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# Current Employment Statistics Highlights



**May 2019**

Release Date: June 7, 2019

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, May 2019

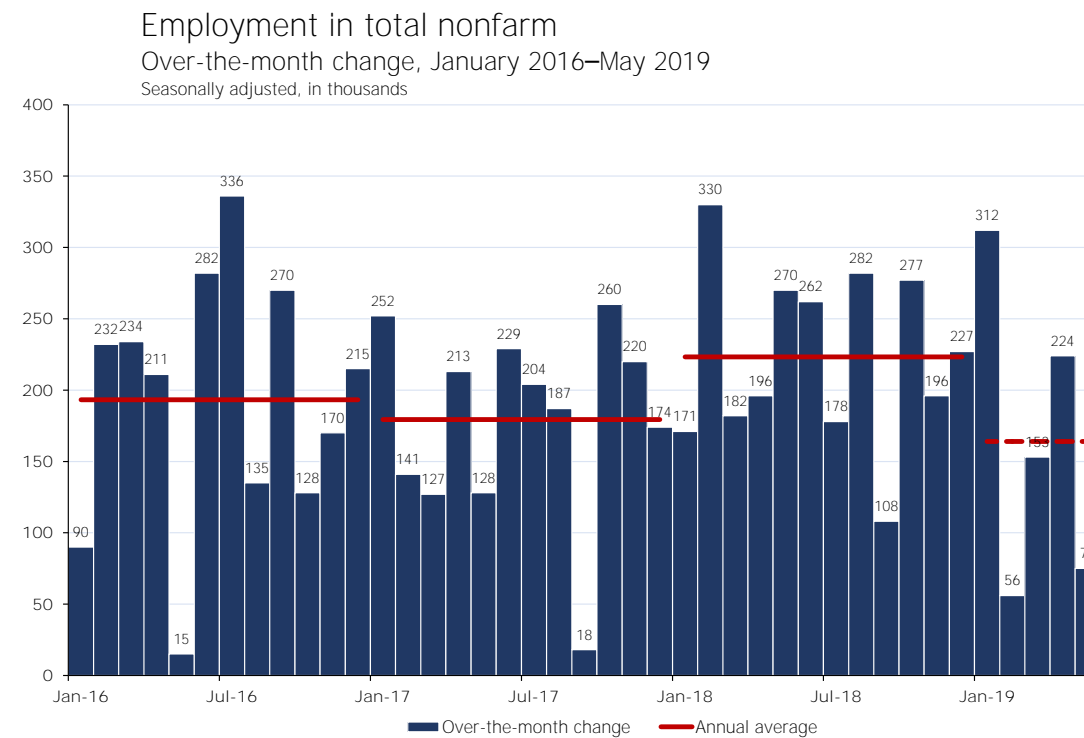
Nonfarm employment edged up in May (+75,000). Thus far in 2019 employment has increased by an average 164,000 per month, compared to 223,000 per month in 2018. In May, employment continued to trend up in professional and business services and in health care.

The employment change for April declined from +263,000 to +224,000, and the change for March declined from +189,000 to +153,000. On net, employment over these months is 75,000 lower than previously reported.

Average hourly earnings rose by 6 cents or 0.2 percent in May. Hourly earnings have increased by 3.1 percent over the year. The workweek, at 34.4 hours, was unchanged in May.

#### +33,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment continued to trend up in professional and business services in May (+33,000). Over the year, the industry has added 498,000 jobs, led by computer systems design and related services with 96,000 jobs added.



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, June 07, 2019.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

#### +27,000 Education and Health Services

Employment continued to trend up in health care in May (+16,000). Over the year, health care providers have added 391,000 jobs. Within social assistance, individual and

family services added 106,000 jobs over the year.

#### +26,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Employment continued to trend up in food services and drinking places in May (+17,000).

## Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, May 2019

This industry has added 301,000 jobs over the past 12 months.

### +4,000 Construction

Construction employment changed little in May. Over the year, the industry has added 215,000 jobs.

### +3,000 Manufacturing

Employment in manufacturing changed little in May. Year to date, employment growth in the industry has slowed to 6,000 per month, compared to 22,000 per month in 2018.

### +1,000 Mining and Logging

Mining employment has shown little change so far in 2019, averaging +1,000 per month. The industry had added 5,000 jobs per month in 2018.

### 0 Transportation and Warehousing

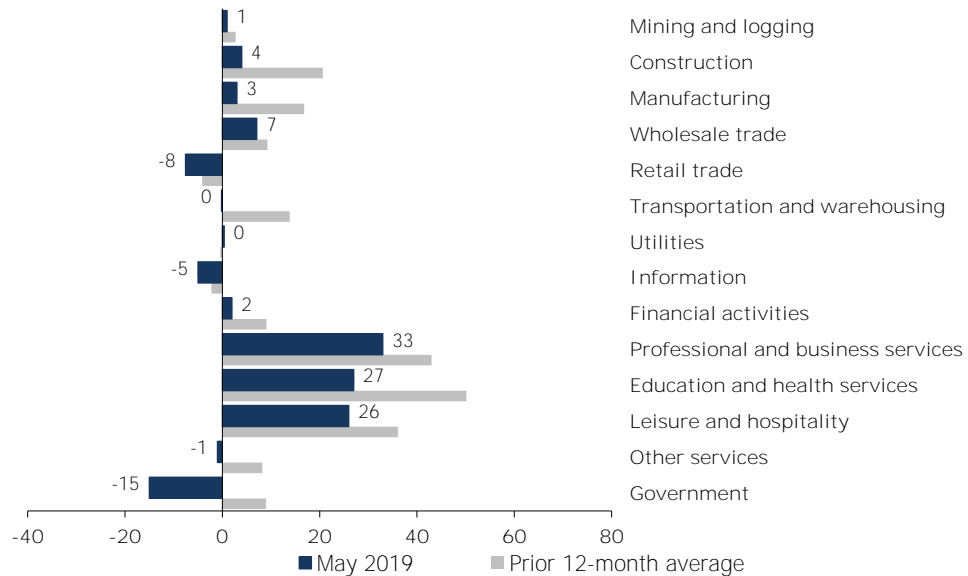
Employment in transportation and warehousing was unchanged in May and has shown little net change since January (-3,000). The industry had added 19,000 jobs per month over the 12 months ending in January.

## Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, May 2019

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:  
75

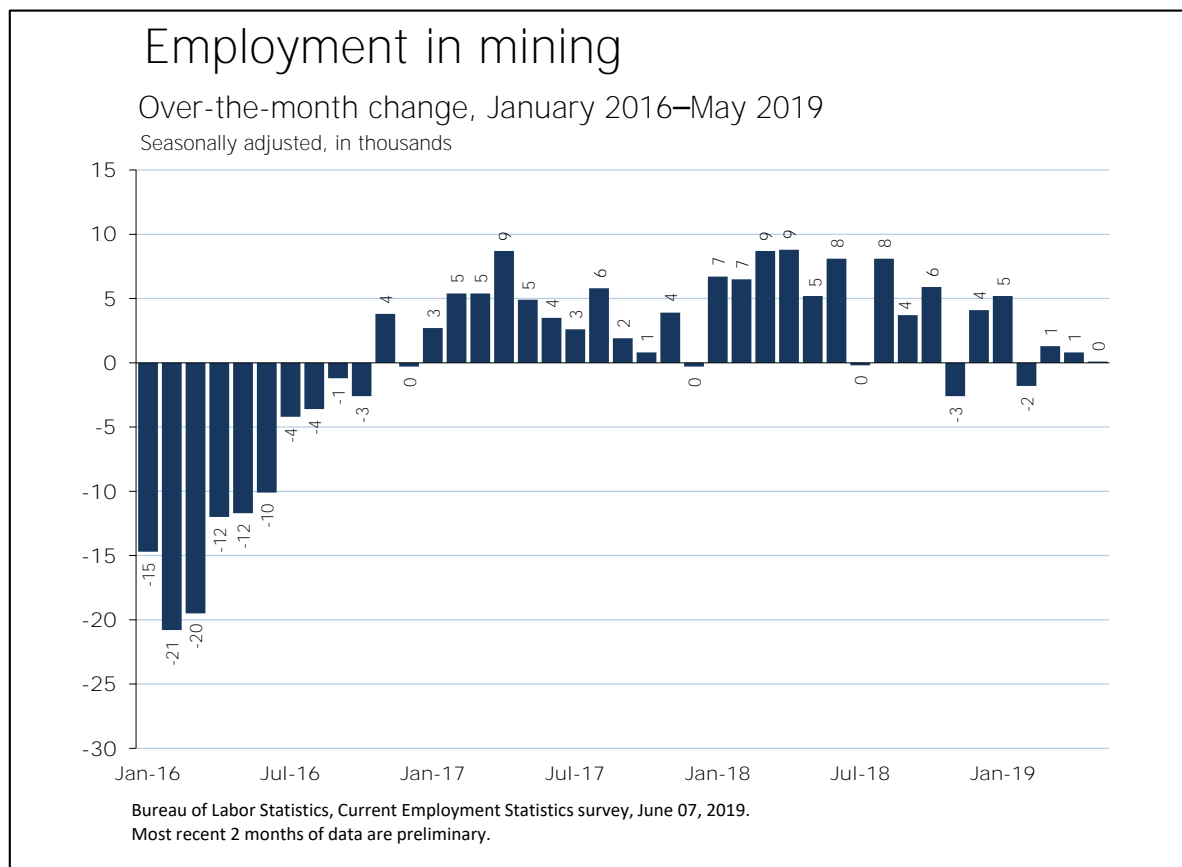


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 07, 2019.  
Data are preliminary.  
\* denotes significance

### -8,000 Retail Trade

Employment in retail trade continued to trend lower in May (-8,000). Since reaching a peak in January 2017, the industry has lost 160,000 jobs.

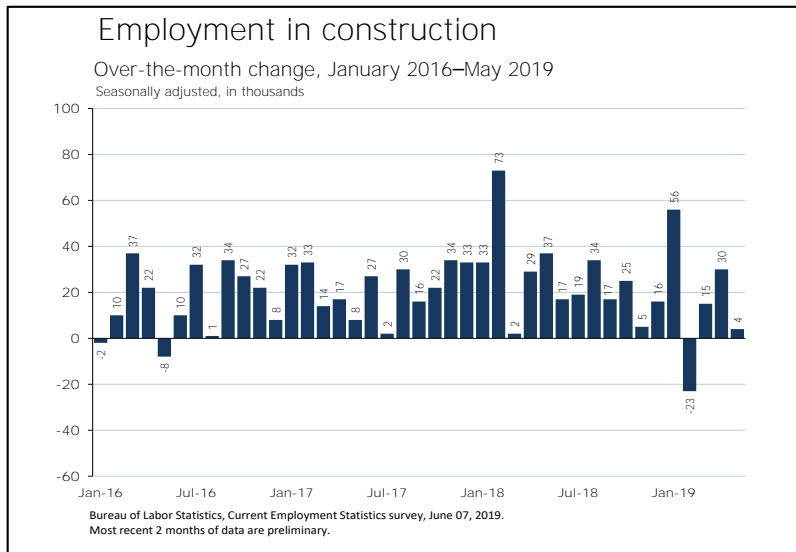
## Mining and Logging



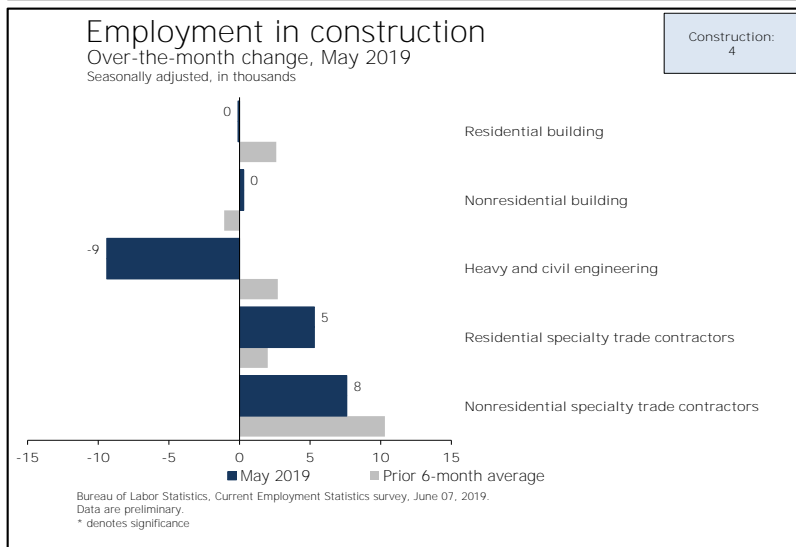
Employment in mining was unchanged in May, as the price of [West Texas Intermediate](#) fell 4.5 percent over the month.

Mining employment rose by an average 5,000 per month in 2018 but has changed by +1,000 per month so far in 2019.

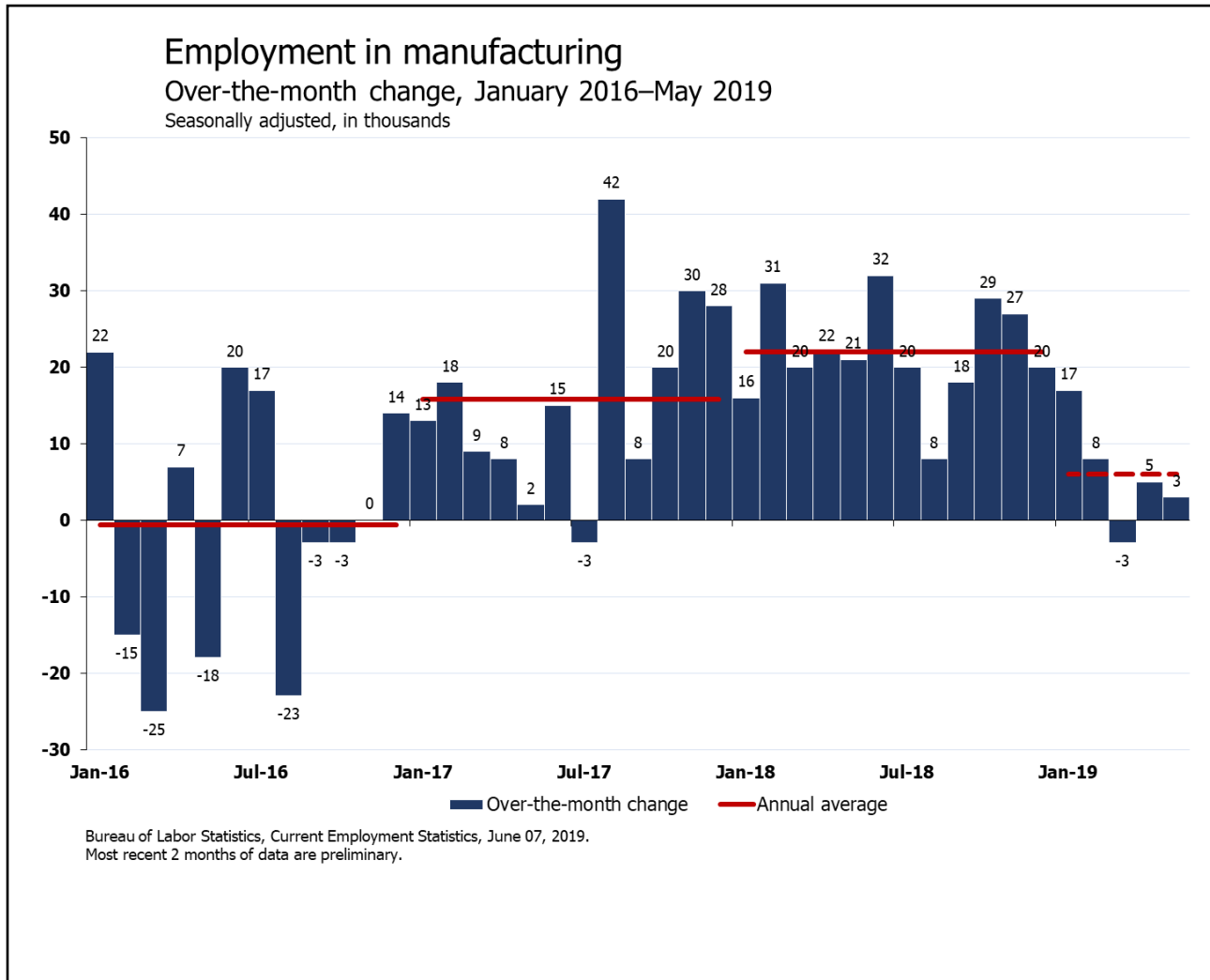
## Construction



Construction employment changed little in May (+4,000), but has grown by 215,000 in the most recent 12 months. Specialty trade contractors employment ticked up by 13,000 and heavy and civil engineering employment ticked down by 9,000. Over the year, specialty trade contractors have added 153,000 jobs while employment in heavy construction has changed little (+30,000).



## Manufacturing

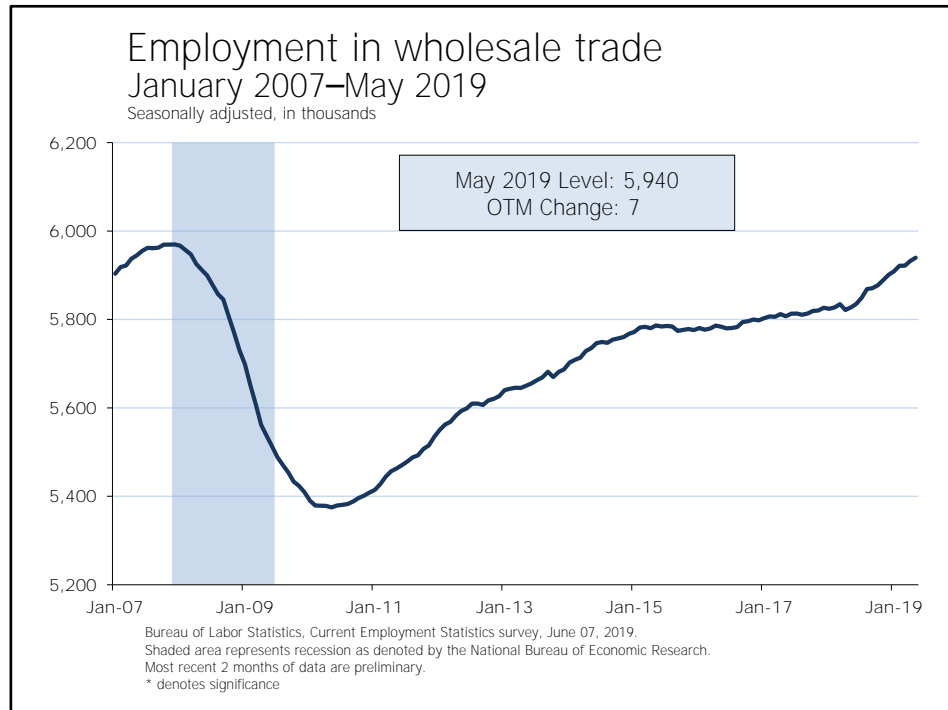


Manufacturing employment was essentially unchanged in May (+3,000), with both durable goods (+4,000) and nondurable goods (-1,000) remaining flat.

The 1-month diffusion index, at 52.0, edged up by 1.3 points. A value above 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than are losing them.

The weakness in May may reflect April decreases in both [industrial production](#) (0.9 percent) and [goods exports](#) (4.2 percent).

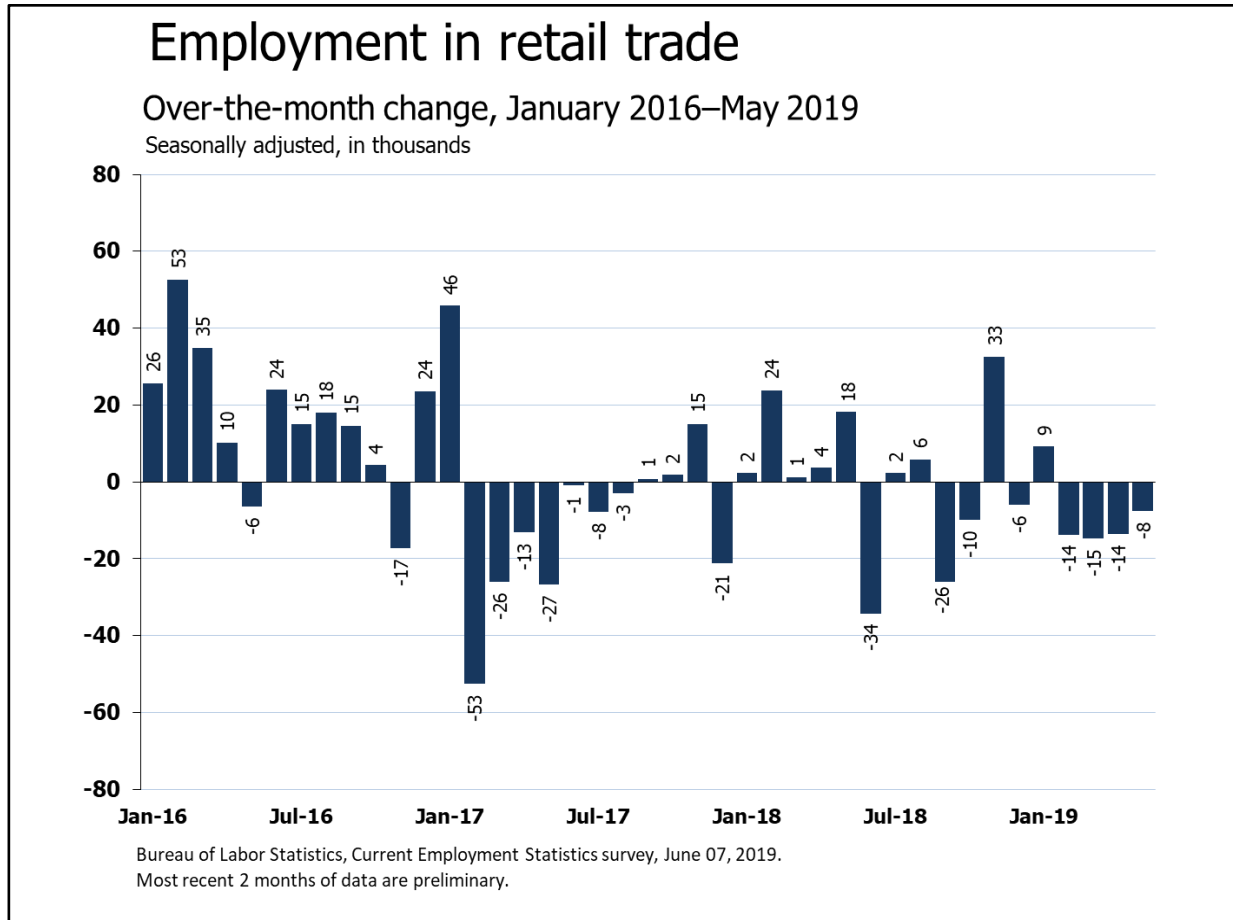
## Wholesale Trade



Employment in wholesale trade continued to trend up in May (+7,000), bringing the 12-month net change to +112,000. Durable goods employment also continued to trend up over the month (+6,000) and has accounted for 71 percent of the job gains in wholesale trade over the year.

As of May, wholesale trade employment was 30,000 short of its December 2007 peak.

### Retail Trade



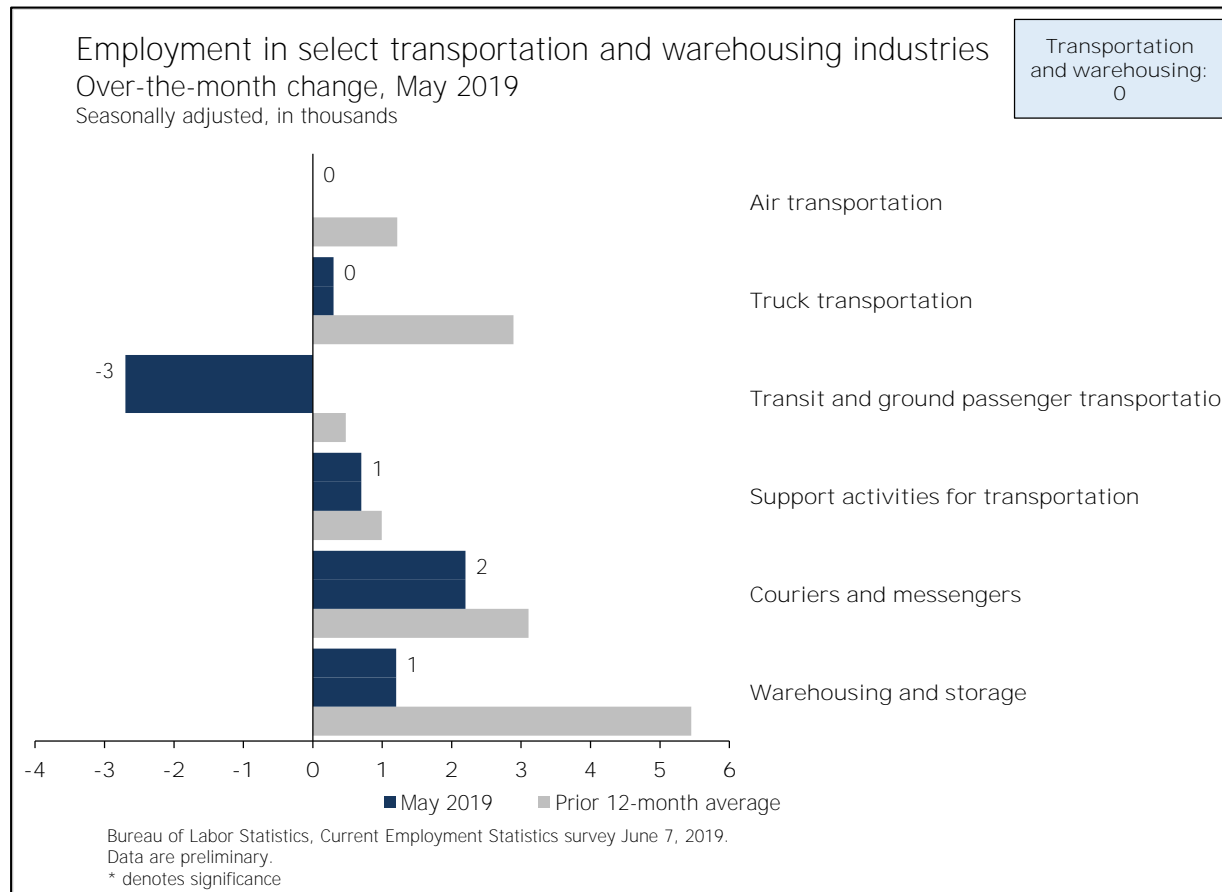
In May, retail trade employment continued to trend downward (-8,000). Since reaching a peak in January 2017, industry employment has declined by 160,000.

Over the month, employment in general merchandise stores increased by 6,000, while employment in clothing and clothing accessories stores declined by 13,000.

Recent retail-related economic indicators have been mixed. The [Consumer Confidence Index](#) increased by 3.8 percent in May. [U.S. Light Weight Vehicle Sales](#) increased by 5.9 percent in May. Contrarily, [Retail Sales](#) declined by 0.2 percent in April.



## Transportation and Warehousing

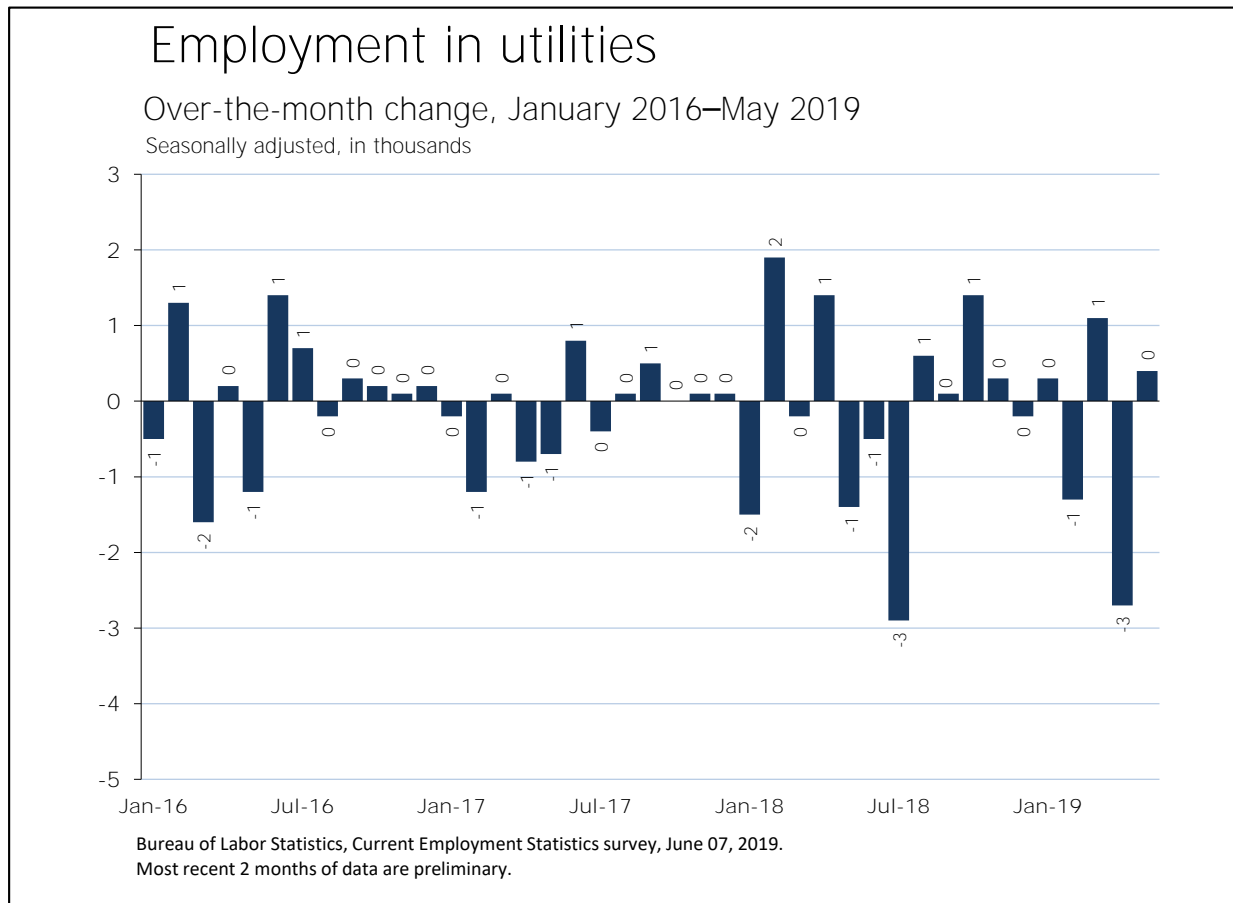


Employment in transportation and warehousing was unchanged in May. So far in 2019, the industry has experienced a marked deceleration. Employment changes in transportation and warehousing have averaged +5,000 per month, compared to +18,000 per month in 2018.

Among the major component industries, only rail transportation (-1,000) and pipeline transportation (+1,000) experienced significant offsetting changes.

## Utilities

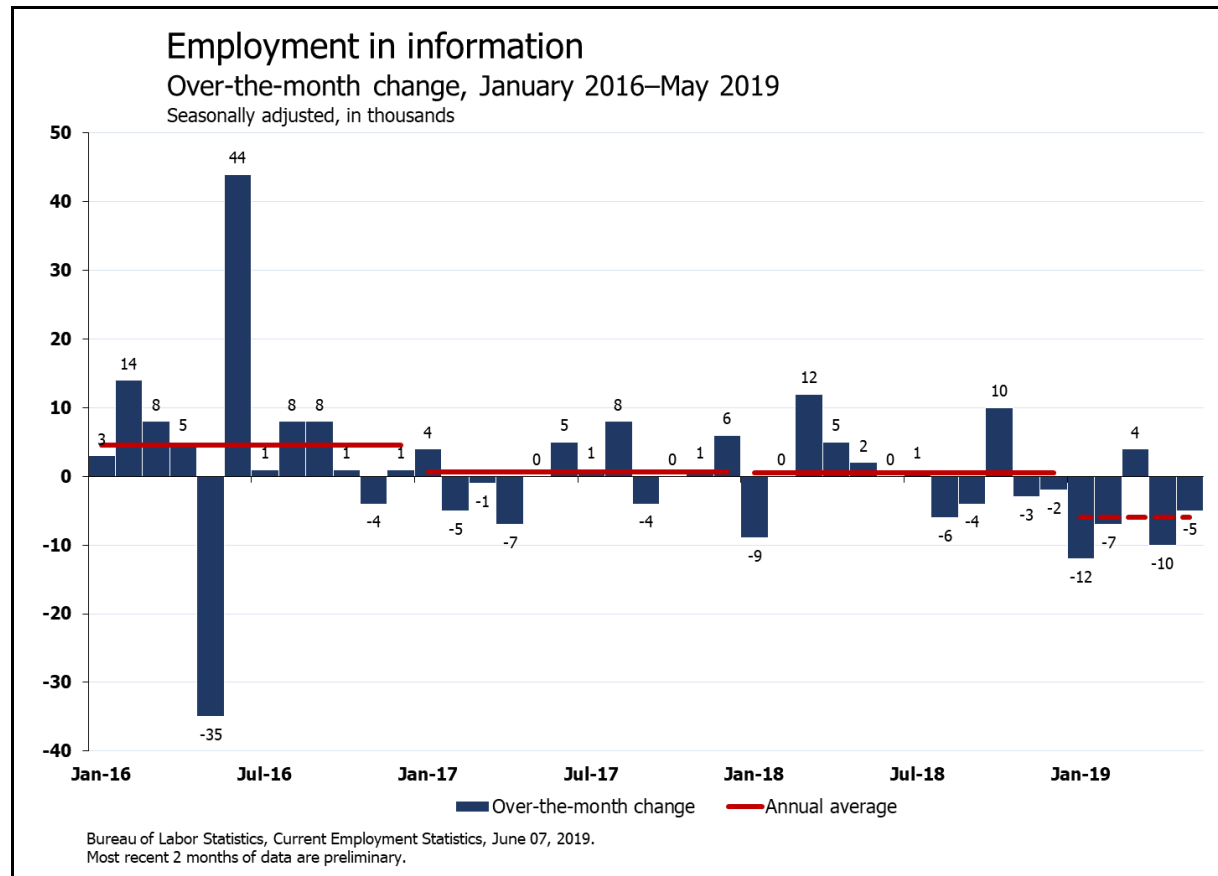
Employment in utilities was unchanged in May.



## Information

Information employment was flat in May (-5,000), and has changed little over the year. No component industries gained or lost a significant number of jobs in May.

Telecommunications employment has decreased by 37,000 over the year, while other information services—such as news syndicates, libraries and archives, and web search portals—have added 23,000 jobs during the same period.

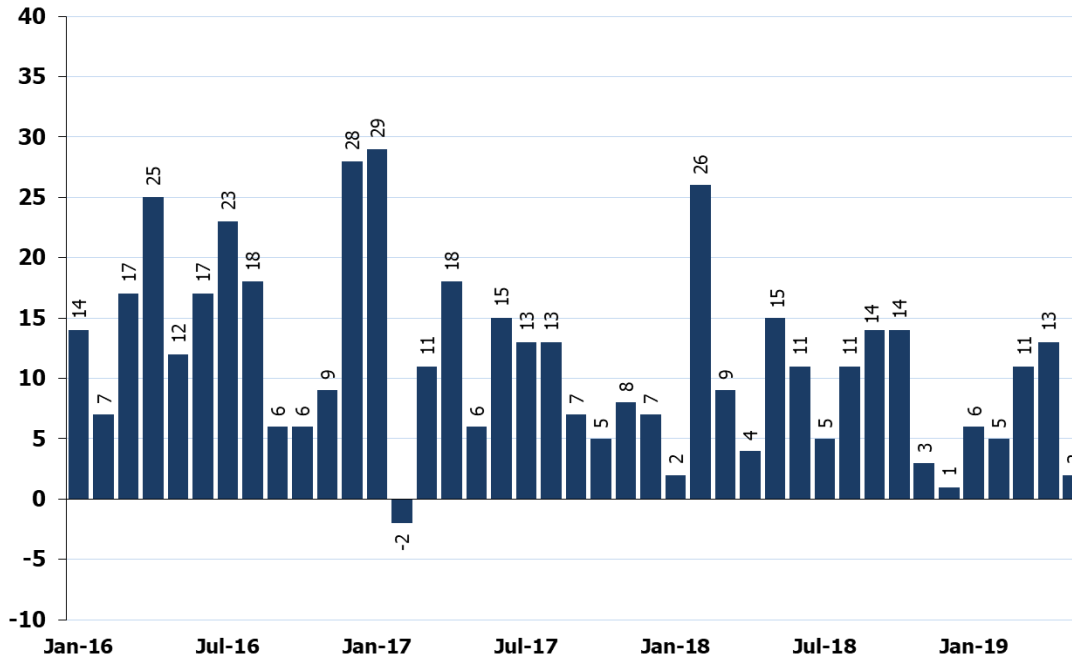


## Financial Activities

### Employment in financial activities

Over-the-month change, January 2016–May 2019

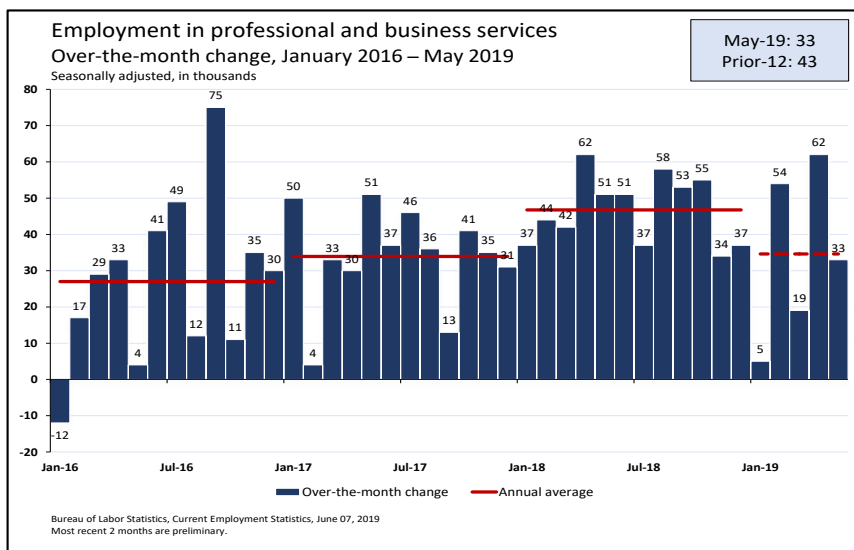
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 07, 2019.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in financial activities changed little in May (+2,000). Over the past 12 months, financial activities has added 96,000 jobs, with real estate and rental and leasing accounting for 82 percent of the gain.

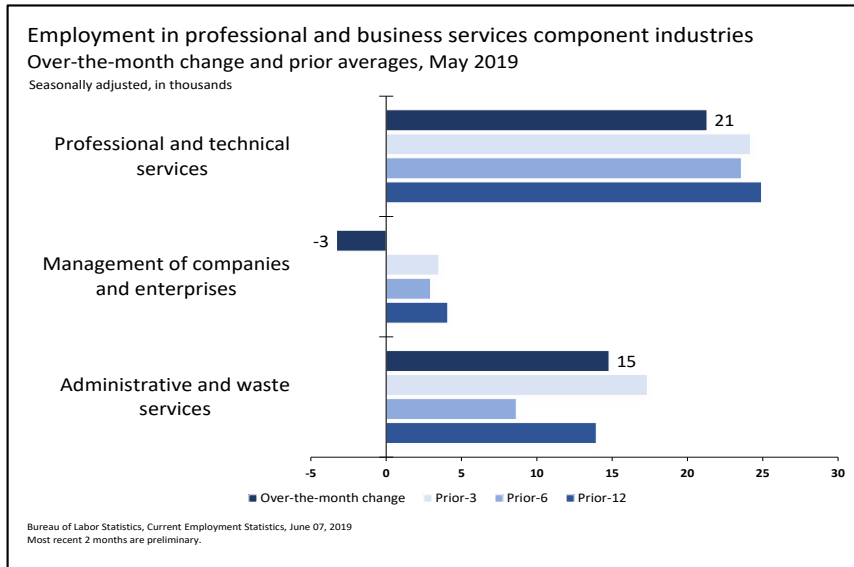
## Professional and Business Services



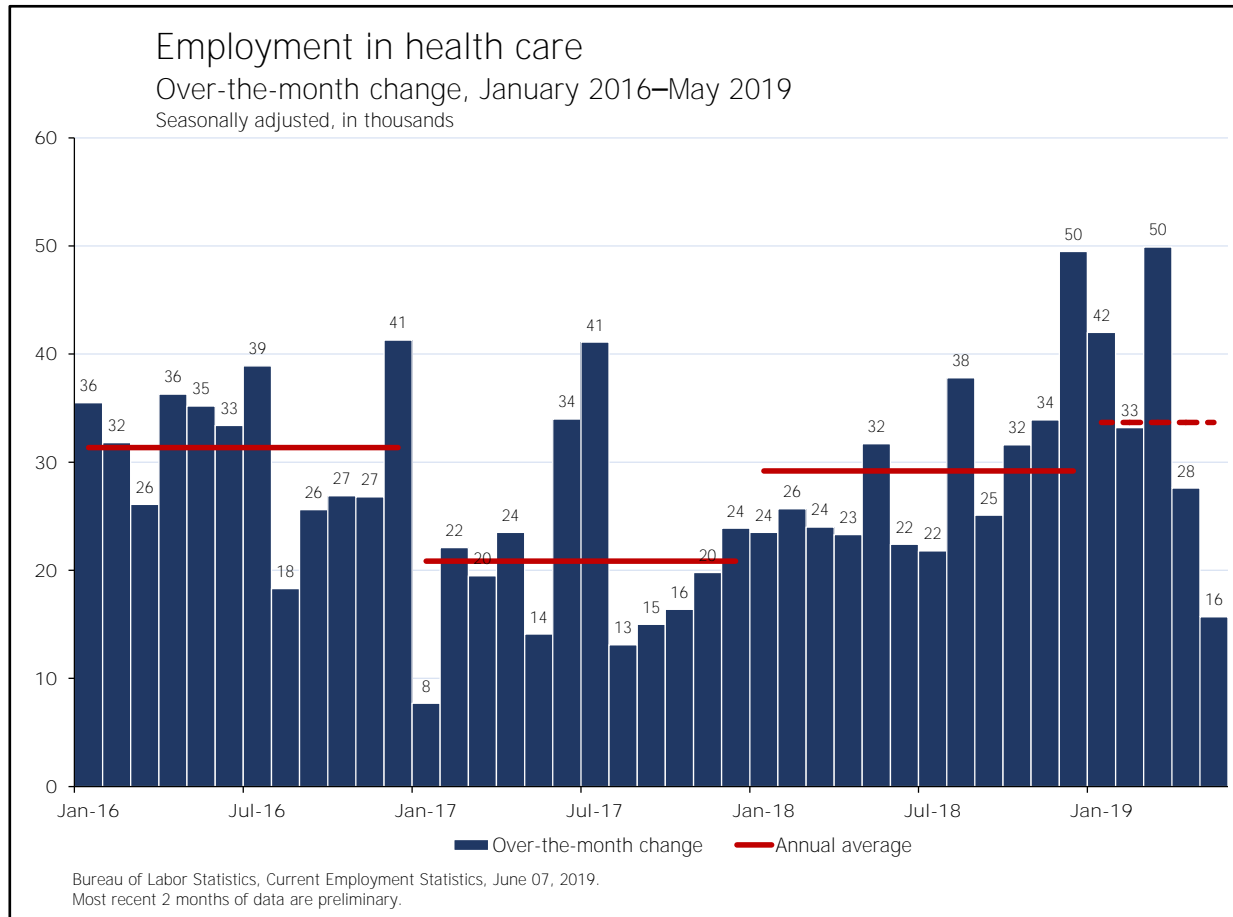
Employment in professional and business services trended up by 30,000 in May, in line with the year-to-date average change of +35,000.

In May, employment changes in both professional and technical services (+21,000) and administrative and waste services (+15,000) were in line with their respective prior average monthly changes, while management of companies and enterprises edged down by 3,000 jobs.

Temporary help services employment changed little in May (+5,000), and remains little changed thus far in 2019 (-15,000).



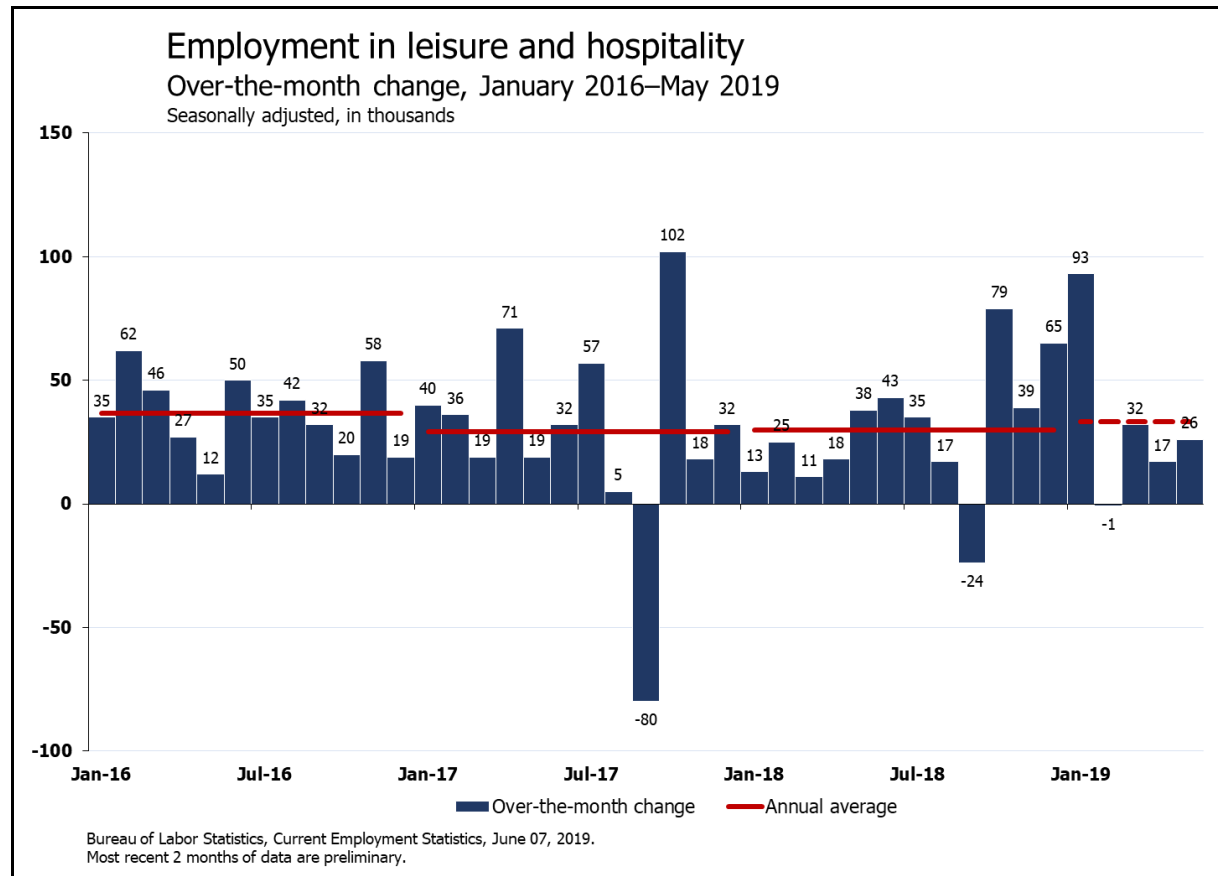
### Private Education and Health Services



Health care employment continued to trend up in May (+16,000). Employment in ambulatory health care services trended up (+12,000). Hospital employment changed little over the month (+3,000). Over the last year, health care has added 391,000 jobs.

## Leisure and Hospitality

Within leisure and hospitality, employment in foods services and drinking places continued to trend up in May (+17,000) and has increased by 301,000 over the year.

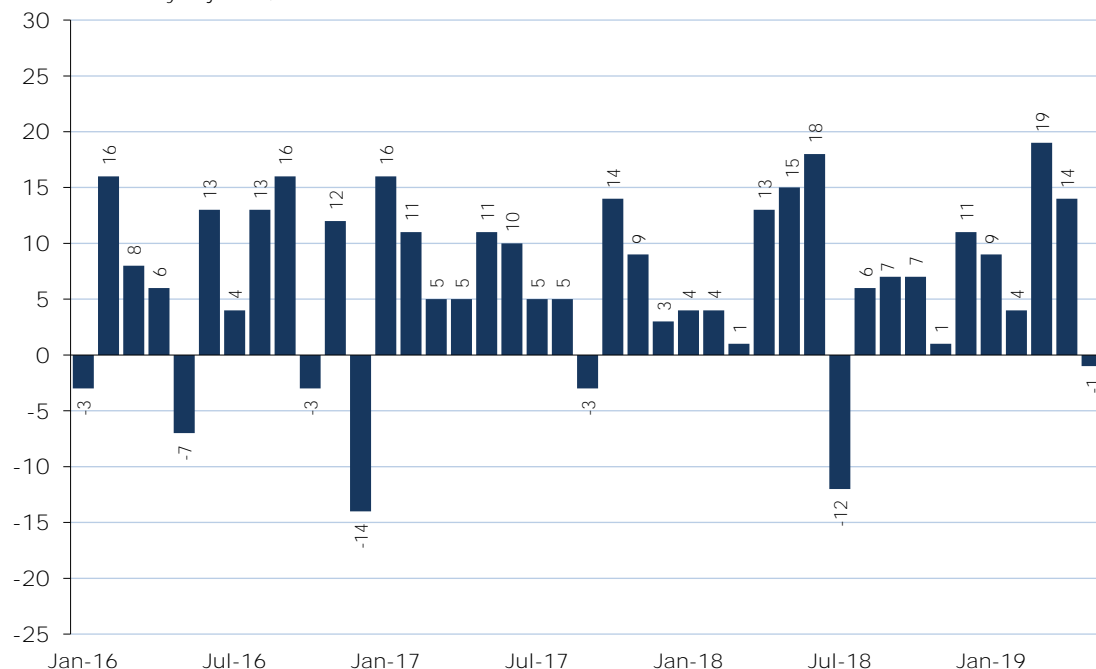


## Other Services

### Employment in other services

Over-the-month change, January 2016–May 2019

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

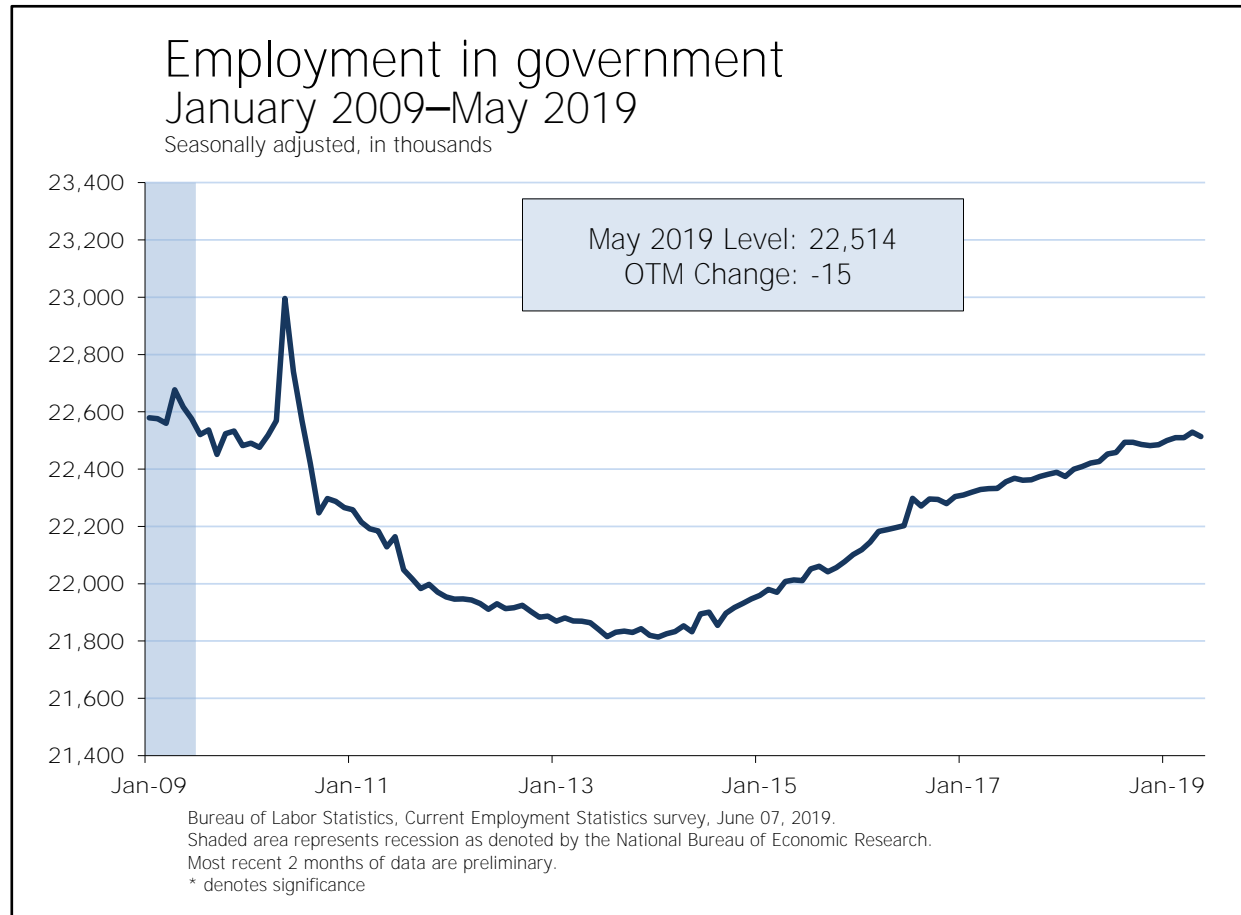


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 07, 2019.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in other services changed little in May (-1,000). Over the most recent 12 months, the industry has added 83,000 jobs. Personal and laundry services and membership associations and organizations each accounted for 32,000 of this gain.



## Government



Employment in government changed little in May (-15,000). Federal government employment increased by 4,000. Hiring for the decennial census was negligible. State government employment and local government employment changed little over the month.



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