

Figure 4: Voluntary Part-Time Employment as a Share of Total

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Note: Figure 3 and Figure 4 present slightly different measures of the same variable ("voluntary parttime employment as a share of total employment"). Figure 3 shows the average rate of voluntary part-time employment over the previous year. For instance, the rate of voluntary part-time employment for the fourth quarter of 1994 is calculated by taking the average rate of voluntary parttime employment from the first, second, third, and fourth quarters of 1994. Figure 4 shows data from a single quarter on a seasonally-adjusted basis. The quarterly data are more volatile than the measure depicted in Figure 3. Nonetheless, Figure 3 still clearly indicates that voluntary part-time employment began rising after the ACA went into effect.

TABLE 2

Quarter-Over-Quarter Annualized Percent Change in Voluntary Part-Time Employment

| Quarterly Change  | Annualized  | Quarterly Change  | Annualized  | Quarterly Change  | Annualized  |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
|                   | Pct. Change |                   | Pct. Change |                   | Pct. Change |
| 2000 Q3 - 2000 Q4 | 10.4%       | 1996 Q1 - 1996 Q2 | 3.2%        | 2012 Q4 - 2013 Q1 | -1.6%       |
| 2013 Q4 - 2014 Q1 | 10.1%       | 2014 Q3 - 2014 Q4 | 3.1%        | 1996 Q3 - 1996 Q4 | -2.1%       |
| 2014 Q2 - 2014 Q3 | 10.0%       | 2005 Q3 - 2005 Q4 | 2.9%        | 2009 Q4 - 2010 Q1 | -2.1%       |
| 2010 Q2 - 2010 Q3 | 10.0%       | 2004 Q2 - 2004 Q3 | 2.7%        | 2007 Q1 - 2007 Q2 | -2.1%       |
| 2004 Q1 - 2004 Q2 | 8.3%        | 1994 Q3 - 1994 Q4 | 2.7%        | 2001 Q4 - 2002 Q1 | -2.4%       |
| 2002 Q1 - 2002 Q2 | 7.6%        | 1999 Q2 - 1999 Q3 | 2.6%        | 2011 Q2 - 2011 Q3 | -2.6%       |
| 1994 Q2 - 1994 Q3 | 7.3%        | 2008 Q1 - 2008 Q2 | 2.5%        | 2006 Q2 - 2006 Q3 | -2.6%       |
| 1999 Q4 - 2000 Q1 | 7.2%        | 2016 Q2 - 2016 Q3 | 2.3%        | 2007 Q2 - 2007 Q3 | -2.6%       |
| 2015 Q1 - 2015 Q2 | 6.7%        | 1997 Q1 - 1997 Q2 | 1.9%        | 1995 Q1 - 1995 Q2 | -3.1%       |
| 1996 Q2 - 1996 Q3 | 6.7%        | 2009 Q1 - 2009 Q2 | 1.8%        | 2008 Q4 - 2009 Q1 | -3.2%       |
| 2006 Q3 - 2006 Q4 | 6.7%        | 1994 Q4 - 1995 Q1 | 1.7%        | 2005 Q4 - 2006 Q1 | -3.3%       |
| 2015 Q3 - 2015 Q4 | 6.6%        | 2006 Q1 - 2006 Q2 | 1.7%        | 2012 Q2 - 2012 Q3 | -3.5%       |
| 1997 Q3 - 1997 Q4 | 6.1%        | 1998 Q3 - 1998 Q4 | 1.6%        | 2010 Q4 - 2011 Q1 | -3.7%       |
| 2011 Q3 - 2011 Q4 | 5.9%        | 2016 Q1 - 2016 Q2 | 1.5%        | 2004 Q4 - 2005 Q1 | -4.1%       |
| 2005 Q2 - 2005 Q3 | 5.5%        | 1998 Q1 - 1998 Q2 | 1.2%        | 2009 Q2 - 2009 Q3 | -4.3%       |
| 2012 Q1 - 2012 Q2 | 5.4%        | 1998 Q2 - 1998 Q3 | 1.0%        | 2008 Q2 - 2008 Q3 | -4.3%       |
| 2015 Q4 - 2016 Q1 | 5.1%        | 2003 Q2 - 2003 Q3 | 0.9%        | 2007 Q3 - 2007 Q4 | -4.8%       |
| 1996 Q4 - 1997 Q1 | 5.1%        | 1995 Q4 - 1996 Q1 | 0.9%        | 2003 Q3 - 2003 Q4 | -4.8%       |
| 1997 Q4 - 1998 Q1 | 4.9%        | 2012 Q3 - 2012 Q4 | 0.0%        | 2009 Q3 - 2009 Q4 | -4.9%       |
| 2002 Q4 - 2003 Q1 | 4.9%        | 2004 Q3 - 2004 Q4 | -0.1%       | 1994 Q1 - 1994 Q2 | -5.1%       |
| 2013 Q1 - 2013 Q2 | 4.8%        | 2000 Q4 - 2001 Q1 | -0.2%       | 2015 Q2 - 2015 Q3 | -5.2%       |
| 2011 Q1 - 2011 Q2 | 4.8%        | 2014 Q4 - 2015 Q1 | -0.2%       | 2002 Q3 - 2002 Q4 | -5.3%       |
| 1999 Q1 - 1999 Q2 | 4.7%        | 2001 Q3 - 2001 Q4 | -0.3%       | 1997 Q2 - 1997 Q3 | -5.4%       |
| 2013 Q2 - 2013 Q3 | 4.6%        | 2014 Q1 - 2014 Q2 | -0.4%       | 1999 Q3 - 1999 Q4 | -5.8%       |
| 2011 Q4 - 2012 Q1 | 4.4%        | 2000 Q2 - 2000 Q3 | -0.4%       | 2008 Q3 - 2008 Q4 | -7.5%       |
| 2006 Q4 - 2007 Q1 | 3.7%        | 2010 Q3 - 2010 Q4 | -0.4%       | 2001 Q1 - 2001 Q2 | -7.7%       |
| 1995 Q2 - 1995 Q3 | 3.7%        | 1998 Q4 - 1999 Q1 | -0.6%       | 2013 Q3 - 2013 Q4 | -7.8%       |
| 2003 Q4 - 2004 Q1 | 3.4%        | 2002 Q2 - 2002 Q3 | -0.8%       | 2000 Q1 - 2000 Q2 | -8.2%       |
| 2001 Q2 - 2001 Q3 | 3.3%        | 2007 Q4 - 2008 Q1 | -1.0%       | 1995 Q3 - 1995 Q4 | -8.2%       |
| 2003 Q1 - 2003 Q2 | 3.2%        | 2005 Q1 - 2005 Q2 | -1.1%       | 2010 Q1 - 2010 Q2 | -9.5%       |

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Note: Table 1 shows the percent change in the number of voluntary part-time workers from the previous year. By focusing on the same time periods within each year, it is able to filter out seasonal effects. Table 2 filters out seasonal effects in a different way by looking at the percent change in the number of voluntary part-time workers (seasonally adjusted) from the previous quarter (also seasonally adjusted). In order for the two tables to be comparable, the data in Table 2 are presented as annual rates of change. Although the data in Table 2 are far more volatile than the data displayed in Table 1, there is nonetheless a historically rare increase in voluntary part-time employment beginning in 2014. In fact, two of the three largest increases came during the first year of the ACA's implementation.