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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: APRIL 2008

HEARING

BEFORE THE

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

MAY 2, 2008

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: APRIL 2008

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2008

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE,
Washington, DC.

The committee met at 9:30 a.m. in Room SD–562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, the Honorable Amy Klobuchar, presiding.

Senators present: Klobuchar and Casey.

Staff present: Christina Baumgardner, Heather Boushey, Stephanie Dreyer, Gretta Goodwin, Colleen Healy, Annabelle Tamerjan, Chris Frenze, Bob Keleher, Tyler Kurtz, Jeff Schlagenhauf, and Jeff Wrase.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. AMY KLOBUCHAR, A U.S. SENATOR FROM MINNESOTA

Senator Klobuchar [presiding]. We are calling the hearing to order of the Joint Economic Committee on this month's Unemployment statistics.

I want to thank our witnesses for being here, Commissioner Hall, and Dr. Horrigan, and Mr. Galvin. Thank you very much for being here.

I think we all know what has been going on in this country. We have lost 260,000 jobs in just the first four months of this year. Twenty thousand jobs were lost this past month.

We also have the phenomenon that more and more workers are going part-time, and reducing their hours, and the other phenomenon we are going to discuss here today and why we are in such trouble right now, or workers are in such trouble, is because at the same time you see reduced hours, stagnant wages or in fact declining wages, you see expenses going up.

And I am looking forward to discussing in detail what all of these numbers mean. I do think that we would not be fair if we did not say that we are in tough times. I say that after visiting with people all over my State and seeing what is going on with them. And some of them may have jobs, but they have seen such stagnant wages, and with the rise of costs in gasoline and the rise in cost of health care and other things, it is getting tougher and tougher for them to get by. And they look for a second job, and they cannot find them because of course we are having less jobs in this country.

What has been going on is that the wealthiest 1 percent of the United States families is garnering the largest share of income since 1929, while most of America is just struggling to hang on.

Middle-class income has fallen over $2000 since this Administration has taken office, a phenomenon that we have not seen in 50 years.

Meanwhile, the cost of virtually everything has skyrocketed, from heating bills, to groceries, to gas, to health care, and college tuition. For many families even some basic necessities seem out of reach.

Just yesterday we had a hearing in this very room of the Joint Economic Committee about the price of food. We had food banks testify about how they are stretched thin. We had a baker testify about how difficult it is for bakers to pay for wheat.

And in fact there has been some interesting work done on this that I will be asking our witnesses about later by a woman at Harvard, a professor there, who has shown this lost income of wages. And she actually tracked it from 2000 to 2007.

She showed the total lost income and increased expenses for your average American family comes to $5739. And I will be passing out copies of this in about ten minutes or so. She showed that the lost income is $1175 for the average American family between 2000 and 2007. And then she was able to show how the expenses have increased.

Higher mortgage payments, again this does not include 2008, higher mortgage payments, $1729 a year.

Higher gas bills, $2081 a year.

Higher food costs, $237 a year—again not including even what's been going on in 2008.

Higher phone bills, land line, $112.

Higher appliance costs, $42.

Higher health insurance costs, $363.

And when you have families with children, there has been even a greater change with increased daycare, increased after-school, and increased state college costs.

So you see this net basically of $5739 per year that the average American family has lost. I bring this up in the context of the unemployment rate, and the reduction in hours, and real wages for Americans because that is what so many middle-class families are experiencing. That is why they have been putting more of their debt on credit cards, because they literally are not keeping up.

Americans are facing the largest loss of wealth since the Great Depression. And here you have a chart showing that, that the Stock Market lost $2.7 trillion in value since May of 2007. The crisis has wiped out $2.7 trillion in home values. And the dollar has lost a third of its value. And the Federal Debt has nearly doubled in the last eight years. And for too many families across the country the dream of owning a home is turning into a nightmare. Every day 8000 more families lose their homes to foreclosure. Between January and March of this year, 1 out of every 194 households received notice of default, auction sale, or bank repossession.

What started as a foreclosure crisis has now had more than ripple effects. It is turning into a tsunami across the entire country.

For many people in my State who are paying their mortgage, like I have, they say: Well, why does this matter to me? I pay my mortgage. But what they have finally begun to realize is that it is affecting home values across this country.

In my State we have seen a 10 percent decrease in home values. When Chairman Bernanke testified before our Joint Economic Committee a few weeks ago he agreed that what started as a foreclosure crisis is now in fact the root of the economic crisis.

As of this month there are 7.6 million Americans unemployed. But with the continuous loss of jobs, they are now vying for 3.9 million available jobs. The number of unemployed workers is almost double the amount of jobs that they can find.

More and more jobs are disappearing each month. In January through March, as I mentioned, we lost a total of 240,000 jobs. And for some industries the losses are particularly felt, and that is something I think we should discuss in this hearing. There is a difference between industries. In construction this month we saw a loss of 61,000 jobs. In manufacturing we saw a loss of 46,000 jobs. In retail we saw a loss of 27,000 jobs.

What today's numbers also show is that, while some companies have not been cutting jobs, they have been cutting back on hours. Across the board manufacturing hours were down, as was factory overtime. And remember, when we are talking about families that have seen this $4500 a year increase in expenses, when they lose some of their overtime this is what puts them over the edge in terms of their family expenses.

While this might sound insignificant for many of us that they lost a little overtime, or they got their hours cut back, for them these lost hours can literally make the difference of paying their mortgage or not paying their mortgage.

Unemployment rates in the month of April remained high. What we have also seen is that those that have not been able to find a job are exhausting their unemployment benefits. In Minnesota 52,000 people are expected to lose their unemployment benefits without having found work. That is 5000 more than last year. And as you see here on this chart, which is the Unemployment Exhaustion chart, nationally long-term unemployment and exhaustion rates have continued to rise.

[Chart entitled "There Are More Long Term Unemployed and More Workers Exhausting Unemployment Benefits Than at the Beginning of Previous Two Recessions" appear in the Submissions for the Record on page 28.]

While they were unemployed, these people paid into the Unemployment Compensation Fund, a fund that currently has a surplus of $35 billion. They paid into this insurance, and now they are running out of resources. In every other economic downturn when we have seen this kind of exhaustion of unemployment benefits, the Administration has extended unemployment.

Time and time again people in this situation have appropriately been given relief through an extension of unemployment benefits by 13 to 26 weeks. But we have not seen this kind of relief yet from this Administration.

These unemployment numbers are hitting our veterans as well. Members who have bravely served overseas now are standing in unemployment lines back home. I figure when these men and women signed up for war, there was not a waiting line, and we would hope that when they come home after serving our country there should not be a waiting line to get a job.

This shows how recent veterans are having a hard time finding work. Their percentage in the total workforce, all veterans serving after September 2001, and the percentage of young male veterans serving after September 2001 with the unemployment rate. So 11.2 percent of young male veterans serving after September 2001 are now unemployed, which is a higher rate than of course the national average.

It is unbelievable that we cannot do more to help the men and women that protect this country to find a way to provide for themselves or their families upon returning.

As layoff rates are expected to increase to 68 percent for U.S. companies, and prices for everything from college tuition, to health care, to food, continue to rise, it looks like we will likely have to brace ourselves for continued increases in unemployment.

I look forward to hearing from Commissioner Hall and what the numbers for April can tell us about the economic outlook, and working with my colleagues in the Senate to bring much needed relief to American families feeling the pressure of this economic downturn.

With that, I am pleased that Senator Casey has joined us, from Pennsylvania, and I will give him an opportunity for an opening statement.

[The prepared statement of the Honorable Charles E. Schumer appears in the Submissions for the Record on page 28.]

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT P. CASEY, A U.S. SENATOR FROM PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Casey. Madam Chair, thank you very much for calling this hearing, and also for the testimony that you just provided. You covered virtually every aspect of this challenge to our economy and the challenge for our families.

I just wanted to highlight a couple of basic numbers that we know about today, and I know we will explore these further, but one of the numbers that jumped off the page to me when I looked at the preliminary analysis of today's numbers was the number of manufacturing jobs.

Manufacturing employment fell by 46,000 over the month. That is troubling even in light of the overall number, which the decrease is less than it was last month, but that manufacturing number is very high, just as it was a month ago and virtually every month in the recent past.

Senator Klobuchar made the point about long-term unemployed. This is a huge problem for the country, the challenge posed by those numbers that we saw for our veterans, especially young male veterans.

Also I think when you combine all of this economic data with the other data that we see, not only on jobs but on the housing crisis, health care costs, college tuition, food, and of course gasoline prices. I was noting in a summary of Pennsylvania data that households with children in Pennsylvania are paying $2920 more per year for gasoline than when President Bush took office.

So when you combine all of that, the misery, the hardship, the trauma that has been heaped upon families in this country is almost bringing them to the breaking point. They cannot often make

ends meet just to get through the week, just to get through the month, just to provide basic necessities for their children, and that all starts with jobs, or lack thereof.

I am interested in hearing the testimony today of Commissioner Hall, and all of our witnesses, but this is a challenge for the country. I think the Administration has to take much more dynamic and focused actions to deal with this issue.

If anything, there has been almost a state of denial that things are not that bad. No one believes that. No one that I know believes that this country is headed in the right direction. And these numbers today, and the other data that we just highlighted, points to that very basic concern that a lot of families feel.

So we are grateful for the testimony that will be provided today, and I want to thank Senator Klobuchar for her leadership on the central challenge faced by American families. And that is, the economic challenge, and in particular the challenge of job loss, and the challenge of economic trauma in the life of a family.

Thank you, very much.

Senator Klobuchar. Thank you very much, Senator Casey.

Commissioner Hall.

STATEMENT OF DR. KEITH HALL, COMMISSIONER, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, ACCOMPANIED BY: JOHN GALVIN, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, AND MICHAEL W. HORRIGAN, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR PRICES AND LIVING CONDITIONS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Commissioner Hall. Madam Chair, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the April employment and unemployment statistics we released this morning.

Nonfarm payroll employment changed little in April following job losses in the first quarter that averaged 80,000 per month.

In April, employment continued to decline in construction, manufacturing, and retail trade, while jobs were added in health care and in professional and technical services. The unemployment rate at 5.0 percent was also little changed.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment in construction declined by 61,000. Since its peak in September 2006, construction employment has fallen by 457,000.

Over the last six months, job losses in construction averaged 50,000 per month compared with an average of 12,000 per month from September 2006 to October 2007.

Manufacturing employment continued to decline in April. Job losses totalled 46,000 and were concentrated in durable goods manufacturing.

Manufacturing hours fell from 41.2 to 40.9 hours per week over the month, with reductions widespread across both durable and nondurable industries. Factory overtime was down by one-tenth of an hour.

In the service-providing sector, retail trade employment continued to trend down. Since a peak in March 2007, the industry has shed 137,000 jobs. In April, job declines occurred in building and garden supply stores and in department stores.

Elsewhere in the service-providing sector, health care employment expanded by 37,000 with continued growth in hospitals, home health care, and doctors' offices.

Professional and technical services added 27,000 jobs in April, following 3 months in which employment was about unchanged.

Employment in the food services continued to trend up over the month, although the pace of job growth has slowed in recent months.

Average hourly earnings for production and nonsupervisory workers in the private sector were up by 1 cent, or 0.1 percent in April, and by 3.4 percent over the past 12 months.

From March 2007 to March 2008, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers rose by 4.3 percent.

Turning to data from the household survey, both the number of employed persons and the unemployment rate were little changed in April.

Over the past 12 months the jobless rate has risen by 0.5 percentage point, and the number of unemployed individuals has risen by 797,000.

Although the number of unemployed persons who had been searching for work for 27 weeks or more increased by 160,000, their share of total unemployment changed little.

Over the month, the number of persons who were unemployed due to job loss was little changed, at 4 million, but was up by 698,000 from a year earlier.

These job losers accounted for 53 percent of all unemployed persons in April, up from 49 percent 12 months earlier.

Other groups of unemployed persons include those entering the labor market for the first time, those who are entering after an absence, and those who were voluntarily leaving jobs.

The number of persons in the labor force was about unchanged over the month, and the labor force participation rate held at 66.0 percent.

In April, 62.7 percent of the population was employed, essentially unchanged from the prior month, but down from a recent peak of 63.4 percent at the end of 2006.

The number of persons working part-time who preferred full-time employment rose by 306,000 in April to 5.2 million. Over the past 12 months, involuntary part-time employment has increased by 849,000.

To summarize April's labor market developments, payroll employment was little changed at 137.8 million, as was the unemployment rate, at 5.0 percent.

[The prepared statement of Keith Hall appears in the Submissions for the Record on page 29.]

My colleagues and I would now be glad to answer questions.

Senator Klobuchar. Thank you very much, Commissioner Hall.

According to today's report the economy lost 20,000 jobs in April, and we know as I mentioned that the economy lost an average of 80,000 jobs per month in the first three months of 2008. When was the last time that we saw four months of consecutive job losses?

Commissioner Hall. The last time we had four consecutive months of job loss was in 2003 when the U.S. labor market was still recovering from the effects of the 2001 recession.

Senator Klobuchar. And then how many more months did we go with job losses in 2003?

Commissioner Hall. Job growth ticked up in September of 2003 but we had fairly consistent job loss from about March of 2001 to August of 2003, so it was quite a long time. Nonfarm payroll unemployment reached its most recent trough, or lowpoint, in August 2003.

Senator Klobuchar. Do you think the circumstances are different this year?

Commissioner Hall. Well certainly we have now had four months of job loss. We have not seen nearly quite the numbers of loss that we had obviously during the recession, but again we do have four months in a row of job loss.

Senator Klobuchar. Discuss the fact that in some industries such as construction and manufacturing have seen job losses for the first time for some time, and during the first four months of this year construction lost 190,000 jobs. In fact, in my State we have seen the largest over-the-year increase in mass layoffs from construction.

However, employment losses are now spread across a wide array of industries. Can you tell us where job losses began and what industries are now seeing unemployment?

Commissioner Hall. Sure. Well the job loss really began in residential construction, which has been experiencing job losses since early 2006. More broadly, industries related to the housing market have been shedding jobs for about two years now, declining nearly 850,000 over that period.

This actually wipes away about 90 percent of the jobs gained in those industries between April 2004 and April 2006.

Otherwise, I would say there is sort of broad weakening in job growth fairly much across the board with the big exception being health care and educational services.

Even those industries that have not been experiencing job loss lately have had a slowing in job growth.

Senator Klobuchar. How many jobs have been lost in the temporary help industry? And I ask this because I have heard that this is a precursor to a sign that things are in trouble.

Commissioner Hall. The temporary help industry peaked in December 2006 most recently, and has shed 155,000 jobs since then.

Senator Klobuchar. And do you consider the temporary help industry a leading indicator of employers' willingness to hire?

Commissioner Hall. The temporary help industry is considered by many to be a leading indicator. The logic is that firms may let go of temporary workers first when the economy begins to weaken.

I don't know how well it functions right now as a leading indicator, but I will say that prior to the 2001 recession temporary help began to decline in May of 2000, about 10 months prior to the recession.

Senator Klobuchar. And when was the last time this temporary—that the temporary help industry saw this level of job loss?

Commissioner Hall. 2001.

Senator Klobuchar. Nationwide, manufacturing saw job losses from 2001 to 2004, and after a slight respite manufacturing has been shedding jobs since mid-2006. Is that correct?

Commissioner Hall. The most recent employment peak for manufacturing was August 2004.

Senator Klobuchar. I just had a number of builders visiting me, so I know first-hand what they have been experiencing.

Which subsector of manufacturing have been the hardest hit by recent job losses?

Commissioner Hall. Looking at it over the past six months, the biggest job losses were in motor vehicle and parts, which lost 66,000 jobs; fabricated metal products; furniture; wood products, all lost around 20,000 jobs. Then non-metallic mineral products, plastic and rubber products, apparel, and textile industries all lost jobs.

Senator Klobuchar. It is my understanding that some parts of the country are experiencing higher joblessness in other—could you tell me what regions are seeing the highest job loss?

Commissioner Hall. Sure. Actually we've had, we've had states in every region of the country experience job loss. The largest job loss over the past 12 months have been in Michigan and Florida, by far; and then California, Rhode Island, Ohio, Arizona, and Wisconsin also lost jobs.

Senator Klobuchar. Could you go through that again?

Commissioner Hall. Sure. Michigan and Florida, California, Rhode Island, Ohio, Arizona, and Wisconsin. Those are in order of job loss.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay. So it is not necessarily regional as much as—what do you think defines the job losses in the state? It seems some of them are manufacturing states, I would say.

Commissioner Hall. Yes, that's certainly true for some of them. Michigan I think in particular has probably been hit with quite a lot of manufacturing job loss.

Senator Klobuchar. What parts of the country are being impacted by falloffs in the housing and credit-related industries? I think we talked about what states you think are hit by manufacturing decline.

Commissioner Hall. Sure. 33 states have seen construction declines over the past year, and again it is not concentrated in regions. It is pretty spread out.

By far California and Florida have seen the biggest declines, but there were also significant declines in Arizona, Michigan, and Nevada.

With respect to financial activities, again California and Florida were the two biggest losers, but New Jersey and Arizona also lost jobs.

Senator Klobuchar. It almost would be simpler if you said this was regional. The concern for me when I hear this is it seems like this is truly a national economic downturn, and it is not just one region or area of the country. Is that right?

Commissioner Hall. Yes, it seems consistent with that. Certainly it is fairly broad with respect to industries and regions.

Senator Klobuchar. Are there other industries that are driving the decline of employment in some areas besides the ones we have

talked about, the construction and the financial and the manufacturing?

Commissioner Hall. Yes, that's a—it's a question that it's impossible to give sort of a simple answer to that question because every area has its own unique industry mix.

I would say the labor market performance really depends a lot on the industries. For example, the Texas job market might have been helped recently by rising oil prices, but other areas would be hurt, for example. So there is really not a simple answer to that.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay. In our State the employment to population ratio, which is the fraction of working-age population with a job, keeps falling. And the information you reported on today shows that the percentage of the U.S. population with jobs is also quite low. Is that correct?

Commissioner Hall. Yes.

Senator Klobuchar. And when was the last time the national employment to population rate was as low as it has been recently?

Commissioner Hall. Um, that's a good question.

Senator Klobuchar. You have done so well, so far. [Laughter.]

Commissioner Hall. I am going to have to dig a little for that one. [Pause.]

When has it been? Well I will tell you what I know and they can see if they can dig up a specific answer.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay, that's fine.

Commissioner Hall. The employment to population ratio is at 62.7 percent this month, and that has edged down a little bit from 63 percent a year ago.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay. When you put this all together—and then I am going to turn it over to Senator Casey, and then come back with some additional question—would you agree that the employment situation is looking rather grim?

Commissioner Hall. I try to stay away from sort of looking forward because we do—

Senator Klobuchar. Okay, then that it looked grim the past four months, if you want to look at it that way.

Commissioner Hall. We have certainly seen a significant slowing in the labor market, and it is broad.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay. Thank you very much.

Senator Casey?

Senator Casey. Thank you very much, Senator Klobuchar.

Commissioner Hall, I wanted to ask you about productivity, which I guess we will technically describe as output per hour in the nonfarm business sector. I want to use the right terminology. I am going to shorthand that and use the word "productivity," but isn't it true that that productivity number, the output per hour, has grown at a 1.9 percent average annual rate—and this I guess would precede this month—but the real hourly compensation, which we would define as pay plus benefits, of those workers producing that increase in output, hasn't that actually decreased by a half a percentage point in the fourth quarter of 2007?

Commissioner Hall. Those figures are correct.

Senator Casey. I mean it stands to reason I think even if you are not an economist or a Bureau of Labor Statistics expert, that if you have greater productivity you would think, I would think, I

think anyone would logically think that wages would grow at the same time. Is that not necessarily consonant with the data?

Commissioner Hall. There is a business-cycle aspect to that. Over a long time period, say from 1973 say to 2000, they have grown very closely.

The business cycle part of it is that in the early stages of an economic expansion, productivity does outpace real compensation growth. But real compensation growth typically catches up.

Senator Casey. Well that's what—in looking at this chart on my left, employee compensation has lagged far behind productivity. You see the gap there between productivity being the line on top, the blue line, and compensation the red line below it, that gap. And this is of course starting in 1998 where there was a confluence or a connection or a meeting of the two from 1998, 1999, 2001, and then you get into 2002 until 2007 and that is where we have the gap or the disconnect.

Do you know of anything in recent American economic history where there has been that much of a gap, any period of time?

Commissioner Hall. The answer is, no.

That sort of gap has happened in the past in the early stages, but typically it is either closed or it is closing by now during the expansion. It just has not closed like it normally does.

Senator Casey. What do you think is the cause of that? I mean, there may be multiple causes, but what is different about our economic situation today as opposed to comparable periods when we have had a recession or a downturn, however you want to describe it?

Commissioner Hall. It is hard to say. It is hard to say just because productivity/real compensation in the past have always grown back together. That gap has always narrowed.

Senator Casey. Let me ask you this. If you can describe it today, that would be great, but if you could add to the record of this hearing, the Committee record, a written analysis of why you think that has happened, and why it is unusual, because that is part of the frustration here.

You are not called upon to make policy pronouncements, but here is the problem. Here is the trauma for the American family.

They are working as hard as they have ever worked, or frankly as hard as any group of Americans have worked, and they are not seeing a commensurate increase in their wages. In other words, the costs of everything in their lives is going up at the same time that they are producing more than they have been.

So I think that is a troubling sign for the economy, and especially for those families. I don't know if you want to add something to that. I did not mean to interrupt you.

Commissioner Hall. No, no, I don't disagree. We will provide you with a written analysis.

[The witten analysis from Dr. Keith Hall to the Honorable Robert P. Casey appears in the Submissions for the Record on page 58.]

Commissioner Hall. The obvious things that come to mind is we have had pretty significant energy inflation, and wages have not kept up with that. And that is the most obvious thing.

And of course now over the past year plus we have had a weakening in the labor market, so that has almost certainly contributed to this.

Senator Casey. I also wanted to ask you about this question of the long-term unemployed. I don't know if you can pull that chart up. This I know was referred to earlier, but we have long-term unemployment, more and more workers exhausting their unemployment benefits, and more so than at the beginning of the two previous recessions.

We go from the third quarter of 1990, long-term unemployed on the left, the kind of purple bar there, unemployment benefit exhaustions 580,000.

Quarter one of 2001, a comparison there.

And then quarter four of 2007. And you have more of a gap between the long-term unemployed number, almost 1.4 million, and the unemployment benefit exhaustion 665,000 individuals.

What is your assessment of that in terms of comparing 1990, 2001, and 2007, in those quarters?

Commissioner Hall. Sure. The share of unemployed that are long-term unemployed has a real strong cyclical component. Obviously during recessions you have people become unemployed with a lag, and then they start to become long-term unemployed.

Typically during an economic expansion, at some point the share of long-term unemployed starts to decline, and it pretty much steadily trends down throughout the business cycle.

What has happened right now is for about the past couple of years that decline in long-term unemployed has stalled. It has been flat now for a couple of years, and that is unusual. That is why it is at a higher level now than it typically is at this point in a business cycle.

Senator Casey. And what does that mean?

Commissioner Hall. I think it is simply an indication of the weakening in the labor market that we have had. We just never got quite as strong a job growth as we have in past economic expansions, and now we are having a weakening in the labor market over the past year plus.

Senator Casey. Do you think that it is sufficient to leave the duration of unemployment benefits at their current level? Do you think we need to make some kind of an adjustment?

Commissioner Hall. I am going to beg off answering policy questions.

Senator Casey. I tried again. [Laughter.]

Well I will tell you what I think.

Senator Klobuchar. Please do, Senator Casey.

Senator Casey. We tried very hard—we were debating, Senator Klobuchar and I, and many others were urging that in the stimulus package that was put together that we include unemployment compensation benefits as part of that.

That was shot down. And I think that was a terrible mistake for both short-term economic stimulus but also long-term. And I think some of the data that we just reviewed supports that.

Let me move to one more section and then I will—I'm glad that Senator Klobuchar has not put a time restriction on us. That never happens. I do not want to abuse it, though, because she is the

Chairwoman of this hearing and I do not want to abuse that privilege.

Commissioner Hall, the number of persons working part-time obviously for economic reasons are not doing it for exercise. The number of people who would like to work full-time but cannot find full-time employment rose by 306,000 to 5.2 million? Is that correct?

Commissioner Hall. I will look it up to make sure. That sounds right.

Senator Casey. Do you want to verify that to make sure we have our numbers right?

Commissioner Hall. Yes. Yes, that is correct.

Senator Klobuchar. And that would be just in the past month that it went up 306,000?

Commissioner Hall. Yes, that's correct.

Senator Klobuchar. So now we are at a point where we have 5.2 million people in the country that are working part-time? Is that correct?

Commissioner Hall. Yes.

Senator Klobuchar. Tell me about that. Is that—well, (a) tell me about what you can inform us about with regard to the types of jobs that they are taking. Do you have any data on that?

Commissioner Hall. No, actually—no, actually we don't. We collect data on people who are working part-time for economic reasons, but we do not actually—

Senator Casey. You mean you do not track that, necessarily?

Commissioner Hall. No.

Senator Casey. Okay. I am wondering if that is ascertainable, if you are able to do some kind of analysis to tell us about that. Because I think it is significant.

Commissioner Hall. We would be happy to see if we can follow up.

Senator Casey. I think it is significant, the types of jobs they are taking, but also tell us what you can about what that means, that trend line where more and more people are working part-time. Is that unusual in terms of historic patterns? Is it a danger sign for the economy?

Commissioner Hall. I would say it is consistent with the other labor market data. It is an indication of a weakening labor market.

Senator Casey. And finally—and this will be all, and I want to turn it over to Senator Klobuchar—construction employment was down 61,000 since its peak in September 2006, construction employment has fallen by 457,000 people? Is that correct?

Commissioner Hall. Yes.

Senator Casey. So since September of 2006, not 2007, 2006, we have lost almost a half a million construction jobs? Is that right?

Commissioner Hall. Yes.

Senator Casey. Thank you, very much.

Senator Klobuchar. Thank you very much, Senator Casey.

Commissioner Hall, I just want to follow up a little bit of Senator Casey's questions about the part-time workers, because it has been my impression, and I guess it is hard for you to get to the bottom of these statistics, but that some people would like to work full-time but they are working part-time, it is not by choice. Do you have any statistics on that?

Commissioner Hall. Well, yes, actually I think the number that I quoted before is people who are working part-time for economic reasons, as opposed to other reasons—

Senator Klobuchar. Okay, so that 306,000 you gave to Senator Casey, those are not people that, you know, they have a child so they want to work from noon to four or something like that? This is people that are pushed by economic reasons to work part-time?

Commissioner Hall. Correct.

Senator Klobuchar. And do you know how high the unemployment rate would be if it included those who work part-time for economic reasons, as well as those who did not have any job at all?

Commissioner Hall. Well the broadest measure—we have several measures of unemployment—the broadest measure we've got includes not only the unemployed but those working part-time for economic reasons, and those who are marginally attached.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay.

Commissioner Hall. That's our broadest measure. And that number is at 9.2 percent right now.

Senator Klobuchar. Because to me, when I am giving you those statistics early on—and we will talk about them a little more about how people are just hanging on, and their expenses are going up—when they are pushed to go half-time, and they have got some credit card debt, or mortgage debt, it seems to me that for them, maybe it is losing half a job, but it is losing enough that they might not be able to make it.

And that 9.2 percent figure feels a little bit more like what you hear when you are out there than the other unemployment rate. And do you know how that has changed over time?

Commissioner Hall. That has had similar changes as the regular unemployment rate. It has actually increased from 8.2 to 9.2 over the past year.

Senator Klobuchar. So it has gone up say roughly with my math, almost 10 percent, or something like that?

Commissioner Hall. Yes. It's up about 1 percentage point. The regular unemployment rate is up about a half a percentage point over that time.

Senator Klobuchar. Compared to what it was? If it was 8.2 percent, and then it's gone up to 9.2 percent, it hasn't gone up 10 percent, but it's percentagewise, it's gone up rather dramatically.

And would you agree with me that if the expenses are going up and they have just a little bit of a change can make a difference to them, that when you are in that situation with rising expenses that those kinds of loss of full-time to part-time jobs is more meaningful in the economy to individual families?

Commissioner Hall. Absolutely.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay. The thing I also wanted to focus on here is how well the labor market is doing is not just about employment, but it is also about wages.

How have wages done for the past say year, April to April or something like that?

Commissioner Hall. Over the past—well data is not available for inflation in April at the moment, but over the 12 months ending in March, hourly earnings grew by 3.7 percent, and that did not

keep up with inflation. Inflation grew about 4.3 percent at that time.

Senator Klobuchar. So that's my argument with the expenses.

Commissioner Hall. Yes.

Senator Klobuchar. So the inflation—whatever they made got eaten up by their health care or other things like that.

Commissioner Hall. Yes.

Senator Klobuchar. And how about those numbers say going back to 2000, the wages, the average wages?

Commissioner Hall. We will have to look that up.

Senator Klobuchar. I stumped you again, Commissioner.

Commissioner Hall. You did. [Laughter.] [Pause.]

Senator Klobuchar. And then I probably will then ask about controlling it for inflation, too. And if it is easier, just take your time. Senator Casey and I are happy we're not using a clock.

Commissioner Hall. This might be a question where we would need a calculator, so I am not sure we are going to be—

Senator Klobuchar. Senator Casey is threatening to put on the Jeopardy! music, but I have told him we will not do that. [Laughter.] [Pause.]

Commissioner Hall. This might be something where we would be better off—

Senator Klobuchar. Okay, that's just fine—

Commissioner Hall [continuing]. Following up later, if that's okay.

Senator Klobuchar [continuing]. And what I'm just trying to do is find a longer term trend just in general with the wages, and then wages adjusted for inflation. Because I have these numbers from a well-known professor, and I just wanted to see where you were coming from.

I think she probably used your statistics.

Commissioner Hall. Odds are, yes.

[The witten analysis from Dr. Keith Hall to the Honorable Amy Klobuchar appears in the Submissions for the Record on page 65.]

Senator Klobuchar. How much have real wages then fallen? So the actual, when you adjust it for inflation, has gone down, what, 1 percent or something?

Commissioner Hall. Over the past 12 months it has been about 6/10ths of a percent.

Senator Klobuchar. It's been about what?

Commissioner Hall. Six-tenths of a percent.

Senator Klobuchar. Six-tenths of one percent.

And employers' labor costs include not only wages and salaries, but also benefits. When labor costs rise due to increases in health insurance, how does that affect your measure of employee compensation?

Commissioner Hall. Well we do have measures of employee compensation that include health care costs. So for employer-provided health care, it does raise compensation.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay. And as employers shift more burden, there is a lot of discussion right now about, you know, health care reform, and my prediction, I would try to make predictions, would be that we would be taking this on not this year but next

year, and there are discussions about placing more burden by some people onto employees.

As employers shift more burden, and they have been doing that, of rising health care costs to their workers, doesn't that reduce the purchasing power of their take-home pay even more?

Commissioner Hall. Yes. And when health care costs rise, in fact I think you see two things. To the degree that the burden is shifted onto workers, their purchasing power is reduced. Also what can happen though is employer-provided health insurance can crowd out wage increases and you actually get slower wage growth as a result of higher health care costs.

Senator Klobuchar. Oh, because the money they are paying out to their workers, more is going out to pay for health care instead of for the wages?

Commissioner Hall. Yes.

Senator Klobuchar. So either way you do it, they are kind of messed up—

Commissioner Hall. Yes.

Senator Klobuchar. [continuing] Because the worker is either taking more of the health care costs, and then maybe the employer gives a little higher wage, or the employer pays for more of the health care cost.

But you are saying the statistics show when that happens then that is not reflected in his higher wages?

Commissioner Hall. Yes.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay. Yesterday this Committee, as I mentioned, held a hearing on the rising costs of food. Government forecasters predict that for 2008 we will see a 4 to 5 percent increase in the Consumer Product Index for food consumed at home.

So that is just another example. Does this concern you about the health of our economy in general?

Commissioner Hall. Yes. Certainly higher food prices would put extra strain on consumers, and obviously consumers are a major part of the economy, and that would add to their difficulties.

Senator Klobuchar. And then I just wanted to go through these numbers. These are these numbers that I got from the professor.

If you want to look first on the first page—and I thought this was just a nice way of laying this out—and it shows that for the average American—this is from 2000 to 2007, and what I find somewhat scary about this for the average American family is that this does not even include the food increases that we are talking about in 2008, or the enormous gas increases we have just seen in this past year.

But when you look at this, the lost income at $1175. And then you look at these increases:

Higher mortgage payments, $1729, each year. This is extra money that our people are paying.

Higher gas bills, $2081 per year. This is from 2000 to 2007. Again, not including the increases that we've seen.

Higher food costs, $237. Again not including that 4 to 5 percent increase that is being projected.

Higher phone bills—these are land line bills—$112 more. I personally know this from seeing my bill.

Higher appliance costs, $42.

Higher health insurance costs, which you and I have been talking about some, increased $363 per year.

And so when you add up the increases, and then you add in the wage losses, you are at $5739 that the average American family is paying out that they didn't before.

So I bring this up. And then when you have families with children, increased day care expenses have gone up. And this is what they have gone up, not what they are, $1321 per year. Increased after-school costs—that's the area I am in now, I am in the little dip of child growth—$511. And then increased state college costs—this is state college—$1021 per year.

So depending on where a family is with their kids, this is additional money that they are paying out per year. So when you add all this up, it can be even more than $5739. And you can see the bar graphs show the same thing, the declining income and then you add in this increased expenses. You look at it for working parents with one small child. You look at it with families with one child in college. And it says here that these are based on U.S. Census Bureau Population Reports. Changes and expenses are calculated from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. And also they use the Consumer Price Index.

Then the last chart I included just because I thought it was interesting, was the total consumer debt increase from 2000 to 2007.

[Chart entitled "Income and Expense Changes 2000–2007" appear in the Submissions for the Record on page 68.]

[Chart entitled "Income and Expense Changes, Working Parents, One Small Child 2000–2007" appear in the Submissions for the Record on page 69.]

[Chart entitled "Income and Expense Changes, Families with One Child in College 2000–2007" appear in the Submissions for the Record on page 70.]

[Chart entitled "Total Consumer Debt, 2000–2007" appear in the Submissions for the Record on page 72.]

Now do you project that any of this will change in the next year? Are they still going to be facing these higher expenses, Commissioner Hall?

Commissioner Hall. I wouldn't project.

Senator Klobuchar. That's right. I forgot. Does this trouble you, what's happened in the past?

Commissioner Hall. I haven't seen this study, but sure it would trouble me.

Senator Klobuchar. I noticed the higher mortgage payments again as we're seeing more and more problems with that. The higher gas bills again go up. And I just think that is at the root of what we are looking at with these unemployment numbers. And the reason that Senator Casey and I—I will speak for myself—but we are concerned about those part-time employment rates is that these are people that are just on the cusp, and they are trying to keep those full-time jobs with their rising expenses.

And we are also concerned as policymakers because they are putting—a lot of families are putting this on their credit cards, these increases, $5000 a year. And it is very similar to what we are seeing for the average American putting it on their credit cards.

So what we are trying to find here is some glimmer of hope with the job market. I personally think, from a policy standpoint, that we need to look at more direction for this economy with green jobs and other things.

I also think that when you look at that initial—do you want to put that wealth chart up again that we had from the beginning, where we had showed that for the top one percent they are doing the best they ever have since 1929.

They have the largest share of income they have ever had since 1929. And I am hoping this will lead us to make some changes with tax policy with regard to the top one percent.

But does this trouble you, what we are seeing with the loss of income, and then the out-sized portion going to the top one percent?

Commissioner Hall. Sure.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay. I have another area of questions about consumer spending, but I think I will let Senator Casey go and then I will come back.

Senator Casey. Thank you. I wanted to ask you, Commissioner, about the overall number, when we looked at a number that a lot of people are becoming familiar with now, is the number for the total for January, February, and March job loss of 232,000.

Is that correct?

Commissioner Hall. Yes. Actually it's 240,000.

Senator Casey. That is the point of my question. 232,000 has now become 240,000? Is that correct?

Commissioner Hall. Yes.

Senator Casey. It was adjusted upward.

Commissioner Hall. Yes.

Senator Casey. And that adjustment was just made for today's report? Is that correct? In other words, if I had asked you the question last week you would have said 232,000? It is just recently adjusted?

Commissioner Hall. Correct. We revised back two months.

Senator Casey. Right, right. And I guess even in the context of that time window there were adjustments. There was a January number reported, and then later there was an adjustment, or was it January and February, or just one of those months?

Commissioner Hall. We revise the data. We give an initial estimate, and then we give two additional estimates, actually, as more data comes in on employment.

Senator Casey. And how do you do that? What is the timing of that? Do you usually do that two weeks after the initial report? Or a month after?

Commissioner Hall. Yes. We have our initial estimate, and then one month later we revise, about one month later, then another month later we revise as we get more data in.

Senator Casey. So for purposes of today, the 20,000 job loss number may change when you have further reporting a month from now, or two months from now? Is that correct?

Commissioner Hall. Yes. There will be two more revisions over the next two months.

Senator Casey. Okay. And for the reports for the month of January, the month of February, and the month of March, when you've

revised them, all of them have been revisions upward? Is that correct?

Commissioner Hall. Gosh, I'm—okay, we've got the revisions. One second.

Senator Casey. The point I'm making is the twenty may grow?

Commissioner Hall. That's possible, yes.

Senator Casey. I guess another area I wanted to ask you about was that this week the Bureau of Economic Analysis reported that the Gross Domestic Product, GDP, rose by .2 percent over the first quarter of 2008? Is that correct? Do you know that to be true?

Commissioner Hall. I think it was .06 percent. Am I remembering correctly?

Senator Casey. Point six for the first quarter of 2008?

Commissioner Hall. The first quarter, yes.

Senator Casey. Now I guess the growth there for the first quarter, much of that, if not all of that, is attributable to an increase in inventories? Is that your understanding?

Commissioner Hall. It is. Actually, more than 100 percent of the growth was in inventories, about .8 percentage point of the .6 was in inventories.

Senator Casey. Okay. So now you have this month's Unemployment Report showing accelerating job losses in goods-producing industries. Can you explain how these two pieces of data are linked, where you have some GDP growth, rather limited I would argue, but some GDP growth premised on, based solely on inventories, and yet you still see accelerating job losses in goods-producing industries?

How do you assess that?

Commissioner Hall. I would say that they are consistent. I would say that the GDP growth in the first quarter was not strong enough to sustain job growth, is the way I would word it. So I would say they are consistent. The weakening in the labor market, and the weakening in the GDP——

Senator Casey. You wouldn't expect anything else, you're saying?

Commissioner Hall. Correct.

Senator Casey. Okay. That may be all I have for now. Senator Klobuchar.

Senator Klobuchar. Thank you very much, Senator Casey.

I wanted to just go back to the Unemployment Rate a little bit before talking about the consumer statistics. So basically the Unemployment Rate is at 5 percent, is that correct?

Commissioner Hall. That's correct.

Senator Klobuchar. And how many people entered unemployment last month?

Commissioner Hall. Well the unemployment rate ticked down a little bit. It was little changed over the month. But I would say the month-to-month numbers, they vary a bit. I prefer to look at maybe quarterly averages.

Senator Klobuchar. That would make sense.

Commissioner Hall. So for example if you start with the second quarter of last year, you start with an average of 4.5 percent. Then the next quarter, 4.7, 4.8, and then 4.9. So we have seen this steady rise in the Unemployment Rate up through the first quarter

of this year. So I think that gives you the best picture of unemployment.

Senator Klobuchar. And as you and I discussed, a similar rate for that, was it 9.2 percent when you add in the economy, the part-time workers that didn't want to go there but are there? And what is the other group you called, marginally——

Commissioner Hall. Marginally attached.

Senator Klobuchar. What does that mean?

Commissioner Hall. Those are folks who want to work, and say they want to work, and they have looked for a job some time in the past but they are not looking now.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay. And this idea that jobs are difficult to find is something that I have heard a lot from people across the country. Just yesterday the Department of Labor reported that last week applications for Unemployment Benefits rose to 380,000, up from 345,000 the previous week.

So we seem to be getting close to the 400,000 mark, which is significant because I am told that many economists consider that to be an indication that the labor market is actually in recession.

Do you agree with that?

Commissioner Hall. To be honest, I'm not sure I do because I think the relationship between the unemployment, UI initial claims and the job growth is not quite what it used to be.

Senator Klobuchar. Why is that?

Commissioner Hall. The relationship seems to have changed over the last year or two, and to be honest with you I really don't know. But what you are saying is it was the old rule of thumb about the UI claims being consistent with a certain level of job loss or job growth.

Senator Klobuchar. So then what do you consider to be the best indicators for whether or not we are in a recession?

Commissioner Hall. Payroll job growth and the Unemployment Rate.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay. And do you think we're there?

Commissioner Hall. I, I wouldn't want to offer an opinion. And really it is because of the role of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Senator Klobuchar. I understand.

Commissioner Hall. Because it is important for us—we produce the data, and we want to be clear that people have trust that we are not offering our opinions; we are offering the facts, and we do what we can to let the data speak for itself.

Senator Klobuchar. And as we talked about earlier, people enter unemployment for a number of reasons. What is the most common reason to be unemployed in April?

Commissioner Hall. The most common reason is job loss.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay.

Commissioner Hall. In April, about 52 percent of the unemployed were unemployed because of job loss.

Senator Klobuchar. And what is the next reason?

Commissioner Hall. Second would be re-entrants and new entrants. And about 36 percent of the unemployed are either re-entering the labor market, or are new entrants.

Senator Klobuchar. So is that possible that some of our returning Veterans that we talked about that come back are new entrants because they had lost their jobs when they served overseas?

I am just trying to—it would make sense to me—I am trying to figure out why we are seeing those high numbers with our returning Veterans, those that have served since 2001. And if it is harder, if you do not have a job, or you had to give up a job either because you decide to stay home with the kids, or you went to fight in Iraq, or whatever, it seems like it would be—this is my own common sense—harder to get back in the market.

And so that is what I am trying to get at with that question.

Commissioner Hall. Yes, I think that is right. I think the returning Veterans would count as re-entrants, or new entrants in the job market.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay. Just one more question about the long-term unemployed people. Isn't it the case that the share of the unemployed who are long-term unemployed is higher today than it was in the early 1990s and the early 2000s? Is that true?

Commissioner Hall. That's true.

Senator Klobuchar. And back then Congress extended the Unemployment Insurance Benefits, didn't they?

Commissioner Hall. I believe so.

Senator Klobuchar. Do you think this is a good measure about whether or not we should extend benefits, Unemployment Insurance Benefits to the long-term unemployed?

Commissioner Hall. I will beg off on that as a policy question.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay, but just to keep you with the facts, back in the early 1990s and early 2000s, and this was—when we discussed, this must be like the 2003 issue we were discussing early on—when we saw long-term unemployment, that was when Congress extended the Unemployment Insurance Benefits, and now it is worse now?

Commissioner Hall. I believe so.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay. All right, the consumer spending issue. The Commerce Department reported that consumer spending, which represents about two-thirds of economic activity, increased by only .1 percent in March after remaining stagnant in February.

In your view what does this trend portend for the labor market in the months to come?

Commissioner Hall. Well——

Senator Klobuchar. This is based historically on what you've seen.

Commissioner Hall. Okay, yes. Without forecasting I will say the weakening in the consumer spending has been consistent with the weakening in the labor market.

And I think this is something that works in both directions. Weaker consumer spending weakens the labor market, and a weaker labor market means lower income growth, which can lower consumer spending. So you sort of have things working both ways.

Senator Klobuchar. So getting at my issue that I have been focusing on today with how you have more expenses—these expenses are going up no matter what happened with wages; we know these expenses are going up—so when expenses are going up, and wages

are pretty much stagnant and have gone down maybe over time, then you see less consumer spending? Is that right? Is that a trend that happens?

Commissioner Hall. Yes.

Senator Klobuchar. And so what you have just said is when you see less consumer spending that can also lead to a weaker job market? Is that right?

Commissioner Hall. It can, yes.

Senator Klobuchar. So it is almost the chicken and the egg, it just keeps—so how does that work? That less consumer spending leads to a lesser job market?

Commissioner Hall. Well, that is if consumers are spending less then you have businesses cutting back on production. And that leads to the weaker job growth. And then it can eventually lead to job loss.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay. So when Minnesotans are not going to buy a new fishing rod because gas is too expensive, and they are not going to go up to their cabin as much, then the people that were making the fishing rods see less jobs?

Commissioner Hall. Yes.

Senator Klobuchar. So this expense issue that I brought up is not just some wild-eyed thing, it is actually related to the loss in jobs?

Commissioner Hall. Yes.

Senator Klobuchar. Typically in a recession how long does it take for employment to recover to its pre-recession peak?

Commissioner Hall. Since 1980 the average time for employment to recover to its pre-recession level is about 20 months. I will point out that the most recent recession took 39 months for employment to recover.

Senator Klobuchar. 39 months. And that was back in early 2000?

Commissioner Hall. Yes.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay. How long do wages and compensation take to recover?

Commissioner Hall. It depends on if you are talking about the levels or the growth. Wages and compensation do not typically decline for very long, the levels don't, during a recession. But the growth—in fact, the last two recessions the growth in wages has never recovered. You had what seems to be so far has been a permanent decline in the growth of wages.

Senator Klobuchar. So that has been continuing since the 1990s, basically?

Commissioner Hall. Real wages hit a low point in the mid-1990s but then rose steadily until the 2001 recession. Since then, real wages have been essentially flat.

Senator Klobuchar. And recessions before that, it did recover?

Commissioner Hall. Um, that's a good question. I don't know beyond the last couple of recessions.

Senator Klobuchar. When you had those recessions before in the 1990s and the early 2000s, did you see this kind of escalating expenses like we are seeing with food and gas prices?

Commissioner Hall. I don't know. My memory is not that good to—

Senator Klobuchar. We can check that out. I am just thinking, the reason I am going there is that you have this—some of how you got out of these recessions in the past was that people were able to increase their spending.

Commissioner Hall. Right.

Senator Klobuchar. And part of how they did that is that they had the money to do it. And now when these expenses are escalating, they are going to have less money to do it, and so we may have—it may take longer, and have more of a gloomy picture in terms of getting out of it.

Commissioner Hall. Right, right. Yes, I don't—I'm just going to do this from memory a little. I don't recall that both declining economic growth and high inflation, I don't think we have had both of those two things together since the early 1980s.

Senator Klobuchar. So based on your analysis of today's report, and mostly—which I've appreciated—the trends going over the last years, does it appear that we are going to continue to be in a difficult period for the labor market in the months to come?

Commissioner Hall. Well I am going to beg off on that.

Senator Klobuchar. It's based on the historical data.

Commissioner Hall. Well the reason is that we produce—we are going to be producing the data over the next few months.

Senator Klobuchar. Yes.

Commissioner Hall. And if we are going to be producing it, I do not want to forecast what I think it is going to show. I want to let the data come out and speak for itself.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay, very good.

Senator Casey?

Senator Casey. Thank you. In light of your statement earlier about looking at quarterly averages as opposed to month-to-month, I was struck by something I had not noticed in terms of a big differential.

Quarterly averages in terms of race. White unemployment, 4.3—we're talking about fourth quarter 2007, fourth quarter 2007, and first quarter 2008. So the two recent quarters compared to each other.

White unemployment, 4.3 to 4.4. Right? So that only went up very slightly. And correct me if I'm wrong, I'm just reading from your tables here.

African American unemployment, last quarter 2007 to this quarter 2008, 8.6 to 8.8. So that is up .2 percent. Correct?

Commissioner Hall. I don't—we have quarterly averages here, but that sounds reasonable.

Senator Casey. I think this is your table, if I'm not mistaken. And if I'm wrong about that, correct me.

And in the one that had the most significant increase, Hispanic, or Latino, depending on what term you use, unemployment, 5.9 percent unemployment fourth quarter 2007, 6.5 percent unemployment first quarter 2008.

So in other words, Hispanic unemployment went from 5.9 to 6.5 one quarter to the other? Is that correct?

Commissioner Hall. Again that sounds reasonable. Oh, okay, yes, that is correct. I found it. Thank you.

Senator Casey. So that is a staggering increase, .6 percent in just one quarter to the other. And of course the numbers are high. The African American unemployment rate is double what the White number is, and Hispanic is almost double, but the Hispanic increase is precipitous. So I just wanted to put that in the record. It's very troubling.

Thank you.

Senator Klobuchar. Commissioner, is there anything you wanted to say here at the end to clarify anything, or summarize anything?

Commissioner Hall. No, thank you.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay, well I really appreciate you giving us these statistics. I just thought I would summarize what I learned from this hearing today, as Senator Casey and I have just been here a year-and-a-half and have appreciated being at this hearing and getting this information. Correct me if any of the things I say are wrong, because I wrote this down from what we got at the hearing.

So this month we have seen 20,000 or more people that basically are unemployed. They have lost their jobs in this country.

So that means we have had 260,000 people who have basically lost their jobs or are unemployed in the first four months of this year.

Is that correct?

Commissioner Hall. Yes, the payroll employment survey shows a decline of 260,000 in the first four months of 2008 although we don't know if all those people became unemployed.

Senator Klobuchar. We are seeing an increased trend in the Unemployment Rate from the same time last year, and you kindly gave me those numbers of 4.8, 4.9, up to the point of 5.2 percent?

Is that right? Or 5 percent where we are now?

Commissioner Hall. Yes.

Senator Klobuchar. 5 percent.

And then the statistic that I think people need to continue to concentrate on is the people that do have jobs, but their hours have been reduced and in hard economic times it is more difficult for them to find work.

And I think the people, not that they chose to go part-time, but they have been pushed part-time economically, was 306,000 more people in April coming to 5.2 million people in, what was it, the last year?

Commissioner Hall. I think that was this month.

Senator Klobuchar. In the quarter?

Commissioner Hall. Yes.

Senator Klobuchar. In the quarter. So it is 306,000 people going from full-time work, or maybe—does it have to be full-time work, but just had their hours reduced? 306,000 people?

Commissioner Hall. The number of part-time for economic reasons increased by that much this month.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay, so 300,000 people this month, a total of 5.2 million people nationally.

Commissioner Hall. Yes.

Senator Klobuchar. Then at the same time you also have I thought another statistic that was interesting was that we have

had people, the major reason that people are unemployed is because they have lost their jobs?

Commissioner Hall. Yes.

Senator Klobuchar. But the second reason is people who are returning to the work force are having trouble finding a job.

They can't get a job. And while you did not give me the statistic, we had the statistic on the—did that come from your work, the returning Veterans? Do we want to put that one up again? Which includes the people who are returning Veterans.

So young male Veterans serving after September 2001, 11.2 percent of them are unemployed. So that has helped me to understand this when we look at those statistics.

And then the last thing that you and I have talked about, and you verified pretty much with your own statistics, is just that we are seeing these increasing expenses for the average American family.

The statistics that I used that came from the Consumer Price Index—Consumer Product Index, and from Labor Bureau statistics is a trend from 2000 to 2007—and again you have not verified this number; this is statistics I got from a study, and I will give you the study—where the average American family has lost $1175 a year. And then their expenses have increased over $4000 a year.

Would you say that doesn't surprise you at all?

Commissioner Hall. No, I would say it doesn't.

Senator Klobuchar. Okay, so maybe we're off a few hundred here or there, but it is $5739 for total lost income and increased expenses. And when you add in people who have kids, that is even more.

One of the things I learned from our hearing today was that that is bad on its own, but also because of the decreased spending it leads to more job loss, basically. So you have this chicken and an egg situation.

And while you cannot forecast for the future for me as a new Senator here, I am proud that we have been trying to push for these things that help people: extending the Unemployment Benefits, which we discussed had happened in the last few recessions, which we have been blocked by a filibuster from doing.

Also, the long-term economic plans of trying to reduce expenses, which I think is trickier but something that Washington has not been doing.

And that is looking at a real oil policy with more reliance on alternative energy, and doing more to promote research into hybrid, and electric cars, and alternative fuels beyond corn-based ethanol, the cellulosic ethanol. And you look at some of these other countries like Brazil that have been able to do this with sugar cane because of a government policy that pushed it, and now they don't have to pay for all this expensive oil.

They are not dependent on these foreign countries.

So I want to thank you for this information, because it has really helped me as I go forward, to go back with an even stronger commitment to look at this long-term economic policy, as well as the statistics that show how hard it is getting for the middle class to get by.

What really concerns me is when you look at those numbers for the top one percent, and you think of these tax cuts that have helped that wealthiest group, and where it has gotten us.

It has gotten us to the point where we are much worse off as a country. Now it is starting to hurt the entire economy.

So I think these are things that we will take from this hearing as we go forward to make policy.

I know that you are a numbers person, as you are, Dr. Horrigan, and you are, Mr. Galvin, but I thank you for getting us these numbers on a timely basis so we can move forward.

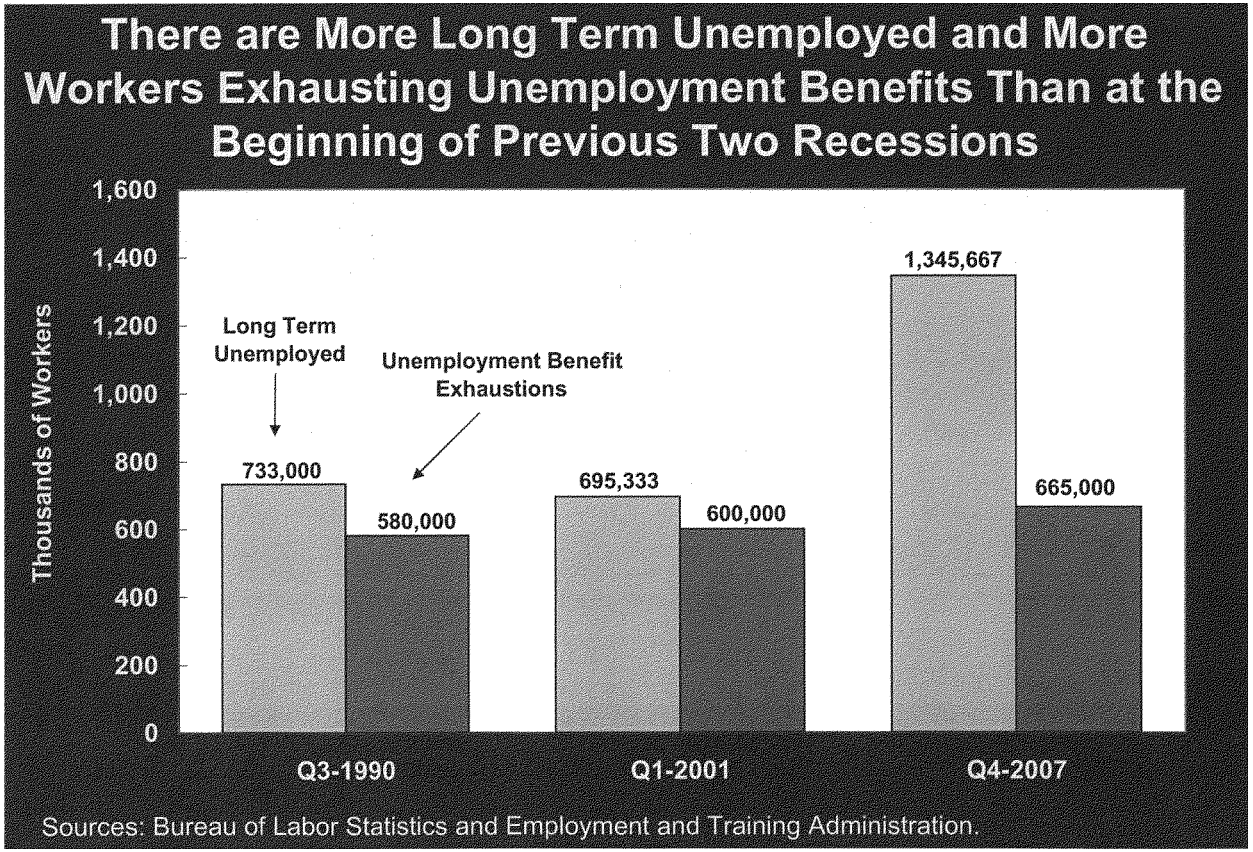
Thank you, very much.

Commissioner Hall. Thank you.

Senator Klobuchar. The hearing is adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 10:48 a.m., Friday, May 2, 2008, the hearing was adjourned.)

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE RECORD


There are More Long Term Unemployed and More Workers Exhausting Unemployment Benefits Than at the Beginning of Previous Two Recessions
Thousands of Workers
1,600
1,400
1,200
1,000
800
600
400
200
0
Long Term Unemployed
Unemployment Benefit Exhaustions
733,000
580,000
695,333
600,000
1,345,667
665,000
Q3-1990
Q1-2001
Q4-2007
Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics and Employment and Training Administration.

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
SENATOR CHARLES E. SCHUMER
CHAIRMAN

SCHUMER ON 4TH CONSECUTIVE MONTH OF JOB LOSSES

In response to the bleak jobs report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Sen. Charles E. Schumer, Chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, released the following statement:

"These numbers are not as bad as they might have been, but for the administration to believe this gives them a green light for their laissez-faire, do-nothing policies would be a huge mistake. The fundamentals of this economy are not very strong, and too many Americans are still losing their jobs everyday."

Since January 260,000 jobs have been lost, including 20,000 alone in the month of April. The unemployment rate at 5.0 percent is essentially unchanged from March and the biggest changes in job losses were in the construction, manufacturing and retail sectors. Average hours were cut across the board in the manufacturing sector and average wages in all sectors were up just one cent/per hour.

The Joint Economic Committee, established under the Employment Act of 1946, was created by Congress to review economic conditions and to analyze the effectiveness of economic policy.

www.jec.senate.gov

# # #

PREPARED STATEMENT OF KEITH HALL

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the April employment and unemployment statistics we released this morning.

Nonfarm payroll employment changed little in April (-20,000), following job losses in the first quarter that averaged 80,000 per month. In April, employment continued to decline in construction, manufacturing, and retail trade, while jobs were added in health care and in professional and technical services. The unemployment rate, at 5.0 percent, was little changed.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment in construction declined by 61,000. Since its peak in September 2006, construction employment has fallen by 457,000. Over the last 6 months, job losses averaged 50,000 per month, compared with an average loss of 12,000 per month from September 2006 to October 2007.

Manufacturing employment continued to decline in April. Job losses totaled 46,000 and were concentrated in durable goods manufacturing. Manufacturing hours fell from 41.2 to 40.9 hours over the month, with reductions widespread across both durable and nondurable industries. Factory overtime was down by one-tenth of an hour.

In the service-providing sector, retail trade employment continued to trend down. Since a peak in March 2007, the industry has shed 137,000 jobs. In April, job declines occurred in building and garden supply stores and in department stores.

Elsewhere in the service-providing sector, health care employment expanded by 37,000, with continued growth in hospitals, home health care, and doctors' offices. Professional and technical services added 27,000 jobs in April, following 3 months in which employment was about unchanged. Employment in food services continued to trend up over the month, although the pace of job growth has slowed in recent months.

Average hourly earnings for production and nonsupervisory workers in the private sector were up by 1 cent, or 0.1 percent, in April and by 3.4 percent over the past 12 months. From March 2007 to March 2008, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI–W) rose by 4.3 percent.

Turning to data from the household survey, both the number of unemployed persons (7.6 million) and the unemployment rate (5.0 percent) were little changed in April. Over the past 12 months, the jobless rate has risen by 0.5 percentage point and the number of unemployed individuals has risen by 797,000. Although the number of unemployed persons who had been searching for work for 27 weeks or more increased by 160,000, their share of total unemployment changed little. Over the month, the number of persons who were unemployed due to job loss was little changed, at 4.0 million, but was up by 698,000 from a year earlier. These job losers accounted for 53 percent of all unemployed persons in April, up from 49 percent 12 months earlier. (Other groups of unemployed persons include those entering the labor market for the first time, those re-entering after an absence, and those who voluntarily leave jobs.)

The number of persons in the labor force was about unchanged over the month, and the labor force participation rate held at 66.0 percent. In April, 62.7 percent of the population was employed, essentially unchanged from the prior month but down from a recent peak of 63.4 percent at the end of 2006. The number of persons working part time who prefer full-time employment rose by 306,000 in April to 5.2 million. Over the past 12 months, involuntary part-time employment has increased by 849,000.

To summarize April's labor market developments, payroll employment was little changed at 137.8 million, as was the unemployment rate, at 5.0 percent.

My colleagues and I now would be glad to answer your questions.

News United States Department of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information:
Household data: (202) 691-6378
http://www.bls.gov/cps/

Establishment data: (202) 691-6555
http://www.bls.gov/ces/
Media contact: (202) 691-5902

USDL 08-0588

Transmission of material in this release is embargoed until 8:30 A.M. (EDT), Friday, May 2, 2008.

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: APRIL 2008

Nonfarm payroll employment was little changed in April (-20,000), following job losses that totaled 240,000 in the first 3 months of the year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The unemployment rate, at 5.0 percent, also was little changed in April. Employment continued to decline in construction, manufacturing, and retail trade, while jobs were added in health care and in professional and technical services.

Chart 1. Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, May 2005 – April 2008

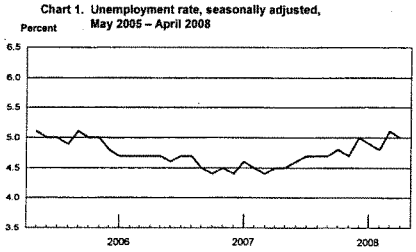
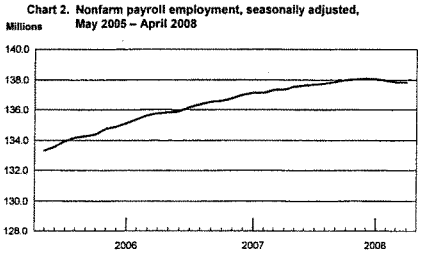


Chart 2. Nonfarm payroll employment, seasonally adjusted, May 2005 – April 2008



Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons (7.6 million) and the unemployment rate (5.0 percent) were little changed in April. A year earlier, the number of unemployed persons was 6.8 million, and the jobless rate was 4.5 percent. Over the month, the unemployment rates for most major worker groups—adult men (4.6 percent), teenagers (15.4 percent), whites (4.4 percent), blacks (8.6 percent), and Hispanics (6.9 percent)—showed little or no change. The jobless rate for adult women decreased to 4.3 percent in April, nearly offsetting an increase in the prior month. The unemployment rate for Asians was 3.2 percent (not seasonally adjusted) in April. (See tables A-1, A-2, and A-3.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Both total employment, at 146.3 million, and the employment-population ratio, at 62.7 percent, were little changed in April. Over the month, the labor force participation rate held at 66.0 percent; it was the same rate a year earlier. (See table A-1.)

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

(Numbers in thousands)

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Mar.-Apr. change
	IV 2007	I 2008	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Labor force status					
Civilian labor force	153,667	153,661	153,374	153,784	153,957	173
Employment	146,291	146,070	145,993	145,969	146,331	362
Unemployment	7,375	7,591	7,381	7,815	7,626	-189
Not in labor force	79,270	79,146	79,436	79,211	79,241	30
	Unemployment rates					
All workers	4.8	4.9	4.8	5.1	5.0	-0.1
Adult men	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.6	4.6	.0
Adult women	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.6	4.3	-.3
Teenagers	16.4	16.8	16.6	15.8	15.4	-.4
White	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.4	-.1
Black or African American	8.6	8.8	8.3	9.0	8.6	-.4
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	5.9	6.5	6.2	6.9	6.9	.0
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Employment					
Nonfarm employment	138,031	p 137,920	137,919	p 137,838	p 137,818	p -20
Goods-producing [1]	22,042	p 21,817	21,816	p 21,728	p 21,618	p -110
Construction	7,521	p 7,381	7,382	p 7,336	p 7,275	p -61
Manufacturing	13,788	p 13,690	13,690	p 13,642	p 13,596	p -46
Service-providing [1]	115,989	p 116,103	116,103	p 116,110	p 116,200	p 90
Retail trade [2]	15,490	p 15,437	15,429	p 15,410	p 15,383	p -27
Professional and business service	18,093	p 18,068	18,073	p 18,029	p 18,068	p 39
Education and health services	18,527	p 18,663	18,665	p 18,708	p 18,760	p 52
Leisure and hospitality	13,622	p 13,660	13,660	p 13,677	p 13,695	p 18
Government	22,291	p 22,358	22,362	p 22,376	p 22,385	p 9
	Hours of work [3]					
Total private	33.8	p 33.7	33.7	p 33.8	p 33.7	p -0.1
Manufacturing	41.2	p 41.1	41.1	p 41.2	p 40.9	p -.3
Overtime	4.1	p 4.0	4.0	p 4.0	p 3.9	p -.1
	Indexes of aggregate weekly hours (2002=100) [3]					
Total private	107.7	p 107.4	107.3	p 107.6	p 107.2	p -0.4
	Earnings [3]					
Average hourly earnings, total private	$17.64	p $17.81	$17.81	p $17.87	p $17.88	p $0.01
Average weekly earnings, total private	596.34	p 600.80	600.20	p 604.01	p 602.56	p -1.45

[1] Includes other industries, not shown separately.

[2] Quarterly averages and the over-the-month change are calculated using unrounded data.

[3] Data relate to private production and nonsupervisory workers.

p = preliminary.

In April, the number of persons working part time for economic reasons increased by 306,000 to 5.2 million. This level was 849,000 higher than in April 2007. These individuals indicated that they 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-5.)

Persons Not in the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

About 1.4 million persons (not seasonally adjusted) were marginally attached to the labor force in April. These individuals 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. Among the marginally attached, there were 412,000 discouraged workers in April, about the same as a year earlier. Discouraged workers were not currently looking for work specifically because they believed no jobs were available for them. The other 1.0 million persons classified as marginally attached to the labor force in April cited reasons such as school attendance or family responsibilities. (See table A-13.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonfarm payroll employment was little changed in April (-20,000). Job losses continued in construction, manufacturing, and retail trade. Employment grew in health care and in professional and technical services. (See table B-1.)

In April, employment in construction declined by 61,000, with losses continuing throughout most of the sector. Since its peak in September 2006, construction employment has fallen by 457,000.

Manufacturing employment fell by 46,000 over the month; nearly all the decline occurred in durable goods manufacturing. In April, large job losses occurred in motor vehicles and parts (-17,000) and in fabricated metal products (-11,000). Declines also occurred in furniture and related products (-4,000) and in semiconductors and electronic components (-3,000). Over the past 12 months, manufacturing employment has declined by 326,000.

Employment in retail trade continued to trend down, with a decrease of 27,000 in April. Since its peak in March 2007, the industry has shed 137,000 jobs. Over the month, job losses continued in building material and garden supply stores (-12,000) and in department stores (-8,000).

Employment in health care continued to increase in April with a gain of 37,000. This industry has added 365,000 jobs over the past 12 months. In April, there were gains of 22,000 jobs in ambulatory health care services and 9,000 jobs in hospitals.

Professional and technical services employment rose by 27,000 in April after showing little change during the first quarter of 2008. Computer systems design added 10,000 jobs over the month and employment in accounting and bookkeeping services edged up by 9,000. Employment in temporary help services continued to trend down.

Employment continued to trend upward in food services in April (18,000), although job gains in this industry have slowed over the past 6 months. Since October 2007, food services employment has grown by an average of 13,000 per month; this compares to an average increase of 28,000 jobs per month for the preceding 12-month period.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

In April, the average workweek for production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls was down by 0.1 hour to 33.7 hours, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing workweek declined by 0.3 hour to 40.9 hours, and factory overtime was down by 0.1 hour to 3.9 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls fell by 0.4 percent in April to 107.2 (2002=100). The manufacturing index declined by 1.2 percent to 92.0. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

In April, average hourly earnings of production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls edged up by 1 cent, or 0.1 percent, to $17.88, seasonally adjusted. This followed gains of 6 cents in February and in March. Average weekly earnings fell by 0.2 percent in April to $602.56. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings increased by 3.4 percent and average weekly earnings rose by 3.1 percent. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for May 2008 is scheduled to be released on Friday, June 6, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

Frequently Asked Questions about Employment and Unemployment Estimates

Why are there two monthly measures of employment?

The household survey and establishment survey both produce sample-based estimates of employment and both have strengths and limitations. The establishment survey employment series has a smaller margin of error on the measurement of month-to-month change than the household survey because of its much larger sample size. An over-the-month employment change of 104,000 is statistically significant in the establishment survey, while the threshold for a statistically significant change in the household survey is about 400,000. However, the household survey has a more expansive scope than the establishment survey because it includes the self-employed, unpaid family workers, agricultural workers, and private household workers, who are excluded by the establishment survey. The household survey also provides estimates of employment for demographic groups.

Are undocumented immigrants counted in the surveys?

Neither the establishment nor household survey is designed to identify the legal status of workers. Thus, while it is likely that both surveys include at least some undocumented immigrants, it is not possible to determine how many are counted in either survey. The household survey does include questions about whether respondents were born outside the United States. Data from these questions show that foreign-born workers accounted for 15.7 percent of the labor force in 2007 and 47.7 percent of the net increase in the labor force from 2000 to 2007.

Why does the establishment survey have revisions?

The establishment survey revises published estimates to improve its data series by incorporating additional information that was not available at the time of the initial publication of the estimates. The establishment survey revises its initial monthly estimates twice, in the immediately succeeding 2 months, to incorporate additional sample receipts from respondents in the survey. For more information on the monthly revisions, please visit http://www.bls.gov/ces/cesrevinfo.htm.

On an annual basis, the establishment survey incorporates a benchmark revision that re-anchors estimates to nearly complete employment counts available from unemployment insurance tax records. The benchmark helps to control for sampling and modeling errors in the estimates. For more information on the annual benchmark revision, please visit http://www.bls.gov/web/cesbmart.htm.

Has the establishment survey understated employment growth because it excludes the self-employed?

While the establishment survey excludes the self-employed, the household survey provides monthly estimates of unincorporated self-employment. These estimates have shown no substantial growth in recent years.

Does the establishment survey sample include small firms?

Yes; about 40 percent of the establishment survey sample is comprised of business establishments with fewer than 20 employees. The establishment survey sample is designed to maximize the reliability of the total nonfarm employment estimate; firms from all size classes and industries are appropriately sampled to achieve that goal.

Does the establishment survey account for employment from new businesses?

Yes; monthly establishment survey estimates include an adjustment to account for the net employment change generated by business births and deaths. The adjustment comes from an econometric model that forecasts the monthly net jobs impact of business births and deaths based on the actual past values of the net impact that can be observed with a lag from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. The establishment survey uses modeling rather than sampling for this purpose because the survey is not immediately able to bring new businesses into the sample. There is an unavoidable lag between the birth of a new firm and its appearance on the sampling frame and availability for selection. BLS adds new businesses to the survey twice a year.

Is the count of unemployed persons limited to just those people receiving unemployment insurance benefits?

No; the estimate of unemployment is based on a monthly sample survey of households. All persons who are without jobs and are actively seeking and available to work are included among the unemployed. (People on temporary layoff are included even if they do not actively seek work.) There is no requirement or question relating to unemployment insurance benefits in the monthly survey.

Does the official unemployment rate exclude people who have stopped looking for work?

Yes; however, there are separate estimates of persons outside the labor force who want a job, including those who have stopped looking because they believe no jobs are available (discouraged workers). In addition, alternative measures of labor underutilization (discouraged workers and other groups not officially counted as unemployed) are published each month in the Employment Situation news release.

Technical Note

This news release presents statistics from two major surveys, the Current Population Survey (household survey) and the Current Employment Statistics survey (establishment survey). The household survey provides the information on the labor force, employment, and unemployment that appears in the A tables, marked HOUSEHOLD DATA. It is a sample survey of about 60,000 households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

The establishment survey provides the information on the employment, hours, and earnings of workers on nonfarm payrolls that appears in the B tables, marked ESTABLISHMENT DATA. This information is collected from payroll records by BLS in cooperation with state agencies. The sample includes about 160,000 businesses and government agencies covering approximately 400,000 individual worksites. The active sample includes about one-third of all nonfarm payroll workers. The sample is drawn from a sampling frame of unemployment insurance tax accounts.

For both surveys, the data for a given month relate to a particular week or pay period. In the household survey, the reference week is generally the calendar week that contains the 12th day of the month. In the establishment survey, the reference period is the pay period including the 12th, which may or may not correspond directly to the calendar week.

Coverage, definitions, and differences between surveys

Household survey. The sample is selected to reflect the entire civilian noninstitutional population. Based on responses to a series of questions on work and job search activities, each person 16 years and over in a sample household is classified as employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force.

People are classified as *employed* if they did any work at all as paid employees during the reference week; worked in their own business, profession, or on their own farm; or worked without pay at least 15 hours in a family business or farm. People are also counted as employed if they were temporarily absent from their jobs because of illness, bad weather, vacation, labor-management disputes, or personal reasons.

People are classified as *unemployed* if they meet all of the following criteria: They had no employment during the reference week; they were available for work at that time; and they made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the 4-week period ending with the reference week. Persons laid off from a job and expecting recall need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed. The unemployment data derived from the household survey in no way depend upon the eligibility for or receipt of unemployment insurance benefits.

The *civilian labor force* is the sum of employed and unemployed persons. Those not classified as employed or unemployed are *not in the labor force*. The *unemployment rate* is the number unemployed as a percent of the labor force. The *labor force participation rate* is the labor force as a percent of the population, and the *employment-population ratio* is the employed as a percent of the population.

Establishment survey. The sample establishments are drawn from private nonfarm businesses such as factories, offices, and stores, as well as federal, state, and local government entities. *Employees on nonfarm payrolls* are those who received pay for any part of the reference pay period, including persons on paid leave. Persons are counted in each job they hold. *Hours and earnings* data are for private businesses and relate only to production workers in the goods-producing sector and nonsupervisory workers in the service-providing sector. Industries are classified on the basis of their principal activity in accordance with the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System.

Differences in employment estimates. The numerous conceptual and methodological differences between the household and establishment surveys result in important distinctions in the employment estimates derived from the surveys. Among these are:

- The household survey includes agricultural workers, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers among the employed. These groups are excluded from the establishment survey.
- The household survey includes people on unpaid leave among the employed. The establishment survey does not.
- The household survey is limited to workers 16 years of age and older. The establishment survey is not limited by age.
- The household survey has no duplication of individuals, because individuals are counted only once, even if they hold more than one job. In the establishment survey, employees working at more than one job and thus appearing on more than one payroll would be counted separately for each appearance.

Seasonal adjustment

Over the course of a year, the size of the nation's labor force and the levels of employment and unemployment undergo sharp fluctuations due to such seasonal events as changes in weather, reduced or expanded production, harvests, major holidays, and the opening and closing of schools. The effect of such seasonal variation can be very large; seasonal fluctuations may account for as much as 95 percent of the month-to-month changes in unemployment.

Because these seasonal events follow a more or less regular pattern each year, their influence on statistical trends can be eliminated by adjusting the statistics from month to month. These adjustments make nonseasonal developments, such as declines in economic activity or increases in the participation of women in the labor force, easier to spot. For example, the large number of youth entering the labor force each June is likely to obscure any other changes that have taken place relative to May, making it difficult to determine if the level of economic activity has risen or declined. However, because the effect of students finishing school in previous years is known, the statistics for the current year can be adjusted to allow for a comparable change. Insofar as the seasonal adjustment is made correctly, the adjusted figure provides a more useful tool with which to analyze changes in economic activity.

Most seasonally adjusted series are independently adjusted in both the household and establishment surveys. However, the ad-

justed series for many major estimates, such as total payroll employment, employment in most supersectors, total employment, and unemployment are computed by aggregating independently adjusted component series. For example, total unemployment is derived by summing the adjusted series for four major age-sex components; this differs from the unemployment estimate that would be obtained by directly adjusting the total or by combining the duration, reasons, or more detailed age categories.

For both the household and establishment surveys, a concurrent seasonal adjustment methodology is used in which new seasonal factors are calculated each month, using all relevant data, up to and including the data for the current month. In the household survey, new seasonal factors are used to adjust only the current month's data. In the establishment survey, however, new seasonal factors are used each month to adjust the three most recent monthly estimates. In both surveys, revisions to historical data are made once a year.

Reliability of the estimates

Statistics based on the household and establishment surveys are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. When a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimates may differ from the "true" population values they represent. The exact difference, or *sampling error*, varies depending on the particular sample selected, and this variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. There is about a 90-percent chance, or level of confidence, that an estimate based on a sample will differ by no more than 1.6 standard errors from the "true" population value because of sampling error. BLS analyses are generally conducted at the 90-percent level of confidence.

For example, the confidence interval for the monthly change in total employment from the household survey is on the order of plus or minus 430,000. Suppose the estimate of total employment increases by 100,000 from one month to the next. The 90-percent confidence interval on the monthly change would range from -330,000 to 530,000 (100,000 +/- 430,000). These figures do not mean that the sample results are off by these magnitudes, but rather that there is about a 90-percent chance that the "true" over-the-month change lies within this interval. Since this range includes values of less than zero, we could not say with confidence that employment had, in fact, increased. If, however, the reported employment rise was half a million, then all of the values within the 90-percent confidence interval would be greater than zero. In this case, it is likely (at least a 90-percent chance) that an employment rise had, in fact, occurred. At an unemployment rate of around 5.5 percent, the 90-percent confidence interval for the monthly change in unemployment is about +/- 280,000, and for the monthly change in the unemployment rate it is about +/- .19 percentage point.

In general, estimates involving many individuals or establishments have lower standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) than estimates which are based on a small number of observations. The precision of estimates is also improved when the data are cumulated over time such as for quarterly and annual averages. The seasonal adjustment process can also improve the stability of the monthly estimates.

The household and establishment surveys are also affected by *nonsampling error*. Nonsampling errors can occur for many reasons, including the failure to sample a segment of the population, inability to obtain information for all respondents in the sample, inability or unwillingness of respondents to provide correct information on a timely basis, mistakes made by respondents, and errors made in the collection or processing of the data.

For example, in the establishment survey, estimates for the most recent 2 months are based on incomplete returns; for this reason, these estimates are labeled preliminary in the tables. It is only after two successive revisions to a monthly estimate, when nearly all sample reports have been received, that the estimate is considered final.

Another major source of nonsampling error in the establishment survey is the inability to capture, on a timely basis, employment generated by new firms. To correct for this systematic underestimation of employment growth, an estimation procedure with two components is used to account for business births. The first component uses business deaths to impute employment for business births. This is incorporated into the sample-based link relative estimate procedure by simply not reflecting sample units going out of business, but imputing to them the same trend as the other firms in the sample. The second component is an ARIMA time series model designed to estimate the residual net birth/death employment not accounted for by the imputation. The historical time series used to create and test the ARIMA model was derived from the unemployment insurance universe micro-level database, and reflects the actual residual net of births and deaths over the past five years.

The sample-based estimates from the establishment survey are adjusted once a year (on a lagged basis) to universe counts of payroll employment obtained from administrative records of the unemployment insurance program. The difference between the March sample-based employment estimates and the March universe counts is known as a benchmark revision, and serves as a rough proxy for total survey error. The new benchmarks also incorporate changes in the classification of industries. Over the past decade, the benchmark revision for total nonfarm employment has averaged 0.2 percent, ranging from less than 0.1 percent to 0.6 percent.

Other information

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.

Table A-1. Employment status of the civilian population by sex and age

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, sex, and age	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted [1]					
	Apr. 2007	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2007	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008
TOTAL									
Civilian noninstitutional population	231,253	232,995	233,198	231,253	233,156	232,616	232,809	232,995	233,198
Civilian labor force	151,829	153,135	153,208	152,542	153,866	153,824	153,374	153,784	153,957
Participation rate	65.7	65.7	65.7	66.0	66.0	66.1	65.9	66.0	66.0
Employed	145,297	145,108	145,921	145,713	146,211	146,248	145,993	145,969	146,331
Employment-population ratio	62.8	62.3	62.6	63.0	62.7	62.9	62.7	62.6	62.7
Unemployed	6,532	8,027	7,287	6,829	7,655	7,576	7,381	7,815	7,626
Unemployment rate	4.3	5.2	4.8	4.5	5.0	4.9	4.8	5.1	5.0
Not in labor force	79,423	79,860	79,990	78,711	79,290	78,792	79,436	79,211	79,241
Persons who currently want a job	4,729	4,492	4,677	4,815	4,697	4,857	4,772	4,730	4,755
Men, 16 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	111,849	112,695	112,803	111,849	112,852	112,493	112,596	112,695	112,803
Civilian labor force	81,665	81,849	81,864	82,036	82,448	82,355	82,132	82,184	82,256
Participation rate	73.0	72.6	72.6	73.3	73.1	73.2	72.9	72.9	72.9
Employed	78,013	77,198	77,745	78,293	78,260	78,157	78,113	77,948	78,038
Employment-population ratio	69.7	68.5	68.9	70.0	69.3	69.5	69.4	69.2	69.2
Unemployed	3,651	4,651	4,119	3,743	4,188	4,197	4,019	4,236	4,218
Unemployment rate	4.5	5.7	5.0	4.6	5.1	5.1	4.9	5.2	5.1
Not in labor force	30,184	30,846	30,939	29,814	30,404	30,139	30,464	30,511	30,547
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	103,248	104,052	104,152	103,248	104,197	103,866	103,961	104,052	104,152
Civilian labor force	78,315	78,691	78,632	78,428	79,004	78,864	78,748	78,838	78,776
Participation rate	75.9	75.6	75.5	76.0	75.8	75.9	75.7	75.8	75.6
Employed	75,218	74,620	75,048	75,279	75,499	75,427	75,362	75,197	75,148
Employment-population ratio	72.9	71.7	72.1	72.9	72.5	72.6	72.5	72.3	72.2
Unemployed	3,097	4,071	3,584	3,149	3,505	3,437	3,386	3,641	3,628
Unemployment rate	4.0	5.2	4.6	4.0	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.6	4.6
Not in labor force	24,933	25,362	25,520	24,820	25,193	25,002	25,213	25,214	25,376
Women, 16 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	119,403	120,300	120,396	119,403	120,304	120,123	120,213	120,300	120,396
Civilian labor force	70,164	71,286	71,344	70,506	71,418	71,469	71,241	71,600	71,701
Participation rate	58.8	59.3	59.3	59.0	59.4	59.5	59.3	59.5	59.6
Employed	67,284	67,911	68,176	67,420	67,951	68,091	67,880	68,021	68,293
Employment-population ratio	56.3	56.5	56.6	56.5	56.5	56.7	56.5	56.5	56.7
Unemployed	2,881	3,376	3,168	3,086	3,467	3,378	3,361	3,579	3,408
Unemployment rate	4.1	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.9	4.7	4.7	5.0	4.8
Not in labor force	49,239	49,014	49,052	48,897	48,886	48,654	48,972	48,700	48,694
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	111,057	111,902	111,990	111,057	111,903	111,739	111,822	111,902	111,990
Civilian labor force	66,973	68,115	68,053	67,077	67,866	67,982	67,816	68,159	68,176
Participation rate	60.3	60.9	60.8	60.4	60.6	60.8	60.6	60.9	60.9
Employed	64,530	65,142	65,329	64,479	64,912	65,098	64,950	65,055	65,260
Employment-population ratio	58.1	58.2	58.3	58.1	58.0	58.3	58.1	58.1	58.3
Unemployed	2,443	2,974	2,724	2,597	2,954	2,885	2,865	3,104	2,916
Unemployment rate	3.6	4.4	4.0	3.9	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.6	4.3
Not in labor force	44,084	43,786	43,937	43,980	44,037	43,756	44,006	43,743	43,814
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian noninstitutional population	16,948	17,041	17,056	16,948	17,056	17,012	17,027	17,041	17,056
Civilian labor force	6,541	6,329	6,523	7,037	6,996	6,978	6,810	6,787	7,005
Participation rate	38.6	37.1	38.2	41.5	41.0	41.0	40.0	39.8	41.1
Employed	5,549	5,347	5,544	5,954	5,801	5,724	5,681	5,717	5,923
Employment-population ratio	32.7	31.4	32.5	35.1	34.0	33.6	33.4	33.5	34.7
Unemployed	992	982	979	1,082	1,196	1,254	1,130	1,070	1,082
Unemployment rate	15.2	15.5	15.0	15.4	17.1	18.0	16.6	15.8	15.4
Not in labor force	10,407	10,712	10,533	9,911	10,059	10,034	10,216	10,254	10,051

[1] The population figures are not adjusted for seasonal variation; therefore, identical numbers appear in the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted columns.
NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table A-2. Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, and age

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, race, sex, and age	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted [1]					
	Apr. 2007	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2007	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008
WHITE									
Civilian noninstitutional population	187,843	189,019	189,147	187,843	189,093	188,787	188,906	189,019	189,147
Civilian labor force	123,944	124,679	124,599	124,433	125,460	125,340	124,940	125,190	125,171
Participation rate	66.0	66.0	65.9	66.2	66.3	66.4	66.1	66.2	66.2
Employed	119,231	118,827	119,341	119,505	119,889	119,858	119,534	119,574	119,667
Employment-population ratio	63.5	62.9	63.1	63.6	63.4	63.5	63.3	63.3	63.3
Unemployed	4,713	5,853	5,258	4,928	5,571	5,482	5,406	5,616	5,504
Unemployment rate	3.8	4.7	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.4
Not in labor force	63,899	64,339	64,548	63,410	63,633	63,447	63,966	63,829	63,975
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	65,104	65,292	65,110	65,135	65,506	65,470	65,270	65,342	65,183
Participation rate	76.4	76.1	75.8	76.4	76.3	76.4	76.1	76.2	75.9
Employed	62,857	62,214	62,483	62,837	62,929	62,924	62,745	62,665	62,507
Employment-population ratio	73.8	72.5	72.8	73.7	73.3	73.5	73.2	73.1	72.8
Unemployed	2,247	3,078	2,627	2,298	2,577	2,546	2,524	2,677	2,676
Unemployment rate	3.5	4.7	4.0	3.5	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.1	4.1
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	53,443	54,201	54,102	53,496	54,286	54,192	54,078	54,264	54,211
Participation rate	59.6	60.1	60.0	59.7	60.2	60.2	60.0	60.2	60.1
Employed	51,677	52,093	52,195	51,640	52,107	52,143	52,004	52,061	52,182
Employment-population ratio	57.7	57.8	57.9	57.6	57.8	57.9	57.7	57.7	57.8
Unemployed	1,766	2,108	1,907	1,857	2,179	2,049	2,075	2,202	2,029
Unemployment rate	3.3	3.9	3.5	3.5	4.0	3.8	3.8	4.1	3.7
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian labor force	5,397	5,187	5,386	5,801	5,668	5,678	5,592	5,584	5,777
Participation rate	41.4	39.7	41.2	44.5	43.3	43.5	42.8	42.7	44.2
Employed	4,698	4,519	4,663	5,029	4,853	4,791	4,785	4,848	4,978
Employment-population ratio	36.1	34.6	35.7	38.6	37.1	36.7	36.6	37.1	38.1
Unemployed	699	667	723	773	815	887	807	736	799
Unemployment rate	13.0	12.9	13.4	13.3	14.4	15.6	14.4	13.2	13.8
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN									
Civilian noninstitutional population	27,385	27,709	27,746	27,385	27,704	27,640	27,675	27,709	27,746
Civilian labor force	17,353	17,601	17,654	17,483	17,538	17,713	17,632	17,702	17,753
Participation rate	63.4	63.5	63.6	63.8	63.3	64.1	63.7	63.9	64.0
Employed	15,997	16,010	16,207	16,048	15,961	16,090	16,169	16,116	16,234
Employment-population ratio	58.4	57.8	58.4	58.6	57.6	58.2	58.4	58.2	58.5
Unemployed	1,356	1,591	1,447	1,435	1,577	1,623	1,463	1,586	1,520
Unemployment rate	7.8	9.0	8.2	8.2	9.0	9.2	8.3	9.0	8.6
Not in labor force	10,032	10,109	10,092	9,902	10,165	9,927	10,043	10,007	9,992
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	7,801	7,839	7,905	7,849	7,883	7,916	7,947	7,922	7,945
Participation rate	70.8	70.4	70.9	71.3	70.7	71.3	71.5	71.2	71.3
Employed	7,163	7,140	7,243	7,196	7,218	7,259	7,320	7,255	7,278
Employment-population ratio	65.1	64.1	65.0	65.4	64.7	65.4	65.8	65.2	65.3
Unemployed	638	698	662	652	665	656	627	667	667
Unemployment rate	8.2	8.9	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.3	7.9	8.4	8.4
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	8,787	9,032	9,039	8,792	8,803	8,921	8,866	9,016	9,038
Participation rate	63.9	64.9	64.9	64.0	63.4	64.3	63.8	64.8	64.9
Employed	8,296	8,368	8,419	8,268	8,187	8,266	8,289	8,336	8,374
Employment-population ratio	60.4	60.2	60.4	60.2	59.0	59.6	59.6	59.9	60.1
Unemployed	491	664	620	525	617	654	577	680	664
Unemployment rate	5.6	7.3	6.9	6.0	7.0	7.3	6.5	7.5	7.4
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian labor force	765	730	710	842	851	876	819	764	771
Participation rate	29.1	27.4	26.6	32.0	32.0	33.0	30.8	28.7	28.9
Employed	537	501	545	584	556	564	560	525	582
Employment-population ratio	20.4	18.8	20.4	22.2	20.9	21.2	21.0	19.7	21.8
Unemployed	228	229	165	258	295	313	259	239	189
Unemployment rate	29.8	31.3	23.3	30.6	34.7	35.7	31.7	31.3	24.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table A-2. Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, and age — Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, race, sex, and age	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted [1]					
	Apr. 2007	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2007	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008
ASIAN									
Civilian noninstitutional population	10,545	10,645	10,658	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Civilian labor force	6,951	7,184	7,220	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Participation rate	65.9	67.5	67.7	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Employed	6,723	6,928	6,985	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Employment-population ratio	63.8	65.1	65.5	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Unemployed	228	256	234	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Unemployment rate	3.3	3.6	3.2	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Not in labor force	3,594	3,462	3,438	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)

[1] The population figures are not adjusted for seasonal variation; therefore, identical numbers appear in the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted columns.
[2] Data not available.

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups will not sum to totals shown in table A-1 because data are not presented for all races. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table A-3. Employment status of the Hispanic or Latino population by sex and age

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, sex, and age	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted [1]					
	Apr. 2007	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2007	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008
HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY									
Civilian noninstitutional population	31,147	31,820	31,911	31,147	31,903	31,643	31,732	31,820	31,911
Civilian labor force	21,434	21,750	21,901	21,436	21,888	21,698	21,755	21,775	21,917
Participation rate	68.8	68.4	68.6	68.8	68.6	68.6	68.6	68.4	68.7
Employed	20,328	20,162	20,456	20,263	20,517	20,320	20,401	20,269	20,404
Employment-population ratio	65.3	63.4	64.1	65.1	64.3	64.2	64.3	63.7	63.9
Unemployed	1,106	1,588	1,445	1,173	1,371	1,378	1,354	1,507	1,512
Unemployment rate	5.2	7.3	6.6	5.5	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.9	6.9
Not in labor force	9,714	10,071	10,010	9,711	10,016	9,946	9,977	10,045	9,994
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	12,376	12,554	12,495	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Participation rate	85.1	84.7	84.1	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Employed	11,860	11,655	11,769	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Employment-population ratio	81.6	78.6	79.2	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Unemployed	516	899	726	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Unemployment rate	4.2	7.2	5.8	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	7,999	8,100	8,272	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Participation rate	58.4	57.9	59.0	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Employed	7,590	7,606	7,774	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Employment-population ratio	55.4	54.4	55.4	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Unemployed	409	494	497	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Unemployment rate	5.1	6.1	6.0	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian labor force	1,060	1,096	1,134	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Participation rate	36.3	36.5	37.6	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Employed	878	900	913	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Employment-population ratio	30.1	30.0	30.3	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Unemployed	182	195	222	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Unemployment rate	17.1	17.8	19.5	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)

[1] The population figures are not adjusted for seasonal variation; therefore, identical numbers appear in the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted columns.
[2] Data not available.

NOTE: Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table A-4. Employment status of the civilian population 25 years and over by educational attainment

(Numbers in thousands)

Educational attainment	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Apr. 2007	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2007	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008
Less than a high school diploma									
Civilian labor force	12,799	12,032	12,280	12,616	12,291	12,305	12,127	12,058	12,095
Participation rate	46.6	45.9	46.2	45.9	46.5	46.0	46.4	46.0	45.5
Employed	11,918	10,894	11,353	11,719	11,358	11,362	11,236	11,071	11,157
Employment-population ratio	43.4	41.6	42.7	42.7	42.9	42.5	43.0	42.3	42.0
Unemployed	881	1,138	927	898	933	943	891	986	938
Unemployment rate	6.9	9.5	7.6	7.1	7.6	7.7	7.3	8.2	7.8
High school graduates, no college [1]									
Civilian labor force	38,354	38,148	37,703	38,353	38,841	38,364	38,078	37,952	37,926
Participation rate	62.7	62.7	62.2	62.7	62.9	62.9	62.6	62.3	62.6
Employed	36,798	36,027	35,837	36,774	37,034	36,587	36,303	36,016	36,032
Employment-population ratio	60.1	59.2	59.1	60.1	60.0	59.9	59.7	59.1	59.5
Unemployed	1,557	2,121	1,865	1,579	1,807	1,778	1,775	1,936	1,894
Unemployment rate	4.1	5.6	4.9	4.1	4.7	4.6	4.7	5.1	5.0
Some college or associate degree									
Civilian labor force	35,669	36,489	36,635	35,773	36,279	36,492	36,437	36,548	36,688
Participation rate	72.3	72.0	72.1	72.5	72.0	72.5	72.0	72.1	72.2
Employed	34,405	34,990	35,219	34,493	34,924	35,187	35,086	35,142	35,271
Employment-population ratio	69.8	69.0	69.3	69.9	69.3	69.9	69.4	69.3	69.4
Unemployed	1,263	1,498	1,415	1,279	1,355	1,305	1,351	1,405	1,417
Unemployment rate	3.5	4.1	3.9	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9
Bachelor's degree and higher [2]									
Civilian labor force	43,565	45,375	45,234	43,485	44,448	44,604	45,226	45,459	45,309
Participation rate	77.9	78.5	78.3	77.8	77.9	78.0	78.1	78.6	78.4
Employed	42,809	44,451	44,351	42,692	43,476	43,651	44,283	44,501	44,376
Employment-population ratio	76.5	76.9	76.7	76.3	76.2	76.4	76.5	77.0	76.8
Unemployed	757	923	883	793	972	953	944	958	933
Unemployment rate	1.7	2.0	2.0	1.8	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1

[1] Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

[2] Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data. See box note in the BLS news release USDL 07-0486, "The Employment Situation: March 2007," issued on April 6, 2007, for a discussion of technical issues regarding educational attainment data.

Table A-5. Employed persons by class of worker and part-time status

(In thousands)

Category	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Apr. 2007	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2007	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008
CLASS OF WORKER									
Agriculture and related industries	2,040	2,057	2,074	2,053	2,248	2,213	2,213	2,192	2,109
Wage and salary workers	1,166	1,218	1,203	1,196	1,368	1,259	1,324	1,331	1,244
Self-employed workers	856	816	840	851	874	936	873	849	839
Unpaid family workers	18	23	31	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Nonagricultural industries	143,257	143,051	143,847	143,678	143,933	144,052	143,820	143,796	144,258
Wage and salary workers	133,513	133,849	134,369	133,893	134,605	134,755	134,259	134,411	134,761
Government	21,320	21,484	21,657	21,036	20,780	20,907	21,252	21,262	21,333
Private industries	112,193	112,365	112,712	112,819	113,872	113,846	112,972	113,142	113,394
Private households	819	744	780	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Other industries	111,374	111,621	111,932	111,993	113,035	113,042	112,212	112,383	112,650
Self-employed workers	9,641	9,103	9,353	9,690	9,242	9,161	9,410	9,224	9,355
Unpaid family workers	103	99	125	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
PERSONS AT WORK PART TIME [2]									
All industries:									
Part time for economic reasons	4,205	5,038	5,071	4,371	4,665	4,769	4,884	4,914	5,220
Slack work or business conditions	2,729	3,404	3,456	2,854	3,174	3,247	3,291	3,323	3,558
Could only find part-time work	1,236	1,382	1,348	1,238	1,236	1,163	1,222	1,362	1,323
Part time for noneconomic reasons	20,336	19,853	20,607	19,919	19,526	19,613	19,348	19,409	19,809
Nonagricultural industries:									
Part time for economic reasons	4,127	4,911	4,978	4,301	4,577	4,677	4,790	4,797	5,125
Slack work or business conditions	2,681	3,313	3,389	2,830	3,120	3,174	3,231	3,238	3,513
Could only find part-time work	1,226	1,370	1,345	1,232	1,219	1,149	1,216	1,354	1,331
Part time for noneconomic reasons	20,001	19,553	20,289	19,550	19,225	19,296	19,019	19,072	19,456

[1] Data not available.

[2] Persons at work excludes employed persons who were absent from their jobs during the entire reference week for reasons such as vacation, illness, or industrial dispute. Part time for noneconomic reasons excludes persons who usually work full time but worked only 1 to 34 hours during the reference week for reasons such as holidays, illness, and bad weather.

NOTE: Detail for the seasonally adjusted data shown in this table will not necessarily add to totals because of the independent seasonal adjustment of the various series. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table A-6. Selected employment indicators

(In thousands)

Characteristic	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Apr. 2007	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2007	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008
AGE AND SEX									
Total, 16 years and over	145,297	145,108	145,921	145,713	146,211	146,248	145,993	145,969	146,331
16 to 19 years	5,549	5,347	5,544	5,954	5,801	5,724	5,681	5,717	5,923
16 to 17 years	2,129	1,904	1,898	2,305	2,183	2,121	2,109	2,125	2,072
18 to 19 years	3,420	3,443	3,646	3,621	3,626	3,603	3,579	3,578	3,847
20 years and over	139,748	139,762	140,377	139,758	140,410	140,524	140,312	140,252	140,408
20 to 24 years	13,819	13,399	13,617	13,989	13,702	13,794	13,632	13,657	13,761
25 years and over	125,929	126,363	126,760	125,691	126,675	126,640	126,644	126,574	126,595
25 to 54 years	100,476	99,686	100,035	100,373	100,496	100,174	100,057	99,948	99,964
25 to 34 years	31,565	31,388	31,615	31,588	31,633	31,530	31,599	31,581	31,639
35 to 44 years	34,457	33,731	33,835	34,365	34,086	33,931	33,863	33,783	33,740
45 to 54 years	34,454	34,567	34,584	34,420	34,777	34,713	34,595	34,585	34,586
55 years and over	25,453	26,677	26,725	25,318	26,179	26,466	26,587	26,626	26,631
Men, 16 years and over	78,013	77,198	77,745	78,293	78,260	78,157	78,113	77,948	78,038
16 to 19 years	2,795	2,578	2,697	3,013	2,761	2,731	2,751	2,751	2,890
16 to 17 years	1,059	864	863	1,141	986	950	966	971	937
18 to 19 years	1,736	1,714	1,833	1,858	1,766	1,780	1,782	1,780	1,948
20 years and over	75,218	74,620	75,048	75,279	75,499	75,427	75,362	75,197	75,148
20 to 24 years	7,285	7,099	7,186	7,404	7,244	7,312	7,219	7,268	7,299
25 years and over	67,934	67,521	67,862	67,842	68,264	68,060	68,129	67,938	67,809
25 to 54 years	54,426	53,455	53,684	54,385	54,383	54,041	54,016	53,847	53,678
25 to 34 years	17,433	17,051	17,285	17,475	17,451	17,348	17,346	17,255	17,321
35 to 44 years	18,823	18,245	18,213	18,783	18,507	18,335	18,400	18,359	18,180
45 to 54 years	18,170	18,159	18,186	18,126	18,425	18,357	18,270	18,233	18,177
55 years and over	13,508	14,066	14,179	13,456	13,882	14,020	14,113	14,091	14,131
Women, 16 years and over	67,284	67,911	68,176	67,420	67,951	68,091	67,880	68,021	68,293
16 to 19 years	2,754	2,769	2,847	2,941	3,040	2,993	2,929	2,966	3,033
16 to 17 years	1,070	1,039	1,034	1,164	1,197	1,171	1,143	1,154	1,136
18 to 19 years	1,684	1,729	1,812	1,763	1,860	1,823	1,797	1,798	1,899
20 years and over	64,530	65,142	65,329	64,479	64,912	65,098	64,950	65,055	65,260
20 to 24 years	6,534	6,300	6,431	6,585	6,458	6,482	6,414	6,389	6,463
25 years and over	57,996	58,842	58,898	57,849	58,411	58,580	58,515	58,636	58,786
25 to 54 years	46,050	46,231	46,351	45,988	46,113	46,133	46,041	46,101	46,286
25 to 34 years	14,132	14,337	14,330	14,112	14,182	14,182	14,254	14,326	14,318
35 to 44 years	15,634	15,486	15,622	15,582	15,579	15,596	15,463	15,423	15,559
45 to 54 years	16,284	16,409	16,399	16,294	16,352	16,355	16,325	16,352	16,409
55 years and over	11,945	12,611	12,547	11,861	12,297	12,447	12,474	12,535	12,500
MARITAL STATUS									
Married men, spouse present	46,488	45,916	46,002	46,466	46,213	46,063	46,136	45,961	45,964
Married women, spouse present	36,101	35,864	36,331	36,009	35,565	35,536	35,648	35,749	36,177
Women who maintain families	9,135	9,093	9,111	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
FULL- OR PART-TIME STATUS									
Full-time workers [2]	119,609	119,875	120,027	120,322	121,428	121,202	121,275	121,231	120,856
Part-time workers [3]	25,688	25,233	25,894	25,258	24,740	25,043	24,697	24,691	25,245
MULTIPLE JOBHOLDERS									
Total multiple jobholders	7,846	7,499	7,630	7,944	7,416	7,557	7,582	7,449	7,644
Percent of total employed	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.5	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2

[1] Data not available.
[2] Employed full-time workers are persons who usually work 35 hours or more per week.
[3] Employed part-time workers are persons who usually work less than 35 hours per week.

NOTE: Detail for the seasonally adjusted data shown in this table will not necessarily add to totals because of the independent seasonal adjustment of the various series. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table A-7. Selected unemployment indicators, seasonally adjusted

Characteristic	Number of unemployed persons (in thousands)			Unemployment rates [1]					
	Apr. 2007	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2007	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008
AGE AND SEX									
Total, 16 years and over	6,829	7,815	7,626	4.5	5.0	4.9	4.8	5.1	5.0
16 to 19 years	1,082	1,070	1,082	15.4	17.1	18.0	16.6	15.8	15.4
16 to 17 years	459	485	509	16.6	19.6	20.4	18.3	18.6	19.7
18 to 19 years	641	584	583	15.0	15.4	15.9	15.5	14.0	13.2
20 years and over	5,746	6,745	6,544	3.9	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.6	4.5
20 to 24 years	1,191	1,394	1,345	7.8	9.4	8.7	8.9	9.3	8.9
25 years and over	4,546	5,294	5,179	3.5	3.9	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.9
25 to 54 years	3,753	4,342	4,333	3.6	4.1	3.9	3.9	4.2	4.2
25 to 34 years	1,453	1,775	1,690	4.4	4.9	4.9	4.8	5.3	5.1
35 to 44 years	1,197	1,321	1,350	3.4	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.8
45 to 54 years	1,102	1,246	1,293	3.1	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.6
55 years and over	795	931	838	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.0
Men, 16 years and over	3,743	4,236	4,218	4.6	5.1	5.1	4.9	5.2	5.1
16 to 19 years	594	595	590	16.5	19.8	21.8	18.7	17.8	16.9
16 to 17 years	243	273	267	17.5	22.1	24.0	20.5	22.0	22.2
18 to 19 years	365	320	330	16.4	18.4	19.5	18.0	15.2	14.5
20 years and over	3,149	3,641	3,628	4.0	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.6	4.6
20 to 24 years	700	830	804	8.6	9.8	9.4	9.9	10.3	9.9
25 years and over	2,443	2,807	2,816	3.5	3.8	3.8	3.7	4.0	4.0
25 to 54 years	1,995	2,324	2,385	3.5	4.0	4.0	3.8	4.1	4.3
25 to 34 years	776	977	916	4.2	5.1	5.1	4.8	5.4	5.0
35 to 44 years	620	690	753	3.2	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.6	4.0
45 to 54 years	600	657	716	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.8
55 years and over	447	482	431	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.0
Women, 16 years and over	3,086	3,579	3,408	4.4	4.9	4.7	4.7	5.0	4.8
16 to 19 years	488	475	492	14.2	14.4	14.2	14.5	13.8	14.0
16 to 17 years	216	212	242	15.7	17.3	17.2	16.2	15.5	17.5
18 to 19 years	275	265	253	13.5	12.3	12.1	12.8	12.8	11.8
20 years and over	2,597	3,104	2,916	3.9	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.6	4.3
20 to 24 years	492	563	542	6.9	8.8	8.0	7.7	8.1	7.7
25 years and over	2,103	2,488	2,363	3.5	3.9	3.8	3.6	4.1	3.9
25 to 54 years	1,758	2,018	1,949	3.7	4.1	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.0
25 to 34 years	678	798	774	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.7	5.3	5.1
35 to 44 years	577	631	598	3.6	4.0	3.6	3.9	3.9	3.7
45 to 54 years	502	589	577	3.0	3.8	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4
55 years and over [2]	311	438	366	2.5	2.9	3.4	3.3	3.4	2.8
MARITAL STATUS									
Married men, spouse present	1,198	1,337	1,319	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8
Married women, spouse present	1,004	1,226	1,115	2.7	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.0
Women who maintain families [2]	605	694	661	6.2	6.9	7.0	6.7	7.1	6.8
FULL- OR PART-TIME STATUS									
Full-time workers [3]	5,528	6,415	6,328	4.4	4.9	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.0
Part-time workers [4]	1,326	1,377	1,303	5.0	5.6	5.4	5.0	5.3	4.9

[1] Unemployment as a percent of the civilian labor force.
[2] Not seasonally adjusted.
[3] Full-time workers are unemployed persons who have expressed a desire to work full time (35 hours or more per week) or are on layoff from full-time jobs.
[4] Part-time workers are unemployed persons who have expressed a desire to work part time (less than 35 hours per week) or are on layoff from part-time jobs.

NOTE: Detail for the seasonally adjusted data shown in this table will not necessarily add to totals because of the independent seasonal adjustment of the various series. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table A-8. Unemployed persons by reason for unemployment

(Numbers in thousands)

Reason	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Apr. 2007	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2007	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008
NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED									
Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs	3,249	4,555	3,931	3,316	3,857	3,796	3,854	4,154	4,014
On temporary layoff	954	1,341	1,053	1,019	975	1,040	971	1,056	1,099
Not on temporary layoff	2,295	3,214	2,878	2,297	2,882	2,756	2,883	3,098	2,915
Permanent job losers	1,625	2,276	2,114	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])
Persons who completed temporary jobs	670	938	764	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])
Job leavers	713	768	816	749	798	830	769	781	850
Reentrants	2,030	2,103	1,995	2,169	2,343	2,201	2,112	2,117	2,134
New entrants	540	601	545	599	697	667	648	681	624
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION									
Total unemployed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs	49.7	56.7	53.9	48.5	50.1	50.7	52.2	53.7	52.7
On temporary layoff	14.6	16.7	14.4	14.9	12.7	13.9	13.2	13.7	14.4
Not on temporary layoff	35.1	40.0	39.5	33.6	37.5	36.8	39.0	40.1	38.2
Job leavers	10.9	9.6	11.2	11.0	10.4	11.1	10.4	10.1	11.2
Reentrants	31.1	26.2	27.4	31.7	30.4	29.4	28.6	27.4	28.0
New entrants	8.3	7.5	7.5	8.8	9.1	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.2
UNEMPLOYED AS A PERCENT OF THE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE									
Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs	2.1	3.0	2.6	2.2	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.6
Job leavers	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.6
Reentrants	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
New entrants	.4	.4	.4	.4	.5	.4	.4	.4	.4

[1] Data not available.

NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table A-9. Unemployed persons by duration of unemployment

(Numbers in thousands)

Duration	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Apr. 2007	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2007	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008
NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED									
Less than 5 weeks	2,141	2,550	2,151	2,442	2,793	2,634	2,639	2,767	2,484
5 to 14 weeks	1,909	2,782	2,225	2,147	2,330	2,396	2,396	2,525	2,495
15 weeks and over	2,482	2,696	2,911	2,259	2,520	2,503	2,377	2,400	2,626
15 to 26 weeks	1,221	1,339	1,473	1,066	1,182	1,124	1,079	1,118	1,272
27 weeks and over	1,261	1,357	1,439	1,193	1,338	1,380	1,299	1,282	1,353
Average (mean) duration, in weeks	18.3	16.9	18.3	17.0	16.6	17.5	16.8	16.2	16.9
Median duration, in weeks	10.1	9.4	11.0	8.6	8.4	8.8	8.4	8.1	9.3
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION									
Total unemployed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 5 weeks	32.8	31.8	29.5	35.7	36.5	35.0	35.6	36.0	32.7
5 to 14 weeks	29.2	34.7	30.5	31.4	30.5	31.8	32.3	32.8	32.8
15 weeks and over	38.0	33.6	40.0	33.0	33.0	33.2	32.1	31.2	34.5
15 to 26 weeks	18.7	16.7	20.2	15.6	15.5	14.9	14.6	14.5	16.7
27 weeks and over	19.3	16.9	19.7	17.4	17.5	18.3	17.5	16.7	17.8

NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table A-10. Employed and unemployed persons by occupation, not seasonally adjusted

(Numbers in thousands)

Occupation	Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rates	
	Apr. 2007	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2007	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2007	Apr. 2008
Total, 16 years and over [1]	145,297	145,921	6,532	7,287	4.3	4.8
Management, professional, and related occupations	51,955	52,819	952	1,088	1.8	2.0
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	21,447	21,621	419	467	1.9	2.1
Professional and related occupations	30,507	31,198	533	621	1.7	2.0
Service occupations	23,858	24,064	1,361	1,406	5.4	5.5
Sales and office occupations	36,262	36,222	1,492	1,605	4.0	4.2
Sales and related occupations	16,814	16,381	804	741	4.6	4.3
Office and administrative support occupations	19,447	19,841	688	865	3.4	4.2
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	15,459	14,673	1,058	1,381	6.4	8.6
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	945	954	85	111	8.2	10.5
Construction and extraction occupations	9,422	8,628	809	1,097	7.9	11.3
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	5,092	5,091	165	173	3.1	3.3
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	17,764	18,144	1,110	1,239	5.9	6.4
Production occupations	9,394	9,196	633	679	6.3	6.9
Transportation and material moving occupations	8,370	8,948	477	560	5.4	5.9

[1] Persons with no previous work experience and persons whose last job was in the Armed Forces are included in the unemployed total.
NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table A-11. Unemployed persons by industry and class of worker, not seasonally adjusted

Industry and class of worker	Number of unemployed persons (in thousands)		Unemployment rates	
	Apr. 2007	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2007	Apr. 2008
Total, 16 years and over [1]	6,532	7,287	4.3	4.8
Nonagricultural private wage and salary workers	5,276	5,923	4.5	5.0
Mining	17	28	2.3	3.6
Construction	853	1,057	8.6	11.1
Manufacturing	749	796	4.6	4.8
Durable goods	467	505	4.4	4.8
Nondurable goods	282	291	4.8	5.0
Wholesale and retail trade	872	919	4.2	4.5
Transportation and utilities	188	245	3.3	4.0
Information	77	143	2.4	4.4
Financial activities	231	324	2.4	3.4
Professional and business services	689	736	5.0	5.3
Education and health services	555	551	2.9	2.8
Leisure and hospitality	822	874	6.9	6.9
Other services	224	251	3.6	4.0
Agriculture and related private wage and salary workers	67	108	5.7	8.6
Government workers	408	373	1.9	1.7
Self employed and unpaid family workers	240	338	2.2	3.2

[1] Persons with no previous work experience are included in the unemployed total.
NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table A-12. Alternative measures of labor underutilization

(Percent)

Measure	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Apr. 2007	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2007	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008
U-1 Persons unemployed 15 weeks or longer, as a percent of the civilian labor force	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7
U-2 Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs, as a percent of the civilian labor force	2.1	3.0	2.6	2.2	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.6
U-3 Total unemployed, as a percent of the civilian labor force (official unemployment rate)	4.3	5.2	4.8	4.5	5.0	4.9	4.8	5.1	5.0
U-4 Total unemployed plus discouraged workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers	4.6	5.5	5.0	4.7	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.2
U-5 Total unemployed, plus discouraged workers, plus all other marginally attached workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers	5.2	6.1	5.6	5.3	5.8	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.8
U-6 Total unemployed, plus all marginally attached workers, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers	7.9	9.3	8.9	8.2	8.8	9.0	8.9	9.1	9.2

NOTE: Marginally attached workers are persons who currently are neither working nor looking for work but indicate that they want and are available for a job and have looked for work sometime in the recent past. Discouraged workers, a subset of the marginally attached, have given a job-market related reason for not looking currently for a job. Persons employed part time for economic reasons are those who want and are available for full-time work but have had to settle for a part-time schedule. For more information, see "BLS introduces new range of alternative unemployment measures," in the October 1995 issue of the Monthly Labor Review. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table A-13. Persons not in the labor force and multiple jobholders by sex, not seasonally adjusted

(Numbers in thousands)

Category	Total		Men		Women	
	Apr. 2007	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2007	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2007	Apr. 2008
NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE						
Total not in the labor force	79,423	79,990	30,184	30,939	49,239	49,052
Persons who currently want a job	4,729	4,677	2,161	2,152	2,567	2,525
Searched for work and available to work now [1]	1,391	1,414	680	726	711	688
Reason not currently looking:						
Discouragement over job prospects [2]	399	412	235	250	163	162
Reasons other than discouragement [3]	992	1,002	444	476	548	526
MULTIPLE JOBHOLDERS						
Total multiple jobholders [4]	7,846	7,630	3,975	3,852	3,871	3,779
Percent of total employed	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.8	5.5
Primary job full time, secondary job part time	4,332	4,197	2,516	2,336	1,816	1,861
Primary and secondary jobs both part time	1,783	1,811	521	586	1,263	1,225
Primary and secondary jobs both full time	240	248	175	165	65	82
Hours vary on primary or secondary job	1,446	1,333	746	741	700	592

[1] Data refer to persons who have searched for work during the prior 12 months and were available to take a job during the reference week.

[2] Includes thinks no work available, could not find work, lacks schooling or training, employer thinks too young or old, and other types of discrimination.

[3] Includes those who did not actively look for work in the prior 4 weeks for such reasons as school or family responsibilities, ill health, and transportation problems, as well as a small number for which reason for nonparticipation was not determined.

[4] Includes persons who work part time on their primary job and full time on their secondary job(s), not shown separately.

NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table B-1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail

(In thousands)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted						
	Apr. 2007	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008[p]	Apr. 2008[p]	Apr. 2007	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008[p]	Apr. 2008[p]	Change from: Mar. 2008-Apr. 2008[p]
Total nonfarm	137,341	136,439	137,019	137,722	137,356	138,078	138,002	137,919	137,838	137,818	-20
Total private	114,777	113,745	114,228	114,934	115,195	115,745	115,666	115,557	115,462	115,433	-29
Goods-producing	22,099	21,260	21,308	21,395	22,300	21,976	21,907	21,816	21,728	21,618	-110
Natural resources and mining	710	728	737	739	718	739	744	744	750	747	-3
Logging	57.1	58.4	56.4	56.0	61.9	60.6	60.7	60.2	59.5	60.5	1.0
Mining	652.8	669.2	680.9	682.9	656.3	677.9	683.2	684.0	690.0	686.8	-3.2
Oil and gas extraction	142.1	152.9	154.5	152.2	143.0	153.1	154.5	153.8	155.0	153.5	-1.5
Mining, except oil and gas[1]	221.4	215.3	218.5	222.5	223.3	225.2	227.0	225.7	225.9	225.1	-.8
Coal mining	77.4	78.3	79.0	78.5	77.4	78.3	78.6	78.7	78.9	78.6	-.3
Support activities for mining	289.3	301.0	307.9	308.2	290.0	299.6	301.7	304.5	309.1	308.2	-.9
Construction	7,513	6,939	6,997	7,111	7,660	7,465	7,426	7,382	7,336	7,275	-61
Construction of buildings	1,743.3	1,600.9	1,608.5	1,613.6	1,777.2	1,702.4	1,690.2	1,673.0	1,665.6	1,650.0	-15.6
Residential building	945.5	837.1	839.8	840.6	964.5	902.0	891.9	877.0	871.3	860.6	-10.7
Nonresidential building	797.8	763.8	768.7	773.0	812.7	800.4	798.3	796.0	794.3	789.4	-4.9
Heavy and civil engineering construction	977.1	878.2	896.1	927.6	1,005.9	993.8	984.6	977.6	975.1	959.4	-15.7
Specialty trade contractors	4,792.7	4,459.4	4,492.7	4,569.3	4,876.5	4,768.4	4,750.8	4,731.8	4,695.5	4,665.4	-30.1
Residential specialty trade contractors	2,275.4	2,031.0	2,038.7	2,066.5	2,318.2	2,201.1	2,176.2	2,164.2	2,138.8	2,116.4	-22.4
Nonresidential specialty trade contractors	2,517.3	2,428.4	2,454.0	2,502.8	2,558.3	2,567.3	2,574.6	2,567.6	2,556.7	2,549.0	-7.7
Manufacturing	13,876	13,593	13,574	13,545	13,922	13,772	13,737	13,690	13,642	13,596	-46
Production workers	9,954	9,797	9,789	9,763	9,987	9,933	9,922	9,879	9,847	9,803	-44
Durable goods	8,841	8,640	8,625	8,598	8,847	8,739	8,718	8,685	8,651	8,608	-43
Production workers	6,268	6,143	6,132	6,114	6,266	6,220	6,214	6,182	6,155	6,118	-37
Wood products	518.2	487.1	484.7	485.9	523.1	507.2	503.5	498.6	493.6	491.5	-2.1
Nonmetallic mineral products	500.8	474.7	476.5	482.4	503.6	496.4	494.4	492.2	487.7	486.5	-1.2
Primary metals	460.6	451.8	451.7	453.1	459.3	452.2	452.3	451.4	451.6	451.7	.1
Fabricated metal products	1,559.7	1,550.9	1,552.3	1,542.4	1,561.7	1,562.7	1,560.9	1,557.1	1,555.6	1,544.3	-11.3
Machinery	1,184.5	1,190.0	1,196.5	1,193.1	1,184.3	1,191.0	1,193.8	1,191.7	1,195.7	1,193.4	-2.3
Computer and electronic products[1]	1,273.3	1,249.3	1,252.2	1,249.6	1,277.6	1,257.6	1,256.3	1,251.9	1,255.1	1,253.2	-1.9
Computer and peripheral equipment	187.7	185.4	185.7	185.5	188.8	185.4	184.9	185.9	186.0	186.1	.1
Communications equipment	127.9	128.7	129.2	130.3	128.1	129.0	129.5	128.7	129.6	130.6	1.0
Semiconductors and electronic components	447.4	428.3	427.7	425.1	448.2	434.9	433.5	429.7	428.7	425.4	-3.3
Electronic instruments	442.3	442.6	446.1	445.3	443.8	443.7	444.3	442.9	446.9	446.9	.0
Electrical equipment and appliances	427.7	419.5	419.3	420.5	428.2	423.8	421.6	420.8	419.9	420.8	.9
Transportation equipment[1]	1,732.8	1,672.9	1,651.6	1,634.6	1,725.3	1,684.7	1,678.1	1,672.0	1,648.1	1,629.1	-19.0
Motor vehicles and parts[2]	1,022.1	951.8	929.5	914.9	1,012.8	962.6	956.6	950.4	925.7	908.6	-17.1
Furniture and related products	540.4	511.4	510.0	507.7	539.8	523.8	520.4	516.0	511.8	507.7	-4.1
Miscellaneous manufacturing	643.4	632.1	630.5	628.2	644.0	639.9	636.4	633.3	631.8	629.4	-2.4
Nondurable goods	5,035	4,953	4,949	4,947	5,075	5,033	5,019	5,005	4,991	4,988	-3
Production workers	3,686	3,654	3,657	3,649	3,721	3,713	3,708	3,697	3,692	3,685	-7
Food manufacturing	1,444.0	1,454.6	1,449.6	1,448.2	1,475.0	1,486.3	1,483.2	1,482.7	1,477.9	1,479.6	1.7
Beverages and tobacco products	191.7	184.1	185.5	187.7	195.9	192.0	191.1	189.3	191.0	191.8	.8
Textile mills	172.7	160.5	159.0	155.8	172.6	163.0	162.0	161.4	158.4	156.0	-2.4
Textile product mills	161.0	151.9	153.4	154.3	159.8	155.7	154.0	153.0	153.3	153.1	-.2
Apparel	217.6	198.7	198.2	197.3	217.5	204.8	202.0	200.6	198.4	197.1	-1.3
Leather and allied products	34.0	33.4	33.7	34.0	33.9	33.7	34.5	33.5	33.5	33.8	.3
Paper and paper products	459.0	456.0	455.4	456.5	461.4	460.3	459.0	457.8	457.9	458.8	.9
Printing and related support activities	623.6	610.0	612.8	612.2	625.4	619.5	620.1	614.6	614.4	614.3	-.1
Petroleum and coal products	113.5	109.3	109.7	110.9	114.0	111.7	112.2	112.5	111.9	111.4	-.5
Chemicals	859.3	858.9	859.3	858.6	860.5	862.0	861.2	861.0	860.4	859.9	-.5
Plastics and rubber products	758.7	735.7	732.4	731.4	759.2	744.2	739.7	738.7	733.8	731.9	-1.9

See footnotes at the end of table.

Table B-1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail—Continued

(In thousands)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted						
	Apr. 2007	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008P	Apr. 2008P	Apr. 2007	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008P	Apr. 2008P	Change from: Mar. 2008-Apr. 2008P
Service-providing	115,242	115,179	115,711	116,327	115,056	116,102	116,095	116,103	116,110	116,200	90
Private service-providing	92,678	92,485	92,920	93,539	92,895	93,769	93,759	93,741	93,734	93,815	81
Trade, transportation, and utilities	26,368	26,186	26,265	26,299	26,571	26,658	26,631	26,579	26,560	26,524	-36
Wholesale trade	5,990.6	6,008.1	6,024.0	6,030.0	5,999.8	6,072.9	6,067.3	6,057.6	6,054.1	6,043.5	-10.6
Durable goods	3,114.1	3,108.1	3,116.5	3,111.6	3,117.6	3,145.0	3,138.0	3,127.3	3,127.8	3,117.3	-10.5
Nondurable goods	2,050.8	2,062.4	2,071.6	2,082.7	2,055.8	2,089.3	2,090.9	2,088.4	2,087.8	2,089.3	1.5
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	825.7	837.6	835.9	835.7	826.4	838.6	838.4	841.9	838.5	836.9	-1.6
Retail trade	15,314.1	15,140.1	15,186.4	15,193.8	15,487.0	15,487.8	15,472.2	15,428.8	15,409.5	15,382.7	-26.8
Motor vehicle and parts dealers[1]	1,916.4	1,881.2	1,890.8	1,899.6	1,916.9	1,909.3	1,910.2	1,905.1	1,903.6	1,900.8	-2.8
Automobile dealers	1,246.2	1,226.3	1,229.8	1,229.7	1,246.8	1,244.6	1,244.0	1,236.2	1,235.0	1,231.5	-3.5
Furniture and home furnishings stores	576.9	571.0	563.0	564.3	581.5	584.5	579.9	575.9	570.4	569.9	-.5
Electronics and appliance stores	543.9	530.4	530.9	530.1	550.3	540.4	534.3	533.6	533.9	535.5	1.6
Building material and garden supply stores	1,350.4	1,206.2	1,230.0	1,266.7	1,318.0	1,271.6	1,266.0	1,258.5	1,249.3	1,237.0	-12.3
Food and beverage stores	2,810.5	2,860.7	2,862.6	2,857.8	2,835.1	2,871.9	2,880.1	2,885.7	2,888.4	2,884.0	-4.4
Health and personal care stores	980.3	989.1	988.6	981.5	988.1	999.9	1,000.6	993.5	993.8	990.9	-2.9
Gasoline stations	856.9	842.2	845.7	846.7	862.3	850.5	853.8	854.2	855.4	852.5	-2.9
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	1,447.1	1,435.7	1,448.0	1,447.5	1,492.4	1,508.6	1,498.2	1,496.3	1,499.2	1,498.2	-1.0
Sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores	635.6	655.1	641.9	629.1	654.0	661.6	667.2	661.9	656.6	651.6	-5.0
General merchandise stores[1]	2,921.7	2,878.7	2,907.1	2,891.1	2,984.9	2,976.7	2,971.1	2,955.7	2,951.7	2,953.7	2.0
Department stores	1,529.0	1,497.0	1,497.1	1,473.2	1,581.7	1,568.4	1,564.3	1,543.3	1,536.6	1,528.3	-8.3
Miscellaneous store retailers	851.9	852.7	843.7	849.7	867.4	866.3	869.4	865.3	864.2	865.1	.9
Nonstore retailers	422.5	437.1	434.1	429.7	436.1	446.5	441.4	443.1	443.0	443.5	.5
Transportation and warehousing	4,512.4	4,483.8	4,499.7	4,518.2	4,532.8	4,539.9	4,534.5	4,535.5	4,539.2	4,540.4	1.2
Air transportation	490.8	504.3	505.1	504.4	493.1	502.1	504.7	508.2	507.7	506.3	-1.4
Rail transportation	235.0	231.8	232.4	234.3	235.1	232.5	233.8	233.7	233.9	234.3	.4
Water transportation	62.0	59.5	58.8	59.8	62.8	64.4	63.8	62.5	61.6	61.2	-.4
Truck transportation	1,430.8	1,382.8	1,396.2	1,400.5	1,447.0	1,423.1	1,422.5	1,417.4	1,421.2	1,416.8	-4.4
Transit and ground passenger transportation	420.7	426.3	427.4	433.2	407.3	411.8	411.9	413.5	414.1	418.4	4.3
Pipeline transportation	39.4	40.9	41.0	40.8	39.6	40.8	40.6	40.9	41.0	41.0	.0
Scenic and sightseeing transportation	25.5	24.3	25.7	27.5	29.0	31.3	31.0	31.5	31.5	31.0	-.5
Support activities for transportation	582.1	583.6	583.4	586.6	581.1	587.1	584.9	585.9	585.9	586.3	.4
Couriers and messengers	574.8	581.1	578.6	576.9	580.2	588.1	585.5	586.0	584.3	583.5	-.8
Warehousing and storage	651.3	649.2	651.1	654.2	657.6	658.7	655.8	655.9	658.0	661.6	3.6
Utilities	550.4	553.5	554.7	556.5	551.3	557.1	557.1	557.0	557.4	557.4	.0
Information	3,030	3,006	3,007	3,007	3,034	3,018	3,014	3,016	3,013	3,011	-2
Publishing industries, except Internet	897.8	885.6	882.2	884.1	900.5	889.7	889.2	886.8	883.3	886.7	3.4
Motion picture and sound recording industries	381.2	371.0	378.8	380.6	385.4	376.3	372.9	380.1	383.0	382.8	-.2
Broadcasting, except Internet	327.4	321.8	321.5	319.3	327.9	321.9	323.0	322.1	322.4	320.0	-2.4
Telecommunications	1,028.9	1,023.5	1,019.6	1,019.0	1,028.6	1,026.8	1,025.3	1,022.0	1,019.9	1,019.3	-.6
Data processing, hosting and related services	271.0	273.4	273.6	272.9	268.7	273.5	273.0	274.2	272.3	271.2	-1.1
Other information services	123.5	130.7	131.6	131.1	123.1	129.3	130.5	131.2	131.9	130.8	-1.1
Financial activities	8,291	8,184	8,189	8,201	8,315	8,252	8,244	8,231	8,227	8,230	3
Finance and insurance	6,137.8	6,096.7	6,101.2	6,098.2	6,145.7	6,111.2	6,106.2	6,102.2	6,104.4	6,109.0	4.6
Monetary authorities - central bank	21.4	20.9	20.9	21.1	21.4	20.7	20.7	20.9	21.0	21.1	.1
Credit intermediation and related activities[1]	2,896.7	2,821.4	2,813.4	2,808.0	2,898.1	2,829.2	2,825.0	2,820.4	2,812.7	2,811.1	-1.6
Depository credit intermediation[1]	1,810.8	1,821.5	1,820.1	1,820.3	1,814.7	1,824.6	1,821.5	1,823.3	1,822.5	1,825.3	2.8
Commercial banking	1,337.8	1,343.6	1,343.2	1,343.1	1,338.6	1,345.9	1,342.2	1,344.9	1,343.6	1,344.7	1.1
Securities, commodity contracts, investments	838.5	861.4	865.2	865.1	840.8	856.7	859.2	862.5	865.4	867.6	2.2
Insurance carriers and related activities	2,294.4	2,305.7	2,314.6	2,317.1	2,298.2	2,316.8	2,313.9	2,311.1	2,318.5	2,321.7	3.2
Funds, trusts, and other financial vehicles	86.8	87.3	87.1	86.9	87.2	87.8	87.4	87.3	86.8	87.5	.7
Real estate and rental and leasing	2,153.3	2,086.9	2,087.4	2,102.6	2,168.9	2,140.6	2,138.0	2,128.6	2,122.4	2,121.3	-1.1
Real estate	1,489.8	1,438.7	1,437.5	1,450.4	1,497.7	1,476.4	1,471.4	1,466.0	1,459.9	1,461.3	1.4
Rental and leasing services	635.4	617.1	618.4	620.4	642.8	633.6	635.2	631.0	630.4	627.9	-2.5
Lessors of nonfinancial intangible assets	28.1	31.1	31.5	31.8	28.4	30.6	31.4	31.6	32.1	32.1	.0

See footnotes at the end of table.

Table B-1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail—Continued

(In thousands)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted						
	Apr. 2007	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008p	Apr. 2008p	Apr. 2007	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008p	Apr. 2008p	Change from: Mar. 2008-Apr. 2008p
Professional and business services	17,858	17,753	17,798	18,001	17,903	18,131	18,101	18,073	18,029	18,068	39
Professional and technical services[1]	7,661.5	7,905.1	7,891.1	7,916.3	7,598.1	7,820.5	7,819.2	7,829.2	7,830.9	7,857.7	26.8
Legal services	1,173.5	1,166.1	1,165.4	1,163.8	1,179.5	1,173.9	1,173.0	1,174.9	1,172.3	1,170.6	-1.7
Accounting and bookkeeping services	1,025.5	1,132.5	1,100.9	1,094.2	926.8	993.3	992.3	991.9	988.7	997.8	9.1
Architectural and engineering services	1,411.6	1,441.5	1,441.4	1,447.8	1,424.6	1,460.4	1,460.5	1,463.0	1,461.0	1,462.1	1.1
Computer systems design and related services	1,342.1	1,388.8	1,388.6	1,399.5	1,345.4	1,391.4	1,391.6	1,393.5	1,393.1	1,403.3	10.2
Management and technical consulting services	939.2	982.8	989.9	1,001.4	942.0	994.3	989.2	992.7	998.3	1,004.5	6.2
Management of companies and enterprises	1,835.5	1,832.7	1,831.3	1,831.4	1,839.4	1,847.8	1,845.5	1,844.7	1,842.6	1,841.8	-.8
Administrative and waste services	8,360.5	8,014.7	8,075.4	8,252.9	8,465.4	8,462.8	8,436.2	8,398.6	8,355.0	8,368.9	13.9
Administrative and support services[1]	8,008.9	7,659.6	7,717.8	7,890.7	8,111.6	8,099.3	8,070.8	8,036.1	7,991.2	8,004.3	13.1
Employment services[1]	3,543.2	3,335.0	3,353.0	3,387.7	3,637.4	3,566.9	3,562.1	3,531.6	3,486.8	3,486.5	-.3
Temporary help services	2,553.1	2,381.4	2,396.9	2,420.4	2,626.9	2,578.5	2,574.6	2,536.8	2,511.8	2,502.5	-9.3
Business support services	807.2	798.5	798.7	796.3	806.6	803.7	797.4	796.6	795.5	796.4	.9
Services to buildings and dwellings	1,840.4	1,693.6	1,723.3	1,852.3	1,842.9	1,872.0	1,861.3	1,859.7	1,853.2	1,858.8	5.6
Waste management and remediation services	351.6	355.1	357.6	362.2	353.8	363.5	365.4	362.5	363.8	364.6	.8
Education and health services	18,369	18,773	18,855	18,926	18,211	18,568	18,617	18,665	18,708	18,760	52
Educational services	3,082.4	3,159.9	3,179.6	3,190.0	2,926.3	2,984.5	3,003.4	3,009.6	3,016.8	3,025.9	9.1
Health care and social assistance	15,286.7	15,612.7	15,675.6	15,735.8	15,284.9	15,583.2	15,613.6	15,655.0	15,691.1	15,734.4	43.3
Health care[3]	12,846.6	13,126.8	13,189.9	13,212.0	12,872.7	13,109.6	13,135.6	13,172.7	13,200.5	13,237.4	36.9
Ambulatory health care services[1]	5,431.9	5,579.8	5,601.8	5,629.7	5,438.5	5,566.0	5,581.7	5,600.0	5,614.0	5,635.7	21.7
Offices of physicians	2,186.8	2,241.9	2,246.3	2,254.9	2,192.2	2,235.6	2,240.8	2,248.2	2,252.0	2,259.6	7.6
Outpatient care centers	506.3	511.6	511.6	513.9	505.7	513.0	511.5	512.0	511.4	513.4	2.0
Home health care services	900.5	933.1	940.0	947.9	902.4	930.9	934.7	939.5	943.4	950.1	6.7
Hospitals	4,475.1	4,580.4	4,594.7	4,600.9	4,488.4	4,572.4	4,579.3	4,592.8	4,604.3	4,613.7	9.4
Nursing and residential care facilities[1]	2,939.6	2,966.6	2,973.4	2,981.4	2,945.8	2,971.2	2,974.6	2,979.9	2,982.2	2,988.0	5.8
Nursing care facilities	1,597.1	1,605.4	1,604.4	1,608.9	1,601.4	1,608.2	1,608.8	1,613.3	1,609.1	1,613.3	4.2
Social assistance[1]	2,440.1	2,485.9	2,505.7	2,523.8	2,412.2	2,473.6	2,478.0	2,482.3	2,490.6	2,497.0	6.4
Child day care services	865.8	866.1	875.3	882.0	846.5	857.1	859.2	858.6	861.6	862.6	1.0
Leisure and hospitality	13,272	13,110	13,299	13,573	13,375	13,635	13,644	13,660	13,677	13,695	18
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,908.2	1,813.2	1,858.5	1,963.1	1,959.3	2,010.3	2,016.1	2,019.1	2,020.7	2,018.5	-2.2
Performing arts and spectator sports	409.0	401.8	408.6	435.8	403.3	429.9	429.5	431.0	432.1	431.0	-1.1
Museums, historical sites, zoos, and parks	125.5	119.4	123.9	128.1	128.2	131.5	132.6	131.7	132.6	131.5	-1.1
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	1,373.7	1,292.0	1,326.0	1,399.2	1,427.8	1,448.9	1,454.0	1,456.4	1,456.0	1,456.0	.0
Accommodation and food services	11,364.2	11,296.6	11,440.9	11,610.1	11,415.9	11,624.7	11,628.0	11,640.7	11,656.7	11,676.8	20.1
Accommodation	1,810.1	1,774.1	1,792.4	1,805.4	1,855.9	1,858.1	1,854.9	1,854.4	1,851.9	1,854.0	2.1
Food services and drinking places	9,554.1	9,522.5	9,648.5	9,804.7	9,560.0	9,766.6	9,773.1	9,786.3	9,804.8	9,822.8	18.0
Other services	5,490	5,473	5,507	5,532	5,486	5,507	5,508	5,517	5,520	5,527	7
Repair and maintenance	1,262.4	1,245.7	1,252.8	1,262.6	1,256.3	1,255.5	1,252.9	1,255.2	1,253.4	1,256.7	3.3
Personal and laundry services	1,312.6	1,289.7	1,303.1	1,315.8	1,305.6	1,306.9	1,306.6	1,306.4	1,308.9	1,308.8	-.1
Membership associations and organizations	2,914.7	2,937.8	2,950.9	2,953.9	2,924.2	2,944.4	2,948.9	2,955.6	2,957.9	2,961.6	3.7
Government	22,564	22,694	22,791	22,788	22,161	22,333	22,336	22,362	22,376	22,385	9
Federal	2,719	2,703	2,710	2,722	2,729	2,735	2,717	2,725	2,727	2,731	4
Federal, except U.S. Postal Service	1,958.2	1,968.4	1,976.5	1,987.0	1,964.5	1,972.3	1,977.3	1,982.9	1,986.3	1,990.4	4.1
U.S. Postal Service	760.8	734.5	733.7	735.3	764.7	763.1	739.7	741.6	740.8	740.5	-.3
State government	5,260	5,279	5,307	5,303	5,117	5,153	5,159	5,158	5,160	5,161	1
State government education	2,464.5	2,464.2	2,488.4	2,484.4	2,316.0	2,332.5	2,335.1	2,332.9	2,335.0	2,336.2	1.2
State government, excluding education	2,795.7	2,814.9	2,818.6	2,818.7	2,801.2	2,820.9	2,824.0	2,824.9	2,824.9	2,825.0	.1
Local government	14,585	14,712	14,774	14,763	14,315	14,445	14,460	14,479	14,489	14,493	4
Local government education	8,302.5	8,365.1	8,409.9	8,377.4	7,961.8	8,016.5	8,018.0	8,031.9	8,036.9	8,036.2	-.7
Local government, excluding education	6,282.8	6,346.6	6,364.5	6,385.9	6,353.6	6,428.2	6,441.5	6,447.5	6,451.7	6,457.2	5.5

[1] Includes other industries, not shown separately.

[2] Includes motor vehicles, motor vehicle bodies and trailers, and motor vehicle parts.

[3] Includes ambulatory health care services, hospitals, and nursing and residential care facilities.

p= preliminary.

NOTE: Data reflect the conversion to the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) as the basis for the assignment and tabulation of economic data by industry, replacing NAICS 2002. See http://www.bls.gov/ces/cesnaics07.htm for more details.

Table B-2. Average weekly hours of production and nonsupervisory workers[1] on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted						
	Apr. 2007	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008p	Apr. 2008p	Apr. 2007	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008p	Apr. 2008p	Change from: Mar. 2008-Apr. 2008p
Total private	33.9	33.4	33.8	33.5	33.8	33.8	33.7	33.7	33.8	33.7	-0.1
Goods-producing	40.2	39.7	40.4	40.0	40.5	40.5	40.4	40.4	40.5	40.3	-.2
Natural resources and mining	45.6	45.1	45.7	44.1	45.8	45.8	45.7	45.7	46.2	44.4	-1.8
Construction	38.4	37.5	38.5	38.3	38.9	39.0	38.8	38.7	38.9	38.8	-.1
Manufacturing	41.0	40.7	41.1	40.8	41.1	41.1	41.1	41.1	41.2	40.9	-.3
Overtime hours	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.7	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	-.1
Durable goods	41.2	41.0	41.4	41.1	41.3	41.3	41.4	41.4	41.4	41.2	-.2
Overtime hours	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.8	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	-.1
Wood products	39.5	37.9	38.2	38.0	39.6	39.2	39.0	39.0	38.5	38.1	-.4
Nonmetallic mineral products	42.2	40.7	42.5	41.8	42.3	41.5	42.2	42.1	43.0	42.0	-1.0
Primary metals	43.0	42.4	42.9	41.7	43.0	42.2	42.5	42.4	42.8	41.9	-.9
Fabricated metal products	41.4	41.3	41.7	41.4	41.5	41.6	41.6	41.7	41.7	41.5	-.2
Machinery	42.5	42.8	42.9	42.6	42.5	42.9	43.1	43.0	42.8	42.6	-.2
Computer and electronic products	40.3	40.1	40.9	40.9	40.6	40.5	40.4	40.5	40.9	41.1	.2
Electrical equipment and appliances	41.0	40.6	41.1	40.5	41.0	41.6	41.4	41.1	41.2	40.6	-.6
Transportation equipment	42.4	42.7	42.5	42.0	42.3	42.1	42.6	42.9	42.4	42.0	-.4
Motor vehicles and parts[2]	41.8	42.4	41.9	41.3	41.6	41.6	42.1	42.5	41.7	41.3	-.4
Furniture and related products	38.6	37.7	38.5	38.5	38.9	39.1	38.3	38.2	38.7	38.8	.1
Miscellaneous manufacturing	38.5	38.5	39.4	39.4	38.7	38.8	39.0	38.8	39.2	39.4	.2
Nondurable goods	40.8	40.1	40.5	40.3	40.9	40.8	40.6	40.6	40.7	40.5	-.2
Overtime hours	4.0	3.6	3.8	3.6	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8	-.1
Food manufacturing	40.1	39.8	40.3	40.2	40.6	40.4	40.5	40.6	40.8	40.7	-.1
Beverages and tobacco products	42.0	39.2	39.7	39.5	41.3	40.8	40.5	40.1	40.0	39.3	-.7
Textile mills	40.4	38.4	38.8	38.3	40.2	40.2	38.7	38.8	38.7	38.3	-.4
Textile product mills	39.9	39.1	39.4	38.6	39.9	39.9	38.6	39.3	39.2	38.7	-.5
Apparel	37.3	36.7	37.1	36.8	37.2	37.5	36.7	36.8	36.9	36.7	-.2
Leather and allied products	37.9	37.9	39.0	38.7	37.7	39.1	38.2	38.2	38.6	38.5	-.1
Paper and paper products	42.9	43.3	43.4	43.1	43.0	44.0	44.0	43.9	43.7	43.3	-.4
Printing and related support activities	39.3	38.2	38.7	38.3	39.3	38.8	38.4	38.2	38.6	38.4	-.2
Petroleum and coal products	44.6	42.8	42.8	42.4	44.6	44.0	43.8	43.6	43.4	42.7	-.7
Chemicals	42.3	41.3	41.9	41.6	42.1	41.5	41.6	41.4	41.9	41.5	-.4
Plastics and rubber products	41.3	40.9	41.0	40.9	41.2	41.4	41.1	41.2	41.1	40.9	-.2
Private service-providing	32.6	32.1	32.5	32.2	32.4	32.4	32.4	32.3	32.4	32.4	.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	33.3	32.9	33.3	33.0	33.3	33.3	33.4	33.3	33.4	33.3	-.1
Wholesale trade	38.6	37.9	38.6	38.2	38.1	38.3	38.4	38.2	38.4	38.3	-.1
Retail trade	30.1	29.7	30.0	29.7	30.2	30.1	30.2	30.1	30.1	30.1	.0
Transportation and warehousing	36.8	36.1	36.7	36.5	36.8	36.8	36.6	36.7	36.8	36.9	.1
Utilities	42.5	42.6	43.1	42.7	42.4	42.8	43.1	42.8	43.4	42.6	-.8
Information	36.9	36.0	36.7	36.2	36.6	36.3	36.3	36.2	36.5	36.4	-.1
Financial activities	36.6	35.7	36.2	35.7	35.9	35.8	35.8	35.8	35.8	35.9	.1
Professional and business services	35.1	34.4	35.1	34.7	34.7	34.8	34.7	34.6	34.8	34.7	-.1
Education and health services	32.7	32.5	32.7	32.4	32.6	32.6	32.6	32.6	32.7	32.6	-.1
Leisure and hospitality	25.7	24.9	25.3	25.2	25.6	25.3	25.3	25.3	25.3	25.4	.1
Other services	31.0	30.6	30.9	30.7	31.0	30.8	30.8	30.8	30.9	30.8	-.1

[1] Data relate to production workers in natural resources and mining and manufacturing, construction workers in construction, and nonsupervisory workers in the service-providing industries. These groups account for approximately four-fifths of the total employment on private nonfarm payrolls.

[2] Includes motor vehicles, motor vehicle bodies and trailers, motor vehicle parts.

p = preliminary.

NOTE: Data reflect the conversion to the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) as the basis for the assignment and tabulation of economic data by industry, replacing NAICS 2002. See http://www.bls.gov/ces/cesnaics07.htm for more details.

Table B-3. Average hourly and weekly earnings of production and nonsupervisory workers[1] on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail

Industry	Average hourly earnings				Average weekly earnings			
	Apr. 2007	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008[p]	Apr. 2008[p]	Apr. 2007	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008[p]	Apr. 2008[p]
Total private	$17.36	$17.85	$17.93	$17.90	$588.50	$596.19	$606.03	$599.65
Seasonally adjusted	17.29	17.81	17.87	17.88	584.40	600.20	604.01	602.56
Goods-producing	18.51	18.94	19.04	19.03	744.10	751.92	769.22	761.20
Natural resources and mining	20.94	21.87	22.25	21.66	954.86	986.34	1,016.83	955.21
Construction	20.64	21.35	21.44	21.48	792.58	800.63	825.44	822.68
Manufacturing	17.21	17.55	17.60	17.58	705.61	714.29	723.36	717.26
Durable goods	18.11	18.50	18.53	18.50	746.13	758.50	767.14	760.35
Wood products	13.59	13.82	13.91	13.98	536.81	523.78	531.36	531.24
Nonmetallic mineral products	16.82	16.86	16.78	17.15	709.80	686.20	713.15	716.87
Primary metals	19.72	19.99	20.21	20.07	847.96	847.58	867.01	836.92
Fabricated metal products	16.41	16.78	16.86	16.77	679.37	693.01	703.06	694.28
Machinery	17.71	17.81	17.87	17.94	752.68	762.27	766.62	764.24
Computer and electronic products	19.77	20.60	20.81	20.87	796.73	826.06	851.13	853.58
Electrical equipment and appliances	15.99	15.73	15.66	15.67	655.59	638.64	643.63	634.64
Transportation equipment	22.90	23.48	23.47	23.35	970.96	1,002.60	997.48	980.70
Furniture and related products	14.38	14.37	14.42	14.35	555.07	541.75	555.17	552.48
Miscellaneous manufacturing	14.39	14.95	15.04	14.94	554.02	575.58	592.58	588.64
Nondurable goods	15.66	15.93	16.01	16.01	638.93	638.79	648.41	645.20
Food manufacturing	13.49	13.74	13.82	13.81	540.95	546.85	556.95	555.16
Beverages and tobacco products	18.43	19.64	19.60	19.21	774.06	769.89	778.12	758.80
Textile mills	13.00	13.35	13.45	13.76	525.20	512.64	521.86	527.01
Textile product mills	11.72	11.62	11.80	11.77	467.63	454.34	464.92	454.32
Apparel	10.92	11.46	11.25	11.39	407.32	420.58	417.38	419.15
Leather and allied products	11.88	12.68	12.81	12.65	450.25	480.57	499.59	489.56
Paper and paper products	18.48	18.61	18.70	18.62	792.79	805.81	811.58	802.52
Printing and related support activities	16.01	16.49	16.67	16.71	629.19	629.92	645.13	639.99
Petroleum and coal products	25.11	26.51	27.25	26.93	1,119.91	1,134.63	1,166.30	1,141.83
Chemicals	19.72	19.40	19.34	19.30	834.16	801.22	810.35	802.88
Plastics and rubber products	15.35	15.58	15.73	15.79	633.96	637.22	644.93	645.81
Private service-providing	17.07	17.58	17.66	17.62	556.48	564.32	573.95	567.36
Trade, transportation, and utilities	15.79	16.08	16.15	16.17	525.81	529.03	537.80	533.61
Wholesale trade	19.54	20.03	20.05	20.00	754.24	759.14	773.93	764.00
Retail trade	12.82	12.82	12.90	12.98	385.88	380.75	387.00	385.51
Transportation and warehousing	17.53	18.14	18.18	18.12	645.10	654.85	667.21	661.38
Utilities	27.82	28.61	28.82	28.53	1,182.35	1,218.79	1,242.14	1,218.23
Information	23.95	24.44	24.58	24.59	883.76	879.84	902.09	890.16
Financial activities	19.65	20.07	20.18	20.16	719.19	716.50	730.52	719.71
Professional and business services	20.12	20.77	20.96	20.83	706.21	714.49	735.70	722.80
Education and health services	17.92	18.58	18.61	18.67	585.98	603.85	608.55	604.91
Leisure and hospitality	10.31	10.82	10.80	10.77	264.97	269.42	273.24	271.40
Other services	15.43	15.78	15.85	15.82	478.33	482.87	489.77	485.67

[1] See footnote 1, table B-2.
[p] = preliminary.
NOTE: Data reflect the conversion to the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) as the basis for the assignment and tabulation of economic data by industry, replacing NAICS 2002. See http://www.bls.gov/ces/cesnaics07.htm for more details.

Table B-4. Average hourly earnings of production and nonsupervisory workers[1] on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail, seasonally adjusted

Industry	Apr. 2007	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008p	Apr. 2008p	Percent change from: Mar. 2008-Apr. 2008 p
Total Private:							
Current dollars	$17.29	$17.70	$17.75	$17.81	$17.87	$17.88	0.1
Constant (1982) dollars [2]	8.33	8.27	8.26	8.29	8.28	N.A.	([3])
Goods-producing	18.56	18.90	18.98	19.04	19.12	19.08	-.2
Natural resources and mining	20.78	21.54	21.75	21.69	22.01	21.51	-2.3
Construction	20.76	21.30	21.38	21.47	21.57	21.60	.1
Manufacturing	17.20	17.41	17.49	17.55	17.61	17.57	-.2
Excluding overtime [4]	16.36	16.60	16.68	16.74	16.79	16.77	-.1
Durable goods	18.13	18.33	18.41	18.49	18.54	18.52	-.1
Nondurable goods	15.62	15.86	15.92	15.94	16.03	15.97	-.4
Private service-providing	16.96	17.39	17.44	17.50	17.55	17.58	.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	15.66	16.00	16.02	16.07	16.11	16.12	.1
Wholesale trade	19.39	19.93	19.97	20.00	20.03	20.05	.1
Retail trade	12.71	12.81	12.80	12.84	12.87	12.90	.2
Transportation and warehousing	17.57	18.07	18.10	18.21	18.22	18.18	-.2
Utilities	27.64	28.52	28.61	28.58	28.70	28.39	-1.1
Information	23.84	24.18	24.33	24.41	24.54	24.55	.0
Financial activities	19.56	19.91	20.00	20.05	20.10	20.12	.1
Professional and business services	19.96	20.46	20.53	20.63	20.75	20.82	.3
Education and health services	17.90	18.48	18.54	18.59	18.61	18.67	.3
Leisure and hospitality	10.30	10.65	10.67	10.73	10.76	10.77	.1
Other services	15.29	15.71	15.74	15.76	15.78	15.78	.0

[1] See footnote 1, table B-2.
[2] The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) is used to deflate this series.
[3] Change was -0.1 percent from Feb. 2008 to Mar. 2008, the latest month available.
[4] Derived by assuming that overtime hours are paid at the rate of time and one-half.

N.A. = not available.
p = preliminary.
NOTE: Data reflect the conversion to the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) as the basis for the assignment and tabulation of economic data by industry, replacing NAICS 2002. See http://www.bls.gov/ces/cesnaics07.htm for more details.

Table B-5. Indexes of aggregate weekly hours of production and nonsupervisory workers[1] on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail

(2002=100)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted						
	Apr. 2007	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008p	Apr. 2008p	Apr. 2007	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008p	Apr. 2008p	Percent change from: Mar. 2008-Apr. 2008p
Total private	106.7	104.5	106.3	106.1	106.8	107.8	107.4	107.3	107.6	107.2	-0.4
Goods-producing	99.7	94.9	96.9	96.4	101.5	100.6	100.1	99.6	99.5	98.3	-1.2
Natural resources and mining	129.9	130.4	134.3	129.8	132.2	135.6	136.0	135.8	138.5	132.4	-4.4
Construction	110.3	99.5	103.2	104.5	114.5	112.7	111.4	110.3	110.4	108.7	-1.5
Manufacturing	93.7	91.5	92.3	91.4	94.2	93.7	93.6	93.2	93.1	92.0	-1.2
Durable goods	97.0	94.6	95.4	94.4	97.2	96.5	96.6	96.1	95.7	94.7	-1.0
Wood products	90.1	80.1	80.5	80.5	91.3	86.9	85.7	84.9	83.0	81.8	-1.4
Nonmetallic mineral products	95.9	88.8	93.9	93.4	96.8	94.4	96.8	95.7	97.5	94.7	-2.9
Primary metals	92.5	90.3	91.5	89.5	92.1	89.6	90.3	89.9	91.2	89.6	-1.8
Fabricated metal products	103.7	103.2	104.4	102.6	104.1	104.8	104.9	104.6	104.4	102.9	-1.4
Machinery	102.5	104.7	105.0	104.3	102.5	105.0	105.8	105.4	104.8	104.3	-.5
Computer and electronic products	101.1	100.4	102.8	102.6	102.2	101.7	101.5	101.8	103.0	103.4	.4
Electrical equipment and appliances	88.4	86.4	87.8	86.7	88.5	89.2	88.5	87.8	88.2	87.1	-1.2
Transportation equipment	98.2	95.5	93.7	91.7	97.3	95.2	95.8	95.9	93.3	91.2	-2.3
Motor vehicles and parts [2]	87.4	82.0	78.9	76.2	85.9	81.6	81.9	82.0	78.2	75.4	-3.6
Furniture and related products	86.4	79.1	80.5	80.0	86.7	84.2	82.0	80.9	81.2	80.6	-.7
Miscellaneous manufacturing	90.5	88.7	90.7	90.4	91.0	91.0	91.2	89.5	90.5	90.5	.0
Nondurable goods	88.6	86.3	87.3	86.6	89.7	89.3	88.7	88.4	88.5	87.9	-.7
Food manufacturing	96.6	97.0	98.2	97.5	100.2	101.0	101.0	101.1	101.6	101.2	-.4
Beverages and tobacco products	103.7	82.3	84.6	85.1	104.8	92.3	89.4	87.1	88.8	86.9	-2.1
Textile mills	57.5	51.1	51.3	48.9	57.3	53.8	51.7	51.6	50.7	49.0	-3.4
Textile product mills	79.5	72.6	74.6	74.1	79.1	76.4	72.7	73.5	74.1	73.5	-.8
Apparel	62.2	57.0	57.1	56.8	62.1	60.3	58.2	57.8	56.9	56.6	-.5
Leather and allied products	68.1	69.3	71.4	72.1	67.5	71.5	71.9	70.4	70.1	71.5	2.0
Paper and paper products	84.9	85.8	86.2	85.8	85.8	87.9	87.9	87.4	87.3	86.8	-.6
Printing and related support activities	91.7	88.5	90.1	88.5	92.1	90.6	90.2	89.1	90.0	89.2	-.9
Petroleum and coal products	92.0	93.0	92.2	93.8	93.1	95.1	96.8	98.2	96.5	95.5	-1.0
Chemicals	94.4	95.0	96.9	96.2	93.9	95.6	96.0	95.5	96.9	95.9	-1.0
Plastics and rubber products	91.3	88.1	87.9	87.3	91.0	90.1	89.0	89.1	88.2	87.3	-1.0
Private service-providing	108.7	107.0	108.9	108.7	108.3	109.7	109.7	109.3	109.7	109.8	.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	103.3	101.8	103.4	102.6	104.2	105.1	105.3	104.8	105.0	104.5	-.5
Wholesale trade	109.3	108.6	111.1	110.1	108.1	111.1	111.3	110.6	111.2	110.8	-.4
Retail trade	99.9	97.5	98.8	97.8	101.5	101.4	101.6	100.9	100.7	100.5	-.2
Transportation and warehousing	108.0	106.3	108.5	108.5	108.6	109.5	108.9	109.5	109.9	110.3	.4
Utilities	95.7	96.6	98.1	97.7	95.8	97.5	98.7	97.7	99.3	97.6	-1.7
Information	100.9	98.7	100.8	99.2	100.2	99.7	99.9	99.6	100.3	99.9	-.4
Financial activities	110.3	107.2	108.8	107.5	108.6	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.5	.3
Professional and business services	115.7	112.6	115.2	115.4	114.7	116.7	116.1	115.5	115.8	115.8	.0
Education and health services	113.1	115.1	116.3	115.7	111.8	114.1	114.5	114.8	115.4	115.4	.0
Leisure and hospitality	110.3	105.2	108.6	110.7	110.8	111.6	111.6	111.8	111.9	112.6	.6
Other services	99.4	97.9	99.5	99.4	99.4	99.2	99.3	99.5	99.9	99.6	-.3

[1] See footnote 1, table B-2.

[2] Includes motor vehicles, motor vehicle bodies and trailers, and motor vehicle parts.

p = preliminary.

NOTE: The indexes of aggregate weekly hours are calculated by dividing the current months estimates of aggregate hours by the corresponding 2002 annual average levels. Aggregate hours estimates are the product of estimates of average weekly hours and production and nonsupervisory worker employment.

Data reflect the conversion to the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) as the basis for the assignment and tabulation of economic data by industry, replacing NAICS 2002. See http://www.bls.gov/ces/cesnaics07.htm for more details.

Table B-6. Indexes of aggregate weekly payrolls of production and nonsupervisory workers[1] on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail

(2002=100)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted						
	Apr. 2007	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008P	Apr. 2008P	Apr. 2007	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008P	Apr. 2008P	Percent change from: Mar. 2008-Apr. 2008P
Total private	123.8	124.6	127.3	126.8	123.4	127.5	127.4	127.7	128.4	128.1	-0.2
Goods-producing	113.0	110.1	113.0	112.3	115.4	116.5	116.4	116.1	116.5	114.8	-1.5
Natural resources and mining	158.2	165.8	173.8	163.5	159.7	169.8	172.0	171.2	177.2	165.6	-6.5
Construction	123.0	114.7	119.5	121.2	128.3	129.6	128.6	127.9	128.5	126.8	-1.3
Manufacturing	105.4	105.0	106.3	105.1	106.0	106.7	107.1	107.0	107.2	105.7	-1.4
Durable goods	109.7	109.3	110.3	109.0	110.0	110.4	111.1	111.0	110.8	109.5	-1.2
Nondurable goods	98.1	97.2	98.7	98.0	99.0	100.0	99.8	99.6	100.3	99.2	-1.1
Private service-providing	127.2	129.0	131.9	131.4	126.0	130.8	131.2	131.2	132.0	132.3	.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	116.4	116.7	119.1	118.3	116.4	119.9	120.3	120.1	120.7	120.2	-.4
Wholesale trade	125.8	128.2	131.2	129.7	123.5	130.4	130.9	130.3	131.3	130.8	-.4
Retail trade	109.7	107.1	109.3	108.8	110.6	111.3	111.4	111.0	111.1	111.1	.0
Transportation and warehousing	120.1	122.3	125.1	124.8	121.0	125.5	125.1	126.4	127.0	127.2	.2
Utilities	111.2	115.3	118.0	116.3	110.5	116.1	117.8	116.5	119.0	115.7	-2.8
Information	119.6	119.4	122.7	120.8	118.3	119.4	120.3	120.3	121.8	121.4	-.3
Financial activities	134.0	133.0	135.8	133.9	131.4	133.2	133.8	134.1	134.5	135.0	.4
Professional and business services	138.5	139.2	143.7	143.0	136.3	142.1	141.8	141.8	143.0	143.5	.3
Education and health services	133.2	140.5	142.3	142.0	131.5	138.6	139.5	140.3	141.2	141.7	.4
Leisure and hospitality	129.2	129.3	133.2	135.4	129.7	135.0	135.2	136.2	136.7	137.7	.7
Other services	111.8	112.5	114.9	114.6	110.7	113.6	113.9	114.2	114.8	114.5	-.3

[1] See footnote 1, table B-2.

P = preliminary.

NOTE: The indexes of aggregate weekly payrolls are calculated by dividing the current months estimates of aggregate payrolls by the corresponding 2002 annual average levels. Aggregate payroll estimates are the product of estimates of average hourly earnings, average weekly hours, and production and nonsupervisory worker employment.

Data reflect the conversion to the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) as the basis for the assignment and tabulation of economic data by industry, replacing NAICS 2002. See http://www.bls.gov/ces/cesnaics07.htm for more details.

Table B-7. Diffusion indexes of employment change

(Percent)

Time span	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Private nonfarm payrolls, 274 industries [1]											
Over 1-month span:												
2004	50.5	50.5	64.1	62.6	61.7	58.9	56.0	50.0	56.9	56.9	51.3	51.8
2005	52.2	60.6	54.2	58.2	55.8	58.2	58.0	61.3	54.7	53.6	62.4	54.7
2006	65.1	60.9	64.4	59.3	53.3	52.7	60.4	58.9	53.5	55.8	57.1	56.0
2007	51.6	51.8	52.7	51.1	56.6	50.4	52.2	51.6	56.4	54.6	48.2	48.5
2008	45.4	41.4	P 48.0	P 45.4								
Over 3-month span:												
2004	54.4	52.9	57.3	63.5	68.8	66.6	61.3	56.4	57.7	59.5	61.9	54.6
2005	52.2	55.5	57.5	60.8	58.9	61.9	60.4	63.9	61.1	54.4	54.9	61.3
2006	67.2	66.2	66.6	65.5	60.6	58.2	56.0	58.9	55.7	56.4	57.1	58.4
2007	58.4	54.7	55.3	54.7	56.2	53.3	53.1	54.7	58.4	56.8	54.7	52.4
2008	46.7	42.7	P 41.4	P 42.9								
Over 6-month span:												
2004	50.0	51.6	55.3	60.9	63.7	65.1	65.1	63.9	60.4	61.7	58.2	56.0
2005	54.6	57.3	56.8	57.5	57.5	58.2	64.4	62.8	62.0	59.3	61.5	62.0
2006	63.1	64.4	67.2	67.0	64.4	66.4	61.5	61.7	60.4	59.7	60.8	56.0
2007	59.1	56.4	57.5	56.8	58.8	58.2	56.2	58.0	58.2	57.1	54.6	53.8
2008	51.5	49.8	P 44.9	P 46.5								
Over 12-month span:												
2004	40.5	42.3	45.1	48.9	51.3	58.2	57.5	55.7	57.3	58.8	60.6	60.8
2005	60.6	60.8	59.7	58.9	58.0	60.0	60.9	63.3	60.4	58.9	59.5	61.7
2006	67.2	65.1	65.5	62.6	64.8	66.4	64.4	64.4	66.2	65.1	64.4	65.5
2007	62.6	59.1	60.4	58.9	59.5	58.4	57.5	58.8	61.7	60.4	59.9	57.7
2008	53.8	54.6	P 51.8	P 49.8								
	Manufacturing payrolls, 84 industries [1]											
Over 1-month span:												
2004	43.5	47.6	47.0	63.7	50.6	51.2	58.3	42.9	42.9	48.2	42.3	39.9
2005	36.3	48.8	42.9	44.6	42.3	35.1	38.1	47.0	45.8	46.4	47.0	47.0
2006	57.7	45.8	54.8	48.8	38.1	53.0	50.6	44.0	36.3	40.5	38.1	39.3
2007	47.6	35.7	30.4	29.8	37.5	39.3	41.7	33.3	40.5	45.2	44.6	36.3
2008	40.5	28.6	P 39.3	P 35.1								
Over 3-month span:												
2004	41.1	40.5	43.5	56.5	58.9	61.3	57.7	47.0	46.4	41.7	44.6	38.7
2005	38.1	39.3	42.3	44.6	36.3	37.5	33.3	39.9	45.8	41.7	38.7	49.4
2006	54.8	52.4	47.6	48.8	44.6	50.6	42.9	47.6	36.3	37.5	32.1	34.5
2007	33.9	28.6	32.1	27.4	29.8	32.7	31.0	34.5	32.1	39.3	44.0	41.7
2008	35.7	27.4	P 28.0	P 25.6								
Over 6-month span:												
2004	29.2	31.5	32.7	44.6	49.4	54.8	59.5	56.0	51.2	51.8	44.0	38.7
2005	33.9	38.1	35.1	36.9	32.1	32.1	41.7	35.7	36.3	36.9	37.5	42.3
2006	42.9	45.2	50.6	47.6	48.2	47.6	46.4	48.8	43.5	41.7	38.7	29.8
2007	34.5	27.4	23.8	27.4	31.5	34.5	33.3	31.0	29.2	35.1	34.5	32.7
2008	34.5	33.9	P 33.3	P 33.9								
Over 12-month span:												
2004	13.1	14.3	13.1	20.2	23.2	35.7	36.9	38.1	36.9	44.0	44.6	44.6
2005	44.6	43.5	41.7	40.5	36.3	35.1	32.1	33.9	32.7	33.3	33.3	38.1
2006	44.6	40.5	40.5	39.3	39.3	44.6	41.7	42.3	46.4	48.2	45.2	44.0
2007	39.3	36.3	36.9	28.6	29.8	26.2	26.8	29.2	30.4	29.8	33.3	33.9
2008	29.8	29.8	P 29.2	P 26.2								

[1] Based on seasonally adjusted data for 1-, 3-, and 6-month spans and unadjusted data for the 12-month span.

P = preliminary.

NOTE: Figures are the percent of industries with employment increasing plus one-half of the industries with unchanged employment, where 50 percent indicates an equal balance between industries with increasing and decreasing employment.

Data reflect the conversion to the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) as the basis for the assignment and tabulation of economic data by industry, replacing NAICS 2002. See http://www.bls.gov/ces/cesnaics07.htm for more details.

Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Joint Economic Committee's May 2, 2008, hearing on the Employment Situation report. At the hearing, you requested more information concerning the gap between productivity and compensation growth. The enclosed tables and chart show the difference (gap) between changes in real hourly compensation and changes in output per hour in the nonfarm business sector.

The growth rates in the two measures were very similar between 1947 and 1973, with a gap of only 0.2 percent per your (column C in Table 1). From 1973-2000, however, there was a persistent gap of about a half of a percentage point and the gap widened to 1.2 percent over the 2000-2007 period.

The behavior of these series reflects many complex economic factors and it is difficult to determine the reasons why the gap has been expanding. In an accounting sense, one potential source of the gap is a difference in growth between compensation and nominal output. This is reflected in labor compensation's "share" of the value of output. Column 1 of Table 1 shows that labor's share did not change significantly before 2000 but it does account for the widening of the gap since then (column C). I would note that compensation includes employer-paid contributions to Social Security, private pension and insurance plans and bonuses and stock options (valued when they are exercised). Our measure of real average hourly earnings of production workers, part of the May 2 "Employment Situation" release, excludes these supplemental payments and many types of bonuses and, thus, the gap between this measure and labor productivity would be even larger.

Productivity and related measures vary greatly over short time periods, such as a few quarters or even a few years, so we have emphasize longer-term movements. When we do look at annual data, as in the chart, we tend to see the gap most prominently during the early stages of an expansion. The gap then often narrows or reverses in the late stages of a business cycle, as it did in 1998-2000. We see a narrowing of the gap in 2006 and a reversal in 2007, but so far not enough to offset the large gap that occurred between 2000 and 2005. Real hourly compensation did grow from 2000 to 2005 but output per hour advanced more rapidly.

Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr. – 2

At the hearing, you also asked which industries employed persons who work part time involuntarily. Three industries—food services, retail trade, and construction—account for about two-fifths of these workers. (See Table 2.) Finally, we have prepared a package about the labor market in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This package contains statistics on employment, unemployment, and mass layoffs for the State.

I hope you will find this information useful, and I look forward to continued discussions with you and the Committee about economic developments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on (202) 691-7800.

Sincerely yours,

Keith Hall
Commissioner
Bureau of Labor Statistics

Enclosures

Table 1. Analysis of the Gap Between Real Hourly Compensation and

	Real Hourly Compensation (a)	**Labor Productivity (b)**	**GAP (c = a-b)**	**Labor's Share* (d)**	**Nonlabor payments (including profits) share (e)**
1947-1973	2.6	2.8	-0.2	0.0	0.1
1973-1990	0.7	1.3	-0.6	-0.1	0.2
1990-2000	1.5	2.0	-0.5	0.1	-0.3
2000-2007	1.3	2.5	-1.2	-0.7	1.4

Labor Productivity in the Nonfarm Business Sector
(Annual percentage growth)

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
May 7, 2008

*Note: Labor's share is compensation, including an estimate of the labor earnings of the self-employed, divided by the nominal value of output. Nonlabor payments' share is nominal output less labor compensation.

The Gap Between Real Hourly Compensation and Labor Productivity Changes in the Nonfarm Business Sector

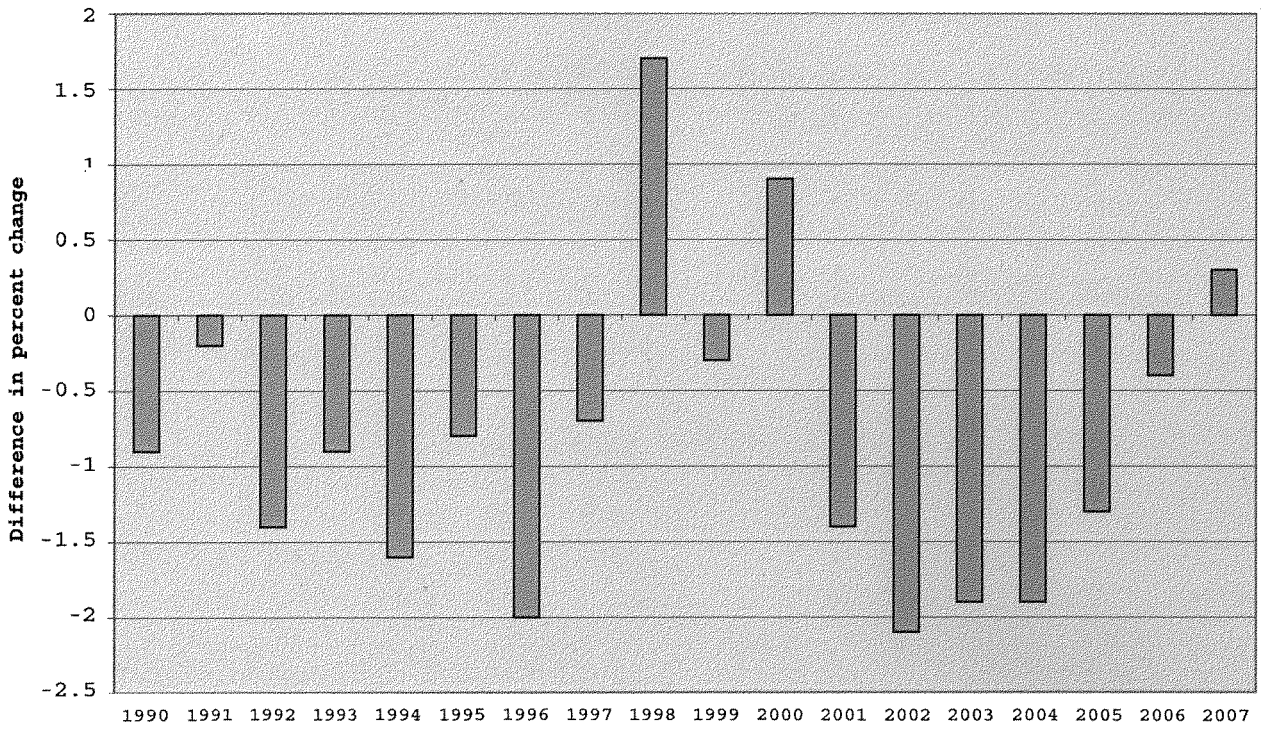


Table 2. Total employment and involuntary part-time employment by class of worker and industry, 2007 annual averages

Industry	Total employment (In thousands)	Percent distribution	Involuntary part-time employment	
			Total (In thousands)	Percent distribution
Total, 16 years and over	146,047	100.0	4,401	100.0
Agriculture and related industries	2,095	1.4	84	1.9
Nonagricultural industries	143,952	98.6	4,317	98.1
Self-employed workers	9,557	6.5	539	12.2
Unpaid family workers	112	0.1	5	0.1
Wage and salary workers	134,283	91.9	3,773	85.7
Mining	717	0.5	5	0.1
Construction	9,952	6.8	488	11.1
Manufacturing	15,948	10.9	251	5.7
Durable goods	10,146	6.9	137	3.1
Nondurable goods	5,803	4.0	114	2.6
Wholesale and retail trade	19,800	13.6	685	15.6
Wholesale trade	4,172	2.9	56	1.3
Retail trade	15,627	10.7	629	14.3
Transportation and utilities	7,240	5.0	186	4.2
Transportation and warehousing	6,047	4.1	180	4.1
Utilities	1,193	0.8	5	0.1
Information	3,431	2.3	61	1.4
Financial activities	9,657	6.6	122	2.8
Finance and insurance	6,964	4.8	49	1.1
Finance	4,543	3.1	39	0.9
Insurance	2,421	1.7	10	0.2
Real estate and rental and leasing	2,692	1.8	73	1.7
Real estate	2,209	1.5	60	1.4
Rental and leasing services	483	0.3	13	0.3

Professional and business services	13,592	9.3	367	8.3
Professional and technical services	8,049	5.5	99	2.2
Management, administrative, and waste services	5,544	3.8	269	6.1
Management of companies and enterprises	159	0.1	1	0.0
Administrative and support services	4,982	3.4	263	6.0
Waste management and remediation services	403	0.3	4	0.1
Education and health services	29,549	20.2	620	14.1
Educational services	12,640	8.7	244	5.5
Health care and social assistance	16,908	11.6	376	8.5
Hospitals	5,940	4.1	69	1.6

Table 2 (Continued). Total Employment and involuntary part-time employment by class of worker and industry, 2007 annual averages

Industry	Total employment (In thousands)	Percent distribution	Involuntary part-time employment	
			Total (In thousands)	Percent distribution
Health services, except hospitals	8,319	5.7	223	5.1
Social assistance	2,649	1.8	84	1.9
Leisure and hospitality	11,716	8.0	721	16.4
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	2,425	1.7	107	2.4
Accommodation and food services	9,291	6.4	614	14.0
Accommodation	1,432	1.0	83	1.9
Food services and drinking places	7,859	5.4	531	12.1
Other services	5,936	4.1	226	5.1
Other services, except private households	5,123	3.5	147	3.3
Repair and maintenance	1,658	1.1	47	1.1
Personal and laundry services	1,629	1.1	64	1.5
Membership associations and organizations	1,836	1.3	36	0.8
Private households	813	0.6	79	1.8
Public administration	6,746	4.6	41	0.9

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

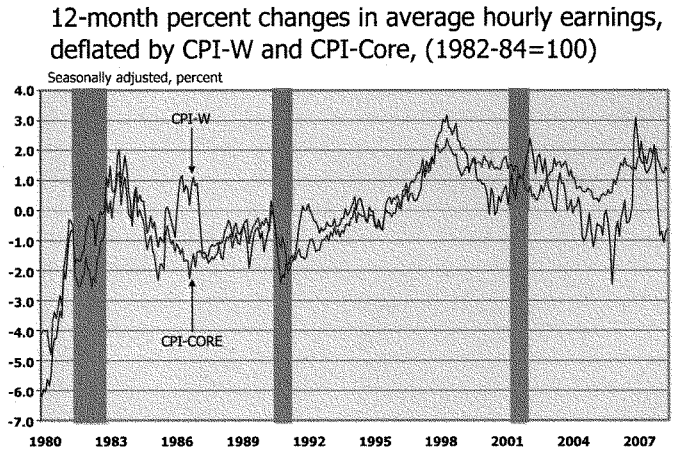
Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Joint Economic Committee's May 2, 2008, hearing on the Employment Situation report. At the hearing, you asked about the change in real earnings since 2000.

The following table shows levels of hourly earnings in both current and constant dollars and the consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers (CPI-W). The changes are based on January 2000 through March 2008, the latest date available for constant dollar earnings.

Series	January 2000	March 2008	Change	Annualized Percent Change
Average Hourly Earnings, current dollars	$13.75	$17.87	$4.12	3.3
Average Hourly Earnings, 1982 dollars	8.03	8.28	0.25	0.4
Consumer Price Index - (W, 1982-84=100)	166.0	209.064	43.1	2.9

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar--2

The following chart shows average hourly earnings deflated by the CPI-W and by the core CPI-W, which excludes the more volatile food and energy prices.



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Indexes program and Current Employment Statistics survey
Note: CPI-W is the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage and Clerical Workers (CPI-W); Core CPI is the CPI-W, less food and energy.

I would like to make a couple of comments on wage growth using the above graph:

- There is a visible business cycle aspect to real earnings growth that is often masked by transitory food and energy inflation/deflation. This can be seen by looking at the red line above (real wages that do not take food and energy prices into account) compared with the blue line (real wages).
- During most of the current economic expansion (2002 through early 2007), the decline in real wage growth (blue line) came primarily from higher energy prices. However, higher energy prices have not been transitory and wage growth has therefore not been able to keep up with inflation.
- Since last year, real wage growth has slowed as part of the weakening labor market rather than just from an inability of wages to keep up with rising energy prices.

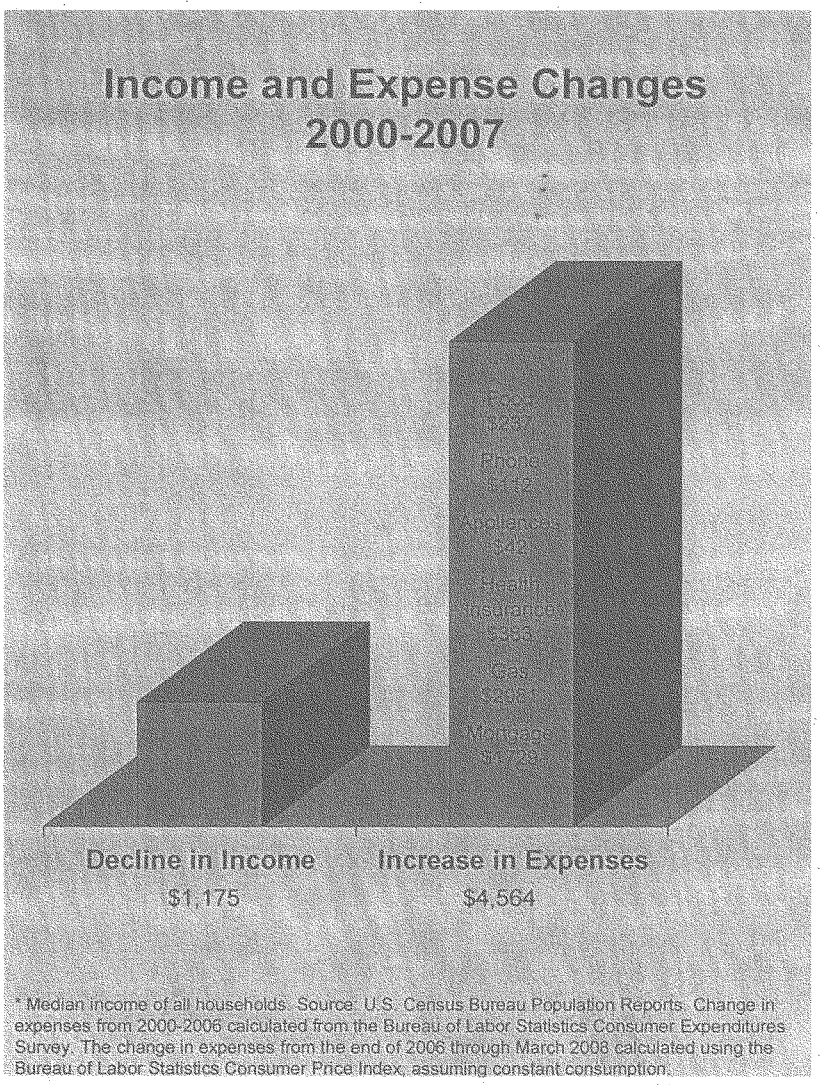
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar--3

I hope you will find this information useful, and I look forward to continued discussions with you and the Committee about economic developments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contract me on (202) 691-7800.

Sincerely yours,

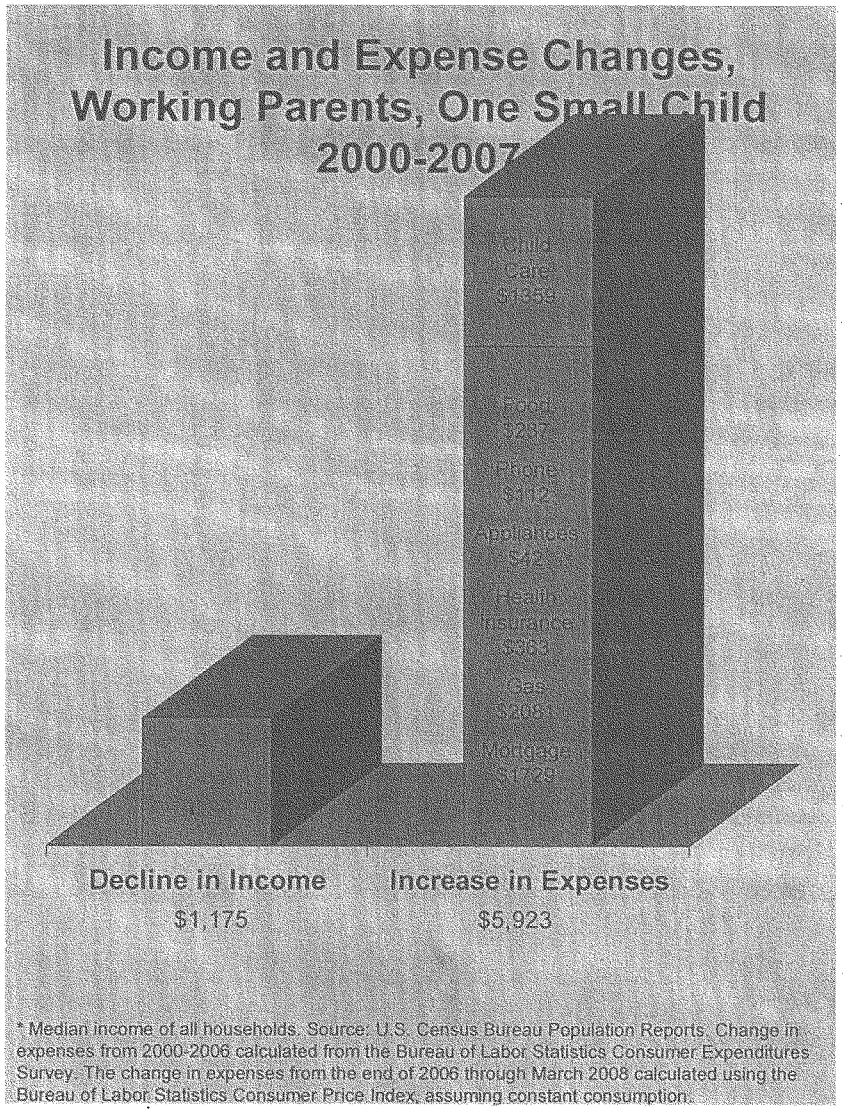
KEITH HALL
Commissioner

While household income across the country has declined, basic expenses have risen sharply.

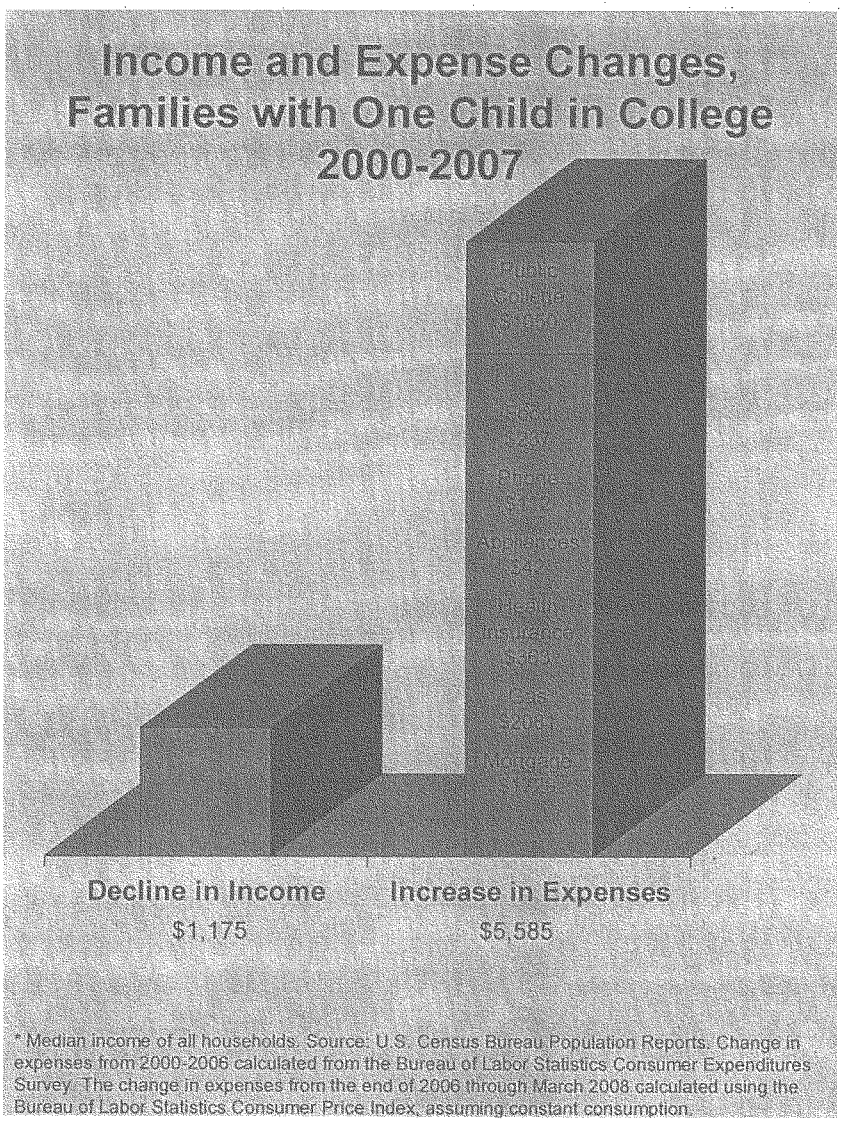


* Median income of all households. Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Reports. Change in expenses from 2000-2006 calculated from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Expenditures Survey. The change in expenses from the end of 2006 through March 2008 calculated using the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index, assuming constant consumption.

The burden has been even greater for working families with children.



Families sending one child to a public college have also been hit hard.



The numbers tell the story. Here are the changes in what average Americans are earning and spending.

- Lost Income $1175

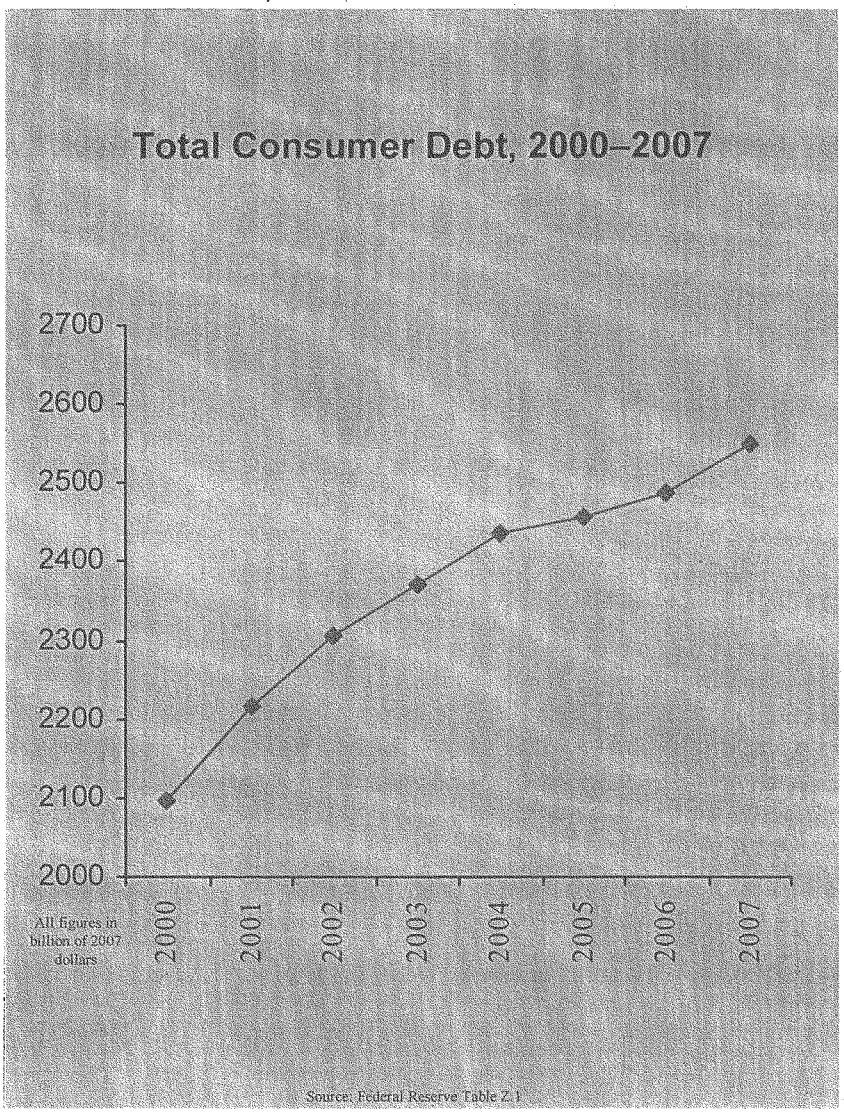
- Higher Mortgage Payments $1729
- Higher Gas Bills $2081
- Higher Food Costs $ 237
- Higher Phone Bills (land line) $ 112
- Higher Appliance Costs $ 42
- Higher Health Insurance Cost $ 363

Total lost income and increased expenses: $5739

For families with children, there are even more cost increases:

- Increased day care expenses $1321
- Increased after school care cost $ 511
- Increased state college costs (net) $1021

Families turned to debt to make up the gap, and credit card debt soared.



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