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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



May 2018

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

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Current Employment Statistics Summary, May 2018

Nonfarm employment increased by 223,000 in May. Employment continued to trend up in retail trade, health care, and construction.

The employment change for April revised down from +164,000 to +159,000, and the change for March revised up from +135,000 to +155,000. On net, employment over these months is 15,000 higher than previously reported.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls increased by 8 cents in May. Hourly earnings are up 2.7 percent over the year. Average weekly hours were unchanged in May at 34.5 hours.

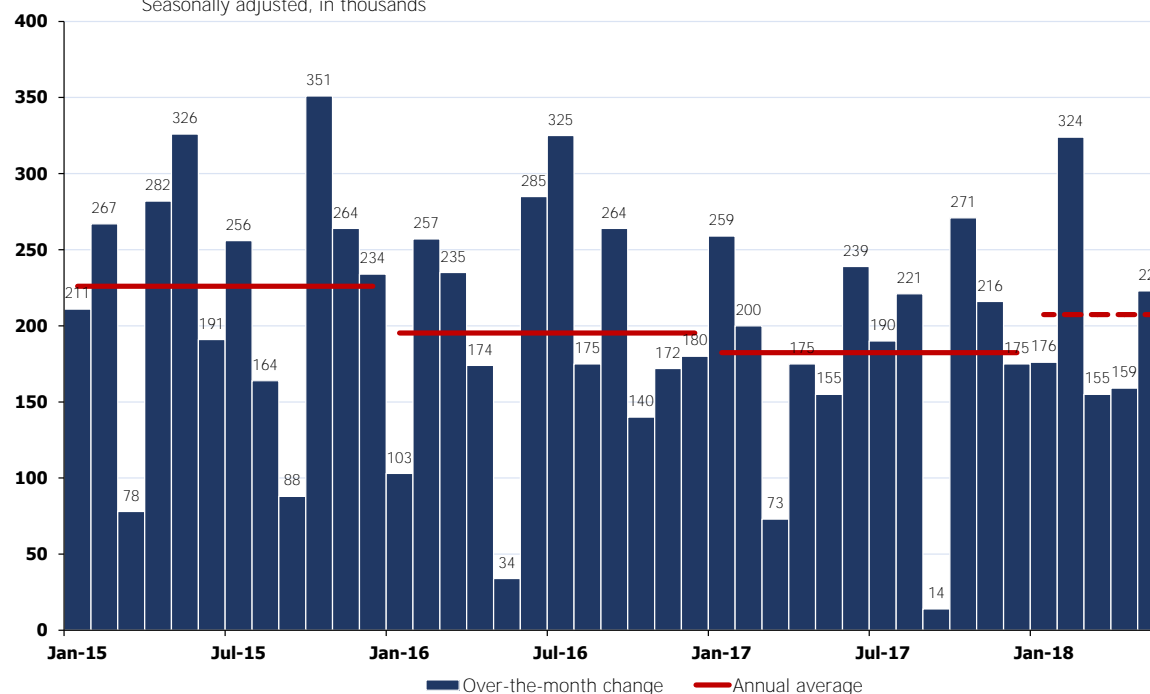
+31,000 Retail Trade

Retail trade added 31,000 jobs in May, with job gains of 6,000 in building material and garden supply stores and 13,000 in general merchandise stores. Retail trade has added 125,000 jobs over the year.

+39,000 Education and Health Services

Health care added 29,000 jobs in May. Within health care, employment in ambulatory care services rose by 18,000 over the month, while hospital employment continued to trend up (+6,000). Over the past 12 months, health care has added 318,000 jobs.

Employment in total nonfarm
Over-the-month change, January 2015–May 2018
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, June 01, 2018.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

+25,000 Construction

Employment edged up in construction in May (+25,000). The industry has added 286,000 jobs over the past 12 months. Nonresidential special trade contractors added +15,000 jobs in May and +117,000 jobs over the year.

+31,000 Professional and Business Services

In May, employment continued to trend up in professional and technical services (+23,000). Over the year, the industry has added 206,000 jobs.

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, May 2018

**Total nonfarm:
223***

+19,000 Transportation and Warehousing

Employment in transportation and warehousing continued to trend up in May, with job gains in couriers and messenger services (+5,000) and in warehousing and storage (+7,000). Over the year, employment in transportation and warehousing has increased by 156,000.

+18,000 Manufacturing

Employment continued to trend up in manufacturing over the month, with most of the change concentrated in durable goods industries (+15,000). Machinery added 6,000 jobs over the month, while employment in fabricated metal products continued to trend upward (+2,000). Over the year, these two industries have accounted for half of the employment growth in durable goods manufacturing—45,000 and 56,000, respectively.

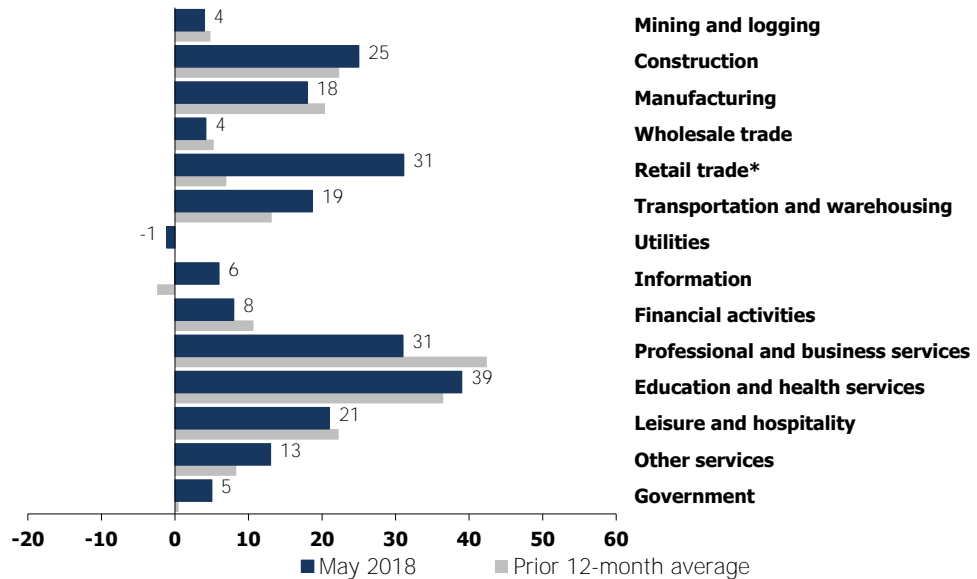
+4,000 Mining and Logging

Mining employment continued to trend up in May (+6,000). Since an employment trough in October 2016, mining has added 91,000 jobs. Support activities for mining has been responsible for most of the job growth both

Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, May 2018

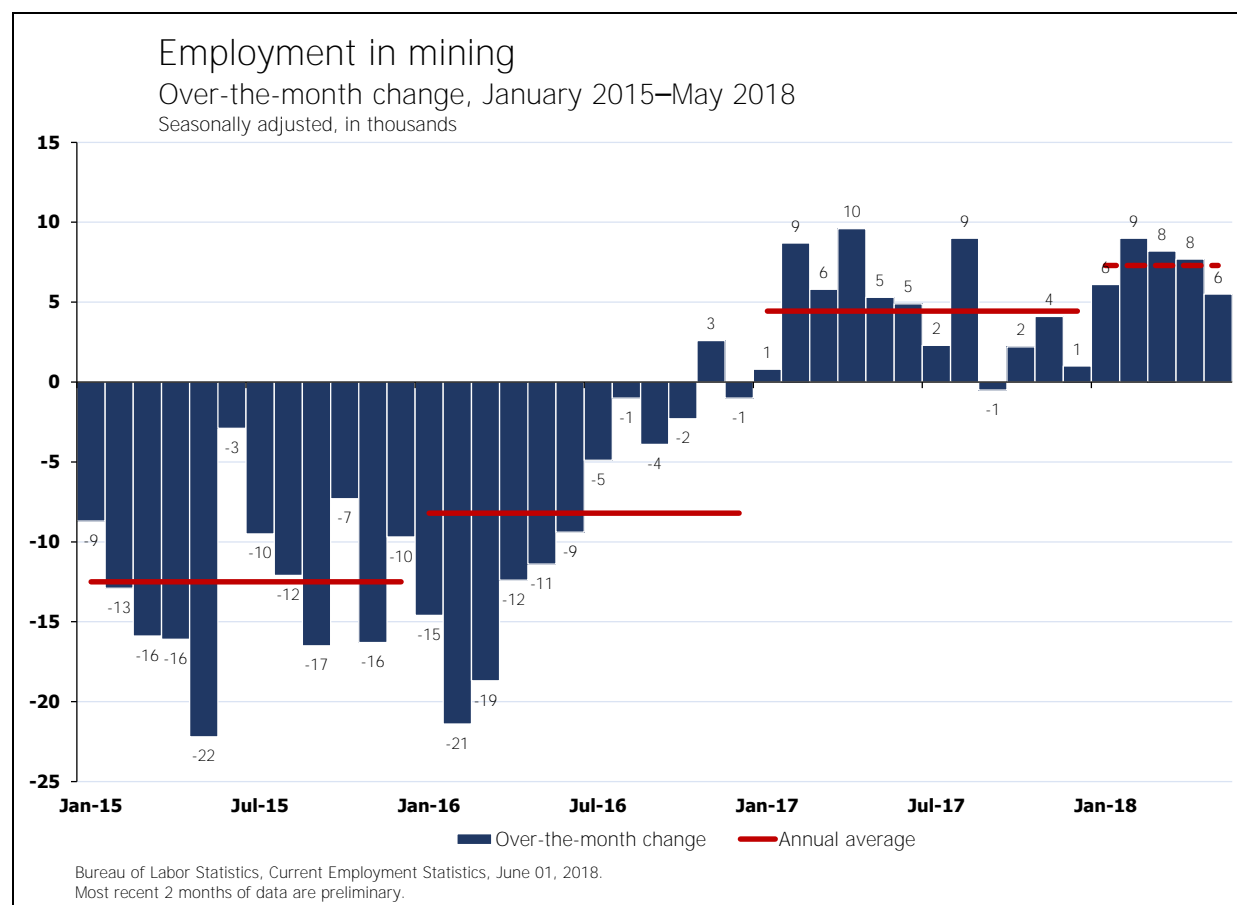
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 01, 2018.
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

over the month (+3,000) and since the trough (+89,000).

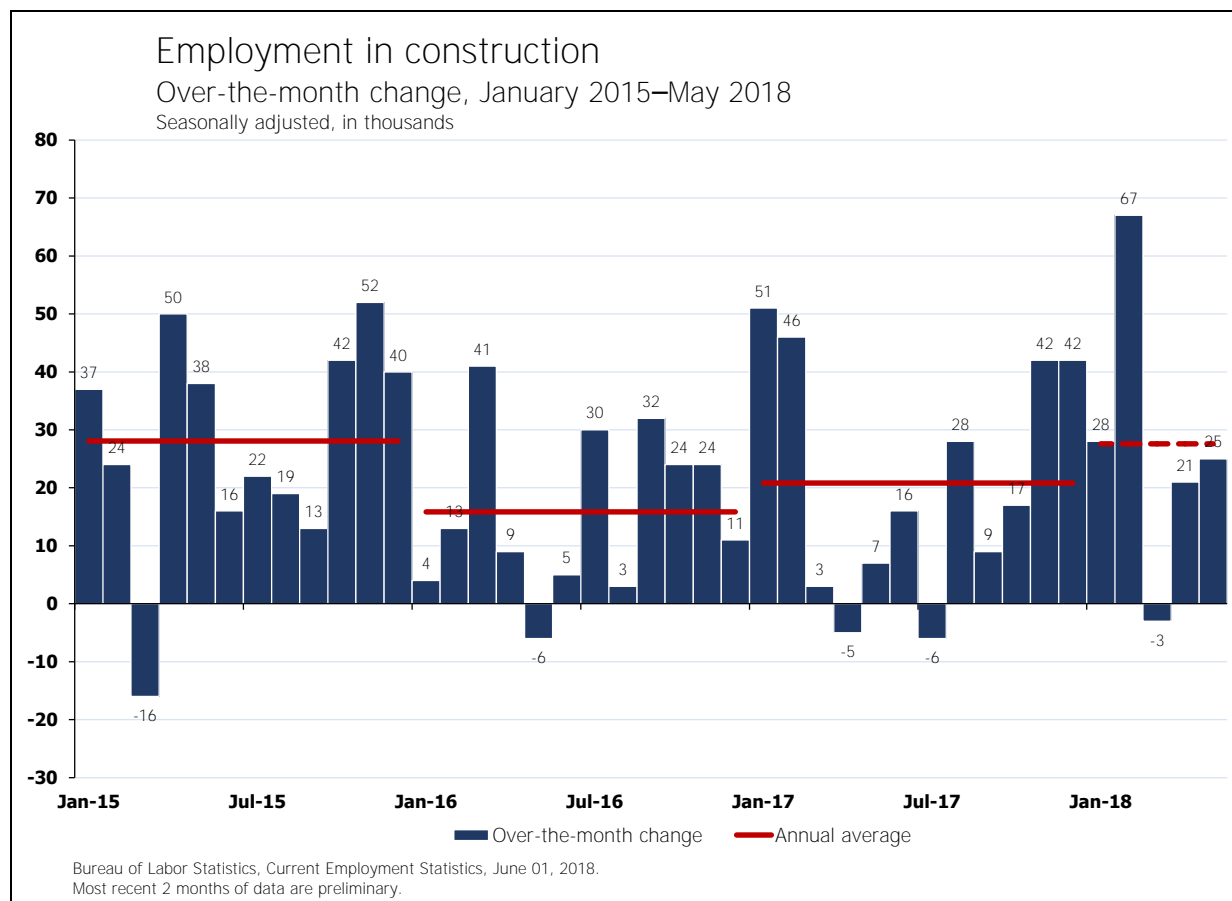
Mining and Logging



Employment in mining continued to trend upward in May (+6,000). The employment trend in this industry tends to follow changes in oil prices. The spot price of [West Texas intermediate crude oil](#) has been increasing since a low point in early 2016. Mining employment reached a trough in October 2016 and has increased by 91,000 as of May 2018.

Logging lost 2,000 jobs in May.

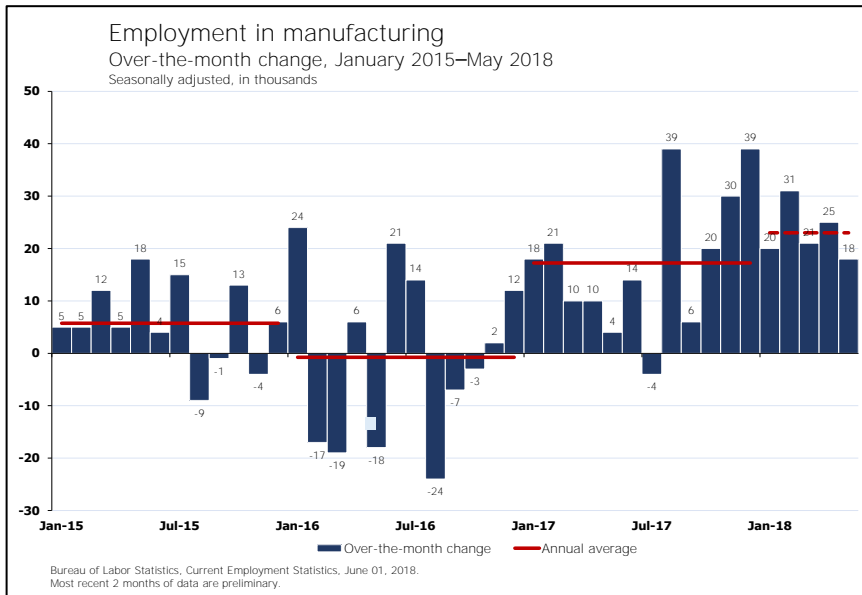
Construction



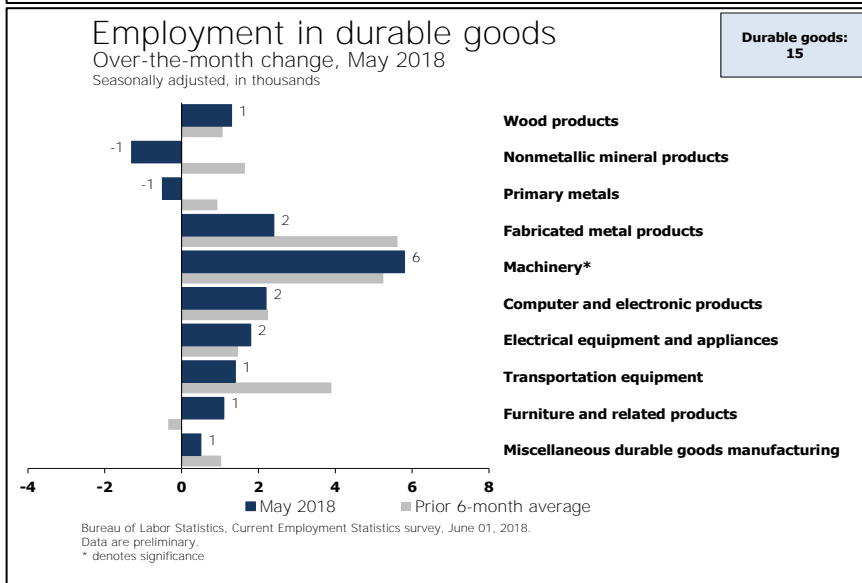
Construction employment continued to trend up in May (+25,000). Nonresidential specialty trades accounted for 15,000 of this increase.

Over the year, construction has added 286,000 jobs, led by gains in specialty trade contractors (+206,000) and residential building (+44,000).

Manufacturing



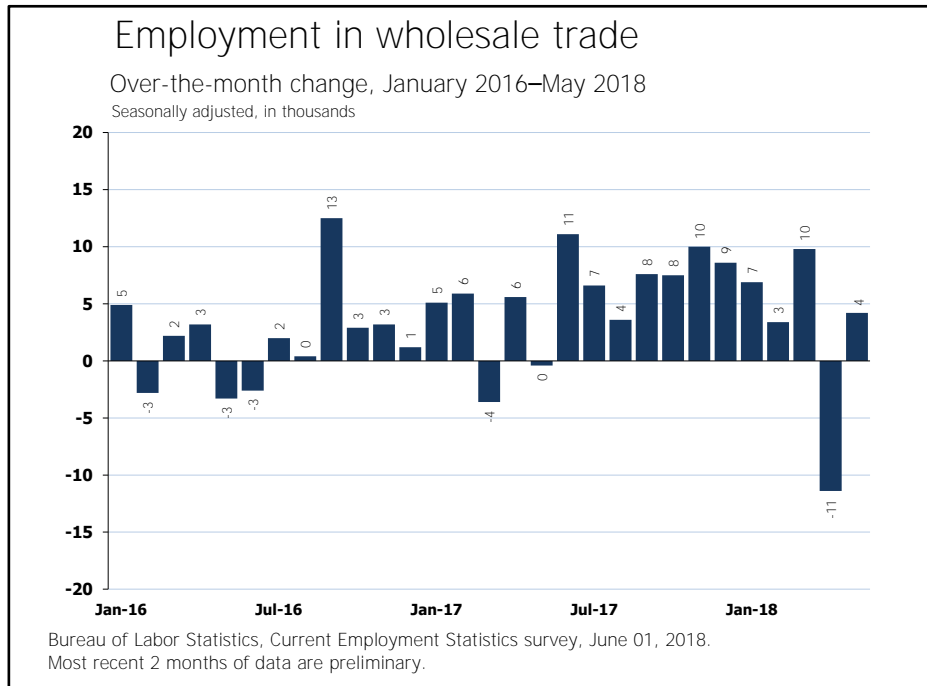
Employment in manufacturing continued to trend up in May (+18,000). Over the year, the industry has added 259,000 jobs, a 2.1-percent increase.



Recently, durable goods manufacturing has driven job gains in manufacturing, and that trend continued in May (+15,000). Of the 259,000 jobs added over-the-year in manufacturing, durable goods manufacturing has contributed 200,000, 77 percent. Employment in nondurable goods manufacturing changed little in May (+3,000).

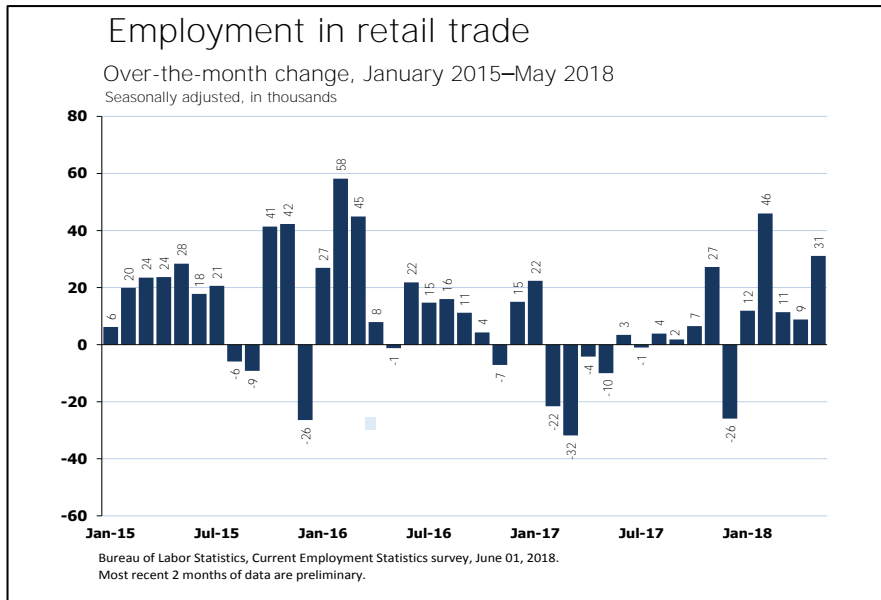
Among the component industries, machinery added jobs (+6,000), while the other components continued to follow their long-term trends.

Wholesale Trade



Employment in wholesale trade was little changed in May (+4,000). Despite little net employment change over the last 6 months, wholesale trade has gained 68,000 jobs over the year. Three-quarters of those jobs were added in durable goods industries.

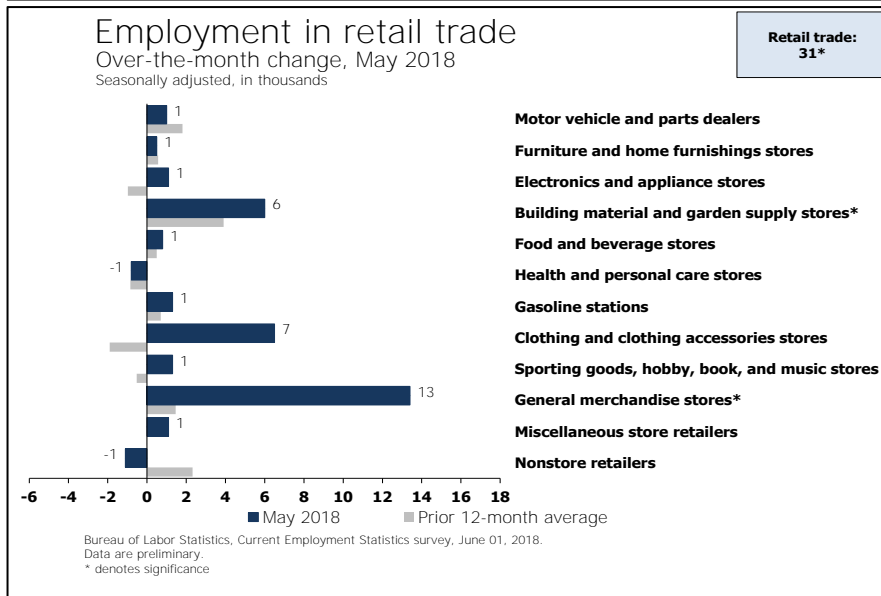
Retail Trade



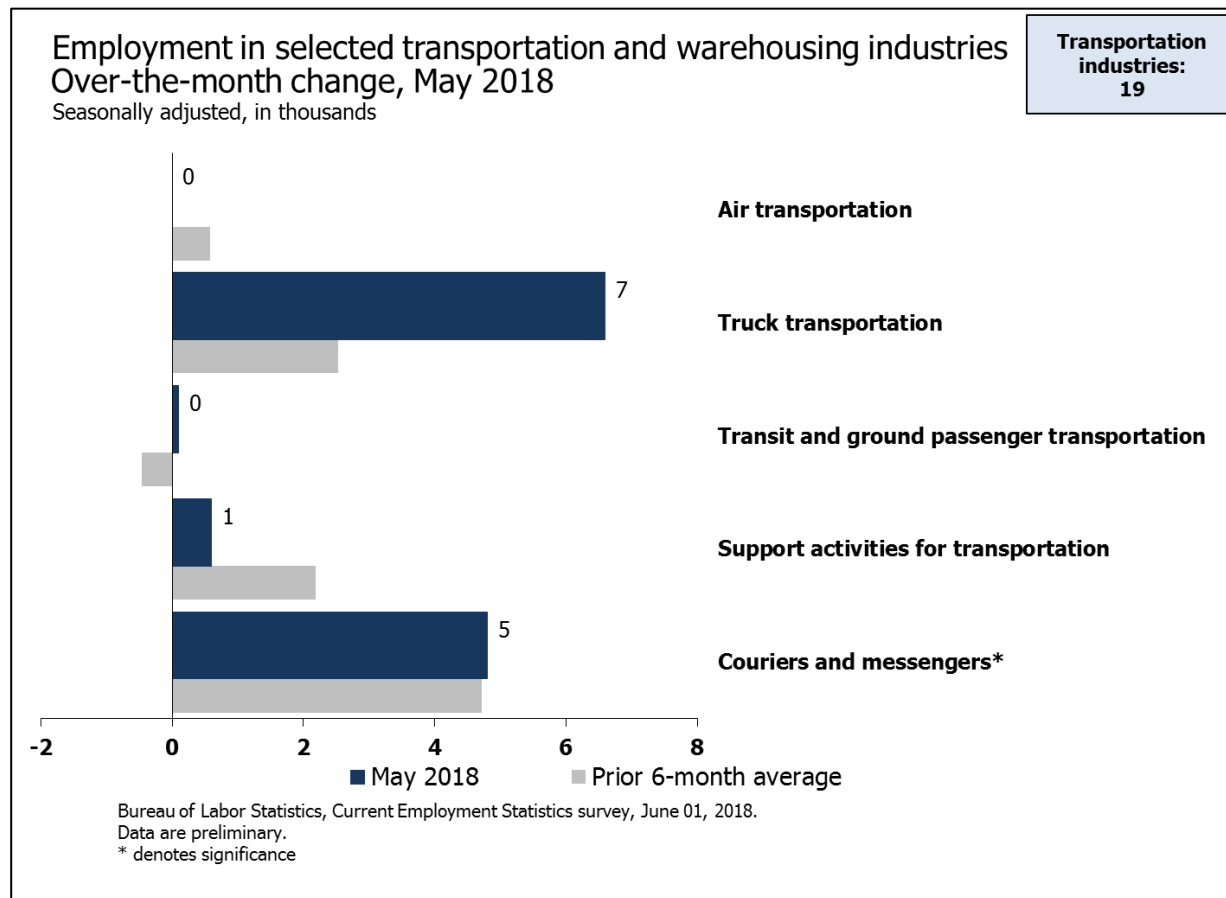
In May, employment in retail trade grew by 31,000. Year to date, employment growth has averaged 22,000 per month, compared to little net change per month during 2017 (-2,000).

Over the month, employment rose in general merchandise stores and in building materials and garden supply stores. General merchandise stores added 13,000 jobs, which were split between department stores (+8,000) and general merchandise stores, including warehouse clubs and supercenters (+6,000).

Employment increased by 6,000 in building materials and garden supply stores, offsetting a similar decrease in April. This industry has added 53,000 jobs over the past year.

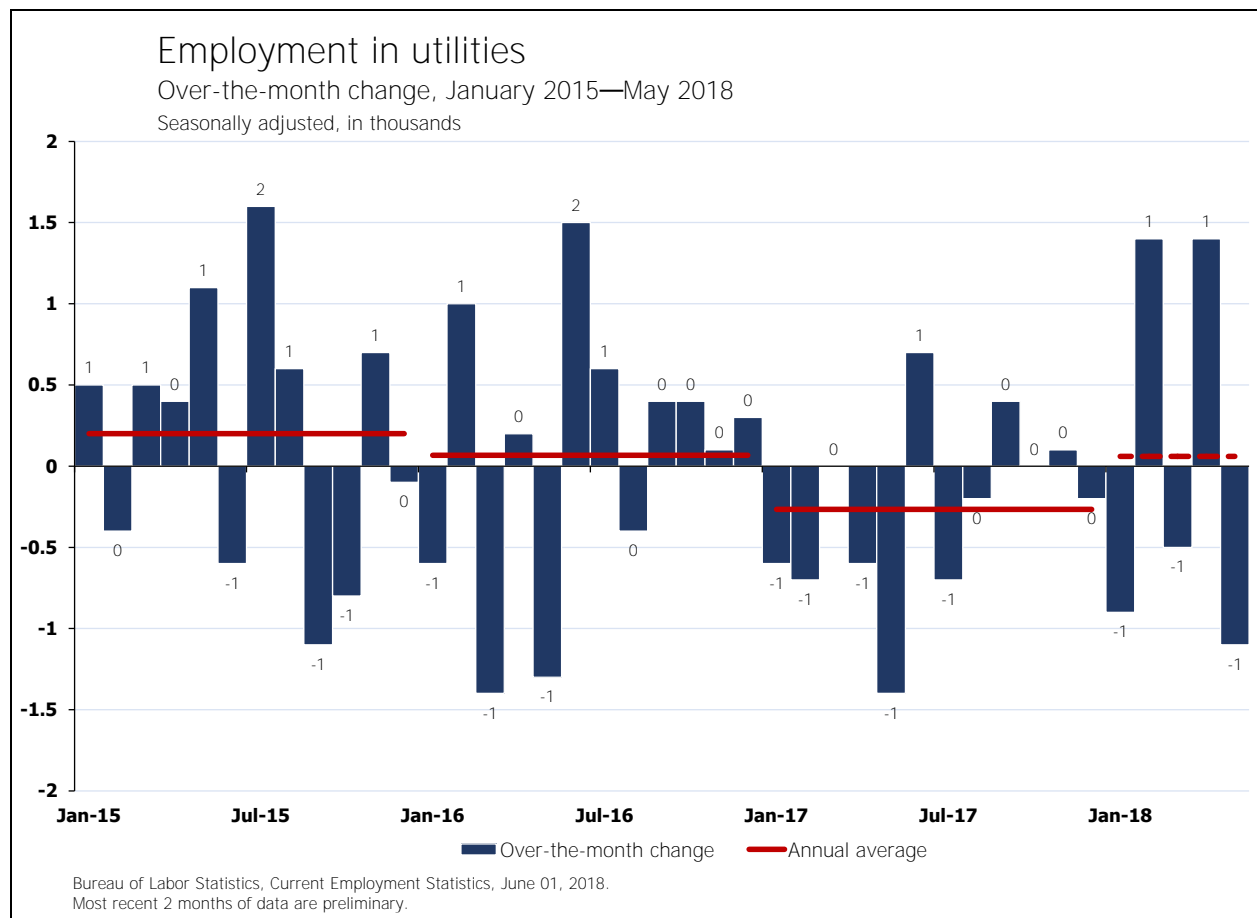


Transportation and Warehousing



Employers in transportation and warehousing added 19,000 jobs in May. The growth was spread amongst truck transportation (+7,000), warehousing and storage (+7,000), and couriers and messenger services (+5,000). So far this year, job growth in transportation and warehousing has averaged +15,000 per month, compared with +11,000 per month in 2017.

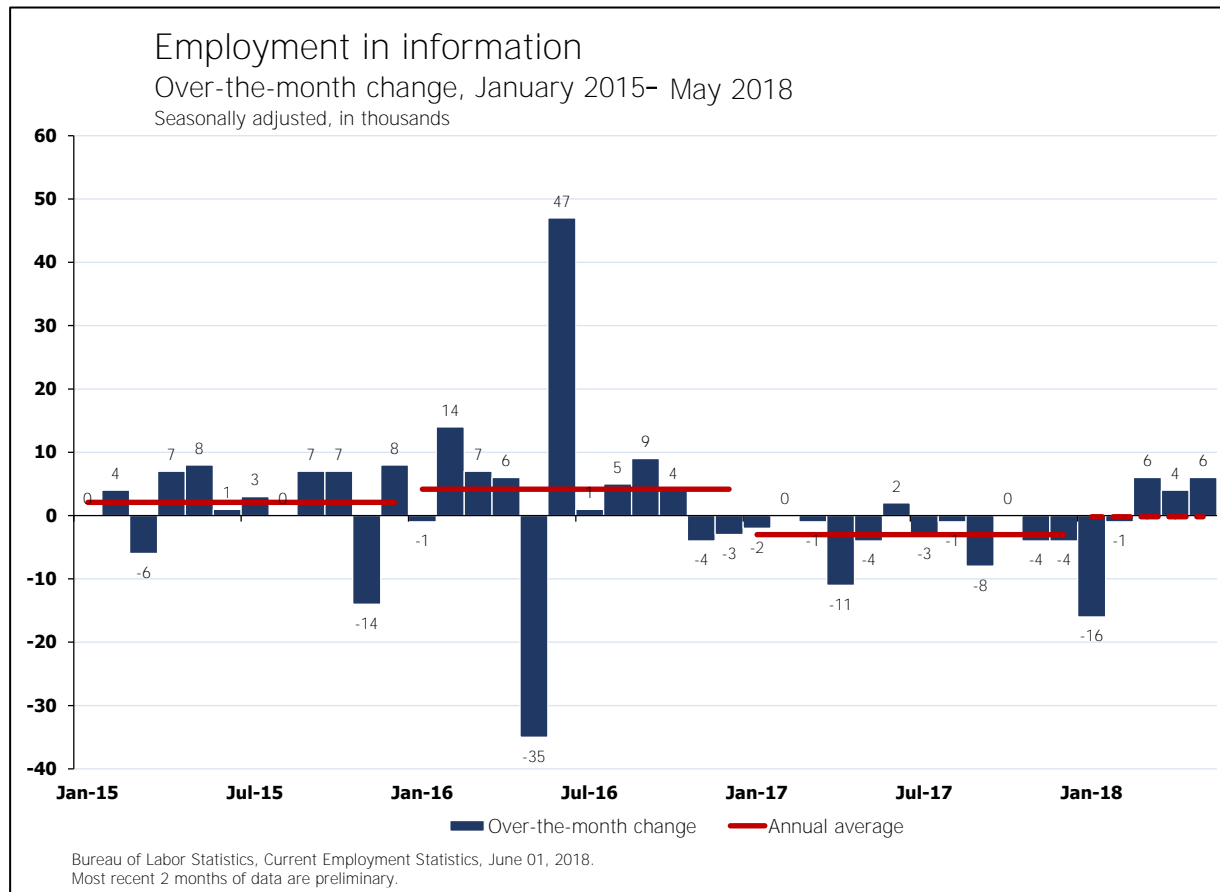
Utilities



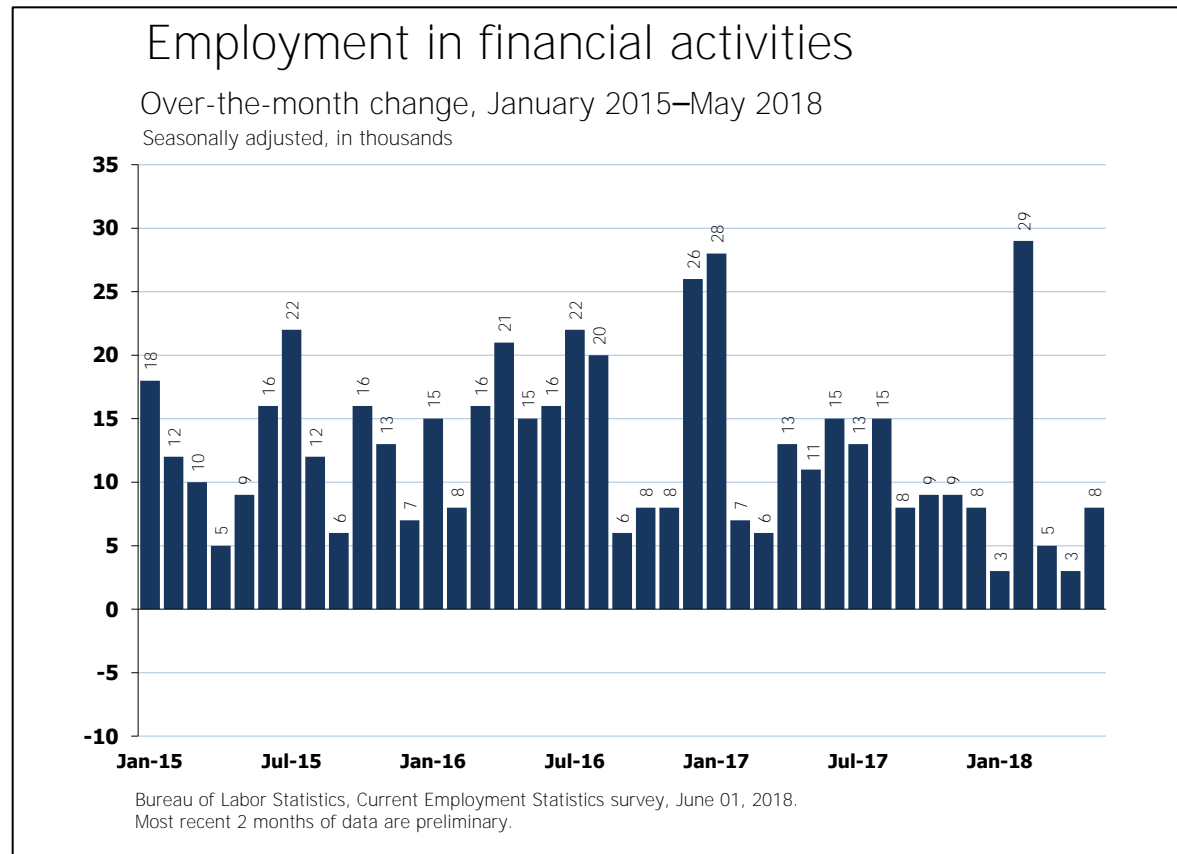
Utilities employment changed little in May and has shown little net change over the year.

Information

Employment in information changed little in May (+6,000), and has shown little net change over the year.

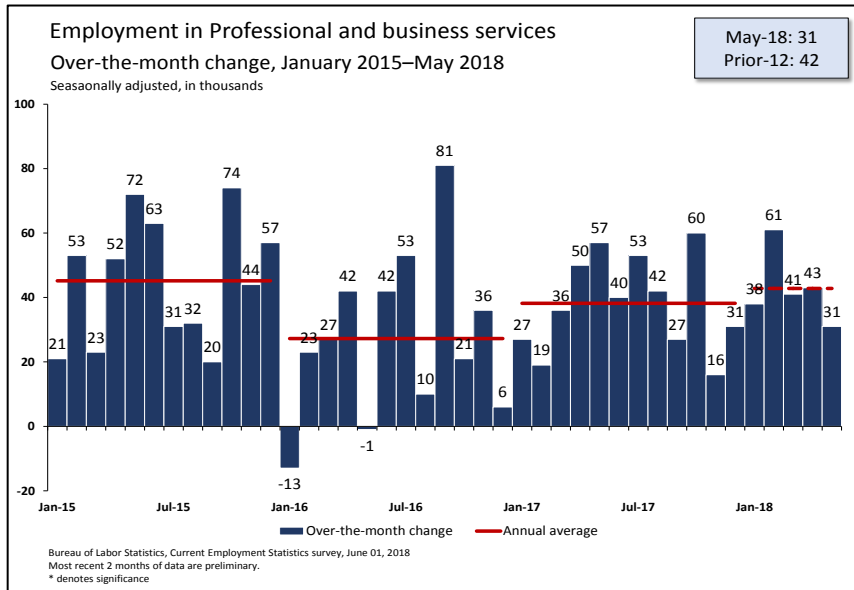


Financial Activities



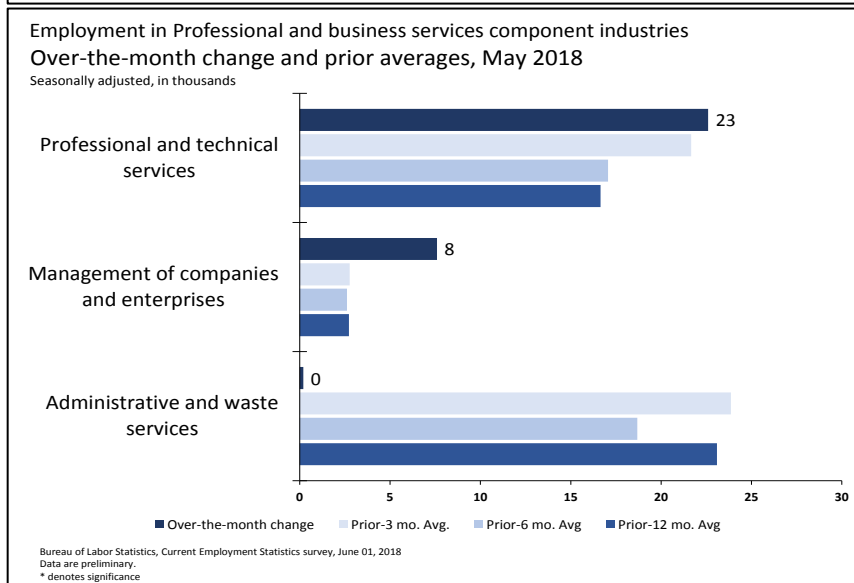
Employment in financial activities changed little (+8,000) in May. Although recent monthly job changes have been small, over the past year financial activities employment has grown by 125,000. These gains were about evenly split between the finance and insurance and the real estate and rental and leasing industries.

Professional and Business Services

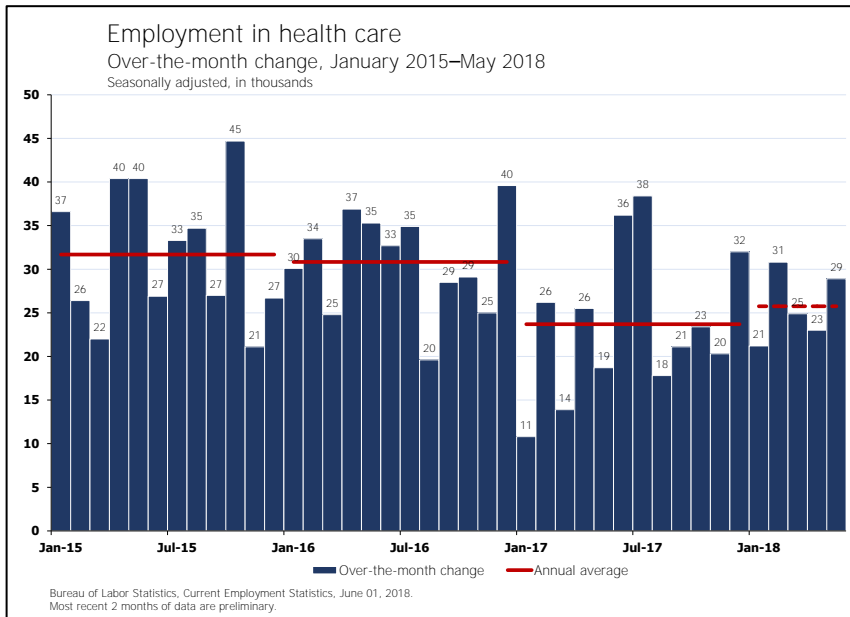


Professional and business services employment continued to trend up in May (+31,000), but came in below its prior-12 month average change. Employment continued to trend up in professional and technical services (+23,000), including +7,000 in computer systems design and related services. Management of companies and enterprises added 8,000 jobs in May.

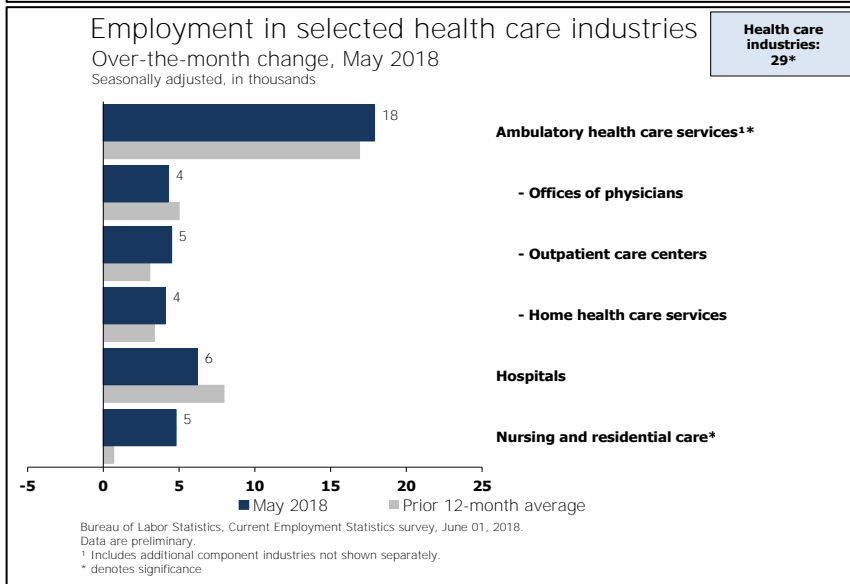
Small offsetting movements in the component industries of administrative and waste services kept employment flat in May.



Private Education and Health Services



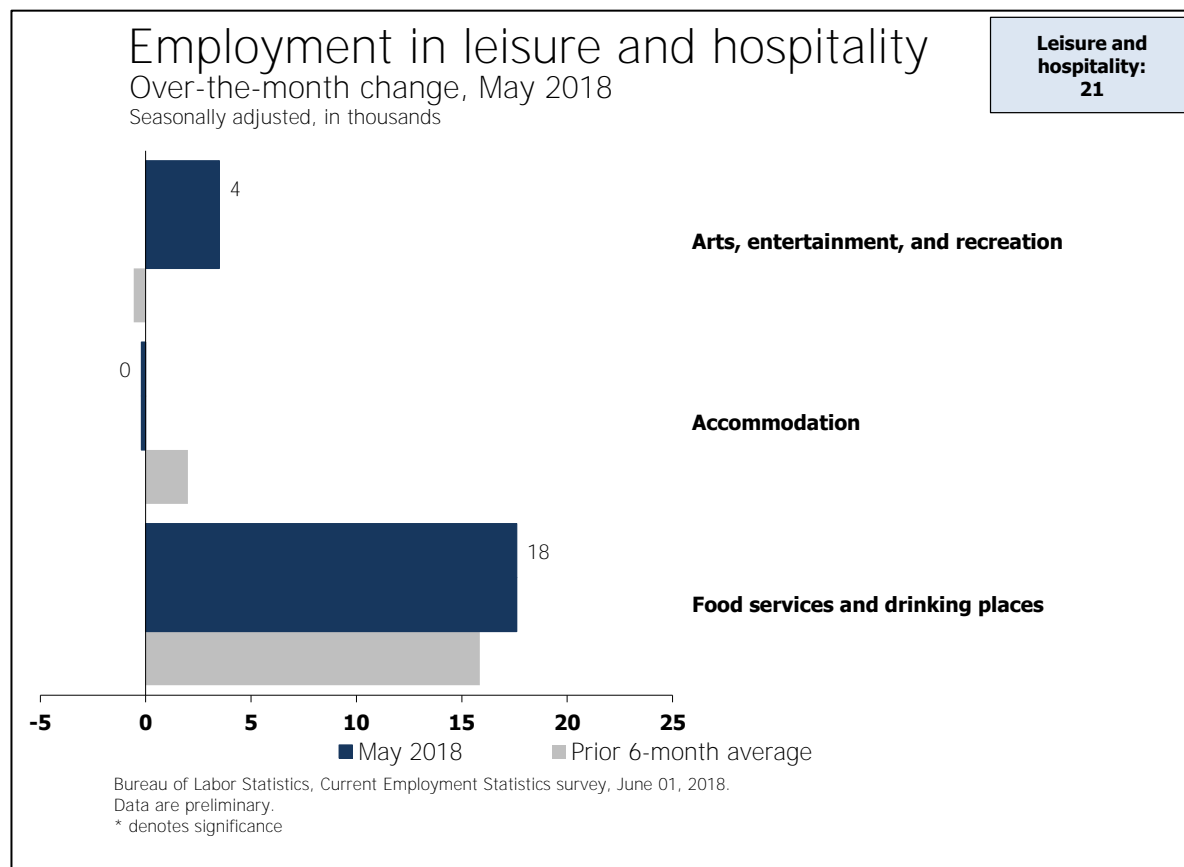
Health care employment continued to grow in May (+29,000). Job gains have averaged 26,000 per month in 2018, in line with average monthly growth in 2017 (+24,000).



Within health care, employment in ambulatory health care services rose by 18,000 in May. Its main component industries also continued their respective upward employment trends. Ambulatory health care services has added 208,000 jobs over the last 12 months for a gain of 2.9 percent.

Hospital employment continued to trend up in May (+6,000). Hospital employment has continued to grow in 2018, adding an average of 9,000 jobs per month so far. In 2017, hospital employment had risen by an average of 6,000 per month.

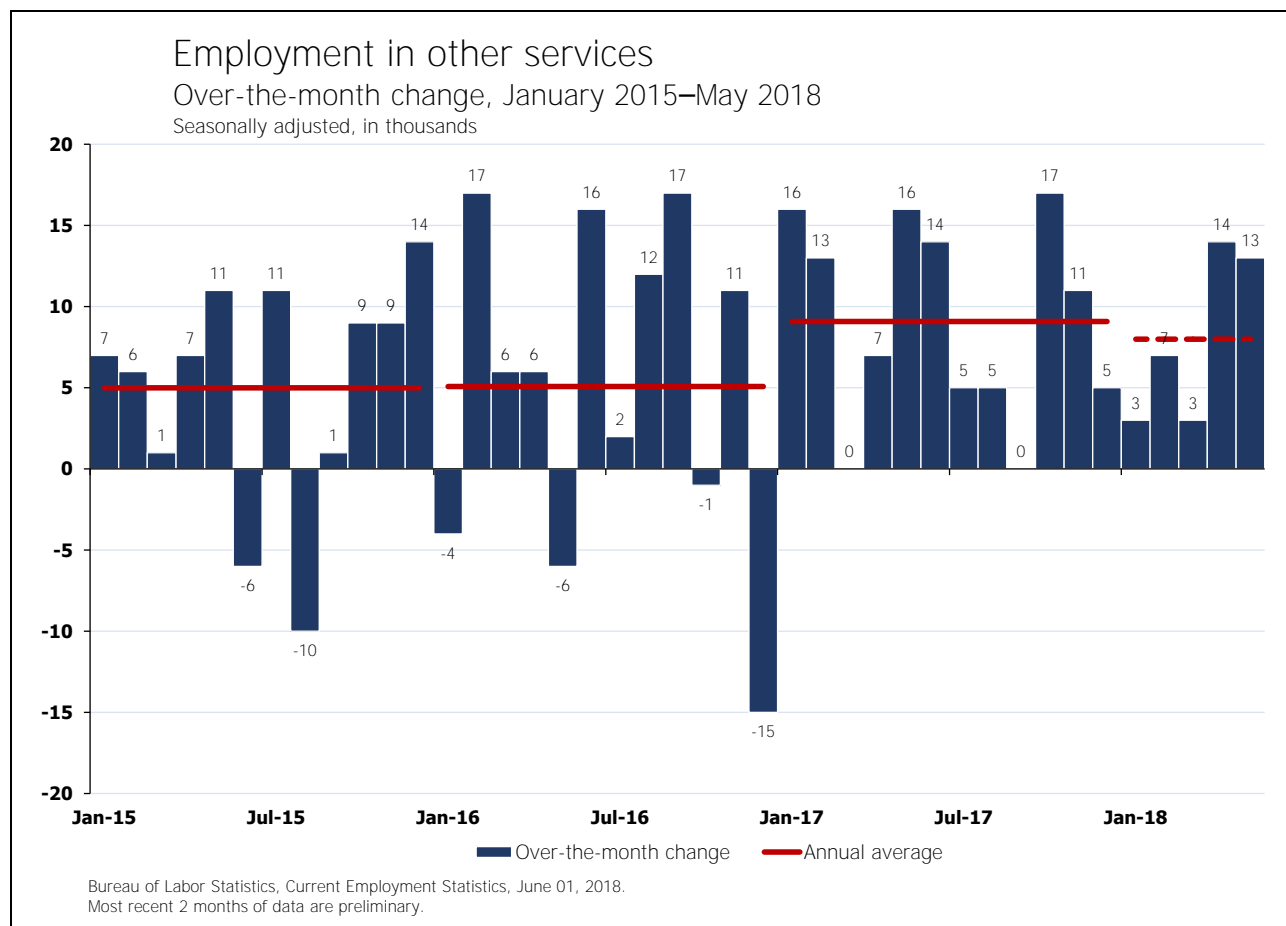
Leisure and Hospitality



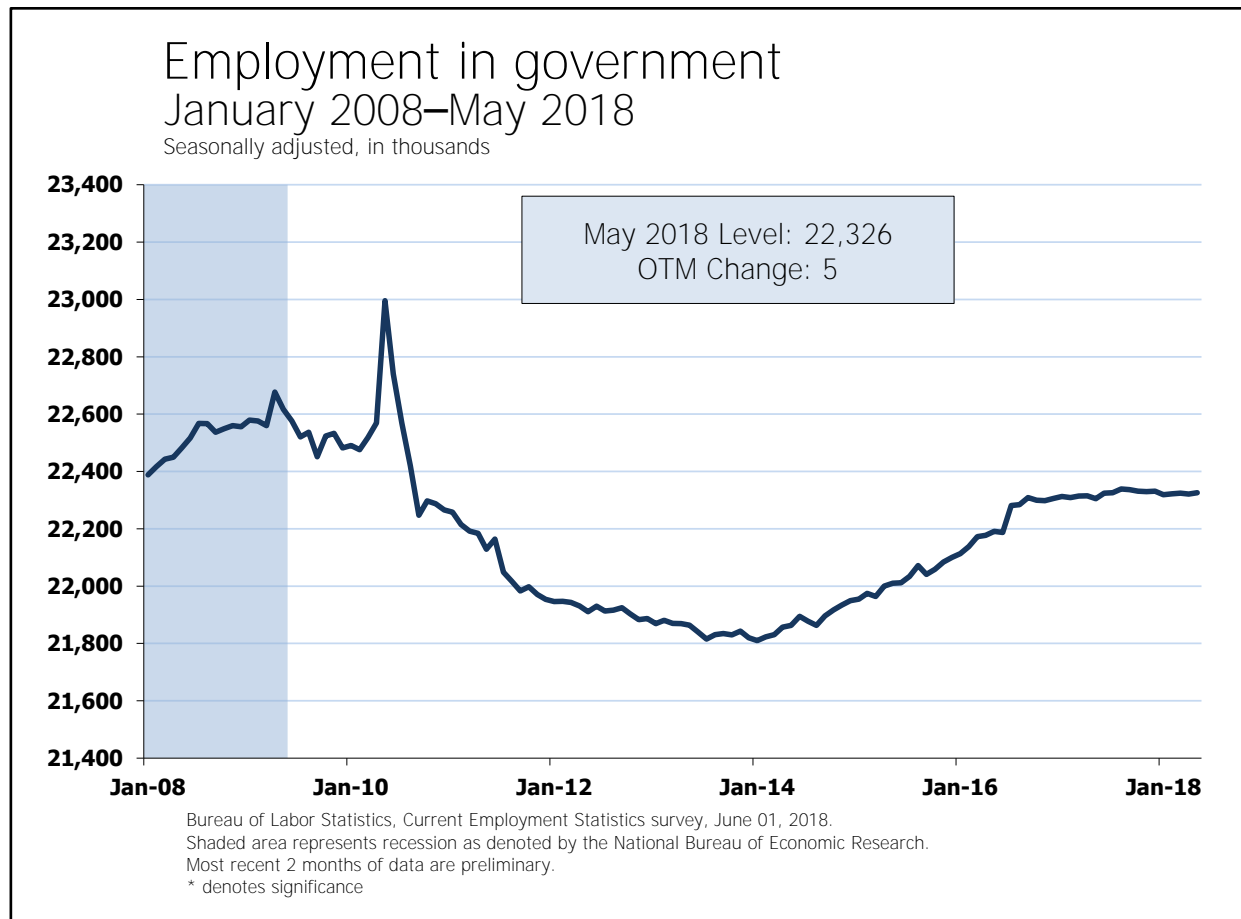
Employment in leisure and hospitality changed little in May (+21,000). Museums, historical sites, and similar institutions lost 4,000 jobs. The [Consumer Confidence Index](#) ticked up in May, while employment changed little in food services and drinking places (+18,000).

Other Services

Employment in other services edged up in May (+13,000). Over the most recent 12 months, the industry has added 97,000 jobs, a change of 1.7 percent. Personal and laundry services accounted for 47 percent of the gains over this period.



Government



Employment in government changed little in May (+5,000). Employment in federal agencies declined by 3,000. Government employment has been essentially flat over the year (+21,000).



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