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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



April 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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Current Employment Statistics Summary, April 2013

Total nonfarm: + 165,000

Total private: + 176,000

Nonfarm employment increased by 165,000 in April. Over the prior 12 months, job growth had averaged 169,000 per month. In April, professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, and retail trade added jobs.

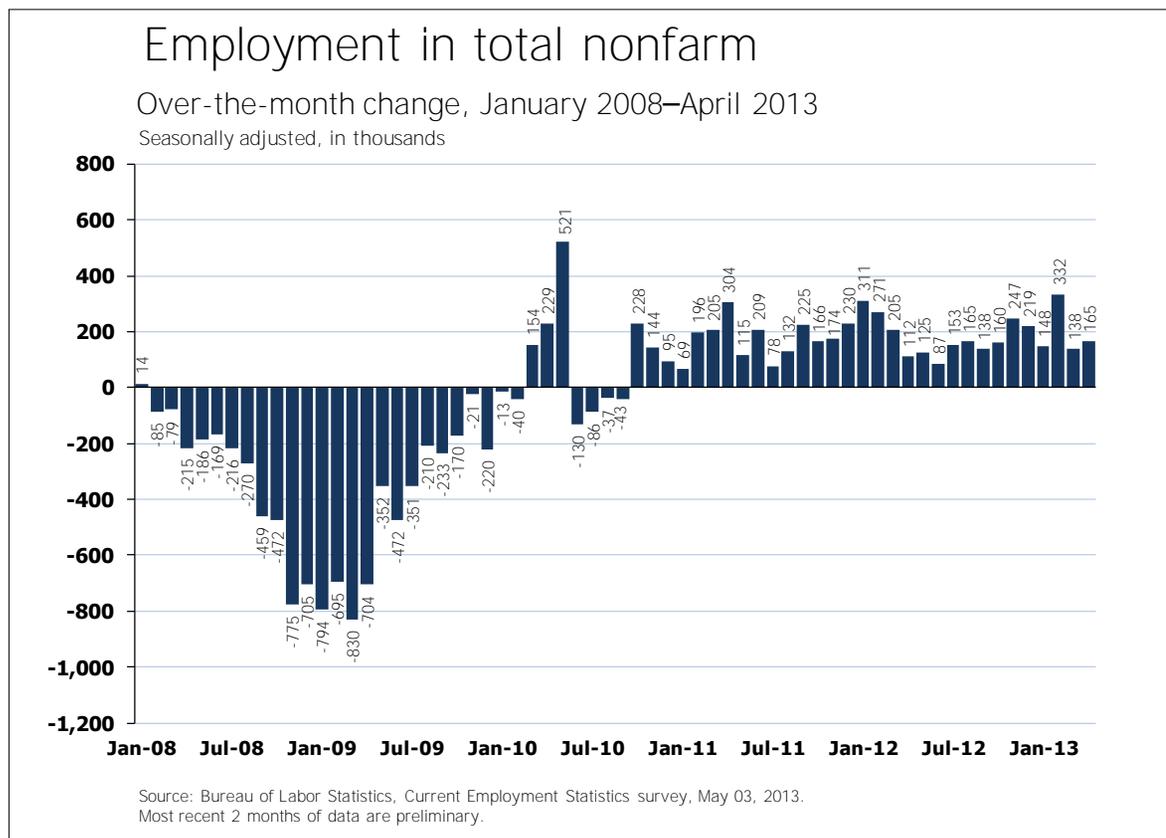
Average hourly earnings rose 4 cents over the month and are up 1.9 percent over the year. Average weekly hours declined 0.2 hour in April.

+ 73,000 Professional and business services

Temporary help services added 31,000 jobs in April. Employment in the industry has expanded by 184,000 or 7.4 percent over the past 12 months. In April, small employment changes totaled 23,000 in professional and technical services, similar to the prior 12-month average change (+20,000).

+ 43,000 Leisure and hospitality

Within leisure and hospitality, food services and drinking places added 38,000 jobs in April.



+ 29,000 Retail trade

Monthly job growth in food services had averaged 25,000 over the prior 12 months.

Retail trade added 29,000 jobs in April, with general merchandise stores and health and personal care stores adding 15,000 and 5,000 jobs, respectively. Over the previous 12

Current Employment Statistics Summary, April 2013

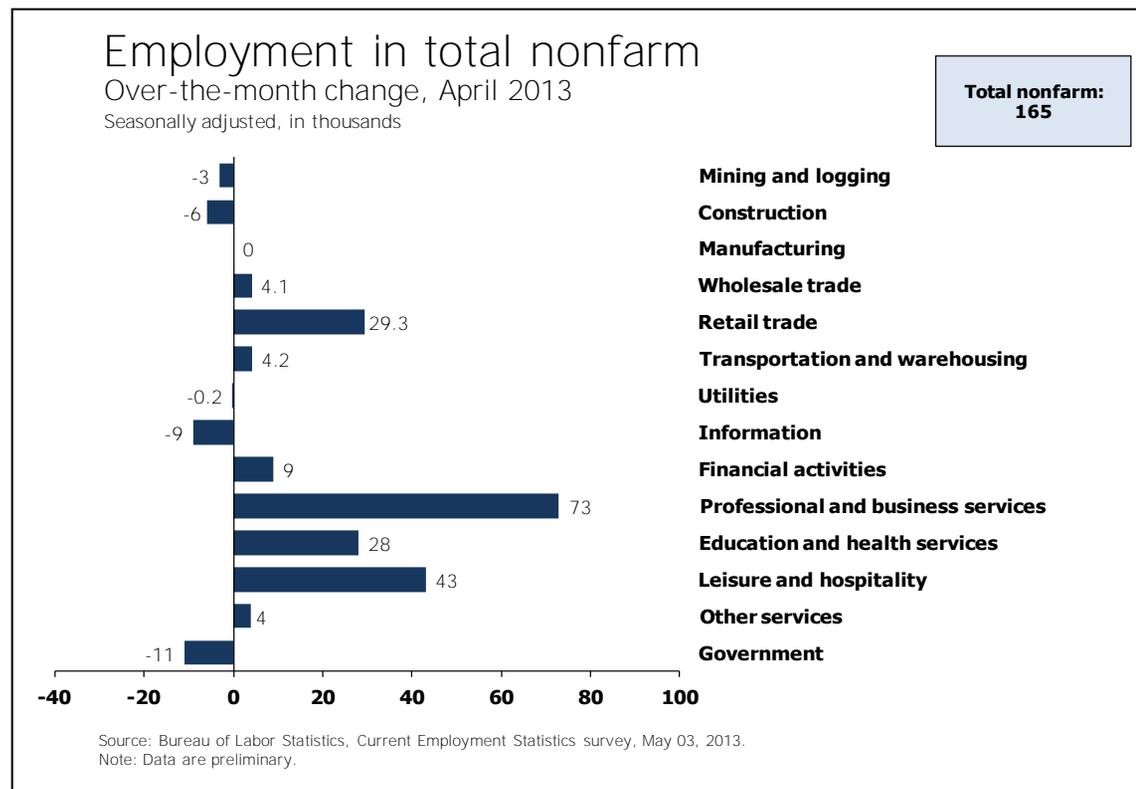
months, employment in the retail sector had expanded by an average 21,000 per month.

+ 28,000 Education and health services

Health care and social assistance added 26,000 jobs in April, with employment continuing to expand among the component industries. Over the prior 12 months, job growth in these industries had averaged 29,000 per month.

Other Employment Changes*	
Mining and logging	-3,000
Construction	-6,000
Manufacturing	0
Wholesale trade	+4,000
Transportation & warehousing	+4,000
Utilities	0
Information	-9,000
Financial activities	+9,000
Other services	+4,000
Government	-11,000

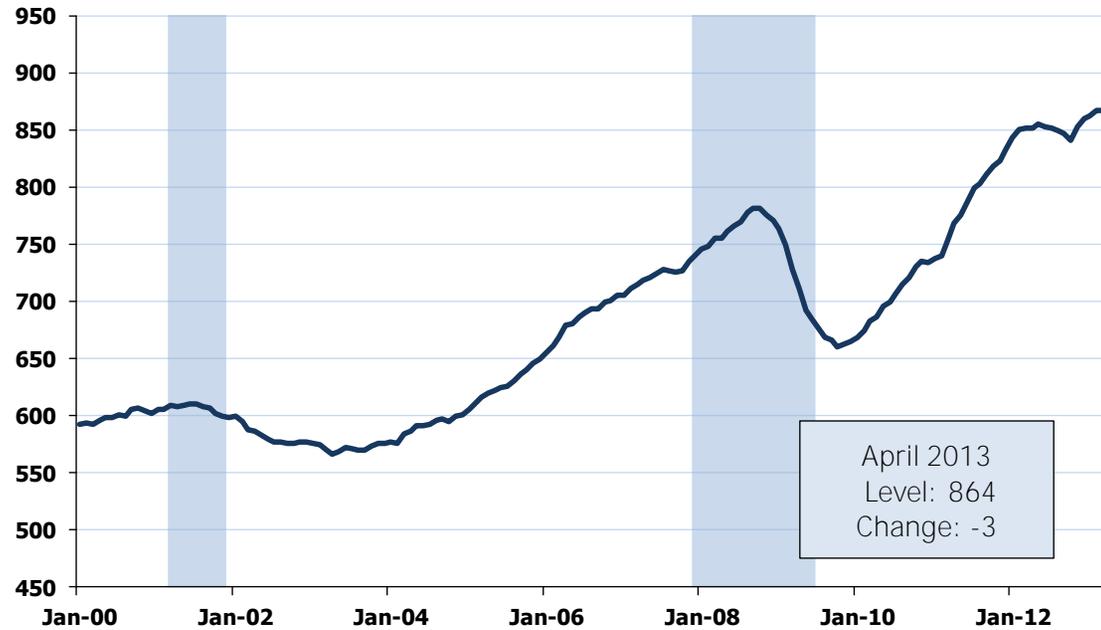
*Over-the-month changes in this table are not statistically significant (based on a 90% confidence interval)



Mining and Logging

Employment in mining and logging January 2000–April 2013

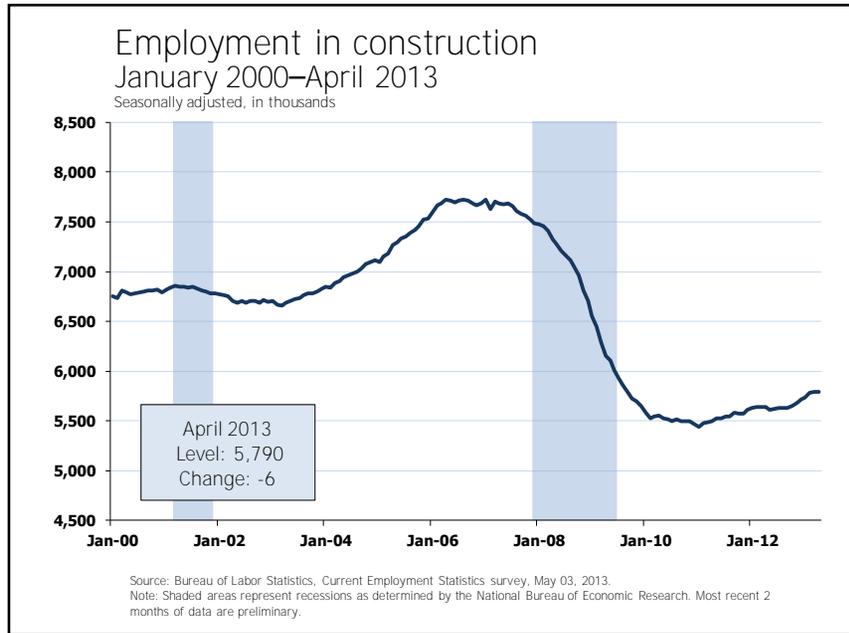
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



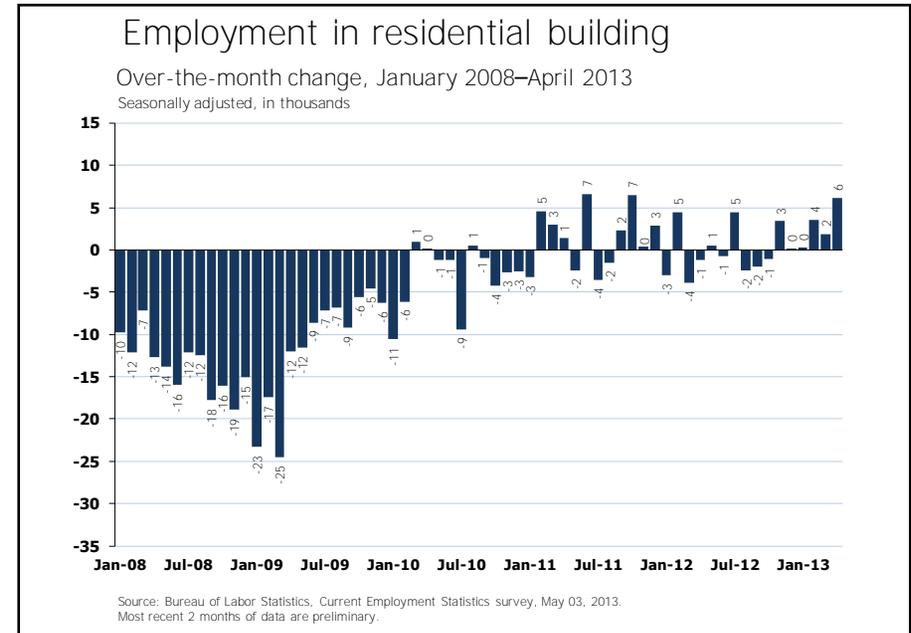
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 03, 2013.
 Note: Shaded areas represent recessions as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

In April, employment in mining and logging changed little. Over the past 3 months employment in mining and logging experienced little net change after increasing by 22,000 from November through January. The slowdown in employment growth for this industry coincides with the slackening of the pace of petroleum exploration (Source: [Hughes Rig Count](#)).

Construction



Construction employment changed little (-6,000) in April after advancing by 163,000 over the prior 6 months.



NAICS 2361–Residential building construction

Employment in residential building rose by 6,000 in April, bringing the total job gain since January to 12,000. Recent job growth corresponds with the [Census Bureau's](#) report that privately-owned housing starts rose 7 percent over the month in March.

Manufacturing

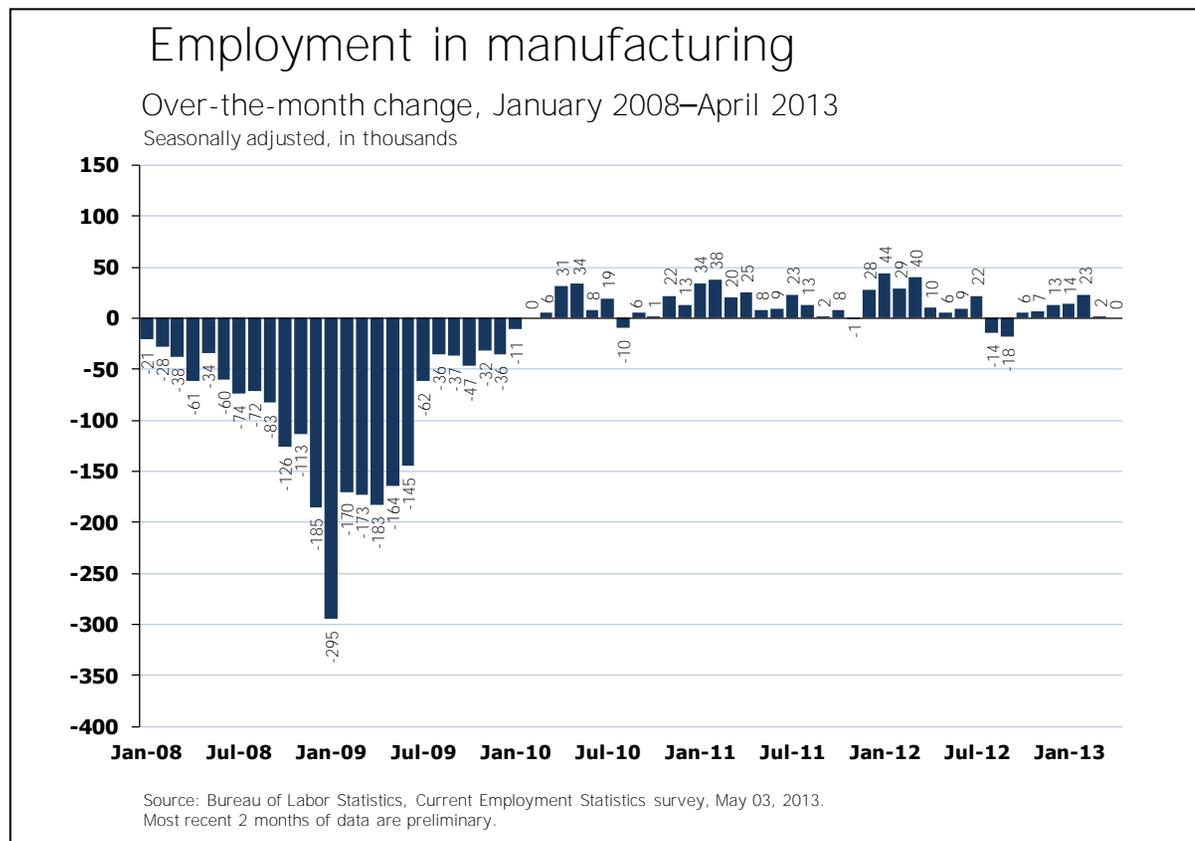
In April, manufacturing employment was unchanged, following a 6-month period when employment increased by an average of 11,000 per month.

The 1-month diffusion index of manufacturing employment fell from 51.9 in March to 44.4 in April. 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 them.

In April, the factory workweek for production employees was 0.1 hour shorter. The factory workweek is considered a leading economic indicator. The shorter workweek combined with unchanged employment led to a 0.2 percent decrease in the April index of aggregate weekly hours for production employees in manufacturing.

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

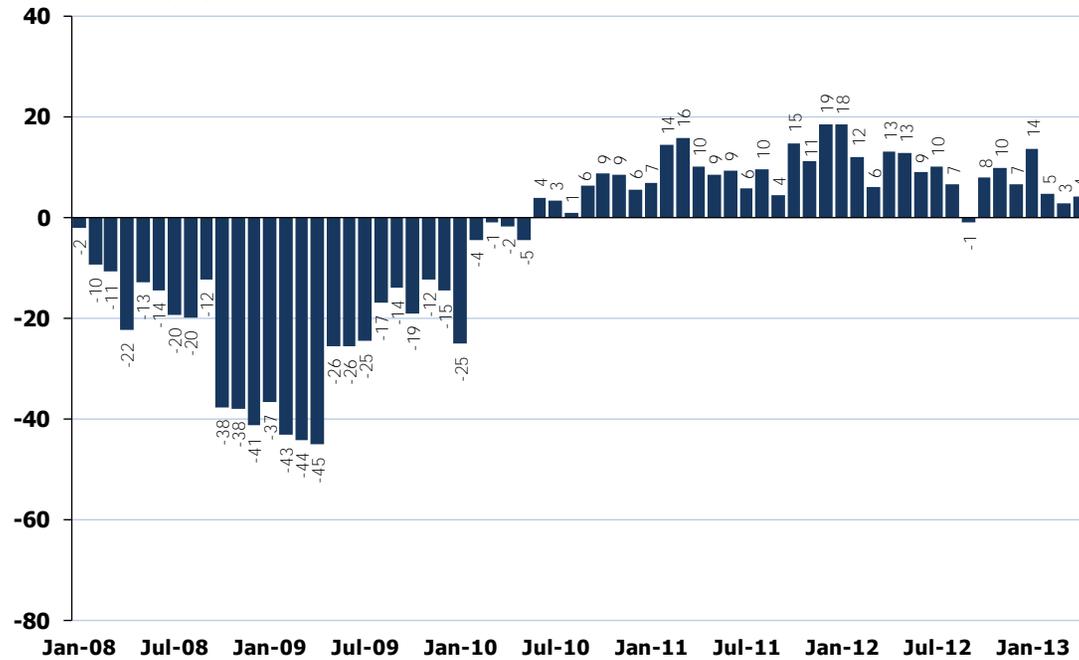
In April, employment in motor vehicles and parts manufacturing was essentially unchanged. However, since reaching an employment trough in June 2009, the industry has added 176,000 jobs.



Wholesale Trade

Employment in wholesale trade

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



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 03, 2013.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Wholesale trade employment continued to trend up (+4,000) in April. Since reaching an employment trough in May 2010, the industry has added 302,000 jobs.

Retail Trade



Retail trade employment increased by 29,000 in April. This employment increase was primarily due to gains in health and personal care stores (+5,000) and general merchandise stores (+15,000).

Recent retail-related indicators have been mixed. As [Census Bureau](#) data shows, retail sales for March registered a small decline of 0.4 percent. This decrease, however, was driven primarily by a 2.2 percent decrease in gasoline station sales. Automotive sales, as measured by [MotorIntelligence](#), declined in April, but were up 800,000 over the year. According to the [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#), the per-gallon price of gasoline fell 15 cents in April and was down 37 cents over the year.

The [Conference Board](#) noted that the Consumer Confidence Index rose in April, continuing a recent up-and-down pattern.

Retail Trade



NAICS 446 – Health and personal care stores

Employment in health and personal care stores increased by 5,000 in April. The industry has experienced an overall upward trend since reaching an employment trough in March 2011. Gains have been concentrated in pharmacies and drug stores as well as in cosmetic and beauty supply stores.

NAICS 452 – General merchandise stores

In April, general merchandise stores employment increased by 15,000, with gains split between department stores and other general merchandise stores. Since August of 2012, employment in general merchandise stores has increased by 54,000.



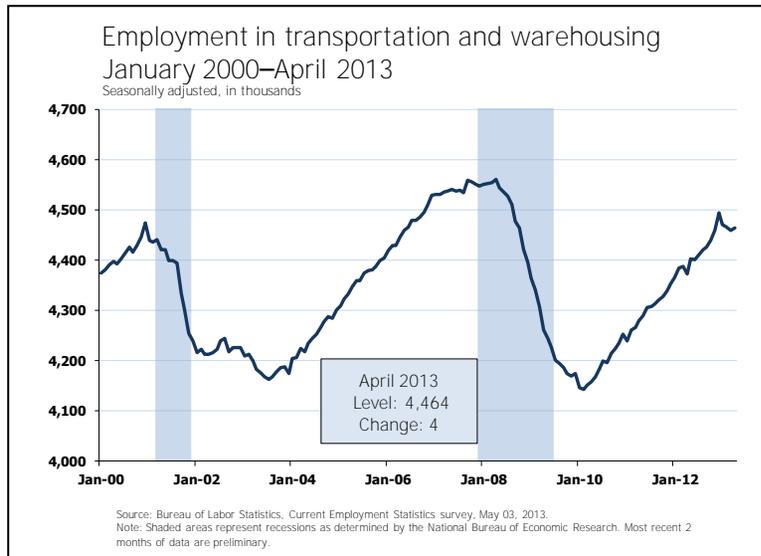
Retail Trade

Building material and garden supply stores spring build up Over-the-month employment change in thousands, not seasonally adjusted					
Year	Feb	Mar	Apr	Buildup through April	May
2008	3	24	39	66	38
2009	-5	10	36	40	30
2010	12	39	46	96	28
2011	7	49	60	116	21
2012	13	53	55	121	20
Average	6	35	47	88	27
2013	17	36	58	111	

NAICS 44 – Building material and garden supply stores

Employment changed little in building material and garden supply stores in April. Traditionally, April is the month with the largest seasonal employment gains. Thus far, the unadjusted buildup through April is in line with the prior 2 years.

Transportation and Warehousing



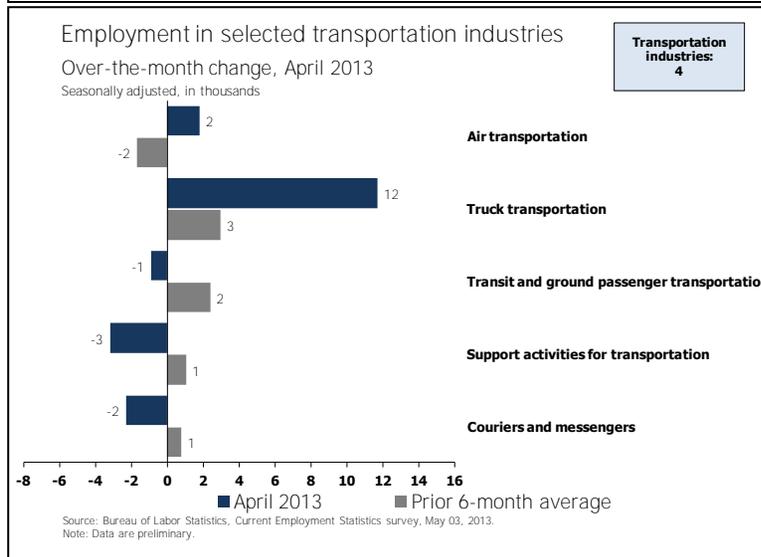
Employment within transportation and warehousing changed little in April.

NAICS 484 – Truck transportation

Truck transportation gained 12,000 jobs in April, well over its prior 6-month average employment change. April’s employment gain follows positive freight indicators from the Truck Tonnage Index (Source: [American Trucking Associations](#)) and the Cass Freight Index (Source: [Cass information Systems](#)).

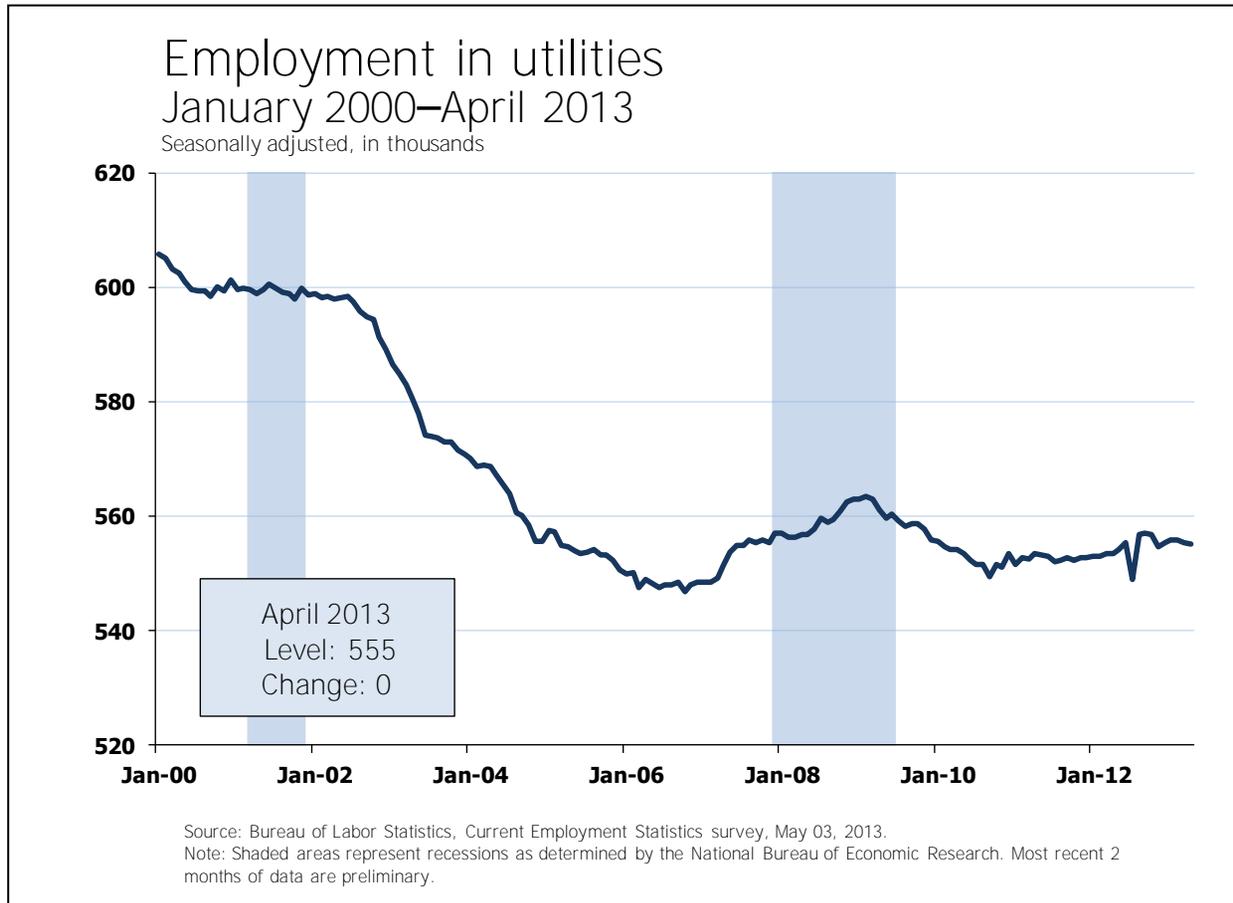
NAICS 492 – Couriers and messengers

Employment in couriers and messengers edged down in April. Employment has trended downward each month in 2013, bringing its level to near pre-holiday levels.

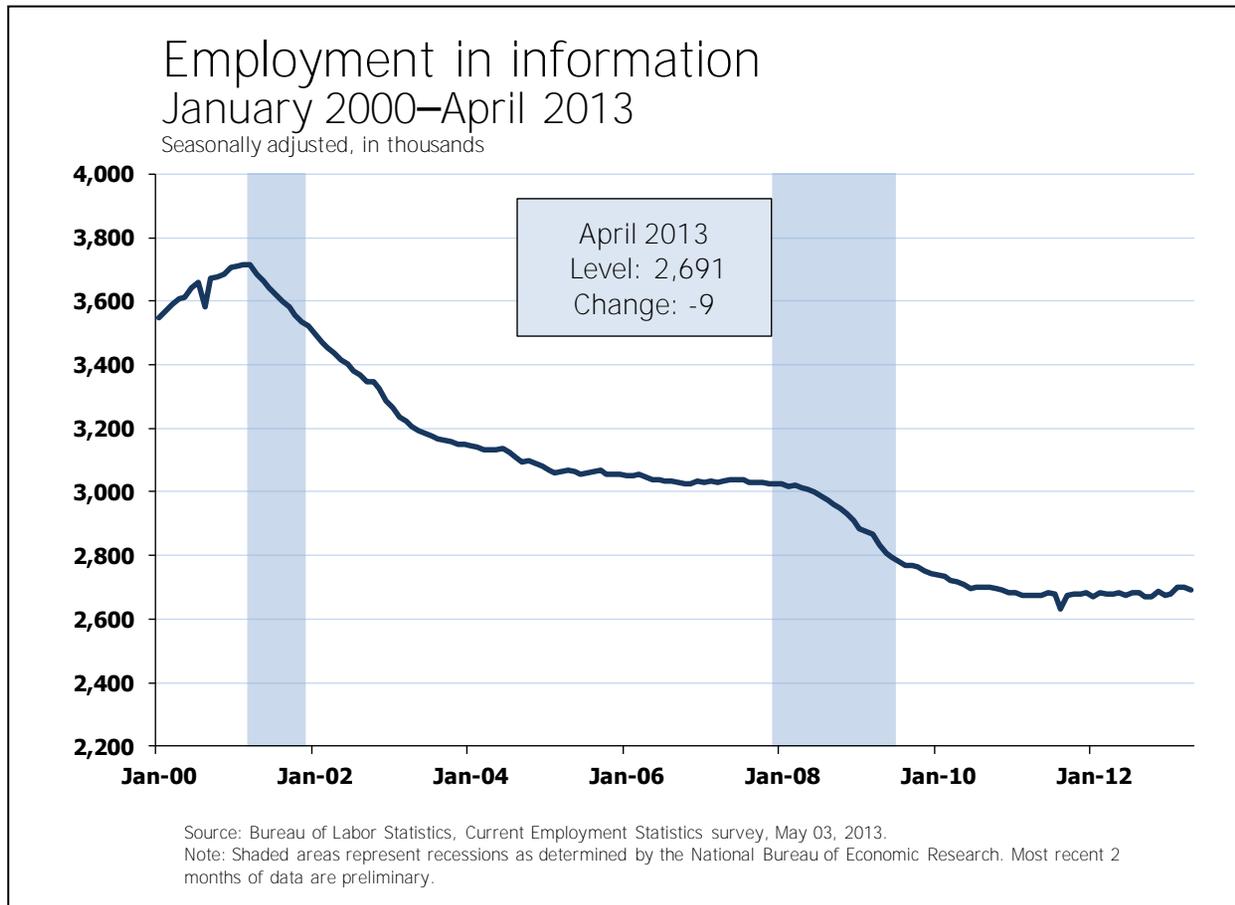


Utilities

In April, employment in utilities was unchanged.



Information



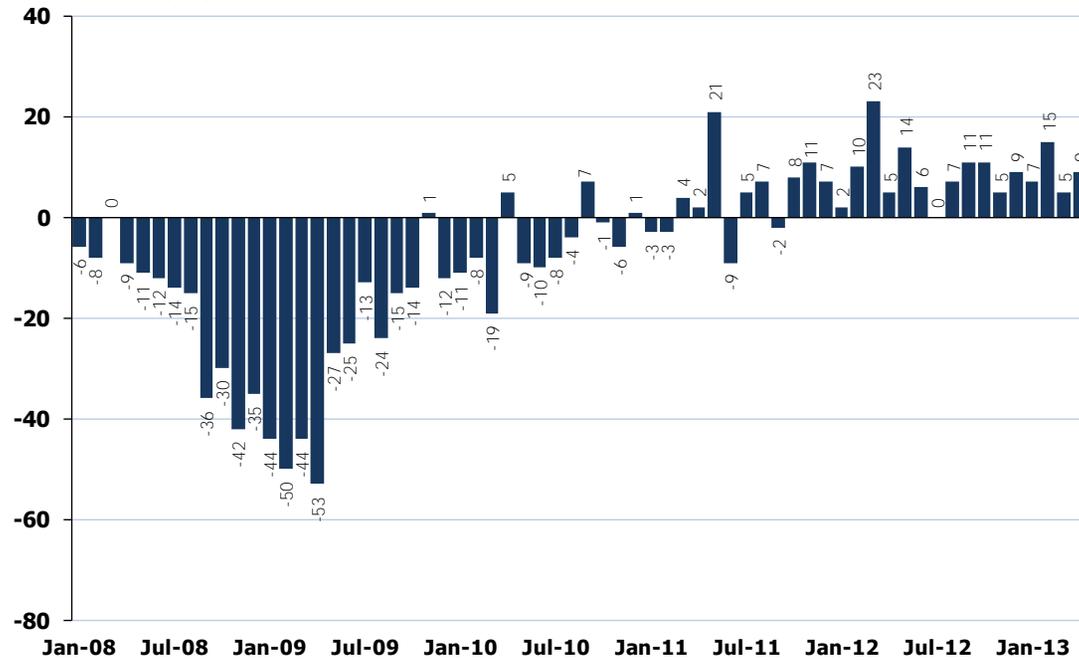
Information employment edged down (-9,000) in April. This change was attributable to a loss of 11,000 jobs in motion picture and sound recording industries. April’s employment decline partially offsets gains which occurred over the prior 2 months.

The past year has seen little movement, on net, 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 1 million—a decline of about 28 percent. Although job losses over this time have been widespread among information industries, they have been especially severe in wired telecommunications and publishing industries, except internet.

Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities

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

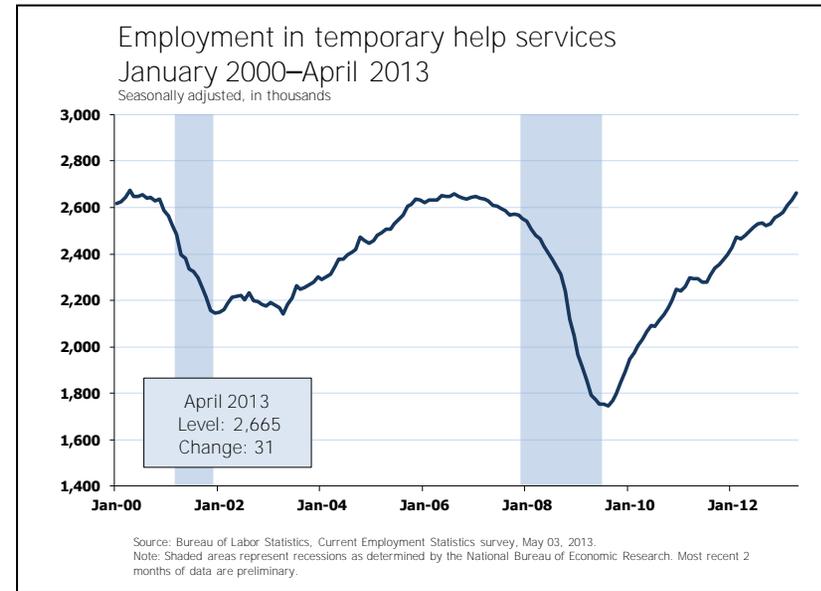
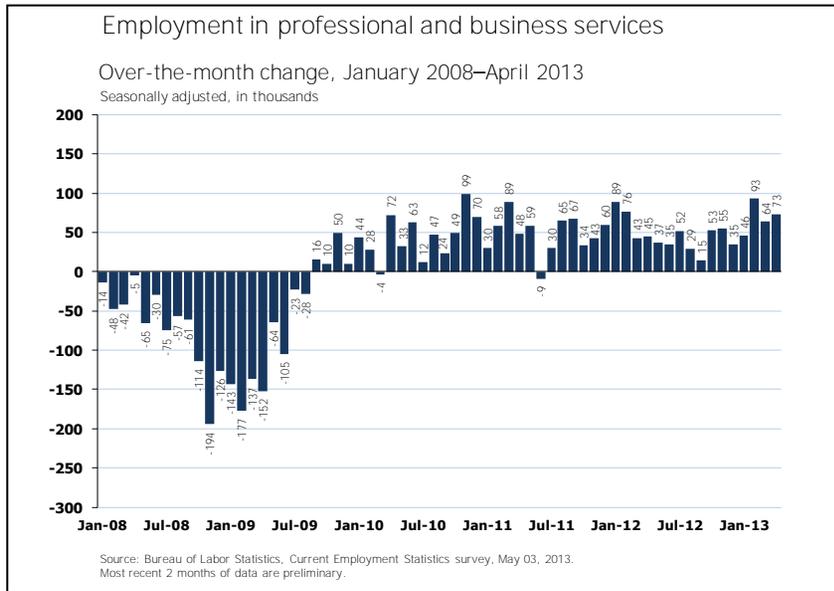


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 03, 2013.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in financial activities continued to trend up in April (+9,000), largely due to an increase in credit intermediation and related services, which added 9,000 jobs over the month. Employment in other components within financial activities changed little.

Employment in financial activities has increased by an average of 7,000 per month since reaching a trough in February 2011.

Professional and business services



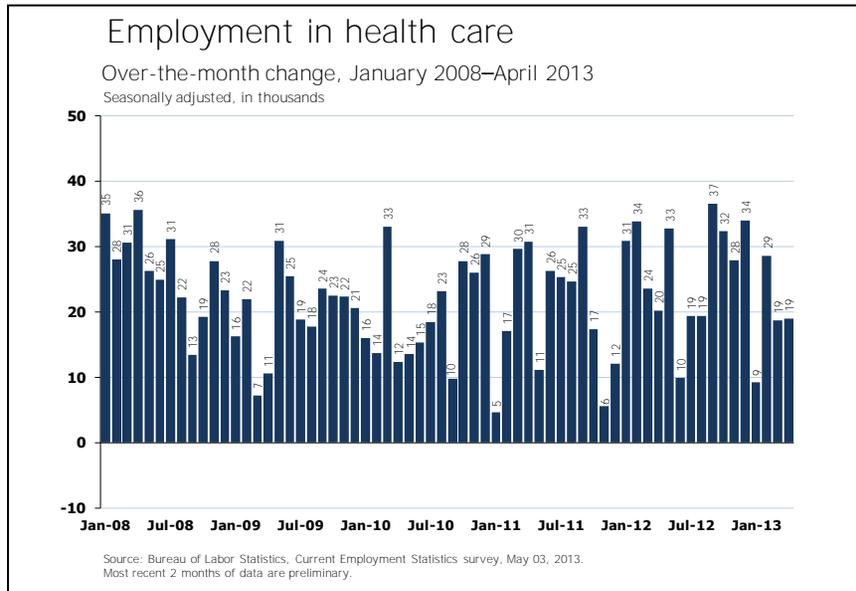
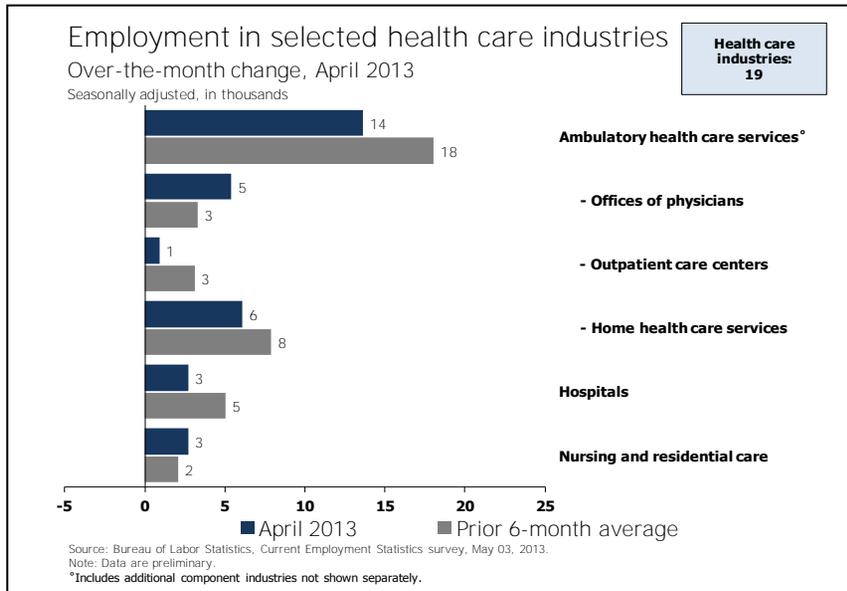
Professional and business services added 73,000 jobs in April. Employment gains were seen in professional and technical services and administrative and waste services, which added 23,000 and 43,000 jobs, respectively. Employment in management of companies and enterprises grew by 7,000, greater than its prior 6-month average monthly change (+3,000).

NAICS 56132 – Temporary help services

Employment in temporary help services grew by 31,000 in April. The industry has recovered all of the jobs lost in its most recent downturn.

So far in 2013, professional and business services employment has averaged monthly gains of 69,000, totaling 276,000.

Private education and health services

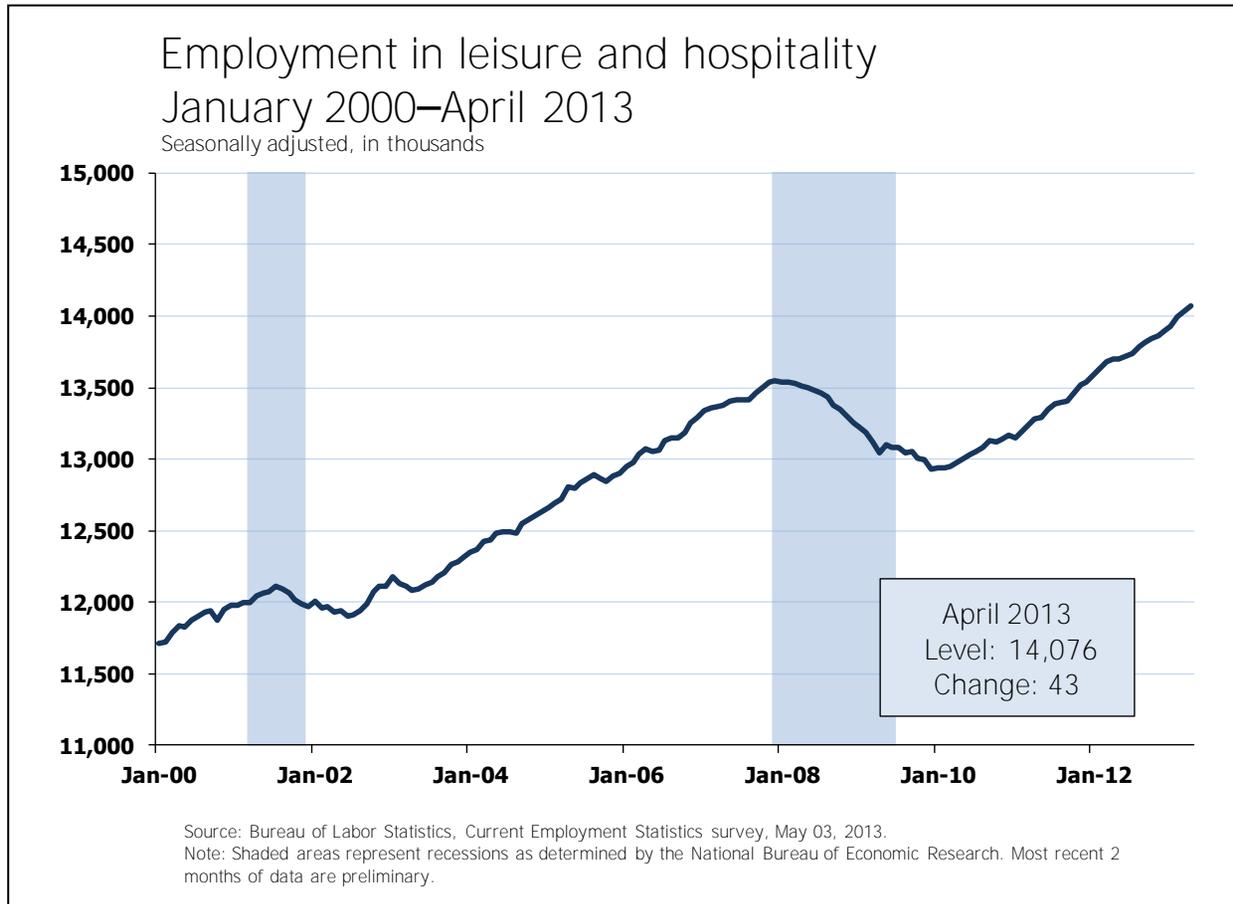


Education and health services employment continued to trend up in April (+28,000). Within the industry, health care employment grew by 19,000, and social assistance employment continued to trend up over the month.

NAICS 62 – Health care

The employment increase in health care was mostly attributable to small job gains in ambulatory healthcare services. Health care has added 997,000 jobs since June 2009, the end of the most recent recession. Health care makes up 13 percent of private nonfarm employment.

Leisure and Hospitality



Leisure and hospitality added 43,000 jobs in April. This increase is directly in line with the prior 3-month average. Over 80 percent of April’s job gains occurred in food services and drinking places.

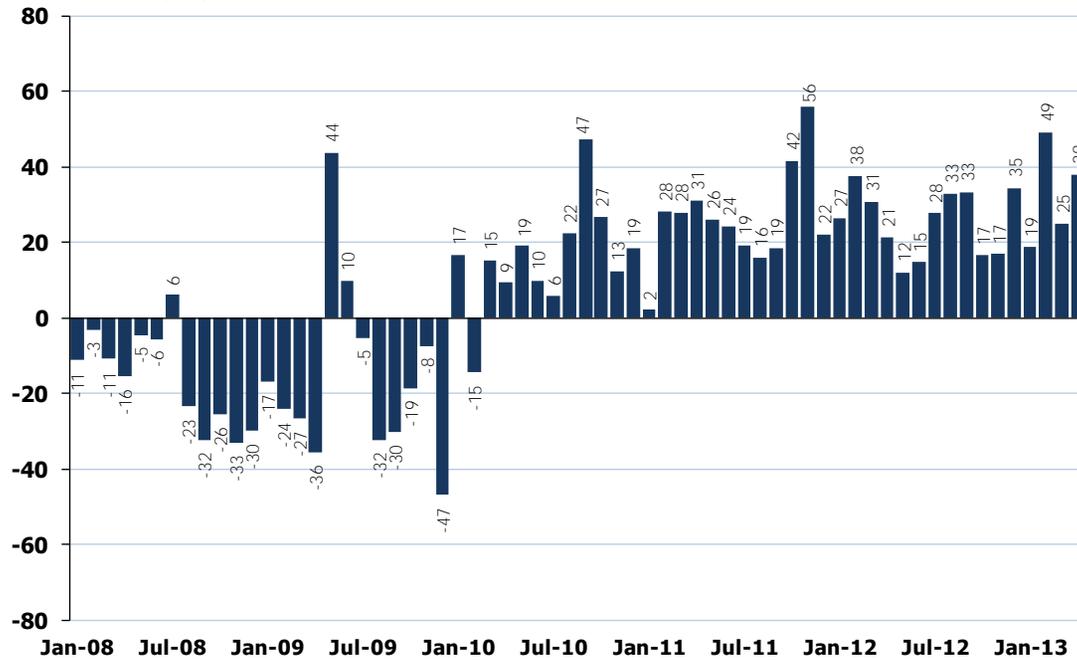
Since reaching an employment trough in December 2009, leisure and hospitality has added an average of 29,000 jobs per month, totaling over 1.1 million since the trough. As a result, employment in leisure and hospitality currently stands 526,000 above its most recent December 2007 peak.

Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in food services and drinking places

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

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



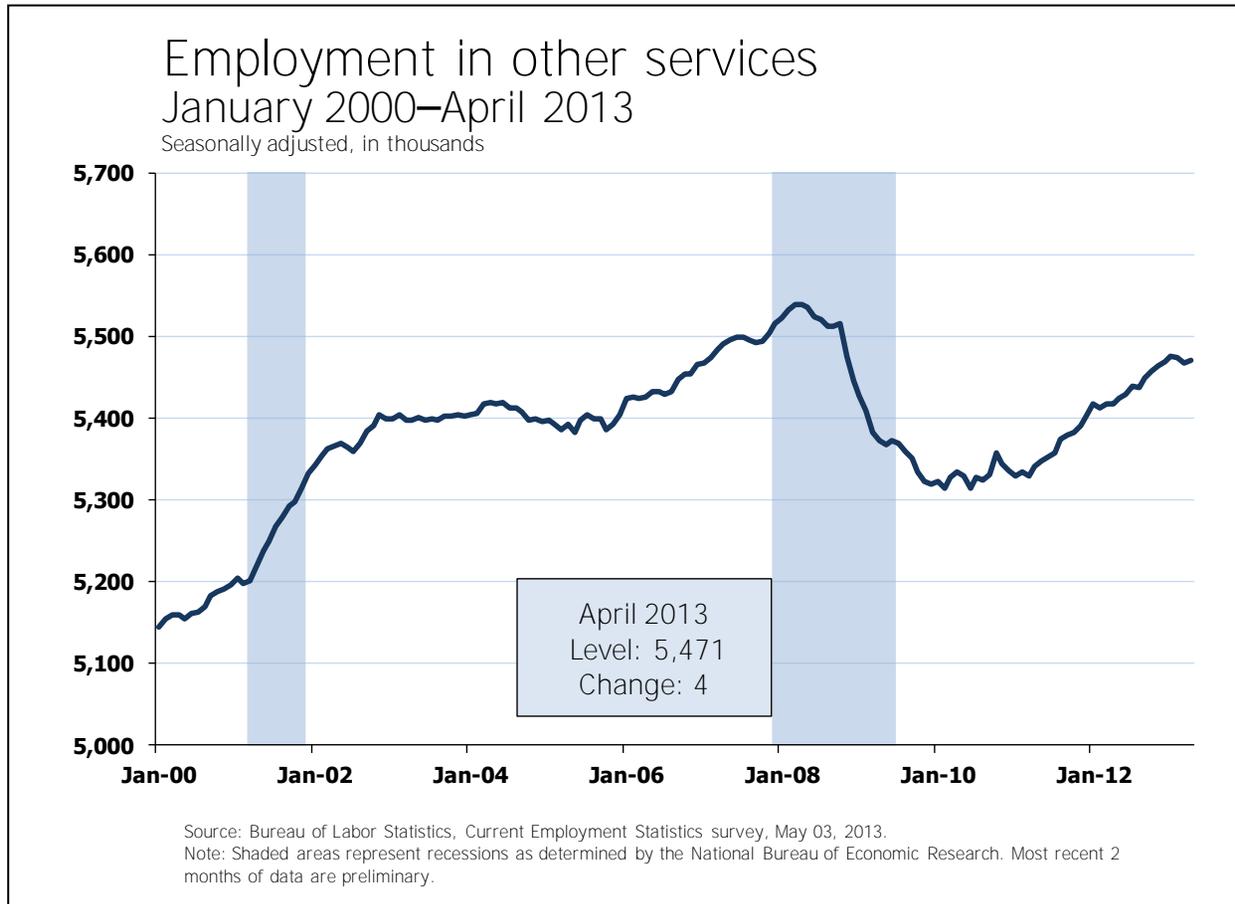
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 03, 2013. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

NAICS 722 – Food services and drinking places

Food services and drinking places added 38,000 jobs in April, which is stronger than the industry’s prior 3-, 6-, and 12-month averages and marks the 38th consecutive month of job gains in the industry. The majority of April’s increase was approximately split between full- and limited-service restaurants.

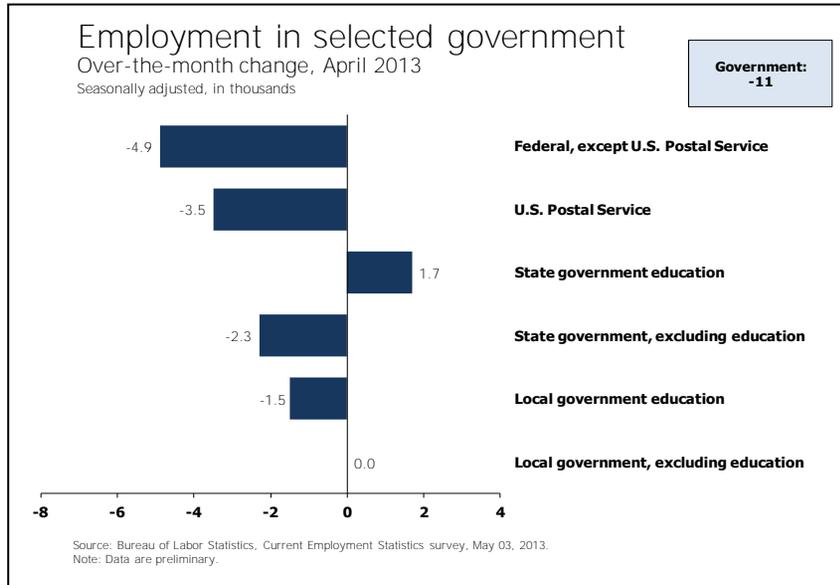
Since reaching a trough in December 2009, food services and drinking places has added 938,000 jobs, accounting for more than 80 percent of the job gains in leisure and hospitality over the same period. Employment in food services and drinking places is now 559,000 jobs above its most recent peak reached in December 2007.

Other Services



Employment in other services changed little in April. Since reaching an employment trough in June 2010, the industry has recovered 156,000 jobs, or 69 percent, of the 225,000 jobs it lost in its most recent downturn.

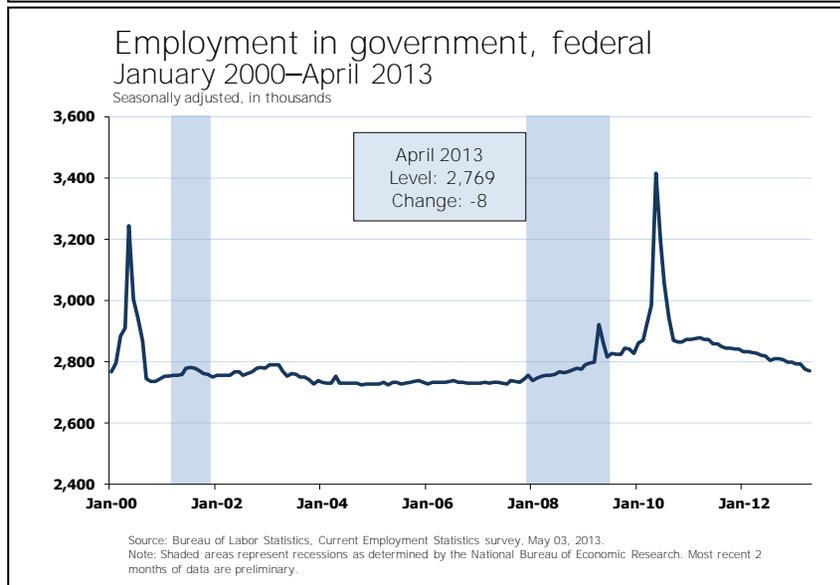
Government



Government employment continued to trend down in April (-11,000), with small declines occurring in most of its component industries. Federal government experienced job losses totaling -25,000 over the past 3 months. Alternately, state government education employment has increased by 34,000 over the same time period.

NAICS 91 – Federal government

Federal government employment continued to trend down in April after declining by 16,000 in March. Federal government, except U.S. Postal Service has lost 13,000 jobs over the past 3 months, and the U.S. Postal Service has lost 12,000 jobs over the same time frame. These job decreases within the federal government coincide with an 8.4 percent decrease in federal government expenditures for the first quarter of 2013, as reported by the [Bureau of Economic Analysis](#).





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