

Current Employment Statistics Highlights

Detailed Industry Employment Analysis

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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



December 2024

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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, December 2024

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 256,000 in December. Employment trended up in health care, government, and social assistance. Retail trade added jobs in December, following a job loss in November. Payroll employment rose by 2.2 million in 2024 (an average monthly gain of 186,000), less than the increase of 3.0 million in 2023 (an average monthly gain of 251,000).

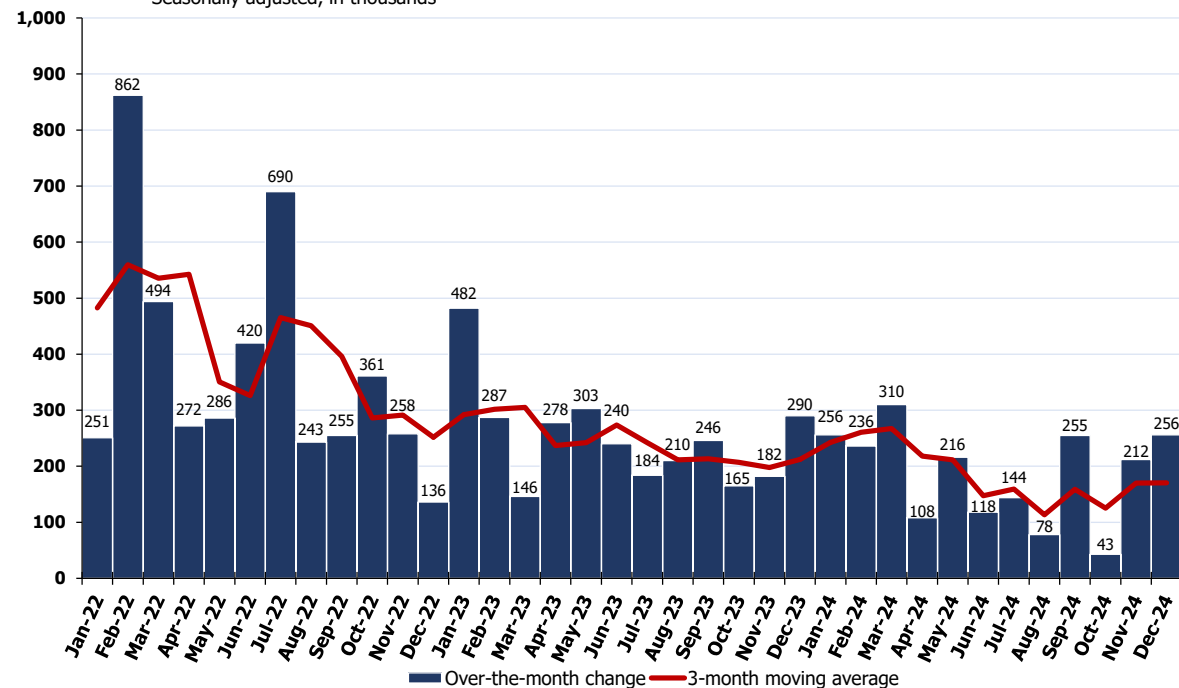
The total nonfarm employment change for October revised up from +36,000 to +43,000, and the change for November revised down from +227,000 to +212,000. On net, employment over these months is 8,000 lower than previously reported.

In December, average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls rose by 10 cents, or 0.3 percent. Over the year, average hourly earnings have increased by 3.9 percent. In December, average weekly hours of all employees remained at 34.3 hours.

+80,000 Private Education and Health Services

Health care added 46,000 jobs in December, with gains in home health care services (+15,000), nursing and residential care facilities (+14,000), and hospitals (+12,000). Health care added an average of 57,000 jobs per month in

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



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, January 10, 2025.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

2024, the same as the average monthly job gain in 2023.

Employment in social assistance increased by 23,000 in December, mostly in individual and family services (+17,000). Social assistance added an average of 18,000 jobs per

month in 2024, below the average monthly gain of 23,000 in 2023.

Current Employment Statistics Summary, December 2024

+43,000 Retail trade

Retail trade added 43,000 jobs in December, after a loss of 29,000 jobs in November. In December, employment increased in clothing, clothing accessories, shoe, and jewelry retailers (+23,000); general merchandise retailers (+13,000); and health and personal care retailers (+7,000). Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers lost jobs (-11,000). Overall, employment in retail trade changed little in 2024, following an average monthly increase of 10,000 in 2023.

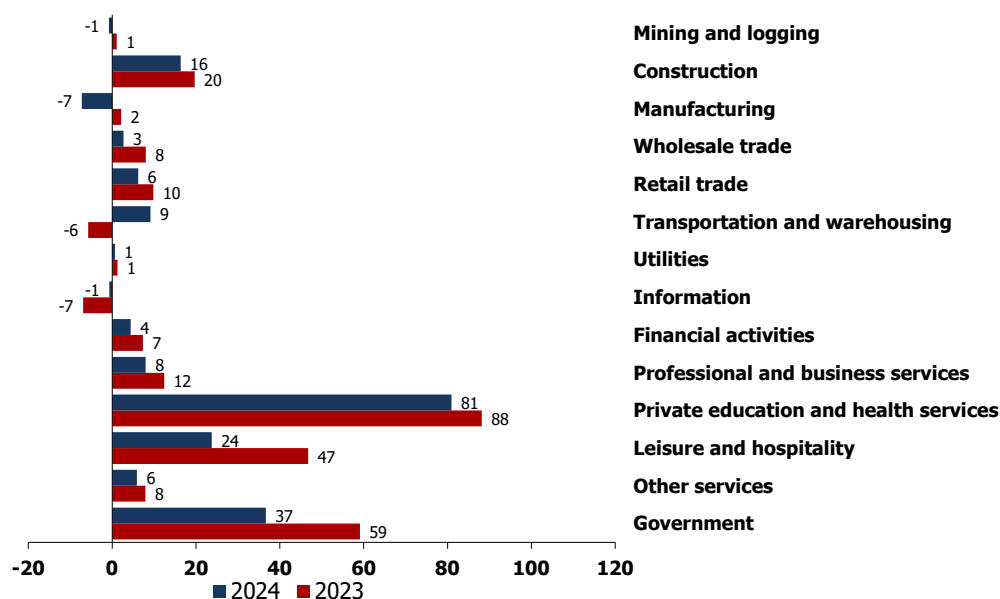
+33,000 Government

Employment in government continued to trend up in December (+33,000). Employment continued to trend up in state government (+10,000). Government added an average of 37,000 jobs per month in 2024, below the average monthly gain of 59,000 in 2023.

Employment in total nonfarm

Average monthly change, 2024 and 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



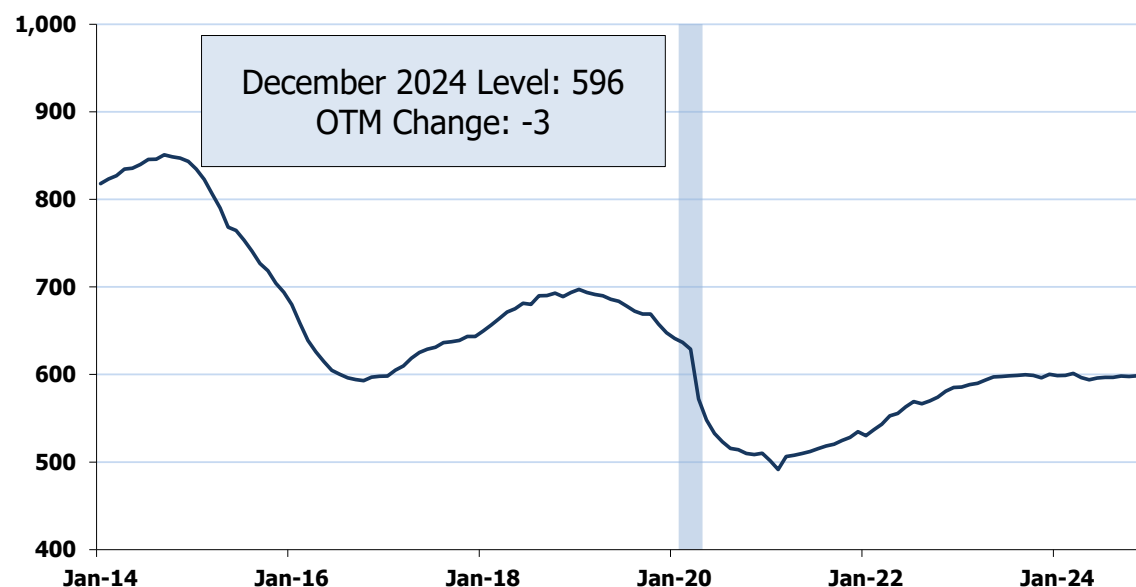
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, January 10, 2025.
Data are preliminary.

Mining and Logging

Employment in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction

January 2014–December 2024

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, January 10, 2025.
Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
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* denotes significance.

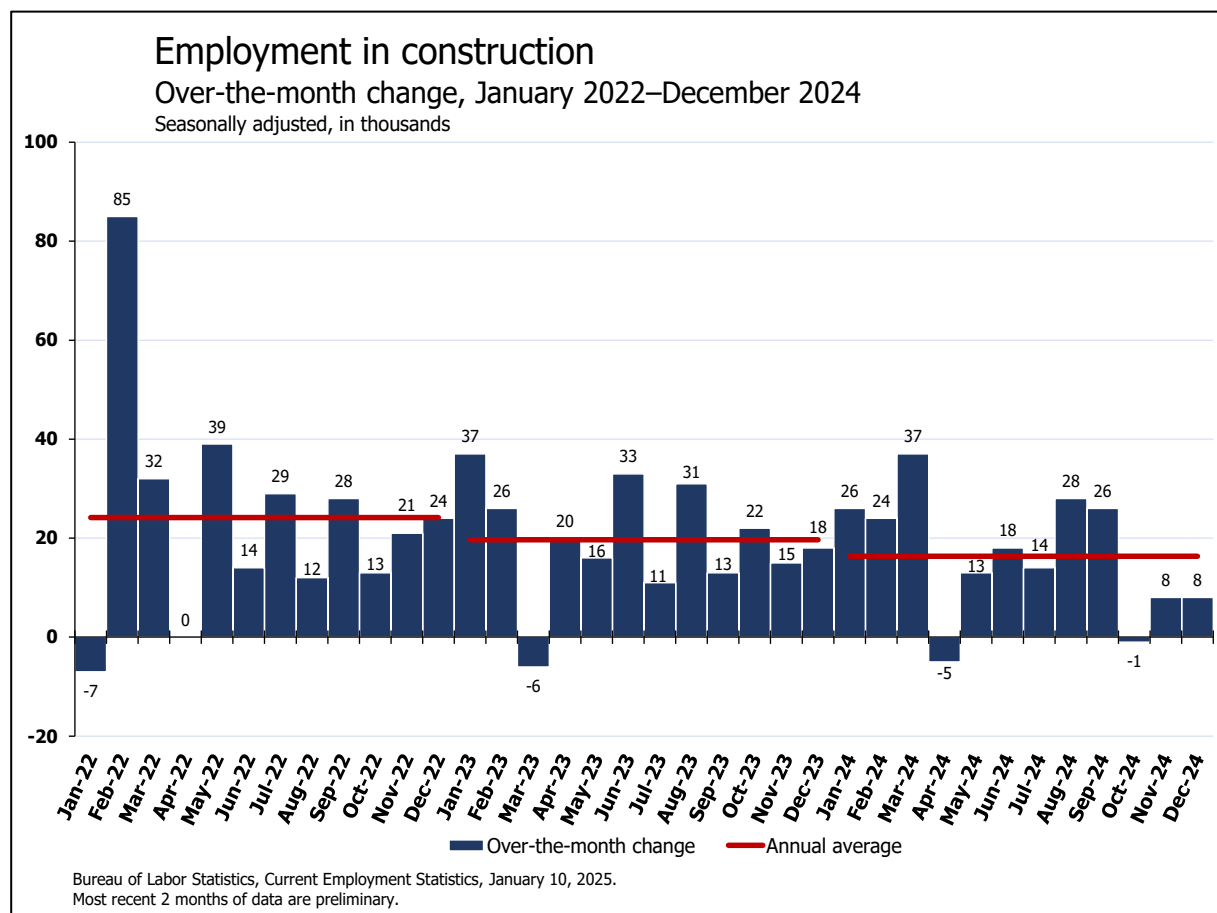
Employment in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction changed little in December (-3,000). Industry employment was essentially flat in 2024 (-4,000) and in 2023 (+15,000).

Over the month, both the [North America Rotary Rig Count](#)* and the average weekly price of [West Texas Intermediate](#)** crude oil increased.

*The rig count referenced above reflects the archived change for December 2024.

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

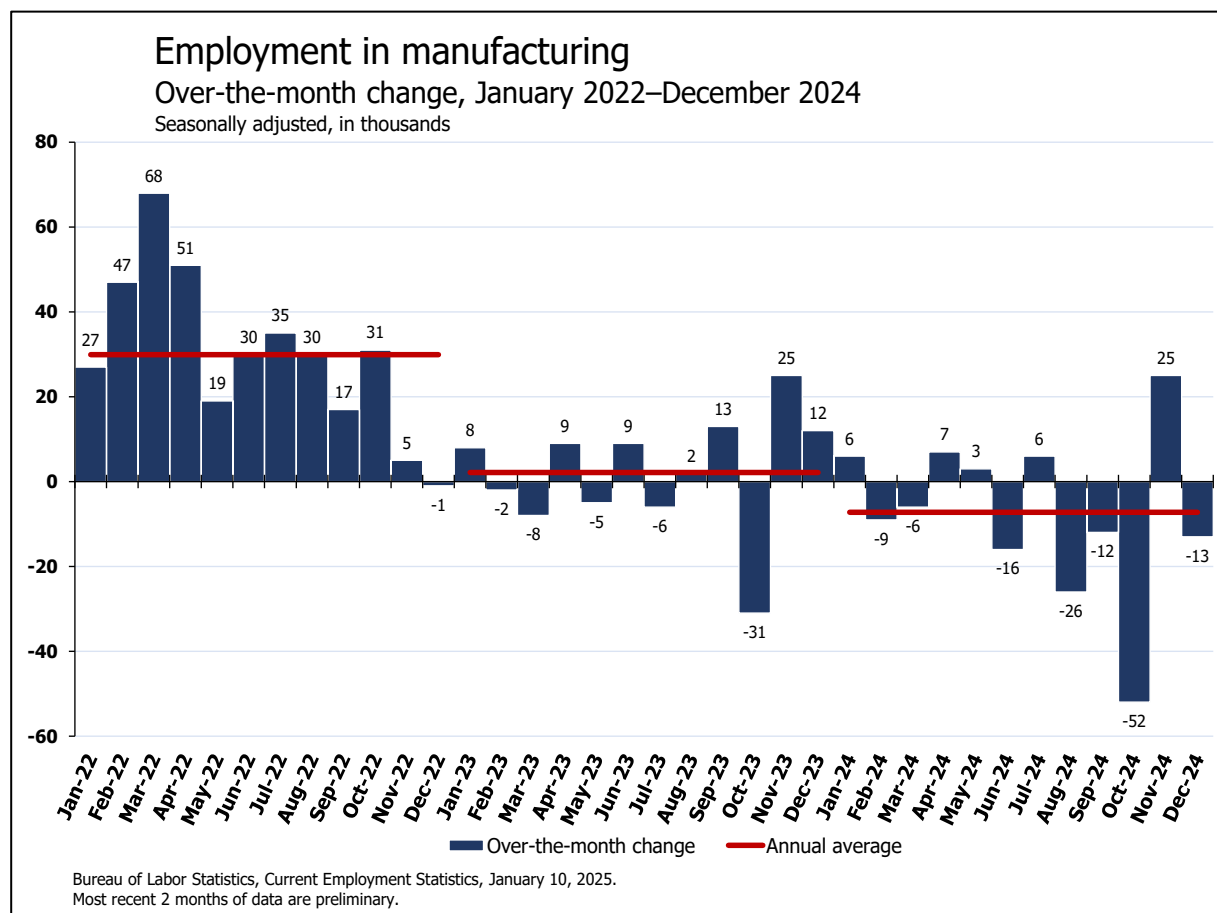
Construction



Employment in construction changed little in December (+8,000). In 2024, construction added an average of 16,000 jobs per month, in line with the average gain of 20,000 per month in 2023.

Recent residential construction-related indicators are mixed. In December, the [average 30-year fixed mortgage rate](#) decreased. In November, [residential building permits](#) increased, while [new residential sales](#) and [housing starts](#) changed little.

Manufacturing



In December, employment in manufacturing changed little (-13,000), following partially offsetting movements reflecting strike activity in November (+25,000) and October (-52,000). Over the month, computer and electronic product manufacturing lost 6,000 jobs.

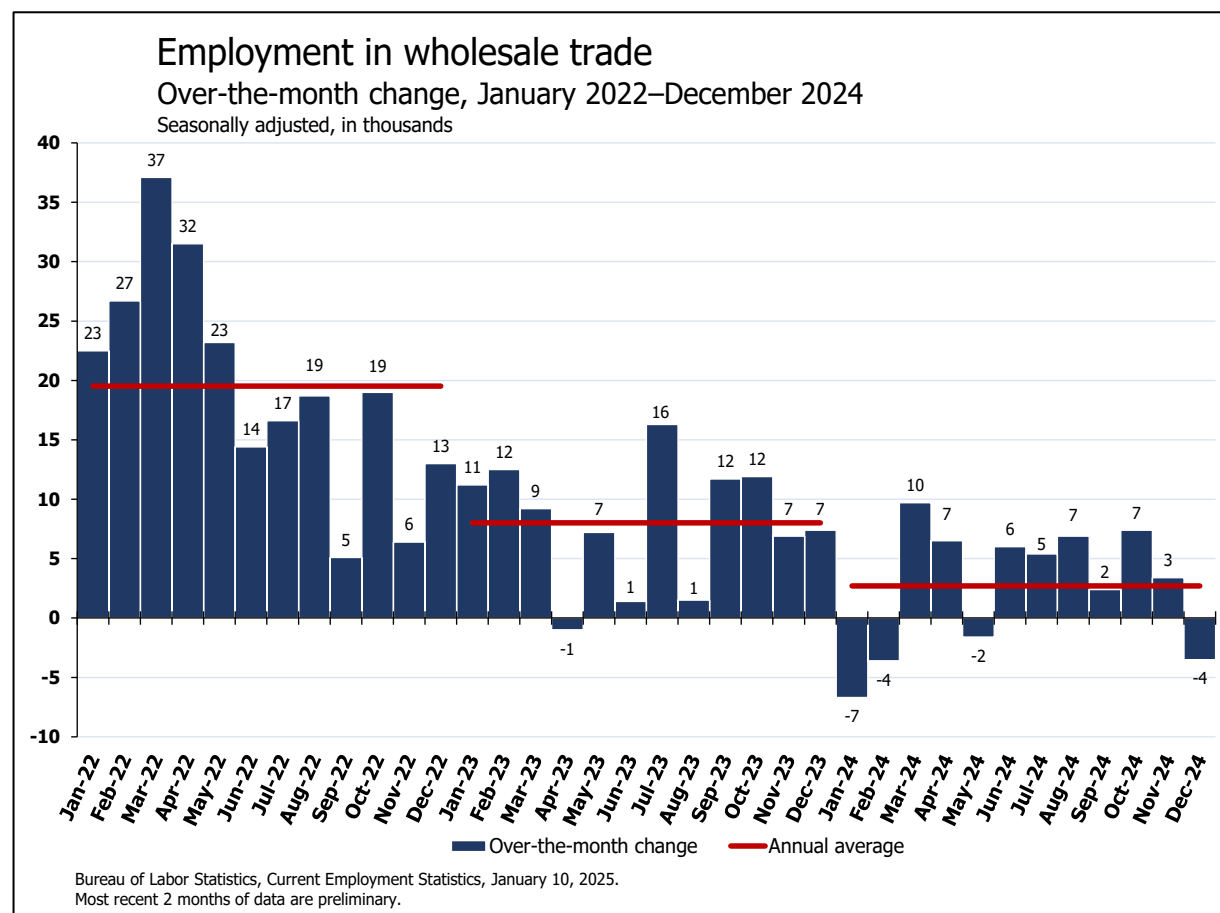
Manufacturing lost 87,000 jobs in 2024, concentrated in the second half of the year. Comparatively, in 2023, industry employment showed little net change (+26,000).

In December, average hourly earnings in manufacturing changed little for both all employees and for production and nonsupervisory employees, at \$34.60 and \$28.34, respectively. In 2024, average hourly earnings rose by 4.1 percent for all employees and by 4.5 percent for production and nonsupervisory employees.

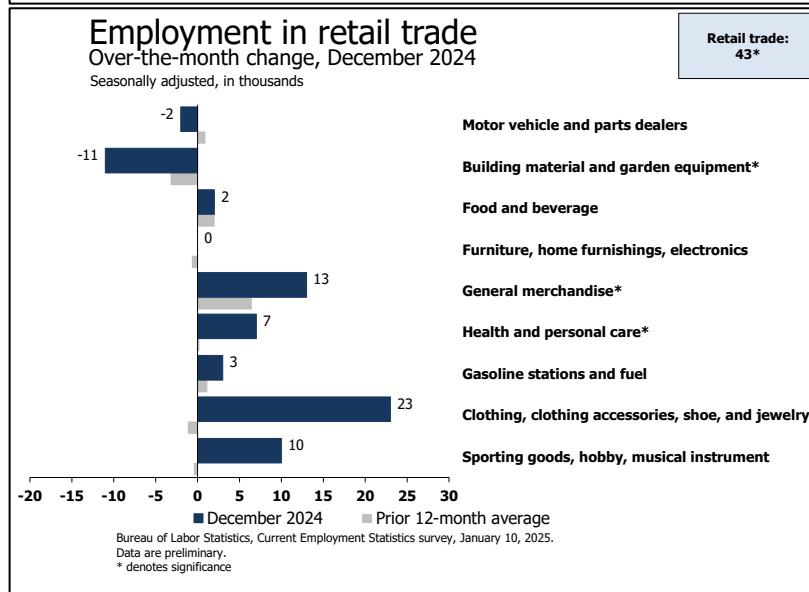
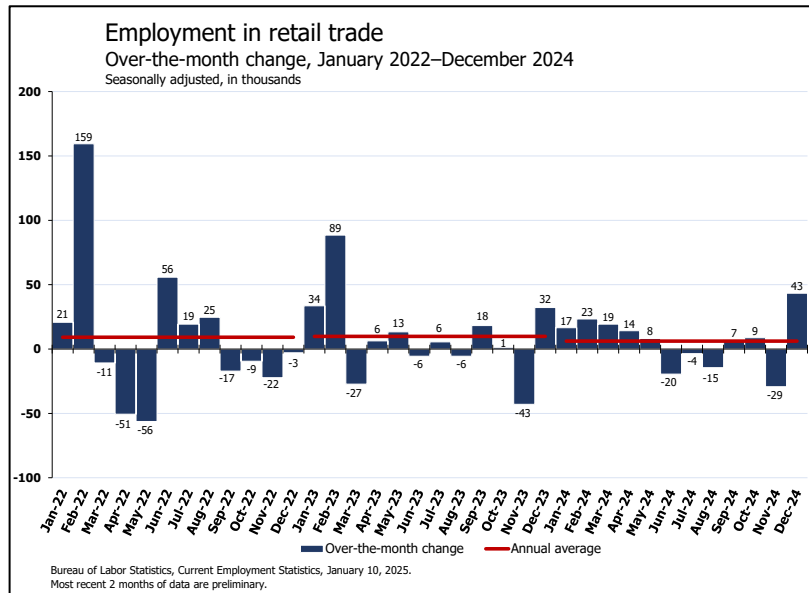
Over the month, average weekly hours for all employees and production workers in manufacturing changed little at 40.0 hours and 40.9 hours, respectively. Average weekly overtime hours for all employees edged down by 0.1 hour to 2.8 hours, while average weekly overtime hours for production and nonsupervisory employees were 3.6 hours for the fifth consecutive month.

Wholesale Trade

Employment in wholesale trade changed little in December (-4,000). In 2024, employment in the industry was little changed (+32,000), after increasing by 96,000 in 2023 and 234,000 in 2022.



Retail Trade



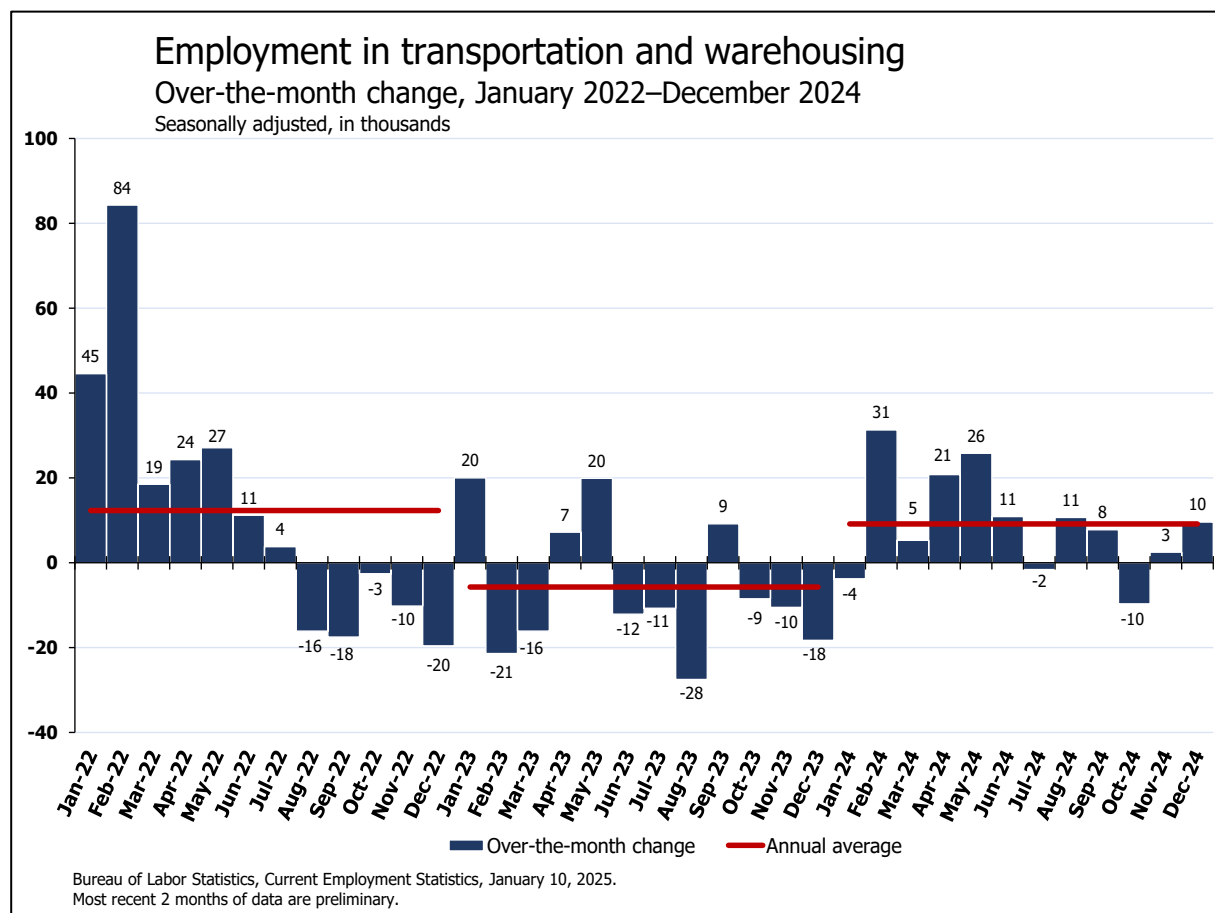
Retail trade added 43,000 jobs in December, following a loss of 29,000 jobs in November. In 2024, employment in retail trade changed little, following an average monthly increase of 10,000 in 2023.

In December 2024, employment increased in clothing, clothing accessories, shoe, and jewelry retailers (+23,000); general merchandise retailers (+13,000); and health and personal care retailers (+7,000). These job gains were partially offset by a loss in building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers (-11,000).

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

*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 following the week of the 12th for both months.

Transportation and Warehousing



Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in December (+10,000). In 2024, the industry added an average of 9,000 jobs per month, above the average loss of 6,000 jobs per month in 2023.

Utilities

Employment in utilities January 2014–December 2024

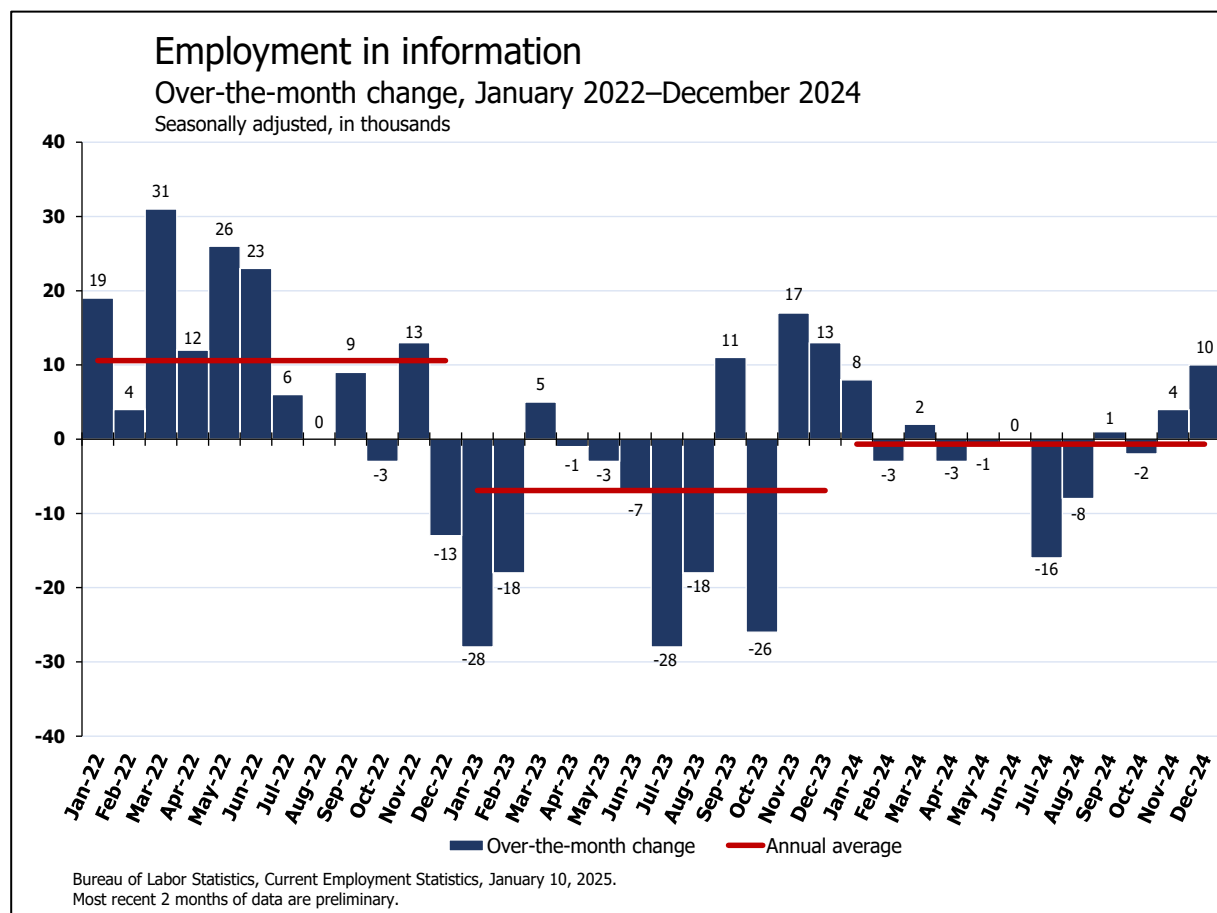
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, January 10, 2025.
Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Utilities employment was flat in December (0). In 2024, industry employment changed little (+8,000), compared with an increase of 16,000 in 2023.

Information



Information employment changed little in December (+10,000). In 2024, employment in the industry changed little (-8,000), following a decrease of 83,000 in 2023.

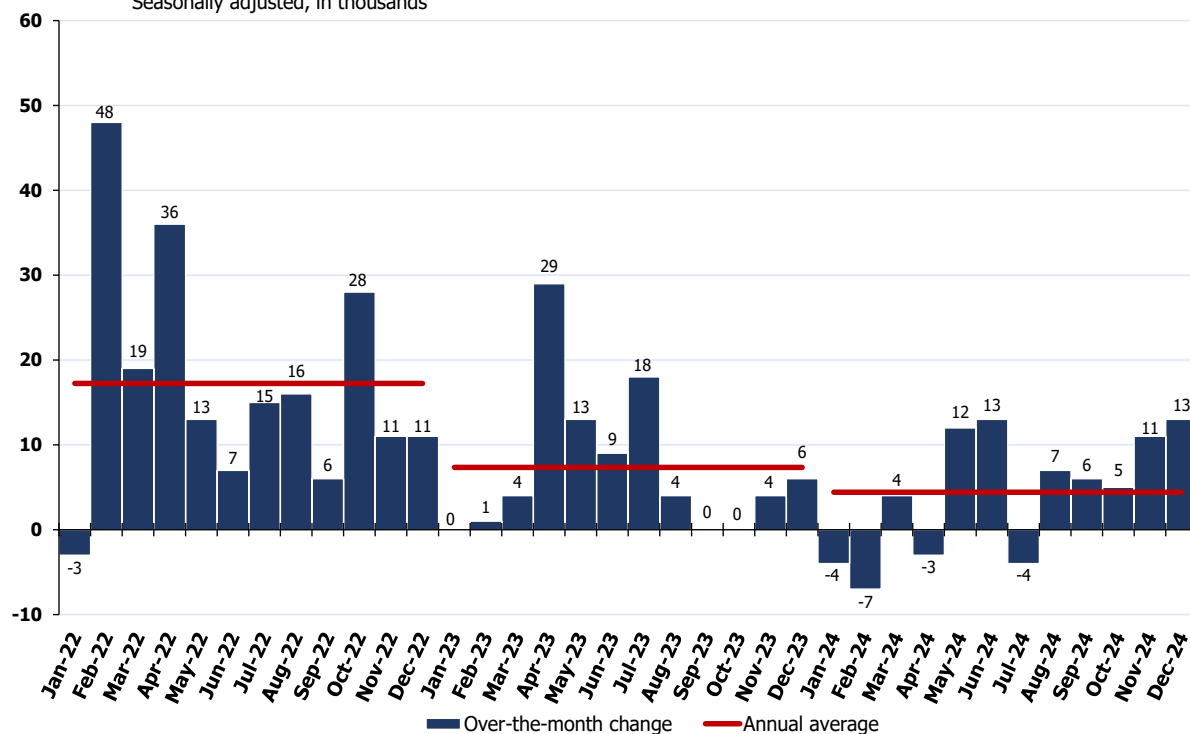
Over the month, motion picture and sound recording industries added 11,000 jobs.

Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities

Over-the-month change, January 2022–December 2024

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

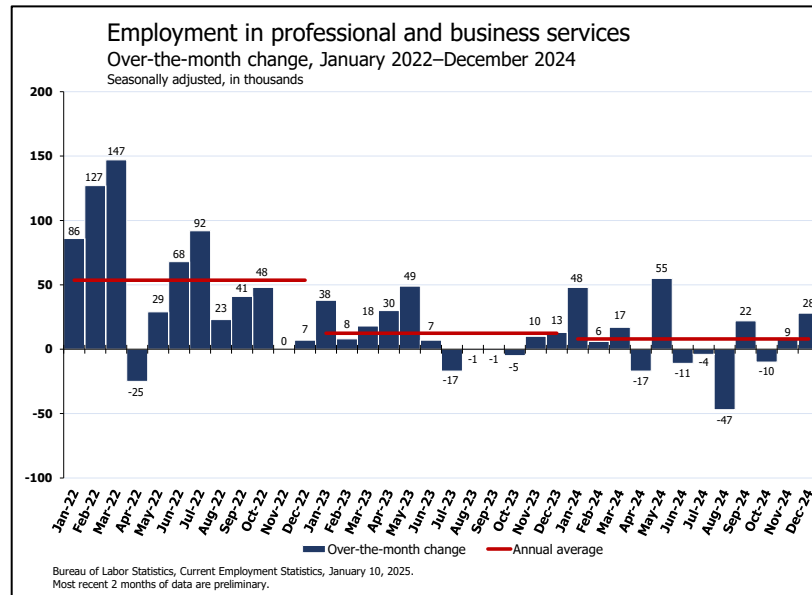


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, January 10, 2025.
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Employment in financial activities changed little in December (+13,000). In 2024, the industry added an average of 4,000 jobs per month, compared with average monthly gains of 7,000 in 2023.

Over the month, insurance carriers and related activities added 13,000 jobs, while commercial banking lost 5,000 jobs.

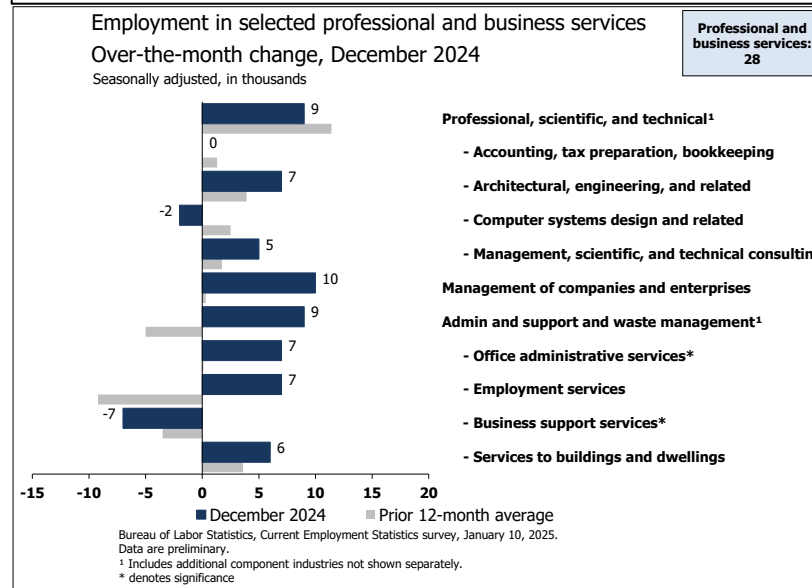
Professional and Business Services



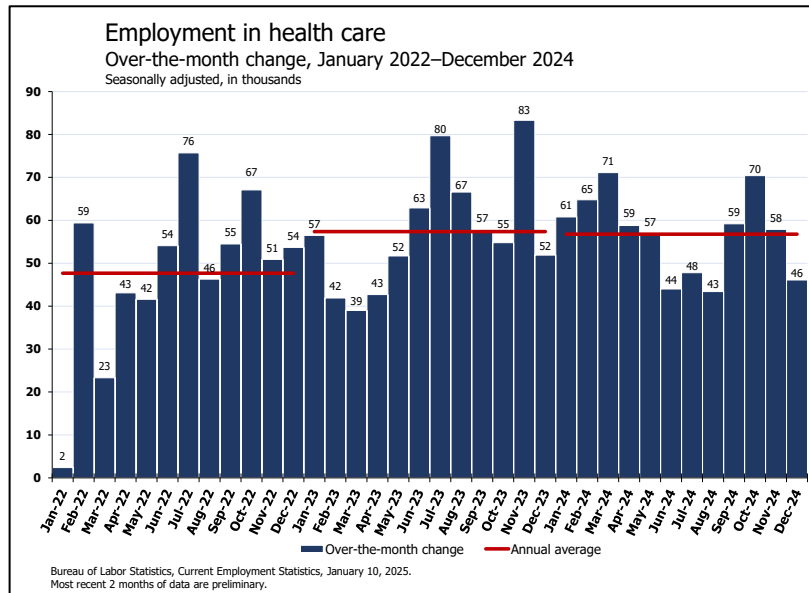
Employment in professional and business services changed little in December (+28,000). Industry employment was essentially flat in 2024 (+96,000) and in 2023 (+149,000).

Over the month, employment increased in office administrative services (+7,000), while employment declined in business support services (-7,000) and other support services (-5,000).

Employment in temporary help services changed little in December (+5,000). This industry lost an average of 9,000 jobs per month in 2024, half the average monthly loss of 18,000 in 2023.

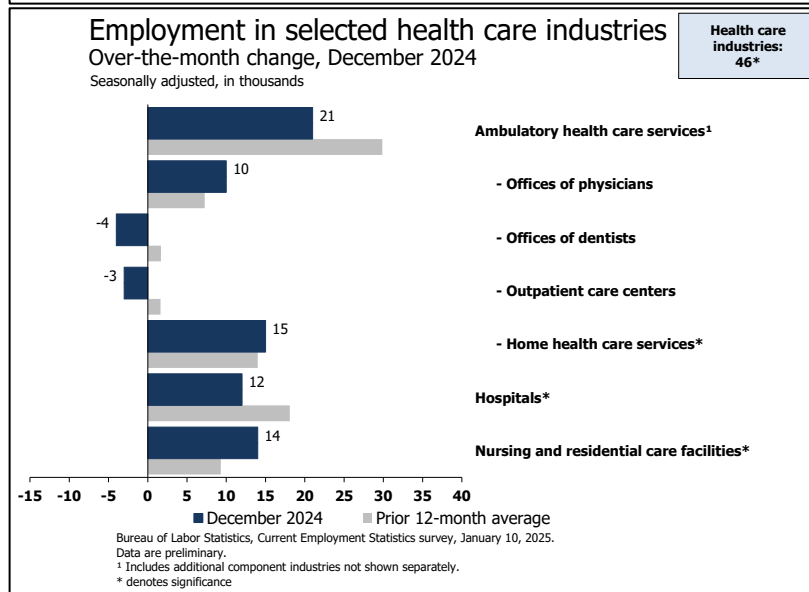


Private Education and Health Services



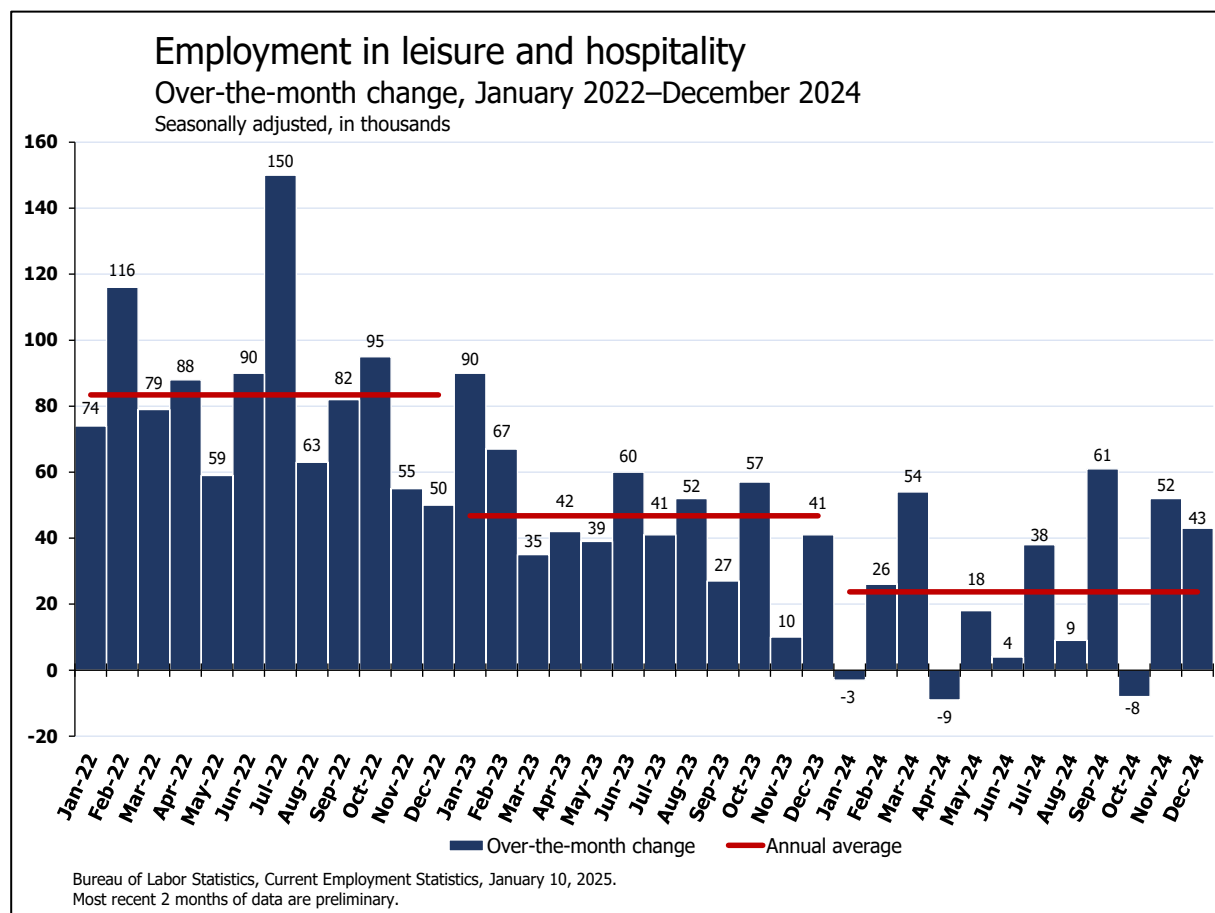
Health care added 46,000 jobs in December, with gains in home health care services (+15,000), nursing and residential care facilities (+14,000), and hospitals (+12,000). Health care added an average of 57,000 per month in 2024, the same as the average monthly gain in 2023.

Employment in social assistance increased by 23,000 in December, mostly in individual and family services (+17,000). Social assistance added an average of 18,000 jobs per month in 2024, lower than the average monthly gain of 23,000 in 2023.



Leisure and Hospitality

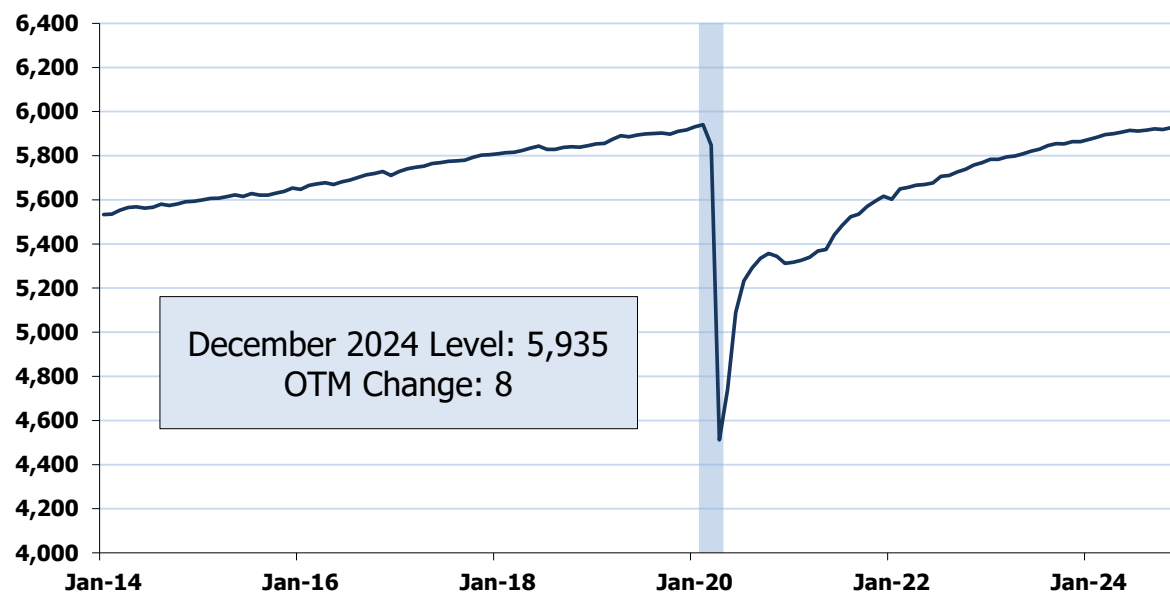
Employment in leisure and hospitality changed little in December (+43,000). Leisure and hospitality added an average of 24,000 jobs per month in 2024, about half the average monthly gain of 47,000 in 2023.



Other Services

Employment in other services January 2014–December 2024

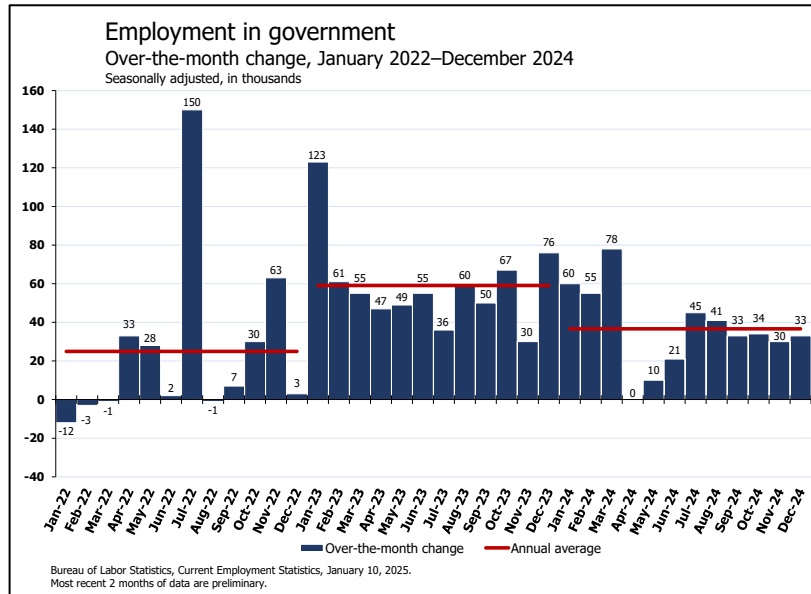
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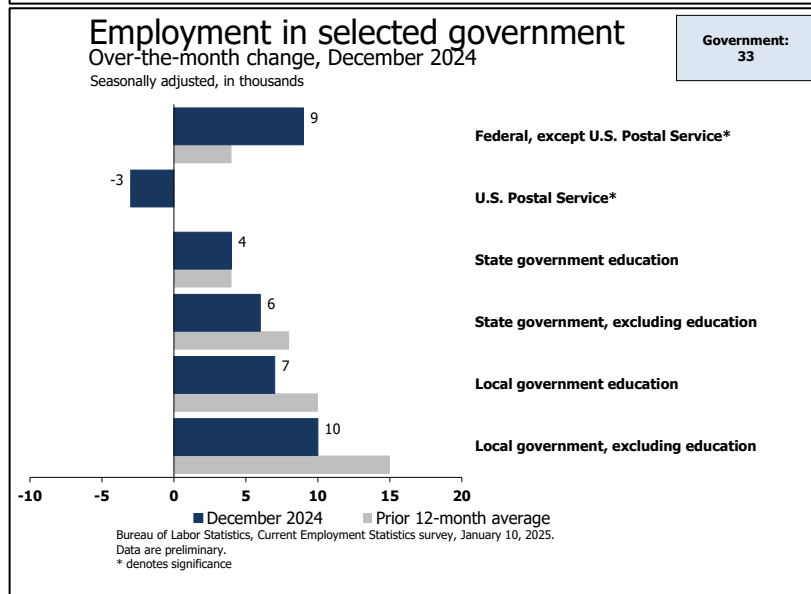
Employment in other services changed little in December (+8,000). In 2024, the industry added an average of 6,000 jobs per month, compared with an average monthly gain of 8,000 in 2023.

Government



In December, employment in government continued to trend up (+33,000). Government added an average of 37,000 jobs per month in 2024, below the average gain of 59,000 per month in 2023.

Over the month, employment continued to trend up in state government (+10,000).





**Prepared by Staff of the National Estimates Branch
Current Employment Statistics Survey
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