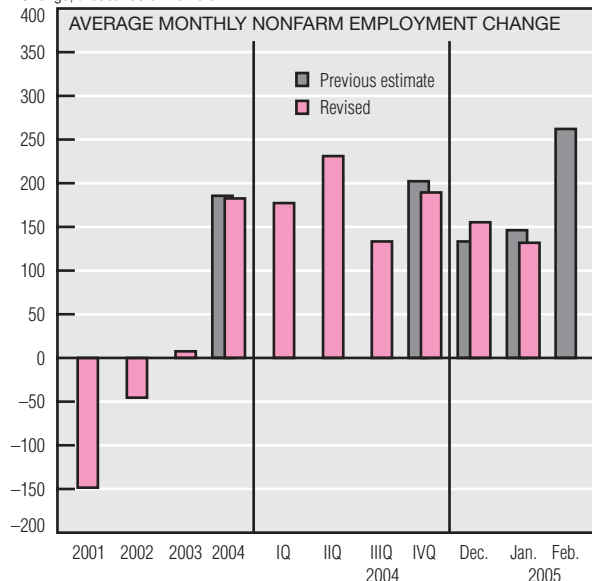


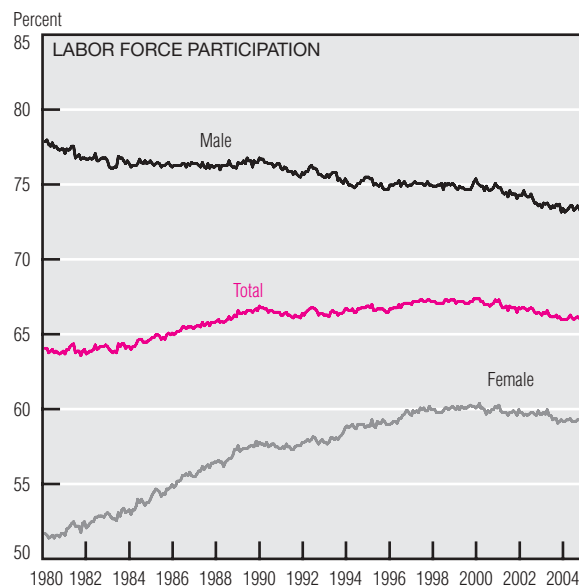
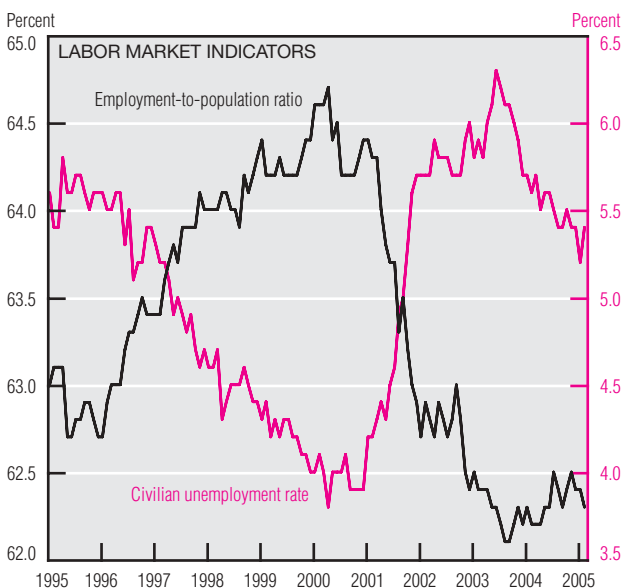
Labor Markets

Change, thousands of workers



Labor Market Conditions

	Average monthly change (thousands of employees, NAICS)				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	Feb. 2005
Payroll employment	-148	-45	8	183	262
Goods producing	-124	-76	-42	29	55
Construction	-1	-7	10	23	30
Manufacturing	-123	-67	-51	3	20
Durable goods	-88	-48	-32	9	23
Nondurable goods	-35	-19	-19	-6	-3
Service providing	-25	30	50	154	207
Retail trade	-24	-10	-5	13	30
Financial activities ^a	8	6	7	12	12
PBS ^b	-63	-17	22	45	81
Temporary help svcs.	-37	2	12	16	30
Education & health svcs.	50	40	30	33	18
Government	46	21	-4	22	33
	Average for period (percent)				
Civilian unemployment rate	4.8	5.8	6.0	5.5	5.4



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. Percent of total nonfarm industries with increased employment over one month (or 12 months) plus half of those with unchanged employment.

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

Nonfarm payroll employment grew by 262,000 jobs in February 2005, exceeding the 183,000 average monthly gain in 2004. At 132.8 million, nonfarm payroll employment surpassed the February 2001 peak by about 300,000 jobs.

Nearly 80% of the month's job growth was in service-providing industries, where it was generally broad-based. Professional and business services posted the largest gain (81,000), of which over one-third came from temporary help services. Job growth also occurred in health care (23,000), retail (30,000), and food services (27,000). Goods-producing industries

grew by 55,000 jobs in February; however, the sector continues to be 2.7 million jobs below the July 2000 peak of 24.7 million. Construction employment, which added an average of 23,000 per month in 2004, grew by 30,000 in February, after showing no January growth because of severe weather. After declining for five months, manufacturing jobs increased by 20,000 in February, which the Bureau of Labor Statistics attributed partly to the return of 10,800 auto workers from temporary layoffs.

The unemployment rate, which dropped to 5.2% in January after

fluctuating between 5.4% and 5.5% since July 2004, returned to 5.4%. The employment-to-population ratio, which has fluctuated between 62.2% and 62.4% for a year, inched down 0.1 percentage point to 62.3% in February. The overall labor force participation rate held steady at 65.8% but has been trending slightly downward for the past couple of years. Men's labor force participation was up 0.1 percentage point from its historic low of 73% in January. Women's participation, which has risen substantially over the long term, has declined slightly over the past four years.