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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



January 2015

Release Date: February 6, 2015

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

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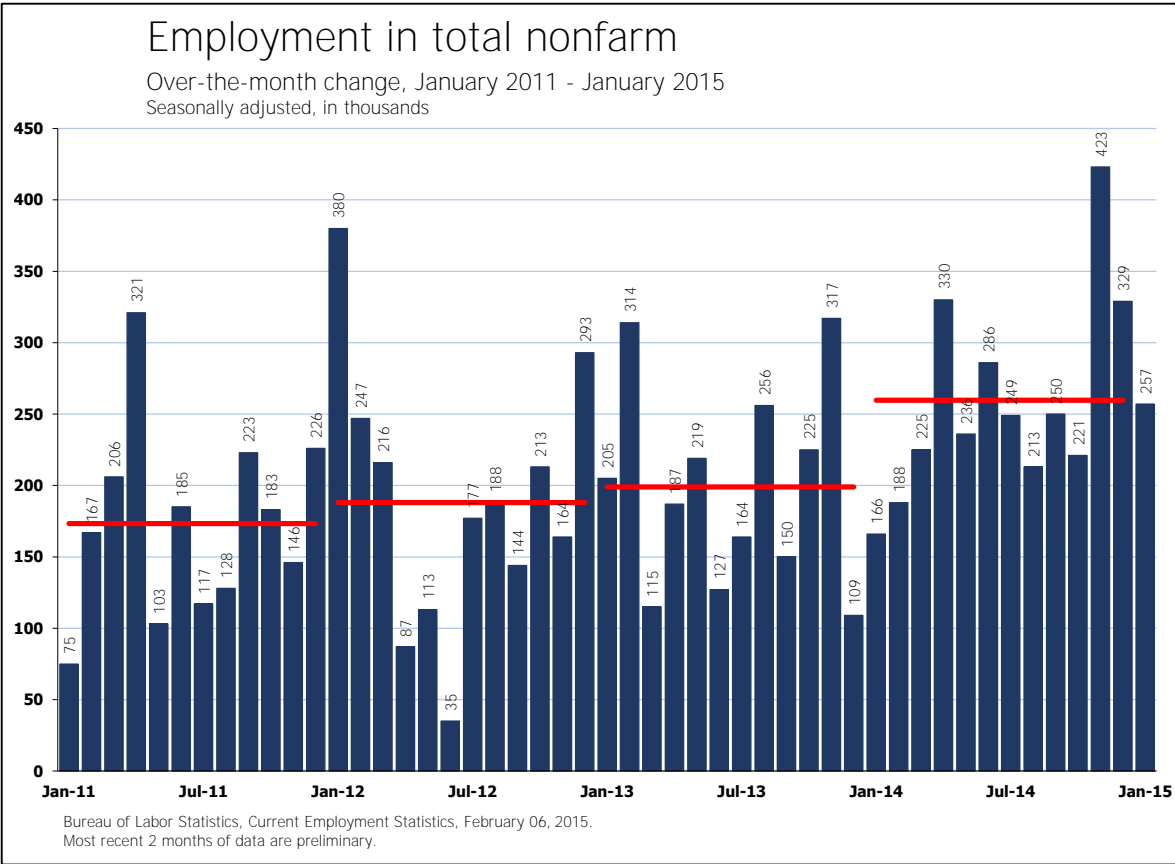
Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, January 2015

Total Nonfarm +257,000
Total Private +267,000

Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 257,000 in January. Retail trade, construction, health care, financial activities, and manufacturing added jobs. Nonfarm employment has increased by an average 336,000 jobs per month over the past 3 months.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 12 cents, following a 5-cent decrease in December. Hourly earnings are up 2.2 percent over the year. Average weekly hours were unchanged at 34.6 hours.

In accordance with annual practice, the establishment survey data presented in this analysis have been revised to reflect comprehensive counts of payroll jobs, or benchmarks derived principally from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), which enumerates jobs covered by the unemployment insurance tax records. Nonfarm employment for March 2014 was revised up by 91,000 (67,000 on a not seasonally adjusted basis). An article analyzing the benchmark revisions can be accessed through the BLS website (www.bls.gov/web/empsit/cesbmart.htm).



+46,000 Retail trade

Employment in retail trade rose by 46,000 over the month. Sporting goods, hobby, and book stores (+9,000), motor vehicle and parts dealers (+8,000), and nonstore retailers (+6,000) accounted for half of the jobs added.

+39,000 Construction

Construction of buildings accounted for half of the job gain in construction in January. Employment continued to trend up in specialty trade contractors and in heavy construction. Over the prior 12 months, job growth averaged 28,000 per month in construction.

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, January 2015

+46,000 Education and health services

Health care providers added 38,000 jobs in January compared to an average monthly gain of 26,000 in 2014. Over the month, offices of physicians contributed 13,000 to job growth, followed by hospitals (+10,000) and nursing and residential care (+7,000).

+26,000 Financial activities

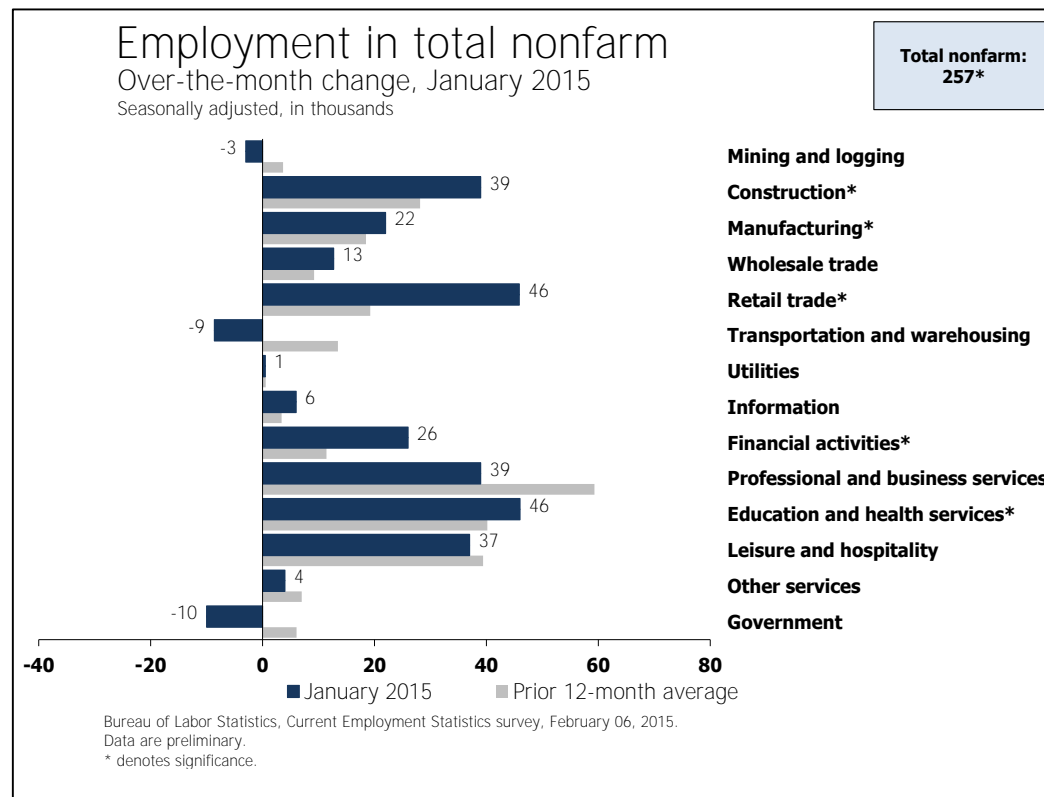
Employment rose by 26,000 in financial activities. Insurance carriers and related services contributed 14,000 to job growth, while securities, commodity contracts and investments added 5,000 jobs. Over the past 12 months, financial activities has added 159,000 jobs.

+22,000 Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment rose by 22,000 in January, largely in durable goods industries. Motor vehicles and parts makers added 7,000 jobs, while wood products manufacturers added 4,000 jobs. Over the past 12 months, manufacturing has added 228,000 payroll jobs.

+39,000 Professional and business services

Professional and technical service industries added 33,000 jobs in January. Computer systems design and architectural and engineering services added 8,000 jobs each.



+37,000 Leisure and hospitality

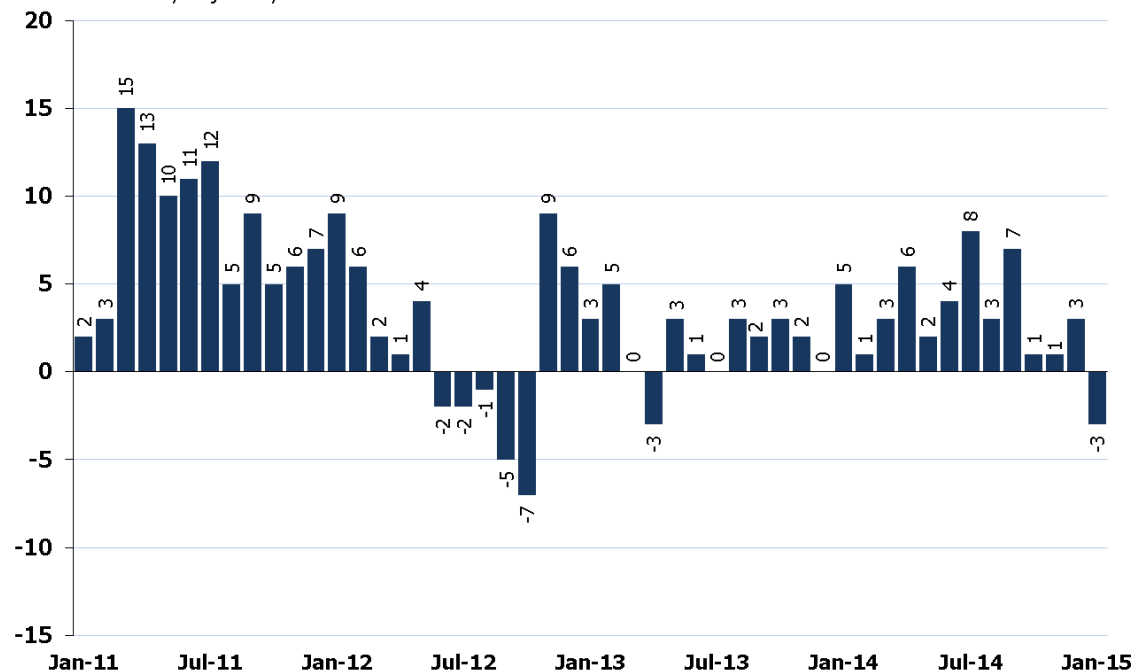
Employment continued to trend upward in food services and drinking places (+35,000). Over the past 12 months, the industry has added 407,000 jobs.

Mining and Logging

Employment in mining and logging

Over-the-month change, January 2011–January 2015

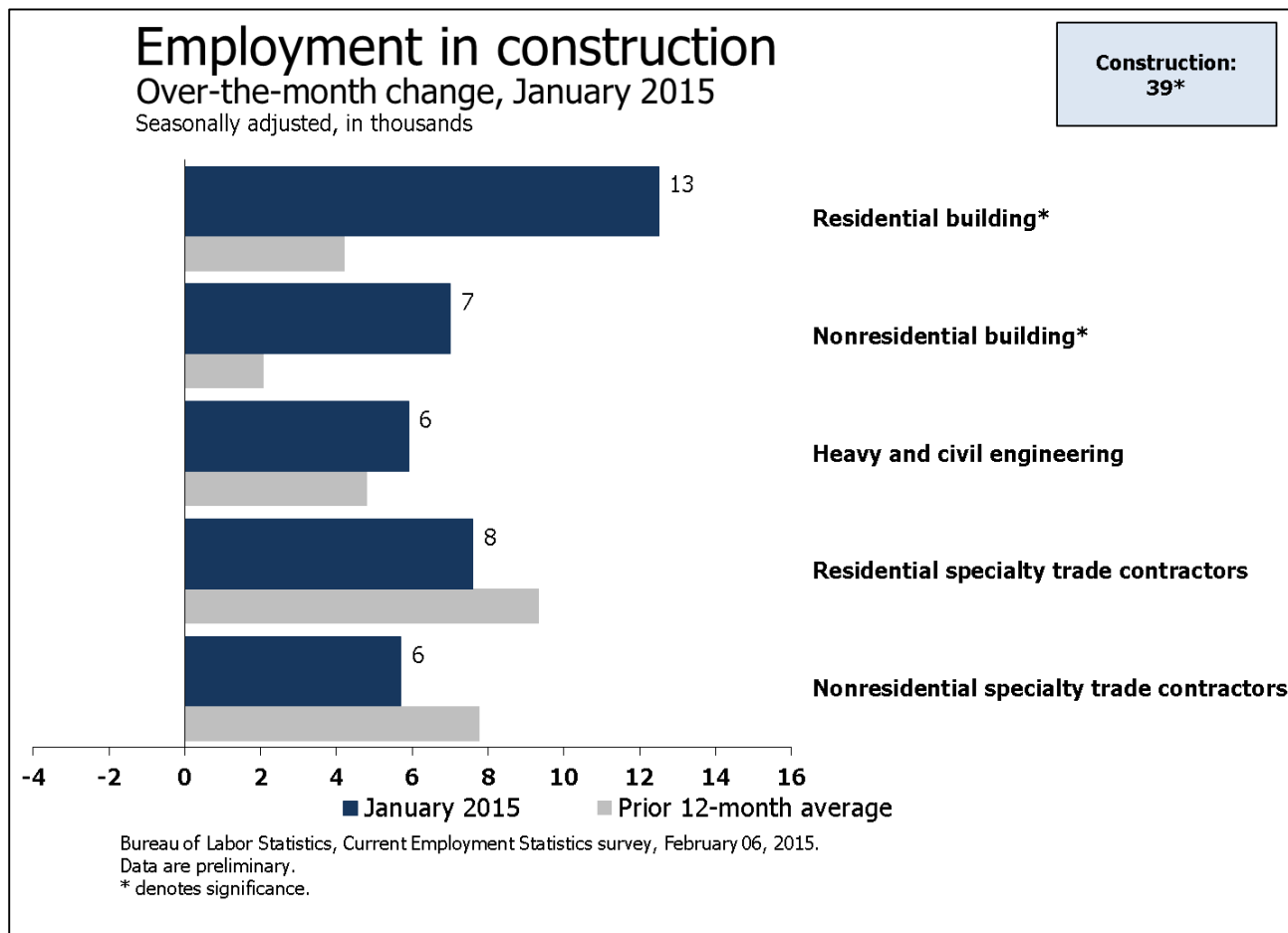
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, February 06, 2015.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Mining and logging employment edged down (-3,000) in January.

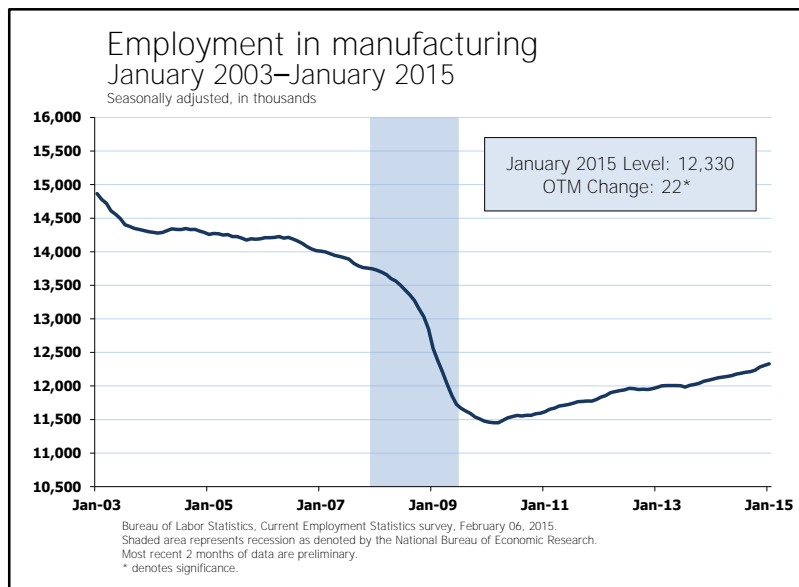
Construction



Construction added 39,000 jobs in January. Construction of buildings led the way, with both residential and nonresidential builders adding jobs (+13,000 and +7,000 respectively). Employment also continued to trend up in heavy construction and in specialty trade contractors.

Over the past 12 months, construction employment has grown by 308,000.

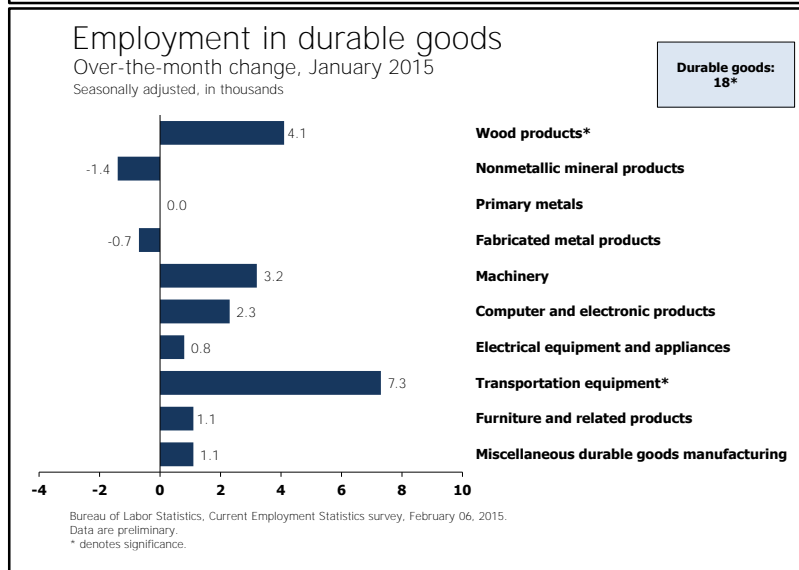
Manufacturing



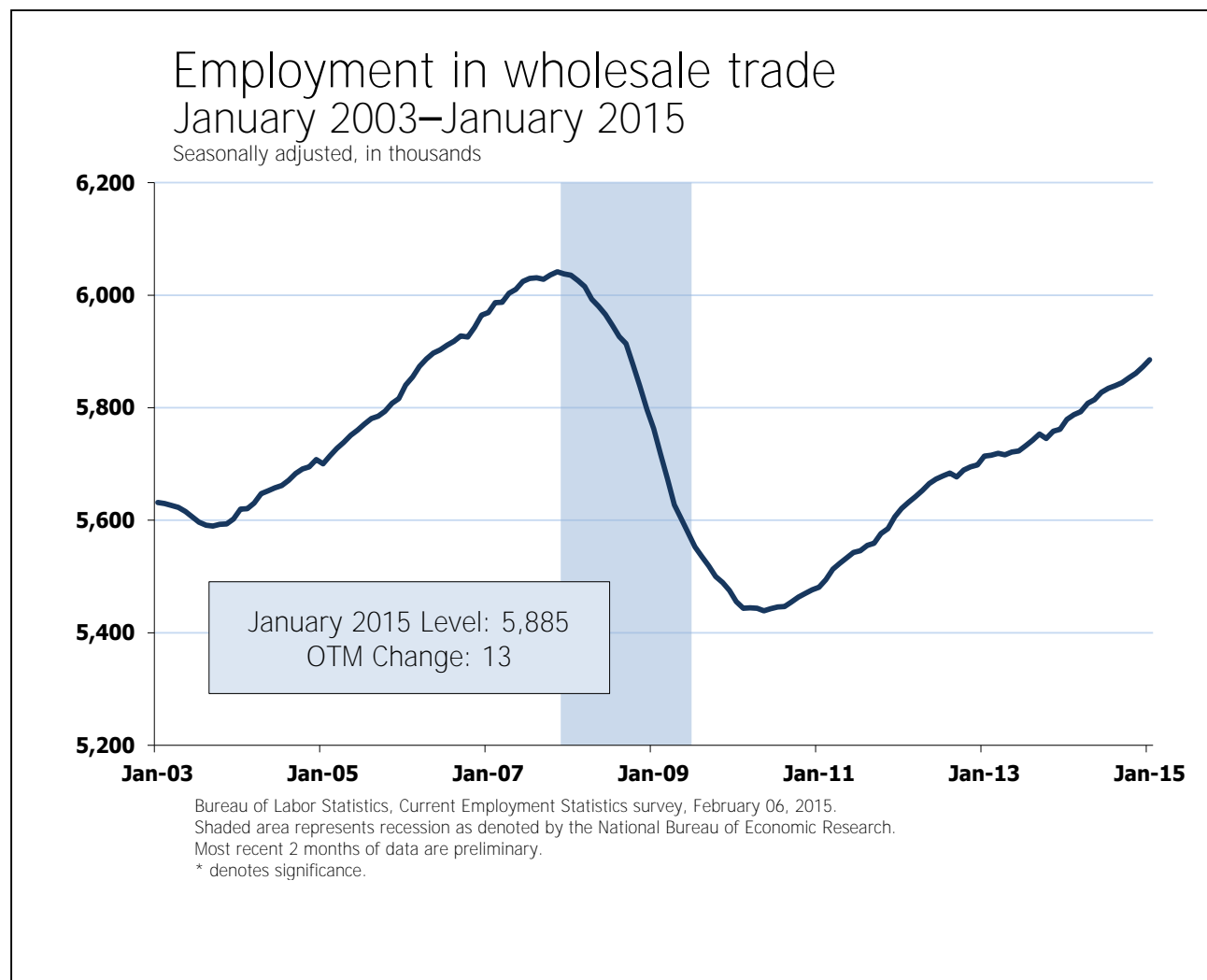
Manufacturing added 22,000 jobs in January, bringing the 12-month net job gain to 228,000. Over the month, durable goods employment increased by 18,000, led by gains of 7,000 jobs in motor vehicles and parts and 4,000 jobs in wood products manufacturing. Within nondurable goods manufacturing, chemicals lost 3,000 jobs.

The 1-month diffusion index for manufacturing declined to 58.1 in January from 64.4 in December. 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.

In January, average weekly hours for all employees in manufacturing rose 0.1 hour to 41.0 hours, and average weekly hours for production employees in manufacturing was unchanged at 42.1 hours.

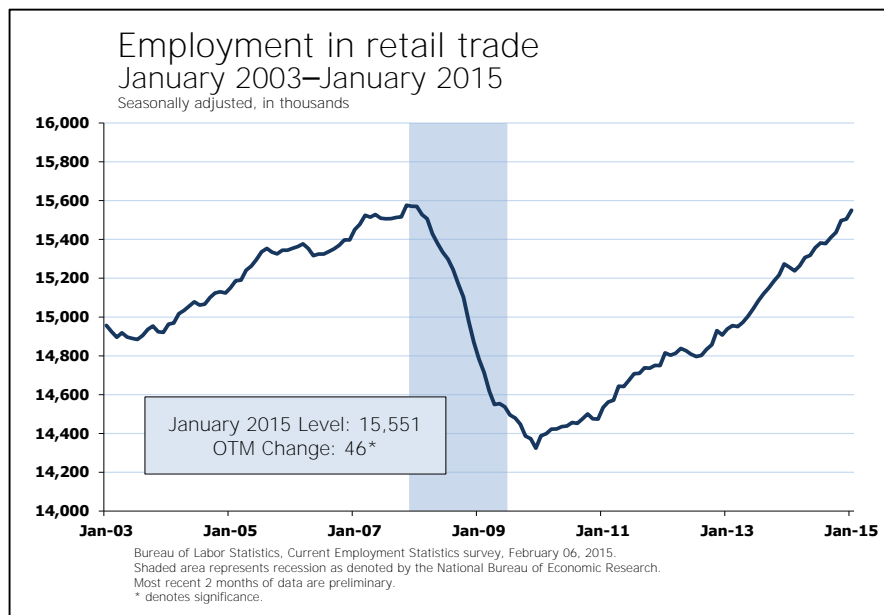


Wholesale Trade



Employment in wholesale trade continued to trend up in January (+13,000). Electronic markets and agents and brokers gained 7,000 jobs. Wholesale trade has added 106,000 jobs over the past 12 months.

Retail Trade



In January, employment in retail trade increased by 46,000. Over the past 12 months, the industry has added 293,000 jobs, bringing the January 2015 employment level to 26,000 jobs shy of the November 2007 peak.

The large seasonally-adjusted employment gain in January stems from a smaller-than-usual not seasonally adjusted holiday layoff. For the retail industries that typically display holiday seasonal movements, the not seasonally adjusted holiday layoff in January 2015 was smaller than the same month in the prior 2 years, but in line with the average January layoff for the prior 5 years. The holiday buildup in October through December of 2014 was also smaller than the same period in 2013, but was larger than average.

RETAIL TRADE¹ Holiday Season Employment Buildup and Layoff (Not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

YEAR	SEPT. LEVEL	HOLIDAY BUILDUP THROUGH DEC.	PERCENT BUILDUP THROUGH DEC.	JAN. OVER THE MONTH CHANGE	PERCENT HOLIDAY LAYOFF THROUGH JAN.
2009	7,880.8	555.3	7.0%	-487.6*	-87.80%
2010	7,906.4	634.2	8.0%	-477.1	-75.20%
2011	8,045.5	667.9	8.3%	-486.3	-72.80%
2012	8,049.7	697.7	8.7%	-535.4	-76.70%
2013	8,152.8	760.0	9.3%	-583.5*	-76.80%
Average	8,007.0	663.0	8.3%	-514.0	-77.90%
2014	8,258.6	717.4	8.7%	-519.7*	-72.40%

¹Includes employment only from furniture 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.

*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.

Retail Trade



NAICS 441 – Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers

In January, employment in motor vehicle and parts dealers increased by 8,000. This increase coincides with recent strength in auto sales. In January 2015, US light vehicle retail sales were 16.7 million, an increase of 1.4 million from January 2014 (Source: [Motor Intelligence](#)).

NAICS 451 – Sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores

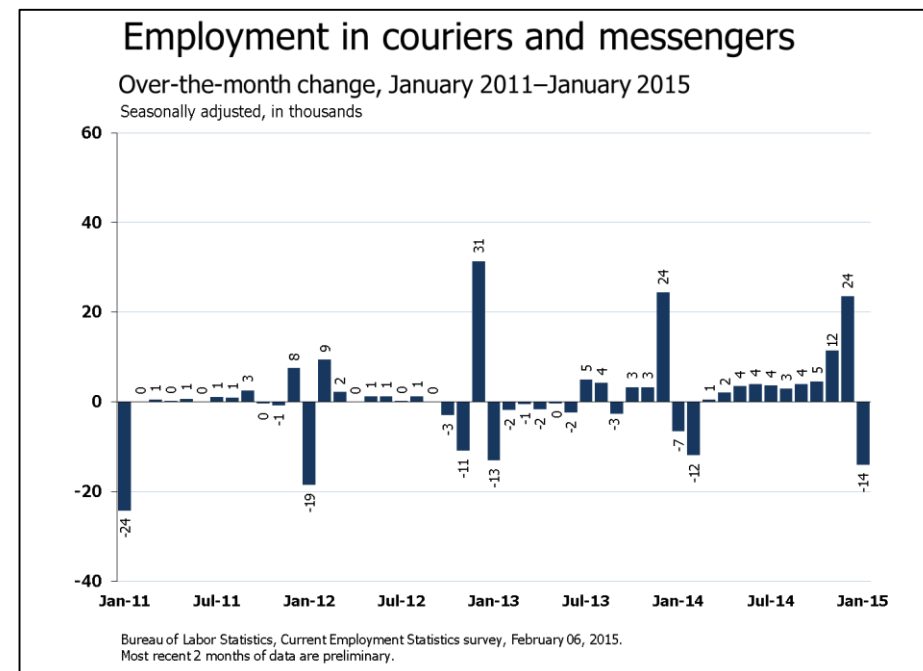
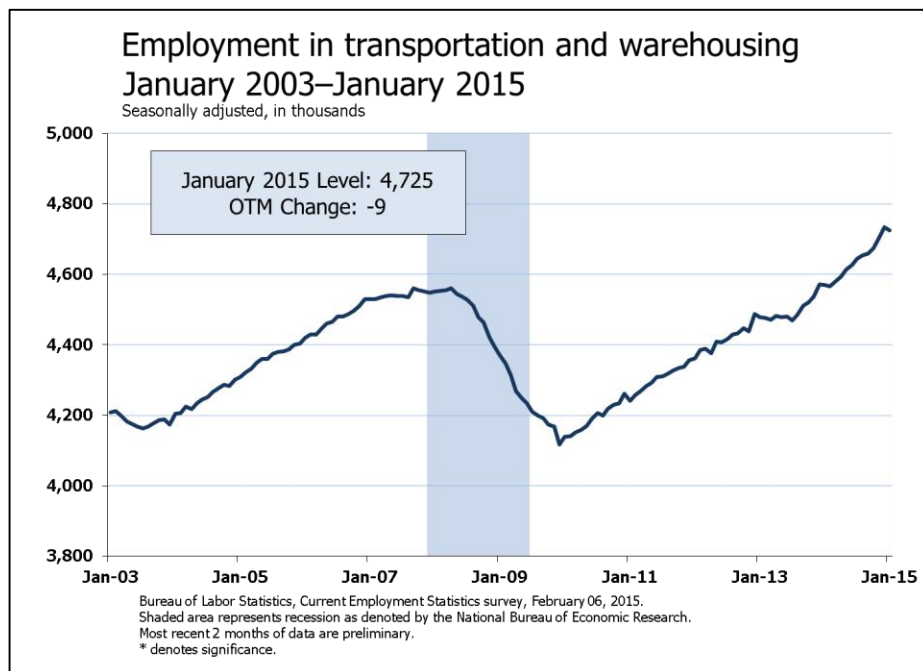
Sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores added 9,000 jobs in January. Over the past 6 months, this industry has added 35,000 jobs.

NAICS 454 – Nonstore Retailers

In January, nonstore retailers added 6,000 jobs. This industry has surpassed its December 2007 employment peak by 72,000 jobs, with most of the growth stemming from electronic shopping and mail-order houses.



Transportation and Warehousing



Transportation and warehousing employment edged down in January (-9,000), following an increase of 34,000 in December. Most of this movement was driven by couriers and messengers.

NAICS 492 – Couriers and Messengers

In January, couriers and messengers lost 14,000 jobs. This drop coincided with a larger-than-usual not seasonally adjusted holiday layoff, following a larger-than-usual holiday buildup from October through December. The January layoff represented about 65 percent of the holiday buildup, which is directly in line with the January 2014 layoff percentage.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, employment in couriers and messengers has increased by an average 6,000 per month over the past 4 months.

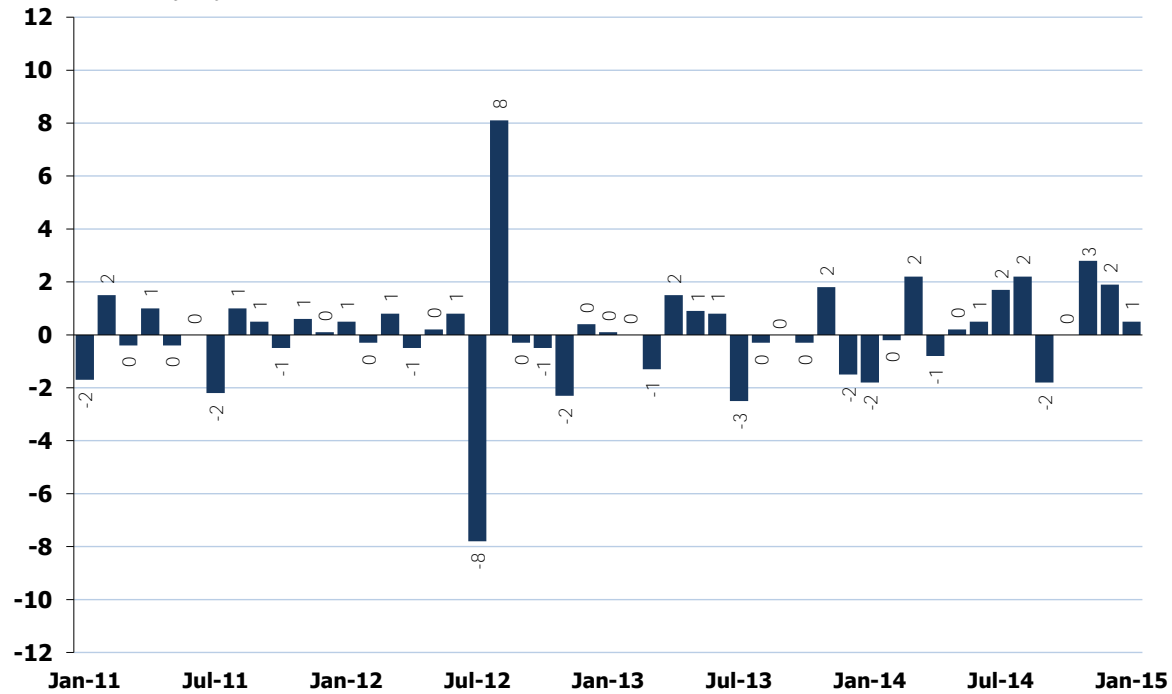
Utilities

Utilities employment was essentially unchanged in January.

Employment in utilities

Over-the-month change, January 2011–January 2015

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



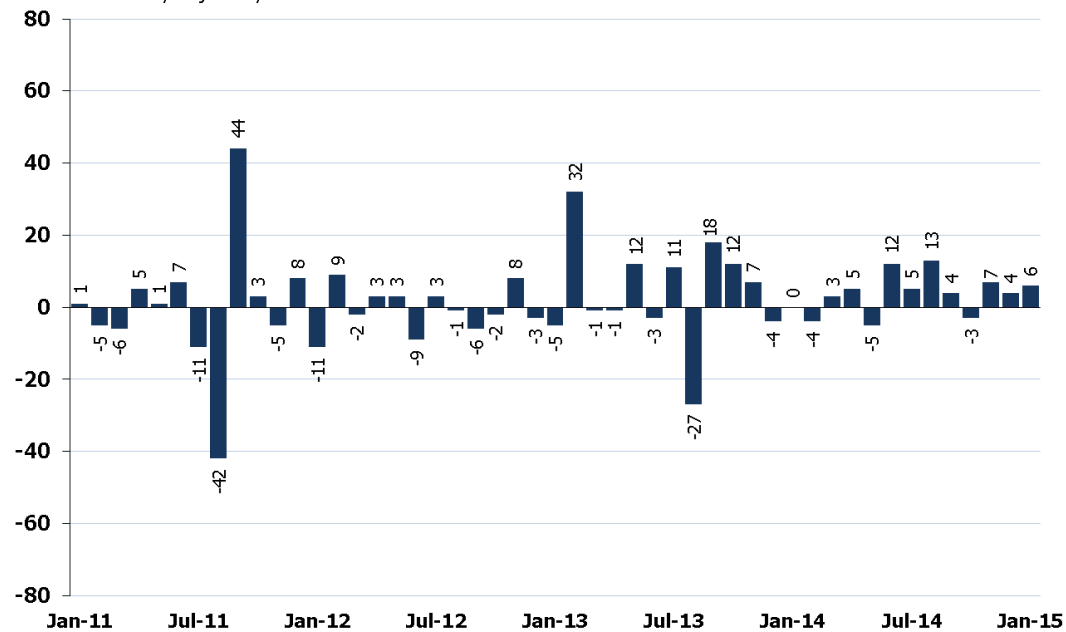
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, February 06, 2015.
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Information

Employment in information

Over-the-month change, January 2011–January 2015

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

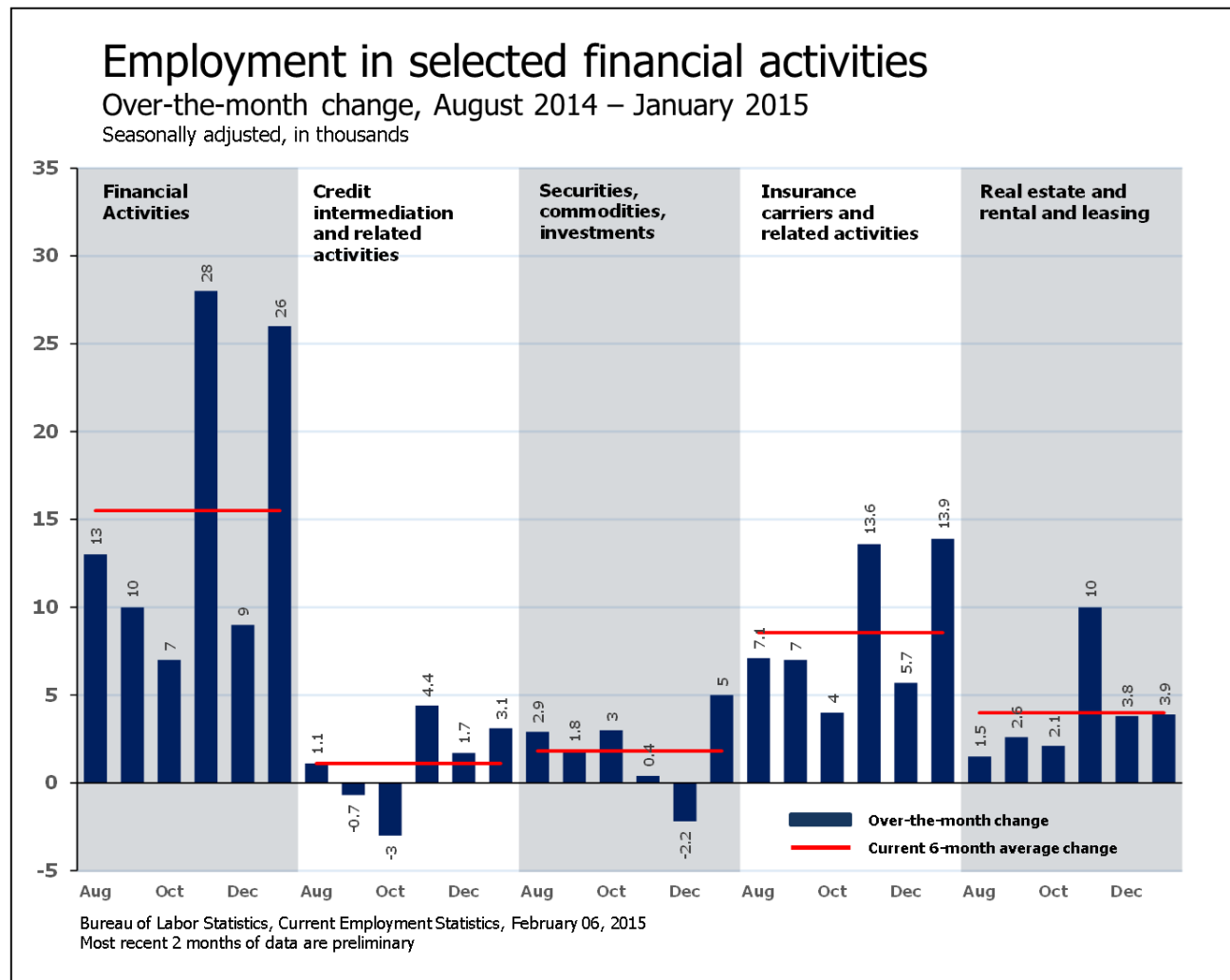


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, February 06, 2015.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Within information, employment rose in data processing, hosting and related services (+3,000) and other information services (+4,000).

Information added 47,000 jobs over the past 12 months. Other information services—which includes internet publishing and broadcasting and web search portals—accounted for 54 percent of this gain.

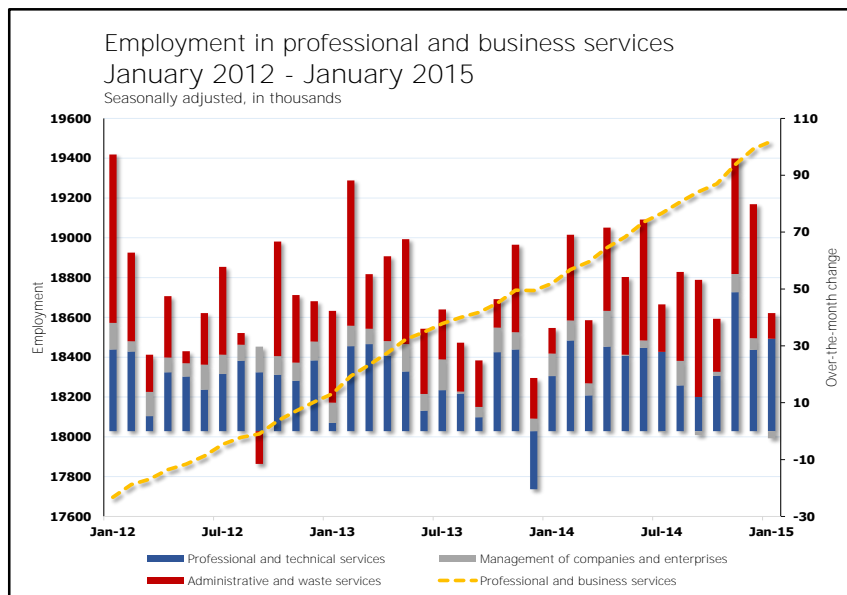
Financial Activities



Financial activities added 26,000 jobs in January. The gains were mainly in insurance carriers and related activities (+14,000) and in securities, commodities, and investments (+5,000).

Over the past 3 months, financial activities has added 63,000 jobs, with insurance carriers and related activities accounting for 33,000.

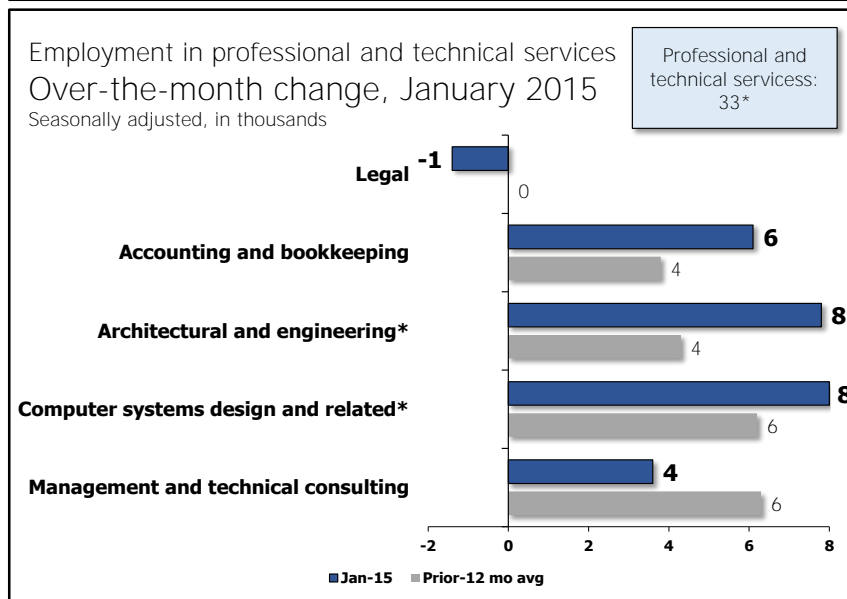
Professional and Business Services



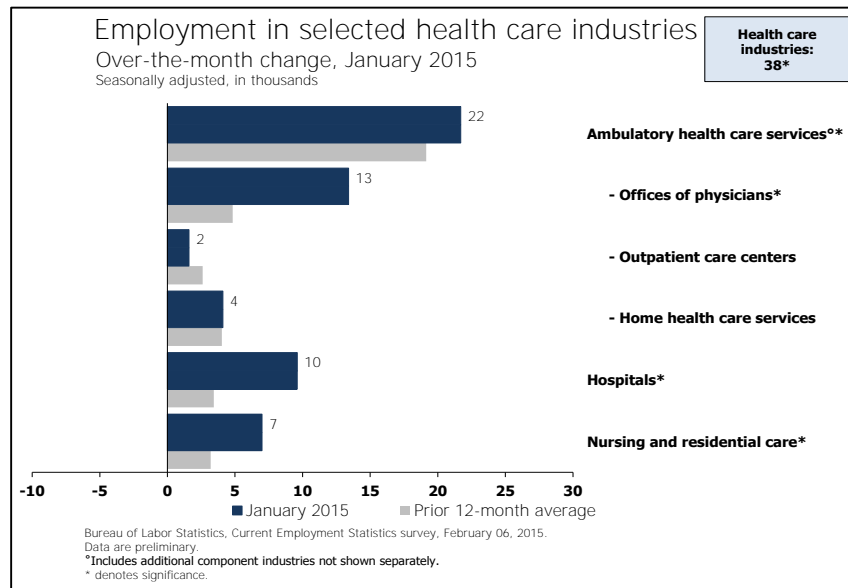
Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in January (+39,000). Monthly job gains in the industry averaged 59,000 in 2014.

Professional and technical services accounted for the majority of the growth in January, adding 33,000 jobs. Architectural and engineering services and computer systems design and related services both added 8,000 jobs over the month, while management and technical consulting employment continued to edge up (+4,000).

Employment changed little in administrative and waste services (+9,000) and was below its average over-the-month change of 30,000 in 2014. Temporary help services, the industry that historically sets the pace of job growth for administrative and waste services, also experienced little employment change in January (-4,000).



Private Education and Health Services



In January, private education and health services employment increased by 46,000. Within the industry, health care added 38,000 jobs and social assistance employment continued to trend up (+11,000). Private educational services employment changed little over the month (-4,000).

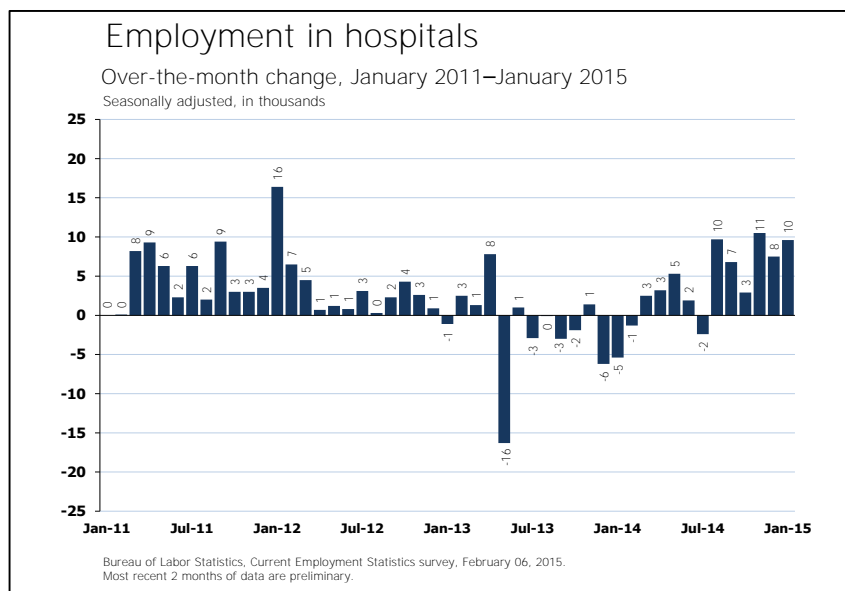
NAICS 621 — Ambulatory health care services

Ambulatory health care services added 22,000 jobs in January. Within the industry, offices of physicians gained 13,000 jobs, while employment continued to trend up over the month in outpatient care centers (+2,000) and home health care services (+4,000).

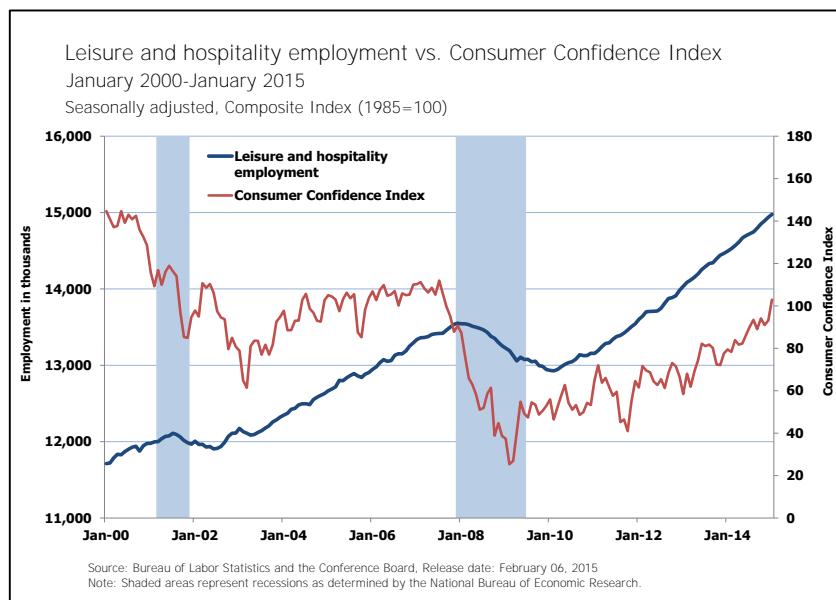
In 2014, ambulatory health care services employment grew by an average 19,000 per month. Within the industry, offices of physicians, outpatient care centers, and home health care services saw average monthly job gains of 5,000, 3,000, and 4,000, respectively.

NAICS 622 — Hospitals

Hospitals continued to add jobs in January (+10,000). In 2014, hospital employment increased by an average 3,000 per month, compared to an average monthly loss of 1,000 in 2013.

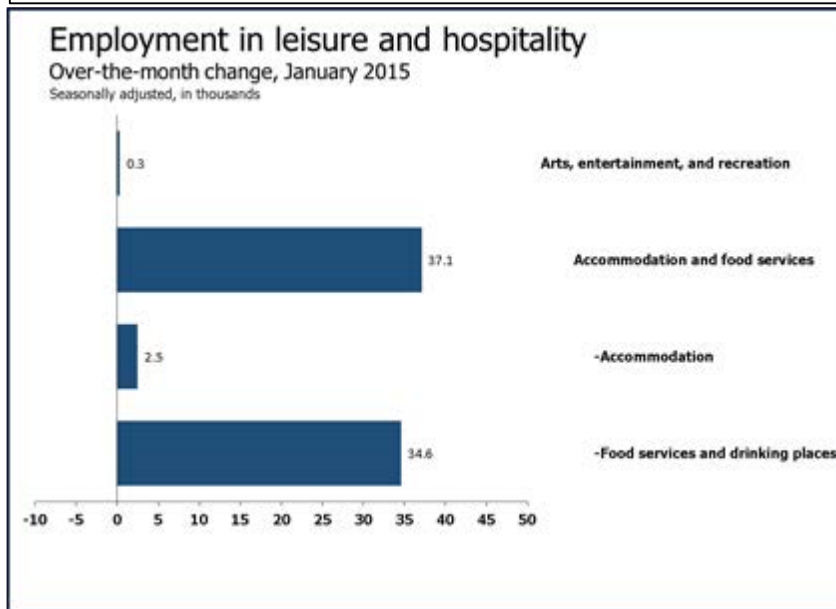


Leisure and Hospitality

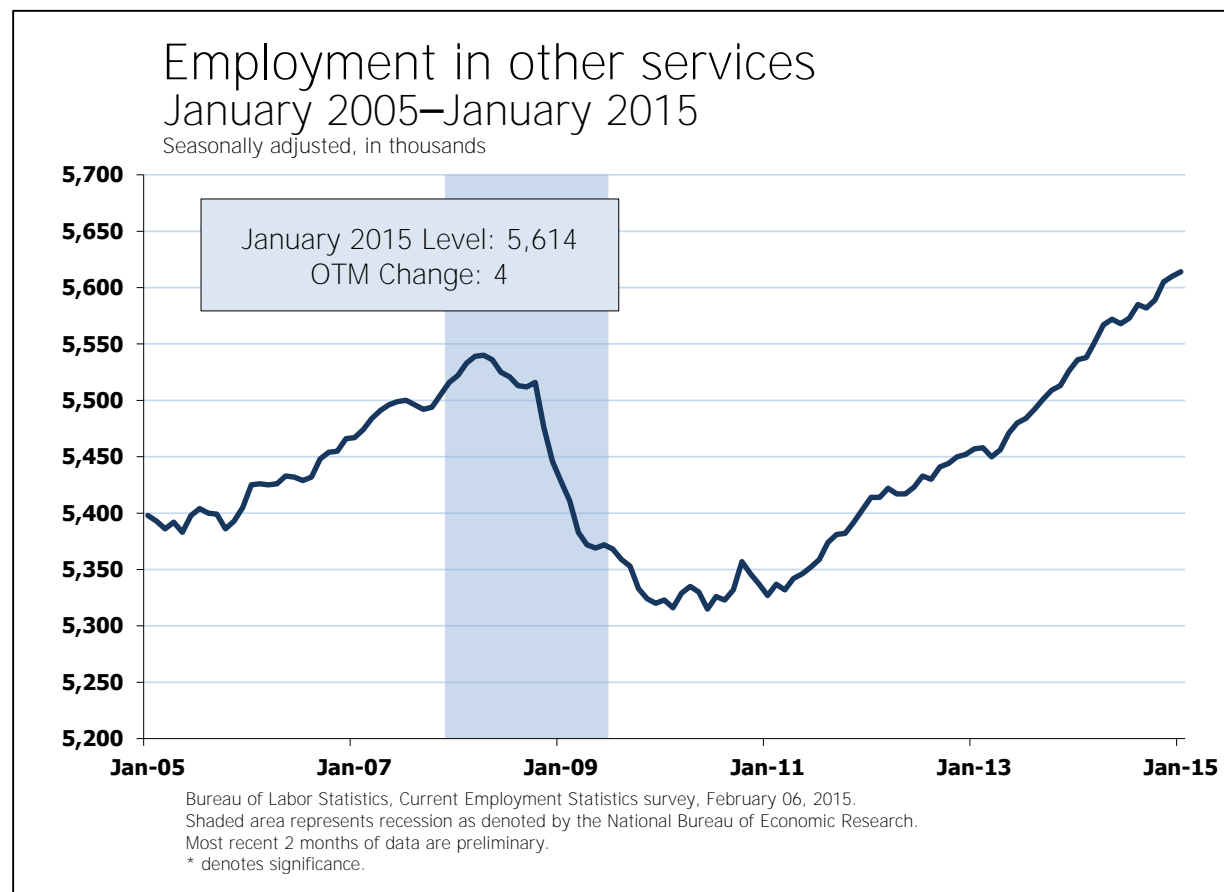


Leisure and hospitality employment continued to trend up in January (+37,000), with food services and drinking places contributing 35,000 jobs. Continued growth within leisure and hospitality coincides with strength in the [Consumer Confidence Index](#), which climbed 9.8 points in January.

In 2014, leisure and hospitality added an average 39,000 jobs per month, with 83 percent of these gains coming in food services and drinking places.

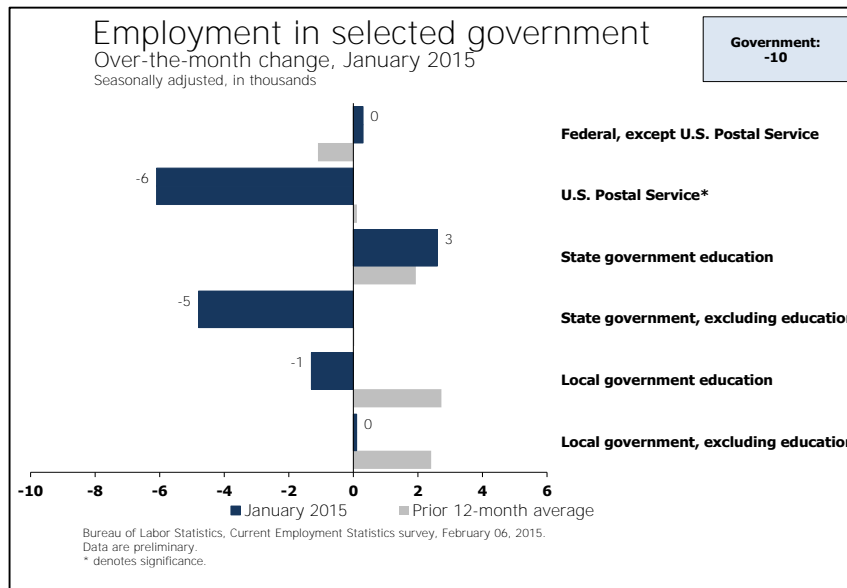


Other Services



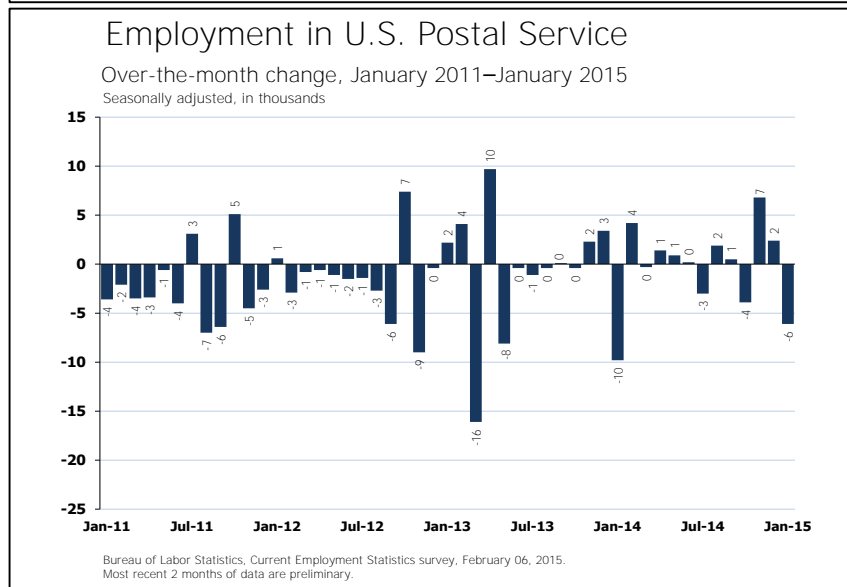
Other services employment changed little in January, with all component industries experiencing little change. Employment in other services is now 74,000 above its April 2008 peak.

Government



Government employment changed little in January (-10,000). Within government, the U.S. Postal Service lost 6,000 jobs over the month.

In 2014, government added an average 6,000 jobs per month. The majority of the employment gains occurred in local government education and state government education, averaging 3,000 and 2,000 jobs per month, respectively.





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