



Friday Filed the Jobs Number — BLS: +29,000 Payrolls, Jobless Rate 4.2%

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BLS Employment Situation for September 2026: nonfarm payrolls +29,000, unemployment 4.2%. Friday's number, in civic English.

Friday filed the jobs number. The cockpit filed first — but the Bureau of Labor Statistics still owns the payroll tape.

At 8:30 a.m. Eastern on Friday, October 2, 2026, BLS released *The Employment Situation — September 2026* (USDL-26-1549). Total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 29,000. The unemployment rate was 4.2 percent. Employment in all major industries changed little over the month. Those are the headline establishment and household figures — not forecasts, not wire color, not invented scores.

Notice Nearby's job is the public record. This brief walks the official release in civic English so neighbors, reporters, and local officials can see what BLS actually published — household survey, establishment survey, revisions, and the next scheduled drop — without advocacy spin.

The short version

BLS draws the Employment Situation from two monthly surveys. The household survey measures labor-force status and unemployment by demographic characteristics. The establishment survey measures nonfarm employment, hours, and earnings by industry.

For September 2026, BLS said both nonfarm payroll employment (+29,000) and the unemployment rate (4.2 percent) changed little. The number of unemployed people was also little changed at 7.1 million. The unemployment rate has remained in a narrow range of 4.1 percent to 4.3 percent since March.

The September payroll gain followed an average monthly increase of 45,000 over the prior 12 months. That context matters: one soft month sits against a year of smaller average gains than the mid-cycle boom years, and BLS is careful to say major industries were little changed rather than in free fall.

Household survey — unemployment and who is out of work

Among major worker groups, the unemployment rate for people who are Black (7.0 percent) increased in September. Jobless rates for adult men (3.9 percent), adult women (3.6 percent), teenagers (14.5 percent), and people who are White (3.6 percent), Asian (2.9 percent), or Hispanic (4.7 percent) showed little change over the month.

The number of long-term unemployed (jobless for 27 weeks or more) was essentially unchanged at 1.9 million. They accounted for 27.1 percent of all unemployed people.

Both the labor force participation rate (61.8 percent) and the employment-population ratio (59.2 percent) changed little in September. BLS notes those measures showed little net change since January.

People employed part time for economic reasons changed little at 4.5 million — workers who preferred full-time work but were on short hours or could not find full-time jobs. People not in the labor force who currently want a job changed little at 5.8 million.

Among that group, people marginally attached to the labor force decreased by 236,000 to 1.5 million. Discouraged workers, a subset who believed no jobs were available for them, changed little at 414,000.

Establishment survey — payrolls by industry

Total nonfarm payroll employment changed little in September (+29,000). Health care continued its upward trend (+17,000), but slower than the average monthly gain over the prior 12 months (+33,000). Within health care, ambulatory health care services (+13,000) and hospitals (+12,000) continued to trend up, while nursing and residential care facilities lost jobs (−9,000).

Construction changed little (+11,000), near its prior-12-month average of about 10,000 jobs per month. Nonresidential specialty trade contractors continued to trend up (+12,000).

Manufacturing was little changed (+9,000) but is up by 72,000 since a recent low in December 2025. Over the month, plastics and rubber products manufacturing (+5,000) and machinery manufacturing (+5,000) increased.

Financial activities employment was little changed (−7,000). The industry is down by 129,000 since a recent peak in May 2025, with most of that loss in insurance carriers and related activities (−90,000).

BLS also reported little change over the month in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; wholesale trade; retail trade; transportation and warehousing; information; professional and business services; social assistance; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government.

Hours and earnings

Average hourly earnings for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls edged up by 5 cents, or 0.1 percent, to \$37.81. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased by 3.0 percent. Average hourly earnings of private-sector production and nonsupervisory employees rose by 7 cents, or 0.2 percent, to \$32.60.

The average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls remained at 34.4 hours. In manufacturing, the average workweek was unchanged at 40.6 hours, and overtime held at 3.0 hours. The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees remained at 33.8 hours.

Revisions — July and August came in lower

Monthly revisions are part of the public tape. The change in total nonfarm payroll employment for July was revised down by 31,000, from +21,000 to –10,000. The change for August was revised down by 29,000, from +162,000 to +133,000. With those revisions, employment in July and August combined is 60,000 lower than previously reported.

BLS explains the usual sources: additional reports from businesses and government agencies since the last published estimates, plus recalculation of seasonal factors. Readers who only watch the newest month miss the revision story that often moves the two-month cumulative picture more than the headline print.

What this brief is — and is not

This is a Notice Nearby public paper: Ryan Standley / Record of Sale, LLC / Notice Nearby. It restates BLS's published Employment Situation for September 2026. It is not Federal Reserve policy advice, not a market call, and not Legal Publication. Markets may price soft payrolls one way and sticky inflation another; that pricing is not in the BLS tables.

The publisher's desk gag today — “Friday filed the jobs number. The cockpit filed first.” — sits beside the same Friday wire as Flydubai cockpit and Hormuz plan notes. The jobs number still has its own calendar: BLS at 8:30 a.m. Eastern, USDL-26-1549, tables A and B, technical note attached. Neighbors who want the source should read BLS directly.

How to read “changed little”

BLS uses “changed little” as a statistical phrase, not a shrug. A +29,000 payroll print is a small seasonally adjusted move relative to the size of U.S. nonfarm employment. An unemployment rate that stays inside a 4.1–4.3 percent band since March is a narrow range by post-pandemic standards. Both can be true at once: the labor market is not printing large monthly gains, and it has not broken into a sharp unemployment spike in this release.

Industry detail reinforces that reading. Health care still adds jobs, but slower than its recent 12-month pace. Construction and manufacturing are little changed on the month even where multi-month trends (manufacturing up since December 2025; financial activities down since May 2025) remain visible in the level.

Where to verify

Primary source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *The Employment Situation — September 2026*, news release USDL-26-1549, embargoed until 8:30 a.m. (ET) Friday, October 2, 2026. Household technical contact cpsinfo@bls.gov / www.bls.gov/cps. Establishment technical contact cesinfo@bls.gov / www.bls.gov/ces. Media contact PressOffice@bls.gov.

Summary tables A (household) and B (establishment), the FAQ, and the technical note live on the Employment Situation release page. The Employment Situation for October 2026 is scheduled for Friday, November 6, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Notes

• Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, The Employment Situation — September 2026 (USDL-26-1549), released 8:30 a.m. ET Friday, October 2, 2026. <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm> — PDF: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>

• Figures are seasonally adjusted BLS published values only. No invented scores or market forecasts.

- Author: Ryan Standley / Record of Sale, LLC / Notice Nearby.
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