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# Current Employment Statistics Highlights



**August 2015**

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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, August 2015

Nonfarm employment increased by 173,000 in August, after rising by 245,000 in each of the prior 2 months. In August, health care and financial activities added jobs. Employment in mining and manufacturing fell over the month.

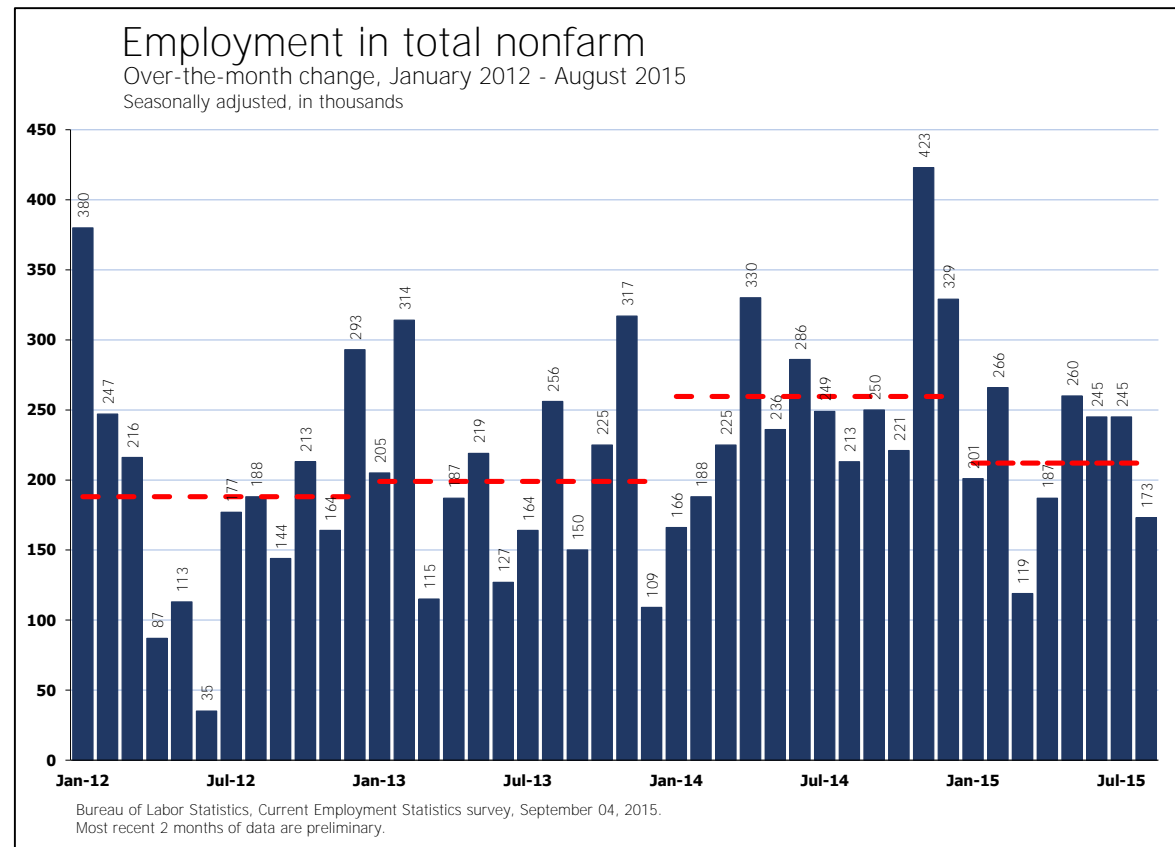
The employment change for June revised up from +231,000 to +245,000, and the change for July revised up from +215,000 to +245,000. Incorporating revisions, employment has increased by an average 221,000 per month over the past 3 months

Average hourly earnings for all employees on private, nonfarm payrolls rose by 8 cents in August, following a 6-cent gain in July. Hourly earnings are up 2.2 percent over the year. In August, average weekly hours of all employees edged up 0.1 hour to 34.6 hours

### +62,000 Education and Health Services

Employment in health care rose by 41,000 in August. Ambulatory health care accounted for about half of the increase. Hospital employment grew by 16,000 over the month. Since reaching an employment trough in February 2014, hospitals have added 155,000 jobs; more than two thirds of the jobs have been added thus far this year.

Social assistance added 16,000 jobs in August as well.



### +19,000 Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities rose by 19,000 in August, with employment growth in real estate (+8,000) and in securities, commodity contracts, investments and funds (+5,000). Employment in insurance carriers

and related activities continued to trend up. Over the past 12 months, employment in financial activities has grown by 170,000, with insurance accounting for 47 percent of the growth.

## Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, August 2015

### -10,000 Mining and Logging

Mining lost 9,000 jobs in August. Since reaching a peak in December 2014, mining employment has declined by 90,000. Support activities for mining accounted for 73,000 of the jobs lost over the same period.

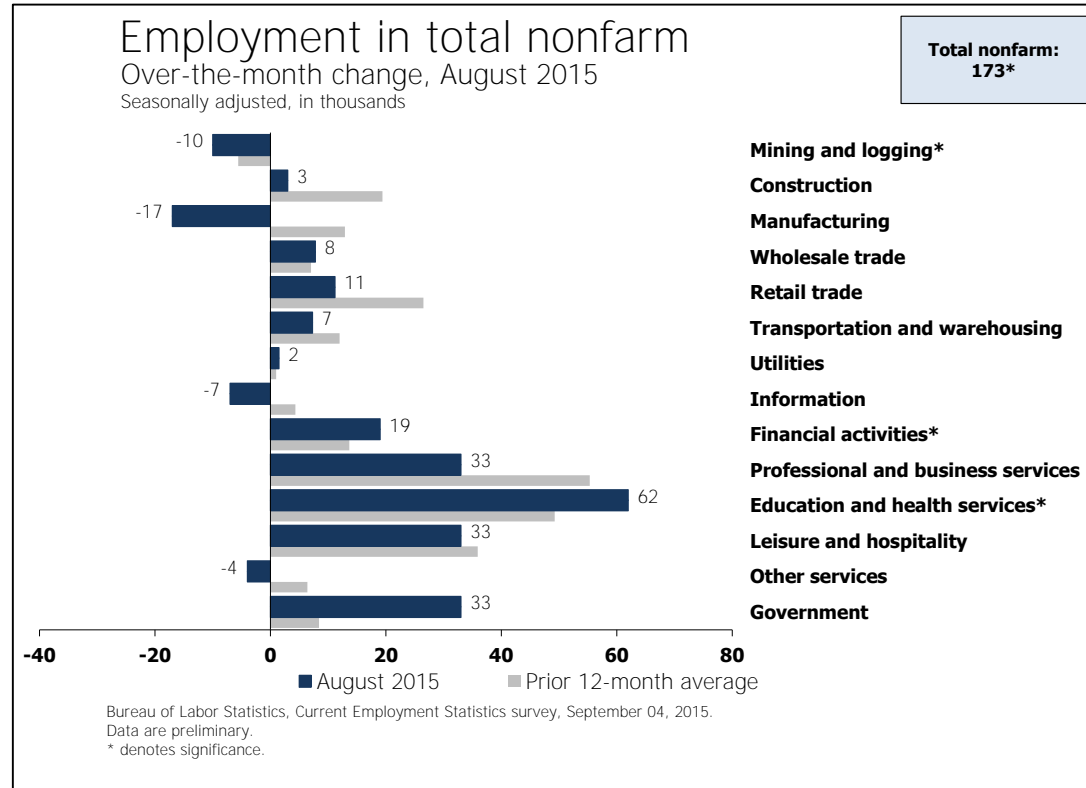
### -17,000 Manufacturing

Manufacturing lost 17,000 jobs in August. Within durable goods manufacturing, employment edged down, as job losses in fabricated metal products (-7,000), machinery (-4,000), and semiconductors and electronic components (-2,000) more than offset job gains in motor vehicles and parts (+6,000) and miscellaneous durable goods (+4,000). Within nondurable goods manufacturing, employment fell by 12,000 in August. Food manufacturing (-7,000) and plastics and rubber products (-3,000) contributed to the job loss.

### +33,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in August. Over the prior 12 months, job growth had averaged 55,000 per month.

In August, employment continued to trend up in computer systems design and related services (+7,000), and in management and technical consulting services (+6,000).



### +33,000 Leisure and Hospitality

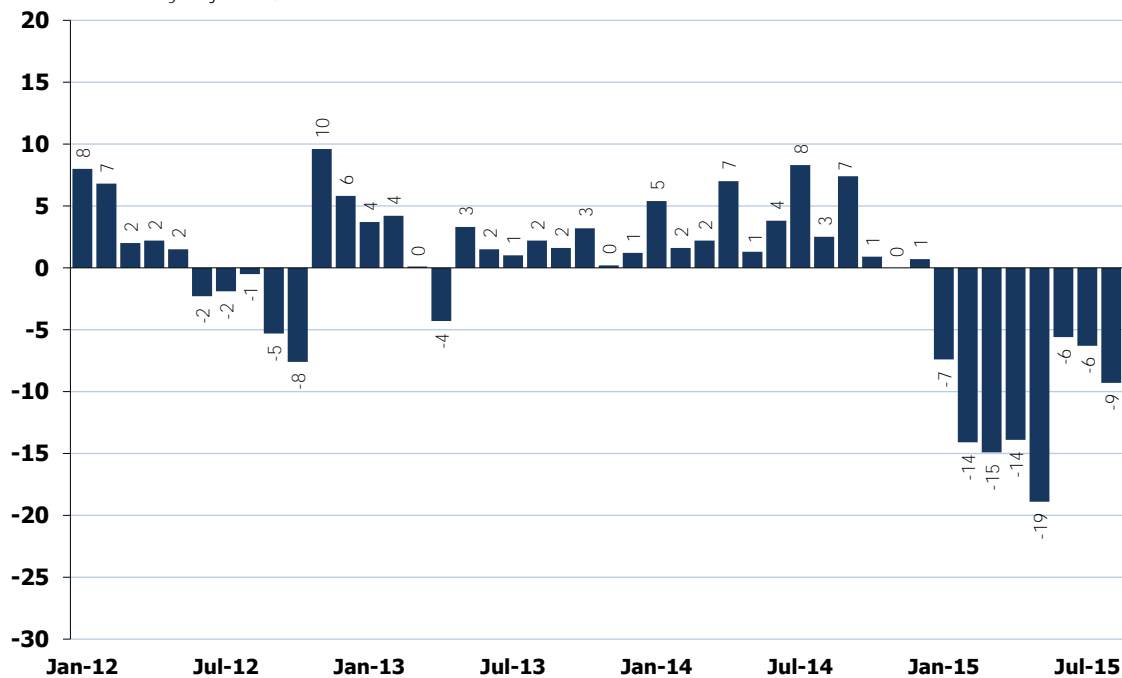
Within leisure and hospitality, employment in food services and drinking places continued to trend up in August (+26,000). Over the year, food services has added 372,000 jobs.

## Mining and Logging

### Employment in mining

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

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 04, 2015.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in mining and logging declined by 10,000 in August, equal to its prior 3-month average.

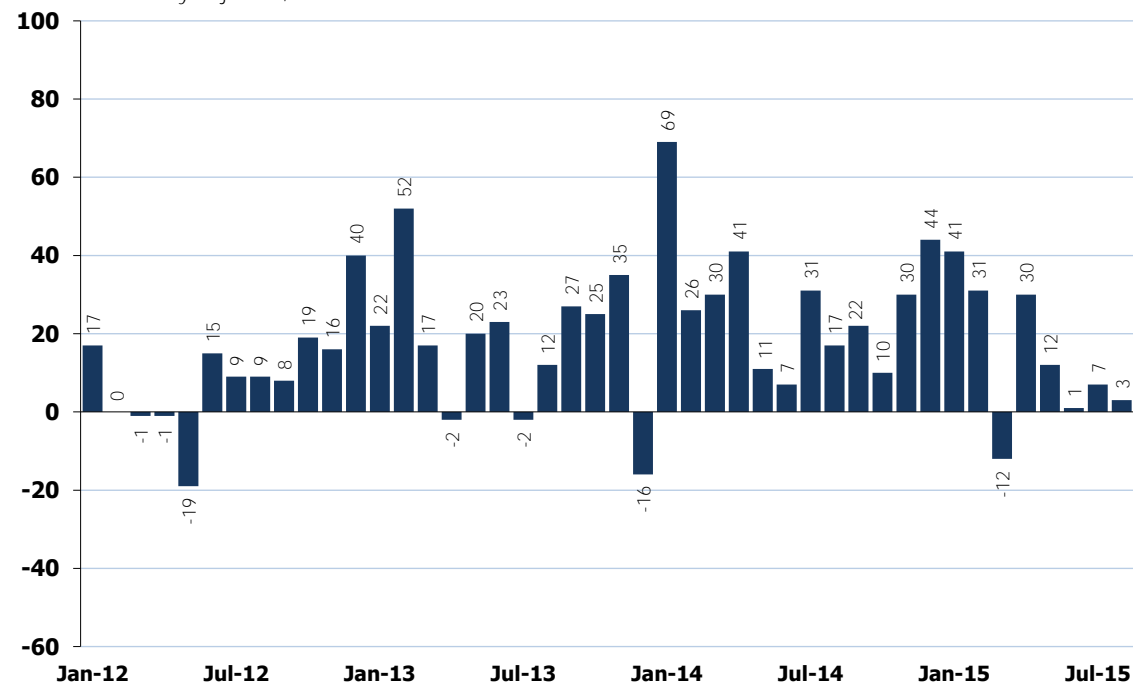
Mining was responsible for the majority of the industry's employment losses in August (-9,000). Since reaching a peak in December, mining has lost 90,000 jobs, with support activities for mining accounting for most of the loss (-73,000).

## Construction

### Employment in construction

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

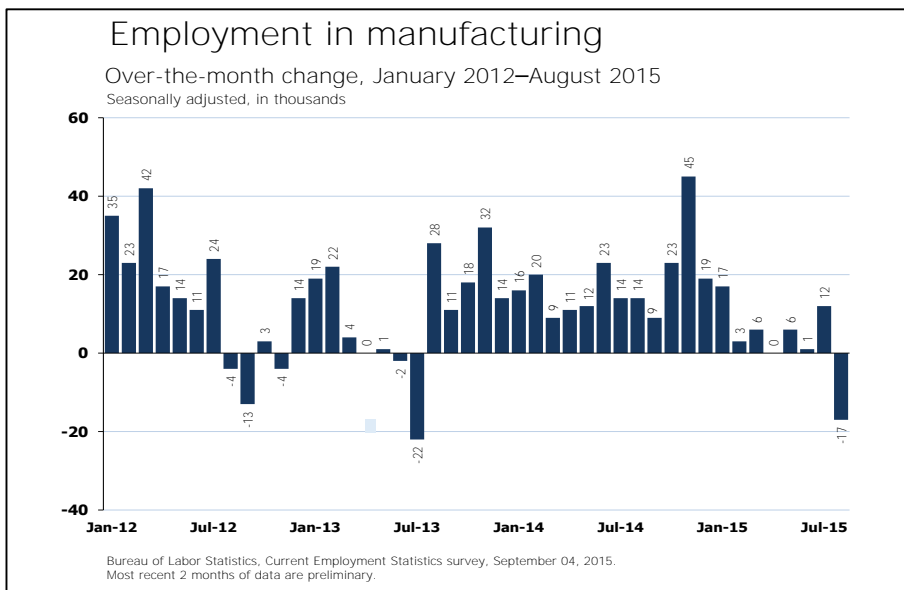
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 04, 2015.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in construction changed little (+3,000) in August and has changed little over the past 3 months (+11,000).

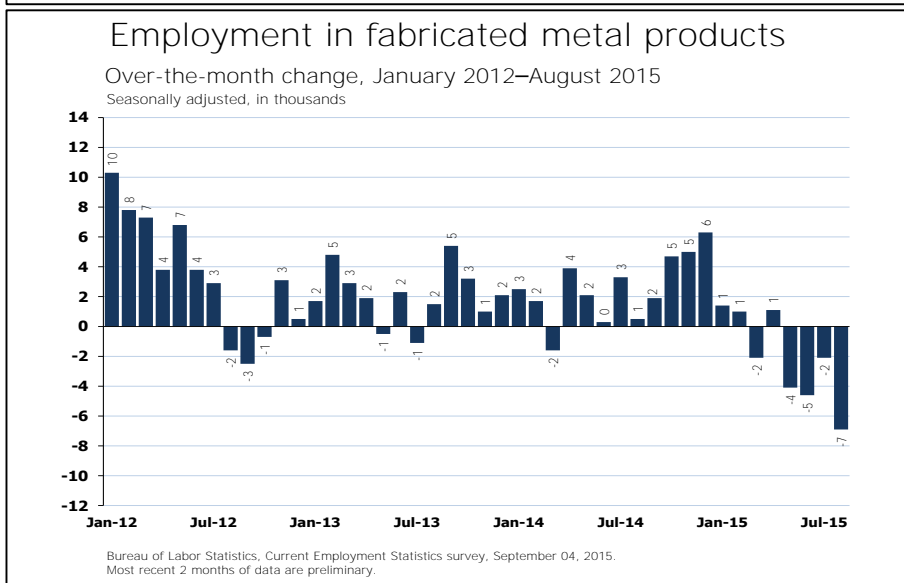
## Manufacturing



Employment in manufacturing declined in August (-17,000). Within durable goods, losses in fabricated metal products (-7,000) and machinery (-4,000) offset gains in motor vehicles and parts (+6,000) and miscellaneous manufacturing (+4,000). Nondurable goods shed 12,000 jobs, partly offsetting a 19,000 gain the previous month.

The one-month diffusion index for manufacturing decreased to 41.3 in August from 50.6 in July, the lowest index reading since January 2010. 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.

Average weekly hours in manufacturing remained unchanged for production employees at 41.8 hours and for all employees at 40.8 hours.

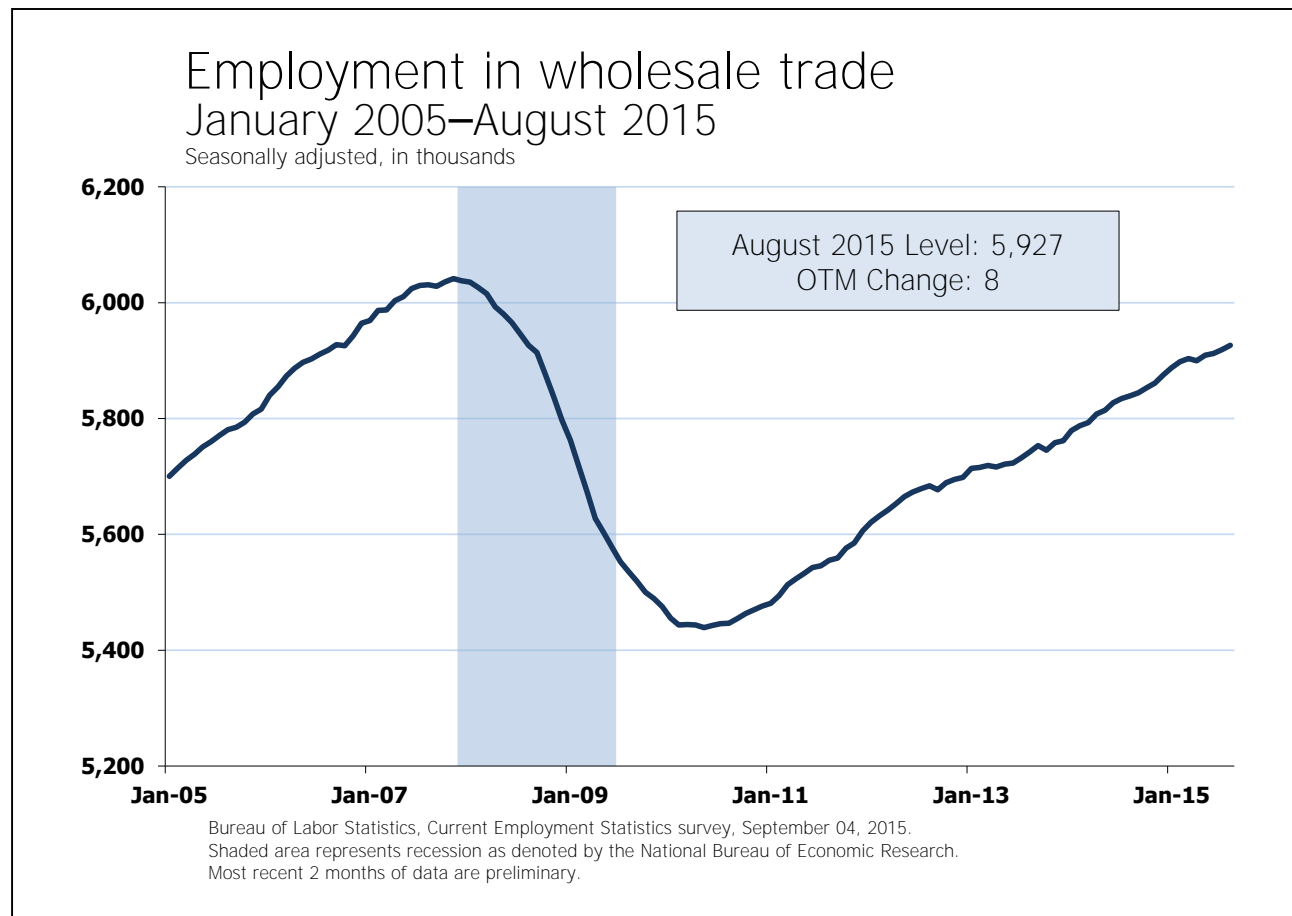


### NAICS 332—Fabricated metal products manufacturing

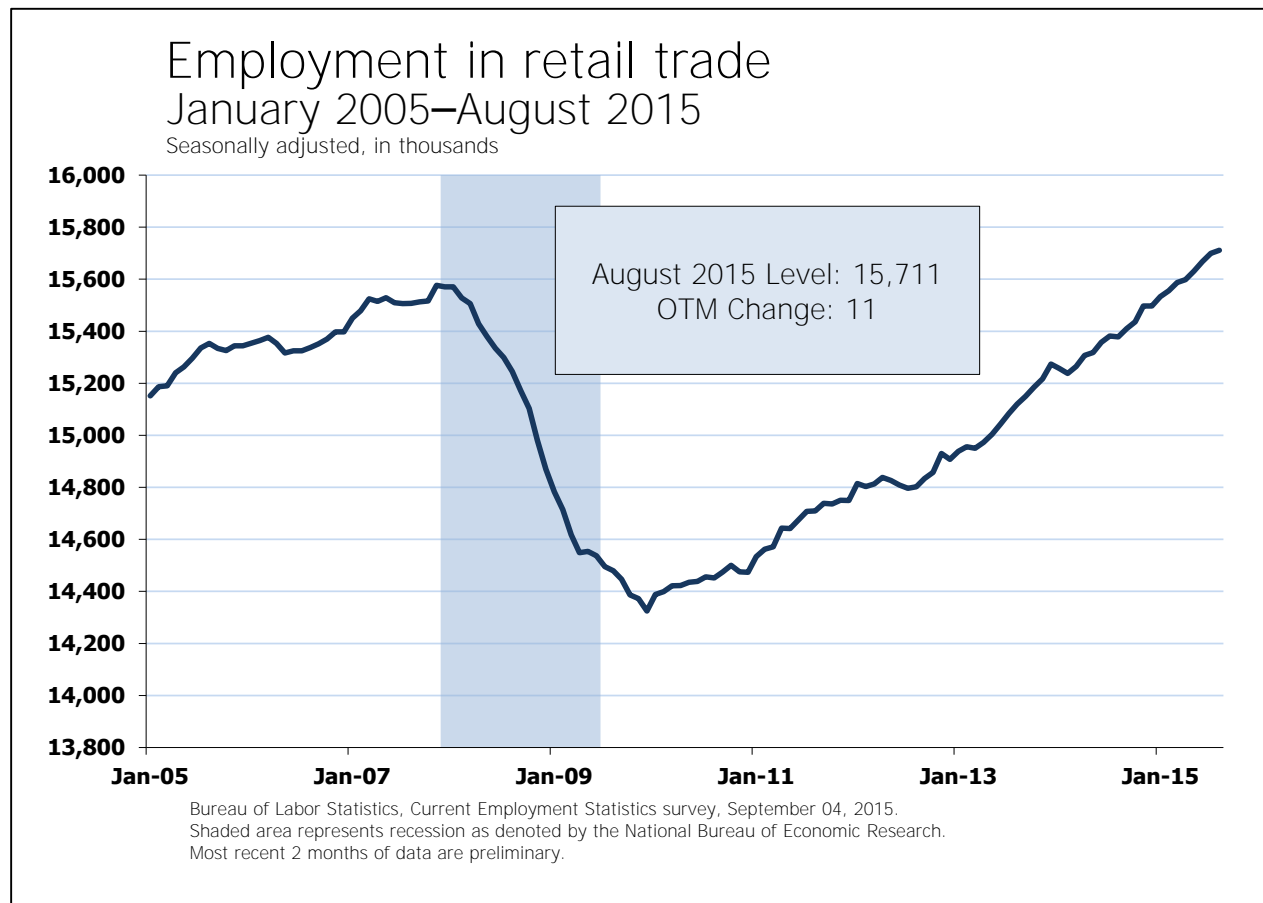
Fabricated metal products lost 7,000 jobs in August. Over the past 6 months, 19,000 jobs were lost in this industry. In August, job losses in fabricated metal products were concentrated in machine shops and in architectural and structural metals.

## Wholesale Trade

Employment in wholesale trade changed little in August (+8,000).



## Retail Trade



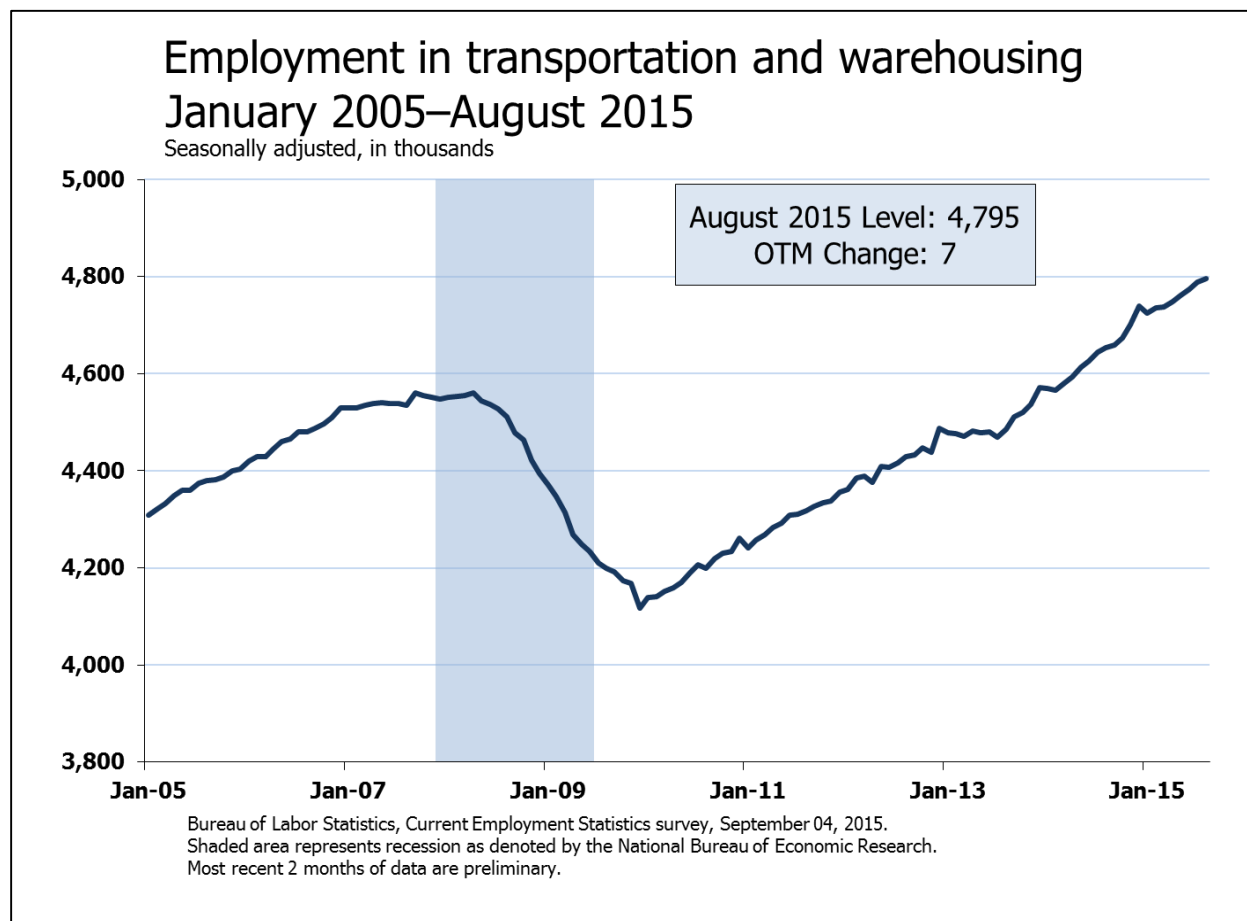
Employment in retail trade changed little in August (+11,000), following average gains of 34,000 over the prior 3 months.

### NAICS 4521 – Department Stores

Employment in department stores fell by 7,000 in August. Over the year, the industry has lost 33,000 jobs.



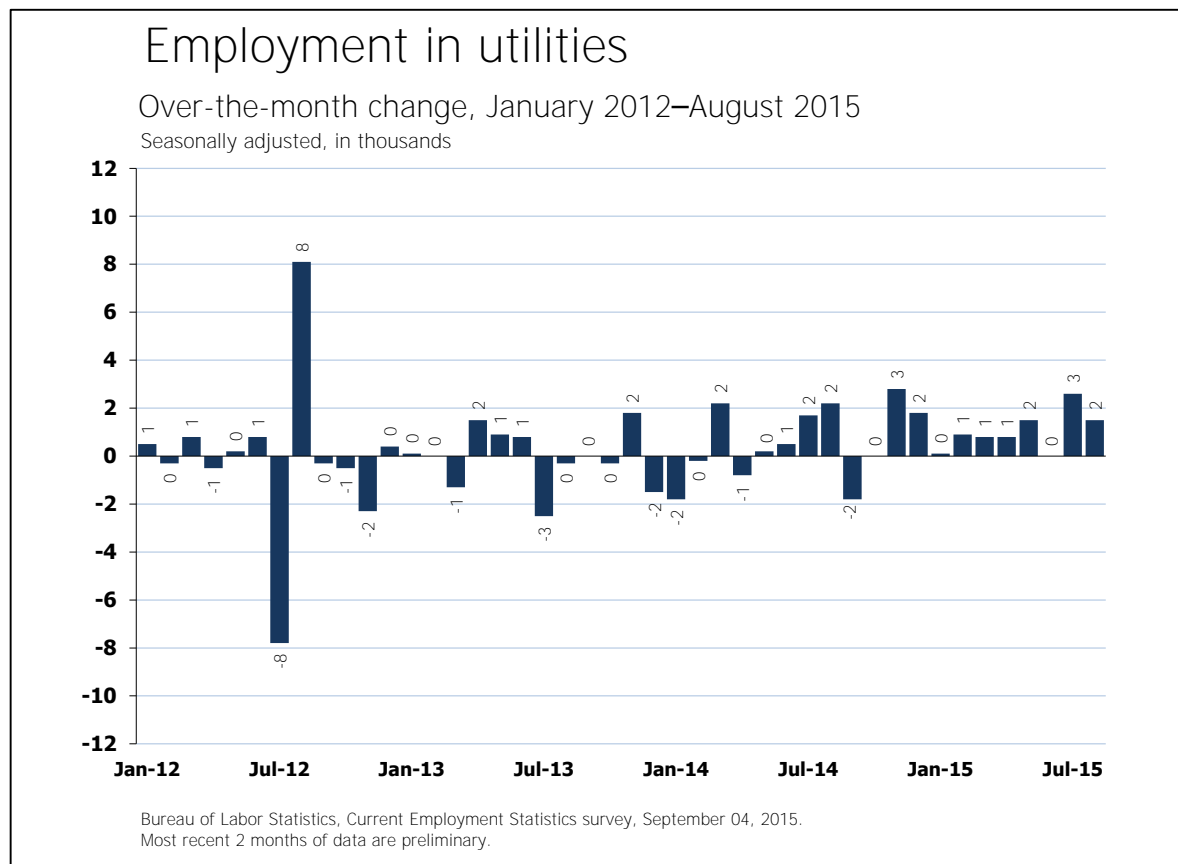
## Transportation and Warehousing



Employment in transportation and warehousing continued to trend upward in August (+7,000). The industry has added 141,000 jobs over the past 12 months.

## Utilities

Utilities employment edged up (+2,000) in August.

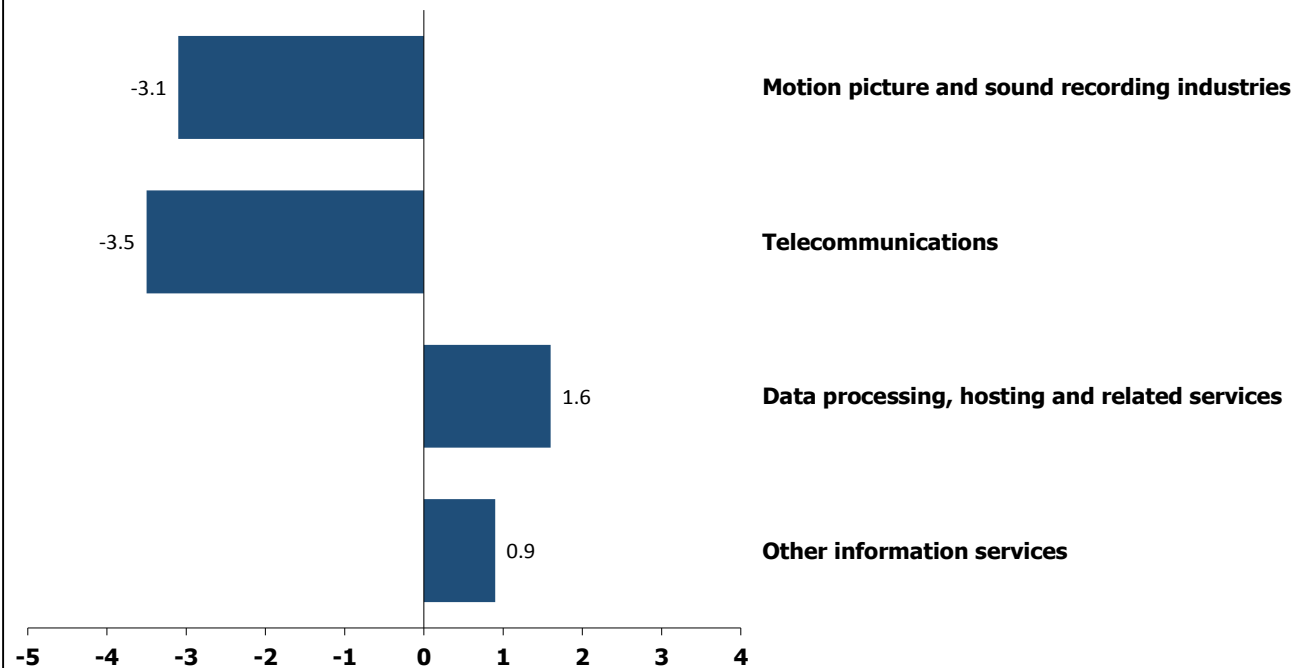


### Information

## Employment in information

Over-the-month change, August 2015

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



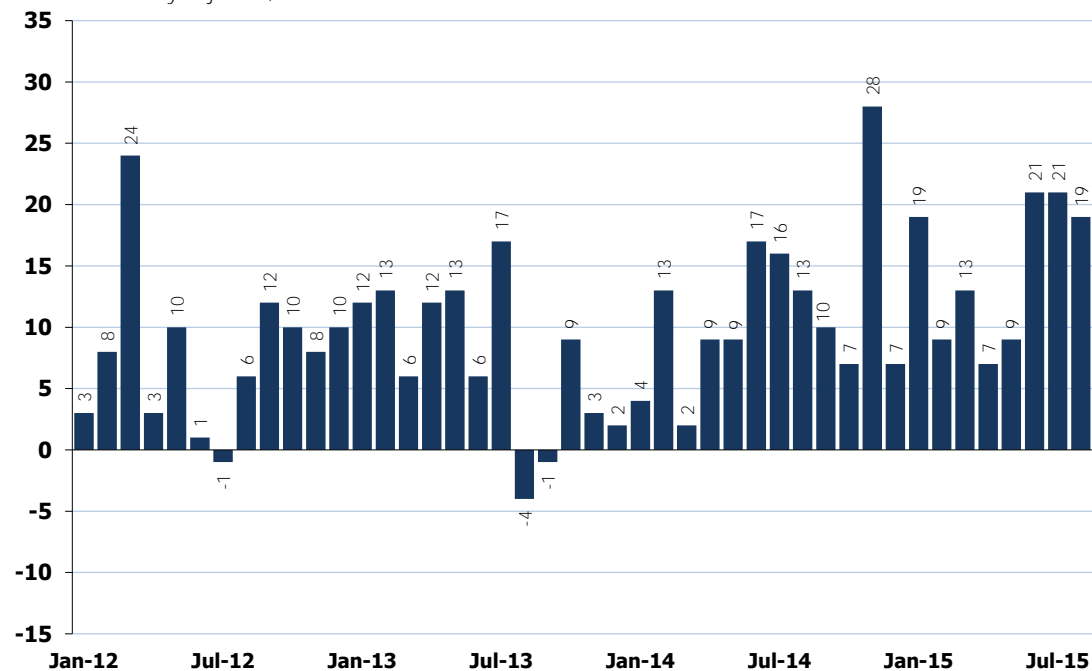
Employment in information changed little in August (-7,000). Telecommunications lost 4,000 jobs, offsetting a gain in July.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 04, 2015.

## Financial Activities

### Employment in financial activities

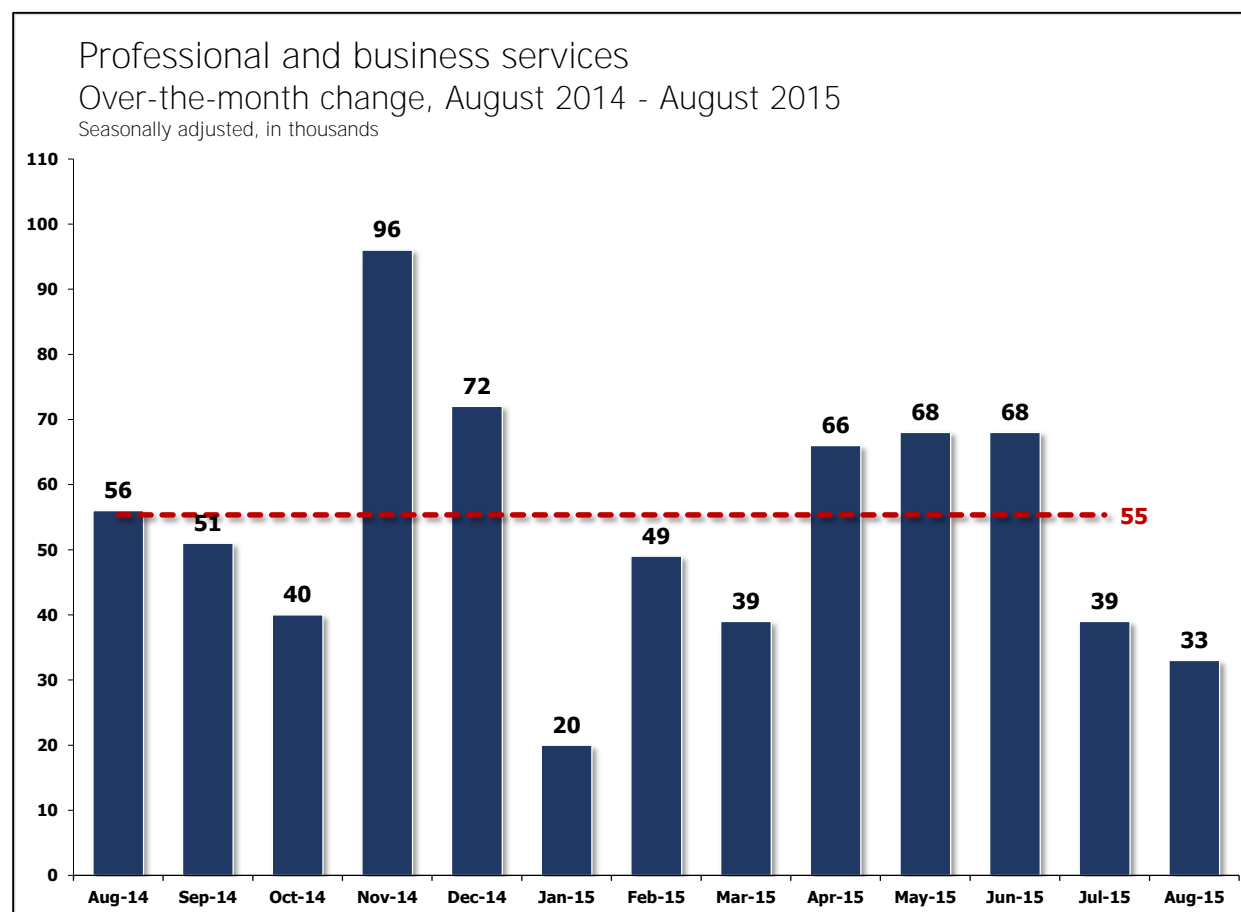
Over-the-month change, January 2012–August 2015  
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 04, 2015.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in financial activities increased by 19,000 in August and has grown by 170,000 over the past 12 months. Job growth in securities, commodity contracts, investments, and funds and trusts (+5,000) and in real estate (+8,000) accounted for most of the August gain in financial activities.

## Professional and Business Services



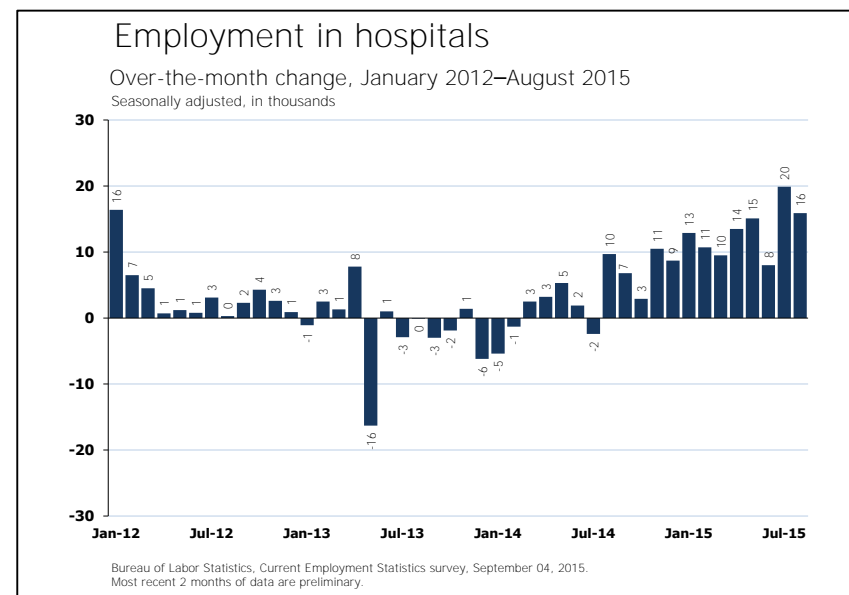
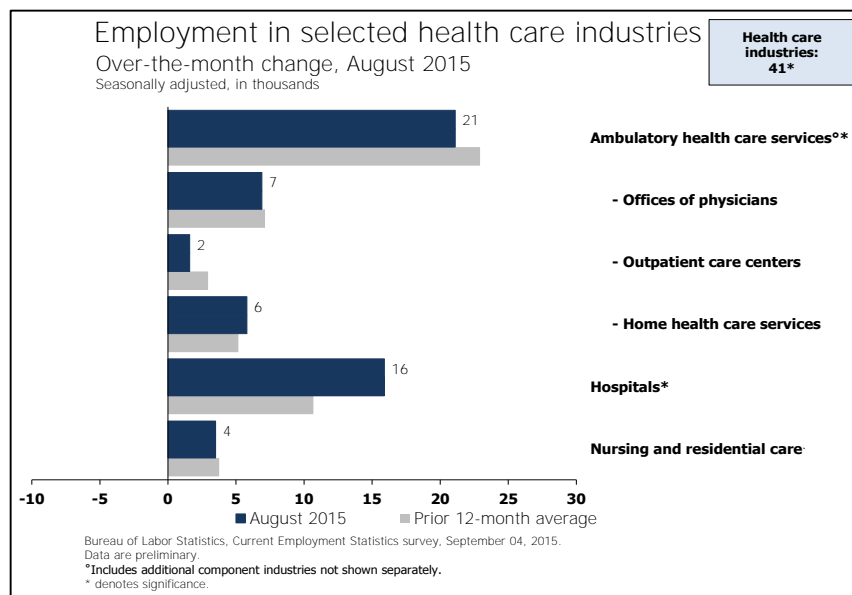
Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in August (+33,000), short of its prior-12 month average change of 55,000.

Professional and technical services employment edged up by 15,000 over the month. Computer systems design and related services (+7,000) and management and technical consulting services (+6,000) continued to be major contributors to employment growth.

Employment in management of companies and enterprises was flat over-the-month (+3,000), following a gain of 13,000 in July.

Administrative and waste services employment changed little in August (+16,000), following little change in July. Over the prior 3 months (April-June), job gains had averaged 35,000 per month.

## Private Education and Health Services



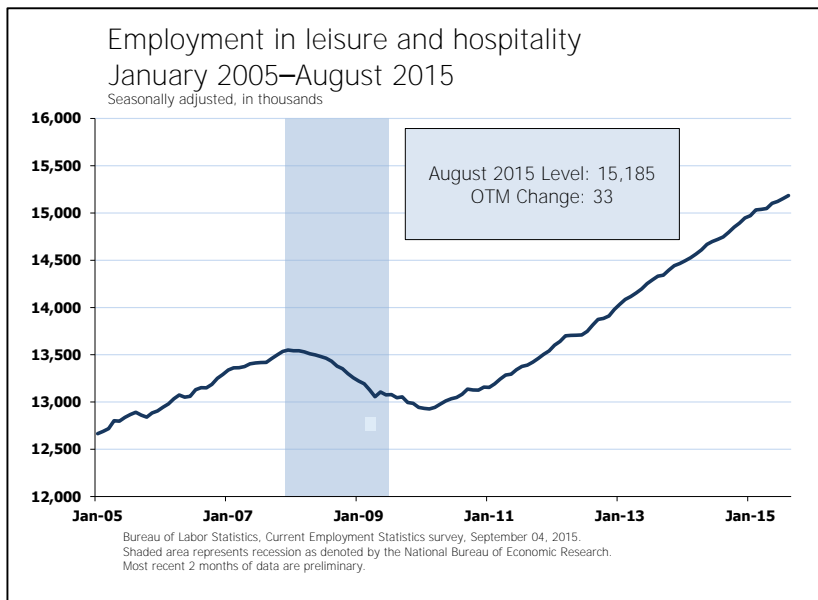
Employment in education and health services increased by 62,000 in August, with the majority of the gain occurring in health care. Over the past 12 months, private education and health services has expanded by 611,000 jobs.

In August, employment in ambulatory health care services and in hospitals expanded by 21,000 and 16,000, respectively. Social assistance added 16,000 jobs over the month as well.

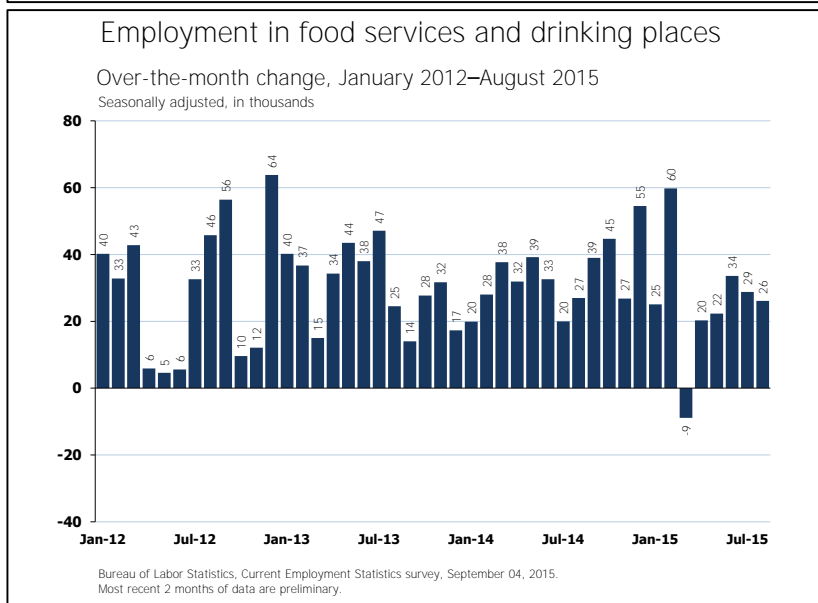
### NAICS 622—Hospitals

Hospitals added 16,000 jobs in August, after adding 20,000 jobs in July. Employment in the industry has increased by 134,000 over the past 12 months, accounting for 22 percent of the job gains within all of private education and health services in the same period.

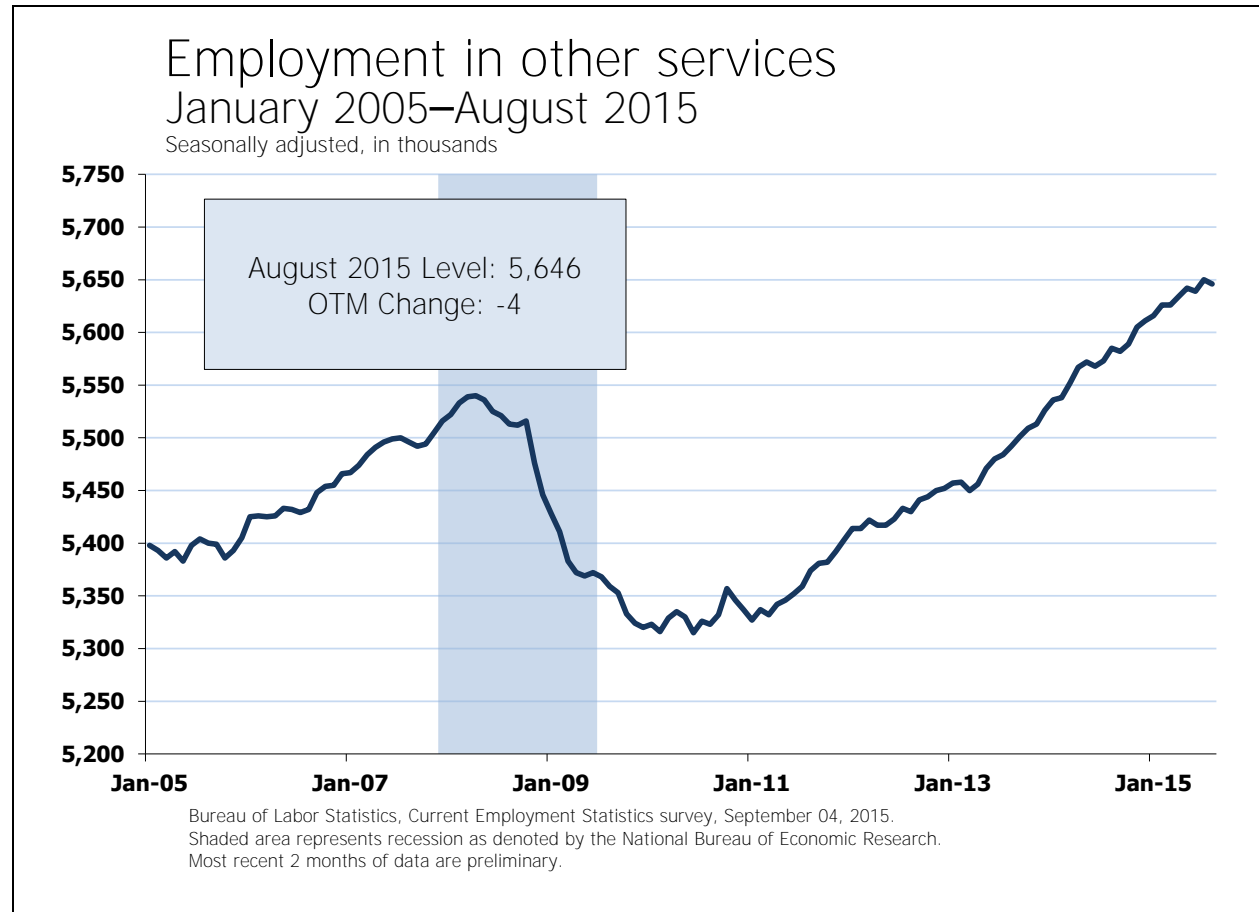
## Leisure and Hospitality



In August, employment in leisure and hospitality edged up (+33,000). Food services and drinking places employment continued to trend up (+26,000), and the industry has added 372,000 jobs in the last 12 months.



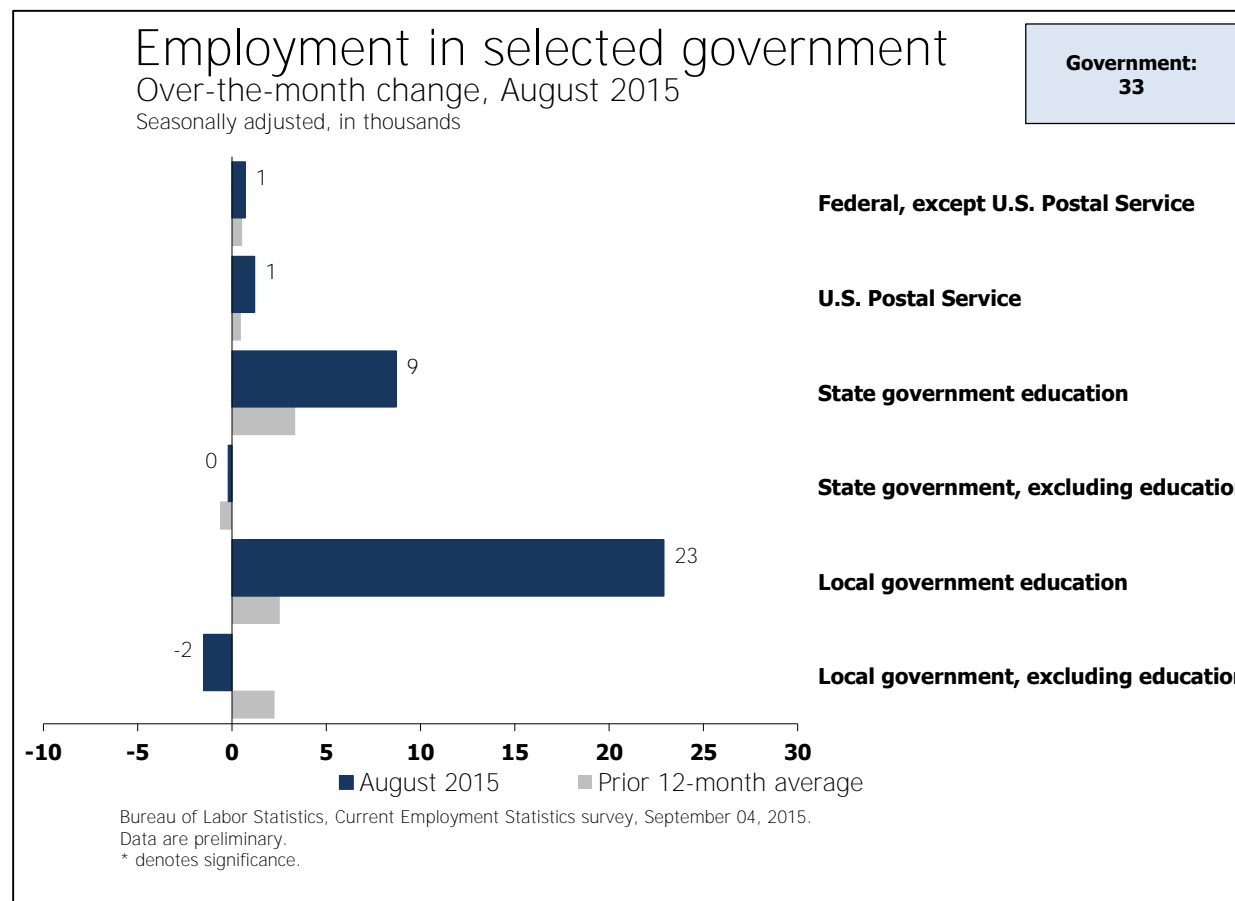
## Other Services



Employment in other services changed little (-4,000) in August. Over the most recent 12-month period, however, other services gained 61,000 jobs.



## Government



Government employment changed little in August (+33,000). Employment at the federal, state, and local levels changed little over the month. Government has added 81,000 jobs since May, with the majority of the employment gain occurring in local government education.



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### CES Analysts

Michael Calvillo

Steve Crestol

Tyler Downing

Brittney Forbes

Lyda Ghanbari

Mike McCall

John Mullins

Michael Osifalujo

Edward Park

Kara Sullivan

Jay Stuart

Parth Tikiwala

Prepared by Staff of the National Estimates Branch  
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[Email CES](#)