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# Current Employment Statistics Highlights



**May 2015**

Release Date: June 5, 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, May 2015

**Total Nonfarm** + 280,000  
**Total Private** + 262,000

Nonfarm employment rose by 280,000 in May. Professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, and health care added jobs. Employment fell in mining.

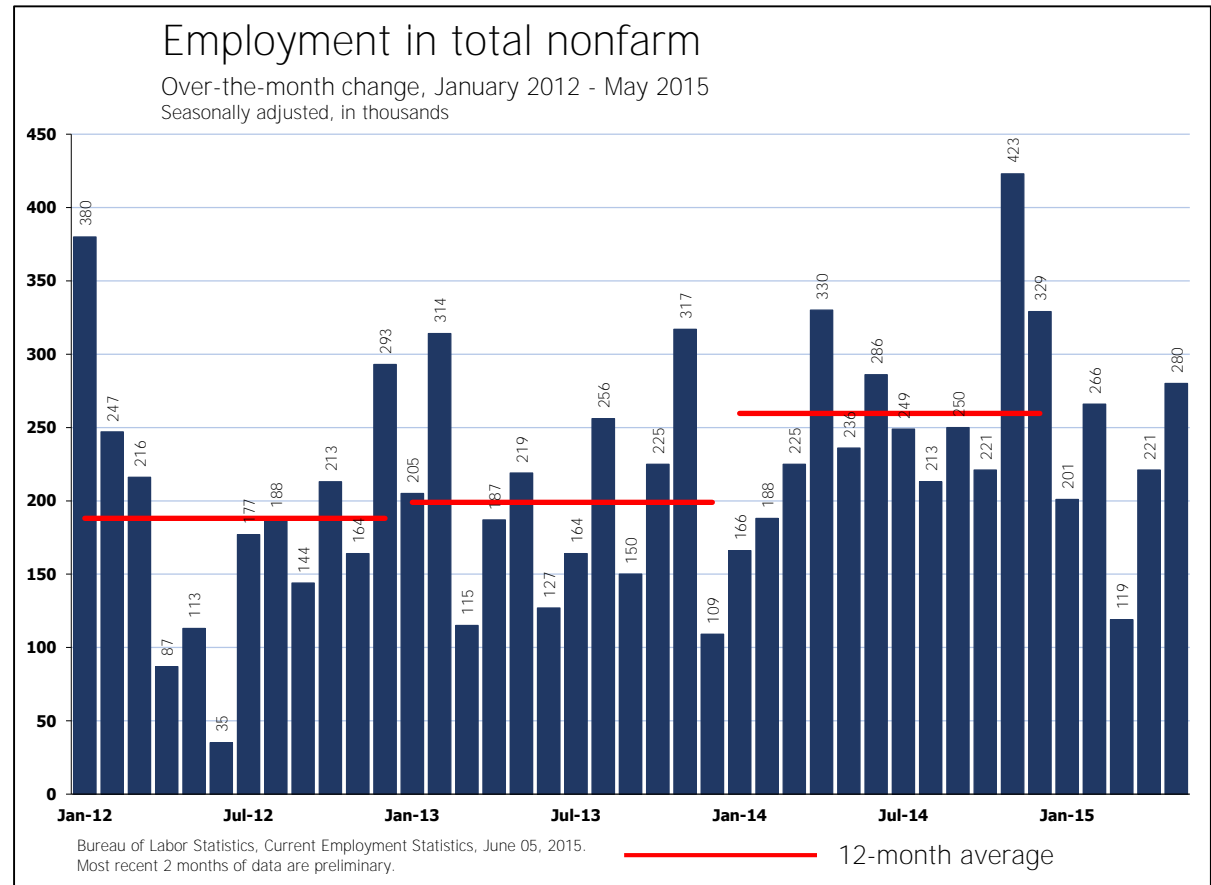
The employment change for April revised down from +223,000 to +221,000, and the change for March revised up from +85,000 to +119,000. Incorporating revisions, employment has increased by an average 207,000 per month over the past 3 months.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private, nonfarm payrolls rose 8 cents in May. Hourly earnings were up 2.3 percent over the year. In May, average weekly hours were unchanged at 34.5 hours.

### + 63,000 Professional and business services

Professional and technical services employment continued to trend up in May (+19,000). Within this industry, computer systems design and related services added 10,000 jobs over the month and 82,000 jobs over the year.

Administrative and support services added 39,000 jobs in May. Temporary help services accounted for about half of the employment change.



### + 57,000 Leisure and hospitality

Employment in leisure and hospitality rose by 57,000 in May. Arts, entertainment, and recreation accounted for 29,000 of the increase. Employment in food services and drinking places has shown little net change over the past 3 months (+26,000).

### + 74,000 Education and health services

Employment in health care rose by 47,000 in May. Ambulatory care accounted for 28,000 of the increase, with home health care contributing 8,000 jobs. Hospital employment increased by 16,000. Thus far in 2015, hospitals have added an average 13,000 jobs

## Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, May 2015

per month, compared to average gains of 8,000 in the preceding 5 months.

### + 31,000 Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade edged up in May. Automobile dealers added 8,000 payroll jobs. Over the year, retail trade has added 314,000 jobs.

### + 17,000 Construction

Construction employment continued to trend up in May. Over the year, the industry has added 273,000 jobs.

### + 13,000 Financial Activities

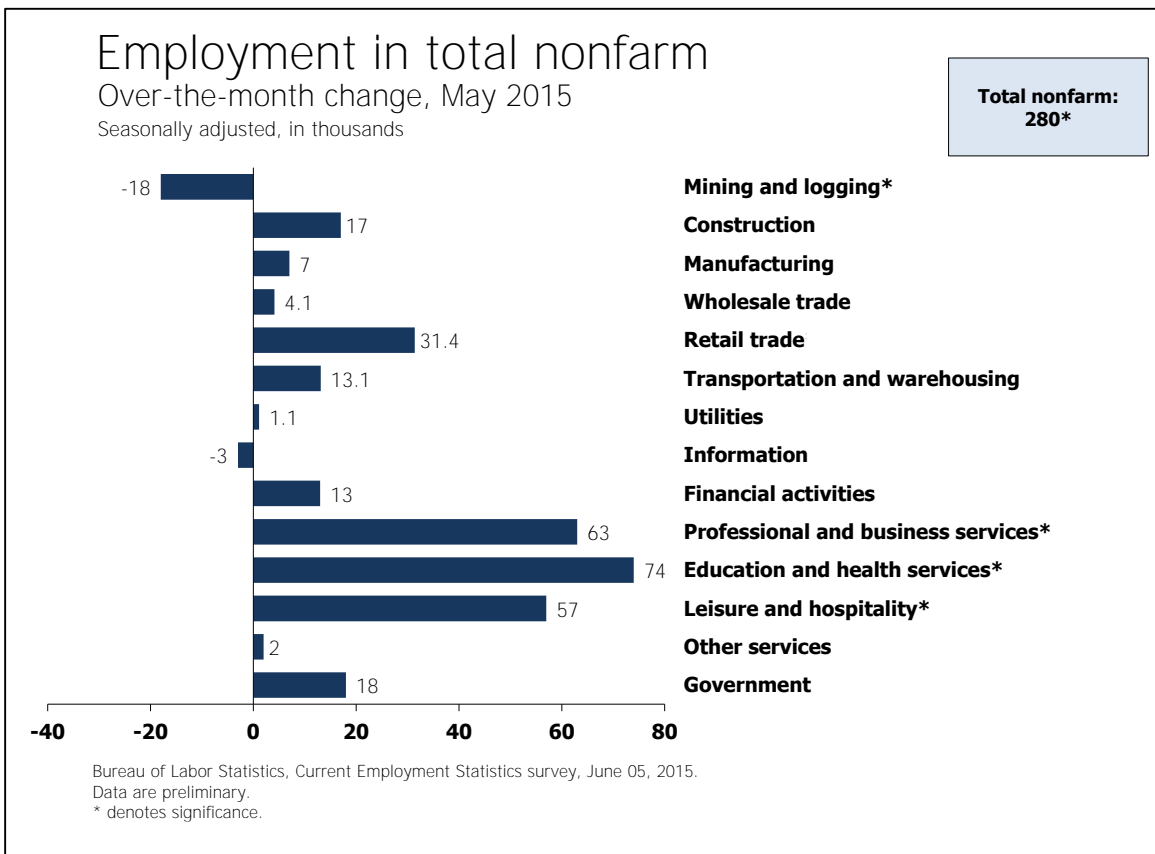
Employment continued to trend up in financial activities. Over the past 12 months, the industry has added 160,000 jobs; insurance accounted for 85,000 of the gains.

### + 13,000 Transportation and Warehousing

Within transportation and warehousing, employment rose in truck transportation (+9,000) in May.

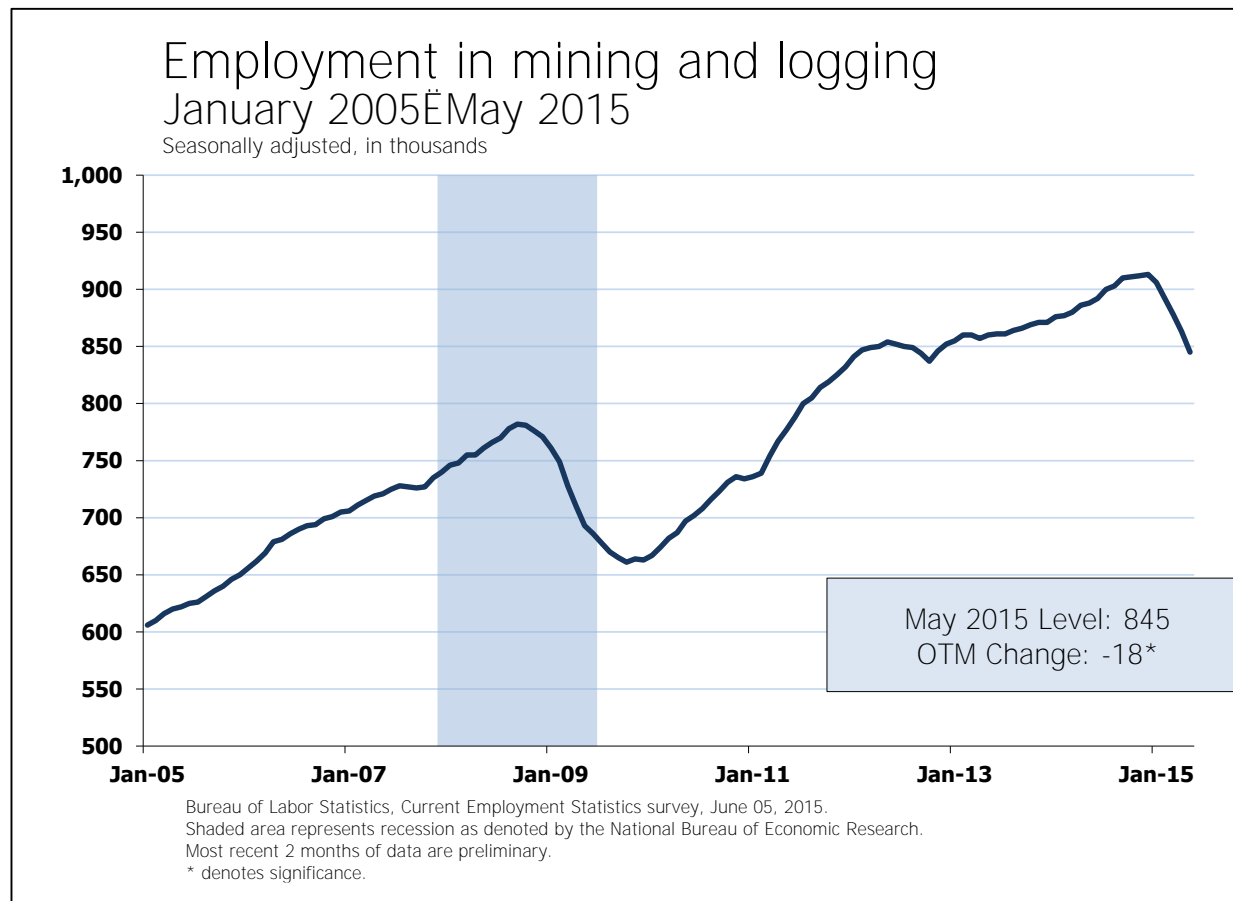
### - 18,000 Mining and Logging

Mining employment declined by 17,000 in May, with the loss concentrated in support activities. Year to date, mining has lost an average 14,000 jobs per month, compared to an



average monthly increase of 3,000 in 2014. Support activities has been the primary driver of these employment trends.

## Mining & Logging



Mining and logging lost 18,000 jobs over the month. Support activities for mining experienced a significant decline, losing 17,000 jobs.

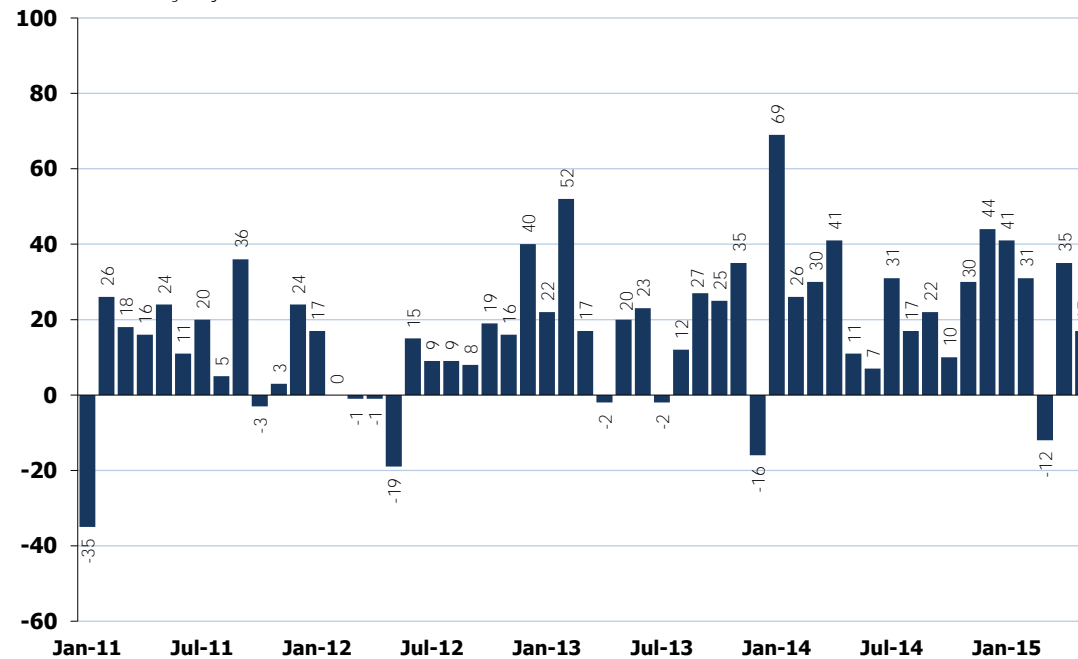
Led by declining [rig counts](#) (-976 over the past year), mining employment has fallen by 68,000 thus far in 2015. Job losses have been concentrated in support activities for mining, which includes support for oil and gas operations.

## Construction

### Employment in construction

Over-the-month change, January 2011–May 2015

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

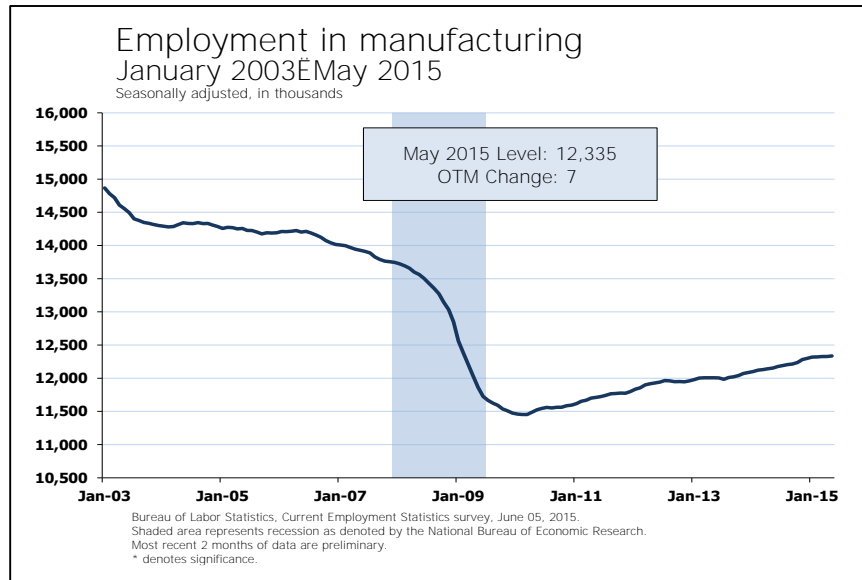


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 05, 2015.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Construction employment continued to trend up (+17,000) over the month. Employment in construction has grown by 273,000 (+4.5 percent) over the past 12 months.

Employment in specialty trade contractors continued to trend up over the month (+12,000).

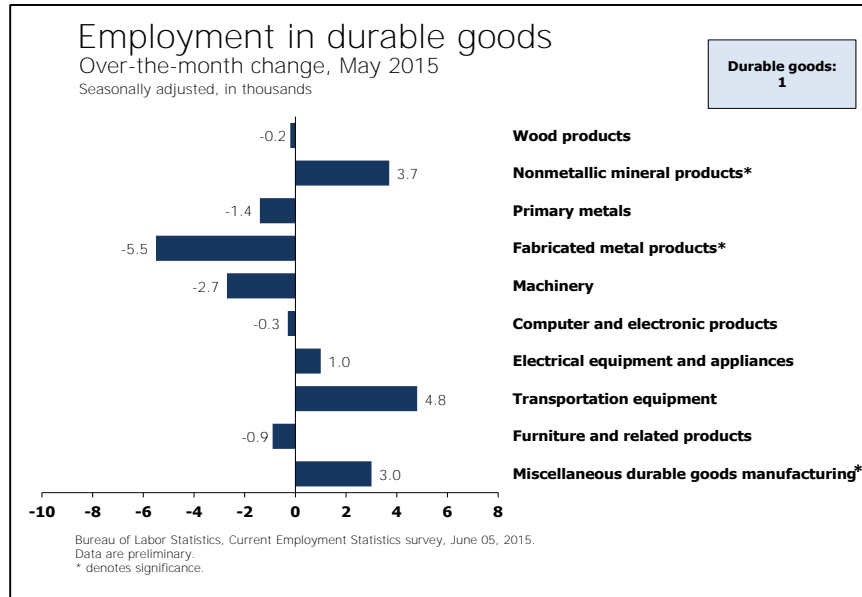
## Manufacturing



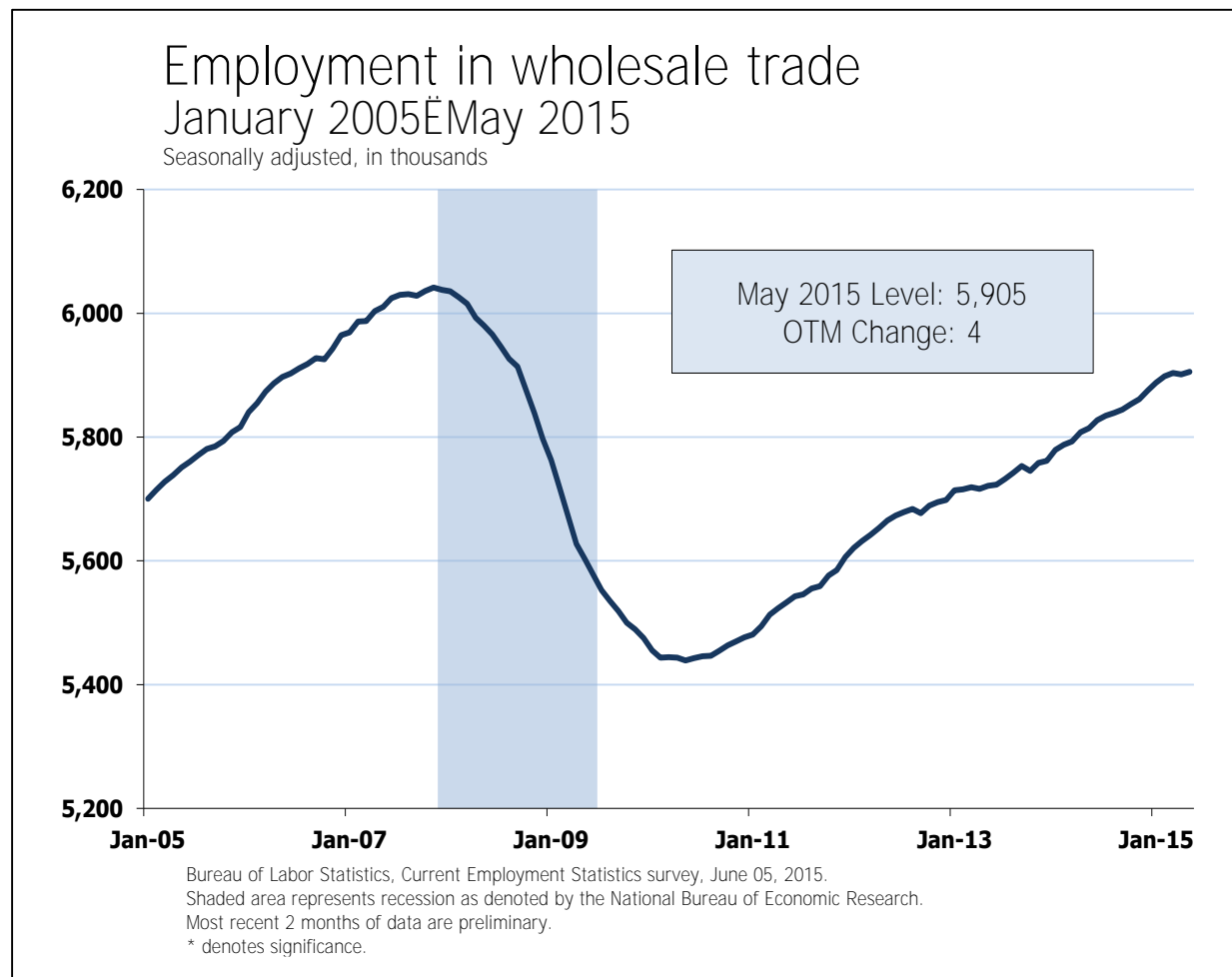
Manufacturing employment changed little (+7,000) in May. Employment in durable goods was essentially unchanged with offsetting movements among the industry components. Gains occurred in nonmetallic mineral products (+4,000), miscellaneous durable goods (+3,000), and motor vehicles and parts (+7,000). Fabricated metal products lost 6,000 jobs, with most of the losses concentrated in machine shops.

The 1-month diffusion index decreased to 48.8 in May from 51.9 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.

In manufacturing, average weekly hours for both all employees (40.7) and production employees (41.8) remained unchanged over the month.

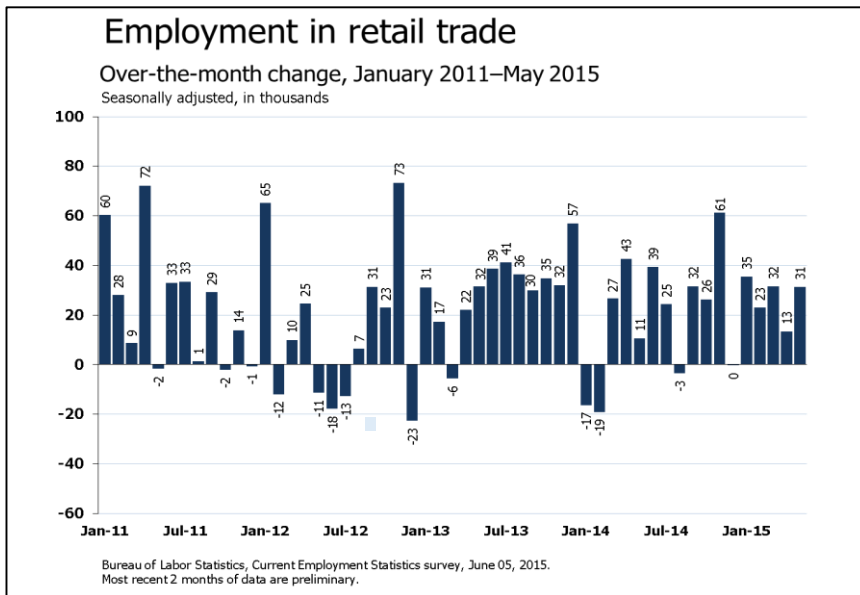


## Wholesale Trade



Employment in wholesale trade changed little in May (+4,000). Employment in the industry has increased by 91,000 over the past 12 months.

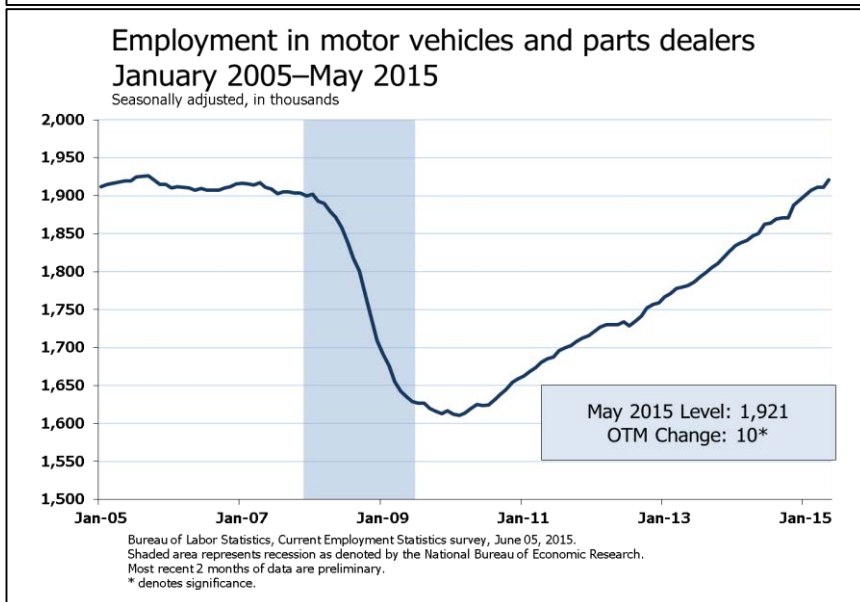
## Retail Trade



Employment in retail trade edged up in May (+31,000). Over the past 12 months, the industry has added 314,000 jobs.

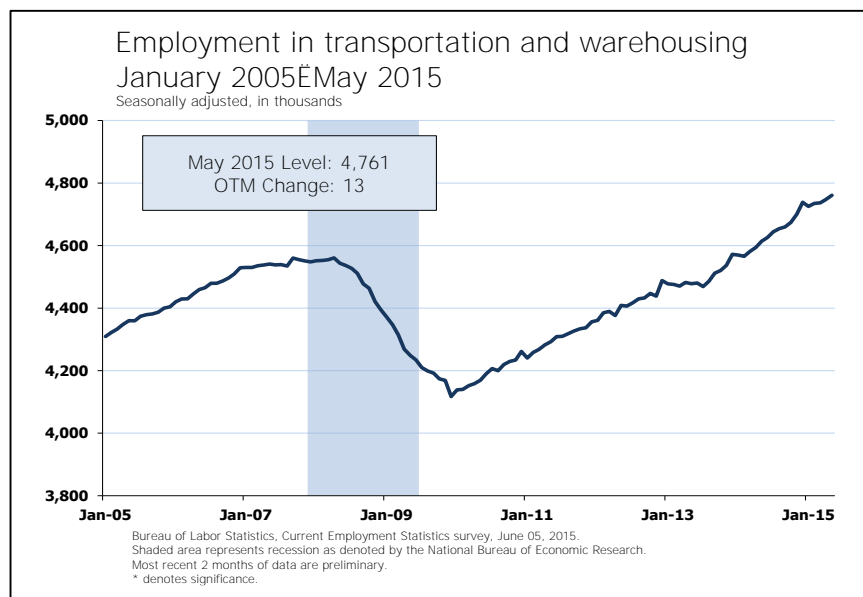
### NAICS 441 – Motor vehicles and parts dealers

In May, employment in motor vehicles and parts dealers increased by 10,000. With this increase, the industry has now recovered all of the 306,000 jobs that were lost during its most recent employment downturn (April 2007–February 2010). Recent strength in the industry coincides with high levels of light-vehicle sales (Source: [Auto News](#)).





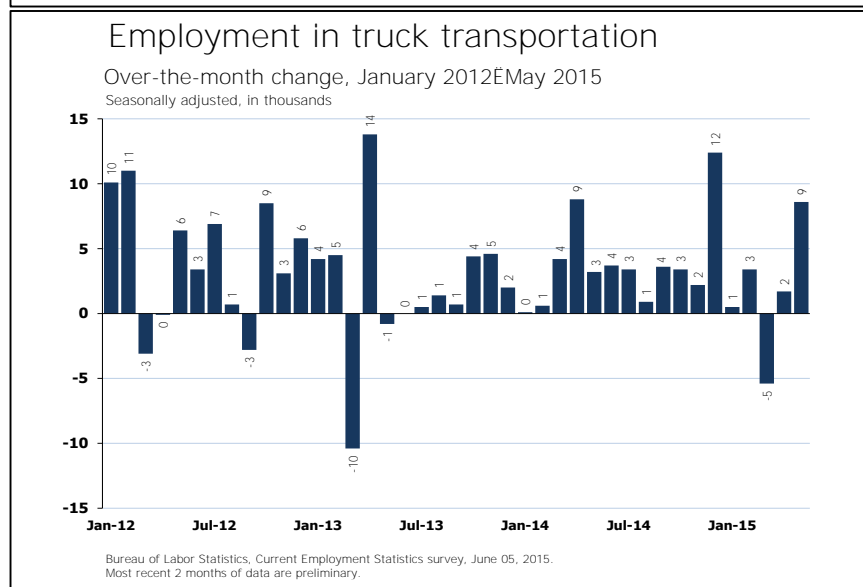
## Transportation and Warehousing



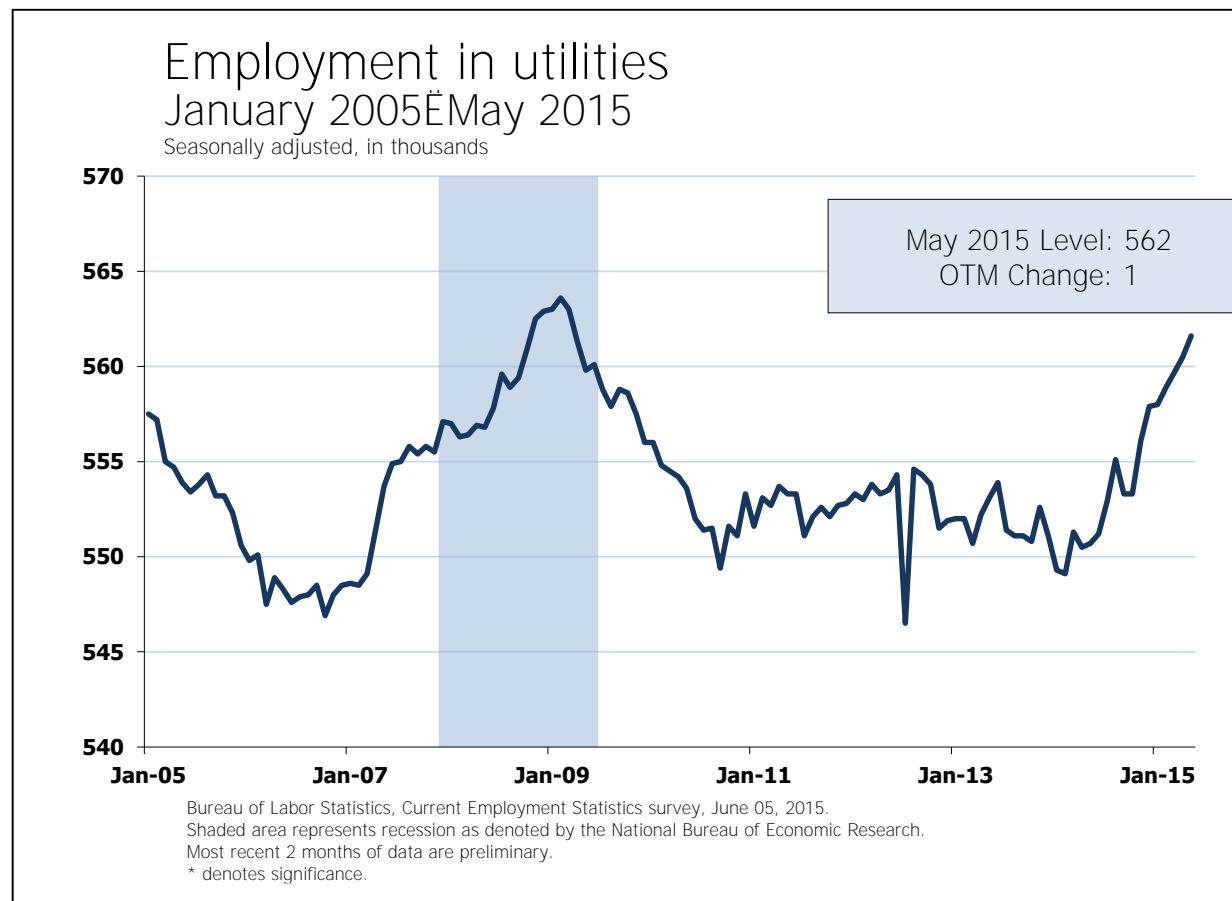
Transportation and warehousing employment continued to trend up in May (+13,000). Truck transportation (+9,000) and pipeline transportation (+1,000) experienced significant job gains in May. Employment in the remaining component industries changed little.

### NAICS 484 – Truck transportation

Truck transportation employment increased by 9,000 in May. Over the year, truck transportation has added 38,000 jobs, an increase of 2.7 percent.

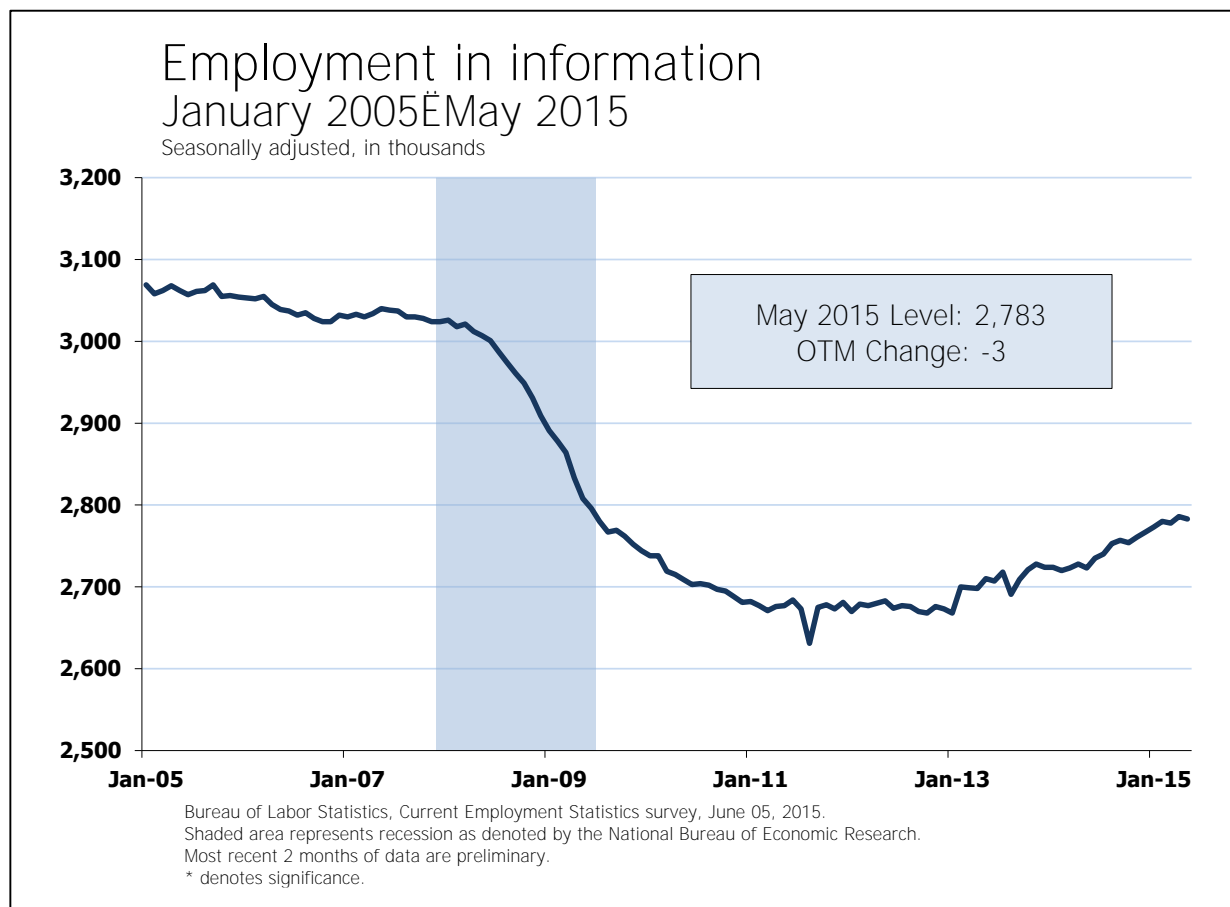


## Utilities



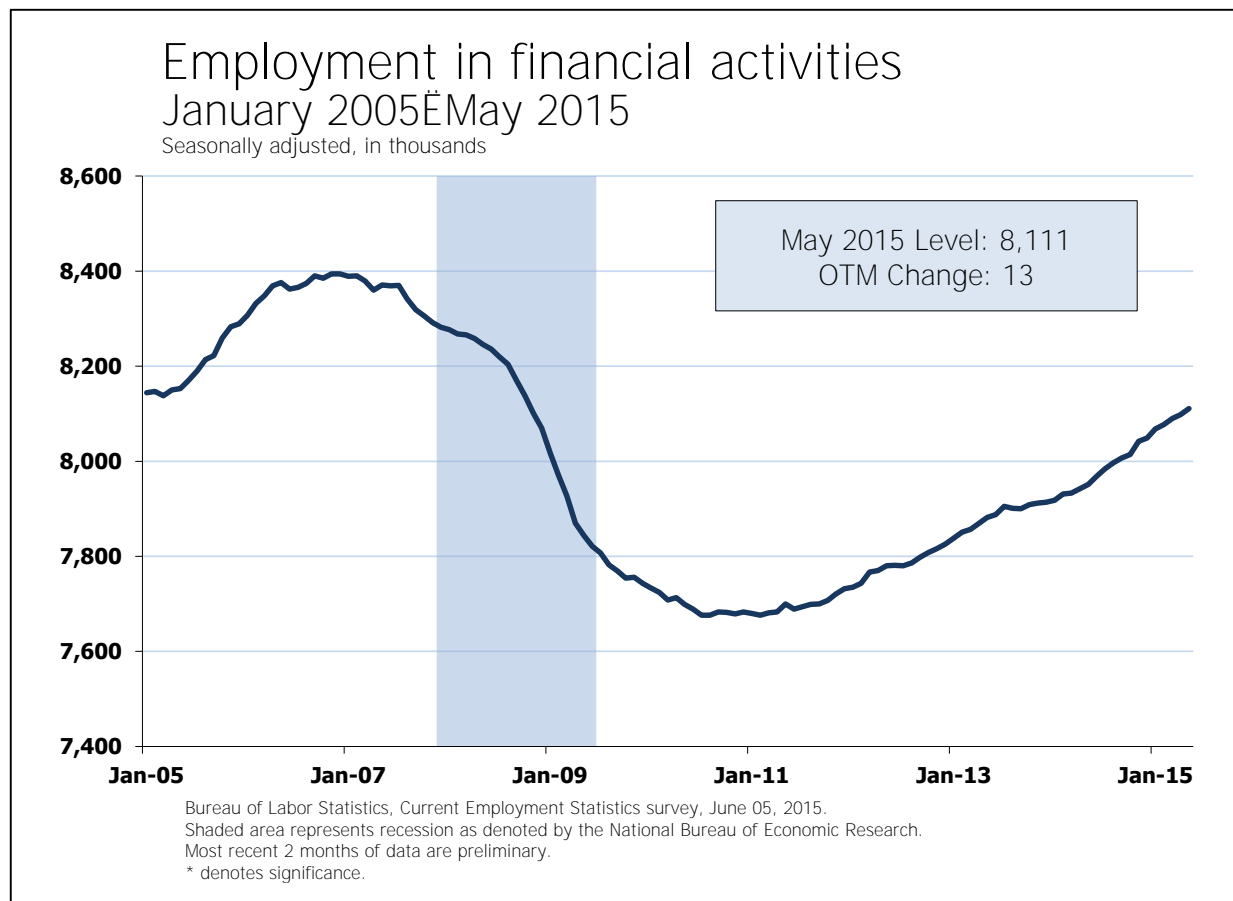
Utilities employment edged up by 1,000 over the month. Since reaching a trough in February 2014, the industry has recovered 13,000 jobs.

### Information



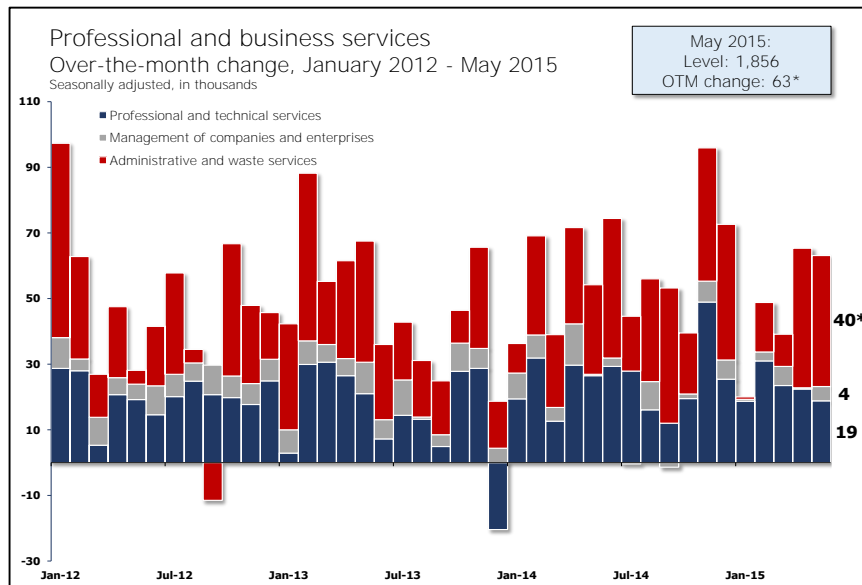
Information employment changed little in May (-3,000). Over the past 12 months, however, information has added 60,000 jobs on net (2.2 percent).

## Financial Activities



Financial activities continued its upward employment trend in May (+13,000), in line with its prior 12-month average change of 13,000. Financial activities has recovered 61 percent of the jobs lost in its last peak-to-trough period (December 2006–February 2011).

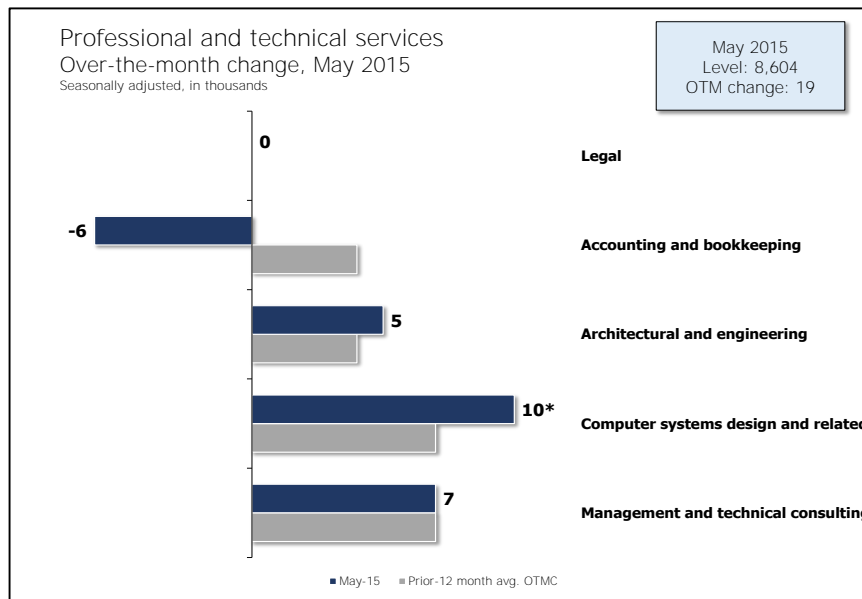
## Professional and Business Services



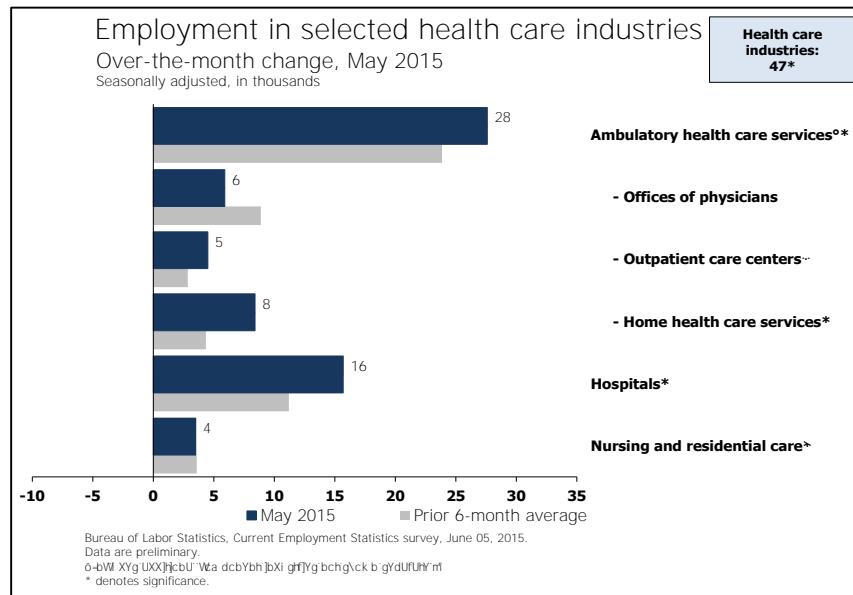
Professional and business services added 63,000 jobs in May. In 2015, the industry has added an average of 47,000 jobs per month, weaker than the 59,000 jobs added per month during 2014. Administrative and support services led the gains, adding 39,000 jobs in May. Professional and technical services (+19,000) and management of companies and enterprises (+4,000) continued their upward employment trends.

### NAICS 5415 – Computer systems design and related services

In May, computer systems design and related services added 10,000 jobs, continuing a strong upward trend. The industry has contributed 36 percent of the gains in professional and technical services in 2015.



## Private Education and Health Services



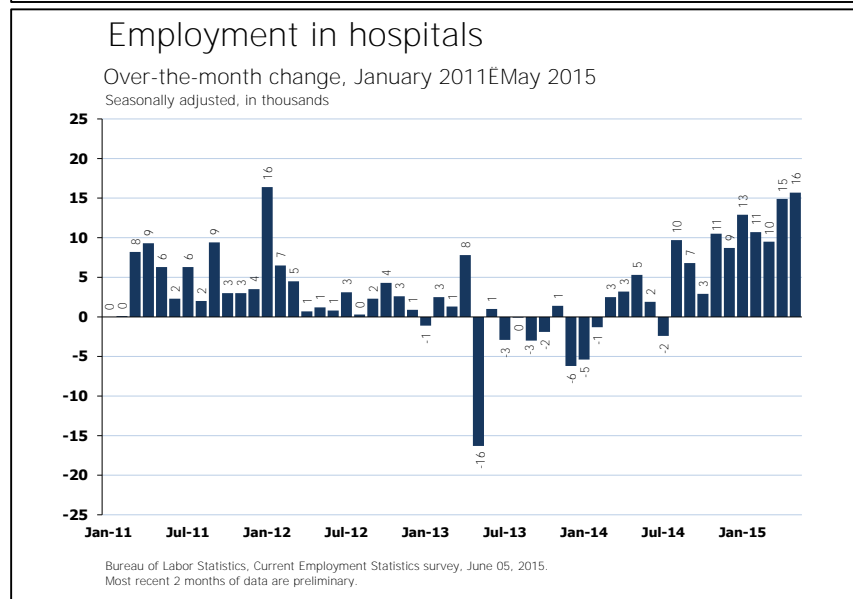
In May, private education and health services employment grew by 74,000. Within the industry, health care added 47,000 jobs, while employment in social assistance and in educational services continued to trend up over the month.

### NAICS 621 — Ambulatory health care services

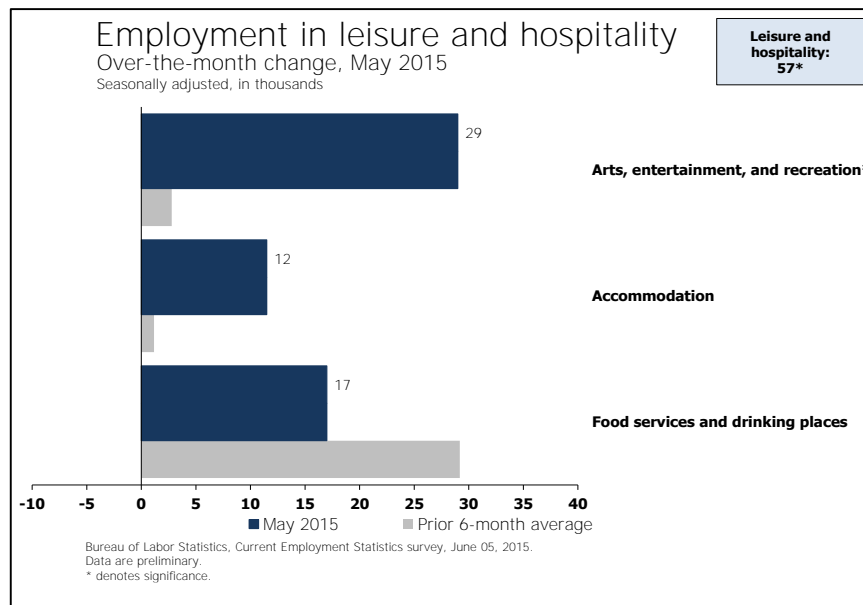
Ambulatory health care services added 28,000 jobs in May. Within the industry, employment grew by 8,000 in home health care services, while employment continued to trend up in offices of physicians (+6,000), and outpatient care centers (+5,000).

### NAICS 622 — Hospitals

Hospital employment increased by 16,000 in May. The industry has added 113,000 jobs since an employment trough in February 2014.



## Leisure and Hospitality



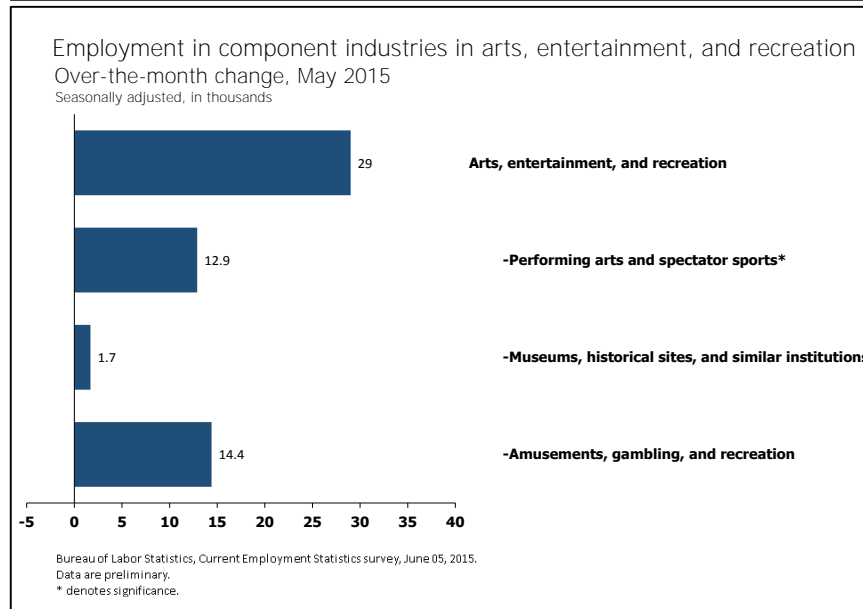
Leisure and hospitality employment grew by 57,000 in May after changing little (+16,000) over the prior 2 months.

### NAICS 71—Arts, entertainment, and recreation

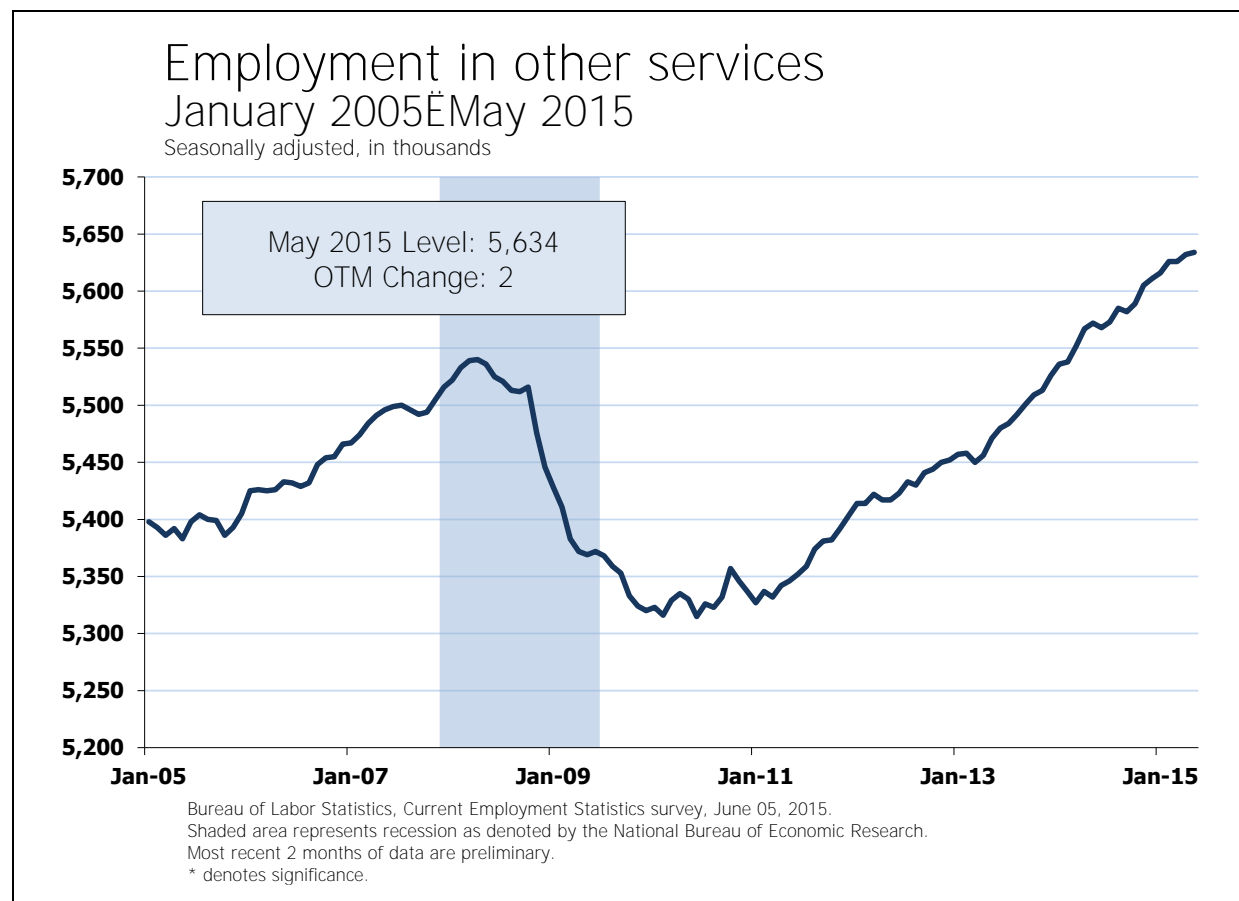
Component industries within arts, entertainment, and recreation were the major contributors to leisure and hospitality's employment increase in May. Performing arts and spectator sports employment rose by 13,000.

### NAICS 72—Food Services and Drinking Places

Employment in food services and drinking places has changed little over the past 3 months (+26,000). The industry had added 139,000 over the preceding 3 months.



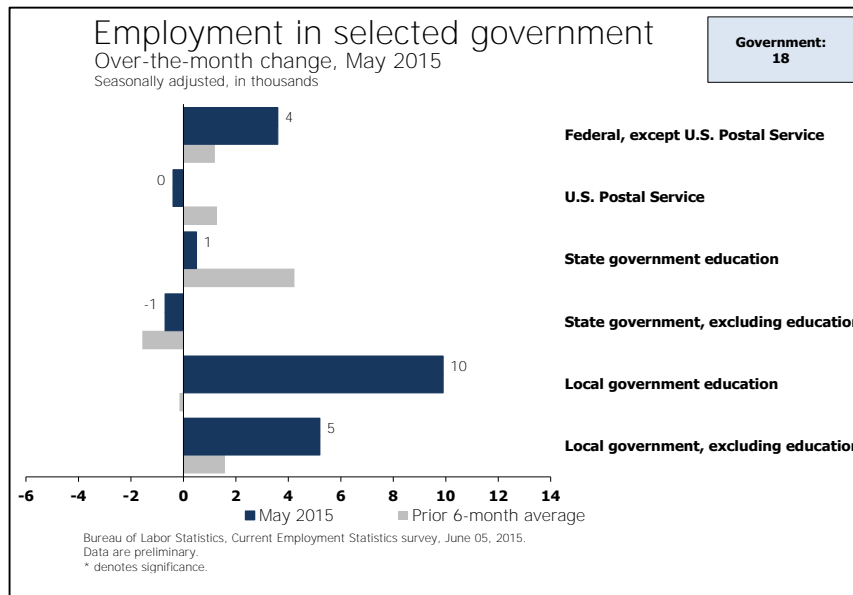
### Other Services



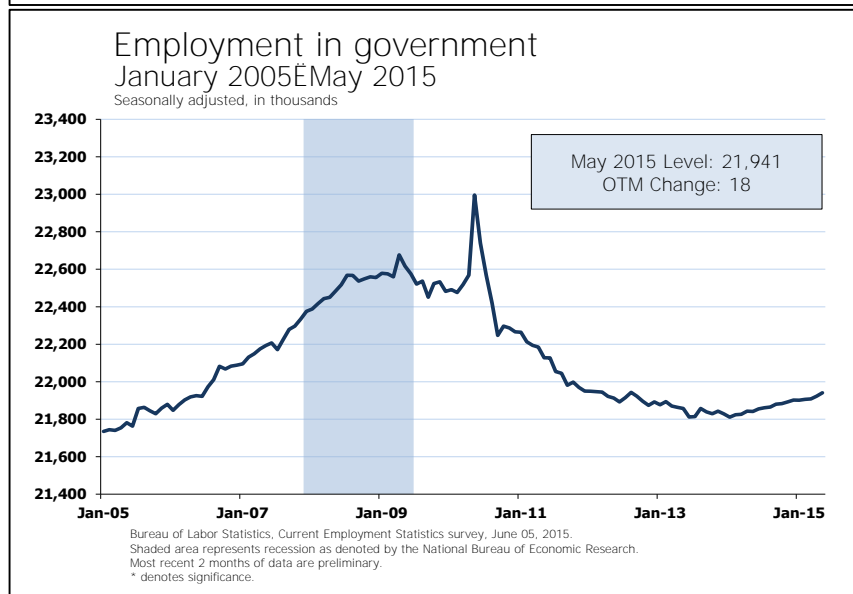
Other services employment changed little (+2,000) in May, and there was little change in any component industry. Other services has added 319,000 jobs since its most recent trough, reached in June 2010.



## Government



Government employment changed little in May (+18,000). Over the past 12 months, government has gained a total of 100,000 jobs.





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