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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



December 2014

Release Date: January 9, 2015

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

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Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, December 2014

Total Nonfarm + 252,000
Total Private + 240,000

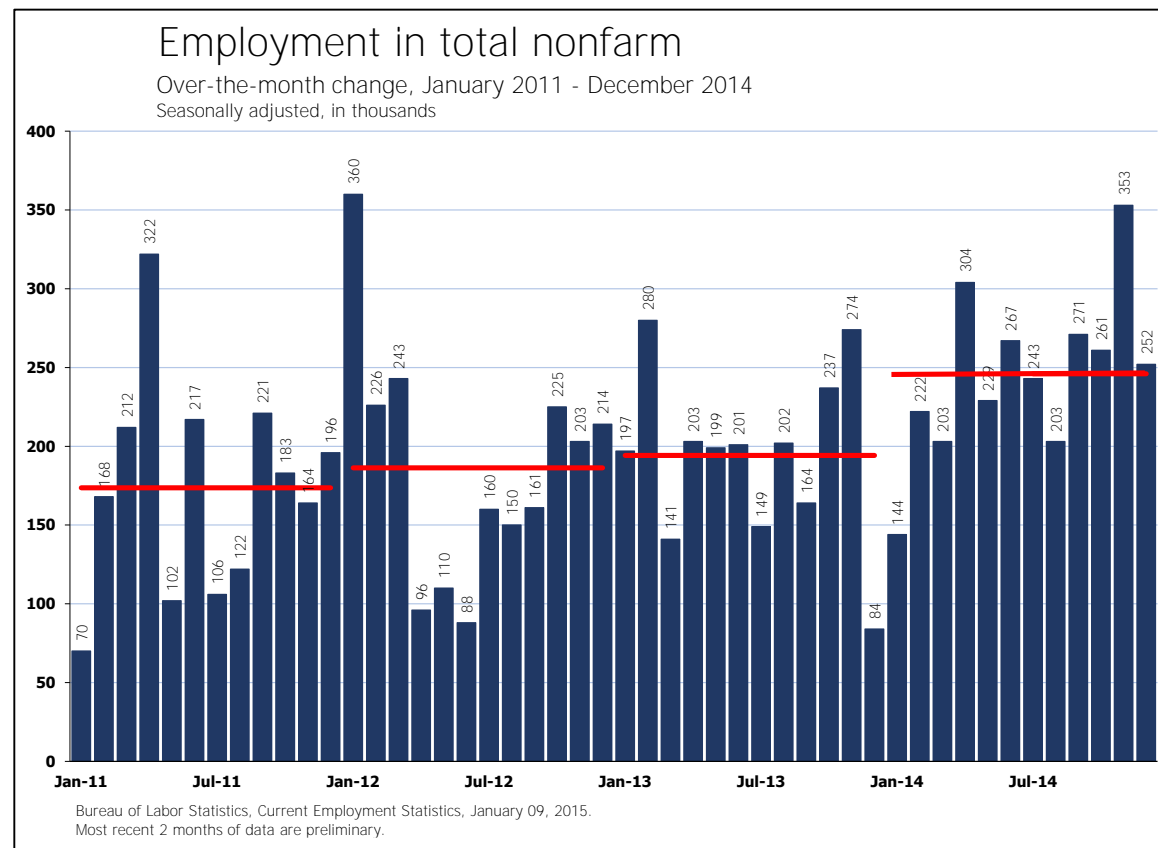
Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 252,000 in December. Job growth averaged 246,000 per month in 2014, compared with 194,000 per month in 2013. In December, professional and business services, construction, food services, health care, and manufacturing added jobs.

The employment change for October revised up from +243,000 to +261,000, and the change for November revised up from +321,000 to +353,000. Incorporating revisions, employment has increased by an average 289,000 per month over the past 3 months.

Average hourly earnings of all employees in the private sector fell 5 cents in December, following an increase of 6 cents in November. Over the year, hourly earnings are up 1.7 percent. Average weekly hours were unchanged at 34.6 hours in December.

+ 52,000 Professional and business services

Employment in professional and business services rose by 52,000 in December. Within professional and technical services, computer systems design and related services (+9,000) and architectural and engineering services (+5,000) added jobs. A job loss in accounting and bookkeeping services



(-14,000) offset a gain in November.

Administrative and waste services added 35,000 payroll jobs in December. Temporary help employment continued to trend up (+15,000).

Employment in professional and business services grew by an average of 61,000 per month in 2014, compared to an average gain of 56,000 per month in 2013.

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, December 2014

+ 48,000 Construction

In December, construction added 48,000 jobs. Growth occurred in nonresidential building, heavy and civil engineering construction, and in both residential and nonresidential specialty trade contractors.

+ 36,000 Leisure and hospitality

Within leisure and hospitality, food services and drinking places gained 44,000 jobs in December. In 2014, food services and drinking places added an average 30,000 payroll jobs per month, compared with 28,000 per month in 2013.

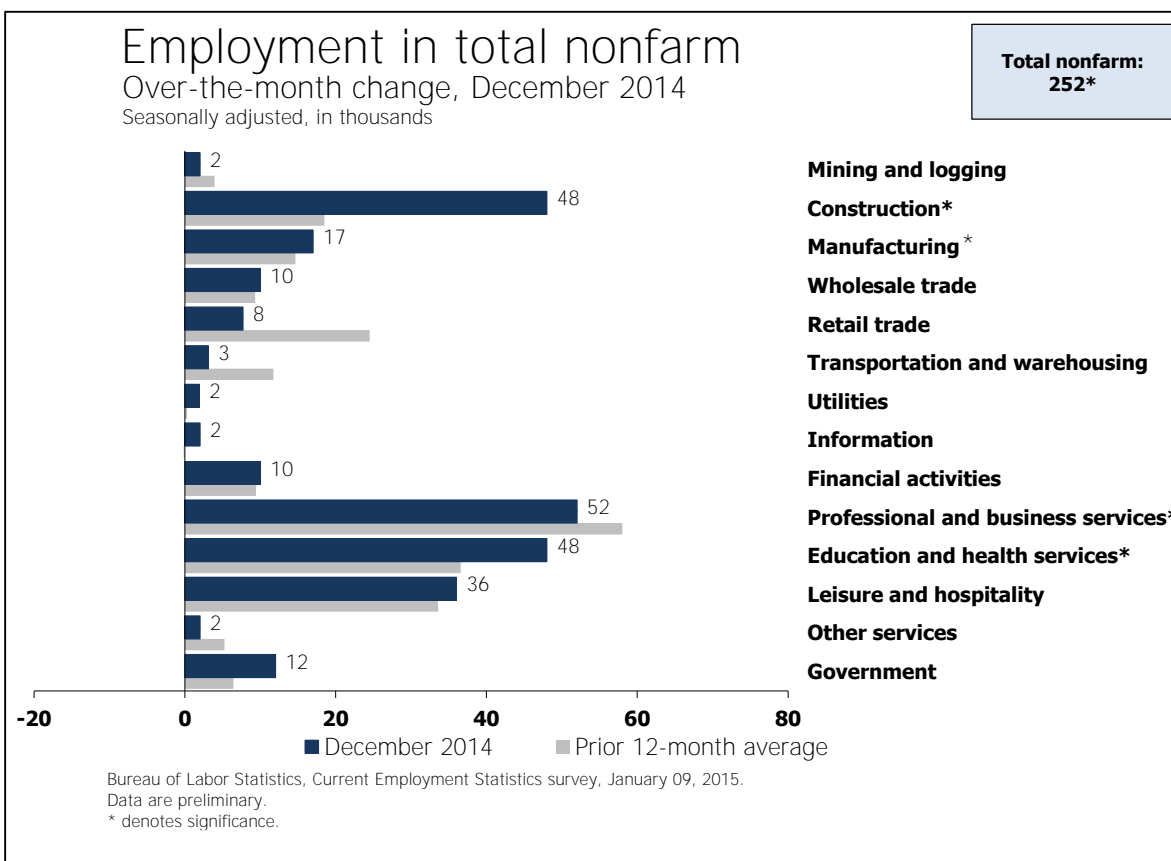
+ 48,000 Education and health services

In December, health care providers added 34,000 jobs. Employment rose in ambulatory health care services (+16,000), in hospitals (+7,000), and in nursing and residential care facilities (+11,000).

Over the year, health care employment expanded by an average of 26,000 per month, compared with an average of 17,000 per month in 2013.

+ 17,000 Manufacturing

Manufacturing added 17,000 jobs in December. In durable goods, employment continued to trend up in fabricated metal products (+5,000), in nonmetallic mineral products (+3,000), and in primary metals



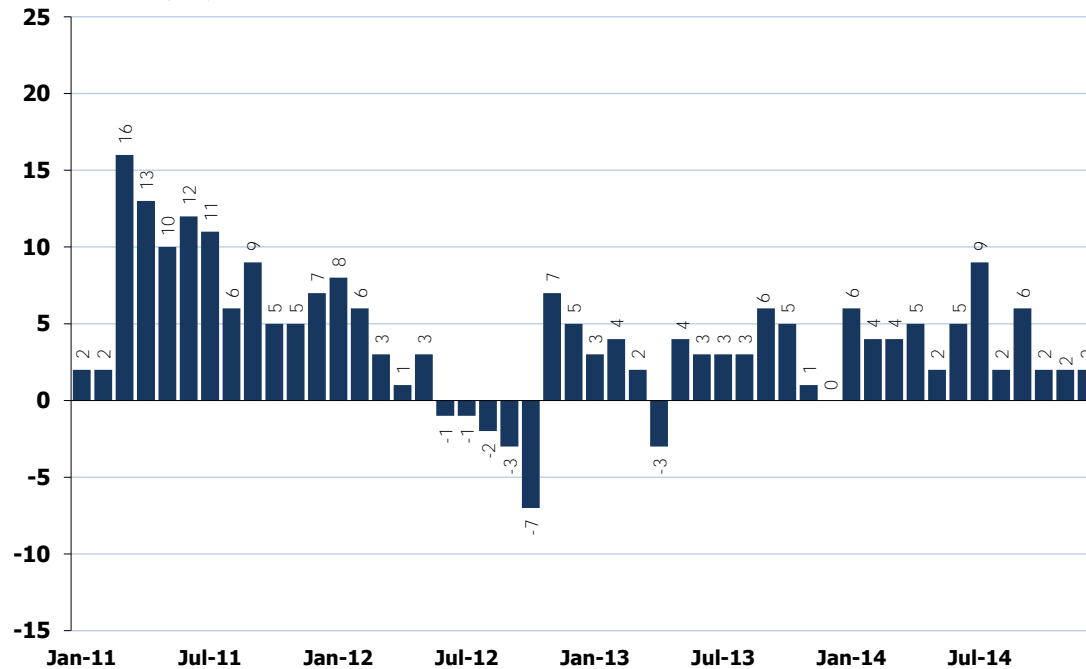
(+3,000). Within nondurable goods, employment in petroleum and coal products grew by 2,000 over the month.

Employment in manufacturing grew by an average of 16,000 per month in 2014, compared with 7,000 per month in 2013.

Mining and Logging

Employment in mining and logging

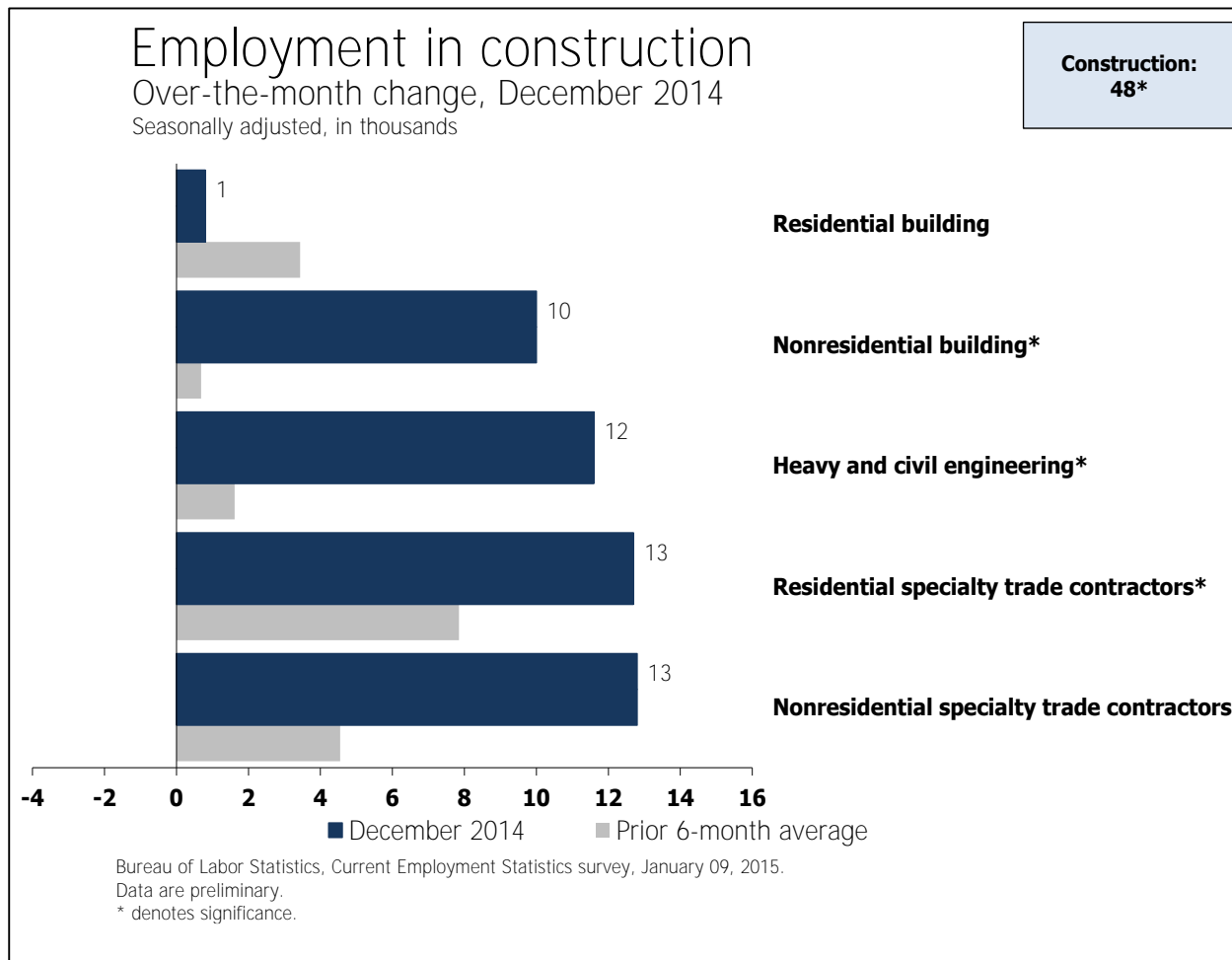
Over-the-month change, January 2011–December 2014
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Continuing its recent trend, mining and logging employment edged up (+2,000) in December.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, January 09, 2015.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

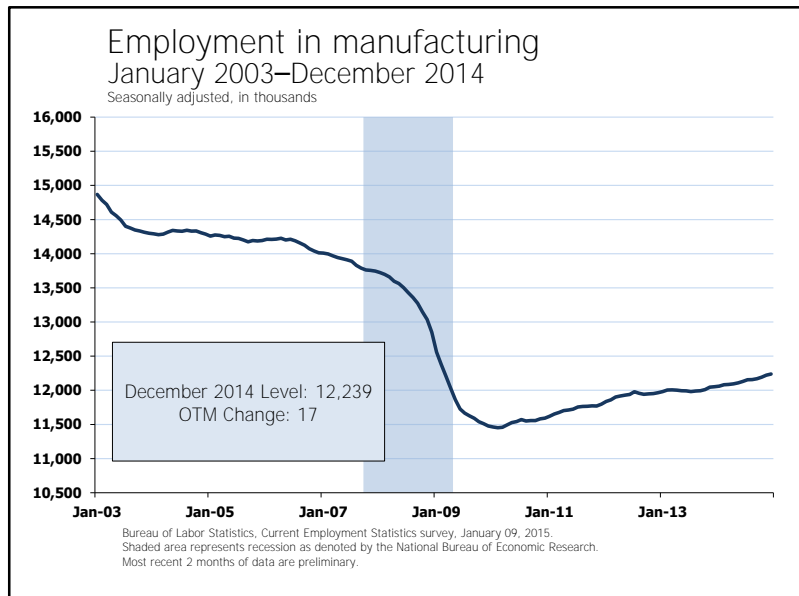
Construction



Construction employment grew significantly in December by 48,000.

In December, specialty trade contractors led job growth with an increase of 26,000, split evenly between residential specialty trade and nonresidential specialty trade contractors. Employment also rose in heavy construction and nonresidential building.

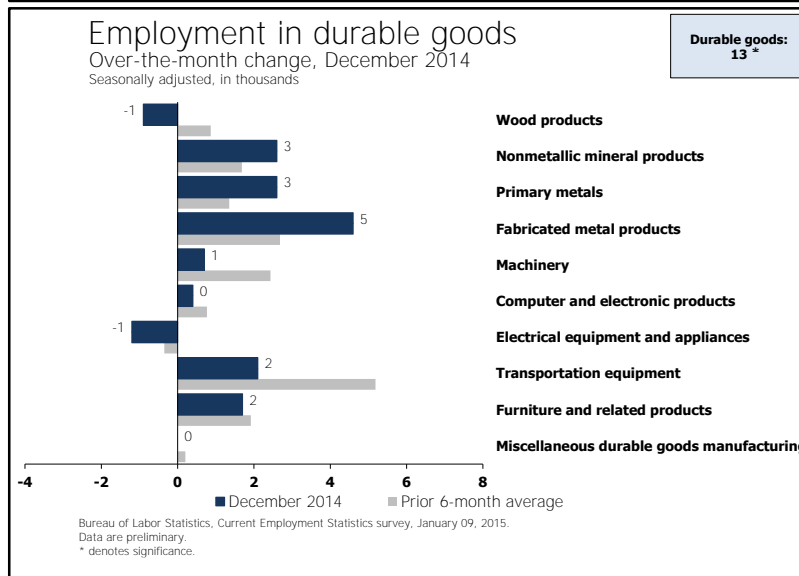
Manufacturing



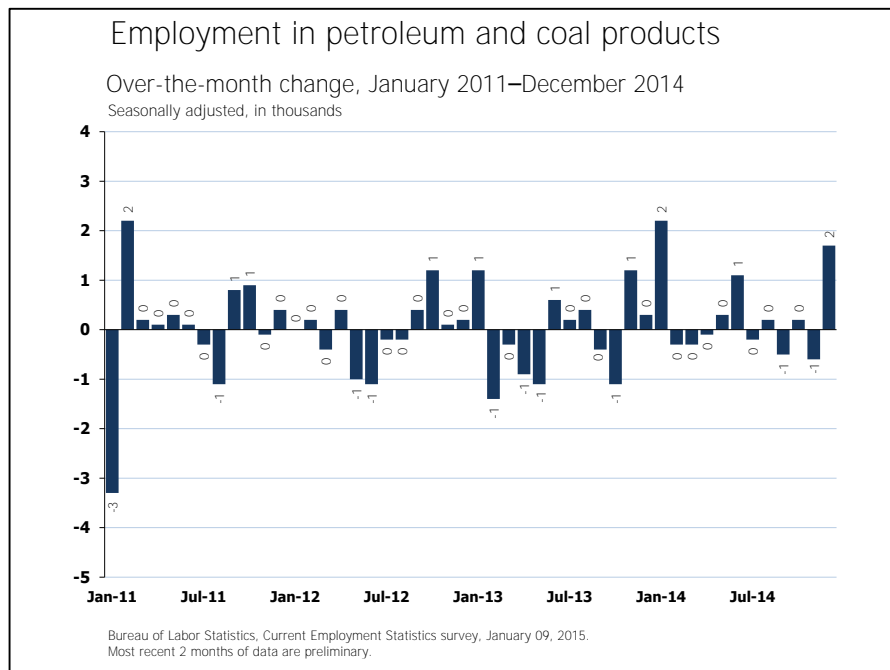
Manufacturing added 17,000 jobs in December, bringing the 12-month net job gain to 186,000. Over the month, durable goods employment increased by 13,000, bringing the industry's over-the-year job gain to 176,000.

The 1-month diffusion index declined to 58.0 in December from 66.0 in November. The diffusion index measures the dispersion of employment change in manufacturing, with a value above 50 indicating that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than losing them. The decrease in the 1-month diffusion index in December coincides with a reported decline in the rate of expansion in economic activity in manufacturing ([Institute of Supply Management](#)).

In December, average weekly hours for all employees in manufacturing fell 0.1 hour to 41.0 hours, and average weekly hours for production employees in manufacturing remained unchanged at 42.2 hours.



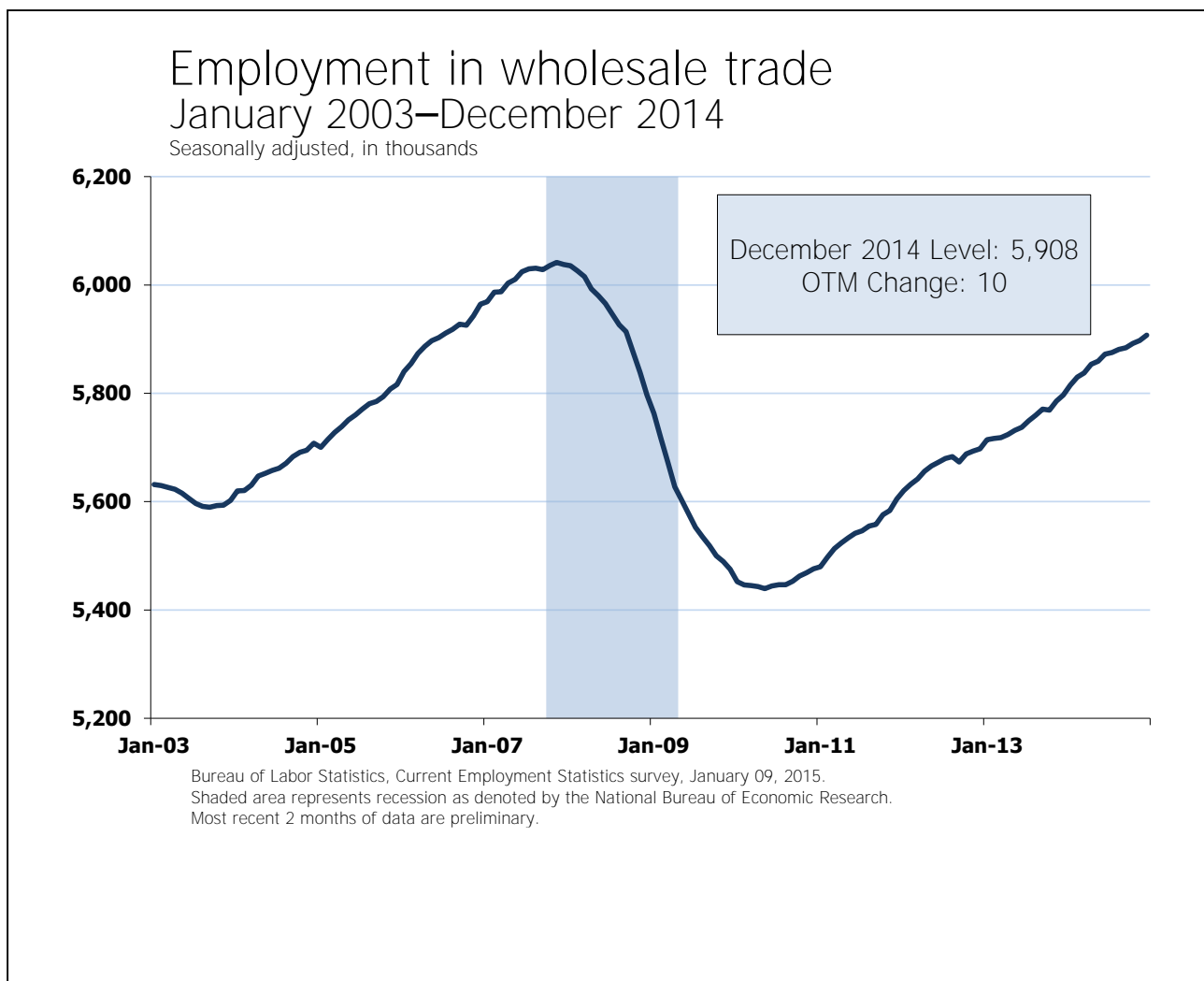
Manufacturing



NAICS 324– Petroleum and coal products

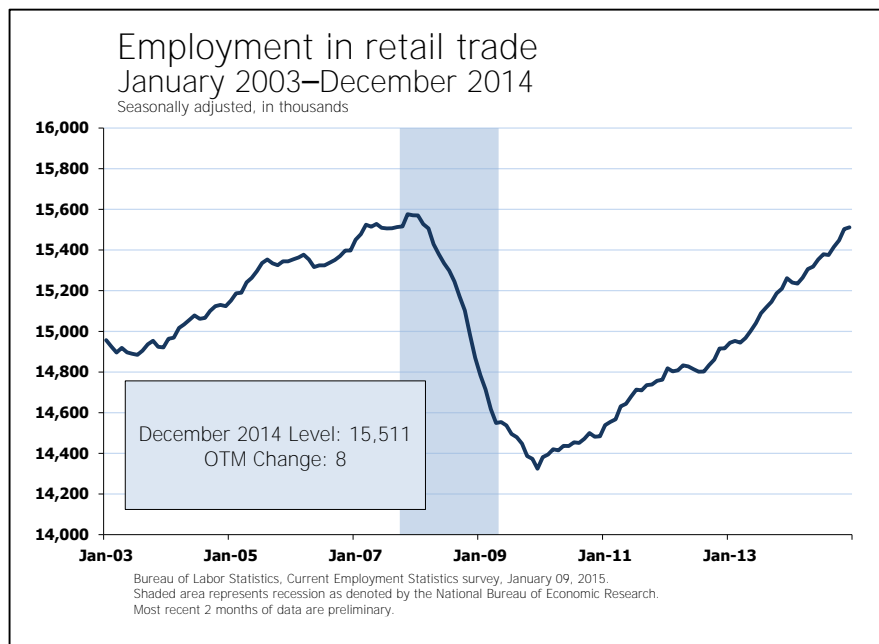
Employment in petroleum and coal products manufacturing employment grew by 2,000 in December.

Wholesale Trade



Employment in wholesale trade continued to trend up in December (+10,000). The industry has recovered 78 percent of the jobs lost during its most recent downturn.

Retail Trade



In December, employment in retail trade changed little (+8,000), following a gain of 56,000 in November. Over the year, the industry added 250,000 jobs, bringing the December employment level to 15.5 million, or 65,000 jobs shy of the November 2007 employment peak.

For the retail industries that typically display holiday seasonal movements¹, seasonally adjusted employment edged down by 9,000 in December. However, not seasonally adjusted, the October-December 2014 holiday employment build up was 9.0 percent of the September 2014 employment level, similar to the holiday build up in 2013 but stronger than the preceding 4 years.

NAICS 441 – Motor vehicle and parts dealers

Employment in motor vehicle and parts dealers increased by 6,000 in December, following an increase of 11,000 in November. Over the year, the industry added 66,000 jobs.

RETAIL TRADE¹

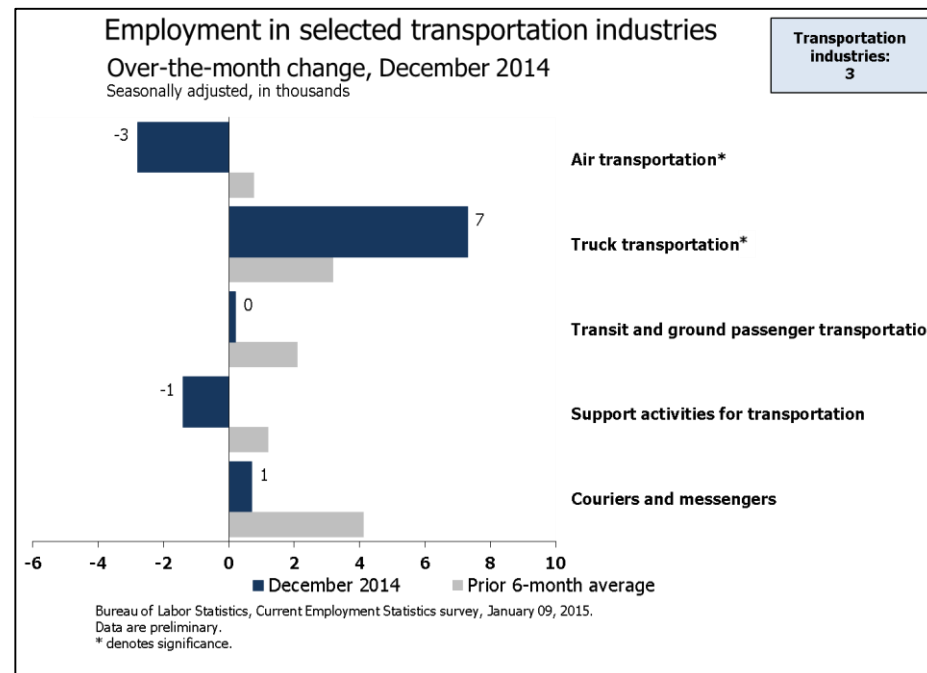
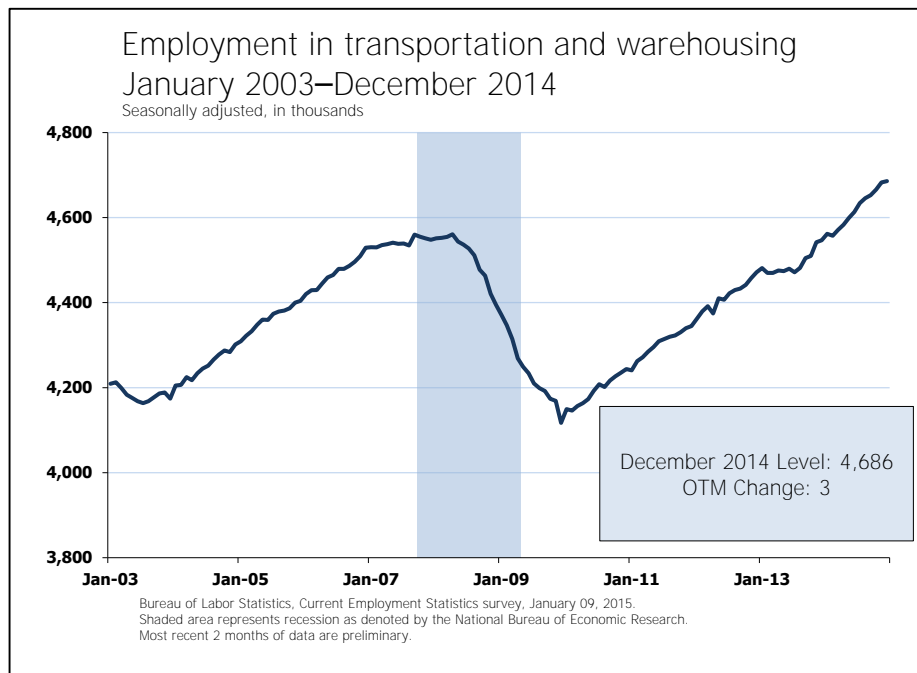
Holiday Season Employment Buildup and Layoff (Not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

YEAR	SEPT. LEVEL	OVER-THE-MONTH CHANGE			HOLIDAY BUILDUP THROUGH DEC.	PERCENT BUILDUP THROUGH DEC.
		OCT.	NOV.	DEC.		
2009	7,880.8	66.4*	336.0	152.9	555.3	7.0%
2010	7,906.4	146.1	327.9	160.2*	634.2	8.0%
2011	8,045.5	126.1	382.5	159.3*	667.9	8.3%
2012	8,049.7	132.3	460.7*	104.7	697.7	8.7%
2013	8,152.8	142.3	433.7*	184.7	760.7	9.3%
Average	8,007.0	122.6	388.2	152.4	663.2	8.3%
2014	8,265.0	161.6*	408.4	173.7	743.7	9.0%

*Indicates 5 weeks between weeks of the 12th for the current and prior month; there are 4 weeks when not annotated. The CES reference period is the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. Seasonal movements can differ depending on the number of weeks between surveys.

¹Furniture and home furnishings stores, electronics and appliance stores, other specialty food stores, health and personal care stores, clothing and clothing accessories stores, sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores, general merchandise stores, miscellaneous store retailers, and electronic shopping and mail-order houses.

Transportation and Warehousing



Transportation and warehousing employment changed little (+3,000) in December. Throughout 2014, the industry added 140,000 jobs.

NAICS 481 – Air transportation

In December, air transportation employment fell by 3,000, which was the largest 1-month decrease since September 2012. However, employment in the industry showed little net change in 2014.

NAICS 484 – Truck Transportation

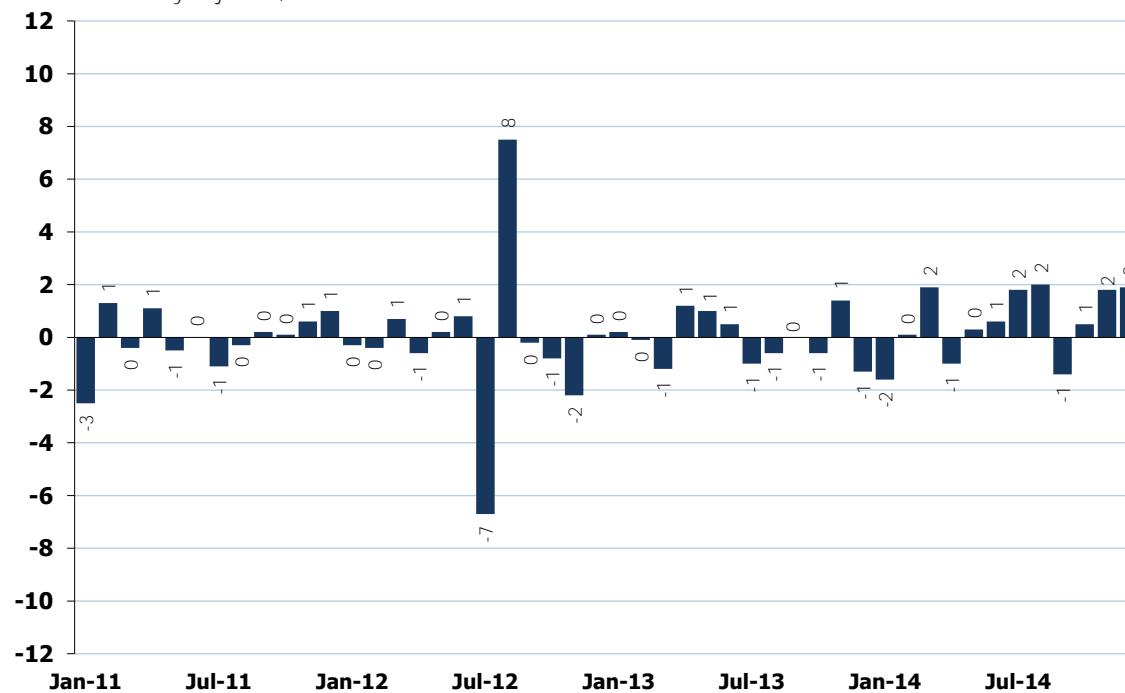
Employment in truck transportation increased by 7,000 in December. Over the past 12 months, the industry added 42,000 jobs. The increase in employment coincides with recent record-high levels in the ATA Truck Tonnage Index (Source: [American Trucking Associations](#)).

Utilities

Employment in utilities

Over-the-month change, January 2011–December 2014

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Utilities employment edged up by 2,000 in December.

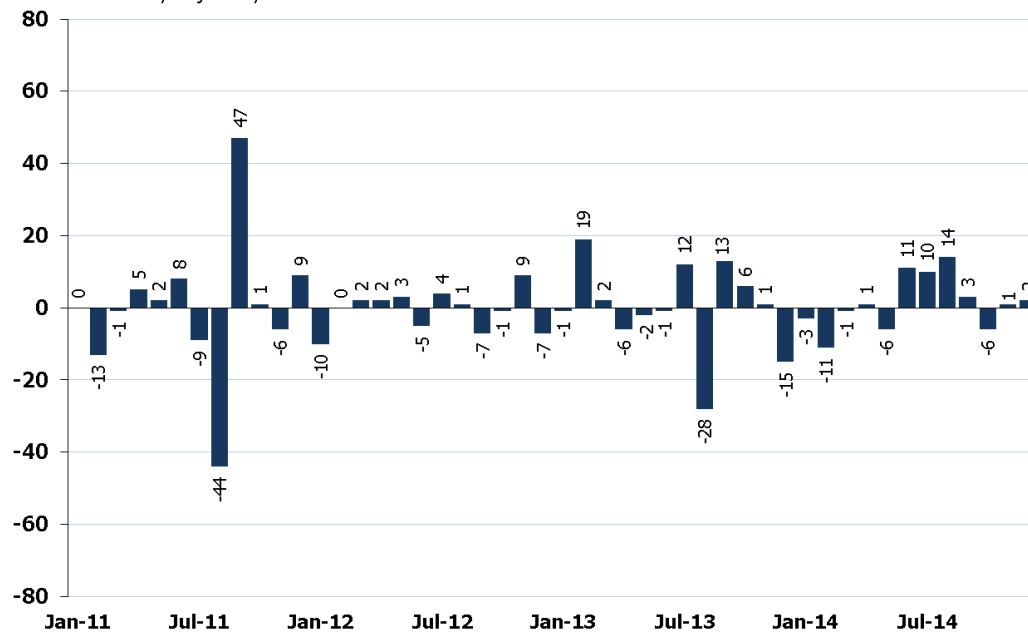
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, January 09, 2015.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Information

Employment in information

Over-the-month change, January 2011–December 2014

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, January 09, 2015.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

In December, employment in information showed little change (+2,000), with a decrease in data processing, hosting, and other related services (-3,000) and small offsetting movements in the motion picture and sound recording industries (+3,000).

After adding 35,000 jobs from June through August of 2014, employment in information has shown zero net change since August.

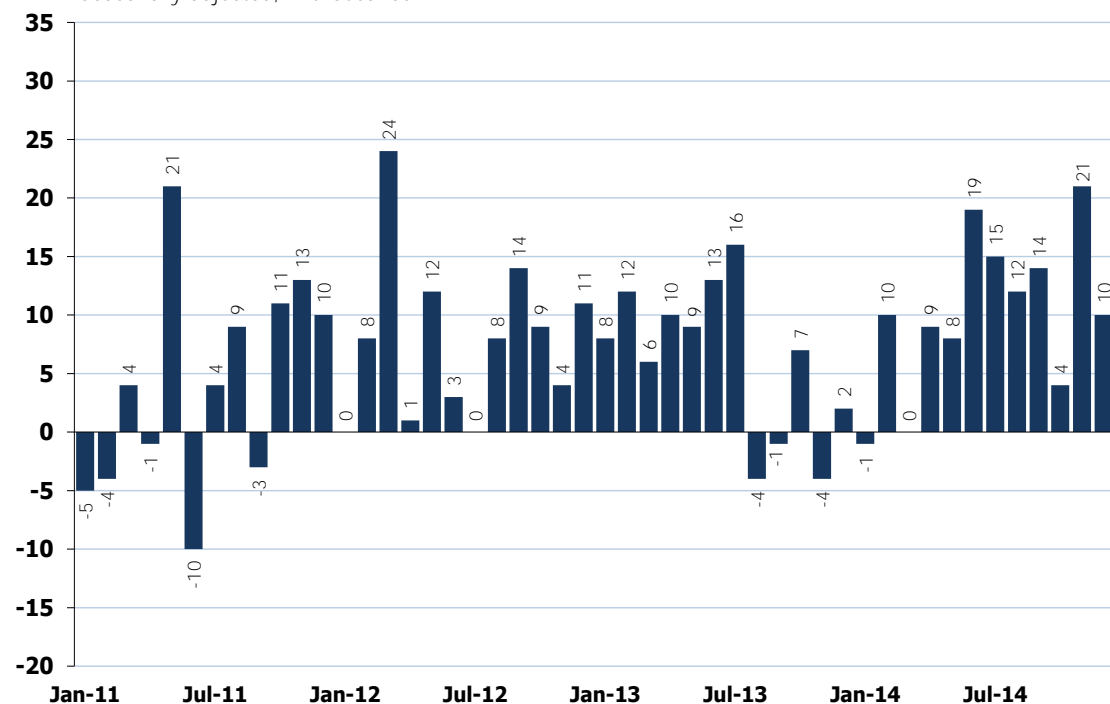
Over the year, motion picture and sound recording industries employment declined by 26,000, while employment in other information services, such as internet service providers and news syndicates, increased by 23,000.

Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities

Over-the-month change, January 2011–December 2014

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

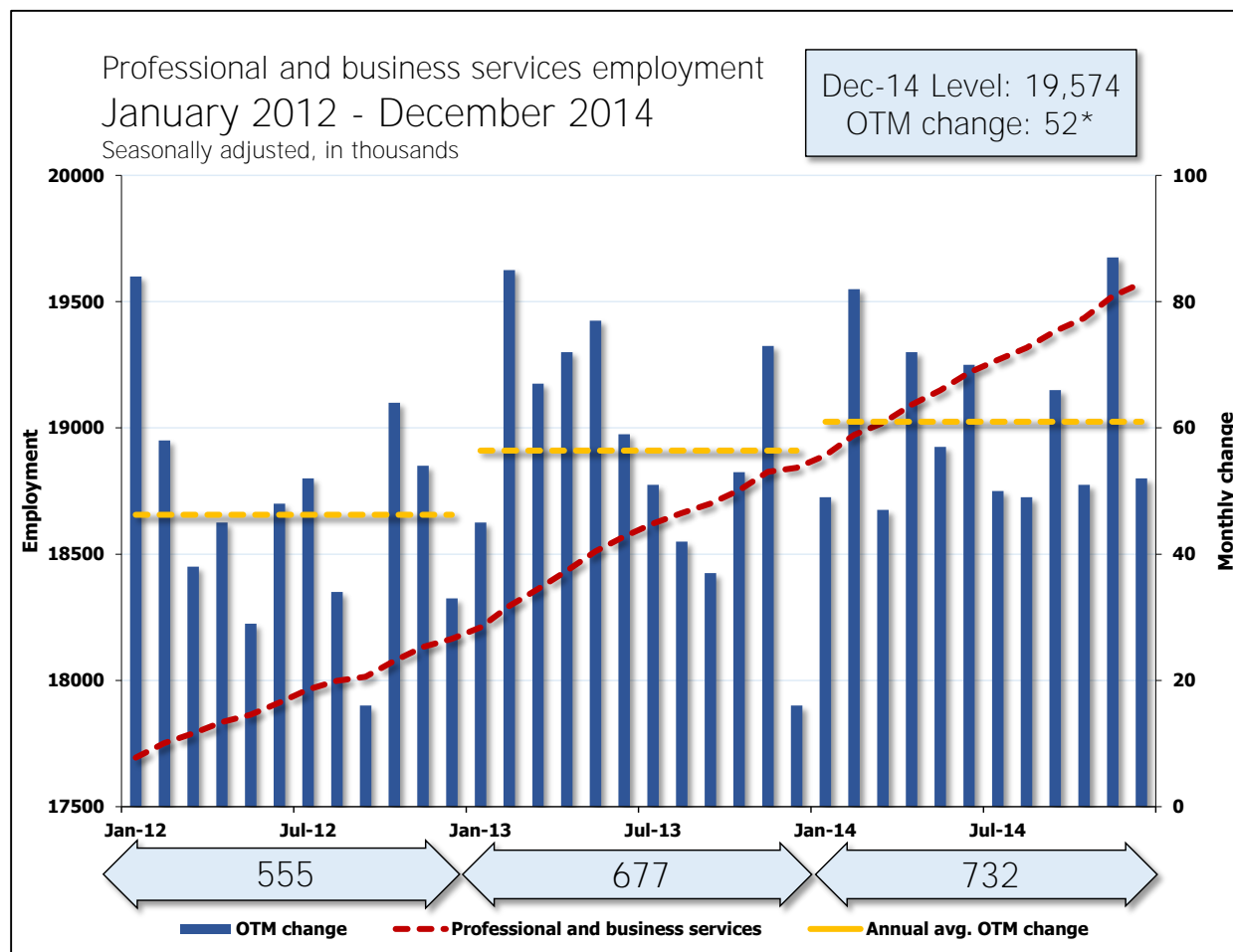


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, January 09, 2015.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in financial activities edged up by 10,000 in December. The industry added 121,000 jobs over the past 12 months. This increase is greater than those in both 2012 and 2013, when 94,000 and 74,000 jobs were added, respectively.

Since February 2011, financial activities has recovered 48 percent of the jobs lost in the last peak-to-trough period.

Professional and Business Services

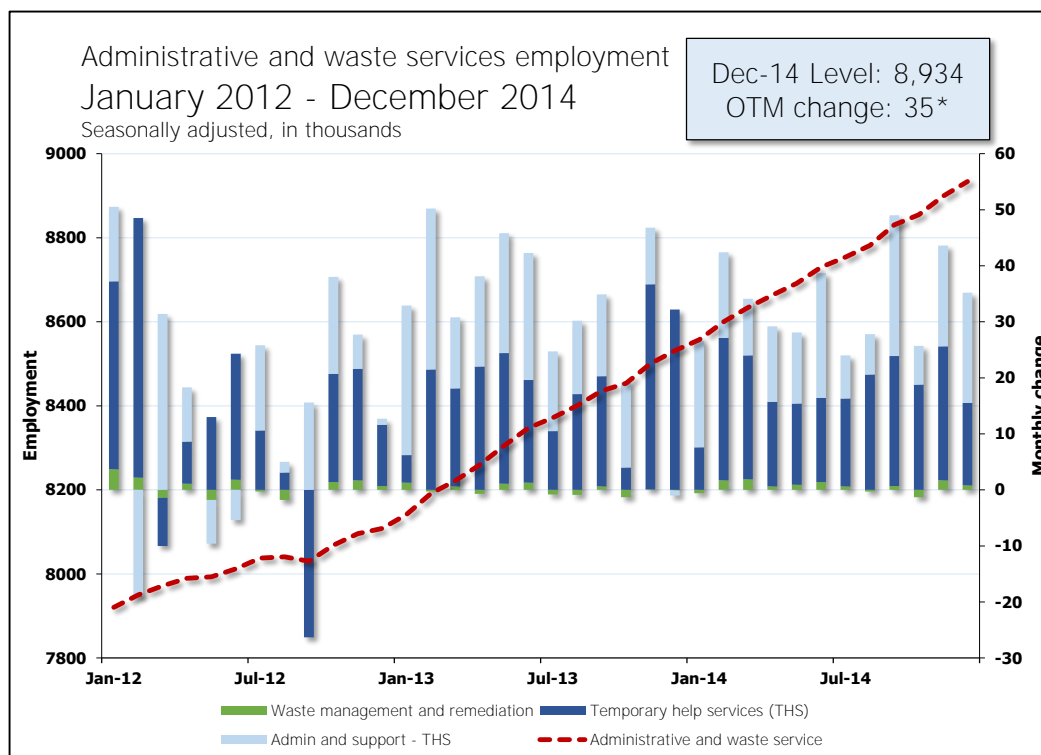


Professional and business services added 52,000 jobs in December, in line with its prior-12-month average over-the-month change of 58,000.

In December, employment in administrative and waste services rose by 35,000 and continued to trend up in professional and technical services (+13,000).

Representing 25 percent of the gains in total nonfarm employment in 2014, professional and business services added 732,000 jobs. The industry had added 677,000 jobs in 2013.

Professional and Business Services



NAICS 5412 – Accounting and bookkeeping services

Employment in accounting and bookkeeping services fell by 14,000 in December, exactly offsetting the gain in November. Over-the-year the industry has added 54,000 jobs—19 percent of the gains seen in professional and technical services.

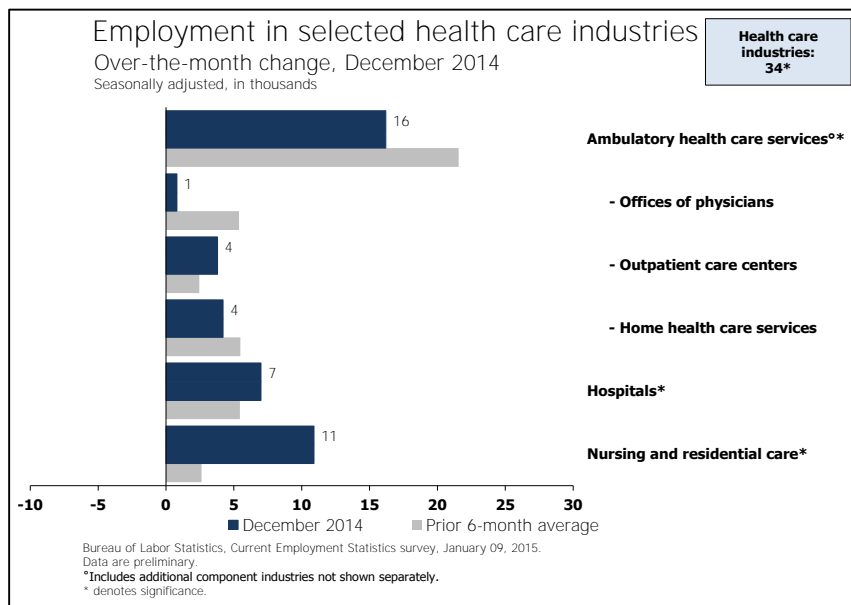
NAICS 5415 – Computer systems design and related services

Adding 9,000 jobs in December, computer systems design and related services continues to be a top contributor to employment gains in professional and technical services. In 2014, computer services added 72,000 jobs—25 percent of the gains seen in professional and technical services.

NAICS 56 – Administrative and waste services

Administrative and waste services added 35,000 jobs in December. Among the component industries, temporary help services employment continued to trend up (+15,000). Temporary help services accounts for roughly one-third of total employment in administrative and waste services but contributed 54 percent of the overall growth in administrative and waste services in 2014.

Private Education and Health Services



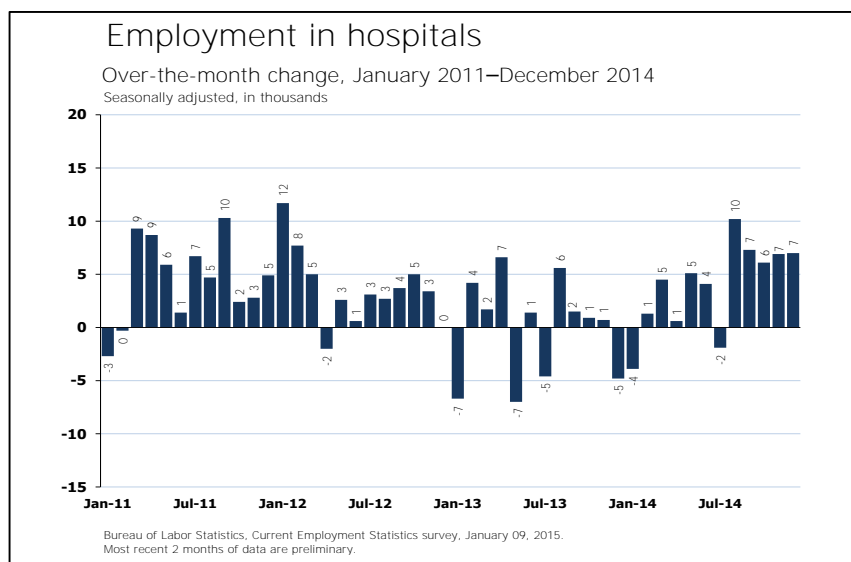
In December, private education and health services employment increased by 48,000. Within the industry, health care added 34,000 jobs, while social assistance employment continued to trend up (+10,000). Private educational services employment changed little over the month (+5,000).

NAICS 622 — Hospitals

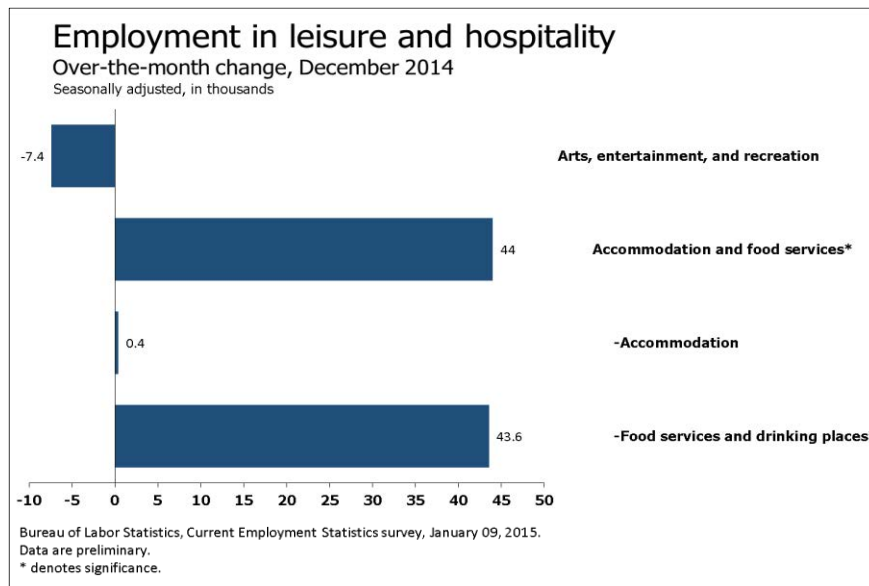
Within health care, hospitals added jobs for the fifth consecutive month. In 2014, hospitals added 47,000 jobs, compared with a net job gain of zero in 2013.

NAICS 623 —Nursing and residential care facilities

Nursing and residential care facilities employment increased by 11,000 over the month, the strongest 1-month gain since August 2013. Over the year, the industry added 33,000 jobs, compared with a job gain of 26,000 in 2013.

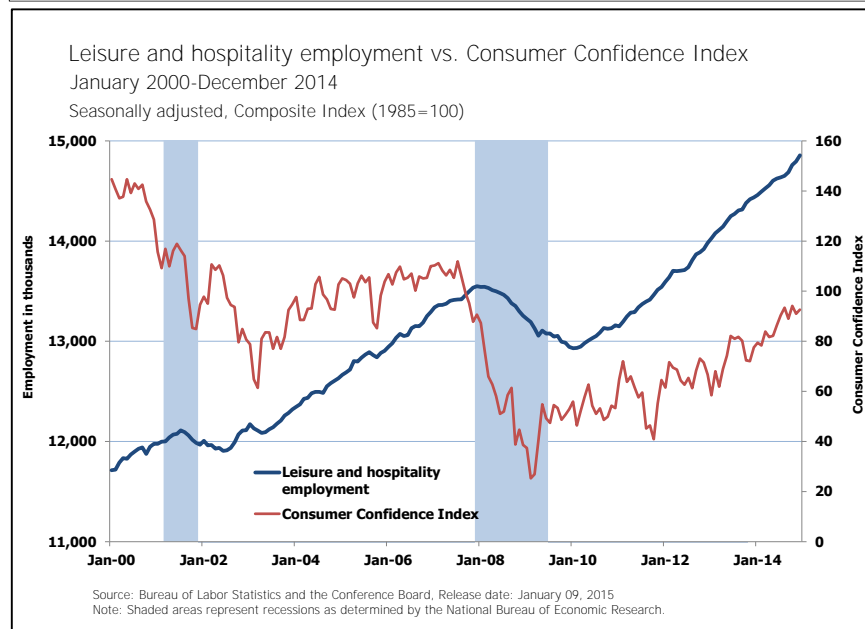


Leisure and Hospitality

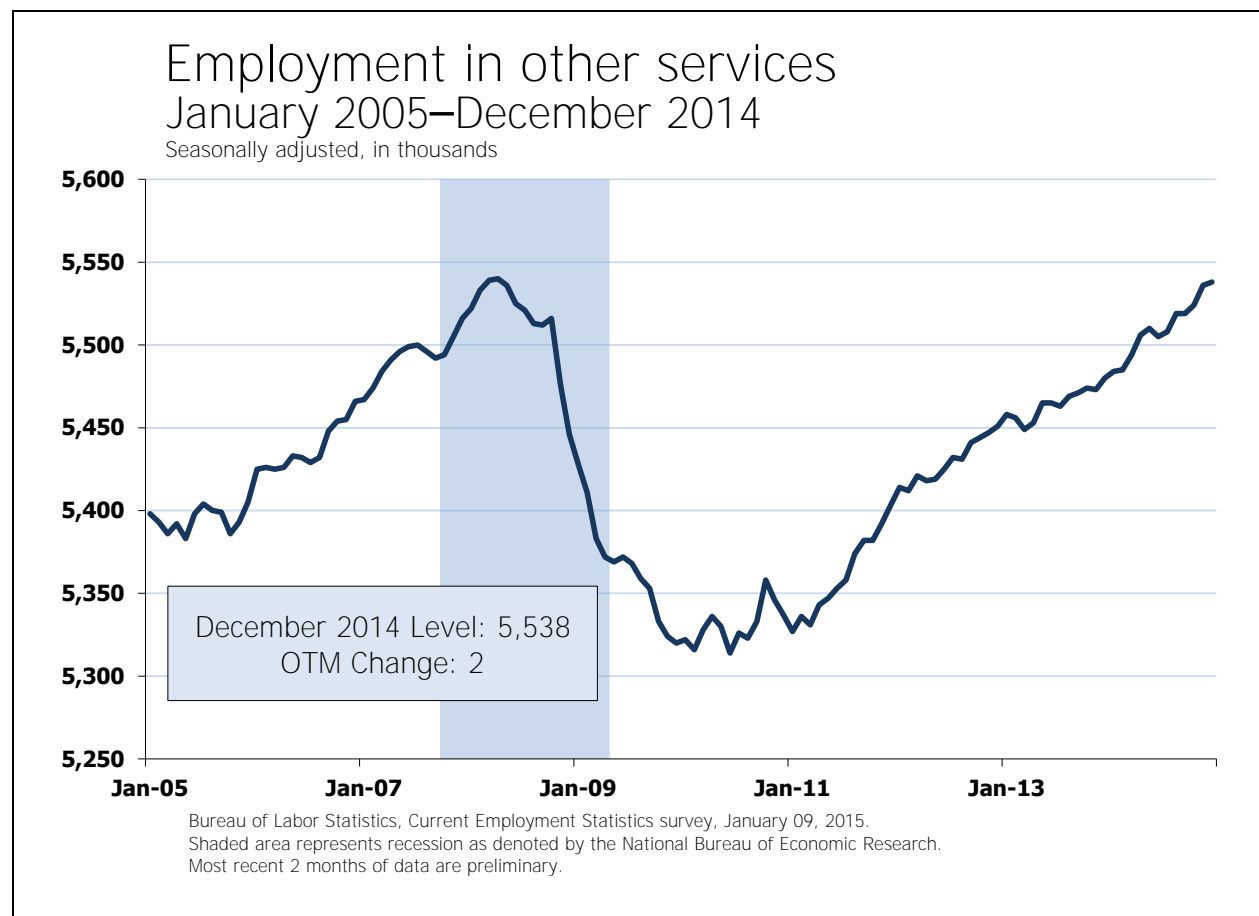


Directly in line with the prior 6-month average, leisure and hospitality employment continued to trend up in December (+36,000). Employment increased by 44,000 in food services and drinking places employment.

Despite recent fluctuations in the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) (CCI), employment growth within the leisure and hospitality industry has remained steady. The CCI was up 1.6 points in December after a decline of 3.1 points in November.

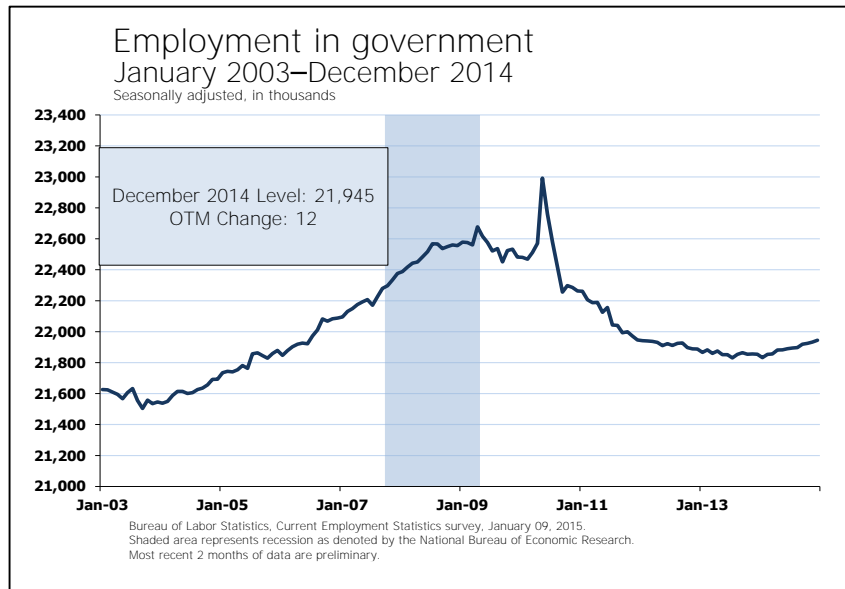


Other Services



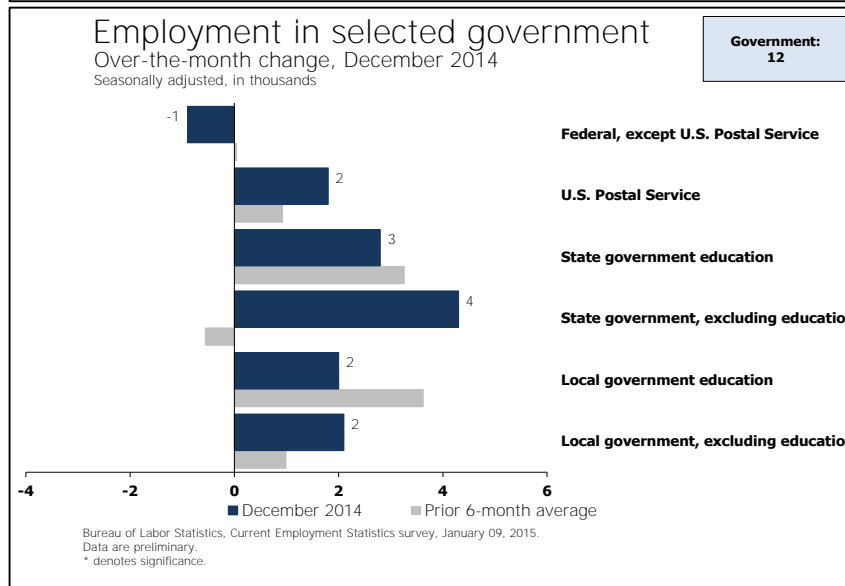
Other services employment changed little in December, with little employment change occurring in any component industry.

Government



Government employment was little changed in December (+12,000). Within government, employment changed little over the month at the federal, state, and local levels.

In 2014, government added 91,000 jobs. The 12-month employment gain was split between local government (+87,000) and state government (+21,000) and was partially offset by a small decline in federal employment (-17,000).





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