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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



December 2017

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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, December 2017

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 148,000 in December. Over the year, job growth totaled 2.1 million, compared with a gain of 2.2 million in 2016. In December, health care, construction, and manufacturing added jobs.

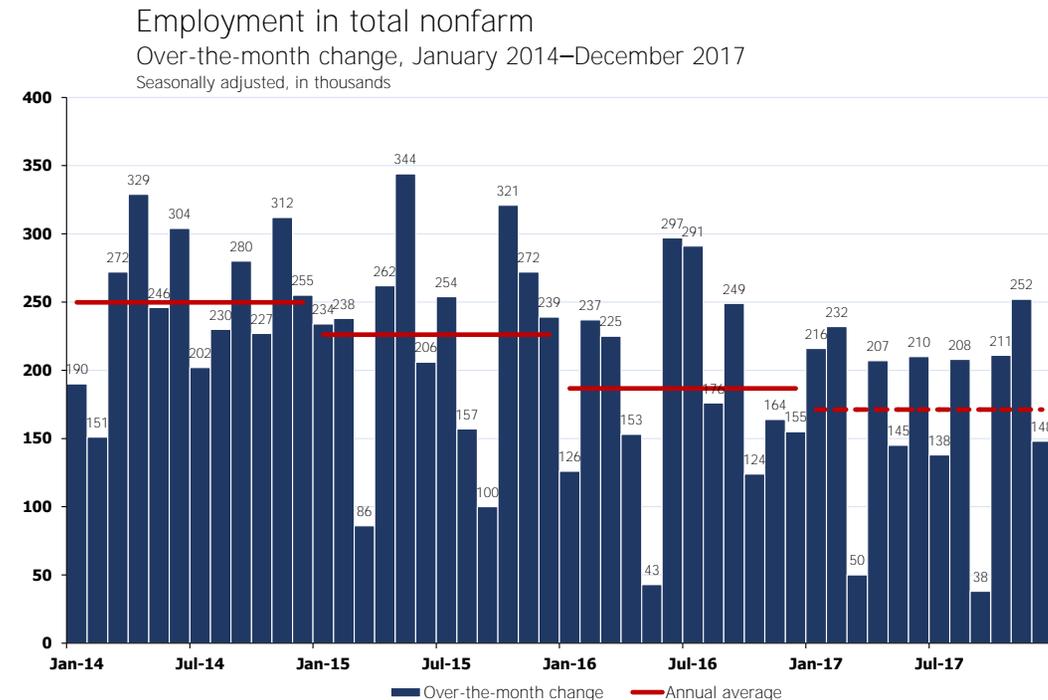
The employment change for November revised up from +228,000 to +252,000, and the change for October revised down from +244,000 to +211,000. Incorporating revisions, job growth has averaged 204,000 per month over the past 3 months.

Average hourly earnings for all employees on private, nonfarm payrolls rose by 9 cents in December. Hourly earnings are up 2.5 percent over the year. Average weekly hours, at 34.5 hours, were unchanged over the month.

+28,000 Education and Health Services

Employment in health care rose by 31,000 in December. Employment continued to trend up in ambulatory care services (+15,000) and in hospitals (+12,000).

In 2017, employment in health care expanded by 300,000, compared with 379,000 jobs gained in 2016. Employment in hospitals rose by 76,000 over the year, down from 119,000 jobs added in 2016.



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, January 05, 2018.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

+30,000 Construction

Employment in construction rose by 30,000 in December. Within the industry, a job gain of 24,000 in specialty trade contractors was roughly split between the residential and nonresidential components. Over the year, construction added 210,000 jobs, compared with an increase of 155,000 in 2016.

+25,000 Manufacturing

In December, employment in manufacturing rose by 25,000. Durable goods industries accounted for 21,000 of the increase, including job gains in machinery (+6,000), fabricated metal products (+5,000), and computer and electronic products (+3,000). Over the year, employment in

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, December 2017

manufacturing rose by 196,000, compared with little net change in 2016 (-16,000).

+29,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Within leisure and hospitality, employment in food services and drinking places changed little in December (+25,000). Over the past year, this industry added 249,000 jobs, compared to an increase of 276,000 in 2016.

+19,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment changed little over the month in professional and business services. Over the year, employment in the industry increased by 527,000, in line with the change from 2016 (+534,000). Increases were distributed across most of the component industries.

-20,000 Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade changed little over the month (-20,000). Over the year, employment in the industry edged down (-67,000), compared to a gain of 203,000 in 2016.

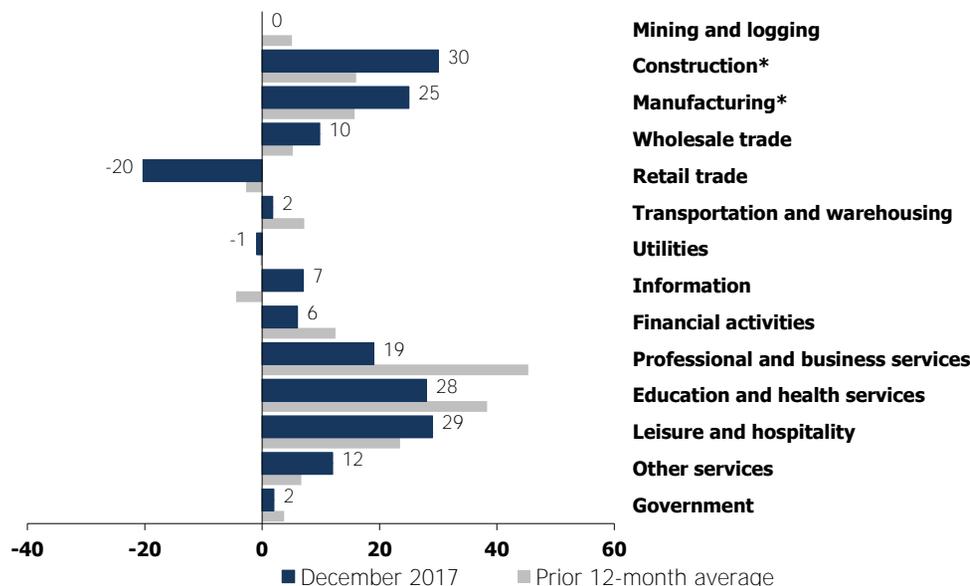
Within retail trade, general merchandise stores lost 27,000 jobs in December. Since reaching an employment peak in October 2016, this industry has lost 109,000 jobs.

Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, December 2017

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

**Total nonfarm:
148***

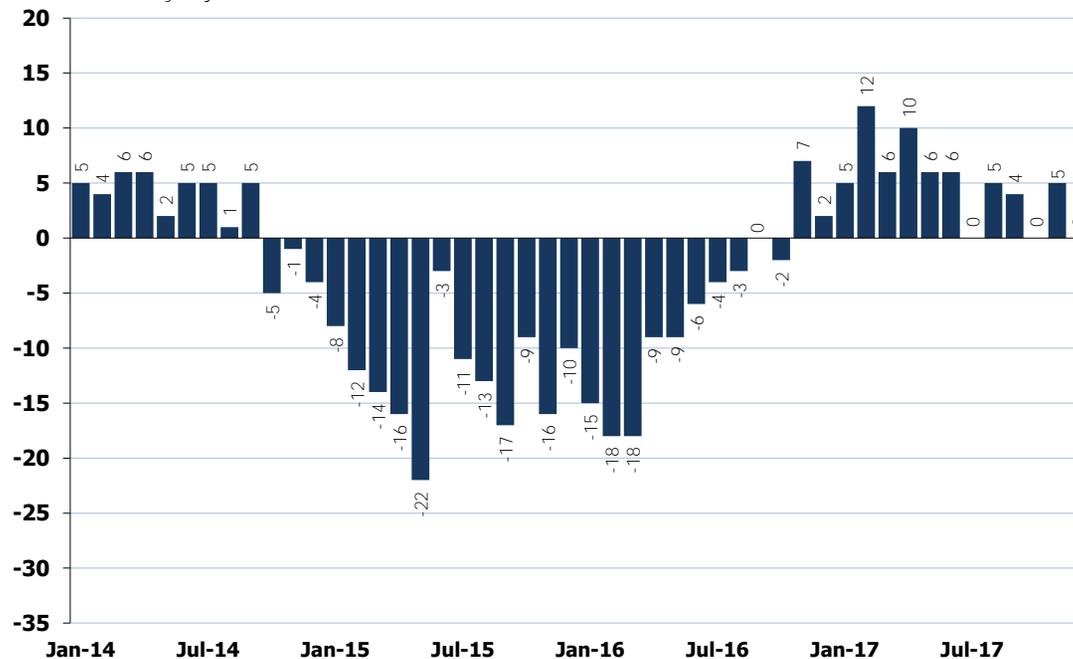


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, January 05, 2018.

Mining and Logging

Employment in mining and logging

Over-the-month change, January 2014–December 2017
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

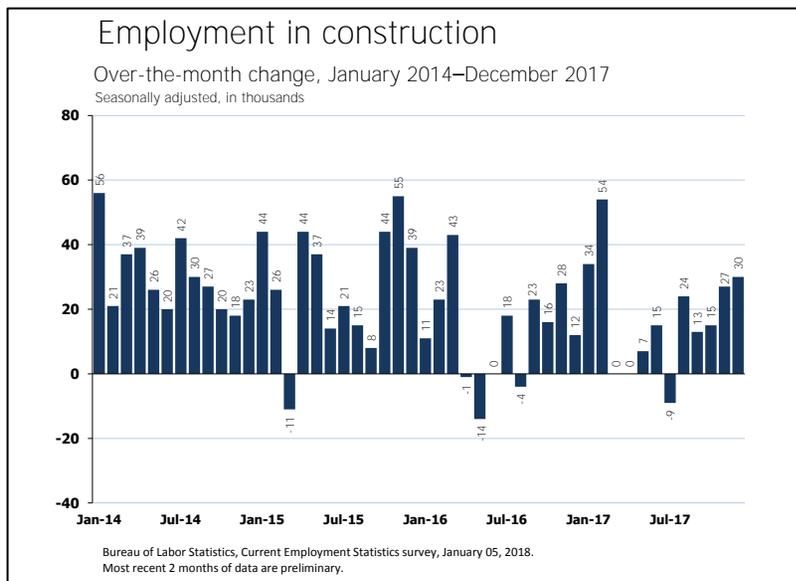


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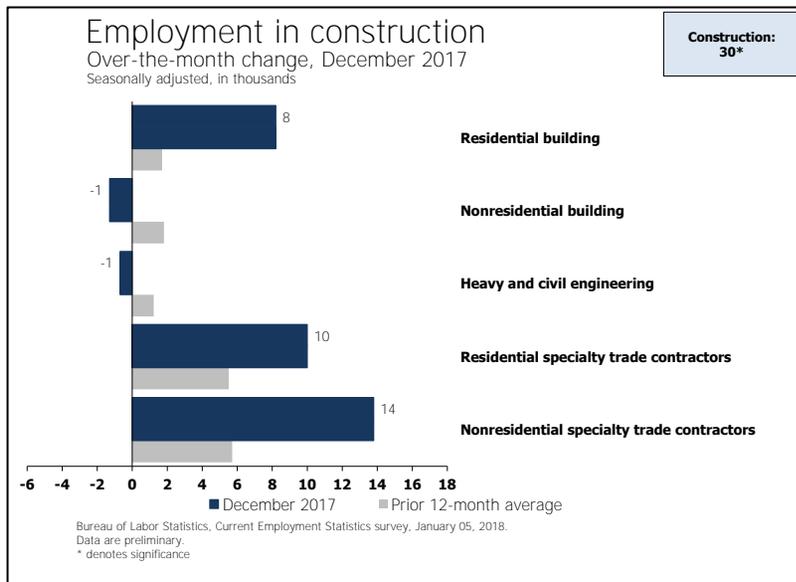
Employment in mining and logging was unchanged in December. Over the year, mining and logging added 59,000 jobs, after losing 75,000 jobs in 2016.

Although employment was flat over the month, related economic indicators were positive. Domestic [oil rigs](#) numbered 930 in December, up 2.5 percent from November. The price of [West Texas Intermediate oil](#) rose 0.6-percent from the previous month to \$57.12 per barrel in December.

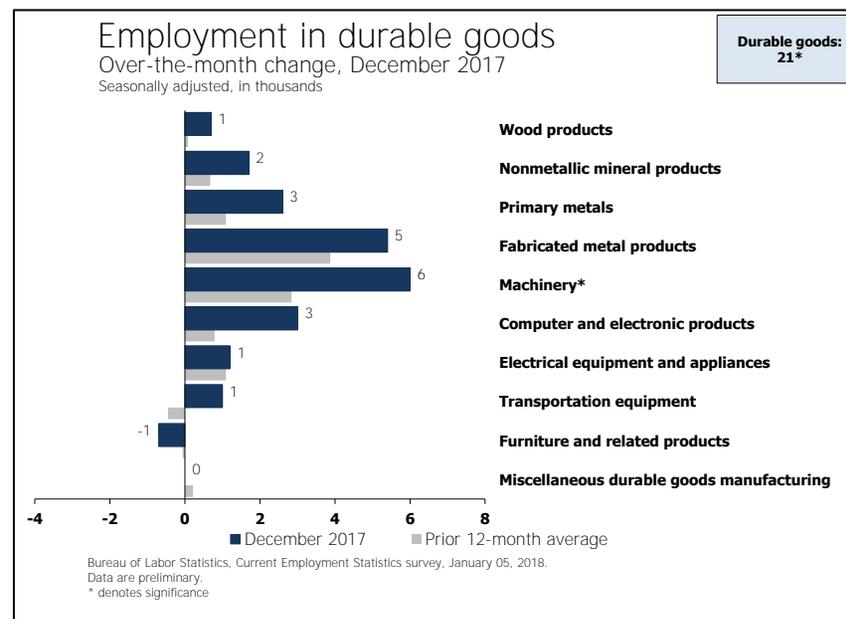
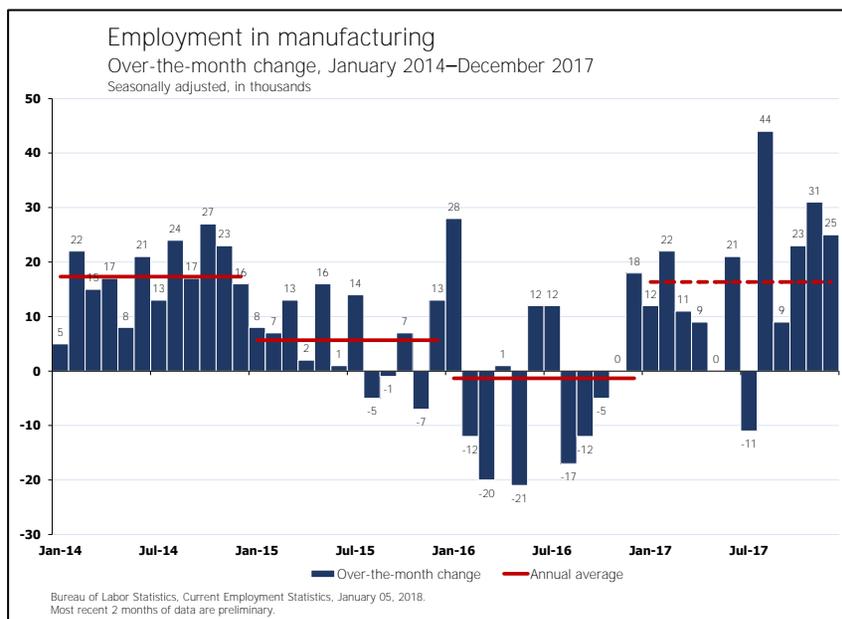
Construction



Construction employment rose by 30,000 in December. The job gain was led by specialty trade contractors, which added 24,000 jobs, the majority being in nonresidential specialty trade contractors (+14,000). Employment in residential building and residential specialty trades trended up by 8,000 and 10,000, respectively. Recent employment strength in the residential components follows a 17.5-percent gain in [new home sales](#) over the month in November.



Manufacturing

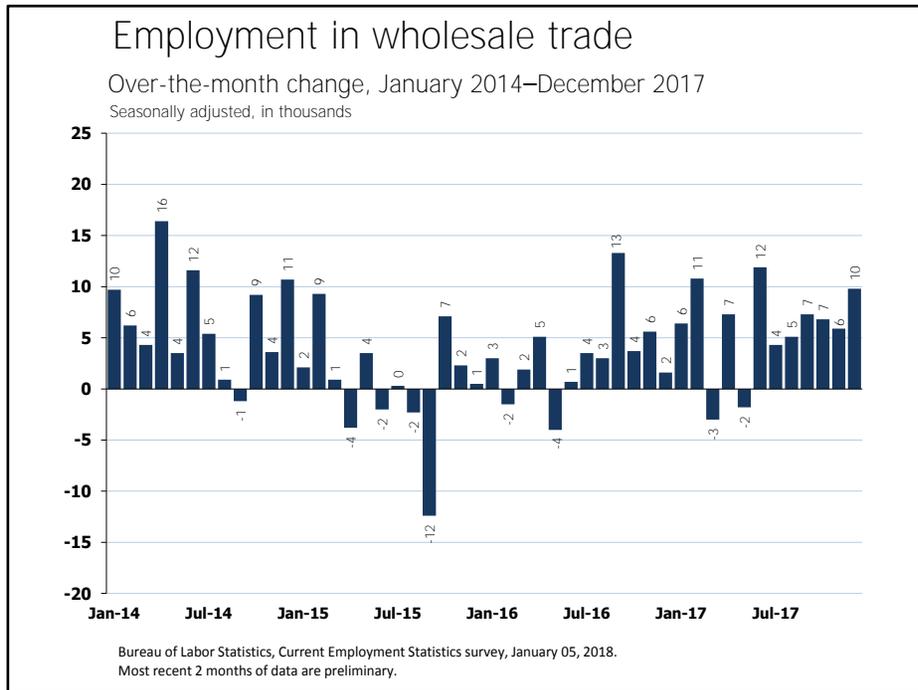


Manufacturing closed out 2017 with a gain of 25,000 jobs. The job gain was concentrated in durable goods manufacturing (+21,000), with nondurable goods manufacturing showing little change (+4,000).

In December, job gains in durable goods were led by machinery (+6,000) and fabricated metals (+5,000). Most of the other component industries beat their prior-12 month averages.

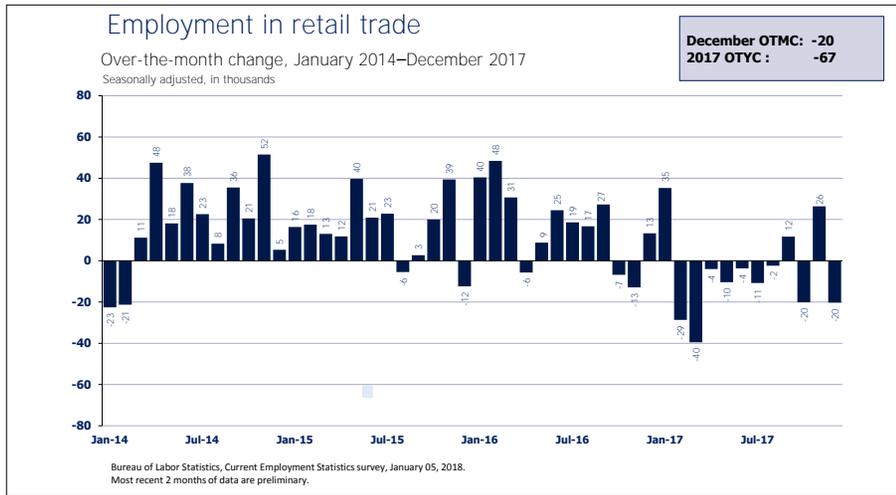
In 2017, manufacturing added 196,000 jobs, a 1.6-percent increase. Employment had changed little in 2016 (-16,000).

Wholesale Trade



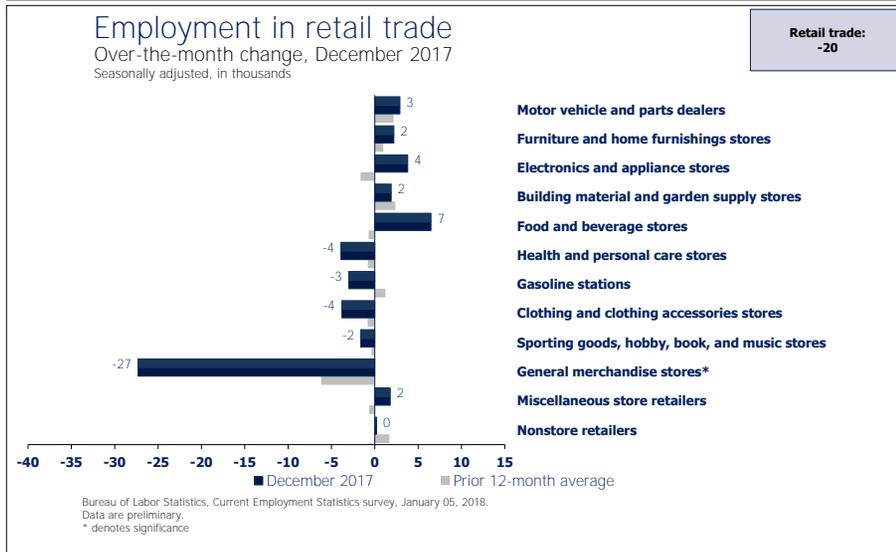
Employment in wholesale trade continued to edge up in December (+10,000), bringing the 2017 net job gain to +71,000, roughly double the 36,000 jobs added in 2016. Durable goods constituted the majority of jobs added in 2017 with a gain of 54,000.

Retail Trade

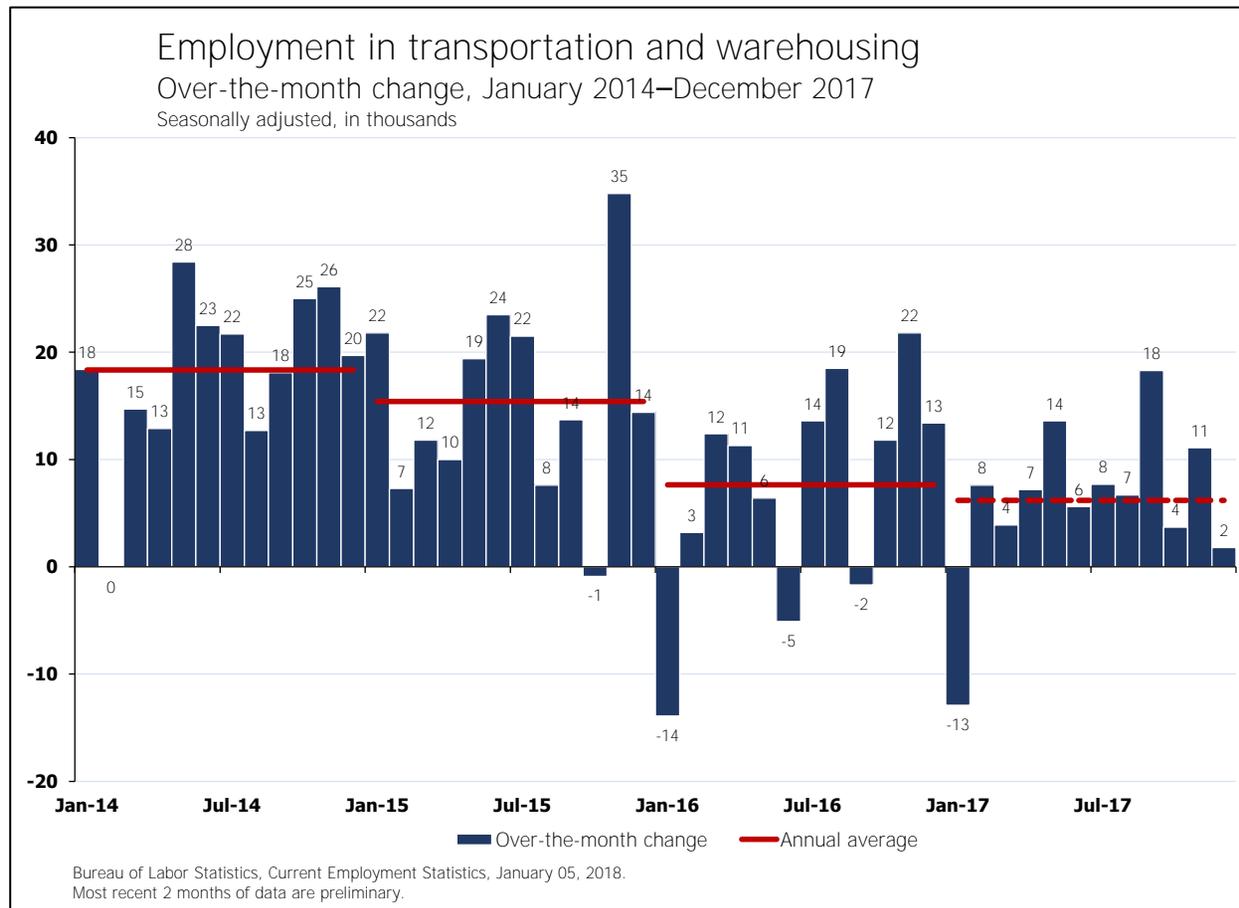


In December, employment in retail trade changed little (-20,000), mostly offsetting November’s employment change (+26,000). During 2017, retail employment trended downward (-67,000), after rising by 203,000 in 2016.

Employment in general merchandise stores decreased by 27,000 in December, as both department stores and other general merchandise stores shed jobs. Altogether in 2017, employment in general merchandise stores fell by 90,000 with the majority of the job losses in other general merchandise stores. On a positive note, building materials and garden supply stores gained 28,000 jobs during 2017.

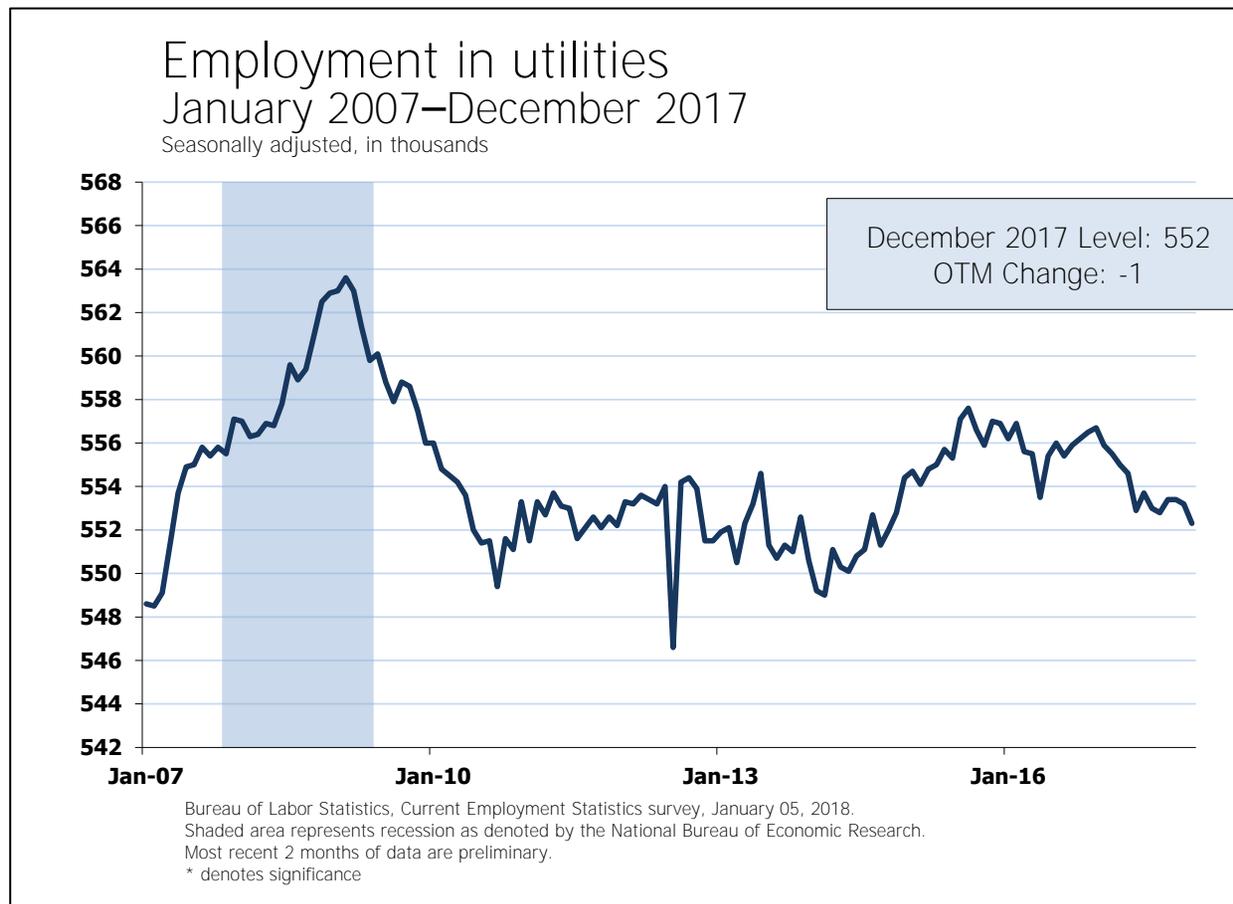


Transportation and Warehousing



Employment in transportation and warehousing was flat in December (+2,000). In 2017, this industry added 74,000 jobs, after adding 92,000 jobs in 2016.

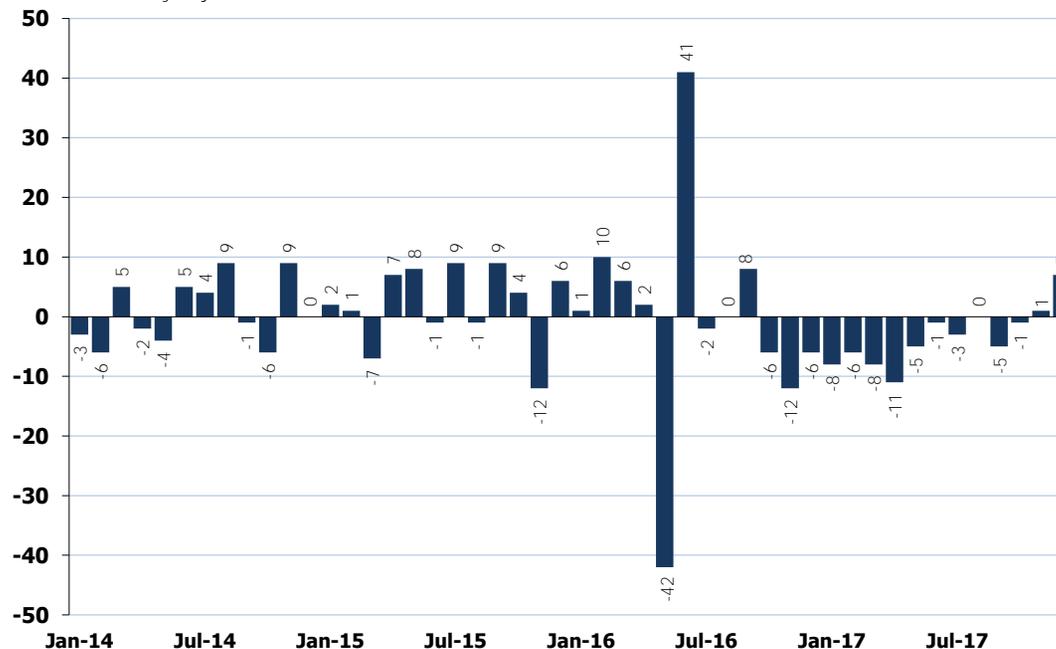
Utilities



In December, employment in utilities was little changed (-1,000). Over the year, utilities has shown little net change in employment (-4,000).

Information

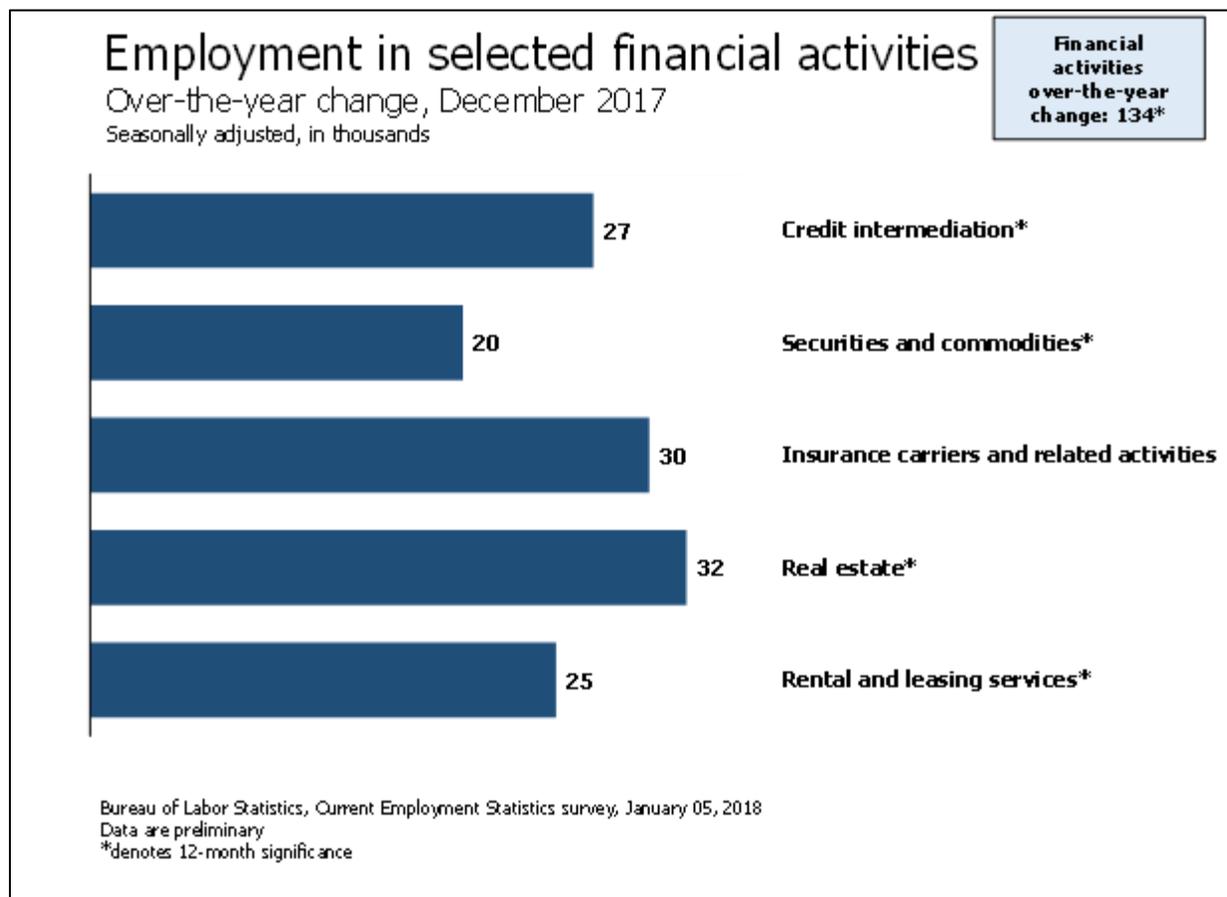
Employment in information
 Over-the-month change, January 2014–December 2017
 Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, January 05, 2018.
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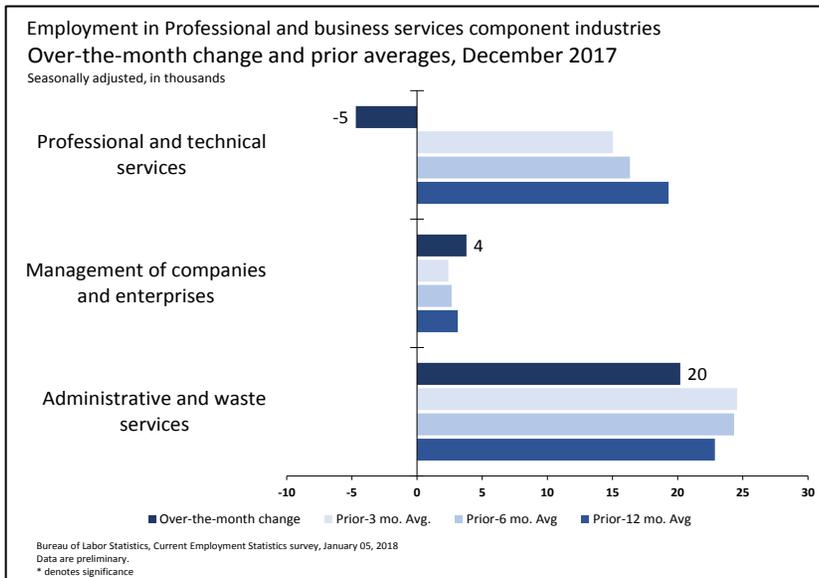
Information employment changed little in December (+7,000). In 2017, employment in information showed consistent weakness, trending down by a total of 40,000. This weakness was driven by declines in the telecommunications industry, which accounted for over 80 percent of the jobs lost.

Financial Activities



Employment in financial activities changed little in December (+6,000). This industry added 134,000 jobs in 2017, compared to 176,000 jobs gained in 2016. Job gains over the past 2 years were widespread, with significant increases occurring in most component industries.

Professional and Business Services

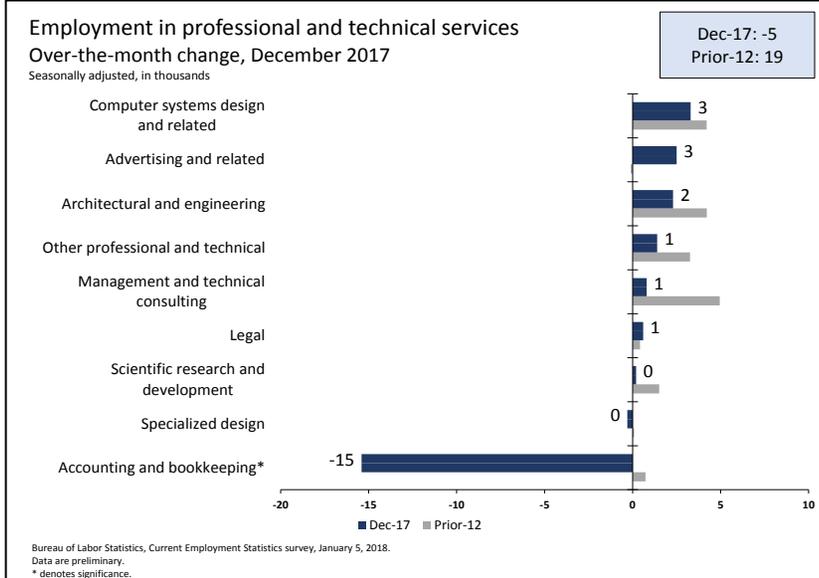


Employment in professional and business services changed little in December (+19,000)—less than half of the prior-12 month average and the smallest over-the-month change in 2017. The industry weakness occurred in professional and technical services (-5,000), which came in well below recent trends. A decline in accounting and bookkeeping services (-15,000) accounted for the overall weakness, while the majority of component industries within professional and technical services were flat over the month. Employment changes in management of companies and enterprises (+4,000) and in administrative and waste services (+20,000) remained in-line with recent average changes.

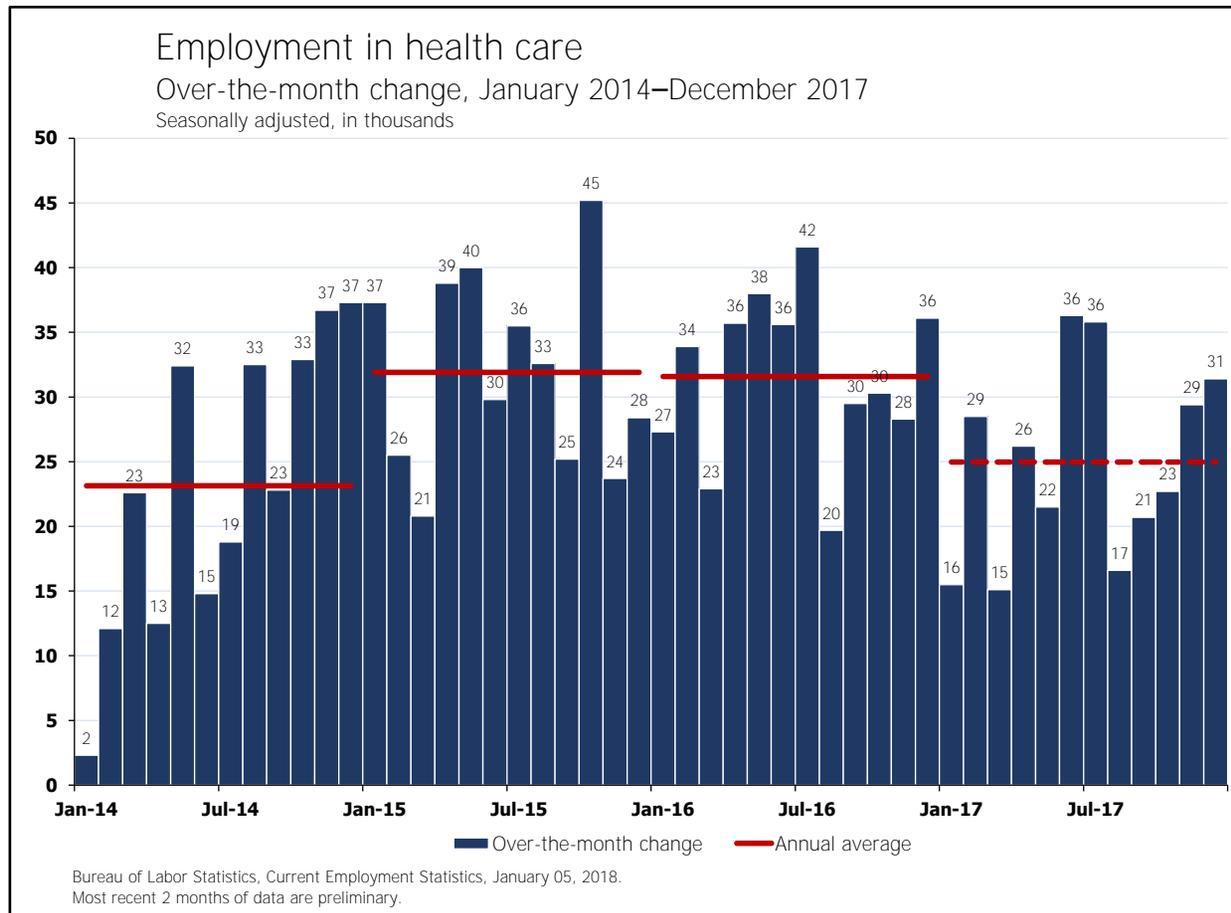
In 2017, professional and business services employment increased by 527,000, similar to the job gain in 2016. However, the composition of jobs added in 2017 versus 2016 shifted among the major component industries.

Professional and technical services added 101,000 fewer jobs in 2017 (+202,000) than in 2016 (+301,000). Computer systems design and related services and management and technical consulting services, which had led the industry in job gains in 2016, experienced much slower growth in 2017. Job growth accelerated in architectural and engineering services to 48,000 in 2017 from 27,000 the prior year.

Administrative and waste services, on the other hand, added 290,000 jobs in 2017 compared to 198,000 in 2016. Employment services accounted for the majority of the difference in 2017, adding 160,000 jobs over the year, compared to +33,000 in 2016.



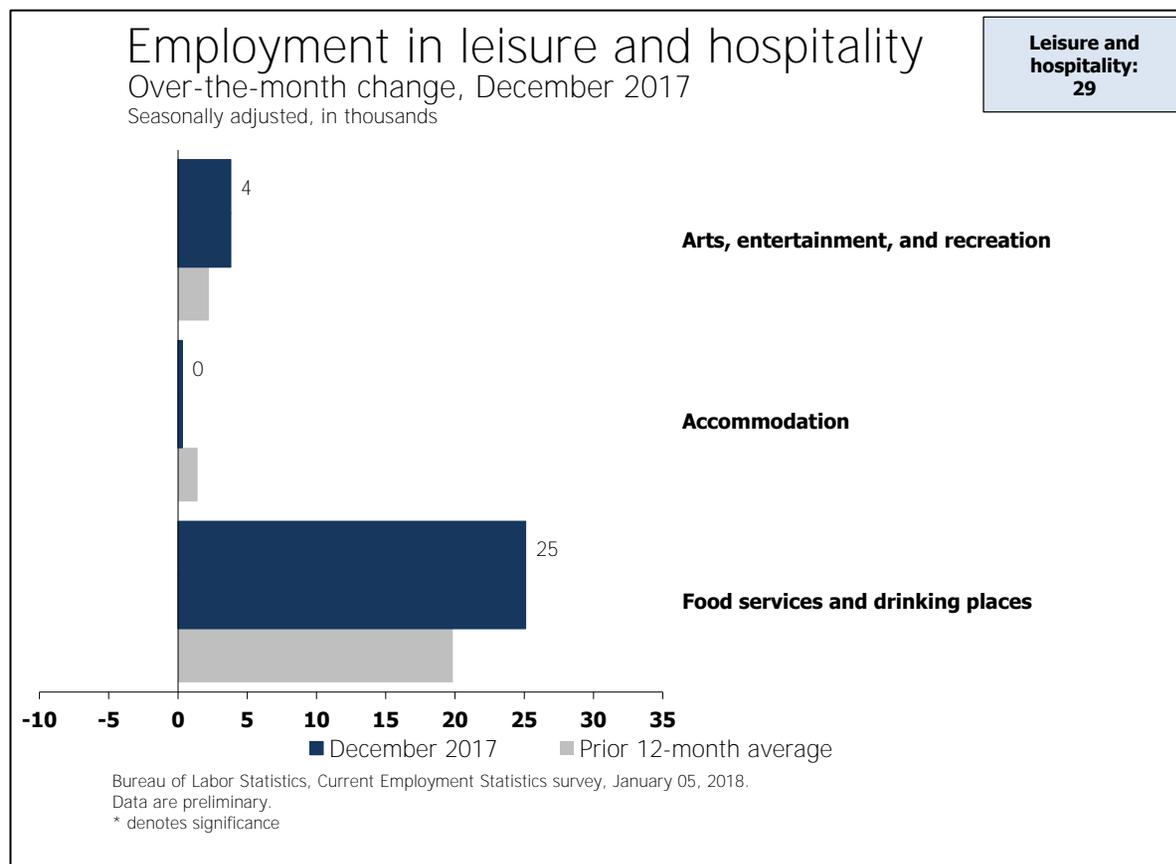
Private Education and Health Services



Health care added 31,000 jobs in December. Ambulatory health care services continued its upward trend (+15,000), driven mainly by employment growth in offices of dentists (+8,000). After a weak November (+1,000), hospitals added 12,000 jobs.

Altogether, health care industries added 300,000 jobs in 2017, representing a slowdown in growth compared to 2016 (+379,000) and 2015 (+383,000).

Leisure and Hospitality



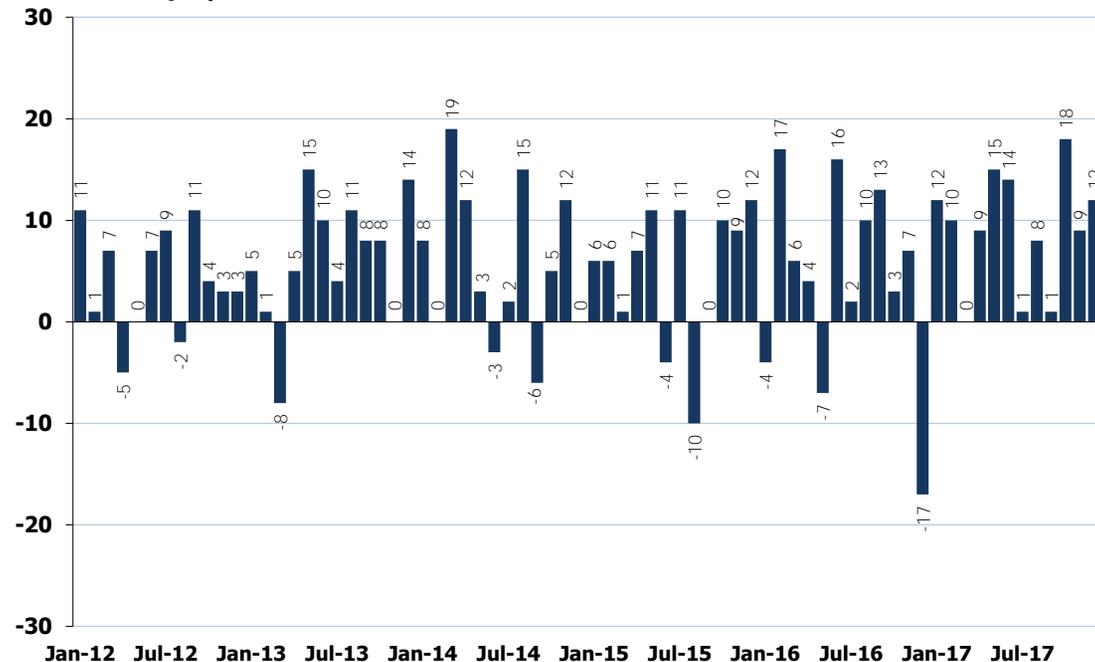
Leisure and hospitality employment continued to trend up in December (+29,000), adding a total of 306,000 jobs in 2017. This industry accounted for 15 percent of all total nonfarm jobs added in 2017.

Employment in food services and drinking places was little changed in December (+25,000). In 2017, employment in the industry increased by 249,000, after rising by 276,000 over the prior year.

Other Services

Employment in other services

Over-the-month change, January 2012–December 2017
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, January 05, 2018.
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Employment in other services was little changed in December (+12,000). Over the most recent 12 months, the industry has added 109,000 jobs, more than double the gain in 2016. In 2017, personal and laundry services added 48,000 jobs while employment in membership organizations increased by 44,000.

Government



Employment in government changed little in December (+2,000). Over the past year government employment was also little changed (+42,000), after rising by 201,000 in 2016. The federal government lost 16,000 jobs in 2017, and job growth slowed to +77,000 over the year in local government from +160,000 in 2016.



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