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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



March 2018

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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, March 2018

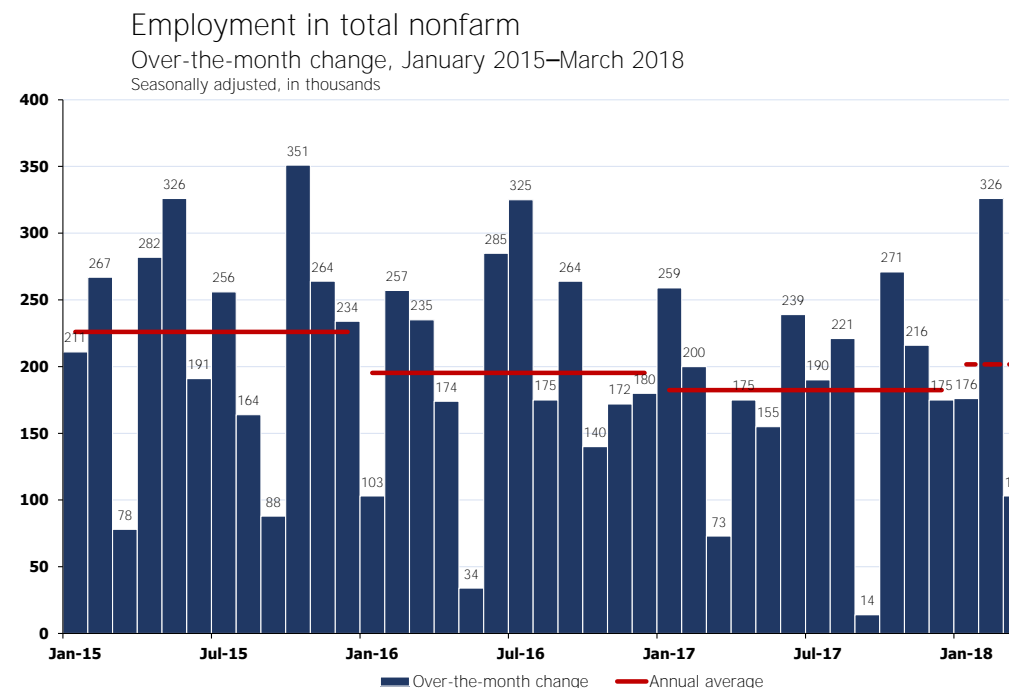
Nonfarm payroll employment edged up in March (+103,000) following a gain of 326,000 in February. So far this year, employment has risen by an average +202,000 per month, compared to an average +182,000 per month in 2017. In March, health care, manufacturing, and mining added jobs.

The employment change for January revised down from +239,000 to +176,000, and the change for February revised up from +313,000 to +326,000. On net, employment over these months is 50,000 lower than previously reported.

Average hourly earnings of all employees on private, nonfarm payrolls rose by 8 cents, or 0.3 percent, over the month. Hourly earnings are up 2.7 percent over the year. Average weekly hours, at 34.5 hours, were unchanged in March.

+25,000 Education and Health Services

Employment rose by 22,000 in health care in March, including a gain of 10,000 in hospitals. Employment in health care has risen by 304,000 over the year, slightly less than the 333,000 jobs added over the prior 12 months.



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, April 06, 2018. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

+22,000 Manufacturing

Durable goods accounted for essentially all of the 22,000 jobs added in manufacturing in March. Fabricated metal products added 9,000 jobs. Over the year, manufacturers have added 232,000 payroll jobs, mostly in durable goods industries (+180,000).

+8,000 Mining and Logging

Mining continued to add jobs in March (+9,000). Since an employment trough in October 2016, the industry has added 78,000 jobs. Support activities for mining accounted for most of the gains in March (+6,000) and since the trough (+79,000).

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, March 2018

+33,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment continued to trend upward in professional and business services. Over the year, the industry has added one-half million jobs distributed across most of the component industries.

+11,000 Wholesale Trade

Employment trended up in wholesale trade. Over the year, employment has increased by 86,000, with durable goods accounting for 59,000 of the growth.

+10,000 Transportation and Warehousing

In March, employment continued to trend up in transportation and warehousing. Over the year, the industry has added 150,000 jobs, including gains of 60,000 in couriers and 35,000 in warehousing.

-15,000 Construction

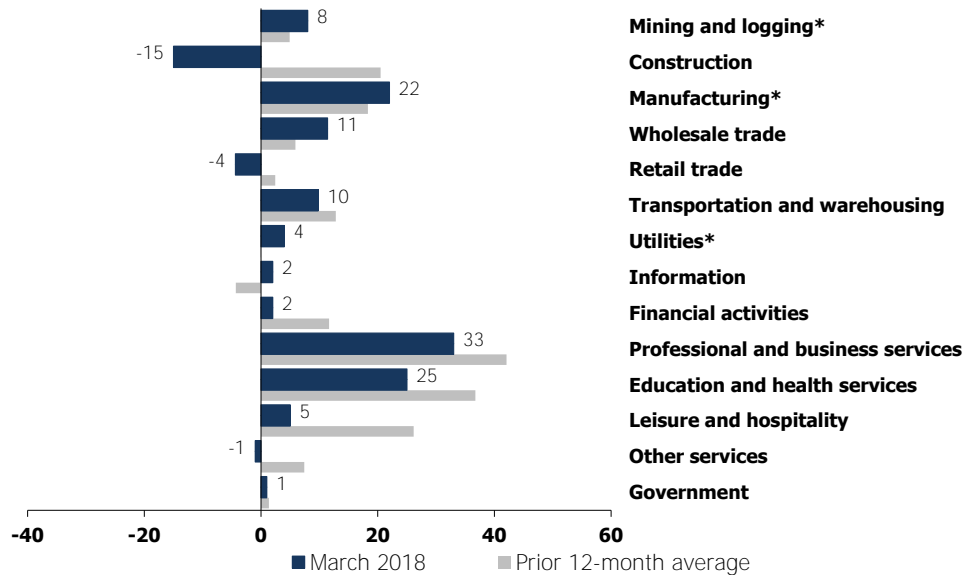
Construction employment changed little over the month, following a strong gain in February (+65,000). During the first quarter of 2018, employment in the industry changed by an average +26,000 per month, compared to +34,000 per month in the fourth quarter of 2017.

Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, March 2018

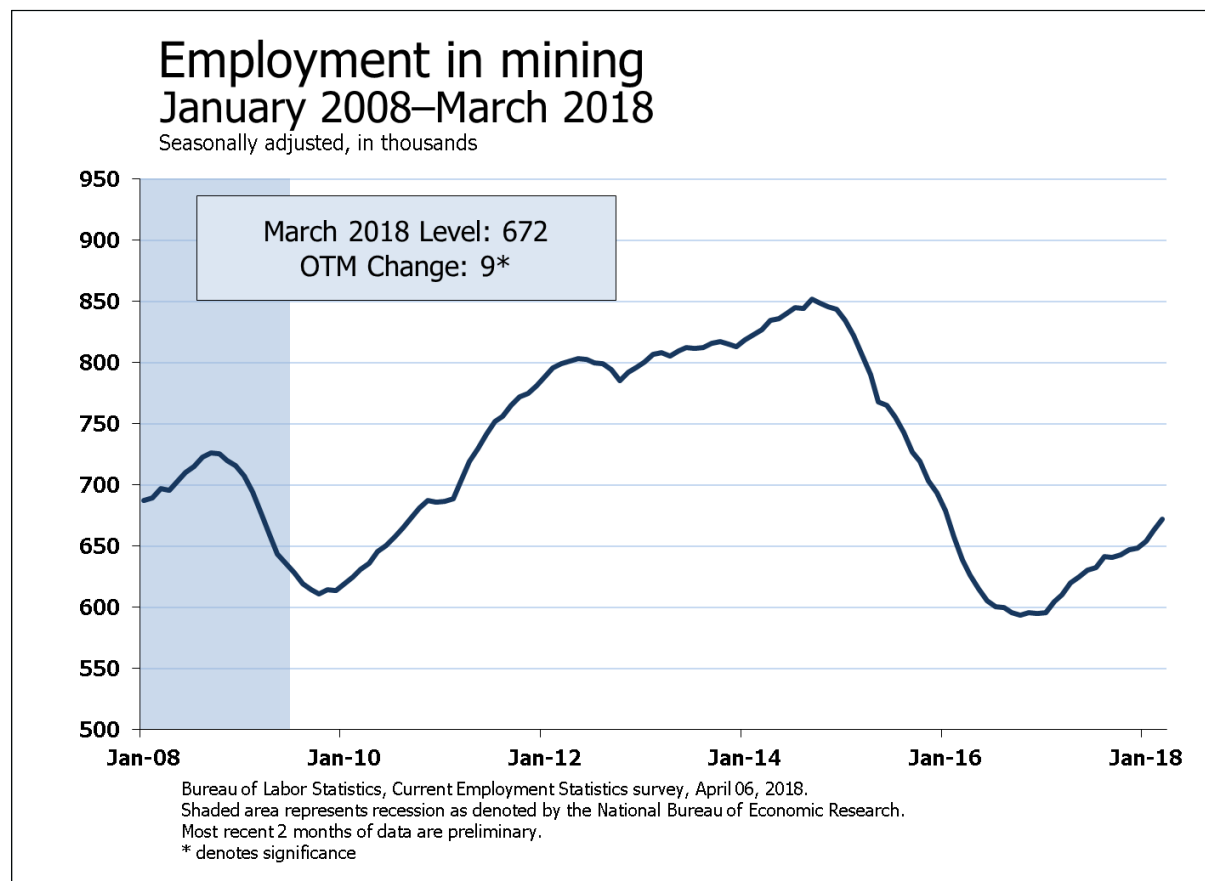
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:
103



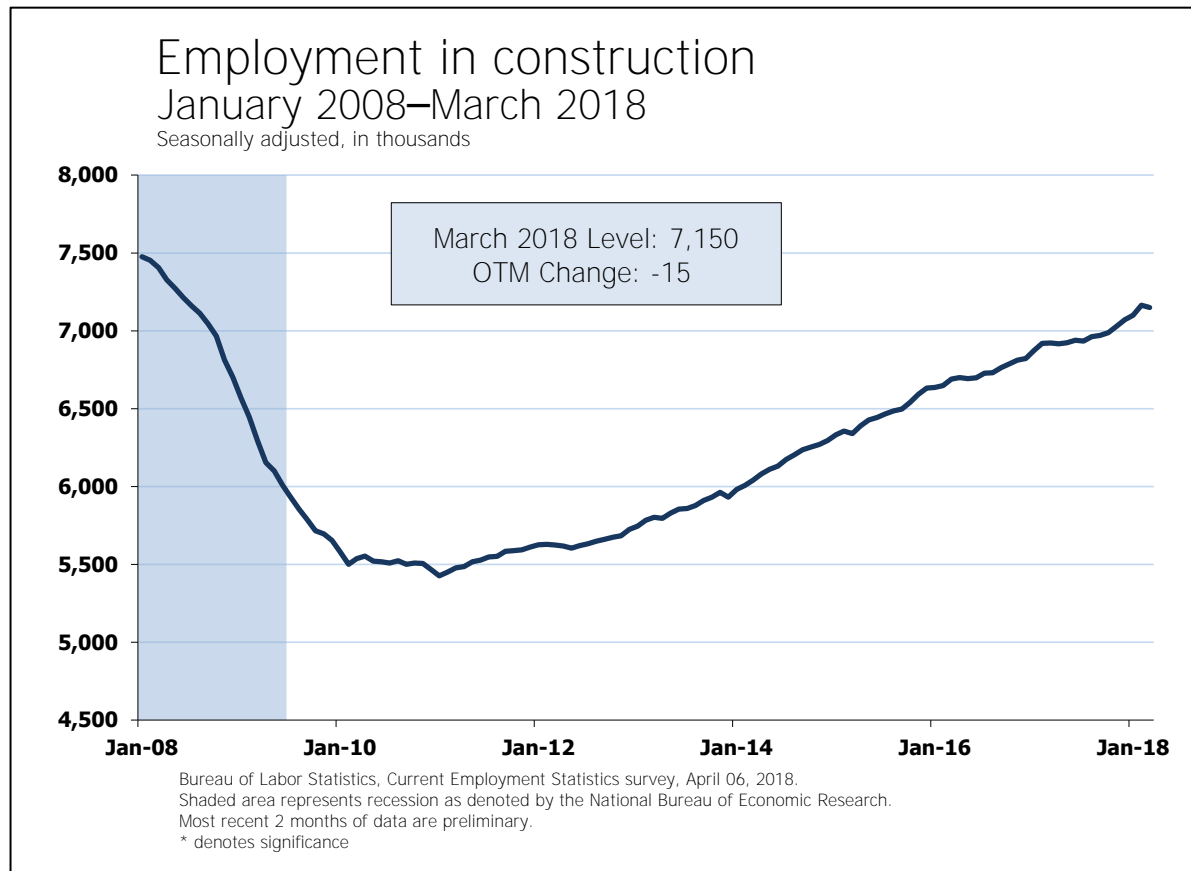
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 06, 2018.
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

Mining and Logging



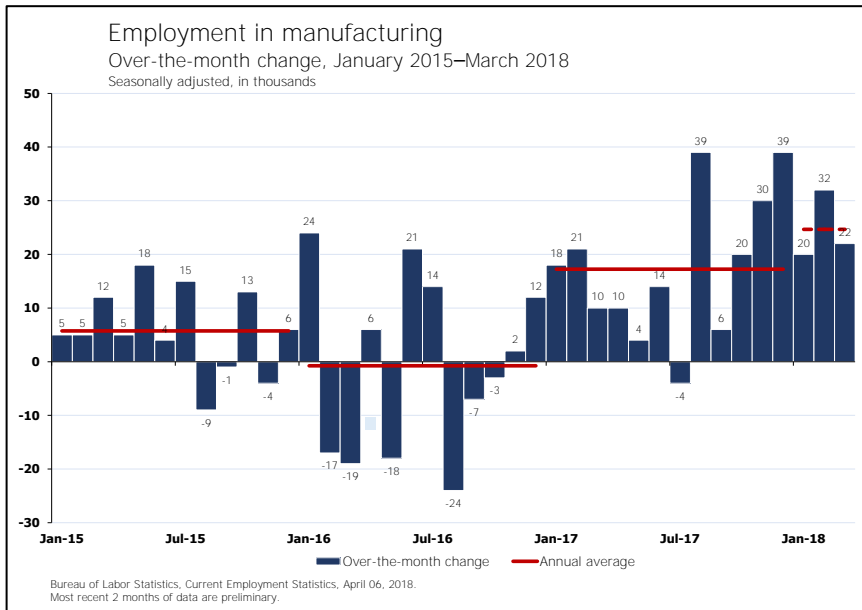
Employment in mining grew by 9,000 in March. Support activities for mining had a significant contribution of 6,000 jobs. Mining employment has followed trends similar to domestic [oil rigs](#), up 1.5 percent in March, and in the price of [West Texas Intermediate oil](#), up 3.3 percent in March.

Construction



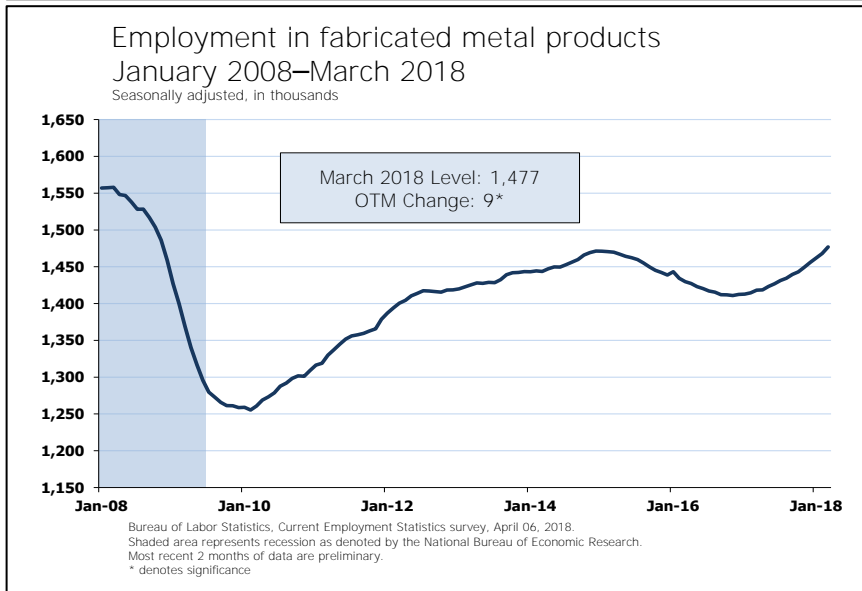
Construction employment changed little in March (-15,000) after rising by 65,000 in February. Employment edged down in specialty trade contractors (-16,000), which was split between residential (-9,000) and nonresidential (-7,000) specialty trade contractors. These declines in March follow declines in construction-related indicators. From January to February, [building permits](#) fell by 5.7 percent, [new home sales](#) fell by 0.6 percent, and housing starts fell by 7 percent.

Manufacturing



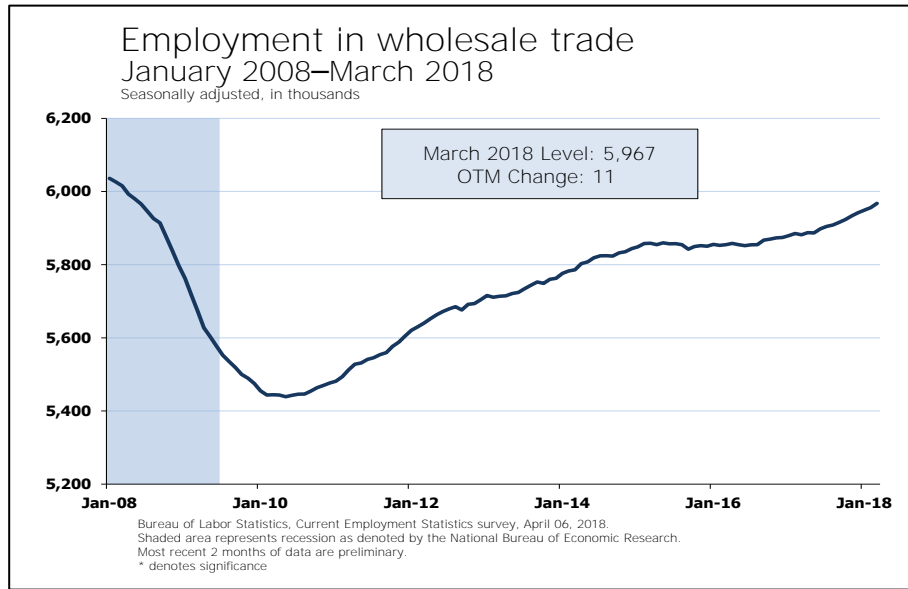
Manufacturing employment increased by 22,000 in March. So far this year, manufacturing industries have added 74,000 jobs.

Most of the monthly job gain occurred in fabricated metal products (+9,000) and transportation equipment (+5,000).



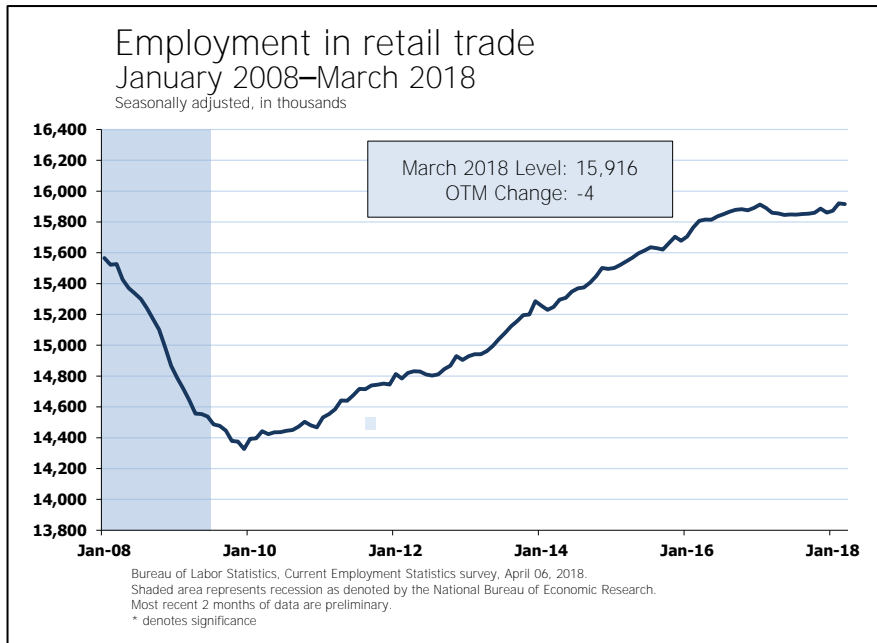
Employment in fabricated metal products increased in March (+9,000). Among manufacturing industries, fabricated metals has experienced the largest job gain over the past 12 months (+59,000), and accounts for roughly one-third of all jobs added in durable goods manufacturing.

Wholesale Trade



Employment in wholesale trade edged up by 11,000 in March. This uptick in employment brings the industry’s 12-month gain to +86,000, more than three times as large as the employment gain during the previous 12 months. Over the last year, just over two-thirds of the job gains occurred in durable goods (+59,000), coinciding with gains in durable goods manufacturing employment over the time span.

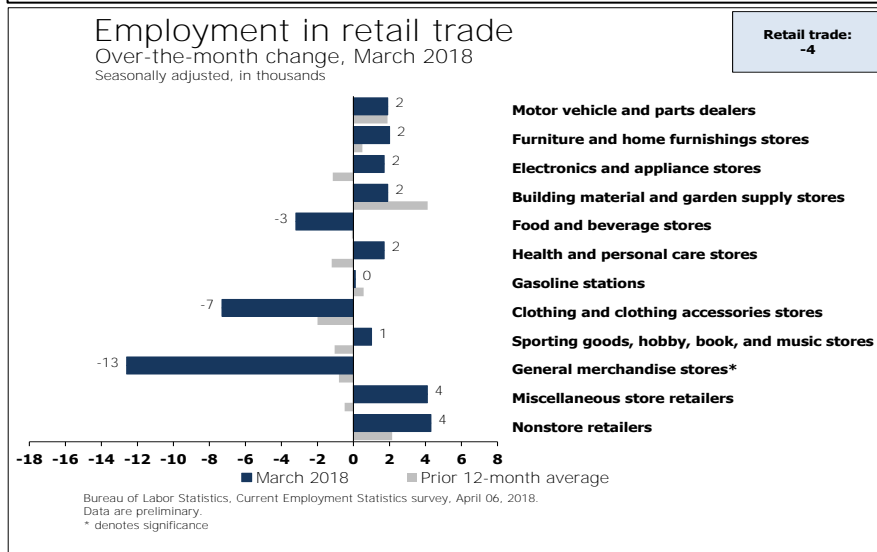
Retail Trade



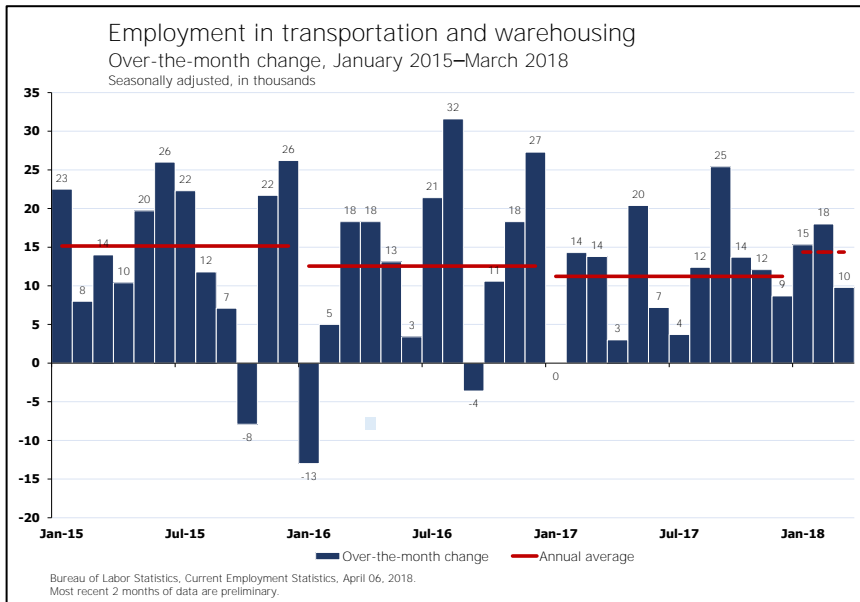
Employment in retail trade was about unchanged in March (-4,000), after increasing by 59,000 during the first 2 months of 2018. Industry employment has shown little net change since January 2017.

In general merchandise stores, employment decreased by 13,000, offsetting a February increase. Job losses occurred in both department stores (-8,000) and general merchandise stores, including warehouse clubs and supercenters (-5,000).

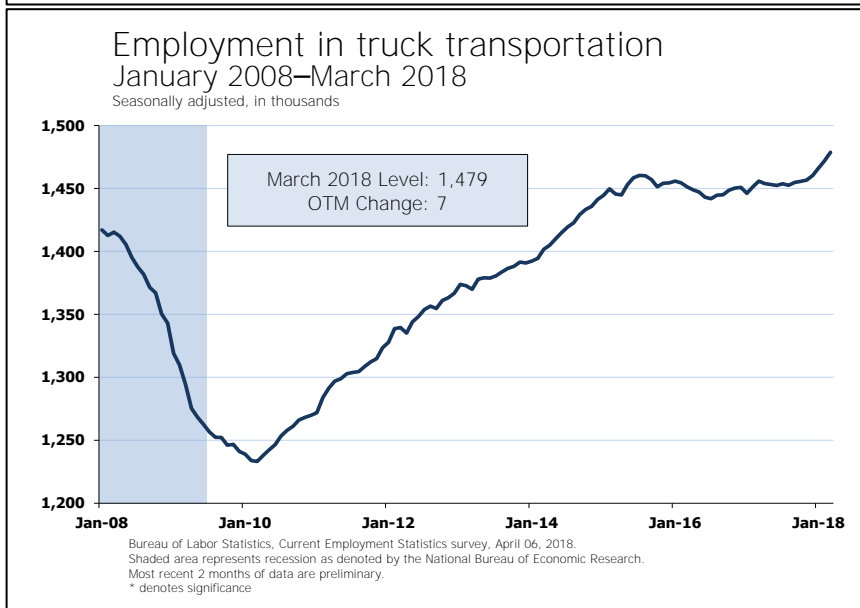
Employment changed little in building materials and garden supply stores in March; however, it has grown by 47,000 over the past year. Employment in all other retail trade component industries was also little changed in March.



Transportation and Warehousing

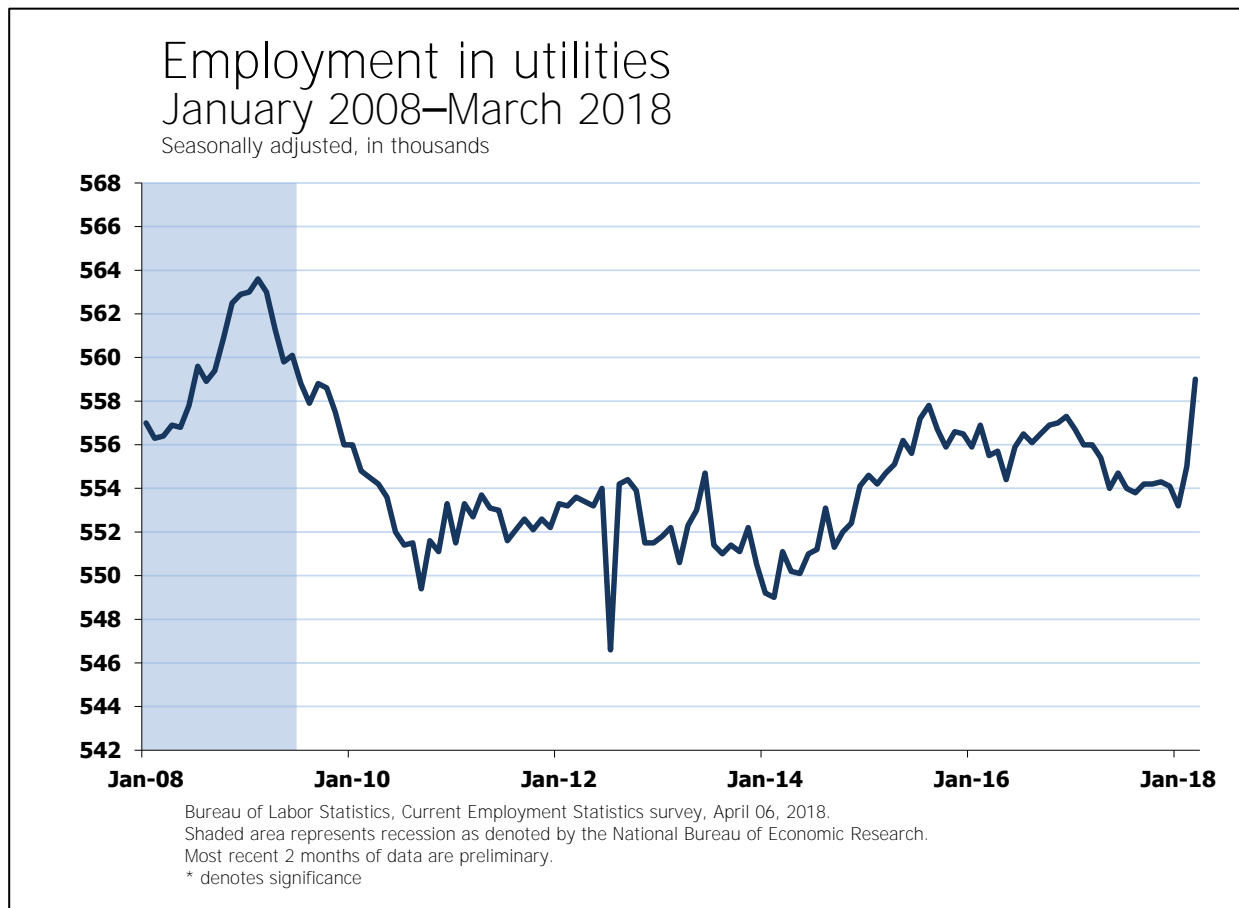


Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in March (+10,000). Among the components, employment continued to trend up in truck transportation (+7,000) and in couriers and messengers (+6,000).



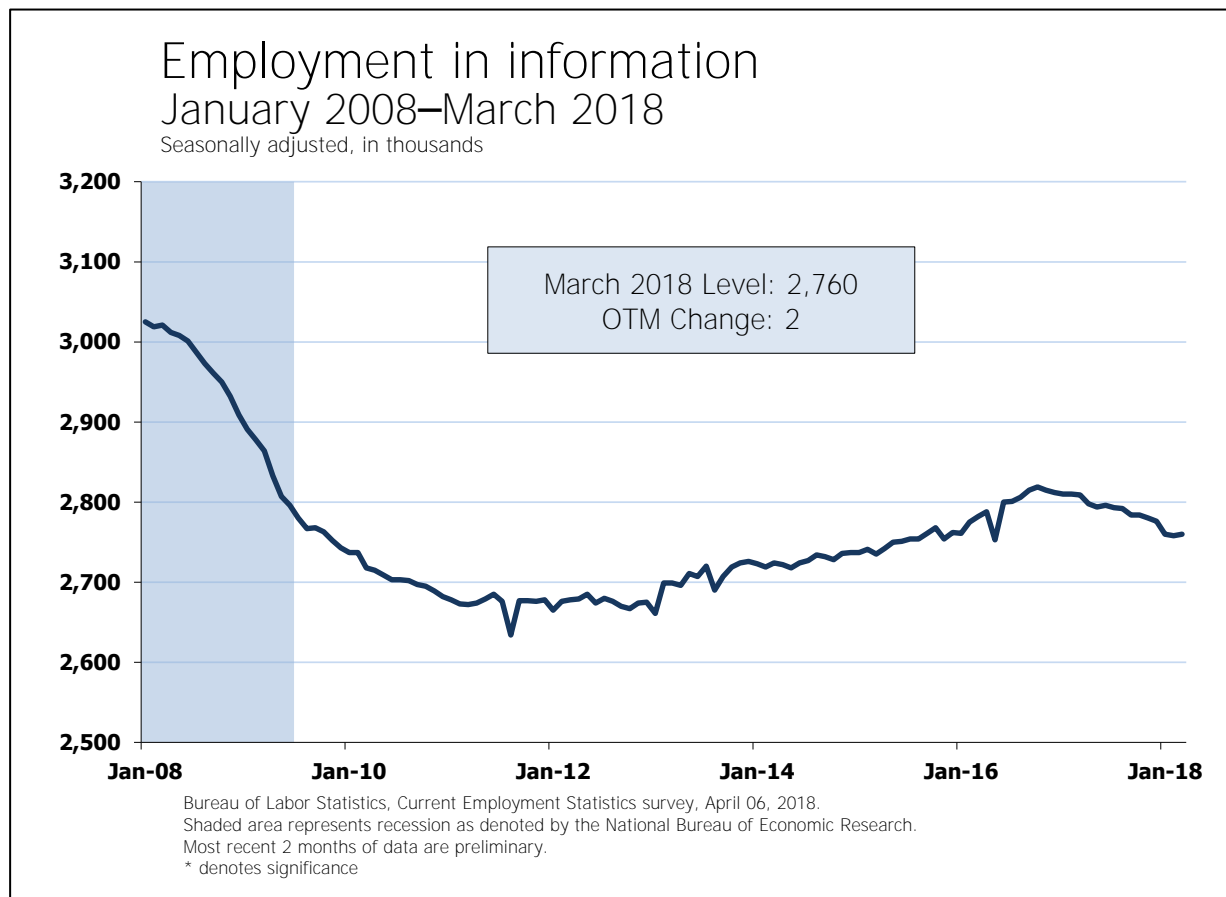
Job growth in truck transportation has shifted into high gear averaging 6,000 per month in 2018. Between January 2015 and December 2017, employment in truck transportation had changed little (+16,000).

Utilities



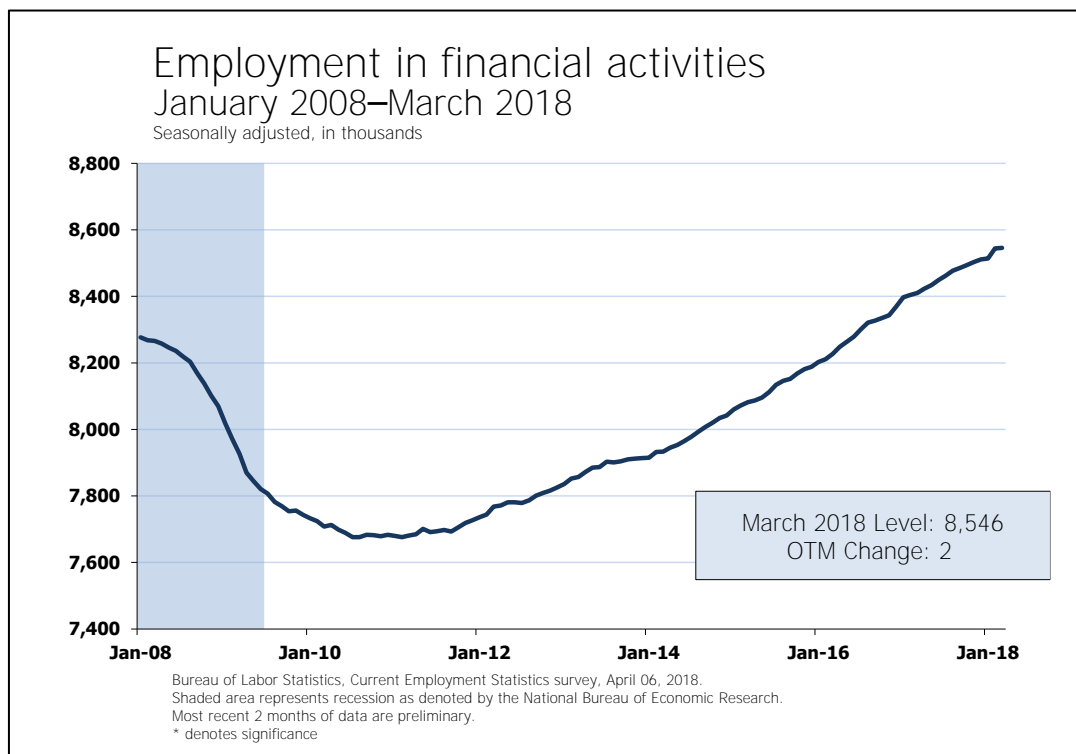
Utilities employment edged up by 4,000 from February to March, but has shown little net change over the year (+3,000).

Information



Information employment was essentially flat in March (+2,000). Since an employment peak in October 2016, the industry has lost 59,000 jobs, primarily in motion picture and sound recording industries (-42,000) and in telecommunications (-29,000).

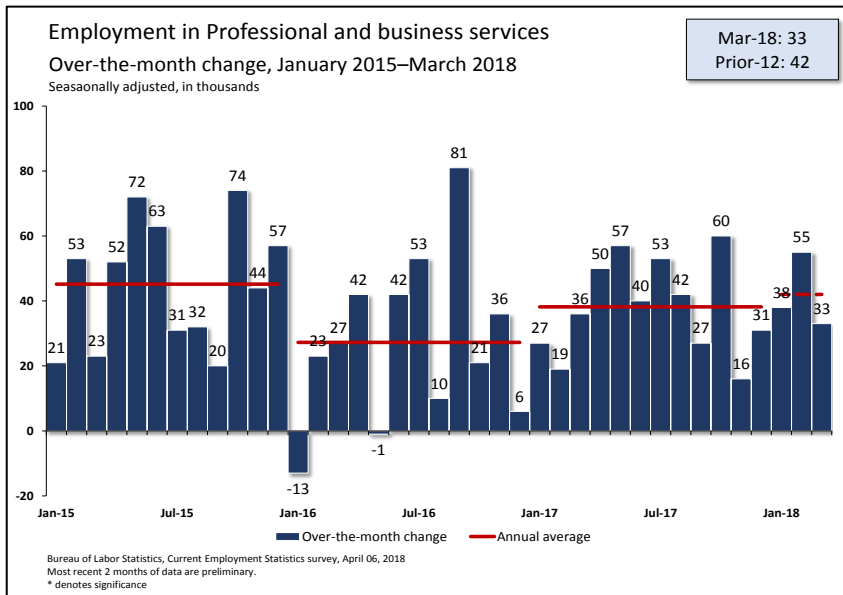
Financial Activities



Employment in financial activities changed little (+2,000) in March, following a February gain of 30,000. Employment in credit intermediation edged down (-6,000), just about offsetting the industry’s February job gain. Small employment changes were spread throughout the remaining component industries.

Since reaching an employment trough in February 2011, financial activities has added 870,000 jobs—a gain of 11 percent.

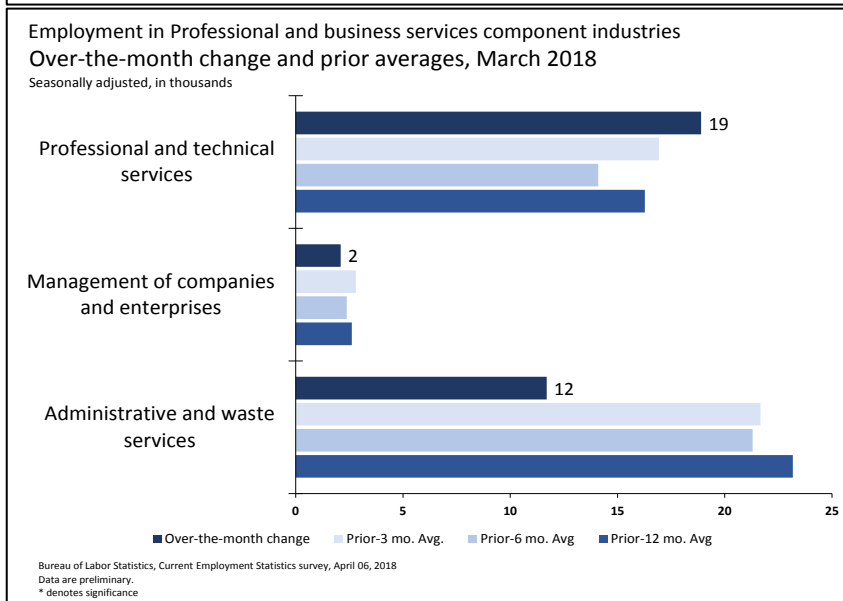
Professional and Business Services



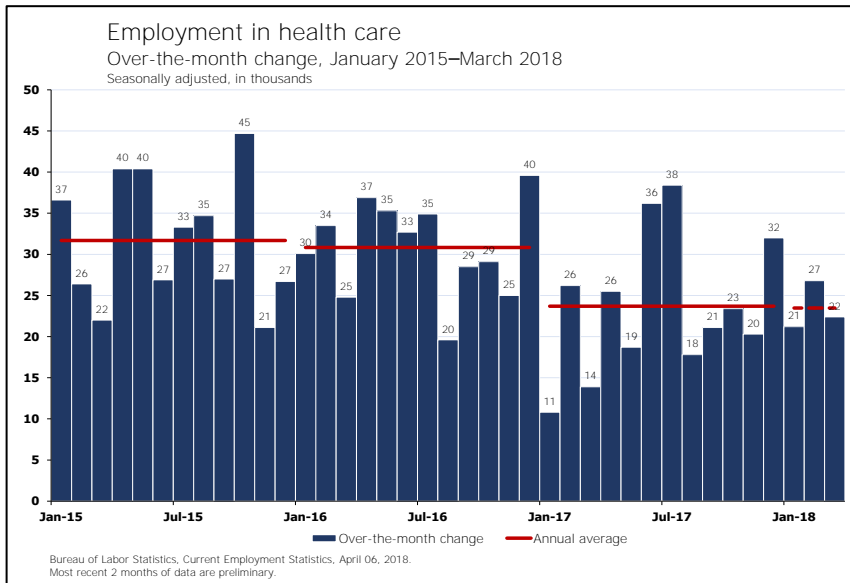
Employment in professional and business services edged up by 33,000 in March. So far in 2018, the industry has added 126,000 jobs.

In March, employment in professional and technical services continued to trend upward (+19,000), in line with recent average changes. Accounting and bookkeeping services (+10,000), computer systems design and related services (+5,000), and advertising and related services (+4,000) accounted for the change.

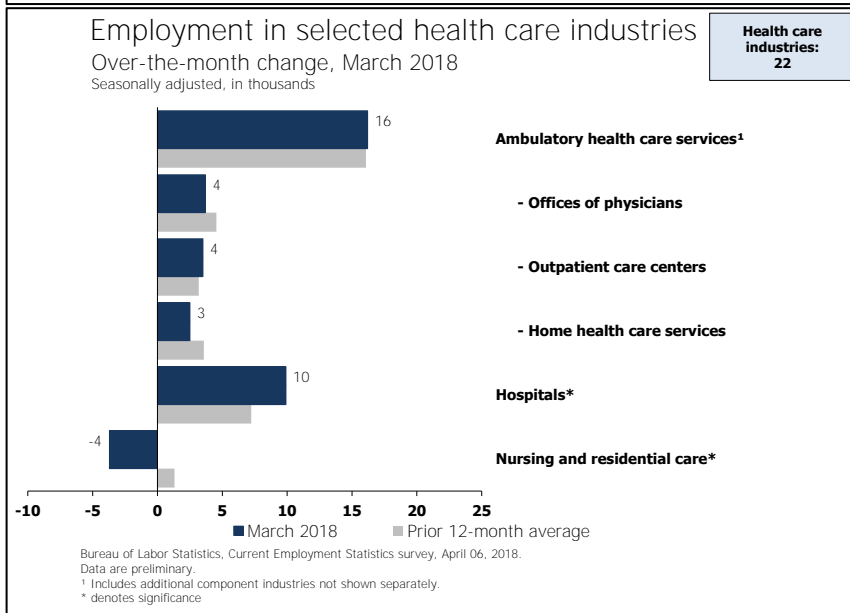
Administrative and waste services experienced little employment change in March (+12,000). Weakness in the industry can be attributed to no change in temporary help services employment (-1,000).



Private Education and Health Services



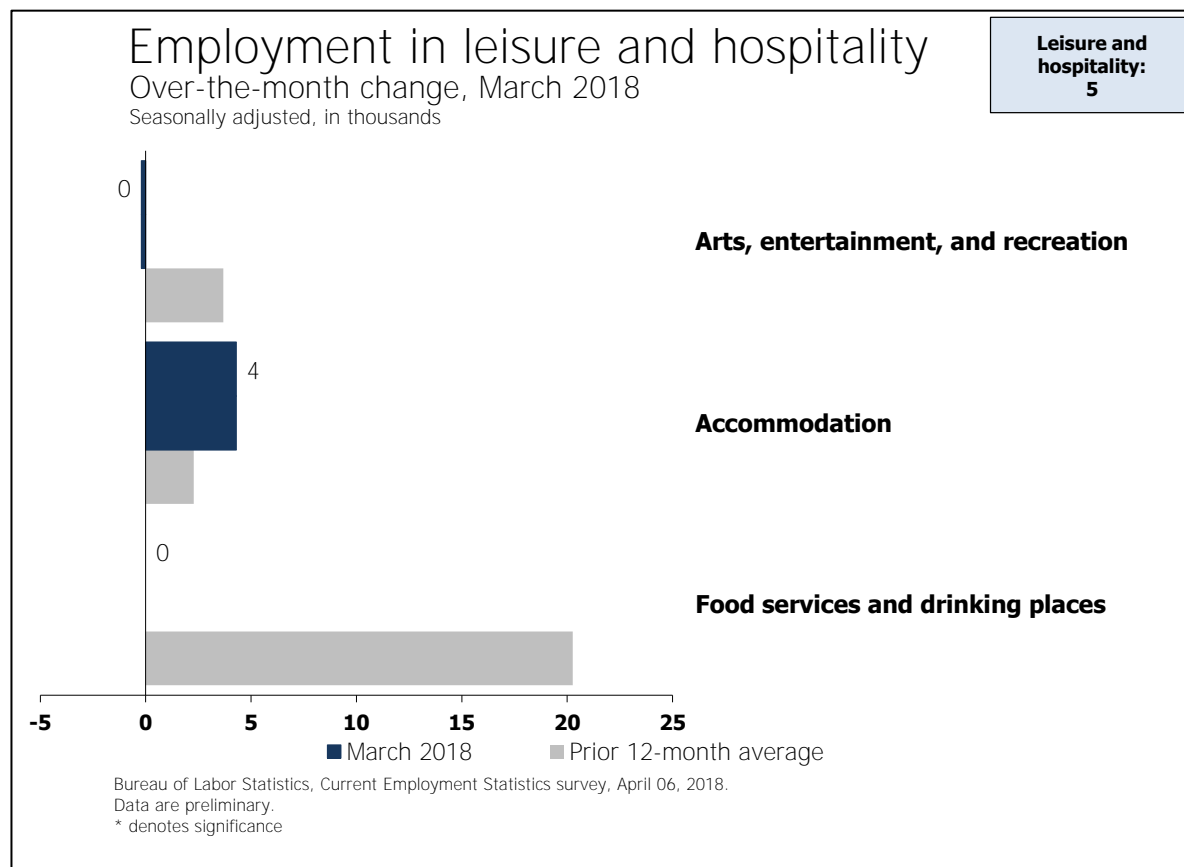
Employment in health care continued to trend up in March (+22,000). Growth in health care has been fairly consistent, rising by about 25,000 per month over the past year.



In March, hospitals added 10,000 jobs, a number similar to each of the 2 prior months. Hospitals have added 91,000 jobs over the past 12 months, for a gain of 1.8 percent

In ambulatory health care services, employment continued to trend up (+16,000) at roughly the same pace as its prior 12-month average monthly change. The main ambulatory component industries also continued their upward employment trends.

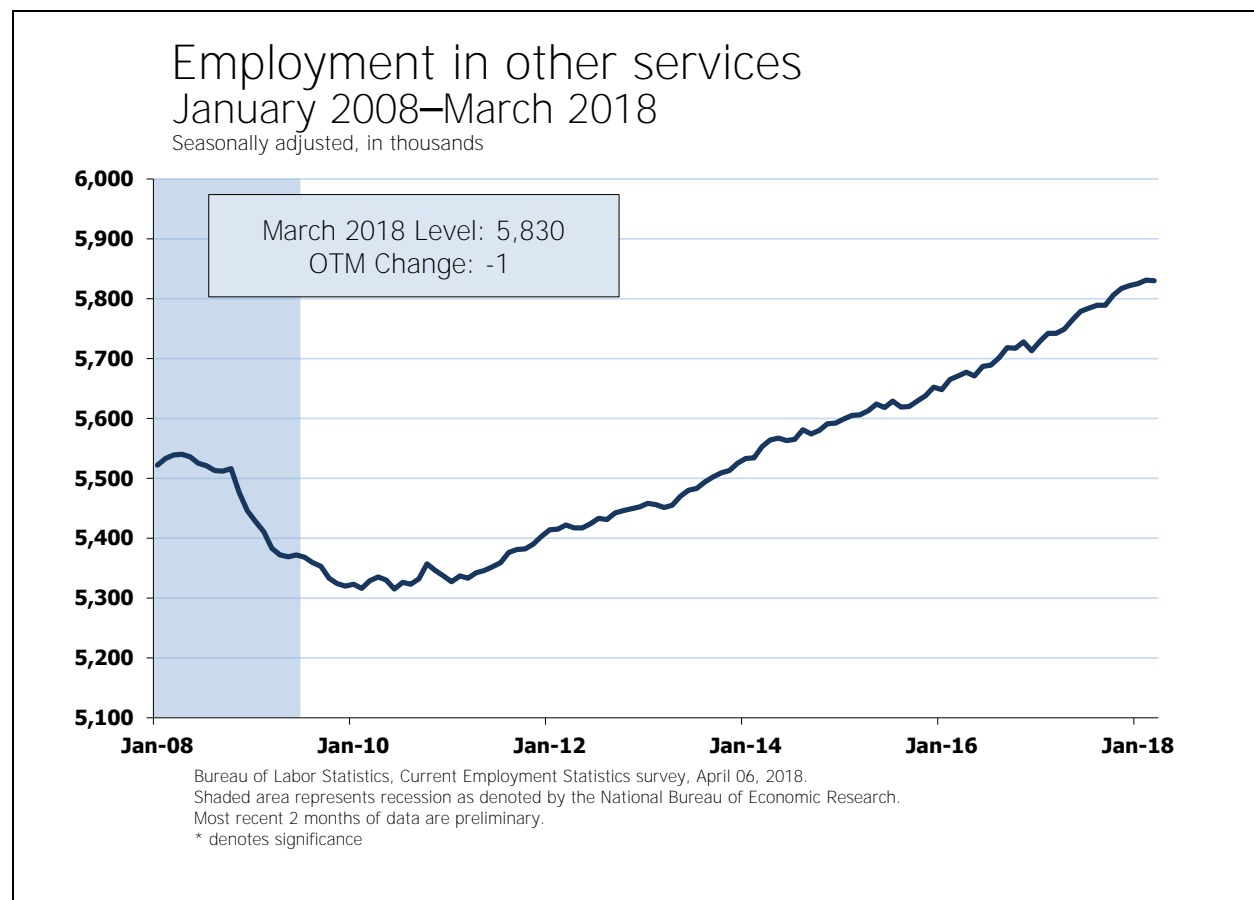
Leisure and Hospitality



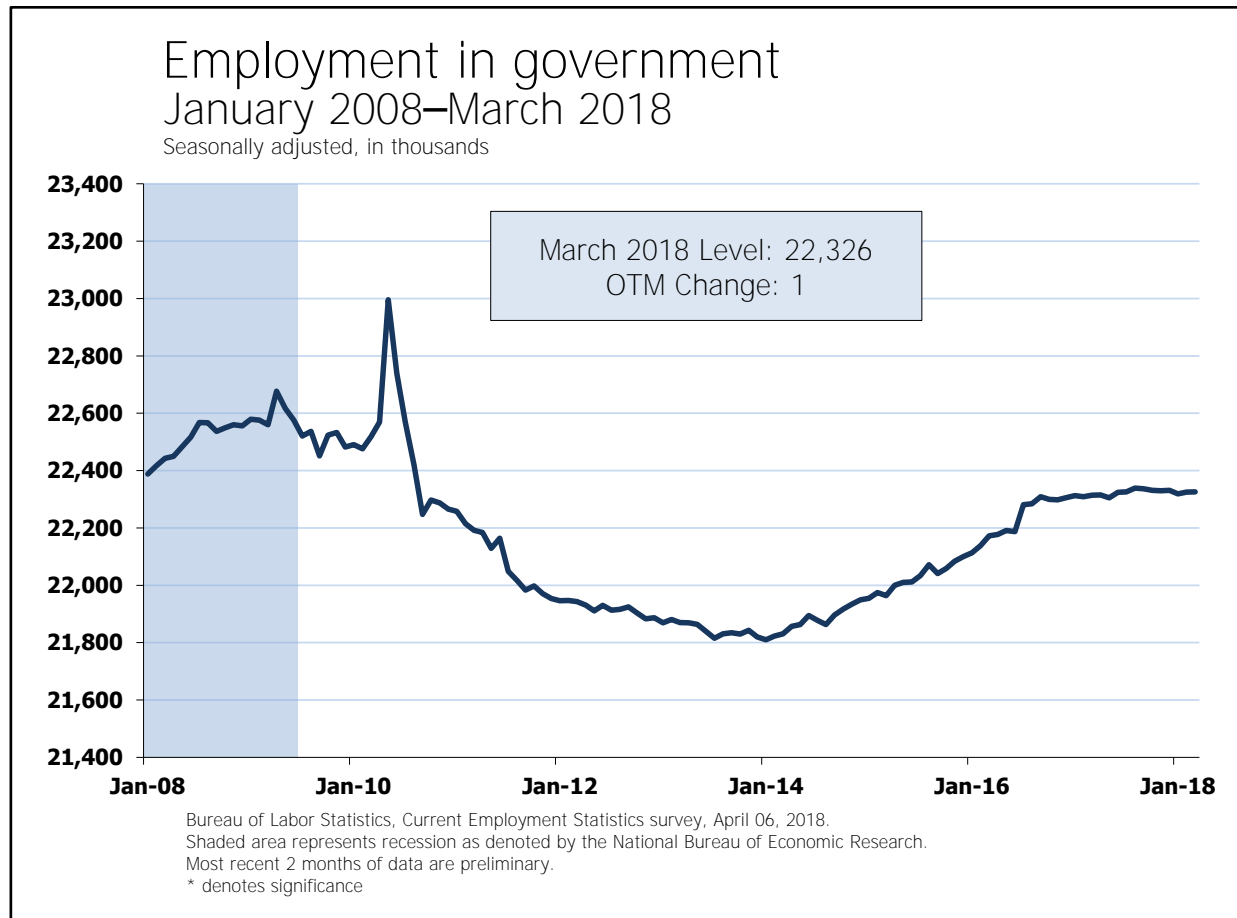
Employment in food services and drinking places was unchanged over the month, falling well below its prior 12-month average change. The weakness in March coincides with a decline in the [Consumer Confidence Index](#).

Other Services

Employment in other services changed little in March (-1,000). Over the most recent 12 months, however, the industry has added 88,000 jobs, a change of 1.5 percent. Personal and laundry services accounted for about half of the jobs gained over this period.



Government



Employment in government was essentially unchanged in March (+1,000). The number of jobs in government is largely unchanged since September 2016.



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