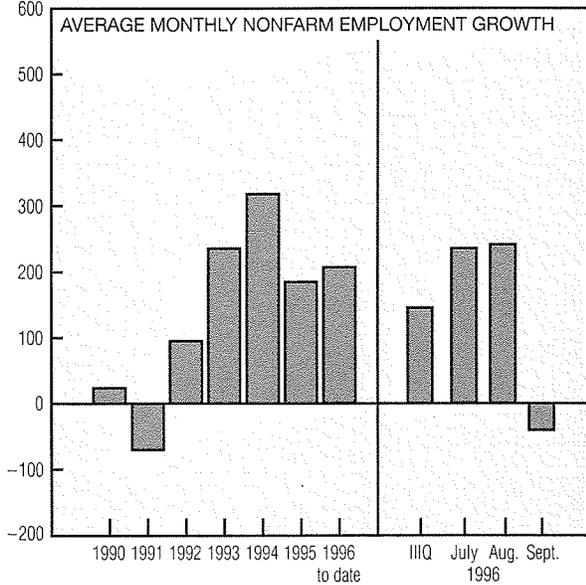


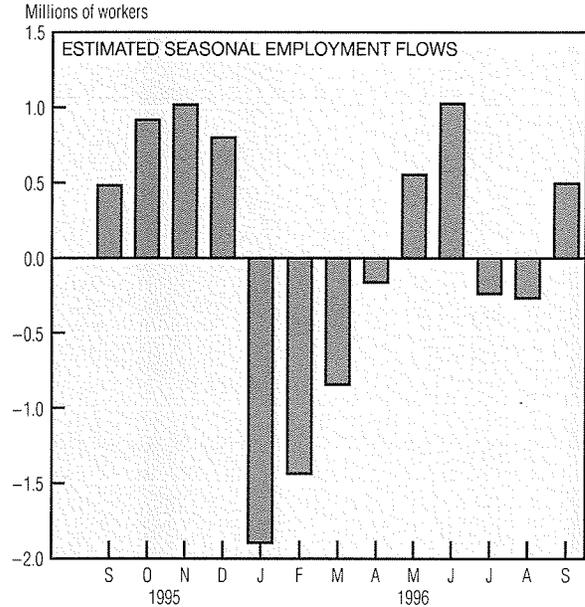
# Labor Markets

Change, thousands of workers<sup>a</sup>



Labor Market Conditions<sup>a</sup>

	Average monthly change (thousands of employees)				
	1995	1996			
		Year	IIIQ	July	August
Payroll employment	185	145	235	240	-40
Goods-producing	-5	-10	-10	30	-50
Manufacturing	-12	-23	-29	18	-57
Construction	9	15	24	11	9
Service-producing	190	155	245	211	10
Services	110	68	80	69	54
Computer	11	10	11	12	8
Retail trade	36	41	97	4	22
Government	9	20	31	109	-81
Household employ.	34	253	274	171	313
Average for period					
Civilian unemployment rate (%)	5.6	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.2
Nonfarm workweek (hours) <sup>b</sup>	34.5	34.5	34.2	34.7	34.7



a. Seasonally adjusted.  
 b. Production and nonsupervisory workers.  
 c. Vertical line indicates break in data series due to survey redesign.  
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The September jobs picture, though fuzzy, seems to show little overall change from August. There was a small (0.1%) rise in the civilian unemployment rate.

According to household survey data, the economy added 313,000 net new jobs in September, a solid increase from the previous month's moderate increase of 171,000. Survey data from establishments, however, showed the opposite pattern: August's 240,000 net jobs gain was followed by a net decline of 40,000

jobs in September. Such large swings and discrepancies in the monthly jobs reports are common and certainly understandable in light of the huge U.S. labor force. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that sampling error alone can account for a swing of 376,000 jobs in the monthly household survey estimate. On a quarterly basis, the two surveys show more comparable trends, with the household survey indicating an average monthly gain of 237,000 jobs last quarter, and the establishment survey showing a

221,000 increase.

By industry, employment changes were mixed in September, but generally small in either direction. Many manufacturing industries showed small net declines, while services posted mostly small increases. Service employment would have been stronger were it not for a 67,000-job drop in local education—a seasonal adjustment made because teachers went back to work a month early and were counted in the August jobs report.