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# Current Employment Statistics Highlights



**January 2020**

Release Date: February 7, 2020

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, January 2020

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 225,000 in January 2020. Construction, health care, and transportation and warehousing added jobs over the month.

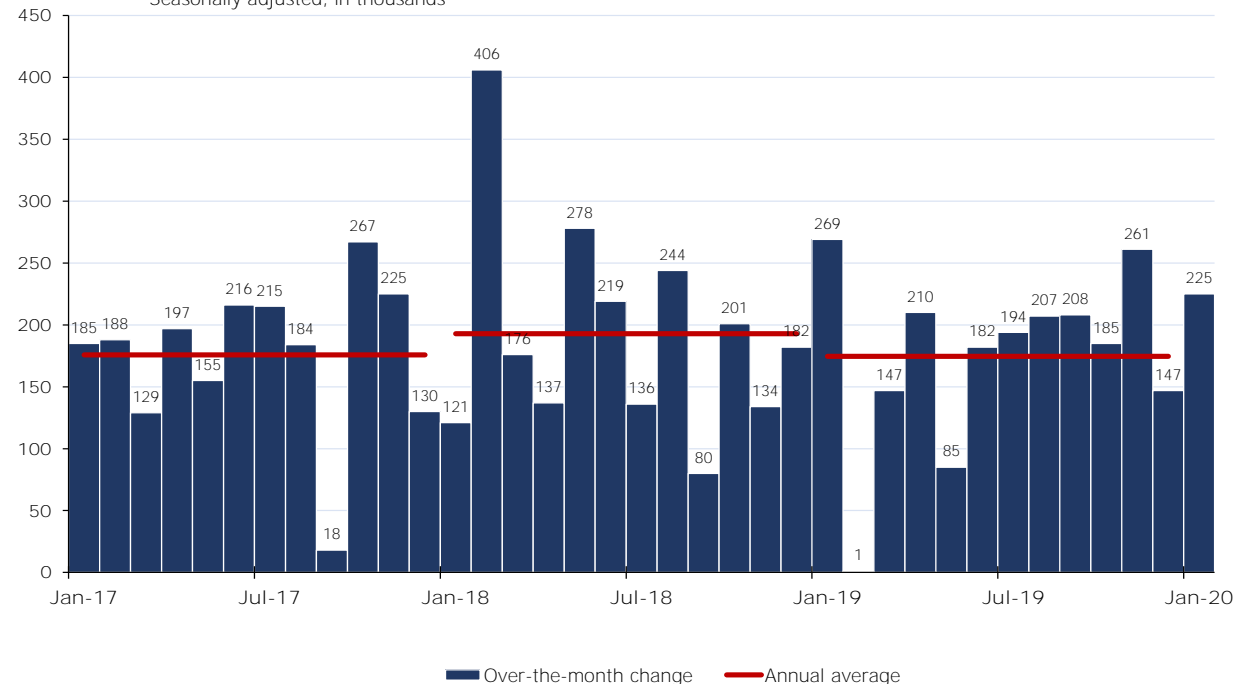
Average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls rose by 7 cents or 0.2 percent in January. Over the year, hourly earnings have risen by 3.1 percent. Average weekly hours were unchanged at 34.3 hours in January.

In accordance with annual practice, CES data have been revised to reflect comprehensive counts of payroll jobs, or benchmarks, derived primarily from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, which enumerates jobs covered by unemployment insurance tax records. CES employment for March 2019 was revised down by 514,000 (by -505,000 or 0.3 percent on a not seasonally adjusted basis). See [www.bls.gov/web/empst/cesbmart.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/web/empst/cesbmart.pdf) for an analysis of benchmark revisions.

The seasonally adjusted employment change for December revised from +145,000 to +147,000, and the change for November revised from +256,000 to +261,000. On net, the employment change over these months is 7,000 higher than previously reported.

#### Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, January 2017–January 2020  
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, February 07, 2020.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

#### +72,000 Education and Health Services

Health care added 36,000 jobs in January, continuing a long-run trend. Employment rose in ambulatory care (+23,000) and in hospitals (+10,000). Over the year, health care providers have added 361,000 jobs.

#### +44,000 Construction

Employment in construction rose by 44,000 in January, largely in specialty trade contractors (+35,000). Construction had added an average 12,000 jobs per month in 2019.

**Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, January 2020**

**+28,000 Transportation and Warehousing**

Transportation and warehousing boosted payroll employment by 28,000 in January. Couriers and messengers (+14,000) accounted for half of the gain, followed by warehousing and storage with 6,000 jobs gained. Over the past 12 months, couriers (+68,000) and warehousing (+20,000) accounted for 83 percent of jobs added in transportation and warehousing.

**+36,000 Leisure and Hospitality**

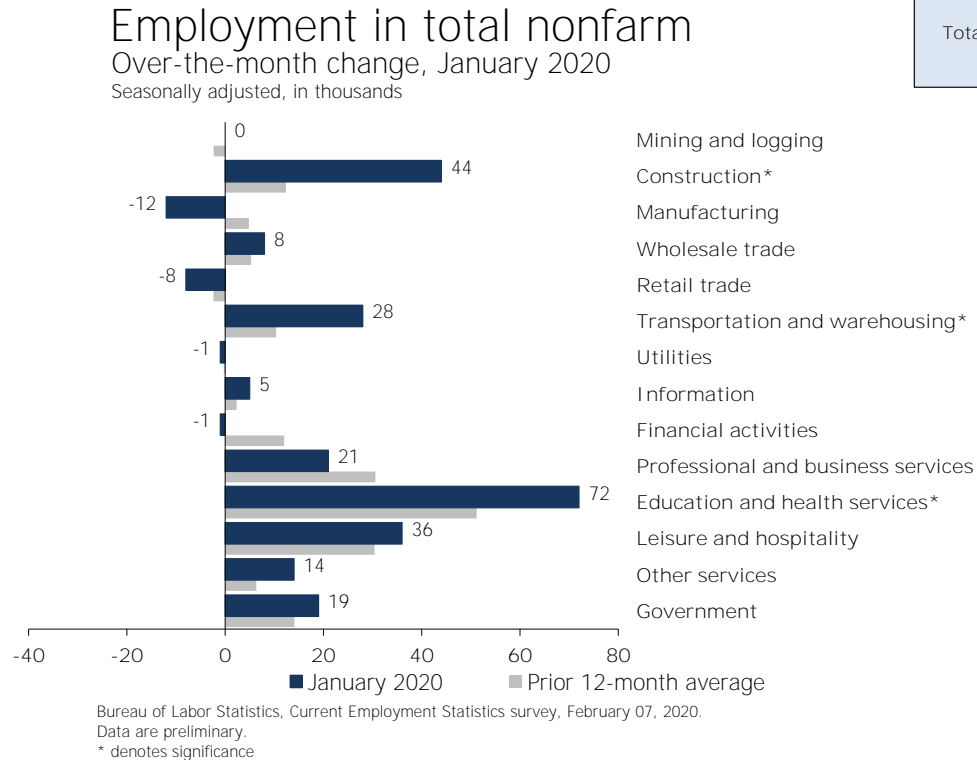
Employment continued to trend up in leisure and hospitality in January (+36,000). Over the past 6 months, the industry has added 288,000 jobs.

**+19,000 Government**

Federal government employment increased by 12,000 in January; hiring for Census 2020 accounted for 5,000 of the increase.

**-12,000 Manufacturing**

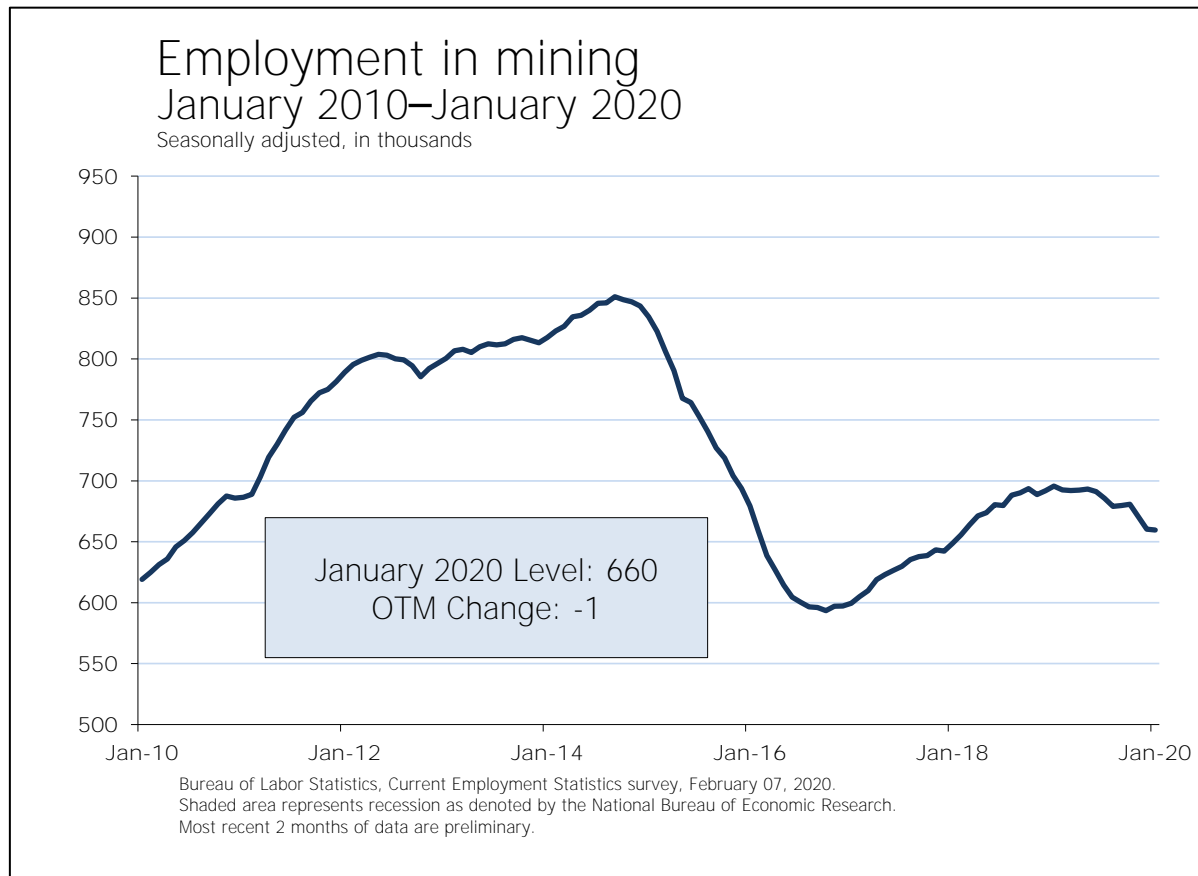
Employment in motor vehicles and parts manufacturing declined by 11,000 in January and is down by 24,000 over the year.



**-8,000 Retail Trade**

Employment in retail trade changed little in January. Within the sector, general merchandise stores lost 14,000 jobs; employment in this industry has shown little net change over the past 12 months (-22,000).

## Mining and Logging



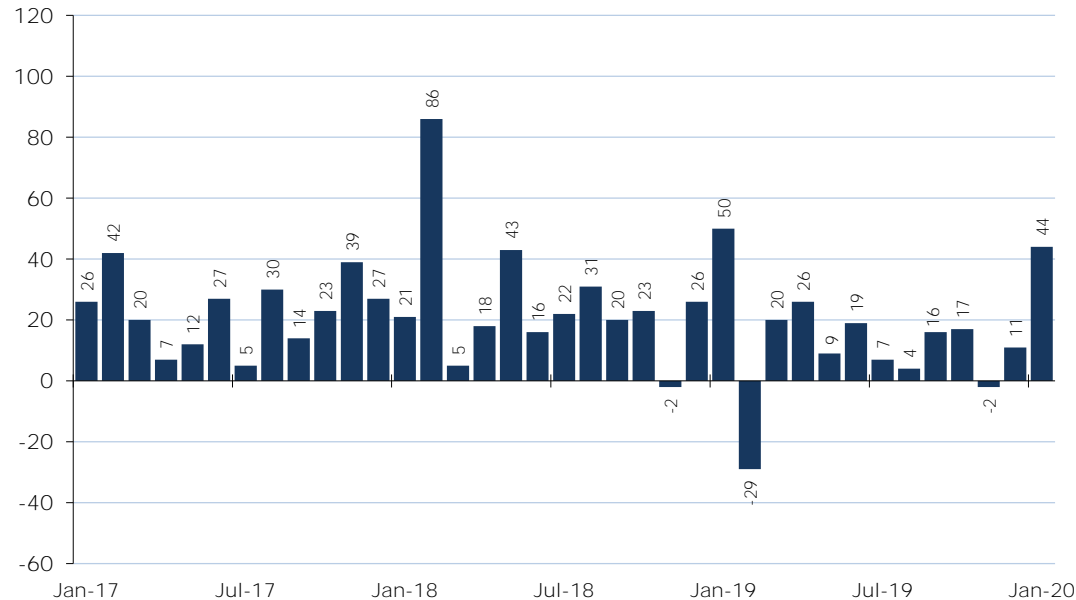
Mining employment was flat in January (-1,000), while related economic indicator data was mixed. [West Texas Intermediate](#) oil prices declined over the month, and the [rotary oil rig count](#) was little changed.

## Construction

### Employment in construction

Over-the-month change, January 2017–January 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, February 07, 2020.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Construction employment increased by 44,000 in January, the largest 1-month employment gain over the past year. Specialty trade contractors accounted for 35,000 of the January 2020 increase, with gains about evenly split between the residential and nonresidential components.

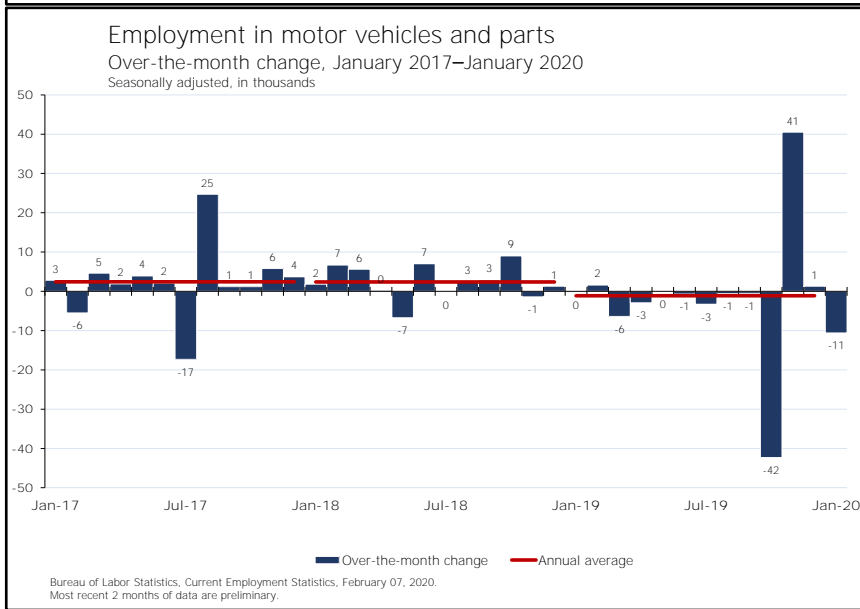
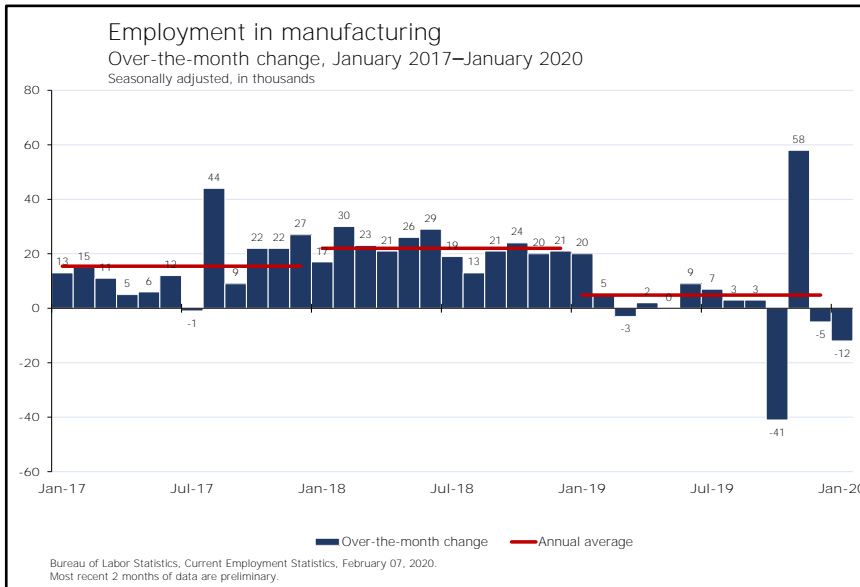
The increase in construction employment in January follows gains in [residential building permits](#), [construction spending](#), and in [new home sales](#) in December 2019.

## Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment changed little in January (-12,000). Employment also changed little in 2019 (+58,000), after rising by 264,000 in 2018.

In January, the manufacturing 1-month diffusion index rose 0.6 point to 46.7. A value below 50 indicates more manufacturing industries are losing jobs than are adding jobs. The index has been below 50 in four of the last 5 months.

During the most recent 12 months, employment in motor vehicles and parts has fallen by 24,000, with 11,000 of that occurring in January.

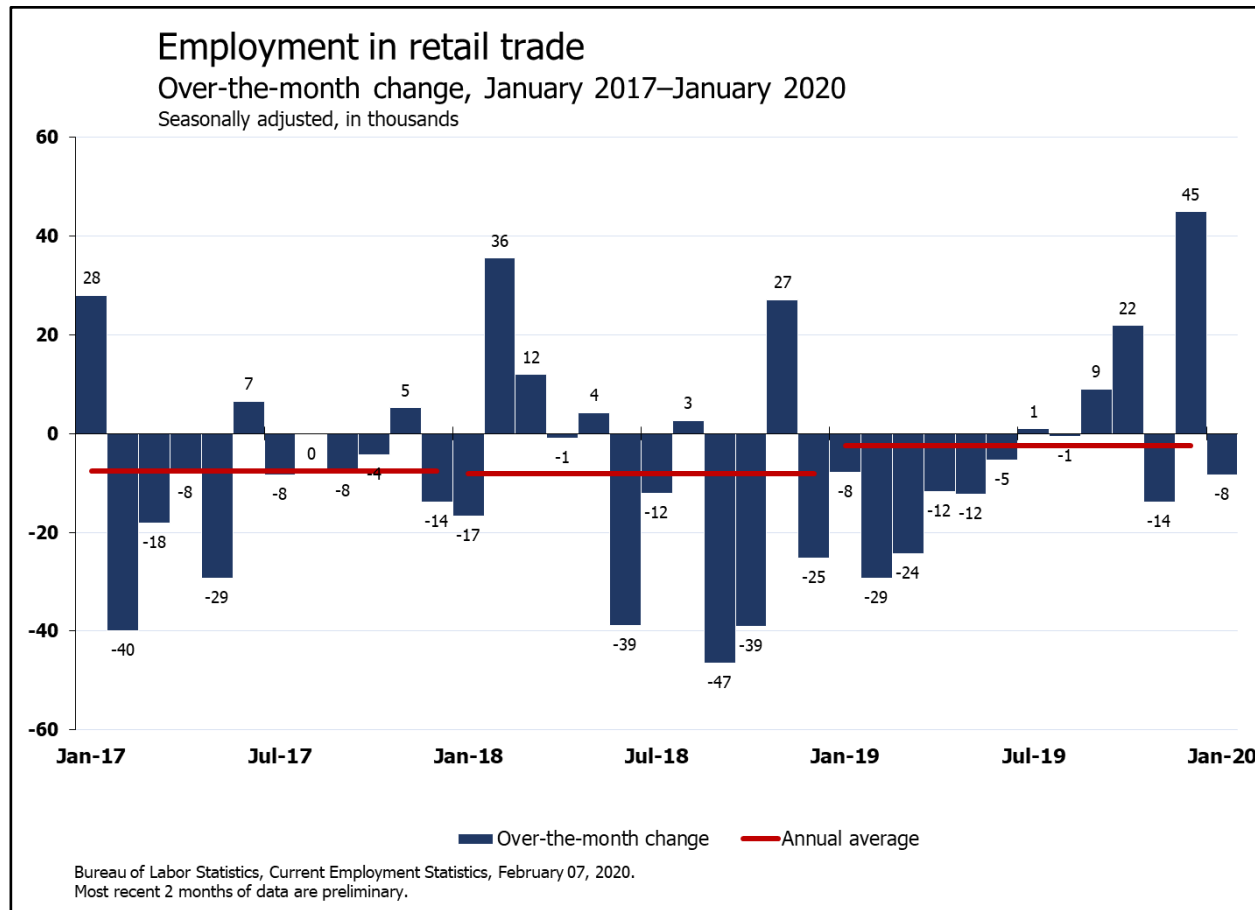


## Wholesale Trade



Employment in wholesale trade continued to trend up in January (+8,000), bringing its 12-month net job gain to 65,000. Durable goods constituted just under 70 percent of the over-the-year employment gains.

## Retail Trade



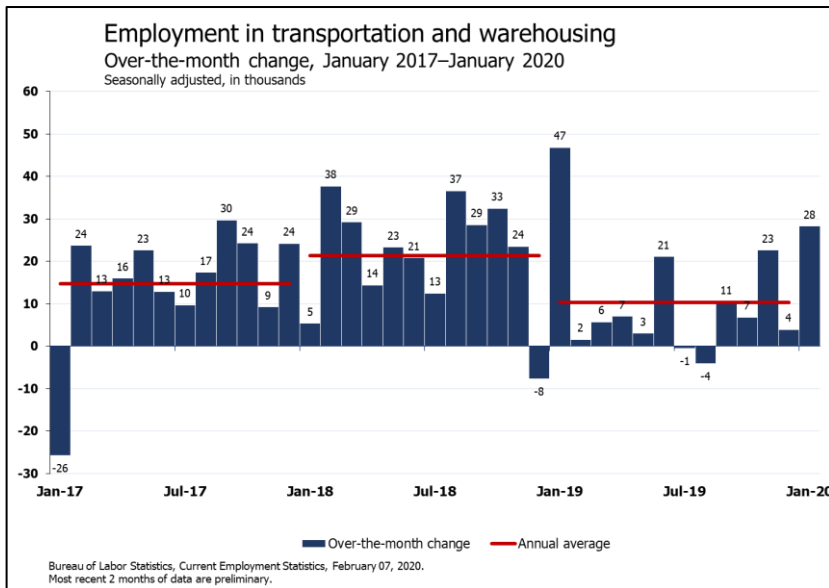
Employment in retail trade changed little in January (-8,000), following a gain of 45,000 in December. Over the past 12 months, industry employment showed little net change (-29,000).

Over the month, employment in general merchandise stores declined by 14,000.

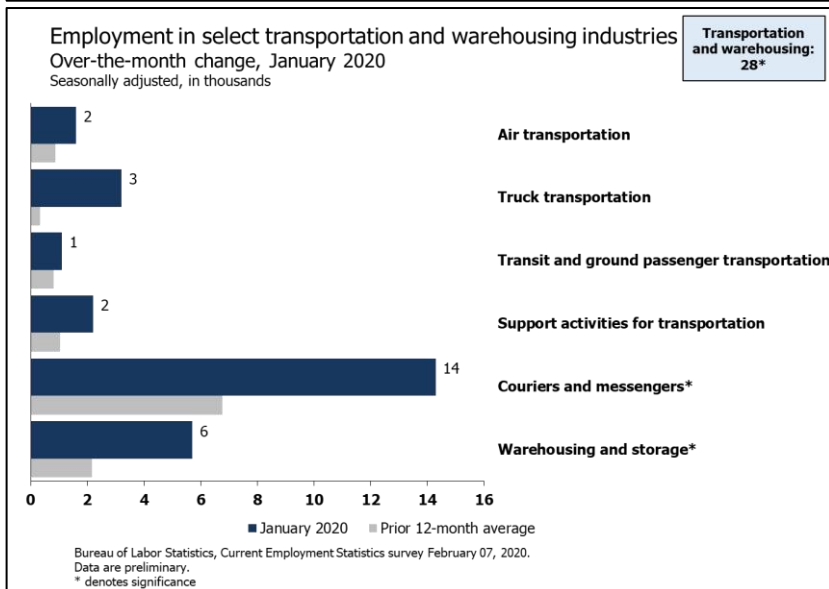
Retail-related economic indicators are mixed. [Retail Sales](#) rose in December. The [Consumer Confidence Index](#) increased in January. Conversely, [Real Personal Disposable Income](#) declined in December.



## Transportation and Warehousing



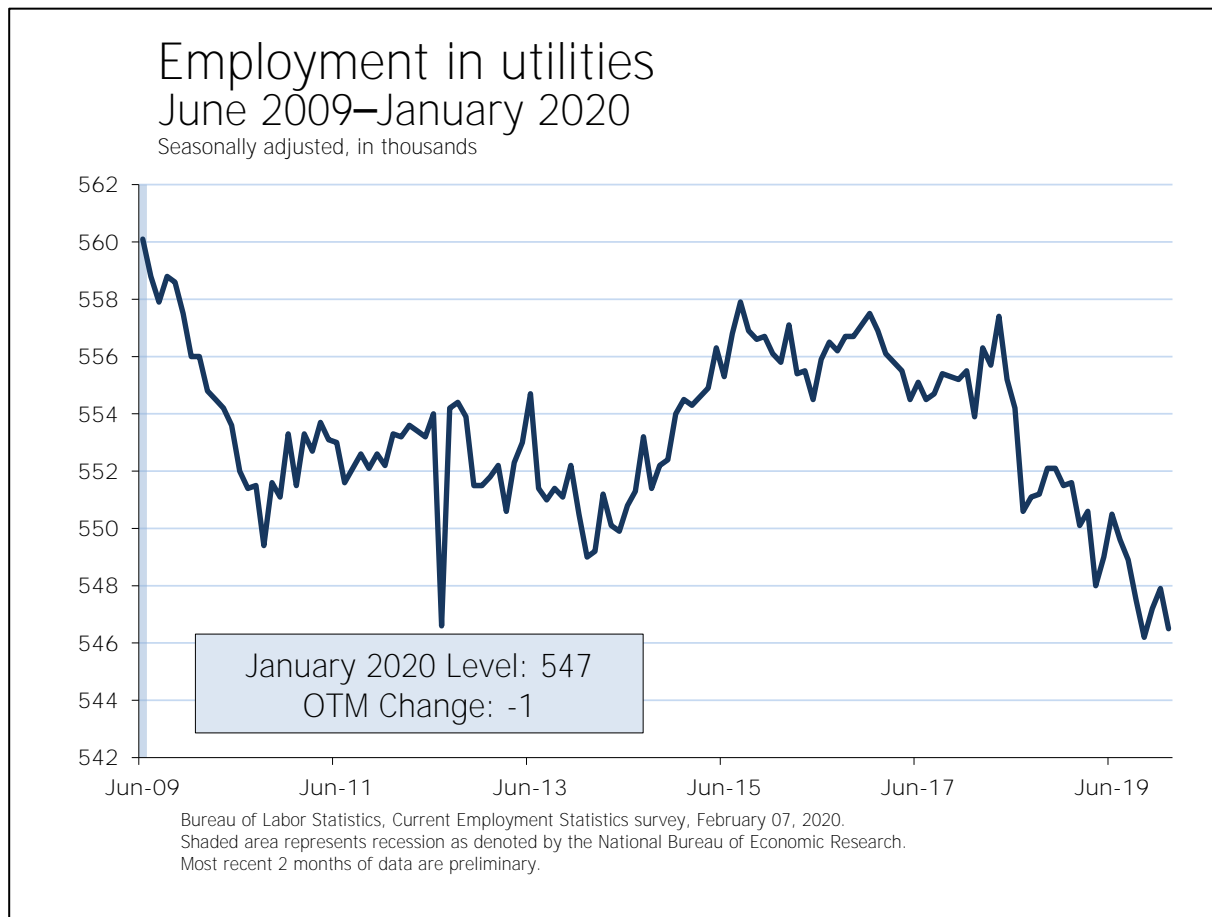
Employment in transportation and warehousing increased by 28,000 in January. The growth was driven primarily by gains in couriers and messengers (+14,000) and warehousing and storage (+6,000). Over the year, transportation and warehousing has added 106,000 jobs, with couriers and messengers (+68,000) and warehousing and storage (+20,000) accounting for 83 percent of the growth.



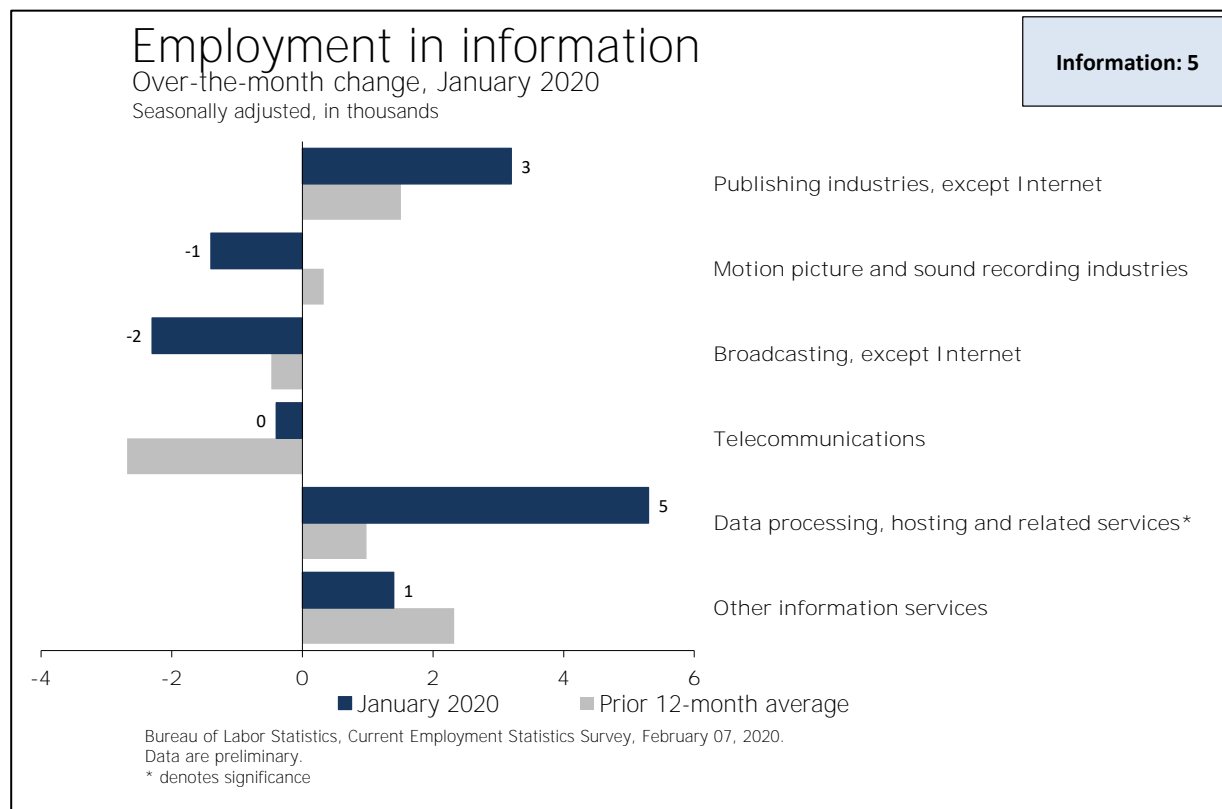
Employment in truck transportation ticked up 3,000 in January. The American Trucking Associations' [Truck Tonnage Index](#) increased overall in 2019. According to ATA's press release, the index's overall annual gain masks the choppy freight environment observed throughout 2019.

## Utilities

Employment in utilities was flat in January (-1,000).



## Information

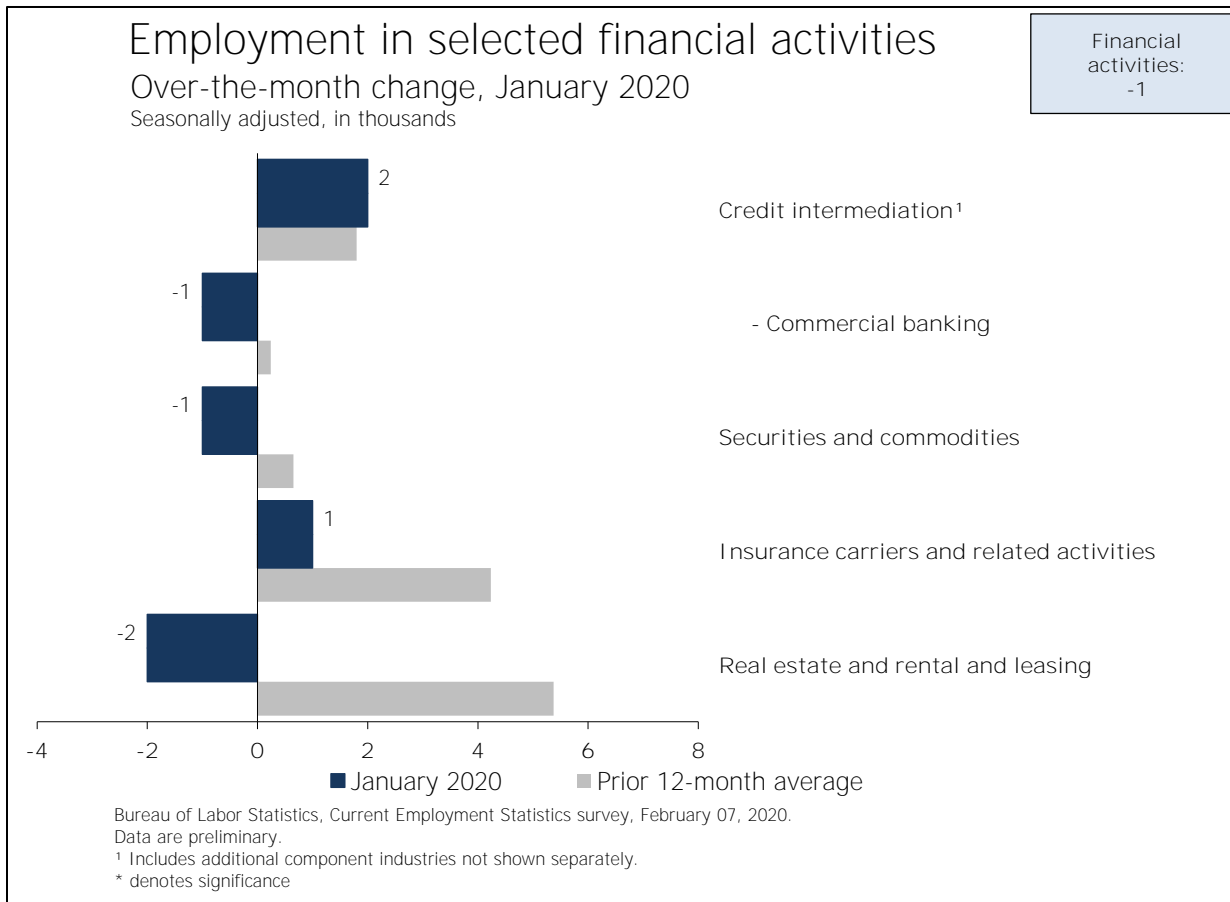


Employment in information changed little in January (+5,000). Data processing, hosting, and related services added 5,000 jobs.

Over the past 12 months, employment has expanded in publishing industries, except internet (+19,000) and in other information services (+27,000). This growth was partially offset by job losses in telecommunications (-26,000).

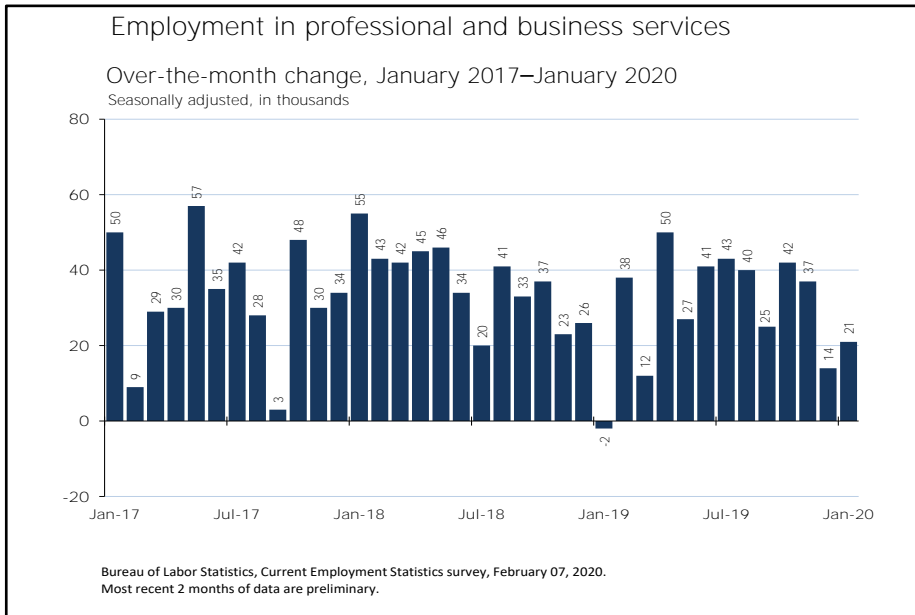
Other information services include news syndicates, libraries and archives, and internet publishing and broadcasting and web search portals.

## Financial Activities



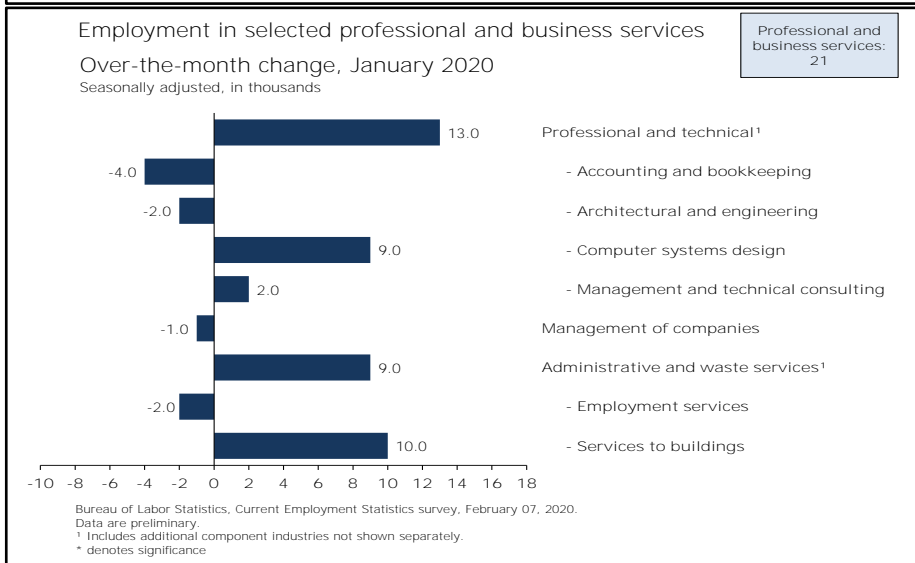
Employment in financial activities changed little in January (-1,000). Over the most recent 12 months, the industry has added 132,000 jobs. Real estate (+51,000) and insurance carriers and related activities (+48,000) accounted for most of the jobs added during this period.

## Professional and Business Services

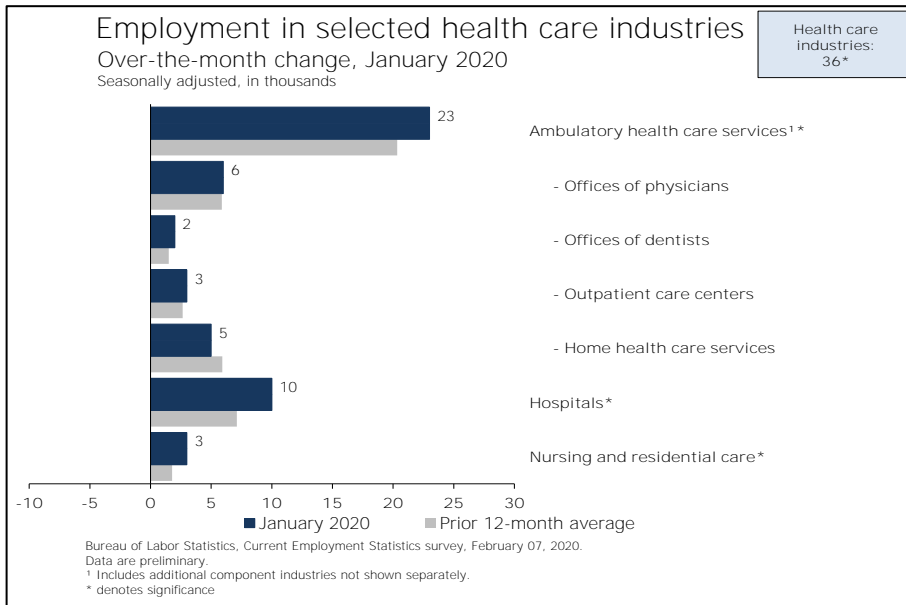


Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in January (+21,000), below the prior 12-month average (+31,000). Since reaching a trough in August 2009, employment in the industry has risen by 5.1 million.

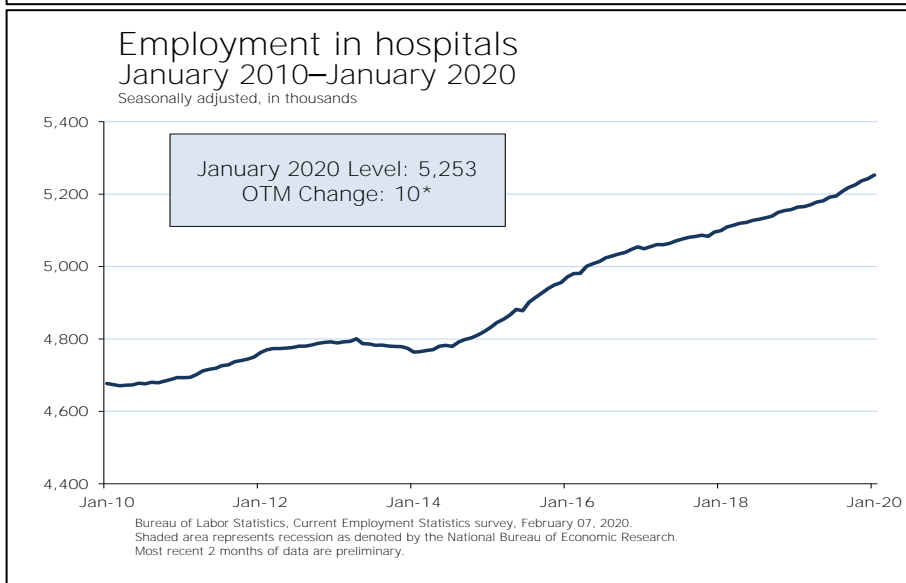
In January, employment changed little in professional and technical services (+13,000), administrative and waste services (+9,000), and management of companies and enterprises employment (-1,000).



### Private Education and Health Services



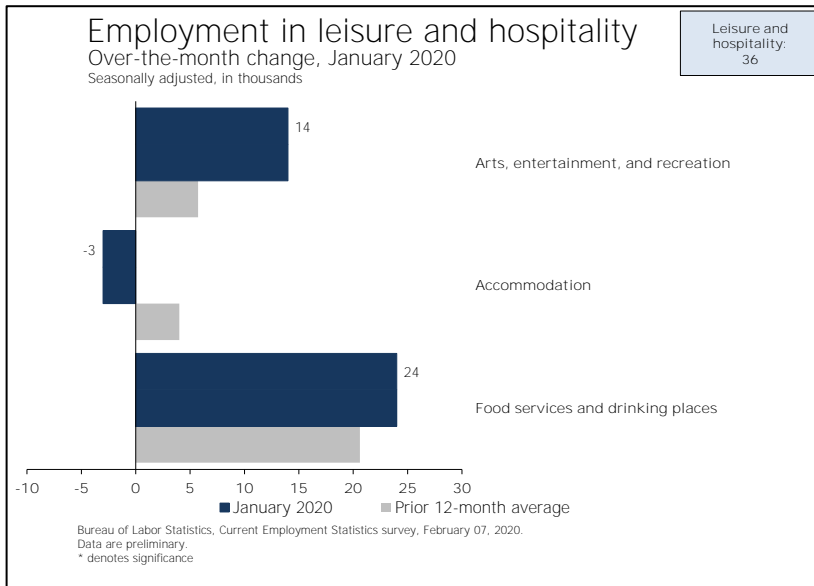
Health care added 36,000 jobs in January. Employment gains were concentrated in ambulatory health care services (+23,000) and hospitals (+10,000).



Employment in hospitals continued to trend up in January (+10,000). Since reaching an employment trough in January 2014, hospitals have added 489,000 jobs.

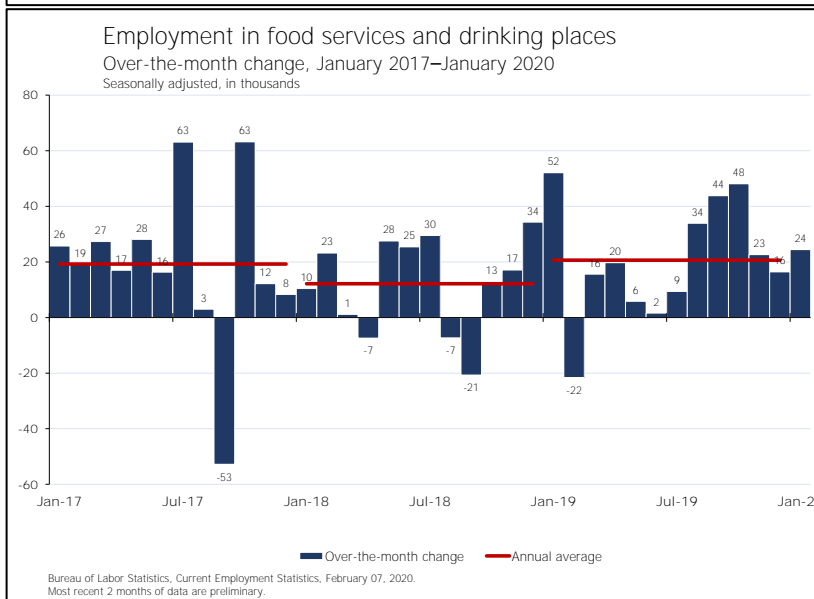
## Leisure and Hospitality

In January, employment in leisure and hospitality continued to trend up (+36,000), corresponding with growing [consumer confidence](#). The industry added 365,000 jobs in 2019, after adding 225,000 in 2018.



Employment in food services and drinking places also continued to trend up in January (+24,000). The industry has added 189,000 jobs over the most recent 6 months.

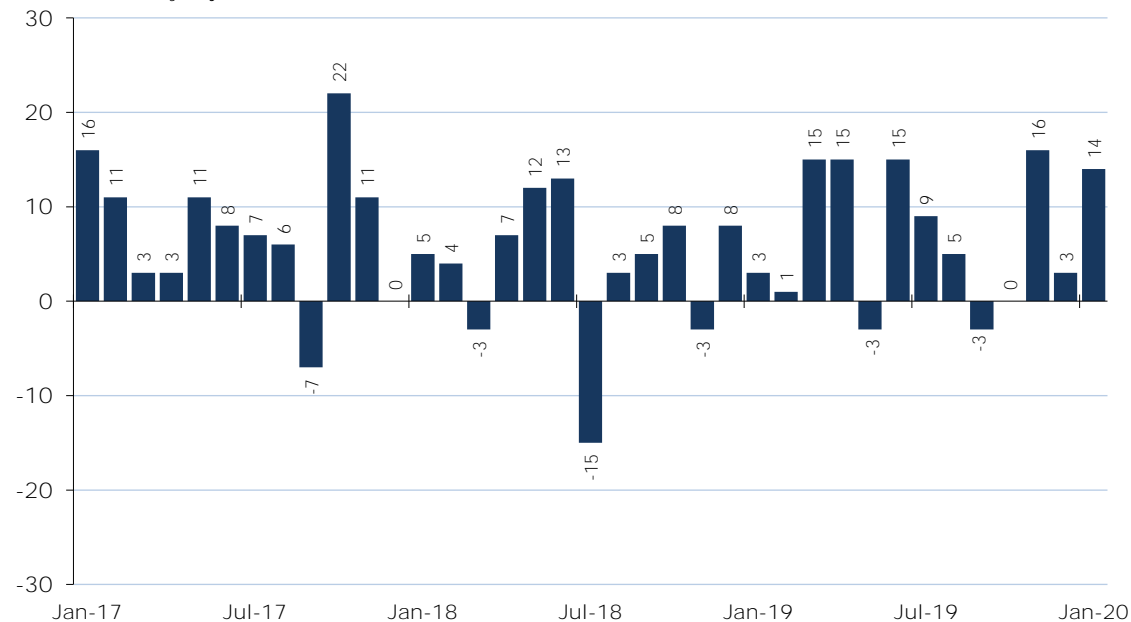
[Real value added in](#) accommodation and food services increased in the third quarter of 2019, after decreasing through the first two quarters of the year.



## Other Services

### Employment in other services

Over-the-month change, January 2017–January 2020  
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

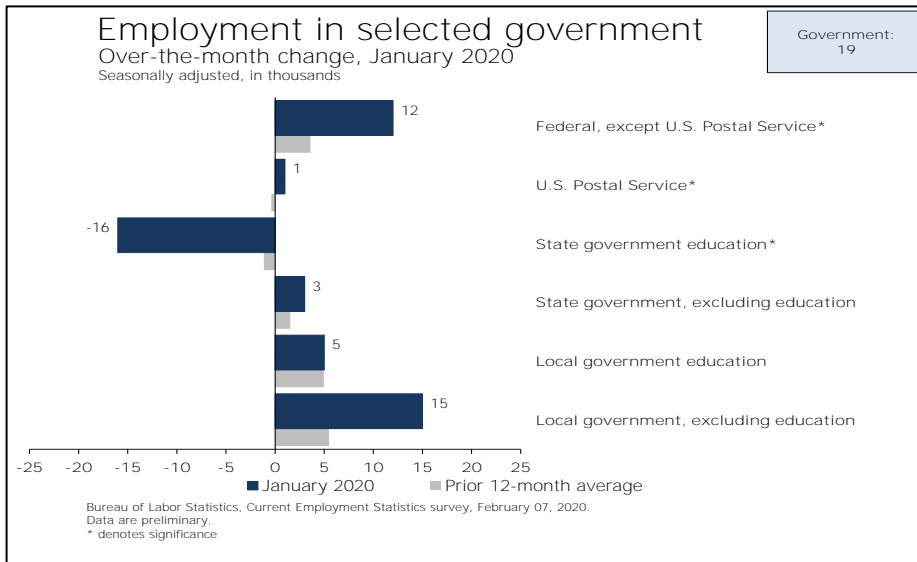


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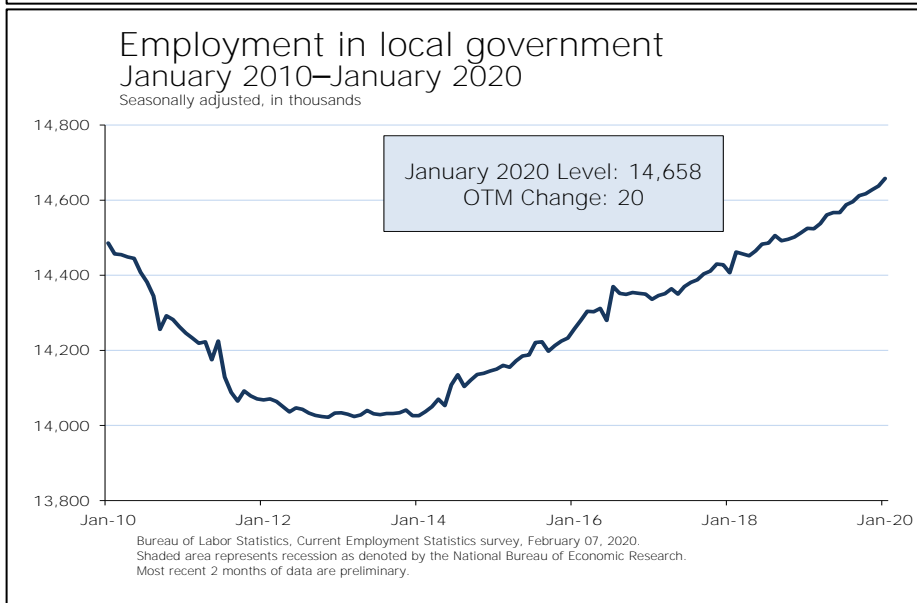
Employment in other services changed little in January (+14,000). Over the most recent 12 months, the industry has added 87,000 jobs. Over this time, the largest job gains came in the repair and maintenance industry (+36,000).



## Government



Government employment edged up by 19,000 in January. Hiring for the decennial census ticked up 5,000 as counting began in Toksook Bay, Alaska in January.



Employment in local government continued to trend up in January (+20,000). Since reaching an employment trough in November 2012, local government has added 636,000 jobs.



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