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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



December 2015

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Prepared by Staff of the National Estimates Branch
Current Employment Statistics Survey
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, December 2015

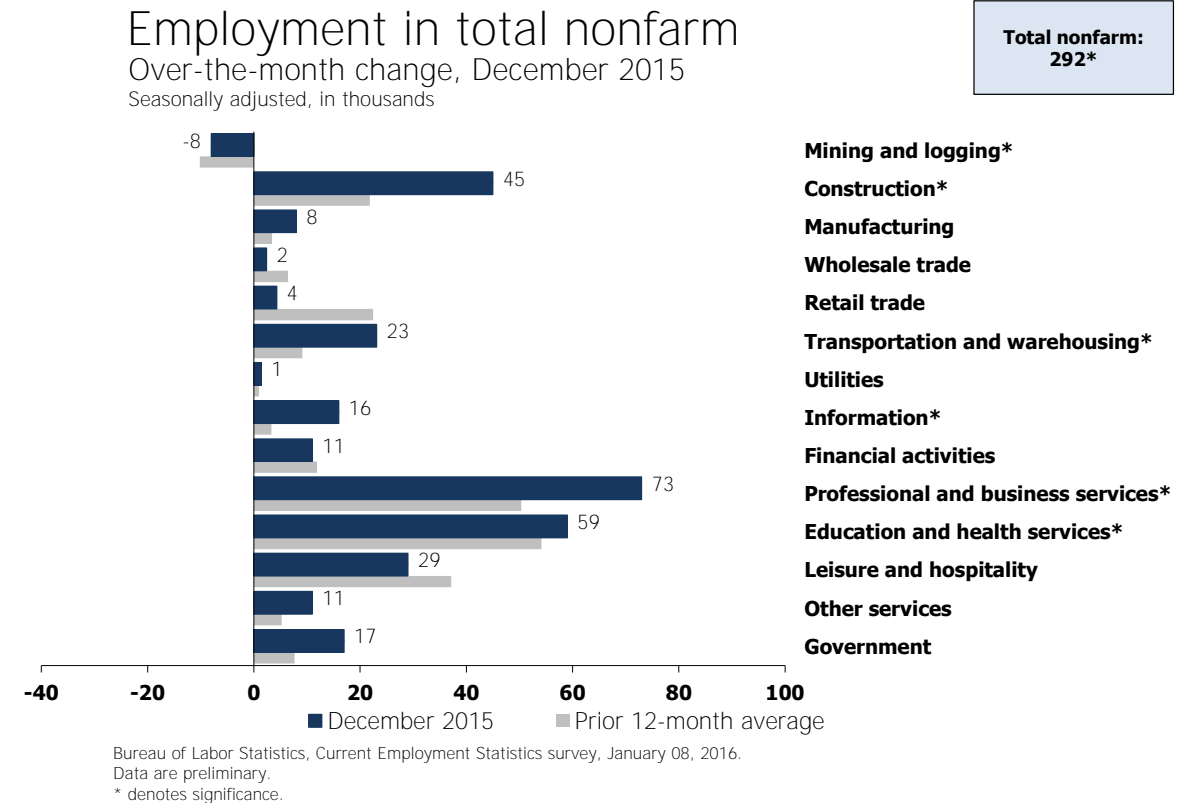
Nonfarm employment increased by 292,000 in December. Over the year, job growth totaled 2.7 million, compared with 3.1 million in 2014. In December, professional and business services, construction, health care, transportation and warehousing, and food services and drinking places added jobs. Mining lost jobs.

The employment change for October revised up from +298,000 to +307,000, and the change for November revised up from +211,000 to +252,000. Incorporating revisions, employment has increased by an average 284,000 per month over the past 3 months

Average hourly earnings for all employees on private, nonfarm payrolls changed little in December (-1 cent), following a 5-cent gain in November. Hourly earnings are up 2.5 percent over the year. In December, average weekly hours for all employees held at 34.5 hours.

+73,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment rose by 59,000 in administration and waste services; more than half of the increase came in temporary help services (+34,000). Employment continued to trend up in professional and technical services (+11,000).



Over the year, employment in professional and business services grew by 605,000, compared to growth of 704,000 in 2014.

+45,000 Construction

In December, construction added 45,000 jobs, with growth concentrated in construction of buildings (+10,000) and specialty trade contractors (+29,000). Over the year, construction added 263,000 jobs, compared with 338,000 jobs gained in 2014.

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, December 2015

+59,000 Education and Health Services

Employment in health care rose by 39,000 in December. Health care employment expanded by 475,000 in 2015, compared with a gain of 309,000 in 2014.

In December, employment rose in ambulatory health care services (+23,000) and hospitals (+12,000). Since reaching an employment trough in February 2014, hospitals have added 221,000 jobs; 78 percent of this gain occurred in 2015.

+23,000 Transportation and warehousing

Employment in transportation and warehousing rose by 23,000 in December. Within the industry, couriers and messengers added 15,000 jobs.

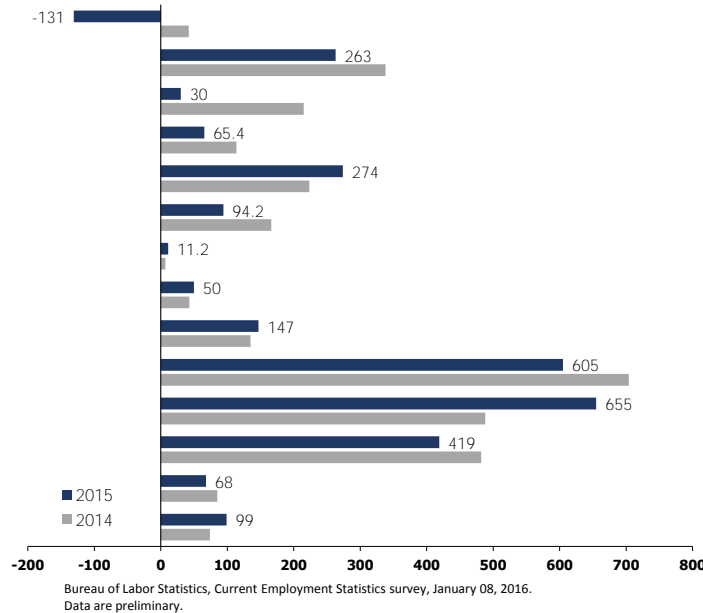
+16,000 Information

Within information, motion picture and sound recording added 15,000 jobs in December, offsetting jobs lost in November (-13,000).

+29,000 Leisure and Hospitality

Food services and drinking places added 37,000 jobs in December. In 2015, the industry added 357,000 payroll jobs, compared with 401,000 jobs gained in 2014.

Employment in total nonfarm
Over-the-year change, 2014 and 2015
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Total nonfarm:
2014: +3,116; 2015: +2,650
Total private:
2014: +3,042; 2015: +2,551

- Mining and logging
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Wholesale trade
- Retail trade
- Transportation and warehousing
- Utilities
- Information
- Financial activities
- Professional and business services
- Education and health services
- Leisure and hospitality
- Other services
- Government

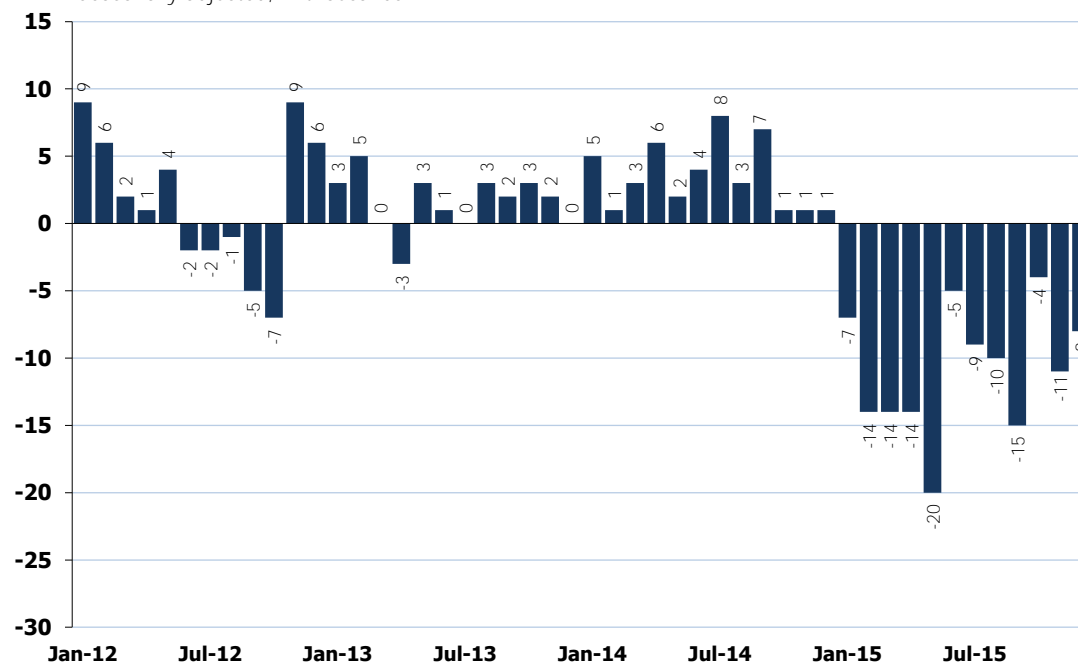
-8,000 Mining and logging

Since reaching a peak in December 2014, mining employment has declined by 129,000, including 8,000 jobs lost in December 2015. Support activities for mining accounts for 98,000 of the jobs lost over the year, including a loss of 6,000 jobs in December 2015.

Mining and Logging

Employment in mining and logging

Over-the-month change, January 2012–December 2015
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, January 08, 2016.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Mining and logging employment decreased by 8,000 in December. This was the industry's twelfth consecutive month of employment decline. Mining and logging has lost 131,000 jobs since December 2014.

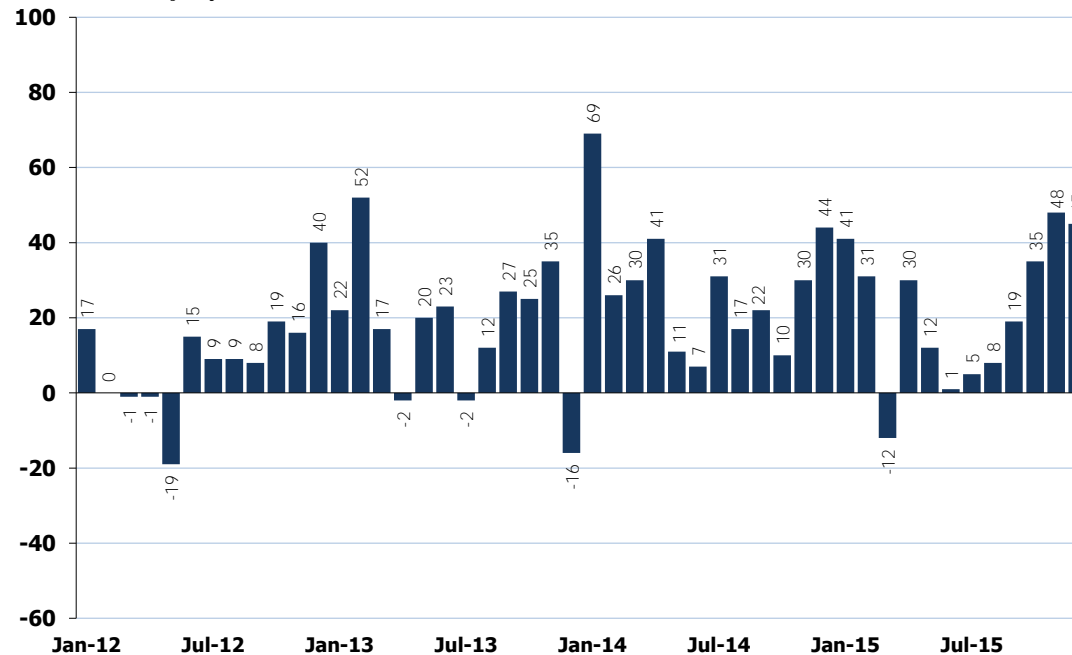
Mining drives the employment trend in this sector and accounts for essentially all losses over the month (-8,000) and over the year (-129,000). These losses were concentrated in support activities for mining.

Construction

Employment in construction

Over-the-month change, January 2012–December 2015

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

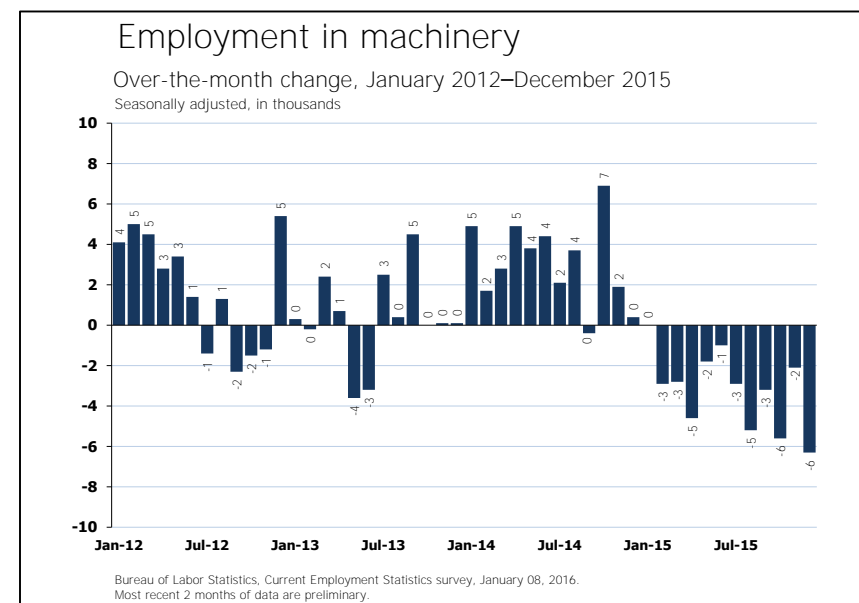
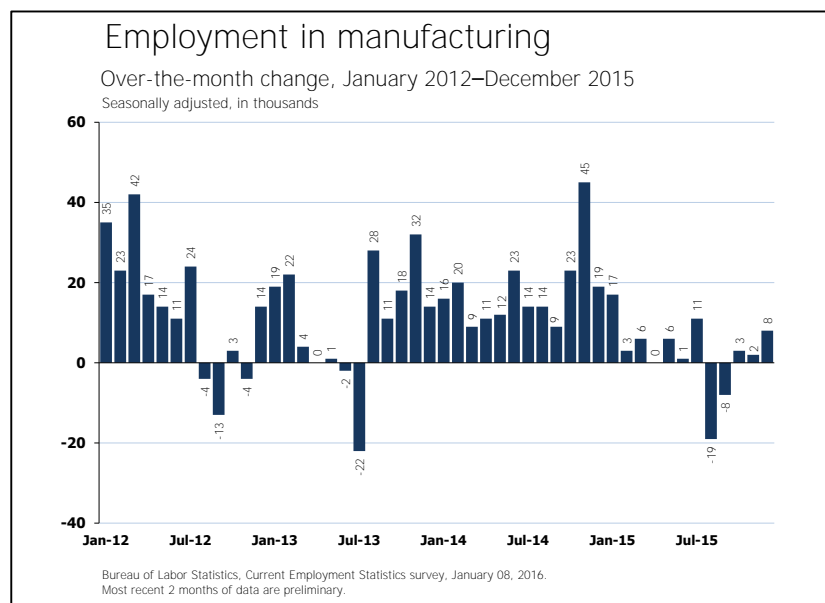


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Construction added 45,000 jobs in December. Since its most recent trough in January 2011, construction has regained 48.2-percent of the 2.3 million jobs lost between April 2006 and January 2011.

In December, construction of buildings added 10,000 jobs, surpassing its prior 12-month average (+4,000). Specialty trade contractors added 29,000 jobs, most of which came from residential specialty trade contractors (+18,000).

Manufacturing



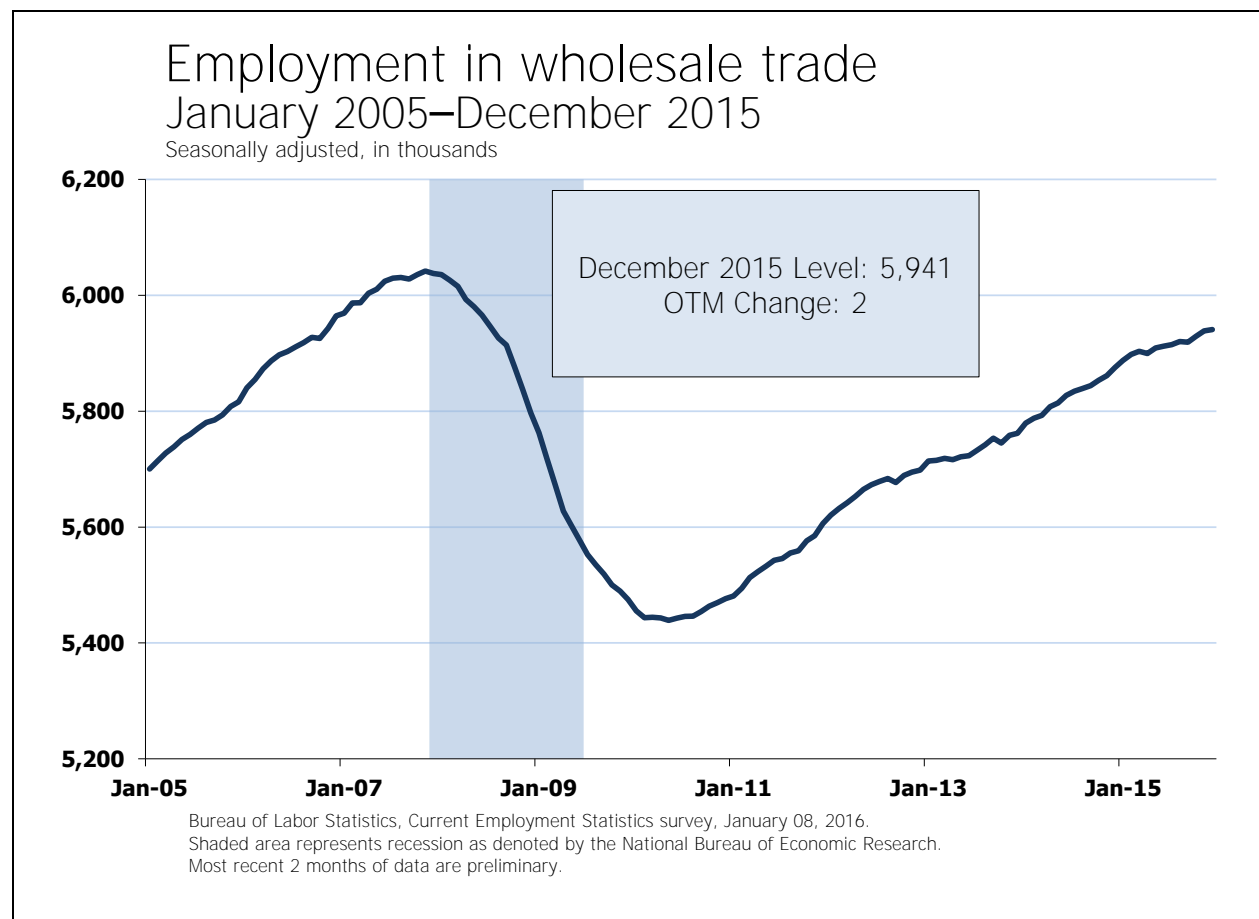
Manufacturing employment changed little in December (+8,000). For the year, manufacturing employment also was little changed (+30,000), well below the increase in 2014 (+215,000). In December, nondurable goods gained 14,000 jobs, more than offsetting losses in machinery (-6,000) and primary metals (-3,000). For the year, durable goods employment changed little (-16,000), while nondurable goods added 46,000 jobs.

In December, average weekly hours for all employees in manufacturing edged down 0.1 hour to 40.6 hours and were unchanged for production employees at 41.7 hours.

NAICS 333 – Machinery

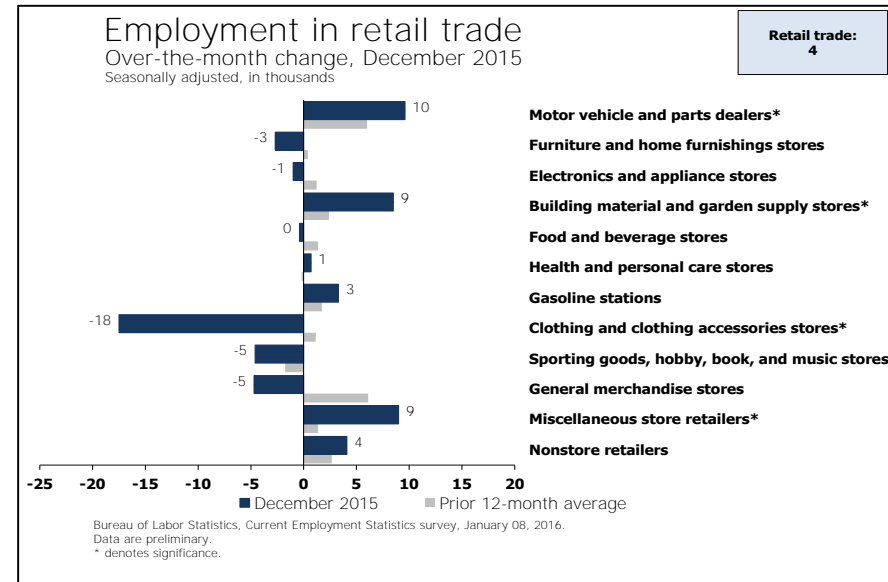
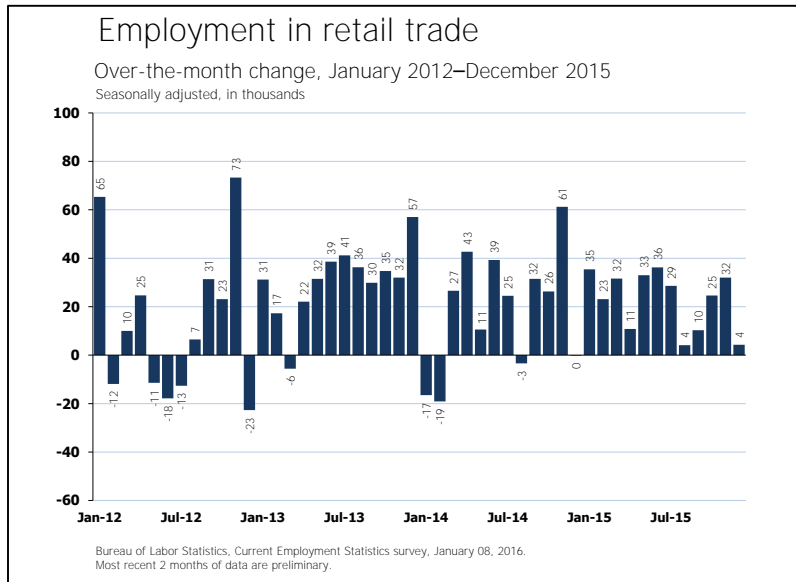
Machinery lost 6,000 jobs during the month and has experienced 11 months of consecutive job losses. Machinery lost 38,000 jobs over the year, mostly in the mining and oil and gas machinery component.

Wholesale Trade



Employment in wholesale trade changed little (+2,000) in December. The industry added 65,000 jobs in 2015, compared to a gain of 114,000 jobs in 2014.

Retail Trade



In December, retail trade employment changed little (+4,000). Over the year, the industry added 274,000 jobs.

NAICS 441 – Motor vehicle and parts dealers

Motor vehicle and parts dealers added 10,000 jobs in December, bringing the current 12-month gain to 75,000 jobs. Employment growth in 2015 coincides with record sales in the automotive industry (Source: [CNBC](#)).

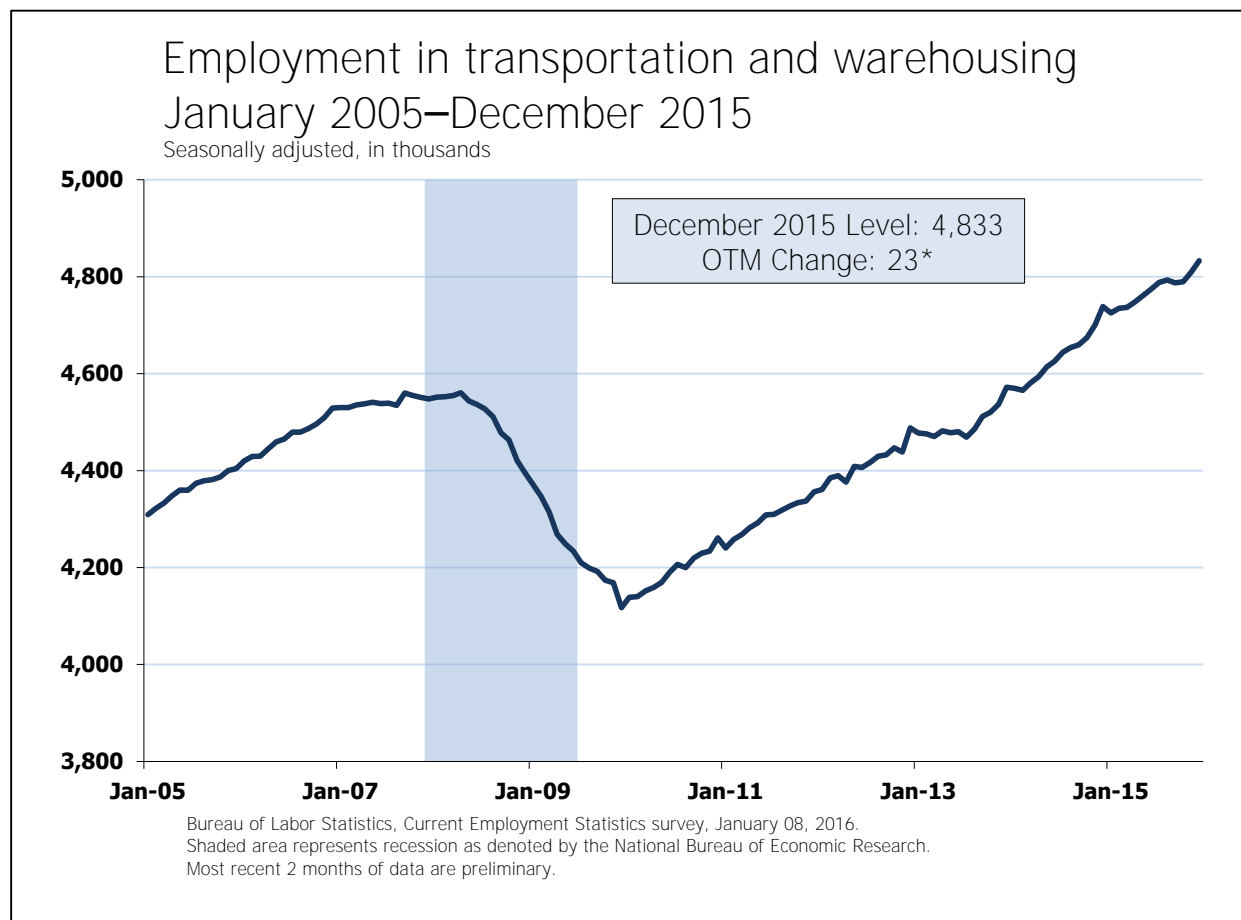
NAICS 444 – Building material and garden supply stores

Building material and garden supply stores gained 9,000 jobs in December. Recent employment gains in this industry coincide with employment increases in residential construction. Building material and garden supply stores gained 33,000 jobs over the year.

NAICS 448 – Clothing and clothing accessories stores

Clothing and clothing accessories stores employment declined in December (-18,000). Employment in this industry has shown little net change over the year (+7,000).

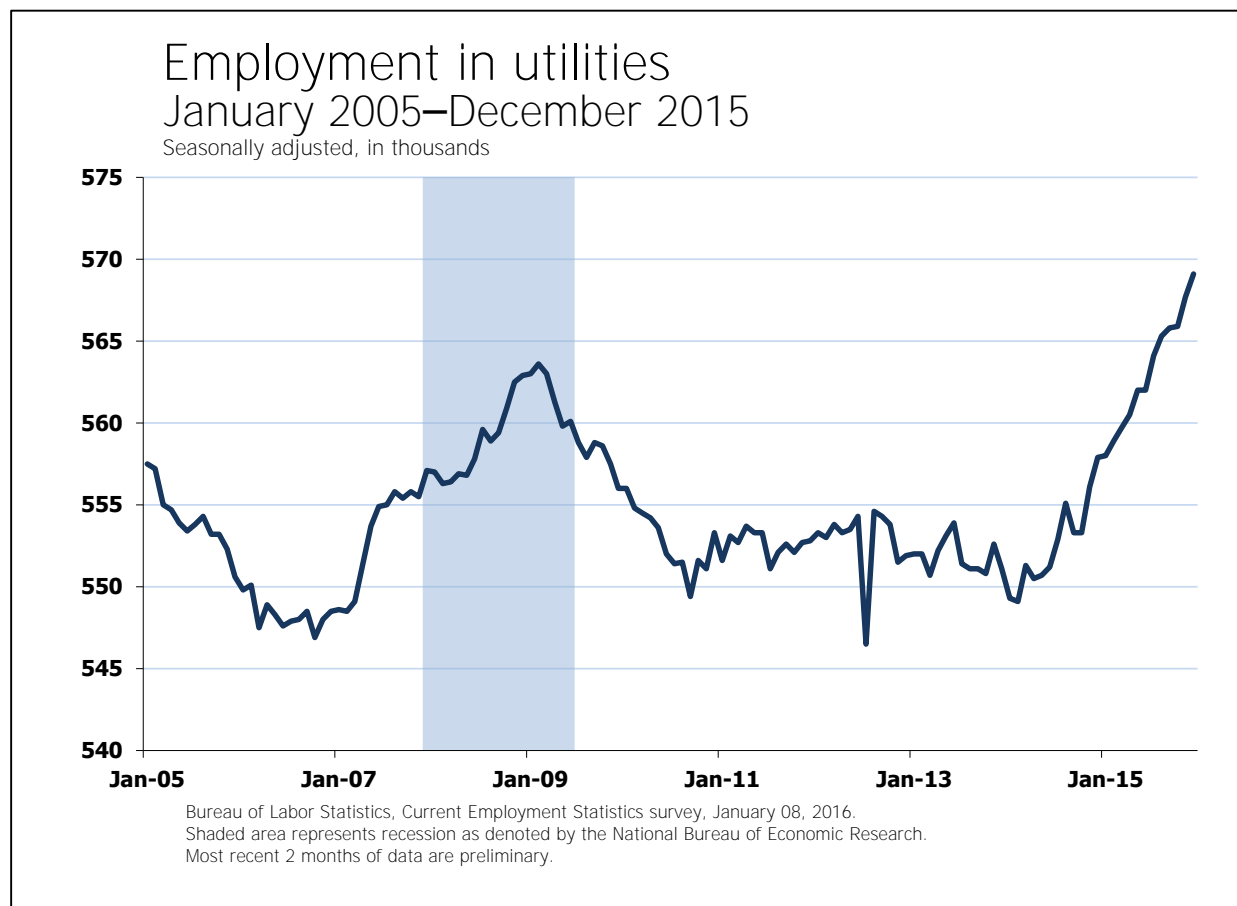
Transportation and Warehousing



Transportation and warehousing added 23,000 jobs in December. Over the year, employment is up by 94,000.

Couriers and messengers added 15,000 jobs in December. Employment in the industry was up by 36,000 in the 4th quarter, likely driven by strong e-commerce sales (Source: [Bloomberg](#) and [Time](#)).

Utilities



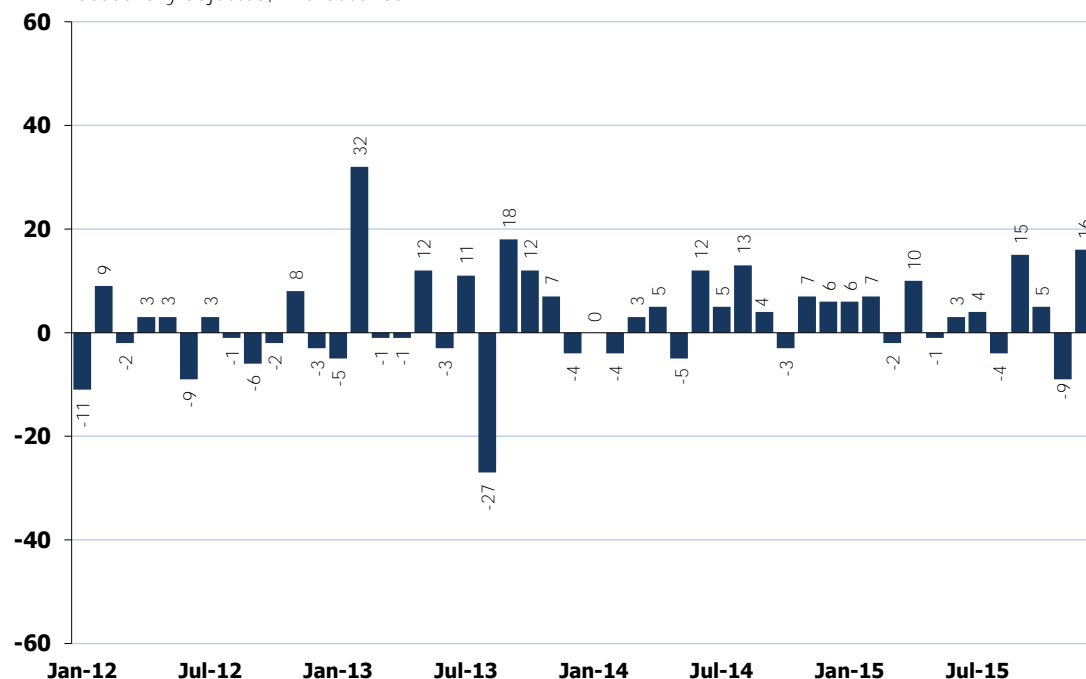
Utilities employment changed little in December (+1,000), in line with the industry's prior 12-month average change.

Information

Employment in information

Over-the-month change, January 2012–December 2015

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



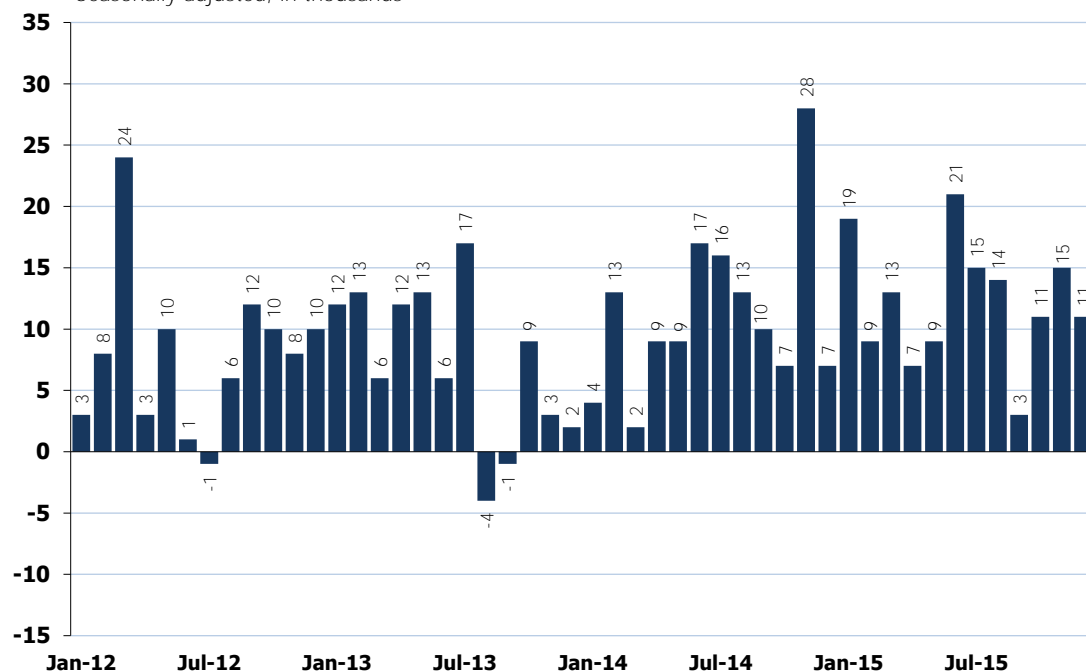
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, January 08, 2016.
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Information employment increased by 16,000 in December, more than offsetting a loss of 9,000 in November. Motion picture and sound recording industries accounted for virtually all of the employment movements over the past 2 months. Information added 50,000 jobs in 2015, a gain of 1.8 percent.

Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities

Over-the-month change, January 2012–December 2015
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

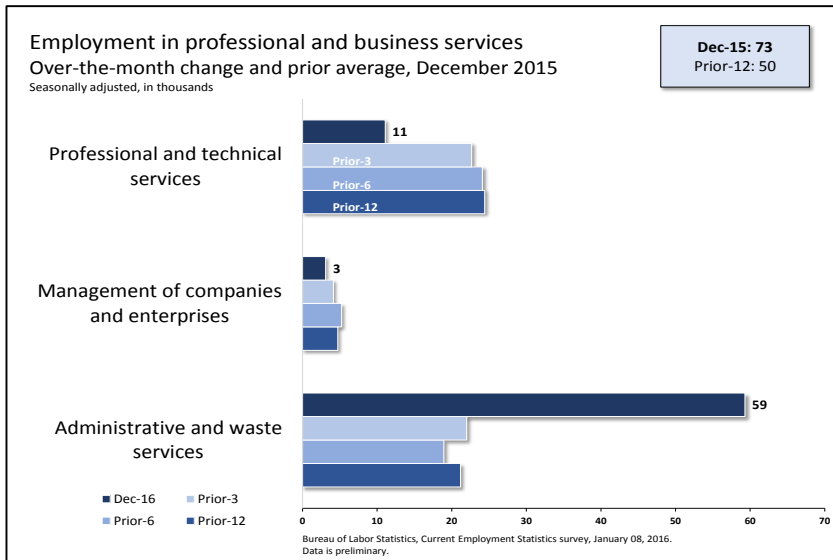


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, January 08, 2016.
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Employment in financial activities continued to trend up in December (+11,000), in line with its prior 12-month average change of 12,000.

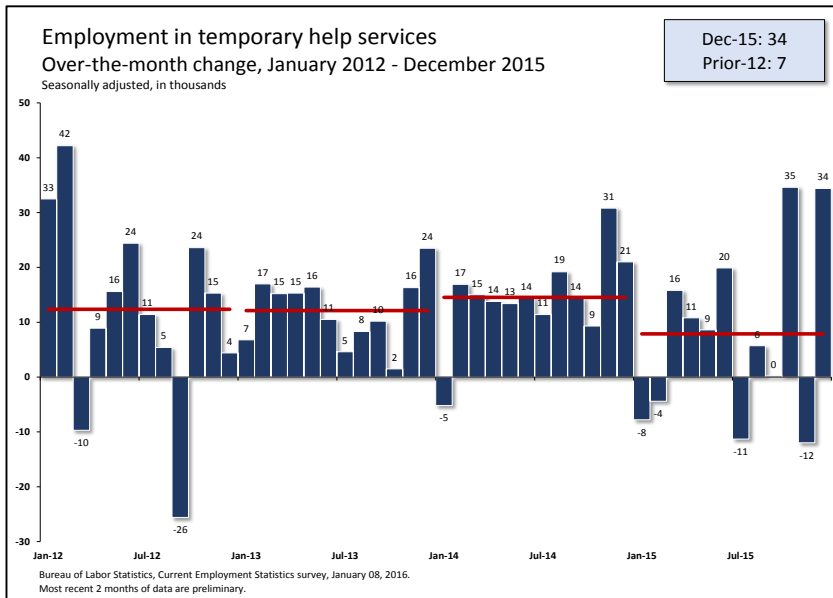
Over the year, financial activities added 147,000 jobs, similar to the 135,000 jobs added in 2014.

Professional and Business Services



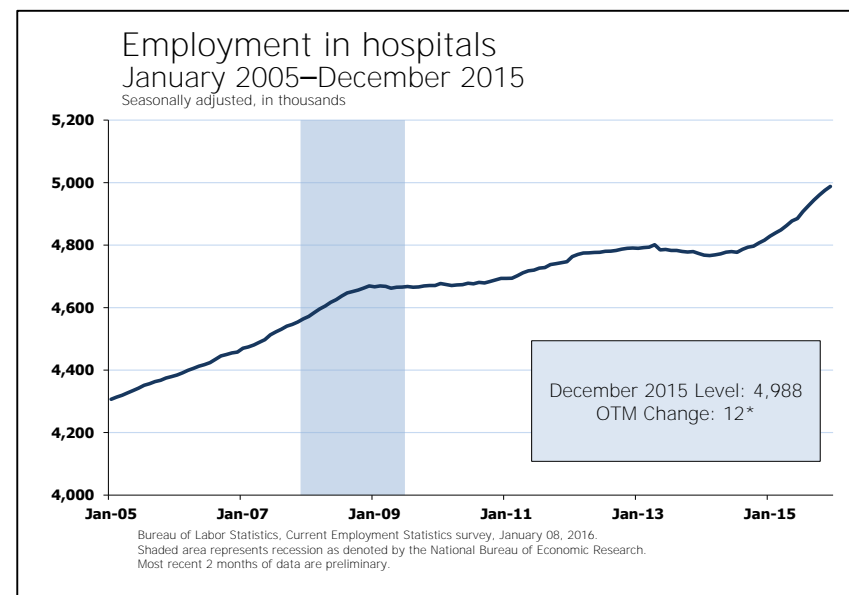
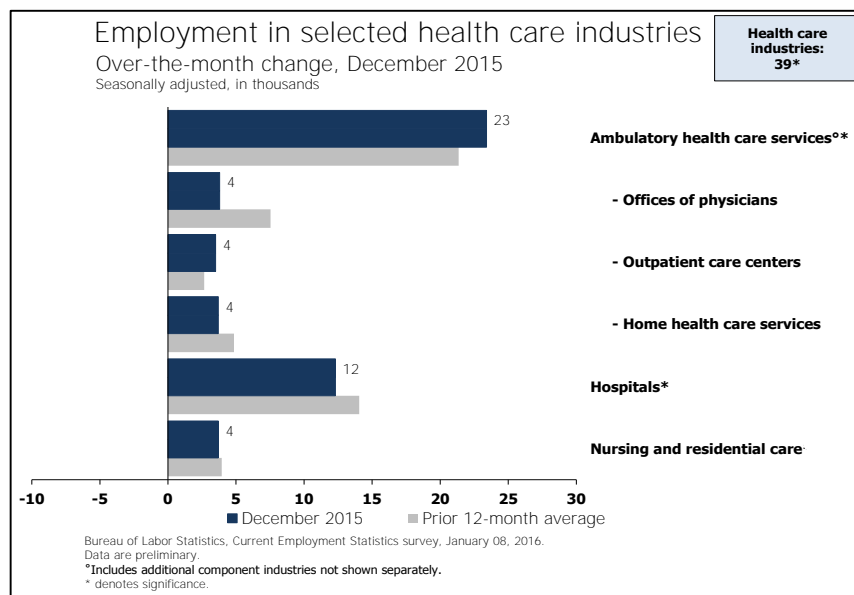
Professional and business services gained 73,000 jobs in December, following little change in November (+21,000). Administrative and waste services accounted for a majority of the employment gain in December (+59,000). Employment in professional and technical services (+11,000) and in management of companies and enterprises (+3,000) continued to trend up.

Professional and business services added 605,000 jobs in 2015, about 100,000 less than in 2014 (+704,000). In 2015, professional and technical services accounted for 46 percent (+279,000) of employment growth followed by administrative and waste services with 45 percent (+272,000) and management of companies and enterprises with 9 percent (+54,000).



The December employment gain in administrative and waste services can be attributed largely to a gain in employment services, which added 42,000 jobs. Within employment services, temporary help services added 34,000 jobs. In 2015, temporary help services added 95,000 jobs, compared to a 174,000-job gain in 2014.

Private Education and Health Services



Employment in education and health services grew by 59,000 in December, following a 50,000 gain in November. Within education and health care services, health care added 39,000 jobs over the month, while employment in educational services (+7,000) and social assistance (+13,000) continued to trend up.

In 2015, health care employment rose by 475,000, followed by gains of 117,000 in social assistance and 64,000 in private education.

NAICS 622—Hospitals

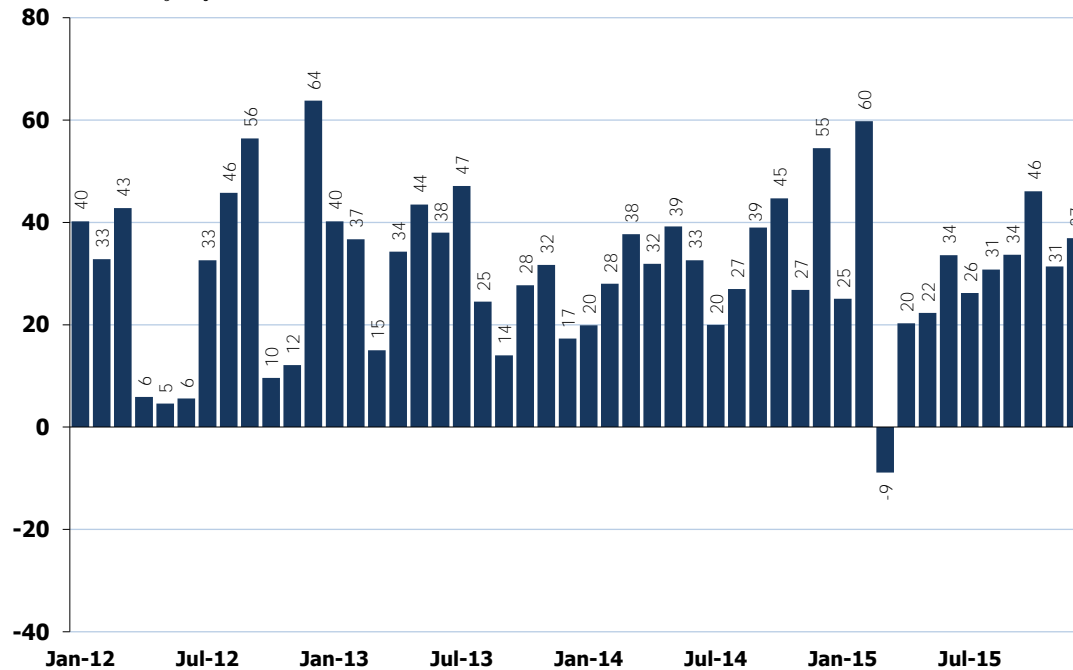
Hospitals added 12,000 jobs in December. Employment in the industry increased by 172,000 in 2015, accounting for 36 percent of the jobs added in all of in health care over the same period.

Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in food services and drinking places

Over-the-month change, January 2012–December 2015

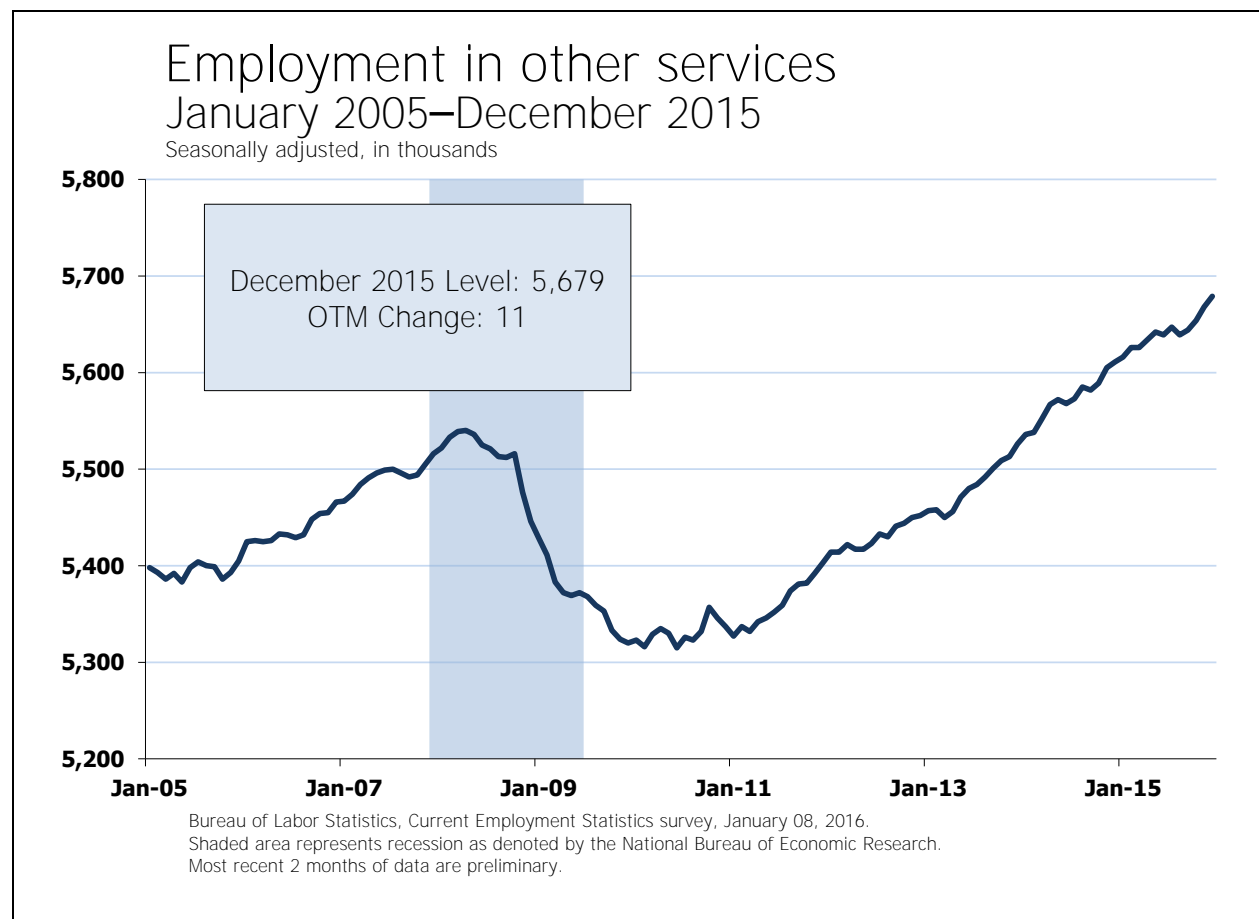
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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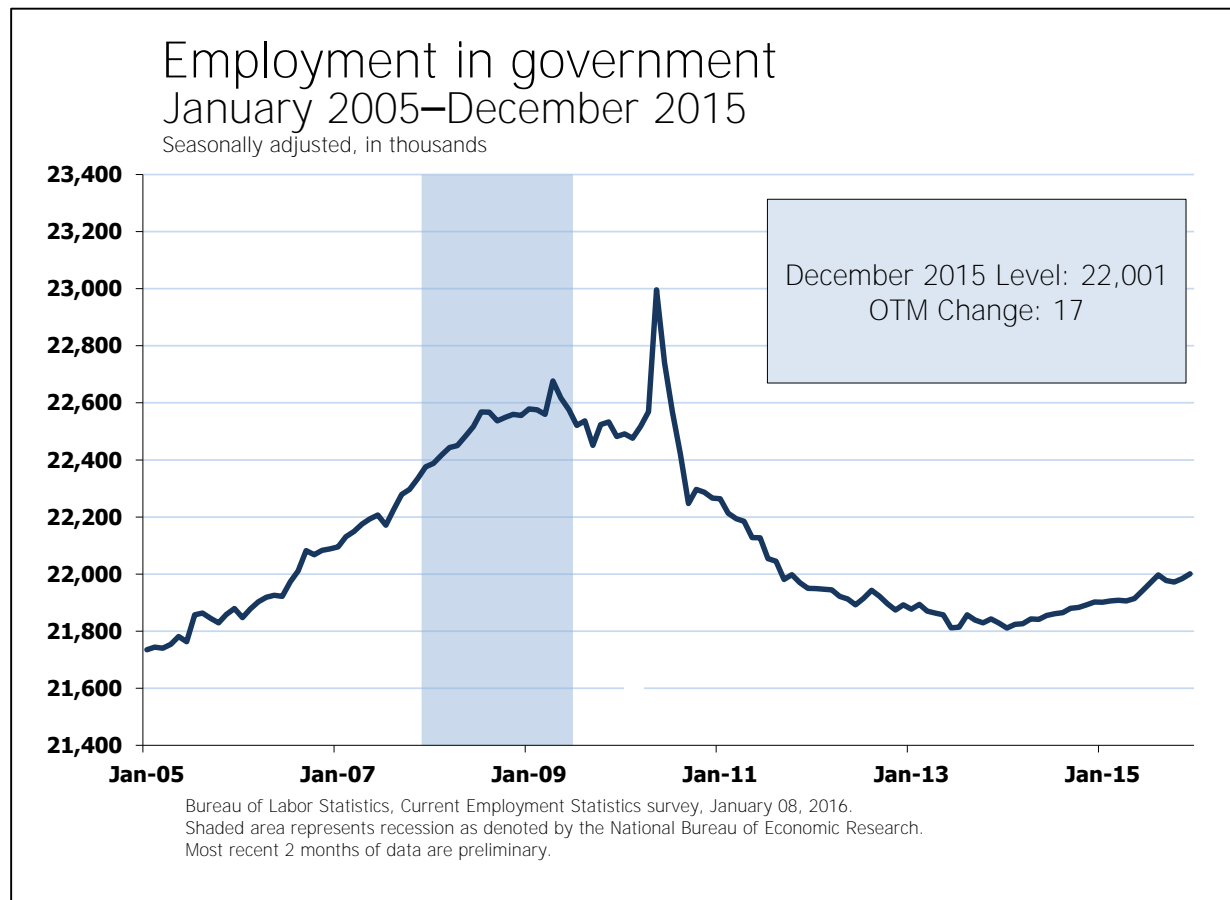
Leisure and hospitality employment continued to trend up in December (+29,000). In 2015, this industry added 419,000 jobs, a gain of 2.8 percent. Employment in food services and drinking places continued to trend up in December (+37,000). In 2015, food services and drinking places accounted for 85 percent of job gains in leisure and hospitality.

Other Services



Employment in other services changed little (+11,000) in December. Over the year, other services added 68,000 jobs to payrolls.

Government



Government employment changed little in December (+17,000). Employment at the federal, state, and local levels remained flat over the month. Government added 99,000 jobs in 2015, with over half of the gain occurring in local government, excluding education (+56,000).



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