

Contents

[Summary](#)

[Mining & Logging](#)

[Construction](#)

[Manufacturing](#)

[Wholesale Trade](#)

[Retail Trade](#)

[Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities](#)

[Information](#)

[Financial Activities](#)

[Professional & Business Services](#)

[Private Education & Health Services](#)

[Leisure & Hospitality](#)

[Other Services](#)

[Government](#)

Current Employment Statistics Highlights



May 2021

Release Date: June 4, 2021

Prepared by Analysts of the National Estimates Branch
Current Employment Statistics Survey
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

202-691-6555

[Email CES](#)

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, May 2021

Payroll employment rose by 559,000 in May. The economy has recovered 14.7 million jobs, or two-thirds of 22.4 million jobs lost in March and April 2020. Over the month, leisure and hospitality, public and private education, and health care and social assistance added jobs.

The employment change for March revised up from +770,000 to +785,000, and the change for April revised up from +266,000 to +278,000. On net, employment over these months is 27,000 higher than previously reported.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls increased by 15 cents or 0.5 percent in May. Over the year, hourly earnings have increased by 2.0 percent. In May, average weekly hours held at 34.9 hours for a third consecutive month.

+292,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Leisure and hospitality added 292,000 jobs in May, with food services and drinking places accounting for most of the growth (+186,000). After losing nearly 6 million jobs in March and April 2020, the food service industry has recovered 4.5 million jobs. Over the month, amusements, gambling, and recreation (+58,000) and accommodation (+35,000) also added jobs.

+87,000 Education and Health Services

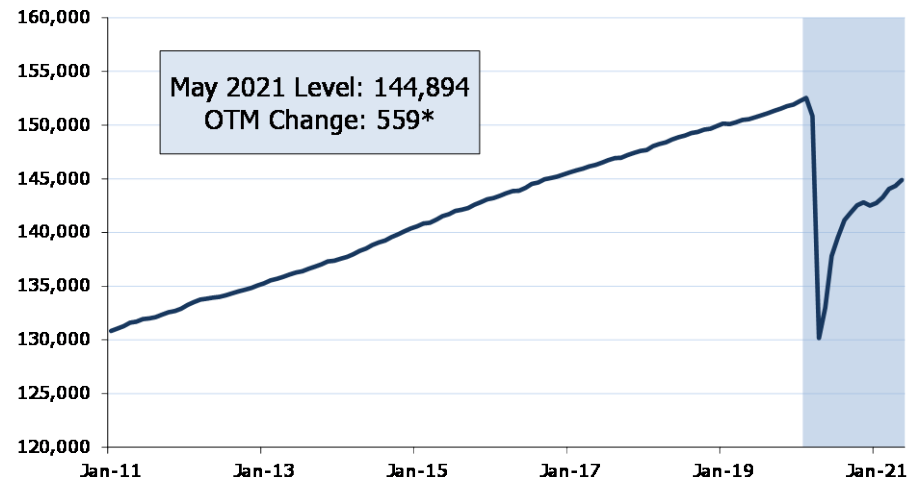
Health care and social assistance split a job gain of 46,000 in May. Growth in ambulatory health care services accounted for essentially all of the employment change in health care (+22,000). Within social assistance, child day care services added 18,000 jobs. Employment in health care and social assistance has risen

by 1.6 million, after falling by 2.3 million in March and April 2020.

Private educational services added 41,000 jobs in May. This industry lost 533,000 jobs between January and April 2020 and has since recovered 232,000 jobs.

Employment in total nonfarm January 2011–May 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 04, 2021.
 Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
 Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.
 * denotes significance.

Current Employment Statistics Summary, May 2021

+67,000 Government

Local education (+53,000) and state education (+50,000) added jobs in May; however, volatility from month to month has made analysis difficult over the past year. Local education has added a net 193,000 jobs over the year, but employment is 556,000 lower than its February 2020 peak. Employment in state education fell by 255,000 between February and May 2020 but has shown little net change over the year.

Over the month, job losses in local government excluding education (-20,000) and the U.S. Postal Service (-15,000) partly offset the gains in education.

+29,000 Information

Employment in information rose by 29,000 in May but is down by 193,000 since reaching a peak in February 2020. Over the month, motion picture and sound recording (+14,000) and other information services (+6,000) added jobs

+23,000 Manufacturing

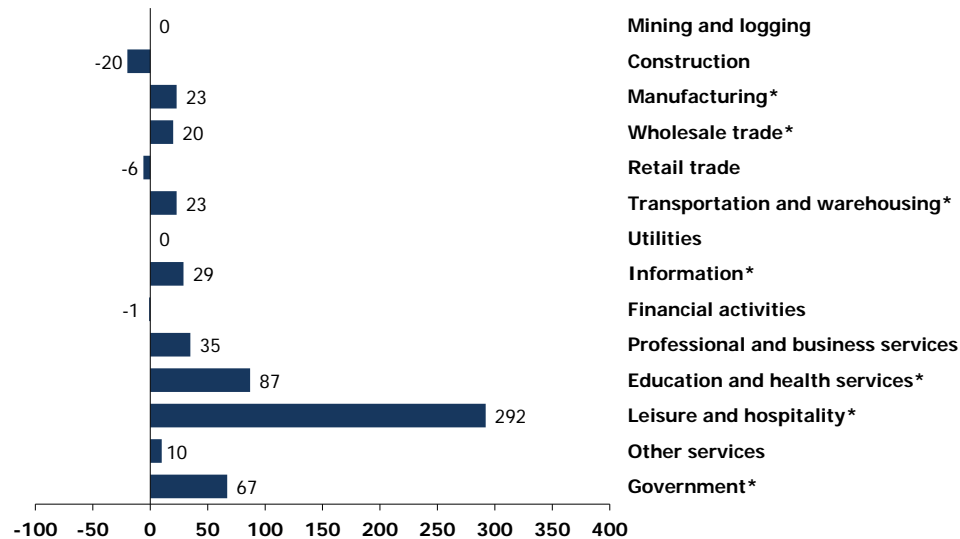
Employment in motor vehicles and parts rose by 25,000 following a decline of 38,000 in April. Elsewhere in manufacturing, a loss of

Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, May 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:
559*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 04, 2021.
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

5,000 jobs in machinery was offset by gains in electrical equipment and appliances (+3,000) and primary metals (+2,000). Since April 2020, manufacturing employment has increased by 876,000, but it is 509,000 below its level in February 2020.

+23,000 Transportation and Warehousing

Transportation and warehousing added 23,000 jobs over the month, but employment is 100,000 lower than in February 2020. Within the industry, support activities for transportation (+10,000) and air transportation (+9,000) added jobs in May.

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, May 2021

+20,000 Wholesale Trade

Wholesale trade added 20,000 jobs over the month, mostly in durable goods (+14,000). Although wholesale trade has recovered 198,000 jobs, employment is 217,000 below its January 2020 peak.

+35,000 Professional and Business Services

Professional and technical services added 26,000 jobs in May, including gains in accounting and bookkeeping (+14,000) and in scientific research and development (+5,000). Employment fell by 9,000 in management of companies and enterprises. Within administrative and waste services, a job gain in services to buildings and dwellings (+13,000) offset a loss in investigation and security services (-11,000).

-20,000 Construction

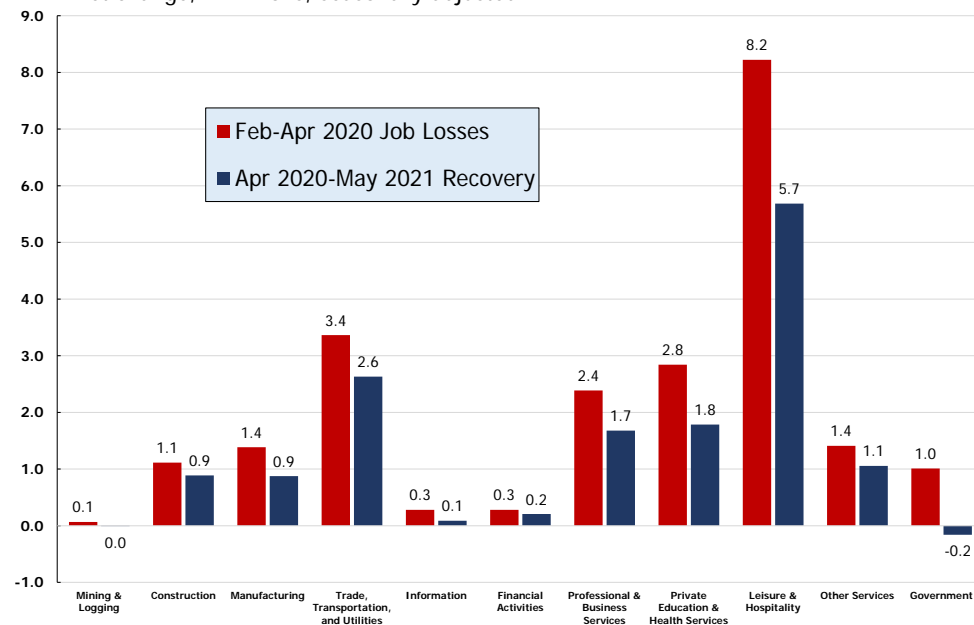
Nonresidential specialty trade contractors lost 17,000 jobs in May, but employment changed little elsewhere in construction.

-6,000 Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade changed little in May. Food and beverage stores lost 26,000 jobs following a loss of 47,000 in April, however employment in the industry has shown little net change since February 2020.

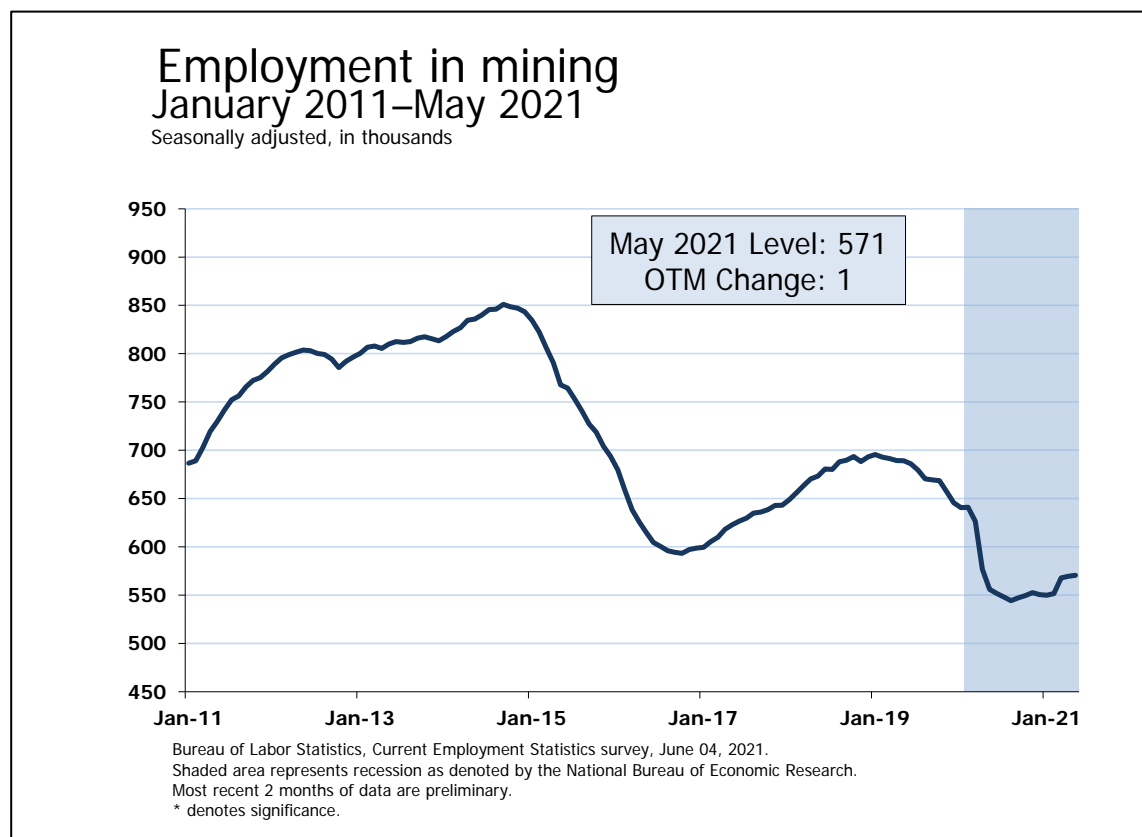
Employment changes by industry sector

Net change, in millions, seasonally adjusted



Elsewhere in retail trade, health and personal care stores lost 7,000 jobs over the month, while clothing and clothing accessories stores (+11,000) and miscellaneous store retailers (+6,000) added jobs.

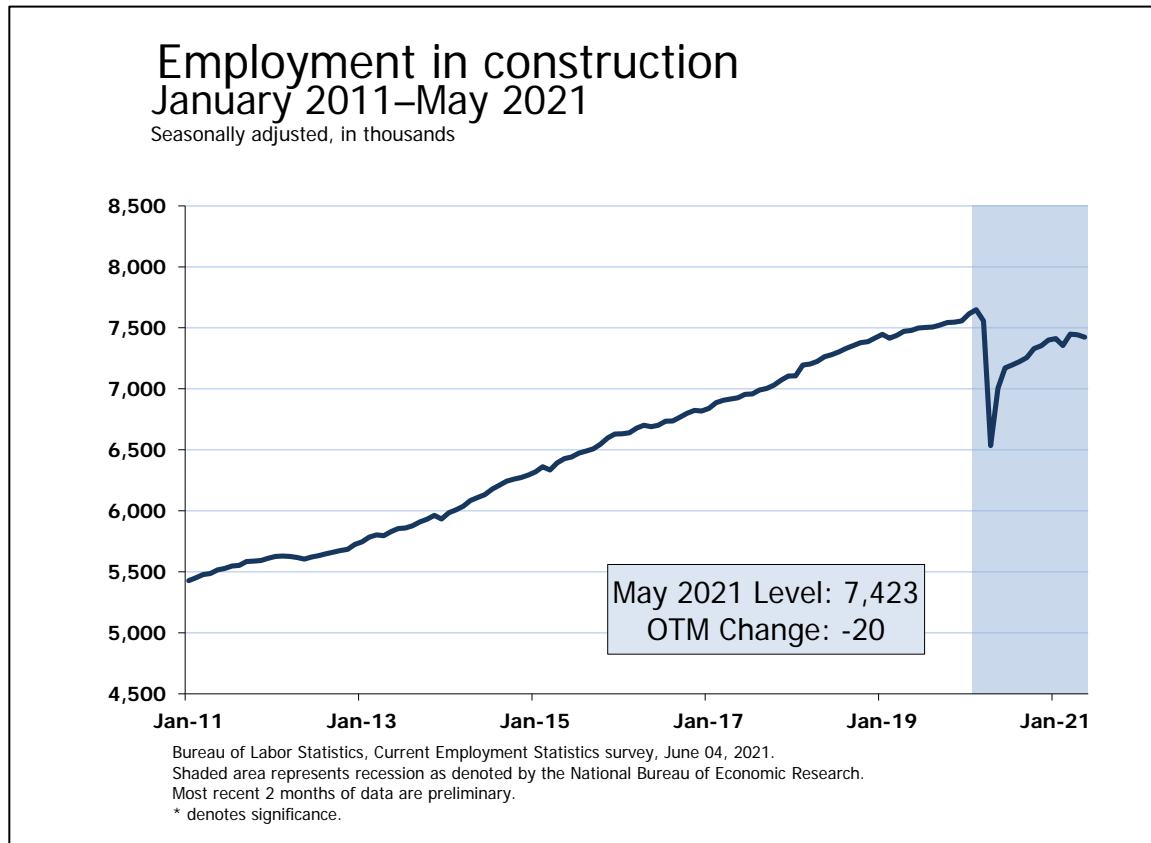
Mining and Logging



Mining employment was flat in May (+1,000). A job gain in support activities for mining (+5,000) was partly offset by a loss in nonmetallic mineral mining and quarrying (-2,000).

The flatness in mining employment occurred despite increases in the count of [North American rotary rigs](#) and the price of [West Texas Intermediate crude oil](#) in May.

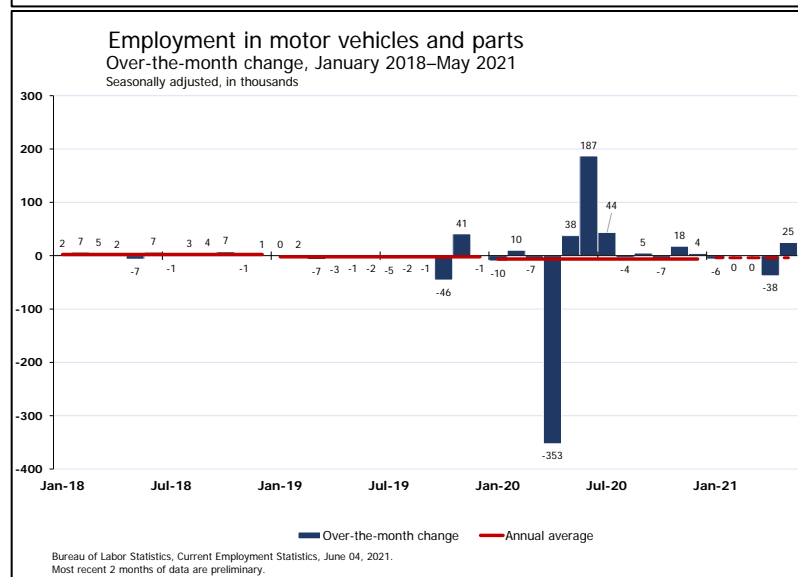
Construction



Construction employment edged down by 20,000 in May, with nonresidential specialty trade contractors accounting for 17,000 of the loss. Construction has recovered 888,000 of 1.1 million jobs lost in March and April 2020.

The weakness in construction employment in May follows stagnation in [residential building permits](#) and [construction spending](#) in April.

Manufacturing



In May, manufacturing gained 23,000 jobs after losing 32,000 jobs in April.

Employment in motor vehicles and parts rebounded in May (+25,000) following a loss of 38,000 jobs in April. These changes reflect uncertainty associated with an ongoing semiconductor shortage. Employment in the industry is 95,000 below its February 2020 level.

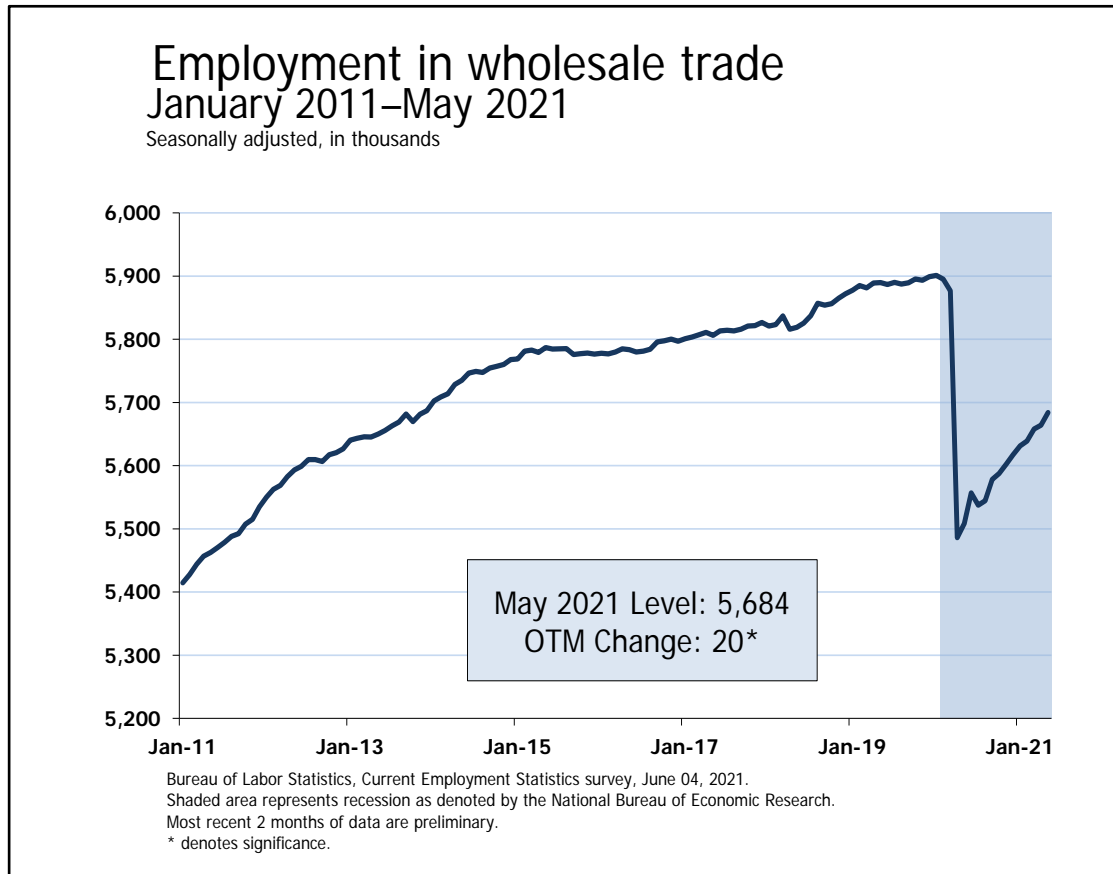
The manufacturing 1-month diffusion index declined by 1.4 points to 57.3. Despite the decline, a number above 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries added jobs than lost jobs.

Manufacturing employment gains correspond with increases in both the Institute of Supply Management's [Purchasing Managers' Index](#) (PMI) and IHS Markit's [PMI](#), which measure business sentiment and expectations.

In May, average hourly earnings for all employees in manufacturing increased by 17 cents to \$29.52. Average hourly earnings of production workers increased by 11 cents to \$23.52.

Average weekly hours of all employees increased 0.1 hour to 40.5 hours in May. The average workweek of production workers was unchanged at 41.6 hours.

Wholesale Trade

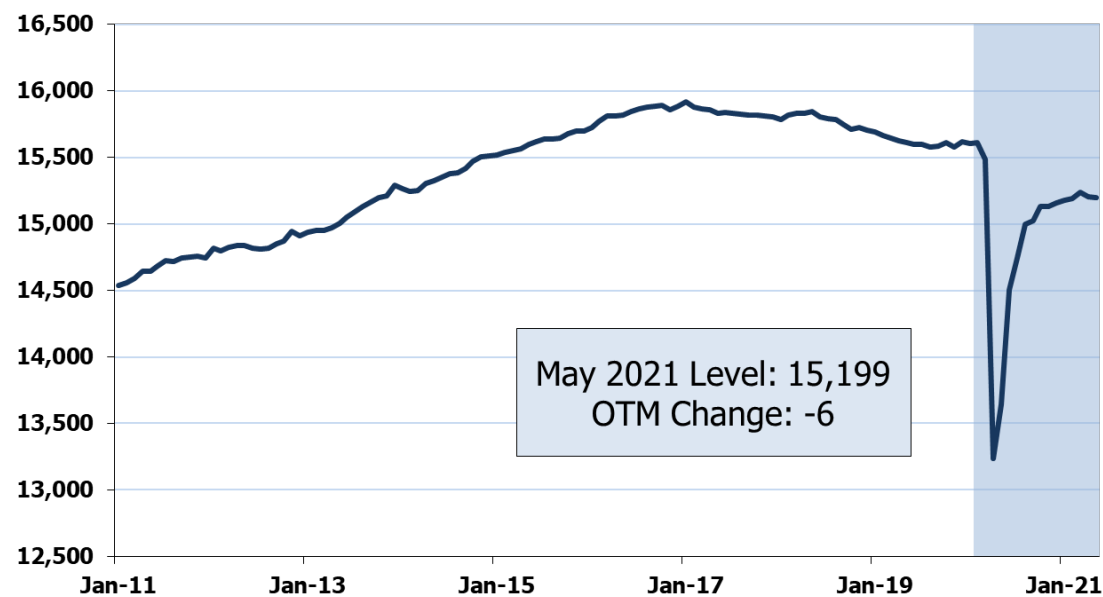


Wholesale trade employment grew by 20,000 in May with durable goods accounting for 14,000 of the gain. Since reaching a low point in April 2020, wholesale trade employment has increased by 198,000, but remains 217,000 below its peak in January 2020.

Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade January 2011–May 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



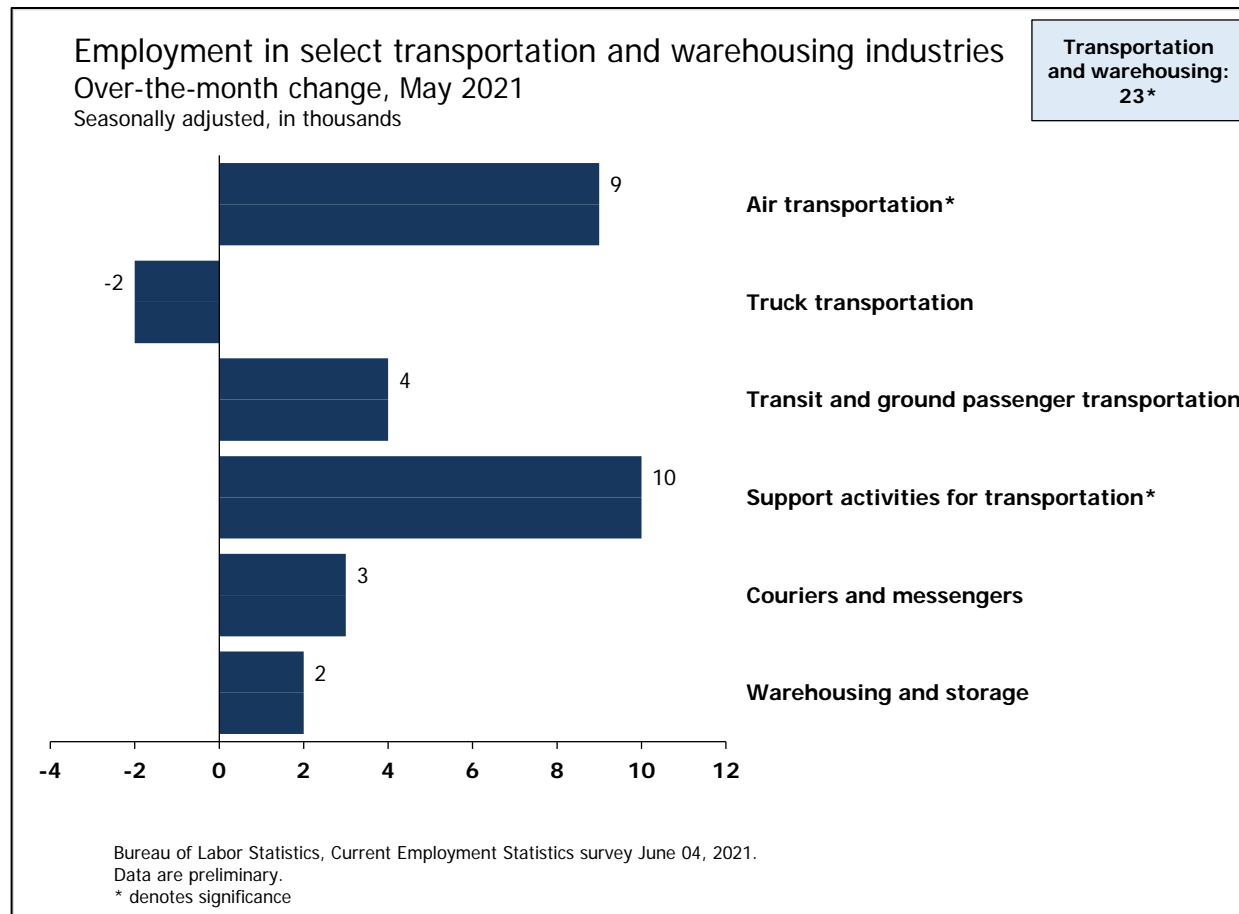
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 04, 2021.
 Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
 Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.
 * denotes significance.

In May, employment in retail trade changed little (-6,000). The industry has recovered 2.0 million of 2.4 million jobs lost in March and April 2020.

In May, job losses occurred in food and beverage stores (-26,000) and in health and personal care stores (-7,000). These declines were partially offset by job gains in clothing and clothing accessories stores (+11,000) and miscellaneous store retailers (+6,000).

Retail-related economic indicators are mixed. [Retail Sales](#) declined in April, and the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) decreased in May. Conversely, [Auto Sales](#) increased in April.

Transportation and Warehousing

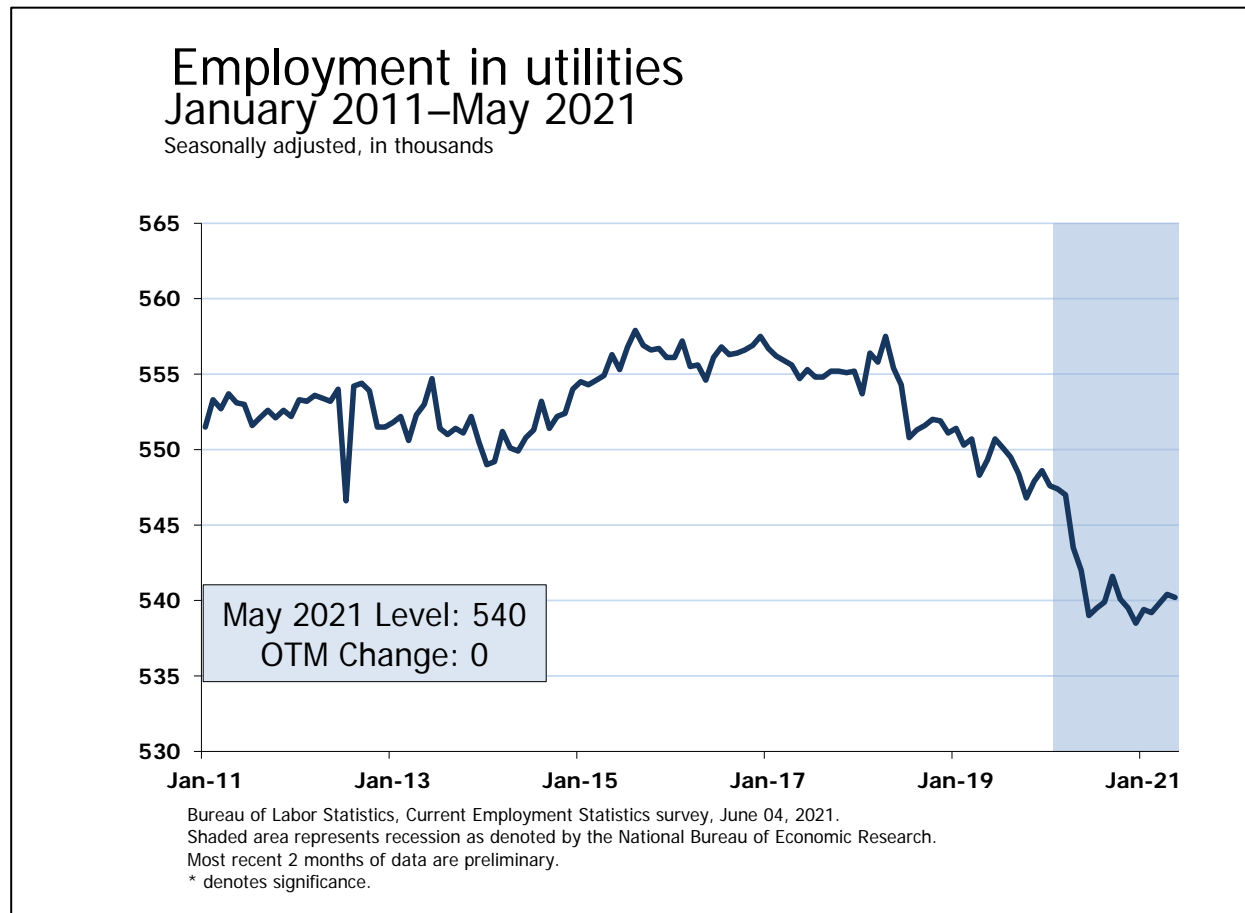


Employment in transportation and warehousing grew by 23,000 in May. Despite the gain, industry employment is 100,000 below its February 2020 peak.

Job gains in May were driven by support activities for transportation (+10,000) and air transportation (+9,000). Employment in air transportation is 92,000 below its most recent peak in March 2020, while employment in support activities for transportation is 57,000 below its February 2020 level.

Utilities

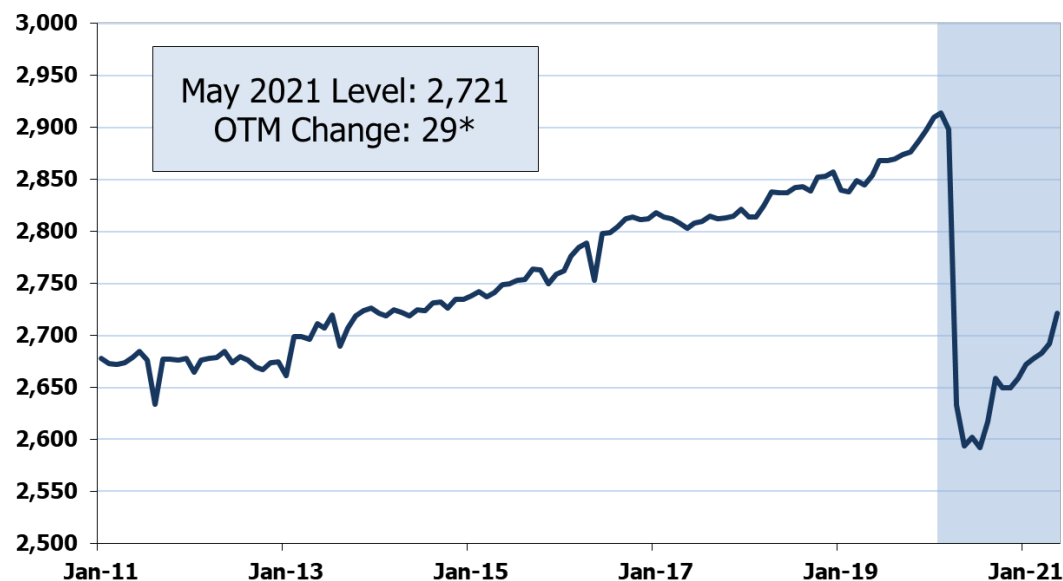
Utilities employment was unchanged in May.



Information

Employment in information January 2011–May 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 04, 2021.
 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 information expanded by 29,000 in May, but is 193,000 below its February 2020 level.

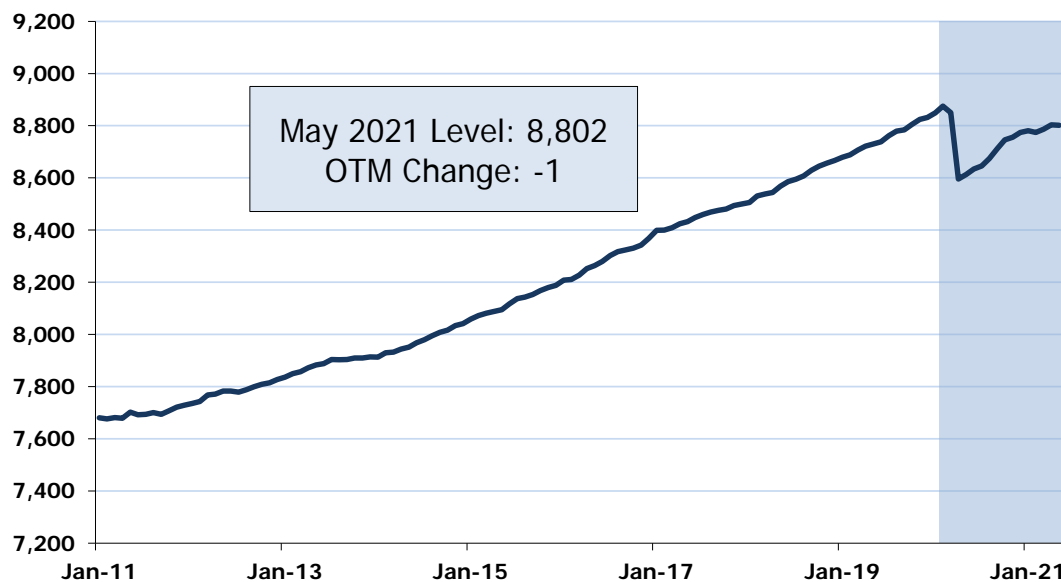
In May, motion picture and sound recording industries added 14,000 jobs as [restrictions](#) on movie theaters continued to ease. These industries have recovered 82,000 of the 239,000 jobs lost from February through May 2020.

Employment in other information services grew by 6,000 in May; this industry includes news syndicates, libraries and archives, and internet publishing and broadcasting and web search portals.

Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities January 2011–May 2021

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



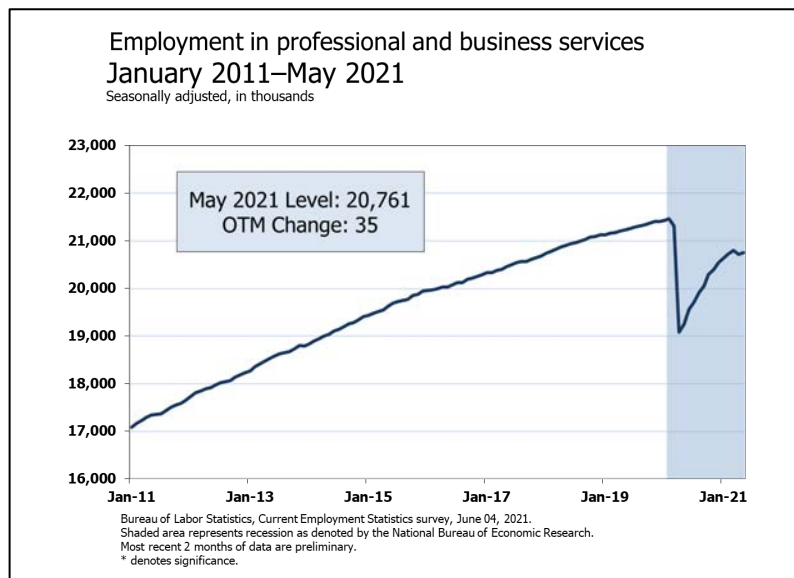
May 2021 Level: 8,802
OTM Change: -1

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 04, 2021.
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 financial activities changed little in May (-1,000), after growing by 16,000 in April. The industry has recovered 206,000 jobs, but employment is 73,000 below the February 2020 level.

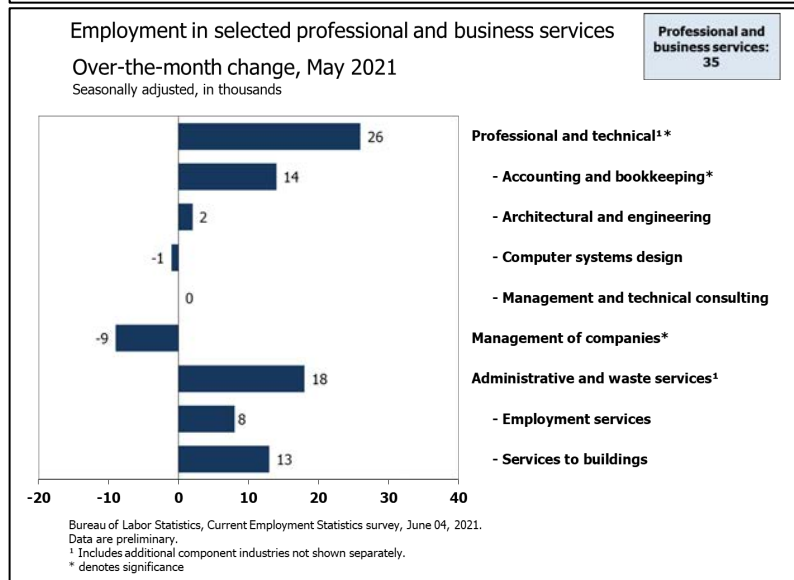
In May, weakness in financial activities was driven by job losses in commercial banking (-11,000).

Professional and Business Services



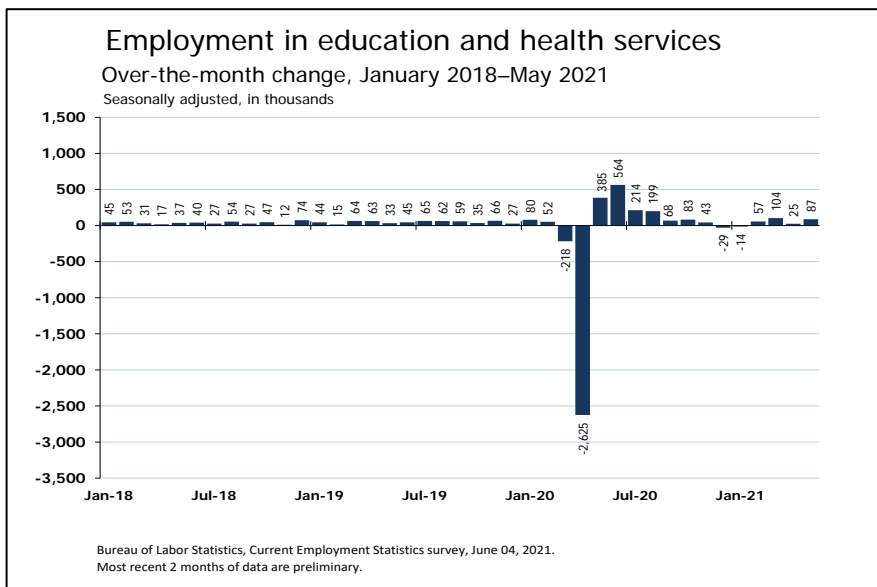
Professional and business services added 35,000 jobs in May, and employment in the industry is 708,000 below the February 2020 level.

In May, professional and technical services added 26,000 jobs, with accounting and bookkeeping services accounting for 14,000 of the gain. Scientific research and development also added jobs over the month (+5,000).

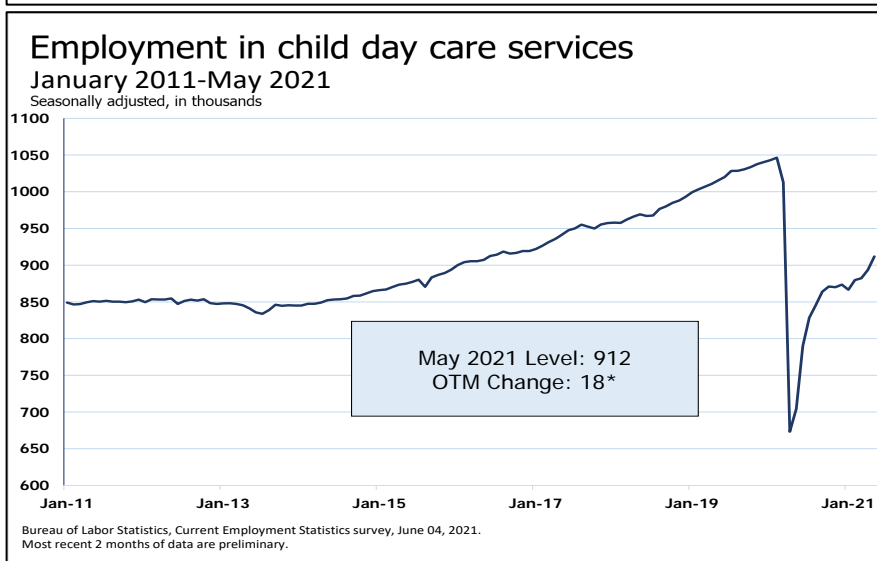


Employment in management of companies and enterprises fell by 9,000 over the month. Within administrative and waste services, an employment gain in services to buildings and dwellings (+13,000) offset a loss of 11,000 in investigation and security services.

Private Education and Health Services

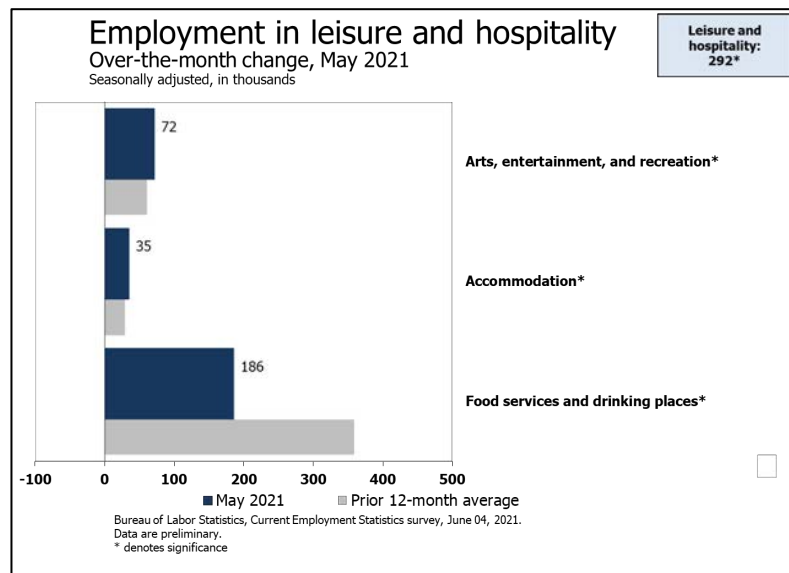


In May, employment in private education and health services increased by 87,000. Job gains were split between health care and social assistance (+46,000) and educational services (+41,000). Within ambulatory health care services (+22,000), offices of other health practitioners added 8,000 jobs over the month.



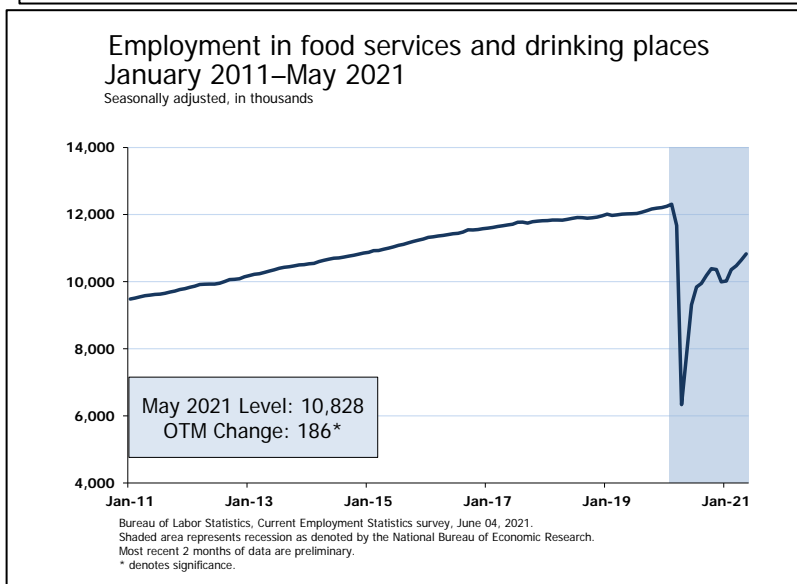
Within social assistance, child day care services added 18,000 jobs in May and has recovered 239,000 of 373,000 jobs lost in March and April 2020.

Leisure and Hospitality



Employment in leisure and hospitality grew by 292,000 in May. Although the industry has added 5.7 million jobs since April 2020, employment sits 2.5 million below its February 2020 level.

Average hourly earnings for nonsupervisory workers in leisure and hospitality rose by 19 cents to \$15.87 in May.



In May, food services and drinking places added 186,000 jobs and has recovered 4.5 million of 6.3 million jobs lost in March and April 2020.

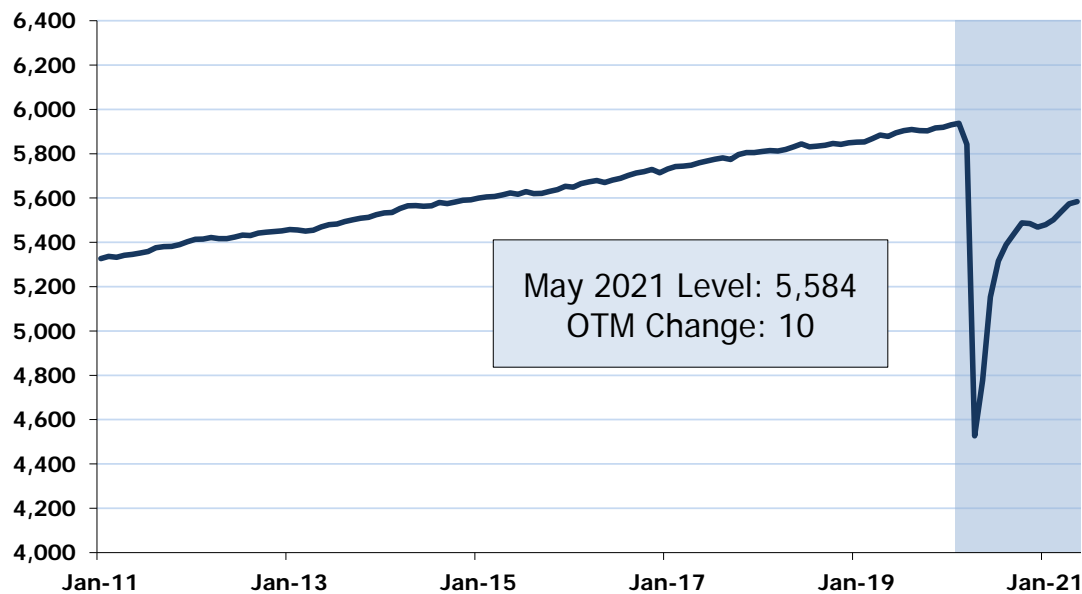
The May employment gain follows an increase in restaurant [sales](#) to near pre-pandemic levels in April as state and local governments continued to loosen [dining restrictions](#).

Amusements, gambling, and recreation (+58,000) and accommodation (+35,000) also added jobs in May.

Other Services

Employment in other services January 2011–May 2021

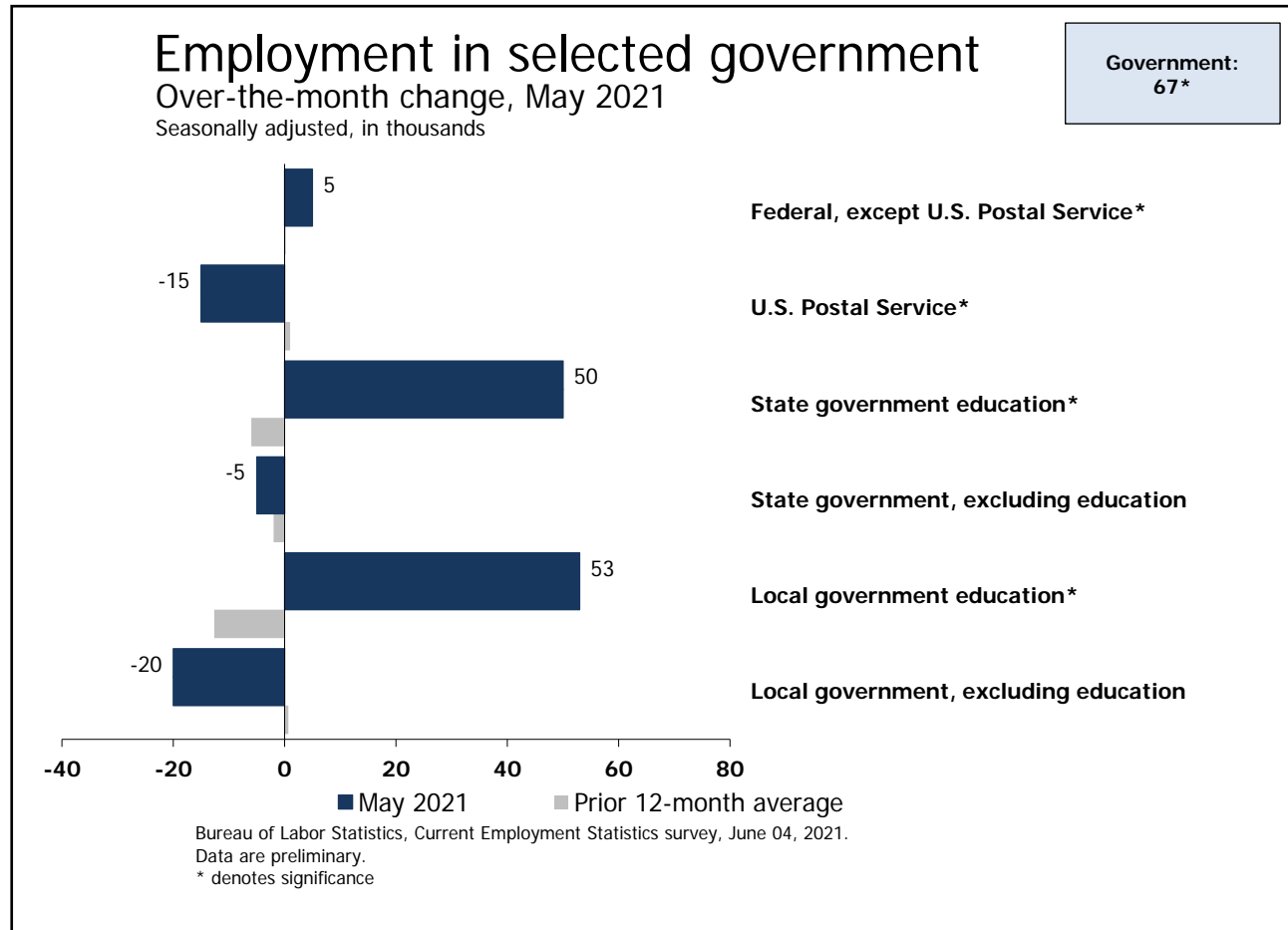
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 04, 2021.
 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 other services changed little in May (+10,000), after increasing by 37,000 and 35,000 in March and April, respectively. As of May, the industry has recovered 1.1 million of 1.4 million jobs lost in March and April 2020.

Government



Government employment increased by 67,000 in May. Jobs gains in local education (+53,000) and state education (+50,000) were partially offset by losses in local government, excluding education (-20,000) and in the U.S. Postal Service (-15,000). Government employment is 1.2 million lower than in February 2020.



CES Analysts

Osman Alhassan

Ryan Ansell

Hyun Choi

Steve Crestol

Purva Desai

Katelynn Harris

Matthew Hong

Mike McCall

John Mullins

Michael Osifalujo

Rhiannon Sneeringer

Carson Wilson

Prepared by Staff of the National Estimates Branch
Current Employment Statistics Survey
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

202-691-6555

[Email CES](#)