

United States Census Bureau

Measuring America

The Changing U.S. Economy

The Economic Census gives the nation a window to view change in the U.S. economy. For example, due to the substantial growth in Health Care and Social Assistance employment during the past 15 years, it is now the leading sector in employment. Taken every five years, the Economic Census gives an update on 1,000 industries and over 15,000 communities across the country.

The graph provides findings from the 2012 Economic Census Advance Report, the first in a series of releases from the census. Future releases will focus on specific industries and America's communities (including more than 5,000 small towns never before covered in the census). The Economic Census helps businesses and government measure past performance and plan for future growth.

Employment from 1997 to 2012 (Line Graph)

Manufacturing 1997 16,805,127 2012 11,268,906

Retail Trade 1997 13,991,103 2012 14,737,687

Health Care and Social Assistance 1997 13,561,579 2012 18,587,467

Accommodation and Food Services 1997 9,451,226 2012 12,027,557

Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services 1997 7,347,366 2012 10,217,859

Finance and Insurance 1997 5,835,214 2012 6,217,104

Wholesale Trade 1997 5,796,557 2012 6,068,720

Construction 1997 5,664,853 2012 Not Shown *

Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services 1997 5,361,210 2012 8,142,951

Other Services (Except Public Administration) 1997 3,256,178 2012 3,456,130

Information 1997 3,066,167 2012 3,206,226

Transportation and Warehousing 1997 2,920,777 2012 4,307,024

Management of Companies and Enterprises 1997 2,491,698 2012 Not Shown *

Real Estate and Rental and Leasing 1997 1,702,420 2012 1,980,320

Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation 1997 1,587,660 2012 2,092,370

Utilities 1997 702,703 2012 903,641

Mining 1997 509,006 2012 903,641

Educational Services 1997 321,073 2012 669,908

While Manufacturing had the largest decrease in employment (-5.5 million, or 32.9%), average annual payroll per employee increased from \$33,907 to \$52,686.

Health Care and Social Assistance had the largest increase in employment, up 5.0 million, or 37.1%. 56.3% of this increase was from Ambulatory Health Care Services (which includes doctors offices).

Retail Trade employment increased slightly (up 5.3%, or 746,584), and this sector still has the most establishments in the U.S. (over 1 million).

Accommodation and Food Services employment increased by 27.3% (up 2.6 million), with Food Services and Drinking Places establishments making up 90.0% (2.3 million) of that increase.

Employment in the Finance and Insurance sector increased by 6.5% (381,890), but the revenue increased by 60.7% (\$1.3 trillion) during this same period.

Employment in the Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services sector increased by 51.9% (or 2.8 million), and this sector had the largest increase in the number of establishments, up 233,145 (or 37.5%).

While Utilities employed only 655,358 persons in 2012, these employees had the highest average annual payroll per employee of any sector, \$89,470.

Mining had one of the largest percent increase in employment (up 77.5% to 903,641) as well as the largest percent increase in value of shipments (up 219.1% to \$555.2 billion).

*2012 data for the Construction and Management of Companies and Enterprise sectors were not released in the Advance Report but will be available in later reports.

Source: 1997, 2002, 2007, and 2012 Economic Census

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U.S. Department of Commerce

Economics and Statistics Division

U.S. Census Bureau

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Data in this infographic include only establishments with paid employees. All figures are in current dollars for the period shown, are not adjusted for inflation and do not reflect changes in prices. For information on how the Economic Census is conducted, see the Survey Methodology (http://www.census.gov/econ/census/help/methodology_disclosure/). For other information on the Economic Census reports (including a Release Schedule and information on comparability), see business.census.gov (<http://www.census.gov/econ/census/>).