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# Current Employment Statistics Highlights



**September 2019**

Release Date: October 4, 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, September 2019

Nonfarm employment increased by 136,000 in September. Employment continued to trend up in health care and in professional and business services.

The employment change for August revised up from +130,000 to +168,000, and the change for July revised up from +159,000 to +166,000. On net, employment over these months is 45,000 higher than previously reported.

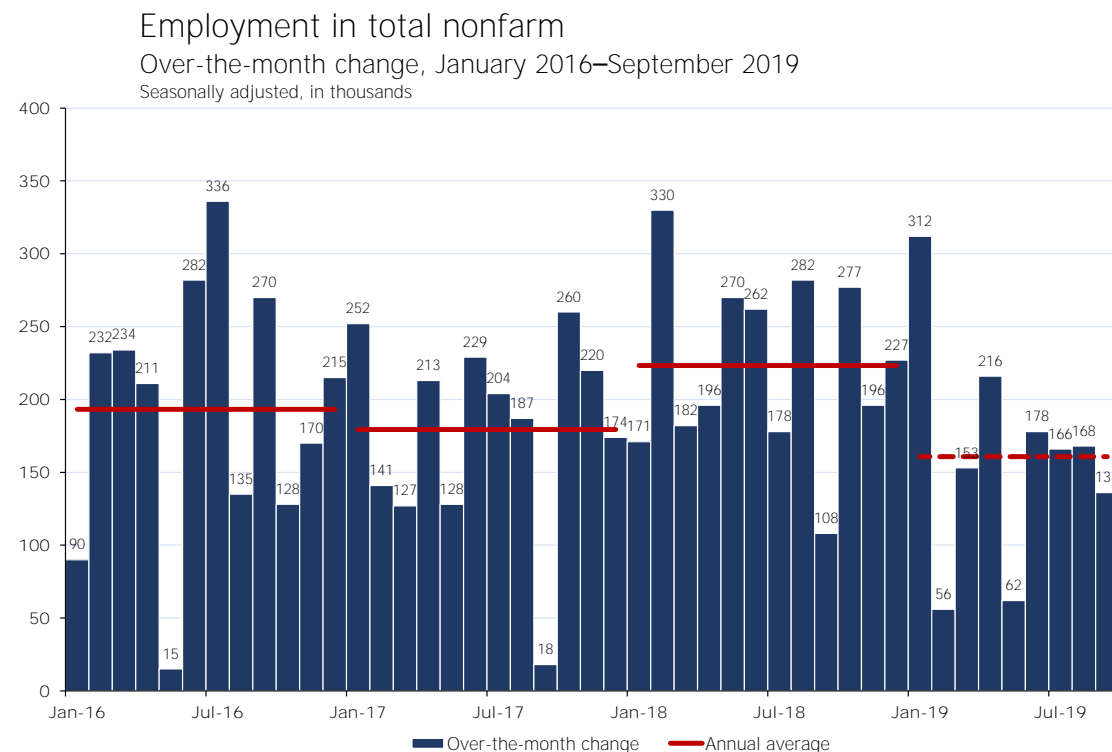
Average hourly earnings edged down by 1 cent following an 11-cent increase in August. Over the year, hourly earnings have increased by 2.9 percent. Average weekly hours, at 34.4 hours, were unchanged in September.

#### +40,000 Education and Health Services

Health care continued to add jobs in September (+39,000). Ambulatory care accounted for 29,000 jobs added, while hospitals added 8,000 jobs. Over the year, employment in health care has risen by 423,000.

#### +34,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment continued to trend up in professional and business services in September, although job growth has



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, October 04, 2019.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

moderated in 2019. Year to date, employment in the industry has risen by an average 35,000 per month, compared to an average 47,000 per month in 2018.

#### +22,000 Government

Government employment continued to trend up in September (+22,000). Hiring for the 2020 Census was negligible (+1,000). Over the year, employment in government has

### Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, September 2019

increased by 147,000, largely in local government (+102,000).

#### +16,000 Transportation and Warehousing

Employment edged up in transportation and warehousing in September, largely due to a job gain in transit and ground passenger transportation (+11,000). Couriers and messengers added 4,000 jobs.

#### +21,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Employment was essentially unchanged in food services and drinking places in September (+2,000). Job growth in the industry had averaged 22,000 per month in 2018 but has decelerated each quarter in 2019 to 4,000 per month in the third quarter.

#### -2,000 Manufacturing

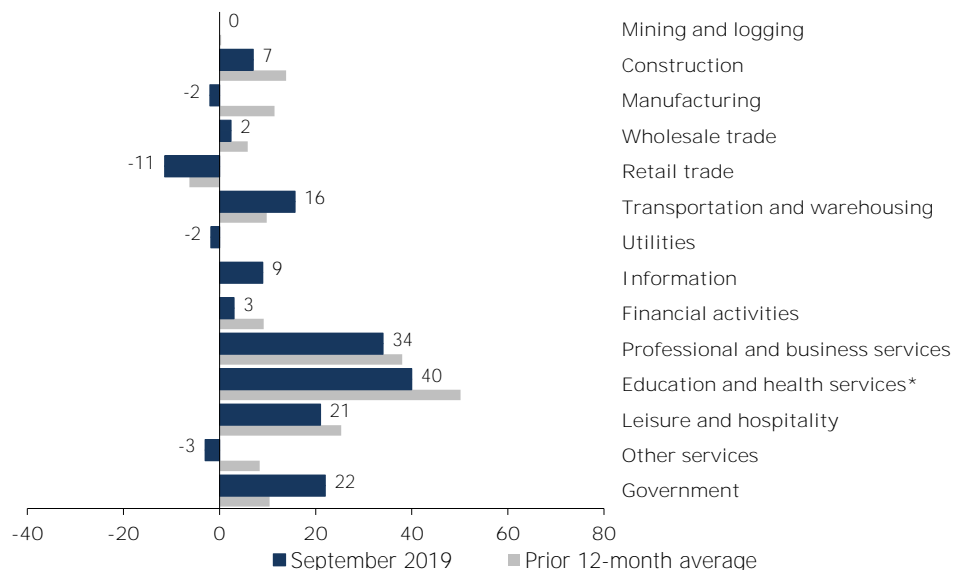
Manufacturing employment was essentially unchanged in September. Job growth in the industry had averaged 22,000 per month in 2018 but has slowed each quarter in 2019 to show little change in the third quarter (+1,000 per month).

### Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, September 2019

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:  
136\*



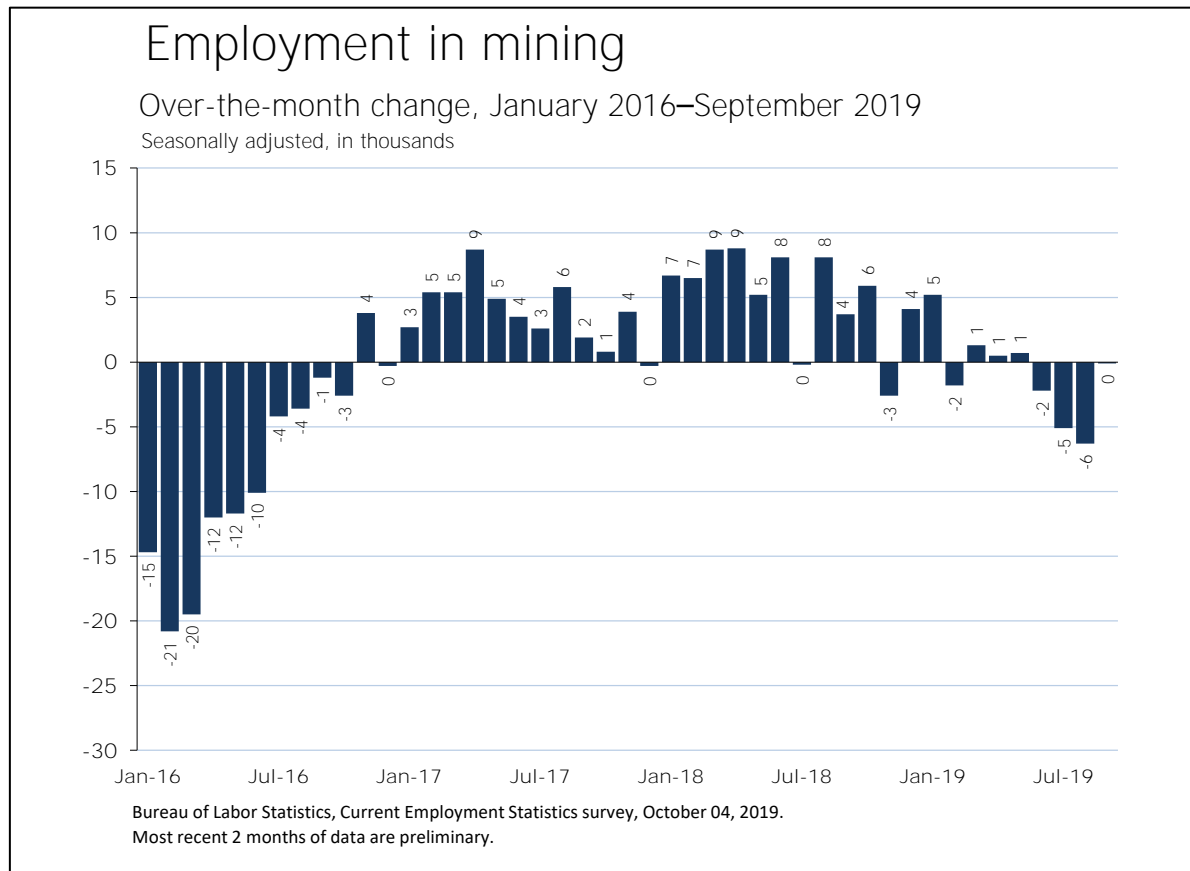
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 04, 2019.  
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\* denotes significance

#### -11,000 Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade changed little in September. Within the industry, clothing and clothing accessories stores lost 14,000 jobs, while food and beverage stores added 9,000 jobs. Since reaching an employment peak in

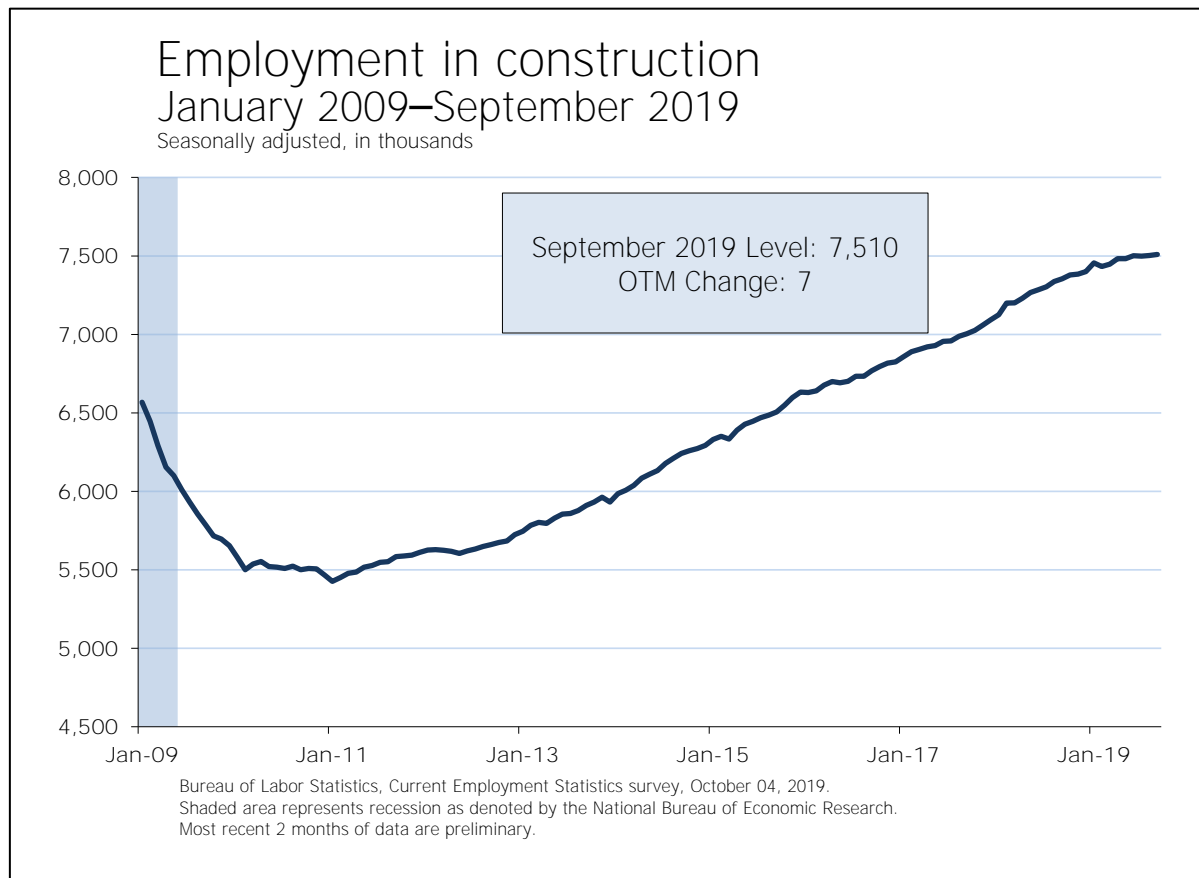
January 2017, retail trade has lost 197,000 jobs.

## Mining and Logging



Mining employment was unchanged in September and has changed little year to date (-8,000). In September, the employment flatness in mining may reflect uncertainty due to higher prices of [West Texas Intermediate](#) crude oil and fewer [domestic rotary rigs](#).

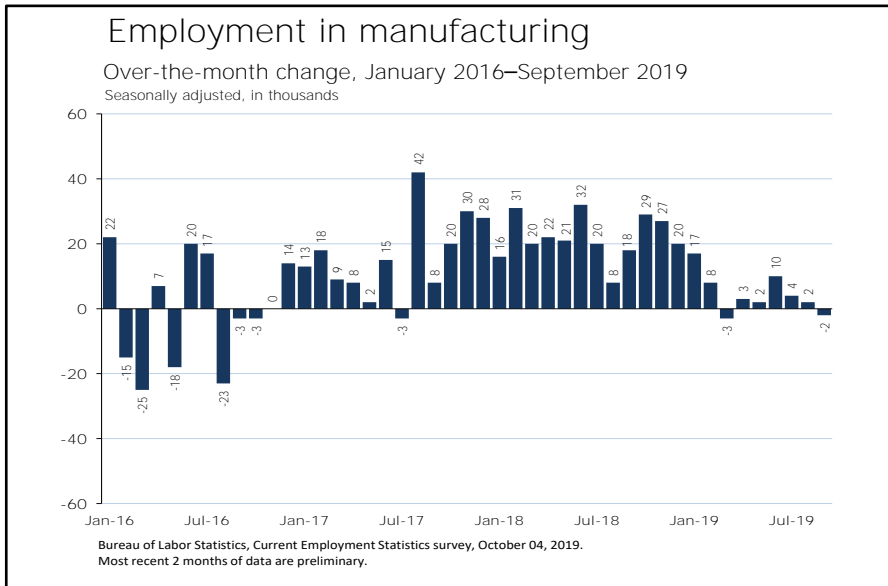
## Construction



Construction employment changed little in September (+7,000). So far in 2019 construction has added an average of 12,000 jobs per month, below the 26,000 jobs added per month in 2018.

The deceleration of trend is reflected by weaker [construction spending](#) over the past year.

## Manufacturing



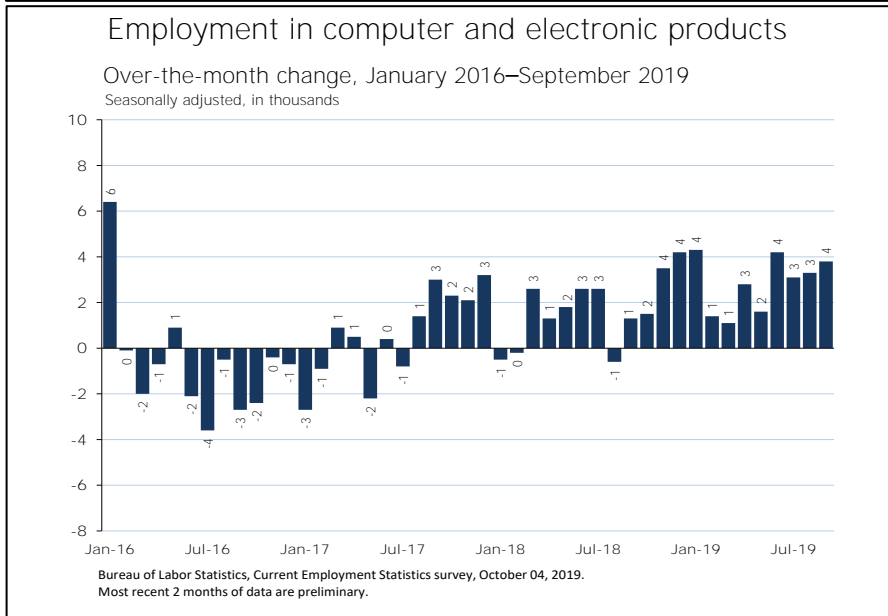
Manufacturing employment changed little in September (-2,000). The industry has added an average of 5,000 jobs per month so far in 2019 after adding 22,000 per month in 2018.

In September, the 1-month diffusion index fell 7.3 points to 44.7 and the 3-month diffusion index fell 11.2 points to 47.4. A value below 50 indicates more manufacturing industries are losing jobs than are adding them.

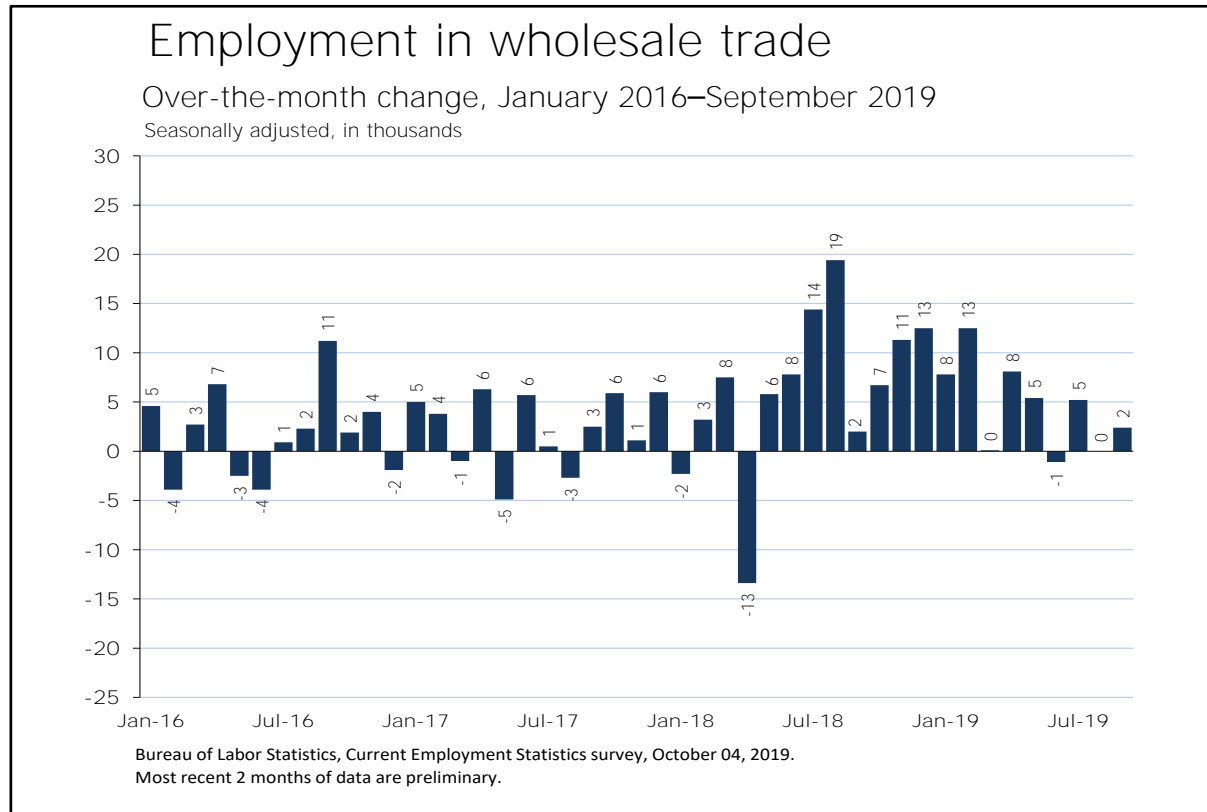
Among component industries, computer and electronic products added 4,000 jobs in September, in line with its average monthly gain of 3,000 in 2019.

Average weekly hours of all employees in manufacturing were unchanged at 40.5 hours in September. The average workweek of production employees was also unchanged at 41.5 hours.

The weakness in September employment coincided with the second consecutive contraction in the [Institute for Supply Management's Purchasing Managers' Index](#).

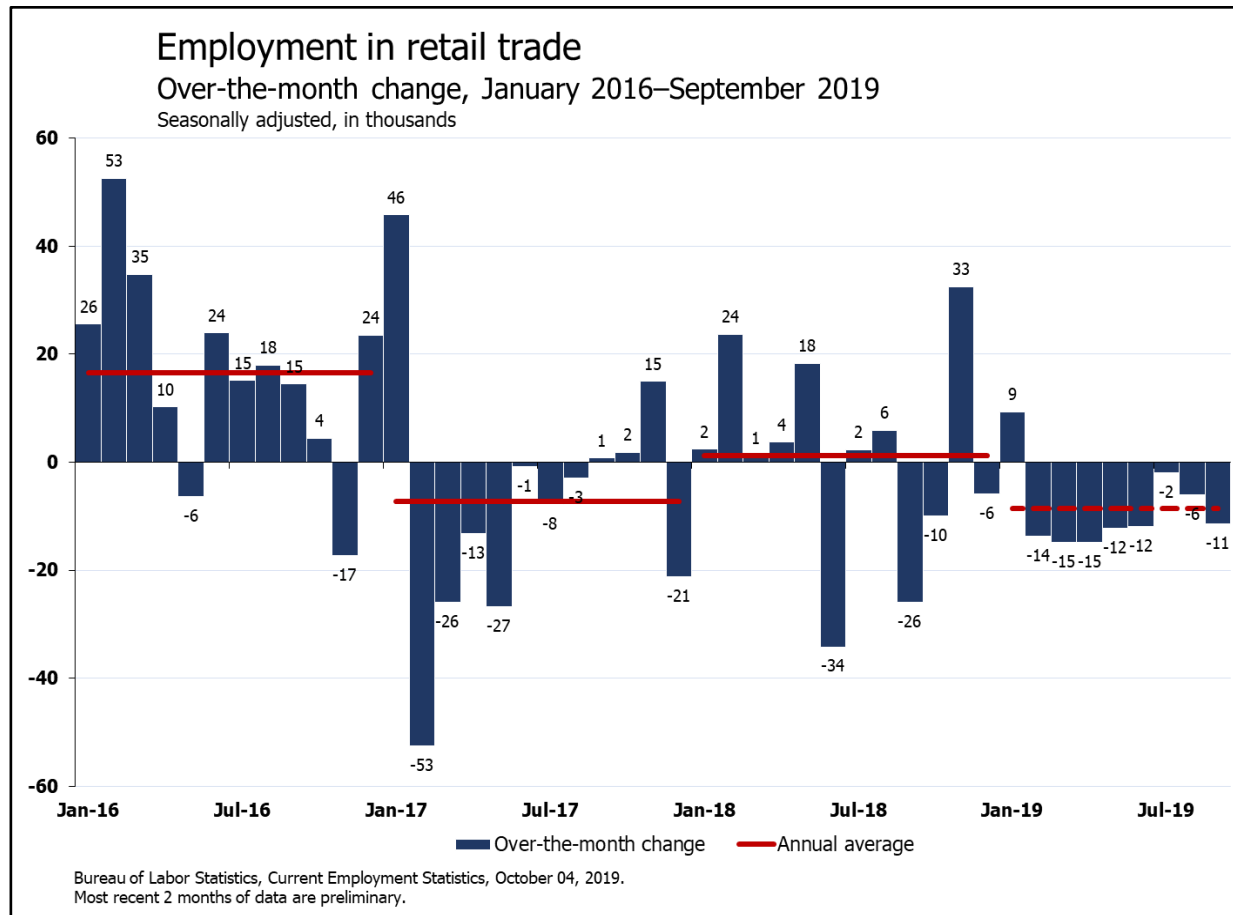


## Wholesale Trade



Employment in wholesale trade changed little in September (+2,000). Over the last year, the industry has added 71,000 jobs with durable goods accounting for 77 percent of those gains.

## Retail Trade



In September, employment in retail trade continued to trend down (-11,000). Year to date, industry employment has declined by 78,000.

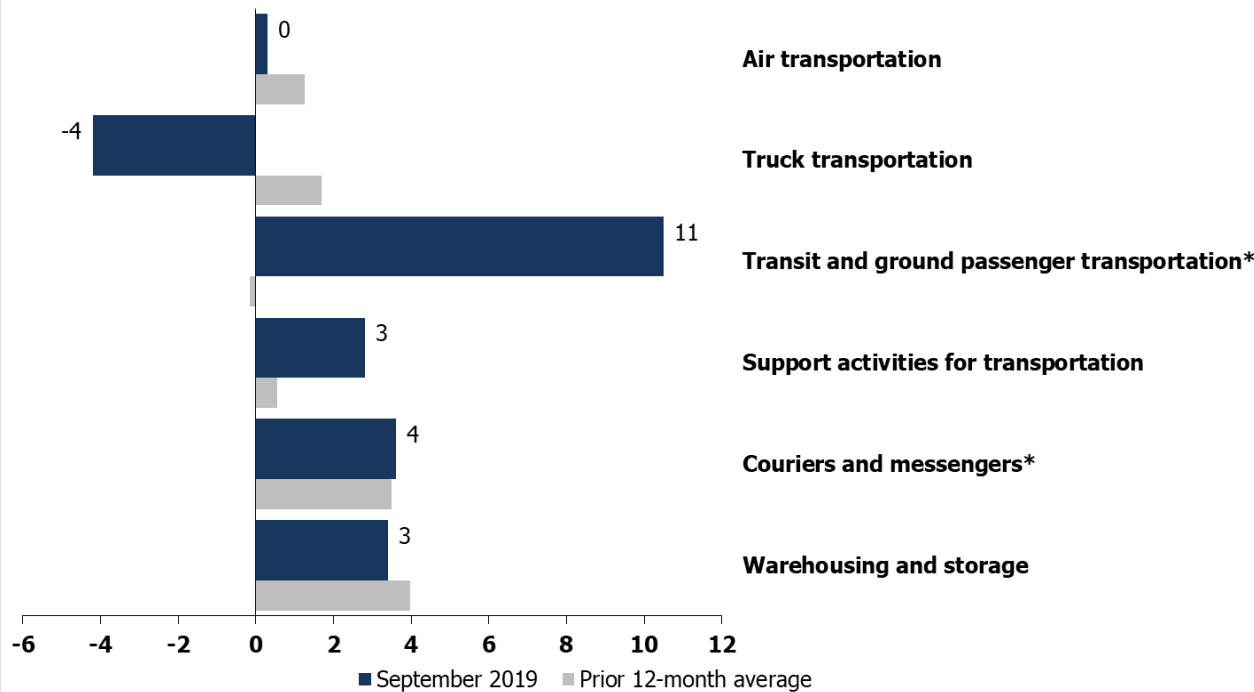
Over the month, employment in clothing and clothing accessories stores declined by 14,000, while employment in food and beverage stores increased by 9,000.



## Transportation and Warehousing

**Employment in select transportation and warehousing industries**  
 Over-the-month change, September 2019  
 Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

**Transportation and warehousing: +16**



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey October 4, 2019.  
 Data are preliminary.  
 \* denotes significance

Employment in transportation and warehousing edged up in September (+16,000). Transit and ground passenger transportation gained 11,000 jobs, offsetting a decline of 9,000 in July.

Among the other component industries, couriers and messengers added jobs in September (+4,000). Employment in truck transportation edged down over the month (-4,000).

## Utilities

### Employment in utilities

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

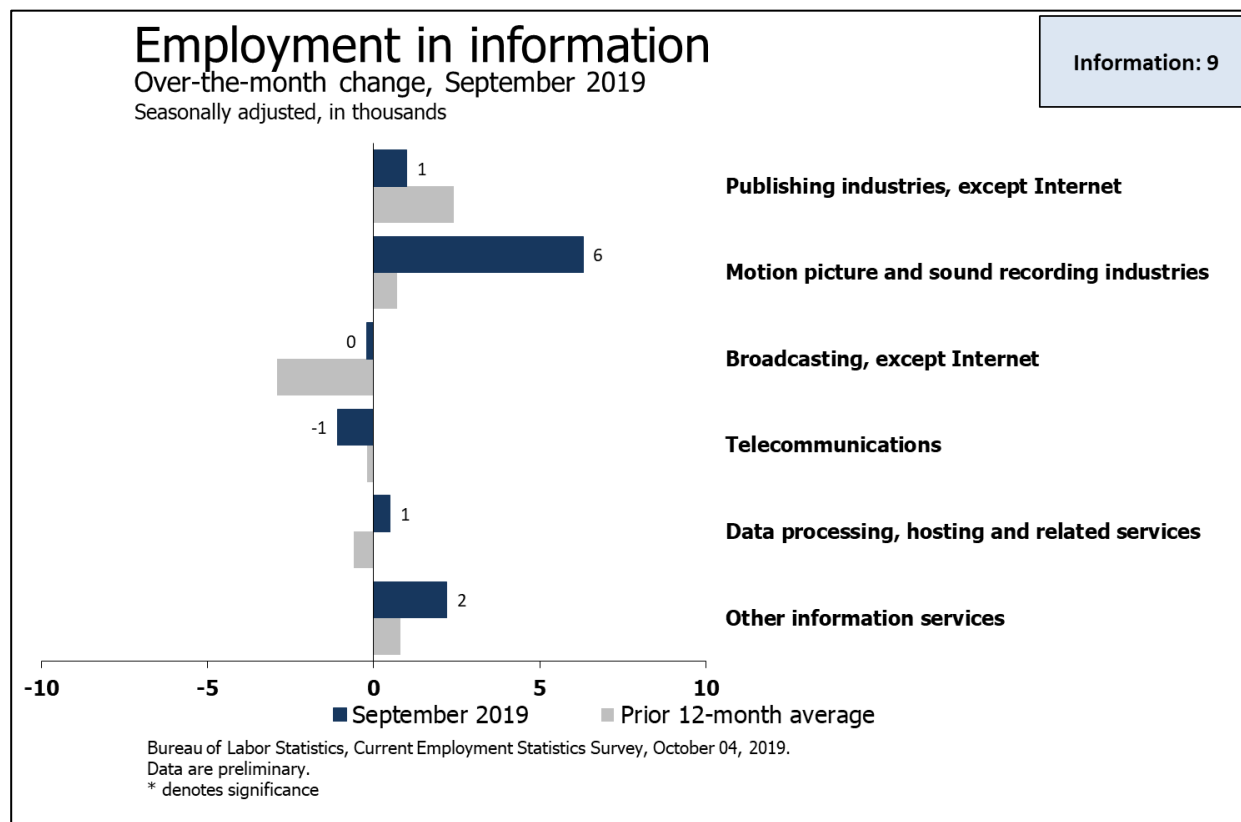
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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Employment in utilities declined by 2,000 in September but has changed little, on net, so far in 2019 (-4,000).

## Information



Information employment changed little in September (+9,000), in line with recent trends.

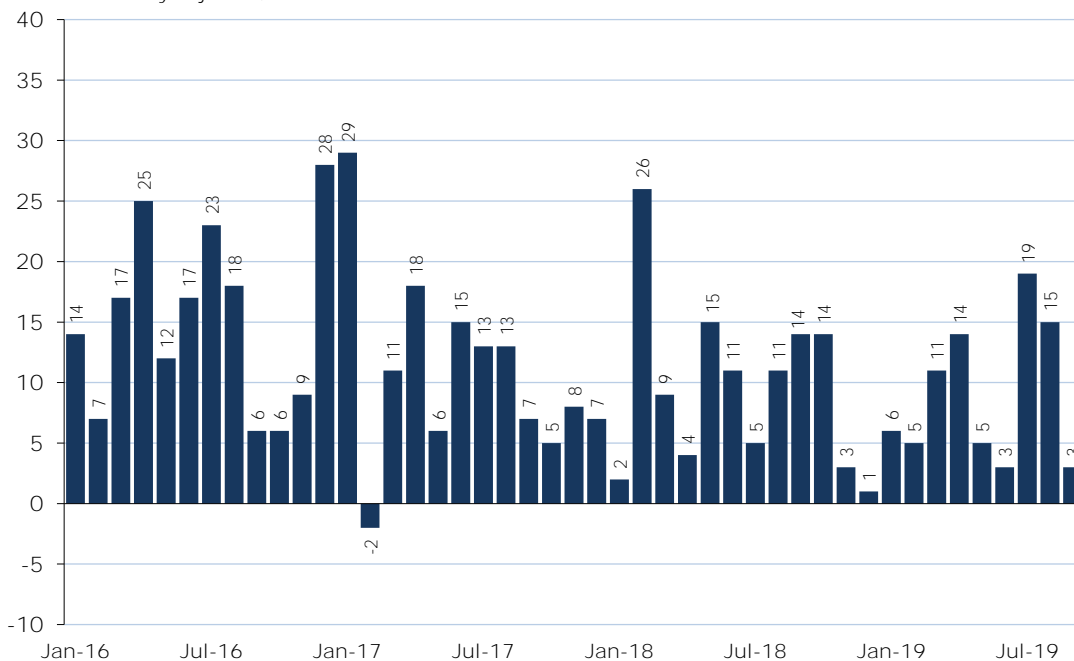
Over the past 6 months, telecommunications has shed 18,000 jobs, which were offset by an 18,000-job gain in other information services over the same period. Other information services includes—but is not limited to—web search portals, stock photo agencies, and internet publishing establishments.

## Financial Activities

### Employment in financial activities

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

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

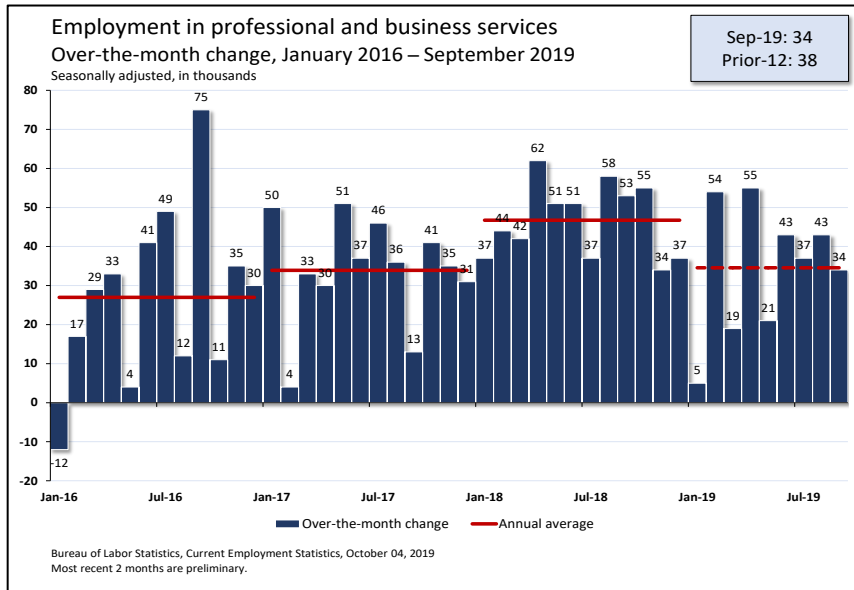


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 04, 2019.

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Employment in financial activities changed little in September (+3,000). Over the most recent 12 months, the industry has added 99,000 jobs, representing a change of 1.2 percent. Insurance carriers and related activities accounted for 36,000 of the gains during this period.

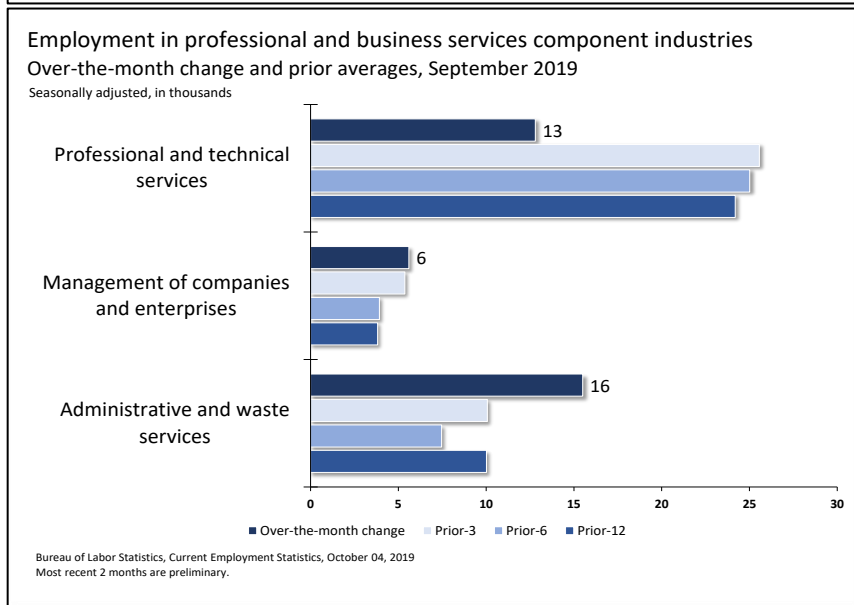
## Professional and Business Services



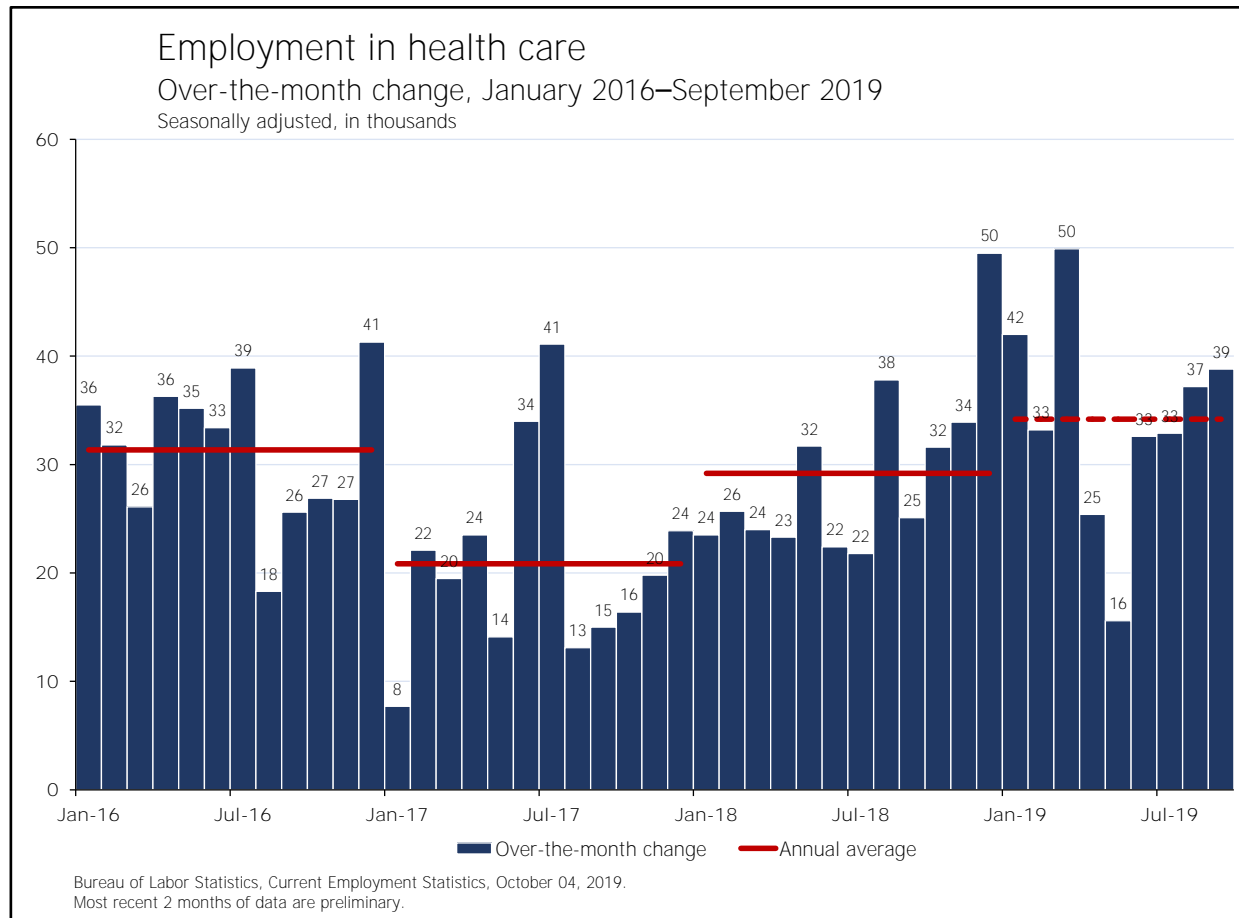
Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in September (+34,000). Year to date, professional and business services has added an average of 35,000 jobs per month, below the 2018 monthly average of 47,000.

Employment in professional and technical services continued to trend up in September (+13,000), below its prior-months' averages. Employment in management and technical consulting services trended up (+6,000) but was unchanged in computer systems and design and related services.

Employment in temporary help services changed little in September (+10,000). Over the year, employment in the industry has been flat (+13,000), similar to the 52-week comparison of the American Staffing Association's [Staffing index](#).



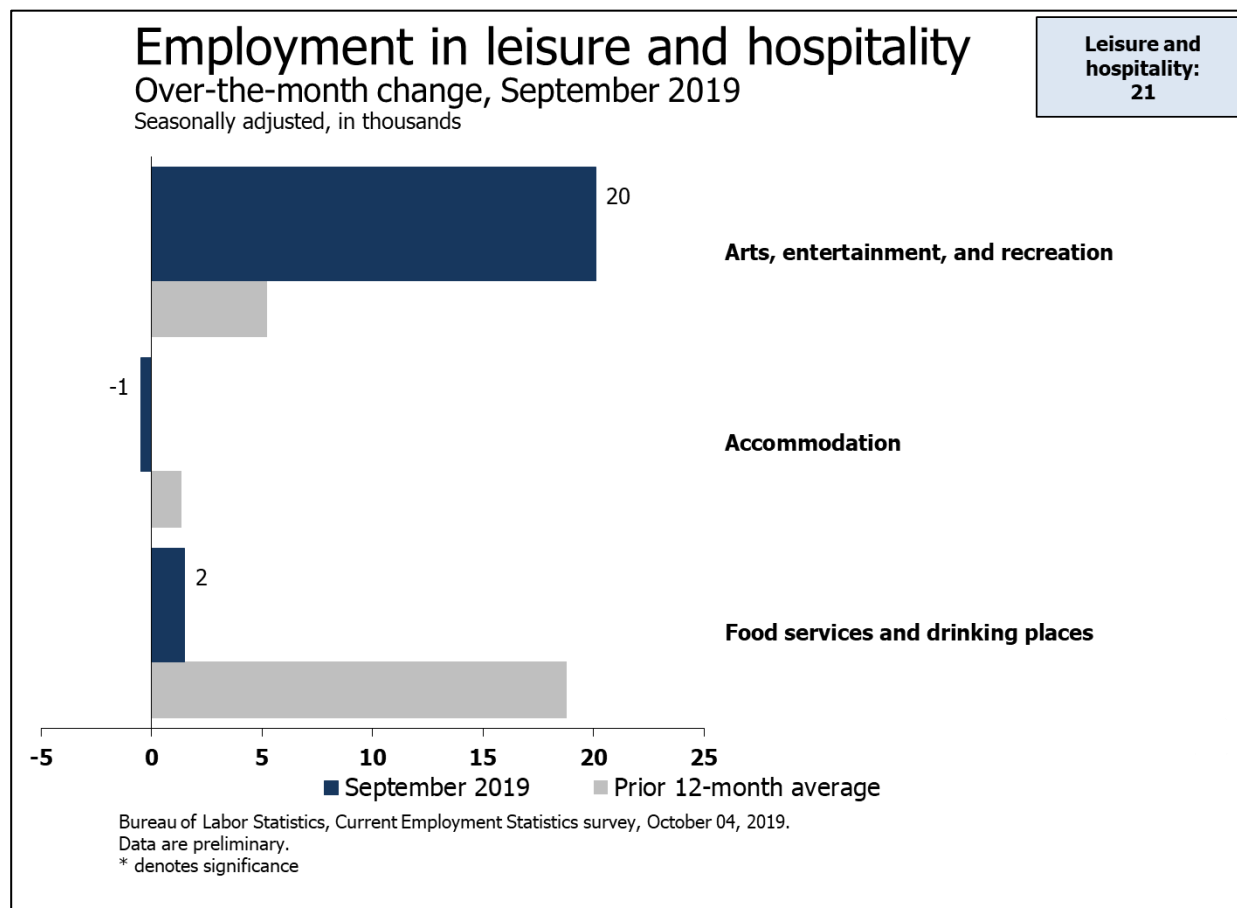
### Private Education and Health Services



Health care employment continued to grow in September (+39,000). Ambulatory health care services (+29,000) and hospitals (+8,000) added jobs.

Within ambulatory health care services, offices of other health practitioners—such as offices of chiropractors and offices of optometrists—added 10,000 jobs.

## Leisure and Hospitality



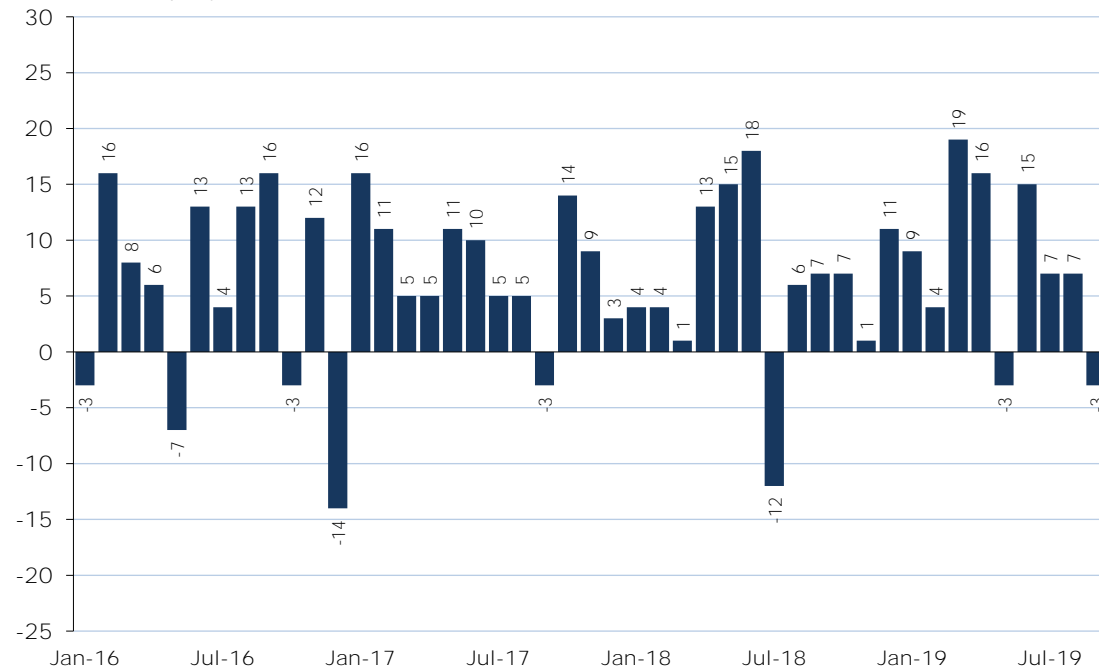
Employment in leisure and hospitality changed little in September (+21,000), and has not risen significantly over the month since adding 93,000 jobs in January 2019.

Food services and drinking places employment was flat in September (+2,000). Year to date, employment has increased by an average 13,000 per month, compared to 22,000 per month in 2018. The recent weakness may be connected to dropping restaurant [sales](#).

## Other Services

### Employment in other services

Over-the-month change, January 2016–September 2019  
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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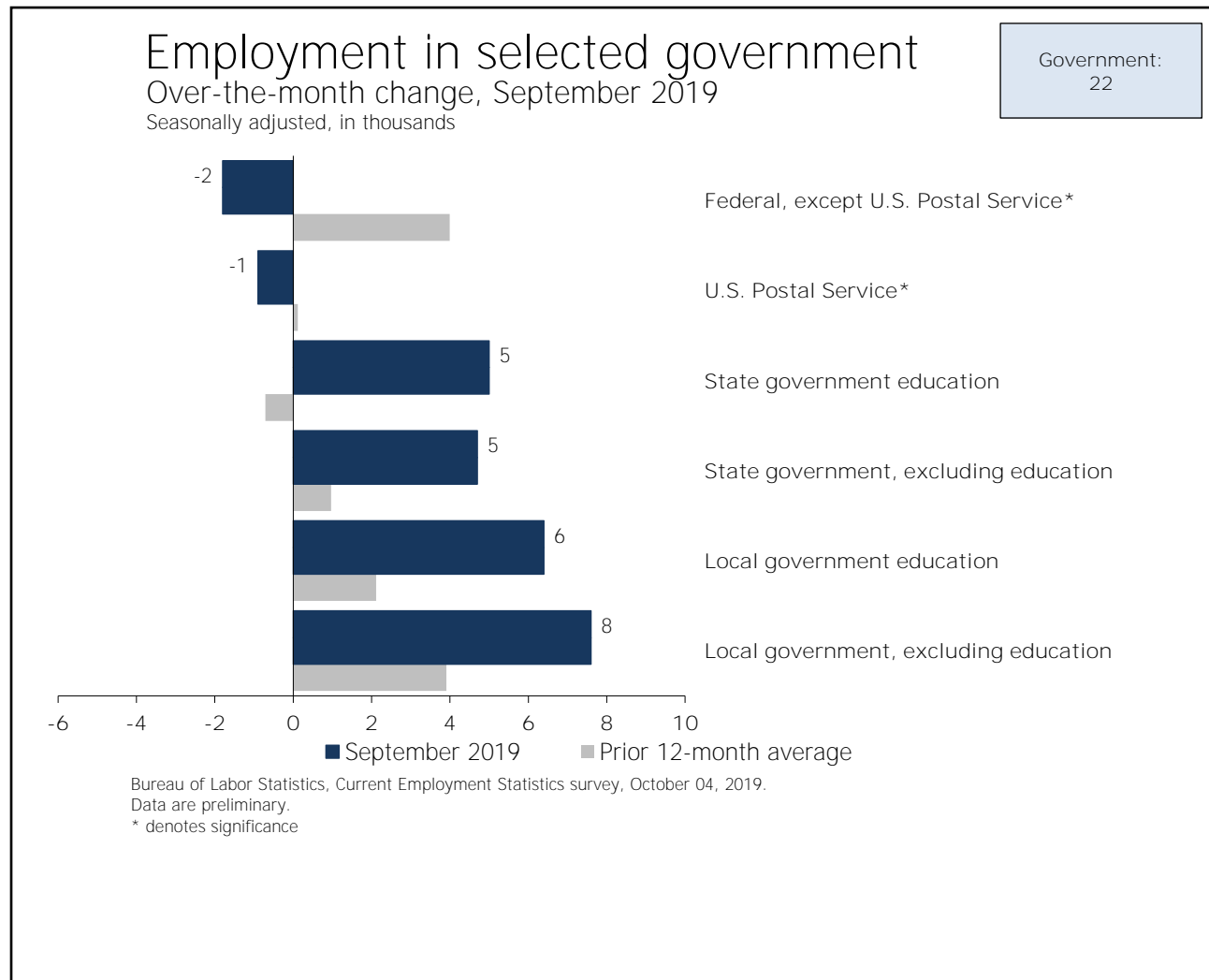
Employment in other services changed little in September (-3,000). Over the most recent 12 months, the industry has added 90,000 jobs. Over this time, the largest job gain came in membership associations and organizations (+40,000).



## Government

Government employment continued to trend up in September (+22,000). Federal hiring for the decennial census was negligible (+1,000).

Over the past 3 months, both state education (+25,000) and local education (+47,000) have added jobs.





### **CES Analysts**

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Osman Alhassan

Ryan Ansell

Hyun Choi

Steve Crestol

Tyler Downing

Katelynn Harris

Mike McCall

John Mullins

Michael Osifalujo

Edward Park

Carson Wilson

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

202-691-6555

[Email CES](#)