

Economic News Release

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Employment Situation Summary

Transmission of material in this release is embargoed until 8:30 a.m. (EDT) Friday, **September 7, 2012**

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION -- AUGUST 2012

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 96,000 in August, and the unemployment rate edged down to 8.1 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Employment increased in food services and drinking places, in professional and technical services, and in health care.

Household Survey Data

The unemployment rate edged down in August to 8.1 percent. Since the beginning of this year, the rate has held in a narrow range of 8.1 to 8.3 percent. The number of unemployed persons, at 12.5 million, was little changed in August. (See table A-1.)

Among the major worker groups, the unemployment rates for adult men (7.6 percent), adult women (7.3 percent), teenagers (24.6 percent), whites (7.2 percent), blacks (14.1 percent), and Hispanics (10.2 percent) showed little or no change in August. The jobless rate for Asians was 5.9 percent (not seasonally adjusted), little changed from a year earlier. (See tables A-1, A-2, and A-3.)

In August, the number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) was little changed at 5.0 million. These individuals accounted for 40.0 percent of the unemployed. (See table A-12.)

Both the civilian labor force (154.6 million) and the labor force participation rate (63.5 percent) declined in August. The employment-population ratio, at 58.3 percent, was little changed. (See table A-1.)

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons (sometimes referred to as involuntary part-time workers) was little changed at 8.0 million in August. These individuals were working part time because their hours had been cut back or because they were unable to find a full-time job. (See table A-8.)

In August, 2.6 million persons were marginally attached to the labor force, essentially unchanged from a year earlier. (These data are not seasonally adjusted.) These individuals were not in the labor force, wanted and were available for work, and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months. They were not counted as unemployed because they had not searched for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey. (See table A-16.)

Among the marginally attached, there were 844,000 discouraged workers in August, a decline of 133,000 from a year earlier. (These data are not seasonally adjusted.) Discouraged workers are persons not currently looking for work because they believe no jobs are available for them. The remaining 1.7 million persons marginally attached to the labor force in August had not searched for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey for reasons such as school attendance or family responsibilities. (See table A-16.)

Establishment Survey Data

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 96,000 in August. Since the beginning of this year, employment growth has averaged 139,000 per month, compared with an average monthly gain of 153,000 in 2011. In August, employment rose in food services and drinking places, in professional and technical services, and in health care. (See table B-1.)

Employment in food services and drinking places increased by 28,000 in August and by 298,000 over the past 12 months.

Employment in professional and technical services rose in August (+27,000). Job gains occurred in computer systems design and related services (+11,000) and management and

technical consulting services (+9,000).

Health care employment rose by 17,000 in August. Ambulatory health care services and hospitals added 14,000 and 6,000 jobs, respectively. From June through August, job growth in health care averaged 15,000 per month, compared with an average monthly gain of 28,000 in the prior 12 months.

Utilities employment increased in August (+9,000). The increase reflects the return of utility workers who were off payrolls in July due to a labor-management dispute.

Within financial activities, finance and insurance added 11,000 jobs in August. Employment in wholesale trade continued to trend up. Employment in temporary help services changed little over the month and has shown little movement, on net, since February.

Manufacturing employment edged down in August (-15,000). A decline in motor vehicles and parts (-8,000) partially offset a gain in July. Auto manufacturers laid off fewer workers for factory retooling than usual in July, and fewer workers than usual were recalled in August.

Employment in other major industries, including mining and logging, construction, retail trade, transportation and warehousing, information, and government, showed little change over the month.

The average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged at 34.4 hours in August. The manufacturing workweek declined by 0.2 hour to 40.5 hours, and factory overtime was unchanged at 3.2 hours. The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged at 33.7 hours. (See tables B-2 and B-7.)

In August, average hourly earnings for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls edged down by 1 cent to \$23.52. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings rose by 1.7 percent. In August, average hourly earnings of private-sector production and nonsupervisory employees edged down by 1 cent to \$19.75. (See tables B-3 and B-8.)

The change in total nonfarm payroll employment for June was revised from +64,000 to +45,000, and the change for July was revised from +163,000 to +141,000.

The Employment Situation for September is scheduled to be released on Friday, October 5, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. (EDT).

2012 CES Preliminary Benchmark Revision to be
Released on September 27, 2012

Each year, the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey estimates are benchmarked to comprehensive counts of employment from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) for the month of March. These counts are derived from state unemployment insurance (UI) tax records that nearly all employers are required to file. On September 27, 2012, at 8:30 a.m., the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) will release the preliminary estimate of the upcoming annual benchmark revision to the establishment survey employment series. This is the same day the First Quarter 2012 data from the QCEW will be issued. Preliminary benchmark revisions for all major industry sectors, as well as total nonfarm and total private levels, will be available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/ces/cesprelbnk.htm.

The final benchmark revision will be issued with the publication of the January 2013 Employment Situation news release.

- [Employment Situation Summary Table A. Household data, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Employment Situation Summary Table B. Establishment data, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Employment Situation Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Employment Situation Technical Note](#)
- [Table A-1. Employment status of the civilian population by sex and age](#)
- [Table A-2. Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, and age](#)
- [Table A-3. Employment status of the Hispanic or Latino population by sex and age](#)
- [Table A-4. Employment status of the civilian population 25 years and over by educational attainment](#)
- [Table A-5. Employment status of the civilian population 18 years and over by veteran status, period of service, and sex, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-6. Employment status of the civilian population by sex, age, and disability status, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-7. Employment status of the civilian population by nativity and sex, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-8. Employed persons by class of worker and part-time status](#)
- [Table A-9. Selected employment indicators](#)

- [Table A-10. Selected unemployment indicators, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-11. Unemployed persons by reason for unemployment](#)
- [Table A-12. Unemployed persons by duration of unemployment](#)
- [Table A-13. Employed and unemployed persons by occupation, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-14. Unemployed persons by industry and class of worker, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-15. Alternative measures of labor underutilization](#)
- [Table A-16. Persons not in the labor force and multiple jobholders by sex, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table B-1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail](#)
- [Table B-2. Average weekly hours and overtime of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table B-3. Average hourly and weekly earnings of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table B-4. Indexes of aggregate weekly hours and payrolls for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table B-5. Employment of women on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table B-6. Employment of production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted\(1\)](#)
- [Table B-7. Average weekly hours and overtime of production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted\(1\)](#)
- [Table B-8. Average hourly and weekly earnings of production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted\(1\)](#)
- [Table B-9. Indexes of aggregate weekly hours and payrolls for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted\(1\)](#)
- [Access to historical data for the "A" tables of the Employment Situation Release](#)
- [Access to historical data for the "B" tables of the Employment Situation Release](#)
- [HTML version of the entire news release](#)

The PDF version of the news release

Table of Contents

Last Modified Date: September 07, 2012

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