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# Current Employment Statistics Highlights



**April 2015**

**Release Date:** May 8, 2015

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

202-691-6555

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## Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, April 2015

**Total Nonfarm** + 223,000  
**Total Private** + 213,000

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 223,000 in April, after edging up (+85,000) in March. In April, professional and business services, health care, and construction added jobs. Employment in mining fell over the month.

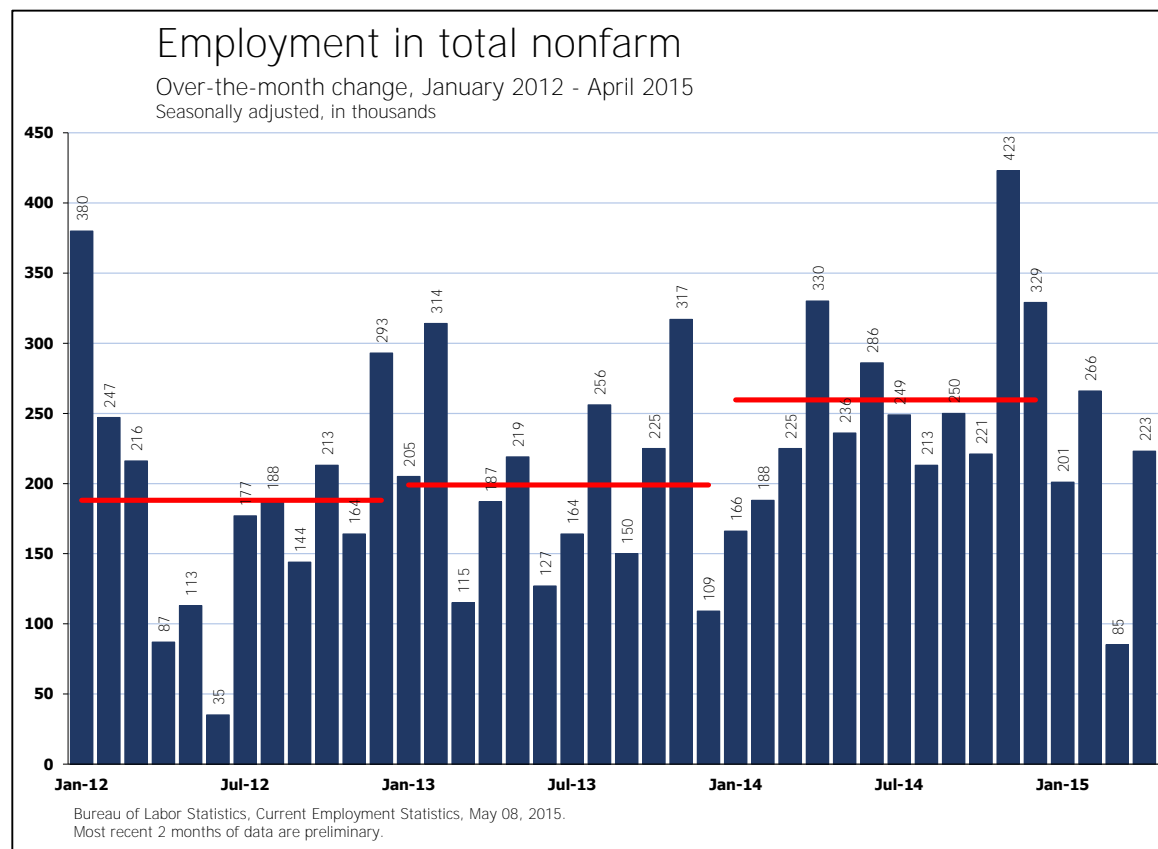
The employment change for March revised down from +126,000 to +85,000, and the employment change for February revised up from +264,000 to +266,000. Incorporating revisions, employment has increased by an average 191,000 per month over the past 3 months.

Average hourly earnings of all private-sector employees rose by 3 cents in April. Over the year, hourly earnings are up 2.2 percent. In April, average weekly hours held at 34.5 hours.

### + 62,000 Professional and business services

Employment in professional and technical services rose by 21,000 in April. Within this industry, employment continued to trend up in management and technical consulting services (+6,000) and in computer systems design and related services (+9,000).

Employment in administrative and support services rose by 39,000 in April. Within this industry, services to buildings and dwellings (+16,000) and business support services



(+7,000) added jobs. Employment in temporary help services changed little over the month.

### + 61,000 Education and health services

In April, health care providers added 45,000 jobs. Employment rose in ambulatory health care services (+25,000), in hospitals (+12,000),

and in nursing and residential care facilities (+8,000). Health care employment has expanded by 390,000 over the past 12 months.

## Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, April 2015

### + 45,000 Construction

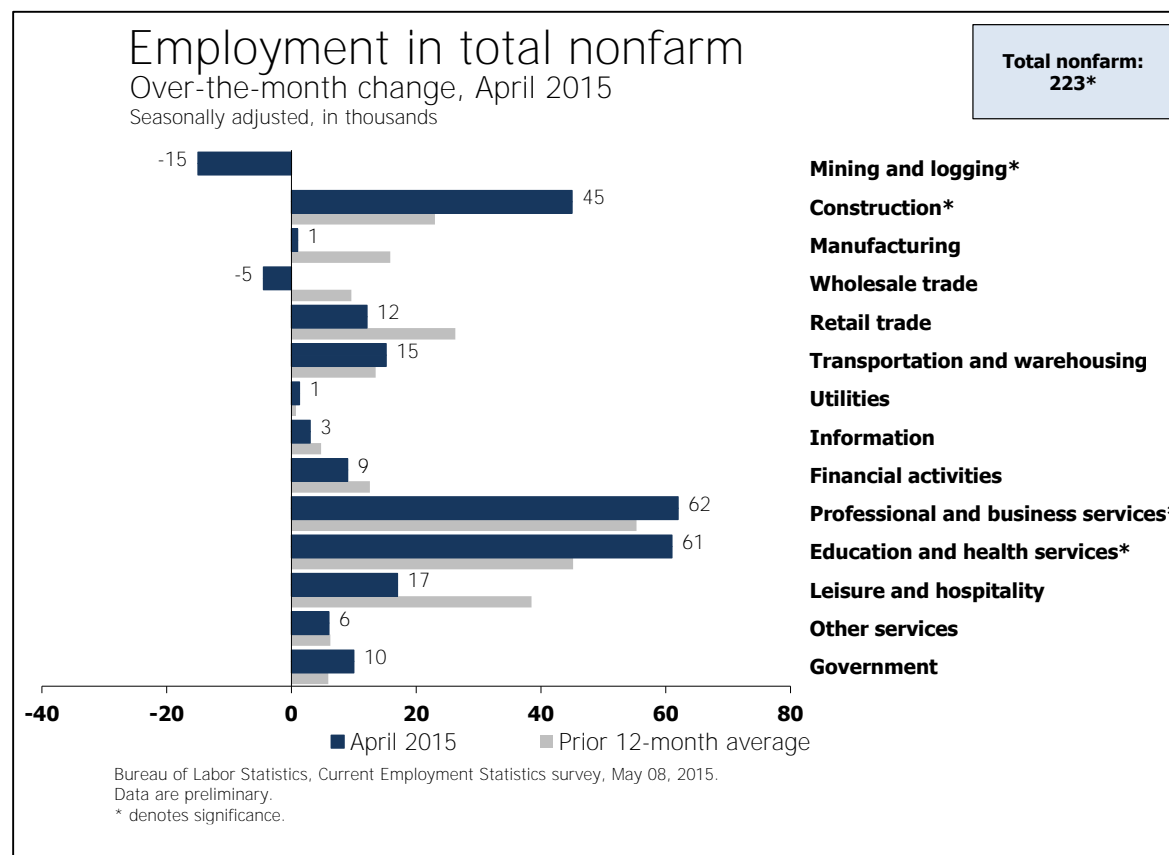
In April, construction added 45,000 jobs. Job growth was concentrated within specialty trade contractors, with employment gains split about evenly between residential specialty trades (+21,000) and nonresidential specialty trades (+20,000). Employment in nonresidential building construction fell by 8,000 over the month. Over the past 12 months, construction has added 280,000 jobs.

### - 15,000 Mining and logging

Employment in mining fell by 15,000 in April. Job losses were concentrated in support activities for mining (-10,000) and in oil and gas extraction (-3,000). So far this year, the mining industry has lost 49,000 jobs, and 37,000 of the losses occurred in support activities for mining.

### +1,000 Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment changed little in April. Within durable goods manufacturing, an employment gain in motor vehicles and parts (+6,000) was mostly offset by a job loss in machinery (-5,000). Within nondurable goods, petroleum and coal products added 3,000 jobs, largely due to workers returning from strike.

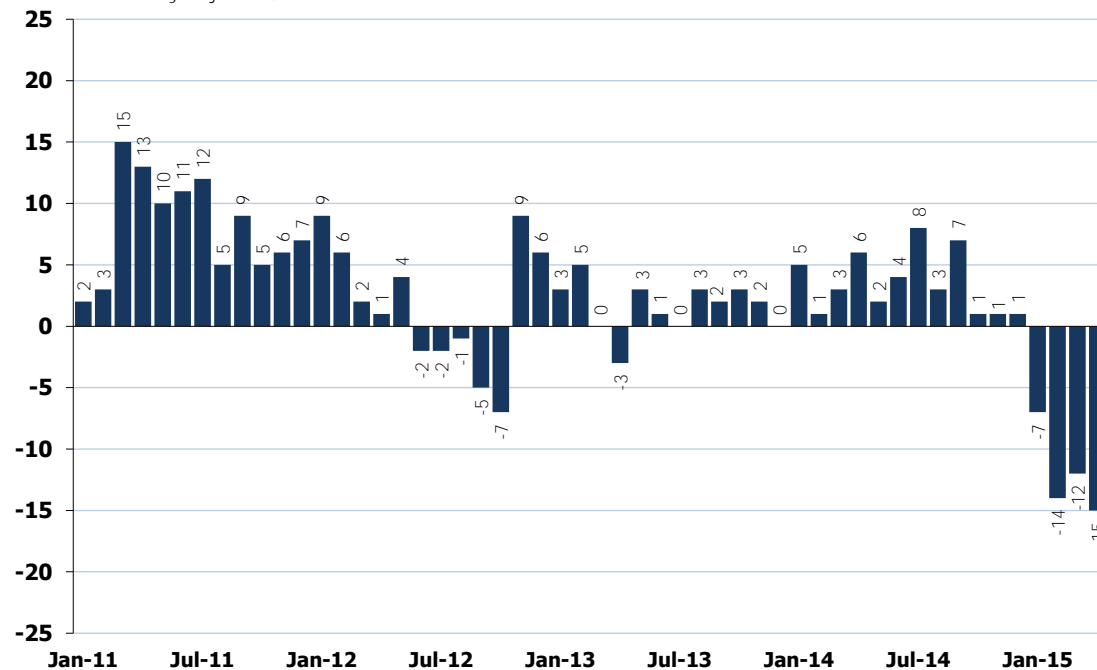


## Mining & Logging

### Employment in mining and logging

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

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

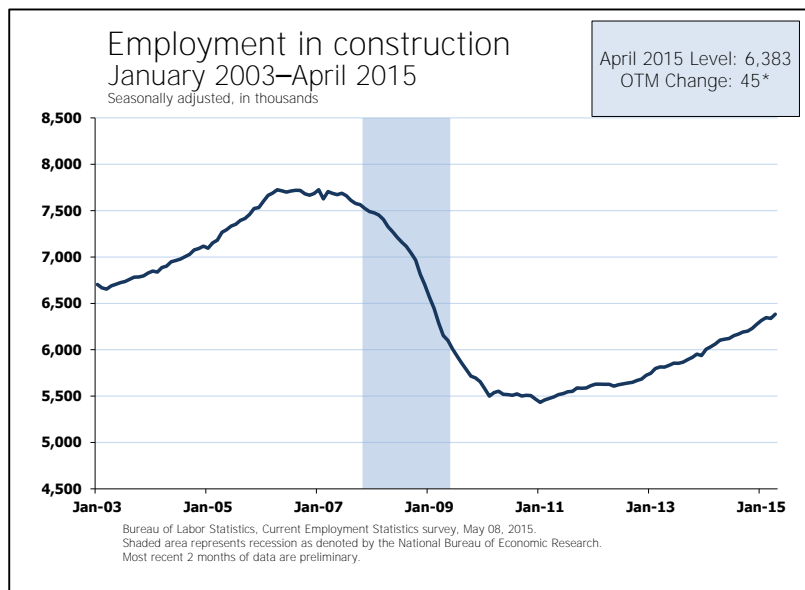


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 08, 2015.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Mining and logging lost 15,000 jobs over the month. Employment in support activities for mining and oil and gas extraction decreased by 10,000 and 3,000 respectively. Rig counts have declined by 949 over the past year (Source: [Baker Hughes](#)). Oil prices increased in April, but are still down over the year. (Source: [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#)).

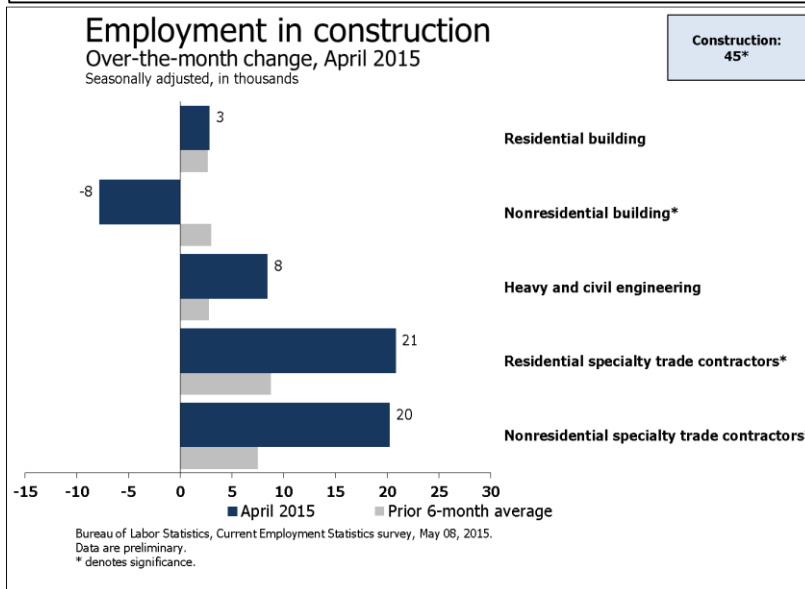
Thus far in 2015, mining employment has decreased by 49,000, more than offsetting a gain of 41,000 jobs in 2014.

## Construction

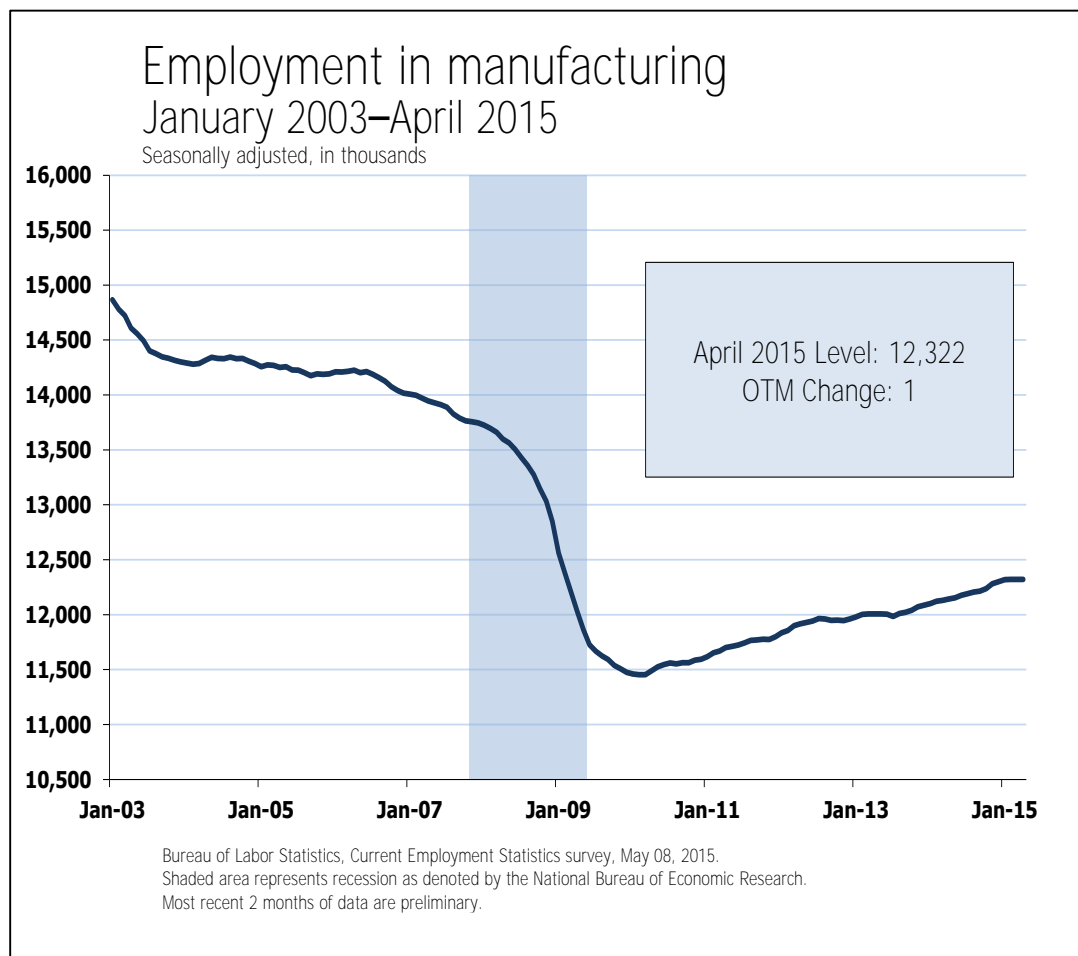


Construction added 45,000 jobs over the month. Employment in construction has grown by 280,000, or 4.6 percent, over the year.

Specialty trade contractors added 41,000 over the month. This growth was split between residential and non-residential specialty trades. Employment declined by 8,000 in nonresidential building.



## Manufacturing



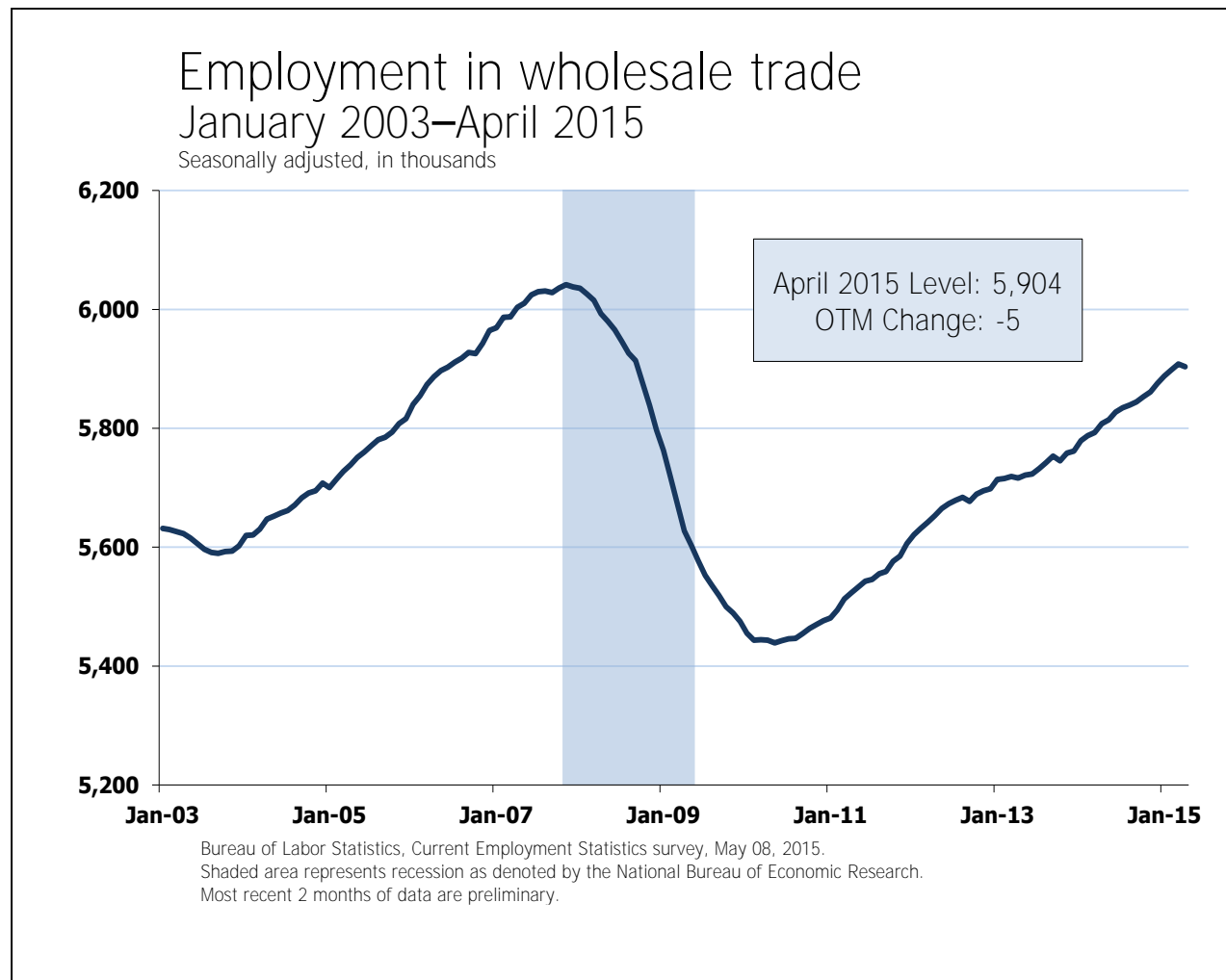
Manufacturing employment was essentially unchanged (+1,000) in April. The 1-month diffusion index increased to 50.6 in April from 45.6 in March. The diffusion index measures the dispersion of employment change in manufacturing, with a value above 50 indicating that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than losing.

Within durable goods, motor vehicles and parts gained 6,000 jobs, while machinery employment decreased by 5,000. The majority of the decline in machinery employment occurred in oil and gas field machinery. Within nondurable goods, petroleum and coal products added 3,000 jobs, largely due to workers returning from strike. ([Source: CES Strike Report](#)).

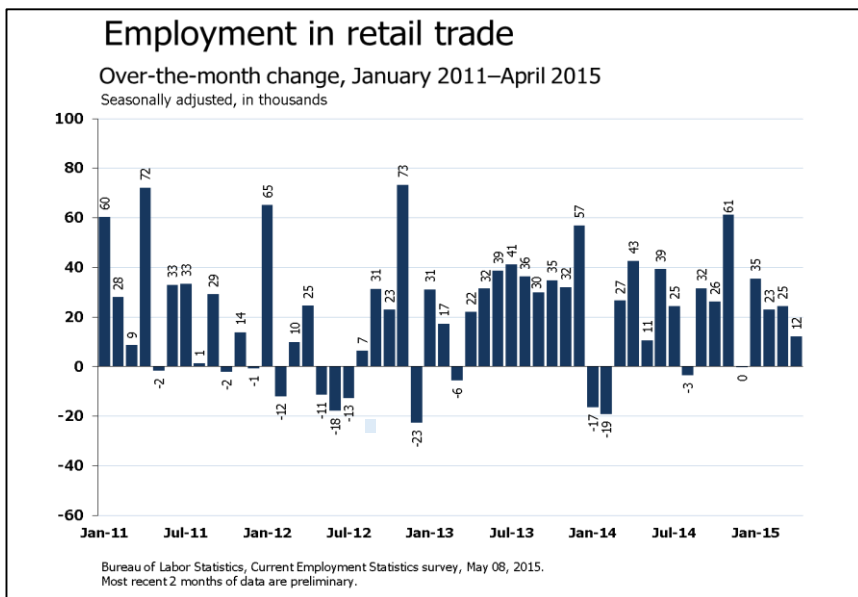
Average weekly hours for all employees in manufacturing declined by 0.1 hour to 40.8 hours. The work week for production employees was unchanged at 41.8.

### Wholesale Trade

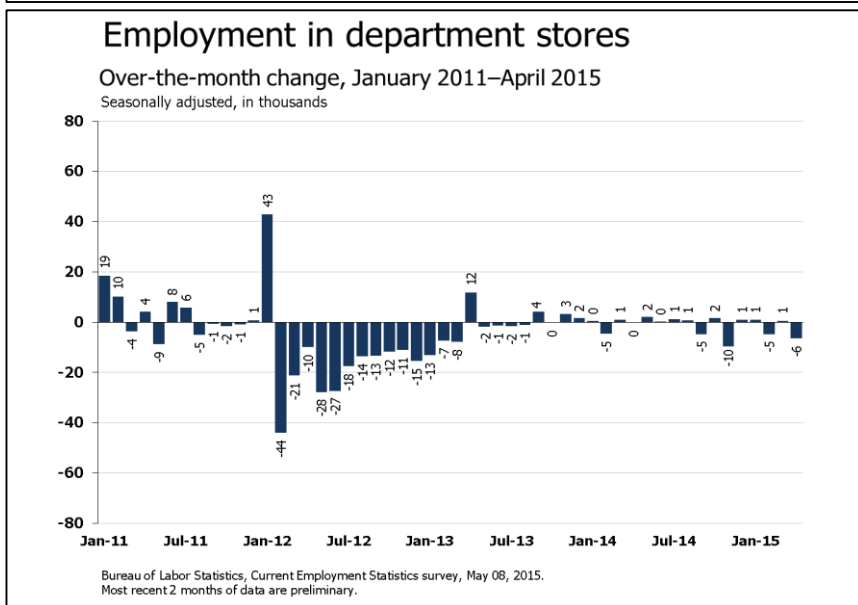
Employment in wholesale trade changed little in April (-5,000). Employment in the industry had increased by an average of 10,000 per month over the prior 12-month period.



## Retail Trade



Employment in retail trade changed little in April (+12,000). The industry had added an average 26,000 jobs per month over the prior 12 months.

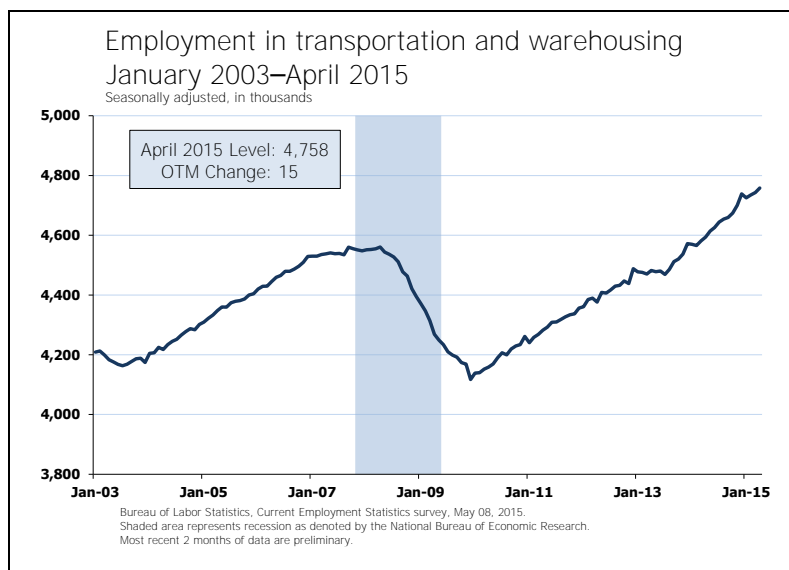


### NAICS 4521 – Department Stores

In April, employment in department stores decreased by 6,000. Since the recent employment peak in August 2014, the industry has lost 22,000 jobs. This employment drop coincides with a continued trend of decreasing department store sales over the past few years (Source: [Market Realist](#)).



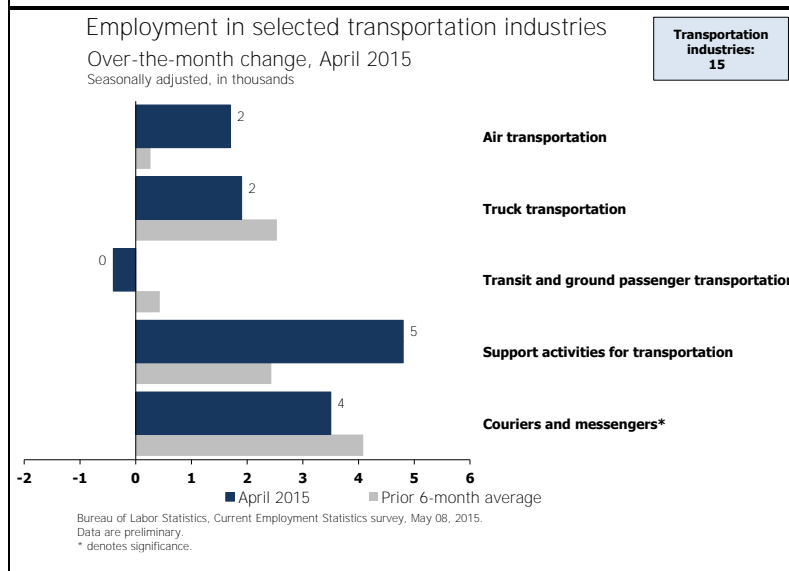
## Transportation and Warehousing



Transportation and warehousing employment continued to trend up (+15,000) in April. Over the past 12 months the industry has added 164,000 jobs. In April, employment edged up in support activities for transportation (+5,000) and in air transportation (+2,000).

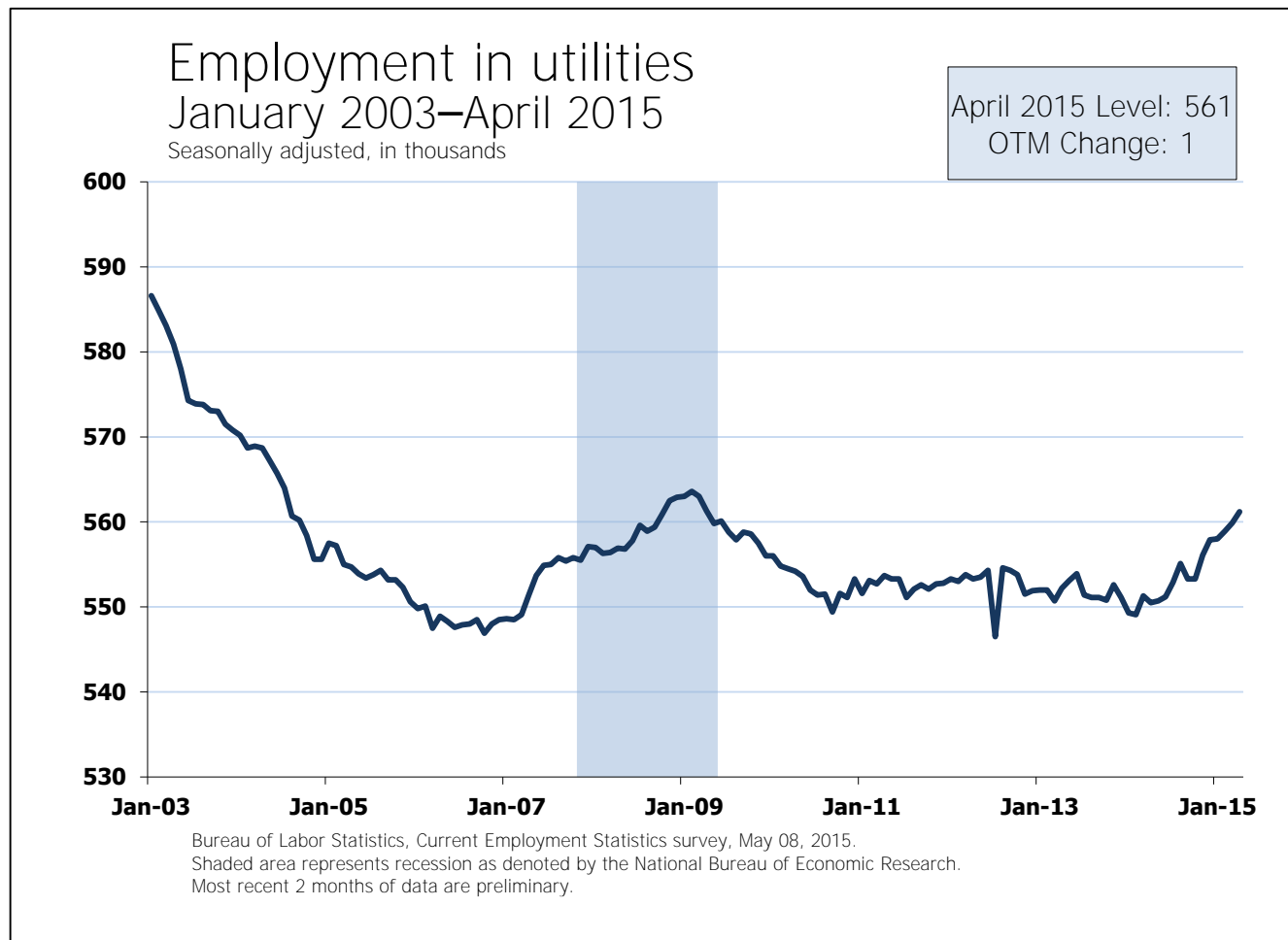
### NAICS 492 – Couriers and messengers

Couriers and messengers added 4,000 jobs in April. Over the past 12 months the industry has added 46,000 jobs, compared to 19,000 jobs added during the preceding 12-month period.



### Utilities

Utilities employment edged up by 1,000 over the month.

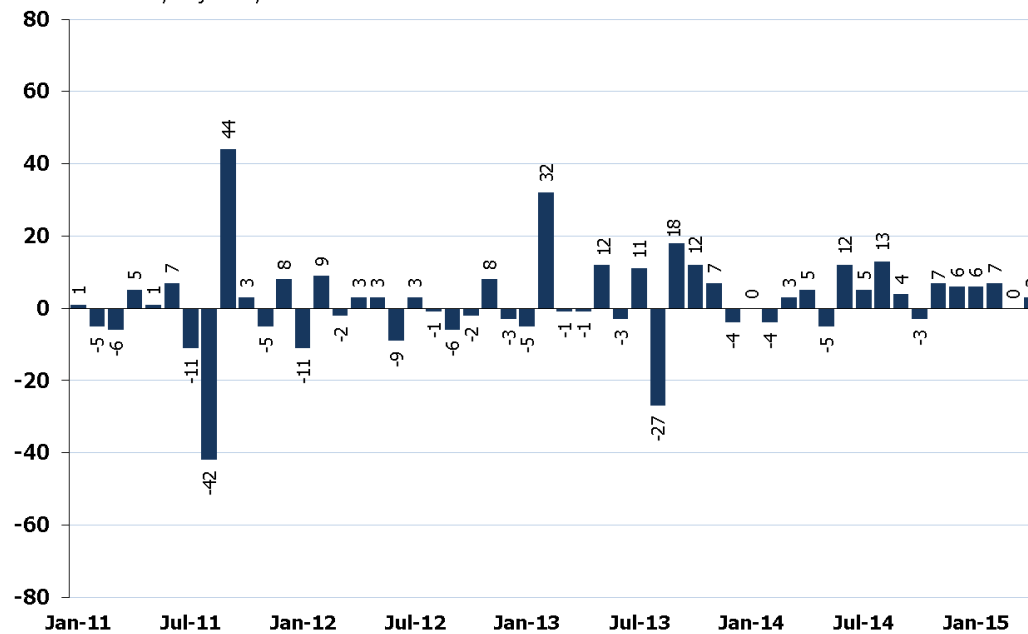


## Information

### Employment in information

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

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 08, 2015.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

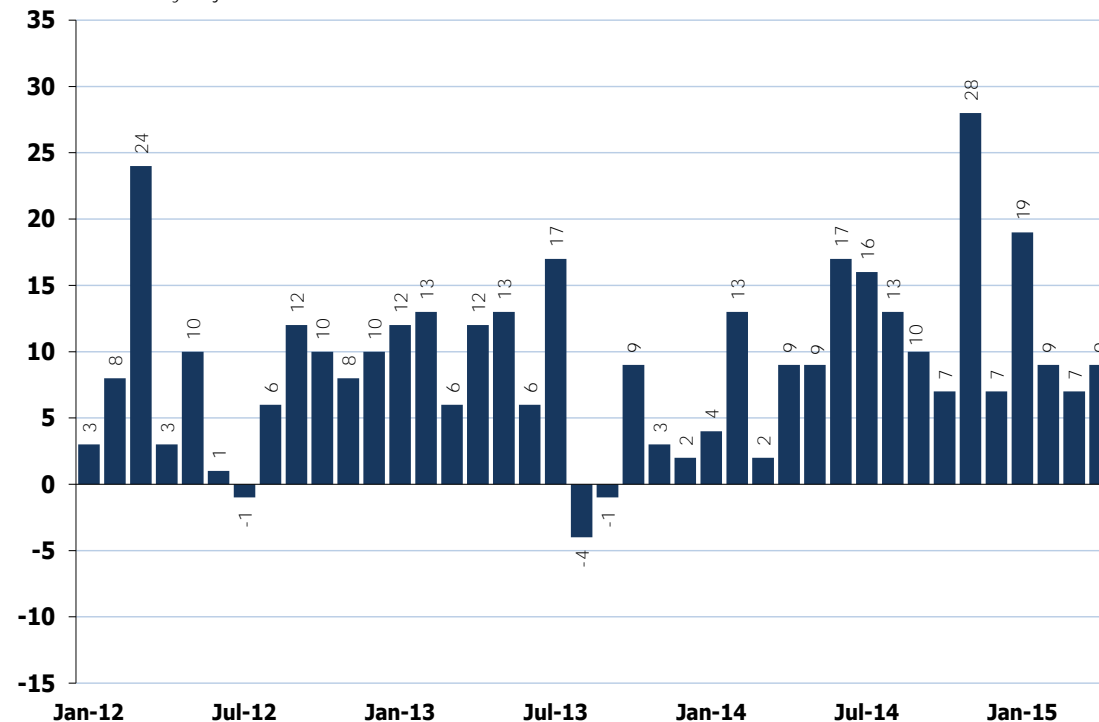
Information employment was virtually unchanged in April (+3,000). However, over the past 12 months, the industry gained 55,000 jobs.

## Financial Activities

### Employment in financial activities

Over-the-month change, January 2012–April 2015

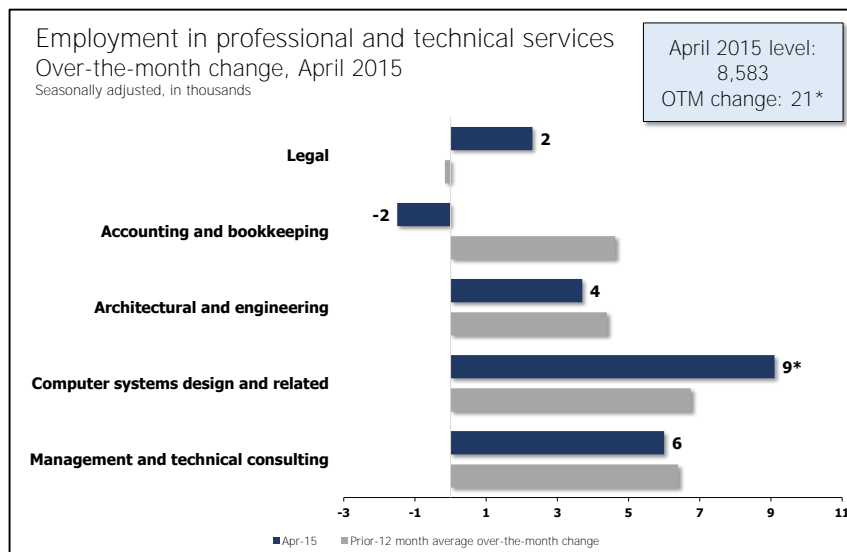
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 08, 2015.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in financial activities continued to tick up (+9,000) in April. Over the past 6 months, financial activities has added 79,000 jobs.

## Professional and Business Services



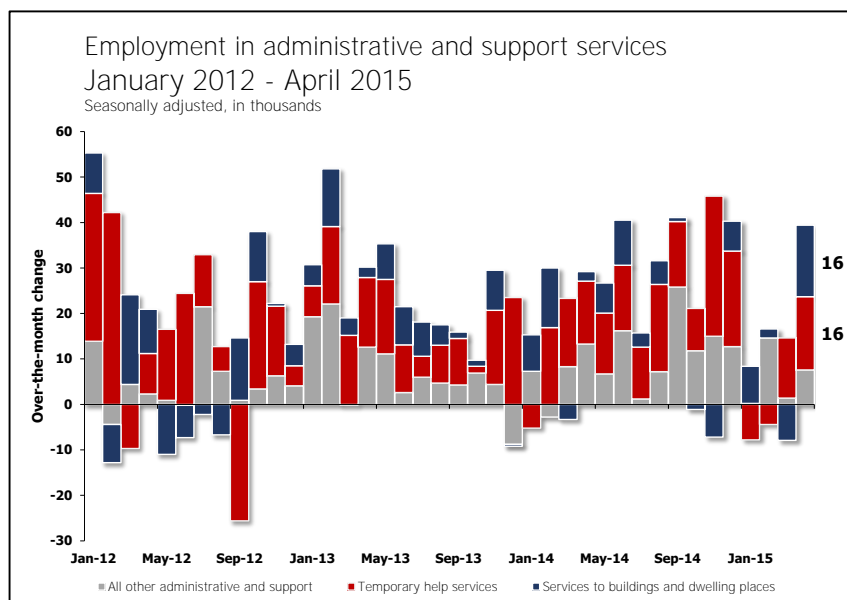
In April, professional and business services added 62,000 jobs. So far in 2015, the industry has added 166,000 jobs. Among the major component industries in April, employment in professional and technical services and administrative and waste services expanded by 21,000 and 41,000, respectively.

### NAICS 54 – Professional and technical services

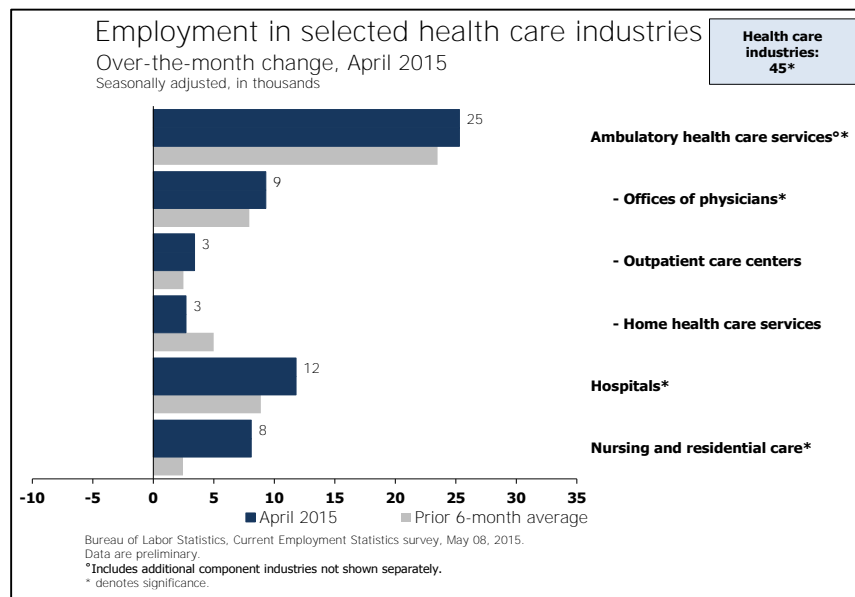
Computer systems design and related services added 9,000 jobs, contributing the largest gain among the professional and technical services component industries. Employment continued to trend up in architectural and engineering services and management and technical consulting services.

### NAICS 56 – Administrative and waste services

Administrative and support services (representing 96 percent of administrative and waste services employment) added 39,000 jobs in April. Services to buildings and dwellings added 16,000 jobs, following a downtick (-8,000) in March. Temporary help services employment continued to trend up in April (+16,000).



## Private Education and Health Services



In April, private education and health services employment increased by 61,000. Within the industry, health care added 45,000 jobs, while social assistance employment continued to trend up over the month.

### NAICS 621 – Ambulatory health care services

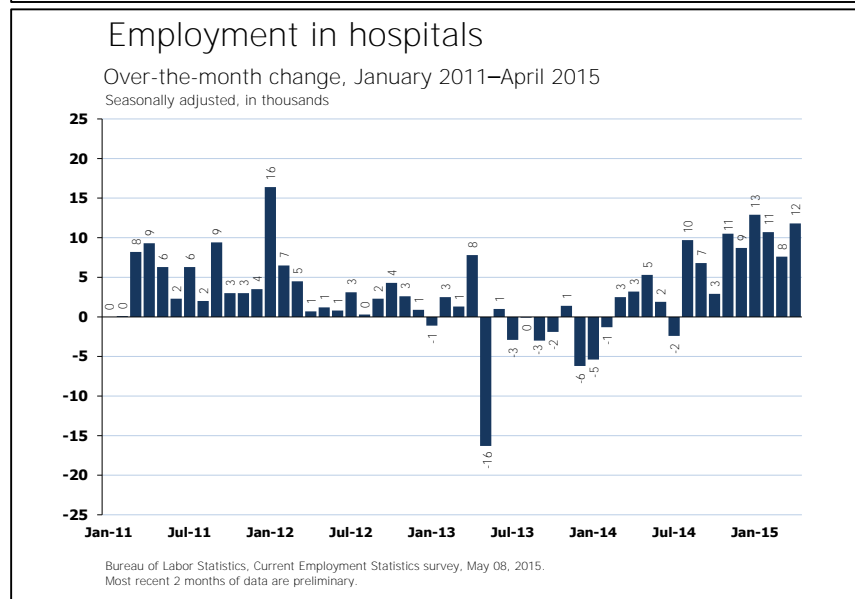
Ambulatory health care services added 25,000 jobs in April. Within the industry, offices of physicians employment grew by 9,000, while employment continued to trend up in outpatient care centers (+3,000) and home health care services (+3,000).

### NAICS 622 – Hospitals

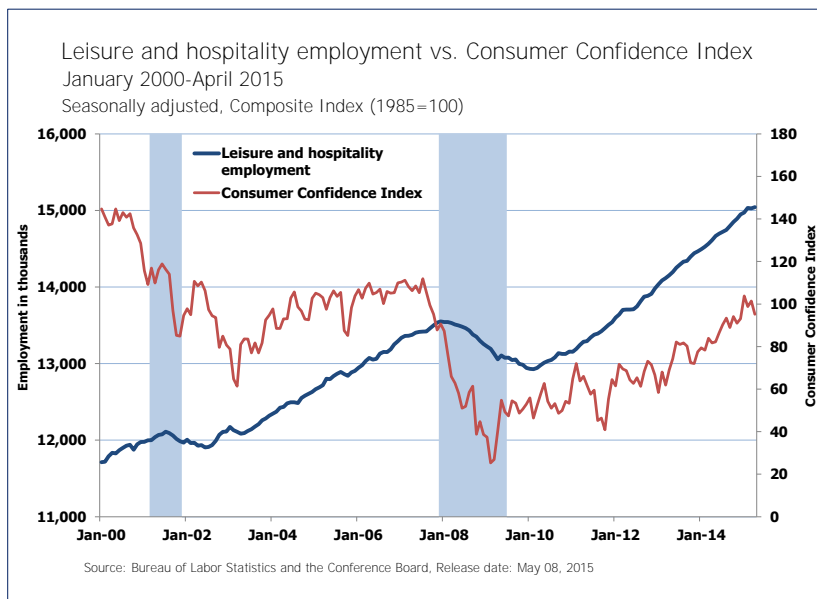
Hospital employment increased by 12,000 in April. Over the past 6 months, the industry has added a total of 62,000 jobs.

### NAICS 623 – Nursing and Residential Care Facilities

Nursing and residential care facilities employment increased by 8,000 in April.

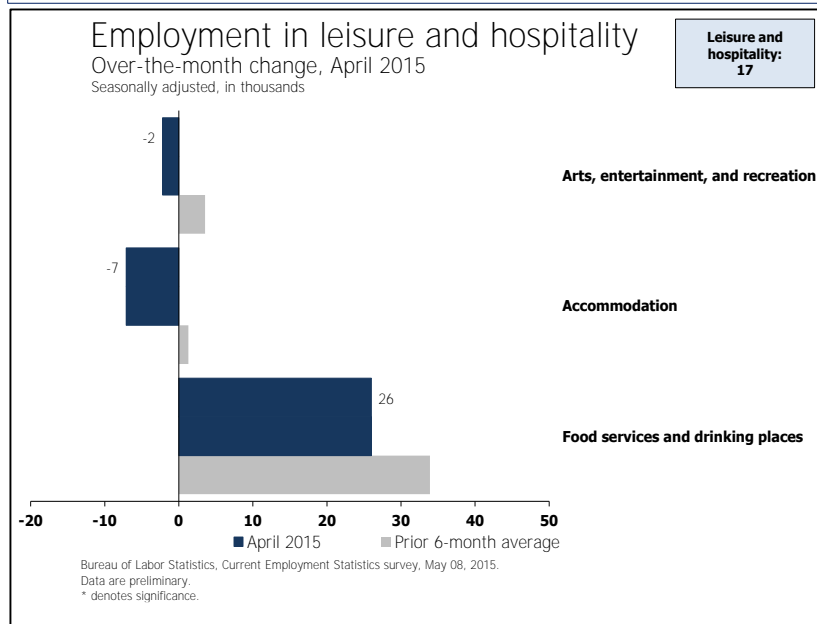


## Leisure and Hospitality



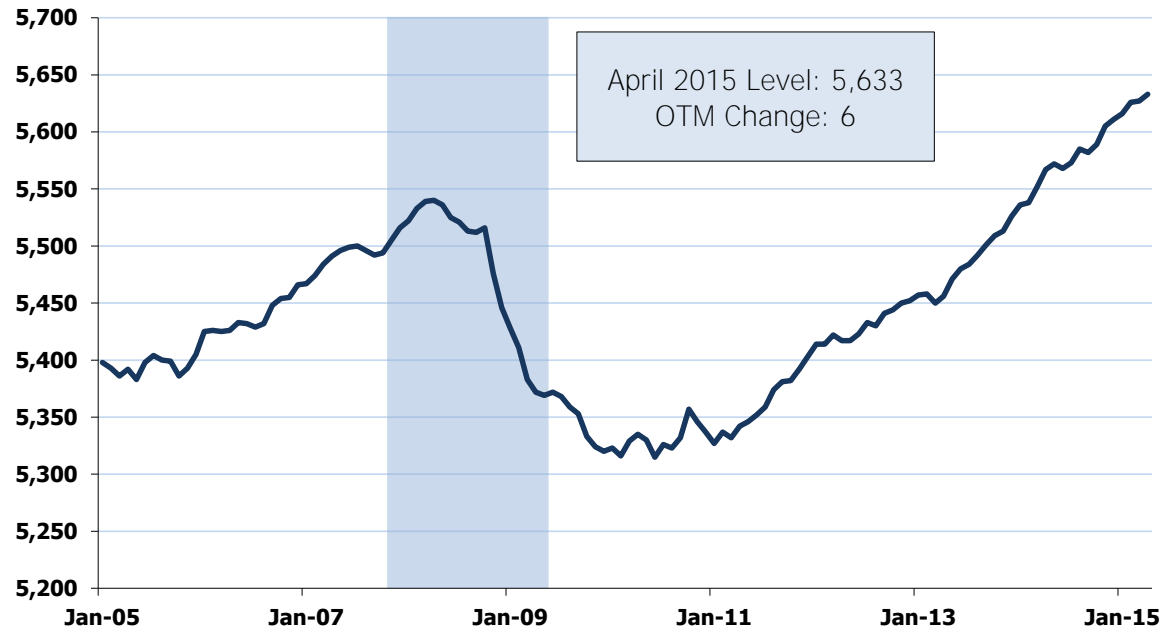
Leisure and hospitality employment changed little (+17,000) in April, following weakness in March (-6,000). Over the 12 months prior to March, job growth had averaged 42,000 per month. The [Consumer Confidence Index](#) fell 6.2 points in April, coinciding with the recent employment weakness within the leisure and hospitality industry.

Food services and drinking places employment edged up (+26,000) in April, offsetting small downward movements in other component industries.



## Employment in other services January 2005–April 2015

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

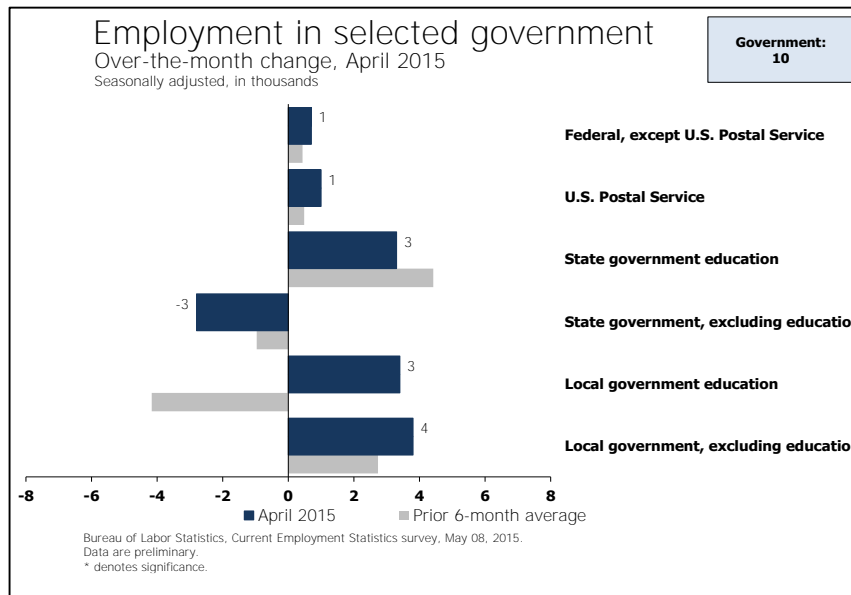


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 08, 2015.  
 Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.  
 Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

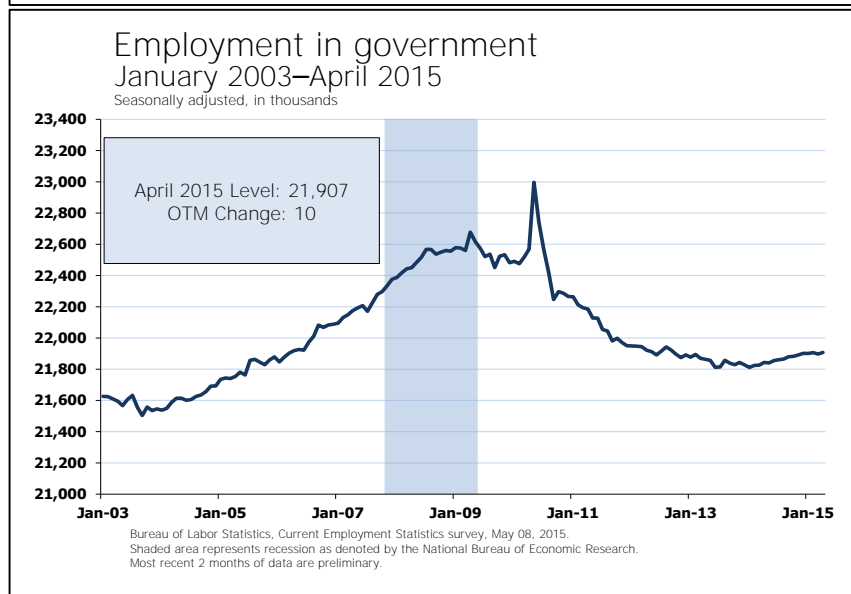
Other services employment edged up (+6,000) in April, and there was little change in any component industry. Other services has added 318,000 jobs since its most recent trough reached in June 2010.



## Government



Government employment changed little in April (+10,000). Over the past 12 months, government has gained a total of 64,000 jobs.





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