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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



March 2022

Release Date: April 1, 2022

**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 Survey Summary, March 2022

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 431,000 in March. Job gains included increases in leisure and hospitality, professional and business services, retail trade, and manufacturing. Total nonfarm employment is 1.6 million below its February 2020 peak.¹

The seasonally adjusted employment change for January revised up from +481,000 to +504,000, and the change for February revised up from +678,000 to +750,000. Employment over these months is 95,000 higher than previously reported.

In March, average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls rose by 13 cents, or 0.4 percent. Over the year, hourly earnings have increased by 5.6 percent. In March, average weekly hours declined by 0.1 hour to 34.6 hours.

+112,000 Leisure and hospitality

Employment increased in leisure and hospitality over the month (+112,000) but is 1.5 million below its February 2020 level. Within the sector, food services and drinking places added 61,000 jobs in March, and accommodation added 25,000 jobs.

+102,000 Professional and business services

Job growth continued in professional and business services over the month (+102,000), and employment has expanded by 723,000 above the February 2020 level. In March, employment rose in services to buildings and dwellings (+22,000), accounting and bookkeeping services (+18,000), management

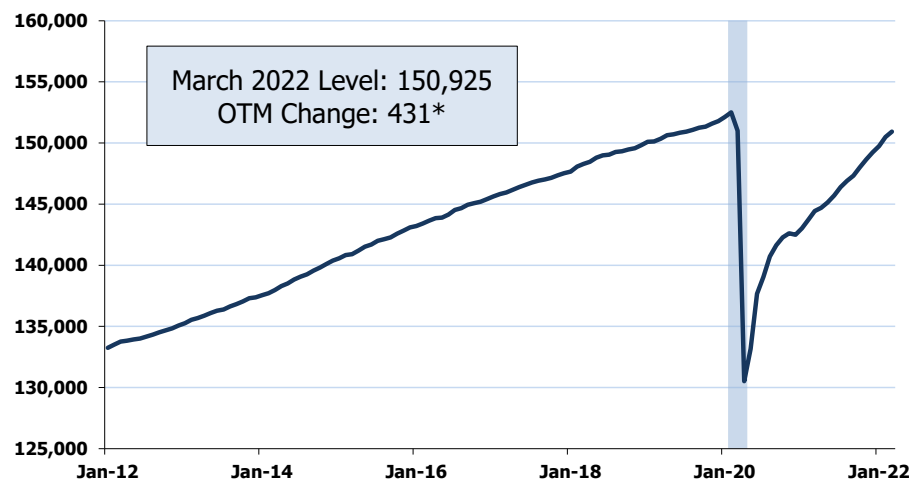
and technical consulting services (+15,000), and computer systems design and related services (+12,000).

+53,000 Education and health services

Employment in social assistance increased in March (+25,000) but is 126,000 below its February 2020 level. Health care employment

Employment in total nonfarm January 2012–March 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 01, 2022.
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 Summary, March 2022

changed little in March following a large increase in the prior month; employment in the industry is 298,000 below its February 2020 level.

+49,000 Retail Trade

Retail trade added 49,000 jobs in March, with job gains in general merchandise stores (+20,000) and in food and beverage stores (+18,000). Employment in retail trade is 278,000 above its February 2020 level.

+38,000 Manufacturing

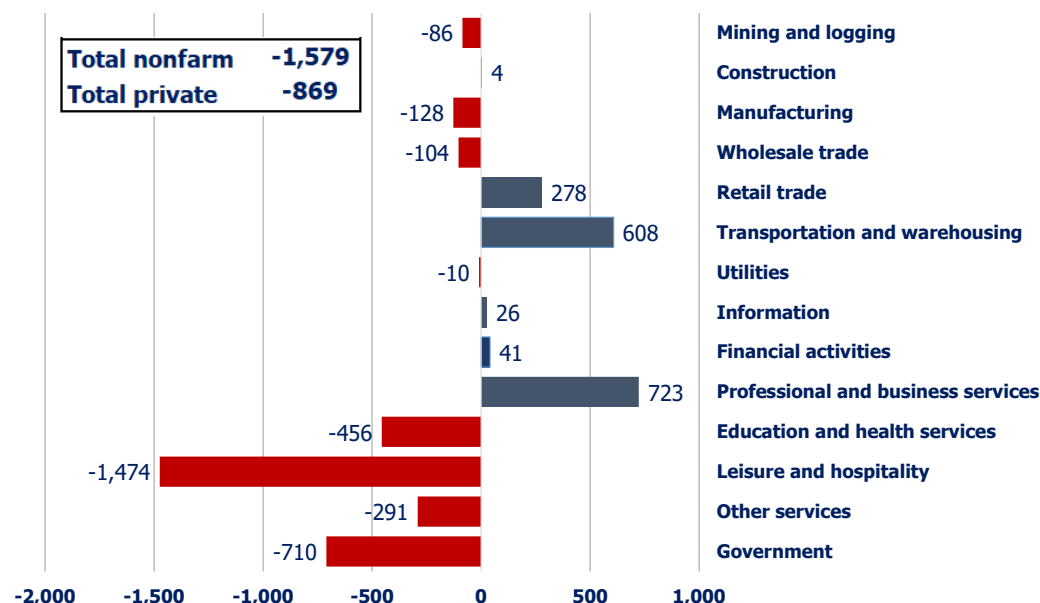
Durable goods added 22,000 jobs in March, led by gains in transportation equipment (+11,000). Nondurable goods added 16,000 jobs over the month, with chemicals adding 7,000 jobs. Employment in nondurable goods is 16,000 above its February 2020 level, though employment in durable goods manufacturing is 144,000 below its February 2020 level.

+16,000 Financial activities

Employment in financial activities grew by 16,000 in March and has expanded by 41,000 above its February 2020 level. Real estate and rental and leasing added 14,000 jobs in March. Securities, commodity contracts, and investments added 5,000 jobs.

Employment in total nonfarm, change since February 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey April 01, 2022
Data are preliminary.

Mining and Logging

Employment in mining January 2012–March 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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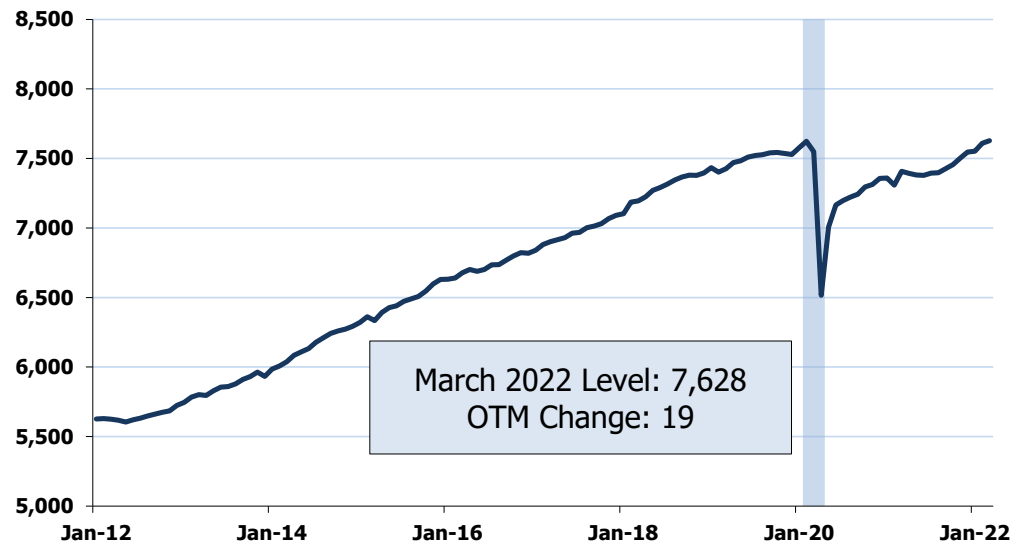
Employment in mining changed little in March (+2,000) but has risen by 60,000 since a trough in February 2021.

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 January 2012–March 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 01, 2022.
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Employment in construction edged up by 19,000 in March and is 4,000 above its February 2020 peak.¹

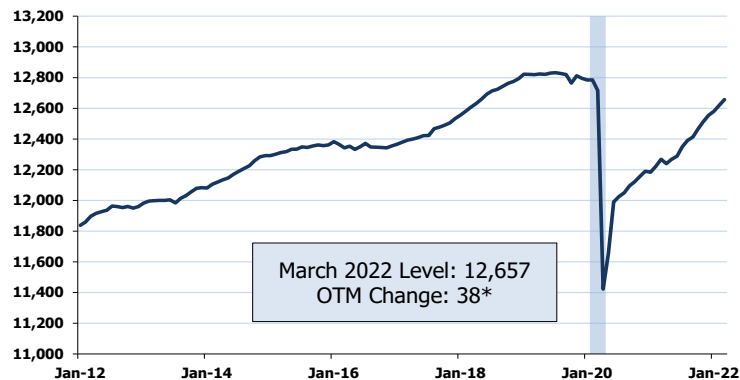
In March, employment edged up in residential specialty trade contractors (+10,000) and heavy and civil engineering construction (+5,000.) Employment in residential specialty trade contractors is 111,000 above its February 2020 level, while employment in heavy and civil engineering construction is 32,000 lower.

The uptick in March construction employment follows an increase in [housing starts](#) in February, despite flat [residential building permits](#) and [new home sales](#).

Manufacturing

Employment in manufacturing January 2012–March 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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Manufacturing added 38,000 in March, in line with the prior 6-month average; however, employment is 128,000 below the February 2020 level.

The manufacturing 1-month diffusion index declined by 20.9 points in March to 64.2. While fewer manufacturing industries added jobs over the month, a number above 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries added jobs than lost jobs.

Employment in durable goods rose by 22,000 in March, with a gain in transportation equipment (+11,000). A job gain in electrical equipment and appliances (+4,000) was offset by a loss in nonmetallic mineral products (-5,000).

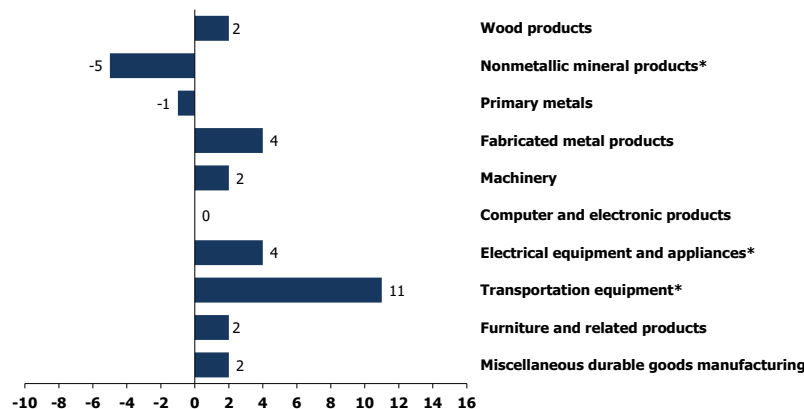
Nondurable goods manufacturing added 16,000 jobs over the month, with chemicals accounting for 7,000 of the increase.

In March, average hourly earnings for all employees in manufacturing rose by 9 cents to \$30.55. Average hourly earnings of production workers increased by 15 cents to \$24.71.

Average weekly hours of all employees in manufacturing, at 40.7 hours in March, were unchanged. The average workweek of production employees increased by 0.1 hour to 41.7 hours. Average weekly overtime hours for all employees decreased by 0.1 hour to 3.4 hours. Overtime hours for production workers decreased by 0.2 hour to 4.2 hours in March.

Employment in durable goods Over-the-month change, March 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

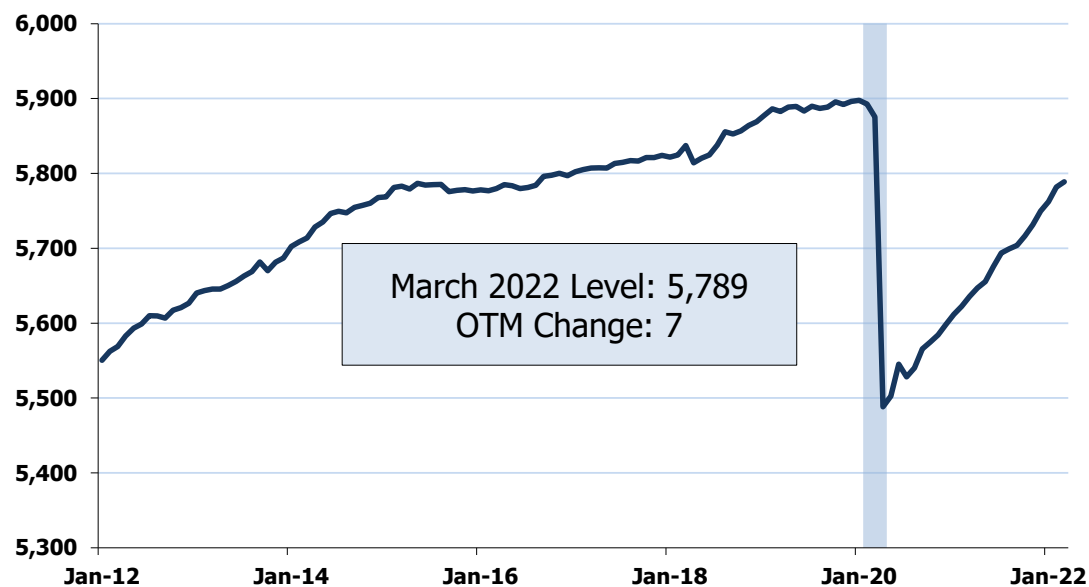


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 01, 2022.
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* denotes significance

Wholesale Trade

Employment in wholesale trade January 2012–March 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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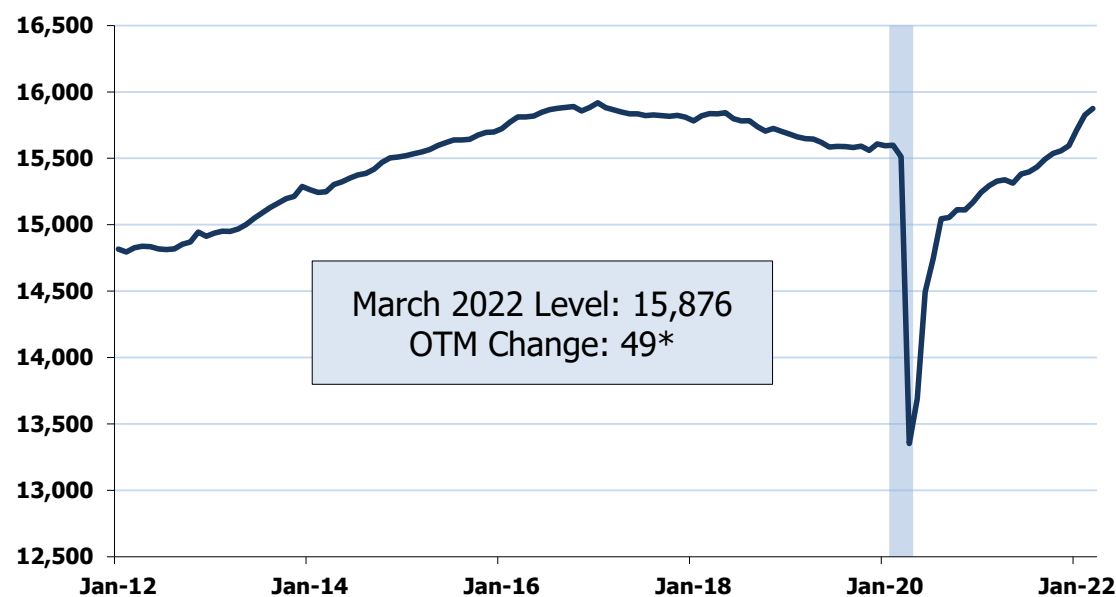
Employment in wholesale trade changed little in March (+7,000), compared to an average monthly gain of 13,000 over the prior 12 months.

Employment in wholesale trade is 104,000 lower than its February 2020 level.

Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade January 2012–March 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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Retail trade employment grew by 49,000 in March, in line with recent trend. Industry employment is 278,000 higher than in February 2020.

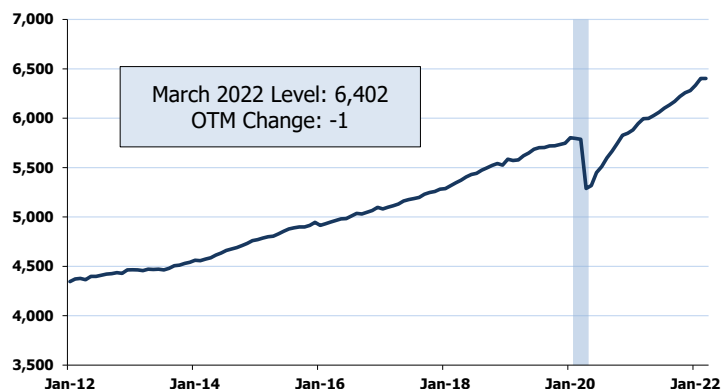
In March, significant job gains occurred in general merchandise stores (+20,000) and in food and beverage stores (+18,000).

Economic indicators for retail trade are mixed. [Retail Sales](#) were unchanged in February and the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) increased in March, while [Auto Sales](#) decreased in February.

Transportation and Warehousing

Employment in transportation and warehousing January 2012–March 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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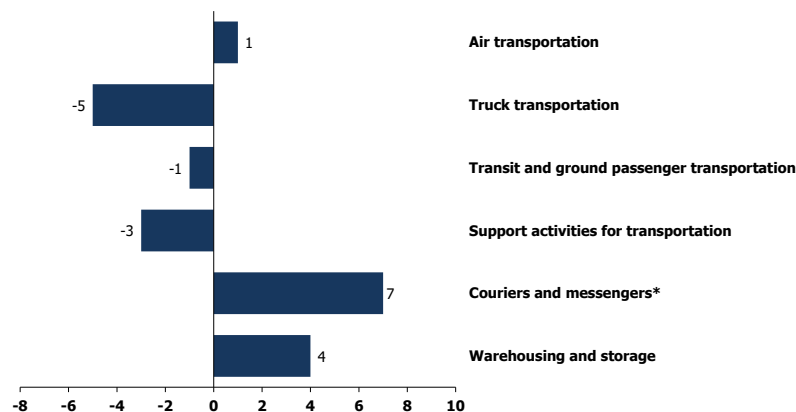
Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in March (-1,000). Industry employment is 608,000 above its February 2020 level.

In March, couriers and messengers added 7,000 jobs.

Employment in selected transportation industries

Over-the-month change, March 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



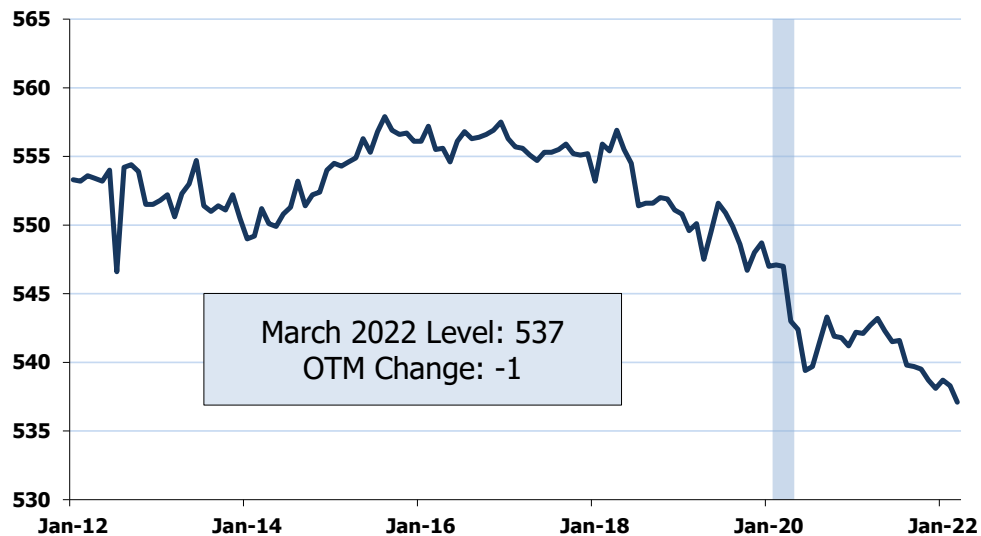
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 01, 2022.
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Utilities

Employment in utilities changed little in March and is 10,000 below its February 2020 level.

Employment in utilities January 2012–March 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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Information

Employment in information January 2012–March 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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Employment in information edged up in March (+16,000). Other information services—which includes news syndicates, libraries, archives, internet publishing and broadcasting, and web search portals—added 6,000 jobs.

Over the past 12 months, employment in information has increased by 161,000, including gains in motion picture and sound recording industries (+93,000); other information services (+32,000); and publishing industries, except internet (+26,000).

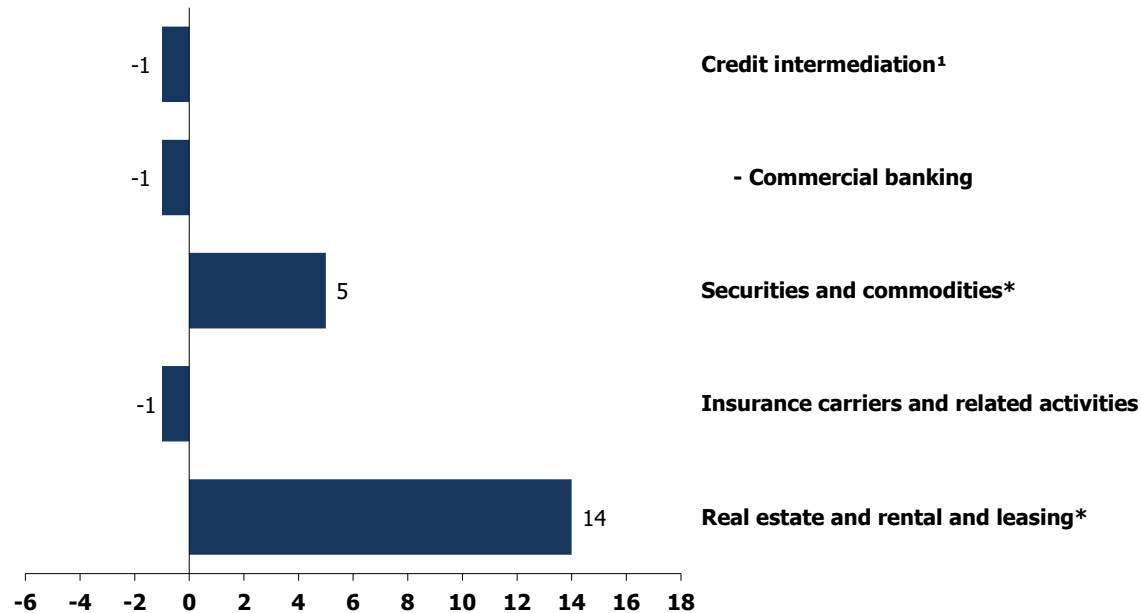
Financial Activities

Employment in selected financial activities

Over-the-month change, March 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

**Financial
activities:
16***



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 01, 2022.

Data are preliminary.

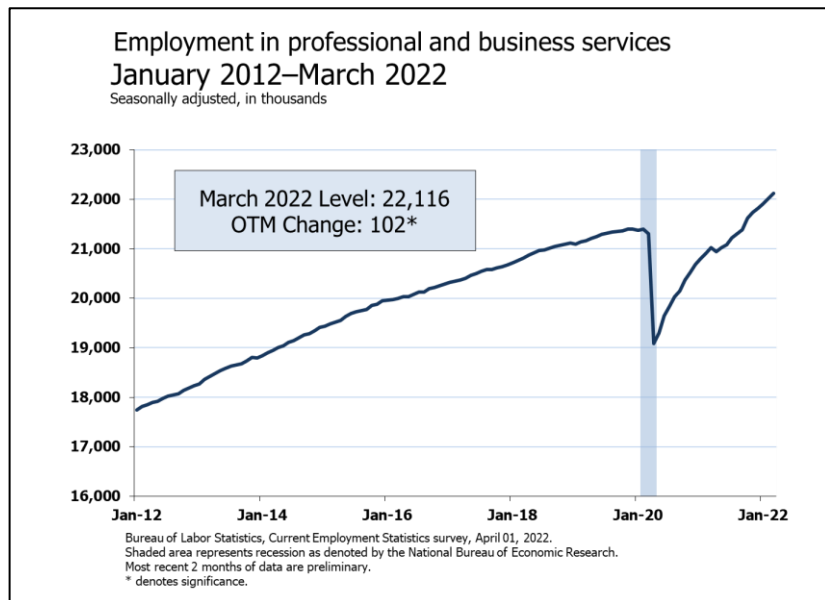
¹ Includes additional component industries not shown separately.

* denotes significance

Financial activities added 16,000 jobs in March, and employment is 41,000 above its February 2020 level.

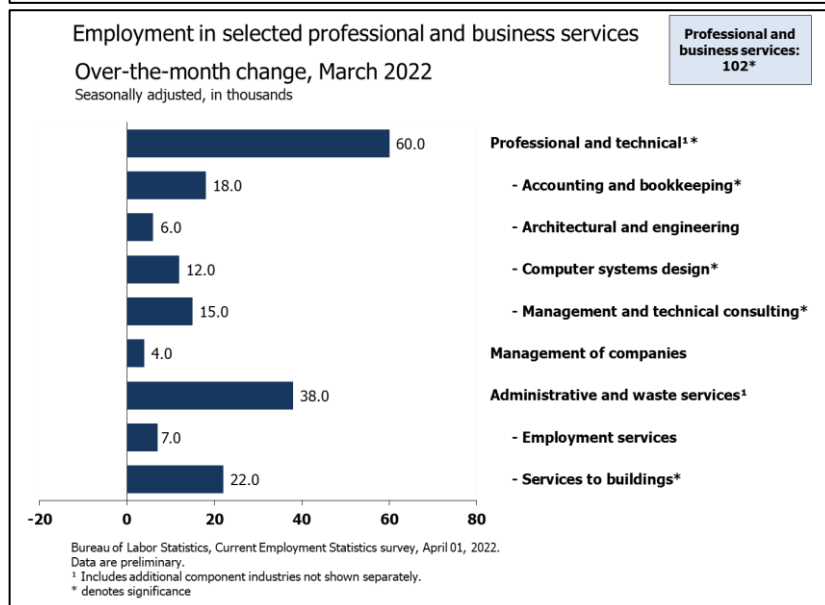
In March, job gains were concentrated in real estate and rental and leasing (+14,000) and in securities, commodity contracts, and investments (+5,000). Employment in real estate has expanded above its February 2020 level by 43,000, while employment in rental and leasing services is 55,000 below its February 2020 level.

Professional and Business Services



In March, employment in professional and business services increased by 102,000 and is 723,000 above its February 2020 level.

In March, professional and technical services added 60,000 jobs, with gains occurring in accounting and bookkeeping services (+18,000), in management and technical consulting services (+15,000), and in computer systems design and related services (+12,000). Employment in professional and technical services is 607,000 above its February 2020 level.

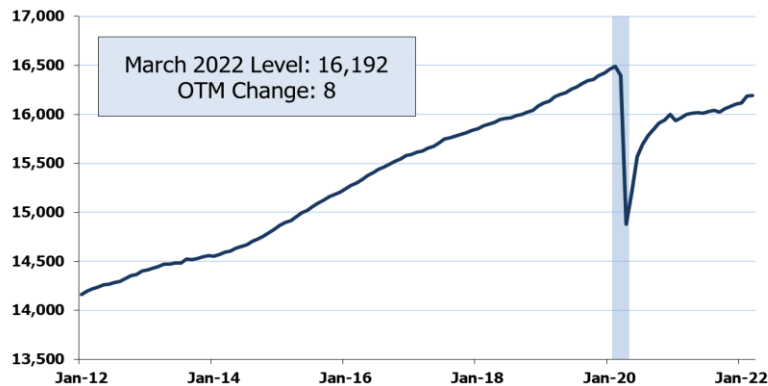


Employment in administrative and waste services trended up by 38,000 in March, with gains concentrated in services to buildings and dwellings (+22,000). Employment in temporary help services changed little (+5,000) but is 247,000 above the February 2020 level.

Private Education and Health Services

Employment in health care January 2012–March 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

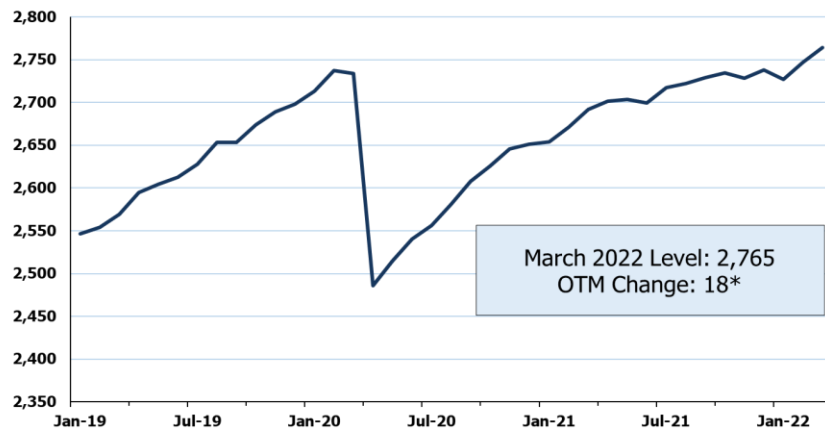


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 01, 2022.
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Employment in health care changed little in March (+8,000), following a gain of 66,000 jobs in the prior month. Employment in the industry is 298,000 below its February 2020 level.

Employment in individual and family services January 2019 - March 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



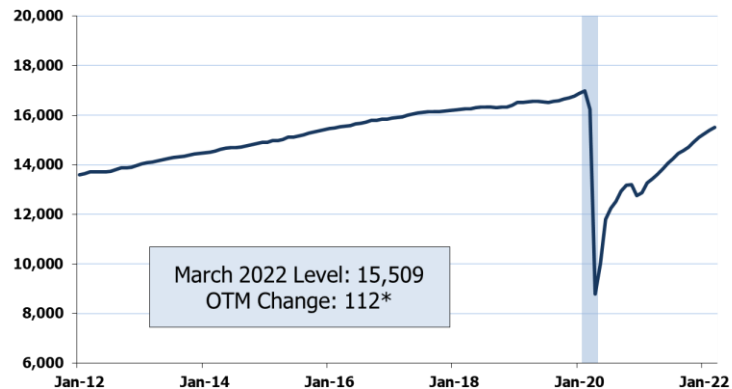
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, April 01, 2022.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.
* denotes significance.

Within social assistance, employment in individual and family services increased by 18,000 in March and is 27,000 above its February 2020 level.

Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in leisure and hospitality January 2012–March 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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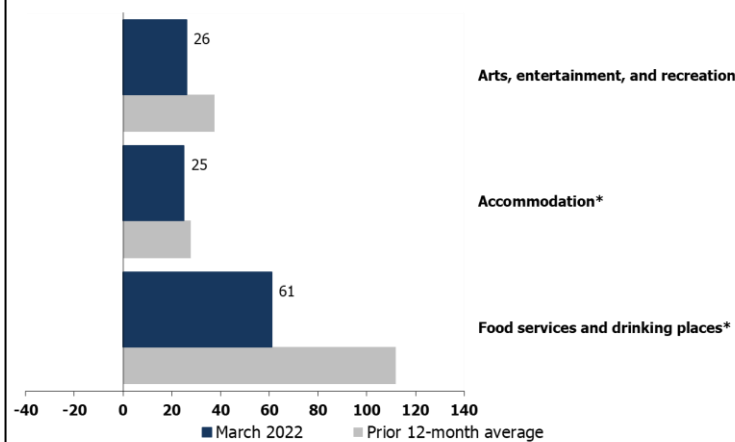
Leisure and hospitality gained 112,000 jobs in March. The industry has recovered 6.7 million of 8.2 million jobs lost in March and April 2020.

Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings for all leisure and hospitality workers have risen by 11.8 percent, while earnings for all private sector workers have increased by 5.6 percent.

Employment in leisure and hospitality

Over-the-month change, March 2022
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Leisure and
hospitality:
112*



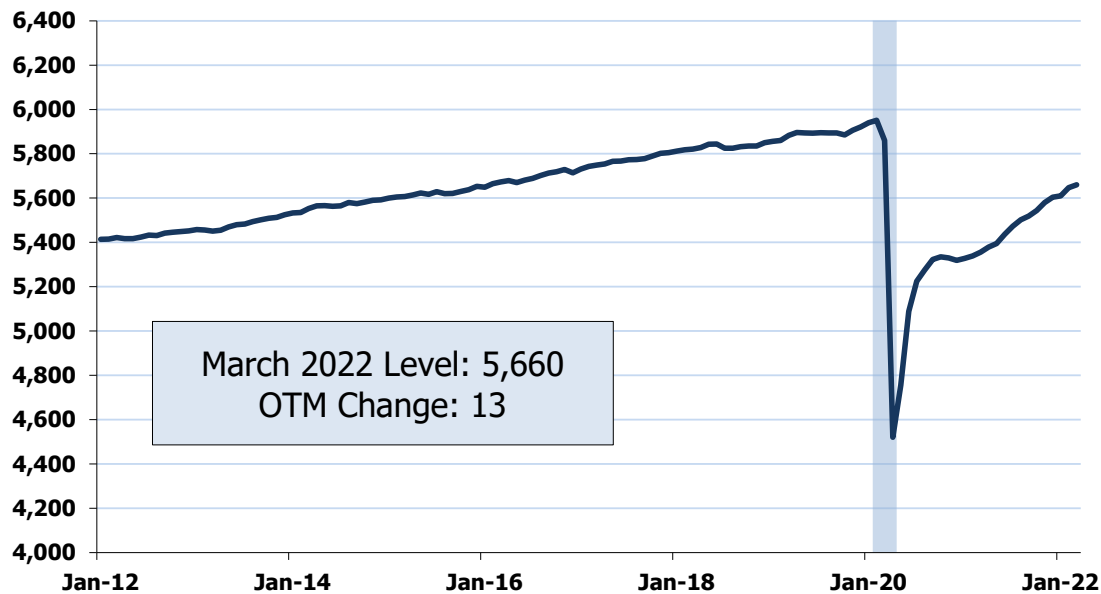
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 01, 2022.
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In March, job gains occurred in food services and drinking places (+61,000) and in accommodation (+25,000). Employment continued to trend up in arts, entertainment, and recreation (+26,000).

Other Services

Employment in other services January 2012–March 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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Employment in other services continued to trend up in March (+13,000). The industry has regained 1.1 million of 1.4 million jobs lost in March and April 2020.

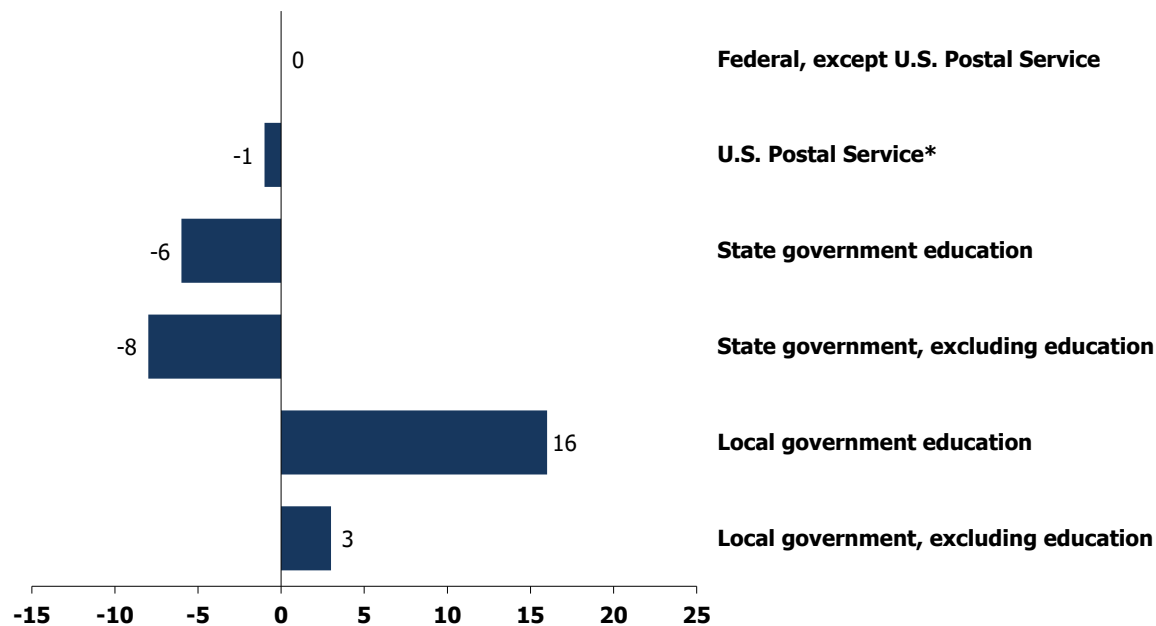
Government

Employment in selected government

Over-the-month change, March 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Government:
5



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 01, 2022.

Data are preliminary.

* denotes significance

Government employment changed little in March (+5,000) and is 710,000 lower than in February 2020.

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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