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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



May 2013

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Prepared by Staff of the National Estimates Branch
Current Employment Statistics Survey
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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[Email CES](#)

Current Employment Statistics Summary, May 2013

Total nonfarm: + 175,000

Total private: + 178,000

Nonfarm employment increased by 175,000 in May, and, including revisions, job growth has averaged 155,000 per month over the past 3 months. In May, professional and business services, food services and drinking places, and retail trade added jobs.

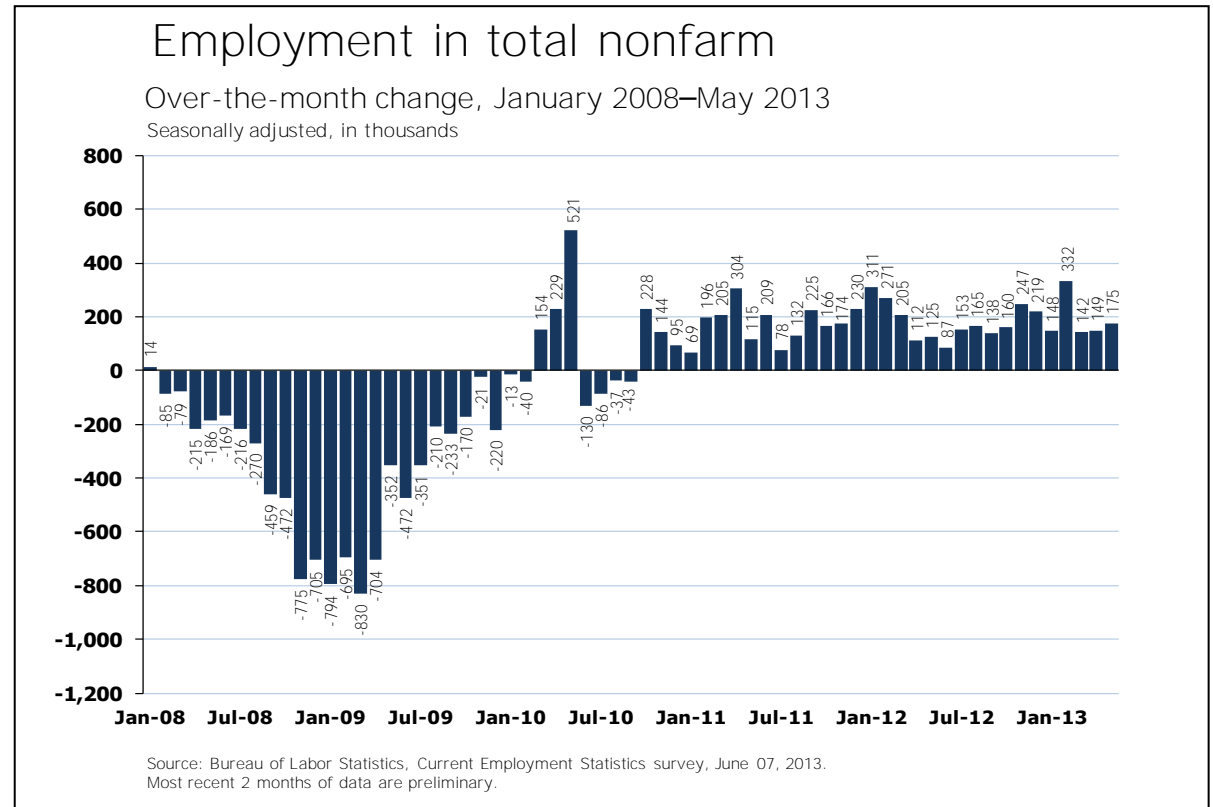
Average hourly earnings continued to edge up in May (+1 cent) and are up 2.0 percent over the year. Average weekly hours were unchanged from April to May.

+ 57,000 Professional and business services

Professional and business services employment rose by 57,000 in May and has expanded by 589,000 over the past 12 months. Employment in temporary help services continued to trend up over the month, and over the past 12 months the industry has added 186,000 jobs.

+ 43,000 Leisure and hospitality

Leisure and hospitality added 43,000 jobs in May, mostly in food services and drinking places, which added 38,000 jobs. Job growth in



food services has averaged 28,000 per month over the past year.

+ 28,000 Retail trade

In May, retail trade added 28,000 jobs, with general merchandise stores adding 10,000 jobs. Over the prior 12 months, employment in the

retail sector has expanded by an average 20,000 per month.

+ 26,000 Private education and health services

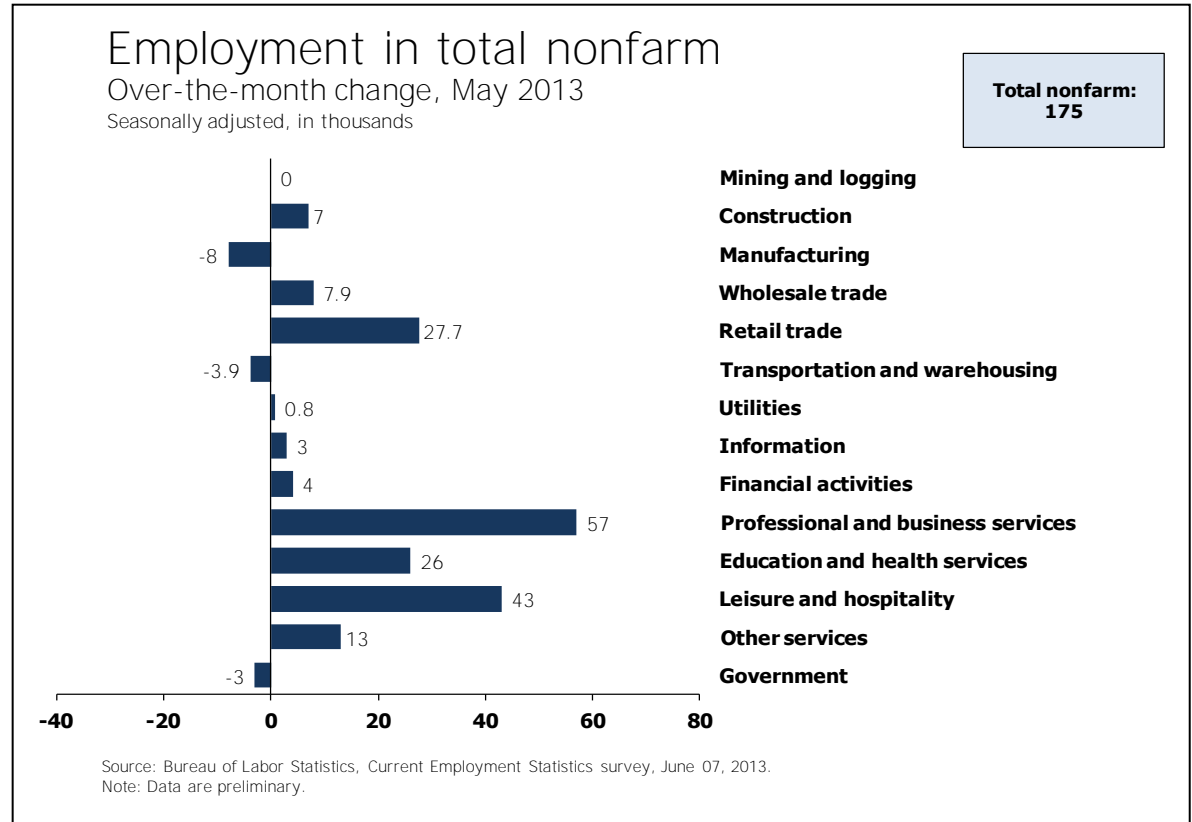
Within health care, ambulatory health care

Current Employment Statistics Summary, May 2013

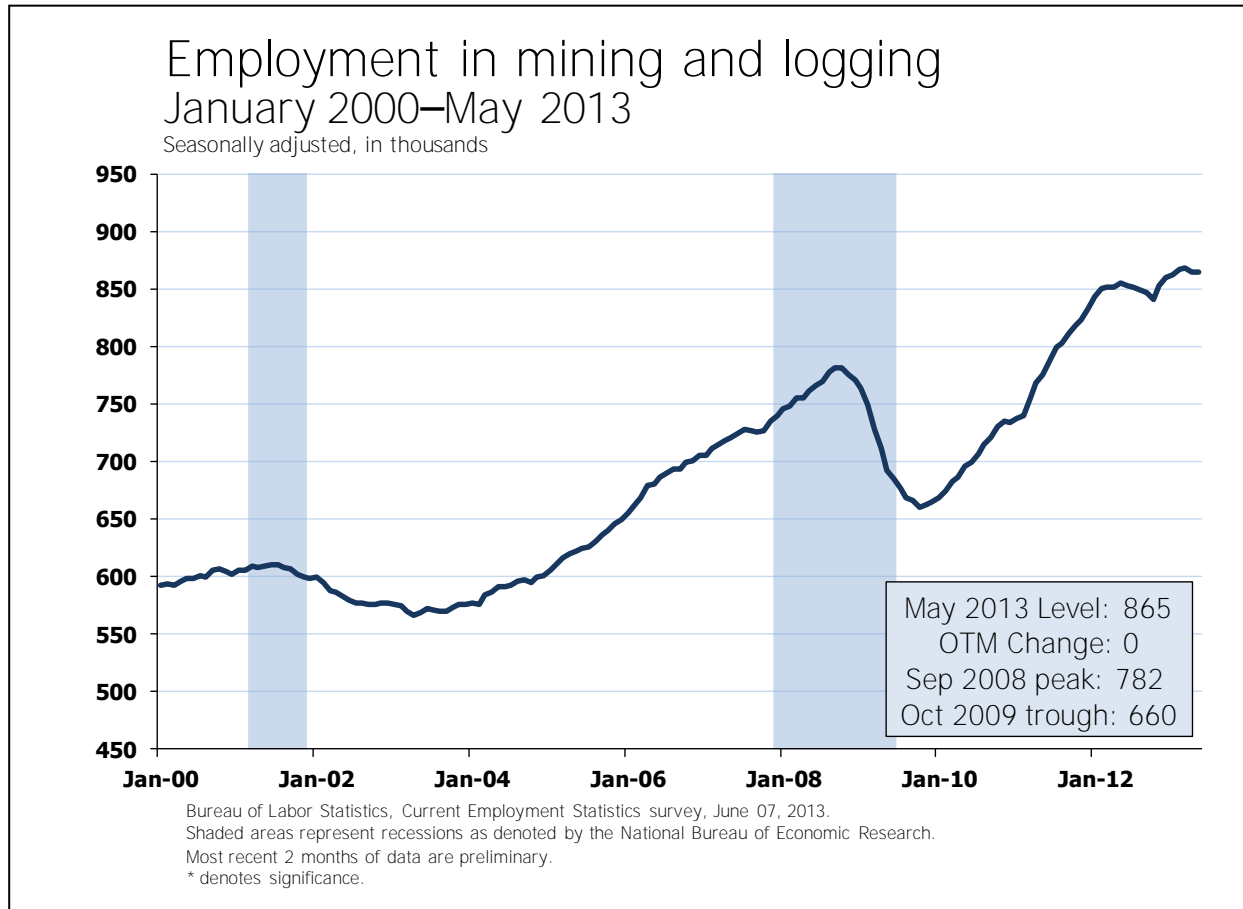
services added 15,000 jobs in May, with employment continuing to expand among the component industries, including outpatient care centers and home health care services. In contrast, hospital employment fell over the month by 6,000.

-3,000 Government

Federal government employment declined by 14,000 in May. Federal government, except postal service, lost 9,000 jobs, with losses totaling 43,000 over the past year. The U.S. Postal Service lost 4,000 jobs in May, and the industry has lost 30,000 jobs over the past year.

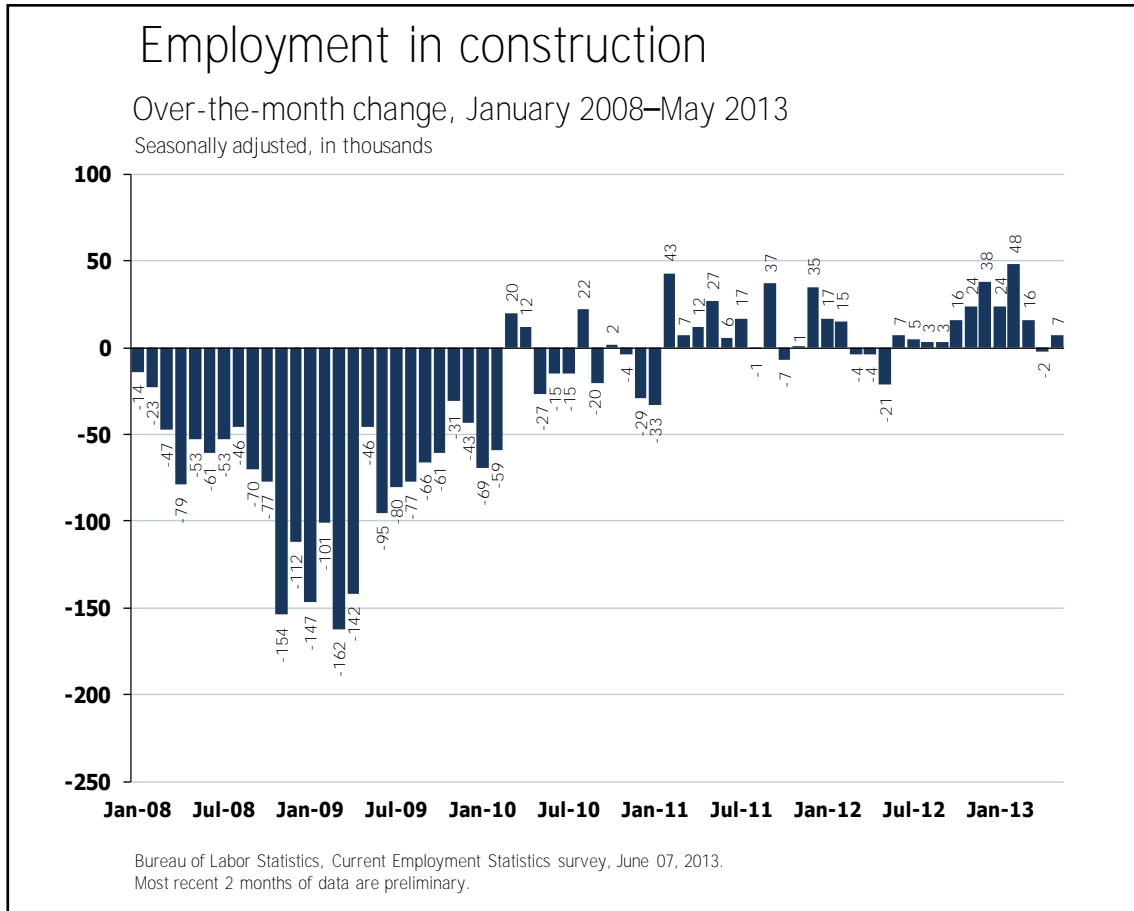


Mining and Logging



In May, employment in mining and logging was unchanged. Over the past 3-months employment in mining, except oil and gas has declined by 6,000; this job loss was chiefly from nonmetallic mineral mining and quarrying. The slowdown in employment growth in mining and logging coincides with the slackening of the pace of petroleum exploration (source: [Hughes Rig Count](#)). A historically high volume of crude oil production (source: [EIA](#)) has not translated into large employment growth in the mining and logging industry during 2013.

Construction



Construction employment was essentially unchanged in May (+7,000) for the second consecutive month. This flatness contrasts to the average monthly employment gain of 28,000 from October 2012 through March of this year.

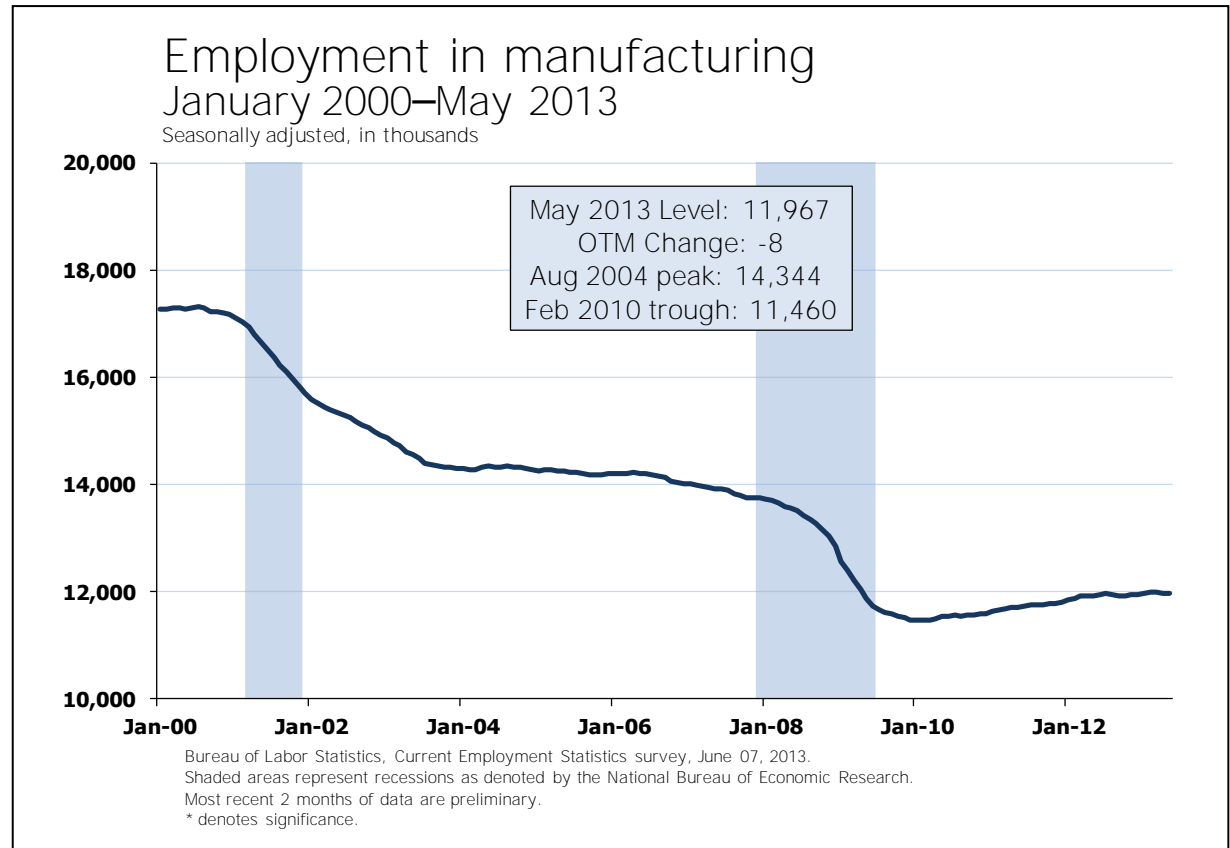
Over the last 12 months, construction has added 189,000 jobs. This growth is consistent with overall gains in construction spending over that span (Source: [U.S. Census Bureau](http://www.bls.gov)).

Manufacturing

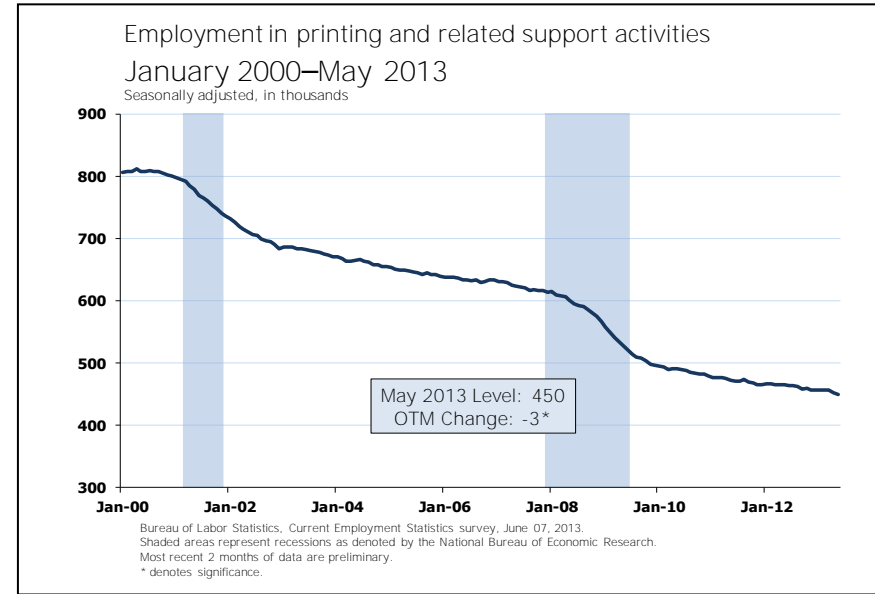
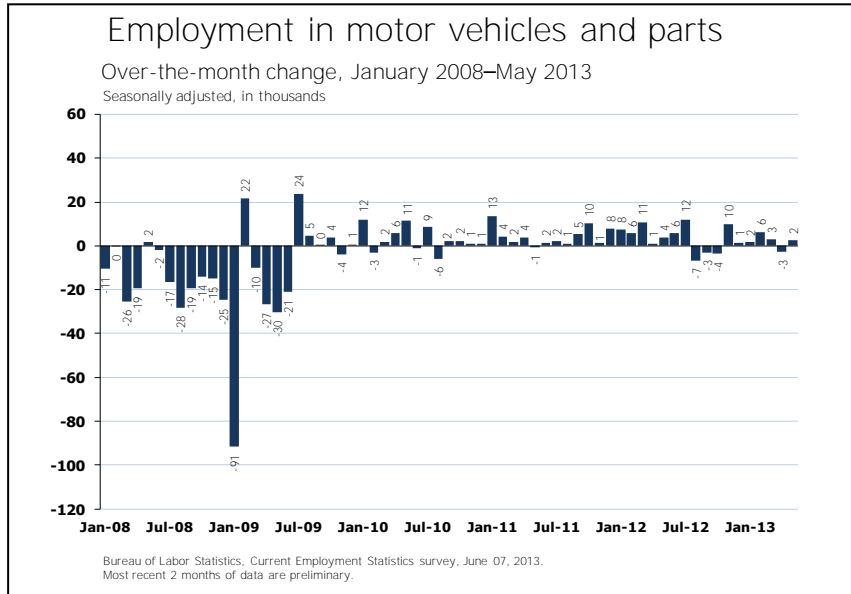
In May, manufacturing employment changed little (-8,000). Since an employment trough in February 2010, the industry has added 507,000 jobs; however, in the past year, manufacturing employment has changed little.

The 1-month diffusion index of manufacturing employment edged up from 45.1 in April to 45.7 in May, the second consecutive month the index was below 50. The diffusion index measures the dispersion of employment change in manufacturing, with a value below 50 indicating that more manufacturing industries are losing jobs than adding them.

In May, the factory workweek for production employees was unchanged. The factory workweek is considered a leading economic indicator. The unchanged workweek combined with employment resulted in a 0.2 percent decrease in the index of aggregate weekly hours for production employees.



Manufacturing



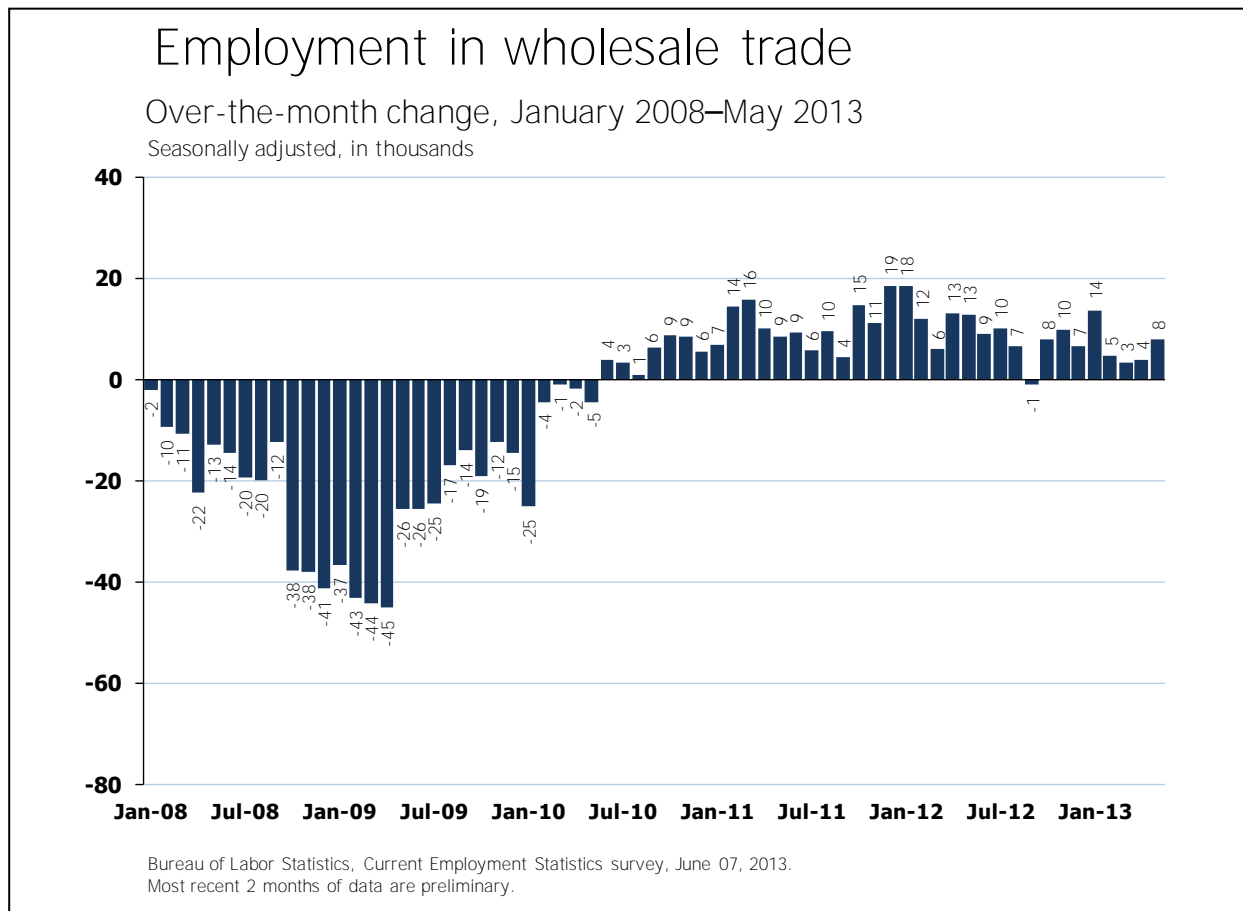
NAICS 3361, 3362, and 3363 combined – Motor vehicles and parts

In May, employment in motor vehicles and parts manufacturing was little changed. Over the past 12 months, employment in this industry has expanded by 26,000, approximately half the rate of growth for the previous 12 months.

NAICS 323 – Printing and related support activities

Printing and related support activities continued to shed jobs in May (-3,000). This industry has been shedding jobs for over a decade and has fallen by 71,000 since the most recent recession ended in June 2009.

Wholesale Trade



In May, employment in wholesale trade continued to inch up (+8,000). Employment in May continued its moderate growth trend. Since the last employment trough in May 2010, the industry has added 310,000 jobs.

Retail Trade



Retail trade employment increased by 28,000 in May, continuing its upward trend. This employment increase was primarily due to gains in general merchandise stores (+10,000) along with small positive changes in most other retail component industries. Overall, retail trade employment has increased by 258,000 over the past 12 months.

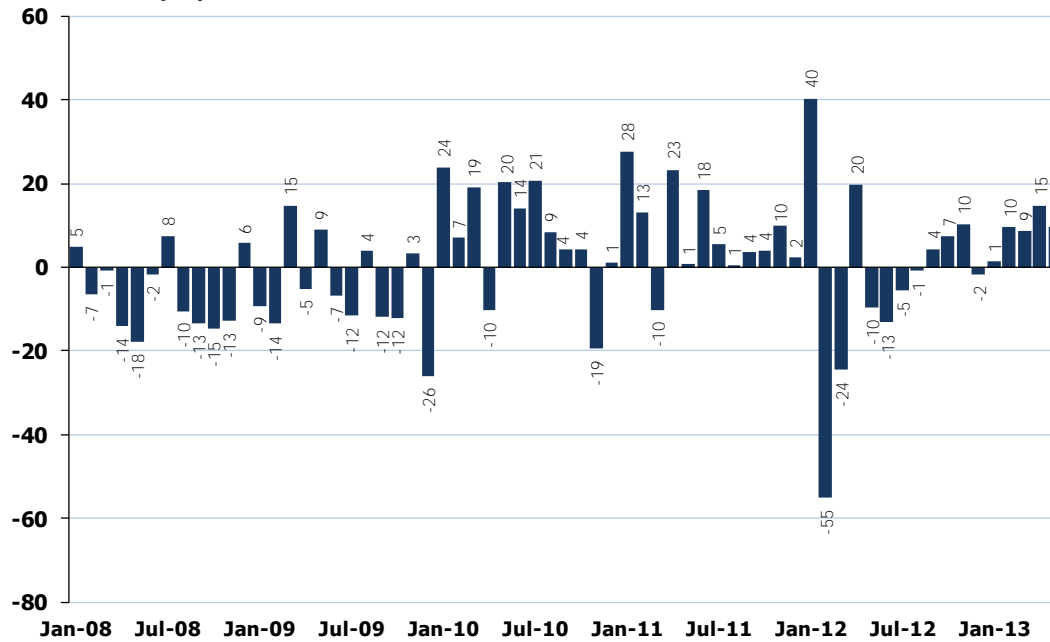
Recent retail-related indicators have been generally positive. As shown by [Census Bureau](#) data, retail sales for April edged up by 0.1 percent, however, sales are up about 4 percent over the year. Automotive sales, as measured by [MotorIntelligence](#), increased by about 400,000 in May. And according to the [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#), while the per-gallon price of gasoline is up 5 cents from April, the price remains down 15 cents over the year. Also, the [Conference Board](#) notes that the Consumer Confidence Index rose in May, reaching its highest level in 5 years.

Retail Trade

Employment in general merchandise stores

Over-the-month change, January 2008–May 2013

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

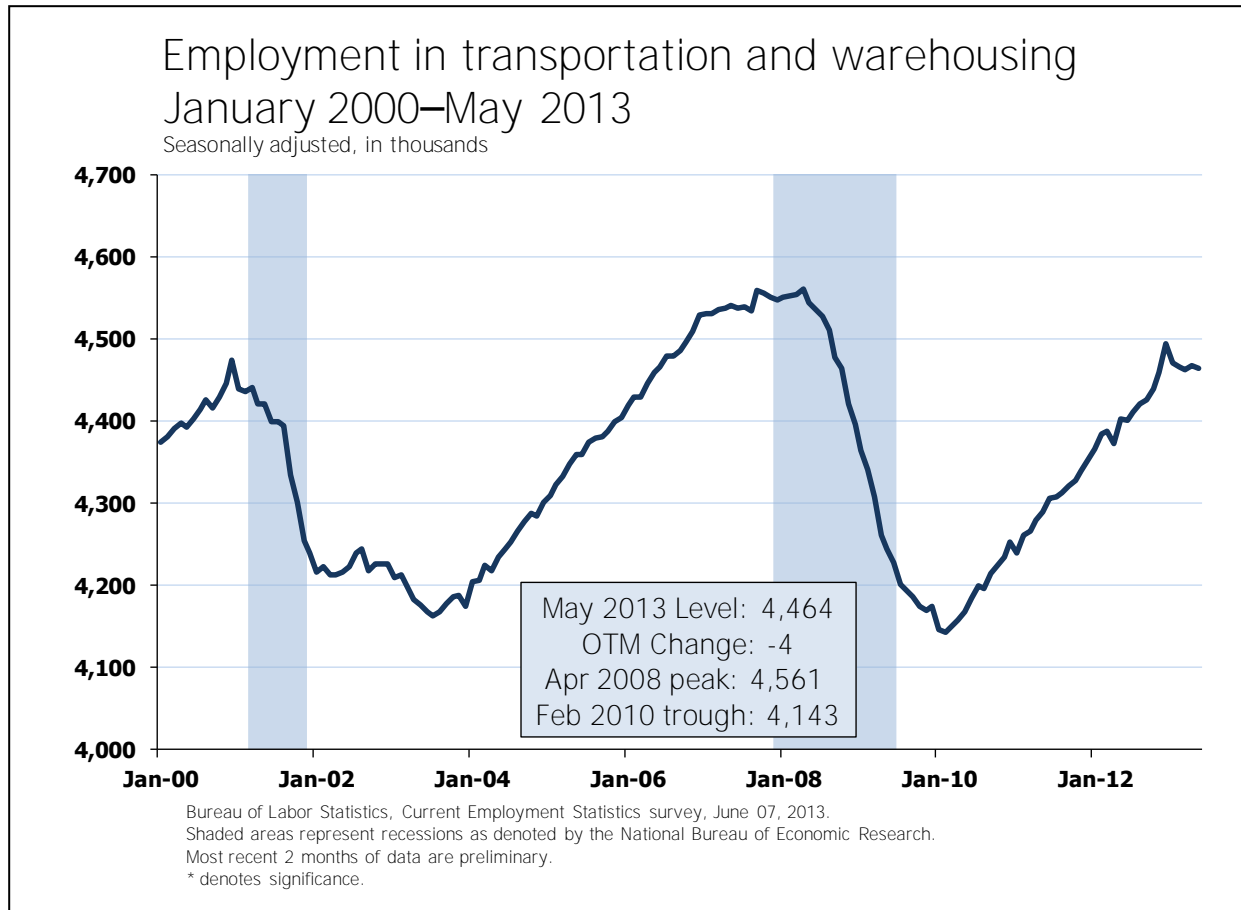


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 07, 2013.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

NAICS 452 – General merchandise stores

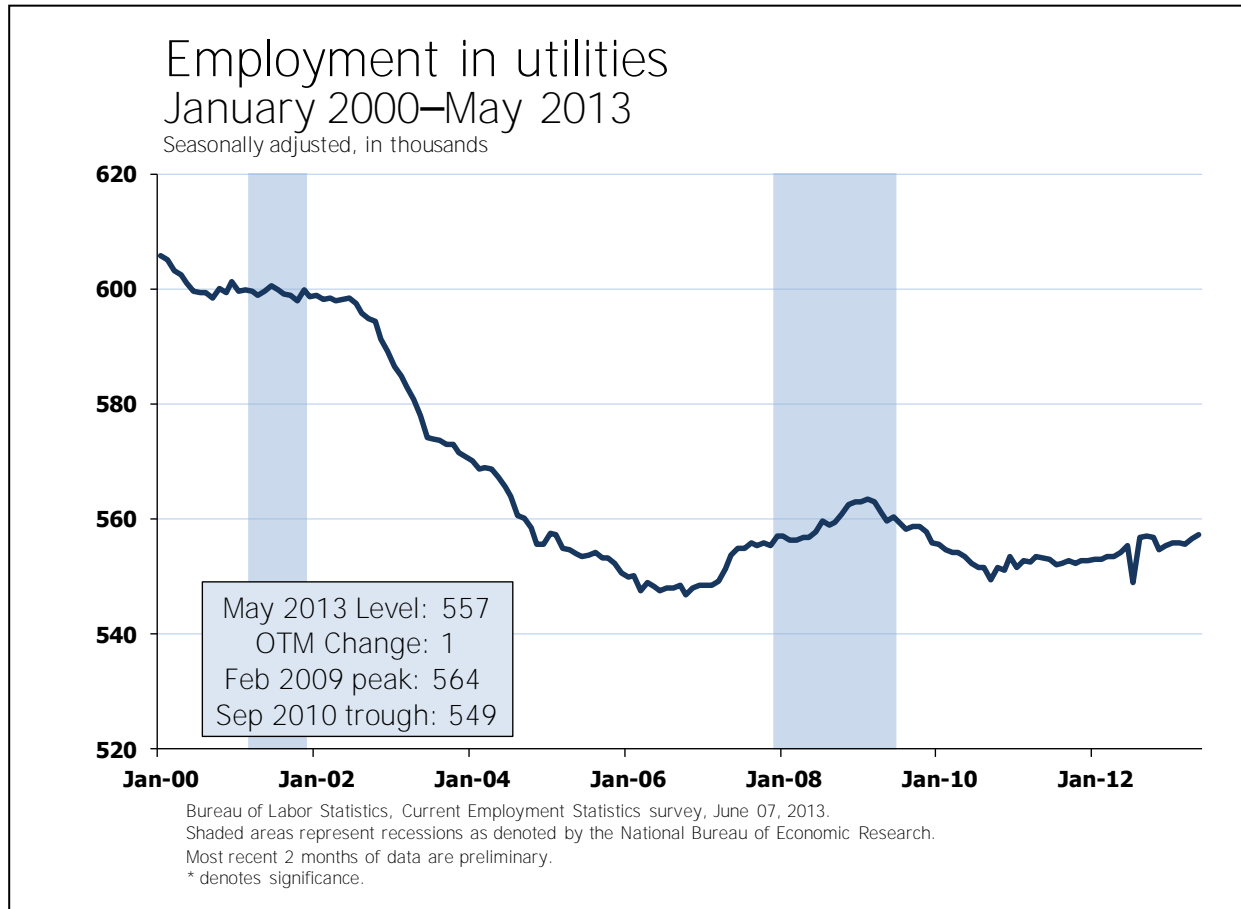
In May, general merchandise stores employment increased by 10,000, with most of the gain coming from other general merchandise stores. Since the most recent trough in August 2012, employment in general merchandise stores has increased by 64,000.

Transportation and Warehousing



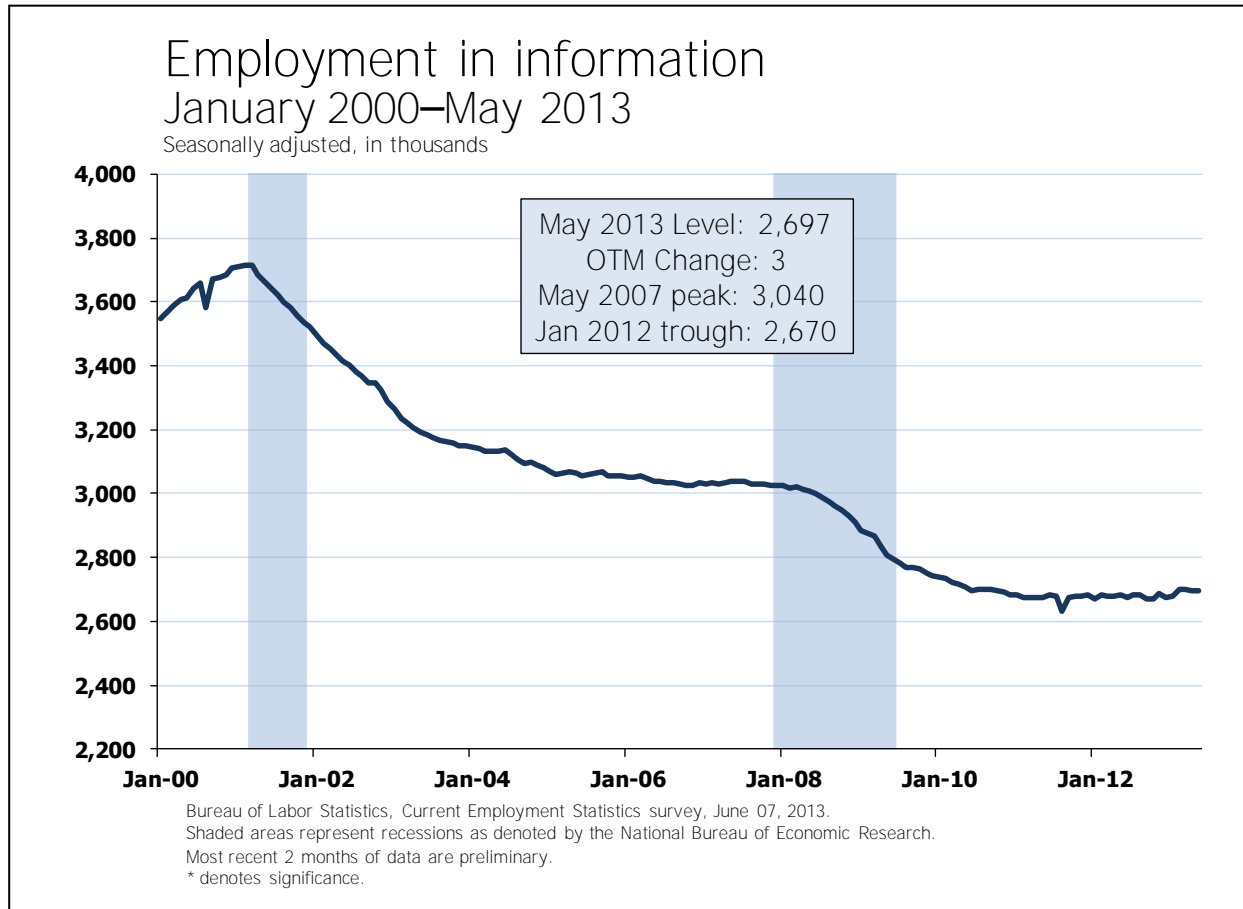
Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in May. Over the year, employment in this industry has grown by 62,000.

Utilities



In May, employment in utilities changed little.

Information



Information employment changed little (+3,000) in May, with all major component industries seeing essentially no change.

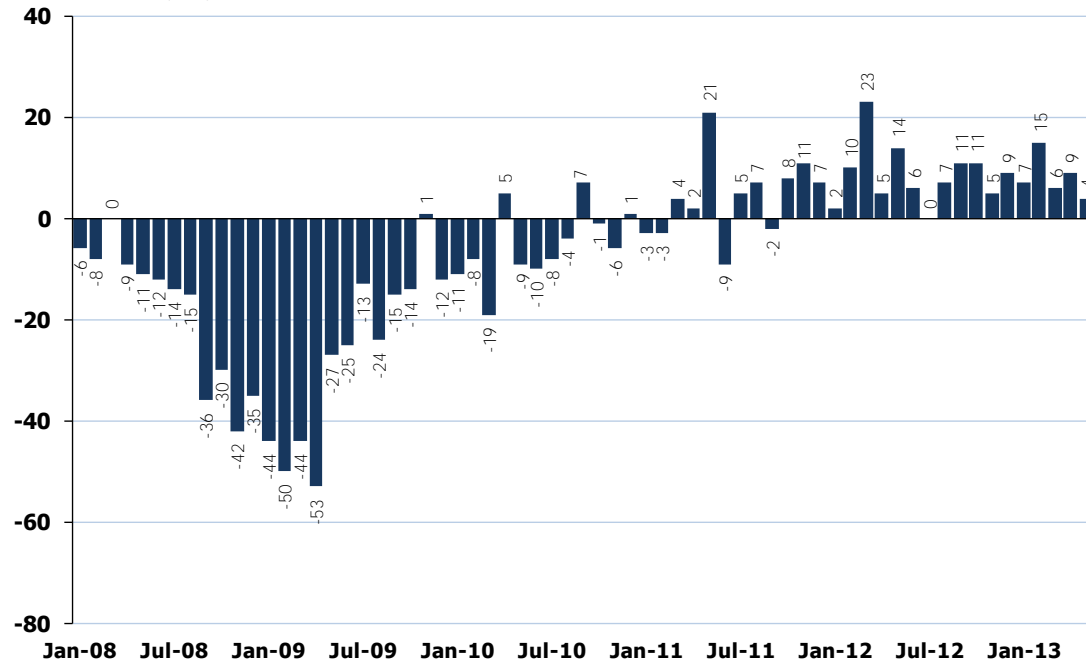
The past year has seen little movement in information employment, but the trend over the longer term has been one of sustained job loss. Since reaching an historical high point in March 2001, information employment has fallen by over one million—a decline of about 27 percent. Although job losses over this time have been widespread among information industries, they have been especially severe in the wired telecommunications and the non-Internet publishing industries.

Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities

Over-the-month change, January 2008–May 2013

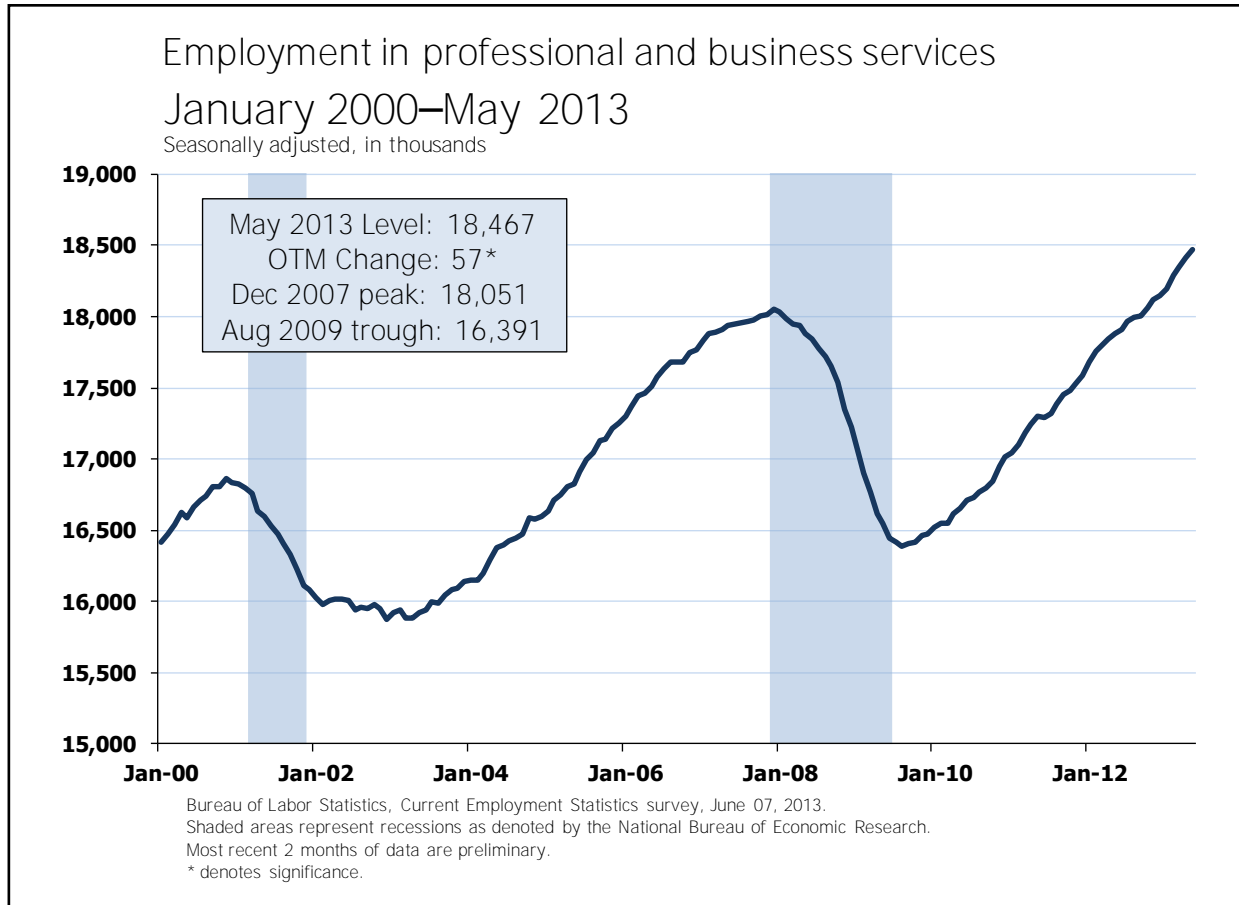
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 07, 2013.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in financial activities continued to trend up at a modest pace in May (+4,000). Employment has increased by an average of 7,000 per month in financial activities since reaching a trough in February 2011.

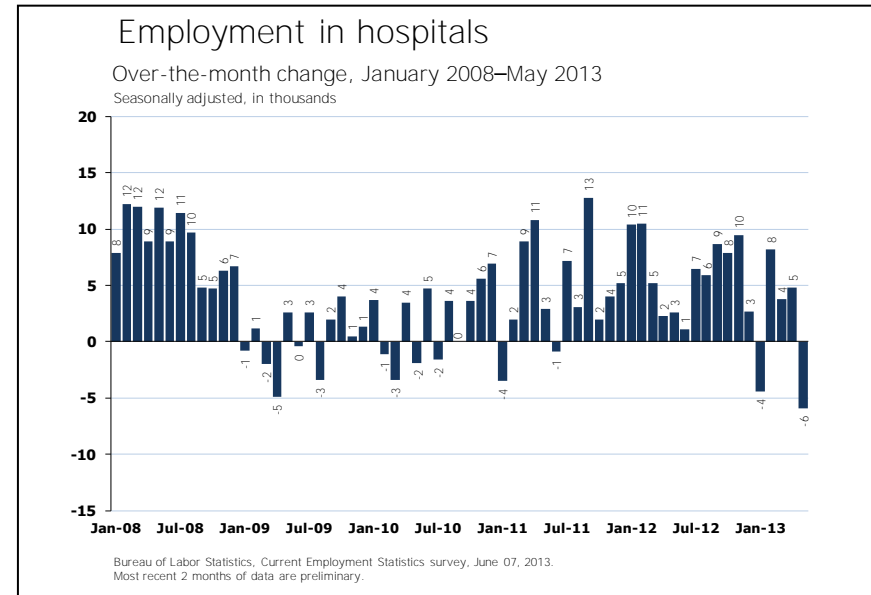
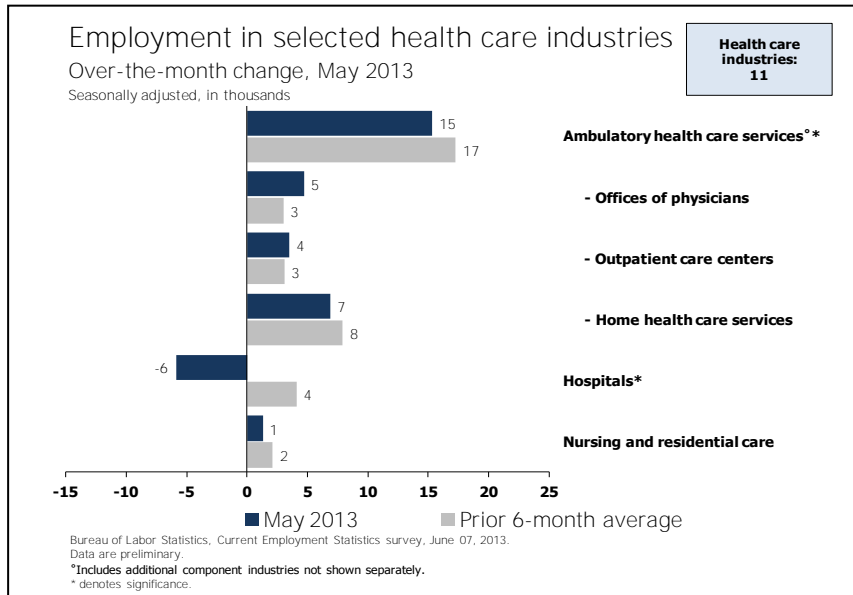
Professional and Business Services



In May, professional and business services added 57,000 jobs, in-line with the current 6-month average over-the-month change of 58,000. This industry has experienced consistent growth since late 2009.

Employment in temporary help services edged up over the month (+26,000). The industry has shown steady growth in 2013, averaging gains of 22,000 jobs per month.

Private Education and Health Services



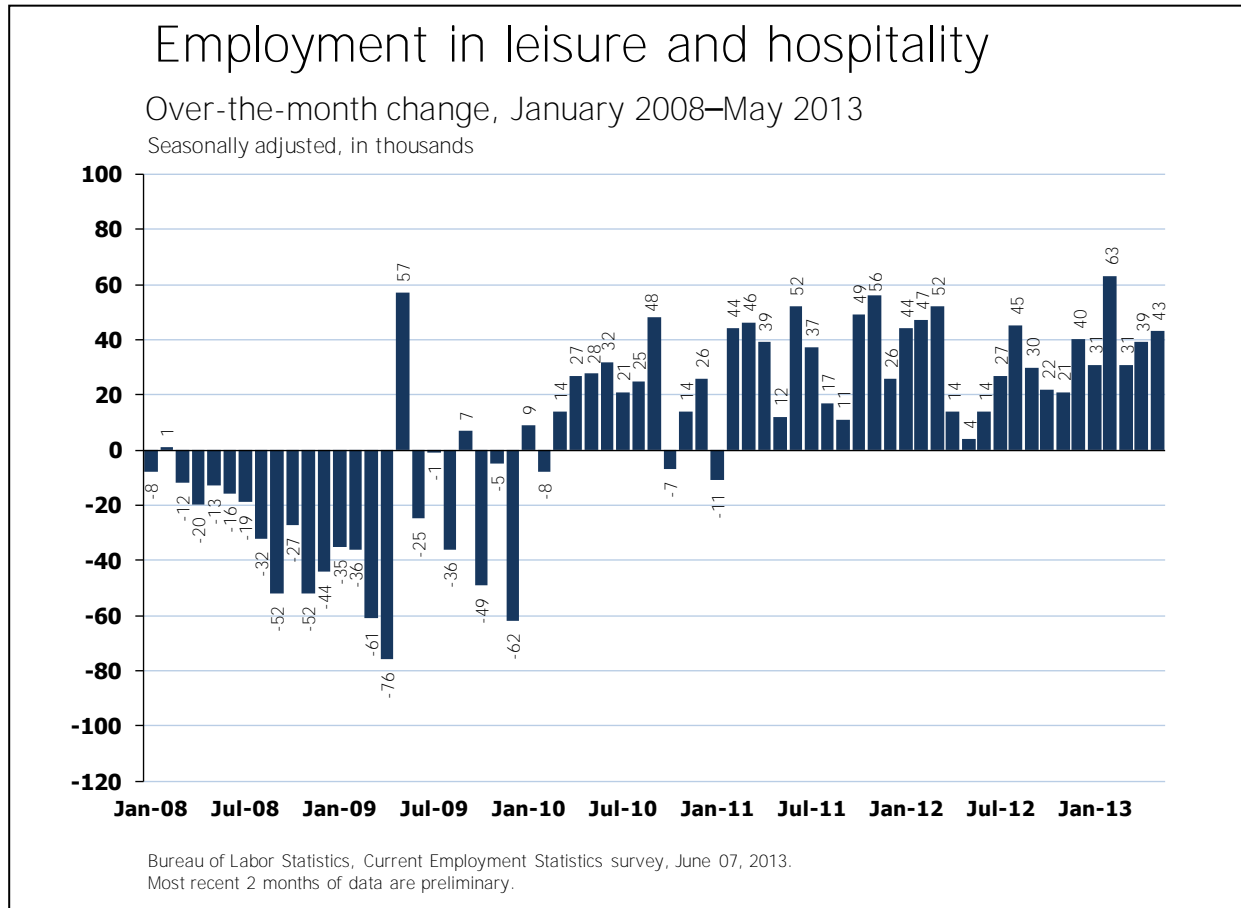
Education and health services employment continued to trend up in May (+26,000). Within the industry, health care continued to add jobs, with gains occurring in ambulatory health care services (+15,000). Over the month, hospitals lost 6,000 jobs, more than offsetting a gain of 5,000 in April.

Hospital employment has increased by 165,000 since June 2009, the end of the most recent recession, compared with 712,000 jobs added in ambulatory health care services and 134,000 in nursing and residential care facilities within the same time period.

NAICS 622 – Hospitals

So far this year, hospital employment has changed by an average of 1,000 per month, compared to an average of 6,000 jobs added per month in 2012.

Leisure and Hospitality

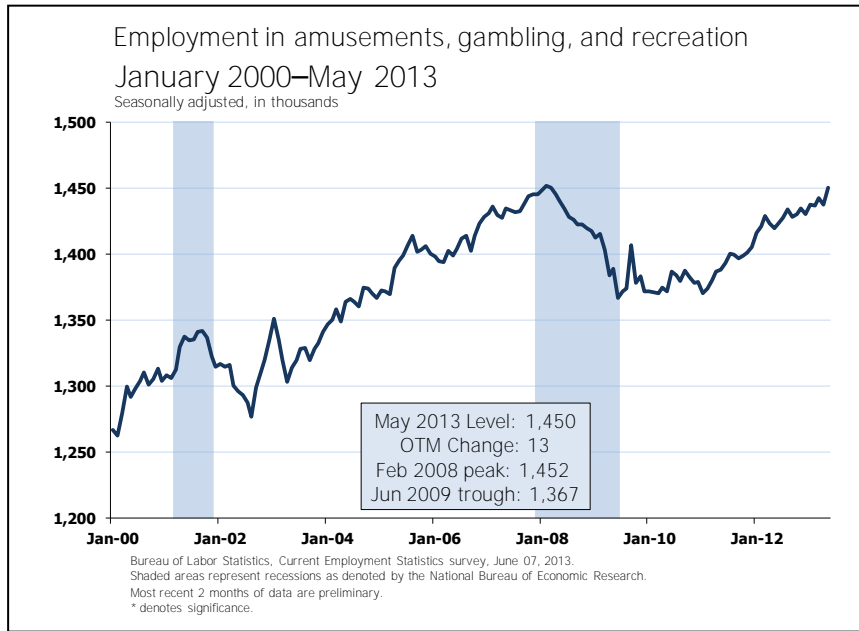


Employment in leisure and hospitality grew by 43,000 in May, similar to its prior 3-month average job gain of 44,000. In May, food services and drinking places accounted for most of the job growth, but modest gains also occurred in amusements, gambling, and recreation.

The job growth in leisure and hospitality coincides with a positive movement in the Consumer Confidence Index, which went from 69.0 in April to a 5-year high of 76.2 in May (source: [The Conference Board](#)).

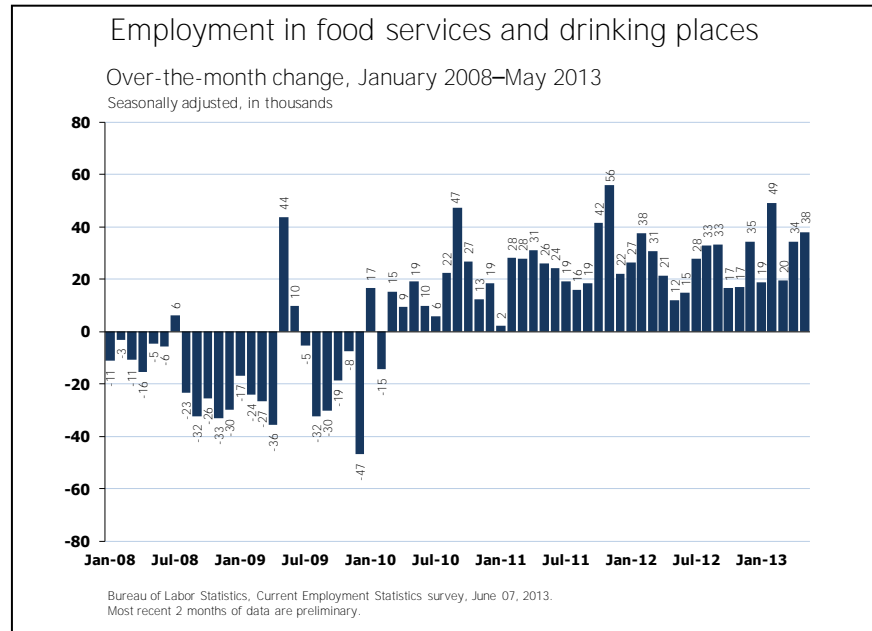
The pace of hiring in leisure and hospitality has increased in 2013. Job growth has averaged 41,000 per month since the beginning of the year, compared to an average of 30,000 per month in 2012. This industry fully recovered from its most recent employment downturn and now stands 558,000 jobs above the last peak reached in December 2007.

Leisure and Hospitality



NAICS 713 – Amusements, gambling, and recreation

Employment in amusements, gambling, and recreation edged up in May, offsetting a modest decline in April. Since reaching an employment trough in June 2009, this industry has added 84,000 jobs and has about recovered all the jobs it lost in its most recent downturn.

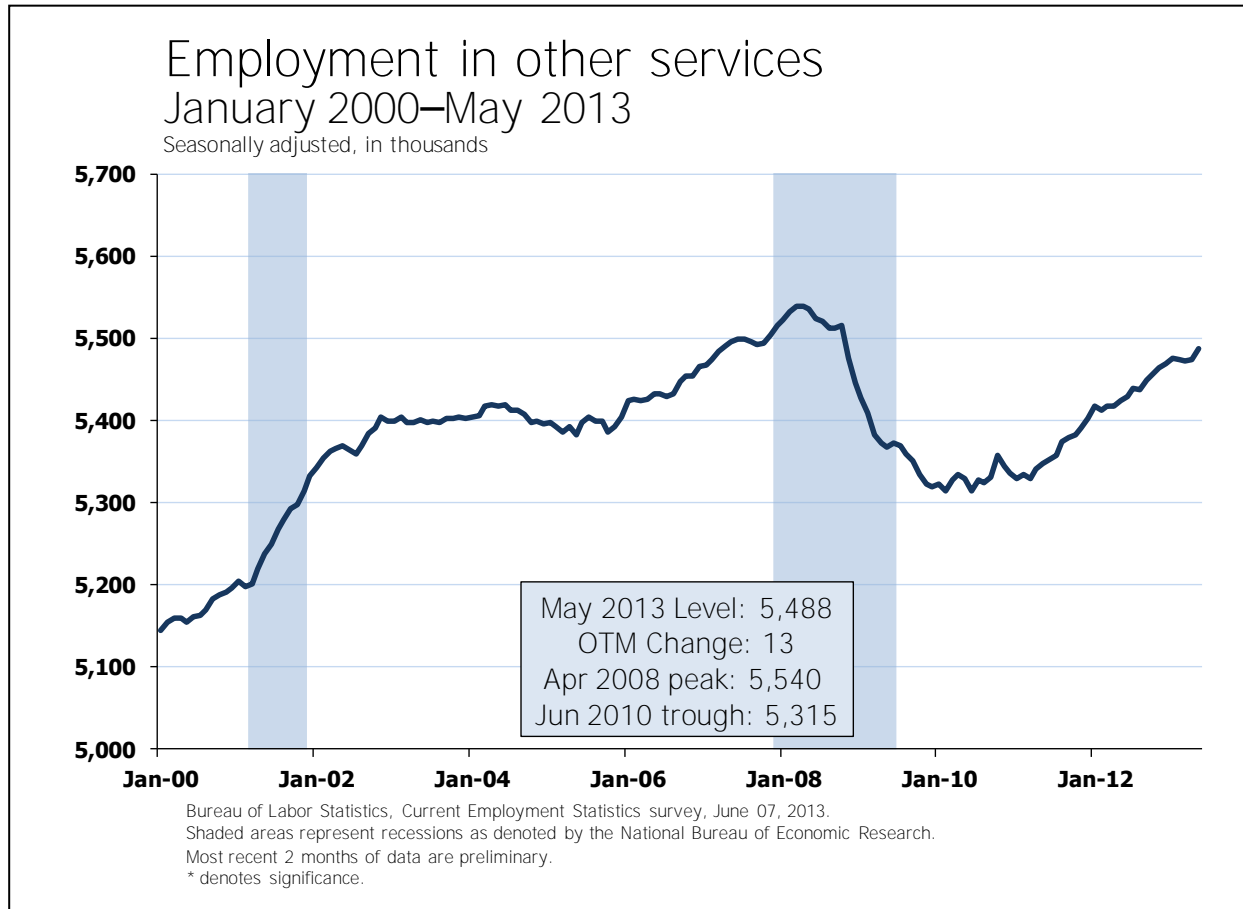


NAICS 722 – Food services and drinking places

Food services and drinking places added an above average 38,000 jobs in May. So far in 2013, this industry has added 160,000 jobs, more than half of the 305,000 jobs gained in all of 2012.

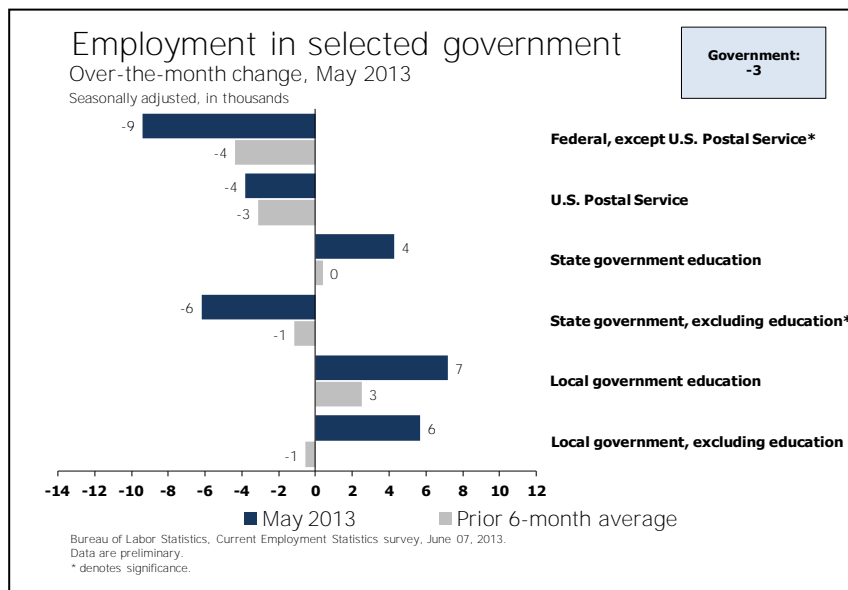
The majority of the employment gains occurred in restaurants and other eating places. The employment gains in May followed an increase in retail sales at food services and drinking places, which grew for the second consecutive month in April (source: [U.S. Census Bureau](http://www.census.gov)).

Other Services



Employment in other services edged up in May after changing little in April. Over the past 12 months, job gains have occurred in repair and maintenance (+18,000) and in personal and laundry services (+29,000).

Government



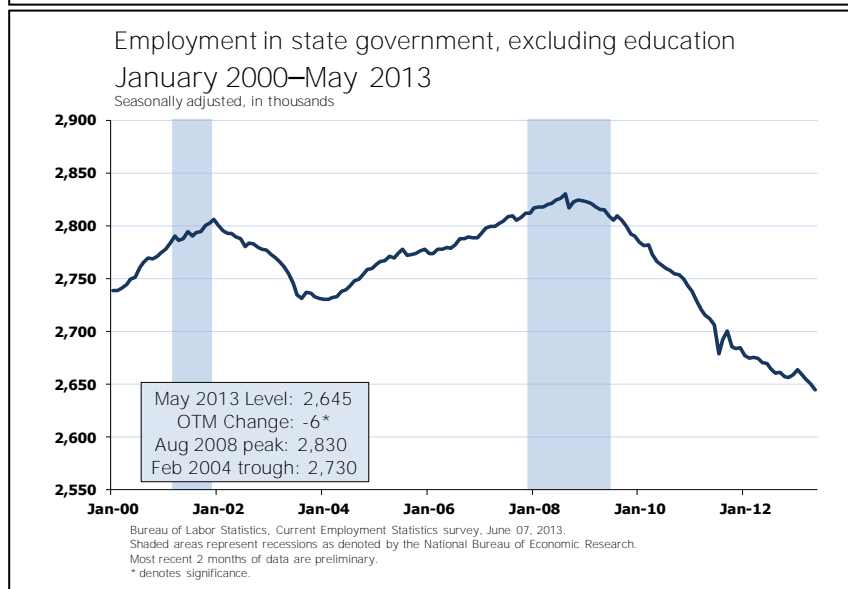
Government employment changed little in May (-3,000). Federal, except U.S. Postal Service lost 9,000 jobs over the month, the eighth straight month of declines for the industry. State government, excluding education lost 6,000 jobs. Employment changed little in the other major public sector component industries.

NAICS 91 – Federal government

Federal government employment continued to trend down in May. The industry has lost a net total of 130,000 jobs since its peak in March 2011. During this period, federal, except U.S. Postal Service lost 74,000 jobs and the U.S. Postal Service lost about 56,000 jobs.

NAICS 922 - State government, excluding education

Employment in state government, excluding education declined by 6,000 in May. The industry has been losing jobs since its employment in peak in August 2008. Since then, it has lost 186,000 jobs, accounting for over a quarter of the net employment loss in total government during the same time period.





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