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# Current Employment Statistics Highlights



**February 2016**

**Release Date:** March 4, 2016

**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, February 2016

Nonfarm employment increased by 242,000 in February. Health care and social assistance, retail trade, food services and drinking places, and private education added jobs, while mining lost jobs over the month.

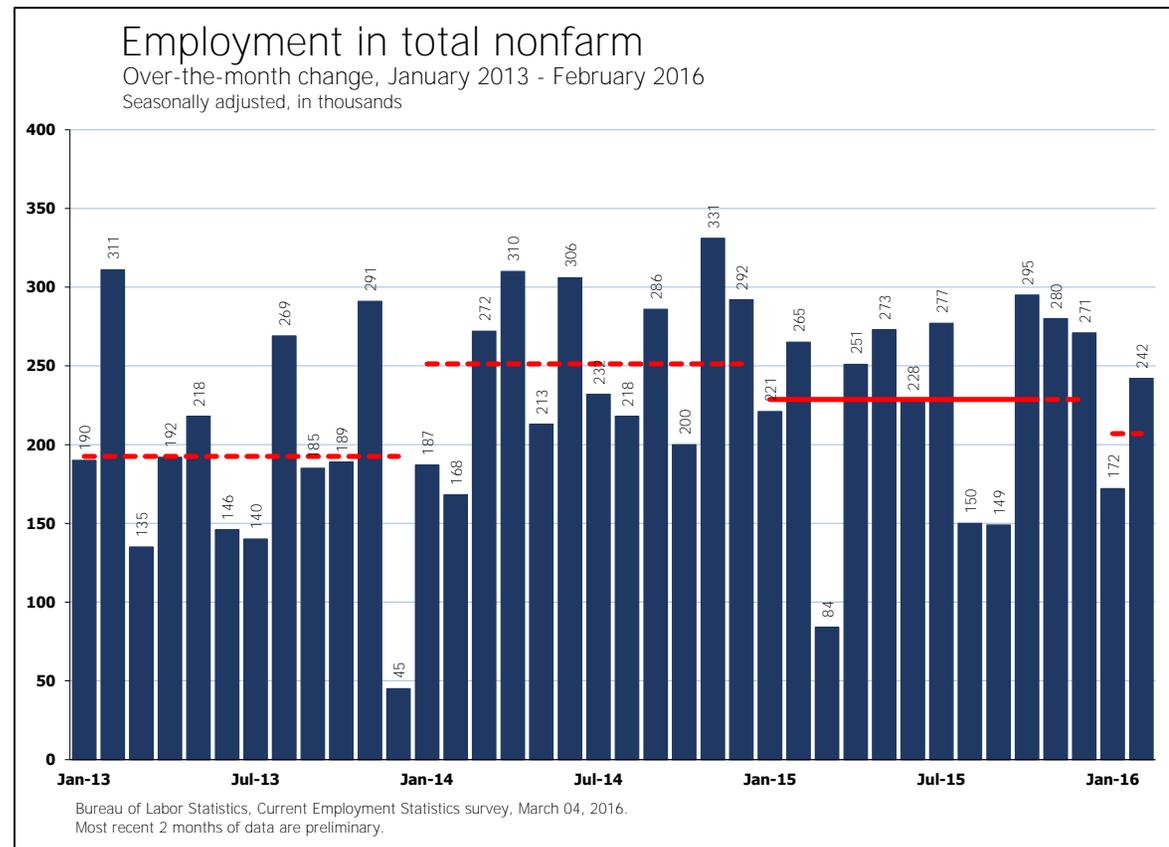
Average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls fell 3 cents in February, following a 12-cent increase in January. Over the past 12 months, hourly earnings have increased by 2.2 percent. Over the month, average weekly hours fell 0.2 hour to 34.4 hours.

The employment change for December 2015 revised up from +262,000 to +271,000. The change for January 2016 revised up from +151,000 to +172,000. Over the past 3 months, job growth has averaged 228,000 per month.

### +86,000 Education and Health Services

Employment in health care rose by 38,000 in February, with ambulatory health care accounting for almost two-thirds of the increase. Hospital employment grew by 11,000 over the month. Over the past 12 months, hospitals have added 181,000 jobs.

Private education added 28,000 jobs in February, after edging down 20,000 in January.



Social assistance also added jobs in February (+19,000), with individual and family services accounting for 14,000 of the increase.

### +55,000 Retail Trade

Employment rose in retail trade in February. Food and beverage stores (+15,000) and general merchandise stores (+8,000) added

jobs. Over the past 12 months, employment in retail trade has grown by 339,000.

### +48,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in food services and drinking places rose by 40,000 in February. Over the year, food services has added 359,000 jobs.

### Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, February 2016

#### -18,000 Mining and Logging

Mining lost 19,000 jobs in February. Since reaching a peak in September 2014, mining employment has declined by 171,000. Support activities for mining, the primary driver of this recent employment trend, has lost 134,000 jobs over the same time span, including 16,000 jobs in February. Employment in coal mining also declined over the month (-2,000).

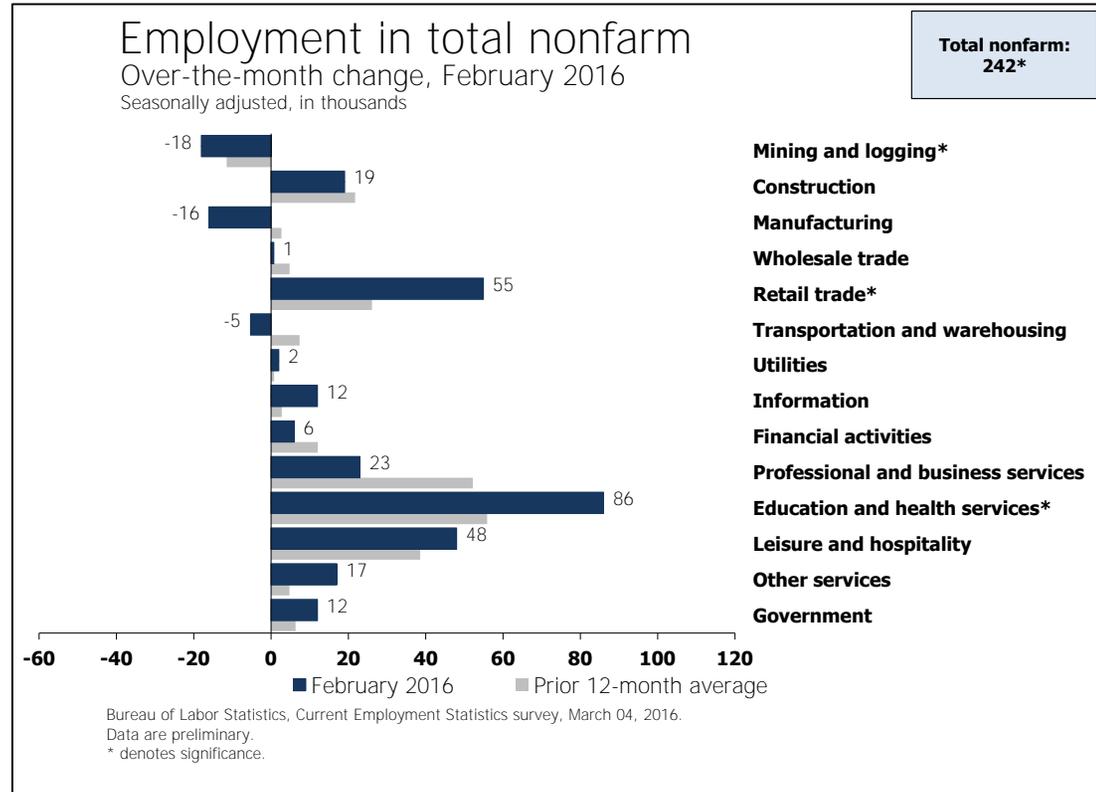
#### +23,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment in professional and business services changed little in February. Over the prior 12 months, employment growth had averaged 52,000 per month.

In February, employment continued to trend up in architectural and engineering services (+6,000), and in other professional and technical services (+8,000).

#### +19,000 Construction

Construction employment continued to trend up in February. Residential specialty trade contractors added 14,000 jobs over the month. Over the past 12 months, construction employment has risen by 253,000. Residential specialty trades accounted for about half of this increase, but the industry only represents 28 percent of construction employment.

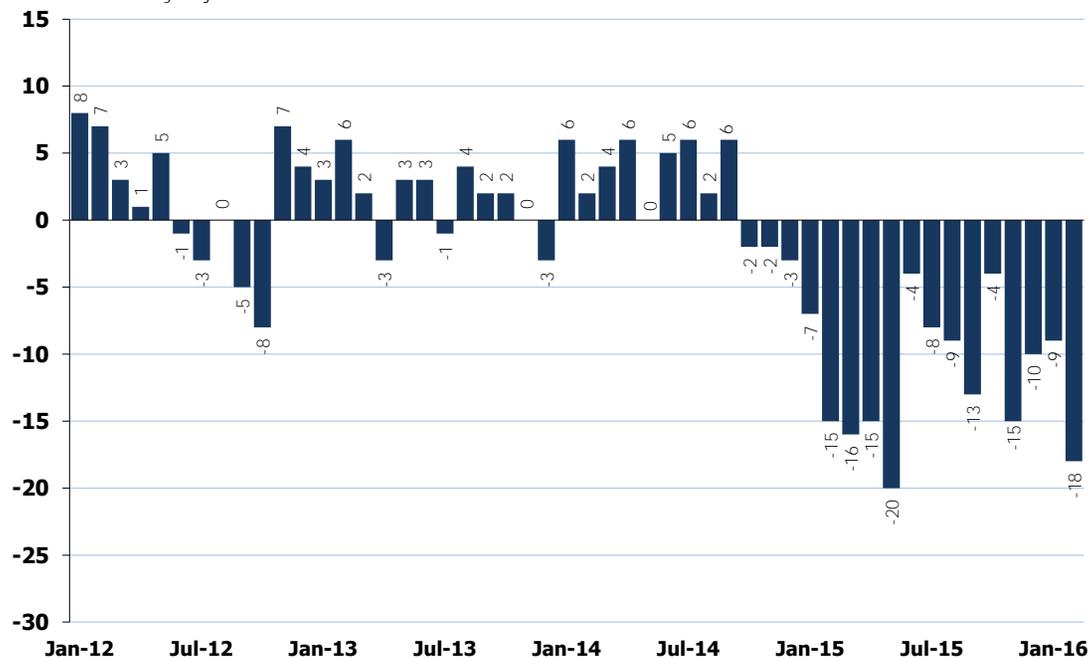


## Mining & Logging

### Employment in mining and logging

Over-the-month change, January 2012–February 2016

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 04, 2016.

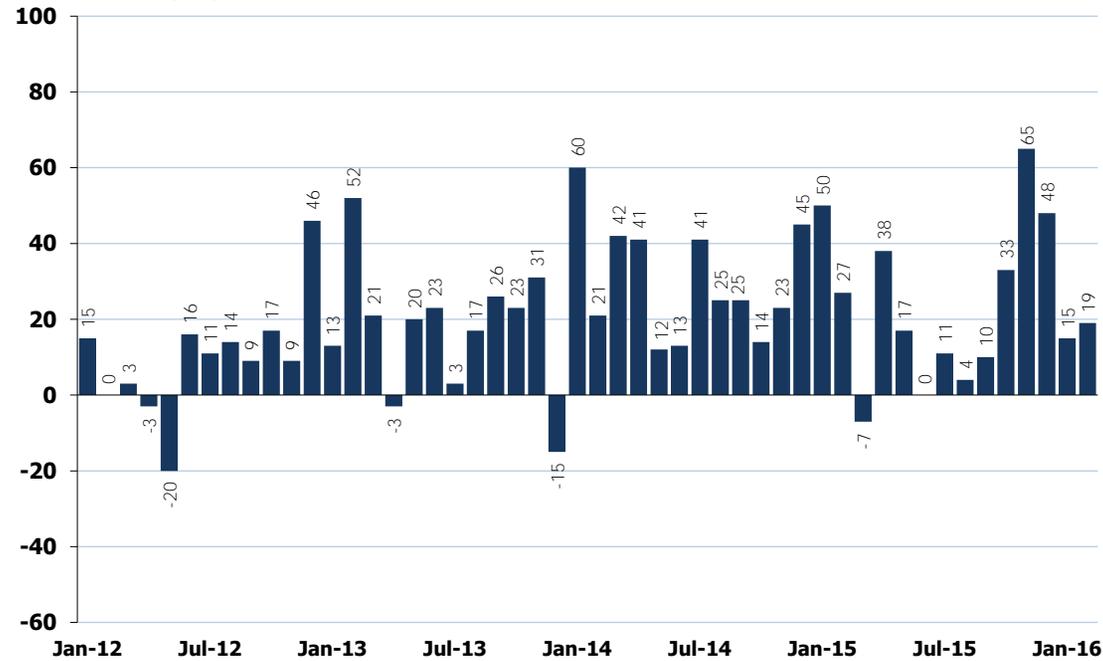
Mining and logging lost 18,000 jobs in February. Support activities for mining accounted for 16,000 of the job loss. These employment declines are consistent with the number of active [oil](#) rigs, which had declined to roughly 500 domestically, from 1,267 in February 2015.

## Construction

### Employment in construction

Over-the-month change, January 2012–February 2016

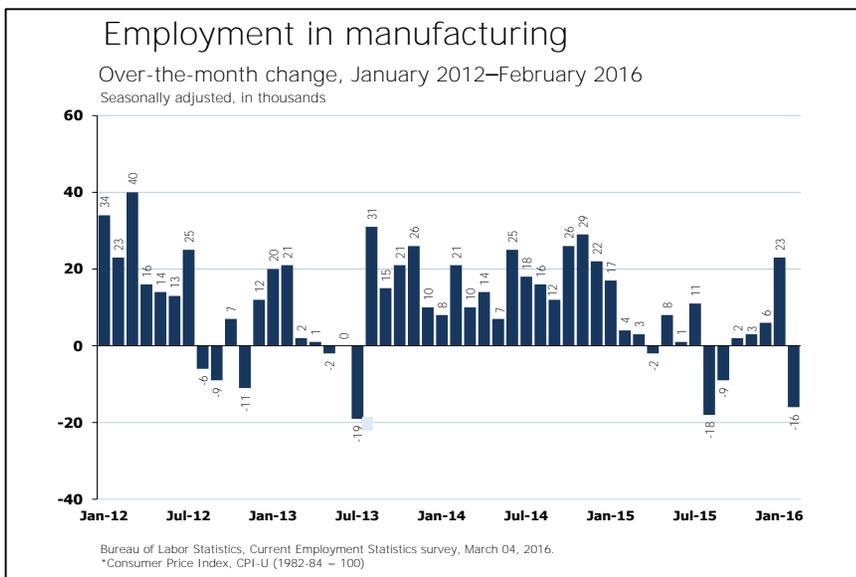
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 04, 2016.

Construction employment continued to trend up (+19,000) in February. Residential specialty trade contractors had the most impact, growing by 14,000 jobs. Construction of buildings added 6,000 in February.

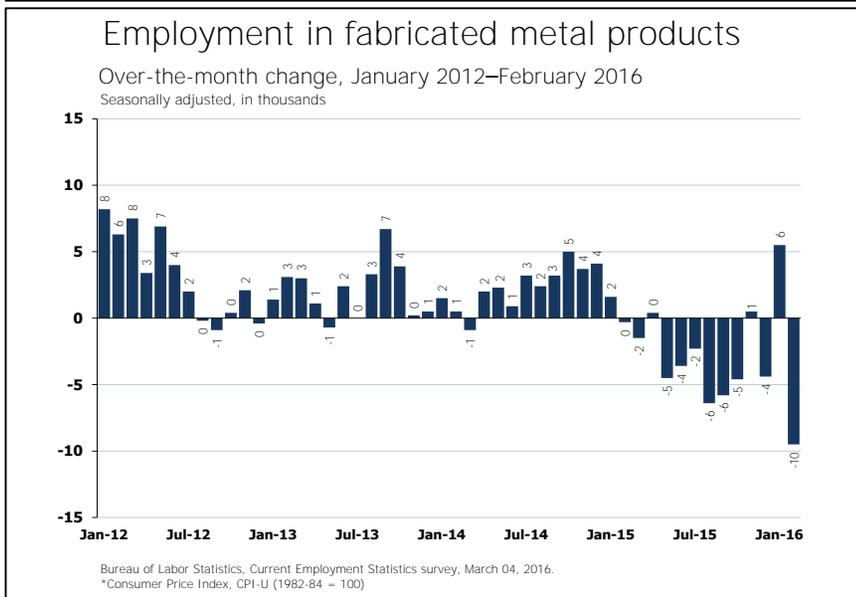
## Manufacturing



Manufacturing employment changed little in February (-16,000). Within durable goods, employment in fabricated metal product manufacturing declined in February (-10,000), more than offsetting a gain of 6,000 in January. This industry has posted job losses in 9 of the last 12 months, losing an average 3,000 per month over the year. Nondurable goods employment was essentially unchanged in February (-4,000).

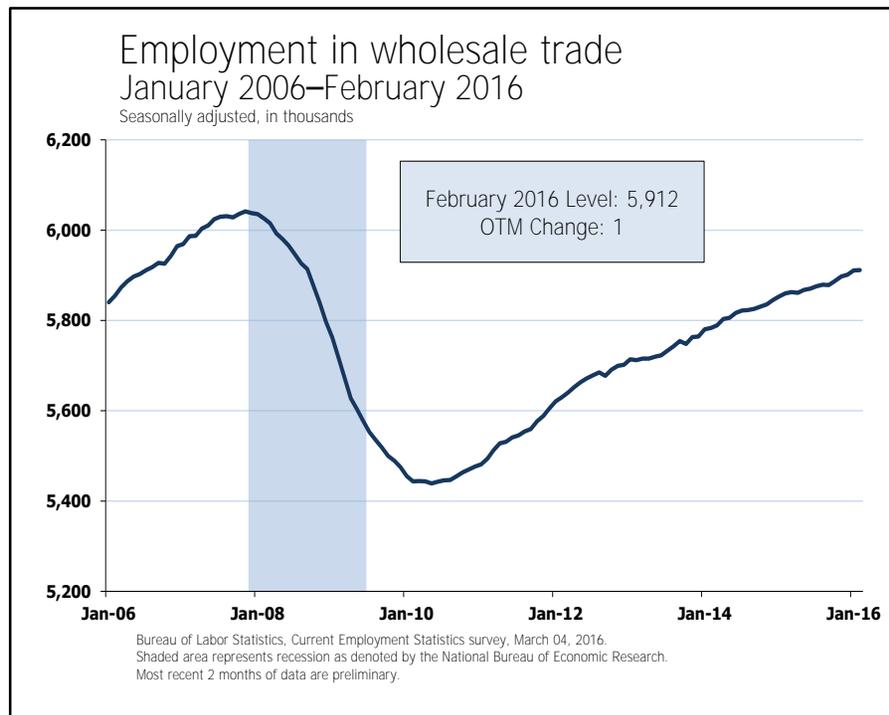
The manufacturing diffusion index fell to 48.7 from 59.5 in January. The diffusion index measures the dispersion of employment change in manufacturing, with a value below 50 indicating that more manufacturing industries are losing jobs than adding.

In February, average weekly hours in manufacturing were unchanged for all employees and for production employees.

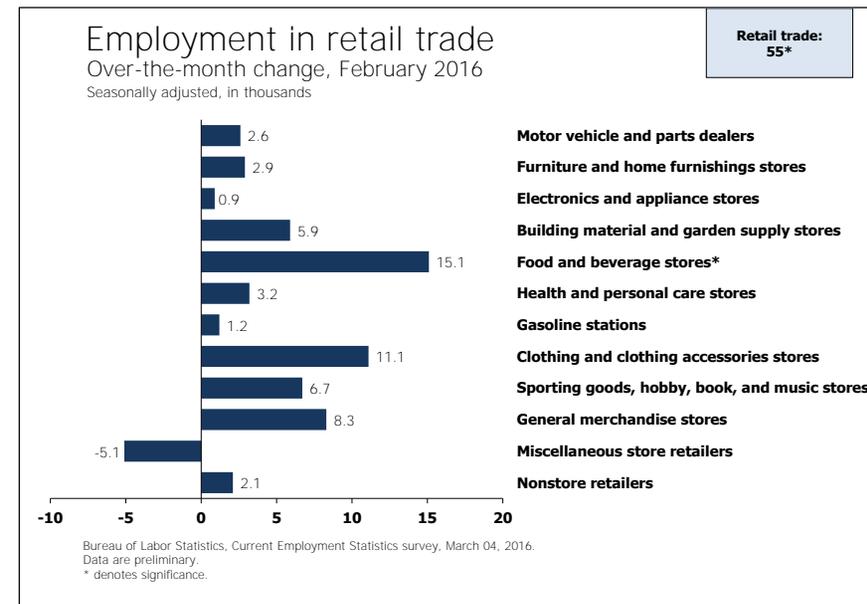
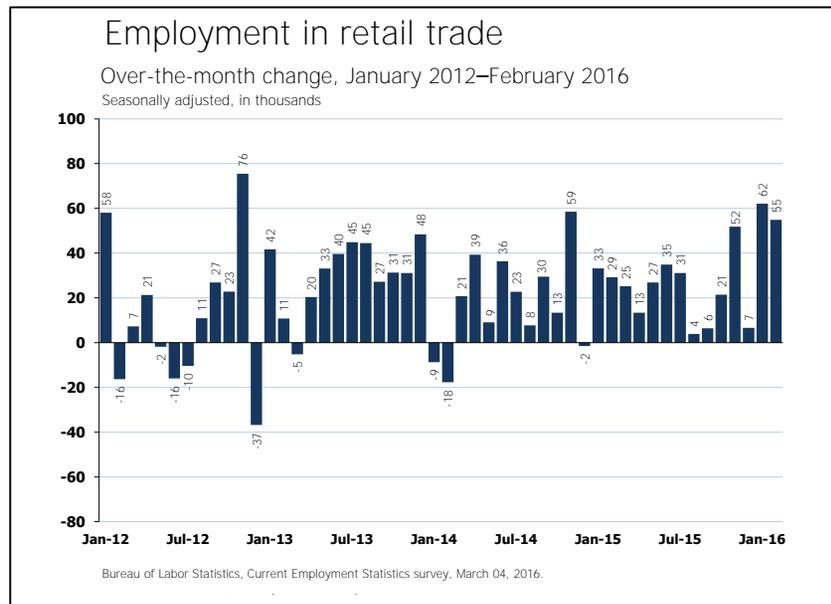


## Wholesale Trade

Employment in wholesale trade was essentially unchanged in February (+1,000).



## Retail Trade



Employment in retail trade increased by 55,000 in February, after a 62,000 increase in January. During the past 6 months, the industry has added 203,000 jobs. Led by food and beverage stores, employment in nearly all the component industries in retail trade trended upwards over the month. February was the second month of the holiday layoff period with many retail industries incurring a smaller-than-average layoff.

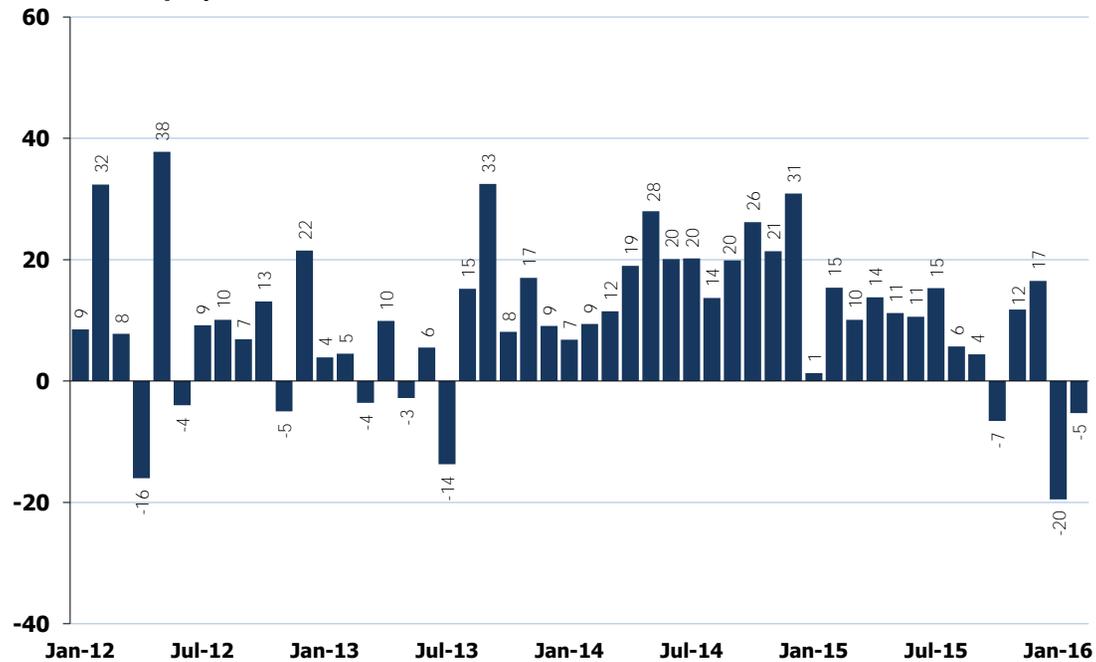
Employment in food and beverage stores increased by 15,000 in February; however, employment has changed little over the past 12 months. Over the month, the majority of job growth occurred in grocery stores.

## Transportation and Warehousing

### Employment in transportation and warehousing

Over-the-month change, January 2012–February 2016

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



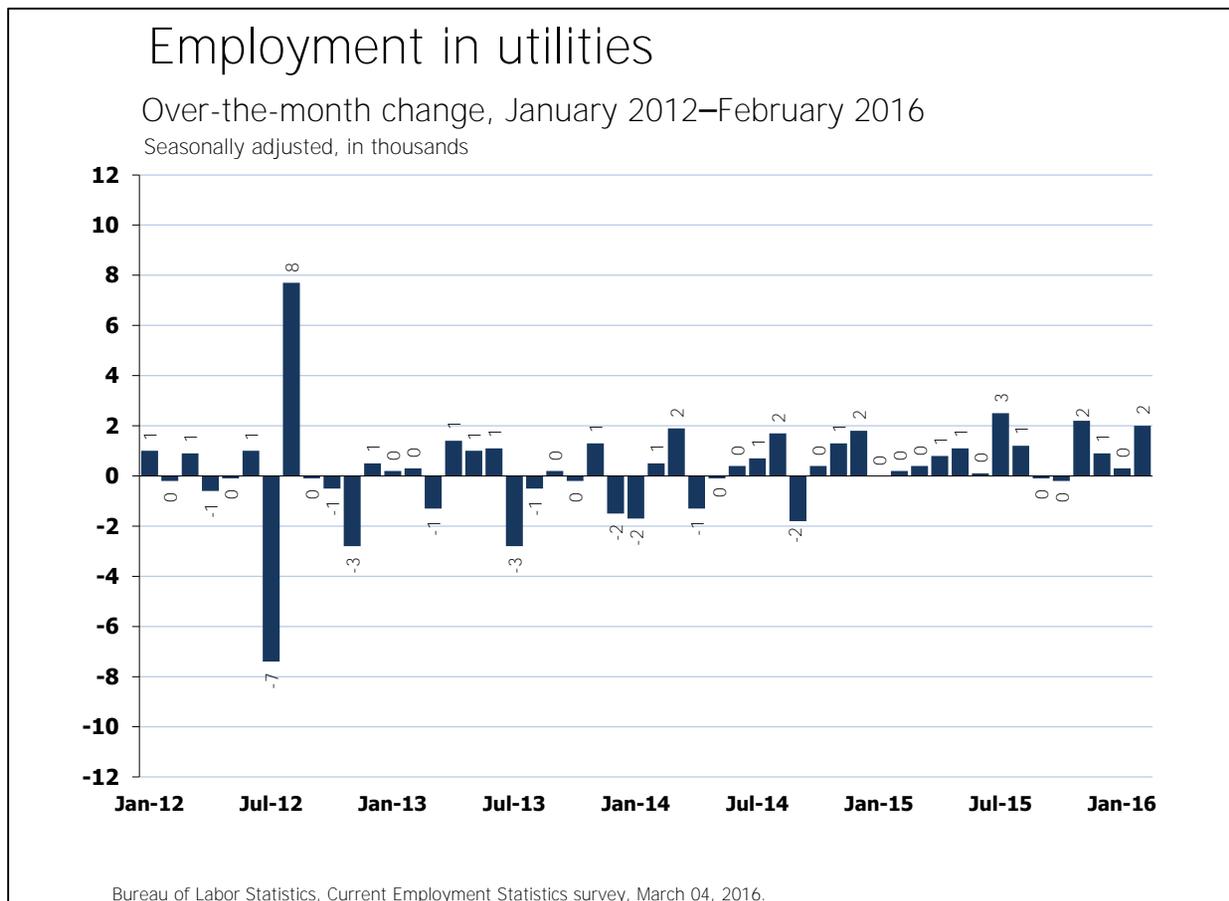
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 04, 2016.

Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in February (-5,000).

Couriers and messengers shed 4,000 jobs. Employment in the industry has shown zero net change since October, the start of the holiday season buildup.

## Utilities

Employment in utilities edged up by 2,000 in February.

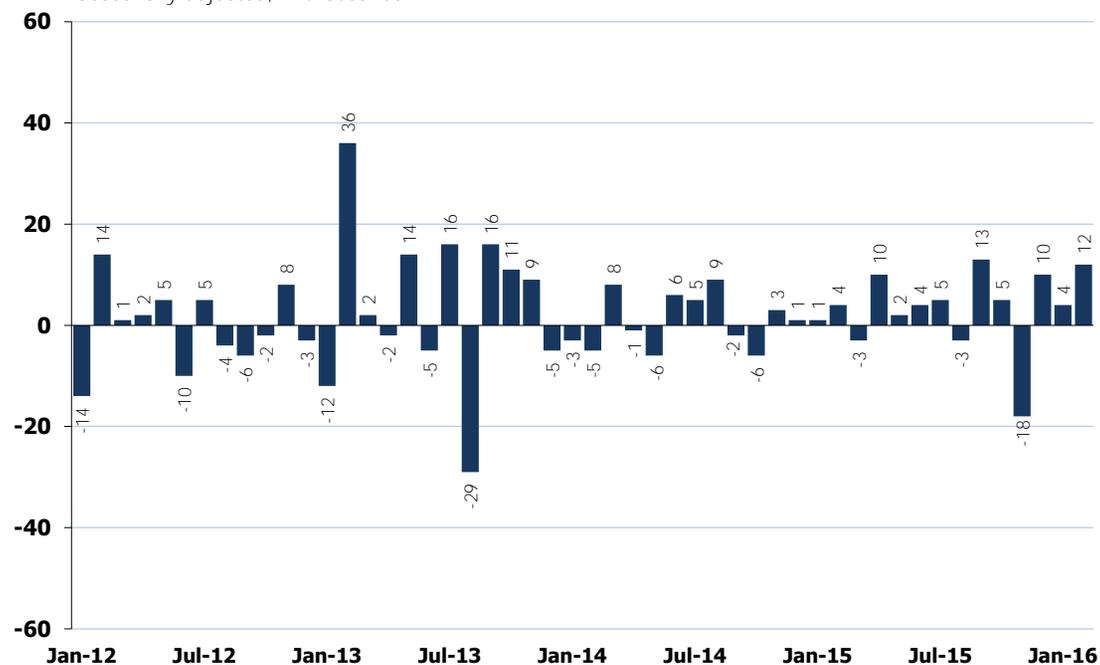


## Information

### Employment in information

Over-the-month change, January 2012–February 2016

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

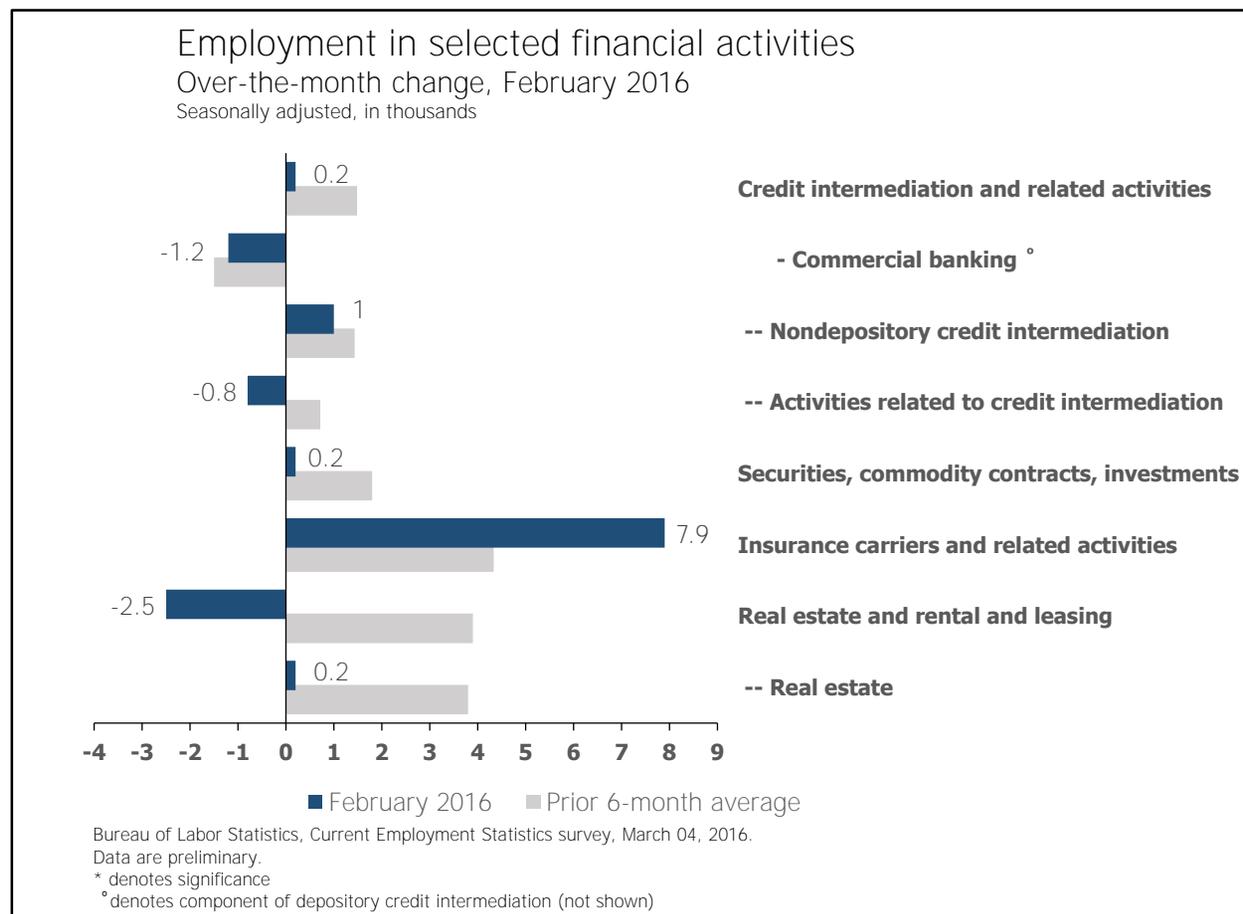


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 04, 2016.

Information employment edged up in February (+12,000).

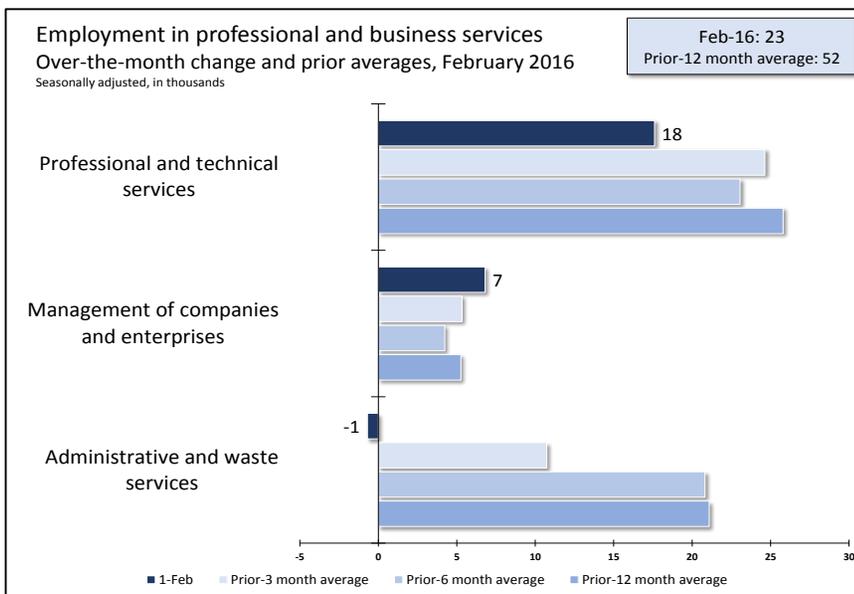
Other information services (such as internet service providers, libraries, and news syndicates) added 5,000 jobs in February. This industry has added 22,000 jobs over the year, a 9.2 percent change. This increase accounts for about half of employment added within information over the year.

## Financial Activities



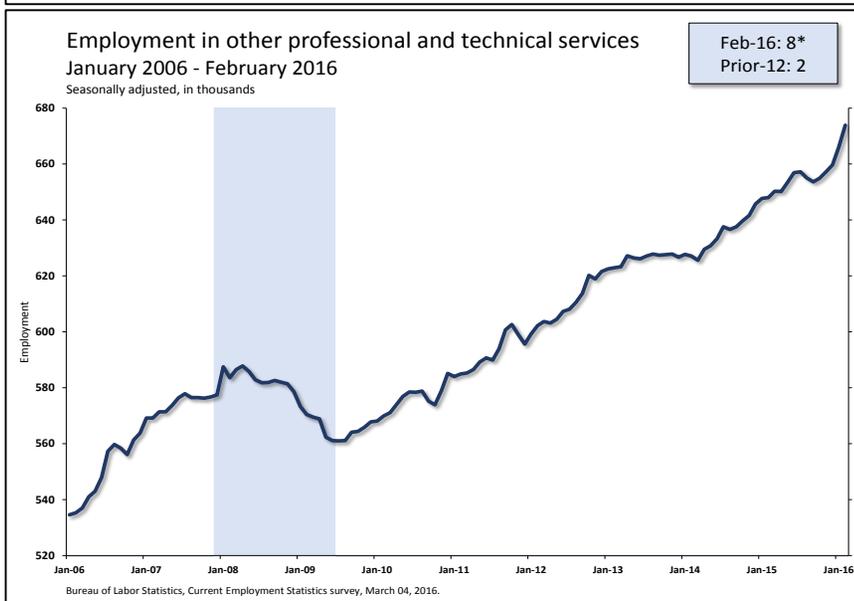
Employment in financial activities changed little in February (+6,000), after rising by 16,000 in January. February's change is about half the average monthly change for the prior 6 months. Insurance carriers and related activities added jobs (+8,000) in February, while all other component industries experienced little employment change.

## Professional and Business Services

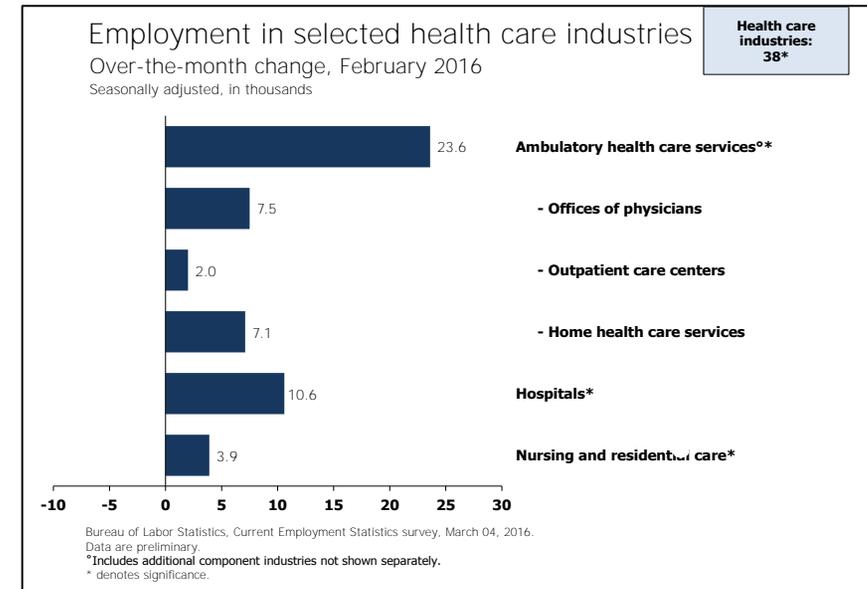
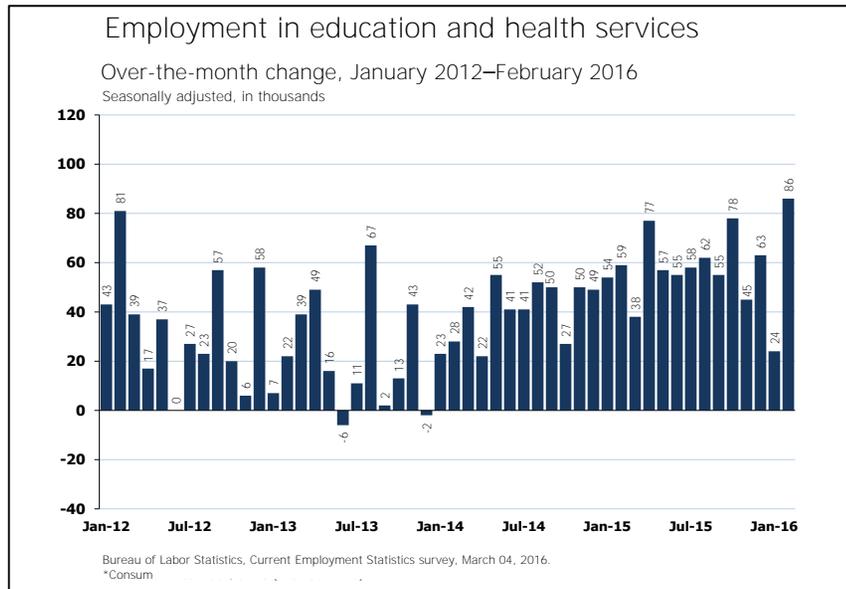


For the second consecutive month, the over-the-month change in professional and business services (+23,000) was below its prior-12 month average. The weakness in both months can be attributed to administrative and waste services, more specifically to temporary help services (-10,000 in February). Employment in management of companies and enterprises (+7,000) and in professional and technical services (+18,000) continued to trend up.

Within professional and technical services, other professional and technical services, such as veterinary offices and photography services, led the gains, adding 8,000 jobs. Architectural and engineering services (+6,000), computer systems design and related services (+4,000), and management and technical consulting services (+3,000) continued their upward employment trends.



## Private Education and Health Services



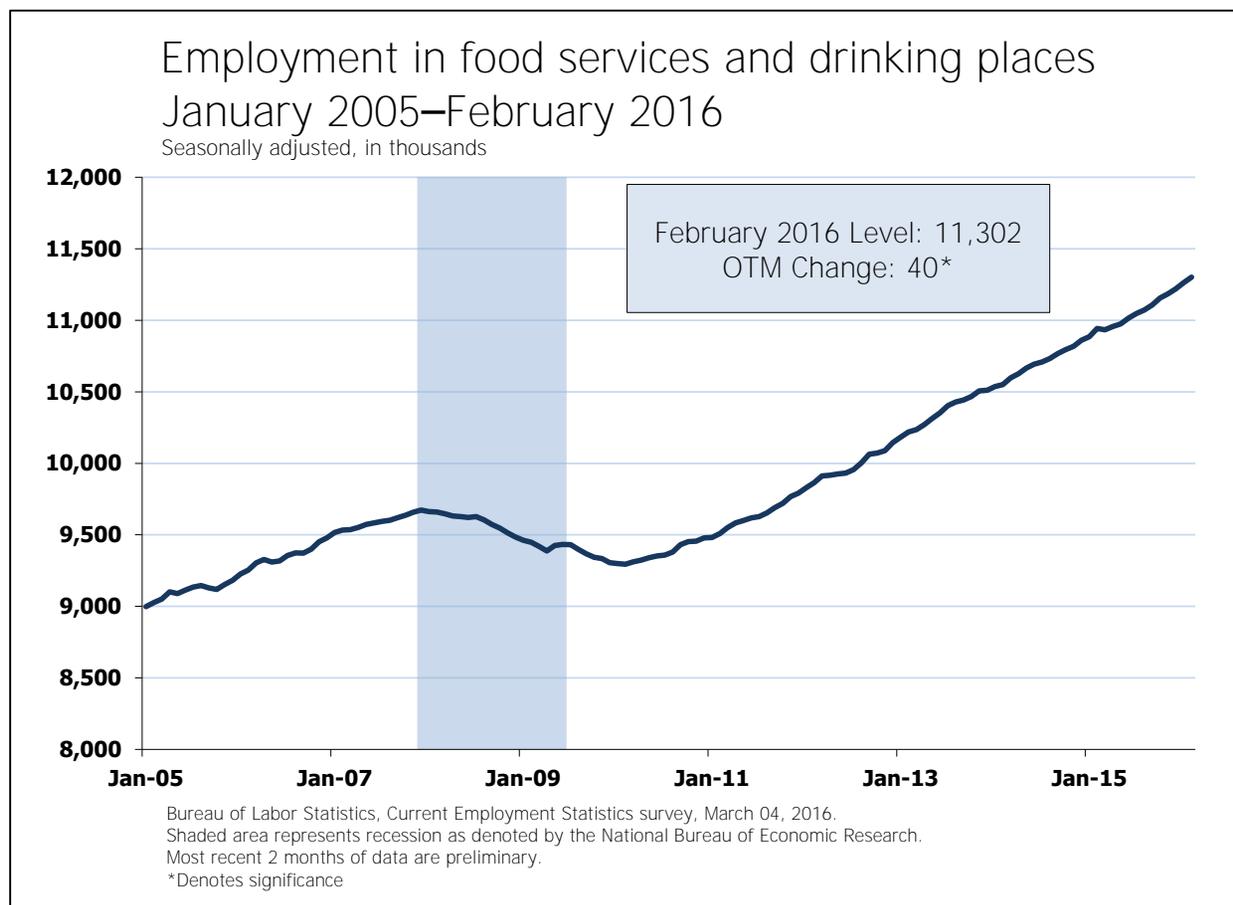
Employment in education and health services increased by 86,000 in February. Within the industry, health care added 38,000 jobs over the month, while educational services and social assistance employment increased by 28,000 and 19,000, respectively.

The job gain in private educational services in February offset a small decline in January (-20,000). Over the last 12 months, the industry has added 63,000 jobs.

Ambulatory health care services (+24,000) accounted for over half the job gain in health care over the month. Small gains throughout its component industries contributed to employment growth. Over the last 12 months, ambulatory health care services added 261,000 jobs.

Hospital employment continued to grow in February (+11,000). In the last 12 months, the industry has added 181,000 jobs.

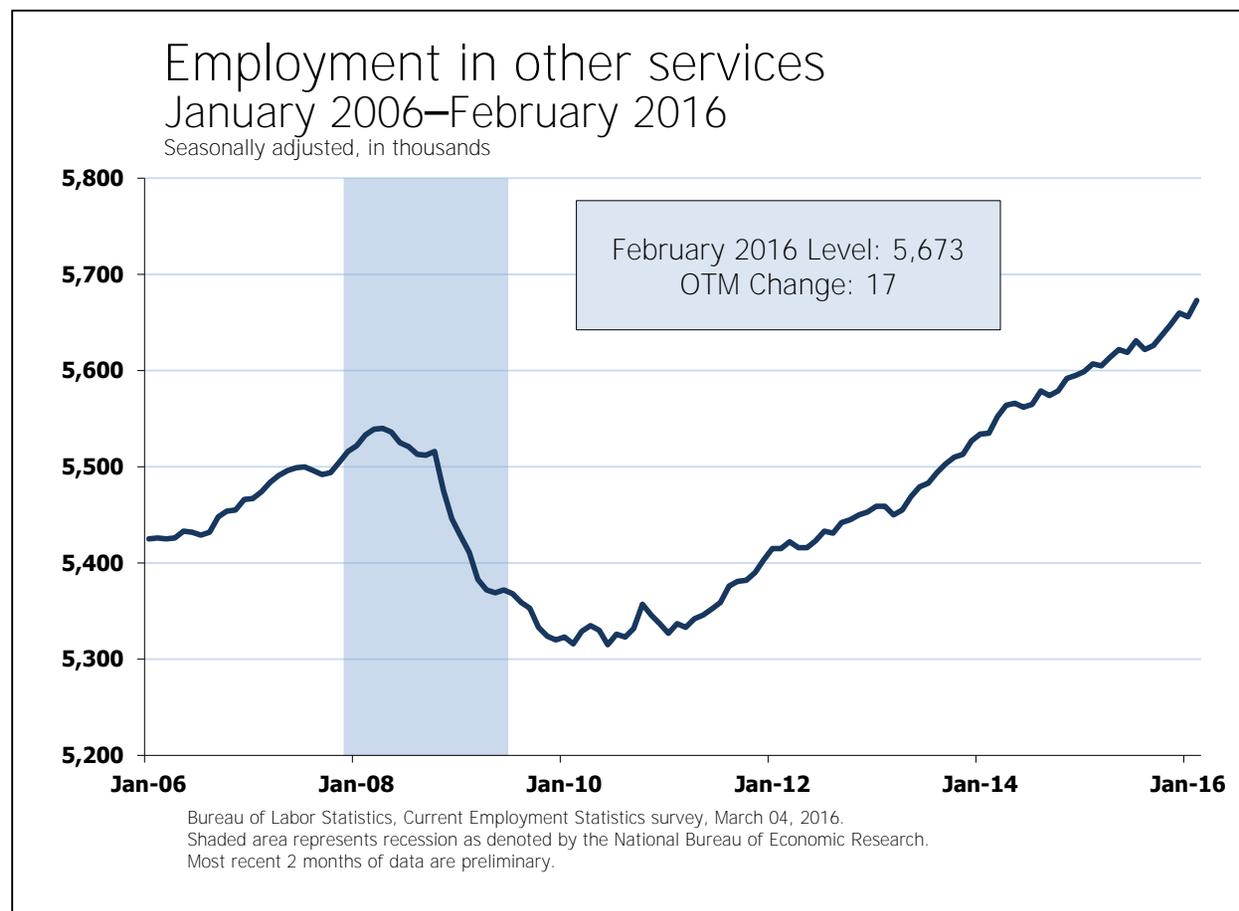
## Leisure and Hospitality



In February, employment continued to trend up in leisure and hospitality (+48,000).

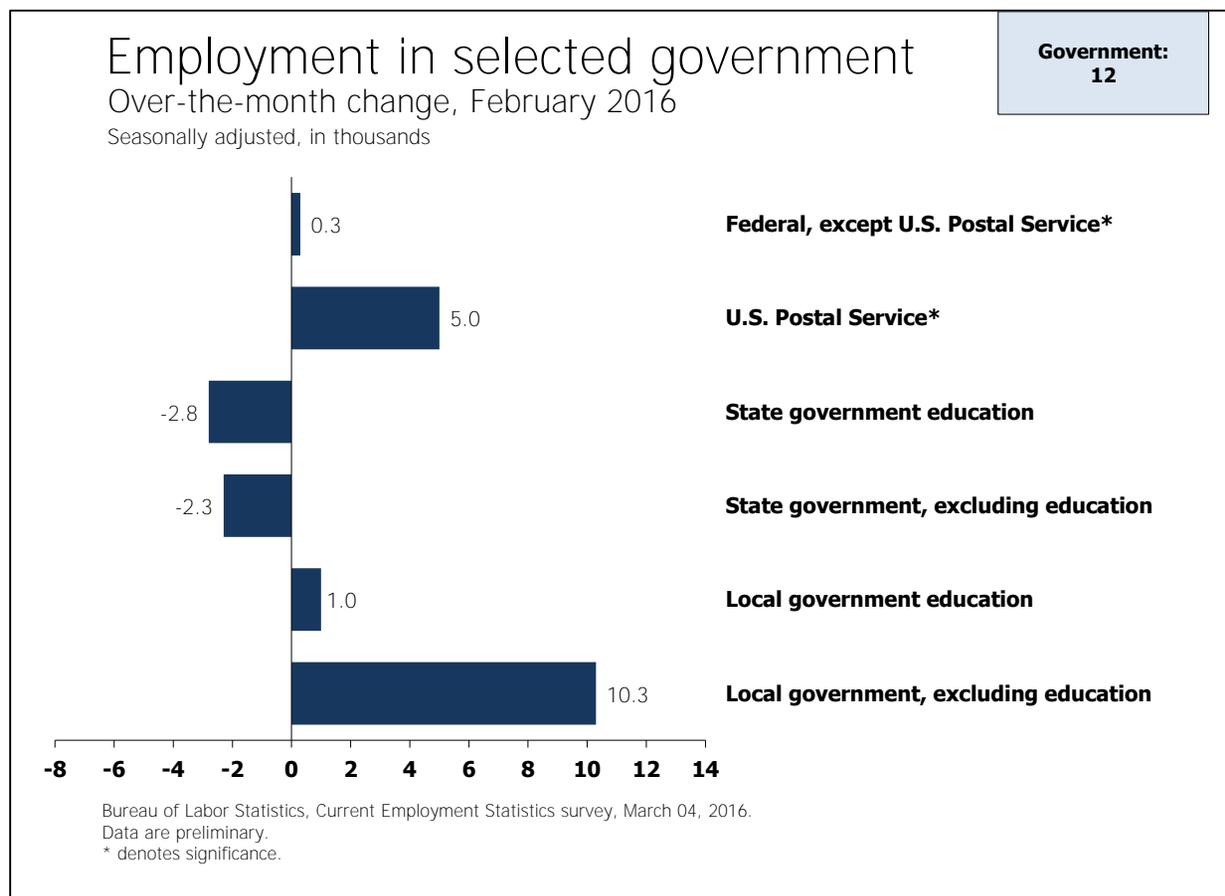
Food services and drinking places gained 40,000 jobs in February. Since its trough in February 2010, this industry has added over 2 million jobs. Elsewhere in leisure and hospitality, employment changed little over the month.

## Other Services



Employment in other services edged up by 17,000 in February, driven primarily by an increase of 9,000 in repair and maintenance. Since its most recent employment trough in June 2010, other services has added 358,000 workers to payrolls.

## Government



Government employment changed little in February (+12,000). Employment at the federal level increased by 5,000, following a similar sized loss of 4,000 in January. The employment changes in federal government over the last 2 months have been concentrated in U.S. Postal Service.

State government employment was flat in February after a 21,000 decline in January, while local government employment continued to trend up over the month.

Overall, government has added 235,000 jobs since its employment trough in January 2014, with nearly half of the gain occurring in local government, excluding education (+109,000).



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