

Current Employment Statistics Highlights

Detailed Industry Employment Analysis

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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



May 2023

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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, May 2023

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 339,000 in May, in line with the average monthly gain of 341,000 over the prior 12 months. In May, job gains occurred in professional and business services, government, health care, construction, transportation and warehousing, and social assistance.

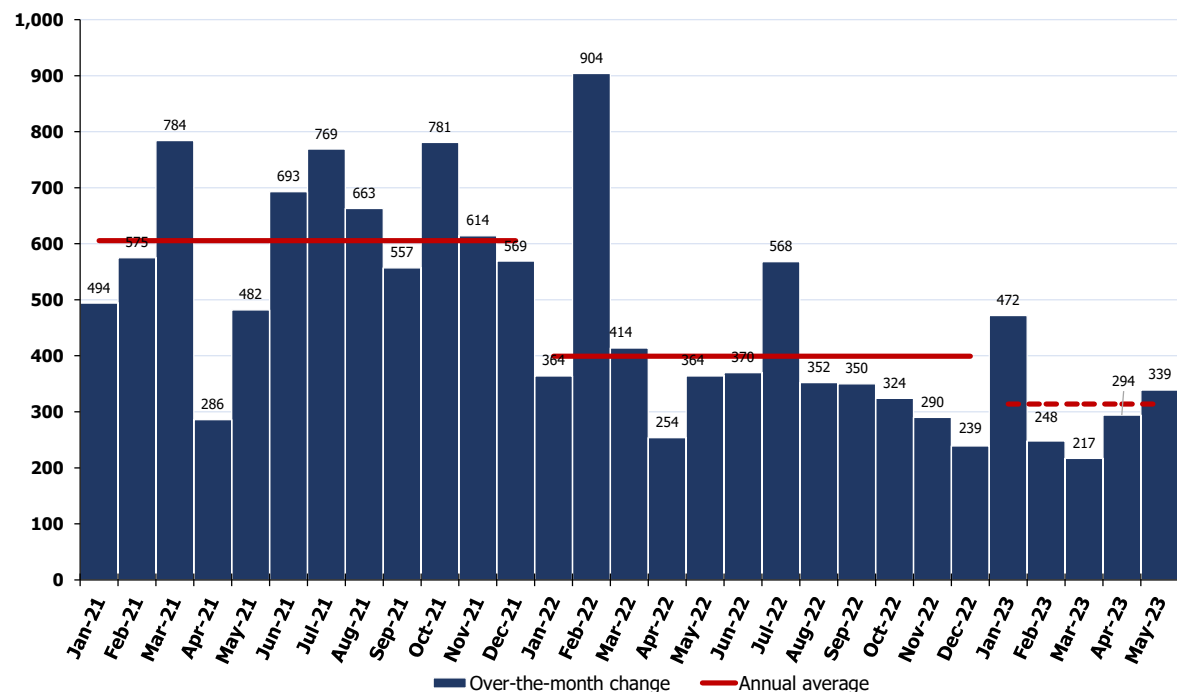
The employment change for March revised up from +165,000 to +217,000, and the change for April revised up from +253,000 to +294,000. On net, employment over these months is 93,000 higher than previously reported.

In May, average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls rose by 11 cents, or 0.3 percent. Over the year, hourly earnings have increased by 4.3 percent. Average weekly hours of all employees edged down 0.1 hour to 34.3 hours.

+97,000 Private Education and Health Services

Employment in health care increased by 52,000 in May, including gains in ambulatory health care services (+24,000), hospitals (+20,000), and nursing and residential care facilities (+9,000). Over the prior 12 months,

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



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, June 02, 2023.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

health care had added an average of 50,000 jobs per month.

Employment in social assistance increased by 22,000 in May, in line with the average monthly gain of 23,000 over the prior 12

months. Most of the job growth over the month is due to an increase in individual and family services (+17,000).

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, May 2023

+64,000 Professional and Business Services

Professional, scientific, and technical services added 43,000 jobs in May, compared with average monthly gains of 35,000 over the prior 12 months.

+56,000 Government

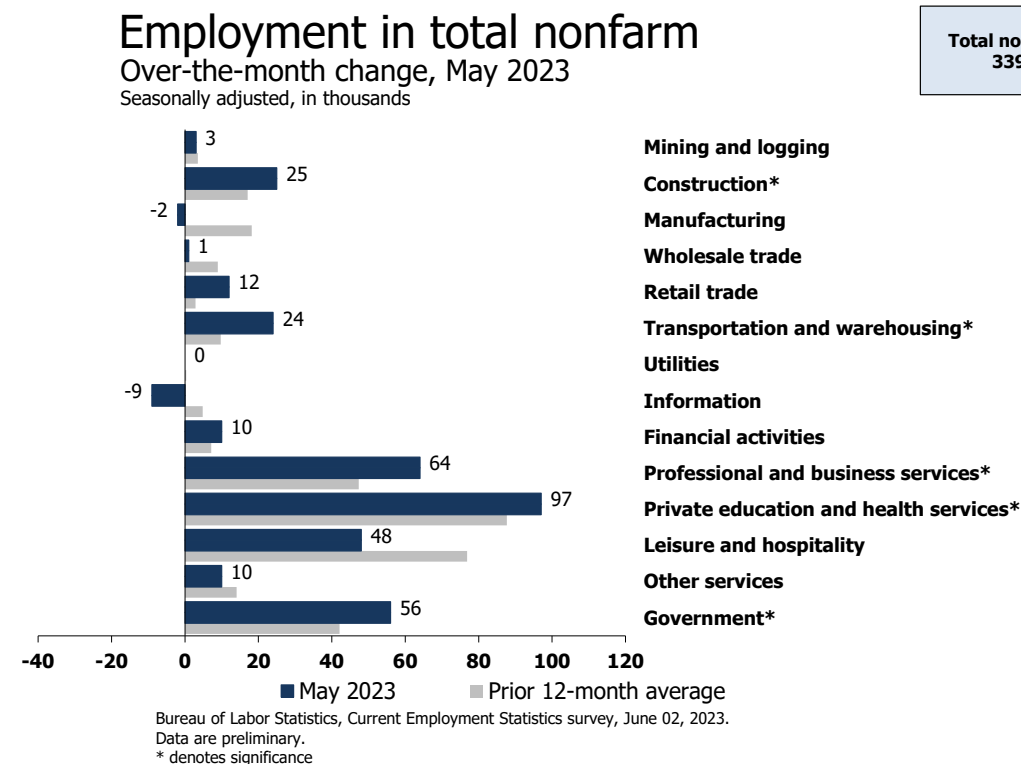
Government employment increased by 56,000 in May, after adding an average of 42,000 per month over the prior 12 months. Employment in government has yet to recover from COVID-19-related losses and is below its February 2020 level by 209,000.

+48,000 Leisure and Hospitality

In May, employment in leisure and hospitality continued to trend up (+48,000) but is below its pre-pandemic February 2020 level by 349,000.

+25,000 Construction

Employment in construction increased by 25,000 in May, with a gain in heavy and civil engineering construction (+11,000). Over the prior 12 months, construction had an average gain of 17,000 jobs per month.

**+24,000 Transportation and Warehousing**

Employment in transportation and warehousing increased by 24,000 in May, mostly in transit and ground passenger transportation (+12,000) and in couriers and messengers (+8,000). On average,

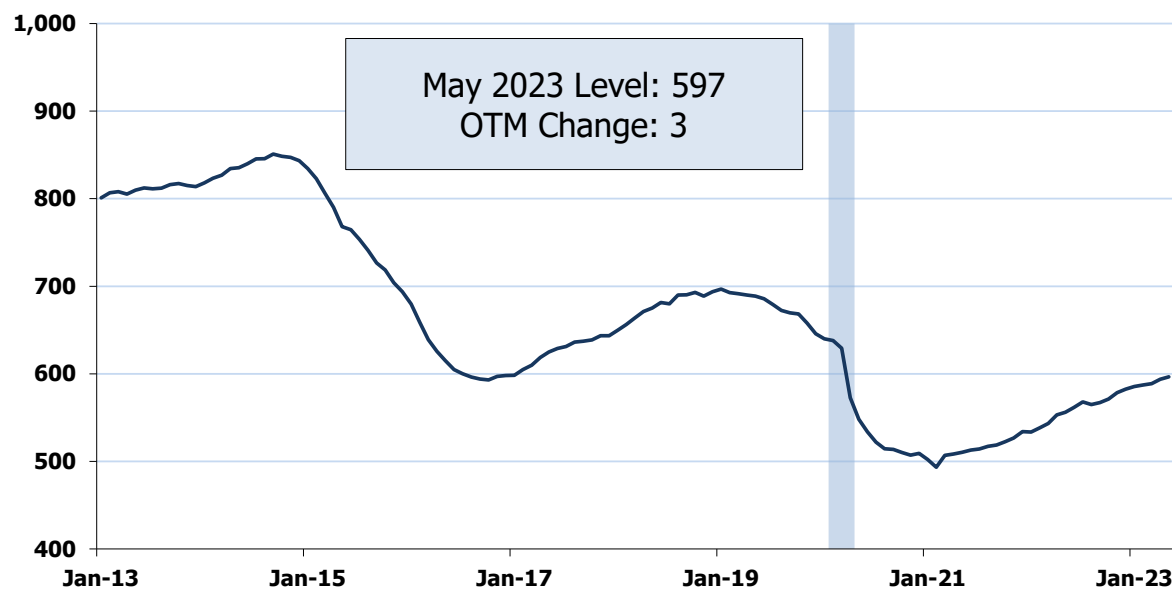
transportation and warehousing had added 10,000 jobs per month over the prior 12 months.

Mining and Logging

Employment in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction

January 2013–May 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

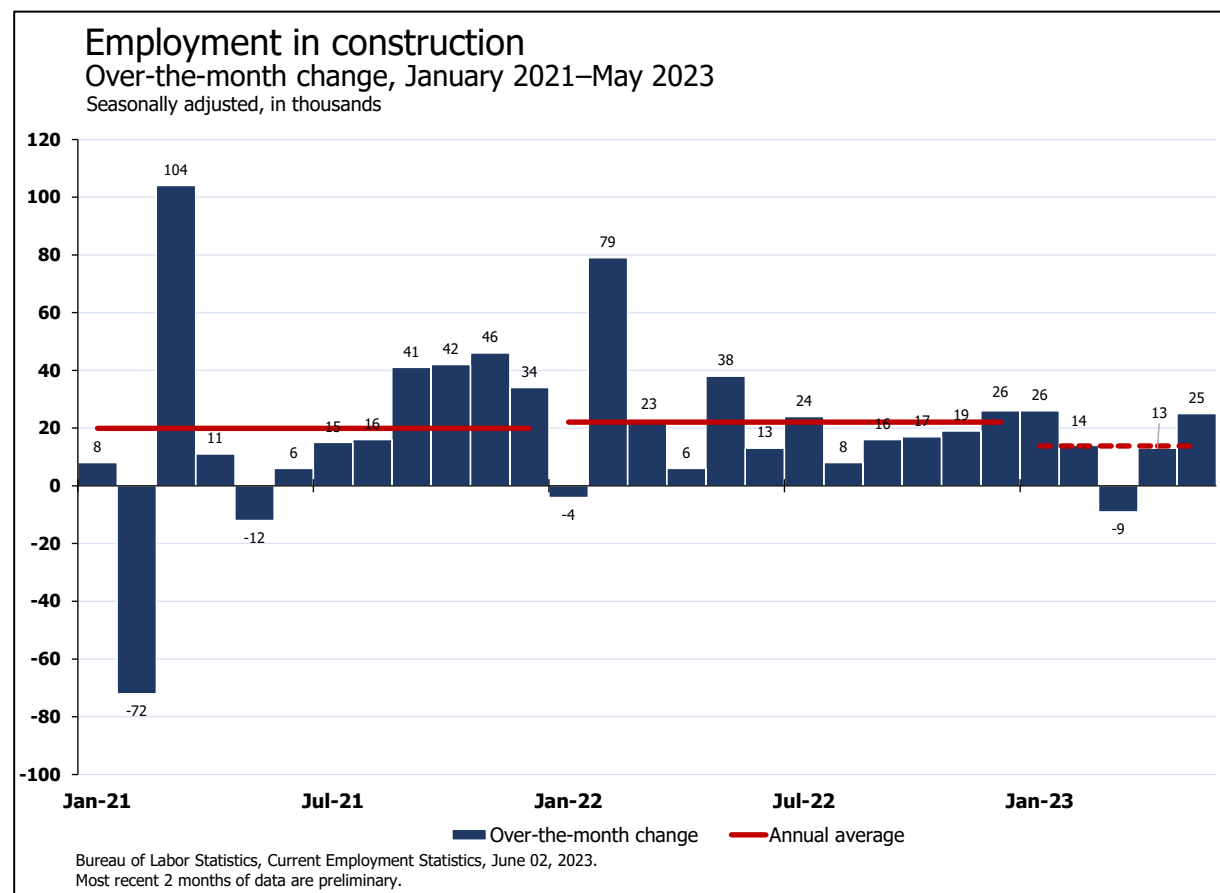


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 02, 2023.
 Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
 Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.
 * denotes significance.

Employment in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction changed little in May (+3,000). Over the month, both the [North American rotary rigs](#) count and the average weekly price of [West Texas Intermediate crude oil](#) decreased.

Since an employment trough in February 2021, the industry has expanded by 103,000.

Construction



Employment in construction increased by 25,000 in May, compared with its prior 12-month average gain of 17,000 per month.

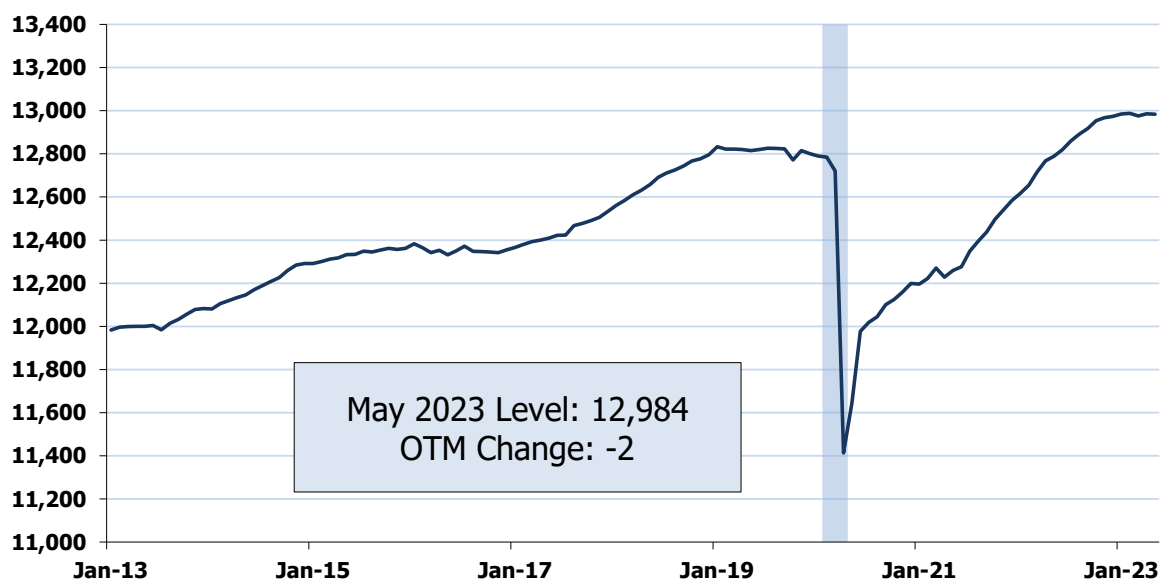
In May, employment in heavy and civil engineering construction grew by 11,000, more than offsetting a loss of 8,000 in April.

The strength in construction employment in May follows upticks in [housing starts](#) and [new home sales](#) in April.

Manufacturing

Employment in manufacturing January 2013–May 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 02, 2023.
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Manufacturing employment changed little in May (-2,000). In the prior 12 months, the industry averaged a gain of 18,000 jobs per month.

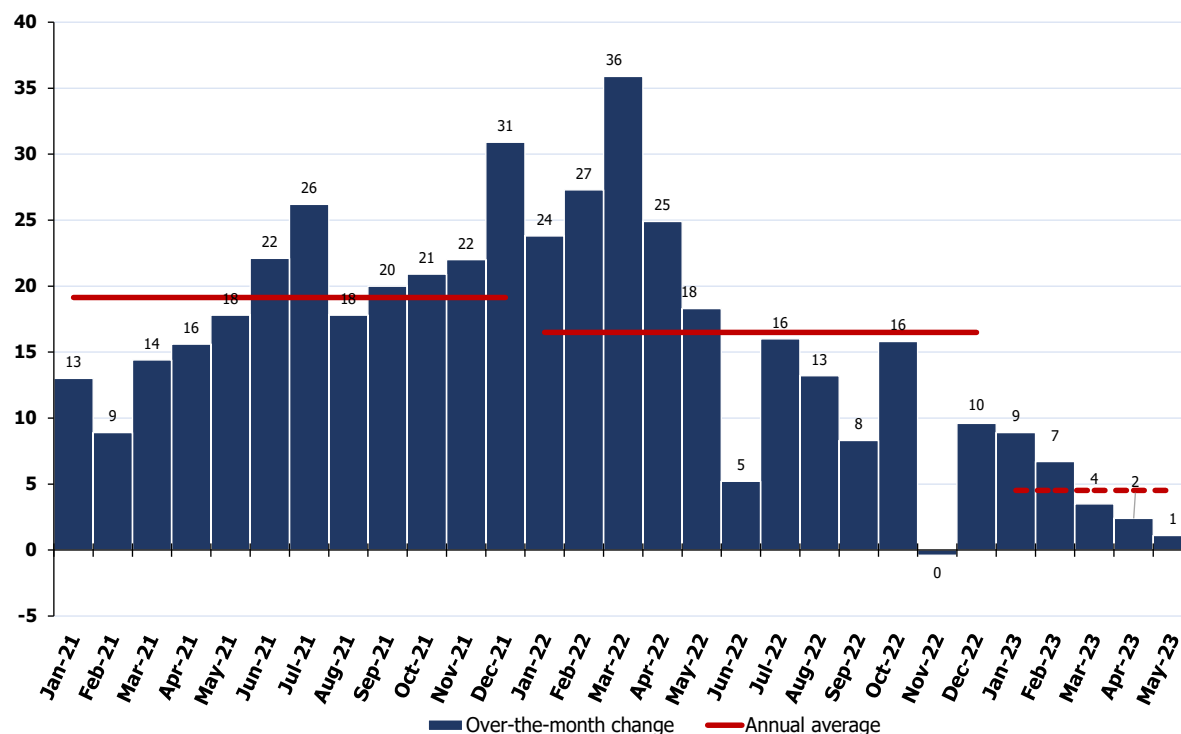
Within durable goods, an employment decrease in furniture and related product manufacturing (-4,000) more than offset a gain in primary metal manufacturing (+2,000) over the month. Within nondurable goods, employment losses occurred in textile mills (-2,000) and in printing and related support activities (-2,000).

The manufacturing 1-month diffusion index increased by 2.8 to 47.2 and has remained below 50 for the past 4 months. A number below 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries are losing jobs than are adding jobs.

In May, average weekly hours for all employees and for production employees in manufacturing were unchanged. Average weekly overtime hours for all employees edged up by 0.1 hour to 3.0 hours, while overtime hours for production employees were unchanged.

Wholesale Trade

Employment in wholesale trade
Over-the-month change, January 2021–May 2023
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, June 02, 2023.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in wholesale trade was essentially flat in May (+1,000). Over the prior 12 months, the industry had an average monthly employment gain of 9,000. In May, employment in wholesale trade agents and brokers fell by 6,000.

Retail Trade



Employment in retail trade changed little in May (+12,000).

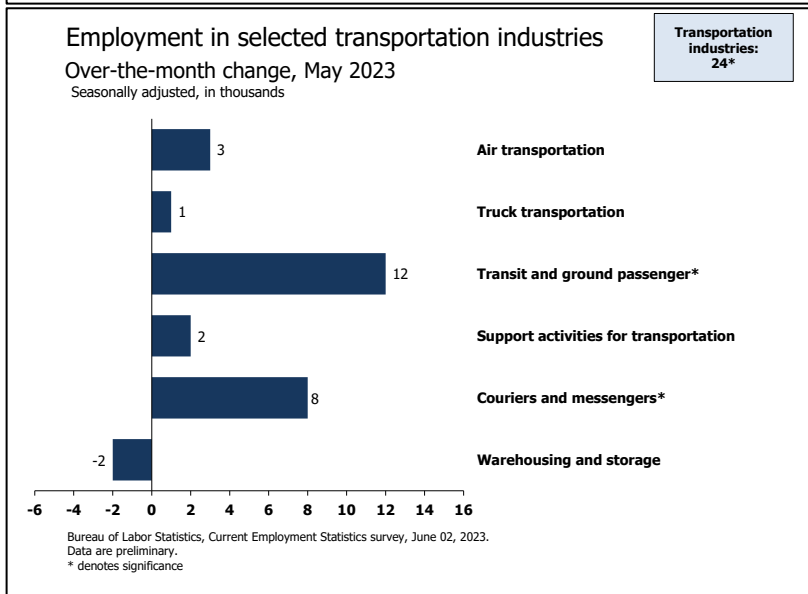
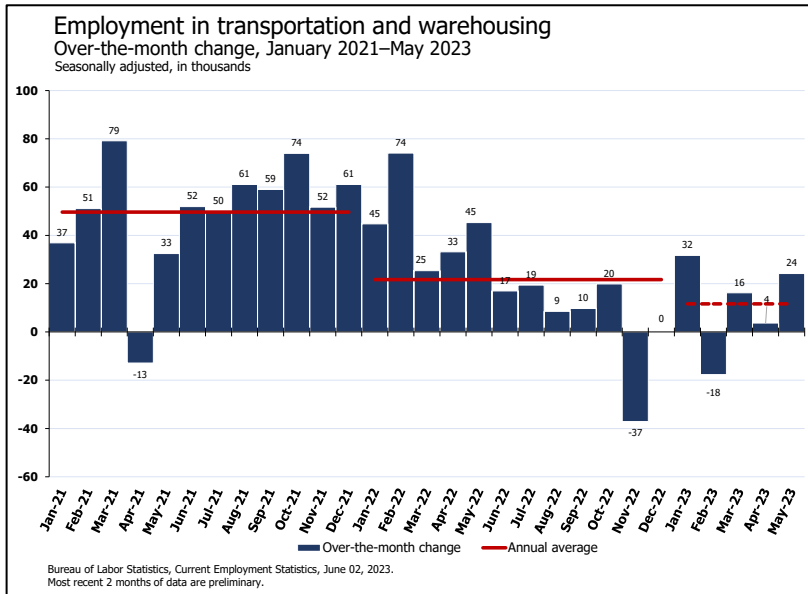
Over the month, employment increases in general merchandise retailers (+10,000) and motor vehicle and parts dealers (+6,000) were partially offset by a loss of 4,000 jobs in furniture, home furnishings, electronics, and appliance retailers.

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

Transportation and Warehousing

Employment in transportation and warehousing grew by 24,000 in May, after showing little net change in recent months.

Employment in transit and ground passenger transportation increased by 12,000 in May, offsetting a loss of equal magnitude in April. In May, couriers and messengers (+8,000) and air transportation (+3,000) added jobs.

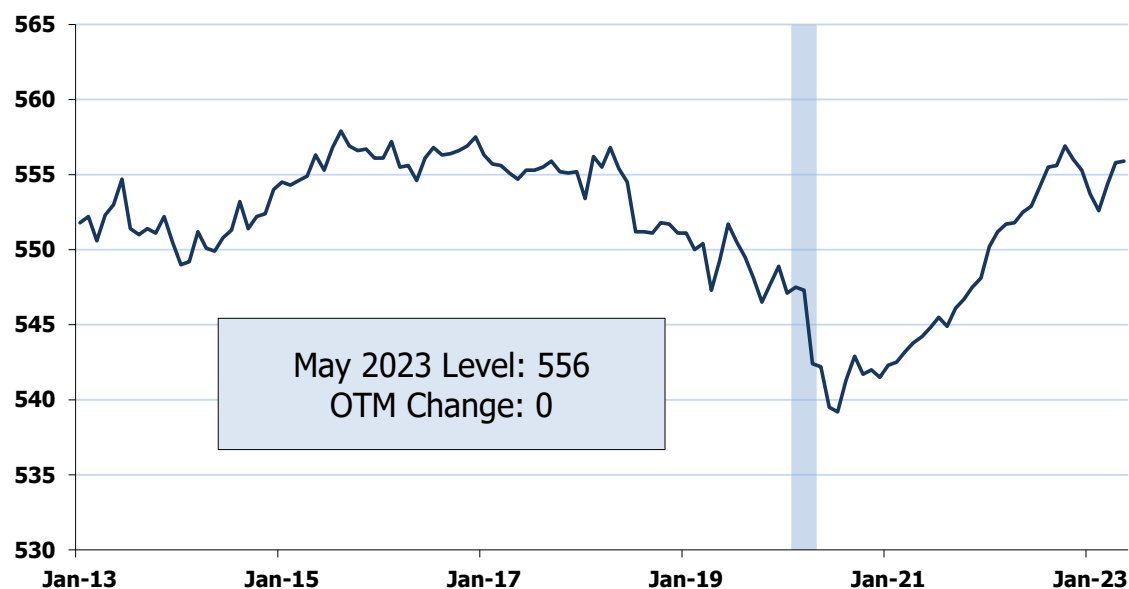


Utilities

Employment in utilities was flat in May (0).

Employment in utilities January 2013–May 2023

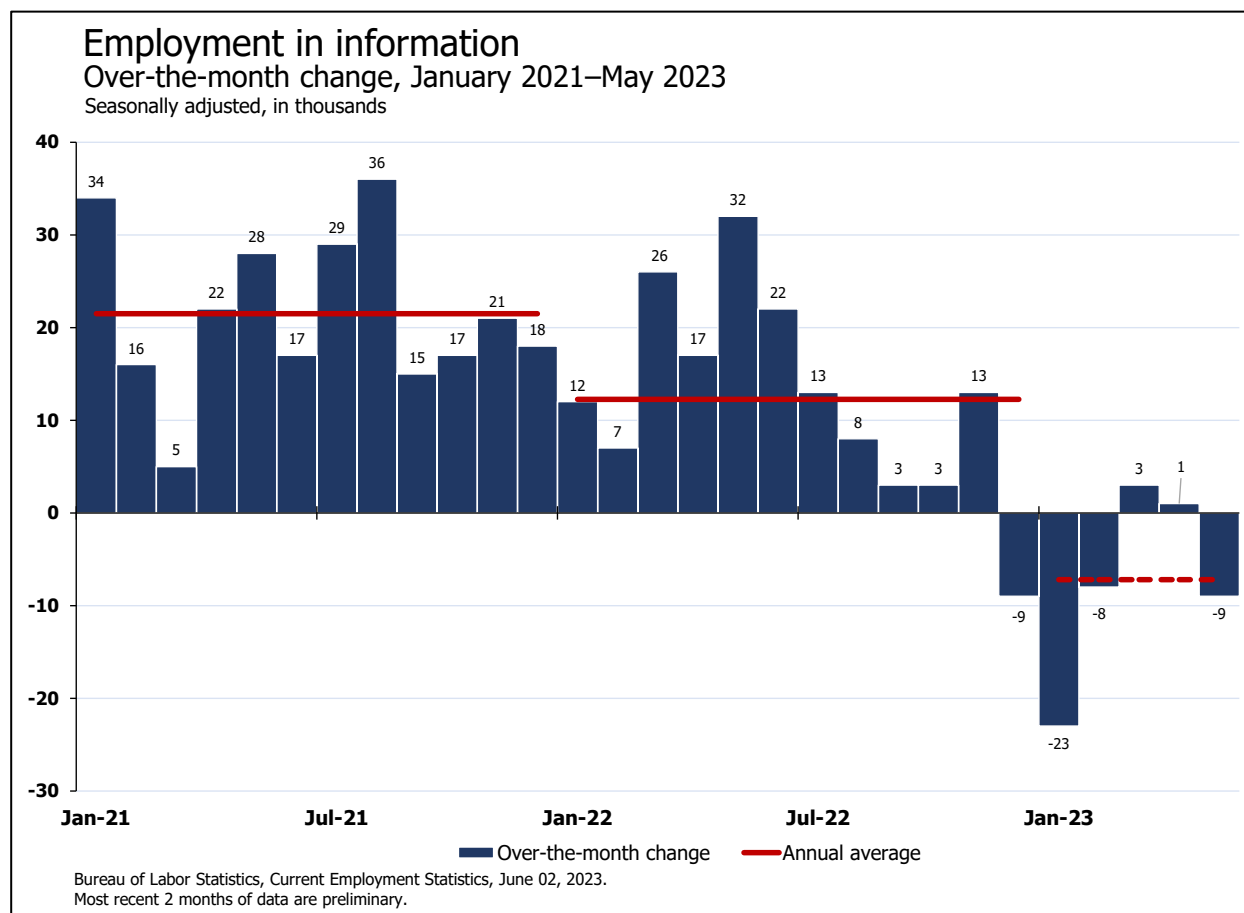
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 02, 2023.
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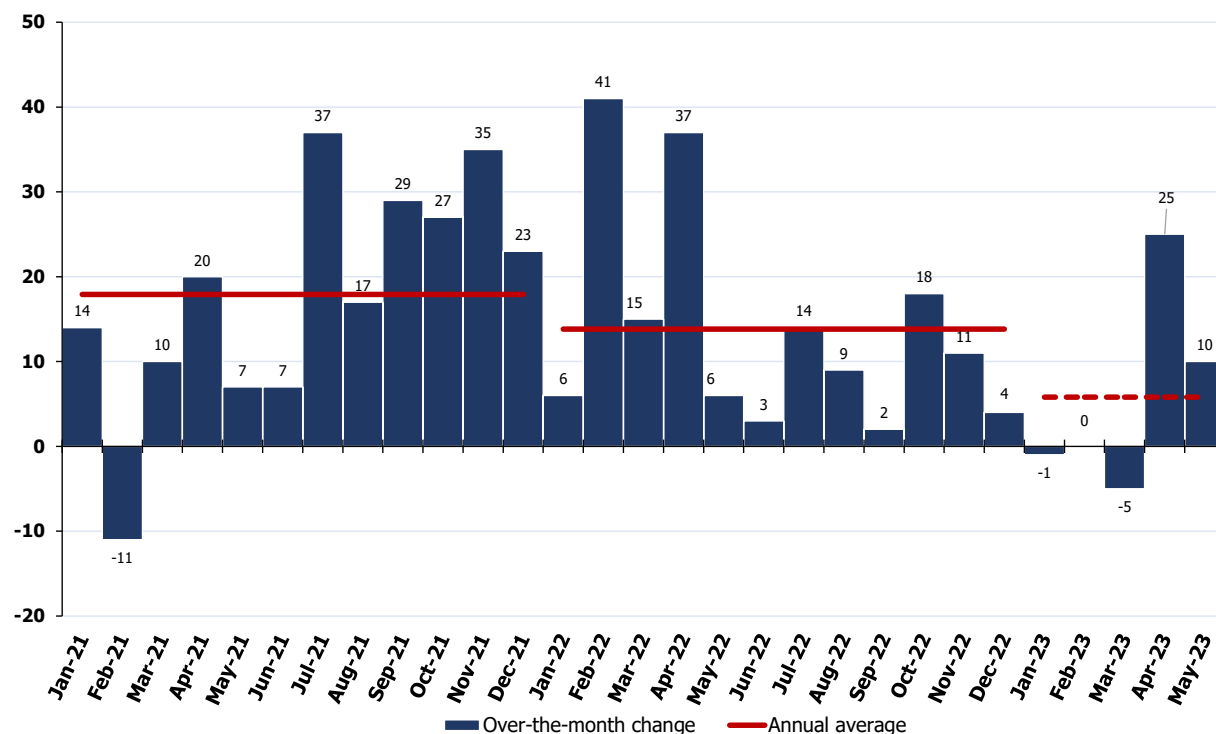
Information

Employment in information changed little in May (-9,000). The industry had added an average of 5,000 jobs per month over the prior 12 months.



Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities
Over-the-month change, January 2021–May 2023
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

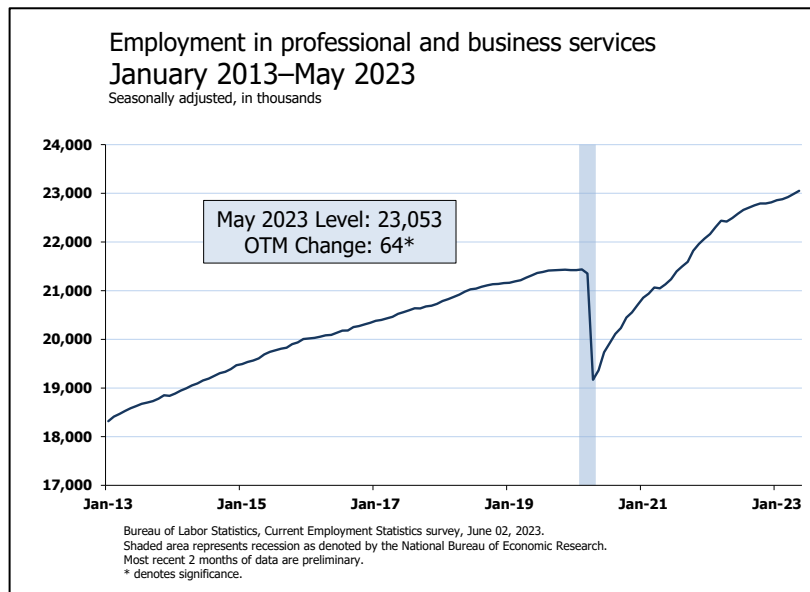


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, June 02, 2023.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in financial activities changed little in May (+10,000) and has shown little net change so far this year.

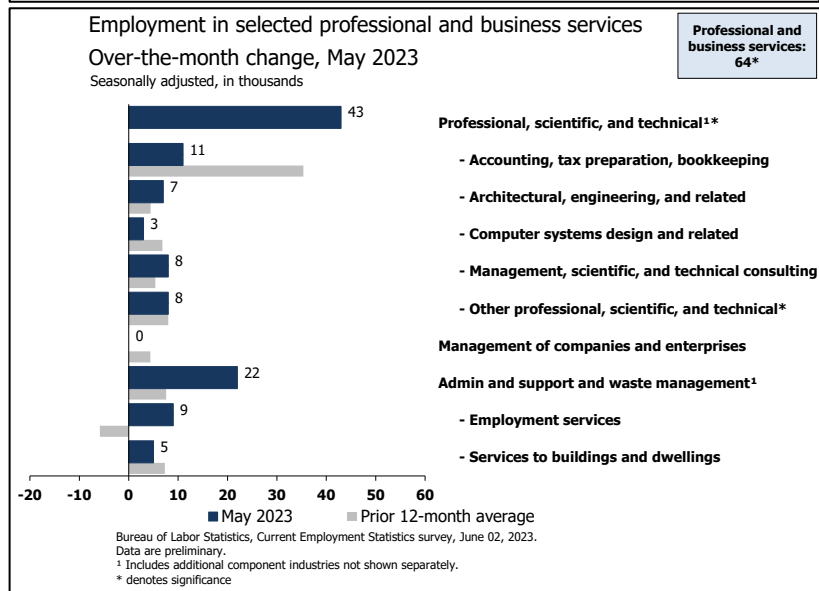
In May, commercial banking lost 6,000 jobs.

Professional and Business Services



Employment in professional and business services rose by 64,000 in May, compared with its prior 12-month average gain of 47,000 per month. In May, employment in professional, scientific, and technical services increased by 43,000, with gains in accounting, tax preparation, bookkeeping, and payroll services (+11,000) and in other professional, scientific, and technical services (+8,000).

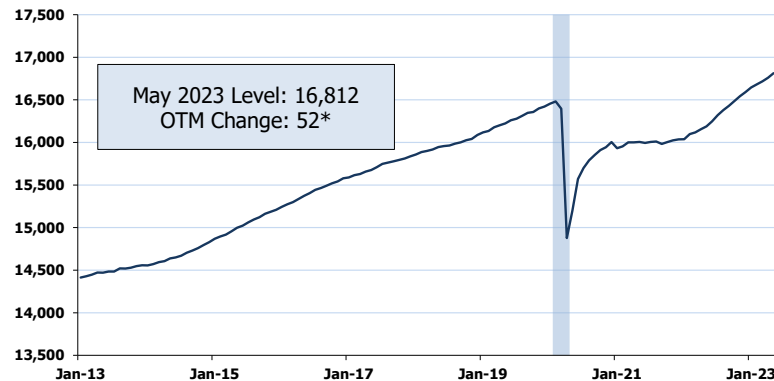
Temporary help services changed little in May (+8,000), coinciding with recent weakness in the [ASA Staffing Index](#). Since reaching a recent employment peak in March 2022, temporary help services has lost 135,000 jobs.



Private Education and Health Services

Employment in health care January 2013–May 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



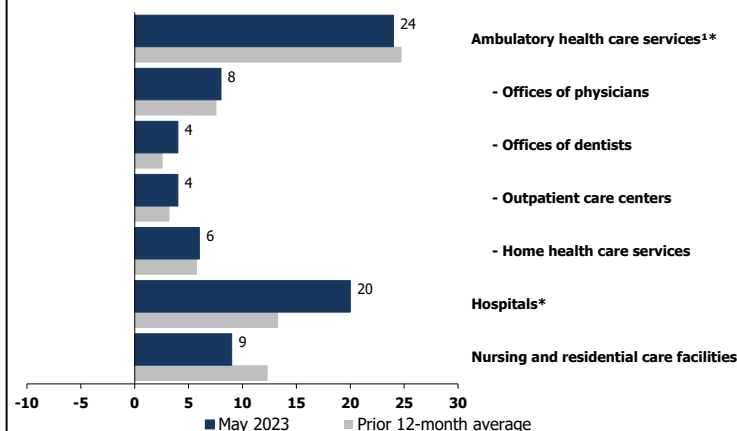
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 02, 2023.
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Employment in health care increased by 52,000 in May, in line with its prior 12-month average gain of 50,000 per month.

Employment in selected health care industries Over-the-month change, May 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Health care industries:
52*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 02, 2023.
Data are preliminary.
* Includes additional component industries not shown separately.
* denotes significance

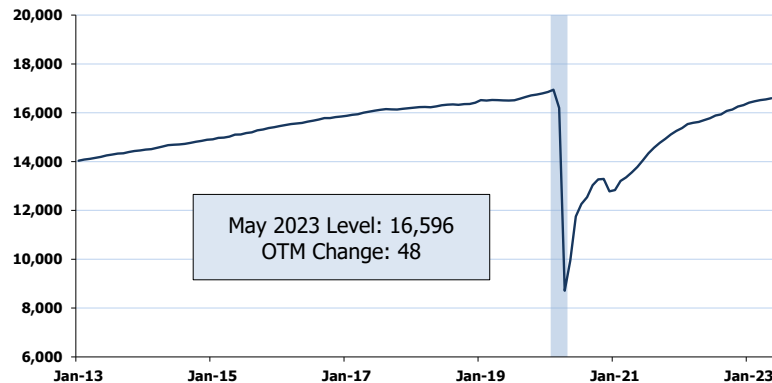
In May, ambulatory health care services (+24,000), hospitals (+20,000), and nursing and residential care facilities (+9,000) added jobs.

Employment in social assistance increased by 22,000 over the month, with individual and family services accounting for 17,000 of the gain.

Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in leisure and hospitality January 2013–May 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



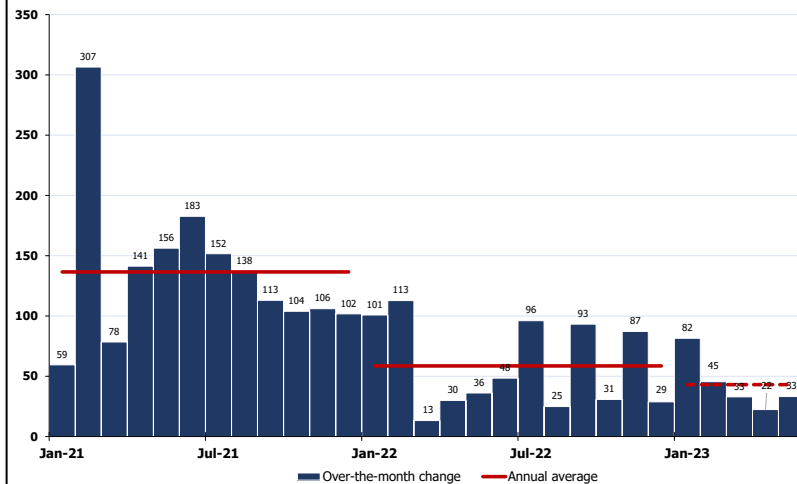
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 02, 2023.
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Employment in leisure and hospitality continued to trend up in May (+48,000), following average monthly gains of 77,000 over the prior 12 months. Industry employment is 349,000 lower than the February 2020 level.

Over the year, average hourly earnings for all employees in leisure and hospitality rose by 5.5 percent to \$21.07.

Employment in food services and drinking places Over-the-month change, January 2021–May 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, June 02, 2023.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in food services and drinking places continued to trend up in May (+33,000), after increasing by an average of 52,000 per month over the prior 12 months.

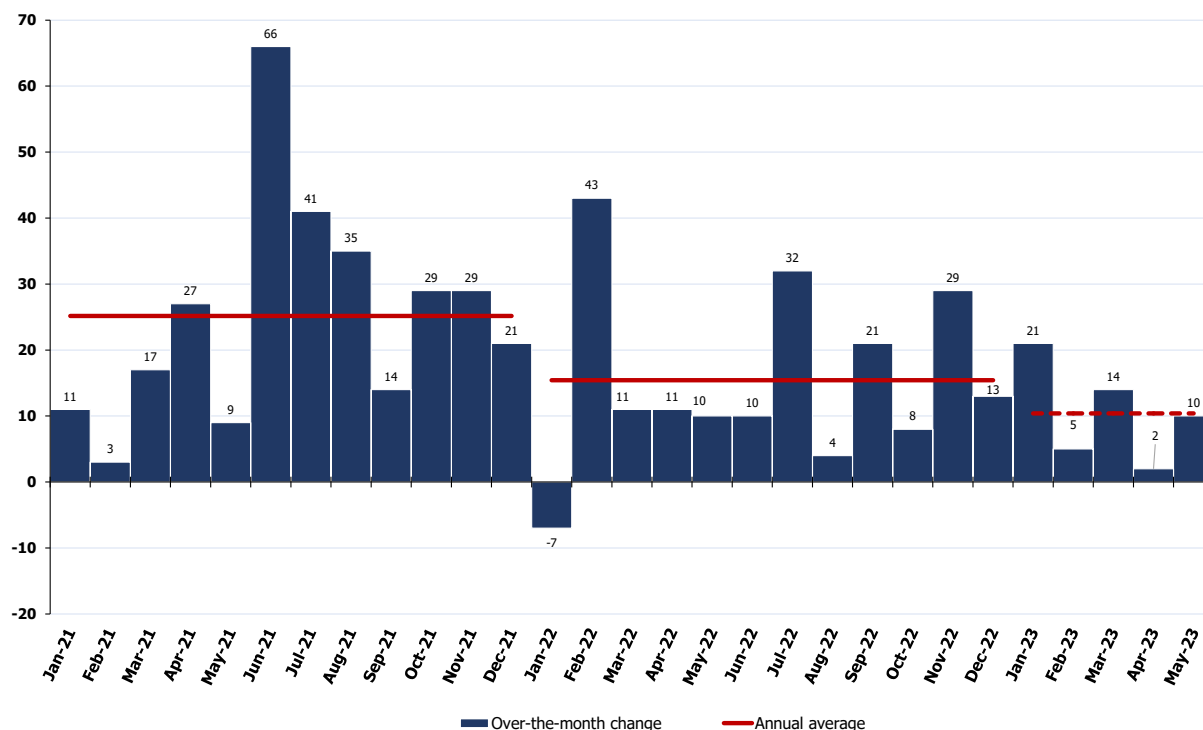
Relevant economic indicators are mixed—[personal consumption expenditures](#) and [restaurant sales](#) ticked up in April, while the [Restaurant Performance Index](#) declined.

Other Services

Employment in other services

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

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, June 02, 2023.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in other services changed little in May (+10,000) and is 90,000 below its February 2020 level.

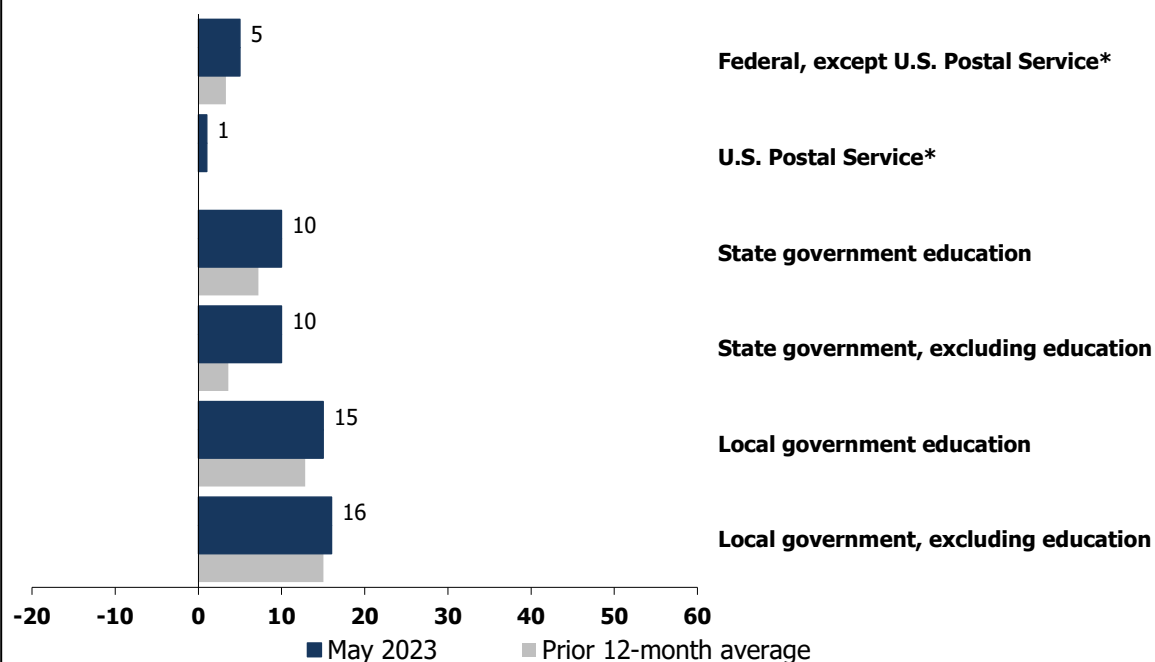
Government

Employment in selected government

Over-the-month change, May 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Government:
56*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 02, 2023.

Data are preliminary.

* denotes significance

Government employment increased by 56,000 in May, compared with the average monthly gain of 42,000 over the prior 12 months. Employment in government is 209,000 below its February 2020 level.



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