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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



November 2020

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

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Current Employment Statistics Summary, November 2020

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 245,000 in November but is still 9.8 million below February's level. Over the month transportation and warehousing, professional and business services, health care, construction, and manufacturing added jobs. In contrast, government and retail trade lost jobs.

The employment change for October revised down from +638,000 to +610,000, and the change for September revised up from +672,000 to +711,000. On net, employment over these months is 11,000 higher than previously reported.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls rose by 9 cents or 0.3 percent in November. Over the year, hourly earnings have increased by 4.4 percent. Average weekly hours were unchanged at 34.8 hours.

+145,000 Transportation and Warehousing

Transportation and warehousing added 145,000 jobs in November, with gains concentrated in couriers and messengers (+82,000) and in warehousing and storage (+37,000). Trucking, support activities, and air transportation also added jobs.

Employment in transportation and warehousing is down by 123,000 since February with losses in most component industries. However, couriers and messengers (+182,000) and warehousing and storage (+97,000) have added jobs over the period as

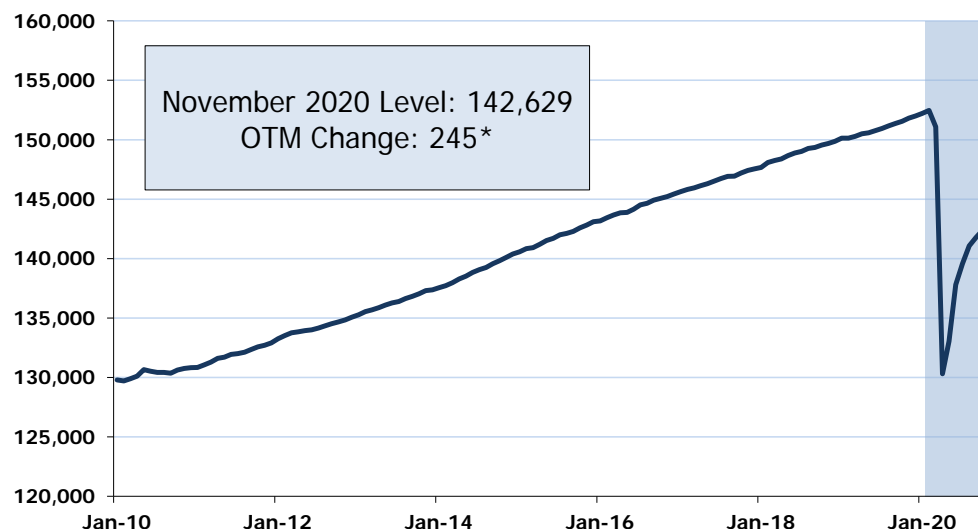
shoppers turn to on-line shopping during the pandemic.

+60,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment rose by 60,000 in professional and business services over the month, but is still 1.1 million lower than in February.

Employment in total nonfarm January 2010–November 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, November 2020

Temporary help services (+32,000) and services to buildings (+14,000) accounted for most of the job growth in November.

+54,000 Education and Health Services

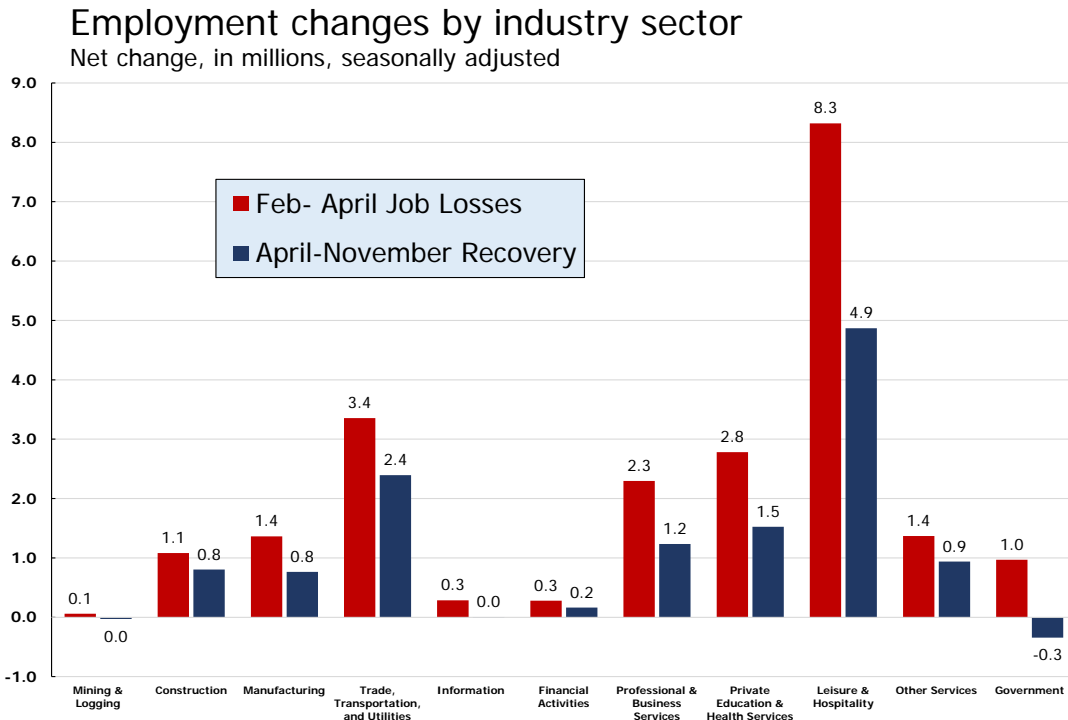
Employment in health care rose by 46,000 over the month, bringing job gains to 1.1 million over the past 7 months; however, employment is still 527,000 lower than in February. In November, ambulatory care services added 52,000 jobs, while nursing care facilities lost 12,000 jobs.

+31,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Within leisure and hospitality, employment increased by 43,000 in arts, entertainment, and recreation in November but changed little in food services (-17,000). Employment in leisure and hospitality is 3.4 million below February's level.

+27,000 Construction

Construction added 27,000 jobs in November, marking the seventh month of job growth; however, employment is 279,000 lower than in February. Over the month, growth occurred in residential specialty trades (+14,000) and in heavy and civil engineering construction (+10,000).



+27,000 Manufacturing

Jobs gains in manufacturing boosted employment by 27,000 in November, including 15,000 in motor vehicles and parts and 5,000 in plastics and rubber products.

+15,000 Financial Activities

Within financial activities, real estate added 10,000 jobs, and nondepository credit

intermediation added 8,000. Despite 7 months of job growth, employment in financial activities is still 115,000 below February's level.

-99,000 Government

Government employment fell by 99,000 in November. The decline was driven primarily by the Federal government, which

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, November 2020

reduced payrolls by 86,000 and included layoffs of 93,000 temporary workers who had completed activities related to the 2020 Census.

-35,000 Retail Trade

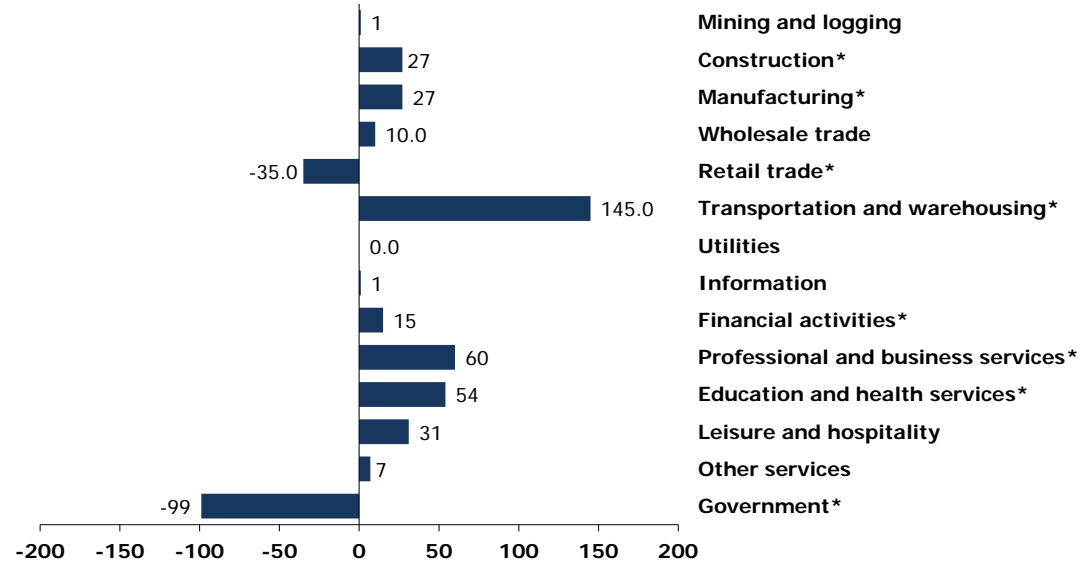
Employment fell by 35,000 in retail trade in November. General merchandise stores (-21,000); sporting, hobby, book, and music stores (-12,000); electronics and appliance stores (-11,000); and health and personal care stores (-8,000) lost jobs. Although employment had risen over the prior 6 months, retail employment is 550,000 lower than in February.

Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, November 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:
245*

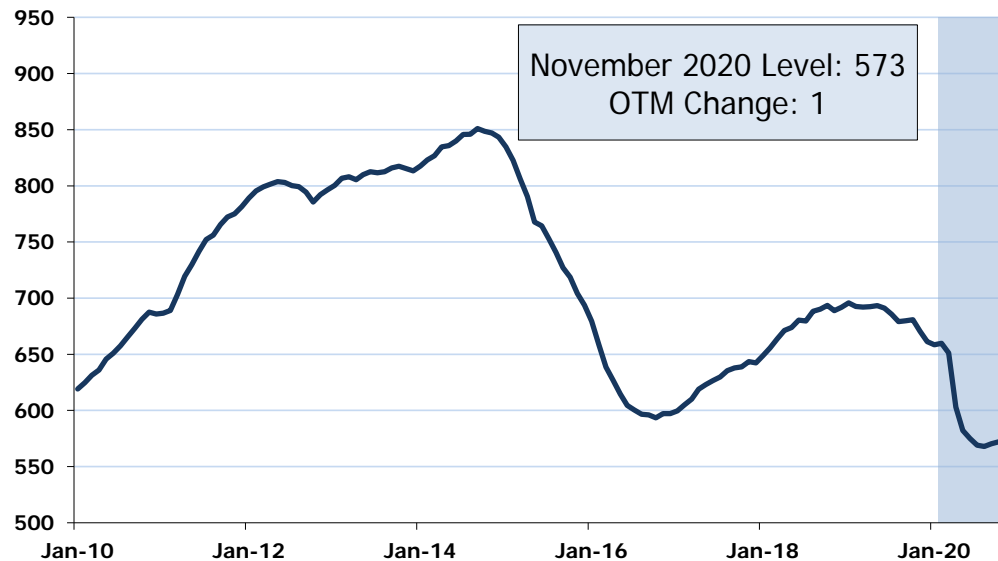


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, December 04, 2020.
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

Mining and Logging

Employment in mining January 2010–November 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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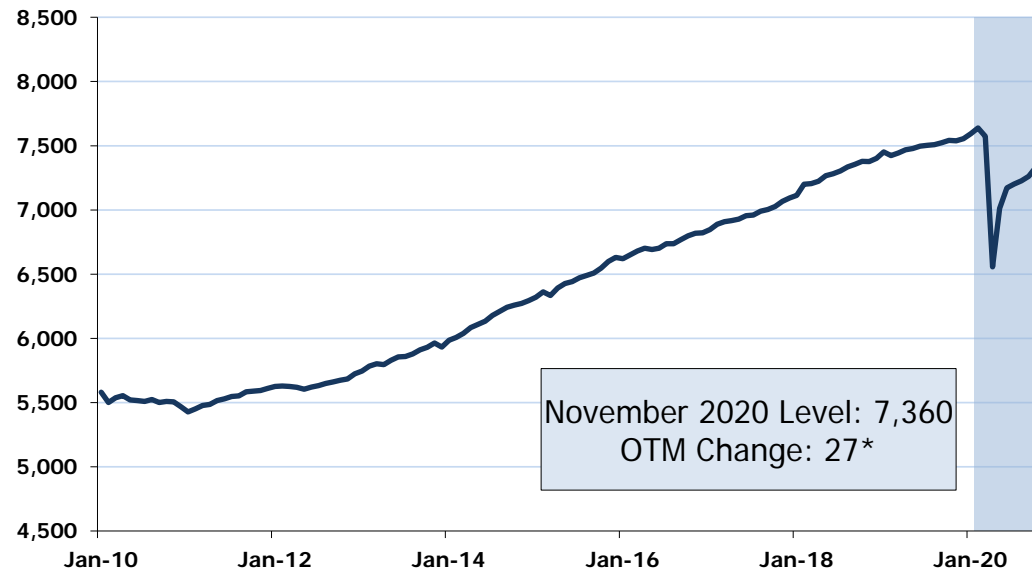
Mining employment changed little in November (+1,000). Despite little change over the most recent 3 months, the industry’s employment has declined by 88,000 since December 2019.

The recent leveling off of employment has come as the price of [West Texas intermediate crude oil](#) has increased.

Construction

Employment in construction January 2010–November 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

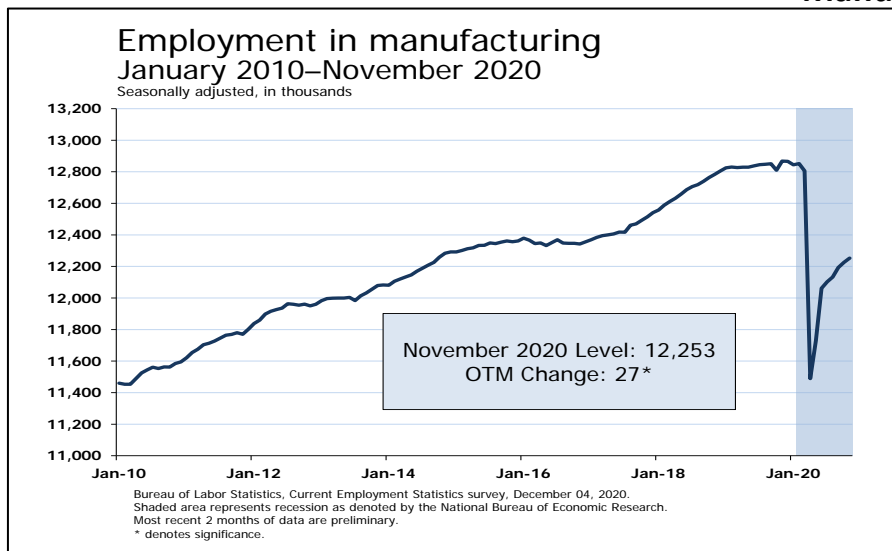


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Construction employment increased by 27,000 in November. The industry saw significant job gains in heavy and civil engineering construction (+10,000) and in residential specialty trade contractors (+14,000).

The employment growth in November follows strength in [construction spending](#) in October.

Manufacturing

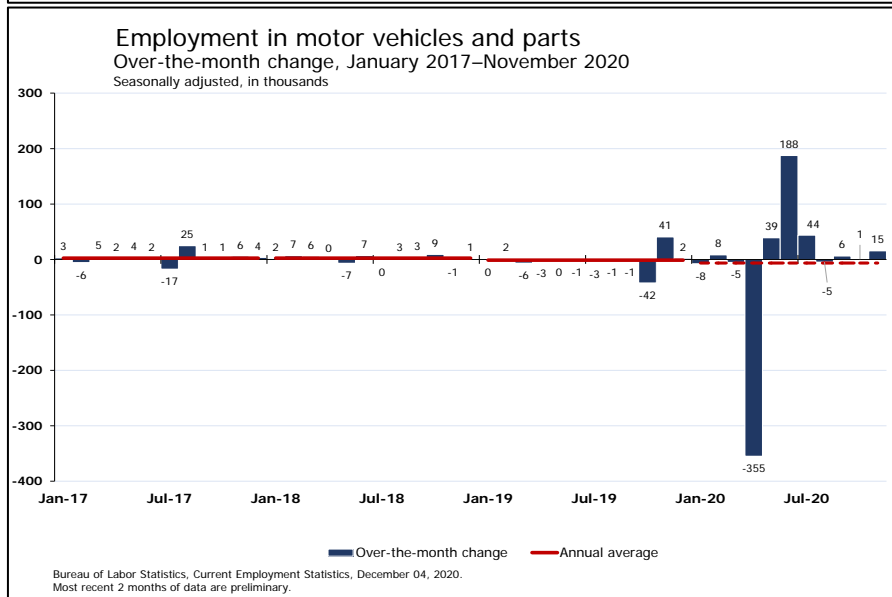


In November, manufacturing employment increased by 27,000, following gains of 33,000 in October and 60,000 in September.

The manufacturing 1-month diffusion index fell by 1.9 points to 58.6. An index greater than 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than are losing jobs.

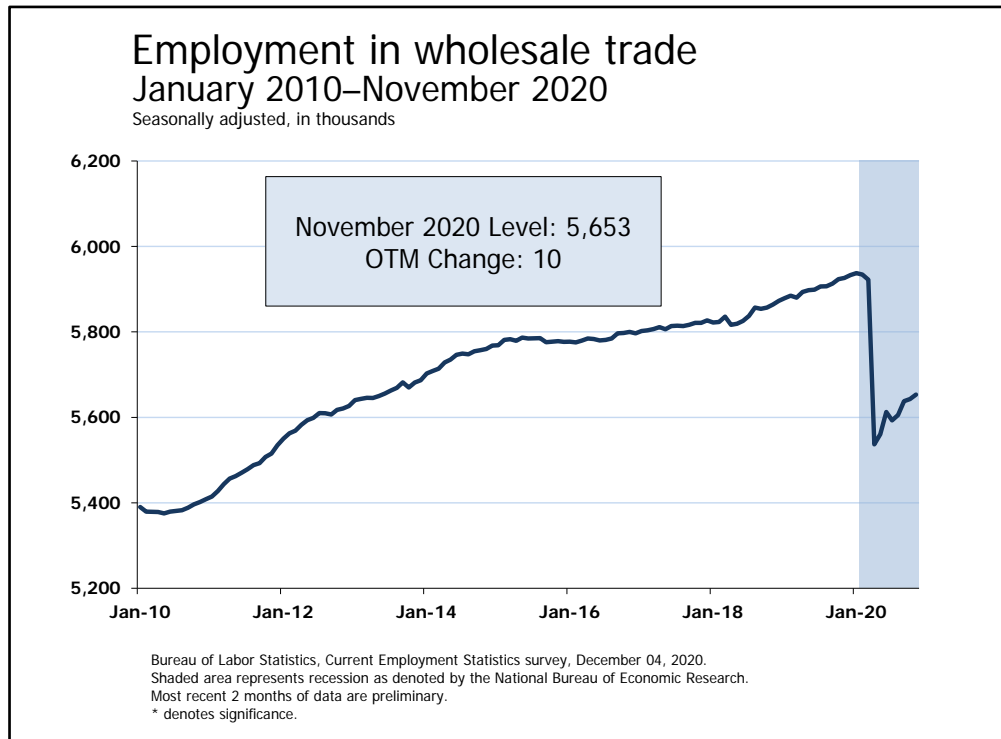
Employment in durable goods increased by 22,000 in November, while it was essentially unchanged in nondurable goods (+5,000). Growth in durable goods was driven by motor vehicles and parts (+15,000); however, the industry's employment remains 72,000 below February's level.

In November, average hourly earnings for all employees in manufacturing rose 11 cents to \$28.94. Average hourly earnings of production workers increased by 7 cents to \$23.06.



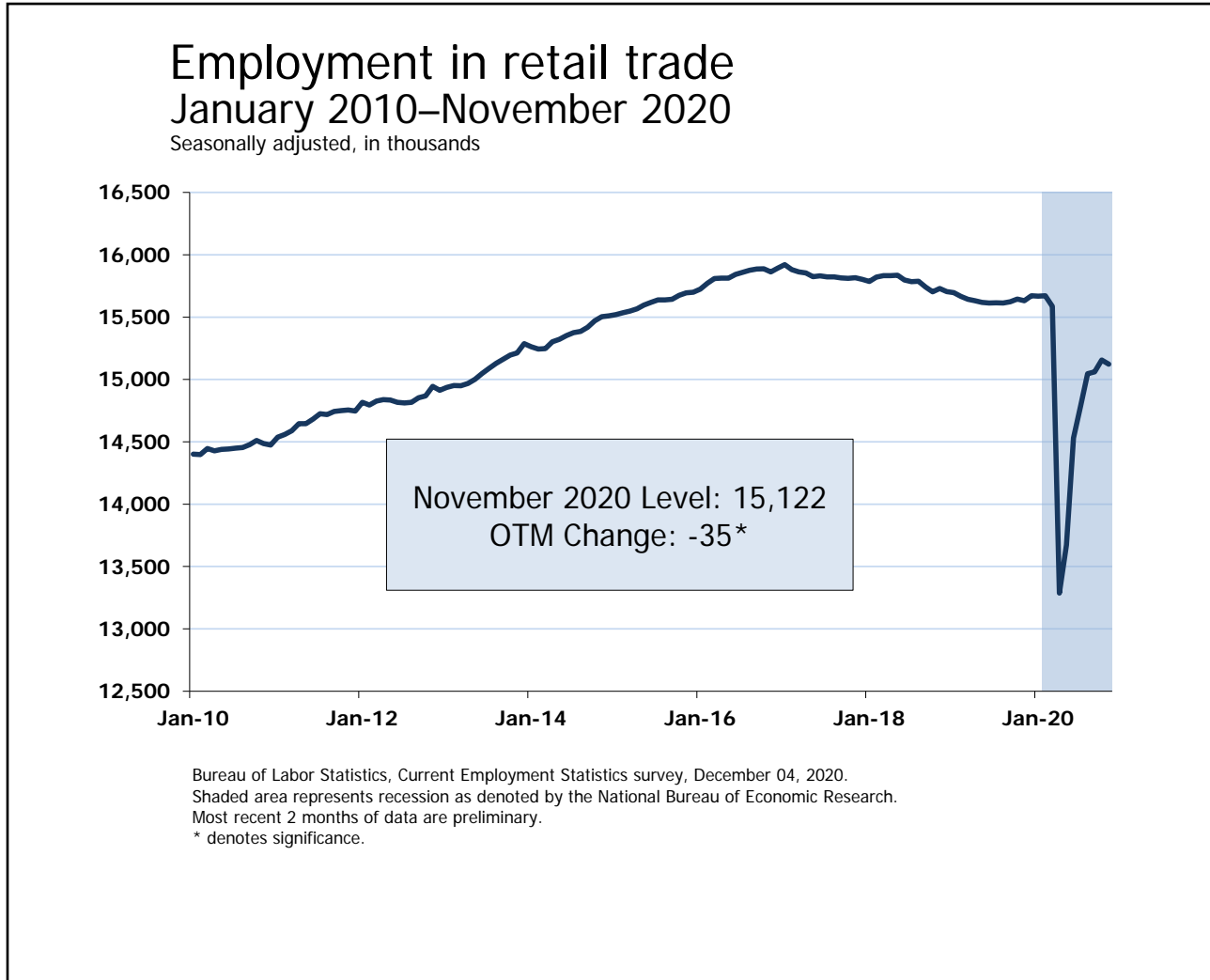
Average weekly hours of all employees fell 0.2 hour in November to 40.3 hours, the first contraction since April when it plummeted 2.4 hours. For production workers, the average workweek decreased by 0.1 hour to 41.2 hours in November.

Wholesale Trade



Wholesale trade employment changed little in November (+10,000), although durable goods added 14,000 jobs. Employment in wholesale trade has grown by 116,000 over the last 7 months, reflecting a recovery of 29 percent of the job losses in February, March, and April. As of November, employment remains 284,000 below its peak in January.

Retail Trade

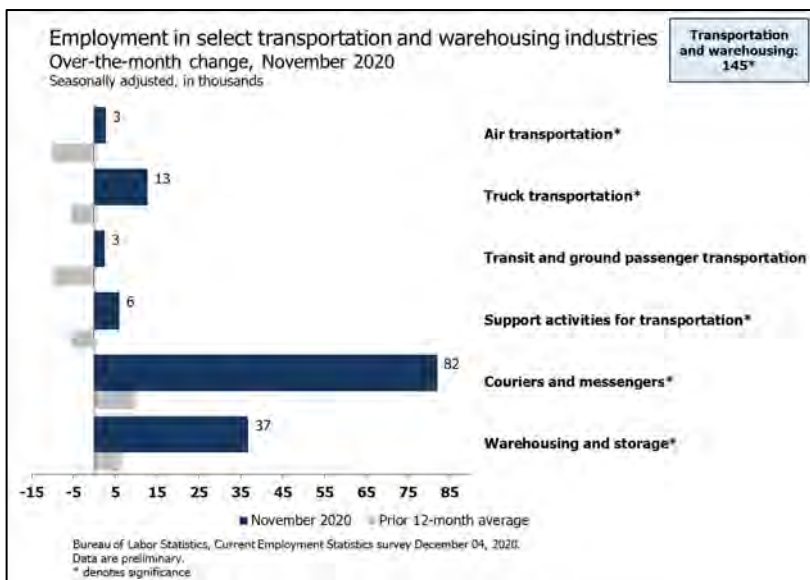


Employment in retail trade declined by 35,000 in November. Despite job gains in the prior 6 months, industry employment is down by 550,000 since February.

Within the industry, job losses occurred in general merchandise stores (-21,000); sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores (-12,000); electronics and appliance stores (-11,000); and health and personal care stores (-8,000). These declines were partially offset by an increase of 6,000 in furniture and home furnishing stores.

Retail-related economic indicators are mixed. [Retail Sales](#) increased in October. Conversely, the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) declined in November.

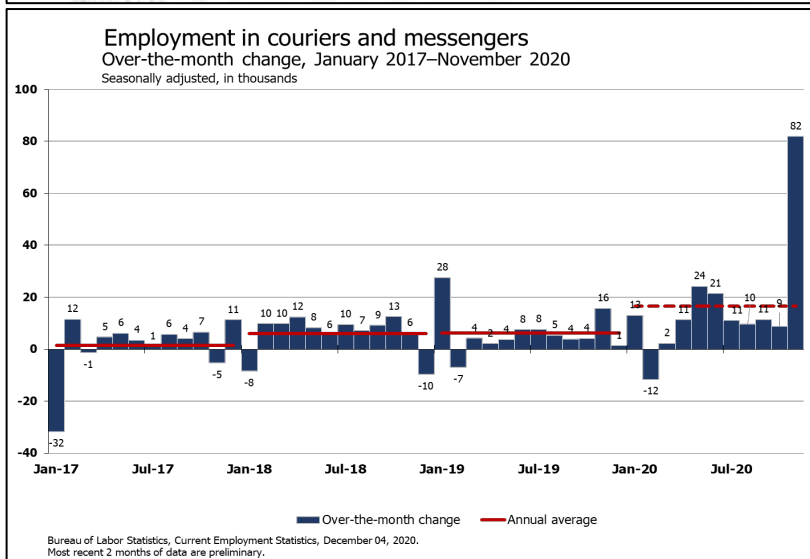
Transportation and Warehousing



Employment in transportation and warehousing increased by 145,000 in November. Although the industry has added 472,000 jobs over the past 6 months, employment is still 123,000 below its January peak.

Within transportation and warehousing, couriers and messengers (+82,000) and warehousing and storage (+37,000) accounted for 82 percent of the November growth. These gains come as consumers turn to [online shopping](#) amid the holiday season and the pandemic. So far this year, job growth in couriers and messengers and in warehousing and storage has accelerated to an average 17,000 and 10,000 per month, respectively.

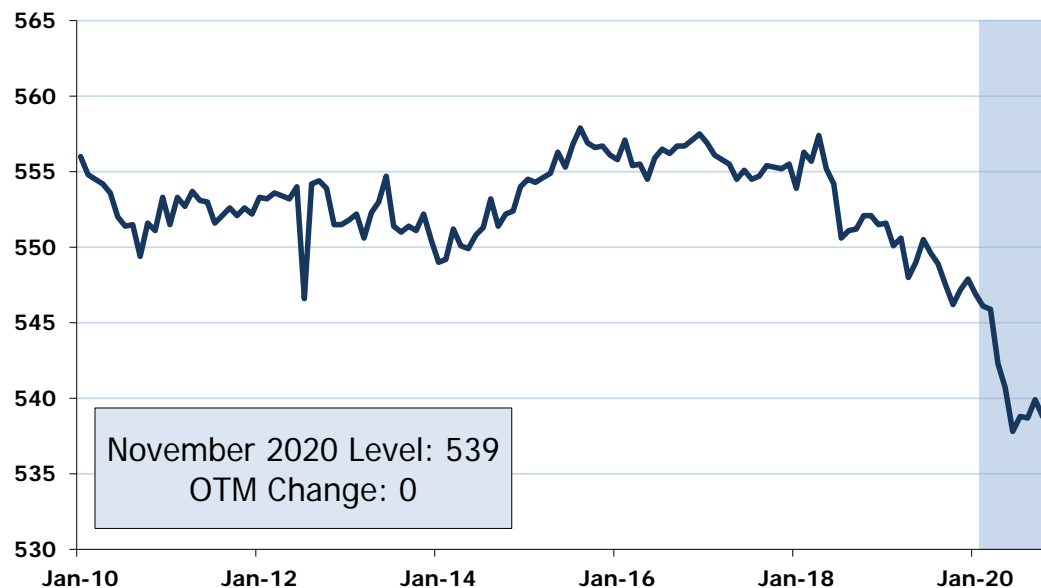
Truck transportation (+13,000), support activities for transportation (+6,000), and air transportation (+3,000) also added jobs over the month.



Utilities

Employment in utilities January 2010–November 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



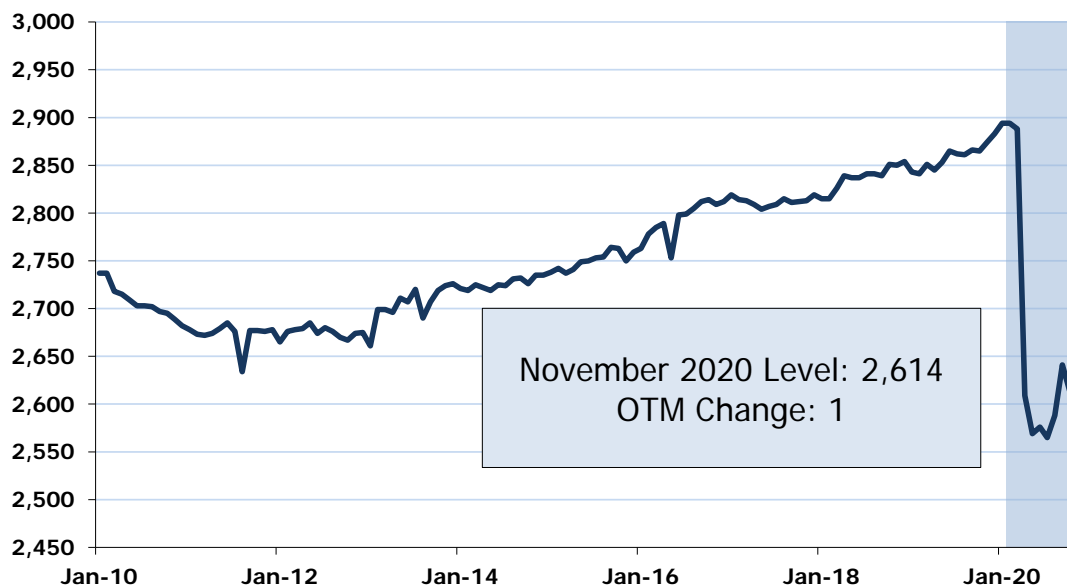
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Employment in utilities was unchanged in November. Since December 2019, the industry has lost 9,000 jobs.

Information

Employment in information January 2010–November 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



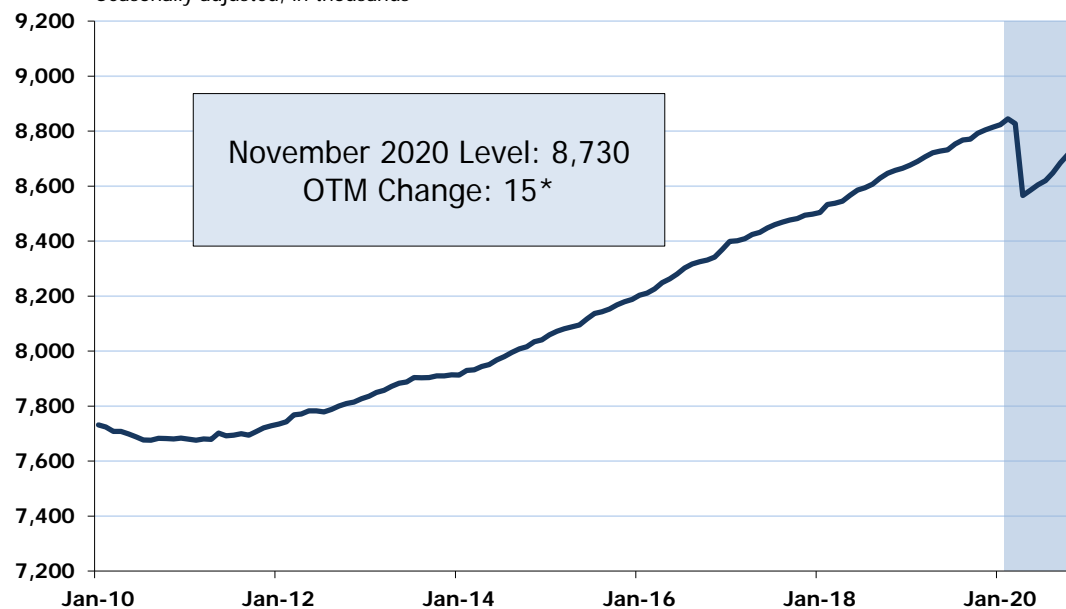
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, December 04, 2020.
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Employment in information changed little in November and remains 280,000 below February’s level.

Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities January 2010–November 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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Employment in financial activities increased by 15,000 in November, following gains of 30,000 in October and 37,000 in September.

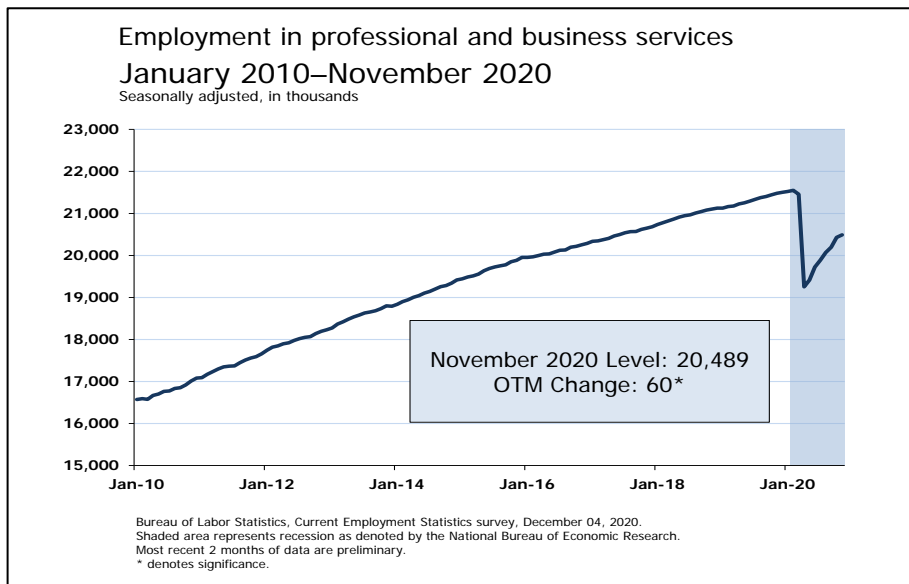
In November, real estate (+10,000) and credit intermediation (+8,000) added jobs.

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

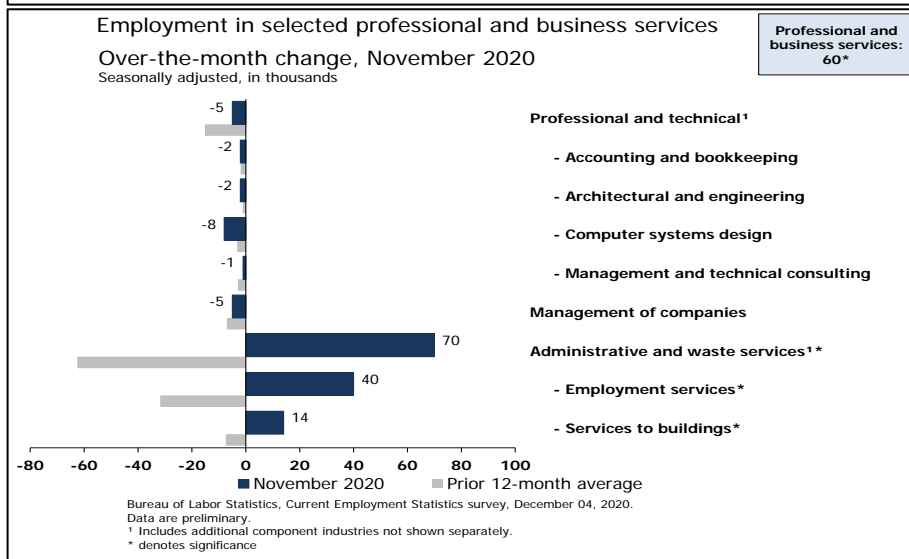


Professional and Business Services

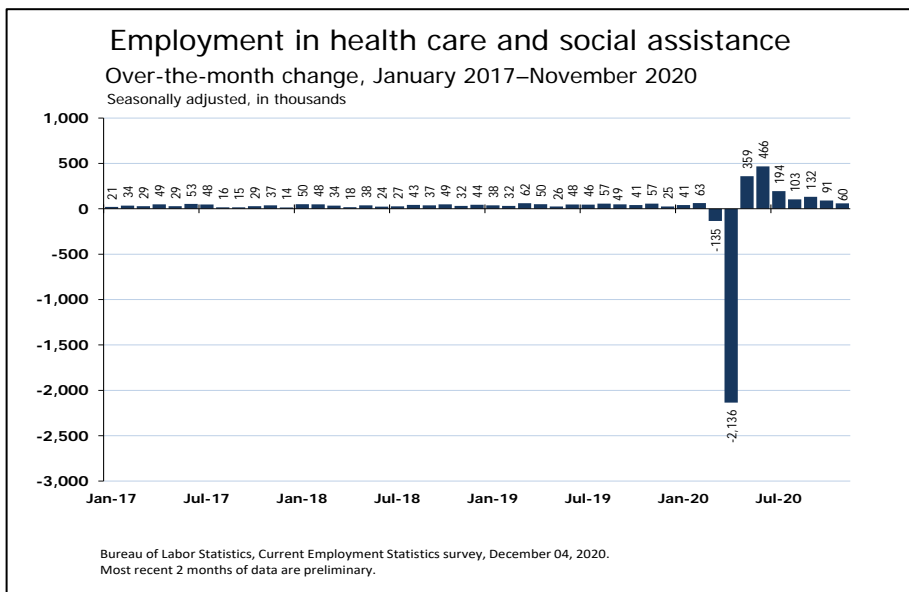
Employment in professional and business services increased by 60,000 in November. Over the past 7 months, industry employment has rebounded by 1.2 million, but is still 1.1 million below its February level.



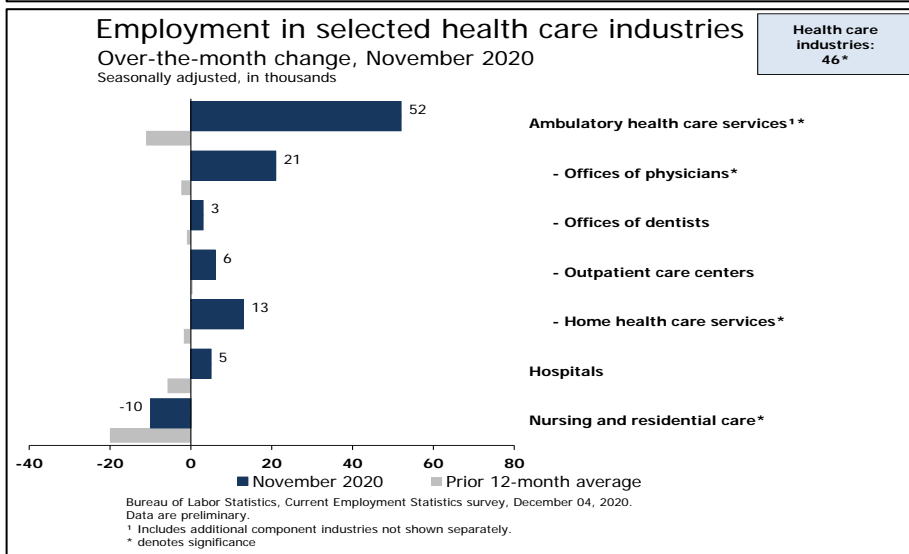
Within administrative and support services, temporary help services (+32,000), services to buildings and dwellings (+14,000) and other support services (+9,000) added jobs in November. During the past 7 months, administrative and support services has added 937,000 jobs, more than half the jobs lost during March and April; temporary help services accounted for 599,000 of the recovered jobs.



Private Education and Health Services



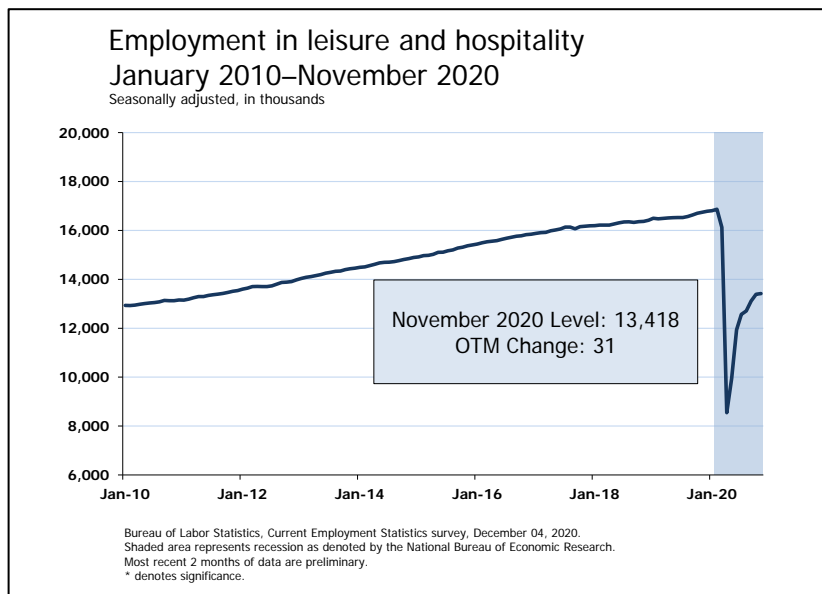
In November, health care and social assistance added 60,000 jobs. Within social assistance, emergency and other relief services added 4,000 jobs over the month. Despite recent gains, employment in health care and social assistance is 864,000 lower than in February.



Employment in ambulatory health care services increased by 52,000 in November, with offices of physicians accounting for 21,000 of the gain. Home health care services (+13,000) and offices of other health practitioners (+8,000) also added jobs.

In November, employment in nursing and residential care facilities continued to trend down (-10,000). Since an employment peak in February, the industry has lost an average 28,000 jobs per month.

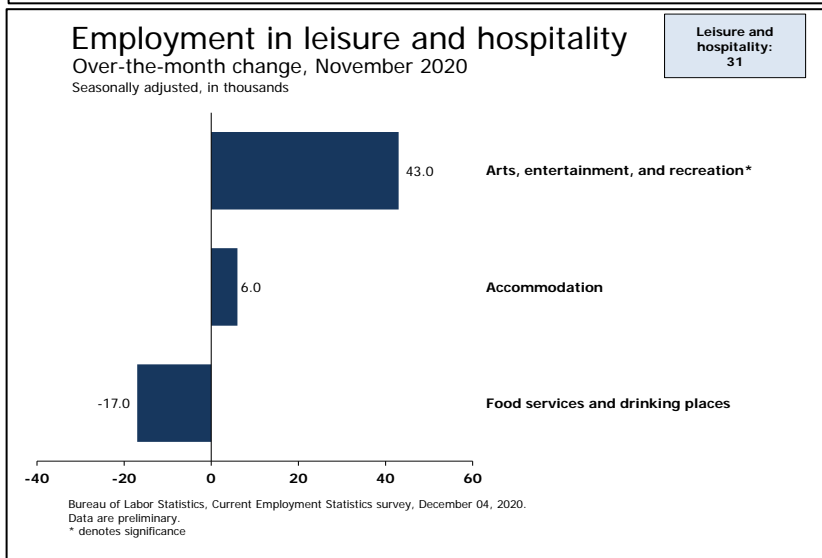
Leisure and Hospitality



Employment in leisure and hospitality changed little in November (+31,000). Although leisure and hospitality has added 4.9 million jobs over the past 7 months, as of November, employment is still 3.4 million lower than in February.

In November, arts, entertainment, and recreation added 43,000 jobs and has added 639,000 since April. However, industry employment is still 690,000 below its February level.

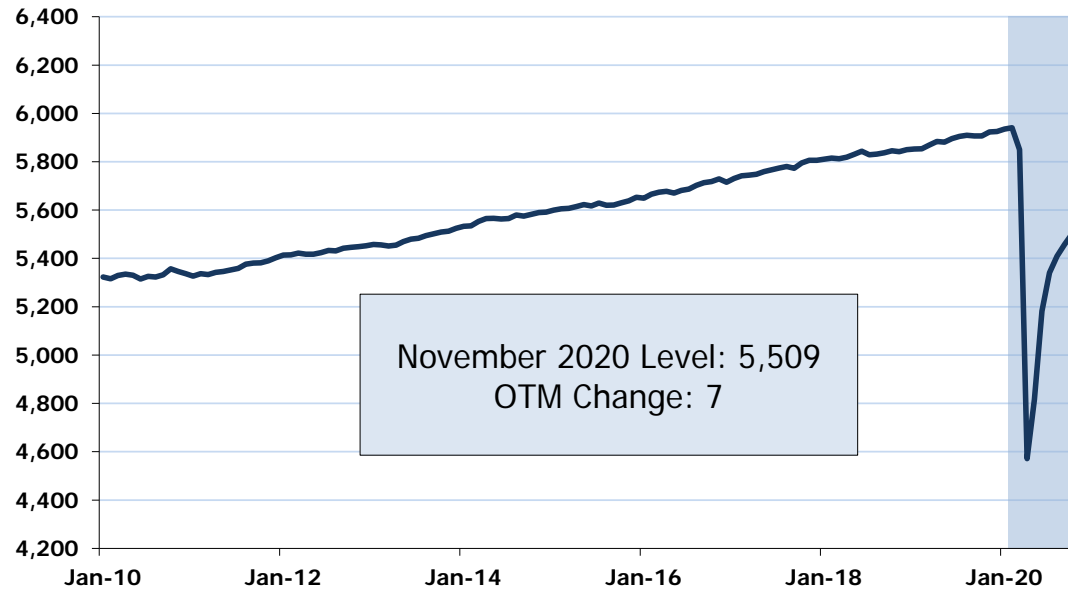
In November, employment in food services and drinking places changed little (-17,000). This weakness coincides with recent restrictions on [dining](#). Despite recovering 4.0 million jobs since April, industry employment remains 2.1 million below its February level.



Other Services

Employment in other services January 2010–November 2020

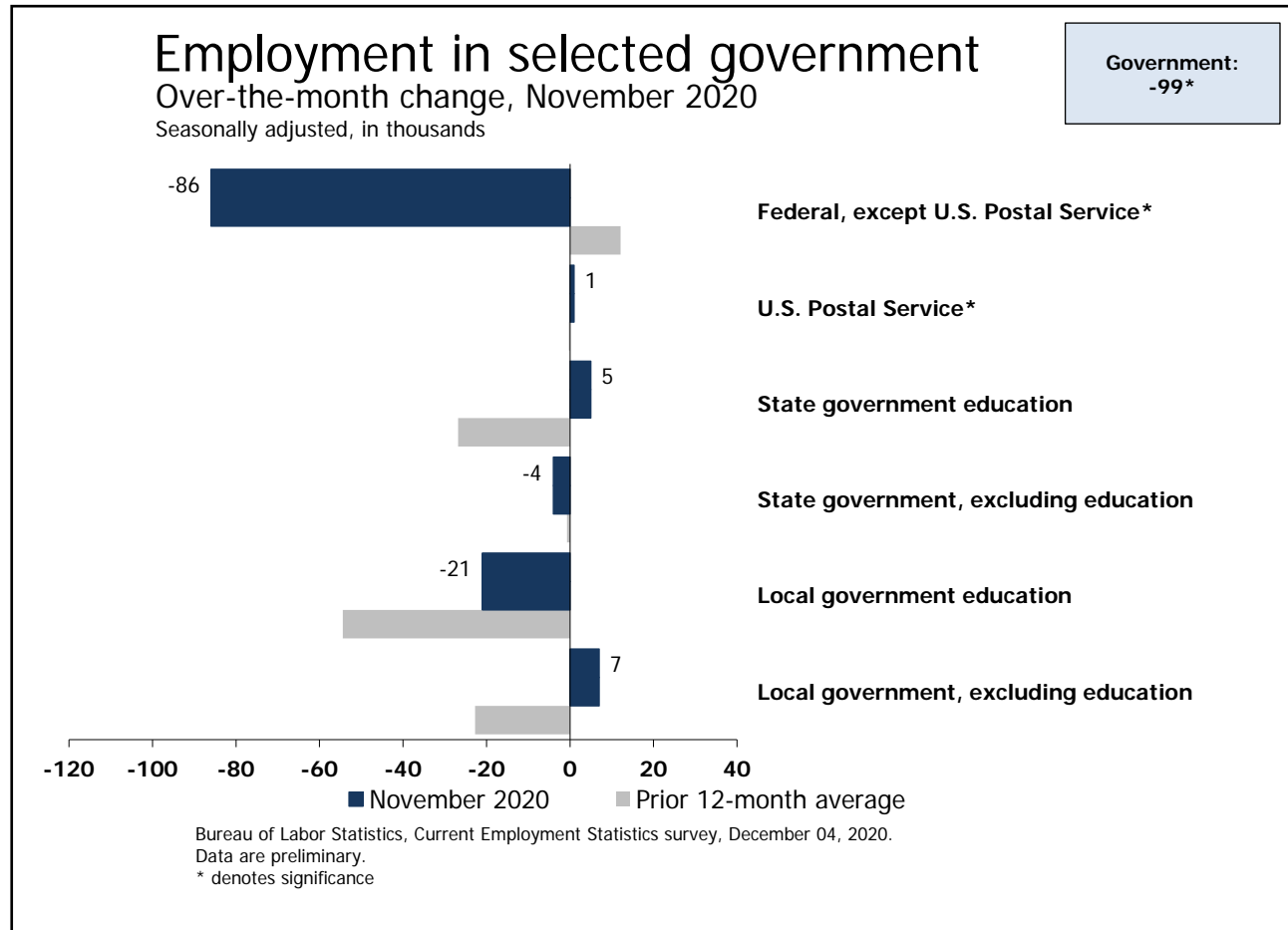
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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Employment in other services changed little in November (+7,000), following average gains of 47,000 in each of the prior 2 months. Despite recent gains, employment in the industry is still 432,000 lower than in February.

Government



Government employment decreased by 99,000 in November and has declined by 1.3 million since reaching a peak in February.

In November, federal government employment fell by 86,000 due to a layoff of 93,000 decennial census workers.



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