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# Current Employment Statistics Highlights



**March 2023**

Release Date: April 7, 2023

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, March 2023

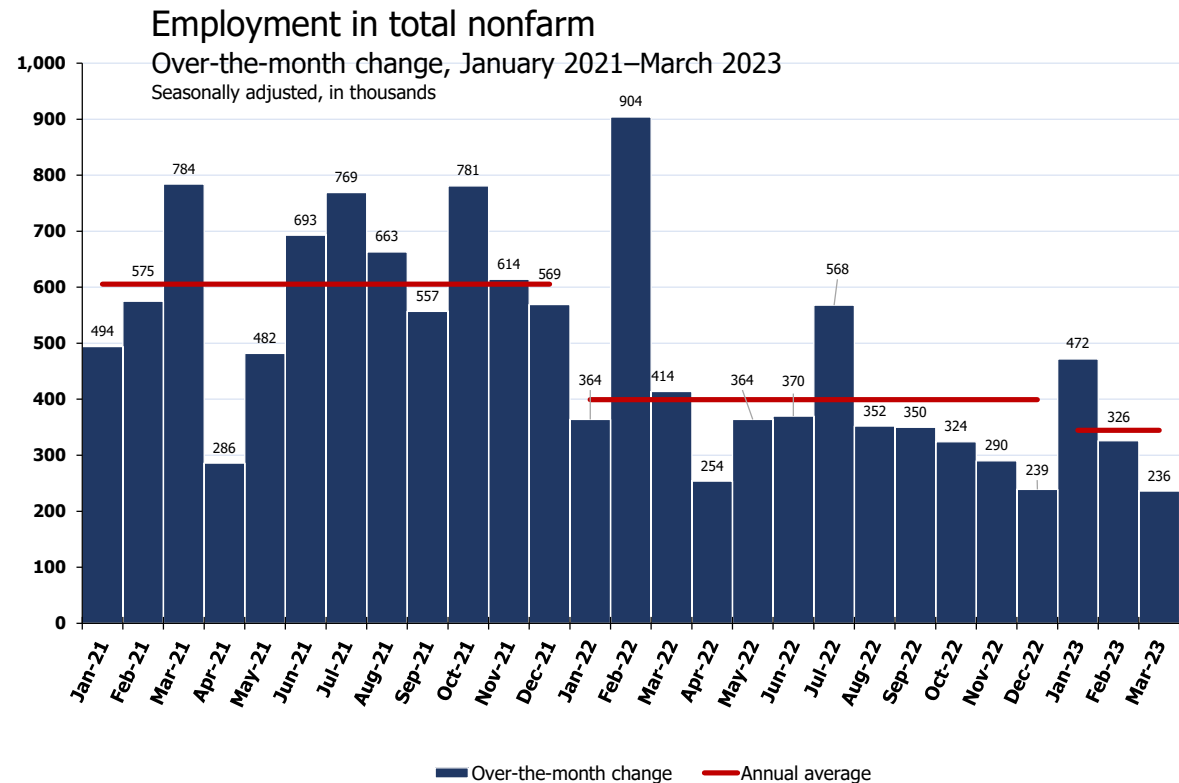
Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 236,000 in March, compared with an average gain of 334,000 over the prior 6 months. In March, employment continued to trend up in leisure and hospitality, government, professional and business services, and health care.

The seasonally adjusted employment change for January was revised down from +504,000 to +472,000, and the change for February was revised up from +311,000 to +326,000. On net, the employment change over these months is 17,000 lower than previously reported.

In March, average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls rose by 9 cents, or 0.3 percent. Over the year, hourly earnings increased by 4.2 percent. In March, average weekly hours of all employees edged down by 0.1 hour to 34.4 hours.

#### +72,000 Leisure and Hospitality

In March, employment in leisure and hospitality increased by 72,000, compared with average monthly gains of 95,000 over the prior 6 months. Within the industry, food services and drinking places added 50,000 jobs over the month.



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, April 07, 2023. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

#### +65,000 Private Education and Health Services

Employment in health care increased by 34,000 in March, including gains in home health care services (+15,000) and in hospitals

(+11,000). Over the prior 6 months, health care added an average gain of 54,000 jobs per month.

### Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, March 2023

**+47,000 Government**

Government added 47,000 jobs in March, equal to its prior 6-month average gain of 47,000 per month.

**+39,000 Professional and Business Services**

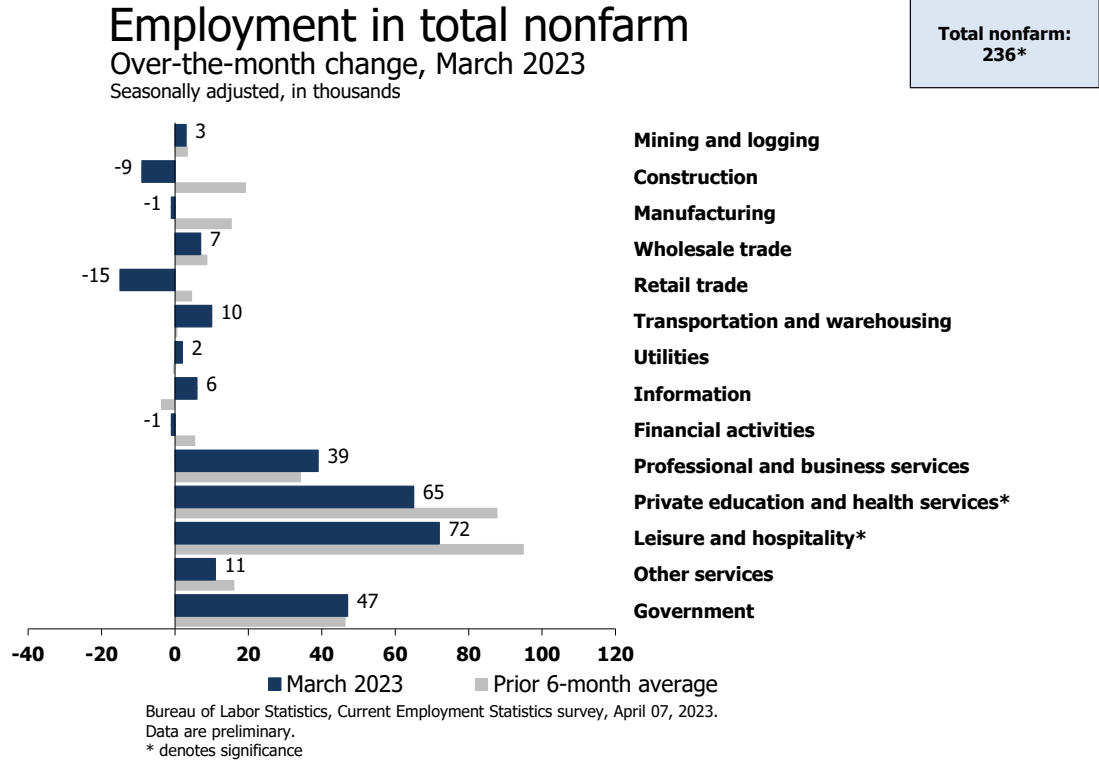
Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in March (+39,000), in line with average monthly growth over the prior 6 months (+34,000). Within the industry, employment in professional, scientific, and technical services continued its upward trend in March (+26,000).

**+10,000 Transportation and Warehousing**

Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in March (+10,000). Within the industry, couriers and messengers (+7,000) and air transportation (+6,000) added jobs over the month, while warehousing and storage (-12,000) lost jobs.

**-1,000 Manufacturing**

Manufacturing employment changed little in March (-1,000), on trend with flatness so far this year.



**-9,000 Construction**

Construction employment changed little in March (-9,000), after increasing by an average of 19,000 per month over the prior 6 months.

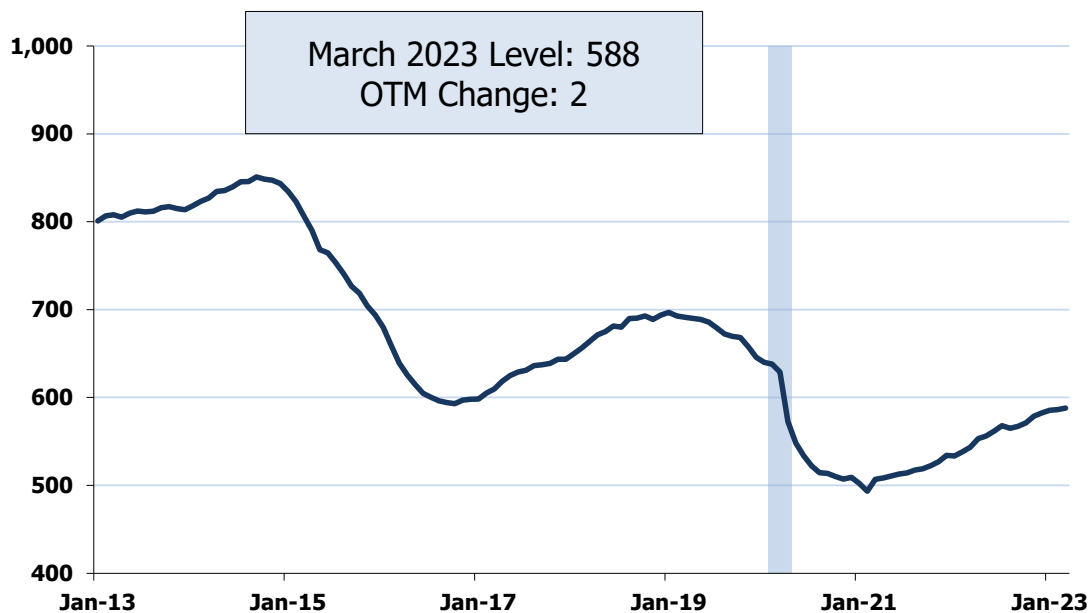
furniture, home furnishings, electronics, and appliance retailers (-9,000) and building materials and garden equipment and supplies dealers (-9,000) lost jobs, while department stores (+15,000) added jobs over the month.

**-15,000 Retail Trade**

Employment in retail trade changed little in March (-15,000). Within the industry,

## Mining and Logging

Employment in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction  
**January 2013–March 2023**  
 Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

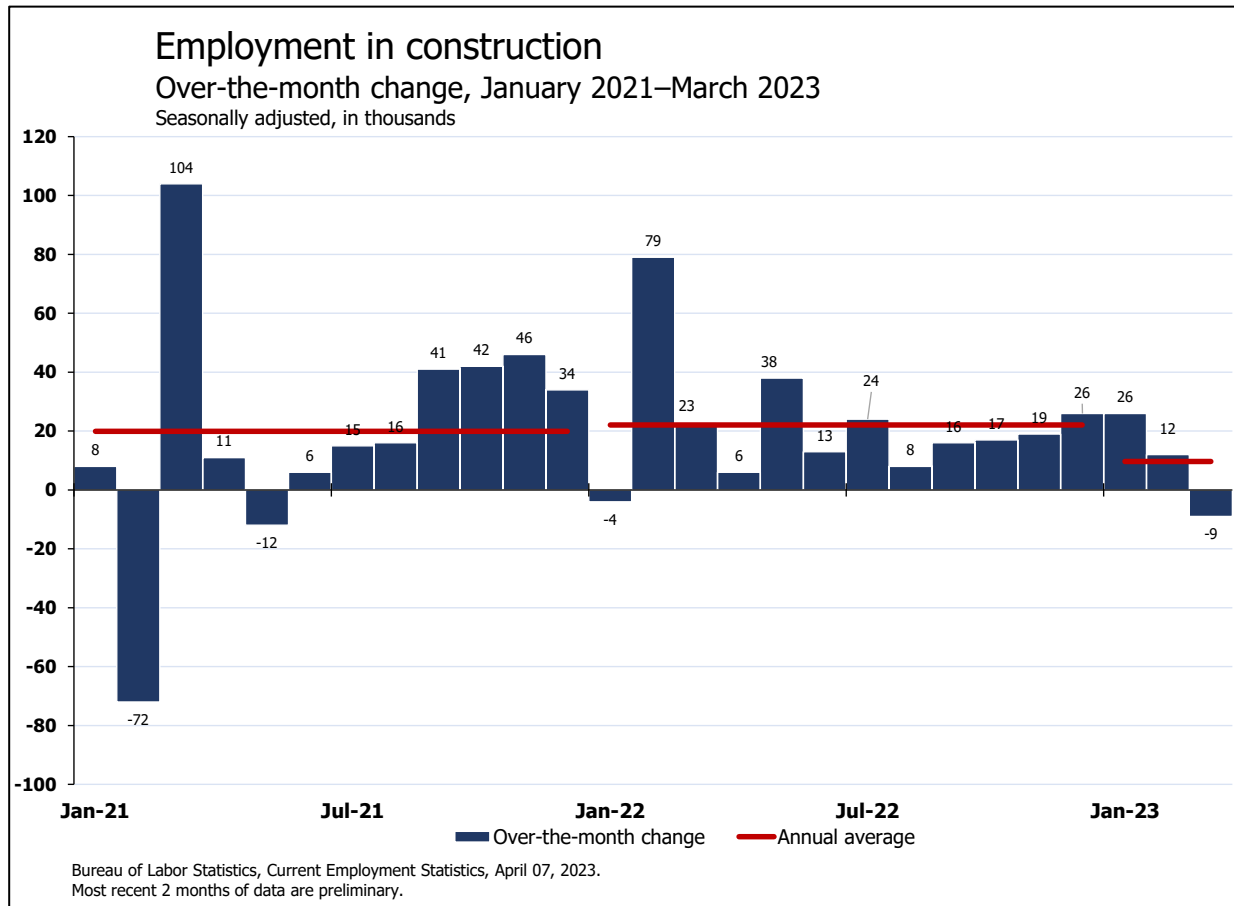


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 07, 2023.  
 Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.  
 Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.  
 \* denotes significance.

Employment in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction changed little in March (+2,000).

The recent flatness in employment in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction reflects a decline in the number of active [North American rotary rigs](#) and in the average weekly price of [West Texas Intermediate crude oil](#).

## Construction



Employment in construction changed little in March (-9,000), after increasing by an average of 19,000 per month over the prior 6 months.

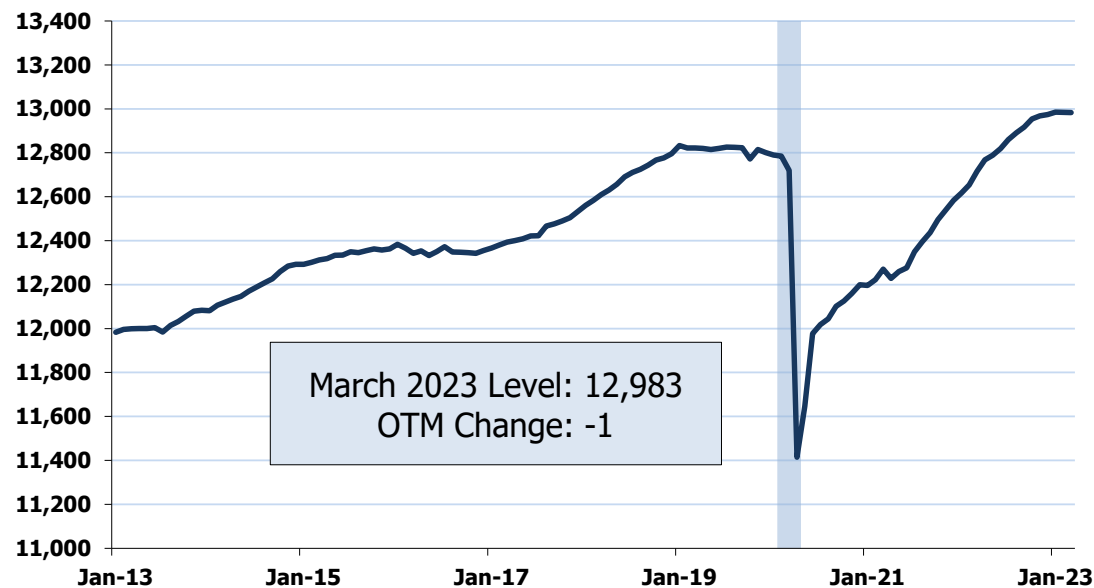
In March, employment in heavy and civil engineering construction returned to its pre-pandemic February 2020 level.

The flatness in March construction employment follows weakness in [construction spending](#) in February.

## Manufacturing

### Employment in manufacturing January 2013–March 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



March 2023 Level: 12,983  
OTM Change: -1

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 07, 2023.  
Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.  
\* denotes significance.

In March, manufacturing employment remained essentially unchanged (-1,000).

In March, the manufacturing 1-month diffusion index rose by 8.4 to 56.3. A number above 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than are losing jobs.

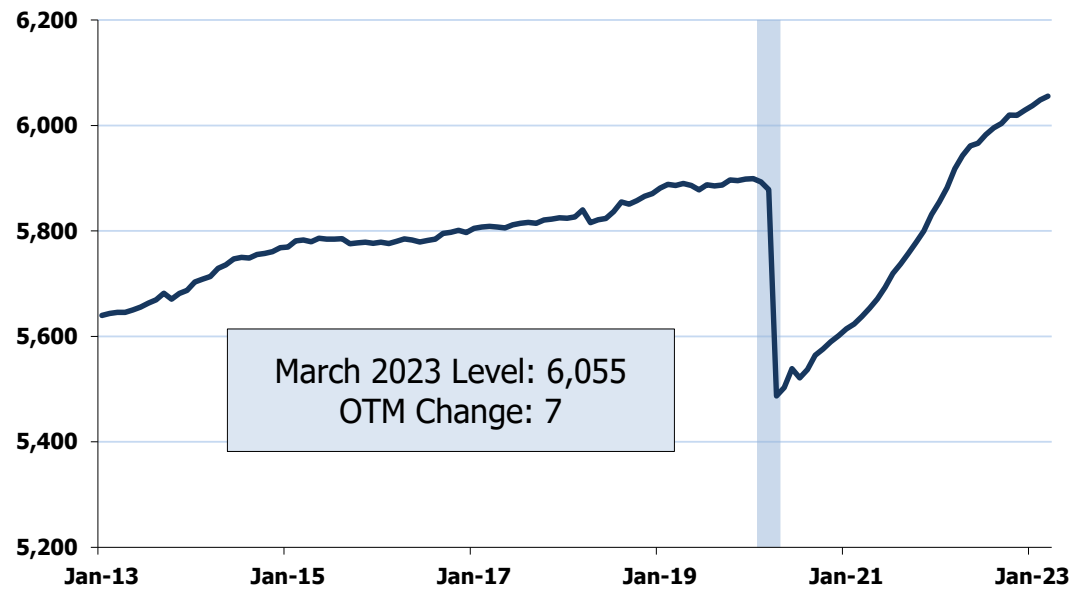
Recent flatness in manufacturing employment corresponds with weakness in both the [Institute of Supply Management's Purchasing Managers' Index \(PMI\)](#) and the [S&P Global US Manufacturing PMI](#), which measure business sentiment and expectations.

In March, average hourly earnings for all employees in manufacturing increased by 16 cents to \$31.83. Production employees' average hourly earnings increased by 13 cents to \$25.91. Average weekly hours of all employees and production employees in manufacturing were unchanged over the month.

## Wholesale Trade

### Employment in wholesale trade January 2013–March 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

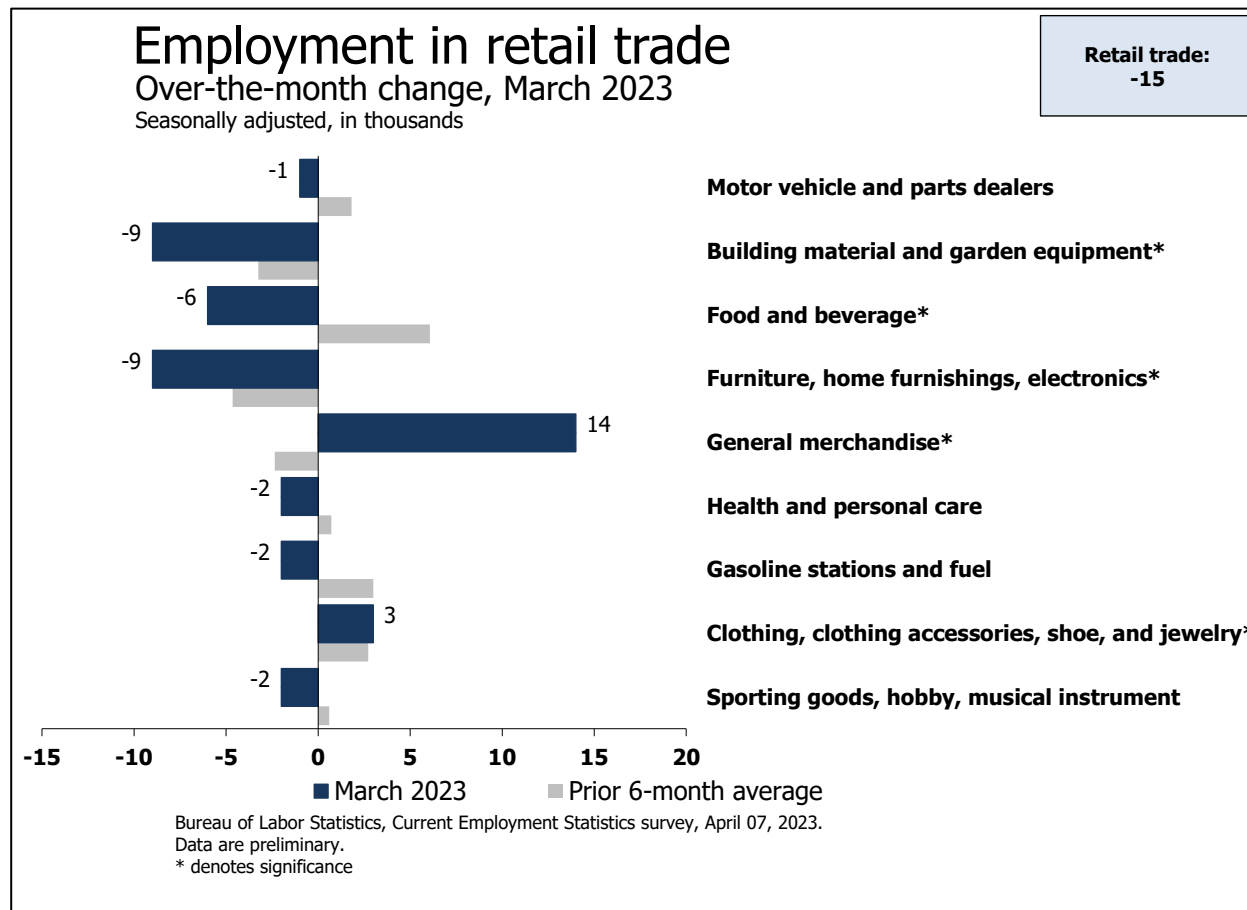


March 2023 Level: 6,055  
OTM Change: 7

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, April 07, 2023.  
Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.  
\* denotes significance.

Employment in wholesale trade changed little in March (+7,000), on pace with its prior 6-month average gain of 9,000 per month.

## Retail Trade



Employment in retail trade changed little in March (-15,000). Employment in the industry is little changed on net over the year.

Within retail trade, job growth in general merchandise retailers (+14,000) partially offset losses in building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers (-9,000) and furniture, home furnishings, electronics, and appliance retailers (-9,000).

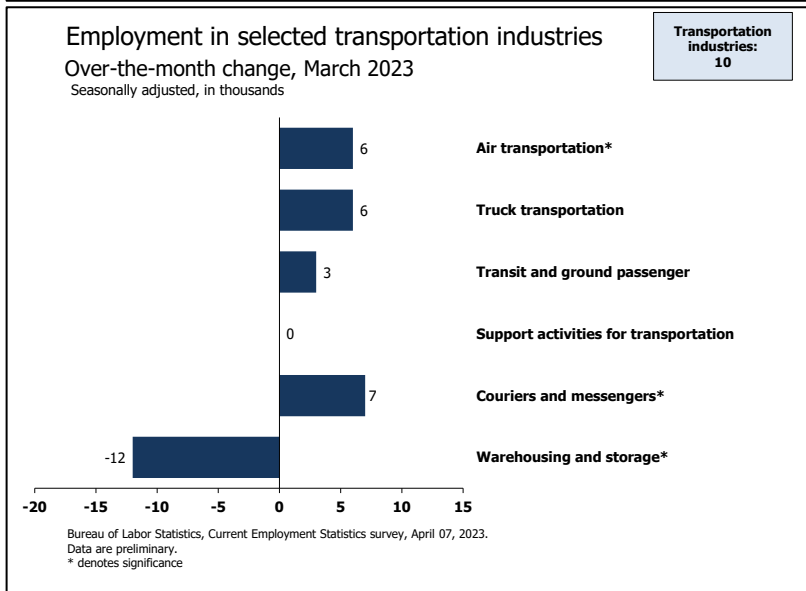
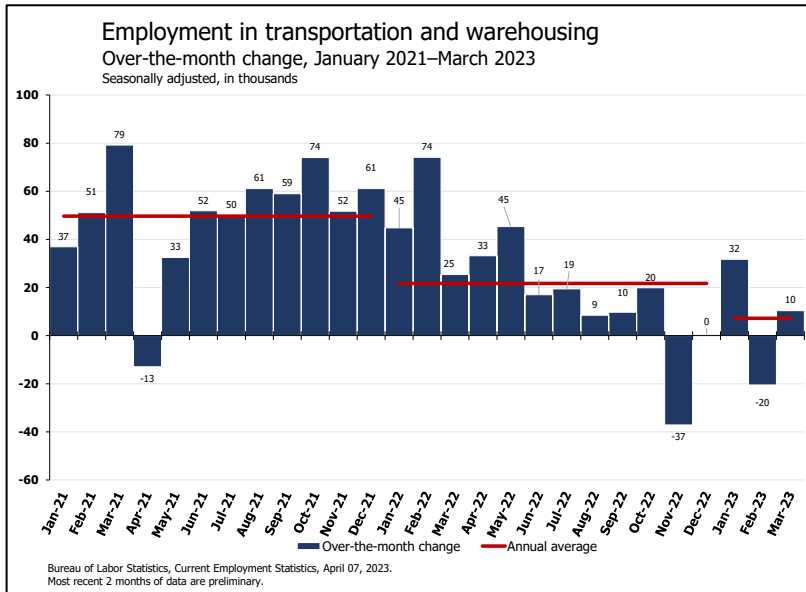
Retail-related economic indicators for the month are mostly negative. [Auto Sales](#), [Retail Sales](#), and [Real Personal Consumption Expenditures](#) for goods decreased in February, and the per-gallon price of [regular gasoline](#) increased in March. In contrast, the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) increased in March.



## Transportation and Warehousing

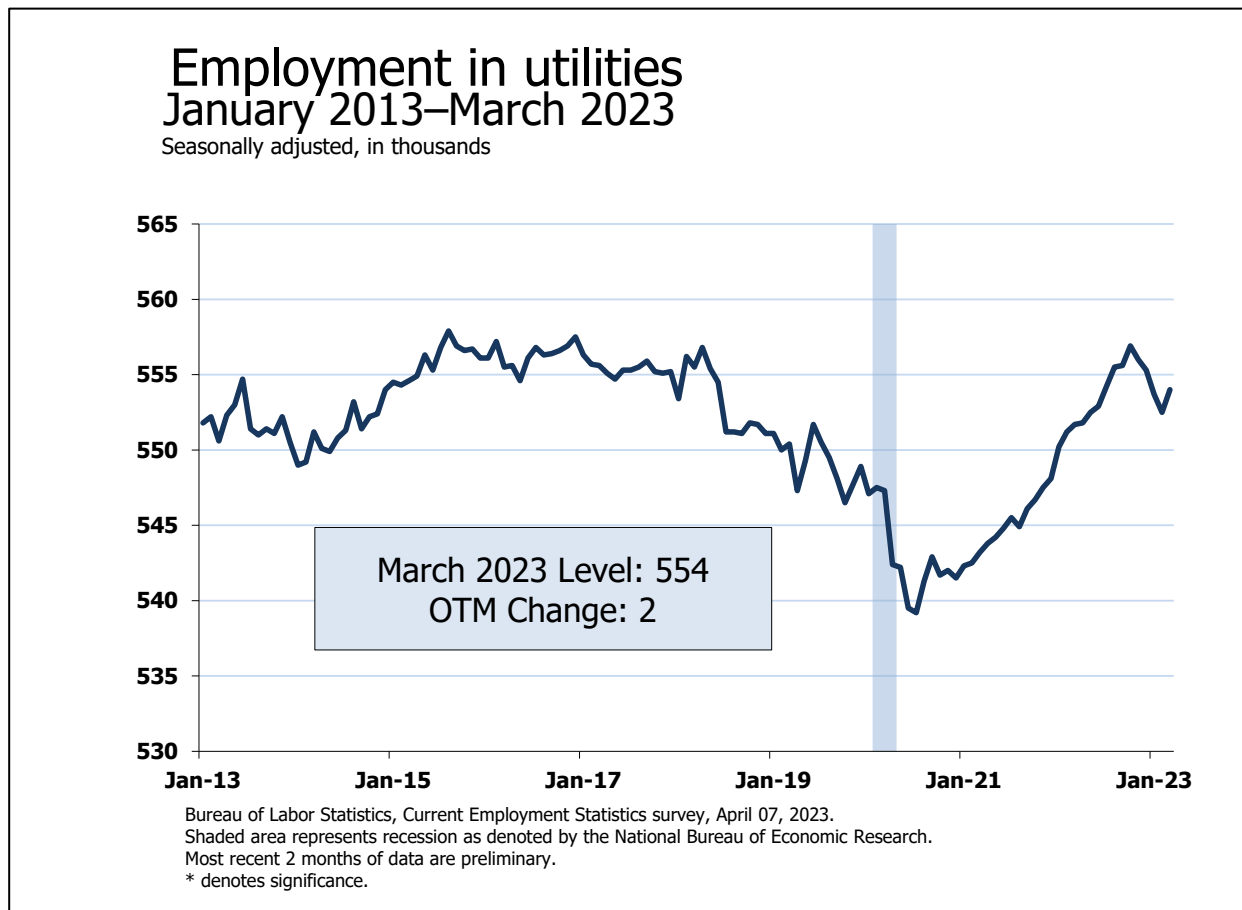
Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in March (+10,000) and has shown little net change in recent months.

In March, employment gains in couriers and messengers (+7,000) and air transportation (+6,000) were offset by a loss in warehousing and storage (-12,000).



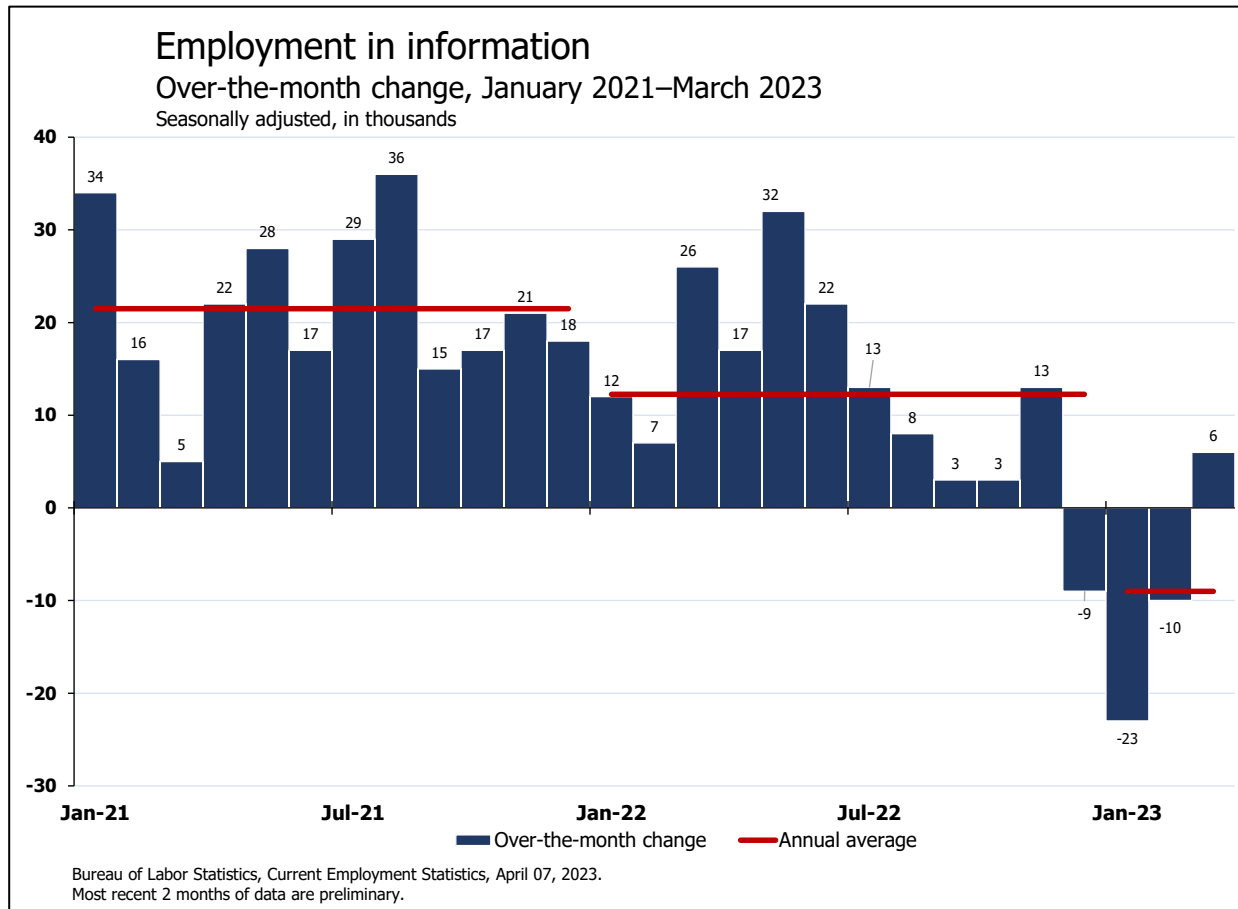
## Utilities

Employment in utilities changed little in March (+2,000).



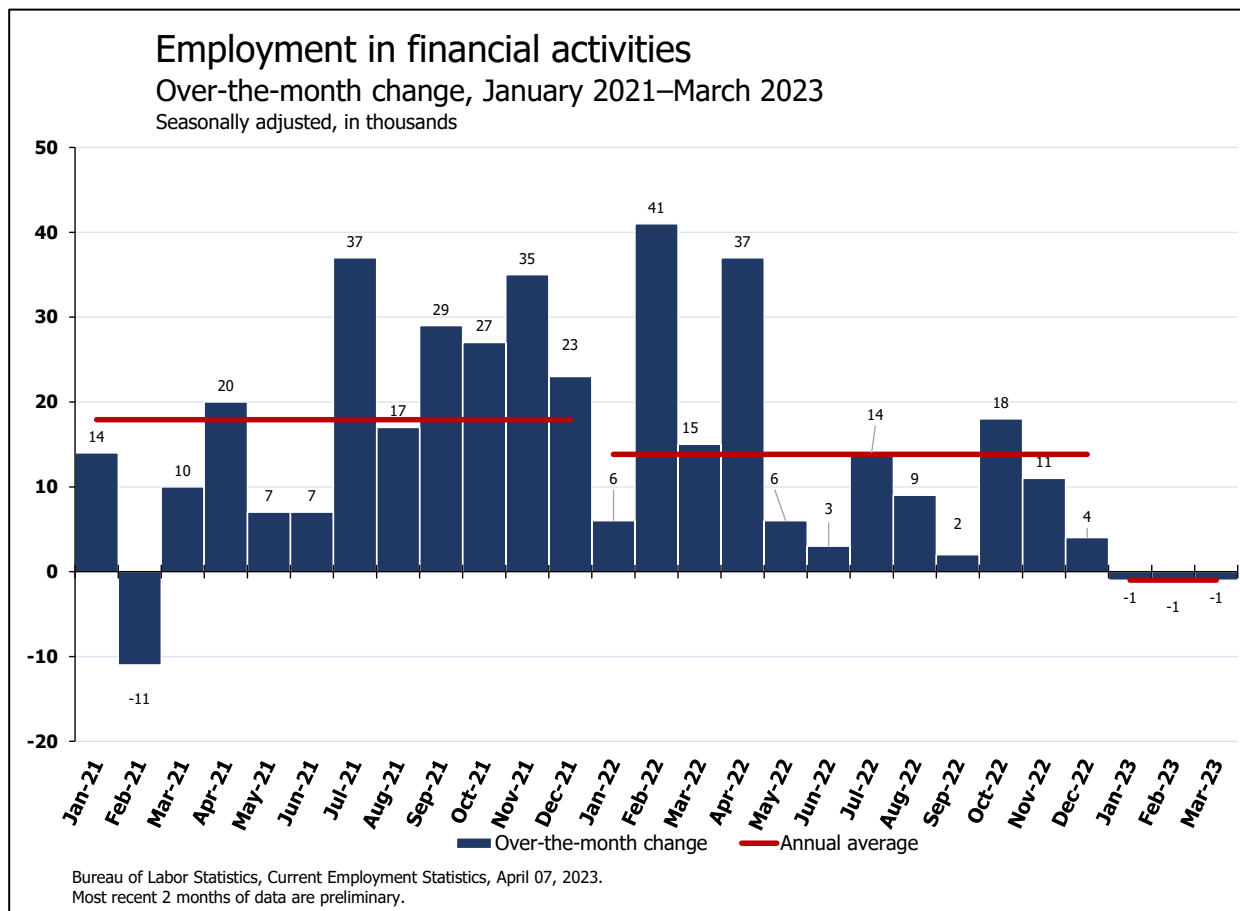
### Information

Employment in information changed little in March (+6,000), after declining by 42,000 over the prior 3 months. Within the industry, telecommunications lost 3,000 jobs.

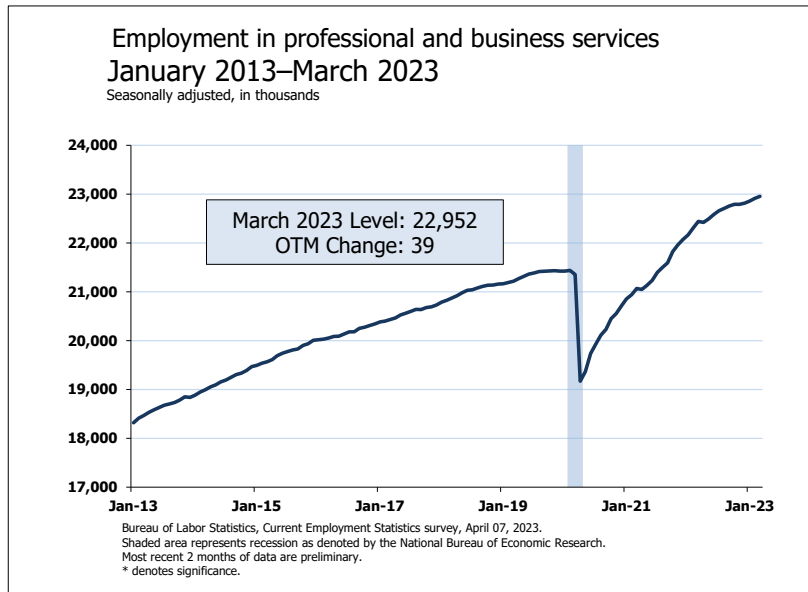


## Financial Activities

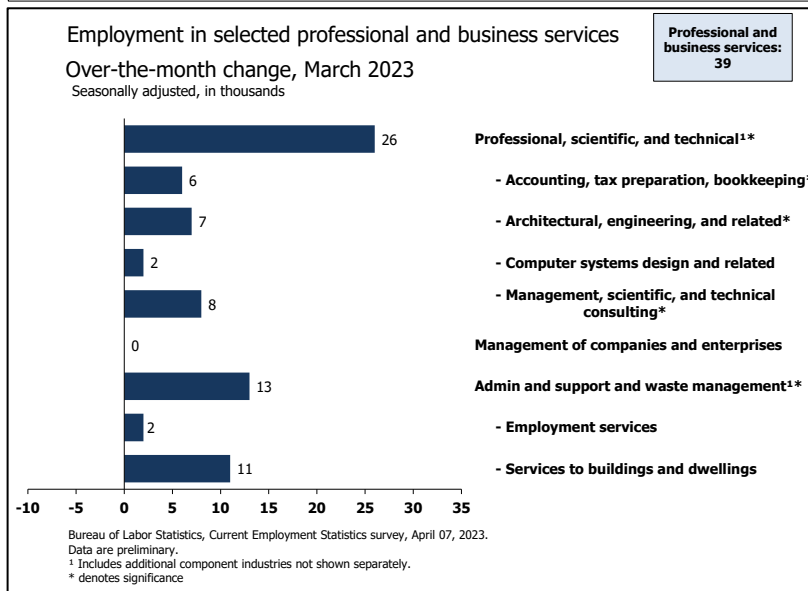
Employment in financial activities was flat in March (-1,000), in line with weakness seen in recent months.



## Professional and Business Services

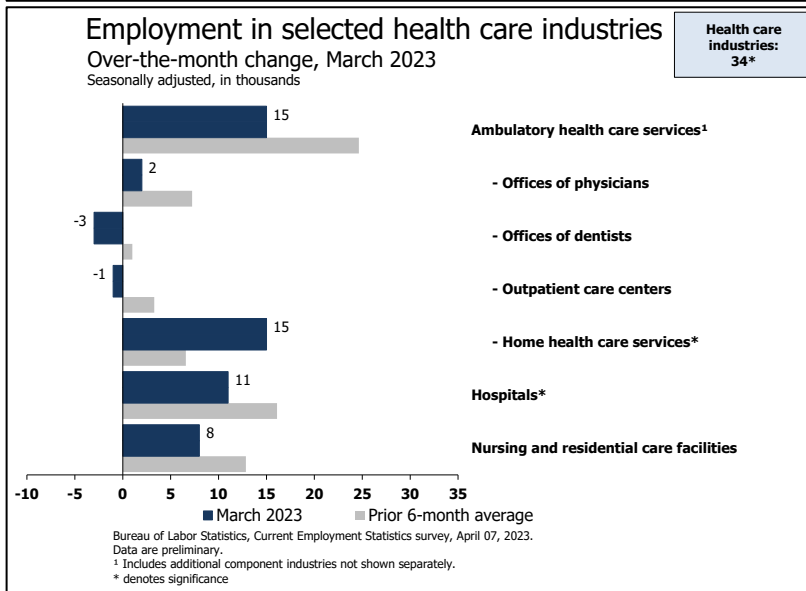
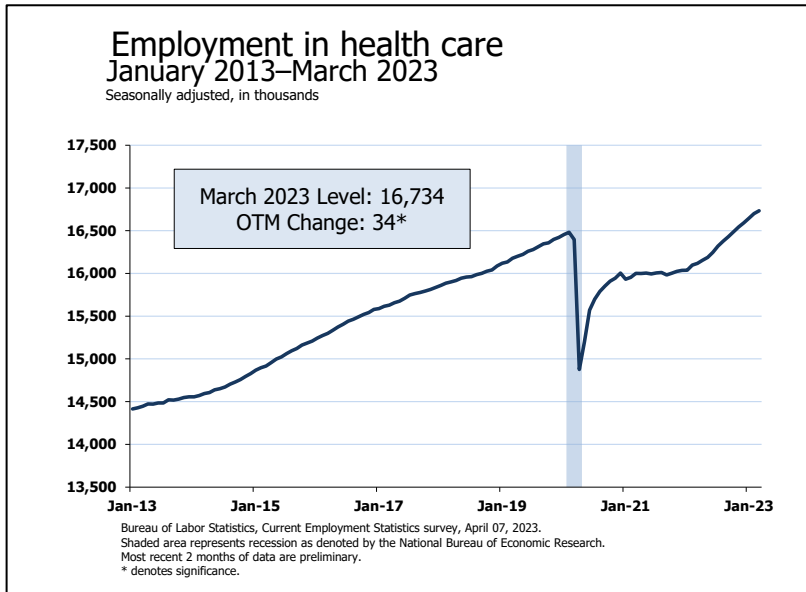


Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in March (+39,000), in line with its prior 6-month average increase of 34,000 per month. Over the month, scientific research and development services added 5,000 jobs. Employment in architectural, engineering, and related services continued to trend up in March (+7,000). Employment in temporary help services changed little over the month (-11,000), coinciding with recent weakness in the [ASA Staffing Index](#).



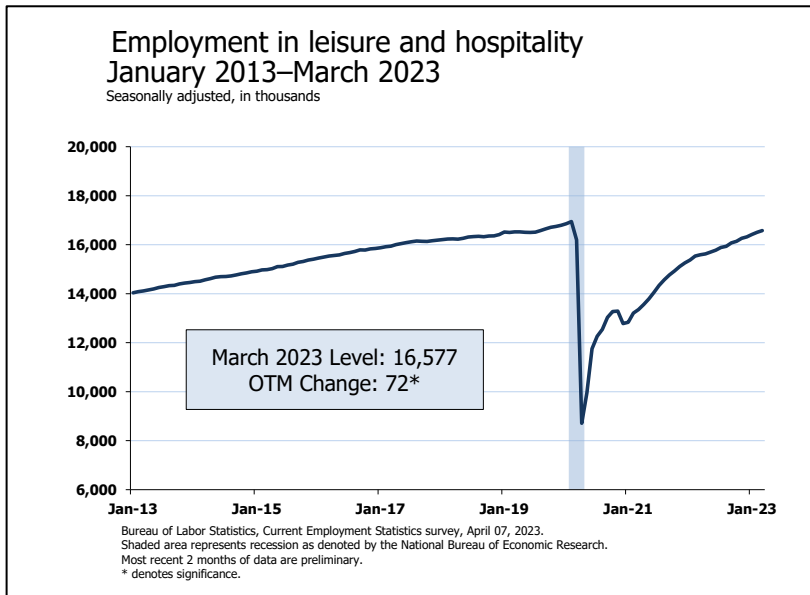
## Private Education and Health Services

Employment in health care increased by 34,000 in March, below its prior 6-month average gain of 54,000 per month.



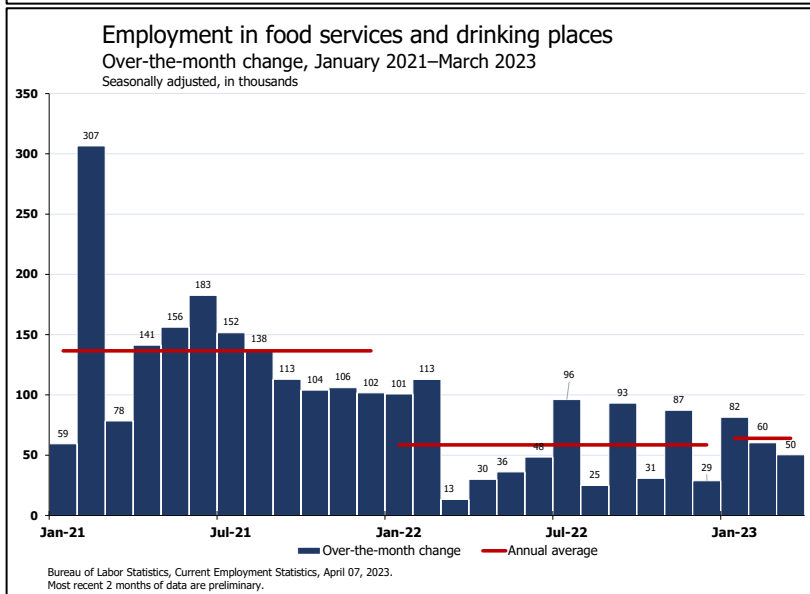
Within health care, home health care services (+15,000) and hospitals (+11,000) added jobs in March, and employment in nursing and residential care facilities (+8,000) continued to trend up. Employment in social assistance (+17,000) also continued to trend up over the month.

## Leisure and Hospitality



Employment in leisure and hospitality increased by 72,000 in March, compared with average monthly gains of 95,000 over the prior 6 months. Industry employment is 368,000 lower than the February 2020 level.

Over the year, average hourly earnings for all employees in leisure and hospitality rose by 6.1 percent to \$20.96.

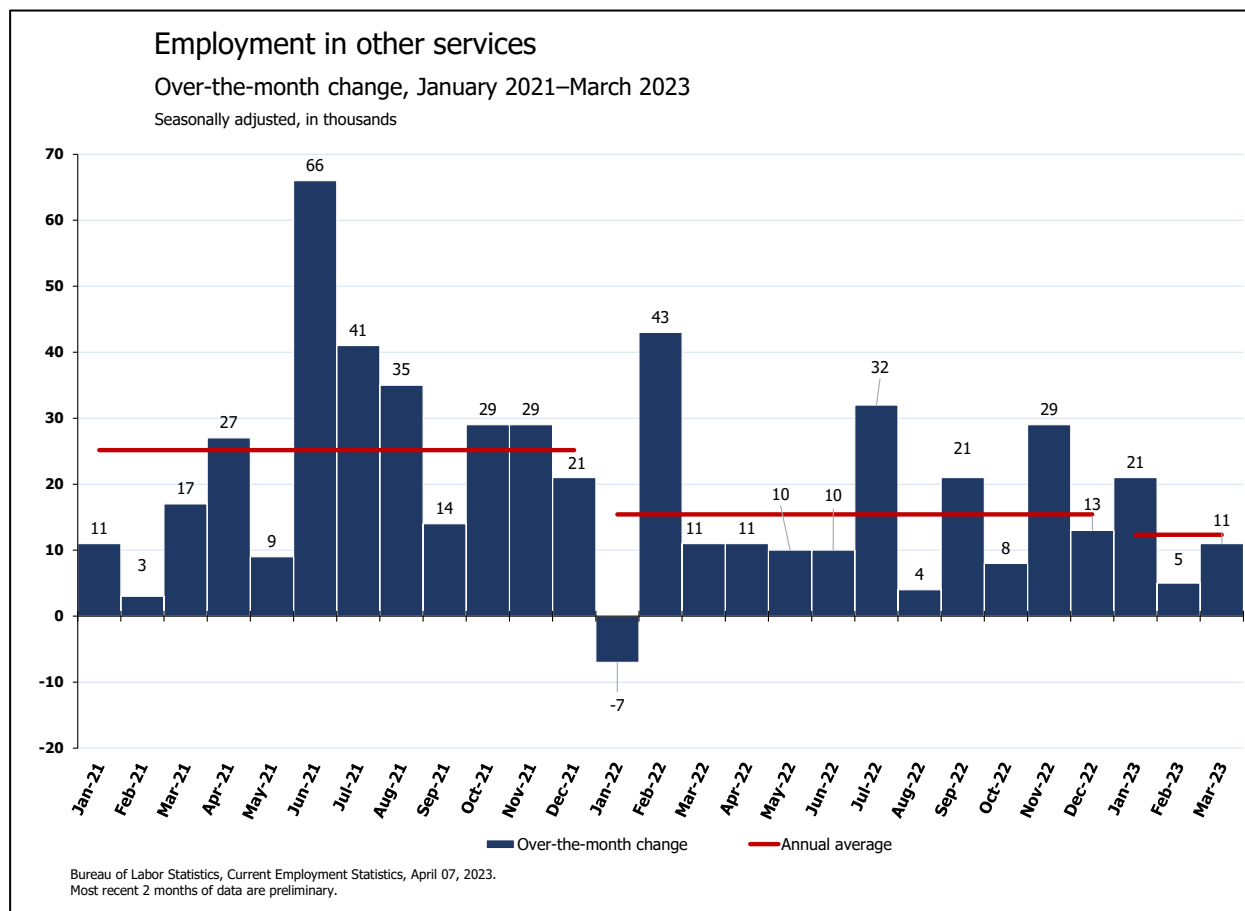


Employment in food services and drinking places increased by 50,000 in March, compared with average monthly gains of 64,000 over the prior 6 months. Recent employment growth coincides with the strength in [restaurant sales](#) over the last 12 months.

## Other Services

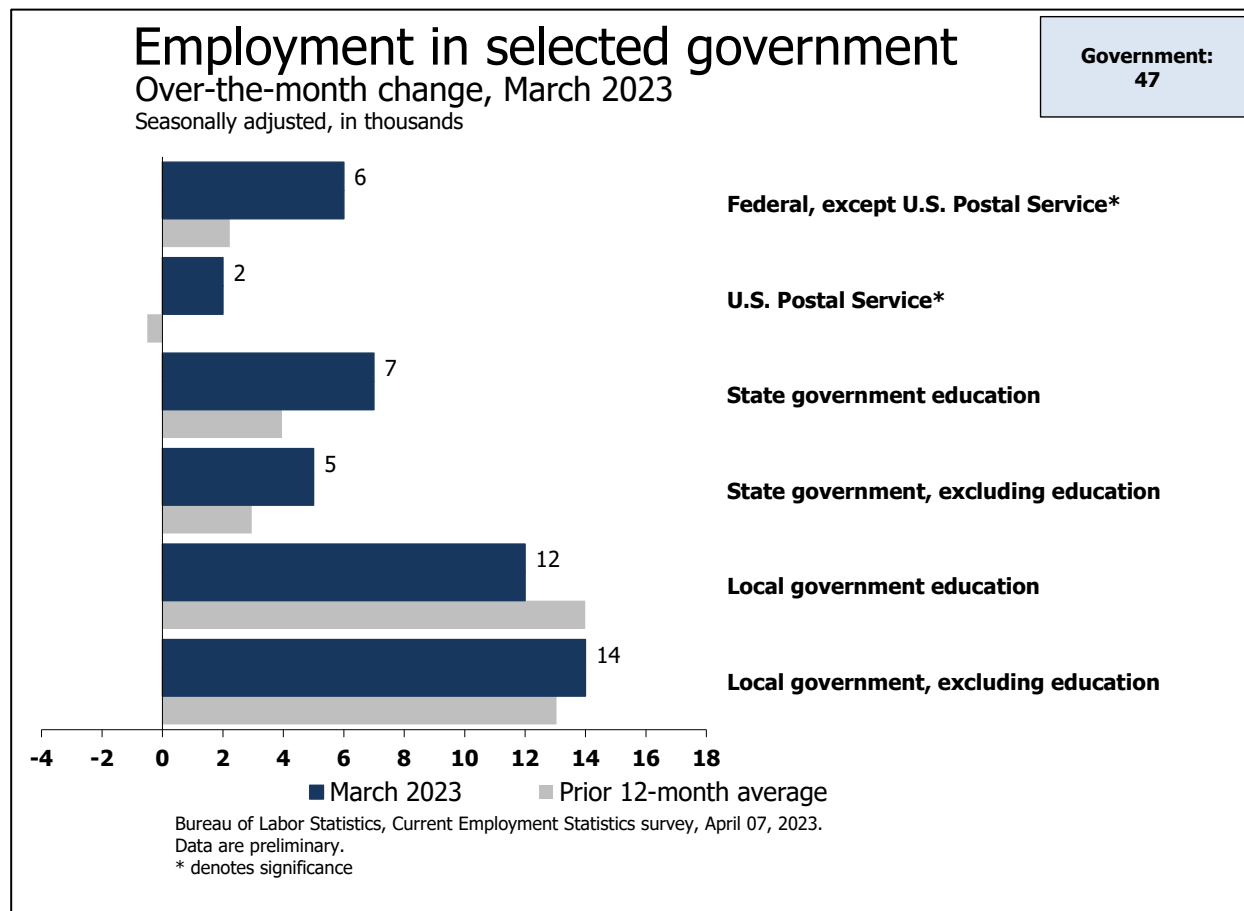
Employment in other services changed little in March (+11,000), in line with its prior 6-month average gain of 16,000 per month.

Employment in other services is 105,000 below its February 2020 level.





## Government



Government employment increased by 47,000 in March, equal to the average monthly gain over the prior 6 months. Employment in government is below its February 2020 level by 314,000.



Prepared by Staff of the National Estimates Branch  
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