

## 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 2020**

Release Date: September 4, 2020

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 2020

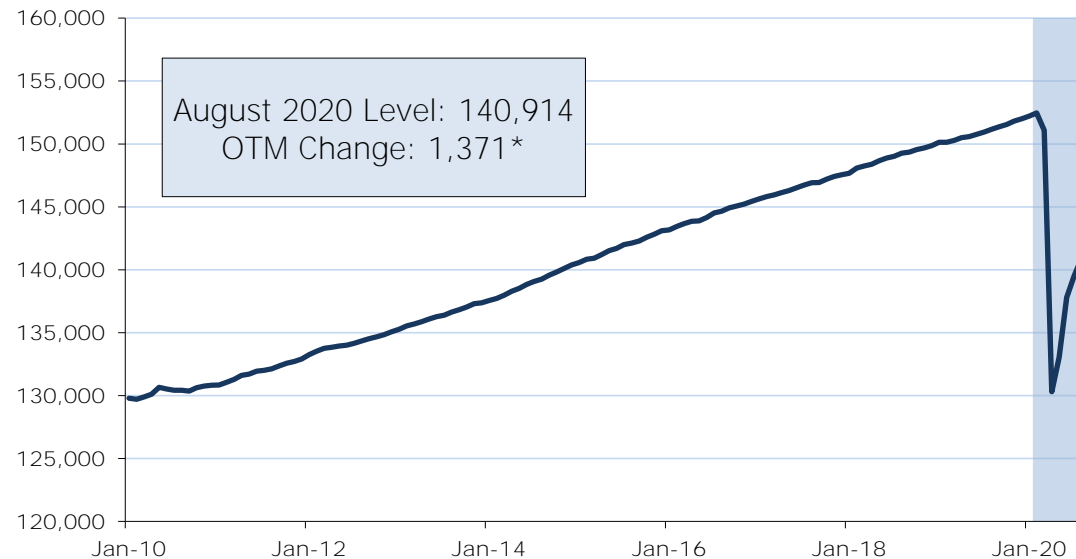
Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 1.4 million in August, reflecting the continued resumption of economic activity across the nation since the coronavirus (COVID19) pandemic negatively impacted employment in March and April. As of August, nonfarm employment was 11.5 million, or 7.6 percent, lower than its February level.

Government accounted for 25 percent of the August employment increase, mostly due to hiring for the 2020 Census. Large job gains also occurred in retail trade, professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, and in education and health services.

The employment change for June revised down from +4,791,000 to +4,781,000, and the change for July also revised down from +1,763,000 to +1,734,000. With these revisions, employment in June and July combined was 39,000 less than previously reported.

Average hourly earnings for all employees on private, nonfarm payrolls increased by 11 cents, or 0.4 percent, in August and were up 4.7 percent over the year. Average weekly hours, at 34.6 hours, grew by 0.1 hour over the month.

Employment in total nonfarm  
January 2010–August 2020  
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 04, 2020.  
Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.  
\* denotes significance.

#### +344,000 Government

Government employment grew by 344,000 in August. Within the industry, the Federal government added 251,000 jobs, largely due to the resumption of Census 2020 activities

after several months of postponement.

Employment in local government also grew over the month, with local government, excluding education adding 63,000 and local government education adding 32,000.

### Current Employment Statistics Summary, August 2020

Government employment has fallen by 831,000 since reaching a peak in February.

#### +249,000 Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade rose by 249,000 in August. Within the industry, almost half of the job gains occurred in general merchandise stores (+116,000). Elsewhere in retail trade, employment gains were widespread, including gains of 22,000 in motor vehicles and parts dealers, 21,000 in electronics and appliance stores, and 15,000 in health and personal care stores. Retail trade has lost 655,000 jobs since February.

#### +197,000 Professional and Business Services

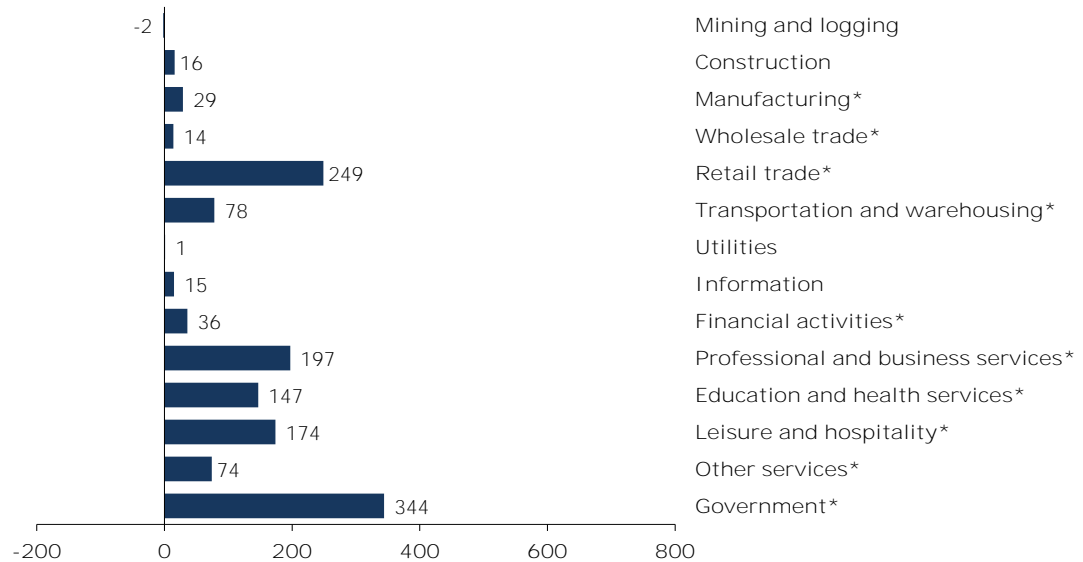
Within professional and business services, over half of the employment growth occurred in temporary help services (+107,000). Architectural and engineering services (+14,000), computer systems design and related services (+13,000), business support services (+13,000) and scientific research and development services (+10,000) also added jobs over the month. Despite recent job gains, professional and business services has lost 1.5 million jobs since February.

## Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, August 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:  
1,371 \*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 04, 2020.  
Data are preliminary.  
\* denotes significance

#### +174,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in leisure and hospitality grew by 174,000 in August. Within the industry, employment increased by 134,000 in food services and drinking places. Although employment has risen in recent months,

leisure and hospitality has lost 4.1 million jobs since February.

#### +147,000 Education and Health Services

Within education and health services, employment in health care grew by 75,000. Job gains in ambulatory health care services

### Current Employment Statistics Summary, August 2020

(+75,000) and hospitals (+14,000) were partly offset by a job loss in nursing and residential care services (-14,000). Employment in education and health services is still 1.5 million lower than in February.

#### **+78,000 Transportation and Warehousing**

Employment in transportation and warehousing increased by 78,000 in August. Job gains were widespread, including gains of 34,000 in warehousing and storage, 11,000 in transit and ground transportation and 10,000 in truck transportation. Although employment has risen in transportation and warehousing over the past 3 months, it has fallen by 381,000 since reaching a peak in January.

#### **+74,000 Other Services**

Employment in other services grew by 74,000 jobs in August, but it has fallen by 531,000 since February.

#### **+36,000 Financial Activities**

Employment in financial activities rose by 36,000 in August. Job growth occurred in real estate and rental and leasing (+23,000) and in nondepository credit intermediation (+10,000). Since February, employment in financial activities has fallen by 191,000.

#### **+29,000 Manufacturing**

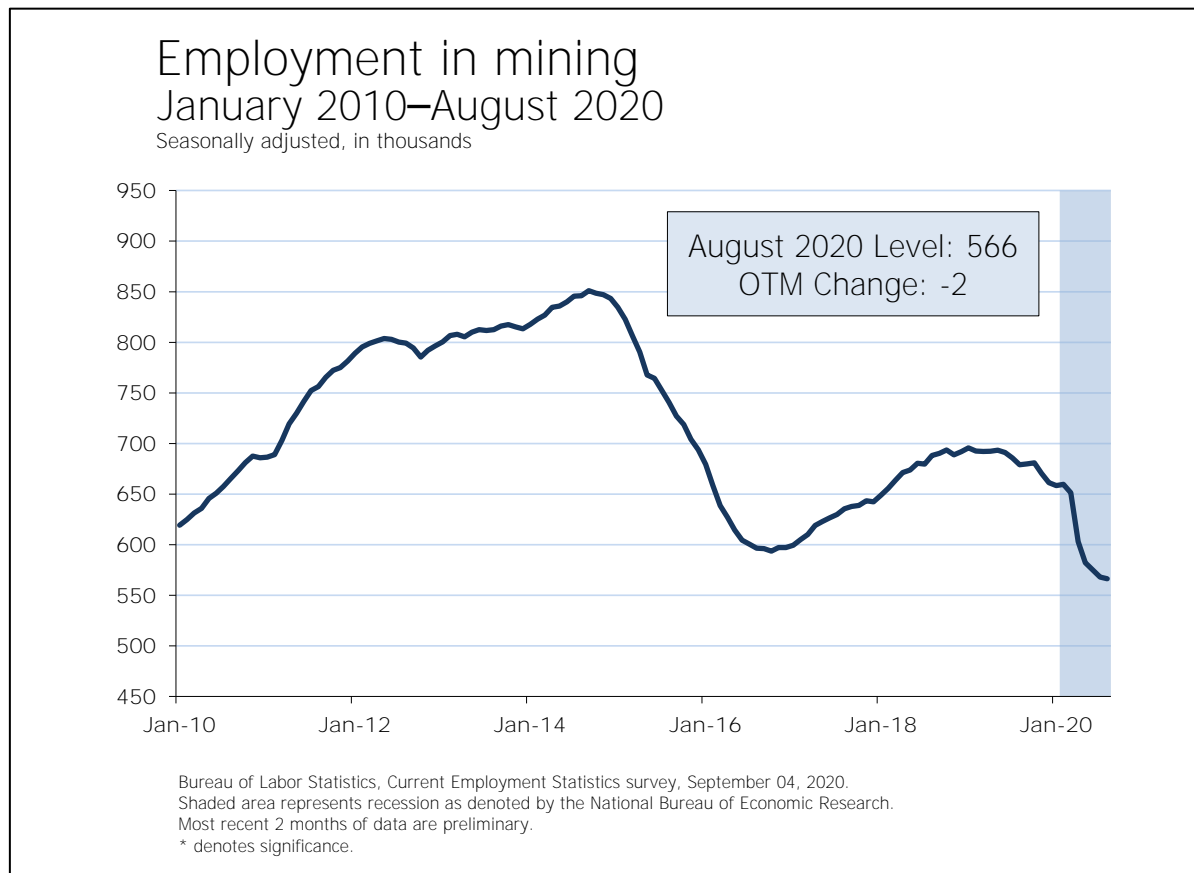
Manufacturing employment grew by 29,000 in August with most of the growth coming from nondurable goods manufacturing (+27,000), which included gains of 12,000 in food manufacturing, 7,000 in plastics and rubber products, and 6,000 in chemicals. Since February, manufacturing employment has declined by 720,000.

#### **+14,000 Wholesale Trade**

Within wholesale trade, employment increased by 9,000 in nondurable goods in August but has declined by 331,000 since reaching a peak in January.

<b>Summary</b>	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
----------------	------------------	--------------	---------------	-------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------	----------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------------	----------------	------------

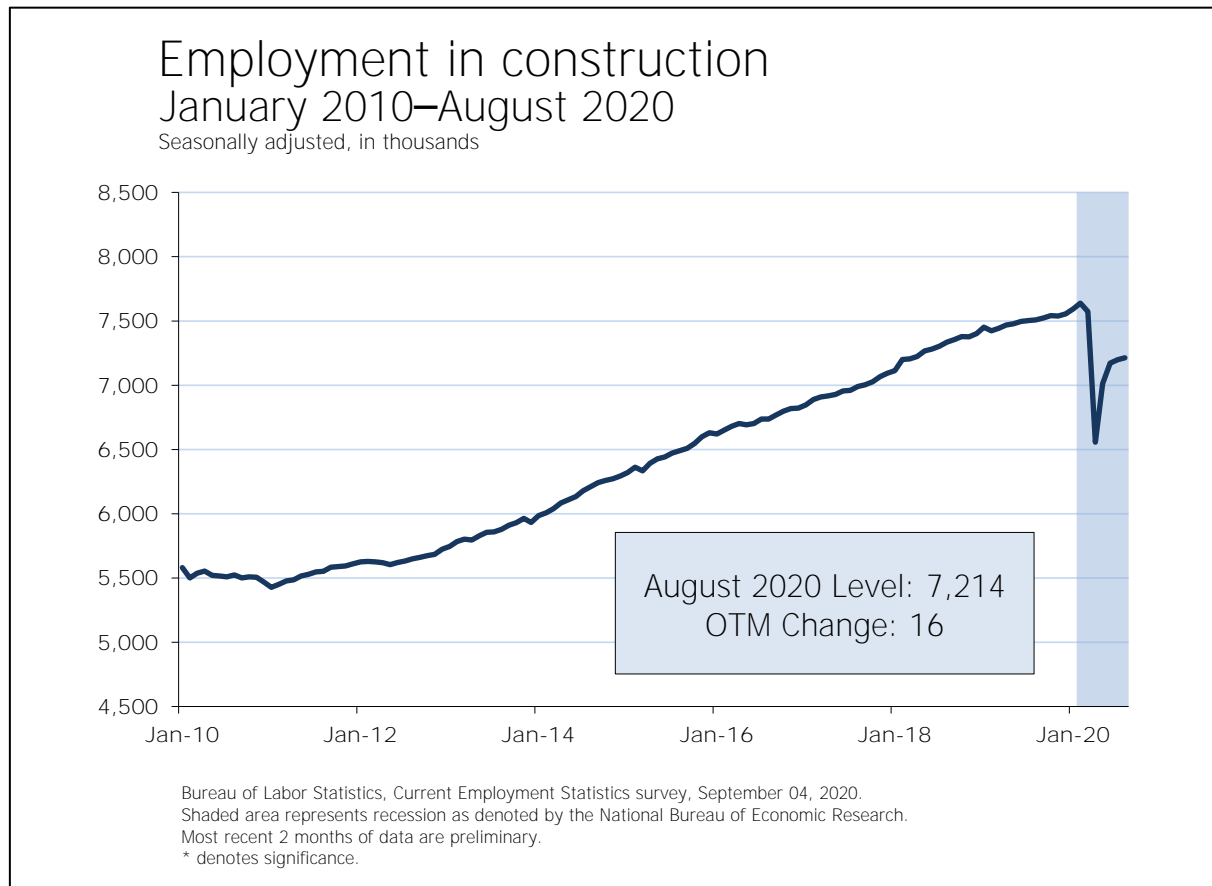
## Mining and Logging



Mining employment changed little in August, though the industry has lost 95,000 jobs since December 2019. Support activities for mining account for most of the job losses in 2020.

In August, weakness in mining employment reflects a decline in the number of active [North American rotary rigs](#).

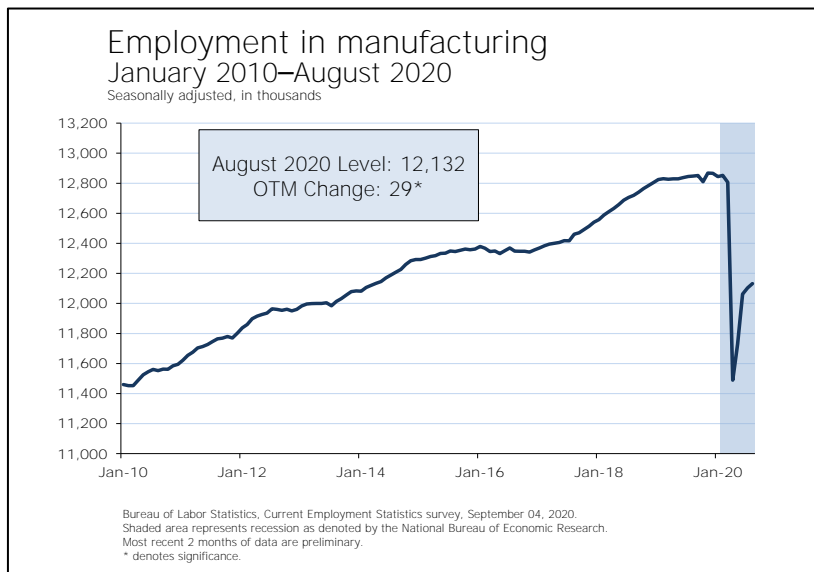
## Construction



Construction employment changed little in August (+16,000). Construction of buildings added 13,000 jobs and residential specialty trade contractors added 25,000, offsetting a decline of 16,000 in nonresidential specialty trade contractors. Employment in construction was 425,000 lower than its February peak.

[Construction spending, building permits, and new homes sold](#) in July and [lower mortgage rates](#) in August point toward strength in construction, although heavy precipitation in the eastern half of the United States may have hindered job growth in August.

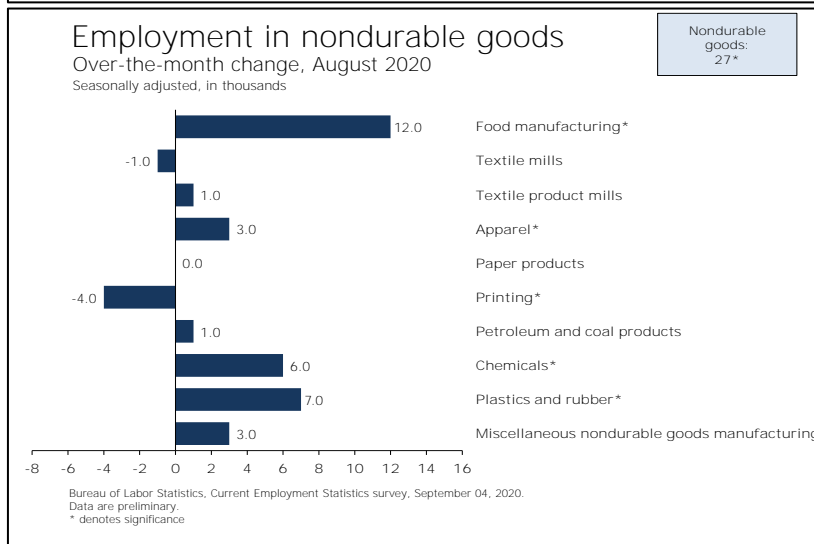
## Manufacturing



In August, manufacturing employment increased by 29,000. Nondurable goods experienced significant job gains (+27,000), while employment in durable goods was flat (+2,000).

Within nondurable goods, almost half of the employment gains occurred in food manufacturing (+12,000). Plastics and rubber (+7,000), chemicals (+6,000), and apparel (+3,000) also added jobs over the month, partially offsetting a job loss in printing and related support activities (-4,000).

The manufacturing 1-month diffusion index increased to 59.2, a change of 11.2, indicating that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than are losing jobs. The manufacturing sector continues to recover and has added 403,000 jobs since June. However, over 6 months, the diffusion index measures just 9.2, indicating that employment has not recovered to February levels in most manufacturing industries.

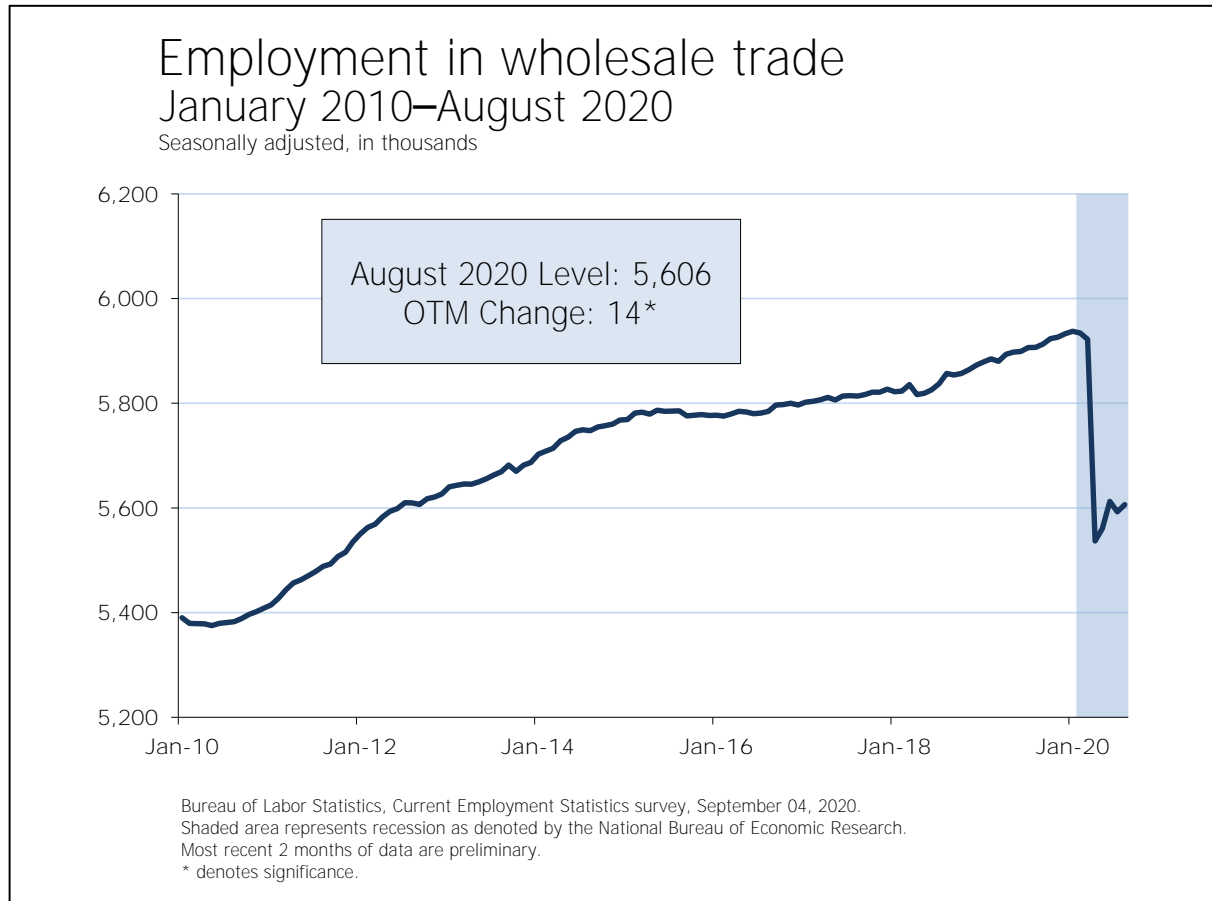


In August, manufacturing employment gains are reflected in indicator data, which show increases in both the Institute of Supply Management's [Purchasing Managers' Index](#) (PMI) and the IHS Markit's [PMI](#).

In August, average hourly earnings for all employees in manufacturing rose by 14 cents to \$28.92. Average hourly earnings of production workers were unchanged at \$22.82.

Average weekly hours of all employees rose 0.3 hour in August to 40.0 hours. For production workers, the average workweek rose 0.2 hour to 40.9 hours.

## Wholesale Trade



Wholesale trade employment increased by 14,000 in August; however, the industry has lost 331,000 jobs since reaching an employment peak in January. Nondurable goods added 9,000 jobs in August, partially offsetting a decline of 20,000 in July.



### Retail Trade

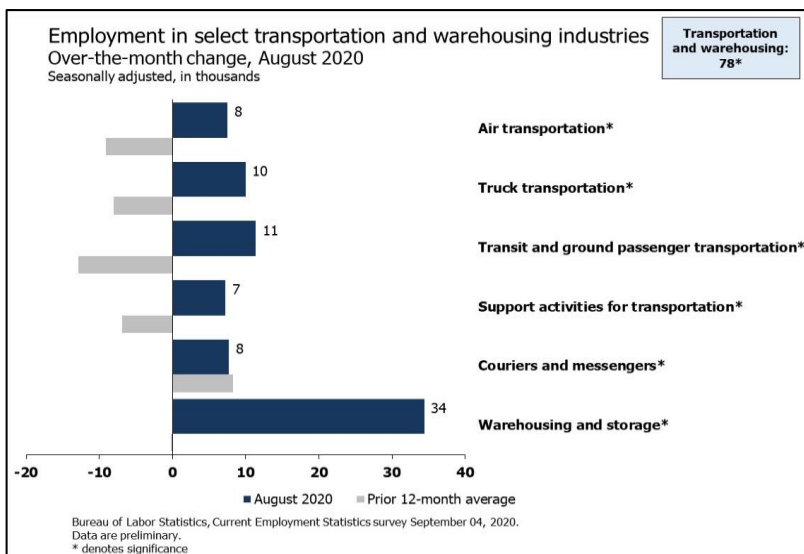


Employment in retail trade rose by 249,000 in August, after increasing by a similar amount in July. Since February, however, industry employment has declined by 655,000.

Job gains were widespread in August, led by growth in general merchandise stores (+116,000), motor vehicle and parts dealers (+22,000), electronics and appliance stores (+21,000), and in health and personal care stores (+15,000).

Recent retail-related economic indicators are mixed. [Retail Sales](#) increased in July. Conversely, the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) declined in August.

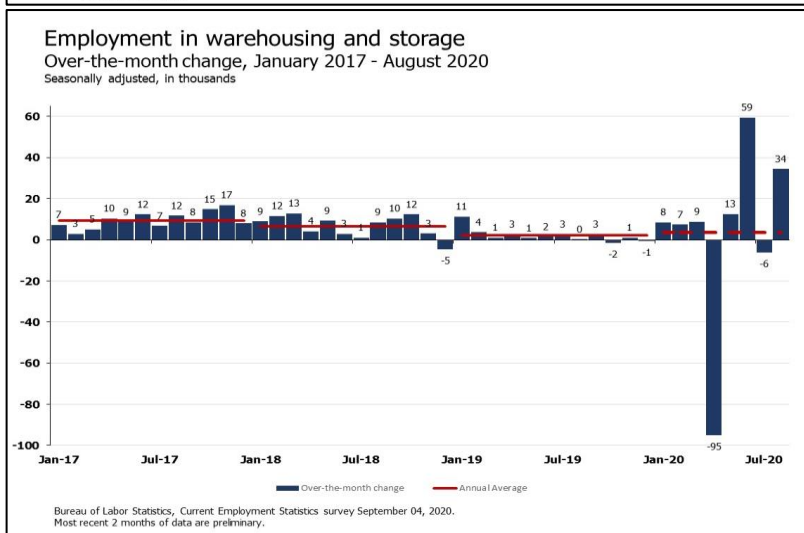
## Transportation and Warehousing



Employment in transportation and warehousing increased by 78,000 in August. However, the industry has lost 381,000 jobs since reaching an employment peak in January. August gains were widespread among the component industries, with warehousing and storage adding the majority of the jobs (+34,000).

The gains in warehousing and storage come as the [demand outlook for warehouse space](#) surges alongside coronavirus-related e-commerce sales. Employment in warehousing and storage now exceeds its February level by 14,000.

August employment gains in couriers and messengers (+8,000) follow a boost in [global revenue from online sales](#) in the second quarter of 2020. Since February, couriers and messengers has added an average of 13,000 jobs a month.



### Utilities

## Employment in utilities January 2010–August 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

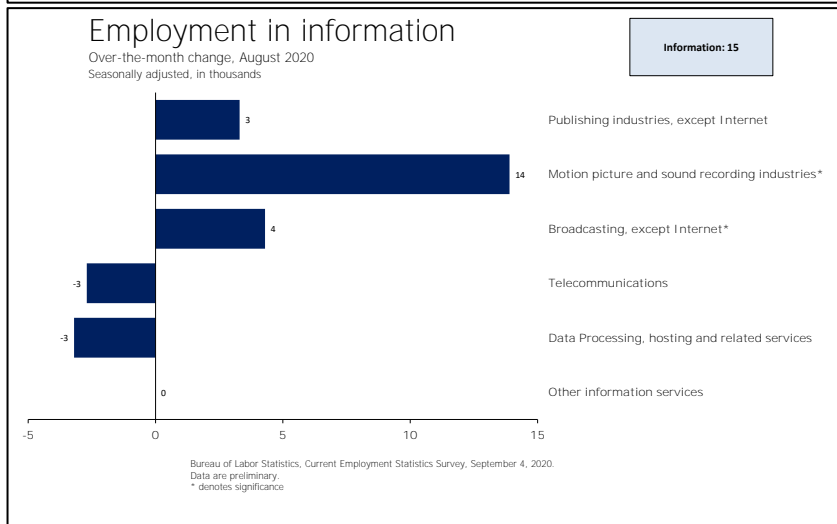
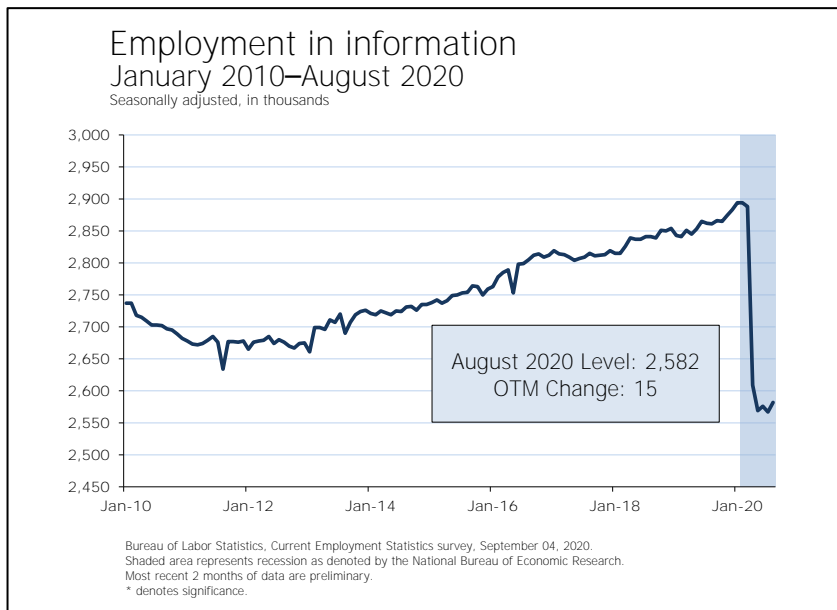


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 04, 2020.  
 Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.  
 Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.  
 \* denotes significance.

Employment in utilities was essentially flat in August (+1,000) but has declined by 9,000 since December 2019.

### Information

Employment in information edged up by 15,000 in August, however employment has declined by 312,000 since reaching a peak in February.

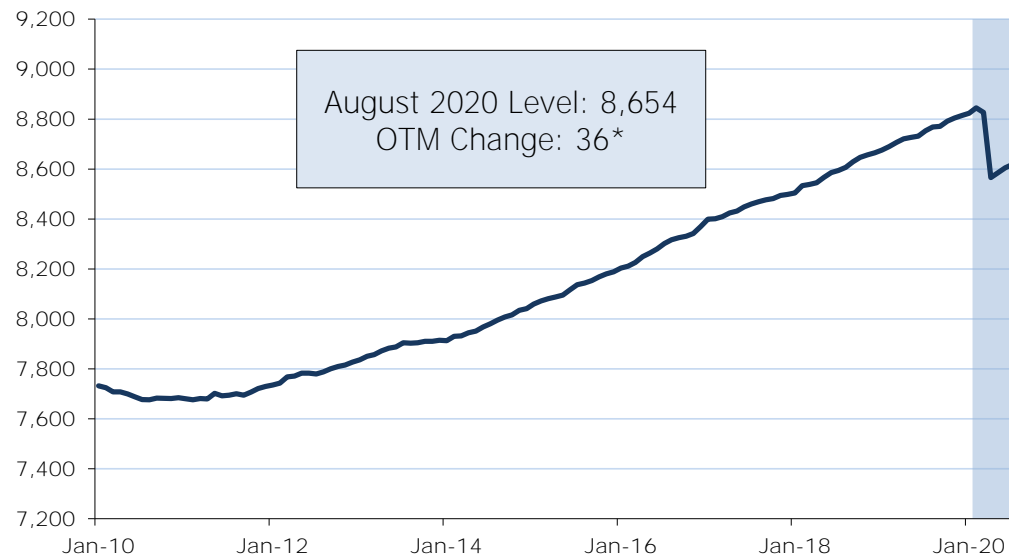


In August, motion picture and sound recording (+14,000) and broadcasting, except internet (+4,000) added jobs.

## Financial Activities

### Employment in financial activities January 2010–August 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 04, 2020.  
 Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.  
 Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.  
 \* denotes significance.

Employment in financial activities increased by 36,000 in August, following a gain of 13,000 in July. Over the past 3 months, employment in the industry has increased by 69,000 but is still 191,000 below its peak in February.

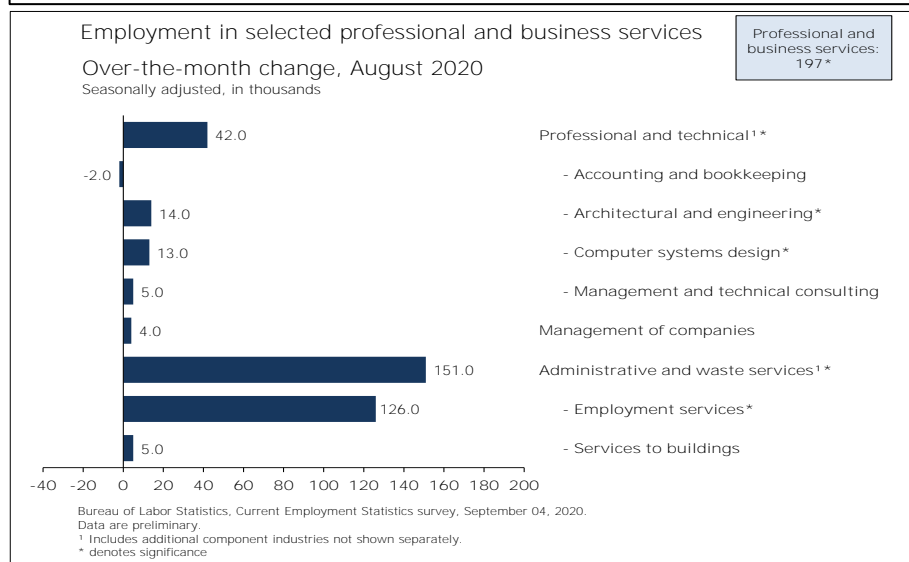
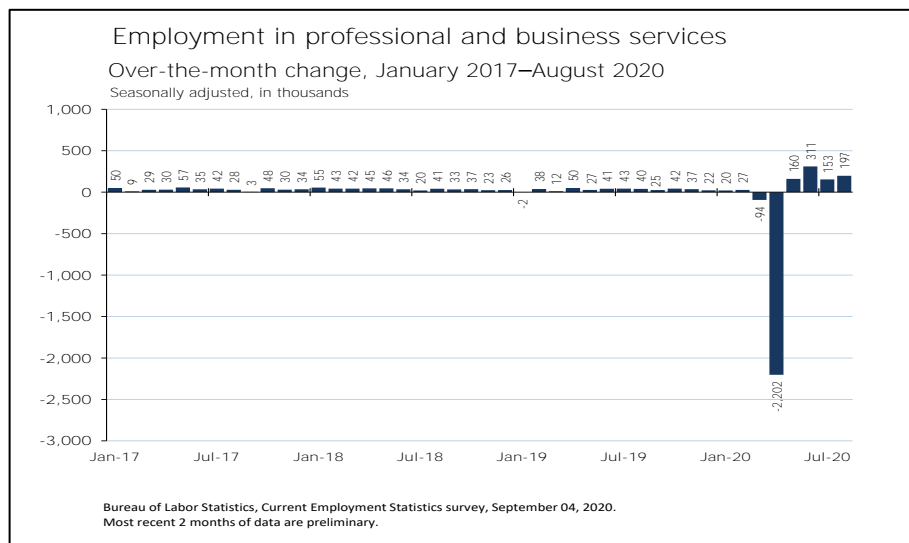
In August, job gains were concentrated in real estate and rental and leasing (+23,000) and credit intermediation (+9,000). Despite the gains, real estate and rental and leasing and credit intermediation have lost 169,000 jobs and 21,000 jobs, respectively, since February.

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

## Professional and Business Services

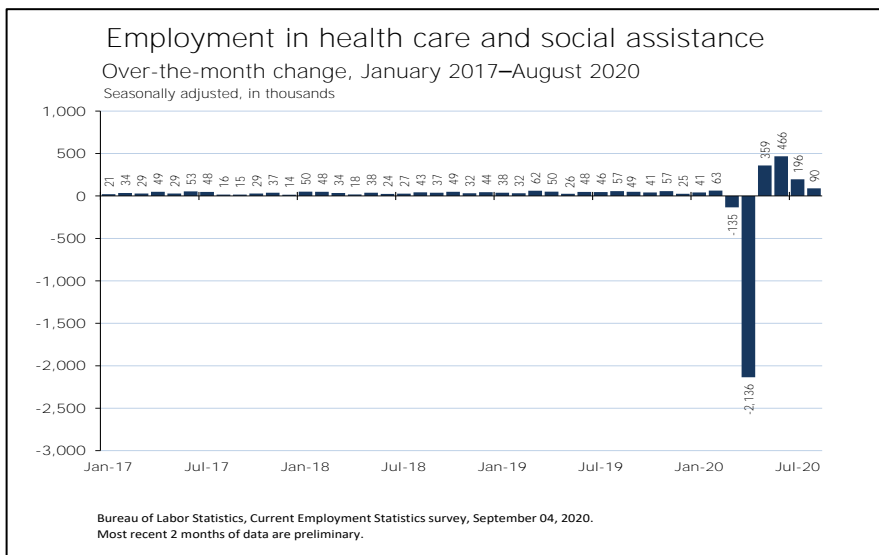
Employment in professional and business services increased by 197,000 in August. Over the past 3 months, industry employment has increased by 661,000, but is still 1.5 million below its peak in February.

In August, administrative and support services added 151,000 jobs, with temporary help services accounting for 107,000 of the increase. Business support services (+13,000) also added jobs.

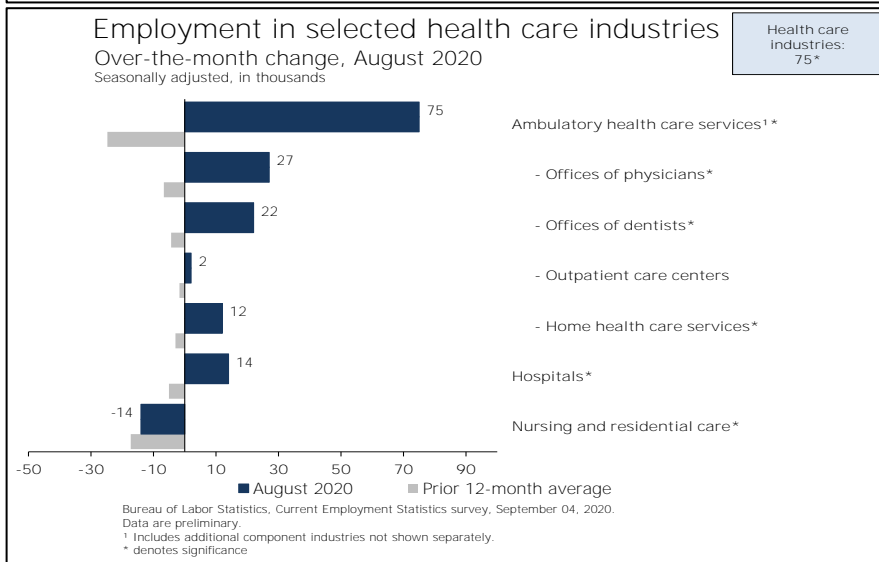


Employment in professional and technical services increased by 42,000, led by a gain in architectural and engineering services (+14,000). Computer systems design and related service (+13,000) and scientific research and development services (+10,000) also added jobs over the month.

### Private Education and Health Services



In August, employment in health care and social assistance increased by 90,000. Within social assistance, vocational and rehabilitation services added 6,000 jobs. Despite the gains in August, employment in health care and social assistance is 1.2 million lower than its peak in February.

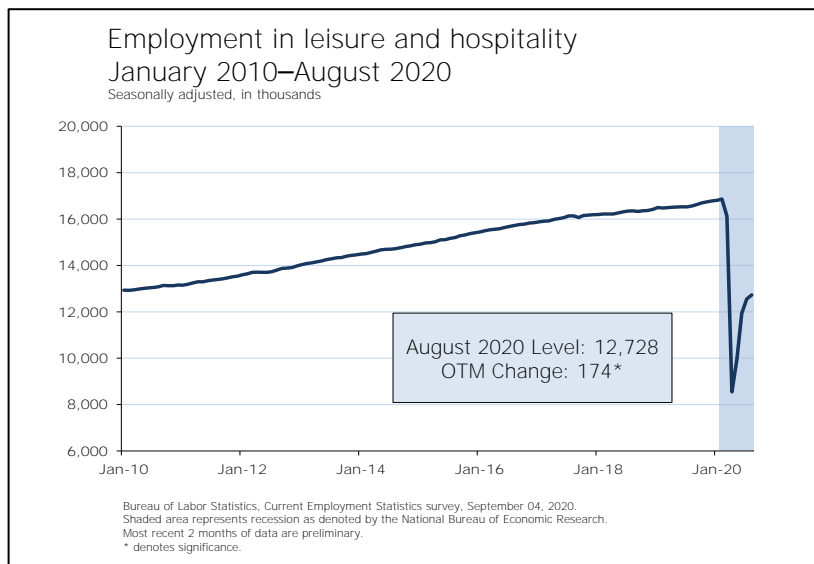


Employment in ambulatory health care services increased by 75,000 in August, with offices of physicians accounting for 27,000 of the gains. Offices of dentists (+22,000), home health care services (+12,000), and offices of other health practitioners (+11,000) also added jobs. Hospitals added 14,000 jobs over the month.

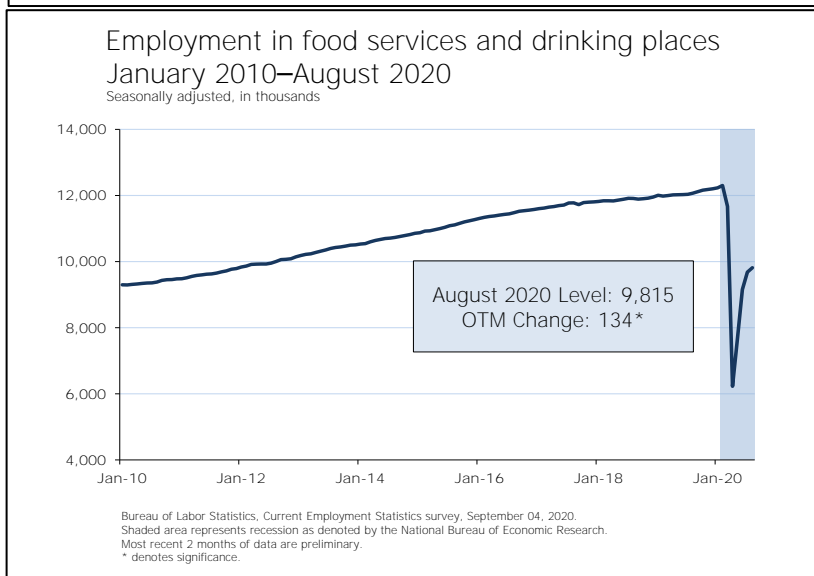
In August, employment in nursing and residential care facilities continued to trend down (-14,000). Since February, the industry has lost an average 38,000 jobs per month.

## Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in leisure and hospitality increased by 174,000 in August. Despite adding 2.8 million jobs over the past 3 months, employment in leisure and hospitality is still 4.1 million lower than in February.



Employment in food services and drinking places grew by 134,000 in August. This increase follows an upswing in food service [sales](#) in July. Despite adding 3.6 million jobs since April, employment in food services and drinking places is still 2.5 million lower than in February.

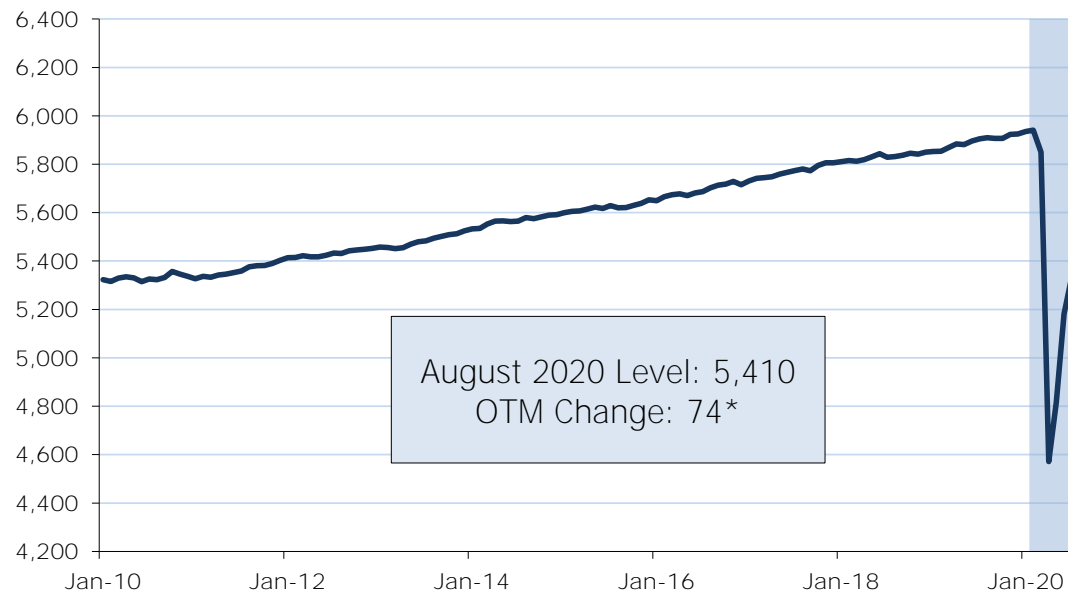




## Other Services

### Employment in other services January 2010–August 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

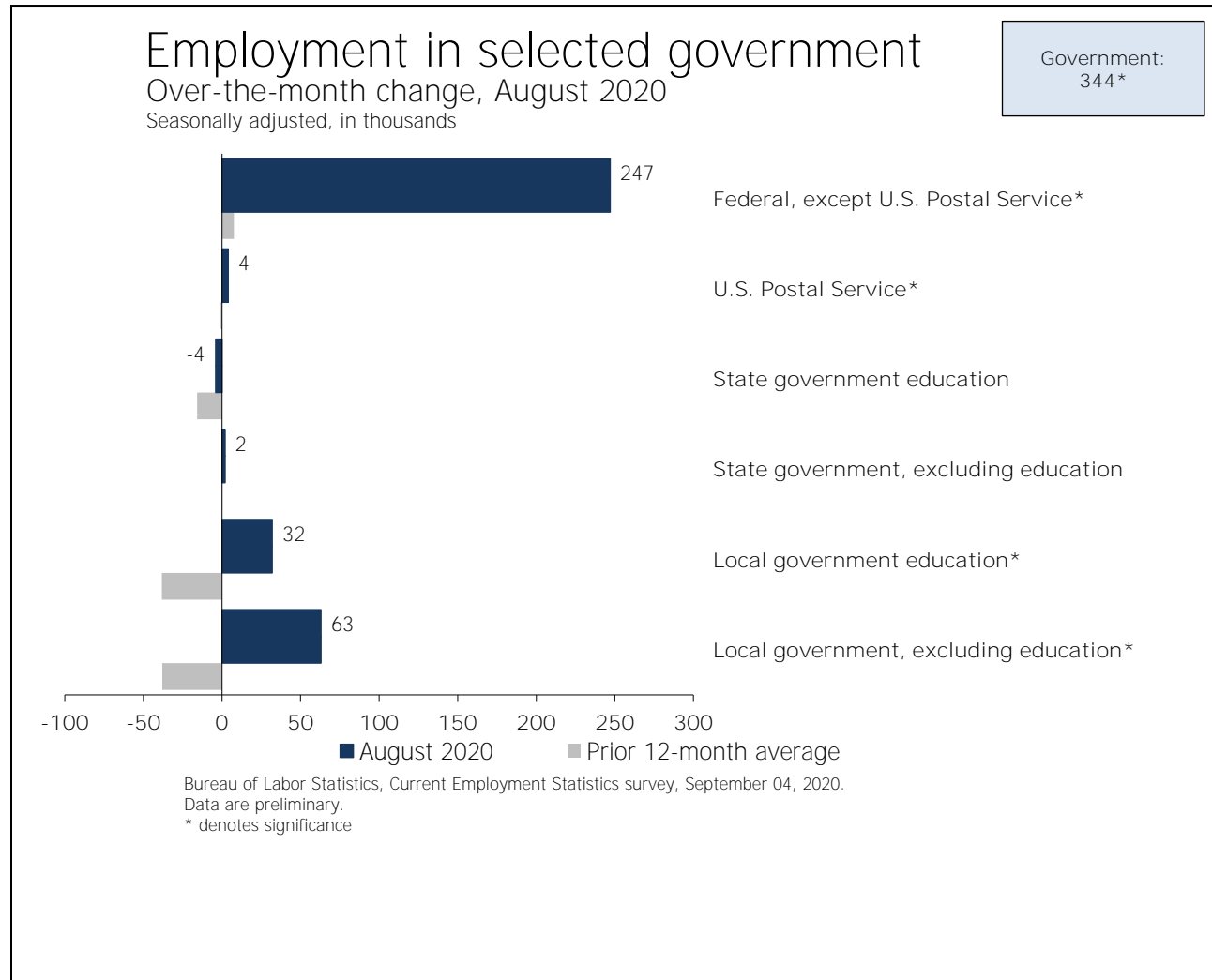


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 04, 2020.  
 Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.  
 Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.  
 \* denotes significance.

Employment in other services grew by 74,000 in August, following a gain of 154,000 in July. Since May, about 61 percent of jobs have been recovered from the 1.4 million jobs lost in March and April.

The largest job gain in August occurred in membership associations and organizations (+31,000). Repair and maintenance (+29,000) and personal and laundry services (+14,000) also added jobs over the month.

## Government



In August, government employment increased by 344,000. Hiring for the 2020 Census accounted for 238,000 of the increase in federal government employment. The U.S. Postal Service added 4,000 jobs over the month.

Employment in local government increased by 95,000, with local government, excluding education adding 63,000 jobs and local government education adding 32,000. Despite the gains in August, employment in local government is 910,000 lower than the peak in March.



---

### CES Analysts

Osman Alhassan  
Ryan Ansell  
Hyun Choi  
Steve Crestol  
Purva Desai  
Katelynn Harris  
Matthew Hong  
Mike McCall  
John Mullins  
Michael Osifalujo  
Rhiannon Sneeringer

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

202-691-6555  
[Email CES](#)