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# Current Employment Statistics Highlights



**April 2024**

Release Date: May 3, 2024

Prepared by Analysts 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 Summary, April 2024

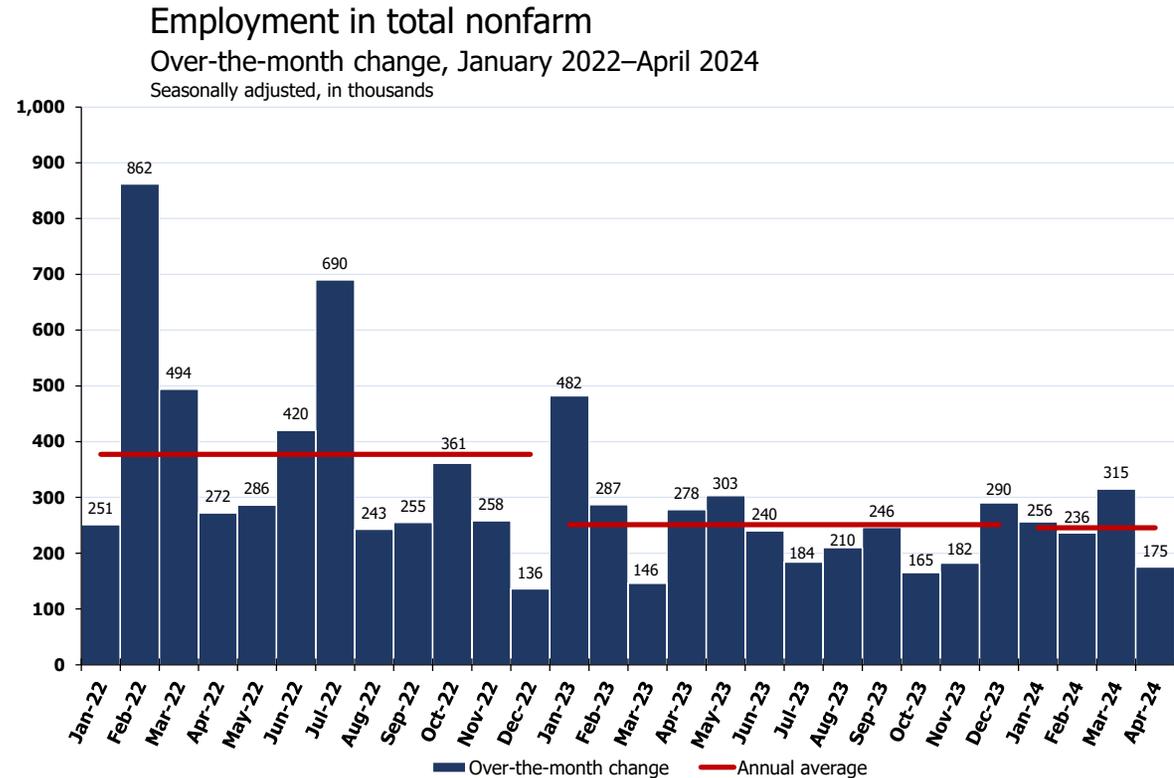
Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 175,000 in April, lower than the average monthly gain of 242,000 over the prior 12 months. In April, job gains occurred in health care, in social assistance, and in transportation and warehousing.

The employment change for February revised down from +270,000 to +236,000, and the change for March revised up from +303,000 to +315,000. On net, employment over these months is 22,000 lower than previously reported.

In April, average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls rose by 7 cents, or 0.2 percent. Over the year, average hourly earnings have increased by 3.9 percent. In April, average weekly hours of all employees edged down by 0.1 hour to 34.3 hours.

#### +95,000 Private Education and Health Services

Employment in health care increased by 56,000 in April, in line with the average monthly gain of 63,000 over the prior 12 months. In April, ambulatory health care services (+33,000), hospitals (+14,000), and nursing and residential care facilities (+9,000) added jobs.



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, May 03, 2024. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Social assistance employment rose by 31,000 in April, above its prior 12-month average gain of 21,000. Over the month, job growth was concentrated in individual and family services (+23,000).

**+22,000 Transportation and Warehousing**  
 Transportation and warehousing added 22,000 jobs in April, with gains in couriers and messengers (+8,000) and warehousing and

### Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, April 2024

storage (+8,000). Over the prior 12 months, employment in transportation and warehousing had shown little net change.

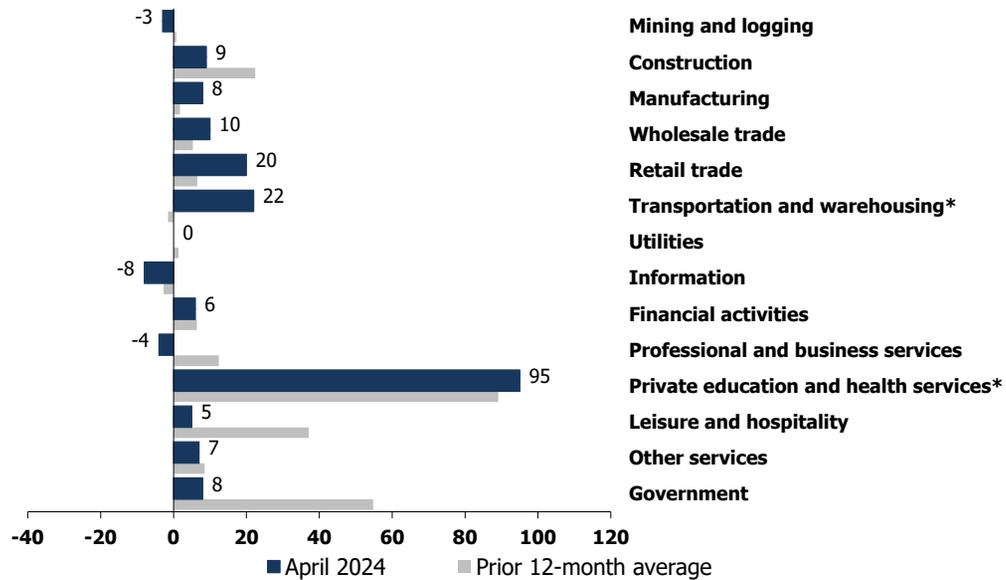
#### +20,000 Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade continued to trend up in April (+20,000). Over the prior 12 months, the industry had added an average of 7,000 jobs per month. In April, job gains in general merchandise retailers (+10,000), building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers (+7,000), and health and personal care retailers (+5,000) were slightly offset by job losses in electronics and appliance retailers (-3,000).

### Employment in total nonfarm Over-the-month change, April 2024

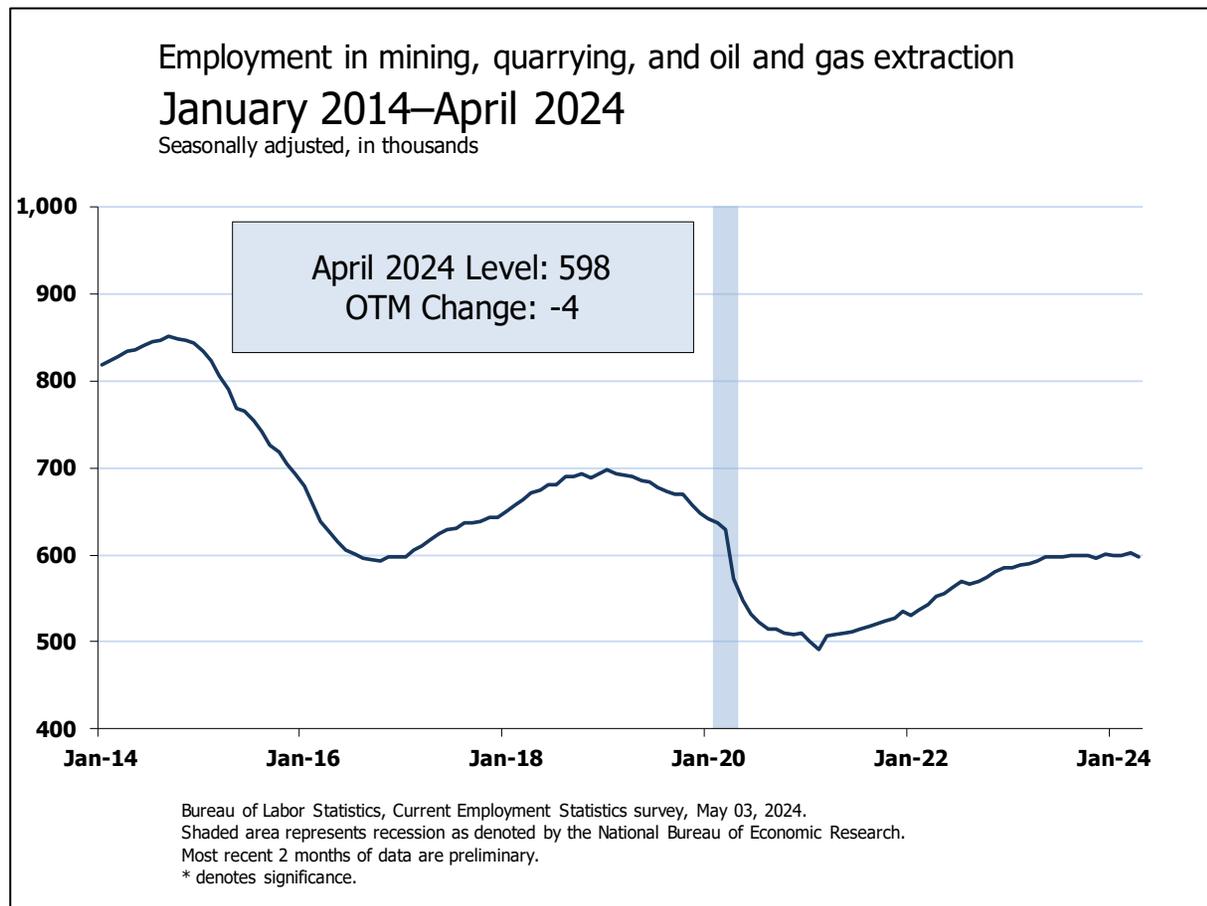
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

**Total nonfarm:  
175\***



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 03, 2024.  
Data are preliminary.  
\* denotes significance

## Mining and Logging



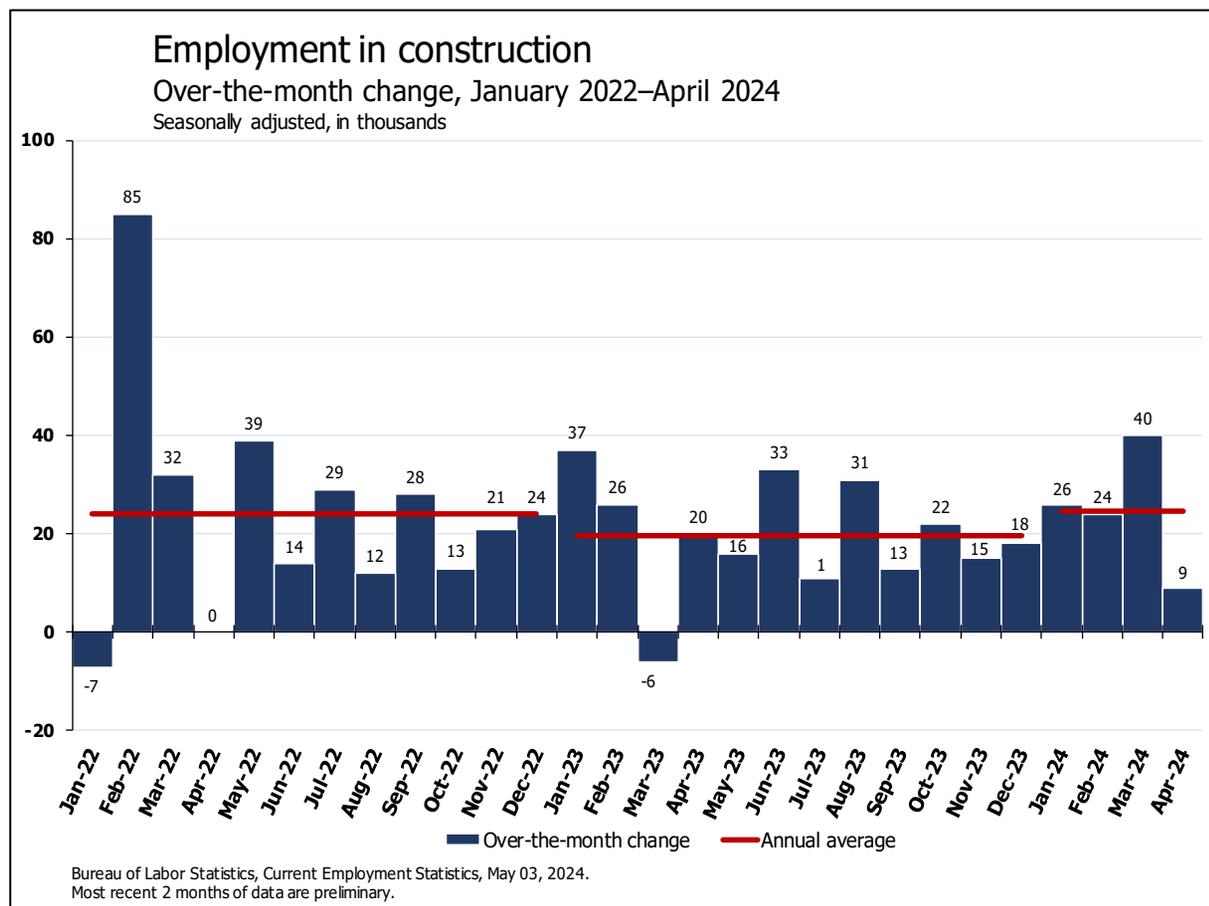
Employment in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction changed little in April (-4,000). Job growth in coal mining (+1,000) was offset by a loss in nonmetallic mineral mining and quarrying (-1,000).

Over the month, the [North American rotary rigs count](#)\* decreased, and the average weekly price of [West Texas Intermediate crude oil](#)\*\* increased.

\*To access the North American rotary rigs: select the link named "North America Rotary Rig Count Report – New Report", go to the NAM Breakdown tab, and scroll to cell U7 ("Monthly chg").

\*\*To access West Texas Intermediate crude oil: select "EDIT GRAPH" and change the "Modify frequency" to "Weekly, Ending Friday." Above the graph, modify date range to one year, including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.

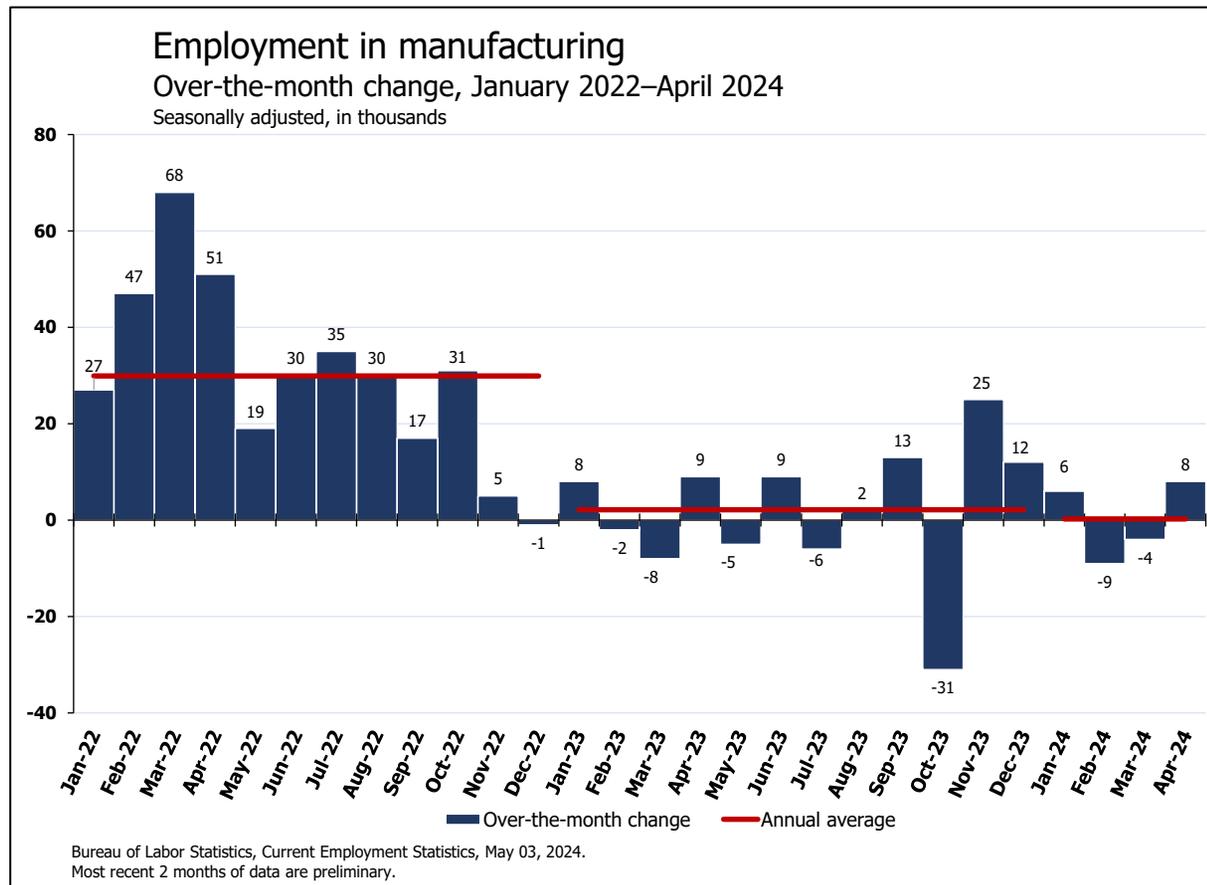
## Construction



Employment in construction changed little in April (+9,000), after increasing by 40,000 in March. Over the prior 12 months, the industry added an average of 22,000 jobs per month.

Recent construction-related indicators are mixed. [Housing starts](#) decreased in March, while [new residential sales](#) increased. Similarly, the [30-year fixed mortgage rate](#) increased in April.

## Manufacturing



In April, manufacturing employment changed little (+8,000).

The manufacturing 1-month diffusion index rose by 16.0 to 54.2 in April following declines in the previous 2 months. A number above 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than are losing jobs.

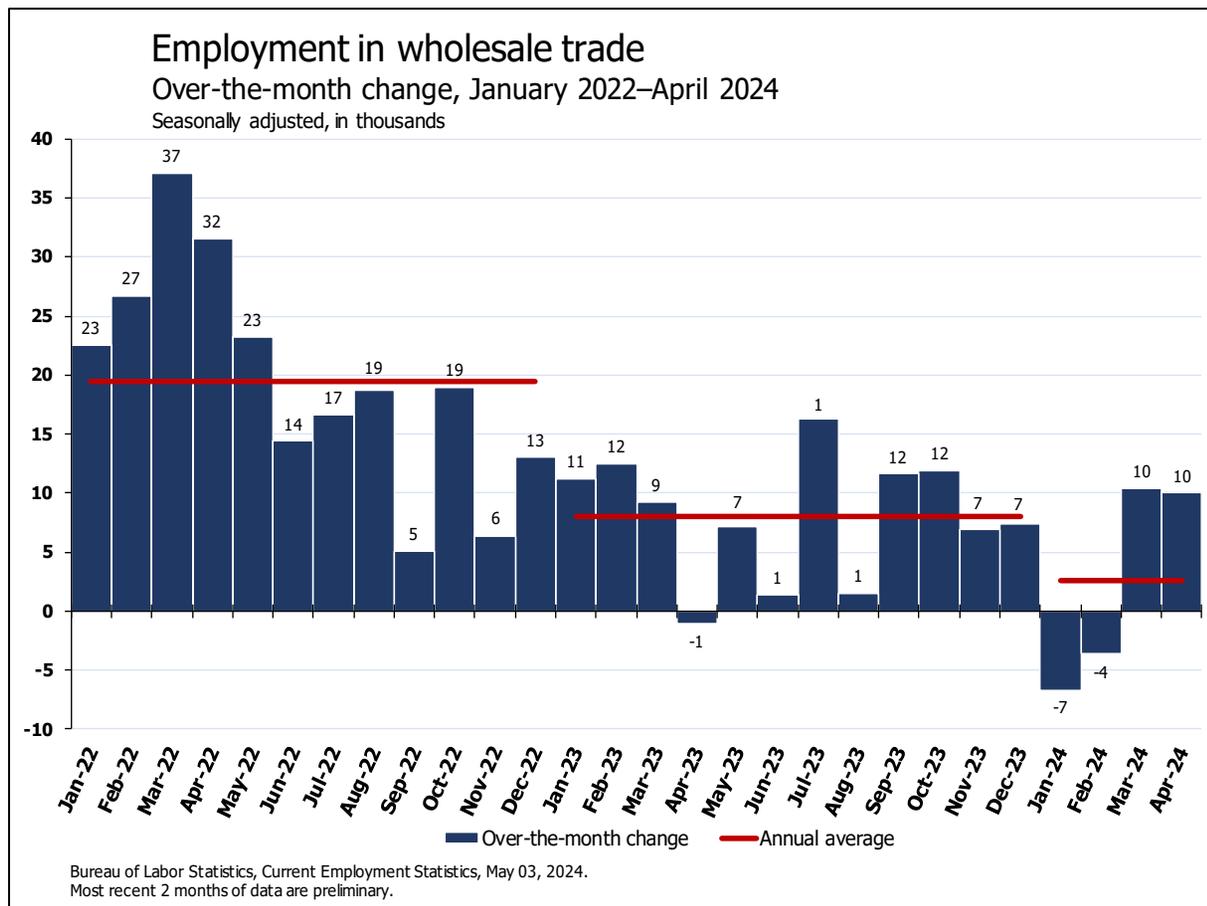
Manufacturing-related indicators, which measure business sentiment and expectations, were weak in April. Both the [Institute of Supply Management's Purchasing Managers' Index \(PMI\)](#) and the [S&P Global US Manufacturing PMI](#) decreased over the month.

In manufacturing, average hourly earnings for all employees fell by 0.4 cents to \$33.61 in April, while average hourly earnings for production employees rose by 9 cents to \$27.54.

In April, average weekly hours of both all employees and production and nonsupervisory employees were unchanged at 40 hours and 40.6 hours, respectively. Average weekly overtime hours for all employees were unchanged at 2.9 hours, while average weekly overtime hours for production and nonsupervisory employees edged down by 0.1 hour to 3.5 hours.

## Wholesale Trade

In April, employment in wholesale trade changed little (+10,000). Over the most recent 12 months, wholesale trade has added 75,000 jobs.



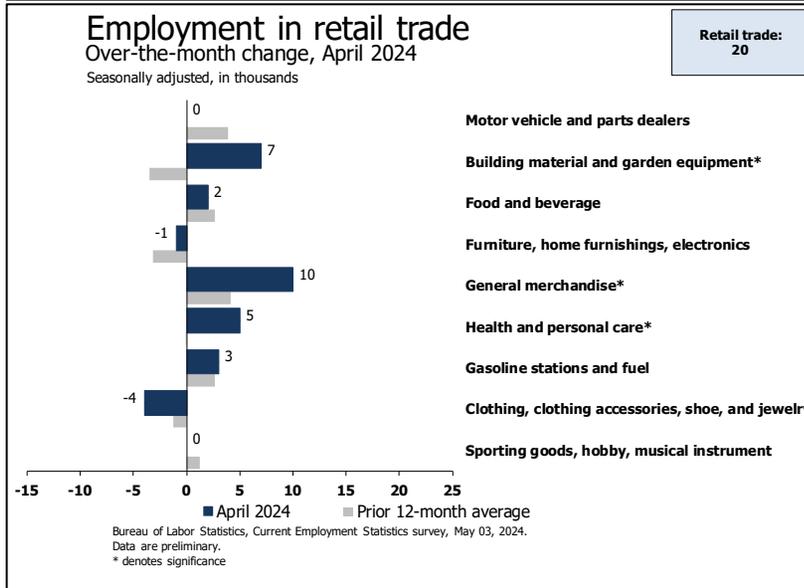
## Retail Trade



Retail trade employment continued to trend up in April (+20,000). Over the prior 12 months, the industry had an average monthly gain of 7,000 jobs.

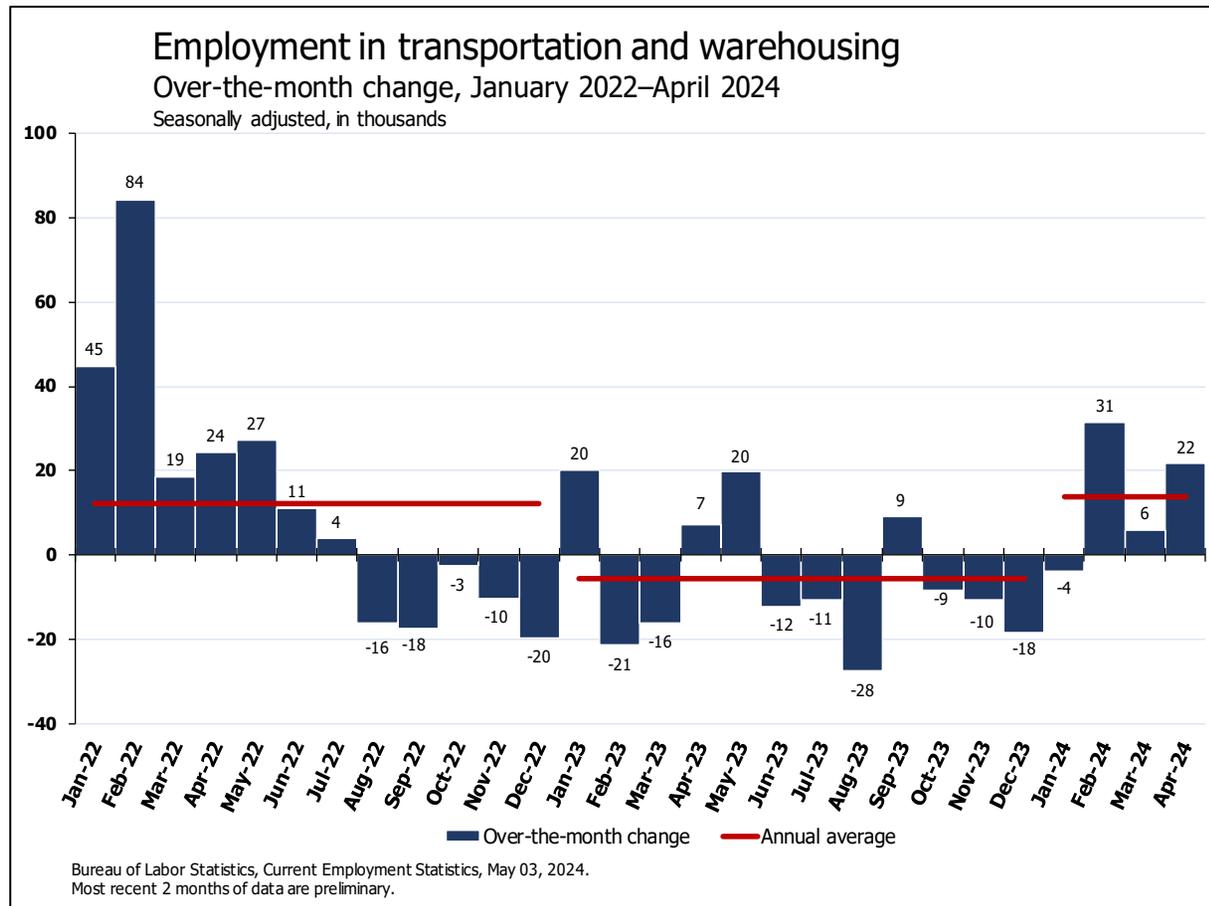
Over the month, general merchandise retailers (+10,000), building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers (+7,000), and health and personal care retailers (+5,000) added jobs, while electronics and appliance retailers lost 3,000 jobs.

Recent retail-related economic indicators are mixed. In April, the per-gallon price of [regular gasoline](#)\* increased, and the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) decreased. Similarly, [Auto Sales](#) decreased in March, while the [Real Personal Consumption Expenditures](#) for goods and [Retail Sales](#) increased in March.



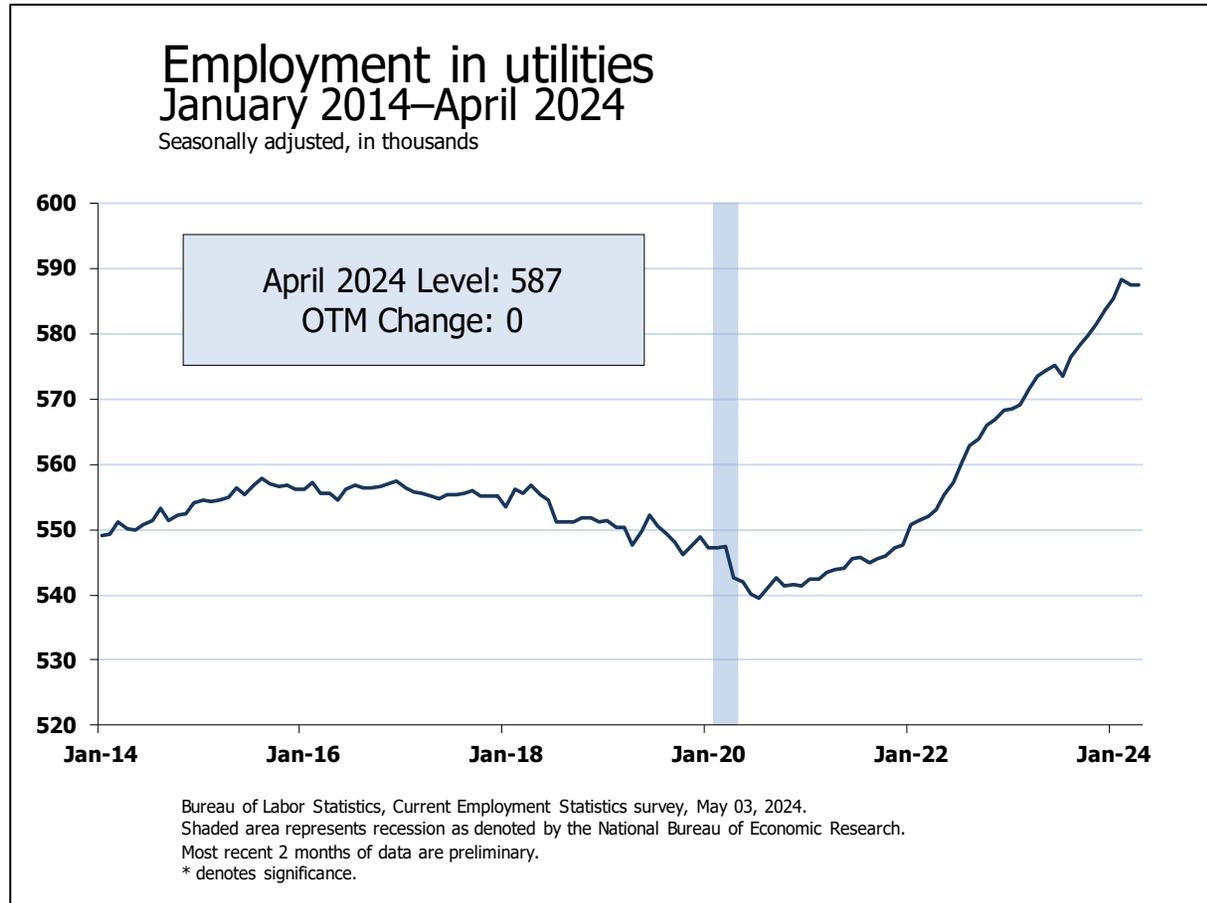
\*The per-gallon price of regular gasoline is a weekly measure, and the over-the-month change reflects the difference in price for the week following the week of the 12<sup>th</sup> for both months.

### Transportation and Warehousing



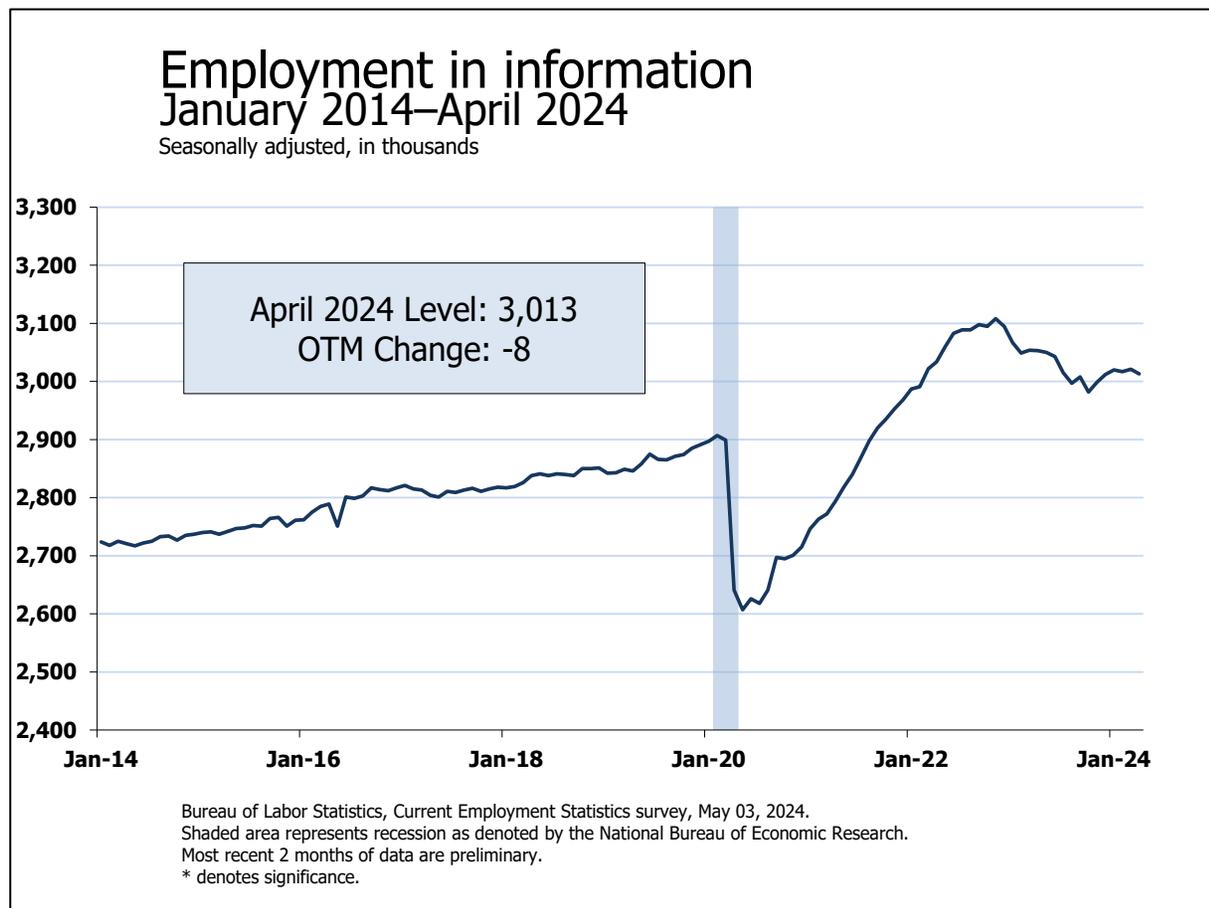
Employment in transportation and warehousing increased by 22,000 in April. Job gains were concentrated in couriers and messengers (+8,000) and warehousing and storage (+8,000). Over the prior 12 months, employment in transportation and warehousing had shown little net change.

## Utilities



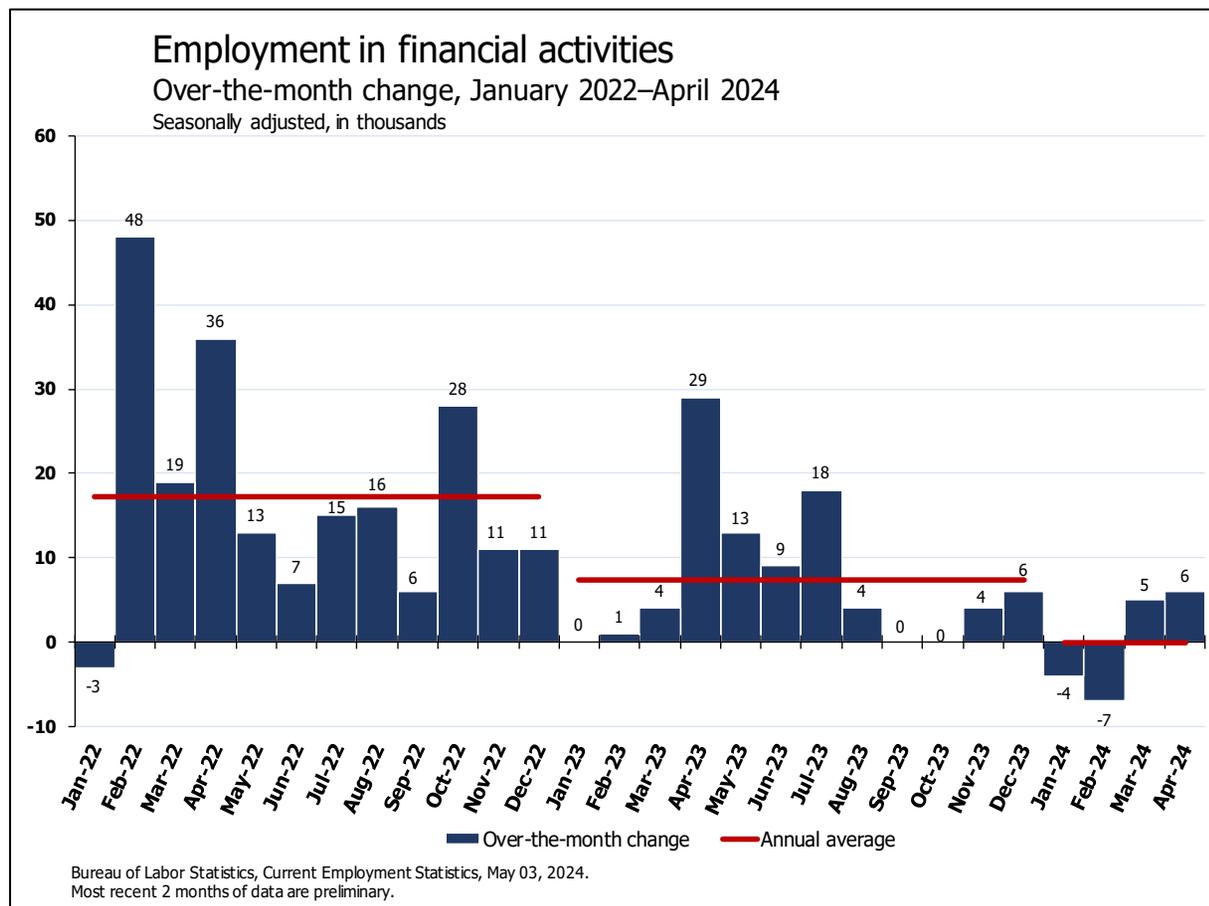
Employment in utilities was flat in April (0). The industry has added 48,000 jobs since its most recent employment trough in July 2020.

### Information



Employment in information changed little in April (-8,000), driven by a loss in motion picture and sound recording industries (-8,000).

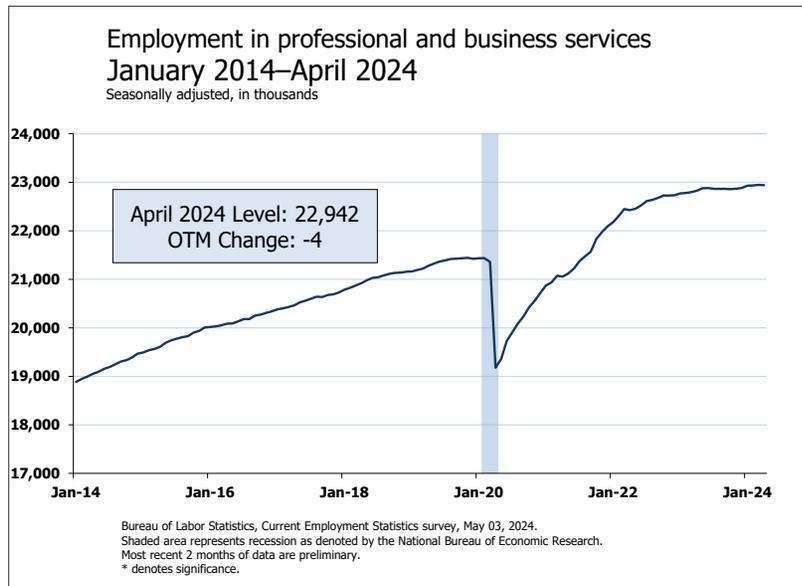
## Financial Activities



Employment in financial activities changed little in April (+6,000) and has shown little net change over the year.

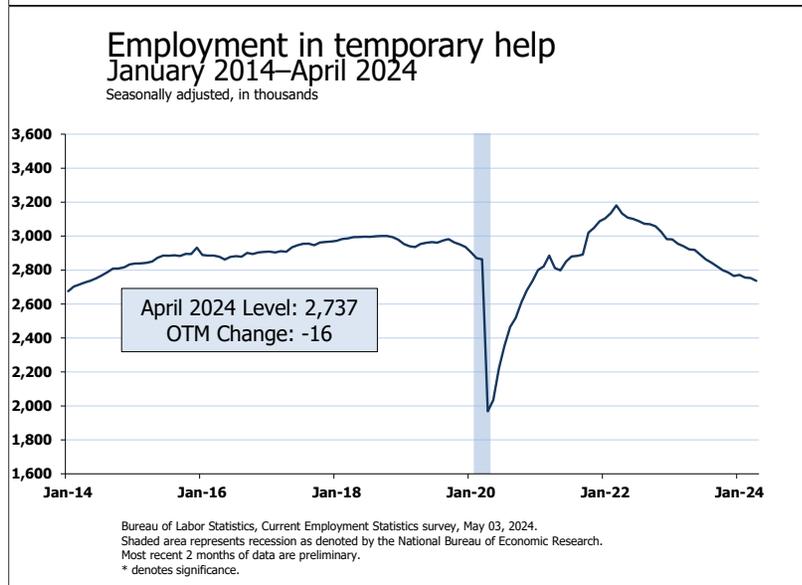
In April, a gain of 8,000 jobs in insurance carriers and related activities was partially offset by a loss of 3,000 jobs in commercial banking.

## Professional and Business Services

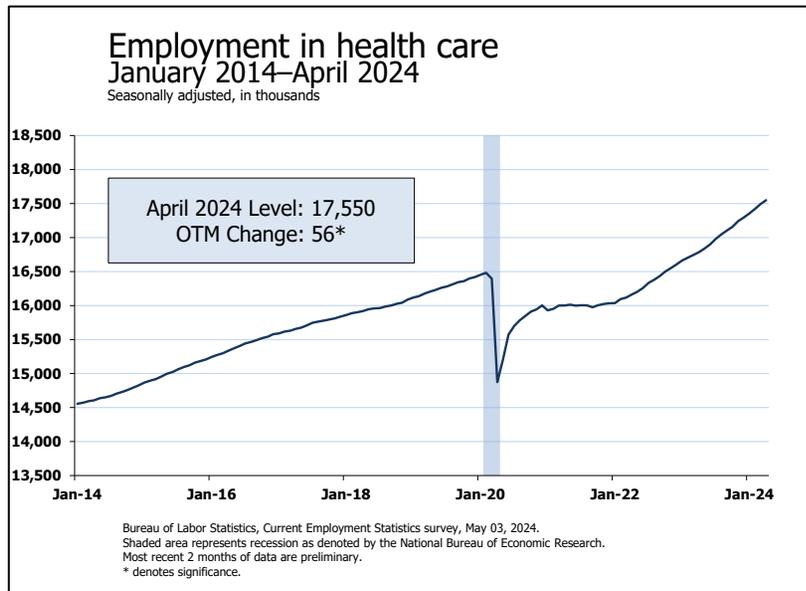


Employment in professional and business services changed little in April (-4,000) and has shown little net change over the most recent 12 months.

Employment in temporary help services changed little in April (-16,000). Since reaching an employment peak in March 2022, temporary help services has shed 445,000 jobs, a decline of 14.0 percent. These job declines coincide with ongoing weakness in the [ASA Staffing Index](#).



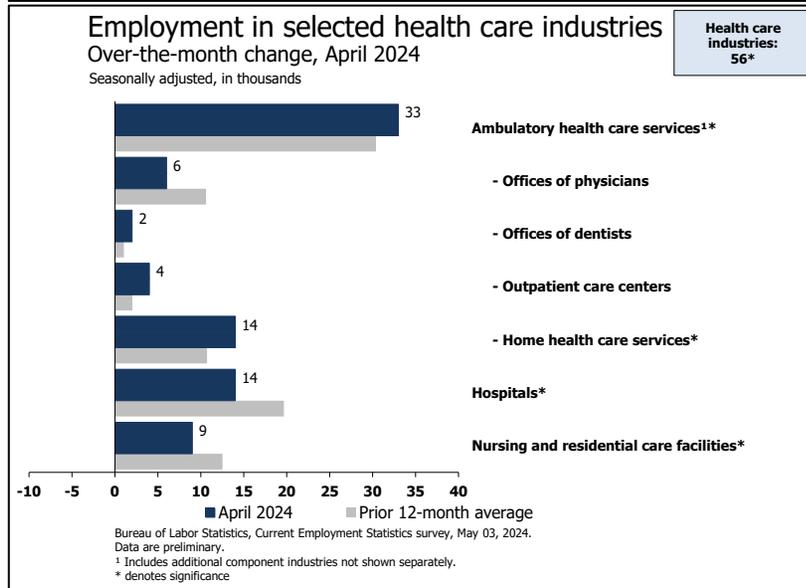
## Private Education and Health Services



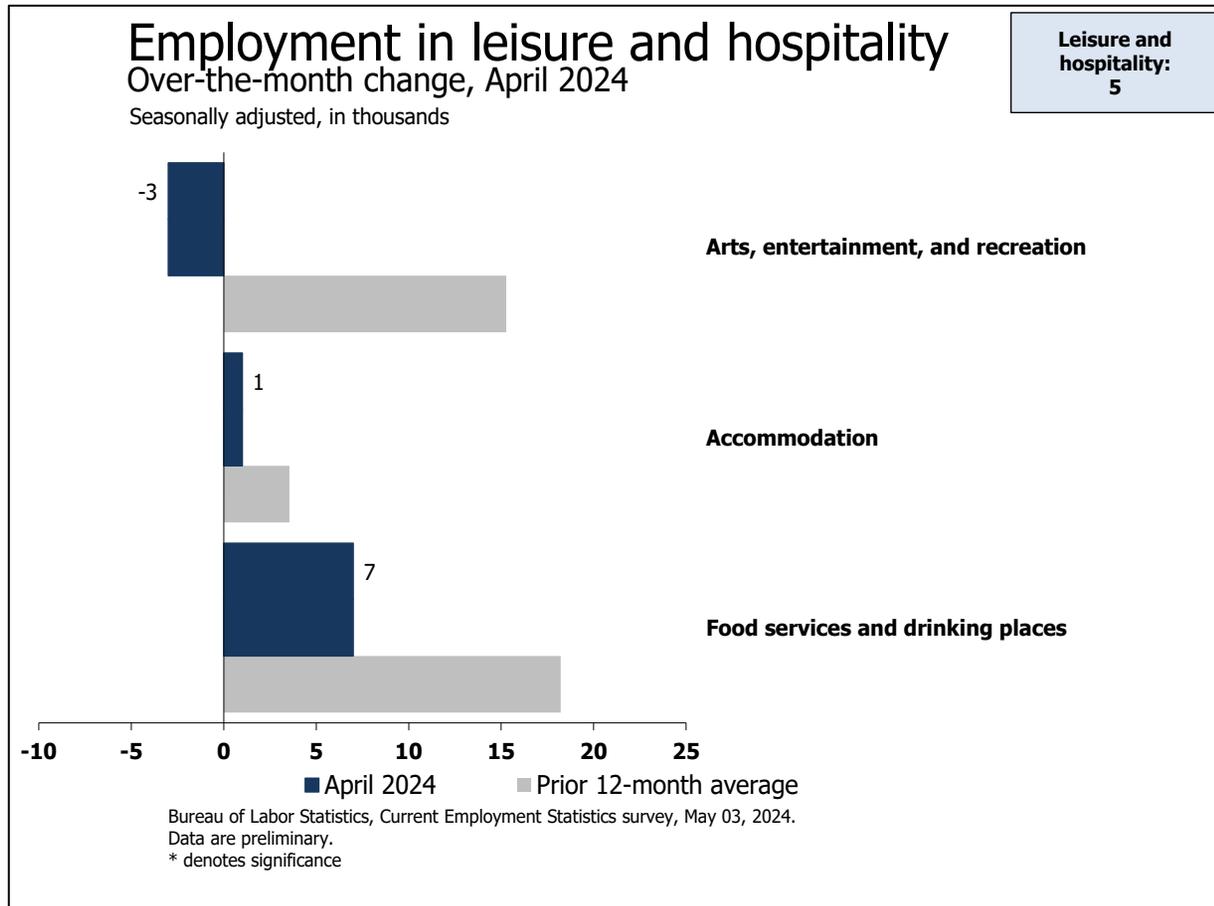
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Over the month, ambulatory health care services (+33,000), hospitals (+14,000), and nursing and residential care facilities (+9,000) added jobs.

Social assistance added 31,000 jobs in April, above its prior 12-month average gain of 21,000 per month. In April, gains were concentrated in individual and family services (+23,000).



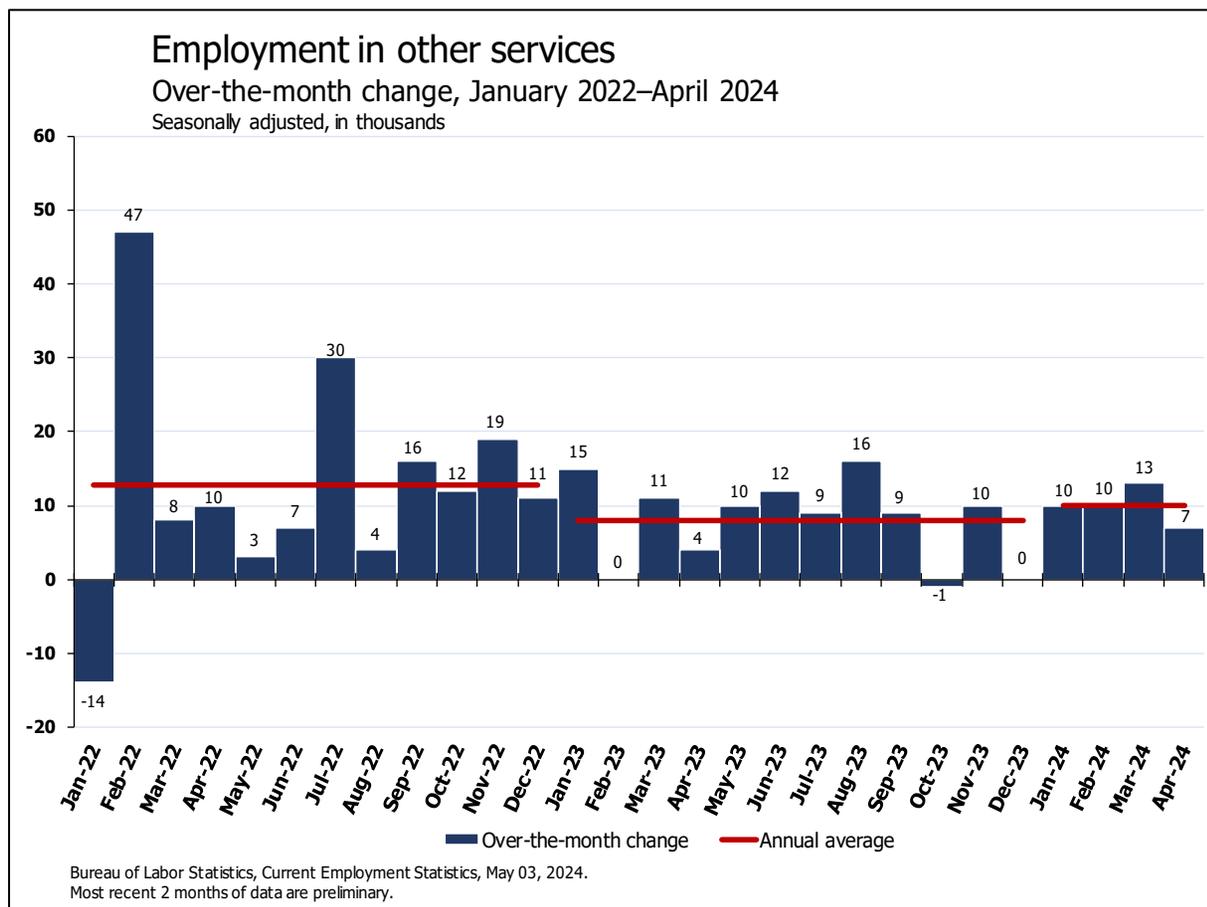
## Leisure and Hospitality



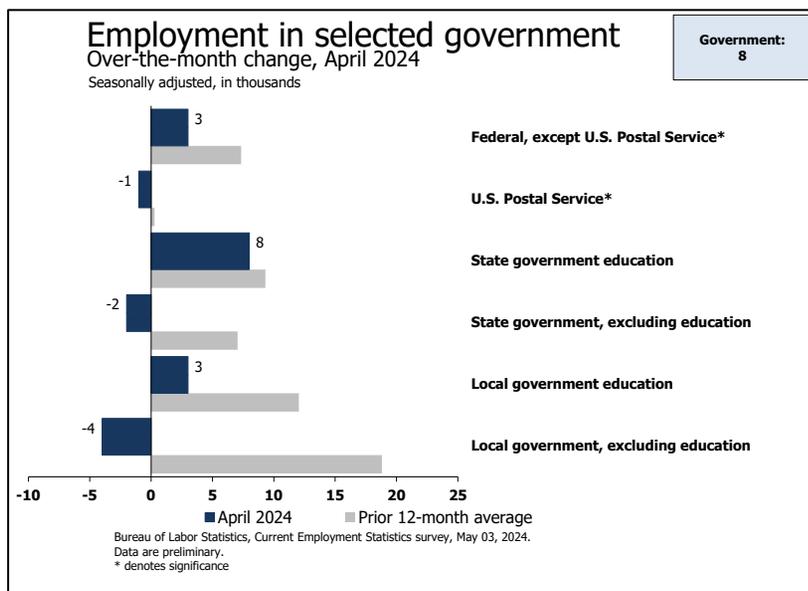
Employment in leisure and hospitality changed little in April (+5,000), after edging up by 53,000 in March.

## Other Services

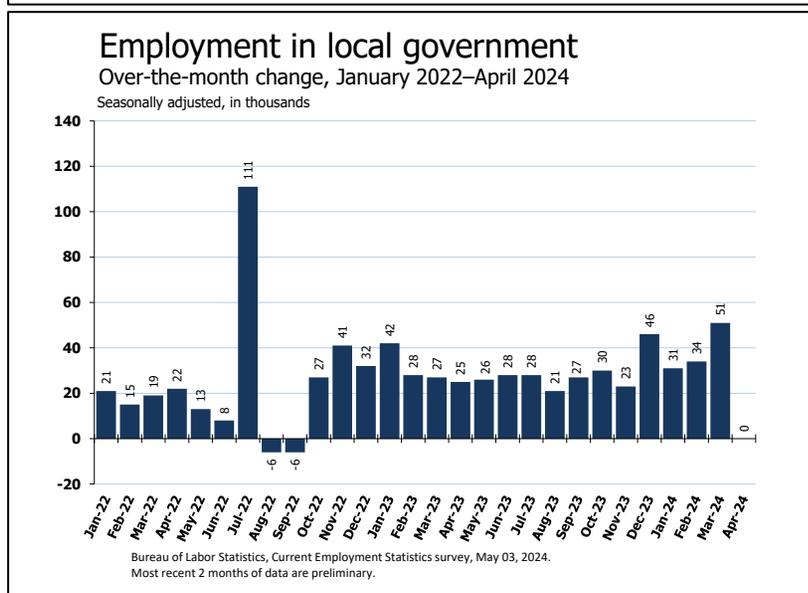
Employment in other services changed little in April (+7,000) and is 37,000 below its February 2020 level.



## Government



Employment in government changed little in April (+8,000). Over the prior 12 months, government had added an average of 55,000 jobs per month. In April, employment in local government was unchanged, following an increase of 51,000 in March.





Prepared by Staff of the National Estimates Branch  
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