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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



March 2017

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Prepared by Analysts of the National Estimates Branch
Current Employment Statistics Survey
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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Current Employment Statistics Summary, March 2017

Nonfarm employment edged up in March (+98,000), following gains in January (+216,000) and February (+219,000).

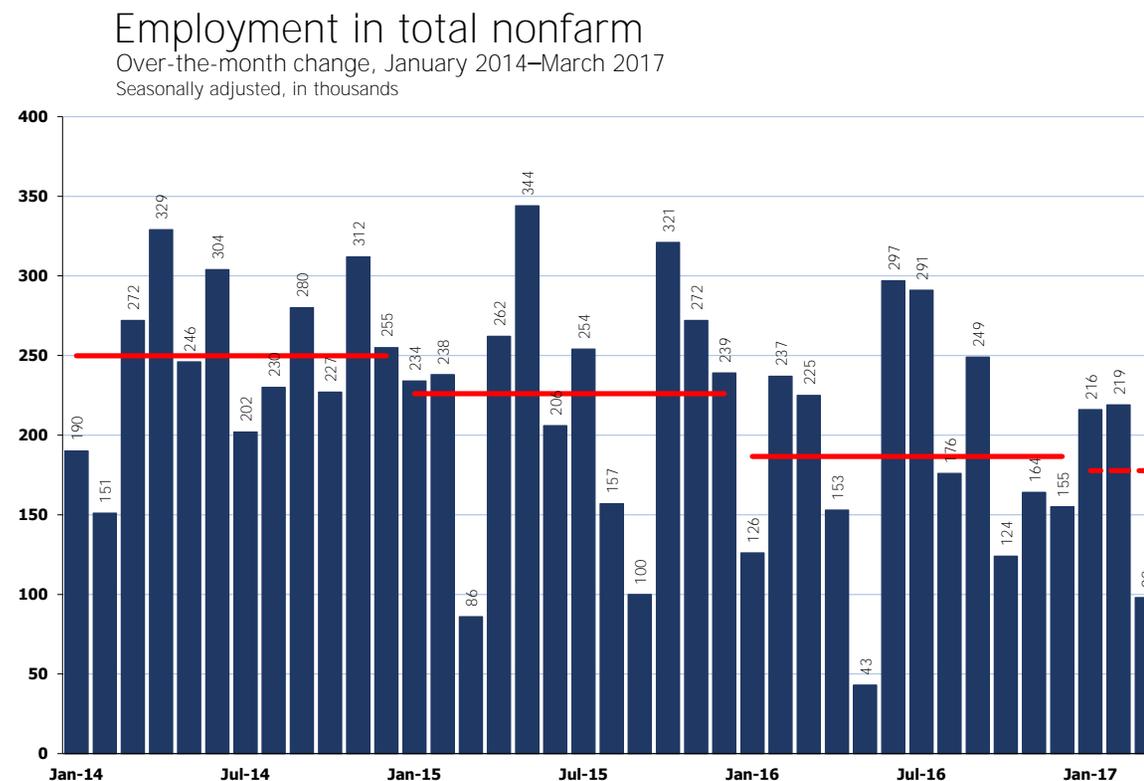
In March, professional and business services and mining added jobs, while employment in retail trade declined.

The employment changes for February and January incorporate downward revisions totaling 38,000.

Average hourly earnings of all private-sector employees increased by 5 cents, following a 7-cent gain in February. Hourly earnings are up 2.7 percent over the year. Average weekly hours were unchanged at 34.3 hours in March.

+56,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment continued to trend up in professional and technical services in March (+22,000). Within this industry, architectural and engineering services added jobs (+7,000); monthly employment growth has averaged 7,000 thus far in 2017, compared with an average +2,000 per month in 2016.



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 07, 2017. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Services to building and dwellings added 17,000 jobs in March following little change in February; the average change over the 2-month span is in line with recent employment trends.

+11,000 Mining and Logging

Mining employment rose by 11,000 in March, largely in support activities for mining (+9,000). Since a recent employment low in October, mining has added 35,000 jobs.

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, March 2017

-30,000 Retail Trade

In retail trade, general merchandise stores lost 35,000 jobs in March. Employment in general merchandise stores has declined by 89,000 since October.

+16,000 Education and Health Services

Among health care providers, employment rose in hospitals (+9,000) and in outpatient care centers (+6,000). Thus far this year, health care has added an average of 20,000 jobs per month, compared to 32,000 per month in 2016.

+6,000 Construction

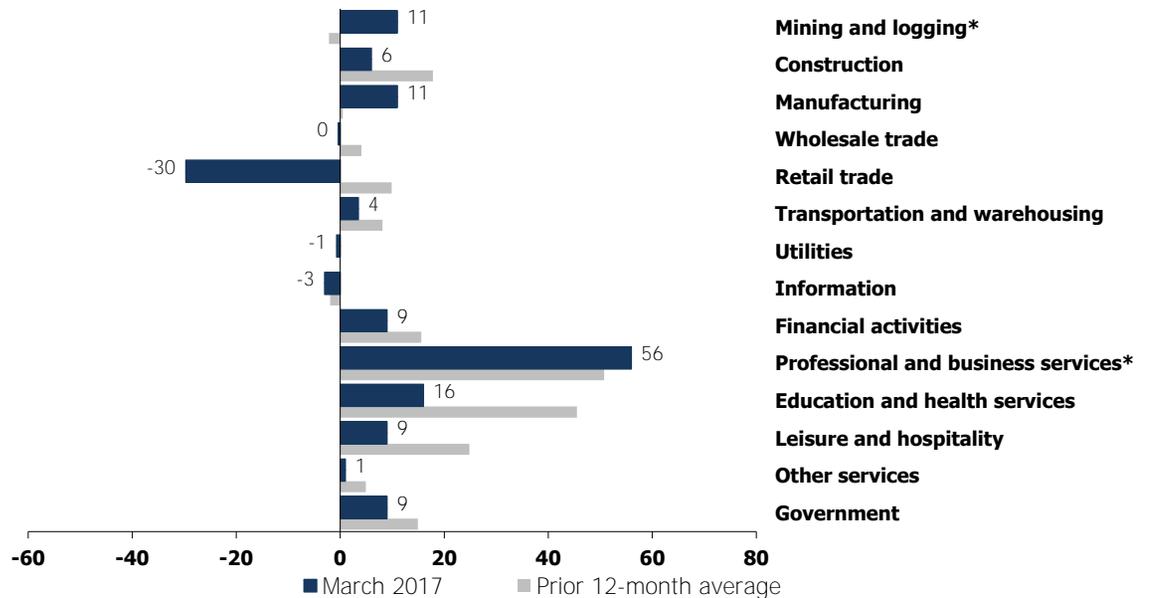
Construction employment changed little following a strong gain in February (+59,000). Year to date, job growth has averaged 33,000 per month.

+11,000 Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment changed little in March. However, since November 2016, employment in the industry has trended up by an average 17,000 per month. In the 12 months ending in November 2016, employment had changed by an average -2,000 per month.

Employment in total nonfarm
Over-the-month change, March 2017
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:
98



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 07, 2017.
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

+9,000 Financial Activities

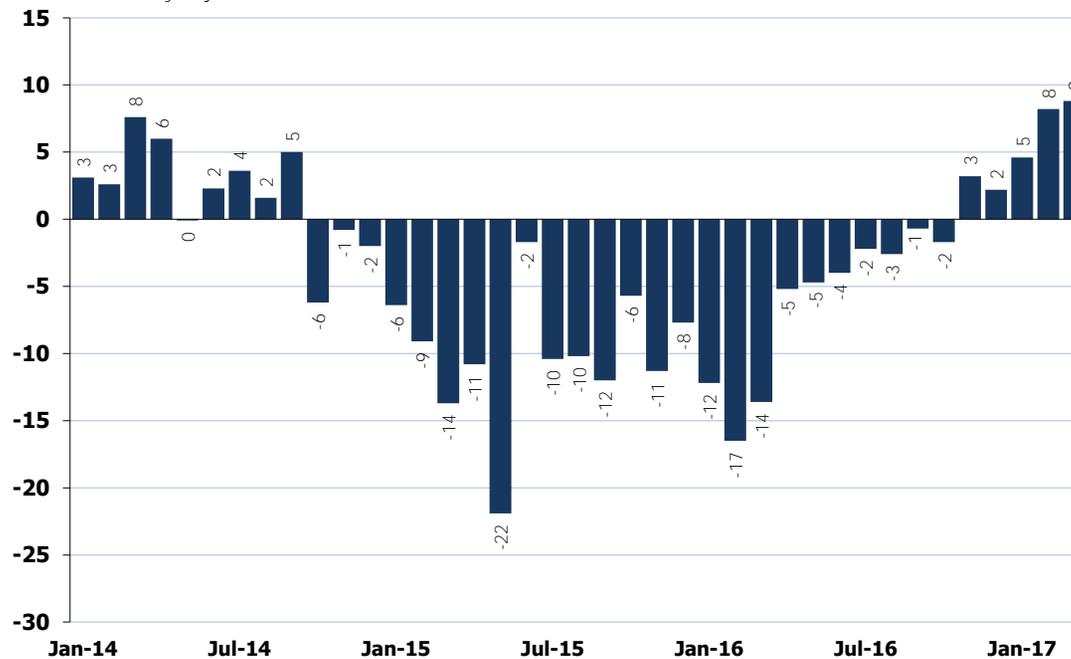
Employment in financial activities continued to trend up in March (+9,000). Over the year, employment has increased by an average 15,000 per month.

Mining and Logging

Employment in support activities for mining

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

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 07, 2017.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

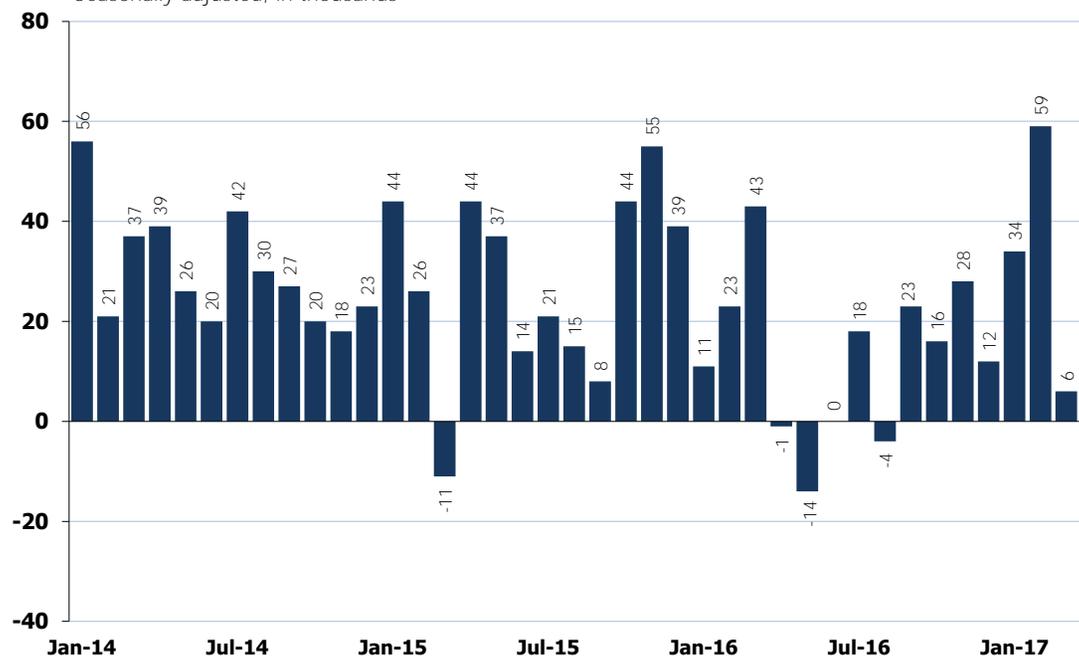
Employment in mining increased by 11,000 in March. Since October 2016, the industry has gained 35,000 jobs. Support activities for mining added 9,000 jobs in March and 27,000 jobs since October 2016. The employment gains are consistent with increases in domestic [oil-rig](#) counts, which rose 5 percent in March.

Construction

Employment in construction

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

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 07, 2017.
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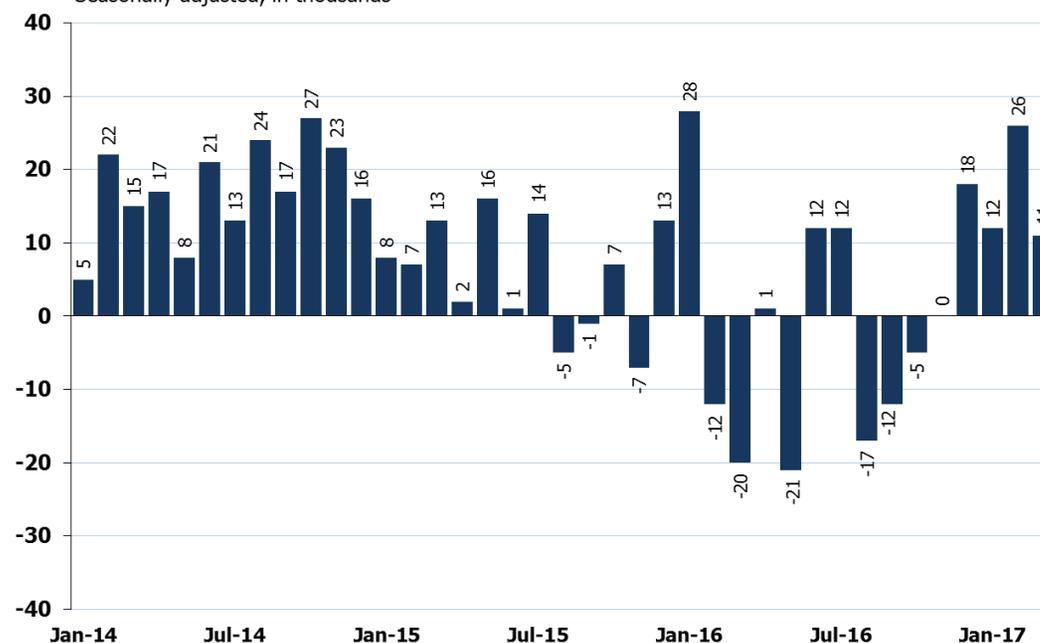
Construction employment changed little in March (+6,000), following a gain of 59,000 in February.

Thus far in 2017, construction has added an average 33,000 jobs per month, compared to an average increase of 20,000 during the last 4 months of 2016.

Manufacturing

Employment in manufacturing Over-the-month change, January 2014–March 2017

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 07, 2017.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in manufacturing was little changed in March (+11,000), after increasing in February. Since November, this industry has added 67,000 jobs.

The manufacturing diffusion index fell from 67.9 to 52.6, demonstrating that growth in the industry was less widespread in March. A value above 50 indicates that more component industries gained jobs than lost them.

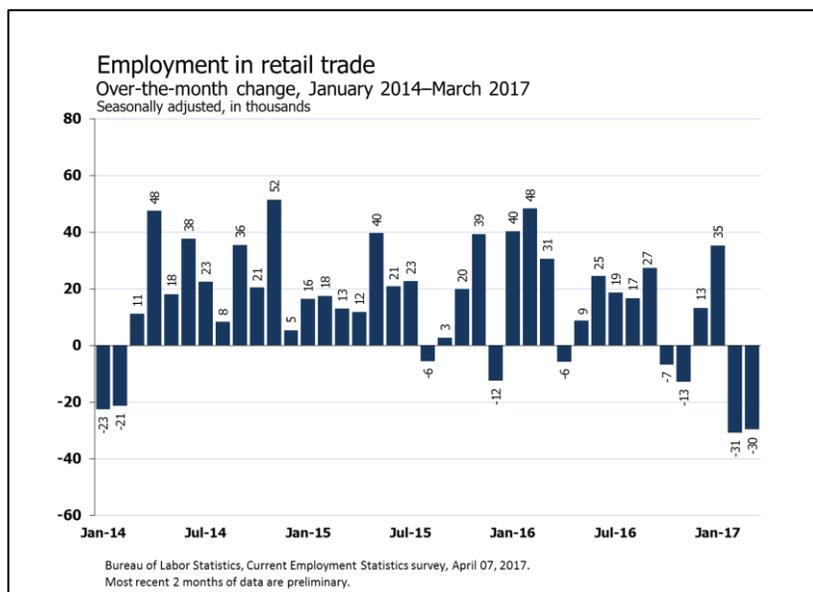
Average weekly hours of all employees in manufacturing ticked down by 0.2 to 40.6 hours. The average workweek of production employees also ticked down by 0.2 to 41.8 hours.

Wholesale Trade

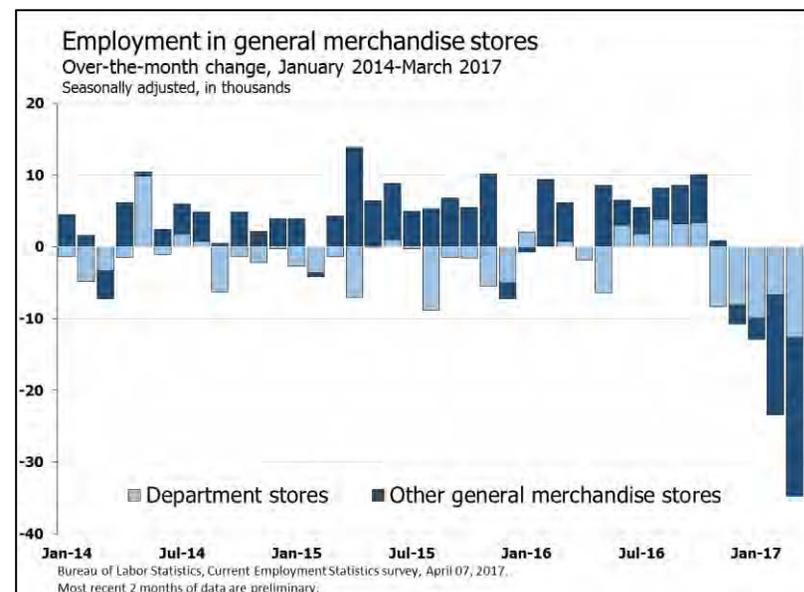


Employment in wholesale trade was unchanged in March, though the industry has added 46,000 jobs in the most recent 12-month period.

Retail Trade

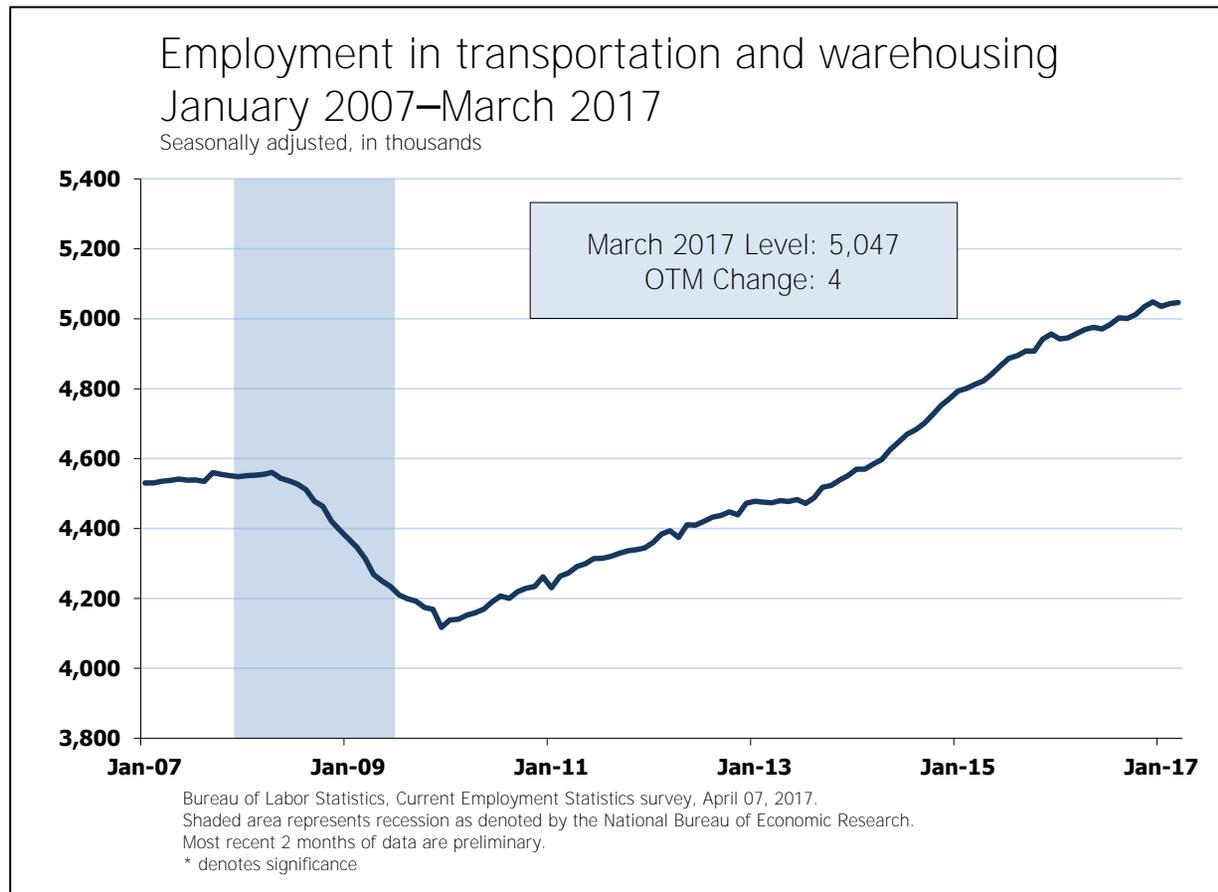


In March, employment in retail trade declined by 30,000.



General merchandise stores lost 35,000 jobs in March. Since October, this industry has shed 89,000 jobs. Within general merchandise stores, employment in department stores decreased by 13,000 in March and by 46,000 over the past 5 months. Employment in other general merchandise stores, such as supercenters and warehouse clubs, declined by 22,000 in March following a loss of 17,000 in February.

Transportation and Warehousing



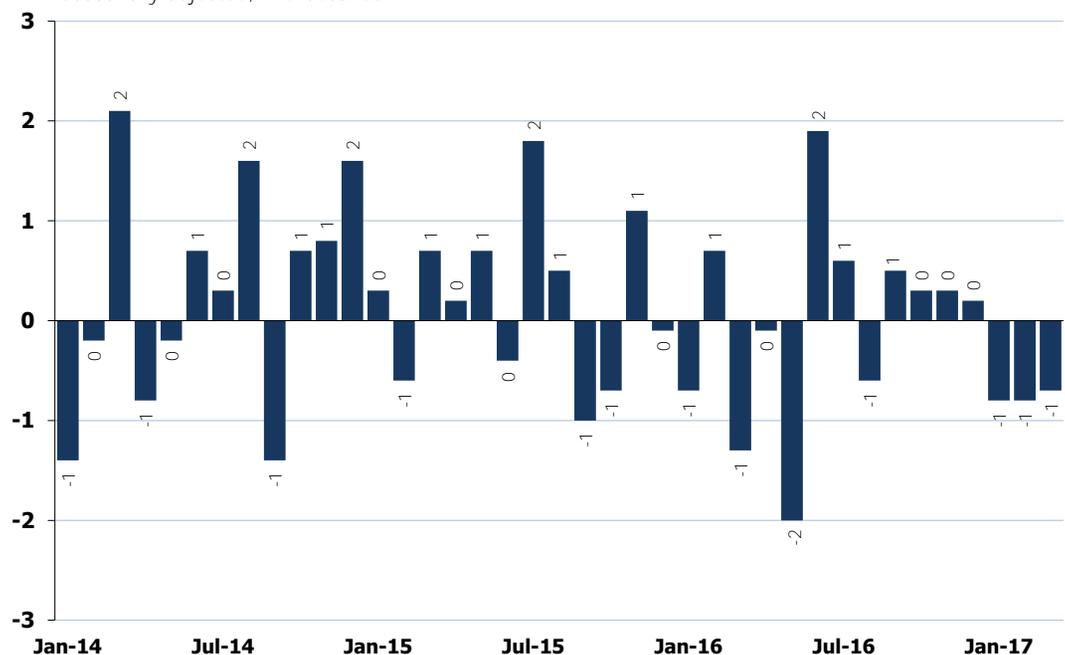
Employment in transportation and warehousing was largely unchanged in March (+4,000). However, over the past 12 months, employment in the industry has grown by 89,000 jobs, or 1.8 percent.

Utilities

Employment in utilities

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

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



In March, employment in utilities changed little (-1,000).

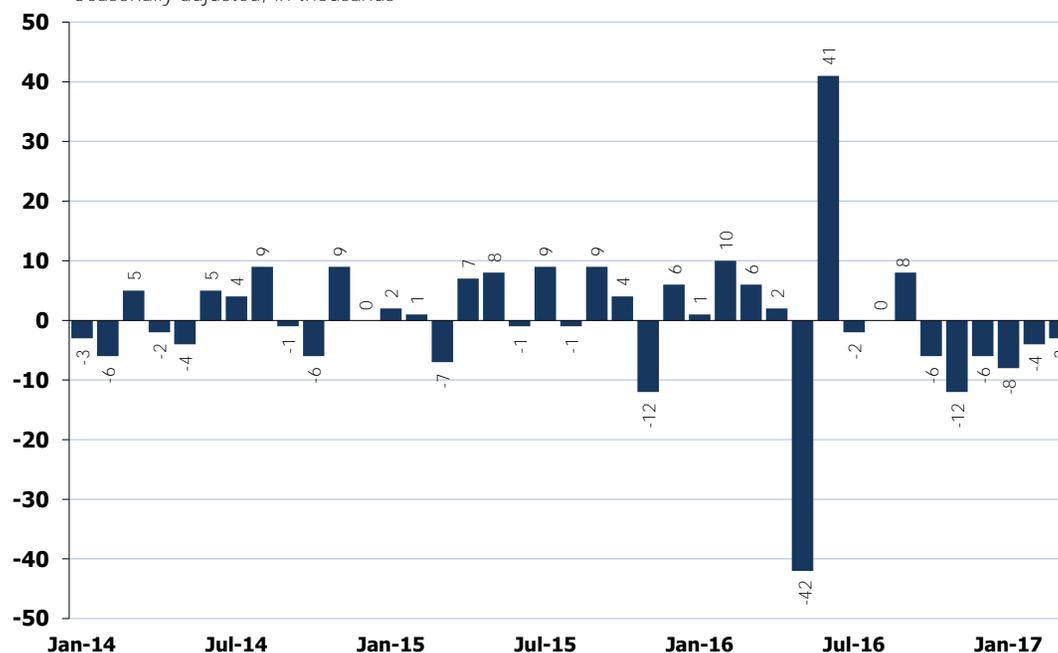
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 07, 2017.
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Information

Employment in information

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

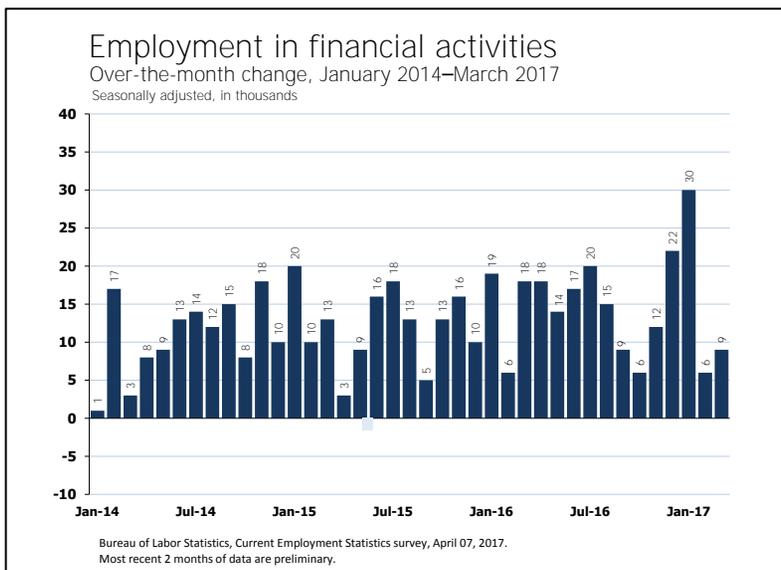
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 07, 2017.
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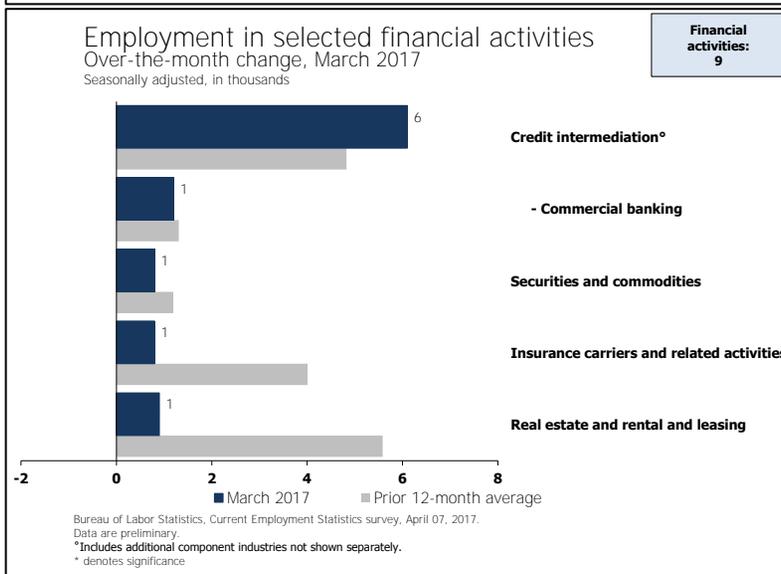
In March, employment in information changed little (-3,000). This is the sixth consecutive month of weakness with information losing a total of 39,000 jobs since a recent peak in September 2016. Telecommunications accounted for 63 percent of the losses within the industry during this period.

Financial Activities

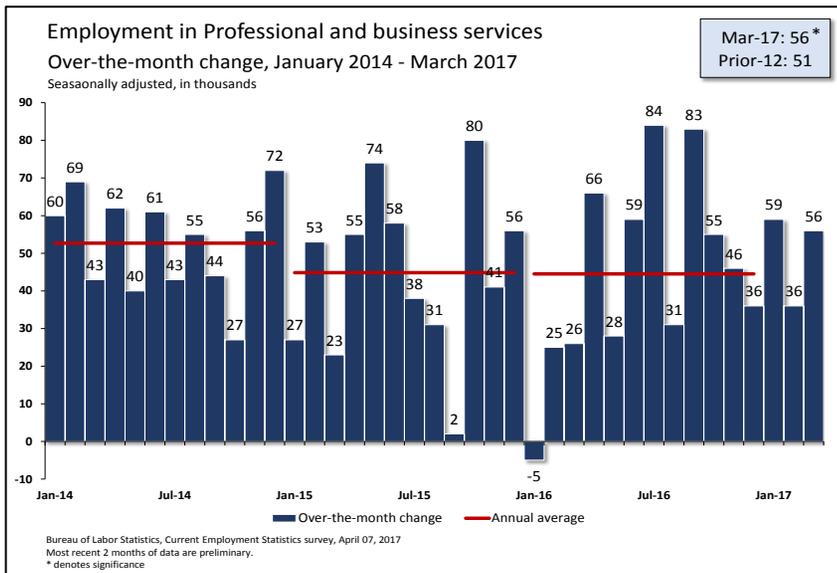


Employment in financial activities continued to trend up in March (+9,000). So far this year, financial activities has added 45,000 jobs, primarily due to a gain in finance and insurance (+29,000).

Employment in credit intermediation and related activities edged up in March (+6,000), driven by an increase of 3,000 in activities related to credit intermediation.



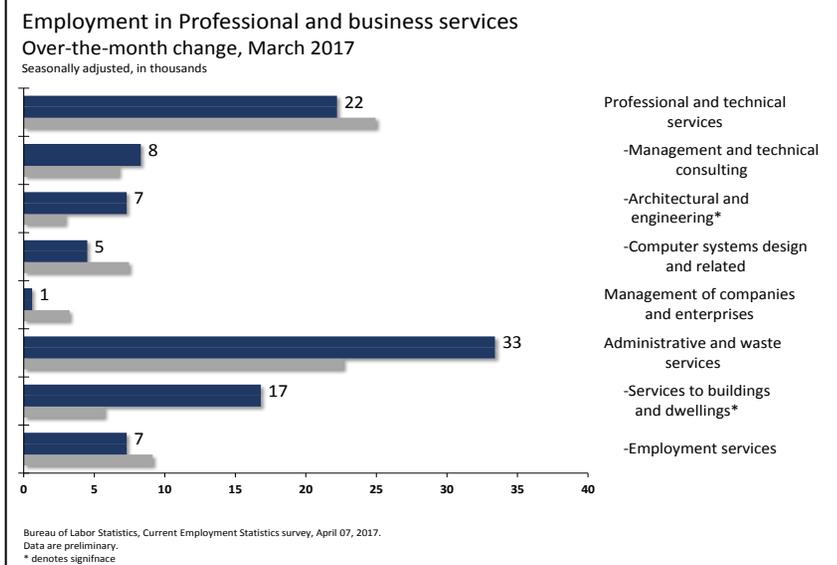
Professional and Business Services



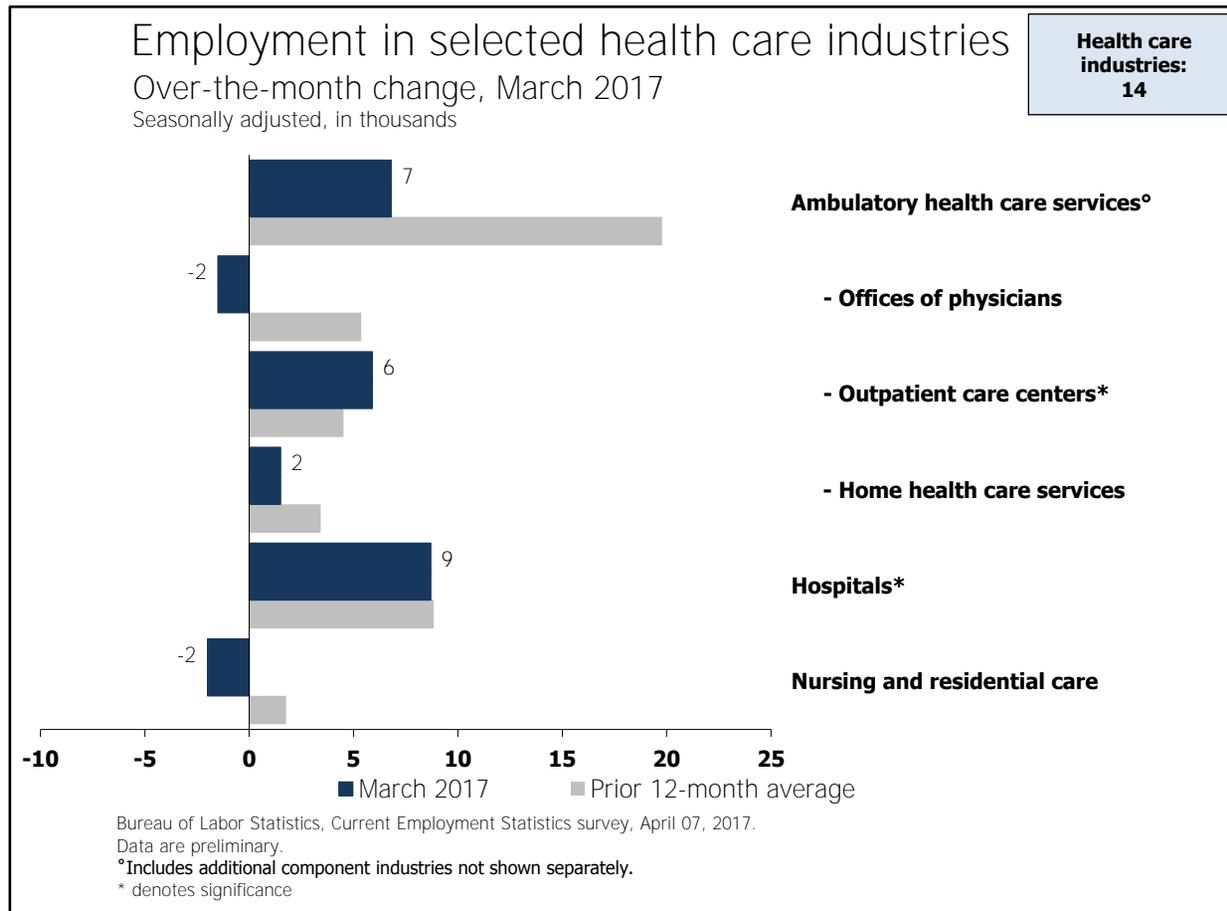
Professional and business services employment grew by 56,000 in March. In the first quarter of 2017, professional and business services has added 151,000 jobs, compared to a gain of 137,000 during the fourth quarter of 2016.

In March, the larger share of the employment gain was seen in administrative and waste services (+33,000), with services to buildings and dwellings adding 17,000 jobs. Employment changed little in temporary help services (+11,000).

Employment in professional and technical services continued to trend up in March (+22,000). Architectural and engineering services added 7,000 jobs over the month; employment in the industry is now just 5,000 away from recovering all the jobs lost during its most recent downturn. In March, both management and technical consulting services (+8,000) and computer systems design and related services (+5,000) continued their upward employment trends and are the top contributors to employment growth during the current expansion.



Private Education and Health Services



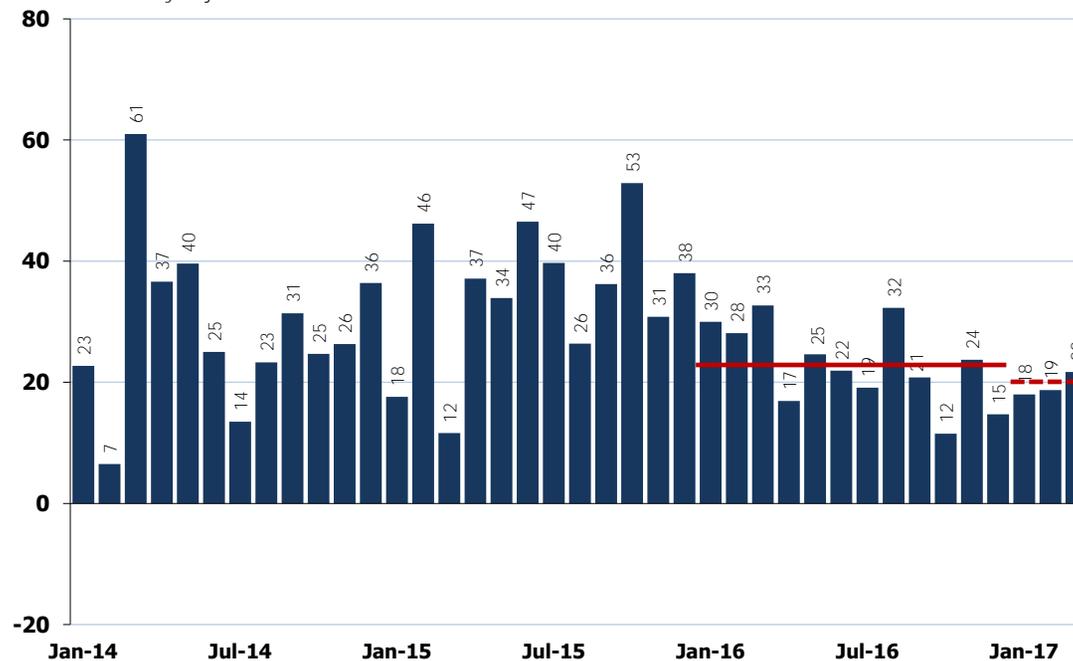
Employment in private education and health services changed little in March (+16,000).

Health care employment continued to trend up in March (+14,000), driven by gains in hospitals (+9,000) and outpatient care centers (+6,000). Health care has added an average of 20,000 jobs per month so far this year, compared to an average increase of 32,000 per month in 2016.

Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in food services and drinking places Over-the-month change, January 2014–March 2017

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 07, 2017.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

In March, leisure and hospitality employment changed little (+9,000). Food services and drinking places employment continued to trend up in March (+22,000), but was partially offset by weakness in arts, entertainment, and recreation (-12,000).

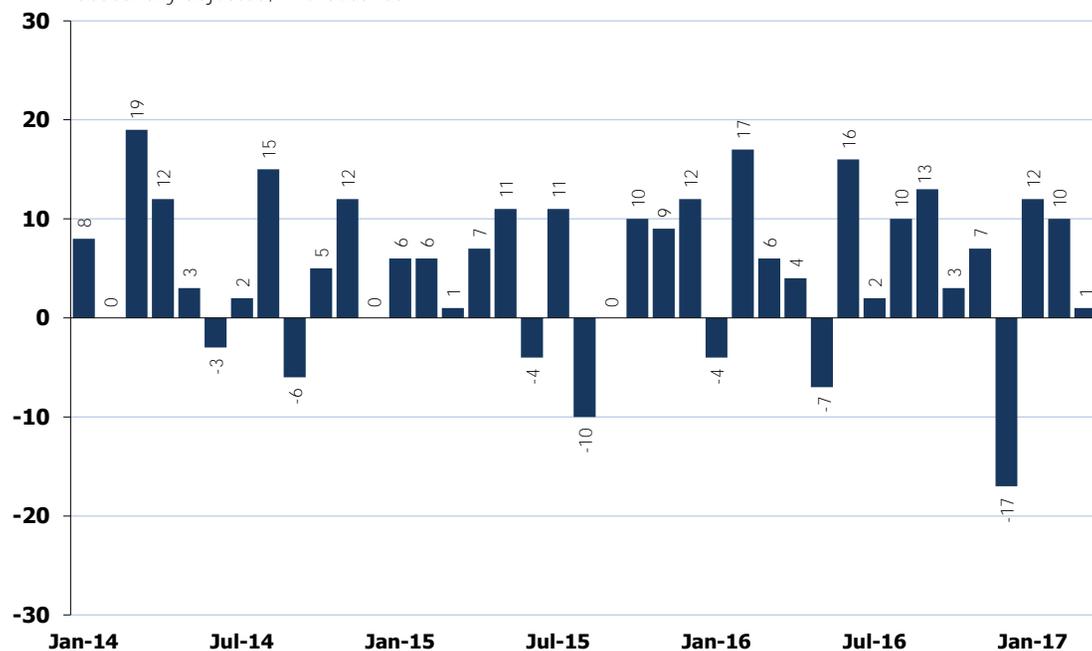
So far this year, food services and drinking places has added an average of 20,000 jobs per month, in line with the 2016 average monthly change (+23,000). This continued upward trend coincides with strength seen in the [Consumer Confidence Index \(CCI\)](#) in March, which reached its highest level since December 2000.

Other Services

Employment in other services

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

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



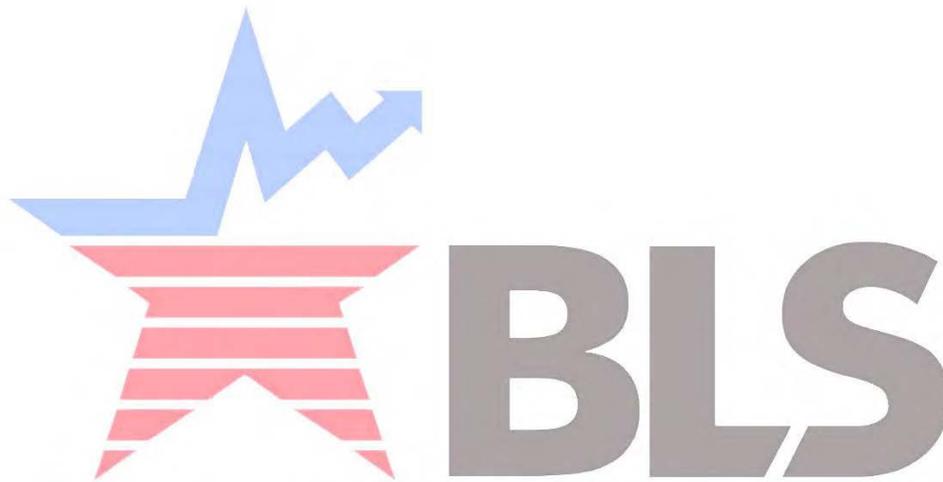
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 07, 2017.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in other services was essentially flat in March (+1,000). However, this industry has added 54,000 jobs over the year. Personal and laundry services accounted for 71 percent of the job gains during this period.

Government



Employment in government changed little in March (+9,000). Since September 2016, government employment has been essentially flat (+2,000).



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