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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



January 2024

Release Date: February 2, 2024

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, January 2024

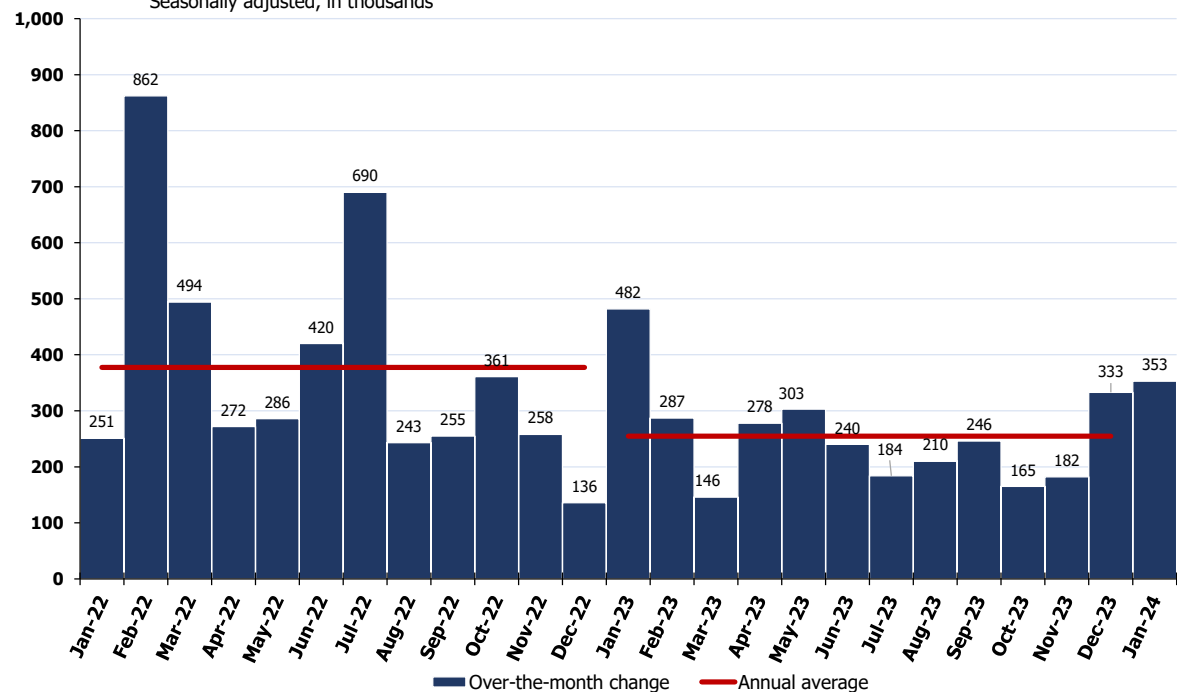
Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 353,000 in January, similar to the gain of 333,000 in December. Payroll employment increased by an average of 255,000 per month in 2023. In January, employment growth was widespread, with notable increases in professional and business services, health care, retail trade, and social assistance. Employment declined in the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry.

Benchmark Revision and Seasonal Adjustment

In accordance with annual practice, 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.

Total nonfarm employment for March 2023 was revised down by 266,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis (and down by 187,000, or 0.1 percent, on a not seasonally adjusted basis). (Additional information about the benchmark revision and its impact is contained in the Employment Situation news release for January 2024 and at www.bls.gov/web/empisit/cesbmart.htm).

Employment in total nonfarm
Over-the-month change, January 2022–January 2024
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, February 02, 2024.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

The employment change for November revised up from +173,000 to +182,000, and the change for December revised up from +216,000 to +333,000. On net, employment over these months is 126,000 higher than previously reported.

In January, average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls rose by 19 cents, or 0.6 percent. Over the year, average hourly earnings have increased by 4.5 percent. In January, average weekly hours of all employees fell by 0.2 hour to 34.1 hours.

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, January 2024

+112,000 Private Education and Health Services

Employment in health care increased by 70,000 in January, above the average monthly gain of 58,000 in 2023. Over the month, employment grew in ambulatory health care services (+33,000), hospitals (+20,000), and nursing and residential care facilities (+17,000).

Social assistance employment rose by 30,000 in January, driven by an increase of 22,000 in individual and family services.

+74,000 Professional and Business Services

In January, employment increased by 42,000 in professional, scientific, and technical services. Over the prior 12 months, industry employment had averaged gains of 22,000 per month.

Employment in temporary help services changed little in January (+4,000). Since an employment peak in March 2022, temporary help services has lost 408,000 jobs.

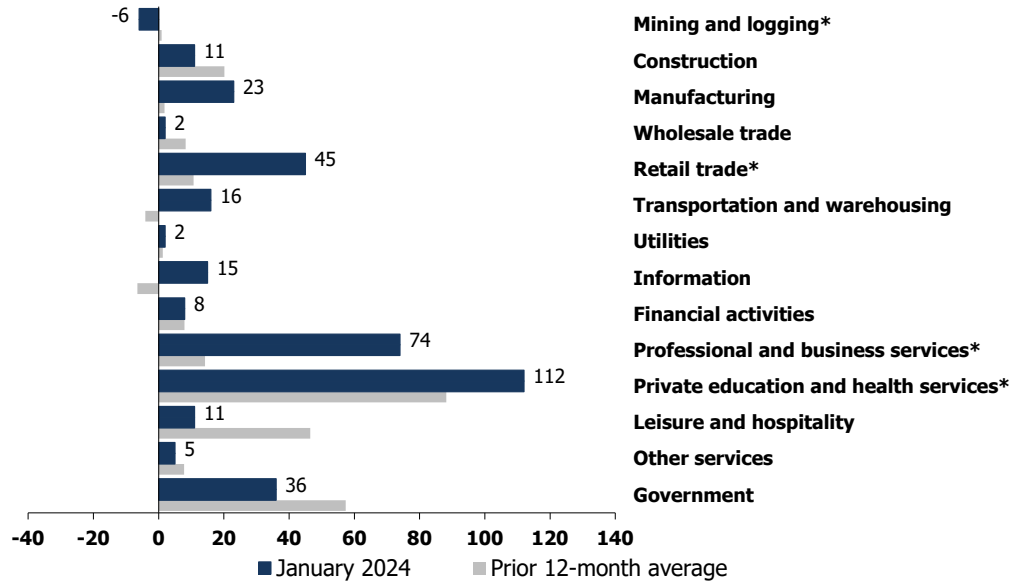
+45,000 Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade increased by 45,000 in January, led by gains in general merchandise retailers (+24,000). Retail trade employment has shown little net growth since early 2023.

Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, January 2024
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:
353*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, February 02, 2024.
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

+36,000 Government

Employment in government continued to trend up in January (+36,000), with a gain of 11,000 in federal government. In 2023, government employment had added an average of 57,000 per month.

+23,000 Manufacturing

Employment in manufacturing edged up in January (+23,000), with job gains in chemical manufacturing (+7,000) and printing and related support activities (+5,000). Manufacturing experienced little net job growth in 2023.

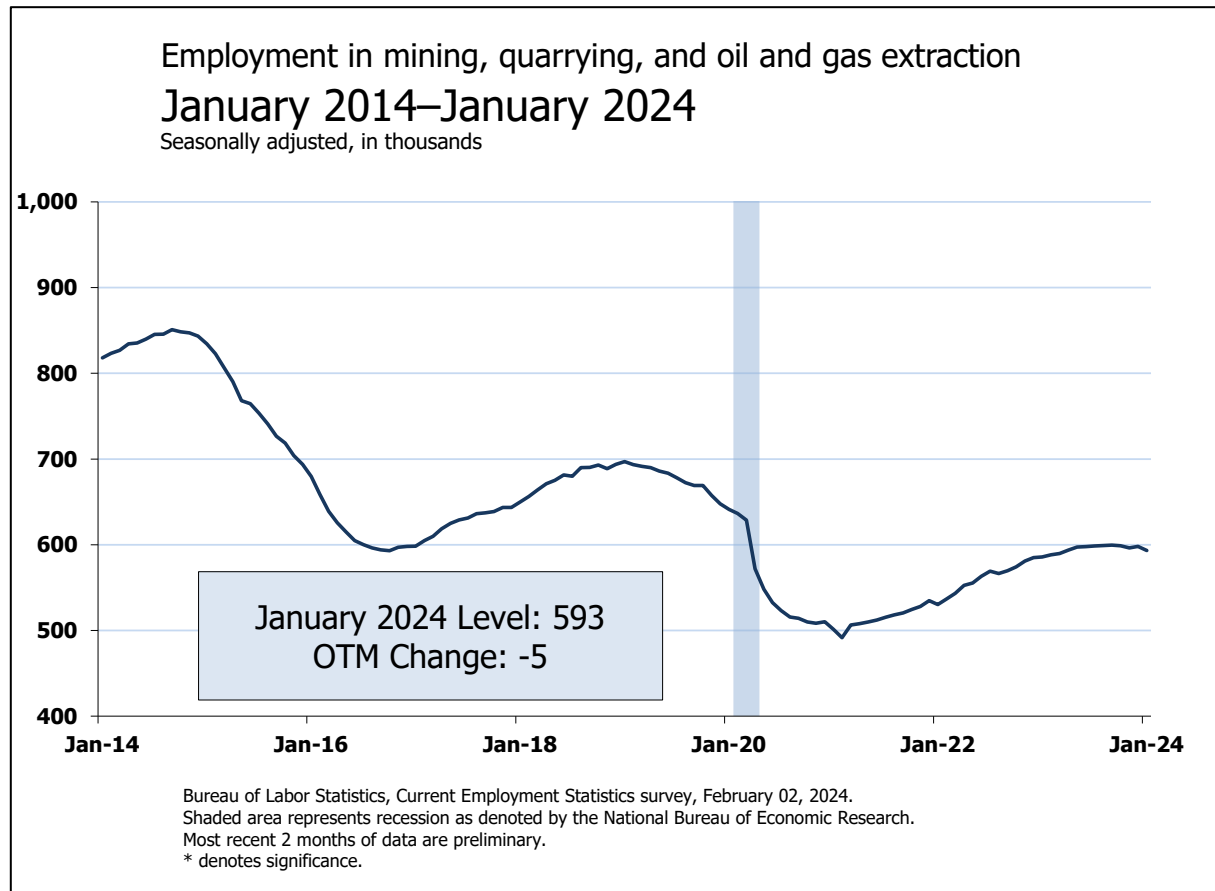
Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, January 2024

-6,000 Mining and Logging

In January, employment declined by 5,000 in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction, after changing little in 2023 (+13,000).

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



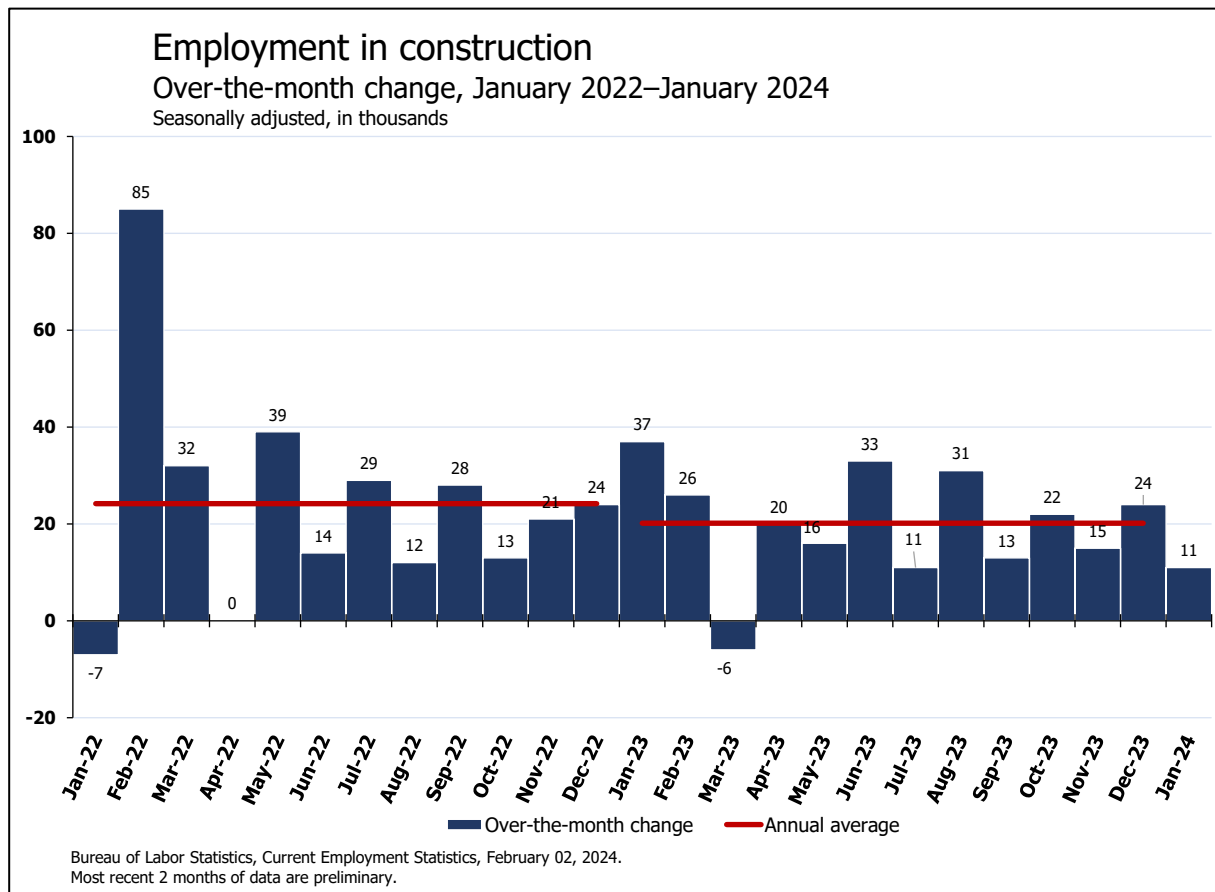
Employment in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction decreased by 5,000 in January. Over the month, a job loss of 7,000 in support activities for mining was partially offset by a gain of 2,000 in oil and gas extraction.

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

*To access the North American rotary rigs: select the first link named “North America Rotary Rig Count (Jan 2000 – Current)”, go to US Count by Basin tab, scroll to the Total US Rig Count column, take the difference of the two weeks that include the 12th of the current and previous month.

**To access West Texas Intermediate crude oil: select “EDIT GRAPH” and change the “Modify frequency” to “Weekly, Ending Friday.” Above the graph, modify date range to a year, including the 12th of the month.

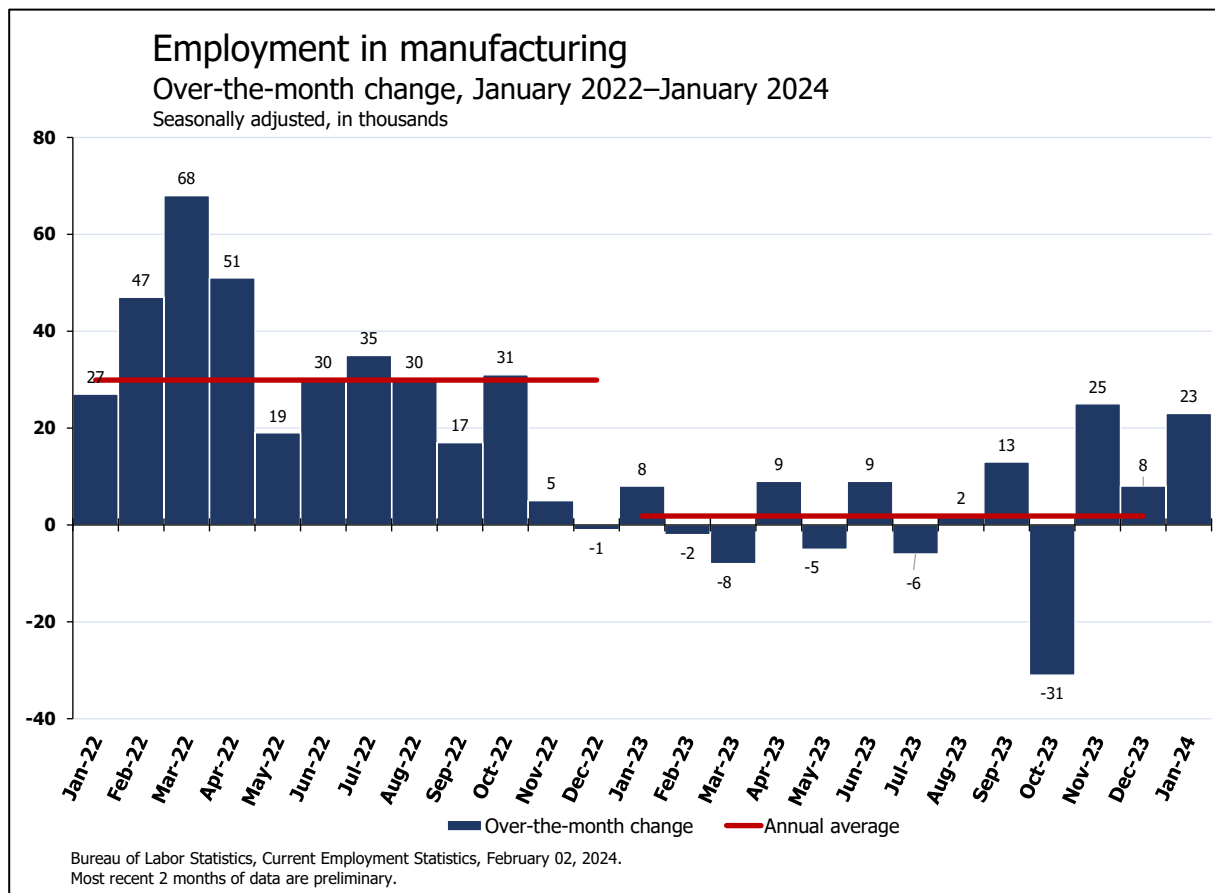
Construction



Employment in construction changed little in January (+11,000), below the prior 12-month average gain of 20,000 per month.

Recent construction-related indicators are mixed. The [30-year fixed mortgage rate](#) declined in January, following increases in both [residential building permits](#) and [new residential sales](#) in December. However, [housing starts](#) decreased in December.

Manufacturing



In January, manufacturing employment edged up by 23,000, following little net change in 2023.

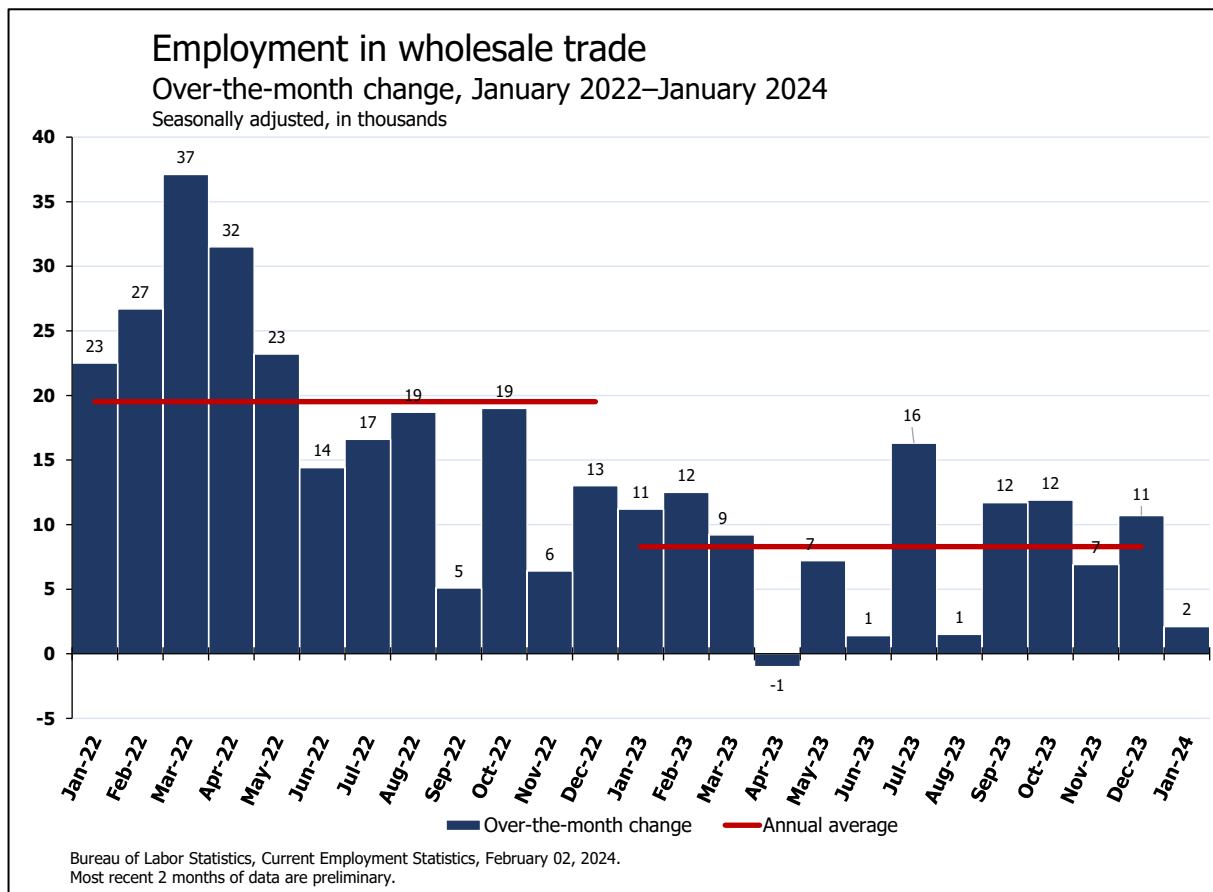
Employment in nondurable goods increased by 19,000 in January, driven by gains in chemical manufacturing (+7,000) and printing and related support activities (+5,000).

The manufacturing 1-month diffusion index rose by 7.6 to 59.0 in January. A number above 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than are losing jobs.

In January, average weekly hours of all employees in manufacturing were unchanged at 39.8 hours. Average weekly hours for production workers fell by 0.3 hour to 40.0 hours. Average weekly overtime hours for both all employees and production workers fell by 0.1 hour to 2.7 and 3.4 hours, respectively.

Wholesale Trade

In January, employment in wholesale trade changed little (+2,000).

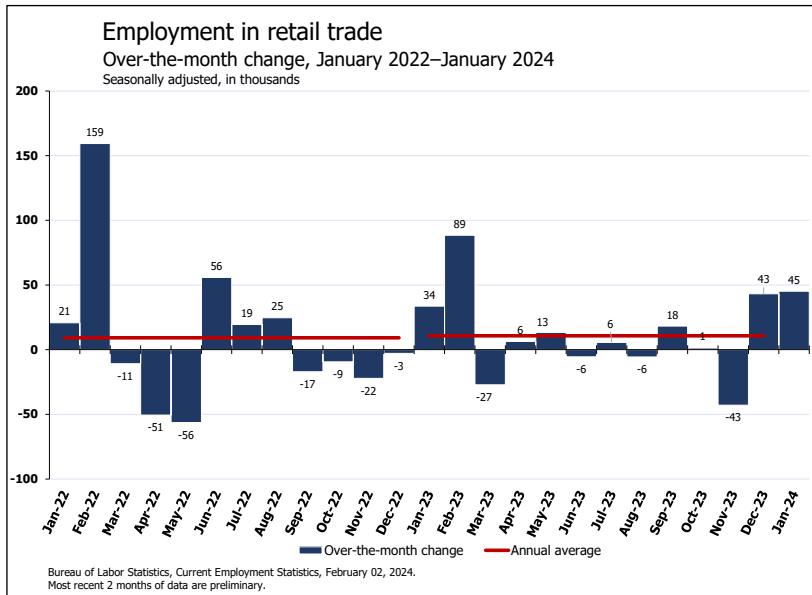


Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade increased by 45,000 in January but has shown little net growth since early 2023.

In January, general merchandise retailers added 24,000 jobs, with department stores accounting for 18,000 of the gain and warehouse clubs, supercenters, and other general merchandise retailers accounting for 6,000. Over the month, employment in electronics and appliance retailers declined by 3,000.

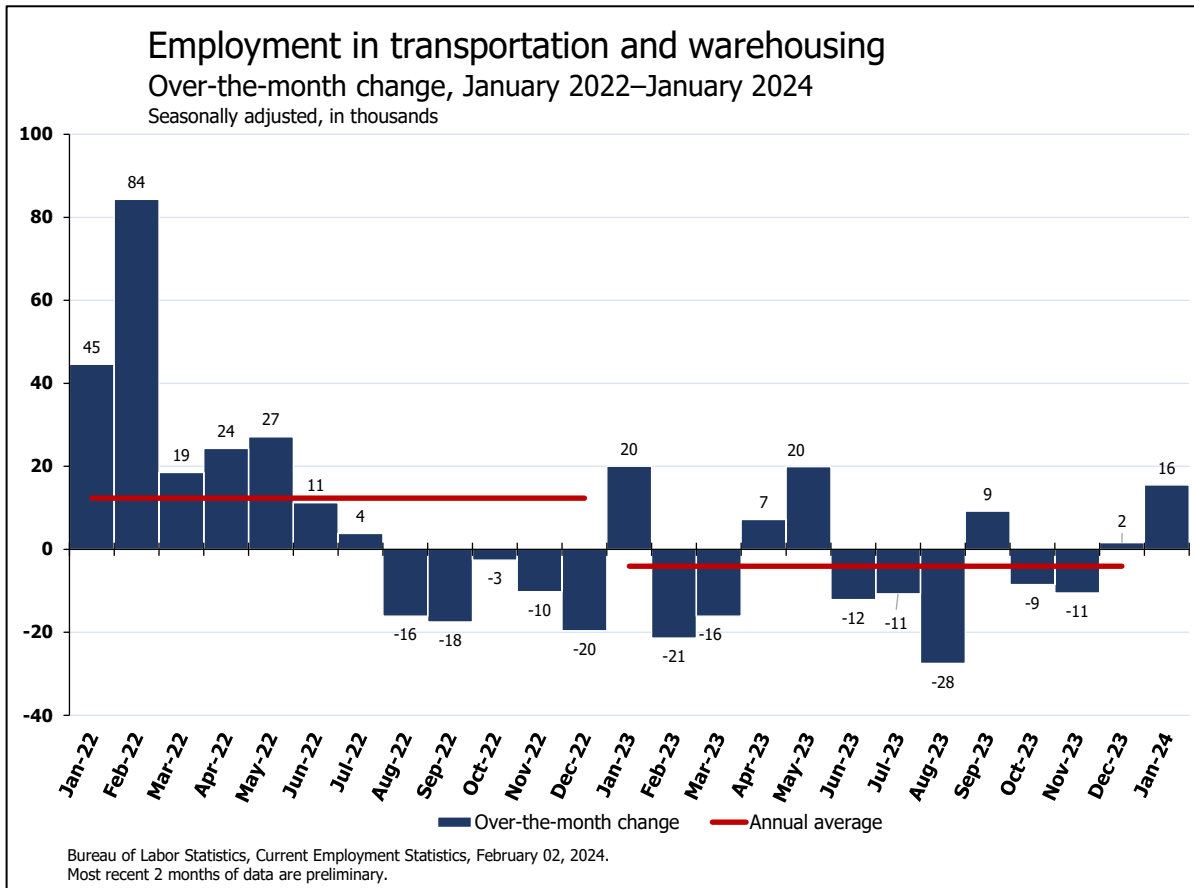
Retail-related economic indicators for the month are mostly positive. In January, the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) increased, and [Auto Sales](#), [Real Personal Consumption Expenditures](#) for goods, and [Retail Sales](#) increased in December. In contrast, the per-gallon price of [regular gasoline](#)*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



*The per-gallon price of regular gasoline is a weekly measure, and the over-the-month change reflects the difference in price for the week including the 12th for both months.

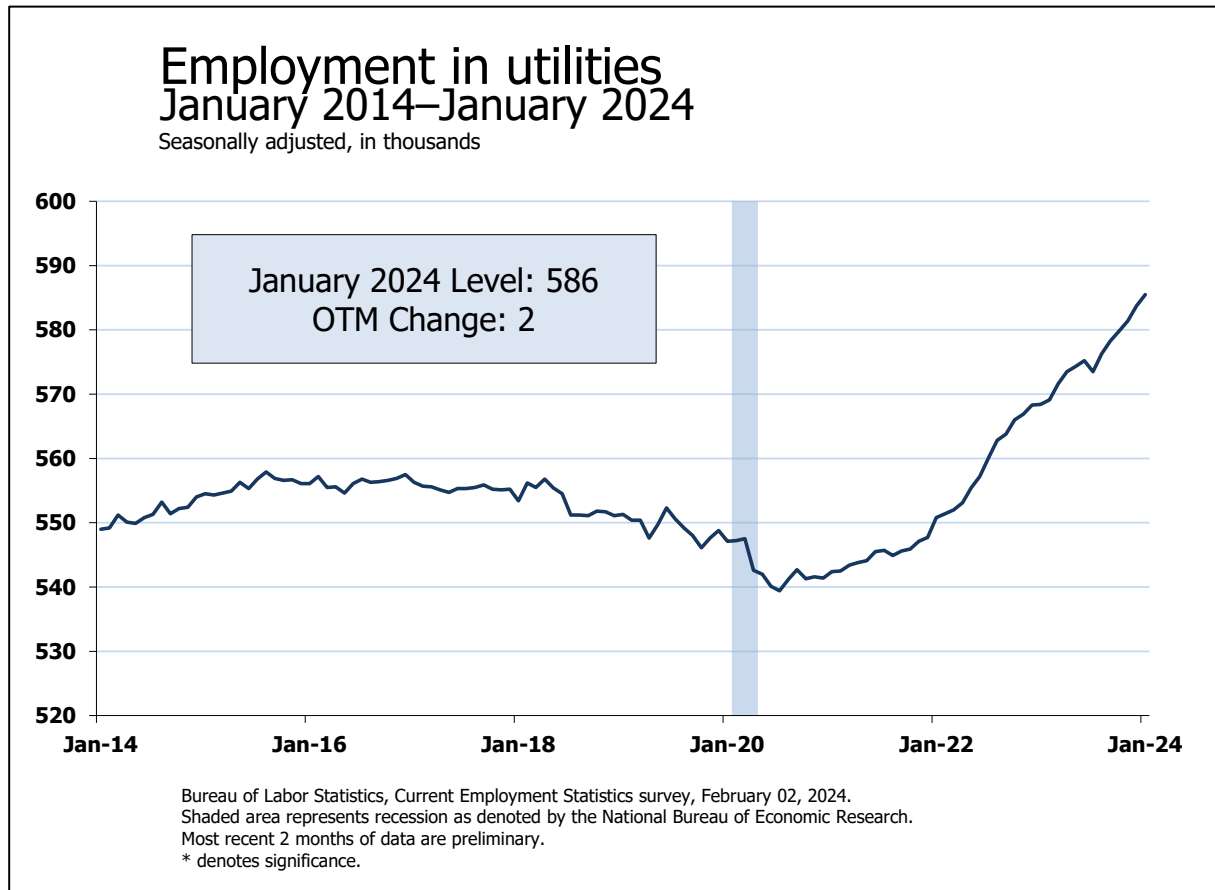
Transportation and Warehousing

Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in January (+16,000), following little net change in 2023.

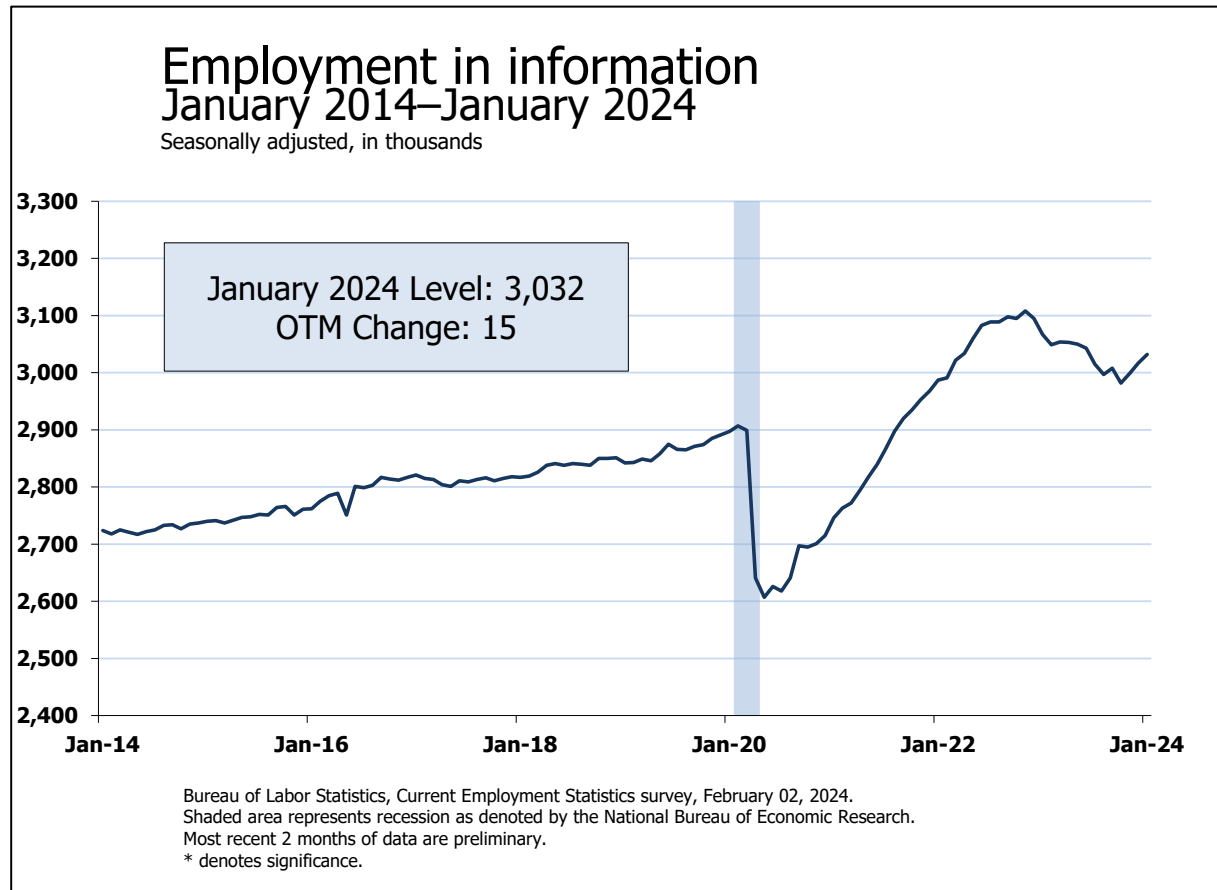


Utilities

Employment in utilities changed little in January (+2,000). The average monthly gain for this industry was 1,000 in 2023.

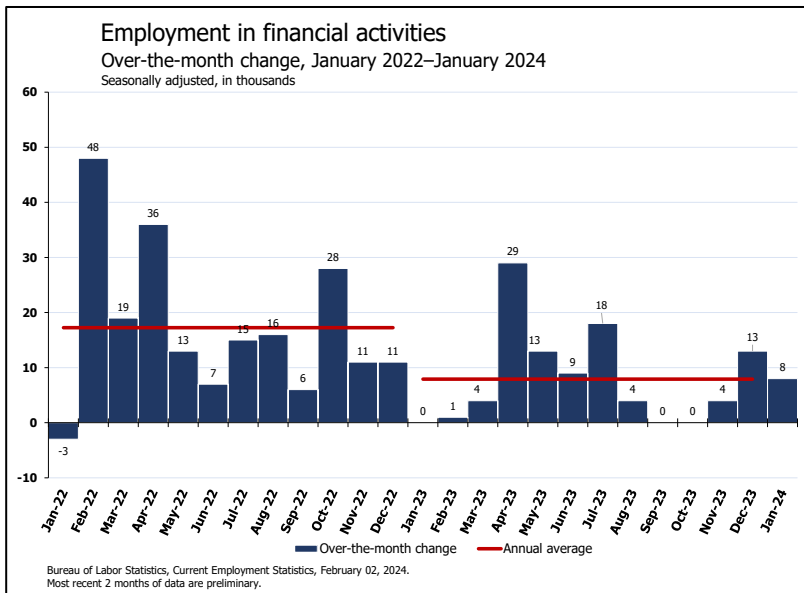


Information



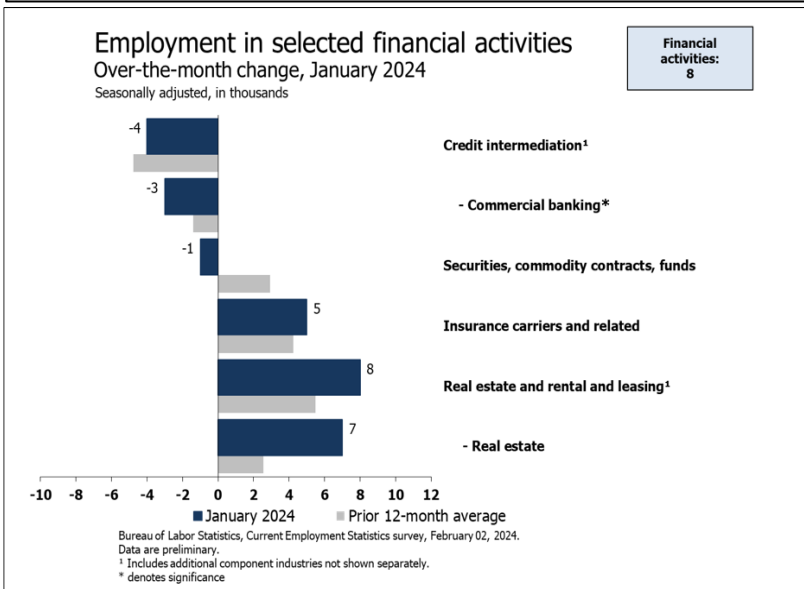
Employment in information continued to trend up in January (+15,000). Motion picture and sound recording industries added 12,000 jobs, while telecommunications lost 3,000 jobs.

Financial Activities

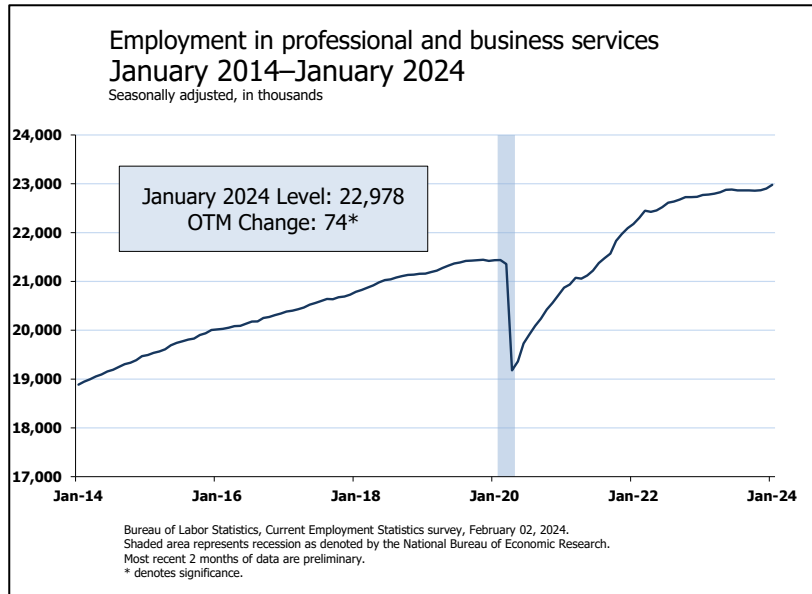


Employment in financial activities changed little in January (+8,000). The industry had added an average of 8,000 jobs per month in 2023.

In January, employment continued to trend down in credit intermediation and related activities (-4,000), with a loss of 3,000 in commercial banking.



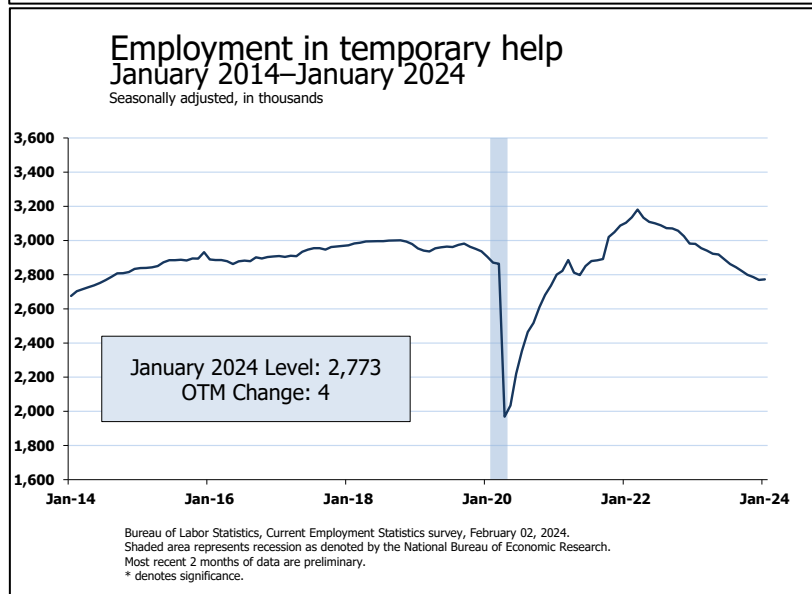
Professional and Business Services



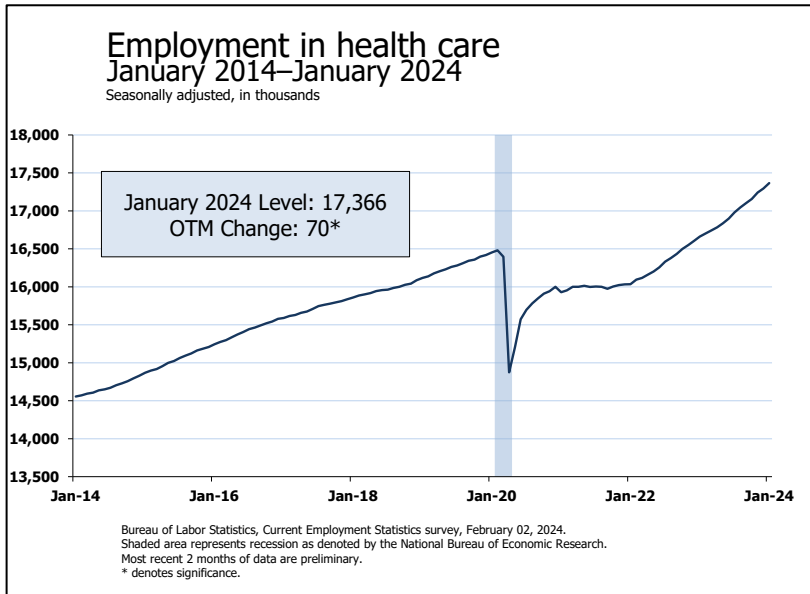
Employment in professional and business services increased by 74,000 in January, well above its 2023 average gain of 14,000 per month.

In January, professional, scientific, and technical services added 42,000 jobs, with gains in architectural, engineering, and related services (+10,000). Employment continued to trend up in computer systems design and related services (+15,000).

Employment in temporary help services changed little in January (+4,000) but is down by 408,000 since reaching a peak in March 2022. The employment change in January coincides with recent strength in the [ASA Staffing Index](#).



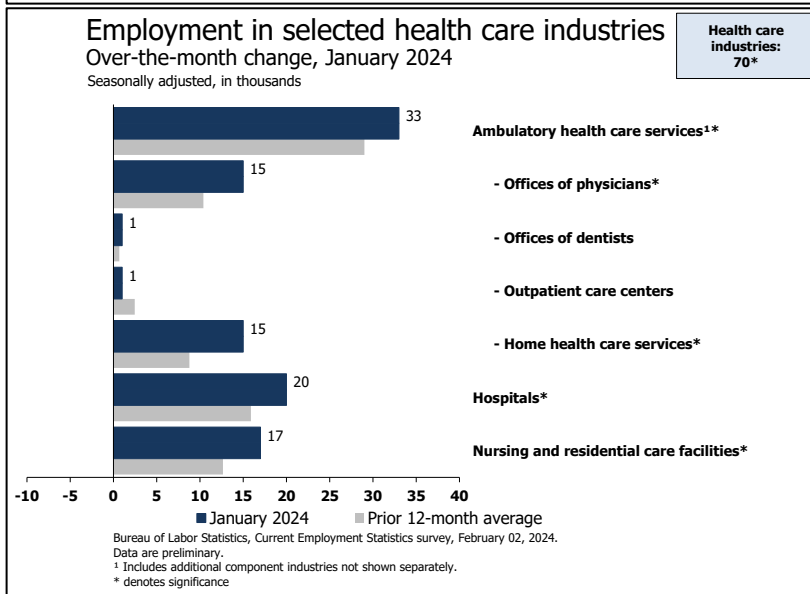
Private Education and Health Services



Employment in health care increased by 70,000 in January, above the average gain of 58,000 per month in 2023.

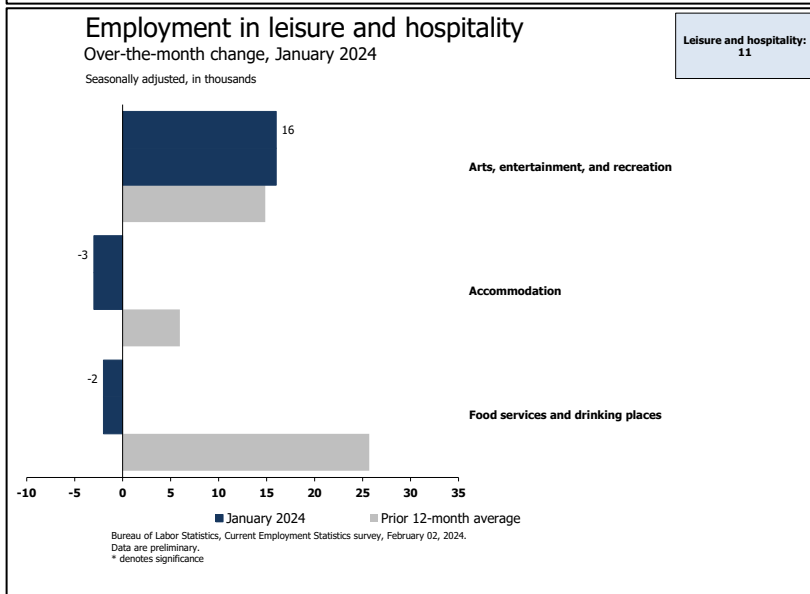
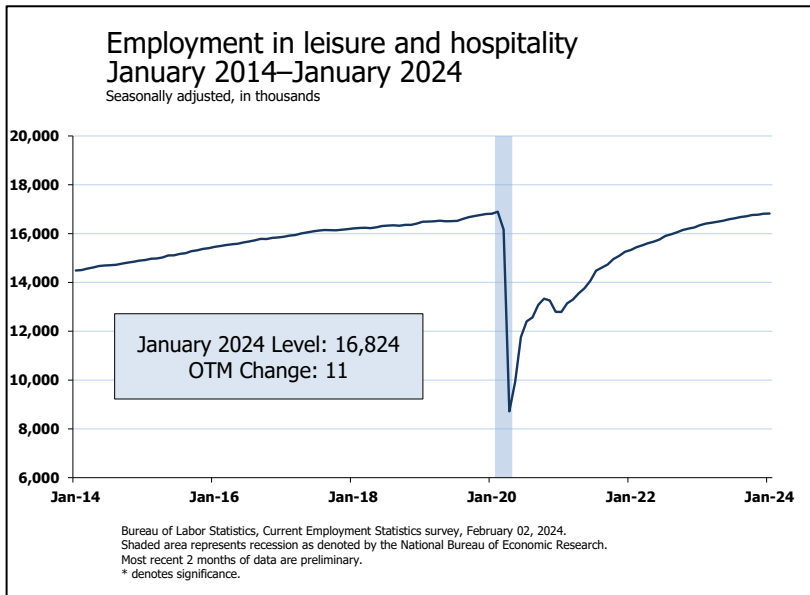
In January, employment grew in ambulatory health care services (+33,000), hospitals (+20,000), and nursing and residential care facilities (+17,000).

Employment in social assistance increased by 30,000 over the month, with individual and family services accounting for 22,000 of the gain.



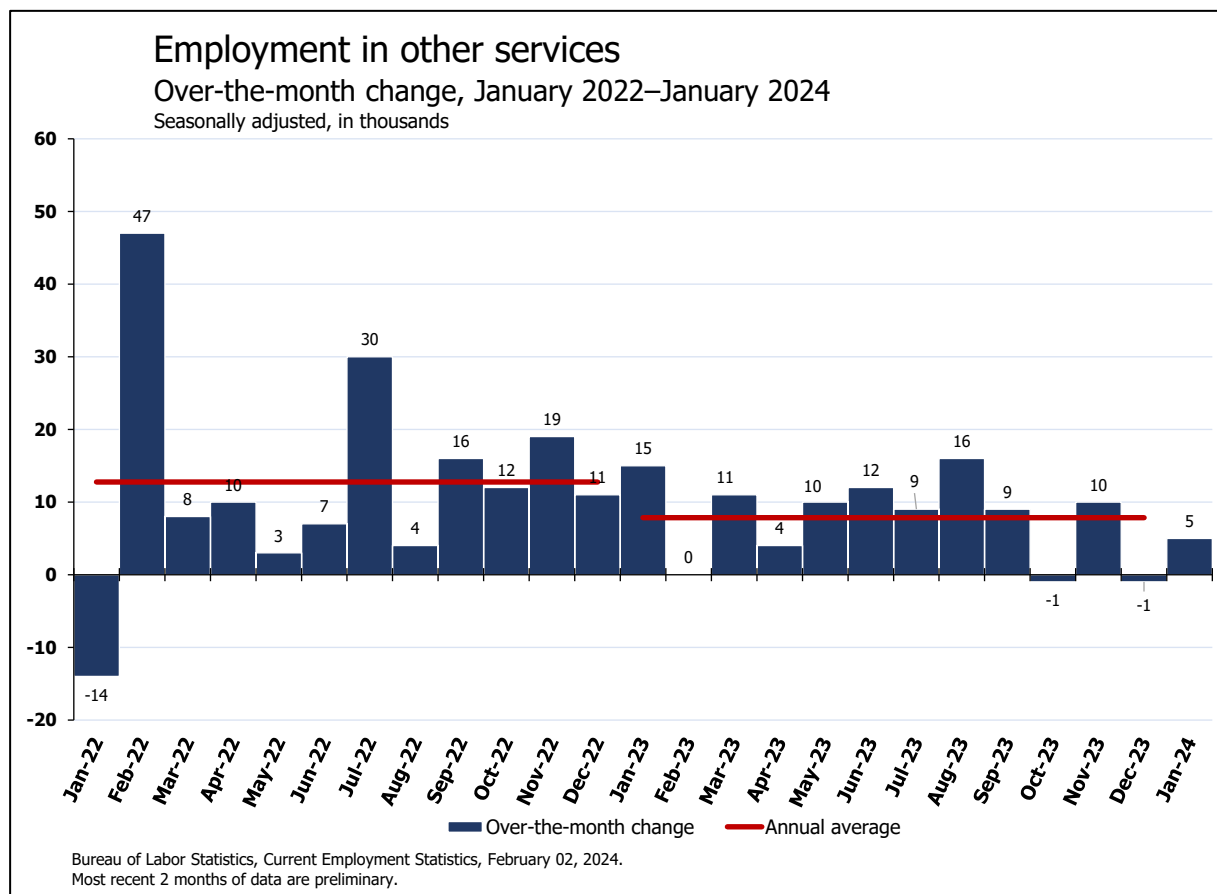
Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in leisure and hospitality changed little in January (+11,000). Employment growth in the industry had averaged 47,000 per month in 2023. Employment in this industry is 75,000 below its February 2020 level.

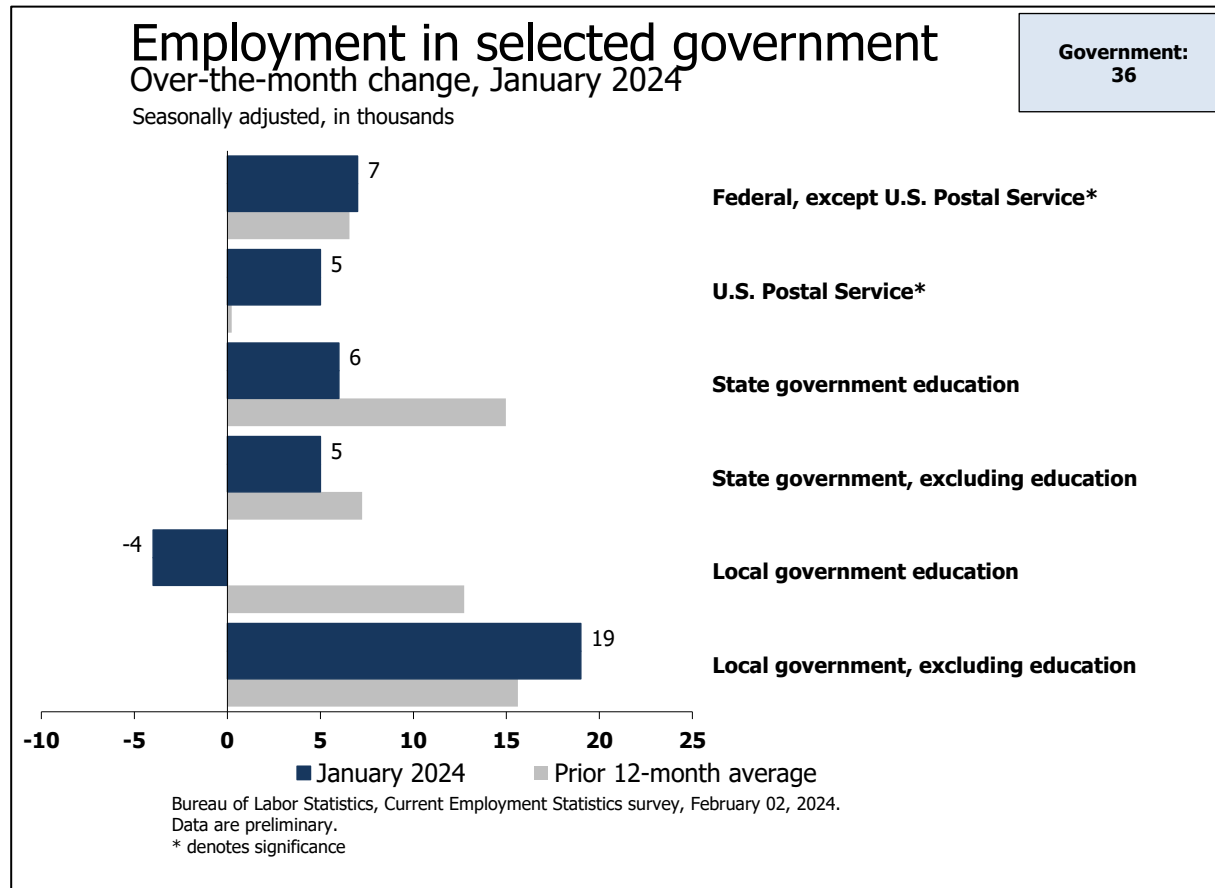


Other Services

Employment in other services changed little in January (+5,000) and is 73,000 below its February 2020 level.



Government



Employment in government continued to trend up in January (+36,000), with a gain of 11,000 in federal government. Local government, excluding education continued to trend up (+19,000). In 2023, government added an average of 57,000 jobs per month.



Prepared by Staff of the National Estimates Branch
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