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# Current Employment Statistics Highlights



**September 2020**

Release Date: October 2, 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, September 2020

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 661,000 in September with gains distributed across private-sector industries. Leisure and hospitality, retail trade, professional and business services, transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing led with the largest job gains. Government lost jobs over the month.

The employment change for August revised up from +1,371,000 to +1,489,000, and the change for July revised up from +1,734,000 to +1,761,000. On net, employment over these months is 145,000 higher than previously reported. Over the past 5 months, employment has increased by 11.4 million but stands 10.7 million below the peak in February.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls changed little in September (+2 cents or 0.1 percent). Over the year, hourly earnings have increased by 4.7 percent. Average weekly hours increased 0.1 hour to 34.7 hours in September.

#### +318,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Leisure and hospitality added 318,000 jobs in September, with strong gains in food services and drinking places (+200,000); amusements, gambling, and recreation (+69,000); and accommodation (+51,000).

Although job gains in leisure and hospitality total 4.5 million over the past 5 months, employment is still 3.8 million below its February level.

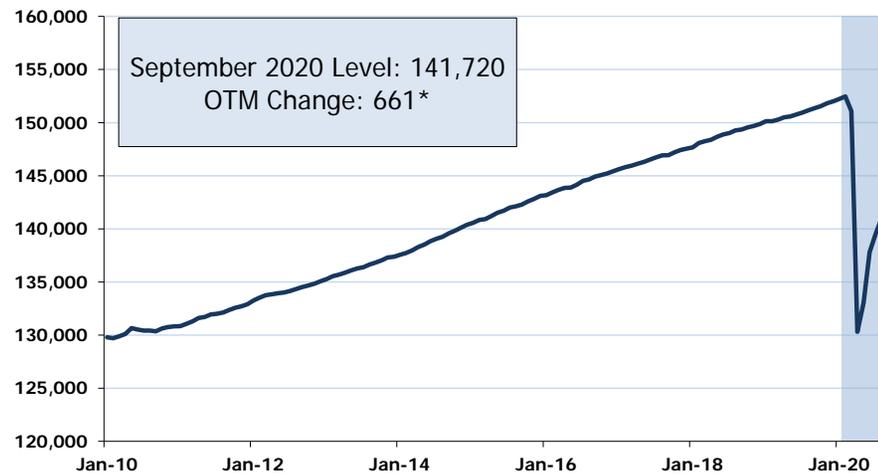
#### +142,000 Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade rose by 142,000 in September and by 1.9 million over the past

5 months, after falling by 2.4 million in March and April. In September, widespread job gains were led by clothing and clothing and accessories stores (+40,000), general merchandise stores (+20,000), motor vehicle and parts dealers (+16,000), and health and personal care stores (+16,000).

### Employment in total nonfarm January 2010–September 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 02, 2020.  
Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.  
\* denotes significance.

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, September 2020

#### +89,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment continued to recover in professional and business services over the month (+89,000). The industry has added 910,000 jobs since April following losses totaling 2.3 million in the prior 2 months. In September, services to buildings (+22,000) led job gains, followed by architectural and engineering services (+13,000), computer and systems design (+12,000), and management of companies (+11,000).

#### +74,000 Transportation and Warehousing

Transportation and warehousing added 74,000 jobs over the month, driven by gains in warehousing and storage (+32,000) and transit and ground passenger transportation (+21,000). Couriers and messengers also added jobs in September (+10,000), and since the onset of the COVID19 pandemic, job growth has accelerated to an average 13,000 per month after rising by an average 5,000 per month over the prior 12 months.

#### +66,000 Manufacturing

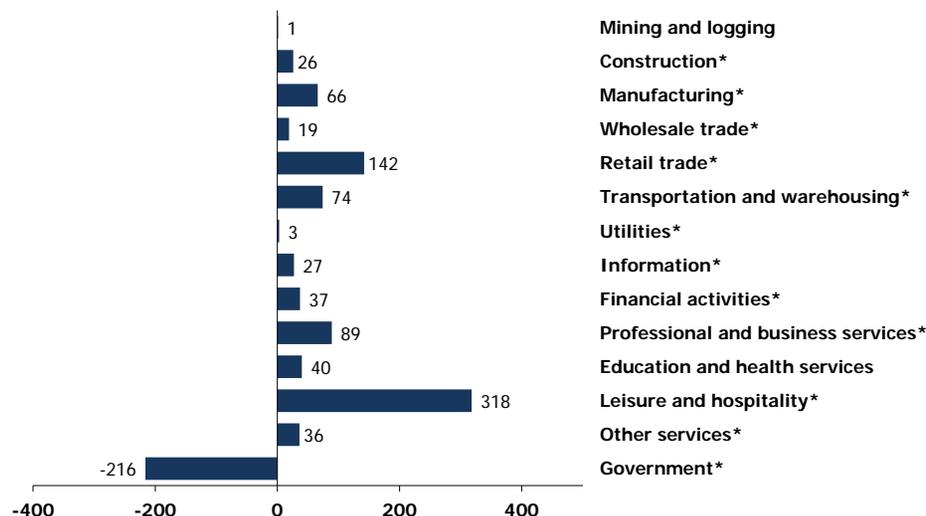
Manufacturing employment rose by 66,000 in September. The diffusion index over a 1-month span at 63.8 indicates that a majority of

### Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, September 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:  
661\*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 02, 2020.  
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\* denotes significance

manufacturing industries added jobs over the month. Both machinery and motor vehicles and parts manufacturers added 14,000 job each, and a gain of 20,000 was spread among nondurable goods.

Since April, manufacturing has recovered 716,000 jobs after losing 1.4 million jobs in March and April.

#### +40,000 Education and Health Services

After falling by 2.8 million in March and April, employment in education and health services has begun to recover with increases totaling 1.4 million since April. In September, employment rose in ambulatory health care, largely in offices of physicians

### Current Employment Statistics, September 2020

(+18,000), home health care (+16,000), and offices of other health practitioners (+14,000).

Social assistance also added jobs over the month in individual and family services (+32,000) and in child day care (+18,000).

A loss of 69,000 jobs in private educational services partly offset the employment gains in August.

#### +36,000 Other Services

Among other services, membership associations and organizations added 31,000 jobs in September, marking 5 months of job growth; however, employment is still 148,000 lower than its most recent peak in January.

#### +37,000 Financial Activities

Employment rose for a 5<sup>th</sup> month in financial activities, although it is still 162,000 lower than in February. Real estate and rental and leasing (+20,000) accounted for more than half of September’s job gain in the sector.

#### +27,000 Information

Within information, motion picture and sound recording added 23,000 jobs in September, although employment in the industry is 193,000 below its latest peak in January.

#### +26,000 Construction

Employment rose by 12,000 in construction of buildings and by 16,000 in residential specialty trade contractors in September.

While construction has added 689,000 jobs over the past 5 months, employment is still 394,000 below a peak in February.

#### +19,000 Wholesale Trade

Wholesale trade added jobs in both durables goods (+13,000) and nondurable goods (+8,000) in September. Employment in wholesale trade is down by 315,000 since its most recent peak in January.

#### -216,000 Government

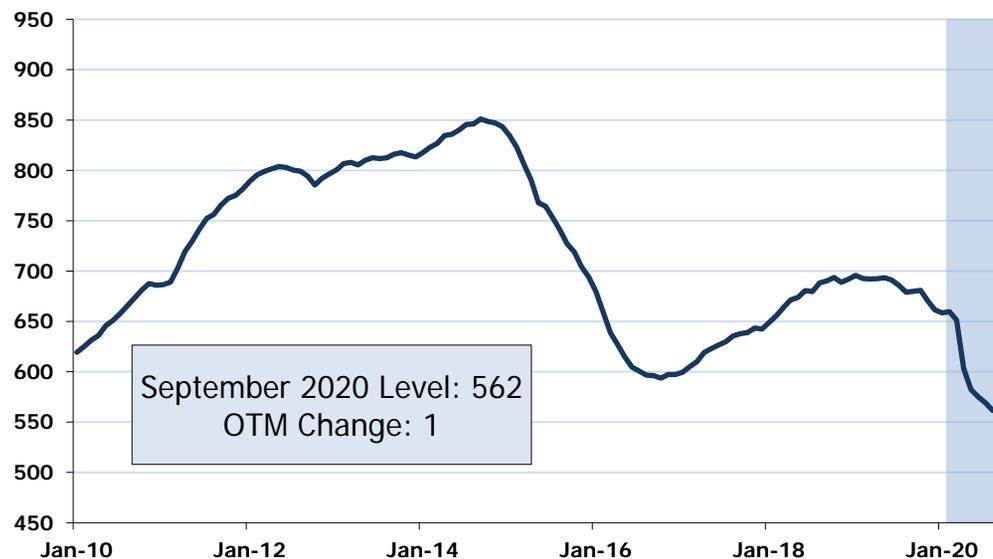
Government lost 216,000 jobs in September. Local government

education and state government education fell by 231,000 and 49,000, respectively, as the return to school resulted in fewer seasonal hires. Federal government lost 34,000 jobs, largely due to a decline in the number of Census 2020 workers. Local government, excluding education added 96,000 jobs over the month, partly offsetting losses elsewhere in government.

## Mining and Logging

### Employment in mining January 2010–September 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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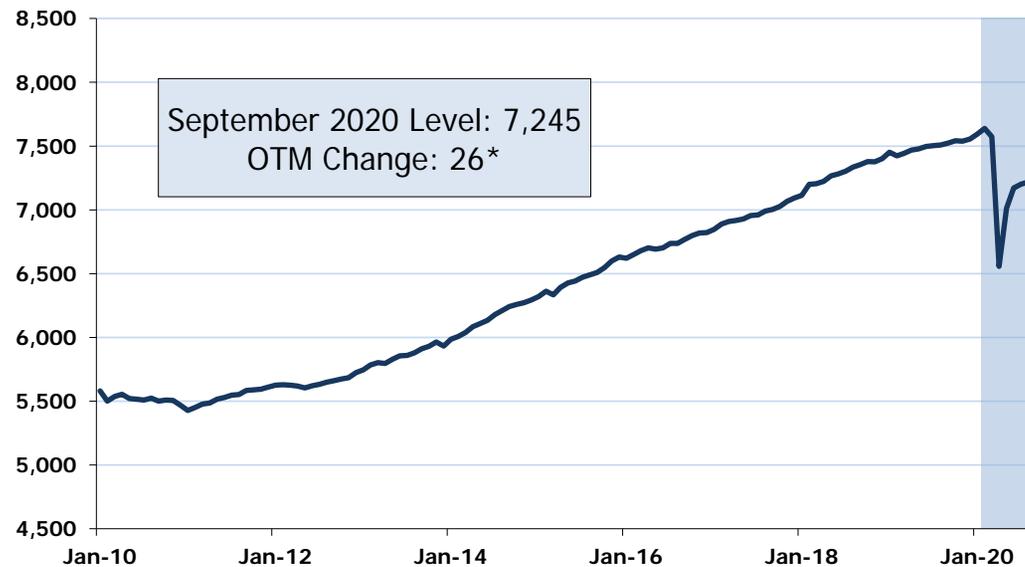
Mining employment was essentially flat in September (+1,000). Employment in the industry is down by 133,000 since a recent peak in January 2019; about three-fourths of this decline has occurred since February 2020.

Flatness in mining employment comes with mixed indicator data in September, which showed a decline in the price of [West Texas Intermediate crude oil](#) and an increase in the number of [active oil and gas rigs](#).

## Construction

### Employment in construction January 2010–September 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

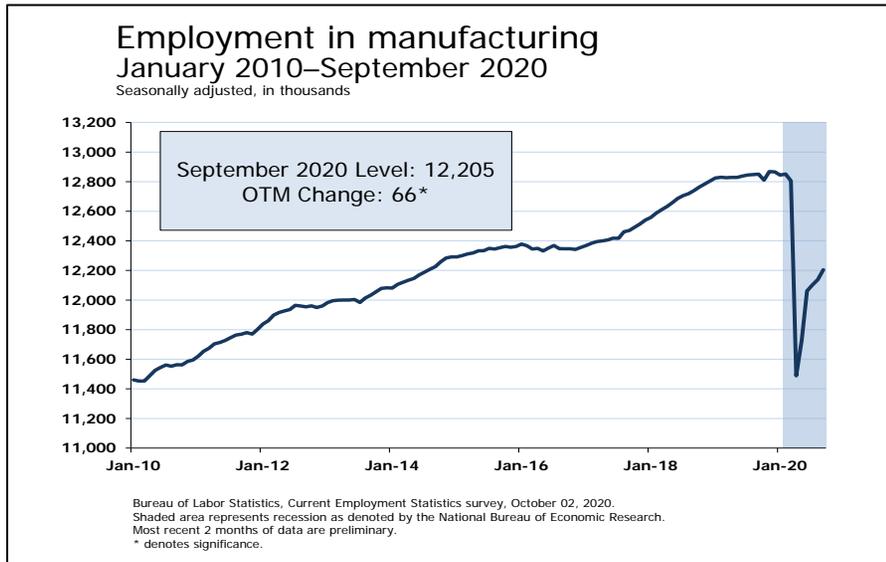


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 02, 2020.  
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Construction employment grew by 26,000 in September, with gains in residential specialty trade contractors (+16,000) and construction of buildings (+12,000).

September employment growth represents a continued recovery from losses earlier in the year and follows strength in [new home sales](#) in August. As of September, construction has recovered 64 percent of the 1.1 million jobs lost in March and April.

## Manufacturing



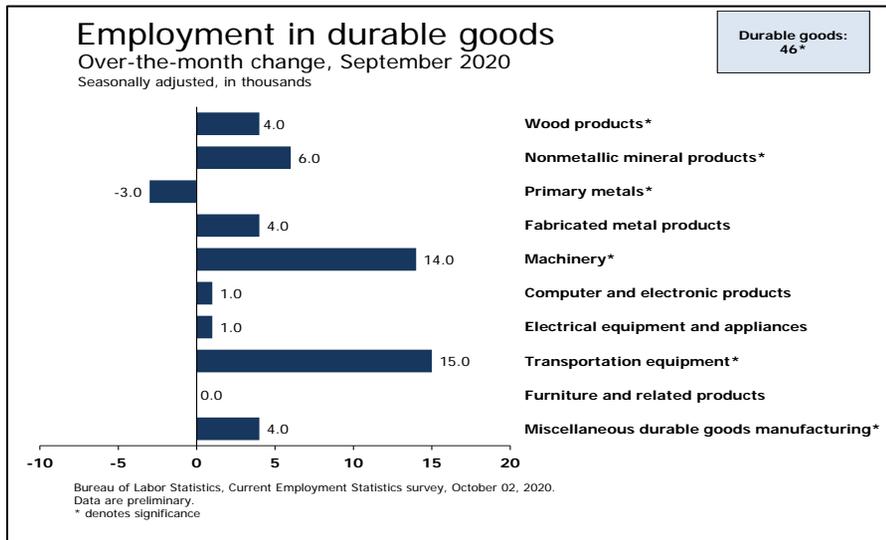
Manufacturing employment increased by 66,000 in September, with both durable goods (+46,000) and nondurable goods (+20,000) adding jobs. Despite recent gains, employment in manufacturing is 647,000 lower than in February.

Within durable goods, motor vehicle and parts (+14,000) and machinery (+14,000) added the majority of jobs.

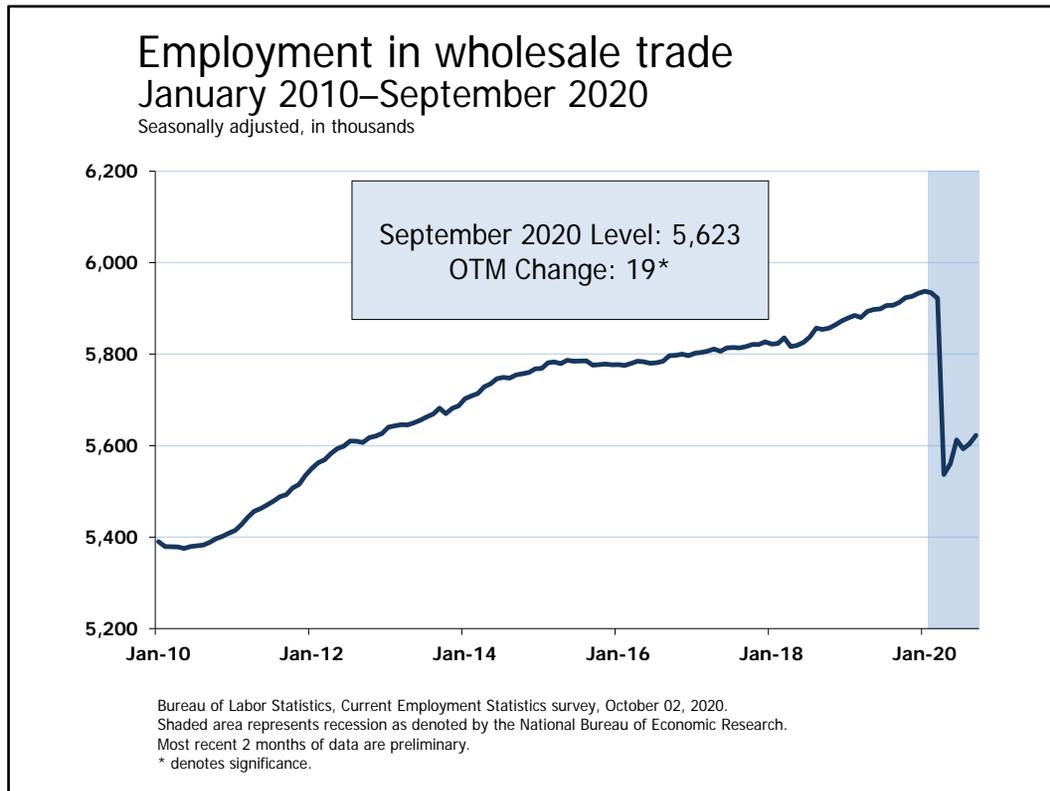
The manufacturing 1-month diffusion increased to 63.8, a change of 0.6, indicating that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than are losing jobs.

In September, average hourly earnings for all employees in manufacturing decreased by 8 cents to \$28.85, following a 16-cent increase in August. Average hourly earnings for all employees are 61 cents higher than in February. Average hourly earnings of production workers rose by 13 cents to \$22.94. Average hourly earnings of production workers are 42 cents higher than in February.

Average weekly hours of all employees rose 0.2 hour in September to 40.2 hours but were below the February peak of 40.7 hours. For production workers, the average workweek was unchanged in September at 41.0 hours.



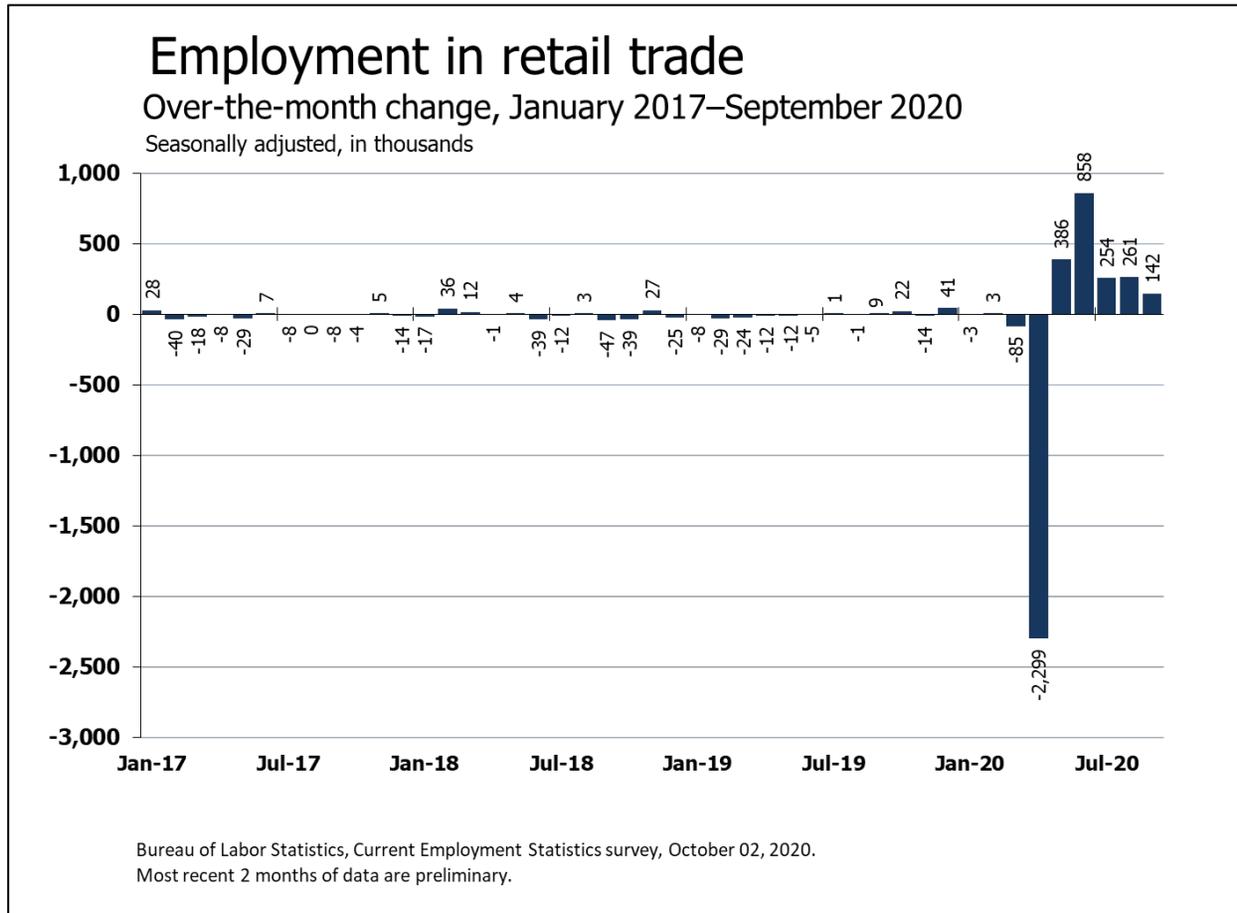
## Wholesale Trade



Wholesale trade employment increased by 19,000 in September. Employment has grown by 86,000 over the last 5 months, reflecting a recovery of 21 percent of the job losses in February, March, and April. As of September, employment remains 315,000 below its peak in January.

Durable goods added 13,000 jobs in September, and nondurable goods added 8,000 jobs.

## Retail Trade

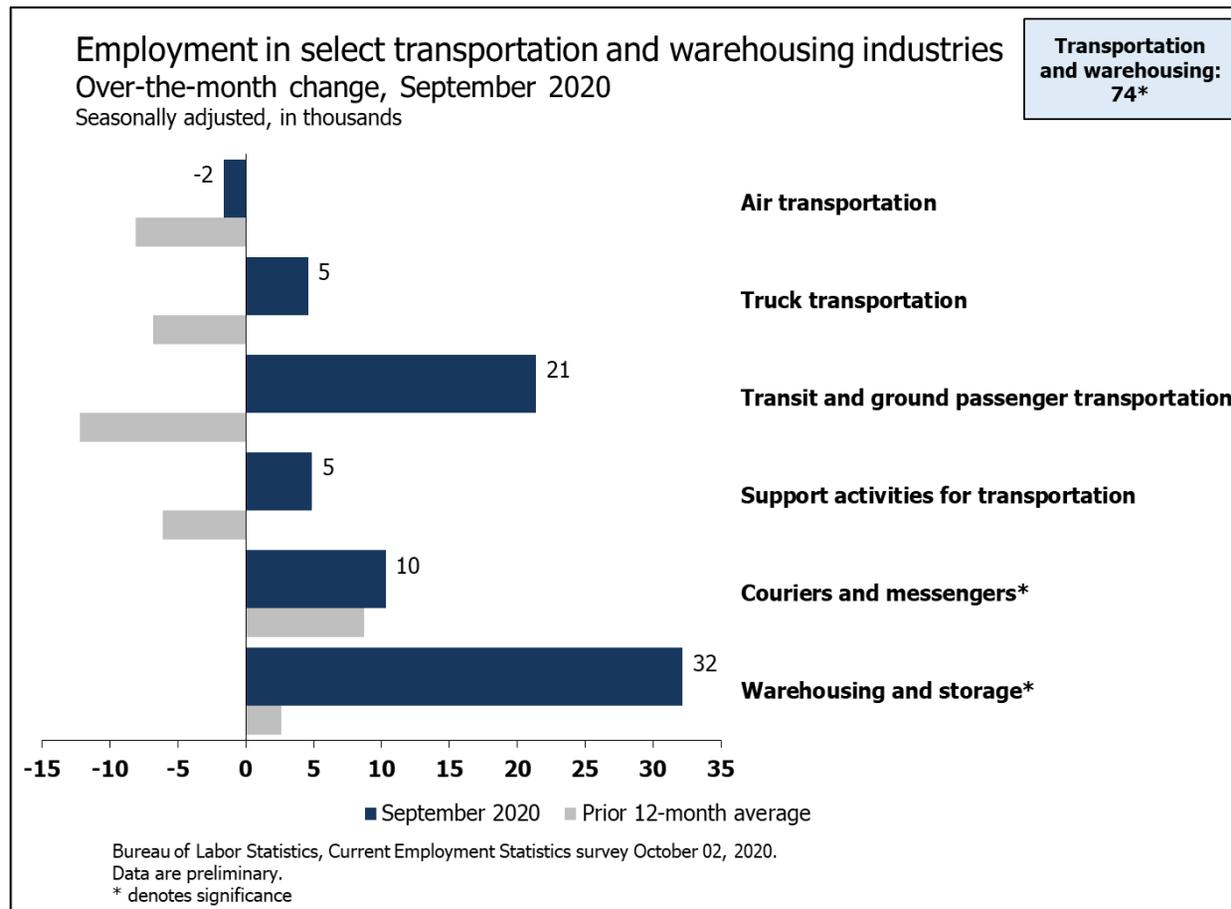


Employment in retail trade rose by 142,000 in September. Over the last 5 months, industry employment rose by 1.9 million after declining by 2.4 million in March and April, combined.

Job gains were pervasive in September, led by clothing and clothing accessories stores (+40,000), general merchandise stores (+20,000), motor vehicle and parts dealers (+16,000), and in health and personal care stores (+16,000).

Recent retail-related economic indicators are mixed. [Retail Sales](#) increased in August and the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) increased in September. Conversely, the per gallon price of [regular gasoline](#) increased in September.

## Transportation and Warehousing



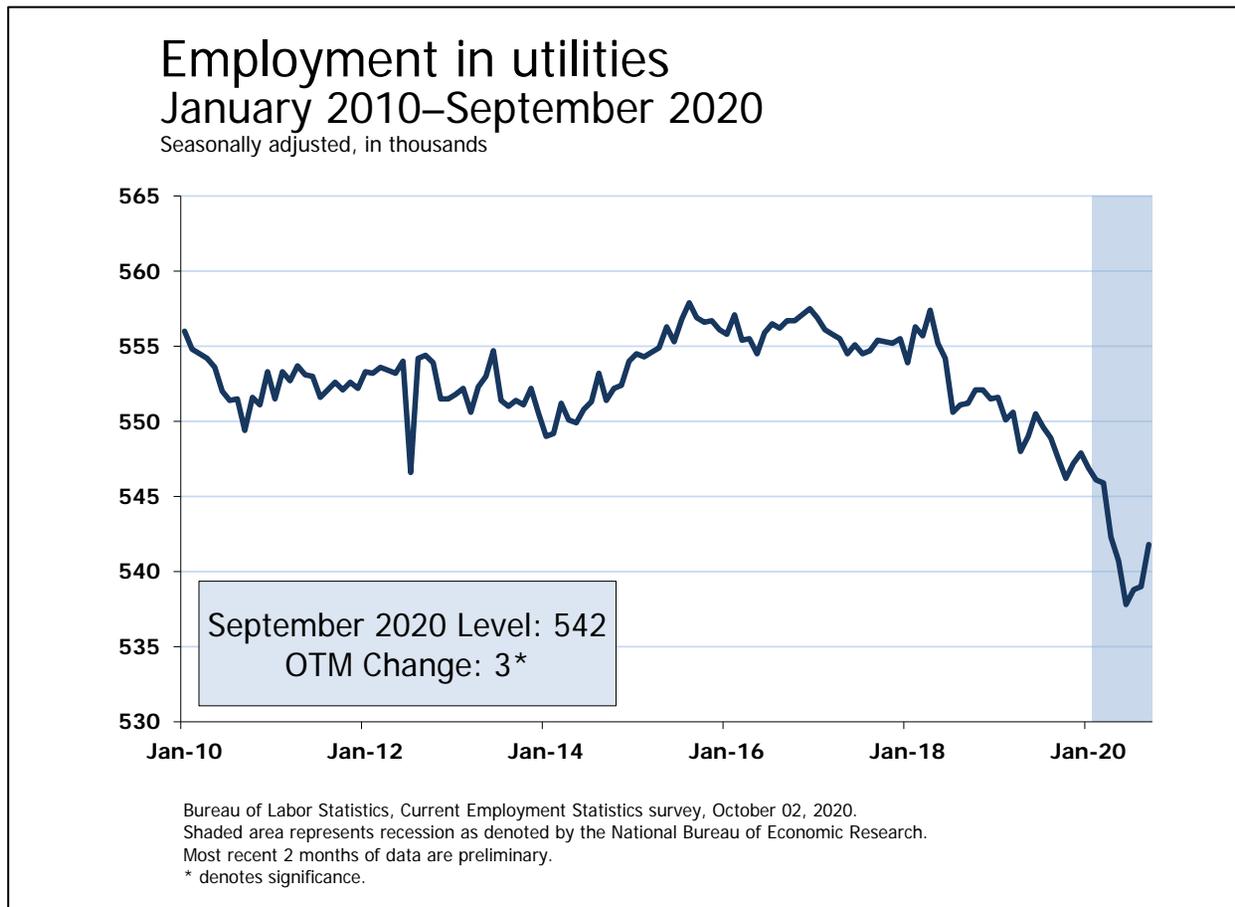
Employment in transportation and warehousing rose by 74,000 in September, following a gain of 82,000 in August. Despite recent gains, the industry has lost 305,000 jobs since reaching an employment peak in January.

Job gains in September were driven by warehousing and storage (+32,000) and transit and ground passenger transportation (+21,000). Employment in warehousing and storage now exceeds its February level by 46,000, while transit and ground passenger transportation has lost 141,000 jobs over that same period.

September employment gains in couriers and messengers (+10,000) follow [hiring news](#), as shipping and delivery companies prepare for spikes in pandemic and holiday e-commerce. Over the past 6 months, couriers and messengers has added an average 14,000 jobs per month, compared to an average 6,000 jobs per month in 2019.

## Utilities

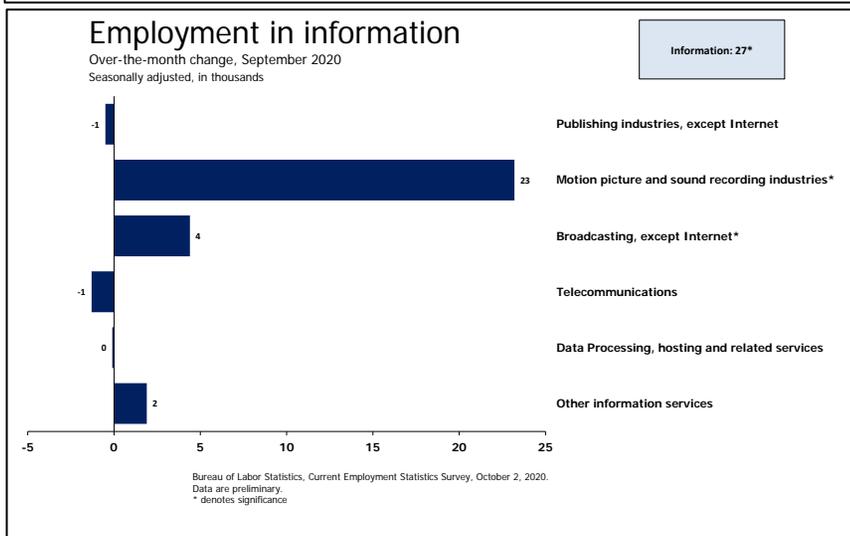
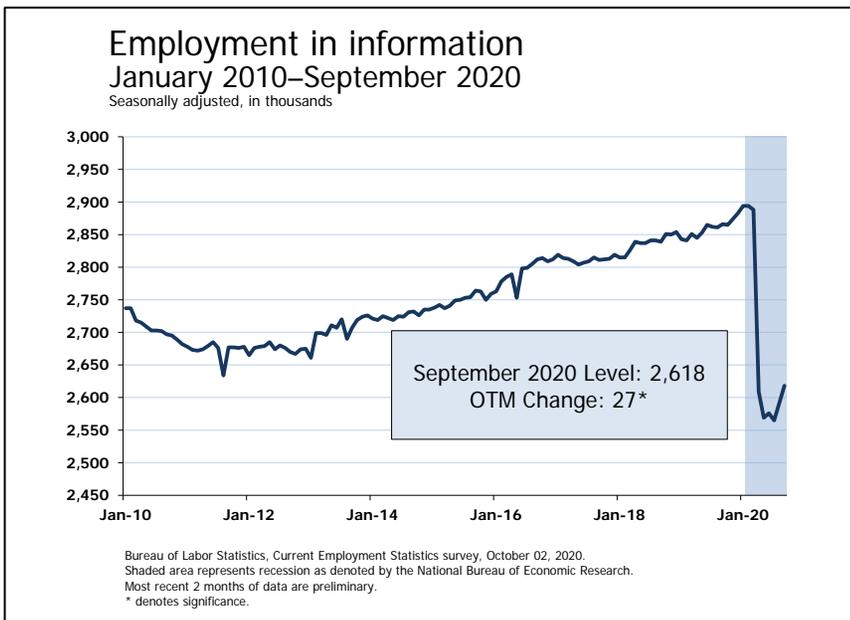
Employment in utilities grew by 3,000 in September.





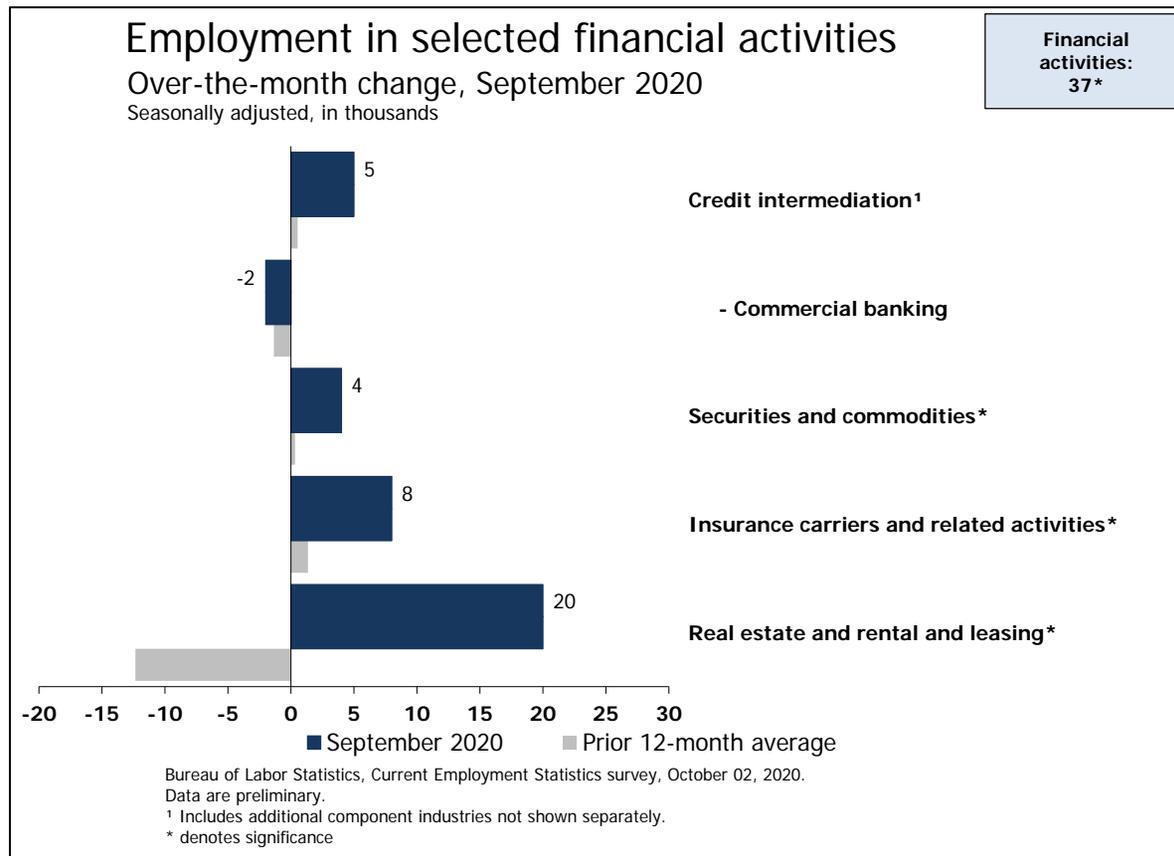
### Information

Employment in information increased by 27,000 in August. However, employment has declined by 276,000 since reaching a peak in February.



In September, motion picture and sound recording (+23,000) and broadcasting, except internet (+4,000) added jobs.

## Financial Activities

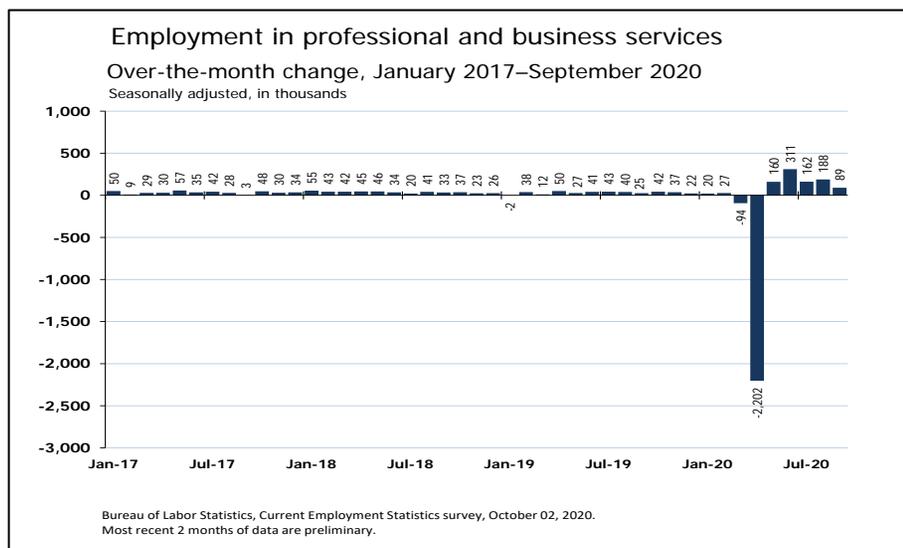


Employment in financial activities increased by 37,000 in September, following a gain of 26,000 in August. However, the industry has lost 162,000 jobs since reaching an employment peak in February.

September gains were widespread among the component industries, with real estate and rental and leasing adding the majority of the jobs (+20,000).

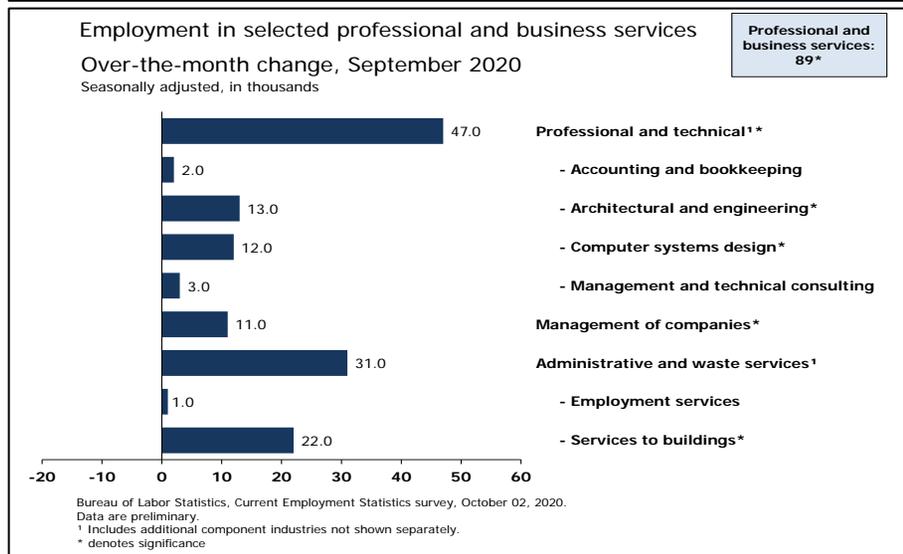
The increase in real estate employment in September (+12,000) coincides with declines in the [average 30-year fixed mortgage rate](#) and gains in construction employment (+26,000).

## Professional and Business Services



Employment in professional and business services increased by 89,000 in September. Over the past 5 months, industry employment increased by 910,000, but is still 1.4 million lower than in February.

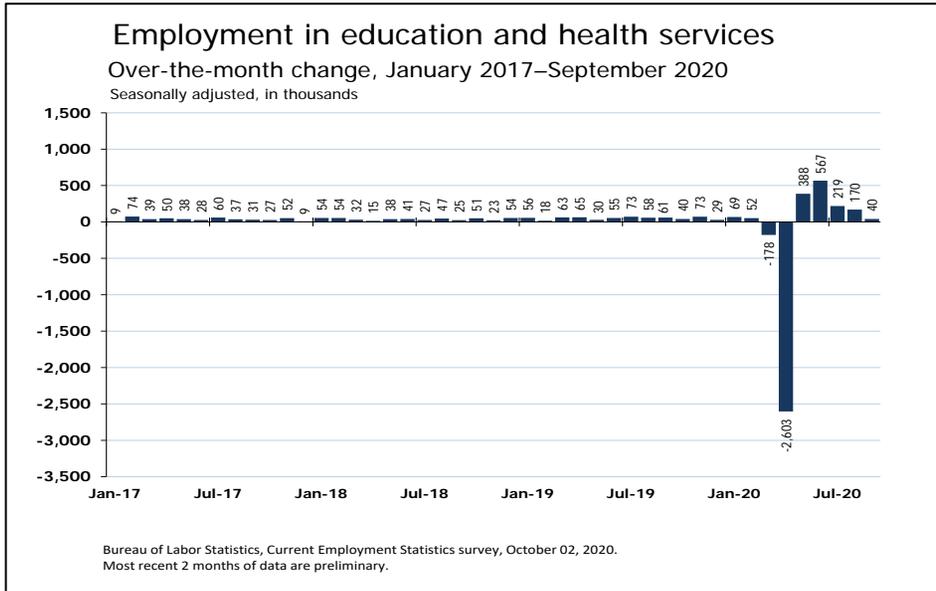
In September, professional and technical services added 47,000 jobs, led by architectural and engineering services (+13,000) and computer systems design and related services (+12,000).



Management of companies and enterprises added 11,000 jobs in September, however industry employment is still 100,000 below its peak in January.

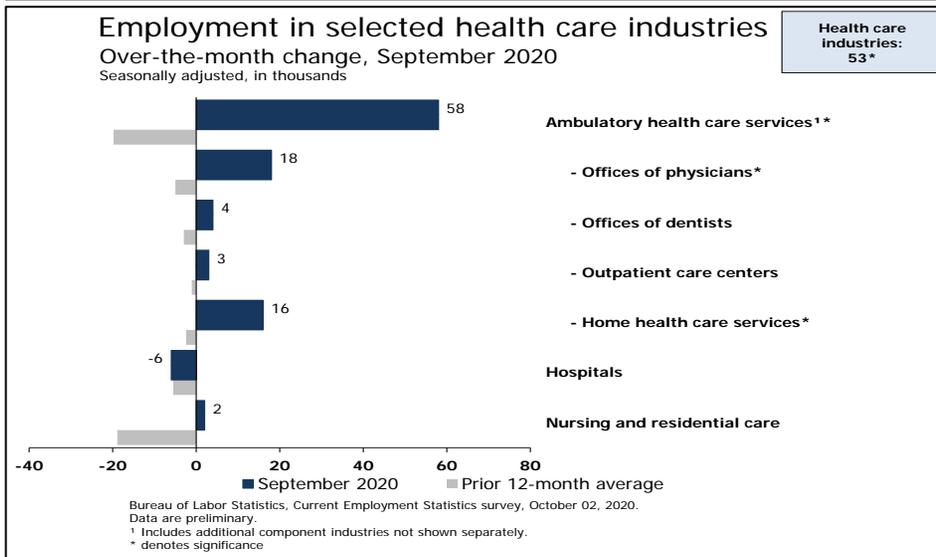
In September, employment increased in services to buildings and dwellings (+22,000) and in business support services (+8,000).

### Private Education and Health Services



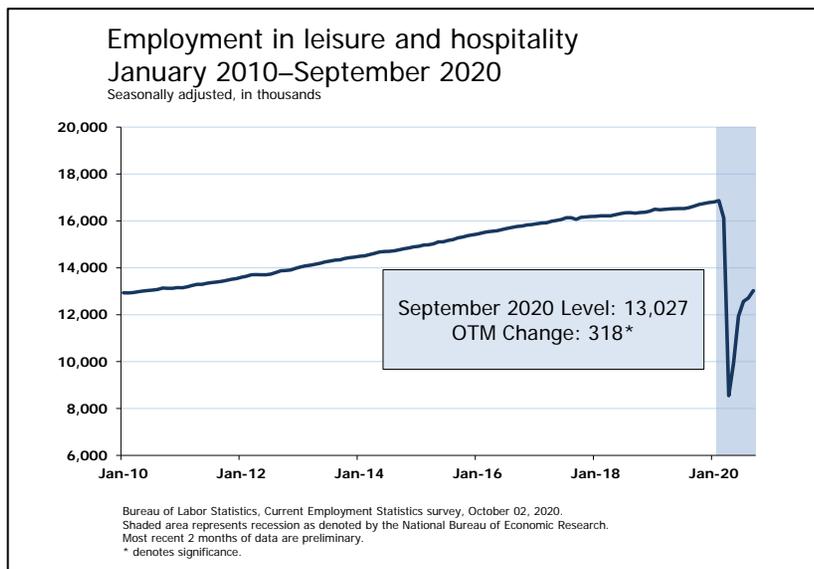
In September, employment in educational services fell by 69,000, offsetting a gain of 71,000 in August. As of September, employment is 355,000 lower than in February.

In September, employment in health care and social assistance increased by 108,000. Within social assistance, individual and family services (+32,000) and child day care services (+18,000) added jobs. Despite the gains in September, employment in health care and social assistance is 1.0 million lower than its peak in February.

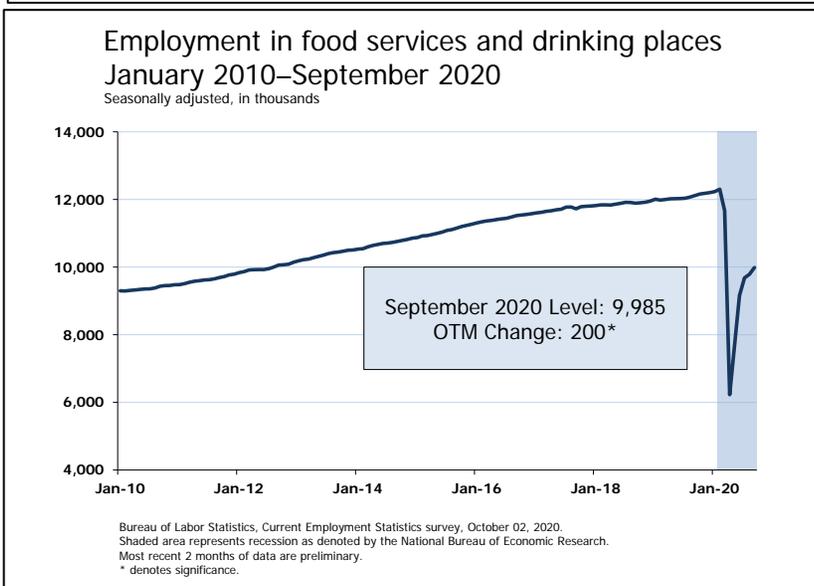


Employment in ambulatory health care services increased by 58,000 in September, with offices of physicians accounting for 18,000 of the gains. Home health care services (+16,000) and offices of other health practitioners (+14,000) also added jobs.

## Leisure and Hospitality



Employment in leisure and hospitality increased by 318,000 in September. Since April, leisure and hospitality has recovered 4.5 million jobs. However, industry employment is still 3.8 million lower than its peak in February.



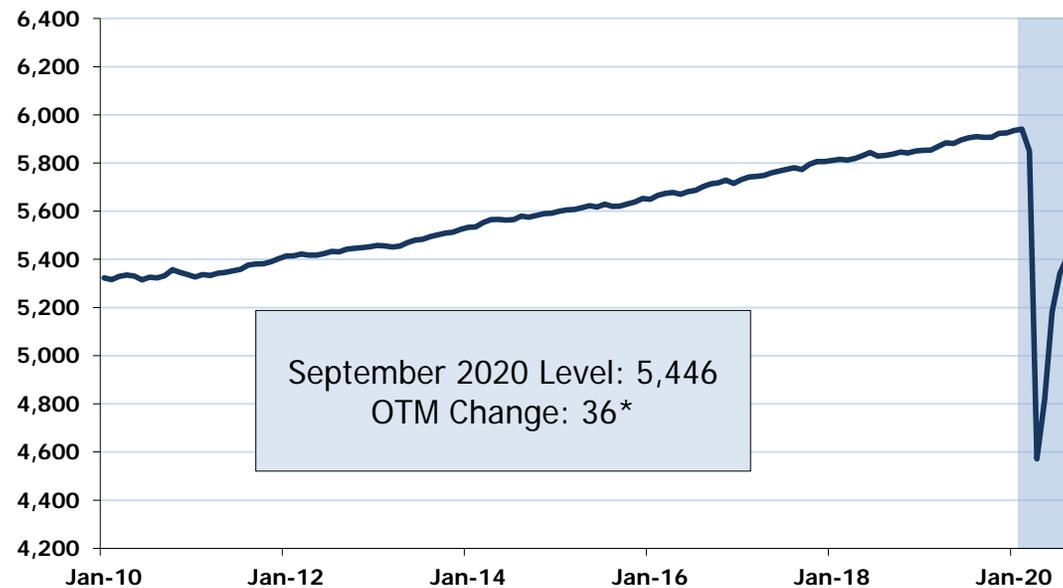
Employment in food services and drinking places grew by 200,000 in September. This increase follows an upswing in food service [sales](#) in August. Despite adding 3.8 million jobs since April, employment in food services and drinking places is still 2.3 million lower than in February.

In September, employment also rose in amusements, gambling, and recreation (+69,000) and in accommodation (+51,000).

## Other Services

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

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

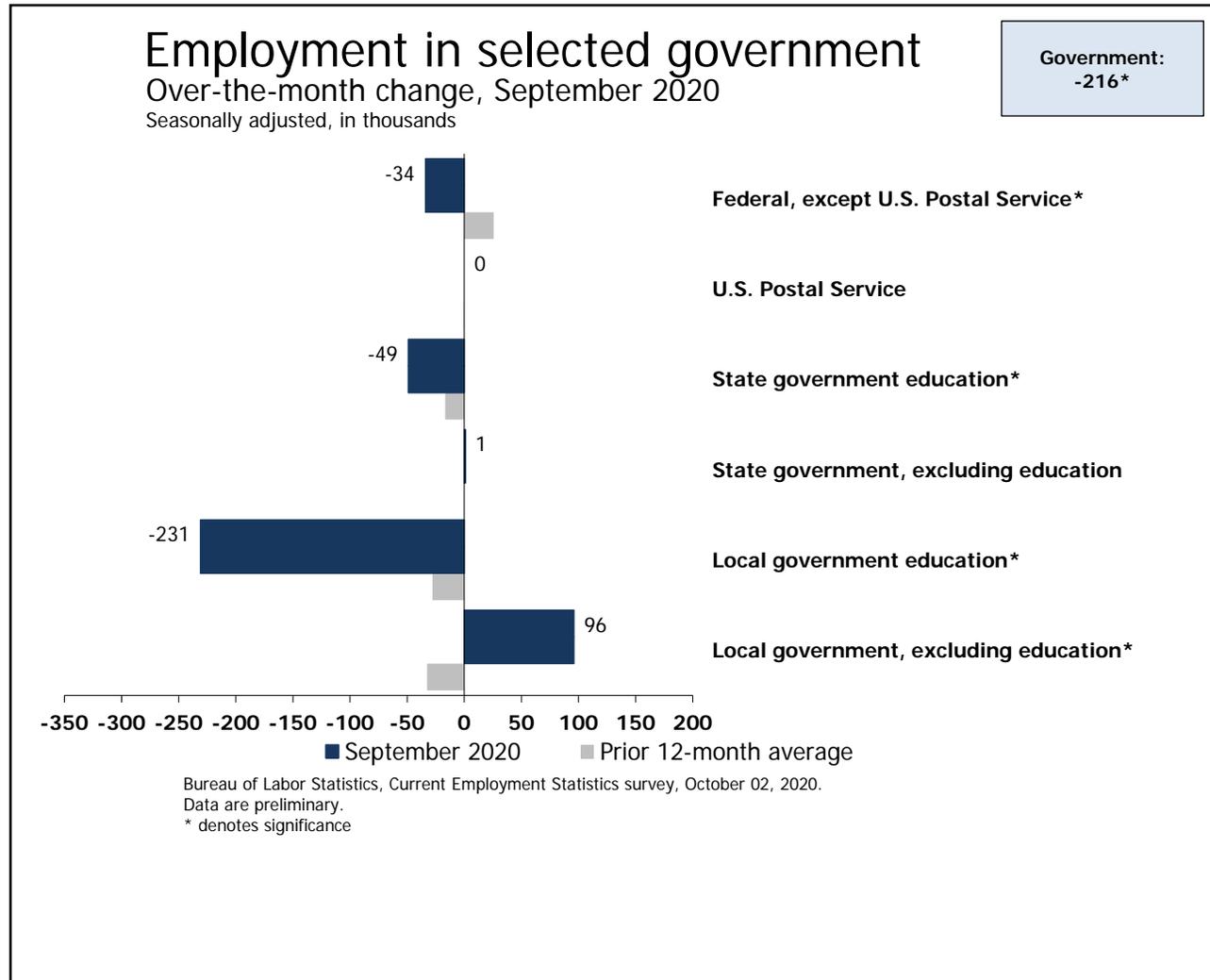


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Employment in other services grew by 36,000 in September, following a gain of 70,000 in August. As of September, about 64 percent of jobs lost in March and April have been recovered, and employment is still 495,000 below the February level.

Job gains in September were concentrated in membership associations and organizations (+31,000). Despite recent gains, employment in this industry is still 148,000 lower than its peak in January.

## Government



Government employment decreased by 216,000 in September and has declined by 942,000 since February. Federal government employment fell by 34,000 due to a layoff of 41,000 decennial census workers.

In September, education employment fell by 231,000 in local government education and by 49,000 in state government. Hiring for the return to school this year has been held back by the coronavirus and measures taken to contain the illness.

A gain of 96,000 in local government, excluding education, partially offset losses elsewhere in government.



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### CES Analysts

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

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Prepared by Staff of the National Estimates Branch  
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