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# Current Employment Statistics Highlights



**March 2015**

Release Date: April 3, 2015

Prepared by Staff 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 Survey Summary, March 2015

**Total Nonfarm** + 126,000  
**Total Private** + 129,000

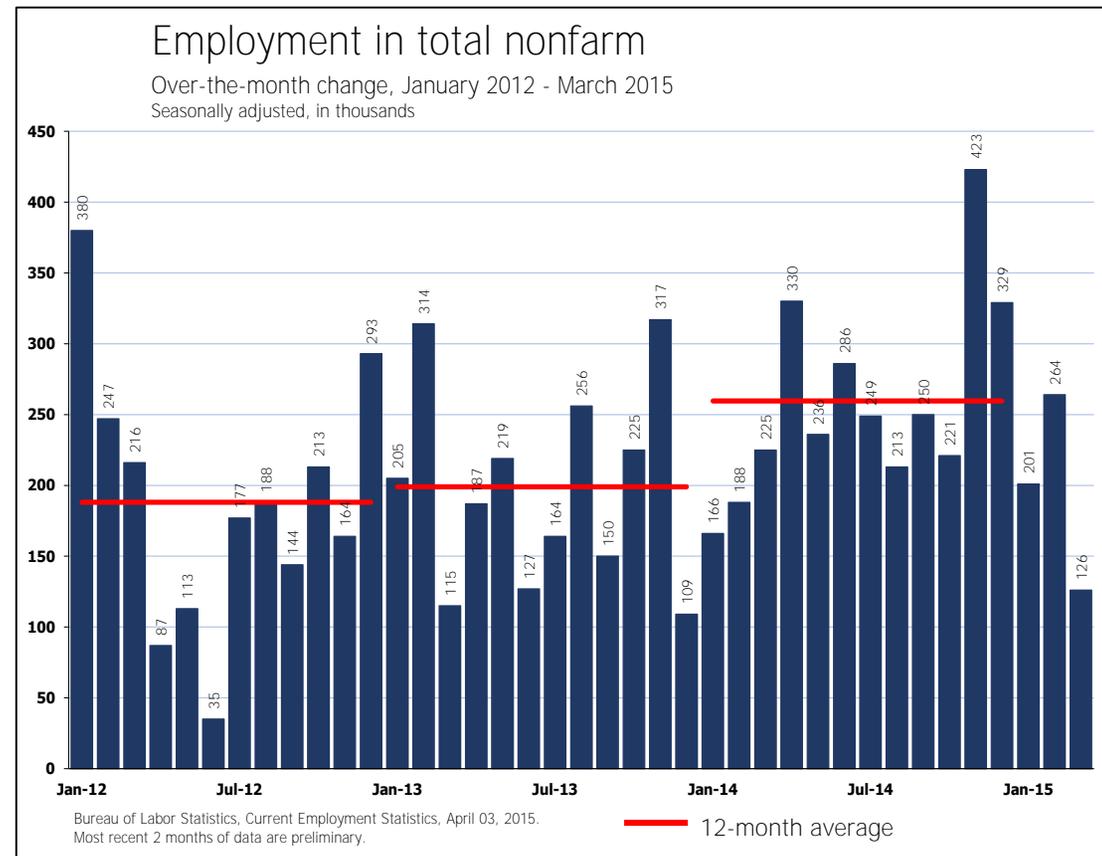
Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 126,000 in March compared to gains averaging 269,000 over the prior 12 months. Over the month, employment continued to trend up in professional and business services, health care, and retail trade. Mining employment decreased.

The employment change for February revised down from +295,000 to +264,000, and the change for January revised down from +239,000 to +201,000. Incorporating revisions, employment has increased by an average 197,000 per month over the past 3 months.

Average hourly earnings for all employees increased by 7 cents in March. Hourly earnings are up 2.1 percent over the year. Over the month, average weekly hours edged down 0.1 hour to 34.5 hours.

### +40,000 Professional and business services

Employment continued to trend up in professional and business services in March. Over the prior 12 months, job growth averaged 55,000 per month.



In March, employment continued to trend up in architectural and engineering services, in computer systems design and related services, and in management and technical consulting services, while employment changed little in administrative and waste services.

### +38,000 Education and health services

Employment in health care increased by 22,000 in March. Job gains in ambulatory care (19,000) and hospitals (8,000) were partially offset by a loss of 6,000 jobs in nursing care facilities. Health care has added 363,000 jobs over the year.

## Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, March 2015

### +26,000 Retail Trade

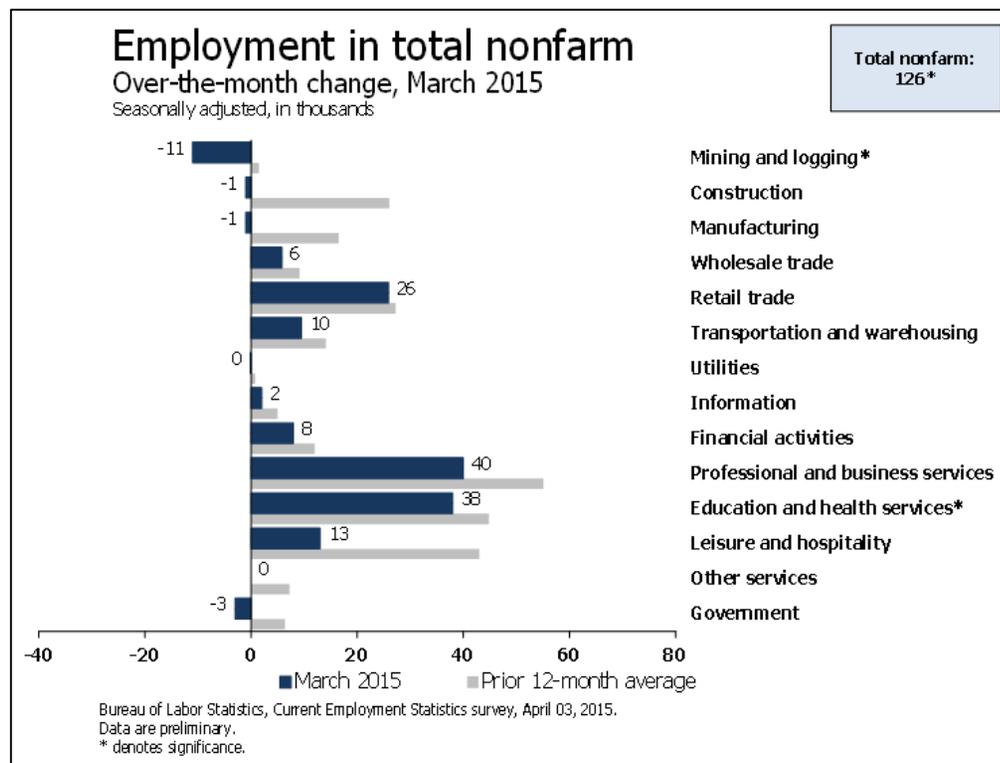
In March, employment continued to trend up in retail trade. Over the year, retail trade has added 326,000 jobs, with most retail industries contributing to the increase.

### +13,000 Leisure and hospitality

Employment in food services and drinking places changed little (+9,000) following a job gain of 66,000 in February. In the first quarter, food services added an average 33,000 jobs per month, in line with the average monthly change in 2014.

### -11,000 Mining and Logging

Mining lost 11,000 jobs in March. Employment in the industry has declined by an average 10,000 per month thus far in 2015. In contrast, employment had increased by an average of 4,000 per month in 2014. Support activities for mining, the primary driver of these trends, has lost an average 8,000 jobs per month in 2015, after adding an average 3,000 jobs per month in the prior year.

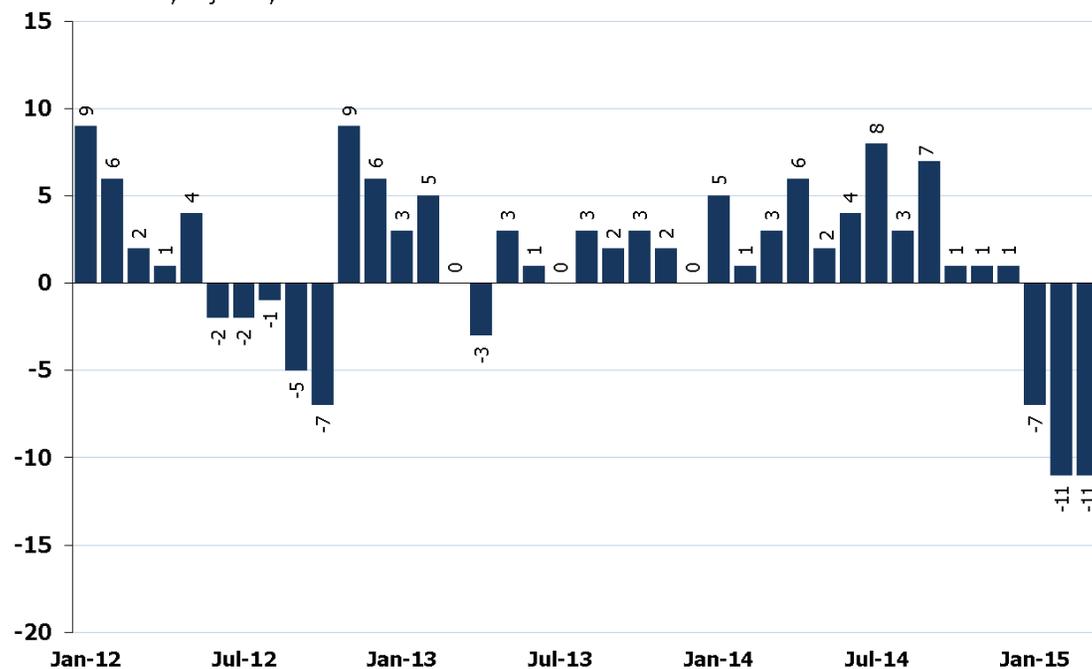


## Mining and Logging

### Employment in mining and logging

Over-the-month change, January 2012–March 2015

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

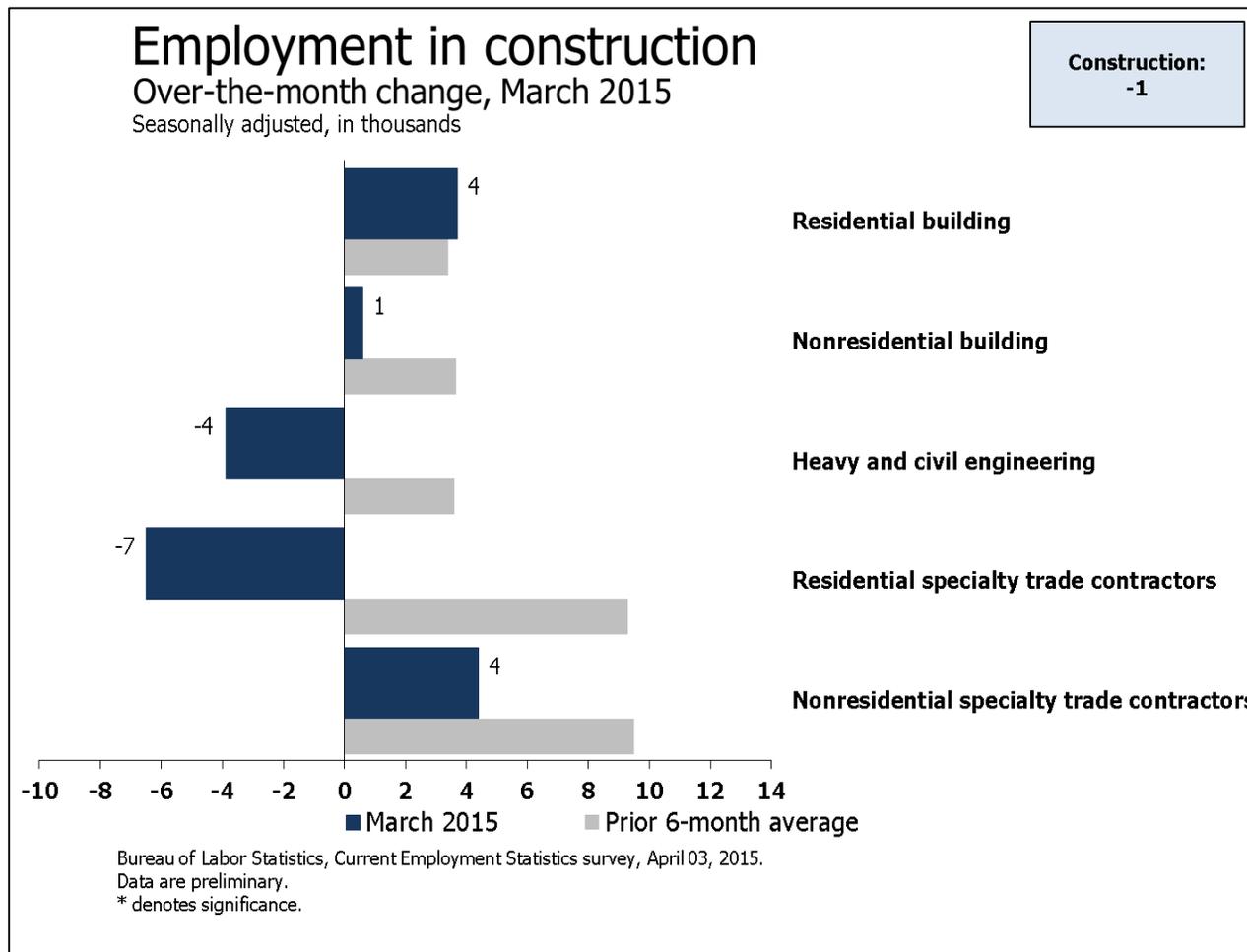


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 03, 2015.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Mining and logging lost 11,000 jobs over the month and 30,000 so far in 2015. In contrast, the industry added 41,000 jobs in 2014.

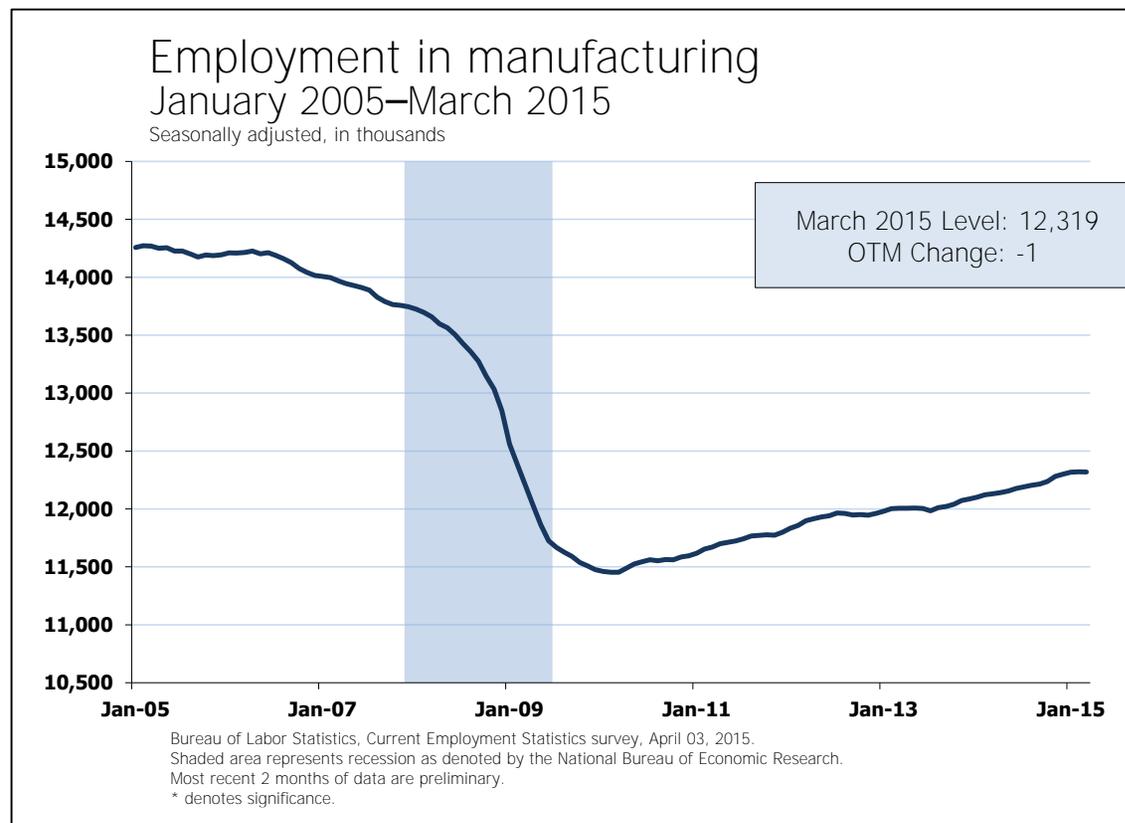
Support activities for mining, which includes support for oil and gas extraction, experienced an employment loss of 10,000. In the first quarter, job losses in support activities averaged 8,000 per month. In 2014, support activities had added an average of 3,000 jobs per month.

### Construction



Construction employment changed little over the month (-1,000). Job growth in construction had averaged 26,000 per month over the previous 12 months.

## Manufacturing

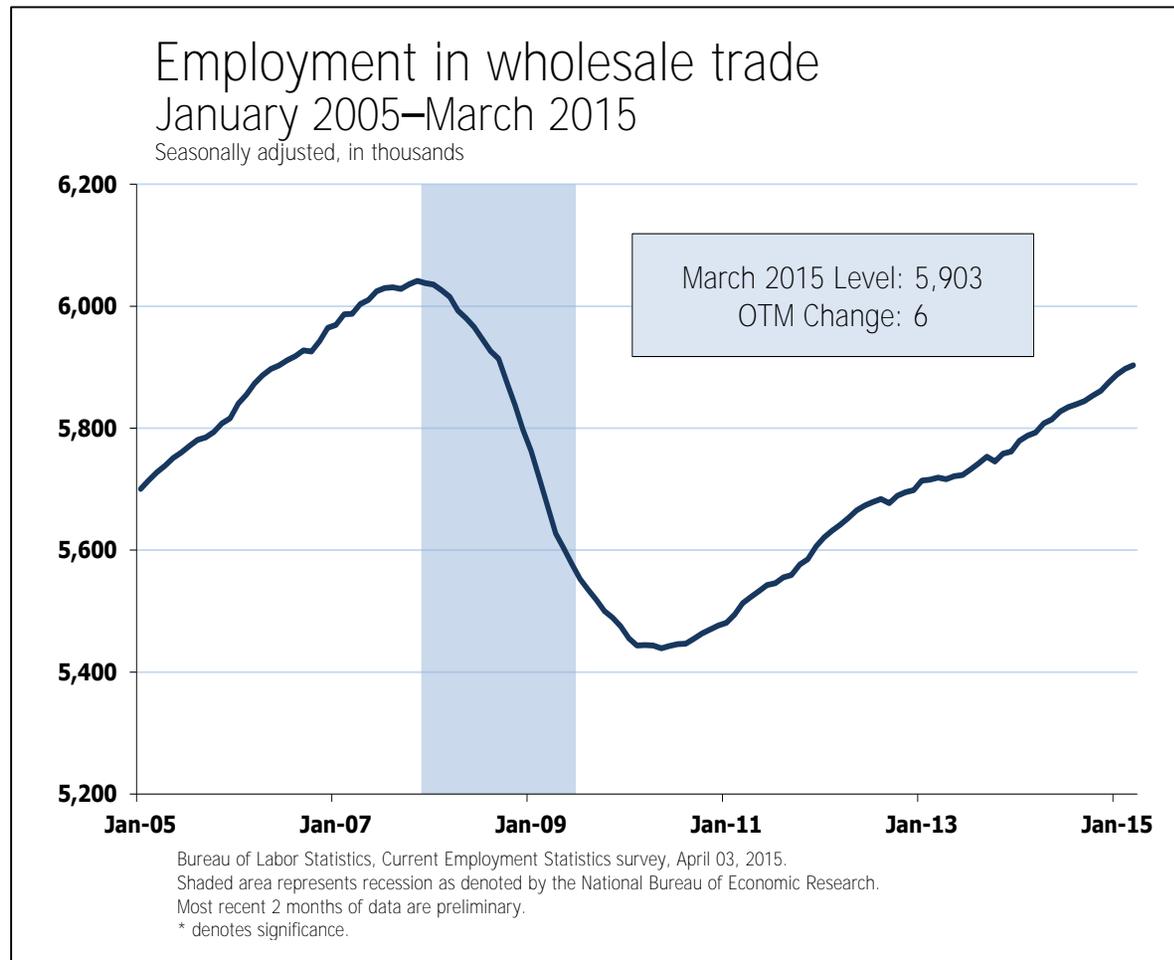


Manufacturing employment was essentially unchanged in March (-1,000). Employment in petroleum and coal products decreased by 2,000, largely due to additional workers joining a strike.

The 1-month diffusion index fell to 47.5 in March from 61.3 in February. 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.

Average weekly hours for all employees in manufacturing declined by 0.1 to 40.9 hours. Average weekly hours for production and nonsupervisory workers declined by 0.1 to 41.8.

### Wholesale Trade

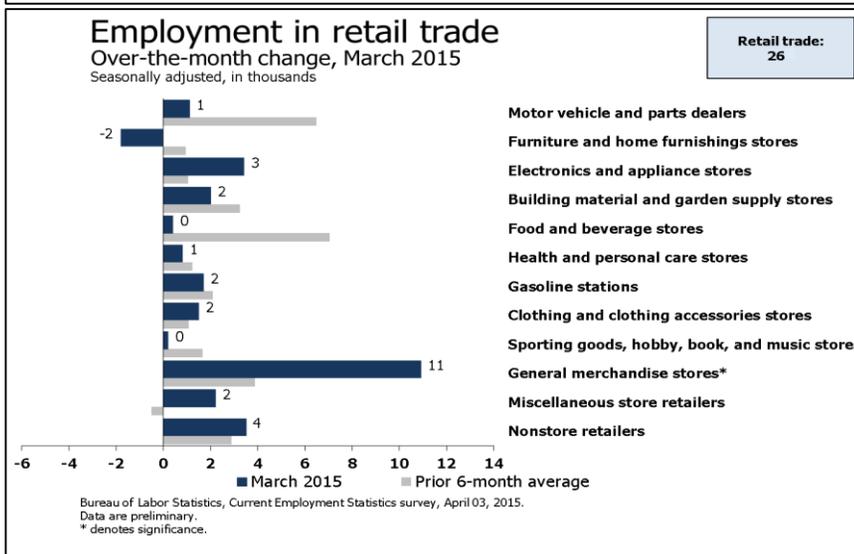


Employment in wholesale trade continued to trend up in March (+6,000). Employment had increased by an average of 9,000 per month over the prior 12-month period.

## Retail Trade



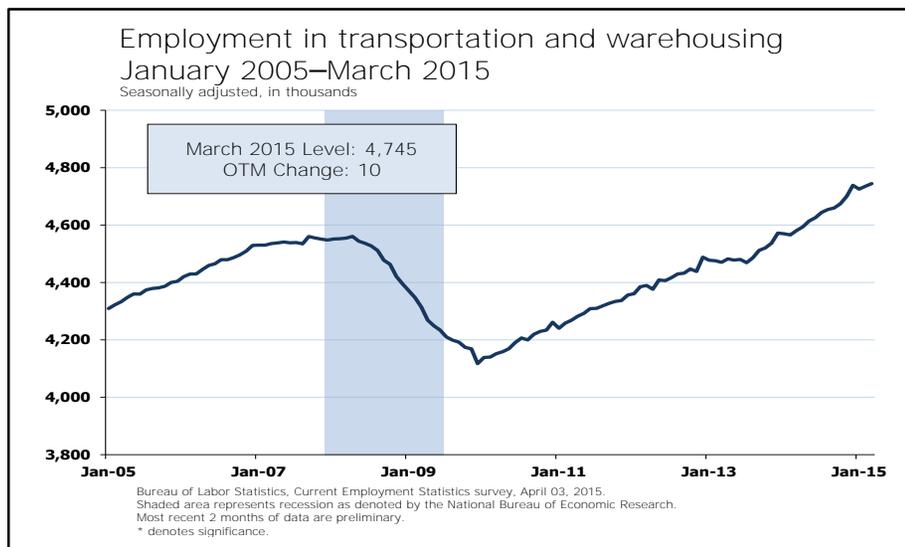
Employment in retail trade continued to trend up (+26,000) and, as of March, has recovered all of the jobs lost during the most recent employment downturn. Retail trade lost 1.3 million jobs in the 25 months between November 2007 and December 2009, but required 63 months to recover the jobs lost.



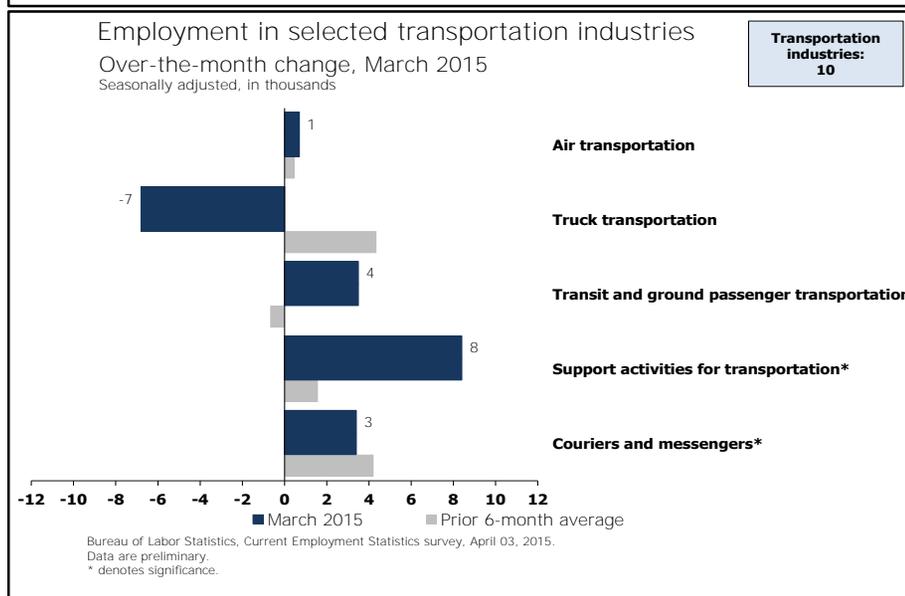
### NAICS 452 – General Merchandise Stores

In March, employment in general merchandise stores increased by 11,000. With this gain, employment in the industry has fully recovered all of the 131,000 jobs lost between January 2012 and January 2013.

## Transportation and Warehousing

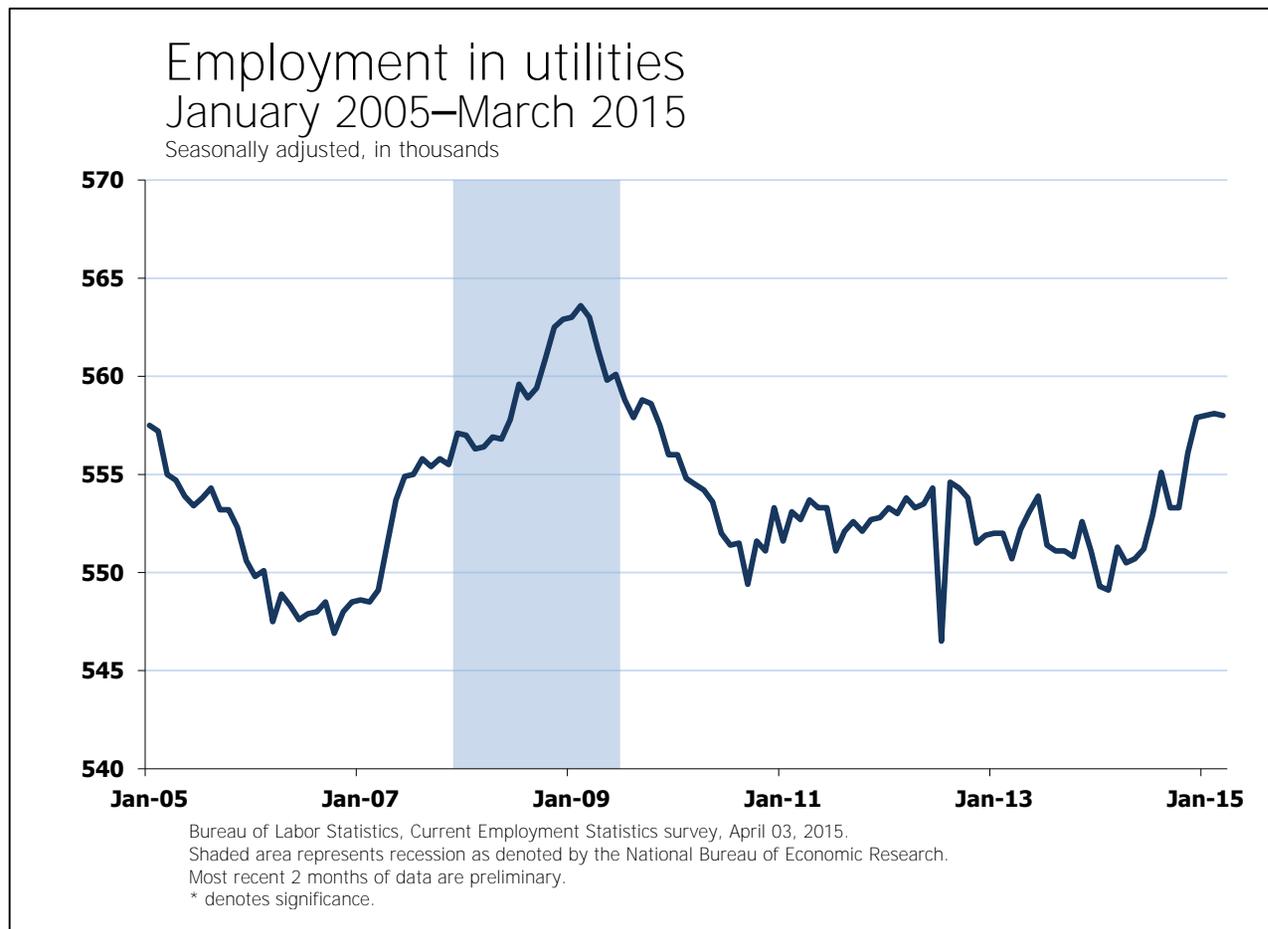


Transportation and warehousing employment edged up in March (+10,000), bringing the 12-month net job gain to 164,000. Over the month, support activities for transportation added 8,000 jobs, and couriers and messengers added 3,000 jobs. These gains more than offset an employment downtick in truck transportation (-7,000). Weakness in truck transportation employment in March followed a 3.1-percent decline in February in the truck tonnage index ([American Trucking Associations](#)), which measures the freight tonnage hauled by truck fleets each month.



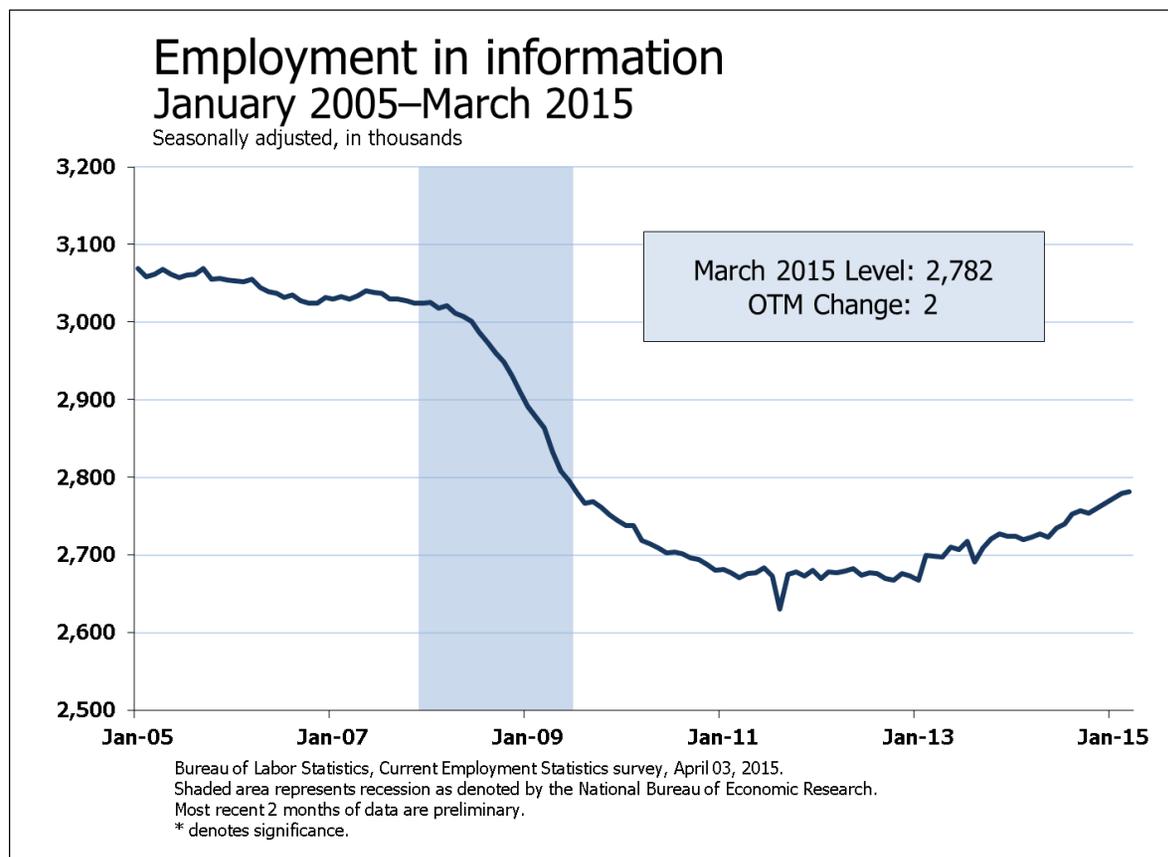
### Utilities

Utilities employment was unchanged over the month.

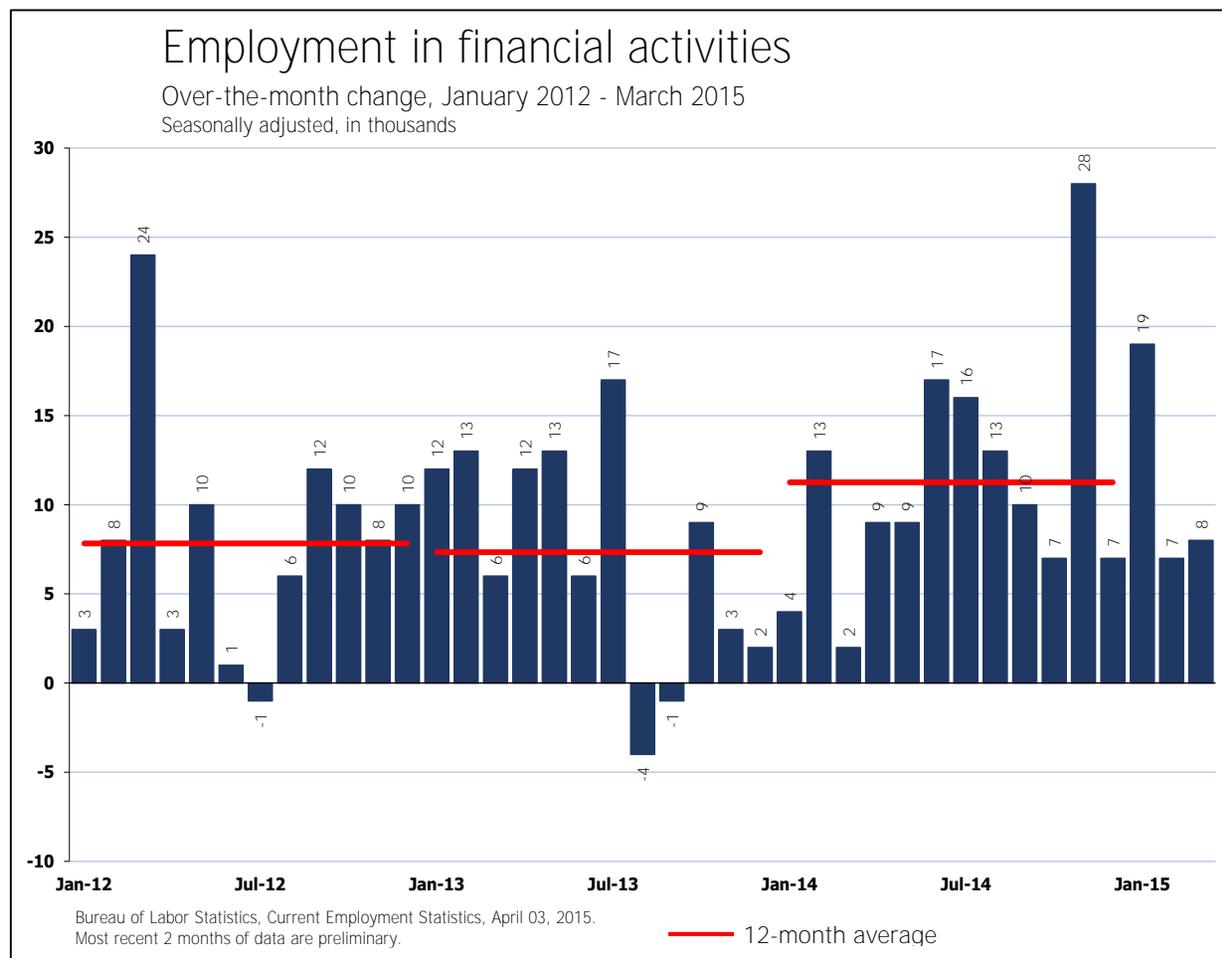


### Information

Information employment was virtually unchanged in March (+2,000).

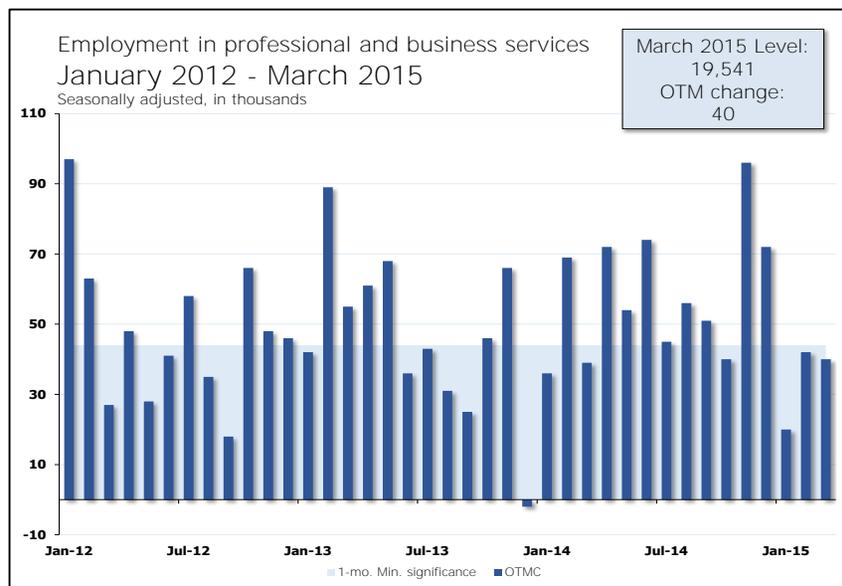


## Financial Activities



Employment in financial activities edged up in March (+8,000). Over the past 6 months, financial activities has added 76,000 jobs. Insurance carriers and related activities accounted for 43,000 jobs added during this period.

## Professional and Business Services



Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in March (+40,000). Job growth had averaged 55,000 per month over the prior 12 months.

### NAICS 54 – Professional and technical services

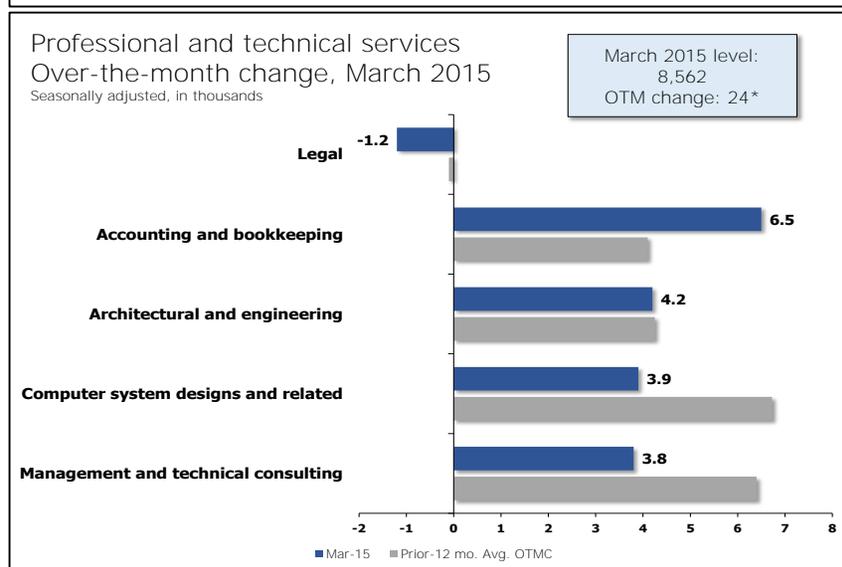
In March, professional and technical services added 24,000 jobs. Architectural and engineering services, computer system designs and related services, and management and technical consulting services continued their upward employment trends.

### NAICS 55 – Management of companies and enterprises

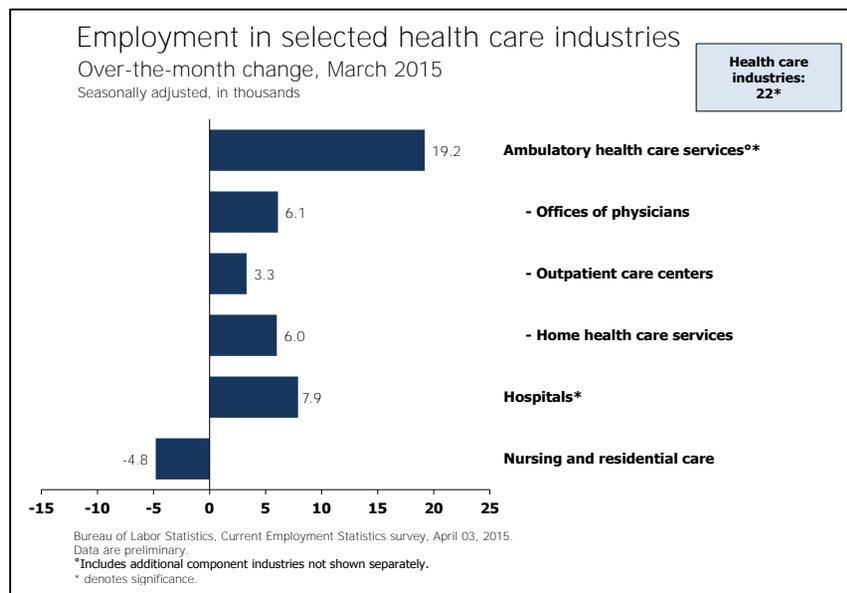
Employment continued to trend up in management of companies (+7,000). This industry has added 48,000 jobs over the past 12 months.

### NAICS 56 – Administrative and waste services

In March, administrative and waste services experienced little change in employment (+9,000). In the first quarter, employment changed by an average 6,000 per month, well below the average monthly gain of 29,000 in 2014.



## Private Education and Health Services



In March, private education and health services employment increased by 38,000. Within the industry, health care added 22,000 jobs, while social assistance employment continued to trend up (+8,000). Educational services employment changed little over the month (+8,000).

### NAICS 621 — Ambulatory health care services

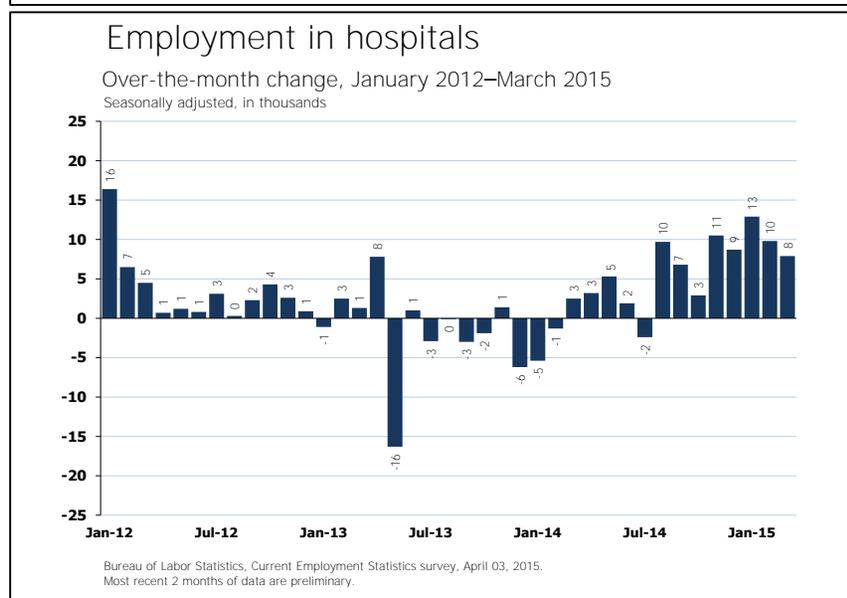
Ambulatory health care services added 19,000 jobs in March. Within the industry, employment continued to trend up in offices of physicians (+6,000), outpatient care centers (+3,000), and home health care services (+6,000).

### NAICS 622 — Hospitals

Hospitals added 8,000 jobs in March. Employment in the industry has been trending up over the past 8 months.

### NAICS 6231 – Nursing care facilities

Nursing care facilities lost 6,000 jobs in March; however, employment in the industry has shown little net change over the past year.

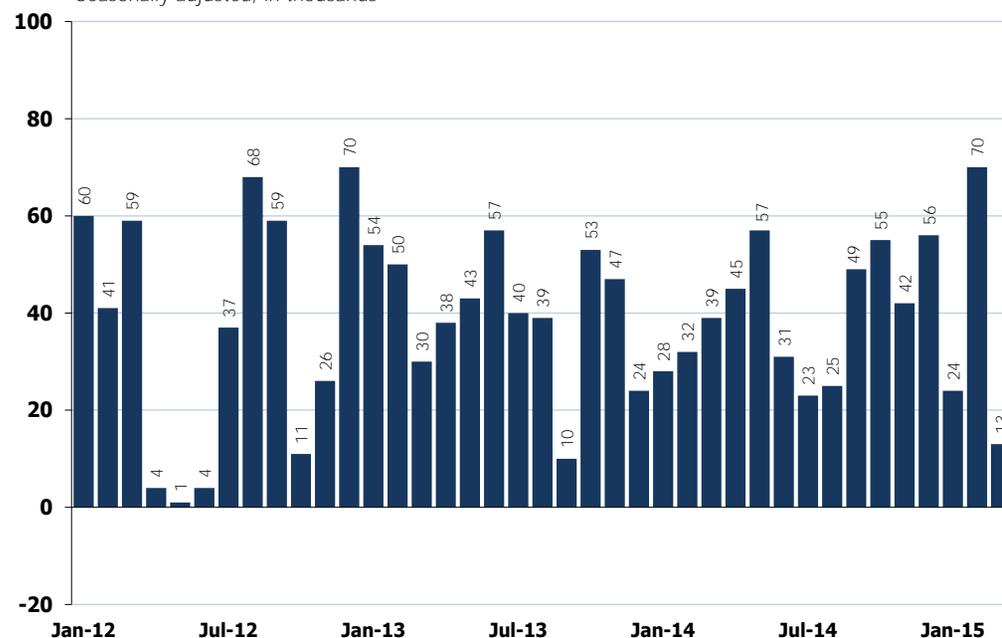


## Leisure and Hospitality

### Employment in leisure and hospitality

Over-the-month change, January 2012–March 2015

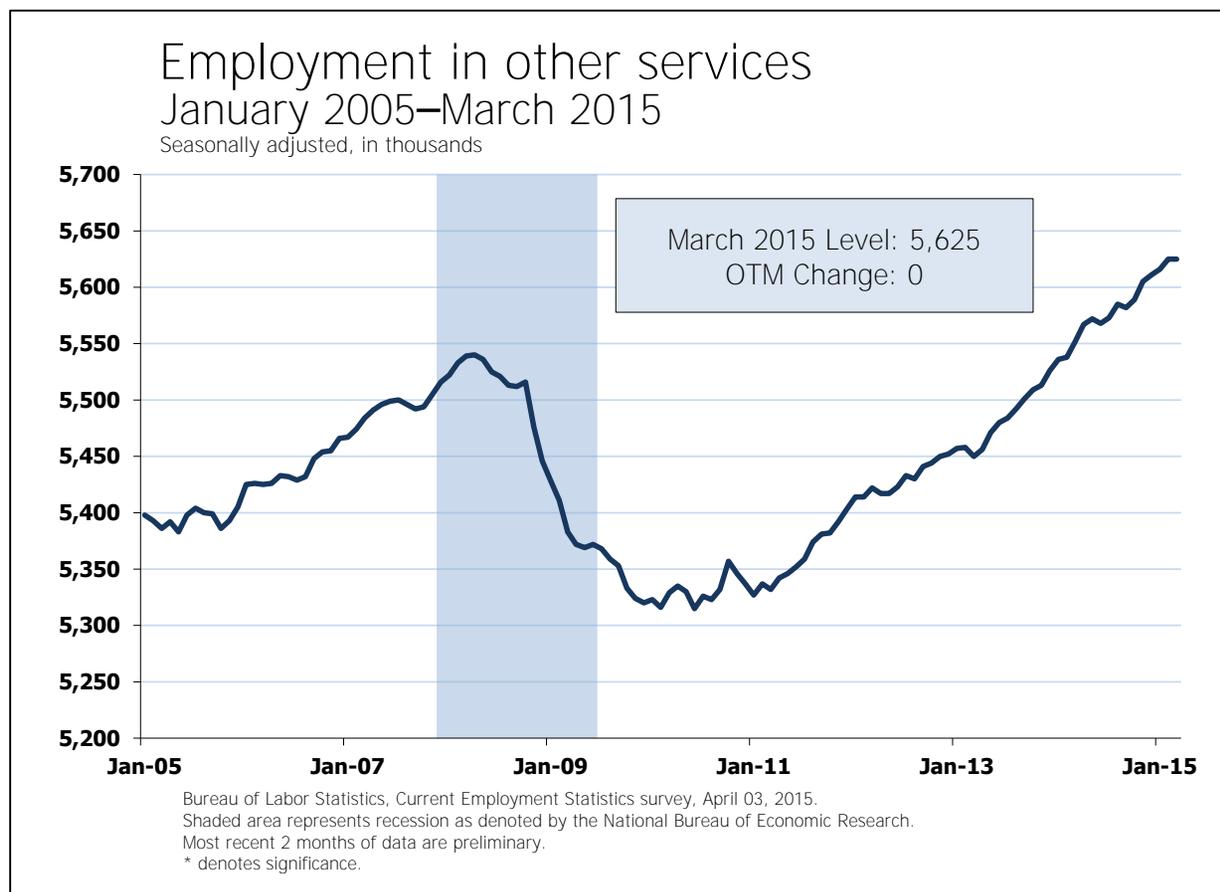
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 03, 2015.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

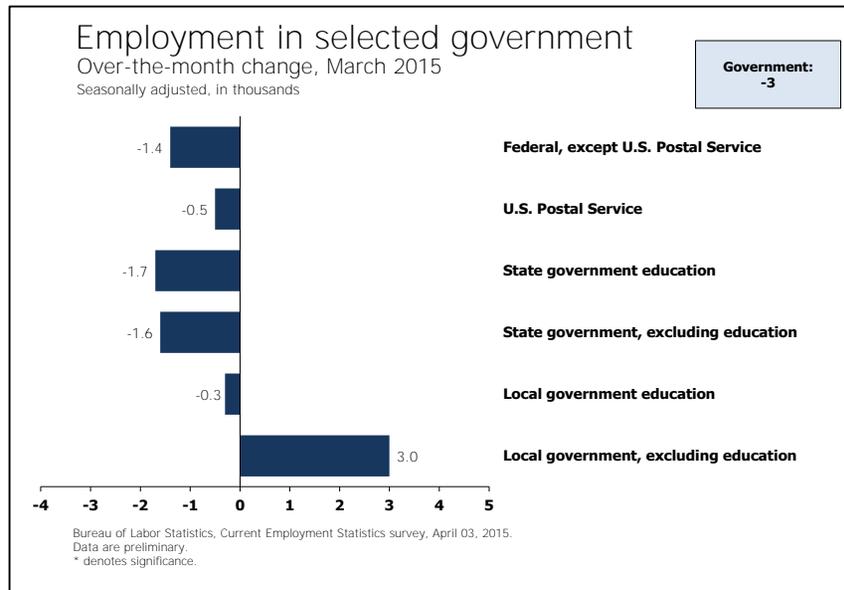
Leisure and hospitality employment changed little (+13,000) in March. Food services and drinking places employment changed little (+9,000), following a gain of 66,000 in February. Thus far in 2015, employment in food services has increased by an average 33,000 per month, equaling the average monthly increase in 2014.

### Other Services

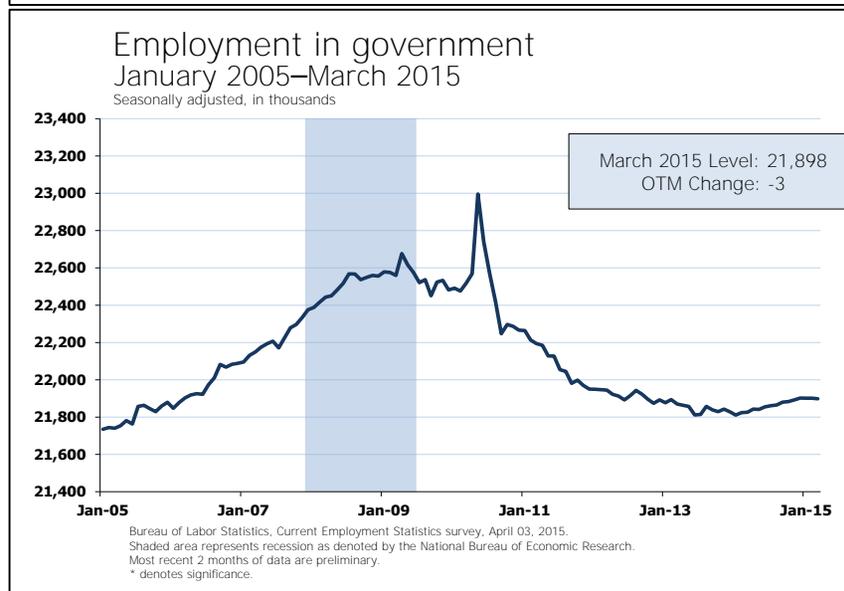


Other services employment was unchanged in March, and there was little change in any component industry. Over the prior 12 months, employment had increased by an average of 7,000 per month.

## Government



Government employment changed little in March (-3,000). So far in 2015, employment in government has shown little movement (-4,000). In contrast, government employment had increased by 91,000 between January and December of 2014, mostly in local government (+64,000).





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