

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



April 2018

Release Date: May 4, 2018

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, April 2018

Nonfarm employment increased by 164,000 in April. Professional and business services, manufacturing, health care, and mining added jobs over the month.

The employment change for March increased from +103,000 to +135,000, and the change for February decreased from +326,000 to +324,000. Including these revisions, employment over these months is 30,000 higher than previously reported.

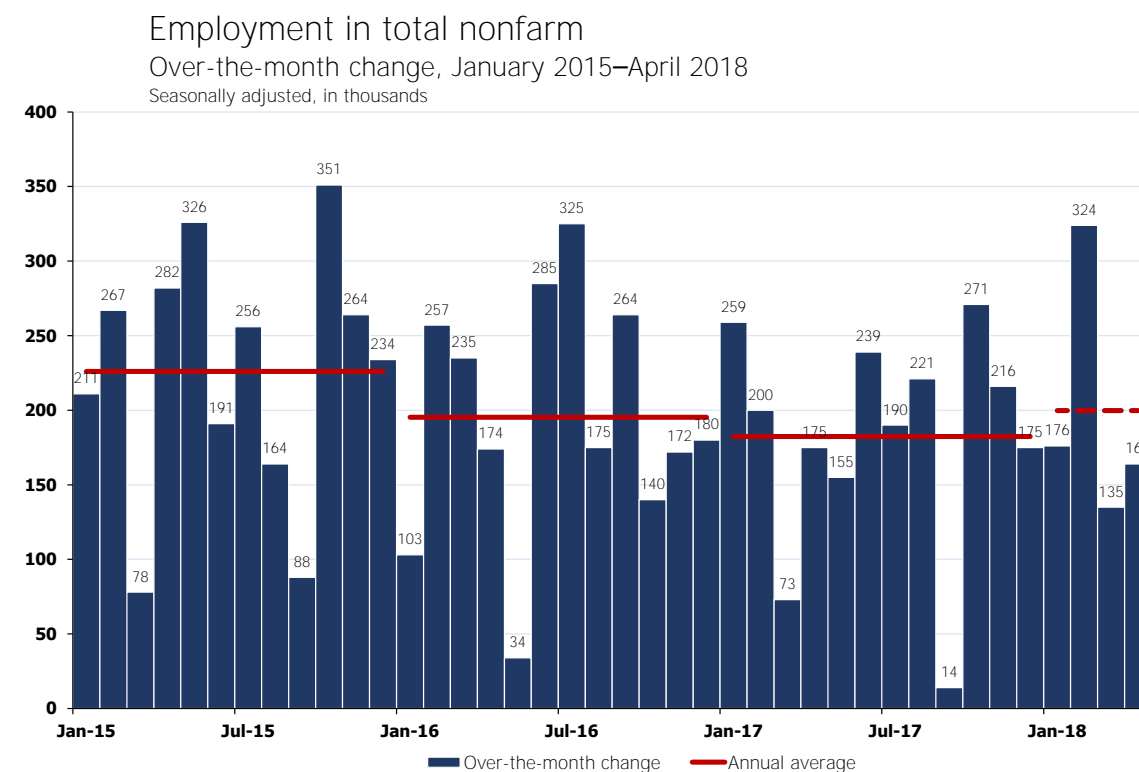
Average hourly earnings increased by 4 cents in April. Hourly earnings are up 2.6 percent over the year. Average weekly hours were unchanged at 34.5 hours.

+54,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment continued to rise in professional and business services in April. The industry has added 518,000 jobs over the past 12 months.

+24,000 Manufacturing

Employment increased by 24,000 in manufacturing, largely in durable goods industries (+18,000). Machinery contributed 8,000 jobs to the gain. Employment continued to trend up in fabricated metals (+4,000); this industry has added 60,000 jobs over the year



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, May 04, 2018.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

accounting for about one-fourth of the total gain in manufacturing.

+31,000 Education and Health Services

Health care added 24,000 jobs in April. Hospital employment rose by 8,000 over the

month, bringing its 12-month gain to 95,000. Employment also continued to trend up in ambulatory care services in April (+17,000).

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, April 2018

+17,000 Construction

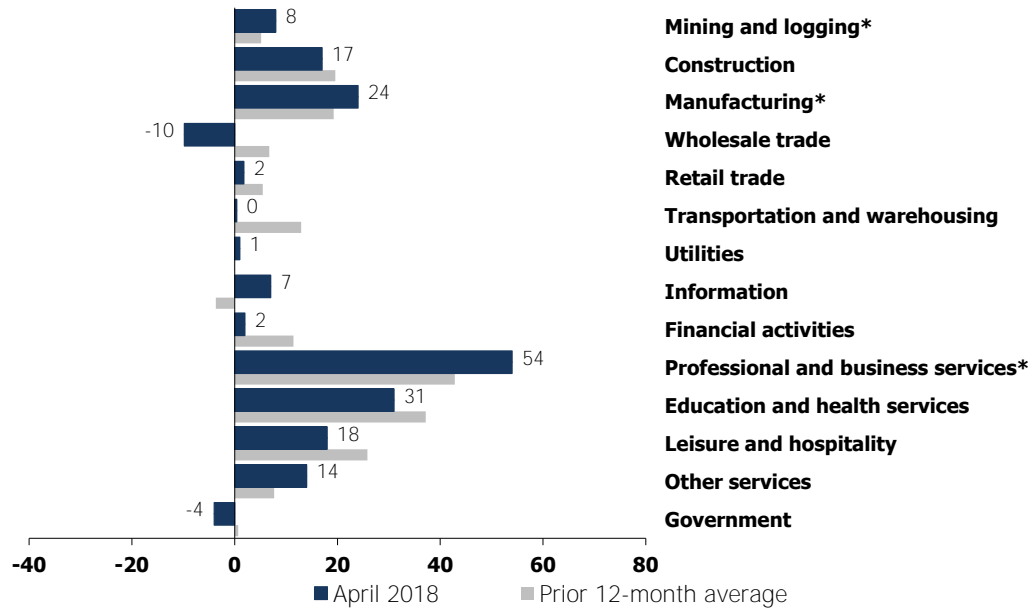
Employment continued to trend up in construction (+17,000) during April. The industry has added 257,000 payroll jobs over the past 12 months.

+8,000 Mining and Logging

Mining employment continued to rise in April (+8,000). Since an employment trough in October 2016, mining has added 86,000 jobs. Support activities for mining has driven the trend by adding 7,000 jobs in April and 87,000 jobs since the trough.

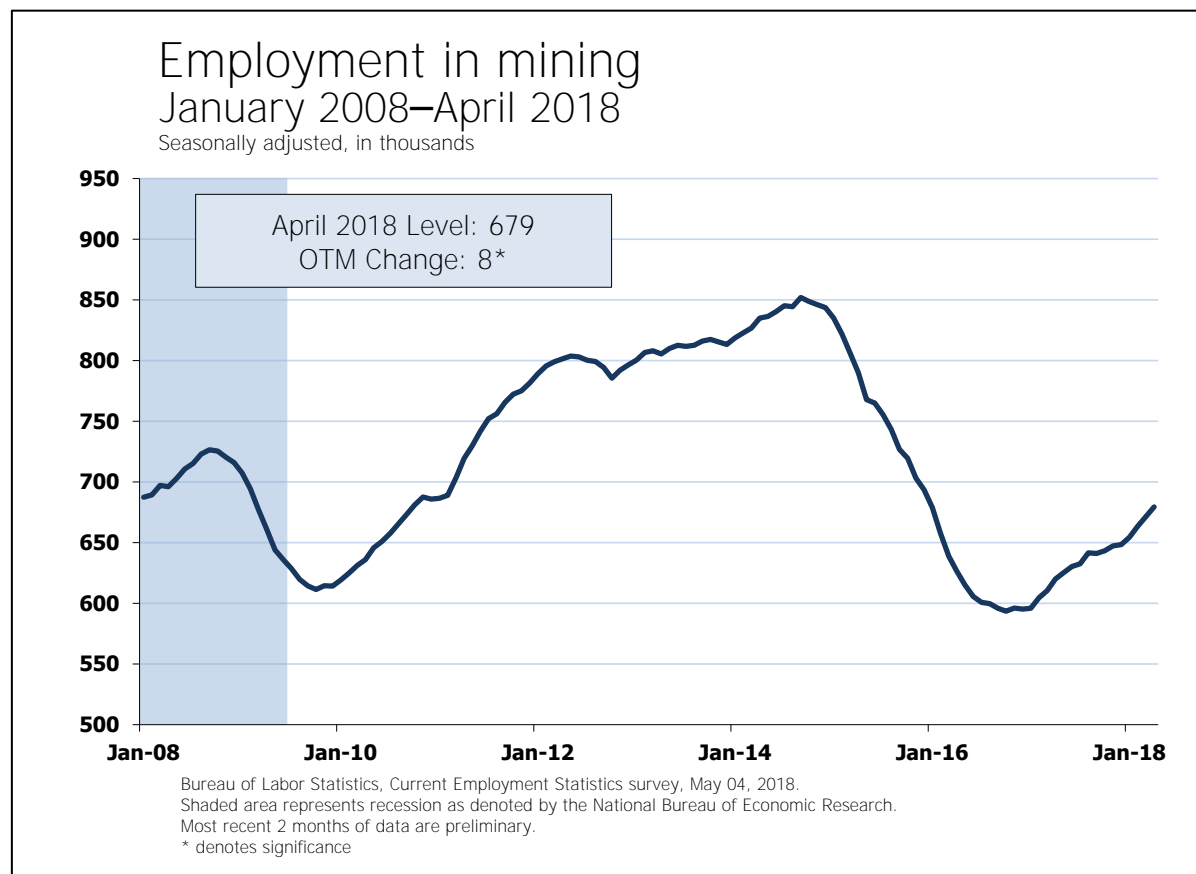
Employment in total nonfarm
Over-the-month change, April 2018
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:
164*



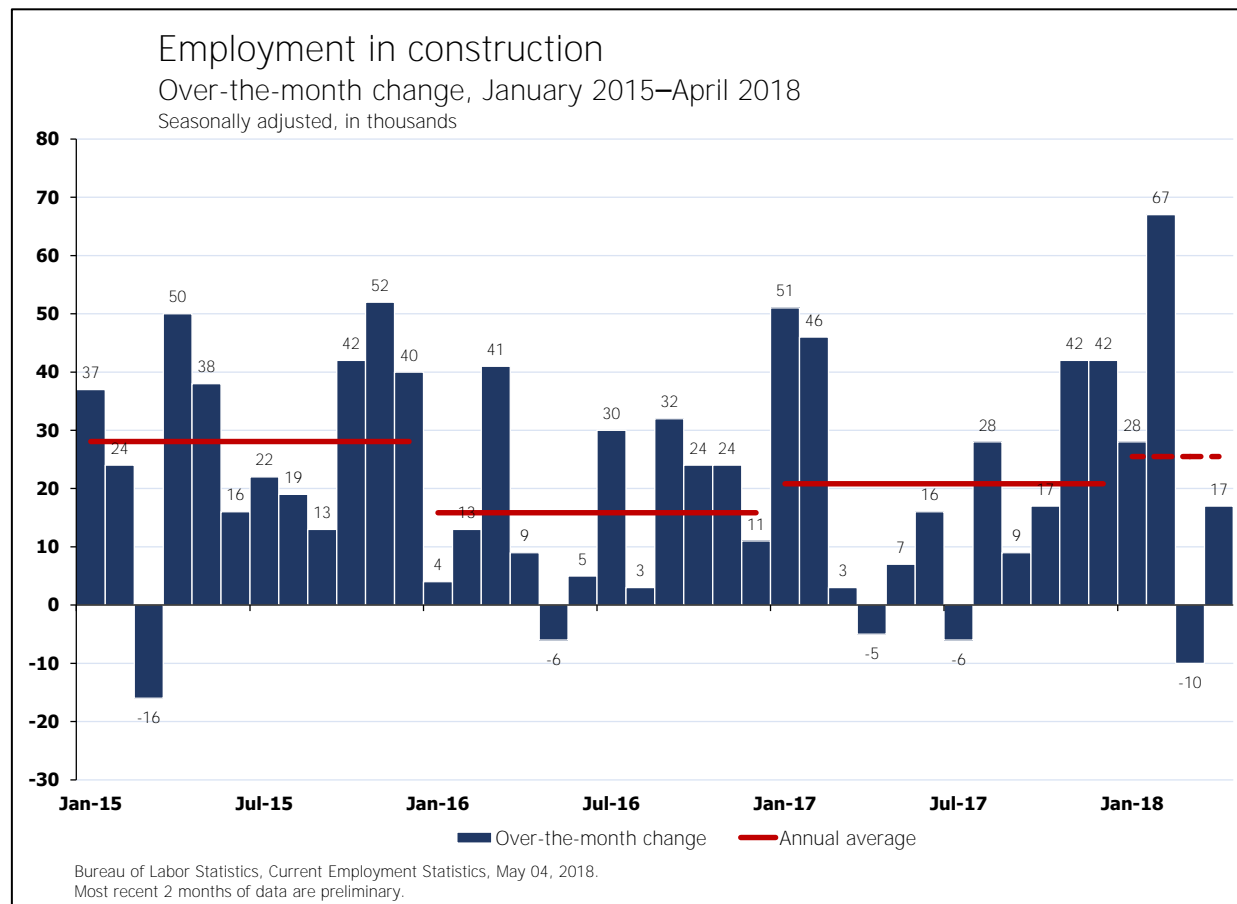
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 04, 2018.
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

Mining and Logging



Employment in mining grew by 8,000 in April, with support activities for mining contributing 7,000 jobs. These job gains are consistent with recent economic indicators for the industry. The number of active domestic [oil rigs](#) increased by 1.8 percent, and the price of [West Texas Intermediate oil](#) rose 9.3 percent to \$67.07 per barrel in April.

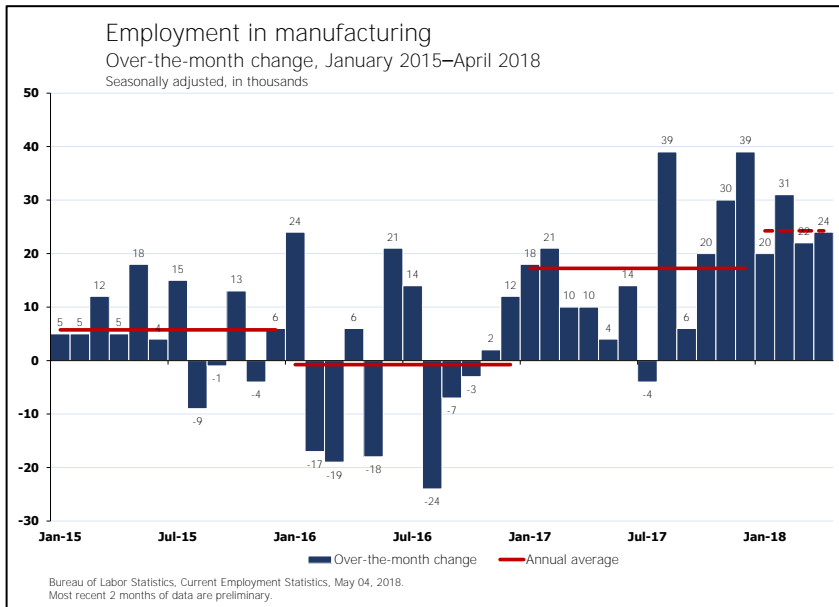
Construction



Construction employment edged up by 17,000 in April. Over the year, construction has added 257,000 jobs.

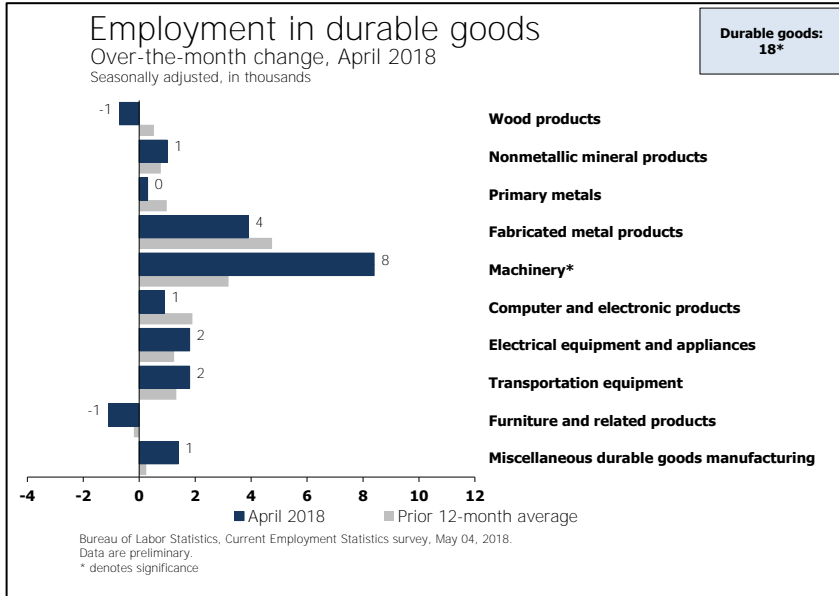
Employment changes in April followed gains in related March indicators including [building permits](#) (+2.5 percent), [new home sales](#) (+4 percent), and housing starts (+1.9 percent).

Manufacturing

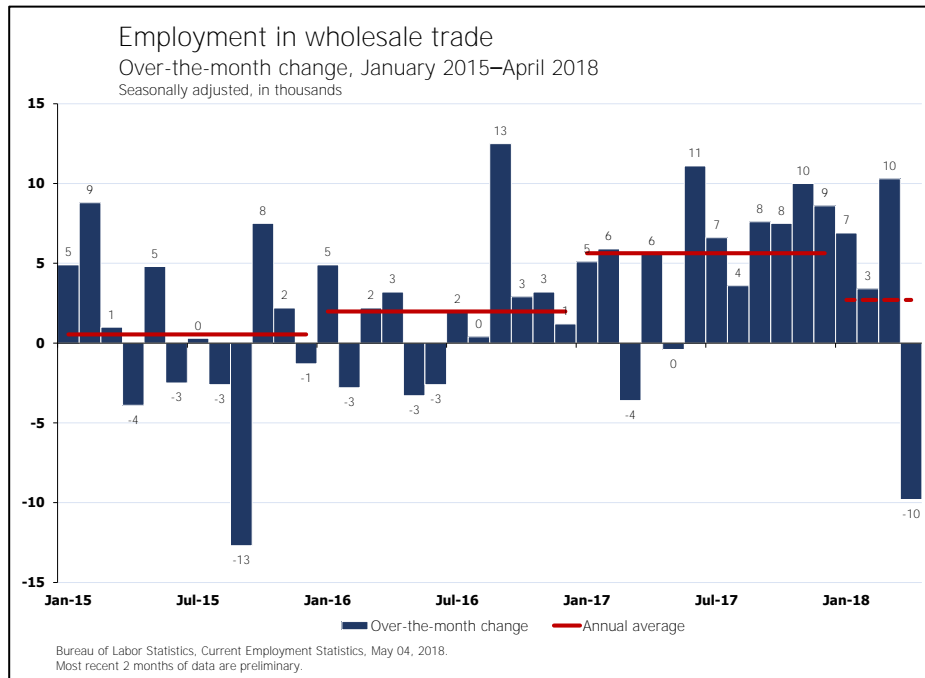


Manufacturing employment increased by 24,000 in April. Jobs gains were once again led by durable goods manufacturing (+18,000), with employment in nondurable goods manufacturing largely unchanged (+6,000).

Within durable goods manufacturing, machinery was the only industry to report an employment gain (+8,000), while communication equipment shed 1,000 jobs.

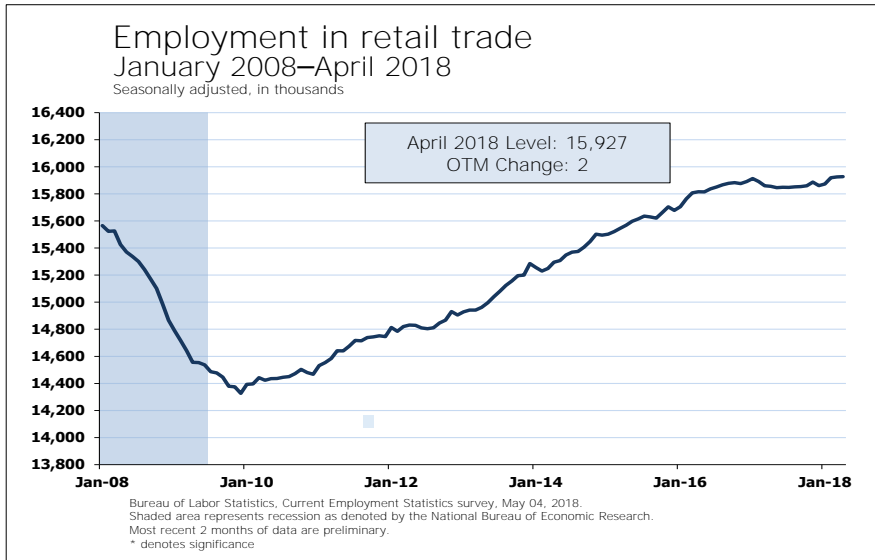


Wholesale Trade



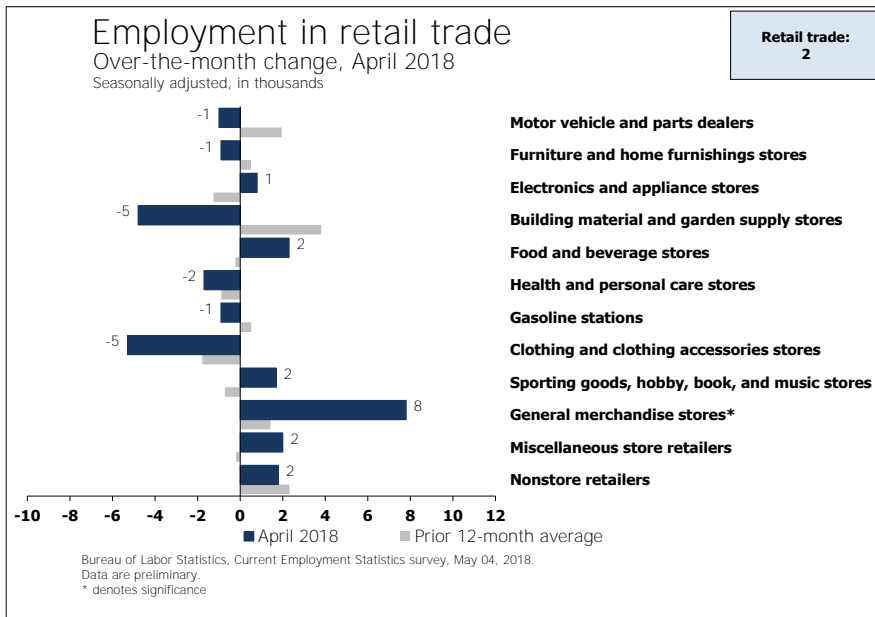
Employment in wholesale trade edged down by 10,000 in April, offsetting a gain in March. Despite little net change over the last three months, wholesale trade has gained 65,000 jobs over the year, with durable goods accounting for four of every five jobs added.

Retail Trade

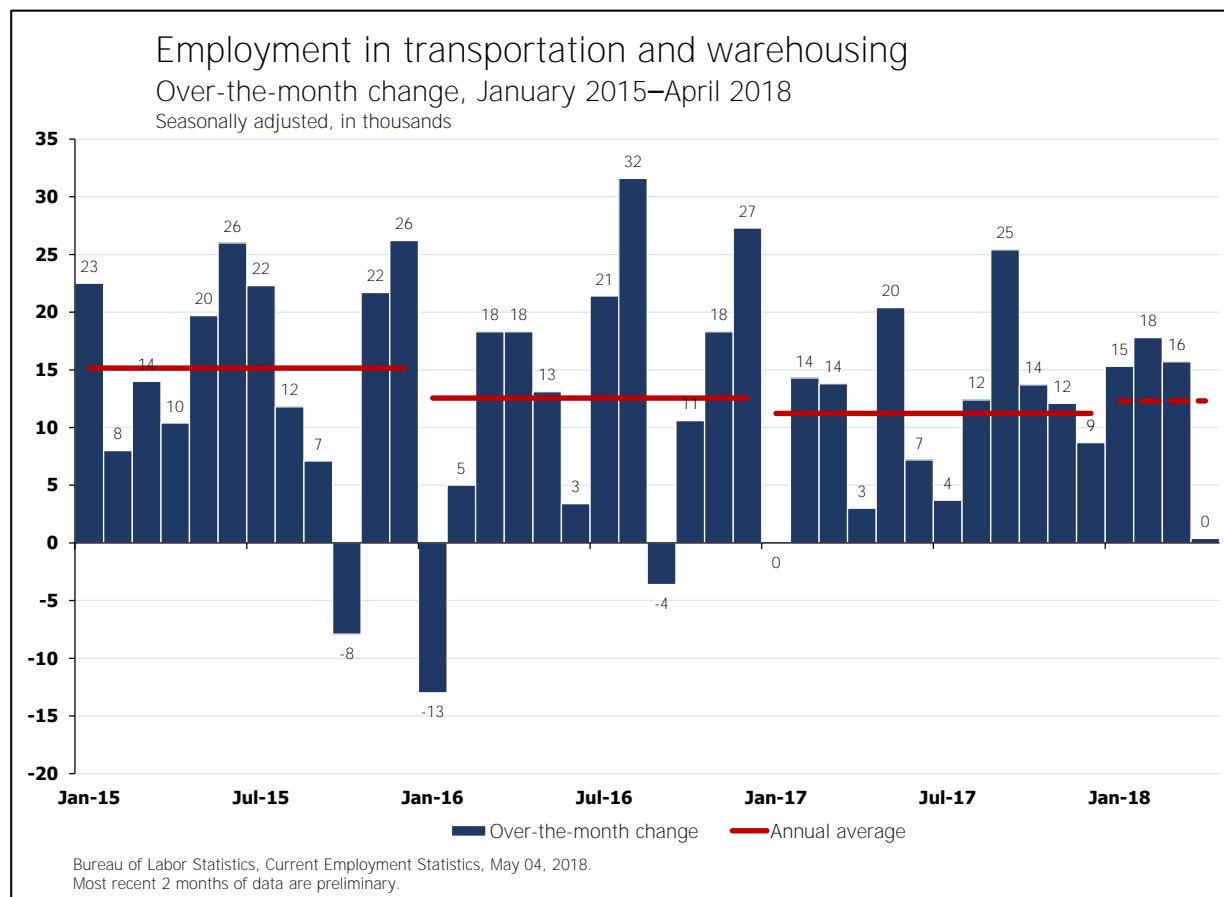


In April, employment in retail trade was about unchanged (+2,000), continuing a trend where industry employment has been essentially unchanged since January 2017.

Employment in general merchandise stores increased by 8,000 in April, offsetting a March decrease. Employment in building materials and garden supply stores edged downward in April (-5,000).

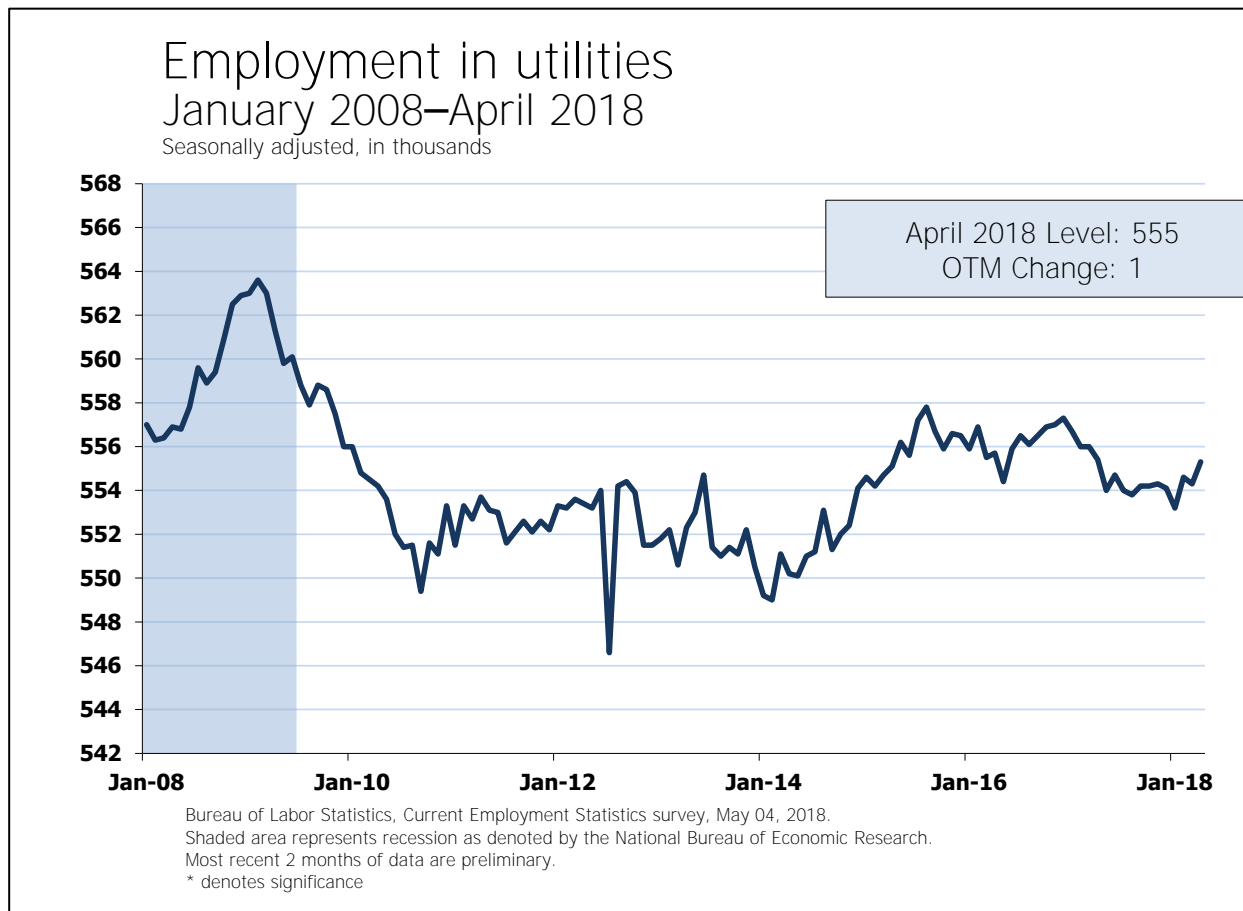


Transportation and Warehousing



Employment in transportation and warehousing was unchanged in April. Employment gains in couriers and messengers (+6,000) and warehousing and storage (+6,000) were offset largely by negative movements in truck transportation (-6,000) and support activities for transportation (-5,000).

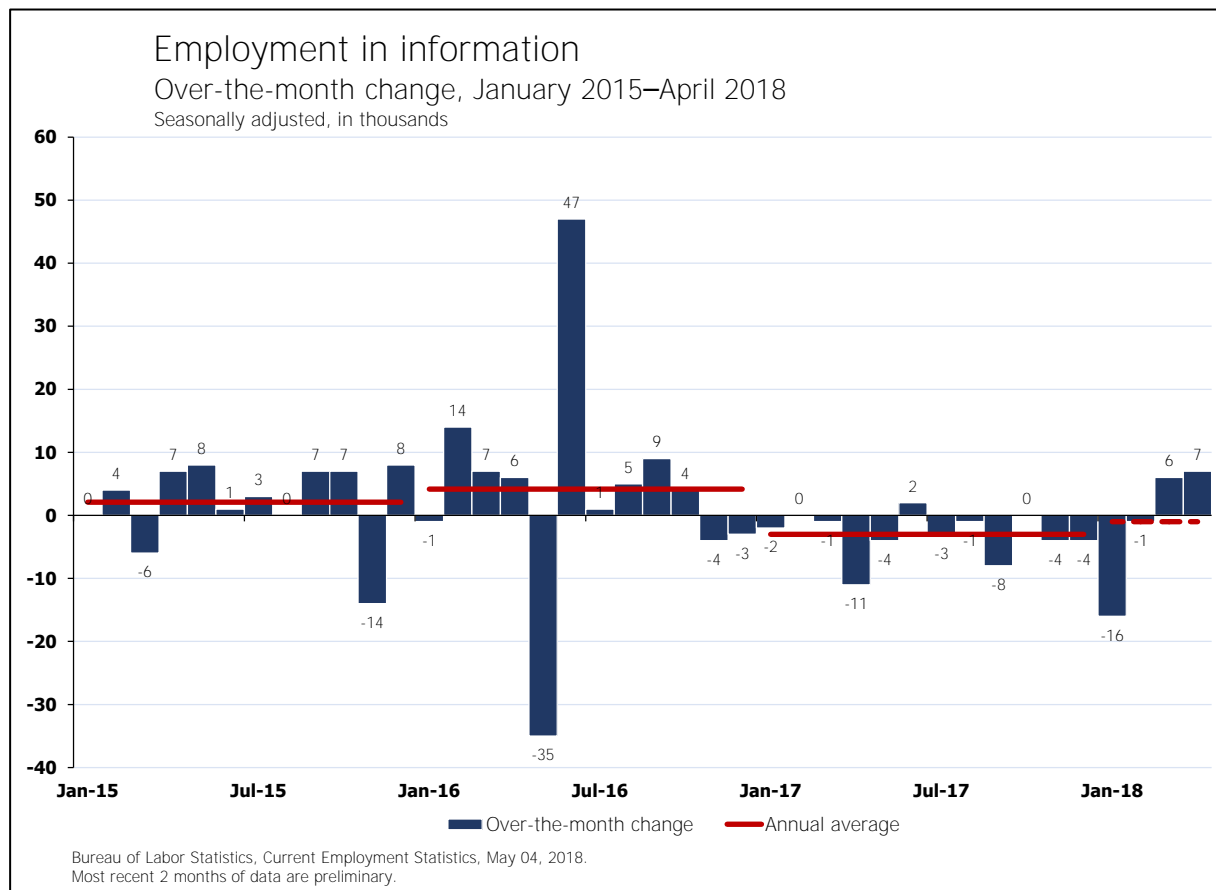
Utilities



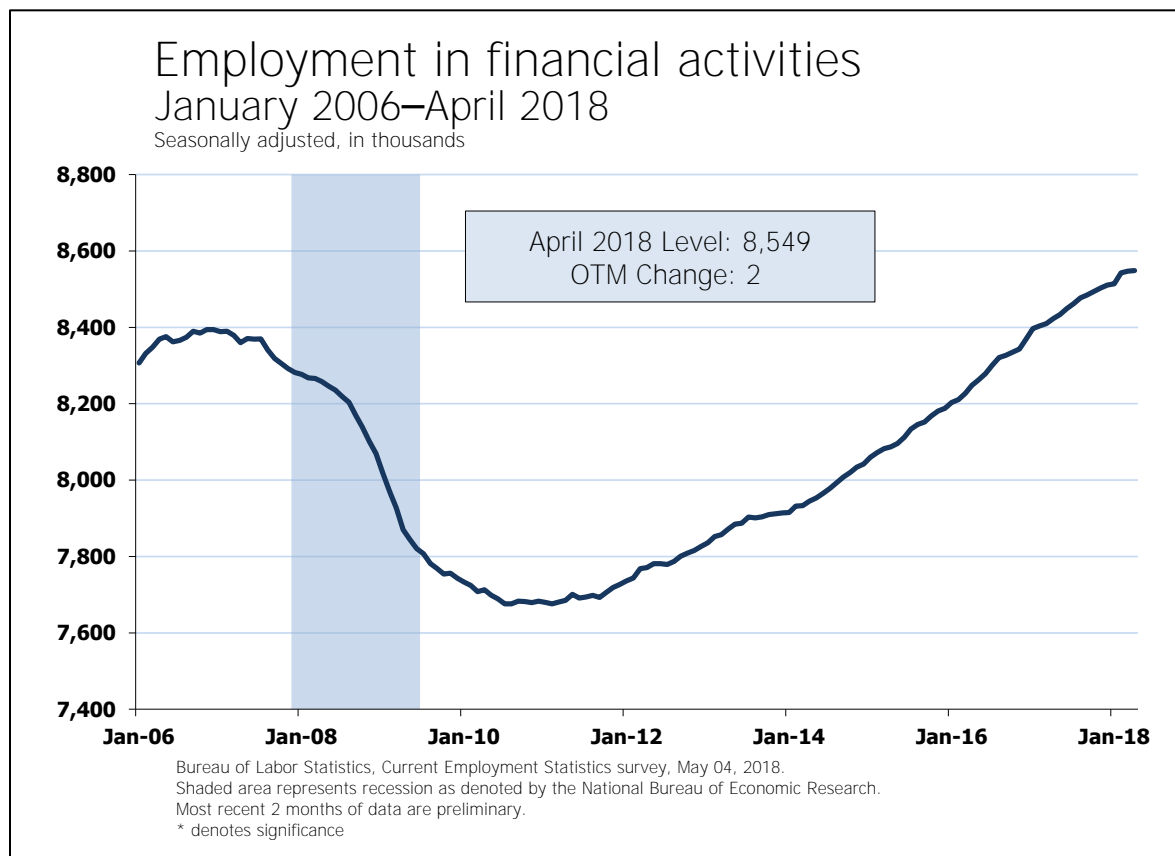
Employment in utilities edged up by 1,000 in April. Over the last 12 months, industry employment has shown no net change.

Information

Information employment changed little in April (+7,000) and has shown little net change over the year (+26,000).

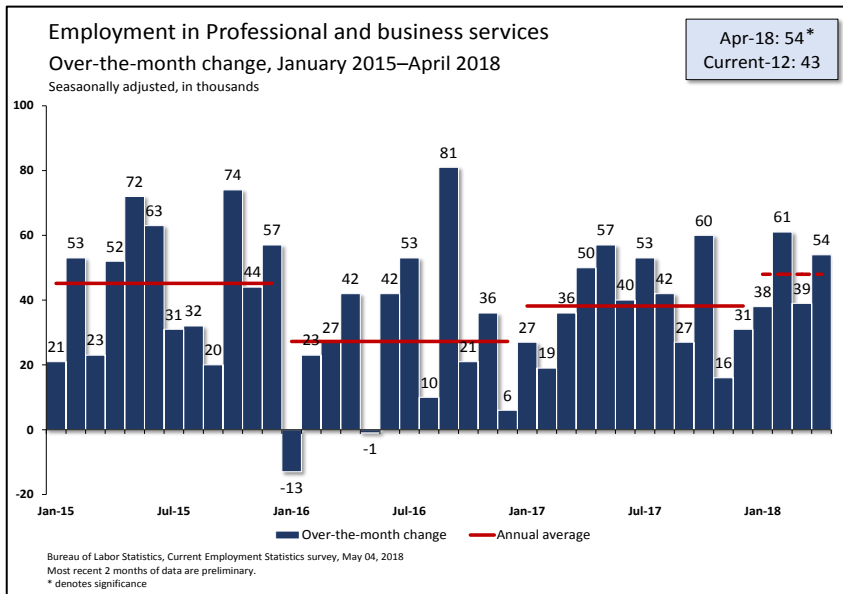


Financial Activities



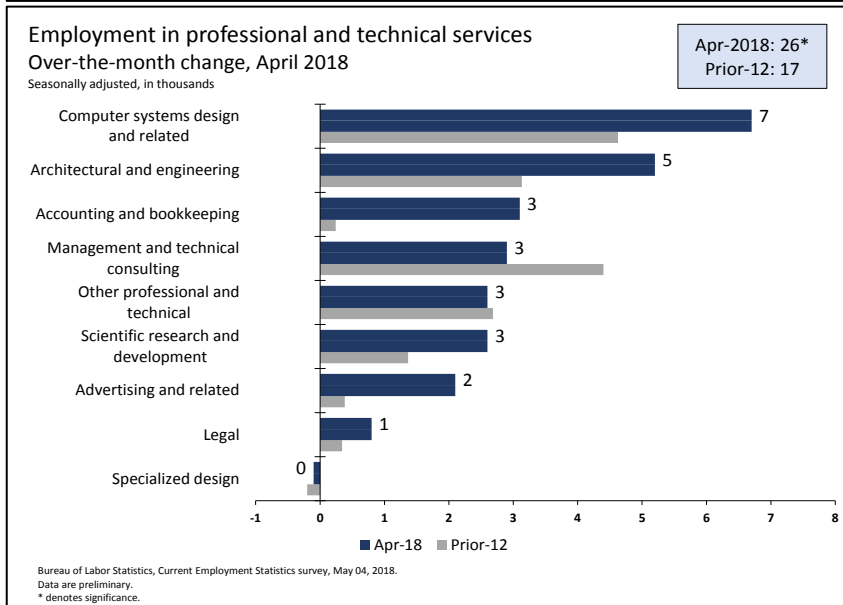
Employment in financial activities was about unchanged (+2,000) in April, the second consecutive month of little job change in the industry. Despite the recent weakness, employment in financial activities has grown steadily since reaching an employment trough in February 2011. All jobs lost in the months surrounding the recession have been regained, and in April employment was 155,000 above its prerecession peak, reached in December 2006.

Professional and Business Services

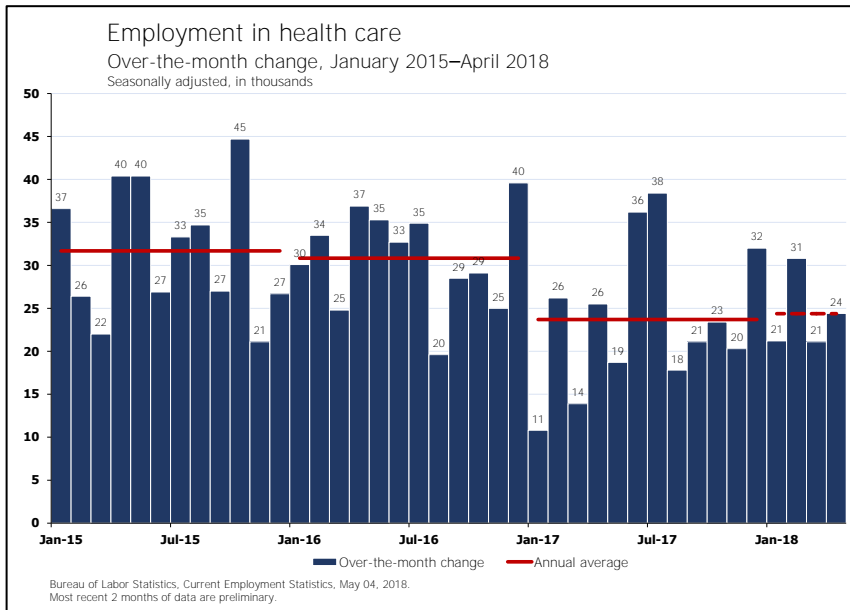


Professional and business services added 54,000 jobs in April, split among professional and technical services and administrative and waste services. Year to date, professional and business services has added 192,000 jobs—43 percent more than during the preceding 4-month period.

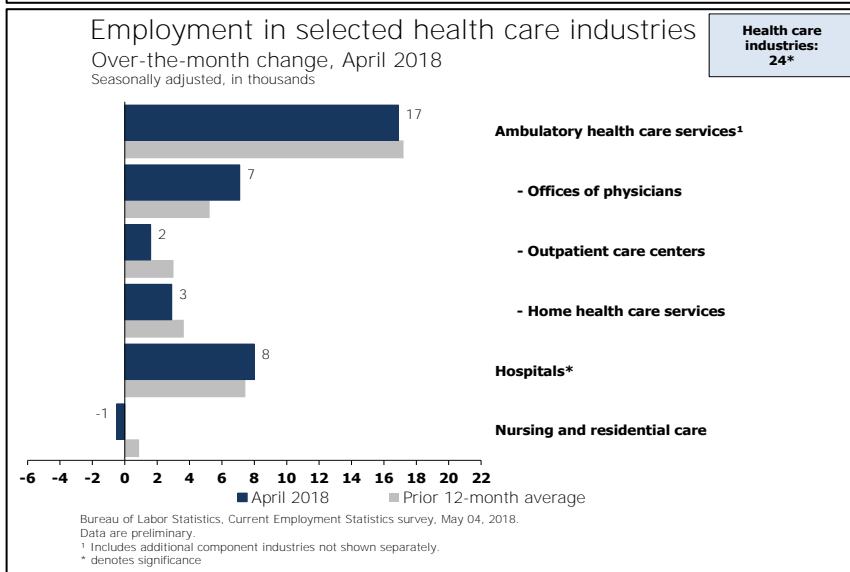
In April, professional and technical services added 26,000 jobs, with upward trends in the majority of component industries. Employment in administrative and waste services also trended up in April (+28,000), led by employment services (+12,000) and services to buildings and dwellings (+9,000).



Private Education and Health Services



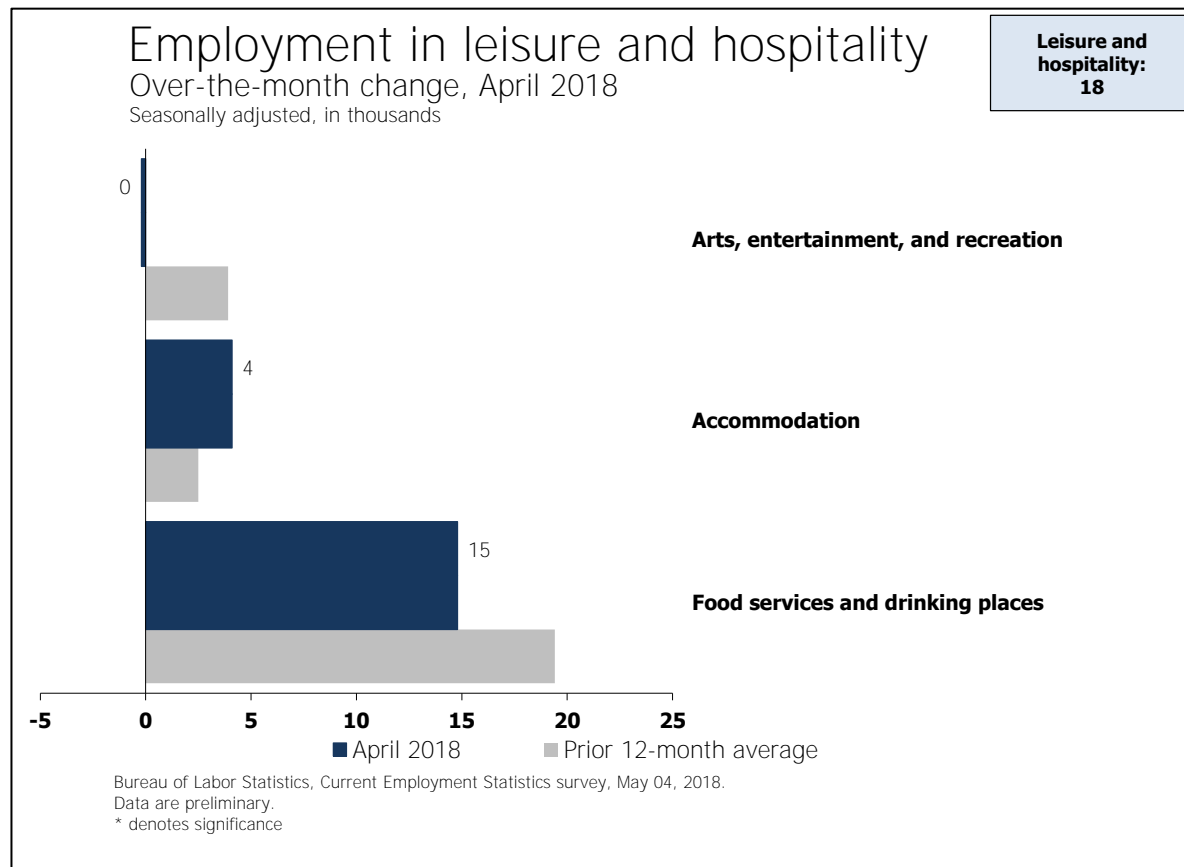
Employment in health care increased by 24,000 in April. Job growth in health care has been fairly consistent, with gains of about 26,000 jobs per month over the past 12 months. Health care has added 98,000 jobs so far in 2018.



Employment in ambulatory health care services continued to trend up in April (+17,000). Its main component industries, including offices of physicians and home health care services, also continued their respective upward trends. Ambulatory health care services has added 202,000 jobs over the past 12 months—a gain of 2.8 percent.

Hospitals added 8,000 jobs in April, in line with recent trend. Hospital employment has continued to grow in 2018 (+36,000). Over the year, hospital employment has increased by 1.9 percent.

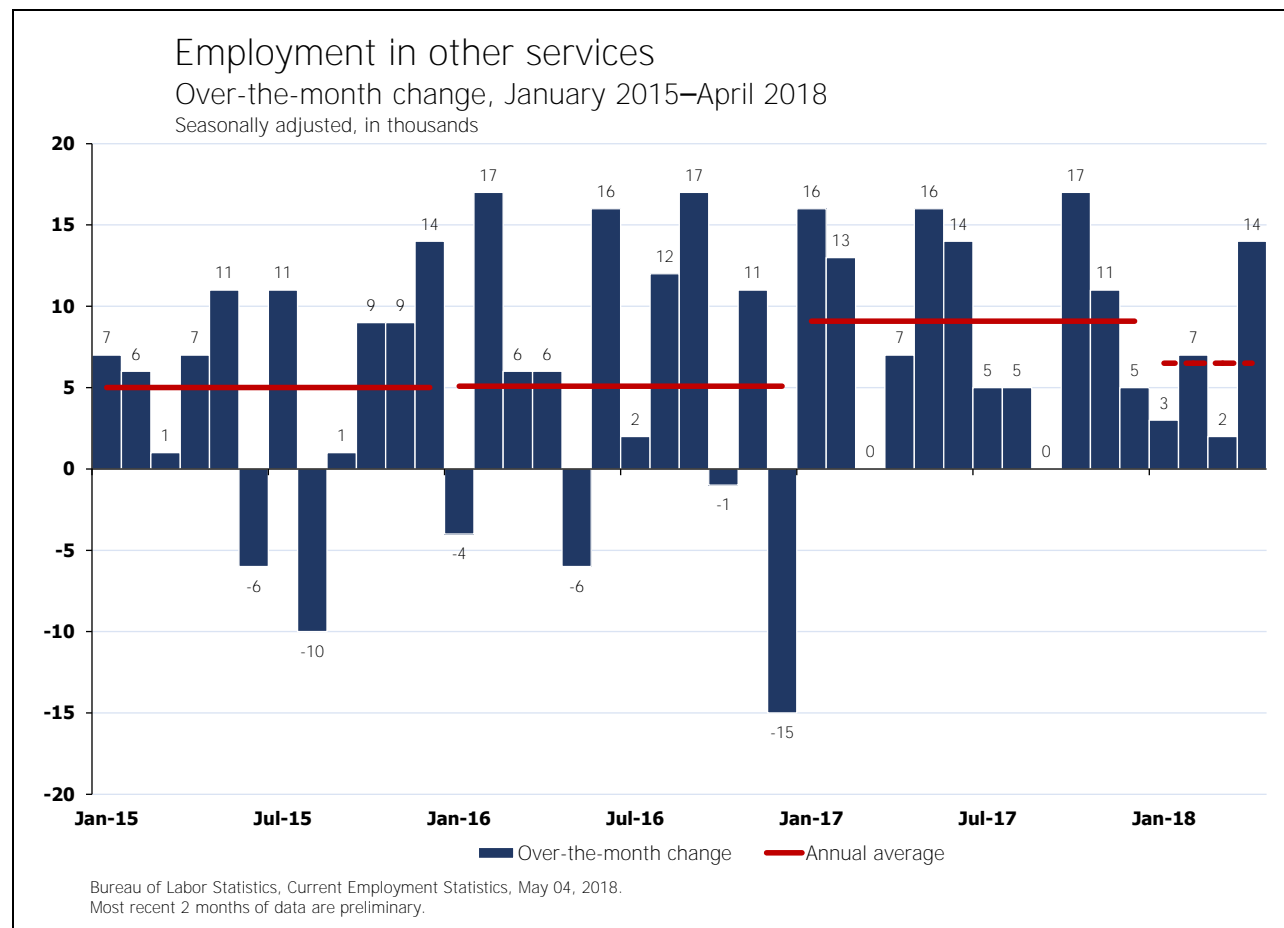
Leisure and Hospitality



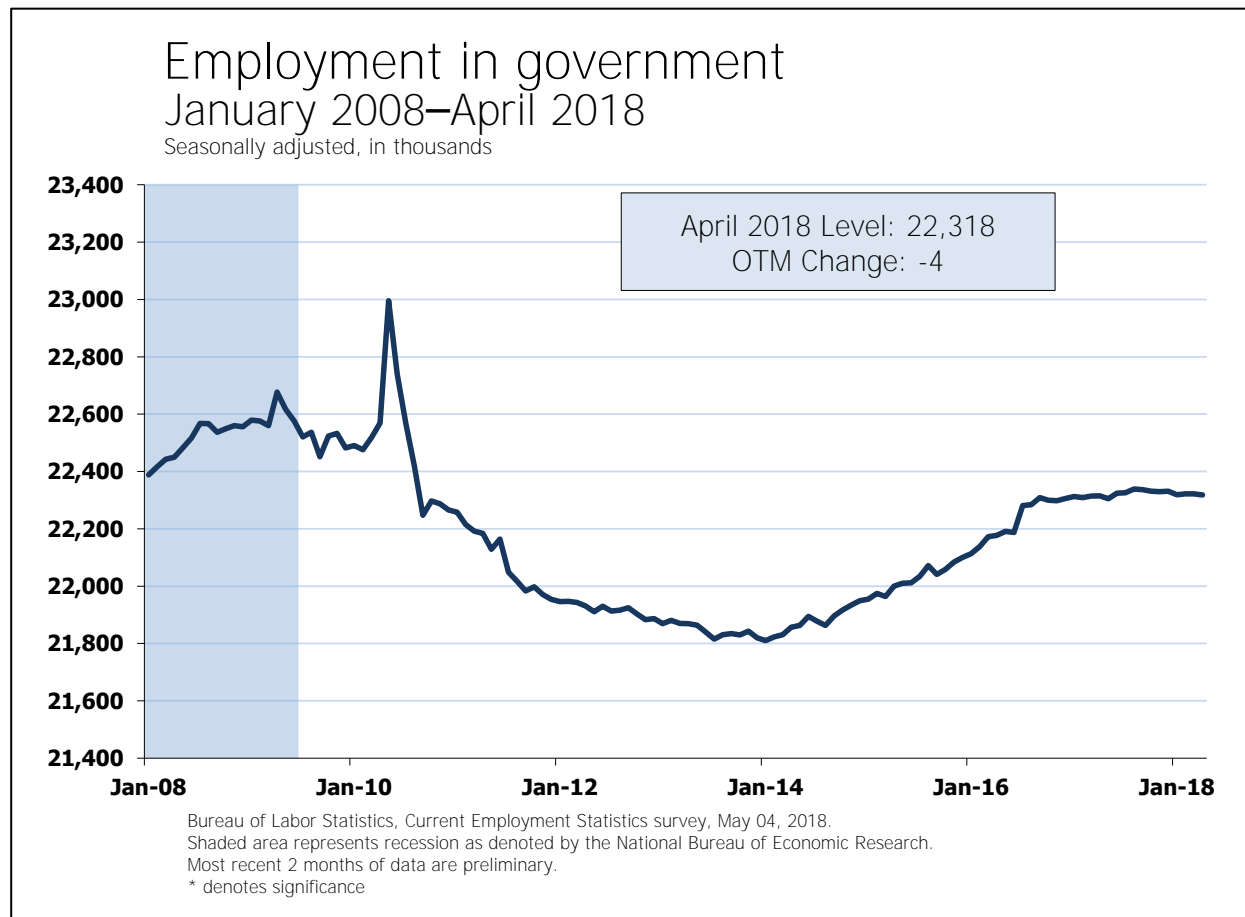
Food services and drinking places employment changed little in April (+15,000). Over the year, this industry has added 228,000 jobs.

Other Services

Employment in other services edged up in April (+14,000). Over the most recent 12 months, the industry has added 99,000 jobs, a change of 1.7 percent. Personal and laundry services accounted for 48 percent of the gains over this period.



Government



Employment in government changed little in April (-4,000). The number of jobs in government has been essentially unchanged since September 2016.



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