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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



September 2023

Release Date: October 6, 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, September 2023

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 336,000 in September, above the average monthly gain of 267,000 over the prior 12 months. Over the month, job gains occurred in leisure and hospitality; government; health care; professional, scientific, and technical services; and social assistance.

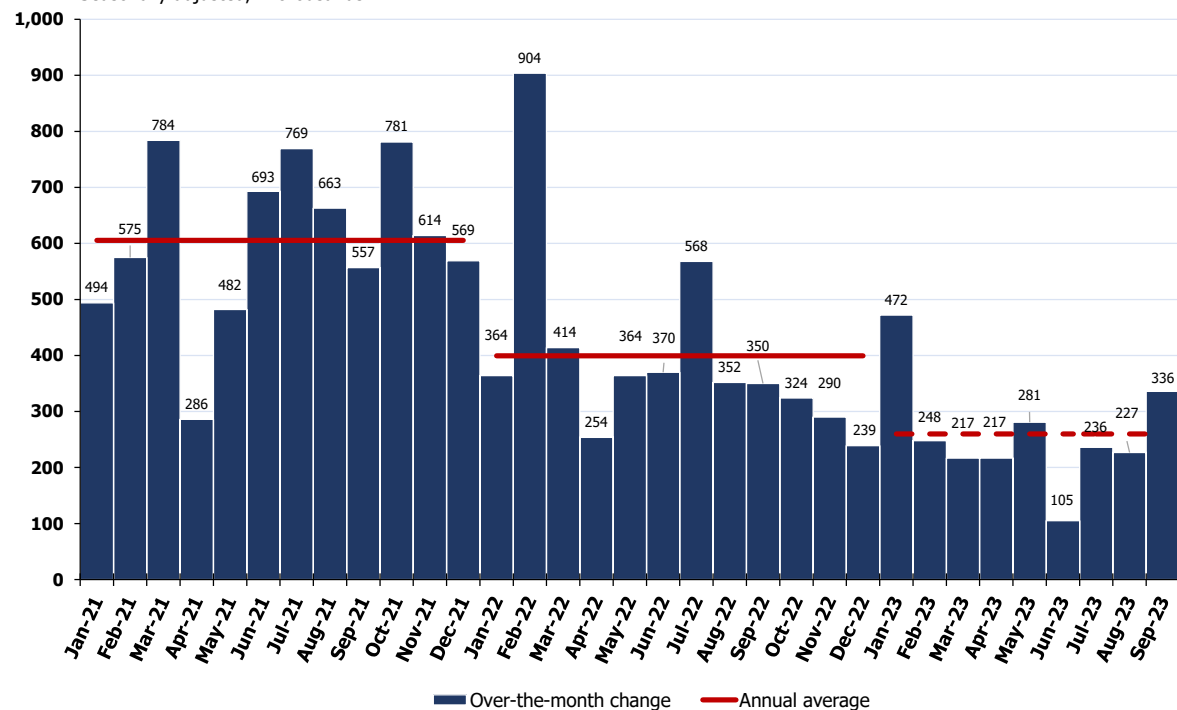
The employment change for July revised up from +157,000 to +236,000, and the change for August revised up from +187,000 to +227,000. On net, employment over these months is 119,000 higher than previously reported.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls rose by 7 cents, or 0.2 percent, in September. Over the year, average hourly earnings have increased by 4.2 percent. In September, average weekly hours of all employees were unchanged at 34.4 hours.

+96,000 Leisure and Hospitality

In September, employment in food services and drinking places rose by 61,000 and has returned to its pre-pandemic February 2020 level. Accommodation employment continued to trend up over the month (+16,000) but remains below its February 2020 level by 217,000, or 10.3 percent.

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



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, October 06, 2023.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

+73,000 Government

In September, employment in government rose by 73,000, above its prior 12-month average monthly gain (+47,000). Over the month, job gains were concentrated in state government education (+29,000); local

government, excluding education (+27,000); and federal, except U.S. Postal Service (+7,000). Employment in government remains below its pre-pandemic February 2020 level by 9,000.

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, September 2023

+70,000 Private Education and Health Services

Employment in health care increased by 41,000 in September, with gains in ambulatory health care services (+24,000) and in nursing and residential care facilities (+8,000). Over the month, employment in hospitals continued to trend up (+8,000). Health care had averaged gains of 53,000 jobs per month over the prior 12 months.

In September, social assistance employment increased by 25,000, mostly concentrated in individual and family services (+19,000). Over the prior 12 months, employment gains in social assistance had averaged 23,000 per month.

+21,000 Professional and Business Services

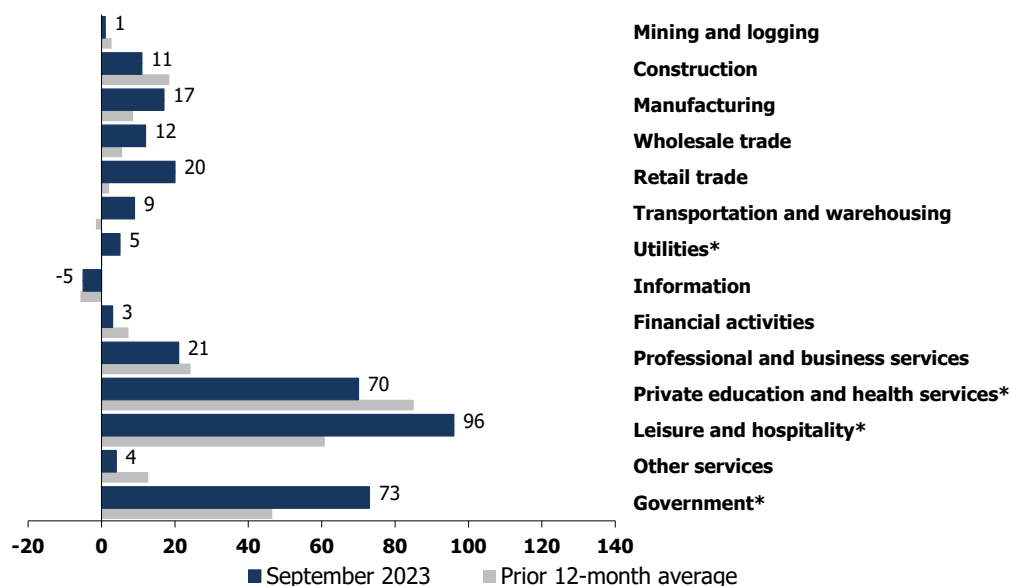
Employment in professional, scientific, and technical services rose in September (+29,000), in line with the average monthly gain over the prior 12 months (+27,000). Employment in temporary help services changed little in September (-4,000) and has fallen by 234,000 since March 2022.

Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, September 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:
336*



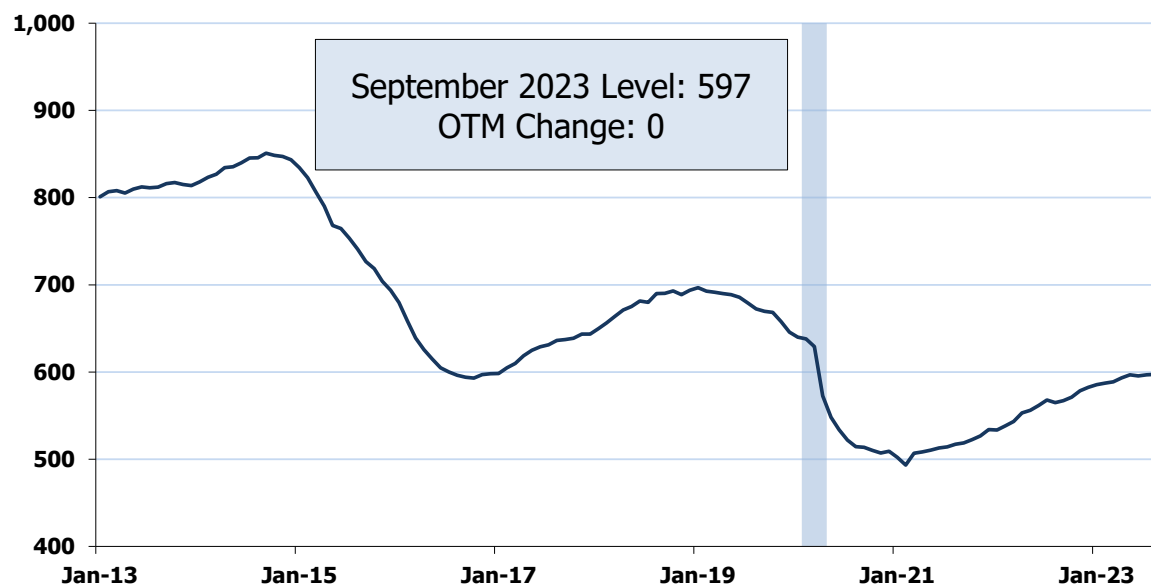
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 06, 2023.
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

Mining and Logging

Employment in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction

January 2013–September 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



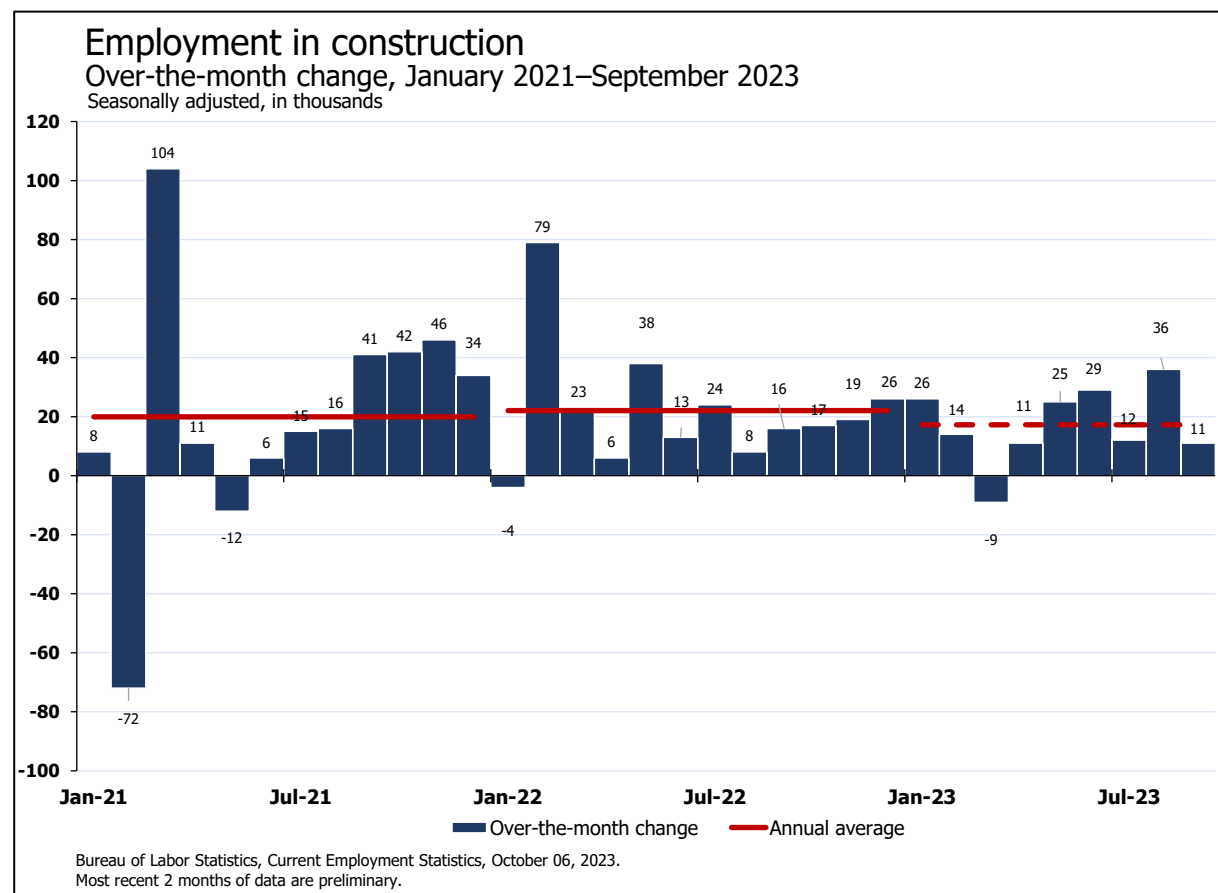
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 06, 2023.
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Employment in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction was flat in September (0).

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

Since an employment trough in February 2021, the industry has expanded by 104,000.

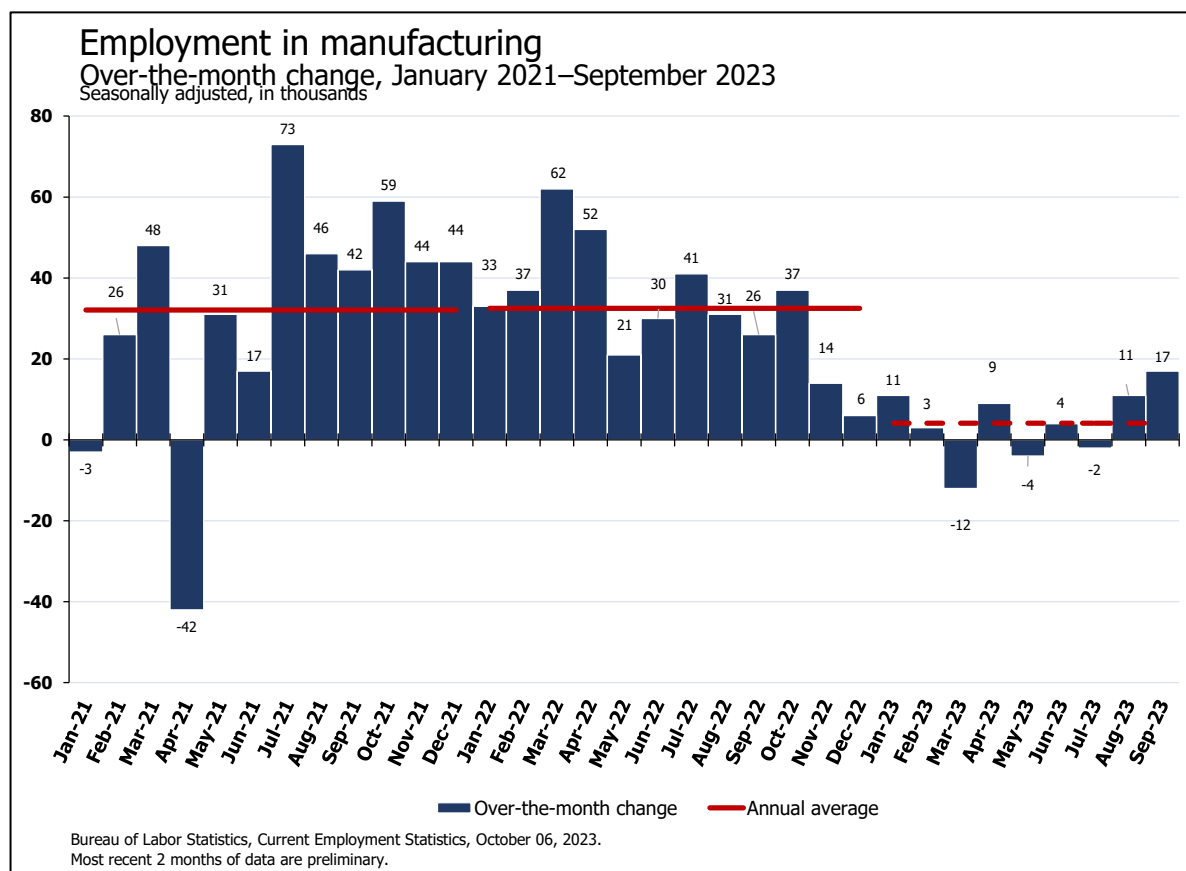
Construction



Employment in construction changed little in September (+11,000). The industry had added an average 19,000 jobs per month over the prior 12 months.

Recent construction-related indicators are mixed. In August, [residential building permits](#) increased, while [housing starts](#) declined and [new home sales](#) stagnated.

Manufacturing



In September, employment in manufacturing changed little (+17,000). So far this year, the industry has added an average of 4,000 jobs per month, compared with 33,000 per month in 2022.

Within durable goods, semiconductor and other electronic component manufacturing lost 2,000 jobs in September. Within nondurable goods, plastics and rubber products manufacturing (+5,000) added jobs over the month.

Recent flatness in manufacturing employment corresponds with slowed contraction 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.

The manufacturing 1-month diffusion index was unchanged at 52.8 for September. A number above 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than are losing jobs.

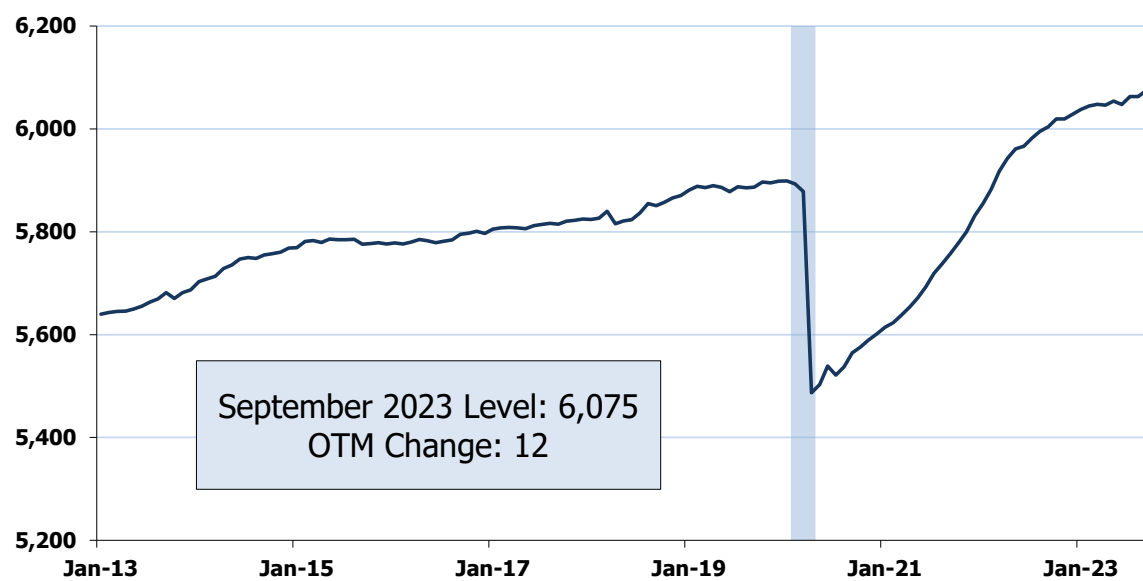
In September, average weekly hours for all employees edged up by 0.1 hour to 40.1 hours. The workweek for production employees remained unchanged. Overtime hours for all employees and for production workers also were unchanged.

Wholesale Trade

In September, employment in wholesale trade changed little (+12,000).

Employment in wholesale trade January 2013–September 2023

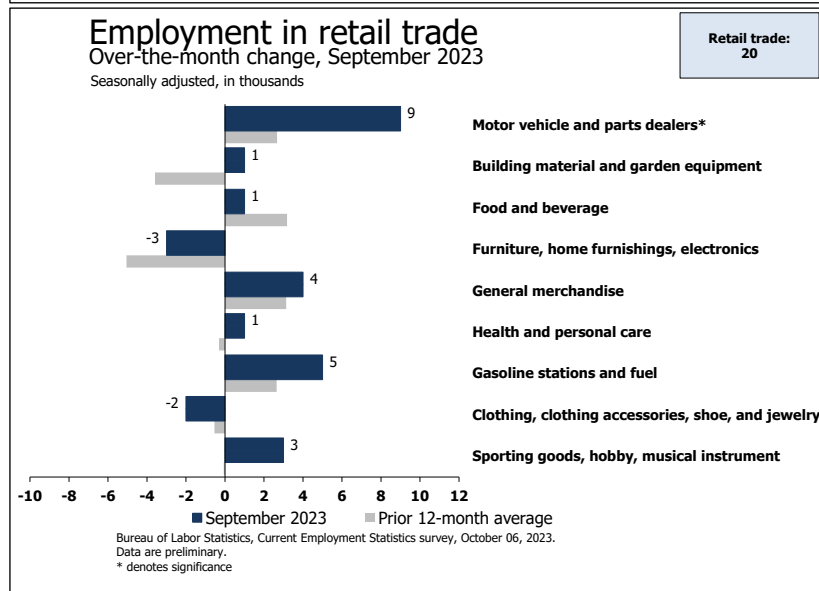
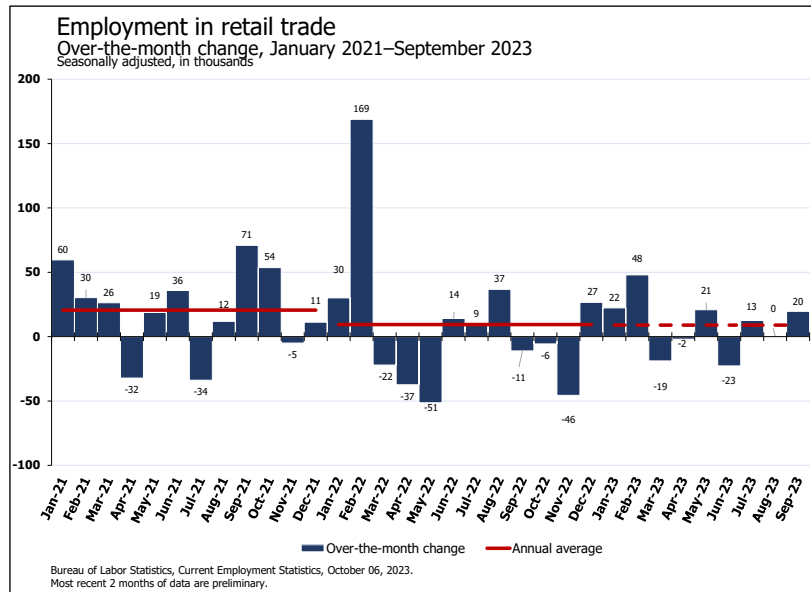
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 06, 2023.
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Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade changed little in September (+20,000) and has shown little net change over the year.

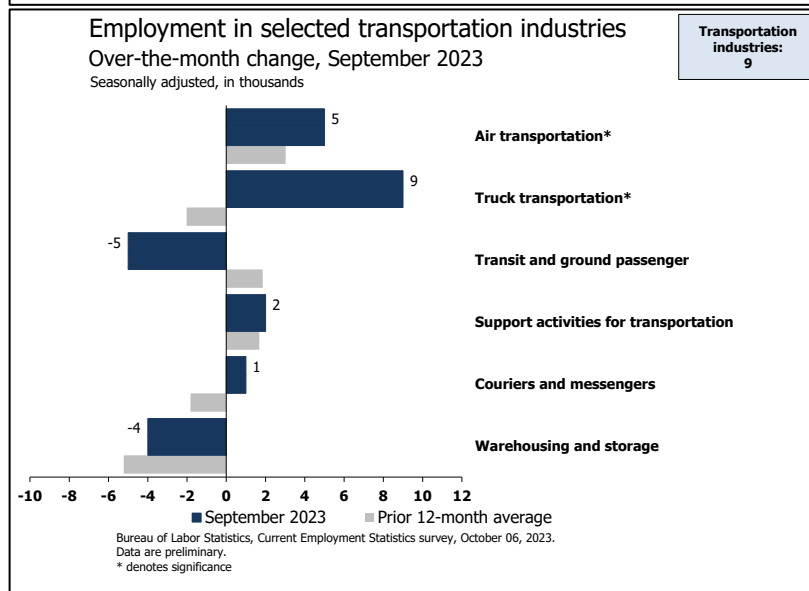
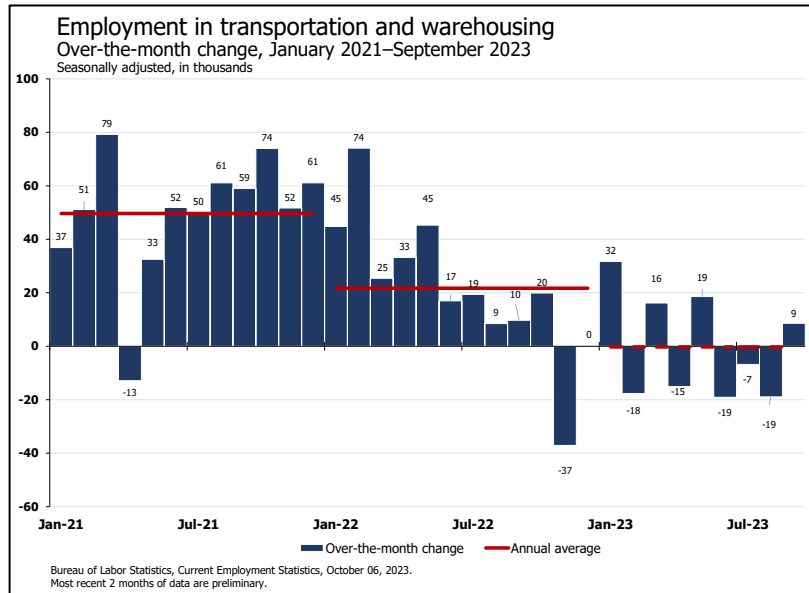


Employment in motor vehicle and parts dealers increased in September (+9,000). In the past 5 months, the industry has added 33,000 jobs.

Retail-related economic indicators for the month are mostly negative. In September, the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) decreased. In August, [Auto Sales](#) and [Real Personal Consumption Expenditures](#) for goods decreased while [Retail Sales](#) increased.

Transportation and Warehousing

In September, employment in transportation and warehousing changed little (+9,000).

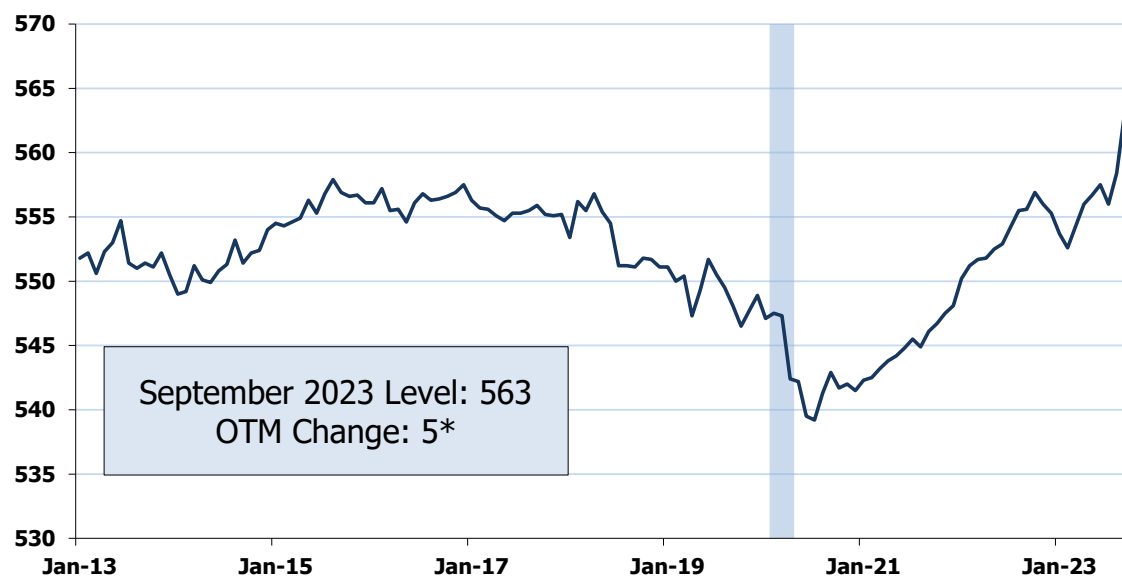


Truck transportation added 9,000 jobs over the month, following a decline of 25,000 in August largely reflecting a business closure. Air transportation added 5,000 jobs in September. Employment in transportation and warehousing has shown little net change over the year.

Utilities

Employment in utilities January 2013–September 2023

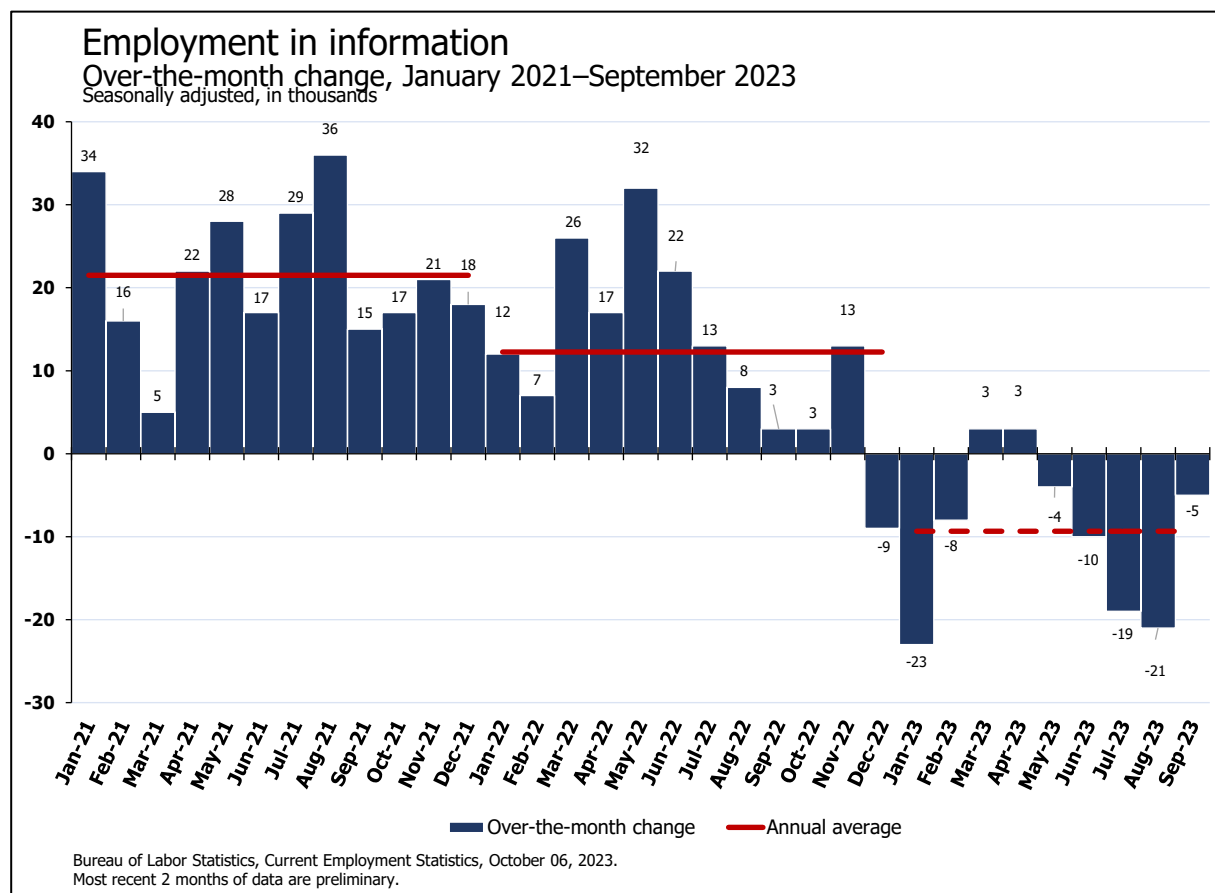
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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Employment in utilities increased by 5,000 in September, above its prior 12-month average (0).

Information

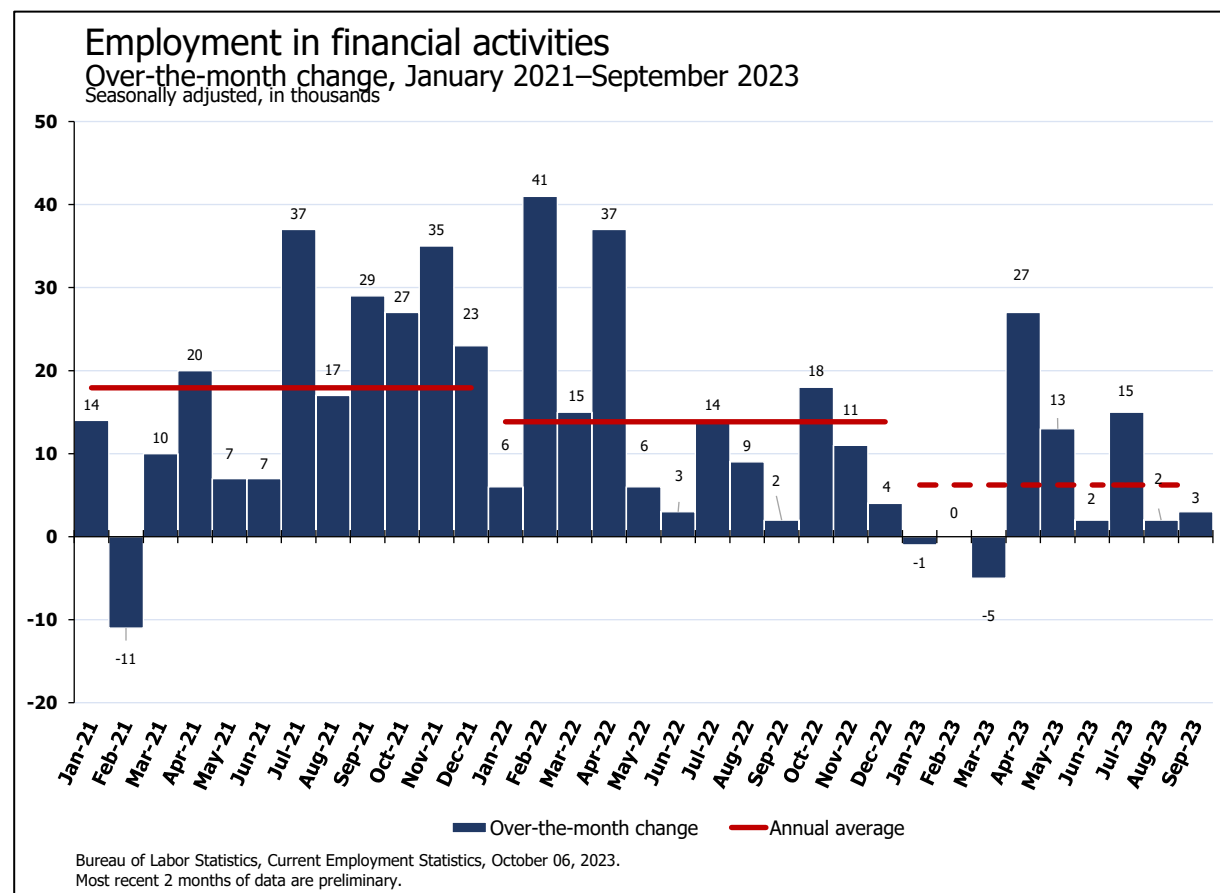


In September, employment in information changed little (-5,000). Employment in motion picture and sound recording industries continued to trend down (-7,000) and has declined by 45,000 since May. Some of the recent weakness in this industry may reflect the impact of strike activity.

Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities changed little in September (+3,000). The industry had added an average of 7,000 jobs per month over the prior 12 months.

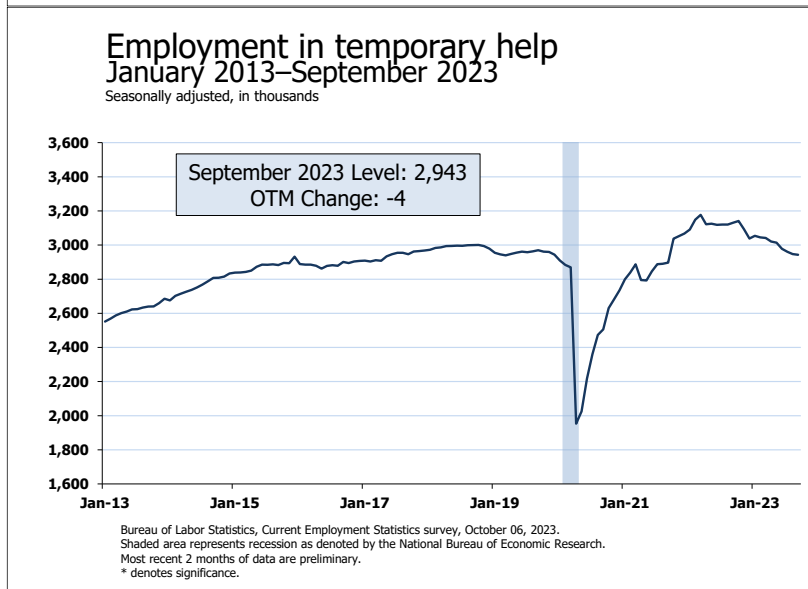
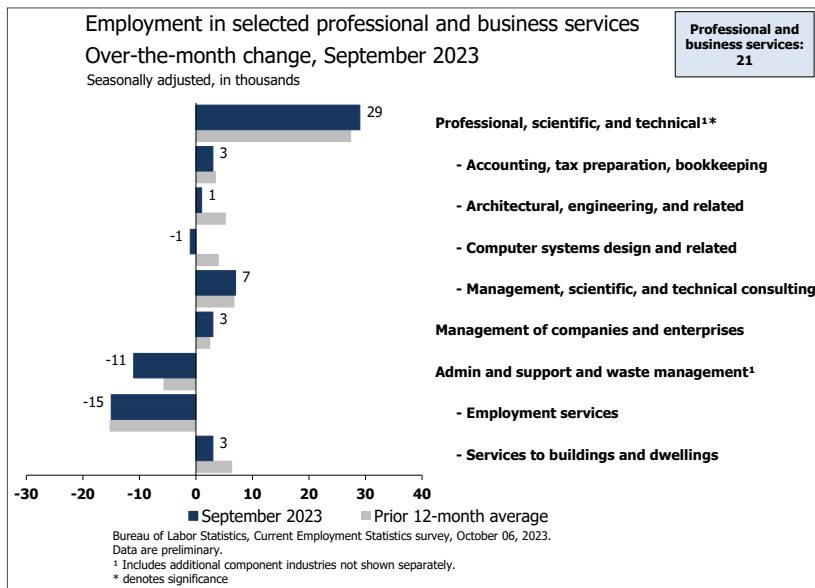
In September, employment in credit intermediation and related activities decreased by 8,000.



Professional and Business Services

Employment in professional, scientific, and technical services increased by 29,000 in September, in line with the average monthly gain of 27,000 over the prior 12 months.

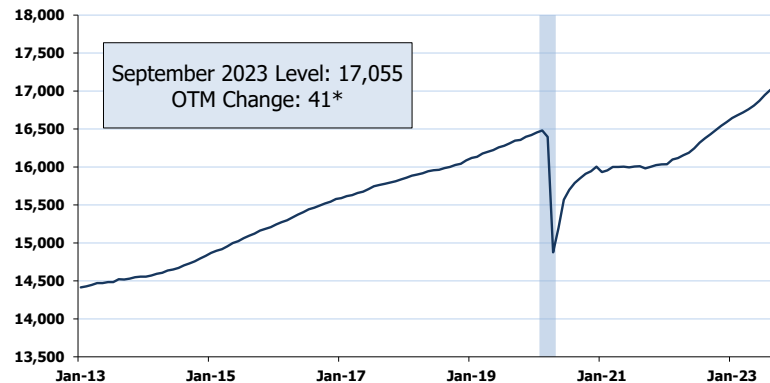
Employment in temporary help services changed little in September (-4,000), coinciding with recent weakness in the [ASA Staffing Index](#). Since reaching an employment peak in March 2022, temporary help services shed 234,000 jobs.



Private Education and Health Services

Employment in health care January 2013–September 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



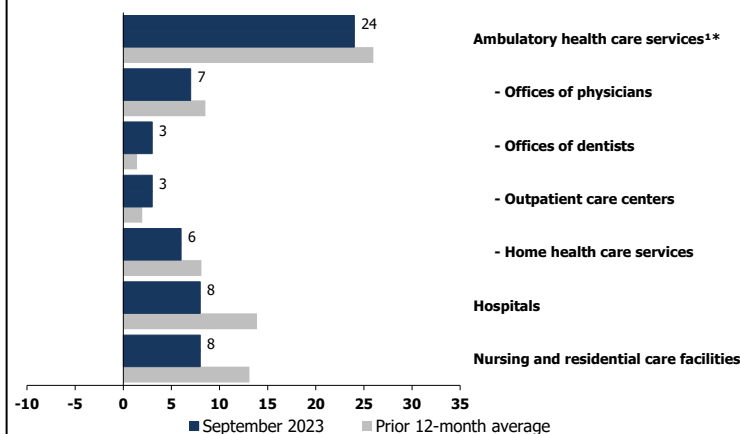
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Employment in health care increased by 41,000 in September, compared with its average monthly gain of 53,000 over the prior 12 months.

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

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Health care industries:
41*

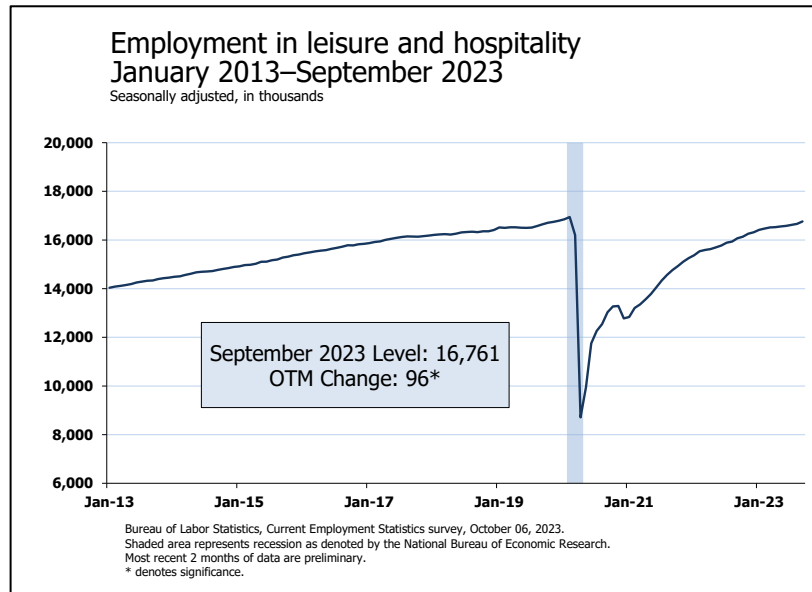


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, October 06, 2023.
Data are preliminary.
¹ Includes additional component industries not shown separately.
* denotes significance.

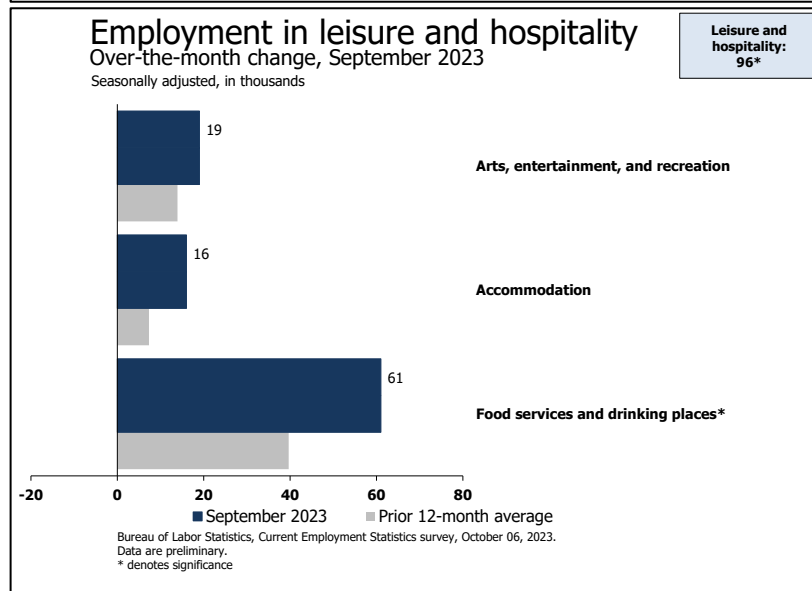
Over the month, employment continued to trend up in ambulatory health care services (+24,000), hospitals (+8,000), and nursing and residential care facilities (+8,000).

In September, employment in social assistance increased by 25,000, with growth in individual and family services (+19,000). Over the prior 12 months, social assistance had averaged gains of 23,000 jobs per month.

Leisure and Hospitality



Employment in leisure and hospitality rose by 96,000 in September. So far this year, the industry has added an average of 49,000 jobs per month, down from an average of 88,000 per month in 2022. Despite these gains, employment in the industry is 184,000 below its February 2020 level, reflecting weakness in accommodation.

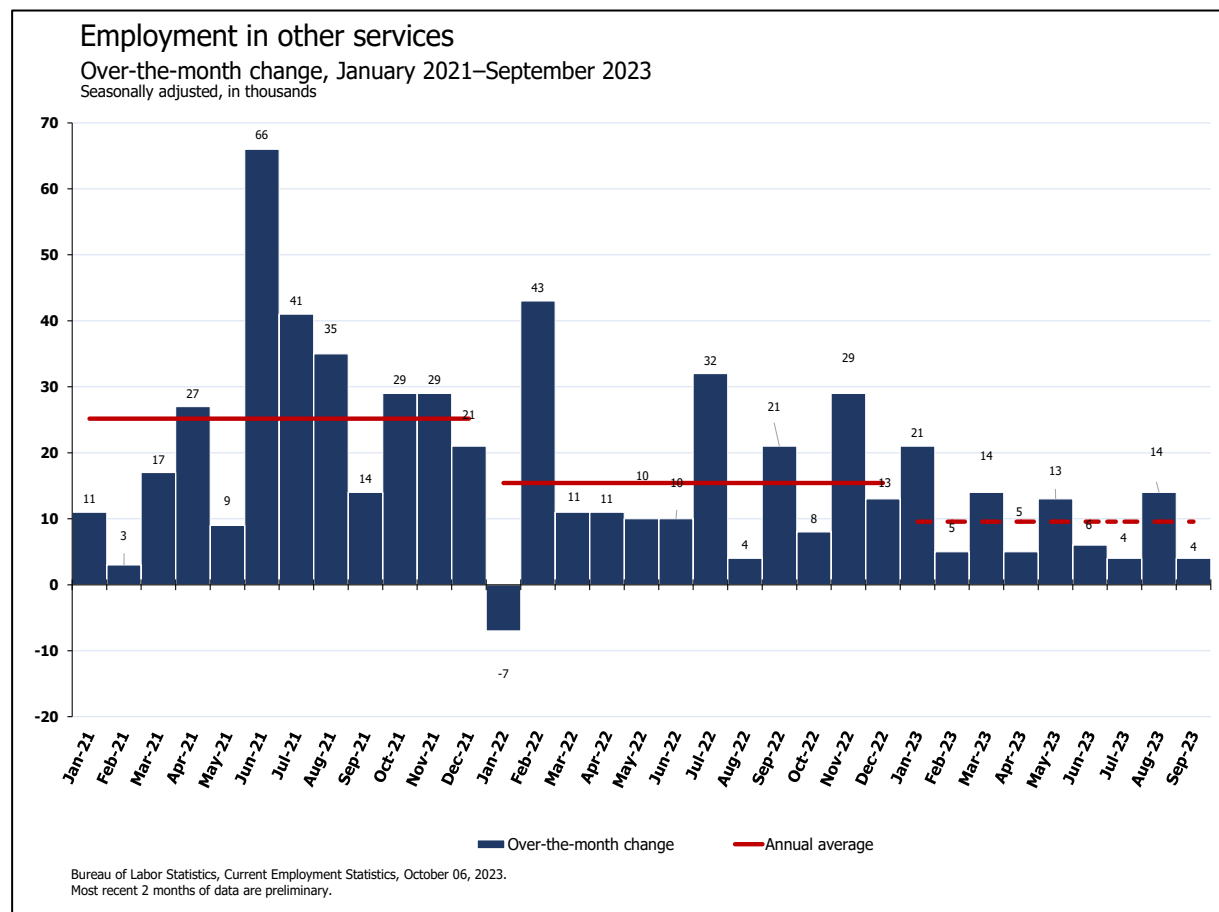


Employment in food services and drinking places increased by 61,000 in September. The industry has recovered all the jobs lost between March and April 2020 and has returned to its February 2020 level.

Employment in accommodation continued to trend up in September (+16,000) but is 217,000 below its February 2020 level.

Other Services

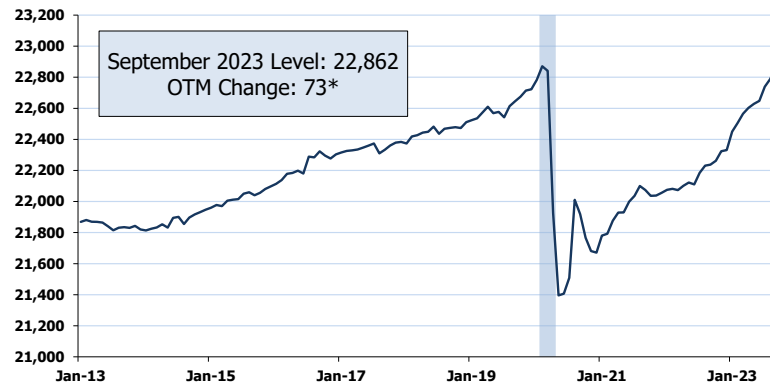
Employment in other services changed little in September (+4,000) and is 56,000 below its February 2020 level.



Government

Employment in government January 2013–September 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



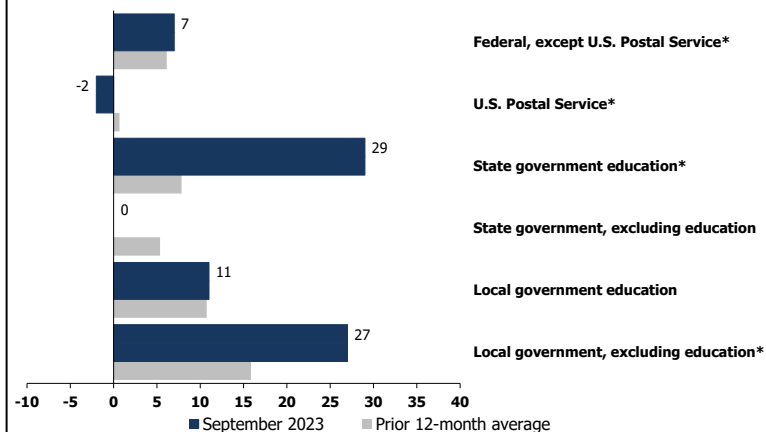
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Employment in government increased by 73,000 in September, above its prior 12-month average monthly gain (+47,000). Industry employment is slightly below (-9,000) its February 2020 level.

Employment in selected government Over-the-month change, September 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Government:
73*



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In September, employment gains were concentrated in state government education (+29,000); local government, excluding education (+27,000); and federal, except U.S. Postal Service (+7,000).



Prepared by Staff of the National Estimates Branch
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