

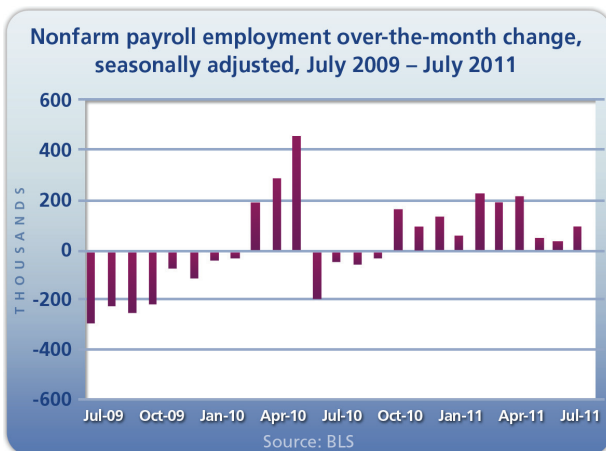


This month delivers better-than-anticipated job growth, with the economy adding 117,000 nonfarm payroll jobs in July (economist consensus 75,000). The unemployment rate also edged down to 9.1 percent. The private-sector continued to grow, adding 154,000 jobs. Professional and business services remains a strong performing segment with employment increasing (+34,000) in July, alongside healthy improvements in education and health services adding 38,000.

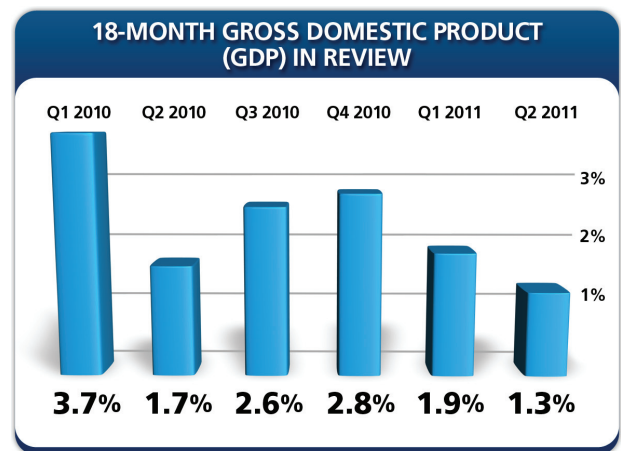
This month's stronger employment numbers may help to ease the country's general feeling of uncertainty about the future of the economy. Fears of a return recession are largely unwarranted, as we continue to see moderate growth in a number of areas. GDP, although not at the healthiest level we'd like, nonetheless remains positive. Private-sector continues to deliver strong performances, as does Temporary Help Services with a 7.6 percent increase in July. This is particularly insightful because temporary services are a leading indicator of economic health and historically begin to decline many months before a recession materializes. These positive trends, alongside robust corporate profits, all negate the likelihood that a recession is on its way.

But, the insecurity about key global macroeconomic indicators has led to a general "wait and see" situation. Unfortunately, this type of holding pattern can often produce high anxiety and fear within an already fragile country. However, as progress is being made in regard to the debt ceiling and with positive job numbers such as these beginning to resurface, consumer nervousness may begin to ease.

National Employment Trends



- Non-farm payroll rose +117,000 in July
- Private-sector payroll rose +154,000 in July
- Health care: +31,000; Retail: +26,000; Professional and business services: +34,000
- Government: -37,000 jobs; Federal: +2,000; State: -23,000; Local: -16,000



- This quarter's GDP estimate came in at 1.3 percent, its lowest point since the start of 2010.
- From 1947 until 2010, the U.S. average quarterly GDP growth was 3.30 percent.
- GDP growth reached a historical high of 17.2 percent in March of 1950 and a record low of -10.4 in March of 1958.

EMPLOYEE CONFIDENCE INDEX
JULY 2011

Current Month:	47.8
Previous Month:	48.1
Change:	-0.3
12-month High:	53.9
12-month Low:	47.8

*Total Survey Respondents: 1,383



The SFN Group Employee Confidence Index

The SFN Group Employee Confidence Index slipped 0.3 points to 47.8 in July. The Index, which measures workers' confidence in their personal employment situation and optimism in the economic environment, showed little change from June. However, a noticeable decline was seen in economic optimism, with fewer workers expressing confidence in the strength of the economy and job availability.

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