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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



October 2020

Release Date: November 6, 2020

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

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[Email CES](#)

Current Employment Statistics Summary, October 2020

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 638,000 in October, but remains 10.1 million, or 6.6 percent, below its February level. Over the month, job gains were widespread, including gains in leisure and hospitality, professional and business services, retail trade, construction, and transportation and warehousing. Government lost jobs over the month.

The employment change for September revised up from +661,000 to +672,000 and the change for August also revised up from +1,489,000 to +1,493,000. With these revisions, employment in August and September combined was 15,000 higher than previously reported.

Average hourly earnings for all employees on private, nonfarm payrolls grew by 4 cents, or 0.1 percent, in October and are up 4.5 percent over the year. Average weekly hours, at 34.8 hours, were unchanged over the month.

+271,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in leisure and hospitality grew by 271,000 in October. Within the industry, employment grew by 44,000 in arts, entertainment, and recreation; by 34,000 in

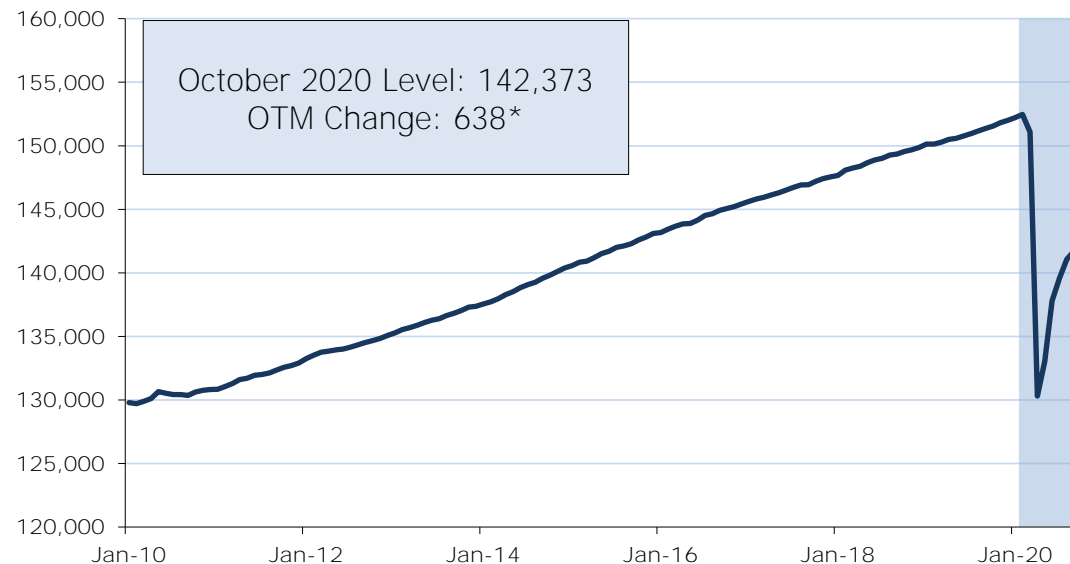
accommodation; and by 192,000 in food services and drinking places. Despite recent gains, employment in leisure and hospitality remains 3.5 million lower than it was in February.

+208,000 Professional and Business Services

Over half of the employment growth in professional and business services, came in temporary help services (+109,000) in October. Services to buildings and dwellings

Employment in total nonfarm January 2010–October 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, November 06, 2020.
Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.
* denotes significance.

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, October 2020

(+19,000), computer systems design and related services (+16,000), and management and technical consulting services (+15,000) also added jobs over the month. Although rising over the past 6 months, employment in professional and business services is still down by 1.1 million since February.

+104,000 Retail Trade

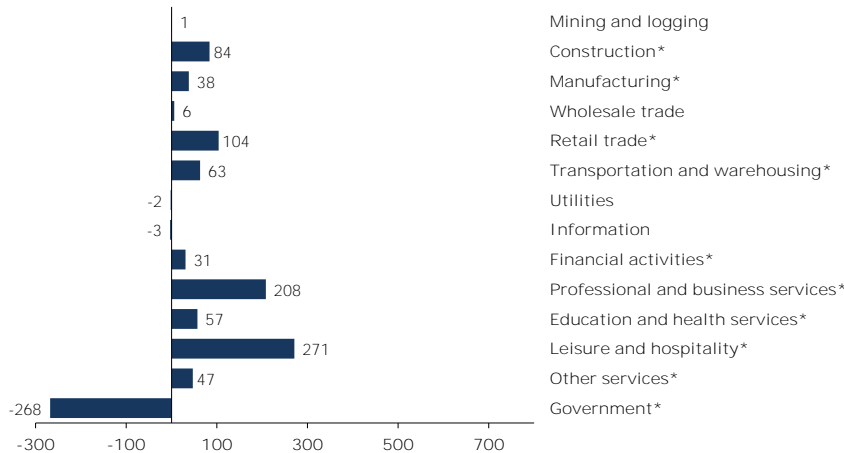
Employment in retail trade grew by 104,000 in October. Within the industry, almost one-third of the job gains came in electronics and appliance stores (+31,000). Elsewhere in retail trade, employment gains were widespread, including 23,000 in motor vehicles and parts dealers, 14,000 in furniture and home furnish stores, 13,000 in clothing and clothing accessories stores, and 10,000 in general merchandise stores. Retail trade has recovered 1.9 million of the 2.4 million jobs lost in March and April.

+84,000 Construction

Employment in construction increased by 84,000 in October. Over half of the job gains were concentrated in specialty trade contractors (+45,000). Heavy and civil engineering construction and construction of

Employment in total nonfarm
Over-the-month change, October 2020
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:
638*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, November 06, 2020.
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

buildings both added 19,000 jobs each. Construction has added 789,000 jobs since April, but employment is still 294,000 lower than the latest employment peak in February.

+63,000 Transportation and Warehousing

Employment in transportation and warehousing rose by 63,000 in October. Job gains in warehousing and storage (+28,000), transit and ground transportation (+25,000),

couriers and messengers (+8,000), and in support activities for transportation (+8,000) were partly offset by job losses in air transportation (-18,000). Although employment in transportation and warehousing has risen over the over the past 5 months, it is still 271,000 below a peak in January.

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, October 2020

+57,000 Education and Health Services

Within education and health services, employment in health care grew by 58,000 in October. Job gains in ambulatory health care services (+51,000) and hospitals (+16,000) were partially offset by job losses in nursing and residential care services (-9,000). Social assistance also added jobs over the month (+21,000). Education and health services has recovered 1.5 million of the 2.8 million jobs lost in March and April.

+47,000 Other Services

Employment in other services rose by 47,000 in October. Within the industry, personal and laundry services added 27,000 jobs and repair and maintenance added 18,000 jobs. Although employment in other services has risen over the past 6 months, it is still 436,000 lower than in February.

+38,000 Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment grew by 38,000 in October, with growth split between durable goods manufacturing (+21,000) and nondurable goods manufacturing (+17,000). Within durable goods, job growth included 7,000 in fabricated metal products and 6,000 in primary metals. After losing 1.4 million jobs

in March and April, manufacturing has added 742,000 jobs over the past 6 months.

+31,000 Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities increased by 31,000 in October. Job growth over the month was split between finance and insurance (+17,000) and real estate (+10,000). Financial activities has added 150,000 jobs over the past 6 months, but employment is still down by 129,000 since February.

-268,000 Government

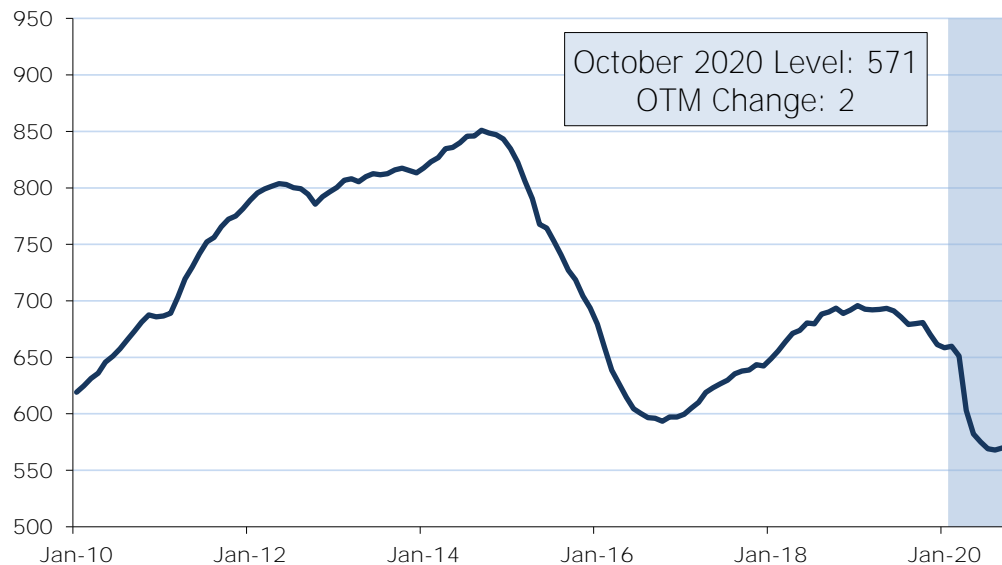
Government employment fell by 268,000 in October. Within the industry, federal government lost 138,000 jobs as Census 2020 activities continued to wrap up. Employment fell by 65,000 in both state government and local government.

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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Mining and Logging

Employment in mining January 2010–October 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

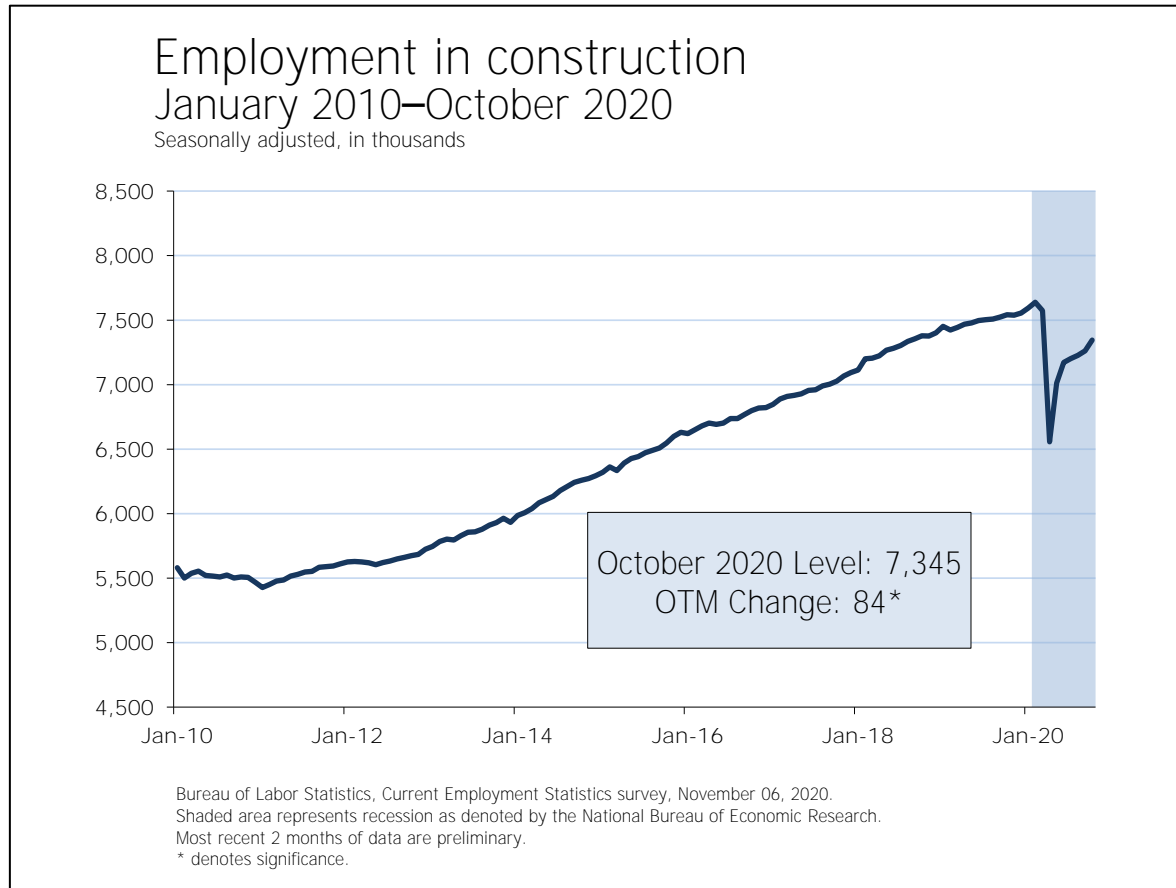


October 2020 Level: 571
OTM Change: 2

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, November 06, 2020.
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Mining employment changed little for a third month in October (+2,000). The industry had lost an average 10,000 jobs per month over the 12 months ending in July.

Construction



Construction employment increased by 84,000 in October. The industry saw significant job gains in specialty trade contractors (+45,000), construction of buildings (+19,000), and heavy and civil engineering construction (+19,000).

October employment growth represents a continued recovery from losses earlier in the year and follows strength in [residential building permits](#) in September. As of October, construction has recovered 789,000 of the 1.1 million jobs lost in March and April.

Manufacturing



In October, manufacturing employment increased by 38,000. Despite six consecutive monthly increases, employment is down by 621,000 since February. Durable goods accounted for 434,000 or nearly 70 percent of the jobs lost over this period.

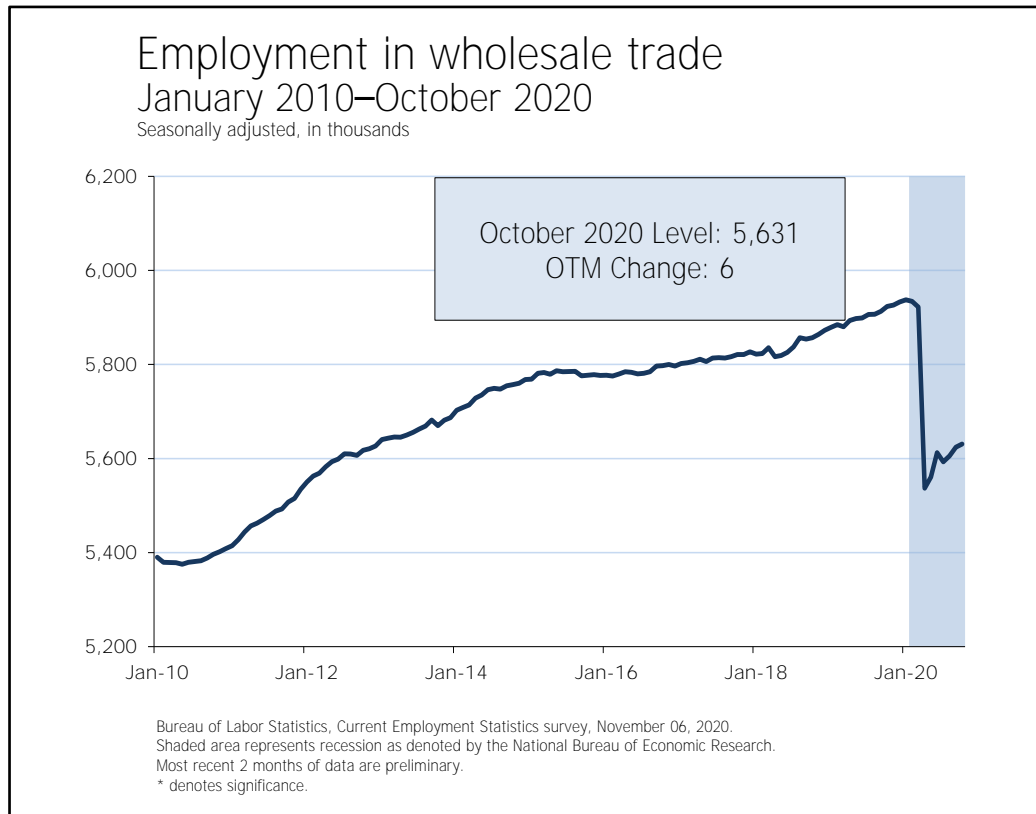
Within durable goods, fabricated metal products (+7,000), primary metals (+6,000), and wood products (+4,000) added jobs in October. Nondurable goods experienced job growth in textile mills (+2,000) and in petroleum and coal products (+2,000).

The manufacturing 1-month diffusion index decreased by 4.6 points to 59.9. An index greater than 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than are losing jobs.

In October, average hourly earnings of all employees in manufacturing fell by 7 cents to \$28.81. Average hourly earnings of production workers decreased by 1 cent to \$23.00.

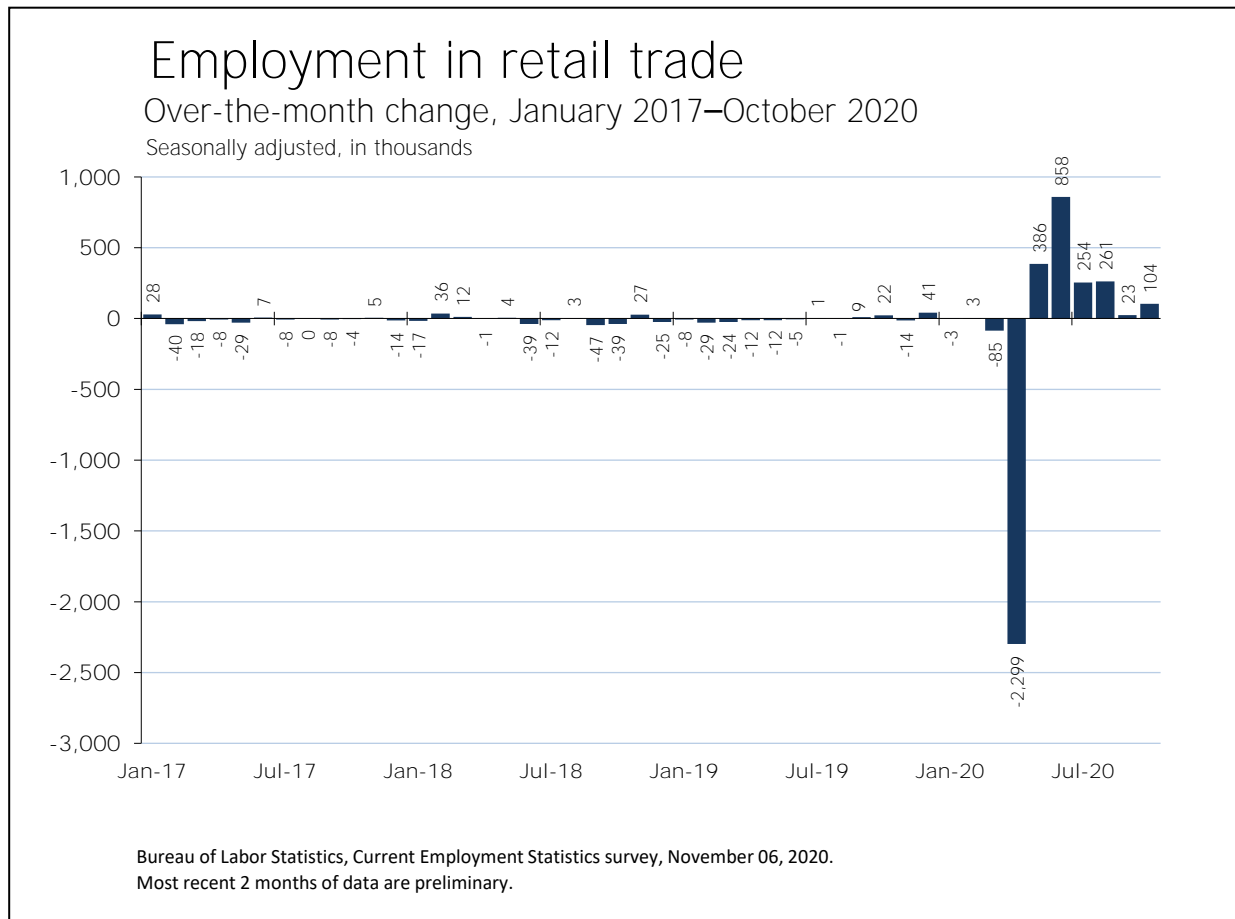
Average weekly hours of all employees rose 0.3 hour in October to 40.5 hours. For production workers, the average workweek increased 0.1 hour to 41.2 hours.

Wholesale Trade



Wholesale trade employment changed little in October (+6,000). Employment has grown by 94,000 over the last 6 months, reflecting a recovery of 23 percent of the job losses in February, March, and April. As of October, employment remains 307,000 below its peak in January.

Retail Trade

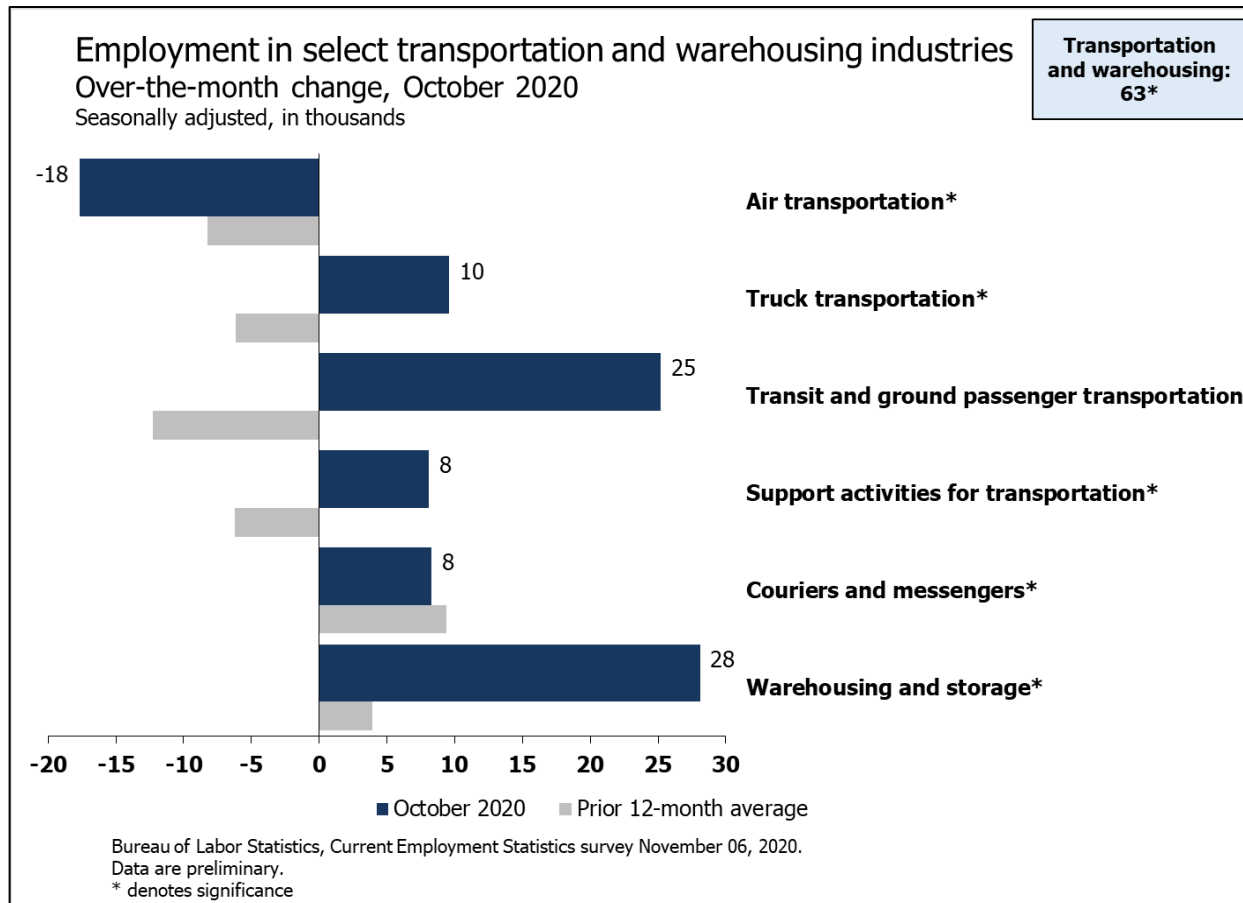


Employment in retail trade rose by 104,000 in October. Over the last 6 months, industry employment has risen by 1.9 million after declining by 2.4 million in March and April.

Job gains were pervasive in October, led by electronics and appliance stores (+31,000), motor vehicle and parts dealers (+23,000), and furniture and home furnishings stores (+14,000).

Recent retail-related economic indicators are mixed. [Retail Sales](#) increased in September, while in October the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) decreased and the per gallon price of regular gasoline decreased ([U.S. Energy Information Administration](#)).

Transportation and Warehousing



Employment in transportation and warehousing increased by 63,000 in October. Although the industry has added 324,000 jobs over the past 5 months, employment is still 271,000 below its January peak.

Job gains in October were widespread among the component industries, with growth primarily driven by warehousing and storage (+28,000) and transit and ground passenger transportation (+25,000). Gains were partially offset by a loss in air transportation (-18,000), which has now lost 125,000 jobs since reaching an employment peak in March.

In October, employment growth continued in couriers and messengers (+8,000), as consumers continue to modify their shopping habits during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since February, employment in couriers and messengers has risen by 99,000.

Utilities

Employment in utilities January 2010–October 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

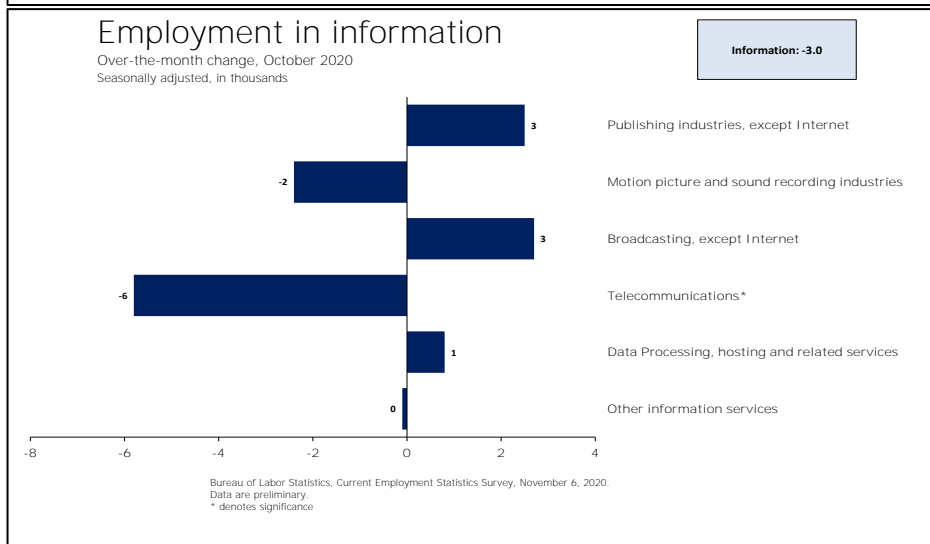
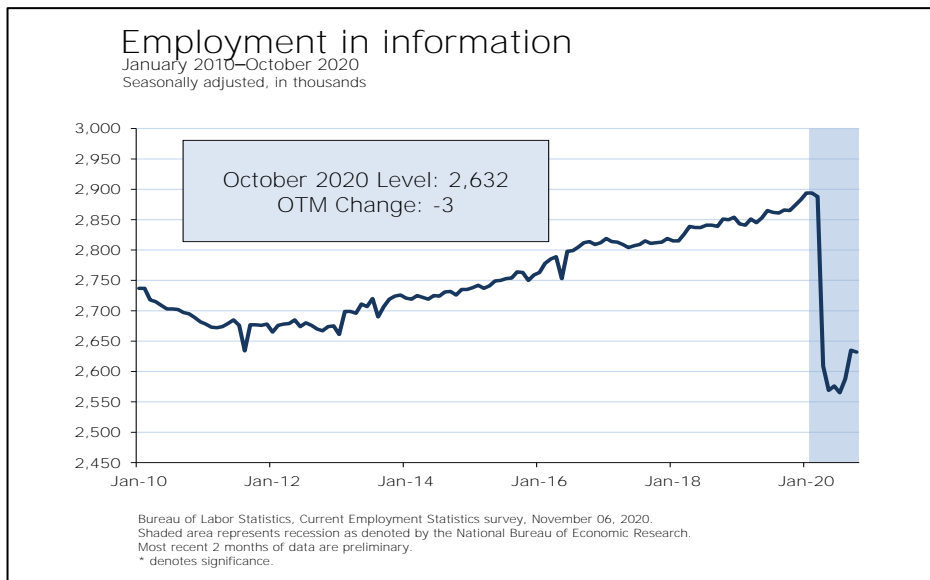


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Employment in utilities edged down by 2,000 in October. Since December 2019, the industry has lost 9,000 jobs.

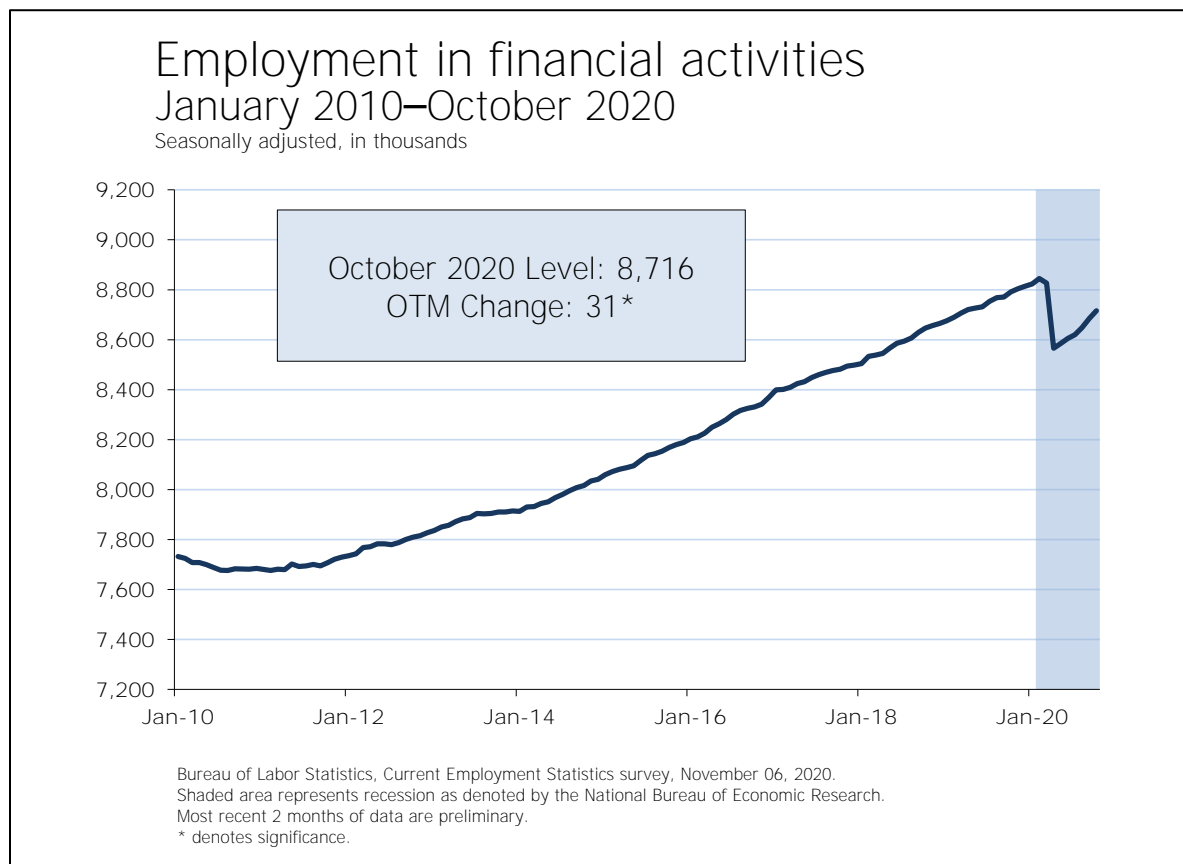
Information

Employment in information changed little in October (-3,000) and has declined by 262,000 since February.



In October, telecommunications lost 6,000 jobs.

Financial Activities

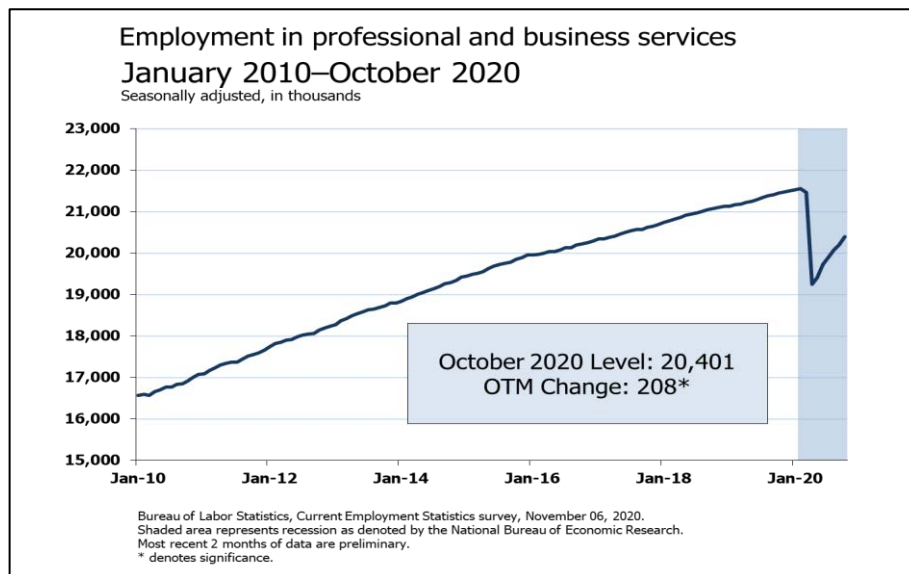


Employment in financial activities increased by 31,000 in October, following a gain of 37,000 in September. As of October, about 54 percent of jobs lost in March and April have been recovered, and employment is still 129,000 below the February level.

October gains were widespread among the component industries. Finance and insurance added 17,000 jobs, with 8,000 of the growth coming in nondepository credit intermediation. Real estate and rental and leasing added 15,000 jobs, with real estate being the largest contributor (+10,000).

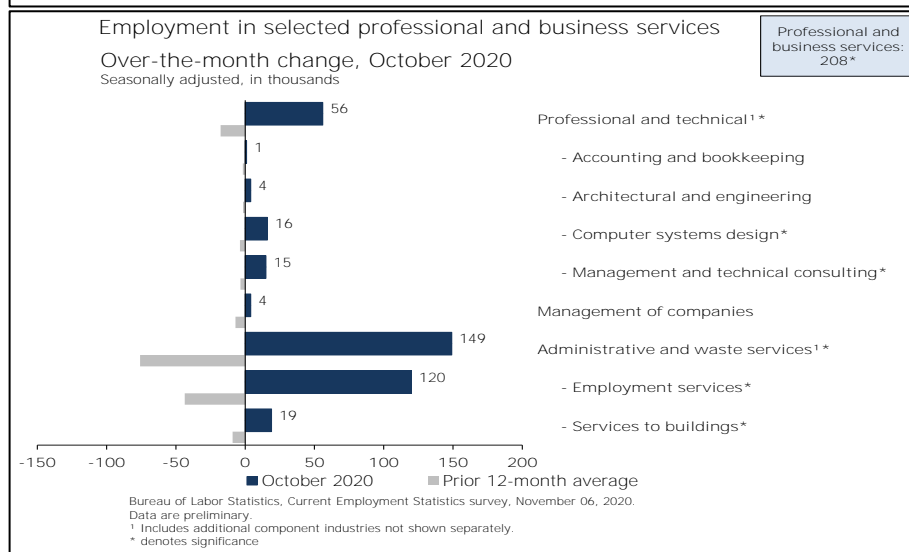
The employment increases in real estate and in nondepository credit intermediation—which includes real estate credit—coincide with declines in the [average 30-year fixed mortgage rate](#).

Professional and Business Services



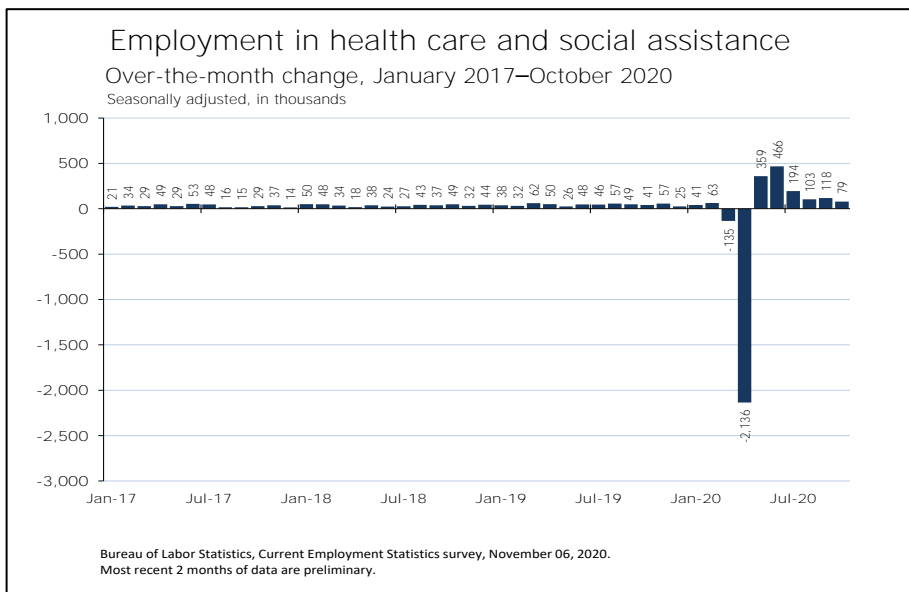
Employment in professional and business services increased by 208,000 in October. Over the past 6 months, industry employment increased by 1.1 million, but is still 1.1 million below its February level.

Within administrative and support services, temporary help services (+109,000), services to buildings and dwellings (+19,000), and investigation and security services (+12,000) added jobs in October. Despite recent gains, employment in administrative and support services is still 788,000 below its peak in February.

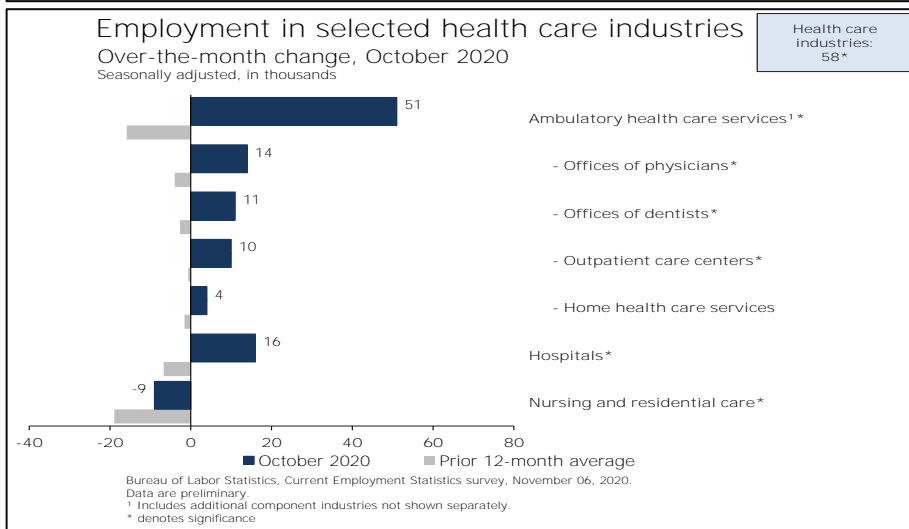


In October, professional and technical services added 56,000 jobs, led by growth in computer systems design and related service (+16,000) and management and technical consulting services (+15,000).

Private Education and Health Services



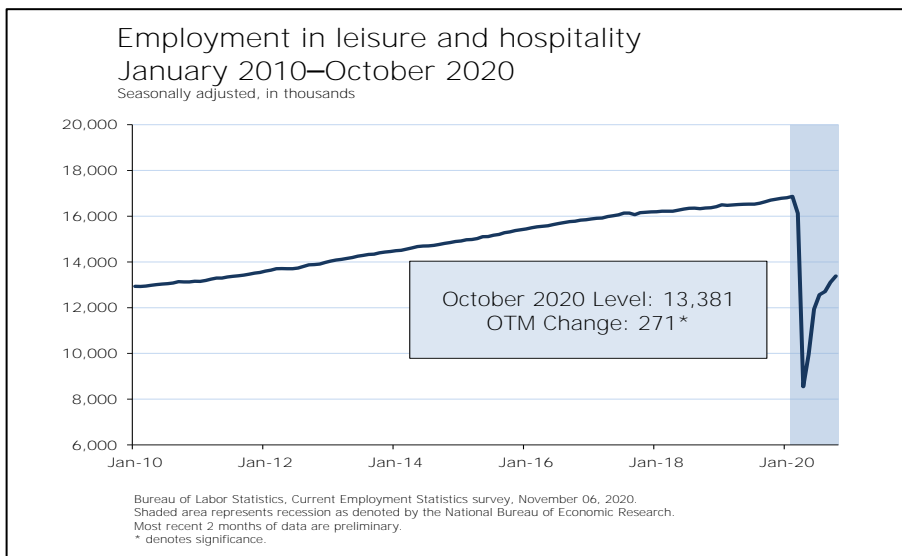
In October, health care and social assistance added 79,000 jobs, bringing total growth to 1.3 million over the past 6 months. Despite recent gains, employment in health care and social assistance is 950,000 lower than its peak in February.



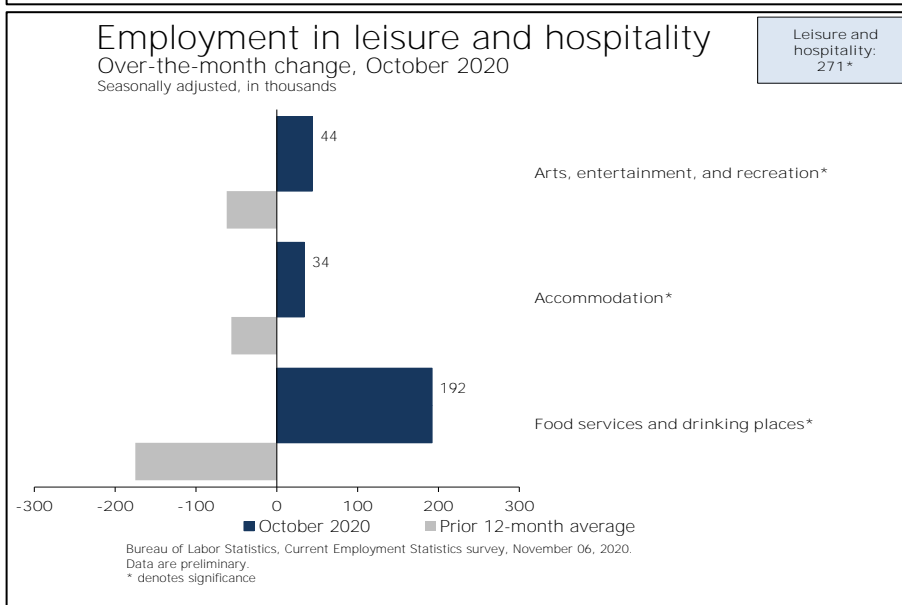
Employment in ambulatory health care services increased by 51,000 in October, with offices of physicians accounting for 14,000 of the gains. Offices of dentists (+11,000), outpatient care centers (+10,000), offices of other health practitioners (+8,000), and medical and diagnostic laboratories (+6,000) also added jobs.

Employment in hospitals increased by 16,000, more than offsetting a loss of 9,000 in nursing and residential care facilities.

Leisure and Hospitality



Employment in leisure and hospitality increased by 271,000 in October. Although the industry has added 4.8 million jobs over the past 6 months, as of October, employment is still 3.5 million lower than its peak in February. Food services and drinking places account for most of the employment changes over this period, with 4.0 million jobs added since April and employment 2.1 million lower than in February.

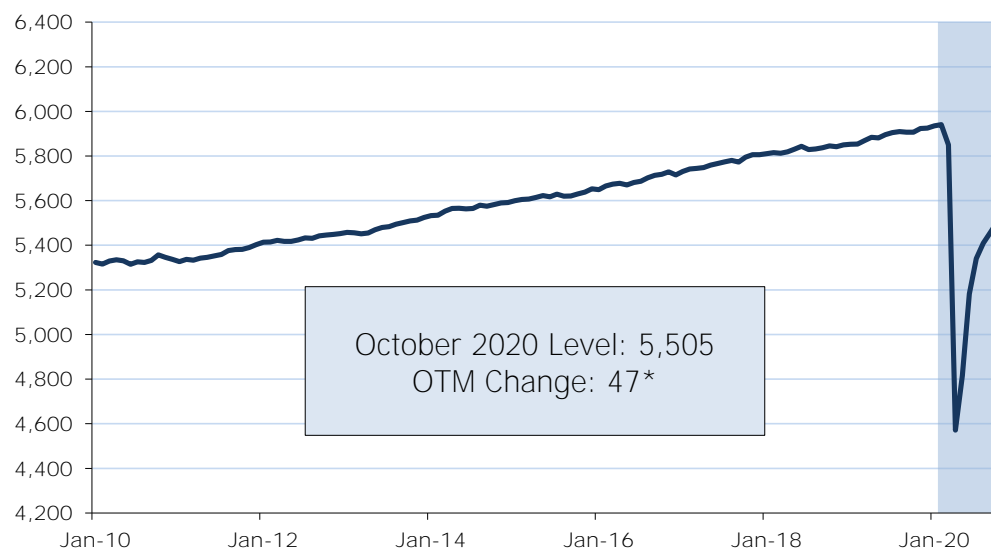


October gains were widespread among the component industries, with food services and drinking places adding the majority of the jobs (+192,000). Arts, entertainment, and recreation (+44,000) and accommodation (+34,000) also added jobs over the month.

Other Services

Employment in other services January 2010–October 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



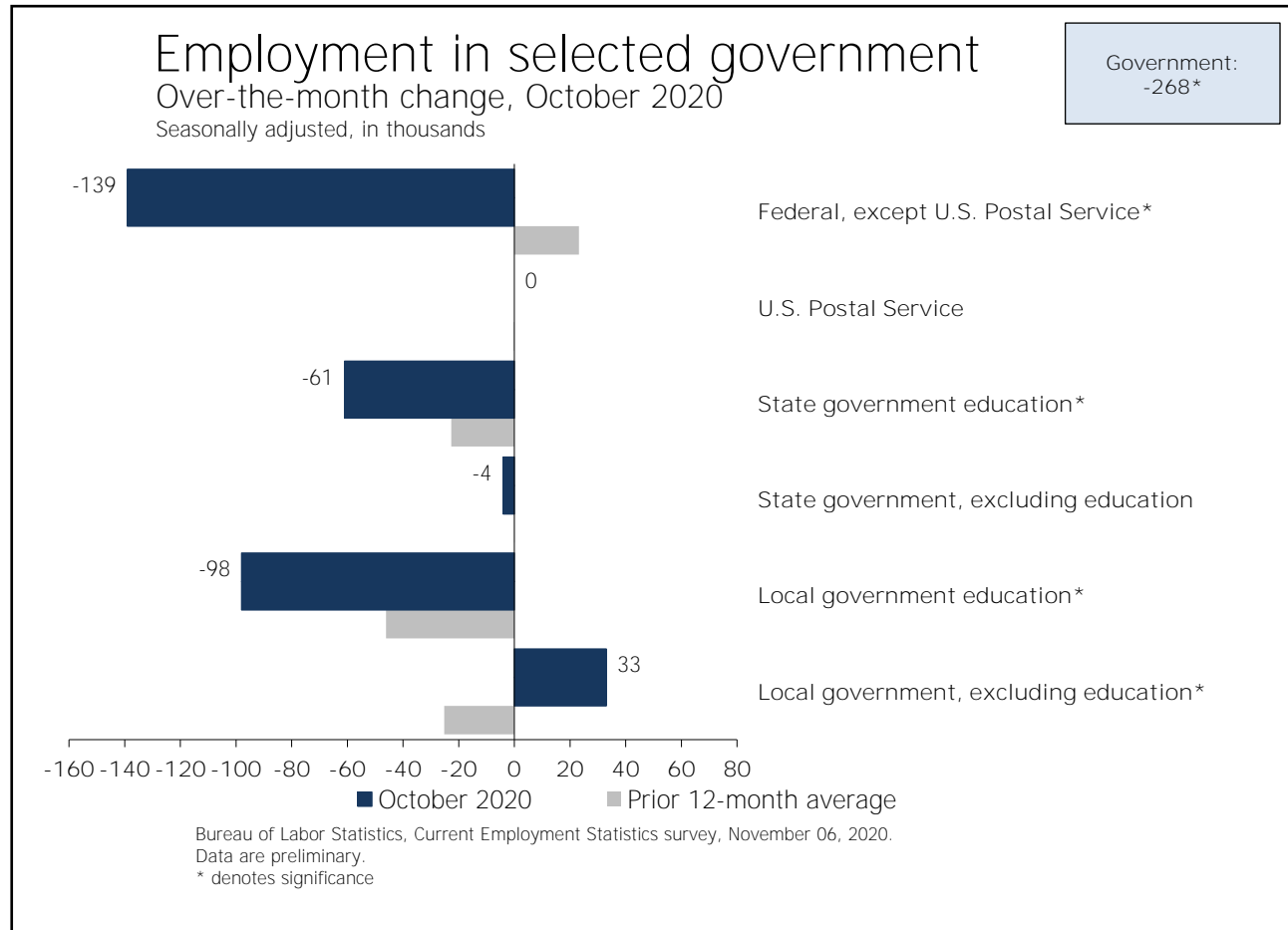
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Employment in other services grew by 47,000 in October, following a similar gain in September. As of October, 68 percent of jobs lost in March and April have been recovered, leaving employment 436,000 lower than in February.

Employment in personal and laundry services grew by 27,000 in October. Although this industry added jobs in each of the most recent 6 months, as of October, employment is 249,000 lower than in February.

Employment in the repair and maintenance industry increased by 18,000 in October marking the industry's sixth consecutive month of job growth. Despite recent gains, as of October, industry employment is still 49,000 lower than in February.

Government



Government employment decreased by 268,000 in October and has declined by 1.2 million since February.

Federal government employment fell by 138,000 due to a layoff of 147,000 decennial census workers who had completed nonresponse follow up.

In October, education employment fell by 98,000 in local government and by 61,000 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 33,000 in local government, excluding education, partially offset losses elsewhere in government.



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