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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



February 2020

Release Date: March 6, 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, February 2020

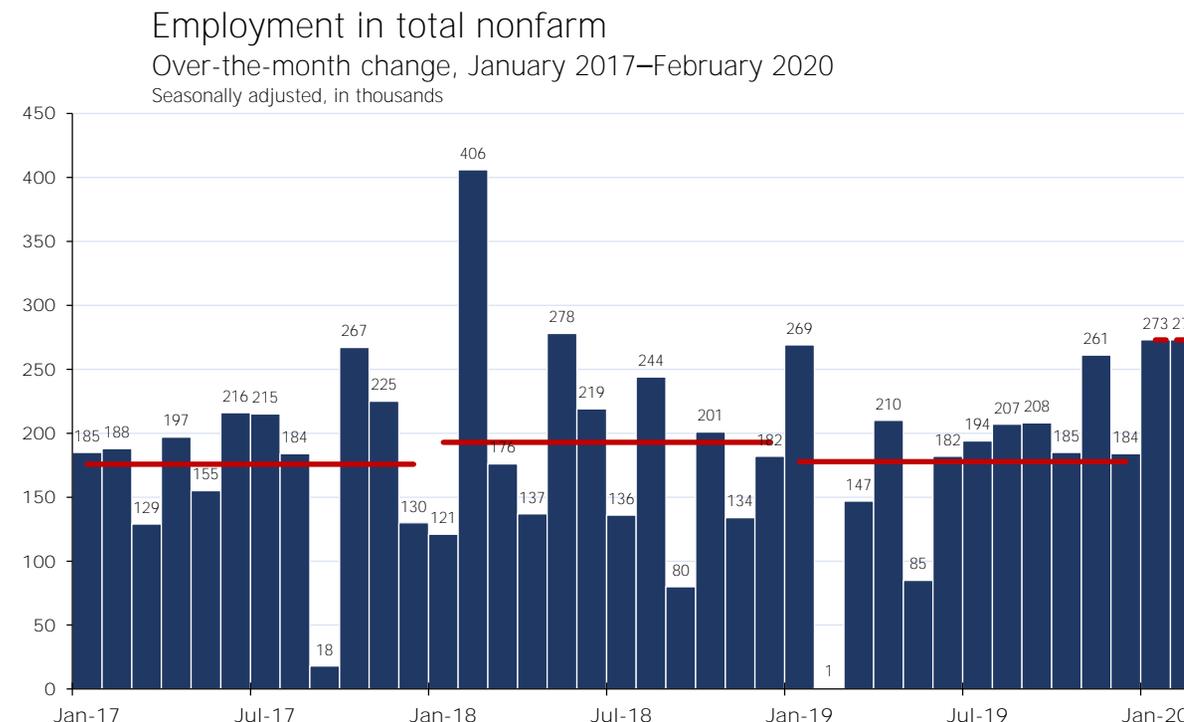
Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 273,000 in February. Job growth was widespread and included gains in health care and social assistance, food services and drinking places, government, construction, professional and technical services, and financial activities.

The employment change for January revised up from +225,000 to +273,000, and the change for December revised up from +147,000 to +184,000. Incorporating revisions, job growth has averaged 243,000 per month over the past 3 months.

Average hourly earnings for all employees on private, nonfarm payrolls rose by 9 cents, or 0.3 percent, in February, after increasing by 6 cents in January. Hourly earnings are up 3.0 percent over the year. Average weekly hours, at 34.4 hours, rose by 0.1 hour over the month.

+54,000 Education and Health Services

Health care added 32,000 jobs in February. Within the industry, employment rose by 10,000 each in offices of physicians and in home health care services and by 8,000 in hospitals. Social assistance also added jobs over the month (+25,000), mostly within



individual and family services (+18,000). Over the past 12 months, employment has expanded by 368,000 in health care and by 191,000 in social assistance.

+51,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in food services and drinking places rose by 53,000 in February. This

industry has added 252,000 jobs since July 2019.

+45,000 Government

Employment in government rose by 45,000 in February. Within the sector, federal government added 8,000 jobs, mostly due to the hiring of 7,000 workers for the 2020

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
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Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, February 2020

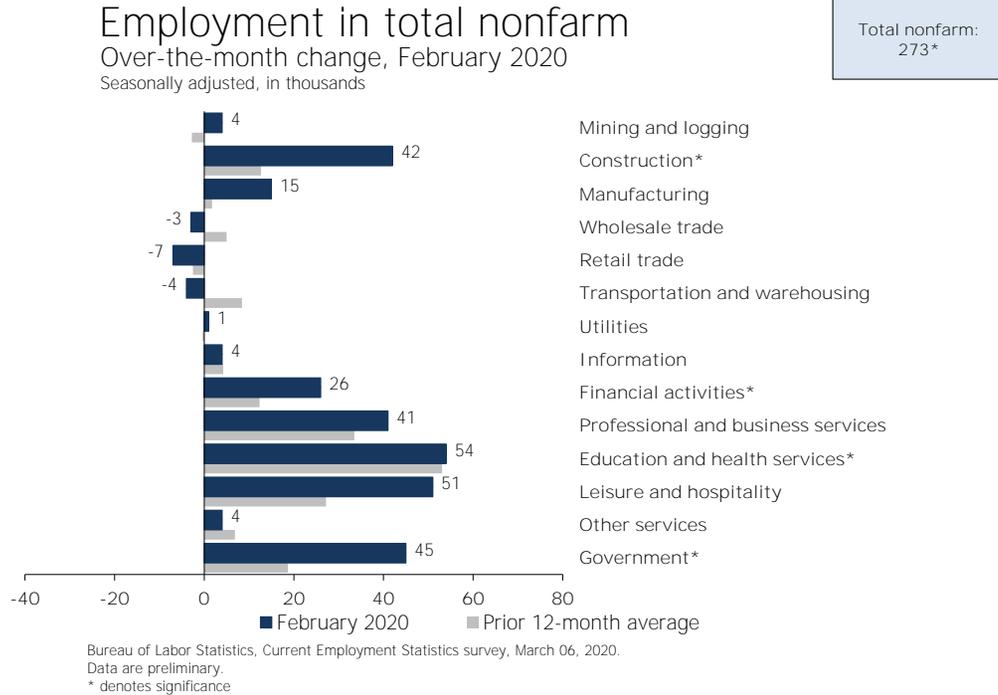
Census. State government education also added jobs over the month (+16,000). Government has added 262,000 jobs over the past 12 months.

+42,000 Construction

Construction employment increased by 42,000 in February following a gain of 49,000 in January. Job gains in the industry had averaged 13,000 per month in 2019. Specialty trade contractors accounted for 26,000 of the gain in February, which was about evenly split between the residential and nonresidential components. Residential building also added 10,000 jobs.

+41,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment in professional and technical services increased by 32,000 in February. Within the industry, job growth occurred in architectural and engineering services (+10,000) and in scientific research and development services (+5,000). Employment also continued to trend up in computer systems design and related services (+8,000). Over the past 12 months, professional and technical services has added 285,000 jobs.



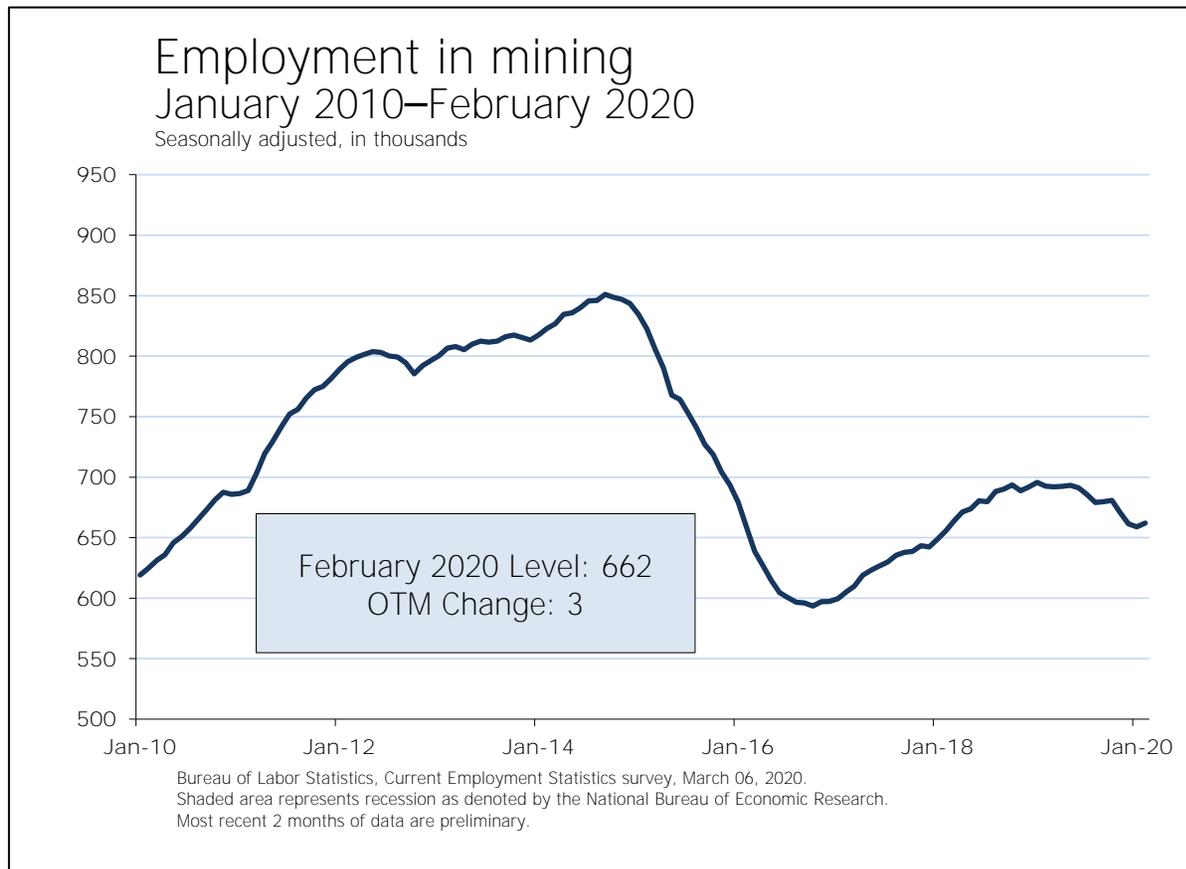
+26,000 Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities rose by 26,000 in February. Within the industry, job growth occurred in credit intermediation (+6,000), and in real estate (+8,000). Financial activities has added 160,000 jobs over the past 12 months.

-4,000 Transportation and Warehousing

Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in February (-4,000). Couriers and messenger services lost 12,000 jobs, partially offsetting a gain of 20,000 in January.

Mining and Logging



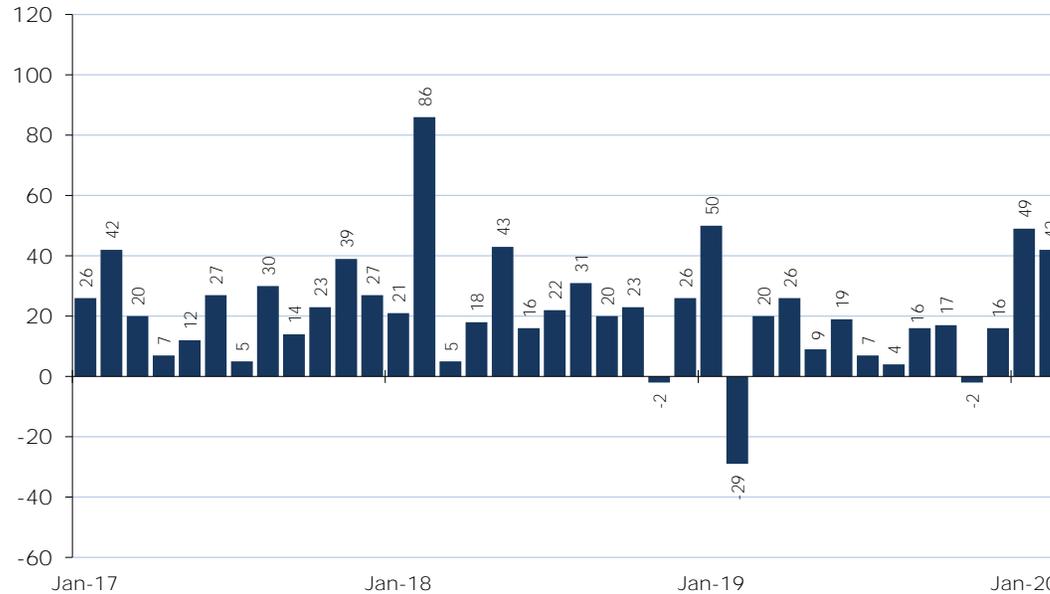
Mining employment changed little in February (+3,000). February’s indicator data for mining point to weakness with declines in [West Texas Intermediate](#) oil prices and in [North American rotary oil rig counts](#).

Construction

Employment in construction

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

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

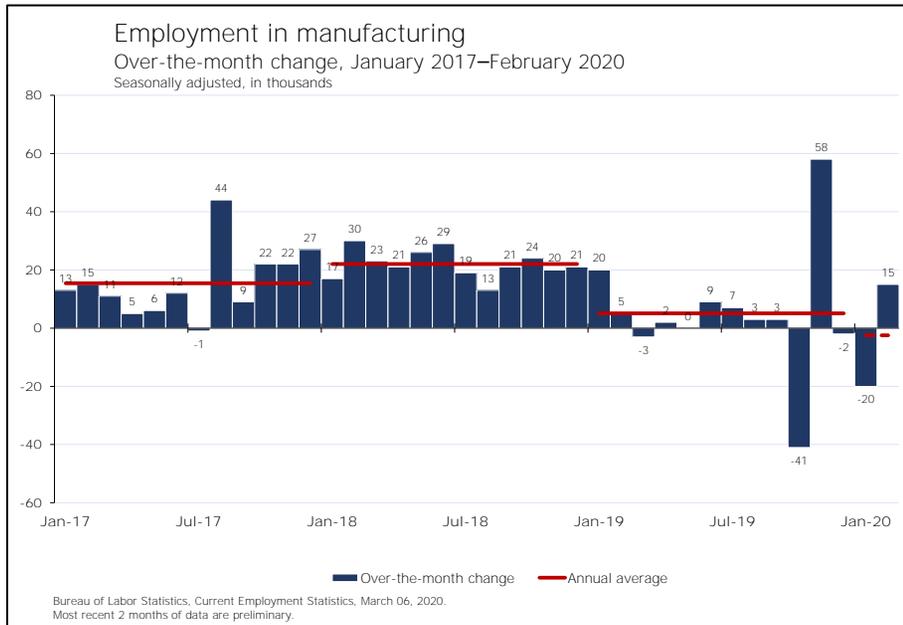


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 06, 2020.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Construction employment increased by 42,000 in February following a similar gain in January. Specialty trade contractors added 26,000 jobs, which were about evenly split between residential and nonresidential trades. Residential building added 10,000 jobs.

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

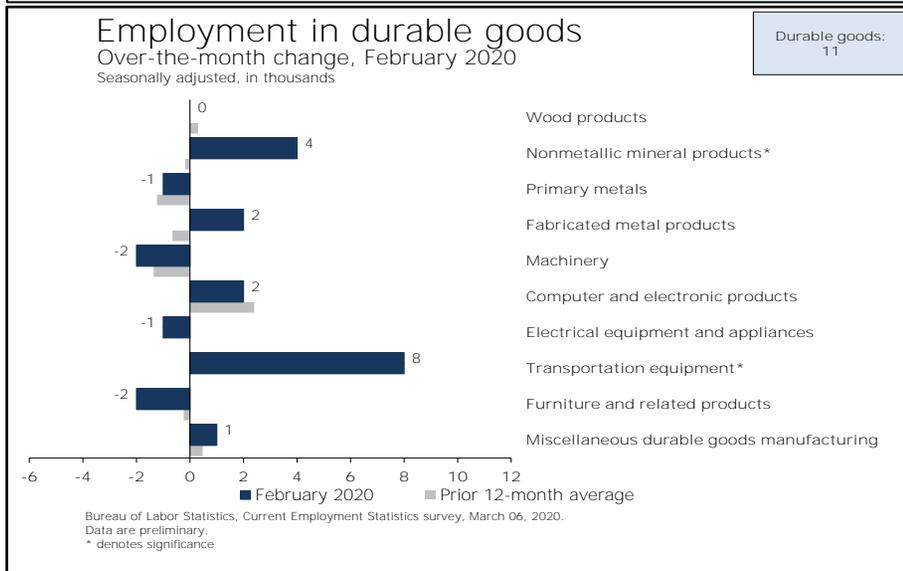
Manufacturing



Employment in manufacturing changed little in February (+15,000).

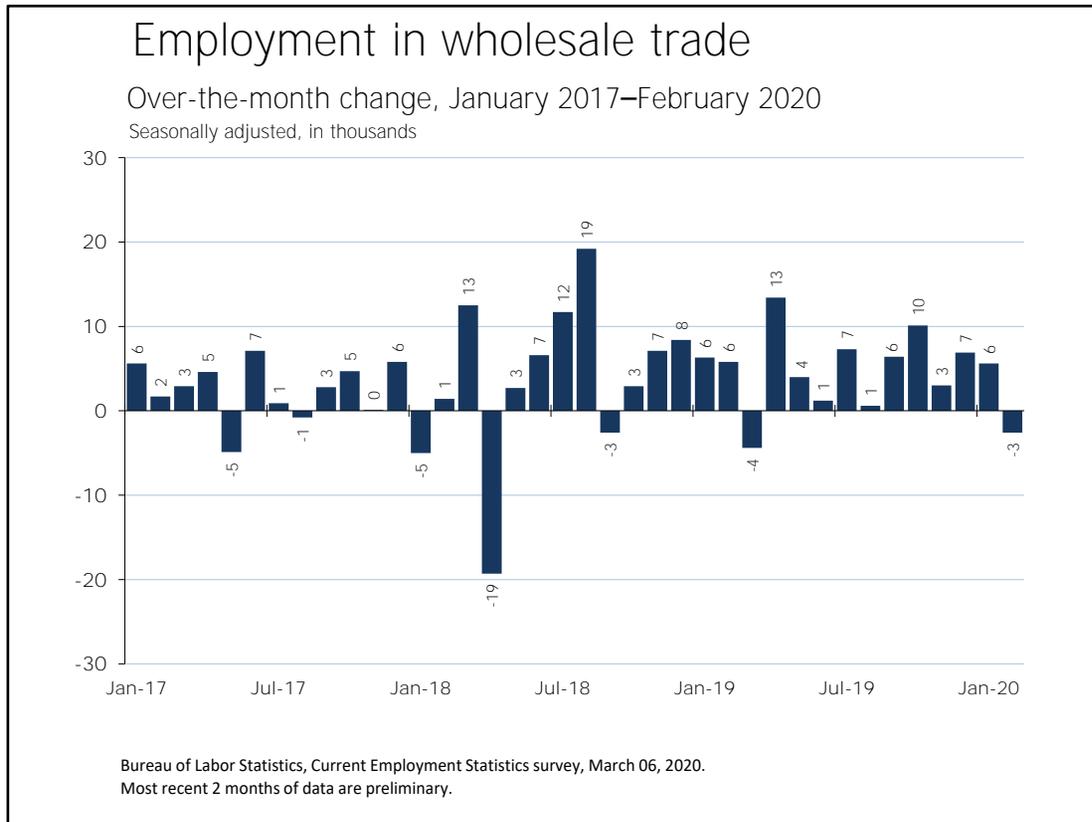
The 1-month diffusion index rose 7.2 points to 54.6, indicating that more industries added jobs than lost jobs.

In February, average weekly hours rose by 0.2 hour for all manufacturing workers and by 0.3 hour for production employees. These gains were widespread across most manufacturing industries.



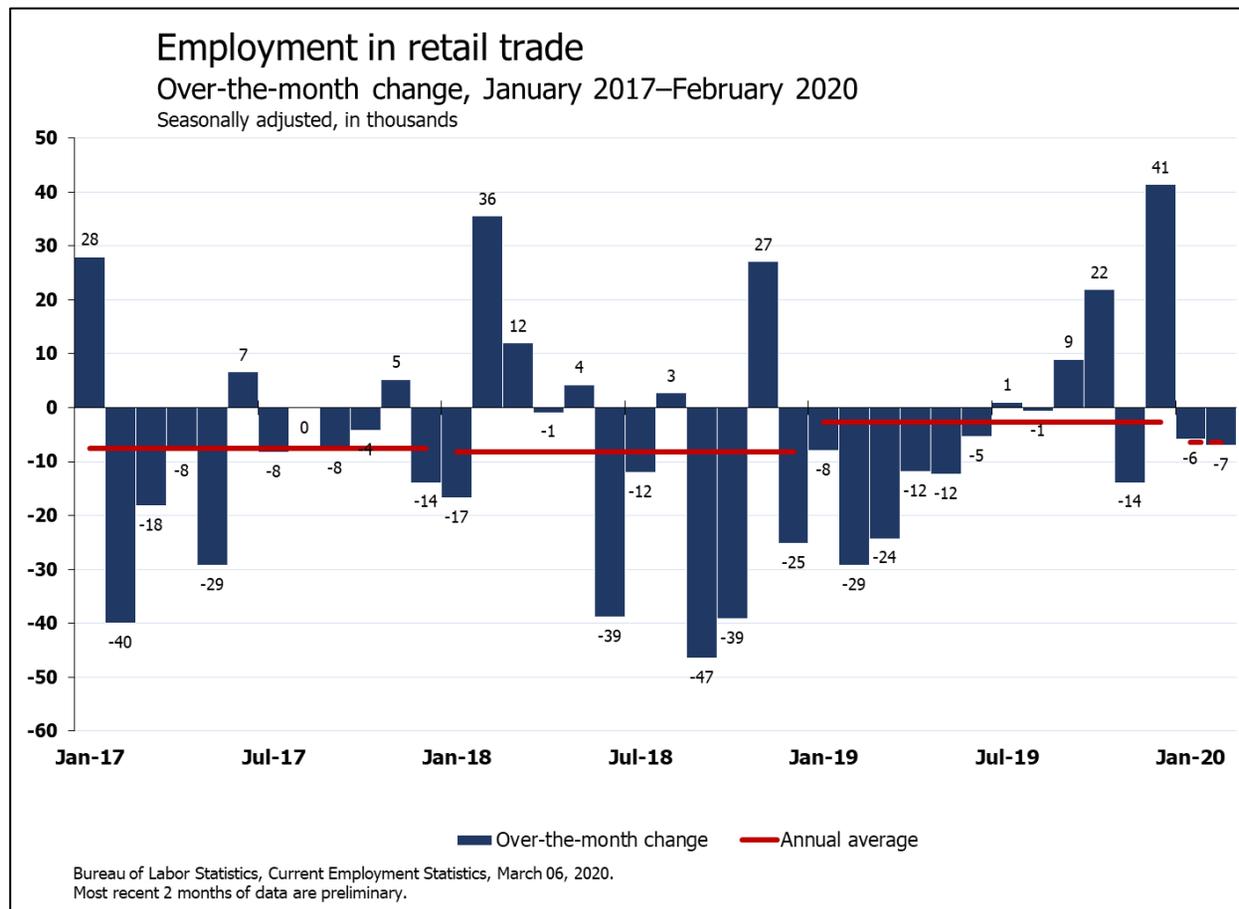
Within durable goods, nonmetallic mineral products (+4,000) and transportation equipment (+8,000) added jobs in February. The job gain in transportation equipment mostly offsets a job loss in January, leaving employment little changed over the 2-month span.

Wholesale Trade



Employment in wholesale trade changed little in February (-3,000). Over the prior 12 months, the industry had added an average 5,000 per month.

Retail Trade

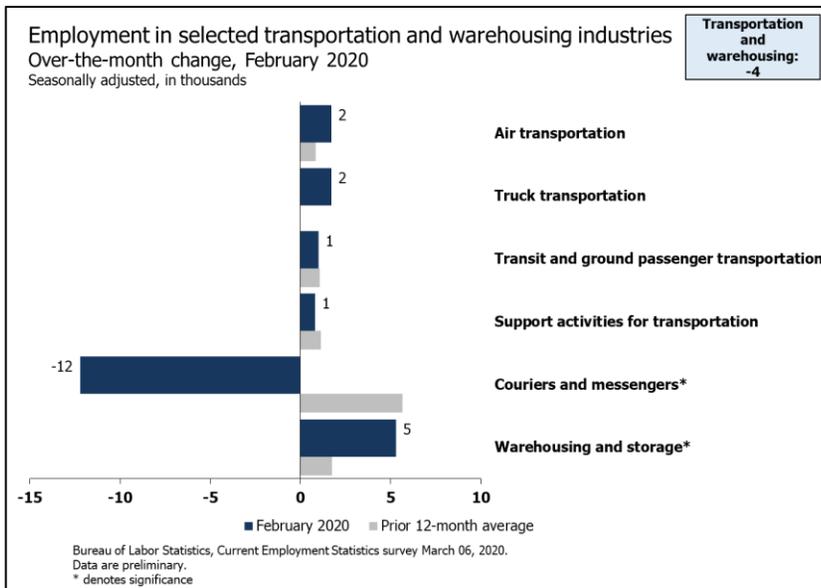


Employment in retail trade changed little in February (-7,000). Since reaching a peak in January 2017, industry employment has declined by 261,000 or 1.6 percent.

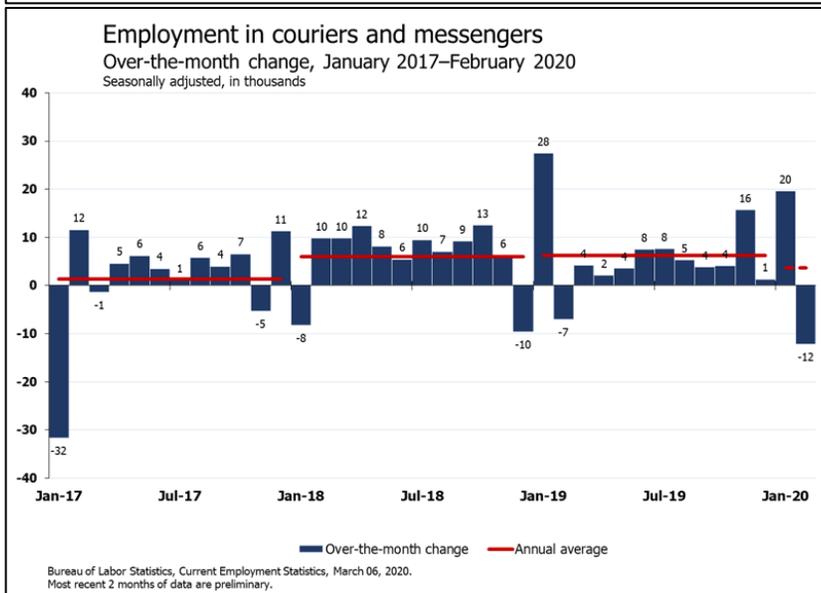
Employment declines occurred in clothing and clothing accessories stores (-12,000), and building material and garden supply stores (-6,000), while employment increased by 11,000 in health and personal care stores.

Retail-related economic indicators are mostly positive. Both [Real Personal Consumption Expenditures](#) and [Retail Sales](#) increased in January. The [Consumer Confidence Index](#) increased slightly in February.

Transportation and Warehousing



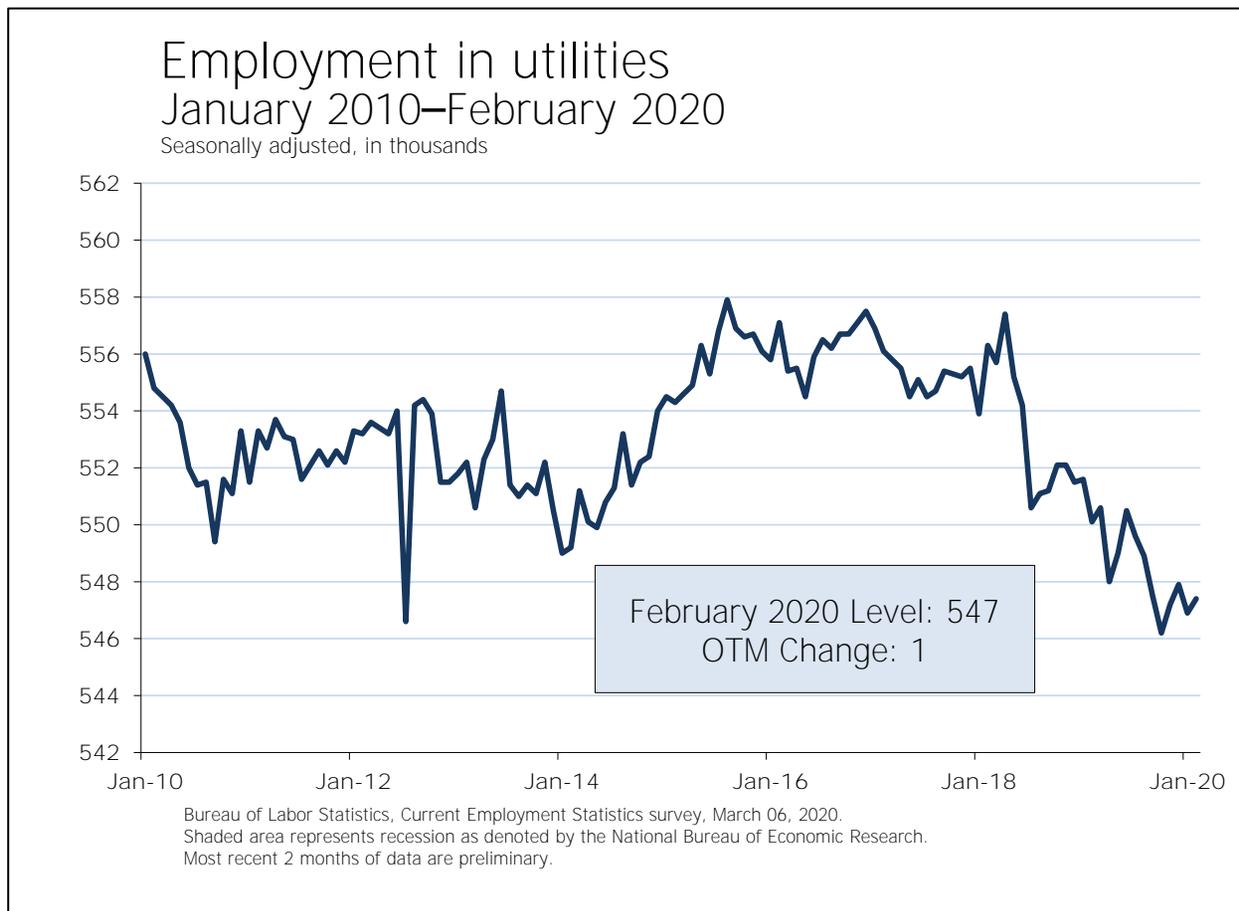
Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little (-4,000) in February. Warehousing and storage added 5,000 jobs, following a gain of 7,000 in January. Over the past 12 months, warehousing and storage has accounted for 23,000 of the 96,000 jobs added in transportation and warehousing.



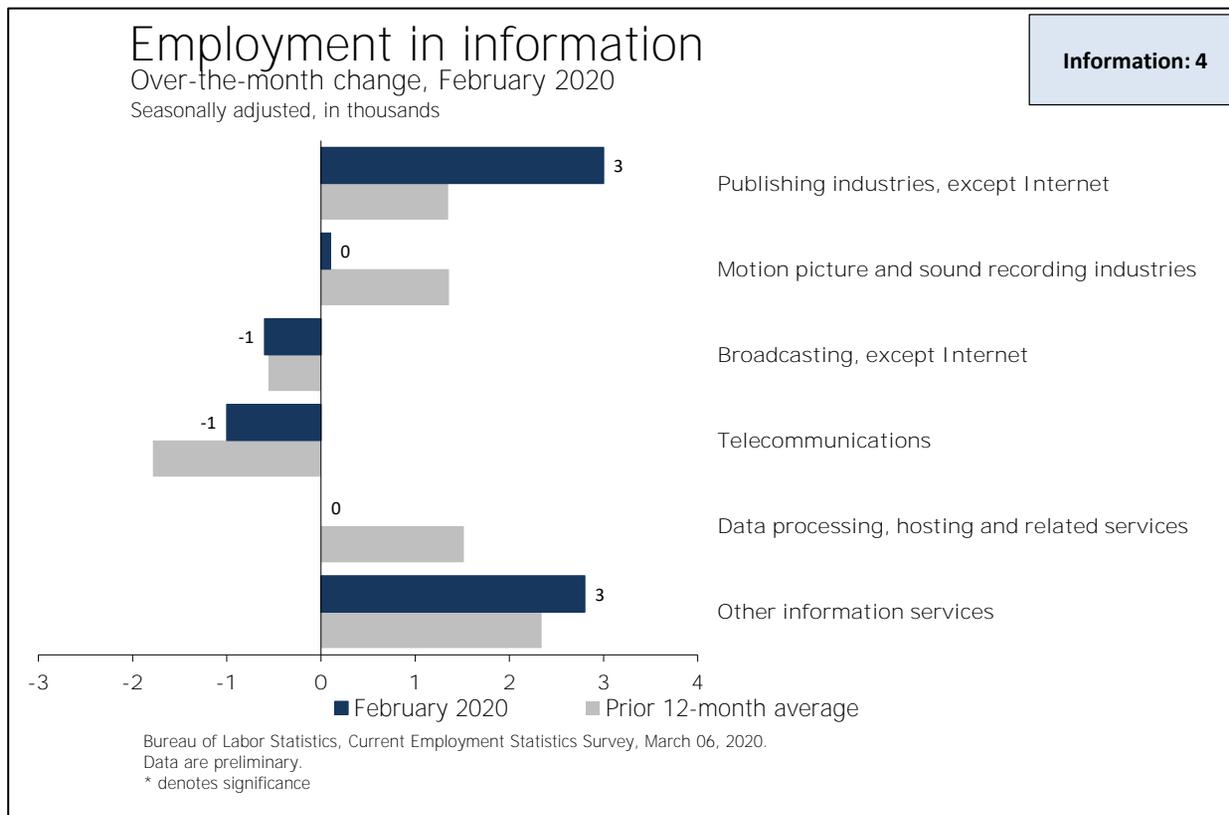
Employment in couriers and messengers fell by 12,000 in February, partially offsetting a gain of 20,000 in January. Following strong seasonal hiring for the recent holiday season, layoffs were weaker in January and stronger in February. After accounting for these offsetting seasonal movements, employment in the industry has remained on trend, rising by an average 6,000 per month since September.

Utilities

Employment in utilities was flat in February (+1,000).



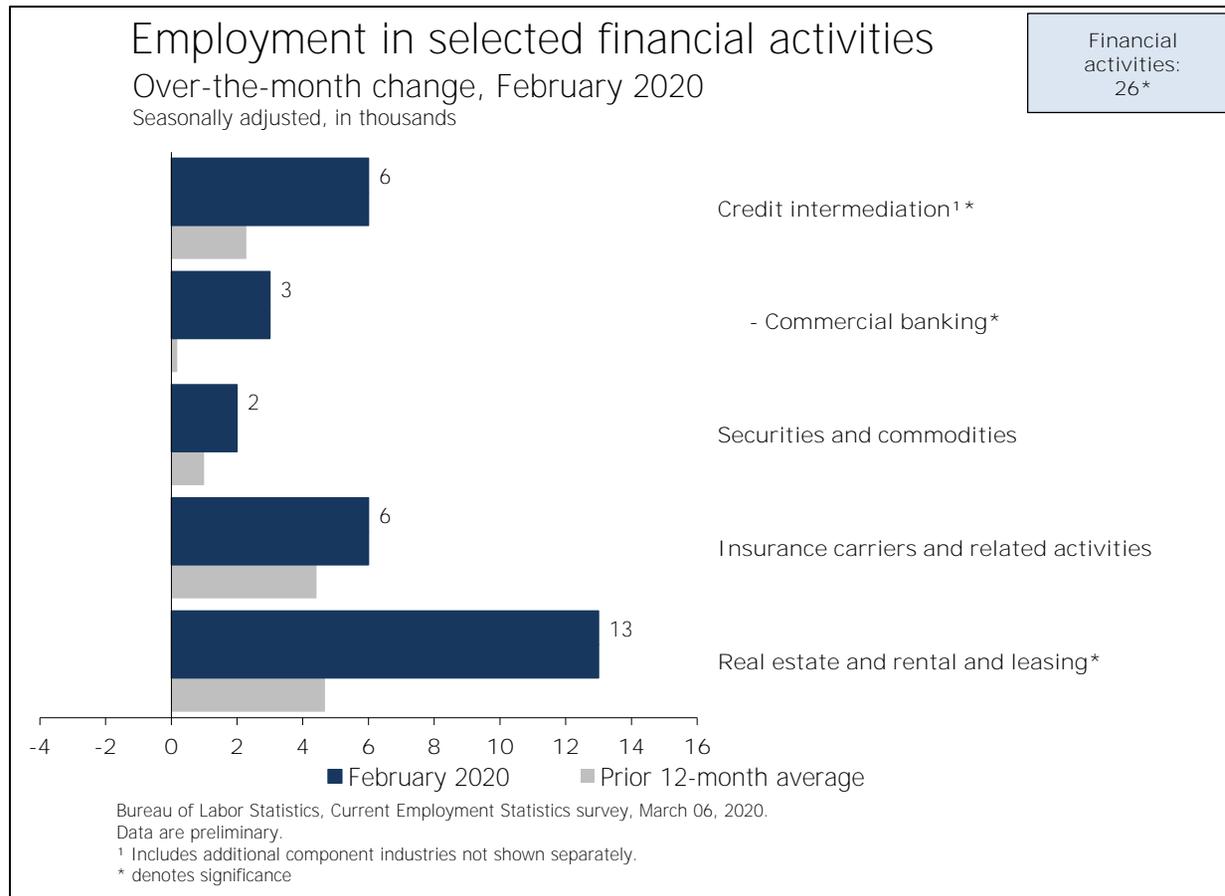
Information



Employment in information changed little in February (+4,000).

Over the past 12 months, employment in publishing industries, except internet expanded by 18,000; other information services (such as news syndicates, libraries and archives, and internet publishing and broadcasting and web search portals) added 27,000 jobs. This growth was partially offset by 19,000 jobs lost in telecommunications.

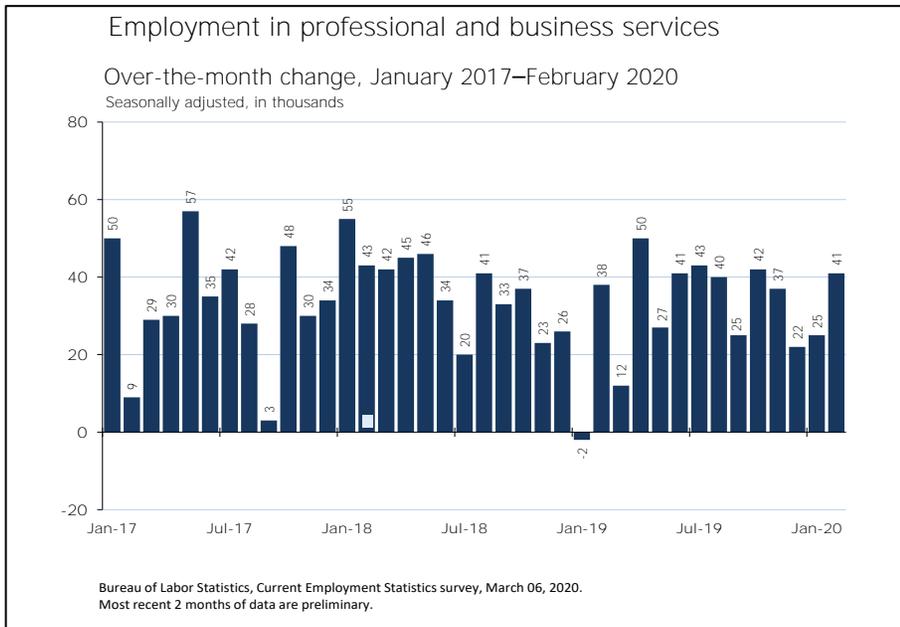
Financial Activities



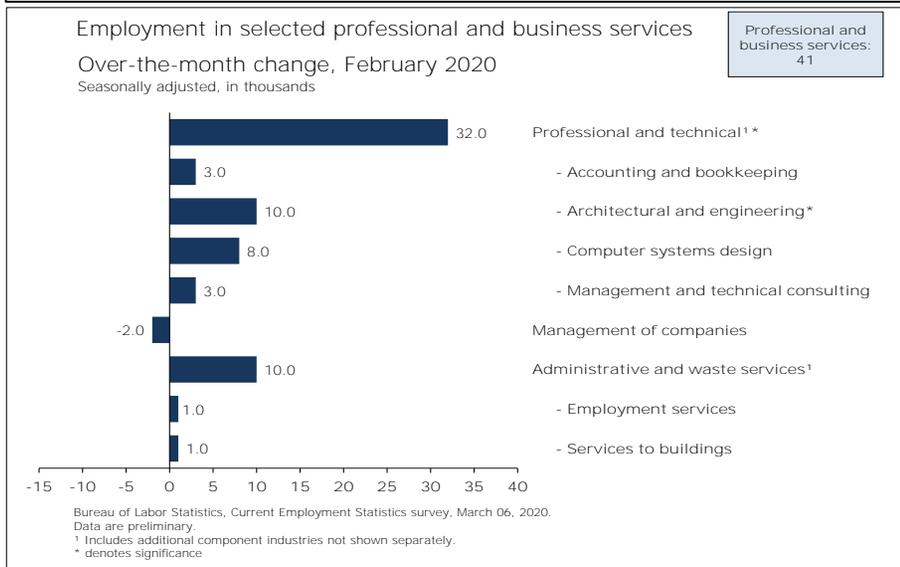
Employment in financial activities increased by 26,000 in February, the largest 1-month employment gain since February 2018. The growth was driven by gains in credit intermediation and related activities (+6,000) and in real estate (+8,000).

The increase in real estate employment in February coincides with declines in the [average 30-year fixed mortgage rate](#) and gains in construction employment.

Professional and Business Services

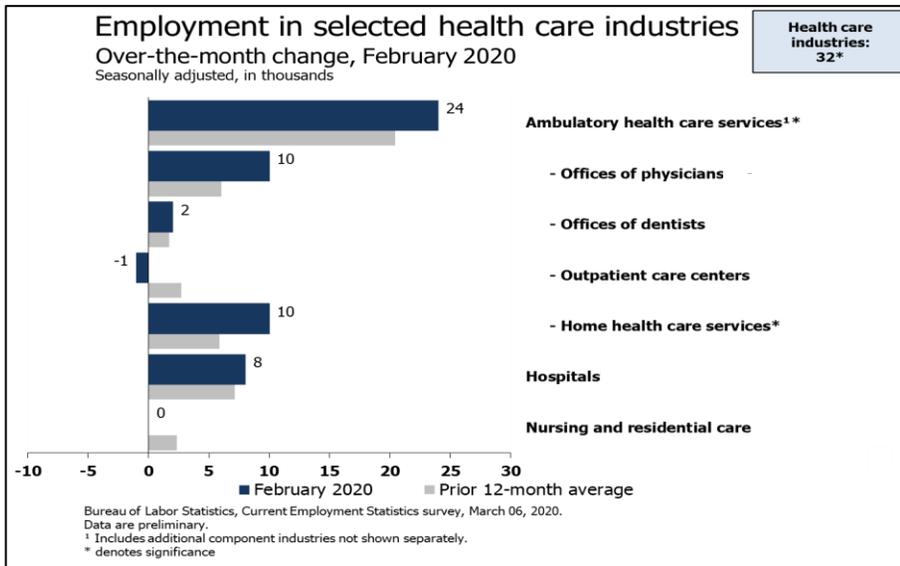


Employment in professional and business services edged up by 41,000 in February, slightly above the industry’s prior 12-month average of +34,000. Over the year, employment in the industry has grown by 405,000.

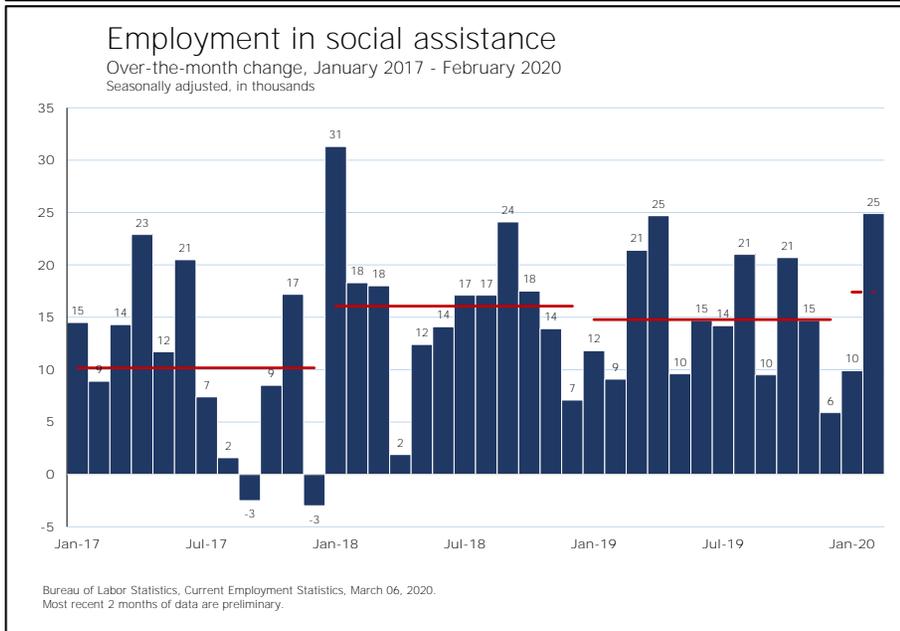


In February, employment increased by 32,000 in professional and technical services, above the industry’s prior 12-month average gain (+23,000). Employment gains in this industry were led by architectural and engineering services (+10,000), and scientific research and development services (+5,000). Computer system design and related services continued its upward employment trend (+8,000).

Private Education and Health Services



Employment in health care continued to trend up in February (+32,000). Within ambulatory health care services, home health care services added 10,000 jobs and offices of physicians added 10,000. Hospitals added 8,000 jobs also. Over the past 12 months, health care has added 368,000 jobs.

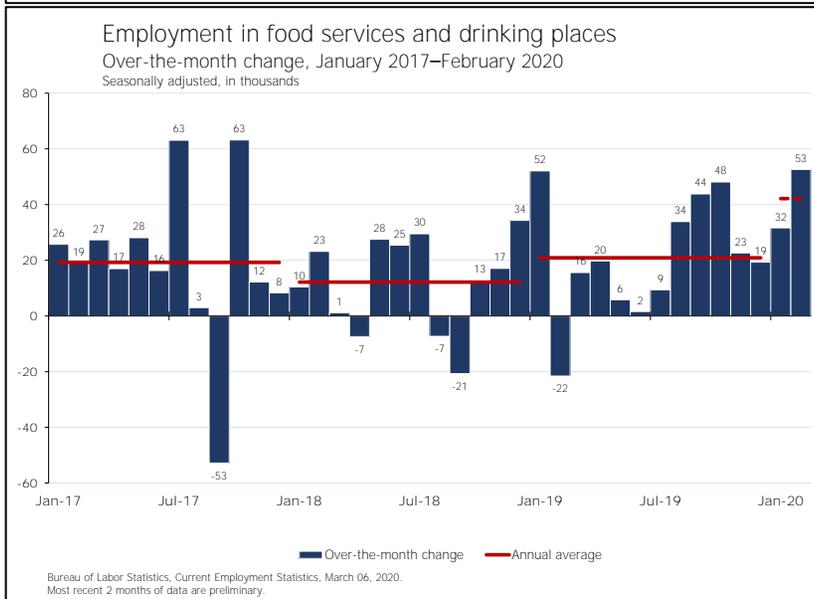
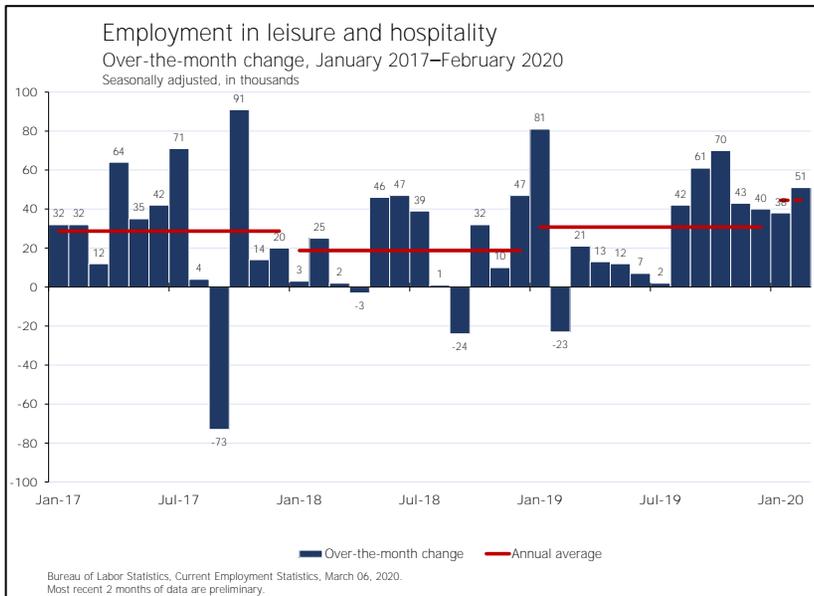


Social assistance added 25,000 jobs in February, with individual and family services accounting for 18,000 of the increase. Over the past 12 months, social assistance has added 191,000 jobs.

Leisure and Hospitality

In February, employment in leisure and hospitality continued to trend up (+51,000). Benefitting from gradually decreasing [gas prices](#), the industry has added 345,000 jobs since July.

Recent [warm weather](#) and strong [sales](#) likely encouraged employers in food services and drinking places to increase staffing in February. The industry added 53,000 jobs over-the-month—well above recent trends.

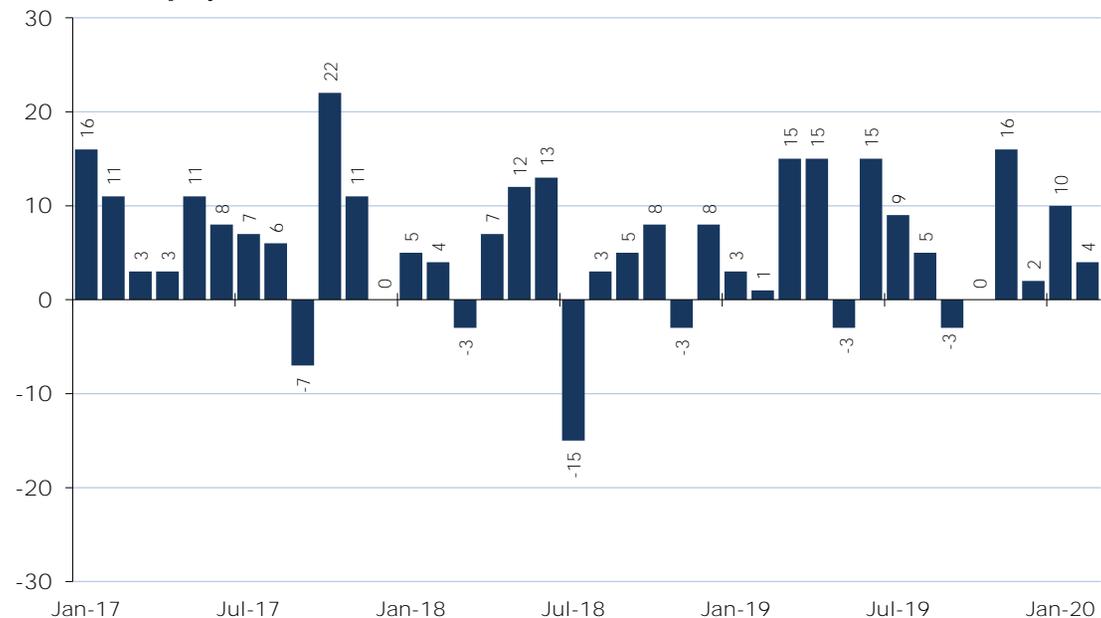


Other Services

Employment in other services

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

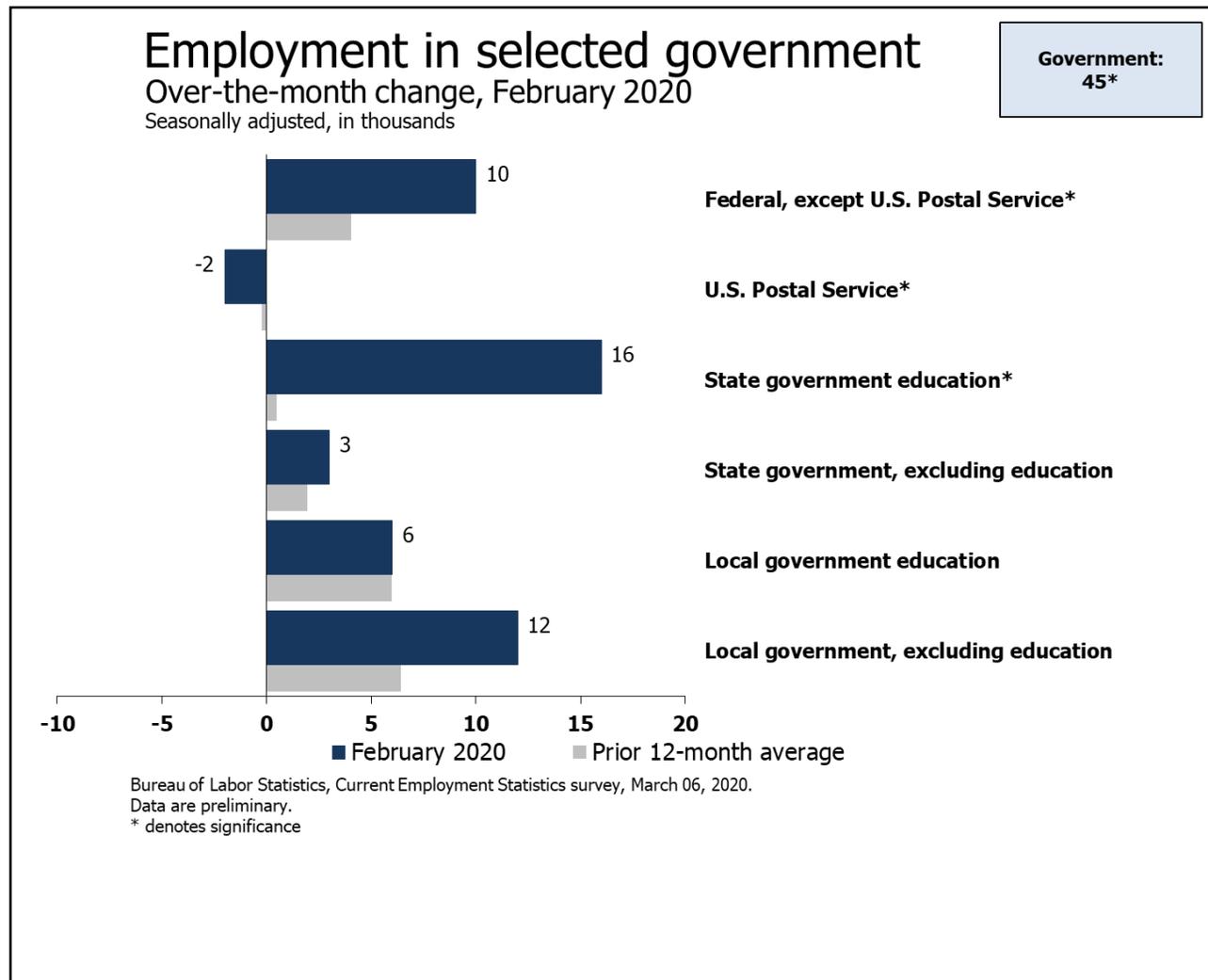
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 06, 2020.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in other services changed little in February (+4,000). Over the most recent 12 months, however, the industry has added 85,000 jobs, with the largest job gain coming in repair and maintenance (+44,000).

Government



Government added 45,000 jobs in February. Employment gains were spread about evenly between state government (+18,000) and local government (+19,000).

Hiring for Census 2020 accounted for 7,000 of the increase in federal government employment.



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