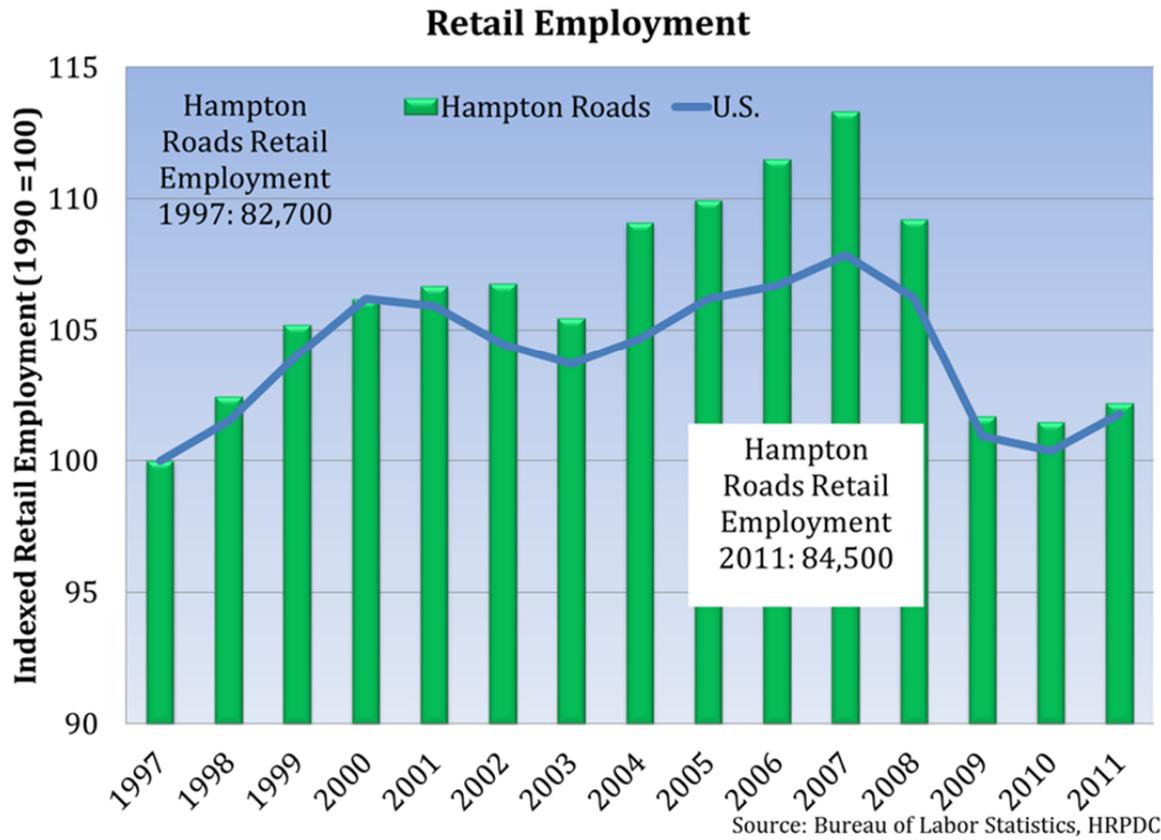


**Figure 2.21 Total Retail Employment in Hampton Roads**



**Why is it important?**

Retail employment tends to be very cyclical in nature, but the relative level of retail employment indicates the strength of the retail industry in the region.

**How are we doing?**

Employment in the retail sector remained relatively stable over the past two decades both nationally and in the region. The region only added 3,500 retail jobs over the past two decades. Retail employment has decreased substantially since 2007.