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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



February 2018

Release Date: March 9, 2018

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 2018

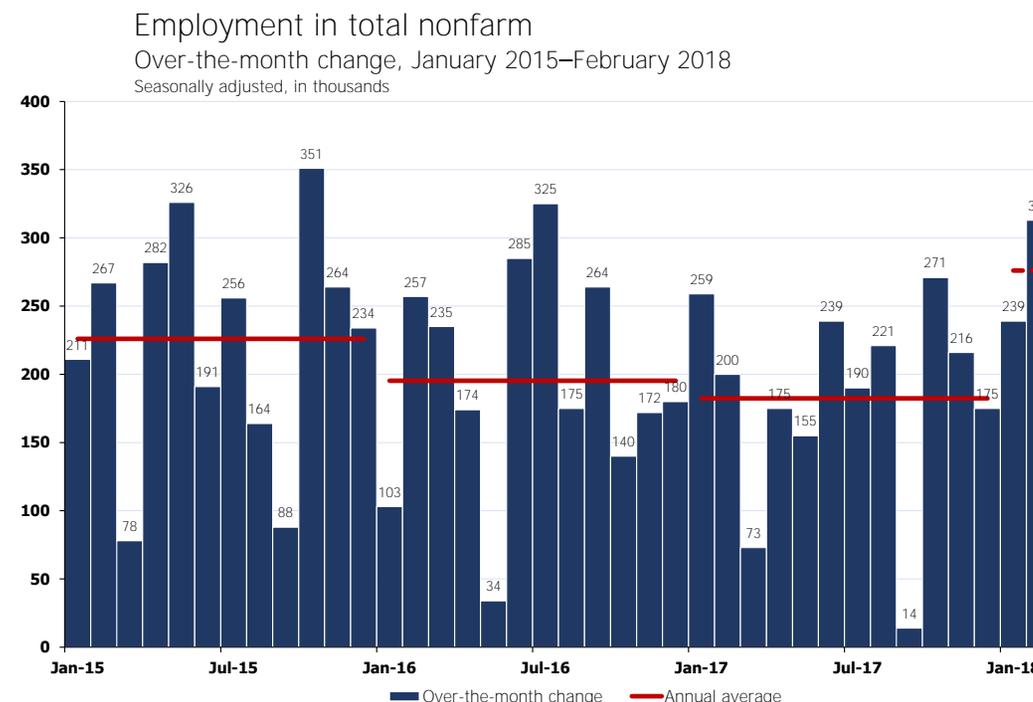
Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 313,000 in February. Job growth was widespread and included gains in construction, retail trade, professional and business services, manufacturing, financial activities, and mining.

The employment change for December revised up from +160,000 to +175,000, and the change for January revised up from +200,000 to +239,000. Incorporating revisions, job growth has averaged 242,000 per month over the past 3 months.

Average hourly earnings for all employees on private, nonfarm payrolls rose by 4 cents in February, after increasing by 7 cents in January. Hourly earnings are up 2.6 percent over the year. Average weekly hours, at 34.5 hours, rose by 0.1 hour over the month.

+61,000 Construction

Employment in construction rose by 61,000 in February, compared to an average gain of 41,000 over the prior 3 months. Over the month, construction of buildings added 16,000 jobs, while specialty trade contractors added 38,000 jobs. These gains were split about evenly between residential and nonresidential components.



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, March 09, 2018. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

+50,000 Retail Trade

In February, employment rose by 50,000 in retail trade. Building material and garden supply stores (+10,000), clothing and clothing accessories stores (+15,000), and general merchandise stores (+18,000), contributed to the job gain over the month.

+50,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment in professional and business services increased by 50,000 over the month. Over the prior 12 months, employment in the industry had increased by an average 39,000 per month.

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, February 2018

+31,000 Manufacturing

In February, employment in manufacturing rose by 31,000. Durable goods industries accounted for the increase, including job gains in primary metals (+4,000), fabricated metal products (+6,000), machinery (+6,000), and transportation equipment (+8,000). Over the past 12 months, manufacturing has added 224,000 jobs.

+28,000 Financial Activities

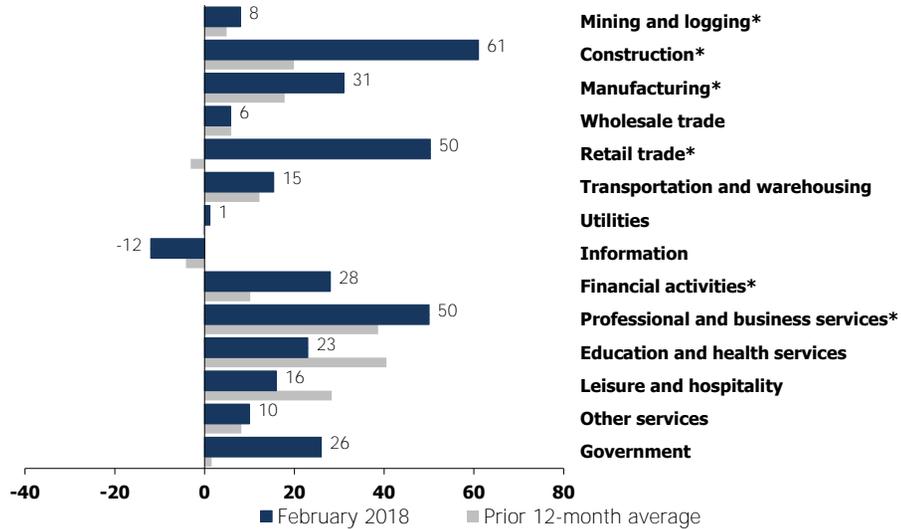
Within financial activities, employment rose in credit intermediation (+8,000), securities, commodity contracts and investments (+5,000), and insurance carriers and related activities (+8,000). Over the past 12 months, financial activities has added 143,000 jobs.

+8,000 Mining and Logging

Employment in mining rose by 9,000 in February, with most of the job gains coming in support activities for mining (+7,000). Since reaching an employment low in October 2016, mining has added 69,000 jobs.

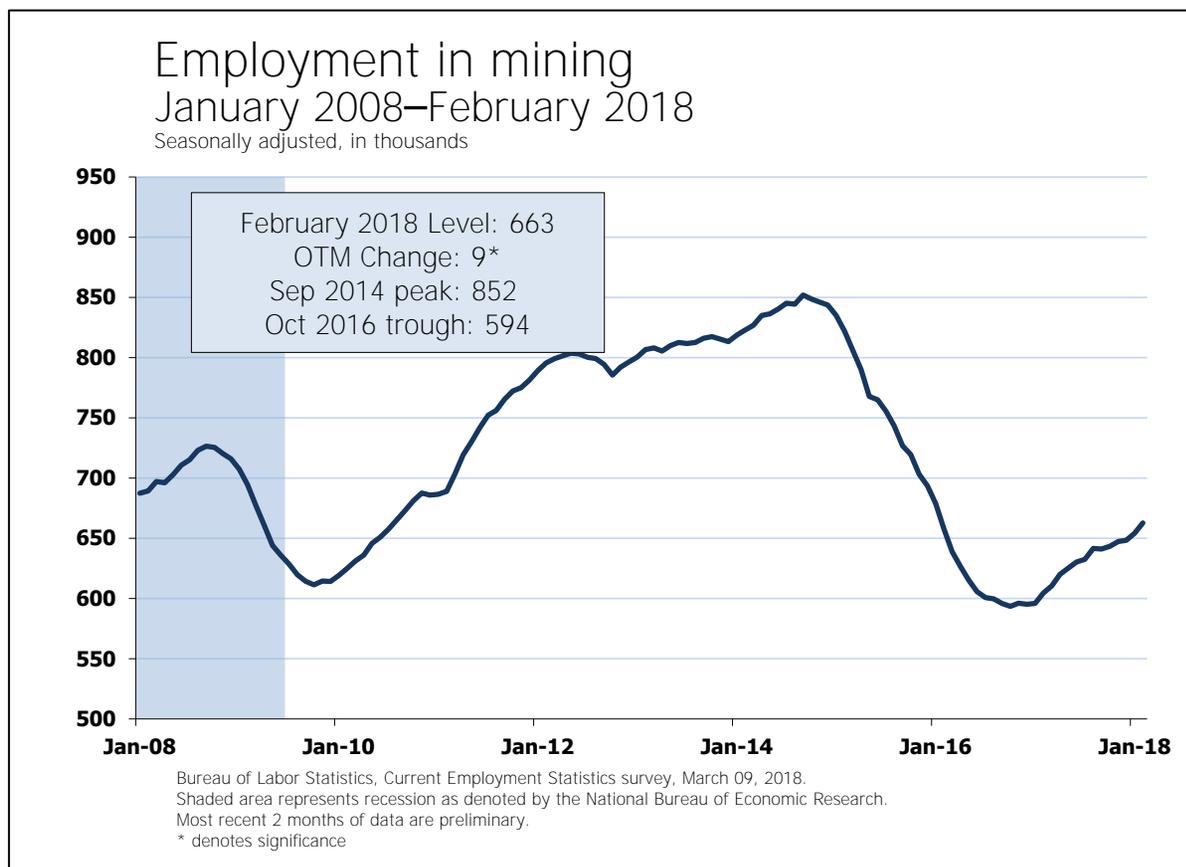
Employment in total nonfarm
Over-the-month change, February 2018
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:
313*



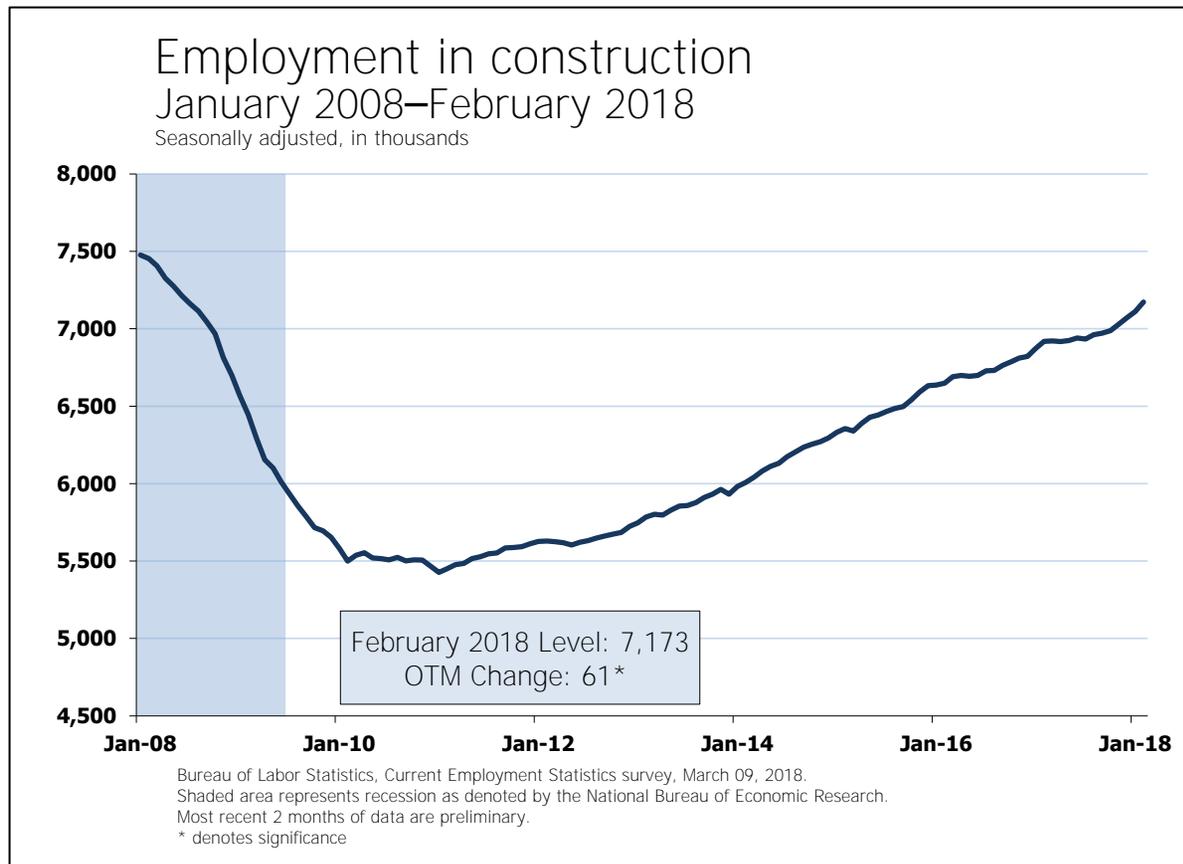
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 09, 2018.
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

Mining and Logging



Employment in mining grew by 9,000 in February. Support activities for mining had a contribution of 7,000 jobs. The gains are consistent with a 3.8-percent increase in domestic [oil rigs](#), although the price of [West Texas Intermediate oil](#) fell 7.5 percent to \$59.41 per barrel.

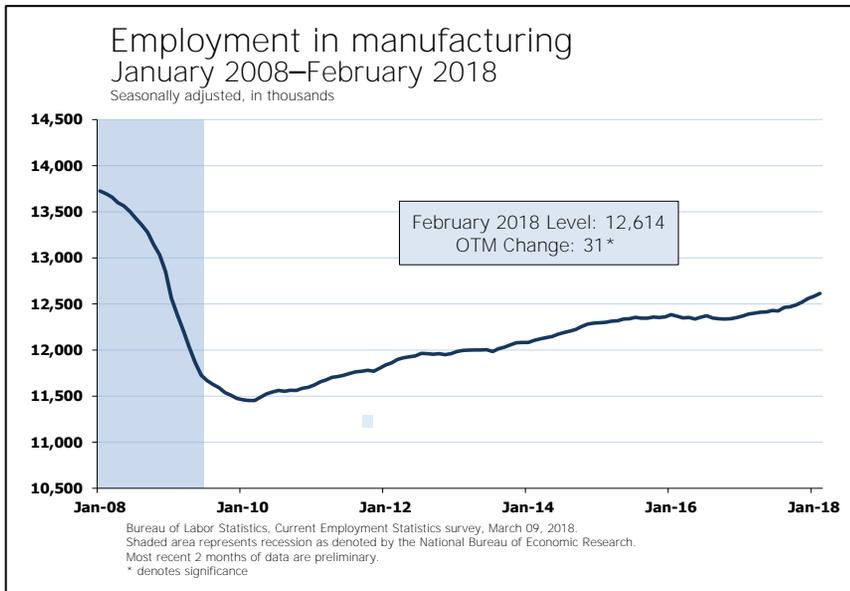
Construction



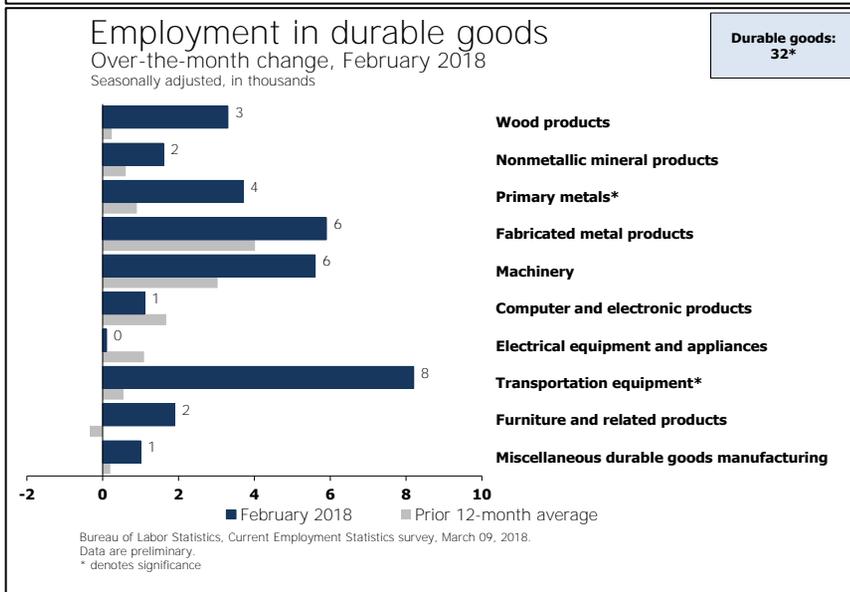
Construction employment rose by 61,000 in February. The gain was led by specialty trade contractors, which added 38,000 jobs, equally split between non-residential and residential specialty trade contractors.

Construction of buildings added 16,000 jobs in February, which were also about equally split between residential and nonresidential components.

Manufacturing

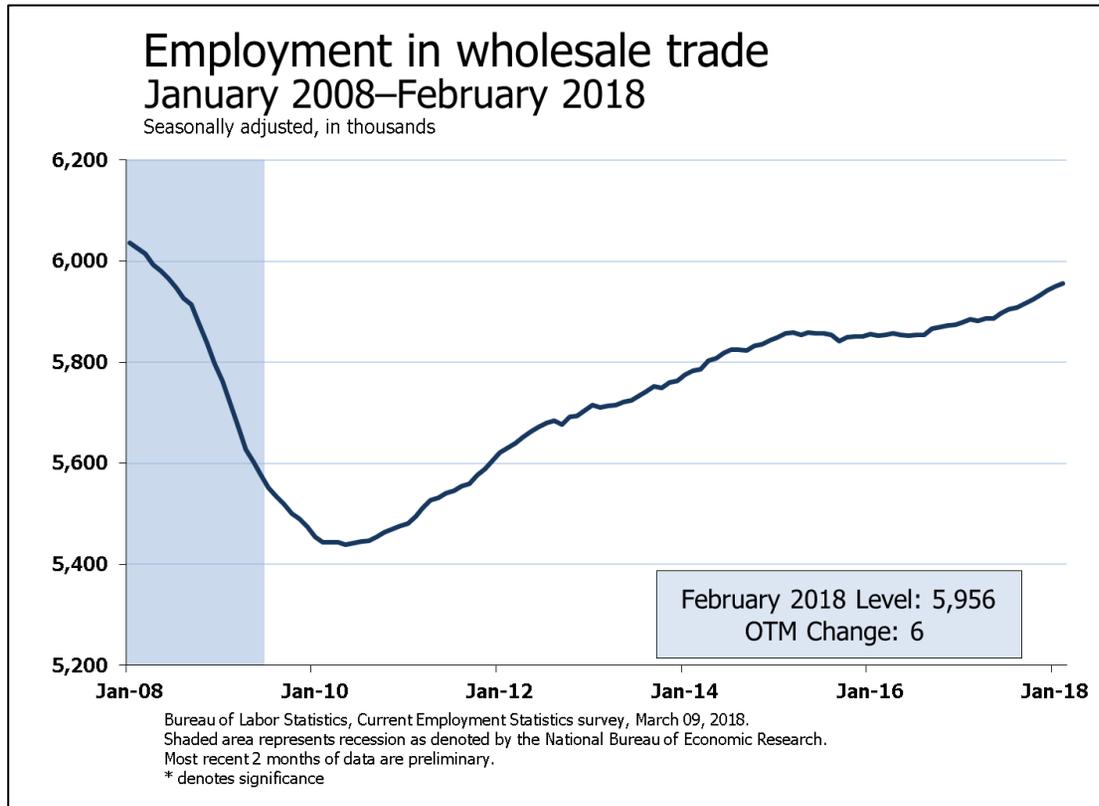


Manufacturing experienced another strong month of job gains in February (+31,000). Durable goods accounted for all of this change. The manufacturing diffusion index rose by 9.9 points over the month, to 69.1, indicating widespread employment gains (an index above 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than losing them).



Employment in durable goods manufacturing increased by 32,000 in February. Among the component industries, transportation equipment (+8,000) and primary metals (+6,000) added jobs. Employment in fabricated metal products (+6,000) and machinery (+6,000) continued to trend up. Most other component industries beat their prior 12-month average trends.

Wholesale Trade



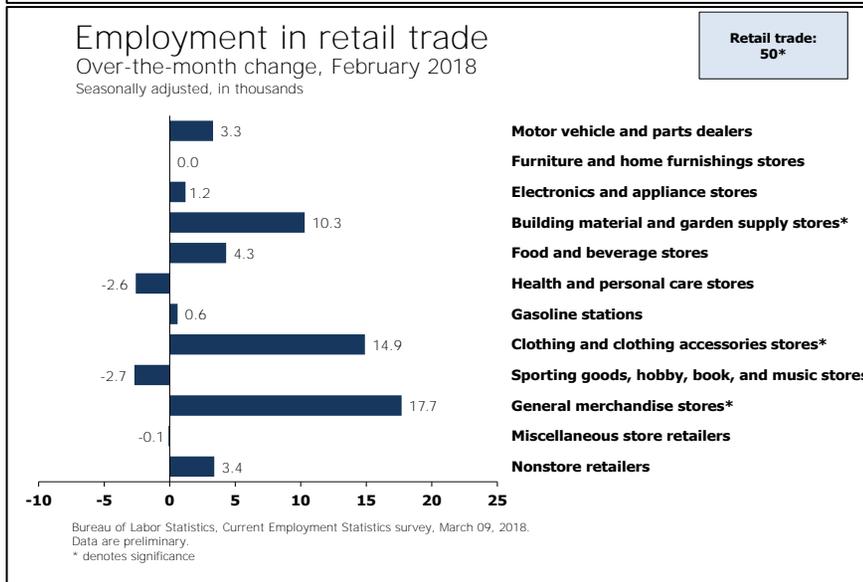
Employment in wholesale trade changed little in February (+6,000). Over the most recent 6 months, the industry has added 48,000 jobs, nearly 90 percent of which were added in durable goods (+42,000). This growth has coincided with employment gains in durable goods manufacturing over the same time span.

Retail Trade

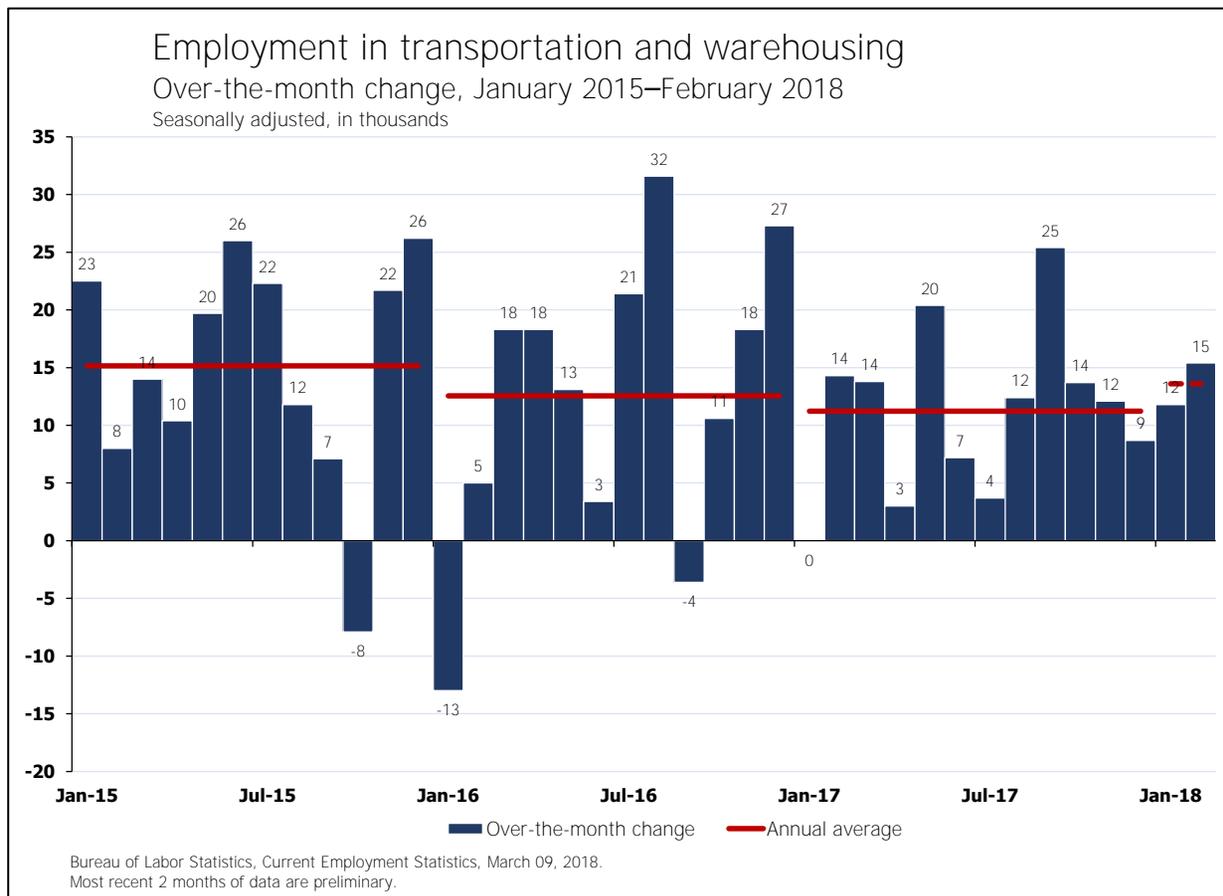


In February, employment in retail trade increased by 50,000. Employment rose in general merchandise stores (+18,000) and in clothing and clothing accessories stores (+15,000). These industries hired fewer seasonal workers than usual for the holidays (on a not seasonally adjusted basis) and have not laid off as many worker as usual after the holidays, resulting in the seasonally adjusted job gains in February. However, over the past 4 months, when most seasonal hiring and layoffs typically occur, employment in these industries has shown little net change.

Building materials and garden supply stores continued to add jobs in February (+10,000) and over the past year (+49,000).

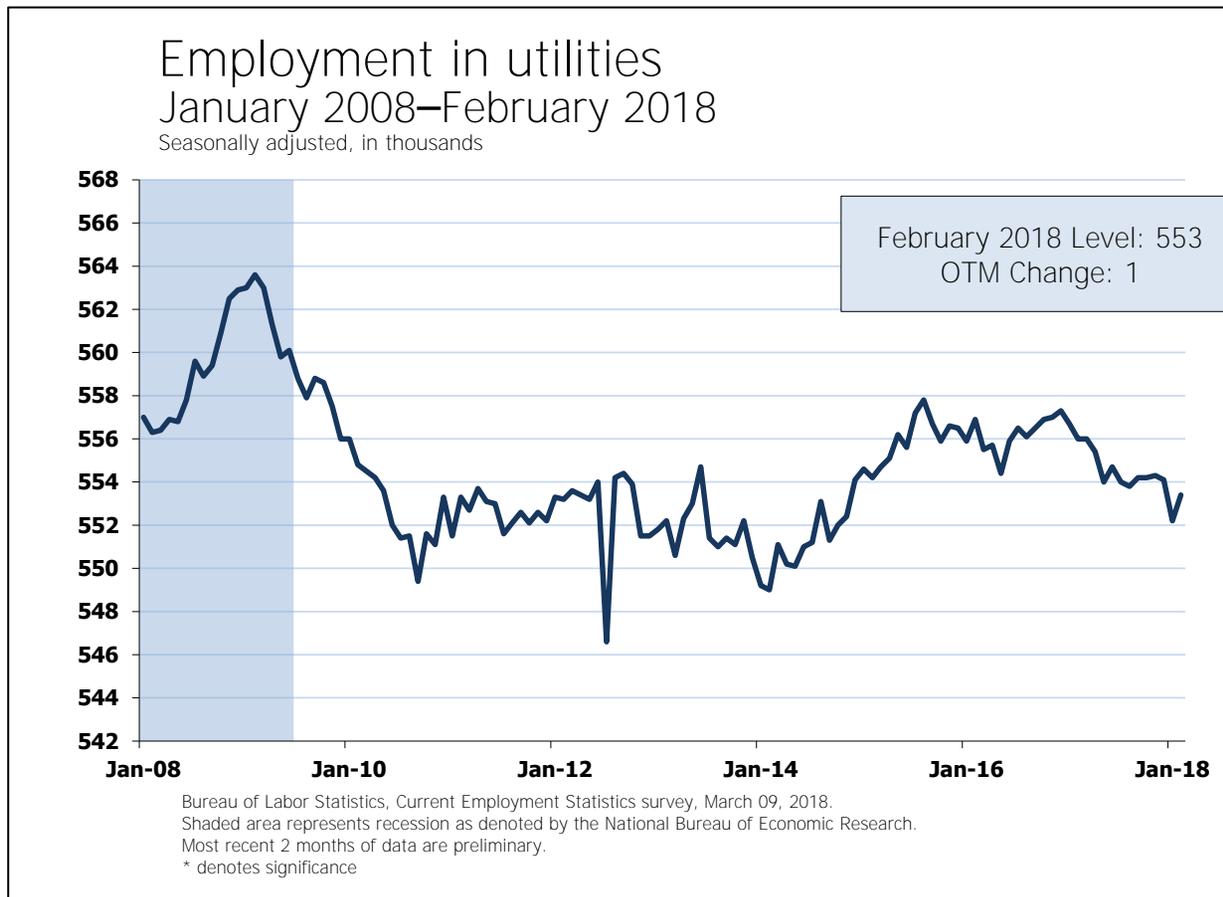


Transportation and Warehousing



Employment in transportation continued to trend up in February (+15,000). This over-the-month change is in line with a well-established trend of steady gains for the industry. Over the year, transportation and warehousing has added 148,000 jobs, or 2.9 percent.

Utilities



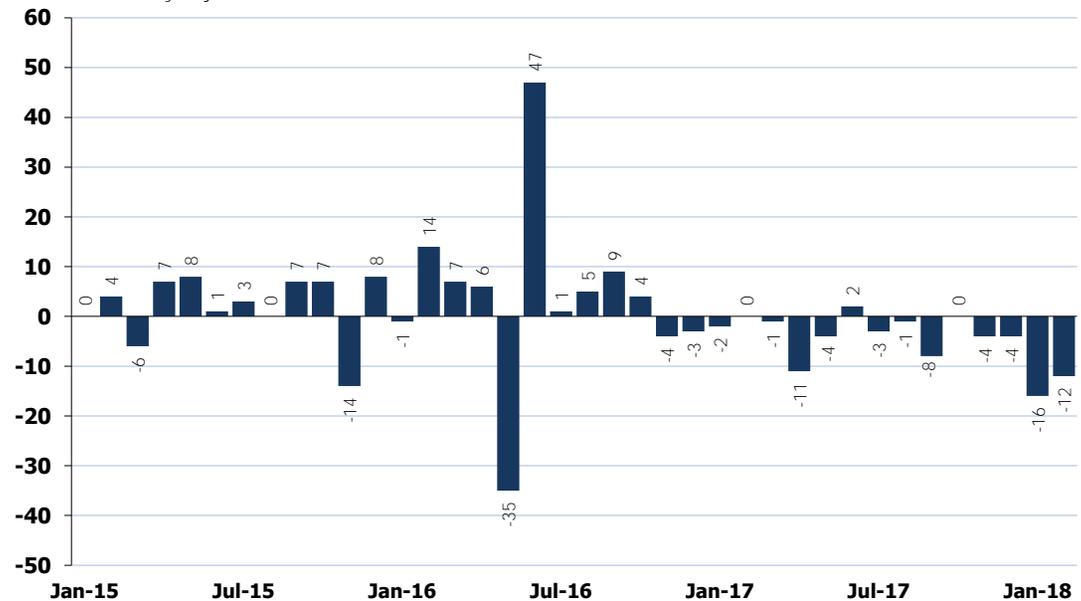
In February, employment in utilities changed little (+1,000). Employment in the industry is 4,000 lower than a peak reached in December 2016.

Information

Employment in information

Over-the-month change, January 2015–February 2018

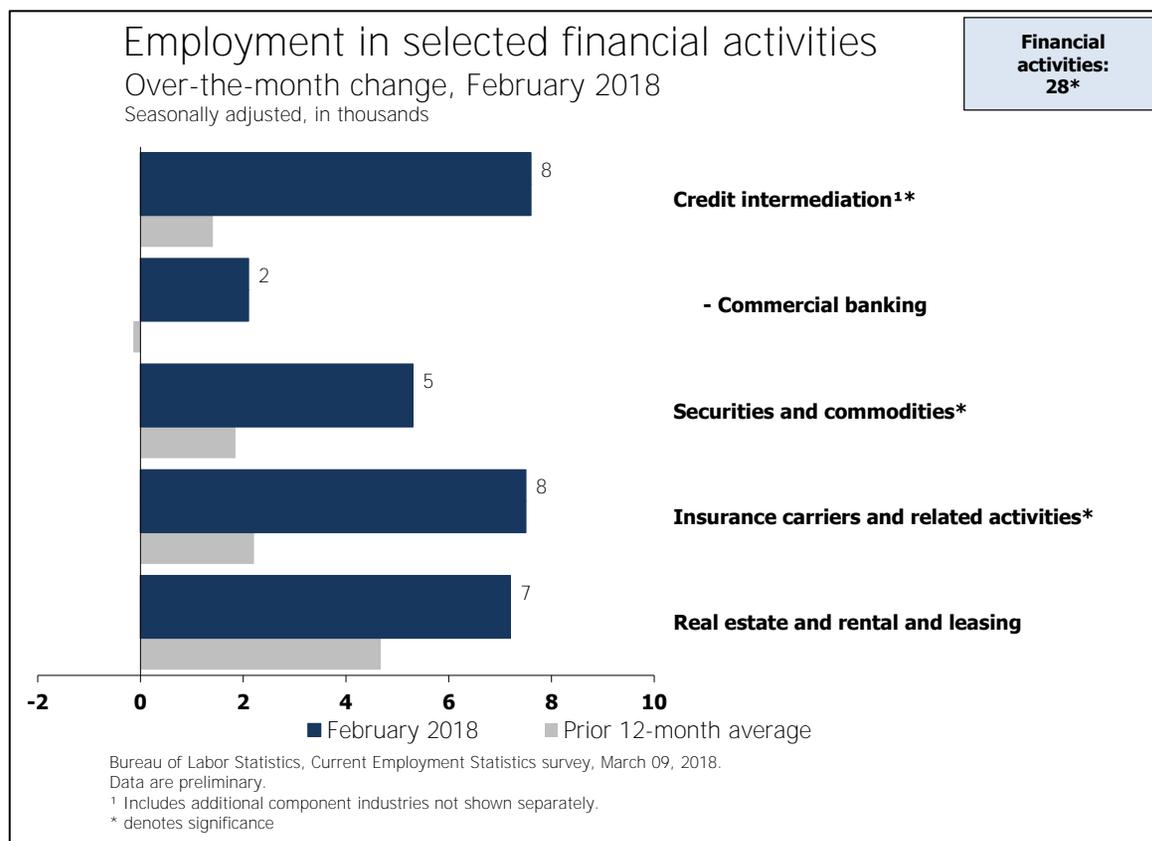
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 09, 2018.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in information continued its downward trend in February (-12,000), driven by weakness in motion pictures and sound recording industries. Over the year, information has lost 62,000 jobs, with telecommunications accounting for half of the losses.

Financial Activities

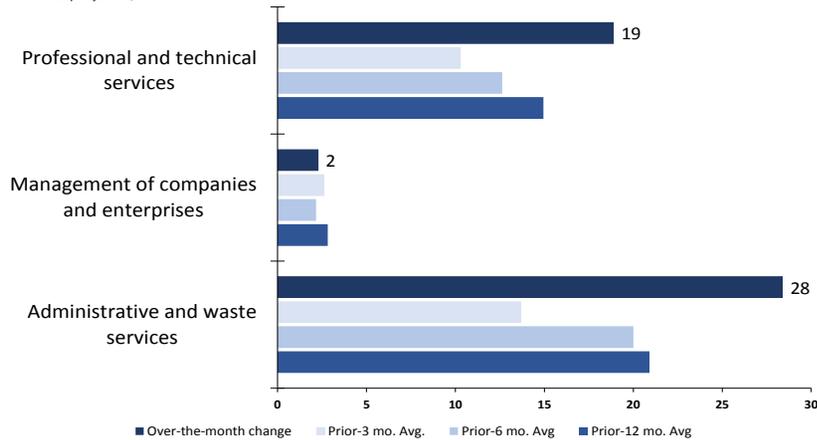


Employment in financial activities increased by 28,000 in February. This 1-month gain is the industry's largest since January 2017 and is stronger than the average monthly gain of 10,000 for the prior 12-month period.

February's employment increase was widespread. Most major component industries saw job gains that far exceeded their average monthly change over the prior 12-month period.

Professional and Business Services

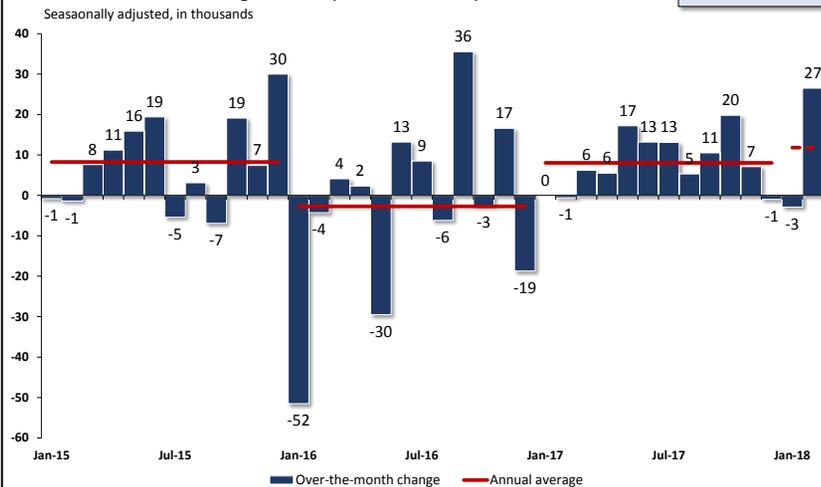
Employment in Professional and business services component industries
Over-the-month change and prior averages, February 2018
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 09, 2018
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

Professional and business services added 50,000 jobs in February, above the industry's prior-12 month average change. Employment movements in professional and technical services (+19,000) and administrative and waste services (+28,000) also came in above their respective prior 12-month averages. Within administrative and waste services, temporary help services employment edged up in February (+27,000).

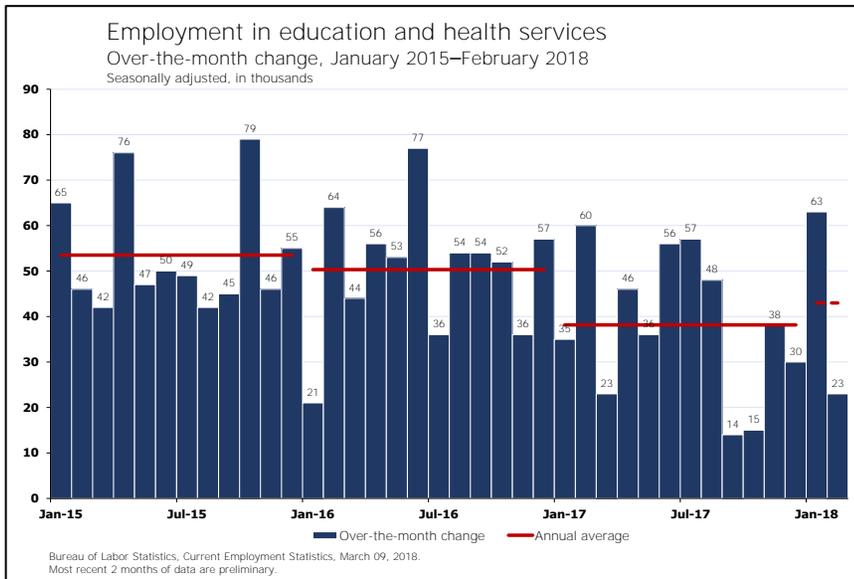
Employment in Temporary help services
Over-the-month change, January 2015–February 2018
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 09, 2018
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

Feb-18: 27

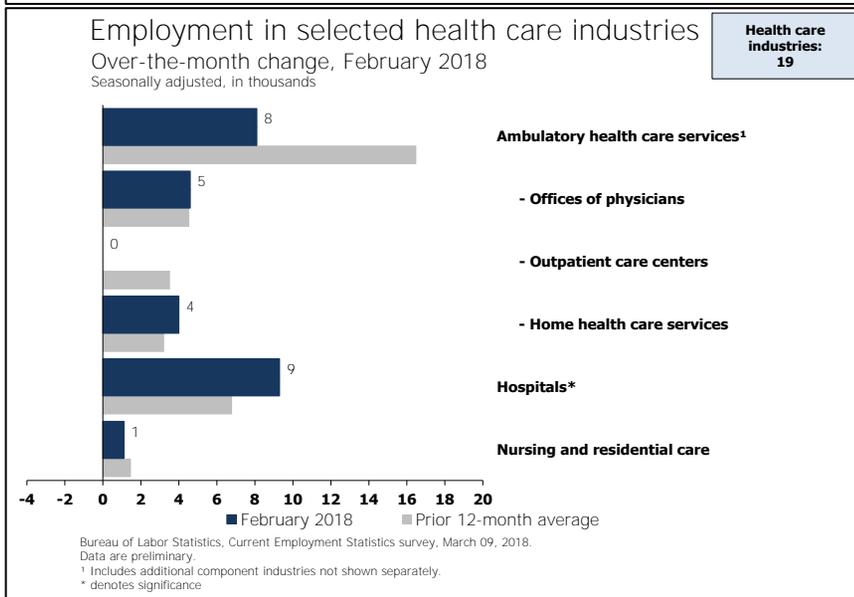
Private Education and Health Services



Employment in private education and health services continued to trend up in February (+23,000). Health care employment continued to trend up (+19,000), mostly in ambulatory health care services and hospitals. Over the past year, private education and health services has added 449,000 jobs, or an average 37,000 per month.

In February, hospitals added 9,000 jobs, accounting for roughly half of the increase in health care employment. Hospitals have added 33,000 jobs over the last 3 months.

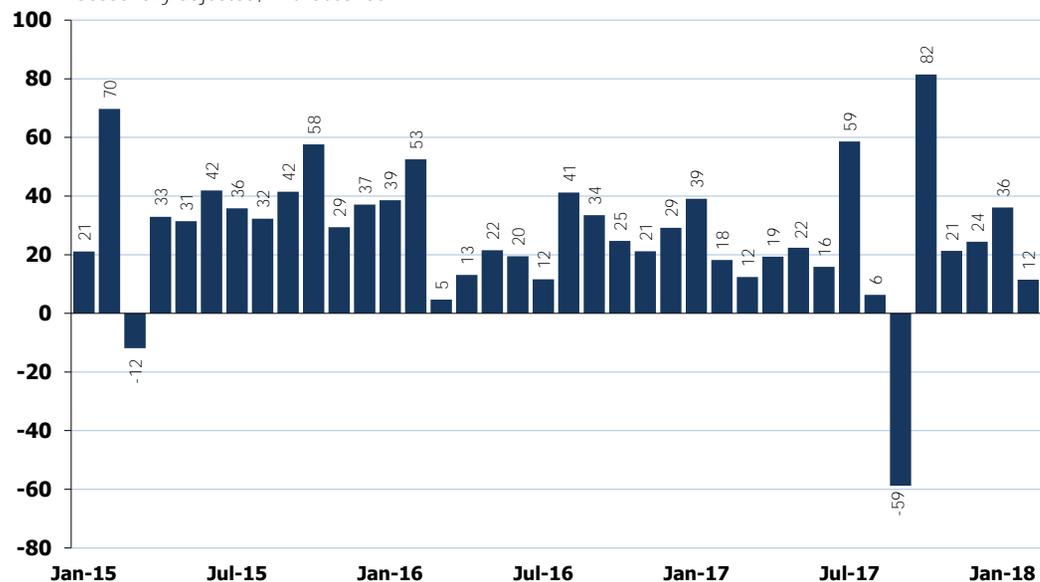
Employment in ambulatory health care services continued to trend up in February (+8,000), led by offices of physicians (+5,000) and home health care services (+4,000). Employment in outpatient care services was flat.



Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in food services and drinking places Over-the-month change, January 2015–February 2018

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



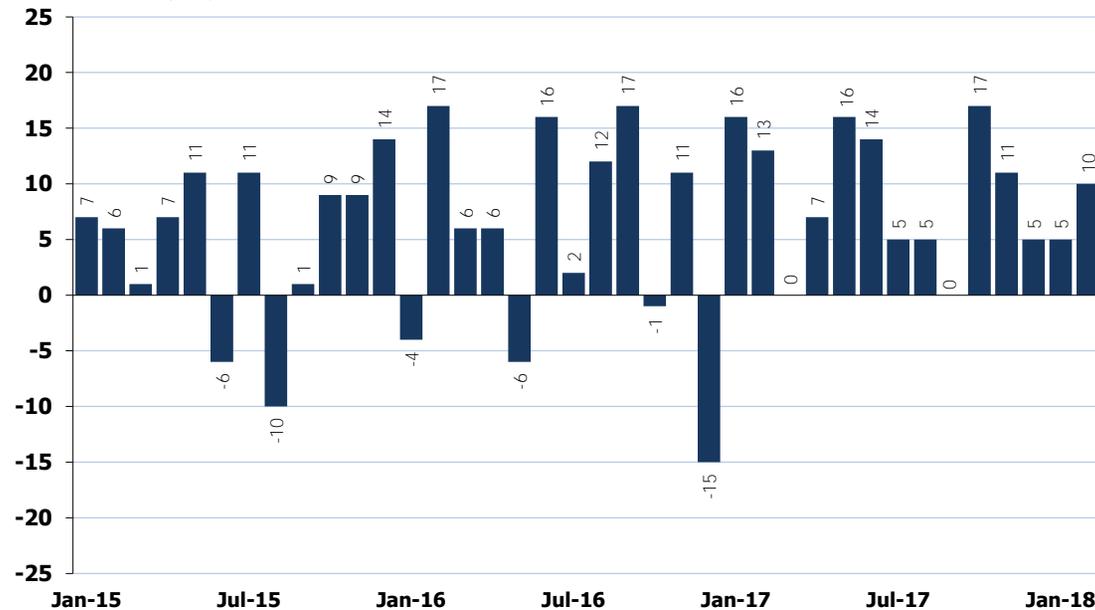
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 09, 2018.
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Employment in food services and drinking places changed little in February (+12,000). Over the prior 3 months, this industry had added an average 27,000 jobs per month.

Other Services

Employment in other services

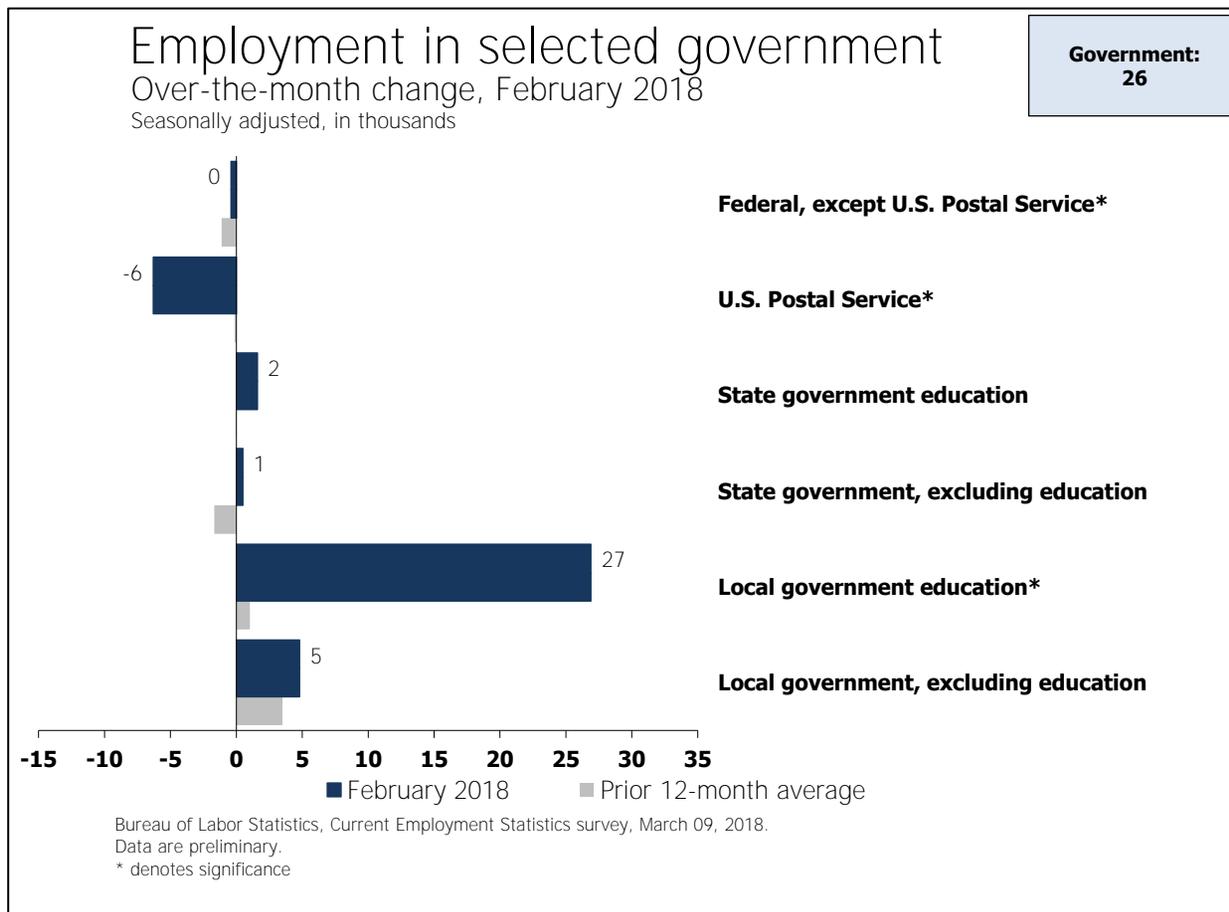
Over-the-month change, January 2015–February 2018
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 09, 2018.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in other services changed little in February (+10,000). Over the most recent 12 months, however, the industry has added 95,000 jobs, a change of 1.7 percent. Personal and laundry services accounted for 49 percent of the jobs gained over this period.

Government



Employment in government increased by 26,000 jobs in February, almost entirely due to an increase of 27,000 jobs in local government education. The job increase in local education comes after a weaker than average January (-16,000). Taken together, January and February show an average change of 6,000, roughly in line with the monthly average change in 2017 (+2,000).

U. S. Postal Service employment decreased by 6,000 in February, its largest 1-month decline since January 2016 (-9,000).



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