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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



August 2022

Release Date: September 2, 2022

Prepared by Analysts of the National Estimates Branch
Current Employment Statistics Survey
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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Current Employment Statistics Summary, August 2022

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 315,000 in August. As the labor market continued to recover, employment increased by 5.8 million over the year and is 240,000 above its February 2020 level. Over the month, employment rose in professional and business services, health care, and retail trade.

The employment change for June revised down from +398,000 to +293,000, and the change for July revised down from +528,000 to +526,000. On net, employment over these months is 107,000 lower than previously reported.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 10 cents, or 0.3 percent, in August. Over the year, hourly earnings have increased by 5.2 percent. Average weekly hours fell 0.1 hour to 34.5 hours in August.

+68,000 Professional and Business Services

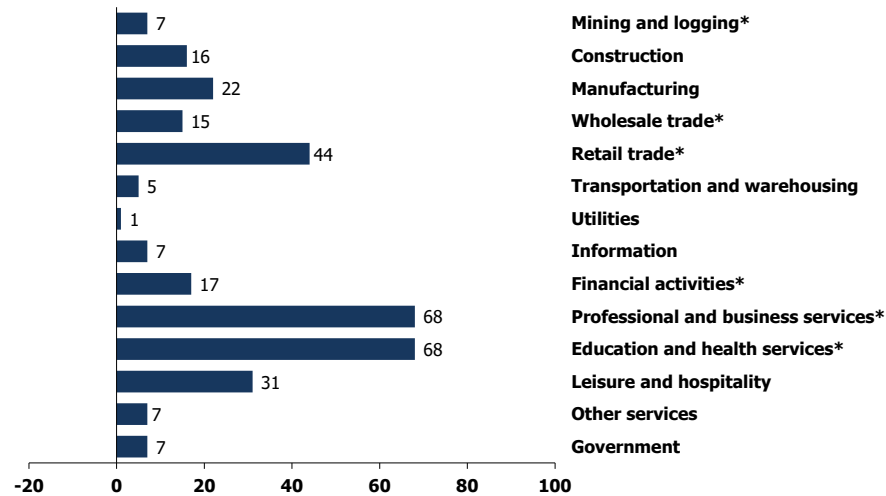
In August, employment rose in professional and business services (+68,000). Job growth was concentrated in computer systems design and related services (+14,000), management and technical consulting services (+13,000), architectural and engineering services (+10,000), and scientific research and

Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, August 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:
315*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 02, 2022.
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

development services (+6,000). Legal services employment fell by 9,000 over the month. Professional and business services has added 1.1 million jobs over the past 12 months.

+68,000 Education and Health Services

Health care added 48,000 jobs in August. Within the industry, employment increased in offices of physicians (+15,000), hospitals

(+15,000), and nursing and residential care facilities (+12,000). Employment in health care is 37,000 lower than it was in February 2020.

+44,000 Retail Trade

In August, employment rose in retail trade (+44,000). Within the industry, job growth occurred in general merchandise stores (+15,000), food and beverage stores (+15,000),

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, August 2022

health and personal care stores (+10,000) and building material and garden supply stores (+7,000). Over the year, employment in retail trade has increased by 422,000.

+31,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in food services and drinking places changed little in August (+18,000). Employment in food services and drinking places is 633,000 lower than it was in February 2020.

+22,000 Manufacturing

Employment in manufacturing continued to trend up in August (+22,000), with job growth concentrated in durable goods (+19,000). So far this year, employment in manufacturing has grown by 297,000.

+17,000 Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities grew by 17,000 in August and has risen by 200,000 over the year.

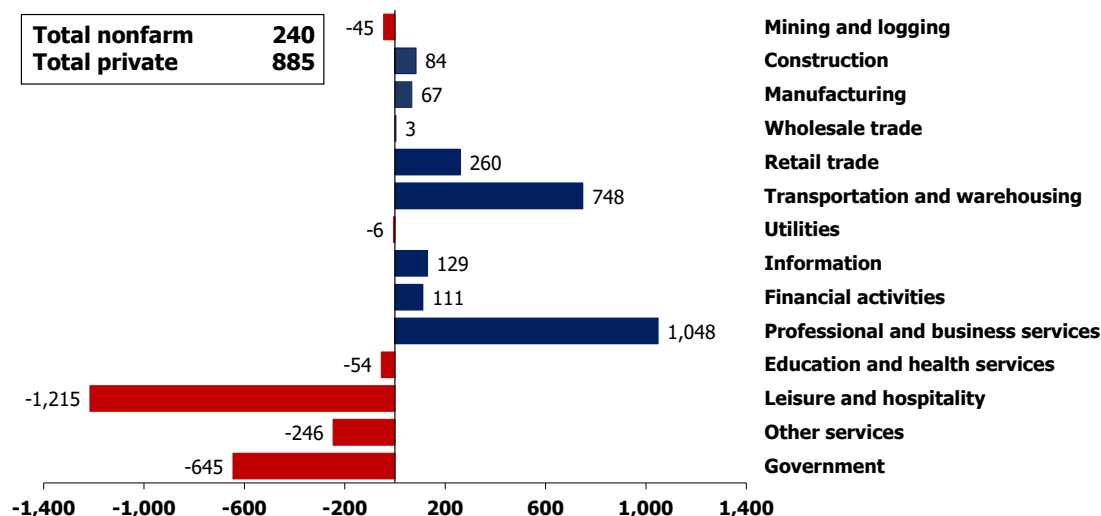
+16,000 Construction

Employment in construction changed little in August (+16,000).

Employment in total nonfarm

Change since February 2020

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, September 02, 2022.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

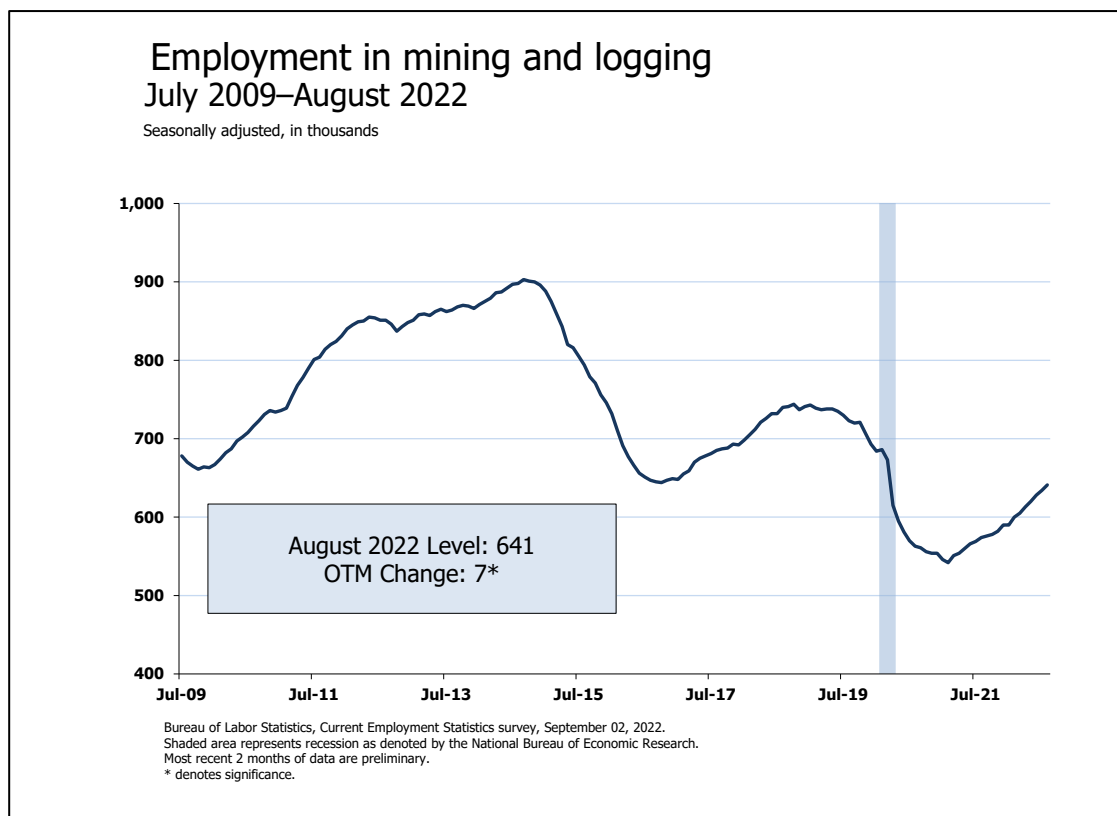
+15,000 Wholesale Trade

In August, employment rose in wholesale trade (+15,000). Over the year, employment in the industry has risen by 197,000 and has returned to its February 2020 level.

+7,000 Mining and Logging

Mining employment grew by 6,000 in August, with growth concentrated in support activities for mining (+7,000). Mining has added 101,000 jobs since reaching an employment trough in February 2021.

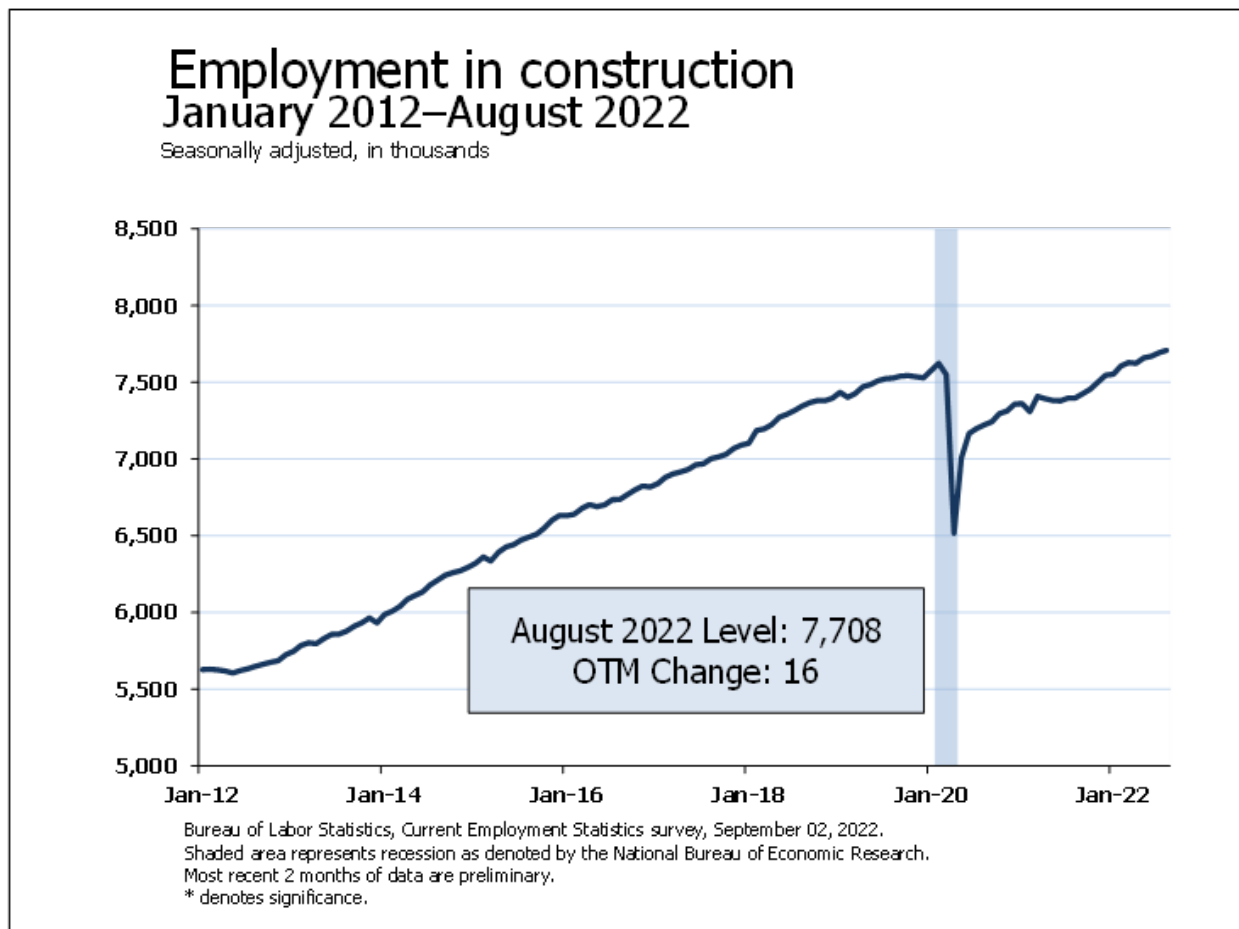
Mining and Logging



Employment in mining increased by 6,000 in August and has grown by 101,000 since an employment trough in February 2021.

Recent strength in mining employment has coincided with an increase in the count of [North American rotary rigs](#), despite a decline in the average weekly price of [West Texas Intermediate crude oil](#) in recent months.

Construction

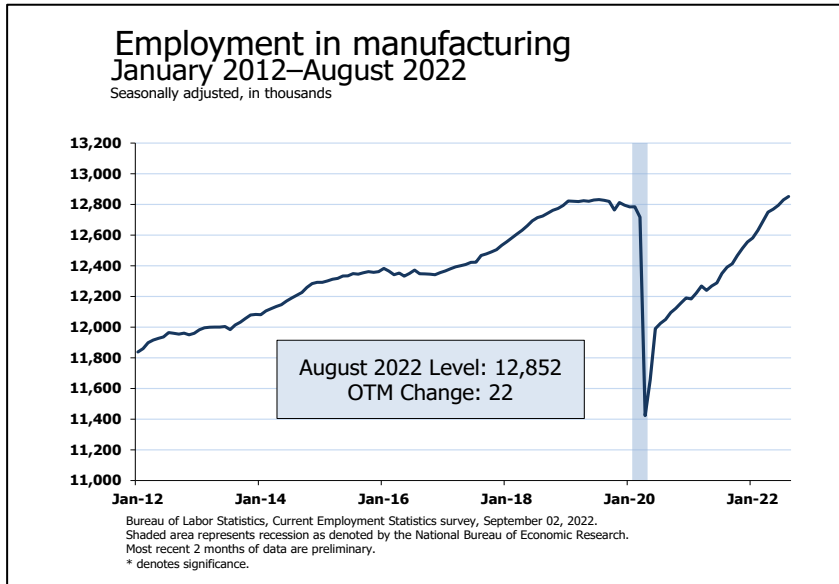


Employment in construction changed little in August (+16,000) but has expanded by 84,000 above its February 2020 peak.¹

Employment in residential specialty trade contractors has expanded by 137,000 above its February 2020 level, while employment in nonresidential specialty trade contractors is lower by 52,000 over the same period.

These trends are in line with increases in [residential construction spending](#) since February 2020 and recent declines in [nonresidential construction spending](#).

Manufacturing

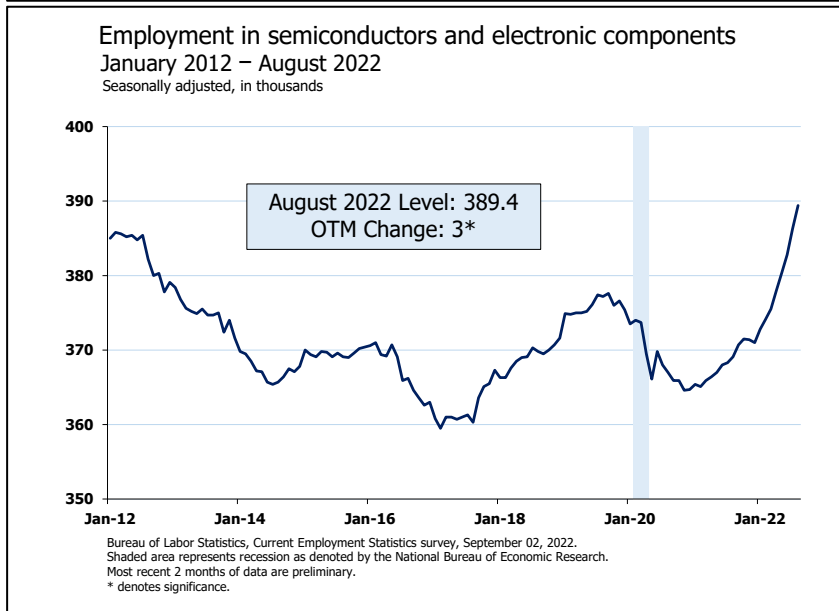


In August, manufacturing employment continued to trend up (+22,000) and has expanded by 20,000 above its most recent peak in July 2019.

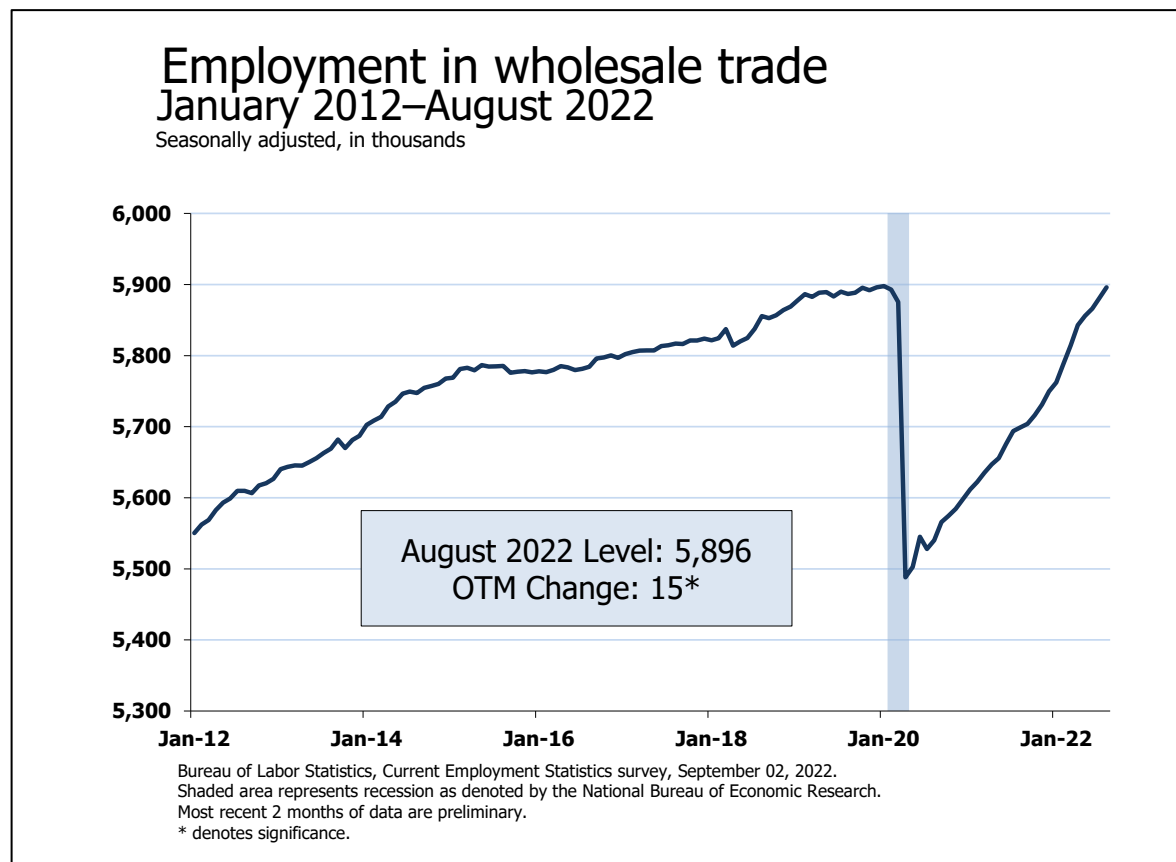
Semiconductors and electronic components added 3,000 jobs in August. Over the past 12 months, the industry has added 20,000 jobs.

The manufacturing 1-month diffusion index decreased 4.8 points to 57.4, the lowest reading since August 2021. Despite the decline, a reading above 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than are losing jobs.

In August, average weekly hours of all employees in manufacturing fell by 0.1 hour to 40.3 hours. Production employees' average workweek fell by 0.2 hour to 40.9 hours. Average weekly overtime hours for all employees were unchanged at 3.3 hours in August. Overtime hours for production workers fell by 0.1 hour to 3.9 hours and are down by 0.5 hour since a peak in February 2022.



Wholesale Trade



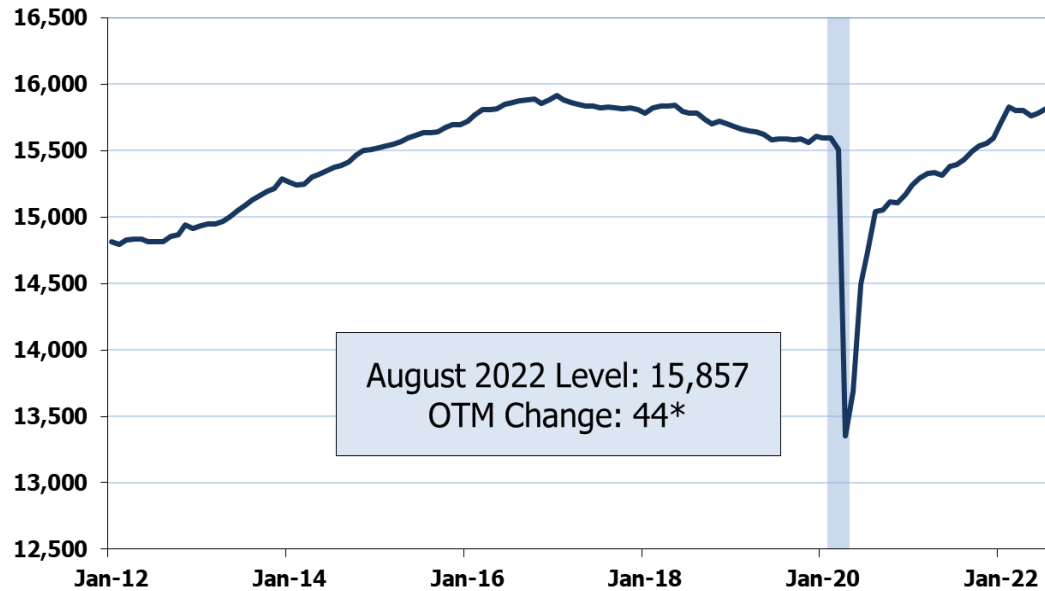
Employment in wholesale trade grew by 15,000 in August and recovered to its February 2020 level.

Employment in durable goods is 31,000 above its February 2020 level. Employment in nondurable goods is 19,000 lower, and employment in electronic markets and agents and brokers is 8,000 lower.

Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade January 2012–August 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



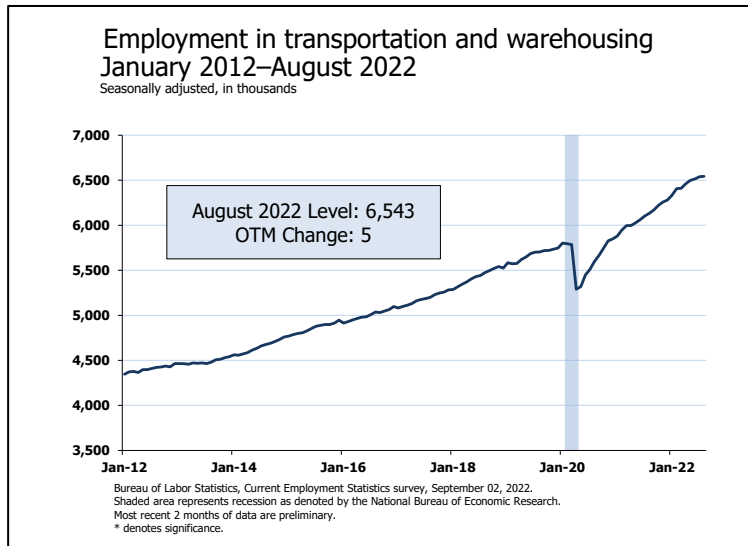
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 02, 2022.
 Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
 Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.
 * denotes significance.

Employment in retail trade continued to increase, with a gain of 44,000 in August. Since February 2020, industry employment has expanded by 260,000.

Job gains were widespread in August, led by general merchandise stores (+15,000), food and beverage stores (+15,000), health and personal care stores (+10,000), and building material and garden supply stores (+7,000).

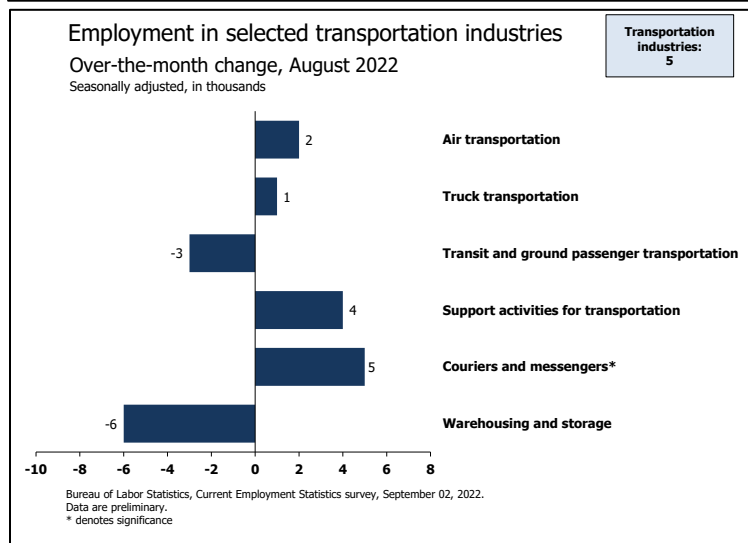
In line with employment, retail related-economic indicators are mostly positive. [Real Personal Consumption Expenditures](#) for goods and services, as well as [Auto Sales](#), increased in July. In August, the per gallon price of [regular gasoline](#) decreased, and the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) increased.

Transportation and Warehousing

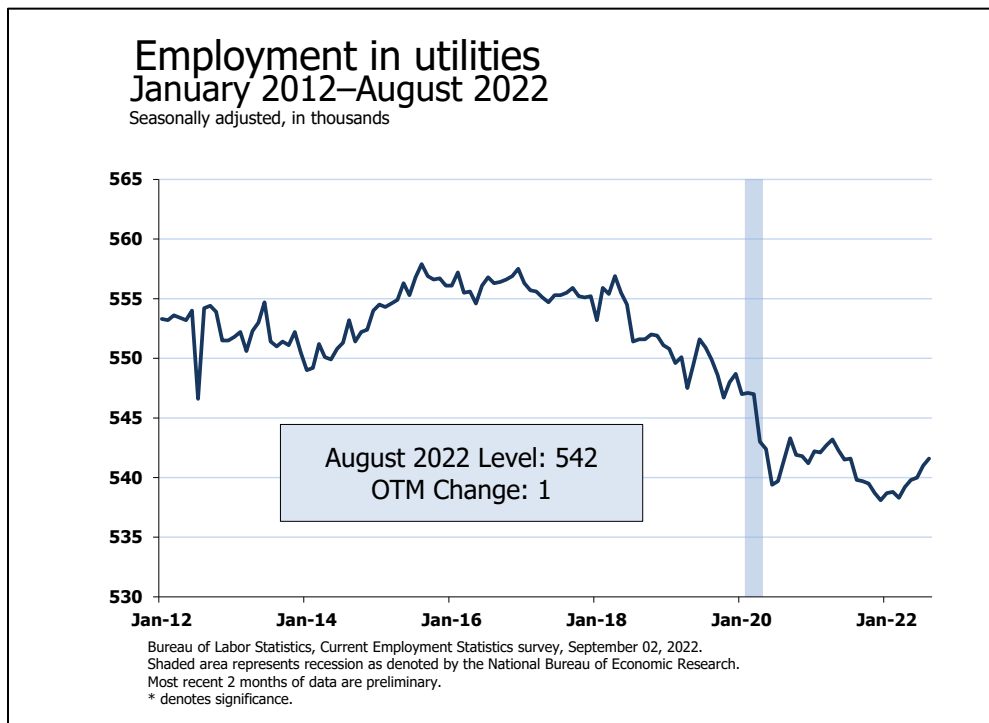


Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in August (+5,000) but is 748,000 above its February 2020 level.

In August, employment rose in couriers and messengers (+5,000) and in support activities for transportation (+4,000). Employment in warehousing and storage edged down (-6,000).



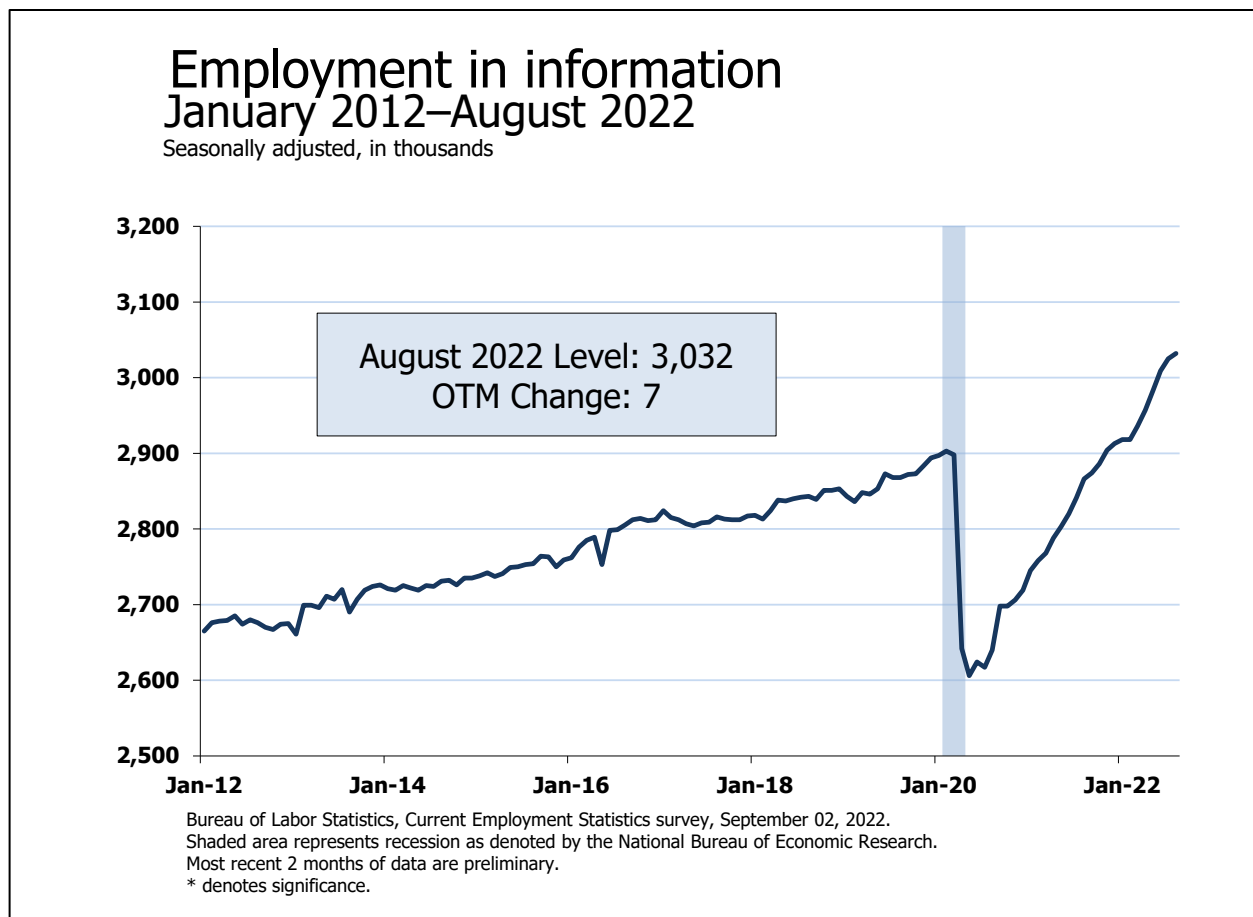
Utilities



Employment in utilities was flat in August and is 6,000 lower than in February 2020.

Information

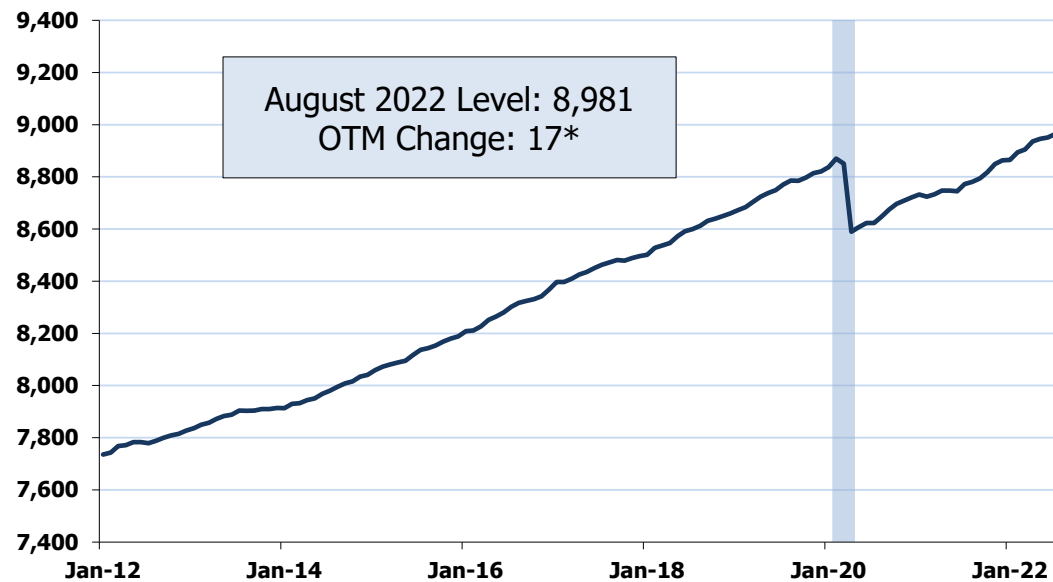
Employment in information changed little in August (+7,000) and is up by 129,000 since February 2020.



Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities January 2012–August 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 02, 2022.
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Employment in financial activities increased by 17,000 in August. Since February 2020, industry employment is up by 111,000.

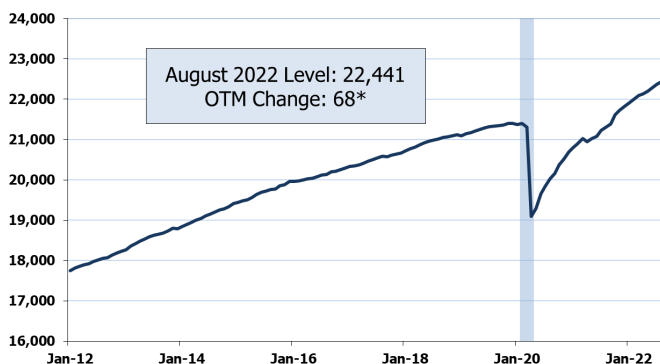
In August, depository credit intermediation added 4,000 jobs.

Professional and Business Services

Employment in professional and business services

January 2012–August 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



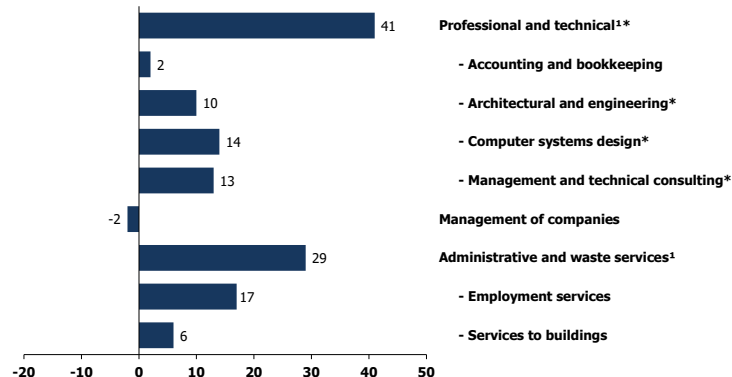
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 02, 2022.
Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
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Employment in professional and business services increased by 68,000 in August and has expanded by 1.0 million above its February 2020 level.

Employment in selected professional and business services

Over-the-month change, August 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Professional and business services: 68*

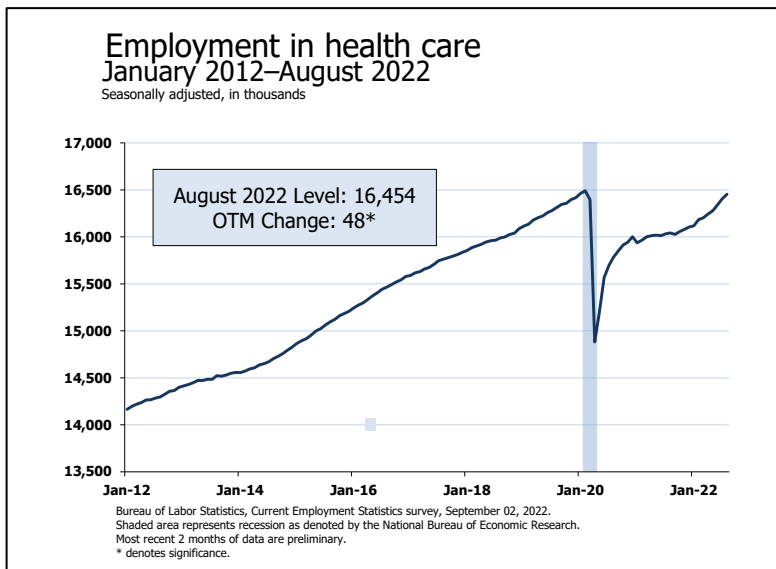
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 02, 2022.
Data are preliminary.
¹ Includes additional component industries not shown separately.
* denotes significance

In August, professional and technical services added 41,000 jobs, with gains in computer systems design (+14,000), management and technical consulting services (+13,000), architectural and engineering services (+10,000), and scientific research and development services (+6,000). Employment in legal services fell by 9,000 over the month.

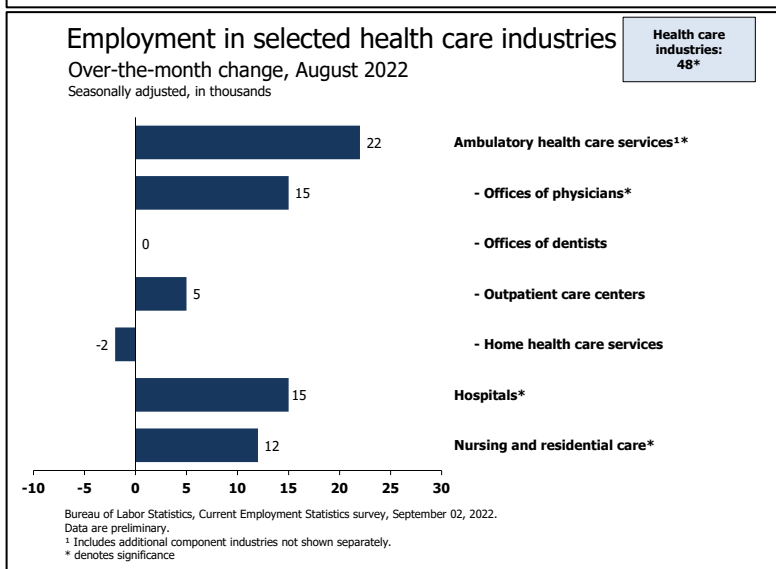
Employment in temporary help services changed little in August (+12,000) but is 257,000 above its February 2020 level.

Private Education and Health Services

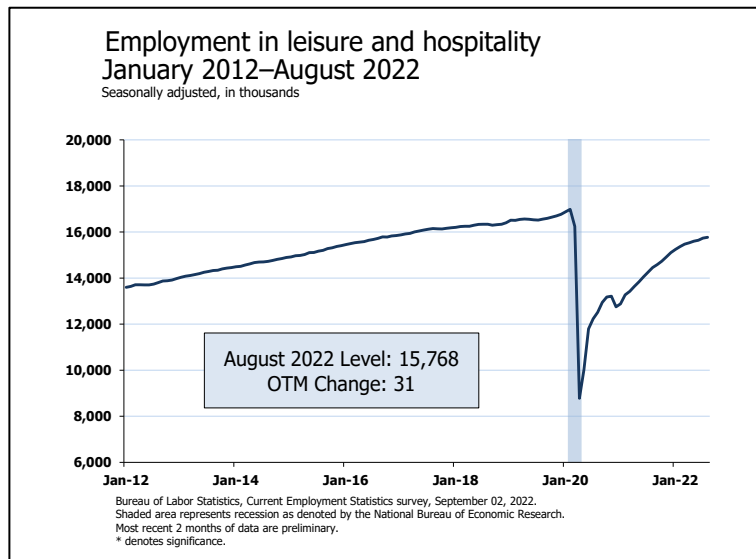
Employment in health care increased by 48,000 in August and is 37,000 below its February 2020 level.



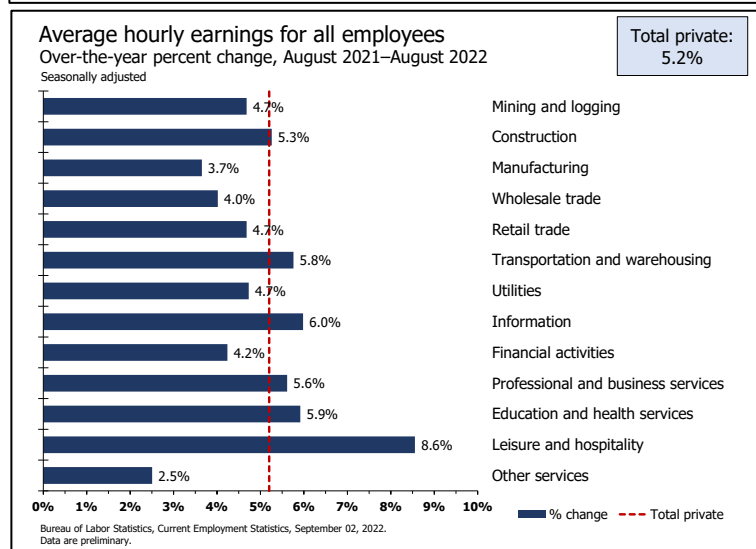
In August, ambulatory health care services added 22,000 jobs, with offices of physicians accounting for 15,000 of the gain. Elsewhere in health care, hospitals added 15,000 jobs, and nursing and residential care facilities added 12,000 jobs.



Leisure and Hospitality



Employment in leisure and hospitality continued to trend up in August (+31,000). Monthly job gains averaged 90,000 during the first 7 months of this year, as employment continued to recover from pandemic-related job losses. Employment is 1.2 million lower than in February 2020.

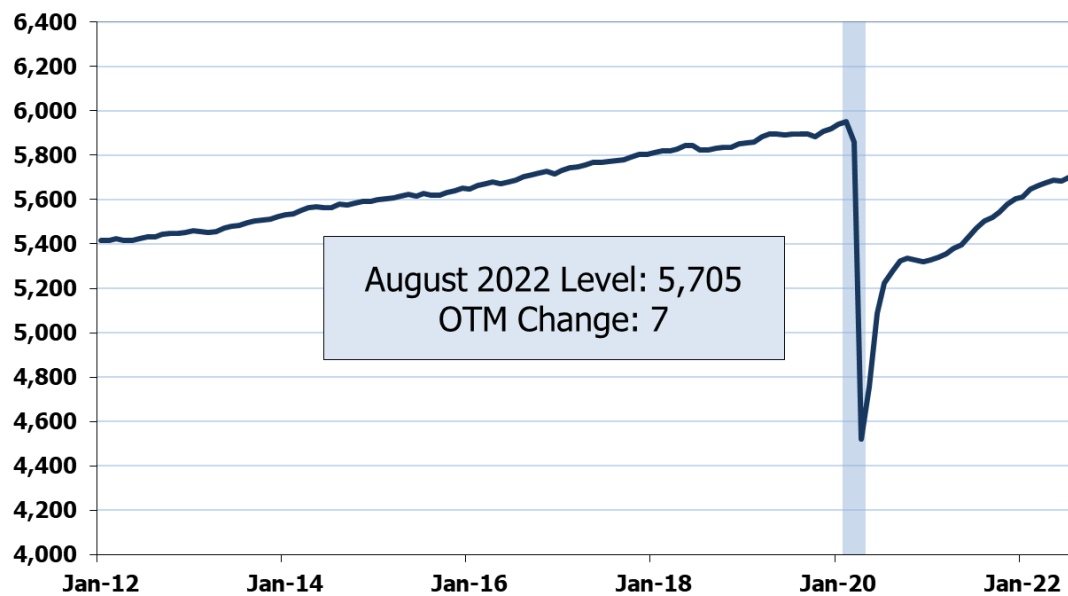


In August, average hourly earnings for all employees in leisure and hospitality rose 10 cents to \$20.30 and are up 8.6 percent over the year.

Other Services

Employment in other services January 2012–August 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

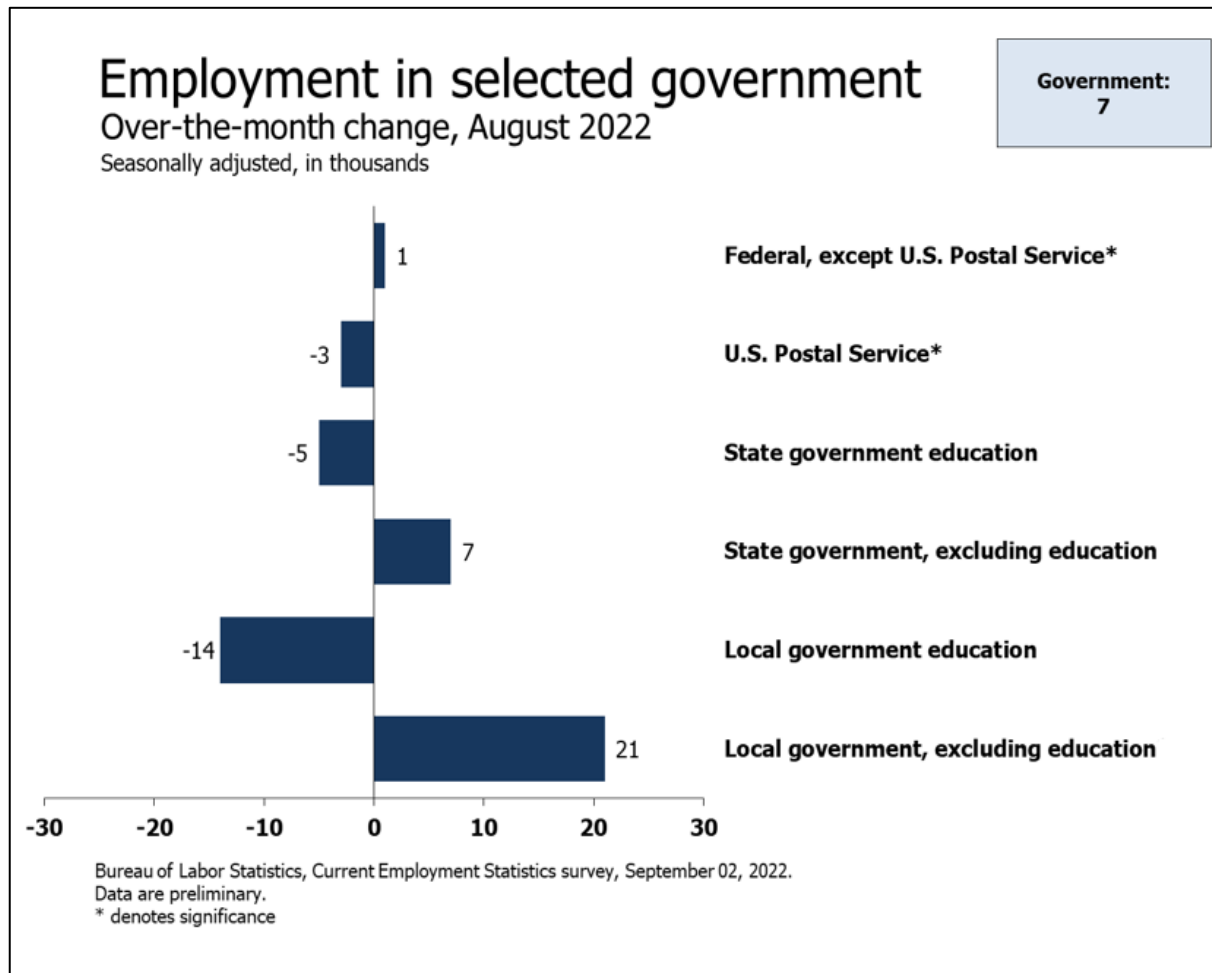


August 2022 Level: 5,705
OTM Change: 7

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 02, 2022.
Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
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Employment in other services changed little in August (+7,000) and is 246,000 below its February 2020 level.

Government



Employment in government changed little in August (+7,000) and is 645,000 below its February 2020 level.

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. (For more information, see <https://www.nber.org/news/business-cycle-dating-committee-announcement-july-19-2021>.)



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