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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: MARCH 2004

HEARING

BEFORE THE

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

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FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2004

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

The Committee met, pursuant to call, at 9:35 a.m., in room 1334, Longworth House Office Building, The Honorable Jim Saxton, Vice Chairman of the Committee, presiding.

Representatives present: Representatives Saxton, Stark, Maloney, Watt, and Hill.

Senator present: Senator Sessions.

Staff Present: Chris Frenze, Bob Keleher, Colleen Healy, Brian Higginbotham, Mike Ashton, Donald B. Marron, Rebecca Wilder, Wendell Primus, Chad Stone, Matthew Salomon, Nan Gibson.

OPENING STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE JIM SAXTON, VICE CHAIRMAN

Representative Saxton. Good morning. I am pleased to welcome Commissioner Utgoff once again before the Joint Economic Committee.

The figures released this morning are good news for American workers. According to the payroll survey, employment increased by 308,000 jobs in March. Moreover, payroll employment growth was revised upward to 159,000 in January and 46,000 in February

The data reported today show that 759,000 jobs have been added to the payrolls since August 2003. The BLS describes the unemployment rate as about unchanged.

The diffusion index, an important indicator of the breadth of employment changes, jumped from 51.4 percent to 61.0 percent in March. This is the highest level of the diffusion index since July 2000. This indicates that the job gains in March were not confined to one sector of the economy, but rather were much more broadly diffused. In addition, the consecutive declines in manufacturing employment that began in August 2000 have come to an end.

According to a wide range of other economic data, the U.S. economy is growing at a healthy pace. A review of the recent history demonstrates that the American economy has displayed amazing resilience despite the 2000 economic slowdown that soon became a recession, terrorist attacks, wars, corporate scandals, and other shocks.

However, according to critics of the administration, there is a notion that the U.S. economy was in splendid shape until President Bush took office and put his policies in place. According to this view, virtually immediately upon President Bush's inauguration,

the economy went from an ideal picture of health to the "worst economy since the Great Depression." However, the evidence demonstrates that this view of the economic record is fundamentally wrong.

A review of the facts shows that long before the current economic administration took office, the U.S. economy was dangerously exposed to a frenzy that had overtaken the stock market and had perverse effects throughout the economy.

As the chart to my right shows, the stock market and high-tech bubbles can be seen in the spiking of the NASDAQ in the late 1990s. If we look at the bottom of the chart, we see that in 1999 we had this tremendous spike, in this case in the NASDAQ.

When the stock market bubble burst in the first quarter of 2000, three quarters before the President was sworn in, it exposed widespread over-investment and bad investment, and triggered a painful structural adjustment that has taken years to complete. The bursting of the stock market bubble in the first quarter of 2000 was reflected in a 45 percent drop in the NASDAQ for the period through January 2001.

The bursting of the stock market bubble was the largest in several generations and set in motion forces that shook the U.S. economy for several years. The stock market bubble helped boost investment by lowering the cost of capital, but when it burst, bad investments were exposed and there was a falloff in overall investment that led the economy into a slowdown and recession. This weakness in investment lasted over 2 years.

We have another chart here that shows that fixed private nonresidential investment began to fall in the third quarter of 2000, and obviously, according to the trends that existed at the time, led the economy during the last half of 2000 into negative nonresidential investment.

With the sharp economic slowdown that started in 2000 and GDP actually declining in the third quarter of 2000, the economy continued to fall.

The next chart shows a similar pattern based on GDP.

The GDP chart, shows the same trend beginning in the second quarter of 2000 and then, of course, continuing into the first two quarters of 2001.

Since much investment is comprised of machinery and equipment produced in the manufacturing sector, the falloff in investment pushed this sector into recession by the second half of 2000. The respected ISM survey of manufacturing activity shows the plunge in manufacturing activity under way in 2000 as well. The chart shows that in 2000 the ISM began to drop significantly; and by the middle of 2000, the ISM survey of manufacturing activity had plunged to an all-time low, or at least into a low in terms of modern history.

The ISM survey of manufacturing employment shows accelerating declines in the second half of 2000. All of the net job declines in recent years are accounted for by the manufacturing sector, but the downward trend in manufacturing employment began long before President Bush took office or his policies were in place. For example, relative to the cyclical peak in March 1998, manufacturing payroll jobs had declined by over half a million by January

2001. There has also been a long downward trend in manufacturing employment. As noted, the falloff in investment that began in the second quarter of 2000 had a negative impact on manufacturing, because much of this sector is engaged in the production of capital goods like machinery and equipment.

Manufacturing employment began to fall every month, beginning in August 2000. The economic slowdown became a recession in 2001. As Joseph Stiglitz, President Clinton's chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, said, "the economy was slipping into recession even before President Bush took office, and the corporate scandals that are rocking America began much earlier." The recession ended in November 2001.

The bottom line is that the largest stock market bubble in several generations burst in the first quarter of 2000, and this had widespread and long-lasting spillover effects that remain today.

The U.S. economy has also been negatively affected by terrorist attacks, wars, corporate scandals, and a weak international economy. However, the U.S. economy has proven very resilient, and economic growth started to accelerate in 2003 as the stimulative effects of tax relief and monetary policy became evident. The economic expansion has accelerated over the last year, particularly in the last two quarters. GDP growth, the total output for goods and services, jumped over 6 percent in the second half of 2003.

According to the Blue Chip Consensus of Economic Forecasters, GDP growth is expected to grow by about 4 percent for the foreseeable future.

Continued strong economic growth will ultimately translate into continued growth in employment, as it always has in the past. The bottom line is, if the economy is strong, although high productivity delayed sustained economic growth, the labor market has tended upward in recent months. Again, we are delighted with today's number of 308,000 new jobs created in the month of March.

[The prepared statement of Vice Chairman Saxton appears in the Submission for the Record on page 23.]

Commissioner, we look forward to your testimony, but before we go to you, we certainly want to give Mr. Stark an opportunity to say whatever is on his mind.

OPENING STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE PETE STARK, RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

Representative Stark. Thank you. A couple of things. First of all, I want to welcome Commissioner Utgoff to the House side of the Hill, and thank you for being here on this rainy day with some sun-shiny news. I also want to notice, if I can, the presence of Tom Nardone from BLS, who got a nice, well-deserved accolade today in today's Washington Post for his long and dedicated service as a civil servant and helping us in this area.

I welcome Tom. Congratulations.

I also wanted to say, Mr. Chairman, that I haven't heard such eloquent economic dissertation since I heard my professor, George Papandreou, tell me at the University of California that the only good economists in the world were Greek, and he may or may not have been right, but congratulations.

I have to say 308,000 jobs ain't bad, and if we could keep it up for, I think, what is it, a year and a half, then we will be out of the woods.

Representative Saxton. I would just say to the gentleman all I was trying to say was my glass is half full.

Representative Stark. Okay.

But I am serious, 308,000 jobs is what we have been hoping for. We will ask the Commissioner later whether she thinks this will continue or whether it is a bubble; but as I say, there is nothing that I would rather see than to see us be out of the hole in a year and a half.

I would like to, however, ask you and your colleagues, Mr. Chairman, that as long as rosy scenario is singing in our economic opera here, how about a little compassion?

I remember compassionate conservatism somewhere back, some time ago, and we have 8 million Americans officially unemployed and another 5 million who still want work out there. If we include those 5 million, I guess we could be up around 10 percent unemployment.

Treasury Secretary Snow has said that the President would sign an extension of benefits—of unemployment benefits if a bill reached his desk, but our Congressional Republican leadership seems to have blocked our extending unemployment benefits. So, I would just say to add to this good news and to bring it home to those people whose unemployment benefits are expiring and who are looking forward to perhaps their children's summer vacation without any funds, perhaps no funds to buy them decent food even, maybe even pay the rent, that for these families we could add to this good news that you are bringing to us today and extend those unemployment benefits.

It is our position in the House and in the Senate that is blocking it, and so I am sure that you, as I do, have many patriotic Americans who have worked long and hard at their chosen occupation, obeyed the law, paid their taxes, served in the military, if called on; and they are out of work not because they are unemployable, because they had to have a job for at least 6 months in order to qualify. It is those folks—they don't need training, but we have to find jobs for them. In the interim, in a matter of compassion and good will, we should pressure—and I hope you will join with me to see if we can put pressure on our colleagues to report out an extension of the unemployment benefits.

With that, I look forward to hearing the Commissioner's report.

Representative Saxton. Thank you, but I would just like to respond to your request.

I certainly am willing to consider another extension of unemployment benefits, and I suspect that that may be a subject of upcoming interest as we move into this year, but I would point out, again, that 308,000 of the people who were previously unemployed are reemployed today, and 759,000 have been added to the payroll since August 2003. So we are making good progress here on the domestic side.

On the international side, the unemployment rates around the world are quite astonishing actually. In the euro zone, meaning the countries that now are trading with the euro, the unemployment

rate before today—and it probably hasn't changed much—was 8.8 percent, and in Canada the unemployment rate is 7.4 percent, and here today in the United States the unemployment rate is 5.7 percent.

So we are not doing too bad on the international scene, and it looks like things are getting better with 759,000 jobs having been added here in recent months.

So thank you for your suggestion on unemployment insurance benefits, and I certainly would look forward to working with you.

Representative Stark. Thank you for your offer to help. Let's do it. Let's show them who runs this House.

Representative Saxton. Thank you.

If Congressman Stark and I could just have our way, we could solve all the problems, couldn't we?

Commissioner, thank you for being here with us this morning. We look forward to your testimony.

[The prepared statement of Representative Stark appears in the Submission for the Record on page 23.]

STATEMENT OF KATHLEEN P. UTGOFF, COMMISSIONER, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Commissioner Utgoff. Thank you. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the labor market data released this morning.

Non-farm payroll employment——

Representative Saxton. Commissioner, could you pull that microphone a bit closer.

Commissioner Utgoff. Sorry. It wasn't on.

Non-farm payroll employment rose by 308,000 in March. This follows a revised gain of 159,000 in January and 46,000 in February. Since August 2003, payroll employment has risen by 759,000. The unemployment rate was 5.7 percent in March; little changed over the month.

Job growth was fairly widespread in March, as you noted, with gains in both the goods-producing and service-producing sectors of the economy. Among the goods-producing industries, construction employment increased by 71,000 over the month. This unusually large gain followed a decline of 21,000 in February. Employment in construction has been trending upward over the past year; 201,000 jobs have been added over the period.

Manufacturing employment was unchanged in March at 14.3 million. Factory employment has been declining for some time, although the rate of job loss began to moderate last summer. This abatement in job losses has been concentrated among durable goods manufacturers. The manufacturing work week was down in March to 40.9 hours. Since July 2003, however, the factory work week is up by eight-tenths of an hour.

Several of the major service-producing industries added jobs in March. Retail trade employment increased by 47,000. Part of this gain reflects the return to payrolls of some workers who had been on strike in food stores. Elsewhere in retail trade, employment rose over the month among motor vehicle and parts dealers and continued to trend up in building materials and garden stores.

In health care and social assistance, employment increased by 36,000, almost entirely in health care industries. There were noteworthy gains in hospitals, offices of physicians, and nursing and residential care facilities.

Employment in professional and business services expanded over the month. Job gains occurred in a number of component industries, including computer systems design, and management consulting. Elsewhere in this sector, employment in the temporary help industry was basically unchanged after an increase in February. From a longer-term perspective, the number of temporary help jobs has increased by 212,000 since April 2003.

The food services industry added 27,000 jobs over the month. Over the past year, employment in food services has expanded by 186,000. The number of jobs in transportation and warehousing edged up in March. In financial activities, employment increased by 11,000 in credit intermediation, reflecting the recent rise in mortgage refinancing activity.

The job total in the information industry was essentially unchanged in March. Employment in the industry appears to have leveled off following roughly 2½ years of decline.

Moving on to the data for our household survey, the unemployment rate was little changed at 5.7 percent in March. The jobless rate has held fairly steady for several months and remains below its recent peak of 6.3 percent in June 2003.

The labor force participation rate was unchanged in March at 65.9 percent. Total employment measured in another survey, the household survey, was essentially flat over the month, and the employment-population ratio was little changed at 62.1 percent. The number of discouraged workers, that is, persons outside the labor force who have stopped looking for work because they believe their job efforts would be fruitless, was 514,000, not much different from a year earlier.

In summary, non-farm payroll employment increased by 308,000 in March, and it is up by 759,000 since August. The unemployment rate was little changed over the month at 5.7 percent.

Thank you. My colleagues and I would be glad to answer any questions.

[The prepared statement of Commissioner Utgoff appears in the Submission for the Record on page 24.]

Representative Saxton. Commissioner, thank you very much, and we appreciate, again, your being here this morning.

Let me just ask a few questions, and then we will go to Mr. Stark for his questions.

Commissioner, given the health of the economy reflected in the economic statistics, it is not surprising that employment has begun to pick up. Strong productivity growth had delayed the resumption of healthy employment growth, in my opinion, but now it appears that the lag in employment growth is over.

In your testimony, you describe the March payroll gains as fairly widespread. Isn't this supported by the surge in the March diffusion index?

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes.

Representative Saxton. Can you explain the significance of the diffusion index and the growth that we see in it?

Commissioner Utgoff. That is an indication of how many industries are expanding and how many are contracting, and when the number is above 50 percent, that means more industries are expanding than contracting.

Representative Saxton. We saw the diffusion index rise from last month's level of 51 percent to 51.4 percent, I believe?

Commissioner Utgoff. We can check that.

That is correct.

Representative Saxton. From 51.4 to today's level of 62—61?

Commissioner Utgoff. Sixty one.

Representative Saxton. Sixty one, thank you.

Is the 308,000 gain in payroll employment overstated in any kind of seasonal adjustment other than—or other statistical issue?

Commissioner Utgoff. No. We believe that there are no special factors that account for this increase in employment.

There was a weather pattern change in construction. In February, the weather was exceptionally cold, and it was better in March, so there may have been some increase in construction, but that is a real increase; it is not an artifact of any computation. There were about 15,000 workers added because of the ending of the strike activity in the grocery store industry.

Representative Saxton. Thank you.

Where are the greatest areas of strength in the latest March payroll data?

Commissioner Utgoff. The construction industry added 71,000 jobs.

Representative Saxton. How significant is the upward revision in payroll employment from January?

Commissioner Utgoff. I believe it was 47,000, revised upward.

Representative Saxton. What accounts for those jobs that we somehow didn't account for at the end of the January survey?

Commissioner Utgoff. Each month we report, so we have a very current report. We report only a few weeks after the end of the survey week, so that we don't have all reports in. About two-thirds of the employment is accounted for in the first report, and then by the time we get to the third report, it is over 90 percent, so that the estimates are revised. They can be revised upward or downward, and they are usually quite small in the context of 131 million people on the payroll.

Representative Saxton. In March, the monthly consecutive declines in manufacturing ended. Didn't these consecutive declines in manufacturing employment begin in August 2000?

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes.

Representative Saxton. Aren't the payroll numbers reported today consistent with other data showing expansion of economic activity?

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes.

Representative Saxton. So we have seen growth in GDP. We have seen declines in first-time unemployment claims.

Are there other economic sets of data that show economic growth this month, other than employment? If so, what are they?

Commissioner Utgoff. Well, we have had recent productivity growth, which is, in the long term, good for the economy and a positive indicator of employment over the long run.

Representative Saxton. Thank you.

Has the level of the unemployment rate changed in a statistically significant way in March?

Commissioner Utgoff. No.

Representative Saxton. Let me turn at this point to my friend, Mr. Stark, the gentleman who has a beautiful home on the water on the Chesapeake.

Representative Stark. A long drive in, Mr. Chairman, but for you, I would make it any time.

As I understand it, we have got a good number of people still unemployed, and there is a figure known as the unemployment—or the employment-population ratio.

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes.

Representative Stark. Which I am sure you know much more about than I do. But is it not now lower than it was 3 years ago?

The figures that I am looking at show that it is a couple of points lower, and to me that means that the portion of the population of Americans that have a job is lower over the past couple of years. Is that a fair——

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes. Since the peak, the employment—population ratio has declined.

Representative Stark. The proportion of the total population that is in the labor force working or actively looking is a little bit smaller as well.

Commissioner Utgoff. That is true.

Representative Stark. Okay.

Then we have got a lot of people, 8.4 million, unemployed—another 4.7 million who want a job, but you don't officially count them, and another 4.7 million working part-time for economic reasons, and whatever that adds up to, 9.4 million. We have got a lot of people whose employment situation is not good.

Is that a fair assessment? Are those numbers about right?

Commissioner Utgoff. Those numbers are about right.

Representative Stark. Further, coming back to this crusade that Chairman Saxton and I are about to undertake, we have long-term unemployed as a share—and I gather that is 27 weeks or longer that they are out of work, so that the long-term unemployed as a share of all the unemployed has moved, according to my figures, gone from about 14 to almost 24 percent from November 2001 to March of this year. Is that correct?

Commissioner Utgoff. That is correct.

Representative Stark. Now, it is those folks that I want to come back to a little bit and just remind whoever takes this all very seriously that they are the people that, for whatever reason—either geographic location, their particular trade has moved offshore, their jobs have been outsourced, whatever—that we would be helping. About 2 million, 1.998 million is the number I have, of what I am going to call the hard-core, long-term unemployed that would be helped if we extended the benefits.

Is that a fair assumption?

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes.

Representative Stark. Well, as I say, I wish I could congratulate you for the good performance, but I have a hunch you are just the bearer of good news and for so long you have been the bearer

of bad news, I am happy to have—one more question, Mr. Chairman, and then I will stop. I don't want to ask the Commissioner for an opinion, because that is not right.

But I am going to ask her if there are any indices that people in your profession have reviewed and whether that has to do—I suspect major wars would be one, but other than that, that you can track with any reliability; and I am thinking over, say, 30 years, employment, either total employment or growth. Does it follow the stock market? I guess it does, since the stock market——

Commissioner Utgoff. It lags—employment lags the stock market.

Representative Stark. It really does?

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes.

Representative Stark. There is some correlation?

Commissioner Utgoff. I believe that is true, yes.

Representative Stark. Anything that you could dig out that doesn't have too many multi-syllable words in it that you could reference, I would appreciate.

The other question of the market, obviously I am curious about increase or decrease of taxes, income taxes, so corporate tax or individual tax. Are there any parallels there that you can track over a long period of time?

Commissioner Utgoff. No, I cannot do that.

Representative Stark. I don't mean you. But I mean in your craft, as it were, a profession, have there been some scholarly or professional pursuits that show any correlation there?

Commissioner Utgoff. None that I am aware of, but I am not——

Representative Stark. Are there any other variables that stand out to you that you could say, "Gee, the growth in this or decline in that has always paralleled a growth or decline in employment in our country?"

Commissioner Utgoff. Well, I mean, I am sure you know that the September 11th attacks clearly had an impact on employment.

Representative Stark. Fortunately, those don't come along very often. I presume World War I and World War II would show some economic and employment changes because of going into a wartime economy, but absent that.

Commissioner Utgoff. Well, you asked me before about taxes, but if lower taxes increased spending and spending is part of GDP, then one would expect employment to follow tax——

Representative Stark. I am just asking historically, is there some correlation between employment and home building. Obviously, in the construction business and in the years where we had increased home building, as we have had phenomenal growth in home construction, I would suspect that in that industry you would see something.

But I am just curious to get a variety—I really am not picking on taxes or wars or anything else—to just see if there is some kind of a series of databases or statistical data that in your work you often look at to draw some parallel, because there is some relationship that you see historically.

Commissioner Utgoff. Well, there are a number of economic models not used by BLS, but used by Wall Street and other predic-

tors that have things in them like initial claims, GDP growth, Institute of Supply Management figures, and they are used. But we have not done an independent study of what predicts employment.

Representative Stark. A list of those, again, if you can find them in popular form and not in technical form, would be of interest to me, if I could trouble you to send me some of that.

Commissioner Utgoff. I would be happy to provide it.

Representative Stark. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Representative Saxton. Thank you, Mr. Stark.

Senator Sessions, welcome back to the House side. I am glad you are here.

Senator Sessions. Thank you. It is good to be with you and it is good to have some good news. It certainly is a move that we appreciate and celebrate.

With regard to Mr. Stark's questions, Commissioner, I have been thinking about our revenues of the government also, and where we are in all of this. Now, this is a payroll survey. So this means these are people paying FICA and withholding taxes?

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes.

Senator Sessions. These are officially on a payroll somewhere?

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes.

Senator Sessions. Now, the household survey, which never has looked as bad as the payroll survey, people may not be on a payroll, may not have withholding or don't have withholding, I suppose; is that correct? Sometimes they don't pay taxes, maybe even when they should.

Commissioner Utgoff. It is very hard to measure illegal activity.

Senator Sessions. But on the household survey, it picks up jobs that are not on a withholding basis. Is that right, not on official payroll?

Commissioner Utgoff. Right. It does pick up jobs that are not on the official payroll.

Senator Sessions. Now, I think what we all thought and hope, Mr. Chairman, is if we could take strong action in Congress to enhance growth in the economy, which are the tax cuts—what President Bush promoted and I supported—and we have had growth. We have had 8 percent growth third quarter last year, the highest in 20 years, and another good fourth quarter.

It looks like we will have another good quarter this year. I believe Mr. Greenspan said it could be as high as 5 percent for the year.

Now, normally jobs follow that growth. Is that right, Commissioner? But they lag behind the growth?

Commissioner Utgoff. They lag behind the growth, but they do follow it.

Senator Sessions. It seemed that jobs were lagging longer behind the growth this year more than we may have seen in the past. Is that true?

Commissioner Utgoff. That is correct.

Senator Sessions. But would you conclude that it is following now?

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes.

Senator Sessions. So the jobs we are seeing now are a product of the strong growth we have had for several quarters?

Commissioner Utgoff. We don't have any econometric models that predict how they all relate, but I think it is fair to say growth is correlated with jobs.

Senator Sessions. Another thing that has complicated this is productivity. Productivity, the economists say, is good, but it may not be good if your job was the one that got lost in the production achievements through technology and things like that.

So we have had increased productivity. Is that a factor in the lagging of the job growth until maybe this quarter, this month?

Commissioner Utgoff. In the early stages, productivity can reduce jobs.

Senator Sessions. So it seems to me that what we are seeing is that we got the growth we wanted at the same time we were achieving tremendous productivity increases, which makes us very competitive in the world marketplace, but didn't get the surge in jobs that we hoped to get; and now we are beginning to feel those jobs. I think that is just good news, and I hope it can continue.

With regard to the payroll survey, what about illegal immigrants in the country? Are some of those picked up on the payroll survey and some not, or do we have a number?

Commissioner Utgoff. We don't have a number, but some employers are given fake documents, and they are included on a payroll. Employers are very concerned about—some are—about having illegal workers. In other cases where it may be day labor or something like that, they may not have full papers, and they may not be recorded on a payroll. We don't have any breakdown of that.

As I said, it is very hard to measure illegal activity.

Senator Sessions. So you really can't—you are not aware of any studies that have been done that could identify how many jobs are being held by persons here illegally and who are not being subjected to payroll taxes?

Commissioner Utgoff. There was one study done at Northeastern which tried to get into that, but what they did was make a guess about what the number was; and I wouldn't exactly call that a study.

Senator Sessions. Do you recall that number?

Commissioner Utgoff. We would be happy to provide that.

[The information referred to appears in the Submission for the Record on page 56.]

Senator Sessions. Thank you. My time, I believe, has expired, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Representative Saxton. Senator Sessions, great point on productivity. I think you hit the nail right on the head.

You know, back in the 1960s and 1970s, when we had recessions, following the recessions, while there was a lag in the growth of employment, the lags were relatively short.

When we got into the growth periods of the 1980s and 1990s, following the recessions of the early 1980s and the short recession we had in the early 1990s, the productivity that you speak of was an ongoing—the growth in productivity was an ongoing process.

It is exactly what you said: During those two—following those two recessions, the lag between the end of the recession and where

we saw good growth in jobs, the lag was longer. We believe it was exactly what you said because of the bringing on of technology that improved productivity and jobs changed, and so it took longer for the growth in jobs to catch up with the growth in the economy.

Senator Sessions. Mr. Chairman, I think this chart shows—although this productivity makes our economy volatile in some ways and people change jobs more often—it shows why, I think, we are more productive and we have lower unemployment. We have a stronger economy than the other economies in the world, and I think we should celebrate that also. Even though we are not satisfied where we are today, we would like to do better with employment, but the numbers stack up well against the other economies in the world, and I think are less free market oriented.

Representative Saxton. Thank you. Good point.

Mrs. Maloney.

Representative Maloney. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, but just on that point, I think it is really—Senator Sessions, our economy and our labor market are very different from Europe and from Canada; and a fair comparison would be with current history in our own country with the labor market. When President Bush took office, unemployment was at 4.2 percent.

But that being said, this is the first substantial job gain during the Bush administration. It is very good news for the American workers and for our economy, but still there is a 1.8 million unemployment hole or job-loss hole since the President took office; and since job growth has turned around in September, we have only averaged, roughly, 108,000 jobs that have been created per month, even with today's very positive announcement.

As the President's Chief Economist, Dr. Gregory Mankiw, who testified before the Joint Economic Committee—he testified we need 125,000 jobs per month just to keep up with the growing workforce with the young men and other men and women entering the workforce.

But I would like to ask about—the unemployment number is roughly 5.7 percent, and I would like to ask—that is roughly 8.4 million people, would you say, Commissioner?

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes.

Representative Maloney. How many people currently want a job, are looking for a job, but are not counted among the unemployed because they have thrown in the towel and given up because they are getting tired of having people say, "no, we don't have a job for you?" How many is that, would you say?

Commissioner Utgoff. Four million eight-hundred thousand persons were outside the labor force but said they want a job.

Representative Maloney. Four million eight-hundred thousand. How many people are underemployed or people that are working part-time for economic reasons? They used to be an analyst on Wall Street and now they are a bartender 4 nights a week just to put bread on the table? How many of these people are working part-time now?

Commissioner Utgoff. Four million seven-hundred thousand.

Representative Maloney. So I would venture to say that these two groups of people are in unemployment or certainly underemployment.

What would your measure of unemployment be if you included people that are not in the labor force who want to work and people who are working or are underemployed in part-time jobs for economic reasons?

Commissioner Utgoff. 9.9 percent.

Representative Maloney. So it would be 9.9 percent?

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes.

Representative Maloney. Really it is 9.9 percent are unemployed or underemployed?

Commissioner Utgoff. That is one measure of unemployment.

Representative Maloney. I would like to go to New York. I represent New York, 300 of my constituents died on 9/11, and I would like to know New York's numbers.

I don't want to take up your time here. Maybe afterwards you can give it, because that is not the interest of everybody.

But the President recently said that 1 million jobs were lost as a result of the terrorist attacks in September 2001. Yet, I literally got the New York Federal Reserve to do a report on the number of jobs lost due to the 9/11 terrible attack on our country, and that study found between 70,000 and 80,000 jobs lost.

So my question to you is, what is the accurate number? Is it the President's number that it was 1 million, the New York Federal Reserve, which was 70,000 to 80,000? Do you have any indication of how many jobs were lost because of that terrorist attack?

Commissioner Utgoff. We do not know, and I think it will be very hard to ascertain how many jobs were lost from the September 11th attacks. The 70,000–80,000 figure by the Federal Reserve was only in New York City. In——

Representative Maloney. I am talking about New York City. They are saying 70,000–80,000 jobs in New York City. The President said a million in New York City as a direct result of 2001. So I am wondering what is the accurate number. Have you looked at that for New York City?

Commissioner Utgoff. I have not looked at it for New York City, but I believe the President's number was nationwide.

Representative Maloney. His number was nationwide, and you have not looked at that. Could you look at it? I would be interested in knowing what the economic impact of the 9/11 attack was for New York City.

Commissioner Utgoff. Well, we have done a study where we asked people who were on what are called "mass layoffs." These are layoffs where there are 50 or more people in a 5-week period, so it is a very limited subset of people who were displaced. Over the period, about 145,000 workers were displaced, using that definition, where the employer identified in a secondary question the fact that a non-natural disaster was a cause of that layoff.

But there were enormous impacts of September 11th throughout the country in, particularly, the leisure and travel industries, and it is hard to know whether these employers knew that their layoffs were related to 9/11, and it is also true that many of the layoffs were in small businesses particularly restaurants, that would not qualify as mass layoffs.

Representative Maloney. My time is up, but just a clarification.

Was the President correct when he said 1 million nationwide were lost because of 9/11, would you say?

Commissioner Utgoff. Undoubtedly, some of that loss in employment was due to an overall weak labor market at the time.

Representative Maloney. My time is up.

Representative Saxton. Thank you. Just to give everybody a heads up, we are supposed to have three votes beginning at about 10:30, which shouldn't affect us because it should be time for everybody to get their questions in.

Baron, you are up.

Representative Hill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner, thank you for being here this morning. Let me follow up with what Congresswoman Maloney just asked you. The President—let me begin by saying, I think it is fairly obvious that the Republicans want to paint a rosy picture and the Democrats want to paint a not-so-rosy picture; and this is all politics, so I would like to cut through all this, if I can, and ask you, as a follow-up to Congresswoman Maloney's question, how many jobs were lost directly as a result of 9/11?

Commissioner Utgoff. We cannot answer that question.

Representative Hill. Okay. Thank you. Can anybody answer that question? Are there economists that can answer that question?

Commissioner Utgoff. I am not aware of that.

Representative Hill. All right. So when the President says that 1 million jobs were lost, he is basing that on what then?

Commissioner Utgoff. Decrease in total payroll employment for September, October, November and December—well, not September, but October, November and December.

Representative Hill. But no one can say for certain that the 1 million jobs were lost as a direct result of 9/11?

Commissioner Utgoff. No.

Representative Hill. Now, I am looking at several numbers that are conflicting here at my desk. You say that there were 308,000 jobs that were created—new jobs that were created in March. Correct?

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes.

Representative Hill. But yet the unemployment rate stayed at 5.7 percent.

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes.

Representative Hill. Can you tell me, if you have got 308,000 new jobs that were created, why is the unemployment rate remaining the same?

Commissioner Utgoff. We have two surveys, one that measures the unemployment rate and gives us what I would call ratios; and then the second is a payroll survey that goes to employers, and they count the number of people that are on the payroll.

So the surveys are quite different. Over the long term they move together, but in any particular month, they don't; and in this month, the total employed in the household survey went down by a very small amount.

Representative Hill. Why is that?

Commissioner Utgoff. Because of the differences in the surveys and how they are measured.

Representative Hill. Well, let me cut to the chase here.

You say there are 308,000 new jobs that were—or the employment rose by 308,000 people, but the unemployment rate remains at 5.7 percent. I don't understand the answer to my question here. Why would it remain the same if there are 308,000 new jobs that have been created?

Commissioner Utgoff. Because the jobs number comes from a different survey. Employers count how many people are on their payroll. In the household survey, you ask someone in the household to report their employment status for themselves and for other people in the household. So on a month-to-month basis, the surveys can differ.

The household survey is more volatile and tends to go up and down more in any particular month. If you want to look at the number of jobs created in a particular month, it is probably better to look at the payroll survey, since it is less volatile.

Representative Hill. How many people do you call in the household survey?

Commissioner Utgoff. We collect data on 60,000 households.

Representative Hill. Let me ask you this then. Of that 308,000 increase in employment, how many government jobs are there?

Commissioner Utgoff. Thirty-one thousand of the increase was government jobs.

Representative Hill. Now, you mention in your remarks that 159,000 jobs were created in January, 46,000 in February, and these are revised gains.

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes.

Representative Hill. For example, the data that I have here, 21,000 jobs were created last month. Now you are saying 46?

Commissioner Utgoff. That is right.

Representative Hill. The 21,000 that were created, as I understand it, from last month, 20,000 of them were government jobs.

Commissioner Utgoff. That is right.

Representative Hill. How many of these 46,000 jobs are government jobs?

Commissioner Utgoff. Fifteen. So the number of government jobs was revised downward.

Representative Hill. Okay.

Commissioner Utgoff. Originally we had estimated that there was a 21,000 job gain, and all 21,000 of that was from government employment.

Now, with our revised estimates, it is 15 out of 46.

Representative Hill. Well, I have got thousands more questions to ask, but the red light is on. Let me just cut to the chase, if I can, here.

In your opinion, have we had a dramatic increase in new jobs created for the month of March?

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes.

Representative Hill. What can we attribute that to?

Commissioner Utgoff. The gains were very widespread. It wasn't any particular small set of industries, so it can be attributed to a better job market, employers hiring more people.

Representative Hill. But the manufacturing base is not really increasing very much, is it?

Commissioner Utgoff. For 40-something months it has been declining every month, and now it is stable, so that is an improvement.

Representative Hill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Representative Saxton. Thank you, Mr. Hill.

Mr. Watt.

Representative Watt. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Commissioner for being here. I apologize for being late, but when your heating and air-conditioning service people are coming, life grinds to a screeching halt, and you can only wait. One industry that must be doing well, I can presume.

Let me just clarify a couple of things for my own edification. We created 308,000 jobs in March, or at least that was the increase in payrolls—number of people on payrolls. Is it correct that 72,000 of those jobs resulted from the resolution of a labor dispute at grocery stores in southern California?

Commissioner Utgoff. No. We estimate that approximately 15,000 jobs were created by the ending of the strike.

Representative Watt. So the USA Today report that says that 72,000 workers returned to work is incorrect?

Commissioner Utgoff. No. That is correct. What happened was there were replacement workers who were hired during the strike, so the net increase in employment is——

Representative Watt. Oh, I see. Okay, I got you.

So you had some people being displaced and some people were returning to work. The net effect of that was a 15,000 job increase?

Commissioner Utgoff. Approximately.

Representative Watt. Okay. Now, if I understand correctly, the unemployment rate, 5.7 percent, results in 8.4 million people being unemployed nationwide.

Commissioner Utgoff. That is right.

Representative Watt. I believe you said in response to questions from Mrs. Maloney that there are an additional 4.8 million potential employees who have simply given up and gone off the rolls, and so they are not included in the 8.4 million figure. Is that correct?

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes.

Representative Watt. Then, in addition to that, there are 4.7 million people who are underemployed, I think you testified in response to Mrs. Maloney's question. Is that correct?

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes.

Representative Watt. So when you add all of that together, the rate is 9.9 percent either unemployed or underemployed?

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes. That is the most inclusive measure. It includes the most people in it that we produce.

Representative Watt. All right. That is the overall rate for people of all ages, colors, races, what have you.

What is the number of that 8.4 million that are minorities? Or do you keep it that way? Do you keep it—African American, I think you keep a statistic on; Latino, you keep a statistic on. If you combine those two—well, let's look at the African American unemploy-

ment. What number of people in the 8.4 million would be African Americans?

Commissioner Utgoff. 1.7 million.

Representative Watt. What percentage rate would that be?

Commissioner Utgoff. 10.2.

Representative Watt. And the Hispanic number and percentage rate is what?

Commissioner Utgoff. 1.4 million.

Representative Watt. And the percentage is?

Commissioner Utgoff. 7.4.

Representative Watt. Of the 4.8 million people who have given up, what would be the African American number as a percentage?

Commissioner Utgoff. We don't have that.

Representative Watt. You don't have the Hispanic percentage that falls in that category?

Commissioner Utgoff. No.

Representative Watt. You don't keep that statistic, or you just don't have it with you.

Commissioner Utgoff. We don't have it with us. We would be happy to provide that to you.

[The information referred to appears in the Submission for the Record on page 57.]

Representative Watt. If you could send that to my office, that would be helpful. I would like the same number and percentage in the underemployed category if you have the ability to do that.

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes, sir.

Mrs. Maloney. Would the gentleman yield for one second? Could you ask that she include women in this report? I would be very interested in seeing the statistics on women.

Representative Watt. I wasn't discriminating. If you have a separate—I guess I was discriminating on some criteria.

But it appears that this job loss, this giving up, and I suspect you will find that the people who have given up are even more disproportionately African American than the unemployment rate, or would they be?

Commissioner Utgoff. I can't answer that question. We will have to provide the data.

[The information referred to appears in the Submission for the Record on page 58.]

Representative Watt. Well, the numbers don't lie. So we will get the actual numbers.

It seems to me that while all unemployment is bad, people of color, minorities, are bearing an even more disproportionate share of the brunt of this. We need to do something about it. I guess that is the bottom line.

I think my time is up, Mr. Chairman. I will yield back.

Representative Saxton. Thank you, Mr. Watt.

Commissioner, thank you for being with us this morning.

Let me add my congratulations to Tom Nardone who has been a great help to our Committee from time to time. We certainly wish Tom well.

Commissioner, thank you for being with us this morning.

Representative Maloney. Can we ask another round?

This is good news. We should have another round of questions until the bell sounds.

Representative Saxton. If the gentle lady would like to ask additional questions, certainly.

Representative Maloney. I would like to underscore my request with the gentleman from North Carolina to get us the numbers on women, particularly the women who maintain families who are particularly vulnerable, in a job slump, and we are in the most persistent job slump since the 1930s.

I would like to go back to the household numbers. Mr. Greenspan, incidentally, testified before the Financial Services Committee that he felt that the payroll numbers were more accurate and dependable than household. Would you agree with that statement or not?

Commissioner Utgoff. We have testified previously that because of the larger sample of the payroll survey and the fact that it is benchmarked to a total sample, that the sample of 400,000, establishments is benchmarked to the total count of establishments once a year, that provides a better current picture of what is going on in the labor market.

Representative Maloney. Thank you.

But I would like to go back to the payroll numbers, which I understand are tied to the unemployment percentage, correct.

Commissioner Utgoff. No.

Representative Maloney. It is the household numbers, rather, which are tied to that?

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes.

Representative Maloney. What is the proportion of the population that has a job, the so called employment population ratio?

Commissioner Utgoff. 62.1.

Representative Maloney. How has that changed over the past year?

Commissioner Utgoff. It has declined.

Representative Maloney. It has declined to what? From what? It has declined.

What was the employment population ratio in January 2001, which was when President Bush took office?

Commissioner Utgoff. It was 2.3 percentage points higher.

Representative Maloney. So 64. So does that mean that the proportion of the population with a job is 2.3 percent lower than it was when President Bush took office?

Commissioner Utgoff. That is correct.

Representative Maloney. That is correct. I also would like to get a clarification on the proportion of the population that is in the labor force working or actively looking for work that remains low. What was the labor force participation rate in March?

Commissioner Utgoff. In March, 65.9.

Representative Maloney. Okay. How has it changed in the past year?

Commissioner Utgoff. Over the last 3 years, I can tell you it has declined by 1.2 percentage points.

Representative Maloney. So it has declined. So what was it in January 2002?

Commissioner Utgoff. 1.2 points higher than that.

Representative Maloney. So it was 67 percent. Right?

Commissioner Utgoff. Right.

Representative Maloney. So does that mean that the labor force has shrunk by 1.3 percentage points as a share of the population since President Bush took office?

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes.

Representative Maloney. Okay. Thank you.

When Mr. Sessions and I talk, we always get into household and payroll and what is more accurate. I just think that it is good to have both, but to be clear that one is a very small sample.

I have to thank you, Mr. Saxton, I believe my time is up. I have enjoyed your company this morning.

Representative Saxton. Thank you.

I would just like to comment here. The payroll survey and the household survey have been issues of discussion throughout the last number of months, I guess a year or so. For some reason that maybe the Commissioner can explain, the divergence between the payroll survey and the household survey seems to be increasing. In other words, where they—over time as the commissioner said—track together. Over the last—well, since the beginning of about 2002, the gap or the difference between the two surveys has been—has been widening.

Commissioner, is there some explanation for that? This has nothing to do with Republican or Democrat or how the economy is going. I am just curious about why this may be occurring.

Commissioner Utgoff. Some small part of it is self-employment. As you know, the payroll survey does not include self-employment.

The rest of it, we have not been able to explain.

Representative Saxton. If you were to try to rely on one survey or the other, which one would you say would be more accurate?

Commissioner Utgoff. For current near-term trends, the payroll survey is more accurate. It is based on a larger sample. As I said, it is benchmarked to the full population once a year.

The household survey is much smaller. It is only benchmarked every 10 years to the Census.

Representative Saxton. Tell us, if you can, the nature of this survey on the household survey? Can you describe in some detail how it is done, what kinds of questions are asked, what kind of responses you get, what kind of problems you run into with it?

Commissioner Utgoff. The household survey is either a visit to the home or a telephone survey where a cohort of people are asked: Were you employed last month? Is anybody in your household employed? If they say they are not employed, then they ask reasons, such as, do you want a job? Why, if you want a job, haven't you taken one?

Representative Saxton. Who conducts the household survey?

Commissioner Utgoff. The Census Bureau.

Representative Saxton. Okay. When you ask—I am just curious about this. I have never asked these questions before, but I have always been curious. When the Census Bureau asks these questions and they say to someone, "Are you employed?" is there a difference in the way someone may answer the question based on the definition of employment? I don't ask this to be funny.

Commissioner Utgoff. No.

Representative Saxton. We sometimes talk about being employed in the home as opposed to being employed out in the workplace. Does this create any kind of a problem?

Commissioner Utgoff. Well, the questions are: Last week, did you do any work for pay, which means, the week of the 12th, did you earn any money in any kind of a job?

Representative Saxton. I see. So it could be a part-time job, a full-time job, just if you got paid?

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes. Even an hour or so of employment.

Representative Saxton. If you mowed somebody's lawn and you got paid for it, then that would be considered employed?

Commissioner Utgoff. That is right.

Representative Saxton. So the household survey probably would not be as accurate? I guess that is what you said before.

Commissioner Utgoff. Well, it is a question of how many people worked for pay at any time during the week, and includes agricultural workers, self-employed. If you wanted to know that question, the household survey would be better.

But if you want to know how many people have a formal job, of people on a payroll, an actual count rather than someone's memory of it, you would want to go to the payroll survey.

Representative Maloney. Will the gentleman yield for a question?

Representative Saxton. I think Mr. Watt wanted to be recognized.

Representative Maloney. Just on a clarification on this.

Also, the sample as I understand it, is much larger for the payroll. It is only 60,000 people called by the Census for the household as opposed to 700,000 on the payroll?

Commissioner Utgoff. Four-hundred thousand.

Representative Maloney. Four-hundred thousand on the payroll. Is that a sample, the 400,000 that you rely on?

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes. It is called the probability sample, where by firm size and industry, you are represented as—you would be represented in the whole population. If your firm accounts for 5 percent of the employment in that size industry, than 5 percent of those firms would be sampled.

Representative Maloney. Well, I thank the gentleman for his line of questioning to clarify this.

In New York, we used to have two sets of books, and the city went bankrupt. It was actually—this was in the 1970s. It was actually my bill that did a very simple thing, required one set of books.

The controller and the mayor now compile the numbers so that people aren't confused, and we have one set of books.

What is the benefit of having two surveys out there? A lot of times it is confusing to the public when we get into public debates, they are saying, "Well, I am talking about the household", and somebody says, "Well I am talking about payroll".

It is not a clear message. I just throw that out. I think it is—could you explain to us why we have both surveys, and do you think that is helpful in going forward with our analysis of what is happening to the economy in a non-partisan way?

Commissioner Utgoff. Yes. As you say, the payroll data is more comprehensive. We get very good geographic data. We get industry data. It is much larger. So we can go into more detail about specifics of employment.

The household survey is smaller, but we cannot count unemployment using the payroll survey, because we don't know what the labor force is. We don't know how many people are unemployed.

So each of these asks different questions, and they both shine a good deal of light on the labor market. We need them both.

Representative Maloney. Okay. Thank you.

Representative Saxton. Thank you.

Mr. Watt.

Representative Watt. Can you just give me a two-sentence description of how you determine whether someone is underemployed? Perhaps you can give me more detail when you submit the other information I have asked for. But I am just trying to figure out how that determination is made.

Commissioner Utgoff. It is through a series of questions. Did you work part-time? Then, why did you work part-time? The various reasons that can be given. I will send you that section of the questionnaire so that you can see exactly how these questions are asked.

[The information referred to appears in the Submissions for the Record on page 61.]

Representative Watt. Okay. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Representative Saxton. Thank you.

Any further questions, Mr. Hill?

Representative Hill. Just briefly. The memo I am looking at here from the Democratic side shows that market forecasters expect the March data to show that payroll employment rose by 123,000 jobs.

You are saying that it actually rose by 308,000 jobs. Is that correct?

Commissioner Utgoff. That is correct.

Representative Hill. Okay. Thank you.

Representative Saxton. Thank you. It has been a great hearing.

Thank you for the good news, Commissioner. We look forward to seeing you under the tutelage, I suppose, of Senator Bennett next month. Presumably, he will be back in the chair.

Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 10:50 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

Submissions for the Record

PREPARED STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE JIM SAXTON, VICE CHAIRMAN

WASHINGTON, DC.—I am pleased to welcome Commissioner Utgoff once again before the Joine Economic Committee.

The figures released this morning are good news for American workers. According to the payroll survey, employment increased by 308,000 in March. Moreover, payroll employment growth was revised upward to 159,000 in January and 46,000 in February. The data reported today show that 759,000 jobs have been added to payrolls since August 2003. The BLS describes the unemployment rate as about unchanged.

The diffusion index—an important indicator of the breadth of employment changes—jumped from 51.4 percent to 61.0 percent in March. This is the highest level of the diffusion index since July 2000. This indicates that the job gains in March were not confined to one sector of the economy. In addition, the consecutive declines in manufacturing employment that began in August 2000 have come to an end.

According to a wide range of other economic data, the U.S. economy is growing at a healthy pace. A review of the recent history demonstrates that the American economy has displayed amazing resilience despite the 2000 economic slowdown that soon became a recession, terrorist attacks, wars, corporate scandals, and other shocks.

However, according to critics of the Administration, there is a notion that the U.S. economy was in splendid shape until President Bush took office and his policies were in place. According to this view, virtually immediately upon President Bush's inauguration, the economy went from an ideal picture of health to "the worst economy since the Great Depression." However, the evidence demonstrates that this view of the economic record is fundamentally wrong.

All of the net job declines in recent years are accounted for by the manufacturing sector, but the downward trend in manufacturing employment began long before President Bush took office or his policieis were in place. For example, relative to its cyclical peak of March 1998, manufacturing payroll jobs had declined by over half a million by January 2001. The fall-off in investment that began in the second half of 2000 had a negative impact on manufacturing because much of this sector is engaged in the production of capital goods, i.e., machinery and equipment. Manufacturing rmployment began to fall every month beginning in August 2000, until March 2004.

However, the U.S. economy has proven very resilient, and economic growth started to accelerate in 2003 as the stimulative effects of the tax relief bill and monetary policy became evident. GDP growth—the total output of all goods and services—jumped over 6 percent in the second half of 2003. According to the Blue Chip consensus of economic forecasters, GDP growth is expected to be about 4 percent for the foreseeable future.

Continued strong economic growth will ultimately translate into continued growth in employment, as it always has in the past. The bottom line is that the economy is strong. Although high productivity had delayed sustained employment growth, the labor market has trended upward in recent months.

Commissioner, we look forward to your testimony.

PRPEARED STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE PETE STARK,
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

Thank you, Vice Chairman Bennett. I want to welcome Commissioner Utgoff and thank her for testifying here today.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) March employment situation shows that the unemployment rate edged up slightly to 5.7 percent. More than 8 million Ameri-

cans remain unemployed—with 2 million out of work for 6 months or more. While 308,000 payrolls jobs were created, this was the first significant job gain of the entire Bush presidency. We are still in a deep hole and we can't really talk about a jobs recovery until we see robust job creation for several months.

March marks the third anniversary of the Bush jobs slump—the most persistent jobs recession since the 1930's. Overall, the economy has lost 1.8 million payroll jobs since President Bush took office in January 2001. When you take out growth in government jobs, and focus on just the private sector, the loss is even more staggering: we are 2.6 million jobs in the hole since President Bush took office. The manufacturing sector alone has lost 2.8 million jobs.

We've been gaining jobs slowly since August, but at the pace we've seen so far, it would take nearly 1½ years to erase the current jobs deficit. Job creation would have to average over 184,000 jobs per month from April 2004 to January 2005 just to erase the current 1.8 million Bush jobs deficit completely.

Besides the more than 8 million Americans officially unemployed, another 5 million people want to work, but are out of the labor force and not counted among the unemployed. The unemployment rate would be nearly 10 percent if you included them and those who are forced to work part-time because of the weak economy.

Even though jobs grew in March, we still have a huge jobs deficit and long-term unemployment rose again last month. House Republicans have thwarted efforts by Democrats to help nearly three million unemployed workers and their families avoid financial ruin by extending temporary Federal jobless benefits for the next 6 months and retroactively for the last 3 months. Treasury Secretary Snow has said that President Bush would sign an extension of benefits if a bill reached his desk. But the Republican leadership has made this the 'do-nothing for unemployed workers' Congress. The long-term jobless deserve additional unemployment benefits now—the President and the Republican-controlled Congress should just do it.

I look forward to Commissioner Utgoff's testimony today.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF KATHLEEN P. UTGOFF, COMMISSIONER, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee: I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the labor market data we released this morning.

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 308,000 in March. This follows revised gains of 159,000 in January and 46,000 in February. Since August 2003, payroll employment has risen by 759,000. The unemploymeny rate was 5.7 percent in March, little changed over the month.

Job growth was fairly widespread in March, with gains in both the goods-producing and service-producing sectors of the economy. Among the goods-producing industries, construction employment increased by 71,000 over the month. This unusually large gain followed a decline of 21,000 in February. Employment in construction has been trending upward over the past year; 201,000 jobs have been added over the period.

Manufacturing employment was unchanged in March at 14.3 million. Factory employment had been declining for some time, although the rate of job loss began to moderate late last summer. This abatement in job losses has been concentrated among durable goods manufacturers. The manufacturing workweek was down in March to 40.9 hours. Since July 2003, however, the factory workweek is up by eight-tenths of an hour.

Several of the major service-providing industries added jobs in March. Retail trade employment increased by 47,000. Part of this gain reflects the return to payrolls of some workers who had been on strike in food stores. Elsewhere in retail trade, employment rose over the month among motor vehicle and parts dealers and continued to trend upward in building material and garden supply stores.

In health care and social assistance, employmeny increased by 36,000 in March, almost entirely in health care industries. There were noteworthy job gains in hospitals, offices of physicians, and nursing and residential care facilitiies.

Employment in professional and business services expanded over the month. Job gains occurred in a number of component industries, including architectural and engineering services, computer systems design, and management consulting. Elsewhere in this sector, employment in the temporary help industry was basically unchanged over the month, after an increased in February. From a longer-term perspective, the number of temporary help jobs has increased by 212,000 since April 2003.

The food services industry added 27,000 jobs over the month. Over the past year, employment in food services has expanded by 186,000. The number of jobs in trans-

portation and warehousing edged up in March. In financial activities, employment increased by 11,000 in credit intermediation, reflecting the recent rise in mortgage refinancing activity. The job total in the information industry was essentially unchanged in March; employment in the industry appears to have leveled off recently following roughly 2½ years of decline.

Moving on to the data from our household survey, the unemployment rate was little changed at 5.7 percent in March. The jobless rate has held fairly steady for several months and remains below its recent peak of 6.3 percent in June 2003.

The labor force participation rate was unchanged in March at 6.5 percent. Total employment (as measured in the household survey) was essentially flat over the month, and the employment-population ratio was little changed at 62.1 percent. The number of discouraged workers—persons outside the labor force who have stopped looking for work because they believe their job search efforts would be fruitless—was 124,000 in March, not much different from a year earlier.

In summary, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 308,000 in March and is up by 759,000 since last August. The unemployment rate was little changed over the month, at 5.7 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
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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: MARCH 2004

Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 308,000 in March, and the unemployment rate was about unchanged at 5.7 percent, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Payroll job growth was fairly widespread, as construction employment rose sharply and several major service-providing industries also added jobs.

Chart 1. Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, April 2001 – March 2004

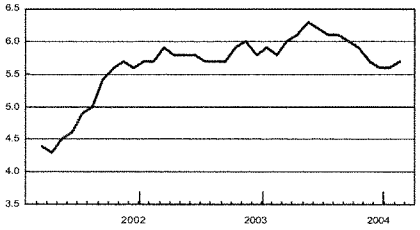
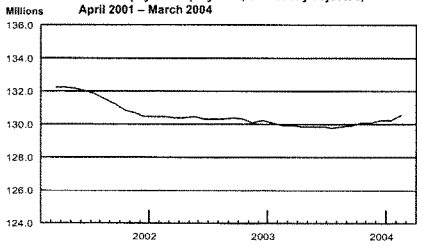


Chart 2. Nonfarm payroll employment, seasonally adjusted, April 2001 – March 2004



Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The unemployment rate, 5.7 percent, and the number of unemployed persons, 8.4 million, were essentially unchanged in March. Both measures remained below their recent highs of June 2003. Unemployment rates for the major worker groups—adult men (5.2 percent), adult women (5.1 percent), teenagers (16.5 percent), whites (5.1 percent), blacks (10.2 percent), and Hispanics or Latinos (7.4 percent)—showed little or no change over the month. The unemployment rate for Asians was 4.2 percent in March, not seasonally adjusted. (See tables A-1, A-2, and A-3.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total employment in March held at 138.3 million, and the employment-population ratio—the proportion of the population age 16 and over with jobs—was essentially unchanged at 62.1 percent. The civilian labor force was about unchanged over the month at 146.7 million, and the labor force participation rate remained at 65.9 percent. (See table A-1.)

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

(Numbers in thousands)

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Feb.-Mar. change
	2003	2004 [1]	2004			
	IV	I	Jan. [1]	Feb.	Mar.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Labor force status					
Civilian labor force	146,986	146,661	146,863	146,471	146,650	179
Employment	138,369	138,388	138,566	138,301	138,298	-3
Unemployment	8,616	8,273	8,297	8,170	8,352	182
Not in labor force	75,290	75,695	75,298	75,886	75,900	14
	Unemployment rates					
All workers	5.9	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.7	0.1
Adult men	5.5	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.2	.1
Adult women	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.1	.2
Teenagers	16.3	16.6	16.7	16.6	16.5	-.1
White	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.1	.2
Black or African American	10.7	10.1	10.5	9.8	10.2	.4
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	7.1	7.4	7.3	7.4	7.4	.0
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Employment					
Nonfarm employment	130,002	p130,327	130,194	p130,240	p130,548	p308
Goods-producing [2]	21,676	p21,706	21,696	p21,672	p21,750	p78
Construction	6,766	p6,822	6,812	p6,791	p6,862	p71
Manufacturing	14,340	p14,311	14,314	p14,310	p14,310	p0
Service-providing [2]	108,326	p108,621	108,498	p108,568	p108,798	p230
Retail trade	14,915	p14,971	14,945	p14,961	p15,008	p47
Professional and business services	16,114	p16,195	16,172	p16,185	p16,227	p42
Education and health services	16,705	p16,773	16,746	p16,767	p16,806	p39
Leisure and hospitality	12,172	p12,229	12,218	p12,221	p12,249	p28
Government	21,549	p21,547	21,527	p21,542	p21,573	p31
	Hours of work [3]					
Total private	33.7	p33.8	33.8	p33.8	p33.7	p-0.1
Manufacturing	40.6	p41.0	41.0	p41.0	p40.9	p-.1
Overtime	4.4	p4.6	4.5	p4.6	p4.6	p.0
	Indexes of aggregate weekly hours (2002=100) [3]					
Total private	98.7	p99.1	99.1	p99.1	p99.0	p-0.1
	Earnings [3]					
Average hourly earnings, total private	$15.45	p$15.52	$15.49	p$15.52	p$15.54	p$0.02
Average weekly earnings, total private	520.55	p523.95	523.56	p524.58	p523.70	p-.88

[1] Beginning in January 2004, household data reflect revised population controls used in the Current Population Survey.

[2] Includes other industries, not shown separately.

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

p=preliminary.

In March, the number of persons who worked part time for economic reasons increased to 4.7 million, about the same level as in January. These individuals indicated that they would like to work full time but were working part time because their hours had been cut back or because they were unable to find full-time jobs. (See table A-5.)

Persons Not in the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

The number of persons who were marginally attached to the labor force totaled 1.6 million in March, about the same as a year earlier. (Data are not seasonally adjusted.) These individuals wanted and were available to work and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months. They were not counted as unemployed, however, because they did not actively search for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey. There were 514,000 discouraged workers in March, also about the same as a year earlier. Discouraged workers, a subset of the marginally attached, were not currently looking for work specifically because they believed no jobs were available for them. The other 1.1 million marginally attached had not searched for work for reasons such as school or family responsibilities. (See table A-13.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 308,000 in March to 130.5 million, seasonally adjusted. The over-the-month increase in employment included gains in construction, retail trade, and health care and social assistance. The number of factory jobs was unchanged in March. Since August 2003, payroll employment has risen by 759,000. (See table B-1.)

Construction employment increased by 71,000 in March, following a decline in February. This industry has added 201,000 jobs over the past year. Most of the March employment gain occurred among specialty trade contractors.

Retail trade added 47,000 jobs in March. This sector has added 132,000 jobs since December, after posting a net job loss in 2003. Within retail trade, employment in food stores increased by 13,000 over the month, reflecting the net impact of workers returning from a strike. Wholesale trade employment edged up over the month. Since October, the industry has added 39,000 jobs.

Employment in health care and social assistance rose by 36,000 in March. Over the year, this industry has gained 255,000 jobs. In March, employment increased in hospitals (12,000), offices of physicians (9,000), and nursing and residential care facilities (7,000).

In the financial sector, employment in credit intermediation and related activities grew by 11,000 in March. Following declines in the last quarter of 2003, employment in credit intermediation expanded in the first quarter, reflecting a rise in mortgage refinancing activity. Prior to the fourth quarter of 2003, the industry had been adding jobs for about 3 years.

Professional and business services added 42,000 jobs in March. Small employment increases occurred in several of the component industries, including architectural and engineering services, computer systems design, and management consulting. Elsewhere in professional and business services, employment in temporary help services was about unchanged over the month. Since April 2003, however, the industry has added 212,000 jobs.

Within the leisure and hospitality sector, employment in food services and drinking places increased by 27,000 over the month and by 186,000 over the year.

Manufacturing employment was unchanged in March at 14.3 million. Declines in manufacturing employment began moderating late last summer. Employment in both durable and nondurable goods manufacturing was little changed in March.

Employment in a number of other industries edged up in March, including transportation and warehousing (13,000), utilities (2,000), and government (31,000). Within government, the March job gain was concentrated in state and local education.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls decreased by 0.1 hour in March to 33.7 hours, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing workweek also declined by 0.1 hour to 40.9 hours. Manufacturing overtime was unchanged at 4.6 hours over the month. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls fell by 0.1 percent in March to 99.0 (2002=100). The manufacturing index was down by 0.3 percent over the month to 94.1. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 2 cents in March to $15.54, seasonally adjusted. Average weekly earnings fell by 0.2 percent over the month to $523.70. Over the year, average hourly earnings grew by 1.8 percent, and average weekly earnings increased by 1.5 percent. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for April 2004 is scheduled to be released on Friday, May 7, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

Explanatory 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 2002 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 290,000. 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 -190,000 to 390,000 (100,000 +/- 290,000). 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 4 percent, the 90-percent confidence interval for the monthly change in unemployment is about +/- 270,000, 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 substantially 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 0.3 percent, ranging from zero to 0.7 percent.

Additional statistics and other information

More comprehensive statistics are contained in *Employment and Earnings*, published each month by BLS. It is available for $27.00 per issue or $53.00 per year from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. All orders must be prepaid by sending a check or money order payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or by charging to Mastercard or Visa.

Employment and Earnings also provides measures of sampling error for the household and establishment survey data published in this release. For unemployment and other labor force categories, these measures appear in tables 1-B through 1-D of its "Explanatory Notes." For the establishment survey data, the sampling error measures and the actual size of revisions due to benchmark adjustments appear in tables 2-B through 2-F of *Employment and Earnings*.

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]					
	Mar. 2003	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004	Mar. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004
TOTAL									
Civilian noninstitutional population	220,317	222,357	222,550	220,317	222,279	222,509	222,161	222,357	222,550
Civilian labor force	145,801	146,154	146,525	145,818	147,187	146,878	146,863	146,471	146,650
Participation rate	66.2	65.7	65.8	66.2	66.2	66.0	66.1	65.9	65.9
Employed	136,783	137,384	137,691	137,300	138,533	138,479	138,566	138,301	138,298
Employment-population ratio	62.1	61.8	61.9	62.3	62.3	62.2	62.4	62.2	62.1
Unemployed	9,018	8,770	8,834	8,519	8,653	8,398	8,297	8,170	8,352
Unemployment rate	6.2	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.7
Not in labor force	74,516	76,203	76,025	74,499	75,093	75,631	75,298	75,886	75,900
Persons who currently want a job	4,763	4,622	4,667	4,974	4,572	4,714	4,747	4,746	4,843
Men, 16 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	106,005	107,177	107,281	106,005	107,003	107,123	107,072	107,177	107,281
Civilian labor force	77,533	78,014	78,283	77,731	78,799	78,661	78,823	78,337	78,542
Participation rate	73.1	72.8	73.0	73.3	73.6	73.4	73.6	73.1	73.2
Employed	72,304	73,003	73,244	73,015	73,915	74,085	74,343	73,901	74,006
Employment-population ratio	68.2	68.1	68.3	68.9	69.1	69.2	69.4	69.0	69.0
Unemployed	5,228	5,012	5,039	4,716	4,883	4,576	4,480	4,436	4,536
Unemployment rate	6.7	6.4	6.4	6.1	6.2	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.8
Not in labor force	28,473	29,163	28,998	28,275	28,204	28,462	28,249	28,840	28,739
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	97,869	98,966	99,065	97,869	98,814	98,927	98,866	98,966	99,065
Civilian labor force	74,208	74,719	74,991	74,209	75,188	75,044	75,171	74,797	75,018
Participation rate	75.8	75.5	75.7	75.8	76.1	75.9	76.0	75.6	75.7
Employed	69,679	70,318	70,586	70,213	70,964	71,099	71,329	70,969	71,128
Employment-population ratio	71.2	71.1	71.3	71.7	71.8	71.9	72.1	71.7	71.8
Unemployed	4,528	4,402	4,405	3,995	4,224	3,945	3,842	3,828	3,890
Unemployment rate	6.1	5.9	5.9	5.4	5.6	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.2
Not in labor force	23,661	24,246	24,074	23,660	23,626	23,882	23,694	24,168	24,047
Women, 16 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	114,312	115,180	115,269	114,312	115,276	115,386	115,089	115,180	115,269
Civilian labor force	68,269	68,140	68,241	68,088	68,388	68,217	68,040	68,134	68,108
Participation rate	59.7	59.2	59.2	59.6	59.3	59.1	59.1	59.2	59.1
Employed	64,479	64,381	64,447	64,285	64,618	64,394	64,223	64,400	64,292
Employment-population ratio	56.4	55.9	55.9	56.2	56.1	55.8	55.8	55.9	55.8
Unemployed	3,790	3,758	3,794	3,803	3,770	3,823	3,817	3,734	3,816
Unemployment rate	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6
Not in labor force	46,043	47,040	47,028	46,224	46,888	47,169	47,050	47,046	47,161
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	106,411	107,216	107,299	106,411	107,303	107,404	107,131	107,216	107,299
Civilian labor force	64,877	64,832	65,036	64,490	64,917	64,846	64,515	64,629	64,687
Participation rate	61.0	60.5	60.6	60.6	60.5	60.4	60.2	60.3	60.3
Employed	61,592	61,592	61,703	61,219	61,597	61,521	61,260	61,456	61,373
Employment-population ratio	57.9	57.4	57.5	57.5	57.4	57.3	57.2	57.3	57.2
Unemployed	3,285	3,240	3,333	3,271	3,320	3,326	3,255	3,172	3,314
Unemployment rate	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.9	5.1
Not in labor force	41,533	42,384	42,264	41,921	42,387	42,558	42,617	42,587	42,613
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian noninstitutional population	16,038	16,175	16,186	16,038	16,162	16,178	16,164	16,175	16,186
Civilian labor force	6,717	6,603	6,498	7,120	7,082	6,987	7,177	7,045	6,945
Participation rate	41.9	40.8	40.1	44.4	43.8	43.2	44.4	43.6	42.9
Employed	5,512	5,475	5,402	5,868	5,972	5,859	5,977	5,875	5,797
Employment-population ratio	34.4	33.8	33.4	36.6	37.0	36.2	37.0	36.3	35.8
Unemployed	1,205	1,128	1,096	1,252	1,109	1,128	1,200	1,170	1,148
Unemployment rate	17.9	17.1	16.9	17.6	15.7	16.1	16.7	16.6	16.5
Not in labor force	9,321	9,572	9,688	8,918	9,080	9,191	8,987	9,130	9,240

[1] The population figures are not adjusted for seasonal variation; therefore, identical numbers appear in the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted columns.
NOTE: Beginning in January 2004, data reflect revised population controls used in the household survey.

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]					
	Mar. 2003	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004	Mar. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004
WHITE									
Civilian noninstitutional population	180,728	182,001	182,121	180,728	182,032	182,185	181,879	182,001	182,121
Civilian labor force	120,201	120,336	120,455	120,223	121,041	120,751	120,723	120,540	120,542
Participation rate	66.5	66.1	66.1	66.5	66.5	66.3	66.4	66.2	66.2
Employed	113,630	113,834	113,921	114,057	114,783	114,678	114,765	114,602	114,433
Employment-population ratio	62.9	62.5	62.6	63.1	63.1	62.9	63.1	63.0	62.8
Unemployed	6,572	6,502	6,533	6,166	6,258	6,073	5,958	5,938	6,109
Unemployment rate	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.1	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.1
Not in labor force	60,526	61,665	61,666	60,505	60,991	61,434	61,156	61,460	61,579
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	62,214	62,494	62,622	62,253	62,913	62,752	62,799	62,603	62,672
Participation rate	76.3	76.0	76.1	76.3	76.5	76.2	76.4	76.1	76.1
Employed	58,802	59,123	59,245	59,277	59,777	59,794	59,969	59,763	59,736
Employment-population ratio	72.1	71.9	72.0	72.7	72.7	72.6	73.0	72.6	72.6
Unemployed	3,412	3,371	3,377	2,976	3,136	2,957	2,830	2,840	2,936
Unemployment rate	5.5	5.4	5.4	4.8	5.0	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.7
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	52,404	52,281	52,388	52,033	52,210	52,199	51,954	51,993	52,016
Participation rate	60.5	60.0	60.1	60.0	59.9	59.8	59.6	59.7	59.6
Employed	50,120	50,051	50,053	49,761	49,932	49,941	49,668	49,797	49,710
Employment-population ratio	57.8	57.4	57.4	57.4	57.2	57.2	57.0	57.1	57.0
Unemployed	2,284	2,230	2,335	2,272	2,279	2,258	2,286	2,197	2,306
Unemployment rate	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.4
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian labor force	5,583	5,561	5,445	5,937	5,918	5,800	5,970	5,944	5,854
Participation rate	44.7	44.2	43.3	47.5	47.1	46.1	47.5	47.3	46.5
Employed	4,707	4,661	4,623	5,019	5,074	4,942	5,128	5,042	4,987
Employment-population ratio	37.7	37.1	36.7	40.2	40.4	39.3	40.8	40.1	39.6
Unemployed	876	900	822	918	843	857	842	902	867
Unemployment rate	15.7	16.2	15.1	15.5	14.3	14.8	14.1	15.2	14.8
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN									
Civilian noninstitutional population	25,552	25,900	25,932	25,552	25,860	25,894	25,867	25,900	25,932
Civilian labor force	16,288	16,274	16,531	16,359	16,524	16,365	16,602	16,404	16,595
Participation rate	63.7	62.8	63.7	64.0	63.9	63.2	64.2	63.3	64.0
Employed	14,558	14,650	14,793	14,678	14,812	14,679	14,866	14,804	14,909
Employment-population ratio	57.0	56.6	57.0	57.4	57.3	56.7	57.5	57.2	57.5
Unemployed	1,730	1,624	1,738	1,681	1,712	1,686	1,736	1,600	1,686
Unemployment rate	10.6	10.0	10.5	10.3	10.4	10.3	10.5	9.8	10.2
Not in labor force	9,264	9,626	9,402	9,193	9,336	9,529	9,265	9,495	9,337
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	7,209	7,284	7,357	7,221	7,414	7,382	7,450	7,305	7,367
Participation rate	70.5	70.1	70.7	70.7	71.6	71.2	71.8	70.3	70.8
Employed	6,465	6,552	6,620	6,533	6,668	6,695	6,737	6,620	6,689
Employment-population ratio	63.3	63.1	63.7	63.9	64.4	64.6	65.0	63.7	64.3
Unemployed	744	732	737	689	746	687	713	684	678
Unemployment rate	10.3	10.1	10.0	9.5	10.1	9.3	9.6	9.4	9.2
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	8,352	8,369	8,491	8,353	8,401	8,276	8,358	8,418	8,492
Participation rate	64.4	63.8	64.7	64.4	64.1	63.1	63.8	64.2	64.7
Employed	7,624	7,628	7,702	7,622	7,639	7,471	7,595	7,674	7,700
Employment-population ratio	58.8	58.2	58.7	58.8	58.3	56.9	58.0	58.5	58.7
Unemployed	728	740	789	731	762	805	762	745	792
Unemployment rate	8.7	8.8	9.3	8.8	9.1	9.7	9.1	8.8	9.3
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian labor force	727	621	683	785	710	707	794	682	737
Participation rate	30.7	25.8	28.3	33.2	29.6	29.4	33.1	28.3	30.6
Employed	470	470	471	523	505	514	533	510	521
Employment-population ratio	19.8	19.5	19.6	22.1	21.0	21.4	22.2	21.2	21.6
Unemployed	257	151	212	261	205	193	261	171	217
Unemployment rate	35.4	24.3	31.0	33.3	28.9	27.3	32.9	25.1	29.4
ASIAN									
Civilian noninstutional population	9,081	9,334	9,395	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Civilian labor force	6,063	6,190	6,235	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Participation rate	66.8	66.3	66.4	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Employed	5,672	5,900	5,971	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Employment-population ratio	62.5	63.2	63.6	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Unemployed	391	290	264	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Unemployment rate	6.5	4.7	4.2	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Not in labor force	3,018	3,144	3,160	[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. Beginning in January 2004, data reflect revised population controls used in the household survey.

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]					
	Mar. 2003	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004	Mar. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004
HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY									
Civilian noninstitutional population	27,191	27,705	27,791	27,191	28,016	28,116	27,619	27,705	27,791
Civilian labor force	18,665	18,682	19,053	18,604	19,125	19,035	18,811	18,693	19,010
Participation rate	68.6	67.4	68.6	68.4	68.3	67.7	68.1	67.5	68.4
Employed	17,123	17,170	17,534	17,173	17,709	17,784	17,441	17,303	17,596
Employment-population ratio	63.0	62.0	63.1	63.2	63.2	63.3	63.2	62.5	63.3
Unemployed	1,542	1,512	1,519	1,431	1,416	1,250	1,370	1,389	1,414
Unemployment rate	8.3	8.1	8.0	7.7	7.4	6.6	7.3	7.4	7.4
Not in labor force	8,527	9,023	8,738	8,587	8,891	9,082	8,807	9,012	8,781
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	10,625	10,709	10,857	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Participation rate	84.2	83.2	84.0	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Employed	9,868	9,917	10,125	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Employment-population ratio	78.2	77.0	78.4	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Unemployed	757	792	732	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Unemployment rate	7.1	7.4	6.7	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	7,120	7,036	7,261	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Participation rate	59.1	57.5	59.1	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Employed	6,501	6,547	6,689	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Employment-population ratio	53.9	53.5	54.5	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Unemployed	619	490	572	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Unemployment rate	8.7	7.0	7.9	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian labor force	920	937	935	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Participation rate	36.5	36.3	36.2	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Employed	754	707	720	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Employment-population ratio	29.9	27.4	27.8	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Unemployed	166	230	215	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Unemployment rate	18.0	24.5	23.0	[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. Beginning in January 2004, data reflect revised population controls used in the household survey.

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					
	Mar. 2003	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004	Mar. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004
Less than a high school diploma									
Civilian labor force	12,874	12,191	12,397	12,841	12,764	12,712	12,356	12,526	12,390
Participation rate	45.0	44.1	45.1	44.9	45.6	44.9	44.3	45.4	45.1
Employed	11,608	10,965	11,155	11,735	11,677	11,678	11,271	11,455	11,302
Employment-population ratio	40.6	39.7	40.6	41.0	41.7	41.2	40.4	41.5	41.1
Unemployed	1,266	1,227	1,242	1,106	1,087	1,034	1,085	1,071	1,088
Unemployment rate	9.8	10.1	10.0	8.6	8.5	8.1	8.8	8.5	8.8
High school graduates, no college [1]									
Civilian labor force	37,911	37,985	37,778	37,786	38,241	37,958	37,662	37,898	37,749
Participation rate	64.0	63.4	63.3	63.8	63.6	63.5	63.0	63.3	63.2
Employed	35,625	35,802	35,576	35,718	36,179	35,868	35,829	35,998	35,765
Employment-population ratio	60.1	59.8	59.6	60.3	60.2	60.0	59.9	60.1	59.9
Unemployed	2,287	2,182	2,202	2,068	2,061	2,090	1,832	1,900	1,984
Unemployment rate	6.0	5.7	5.8	5.5	5.4	5.5	4.9	5.0	5.3
Some college or associate degree									
Civilian labor force	34,103	34,357	34,475	34,080	33,727	33,932	33,810	34,026	34,354
Participation rate	73.5	72.8	73.0	73.4	72.4	72.2	72.5	72.1	72.8
Employed	32,399	32,792	32,794	32,427	32,114	32,400	32,276	32,536	32,726
Employment-population ratio	69.8	69.5	69.5	69.9	68.9	69.0	69.2	68.9	69.3
Unemployed	1,703	1,565	1,681	1,633	1,613	1,532	1,535	1,489	1,628
Unemployment rate	5.0	4.6	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.7
Bachelor's degree and higher [2]									
Civilian labor force	39,603	40,148	40,535	39,467	40,536	40,515	40,450	39,917	40,371
Participation rate	78.7	78.2	78.2	78.5	78.7	79.0	78.4	77.7	77.9
Employed	38,443	38,984	39,414	38,256	39,292	39,291	39,277	38,748	39,197
Employment-population ratio	76.4	75.9	76.1	76.1	76.3	76.6	76.1	75.5	75.6
Unemployed	1,160	1,165	1,120	1,211	1,244	1,224	1,173	1,169	1,174
Unemployment rate	2.9	2.9	2.8	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9

[1] Includes high school diploma or equivalent.
[2] Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

NOTE: Beginning in January 2004, data reflect revised population controls used in the household survey.

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

(In thousands)

Category	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Mar. 2003	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004	Mar. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004
CLASS OF WORKER									
Agriculture and related industries	2,108	1,956	2,025	2,235	2,418	2,245	2,163	2,190	2,161
Wage and salary workers	1,149	1,067	1,125	1,259	1,440	1,294	1,220	1,246	1,234
Self-employed workers	928	872	880	936	953	919	929	912	896
Unpaid family workers	30	17	20	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])
Nonagricultural industries	134,676	135,428	135,666	135,054	136,172	136,180	136,306	136,166	136,122
Wage and salary workers	125,588	126,122	126,595	125,783	126,466	126,661	126,664	126,572	126,811
Government	19,573	19,791	20,137	19,390	19,609	19,694	19,681	19,497	19,936
Private industries	106,015	106,331	106,458	106,393	106,876	107,110	107,019	107,008	106,833
Private households	676	791	767	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])
Other industries	105,339	105,540	105,691	105,690	106,129	106,382	106,204	106,173	106,035
Self-employed workers	8,985	9,196	8,955	9,201	9,541	9,477	9,501	9,498	9,210
Unpaid family workers	102	111	116	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])
PERSONS AT WORK PART TIME [2]									
All industries:									
Part time for economic reasons	4,764	4,764	4,868	4,662	4,880	4,788	4,714	4,437	4,733
Slack work or business conditions	3,263	3,098	3,163	3,100	3,226	3,205	2,996	2,865	3,011
Could only find part-time work	1,203	1,429	1,430	1,213	1,350	1,295	1,380	1,347	1,427
Part time for noneconomic reasons	19,555	19,653	19,616	18,928	19,110	18,561	18,905	18,900	19,006
Nonagricultural industries:									
Part time for economic reasons	4,672	4,655	4,750	4,550	4,782	4,727	4,613	4,328	4,622
Slack work or business conditions	3,199	3,032	3,081	3,028	3,153	3,144	2,911	2,778	2,927
Could only find part-time work	1,200	1,421	1,423	1,193	1,353	1,279	1,399	1,340	1,414
Part time for noneconomic reasons	19,158	19,327	19,276	18,580	18,752	18,367	18,636	18,691	18,693

[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. Beginning in January 2004, data reflect revised population controls used in the household survey.

Table A-6. Selected employment indicators

(In thousands)

Characteristic	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Mar. 2003	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004	Mar. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004
Total, 16 years and over	136,783	137,384	137,691	137,300	138,533	138,479	138,566	138,301	138,298
16 to 19 years	5,512	5,475	5,402	5,868	5,972	5,859	5,977	5,875	5,797
16 to 17 years	2,053	2,079	1,944	2,298	2,361	2,292	2,367	2,330	2,191
18 to 19 years	3,459	3,395	3,459	3,588	3,592	3,562	3,605	3,573	3,590
20 years and over	131,272	131,909	132,289	131,432	132,561	132,620	132,589	132,426	132,501
20 to 24 years	13,197	13,366	13,350	13,456	13,371	13,413	13,609	13,582	13,602
25 years and over	118,075	118,543	118,939	117,949	119,106	119,168	118,930	118,869	118,832
25 to 54 years	97,030	96,644	96,855	97,019	97,422	97,436	97,161	96,982	96,671
25 to 34 years	30,314	29,972	30,163	30,416	30,389	30,340	30,326	30,178	30,260
35 to 44 years	34,952	34,403	34,460	34,910	34,909	34,819	34,506	34,486	34,425
45 to 54 years	31,764	32,269	32,232	31,693	32,125	32,277	32,328	32,319	32,186
55 years and over	21,044	21,899	22,084	20,930	21,683	21,732	21,769	21,886	21,961
Men, 16 years and over	72,304	73,003	73,244	73,015	73,915	74,085	74,343	73,901	74,006
16 to 19 years	2,625	2,685	2,656	2,801	2,951	2,986	3,014	2,931	2,878
16 to 17 years	944	957	871	1,068	1,189	1,153	1,157	1,105	999
18 to 19 years	1,681	1,728	1,787	1,749	1,779	1,817	1,862	1,850	1,858
20 years and over	69,679	70,318	70,586	70,213	70,964	71,099	71,329	70,969	71,128
20 to 24 years	6,970	7,007	7,027	7,165	7,050	7,048	7,198	7,155	7,202
25 years and over	62,709	63,311	63,559	63,033	63,876	64,061	64,167	63,903	63,879
25 to 54 years	51,546	51,681	51,795	51,856	52,293	52,441	52,416	52,179	52,107
25 to 34 years	16,474	16,382	16,522	16,650	16,747	16,740	16,773	16,606	16,693
35 to 44 years	18,627	18,529	18,529	18,723	18,844	18,857	18,712	18,683	18,632
45 to 54 years	16,447	16,770	16,743	16,483	16,702	16,843	16,931	16,889	16,781
55 years and over	11,161	11,630	11,764	11,176	11,583	11,620	11,751	11,724	11,772
Women, 16 years and over	64,479	64,381	64,447	64,285	64,618	64,394	64,223	64,400	64,292
16 to 19 years	2,887	2,790	2,744	3,066	3,021	2,873	2,963	2,944	2,919
16 to 17 years	1,109	1,122	1,073	1,231	1,172	1,139	1,210	1,225	1,192
18 to 19 years	1,778	1,667	1,671	1,839	1,813	1,745	1,743	1,723	1,732
20 years and over	61,592	61,592	61,703	61,219	61,597	61,521	61,260	61,456	61,373
20 to 24 years	6,226	6,360	6,322	6,290	6,321	6,365	6,411	6,427	6,400
25 years and over	55,366	55,232	55,380	54,916	55,230	55,107	54,763	54,966	54,953
25 to 54 years	45,482	44,963	45,061	45,163	45,130	44,996	44,745	44,803	44,764
25 to 34 years	13,840	13,591	13,641	13,766	13,642	13,599	13,554	13,570	13,566
35 to 44 years	16,325	15,873	15,931	16,188	16,065	15,962	15,794	15,803	15,793
45 to 54 years	15,318	15,499	15,488	15,209	15,423	15,434	15,397	15,430	15,405
55 years and over	9,884	10,269	10,320	9,753	10,100	10,112	10,018	10,162	10,189
Married men, spouse present	44,146	44,843	44,793	44,381	45,152	45,431	45,490	45,128	45,043
Married women, spouse present	34,691	34,681	34,533	34,527	35,076	35,034	34,585	34,502	34,256
Women who maintain families	8,511	8,666	8,768	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])
Full-time workers [2]	111,936	112,692	112,756	113,091	114,024	114,597	113,976	114,037	113,951
Part-time workers [3]	24,847	24,692	24,935	24,144	24,569	24,023	24,306	24,081	24,273

[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. Beginning in January 2004, data reflect revised population controls used in the household survey.

Table A-7. Selected unemployment indicators, seasonally adjusted

Characteristic	Number of unemployed persons (in thousands)			Unemployment rates [1]					
	Mar. 2003	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004	Mar. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004
Total, 16 years and over	8,519	8,170	8,352	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.7
16 to 19 years	1,252	1,170	1,148	17.6	15.7	16.1	16.7	16.6	16.5
16 to 17 years	476	497	529	17.2	17.5	18.3	18.2	17.6	19.4
18 to 19 years	758	663	608	17.4	14.7	14.7	15.7	15.7	14.5
20 years and over	7,266	7,000	7,204	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.2
20 to 24 years	1,335	1,421	1,437	9.0	10.4	9.6	9.8	9.5	9.6
25 years and over	5,909	5,595	5,758	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.6
25 to 54 years	5,097	4,732	4,953	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.9
25 to 34 years	1,876	1,802	1,895	5.8	6.2	6.0	5.7	5.6	5.9
35 to 44 years	1,762	1,631	1,712	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.7
45 to 54 years	1,459	1,299	1,346	4.4	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.0
55 years and over	857	859	859	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.8
Men, 16 years and over	4,716	4,436	4,536	6.1	6.2	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.8
16 to 19 years	720	609	646	20.5	18.3	17.4	17.5	17.2	18.3
16 to 17 years	243	266	287	18.5	18.3	18.4	19.3	19.4	22.3
18 to 19 years	457	344	349	20.7	18.1	16.9	16.2	15.7	15.8
20 years and over	3,995	3,828	3,890	5.4	5.6	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.2
20 to 24 years	703	794	809	8.9	11.2	10.4	10.5	10.0	10.1
25 years and over	3,287	3,045	3,100	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.6
25 to 54 years	2,782	2,598	2,632	5.1	5.2	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.8
25 to 34 years	1,017	1,060	1,048	5.8	6.3	5.9	5.6	6.0	5.9
35 to 44 years	963	880	904	4.9	4.9	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.6
45 to 54 years	803	658	680	4.6	4.4	4.1	4.0	3.8	3.9
55 years and over	505	448	468	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.6	3.7	3.8
Women, 16 years and over	3,803	3,734	3,816	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6
16 to 19 years	532	561	502	14.8	13.0	14.7	15.9	16.0	14.7
16 to 17 years	233	231	242	15.9	16.6	18.2	17.1	15.9	16.9
18 to 19 years	301	319	259	14.1	11.1	12.2	15.2	15.6	13.0
20 years and over	3,271	3,172	3,314	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.9	5.1
20 to 24 years	632	627	628	9.1	9.6	8.8	8.9	8.9	8.9
25 years and over	2,622	2,550	2,658	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.6
25 to 54 years	2,315	2,134	2,321	4.9	4.8	5.0	4.8	4.5	4.9
25 to 34 years	860	742	847	5.9	6.0	6.1	5.9	5.2	5.9
35 to 44 years	799	751	808	4.7	4.9	5.0	4.6	4.5	4.9
45 to 54 years	657	641	666	4.1	3.7	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.1
55 years and over [2]	339	415	372	3.3	3.5	3.5	4.1	3.9	3.5
Married men, spouse present	1,743	1,579	1,509	3.8	3.7	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.2
Married women, spouse present	1,328	1,290	1,311	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.7
Women who maintain families [2]	782	766	800	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.1	8.4
Full-time workers [3]	7,123	6,816	6,961	5.9	6.1	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.8
Part-time workers [4]	1,398	1,308	1,376	5.5	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.4

[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 shown in this table will not necessarily add to totals because of the independent seasonal adjustment of the various series. Beginning in January 2004, data reflect revised population controls used in the household survey.

Table A-8. Unemployed persons by reason for unemployment

(Numbers in thousands)

Reason	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Mar. 2003	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004	Mar. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004
NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED									
Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs	5,150	4,868	4,920	4,774	4,719	4,618	4,382	4,323	4,607
On temporary layoff	1,402	1,450	1,266	1,151	1,055	1,060	1,028	1,064	1,040
Not on temporary layoff	3,749	3,438	3,654	3,623	3,664	3,558	3,353	3,258	3,567
Permanent job losers	2,837	2,629	2,784	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])
Persons who completed temporary jobs	912	809	870	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])	([1])
Job leavers	828	841	866	802	931	783	804	827	836
Reentrants	2,478	2,491	2,491	2,410	2,440	2,366	2,509	2,424	2,424
New entrants	561	550	556	620	619	694	681	676	627
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	57.1	55.7	55.7	55.5	54.2	54.6	52.3	52.4	54.2
On temporary layoff	15.5	16.5	14.3	13.4	12.1	12.5	12.3	12.9	12.2
Not on temporary layoff	41.6	39.2	41.4	42.1	42.1	42.0	40.0	39.5	42.0
Job leavers	9.2	9.6	9.8	9.3	10.7	9.3	9.6	10.0	9.8
Reentrants	27.5	28.4	28.2	28.0	28.0	28.0	30.0	29.4	28.5
New entrants	6.2	6.3	6.3	7.2	7.1	8.2	8.1	8.2	7.4
UNEMPLOYED AS A PERCENT OF THE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE									
Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.1
Job leavers	.6	.6	.6	.5	.6	.5	.5	.6	.6
Reentrants	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7
New entrants	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.5	.5	.5	.4

[1] Data not available.
NOTE: Beginning in January 2004, data reflect revised population controls used in the household survey.

Table A-9. Unemployed persons by duration of unemployment

(Numbers in thousands)

Duration	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Mar. 2003	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004	Mar. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004
NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED									
Less than 5 weeks	2,595	2,318	2,413	2,788	2,622	2,627	2,612	2,468	2,589
5 to 14 weeks	2,825	2,912	2,686	2,531	2,556	2,450	2,394	2,412	2,414
15 weeks and over	3,598	3,540	3,754	3,168	3,484	3,403	3,365	3,274	3,320
15 to 26 weeks	1,703	1,605	1,683	1,340	1,448	1,513	1,467	1,403	1,332
27 weeks and over	1,896	1,935	2,071	1,829	2,036	1,890	1,898	1,871	1,988
Average (mean) duration, in weeks	18.9	20.3	20.8	18.1	20.0	19.6	19.8	20.3	20.1
Median duration, in weeks	11.2	10.9	11.8	9.7	10.4	10.4	10.7	10.3	10.3
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	28.8	26.4	27.3	32.8	30.3	31.0	31.2	30.3	31.1
5 to 14 weeks	31.3	33.2	30.2	29.8	29.5	28.9	28.6	29.6	29.0
15 weeks and over	39.9	40.4	42.5	37.3	40.2	40.1	40.2	40.2	39.9
15 to 26 weeks	18.9	18.3	19.1	15.8	16.7	17.8	17.5	17.2	16.0
27 weeks and over	21.0	22.1	23.4	21.5	23.5	22.3	22.7	22.9	23.9

NOTE: Beginning in January 2004, data reflect revised population controls used in the household survey.

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

(Numbers in thousands)

Occupation	Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rates	
	Mar. 2003	Mar. 2004	Mar. 2003	Mar. 2004	Mar. 2003	Mar. 2004
Total, 16 years and over [1]	136,783	137,691	9,018	8,834	6.2	6.0
Management, professional, and related occupations	48,383	48,810	1,458	1,340	2.9	2.7
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	20,263	20,228	643	550	3.1	2.6
Professional and related occupations	28,120	28,582	815	791	2.8	2.7
Service occupations	21,719	22,102	1,850	1,770	7.9	7.4
Sales and office occupations	35,397	35,018	2,000	2,215	5.3	5.9
Sales and related occupations	15,811	15,711	961	1,034	5.7	6.2
Office and administrative support occupations	19,586	19,307	1,039	1,181	5.0	5.8
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	13,419	13,908	1,441	1,469	9.7	9.6
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	959	858	155	187	13.9	17.9
Construction and extraction occupations	7,472	7,979	988	1,003	11.7	11.2
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4,988	5,071	298	279	5.6	5.2
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	17,865	17,853	1,675	1,464	8.6	7.6
Production occupations	9,556	9,484	852	760	8.2	7.3
Transportation and material moving occupations	8,310	8,369	824	714	9.0	7.9

[1] Persons with no previous work experience and persons whose last job was in the Armed Forces are included in the unemployed total.
NOTE: Beginning in January 2004, data reflect revised population controls used in the household survey.

Table A-11. Unemployed persons by industry, not seasonally adjusted

Industry	Number of unemployed persons (in thousands)		Unemployment rates	
	Mar. 2003	Mar. 2004	Mar. 2003	Mar. 2004
Total, 16 years and over [1]	9,018	8,834	6.2	6.0
Nonagricultural private wage and salary workers	7,490	7,334	6.6	6.4
Mining	46	22	8.2	4.4
Construction	987	1,011	11.8	11.3
Manufacturing	1,222	1,083	6.8	6.3
Durable goods	743	676	6.7	6.4
Nondurable goods	479	408	7.0	6.1
Wholesale and retail trade	1,179	1,386	5.9	6.8
Transportation and utilities	319	284	5.9	5.4
Information	267	216	7.4	6.3
Financial activities	357	343	4.0	3.7
Professional and business services	1,190	999	9.1	7.9
Education and health services	518	584	2.9	3.2
Leisure and hospitality	1,035	1,039	8.9	9.0
Other services	370	366	6.1	5.9
Agriculture and related private wage and salary workers	161	153	12.9	12.7
Government workers	526	530	2.6	2.6
Self employed and unpaid family workers	279	260	2.7	2.5

[1] Persons with no previous work experience are included in the unemployed total.
NOTE: Beginning in January 2004, data reflect revised population controls used in the household survey.

Table A-12. Alternative measures of labor underutilization

(Percent)

Measure	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Mar. 2003	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004	Mar. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004
U-1 Persons unemployed 15 weeks or longer, as a percent of the civilian labor force	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.3
U-2 Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs, as a percent of the civilian labor force	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.1
U-3 Total unemployed, as a percent of the civilian labor force (official unemployment rate)	6.2	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.7
U-4 Total unemployed plus discouraged workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers	6.5	6.3	6.4	6.1	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.9	6.0
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	7.2	7.1	7.1	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7
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	10.4	10.3	10.4	10.0	10.1	9.9	9.9	9.6	9.9

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 currently looking 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 further information, see "BLS introduces new range of alternative unemployment measures," in the October 1995 issue of the *Monthly Labor Review*. Beginning in January 2004, data reflect revised population controls used in the household survey.

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

(Numbers in thousands)

Category	Total		Men		Women	
	Mar. 2003	Mar. 2004	Mar. 2003	Mar. 2004	Mar. 2003	Mar. 2004
NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE						
Total not in the labor force	74,516	76,025	28,473	28,998	46,043	47,028
Persons who currently want a job	4,763	4,667	2,224	2,145	2,539	2,522
Searched for work and available to work now [1]	1,577	1,643	831	879	745	764
Reason not currently looking:						
Discouragement over job prospects [2]	474	514	313	336	160	177
Reasons other than discouragement [3]	1,103	1,130	518	543	585	587
MULTIPLE JOBHOLDERS						
Total multiple jobholders [4]	7,385	7,377	3,771	3,702	3,613	3,675
Percent of total employed	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.6	5.7
Primary job full time, secondary job part time	3,954	3,921	2,214	2,182	1,740	1,739
Primary and secondary jobs both part time	1,691	1,710	523	560	1,168	1,151
Primary and secondary jobs both full time	321	318	207	195	114	123
Hours vary on primary or secondary job	1,379	1,399	798	751	581	648

[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: Beginning in January 2004, data reflect revised population controls used in the household survey.

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

(In thousands)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted						
	Mar. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004[p]	Mar. 2004[p]	Mar. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004[p]	Mar. 2004[p]	Change from: Feb. 2004-Mar. 2004[p]
Total nonfarm	129,148	128,190	128,794	129,801	129,921	130,027	130,035	130,194	130,240	130,548	308
Total private	107,131	106,767	106,968	107,816	108,305	108,483	108,491	108,667	108,698	108,975	277
Goods-producing	21,529	21,168	21,126	21,335	21,949	21,686	21,668	21,696	21,672	21,750	78
Natural resources and mining	556	556	556	563	571	571	570	570	571	578	7
Logging	64.2	62.9	62.1	62.0	69.2	67.6	65.9	65.1	64.2	66.7	2.5
Mining	491.5	492.9	494.0	501.2	501.6	503.4	504.3	505.1	506.5	510.8	4.3
Oil and gas extraction	119.8	126.8	128.5	128.4	121.2	123.9	124.6	126.9	128.4	129.2	.8
Mining, except oil and gas[1]	196.4	191.7	191.1	196.3	201.9	202.4	202.0	200.0	199.8	201.8	2.0
Coal mining	70.5	69.2	69.4	70.0	70.7	69.5	69.8	69.6	69.9	70.2	.3
Support activities for mining	175.3	174.4	174.4	176.5	178.5	177.1	177.7	178.2	178.3	179.8	1.5
Construction	6,319	6,399	6,356	6,516	6,661	6,771	6,774	6,812	6,791	6,862	71
Construction of buildings	1,510.6	1,535.2	1,524.0	1,550.5	1,571.4	1,583.9	1,585.1	1,593.3	1,591.4	1,610.0	18.6
Heavy and civil engineering construction	811.6	816.6	806.8	840.4	898.1	918.8	920.7	928.0	923.9	925.9	2.0
Specialty trade contractors	3,997.0	4,046.9	4,025.0	4,124.7	4,191.3	4,268.6	4,268.4	4,290.2	4,276.0	4,325.9	49.9
Manufacturing	14,654	14,213	14,214	14,256	14,717	14,344	14,324	14,314	14,310	14,310	0
Production workers	10,303	9,952	9,953	9,991	10,346	10,048	10,044	10,035	10,027	10,024	-3
Durable goods	9,066	8,818	8,835	8,864	9,092	8,874	8,868	8,869	8,877	8,882	5
Production workers	6,232	6,040	6,049	6,074	6,244	6,089	6,079	6,081	6,081	6,080	-1
Wood products	528.5	526.0	528.9	529.9	537.4	536.3	536.6	536.3	538.5	538.5	.0
Nonmetallic mineral products	485.9	475.7	471.0	480.5	497.1	489.7	487.5	492.7	488.6	490.0	1.4
Primary metals	488.8	462.2	460.8	461.0	489.3	464.1	464.6	462.2	461.5	460.7	-.8
Fabricated metal products	1,492.0	1,469.2	1,473.3	1,475.6	1,494.5	1,468.1	1,471.2	1,471.8	1,475.9	1,476.7	.8
Machinery	1,171.1	1,137.3	1,140.3	1,143.8	1,169.3	1,142.5	1,140.4	1,138.7	1,139.5	1,141.6	2.1
Computer and electronic products[1]	1,387.0	1,331.2	1,331.6	1,333.9	1,388.6	1,334.4	1,332.2	1,333.2	1,332.9	1,334.2	1.3
Computer and peripheral equipment	231.4	218.2	218.2	219.0	231.3	219.1	217.8	219.4	219.1	218.9	-.2
Communications equipment	160.2	154.8	155.2	154.7	160.6	154.4	153.0	154.8	155.0	155.0	.0
Semiconductors and electronic components	472.0	449.3	450.9	451.5	472.2	451.2	451.3	450.2	451.1	451.2	.1
Electronic instruments	434.2	424.4	422.0	423.3	434.9	425.2	425.3	423.7	422.1	423.5	1.4
Electrical equipment and appliances	469.6	449.0	448.6	448.3	469.3	450.9	451.2	449.8	448.9	447.0	-1.9
Transportation equipment	1,792.1	1,753.4	1,762.4	1,765.7	1,793.6	1,766.5	1,762.7	1,760.6	1,765.8	1,765.2	-.6
Furniture and related products	580.6	567.0	567.8	573.6	581.9	568.9	569.3	571.3	572.1	575.5	3.4
Miscellaneous manufacturing	670.1	646.9	650.3	652.0	670.9	652.7	651.9	652.0	653.3	652.4	-.9
Nondurable goods	5,588	5,395	5,379	5,392	5,625	5,470	5,456	5,445	5,433	5,428	-5
Production workers	4,071	3,912	3,904	3,917	4,102	3,959	3,965	3,954	3,946	3,944	-2
Food manufacturing	1,493.2	1,480.1	1,472.1	1,470.9	1,517.3	1,508.3	1,506.3	1,500.7	1,499.6	1,498.4	-1.2
Beverages and tobacco products	197.5	193.5	190.2	190.5	202.2	198.3	198.3	197.7	195.9	195.6	-.3
Textile mills	274.6	237.5	235.1	238.0	274.2	245.1	241.0	239.2	237.1	237.2	.1
Textile product mills	186.3	174.3	173.4	177.7	187.2	175.2	174.3	176.9	175.7	177.2	1.5
Apparel	326.9	289.9	293.5	293.6	326.8	297.7	297.7	296.1	296.4	292.8	-3.6
Leather and allied products	46.7	43.8	44.3	46.1	46.8	44.1	44.3	44.6	45.0	45.7	.7
Paper and paper products	522.1	508.4	505.2	504.9	525.0	511.7	510.3	509.8	507.8	507.7	-.1
Printing and related support activities	684.6	665.2	661.1	659.8	685.7	673.1	670.1	667.6	664.3	660.7	-3.6
Petroleum and coal products	114.4	110.7	109.5	110.9	116.8	112.0	112.4	114.3	113.0	113.0	.0
Chemicals	916.1	890.3	893.6	895.6	916.2	897.6	895.9	893.7	894.6	894.8	.2
Plastics and rubber products	825.6	801.2	801.4	803.8	826.9	806.5	805.8	804.8	803.5	804.5	1.0
Service-providing	107,619	107,022	107,668	108,466	107,972	108,341	108,367	108,498	108,568	108,798	230
Private service-providing	85,602	85,599	85,842	86,481	86,356	86,797	86,823	86,971	87,026	87,225	199
Trade, transportation, and utilities	24,994	25,132	24,951	25,084	25,328	25,261	25,211	25,312	25,325	25,398	73
Wholesale trade	5,598.2	5,568.8	5,568.9	5,596.0	5,628.3	5,592.7	5,598.4	5,611.4	5,610.1	5,621.0	10.9
Durable goods	2,948.5	2,940.0	2,937.3	2,950.3	2,961.2	2,943.9	2,945.8	2,954.9	2,952.7	2,961.1	8.4
Nondurable goods	1,997.6	1,970.0	1,971.3	1,980.9	2,013.0	1,989.2	1,991.8	1,993.7	1,993.6	1,993.4	-.2
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	652.1	658.8	660.3	664.8	654.1	659.6	660.8	662.8	663.8	666.5	2.7

See footnotes at 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						
	Mar. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004[p]	Mar. 2004[p]	Mar. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004[p]	Mar. 2004[p]	Change from: Feb. 2004-Mar. 2004[p]
Retail trade	14,648.1	14,842.1	14,672.4	14,754.0	14,911.6	14,921.7	14,876.0	14,944.8	14,960.9	15,008.0	47.1
Motor vehicle and parts dealers[1]	1,861.1	1,870.2	1,877.7	1,894.4	1,874.3	1,892.9	1,893.7	1,895.4	1,900.7	1,907.5	6.8
Automobile dealers	1,246.4	1,251.7	1,257.0	1,263.7	1,249.4	1,258.9	1,259.5	1,261.3	1,264.3	1,267.3	3.0
Furniture and home furnishings stores	540.2	548.0	540.5	542.2	543.5	544.8	547.2	546.4	544.7	545.6	.9
Electronics and appliance stores	510.9	517.5	508.0	507.8	513.2	512.8	511.9	509.3	507.4	509.4	2.0
Building material and garden supply stores	1,143.2	1,167.6	1,164.8	1,200.4	1,173.7	1,210.0	1,209.5	1,221.4	1,226.8	1,231.9	5.1
Food and beverage stores	2,818.0	2,813.6	2,804.8	2,814.5	2,854.0	2,821.4	2,813.9	2,826.3	2,833.1	2,845.9	12.8
Health and personal care stores	930.8	956.2	950.9	949.9	937.3	951.6	952.6	954.1	954.9	956.4	1.5
Gasoline stations	871.3	868.2	860.5	861.6	881.7	875.2	871.1	875.1	872.1	871.7	-.4
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	1,260.7	1,312.2	1,274.3	1,281.5	1,296.8	1,297.1	1,301.0	1,304.3	1,310.7	1,316.5	5.8
Sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores	634.9	644.4	623.2	617.3	651.2	641.3	633.2	635.9	635.3	632.7	-2.6
General merchandise stores[1]	2,733.7	2,804.2	2,728.9	2,752.5	2,815.8	2,826.4	2,793.4	2,822.7	2,823.2	2,834.0	10.8
Department stores	1,575.4	1,604.8	1,544.7	1,555.8	1,628.8	1,612.6	1,601.3	1,603.4	1,600.7	1,608.0	7.3
Miscellaneous store retailers	918.2	915.2	915.6	910.9	939.2	930.9	924.4	929.6	926.6	930.4	3.8
Nonstore retailers	425.1	424.8	423.2	421.0	430.9	417.3	424.1	424.3	425.4	426.0	.6
Transportation and warehousing	4,165.8	4,143.3	4,132.8	4,154.4	4,204.3	4,168.0	4,157.0	4,175.9	4,174.6	4,187.8	13.2
Air transportation	545.2	505.9	506.9	511.9	550.5	511.5	512.9	510.2	511.8	514.4	2.6
Rail transportation	213.2	214.0	213.8	214.5	214.7	215.5	215.5	215.4	215.7	215.9	.2
Water transportation	52.0	48.8	46.5	47.6	53.4	50.9	50.0	50.6	48.8	49.0	.2
Truck transportation	1,303.5	1,315.4	1,312.0	1,318.2	1,329.0	1,335.7	1,338.7	1,343.6	1,342.3	1,342.9	.6
Transit and ground passenger transportation	390.9	389.8	389.7	392.5	376.4	385.7	385.0	382.3	380.4	379.1	-1.3
Pipeline transportation	40.8	38.3	37.9	37.7	41.0	38.7	38.8	38.3	38.1	37.9	-.2
Scenic and sightseeing transportation	21.5	23.7	24.3	25.6	26.5	28.7	29.4	28.7	30.8	31.7	.9
Support activities for transportation	513.8	509.3	511.6	512.5	518.5	512.4	511.6	514.1	514.4	516.8	2.4
Couriers and messengers	565.5	572.1	565.2	565.2	570.8	564.7	559.0	566.9	567.6	568.3	.7
Warehousing and storage	519.4	526.0	524.9	528.7	523.5	524.2	516.1	525.8	524.7	531.8	7.1
Utilities	581.4	578.2	576.9	579.7	583.4	578.9	579.3	580.2	579.8	581.4	1.6
Information	3,214	3,151	3,155	3,158	3,221	3,172	3,175	3,163	3,168	3,167	-1
Publishing industries, except Internet	935.0	912.1	912.9	914.1	935.9	918.4	917.4	914.0	914.8	915.5	.7
Motion picture and sound recording industries	367.0	377.2	377.6	376.0	371.3	382.7	385.2	379.7	382.8	381.1	-1.7
Broadcasting, except Internet	326.3	328.4	330.7	332.8	327.0	327.0	329.5	329.7	331.8	333.1	1.3
Internet publishing and broadcasting	30.0	30.4	31.7	31.8	30.1	30.4	30.4	30.8	31.8	31.8	.0
Telecommunications	1,097.0	1,059.0	1,055.3	1,053.1	1,098.6	1,062.2	1,061.2	1,061.3	1,057.4	1,055.4	-2.0
ISPs, search portals, and data processing	410.3	396.8	400.1	402.5	409.6	402.6	402.6	400.1	402.1	402.6	.5
Other information services	48.3	47.3	47.1	47.9	48.1	48.2	48.2	47.8	47.5	47.9	.4
Financial activities	7,910	7,926	7,938	7,956	7,945	7,985	7,981	7,981	7,989	7,995	6
Finance and insurance	5,895.4	5,899.8	5,910.9	5,921.6	5,902.9	5,922.7	5,916.5	5,917.1	5,925.2	5,931.8	6.6
Monetary authorities - central bank	22.8	22.4	22.3	22.3	22.9	22.5	22.5	22.4	22.4	22.4	.0
Credit intermediation and related activities[1]	2,758.3	2,777.4	2,778.5	2,790.4	2,763.5	2,790.3	2,783.3	2,785.3	2,788.7	2,799.2	10.5
Depository credit intermediation[1]	1,741.4	1,758.2	1,758.5	1,759.6	1,745.0	1,758.1	1,757.1	1,758.7	1,763.4	1,763.6	.2
Commercial banking	1,275.5	1,279.5	1,278.6	1,278.8	1,279.1	1,280.5	1,278.9	1,280.4	1,282.5	1,282.7	.2
Securities, commodity contracts, investments	761.0	771.9	776.6	777.4	764.6	769.1	771.9	773.8	778.0	780.1	2.1
Insurance carriers and related activities	2,270.0	2,248.8	2,253.7	2,251.7	2,268.5	2,261.2	2,258.1	2,255.8	2,256.4	2,250.4	-6.0
Funds, trusts, and other financial vehicles	83.3	79.3	79.8	79.8	83.4	79.6	80.7	79.8	79.7	79.7	.0
Real estate and rental and leasing	2,014.2	2,025.8	2,027.2	2,034.5	2,041.7	2,062.7	2,064.0	2,063.6	2,064.1	2,063.0	-1.1
Real estate	1,360.7	1,372.2	1,376.9	1,384.3	1,376.8	1,394.5	1,395.7	1,397.7	1,399.3	1,400.3	1.0
Rental and leasing services	627.1	624.4	620.3	620.6	637.9	639.0	638.3	636.0	634.4	632.3	-2.1
Lessors of nonfinancial intangible assets	26.4	29.2	30.0	29.6	27.0	29.2	30.0	29.9	30.4	30.4	.0
Professional and business services	15,700	15,802	15,897	16,039	15,871	16,114	16,159	16,172	16,185	16,227	42
Professional and technical services[1]	6,697.1	6,680.5	6,732.7	6,757.1	6,626.1	6,647.9	6,669.3	6,657.9	6,662.0	6,689.2	27.2
Legal services	1,130.9	1,131.0	1,132.4	1,131.6	1,136.1	1,142.9	1,140.5	1,138.7	1,138.6	1,137.4	-1.2
Accounting and bookkeeping services	935.2	900.4	944.1	928.2	827.7	810.6	826.6	815.2	812.6	819.0	6.4
Architectural and engineering services	1,212.1	1,216.2	1,215.6	1,226.9	1,228.7	1,233.9	1,235.2	1,236.0	1,238.8	1,244.0	5.2
Computer systems design and related services	1,112.9	1,103.4	1,102.4	1,109.0	1,110.3	1,105.7	1,105.7	1,104.6	1,104.0	1,108.9	4.9
Management and technical consulting services	739.1	754.8	761.9	770.3	742.8	760.6	764.0	765.4	769.0	774.5	5.5

See footnotes at 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						
	Mar. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004[p]	Mar. 2004[p]	Mar. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004[p]	Mar. 2004[p]	Change from: Feb. 2004-Mar. 2004[p]
Professional and business services--Continued											
Management of companies and enterprises	1,667.9	1,661.3	1,658.6	1,659.9	1,679.2	1,671.6	1,670.2	1,675.1	1,672.6	1,670.3	-2.3
Administrative and waste services	7,335.4	7,460.6	7,505.7	7,622.0	7,565.8	7,794.5	7,819.2	7,838.5	7,850.7	7,867.2	16.5
Administrative and support services[1]	7,022.1	7,147.6	7,191.0	7,304.9	7,246.3	7,473.7	7,496.3	7,517.5	7,528.3	7,544.2	15.9
Employment services[1]	3,114.7	3,258.1	3,311.0	3,363.6	3,240.2	3,427.6	3,461.3	3,473.8	3,496.1	3,496.6	.5
Temporary help services	2,069.1	2,185.7	2,231.2	2,269.4	2,163.7	2,319.4	2,355.3	2,344.3	2,372.9	2,371.1	-1.8
Business support services	749.5	732.0	738.0	745.9	745.7	746.7	745.1	739.0	738.8	742.7	3.9
Services to buildings and dwellings	1,513.9	1,502.3	1,491.2	1,540.7	1,607.0	1,639.4	1,635.9	1,637.1	1,631.5	1,639.6	8.1
Waste management and remediation services	313.3	313.0	314.7	317.1	319.5	320.8	322.9	321.0	322.4	323.0	.6
Education and health services	16,632	16,635	16,865	16,948	16,488	16,705	16,731	16,746	16,767	16,806	39
Educational services	2,817.1	2,653.3	2,863.6	2,879.9	2,672.1	2,723.1	2,728.0	2,729.3	2,731.7	2,735.5	3.8
Health care and social assistance	13,814.7	13,982.0	14,001.7	14,068.2	13,815.9	13,981.5	14,003.2	14,017.1	14,034.9	14,070.4	35.5
Ambulatory health care services[1]	4,730.8	4,824.6	4,834.4	4,856.7	4,739.2	4,818.7	4,831.0	4,840.3	4,853.8	4,865.4	11.6
Offices of physicians	1,987.1	2,028.7	2,028.9	2,038.9	1,990.7	2,023.3	2,030.0	2,032.3	2,033.9	2,042.4	8.5
Outpatient care centers	423.4	427.0	430.9	430.5	422.9	426.4	425.0	427.8	430.8	429.6	-1.2
Home health care services	711.6	737.2	731.8	739.8	714.0	735.7	739.9	740.2	740.4	742.8	2.4
Hospitals	4,229.4	4,281.6	4,276.9	4,292.3	4,233.4	4,278.1	4,283.9	4,287.8	4,284.6	4,296.2	11.6
Nursing and residential care facilities[1]	2,771.5	2,785.1	2,778.8	2,793.6	2,774.7	2,792.8	2,793.0	2,792.1	2,791.2	2,798.6	7.4
Nursing care facilities	1,578.9	1,576.9	1,572.2	1,580.0	1,580.4	1,584.1	1,581.7	1,580.3	1,578.8	1,582.8	4.0
Social assistance[1]	2,083.0	2,090.7	2,111.6	2,125.6	2,068.6	2,091.9	2,095.3	2,096.9	2,105.3	2,110.2	4.9
Child day care services	771.1	770.7	783.9	788.9	756.4	766.3	770.0	766.3	772.1	773.1	1.0
Leisure and hospitality	11,769	11,634	11,701	11,925	12,107	12,178	12,192	12,218	12,221	12,249	28
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,665.2	1,596.3	1,608.9	1,660.5	1,807.8	1,799.4	1,795.2	1,801.4	1,799.5	1,800.7	1.2
Performing arts and spectator sports	358.7	335.4	344.5	349.6	377.0	371.7	368.8	369.4	369.3	367.2	-2.1
Museums, historical sites, zoos, and parks	109.2	105.2	104.5	108.1	114.8	113.3	113.1	113.4	113.2	113.5	.3
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	1,197.3	1,155.7	1,159.9	1,202.8	1,316.0	1,314.4	1,313.3	1,318.6	1,317.0	1,320.0	3.0
Accommodations and food services	10,103.6	10,037.5	10,091.9	10,264.4	10,299.6	10,378.9	10,396.3	10,416.5	10,421.0	10,448.1	27.1
Accommodations	1,725.0	1,659.5	1,671.1	1,692.5	1,786.7	1,751.7	1,763.0	1,752.1	1,749.4	1,749.2	-.2
Food services and drinking places	8,378.6	8,378.0	8,420.8	8,571.9	8,512.9	8,627.2	8,633.3	8,664.4	8,671.6	8,698.9	27.3
Other services	5,383	5,319	5,335	5,371	5,396	5,382	5,374	5,379	5,371	5,383	12
Repair and maintenance	1,233.4	1,223.3	1,223.9	1,235.0	1,233.3	1,234.4	1,228.5	1,233.5	1,229.7	1,234.9	5.2
Personal and laundry services	1,253.7	1,234.5	1,231.6	1,247.2	1,262.2	1,254.1	1,250.2	1,251.2	1,247.7	1,255.7	8.0
Membership associations and organizations	2,896.1	2,861.4	2,879.2	2,888.9	2,900.2	2,893.9	2,895.7	2,894.5	2,893.8	2,892.8	-1.0
Government	22,017	21,423	21,826	21,985	21,616	21,544	21,544	21,527	21,542	21,573	31
Federal	2,774	2,694	2,699	2,700	2,789	2,723	2,720	2,715	2,714	2,713	-1
Federal, except U.S. Postal Service	1,961.3	1,901.9	1,909.3	1,912.6	1,972.7	1,924.9	1,928.9	1,921.5	1,922.3	1,923.0	.7
U.S. Postal Service	813.1	791.9	789.2	787.0	816.5	798.1	791.4	793.1	792.0	790.2	-1.8
State government	5,164	4,925	5,117	5,167	5,024	5,023	5,027	5,007	5,018	5,028	10
State government education	2,404.8	2,201.4	2,392.5	2,433.0	2,258.7	2,282.5	2,285.7	2,268.0	2,279.7	2,289.2	9.5
State government, excluding education	2,758.8	2,723.5	2,724.6	2,733.8	2,765.1	2,740.0	2,740.9	2,738.9	2,738.3	2,739.0	.7
Local government	14,079	13,804	14,010	14,118	13,803	13,798	13,797	13,805	13,810	13,832	22
Local government education	8,055.2	7,798.1	7,995.6	8,081.1	7,696.8	7,684.5	7,687.1	7,692.2	7,698.0	7,713.5	15.5
Local government, excluding education	6,023.6	6,006.2	6,014.5	6,037.1	6,106.2	6,113.1	6,109.7	6,112.7	6,112.3	6,118.8	6.5

[1] Includes other industries, not shown separately.

[p] = preliminary.

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

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted						
	Mar. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004[p]	Mar. 2004[p]	Mar. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004[p]	Mar. 2004[p]	Change from: Feb. 2004-Mar. 2004[p]
Total private	33.7	33.3	33.8	33.5	33.8	33.8	33.6	33.8	33.8	33.7	-0.1
Goods-producing	39.7	39.8	39.8	40.1	39.9	40.1	39.9	40.2	40.3	40.2	-.1
Natural resources and mining	43.7	43.6	43.4	43.8	44.2	43.9	43.6	44.5	44.0	44.1	.1
Construction	38.2	37.5	37.2	38.4	38.7	38.5	38.1	38.5	38.5	38.6	.1
Manufacturing	40.3	40.7	40.8	40.8	40.4	40.8	40.6	41.0	41.0	40.9	-.1
Overtime hours	4.0	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.1	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	.0
Durable goods	40.6	41.3	41.3	41.4	40.6	41.3	41.2	41.5	41.5	41.4	-.1
Overtime hours	4.0	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.1	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.8	.0
Wood products	39.8	40.1	40.4	40.4	40.1	41.2	41.0	40.9	41.1	40.8	-.3
Nonmetallic mineral products	42.0	41.4	41.6	42.6	42.6	42.4	42.3	42.5	42.6	42.9	.3
Primary metals	42.6	43.3	42.9	43.2	42.5	42.7	42.7	43.1	43.0	43.0	.0
Fabricated metal products	40.4	41.2	41.0	41.0	40.5	40.9	40.8	41.2	41.1	41.1	.0
Machinery	40.7	41.7	42.1	41.9	40.5	41.1	41.1	41.8	42.0	41.7	-.3
Computer and electronic products	40.4	40.5	41.1	40.8	40.3	40.7	40.4	40.8	41.3	40.7	-.6
Electrical equipment and appliances	40.5	41.0	40.8	40.7	40.5	40.8	40.7	41.1	40.9	40.8	-.1
Transportation equipment	41.6	42.8	42.9	43.0	41.5	42.7	42.7	42.8	42.9	42.8	-.1
Furniture and related products	38.2	39.4	39.1	39.7	38.3	39.9	39.7	39.7	39.5	39.8	.3
Miscellaneous manufacturing	38.5	38.9	38.8	38.8	38.4	38.9	38.5	39.0	38.8	38.7	-.1
Nondurable goods	39.9	39.9	40.0	39.9	40.0	40.1	39.9	40.2	40.3	40.1	-.2
Overtime hours	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2	-.1
Food manufacturing	39.1	39.1	38.8	38.6	39.6	39.2	39.1	39.5	39.4	39.2	-.2
Beverages and tobacco products	38.8	38.6	39.6	39.0	39.4	39.9	39.1	39.6	40.5	39.5	-1.0
Textile mills	39.7	40.1	40.2	40.6	39.4	40.0	39.7	40.0	40.2	40.2	.0
Textile product mills	39.2	39.1	39.5	38.8	39.1	40.0	39.8	39.4	40.0	38.8	-1.2
Apparel	36.0	35.3	36.0	36.4	35.8	36.2	35.8	35.7	36.1	36.1	.0
Leather and allied products	39.9	39.5	39.5	39.9	39.7	39.3	40.3	39.8	39.5	39.6	.1
Paper and paper products	41.6	41.9	41.7	41.7	41.8	41.9	41.8	41.9	42.0	41.9	-.1
Printing and related support activities	38.6	38.2	38.4	38.6	38.4	38.4	38.2	38.6	38.6	38.5	-.1
Petroleum and coal products	45.9	44.3	44.1	43.0	45.8	45.6	44.2	43.8	44.0	43.1	-.9
Chemicals	42.6	42.7	43.4	43.3	42.7	42.7	42.5	42.9	43.3	43.2	-.1
Plastics and rubber products	40.1	40.6	40.6	40.7	40.2	40.7	40.4	40.8	40.8	40.8	.0
Private service-providing	32.4	31.9	32.5	32.1	32.4	32.4	32.2	32.4	32.4	32.3	-.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	33.4	32.9	33.5	33.2	33.6	33.6	33.5	33.6	33.6	33.5	-.1
Wholesale trade	37.8	37.4	38.0	37.6	37.8	38.0	37.8	37.9	37.9	37.9	.0
Retail trade	30.6	30.2	30.6	30.4	30.9	30.9	30.8	31.0	30.9	30.8	-.1
Transportation and warehousing	36.6	36.3	37.0	36.6	36.7	37.0	36.7	36.9	37.2	36.9	-.3
Utilities	41.1	40.7	41.2	41.3	41.4	41.4	40.8	40.8	41.1	41.5	.4
Information	36.2	36.0	36.6	35.8	36.3	36.3	36.2	36.2	36.4	36.2	-.2
Financial activities	36.0	35.3	36.1	35.3	35.6	35.5	35.3	35.7	35.6	35.6	.0
Professional and business services	34.5	33.6	34.4	33.9	34.3	34.1	33.8	34.1	34.2	34.0	-.2
Education and health services	32.3	32.3	32.6	32.2	32.3	32.4	32.4	32.4	32.4	32.4	.0
Leisure and hospitality	25.7	24.9	25.8	25.4	25.6	25.7	25.6	25.7	25.7	25.7	.0
Other services	31.5	30.9	31.2	30.9	31.6	31.2	31.0	31.1	31.1	31.1	.0

[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.

[p] = preliminary.

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

Industry	Average hourly earnings				Average weekly earnings			
	Mar. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004[p]	Mar. 2004[p]	Mar. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004[p]	Mar. 2004[p]
Total private	$15.31	$15.56	$15.60	$15.55	$515.95	$518.15	$527.28	$520.93
Seasonally adjusted	15.27	15.49	15.52	15.54	516.13	523.56	524.58	523.70
Goods-producing	16.60	16.94	16.96	17.01	659.02	674.21	675.01	682.10
Natural resources and mining	17.50	18.00	18.05	18.15	764.75	784.80	783.37	794.97
Construction	18.74	19.01	19.09	19.08	715.87	712.88	710.15	732.67
Manufacturing	15.62	15.98	16.00	16.00	629.49	650.39	652.80	652.80
Durable goods	16.34	16.66	16.69	16.69	663.40	688.06	689.30	690.97
Wood products	12.52	12.90	12.91	12.91	498.30	517.29	521.56	521.56
Nonmetallic mineral products	15.53	16.03	16.00	16.06	652.26	663.64	665.60	684.16
Primary metals	17.88	18.39	18.35	18.17	761.69	796.29	787.22	784.94
Fabricated metal products	14.97	15.20	15.18	15.24	604.79	626.24	622.38	624.84
Machinery	16.17	16.53	16.52	16.48	658.12	689.30	695.49	690.51
Computer and electronic products	16.57	16.81	16.94	17.00	669.43	680.81	696.23	693.60
Electrical equipment and appliances	14.27	14.50	14.61	14.72	577.94	594.50	596.09	599.10
Transportation equipment	21.07	21.38	21.41	21.35	876.51	915.06	918.49	918.05
Furniture and related products	12.92	12.95	12.92	12.98	493.54	510.23	505.17	515.31
Miscellaneous manufacturing	13.22	13.68	13.75	13.80	508.97	532.15	533.50	535.44
Nondurable goods	14.51	14.89	14.88	14.90	578.95	594.11	595.20	594.51
Food manufacturing	12.74	12.91	12.88	12.92	498.13	504.78	499.74	498.71
Beverages and tobacco products	17.85	18.88	18.54	19.14	692.58	728.77	734.18	746.46
Textile mills	11.92	12.11	12.14	12.11	473.22	485.61	488.03	491.67
Textile product mills	10.96	11.45	11.40	11.34	429.63	447.70	450.30	439.99
Apparel	9.44	9.74	9.58	9.59	339.84	343.82	344.88	349.08
Leather and allied products	11.59	11.94	11.76	11.66	462.44	471.63	464.52	465.23
Paper and paper products	17.09	17.63	17.55	17.57	710.94	738.70	731.84	732.67
Printing and related support activities	15.32	15.53	15.57	15.60	591.35	593.25	597.89	602.16
Petroleum and coal products	24.09	24.13	24.32	24.21	1,105.73	1,068.96	1,072.51	1,041.03
Chemicals	18.33	18.83	18.87	18.80	780.86	804.04	818.96	814.04
Plastics and rubber products	14.01	14.43	14.46	14.50	561.80	585.86	587.08	590.15
Private service-providing	14.96	15.19	15.24	15.16	484.70	484.56	495.30	486.64
Trade, transportation, and utilities	14.34	14.50	14.58	14.51	478.96	477.05	488.43	481.73
Wholesale trade	17.32	17.56	17.59	17.47	654.70	656.74	668.42	656.87
Retail trade	11.90	11.98	12.04	11.99	364.14	361.80	368.42	364.50
Transportation and warehousing	16.19	16.46	16.59	16.52	592.55	597.50	613.83	604.63
Utilities	24.47	25.38	25.32	25.33	1,005.72	1,032.97	1,043.18	1,046.13
Information	20.78	21.21	21.32	21.16	752.24	763.56	780.31	757.53
Financial activities	16.91	17.34	17.46	17.42	608.76	612.10	630.31	614.93
Professional and business services	17.34	17.38	17.47	17.30	598.23	583.97	600.97	586.47
Education and health services	15.54	15.94	15.95	15.93	501.94	514.86	519.97	512.95
Leisure and hospitality	8.75	8.89	8.92	8.88	224.88	221.36	230.14	225.55
Other services	13.85	13.89	13.89	13.85	436.28	429.20	433.37	427.97

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

[p] = preliminary.

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

Industry	Mar. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004[p]	Mar. 2004[p]	Percent change from: Feb. 2004-Mar. 2004[p]
Total private:							
Current dollars	$15.27	$15.46	$15.45	$15.49	$15.52	$15.54	0.1
Constant (1982) dollars[2]	8.21	8.32	8.30	8.27	8.27	N.A.	([3])
Goods-producing	16.68	16.94	16.97	17.00	17.06	17.09	.2
Natural resources and mining	17.45	17.79	17.91	17.95	18.02	18.08	.3
Construction	18.83	19.06	19.04	19.11	19.20	19.19	-.1
Manufacturing	15.63	15.89	15.93	15.94	15.98	16.01	.2
Excluding overtime[4]	14.88	15.06	15.09	15.11	15.13	15.16	.2
Durable goods	16.35	16.58	16.64	16.63	16.68	16.70	.1
Nondurable goods	14.53	14.79	14.81	14.85	14.88	14.92	.3
Private service-providing	14.88	15.06	15.05	15.08	15.11	15.13	.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	14.28	14.44	14.41	14.45	14.48	14.48	.0
Wholesale trade	17.26	17.47	17.46	17.53	17.53	17.54	.1
Retail trade	11.85	11.97	11.95	11.95	11.97	11.95	-.2
Transportation and warehousing	16.20	16.35	16.33	16.46	16.51	16.52	.1
Utilities	24.45	25.36	25.13	25.32	25.38	25.37	.0
Information	20.82	21.10	20.99	21.15	21.26	21.23	-.1
Financial activities	16.82	17.30	17.30	17.35	17.32	17.44	.7
Professional and business services	17.17	17.29	17.25	17.24	17.25	17.28	.2
Education and health services	15.56	15.77	15.81	15.87	15.91	15.95	.3
Leisure and hospitality	8.74	8.82	8.84	8.85	8.86	8.87	.1
Other services	13.89	13.81	13.80	13.84	13.85	13.88	.2

[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 percent from Jan. 2004 to Feb. 2004, 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.

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

(2002=100)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted						
	Mar. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004[p]	Mar. 2004[p]	Mar. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004[p]	Mar. 2004[p]	Percent change from: Feb. 2004-Mar. 2004[p]
Total private	97.4	95.7	97.3	97.3	98.9	99.0	98.4	99.1	99.1	99.0	-0.1
Goods-producing	93.7	92.1	91.8	93.7	96.6	95.6	95.2	96.0	96.2	96.2	.0
Natural resources and mining	94.5	94.1	93.4	96.4	98.4	97.7	97.1	99.1	97.7	99.8	2.1
Construction	90.7	89.7	88.1	93.9	98.5	99.0	98.2	99.7	99.6	100.7	1.1
Manufacturing	95.3	93.0	93.2	93.6	95.9	94.1	93.6	94.4	94.4	94.1	-.3
Durable goods	95.1	93.7	93.9	94.5	95.3	94.5	94.1	94.8	94.8	94.6	-.2
Wood products	94.6	94.8	96.3	96.2	96.9	99.7	99.2	98.7	99.7	98.8	-.9
Nonmetallic mineral products	91.9	89.1	88.4	92.9	95.8	93.6	93.6	95.5	94.7	95.7	1.1
Primary metals	96.4	92.6	91.4	92.1	96.3	91.5	91.7	92.1	91.8	91.6	-.2
Fabricated metal products	95.8	95.9	95.9	96.0	96.1	95.1	95.0	96.1	96.3	96.3	.0
Machinery	95.6	94.6	96.1	95.9	94.6	94.2	93.5	94.9	95.4	94.8	-.6
Computer and electronic products	94.6	89.5	90.3	89.4	94.3	90.8	89.4	90.2	90.8	89.2	-1.8
Electrical equipment and appliances	94.5	90.3	89.2	89.5	94.2	90.3	90.0	90.6	89.7	89.3	-.4
Transportation equipment	95.8	96.7	97.4	98.0	95.4	97.0	96.8	97.3	97.5	97.3	-.2
Furniture and related products	92.7	93.1	92.3	94.7	93.2	94.5	94.1	94.4	94.0	95.1	1.2
Miscellaneous manufacturing	95.5	91.3	91.6	92.0	95.3	92.7	91.6	92.4	92.1	91.7	-.4
Nondurable goods	95.7	91.9	92.0	92.0	96.6	93.5	93.2	93.6	93.7	93.1	-.6
Food manufacturing	96.2	95.3	94.0	93.6	99.3	96.5	97.1	97.7	97.3	96.9	-.4
Beverages and tobacco products	88.1	84.4	86.7	84.6	92.3	88.1	87.4	88.8	90.8	88.1	-3.0
Textile mills	92.1	80.1	78.9	80.9	91.3	82.3	80.4	80.3	79.8	79.9	.1
Textile product mills	95.0	90.7	90.8	91.7	95.2	92.6	91.9	92.4	93.0	91.5	-1.6
Apparel	87.4	74.4	76.6	77.9	86.9	78.9	77.6	77.2	78.1	76.9	-1.5
Leather and allied products	97.4	88.8	90.7	95.0	96.9	90.0	92.2	91.4	91.7	93.3	1.7
Paper and paper products	93.9	90.9	89.9	90.1	95.0	91.9	91.5	91.3	91.1	91.2	.1
Printing and related support activities	96.8	92.6	92.8	93.0	96.6	94.2	93.6	94.2	93.8	93.0	-.9
Petroleum and coal products	101.1	96.3	95.3	95.4	103.2	100.1	97.8	99.0	98.8	97.3	-1.5
Chemicals	100.5	98.1	100.4	100.5	100.4	98.9	98.6	99.0	100.1	100.0	-.1
Plastics and rubber products	95.9	93.7	93.8	94.2	96.1	94.7	94.0	94.6	94.6	94.5	-.1
Private service-providing	98.4	96.7	98.7	98.3	99.3	99.8	99.1	99.9	100.0	99.8	-.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	96.8	95.9	96.8	96.4	98.9	98.6	98.0	98.7	98.7	98.7	.0
Wholesale trade	97.8	95.7	97.1	96.5	98.4	97.9	97.4	97.7	97.7	97.8	.1
Retail trade	96.0	96.1	96.1	95.9	99.0	99.0	98.3	99.4	99.2	99.2	.0
Transportation and warehousing	97.5	96.3	98.0	97.4	98.8	98.8	97.6	98.8	99.6	99.1	-.5
Utilities	98.0	96.8	97.8	98.3	99.1	98.8	97.2	97.4	98.0	99.2	1.2
Information	97.4	96.4	98.2	96.6	97.4	97.7	97.5	97.1	97.9	97.5	-.4
Financial activities	102.0	99.8	102.0	100.0	101.3	101.3	100.7	101.7	101.4	101.4	.0
Professional and business services	98.0	95.7	98.7	98.3	98.6	99.4	98.7	99.7	100.2	99.8	-.4
Education and health services	101.6	101.1	103.4	102.6	100.6	102.0	102.1	102.1	102.1	102.3	.2
Leisure and hospitality	97.0	92.7	96.6	97.0	99.4	100.5	100.2	100.8	100.8	101.0	.2
Other services	97.5	94.0	95.1	94.9	98.2	96.3	95.4	95.8	95.6	95.9	.3

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

[p] = preliminary.

NOTE: The indexes of aggregate weekly hours are calculated by dividing the current month's 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 or nonsupervisory worker employment.

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

(2002=100)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted						
	Mar. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004[p]	Mar. 2004[p]	Mar. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004[p]	Mar. 2004[p]	Percent change from: Feb. 2004-Mar. 2004[p]
Total private	99.7	99.6	101.5	101.2	101.0	102.4	101.7	102.7	102.9	103.0	0.1
Goods-producing	95.3	95.5	95.3	97.6	98.7	99.2	98.9	99.9	100.4	100.7	.3
Natural resources and mining	96.2	98.5	98.1	101.7	99.9	101.1	101.1	103.4	102.4	105.0	2.5
Construction	91.8	92.1	90.8	96.7	100.1	101.9	100.9	102.9	103.3	104.3	1.0
Manufacturing	97.3	97.2	97.5	97.9	98.1	97.8	97.5	98.4	98.6	98.5	-.1
Durable goods	97.0	97.5	97.8	98.4	97.2	97.8	97.8	98.4	98.7	98.6	-.1
Nondurable goods	98.1	96.7	96.7	96.9	99.2	97.7	97.5	98.2	98.5	98.2	-.3
Private service-providing	101.1	100.9	103.4	102.4	101.5	103.2	102.5	103.5	103.8	103.8	.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	99.0	99.2	100.7	99.8	100.7	101.5	100.7	101.7	102.0	102.0	.0
Wholesale trade	99.8	98.9	100.6	99.3	100.0	100.7	100.2	100.9	100.9	101.0	.1
Retail trade	97.9	98.7	99.1	98.6	100.5	101.5	100.7	101.8	101.7	101.6	-.1
Transportation and warehousing	100.2	100.6	103.1	102.1	101.5	102.5	101.1	103.2	104.3	103.9	-.4
Utilities	100.1	102.5	103.3	103.9	101.1	104.6	101.9	102.9	103.8	105.0	1.2
Information	100.2	101.2	103.7	101.2	100.4	102.1	101.3	101.6	103.0	102.5	-.5
Financial activities	106.6	107.0	110.1	107.7	105.4	108.3	107.7	109.1	108.6	109.3	.6
Professional and business services	101.1	99.0	102.6	101.2	100.7	102.2	101.3	102.3	102.8	102.6	-.2
Education and health services	103.8	106.0	108.4	107.4	102.9	105.7	106.1	106.5	106.8	107.2	.4
Leisure and hospitality	98.9	96.0	100.5	100.4	101.3	103.4	103.3	104.0	104.1	104.4	.3
Other services	98.4	95.2	96.3	95.7	99.3	96.9	96.0	96.6	96.5	96.9	.4

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

[p] = preliminary.

NOTE: The indexes of aggregate weekly payrolls are calculated by dividing the current month's 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 or nonsupervisory worker employment.

Table B-7. Diffusion indexes of employment change, seasonally adjusted

(Percent)

Time Span	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Private nonfarm payrolls, 278 industries [1]											
Over 1-month span:												
2000	61.9	62.9	63.3	59.5	46.9	61.7	63.1	52.5	51.1	53.4	56.8	53.8
2001	52.2	47.8	50.4	34.4	41.4	39.2	37.1	38.8	38.3	32.4	36.7	34.9
2002	40.1	35.1	41.0	41.5	41.7	47.8	44.1	44.1	42.8	39.0	38.7	34.5
2003	41.2	35.1	38.1	41.4	42.8	40.1	40.5	39.7	49.3	46.0	51.1	49.1
2004	52.3	p 51.4	p 61.0									
Over 3-month span:												
2000	69.2	66.2	67.8	68.3	60.1	58.1	56.3	61.5	56.5	53.2	52.9	56.8
2001	52.7	50.4	50.4	43.5	38.8	34.9	36.2	37.9	34.7	35.3	30.8	32.0
2002	34.0	37.4	35.1	36.2	36.7	39.4	39.9	40.8	38.7	37.1	34.4	34.7
2003	36.5	32.6	36.3	35.1	40.5	42.6	37.4	35.4	40.1	45.5	50.5	51.1
2004	54.0	p 53.6	p 57.9									
Over 6-month span:												
2000	67.3	69.1	72.5	72.5	67.4	67.8	66.7	60.8	59.0	55.0	59.7	54.0
2001	51.8	50.0	51.8	47.3	43.5	41.5	38.1	35.4	32.2	33.1	31.5	31.1
2002	29.5	30.0	31.1	31.1	31.7	37.1	37.2	39.0	34.7	36.5	35.3	33.3
2003	33.6	31.1	31.7	31.7	33.5	37.8	36.2	36.5	40.5	39.4	42.6	41.7
2004	48.9	p 54.0	p 57.6									
Over 12-month span:												
2000	70.9	69.2	73.2	71.0	69.8	71.0	70.0	70.3	70.3	65.6	63.8	62.1
2001	59.5	59.5	53.4	49.3	48.6	45.0	43.3	43.9	39.9	37.8	37.1	34.9
2002	33.6	31.7	30.2	30.4	30.2	29.1	32.0	31.3	30.0	29.5	32.9	34.7
2003	34.5	31.5	32.9	33.5	36.2	34.4	34.7	33.1	37.6	37.4	33.1	35.4
2004	37.8	p 43.5	p 45.7									
	Manufacturing payrolls, 84 industries [1]											
Over 1-month span:												
2000	48.2	58.3	50.0	50.0	41.1	57.1	60.7	28.6	25.0	35.1	39.9	41.1
2001	22.6	22.0	21.4	16.1	15.5	23.2	13.7	14.3	19.0	17.9	14.9	10.1
2002	21.4	18.5	23.8	35.1	29.8	32.7	40.5	28.0	31.0	11.9	15.5	17.9
2003	26.2	15.5	22.6	13.7	26.2	25.0	28.0	26.2	27.4	28.6	51.2	45.8
2004	42.9	p 51.8	p 48.8									
Over 3-month span:												
2000	53.6	53.6	56.0	54.8	44.0	44.0	51.2	47.6	32.7	25.0	23.2	38.7
2001	35.7	21.4	16.1	14.3	13.1	13.7	11.9	8.9	8.3	13.1	8.9	10.1
2002	9.5	10.1	11.3	17.9	17.3	19.0	28.0	22.0	23.8	15.5	6.5	4.8
2003	13.7	13.1	16.7	10.1	13.1	14.9	16.1	16.1	16.1	24.4	27.4	41.7
2004	48.8	p 51.2	p 48.2									
Over 6-month span:												
2000	44.0	52.4	55.4	57.7	47.6	51.8	56.0	45.2	39.3	34.5	32.1	27.4
2001	22.0	23.8	22.0	20.8	14.3	13.7	14.3	10.1	10.7	5.4	7.1	4.8
2002	6.5	8.9	7.7	8.3	7.7	14.3	14.9	10.7	12.5	10.1	8.9	8.9
2003	11.3	9.5	6.0	7.1	8.9	13.1	8.9	13.1	13.1	16.7	19.0	19.6
2004	28.6	p 37.5	p 44.0									
Over 12-month span:												
2000	41.7	39.3	47.0	50.0	46.4	52.4	51.8	49.4	46.4	40.5	35.1	33.3
2001	29.8	32.1	20.8	19.0	13.1	12.5	10.7	11.9	11.9	10.1	8.3	6.0
2002	7.1	6.0	6.0	6.5	7.1	3.6	4.8	6.0	4.8	7.1	4.8	8.3
2003	10.7	6.0	6.5	5.4	8.3	9.5	9.5	9.5	10.7	11.9	9.5	11.3
2004	9.5	p 20.2	p 17.3									

[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.

U. S. Department of Labor

Commissioner for
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Washington, D.C. 20212

The Honorable Pete Stark
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0513

Dear Congressman Stark:

At the April 2 hearing of the Joint Economic Committee, you asked about economic variables that are correlated with employment.

In response to this question, BLS examined existing economic models used to estimate the amount of labor needed in the U.S. economy as well as other indicators that are used because of their correlation with employment.

Economic models of labor demand define a production relationship between the amount of output that firms choose to produce and the amount of labor and the amount of plant and equipment (or capital) needed in the production process. As a result, if we have a projection of future demand for output, and we have good estimates of how much capital is needed (which implicitly takes productivity levels into account), then a model relating output to amount of capital and labor can be used to estimate the amount of labor needed. Our review of models of the macroeconomy used by various forecasting groups showed that all make use of an output-capital-labor relationship of the type just described.

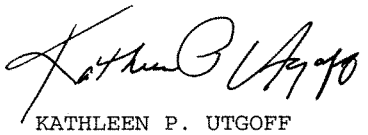
A second approach that is often used is to identify major economic indicators that are highly correlated with each other, so that the projected growth or decline in a particular variable, such as employment, should be closely related to movements of related indicators. The relationship between these indicators is not modeled in a formal way (such as in the case of the macroeconomic models described above), but, instead, the statistical 'closeness' of one indicator to another is used as a basis for determining the direction and timing of change in an indicator of interest, such as employment growth.

At the broadest level, for example, changes in our Nation's gross domestic product (GDP)—the total output of goods and services in the U.S.—are associated with employment changes. Generally, if GDP is expanding, then employment will be growing. Conversely, if GDP is contracting, then fewer workers are needed to meet reduced output requirements. Similarly, rising corporate profits generally are associated with increasing employment, since growing profits typically signal an expanding economy and the concomitant need for more labor. Falling profits tend not to be associated with a favorable environment for hiring. Yet another example of an indicator that is associated with changes in employment is the number of people filing for unemployment insurance. In this instance, there is an inverse relationship, in that an increasing number of new unemployment insurance claimants reflects more job losses and thus a weakening employment picture. It should be noted that for these and other indicators, the nature of the correlation with employment is not fixed and can evolve substantially over time. Indeed, this may in fact be what we have observed recently with respect to the GDP-employment relationship, with employment growth substantially lagging growth in GDP, as growing demand for goods and services seems to have been met by very rapid increases in labor productivity among existing workers.

Of course, these are just a few examples of indicators that are associated with employment change. Other potential indicators can be found in the indexes of economic indicators compiled and published by The Conference Board. These indicators are grouped into three sets: those which lead, those which are coincident with, and those which lag the business cycle. Nonfarm payroll employment is one of the coincident indicators identified by The Conference Board and generally is expected to move with the business cycle. Therefore the leading economic indicators are likely correlated to varying degrees with future changes in employment. For your information and use, we have included a copy of the latest news release from The Conference Board on the indexes of economic indicators, which includes a list of the component series making up the leading index.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions. Also, Thomas Nardone, Assistant Commissioner for Current Employment Analysis, can be reached at 202-691-6379 and would be happy to answer any questions you or your staff may have.

Sincerely yours,



KATHLEEN P. UTGOFF
Commissioner

Enclosures

THE CONFERENCE BOARD

News

The U.S. Leading Index Turns Upward Again After Last Month's Pause

Apr. 19, 2004

More data and charts at www.globalindicators.org

The Conference Board announced today that the U.S. leading index increased 0.3 percent, the coincident index increased 0.2 percent and the lagging index decreased 0.1 percent in March.

- The leading index turned up again in March after pausing in February. The leading index has now increased by 4.4 percent from its most recent low in March 2003, although growth has slowed somewhat in recent months.
- The coincident index continued on its steady upward trend in March. The coincident index has now increased at a 2.2 percent annual rate from its most recent low in April 2003. The growth rate of the coincident index has strengthened in recent months, and this strength has been widespread.
- The upturn in the leading index since March 2003 signaled stronger economic growth, and correspondingly, real GDP growth picked up to a 6.2 percent annual rate in the second half of 2003. The current growth rate of the leading index is signaling a continuation of relatively strong economic growth in the near term.

Leading Indicators. Six of the ten indicators that make up the leading index increased in March. The positive contributors - beginning with the largest positive contributor – were vendor performance, real money supply*, average weekly initial claims for unemployment insurance (inverted), building permits, manufacturers' new orders for consumer goods and materials*, and index of consumer expectations. The negative contributors - beginning with the largest negative contributor – were interest rate spread, stock prices, average weekly manufacturing hours, and manufacturers' new orders for nondefense capital goods*.

The leading index now stands at 115.3 (1996=100). Based on revised data, this index remained unchanged in February and increased 0.4 percent in January. During the six-month span through March, the leading index increased 1.8 percent, with seven out of ten components advancing (diffusion index, six-month span equals 70 percent).

Coincident Indicators. Three of the four indicators that make up the coincident index increased in March. The positive contributors to the index - beginning with the largest positive contributor - were employees on nonagricultural payrolls, personal income less transfer payments*, and manufacturing and trade sales*. The negative contributor was industrial production.

The coincident index now stands at 116.4 (1996=100). This index increased 0.3 percent in February and increased 0.1 percent in January. During the six-month period through March, the coincident index increased 1.3 percent.

Lagging Indicators. The lagging index stands at 97.9 (1996=100) in March, with four of the seven

components advancing. The positive contributors to the index – beginning with the largest positive contributor – were change in CPI for services, average duration of unemployment (inverted), change in labor cost per unit of output*, and ratio of consumer installment credit to personal income*. The negative contributor was commercial and industrial loans outstanding*. The ratio of manufacturing and trade inventories to sales* and average prime rate charged by banks held steady in March. Based on revised data, the lagging index decreased 0.1 percent in February and increased 0.1 percent in January.

Data Availability and Notes. The data series used by The Conference Board to compute the three composite indexes and reported in the tables in this release are those available "as of" 12 Noon on April 16, 2004. Some series are estimated as noted below.

* Series in the leading index that are based on The Conference Board estimates are manufacturers' new orders for consumer goods and materials, manufacturers' new orders for nondefense capital goods, and the personal consumption expenditure deflator for money supply. Series in the coincident index that are based on The Conference Board estimates are personal income less transfer payments and manufacturing and trade sales. Series in the lagging index that are based on The Conference Board estimates are inventories to sales ratio, consumer installment credit to income ratio, change in CPI for services and the personal consumption expenditure deflator for commercial and industrial loans outstanding.

The procedure used to estimate the current month's personal consumption expenditure deflator (used in the calculation of real money supply and commercial and industrial loans outstanding) now incorporates the current month's consumer price index when it is available before the release of the U.S. Leading Economic Indicators.

Effective with the September 18, 2003 release, the method for calculating manufacturers' new orders for consumer goods and materials (A0M008) and manufacturers' new orders for nondefense capital goods (A0M027) has been revised. Both series are now constructed by deflating nominal aggregate new orders data instead of aggregating deflated industry level new orders data. Both the new and the old methods utilize appropriate producer price indices. This simplification remedies several issues raised by the recent conversion of industry data to the North American Classification System (NAICS), as well as several other issues, e.g. the treatment of semiconductor orders. While this simplification caused a slight shift in the levels of both new orders series, the growth rates were essentially the same. As a result, this simplification had no significant effect on the leading index.

Effective with the January 22, 2004 release a programming error in the calculation of the leading index -- in place since January 2002 -- has been corrected. The cyclical behavior of the leading index was not affected by either the calculation error or its correction, but the level of the index in the 1959-1996 period is slightly higher.

For further information contact:
Ken Goldstein
at (1) 212 339 0331.
ken.goldstein@conference-board.org

U. S. Department of Labor

Commissioner for
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Washington, D.C. 20212

MAY 3 - 2004

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-0104

Dear Senator Sessions:

At the April 2, hearing of the Joint Economic Committee, you asked about studies that estimate how many jobs are being held by persons that are in the United States illegally.

I mentioned a study done at Northeastern University. The title of the report is "Employment Developments in the U.S. Since the End of the Recession of 2001: Conflicting Tales from Two National Surveys," and it was prepared by Andrew Sum, Paul Harrington, and Ishwar Khatiwada of the Center for Labor Market Studies.

A copy of the study can be accessed at:
http://www.nupr.neu.edu/12-03/two_surveys.pdf

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions. Also, Thomas Nardone, Assistant Commissioner for Current Employment Analysis, can be reached at 202--691-6379 and would be happy to answer any questions you or your staff may have.

Sincerely yours,

KATHLEEN P. UTGOFF
Commissioner

U. S. Department of Labor

Commissioner for
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Washington, D.C. 20212

MAY 3 _ 2004

The Honorable Melvin L. Watt
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Watt:

During the April 2 hearing of the Joint Economic Committee on the Employment Situation, you requested information on Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) measures of persons not in the labor force and of underemployment.

First, I want to give some background on the concepts and terms related to these topics. In the Current Population Survey (household survey), people who are neither employed nor unemployed are classified as not in the labor force. Those not in the labor force are further disaggregated by whether or not they want a job. Those who do want a job are classified as "marginally attached" if they meet the following criteria: 1) they have searched for work during the prior 12 months, and 2) they were available to take a job during the survey reference week. The marginally attached are further classified as "discouraged workers" if they did not have a recent job search for one of the following reasons: they think no work is available, they could not find work, they lack schooling or training, employers think they are too young or too old, or other types of discrimination.

Turning to the issue of underemployment, the Bureau does not have a complete measure of this phenomenon. We do track the number of people who work part time for economic reasons, sometimes referred to as the measured underemployed. These are people who want to work full time and are available to take a full-time job but who work part time because of slack work or business conditions, inability to find full-time work, or seasonal work.

The survey questions that determine whether a person worked part-time for economic reasons are provided in Attachment 1. The questions in the first column are asked of those who usually work part time, while the questions in the second column are asked of those who usually work full time.

As Table 1 shows, there were 74.7 million people who were not in the labor force in 2003. Of these, 4.7 million wanted a job. About 1.5 million of them were marginally attached, of whom 457,000 were discouraged workers. African-Americans made up about 19 percent of those who want a job, 23 percent of the marginally attached, and 27 percent of discouraged workers. Hispanics or Latinos comprised about 18 percent of those who want a job, 15 percent of the marginally attached, and 18 percent of discouraged workers. Minorities are overrepresented in these categories compared with their proportions in the labor force -- 11 percent for blacks and 13 percent for Hispanics. (We have used the 2003 annual averages and not monthly figures because of the higher degree of precision in the annual averages, especially when dealing with relatively small estimates such as these.)

Women made up about 55 percent of those who want a job, 50 percent of the marginally attached, and 42 percent of discouraged workers, compared with 47 percent of the labor force. Women who maintain families accounted for 9 percent of those who want a job, 9 percent of the marginally attached, and 8 percent of discouraged workers, compared with 6 percent of the labor force.

The number of people who worked part time for economic reasons was 4.7 million in 2003. Of these, about 14 percent were African-American, 22 percent were of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and 48 percent were women. Thus, African-Americans and especially Hispanics were overrepresented among those who worked part time involuntarily.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions. Also, Thomas Nardone, Assistant Commissioner for Current Employment Analysis, can be reached at 202-691-6379 and would be happy to answer any questions you or your staff may have.

Sincerely yours,

KATHLEEN P. UTGOFF
Commissioner

Enclosure

Table 1. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population by age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, annual average, 2003

(Numbers in thousands)

Category	Part-time for economic reasons		Total unemployment		Not in labor force									
					Total		Wants a job now						Other not in labor force	
								Marginally attached					Total	
									Discouraged workers		Other reasons			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Total	Total	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total, both sexes	4,701	-	8,774	-	74,658	-	4,726	1,531	457	-	1,075	-	69,932	-
[Percent]	-	100.0	-	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	-	100.0	-	100.0
16 to 24 years	1,175	25.0	2,746	31.3	13,800	18.5	36.4	36.9	134	29.3	431	40.1	12,079	17.3
25 to 54 years	2,971	63.2	5,131	58.5	20,980	28.1	44.9	48.8	248	54.3	499	46.4	18,857	27.0
55 to 64 years	443	9.4	713	8.1	10,416	14.0	9.5	9.3	53	11.6	89	8.3	9,968	14.3
65 years and over	111	2.4	183	2.1	29,462	39.5	9.2	5.0	21	4.6	56	5.2	29,028	41.5
Men	2,461	52.4	4,906	55.9	28,197	37.8	44.9	50.0	266	58.2	499	46.4	26,073	37.3
16 to 24 years	643	13.7	1,538	17.5	6,519	8.7	18.4	19.7	87	19.0	215	20.0	5,650	8.1
25 to 54 years	1,530	32.5	2,849	32.5	5,713	7.7	17.6	22.8	141	30.9	209	19.4	4,883	7.0
55 to 64 years	221	4.7	412	4.7	4,161	5.6	4.5	4.8	28	6.1	46	4.3	3,947	5.6
65 years and over	67	1.4	107	1.2	11,804	15.8	4.4	2.7	11	2.4	30	2.8	11,594	16.6
Women	2,240	47.6	3,868	44.1	46,461	62.2	55.1	50.0	190	41.6	576	53.6	43,859	62.7
16 to 24 years	532	11.3	1,208	13.8	7,281	9.8	18.0	17.2	48	10.5	216	20.1	6,430	9.2
25 to 54 years	1,441	30.7	2,282	26.0	15,267	20.4	27.4	25.9	107	23.4	291	27.1	13,974	20.0
55 to 64 years	222	4.7	302	3.4	6,256	8.4	5.0	4.5	26	5.7	43	4.0	6,021	8.6
65 years and over	45	1.0	76	0.9	17,658	23.7	4.7	2.4	10	2.2	26	2.4	17,434	24.9
White	3,740	79.6	6,311	71.9	60,746	81.4	72.3	67.9	288	63.0	752	70.0	57,329	82.0
Black	633	13.5	1,787	20.4	9,161	12.3	18.8	22.7	122	26.7	226	21.0	8,272	11.8
Asian	167	3.6	366	4.2	3,098	4.1	5.2	5.1	30	6.6	49	4.6	2,851	4.1
Hispanic or Latino	1,047	22.3	1,441	16.4	8,738	11.7	17.5	15.3	82	17.9	153	14.2	7,913	11.3
Women maintaining families	n/a	-	791	9.0	4,133	5.5	8.7	9.1	35	7.7	105	9.8	3,721	5.3

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

"Marginally attached" are persons not in the labor force who want a job, have looked for work in the prior 12 months (or since the end of their last job, if they held one in the last 12 months), and are currently available to work. This group includes both discouraged workers as well as those who gave reasons other than one of the five "discouraged" reasons for not looking for a job in the last 4 weeks.

"Discouraged workers" are persons who gave one of five reasons why they did not look for work during the last 4 weeks. The five reasons are: Believes no work available, could not find work, lacks necessary schooling or training, employers think too young or old, and other types of discrimination.

"Other reasons" includes those who did not actively look for work in the prior 4 weeks for such reasons as child-care and transportation problems, as well as a small number for which reason for nonparticipation was not ascertained.

Detail may not sum to 100.0 percent due to rounding.

Attachment 1. Questions to Determine Reasons for Working Part Time In Current Population Survey

How many hours per week do you USUALLY WORK at your job?

If less than 35 hours, then

1. Do your want to work a full-time workweek of 35 hours or more of 35 hours or more per week?

If yes, ask #2.

2. Some people work part time because they cannot find full-time work or because business is poor. Others work part time because of Family obligations or other personal reasons. What is your MAIN reason for working part time?

3. LAST WEEK, could you have worked full time if the hours had been offered?

If answer to #2 is slack work/ business conditions, could only find part time work, or seasonal work, and answer to #3 is yes, person is part time for economic reasons.

If 35 hours or more, then

1. LAST WEEK, did you lose or take off any hours from work for ANY reason such as illness, slack work, vacation or holiday?

2. LAST WEEK did you work any overtime or EXTRA hours that you do not USUALLY work?

3. Last week, how many hours did you actually work at your job?

If actual hours less than 35, ask #4

4. What is the main reason you worked l Less than 35 hours LAST WEEK?

If answer to #4 is slack work/ business conditions, seasonal work, or job started or ended during week, person is part time for economic reasons.

U. S. Department of Labor

Commissioner for
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Washington, D.C. 20212

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Maloney:

During the April 2 hearing of the Joint Economic Committee on the Employment Situation, you requested information on Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) measures of persons not in the labor force and of underemployment.

First, I want to give some background on the concepts and terms related to these topics. In the Current Population Survey (household survey), people who are neither employed nor unemployed are classified as not in the labor force. Those not in the labor force are further disaggregated by whether or not they want a job. Those who do want a job are classified as "marginally attached" if they meet the following criteria: 1) they have searched for work during the prior 12 months, and 2) they were available to take a job during the survey reference week. The marginally attached are further classified as "discouraged workers" if they did not have a recent job search for one of the following reasons: they think no work is available, they could not find work, they lack schooling or training, employers think they are too young or too old, or other types of discrimination.

Turning to the issue of underemployment, the Bureau does not have a complete measure of this phenomenon. We do track the number of people who work part time for economic reasons, sometimes referred to as the measured underemployed. These are people who want to work full time and are available to take a full-time job but who work part time because of slack work or business conditions, inability to find full-time work, or seasonal work.

As Table 1 shows, there were 74.7 million people who were not in the labor force in 2003. Of these, 4.7 million wanted a job. About 1.5 million of them were marginally attached, of whom 457,000 were discouraged workers. African-Americans made up about 19 percent of those who want a job, 23 percent of the marginally attached, and 27 percent of discouraged workers.

Hispanics or Latinos comprised about 18 percent of those who want a job, 15 percent of the marginally attached, and 18 percent of discouraged workers. Minorities are overrepresented in these categories compared with their proportions in the labor force -- 11 percent for blacks and 13 percent for Hispanics. (We have used 2003 annual averages and not monthly figures because of the higher degree of precision in the annual averages, especially when dealing with relatively small estimates such as these.)

Women made up about 55 percent of those who want a job, 50 percent of the marginally attached, and 42 percent of discouraged workers, compared with 47 percent of the labor force. Women who maintain families accounted for 9 percent of those who want a job, 9 percent of the marginally attached, and 8 percent of discouraged workers, compared with 6 percent of the labor force.

The number of people who worked part time for economic reasons was 4.7 million in 2003. Of these, about 14 percent were African-American, 22 percent were of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and 48 percent were women. Thus, African-Americans and especially Hispanics were overrepresented among those who worked part time involuntarily.

You also asked about measures of labor underutilization for New York State. The broadest gauge of labor underutilization, U-6, is defined as: 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.

Out of a civilian labor force of 9,345,000, there were 572,000 unemployed persons living in New York in 2002. Of the 5,444,000 people who were not in the labor force, 335,000 wanted a job. Marginally attached workers numbered 102,000. Of these, 28,000 were classified as discouraged workers. There were approximately 260,000 persons working part time for economic reasons. The U-6 rate implied by these rounded data is 9.9 percent [(572+102+260)/(9,345+102)]. To put this in some context, U-6 for the United States in 2002 was 9.6 percent. Among the states, U-6 ranged from a low of 6.1 percent

(in South Dakota) to a high of 13.3 percent (recorded for both Alaska and Oregon) that year.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions. Also, Thomas Nardone, Assistant Commissioner for Current Employment Analysis, can be reached at 202-691-6379 and would be happy to answer any questions you or your staff may have.

Sincerely yours,

KATHLEEN P. UTGOFF
Commissioner

Enclosures

Table 1. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population by age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, annual average, 2003

(Numbers in thousands)

Category	Part-time for economic reasons		Total unemployment		Not in labor force									
					Total		Wants a job now						Other not in labor force	
								Marginally attached						
									Discouraged workers		Other reasons		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Total	Total	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total, both sexes	4,701	-	8,774	-	74,658	-	4,726	1,531	457	-	1,075	-	69,932	-
[Percent]	-	100.0	-	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	-	100.0	-	100.0
16 to 24 years	1,175	25.0	2,746	31.3	13,800	18.5	36.4	36.9	134	29.3	431	40.1	12,079	17.3
25 to 54 years	2,971	63.2	5,131	58.5	20,980	28.1	44.9	48.8	248	54.3	499	46.4	18,857	27.0
55 to 64 years	443	9.4	713	8.1	10,416	14.0	9.5	9.3	53	11.6	89	8.3	9,968	14.3
65 years and over	111	2.4	183	2.1	29,462	39.5	9.2	5.0	21	4.6	56	5.2	29,028	41.5
Men	2,461	52.4	4,906	55.9	28,197	37.8	44.9	50.0	266	58.2	499	46.4	26,073	37.3
16 to 24 years	643	13.7	1,538	17.5	6,519	8.7	18.4	19.7	87	19.0	215	20.0	5,650	8.1
25 to 54 years	1,530	32.5	2,849	32.5	5,713	7.7	17.6	22.8	141	30.9	209	19.4	4,883	7.0
55 to 64 years	221	4.7	412	4.7	4,161	5.6	4.5	4.8	28	6.1	46	4.3	3,947	5.6
65 years and over	67	1.4	107	1.2	11,804	15.8	4.4	2.7	11	2.4	30	2.8	11,594	16.6
Women	2,240	47.6	3,868	44.1	46,461	62.2	55.1	50.0	190	41.6	576	53.6	43,859	62.7
16 to 24 years	532	11.3	1,208	13.8	7,281	9.8	18.0	17.2	48	10.5	216	20.1	6,430	9.2
25 to 54 years	1,441	30.7	2,282	26.0	15,267	20.4	27.4	25.9	107	23.4	291	27.1	13,974	20.0
55 to 64 years	222	4.7	302	3.4	6,256	8.4	5.0	4.5	26	5.7	43	4.0	6,021	8.6
65 years and over	45	1.0	76	0.9	17,658	23.7	4.7	2.4	10	2.2	26	2.4	17,434	24.9
White	3,740	79.6	6,311	71.9	60,746	81.4	72.3	67.9	288	63.0	752	70.0	57,329	82.0
Black	633	13.5	1,787	20.4	9,161	12.3	18.8	22.7	122	26.7	226	21.0	8,272	11.8
Asian	167	3.6	366	4.2	3,098	4.1	5.2	5.1	30	6.6	49	4.6	2,851	4.1
Hispanic or Latino	1,047	22.3	1,441	16.4	8,738	11.7	17.5	15.3	82	17.9	153	14.2	7,913	11.3
Women maintaining families	n/a	-	791	9.0	4,133	5.5	8.7	9.1	35	7.7	105	9.8	3,721	5.3

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

"Marginally attached" are persons not in the labor force who want a job, have looked for work in the prior 12 months (or since the end of their last job, if they held one in the last 12 months), and are currently available to work. This group includes both discouraged workers as well as those who gave reasons other than one of the five "discouraged" reasons for not looking for a job in the last 4 weeks.

"Discouraged workers" are persons who gave one of five reasons why they did not look for work during the last 4 weeks. The five reasons are: Believes no work available, could not find work, lacks necessary schooling or training, employers think too young or old, and other types of discrimination.

"Other reasons" includes those who did not actively look for work in the prior 4 weeks for such reasons as child-care and transportation problems, as well as a small number for which reason for nonparticipation was not ascertained.

Detail may not sum to 100.0 percent due to rounding.