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# Current Employment Statistics Highlights



**February 2017**

Release Date: March 10, 2017

Prepared by Analysts 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 Summary, February 2017

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 235,000 in February. Construction, private education and healthcare, manufacturing, and mining added jobs.

The employment change for January was revised up from +227,000 to +238,000, and the change for December revised down from +157,000 to +155,000. Incorporating revisions, job growth has averaged 209,000 per month over the past 3 months.

Average hourly earnings for all employees on private, nonfarm payrolls rose by 6 cents in February, after a 5-cent increase in January. Hourly earnings are up 2.8 percent over the year. In February, average weekly hours, at 34.4 hours, were unchanged.

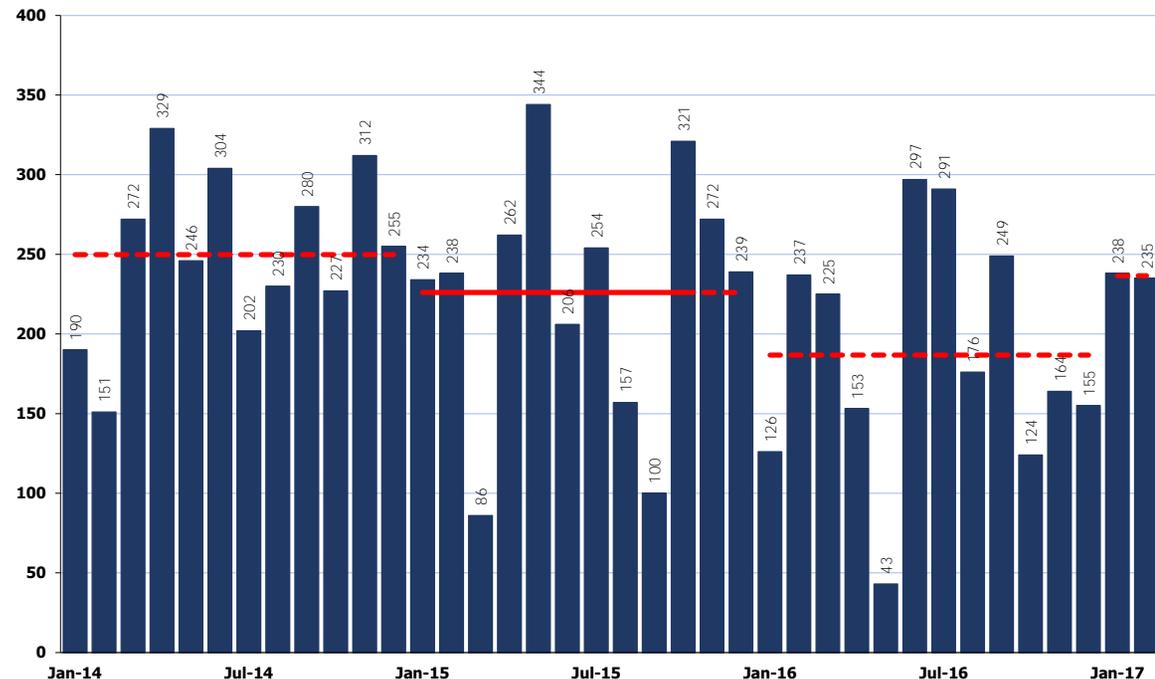
#### +62,000 Education and Health Services

Employment in private education rose by 29,000 in February following little change in January (-5,000). Over the year, employment in education has expanded by 105,000.

In February, employment in health care increased by 27,000, with ambulatory health care services (+18,000) contributing to growth. Over the past year, health care employment has grown by an average of 30,000 per month.

### Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, January 2014–February 2017  
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 10, 2017. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

#### +58,000 Construction

In February, employment in construction increased by 58,000. Within the industry, heavy and civil engineering construction added 15,000 jobs and specialty trade contractors added 36,000 jobs. Employment

growth in specialty trades was split between residential (+15,000) and nonresidential (+22,000) trades. Over the year, construction employment has grown by 219,000 jobs.

|         |                  |              |               |                         |                                  |             |                      |                                  |                                     |                       |                |            |
|---------|------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------|
| Summary | Mining & Logging | Construction | Manufacturing | Trade: Wholesale Retail | Transp., Warehousing & Utilities | Information | Financial Activities | Professional & Business Services | Private Education & Health Services | Leisure & Hospitality | Other Services | Government |
|---------|------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------|

### Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, February 2017

#### +37,000 Professional and Business Services

In February, employment continued to trend upward in professional and business services (+37,000). Over the past 12 months, the industry has added 597,000 jobs.

#### +28,000 Manufacturing

In February, manufacturing employment rose by 28,000. Job gains occurred in machinery (+7,000) and food manufacturing (+9,000). Employment declined by 6,000 in transportation equipment. Manufacturers have added 57,000 jobs over the past 3 months.

#### +9,000 Mining and logging

Mining added 8,000 jobs in February. Mining employment has risen by 21,000 since reaching a low in October 2016. Support activities for mining accounted for 6,000 jobs gained over the month and for 15,000 since October.

#### -26,000 Retail Trade

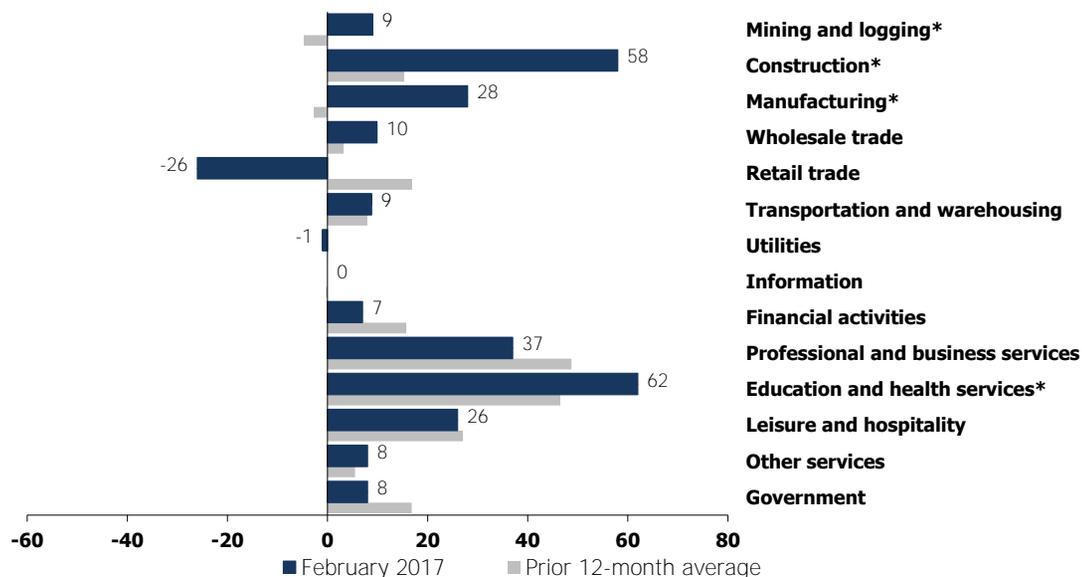
Employment in retail trade edged lower in February, following an increase of 40,000 in January. Over the month, employment declined in electronics and appliance stores

### Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, February 2017

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:  
235\*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 10, 2017.  
Data are preliminary.  
\* denotes significance

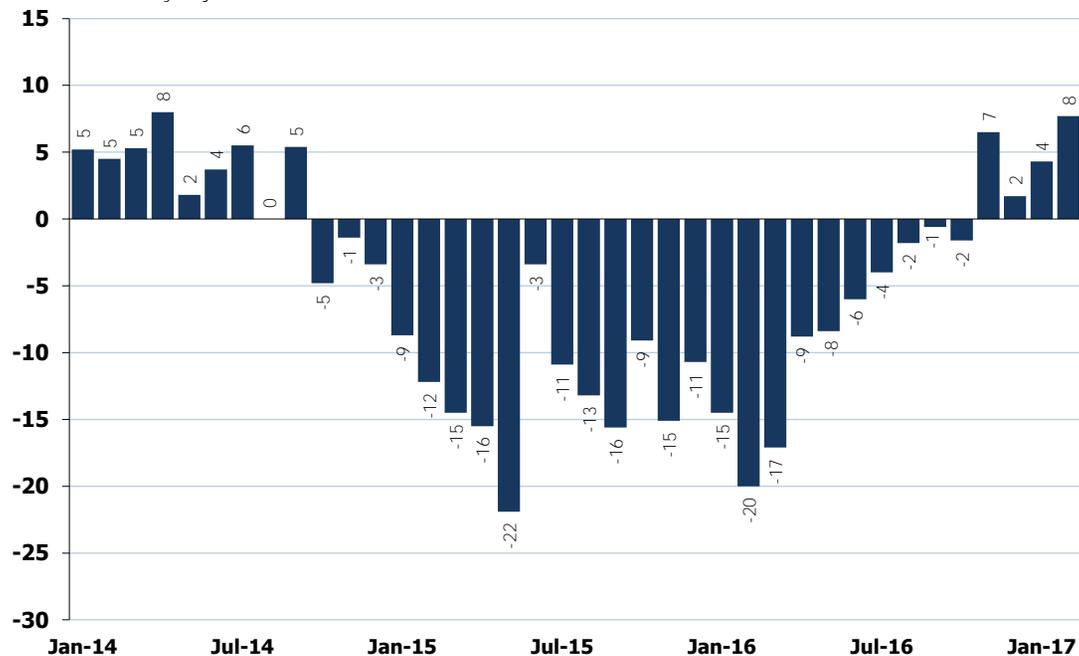
(-8,000), sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores (-9,000), and in general merchandise stores (-19,000).

## Mining and Logging

### Employment in mining

Over-the-month change, January 2014–February 2017

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 10, 2017.

Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

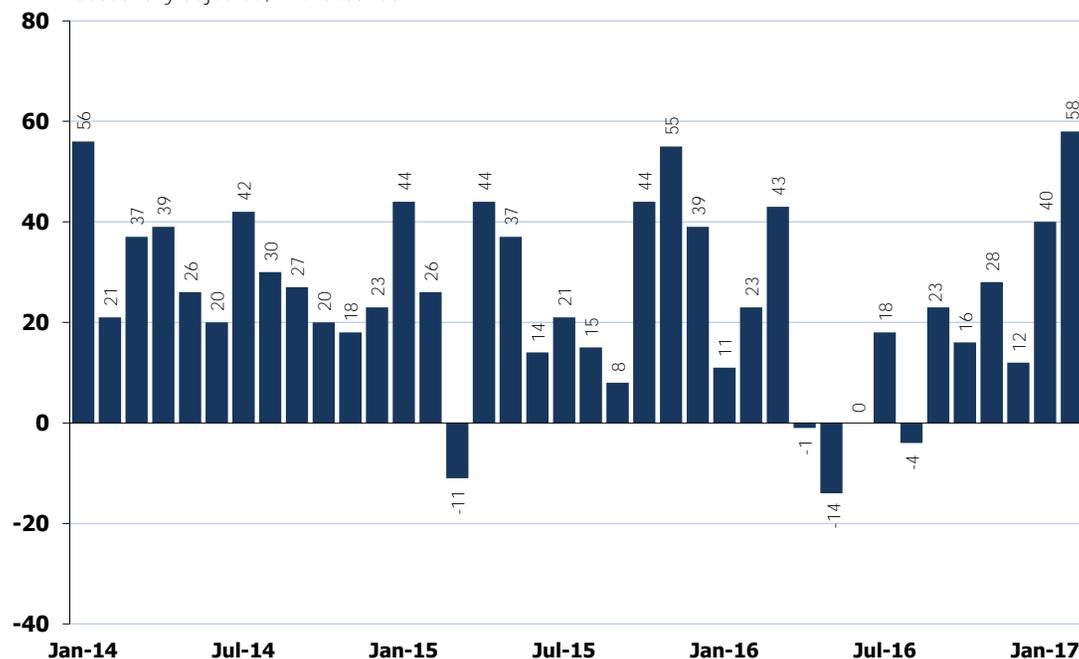
Employment in mining increased by 8,000 in February, with support activities for mining adding 6,000 jobs. These gains are consistent with related economic indicators. Domestic [oil-rig](#) counts increased 14 percent over the month. The price of West Texas Intermediate [oil](#) changed little (-5 cents) over the month.

## Construction

### Employment in construction

Over-the-month change, January 2014–February 2017

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

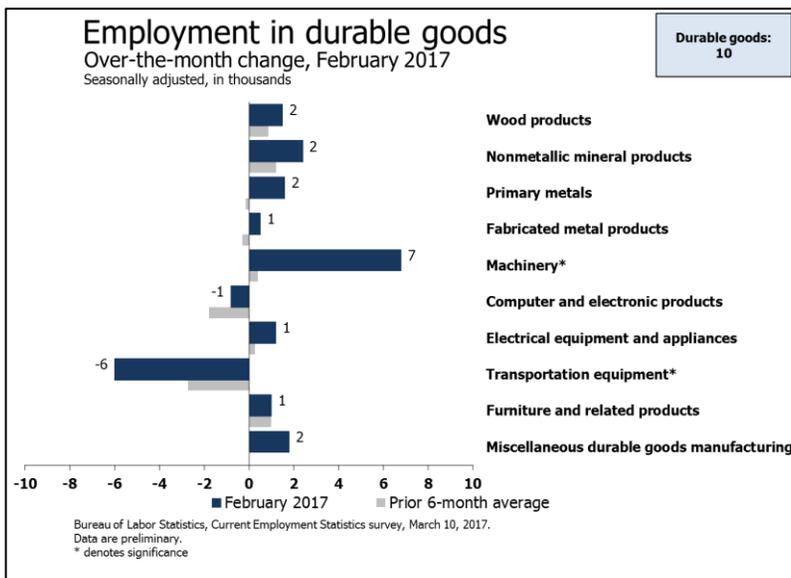


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 10, 2017.  
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Construction employment grew by 58,000 in February.

Heavy and civil engineering construction added 15,000 jobs, while specialty trade contractors added 36,000 jobs. Amongst the trades, nonresidential specialty trade contractors contributed the most to February’s employment gains (+22,000), while residential specialty trade contractors added 15,000 jobs. Employment in construction of buildings changed little (+6,000).

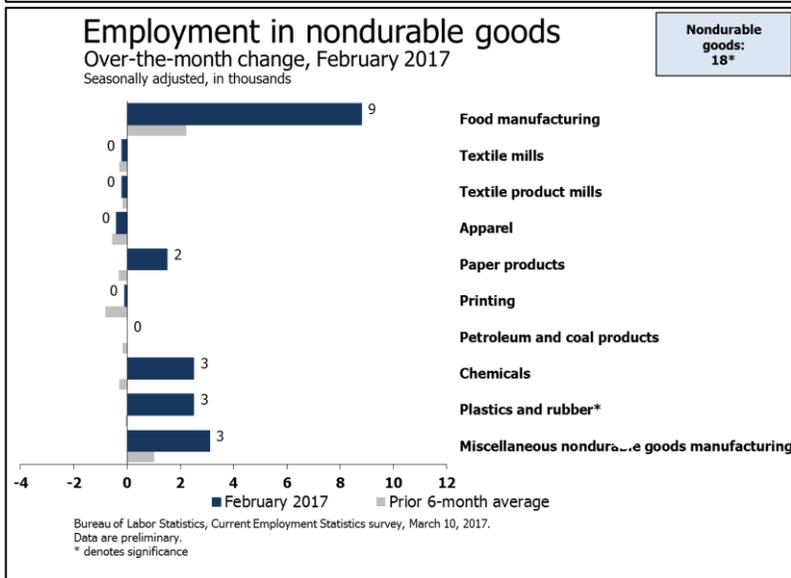
## Manufacturing



In February, employment in manufacturing rose by 28,000. The manufacturing diffusion index increased from 50.0 in January to 65.4, its highest level since November 2014. A value above 50 indicates that more component industries gained jobs than lost them.

Average weekly hours of all employees were unchanged in February at 40.8 hours. Average weekly hours of production employees ticked up by 0.1 hour to 42.0 hours.

Employment in durable goods changed little in February. Within durable goods, employment gains in machinery were offset by losses in transportation equipment. These changes are consistent with recent economic indicators for these industries. In January, machinery output had increased by 0.9 percent over the month, while motor vehicle and parts output decreased by 2.9 percent. ([Federal Reserve](#)).



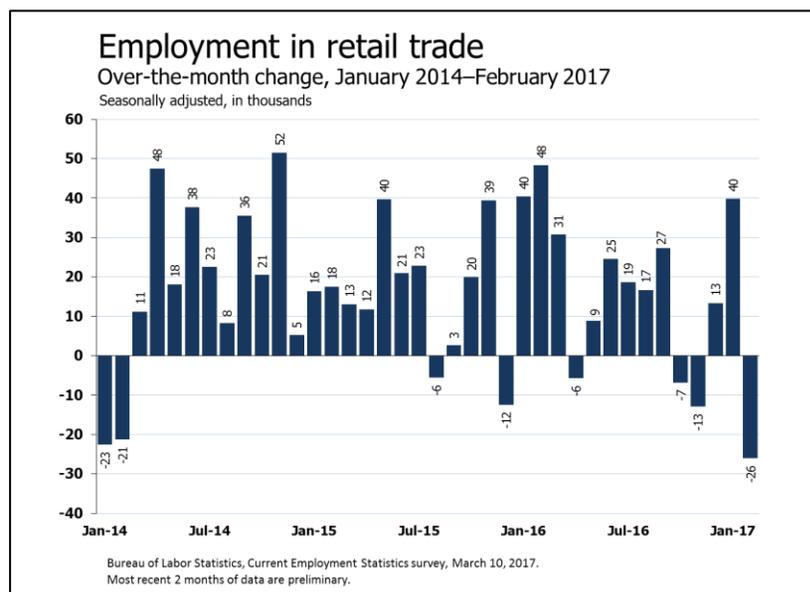
Nondurable goods added 18,000 jobs in February. Employment in food manufacturing continued to trend up, accounting for half of the job gains in nondurable goods.

## Wholesale Trade

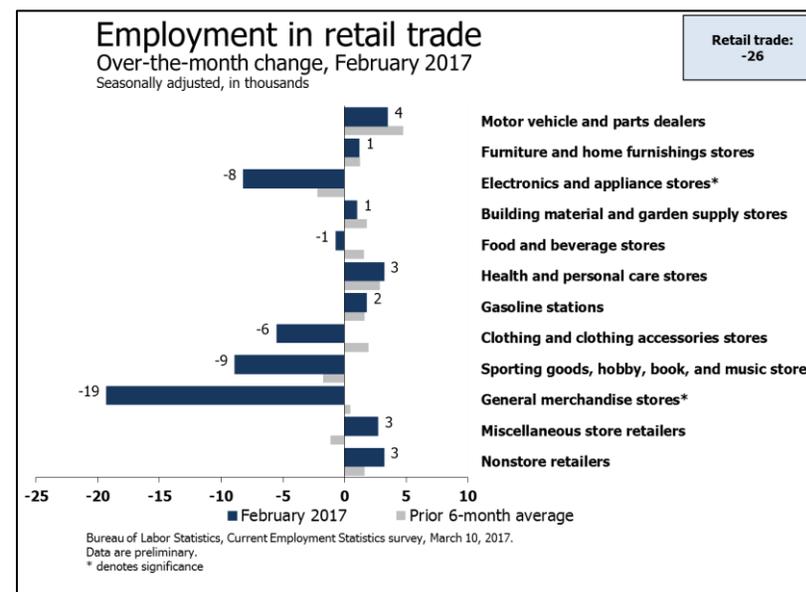


Employment in wholesale trade continued to trend up in February (+10,000), bringing the current 6-month net job gain to 40,000.

## Retail Trade

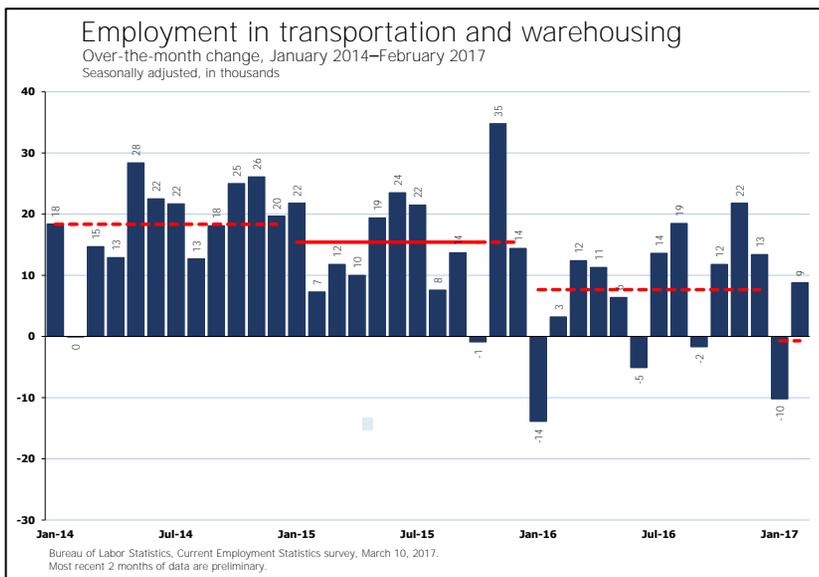


Employment in retail trade edged down in February (-26,000), partly offsetting a gain in January.



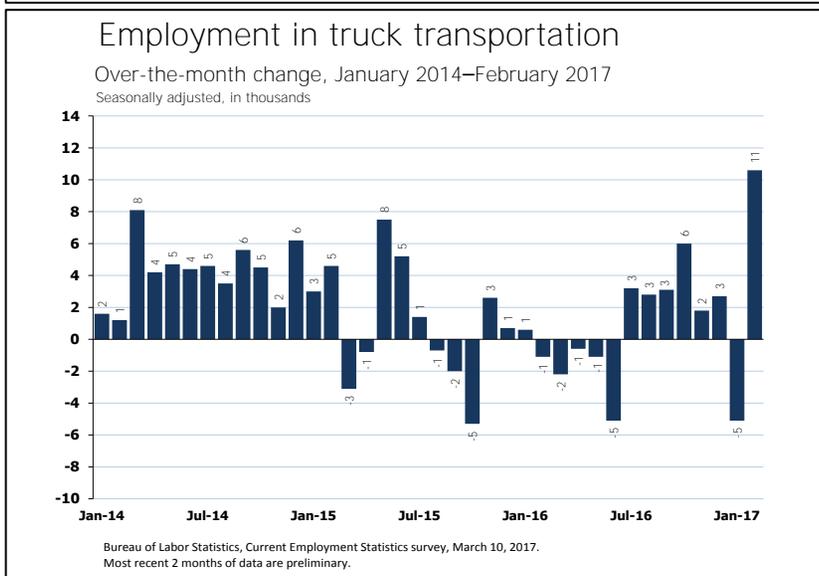
General merchandise stores lost 19,000 jobs in February. Other general merchandise stores accounted for 15,000 of the loss. Electronics and appliance stores lost 8,000 jobs, offsetting an increase of 5,000 jobs in January. Employment in sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores continued to trend down in February (-9,000).

## Transportation and Warehousing



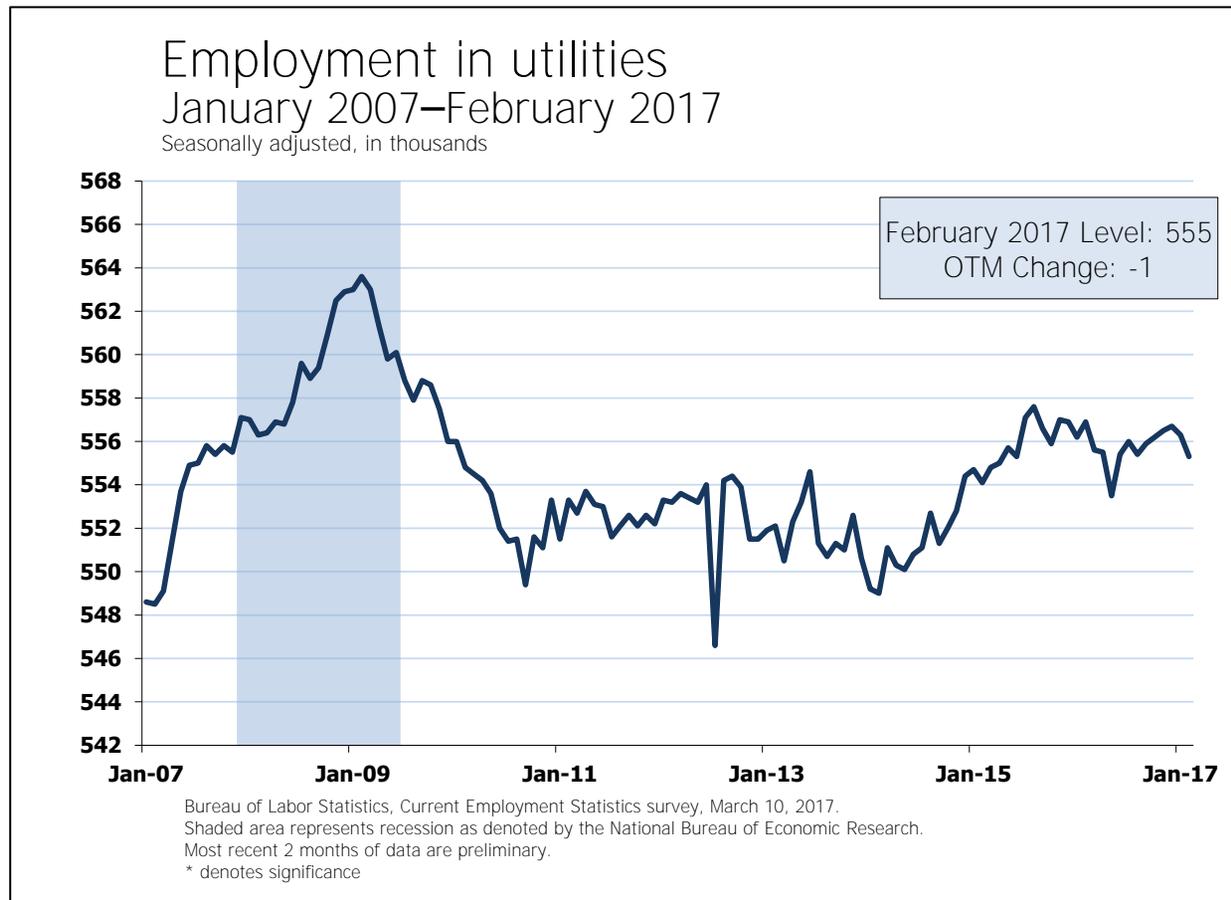
Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in February (+9,000) and is essentially flat year to date. Monthly job growth in transportation and warehousing has been slowing over the past few years from an average of 18,000 jobs per month in 2014 to 8,000 in 2016.

Employment in truck transportation increased by 11,000 in February. Since a recent employment trough in June 2016, trucking has added 25,000 jobs.



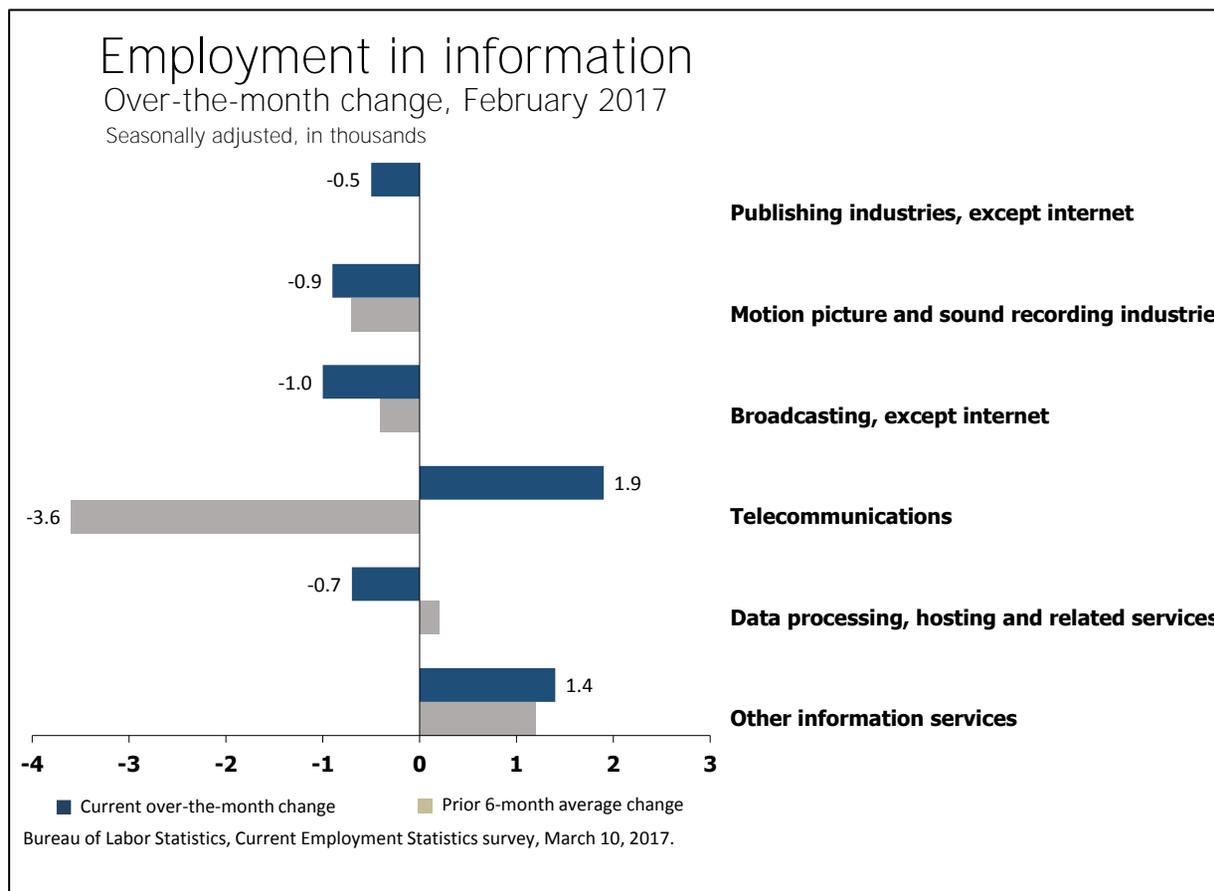
## Utilities

Employment in utilities edged down by 1,000 in February.



## Information

Information employment was unchanged in February and has shown little net change over the year (-14,000).

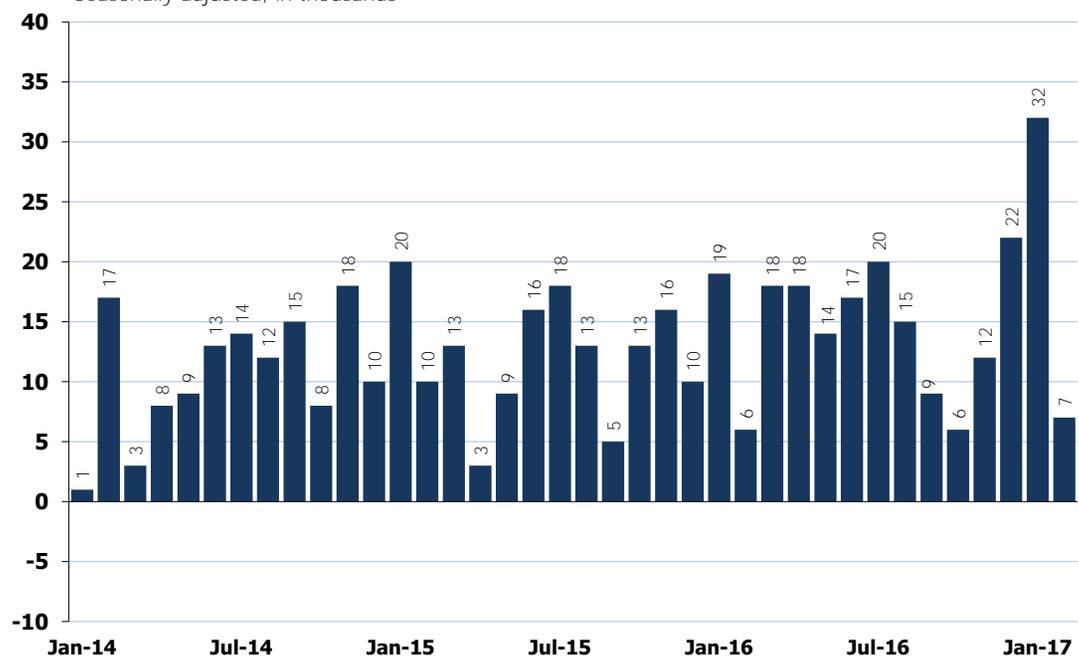


## Financial Activities

### Employment in financial activities

Over-the-month change, January 2014–February 2017

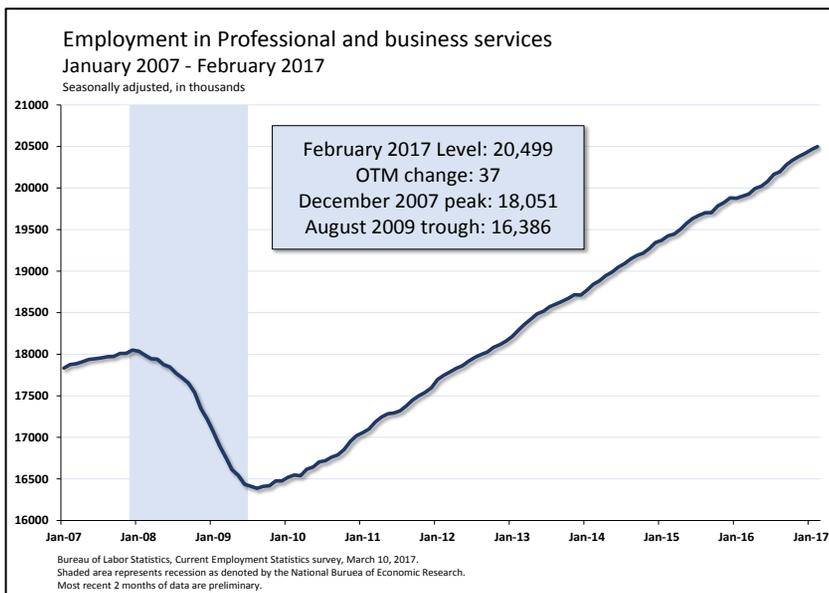
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 10, 2017.  
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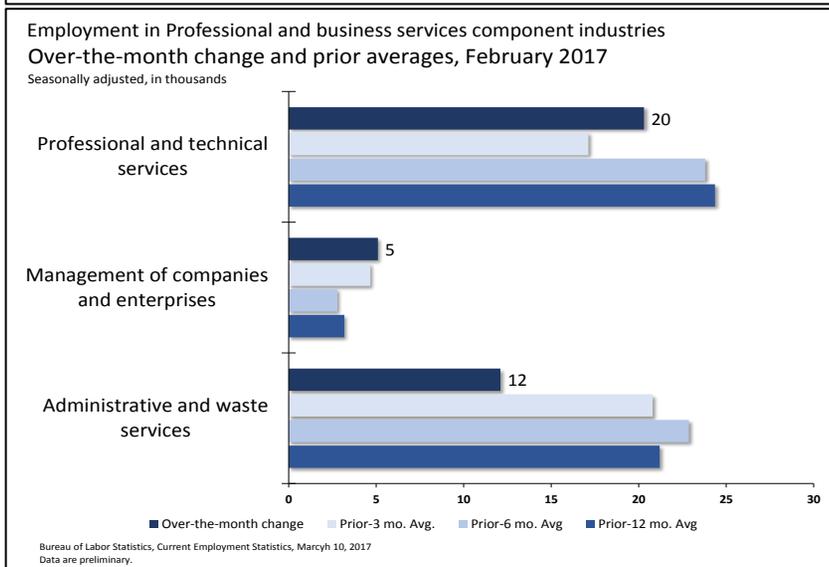
Employment in financial activities changed little in February (+7,000), following 2 months of strong growth. Over the 12 months prior to February, the industry had added 16,000 jobs per month on average.

## Professional and Business Services

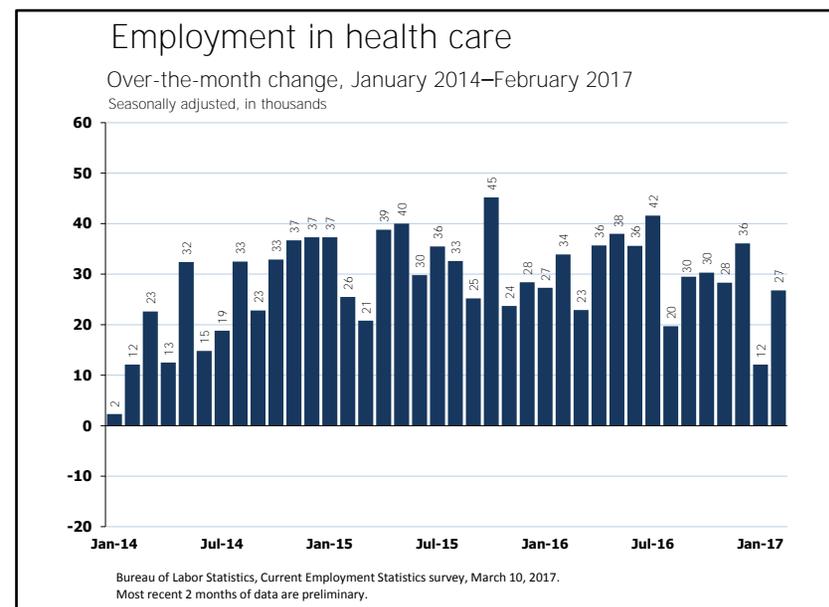
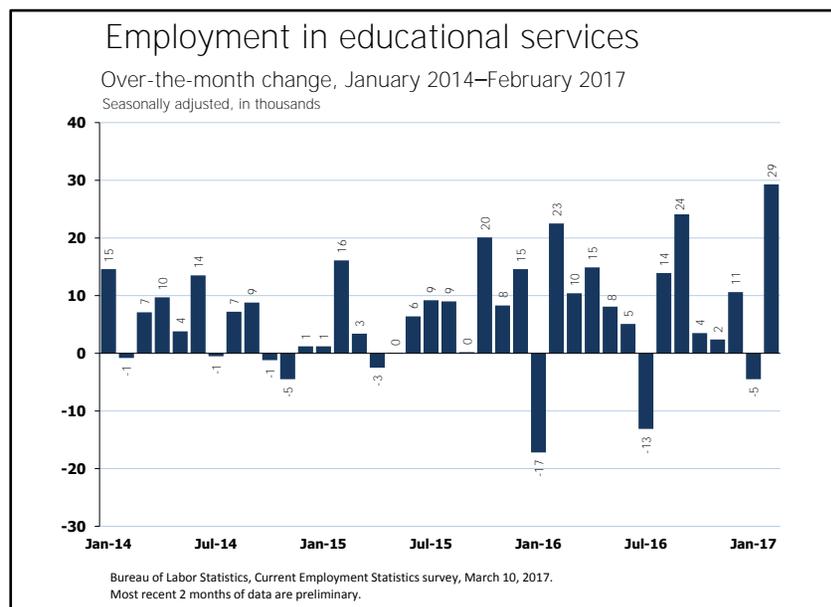


Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in February (+37,000). Since a trough in August 2009, professional and business services employment recovered the number of jobs lost following a December 2007 peak. Employment in the industry has since expanded by 2.4 million above that peak.

In February, employment continued to trend up in professional and technical services (+20,000), while administrative and waste services experienced a below-average employment change (+12,000).



## Private Education and Health Services



In February, private educational services added 29,000 jobs, accounting for roughly half of the job gain in education and health care. Educational services has added 105,000 jobs over the past 12 months, an increase of 3 percent.

Health care added 27,000 jobs in February, in line with the average monthly change of 30,000 for the prior 12-month period. Within health care, ambulatory health care services added 18,000 jobs, also in line with its prior 12-month average change of 20,000.

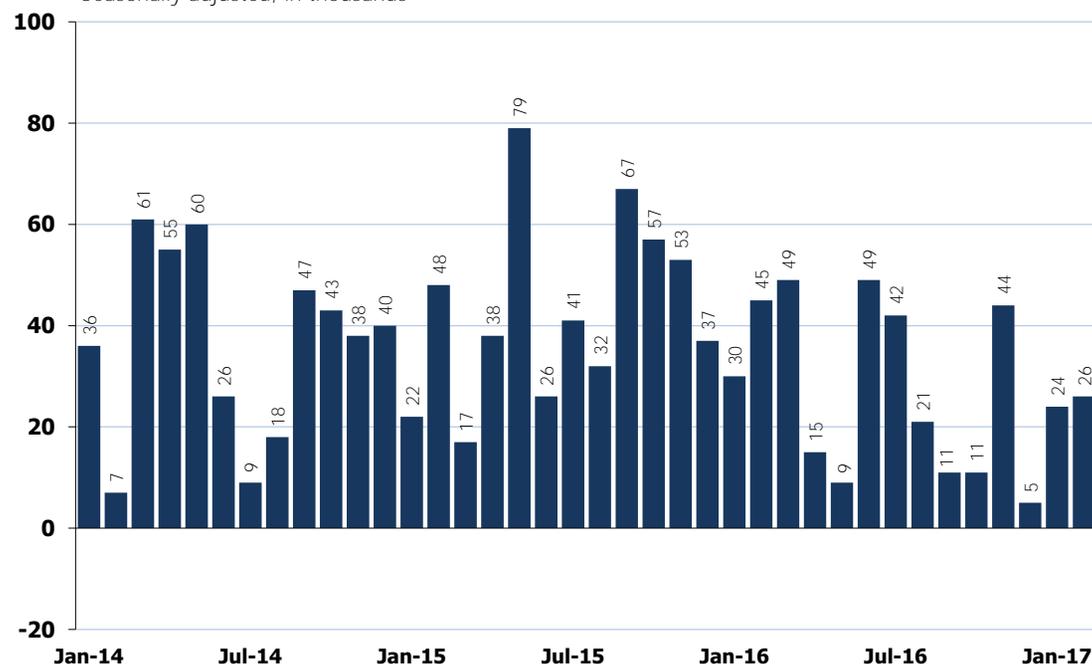
Health care has added 357,000 jobs over the year, which is most of the overall change in private education and health services.

## Leisure and Hospitality

### Employment in leisure and hospitality

Over-the-month change, January 2014–February 2017

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 10, 2017.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Leisure and hospitality employment continued to trend up in February (+26,000).

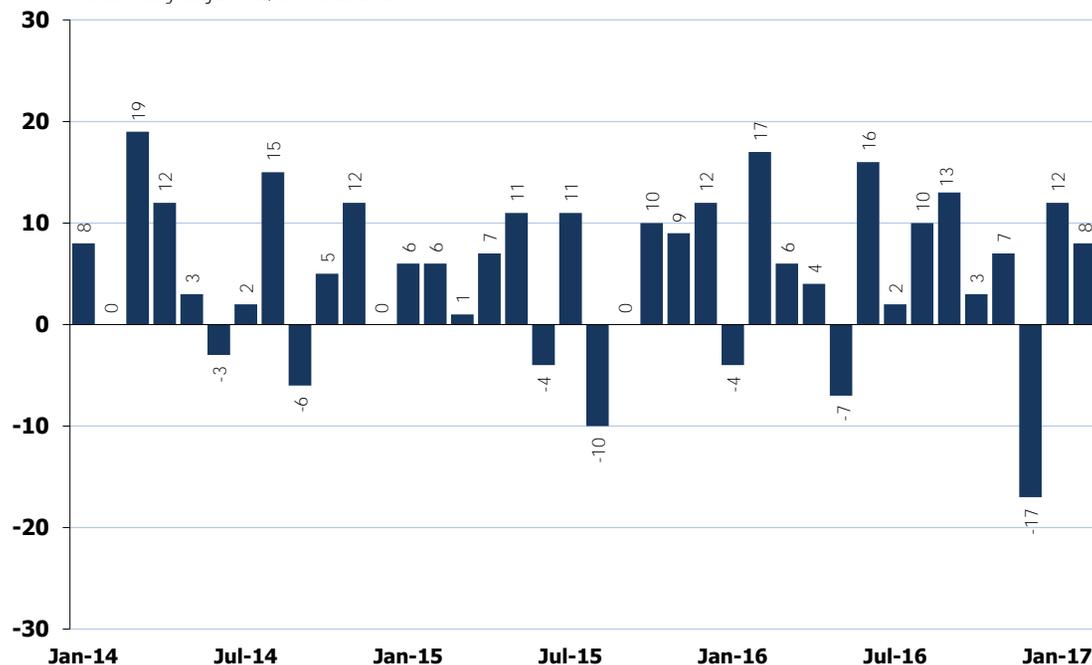
Food services and drinking places employment continued to trend up in February (+17,000). For the fourth consecutive month, the trend within the industry has been driven by limited-service restaurants.

### Other Services

## Employment in other services

Over-the-month change, January 2014–February 2017

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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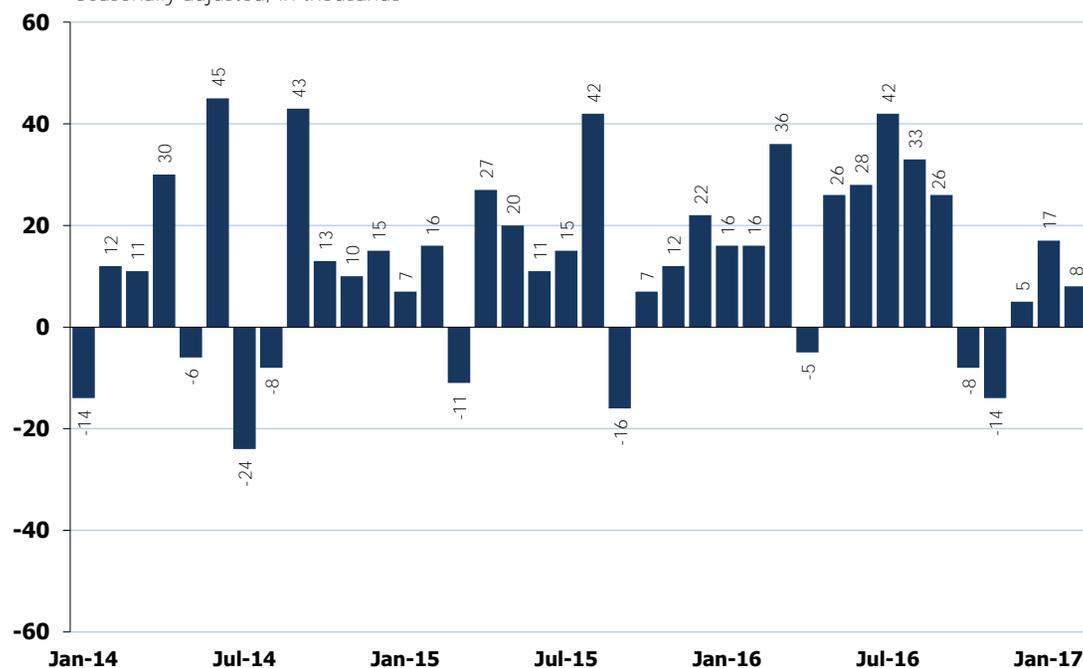
Employment in other services changed little in February (+8,000). This industry has added 57,000 jobs over the year. Personal and laundry services accounted for 75 percent of the job gains over this 12-month period.

## Government

### Employment in government

Over-the-month change, January 2014–February 2017

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 10, 2017.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in government changed little in February (+8,000). Over the past 5 months, employment in the industry has shown little net change.



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