Upward Mobility

During much of the current expansion, job creation lagged behind in industries with the strongest wage growth. But wage gains in some lower-paying fields, such as hospitality, have begun to accelerate, reflecting a tightening job market for lower-skilled workers.

- **Information**: Average wages in May: $39.40 per hour; Employment in May: 2.8 Million jobs
- **Financial Activities**: $34.77 per hour; 8.6M jobs
- **Trade/Transport/Utilities**: $23.24 per hour; 27.8M jobs
- **Education/Health**: $26.90 per hour; 23.6M jobs
- **Leisure/Hospitality**: $15.86 per hour; 16.3M jobs
- **Business Services**: $32.38 per hour; 20.9M jobs

20% change in wages since September 2010

Change in jobs since September 2010

Private sector total:
$26.92 per hour; 126.3M jobs

U.S. employers have added jobs every month since the fall of 2010, the longest such streak on record.

Note: Seasonally adjusted
Source: Labor Department
Numbers of households experiencing food insecurity is unrelated to the prevalence of SNAP benefit receipt.

Numbers of non-working SNAP households closely mirrors TANF trends for the first five years after welfare reform, then diverges.

 Millions of households 1996-2016

Source: FNS- SNAP Quality Control Sample & HHS- TANF Caseload Data
Growth of non-working households (millions) 1996-2016

Source: FNS- SNAP Quality Control Sample & HHS- TANF Caseload Data