

Contents

[Summary](#)

[Mining & Logging](#)

[Construction](#)

[Manufacturing](#)

[Wholesale Trade](#)

[Retail Trade](#)

[Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities](#)

[Information](#)

[Financial Activities](#)

[Professional & Business Services](#)

[Private Education & Health Services](#)

[Leisure & Hospitality](#)

[Other Services](#)

[Government](#)

Current Employment Statistics Highlights



July 2021

Release Date: August 6, 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, July 2021

Payroll employment rose by 943,000 in July. Leisure and hospitality and local government education accounted for nearly two-thirds of the job growth. Since reaching a trough¹ in April 2020, nonfarm employment has risen by 16.7 million but is 5.7 million lower than in February 2020.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls rose by 11 cents or 0.4 percent in July. Over the year, hourly earnings have increased by 4.0 percent. Average weekly hours were unchanged at 34.8 hours.

The seasonally adjusted employment change for June revised up from +850,000 to +938,000, and the change for May revised up from +583,000 to +614,000. The employment change over these months is 119,000 higher than previously reported.

+380,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Food services and drinking places added 253,000 jobs in July. Since reaching a cyclical trough¹ in April 2020, employment in the industry has risen by 5.0 million, however, it is 970,000 lower than its peak¹ in February 2020. Elsewhere in leisure and hospitality, accommodation (+74,000) and amusements,

gambling, and recreation (+40,000) also added jobs in July.

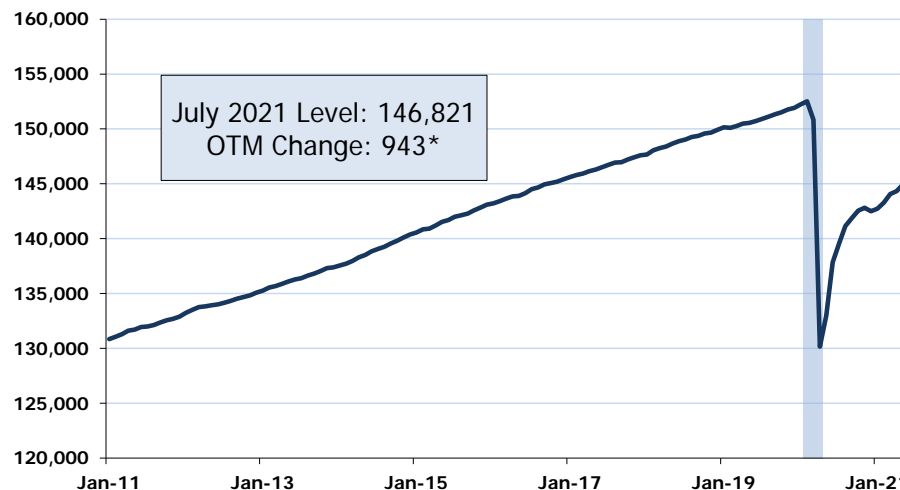
+240,000 Government

Local government education added 221,000 jobs in July, likely reflecting a weaker-than-usual seasonal layoff in July. Employment in

this industry has shown no clear trend since the onset of the pandemic and is 205,000 below its pre-pandemic level in February 2020. In July, a gain of 18,000 jobs in the U.S. Postal Services was offset by a loss of the same magnitude in state government, excluding education.

Employment in total nonfarm January 2011–July 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, August 06, 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, July 2021

+87,000 Education and Health Services

Employment in private educational services increased by 40,000 in July. Weaker hiring during the past school year likely contributed to fewer seasonal layoffs in July and resulted in the job gain after seasonal adjustment. Employment in the industry is 214,000 less than the last peak¹ in January 2020.

In July, health care added 37,000 jobs after changing little over the preceding 3 months. Job gains in ambulatory health care (+32,000) and in hospitals (+18,000) more than offset a loss in nursing and residential care facilities (-13,000).

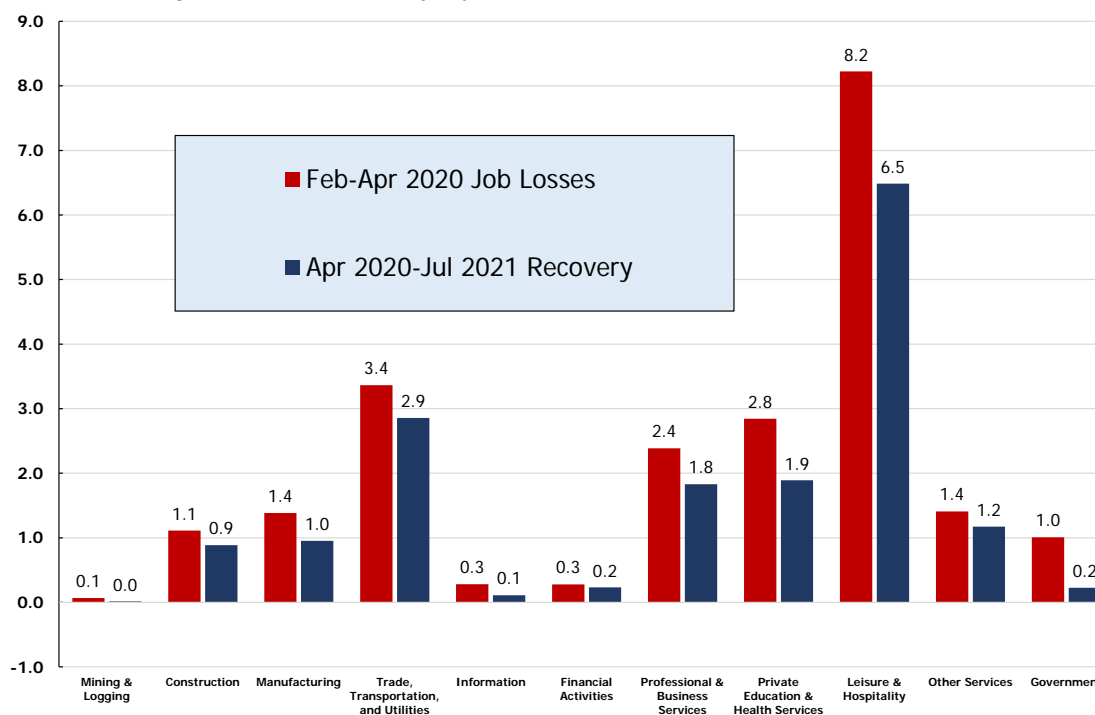
+60,000 Professional and Business Services

Professional and technical services added 43,000 jobs in July, with the increase distributed among most of the component industries. Employment in this industry has more than recovered to its pre-pandemic peak¹ in February 2020 and has expanded by 121,000 above that level.

Employment in administrative and waste services changed little in July and is 577,000 below the February 2020 level.

Employment changes by industry sector

Net change, in millions, seasonally adjusted



+50,000 Transportation and Warehousing

Employment rose by 50,000 in transportation and warehousing in July. Widespread job gains were led by transit and ground passenger transportation (+19,000), warehousing and storage (+11,000), and couriers and messengers (+8,000).

Employment in transportation and warehousing is just 41,000 lower than its pre-pandemic peak¹ in February 2020.

+39,000 Other Services

Among the other services industries, membership associations and organizations

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, July 2021

(+17,000) and personal and laundry services (+15,000) added jobs in July. While other services has added 1.2 million jobs since April 2020, employment is 236,000 lower than its peak¹ in February 2020.

+27,000 Manufacturing

Employment in durable goods manufacturing increased by 20,000 in July, with machinery accounting for 7,000 of the gain. Nondurable goods experienced little employment change over the month. Manufacturing has added 952,000 jobs since an employment trough¹ in April 2020, however, employment is 433,000 below its February 2020 level.

+24,000 Information

Within information, motion picture and sound recording added 18,000 jobs in July.

+22,000 Financial Activities

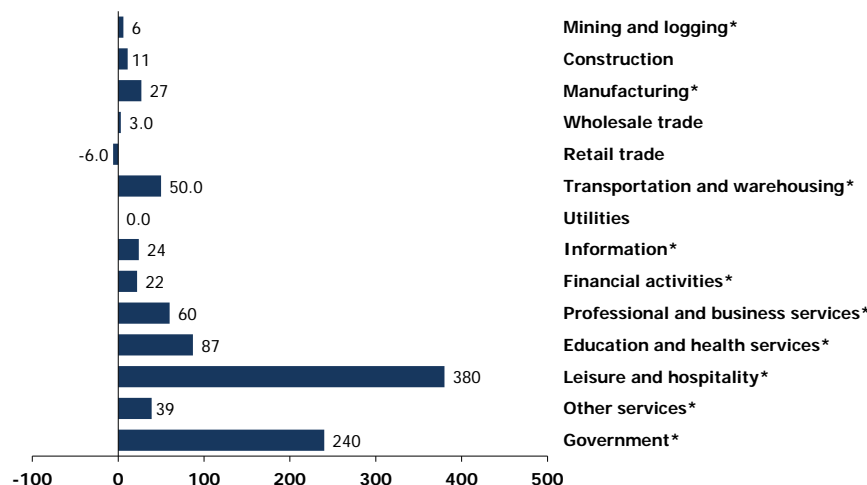
Financial activities added 22,000 jobs in July, including 13,000 in rental and leasing services. Financial activities has recovered more than 80 percent of jobs lost in early 2020 and employment is just 48,000 below the February 2020 level.

Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, July 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:
943*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, August 06, 2021.

Data are preliminary.

* denotes significance

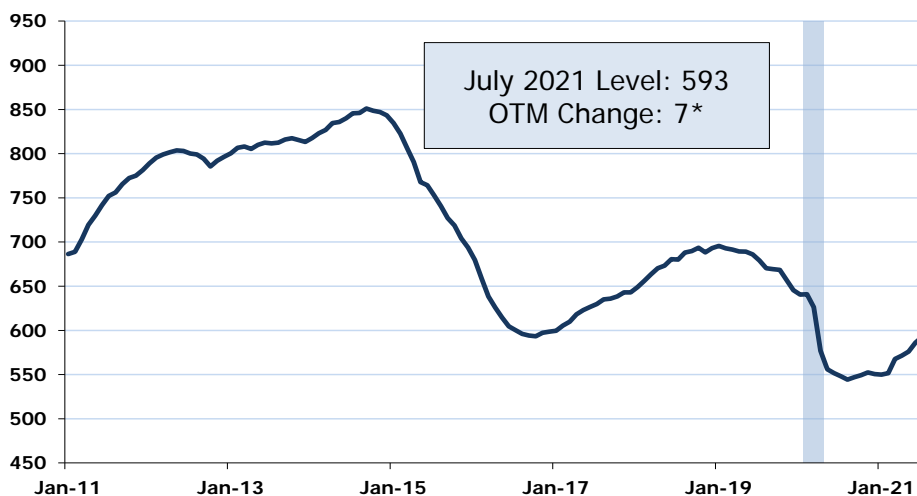
+6,000 Mining and Logging

Mining added 7,000 jobs in July, concentrated in support activities for mining (+6,000). Employment in mining has risen by 49,000 since a trough in August 2020, again mostly in support activities (+40,000).

Mining and Logging

Employment in mining January 2011–July 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, August 06, 2021.
Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
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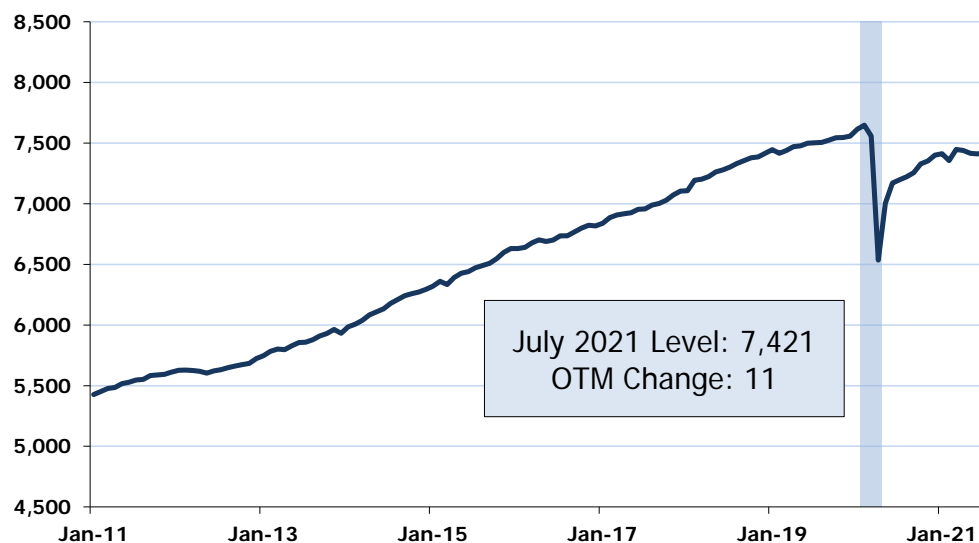
Employment in mining increased by 7,000 in July, largely due to a gain in support activities for mining (+6,000). Mining has added 49,000 jobs since its employment trough in August 2020.

Recent strength in mining employment has coincided with increases in the count of [North American rotary rigs](#) and in the average weekly price of [West Texas Intermediate crude oil](#).

Construction

Employment in construction January 2011–July 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, August 06, 2021.
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Employment in construction changed little in July (+11,000). Construction employment is 227,000 below its February 2020 peak¹.

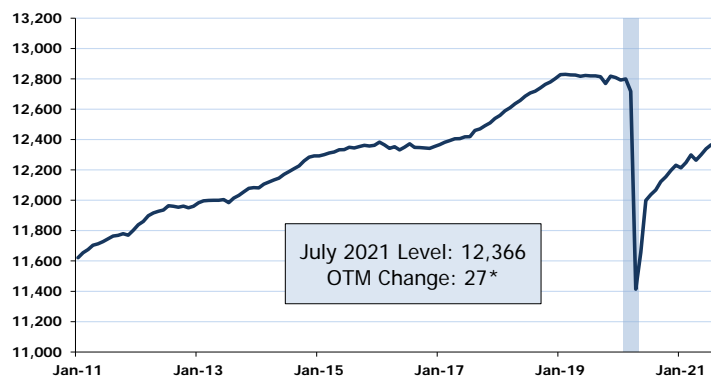
In July, residential building added 8,000 jobs. Over the past 12 months, the industry has added an average 6,000 jobs per month. Furthermore, employment has expanded by 43,000 above its February 2020 level.

The weakness in construction employment in July follows stagnation in [residential building permits and construction spending](#) in June.

Manufacturing

Employment in manufacturing January 2011–July 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

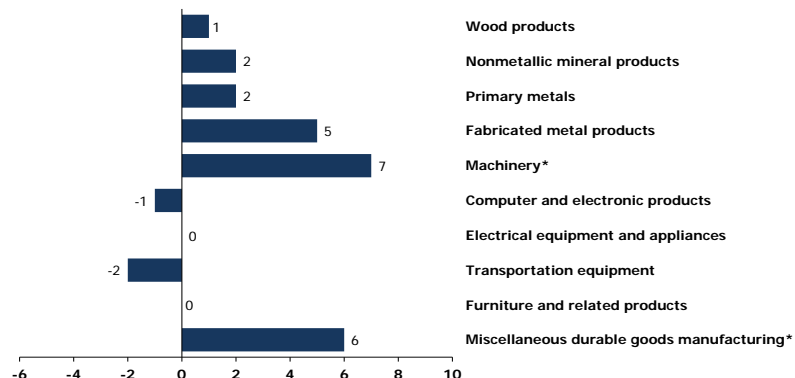


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, August 06, 2021.
Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
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Employment in durable goods Over-the-month change, July 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Durable goods:
20*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, August 06, 2021.
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance.

Manufacturing employment continued to trend up in July (+27,000), following gains in June (+39,000) and May (+36,000).

The manufacturing 1-month diffusion index increased by 2.0 points to 68.0. A number above 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than are losing jobs.

Job growth in manufacturing was driven by durable goods, with machinery adding 7,000 jobs and miscellaneous durable goods adding 6,000.

Manufacturing employment gains correspond with strength in both the [IHS Markit US Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index \(PMI\)](#) and the [Institute of Supply Management's PMI](#), which measure business sentiment and expectations.

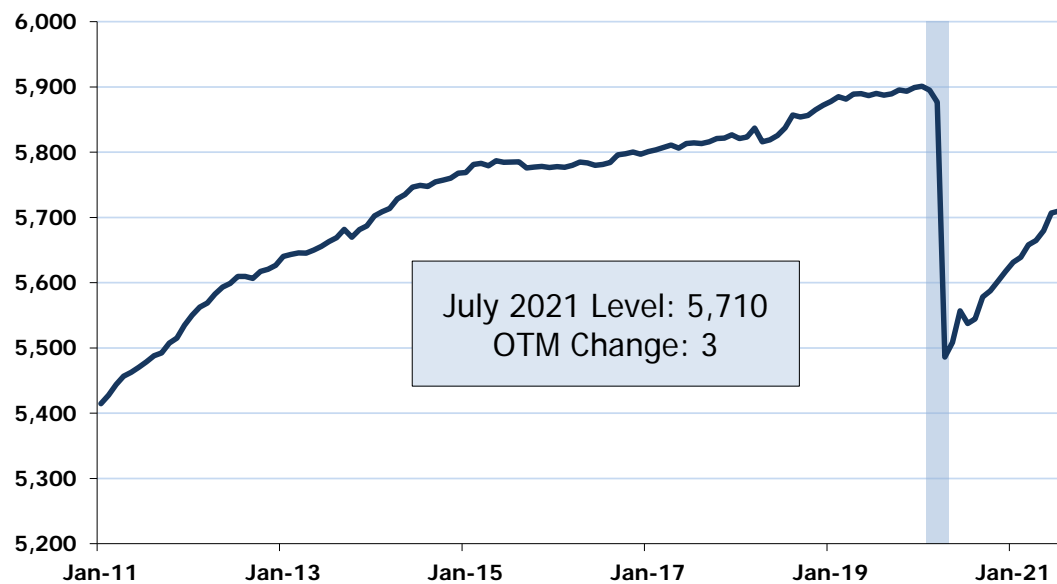
In July, average hourly earnings for all employees in manufacturing increased by 15 cents to \$29.77. Average hourly earnings of production workers increased by 8 cents to \$23.86.

Average weekly hours of all employees in July grew 0.2 hour to 40.5 hours. The average workweek of production workers increased 0.1 hour to 41.5 hours.

Wholesale Trade

Employment in wholesale trade January 2011–July 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, August 06, 2021.
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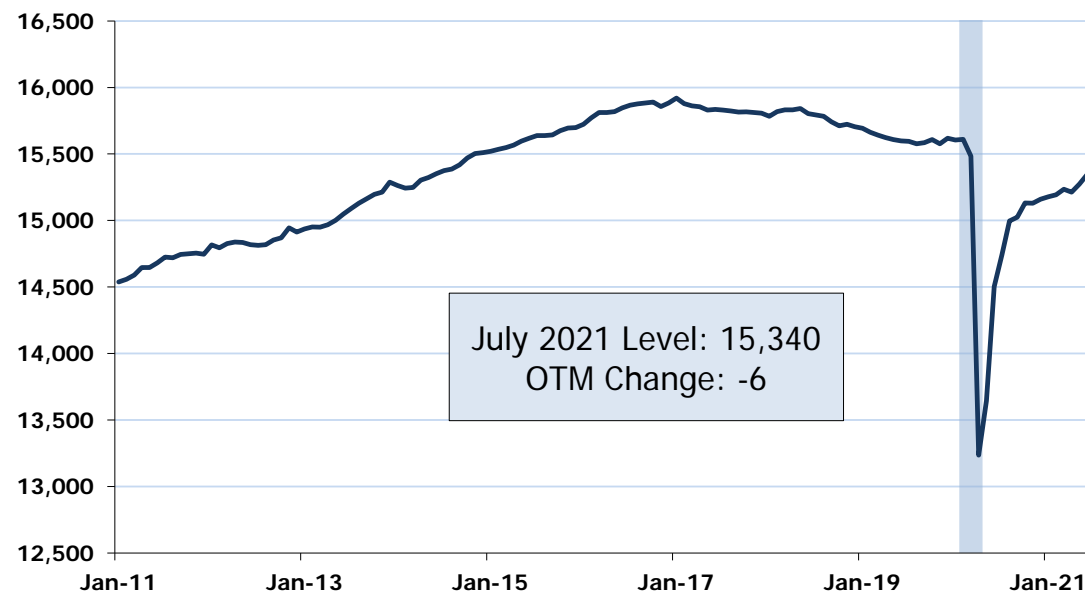
Employment in wholesale trade changed little in July (+3,000) after rising by 27,000 in June and 15,000 in May.

After losing 409,000 jobs between February and April 2020, the industry has since recovered 224,000 jobs, or 55 percent of the jobs lost.

Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade January 2011–July 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



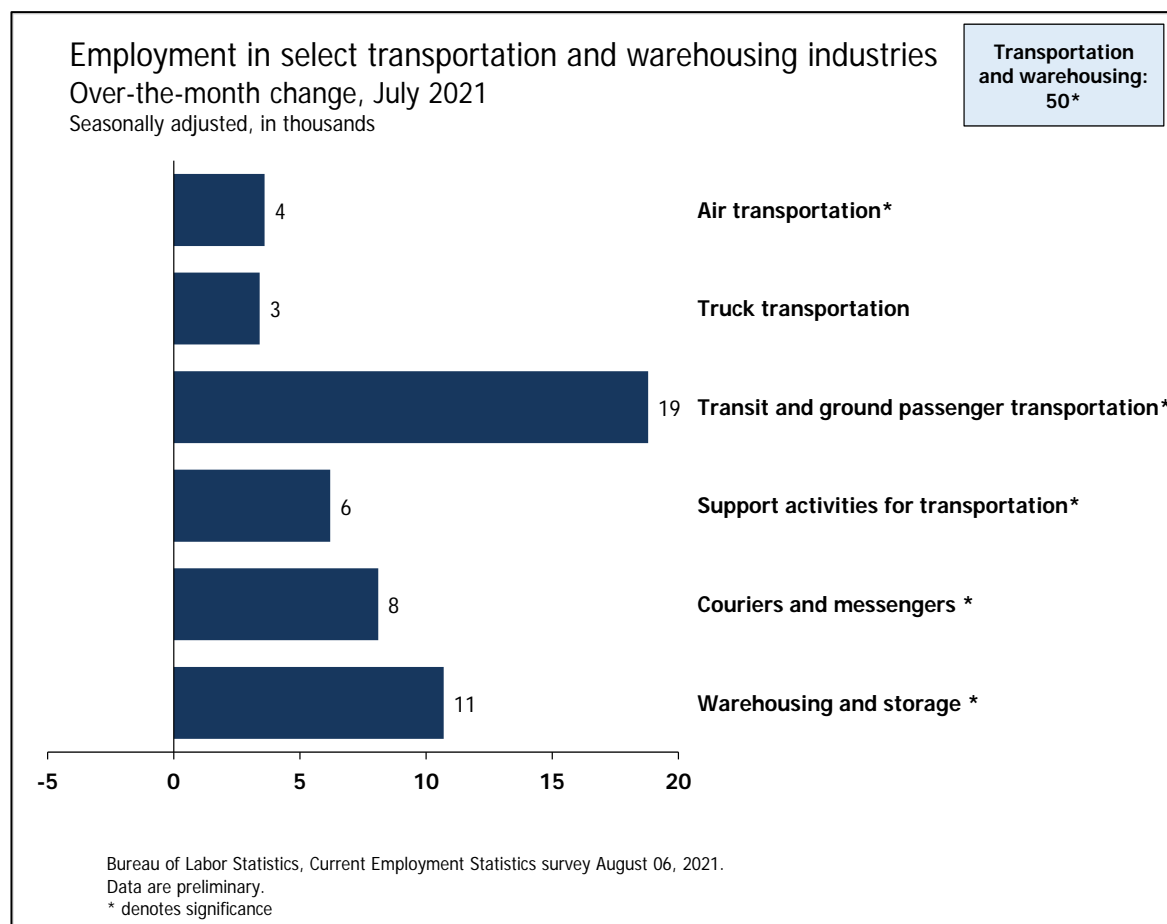
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, August 06, 2021.
Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
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Employment in retail trade changed little in July (-6,000), following gains of 73,000 in June and 60,000 in May. Industry employment is up by 2.1 million since April 2020 but is down by 270,000 since February 2020.

Within the industry, employment in building material and garden supply stores declined by 34,000, which was partially offset by job gains in gasoline stations (+14,000) and miscellaneous store retailers (+7,000).

Retail-related economic indicators are mixed. [Retail Sales](#) and the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) increased in June and July, respectively. Conversely, [auto sales](#) decreased in June and the per gallon price of [regular gasoline](#) increased in July.

Transportation and Warehousing



Employment in transportation and warehousing grew by 50,000 in July but is 41,000 below its February 2020 level.

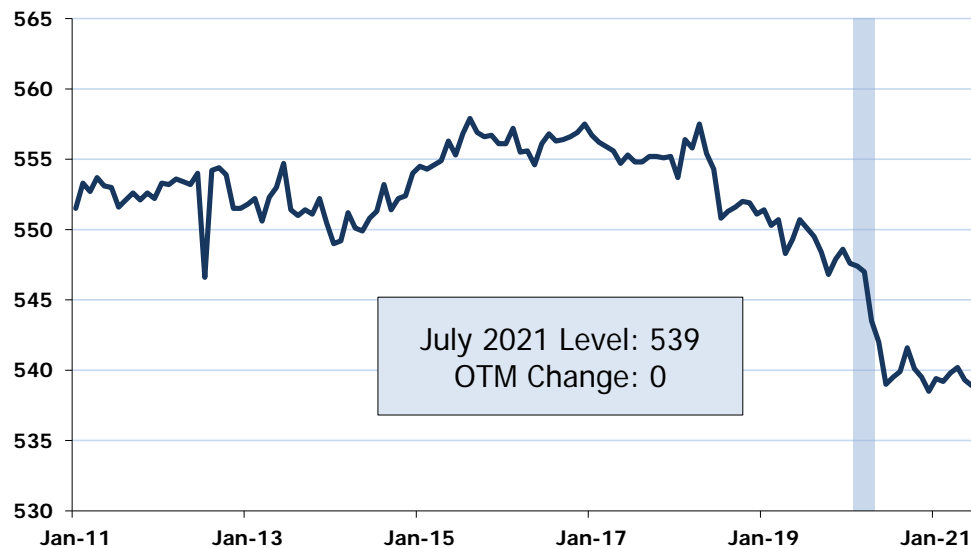
In July, job gains were widespread among component industries, led by transit and ground passenger transportation (+19,000). Despite the increase, employment in the transit industry is 87,000 below its February 2020 level.

Employment in couriers and messengers grew by 8,000 in July. This industry has added 124,000 jobs since February 2020. Warehousing and storage has added 114,000 jobs over the same period

Utilities

Employment in utilities January 2011–July 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



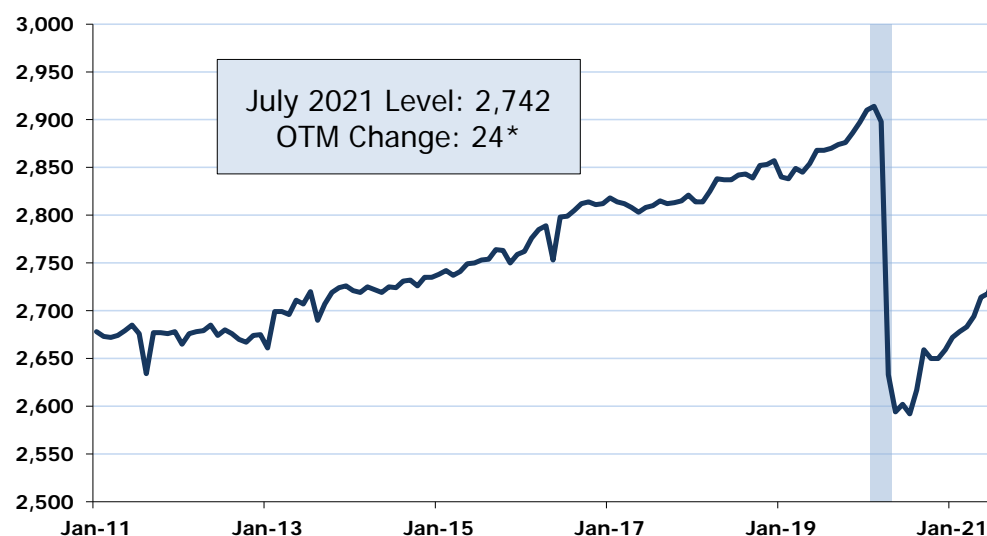
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, August 06, 2021.
Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
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Employment in utilities was unchanged in July. Since February 2020, employment has fallen by 9,000.

Information

Employment in information January 2011–July 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, August 06, 2021.
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* denotes significance.

In July, employment in information increased by 24,000, with motion picture and sound recording industries accounting for 18,000 of the gain. Employment in information is 172,000 below its February 2020 level.

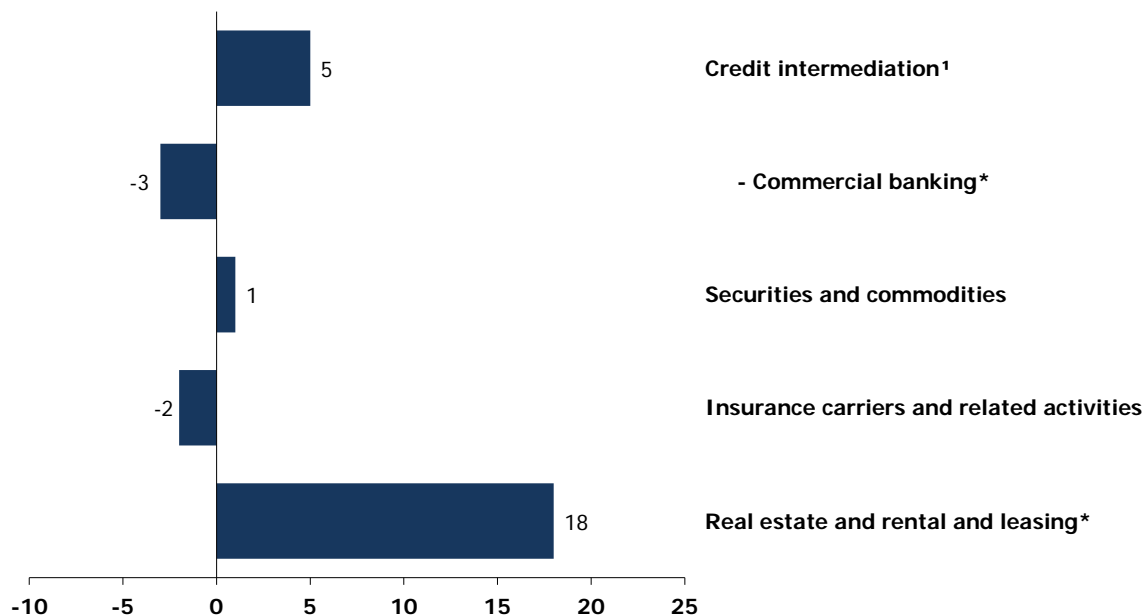
Financial Activities

Employment in selected financial activities

Over-the-month change, July 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Financial
activities:
22*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, August 06, 2021.

Data are preliminary.

¹ Includes additional component industries not shown separately.

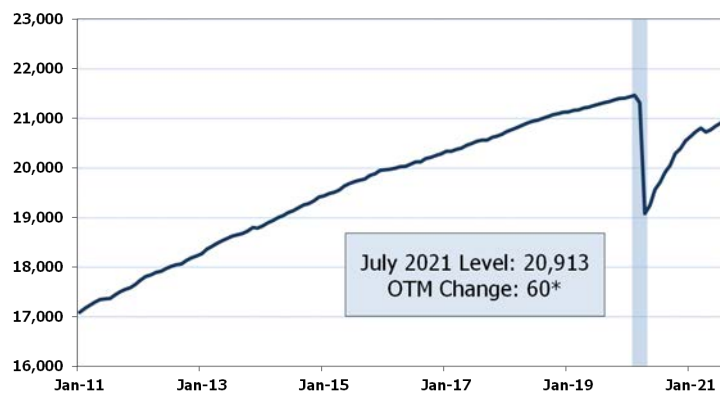
* denotes significance

In July, employment in financial activities increased by 22,000. The industry has added a net 231,000 jobs since April 2020, but employment is 48,000 below its peak¹ in February 2020.

In July, job gains were concentrated in rental and leasing services (13,000). A job gain in activities related to credit intermediation (3,000) was offset by a decline of 3,000 in commercial banking.

Professional and Business Services

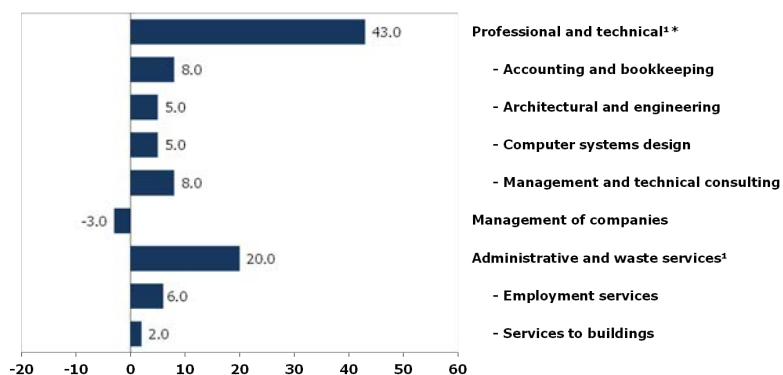
Employment in professional and business services
January 2011–July 2021
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Professional and business services added 60,000 jobs in July; however, employment is 556,000 below its level in February 2020.

In July, Professional and technical services added 43,000 jobs, with scientific research and development services adding 6,000 jobs. Employment in professional and technical services has expanded 121,000 above its February 2020 level.

Employment in selected professional and business services
Over-the-month change, July 2021
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

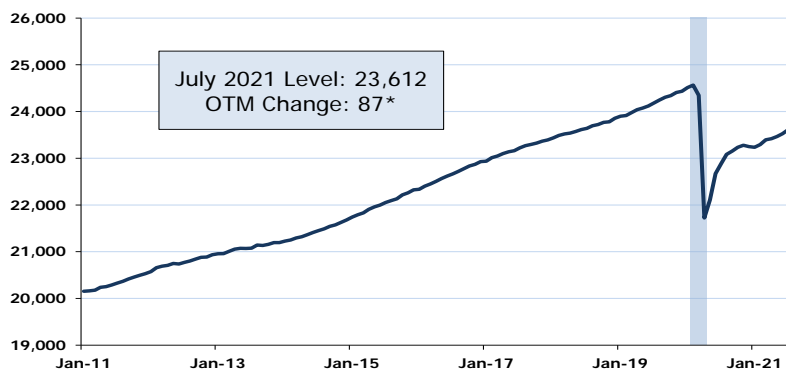


Within administrative and waste services, other support services (+10,000) and travel arrangement and reservation services (+5,000) added jobs in July.

Private Education and Health Services

Employment in education and health services January 2011–July 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

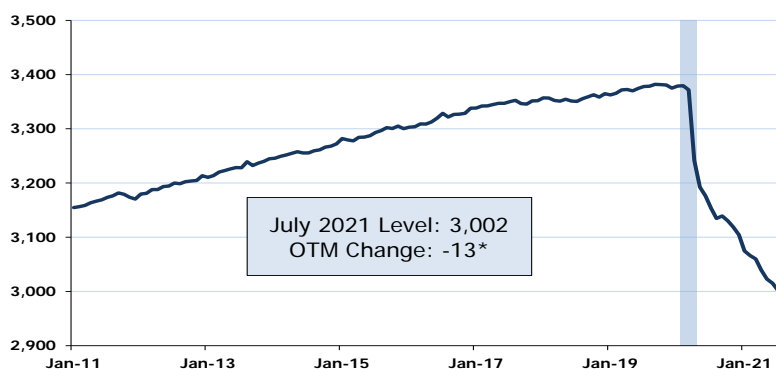


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In July, employment in private education and health services increased by 87,000, with educational services accounting for 40,000 of the gain. Within health care, hospitals (+18,000) and offices of other health practitioners (+17,000) added jobs over the month. Employment in private education and health services is 953,000 lower than in February 2020.

Employment in nursing and residential care facilities January 2011–July 2021

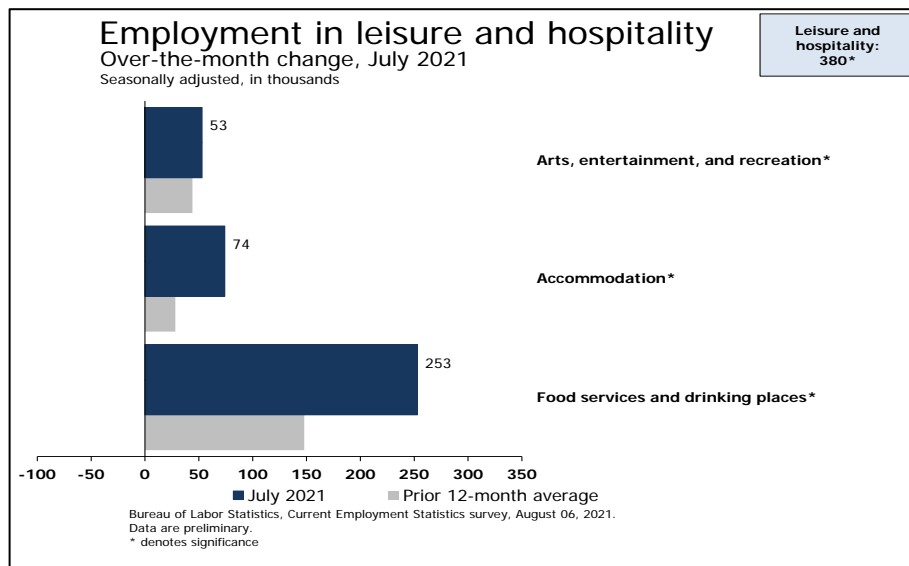
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, August 06, 2021.
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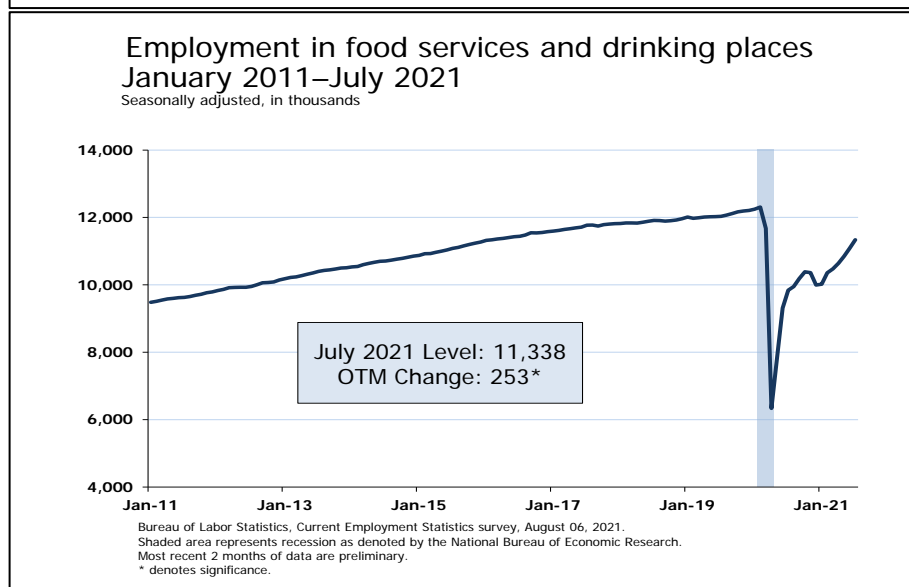
In July, nursing and residential care facilities continued to shed jobs (-13,000), with losses split between residential mental health facilities (-6,000) and community care facilities for the elderly (-5,000). Employment in nursing and residential care facilities is 378,000 lower than in February 2020.

Leisure and Hospitality



Leisure and hospitality added 380,000 jobs in July. Although the industry has recovered 6.5 million jobs since April 2020, employment is 1.7 million below its February 2020 level.

Average hourly earnings for nonsupervisory workers in leisure and hospitality rose by 23 cents to \$16.47 in July. Hourly earnings are up 13.0 percent over the year.



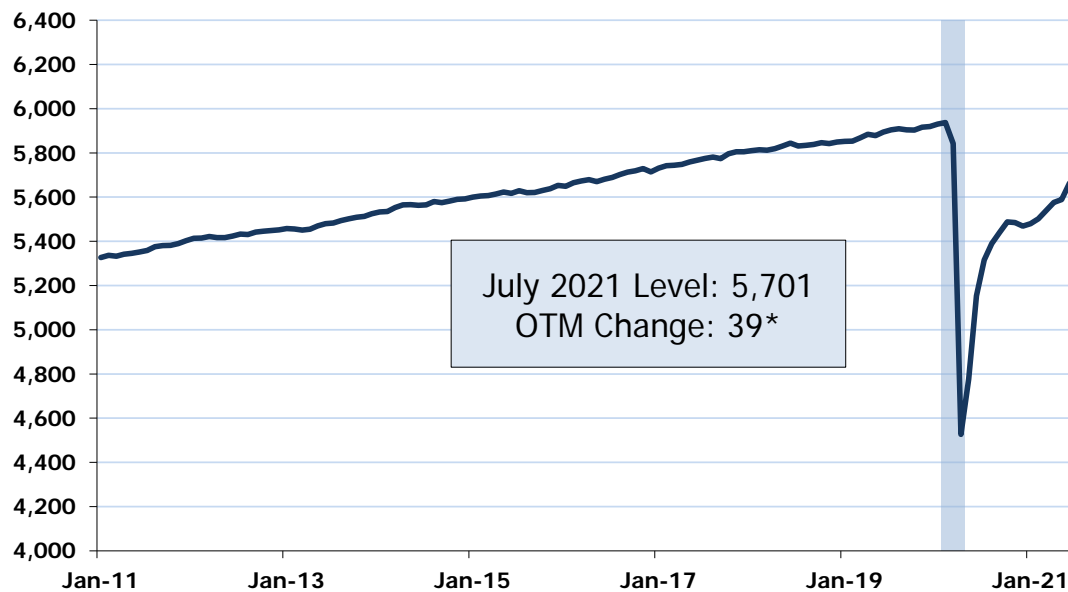
In July, food services and drinking places added 253,000 jobs and has recovered 5.0 million, or 84 percent, of the jobs lost in March and April 2020. The July employment gain follows an increase in restaurant [sales](#) in June.

Accommodation (+74,000) and amusements, gambling, and recreation (+40,000) also added jobs in July.

Other Services

Employment in other services January 2011–July 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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* denotes significance.

Employment in other services grew by 39,000 in July, after increasing by 73,000 in June. As of July, the industry has recovered 1.2 million of 1.4 million jobs lost in March and April 2020.

In July, employment increased in membership associations and organizations (+17,000) and in personal and laundry services (+15,000).

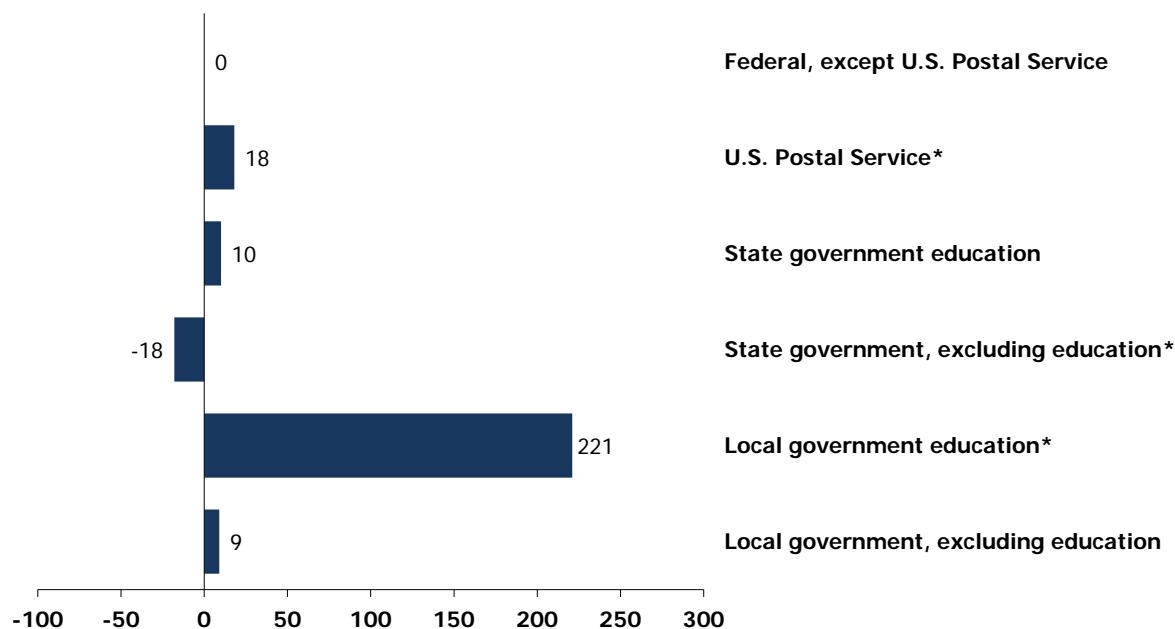
Government

Employment in selected government

Over-the-month change, July 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Government:
240*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, August 06, 2021.

Data are preliminary.

* denotes significance

Government employment increased by 240,000 in July, but is 782,000 lower than in February 2020.

Local government education added 221,000 jobs in July. Since the onset of the COVID19 pandemic, employment fluctuations have distorted the normal seasonal buildup and layoff patterns, likely contributing to the job gains in July. Weaker hiring for the school year has resulted in fewer layoffs at the end of the school year, resulting in a job gain in July after seasonal adjustment. The variations make it more challenging to discern current employment trend. Since February 2020, employment is down by 205,000 in local government education.

In July, state government, excluding education lost 18,000 jobs, offsetting a gain of 18,000 in the U.S. Postal Service.

¹ The Current Employment Statistics program for national estimates designates cyclical peaks and troughs in time series of employment, hours, and earnings. Generally, the period between a peak and a trough must be at least 6 months in duration. (See <https://www.bls.gov/ces/tables/peak-trough.htm> for more details.) The extreme magnitude and dispersion of job losses across nearly all industries warrants treating the shorter downturn as a cyclical peak-to-trough phase that occurred primarily from February to April 2020. This determination mirrors a similar decision made by the business cycle dating committee of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) to designate the episode as a recession, even though the downturn was briefer than earlier contractions. (<https://www.nber.org/news/business-cycle-dating-committee-announcement-july-19-2021>)



**Prepared by Staff of the National Estimates Branch
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