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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



March 2019

Release Date: April 5, 2019

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, March 2019

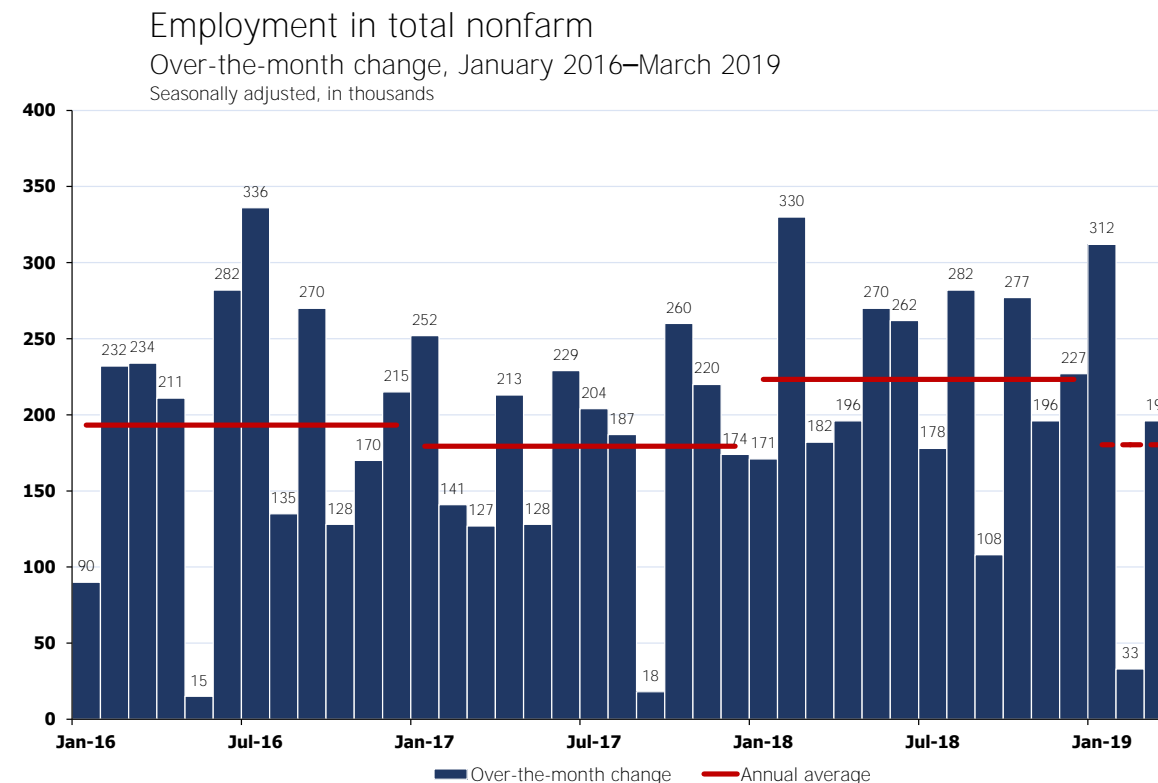
Nonfarm employment increased by 196,000 in March. Over the month, employment rose in health care and in professional and technical services.

The employment change for February revised up from +20,000 to +33,000, and the change for January revised up from +311,000 to +312,000. With these revisions, job growth has averaged 180,000 thus far in 2019, compared to 223,000 in 2018.

Average hourly earnings of all private-sector employees increased by 4 cents in March, after rising by 10 cents in February. Over the year, hourly earnings have risen by 3.2 percent. Average weekly hours, at 34.5 hours, rose 0.1 hour in March, after a 0.1-hour decline in February.

+70,000 Education and Health Services

Health care added 49,000 jobs in March. Within the industry, employment increased in ambulatory care services (+27,000), with offices of dentists adding 5,000 jobs and home health care services adding 8,000 jobs. Hospital employment also rose by 14,000. Over the past 12 months, health care has added 398,000 jobs.



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, April 05, 2019. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

+37,000 Professional and Business Services

In March, employment rose in professional and technical services (+34,000), with computer system design and related services adding 12,000 jobs. Over the year,

professional and technical services has added 311,000 jobs.

+33,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in food services and drinking places continued to trend up over the month

Current Employment Statistics Summary, March 2019

(+27,000). Over the year, employment in the industry has grown by 309,000.

+16,000 Construction

Employment in construction changed little in March (+16,000). The industry has added 246,000 jobs over the past 12 months.

-6,000 Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment change little for a second month (-6,000 in March). In the 12 months prior to February, manufacturing employment growth had averaged 22,000 per month.

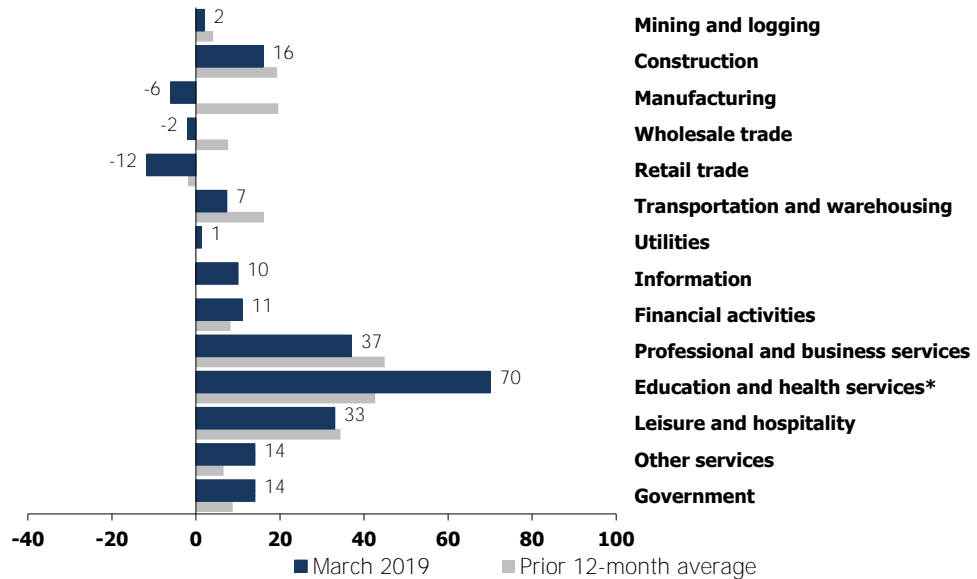
-12,000 Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade changed little over the month (-12,000), following a decline of 20,000 in February. Employment in the industry has shown little net change over the past 12 months (-36,000).

Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, March 2019
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

**Total nonfarm:
196***



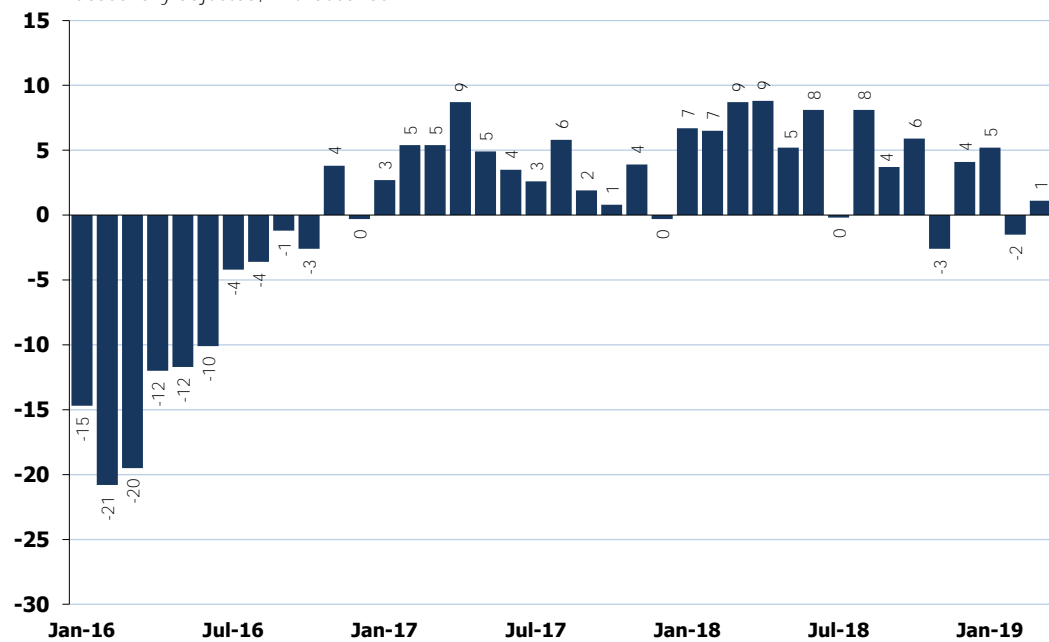
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 05, 2019.
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

Mining and Logging

Employment in mining

Over-the-month change, January 2016–March 2019

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 05, 2019.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

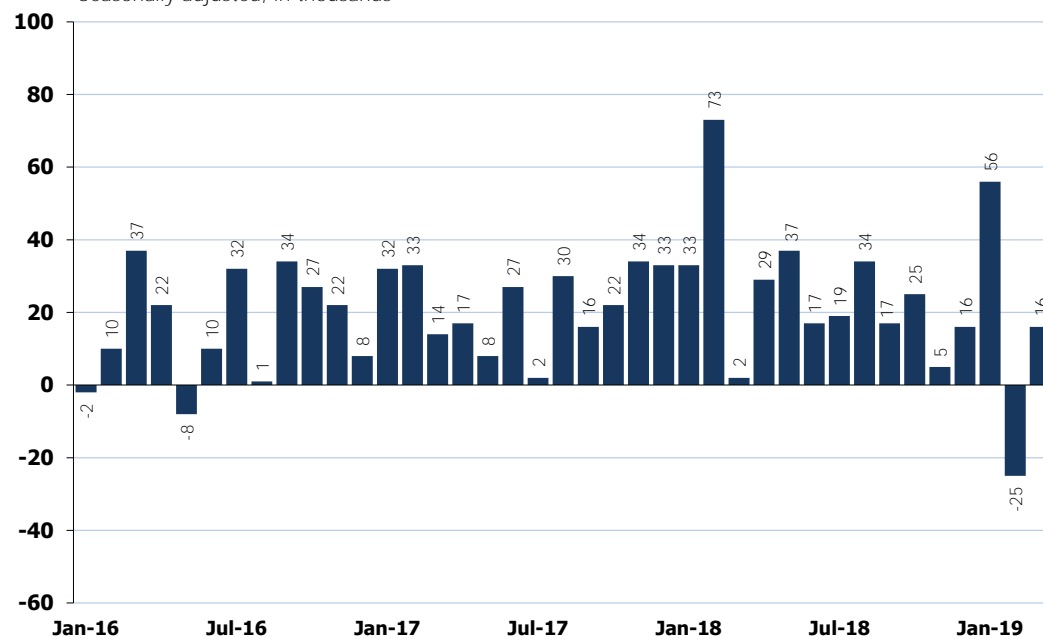
Employment in mining was little changed in March (+1,000). The price of [West Texas Intermediate](#) crude oil rose 7.1 percent in March.

Construction

Employment in construction

Over-the-month change, January 2016–March 2019

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

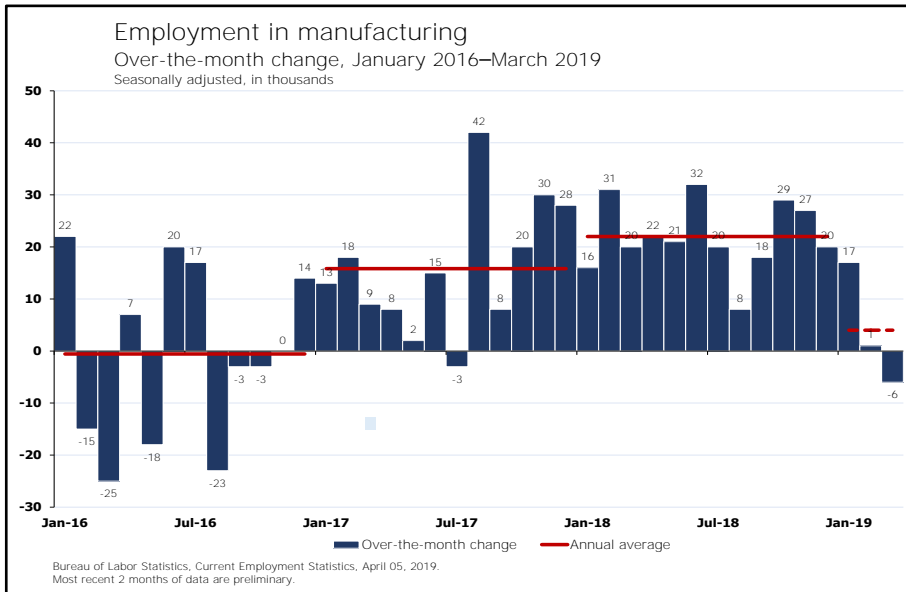


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 05, 2019.
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Construction employment changed little in March (+16,000). Much of the change occurred in specialty trade contractors (+13,000).

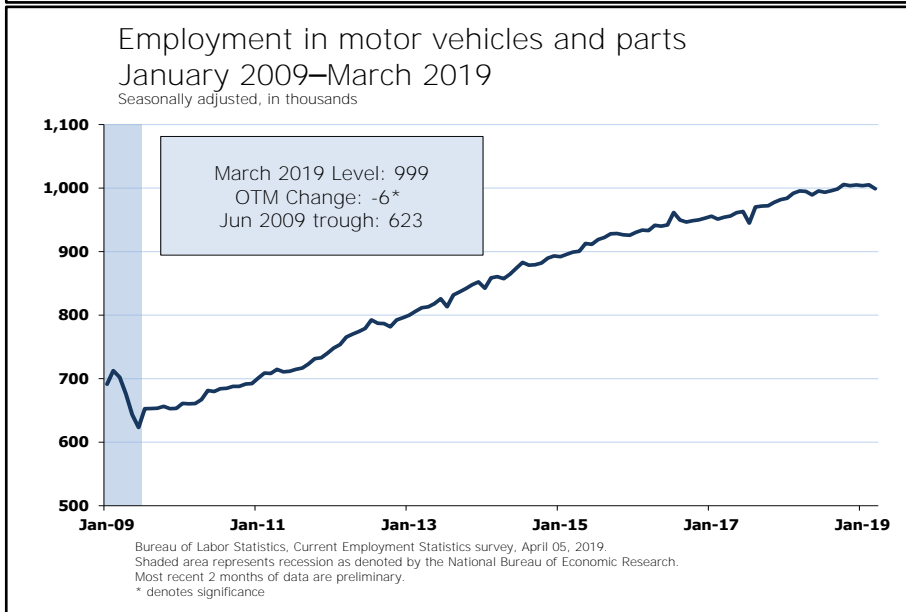
In February, construction [spending](#) rose 1-percent and housing [completions](#) rose 4.5-percent over the month.

Manufacturing



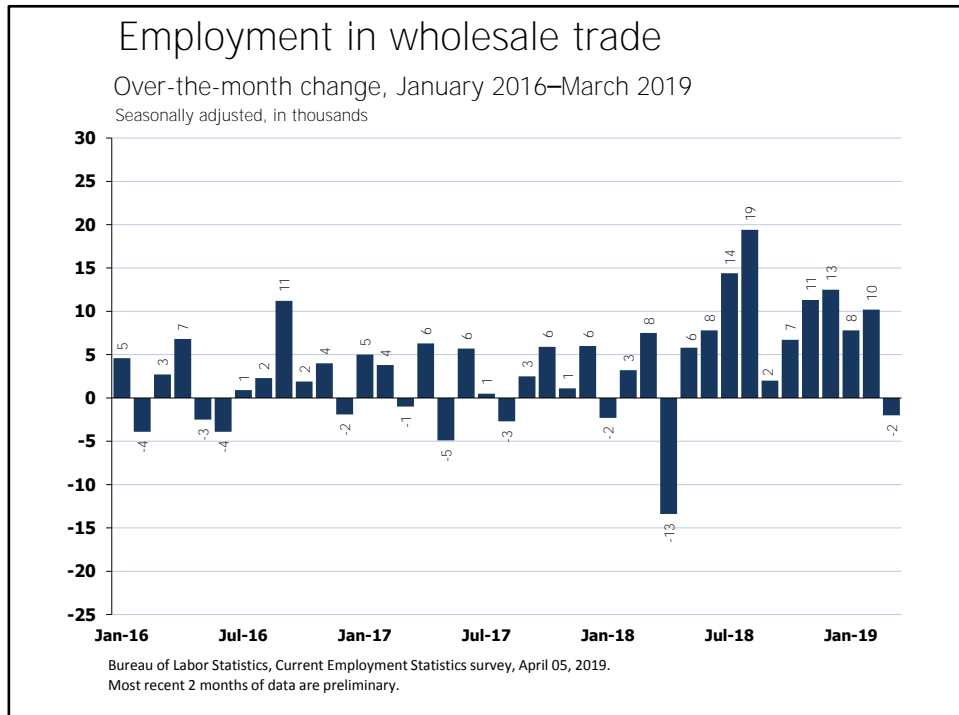
Manufacturing employment changed little in March (-6,000), with little change in both durable goods (-7,000) and nondurable goods (+1,000).

The average workweeks of production workers and of all employees remained unchanged at 41.7 and 40.7 hours, respectively.



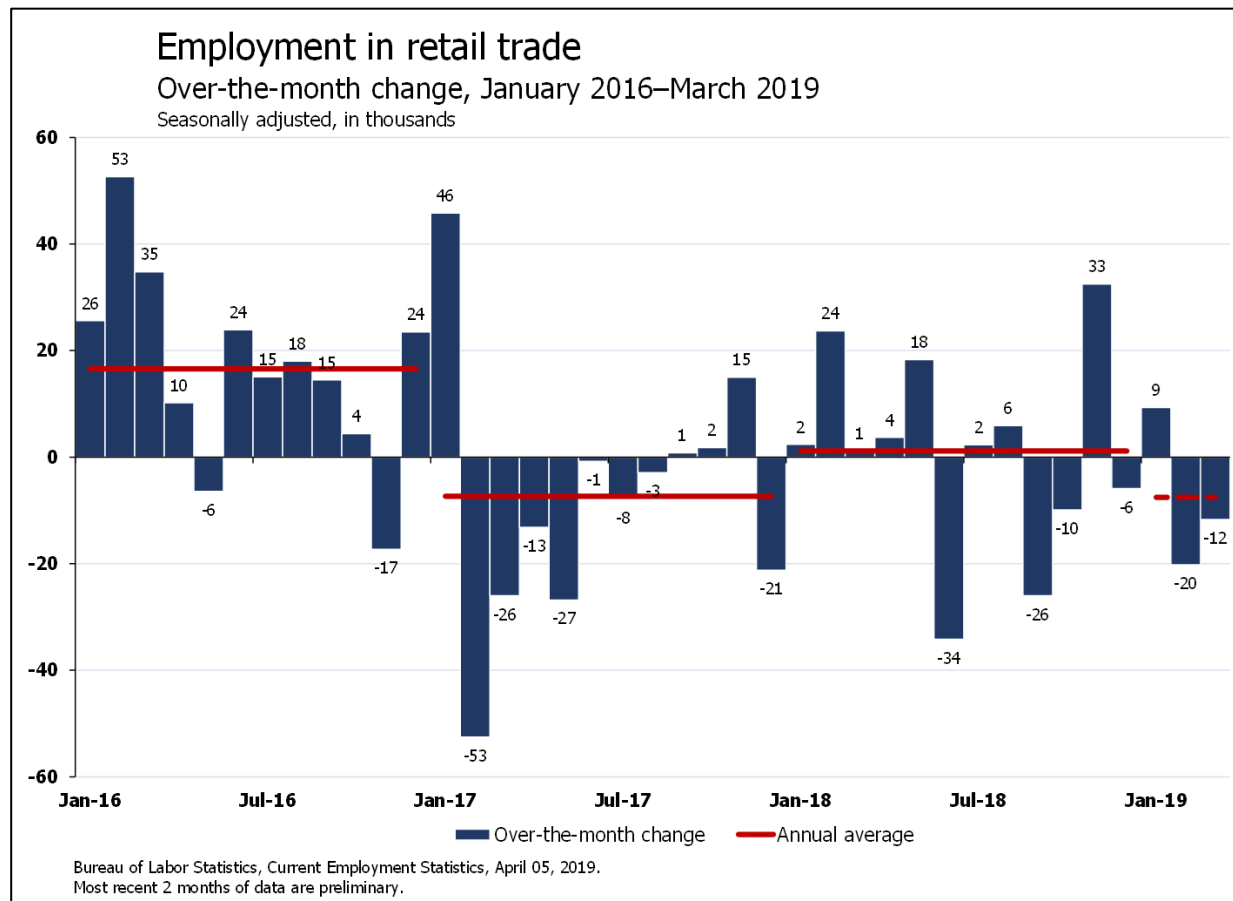
In March, employment in transportation equipment edged down by 5,000, driven by a loss in motor vehicles and parts (-6,000). Including the March decline, employment in motor vehicles and parts has changed little over the year (+4,000). Sales of light-vehicles fell 3.2 percent in March for the third consecutive month. ([AutoNews](#))

Wholesale Trade



Employment in wholesale trade was little changed in March (-2,000), though the industry has added 83,000 jobs over the most recent 12 months. Durable goods employment continued to trend up over the month (+3,000) and has accounted for 85 percent of the job gains in wholesale trade over the year.

Retail Trade

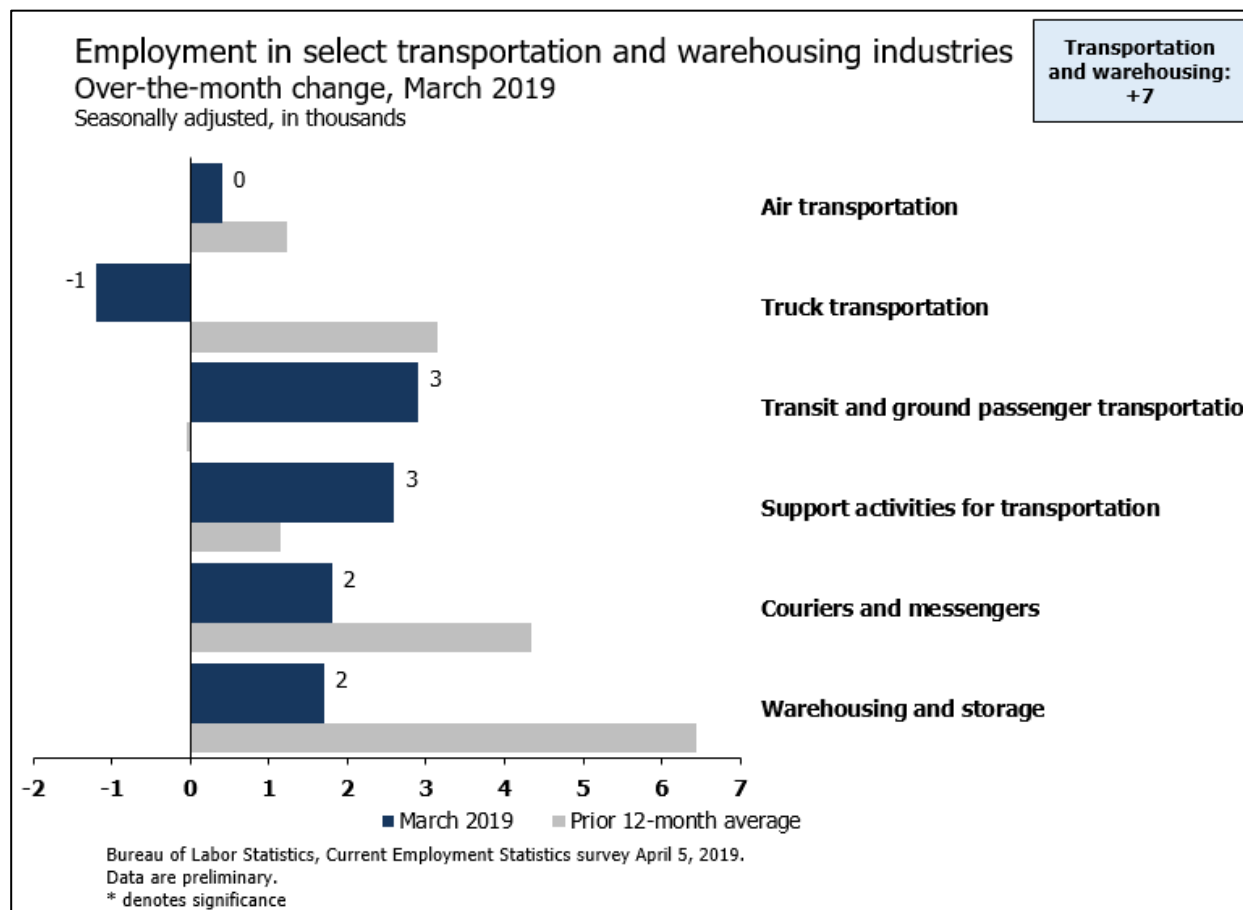


In March, employment in retail trade changed little (-12,000), after a decline of 20,000 in February. Over the past 12 months, industry employment experienced little net change (-36,000).

Over the month, employment declines occurred in health and personal care stores (-8,000), and general merchandise stores (-7,000).

Retail-related economic indicators have been mixed. [Retail sales](#) were down by 0.2 percent in February. [US Light Weight Vehicle Sales](#) increased by 5.7 percent in March. [E-commerce Sales](#) were up by 2.0 percent in the fourth quarter of 2018.

Transportation and Warehousing



Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in March (+7,000). Most of the component industries experienced over-the-month changes consistent with their prior-12 month averages.

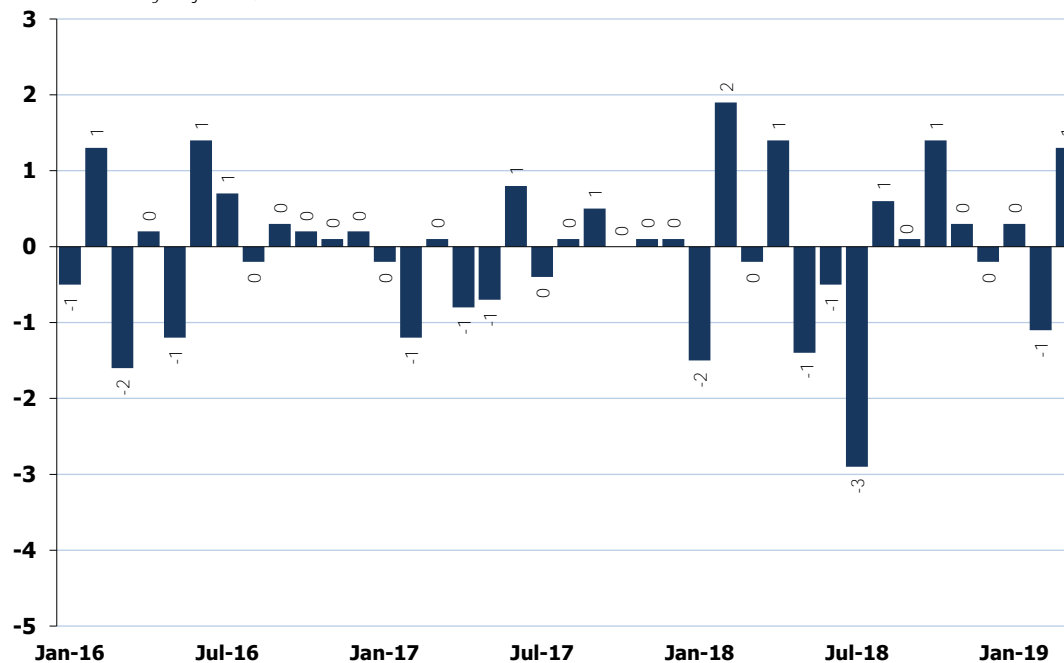
Couriers and messengers (+2,000) and warehousing and storage (+2,000), however, experienced weaker than average over-the-month changes.

Utilities

Employment in utilities

Over-the-month change, January 2016–March 2019

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



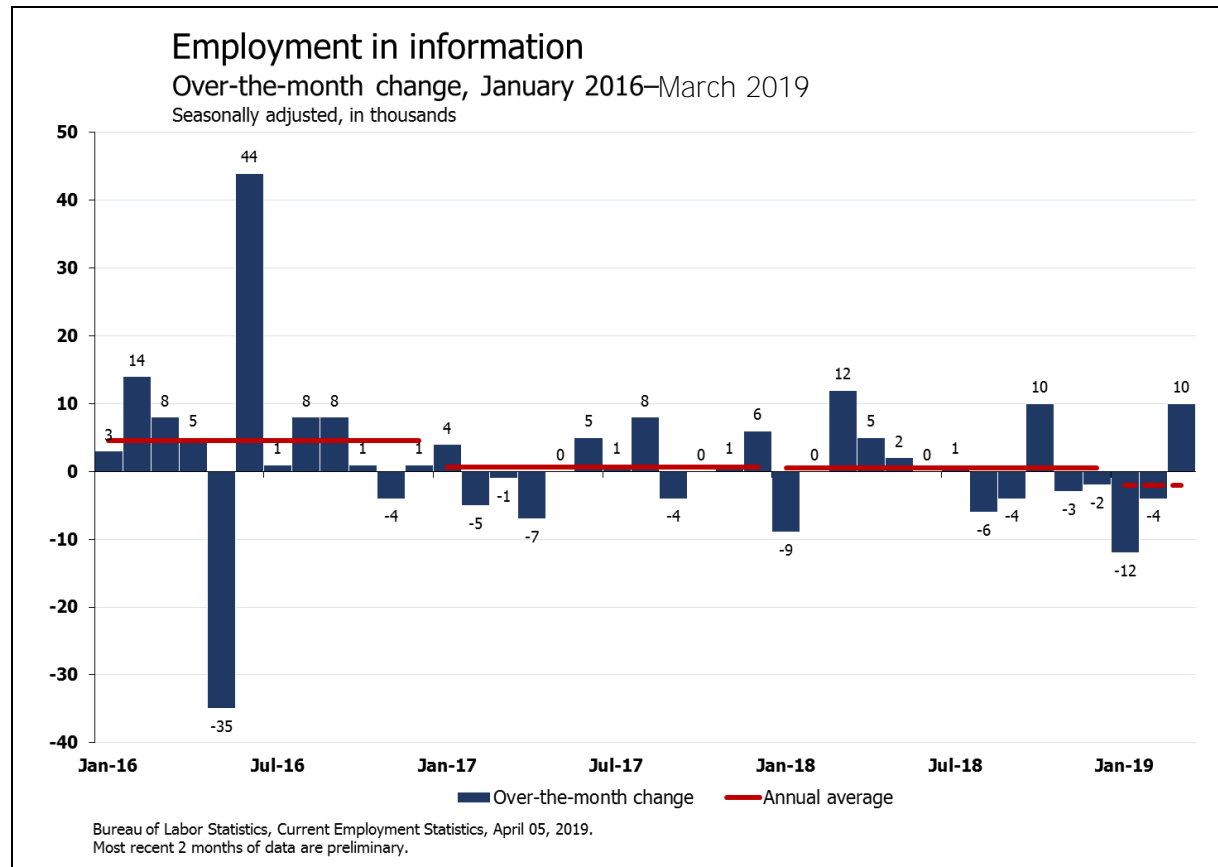
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 05, 2019.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in utilities was little changed in March (1,000) and has shown little net change over the year.

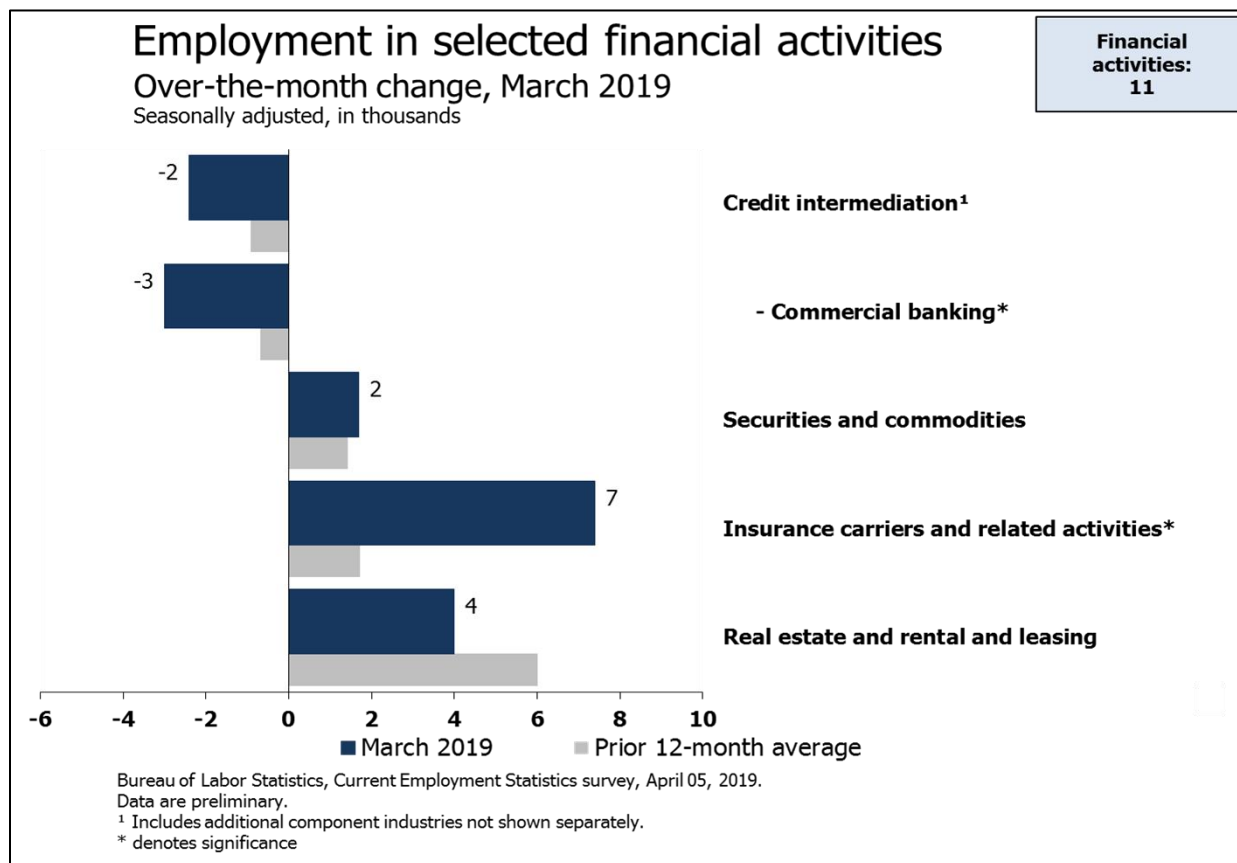
Information

Information employment changed little in March (+10,000). No component industries expanded or contracted significantly over the month.

Employment in other information services, which includes news syndicates, libraries and archives, and internet publishing and broadcasting and web search portals, changed by an average +1,000 in the first quarter of 2019 compared to an average +2,000 per month in 2018.



Financial Activities

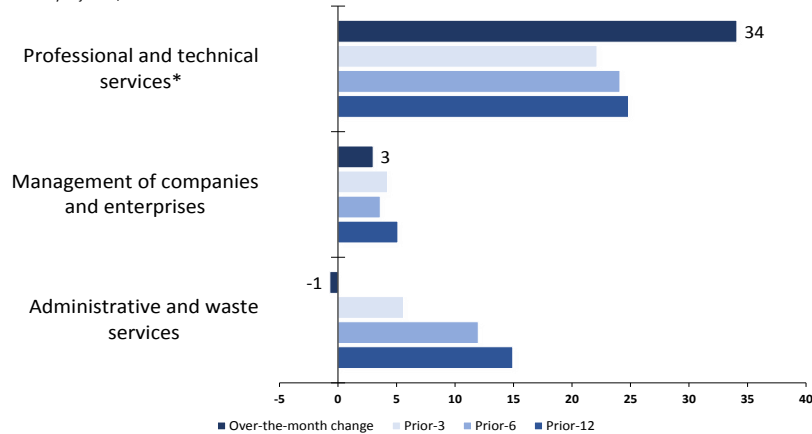


Employment in financial activities edged up in March (+11,000). Insurance carriers and related activities (+7,000) contributed to job growth. This gain was partially offset by a decline of 3,000 in commercial banking. Over the most recent 12 months, financial activities has added 101,000 jobs.

Professional and Business Services

Employment in professional and business services component industries
Over-the-month change and prior averages, March 2019

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, April 05, 2019
Most recent 2 months are preliminary.
* denotes significance

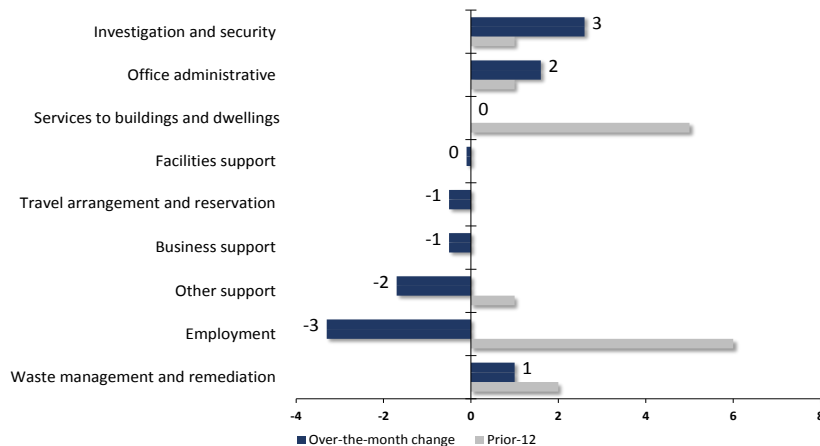
Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in March (+37,000). In the first quarter of 2019, professional and business services has added an average 32,000 jobs per month, compared to 47,000 per month in 2018.

In March, professional and technical services accounted for the majority of the employment change, adding 34,000 jobs. Computer systems design and related services added 12,000 jobs over the month, while employment in other components of professional and technical services trended close to their respective prior 12-month average employment changes.

Administrative and waste services employment was flat in March (-1,000). Employment in both services to building and dwelling places (unchanged) and employment services (-3,000) was below their prior 12-month average changes.

Employment in administrative and waste services
Over-the-month change, March 2019

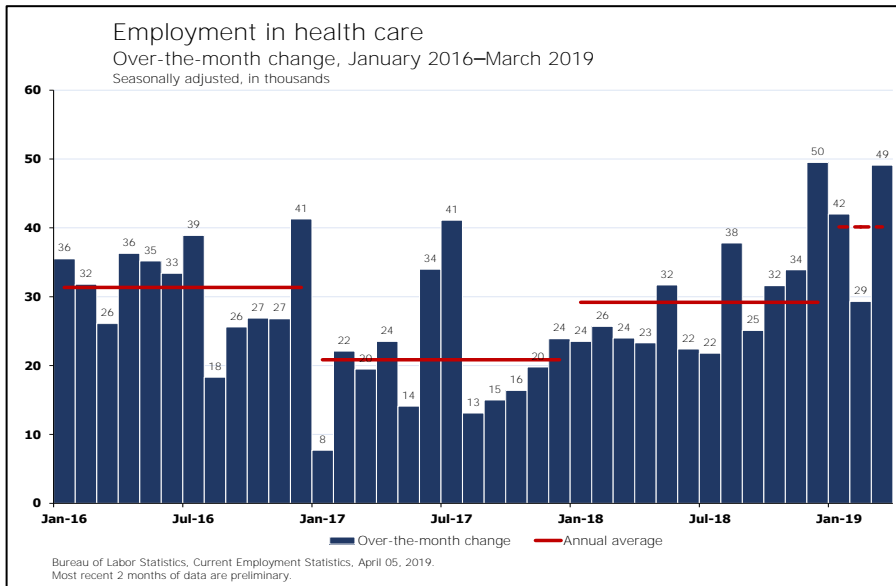
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



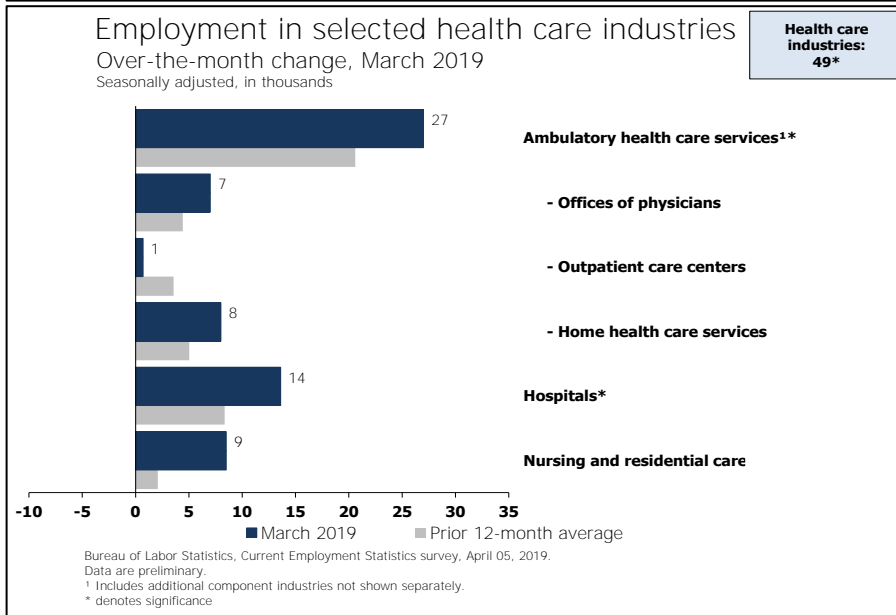
Mar-19: -1
Prior-12: 15

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, April 05, 2019
Most recent 2 months are preliminary.

Private Education and Health Services



Health care added 49,000 jobs in March. Health care employment has started 2019 strongly, with job gains averaging 40,000 a month over the first 3 months. In 2018, job gains had averaged 29,000 per month.



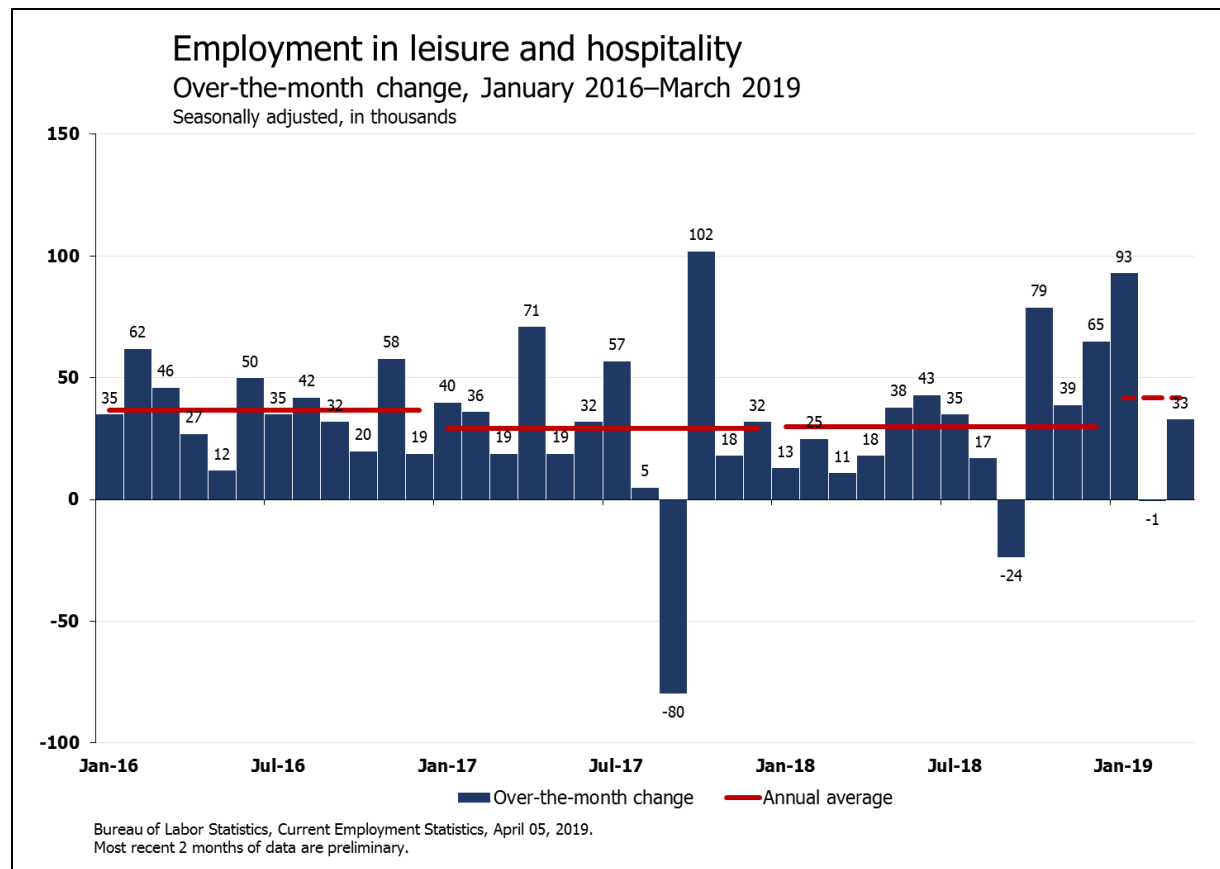
In March, employment increased in ambulatory health care services by 27,000. Employment grew in home health care services (+8,000) and offices of dentists (+5,000) and continued to trend up in offices of physicians (+7,000).

Employment in hospitals increased by 14,000, above the industry’s prior 12-month average increase of 8000 per month.

Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in leisure and hospitality continued to trend up in March (+33,000), in line with the prior 12-month average change.

Employment in food services and drinking places trended up in March and has added 88,000 jobs so far in 2019.

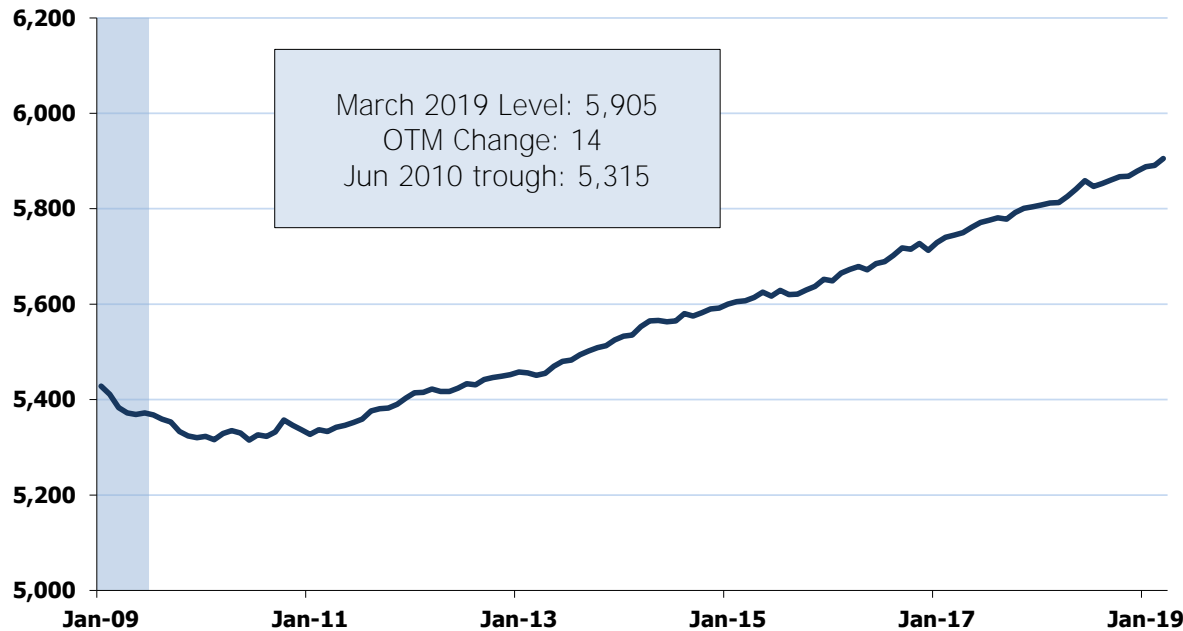


Other Services

Employment in other services edged up in March (+14,000), driven primarily by an uptick in repair and maintenance (+8,000). Although monthly job gains have been modest, other services has seen significant growth over the most recent 12 months (+92,000).

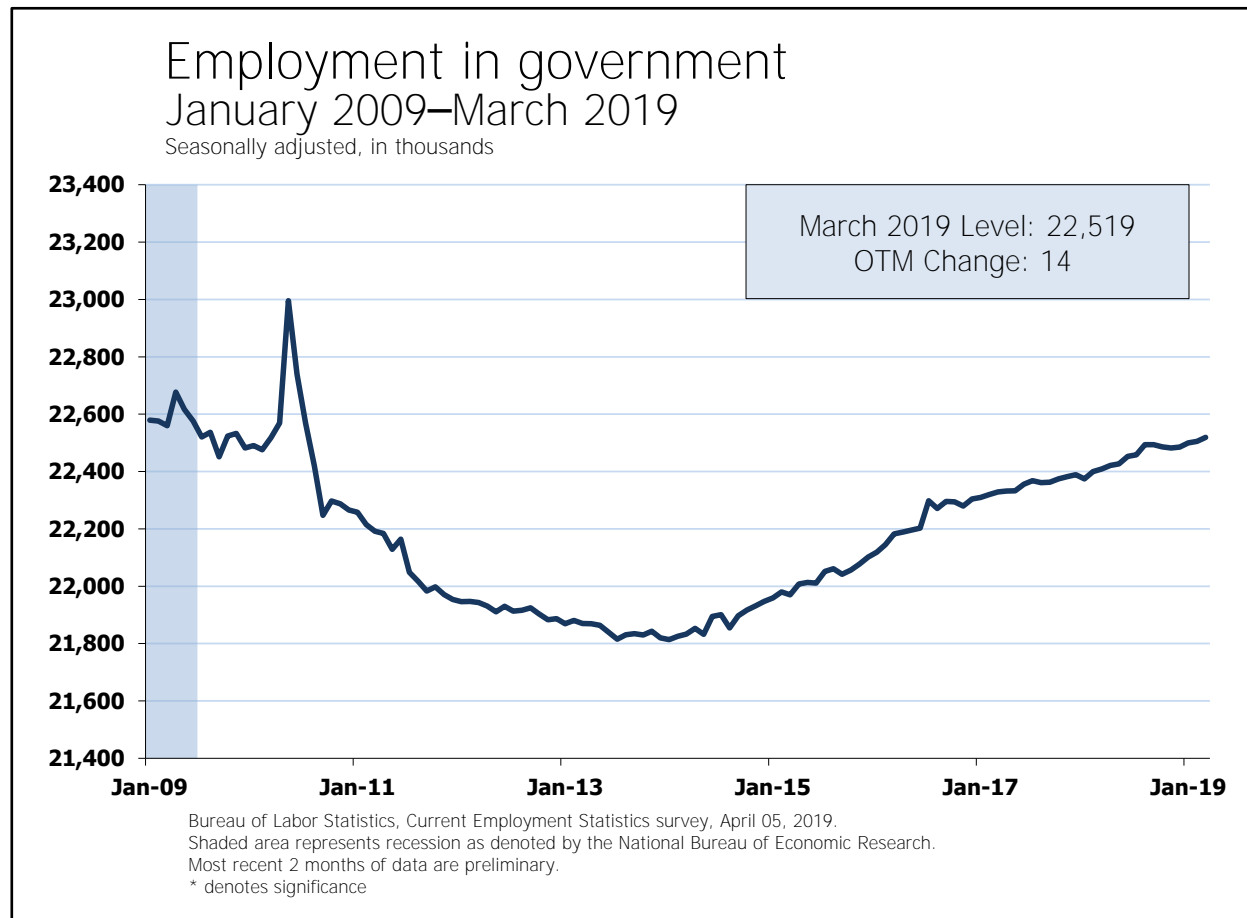
Employment in other services January 2009–March 2019

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 05, 2019.
 Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
 Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.
 * denotes significance

Government



Employment in government changed little in March (+14,000). Over the last 12 months, government employment has increased by 110,000. Local government employment accounted for two-thirds of the increase.



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