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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



August 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, August 2018

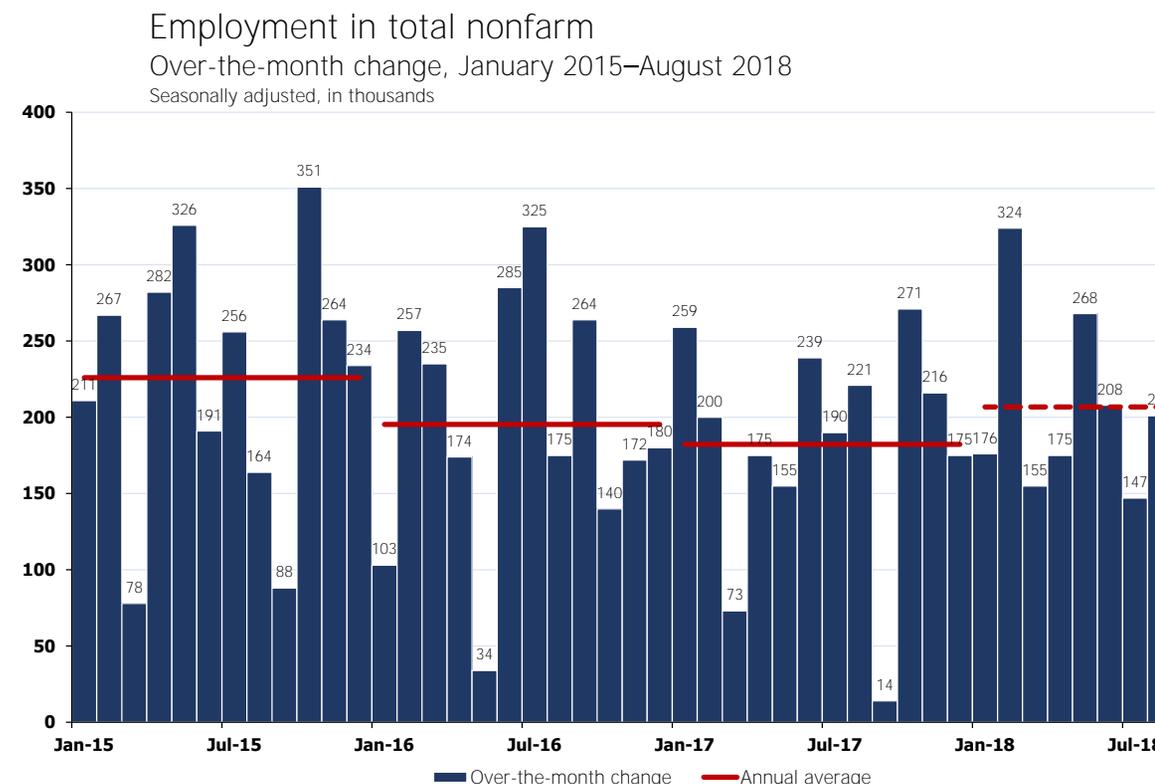
Nonfarm employment increased by 201,000 in August. Professional and business services, health care, wholesale trade, transportation and warehousing, and mining added jobs over the month.

The employment change for July revised down from +157,000 to +147,000, and the change for June also revised down from +248,000 to +208,000. On net, employment over these months is 50,000 lower than previously reported.

Average hourly earnings of all private-sector employees increased by 10 cents in August, after rising by 7 cents in July. Over the year, hourly earnings have risen by 2.9 percent. Average weekly hours, at 34.5 hours, were unchanged in August.

+53,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment in professional and business services increased by 53,000 in August, with more than half of the growth occurring in professional and technical services. Over the year, professional and business services has added 519,000 jobs.



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, September 07, 2018. Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

+53,000 Education and Health Services

Health care added 33,000 jobs in August. Within the industry, employment increased in ambulatory care services (+21,000) and in hospitals (+8,000). Over the past 12 months, health care has added 301,000 jobs.

+22,000 Wholesale Trade

Durable goods wholesalers added 14,000 jobs in August and 68,000 jobs over the year, accounting for most of the job growth within wholesale trade during these periods.

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, August 2018

+20,000 Transportation and Warehousing

In August, employment in transportation and warehousing rose by 20,000. Within the industry, couriers and messengers added 4,000 jobs. Over the year, transportation and warehousing has added 173,000 jobs.

+6,000 Mining and Logging

Employment in mining increased by 6,000 in August, with support activities for mining accounting for the increase. Since an employment trough in October 2016, mining has added 104,000 jobs, with support activities for mining responsible for 100,000 of the job gain.

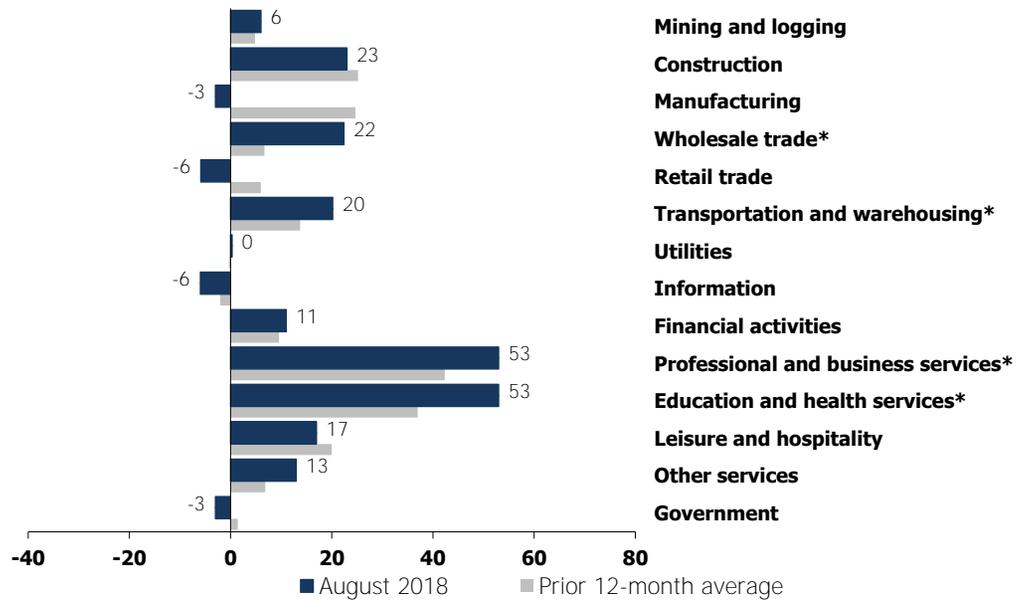
+23,000 Construction

Employment in construction continued to trend up in August (+23,000). The industry has added 297,000 jobs over the past 12 months, with specialty trade contractors accounting for two-thirds of the growth.

Employment in total nonfarm

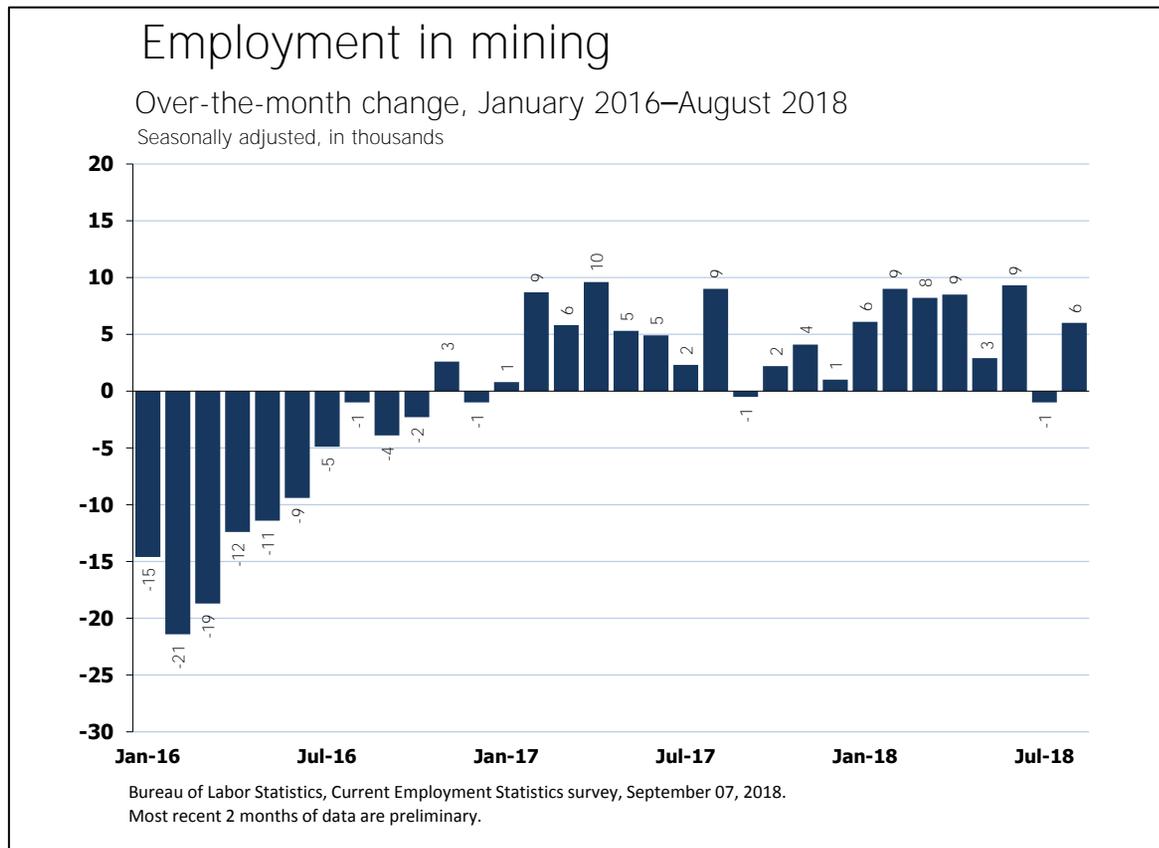
Over-the-month change, August 2018
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:
201*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 07, 2018.
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

Mining and Logging



Employment in mining grew by 6,000 in August, due to a gain in support activities for mining. So far in 2018, mining has added 49,000 jobs, with 38,000 coming from support activities for mining.

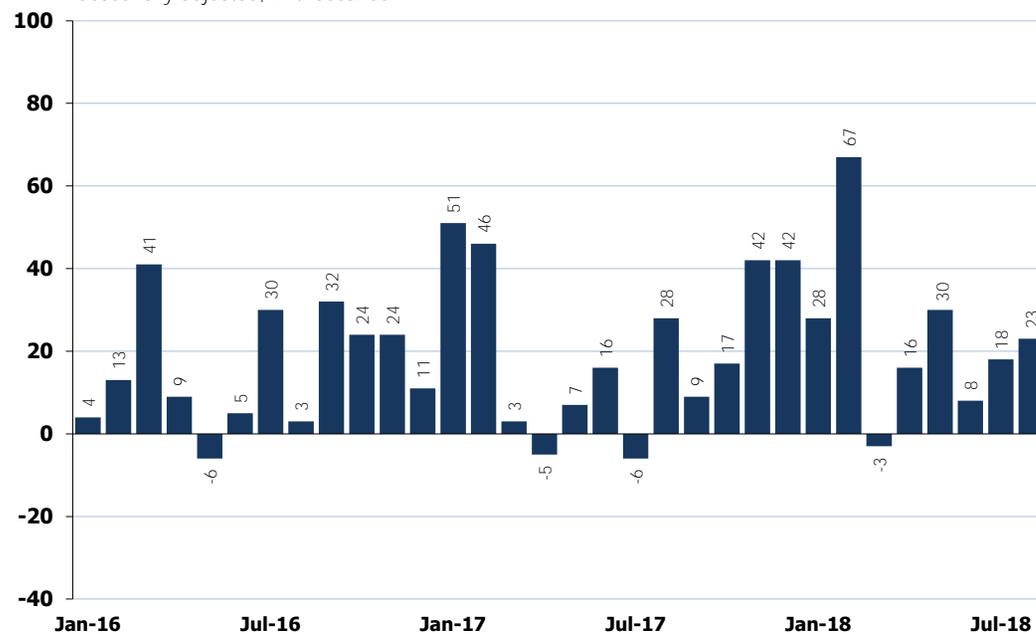
Consistent with the August job gain, domestic [oil rigs](#) increased 0.3 percent from July.

Construction

Employment in construction

Over-the-month change, January 2016–August 2018

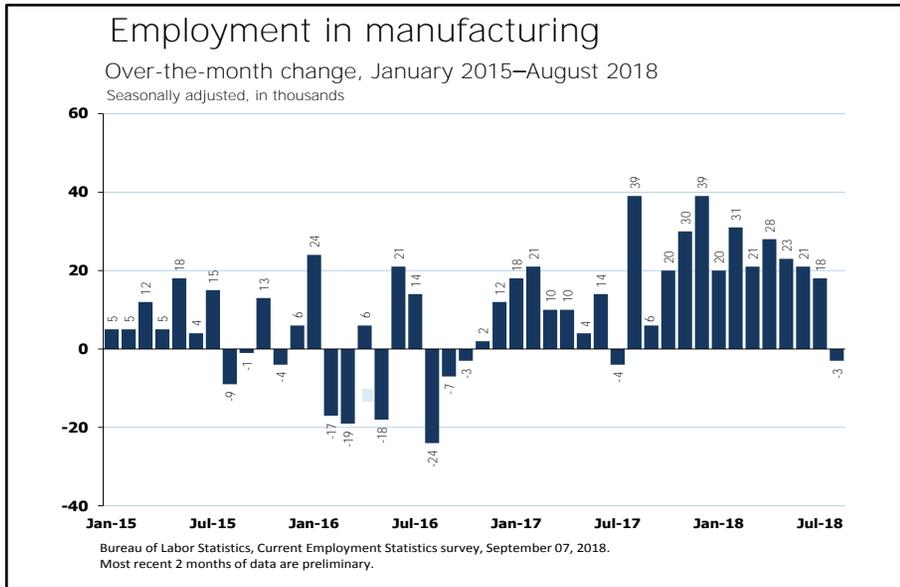
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



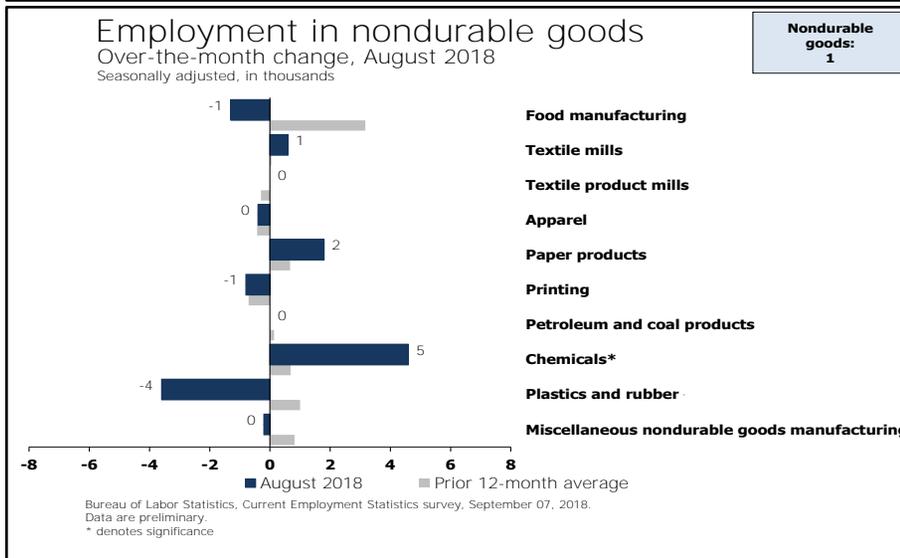
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 07, 2018.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Construction employment edged up by 23,000 in August. Employment continued to trend up in construction of buildings (+7,000) and in specialty trade contractors (+15,000).

Manufacturing

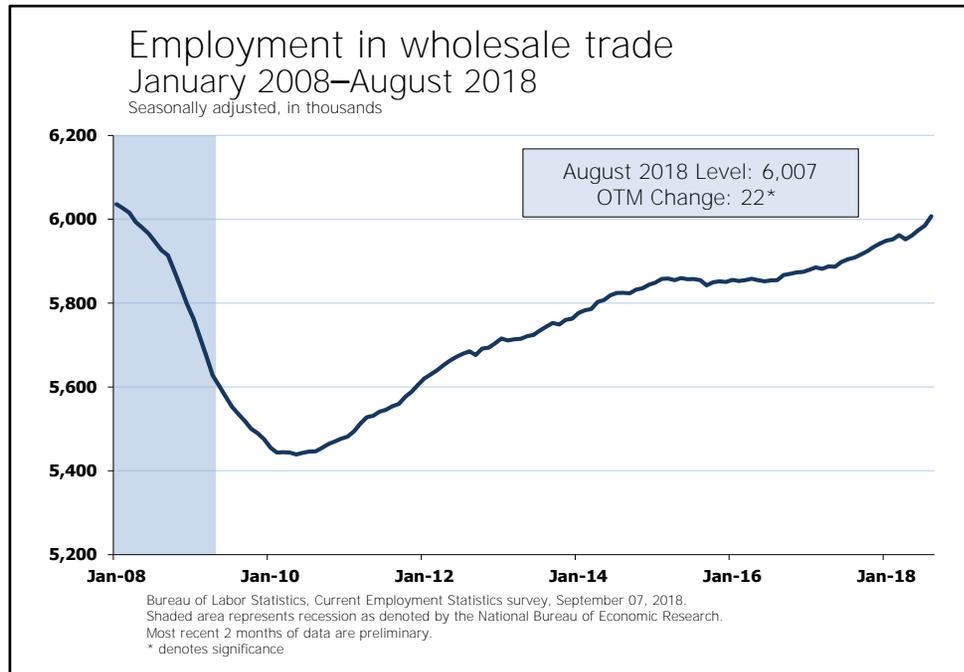


Employment in manufacturing changed little in August (-3,000). The industry has added 159,000 jobs thus far in 2018. The manufacturing diffusion index over one month fell to 52.6 from 61.2 in July, indicating that fewer industries added jobs in August than in July.



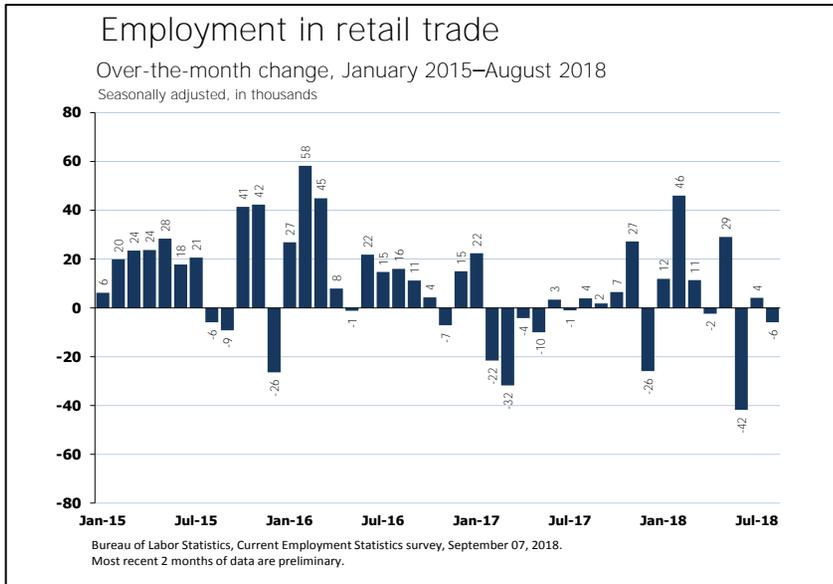
Within nondurable goods, an employment increase in chemicals (+5,000) was about offset by a job loss in plastics and rubber products (-4,000).

Wholesale Trade



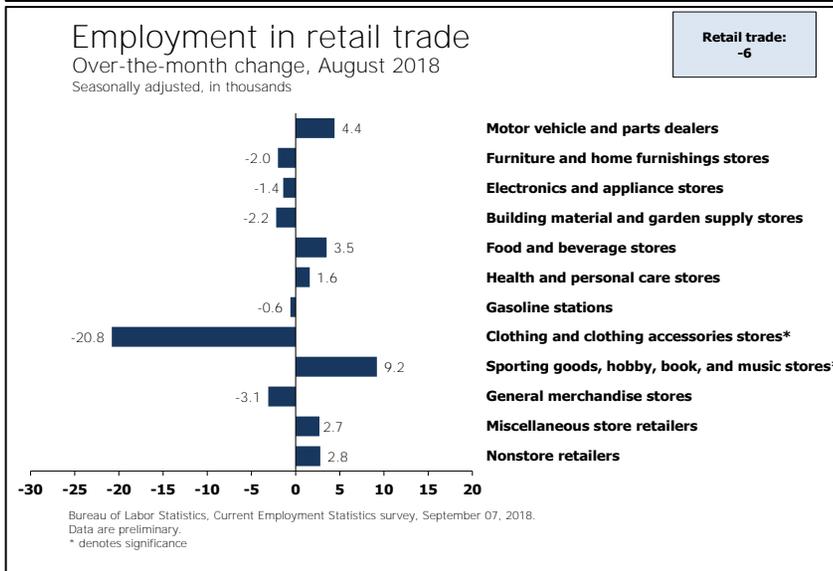
Employment in wholesale trade grew by 22,000 in August, bringing the 12-month net change to +99,000. Durable goods wholesalers accounted for a majority of these gains. Gains within durable goods have been dispersed across component industries, similar to the widespread gains within durable goods manufacturing industries over the same periods.

Retail Trade

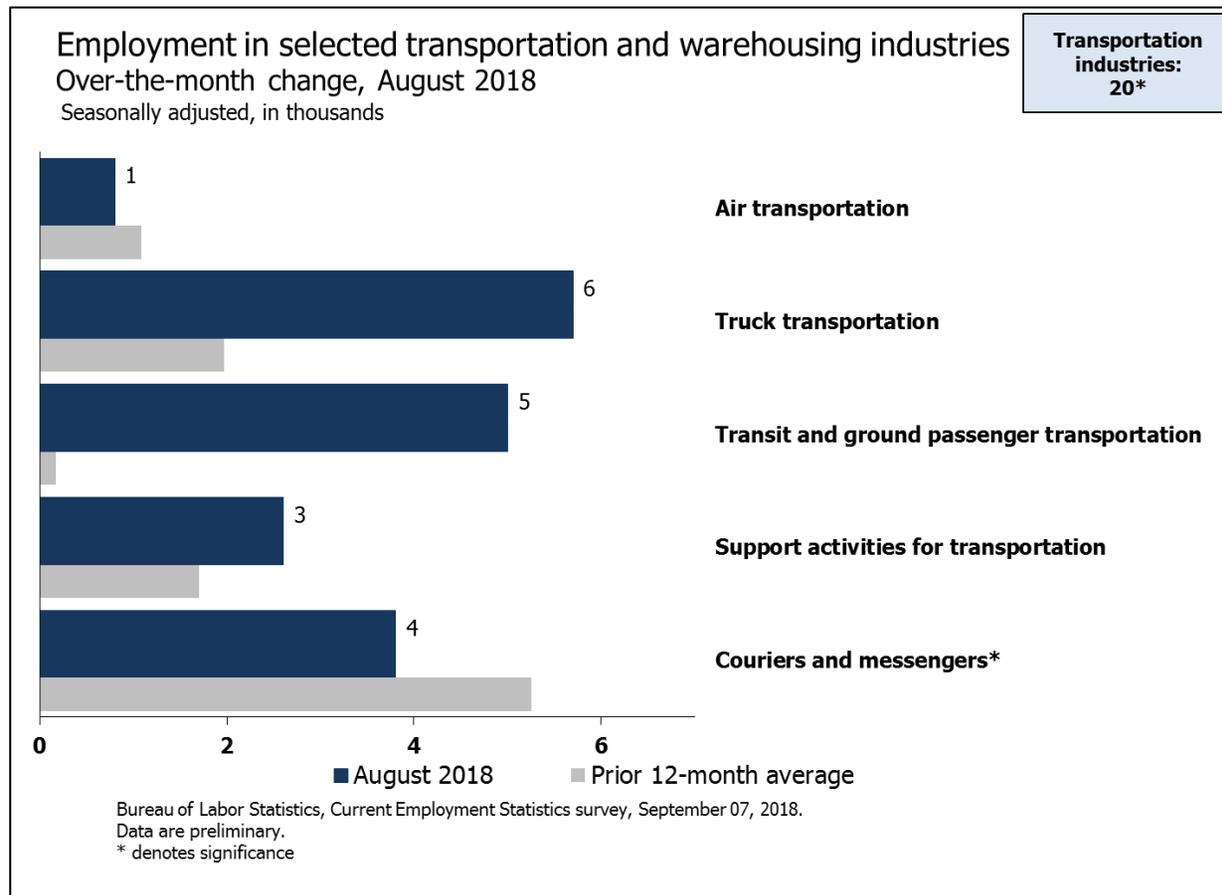


Employment in retail trade changed little in August (-6,000), below its prior 12-month average (+6,000). Since January 2017, industry employment has been essentially unchanged (+1,000).

Over the month, employment in the clothing and accessories industry has decreased by 21,000; while employment in sporting goods, hobby, and music stores increased by 9,000.



Transportation and Warehousing



Employment in transportation and warehousing increased in August (+20,000). So far this year, the industry has added 113,000 jobs compared with 135,000 in all of 2017.

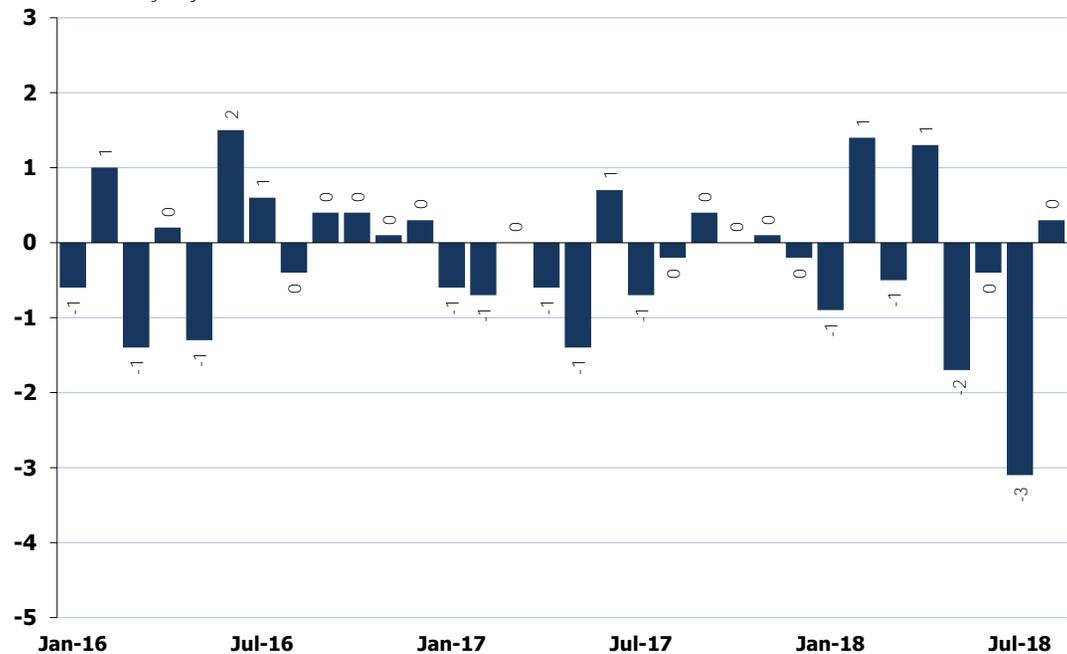
Employment in several industries departed from their prior 12-month averages, including truck transportation and transit and ground passenger transportation. Couriers and messengers added 4,000 jobs in August.

Utilities

Employment in utilities

Over-the-month change, January 2016–August 2018

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

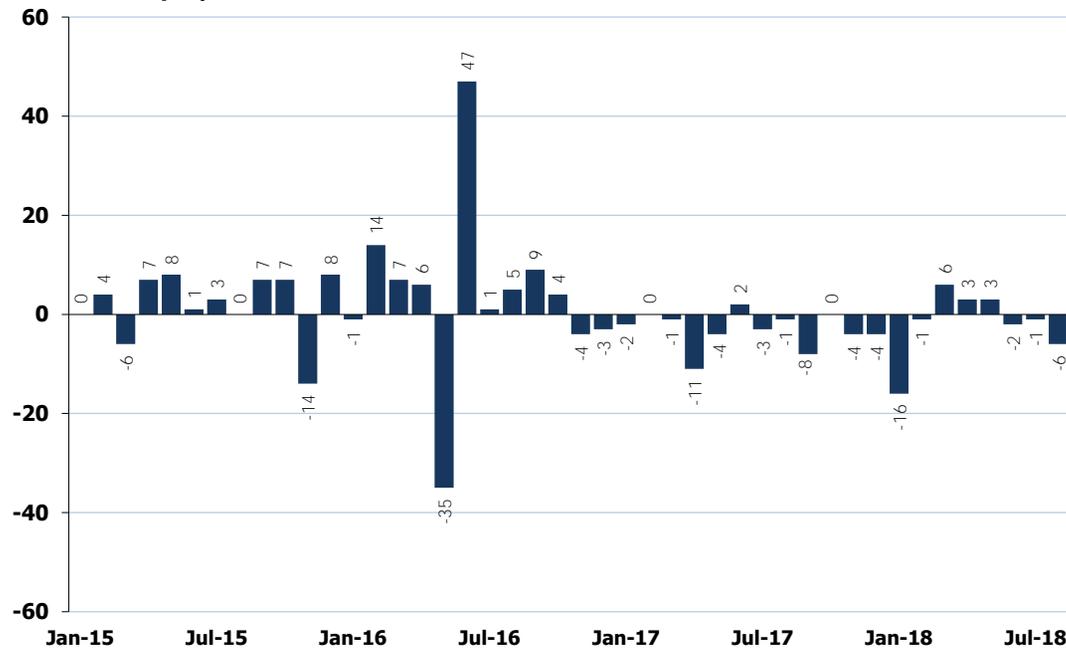


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 07, 2018.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Utilities employment was essentially unchanged in August and is essentially unchanged over the year (-3,000).

Information

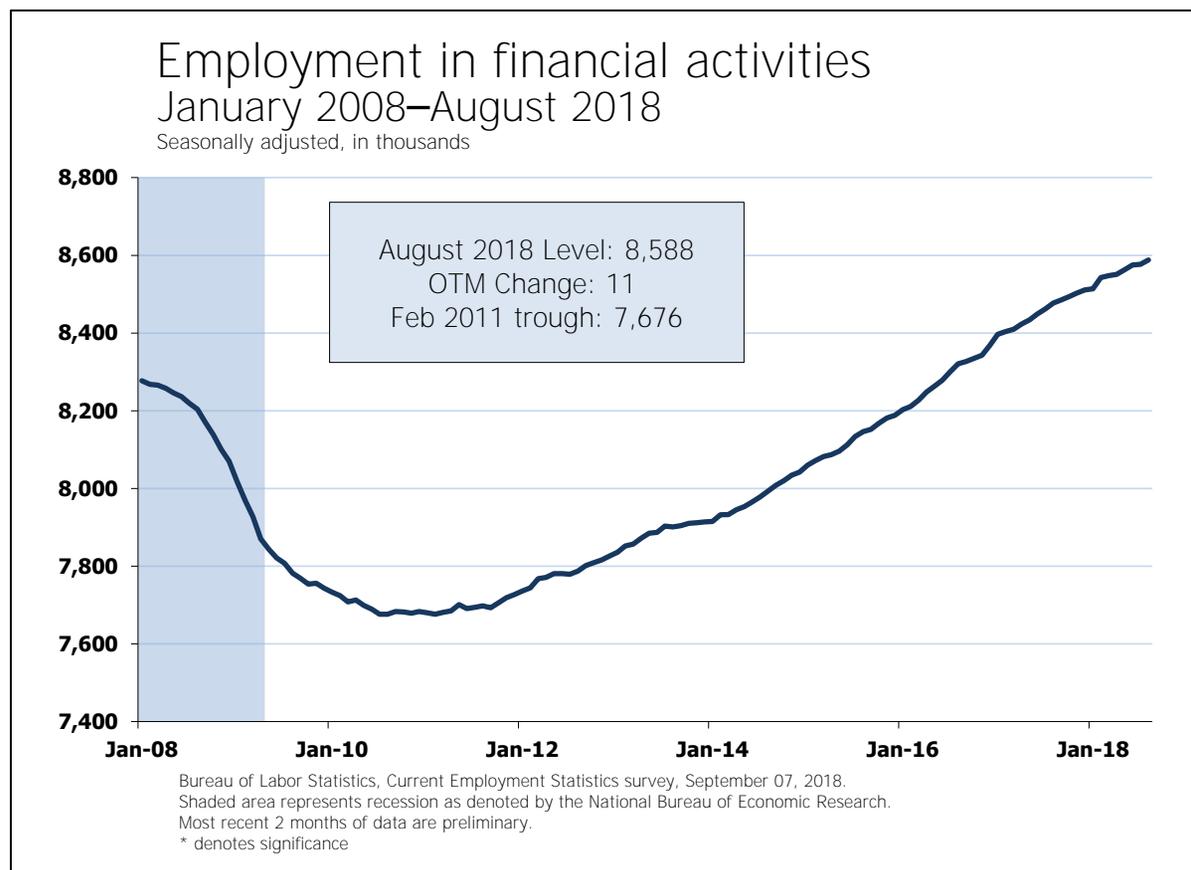
Employment in information
 Over-the-month change, January 2015–August 2018
 Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, September 07, 2018.
 Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

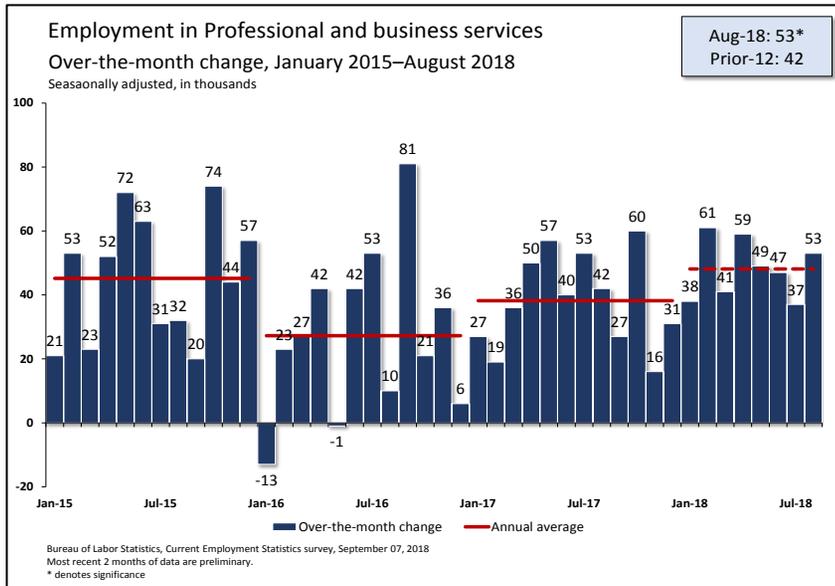
Information employment changed little in August. Telecommunications lost 4,000 jobs over the month, with losses totaling 26,000 over the year.

Financial Activities

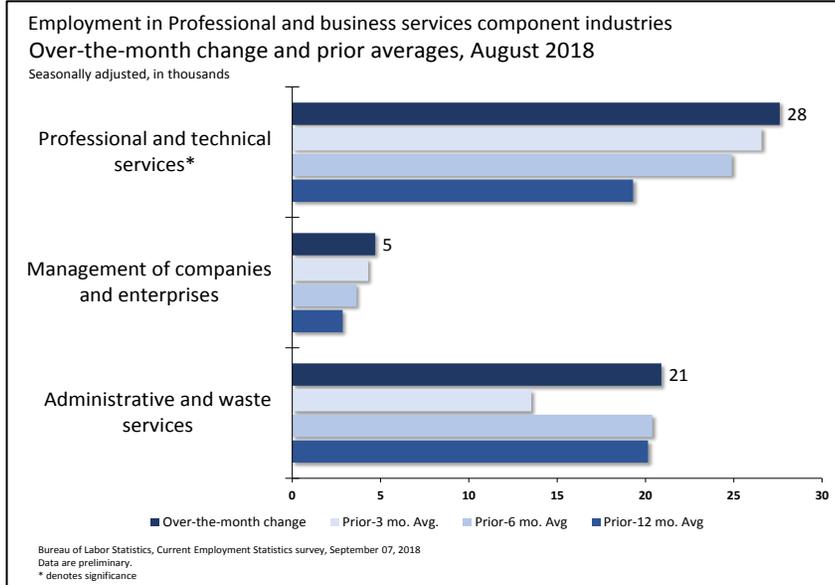


Employment in financial activities changed little (+11,000) in August. Over the most recent 12 months, financial activities has added 111,000 jobs.

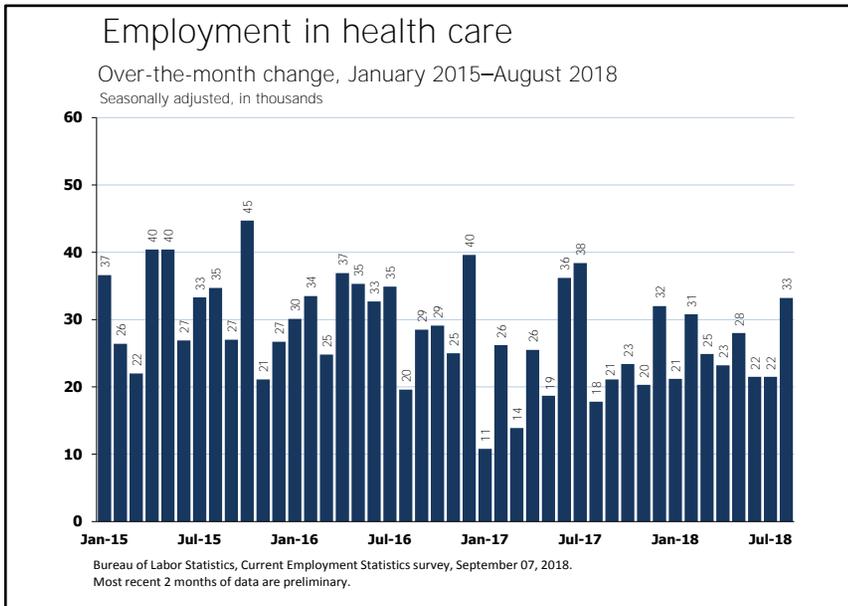
Professional and Business Services



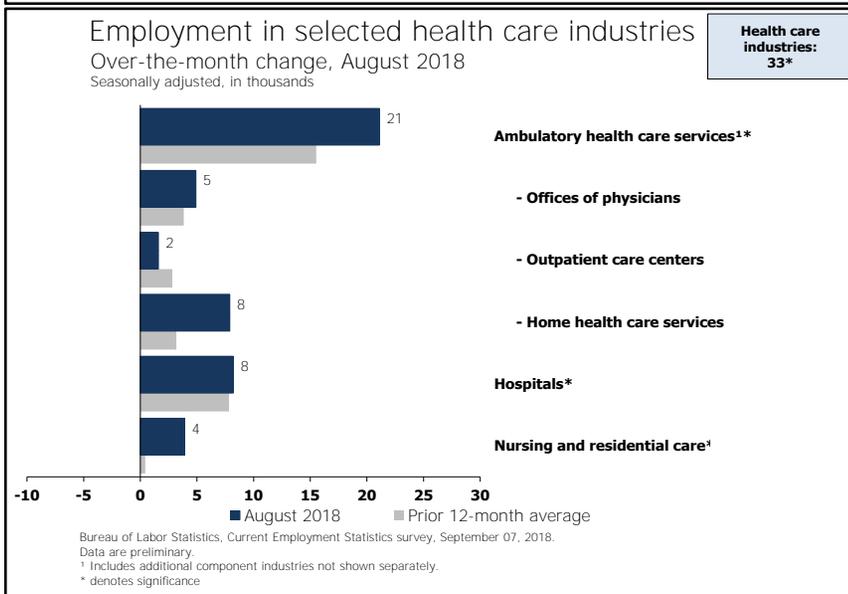
Employment in professional and business services increased by 53,000 in August. Professional and technical services came in above trend, adding 28,000 jobs over the month, while employment in management of companies and enterprises (+5,000) and in administrative and waste services (+21,000) was in line with recent trends.



Private Education and Health Services



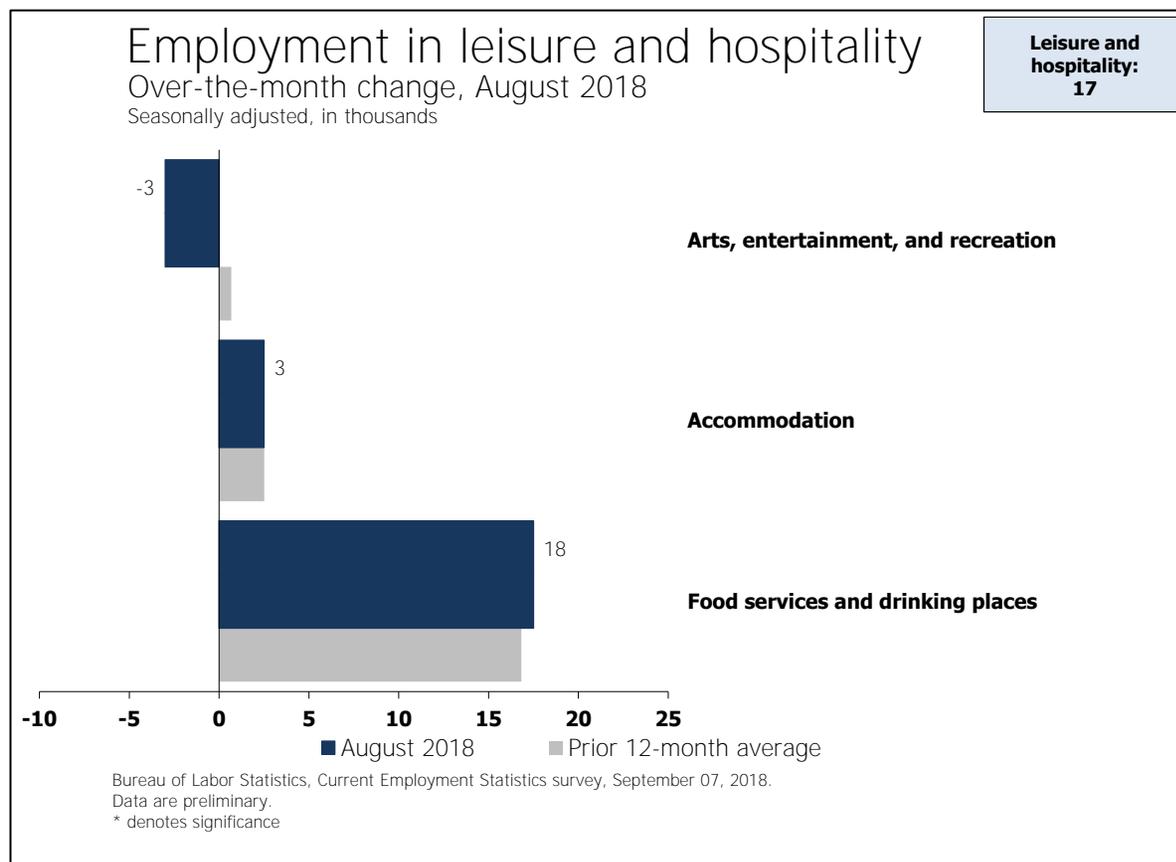
Health care added 33,000 jobs in August, continuing its upward trend. Health care has been remarkably consistent, adding an average 25,000 jobs a month over the last 12 months.



Within health care, ambulatory health care services added 21,000 jobs in August. Employment in both home health care services (+8,000) and offices of physicians (+5,000) continued to trend up and accounted for the majority of job growth within ambulatory health care.

Hospitals also added jobs in August (+8,000). Hospitals have gained an average of 8,000 jobs a month in 2018, compared to an average gain of 6,000 per month in 2017.

Leisure and Hospitality

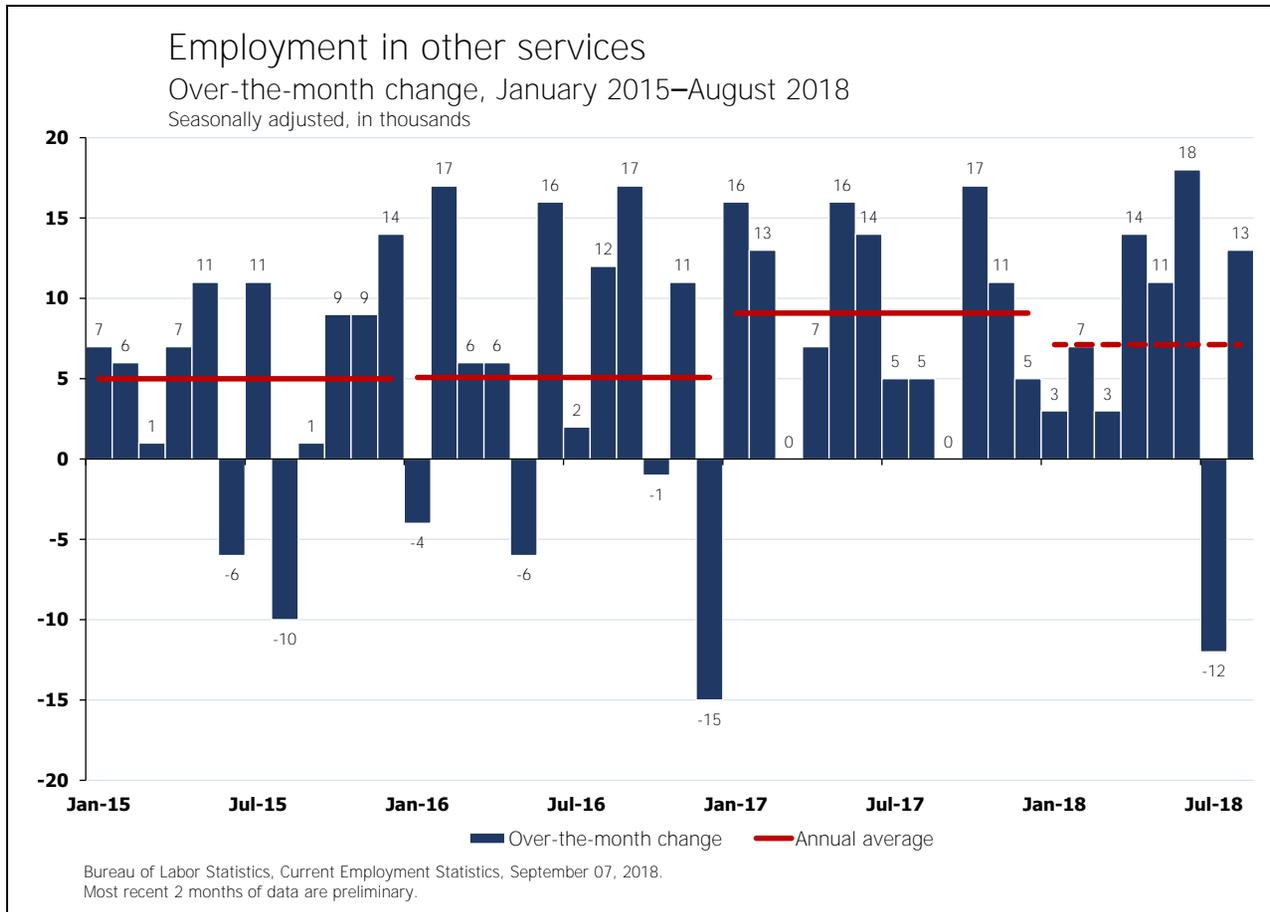


Leisure and hospitality employment changed little in August (+17,000).

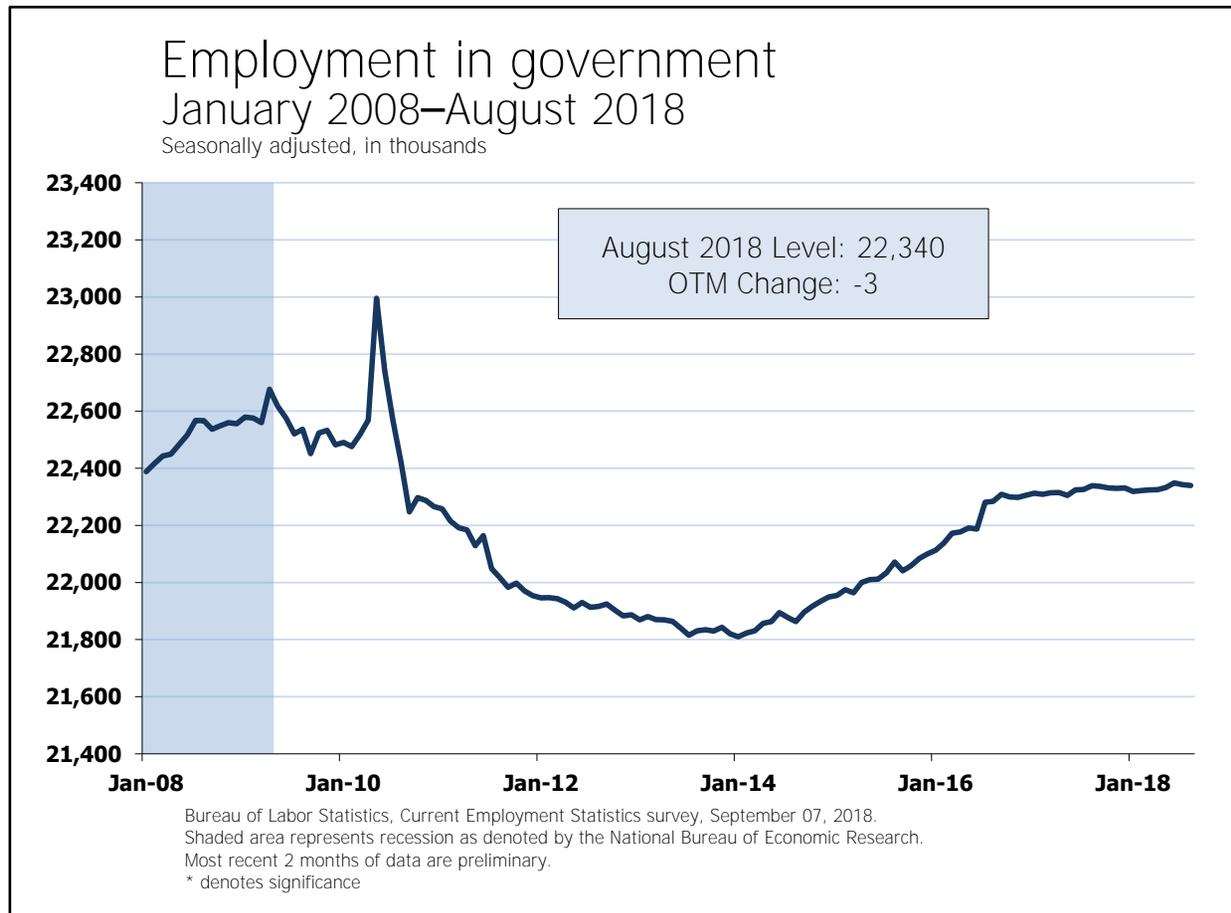
The employment trend in food services and drinking places remained in line with the year-to-date average of 18,000 jobs added per month, although the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) was stronger in August.

Other Services

Employment in other services changed little in August (+13,000). Over the most recent 12 months, the industry has added 90,000 jobs, representing a change of 1.6 percent. Personal and laundry services accounted for 42,000 of the gains during this period.



Government



In August, employment changed little in government (-3,000), continuing a generally flat trend since July 2016.

Federal employment is down 7,000 over the last 12 months, and the U.S. Postal Service accounts for all of this job loss. Employment in both state government and local government is unchanged over the year.



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