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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



August 2024

Release Date: September 6, 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, August 2024

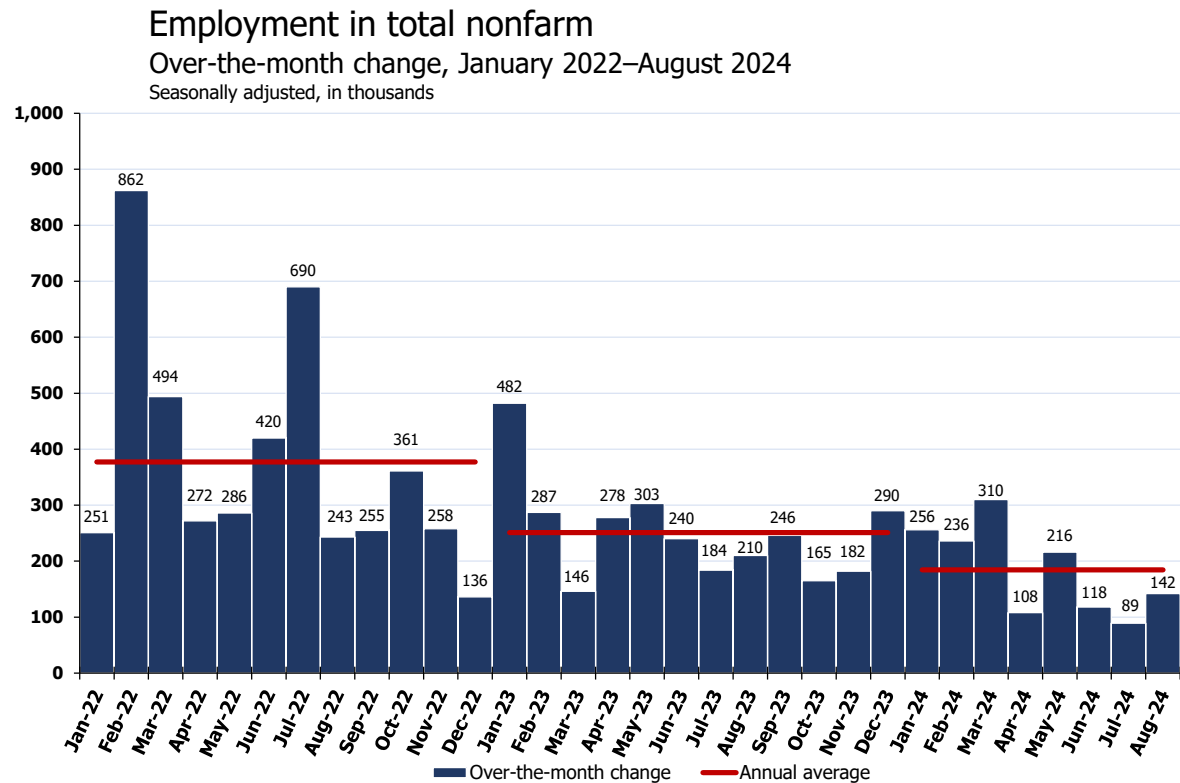
Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 142,000 over the month. Employment growth in August was in line with average job growth in recent months but below the average monthly gain of 202,000 over the prior 12 months. In August, job gains occurred in construction and health care.

The employment change for June revised down from +179,000 to +118,000, and the change for July revised down from +114,000 to +89,000. On net, employment over these months is 86,000 lower than previously reported.

In August, average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls rose by 14 cents, or 0.4 percent. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased by 3.8 percent. In August, average weekly hours of all employees edged up by 0.1 hour to 34.3 hours.

+47,000 Private Education and Health Services

Employment in health care increased by 31,000 in August, about half the average monthly gain of 60,000 over the prior 12 months. Over the month, ambulatory health care services (+24,000) and hospitals (+10,000) added jobs.



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, September 06, 2024. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Social assistance employment continued to trend up in August (+13,000), below its prior 12-month average monthly gain of 21,000. Employment in individual and family services rose by 18,000 over the month.

+46,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in leisure and hospitality changed little in August (+46,000). Over the prior 12 months, job growth had averaged 25,000 per month. In August, employment in

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, August 2024

food services and drinking places changed little (+30,000).

+34,000 Construction

Employment in construction increased by 34,000 in August, above its prior 12-month average monthly gain of 19,000. Over the month, heavy and civil engineering construction added 14,000 jobs, and employment in nonresidential specialty trade contractors continued to trend up (+14,000).

-24,000 Manufacturing

Employment in manufacturing edged down in August (-24,000), reflecting a decline in durable goods industries (-25,000). Manufacturing employment has shown little net change over the year.

-11,000 Retail Trade

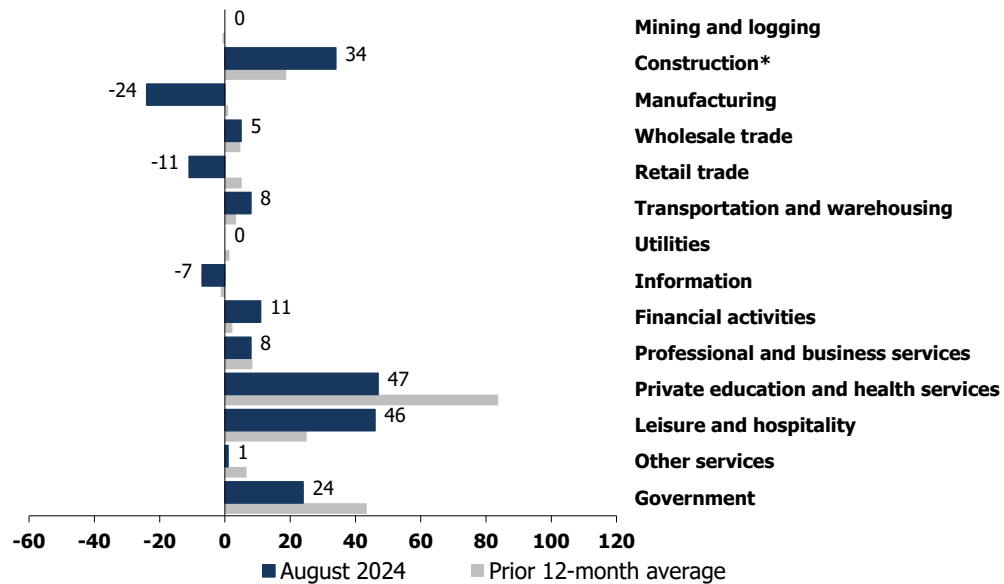
Employment in retail trade changed little in August (-11,000) and has shown little net change over the year. Over the month, health and personal care retailers (-7,000) and department stores (-5,000) lost jobs, while automotive parts, accessories, and tire retailers (+4,000) added jobs.

Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, August 2024

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm: 142*

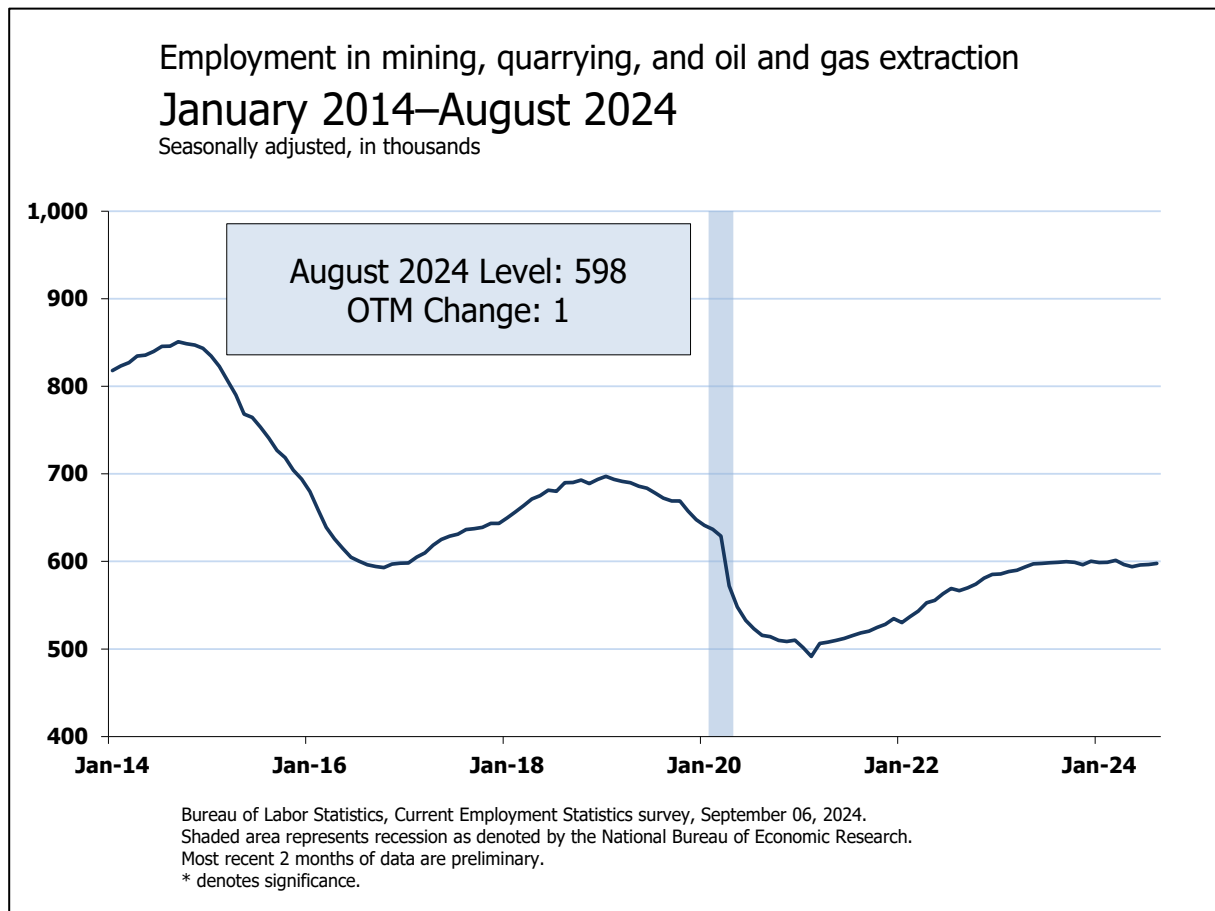


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 06, 2024.
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

Mining and Logging

Employment in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction changed little in August (+1,000).

According to the [North America Rotary Rig Count*](#), rig counts were unchanged in August, while the average weekly price of [West Texas Intermediate**](#) crude oil decreased.



*To access the North American rotary rigs: select the link named "North America Rotary Rig Count Report – New Report," go to the NAM Breakdown tab, and scroll to cell U7 ("Monthly chg").

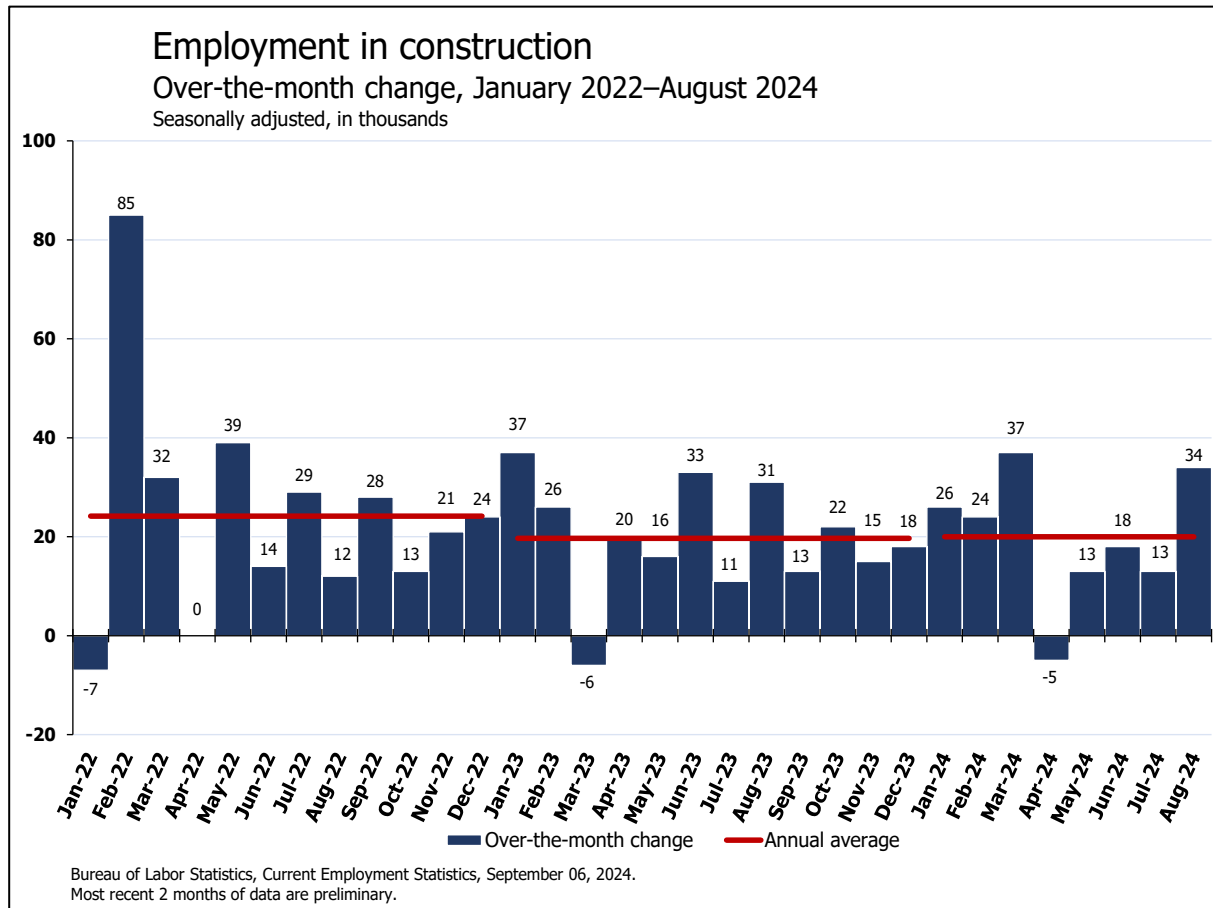
**To access West Texas Intermediate crude oil: select "EDIT GRAPH" and change the "Modify frequency" to "Weekly, Ending Friday." Above the graph, modify the date range to one year, including the 12th of the month.

Construction

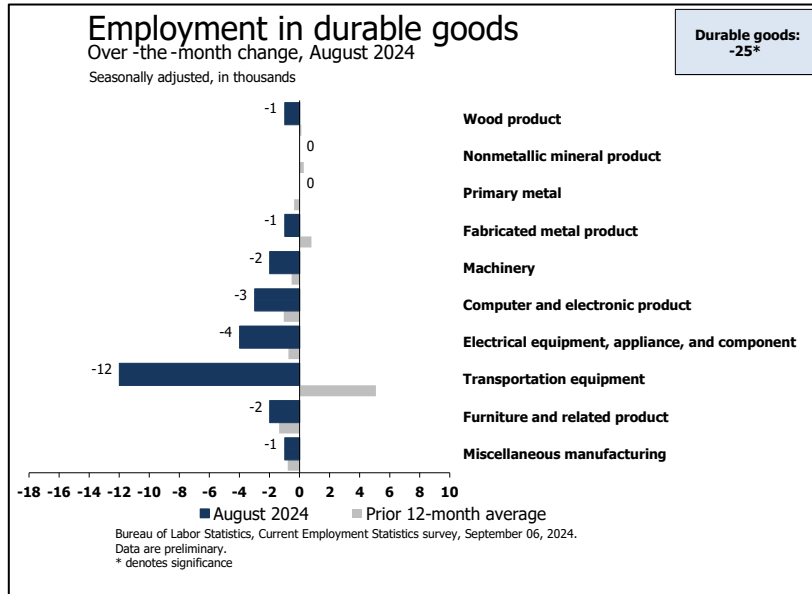
Employment in construction increased by 34,000 in August, above the prior 12-month average monthly gain of 19,000.

Over the month, heavy and civil engineering construction added 14,000 jobs, and employment in nonresidential specialty trade contractors continued to trend up (+14,000).

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



Manufacturing



Manufacturing employment edged down in August (-24,000), reflecting a decline in durable goods industries (-25,000). Manufacturing employment has shown little net change over the year.

The manufacturing 1-month diffusion index decreased by 0.7 to 42.4 in August (a number below 50 indicates more manufacturing industries are losing jobs than are adding jobs).

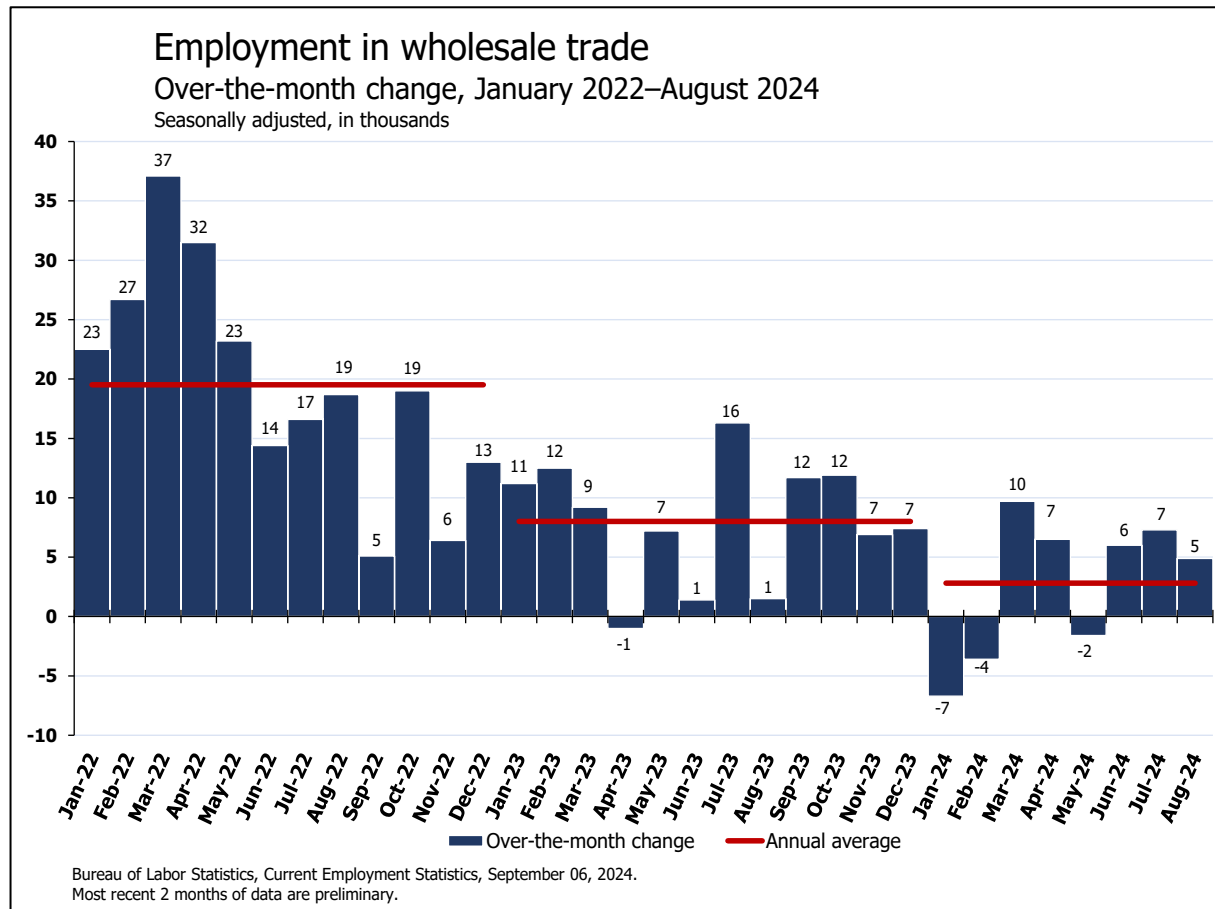
In August, manufacturing average hourly earnings for all employees changed little (+12 cents) to \$34.24, while average hourly earnings for production and nonsupervisory employees changed little (+2 cents) to \$27.96.

In August, average weekly hours for all employees and for production and nonsupervisory employees changed little (+0.1 hour) to 40.0 hours and 40.7 hours, respectively. Over the month, average weekly overtime hours for all employees changed little at 3.0 hours, and average weekly overtime hours for production and nonsupervisory employees were unchanged at 3.7 hours.



Wholesale Trade

In August, employment in wholesale trade changed little (+5,000). Over the most recent 12 months, wholesale trade has added 60,000 jobs.



Retail Trade



Employment in retail trade changed little in August (-11,000) and has shown little net change over the year.

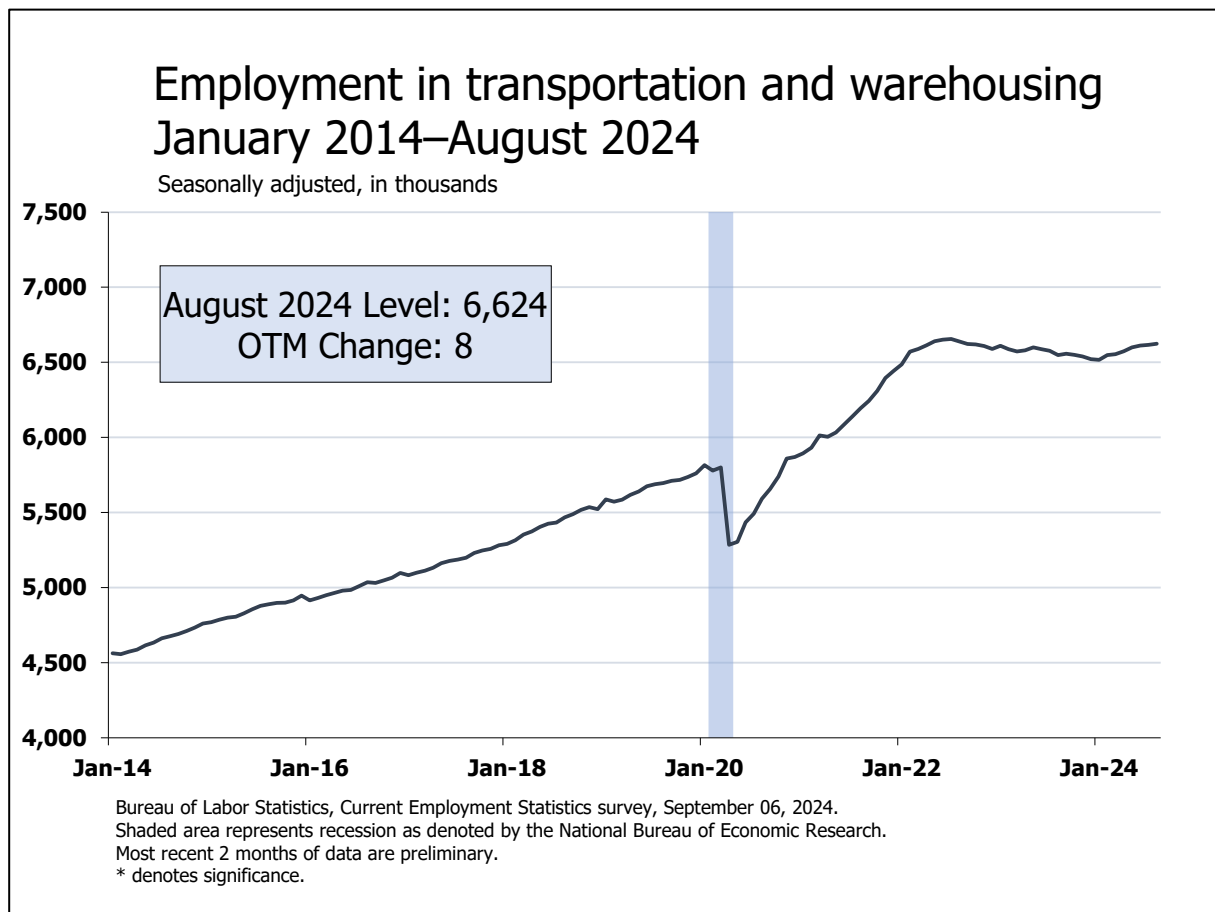
Over the month, health and personal care retailers (-7,000) and department stores (-5,000) lost jobs, while automotive parts, accessories, and tire retailers (+4,000) added jobs.

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

*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.

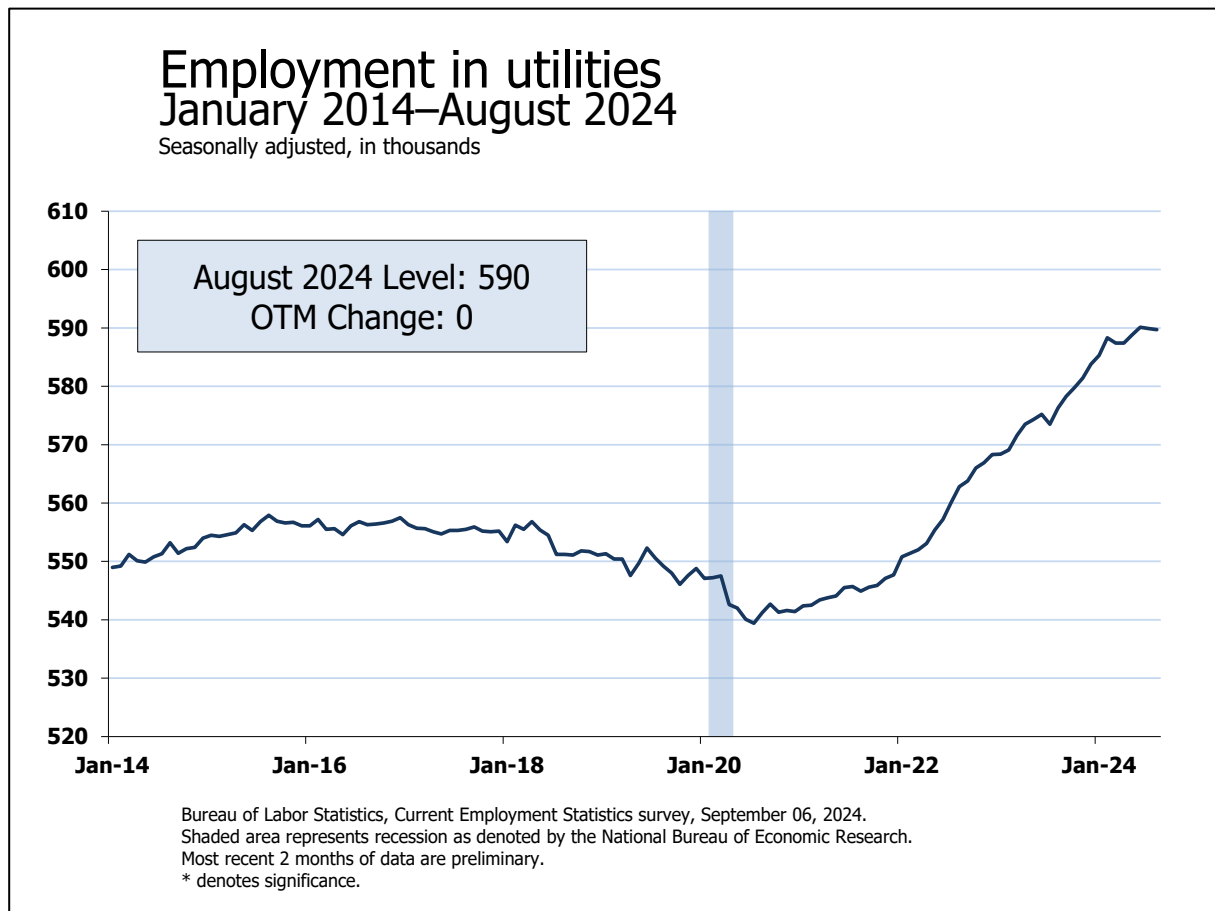
Transportation and Warehousing

Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in August (+8,000) but has expanded by 108,000 since a recent trough in January of this year.



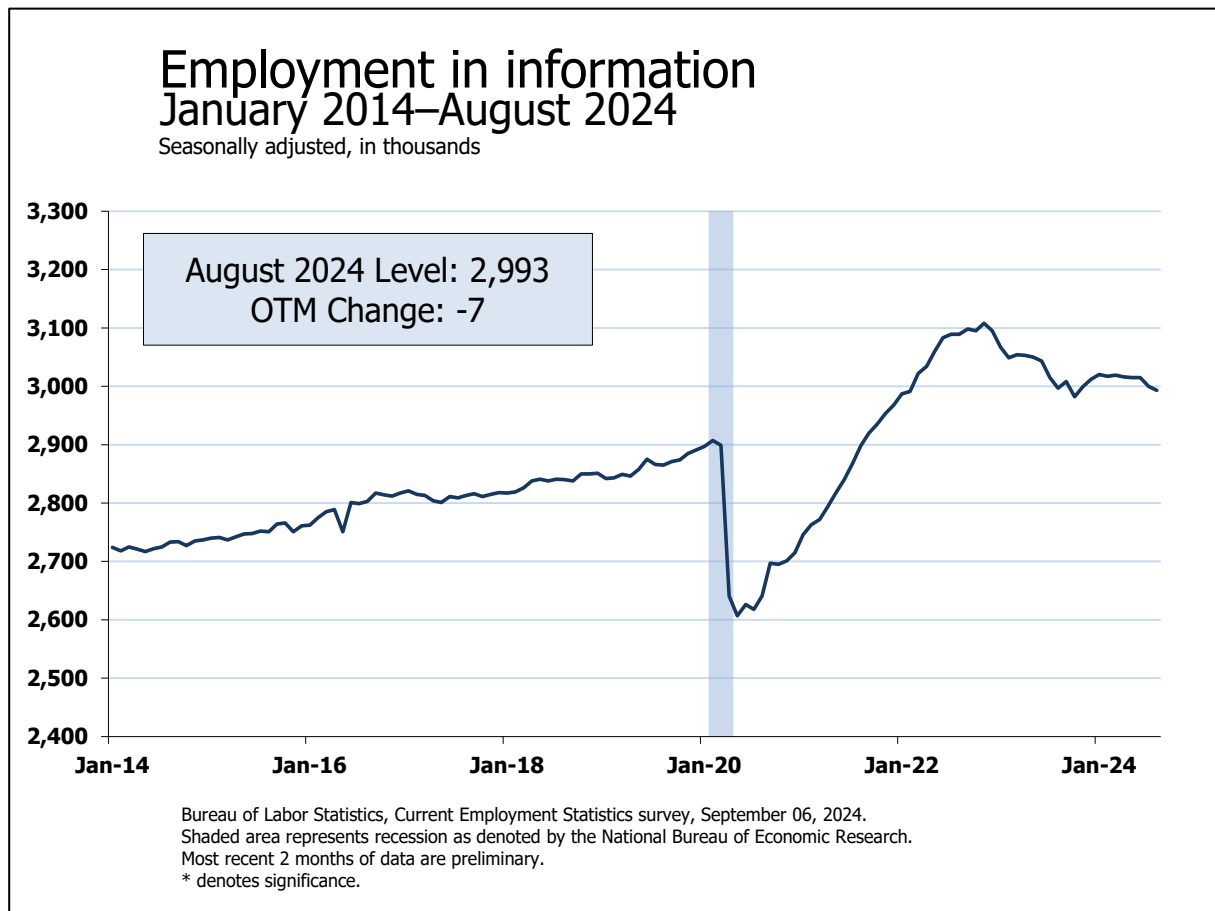
Utilities

Employment in utilities was flat in August (0).



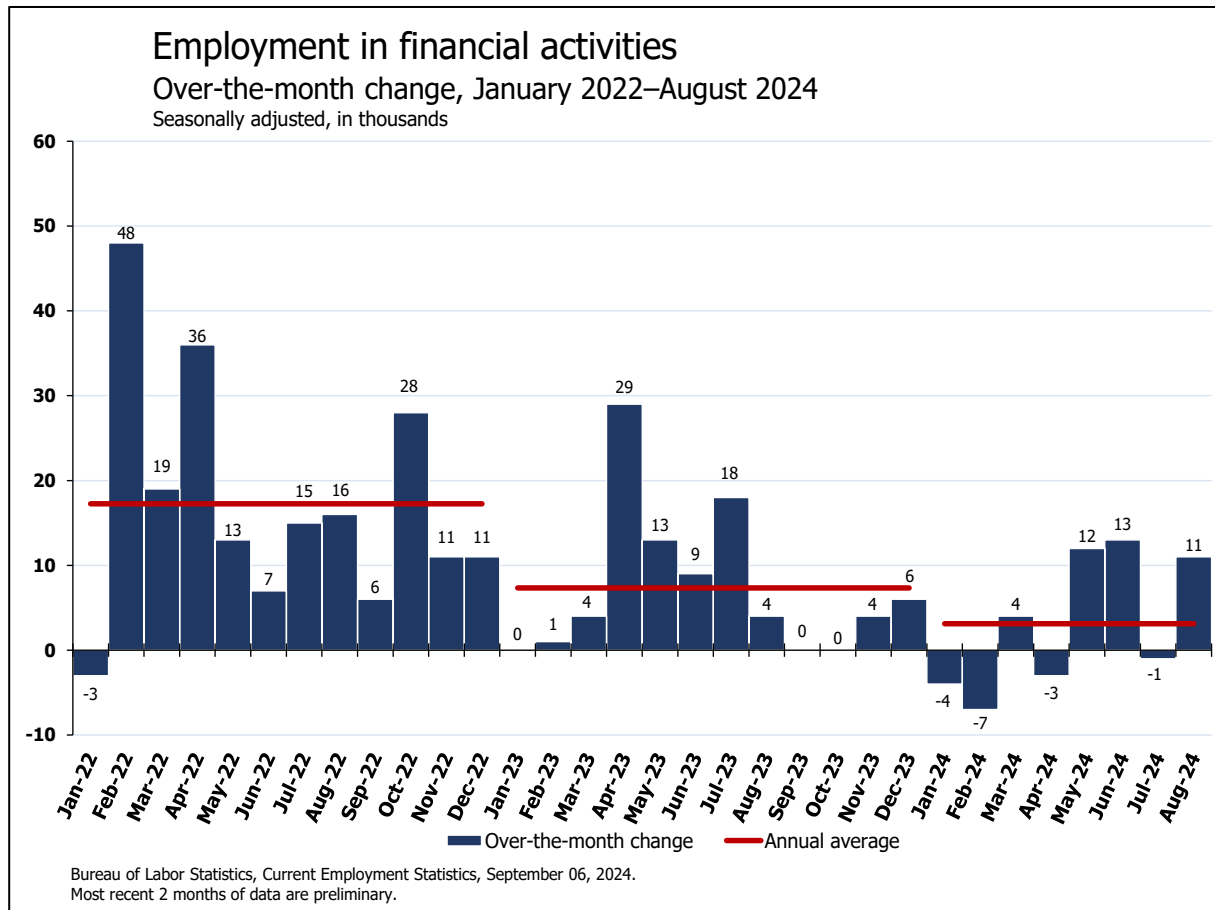
Information

Employment in information changed little in August (-7,000) and has shown little net change over the most recent 12 months.

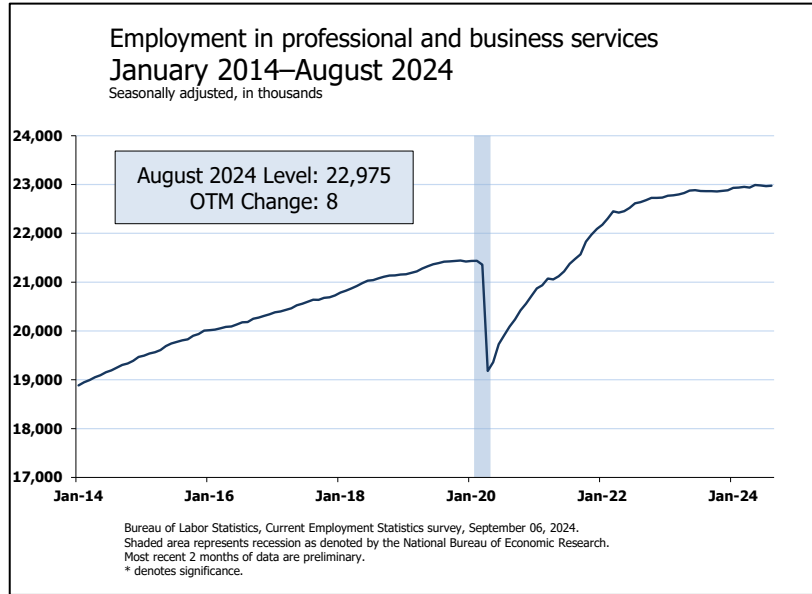


Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities changed little in August (+11,000) and has shown little change over the year.

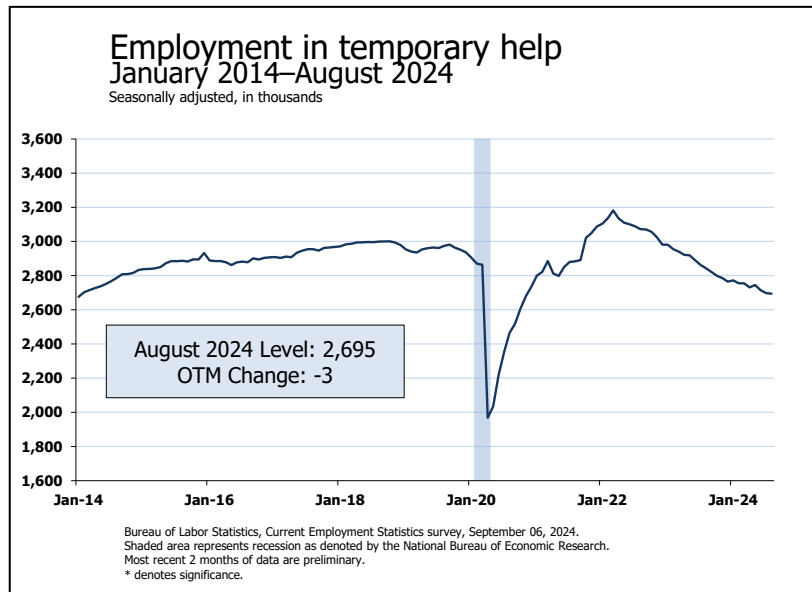


Professional and Business Services

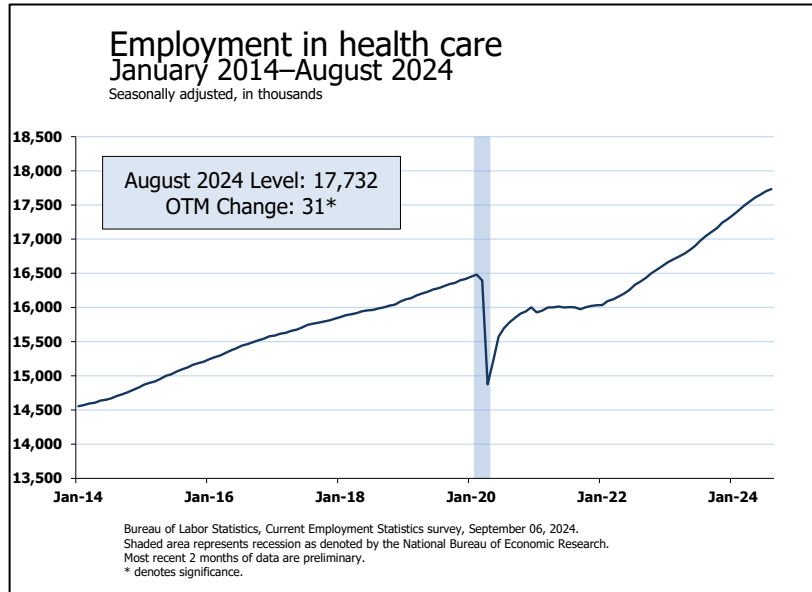


Employment in professional and business services changed little in August (+8,000) and has shown little change over the most recent 12 months.

Employment in temporary help services changed little in August (-3,000). Since reaching an employment peak in March 2022, temporary help services has shed 487,000 jobs, a decline of 15.3 percent.

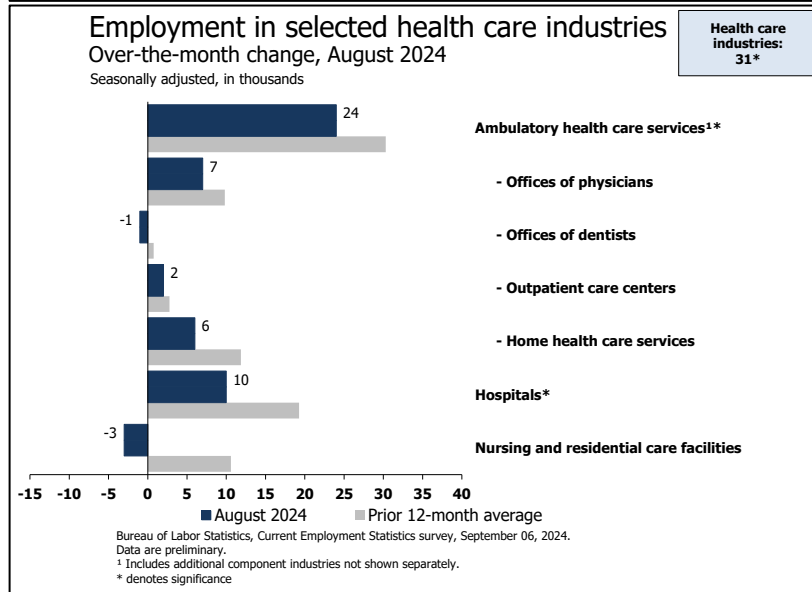


Private Education and Health Services

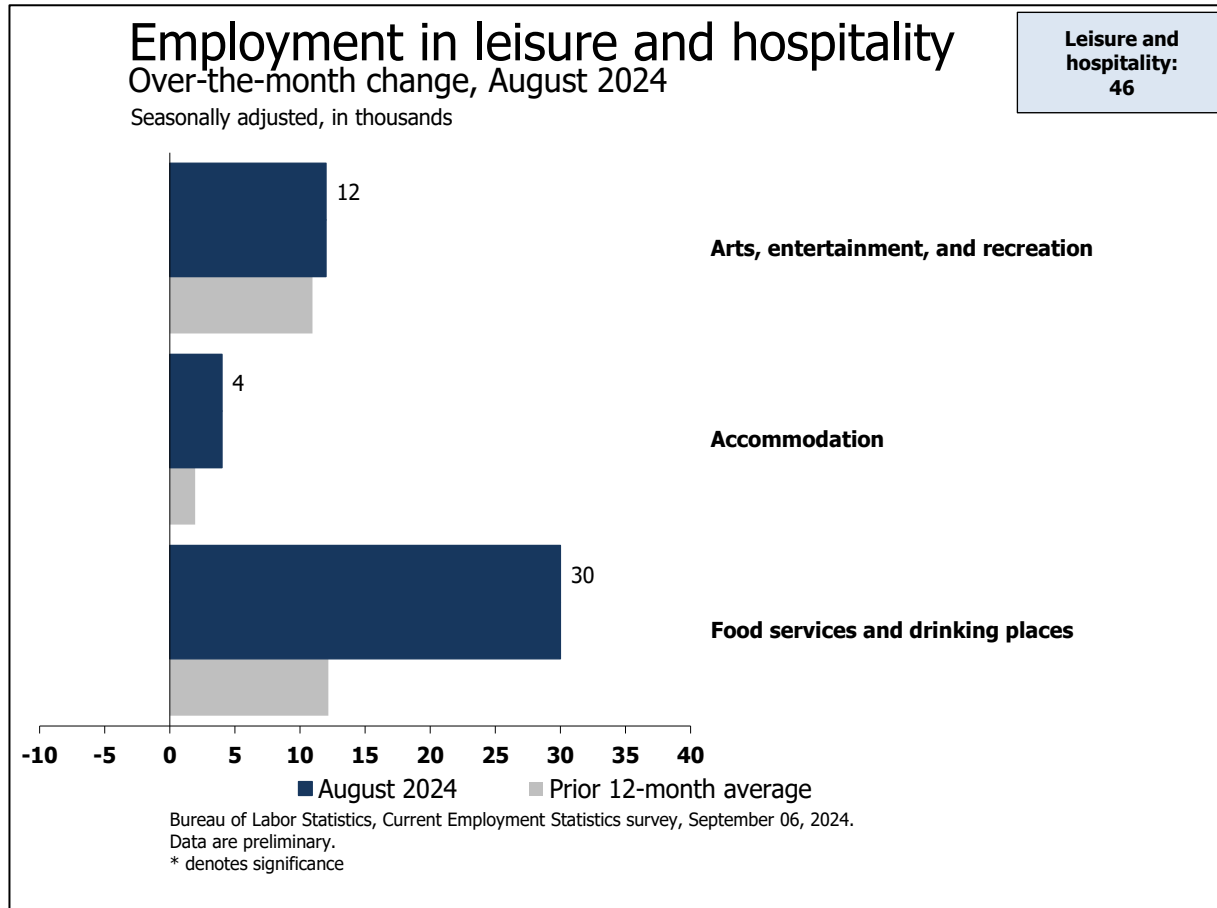


Employment in health care increased by 31,000 in August, below its prior 12-month average monthly gain of 60,000. Over the month, ambulatory health care services (+24,000) and hospitals (+10,000) added jobs.

Employment in social assistance continued its upward trend in August (+13,000) but at a slower pace than the average monthly gain over the prior 12 months (+21,000). In August, individual and family services added 18,000 jobs.



Leisure and Hospitality

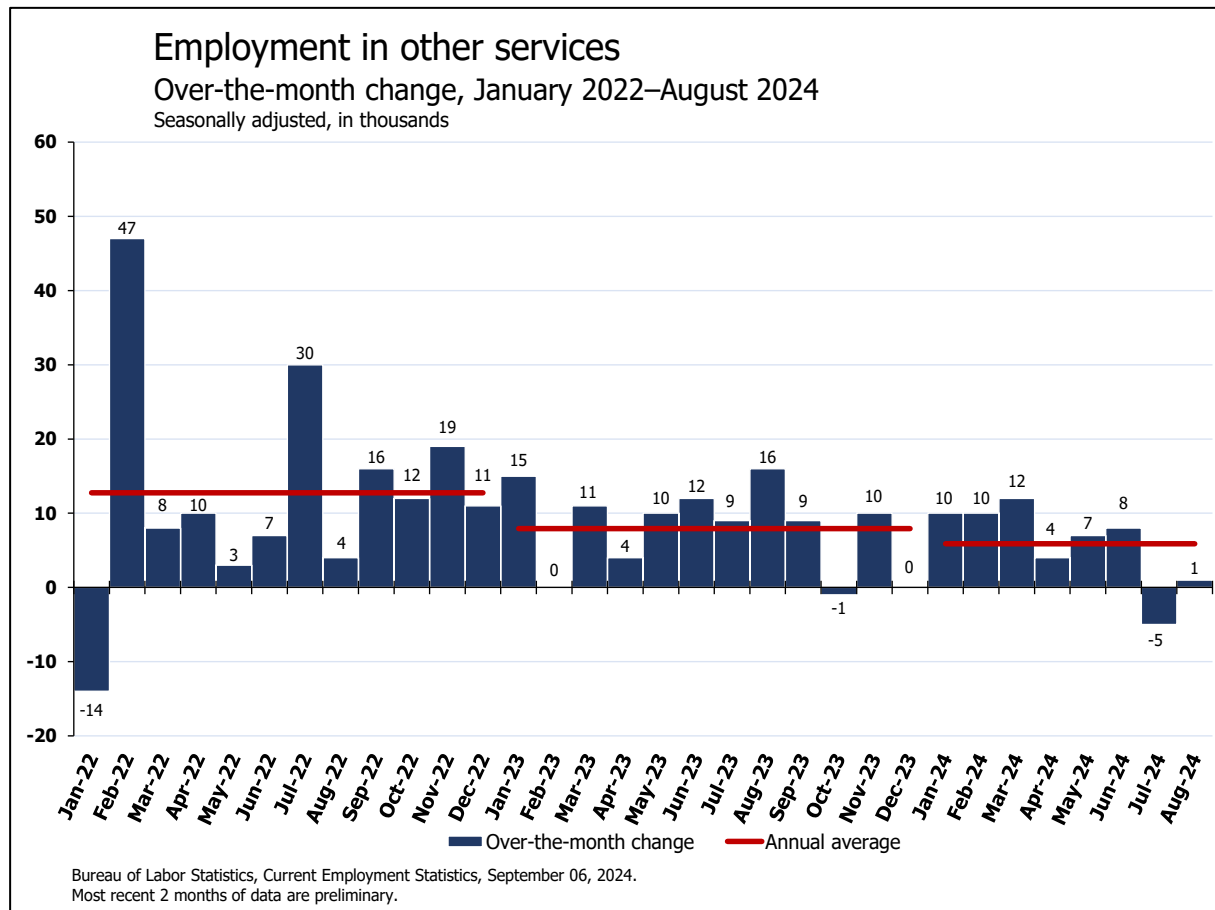


Employment in leisure and hospitality was little changed in August (+46,000). Growth in the industry had averaged 25,000 per month over the prior 12 months.

Over the month, employment changed little in food services and drinking places (+30,000). Accommodation employment changed little over the month (+4,000) but is 199,000 lower than its pre-pandemic February 2020 level.

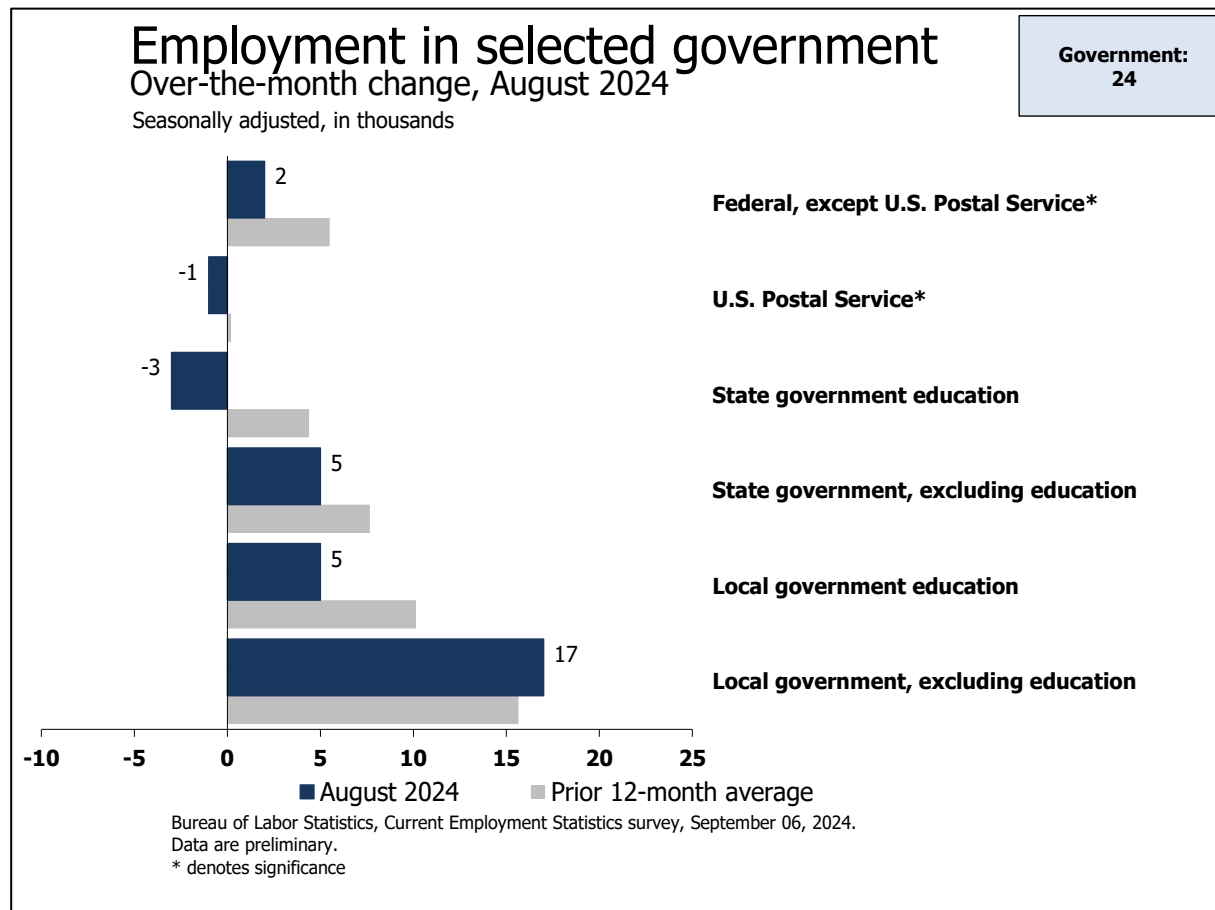
Other Services

Employment in other services changed little in August (+1,000). Industry employment is 30,000 below its pre-pandemic February 2020 level.



Government

Employment in government changed little in August (+24,000). Government had added an average of 44,000 jobs per month over the prior 12 months.





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