



## Employment Situation Summary

### Technical information:

Household data: (202) 691-6378 USDL 06-396  
<http://www.bls.gov/cps/>

Establishment data: 691-6555 Transmission of material in this release  
<http://www.bls.gov/ces/> is embargoed until 8:30 A.M. (EST),

Media contact: 691-5902 Friday, March 10, 2006.

### THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: FEBRUARY 2006

Nonfarm payroll employment grew by 243,000 in February, and the unemployment rate was little changed at 4.8 percent, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Job gains occurred in construction, financial activities, health care, and several other industries.

#### Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the number of unemployed persons, 7.2 million, and the unemployment rate, 4.8 percent, were little changed in February. A year earlier, the number of unemployed was 8.0 million, and the jobless rate was 5.4 percent.

Following a decline in January, the unemployment rate for adult men edged up to 4.2 percent in February. The jobless rates for the other major worker groups--adult women (4.3 percent), teenagers (15.4 percent), whites (4.1 percent), blacks (9.3 percent), and Hispanics (5.5 percent)--showed little or no change over the month. The unemployment rate for Asians was 3.2 percent, not seasonally adjusted. (See tables A-1, A-2, and A-3.)

After declining in January, the number of unemployed persons who had been without a job for 27 weeks or longer returned to its December level of 1.4 million. These long-term unemployed accounted for 19.0 percent of total unemployment in February, down slightly from a year earlier. (See table A-9.)

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

The civilian labor force and total employment continued to trend up in February. The labor force participation rate was essentially unchanged at 66.1 percent, and the employment-population ratio held at 62.9 percent. (See table A-1.)

#### Persons Not in the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Nearly 1.5 million persons (not seasonally adjusted) were marginally at-

tached to the labor force in February, down from about 1.7 million a year earlier. These individuals wanted and were available for work and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months. They were not counted as unemployed because they had not searched for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey. Among the marginally attached, there were 386,000 discouraged workers in February, down from 485,000 a year earlier. Discouraged workers 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 attendance or family responsibilities. (See table A-13.)

- 2 -

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

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Jan. - Feb. change
	2005		2005	2006		
	III	IV	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	
<b>HOUSEHOLD DATA</b>						
Labor force status						
Civilian labor force.....	149,827	150,126	150,153	150,114	150,449	335
Employment.....	142,324	142,671	142,779	143,074	143,257	183
Unemployment.....	7,503	7,455	7,375	7,040	7,193	153
Not in labor force.....	76,595	77,070	77,271	77,439	77,314	-125
Unemployment rates						
All workers.....	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.8	0.1
Adult men.....	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.2	.2
Adult women.....	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.3	.0
Teenagers.....	16.1	16.1	15.2	15.3	15.4	.1
White.....	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.1	.0
Black or African American.....	9.5	9.7	9.3	8.9	9.3	.4
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.5	-.3
<b>ESTABLISHMENT DATA</b>						
Employment						
Nonfarm employment.....	133,750	134,161	134,376	p134,546	p134,789	p243
Goods-producing(1).....	22,140	22,242	22,282	p22,347	p22,392	p45
Construction.....	7,305	7,391	7,416	p7,471	p7,512	p41
Manufacturing.....	14,208	14,211	14,222	p14,229	p14,228	p-1
Service-providing(1)...	111,610	111,920	112,094	p112,199	p112,397	p198
Retail trade(2).....	15,297	15,284	15,300	p15,287	p15,294	p7
Professional and business services..	16,942	17,058	17,121	p17,138	p17,177	p39
Education and health services.....	17,411	17,476	17,507	p17,557	p17,604	p47
Leisure and hospitality.....	12,840	12,873	12,898	p12,923	p12,948	p25

Government.....	21,843	21,870	21,878	p21,847	p21,885	p38
	Hours of work(3)					
Total private.....	33.8	33.8	33.8	p33.8	p33.7	p-0.1
Manufacturing.....	40.6	40.9	40.8	p40.9	p41.0	p.1
Overtime.....	4.5	4.6	4.5	p4.5	p4.6	p.1
	Indexes of aggregate weekly hours (2002=100)(3)					
Total private.....	102.9	103.4	103.7	p103.9	p103.8	p-0.1
	Earnings(3)					
Avg. hourly earnings, total private.....	\$16.16	\$16.30	\$16.35	p\$16.42	p\$16.47	p\$0.05
Avg. weekly earnings, total private.....	545.78	551.05	552.63	p555.00	p555.04	p.04

1 Includes other industries, not shown separately.

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

3 Data relate to private production or nonsupervisory workers.

p = preliminary.

- 3 -

#### Employment Status of Hurricane Katrina Evacuees (Household Survey Data)

Beginning in October, questions were added to the household survey to identify persons who evacuated from their homes, even temporarily, due to Hurricane Katrina. Data collected through these questions do not account for all evacuees; persons living outside of the scope of the survey--such as those living in hotels or shelters--are not included. The questions were asked of persons in the household survey sample throughout the country, since some evacuees relocated far from the storm-affected areas. An additional question determined whether evacuees had returned to their homes and were living there at the time of the survey. The total number of evacuees estimated from the household survey may change from month to month as people move in and out of the scope of the survey. In addition, because the estimates are obtained from a sample survey, they may vary from month to month due to sampling error.

Information gathered in February showed that about 1.0 million persons age 16 and over had evacuated from where they were living in August due to Hurricane Katrina. These evacuees either had returned to their homes or were living in other residential units covered in the survey in February. About one-half of the evacuees were living in their August 2005 residences. Of all evacuees identified, 58.1 percent were in the labor force in February. The unemployment rate for persons identified as evacuees was 12.6 percent. The rate was much higher for evacuees who were not living in their former homes (22.6 percent) than for those who were at home (4.8 percent). (See table B.)

Table B. Employment status in February 2006 of persons 16 years and over who evacuated from their August residence, even temporarily, due to Hurricane Katrina (1)

(Numbers in thousands, not seasonally adjusted)

Employment status in February 2006	Total	Residence in February	
		Same as in August	Different than in August
Civilian noninstitutional population.	1,017	540	478
Civilian labor force.....	591	333	258
Participation rate.....	58.1	61.7	53.9
Employed.....	516	317	200
Employment-population ratio..	50.8	58.7	41.8
Unemployed.....	74	16	58
Unemployment rate.....	12.6	4.8	22.6
Not in labor force.....	427	207	220

1 Represents persons in the civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and over who resided in households that were eligible to be selected for the Current Population Survey (CPS). These data are not representative of the total evacuee population because they do not include children or people residing in shelters, hotels, places of worship, or other units outside the scope of the CPS. The total number of evacuees estimated from the CPS may change from month to month as people move in and out of the scope of the survey and because of sampling variability.

NOTE: These data use population controls that have been adjusted to account for interstate moves by evacuees.

- 4 -

## Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 243,000 in February to 134.8 million, seasonally adjusted. Over the year, payroll employment grew by 2.1 million. Construction, mining, and several service-providing industries added jobs. (See table B-1.)

In the goods-producing sector, construction employment increased by 41,000 in February, following a gain of 55,000 in the prior month. Over the year, construction employment has risen by 346,000. Specialty trade contractors added 32,000 jobs over the month. Mining continued its upward trend in February, adding 5,000 jobs. Support activities for mining, particularly those related to oil and gas, accounted for nearly all of the over-the-month gain.

Manufacturing employment was about unchanged in February; it has decreased by 8,000 over the year. Over the month, employment gains in machinery, petroleum products, and computer and electronic products were offset by declines in motor vehicles and parts and primary metals.

In the service-providing sector, employment in education and health services rose by 47,000 in February. Health care employment continued to grow, up by 18,000. Job growth occurred in ambulatory health care services (11,000), which includes doctors' offices and home health care, and in hospitals (6,000). Employment in private educational services increased by 23,000.

Financial activities employment grew by 22,000 over the month, following a similar-sized gain in January. Employment in depository institutions and in insurance carriers rose in February, increasing by 4,000 and 6,000, respectively. Over the year, financial activities employment has risen by 169,000.

Employment in food services and drinking places increased by 21,000 in February. Over the year, this industry has added 203,000 jobs. Employment was flat in both wholesale and retail trade in February.

Professional and business services employment continued to trend up in February (39,000). The industry has added 466,000 jobs over the year. Over the month, employment rose by 13,000 in services to buildings and dwellings. Temporary help services employment was little changed over the month.

#### Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls decreased by 0.1 hour to 33.7 hours in February, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing workweek increased by 0.1 hour to 41.0 hours in February, and factory overtime was up by 0.1 hour to 4.6 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls decreased by 0.1 percent in February to 103.8 (2002=100). The manufacturing index increased by 0.2 percent over the month to 95.5. (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 5 cents in February to \$16.47, seasonally adjusted. This followed increases of 7 cents in both December and January. Average weekly earnings were little changed over the month at \$555.04. Over the year, both average hourly and weekly earnings increased by 3.5 percent. (See table B-3.)

---

The Employment Situation for March 2006 is scheduled to be released on Friday, April 7, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

- [Employment Situation Explanatory Note](#)
- [Table A-1. Employment status of the civilian population by sex and age](#)
- [Table A-2. Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, and age](#)
- [Table A-3. Employment status of the Hispanic or Latino population by sex and age](#)
- [Table A-4. Employment status of the civilian population 25 years and over by educational attainment](#)
- [Table A-5. Employed persons by class of worker and part-time status](#)

- [Table A-6. Selected employment indicators](#)
- [Table A-7. Selected unemployment indicators, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-8. Unemployed persons by reason for unemployment](#)
- [Table A-9. Unemployed persons by duration of unemployment](#)
- [Table A-10. Employed and unemployed persons by occupation, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-11. Unemployed persons by industry and class of worker, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table A-12. Alternative measures of labor underutilization](#)
- [Table A-13. Persons not in the labor force and multiple jobholders by sex, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table B-1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail](#)
- [Table B-2. Average weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers1 on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail](#)
- [Table B-3. Average hourly and weekly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers1 on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail](#)
- [Table B-4. Average hourly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers1 on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table B-5. Indexes of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers1 on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail](#)
- [Table B-6. Indexes of aggregate weekly payrolls of production or nonsupervisory workers1 on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail](#)
- [Table B-7. Diffusion indexes of employment change](#)
- [Text version of entire news release](#)
- [Access to historical data for the "A" tables of the Employment Situation Release](#)
- [Access to historical data for the "B" tables of the Employment Situation Release](#)

## [Table of Contents](#)

Last Modified Date: March 10, 2006

 [Back to Top](#)

[www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov)

---

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) | [Freedom of Information Act](#) | [Customer Survey](#)  
[Privacy & Security Statement](#) | [Linking to Our Site](#) | [Accessibility](#)

---

### U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Postal Square Building  
2 Massachusetts Ave., NE  
Washington, DC 20212-0001

Technical (web) questions: [webmaster@bls.gov](mailto:webmaster@bls.gov)

Other comments: [feedback@bls.gov](mailto:feedback@bls.gov)

### Labor Force Statistics

CPS Phone: (202) 691-6378

CPS data questions: [cpsinfo@bls.gov](mailto:cpsinfo@bls.gov)

### National Employment, Hours, and Earnings

CES Phone: (202) 691-6555

CES data questions: [cesinfo@bls.gov](mailto:cesinfo@bls.gov)