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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



January 2023

Release Date: February 3, 2023

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

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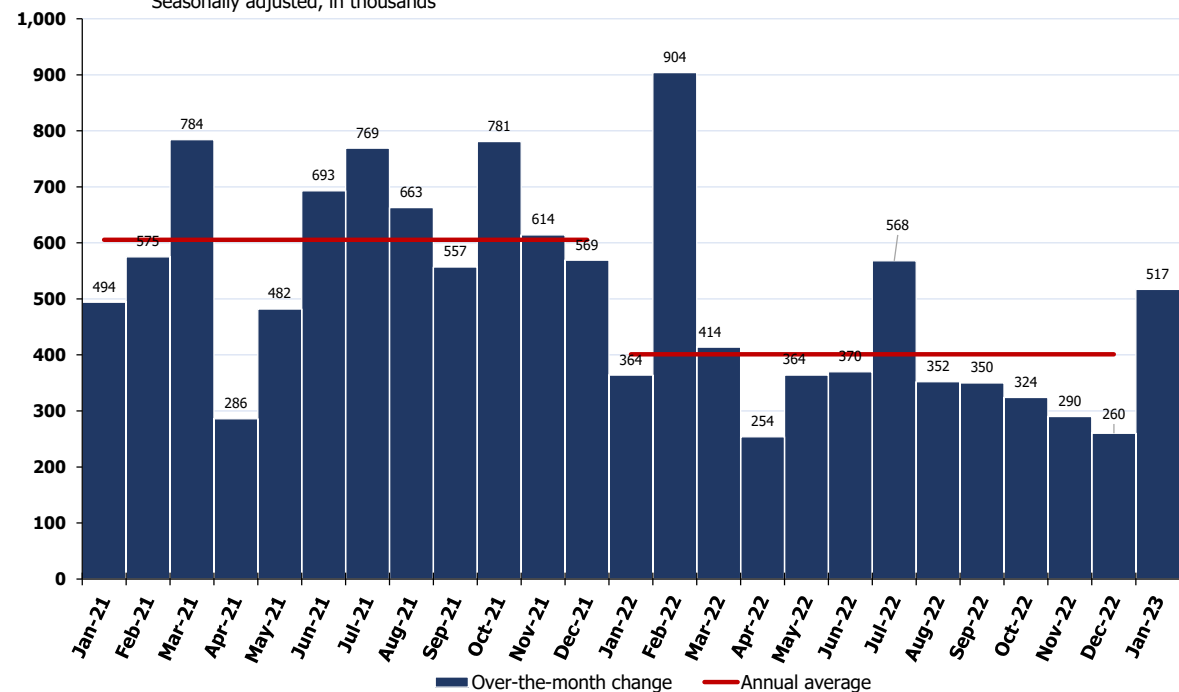
Current Employment Statistics Summary, January 2023

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 517,000 in January, compared with an average monthly gain of 401,000 in 2022. Job growth was widespread in January, led by gains in leisure and hospitality, professional and business services, and health care. Employment also increased in government, partially reflecting the return of workers from a strike.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls rose by 10 cents, or 0.3 percent in January. Over the year, hourly earnings increased by 4.4 percent. Average weekly hours rose by 0.3 hour to 34.7 hours.

In accordance with annual practice, Current Employment Statistics (CES) data have been revised to reflect comprehensive counts of payroll jobs, or benchmarks, derived primarily from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, which enumerates jobs covered by unemployment insurance tax records. CES seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment for March 2022 was revised up by 568,000. The not seasonally adjusted March estimate was revised up by 506,000, or 0.3 percent. In addition, CES data have been revised from the 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) to

Employment in total nonfarm
Over-the-month change, January 2021–January 2023
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, February 03, 2023.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

NAICS 2022. See www.bls.gov/web/empsit/cesbmart.htm for more information on the benchmark revision and the NAICS update.

The seasonally adjusted employment change for November revised up from +256,000 to +290,000, and the change for December revised up from +223,000 to +260,000. On net, employment over these

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, January 2023

months is 71,000 higher than previously reported.

+128,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in leisure and hospitality rose by 128,000 in January. Job growth was concentrated in food services and drinking places (+99,000), above its prior 12-month average monthly gain of 59,000.

+105,000 Private Education and Health Services

In January, health care added 58,000 jobs, with gains in ambulatory health care services (+30,000), nursing and residential care facilities (+17,000), and hospitals (+11,000). Social assistance also added jobs over the month (+21,000).

+82,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment in professional and business services increased by 82,000 in January, above its average job growth of 63,000 per month in 2022.

+74,000 Government

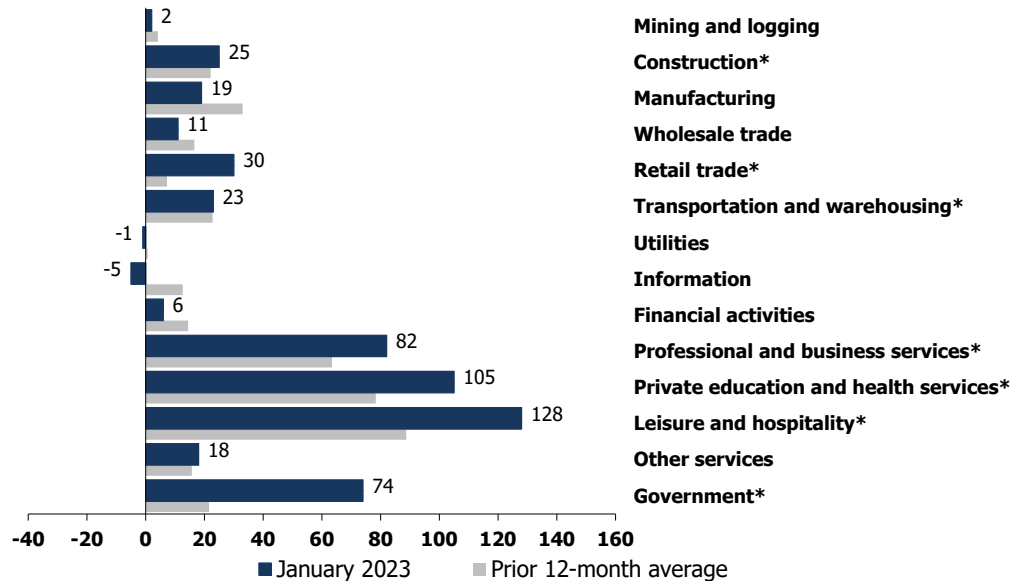
Employment in government increased in January (+74,000). Within government, state government education added 35,000 jobs over

Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, January 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:
517*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, February 03, 2023.
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

the month, reflecting workers returning from a strike, and employment in local government continued to trend up (+30,000).

+30,000 Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade rose by 30,000 in January, compared to average employment

gains of 7,000 in 2022. Over the month, job gains occurred in general merchandise stores (+16,000) and in furniture, home furnishings, electronics, and appliance retailers (+7,000), while health and personal care retailers lost jobs (-6,000).

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, January 2023

+25,000 Construction

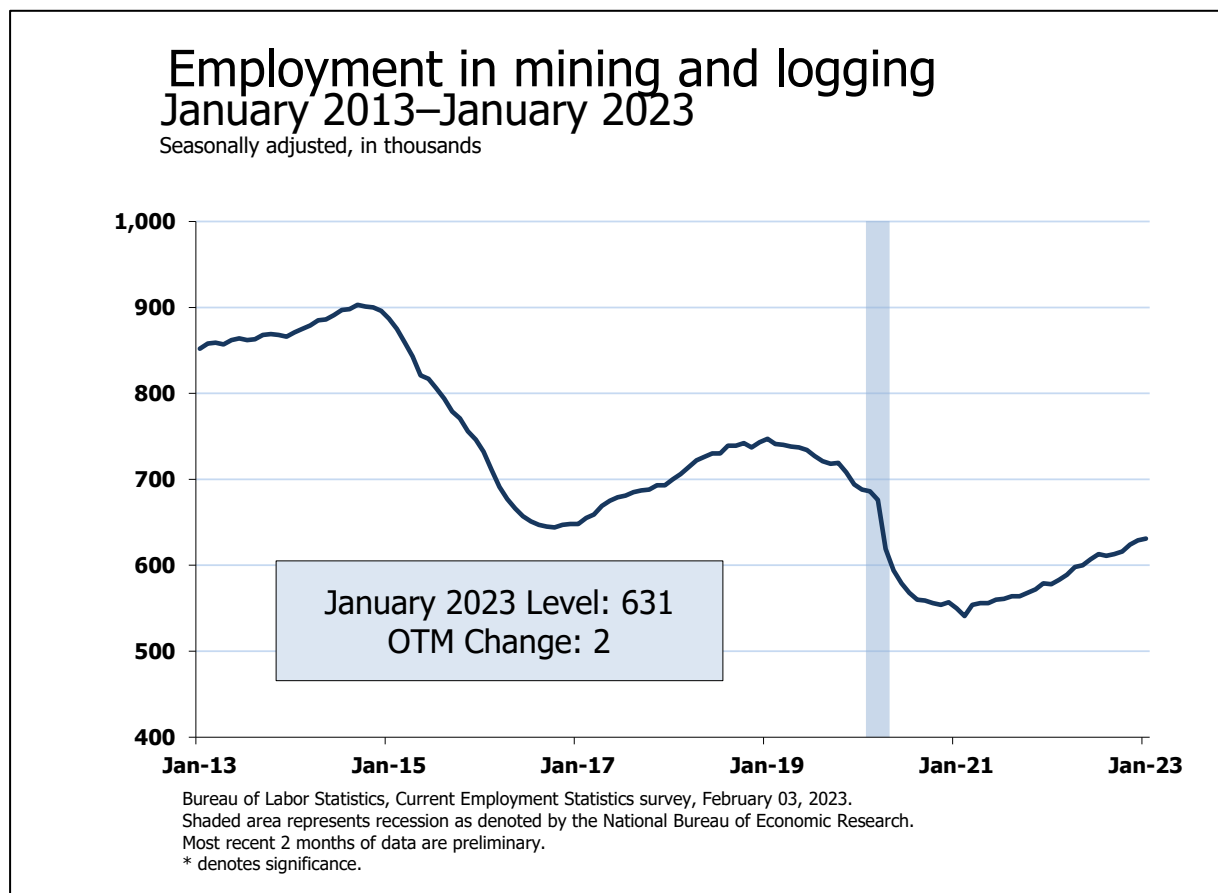
Construction employment rose by 25,000 in January, similar to average monthly gains of 22,000 in 2022. Specialty trade contractors added 22,000 jobs in January.

+23,000 Transportation and Warehousing

Transportation and warehousing employment increased by 23,000 in January, in line with average growth in 2022 (+23,000).

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, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction changed little in January (+3,000) and has grown by 92,000 since an employment trough in February 2021.

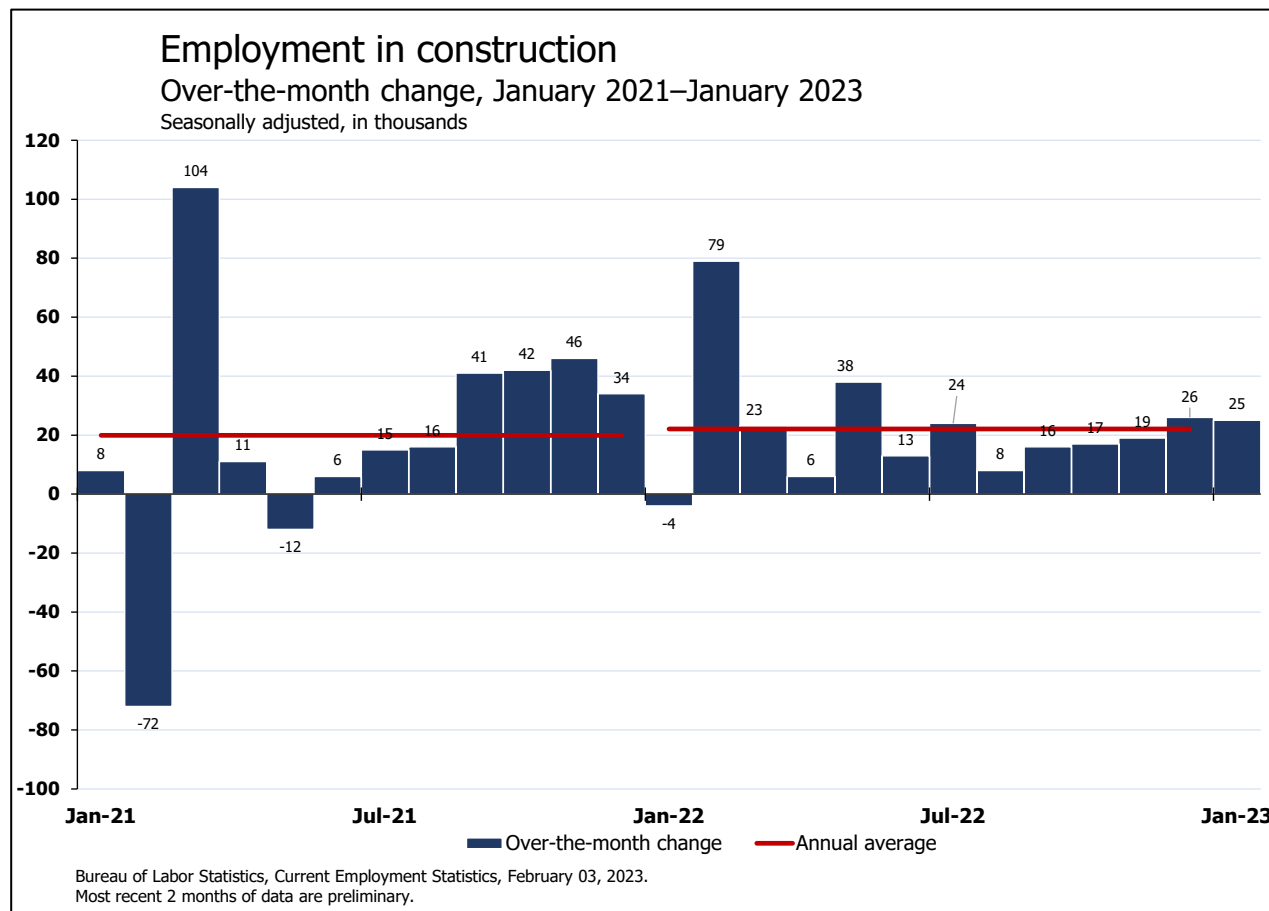
The gradual upward trend in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction employment coincides with a decrease in the count of [North American rotary rigs](#), and an increase in the average weekly price of [West Texas Intermediate crude oil](#) in recent months.

Construction

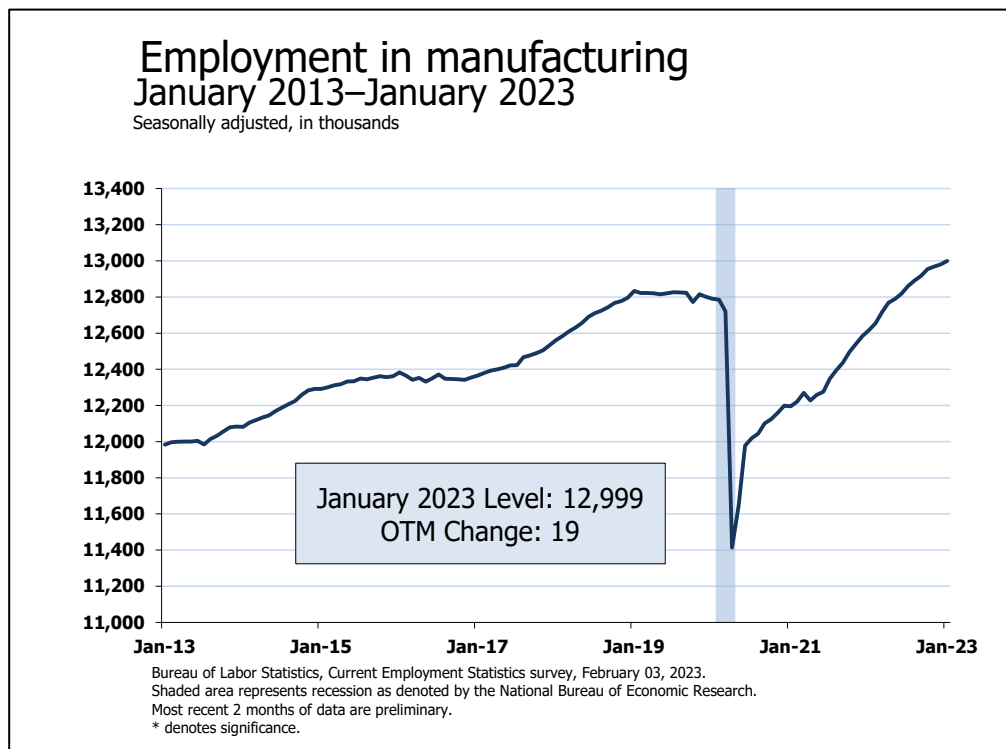
Employment in construction rose by 25,000 in January, in line with its prior 12-month average gain of 22,000.

In January, employment in nonresidential specialty trade contractors rose by 17,000 but is 7,000 below its February 2020 level. Employment in nonresidential building construction recovered to its pre-pandemic level in January and is 3,000 above its February 2020 level.

The strength in January construction employment follows the first increase in the [NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index](#) in 12 months.



Manufacturing



Employment in manufacturing continued to trend up in January (+19,000). The industry added an average of 33,000 jobs per month in 2022.

In January, employment in durable goods manufacturing changed little (+4,000). Within the industry, nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing added 4,000 jobs. Employment in nondurable goods increased over the month (+15,000), following a decline of similar magnitude the prior month.

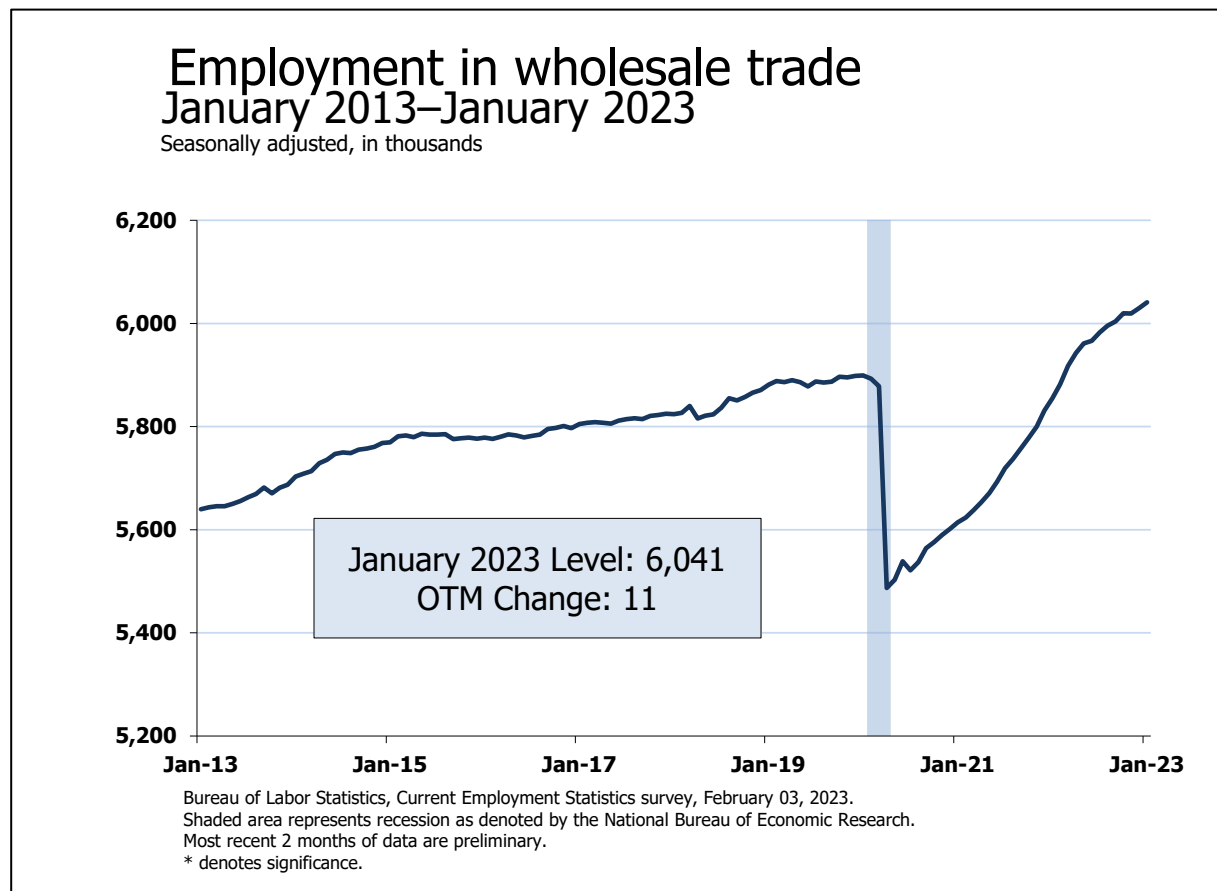
The manufacturing 1-month diffusion index was unchanged at 56.3 in January. A number above 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs, than are losing jobs.

Slowed growth 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.

Average hourly earnings of all employees increased by 11 cents to \$31.57 in January.

In January, average weekly hours of all employees increased by 0.4 hour to 40.5 hours. The average workweek of production employees increased by 0.3 hour to 40.9 hours. Average weekly overtime hours for all employees rose by 0.1 hour to 3.1 hours. Overtime hours for production workers increased 0.2 hour to 3.8 hours in January.

Wholesale Trade

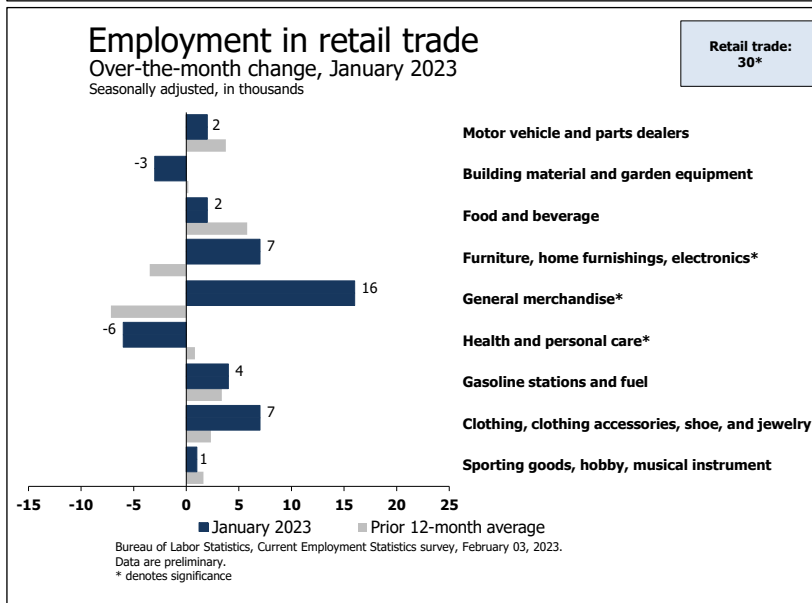
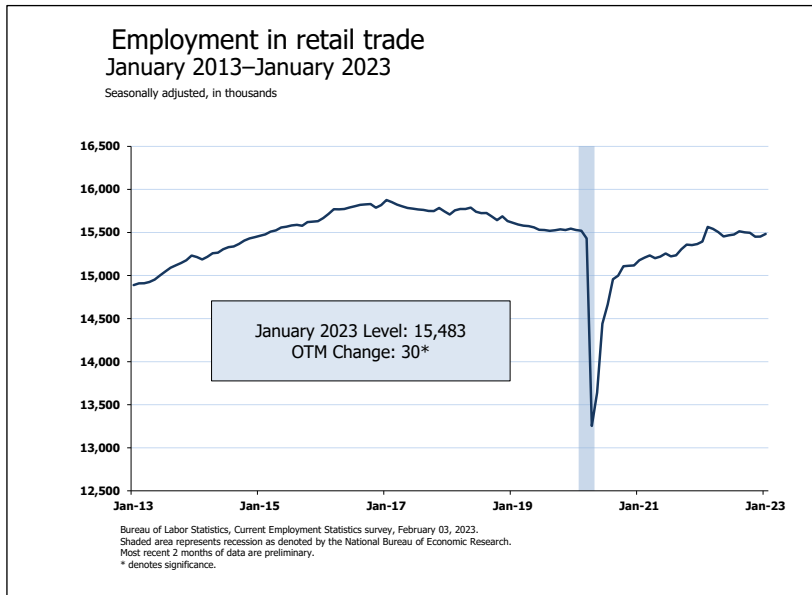


Employment in wholesale trade changed little in January (+11,000).

Within durable goods, employment in merchant wholesalers increased in January (+10,000).

Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade increased by 30,000 in January. Since its most recent peak in February 2022, retail trade has lost 82,000 jobs.



Within retail trade, general merchandise retailers added 16,000 jobs over the month, and furniture, home furnishings, electronics, and appliance retailers added 7,000 jobs. In contrast, health and personal care retailers lost 6,000 jobs.

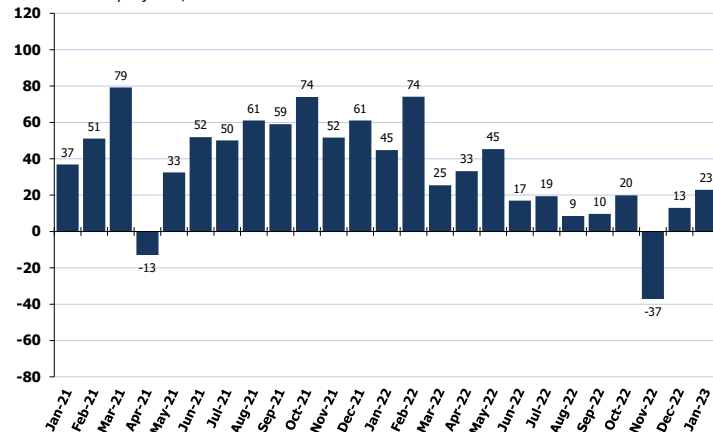
Recent retail-related economic indicators are negative. In January, the per-gallon price of [regular gasoline](#) increased and the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) decreased over the month. Similarly, [Retail Sales](#), [Auto Sales](#), and [Real Personal Consumption Expenditures](#) for goods decreased in December.

Transportation and Warehousing

Employment in transportation

Over-the-month change, January 2021–January 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, February 03, 2023.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

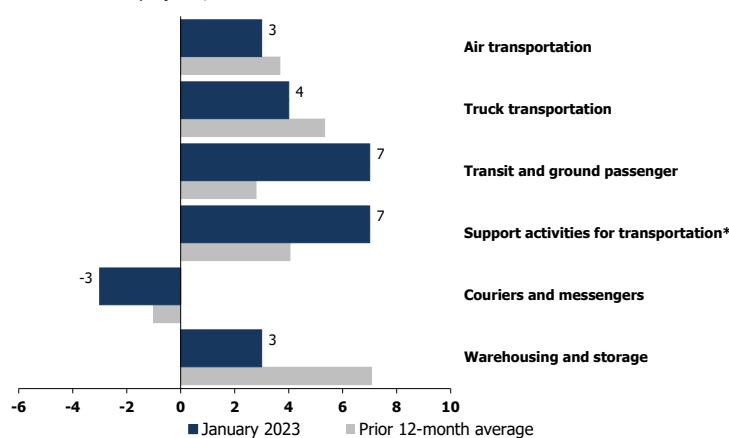
Employment in transportation and warehousing grew in January (+23,000), in line with its prior 12-month average of 23,000.

Employment in selected transportation industries

Over-the-month change, January 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Transportation industries: 23*

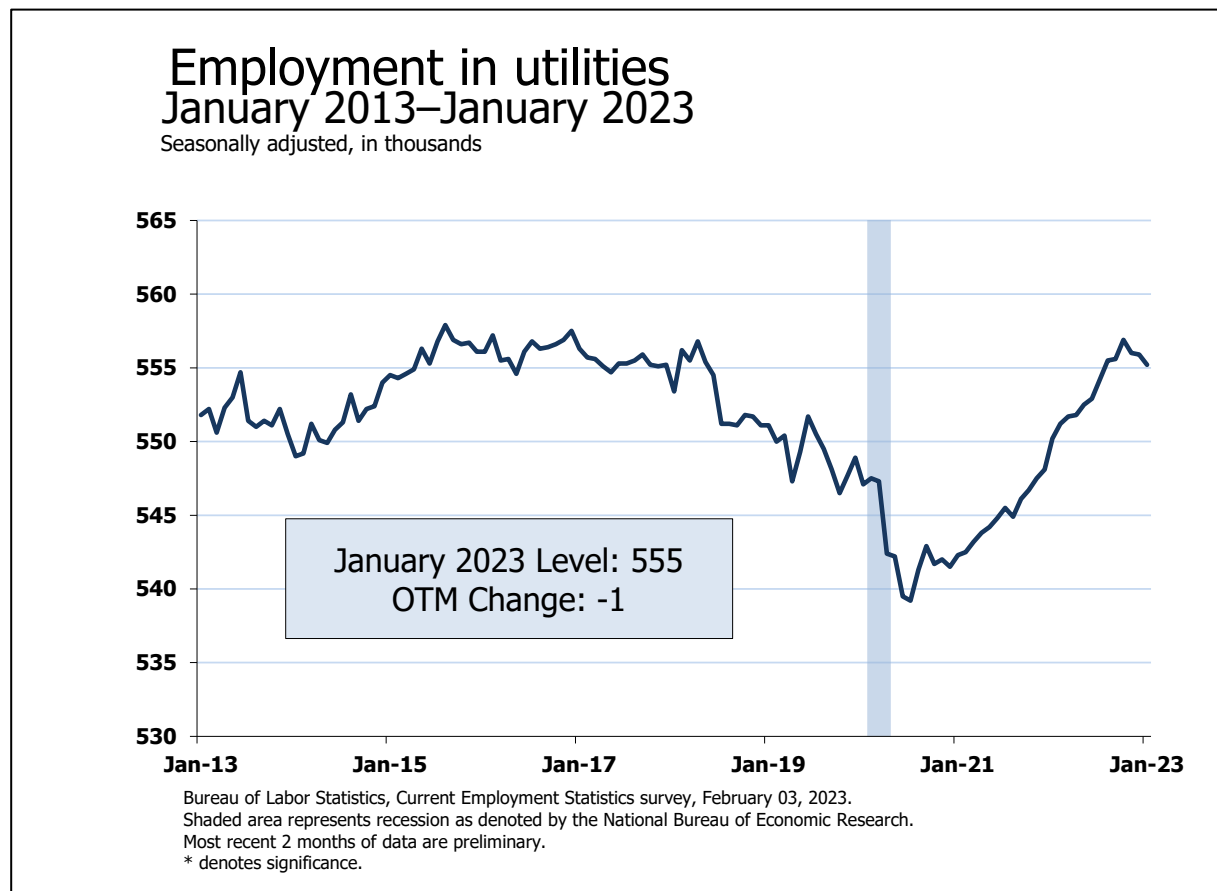


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, February 03, 2023.
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

In January, support activities for transportation added 7,000 jobs. Employment continued to trend up in transit and ground passenger transportation (+7,000) and in air transportation (+3,000). By contrast, employment continued its downward trend in couriers and messengers (-3,000).

Utilities

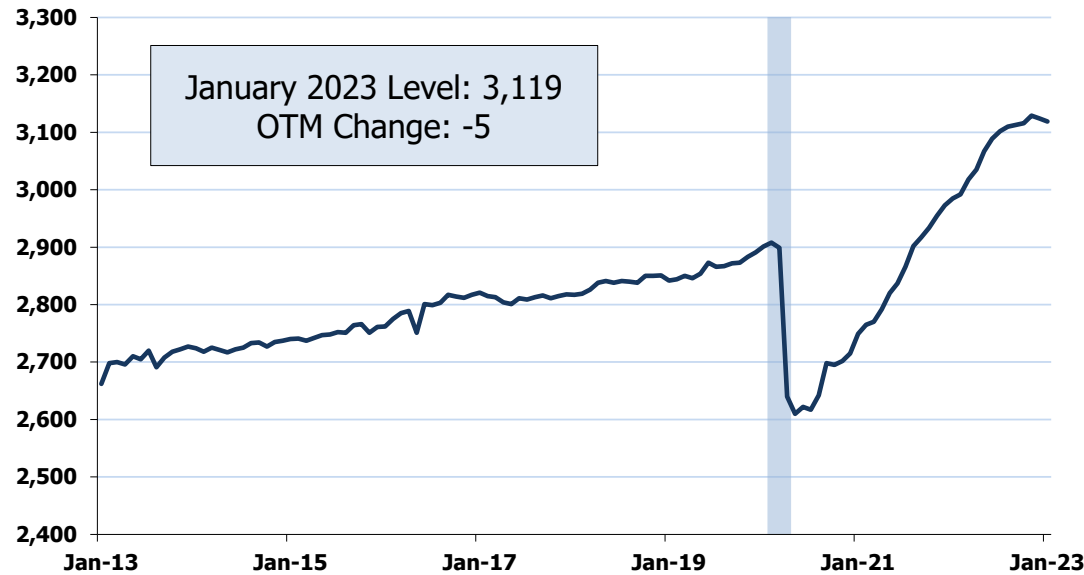
Employment in utilities was flat in January (-1,000). Since the most recent trough in July 2020, employment has risen by 16,000.



Information

Employment in information January 2013–January 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



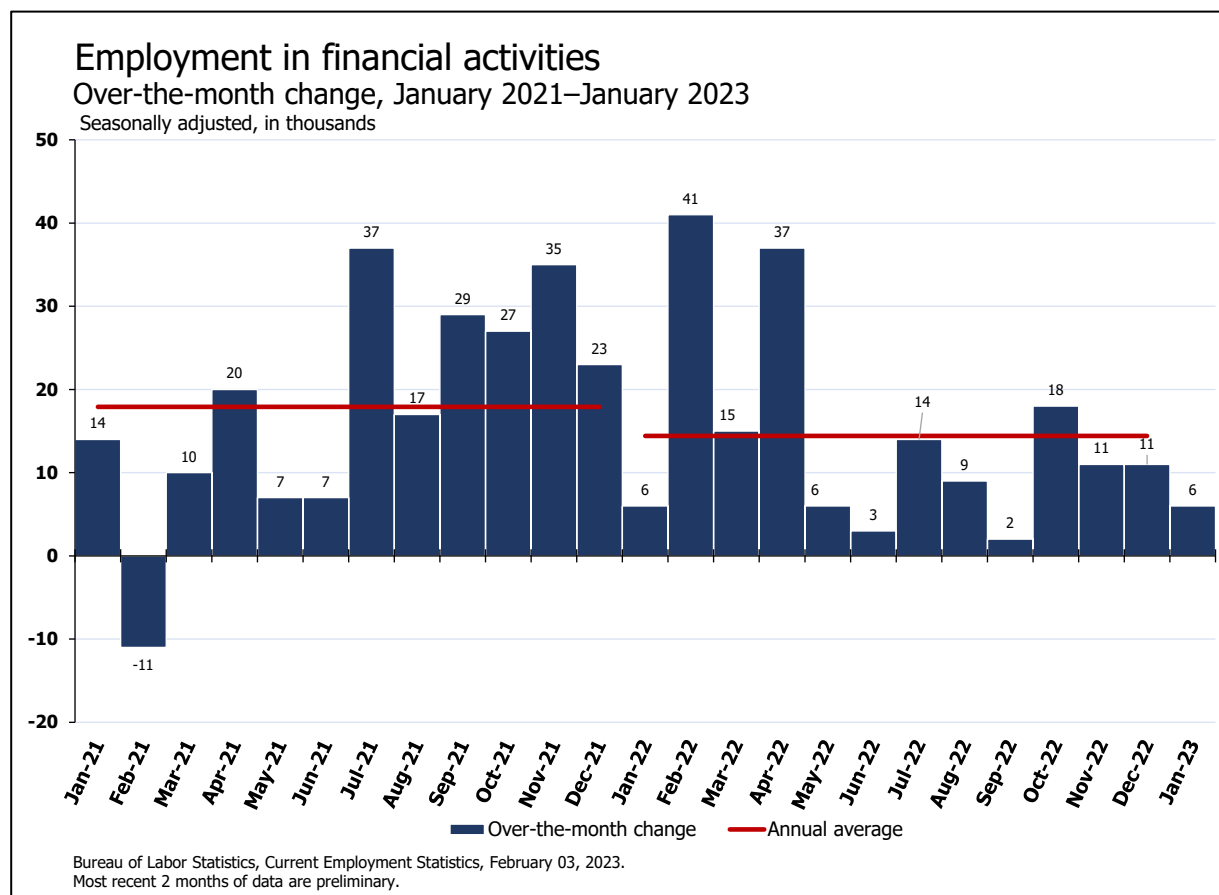
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, February 03, 2023.
 Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
 Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.
 * denotes significance.

Employment in information changed little in January (-5,000), below its 2022 average gain of 13,000 per month.

Financial Activities

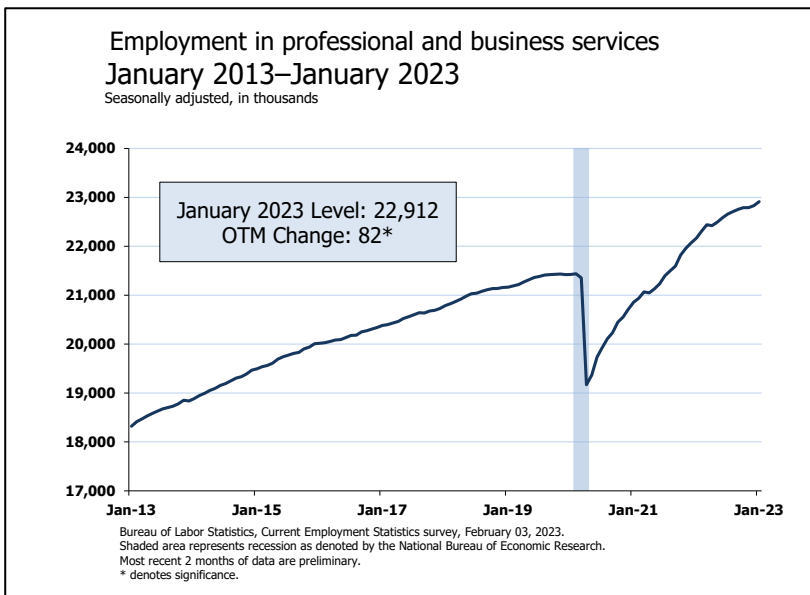
Employment in financial activities changed little in January (+6,000). In 2022, this industry added an average of 14,000 jobs per month.

In January, employment rose in real estate (+9,000) and in securities, commodity contracts, and funds (+7,000).

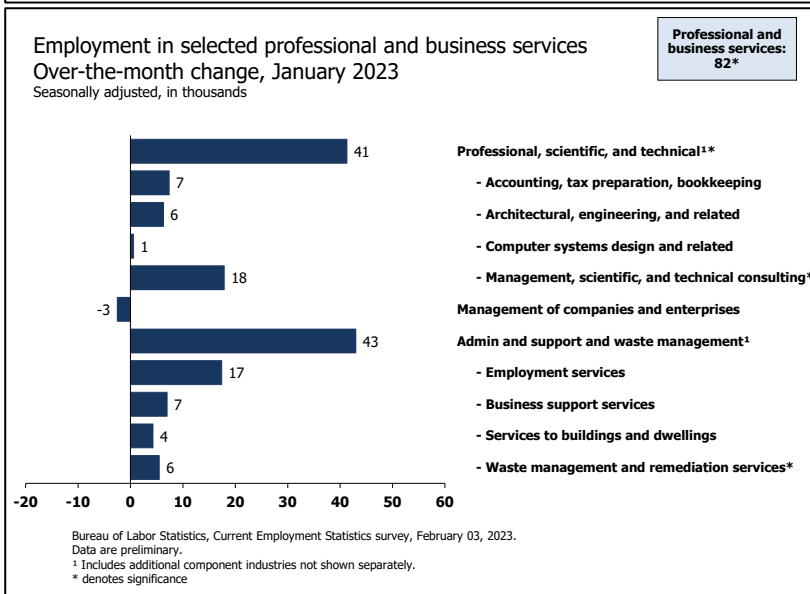


Professional and Business Services

Employment in professional and business services increased by 82,000 in January, above its 2022 average gain of 63,000 per month.

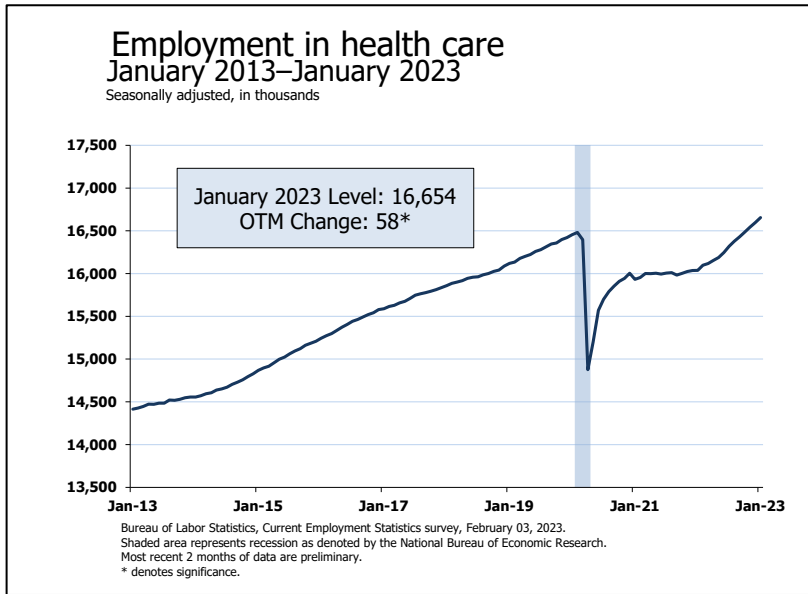


In January, professional, scientific, and technical services added 41,000 jobs, with management, scientific, and technical consulting services accounting for 18,000 of the gain.

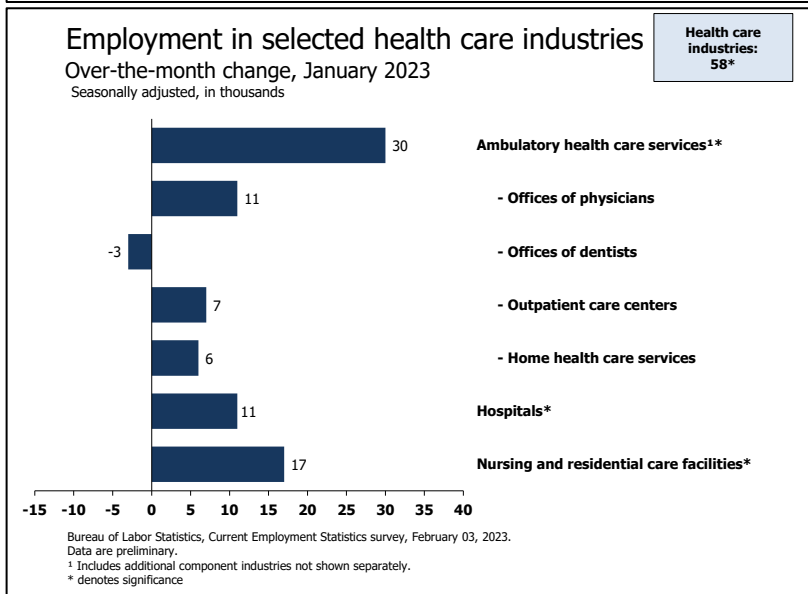


Temporary help services changed little over the month (+26,000), coinciding with gains in the [ASA Staffing Index](#).

Private Education and Health Services



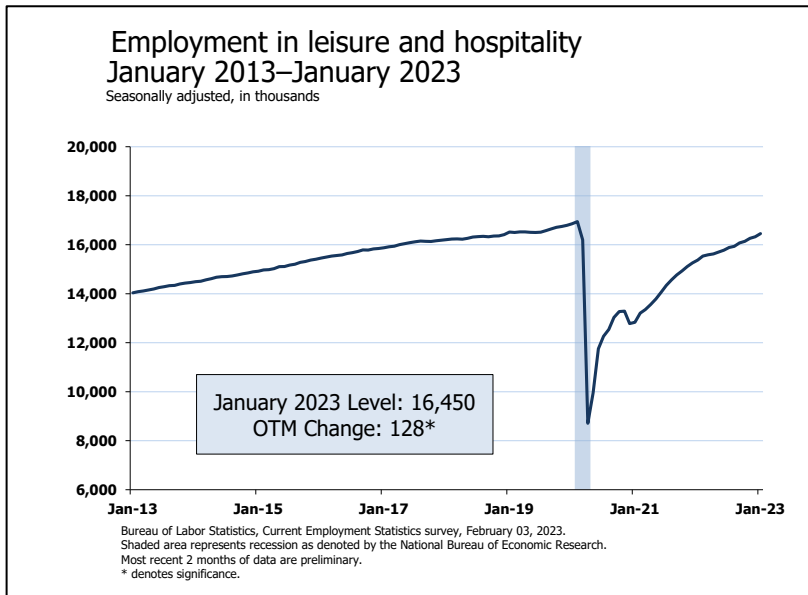
Employment in health care increased by 58,000 in January, above its prior 12-month average gain of 47,000.



Within health care, ambulatory health care services (+30,000), nursing and residential care facilities (+17,000), and hospitals (+11,000) added jobs in January.

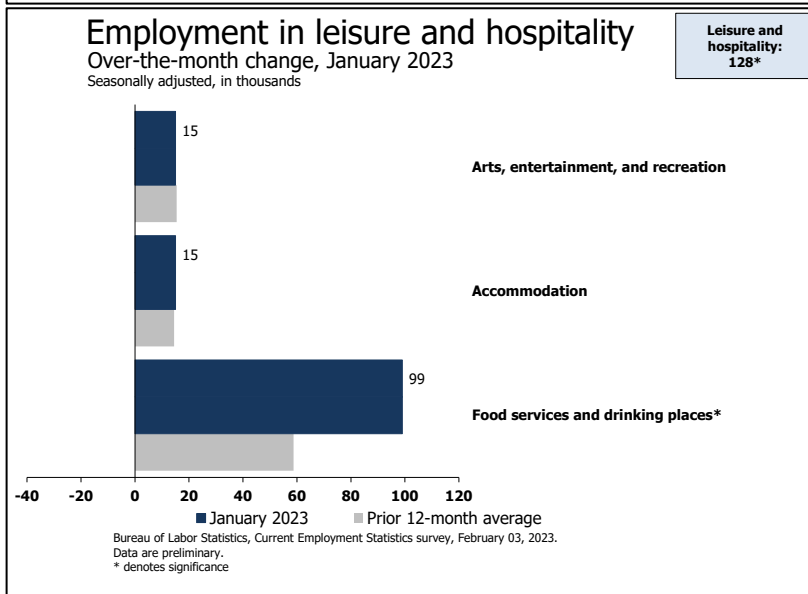
Employment in social assistance increased by 21,000 in January, little different from the 2022 average gain of 19,000 per month.

Leisure and Hospitality



In January, employment in leisure and hospitality grew by 128,000, above its prior 12-month average gain of 89,000.

Over the year, average hourly earnings for all employees in leisure and hospitality rose by 7.0 percent to \$20.78.

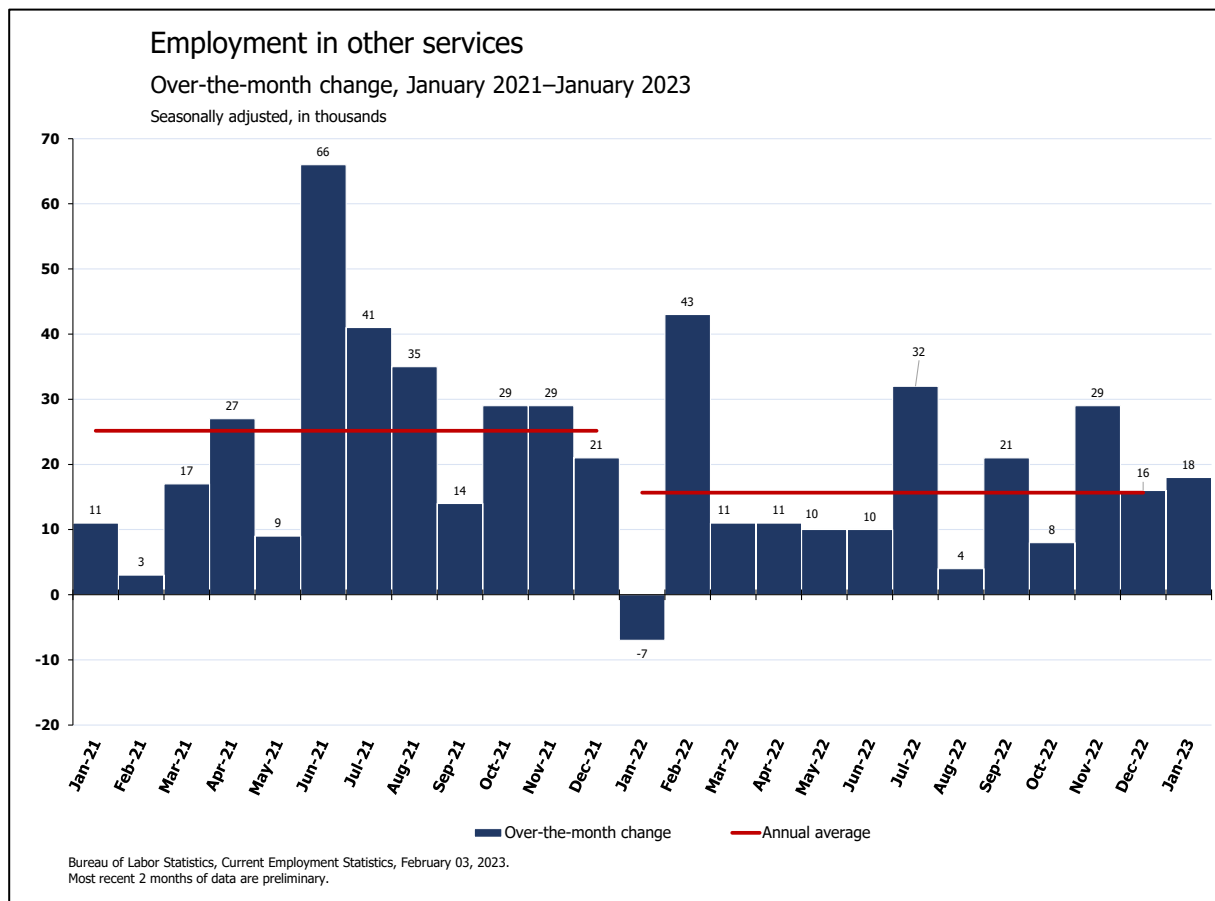


Employment in food services and drinking places increased by 99,000 in January but is 166,000 below its February 2020 level. Accommodation employment continued to trend up in January (+15,000), in line with its prior 12-month average gain of 15,000.

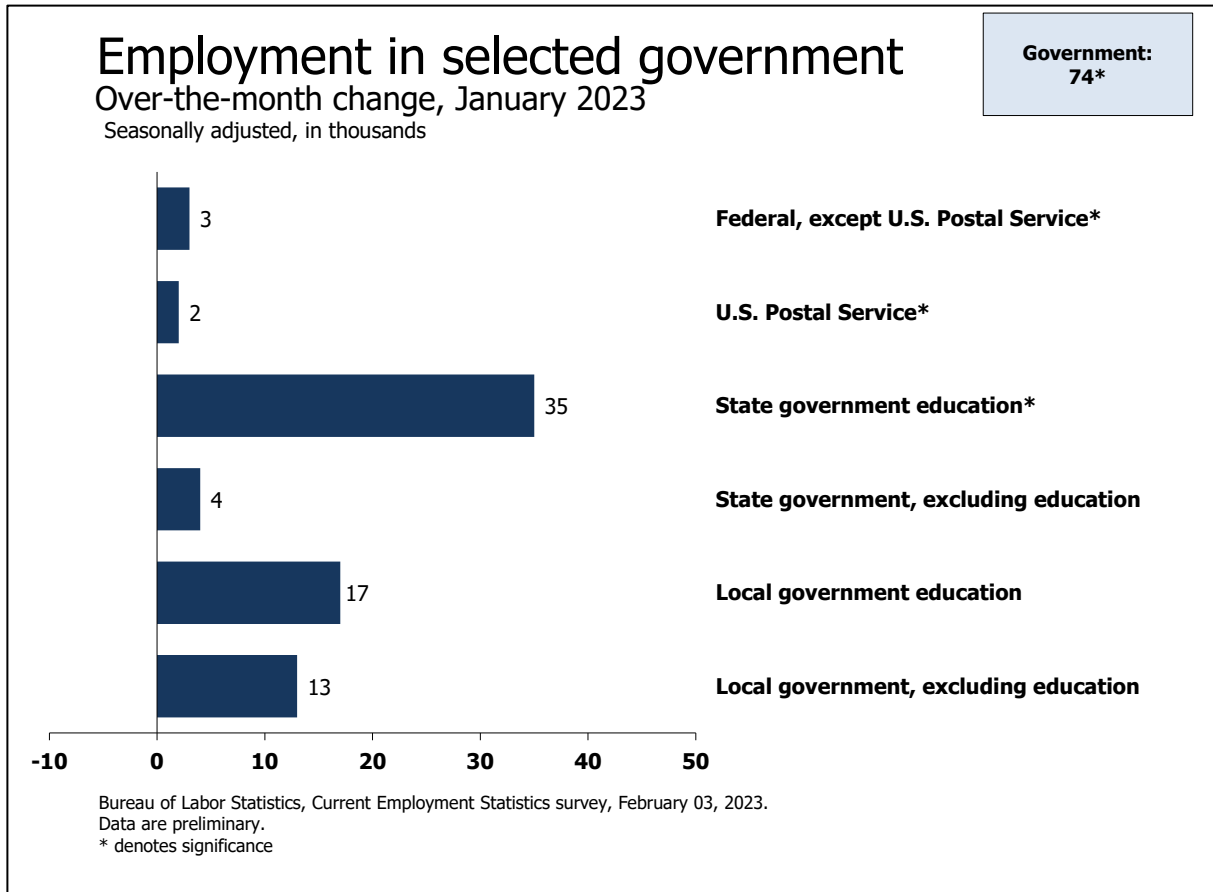
Indicators for leisure and hospitality are mixed. Hotel [occupancy](#) continued to trend below 2019 levels, while [sales](#) for food services and drinking places increased.

Other Services

Employment in other services changed little in January (+18,000), in line with its prior 12-month average gain of 16,000.



Government



Employment in government increased by 74,000 in January. Within the industry, state government education increased by 35,000, reflecting a return to work after a strike 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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