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# Current Employment Statistics Highlights



**April 2021**

Release Date: May 7, 2021

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, April 2021

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 266,000 in April. Over the month, employment increased in leisure and hospitality, other services, local government education, and financial activities. Temporary help services and couriers and messengers lost jobs. While up over the year, total nonfarm employment is down by 8.2 million since reaching a peak in February 2020.

The employment change for February revised up from +468,000 to +536,000 and the change for March revised down from +916,000 to +770,000. Employment over the 2 months combined is 78,000 lower than previously reported.

Over the month, average hourly earnings for all employees on private, nonfarm payrolls rose by 21 cents, or 0.7 percent, following a 4-cent decline in March. The data for April suggest that rising demand for labor associated with the recovery from the pandemic may have put upward pressure on wages. Since average hourly earnings vary widely across industries, the large employment fluctuations since February 2020 complicate the analysis of recent trends in earnings. Over the year, average hourly earnings are up 0.3 percent. Average weekly

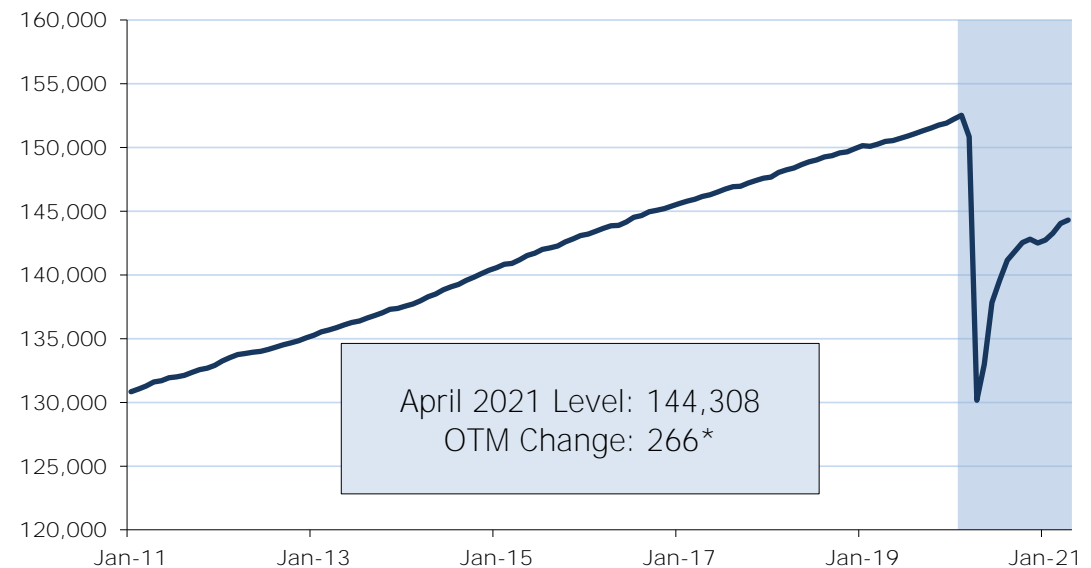
hours, at 35.0 hours, grew by 0.1 hour over the month.

#### **+331,000 Leisure and Hospitality**

Employment in leisure and hospitality rose by 331,000 in April. Within the industry, employment growth was concentrated in food services and drinking places (+187,000).

## Employment in total nonfarm January 2011–April 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 07, 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, April 2021

Amusements, gambling, and recreation (+73,000) and accommodation (+54,000) also added jobs over the month. Although leisure and hospitality has added 5.4 million jobs over the year, employment in the industry is 2.8 million lower than it was in February 2020.

#### +48,000 Government

Government employment grew by 48,000 in April. Within the industry, job gains were concentrated in local government education (+31,000). The Federal government also added jobs over the month (+9,000). Government employment is down by 1.2 million since reaching a peak in February 2020.

#### +44,000 Other Services

Employment in other services increased by 44,000 in April. Job growth was split between repair and maintenance and personal and laundry services, both added 14,000. Other services employment is 352,000 lower than its employment peak in February 2020.

#### +19,000 Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities grew by 19,000 in April. Job growth was concentrated in rental and leasing services (+9,000); in securities, commodity contracts, and

investments (+5,000); and in nondepository credit intermediation (+5,000). After falling by 279,000 in March and April of 2020, employment in financial activities has risen by 216,000.

#### -79,000 Professional and Business Services

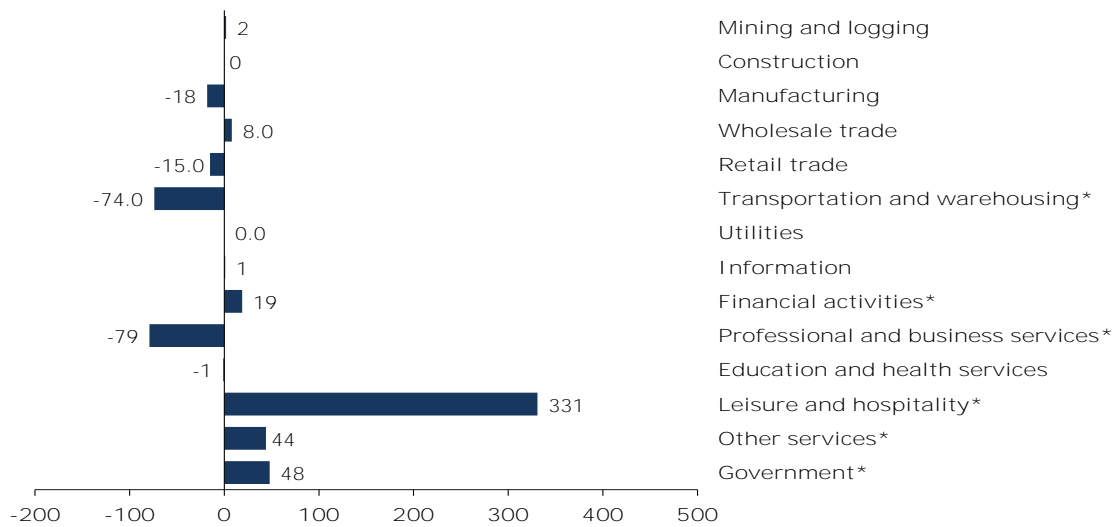
Within professional and business services, temporary help services lost 111,000 jobs in April. Although rising over the prior 11 months, employment in professional and business services is down by 748,000 since February 2020.

## Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, April 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:  
266\*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 07, 2021.  
Data are preliminary.  
\* denotes significance

**-74,000 Transportation and Warehousing**

Employment in transportation and warehousing fell by 74,000 in April. Job losses were concentrated in couriers and messengers (-77,000). Air transportation added 7,000 jobs over the month. Employment in transportation and warehousing is 142,000 below its peak in February 2020.

**-18,000 Manufacturing**

Within manufacturing, job losses in motor vehicles and parts (-27,000) and wood products (-7,000) more than offset job gains in miscellaneous durables goods (+13,000) and chemicals (+4,000). After falling by 1.4 million in March and April 2020, manufacturing employment has risen by 870,000.

**-15,000 Retail Trade**

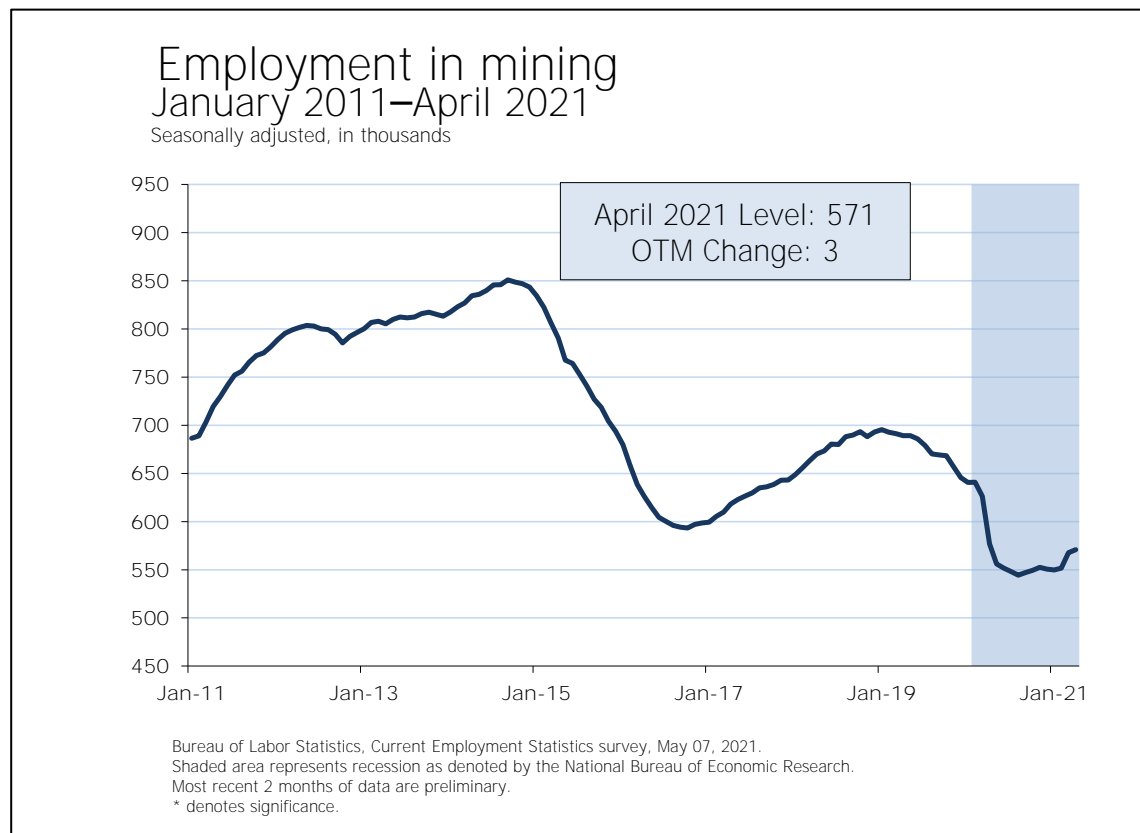
Employment in retail trade changed little in April. Within the industry, job losses in food and beverage stores (-49,000), general merchandise stores (-10,000), and gasoline stations (-9,000) more than offset job gains in sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores (+20,000); clothing and clothing accessories stores (+10,000); and health and personal care stores (+9,000). Retail trade has recovered 2.0 million of 2.4 million jobs lost in March and April of last year.

**-1,000 Education and Health Services**

Employment in education and health services was essentially unchanged in April. Within health care, ambulatory health care services added jobs over the month (+21,000), while nursing care facilities continued to lose workers (-20,000). Employment in social assistance rose by 23,000 over the month. Employment in education and health services is 1.2 million lower than in February 2020.

<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
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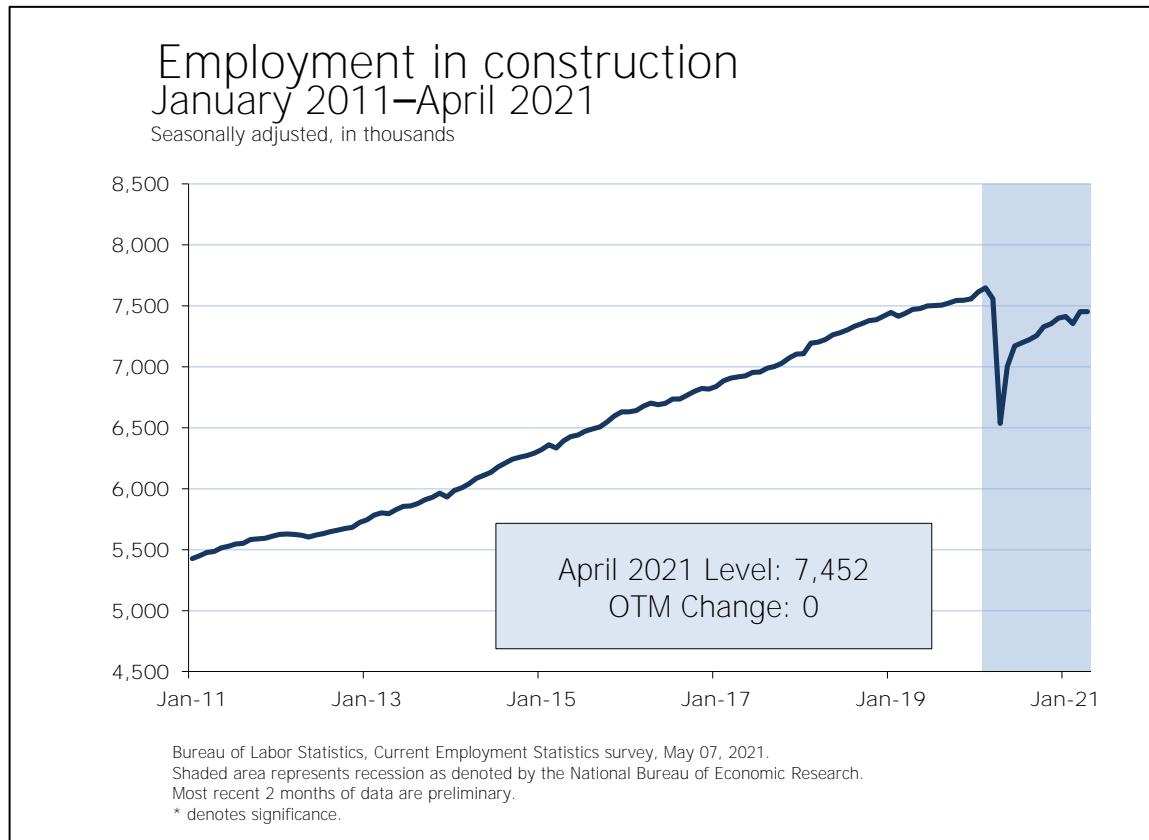
## Mining and Logging



Mining employment changed little in April (+3,000) following a gain of 16,000 in March. Nonmetallic mineral mining and quarrying added 4,000 jobs in April.

Employment weakness in mining reflects a decrease in the price of [West Texas Intermediate crude oil](#) in April.

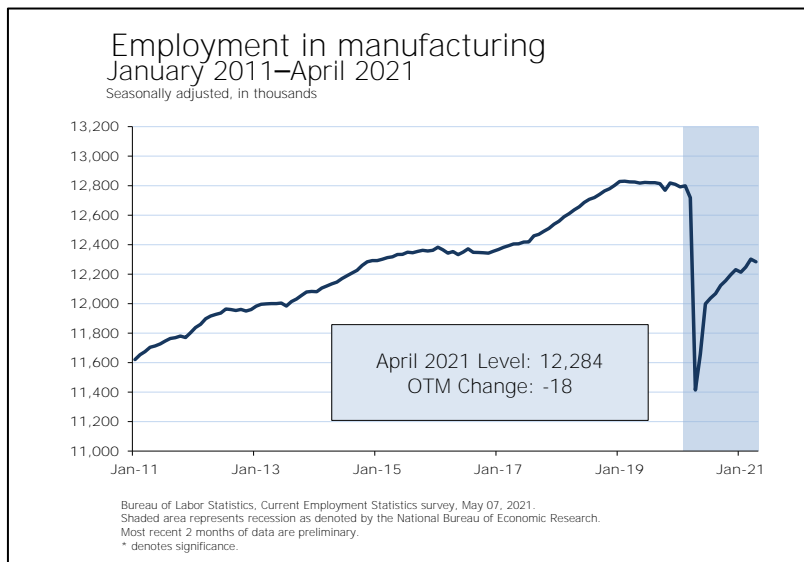
## Construction



Construction employment was unchanged in April. The industry has recovered 917,000 of 1.1 million jobs lost in March and April 2020.

While employment in construction was flat in April, it followed strength in related economic indicators. In March, [construction spending](#), [new residential sales](#), and [building permits](#) rose over the month.

## Manufacturing



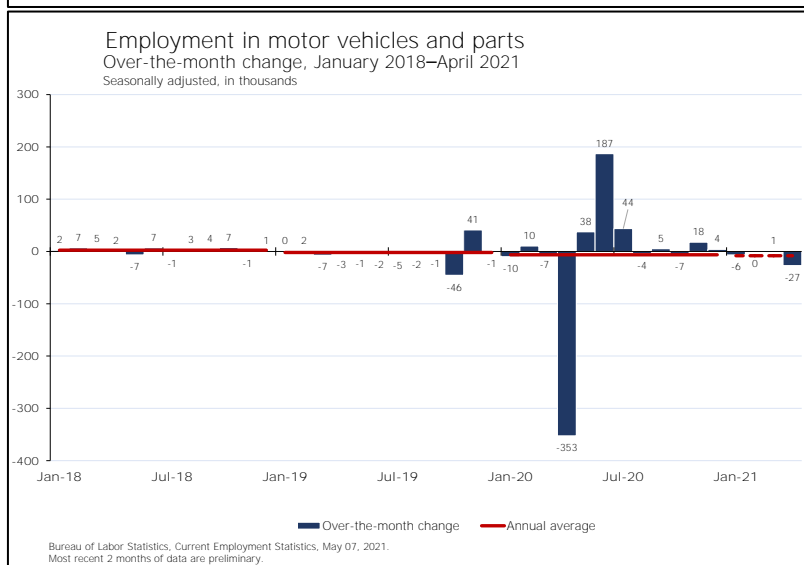
Manufacturing employment fell by 18,000 in April, after growing by 35,000 in February and 54,000 in March.

The manufacturing 1-month diffusion index declined 22 points to 55.3. Despite the decline, a number above 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than are losing jobs.

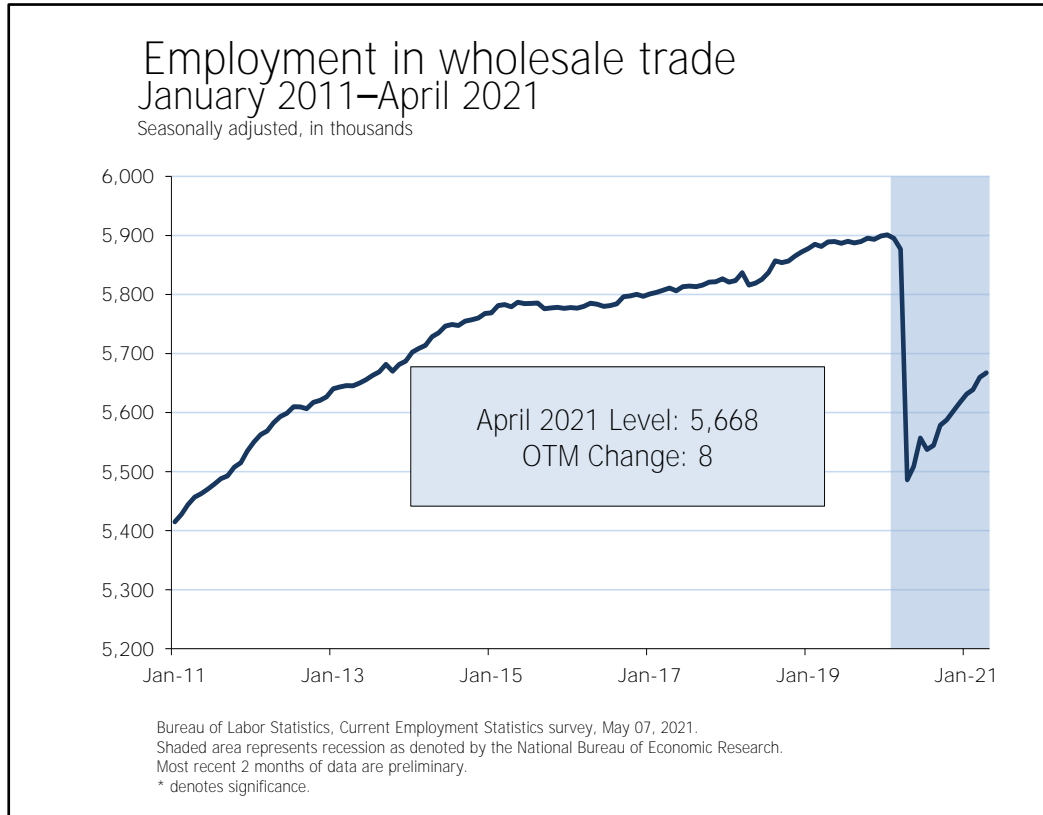
Weakness in manufacturing employment in April was driven by losses in motor vehicles and parts (-27,000); employment in the industry is 108,000 below the February 2020 level.

In April, average hourly earnings for all employees in manufacturing increased by 17 cents to \$29.33. Average hourly earnings of production workers increased by 5 cents to \$23.38.

Average weekly hours of all employees in manufacturing were unchanged at 40.5 hours in April. The average workweek of production workers was unchanged at 41.7 hours.



## Wholesale Trade



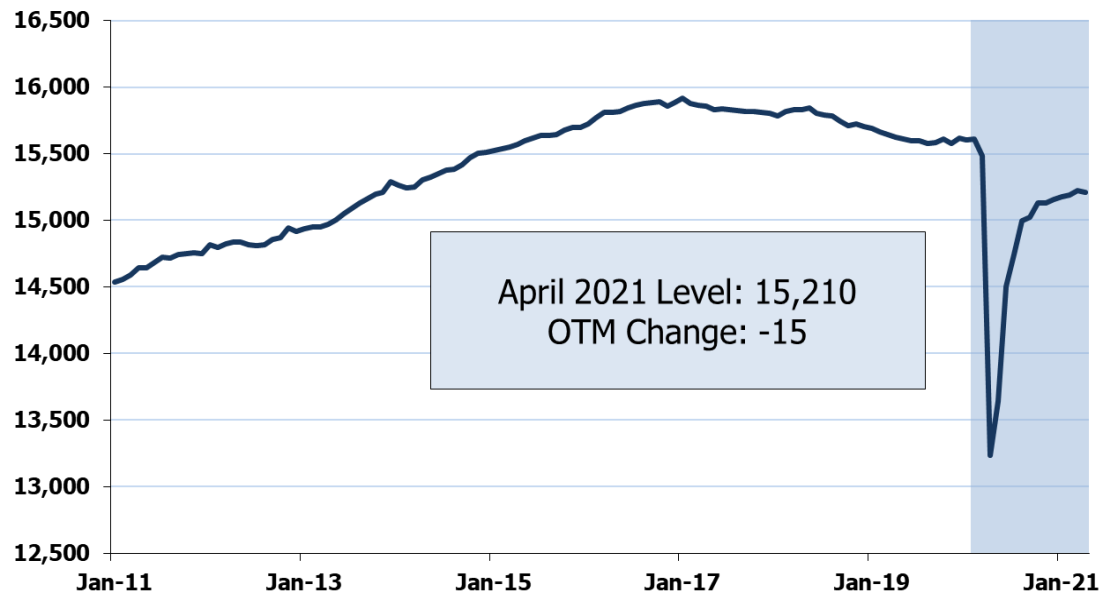
Wholesale trade employment changed little in April (+8,000). Since reaching a low point in April 2020, employment in the industry has grown by 182,000, but remains 234,000 below its peak in January 2020.



## Retail Trade

### Employment in retail trade January 2011–April 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



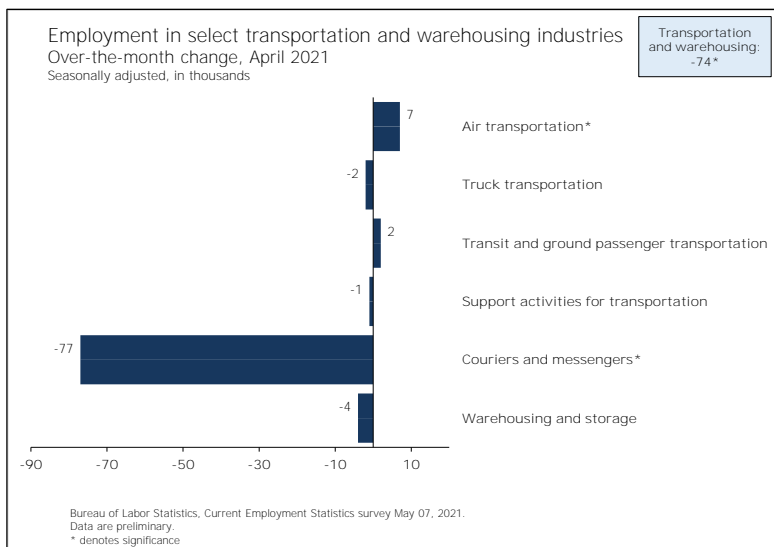
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 07, 2021.  
 Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.  
 Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.  
 \* denotes significance.

In April, employment in retail trade changed little (-15,000). The industry has recovered 2.0 million of 2.4 million jobs lost in March and April 2020.

Within the industry, employment declines occurred in food and beverage stores (-49,000), general merchandise stores (-10,000), and gasoline stations (-9,000). These declines were partially offset by job gains in sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores (+20,000); clothing and clothing accessories stores (+10,000); and health and personal care stores (+9,000).

Retail-related economic indicators are mostly positive. [Retail Sales](#) increased in March, and both the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) and [Auto Sales](#) increased in April.

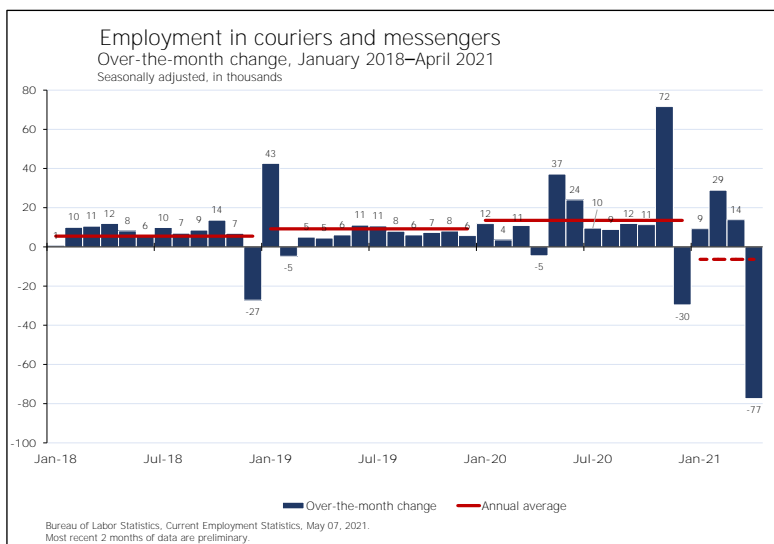
## Transportation and Warehousing



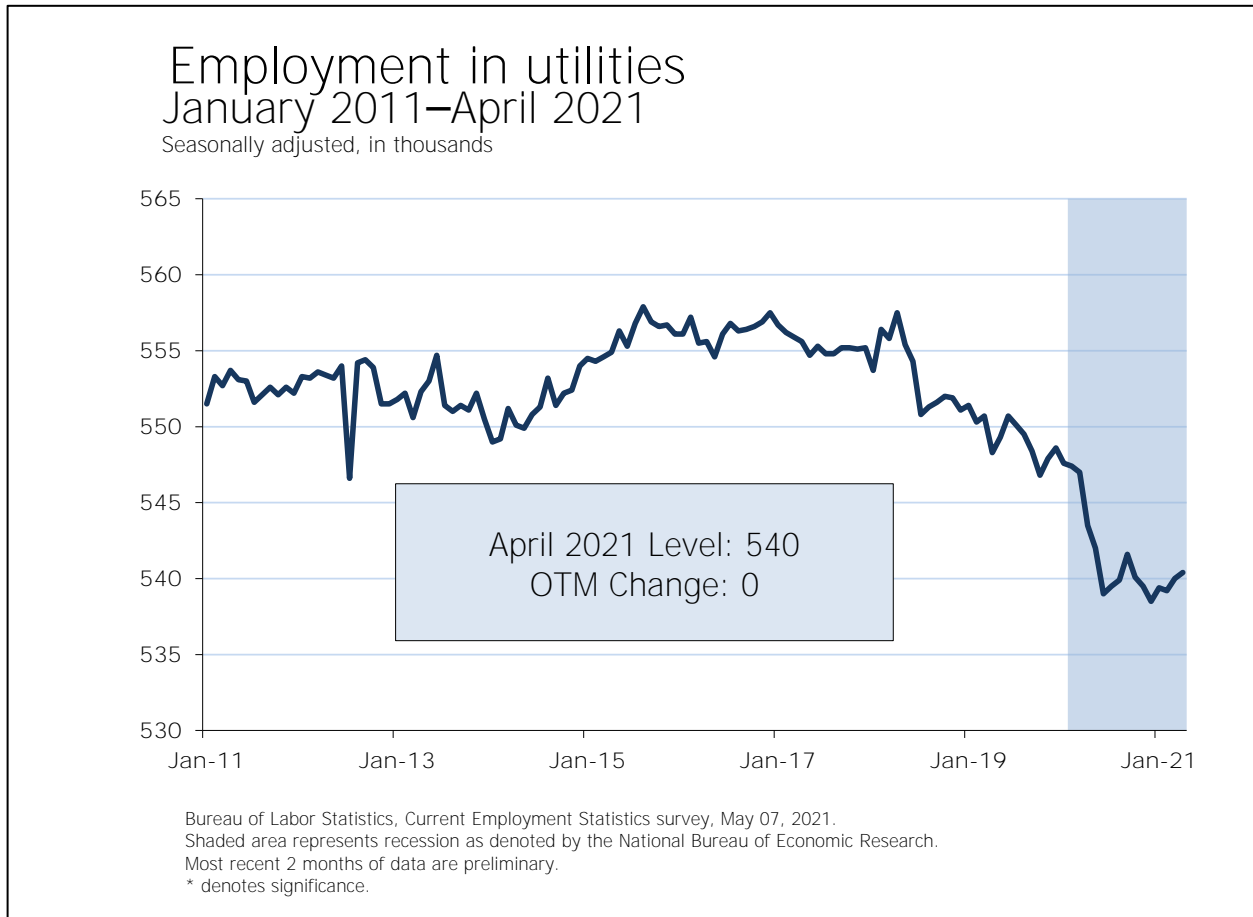
Employment in transportation and warehousing decreased by 74,000 in April and remains 142,000 below its February 2020 peak.

In April, job losses were driven by couriers and messengers (-77,000). Within the industry, more seasonal layoffs occurred than usual in April, translating to seasonally adjusted job losses. This job loss follows a strong increase in [retail sales](#) in March and news indicating that more consumers are returning to [in-person shopping](#). Although down in April, employment in couriers and messengers has increased by 126,000 since February 2020.

In April, air transportation (+7,000) and scenic and sightseeing transportation (+2,000) added jobs. Air transportation employment remains 100,000 below its March 2020 peak, and scenic and sightseeing transportation remains 5,000 below its February 2020 level.



## Utilities

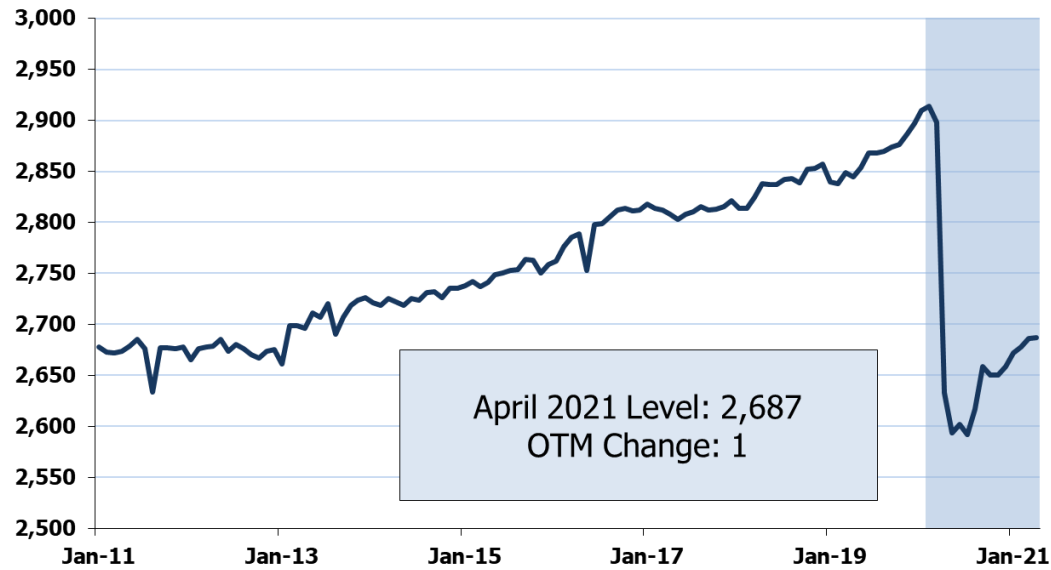


Utilities employment was unchanged in April.

### Information

## Employment in information January 2011–April 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 07, 2021.  
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Employment in information was flat in April (+1,000) and remains 227,000—or 7.8 percent—below its February 2020 level.

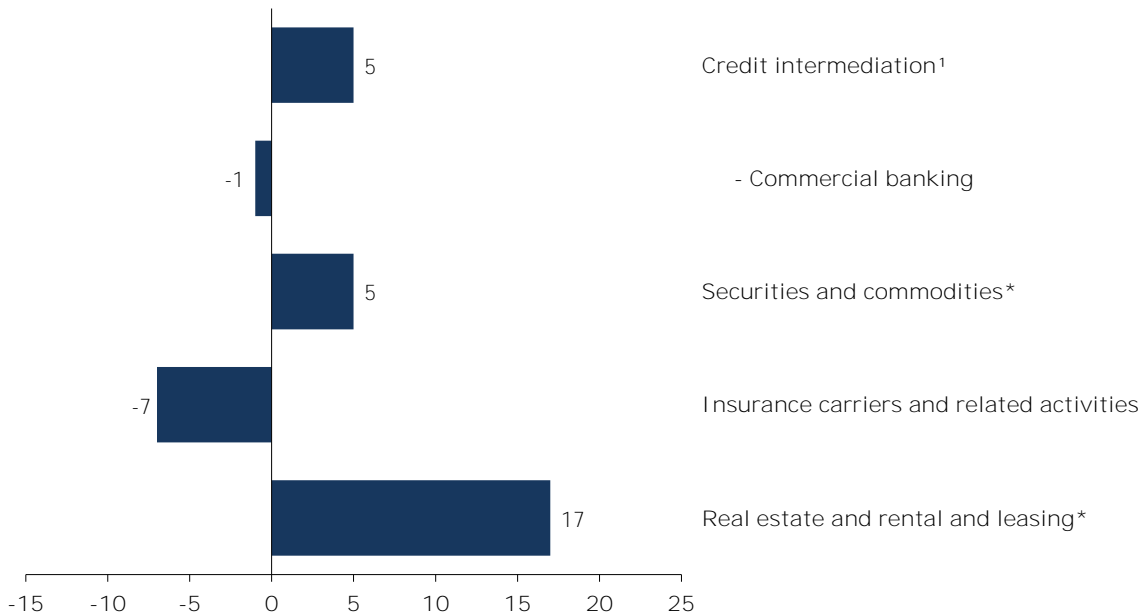
## Financial Activities

### Employment in selected financial activities

Over-the-month change, April 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Financial activities:  
19\*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 07, 2021.

Data are preliminary.

<sup>1</sup> Includes additional component industries not shown separately.

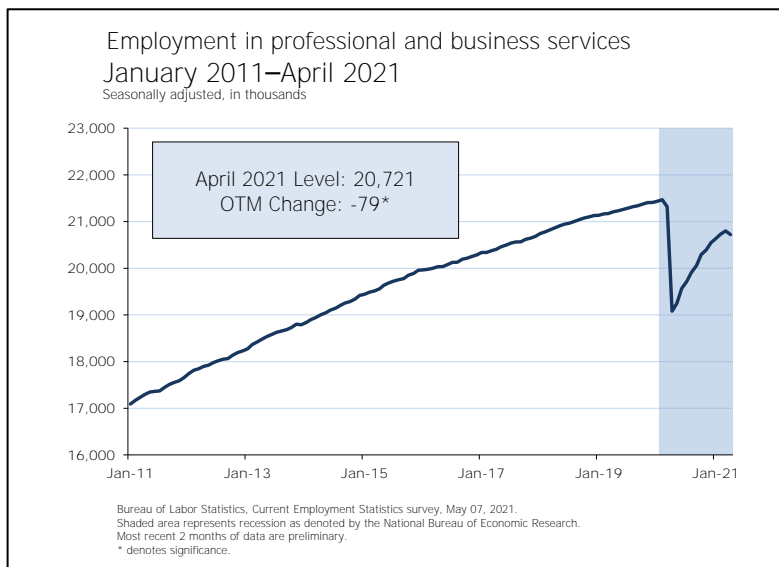
\* denotes significance

Employment in financial activities increased by 19,000 in April, following a gain of 19,000 in March. As of April, 216,000 jobs have been recovered over the year, but employment is still 63,000 below the February 2020 level.

In April 2021, real estate and rental and leasing added 17,000 jobs, with rental and leasing services being the largest contributor (+9,000). Securities, commodity contracts, investments, and funds and trusts (+5,000) and nondepository credit intermediation (+5,000) also added jobs.

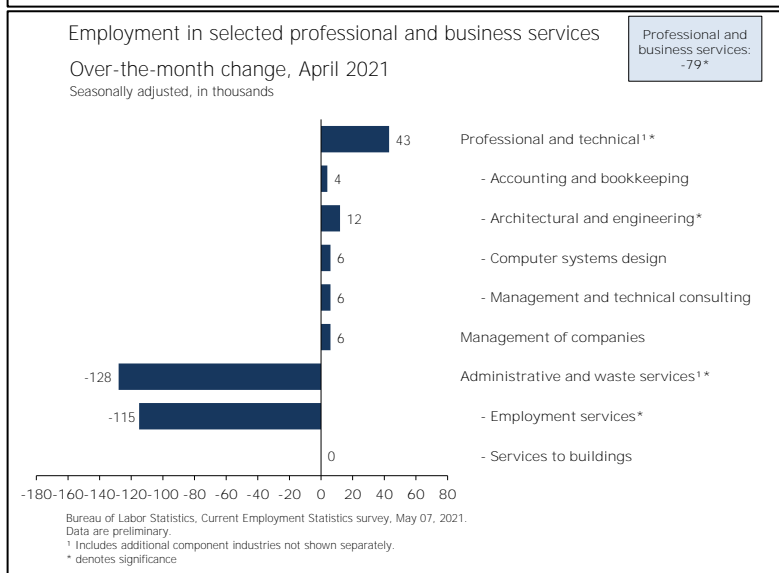
The employment increases in real estate and in nondepository credit intermediation—which includes real estate credit—coincide with a relatively low [average 30-year fixed mortgage rate](#).

## Professional and Business Services



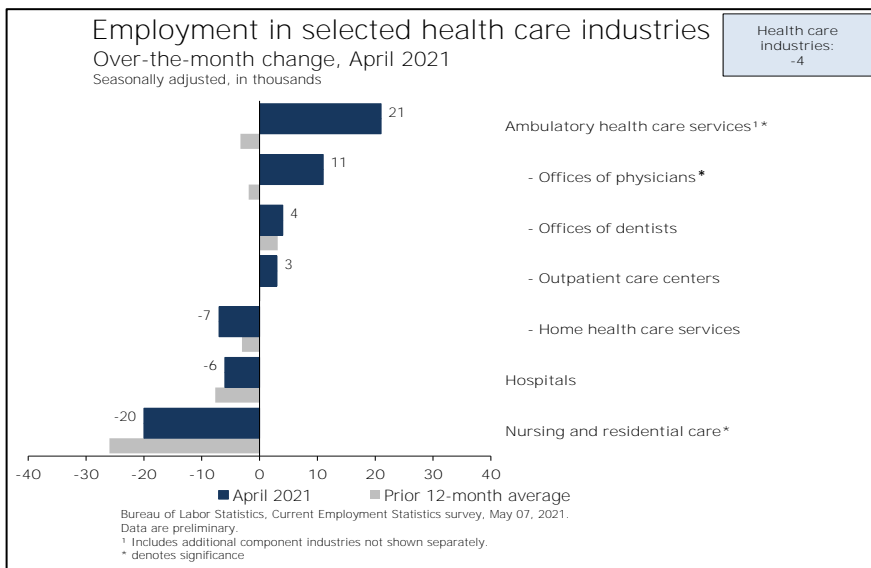
Professional and business services lost 79,000 jobs in April. Employment is now 748,000 below its February 2020 peak.

Professional and technical services added 43,000 jobs in April, with architectural and engineering services accounting for 11,000 of the gain. Although professional and technical services has gained jobs for 12 consecutive months, employment in the industry is 25,000 below its February 2020 level.



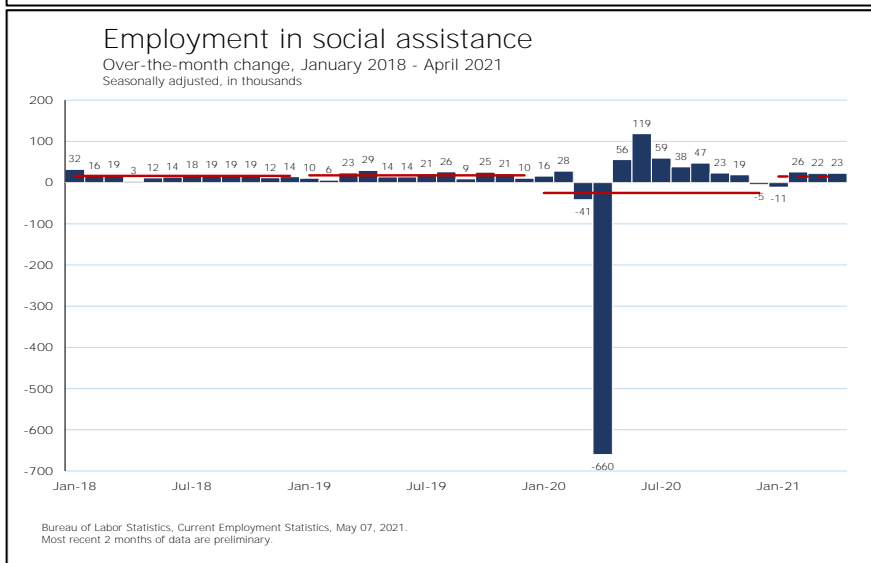
Employment in administrative and waste services fell for the first time since April 2020 (-128,000). Temporary help services (-111,000) and business support services (-15,000) accounted for essentially the entire job loss. Employment in administrative and waste services is 645,000 below its February 2020 peak.

### Private Education and Health Services



In April, employment in health care changed little (-4,000). Employment gains occurred in offices of physicians (+11,000) and offices of other health practitioners (+9,000). Employment in health care has recovered 1.1 million of 1.6 million jobs lost in March and April 2020.

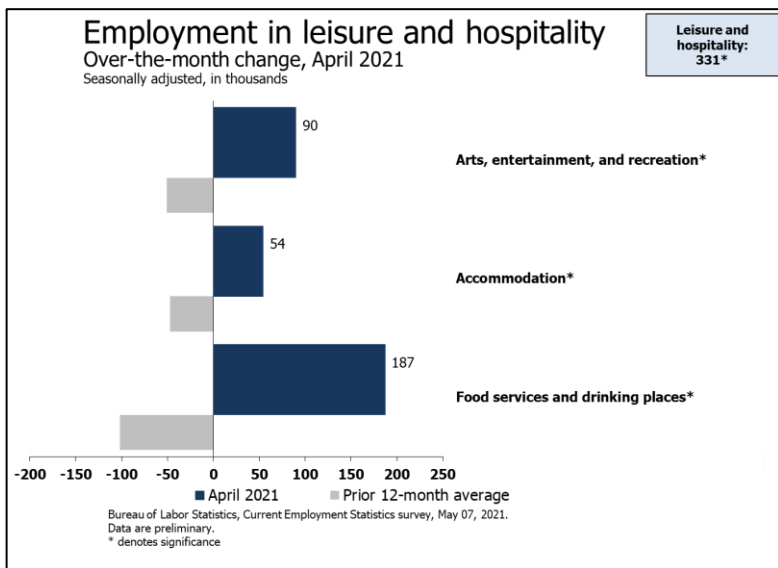
In April 2021, employment in nursing and residential care facilities decreased by 20,000, with nursing care facilities accounting for 19,000 of the loss. Employment in nursing and residential care facilities is 339,000 lower than in February 2020.



In April 2021, social assistance added 23,000 jobs. The industry has recovered 415,000 of 701,000 jobs lost in March and April 2020.

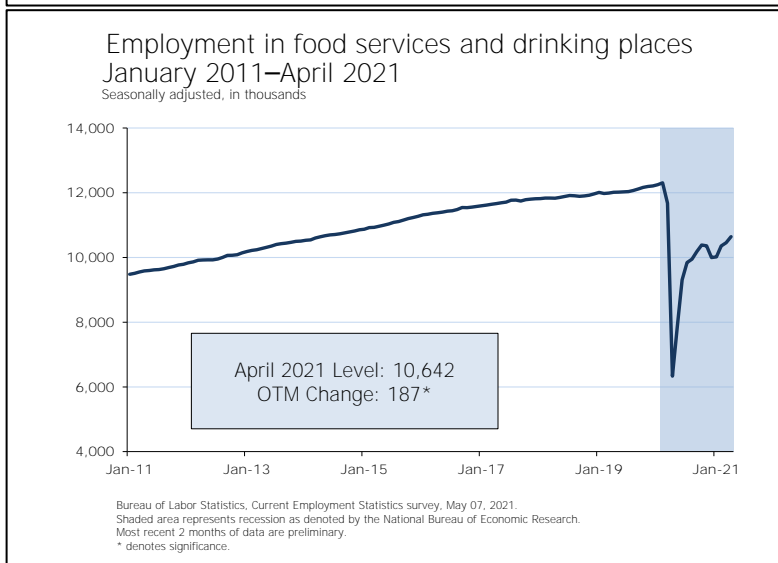
## Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in leisure and hospitality grew by 331,000 in April as [consumer confidence](#) continued to rise. Despite adding 5.4 million jobs over the past year, employment in the industry is still 2.8 million below its February 2020 level.



In April, food services and drinking places added 187,000 jobs, as state and local governments continued to loosen [dining restrictions](#). The industry has recovered 4.3 million of 6.0 million jobs lost in March and April 2020.

Amusements, gambling, and recreation (+73,000) and accommodation (+54,000) also added jobs in April 2021.

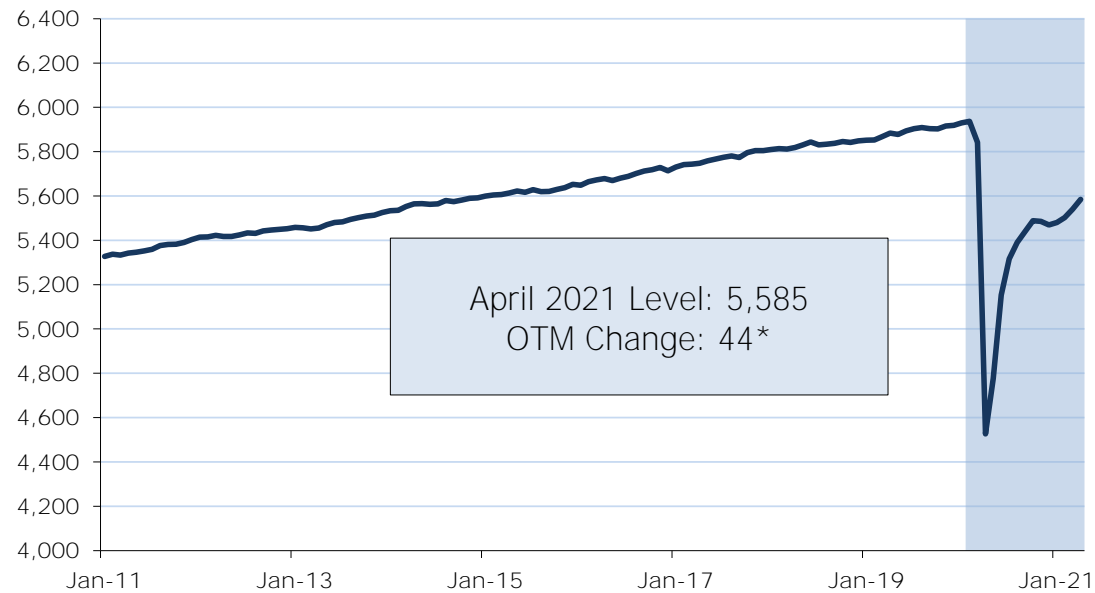




## Other Services

### Employment in other services January 2011–April 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

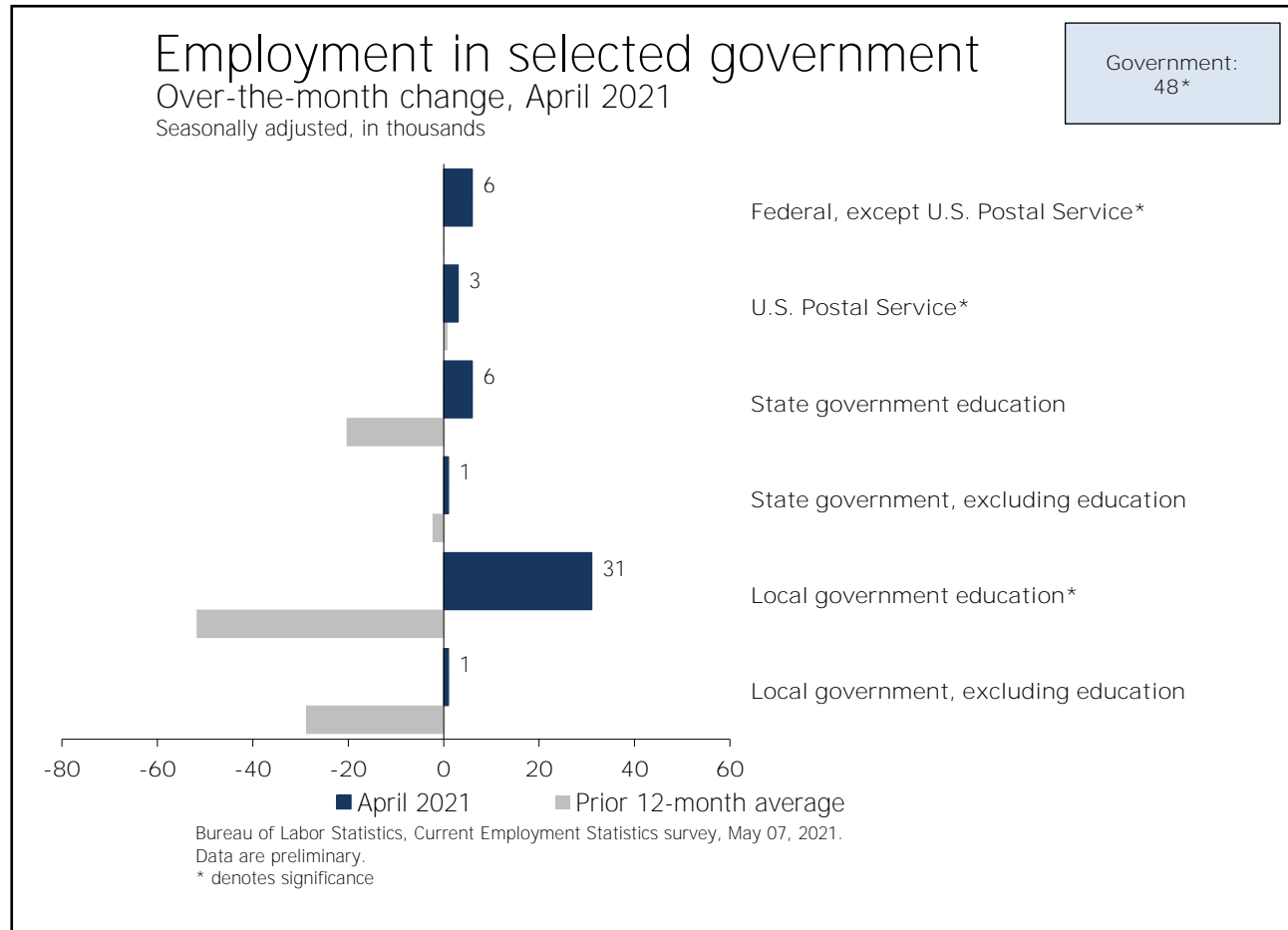


April 2021 Level: 5,585  
OTM Change: 44\*

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Employment in other services grew by 44,000 in April. The industry has recovered 1.1 million of 1.4 million jobs lost in March and April 2020. In April 2021, repair and maintenance services, and personal and laundry services both added 14,000 jobs. Employment in membership associations and organizations edged up (+16,000).

## Government



Government employment increased by 48,000 in April with local education accounting for 31,000 of the gain. Although up over the month, employment in government is 1.2 million lower than in February 2020.

In April, the Federal government added 9,000 jobs.



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