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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



October 2021

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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, October 2021

Payroll employment rose by 531,000 in October. Including this job gain, employment has increased by 18.2 million since April 2020 but is down by 4.2 million, or 2.8 percent, from the level in February 2020.

In October, job growth was widespread, driven by gains in leisure and hospitality, professional and business services, manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, and construction. State and local government education lost jobs over the month.

The employment change for August revised up from +366,000 to +483,000, and the change for September revised up from +194,000 to +312,000. On net, employment over August and September was 235,000 higher than previously reported.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls increased by 11 cents, or 0.4 percent, in October. Over the year, hourly earnings have increased by 4.9 percent. In October, average weekly hours fell by 0.1 hour to 34.7 hours.

+164,000 Leisure and Hospitality

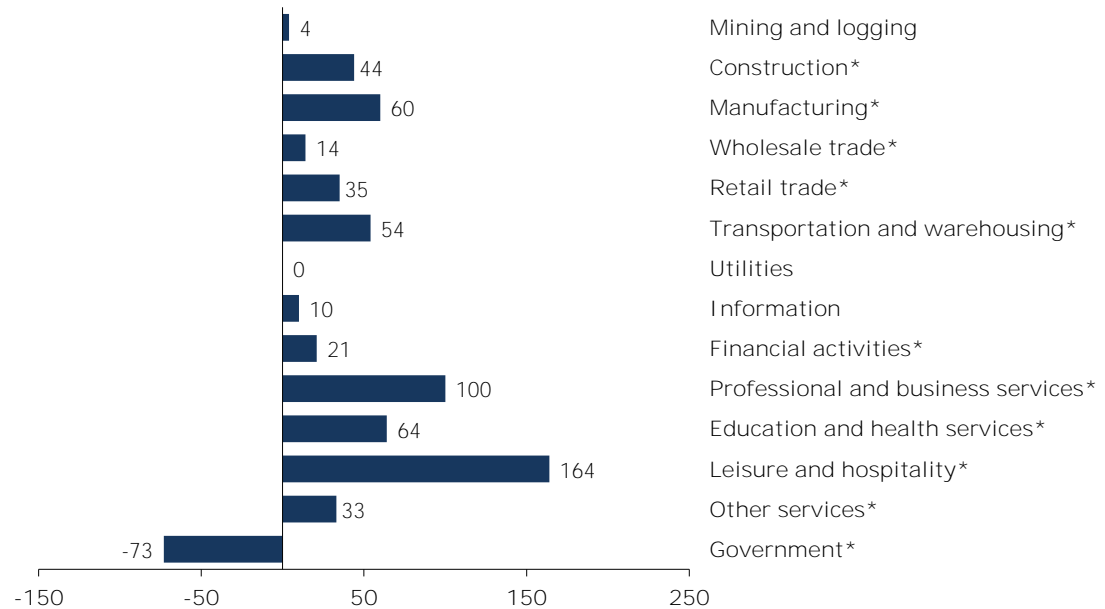
Leisure and hospitality added 164,000 jobs in October. Job growth was concentrated in

Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, October 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:
531*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, November 05, 2021.
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

food services and drinking places (+119,000) and in accommodation (+23,000).

Employment in leisure and hospitality has increased by 6.8 million since April 2020,

reflecting a recovery of 83 percent of 8.2 million jobs lost in March and April 2020.

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, October 2021

+100,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment rose by 100,000 in professional and business services in October. Within the sector, professional and technical services added 45,000 jobs, including gains in management and technical consulting services (+14,000), in other professional and technical services (+9,000), in scientific research and development services (+6,000) and in legal services (+5,000). Within administrative and waste services, temporary help services also added jobs over the month (+41,000). After falling by 2.4 million in March and April 2020, employment in professional and business services has risen by 2.2 million.

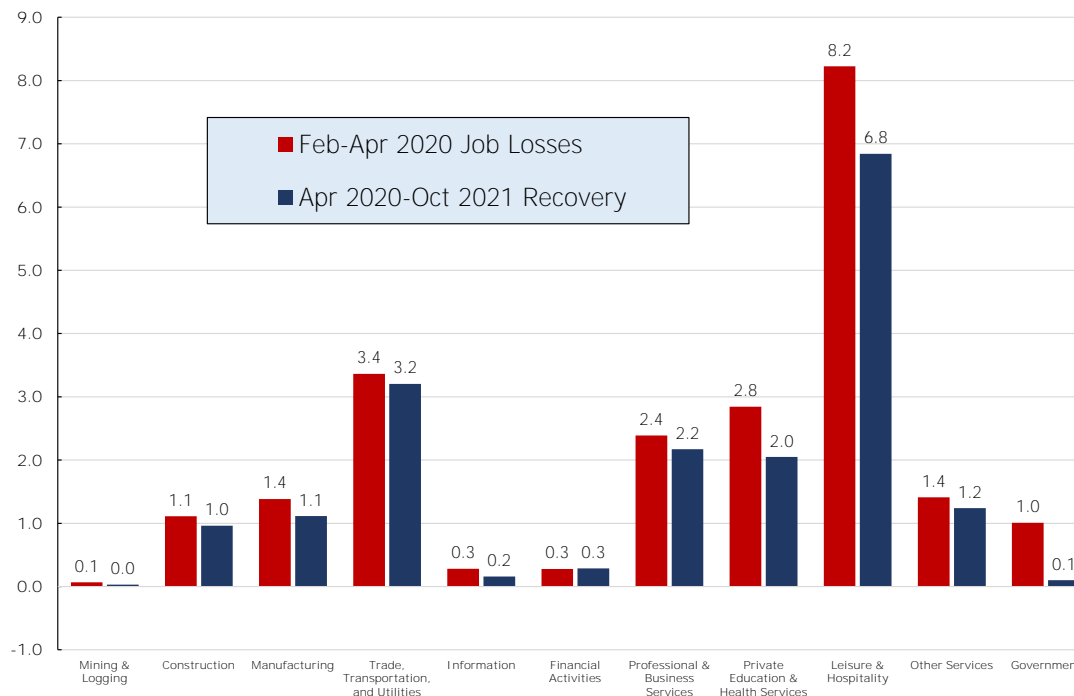
+64,000 Education and Health Services

In October, job growth in education and health services was concentrated in health care (+37,000), with gains in home health care services (+16,000) and in nursing care facilities (+12,000). Since losing 2.8 million jobs in March and April 2020, education and health services has added 2.0 million jobs.

+60,000 Manufacturing

Durable goods manufacturing added 41,000 jobs in October, with gains concentrated in motor vehicles and parts (+28,000) and

Employment changes by industry sector
Net change, in millions, seasonally adjusted



fabricated metal products (+6,000).

Employment gains in nondurable goods manufacturing (+19,000) were concentrated in chemicals (+6,000) and in printing and related support activities (+4,000). Manufacturing has recovered 1.1 million of 1.4 million jobs lost in March and April 2020.

+54,000 Transportation and Warehousing

Transportation and warehousing added 54,000 jobs in October. Within the industry, warehousing and storage (+20,000), transit and ground passenger transportation (+16,000), air transportation (+9,000), and truck transportation (+8,000) added jobs.

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, October 2021

Couriers and messengers lost jobs over the month (-5,000). Employment in transportation and warehousing has expanded by 149,000 above its February 2020 peak.¹

(+28,000). Other services has recovered 1.2 million of 1.4 million jobs lost in March and April 2020.

+44,000 Construction

Employment in construction grew by 44,000 in October. Over the month, nonresidential specialty trade contractors (+19,000) and heavy and civil engineering construction (+12,000) added jobs. Employment in construction is 150,000 lower than in February 2020.

+21,000 Financial Activities

Financial activities added 21,000 jobs in October. Job growth was concentrated in real estate and rental and leasing (+12,000) and in securities, commodity contracts, investments, and funds and trusts (+11,000). Including the gain in October, employment in financial activities has recovered to its February 2020 peak.¹

+35,000 Retail Trade

Retail trade added 35,000 jobs in October. Job gains were concentrated in food and beverage stores (+16,000), general merchandise stores (+15,000), and health and personal care stores (+8,000). Building material and garden supply stores lost jobs over the month (-10,000). Employment in retail trade is 140,000 lower than in February 2020.

-73,000 Government

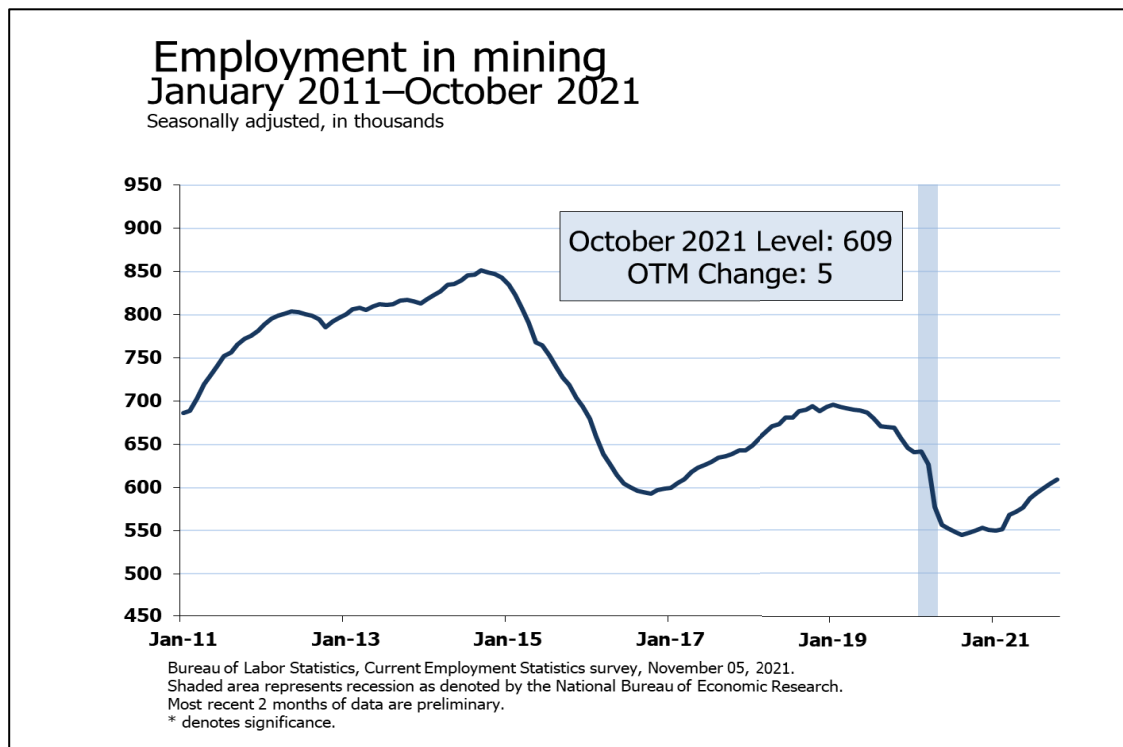
Within government, employment declined in state government education (-22,000) and in local government education (-43,000) in October. Government employment is 909,000 lower than its peak in February 2020.¹

+33,000 Other Services

Employment in other services grew by 33,000 in October. Job gains were concentrated in personal and laundry services

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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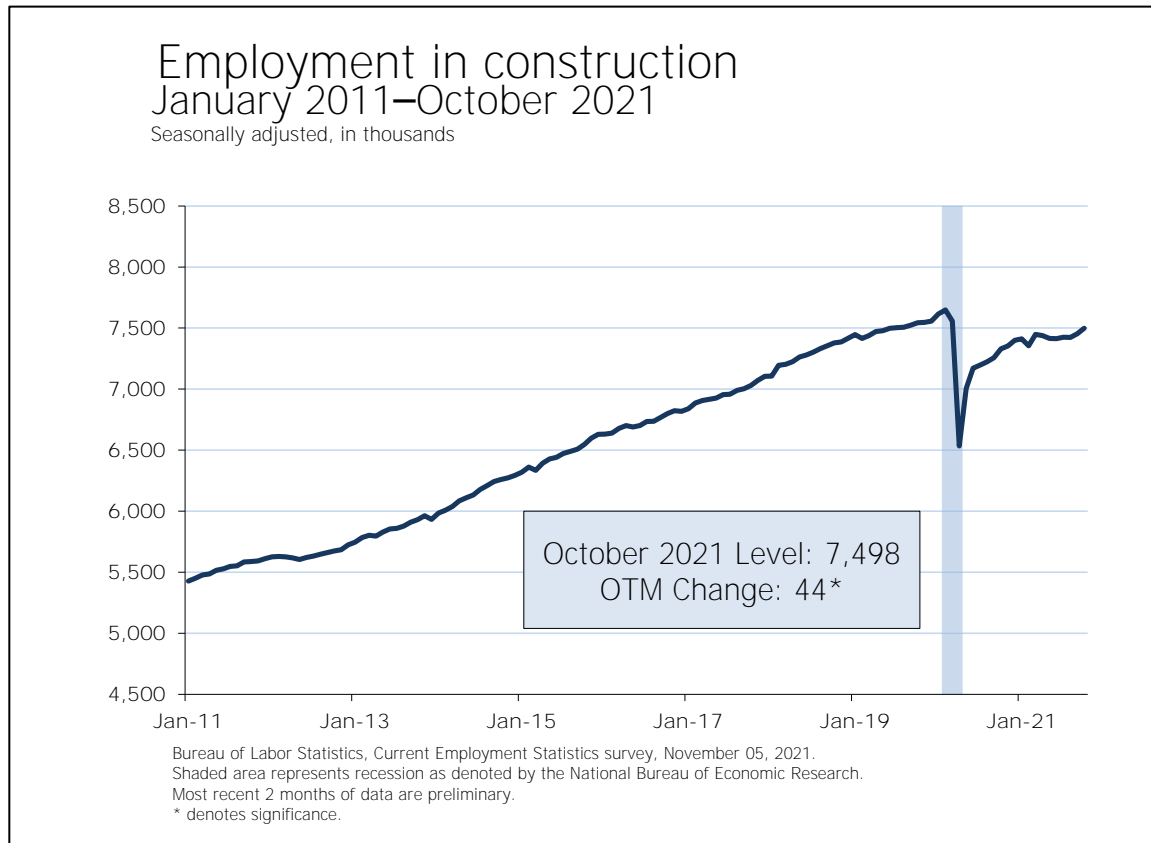
Mining and Logging



Employment in mining increased by 5,000 in October, largely due to an uptick in support activities for mining (+3,000). Mining has added 64,000 jobs since an employment trough in August 2020.

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

Construction

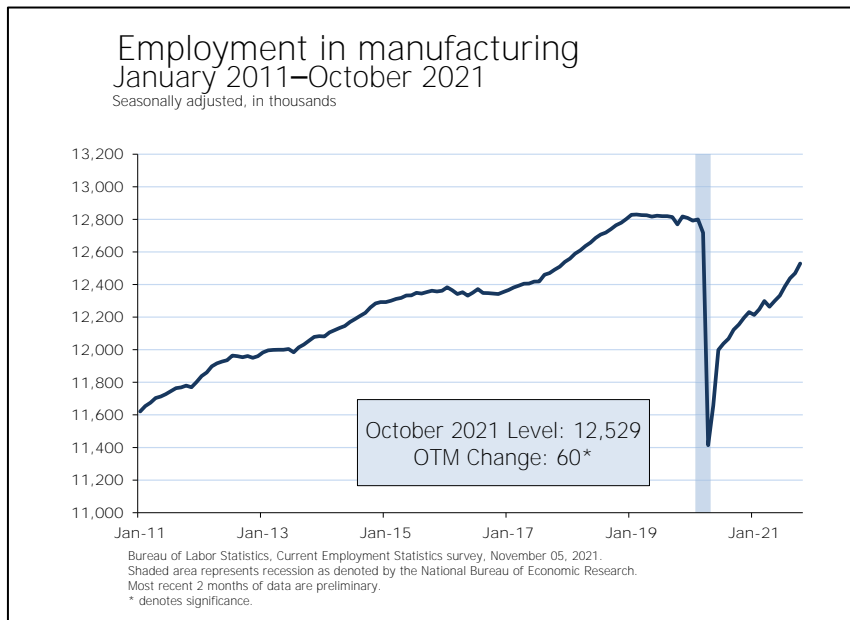


Employment in construction grew by 44,000 in October, following a gain of 30,000 in September. Construction employment is 150,000 below its February 2020 peak.¹

In October, job gains were concentrated in nonresidential specialty trade contractors (+19,000) and in heavy and civil engineering construction (+12,000). Despite these gains, employment in both industries has changed little so far this year and is 144,000 and 57,000, respectively, below their February 2020 peaks.¹

The strength in construction employment in October follows an increase in [new home sales](#) in September, although there were declines in [residential building permits](#) and [housing starts](#).

Manufacturing

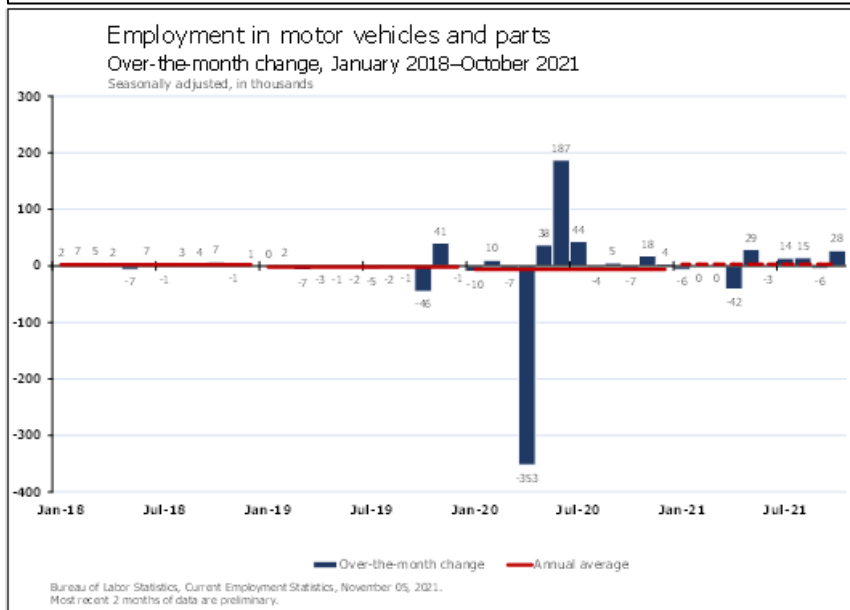


In October, manufacturing added 60,000 jobs, following gains in September (+31,000) and August (+49,000). As of October, employment in the industry is 270,000 below its February 2020 level.

The manufacturing 1-month diffusion index, at 70.0, increased by 12.7 points in October. The diffusion index measures how broadly employment changes are spread across manufacturing industries. A value above 50 indicates that more industries are adding jobs than losing them over a specific time period.

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

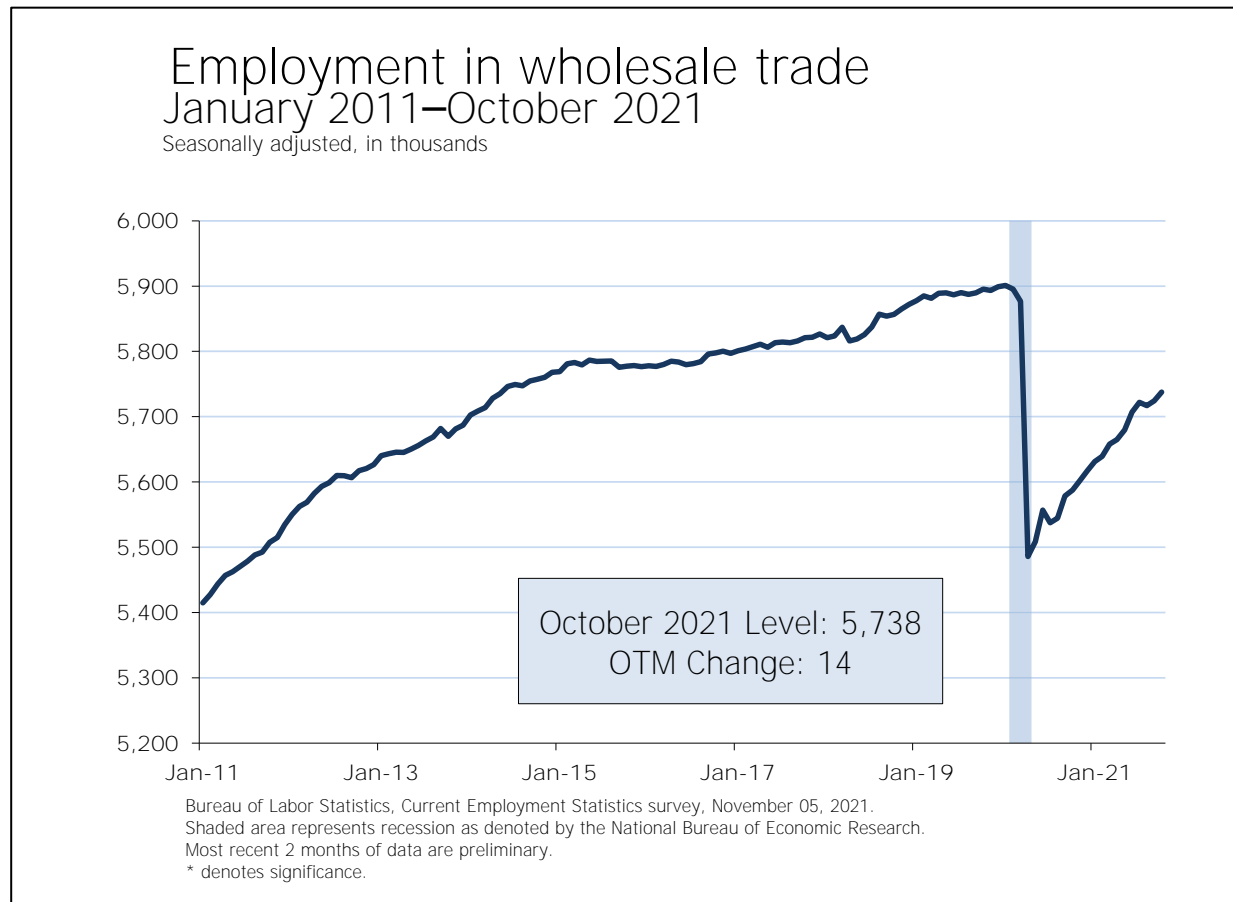
Employment in motor vehicles and parts grew by 28,000 in October. Despite this increase, the [ongoing semiconductor chip shortage](#) has continued to impact automakers in the United States.



In October, average hourly earnings for all employees in manufacturing increased by 13 cents to \$30.15. Average hourly earnings of production workers increased by 8 cents to \$24.22.

Average weekly hours of all employees decreased by 0.1 hour to 40.3 hours in October. The average workweek of production employees decreased 0.1 hour to 41.3 hours. Average weekly overtime hours for all employees decreased by 0.1 hour to 3.2 hours, while overtime hours for production workers remained unchanged at 4.1 hours.

Wholesale Trade



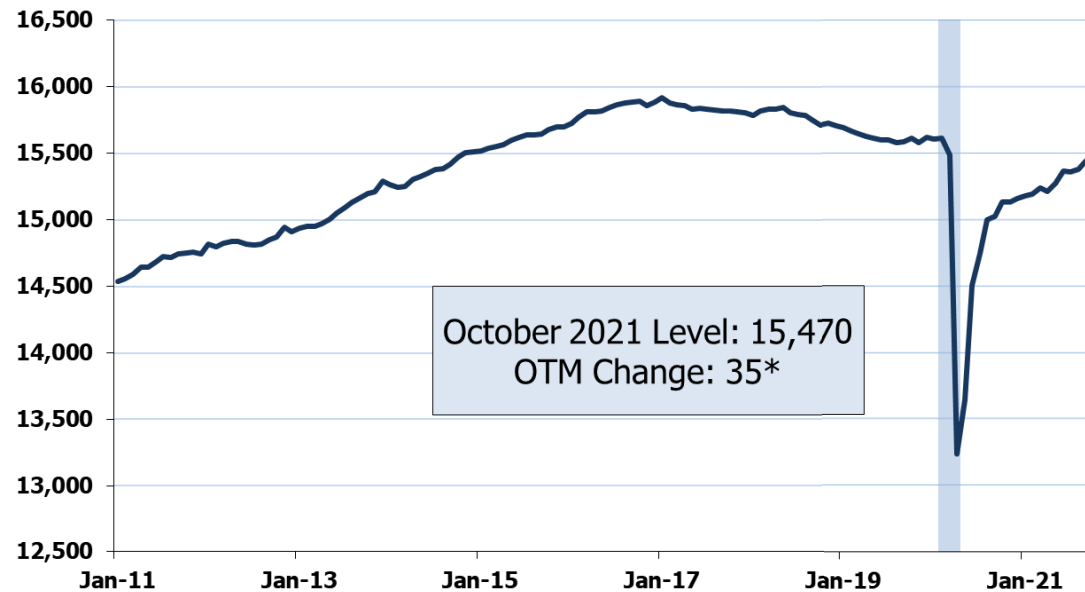
Employment in wholesale trade edged up in October (+14,000), after changing little in the prior 2 months. The industry has regained 252,000 of 409,000 jobs lost in February and March 2020, reflecting a partial recovery of 62 percent.

In October, job gains were concentrated in durable goods (+14,000), while employment changed little in nondurable goods and in electronic markets and agents and brokers.

Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade January 2011–October 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



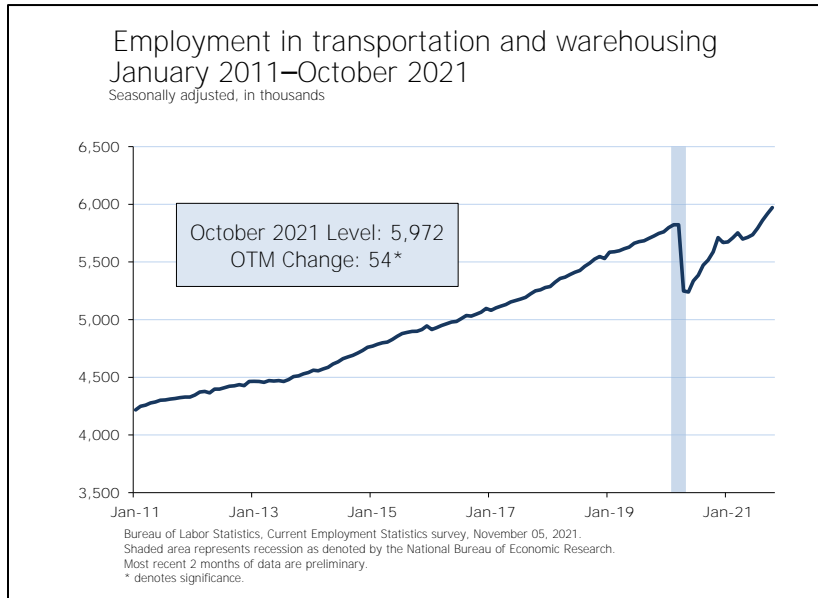
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, November 05, 2021.
 Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
 Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.
 * denotes significance.

Employment in retail trade increased by 35,000 in October, following gains totaling 80,000 over the prior 2 months. Industry employment is up by 2.2 million since April 2020 but is down by 140,000 since a peak in February 2020.¹

Within the industry, job gains occurred in food and beverage stores (+16,000); general merchandise stores (+15,000); health and personal care store stores (+8,000); and electronics and appliance stores (+6,000). These gains were partially offset by a decline of 10,000 jobs in building material and garden supply stores.

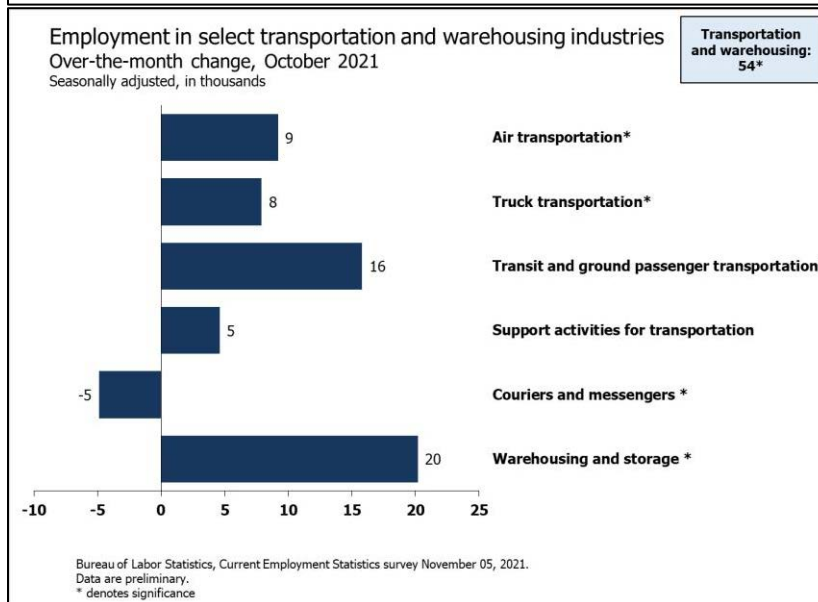
Retail related-economic indicators are mixed. [Retail Sales](#) increased in September and the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) increased in October. Contrarily, the per gallon price of [regular gasoline](#) increased in October.

Transportation and Warehousing

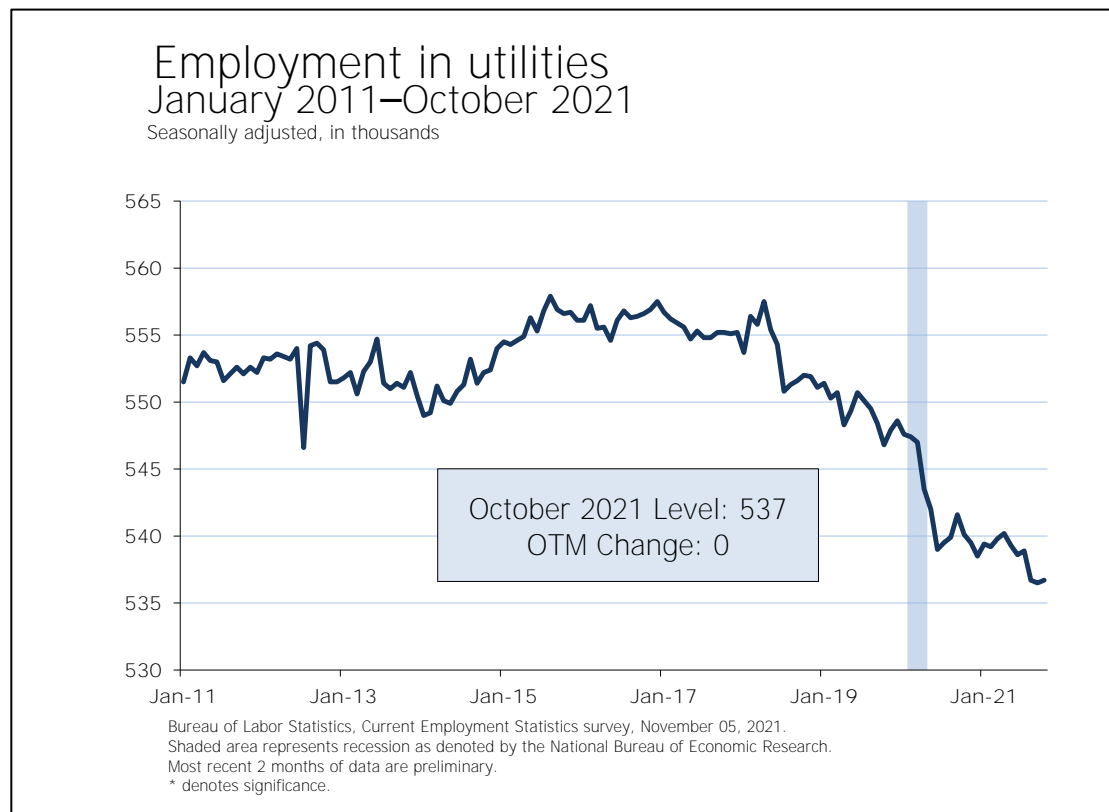


Employment in transportation and warehousing grew by 54,000 in October and is 149,000 above its February 2020 level.

In October, job growth occurred in warehousing and storage (+20,000), in transit and ground passenger transportation (+16,000), in air transportation (+9,000), and in truck transportation (+8,000). Employment in support activities for transportation edged up by 5,000 offsetting a job loss in couriers and messengers (-5,000).

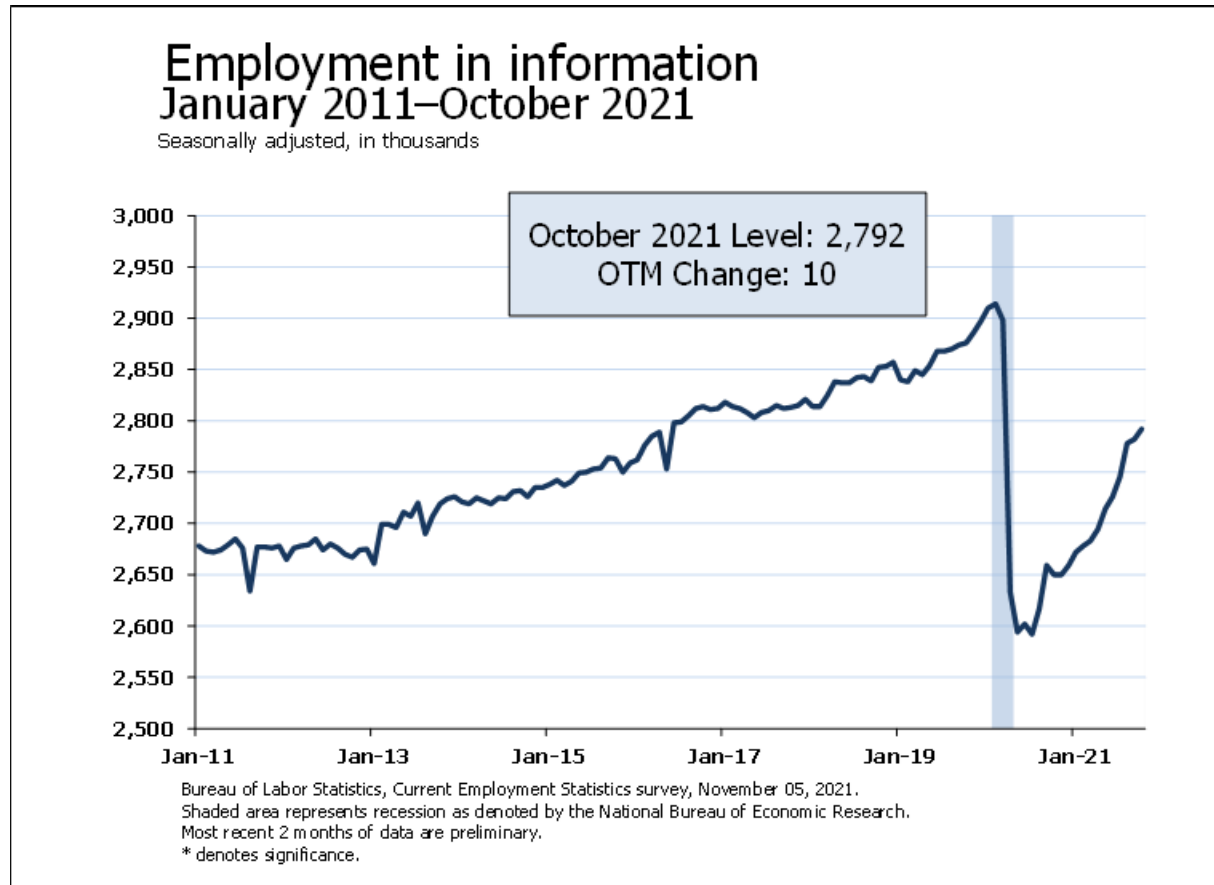


Utilities



Employment in utilities changed little in October. Since reaching a peak in December 2016, employment has fallen by 21,000.

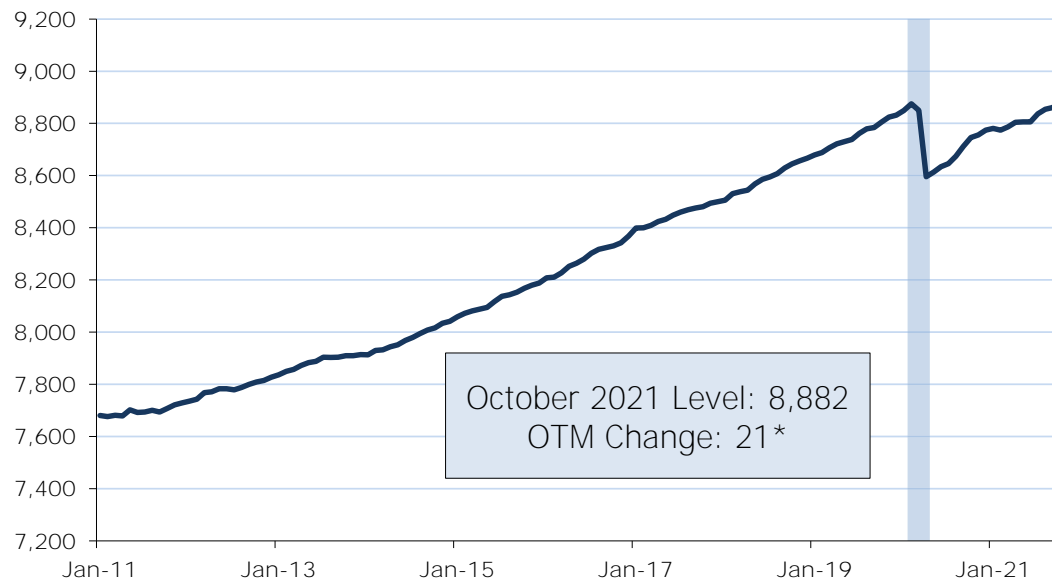
Information



Employment in information continued to trend up in October (+10,000). The industry has recovered 198,000, or 62 percent, of 320,000 jobs lost in March, April, and May 2020.

Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities
January 2011–October 2021
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

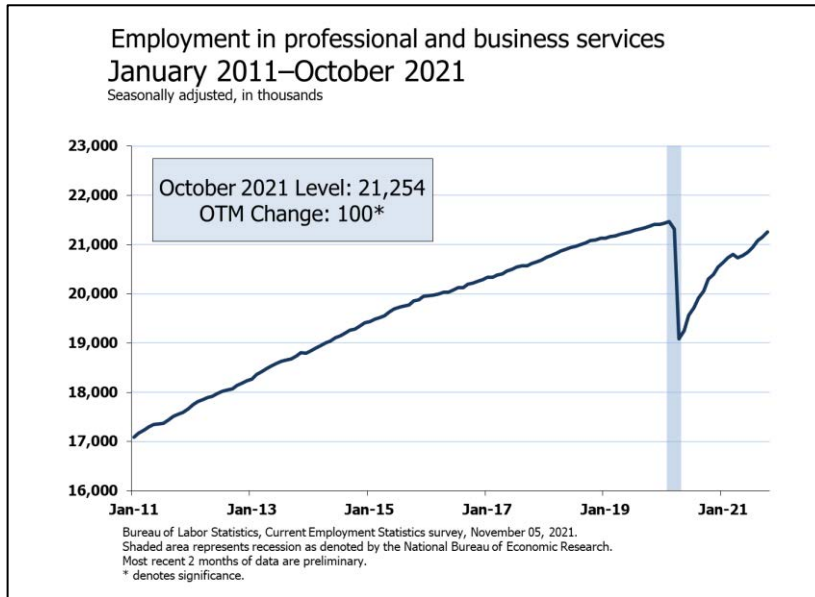


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, November 05, 2021.
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Employment in financial activities increased by 21,000 in October and has recovered to the pre-pandemic peak in February 2020.¹

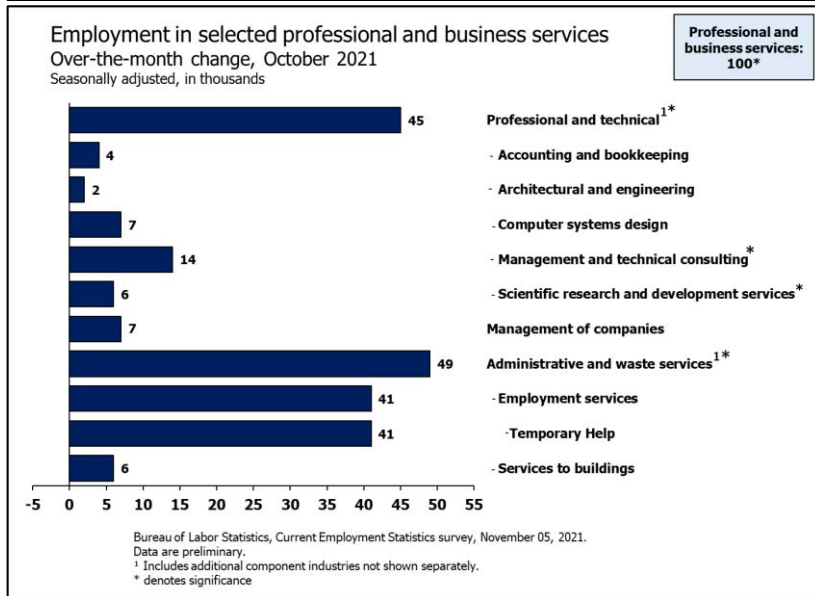
In October, job gains were concentrated in real estate and rental and leasing (+12,000) and in securities and commodities (+11,000). These gains were partially offset by a decline of 4,000 jobs in commercial banking.

Professional and Business Services



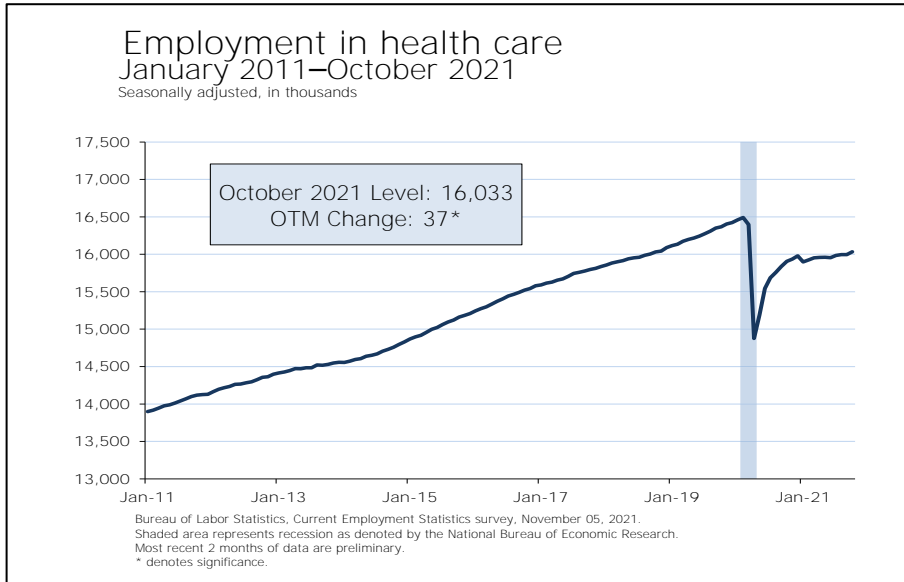
Professional and business services added 100,000 jobs in October 2021; however, employment is 215,000 below the level in February 2020.

In October, professional and technical services added 45,000 jobs, with management and technical consulting services (+14,000), other professional and technical services (+9,000) and scientific research and development services (+6,000) adding jobs. Employment in professional and technical services is 298,000 above its February 2020 level.

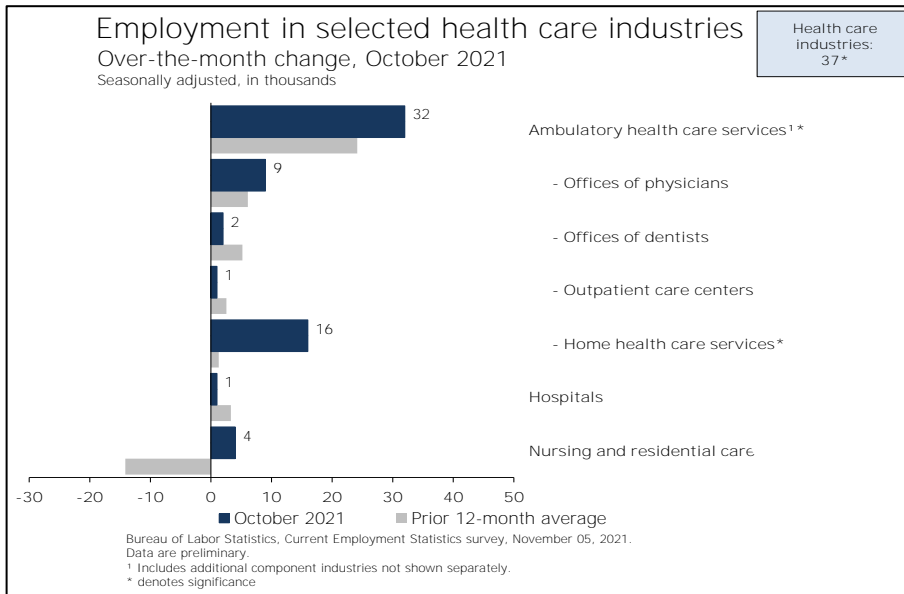


In October, administrative and waste services added 49,000 jobs, with temporary help services accounting for 41,000 of the gain. Employment in temporary help services is 173,000 lower than in February 2020.

Private Education and Health Services

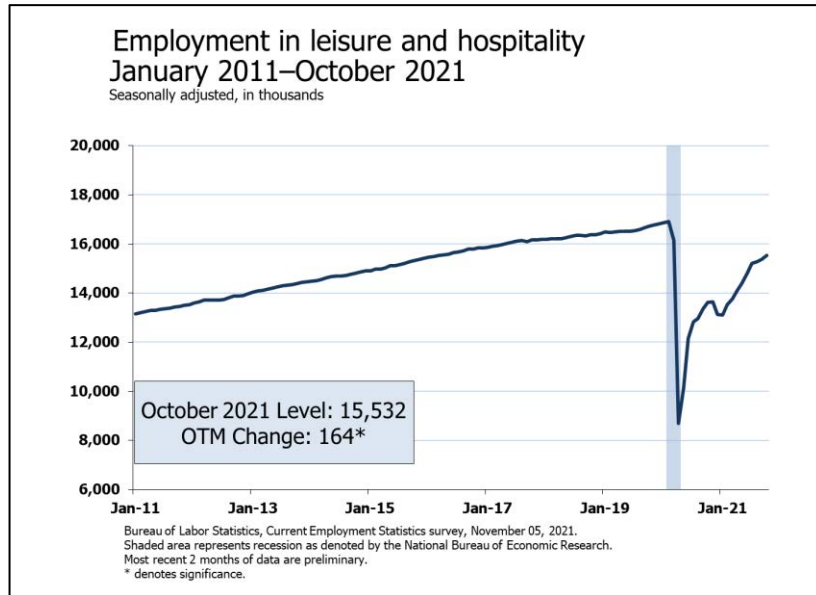


In October, employment in health care increased by 37,000, and the industry has recovered 1.2 million of 1.6 million jobs lost in March and April 2020.

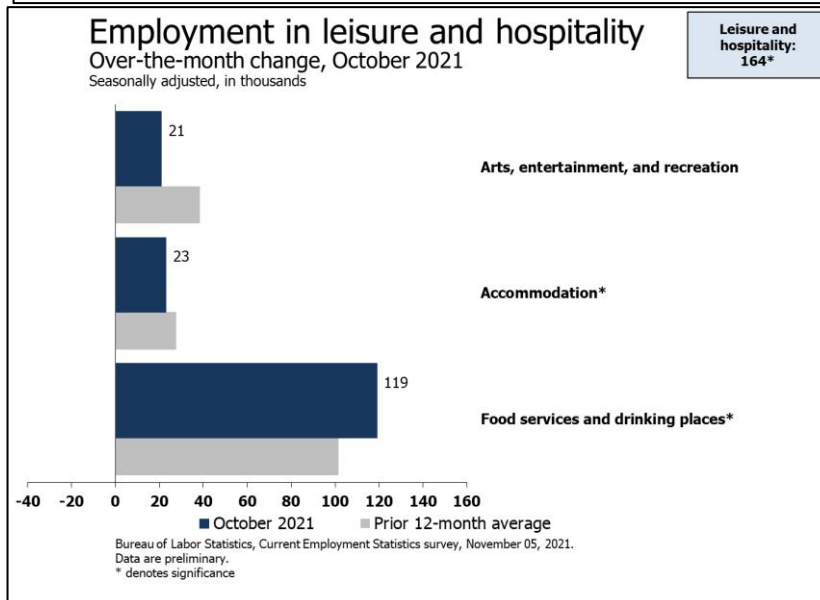


In October, jobs gains occurred in home health care services (+16,000) and in nursing care facilities (+12,000), a component of nursing and residential care.

Leisure and Hospitality



Employment in leisure and hospitality grew by 164,000 in October. Although the industry has added 6.8 million jobs since April 2020, employment is 1.4 million below its February 2020 level.



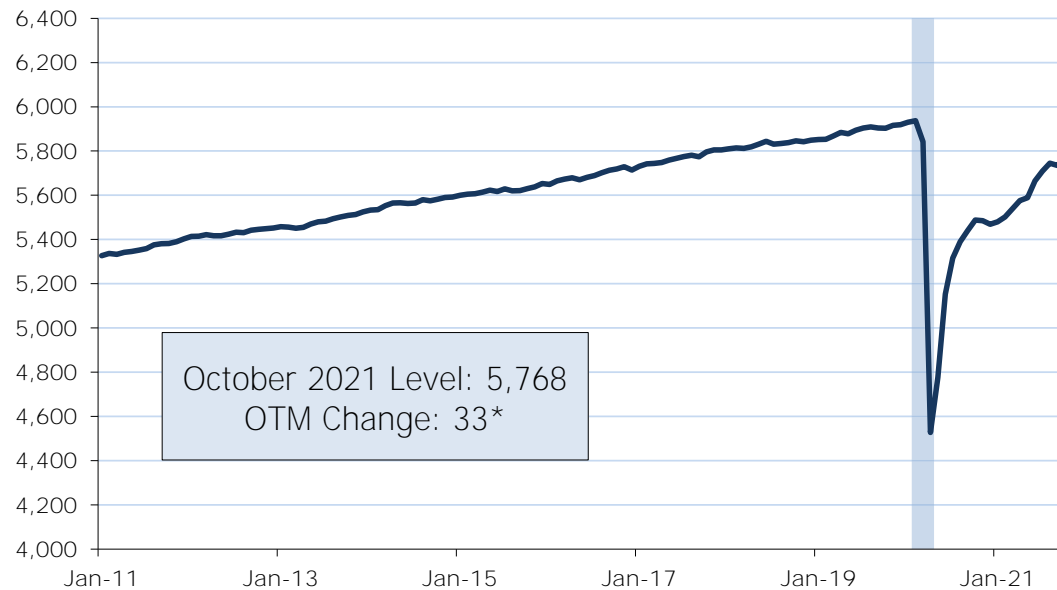
Food services and drinking places added 119,000 jobs in October. Employment in this industry is 784,000 below its February 2020 level. Although restaurant [sales](#) changed little in September, they exceed pre-COVID levels.

Accommodation employment increased by 23,000 in October, coinciding with an increase in hotel [occupancy rates](#).

Other Services

Employment in other services January 2011–October 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

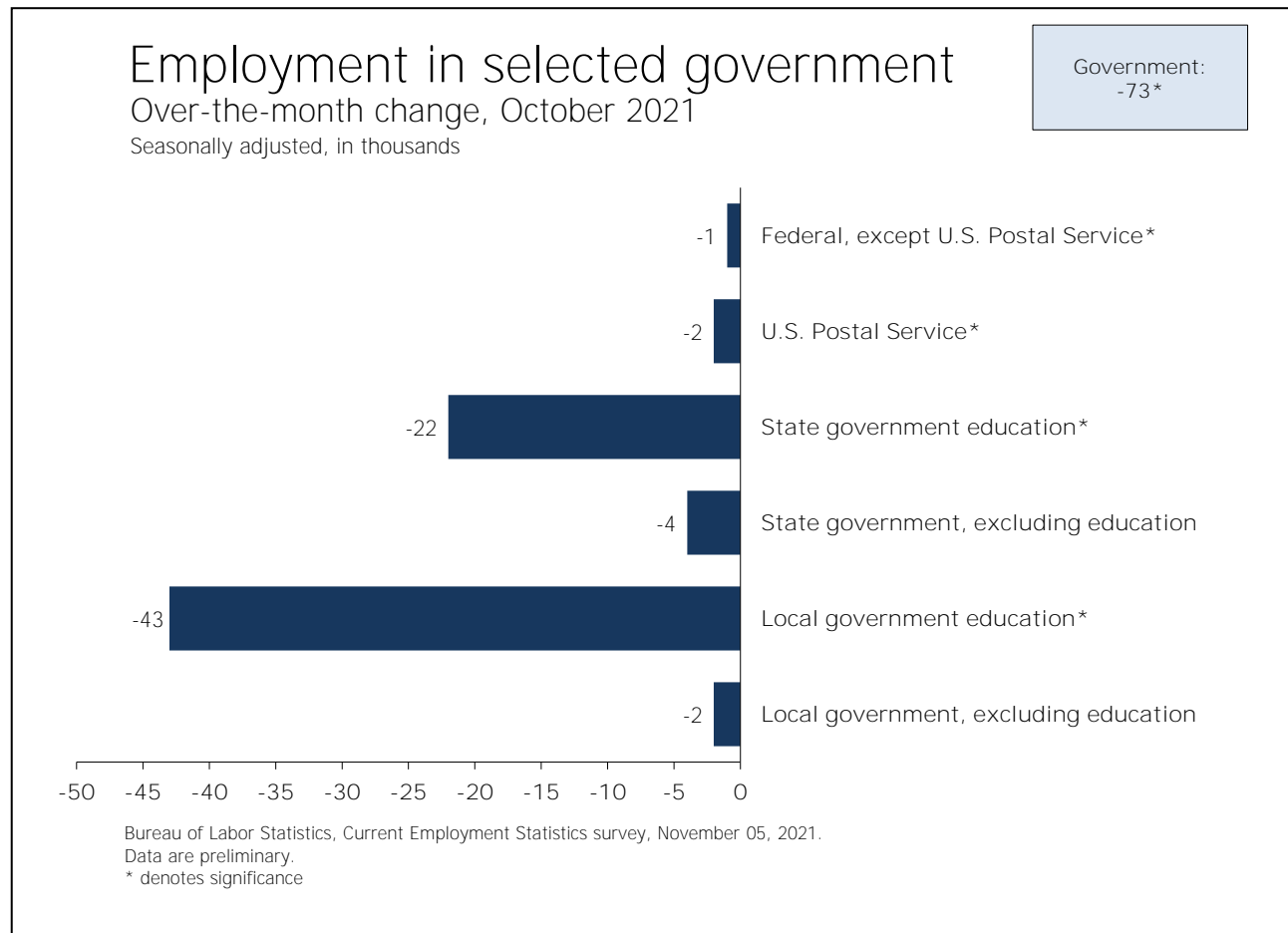


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, November 05, 2021.
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In October, other services employment increased by 33,000, and the industry has regained 1.2 million of 1.4 million jobs lost in March and April 2020.

In October, personal and laundry services added 28,000 jobs.

Government



Government employment declined by 73,000 in October and is 909,000 lower than in February 2020.

In October, local education (-43,000) and state education (-22,000) lost jobs. Since the onset of the COVID19 pandemic, employment fluctuations have distorted the normal seasonal buildup and layoff patterns, likely contributing to the job losses in October on a seasonally adjusted basis. The variations make it more challenging to discern current employment trends. Since February 2020, employment is down by 370,000 in local education and by 205,000 in state education.

Employment in the U.S. Postal Service decreased by 2,000 in October.

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>)



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