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# Current Employment Statistics Highlights



**August 2023**

**Release Date:** September 1, 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, August 2023

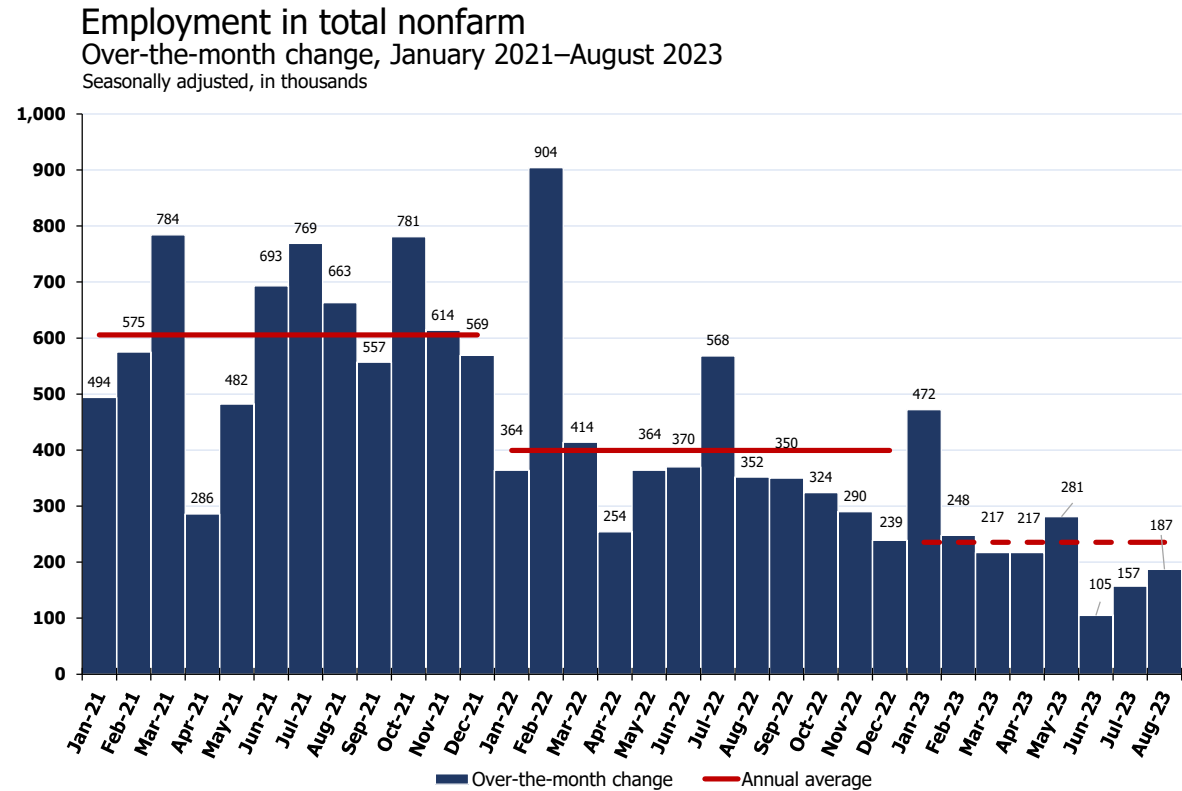
Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 187,000 in August, lower than the average monthly gain of 271,000 over the prior 12 months. In August, employment continued to trend up in health care, leisure and hospitality, social assistance, and construction. Employment in transportation and warehousing declined.

The employment change for June revised down from +185,000 to +105,000, and the change for July revised down from +187,000 to +157,000. On net, employment over these months is 110,000 lower than previously reported.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls rose by 8 cents, or 0.2 percent in August. Over the year, hourly earnings have increased by 4.3 percent. Average weekly hours of all employees edged up 0.1 hour to 34.4 hours.

#### +102,000 Private Education and Health Services

Employment in health care increased by 71,000 in August, more than the average monthly gain of 52,000 over the prior 12 months. In August, job growth continued in ambulatory health care services (+40,000),



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, September 01, 2023. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

nursing and residential care facilities (+17,000), and hospitals (+15,000).

Employment in social assistance increased by 26,000 in August, in line with the average monthly gain of 22,000 over the prior 12

months. In August, individual and family services added 21,000 jobs.

### Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, August 2023

#### +40,000 Leisure and Hospitality

In August, employment in leisure and hospitality continued to trend up (+40,000). Over the prior 12 months, job gains had averaged 61,000 per month. Employment in leisure and hospitality remains below its pre-pandemic February 2020 level by 290,000, or 1.7 percent.

#### +22,000 Construction

Employment in construction continued to trend up in August (+22,000), in line with its prior 12-month average monthly gain of 17,000.

#### +19,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment in professional and business services changed little in August (+19,000) and has shown essentially no net change since May. Employment in professional, scientific, and technical services continued to trend up in August (+21,000). Employment in temporary help services continued to trend down (-19,000) and has declined by 242,000 since its peak in March 2022.

#### -15,000 Information

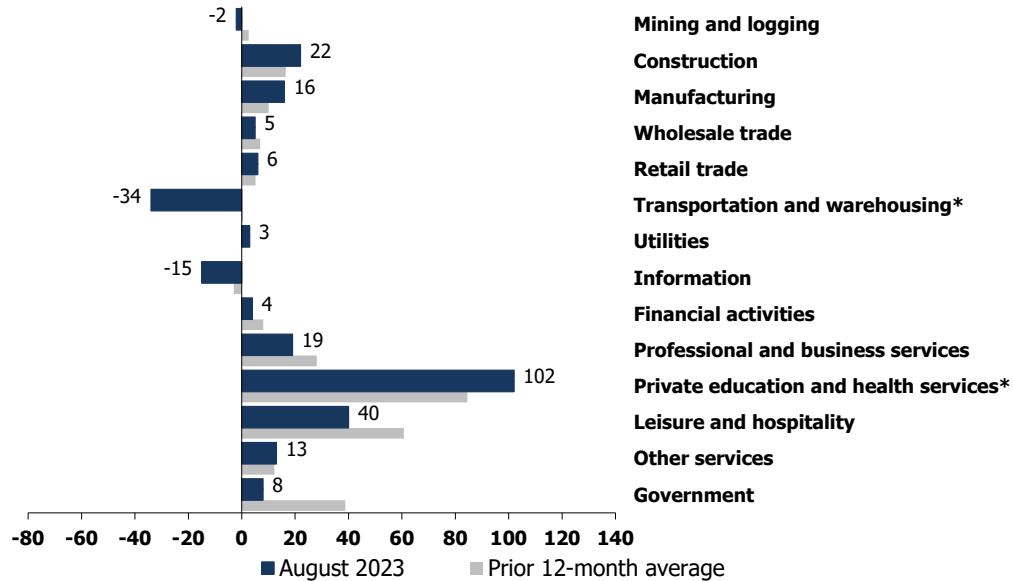
Employment in information changed little in August (-15,000). Employment in motion

### Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, August 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm: 187\*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 01, 2023. Data are preliminary. \* denotes significance

picture and sound recording industries decreased by 17,000, reflecting strike activity. Telecommunications continued to lose jobs over the month (-4,000).

#### -34,000 Transportation and Warehousing

Transportation and warehousing lost 34,000 jobs in August. Employment in truck

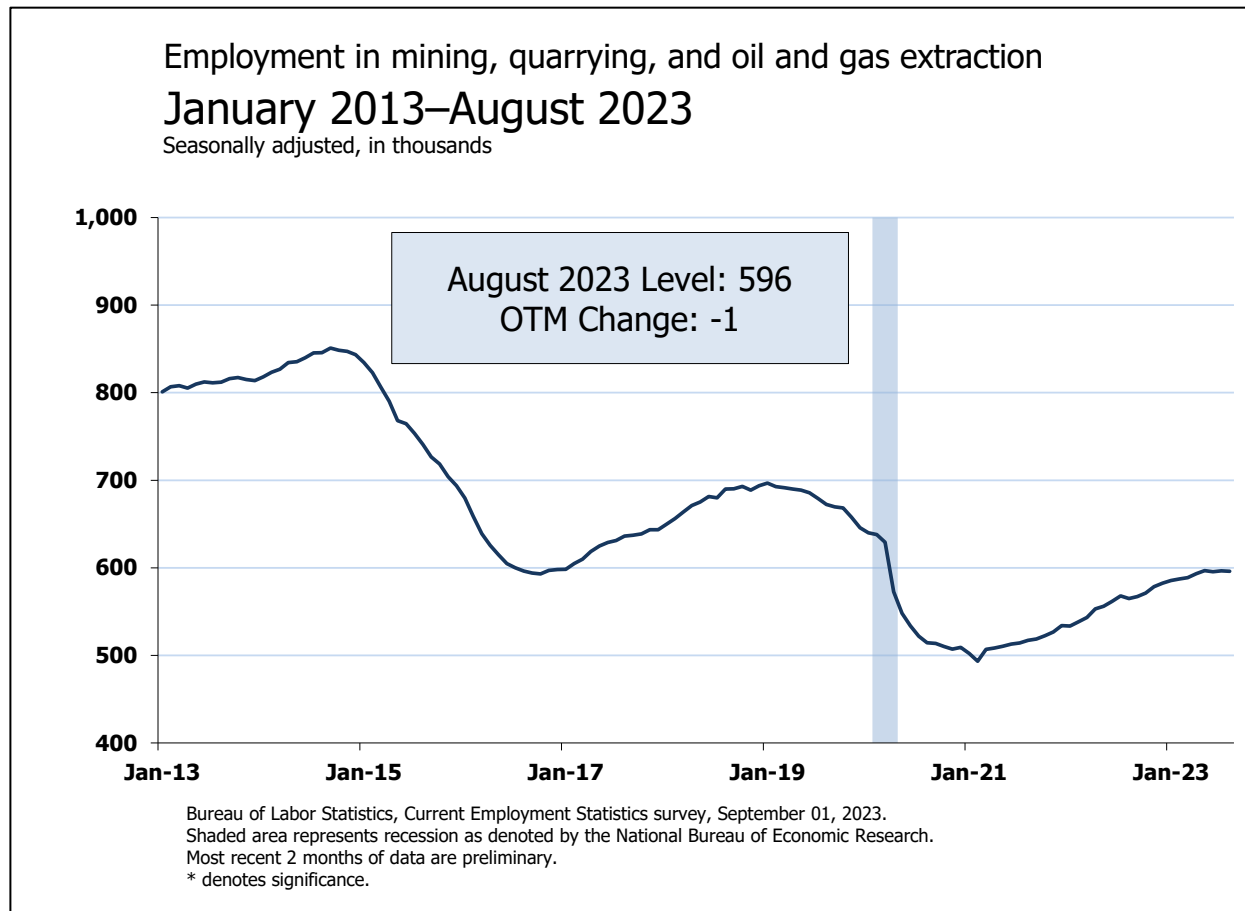
transportation fell sharply (-37,000), largely reflecting a business closure. Couriers and messengers lost 9,000 jobs, while air transportation added 3,000 jobs. Employment in transportation and warehousing had shown little net change over the prior 12 months.

## Mining and Logging

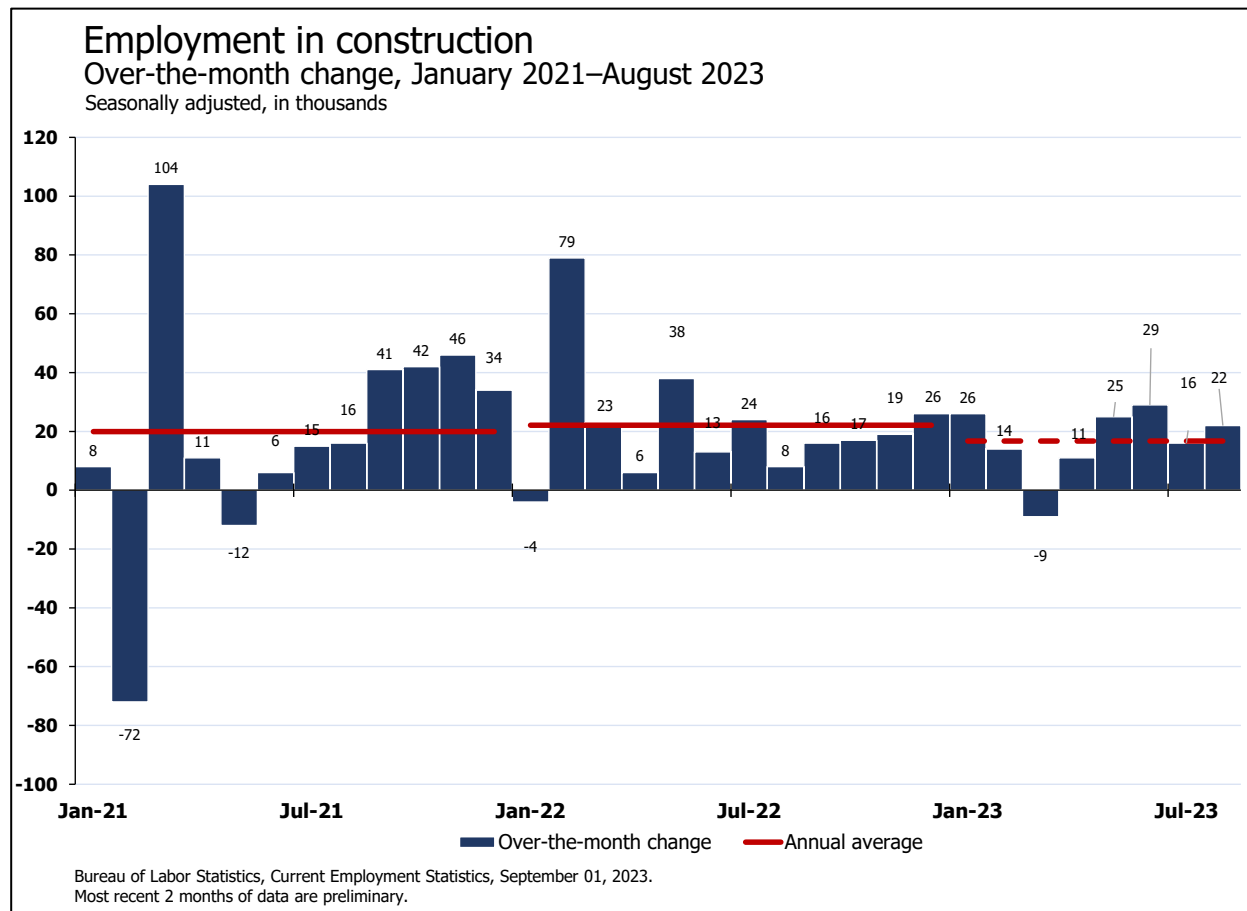
Employment in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction changed little in August (-1,000).

Over the month, the [North America rotary rig](#) count decreased, and the average weekly price of [West Texas Intermediate crude oil](#) increased.

Since an employment trough in February 2021, the industry has added 103,000 jobs.



## Construction



Employment in construction continued to trend up in August (+22,000). The industry had added an average of 17,000 jobs per month over the prior 12 months.

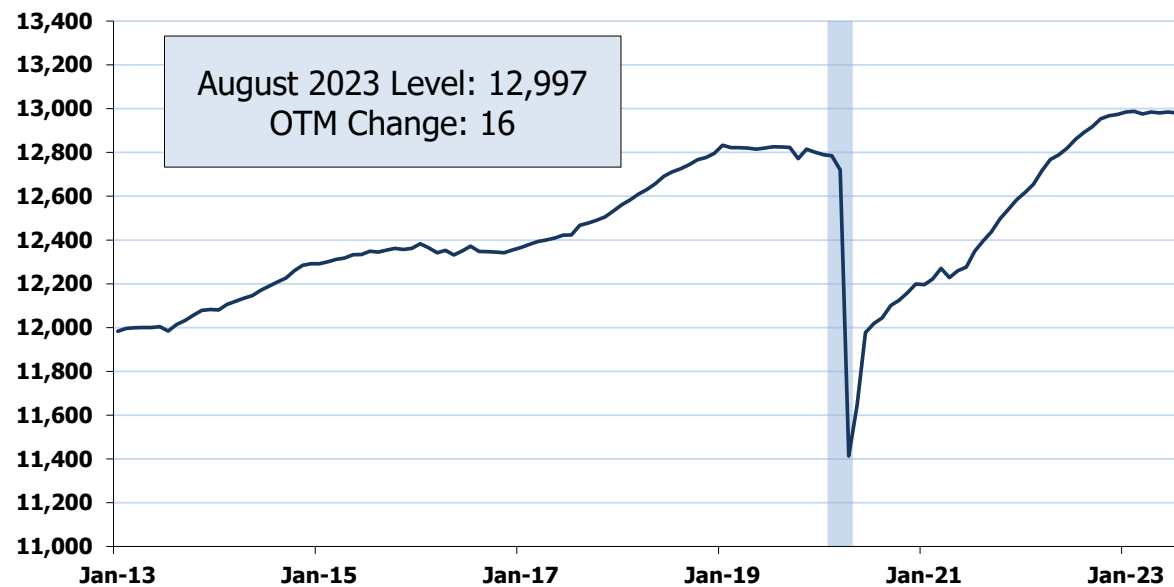
In August, employment continued to trend up in specialty trade contractors (+11,000) and in heavy and civil engineering construction (+7,000).

The upward trend in construction employment follows recent strength in [new home sales](#) and [construction spending](#).

## Manufacturing

### Employment in manufacturing January 2013–August 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 01, 2023.  
 Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.  
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 \* denotes significance.

In August, employment in manufacturing changed little (+16,000). So far this year, the industry has added an average of 3,000 jobs per month, compared with 33,000 per month in 2022.

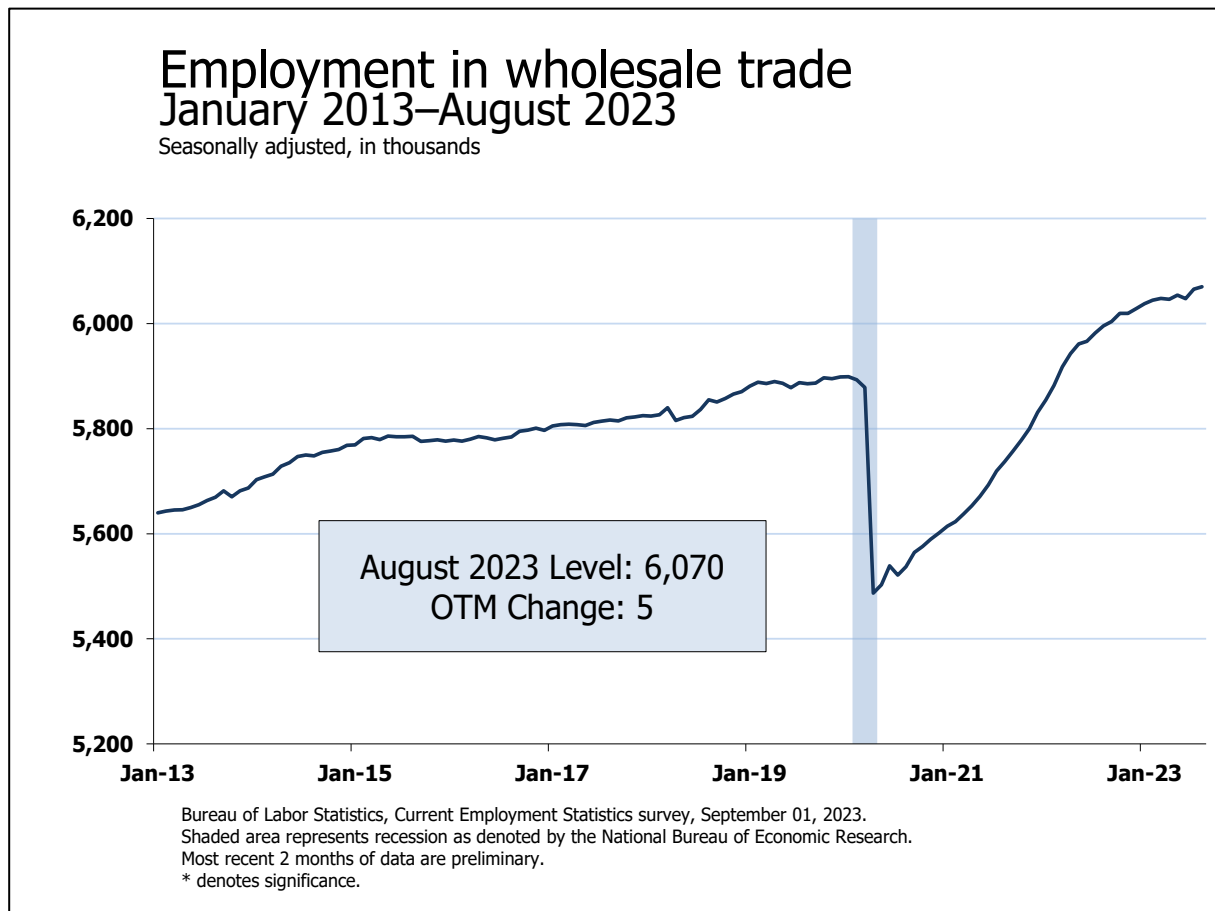
Within durable goods, electrical equipment, appliance, and component manufacturing added 4,000 jobs in August. Within nondurable goods, chemical manufacturing added 5,000 jobs.

The manufacturing 1-month diffusion index rose 7.7 points to 55.6 in August. A number above 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than are losing jobs.

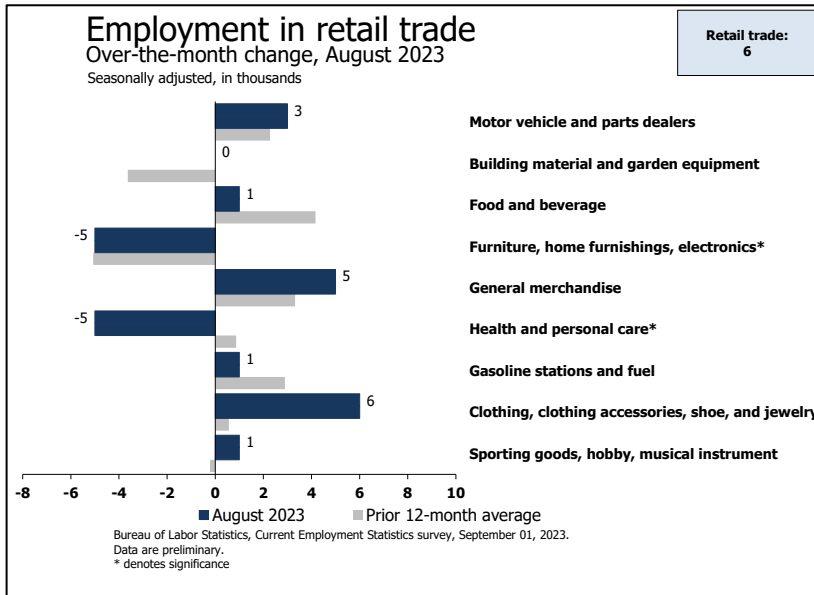
In August, average weekly hours for all employees and for production employees remained unchanged. Overtime hours for all employees edged down by 0.1 hour to 3.0 hours, while overtime hours for production workers remained unchanged at 3.7 hours.

### Wholesale Trade

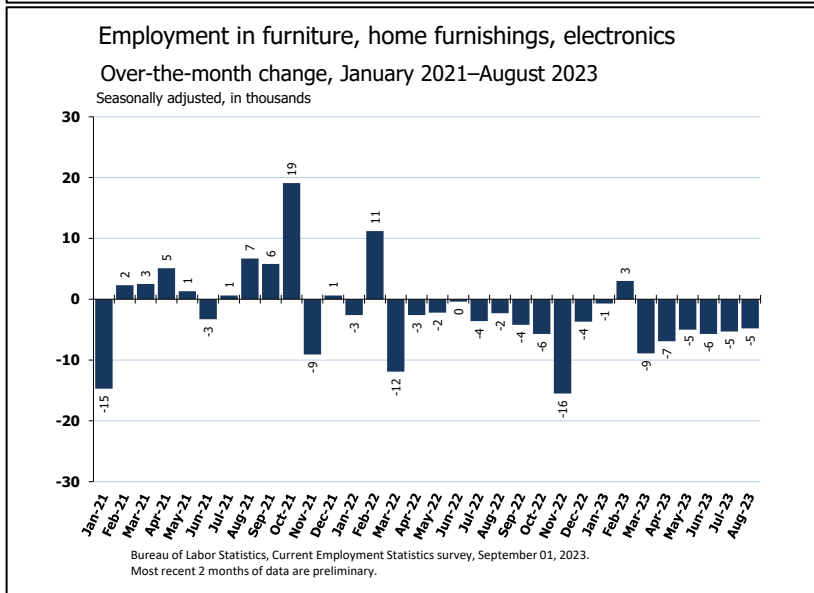
In August, employment in wholesale trade changed little (+5,000).



## Retail Trade



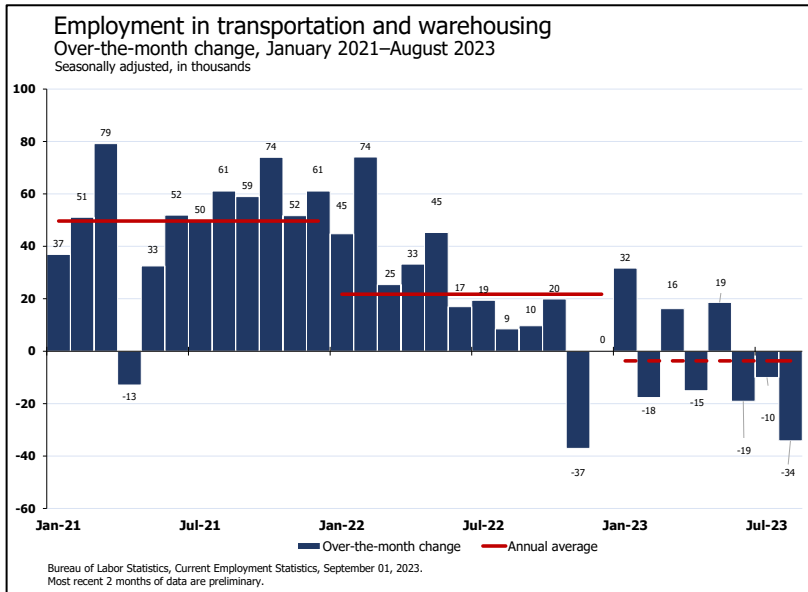
Employment in retail trade changed little in August (+6,000), in line with the prior 12-month average gain of 5,000 per month. In August, employment decreased in health and personal care retailers (-5,000) and in furniture, home furnishings, electronics, and appliance retailers (-5,000).



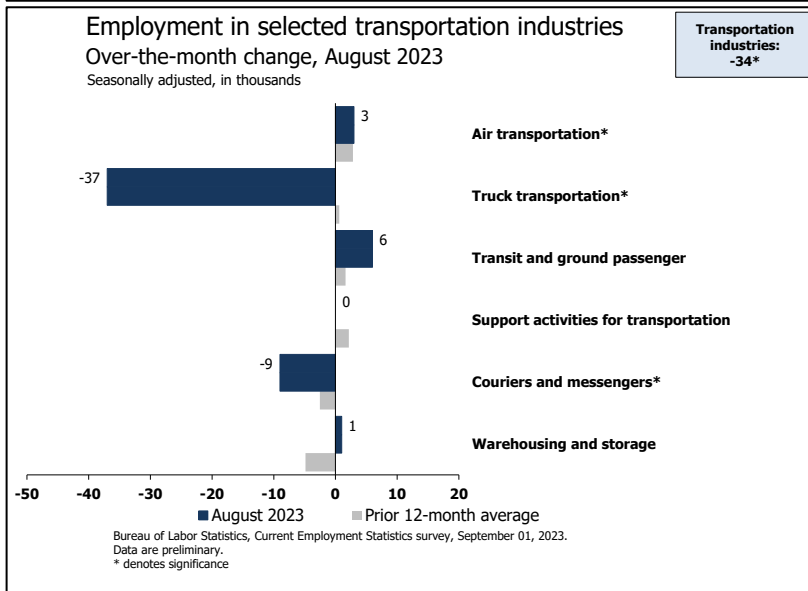
Retail-related economic indicators for the month are mixed. In July, [Retail Sales](#) and [Auto Sales](#) increased. In contrast, the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) decreased in August, and the per-gallon price of [regular gasoline](#) increased over the month.



## Transportation and Warehousing



Employment in transportation and warehousing declined by 34,000 in August and had shown little net change over the prior 12 months.

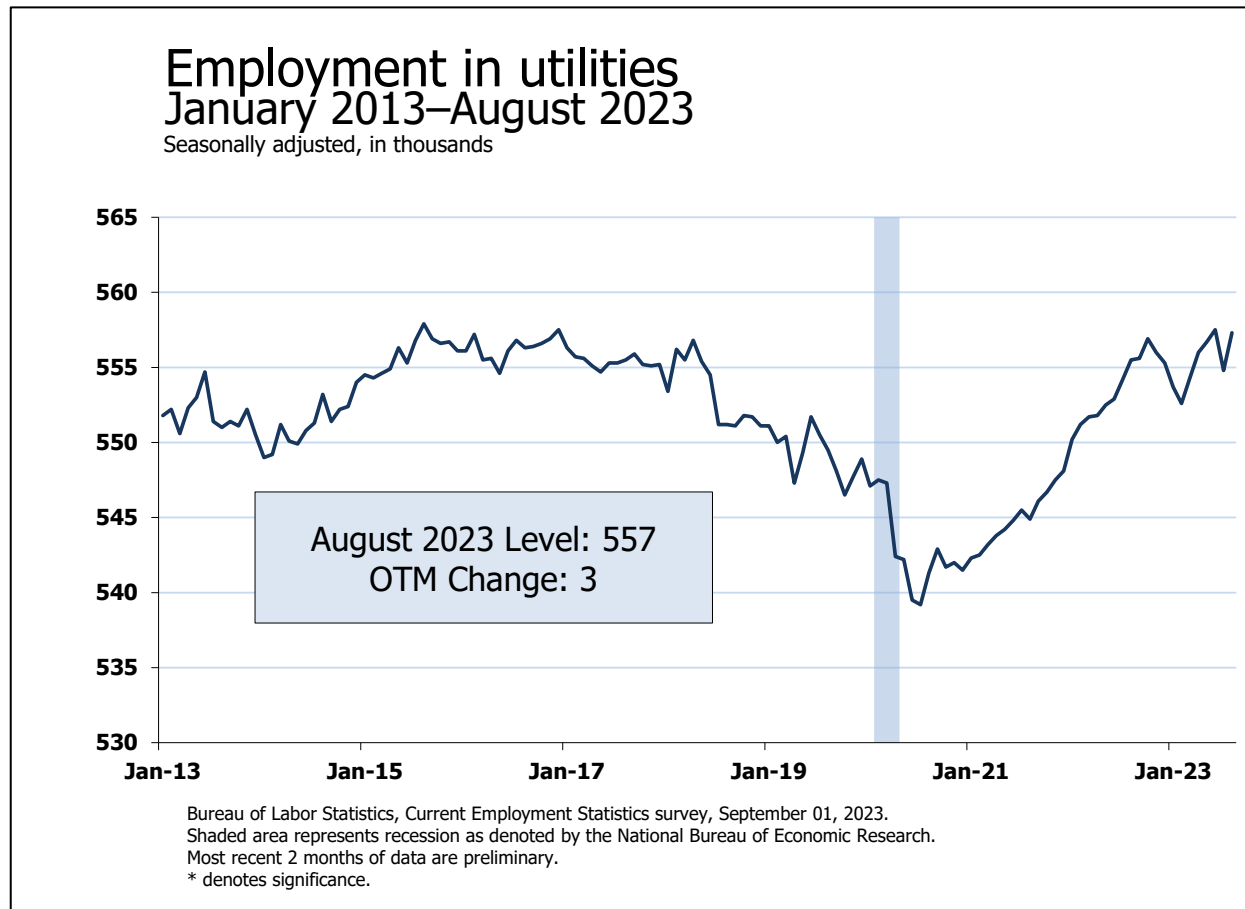


Employment in truck transportation fell by 37,000 in August, largely reflecting a business closure.

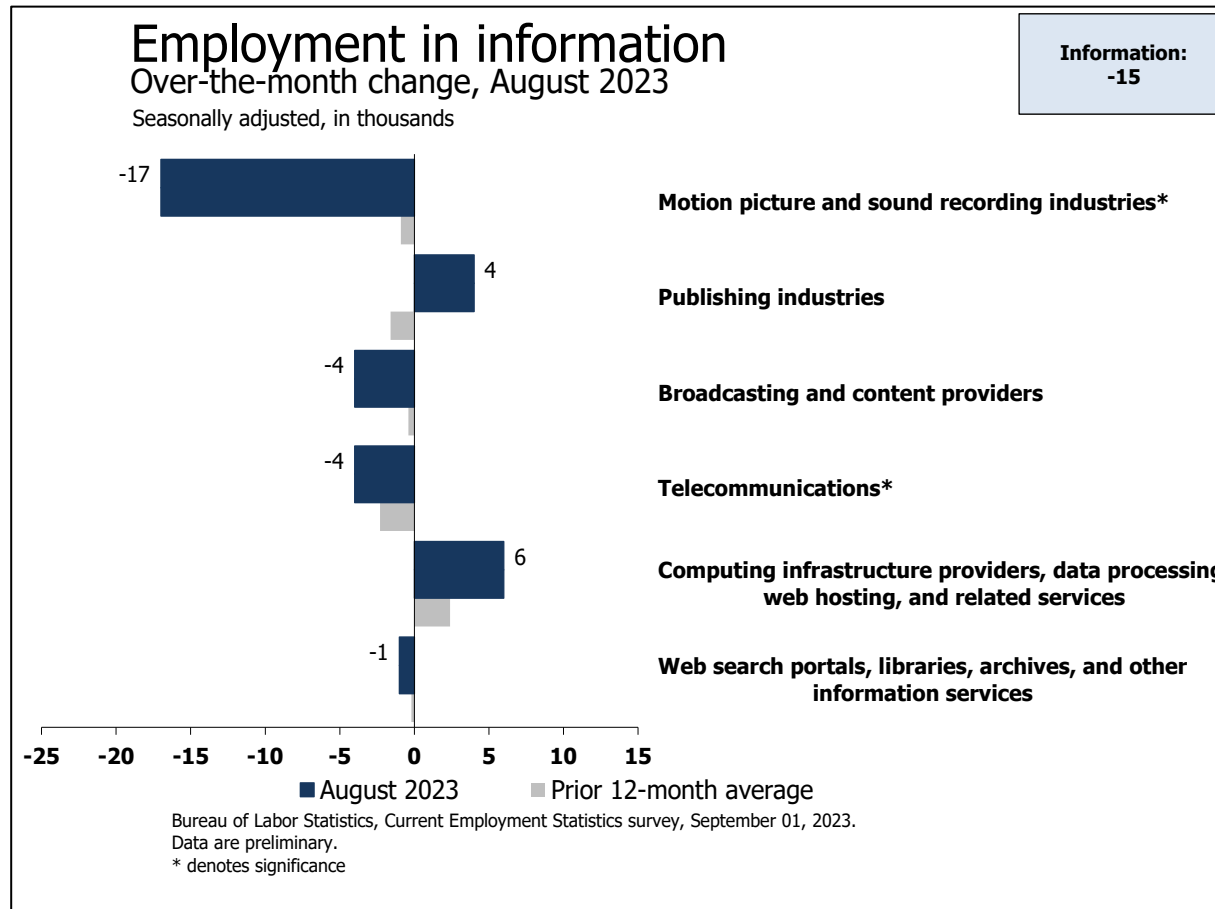
Employment in couriers and messengers decreased by 9,000 over the month and is 56,000 below its most recent peak in October 2022. In August, air transportation added 3,000 jobs, in line with its average monthly gain of 3,000 over the prior 12 months.

### Utilities

Employment in utilities increased by 3,000 in August, offsetting a decline of similar magnitude in July.



## Information

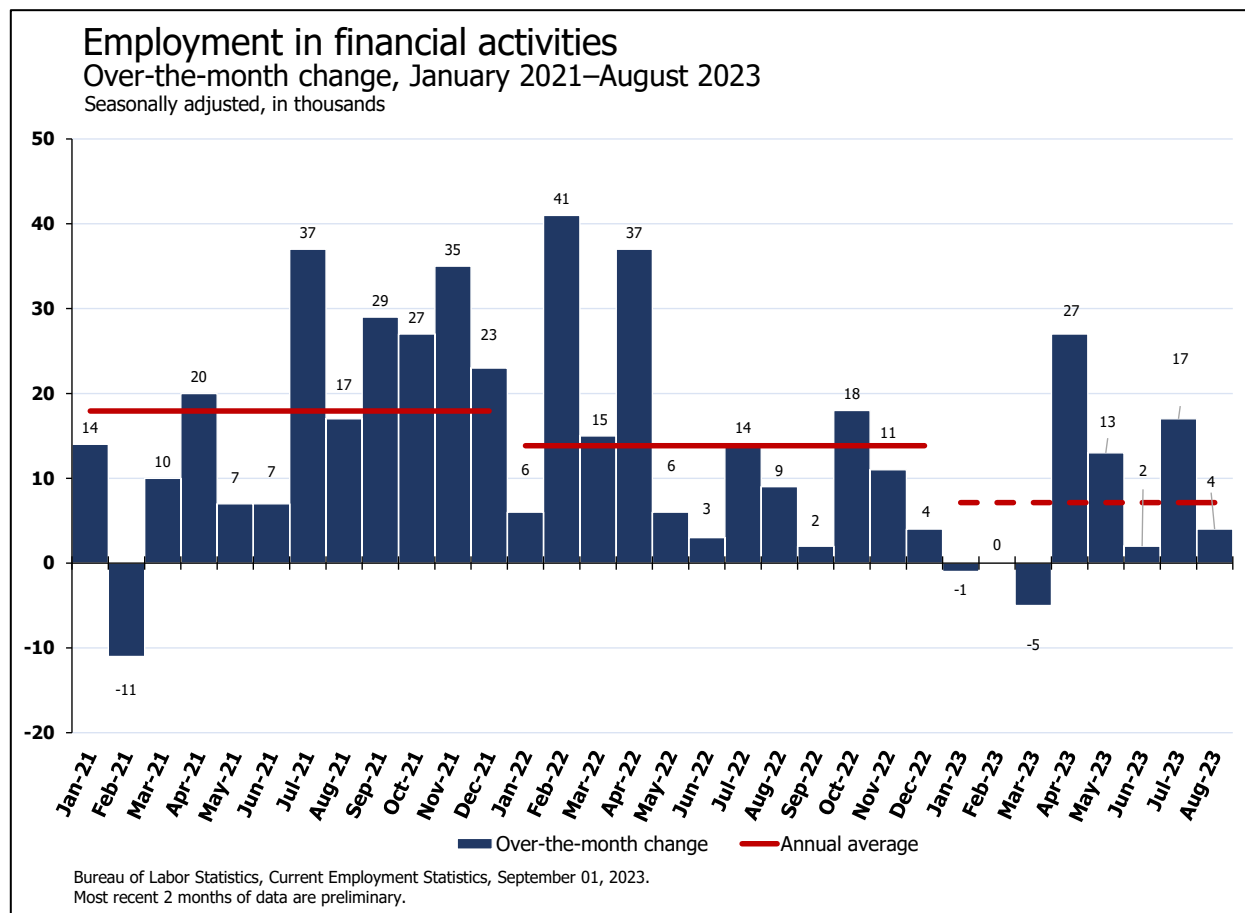


In August, employment in information changed little (-15,000).

Employment in motion picture and sound recording industries declined by 17,000 over the month, reflecting [strike activity](#). Over the past 3 months, the industry has lost 35,000 jobs.

In August, telecommunications lost 4,000 jobs.

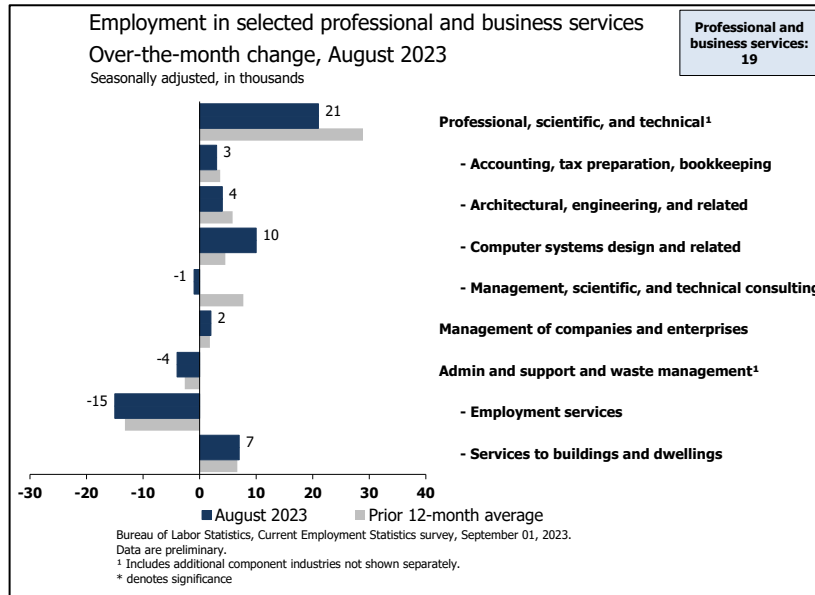
### Financial Activities



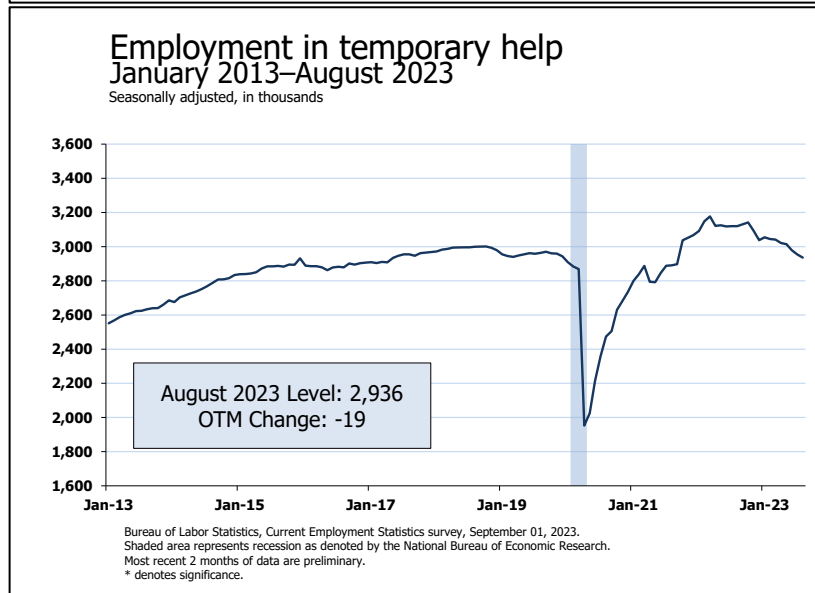
Employment in financial activities changed little in August (+4,000). Over the year, the industry has added 92,000 jobs.

In August, employment in nondepository credit intermediation decreased by 4,000.

## Professional and Business Services



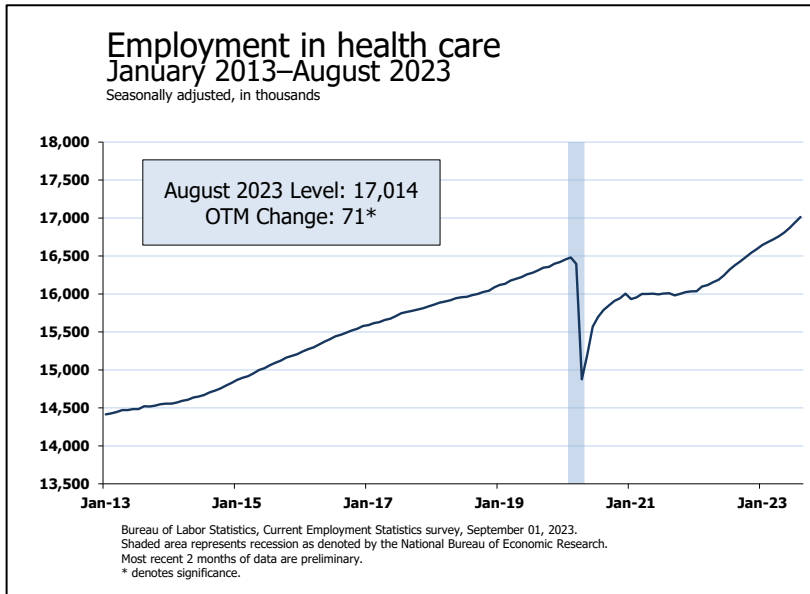
Employment in professional and business services changed little in August (+19,000) and has shown essentially no net change since May. In August, professional, scientific, and technical services continued to trend up (+21,000), with a gain in scientific research and development services (+8,000).



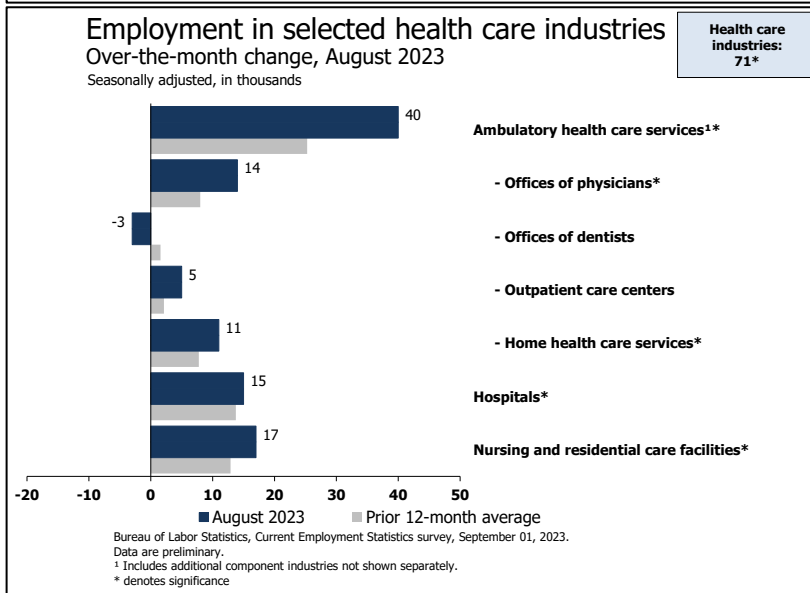
Temporary help services continued to trend down in August (-19,000), coinciding with recent weakness in the [ASA Staffing Index](#). Since reaching an employment peak in March 2022, temporary help services has shed 242,000 jobs.

## Private Education and Health Services

Employment in health care increased by 71,000 in August, following a gain of similar magnitude in the prior month.



In August, employment increased in ambulatory healthcare services (+40,000), with gains occurring in offices of physicians (+14,000) and in home health care services (+11,000).



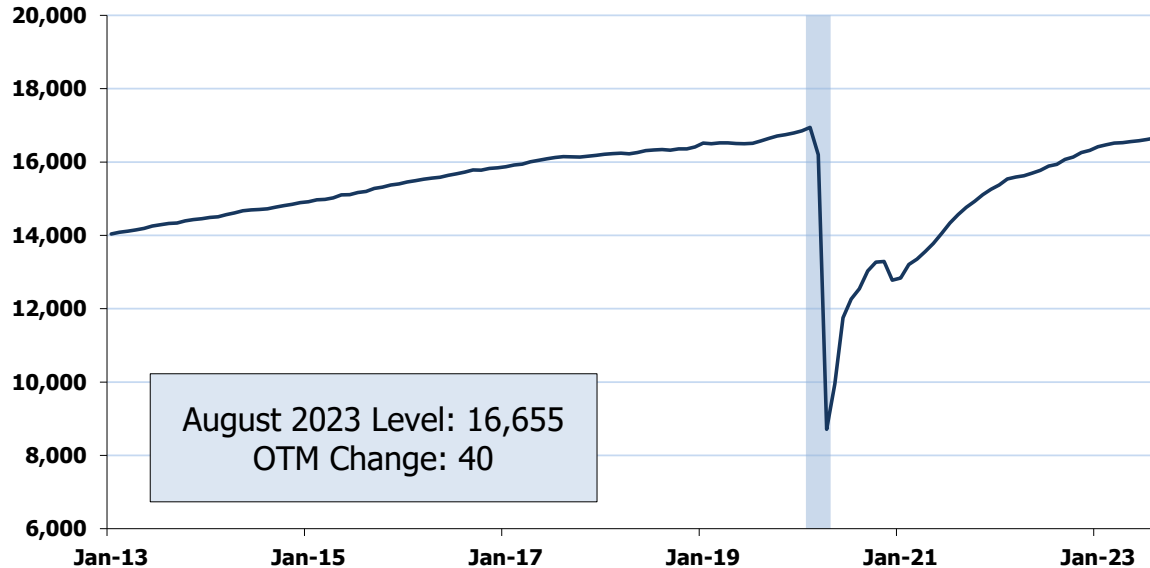
Employment in nursing and residential care facilities increased by 17,000 over the month, with growth concentrated in skilled nursing care facilities (+9,000) and in continuing care retirement communities and assisted living facilities for the elderly (+5,000).

In August, employment in hospitals increased by 15,000, in line with its prior 12-month average monthly gain of 14,000.

Over the month, employment in social assistance increased by 26,000, with individual and family services accounting for 21,000 of the gain. Over the prior 12 months, social assistance had averaged gains of 22,000 jobs per month.

### Leisure and Hospitality

**Employment in leisure and hospitality**  
**January 2013–August 2023**  
 Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

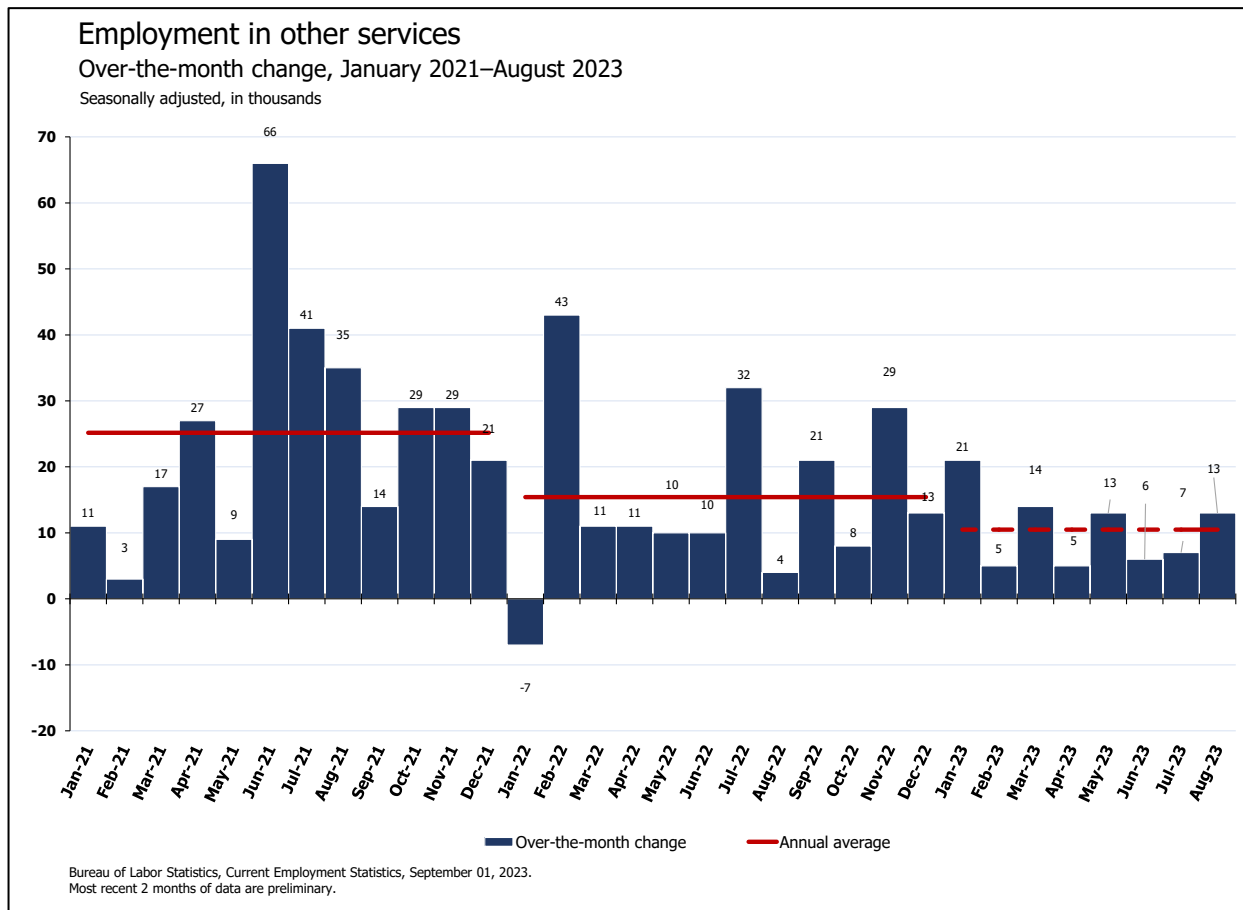


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 01, 2023.  
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Employment in leisure and hospitality continued to trend up in August (+40,000). So far this year, the industry has added an average of 42,000 jobs per month, below the average monthly gain of 88,000 in 2022. Employment in leisure and hospitality is 290,000 below its February 2020 level.

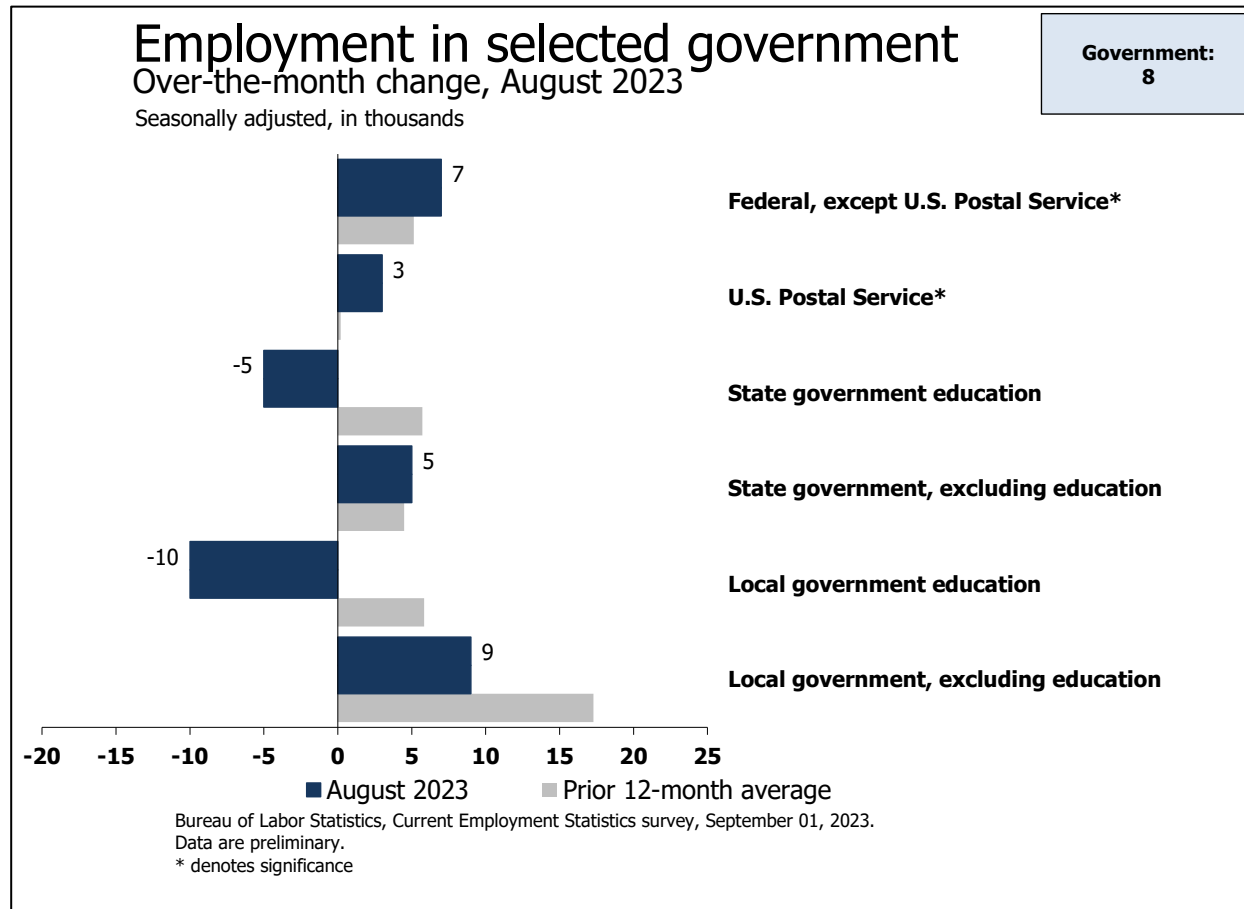
## Other Services

Employment in other services changed little in August (+13,000) and is 58,000 below its February 2020 level.





## Government



Government employment changed little in August (+8,000). The industry had gained an average of 39,000 jobs per month over the prior 12 months. In August, federal employment increased (+10,000), while employment continued to trend down in local government education (-10,000).

Employment in government is 213,000 below its February 2020 level.



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