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 for more than 15,000 communities across the country.

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. 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).

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).

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.

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 increases 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 Enterprises sectors were not released in this Advance Report but will be available in later reports.

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_disclosures). 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/).