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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION — SEPTEMBER 2016

Total **nonfarm payroll employment** increased by 156,000 in September, and the **unemployment rate** was little changed at 5.0 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Employment gains occurred in professional and business services and in health care.

Chart 1. Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, September 2014 – September 2016

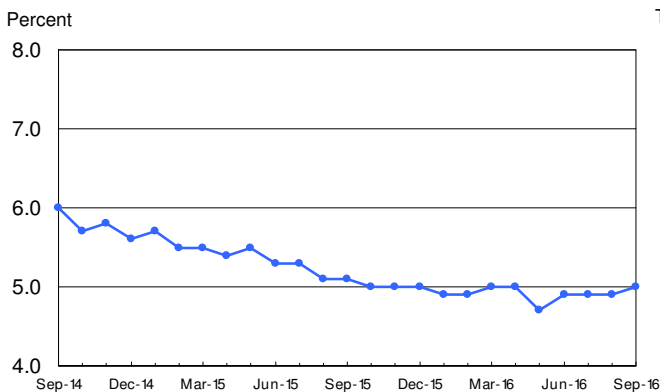
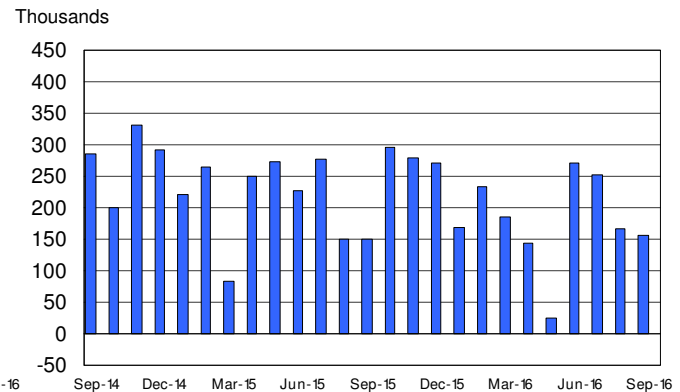


Chart 2. Nonfarm payroll employment over-the-month change, seasonally adjusted, September 2014 – September 2016



Household Survey Data

The **unemployment rate**, at 5.0 percent, and the number of **unemployed persons**, at 7.9 million, changed little in September. Both measures have shown little movement, on net, since August of last year. (See table A-1.)

Among the **major worker groups**, the unemployment rate for Hispanics increased to 6.4 percent in September, while the rates for adult men (4.7 percent), adult women (4.4 percent), teenagers (15.8 percent), Whites (4.4 percent), Blacks (8.3 percent), and Asians (3.9 percent) showed little or no change. (See tables A-1, A-2, and A-3.)

The number of persons **unemployed less than 5 weeks** increased by 284,000 to 2.6 million in September. The number of **long-term unemployed** (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) was

essentially unchanged at 2.0 million and accounted for 24.9 percent of the unemployed. (See table A-12.)

In September, both the **labor force participation rate**, at 62.9 percent, and the **employment-population ratio**, at 59.8 percent, changed little. (See table A-1.)

The number of persons employed **part time for economic reasons** (sometimes referred to as involuntary part-time workers) was little changed in September at 5.9 million. These individuals, who would have preferred full-time employment, were working part time because their hours had been cut back or because they were unable to find a full-time job. (See table A-8.)

In September, 1.8 million persons were **marginally attached to the labor force**, about unchanged from a year earlier. (The data are not seasonally adjusted.) These individuals were not in the labor force, wanted and were available for work, and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months. They were not counted as unemployed because they had not searched for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey. (See table A-16.)

Among the marginally attached, there were 553,000 **discouraged workers** in September, little changed from a year earlier. (The data are not seasonally adjusted.) Discouraged workers are persons not currently looking for work because they believe no jobs are available for them. The remaining 1.3 million persons marginally attached to the labor force in September had not searched for work for reasons such as school attendance or family responsibilities. (See table A-16.)

Establishment Survey Data

Total **nonfarm payroll employment** rose by 156,000 in September. Thus far this year, job growth has averaged 178,000 per month, compared with an average of 229,000 per month in 2015. In September, employment gains occurred in professional and business services and in health care. (See table B-1.)

Professional and business services employment rose by 67,000 in September and has risen by 582,000 over the year. Over the month, job gains occurred in management and technical consulting services (+16,000), and employment continued to trend up in administrative and support services (+35,000).

Health care added 33,000 jobs in September. Ambulatory health care services added 24,000 jobs over the month, and employment rose by 7,000 in hospitals. Over the past 12 months, health care has added 445,000 jobs.

Employment in **food services and drinking places** continued to trend up in September (+30,000) and has increased by 300,000 over the year.

Retail trade employment continued to trend up over the month (+22,000). Within the industry, job gains occurred in clothing and clothing accessories stores (+14,000) and in gasoline stations (+8,000). Over the year, employment in retail trade has risen by 317,000.

Mining employment was unchanged in September after declining by 220,000 from a peak in September 2014.

Employment in other major industries, including **construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, transportation and warehousing, information, financial activities, and government**, changed little over the month.

The **average workweek for all employees** on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.1 hour to 34.4 hours in September. In manufacturing, the workweek increased by 0.1 hour to 40.7 hours, while overtime was unchanged at 3.3 hours. The average workweek for **production and nonsupervisory employees** on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged at 33.5 hours. (See tables B-2 and B-7.)

In September, **average hourly earnings for all employees** on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 6 cents to \$25.79. Over the year, average hourly earnings have risen by 2.6 percent. Average hourly earnings of private-sector **production and nonsupervisory employees** increased by 5 cents to \$21.68 in September. (See tables B-3 and B-8.)

The change in total nonfarm payroll employment for July was revised down from +275,000 to +252,000, and the change for August was revised up from +151,000 to +167,000. With these revisions, employment gains in July and August combined were 7,000 less than previously reported. Over the past 3 months, job gains have averaged 192,000 per month.

The Employment Situation for October is scheduled to be released on Friday, November 4, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. (EDT).

HOUSEHOLD DATA

Summary table A. Household data, seasonally adjusted

[Numbers in thousands]

Category	Sept. 2015	July 2016	Aug. 2016	Sept. 2016	Change from: Aug. 2016- Sept. 2016
Employment status					
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	251,325	253,620	253,854	254,091	237
Civilian labor force.....	156,867	159,287	159,463	159,907	444
Participation rate.....	62.4	62.8	62.8	62.9	0.1
Employed.....	148,942	151,517	151,614	151,968	354
Employment-population ratio.....	59.3	59.7	59.7	59.8	0.1
Unemployed.....	7,925	7,770	7,849	7,939	90
Unemployment rate.....	5.1	4.9	4.9	5.0	0.1
Not in labor force.....	94,458	94,333	94,391	94,184	-207
Unemployment rates					
Total, 16 years and over.....	5.1	4.9	4.9	5.0	0.1
Adult men (20 years and over).....	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.7	0.2
Adult women (20 years and over).....	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.4	-0.1
Teenagers (16 to 19 years).....	16.2	15.6	15.7	15.8	0.1
White.....	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.4	0.0
Black or African American.....	9.2	8.4	8.1	8.3	0.2
Asian.....	3.7	3.8	4.2	3.9	-0.3
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	6.4	5.4	5.6	6.4	0.8
Total, 25 years and over.....	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.2	0.1
Less than a high school diploma.....	7.7	6.3	7.2	8.5	1.3
High school graduates, no college.....	5.3	5.0	5.1	5.2	0.1
Some college or associate degree.....	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	-0.1
Bachelor's degree and higher.....	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.5	-0.2
Reason for unemployment					
Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs.....	3,883	3,739	3,791	3,967	176
Job leavers.....	778	824	885	893	8
Reentrants.....	2,443	2,298	2,271	2,333	62
New entrants.....	832	826	861	805	-56
Duration of unemployment					
Less than 5 weeks.....	2,373	2,160	2,290	2,574	284
5 to 14 weeks.....	2,211	2,266	2,329	2,234	-95
15 to 26 weeks.....	1,228	1,150	1,056	1,157	101
27 weeks and over.....	2,109	2,020	2,006	1,974	-32
Employed persons at work part time					
Part time for economic reasons.....	6,034	5,940	6,053	5,894	-159
Slack work or business conditions.....	3,563	3,642	3,727	3,618	-109
Could only find part-time work.....	2,123	1,981	1,929	1,969	40
Part time for noneconomic reasons.....	19,997	20,717	20,523	20,688	165
Persons not in the labor force (not seasonally adjusted)					
Marginally attached to the labor force.....	1,921	1,950	1,713	1,844	-
Discouraged workers.....	635	591	576	553	-

- Over-the-month changes are not displayed for not seasonally adjusted data.

NOTE: Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Detail for the seasonally adjusted data shown in this table will not necessarily add to totals because of the independent seasonal adjustment of the various series. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

HOUSEHOLD DATA

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

[Numbers in thousands]

Educational attainment	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Sept. 2015	Aug. 2016	Sept. 2016	Sept. 2015	May 2016	June 2016	July 2016	Aug. 2016	Sept. 2016
Less than a high school diploma									
Civilian labor force.....	10,588	10,648	10,763	10,597	10,464	10,522	10,638	10,809	10,828
Participation rate.....	44.8	45.8	45.4	44.8	44.5	45.2	47.0	46.5	45.7
Employed.....	9,858	9,922	9,939	9,779	9,720	9,734	9,969	10,035	9,902
Employment-population ratio.....	41.7	42.7	41.9	41.3	41.3	41.9	44.0	43.2	41.8
Unemployed.....	730	726	824	818	744	787	669	774	926
Unemployment rate.....	6.9	6.8	7.7	7.7	7.1	7.5	6.3	7.2	8.5
High school graduates, no college¹									
Civilian labor force.....	35,497	36,029	35,955	35,220	35,536	35,260	35,547	35,793	35,704
Participation rate.....	57.3	57.5	57.8	56.9	57.1	57.2	57.1	57.1	57.4
Employed.....	33,719	34,231	34,171	33,370	33,728	33,480	33,758	33,985	33,857
Employment-population ratio.....	54.5	54.6	54.9	53.9	54.2	54.3	54.2	54.2	54.4
Unemployed.....	1,778	1,798	1,784	1,850	1,808	1,780	1,789	1,808	1,847
Unemployment rate.....	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.3	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.2
Some college or associate degree									
Civilian labor force.....	37,358	37,381	37,820	37,330	37,829	37,804	37,791	37,571	37,900
Participation rate.....	66.2	66.2	66.9	66.2	66.2	66.0	66.2	66.5	67.0
Employed.....	35,797	35,743	36,258	35,724	36,364	36,231	36,182	35,970	36,296
Employment-population ratio.....	63.5	63.3	64.1	63.3	63.7	63.2	63.4	63.7	64.2
Unemployed.....	1,562	1,638	1,562	1,607	1,465	1,573	1,609	1,601	1,604
Unemployment rate.....	4.2	4.4	4.1	4.3	3.9	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2
Bachelor's degree and higher²									
Civilian labor force.....	52,552	53,645	54,279	52,711	53,398	54,102	54,100	54,068	54,341
Participation rate.....	74.2	73.5	74.1	74.4	74.3	74.4	74.0	74.1	74.2
Employed.....	51,251	52,032	52,916	51,408	52,113	52,723	52,741	52,618	52,967
Employment-population ratio.....	72.4	71.3	72.3	72.6	72.5	72.5	72.1	72.1	72.3
Unemployed.....	1,301	1,613	1,363	1,303	1,285	1,378	1,359	1,450	1,374
Unemployment rate.....	2.5	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.5

¹ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

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

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

HOUSEHOLD DATA

Table A-10. Selected unemployment indicators, seasonally adjusted

Characteristic	Number of unemployed persons (in thousands)			Unemployment rates					
	Sept. 2015	Aug. 2016	Sept. 2016	Sept. 2015	May 2016	June 2016	July 2016	Aug. 2016	Sept. 2016
AGE AND SEX									
Total, 16 years and over.....	7,925	7,849	7,939	5.1	4.7	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0
16 to 19 years.....	908	938	945	16.2	16.0	16.0	15.6	15.7	15.8
16 to 17 years.....	348	366	385	17.6	18.5	17.0	15.3	16.7	17.3
18 to 19 years.....	575	579	573	15.8	14.4	15.5	15.9	15.2	15.2
20 years and over.....	7,017	6,910	6,994	4.6	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
20 to 24 years.....	1,416	1,246	1,242	9.2	8.3	8.7	9.0	8.1	8.1
25 years and over.....	5,582	5,681	5,759	4.1	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.2
25 to 54 years.....	4,223	4,423	4,446	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.3
25 to 34 years.....	1,766	1,861	1,855	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.2	5.2
35 to 44 years.....	1,311	1,331	1,363	4.0	3.5	3.7	3.5	4.1	4.1
45 to 54 years.....	1,146	1,232	1,229	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6
55 years and over.....	1,323	1,268	1,279	3.8	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.6
Men, 16 years and over.....	4,282	4,232	4,329	5.1	4.7	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.1
16 to 19 years.....	479	537	504	16.8	16.2	17.1	16.5	17.5	16.5
16 to 17 years.....	188	196	197	19.0	19.3	18.3	15.0	17.9	18.8
18 to 19 years.....	303	345	316	16.1	14.3	16.9	17.4	17.5	15.6
20 years and over.....	3,803	3,695	3,825	4.7	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.7
20 to 24 years.....	824	743	726	10.4	8.8	9.4	10.1	9.3	9.2
25 years and over.....	2,969	2,950	3,106	4.1	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.2
25 to 54 years.....	2,224	2,251	2,355	4.1	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.3
25 to 34 years.....	976	964	1,003	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.2
35 to 44 years.....	649	665	723	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.8	4.1
45 to 54 years.....	599	622	629	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.7	3.5	3.5
55 years and over.....	745	698	751	4.0	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.9
Women, 16 years and over.....	3,643	3,617	3,610	5.0	4.7	4.9	4.7	4.9	4.8
16 to 19 years.....	429	402	441	15.6	15.9	14.8	14.8	13.7	15.0
16 to 17 years.....	160	171	188	16.2	17.8	15.6	15.6	15.5	15.9
18 to 19 years.....	272	234	257	15.4	14.5	14.0	14.2	12.8	14.8
20 years and over.....	3,214	3,215	3,169	4.5	4.2	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.4
20 to 24 years.....	592	503	516	7.9	7.7	7.9	7.8	6.8	7.0
25 years and over.....	2,612	2,731	2,652	4.1	3.8	4.1	3.9	4.2	4.1
25 to 54 years.....	1,999	2,172	2,091	4.3	4.1	4.3	4.0	4.6	4.4
25 to 34 years.....	789	897	852	5.0	5.0	5.2	5.0	5.4	5.1
35 to 44 years.....	662	665	640	4.4	3.6	4.1	3.5	4.4	4.2
45 to 54 years.....	547	609	599	3.4	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.8	3.8
55 years and over.....	590	558	550	3.6	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3
MARITAL STATUS									
Married men, spouse present.....	1,271	1,240	1,345	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.9
Married women, spouse present.....	1,091	1,107	1,101	3.0	2.9	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.0
Women who maintain families ¹	739	821	680	7.1	6.6	7.3	7.2	7.9	6.4
FULL- OR PART-TIME STATUS									
Full-time workers ²	6,601	6,411	6,521	5.1	4.7	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0
Part-time workers ³	1,356	1,427	1,434	4.8	4.5	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.9

¹ Not seasonally adjusted.

² 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.

³ Part-time workers are unemployed persons who have expressed a desire to work part time (less than 35 hours per week) or are on layoff from part-time jobs.

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

HOUSEHOLD DATA

Table A-13. Employed and unemployed persons by occupation, not seasonally adjusted

[Numbers in thousands]

Occupation	Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rates	
	Sept. 2015	Sept. 2016	Sept. 2015	Sept. 2016	Sept. 2015	Sept. 2016
Total, 16 years and over ¹	148,980	151,977	7,628	7,658	4.9	4.8
Management, professional, and related occupations.....	58,105	59,599	1,414	1,652	2.4	2.7
Management, business, and financial operations occupations.....	24,485	24,729	590	708	2.4	2.8
Professional and related occupations.....	33,619	34,870	823	944	2.4	2.6
Service occupations.....	25,808	27,100	1,815	1,690	6.6	5.9
Sales and office occupations.....	33,106	33,435	1,782	1,614	5.1	4.6
Sales and related occupations.....	15,498	15,704	912	855	5.6	5.2
Office and administrative support occupations.....	17,608	17,731	871	760	4.7	4.1
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.....	13,865	14,106	823	772	5.6	5.2
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	1,116	1,159	68	116	5.7	9.1
Construction and extraction occupations.....	7,611	8,101	570	489	7.0	5.7
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	5,139	4,845	185	167	3.5	3.3
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations.....	18,095	17,738	982	1,151	5.1	6.1
Production occupations.....	8,743	8,261	410	561	4.5	6.4
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	9,352	9,477	572	590	5.8	5.9

¹ Persons with no previous work experience and persons whose last job was in the U.S. Armed Forces are included in the unemployed total.

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

HOUSEHOLD DATA

Table A-15. Alternative measures of labor underutilization

[Percent]

Measure	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Sept. 2015	Aug. 2016	Sept. 2016	Sept. 2015	May 2016	June 2016	July 2016	Aug. 2016	Sept. 2016
U-1 Persons unemployed 15 weeks or longer, as a percent of the civilian labor force.....	2.0	1.8	1.9	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0
U-2 Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs, as a percent of the civilian labor force.....	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.5
U-3 Total unemployed, as a percent of the civilian labor force (official unemployment rate).....	4.9	5.0	4.8	5.1	4.7	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0
U-4 Total unemployed plus discouraged workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers.....	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.4	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.3
U-5 Total unemployed, plus discouraged workers, plus all other persons marginally attached to the labor force, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all persons marginally attached to the labor force.....	6.0	6.0	5.9	6.2	5.7	6.0	6.0	5.9	6.0
U-6 Total unemployed, plus all persons marginally attached to the labor force, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all persons marginally attached to the labor force.....	9.6	9.7	9.3	10.0	9.7	9.6	9.7	9.7	9.7

NOTE: Persons marginally attached to the labor force are those 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 past 12 months. Discouraged workers, a subset of the marginally attached, have given a job-market related reason for not currently looking for work. 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. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.