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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



February 2021

Release Date: March 5, 2021

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 2021

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 379,000 in February. Over the month, employment rose sharply in leisure and hospitality; job growth also occurred in professional and business services, retail trade, and health care and social assistance. State and local government education, construction, and mining lost jobs over the month. Total nonfarm employment is down by 9.5 million, or 6.2 percent, since reaching a peak in February 2020.

The employment change for January revised up from +49,000 to +166,000 and the change for December revised down from -227,000 to -306,000.

Average hourly earnings for all employees on private, nonfarm payrolls grew by 7 cents, or 0.2 percent, in February. Average hourly earnings for all employees are up 5.3 percent over the year. Average weekly hours, at 34.6 hours, fell by 0.3 hour over the month.

+355,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in leisure and hospitality rose by 355,000 in February. Job growth was concentrated in food services and drinking places, which added 286,000. Accommodation (+36,000) and amusements, gambling, and

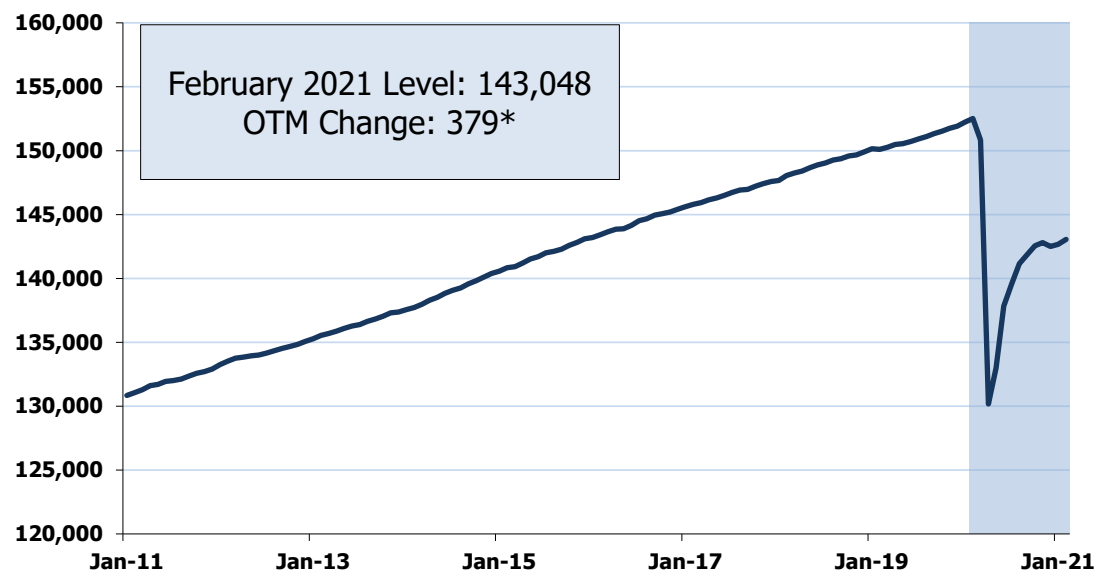
recreation (+33,000) also added jobs over the month. Employment in leisure and hospitality is 3.5 million lower than it was in February 2020.

+63,000 Professional and Business Services

Within professional and business services, temporary help services added 53,000 jobs in February. Although rising over the past 10 months, employment in professional and

Employment in total nonfarm January 2011–February 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 05, 2021.
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, February 2021

business services is still down by 771,000 since February 2020, with 175,000 of the net loss occurring in temporary help.

+44,000 Education and Health Services

Employment in health care and social assistance rose by 46,000 over the month. Job gains in health care occurred in ambulatory health care services (+29,000), but were partially offset by job losses in nursing care facilities (-12,000). Employment in social assistance rose by 26,000, mostly in individual and family services (+18,000). Although employment in education and health services has risen since April, it is 1.3 million lower than in February 2020.

+41,000 Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade rose by 41,000 in February. A job loss in clothing and clothing accessories stores (-20,000) was more than offset by widespread job gains in general merchandise stores (+14,000), health and personal care stores (+12,000), food and beverage stores (+10,000), miscellaneous store retailers (+8,000), motor vehicles and parts dealers (+7,000), and electronics and appliance stores (+6,000). Retail trade has

recovered 2.0 million of the 2.4 million jobs lost in March and April.

+21,000 Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment grew by 21,000 in February. Job growth was concentrated in durable goods manufacturing (+17,000), which included a gain of 10,000 in transportation

equipment. After falling by 1.4 million in March and April 2020, manufacturing employment has risen by 824,000.

+4,000 Transportation and Warehousing

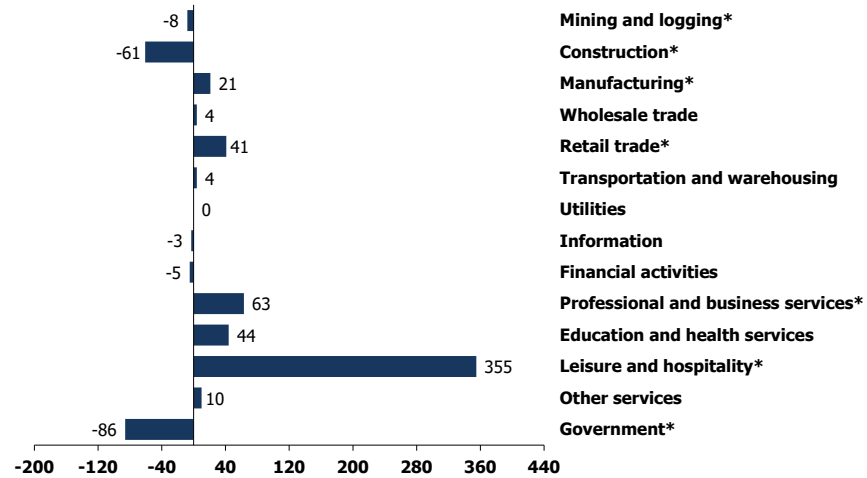
Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in February. Job

Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, February 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:
379*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 05, 2021.
Data are preliminary.
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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 2021

losses in air transportation (-8,000) were more than offset by job gains in couriers and messengers (+9,000) and in transit and ground passenger transportation (+9,000). Despite employment gains since May, employment in transportation and warehousing is 165,000 below its peak in February 2020.

concentrated in local government education (-37,000) and in state government education (-32,000). Government employment is down by 1.4 million since reaching a peak in February 2020.

-8,000 Mining and Logging

Employment in mining fell by 8,000 in February, mostly in support activities for mining (-6,000). Employment in oil and gas extraction also declined over the month (-2,000). Mining and logging has lost 157,000 jobs since reaching a peak in January 2019.

-61,000 Construction

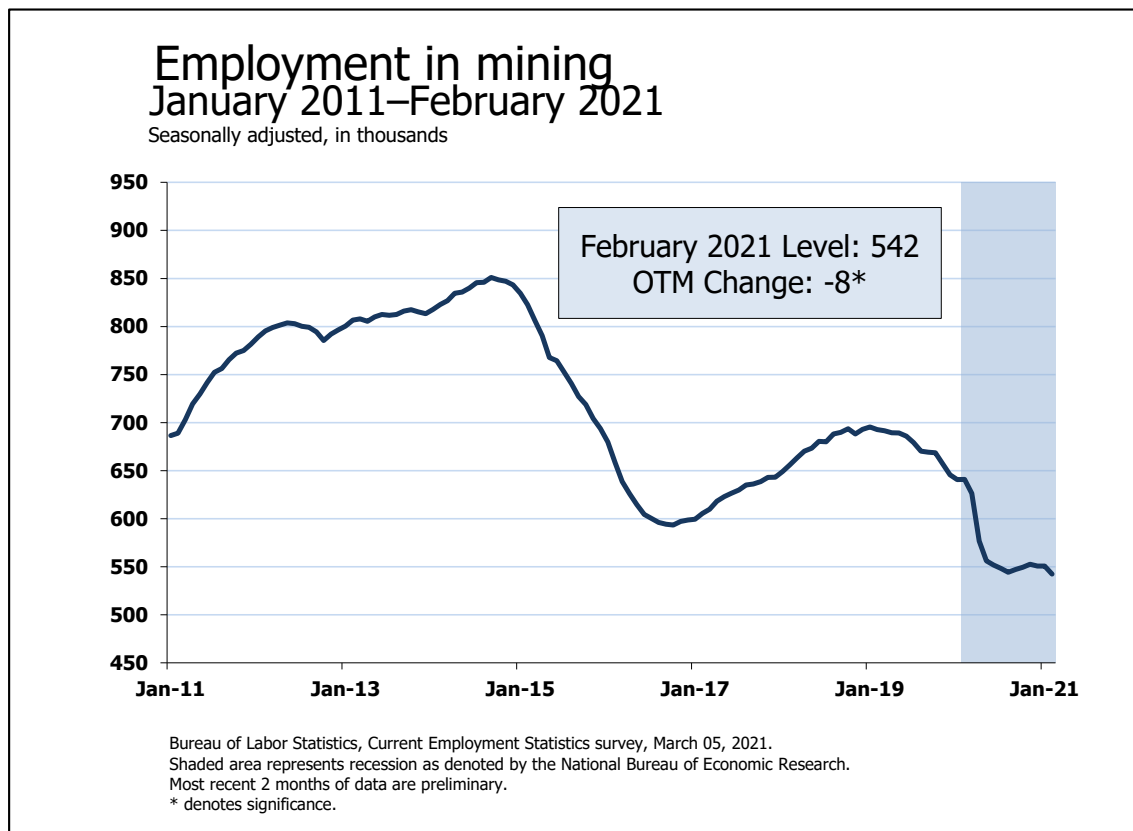
Employment in construction fell by 61,000 in February. Over half of the job loss was concentrated in nonresidential specialty trade contractors (-37,000). Heavy and civil engineering construction also lost jobs over the month (-21,000). Construction employment has shown a net loss of 308,000 since its employment peak in February 2020.

-86,000 Government

Government employment fell by 86,000 in February. Within the industry, job losses were

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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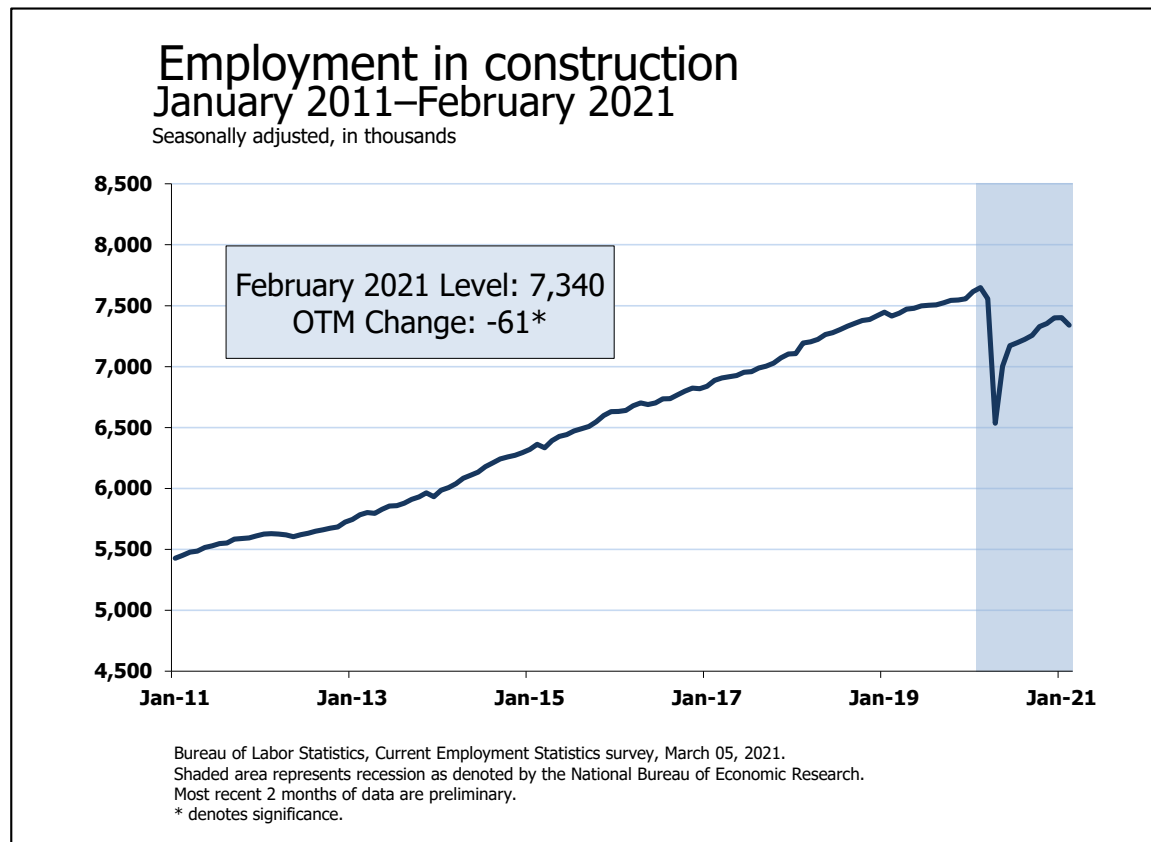
Mining and Logging



Mining employment decreased by 8,000 in February. Job losses were concentrated in support activities for mining (-6,000), and in oil and gas extraction (-2,000).

The weakness in mining employment occurred despite increases in the number of active [North American rotary rigs](#), and in the price of [West Texas Intermediate crude oil](#) in February.

Construction



Construction employment declined by 61,000 in February. The majority of the industry’s losses were in nonresidential specialty trade contractors, (-37,000) and in heavy and civil engineering construction (-21,000).

[Winter storm systems](#) with extremely low temperatures likely contributed to weakness in employment and hours. The construction workweek fell by 1.1 hour in February.

Manufacturing



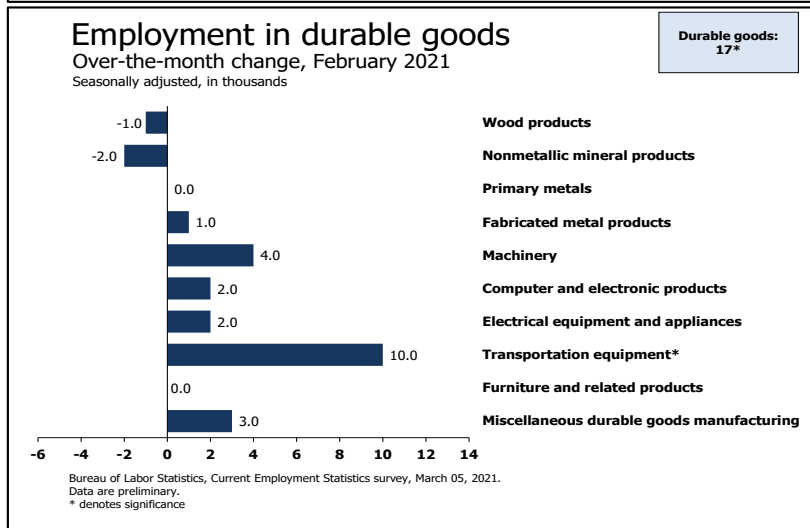
In February, manufacturing employment rose by 21,000, following a decrease of 14,000 in January. Over the year, the industry has lost 561,000 jobs.

The manufacturing 1-month diffusion index increased to 59.3, a change of 14.6 points, indicating that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than are losing jobs.

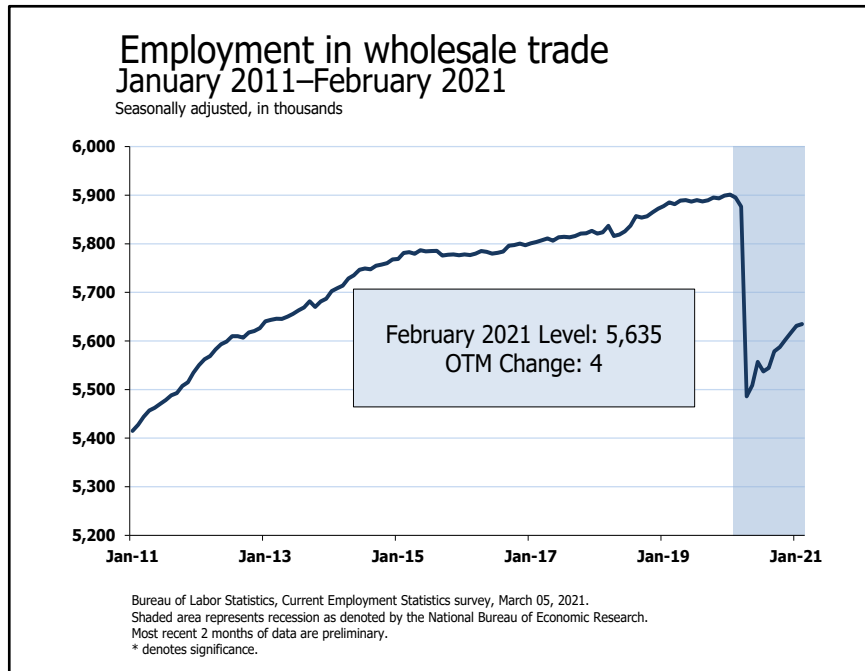
In February, durable goods added 17,000 jobs, with transportation equipment accounting for 10,000 of the gain. Within nondurable goods, apparel added 2,000 jobs.

In February, average hourly earnings for all employees in manufacturing decreased by 2 cents to \$29.06. Average hourly earnings of production workers increased by 1 cent to \$23.19.

Average weekly hours of all employees decreased by 0.2 hour to 40.2 hours in February. The average workweek of production workers decreased by 0.3 hour to 41.2 hours.



Wholesale Trade

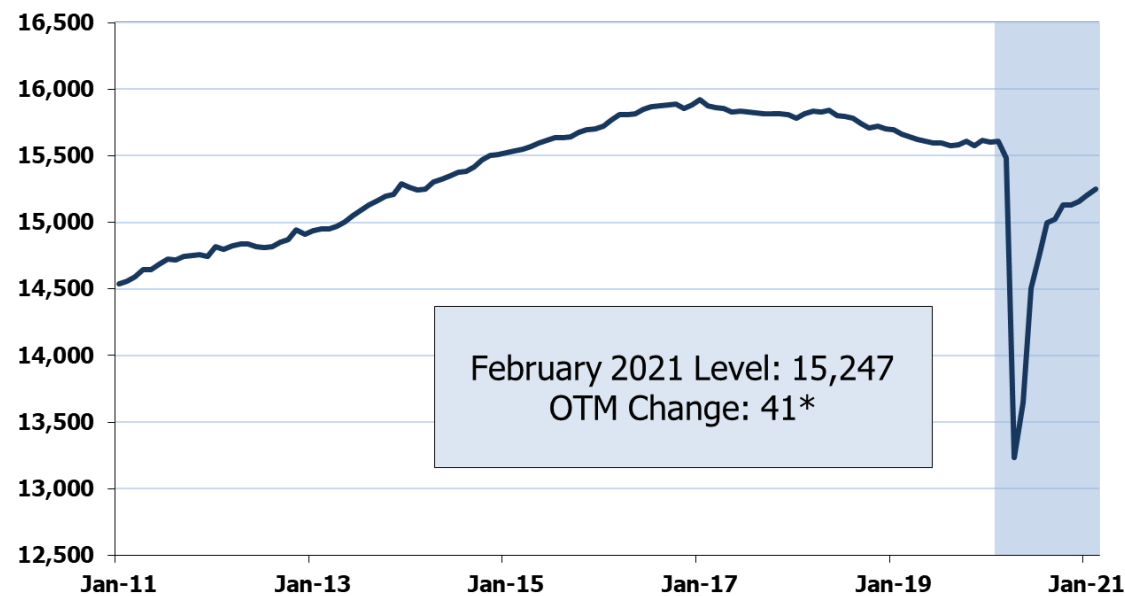


Employment in wholesale trade changed little in February (+4,000). Industry employment has grown by 149,000 over the last 10 months, but remains 266,000 below its peak in January 2020. Gains during this period have been evenly split between durable and nondurable goods.

Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade January 2011–February 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



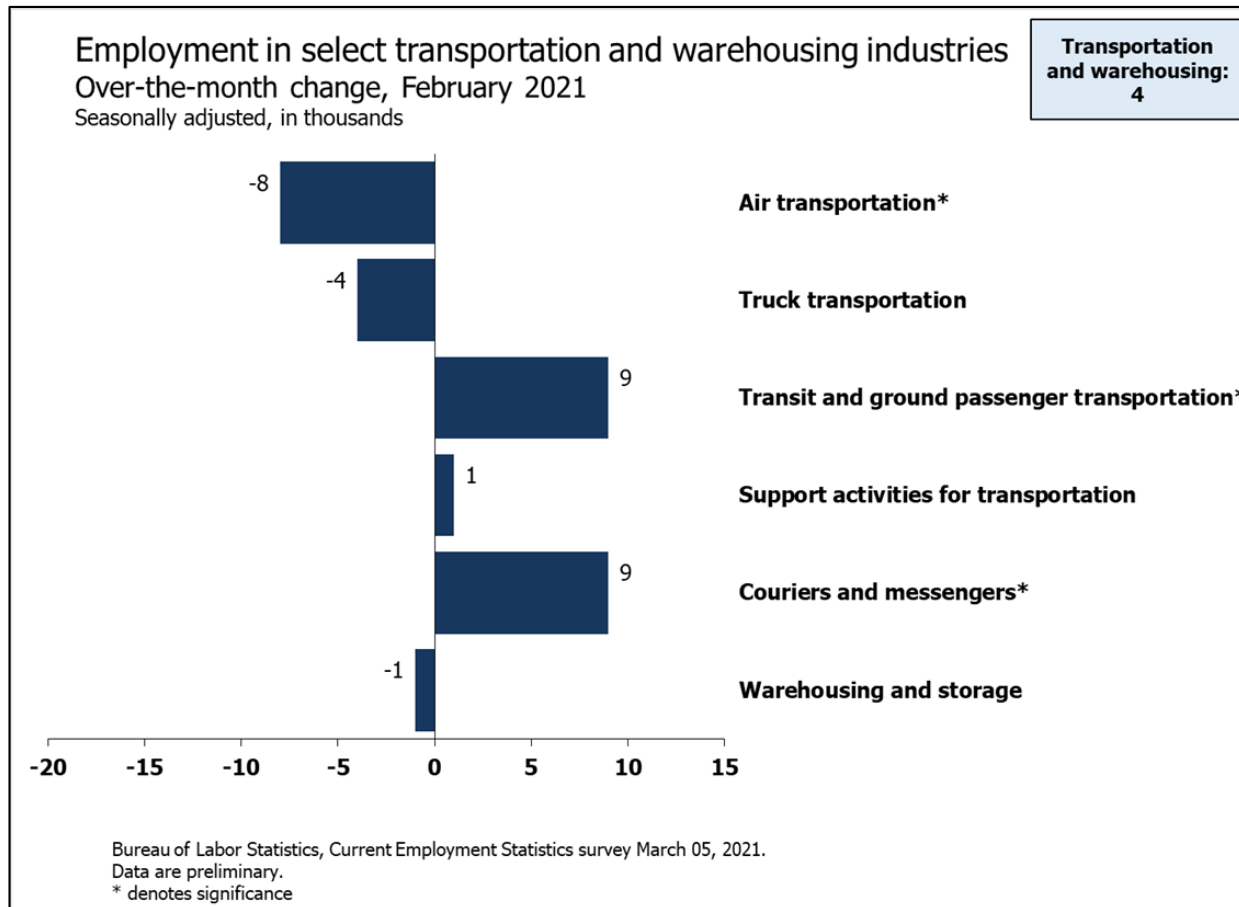
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 05, 2021.
 Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
 Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.
 * denotes significance.

Employment in retail trade increased by 41,000 in February, and the industry has recovered 2.0 million of the 2.4 million jobs lost in March and April 2020.

Job gains were pervasive in February, led by general merchandise stores (+14,000), health and personal care stores (+12,000), and food and beverage stores (+10,000). In contrast, employment in clothing and clothing accessories stores declined by 20,000.

Retail-related economic indicators are mixed. [Retail Sales](#) grew in January, and the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) increased in February. Contrarily, the per gallon price of [regular gasoline](#) increased in February, and [E-Commerce Sales](#) for the fourth quarter of 2020 declined.

Transportation and Warehousing



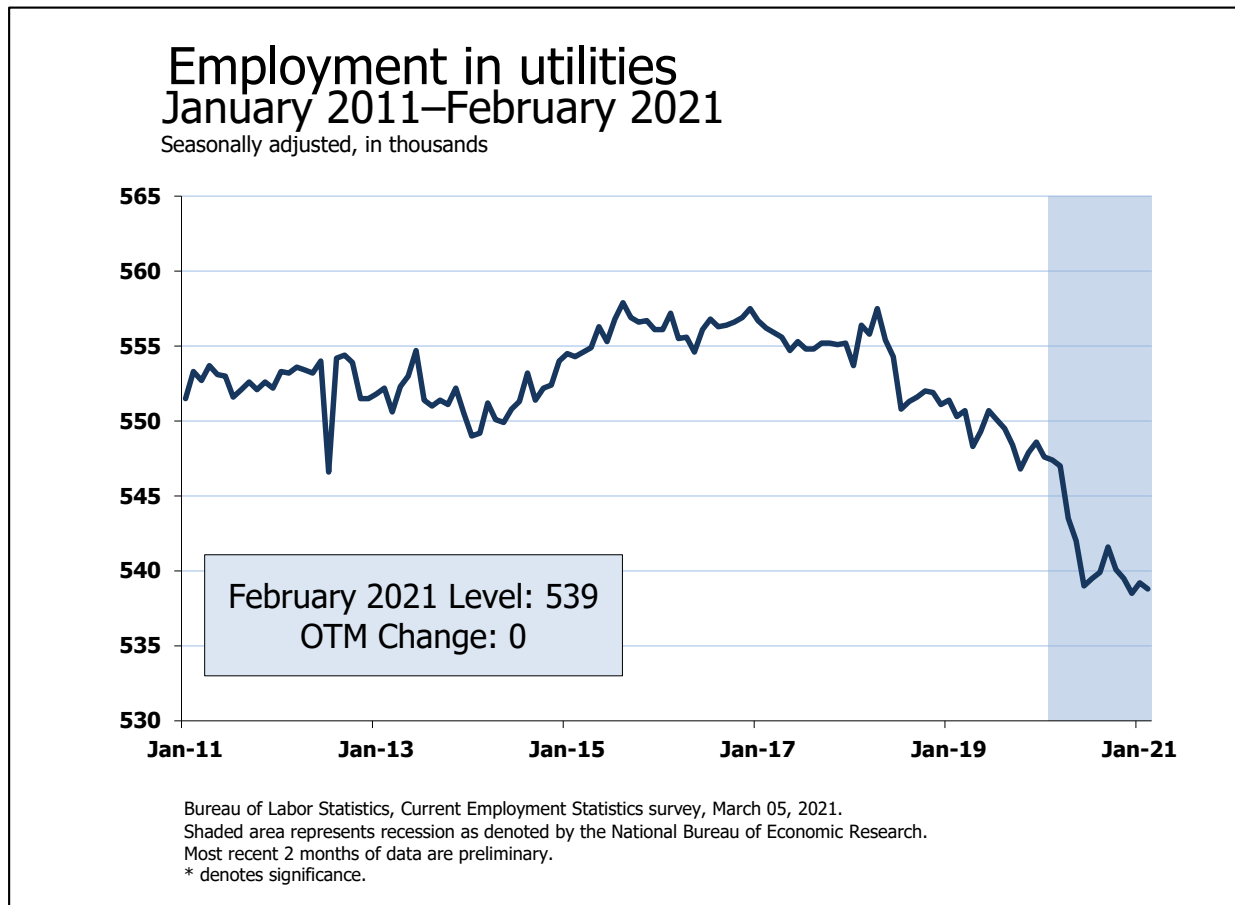
Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in February (+4,000), after declining by 14,000 in January. Industry employment remains 165,000 below its most recent peak in February 2020.

In February 2021, transit and ground passenger transportation (+9,000) and couriers and messengers (+9,000) added jobs. Since February 2020, employment in transit and ground passenger transportation has declined by 126,000, while employment in couriers and messengers has grown by 148,000.

Air transportation lost 8,000 jobs in February, partly offsetting a gain of 15,000 in January. Since reaching a peak in March 2020, employment in air transportation has declined by 114,000.

Utilities

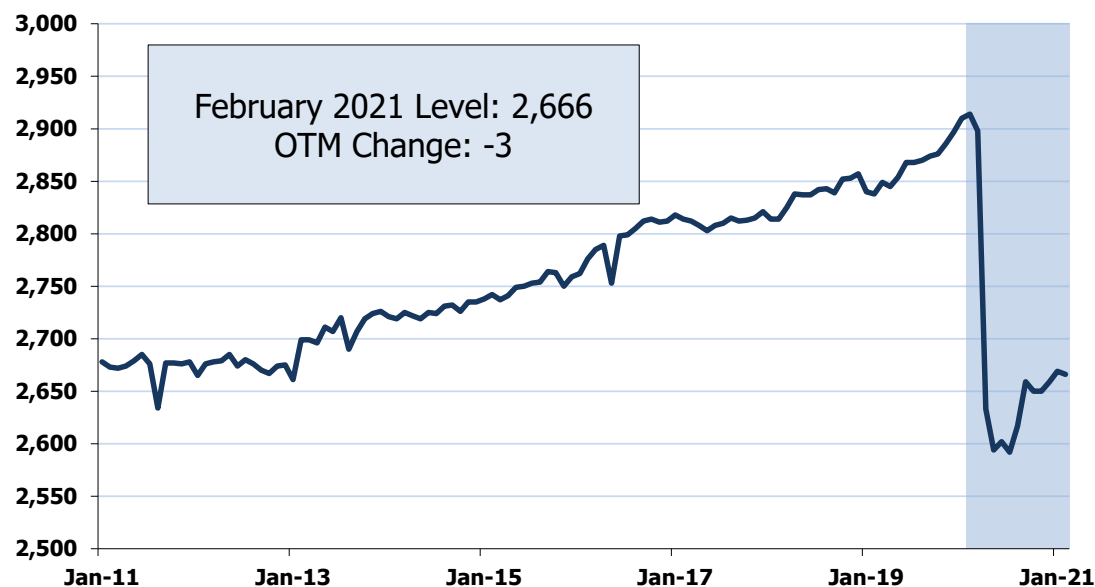
Employment in utilities was unchanged in February.



Information

Employment in information January 2011–February 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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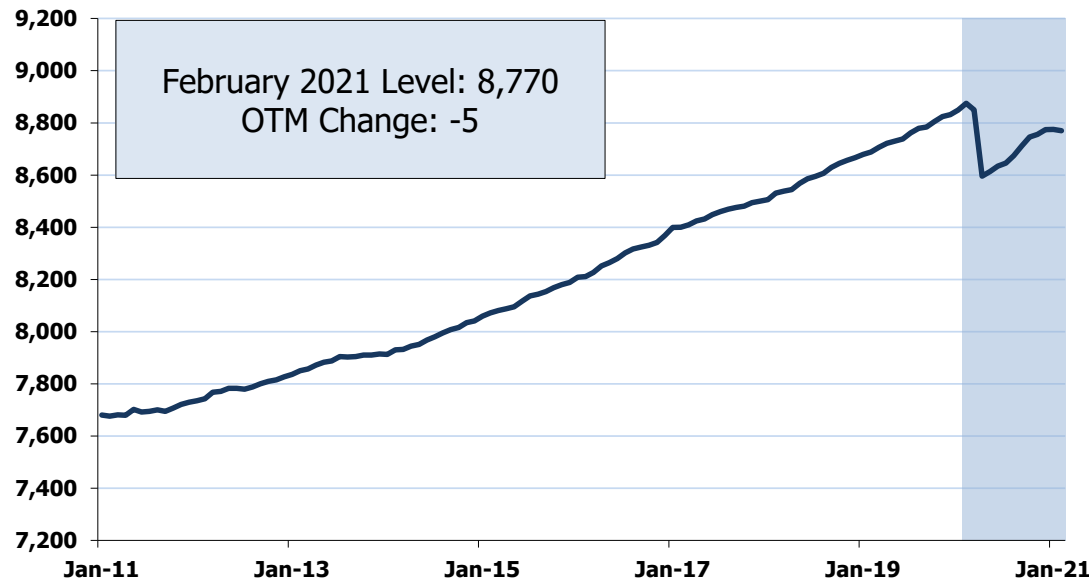
Employment in information changed little in February (-3,000).

Over the year, employment in the industry has fallen by 248,000. Job losses occurred in the motion picture and sound recording industries (-188,000), telecommunications (-25,000), publishing industries, except internet (-23,000); and broadcasting, except internet (-15,000).

Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities January 2011–February 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

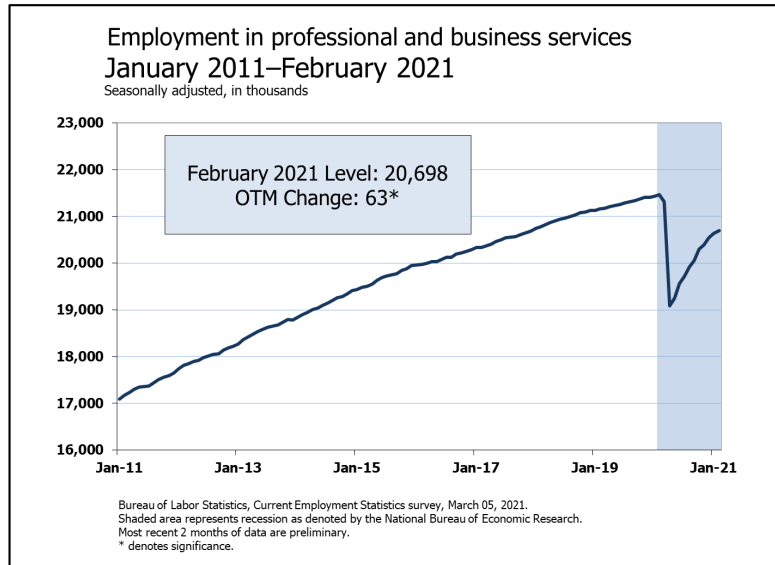


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 05, 2021.
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Employment in financial activities changed little in February (-5,000). The industry has recovered 174,000 of the 279,000 jobs lost during March and April 2020.

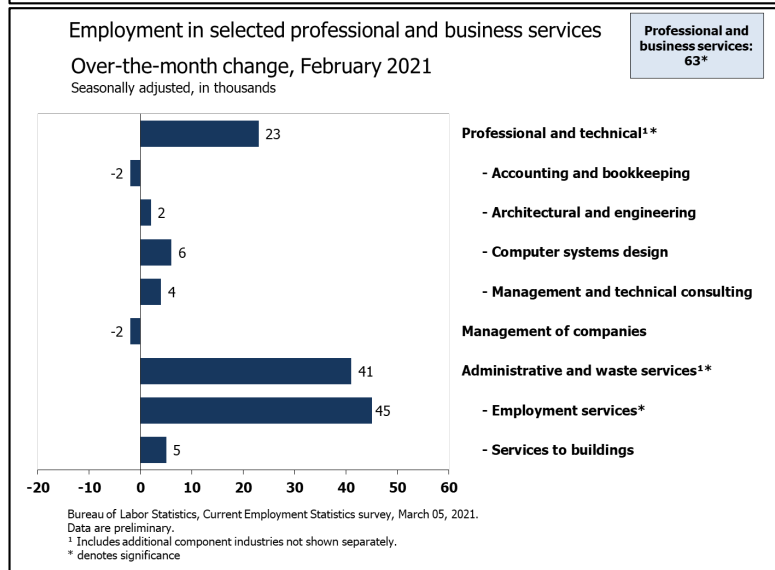
Over the most recent 12 months, financial activities has lost 105,000 jobs, with real estate and rental and leasing accounting for 129,000 of the loss. An increase of 29,000 jobs in nondepository credit intermediation partially offset the declines.

Professional and Business Services



Professional and business services added 63,000 jobs in February, but employment is still 771,000 below its peak in February 2020.

Within professional and technical services, legal services added 7,000 jobs in February 2021. Over the year, employment in professional and technical services is 131,000 lower.

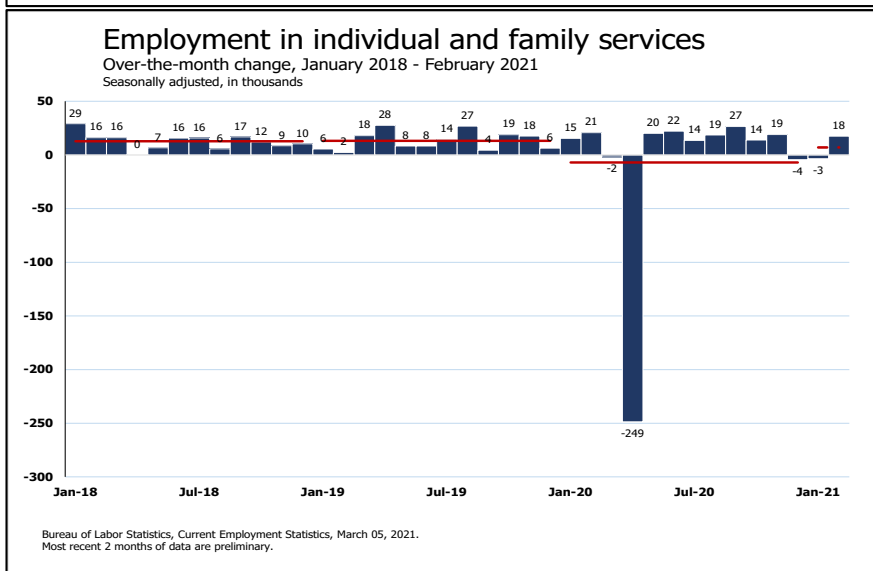
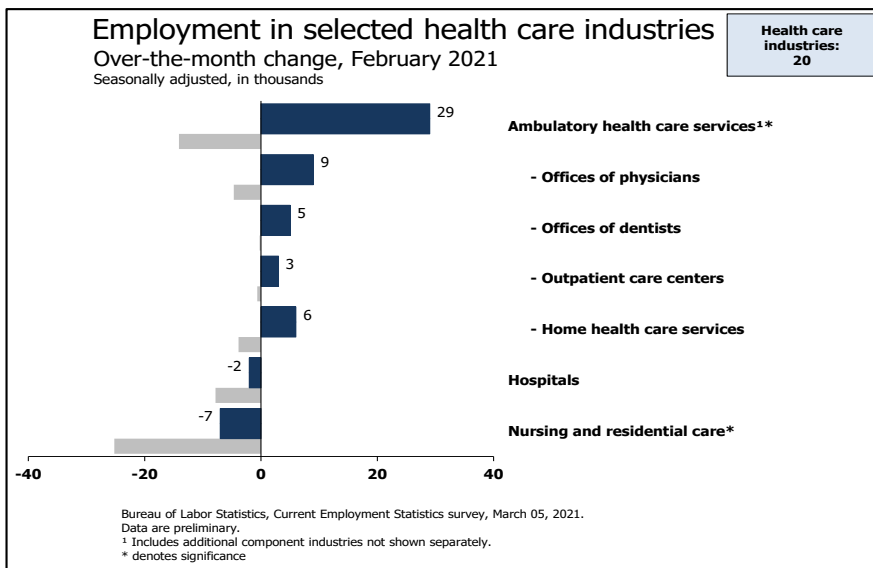


Within administrative and support services, temporary help services added 53,000 jobs. Employment in administrative and support services is 535,000 lower than in February 2020, and temporary help accounts for 175,000 of the net loss.

Private Education and Health Services

Employment in health care and social assistance increased by 46,000 in February. Within health care, nursing care facilities lost 12,000 jobs over the month, more than offsetting a gain of 4,000 in other ambulatory health care services. Employment in health care and social assistance is 909,000 below its peak in February 2020.

Within social assistance, individual and family services added 18,000 jobs in February. The industry has recovered 144,000 of the 251,000 jobs lost in March and April 2020.

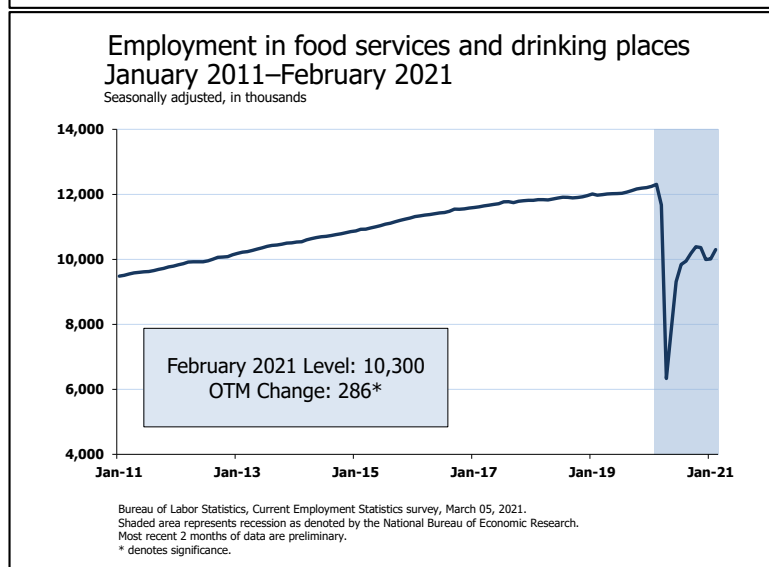
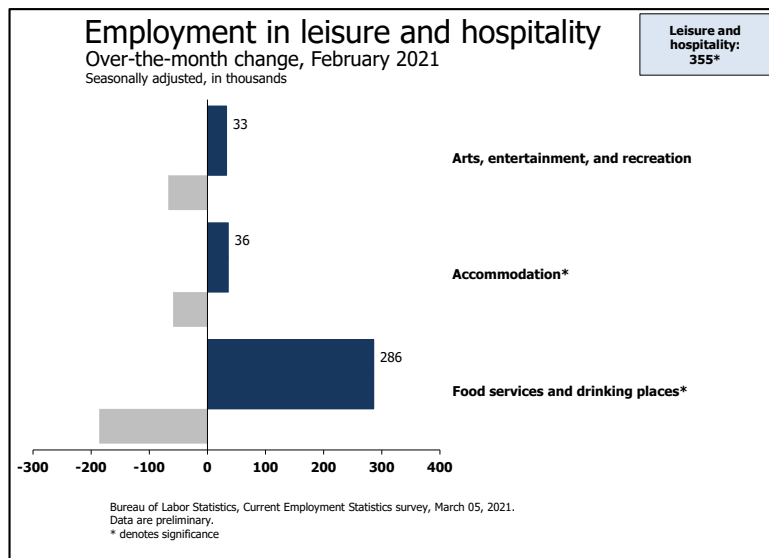


Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in leisure and hospitality expanded by 355,000 in February as [consumer confidence](#) improved. Average hourly earnings of nonsupervisory workers rose 20 cents to \$15.03.

Employment in accommodation grew by 36,000, in part boosted by higher [hotel occupancy](#). Amusements, gambling, and recreation also added jobs in February (+33,000).

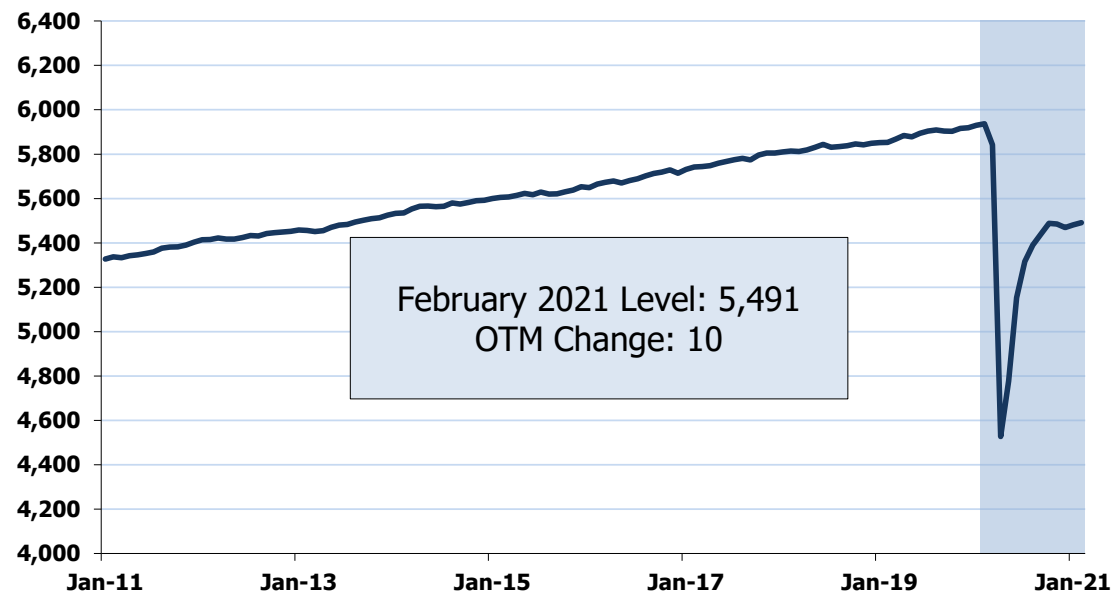
Food services and drinking places added 286,000 payroll jobs in February after strong [sales](#) in January. Over the year, food services and drinking places have lost a net 2.0 million jobs—an employment decline of 16 percent.



Other Services

Employment in other services January 2011–February 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



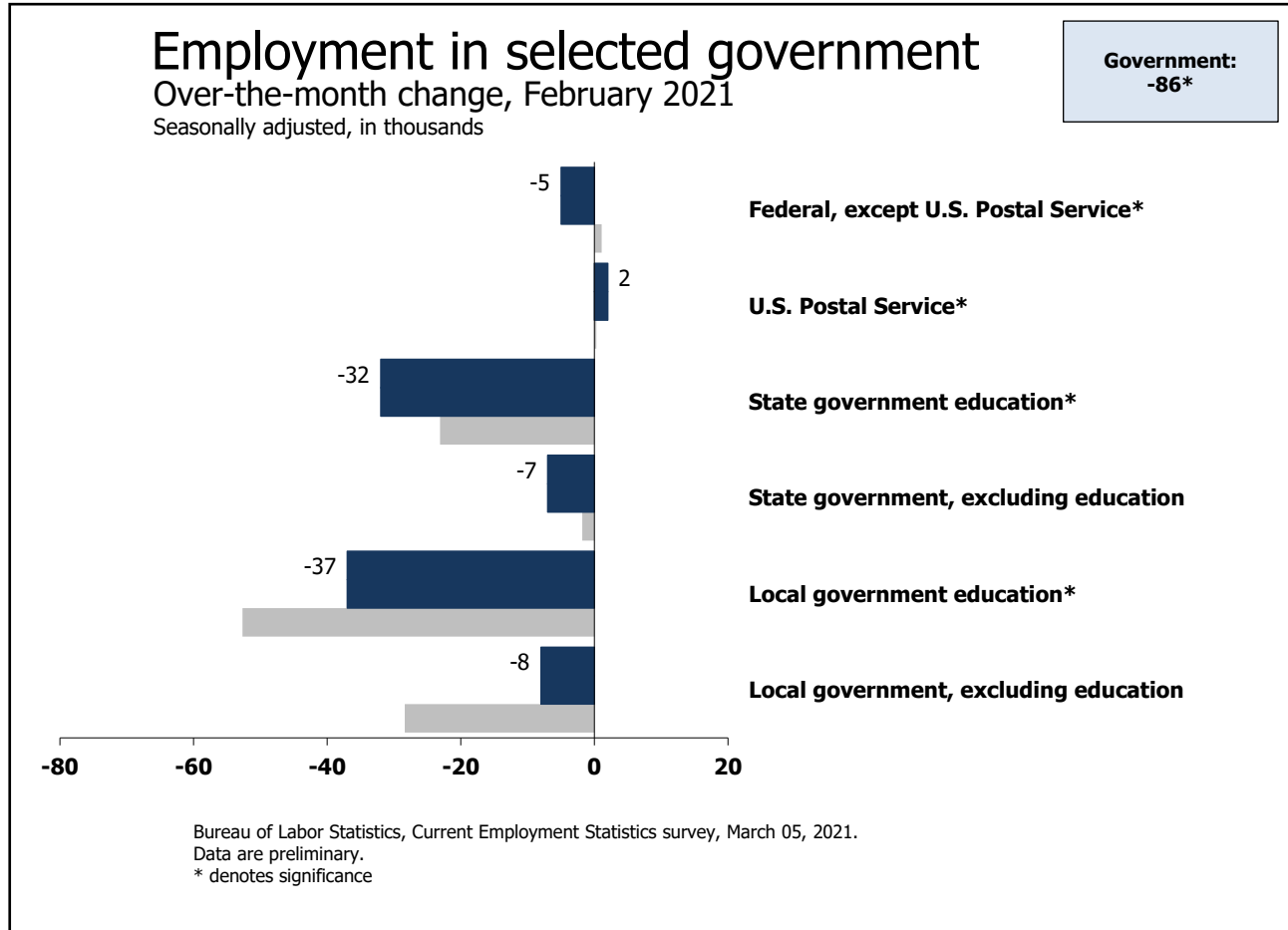
February 2021 Level: 5,491
OTM Change: 10

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Employment in other services changed little in February (+10,000). The industry has recovered 964,000 of the 1.4 million jobs lost in March and April 2020.

In February, employment in personal and laundry services increased by 15,000.

Government



Government employment decreased by 86,000 in February, with losses in local education (-37,000) and state education (-32,000). Government employment is 1.4 million lower than in February 2020.

In February, federal, except U.S. Postal Service lost 5,000 jobs, offsetting a gain of 2,000 in the U.S. Postal Service.



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