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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



December 2022

Release Date: January 6, 2023

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, December 2022

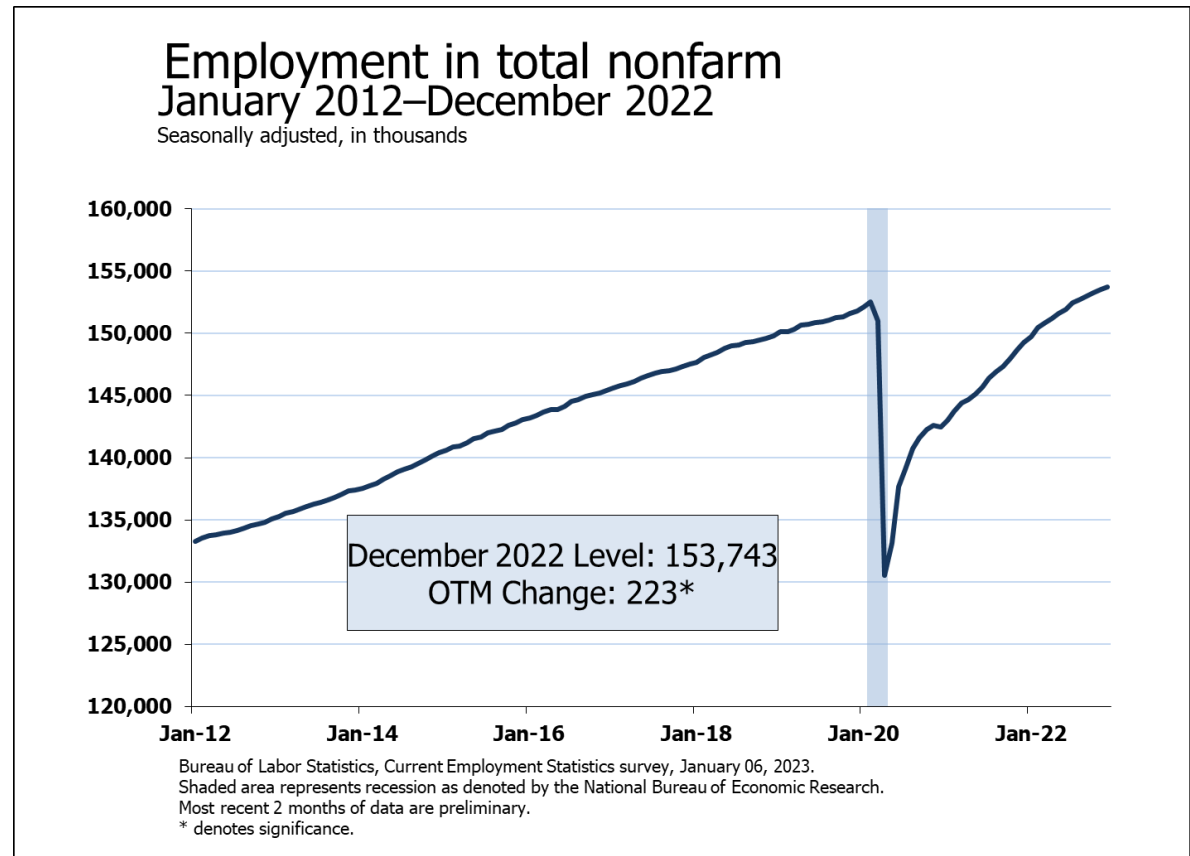
Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 223,000 in December. Leisure and hospitality, health care, construction, and social assistance, added jobs over the month.

The employment change for October revised down from +284,000 to +263,000, and the change for November revised down from +263,000 to +256,000. On net, employment over these months is 28,000 lower than previously reported.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls rose by 9 cents, or 0.3 percent, in December. Over the year, hourly earnings have increased by 4.6 percent. Over the month, average weekly hours fell 0.1 hour to 34.3 hours.

+67,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in leisure and hospitality rose by 67,000 in December. Within the industry, employment continued to trend up in food services and drinking places (+26,000); amusements, gambling, and recreation (+25,000); and accommodation (+10,000). Job growth in leisure and hospitality averaged 79,000 per month in 2022, substantially lower than the monthly average of 196,000 in 2021. Employment in leisure and hospitality remains



932,000 below its pre-pandemic February 2020 level.

+78,000 Education and Health Services

Employment in health care increased by 55,000 in December, with gains in ambulatory health care services (+30,000), hospitals (+16,000), and nursing and residential care

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, December 2022

facilities (+9,000). In 2022, job growth in health care averaged 49,000 per month, considerably above the 2021 average monthly gain of 9,000.

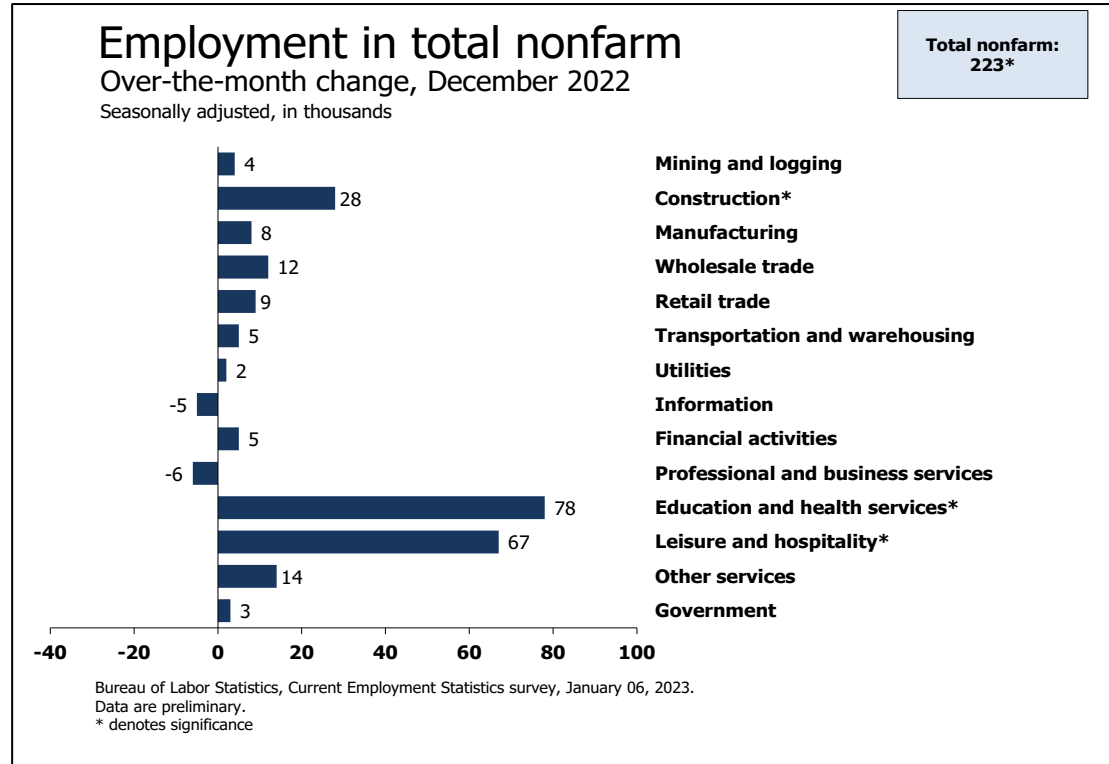
Employment in social assistance rose by 20,000 in December. Job gains in social assistance averaged 17,000 per month in 2022, compared with the 2021 average of 13,000 per month.

+28,000 Construction

Construction employment increased by 28,000 in December, with specialty trade contractors contributing 17,000 to the increase. Employment in construction rose by an average of 19,000 per month in 2022, compared with 16,000 per month in 2021.

+9,000 Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade changed little in December (+9,000). Within the industry, job losses occurred in general merchandise stores (-7,000) and electronics and appliance stores (-3,000), while miscellaneous store retailers added jobs (+7,000). Job growth in retail trade averaged 16,000 per month in 2022, less than half the average growth of 35,000 per month in 2021.



+8,000 Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment changed little in December (+8,000). Job losses in chemicals (-6,000), petroleum and coal products (-3,000), furniture and related products (-3,000), and apparel (-2,000) were more than offset by job gains in transportation equipment (+15,000) and nonmetallic mineral products (+5,000).

Job growth in manufacturing averaged 32,000 per month in 2022, little different than the average of 30,000 jobs per month in 2021.

+5,000 Transportation and Warehousing

In December, employment in transportation and warehousing changed little (+5,000). Within the industry, air

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transportation added 3,000 jobs over the month, while employment continued to trend down in couriers and messengers (-4,000) and in warehousing and storage (-3,000). In 2022, average job growth in transportation and warehousing (+17,000) was about half the average job growth in 2021 (+36,000).

+4,000 Mining and Logging

Employment in mining increased in December (+4000), reflecting job growth in support activities for mining (+5,000). Since reaching an employment trough in February 2021, mining employment has grown by 104,000.

+3,000 Government

Employment in government was essentially unchanged in December (+3,000) and is 438,000 below its February 2020 level. Due to a strike, employment in state government education fell by 24,000 over the month, while local government employment continued to trend up (+21,000). Job growth in government averaged 25,000 per month in 2022, compared with 38,000 per month in 2021.

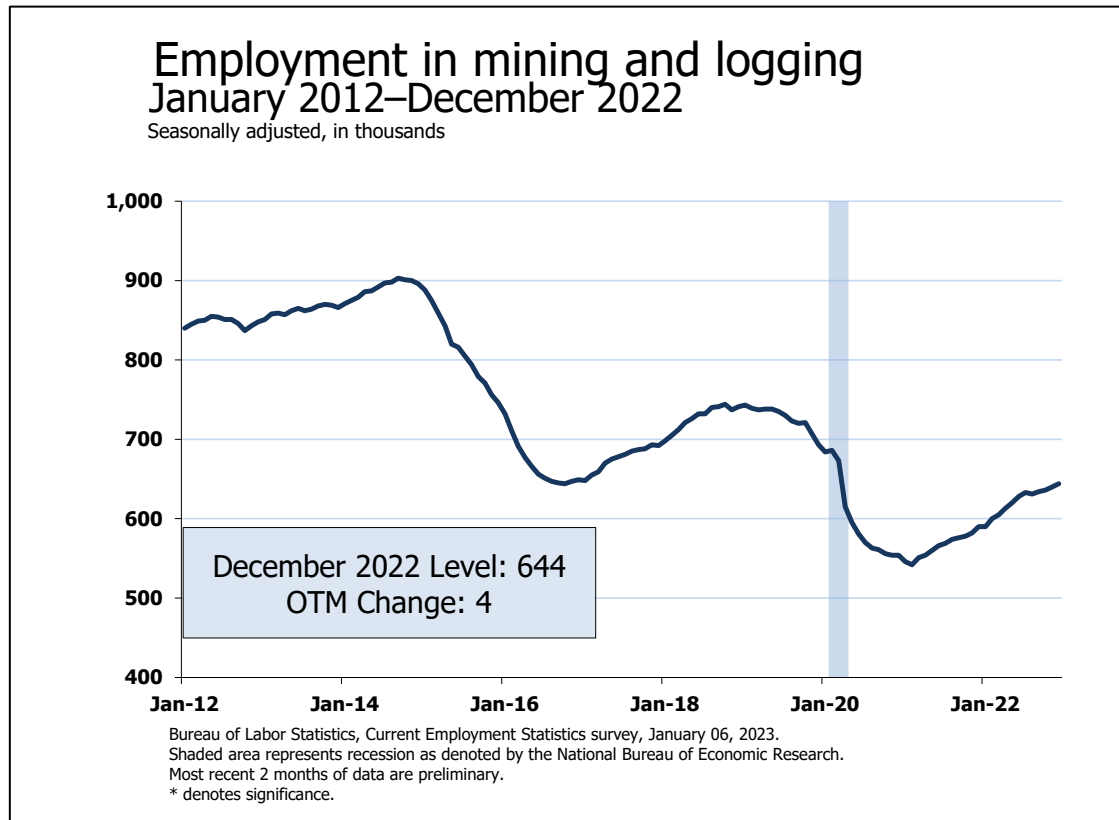
-5,000 Information

Employment in information changed little in December (-5,000). Within the industry, job gains occurred in other information services (+7,000) and in data processing, hosting, and related services (+6,000). These gains were offset by job losses in motion picture and sound recording industries (-13,000). Over the year, job growth in information averaged 12,000 per month, compared with the 2021 average of 16,000 per month.

-6,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment in professional and business services changed little in December (-6,000). Job losses in temporary help services (-35,000) and in advertising and related services (-4,000) were mostly offset by job gains elsewhere. Job growth in professional and business services averaged 50,000 per month in 2022, roughly half of the average of 94,000 per month in 2021.

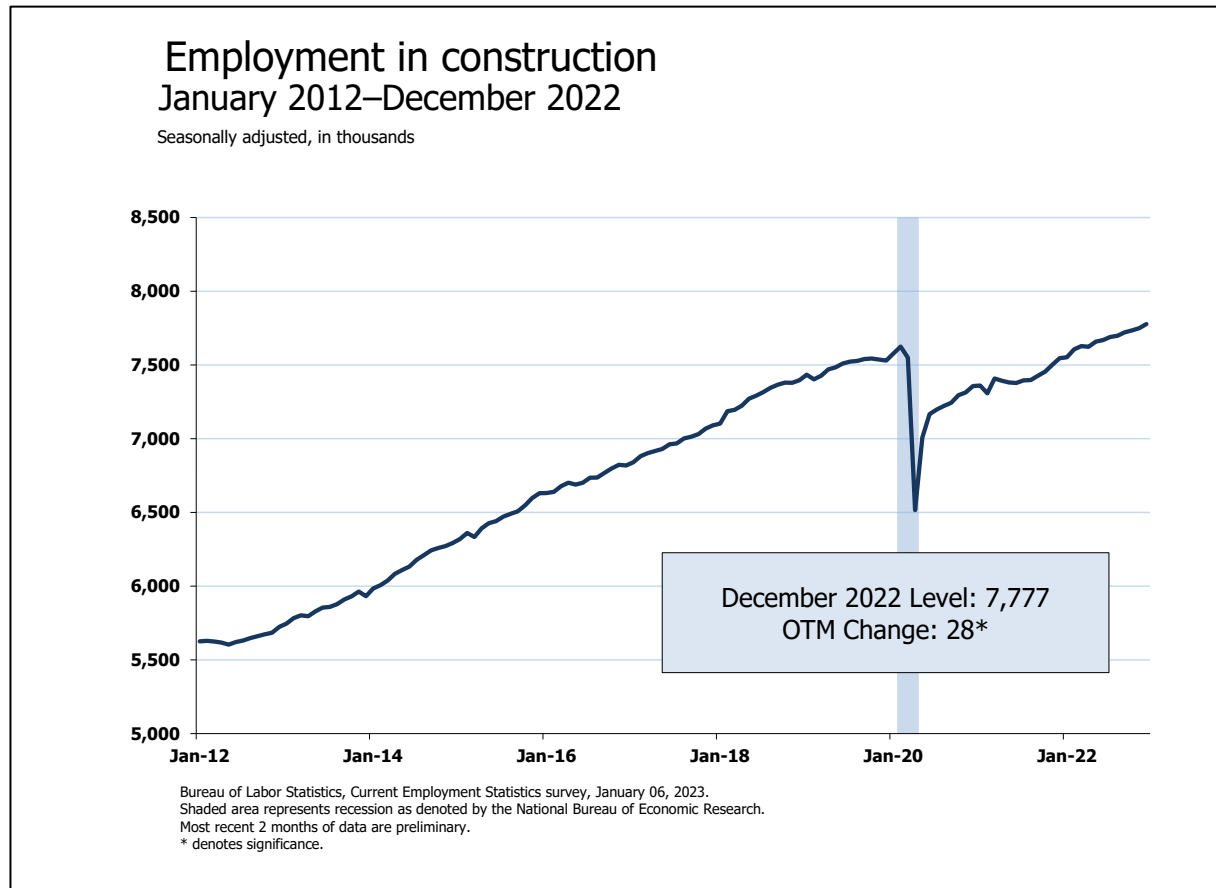
Mining and Logging



Employment in mining increased in December (+4,000), reflecting job growth in support activities for mining (+5,000). Over the year, employment in mining has increased by 53,000 jobs.

The upward trend in mining employment coincides with decreases in [North American rotary rigs](#) and in the average weekly price of [West Texas Intermediate crude oil](#) in recent months.

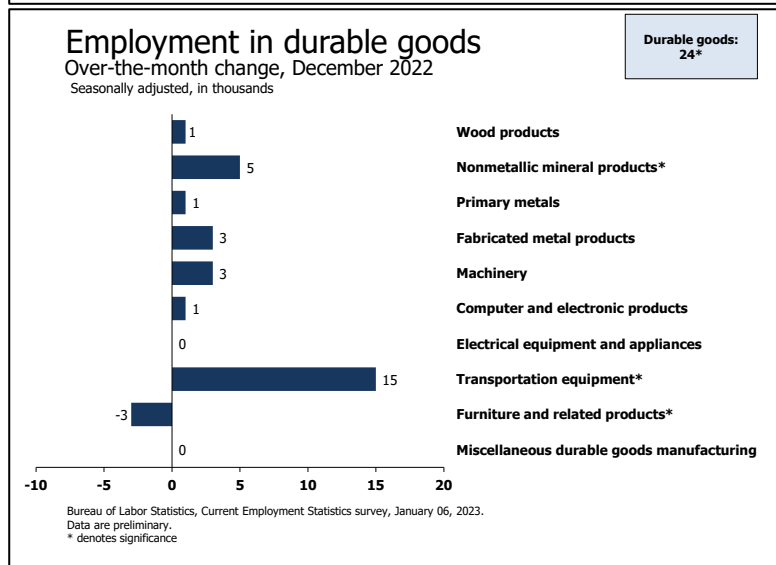
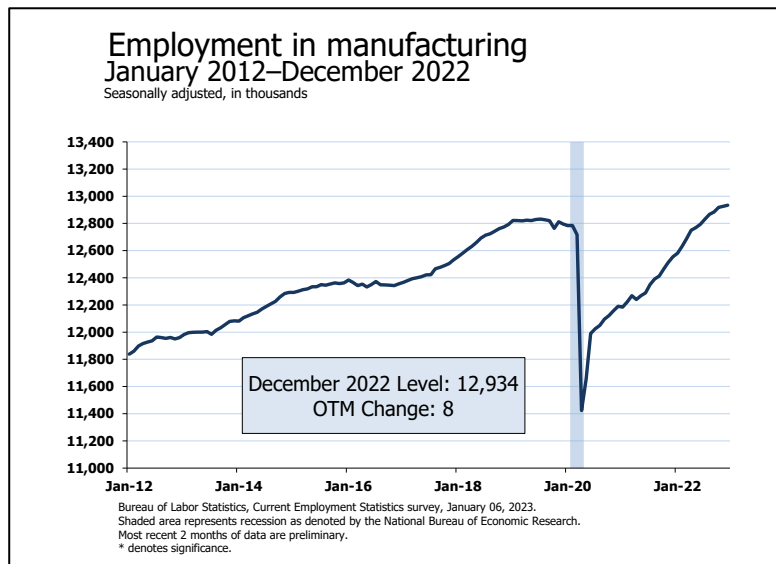
Construction



Employment in construction rose by 28,000 in December, with specialty trade contractors contributing 17,000 to the increase. Construction added an average 19,000 jobs per month in 2022, compared with 16,000 per month in 2021.

The moderate strength in construction employment in December follows recent declines in the [30-year fixed mortgage rate](#).

Manufacturing



Employment in manufacturing changed little in December (+8,000). Job growth averaged 32,000 per month in 2022, similar to the average of 30,000 jobs per month in 2021.

In December, the manufacturing 1-month diffusion index decreased 0.7 points to 55.4. Despite the decline, a number above 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs, than are losing jobs.

Within manufacturing, job gains in transportation equipment (+15,000) and in nonmetallic mineral products (+5,000) more than offset job losses in chemicals (-6,000), furniture and related products (-3,000), petroleum and coal products (-3,000), and apparel (-2,000).

The recent weakness in manufacturing employment corresponds with weakness in both the [Institute of Supply Management's Purchasing Managers' Index \(PMI\)](#) and the [S&P Global US Manufacturing PMI](#), which measure business sentiment and expectations.

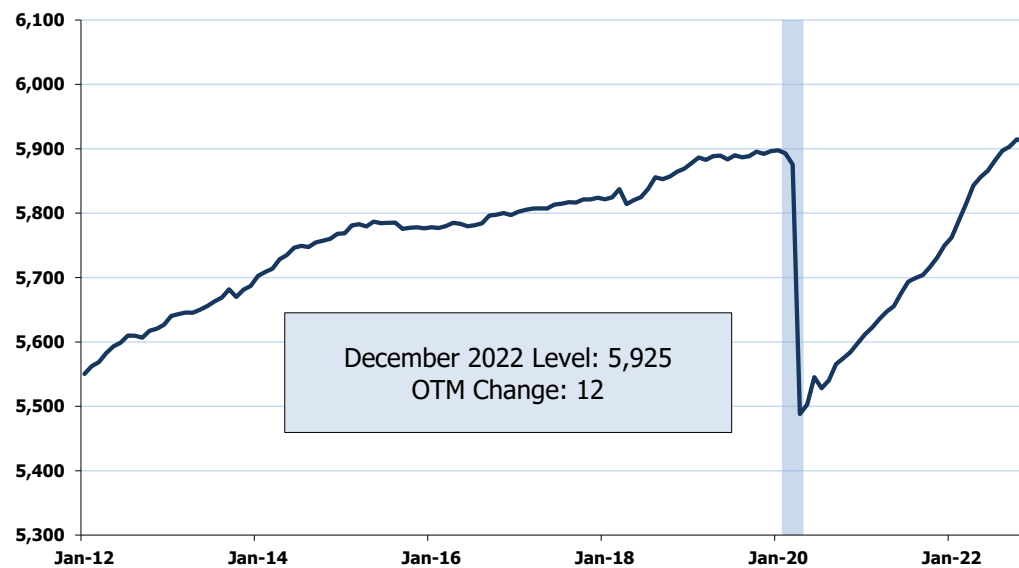
Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings for all employees in manufacturing increased by 3.6 percent to \$31.44. Average hourly earnings of production workers increased by 5.0 percent over the year.

Average weekly hours of all employees in manufacturing was little changed at 40.1 hours in December. The average workweek of production employees decreased by 0.3 hours to 40.6 hours. Average weekly overtime hours for all employees fell by 0.2 hours to 2.9 hours. Overtime hours for production workers decreased 0.1 hour to 3.6 hours in December.

Wholesale Trade

Employment in wholesale trade January 2012–December 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

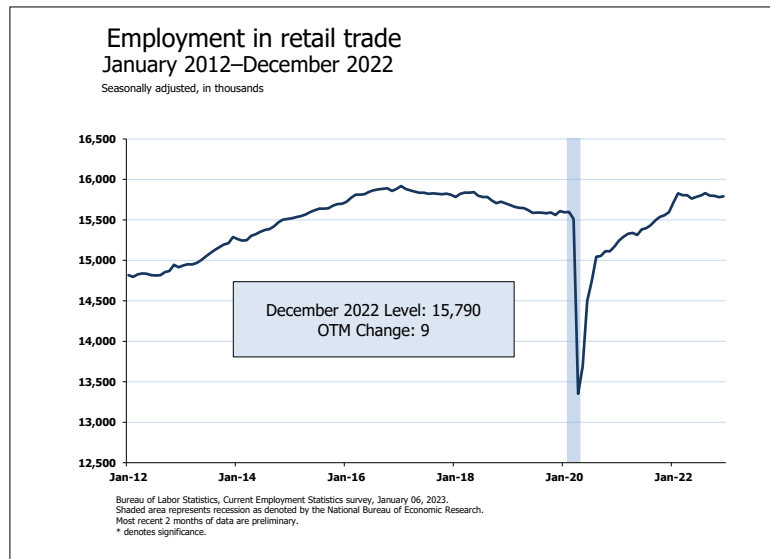


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, January 06, 2023.
 Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
 Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.
 * denotes significance.

Employment in wholesale trade changed little in December (+12,000). In 2022, job growth in wholesale trade averaged 15,000 per month, compared with 13,000 per month in 2021.

Retail Trade

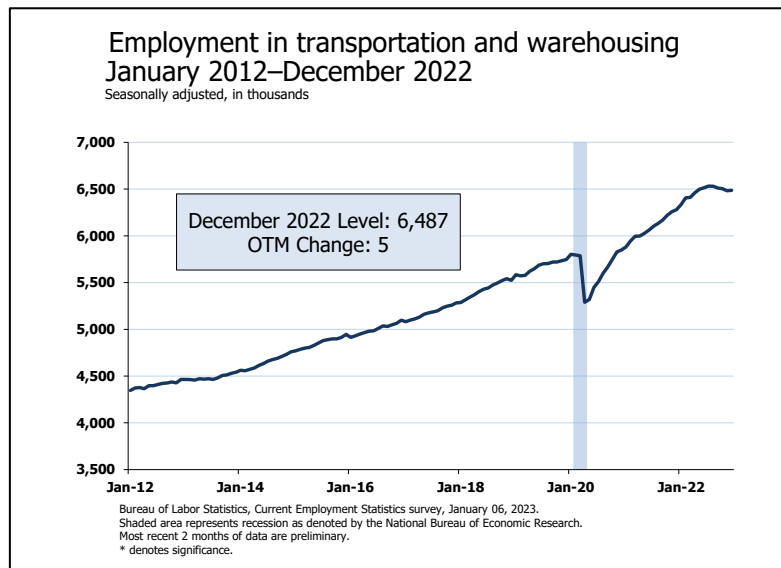
Employment in retail trade changed little in December (+9,000). In 2022, the industry added an average of 16,000 jobs per month, nearly half the average growth of 35,000 per month in 2021.



In December, general merchandise stores lost 7,000 jobs, and electronics and appliance stores lost 3,000 jobs. However, a gain of 7,000 jobs in miscellaneous store retailers partially offset these losses.

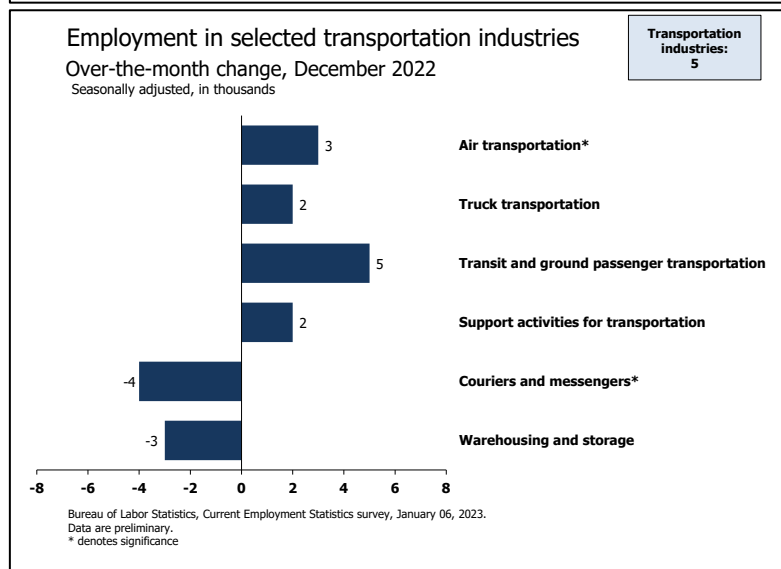
Retail-related economic indicators are mixed. In December, the per-gallon price of [regular gasoline](#) decreased, and the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) increased. In contrast, [Retail Sales](#), [Auto Sales](#), and [Real Personal Consumption Expenditures](#) for goods decreased in November.

Transportation and Warehousing



Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in December (+5,000). Transportation and warehousing added an average of 17,000 jobs per month in 2022, compared with 36,000 jobs per month in 2021.

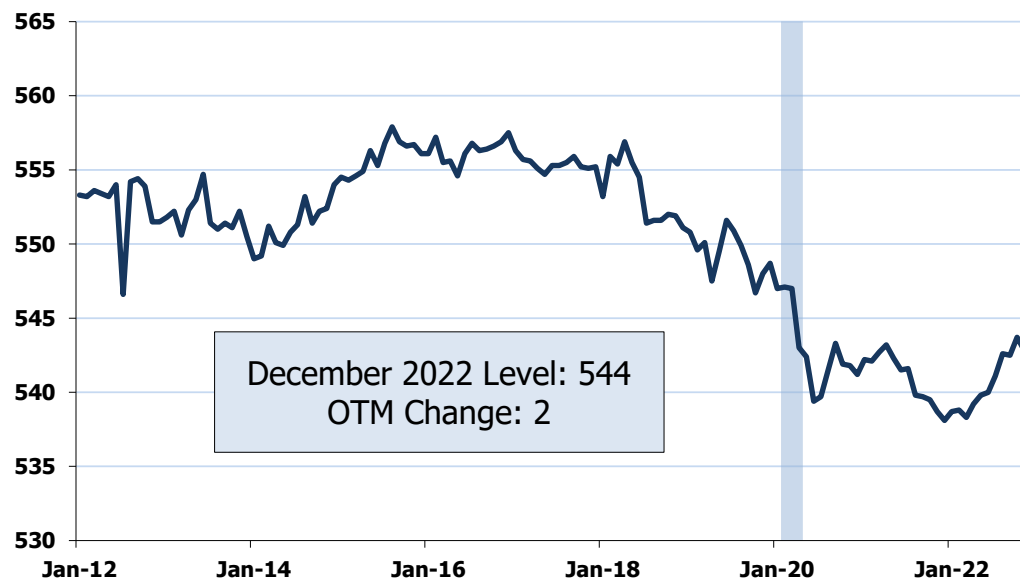
In December, employment increased in air transportation (+3,000), while employment continued to trend down in couriers and messengers (-4,000), and warehousing and storage (-3,000).



Utilities

Employment in utilities January 2012–December 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



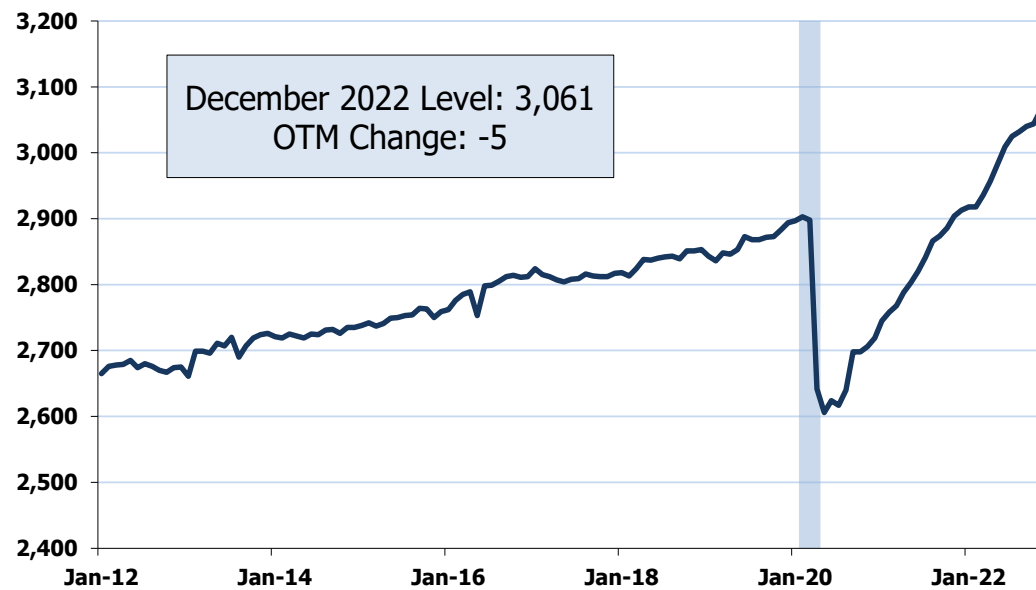
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, January 06, 2023.
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Employment in utilities was flat in December (+2,000). Over the year, employment in this industry edged up by 6,000, following a net decline of 3,000 in 2021.

Information

Employment in information January 2012–December 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, January 06, 2023.
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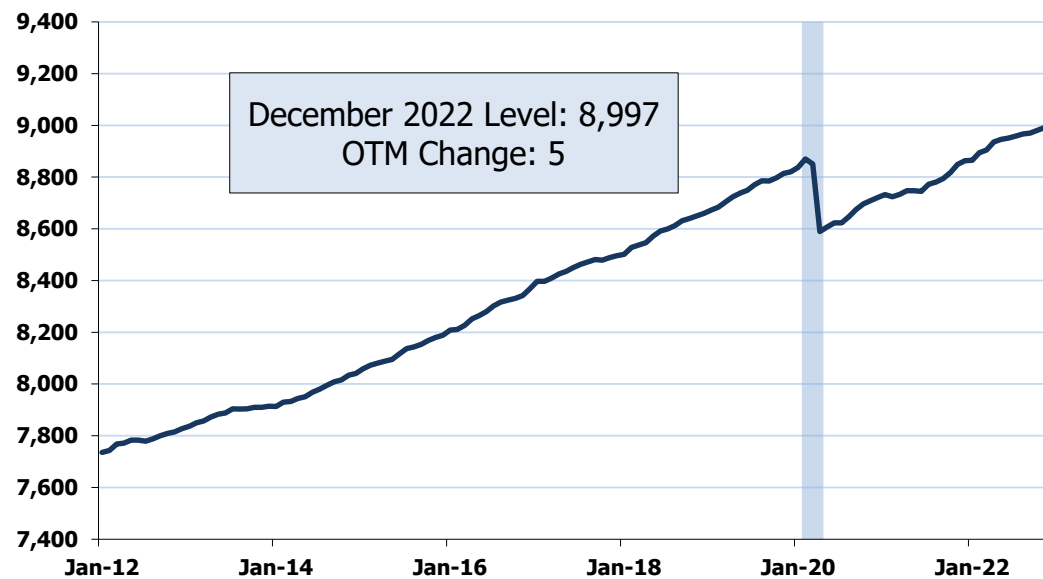
Employment in information changed little in December (-5,000). Job losses in motion picture and sound recording industries (-13,000) were offset by gains in other information services (+7,000), and in data processing, hosting, and related services (+6,000).

Information added an average of 12,000 jobs per month in 2022, compared with 16,000 jobs per month in 2021.

Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities January 2012–December 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

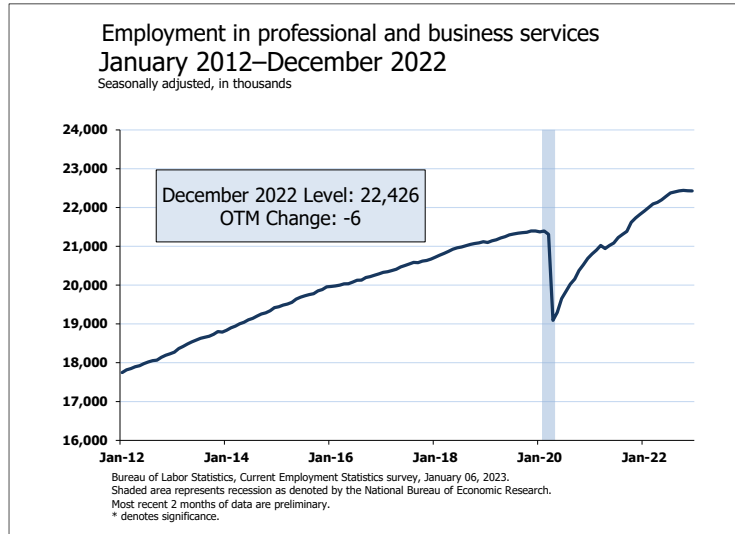


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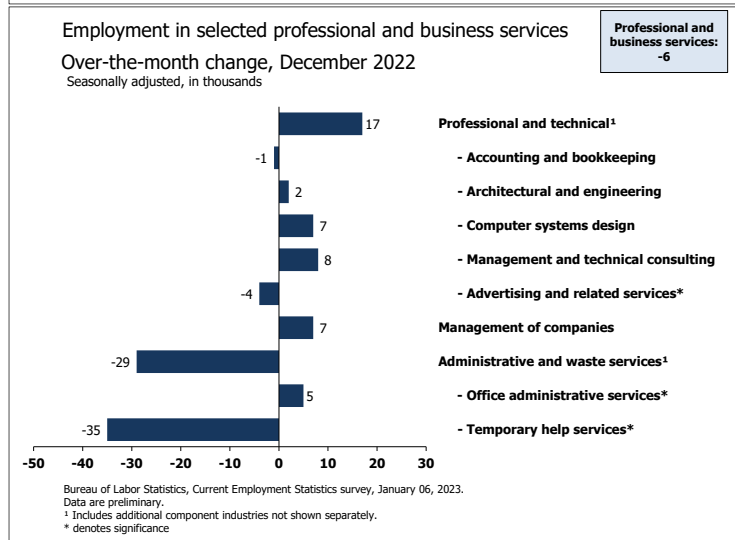
Employment in financial activities changed little in December (+5,000). Job growth averaged 11,000 per month in 2022, little changed from 12,000 per month in 2021.

Within financial activities, credit intermediation and related activities lost 8,000 jobs in December.

Professional and Business Services



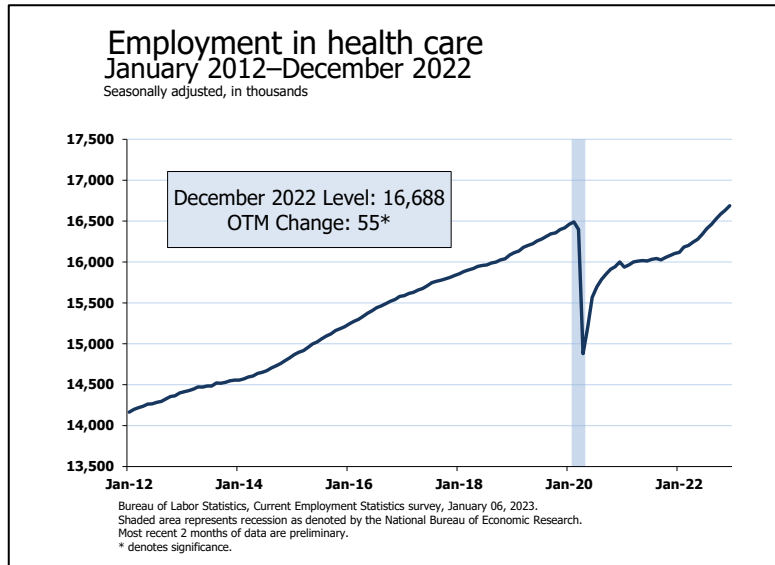
Employment in professional and business services changed little (-6,000) in December (-6,000). Job growth averaged 50,000 per month in 2022, well below the average of 94,000 jobs per month in 2021.



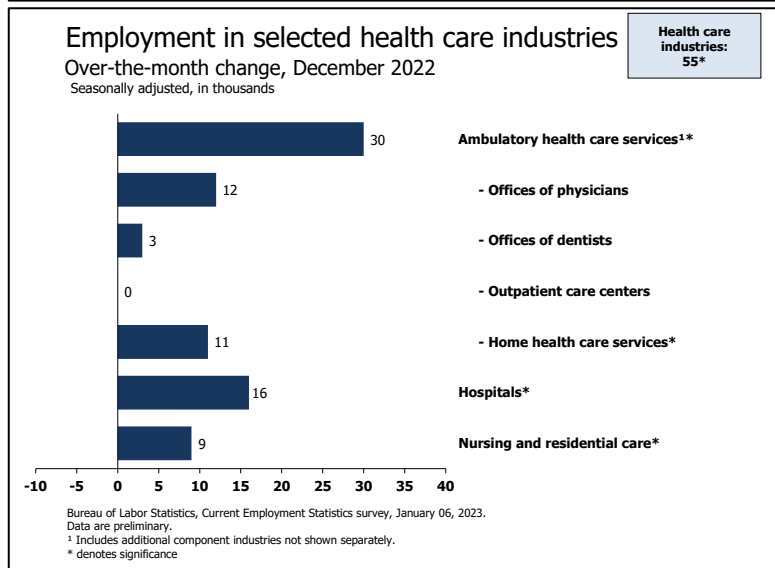
In December, employment in professional and technical services continued to trend up (+17,000), with advertising and related services losing 4,000 jobs. In 2022, professional and technical services added an average of 37,000 jobs per month, compared with 53,000 jobs per month in 2021.

Employment in temporary help services declined by 35,000 over the month and has fallen by 111,000 since July. Recent employment weakness in temporary help services coincides with declines in the [ASA Staffing Index](#).

Private Education and Health Services



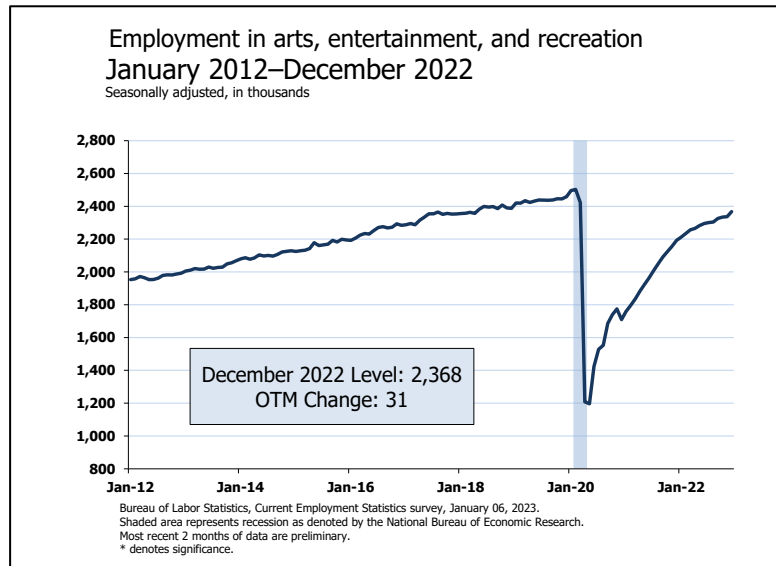
Employment in health care increased by 55,000 in December. Job growth in health care averaged 49,000 per month in 2022, considerably above the 2021 average monthly gain of 9,000.



In December, ambulatory health care services added 30,000 jobs—with home health care services accounting for 11,000 of the gain. Elsewhere in health care, hospitals added 16,000 jobs and nursing and residential care facilities added 9,000 jobs.

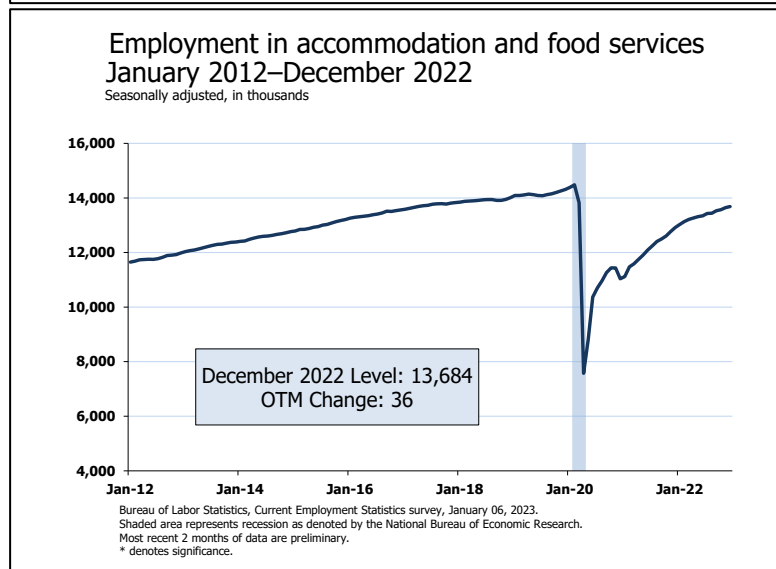
Employment in social assistance increased by 20,000 in December. Job growth continued to trend up in individual and family services (+10,000). Job gains in social assistance averaged 17,000 per month in 2022, compared with the 2021 average of 13,000 per month.

Leisure and Hospitality



In December, employment in leisure and hospitality rose by 67,000. Job growth averaged 79,000 per month in 2022, down from 196,000 per month in 2021. Employment in the industry remains 932,000 below its February 2020 level.

Over the year, average hourly earnings for all employees in leisure and hospitality rose by 6.4 percent to \$20.64.



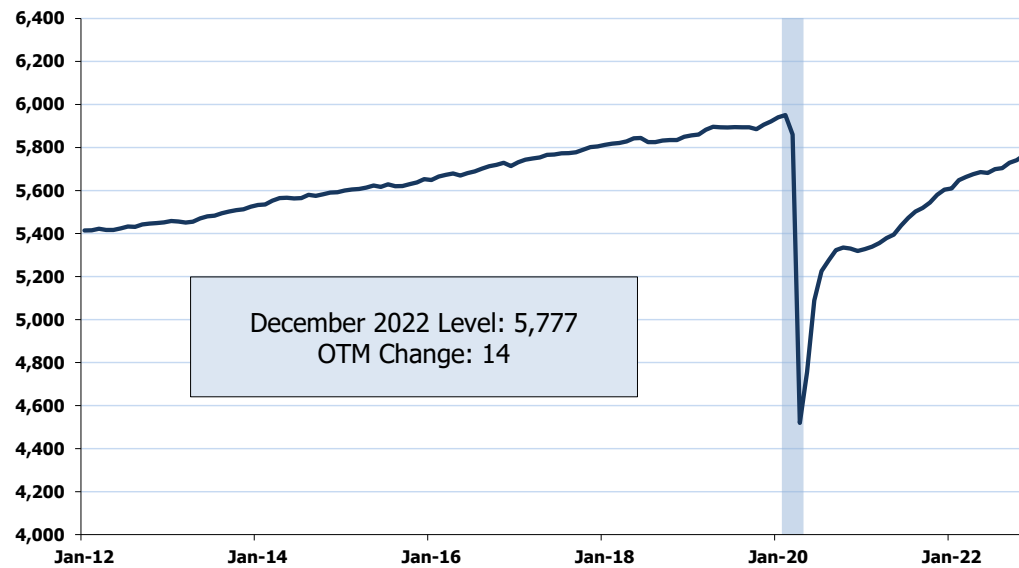
Arts, entertainment, and recreation added an average of 15,000 jobs per month in 2022, lower than the 40,000 jobs per month in 2021. Employment in accommodation and food services averaged 64,000 per month in 2022, significantly less than the 156,000 per month in 2021.

Indicators for leisure and hospitality are mixed. In November, [sales](#) in food services and drinking places grew 14.1 percent over the year, and the Federal Reserve’s Beige Book [reported](#) robust demand for restaurants and high-end hospitality venues. In contrast, hotel [occupancy](#) continued to trend below 2019 levels.

Other Services

Employment in other services January 2012–December 2022

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

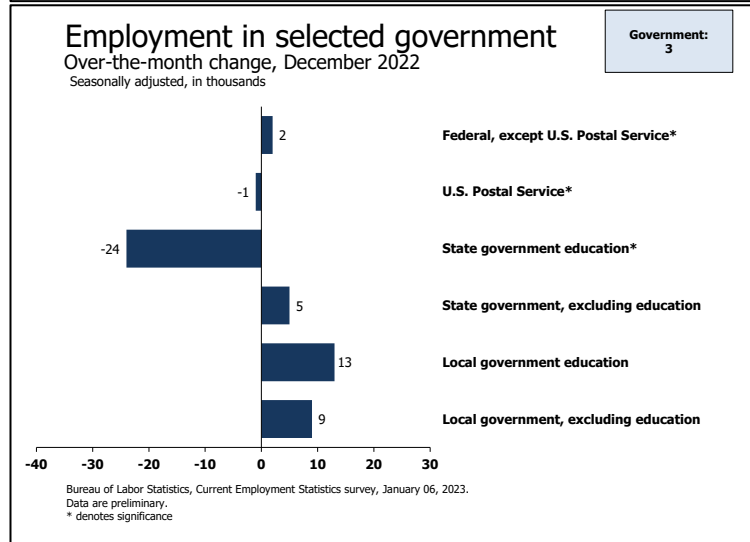


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In December, employment in other services continued to trend up (+14,000). In 2022, job gains in the industry averaged 14,000 per month, lower than the average of 24,000 per month in 2021. Employment in other services is below its February 2020 level by 174,000.

Government

Employment in government changed little in December (+3,000). Government added an average of 25,000 jobs per month in 2022, compared with 38,000 jobs per month in 2021. Employment in government is 438,000 below its February 2020 level.



Within government, employment in state government education declined by 24,000 due to strike activity among university employees.

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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