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# Current Employment Statistics Highlights



**May 2022**

Release Date: June 3, 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 Summary, May 2022

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 390,000 in May, with job gains in leisure and hospitality, in professional and business services, and in transportation and warehousing. Employment in retail trade declined. Total nonfarm employment is 822,000, or 0.5 percent, below its February 2020 peak.<sup>1</sup>

The seasonally adjusted employment change for March revised down from +428,000 to +398,000, and the change for April revised up from +428,000 to +436,000. Employment over these months is 22,000 lower than previously reported.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls rose by 10 cents, or 0.3 percent, in May. Over the year, hourly earnings have increased by 5.2 percent. In May, average weekly hours, at 34.6 hours, were unchanged.

#### +84,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in leisure and hospitality increased over the month (+84,000) but is 1.3 million below its February 2020 level. Within the sector, food services and drinking places added 46,000 jobs in May, and accommodation added 21,000 jobs.

#### +75,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment in professional and technical services increased by 48,000 over the month and is 698,000 above its February 2020 level. Over the month, job growth occurred in accounting and bookkeeping services

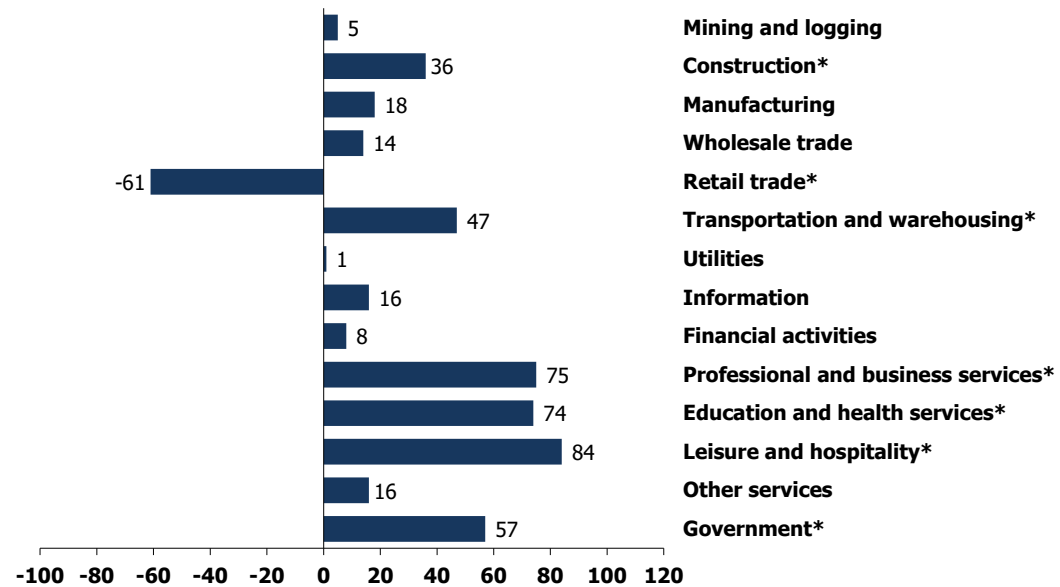
(+16,000), computer systems design and related services (+13,000), and scientific research and development services (+6,000).

## Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, May 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:  
390\*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 03, 2022. Data are preliminary.

## Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, May 2022

### +74,000 Education and Health Services

Employment in private educational services grew by 33,000 in May, essentially recovering to its February 2020 level.

Health care added 28,000 jobs in May, but employment is 223,000 below its February 2020 level. Hospitals accounted for most of the job growth in May (+16,000).

### +57,000 Government

State government education added 36,000 jobs in May, and employment is 27,000 above its February 2020 level. Federal, except U.S. Postal Service added 9,000 jobs in May.

### +47,000 Transportation and Warehousing

Transportation and warehousing added 47,000 jobs in May, with gains in warehousing and storage (+18,000), truck transportation (+13,000), and air transportation (+6,000). Employment in transportation and warehousing is 709,000 above its February 2020 level.

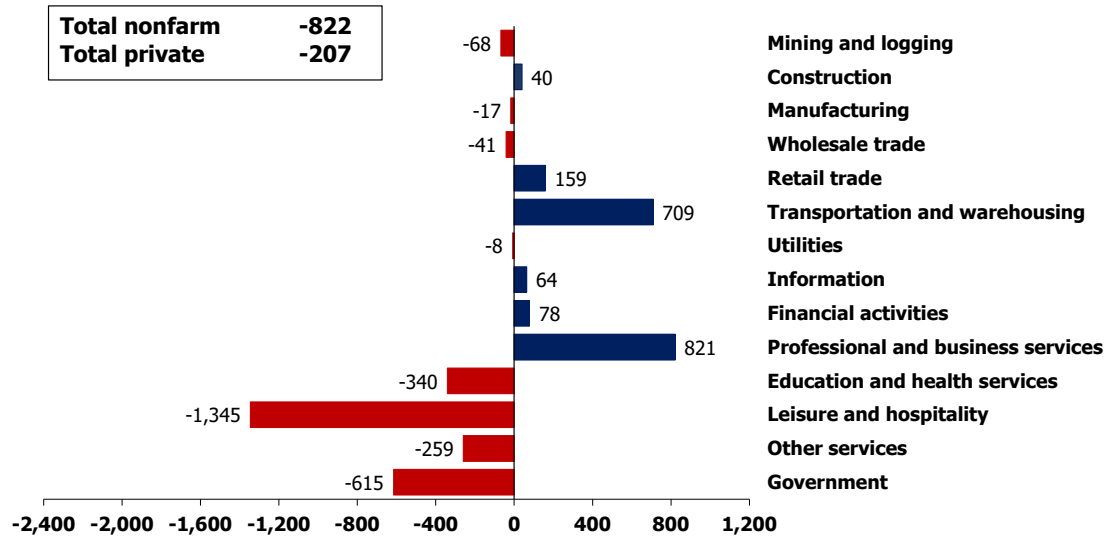
### +36,000 Construction

Employment in construction grew by 36,000 in May and has expanded by 40,000 above its February 2020 level. Specialty trade contractors added 17,000 jobs in May, and

## Employment in total nonfarm

Change since February 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, June 03, 2022. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

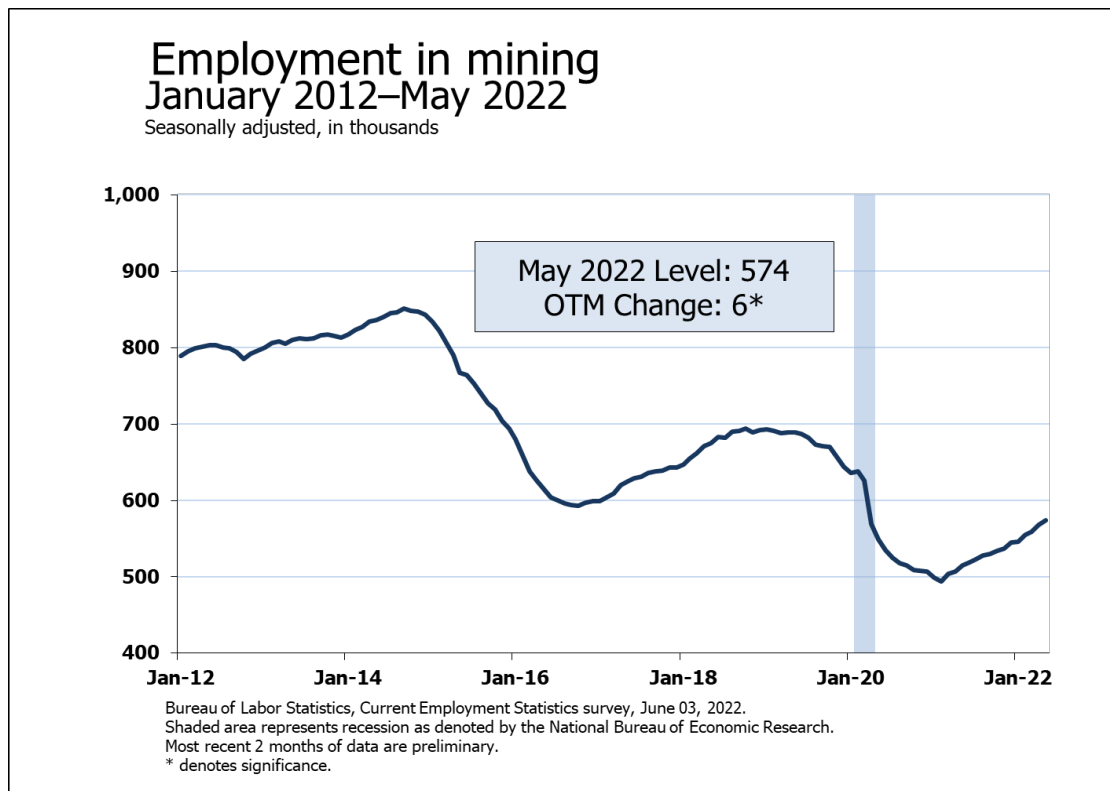
heavy and civil engineering construction added 11,000 jobs.

lost jobs over the month. Despite the decline in May, retail trade employment is 159,000 above its February 2020 level.

### -61,000 Retail Trade

Retail trade lost 61,000 jobs in May, led by general merchandise stores (-33,000). Building material and garden supply stores (-7,000) and health and personal care stores (-5,000) also

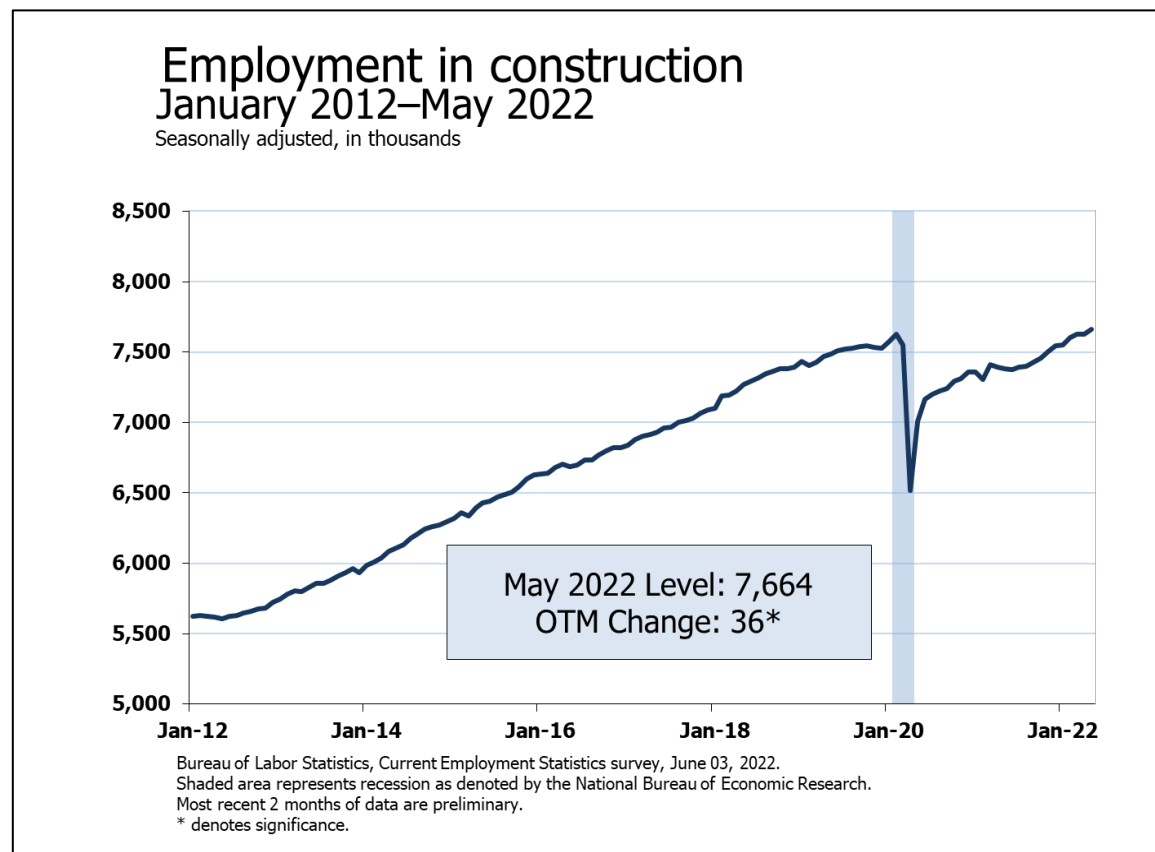
## Mining and Logging



Employment in mining increased by 6,000 in May and has grown by 80,000 since an employment trough in February 2021.

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

## Construction



Employment in construction increased by 36,000 in May and has expanded by 40,000 above its February 2020 peak.<sup>1</sup> Job gains in May were concentrated in specialty trade contractors (+17,000) and in heavy and civil engineering construction (+11,000).

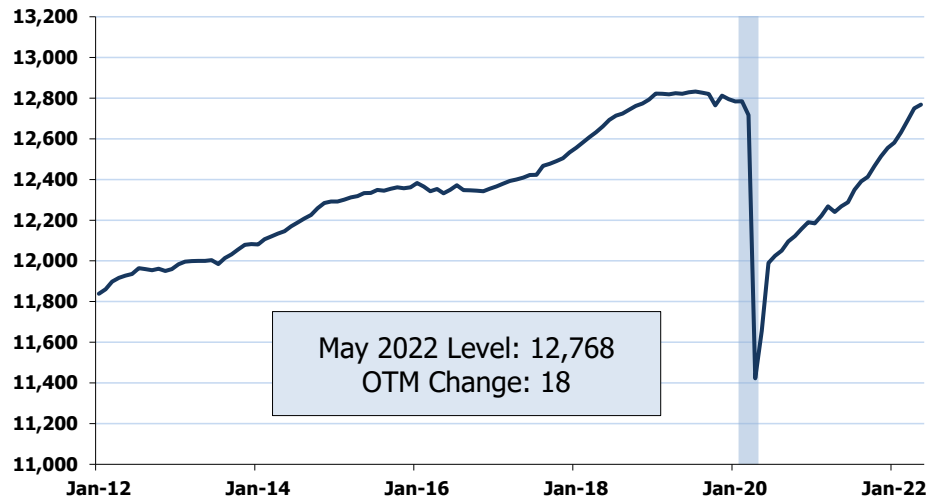
Employment in residential specialty trade contractors and in residential building continued to expand above February 2020 levels by 119,000 and 64,000, respectively. In contrast, employment is lower by 84,000 in nonresidential specialty trade contractors and by 43,000 in nonresidential building over the same period. These trends are in line with sharp increases in [residential construction spending](#) since February 2020 and recent declines in [nonresidential spending](#).

Employment in heavy and civil engineering construction is 16,000 below its February 2020 level.

## Manufacturing

### Employment in manufacturing January 2012–May 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 03, 2022.  
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 manufacturing continued to trend up in May (+18,000). Employment is 17,000 below its February 2020 level.

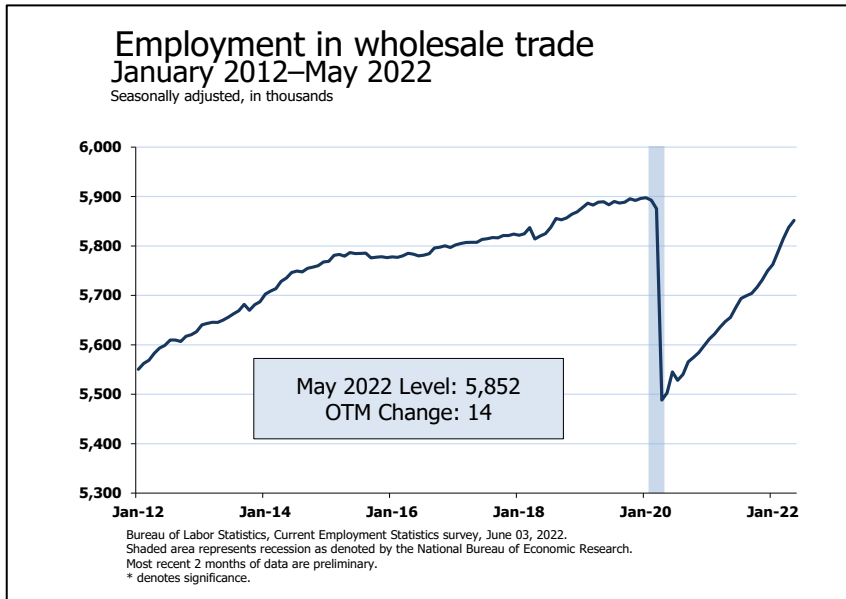
The manufacturing 1-month diffusion index fell 5.4 points to 66.2 in May. Despite the decline, a number above 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries added jobs than lost jobs.

Weakness in the diffusion index coincides with slowed growth in the [ISM Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index \(PMI\)](#) and [S&P Global US Manufacturing PMI](#).

In May, average hourly earnings for all employees in manufacturing, at \$30.78, changed little (+2 cents). Average hourly earnings of production workers increased by 11 cents to \$24.94.

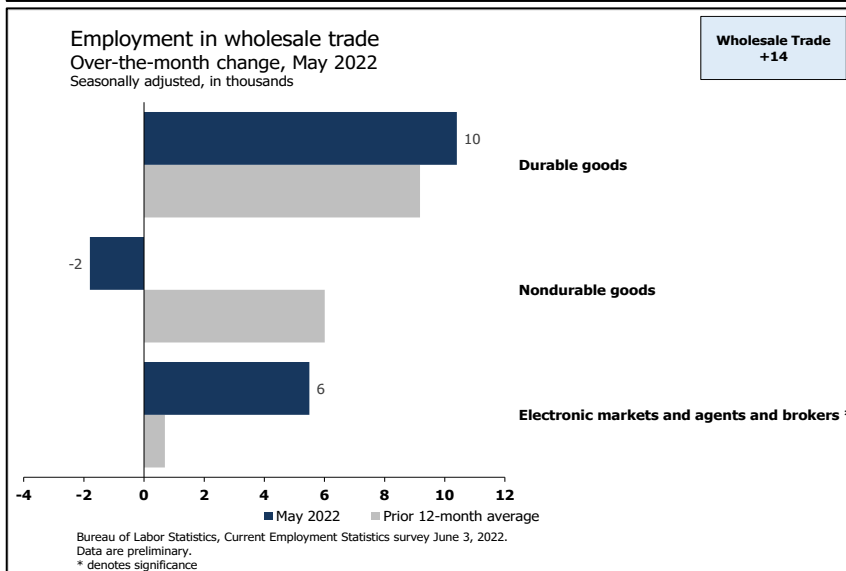
Average weekly hours of all employees in manufacturing, at 40.4 hours in May, changed little (-0.1 hour). Production employees' average workweek was unchanged at 41.3 hours. Average weekly overtime hours for all employees were down 0.1 hour to 3.2 hours. Overtime hours for production workers were unchanged at 4.1 hours in May.

## Wholesale Trade

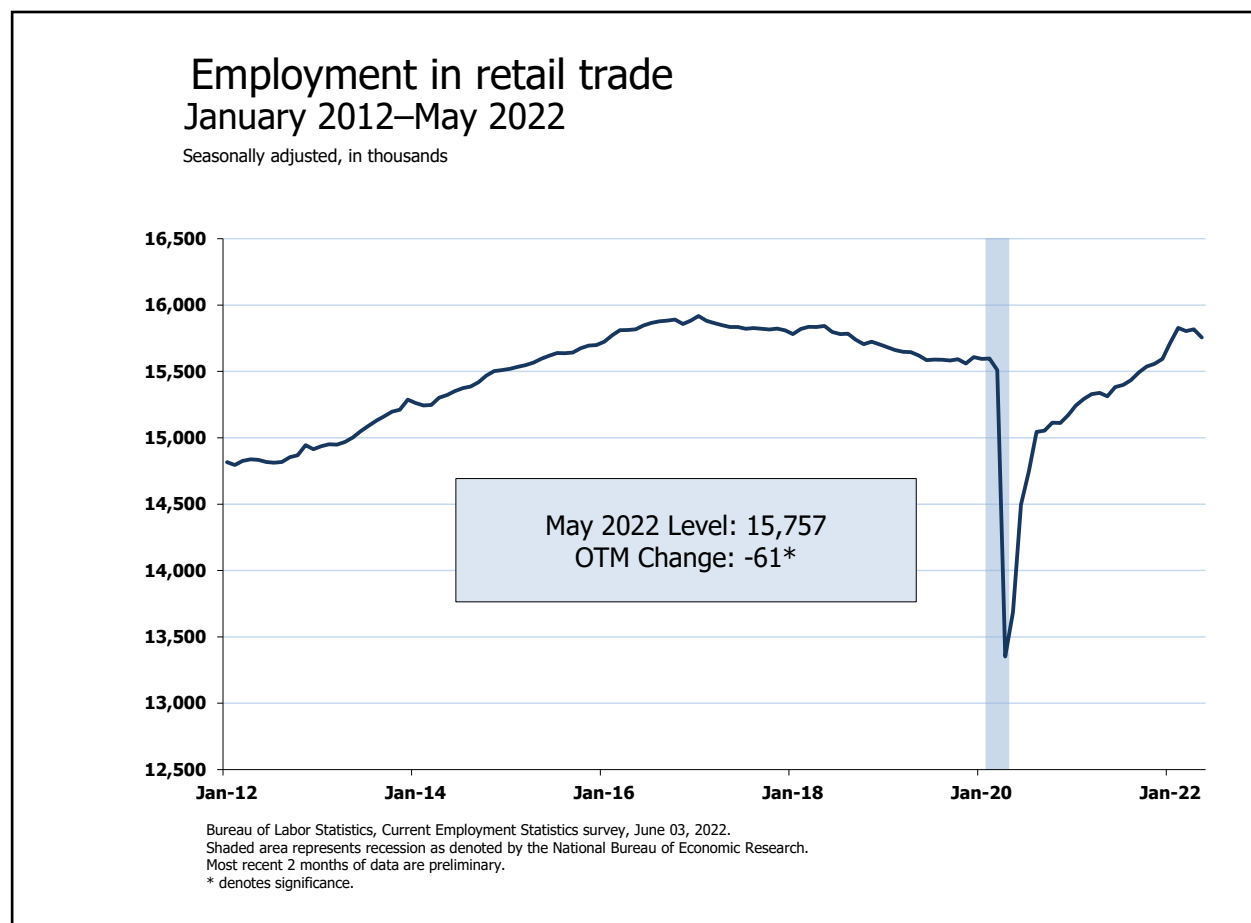


Employment in wholesale trade increased by 14,000 in May but is 41,000 lower than in February 2020.

Job growth in May was concentrated in durable goods (+10,000) and in electronic markets and agents and brokers (+6,000).



## Retail Trade



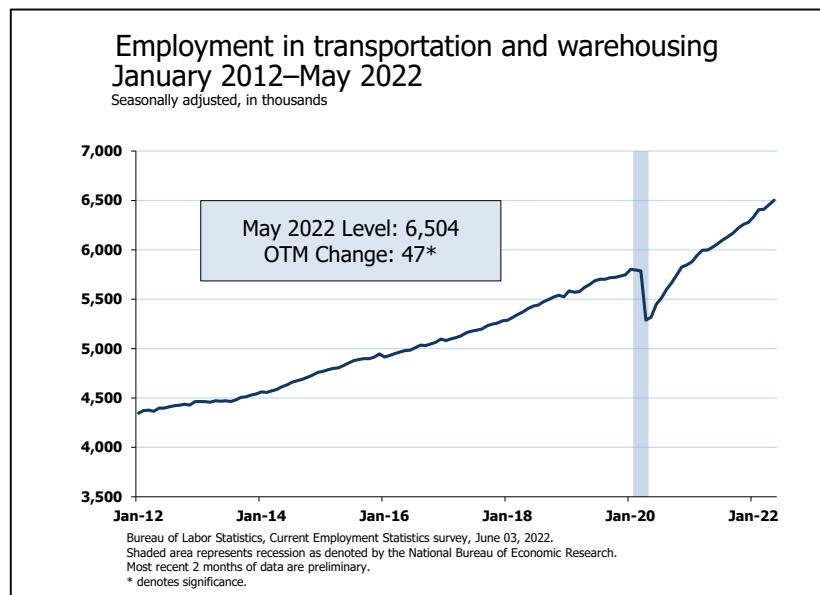
Employment in retail trade declined by 61,000 in May. Since February 2020, industry employment is up by 159,000.

In May, job losses were widespread, led by general merchandise stores (-33,000), clothing and clothing accessories stores (-9,000), food stores (-8,000), building material and garden supply stores (-7,000), and health and personal care stores (-5,000).

Retail-related economic indicators are mixed. [Retail Sales](#) and [Auto Sales](#) both increased in April. But in May, the per gallon price of [regular gasoline](#) increased and the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) decreased.

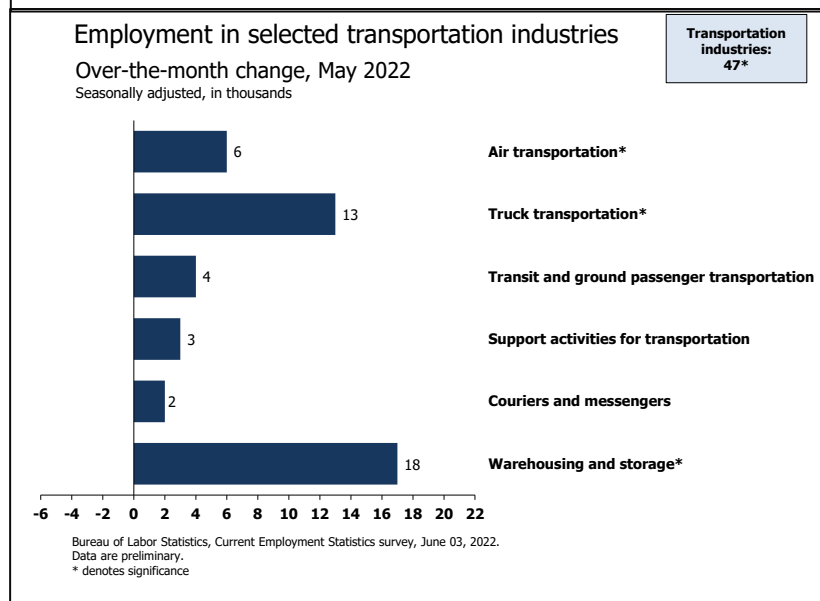


## Transportation and Warehousing



Employment in transportation and warehousing grew by 47,000 in May and is 709,000 above its February 2020 level.

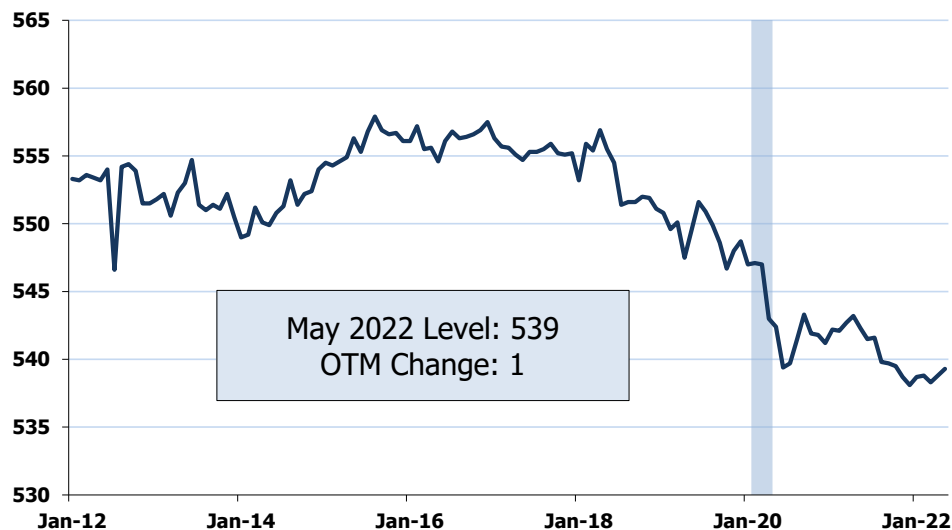
In May, employment gains were concentrated in warehousing and storage (+18,000), truck transportation (+13,000), and air transportation (+6,000).



## Utilities

### Employment in utilities January 2012–May 2022

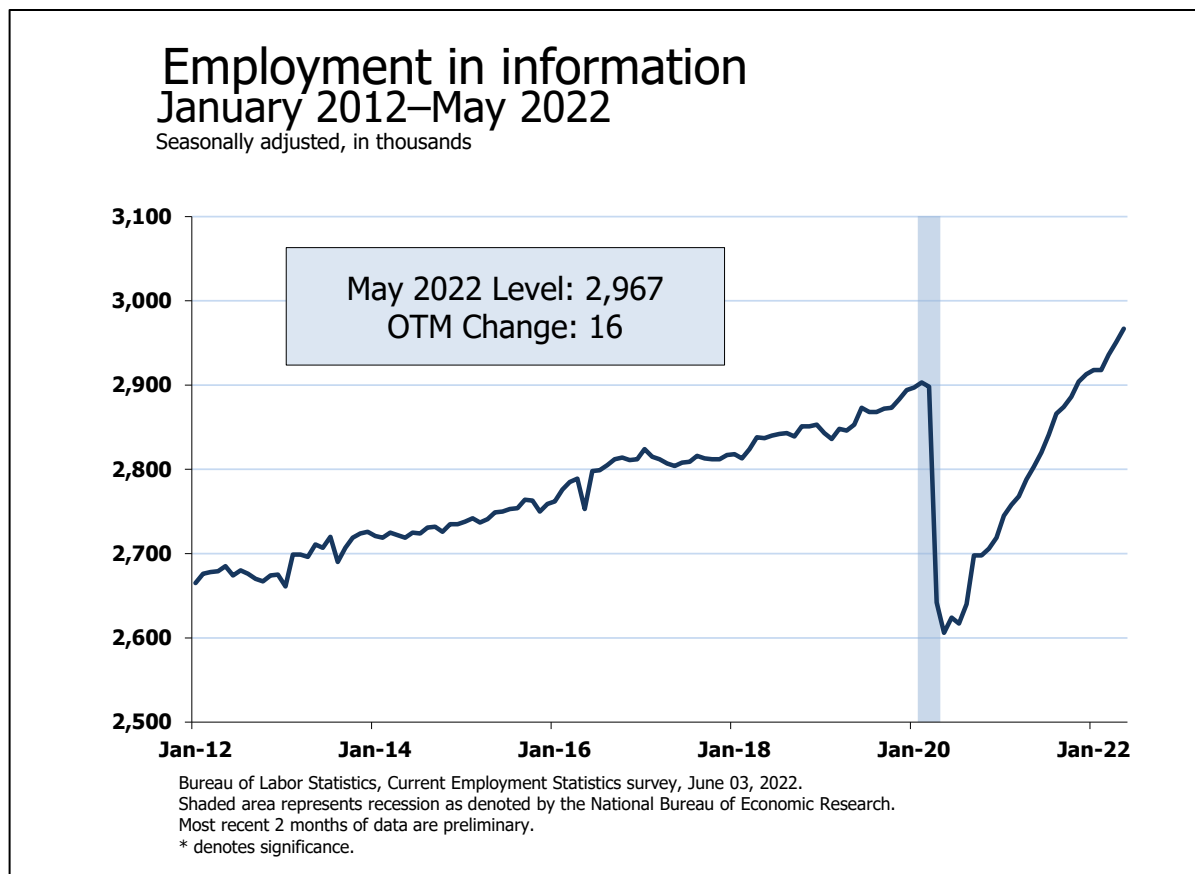
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 03, 2022.  
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Employment in utilities was essentially unchanged in May. Since February 2020, employment is down by 8,000.

### Information



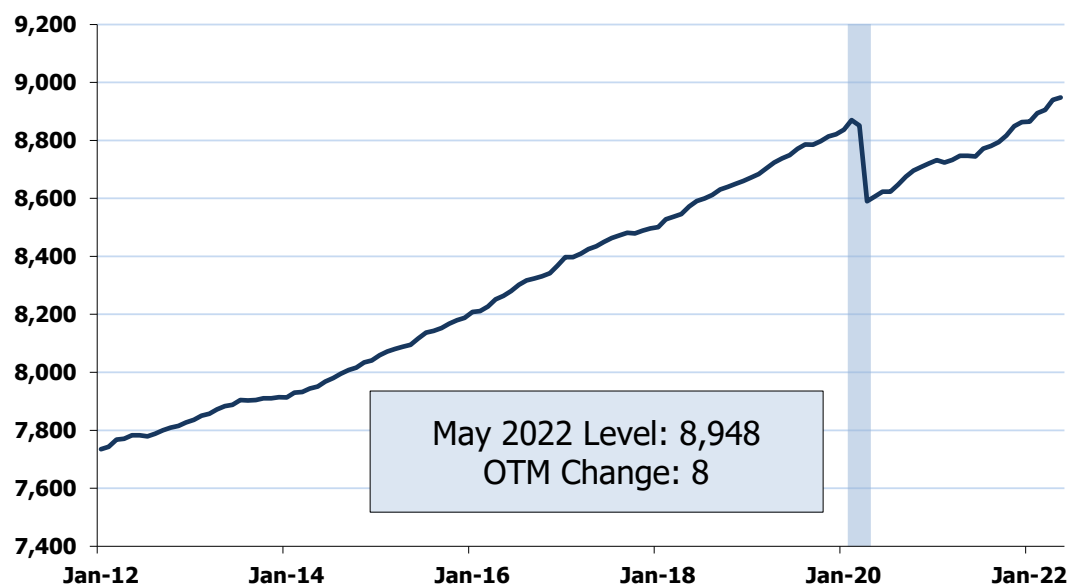
Employment in information changed little in May (+16,000) and is 64,000 above its February 2020 level.

Over the past 12 months, employment in information has increased by 164,000, including gains in motion picture and sound recording industries (+77,000), other information services (+31,000), and publishing industries, except internet (+28,000).

## Financial Activities

### Employment in financial activities January 2012–May 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

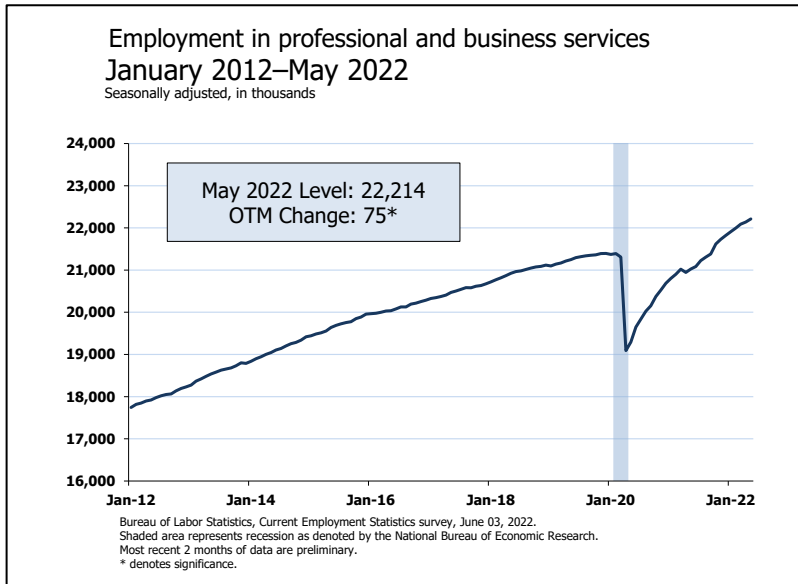


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 03, 2022.  
 Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.  
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Employment in financial activities changed little in May (+8,000) and is 78,000 above its February 2020 level.

Real estate and rental and leasing services added 14,000 jobs in May. This gain was partially offset by a decline of 4,000 jobs in commercial banking.

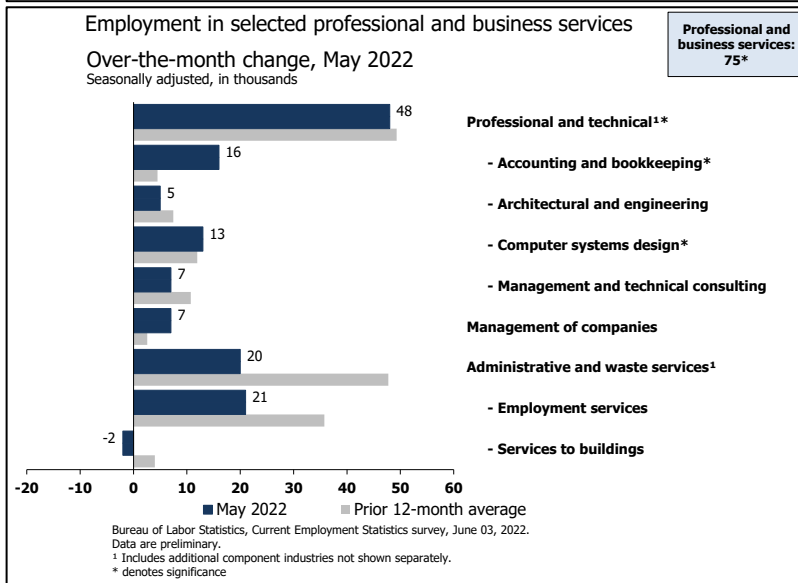
## Professional and Business Services



In May, professional and business services added 75,000 jobs, and employment is 821,000 above its February 2020 level.

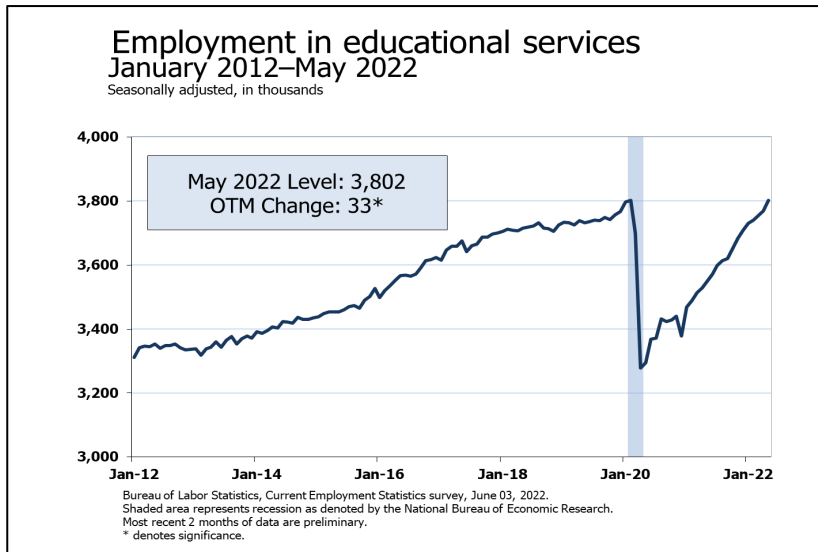
In May, employment growth was concentrated in professional and technical services (+48,000), with gains occurring in accounting and bookkeeping services (+16,000), computer systems design and related services (+13,000), and management and technical consulting (+7,000).

Employment in administrative and waste services changed little in May (+20,000).

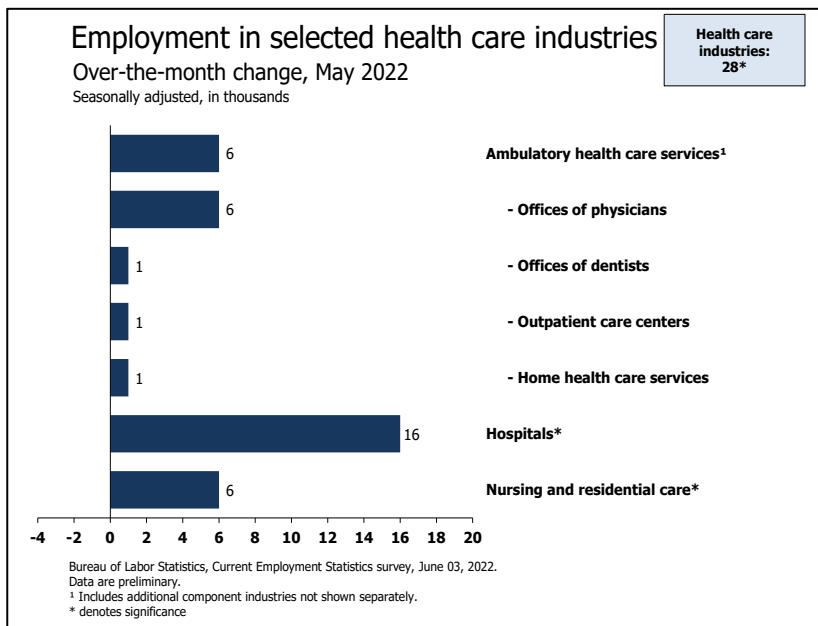


## Private Education and Health Services

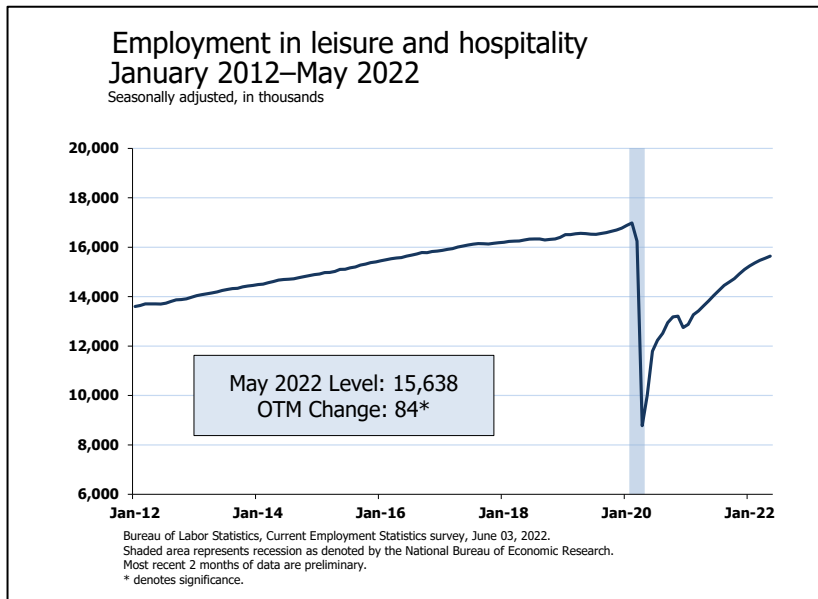
Employment in private education increased by 33,000 in May and has essentially recovered to its February 2020 level.



Employment in health care increased by 28,000, with hospitals accounting for 16,000 of the gain. Employment in health care is 223,000 below its February 2020 level.



## Leisure and Hospitality

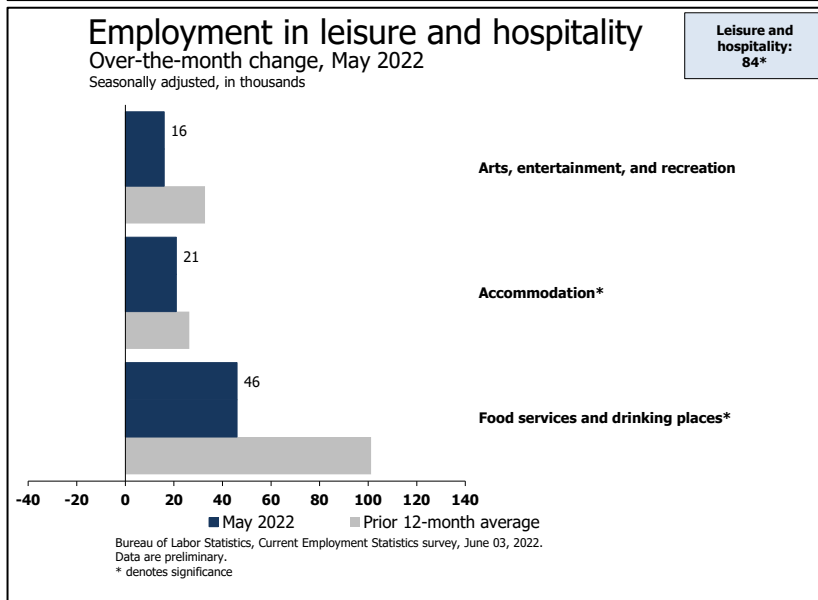


Leisure and hospitality added 84,000 jobs in May. The industry has regained 6.9 million jobs since April 2020. Despite these gains, employment is 1.3 million lower than in February 2020.

In May, average hourly earnings for all employees in leisure and hospitality rose 10 cents to \$19.86 and are up 10.3 percent over the year. Average hourly earnings for nonsupervisory leisure and hospitality workers rose 15 cents over the month to \$17.73 and are up 11.8 percent over the year.

Food services and drinking places added 46,000 jobs in May, but employment is 751,000 below the February 2020 level. Accommodation added 21,000 jobs in May, in line with the prior 12-month average (+26,000). Despite continued job growth, employment in accommodation is 383,000 lower than in February 2020.

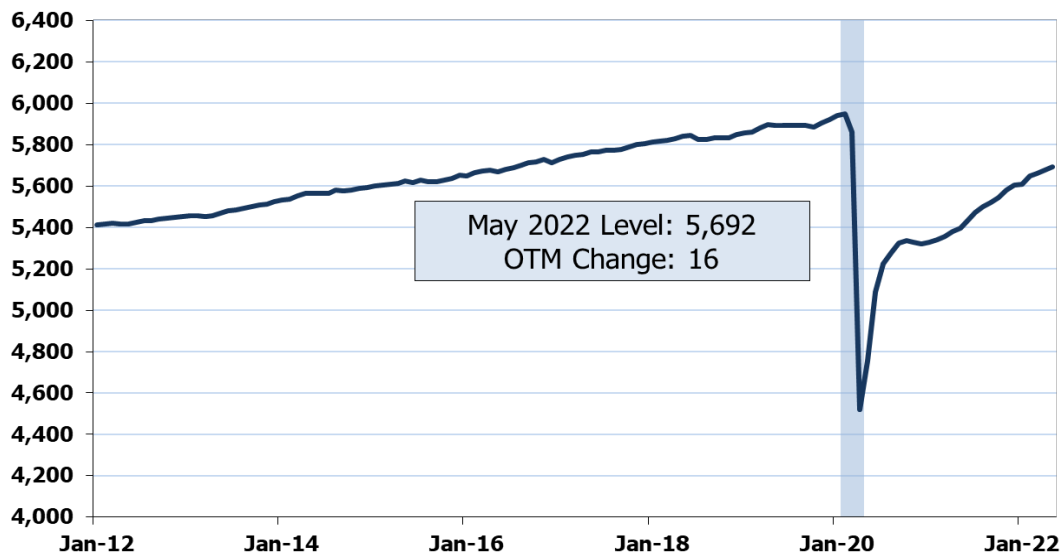
Related economic indicators are mixed. [Consumer confidence](#) fell in May, and restaurant [sales](#) continued to grow in April.



## Other Services

### Employment in other services January 2012–May 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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Employment in other services changed little in May (+16,000) and is 259,000 below the February 2020 level.



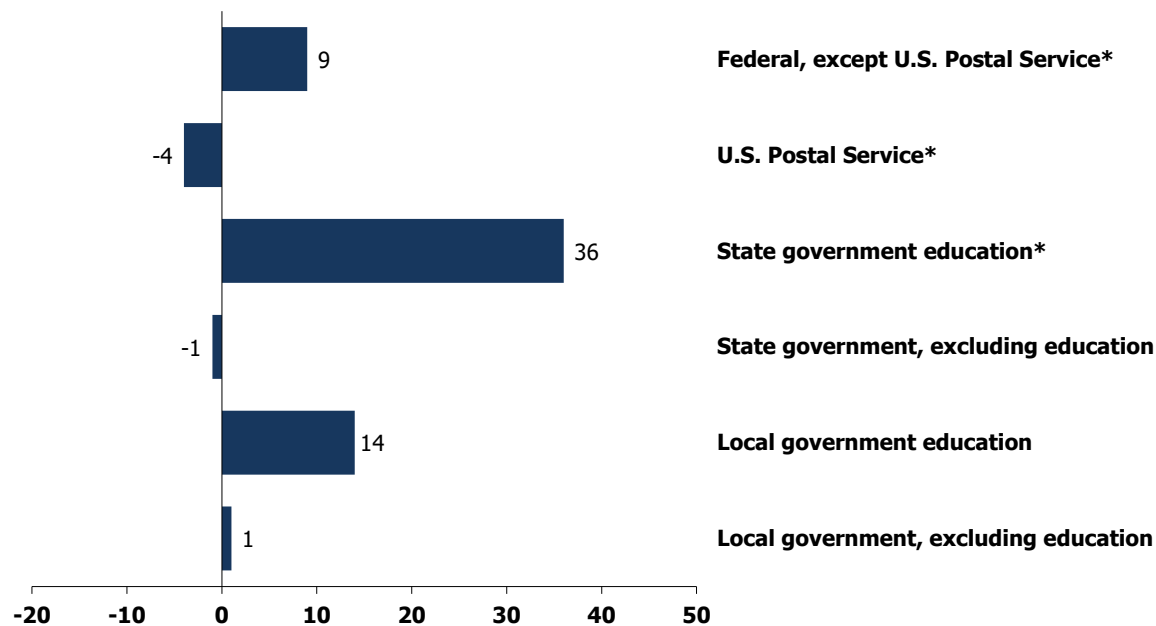
## Government

### Employment in selected government

Over-the-month change, May 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

**Government:**  
**57\***



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 03, 2022.

Data are preliminary.

\* denotes significance

Employment in government increased by 57,000 in May and is 615,000 below its February 2020 level.

In May, job gains occurred in state government education (+36,000) and in federal, except U.S. postal service (+9,000).

<sup>1</sup> 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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