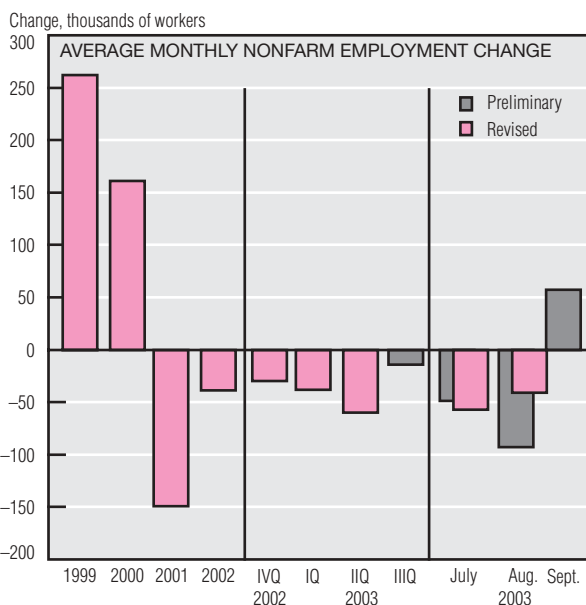
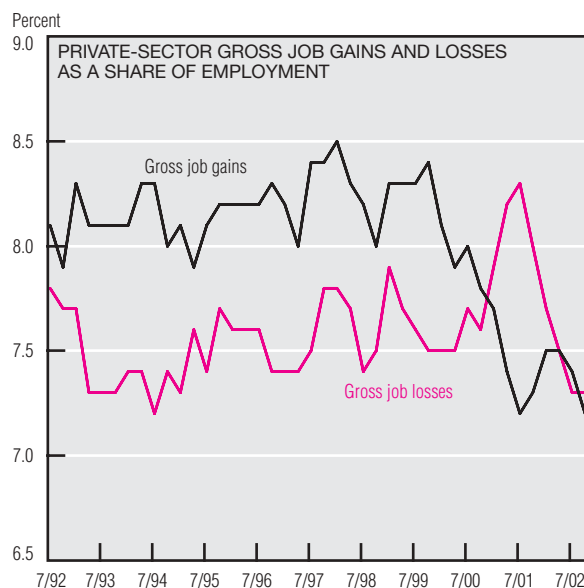
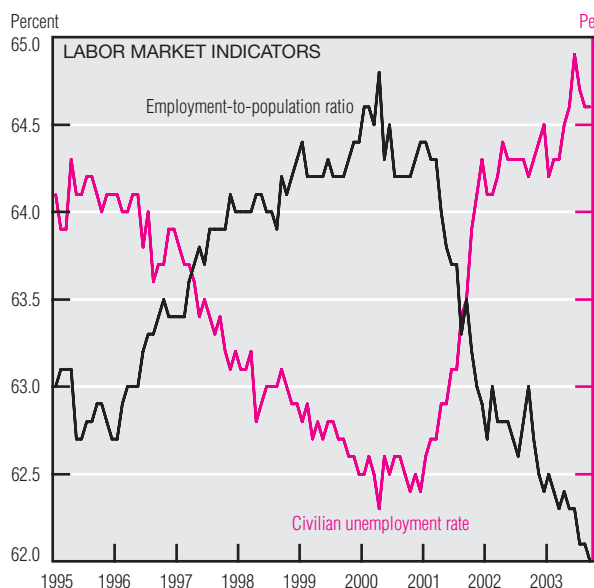


Labor Markets



Labor Market Conditions

	Average monthly change (thousands of employees)				
	2000	2001	2002	Jan.-Aug. 2003	Sept. 2003
Payroll employment	161	-149	-39	-49	57
Goods producing	-1	-124	-64	-44	-17
Construction	7	-1	-4	12	14
Manufacturing	-9	-123	-57	-54	-29
Durable goods	2	-88	-41	-38	-17
Nondurable goods	-11	-35	-16	-17	-12
Service providing	162	-25	25	-5	74
Information	15	-15	-14	-11	-4
Financial activities ^a	6	7	5	11	10
PBS ^b	40	-63	-10	11	66
Education and health	32	51	37	17	9
Leisure and hospitality ^c	22	-2	7	4	-3
Government	22	46	16	-13	-15
	Average for period (percent)				
Civilian unemployment rate	4.0	4.8	5.8	6.0	6.1



NOTE: All data are seasonally adjusted.

a. Financial activities include the finance, insurance, and real estate sector and the rental and leasing sector.

b. Professional and business services include professional, scientific, and technical services, management of companies and enterprises, administrative and support, and waste management and remediation services.

c. Leisure and hospitality includes arts, entertainment, and recreation, as well as accommodation and food service.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

After losing a revised 41,000 jobs in August, total nonfarm employment posted a net gain of 57,000 in September, its first increase in eight months. The revisions halved the figure reported earlier.

In September, goods producers lost 17,000 jobs net, compared to the average net monthly loss of 81,000 since the March 2001 peak. Manufacturing employment's decline continued, but at a much slower pace (29,000 in September compared to the 54,000 average monthly loss from January to August). Construction remained strong, growing by 14,000 jobs in September. Service providers added 74,000 jobs,

most of them (66,000) in professional and business services. Financial activities increased by 10,000 jobs, consistent with the January–August average monthly change. Education and health services added 9,000. Government continued to shed jobs (15,000) in September. A drop of 4,000 continued the downward trend in information services, which has lost jobs every month this year.

The unemployment rate remained unchanged at 6.1%. The employment-to-population ratio inched down 0.1 percentage point to 62.0.

In September, the Bureau of Labor Statistics began to publish a new data

series, Business Employment Dynamics, which tracks private business establishments' quarterly net gains and losses. As a share of employment, gross gains exceeded gross losses every quarter from September 1992 through December 2000, producing a net increase in the number of jobs. The 2001 recession caused a large temporary increase in the rate of gross job losses and a large decline in the rate of gross job gains. The surprisingly weak employment growth of 2002 reflected reluctance to hire workers rather than continued job losses at contracting and closing establishments.