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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



January 2018

Release Date: February 2, 2018

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, January 2018

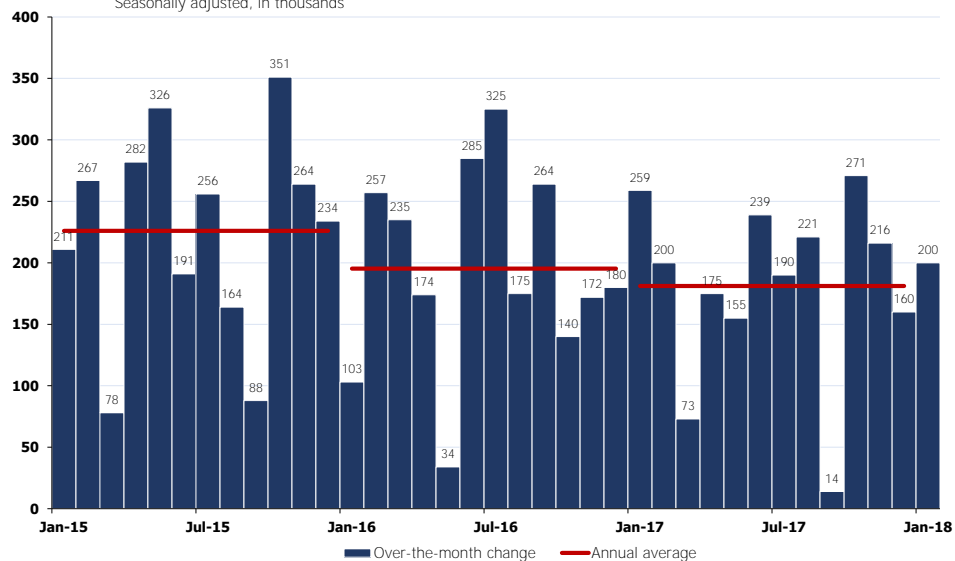
Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 200,000 in January. Employment continued to trend up in construction, food services, health care, and manufacturing.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private, nonfarm payrolls increased by 9 cents or 0.3 percent over the month. Hourly earnings have risen 2.9 percent over the year. Average weekly hours decreased 0.2 hour in January.

In accordance with annual practice, establishment survey data have been revised to reflect comprehensive counts of payroll jobs, or benchmarks, derived principally from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, which enumerates jobs covered by unemployment insurance tax records. Nonfarm employment for March 2017 was revised up by 138,000 on a not seasonally adjusted basis. For an analysis of the benchmark revisions, see www.bls.gov/web/empsit/cesbmart.pdf.

The employment change for December (seasonally adjusted) revised up from +148,000 to +160,000, and the change for November revised down from +252,000 to

Employment in total nonfarm
Over-the-month change, January 2015–January 2018
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, February 02, 2018.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

+216,000. These monthly revisions reflect the incorporation of additional sample, as well as updated benchmarks, net birth-death factors, and seasonal adjustment models.

+36,000 Construction

Construction employment rose by 36,000 in January, with specialty trade contractors accounting for 26,000 of the increase. Over

the past 12 months, construction has added 226,000 jobs.

+35,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in food services continued to trend up in January (+31,000). Over the past 12 months, the industry added 255,000 jobs, down from an increase of 312,000 over the prior 12 months.

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, January 2018

+38,000 Education and Health Services

Health care employment continued to trend up in January (+21,000). Over the past 12 months, employment in the industry has increased by an average 25,000 per month, down from 29,000 during the prior 12 months.

+15,000 Manufacturing

Over the month, manufacturing employment continued to trend up (+15,000), in line with the prior 12-month average change. In January, a gain of 18,000 jobs was widely distributed among durable goods industries.

+15,000 Retail Trade

Within retail trade, clothing and clothing accessories stores added 15,000 jobs in January, mostly offsetting losses over the prior 2 months. Employment changed little over the month elsewhere in retail trade.

+11,000 Transportation and Warehousing

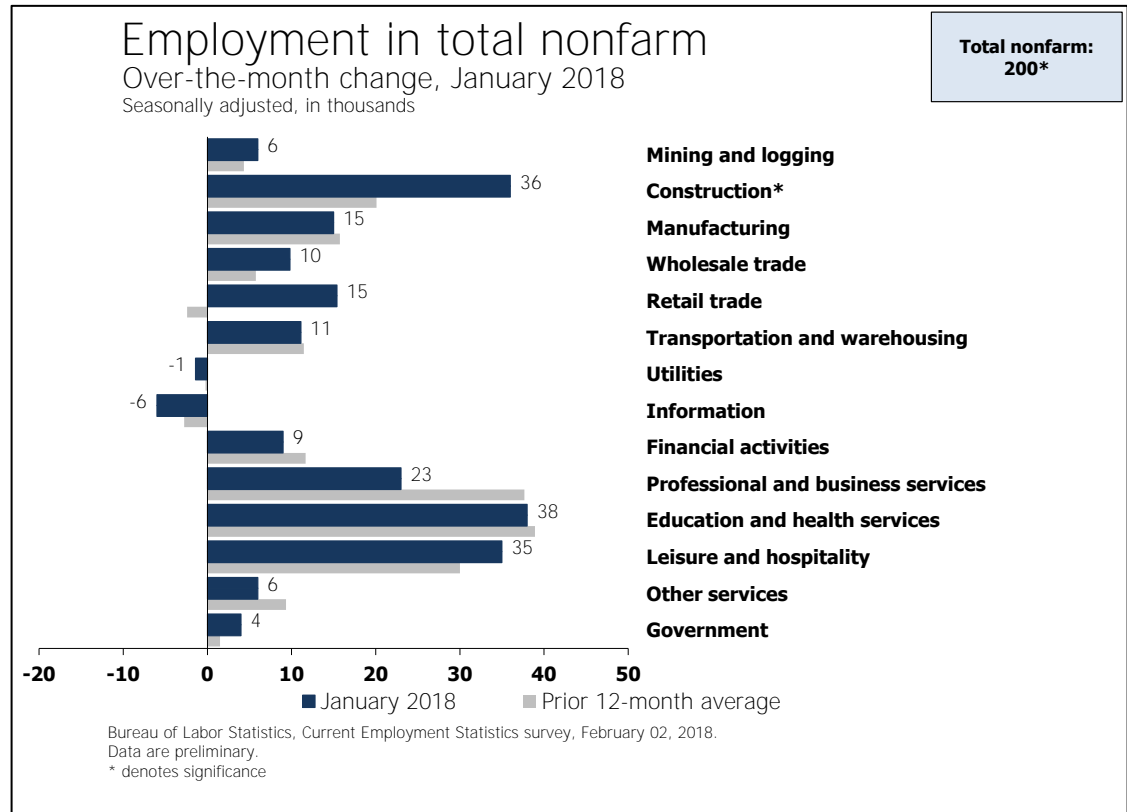
Within transportation and warehousing, couriers and messengers added 5,000 jobs in January, consistent with trend over the preceding 12 months.

+10,000 Wholesale Trade

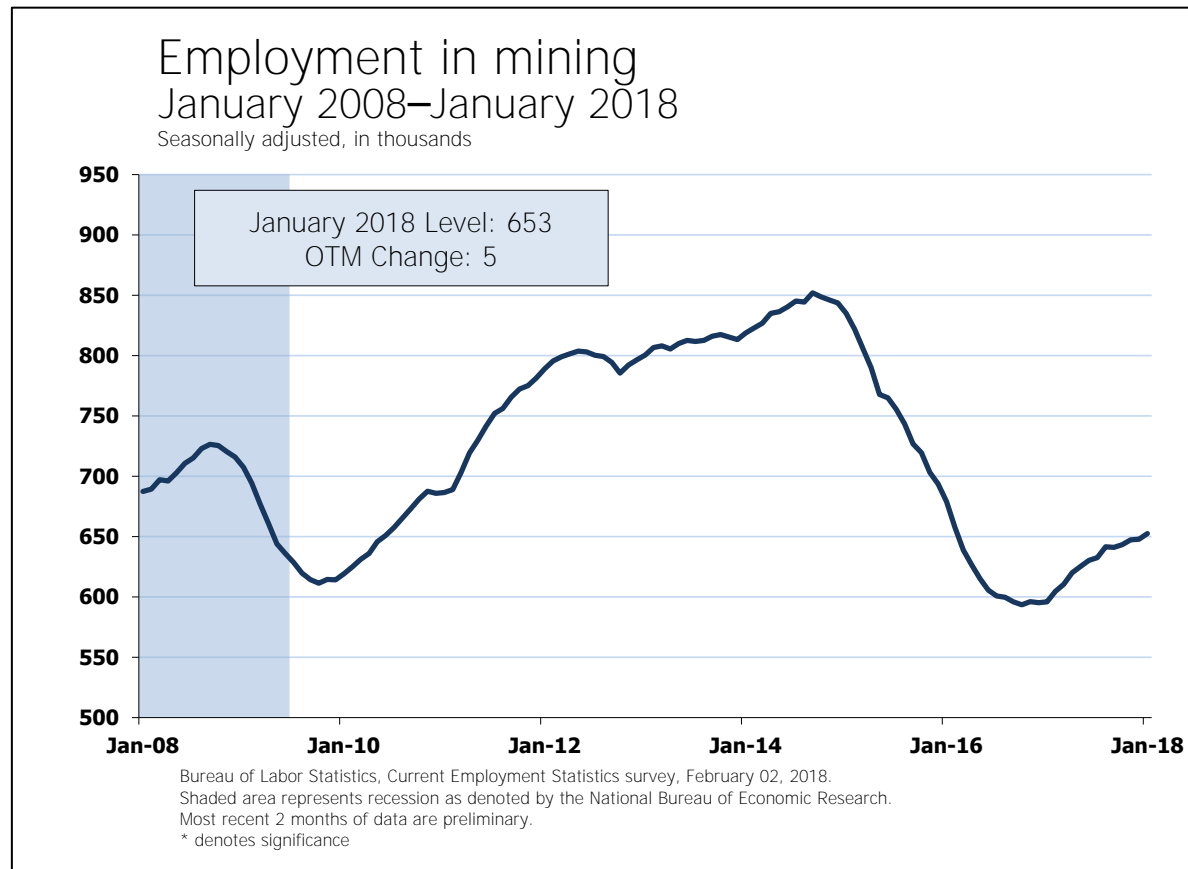
Employment in wholesale trade continued to edge up in January. The industry has added an average 6,000 jobs per month over the past 12 months, compared to 2,000 per month over the prior 12 months.

+23,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment in professional and business services changed little over the past 3 months, averaging +21,000 per month. Job growth in the industry had averaged 38,000 per month over the preceding 12 months.



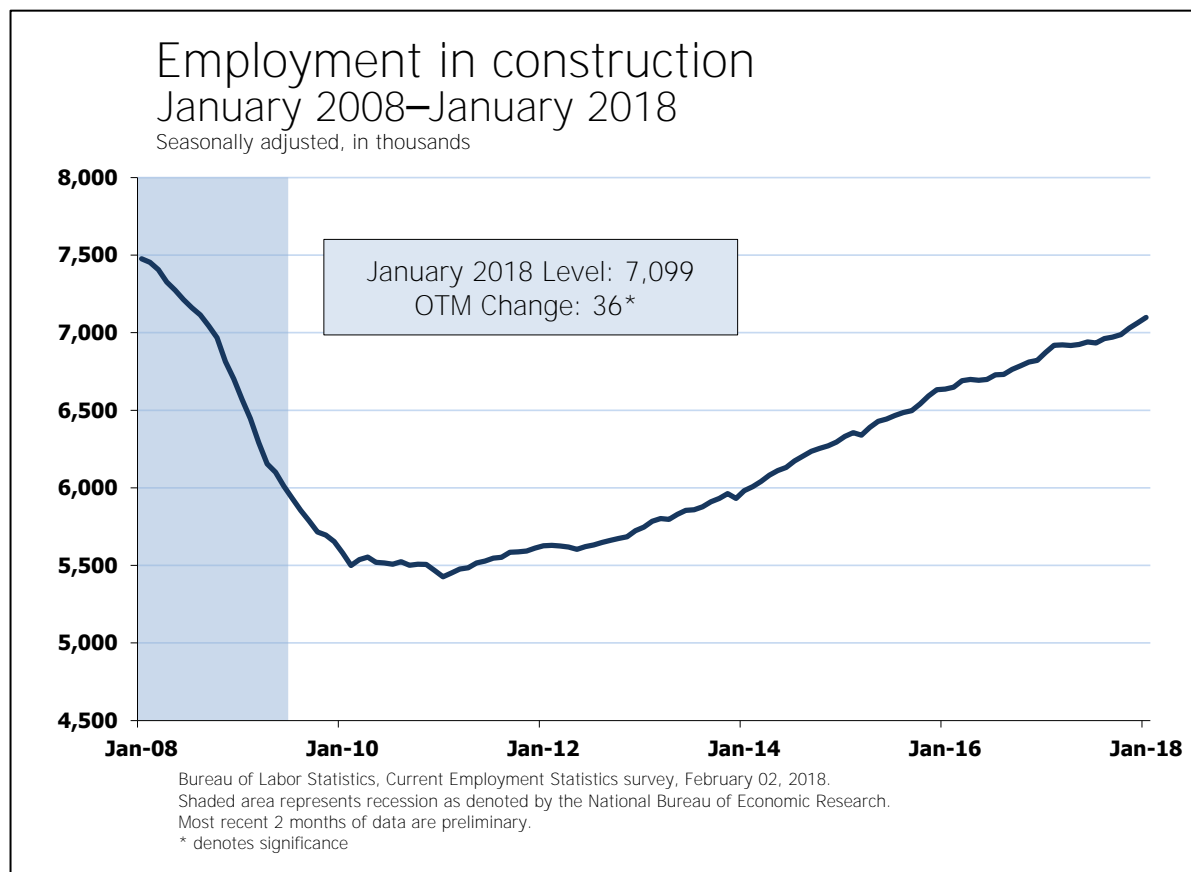
Mining and Logging



Employment in mining and logging grew by 6,000 in January. Mining contributed 5,000 jobs.

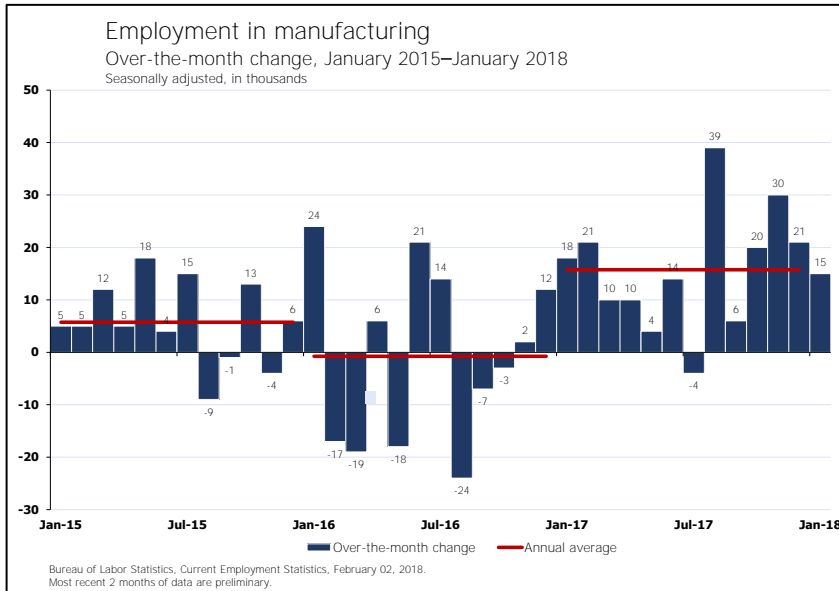
Economic indicators continued to suggest growth in the mining industry. Domestic [oil rigs](#) numbered 939 in January, up 1 percent from December. [West Texas Intermediate oil](#) prices rose 12.4 percent from the previous month to \$64.22 per barrel in January. Since reaching a trough in October 2016, mining employment has risen by 59,000.

Construction



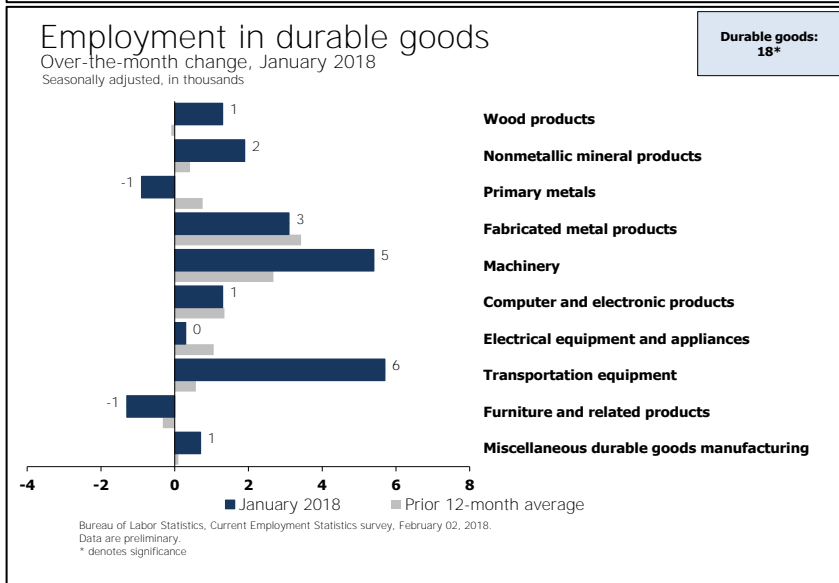
Construction employment rose by 36,000 in January. Specialty trade contractors led the growth by adding 26,000 jobs, with a majority being in residential specialty trade contractors (+14,000). Construction has added 226,000 jobs over the past 12 months.

Manufacturing

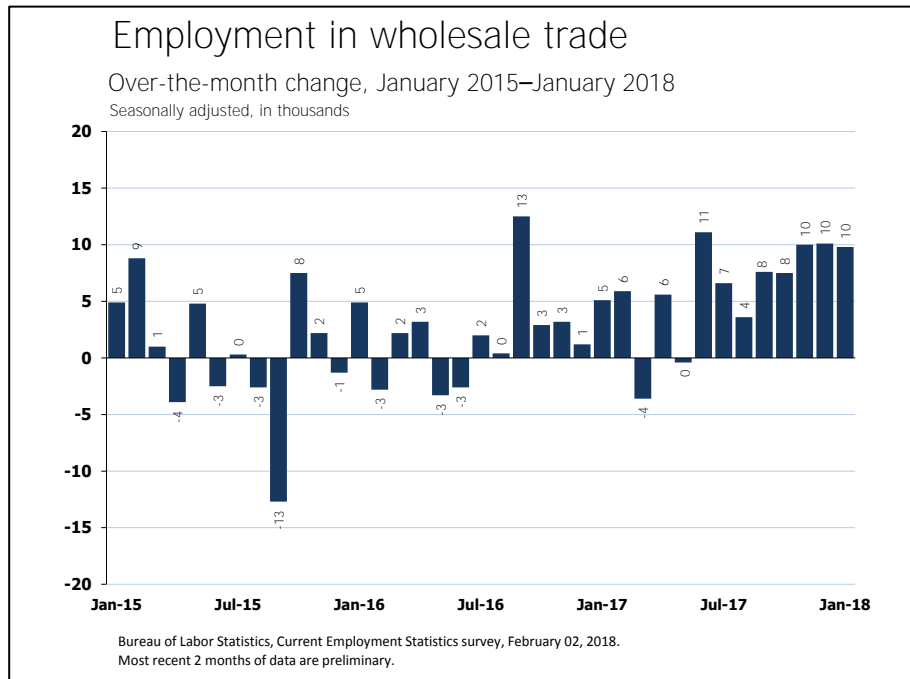


Employment in manufacturing continued to trend up in January (+15,000), in line with the prior 12-month average. Over the past 12 months, the industry has added 186,000 jobs. In recent months, job gains in durable goods manufacturing have driven employment gains in topline manufacturing.

In January, durable goods manufacturing added 18,000 jobs, while employment in nondurable goods changed little (-3,000). Within durable goods, machinery (+5,000) and transportation equipment (+6,000) accounted for roughly 62 percent of the over-the-month change. Employment changes in most other component industries were close to their prior 12-month averages.

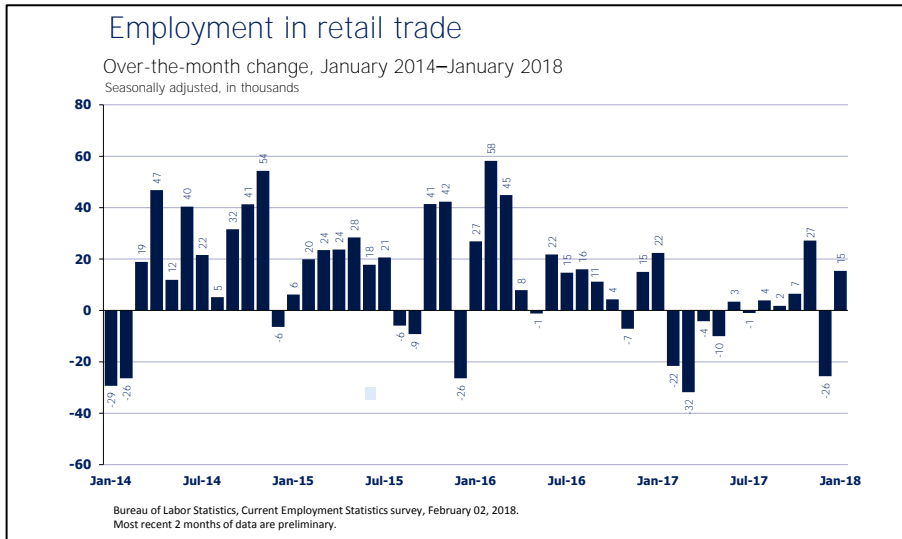


Wholesale Trade



Employment in wholesale trade edged up by 10,000 for the third consecutive month in January. Over the most recent 12 months, the industry has added 74,000 jobs, three quarters of which were added in durable goods (+56,000), similar to employment trends in manufacturing.

Retail Trade



In January, employment changed little in retail trade (+15,000), partially offsetting December’s employment decrease of 26,000. Holiday industries experienced a smaller layoff in January due, in part, to a weaker buildup during the holiday hiring season. The accompanying table shows the not-seasonally adjusted employment build up and January layoff.

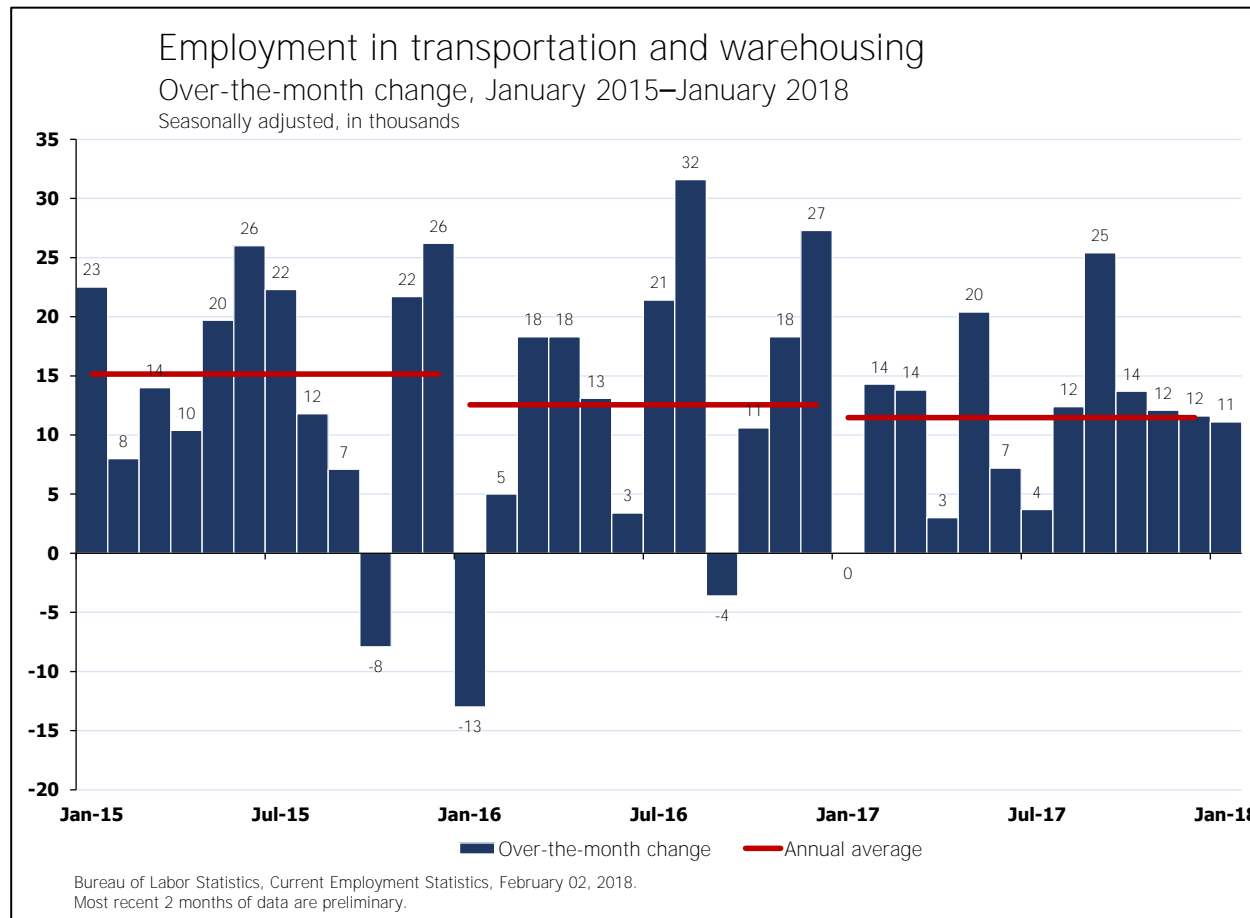
Employment in clothing and clothing accessories stores increased by 15,000 in January, offsetting the declines over the previous 2 months. Since reaching a peak in February, employment in this industry has dropped by 37,000, primarily in clothing stores.

Nearly all other retail industries experienced little employment change in January.

RETAIL TRADE						
Holiday Season Employment Buildup/Layoff (unadjusted, in thousands)						
YEAR	HOLIDAY BUILDUP Oct. - Dec.	PERCENT HOLIDAY BUILDUP	JAN.	JAN. LAYOFF AS % OF BUILDUP	TOTAL LAYOFF	LAYOFF AS % OF BUILDUP
2012-13	691	8.5	-525	-76	-730	106
2013-14	761	9.3	-577	-76	-802	105
2014-15	719	8.7	-554	-77	-744	104
2015-16	711	8.5	-517	-73	-692	97
2016-17	651	7.7	-456	-70	-691	106
Average	707	8.5	-526	-74	-732	104
2017-18	623	7.4	-493	-79		

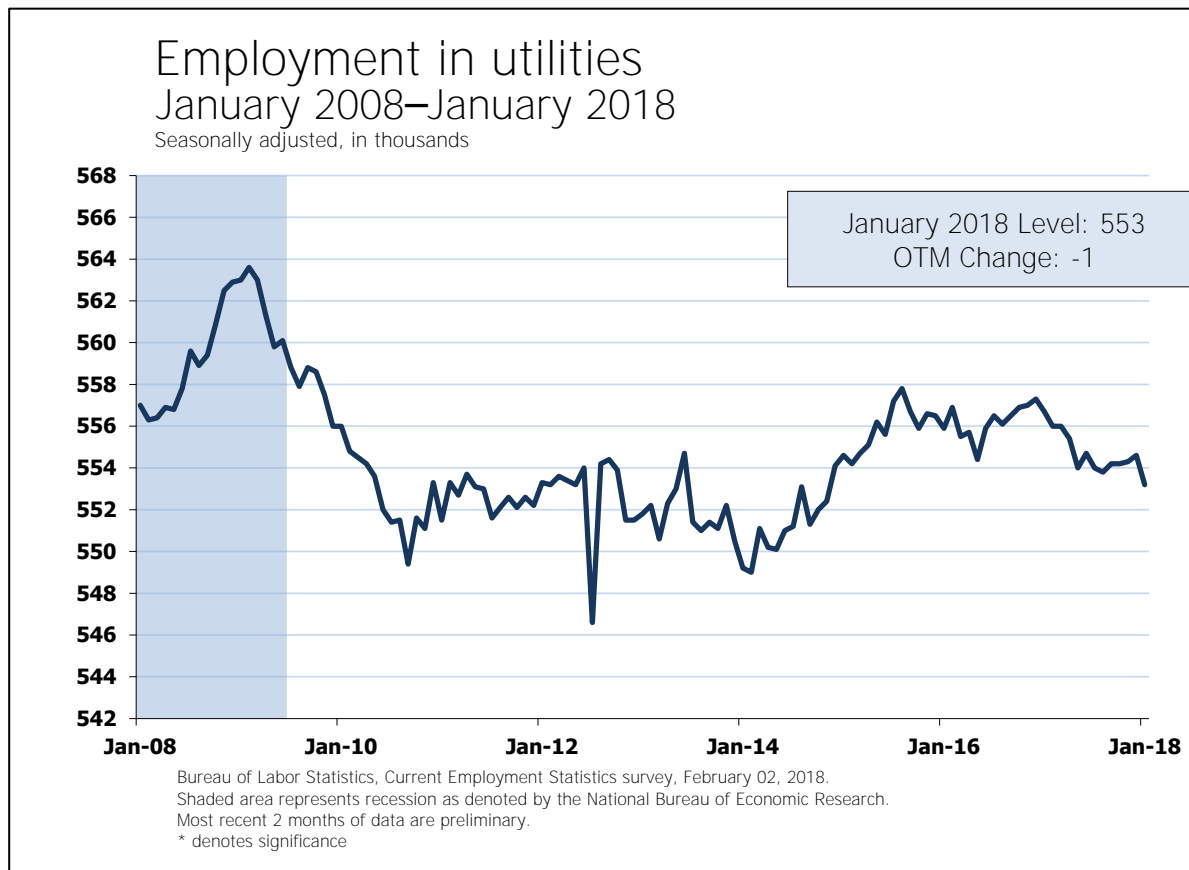
Note: Includes employment only from Furniture and home furnishings stores, Electronics and appliance stores, Health and personal care stores, Clothing and clothing accessories stores, Sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores, General merchandise stores, Miscellaneous store retailers, and Nonstore retailers

Transportation and Warehousing



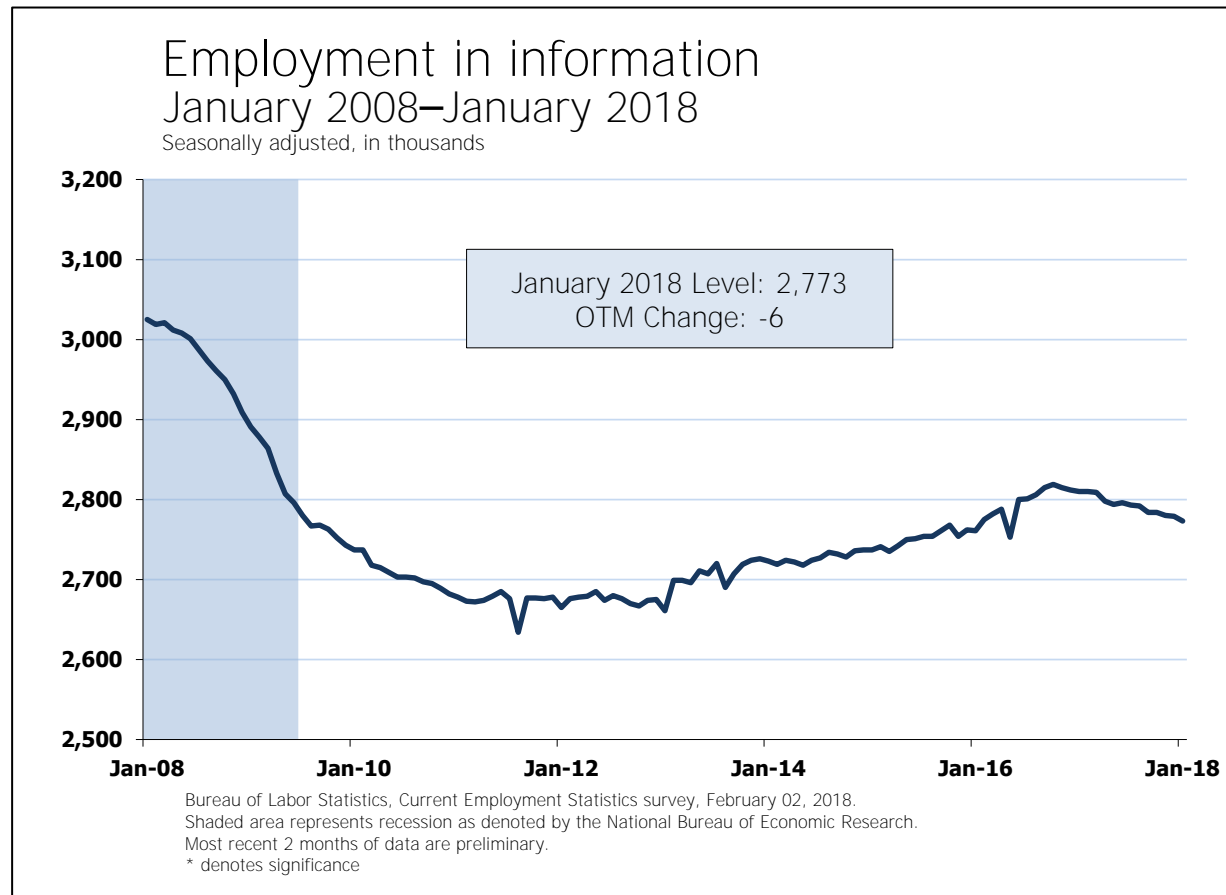
Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in January (+11,000), in line with the prior 12-month average change.

Utilities



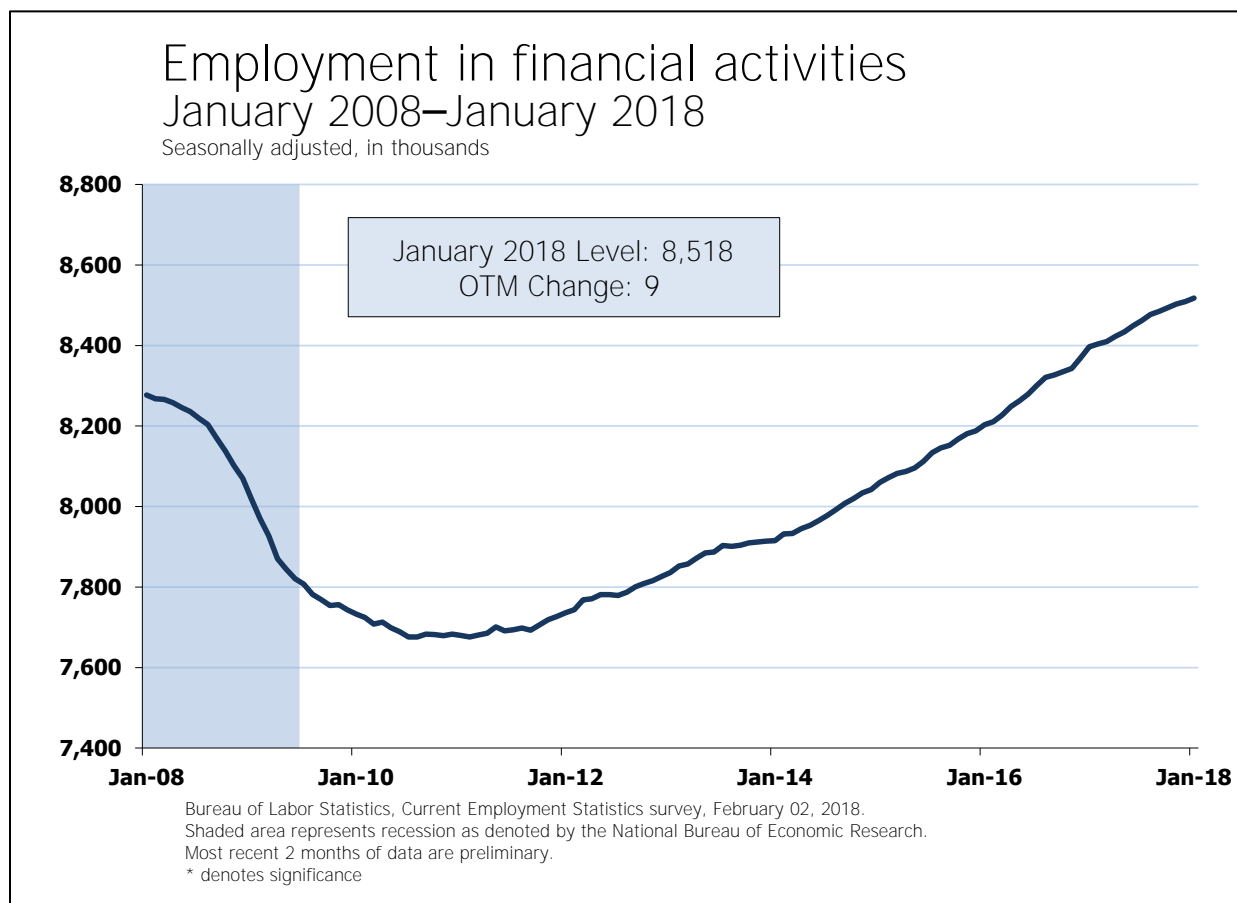
In January, employment in utilities changed little (-1,000). Since reaching a peak in December 2016, employment has edged down by 4,000.

Information



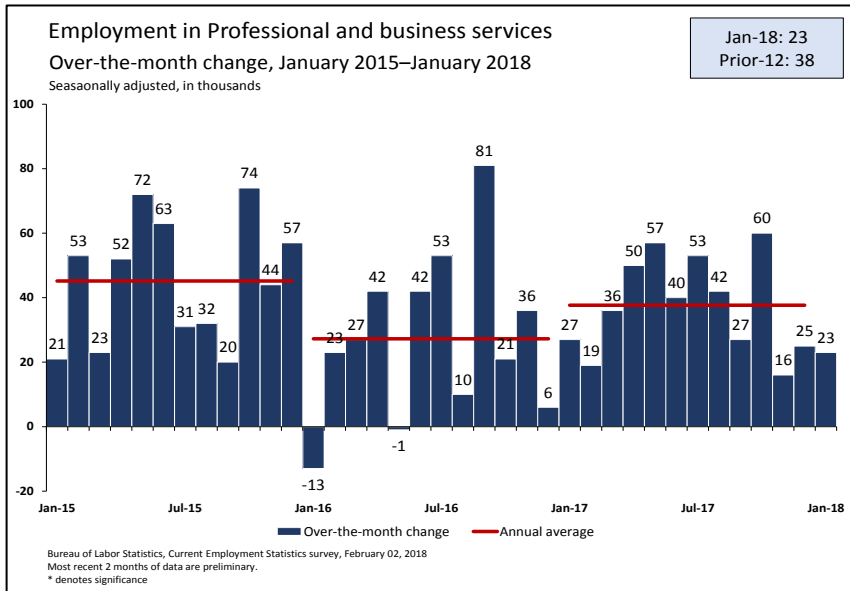
Employment in information changed little in January (-6,000), although telecommunications lost 3,000 jobs. Since the most recent employment peak in October 2016, the information industry has experienced consistent weakness, with a total loss of 46,000 jobs. This downturn has been driven by the telecommunications industry, which accounted for 60 percent of the jobs lost.

Financial Activities

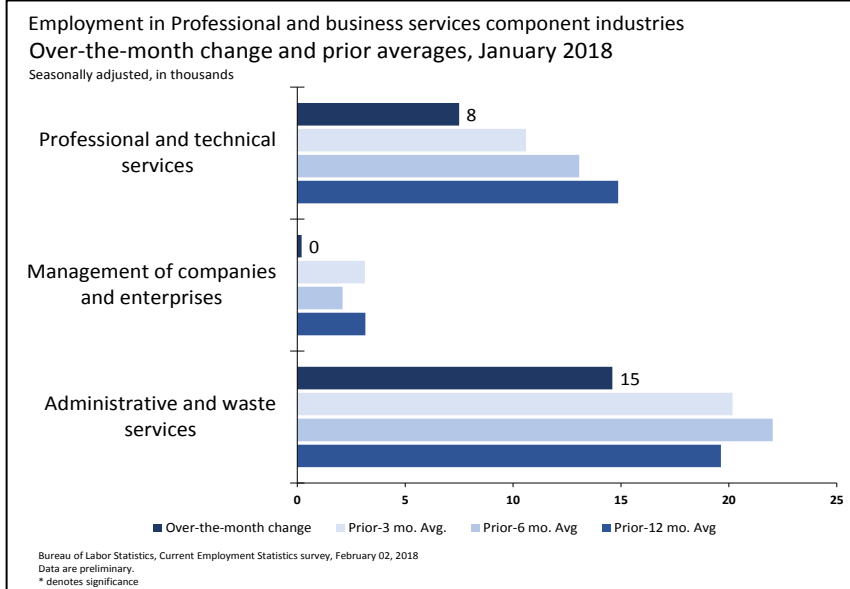


Employment in financial activities changed little in January (+9,000). A job loss of 3,000 in commercial banking was more than offset by small upward movements in other component industries.

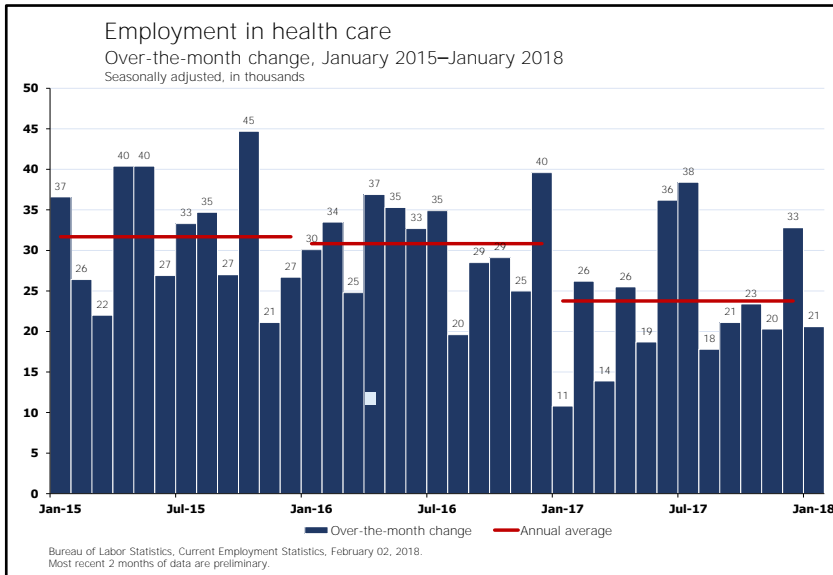
Professional and Business Services



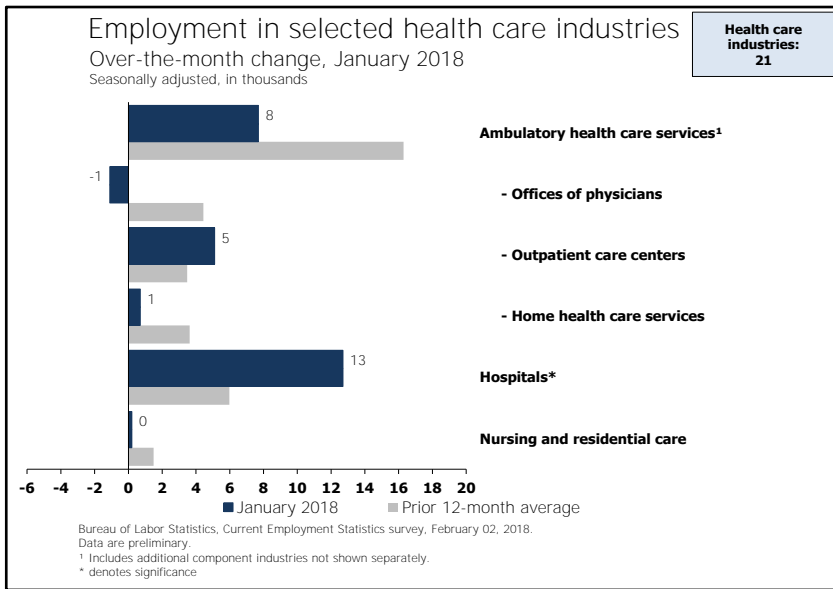
Employment in professional and business services changed little in January (+23,000). January's employment change fell below the industry's prior-12 month average change (+38,000), as the three major component industries also came in below their average changes.



Private Education and Health Services



Employment in health care continued to trend up in January (+21,000), in line with 2017’s average monthly change of 24,000 jobs, but weaker than an average 31,000 jobs added per month in 2016.



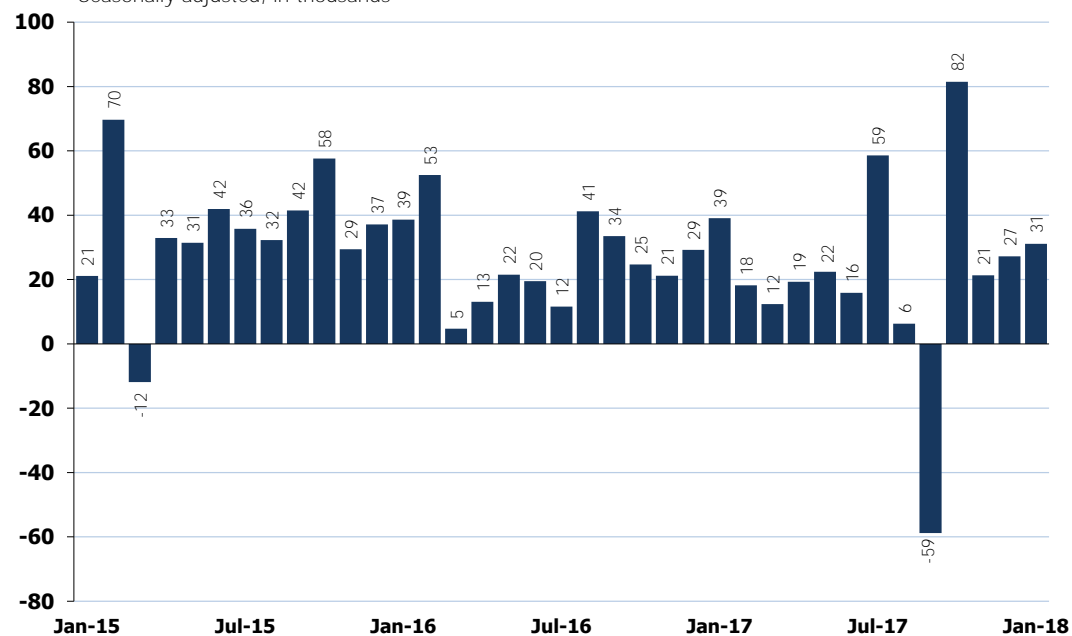
In January, hospitals added 13,000 jobs and accounted for most of the increase in health care employment. Over the last 3 months hospitals have accounted for roughly 40 percent of a 74,000-job gain in health care. In contrast, employment in offices of physicians changed little (+6,000) over the same 3 months, representing a slowdown in job growth in this industry.

Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in food services and drinking places

Over-the-month change, January 2015–January 2018

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, February 02, 2018.

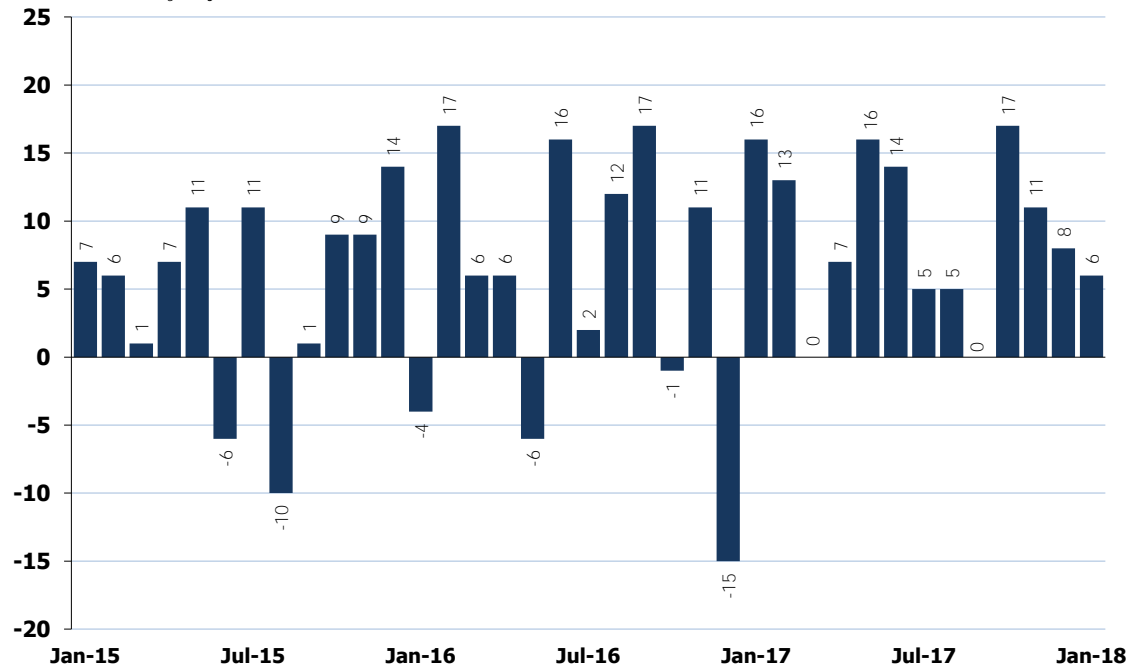
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Within leisure and hospitality, employment in food services and drinking places continued to trend up in January (+31,000). In 2017, this industry added an average 22,000 jobs per month, for a total job gain of 263,000.

Other Services

Employment in other services

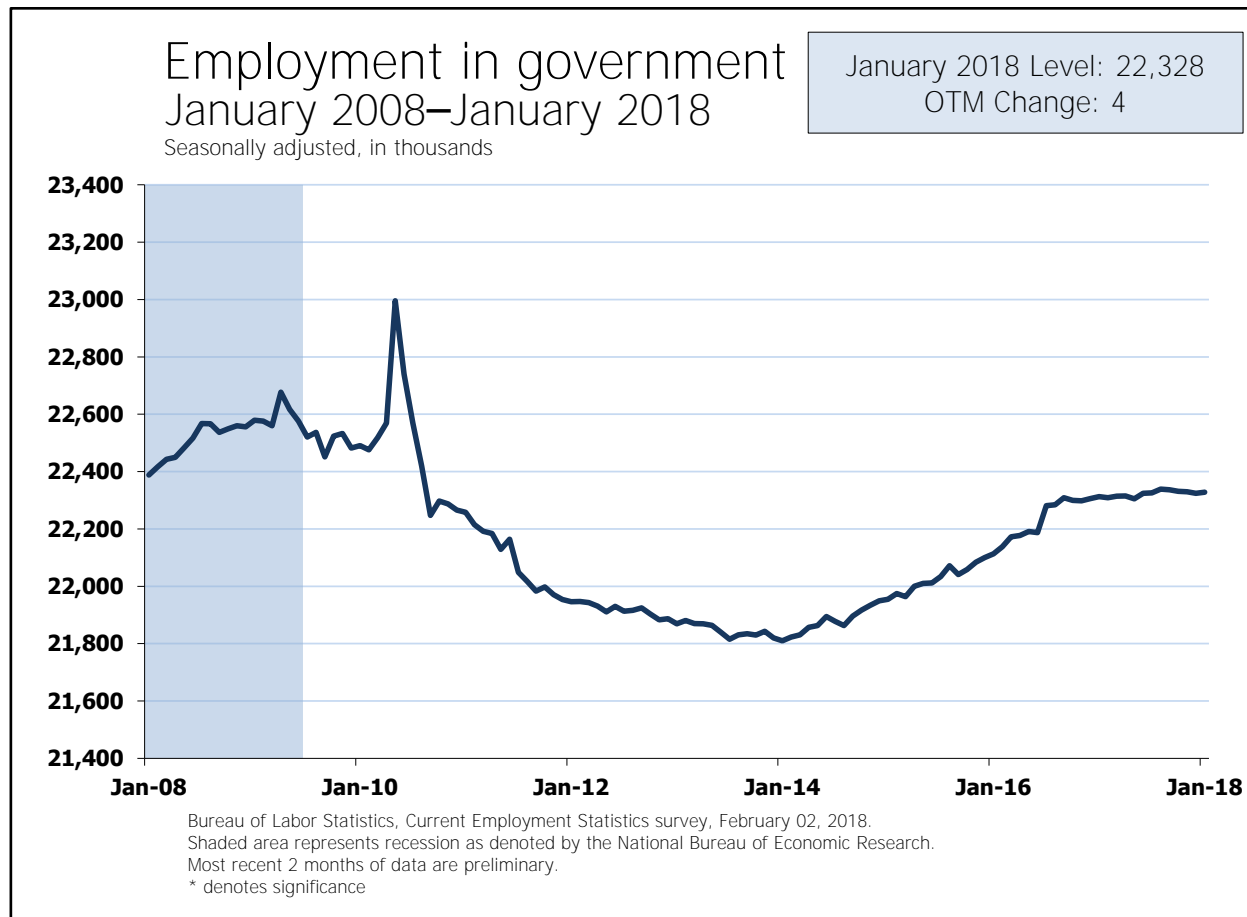
Over-the-month change, January 2015–January 2018
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Employment in other services changed little in January (+6,000). Over the most recent 12 months, however, the industry has added 102,000 jobs. Personal and laundry services accounted for 52 percent of the jobs gains over this period.

Government



Employment in government was flat in January (+4,000). Federal employment increased by 5,000, and the U. S. Postal Service accounted for half of this gain. State government (-11,000) and local government (+10,000) employment also changed little over the month. Government employment has shown essentially no change since July 2016.



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