

## Contents

---

[Summary](#)

[Mining & Logging](#)

[Construction](#)

[Manufacturing](#)

[Wholesale Trade](#)

[Retail Trade](#)

[Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities](#)

[Information](#)

[Financial Activities](#)

[Professional & Business Services](#)

[Private Education & Health Services](#)

[Leisure & Hospitality](#)

[Other Services](#)

[Government](#)

---

# Current Employment Statistics Highlights



**August 2019**

Release Date: September 6, 2019

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

202-691-6555

[Email CES](#)

## Current Employment Statistics Summary, August 2019

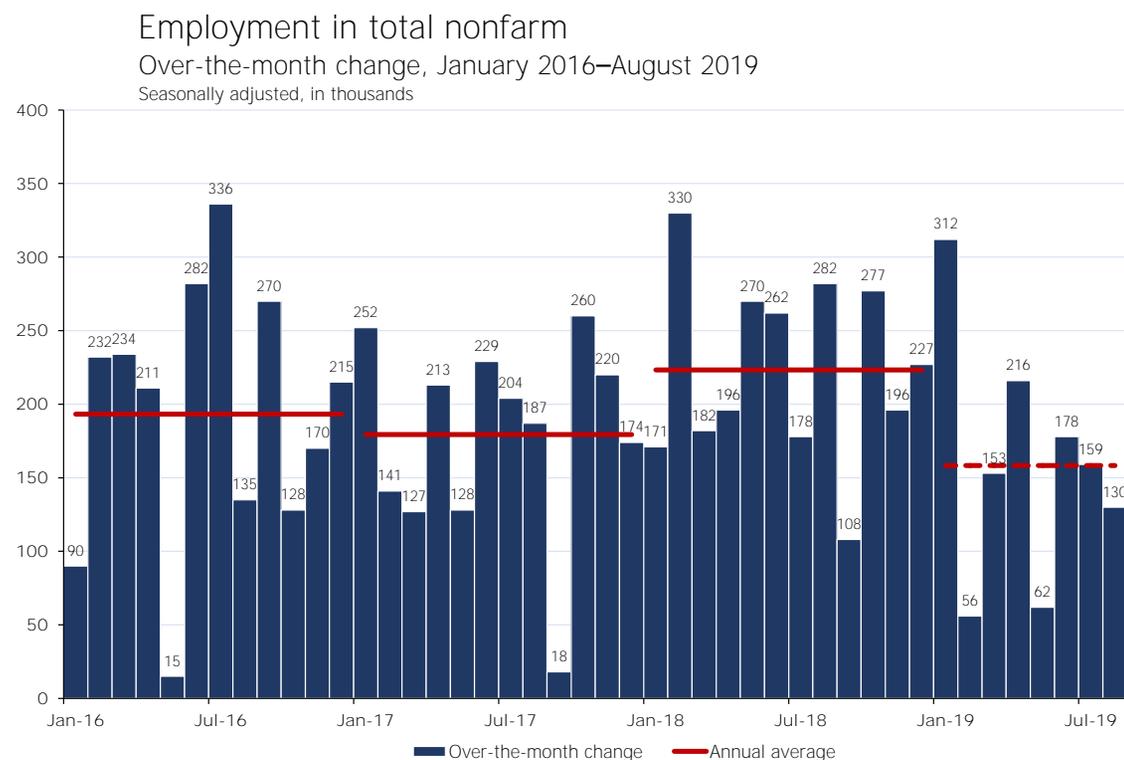
Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 130,000 in August. Federal government, health care and financial activities added jobs over the month, while mining lost jobs. Year to date, job growth has averaged 158,000 per month, down from 223,000 per month in 2018.

The employment change for June revised down from +193,000 to +178,000, and the change for July also revised down from +164,000 to +159,000. On net, employment over June and July is 20,000 lower than previously reported.

In August, average hourly earnings of all private-sector employees increased by 11 cents, or 0.4 percent, after gains of 9 cents in both June and July. Over the year, hourly earnings have risen by 3.2 percent. Average weekly hours increased by 0.1 hour to 34.4 hours.

### +37,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in August (+37,000). Within the industry, employment rose by 10,000 each in computer systems design and related services and in management of companies and enterprises. So far this year, employment in professional



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, September 06, 2019.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

and business services has increased by an average 34,000 per month, compared to an average of 47,000 per month in 2018.

### +34,000 Government

Employment in federal government, except U.S. Postal Service, rose by 27,000 over the month. This gain resulted from the hiring of 25,000 temporary workers to prepare for the 2020 Census.

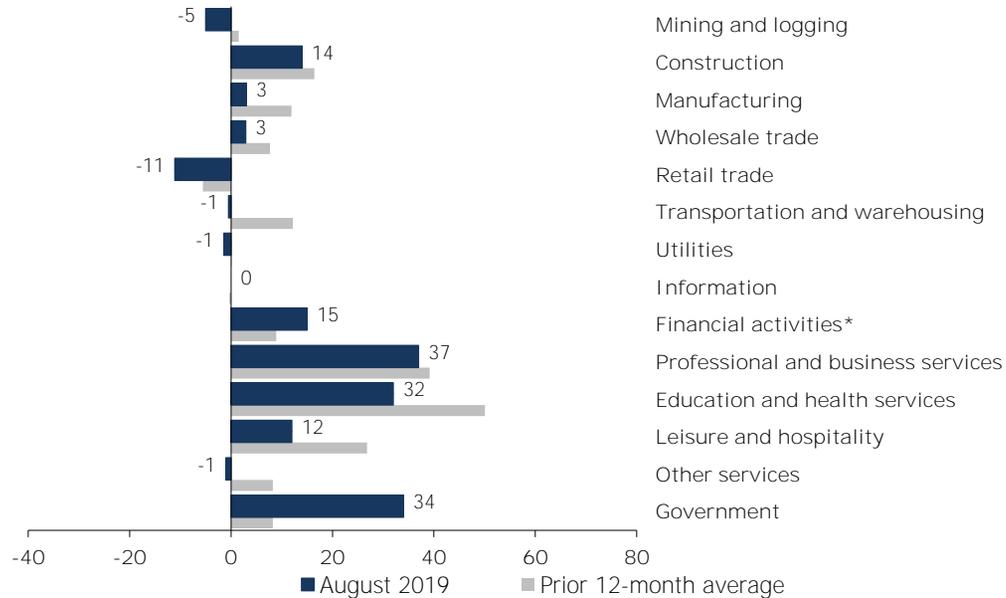
## Current Employment Statistics Summary, August 2019

Total nonfarm:  
130\*

### Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, August 2019

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 06, 2019.  
Data are preliminary.  
\* denotes significance

#### +32,000 Education and Health Services

Health care added 24,000 jobs in August. Among health care providers, employment continued to trend up in ambulatory care services (+12,000) and in hospitals (+9,000). Over the past 12 months, health care has added 392,000 jobs.

Within social assistance, employment in individual and family services rose by 17,000 in August and by 113,000 over the year.

#### +15,000 Financial Activities

Within financial activities, insurance carriers and related activities added 7,000 jobs in August.

#### +3,000 Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment changed little in August (+3,000). So far this year, employment in the industry has changed by an average +6,000 per month, compared to gains averaging +22,000 per month in 2018.

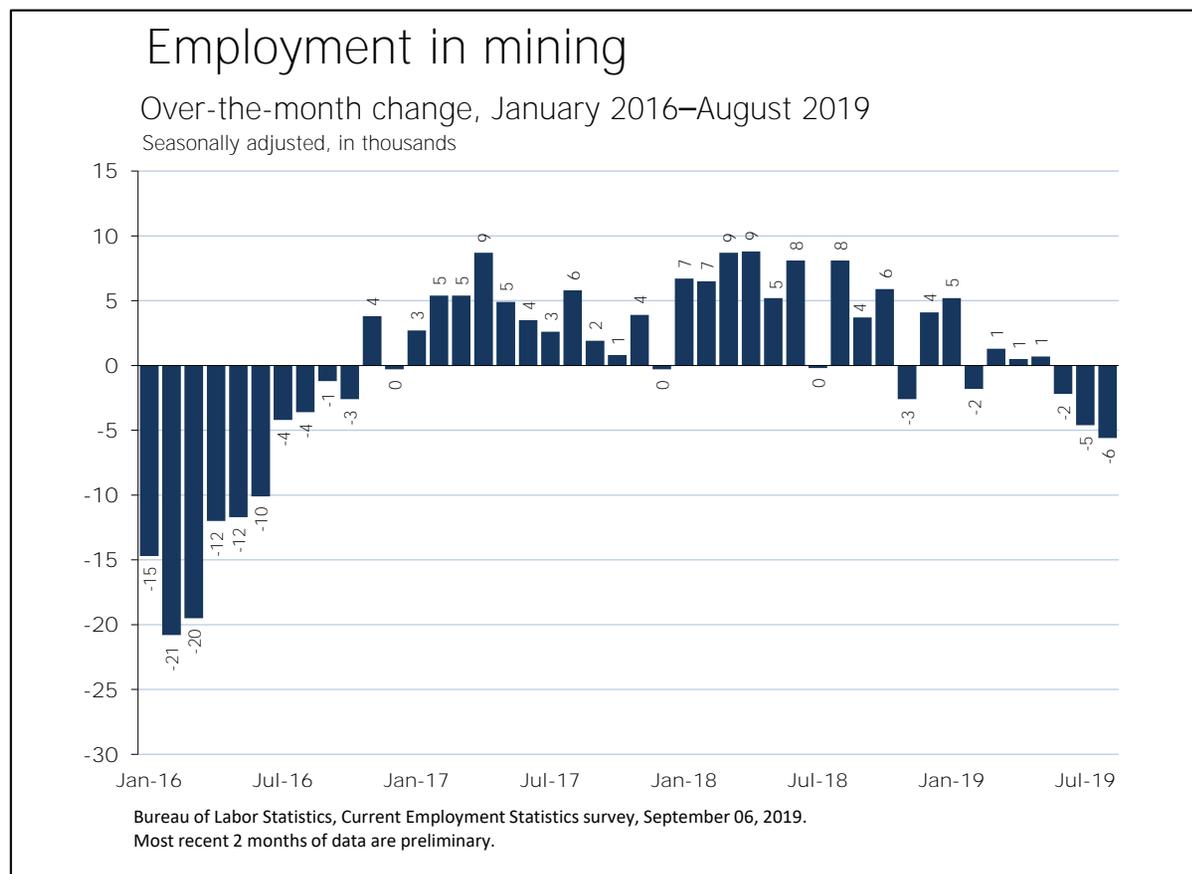
#### -5,000 Mining and Logging

Mining employment declined by 6,000 in August and has fallen by 12,000 over the past 3 months.

#### -11,000 Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade changed little in August (-11,000). So far this year, employment in the industry has fallen by 74,000.

## Mining and Logging



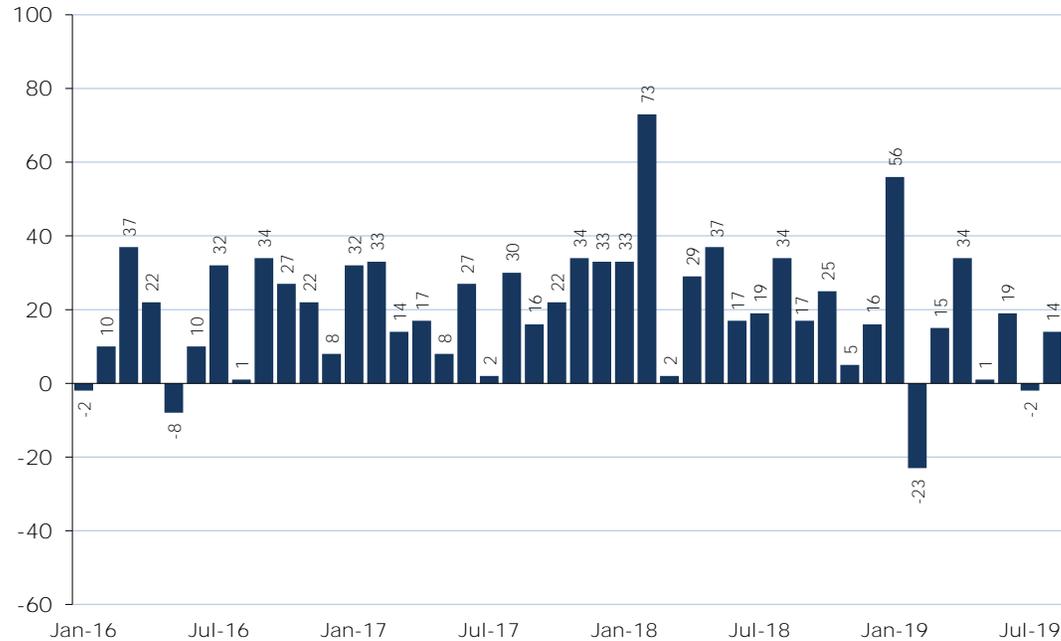
Employment in mining declined by 6,000 in August. Over the past 3 months, mining employment has declined by 12,000. Recent employment declines in mining are reflected by declining prices of [West Texas Intermediate](#) crude oil and decreases in the number of active [domestic rotary rigs](#).

## Construction

### Employment in construction

Over-the-month change, January 2016–August 2019

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



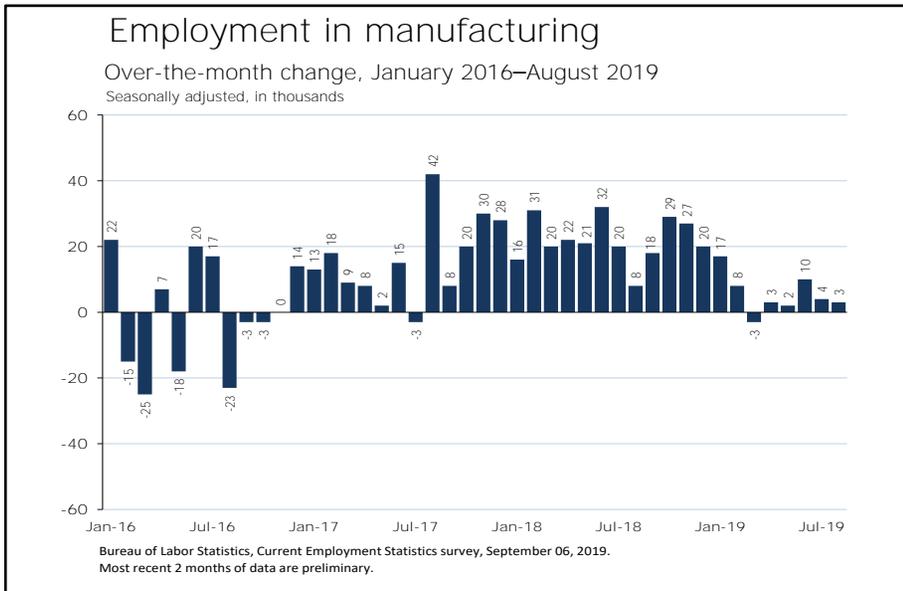
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 06, 2019.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Construction employment changed little in August (+14,000). Employment edged up in residential building (+7,000) but changed little elsewhere in construction.

Thus far in 2019, construction has added an average 14,000 jobs per month, compared to 26,000 per month in 2018.

The deceleration of trend is supported by recent weakness in [construction spending](#), [housing starts](#), and [new homes sold](#).

## Manufacturing

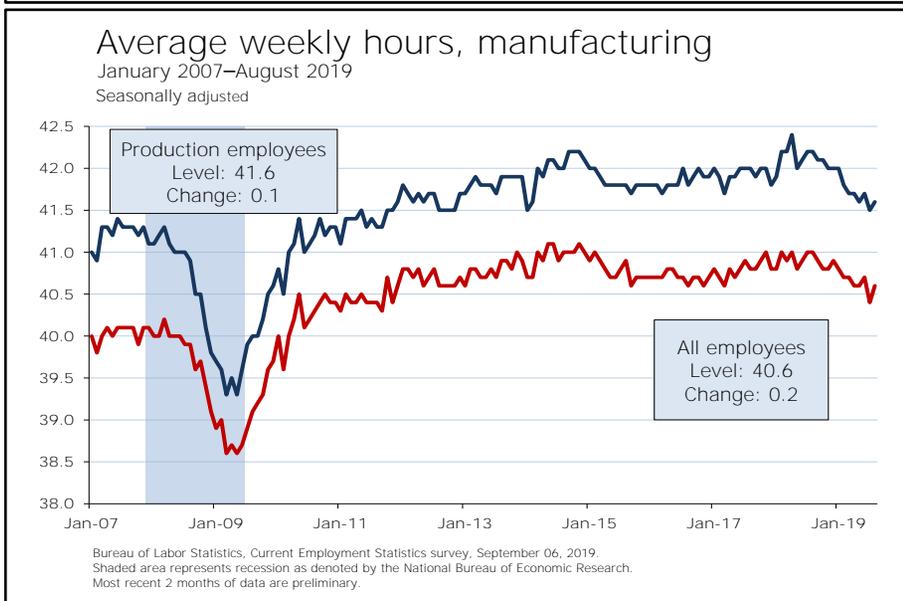


Manufacturing employment changed little in August (+3,000). The industry has added an average of 6,000 jobs per month so far in 2019, after adding an average 22,000 per month in 2018.

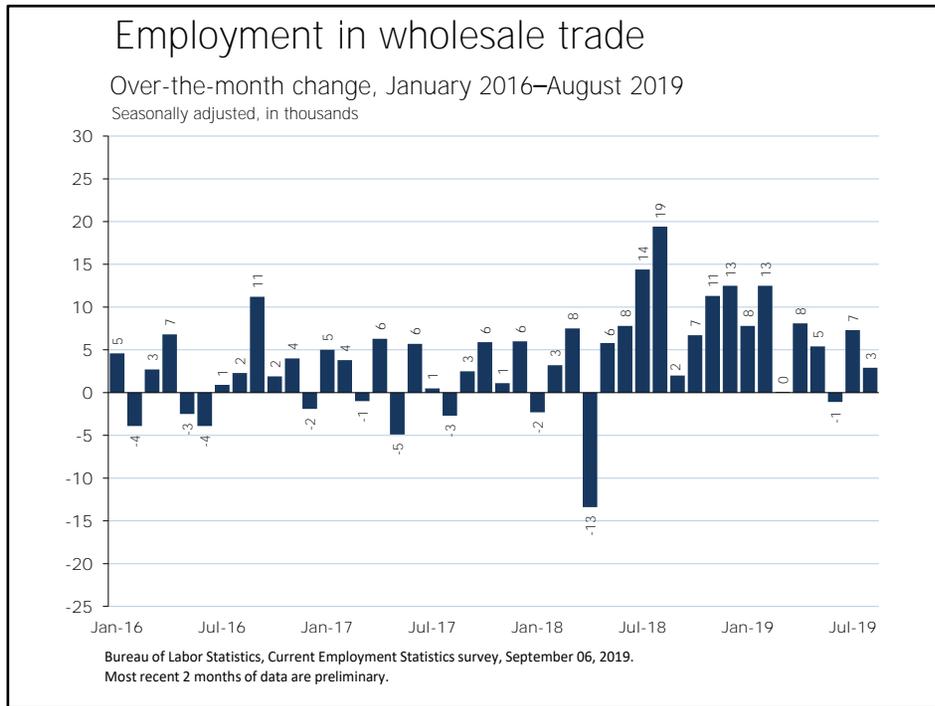
The 1-month diffusion index fell 2.6 points to 51.3 in August. A value above 50 indicates more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than are losing them.

Average weekly hours of all employees in manufacturing increased by 0.2 hour to 40.6 hours in August, partially offsetting a 0.3-hour decline in July. The average workweek of production employees ticked up by 0.1 hour to 41.6 hours in August.

The weakness in August employment coincided with a contraction in the [Institute for Supply Management's Purchasing Managers' Index](#) and followed a weak reading in [industrial production](#) in July.

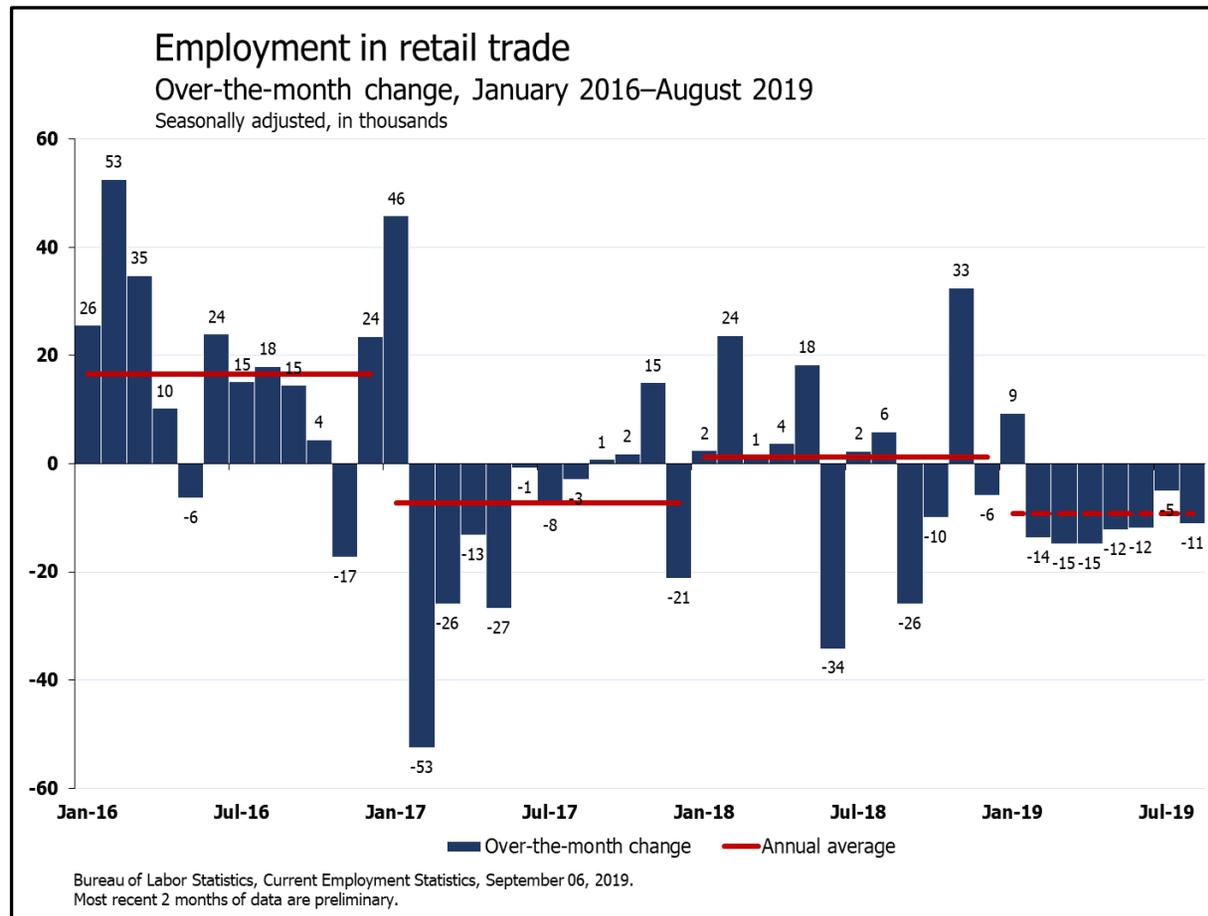


## Wholesale Trade



Employment in wholesale trade changed little in August (+3,000). Over the last year, the industry has added 76,000 jobs with durable goods accounting for about three-quarters of those gains.

## Retail Trade

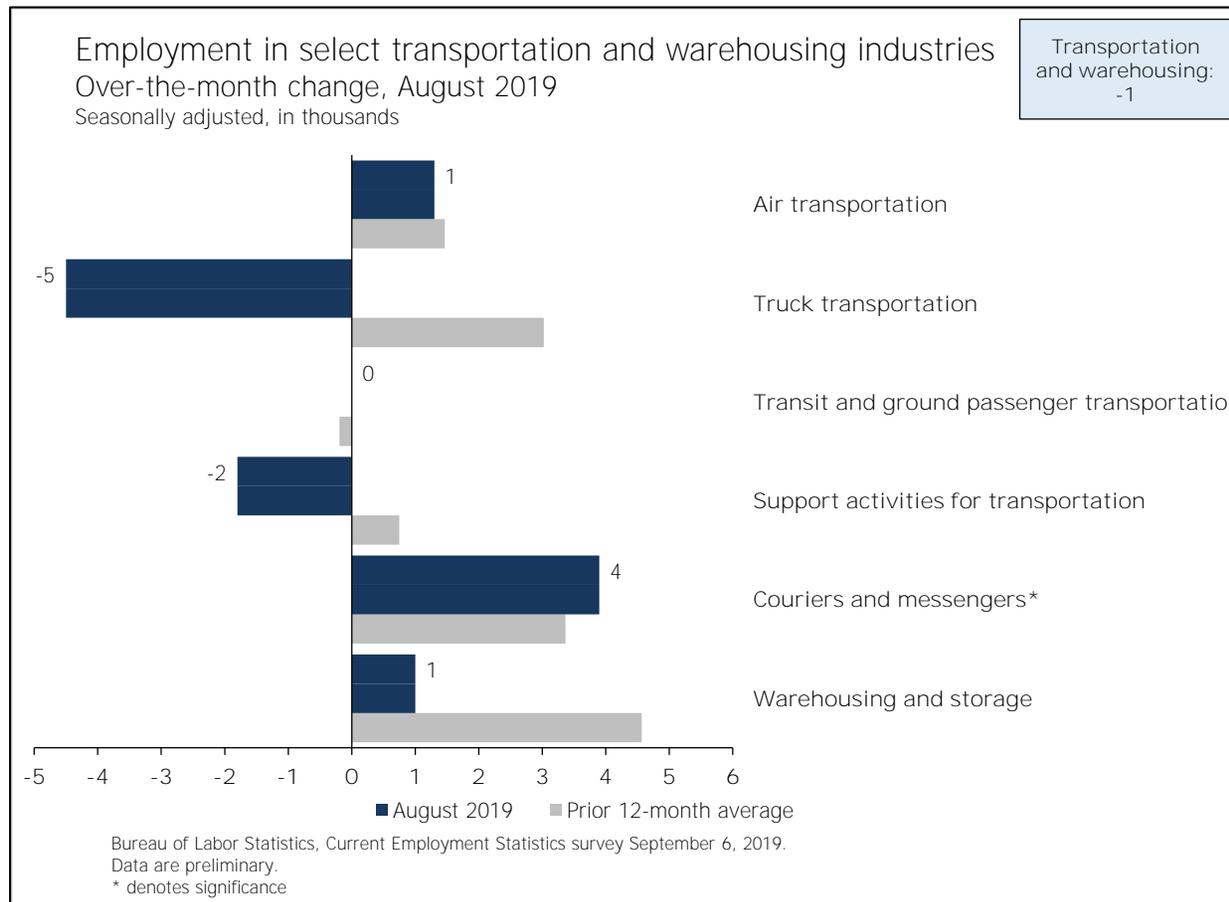


In August, retail trade employment continued to trend down (-11,000). So far this year, industry employment has declined by 74,000.

Employment declines occurred in electronics and appliance stores (-3,000) and general merchandise stores (-15,000), while over the month, employment in building material and garden supply stores increased by 9,000.

Retail-related economic indicators have been mixed. In July, [Personal Income](#) increased, and [Retail Sales](#) rose. Conversely, the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) declined in August.

## Transportation and Warehousing

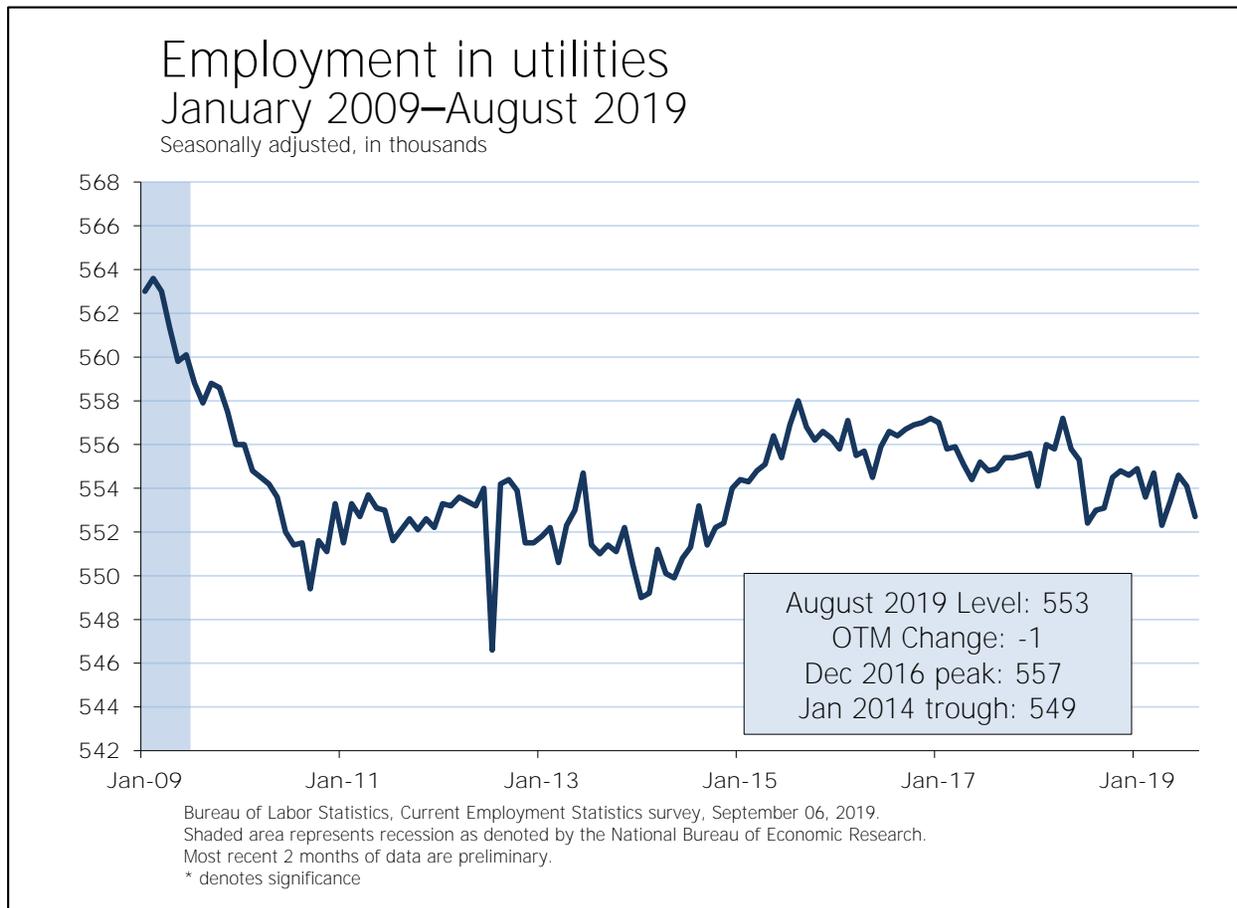


Employment in transportation and warehousing was flat in August (-1,000). Among the component industries, only couriers and messengers added jobs (+4,000).

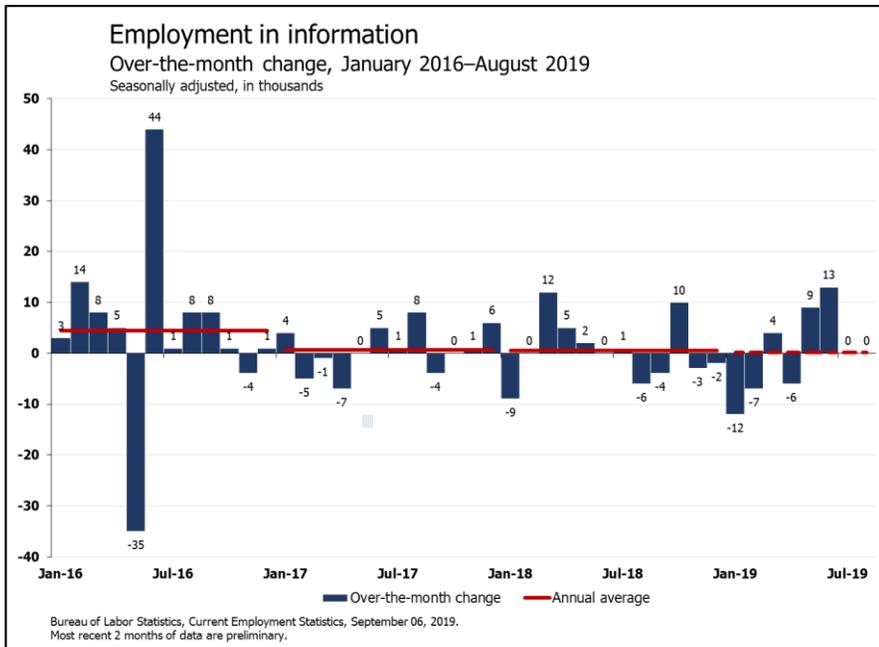
Employment growth in the industry has slowed in 2019. So far this year, over-the-month employment gains have averaged +7,000, compared to +18,000 in 2018. According to the [Cass Freight Index Report](#) for July 2019, the volume of shipments has decreased, on a year-over-year basis, for 8 consecutive months, coinciding with the employment weakness in 2019.

## Utilities

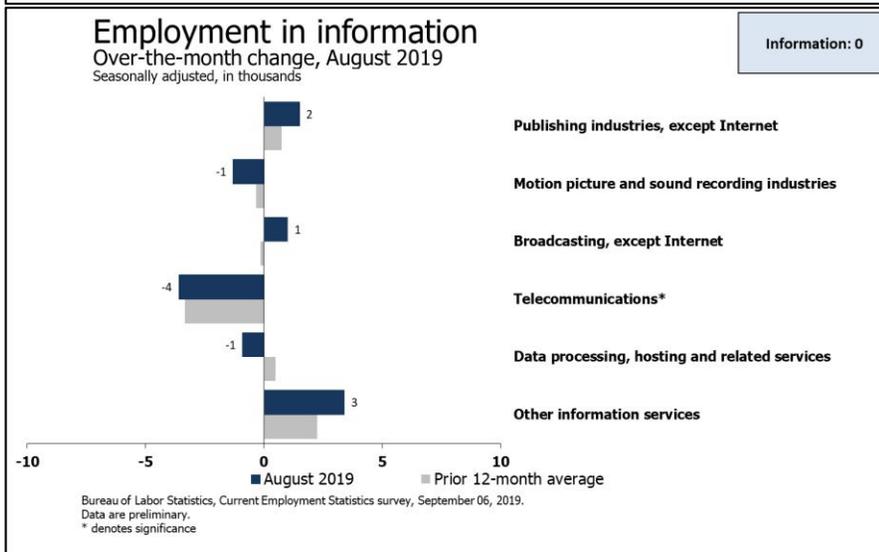
Employment in utilities edged down from July to August (-1,000) but has shown little net change thus far in 2019.



### Information



Information employment was flat in August, in line with the average monthly change so far in 2019. The industry has not seen a significant over-the-month change in employment since June 2016, following a [strike](#).

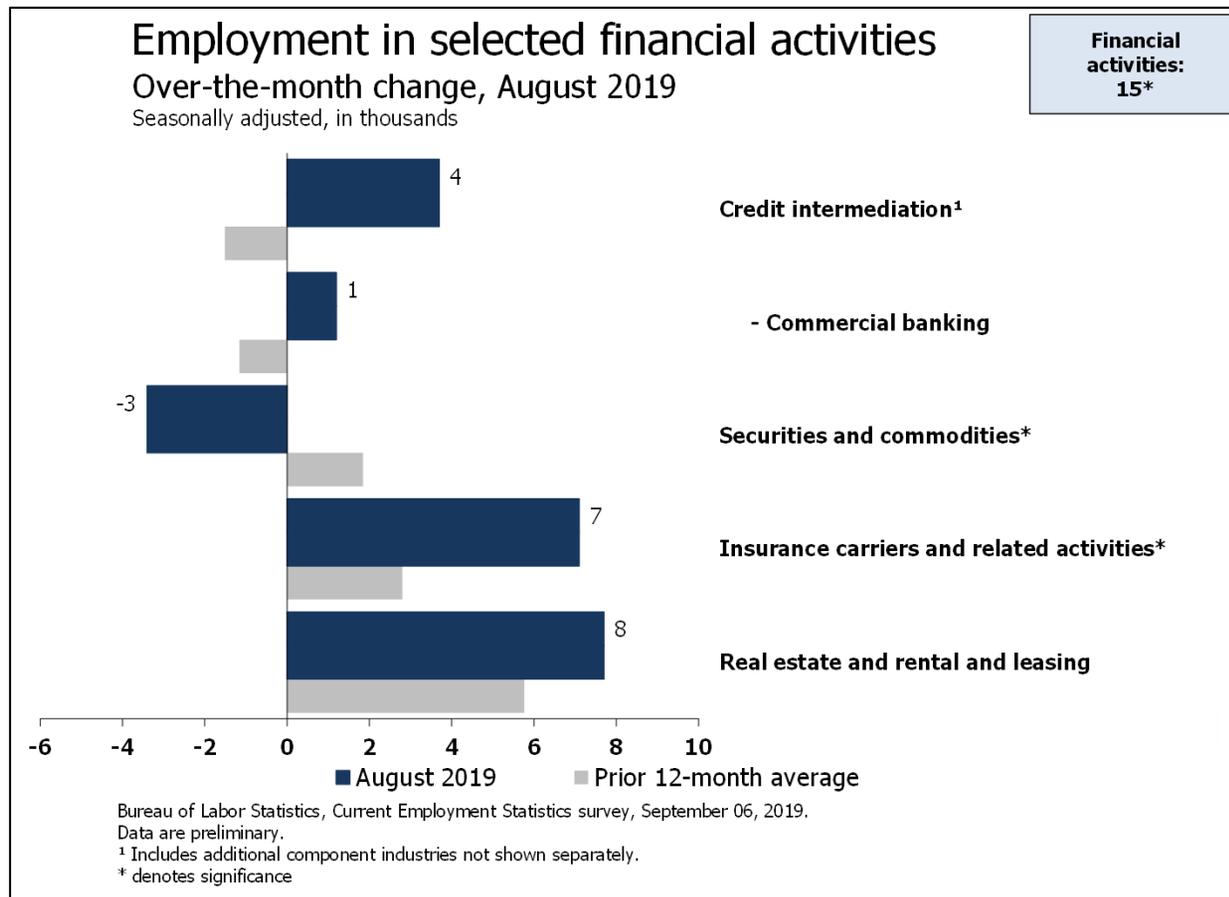


Among the component industries, telecommunications lost 4,000 jobs while employment in other information services continued to trend up (+3,000). Other information services—which includes, but is not limited to, news syndicates, libraries and archives, and internet publishing and broadcasting and web search portals—has added 9,000 jobs over the past 3 months.

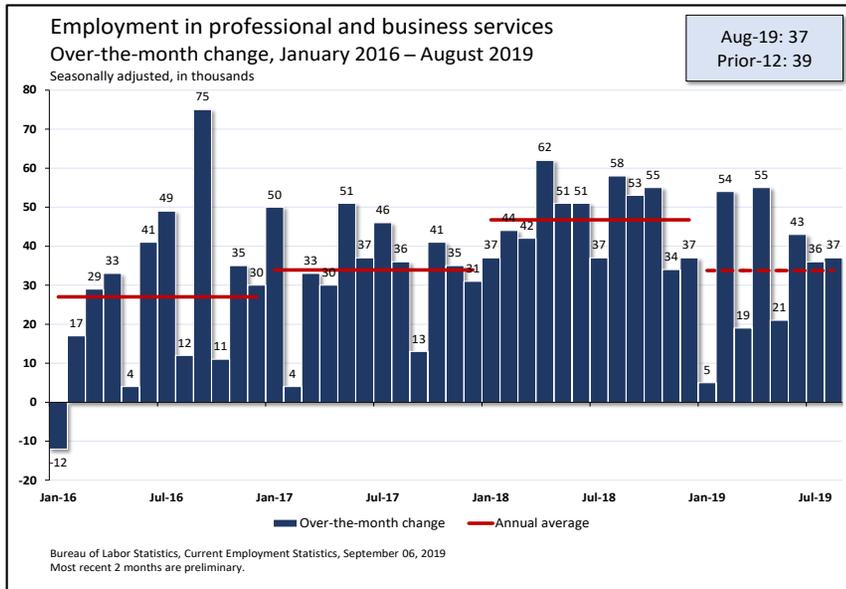
## Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities increased by 15,000 in August. Over the most recent 12 months, the industry added 111,000 jobs. Within the industry, insurance carriers and related activities added 7,000 jobs in August. This gain was partially offset by a decline of 3,000 jobs in securities and commodities.

Employment in real estate and rental and leasing edged up in August (+8,000). Recent strength in real estate coincides with declines in the [average 30-year fixed mortgage rate](#).



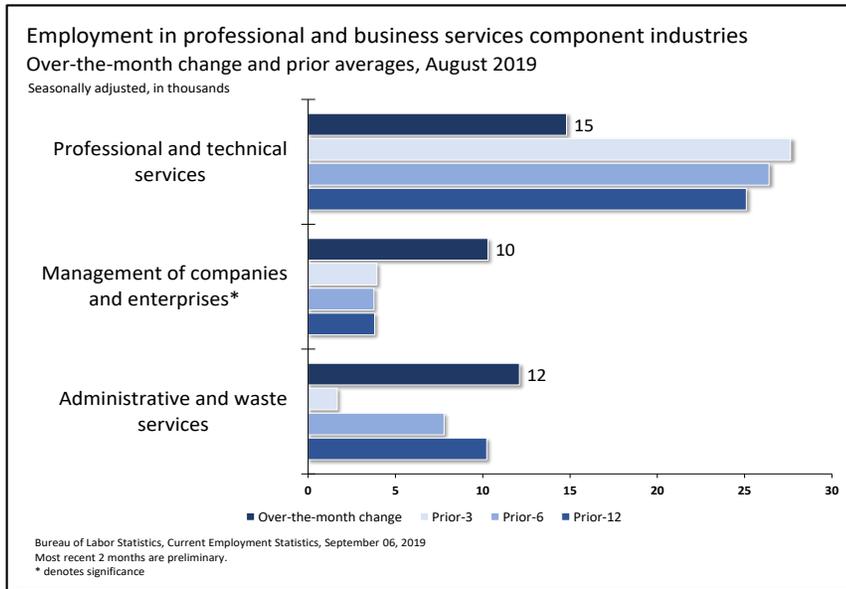
## Professional and Business Services



Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in August (+37,000). So far this year, the industry has added an average 34,000 jobs per month, compared to 47,000 per month in 2018. The majority of the 2019 employment gain has come from professional and technical services (72 percent), while administrative and waste services and management of companies and enterprises made up the remainder.

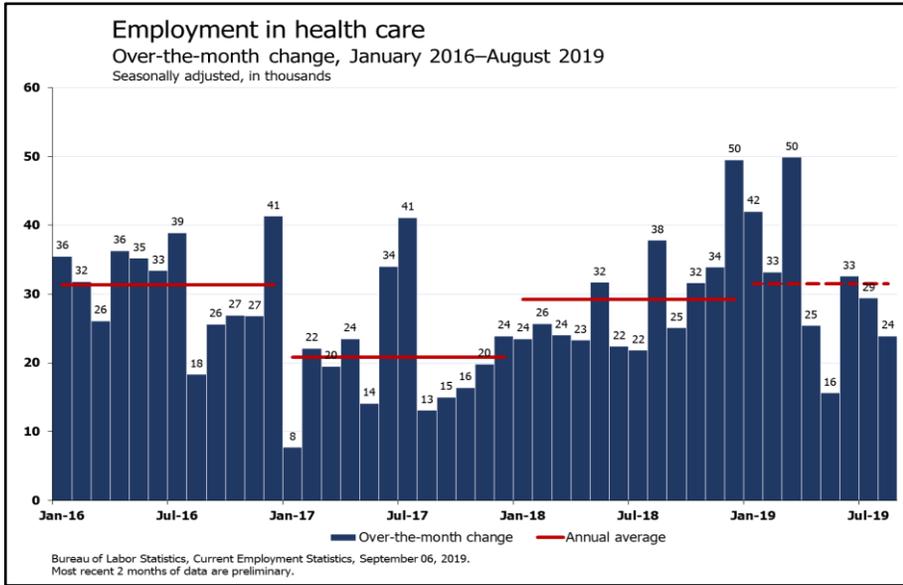
Employment in professional and technical services trended up in August (+15,000), below the prior 12-month average. Computer systems design and related services (+10,000) continued to dominate job growth in the industry. Year to date, professional and technical services has added an average 24,000 jobs per month, similar to growth in 2018.

Management of companies and enterprises added 10,000 jobs in August. In 2019, employment in the industry has increased by an annualized rate of 2.3 percent, compared to 2.6 percent in 2018.



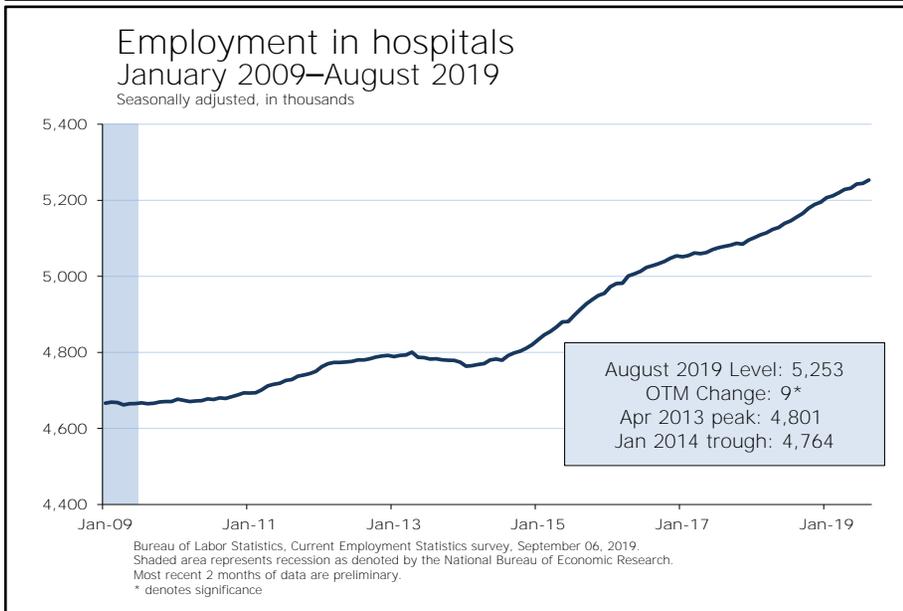
Employment in administrative and waste services changed little in August (+12,000). Within the industry, employment in temporary help services changed little (+15,000). Temporary help employment has edged down by 3,000 per month in 2019, compared to increases averaging 7,000 per month in 2018. The American Staffing Association’s [Staffing index](#) increased in August (based on the reference period including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month) but was down over the year, coinciding with the recent slowdown in temporary help services employment.

### Private Education and Health Services



Health care added 24,000 jobs in August. Employment in hospitals rose by 9,000, in line with its prior-12 month average change. So far this year, hospitals have added 58,000 jobs.

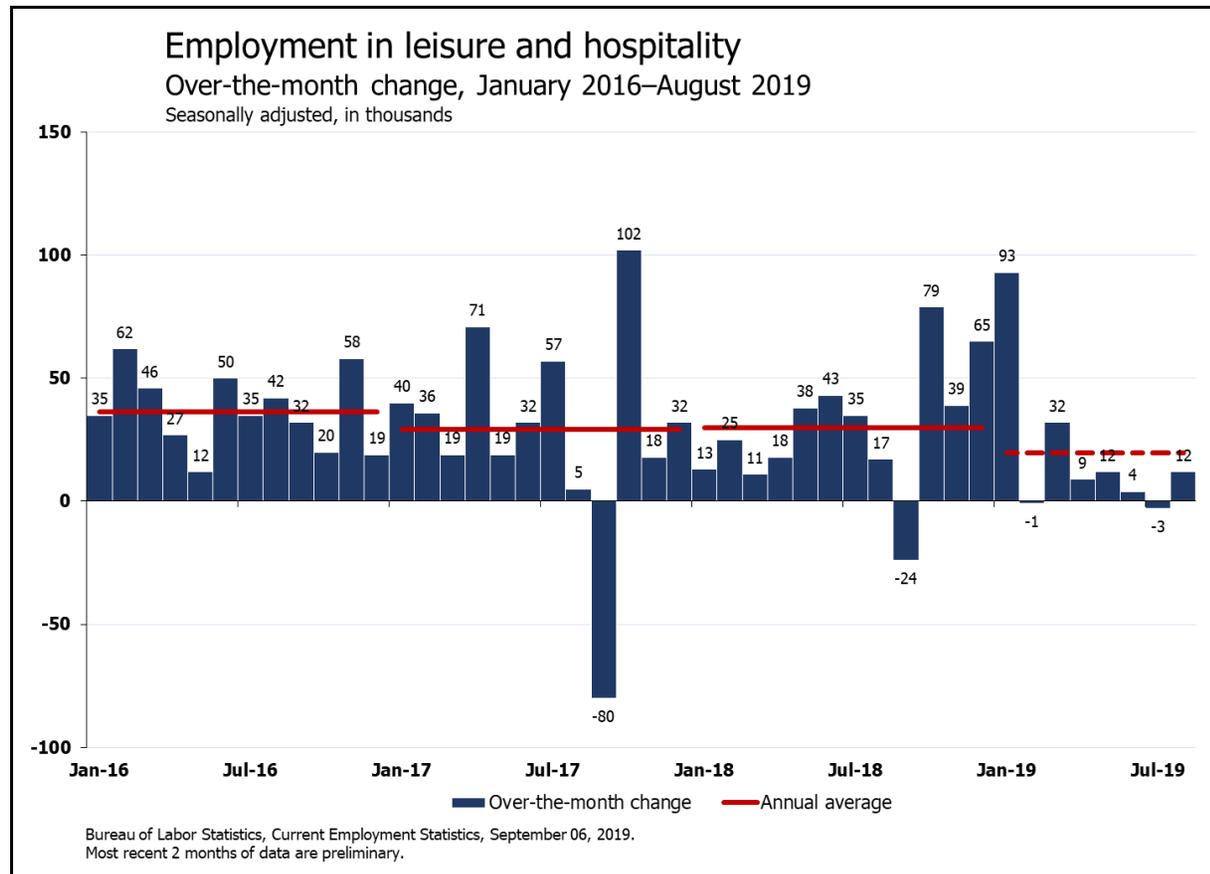
Within social assistance, employment in individual and family services continued to trend up (+17,000) and has increased by 85,000 so far this year.



## Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in leisure and hospitality changed little in August (+12,000), in line with the prior 6-month average (+9,000). No component industries added or lost a significant number of jobs over the month.

Employment in food services and drinking places changed little in August (+12,000) but has increased by 242,000 over the past year, along with rising [food services sales](#).

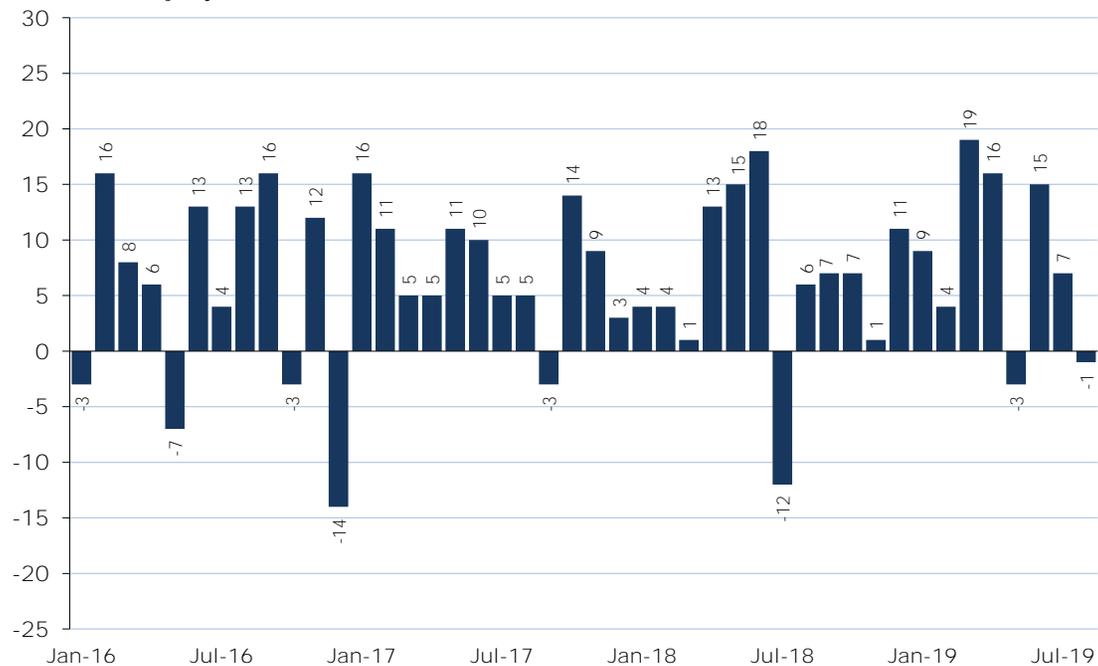


## Other Services

### Employment in other services

Over-the-month change, January 2016–August 2019

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

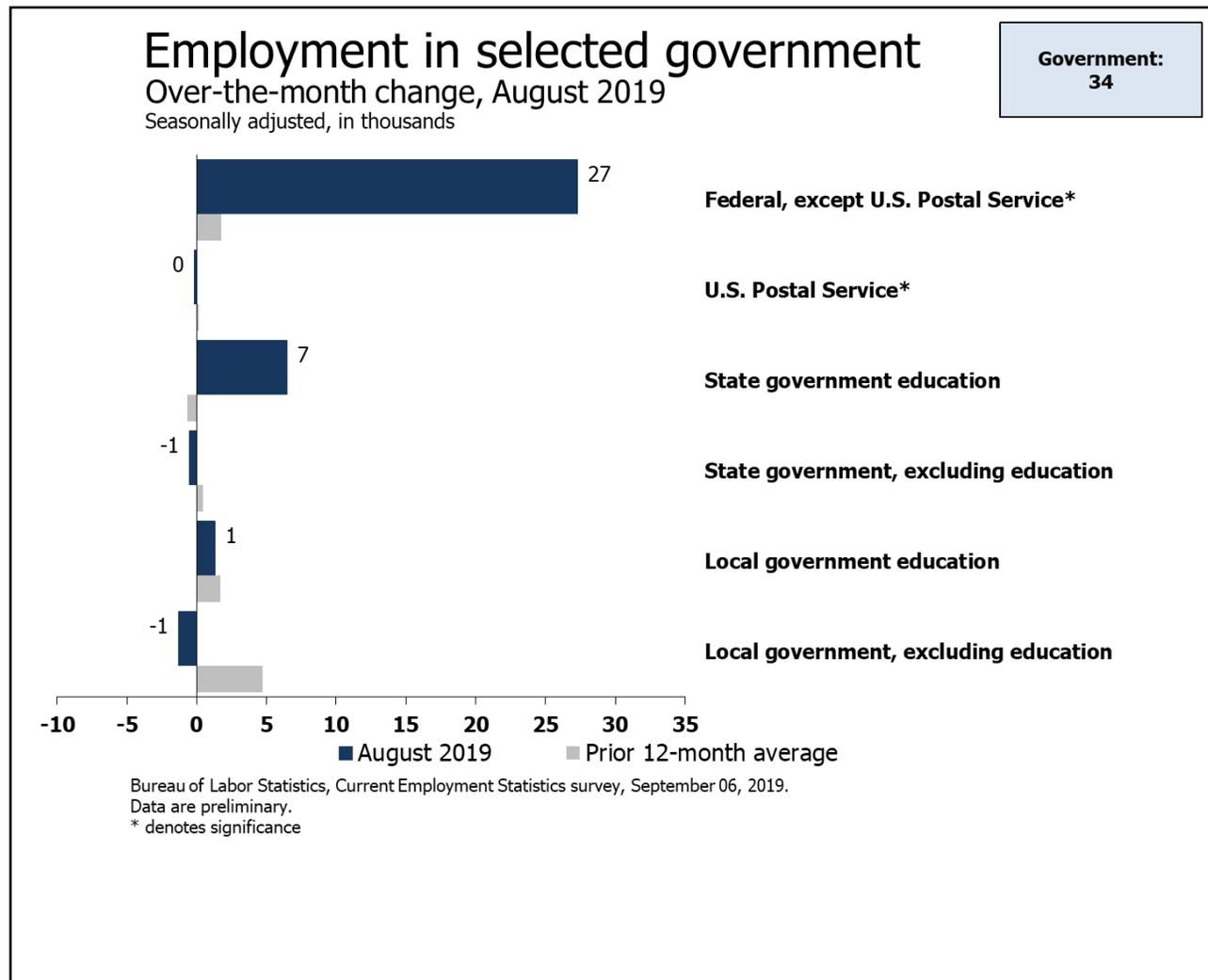


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 06, 2019.

Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in other services changed little in August (-1,000), with all component industries seeing little change. So far in 2019, other services employment has grown at an annualized rate of 1.7 percent—roughly in line with the industry’s growth rate over the prior 2 years.

## Government



Government employment rose by 34,000 in August. Within the federal government (+28,000), job gains largely resulted from hiring of temporary workers (+25,000) to prepare for the 2020 Census for address canvassing.



### **CES Analysts**

---

Osman Alhassan

Hyun Choi

Steve Crestol

Tyler Downing

Katelynn Harris

Mike McCall

John Mullins

Michael Osifalujo

Edward Park

Carson Wilson

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

202-691-6555

[Email CES](#)