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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



February 2019

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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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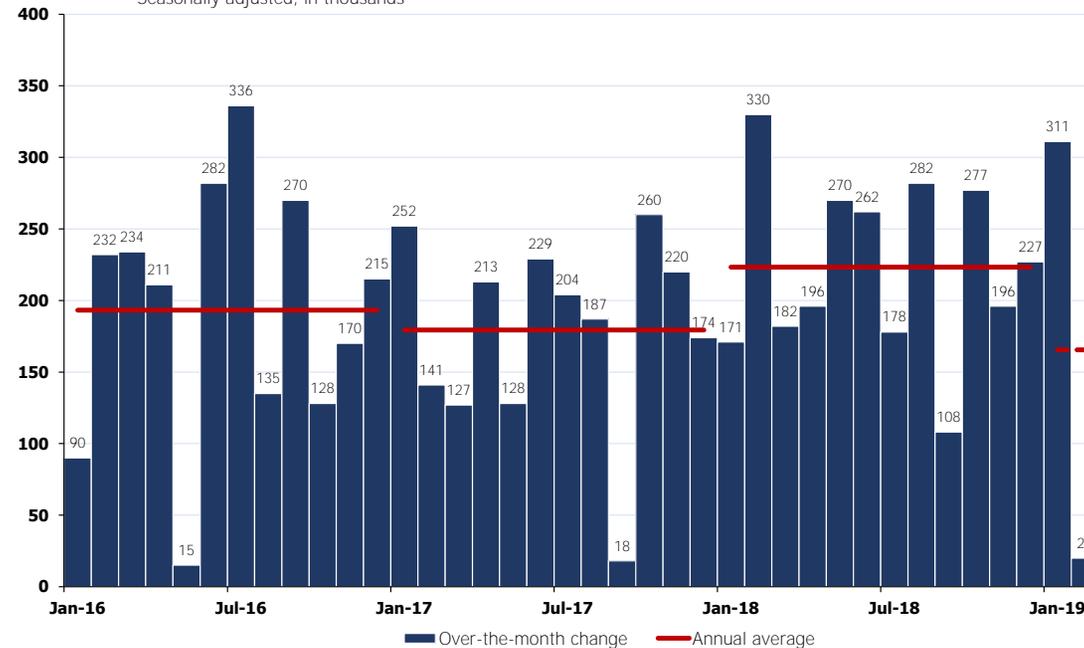
Current Employment Statistics Summary, February 2019

Nonfarm employment changed little in February (+20,000). Job growth had averaged 235,000 over the prior 12 months. Over the month, employment continued to trend up in professional and business services, health care, and wholesale trade while construction lost jobs.

The employment change for January increased from +304,000 to +311,000, and the change for December increased from +222,000 to +227,000. On net, employment changes over these months is 12,000 higher than previously reported.

Average hourly earnings rose by 11 cents, or 0.4 percent, in February, following a 2-cent gain in January. Over the year, hourly earnings have increased by 3.4 percent. Over the month, average weekly hours decreased by 0.1 hour to 34.4 hours.

Employment in total nonfarm
Over-the-month change, January 2016–February 2019
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, March 08, 2019.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

+42,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment in professional and technical services continued to trend up in February (+22,000). Over the year, this industry has added 288,000 jobs.

+11,000 Wholesale Trade

Employment in wholesale trade also continued an upward trend in February (+11,000). Over the past 12 month,

wholesalers have added 95,000 jobs to payrolls, largely in durable goods industries.

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, February 2019

+4,000 Education and Health Services

Employment in health care continued to trend in February (+21,000). Over the year, employment in the industry has risen by 361,000, with gains distributed among ambulatory health care (+237,000) and hospitals (+103,000).

-31,000 Construction

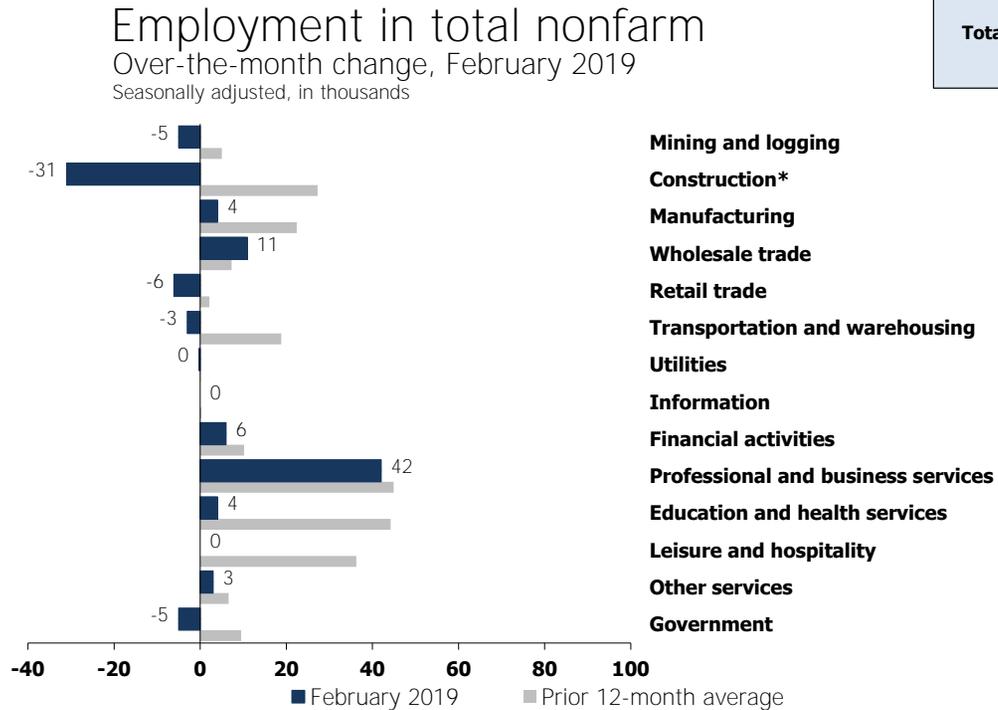
Construction employment fell by 31,000 in February following a gain of 53,000 in January. Within the sector, heavy and civil engineering construction lost 13,000 jobs in February.

+4,000 Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment was essentially flat in February (+4,000). Job growth in the sector had averaged 22,000 per month over the prior 12-month period.

0 Leisure and Hospitality

Employment was unchanged in February following strong growth in the prior 2 months. Over the year, job growth has averaged 34,000 per month.



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 08, 2019.
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

-6,000 Retail Trade

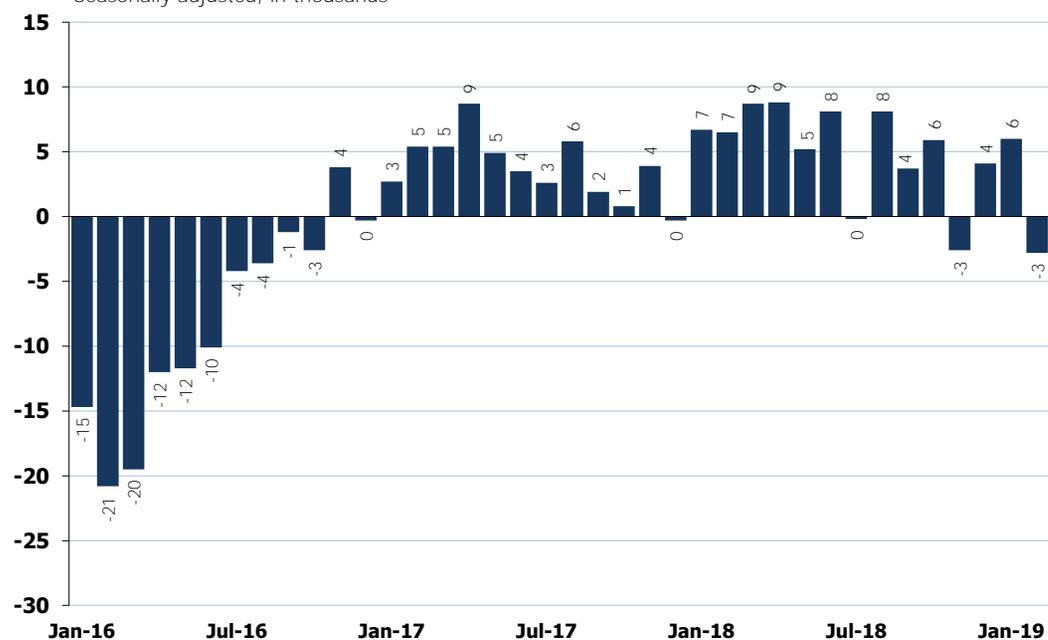
Employment in retail trade changed little over the month and has shown little net change over the year (-5,000).

Mining and Logging

Employment in mining

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

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

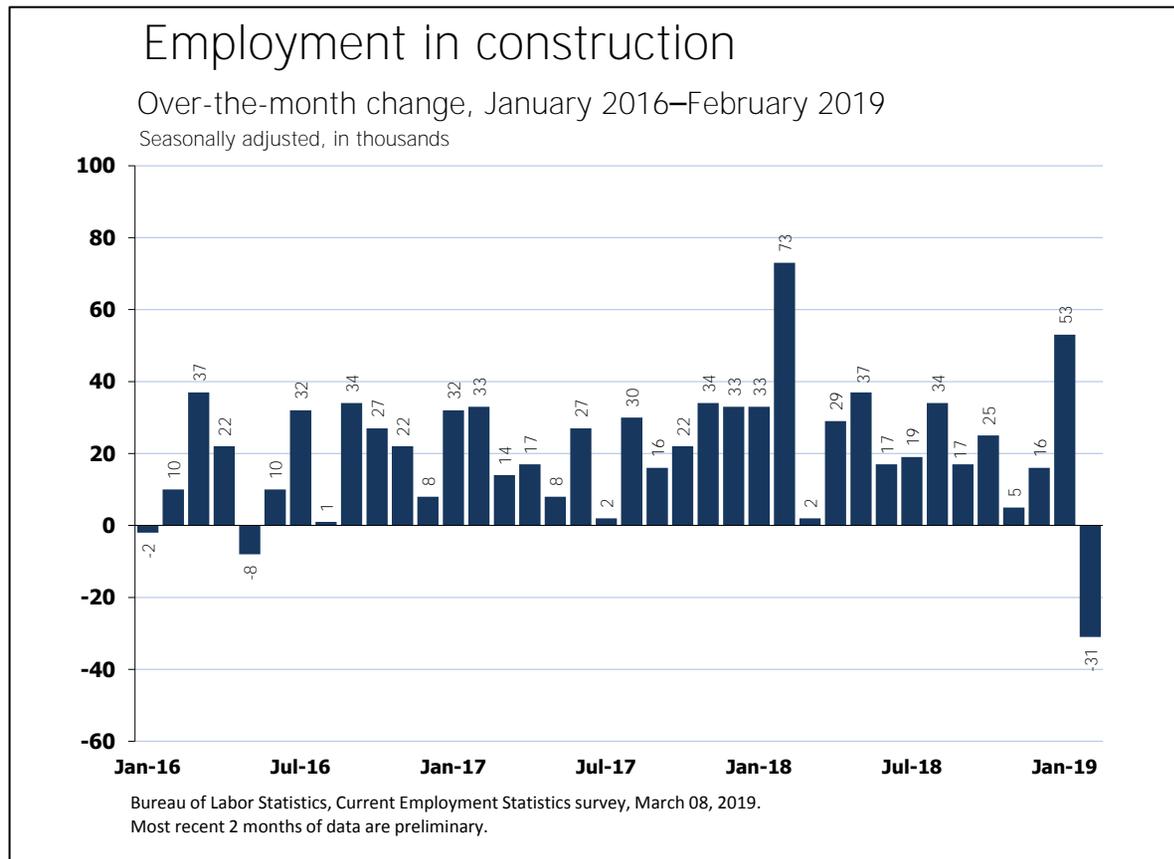


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 08, 2019.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Employment in mining changed little in February (-3,000). Employment in support activities for mining edged down by 4,000.

Logging lost 2,000 jobs in February. This industry has lost 5,000 jobs over the past 12 months.

Construction

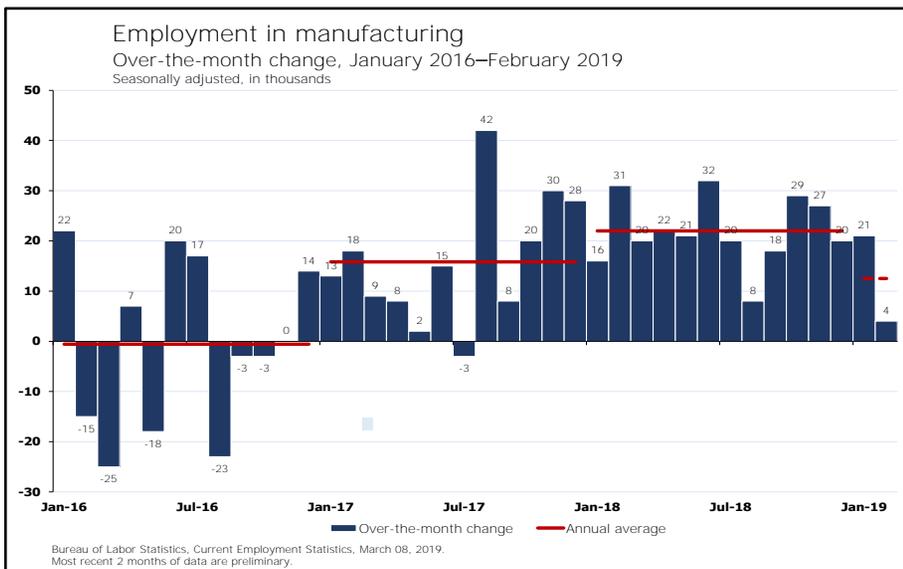


Construction employment declined by 31,000 in February, following a gain of 53,000 in January. Over this 2-month span, employment edged up by an average 11,000 per month. Job growth had averaged 26,000 per month in 2018.

In February, much of the weakness occurred in specialty trade contractors (-14,000) and heavy and civil engineering construction (-13,000).

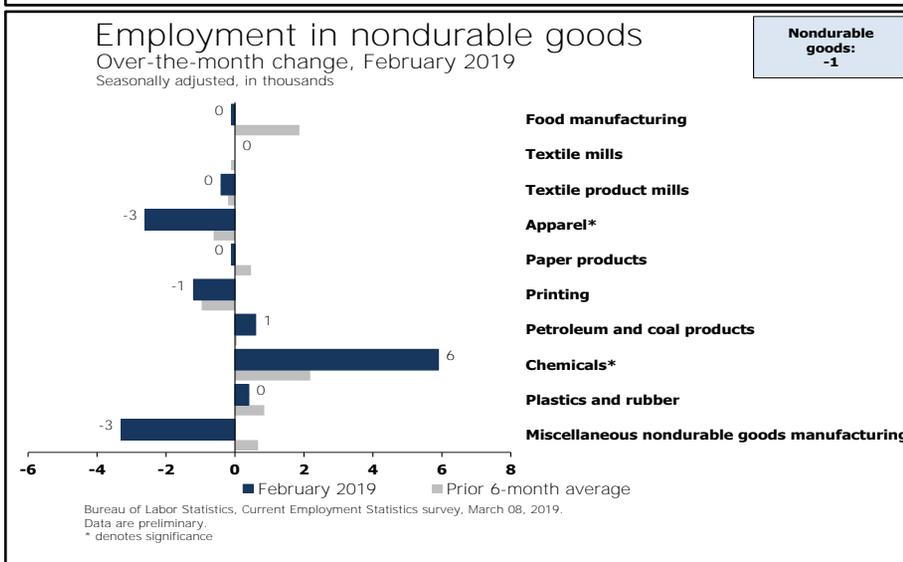
Over the month, average weekly hours in construction fell by 1.0 hour for all employees and by 1.5 hours for production employees. These declines in the workweek likely resulted, at least in part, from heavy precipitation in the West and Midwest.

Manufacturing

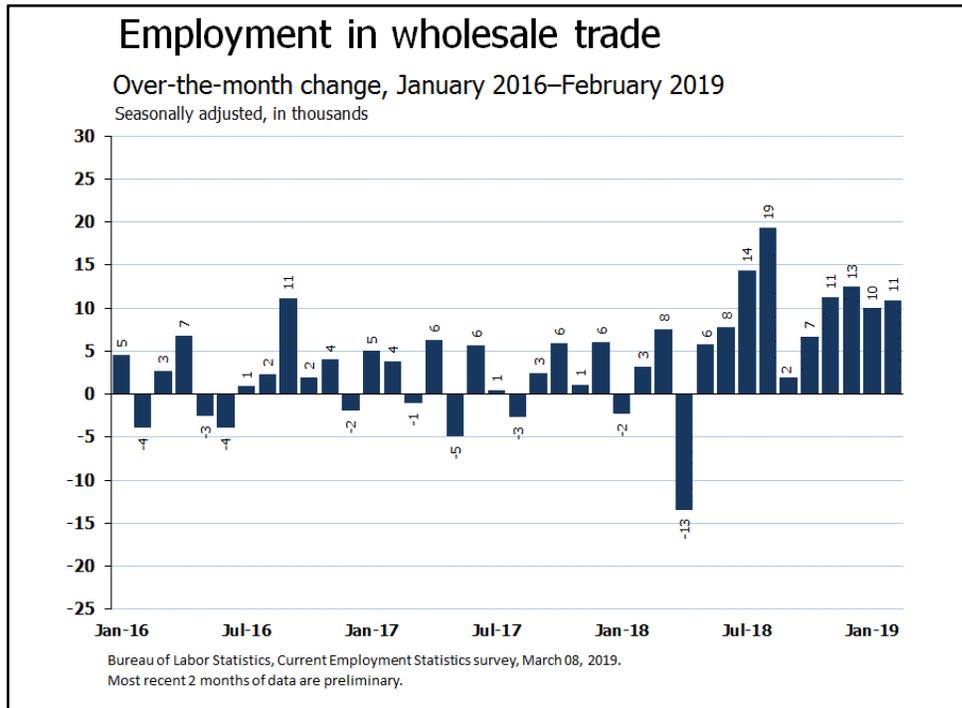


Employment in manufacturing was flat in February (+4,000), after having increased by an average of 22,000 per month over the prior 12 months. The 1-month diffusion index fell to 51.3 from 60.5, indicating fewer manufacturing industries added jobs in February than in January. Within nondurable goods, chemicals added 6,000 jobs while apparel shed 3,000.

The average workweek of production employees, a leading economic indicator fell 0.2 hour to 41.8 hours continuing a downward trend. Since reaching a peak in April 2018, average weekly hours in manufacturing have declined by 0.6 hour.



Wholesale Trade



Employment in wholesale trade continued to trend up in February (+11,000), and the industry has added 95,000 jobs over the most recent 12 months. Durable goods employment continued to trend up over the month (+8,000) and has accounted for 77 percent of the job gains in wholesale trade over the year.

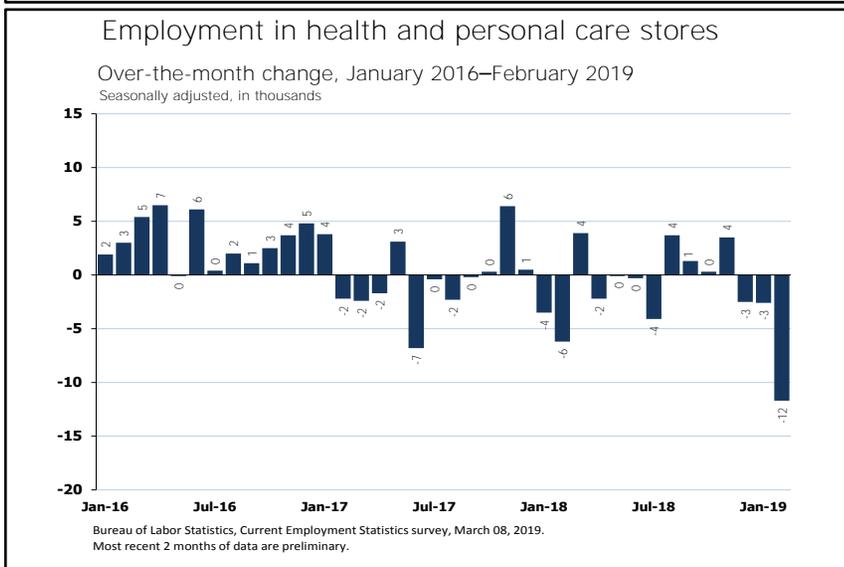
Retail Trade



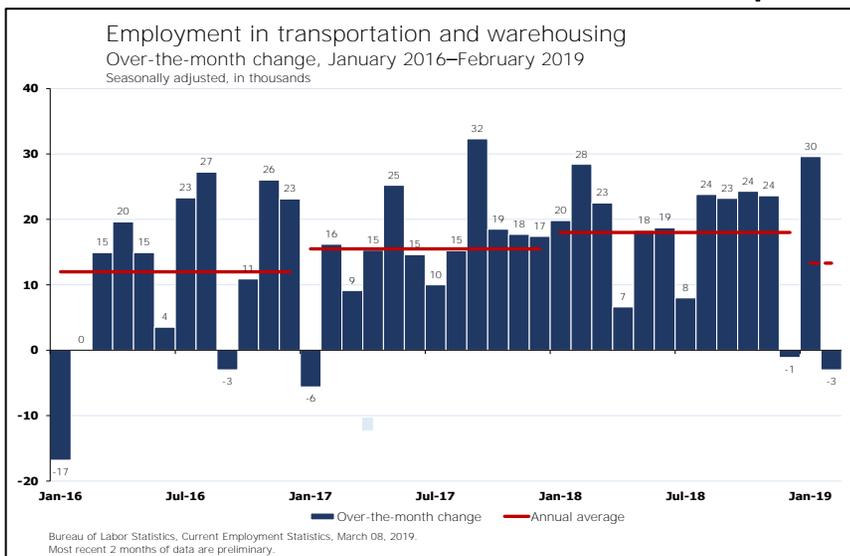
Employment in retail trade changed little in February (-6,000). Over the year, employment also was essentially unchanged (-5,000).

Employment in health and personal care stores decreased by 12,000 in February, the largest monthly decline in the history of the series, which began in 1990.

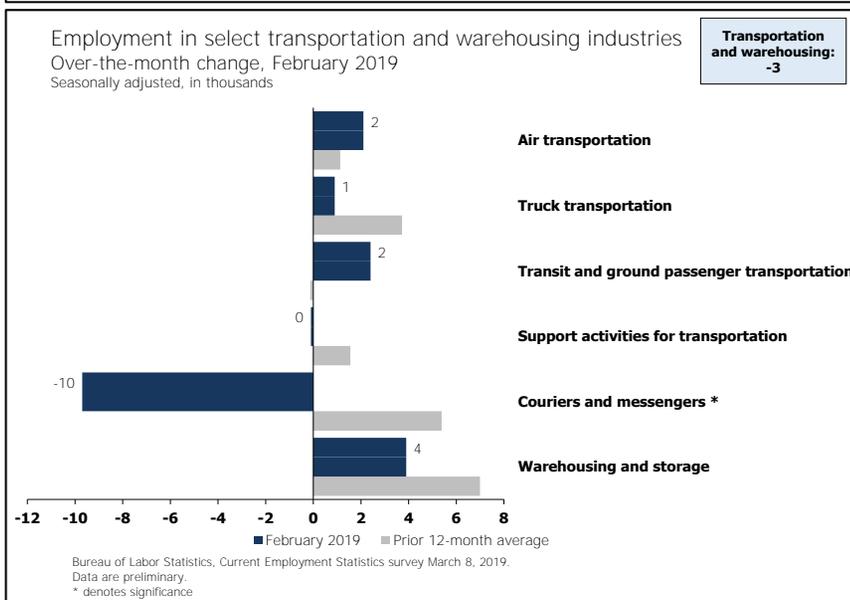
Recent retail-related economic indicators have been mixed. The [Consumer Confidence Index](#) increased by 8.0 percent in February. [US Light Weight Vehicle Sales](#) declined by 0.9 percent in February. [Retail Sales](#) fell by 1.3 percent in December.



Transportation and Warehousing



Employment in transportation and warehousing remained flat over the month (-3,000). Over the last 3 months, employment changes averaged +9,000 per month. Employment had risen by an average 20,000 per month over the preceding 12 months.



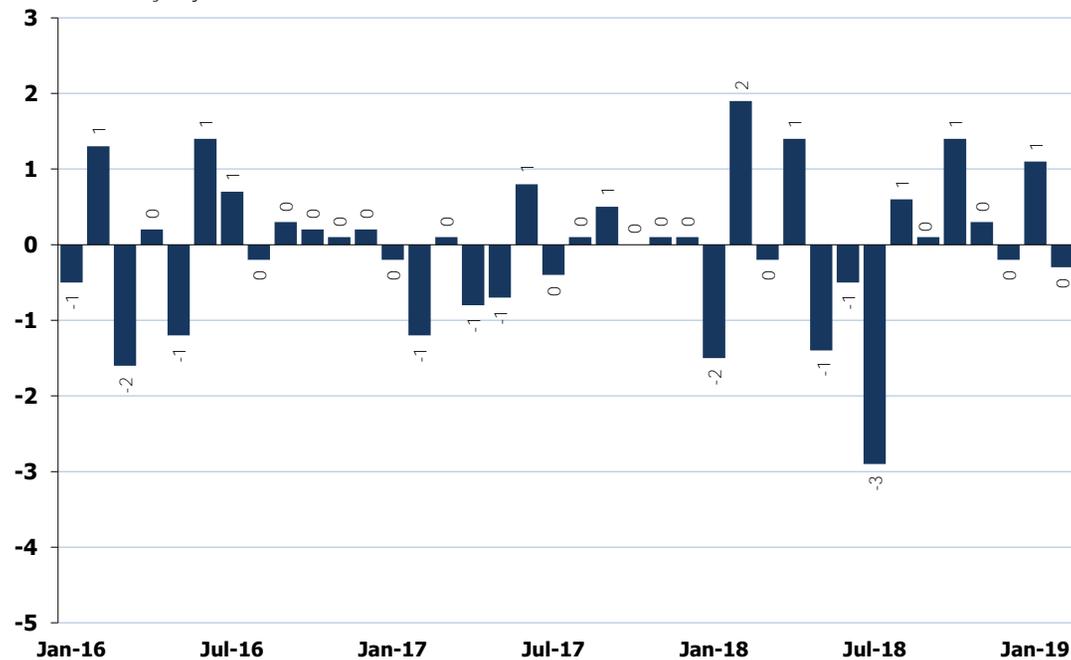
In February, the weakness in transportation and warehousing can be traced to couriers and messengers. Over the month, this industry lost 10,000 jobs, partially offsetting a large gain in January (+15,000).

Utilities

Employment in utilities

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

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

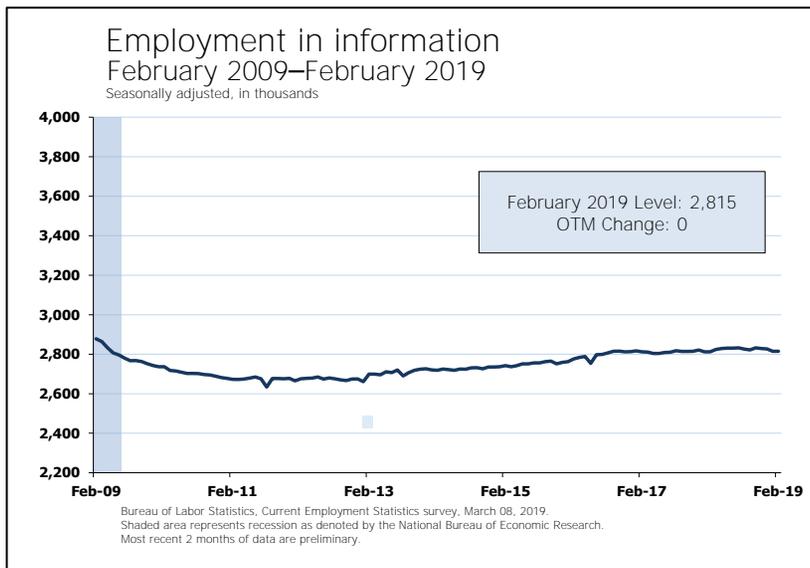


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 08, 2019.

Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

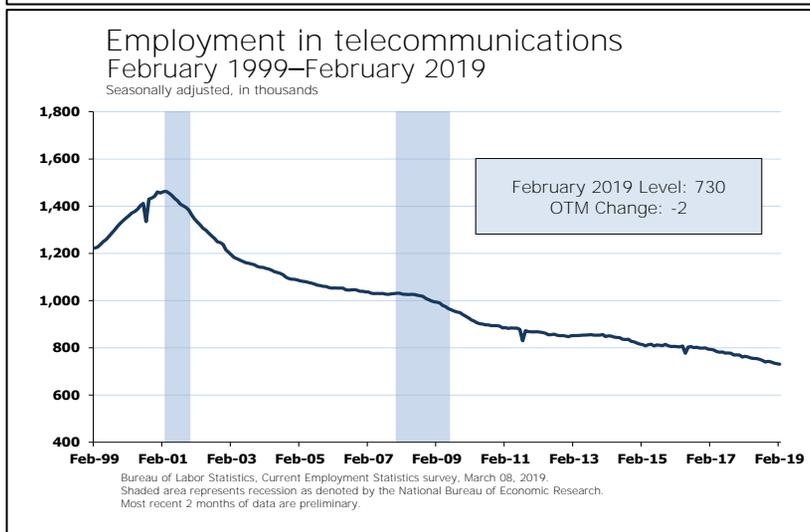
Employment in utilities was unchanged in February and has shown little net change over the year.

Information



Information employment was flat in February and has shown little net change over the year.

In February, telecommunications employment continued to trend downward (-2,000). The industry has now lost half (-733,000) its jobs since an employment peak in March 2001.

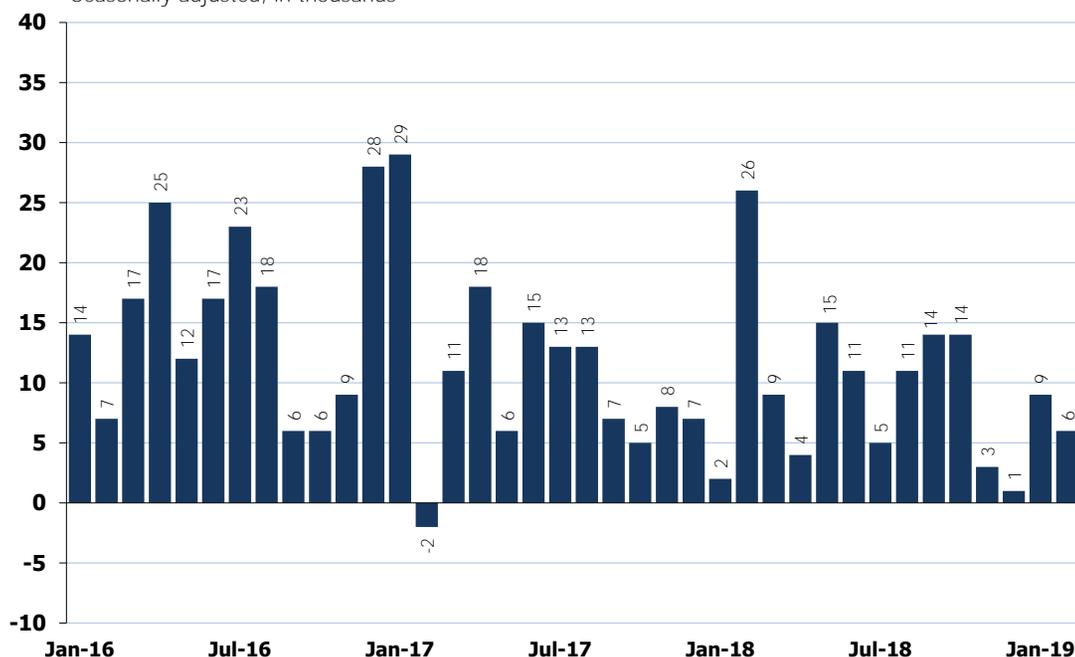


Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities

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

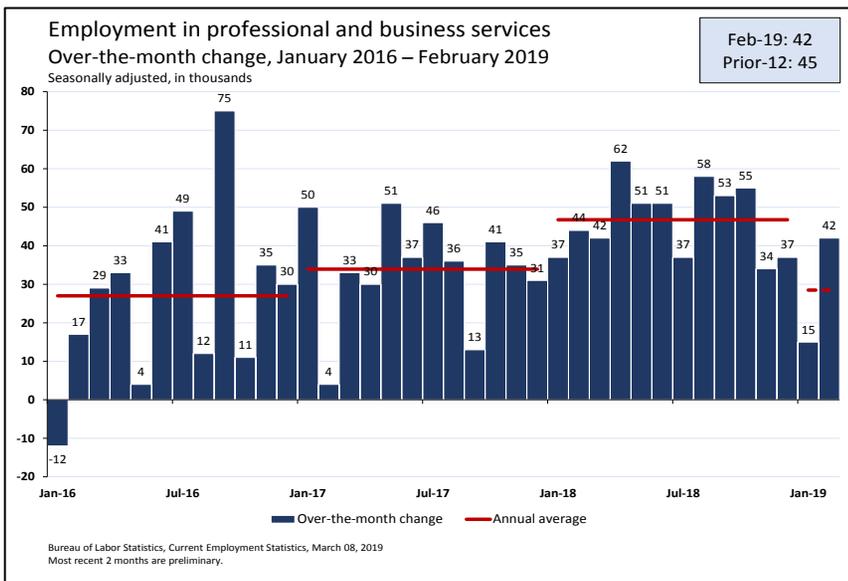
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



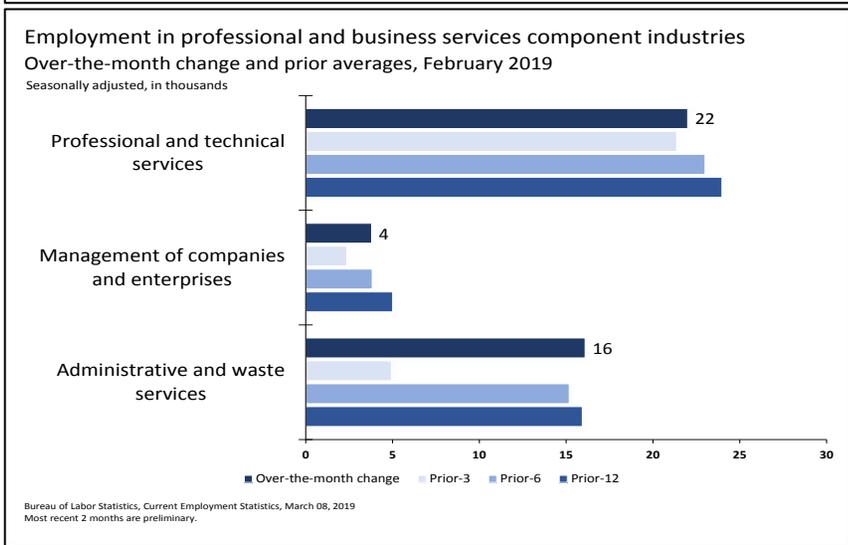
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 08, 2019.
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Employment in financial activities changed little in February (+6,000). Insurance carriers and related activities experienced a slight employment uptick (+5,000), while other component industries changed little. Over the most recent 12 months, financial activities has added 102,000 jobs.

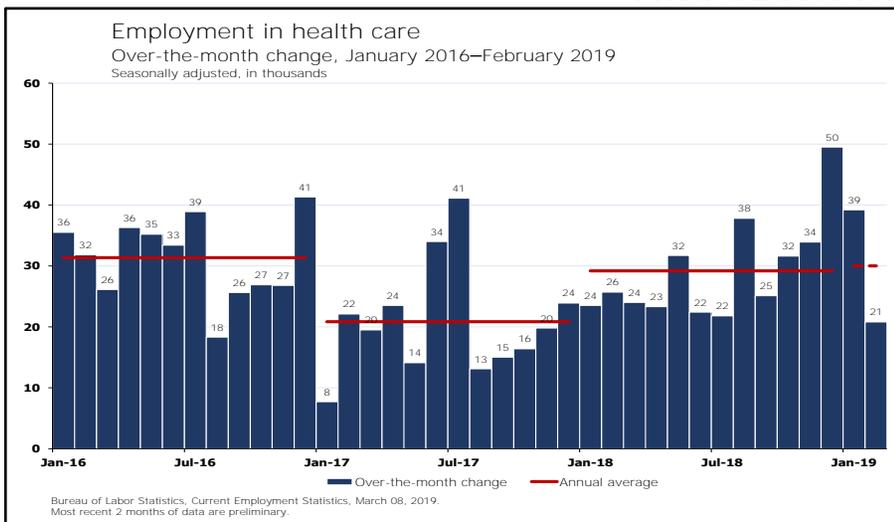
Professional and Business Services



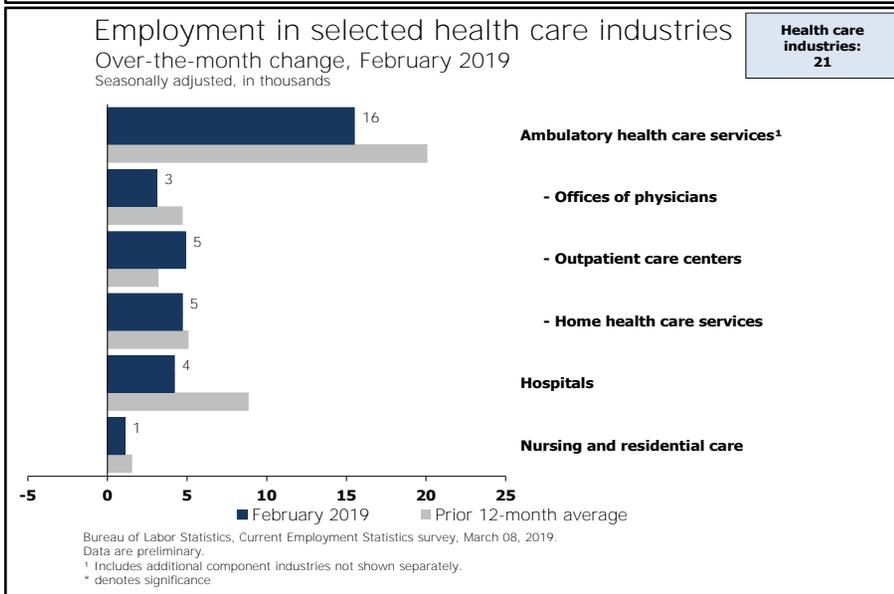
Employment in professional and business services trended up by 42,000 in February, following a below-average January change. In February, employment changes in professional and technical services (+22,000), management of companies and enterprises (+4,000), and administrative and waste services (+16,000) were in line with their respective prior-12 month average changes.



Private Education and Health Services



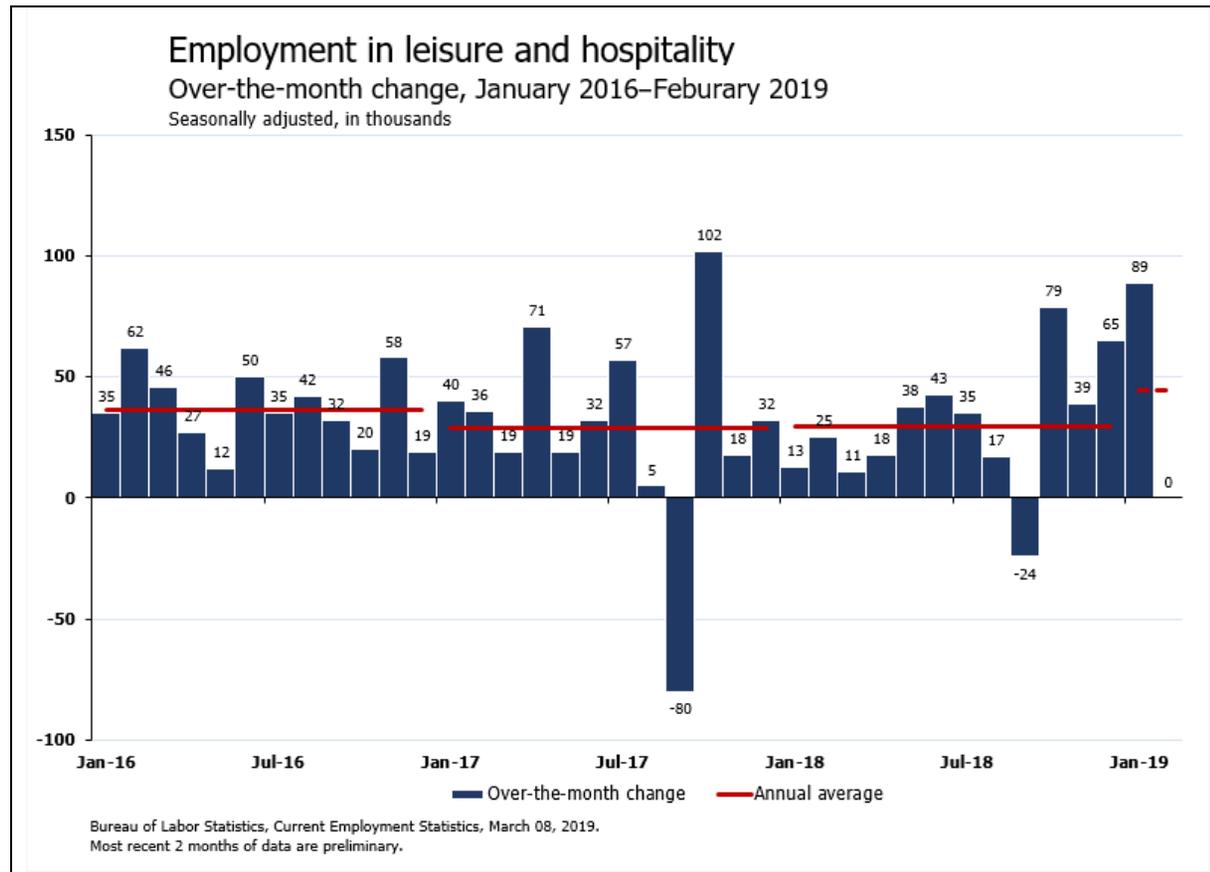
Employment in health care continued to trend up in February (+21,000), after large gains in the previous 2 months. Health care has added 361,000 jobs over the year.



In February, employment in most health care component industries continued on trend near their prior 12-month average changes. Ambulatory health care services employment edged up (+16,000), led by outpatient care centers and home health care services. Hospital employment was weaker in February (+4,000) after a gain of 13,000 in January.

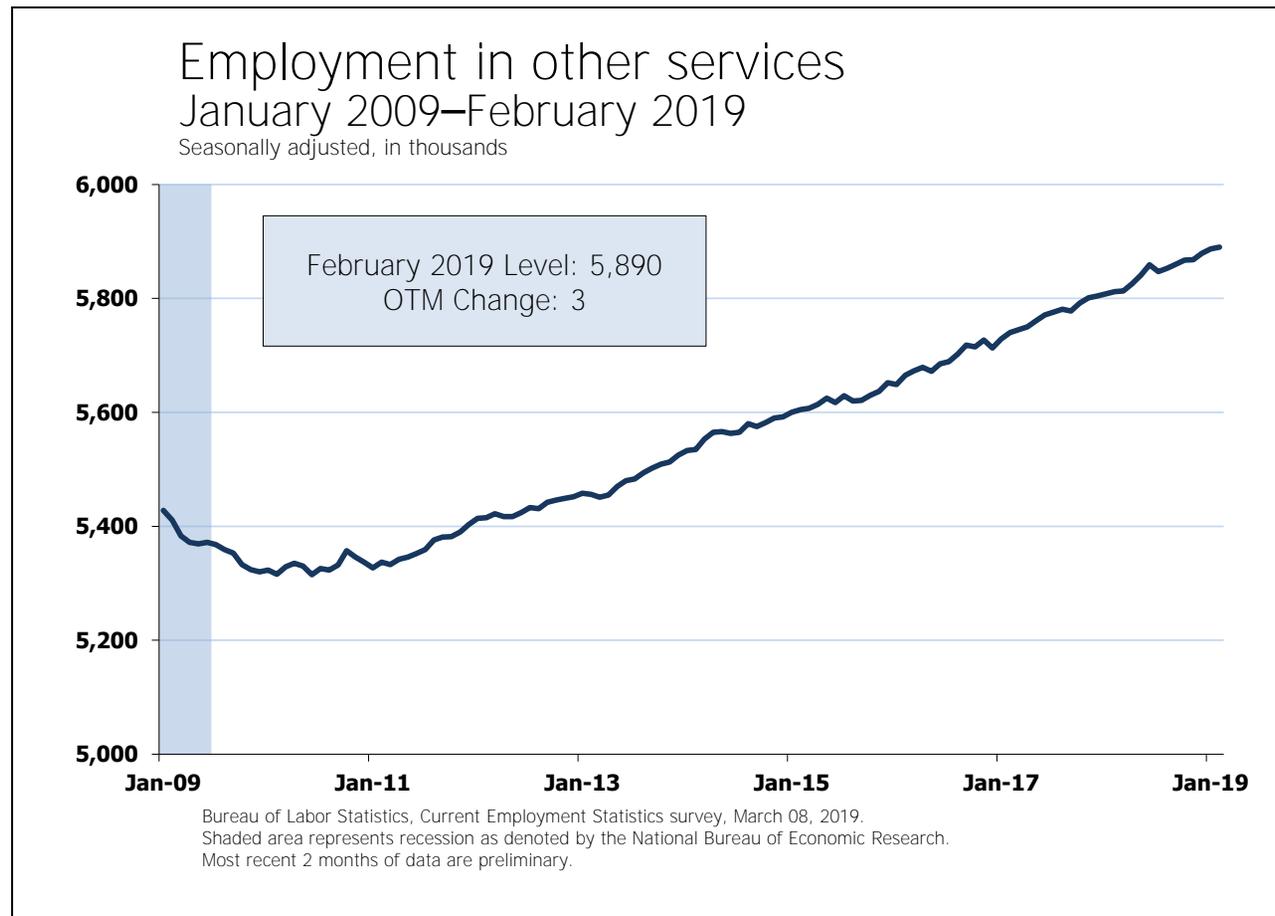
Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in leisure and hospitality was unchanged in February, following strong gains in December and January. The industry has added 410,000 jobs over the year.

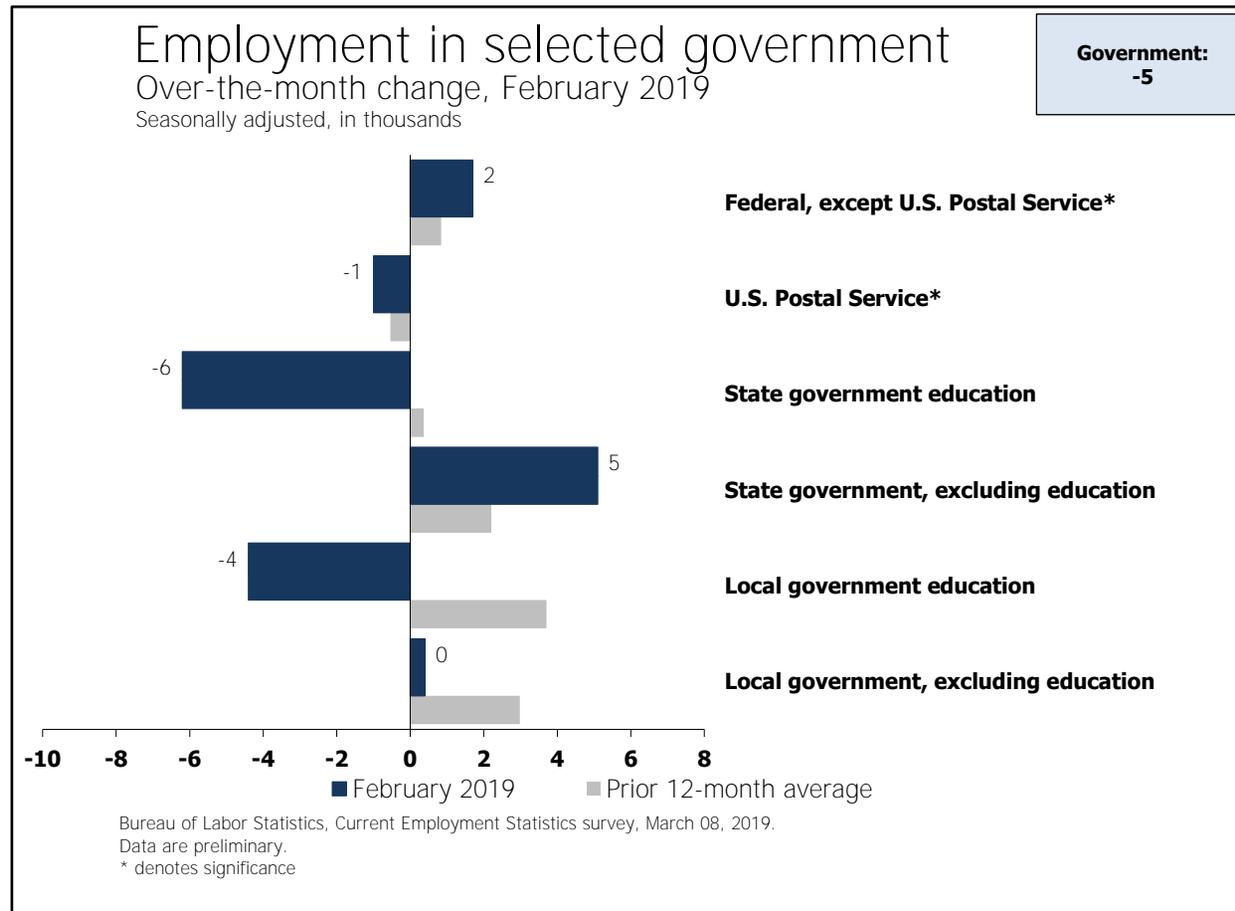


Other Services

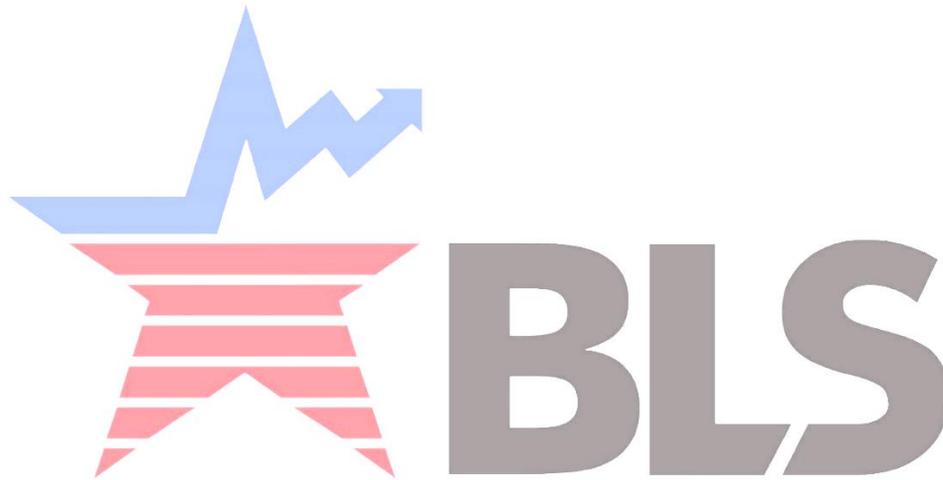
Employment in other services changed little in February (+3,000). Over the most recent 12 months, the industry has added 78,000 jobs. Personal and laundry services accounted for 32,000—or 41 percent—of these job gains.



Government



Government employment changed little in February (-5,000), with little movement among the federal, state, and local government components.



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