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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



March 2013

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

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[Email CES](#)

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, March 2013

Total nonfarm: + 88,000

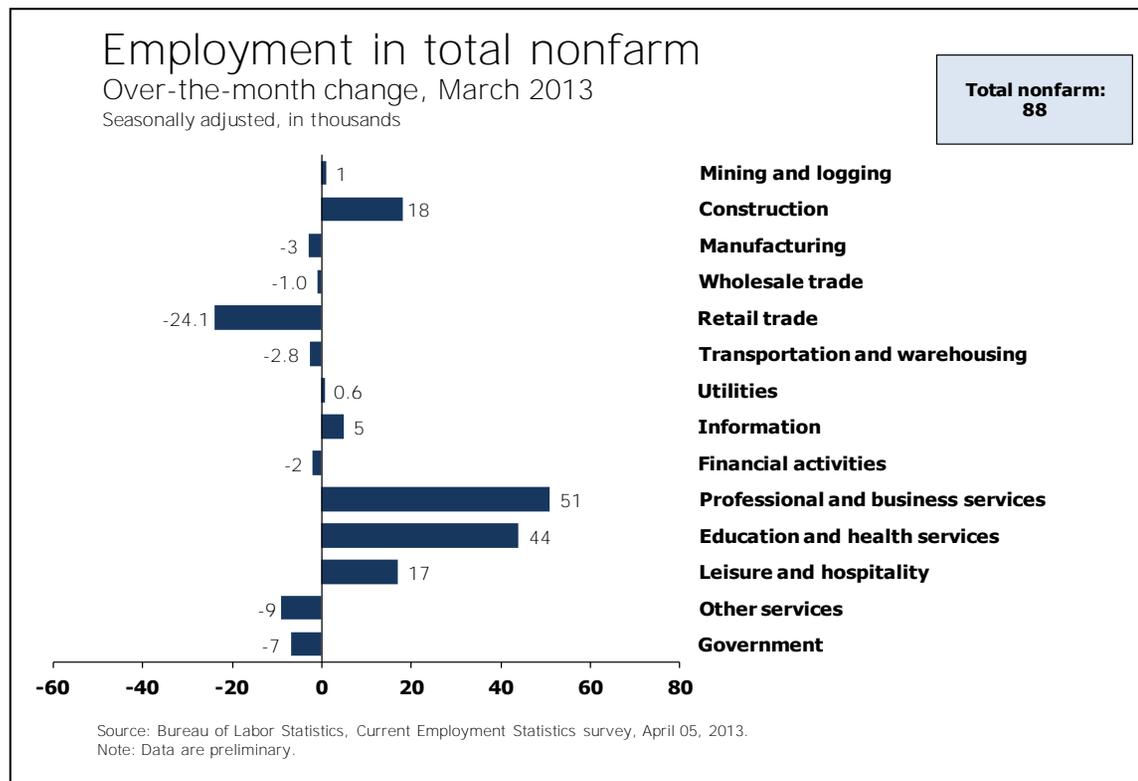
Total private: + 95,000

Nonfarm employment continued to trend up in March (+88,000). Job growth had averaged 169,000 over the previous 12 months. Both professional and business services and health care added jobs over the month, while retail trade lost jobs.

Average weekly hours of all private-sector employees rose by 0.1 hour to 34.6 hours. Average hourly earnings changed little (+1 cent) over the month, following a 3-cent gain in February. Hourly earnings are up 1.8 percent over the year.

+ 51,000 Professional and business services

Professional and business services added 51,000 payroll jobs in March. Employment growth in the sector had averaged 44,000 over the prior 12-month period. Over the month, accounting and bookkeeping services added 11,000 jobs following a similar increase in February. In March, employment continued to trend up in temporary help services, and other component industries in professional and technical services.



+ 44,000 Education and health care

Health care added 23,000 jobs in March. Both ambulatory care and hospitals contributed to the increase. Over the past 12 months,

health care providers boosted payroll employment by 295,000.

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, March 2013

+ 18,000 Construction

Employment in construction continued to trend up in March. Over the past 6 months, job growth has averaged 28,000 per month, compared to an average of 10,000 per month from February 2011 to September 2012.

+ 17,000 Leisure and hospitality

Employment in leisure and hospitality continued to trend up over the month. The industry has added 291,000 jobs over the past 12 months, mostly in food services

- 24,000 Retail trade

Employment in retail trade declined by 24,000 over the month. Job gains in the industry had averaged 32,000 during the prior 6 month period. In March, clothing and accessory stores contributed to the weakness with 15,000 jobs lost, followed by building material and garden supply stores (-10,000) and electronics and appliance stores (-6,000).

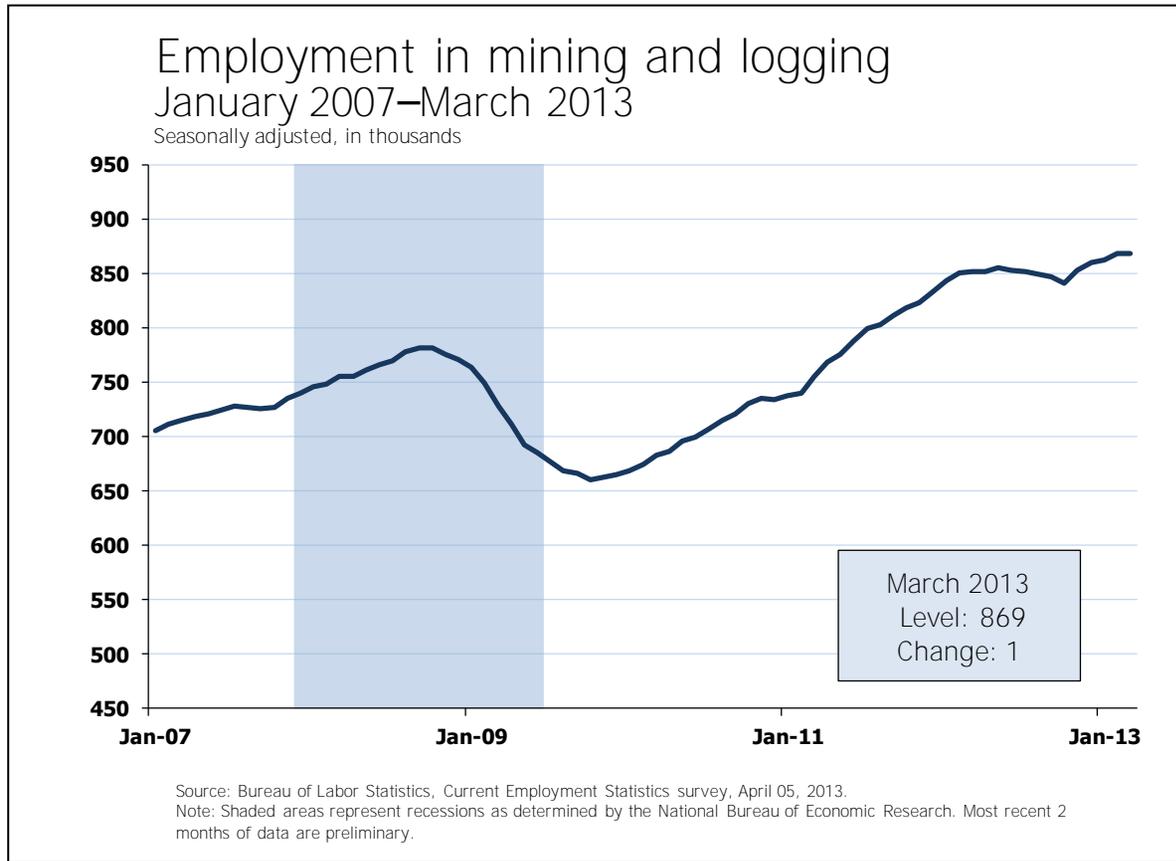
- 7,000 Government

Following a small increase in February, employment in the U.S. Postal Service decreased by 12,000. Monthly job losses have averaged 2,000 over the past 12 months.

| Other Employment Changes* | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Mining and logging | 1,000 |
| Manufacturing | - 3,000 |
| Wholesale trade | - 1,000 |
| Transportation & warehousing | - 3,000 |
| Utilities | 1,000 |
| Information | 5,000 |
| Financial activities | - 2,000 |
| Other services | - 9,000 |

*Over-the-month changes in this table are not statistically significant (based on a 90% confidence interval)

Mining and Logging

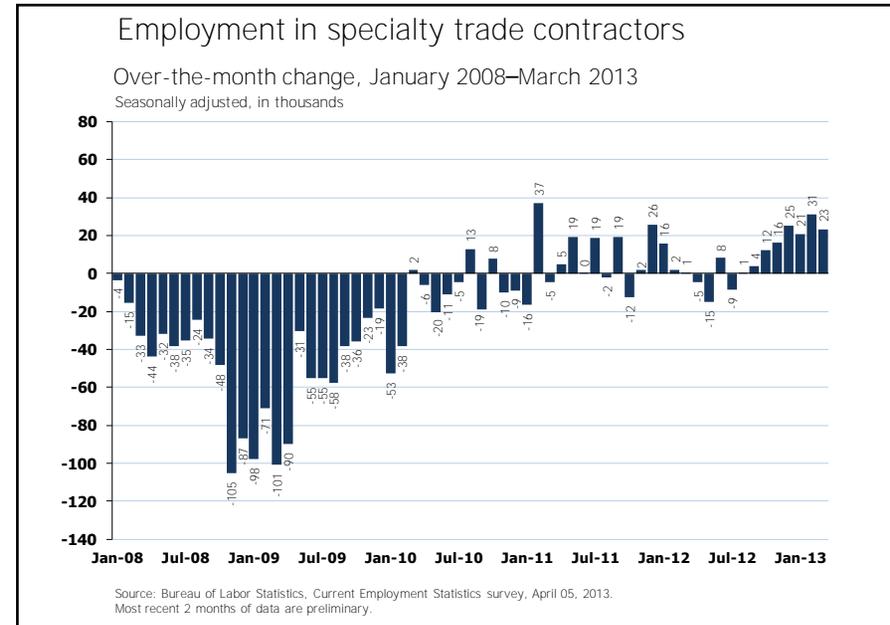


In March, employment within mining and logging was essentially unchanged. Over the last 5 months the industry has gained 28,000 jobs.

Construction



Construction employment continued to trend up (+18,000) in March. Over the last 6 months, the industry has added 169,000 jobs, a gain of 3 percent.



NAICS 238 – Specialty trade contractors

Employment in specialty trade contractors rose by 23,000 in March. Within the industry, residential specialty trade contractors added 13,000 jobs, which is consistent with the [Census Bureau's](#) report that building permits rose 4.6 percent in February. Over the last 6 months, specialty trade contractors have added 128,000 jobs.

Manufacturing

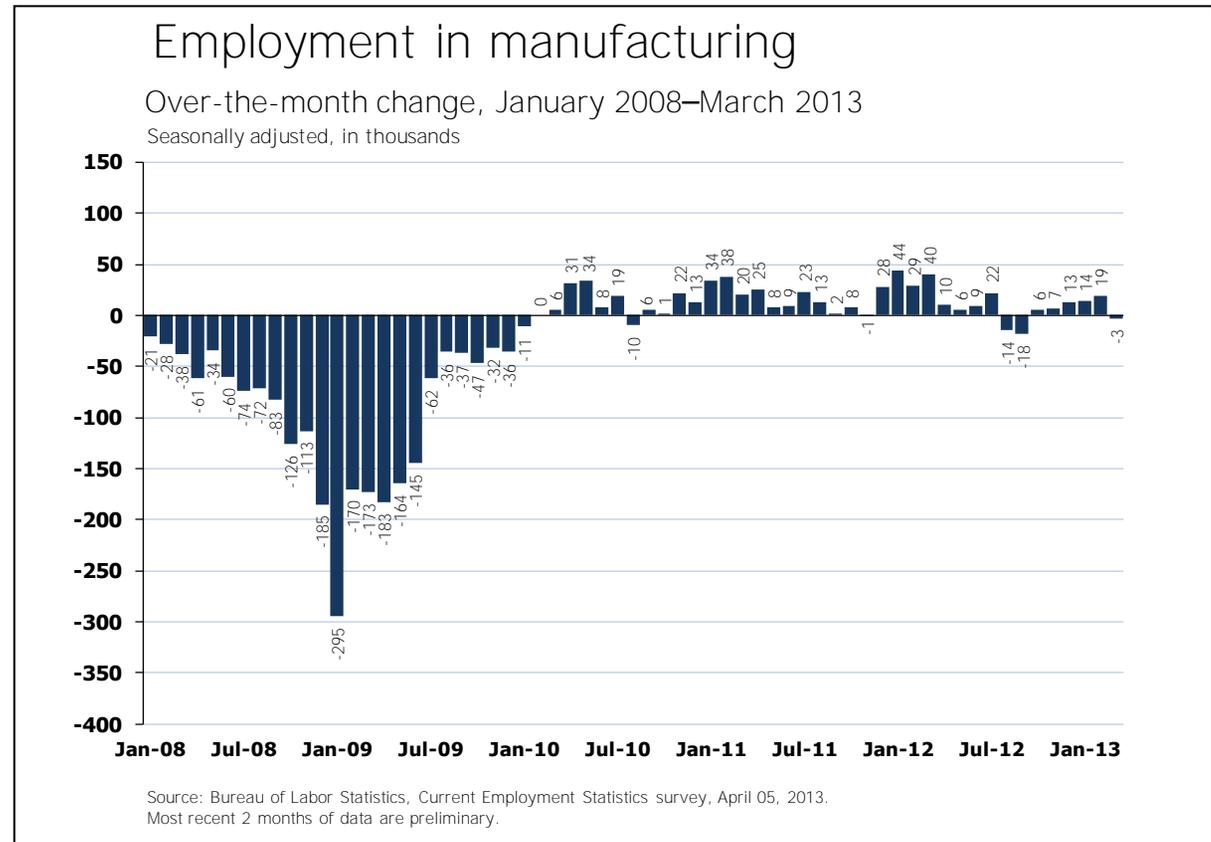
In March, manufacturing employment changed little, following a 3-month period when job growth averaged 15,000 per month.

The 1-month diffusion index of manufacturing employment fell from 54.3 in February to 46.3 in March. 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.

In March, the factory workweek for production employees fell 0.1 hour. The factory workweek is considered a leading economic indicator. The shorter workweek combined with the employment change in manufacturing led to a 0.5 percent decrease in the March index of aggregate weekly hours for production employees.

NAICS 3361, 3362, and 3363 combined – Motor vehicles and parts

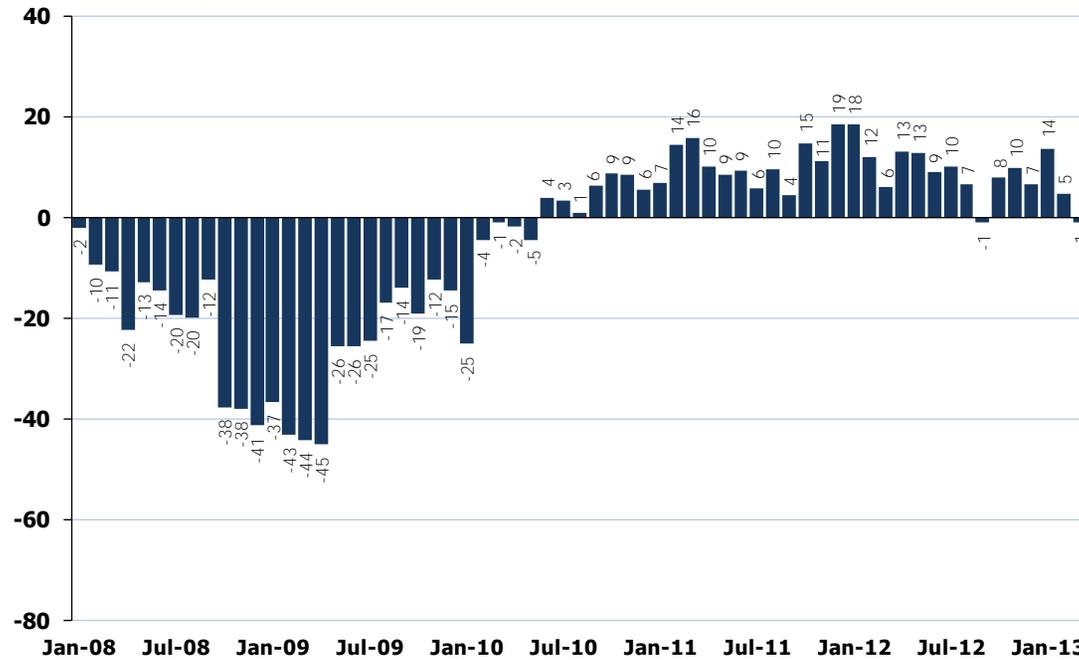
In March, employment in motor vehicles and parts manufacturing was essentially unchanged. Since reaching an employment trough in June 2009, the industry has recovered 165,000 jobs; however, in the last 4 months, industry employment has changed little.



Wholesale Trade

Employment in wholesale trade

Over-the-month change, January 2008–March 2013
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 05, 2013.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

In March, employment in wholesale trade remained essentially unchanged. Over the most recent 12 months, however, wholesale has added 92,000 jobs.

Retail Trade

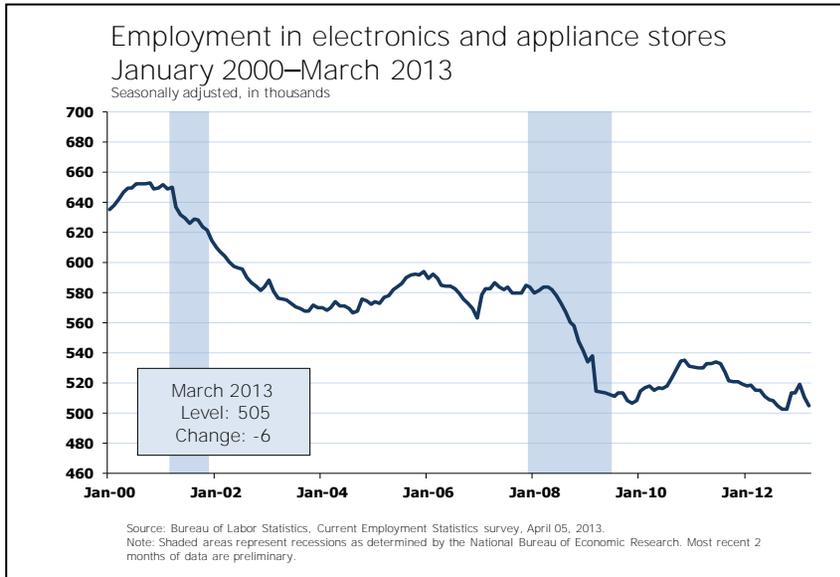


Retail trade employment declined by 24,000 in March driven largely by job losses in clothing and clothing accessories stores (-15,000), building material and garden supply stores (-10,000), and electronics and appliance stores (-6,000).

Recent retail-related indicators have been mixed. As shown by [Census Bureau](#) data, retail sales for February registered a small increase of 1.1 percent. This gain, however, was driven primarily by a 5 percent increase in sales at gasoline stations. Automotive sales, as measured by [MotorIntelligence](#), were mostly flat in March, but were up 1.1 million from a year ago. Additionally, according to the [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#), the per-gallon price of gasoline was down 5 cents from February and down 16 cents over the year.

The [Conference Board](#) noted that the Consumer Confidence Index fell sharply in March. Consumers' wariness over future business and labor market conditions was a factor cited in declining confidence over the month.

Retail Trade

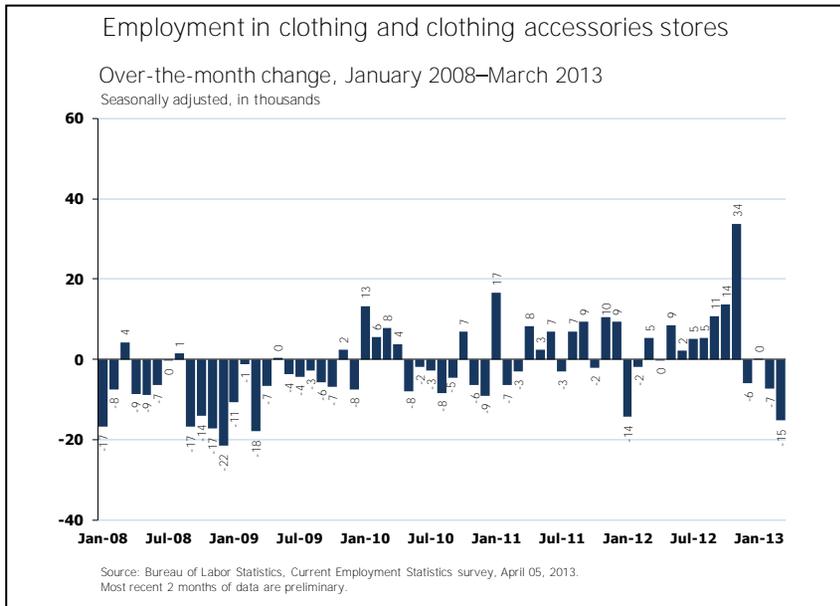


NAICS 443 – Electronics and appliance stores

Employment in electronics and appliance stores declined by 6,000 in March. The industry has experienced an overall downward employment trend since 2000.

NAICS 448 – Clothing and clothing accessories stores

In March, clothing and clothing accessories stores employment declined by 15,000. Since November, this industry has lost 29,000 jobs, partially offsetting gains that occurred after February 2012. Decreased demand for spring goods as a result of colder-than-usual weather may have contributed to the recent declines (Source: [CNBC](#)).



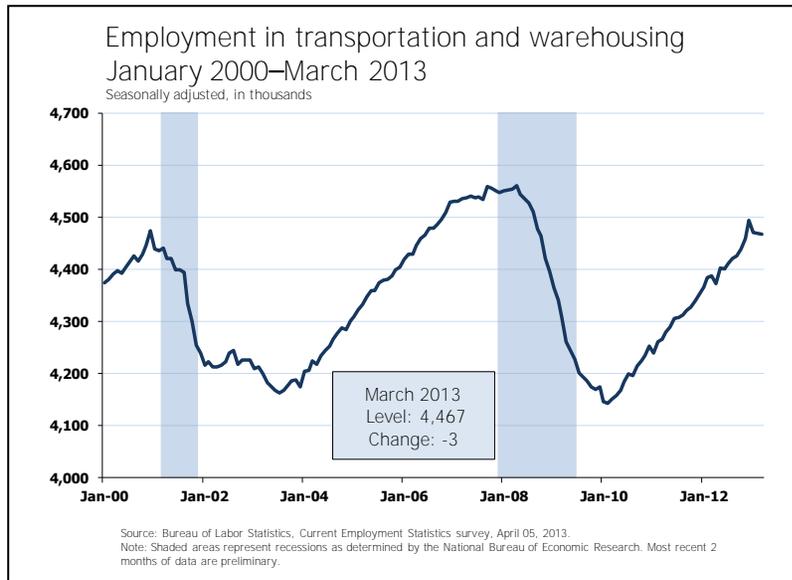
Retail Trade

| Building material and garden supply stores spring build up over-the-month employment change in thousands, not seasonally adjusted | | | | | |
|---|----------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Year | Feb | Mar | Buildup through March | Apr | May |
| 2008 | 3 | 24 | 27 | 39 | 38 |
| 2009 | -5 | 10 | 5 | 36 | 30 |
| 2010 | 12 | 39 | 51 | 46 | 28 |
| 2011 | 7 | 49 | 56 | 60 | 21 |
| 2012 | 13 | 53 | 66 | 55 | 20 |
| Average | 6 | 35 | 41 | 47 | 27 |
| 2013 | 16 | 27 | 43 | | |

NAICS 44 – Building material and garden supply stores

In March, building material and garden supply stores lost 10,000 jobs. March is the second month of seasonal employment buildup in the industry. Not seasonally adjusted, stronger-than-average employment gains in February were followed by lower-than-average gains in March, resulting in the seasonally adjusted employment loss. Over the 2-month period, the unadjusted buildup is about average.

Transportation and Warehousing



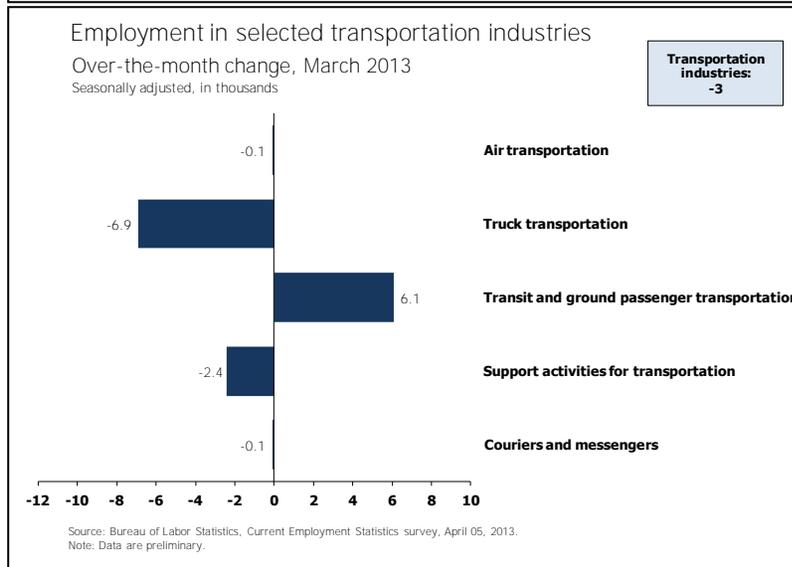
Employment within transportation and warehousing changed little in March.

NAICS 485 – Transit and ground passenger transportation

Employment in transit and ground passenger transportation changed little in March (+6,000), reflecting the end of a labor dispute involving school bus drivers in New York City.

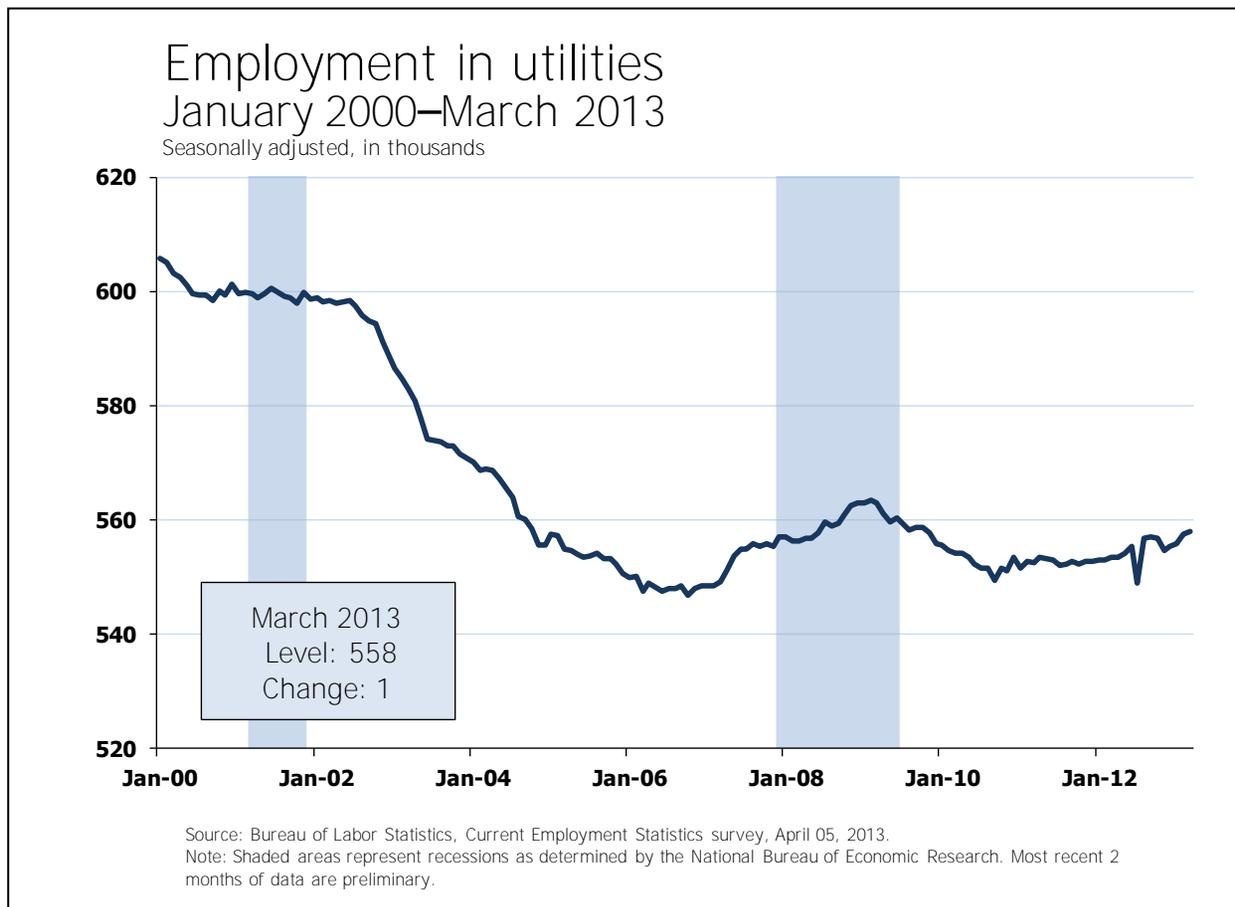
NAICS 492 – Couriers and messengers

Employment in couriers and messengers was unchanged in March, after losing 23,000 jobs during the holiday layoff period (January and February). However, the industry had added a net 11,000 jobs between October 2012 and February 2013.

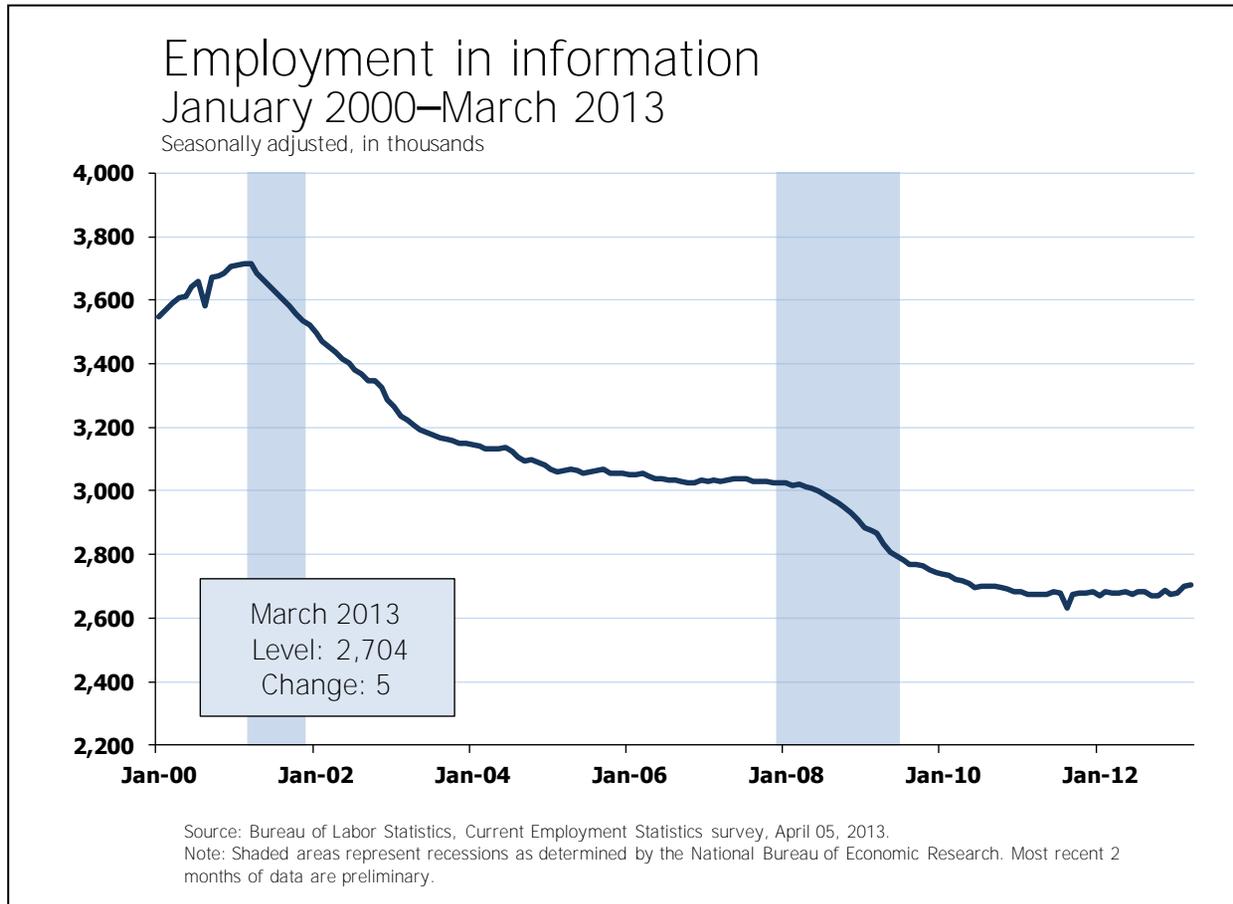


Utilities

In March, employment in utilities changed little.



Information



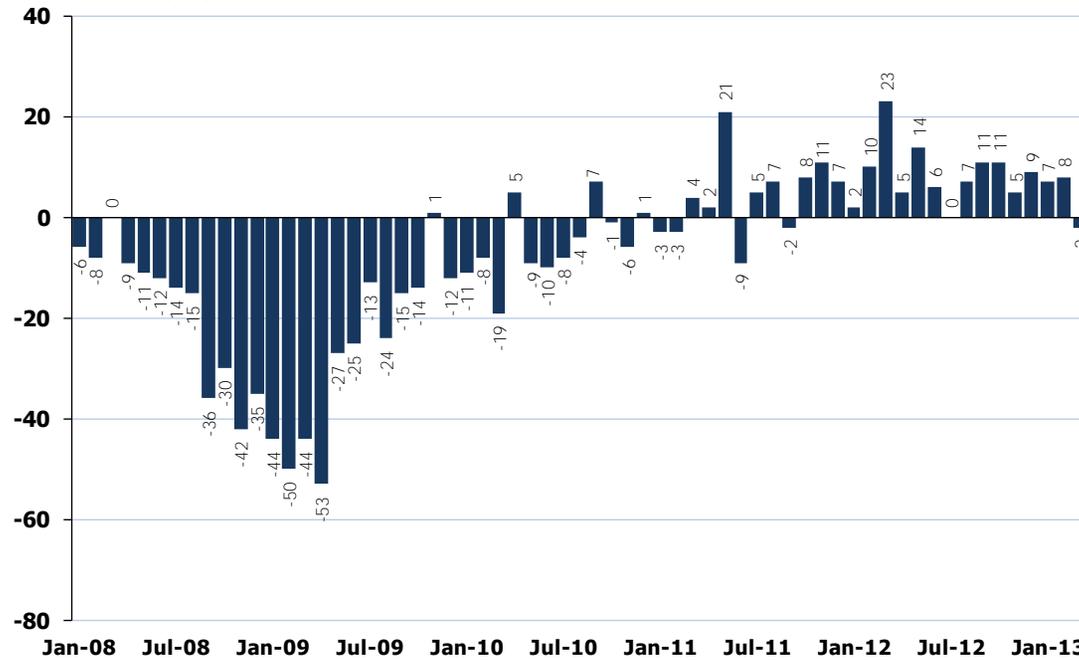
Information employment was about unchanged in March. This follows a job gain of 19,000 in February, which was attributable to an employment increase in motion picture and sound recording industries.

The past year has seen little movement in information employment, but the trend over the longer term has been one of sustained job loss. Since reaching an historical high point in March 2001, information employment has fallen by over one million—a decline of about 27 percent. These job losses have been concentrated in wired telecommunications.

Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities

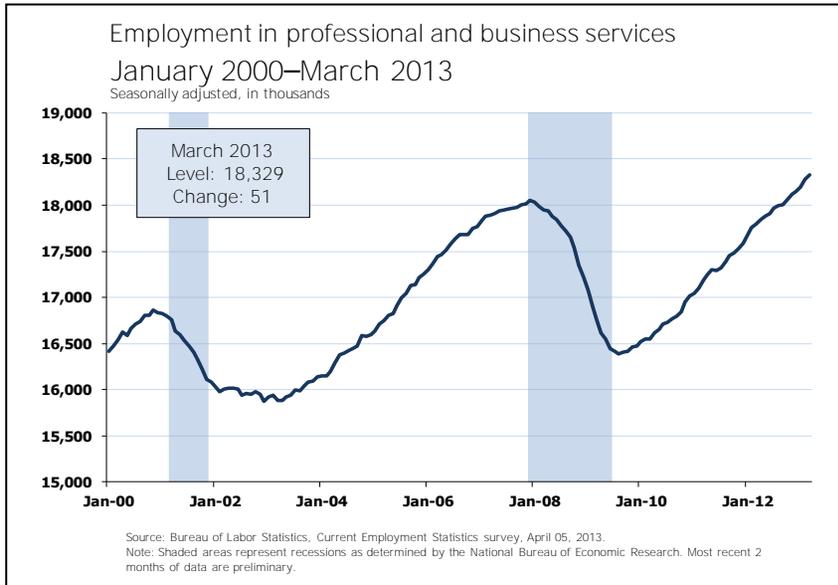
Over-the-month change, January 2008–March 2013
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 05, 2013.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in financial activities was flat in March (-2,000). However, employment has increased by an average of 7,000 per month since reaching a trough in February 2011.

Professional and business services

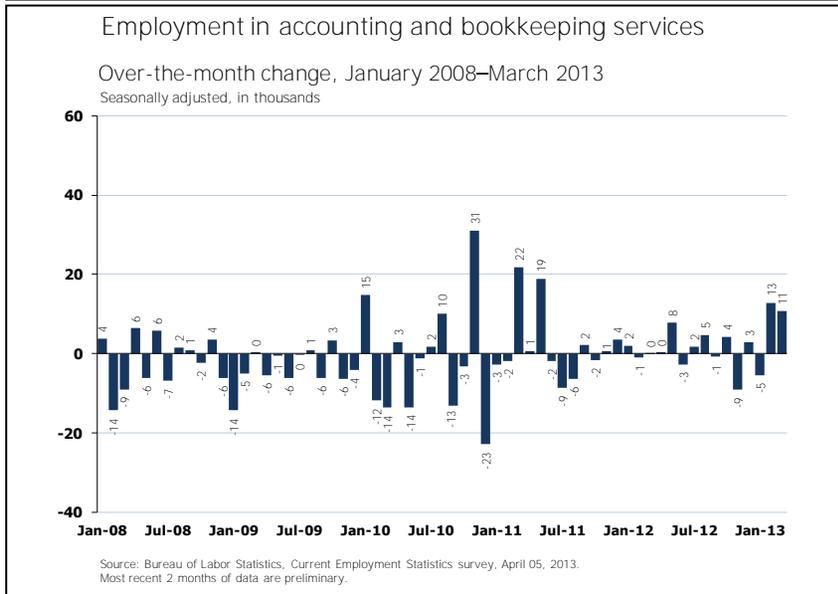


Professional and business services employment grew by 51,000 in March. Since reaching an employment trough in August 2009, the industry has grown by 1.9 million, or an average 45,000 per month. Professional and technical services added 25,000 jobs in March, while employment in administrative and waste services (+26,000) continued to trend up.

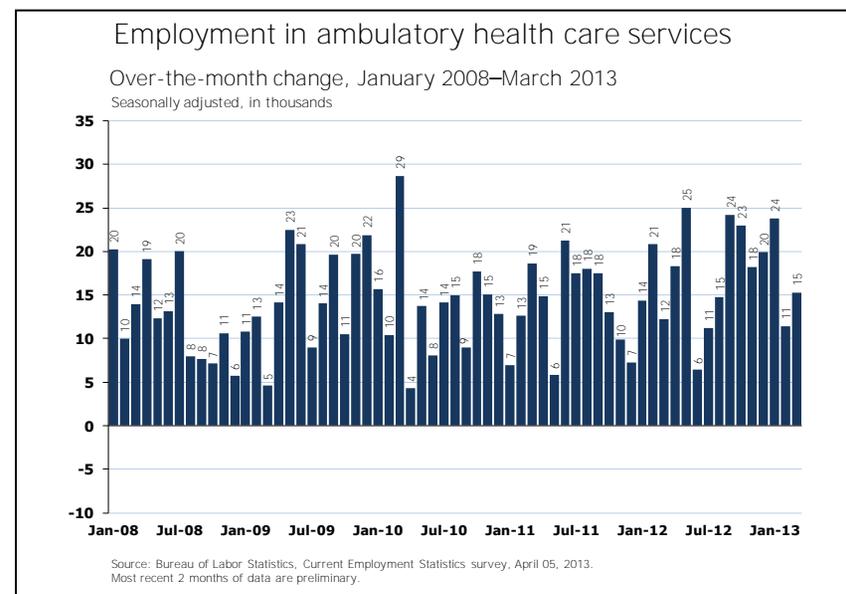
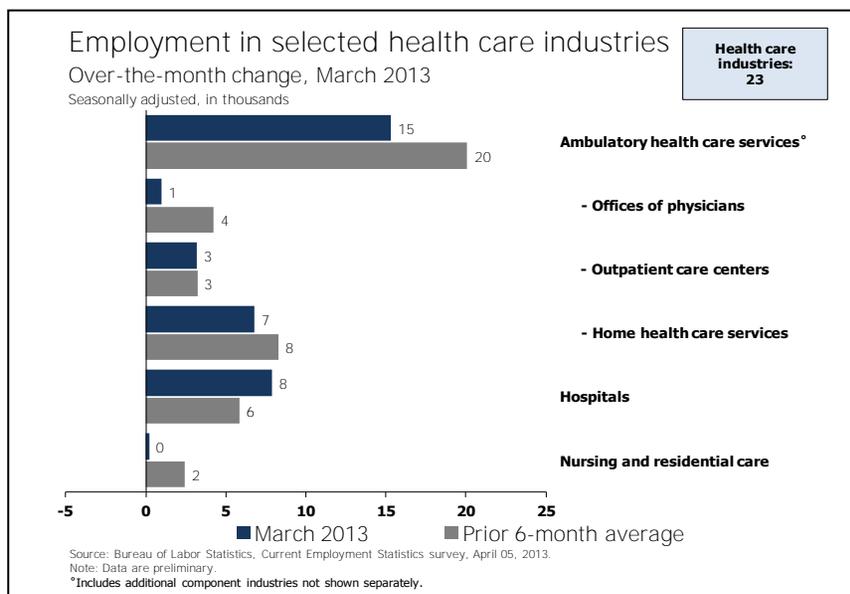
Temporary help services employment continued to trend up in March (+ 20,000).

NAICS 5412 – Accounting and bookkeeping services

Following a similar gain in February, employment in accounting and bookkeeping services increased by 11,000 in March. The growth can likely be attributed to stronger hiring for the coming tax deadline.



Private education and health services



Education and health services added 44,000 jobs in March. The majority of the employment gain occurred in health care, which added 23,000 jobs over the month.

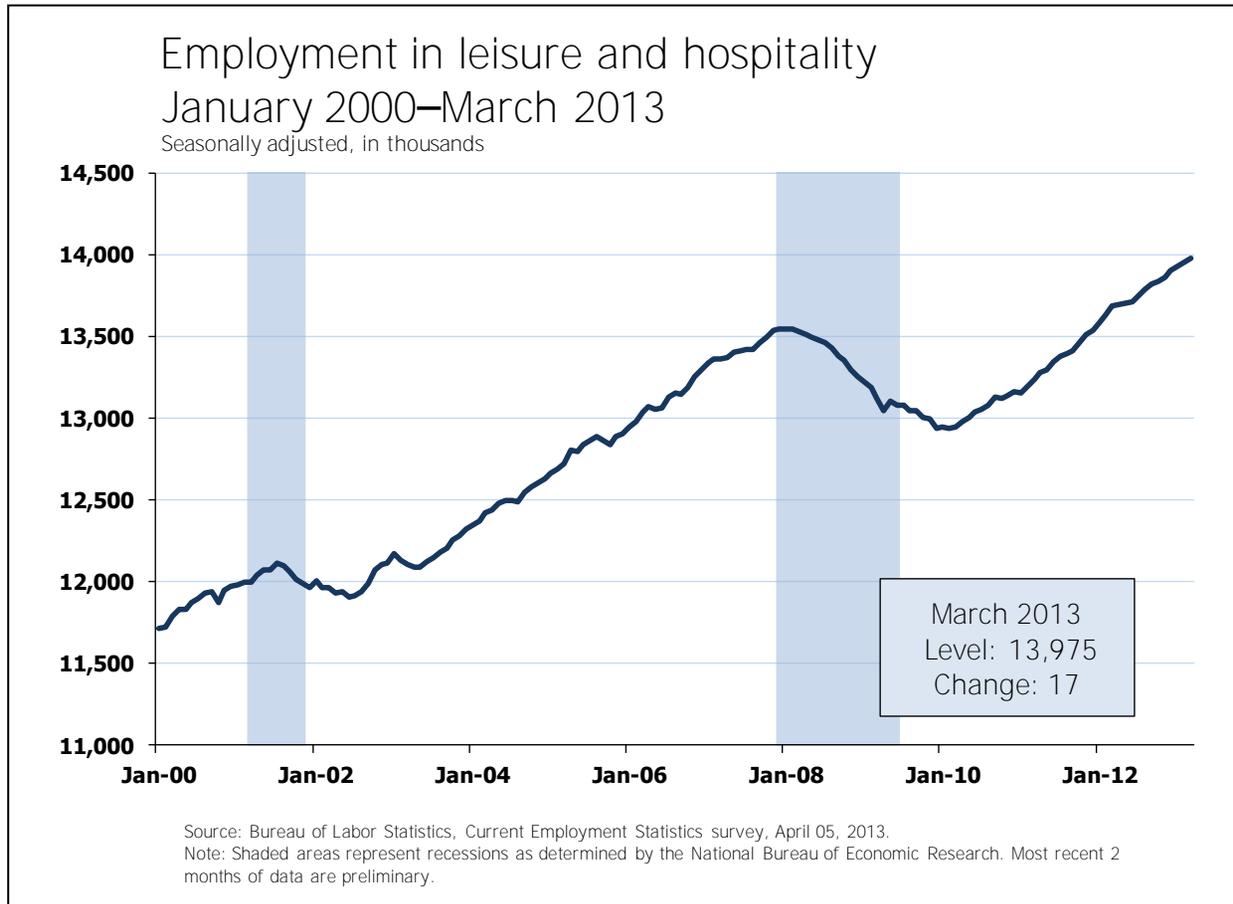
NAICS 621 – Ambulatory health care services

Within health care, ambulatory health care services employment expanded by 15,000 in March, with continued job growth spread throughout its component industries. Since February 2010, the end of the most recent downturn in total nonfarm employment, ambulatory health care services employment has increased by 9 percent and has accounted for over two-thirds of health care employment gains.

NAICS 622 – Hospitals

Hospitals continued to add jobs in March (+8,000). Over the past 12 months, hospitals have added 61,000 jobs.

Leisure and Hospitality



Employment in leisure and hospitality continued to trend up in March, maintaining its recent trend of modest growth and marking the industry’s 26th consecutive month of job gains.

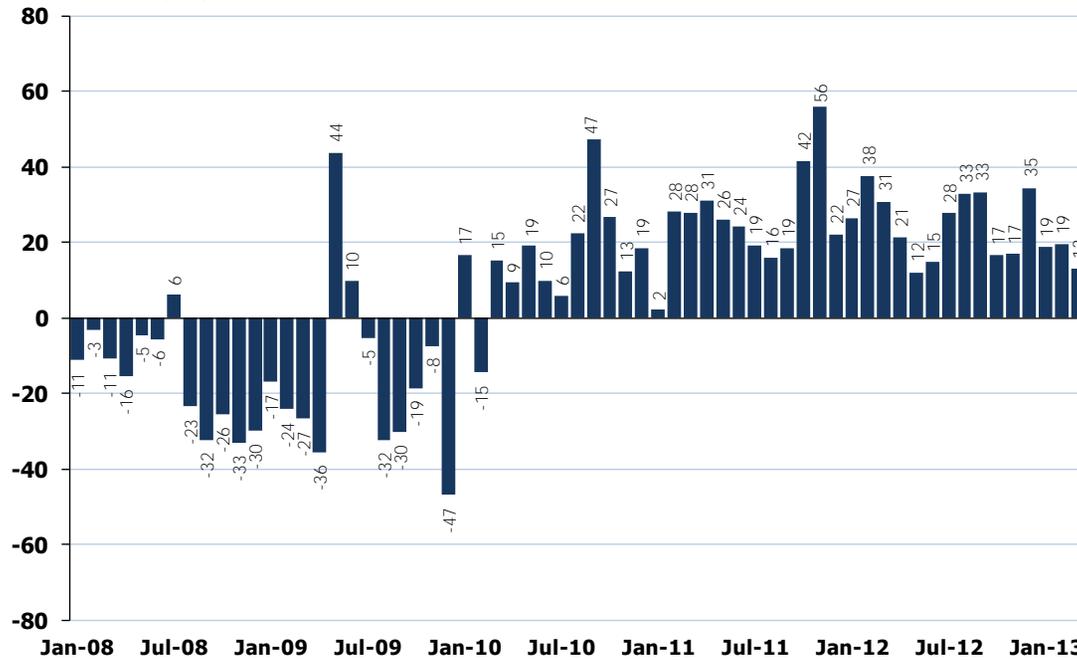
Since reaching an employment trough in December 2009, leisure and hospitality has added an average of 27,000 jobs per month. These steady gains amount to one million jobs added by the industry. As a result, employment in leisure and hospitality currently stands 425,000 jobs above its most recent peak, December 2007.

Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in food services and drinking places

Over-the-month change, January 2008–March 2013

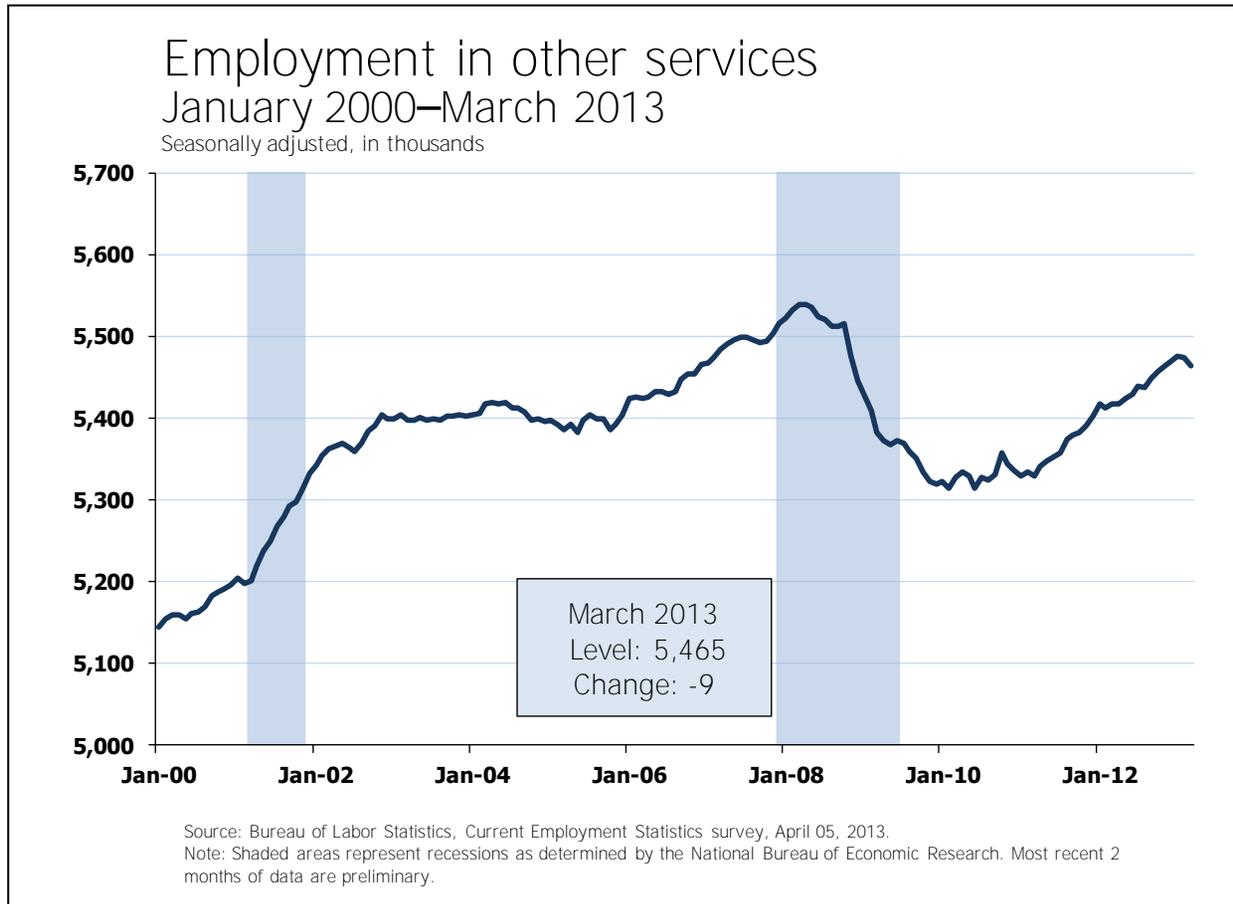
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 05, 2013.
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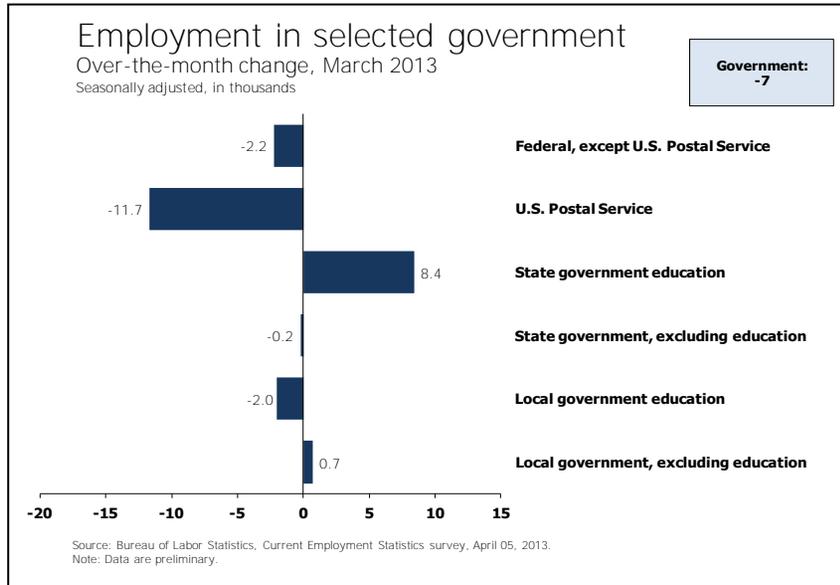
Employment in food services and drinking places continued to edge up in March. Since reaching a trough in December 2009, this industry has added 858,000 jobs, accounting for 82 percent of the job gains in leisure and hospitality over the same period.

Other Services



Employment in other services changed little in March. Since reaching an employment trough in June 2010, other services has recovered 150,000 jobs, or about two-thirds of the jobs it lost in its most recent downturn.

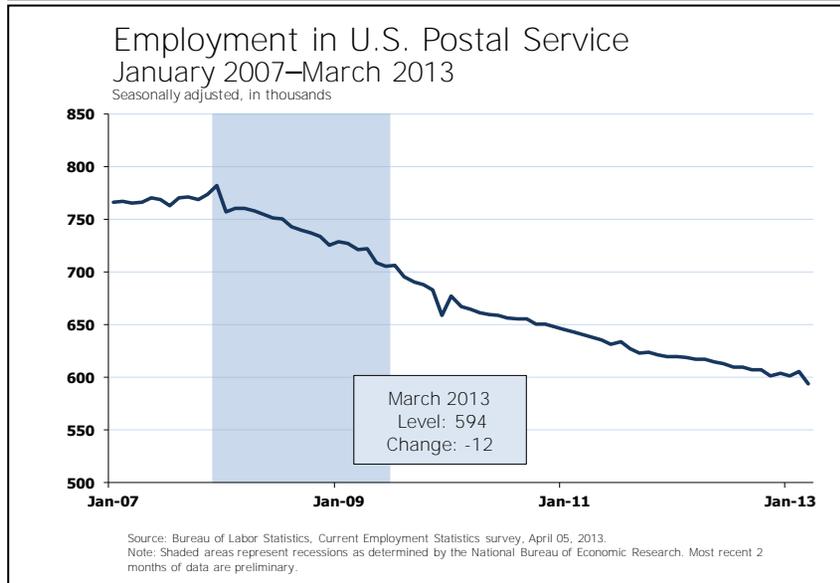
Government



Government employment continued to trend down in March. Over the month, federal employment decreased by 14,000, with most of the job loss occurring in the U.S. Postal Service. Employment changed little at the state and local government levels in March.

NAICS 91912 – U.S. Postal Service

U.S. Postal Service lost 12,000 jobs in March. This job loss reflects, in part, workers' recent acceptances of retirement deals (Source: [Government Executive](#)). Since July 2008, approximately the time when government at the state and local levels reached employment peaks, U.S. Postal Service employment has decreased by 156,000 accounting for about 22 percent of job losses in total government over the same time.





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