are as follows:

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

Revisions in Household Survey Data

In accordance with usual practice, the 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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of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: DECEMBER 1992

Employment edged up in December and unemployment was unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The unemployment rate held at the revised November level of 7.3 percent, after falling from its June high of 7.7 percent.

Payroll employment, as measured by the survey of employers, rose marginally in December and has been slowly trending upward over the past year. Total employment, as estimated from the survey of households, showed some further improvement in December, after rising substantially in November.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the unemployment rate, 7.3 percent, and the number of unemployed persons, 9.3 million, were about unchanged in December, after seasonal adjustment. Although unemployment has shown modest improvement since its recent peak last June, the unemployment rate remains nearly 2 percentage points higher than it was in July 1990, when the recent recession began, and half a percentage point higher than in March 1991, when the recession officially ended. (See table A-1.)

Jobless rates for the major demographic groups, including adult men (6.8 percent), adult women (6.4 percent), teenagers (19.2 percent), whites (6.3 percent), blacks (14.2 percent), and Hispanics (11.7 percent) all showed little change in December. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

The number of persons unemployed for less than 15 weeks edged down in December, but this decline was essentially offset by a small increase in long-term unemployment (15 weeks and over). The mean duration of unemployment rose to 19.2 weeks, a return to the October level. Over the past year, mean duration has risen by about 3-1/2 weeks. (See table A-5.)

The number of persons working part time for economic reasons--sometimes referred to as the "partially unemployed"--was 6.3 million 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.

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Nov.- Dec. change
	1992		1992			
	III	IV	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Civilian labor force..	127,343	127,341	127,066	127,365	127,591	226
Employment.....	117,742	118,021	117,687	118,064	118,311	247
Unemployment.....	9,601	9,320	9,379	9,301	9,280	-21
Not in labor force....	64,443	64,978	65,065	64,951	64,913	-38
Discouraged workers.	1,125	1,084	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.....	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	.0
Adult men.....	7.2	7.0	7.2	6.9	6.8	-0.1
Adult women.....	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.4	.2
Teenagers.....	20.3	19.4	18.9	20.2	19.2	-1.0
White.....	6.6	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.3	-.1
Black.....	14.2	14.1	14.1	14.0	14.2	.2
Hispanic origin...	11.6	11.8	11.7	12.0	11.7	-.3
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	108,525	p108,643	108,571	p108,647	p108,711	p64
Goods-producing 1/..	23,372	p23,273	23,270	p23,277	p23,273	p-4
Construction.....	4,583	p4,588	4,601	p4,584	p4,579	p-5
Manufacturing.....	18,163	p18,064	18,046	p18,071	p18,074	p3
Service-producing 1/	85,153	p85,370	85,301	p85,370	p85,438	p68
Retail trade.....	19,137	p19,137	19,146	p19,125	p19,140	p15
Services.....	29,006	p29,196	29,152	p29,183	p29,253	p70
Government.....	18,646	p18,658	18,623	p18,686	p18,664	p-22
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.4	p34.5	34.5	p34.6	p34.3	p-0.3
Manufacturing.....	41.0	p41.2	41.1	p41.2	p41.3	p.1
Overtime.....	3.7	p3.9	3.8	p3.9	p3.9	p.1

1/ Includes other industries, not shown separately. N.A. = not available.
 NOTE: Household data have been revised based on the experience through December 1992. p=preliminary.

December, not materially different from November. This series has shown no clear trend over the past year. (See table A-3.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total employment was up slightly to 118.3 million in December (seasonally adjusted), following a sizable increase in the prior month. The employment-population ratio--the percentage of the working-age population that is employed--was 61.5 percent in December and has shown little movement in the last year and a half. (See table A-1.)

The civilian labor force rose slightly in December to 127.6 million, seasonally adjusted, and the labor force participation rate inched up to 66.3 percent. The labor force has risen by 1.8 million over the past year, whereas it had grown by only half a million in the year before that. (See table A-1.)

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

The number of discouraged workers--persons who indicate that they want to work but are not looking for a job because they think their search would be unproductive--was about unchanged at 1.1 million in the fourth quarter of 1992. The discouraged worker total has held at about this level since the third quarter of 1991. (See table A-11.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

The number of payroll jobs edged up by 64,000 in December, while private sector employment was up by 86,000. About 600,000 jobs have been added to total nonfarm payrolls since January. (See table B-1.)

Manufacturing employment was virtually unchanged, following a modest gain in November. Prior to that, factory employment had fallen by about 200,000 in 3 months (August-October). December was characterized by generally small changes among the component industries. Employment in industrial machinery and electronic equipment has leveled off in recent months, whereas two defense-related industries, aircraft and instruments, have continued to lose jobs.

Employment in construction was about unchanged in December at 4.6 million, following a slight decline in November. Mining employment continued its protracted slide; roughly 40,000 jobs have been lost during the past year, largely in oil and gas extraction.

Employment in the services industry grew by 70,000, with the December increase led by a 32,000 gain in business services. Business services, which had been a major job producer in the 1980s, experienced a resurgence in 1992, adding 320,000 jobs. Employment also rose in health services. In retail trade, employment was about unchanged on a seasonally adjusted basis, as slower than normal holiday-related hiring, such as in department

and clothing stores, was offset by gains elsewhere in the industry. Wholesale trade had a small job loss in December, following 2 months of gains. Finance employment rose slightly. The number of government jobs fell by 22,000, because an estimated 45,000 temporary election poll workers were no longer on local government payrolls.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls decreased by 0.3 hour in December to 34.3 hours, seasonally adjusted, returning weekly hours to a low point of a range they have stayed within for over a year. Part of this decline may have resulted from severe winter storms that hit the mid-Atlantic and Northeast areas of the country during the survey reference period. The workweek in manufacturing increased for the third consecutive month to a very high 41.3 hours, while factory overtime was unchanged at 3.9 hours. (See table B-2.)

As a result of the workweek decrease, the index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers fell by 0.7 percent to 121.1 (1982=100) in December, seasonally adjusted. The index for manufacturing increased by 0.2 percent to 102.3, its highest level since last May. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were about unchanged after seasonal adjustment, while average weekly earnings decreased by 1.0 percent because of the shorter workweek. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings were unchanged at \$10.72 and average weekly earnings fell by \$1.07 to \$369.84. Over the year, average hourly earnings increased by 2.2 percent and average weekly earnings by 1.6 percent. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for January 1993 will be released on Friday, February 5, 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 the labor force series derived from the Current Population Survey (household survey) to incorporate the experience of that year. Seasonally adjusted data for the most recent 5 years are subject to revision. (Seasonally adjusted establishment data are revised later in the year, concurrently with the introduction of annual benchmark adjustments.)

Table B summarizes the effects of the revisions on the overall unemployment rate in 1992, and revised seasonally adjusted data for major labor force series for December 1991 through December 1992 are presented in table C.

The January 1993 issue of Employment and Earnings will contain new seasonal adjustment factors that will be used to calculate the civilian labor force and other major series for January-June of 1993. 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 1988-92 revision period for nearly 450 labor force series will be published in the February 1993 issue. Microcomputer diskettes of historical seasonally adjusted data (monthly and quarterly) may be purchased from the Bureau (contact Gloria P. Green on 202-606-6373).

Table B. Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in 1992 and change due to revision

Month	As first computed	As revised	Change
January.....	7.1	7.1	0
February.....	7.3	7.3	0
March.....	7.3	7.3	0
April.....	7.2	7.3	0.1
May.....	7.5	7.4	-.1
June.....	7.8	7.7	-.1
July.....	7.7	7.6	-.1
August.....	7.6	7.6	0
September.....	7.5	7.5	0
October.....	7.4	7.4	0
November.....	7.2	7.3	.1
December.....	*7.2	7.3	.1

* Not published.

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JANUARY 1993

The nation's job market showed modest improvement in January, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The unemployment rate declined 0.2 percentage point to 7.1 percent, 0.6 point below its recent high in June 1992.

Payroll employment, as measured by the survey of employers, edged up by 106,000 in January to 108.8 million, continuing its recent pattern of slow growth. Total employment, measured through the survey of households, fell slightly in January, following a substantial gain over the prior 2 months.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the unemployment rate, 7.1 percent, and the number of unemployed persons, 9.0 million, edged down in January, after seasonal adjustment. Since unemployment reached a high point last June, the unemployment rate has declined 0.6 percentage point and the number of unemployed persons has declined by 775,000. (See table A-1.)

The January improvement in unemployment was confined largely to adult men, whose jobless rate fell 0.4 percentage point to 6.4 percent. Jobless rates for other major demographic groups--including adult women (6.4 percent), teenagers (19.7 percent), whites (6.2 percent), blacks (14.2 percent), and Hispanics (11.6 percent)--showed little or no change from the prior month. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

The number of unemployed persons who had lost their last jobs decreased by 290,000 in January, with three-fifths of the decline occurring among persons who were on layoff and expected recall. There was also a decline in the number of unemployed persons who had voluntarily left their last jobs to search for new ones. (See table A-6.)

Unemployment in the mid- and long-term duration categories fell in January. This more than offset an increase in the number of persons unemployed fewer than 5 weeks. Both the mean and median measures of duration declined over the month, to 18.7 and 8.5 weeks, respectively. (See table A-5.)

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Dec.- Jan. change
	1992		1992		1993	
	III	IV	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Civilian labor force..	127,343	127,341	127,365	127,591	127,083	-508
Employment.....	117,742	118,021	118,064	118,311	118,071	-240
Unemployment.....	9,601	9,320	9,301	9,280	9,013	-267
Not in labor force....	64,443	64,978	64,951	64,913	65,561	648
Discouraged workers.	1,125	1,084	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.....	7.5	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.1	-0.2
Adult men.....	7.2	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.4	-.4
Adult women.....	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.4	6.4	.0
Teenagers.....	20.3	19.4	20.2	19.2	19.7	.5
White.....	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.2	-.1
Black.....	14.2	14.1	14.0	14.2	14.2	.0
Hispanic origin...	11.6	11.8	12.0	11.7	11.6	-.1
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	108,525	p108,651	108,646	p108,736	p108,842	p106
Goods-producing <u>1/</u> ..	23,372	p23,270	23,280	p23,261	p23,254	p-7
Construction.....	4,583	p4,591	4,590	p4,581	p4,544	p-37
Manufacturing.....	18,163	p18,058	18,068	p18,061	p18,095	p34
Service-producing <u>1/</u>	85,153	p85,381	85,366	p85,475	p85,588	p113
Retail trade.....	19,137	p19,140	19,116	p19,159	p19,228	p69
Services.....	29,006	p29,190	29,188	p29,231	p29,212	p-19
Government.....	18,646	p18,669	18,685	p18,700	p18,695	p-5
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.4	p34.5	34.6	p34.4	p34.4	p0.0
Manufacturing.....	41.0	p41.2	41.2	p41.2	p41.4	p.2
Overtime.....	3.7	p3.9	3.9	p3.9	p4.0	p.1

1/ Includes other industries, not shown separately. p=preliminary.
N.A.= not available.

The number of persons employed part time involuntarily--sometimes referred to as the "partially unemployed"--decreased by about 240,000 in January to 6.1 million. The decline occurred among those whose hours had been cut back because of sluggish demand, a group shown in table A-3 as working part time for economic reasons due to "slack work."

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment slipped to 118.1 million in January, on a seasonally adjusted basis, after increasing markedly over the prior 2 months. Over the past year, civilian employment has risen by 1 million. The employment-population ratio--the percentage of the working-age population that is employed--was 61.3 percent in January, about the same as a year earlier. (See table A-1.)

The number of persons in the civilian labor force showed a decline of about 500,000 in January, to 127.1 million. The labor force has exhibited no clear trend since mid-1992, following a sizable expansion in the first half of the year. The labor force participation rate, at 66.0 percent in January, was about the same as a year earlier, but has drifted down a bit since mid-1992. (See table A-1.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Modest growth in nonfarm employment continued in January, as the number of payroll jobs edged up by 106,000 to 108.8 million, seasonally adjusted. Since January 1992, the number of nonfarm jobs has grown by more than 700,000. (See table B-1.)

Manufacturing employment rose by 34,000, for the second increase in 3 months, following large losses from August to October. Job gains took place in the food processing, machinery, fabricated metals, and transportation equipment industries, among others. An increase of 45,000 in automobile employment in January was largely the result of unusual shifts in seasonal patterns in the industry. Because automobiles and its higher-level aggregate, transportation equipment, are seasonally adjusted independently of each other, much of this exaggerated rise in the estimate of auto employment is not carried forward into published aggregates such as manufacturing and total payroll employment.

Employment in construction fell by 37,000, seasonally adjusted, in part due to unusually adverse weather conditions. Much of the decrease was concentrated in heavy construction. Mining again lost jobs in January, continuing a downtrend that has totaled 100,000, or 14 percent of the industry's total, since July 1990.

In the service-producing sector, wholesale and retail trade employment rose by 36,000 and 69,000, respectively. Both industries have shown signs of a pickup in recent months, after lengthy periods of weakness. Transportation added 23,000 jobs in January, an unusually large gain for this industry. Employment in the services industry edged down, as small gains in business and health services did not offset losses elsewhere in

the industry. Finance employment increased by 9,000 for the second month in a row.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged in January at 34.4 hours, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing workweek increased 0.2 hour to 41.4, its highest level since 1966, and factory overtime (4.0 hours) edged up by a tenth of an hour. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.3 percent to 121.8 (1982=100), after seasonal adjustment. The manufacturing index rose for the fourth consecutive month to 102.9. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers increased by 0.5 percent in January, seasonally adjusted. Average weekly earnings also increased 0.5 percent, after declining by 0.8 percent in December. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings increased by 7 cents to \$10.78, but average weekly earnings fell \$4.05 to \$366.52 (as the workweek declined seasonally by 0.6 hour). Over the year, average hourly earnings rose by 2.7 percent and average weekly earnings were up 3.3 percent. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for February 1993 will be released on Friday, March 5, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

Planned Changes for the Current Population Survey (CPS)

Beginning in 1994, with the release of data for January, estimates from the Current Population Survey (household survey) will reflect the results of a major redesign of the survey. The redesign is being undertaken to obtain more accurate and comprehensive information on the labor force. As part of this effort, the survey questionnaire is being revamped to include many new and revised questions regarding individuals' employment and unemployment activities, and a fully automated data collection environment is being introduced.

Work on the redesign began in the late 1980s. The new questionnaire is being tested for an 18-month period, July 1992-December 1993, in a separate national sample survey of about 13,000 households to gauge the effect of both the new questions and the automated data collection procedures on the labor force estimates. Results from this survey will be compared to estimates based on the current CPS questionnaire, and the findings will be published in an article in the February 1994 issue of *Employment and Earnings*.

NEWS

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: FEBRUARY 1993

Employment rose substantially in February, and unemployment was little changed, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Nonfarm payroll employment, as measured by the employer survey, rose by 365,000, and total employment, as measured by the household survey, rose by 380,000. At 7.0 percent, the rate of unemployment has declined gradually from its June 1992 peak of 7.7 percent.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the unemployment rate, 7.0 percent, and the number of unemployed persons, 8.9 million, were little changed in February, after seasonal adjustment. They had been 7.1 percent and 9.0 million, respectively, in January. The unemployment rate has now declined by 0.7 percentage point since reaching a high mark in June 1992, but it is still nearly 2 percentage points above early 1990 levels, prior to the recession. (See table A-1.)

Jobless rates fell in February for both adult women and blacks. At 6.0 percent, the rate for adult women was down by 0.4 percentage point over the month, its first substantial decline in recent months. The rate for adult men, which had declined by 0.4 percentage point in January, was about unchanged in February at 6.5 percent. The jobless rate for black workers declined by 1.1 percentage points in February to 13.1 percent. Among other worker groups, jobless rates for teenagers (19.6 percent), whites (6.1 percent), and Hispanics (11.4 percent) were about unchanged from January. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

While total unemployment was little changed over the month, there were shifts in the composition of the unemployed. The number of job losers not expecting recall--shown as "other job losers" in table A-6--fell by 219,000 over the month, to 3.6 million. Despite recent declines, the figure was still 1.4 million above prerecession levels. The number of unemployed workers who had voluntarily left their last jobs rose over the month to 1.0 million.

The count of persons jobless for 15-26 weeks declined by 171,000 in February, but there was no change in those unemployed for 27 weeks and longer. (See table A-5.)

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Jan.- Feb. change
	1992		1992	1993		
	III	IV	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA						
Thousands of persons						
Civilian labor force..	127,343	127,341	127,591	127,083	127,327	244
Employment.....	117,742	118,021	118,311	118,071	118,451	380
Unemployment.....	9,601	9,320	9,280	9,013	8,876	-137
Not in labor force....	64,443	64,978	64,913	65,561	65,459	-102
Discouraged workers.	1,125	1,084	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of labor force						
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.....	7.5	7.3	7.3	7.1	7.0	-0.1
Adult men.....	7.2	7.0	6.8	6.4	6.5	.1
Adult women.....	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.0	-.4
Teenagers.....	20.3	19.4	19.2	19.7	19.6	-.1
White.....	6.6	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.1	-.1
Black.....	14.2	14.1	14.2	14.2	13.1	-1.1
Hispanic origin...	11.6	11.8	11.7	11.6	11.4	-.2
ESTABLISHMENT DATA						
Thousands of jobs						
Nonfarm employment....	108,525	108,656	108,752	p108,796	p109,161	p365
Goods-producing 1/..	23,372	23,271	23,263	p23,266	p23,360	p94
Construction.....	4,583	4,591	4,582	p4,558	p4,654	p96
Manufacturing.....	18,163	18,059	18,062	p18,091	p18,101	p10
Service-producing 1/	85,153	85,385	85,489	p85,530	p85,801	p271
Retail trade.....	19,137	19,141	19,162	p19,221	p19,352	p131
Services.....	29,006	29,198	29,253	p29,230	p29,361	p131
Government.....	18,646	18,664	18,685	p18,645	p18,646	p1
Hours of work						
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.....	34.4	34.5	34.3	p34.5	p34.5	p0.0
Manufacturing.....	41.0	41.2	41.2	p41.4	p41.5	p.1
Overtime.....	3.7	3.9	3.9	p4.0	p4.2	p.2

1/ Includes other industries, not shown separately. p=preliminary.
N.A.= not available.

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons, sometimes referred to as the "partially unemployed," rose by 348,000 in February but has shown no clear trend over the past year and a half. At 6.5 million in February, the number was about a million and a half higher than before the recession began. (See table A-3.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total employment increased by 380,000 in February to 118.5 million, after seasonal adjustment, and has now returned to its prerecession peak level reached in May 1990. But, since the working-age population continued to grow over the period, the proportion of the population with jobs--61.4 percent in February--was still well below the 63.1-percent high reached prior to the downturn. (See table A-1.)

Following a large decline in January, the civilian labor force was little changed at 127.3 million in February. The size of the labor force has fluctuated from month to month, with little clear direction since mid-1992. At 66.0 percent in February, the labor force participation rate was unchanged from the prior month. (See table A-1.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

The number of nonfarm payroll jobs, which had been increasing slowly in recent months, rose by 365,000 in February. At 109.2 million, seasonally adjusted, payroll employment was 1.1 million higher than it was at its post-recession low of January 1992. (See table B-1.)

The February employment gains were concentrated in construction (96,000), retail trade (131,000), and services (131,000). The February increase in construction employment more than offset declines in the prior 3 months that were caused by unusually harsh winter weather, leaving employment up by 53,000 since October. Within retail trade, seasonally adjusted employment increases in general merchandise stores in February offset some of the weakness in holiday hiring. Many other types of businesses, including food stores, auto dealers, and eating and drinking places, have had gains for the last 3 months or more. The large increase in services employment followed a small decline in January; growth for the 2-month period is about average by recent standards. Job increases in business services (46,000) and health services (27,000) accounted for more than half of the February gain in services employment.

Employment in manufacturing was little changed at 18.1 million. Gains in the construction-related lumber and wood products (8,000), furniture and fixtures (3,000) and stone, clay, and glass products (6,000) industries were offset by a decline in transportation equipment jobs. Within transportation equipment, automobile employment, which had risen sharply in January, fell by 34,000 in February. The movements in both months reflected shifts in the usual seasonal production patterns in the industry. Total factory jobs, after declining by 1.5 million since early 1989, have increased by 55,000 in the past 4 months.

The number of mining jobs fell by 12,000 in February; about half of this loss was the result of a coal strike. Employment in other major industry divisions was little changed in February.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged in February at 34.5 hours, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing workweek edged up by 0.1 hour to an extraordinarily high 41.5 hours; since October 1992, the manufacturing workweek has risen by 0.4 hour. Factory overtime also increased over the month, by 0.2 hour, to a level of 4.2 hours, the highest in the 36-year history of the series. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.5 percent to 122.5 (1982=100), after seasonal adjustment. This reflected the large over-the-month increase in employment. The index for manufacturing, 103.3, was up by a smaller amount, 0.3 percent, but was 2.1 percent higher than last September. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were up 0.2 percent in February, seasonally adjusted. Average weekly earnings also rose 0.2 percent, following a much larger gain in January. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings were little changed at \$10.78, but average weekly earnings increased by \$2.50 to \$368.68. Over the year, both average hourly and weekly earnings rose by 2.5 percent. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for March 1993 will be released on Friday, April 2, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

Planned Changes for the Current Population Survey (CPS)

Beginning in 1994, with the release of data for January, estimates from the Current Population Survey (household survey) will reflect the results of a major redesign of the survey. The redesign is being undertaken to obtain more accurate and comprehensive information on the labor force. As part of this effort, the survey questionnaire is being revamped to include many new and revised questions regarding individuals' employment and unemployment activities, and a fully automated data collection environment is being introduced.

Work on the redesign began in the late 1980s. The new questionnaire is being tested for an 18-month period, July 1992-December 1993, in a separate national sample survey of about 13,000 households to gauge the effect of both the new questions and the automated data collection procedures on the labor force estimates. Early indications of the potential effects of these changes will not be available until this fall; a comprehensive examination will be published in the February 1994 issue of *Employment and Earnings*.

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted
(Numbers in thousands)

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Feb.- Mar. change
	1992	1993	1993			
	IV	I	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Labor force status					
Civilian labor force.....	127,341	127,280	127,083	127,327	127,429	102
Employment.....	118,021	118,362	118,071	118,451	118,565	114
Unemployment.....	9,320	8,917	9,013	8,876	8,864	-12
Not in labor force.....	64,978	65,516	65,561	65,459	65,530	71
Discouraged workers.....	1,084	1,134	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Unemployment rates					
All workers.....	7.3	7.0	7.1	7.0	7.0	.0
Adult men.....	7.0	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.7	0.2
Adult women.....	6.3	6.0	6.4	6.0	5.7	-.3
Teenagers.....	19.4	19.6	19.7	19.6	19.5	-.1
White.....	6.4	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	.0
Black.....	14.1	13.6	14.2	13.1	13.5	.4
Hispanic origin.....	11.8	11.4	11.6	11.4	11.4	.0
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Employment					
Nonfarm employment.....	108,656	p109,102	108,865	p109,232	p109,210	p-22
Goods-producing ¹	23,271	p23,313	23,267	p23,368	p23,303	p-65
Construction.....	4,591	p4,601	4,559	p4,652	p4,593	p-59
Manufacturing.....	18,059	p18,102	18,092	p18,112	p18,103	p-9
Service-producing ¹	85,385	p85,790	85,598	p85,864	p85,907	p43
Retail trade.....	19,141	p19,315	19,227	p19,363	p19,356	p-7
Services.....	29,198	p29,353	29,267	p29,366	p29,426	p60
Government.....	18,664	p18,675	18,664	p18,686	p18,674	p-12
	Hours of work²					
Total private.....	34.5	p34.4	34.5	p34.4	p34.3	p-0.1
Manufacturing.....	41.2	p41.4	41.4	p41.5	p41.2	p-3
Overtime.....	3.9	p4.1	4.0	p4.3	p3.9	p-.4
	Earnings²					
Average hourly earnings, total private.....	\$10.68	p\$10.76	\$10.73	p\$10.75	p\$10.80	p\$0.05
Average weekly earnings, total private.....	368.22	p370.14	370.19	p369.80	p370.44	p.64

¹ Includes other industries, not shown separately.

² Data relate to private production or nonsupervisory workers.

N.A. = not available.

p = preliminary

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons fell by 267,000 in March, to 6.2 million, following a large February increase. The number of such workers, who are often referred to as the “partially unemployed,” has fluctuated between 6.0 and 6.5 million for more than a year and a half. The March figure was about 1.4 million greater than in early 1990, just prior to the onset of the recession. (See table A-3.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

The total number of persons employed was about unchanged in March at 118.6 million, after seasonal adjustment. Since its most recent low in August 1991, total employment has grown by 2.0 million. The proportion of the population with jobs, 61.4 percent in March, held steady over the month, remaining about 1-1/2 percentage points below prerecession levels. (See table A-1.)

At 127.4 million in March, the civilian labor force was about the same as in February. It has, in fact, shown little net growth since mid-1992. The labor force participation rate was 66.0 percent for the third consecutive month. (See table A-1.)

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

The number of discouraged workers—those who would like to work but are not looking for jobs because they think their search would be in vain—was unchanged at 1.1 million in the first quarter of 1993. It has remained at about this level since the third quarter of 1991. (See table A-11.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

The number of nonfarm payroll jobs was unchanged in March at 109.2 million, seasonally adjusted, following a sharp increase in the previous month. A further increase in services employment was offset by a decline in construction jobs. After showing little growth last summer, payroll employment has increased by 713,000 jobs since September. (See table B-1.)

Construction employment fell by 59,000 in March, after seasonal adjustment, following a large gain in February. Because of poor weather conditions over much of the country in late February and early March, there was a slowdown in the usual seasonal hiring activity. A slight gain in mining employment was due entirely to a return to work of striking coal miners.

The overall number of manufacturing jobs was about unchanged over the month at 18.1 million. While there were some small gains in the nondurable goods sector, employment declined in several durable goods industries, including those producing materials for construction and those dependent on defense purchases. Employment also was down among auto manufacturers and their suppliers.

Services employment rose by 60,000 in March. Continued strong growth in business services, especially in personnel supply, accounted for the bulk of the increase. Health services employment showed a modest gain; growth in this industry has slowed in the first quarter, primarily due to slack hiring in hospitals.

Retail trade employment, which had shown substantial growth in recent months, was unchanged at 19.4 million in March. Several retail trade industries, including eating and drinking establishments, showed modest gains, but these were offset by declines in other industries.

Employment in the remaining private sector industry groups was also about the same in March as in the previous month. Likewise, government employment was unchanged over the month. Over the past year, Federal employment has fallen by 67,000, while local government employment has risen by 195,000.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls edged down 0.1 hour in March to 34.3 hours, seasonally adjusted. Manufacturing hours fell 0.3 hour, to 41.2 hours. Factory overtime retreated from its all-time high in February, falling 0.4 hour to 3.9 hours. Severe winter storms in the survey reference period undoubtedly affected the March hours figures. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls decreased by 0.5 percent in March to 121.9 (1982=100), after seasonal adjustment. The index for manufacturing, 102.6, fell by 0.8 percent. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were up 0.5 percent in March, after seasonal adjustment, and average weekly earnings rose 0.2 percent. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose 3 cents to \$10.81, and average weekly earnings were little changed at \$368.62. Over the past year, average hourly earnings grew by 2.6 percent and average weekly earnings by 2.0 percent. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for April 1993 will be released on Friday, May 7, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

Planned Changes for the Current Population Survey (CPS)

Beginning in 1994, with the release of data for January, estimates from the Current Population Survey (household survey) will reflect the results of a major redesign of the survey. The redesign is being undertaken to obtain more accurate and comprehensive information on the labor force. As part of this effort, the survey questionnaire is being revamped to include many new and revised questions regarding individuals' employment and unemployment activities, and a fully automated data collection environment is being introduced.

Work on the redesign began in the late 1980s. The new questionnaire is being tested for an 18-month period, July 1992-December 1993, in a separate national sample survey of about 13,000 households to gauge the effect of both the new questions and the automated data collection procedures on the labor force estimates. Early indications of the potential effects of these changes will not be available until this fall; a comprehensive examination will be published in the February 1994 issue of *Employment and Earnings*.

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: APRIL 1993

Nonfarm payroll employment rose modestly in April and unemployment was unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The unemployment rate, at 7.0 percent, was the same as in February and March.

The number of payroll workers—as measured by the survey of employers—was 119,000 above its March level. A sizable job gain in services was partly offset by further losses in manufacturing. Total employment—as measured by the household survey—was about unchanged at 118.4 million in April.

Chart 1. Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted.
Percent May 1990 - April 1993

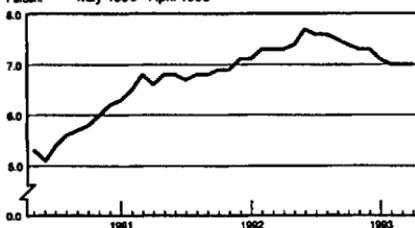
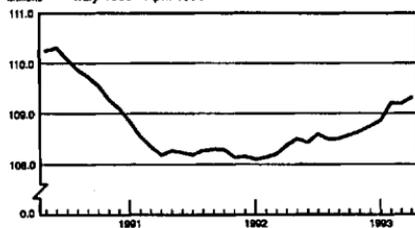


Chart 2. Nonfarm payroll employment, seasonally adjusted.
Millions May 1990 - April 1993



Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the number of unemployed persons and the unemployment rate were unchanged in April, after seasonal adjustment. For the third month in a row, the unemployment level was about 8.9 million and the unemployment rate was 7.0 percent. While both measures declined gradually during the second half of 1992, they have shown no further improvement since February of this year. (See table A-1.)

There were small, offsetting movements in the unemployment rates for adult men and women. The rate for adult women edged up to 6.0 percent in April, following improvement in both February and March. In contrast, the rate for adult men, which had edged up over the prior 2 months, fell back to 6.4

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted
(Numbers in thousands)

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Mar.-
	1992	1993	1993			Apr.
	IV	I	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	change
HOUSEHOLD DATA						
Labor force status						
Civilian labor force.....	127,341	127,280	127,327	127,429	127,341	-88
Employment.....	118,021	118,362	118,451	118,565	118,416	-149
Unemployment.....	9,320	8,917	8,876	8,864	8,925	61
Not in labor force.....	64,978	65,516	65,459	65,530	65,785	255
Discouraged workers.....	1,084	1,134	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Unemployment rates						
All workers.....	7.3	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	.0
Adult men.....	7.0	6.5	6.5	6.7	6.4	-0.3
Adult women.....	6.3	6.0	6.0	5.7	6.0	.3
Teenagers.....	19.4	19.6	19.6	19.5	20.7	1.2
White.....	6.4	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0	-.1
Black.....	14.1	13.6	13.1	13.5	13.8	.3
Hispanic origin.....	11.8	11.4	11.4	11.4	10.4	-1.0
ESTABLISHMENT DATA						
Employment						
Nonfarm employment.....	108,656	p109,087	109,203	p109,194	p109,313	p119
Goods-producing ¹	23,271	p23,311	23,374	p23,293	p23,214	p-79
Construction.....	4,591	p4,605	4,657	p4,598	p4,588	p-10
Manufacturing.....	18,059	p18,097	18,112	p18,088	p18,023	p-65
Service-producing ¹	85,385	p85,776	85,829	p85,901	p86,099	p198
Retail trade.....	19,141	p19,310	19,361	p19,342	p19,363	p21
Services.....	29,198	p29,330	29,322	p29,400	p29,551	p151
Government.....	18,664	p18,685	18,692	p18,700	p18,712	p12
Hours of work ²						
Total private.....	34.5	p34.4	34.4	p34.3	p34.4	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	41.2	p41.4	41.5	p41.2	p41.5	p.3
Overtime.....	3.9	p4.0	4.2	p3.9	p4.3	p.4
Earnings ³						
Average hourly earnings, total private.....	\$10.68	p\$10.76	\$10.76	p\$10.79	p\$10.79	p\$0.00
Average weekly earnings, total private.....	368.22	p370.14	370.14	p370.10	p371.18	p1.08

¹ Includes other industries, not shown separately.

² Data relate to private production or nonsupervisory workers.

N.A. = not available.

p = preliminary

percent in April. The rate for Hispanics also improved, falling to 10.4 percent. Jobless rates for other major worker groups, teenagers (20.7 percent), whites (6.0 percent), and blacks (13.8 percent) were little changed in April. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

The number of unemployed persons who had been jobless for less than 5 weeks increased by 253,000 in April, while the number unemployed for 6 months or more fell by 164,000 to less than 1.7 million, the lowest level in 15 months. Despite these movements, both the average (mean) and median duration of unemployment—the length of time unemployed persons have been looking for work—were about unchanged in April, at 17.4 and 8.5 weeks, respectively. Both measures were well below their 1992 year-end levels. (See table A-5.)

At 6.5 million in April, the number of persons employed part time for economic reasons (those who would prefer full-time work) rose by 264,000 over the month, following a decline of similar magnitude in March. The involuntary part-time series has fluctuated in the 6.0-6.5 million range since mid-1991. (See table A-3.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

The total number of persons employed was about unchanged in April at 118.4 million, after seasonal adjustment. Total employment has, in fact, shown little change since last December. The proportion of the population with jobs, 61.3 percent in April, has remained within the narrow range of 61.3 to 61.5 percent since the fall of 1991. (See table A-1.)

At 127.3 million in April, the civilian labor force was also about the same as in the previous month and has shown little growth since mid-1992. The labor force participation rate, at 65.9 percent, has been essentially unchanged for 4 consecutive months. (See table A-1.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 119,000 to 109.3 million in April, following no change in March. The series has been increasing slowly since the beginning of 1992 but remains about 1 million short of its prerecession peak of 110.3 million in June of 1990. April's job gain was mainly in services, where a large employment increase more than offset declines in manufacturing. (See table B-1.)

The number of manufacturing jobs decreased by 65,000 in April, following a 24,000 loss in March. Increases made from November to February have now been reversed. Most of April's weakness came in the durable goods portion of manufacturing, with about one-third of the overall manufacturing decline occurring in transportation equipment, mostly in motor vehicles; the balance of the losses were widespread throughout the durable goods industries. Within nondurable goods, there were declines in the food and apparel industries.

Construction employment, which had dipped in March, failed to rebound in April (seasonally adjusted), as bad weather and a generally depressed level of activity in some sectors of the industry continued to limit spring hiring. Mining employment declined by 4,000 in April, continuing its steady downward slide.

Employment in services increased by 151,000 in April, more than twice its monthly average over the prior year. Much of the growth occurred in business services (including temporary help) and health services. About 1.4 million jobs have been added in services since the end of the recession in March 1991.

Retail trade employment was little changed in April, the second straight sluggish month, after gains in the December-February period. Finance, insurance, and real estate added 17,000 jobs, with widespread growth in the various finance industries.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls edged up 0.1 hour in April, returning to February's level of 34.4 hours, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing workweek increased by 0.3 hour to 41.5 hours and factory overtime rose by 0.4 hour to 4.3 hours, both reversing declines in March. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.4 percent in April to 122.3 (1982=100), after seasonal adjustment. The index for manufacturing edged up 0.3 percent to 102.8, as the increase in weekly hours more than offset the decline in employment; this follows a substantial decline in March. (See table B-5).

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were unchanged in April at \$10.79, seasonally adjusted. Weekly earnings increased 0.3 percent to \$371.18, after seasonal adjustment, due to the slight increase in hours. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose 1 cent to \$10.81 and weekly earnings were up 50 cents to \$369.70. Over the year, both average hourly earnings and average weekly earnings increased by 2.6 percent.

The Employment Situation for May 1993 will be released on Friday, June 4, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

Revisions in the Establishment Survey Data

The Employment Situation news release of May data will introduce revisions in the establishment-based series on nonfarm payroll employment, hours, and earnings to reflect the regular annual benchmark adjustments (for March 1992) and updated seasonal adjustment factors. In addition, corrections are being made for errors found in the administrative record counts used as benchmark levels in prior years. These errors accumulated to an overstatement of about 540,000 jobs in the decade prior to March 1991. The special revision in the historical data series from April 1981 forward will result in a reduced estimate of the job loss during the 1990-91 recession and small reductions in estimates of job gains during the 1980s.

Planned Changes for the Household Survey Data

Beginning in 1994, with the release of data for January, estimates from the Current Population Survey (household survey) will reflect the results of a major redesign of the survey. The redesign is being undertaken to obtain more accurate and comprehensive information on the labor force. As part of this effort, the survey questionnaire is being revamped to include many new and revised questions regarding individuals' employment and unemployment activities, and a fully automated data collection environment is being introduced.

Work on the redesign began in the late 1980s. The new questionnaire is being tested for an 18-month period, July 1992-December 1993, in a separate national sample survey of about 13,000 households to gauge the effect of both the new questions and the automated data collection procedures on the labor force estimates. Early indications of the potential effects of these changes will not be available until this fall; a comprehensive examination will be published in the February 1994 issue of *Employment and Earnings*.

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information:

USDL 93-200

Household data:

National (202) 606-6373

606-6378

State 606-6392

Establishment data: 606-6555

Media contact: 606-5902

Transmission of material in this release is embargoed until 8:30 A.M. (EDT),
Friday, June 4, 1993

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: MAY 1993

Employment rose in May and unemployment was about unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The unemployment rate, at 6.9 percent, was little different from the 7.0-percent rates of the previous 3 months.

Payroll employment—as measured by the survey of establishments—rose by 209,000, after seasonal adjustment, with sizable gains in services and construction. Total employment—as estimated through the survey of households—showed an unusually large gain of 857,000.

Chart 1. Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, June 1990 - May 1993

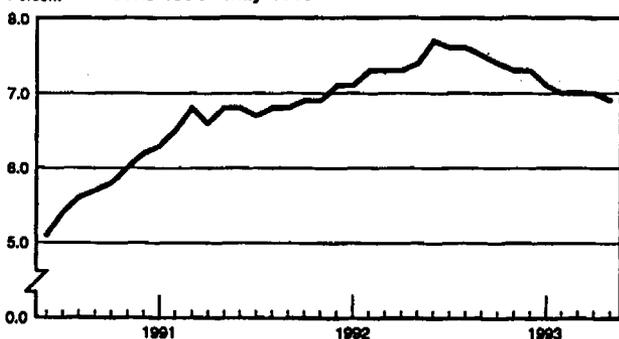
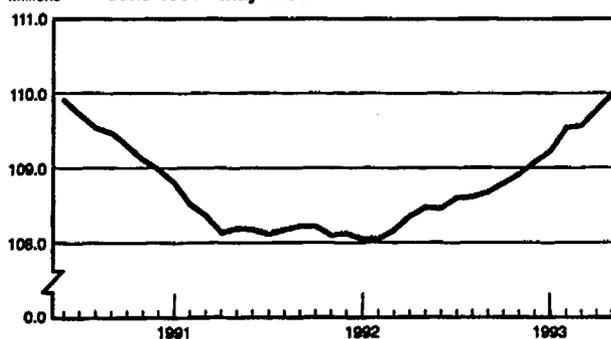


Chart 2. Nonfarm payroll employment, seasonally adjusted, June 1990 - May 1993



Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of persons who were unemployed in May (8.9 million) and the unemployment rate (6.9 percent) were little changed, not only from the prior month but also since the beginning of the year. Both series have, however, declined significantly from their peaks of last June.

The establishment data shown in this news release have been adjusted to reflect annual benchmark revisions, updated bias and seasonal adjustment factors, and corrections to historical data. See the note on the revisions beginning on page 5. Also, employment data for an additional 20 industries are published in table B-1 beginning with this release.

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

(Numbers in thousands)

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Apr.- May change
	1992	1993	1993			
	IV	I	Mar.	Apr.	May	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Labor force status					
Civilian labor force.....	127,341	127,280	127,429	127,341	128,131	790
Employment.....	118,021	118,362	118,565	118,416	119,273	857
Unemployment.....	9,320	8,917	8,864	8,925	8,858	-67
Not in labor force.....	64,978	65,516	65,530	65,785	65,152	-633
Discouraged workers.....	1,084	1,134	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Unemployment rates					
All workers.....	7.3	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	-0.1
Adult men.....	7.0	6.5	6.7	6.4	6.4	.0
Adult women.....	6.3	6.0	5.7	6.0	5.9	-1
Teenagers.....	19.4	19.6	19.5	20.7	19.7	-1.0
White.....	6.4	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	.0
Black.....	14.1	13.6	13.5	13.8	12.9	-9
Hispanic origin.....	11.8	11.4	11.4	10.4	9.7	-7
ESTABLISHMENT DATA¹	Employment					
Nonfarm employment.....	108,930	109,446	109,565	p109,781	p109,990	p209
Goods-producing ²	22,992	23,029	23,016	p22,976	p23,004	p28
Construction.....	4,462	4,483	4,481	p4,517	p4,584	p67
Manufacturing.....	17,914	17,942	17,935	p17,860	p17,821	p-39
Service-producing ²	85,938	86,418	86,549	p86,805	p86,986	p181
Retail trade.....	19,422	19,585	19,604	p19,645	p19,666	p21
Services.....	29,438	29,665	29,756	p29,955	p30,081	p126
Government.....	18,746	18,773	18,788	p18,795	p18,808	p13
	Hours of work³					
Total private.....	34.4	34.4	34.2	p34.4	p34.8	p0.4
Manufacturing.....	41.2	41.3	41.2	p41.5	p41.5	p.0
Overtime.....	3.9	4.1	4.0	p4.2	p4.2	p.0
	Earnings³					
Average hourly earnings, total private.....	\$10.67	\$10.75	\$10.78	p\$10.77	p\$10.83	p\$0.06
Average weekly earnings, total private.....	367.52	369.44	368.68	p370.49	p376.88	p6.39

¹ Establishment data have been revised to reflect March 1992 benchmarks and updated seasonal adjustment factors.

² Includes other industries, not shown separately.

³ Data relate to private production or nonsupervisory workers.

N.A. = not available.

p = preliminary.

There was little or no change over the month in the unemployment rates for adult men (6.4 percent), adult women (5.9 percent), and teenagers (19.7 percent). Likewise, the rates for whites (6.0 percent) and Hispanics (9.7 percent) remained at or near their April levels. The jobless rate for blacks fell by nearly a full percentage point to 12.9 percent in May. The rate for black teenagers, which is quite volatile, dropped by 6.5 percentage points to 40.3 percent. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

There were few changes in the pattern of unemployment by duration in May. Since the end of 1992, however, the number of persons who had been jobless for 15 weeks and over has declined, by 600,000. Shorter term joblessness has shown little movement in this period. Accordingly, the median duration of unemployment has declined, from 9.4 weeks last December to 8.1 weeks in May. (See table A-5.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

The estimated number of employed persons surged by 857,000 in May to 119.3 million, seasonally adjusted. Wide swings in the total employment numbers have frequently occurred, however, in the spring and early summer. Reflecting this unusually large over-the-month gain in employment, the proportion of the population with jobs—the employment-population ratio—rose to 61.7 percent in May, after showing little change since the beginning of the year. (See table A-1.)

The number of persons in the civilian labor force showed an increase of 790,000 in May, reaching 128.1 million, seasonally adjusted. The labor force participation rate rose to 66.3 percent. (See table A-1.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 209,000 in May, following a similar gain in April. (Payroll data have been revised; see the explanatory material on page 5.) May's increase raises the employment level to nearly 110.0 million, exceeding the June 1990 prerecession employment peak for the first time. While much of the growth was again concentrated in services, construction employment showed strength as well. Manufacturing employment, on the other hand, declined for the third straight month. (See table B-1.)

Construction added 67,000 jobs in May; the growth appears to have been spurred by better weather across the country, as well as continued low interest rates and pent-up demand for new homes. Since January, construction employment has risen by 130,000. Mining employment was unchanged in May.

The number of manufacturing jobs decreased by 39,000 in May, and the decline since February totaled 133,000. The durable goods portion of manufacturing lost nearly 50,000 jobs in May, offsetting minor gains in nondurable goods. As in the prior 2 months, much of the employment decline took place in transportation equipment (21,000), principally in automobile and aircraft manufacturing. Other notable areas of weakness within durables included fabricated metals, industrial machinery, electronic equipment, and instruments and related products, which together accounted for 23,000 of the lost jobs.

Within the service-producing sector, the services industry gained 126,000 jobs, following an even larger increase in April. Employment in services has increased by nearly 2 million since the recession ended in March 1991. Although much of the growth in May again occurred in business and health services, there were also gains in other service industries (which are shown in table B-1 for the first time).

Employment in retail trade edged up by 21,000 jobs in May, as continued losses in general merchandise stores were more than offset by gains elsewhere, particularly in eating and drinking places.

Retailers have added 440,000 jobs since December 1991, nearly returning employment to its prerecession peak. Wholesale trade employment increased in its nondurable goods distribution component. The transportation industry gained 11,000 jobs in May, mostly in trucking. Federal Government employment continued to edge downward, while state and local government employment continued to expand at a moderate pace.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased 0.4 hour in May to 34.8 hours, seasonally adjusted, its highest level since April 1989. The manufacturing workweek and overtime hours remained at the extraordinarily high levels of 41.5 and 4.2 hours, respectively. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers on nonfarm payrolls increased by 1.4 percent in May to 124.7 (1982=100), after seasonal adjustment. The index for manufacturing, however, declined by 0.2 percent, due to the employment loss. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers increased by 0.6 percent in May to \$10.83, seasonally adjusted. Weekly earnings increased by 1.7 percent to \$376.88. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose 3 cents to \$10.82 and weekly earnings increased by \$6.43 to \$375.45. Over the year, hourly earnings increased by 2.8 percent and weekly earnings by 3.6 percent. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for June 1993 will be released on Friday, July 2, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

Planned Changes for the Household Survey Data

Beginning in 1994, with the release of data for January, estimates from the Current Population Survey (household survey) will reflect the results of a major redesign of the survey. The redesign is being undertaken to obtain more accurate and comprehensive information on the labor force. As part of this effort, the survey questionnaire is being revamped to include many new and revised questions regarding individuals' employment and unemployment activities, and a fully automated data collection environment is being introduced.

Work on the redesign began in the late 1980s. The new questionnaire is being tested for an 18-month period, July 1992-December 1993, in a separate national sample survey of about 13,000 households to gauge the effect of both the new questions and the automated data collection procedures on the labor force estimates. Information as to the potential effects of these changes will be available in November; a comprehensive examination will be published in the February 1994 issue of *Employment and Earnings*.

Revisions in the Establishment Survey Data

In accordance with annual practice, the establishment survey data have been revised to reflect comprehensive universe counts of payroll jobs (benchmarks). These counts are derived principally from unemployment insurance tax records for March 1992. The benchmark adjustment to March 1992 employment levels was -59,000, before seasonal adjustment, and -36,000, after seasonal adjustment. Table B presents revised total nonfarm employment data on a seasonally adjusted basis for the period April 1991 through February 1993. These revised data incorporate the effect of applying the rate of change measured by the sample to the new benchmark level, updated bias adjustments, and new seasonal adjustment factors. This process resulted in upward adjustments for the latter half of 1992 and early 1993; by February 1993, the previously published total nonfarm employment level was revised upward by 336,000.

In addition to the benchmark revisions described above, establishment survey employment series for April 1981 through February 1991 have been revised based on a lengthy analysis of the causes for the large benchmark revision of March 1991. These revisions adjust for the overcounts in the administrative data used to establish benchmark levels. The overstatement of employment is estimated to have accumulated to approximately 540,000 by the end of 1990, with the majority of the problem developing over the latter half of the affected time period; adjustments have been tapered in accordingly. The historical corrections affect employment series, but not average weekly hours or average hourly earnings. Table C presents summary information on the effects of the corrections to previously published levels for the years 1981-91 and for all months, seasonally adjusted, from March 1990 to March 1991.

The June 1993 issue of *Employment and Earnings* will contain an article that discusses the effects of benchmark and post-benchmark revisions and the one-time historical corrections. This issue will also present revised seasonal adjustment factors to be used during May-October 1993 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 BLS bulletin which is expected to be issued in July. Five years of data for the "B" tables published in this release are available for purchase on diskette (call 202-606-6551); the full history for all establishment data series is available on magnetic tape (202-606-5957).

Further information on the revisions released today is contained in the document, "Payroll Survey Employment Estimates: March 1992 Benchmark Revisions and Historical Corrections," which is available upon request from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Call 202-606-6555.

**Table B. Revisions in total nonfarm employment, seasonally adjusted,
April 1991—February 1993**

(In thousands)

Year and date	As previously published	As revised	Difference
1991:			
April.....	108,178	108,133	-45
May.....	108,265	108,186	-79
June.....	108,227	108,169	-58
July.....	108,190	108,111	-79
August.....	108,267	108,172	-95
September.....	108,293	108,221	-72
October.....	108,285	108,215	-70
November.....	108,139	108,099	-40
December.....	108,154	108,117	-37
1992:			
January.....	108,100	108,051	-49
February.....	108,142	108,045	-97
March.....	108,200	108,164	-36
April.....	108,377	108,347	-30
May.....	108,496	108,470	-26
June.....	108,423	108,454	31
July.....	108,594	108,605	11
August.....	108,485	108,615	130
September.....	108,497	108,674	177
October.....	108,571	108,789	218
November.....	108,646	108,921	275
December.....	108,752	109,079	327
1993:			
January.....	108,865	109,235	370
February.....	109,203	109,539	336

**Table C. Effect of historical corrections on total nonfarm employment,
April 1981—March 1991**
(In thousands)

Year and date	As previously published	As revised	Difference
Not seasonally adjusted			
1981 April.....	91,027	91,025	-2
1982 March.....	89,566	89,550	-16
1983 March.....	88,232	88,192	-40
1984 March.....	92,587	92,511	-76
1985 March.....	96,042	95,920	-122
1986 March.....	98,150	97,987	-163
1987 March.....	100,427	100,202	-225
1988 March.....	103,834	103,535	-299
1989 March.....	107,026	106,624	-402
1990 March.....	109,114	108,606	-508
1991 March.....	107,507	107,507	0
Seasonally adjusted			
1990:			
March.....	109,997	109,497	-500
April.....	109,969	109,485	-484
May.....	110,241	109,783	-458
June.....	110,304	109,905	-399
July.....	110,078	109,701	-377
August.....	109,877	109,534	-343
September.....	109,737	109,470	-267
October.....	109,548	109,296	-252
November.....	109,284	109,106	-178
December.....	109,101	108,977	-124
1991:			
January.....	108,845	108,808	-37
February.....	108,557	108,517	-40
March.....	108,344	108,364	20

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information:

USDL 93-237

Household data:

National (202) 606-6373

606-6378

State

606-6392

Establishment data:

606-6555

Media contact:

606-5902

Transmission of material in this release is embargoed until 8:30 A.M. (EDT), Friday, July 2, 1993

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JUNE 1993

Both employment and unemployment were essentially unchanged in June, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The unemployment rate was 7.0 percent, the level that has essentially prevailed thus far in 1993.

Employment, as measured by both the household and payroll surveys, was little changed in June, following substantial gains in May. Payroll jobs in manufacturing declined by 53,000 over the month.

Chart 1. Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, July 1990 - June 1993

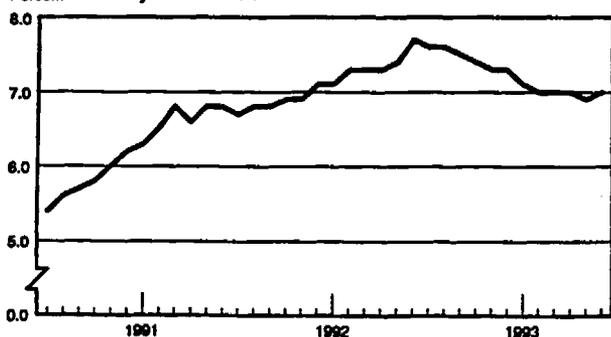
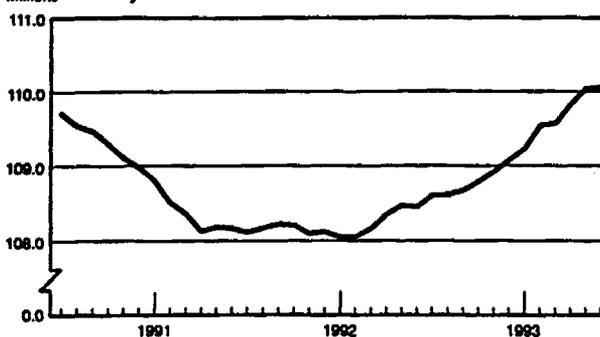


Chart 2. Nonfarm payroll employment, seasonally adjusted, July 1990 - June 1993



Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The unemployment rate (7.0 percent) and the number of persons unemployed (8.9 million) were about unchanged in June, after seasonal adjustment. Both measures have shown very little movement since the beginning of 1993. Jobless rates for adult men (6.5 percent), adult women (5.9 percent), teenagers (19.8 percent), whites (6.1 percent), blacks (13.3 percent), and Hispanics (10.2 percent) were all at or close to their May levels. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

The number of employed persons was virtually unchanged in June at 119.2 million, after a very large increase in the prior month. The employment-population ratio—the proportion of the

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted
(Numbers in thousands)

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			May- June change
	1993		1993			
	I	II	Apr.	May	June	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Labor force status					
Civilian labor force.....	127,280	127,866	127,341	128,131	128,127	-4
Employment.....	118,362	118,969	118,416	119,273	119,219	-54
Unemployment.....	8,917	8,897	8,925	8,858	8,908	50
Not in labor force.....	65,516	65,422	65,785	65,152	65,329	177
Discouraged workers.....	1,134	1,202	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Unemployment rates					
All workers.....	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	7.0	0.1
Adult men.....	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.5	.1
Adult women.....	6.0	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.9	.0
Teenagers.....	19.6	20.1	20.7	19.7	19.8	.1
White.....	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.1	.1
Black.....	13.6	13.3	13.8	12.9	13.3	.4
Hispanic origin.....	11.4	10.1	10.4	9.7	10.2	.5
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Employment					
Nonfarm employment.....	109,446	p109,968	109,820	p110,035	p110,048	p13
Goods-producing ¹	23,029	p22,967	22,980	p22,994	p22,928	p-66
Construction.....	4,483	p4,552	4,517	p4,572	p4,566	p-6
Manufacturing.....	17,942	p17,817	17,863	p17,820	p17,767	p-53
Service-producing ¹	86,418	p87,000	86,840	p87,041	p87,120	p79
Retail trade.....	19,585	p19,686	19,648	p19,687	p19,724	p37
Services.....	29,665	p30,075	29,977	p30,096	p30,152	p56
Government.....	18,773	p18,817	18,800	p18,823	p18,828	p5
	Hours of work²					
Total private.....	34.4	p34.5	34.4	p34.7	p34.4	p-0.3
Manufacturing.....	41.3	p41.4	41.5	p41.4	p41.3	p-.1
Overtime.....	4.1	p4.1	4.2	p4.1	p4.0	p-.1
	Earnings²					
Average hourly earnings, total private.....	\$10.75	p\$10.79	\$10.77	p\$10.81	p\$10.80	p-\$0.01
Average weekly earnings, total private.....	369.44	p372.37	370.49	p375.11	p371.52	p-3.59

¹ Includes other industries, not shown separately.

p = preliminary.

² Data relate to private production or nonsupervisory workers.

N.A. = not available.

working-age population with jobs—was 61.6 percent, just slightly above its June 1992 level of 61.4 percent. (See table A-1.)

The number of voluntary part-time workers showed an increase of 578,000 to 15.6 million in June, while the number working part time for economic reasons edged down by 258,000 to a level of 6.3 million. These series, however, tend to exhibit considerable month-to-month variability. (See table A-3.)

At 128.1 million persons, the civilian labor force was unchanged in June, following a surge in May. The labor force participation rate was 66.2 percent, three-tenths of a percentage point below the year-earlier rate. (See table A-1.)

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

The number of discouraged workers—persons who want to work but are not looking because they believe they cannot find a job—was 1.2 million in the second quarter of 1993. There has been very little change in the number of discouraged workers since the third quarter of 1991. (See table A-11.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

The number of nonfarm payroll jobs was unchanged in June at 110.0 million, seasonally adjusted, following large increases in several recent months. Over-the-month employment gains in services and retail trade were offset by a further decline in factory jobs and smaller losses elsewhere. (See table B-1.)

Manufacturing employment declined by 53,000 in June; job losses in this industry have totaled 187,000 since February. Although June losses were widespread, they were particularly evident in durable goods, such as transportation equipment (mostly aircraft), electronic equipment, and instruments. These losses partially reflected cutbacks in defense spending. Within nondurables, the largest job losses occurred in the food and apparel industries. Since factory employment last peaked in January 1989, about 1.7 million jobs have been lost.

Employment in the services industry grew by 56,000 in June and has risen by 1.2 million over the past year. The June gain primarily reflected growth in business, health, and educational services.

Retail trade employment was up by 37,000 from May, with most of the growth occurring in eating and drinking places. Employment in general merchandise stores, on the other hand, showed another decline in June, for a total loss of 72,000 jobs over the past year.

Wholesale trade lost 11,000 jobs in June, following steady gains for the prior 8 months. Most of the June losses occurred in nondurable goods distribution, reversing the May increase.

Employment in construction was little changed in June, following strong gains in the prior 2 months. Mining employment was down, primarily as the result of a coal strike.

Federal government employment continued to edge down. Led by cutbacks in the Postal Service and defense agencies, federal employment has shrunk by 83,000 since peaking in March of last year. Local and state governments continued their moderate employment gains in June.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls fell by 0.3 hour to 34.4 hours in June, seasonally adjusted, reversing an increase of the same magnitude in May. Both the average factory workweek and its overtime component edged down 0.1 hour for the second straight month, to 41.3 and 4.0 hours, respectively. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers on nonfarm payrolls fell by 1.0 percent to 123.4 (1982=100) in June, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing index declined 0.6 percent to 100.8, following a decline of 0.4 percent the previous month; these reductions reflect decreases in both employment and the workweek. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers edged down 0.1 percent in June, seasonally adjusted. Average weekly earnings declined by 1.0 percent, following a substantial increase in May. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings declined by 5 cents to \$10.75, and average weekly earnings were down by \$2.81 to \$371.95. Over the past year, average hourly earnings increased by 2.2 percent and average weekly earnings by 2.5 percent. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for July 1993 will be released on Friday, August 6, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

Planned Changes for the Household Survey Data

Beginning in 1994, with the release of data for January, estimates from the Current Population Survey (household survey) will reflect the results of a major redesign of the survey. The redesign is being undertaken to obtain more accurate and comprehensive information on the labor force. As part of this effort, the survey questionnaire is being revamped to include many new and revised questions regarding individuals' employment and unemployment activities, and a fully automated data collection environment is being introduced.

Work on the redesign began in the late 1980s. The new questionnaire is being tested for an 18-month period, July 1992-December 1993, in a separate national sample survey of about 13,000 households to gauge the effect of both the new questions and the automated data collection procedures on the labor force estimates. Information as to the potential effects of these changes will be available in November; a comprehensive examination will be published in the February 1994 issue of *Employment and Earnings*.

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information:

USDL 93-314

Household data:

National

(202) 606-6373

606-6378

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606-6392

Establishment data:

606-6555

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Transmission of material in this release is embargoed until 8:30 A.M. (EDT), Friday, August 6, 1993

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JULY 1993

Payroll employment rose moderately in July, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Total employment and the labor force, as measured by the survey of households, were essentially flat for the second consecutive month, following unusually large gains in May. The unemployment rate was 6.8 percent; it had been 7.0 percent in June and 6.9 percent in May.

Chart 1. Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, August 1990 - July 1993

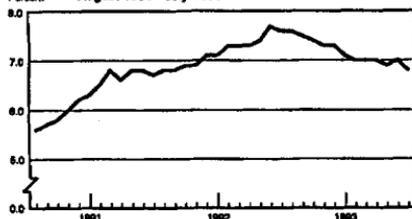
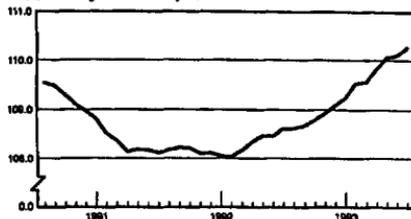


Chart 2. Nonfarm payroll employment, seasonally adjusted, August 1990 - July 1993



Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The unemployment rate, 6.8 percent, and the number of persons unemployed, 8.8 million, were little changed in July, after seasonal adjustment. The reported two-tenths of a percentage point drop from June to July barely exceeded one-tenth on an unrounded basis. In general, unemployment has shown hardly any movement since February.

The jobless rate for teenagers declined by 1.6 percentage points over the month to 18.2 percent, its lowest level since September 1991. Much of this decrease occurred among black teens. The rate for adult men remained at 6.5 percent, and the rate for adult women was about unchanged at 5.8 percent. Unemployment rates among the broad race-ethnic groups—whites (6.0 percent), blacks (12.9 percent), and Hispanics (10.9 percent)—also showed very little change. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted
(Numbers in thousands)

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			June- July change
	1993		1993			
	I	II	May	June	July	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Labor force status					
Civilian labor force.....	127,280	127,866	128,131	128,127	128,070	-57
Employment.....	118,362	118,969	119,273	119,219	119,301	82
Unemployment.....	8,917	8,897	8,858	8,908	8,769	-139
Not in labor force.....	65,516	65,422	65,152	65,329	65,563	234
Discouraged workers.....	1,134	1,202	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Unemployment rates					
All workers.....	7.0	7.0	6.9	7.0	6.8	-0.2
Adult men.....	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.5	.0
Adult women.....	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.8	-.1
Teenagers.....	19.6	20.1	19.7	19.8	18.2	-1.6
White.....	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.1	6.0	-.1
Black.....	13.6	13.3	12.9	13.3	12.9	-.4
Hispanic origin.....	11.4	10.1	9.7	10.2	10.9	.7
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Employment					
Nonfarm employment.....	109,446	p109,993	110,058	p110,102	p110,264	p162
Goods-producing ¹	23,029	p22,975	23,006	p22,938	p22,947	p9
Construction.....	4,483	p4,555	4,577	p4,570	p4,594	p24
Manufacturing.....	17,942	p17,821	17,827	p17,772	p17,759	p-13
Service-producing ¹	86,418	p87,019	87,052	p87,164	p87,317	p153
Retail trade.....	19,585	p19,698	19,702	p19,745	p19,778	p33
Services.....	29,665	p30,083	30,099	p30,173	p30,252	p79
Government.....	18,773	p18,819	18,819	p18,837	p18,841	p4
	Hours of work²					
Total private.....	34.4	p34.5	34.7	p34.4	p34.5	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	41.3	p41.4	41.4	p41.2	p41.4	p.2
Overtime.....	4.1	p4.1	4.1	p4.0	p4.0	p.0
	Earnings³					
Average hourly earnings, total private.....	\$10.75	p\$10.80	\$10.82	p\$10.80	p\$10.82	p\$0.02
Average weekly earnings, total private.....	369.44	p372.49	375.45	p371.52	p373.29	p1.77

¹ Includes other industries, not shown separately.

² Data relate to private production or nonsupervisory workers.

N.A. = not available.

p = preliminary.

The number of long-term unemployed—persons unemployed for 15 weeks or longer—increased by 188,000 over the month, while the number who had been jobless for less than 15 weeks was down by 264,000. Both movements reversed changes which occurred in the prior month. Half the unemployed were jobless for just over 8 weeks. (See table A-5.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

At 119.3 million, the number of employed persons showed little movement in July but was nearly 1.6 million higher than the July 1992 level. The employment-population ratio—the proportion of the working-age population with jobs—remained at 61.6 percent, just slightly higher than the year-earlier level of 61.4 percent. (See table A-1.)

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons was little changed in July. Voluntary part-time employment showed a decline of 472,000, largely reversing the June increase. These series tend to exhibit considerable month-to-month variability. (See table A-3.)

The civilian labor force was steady in July at 128.1 million. The labor force participation rate was 66.1 percent, four-tenths of a percentage point below the July 1992 rate. (See table A-1.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 162,000 in July to 110.3 million, seasonally adjusted. The largest employment gains took place in services, construction, and wholesale and retail trade. The number of payroll jobs has grown by 1.2 million thus far this year. (See table B-1.)

About half of the over-the-month increase was in the services industry, which added 79,000 jobs in July. Both the June and July gains in this industry were somewhat less than those which occurred earlier this year. Most of the July increase again took place in business (mostly in its personnel supply component), health, and social services.

Elsewhere in the service-producing sector, retail trade employment rose by 33,000 in July, with continued strong growth in eating and drinking places. Wholesale trade employment increased by 17,000, with its durable goods distribution component showing its largest gain since January. Employment in the finance industry rose by 14,000 in July, while real estate employment continued to show weakness despite general improvement in the housing market.

State government gained 23,000 jobs, following 2 months of little change. Employment in local governments fell by 16,000, in spite of some gains in Federally-funded summer jobs for youth programs. Federal government employment edged down in July, continuing a string of losses totaling 70,000 so far this year.

In the goods-producing sector, construction added 24,000 jobs in July, reflecting some recent improvement in homebuilding activity. Mining employment continued to edge down, primarily as the result of additional coal miners going on strike. However, employment in oil and gas extraction edged up in July and has regained 9,000 jobs since March.

Manufacturing employment showed a further decline in July, but it was substantially smaller than those in recent months. Decreases were reported in the industrial machinery, aircraft, fabricated metal products, and paper industries, which were partially offset by small gains in a number of industries. At the more detailed level of 139 manufacturing industries, more gained than lost jobs in July (table B-6).

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls edged up 0.1 hour to 34.5 hours in July, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing workweek increased by 0.2 hour to 41.4 hours, a return to the May level. Factory overtime held steady at 4.0 hours. Manufacturing hours and overtime are at exceptionally high levels. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers on nonfarm payrolls was up 0.3 percent to 124.0 (1982=100) in July, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing index rose by 0.2 percent to 101.0, following a decline of 0.6 percent the previous month. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers on nonfarm payrolls edged up 0.2 percent to \$10.82 in July, seasonally adjusted, offsetting the prior month's decline. Weekly earnings increased 0.5 percent to \$373.29. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings were unchanged from the June figure of \$10.76 and average weekly earnings rose by \$2.15 to \$374.45 in July. Over the year, hourly earnings increased by 2.4 percent and weekly earnings by 3.0 percent. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for August 1993 will be released on Friday, September 3, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

Planned Changes for the Household Survey Data

Beginning in 1994, with the release of data for January, estimates from the Current Population Survey (household survey) will reflect the results of a major redesign of the survey. The redesign is being undertaken to obtain more accurate and comprehensive information on the labor force. As part of this effort, the survey questionnaire is being revamped to include many new and revised questions regarding individuals' employment and unemployment activities, and a fully automated data collection environment is being introduced.

Work on the redesign began in the late 1980s. The new questionnaire is being tested for an 18-month period, July 1992-December 1993, in a separate national sample survey of about 13,000 households to gauge the effect of both the new questions and the automated data collection procedures on the labor force estimates. Information as to the potential effects of these changes will be available in November; a comprehensive examination will be published in the February 1994 issue of Employment and Earnings.

News

United States
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National

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Friday, September 3, 1993

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: AUGUST 1993

The nation's unemployment rate was 6.7 percent in August, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. After averaging 7.0 percent during the first half of this year, the rate has edged down over the past 2 months to its lowest level in 2 years.

Total employment, as measured by the survey of households, increased by 409,000 in August to 119.7 million, after showing little change in the prior 2 months. Payroll employment, as measured by the

Chart 1. Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, September 1990 - August 1993

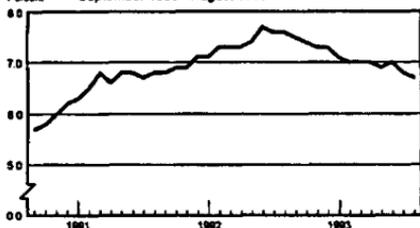
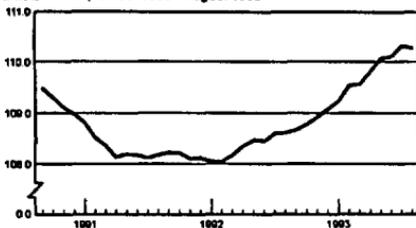


Chart 2. Nonfarm payroll employment, seasonally adjusted, September 1990 - August 1993



survey of business establishments, remained at 110.3 million in August, following substantial gains in recent months.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of persons who were unemployed in August (8.7 million) and the unemployment rate (6.7 percent) have shown some improvement over the past 2 months. Since June of last year, the number of jobless persons has decreased by 1.1 million and the rate has declined by a full percentage point.

There was little or no change over the month in the unemployment rates for adult men (6.4 percent), adult women (5.7 percent), and teenagers (18.2 percent). The rates for whites (5.9 percent) and blacks (12.5 percent) also remained near their July levels. The rate for black teenagers (31.4 percent) showed

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted
(Numbers in thousands)

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			July-August change
	1993		1993			
	I	II	June	July	August	
HOUSEHOLD DATA						
Labor force status						
Civilian labor force.....	127,280	127,866	128,127	128,070	128,370	300
Employment.....	118,362	118,969	119,219	119,301	119,710	409
Unemployment.....	8,917	8,897	8,908	8,769	8,661	-108
Not in labor force.....	65,516	65,422	65,329	65,563	65,423	-140
Discouraged workers.....	1,134	1,202	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Unemployment rates						
All workers.....	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.8	6.7	-0.1
Adult men.....	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.4	-1
Adult women.....	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.7	-1
Teenagers.....	19.6	20.1	19.8	18.2	18.2	.0
White.....	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0	5.9	-1
Black.....	13.6	13.3	13.3	12.9	12.5	-4
Hispanic origin.....	11.4	10.1	10.2	10.9	9.7	-1.2
ESTABLISHMENT DATA						
Employment						
Nonfarm employment.....	109,446	109,993	110,101	p110,312	p110,273	p-39
Goods-producing ¹	23,029	22,976	22,941	p22,948	p22,894	p-54
Construction.....	4,483	4,556	4,574	p4,596	p4,588	p-8
Manufacturing.....	17,942	17,820	17,771	p17,757	p17,715	p-42
Service-producing ¹	86,418	87,017	87,160	p87,364	p87,379	p15
Retail trade.....	19,585	19,700	19,751	p19,785	p19,785	p0
Services.....	29,665	30,084	30,175	p30,304	p30,338	p34
Government.....	18,773	18,814	18,823	p18,843	p18,832	p-11
Hours of work²						
Total private.....	34.4	34.5	34.4	p34.5	p34.7	p0.2
Manufacturing.....	41.3	41.4	41.2	p41.4	p41.5	p.1
Overtime.....	4.1	4.1	4.0	p4.0	p4.2	p.2
Earnings²						
Average hourly earnings, total private.....	\$10.75	\$10.80	\$10.81	p\$10.82	p\$10.87	p\$0.05
Average weekly earnings, total private.....	369.44	372.60	371.86	p373.29	p377.19	p3.90

¹ Includes other industries, not shown separately.

² Data relate to private production or nonsupervisory workers.

N.A. = not available.

preliminary.

further improvement. The jobless rate for Hispanics also improved, falling by 1.2 percentage points over the month to 9.7 percent. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

The number of short-term unemployed—persons jobless for less than 5 weeks—declined by 274,000 over the month to 3.0 million. Longer-term unemployment was about unchanged from July. With the decline in the number of newly unemployed, both the mean and median duration of unemployment edged up in August to 18.3 and 8.4 weeks, respectively. (See table A-5.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

The estimate of total employment increased by 409,000 in August to 119.7 million, after showing little movement during the prior 2 months. Over the year, total employment has risen by 1.9 million. Reflecting the over-the-month gain in employment, the proportion of the population with jobs—the employment-population ratio—rose to 61.8 percent, the highest percentage since April 1991. (See table A-1.)

The civilian labor force rose by 300,000 in August, reaching 128.4 million, seasonally adjusted. The labor force participation rate edged back up to the June level of 66.2 percent but was still two-tenths of a percentage point below the year-earlier rate. The labor force has risen by 1.0 million over the past year. (See table A-1.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment was about unchanged in August at 110.3 million, following an increase of 211,000 in July. Since its most recent low point in February 1992, nonfarm employment has risen by 2.2 million. In August, however, manufacturing continued to lose jobs and most other industries showed little change. (See table B-1.)

The number of manufacturing jobs declined by 42,000 in August and has fallen by 239,000 since this past February. Job losses over the most recent month were widespread, with declines continuing in primary metals, machinery, electronics, aircraft and parts, instruments, and apparel.

Construction employment has been quite flat over the summer months, following fairly strong growth earlier in the year. The number of construction jobs—4.6 million—is still nearly three-quarters of a million below its pre-recession peak of early 1990 but has risen by some 140,000 since reaching a low point last September.

Services added 34,000 jobs in August, only about a third of the average monthly increase over the past year and a half. Slow growth in personnel supply services and health services contributed to the weakness over the month.

Employment in transportation and public utilities, which had shown moderate declines in June and July and smaller drops during the spring, was essentially unchanged over the month. Retail trade employment was also flat in August but has generally shown steady improvement for more than a year and a half. Employment in wholesale trade has had alternating gains and losses over the last 4 months, showing no clear direction. Employment also was little changed in government over the past month.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

Average weekly hours for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls rose 0.2 hour to 34.7 hours in August, seasonally adjusted. This level, previously reached in May of this year,

is more than half an hour higher than the low point reached at the end of the 1990-91 recession. The manufacturing workweek and overtime hours both rose as well to very high levels—41.5 and 4.2 hours, respectively. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers on nonfarm payrolls, at 124.9 (1982=100) in August, seasonally adjusted, was up 0.6 percent over the month. The manufacturing index was unchanged at 101.0, as the increase in the workweek offset the decline in employment. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers on nonfarm payrolls increased 0.5 percent in August to \$10.87, seasonally adjusted, following 2 months of little change. Average weekly earnings for this same group of workers increased 1.0 percent to \$377.19. Prior to seasonal adjustment, both hourly and weekly earnings were up over the month, by 3 cents and \$5.36, respectively. Over the year, average hourly earnings increased by 2.3 percent and average weekly earnings by 3.2 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

The Employment Situation for September 1993 will be released on Friday, October 8, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

Planned Changes for the Household Survey Data

Beginning in 1994, with the release of data for January, estimates from the Current Population Survey (household survey) will reflect the results of a major redesign of the survey. The redesign is being undertaken to obtain more accurate and comprehensive information on the labor force. As part of this effort, the survey questionnaire is being revamped to include many new and revised questions regarding individuals' employment and unemployment activities, and a fully automated data collection environment is being introduced.

Work on the redesign began in the late 1980s. The new questionnaire is being tested for an 18-month period, July 1992-December 1993, in a separate national sample survey of about 13,000 households to gauge the effect of both the new questions and the automated data collection procedures on the labor force estimates. Information as to the potential effects of these changes will be available in November; a comprehensive examination will be published in the February 1994 issue of Employment and Earnings.

News

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Household data:

National

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USDL 93-427

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: SEPTEMBER 1993

Nonfarm payroll employment rose moderately in September and the unemployment rate remained at its August level of 6.7 percent, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The nation's jobless rate has shown some improvement in recent months, having edged down from the average of 7.0 percent in the first half of this year.

The number of payroll jobs, as measured by the survey of business establishments, rose by 156,000 in September, following little change in August. Total employment, as estimated from the household survey, showed a decline in September, but this followed a very large increase in the prior month.

Chart 1. Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted.
Percent October 1990 - September 1993

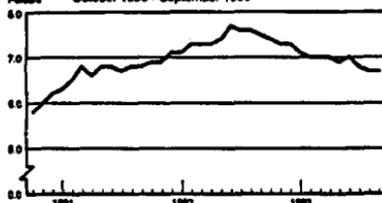
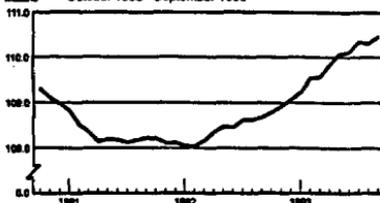


Chart 2. Nonfarm payroll employment, seasonally adjusted.
Millions October 1990 - September 1993



Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons (8.5 million) continued to edge down in September, while the unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.7 percent. Since June 1992, when unemployment peaked at 9.8 million, the number of jobless persons has decreased by 1.3 million and the rate has declined by a full percentage point.

There was little or no change over the month in the unemployment rates for the major demographic groups. Rates for adult men (6.3 percent), adult women (5.7 percent), teenagers (17.4 percent), whites

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted
(Numbers in thousands)

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Aug.- Sept. change
	1993		1993			
	II	III	July	Aug.	Sept.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA						
Labor force status						
Civilian labor force.....	127,866	128,138	128,070	128,370	127,975	-395
Employment.....	118,969	119,489	119,301	119,710	119,457	-253
Unemployment.....	8,897	8,649	8,769	8,661	8,517	-144
Not in labor force.....	65,422	65,661	65,563	65,423	65,996	573
Discouraged workers.....	1,202	1,122	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Unemployment rates						
All workers.....	7.0	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.7	.0
Adult men.....	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.3	-0.1
Adult women.....	5.9	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	.0
Teenagers.....	20.1	17.9	18.2	18.2	17.4	-8
White.....	6.1	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.8	-.1
Black.....	13.3	12.6	12.9	12.5	12.6	.1
Hispanic origin.....	10.1	10.1	10.9	9.7	9.7	.0
ESTABLISHMENT DATA						
Employment						
Nonfarm employment.....	109,993	p110,363	110,338	p110,297	p110,453	p156
Goods-producing ¹	22,976	p22,910	22,948	p22,895	p22,887	p-8
Construction.....	4,556	p4,593	4,593	p4,591	p4,596	p5
Manufacturing.....	17,820	p17,722	17,760	p17,712	p17,694	p-18
Service-producing ¹	87,017	p87,453	87,390	p87,402	p87,566	p164
Retail trade.....	19,700	p19,808	19,790	p19,796	p19,837	p41
Services.....	30,084	p30,362	30,320	p30,370	p30,396	p26
Government.....	18,814	p18,861	18,841	p18,835	p18,906	p71
Hours of work²						
Total private.....	34.5	p34.5	34.5	p34.7	p34.4	p-0.3
Manufacturing.....	41.4	p41.4	41.4	p41.4	p41.4	p.0
Overtime.....	4.1	p4.1	4.0	p4.1	p4.1	p.0
Earnings³						
Average hourly earnings, total private.....	\$10.80	p\$10.84	\$10.81	p\$10.86	p\$10.86	p\$0.00
Average weekly earnings, total private.....	372.60	p374.46	372.95	p376.84	p373.58 ¹	p-3.26 ²

¹ Includes other industries, not shown separately.

² Data relate to private production or nonsupervisory workers.

N.A. = not available.

p = preliminary.

(5.8 percent), blacks (12.6 percent), and Hispanics (9.7 percent) remained at or near their August levels. At 35.7 percent in September, the rate for black teenagers, which had declined in both July and August, edged back up to the July level. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

The number of unemployed persons who had lost their last jobs—including those on temporary layoff who were expecting recall—declined by 217,000 over the month to 4.7 million. Since the June 1992 peak in unemployment, this measure has fallen by about 800,000. (See table A-6.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total employment showed a decline of 253,000 in September to 119.5 million, but this followed a substantial increase (409,000) in August. Since September 1992, the number of employed persons has grown by 1.8 million. The percentage of the total civilian population with jobs—the employment-population ratio—slipped 0.2 percentage point over the month to 61.6 percent but is still higher than a year earlier. (See table A-1.)

At 128.0 million in September, the civilian labor force declined by 395,000, more than offsetting a gain of about 300,000 in August. Reflecting this decline, the civilian labor force participation rate fell by 0.2 percentage point to 66.0 percent. Over the past year, the labor force has increased by only 800,000. (See table A-1.)

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

The number of discouraged workers—persons who want to work but are not looking because they believe they cannot find a job—was 1.1 million in the third quarter of 1993, about in line with the levels that prevailed over the past 2 years. (See table A-11.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 156,000 to 110.5 million in September, with the gain being about the same as the average monthly increase so far in 1993. There were modest gains in most industries, with the notable exception of manufacturing. (See table B-1.)

Manufacturing employment edged down by 18,000 in September and has declined by 260,000 since February. The over-the-month decline was concentrated among the nondurable goods industries, an unusual occurrence. Within these industries, job losses took place in food processing, apparel, printing and publishing, and rubber and plastics. In durable goods, on the other hand, transportation equipment had its smallest drop in 8 months, and employment in electronic equipment and fabricated metals, which had been decreasing for the past several months, was unchanged. Employment in instruments and related products, however, continued its pattern of large declines.

Construction employment was little changed in September. Since its low point a year earlier, however, this industry has added about 150,000 jobs. The number of employees on mining payrolls increased by 5,000 over the month, partially reflecting the return of striking workers in metal mining.

Within the service-producing sector, retail trade employment increased by 41,000 in September, returning to its pattern of fairly robust employment increases that have totaled 450,000 over the past year. Much of the strength in that industry continued to come from eating and drinking places. Employment in transportation and public utilities increased for the first time in 6 months, expanding by 12,000 in September. Finance, insurance, and real estate employment rose by 10,000, concentrated in financial institutions. Buoyed by low interest rates, employment in mortgage banking and security

brokerage firms has accounted for most of the growth in finance over the past year. Local government employment increased by 54,000 over the month, following 2 months of decline.

Service employment rose by a modest 27,000 in September. The number of jobs in health services continued to increase, but there was an uncharacteristically small rise in business services that reflected some weakness in the personnel supply component. Employment in amusement and recreation and in social services, which had exceptional gains earlier in the year, retreated in September.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls decreased by 0.3 hour in September to 34.4 hours, reversing gains in the prior 2 months. Manufacturing weekly and overtime hours remained at very high levels, 41.4 and 4.1 hours, respectively, and have varied only slightly during 1993. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private nonfarm production or nonsupervisory workers was down over the month by 0.8 percent to 123.8 (1982=100), seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing index was down slightly to 100.7. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers on nonfarm payrolls were unchanged in September at \$10.86, seasonally adjusted, following an increase in August. Average weekly earnings declined 0.9 percent to \$373.58 in September, reflecting the decline in the workweek. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose 12 cents to \$10.90, but, because of a large over-the-month reduction in the workweek (0.6 hour), average weekly earnings decreased \$2.33 to \$376.05. Over the year, average hourly and weekly earnings increased 2.3 and 2.9 percent, respectively. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

The Employment Situation for October 1993 will be released on Friday, November 5, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

Planned Changes for the Household Survey Data

Beginning in 1994, with the release of data for January, estimates from the Current Population Survey (household survey) will reflect the results of a major redesign of the survey. The redesign is being undertaken to obtain more accurate and comprehensive information on the labor force. As part of this effort, the survey questionnaire is being revamped to include many new and revised questions regarding individuals' employment and unemployment activities, and a fully automated data collection environment is being introduced.

Work on the redesign began in the late 1980s. The new questionnaire is being tested for an 18-month period, July 1992-December 1993, in a separate national sample survey of about 13,000 households to gauge the effect of both the new questions and the automated data collection procedures on the labor force estimates. Information as to the potential effects of these changes will be available in November; a comprehensive examination will be published in the February 1994 issue of *Employment and Earnings*.

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information:

USDL 93-477

Household data:

National

(202) 606-6378

606-6373

State

606-6392

Establishment data:

606-6555

Media contact:

606-5902

Transmission of material in this release is embargoed until 8:30 A.M. (EST), Friday, November 5, 1993

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: OCTOBER 1993

Employment rose and unemployment was little changed in October, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The nation's jobless rate was 6.8 percent; it was 6.7 percent in the prior 2 months.

The number of payroll jobs, as measured by the survey of business establishments, increased by 177,000 in October, about the same as September's rise. Notable gains occurred in services, construction, finance, and wholesale trade. Manufacturing employment stabilized after a half year of declines. Total employment, as measured in the survey of households, rose substantially, following a decline in September.

Chart 1. Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, November 1990 - October 1993

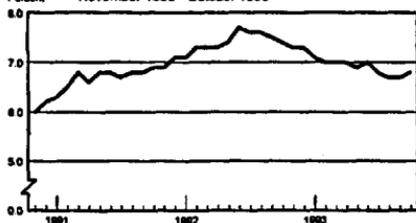
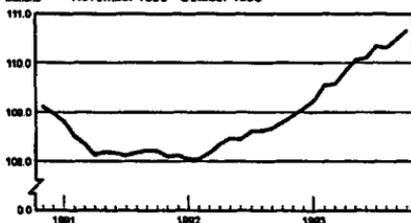


Chart 2. Nonfarm payroll employment, seasonally adjusted, November 1990 - October 1993



Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons rose by 269,000 in October to 8.8 million, while the unemployment rate was little changed at 6.8 percent. Over the past 4 months, the jobless rate has been either 6.7 or 6.8 percent; it had held at about 7 percent during the first half of the year, after declining from the June 1992 high of 7.7 percent.

As has been the case in recent months, there was little or no change in October in the jobless rates for adult men (6.3 percent) and adult women (5.9 percent). The teenage unemployment rate rose

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted
(Numbers in thousands)

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Sept.- Oct. change
	1993		1993			
	II	III	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Labor force status					
Civilian labor force.....	127,866	128,138	128,370	127,975	128,714	739
Employment.....	118,969	119,489	119,710	119,457	119,928	471
Unemployment.....	8,897	8,649	8,661	8,517	8,786	269
Not in labor force.....	65,422	65,661	65,423	65,996	65,437	-559
Discouraged workers.....	1,202	1,122	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Unemployment rates					
All workers.....	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8	0.1
Adult men.....	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	.0
Adult women.....	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.9	.2
Teenagers.....	20.1	17.9	18.2	17.4	19.4	2.0
White.....	6.1	5.9	5.9	5.8	6.2	.4
Black.....	13.3	12.6	12.5	12.6	11.7	-.9
Hispanic origin.....	10.1	10.1	9.7	9.7	11.5	1.8
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Employment					
Nonfarm employment.....	109,993	p110,370	110,305	p110,467	p110,644	p177
Goods-producing ¹	22,976	p22,913	22,903	p22,888	p22,931	p43
Construction.....	4,556	p4,594	4,593	p4,595	p4,625	p30
Manufacturing.....	17,820	p17,725	17,718	p17,697	p17,709	p12
Service-producing ¹	87,017	p87,457	87,402	p87,579	p87,713	p134
Retail trade.....	19,700	p19,808	19,795	p19,838	p19,836	p-2
Services.....	30,084	p30,373	30,381	p30,419	p30,533	p114
Government.....	18,814	p18,856	18,827	p18,899	p18,891	p-8
	Hours of work²					
Total private.....	34.5	p34.5	34.7	p34.4	p34.5	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	41.4	p41.4	41.4	p41.5	p41.6	p.1
Overtime.....	4.1	p4.1	4.1	p4.1	p4.3	p.2
	Earnings²					
Average hourly earnings, total private.....	\$10.80	p\$10.85	\$10.86	p\$10.87	p\$10.92	p\$0.05
Average weekly earnings, total private.....	372.60	p374.57	376.84	p373.93	p376.74	p2.81

¹ Includes other industries, not shown separately.

² Data relate to private production or nonsupervisory workers.

N.A. = not available.

p = preliminary.

2 percentage points, returning to about its June level. The rates for whites (6.2 percent) and Hispanics (11.5 percent) rose over the month, while that for blacks (11.7 percent) fell. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons—often referred to as the “partially unemployed”—fell by 323,000 in October to 6.2 million, or to about the March 1993 level. It had fluctuated around 6.5 million in most of the intervening months. (See table A-3.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total employment rose by 471,000 in October to 119.9 million, following a decline of 253,000 in September (seasonally adjusted). Reflecting the over-the-month rise in employment, the employment-population ratio (the proportion of the population with jobs) rose from 61.6 to 61.8 percent. Since October 1992, the number of persons with jobs has grown by 2.2 million. (See table A-1.)

The civilian labor force (those who are either working or looking for work) increased by 739,000 in October, reaching 128.7 million. This followed a 395,000 decline in September. The civilian labor force participation rate rose 0.3 percentage point to 66.3 percent from September to October. (See table A-1.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 177,000 in October to 110.6 million, after an increase of 162,000 in September. These gains were slightly above the average for the past year. Nearly two-thirds of the overall October increase was in the services industry, but there was also job growth in construction, finance, and wholesale trade. (See table B-1.)

The services industry added 114,000 jobs over the month, following 2 months of relatively small gains. The growth took place largely in business services (mostly in its personnel supply component), health services, and hotels. Employment in services has increased by nearly 2.4 million since March 1991, the official end date of the recession.

Job gains were also robust in the finance industry, where employment rose by 18,000 in October. This industry has added 82,000 jobs since September 1992, as a variety of financial institutions have benefited from low interest rates.

Wholesale trade employment rose for the second month in a row. In retail trade, offsetting increases and declines among the component industries left the overall number of jobs about unchanged. Eating and drinking places and automotive dealers continued to gain jobs over the month, while hiring in department and apparel stores was less than normal for this time of year.

Employment in the transportation and public utilities industry remained essentially flat over the month. Largely reflecting cutbacks in communications and utilities, the industry has lost 33,000 jobs since February.

In the goods-producing sector, construction added 30,000 jobs in October, resuming its growth pattern following 2 consecutive months with little change. Much of the October gain stemmed from increased activity in homebuilding.

For the first time since February, manufacturing employment did not decline, and there were notable increases in several component industries. Lumber and wood products and stone, clay, and glass—industries which are closely related to construction—showed sizable gains, as did auto manufacturing. Employment in food processing also increased, rebounding from a September decline.

These gains were offset by continued declines in the defense-dependent aircraft and instruments industries, as well as in many nondurable industries, most notably apparel.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

Following a drop of 0.3 hour in September, the average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls edged up 0.1 hour to 34.5 hours in October, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing workweek also edged up by 0.1 hour to 41.6 hours, equaling the post-World War II record set in February 1966. Factory overtime rose by 0.2 hour to an all-time high (since the data series began in 1956) of 4.3 hours in October. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private nonfarm production or nonsupervisory workers was up by 0.7 percent to 124.7 (1982=100) in October, reversing the September decline. The manufacturing index was up by 0.5 percent to 101.4. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers on nonfarm payrolls increased 0.5 percent in October after seasonal adjustment. Average weekly earnings increased by 0.8 percent. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose by 3 cents to \$10.94, and average weekly earnings were up by \$2.12 to \$378.52. Since October 1992, average hourly earnings have increased by 2.4 percent and average weekly earnings by 3.0 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

The Employment Situation for November 1993 will be released on Friday, December 3, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

Planned Changes for the Household Survey Data

Beginning in 1994, with the release of data for January, estimates from the Current Population Survey (household survey) will reflect the results of a major redesign of the survey. The redesign is being undertaken to obtain more accurate and comprehensive information on the labor force. As part of this effort, the survey questionnaire is being revamped to include many new and revised questions regarding individuals' employment and unemployment activities, and a fully automated data collection environment is being introduced.

Work on the redesign began in the late 1980s. The new questionnaire is being tested for an 18-month period, July 1992-December 1993, in a separate national sample survey of about 13,000 households to gauge the effect of both the new questions and the automated data collection procedures on the labor force estimates. Information as to the potential effects of these changes will be made available at a media briefing session on November 16 and a technical users conference on November 17 in Washington, DC. Additional briefings have been scheduled in 11 other cities. For further information on these meetings, please call 202-606-6378. A comprehensive article on the effects of the redesign will appear in the February 1994 issue of *Employment and Earnings*.

News

United States
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Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information:

USDL 93-532

Household data:**National**

(202) 606-6378

606-6373

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Establishment data:

606-6555

Friday, December 3, 1993

Media contact:

606-5902

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: NOVEMBER 1993

Employment rose in November and unemployment fell, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The nation's jobless rate was 6.4 percent, down from 6.8 percent in October and from its recent high of 7.7 percent in June 1992.

Nonfarm payroll jobs, as measured by the survey of employers, increased by 208,000 in November, with gains broadly distributed across industries. Total employment, as estimated through the household survey, rose by 453,000, following a similar gain in October.

Chart 1. Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted,
Percent December 1990 - November 1993

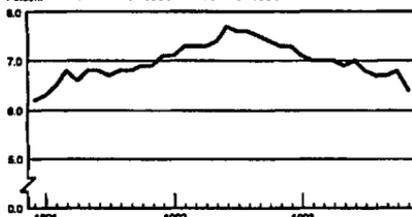
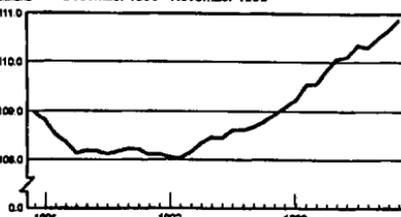


Chart 2. Nonfarm payroll employment, seasonally adjusted,
Millions December 1990 - November 1993

**Unemployment (Household Survey Data)**

The number of unemployed persons fell by 534,000 in November to 8.3 million, while the unemployment rate dropped by four-tenths of a percentage point to 6.4 percent, following 3 months of little change. November's jobless rate was the lowest since January 1991.

The decline in unemployment was spread unevenly among the major demographic groups. While the rate for adult men dropped half a percentage point to 5.8 percent and that for teenagers moved down 1.3 percentage points to 18.1 percent, the rate for adult women was essentially unchanged, at 5.8 percent. Also, while the rate for whites fell 0.6 percentage point to 5.6 percent and that for Hispanics

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted
(Numbers in thousands)

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Oct.- Nov. change
	1993		1993			
	II	III	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA						
Labor force status						
Civilian labor force.....	127,866	128,138	127,975	128,714	128,633	-81
Employment.....	118,969	119,489	119,457	119,928	120,381	453
Unemployment.....	8,897	8,649	8,517	8,786	8,252	-534
Not in labor force.....	65,422	65,661	65,996	65,437	65,688	251
Discouraged workers.....	1,202	1,122	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Unemployment rates						
All workers.....	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.4	-0.4
Adult men.....	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.3	5.8	-.5
Adult women.....	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.9	5.8	-.1
Teenagers.....	20.1	17.9	17.4	19.4	18.1	-1.3
White.....	6.1	5.9	5.8	6.2	5.6	-.6
Black.....	13.3	12.6	12.6	11.7	12.5	.8
Hispanic origin.....	10.1	10.1	9.7	11.5	10.4	-1.1
ESTABLISHMENT DATA						
Employment						
Nonfarm employment.....	109,993	110,382	110,502	p110,649	p110,857	p208
Goods-producing ¹	22,976	22,912	22,886	p22,930	p22,986	p56
Construction.....	4,556	4,593	4,592	p4,625	p4,652	p27
Manufacturing.....	17,820	17,725	17,698	p17,710	p17,740	p30
Service-producing ¹	87,017	87,469	87,616	p87,719	p87,871	p152
Retail trade.....	19,700	19,807	19,836	p19,840	p19,823	p-17
Services.....	30,084	30,378	30,433	p30,529	p30,634	p105
Government.....	18,814	18,863	18,922	p18,904	p18,918	p14
Hours of work²						
Total private.....	34.5	34.5	34.3	p34.5	p34.6	p0.1
Manufacturing.....	41.4	41.4	41.5	p41.6	p41.7	p.1
Overtime.....	4.1	4.1	4.1	p4.3	p4.4	p.1
Earnings²						
Average hourly earnings, total private.....	\$10.80	\$10.84	\$10.86	p\$10.92	p\$10.94	p\$0.02
Average weekly earnings, total private.....	372.60	374.10	372.50	p376.74	p378.52	p1.78

¹ Includes other industries, not shown separately.

² Data relate to private production or nonsupervisory workers

N.A. = not available.

p = preliminary.

dropped 1.1 points to 10.4 percent, the rate for blacks (12.5 percent) returned to about the September figure, following a decline in October. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

The number of unemployed persons who had lost their last jobs fell by 448,000 in November, with about two-thirds of this decline occurring among persons who had been on layoff and expected recall. Unemployment among job leavers, new entrants to the labor force, and reentrants showed virtually no change over the month. (See table A-6.)

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons—a group often referred to as the partially unemployed—edged downward in November to 6.0 million. The number of such workers has decreased by about half a million over the past 2 months. (See table A-3.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total employment rose by 453,000 in November to 120.4 million, following a rise of 471,000 in October. With these brisk increases, the gain over the past 12 months totaled 2.4 million. Reflecting the large increases in employment in the past 2 months, the employment-population ratio (the proportion of the working-age population with jobs) moved up to 61.9 percent—a level not exceeded since late 1990. (See table A-1.)

The civilian labor force (the sum of the employed and unemployed) was about unchanged in November, following a 739,000 increase in October. Since November 1992, the labor force has grown by 1.4 million, just keeping pace with population growth. The labor force participation rate, 66.2 percent, thus was the same as a year earlier. (See table A-1.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Growth in nonfarm employment continued in November, as the number of payroll jobs increased by 208,000 to 110.9 million, seasonally adjusted. Most major industry groups experienced some job growth. Over the past year, payroll job growth has totaled 1.9 million. (See table B-1.)

Manufacturing employment increased for the second straight month on a seasonally adjusted basis, following 7 months of job declines that had totaled 256,000. Most of the 30,000 factory jobs added in November were in durable goods production, including the construction-related lumber and furniture industries, as well as fabricated metals and electronic equipment. Within nondurables, jobs were added in rubber and plastics (nearly offsetting losses in the prior 3 months) and in printing and publishing. In contrast to these gains, the number of jobs continued to decline in the defense-dependent aircraft and instruments industries, as well as in the apparel industry.

Employment in construction also increased over the past 2 months. Reflecting strength in homebuilding activity, most of the employment growth was in residential building contractors and special trades.

The services industry added 105,000 jobs in November, following a similar increase in the prior month. A moderate employment gain in personnel supply services followed a very large increase in October. Health services continued to add large numbers of workers, though hospital employment has not contributed to the recent expansion.

The finance industry showed robust employment growth for the third consecutive month, with increases among depository institutions, mortgage bankers, and securities brokers. Continuing to benefit from low interest rates, the industry has added 44,000 jobs since August. Employment in real estate also grew in November, as low interest rates on home mortgages continued to attract prospective home buyers.

Wholesale trade employment increased by 11,000 over the month. In retail trade, hiring throughout much of the industry was below what is typical for this time of year, and, as a result, employment declined in most types of retail stores on a seasonally adjusted basis. While job gains continued in building materials stores, automotive dealers, and eating and drinking places, they were not enough to offset the losses.

The number of jobs in the transportation industry—which had been essentially flat since early 1993—increased by 12,000 in November, seasonally adjusted, with most of the increase in the trucking industry.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls edged up 0.1 hour to 34.6 hours in November, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing workweek also edged up further, increasing by 0.1 hour to 41.7 hours, the highest level since the end of World War II. Factory overtime continued to rise—by 0.1 hour in November—reaching a new high (the data series began in 1956) of 4.4 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private nonfarm production or nonsupervisory workers was up by 0.2 percent to 125.1 (1982=100) in November. The manufacturing index was up by 0.6 percent to 102.1. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers on nonfarm payrolls increased 0.2 percent in November after seasonal adjustment. Average weekly earnings increased by 0.5 percent. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose by 2 cents to \$10.96 and average weekly earnings were up by 70 cents to \$379.22. Since November 1992, average hourly earnings have increased by 2.2 percent and average weekly earnings by 2.5 percent. (See tables B-3 and B-4.)

The Employment Situation news release for December 1993 will be released on Friday, January 7, 1994, at 8:30 A.M. (EST). Release dates for the balance of 1994 are as follows:

Feb. 4	May 6	Aug. 5	Nov. 4
March 4	June 3	Sept. 2	Dec. 2
April 1	July 8	Oct. 7	

Planned Changes for the Household Survey Data

In accordance with usual practice, the 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.

With the release of data for January 1994, estimates from the Current Population Survey (household survey) will reflect the results of a major redesign of the survey. The redesign is being undertaken to obtain more accurate and comprehensive information on the labor force. As part of this effort, the survey questionnaire is being revamped to include many new and revised questions regarding individuals' employment and unemployment activities, and a fully automated data collection environment is being introduced. In addition to the survey changes, the January data will incorporate the introduction of population estimates carried forward from the 1990 Census of Population, adjusted for the estimated population undercount.

The redesign will necessitate changes in the presentation of household survey data. Several new series will be created; others will no longer be published.

For more information as to the potential effects of the planned changes please write the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20212) or call 202-606-6378. A comprehensive article on this subject will appear in the February 1994 issue of *Employment and Earnings*.

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

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USDL 94-02

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: DECEMBER 1993

The nation's employment situation continued to improve in December, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Employment rose further and the rate of unemployment—6.4 percent—while little changed from November's 6.5 percent (as revised), has declined substantially over the past year.

Chart 1. Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted,
Percent January 1991 - December 1993

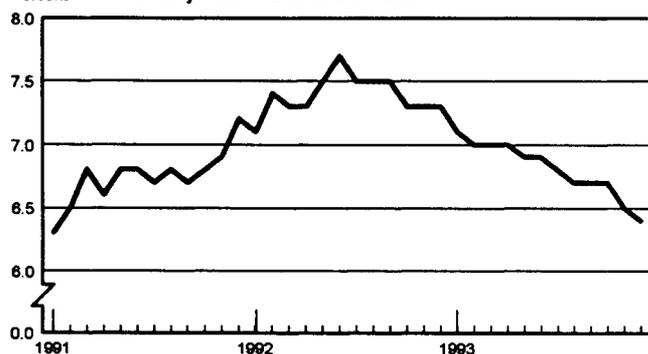
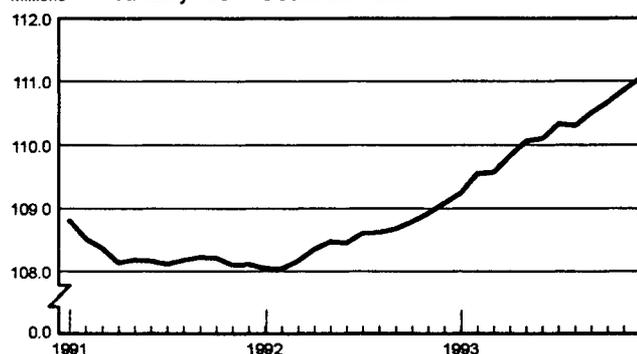


Chart 2. Nonfarm payroll employment, seasonally adjusted,
Millions January 1991 - December 1993



The number of payroll jobs, as measured by the survey of employers, rose by 183,000 in December (after seasonal adjustment) to 111.0 million. Total employment, as measured through the survey of households, increased by 329,000 to a seasonally adjusted level of 120.7 million. Both series showed substantial growth in 1993.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the unemployment rate, 6.4 percent, and the number of unemployed persons, 8.2 million, were little changed in December, though both measures have generally been trending downward since mid-

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.

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted
(Numbers in thousands)

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Nov.- Dec. change
	1993		1993			
	III	IV	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Labor force status					
Civilian labor force.....	128,181	128,713	128,580	128,662	128,898	236
Employment.....	119,543	120,311	119,941	120,332	120,661	329
Unemployment.....	8,638	8,402	8,639	8,330	8,237	-93
Not in labor force.....	65,618	65,602	65,571	65,659	65,574	-85
Discouraged workers.....	1,106	1,126	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Unemployment rates					
All workers.....	6.7	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.4	-0.1
Adult men.....	6.4	6.0	6.2	5.9	5.8	-.1
Adult women.....	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	.0
Teenagers.....	18.2	18.3	18.9	18.3	17.8	-.5
White.....	5.9	5.8	6.1	5.6	5.6	.0
Black.....	12.6	12.0	11.9	12.5	11.5	-1.0
Hispanic origin.....	10.2	10.7	11.4	10.4	10.5	.1
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Employment					
Nonfarm employment.....	110,382	p110,860	110,664	p110,866	p111,049	p183
Goods-producing ¹	22,912	p22,976	22,934	p22,992	p23,002	p10
Construction.....	4,593	p4,651	4,629	p4,663	p4,662	p-1
Manufacturing.....	17,725	p17,727	17,709	p17,735	p17,737	p2
Service-producing ¹	87,469	p87,884	87,730	p87,874	p88,047	p173
Retail trade.....	19,807	p19,848	19,846	p19,833	p19,865	p32
Services.....	30,378	p30,635	30,534	p30,651	p30,719	p68
Government.....	18,863	p18,916	18,903	p18,905	p18,941	p36
	Hours of work²					
Total private.....	34.5	p34.6	34.5	p34.6	p34.6	p0.0
Manufacturing.....	41.4	p41.7	41.6	p41.7	p41.7	p.0
Overtime.....	4.1	p4.4	4.3	p4.4	p4.4	p.0
	Earnings²					
Average hourly earnings, total private.....	\$10.84	p\$10.93	\$10.92	p\$10.93	p\$10.95	p\$0.02
Average weekly earnings, total private.....	374.10	p377.93	376.74	p378.18	p378.87	p.69

¹ Includes other industries, not shown separately.

p = preliminary.

² Data relate to private production or nonsupervisory workers.

N.A. = not available.

NOTE: Household data have been revised based on the experience through December 1993.

1992. Over the past year, the jobless rate has declined by nearly a full percentage point, and the unemployed total has fallen by nearly 1.1 million persons. (See table A-1.)

The jobless rates for adult men (5.8 percent) and adult women (5.7 percent) showed little or no change in December. However, the rate for adult men improved steadily in the second half of 1993, while that for adult women leveled off, following declines earlier in the year. The unemployment rates for teenagers (17.8 percent), whites (5.6 percent), and Hispanics (10.5 percent) showed little or no change in December, while the rate for blacks edged down to 11.5 percent. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

About 1 out of every 5 persons who was unemployed in December had been without work for 6 months or longer. This ratio has declined very little since it reached a recent high point in the fall of 1992. (See table A-5.)

The number of persons at work part time for economic reasons—sometimes referred to as the “partially unemployed”—was little changed in December at 6.2 million. While down somewhat in recent months, this series has shown no substantive improvement over the past 2 years. (See table A-3.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total employment rose by 329,000 in December, marking the third consecutive month of robust employment growth. Over the past year, employment has risen by about 2-1/2 million. The employment-population ratio (the proportion of the working-age population with jobs) edged upward over the fall months to 62.0 percent in December. (See table A-1.)

The civilian labor force rose in December to 128.9 million. Over the past year, the labor force grew by 1.5 million. Adult women made up about three-fifths of this increase, and adult men accounted for the remainder, as the size of the teenage labor force was unchanged. The labor force participation rate was 66.3 percent in December, about the same as a year earlier. (See table A-1.)

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

The number of discouraged workers—persons who indicate that they want to work but are not looking for a job because they think their search would be unproductive—was about unchanged in the fourth quarter at 1.1 million. The discouraged worker total has held at about this level for over 2 years. (See table A-11.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment continued to rise in December, growing by 183,000 to 111.0 million, seasonally adjusted. Over the past year, nonfarm employment has increased by nearly 2 million. (See table B-1.)

After 2 months of growth totaling 37,000, manufacturing employment was essentially unchanged in December. There were, however, increases within durable goods, where automobiles and electronics added 11,000 and 7,000 jobs, respectively. There were also gains in the construction-related lumber and furniture industries. This was somewhat mitigated by continued job losses in the defense-dependent aircraft and instruments industries. Among nondurable goods industries, apparel and chemicals continued their patterns of monthly declines.

Construction employment, which had grown markedly in the prior 2 months, held steady in December, despite a later-than-average survey reference period that probably captured more seasonal layoffs than usual. A large increase in mining employment attributable to the return to work of striking coal miners was partly offset by losses in its oil and gas component.

The services industry added 68,000 jobs in December, after seasonal adjustment. The largest gain took place in personnel supply. Employment gains in health services were smaller than average; hospital employment has not grown since the spring.

Retail trade rebounded from a small loss in November and added 32,000 jobs in December, the majority of them in eating and drinking establishments and auto dealerships. Over the year, retail job growth has totaled 400,000.

The finance industry had substantial job gains for the fourth consecutive month, with increases totaling 51,000 since August. Some of the December gains in transportation and government were probably temporary, as air freight companies and the postal service added more workers than normal to meet the holiday rush. Wholesale trade continued the rebound that began in late summer, which has totaled 31,000 jobs since August.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged in December at 34.6 hours, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing workweek and overtime hours held at highs of 41.7 and 4.4 hours, respectively. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of private production or nonsupervisory workers on nonfarm payrolls was up by 0.2 percent to 125.3 (1982=100) in December. The manufacturing index held steady at 102.0, as both employment and hours were flat. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly and weekly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers on nonfarm payrolls each increased by 0.2 percent in December, after seasonal adjustment. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings edged up 1 cent to \$10.97 and average weekly earnings were up by \$2.54 to \$380.66 in December. Over the year, hourly earnings increased by 2.5 percent and weekly earnings by 3.1 percent. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for January 1994 will be released on Friday, February 4, 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 the labor force series derived from the Current Population Survey (the CPS, also referred to as the household survey) to incorporate the experience of that year. Seasonally adjusted data for the most recent 5 years are subject to revision. (Seasonally adjusted establishment data will be revised in June, concurrently with the introduction of annual benchmark adjustments.)

Table B summarizes the effects of the revisions on the overall unemployment rate in 1993. Rates for only 4 months were revised, each by 0.1 percentage point. Revised seasonally adjusted data for major labor force series for December 1992 through December 1993 are presented in table C.

The January 1994 issue of *Employment and Earnings* will contain new seasonal adjustment factors that will be used to calculate the civilian labor force and other major series for the January-June period of 1994. 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 1989-93 revision period for nearly 450 labor force series will be published in the February 1994 issue of *Employment and Earnings*. Microcomputer diskettes of historical seasonally adjusted data (monthly and quarterly) may be purchased from BLS; contact Gloria P. Green on 202-606-6373.

Table B. Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in 1993 and change due to revision

Month	As first computed	As revised	Change
January.....	7.1	7.1	0
February.....	7.0	7.0	0
March.....	7.0	7.0	0
April.....	7.0	7.0	0
May.....	6.9	6.9	0
June.....	7.0	6.9	-.1
July.....	6.8	6.8	0
August.....	6.7	6.7	0
September.....	6.7	6.7	0
October.....	6.8	6.7	-.1
November.....	6.4	6.5	.1
December.....	* 6.3	6.4	.1

*Not published.

Planned Changes Affecting the Household Survey Data

CPS Redesign

With the release of data for January 1994, estimates from the CPS will reflect the results of a major redesign of the survey. The redesign is being undertaken to obtain more accurate and comprehensive information on the labor force. As part of this effort, the survey questionnaire has been revamped to include many new and revised questions regarding individuals' employment and unemployment activities, and an automated data collection environment is being introduced.

The new questionnaire and mode of collection were tested over the July 1992-December 1993 period, using a separate sample of households. Data from the test sample indicate that the survey redesign can be expected to affect most estimates. For example, measured unemployment from the parallel sample was higher than from the CPS, especially among women.

In addition to the changes in the questionnaire and collection methodology, the measurement of some labor force concepts was improved as part of the redesign. The biggest changes occurred in the measurement of discouraged workers and of persons employed part time for economic reasons, where the adoption of revised criteria results in substantially lower estimates of the numbers of persons in these two categories. Many other changes have been made to improve the accuracy of the survey and to provide additional information on labor force topics.

The redesign will necessitate changes in the presentation of household survey data in this release. Several new series will be created; others will no longer be published. For example, newly available monthly data on multiple jobholding and discouraged workers will be introduced in a new table A-8 in next month's release. At the same time, the present table A-7, which contains the U1-U7 range of alternative unemployment measures, will be temporarily suspended. More information on the tabular changes will be presented in *The Employment Situation* news release for January, to be issued on February 4.

Introduction of 1990 census population controls

With the release of data for January 1994, population controls projected forward from the 1990 decennial census counts (adjusted for the estimated population undercount) will be introduced into the CPS. This will result in substantially higher levels for the 16-and-over population, labor force, and employment, and a slightly higher level and rate of unemployment. Revisions to historical data reflecting the new population estimates will not be made at that time.

A comprehensive examination of the effects of the CPS redesign and the introduction of the 1990 census-based population controls on household survey data, "Revisions in the Current Population Survey Effective January 1994," will appear in the February 1994 issue of *Employment and Earnings*.