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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



February 2014

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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 Survey Summary, February 2014

Total Nonfarm + 175,000
Total Private + 162,000

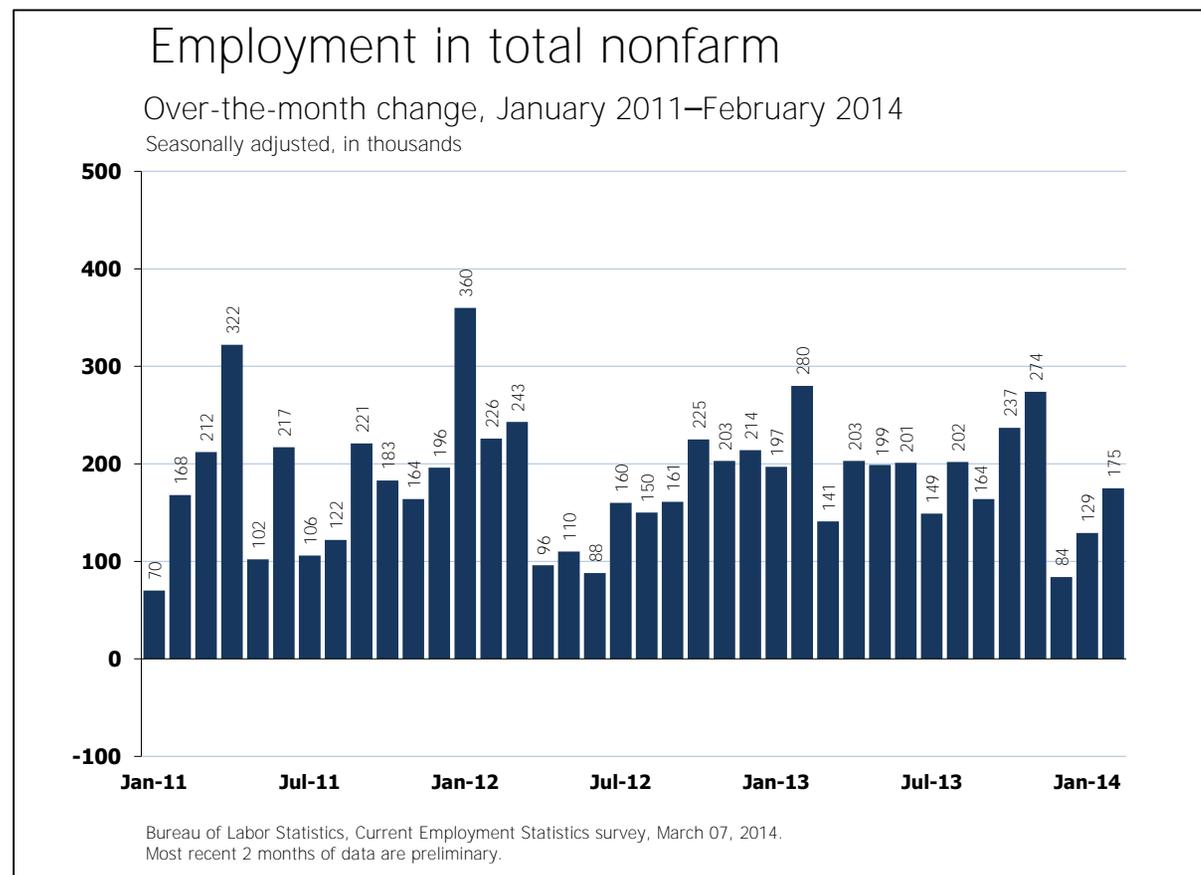
Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 175,000 in February. Over the prior 6 months, nonfarm employment grew by an average 182,000 per month. In February, professional and business services and wholesale trade added jobs, while information lost jobs.

The employment change for December 2013 was revised up by 9,000 (from +75,000 to +84,000), and the employment change for January 2014 was revised up by 16,000 (from +113,000 to +129,000).

Average hourly earnings of all private-sector employees increased by 9 cents (0.4 percent) over the month. Hourly earnings are up 2.2 percent over the year. Average weekly hours, at 34.2, decreased by 0.1 hour in February.

Professional and business services + 79,000

Within professional and technical services, accounting and bookkeeping services added 16,000 jobs in February. Within administrative and support services, services to buildings and dwellings added jobs (+11,000). Employment continued to trend up in temporary help services (+24,000); over the prior 12 months, the industry had added an average 19,000 jobs per month.



Wholesale Trade + 15,000

Wholesale trade added 15,000 jobs, mostly in durable goods. Monthly jobs gains in wholesale trade had averaged 11,000 per month over the prior 6-month period.

Construction + 15,000

Construction employment edged up in February. Heavy and civil engineering construction added 12,000 jobs over the month.

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, February 2014

Education and health services + 33,000

Offices of physicians added 8,000 jobs in February, while employment changed little elsewhere in health care. Hospital employment (-1,000), little changed over the month, has declined by 10,000 over the past 3 months.

Information - 16,000

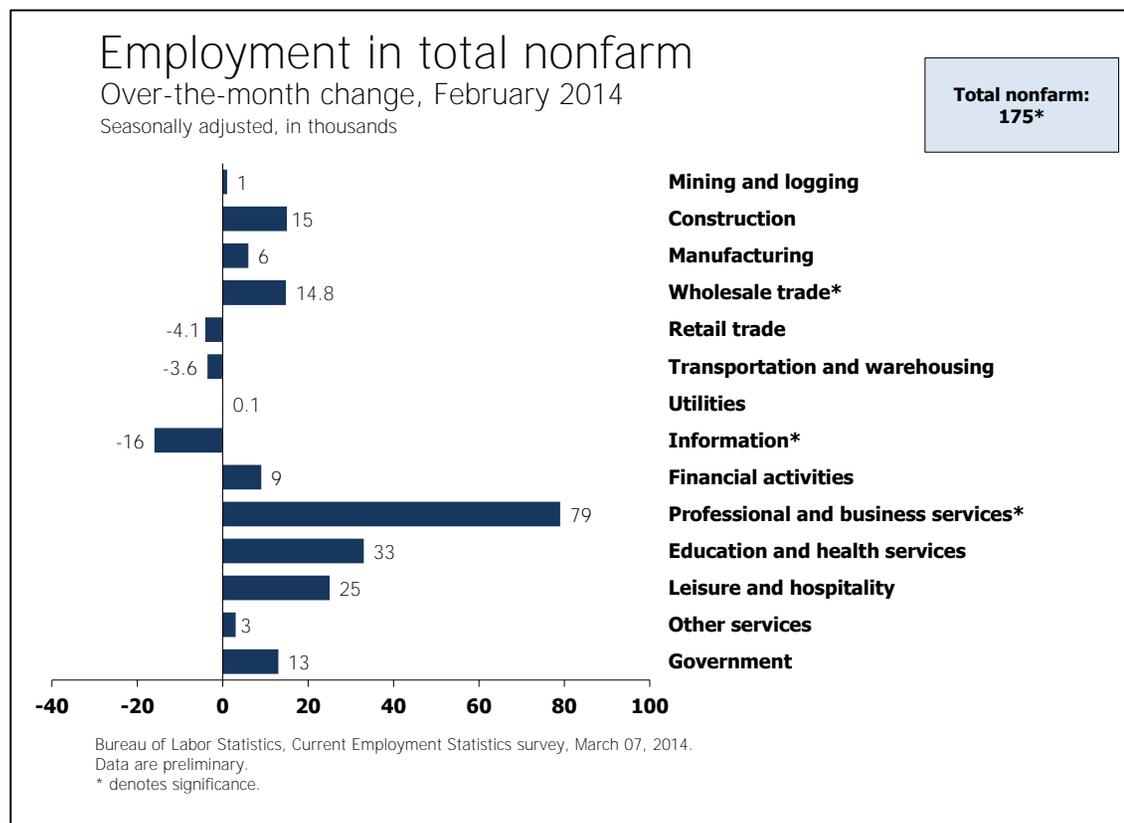
Employment can be volatile in the motion picture and sound recording industry, which lost 14,000 jobs in February.

Retail Trade - 4,000

Employment in retail trade changed little in February (-4,000). Over the month, a job gain in food and beverage stores (+12,000) was more than offset by job losses in electronics and appliance stores (-12,000), sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores (-9,000), and department stores (-7,000).

Transportation and warehousing - 4,000

Within transportation and warehousing, a job gain in warehousing and storage (+6,000) was more than offset by a job loss in couriers and messengers (-12,000).

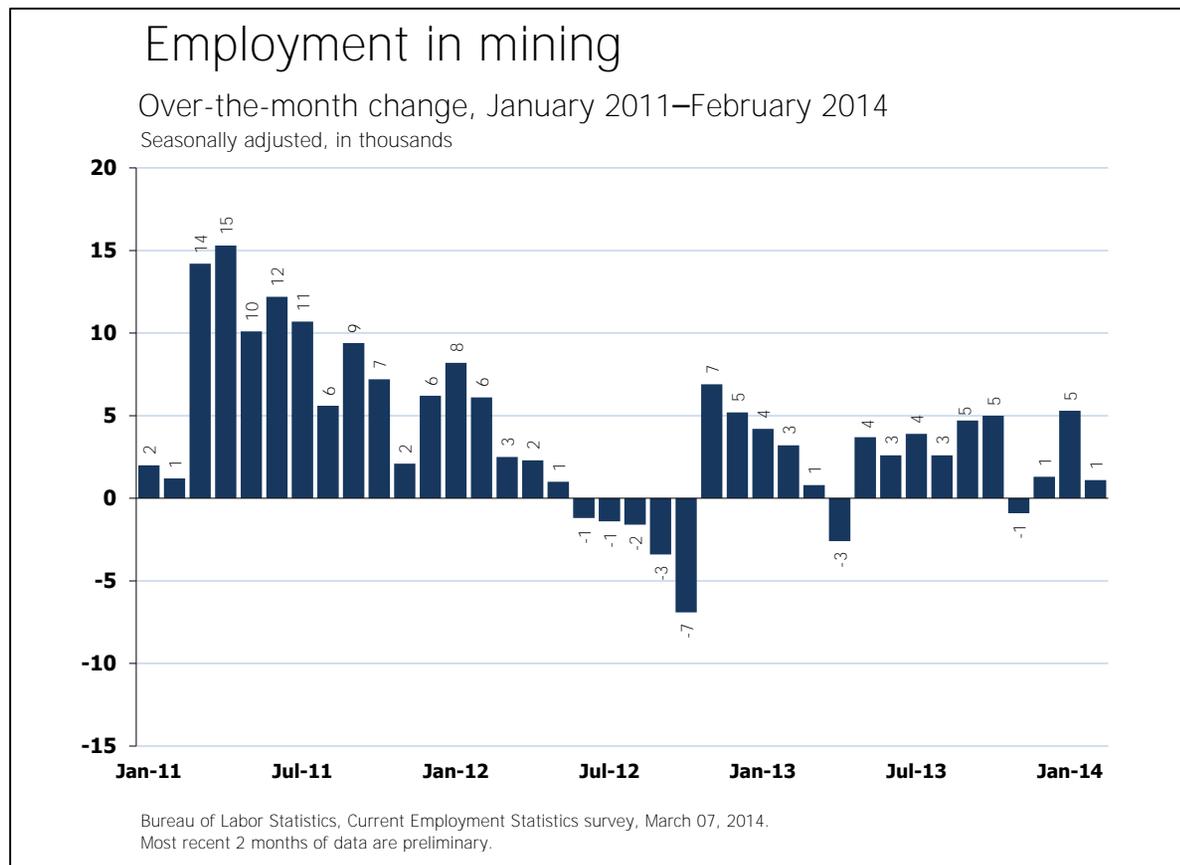


Government +13,000

Federal government employment continued to trend down (-6,000) in February. Since reaching an employment peak in January 2011, the federal government has lost 157,000 jobs—59 percent of those losses have come in the past 12 months.

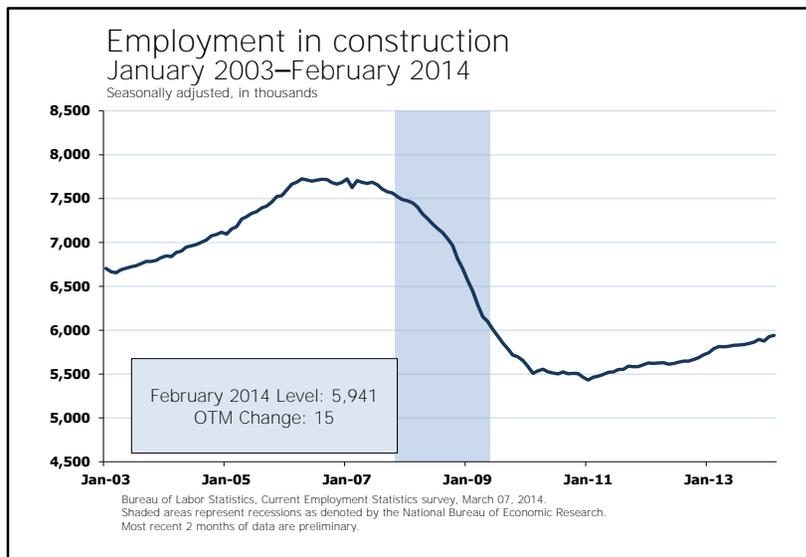
Employment in State government continued to trend up (+11,000) in February and has grown by 51,000 since reaching a trough in July 2013. Employment in local government changed little in February.

Mining & Logging

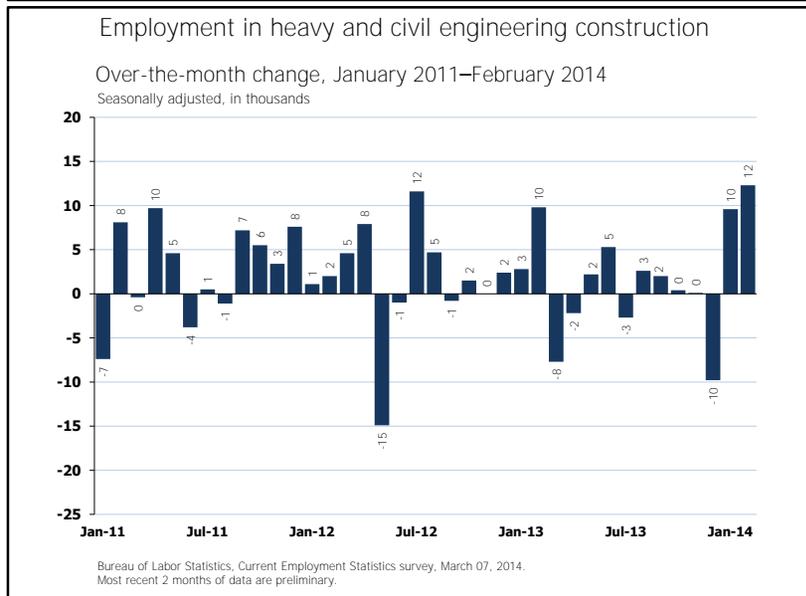


In February, mining and logging employment changed little (+1,000). Mining employment has trended up over the year (+28,000), with most of this growth occurring in support activities for mining.

Construction



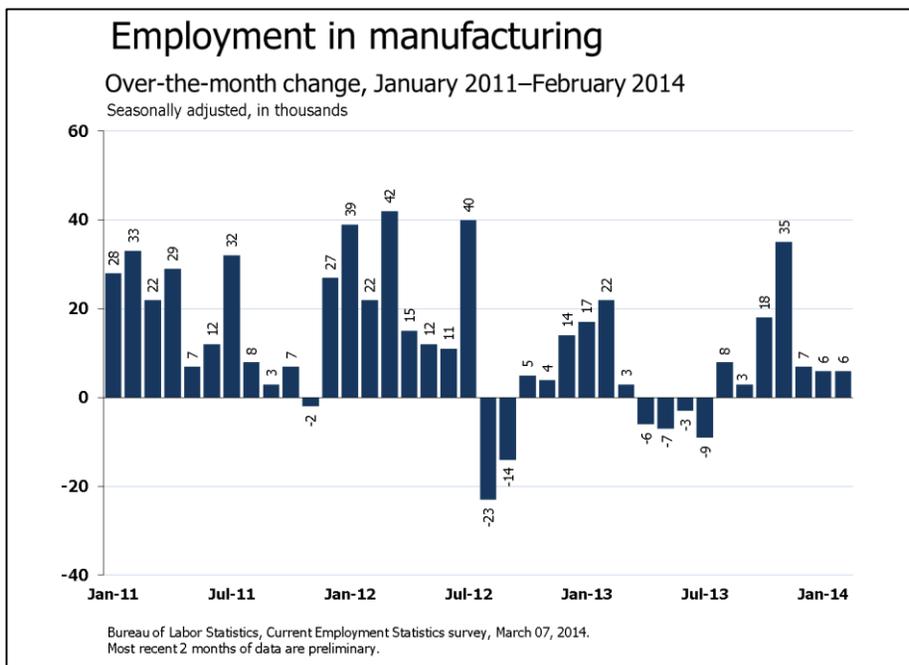
Employment in construction edged up in February. Since reaching an employment trough in January 2011, the industry has recovered 509,000 jobs, or 22 percent of the jobs lost during the recent employment downturn.



NAICS 237—Heavy and civil engineering construction

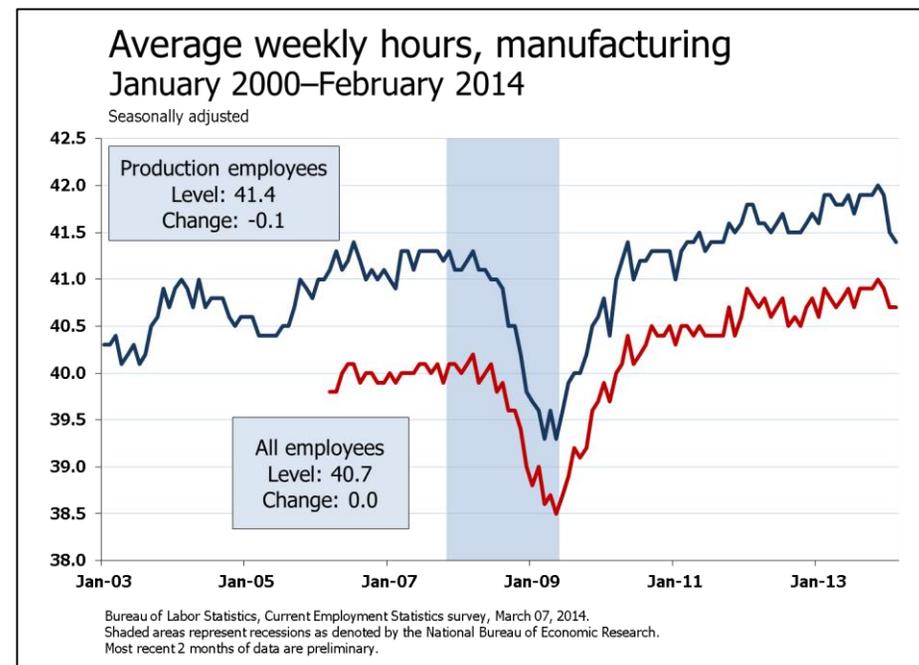
Heavy and civil engineering construction added 12,000 jobs in February. Since reaching an employment trough in February 2010, the industry has regained 93,000 jobs, or 46 percent of the employment lost during the recent downturn.

Manufacturing



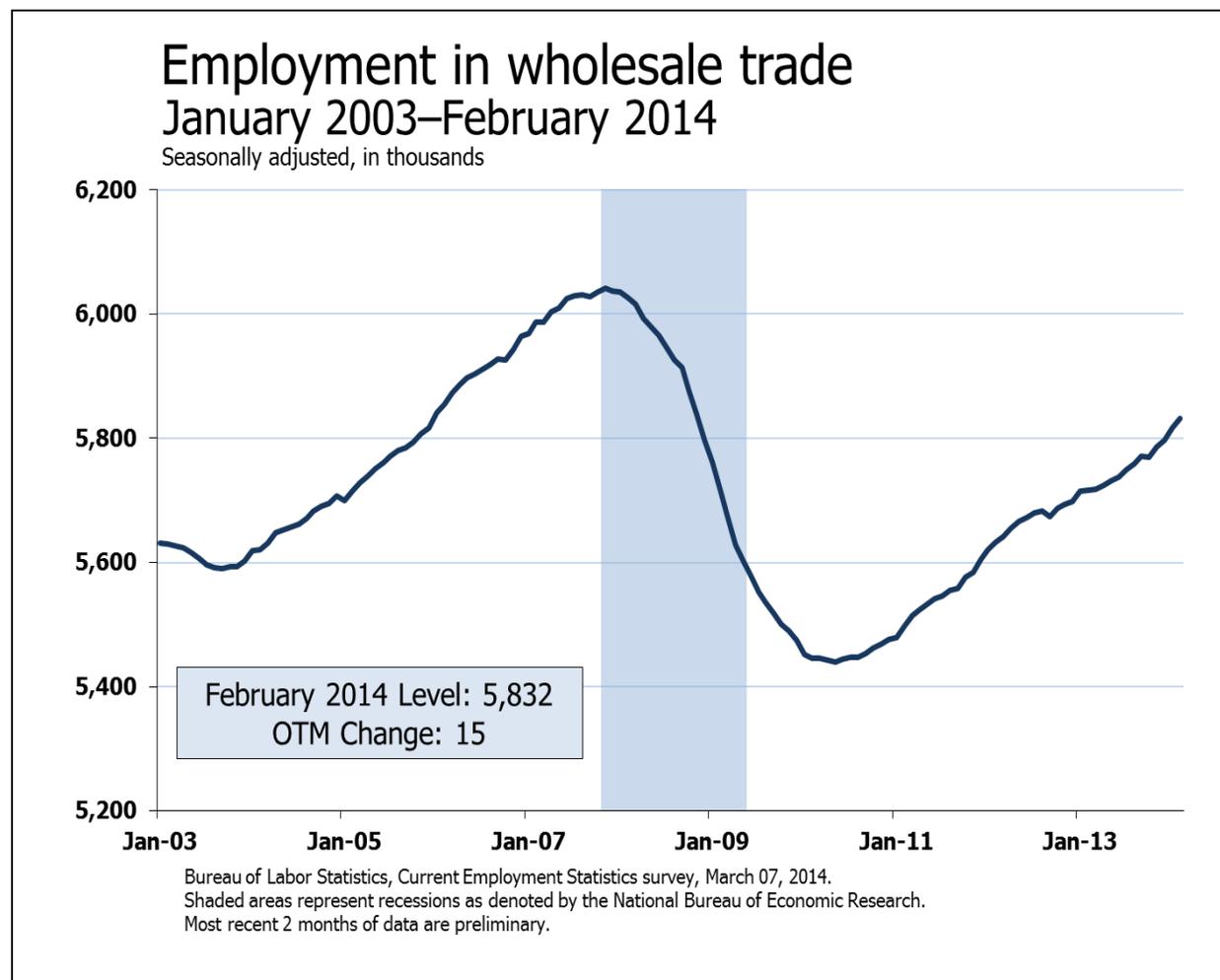
Employment in manufacturing changed little (+6,000) in February. Over the past 7 months, the industry has added 83,000 jobs.

The recent modest job growth corresponds to similar movements within manufacturing indicators. The [Institute for Supply Management](#) reported that the Purchasing Managers' Index rose 1.9 percentage points to 53.2 percent in February.



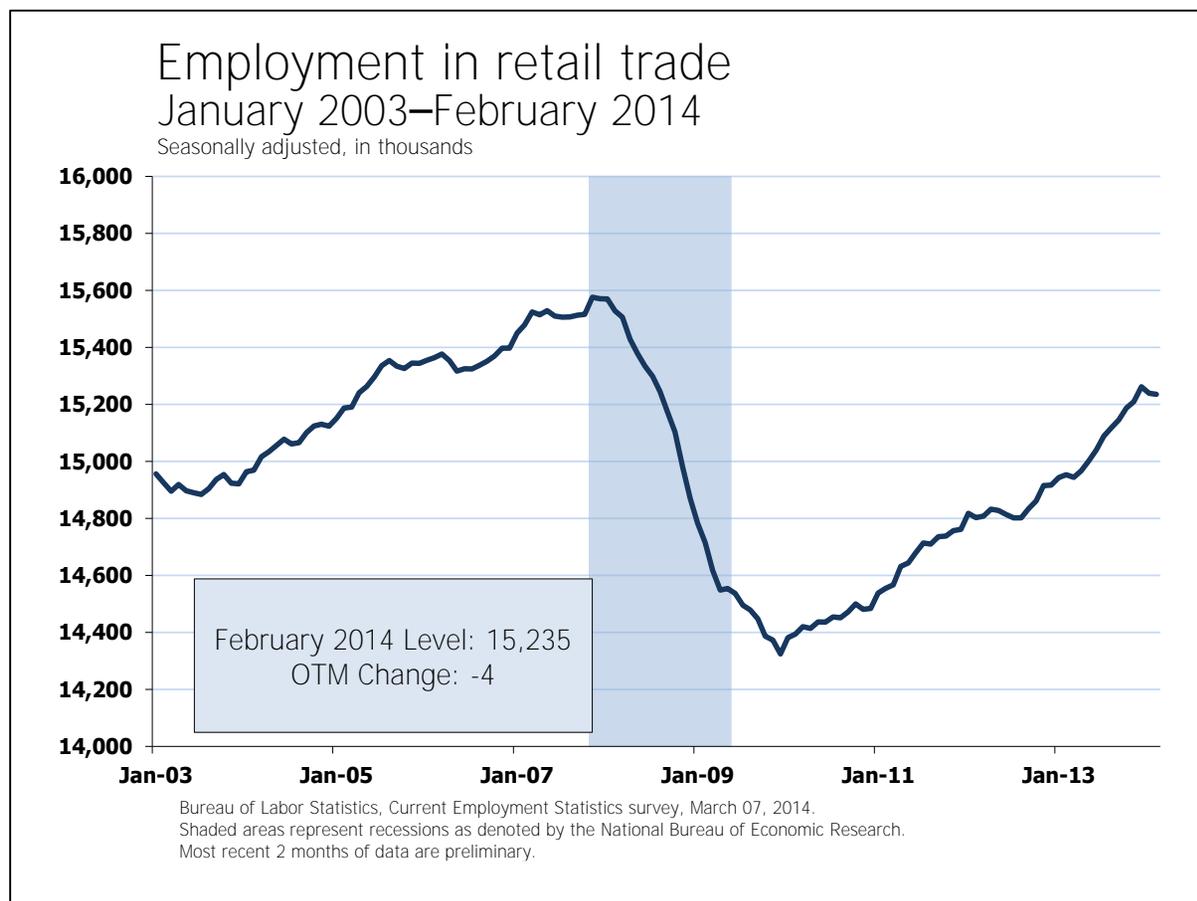
In February, the manufacturing workweek for all employees remained at the same level as January (40.7 hours). The manufacturing workweek for production employees has fallen by 0.6 hour over the past 3 months.

Wholesale Trade



Wholesale trade added 15,000 jobs in February. Most of the gain was concentrated in durable goods. The industry has recovered almost two-thirds of the jobs lost during the most recent economic downturn.

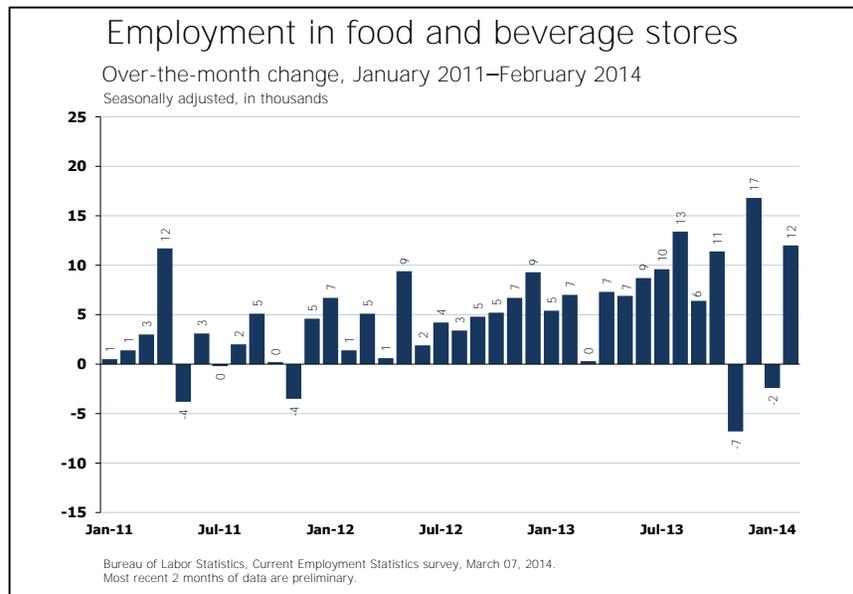
Retail Trade



Retail trade employment was essentially flat in February. Among the retail industries, employment changes were mixed, with significant movements in food and beverage stores (+12,000), electronics and appliance stores (-12,000), and sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores (-9,000).

Recent retail-related indicators have weakened. As shown by [Census Bureau](#) data, retail sales for January decreased by 0.4 percent; however, sales were up 2.6 percent over the year. Additionally, the [Conference Board](#) noted that the Consumer Confidence Index decreased by 1.3 points in February.

Retail Trade



NAICS 445 – Food and beverage stores

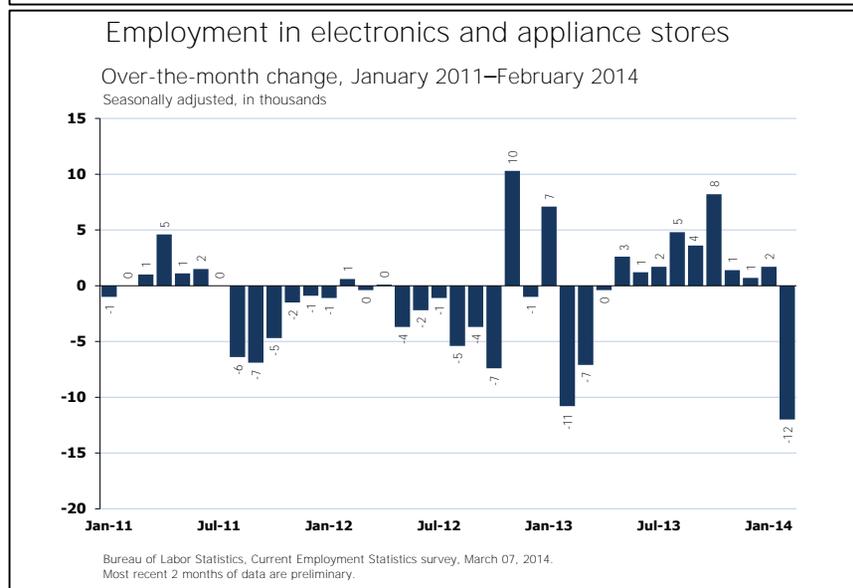
In February, food and beverage stores employment increased by 12,000, with a job gain of 84,000 over the past year. This industry has been one of the strongest within all of retail trade.

Holiday-related employment lay-off

February is traditionally the final month in the holiday lay-off period for retail trade. On a not seasonally adjusted basis, the total lay-off as a percentage of the total build-up was in line with the prior 3 years.

NAICS 443 – Electronics and appliance stores

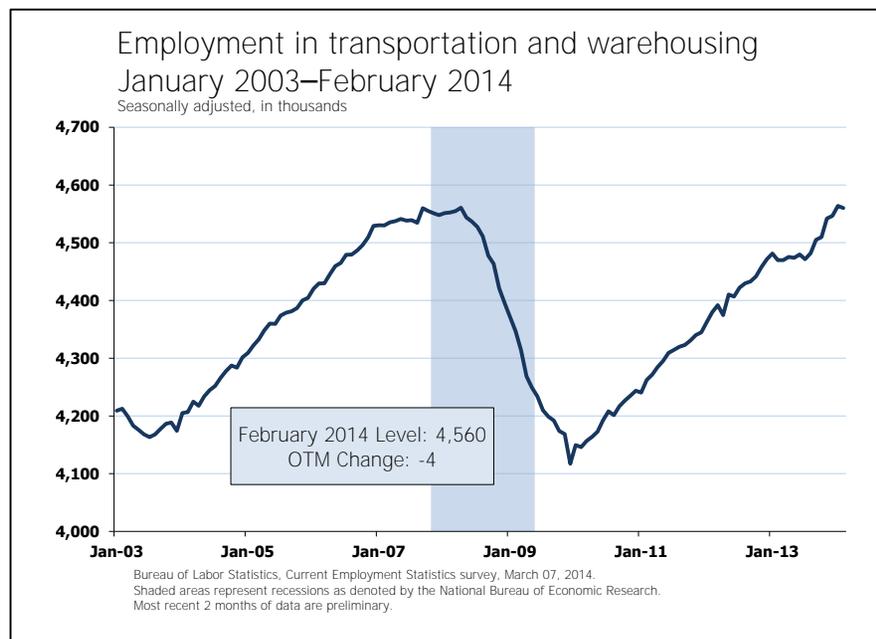
In February, electronics and appliance stores employment decreased by 12,000, offsetting job gains in the prior 4 months. Employment in the industry is little changed over the past 6 months.



NAICS 451 – Sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores

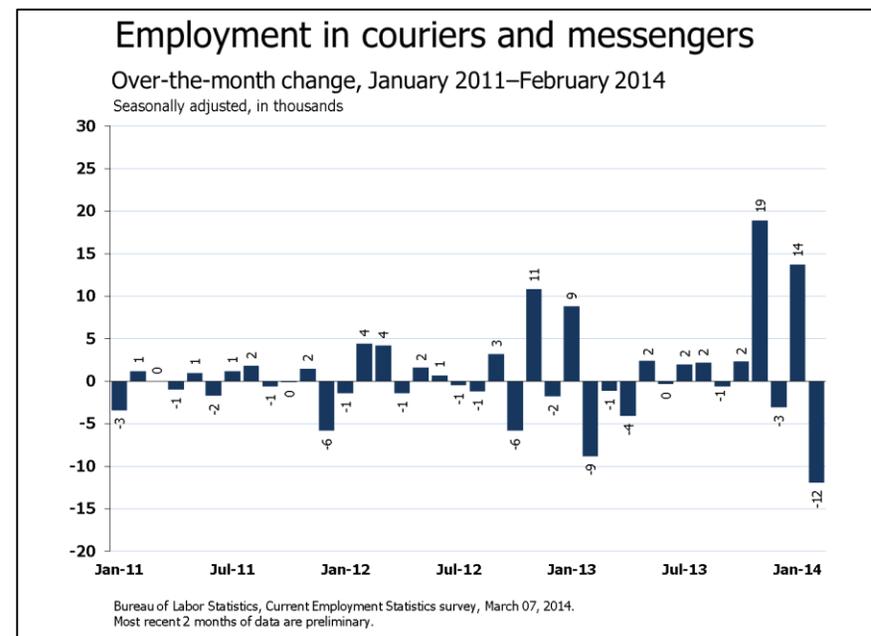
Employment in sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores declined by 9,000 in February, following a 21,000 job decline in January. Employment is little changed over the year. The majority of the February's job decline occurred in hobby, toy, and game stores.

Transportation and Warehousing



Employment in transportation and warehousing was essentially unchanged (-4,000) in February, following an increase of 17,000 in January. Over the past 12 months, the industry has added 90,000 jobs.

In February, water transportation and warehousing and storage added 1,000 and 6,000 jobs, respectively; however, couriers and messengers lost 12,000 jobs.

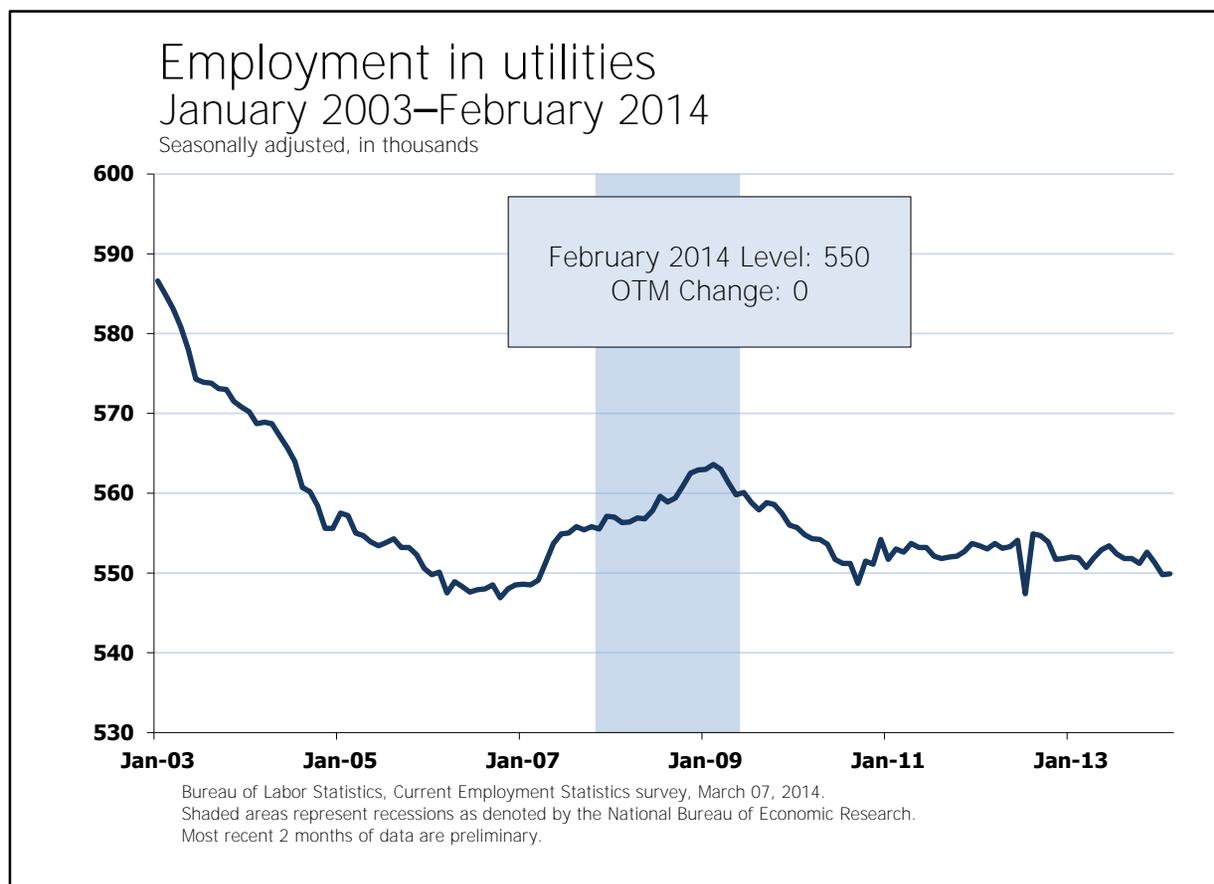


NAICS 492 – Couriers and Messengers

Couriers and messengers employment fell by 12,000 in February.

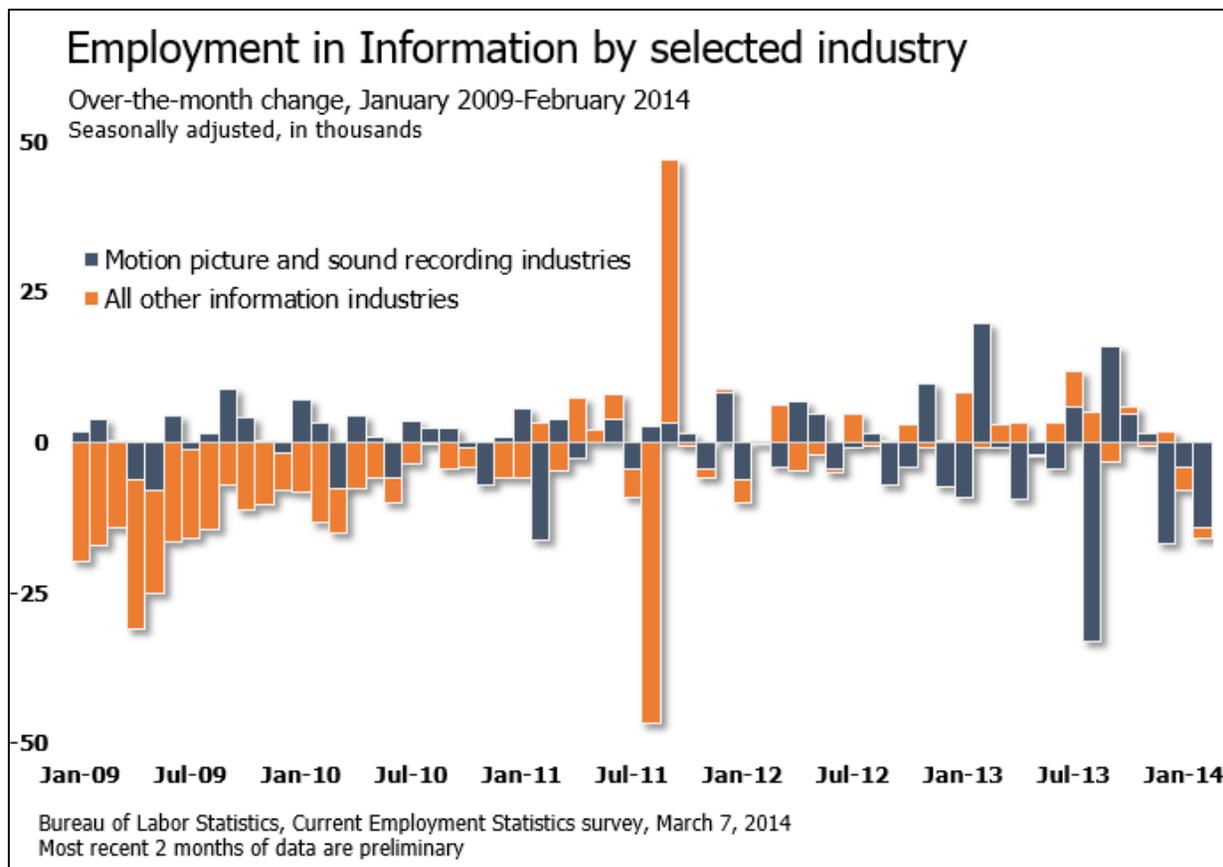
On a not seasonally adjusted basis, over January and February, the industry laid off 89 percent of recent holiday-related employment build-up. After seasonal adjustment, employment in couriers and messengers has risen by 18,000 since October 2013.

Utilities



Employment in utilities was unchanged in February. Over the past few years, employment in the industry has shown little net change.

Information

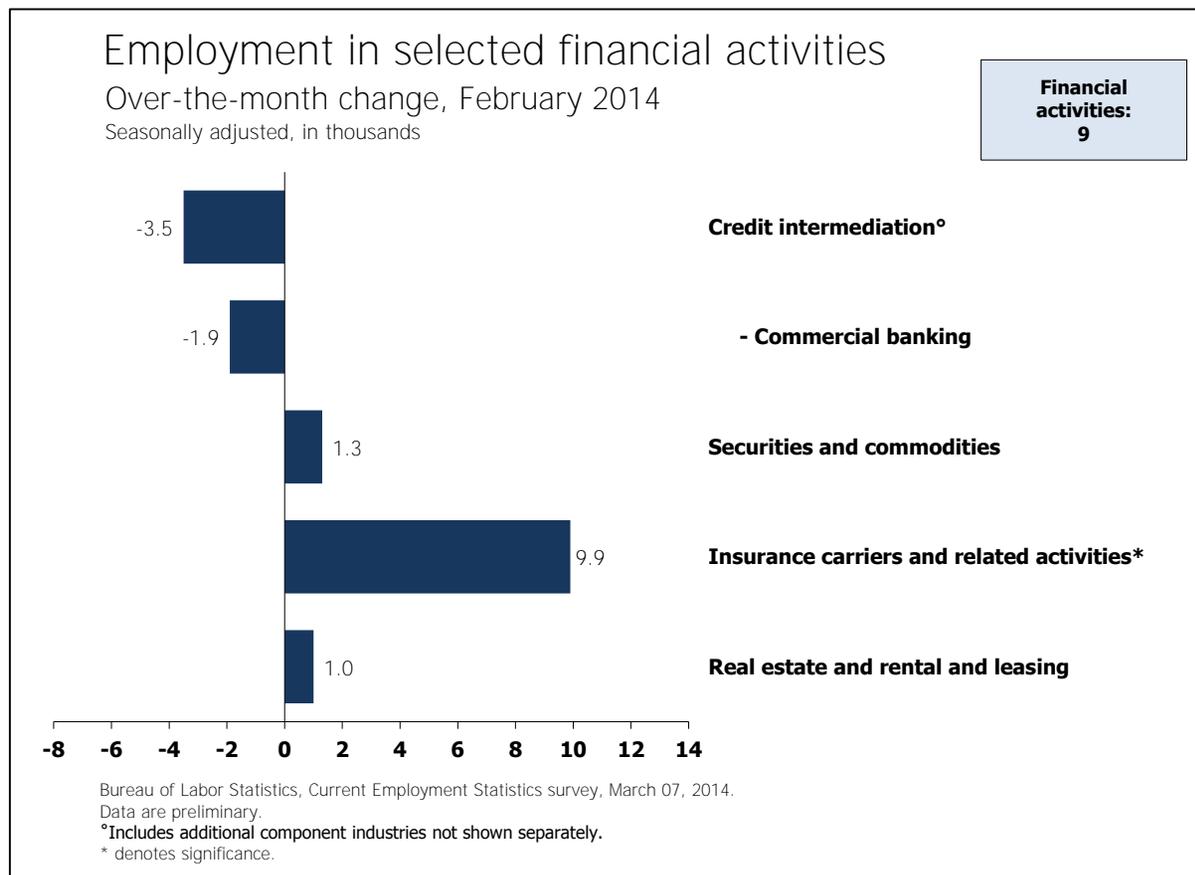


The information industry lost 16,000 jobs in February. Employment in this industry has changed little on net since early 2011, when the heavy job losses seen during the recession abated.

NAICS 512 – Motion picture and sound recording industries

Motion picture and sound recording industries lost 14,000 jobs in February, accounting for almost all of the change in information. Since 2012, this industry also has accounted for the majority of the volatility in information's monthly employment changes.

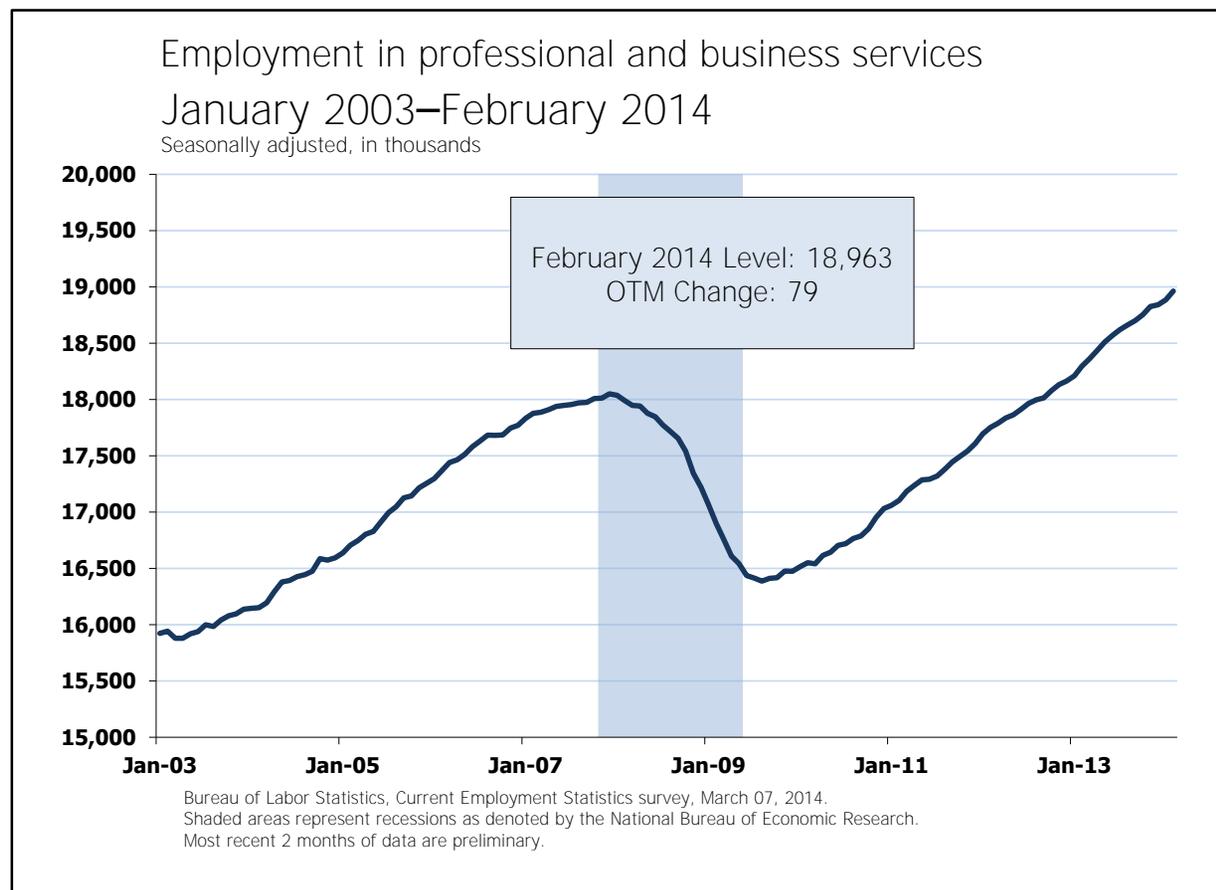
Financial Activities



Financial activities employment edged up (+9,000) in February, following 3 months of essentially no change. However, since reaching an employment low in February 2011, financial activities has added an average of 6,000 jobs per month.

Employment in insurance carriers and related activities experienced a significant gain of 10,000 in February.

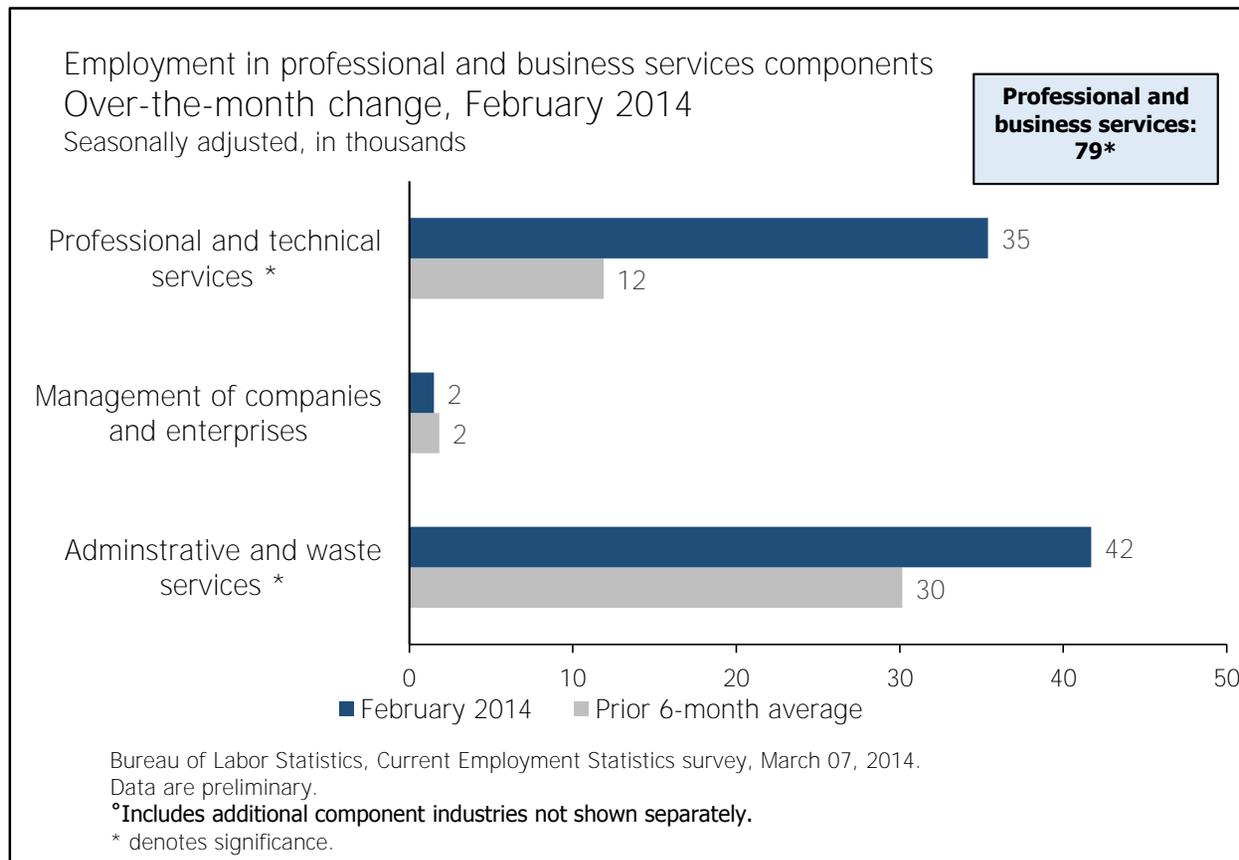
Professional and business services



Employment in professional and business services increased by 79,000 in February. Job gains were split between professional and technical services and administrative and waste services.

Professional and business services has steadily added jobs since reaching an employment trough in August 2009, and employment has now surpassed its December 2007 peak by 912,000 jobs.

Professional and Business Services

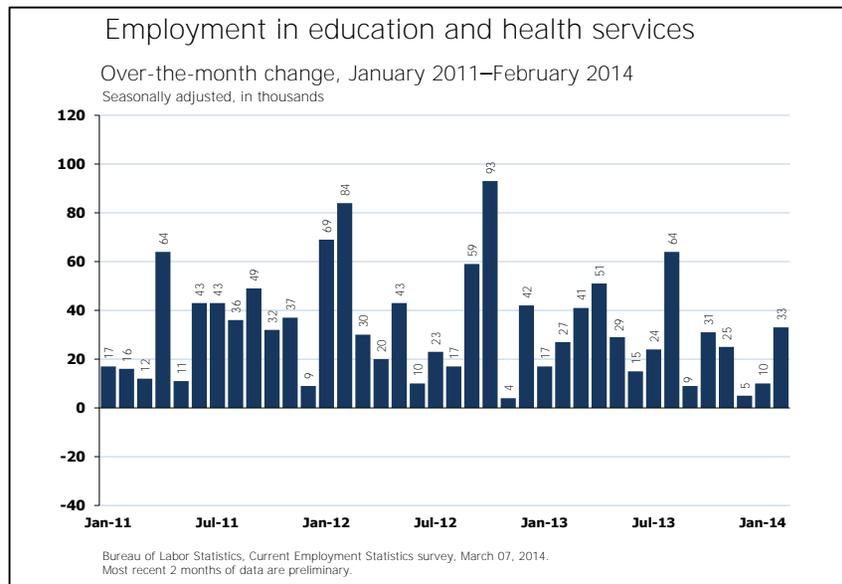


In February, professional and technical services added 35,000 jobs. The largest portions of the employment gain occurred in accounting and bookkeeping services, which added 16,000 jobs—partially offsetting a decline of 31,000 in December 2013. Job gains were small and widespread among most of the professional and technical services component industries in February.

Management of companies and enterprises continued in its upward employment trend in February. Over the year, the industry has added 39,000 jobs.

Employment in administrative and waste services increased by 42,000 in February. Nearly all of the gains were in administrative and support services, which added 40,000 jobs. Employment continued to trend up in temporary help service (+24,000) and services to buildings and dwelling places (+11,000). Waste management and remediation services employment remained flat.

Private Education and Health Services



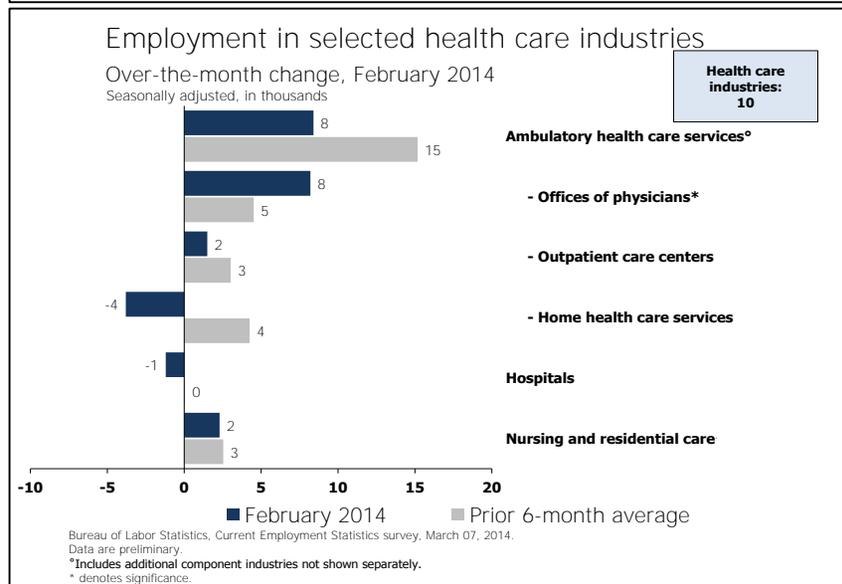
In February, education and health services employment edged up (+33,000). The majority of the gain occurred in colleges and universities. Health care employment changed little over the month (+10,000), and growth has slowed in the past 3 months.

NAICS 621 – Ambulatory health care services

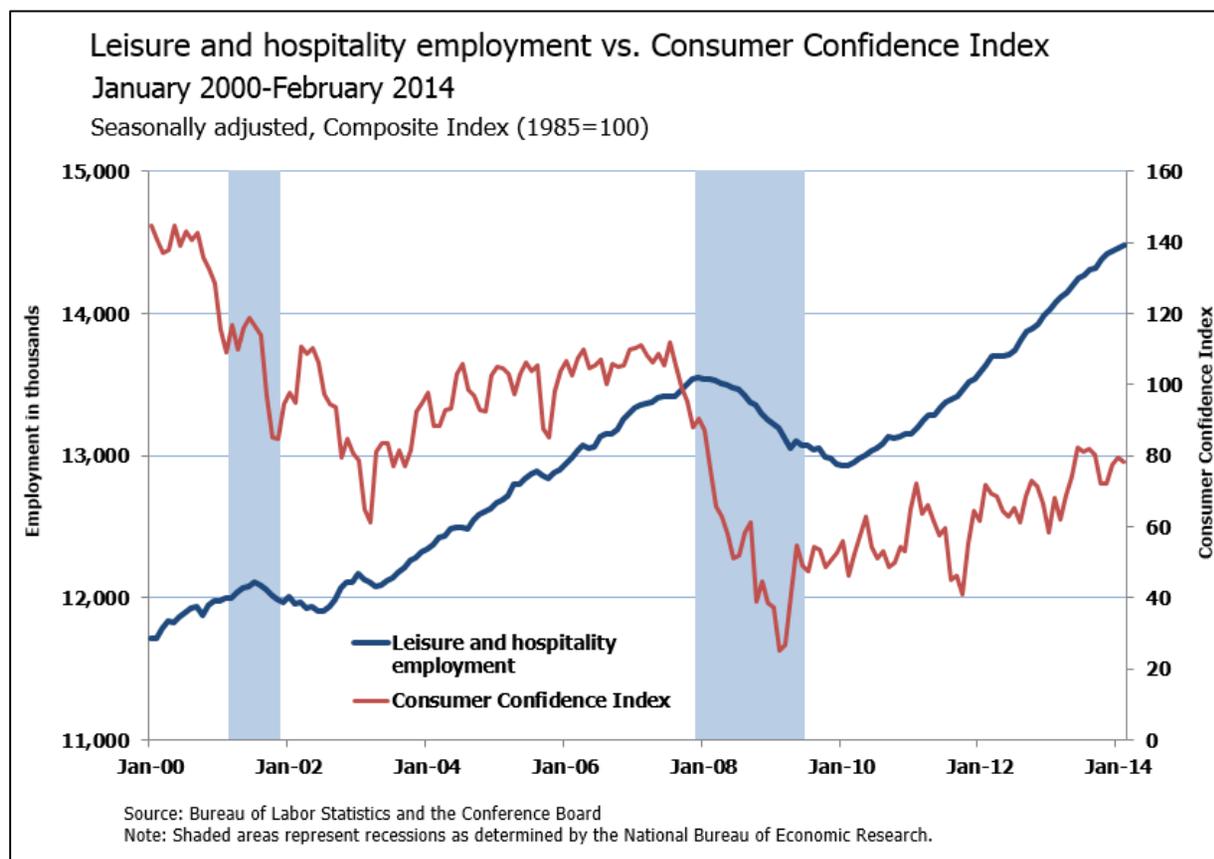
Employment in ambulatory health care services continued its upward trend in February, with the largest over-the-month gain occurring in offices of physicians (+8,000). Over the year, 167,000 of the 191,000 jobs added in health care have been in ambulatory health care services. Within ambulatory health care services, offices of physicians, outpatient care centers, and home health care services have each expanded employment over the same 12-month period; however, growth has decelerated over the last 3 months in outpatient centers and in home health care.

NAICS 622 – Hospitals

Hospital employment changed little in February, but is down by 10,000 over the last 3 months.

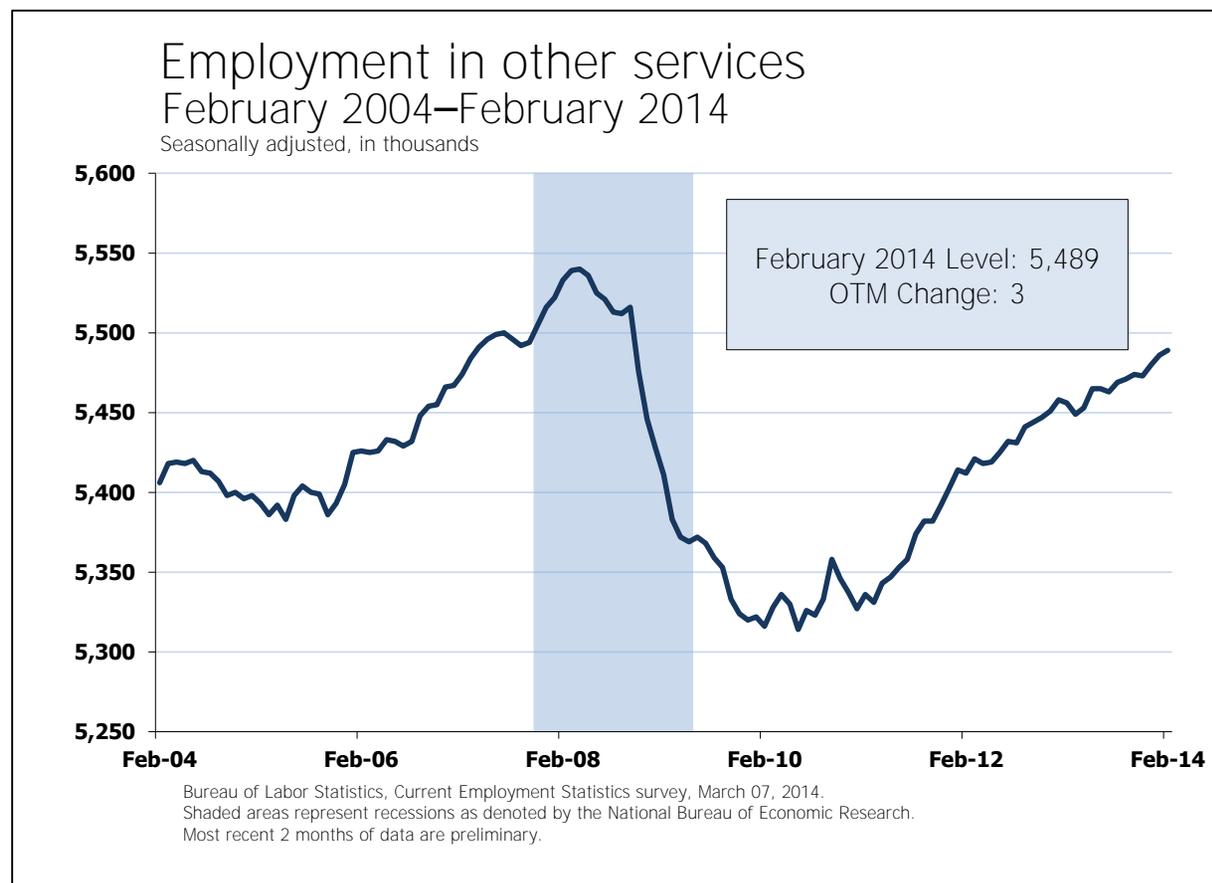


Leisure and Hospitality



Employment in leisure and hospitality edged up in February (+25,000), following a similar movement in January. Over the prior 12 months, this industry had added an average of 36,000 jobs per month. The employment gains seen since the end of the last recession followed improvement in the Consumer Confidence Index, which started to recover in 2009 (source: [The Conference Board](#)).

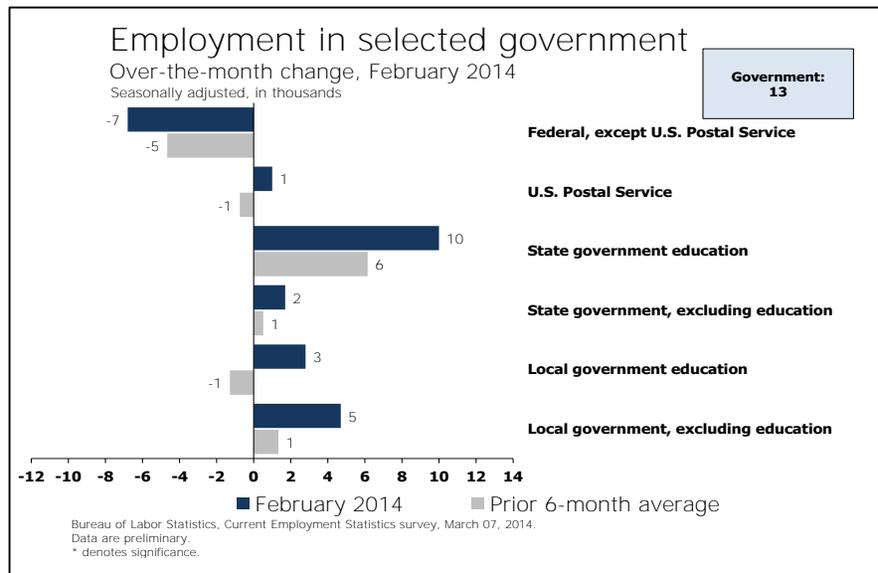
Other Services



Employment in other services changed little in February. No component industry experienced a significant employment change over the month.

Personal and laundry services, however, has seen significant job growth over the past 12 months (+25,000). This industry has recovered all of the jobs it lost during its most recent downturn, and employment has surpassed its previous peak. Personal and laundry services has been the primary driver of the employment recovery in other services since June 2010. During this period, other services has recovered 76 percent of jobs it lost in the most recent downturn.

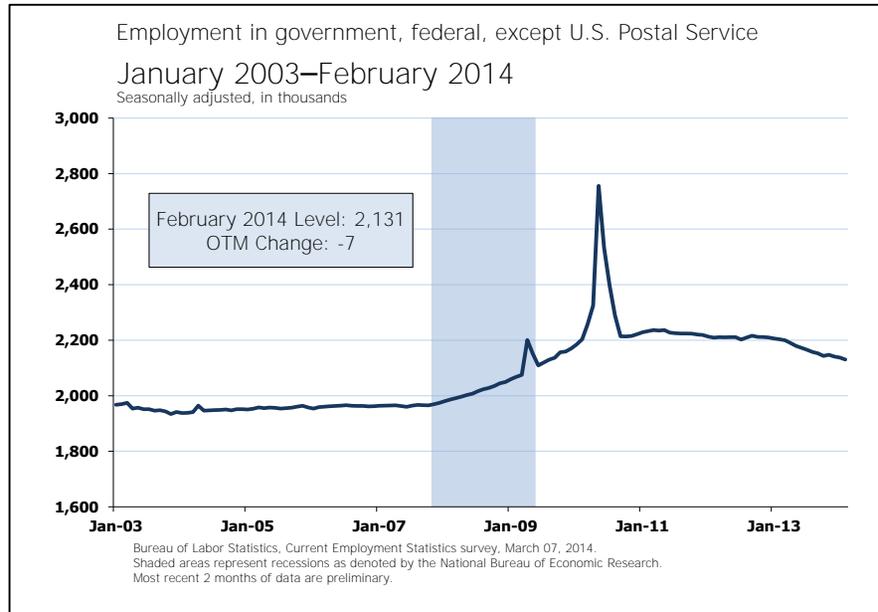
Government



Government employment changed little in February (+13,000). Employment at the federal, state, and local levels remained relatively flat over the month.

NAICS 911- Federal, except U.S. Postal Service

In February, employment in federal, except U.S. Postal Service continued to trend down (-7,000). Over the past 12 months, the industry has shed 73,000 jobs.





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