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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



May 2017

Release Date: June 2, 2017

**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, May 2017

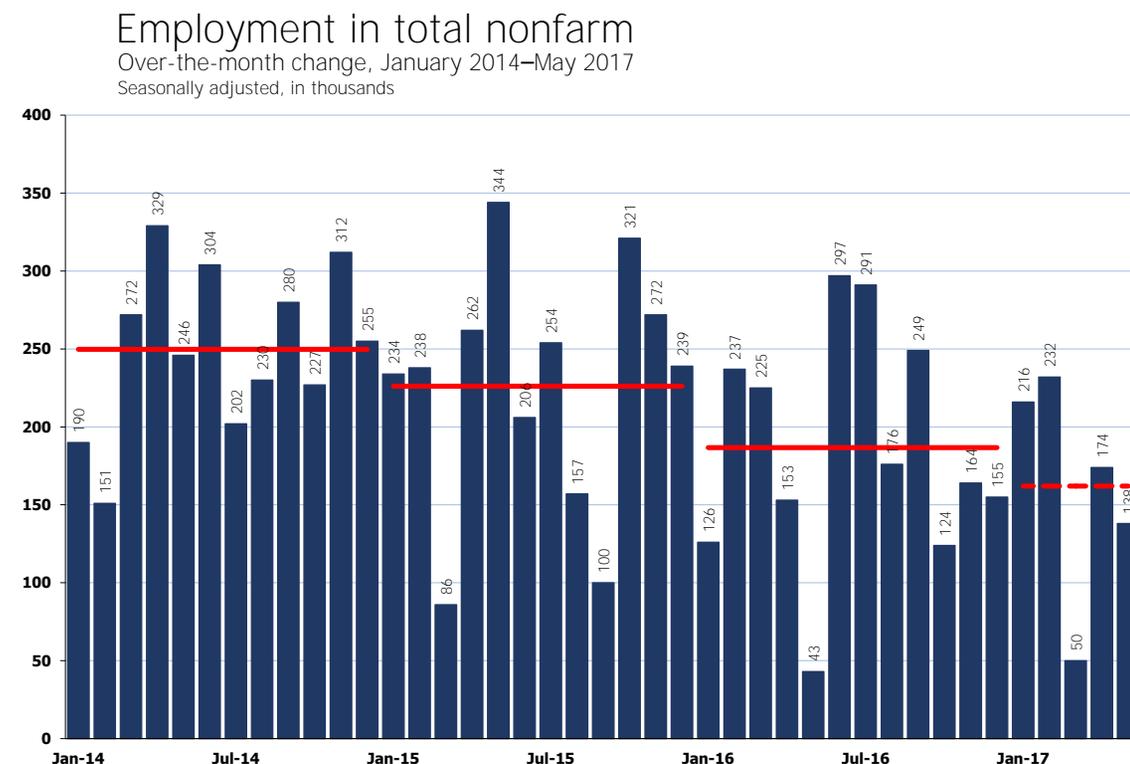
Nonfarm employment increased by 138,000 in May. Education and health services and mining added jobs.

The employment change for April revised down from +211,000 to +174,000, and the change for March revised down from +79,000 to +50,000. Incorporating revisions, job growth has averaged 121,000 per month over the past 3 months, compared to an average monthly gain of 194,000 over the preceding 12-month period.

Average hourly earnings of all private-sector employees increased by 4 cents or 0.2 percent in May. Hourly earnings are up 2.5 percent over the year. The average workweek, at 34.4 hours, was unchanged over the month.

+47,000 Education and Health Services

Employment continued to rise in education and health services in May. Among health care providers, employment increased by 24,000, including a 7,000-job gain in hospitals. So far in 2017, job growth in health care has averaged 22,000 per month, compared to 32,000 per month in 2016.



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 02, 2017.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

+38,000 Professional and Business Services

Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in May. Year to date, job growth has averaged 46,000 per month, in line with average gains in 2016.

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, May 2017

+31,000 Leisure and Hospitality

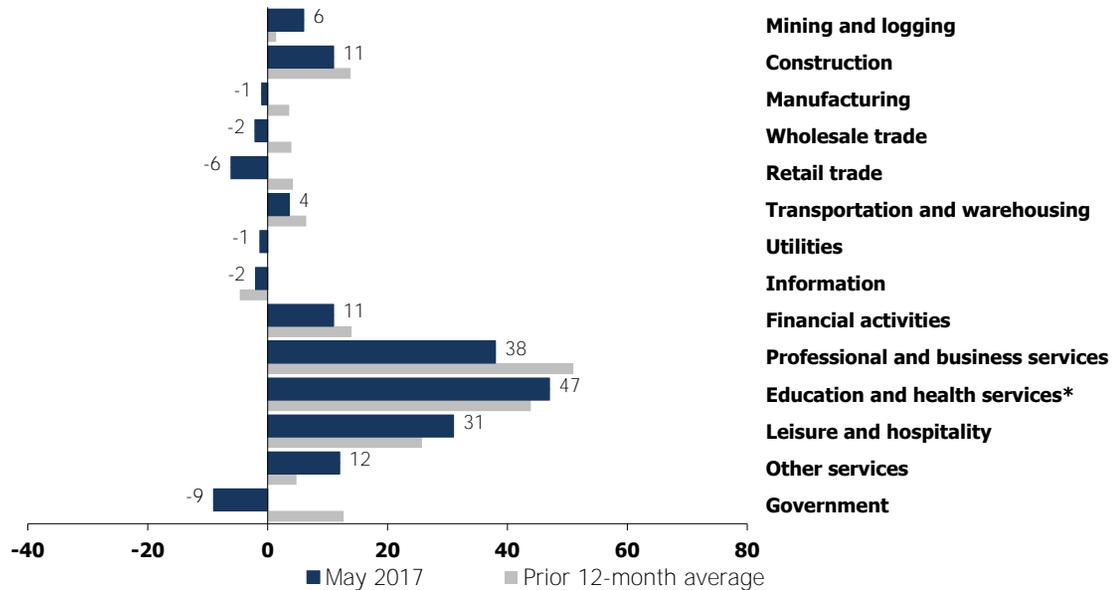
Employment in food services and drinking places continued to trend up in May. Over the year, this industry has added 267,000 payroll jobs.

+6,000 Mining and Logging

Mining employment continued to trend up in May. A job gain of 8,000 in support activities for mining was partly offset by a loss in nonmetallic mineral mining and quarrying (-2,000). Since reaching a recent low point in October, mining has added 47,000 jobs, mostly in support activities.

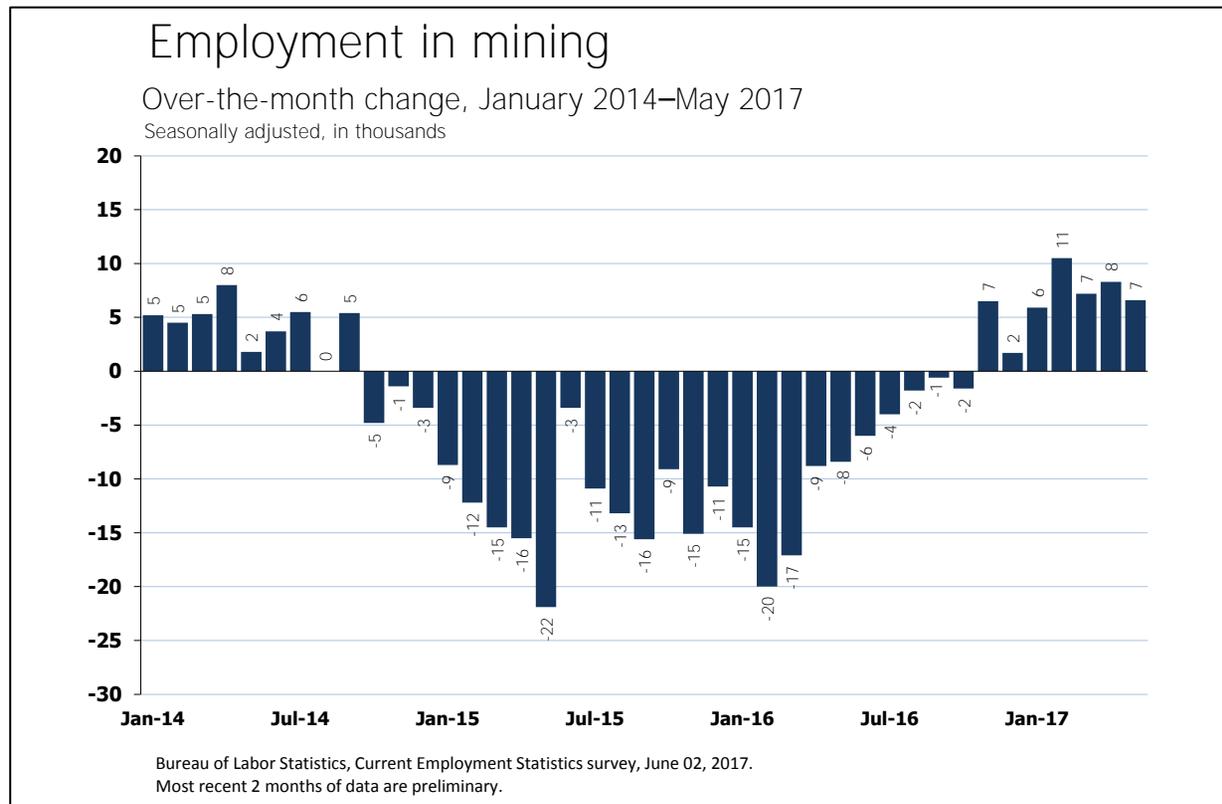
Employment in total nonfarm
Over-the-month change, May 2017
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:
138*



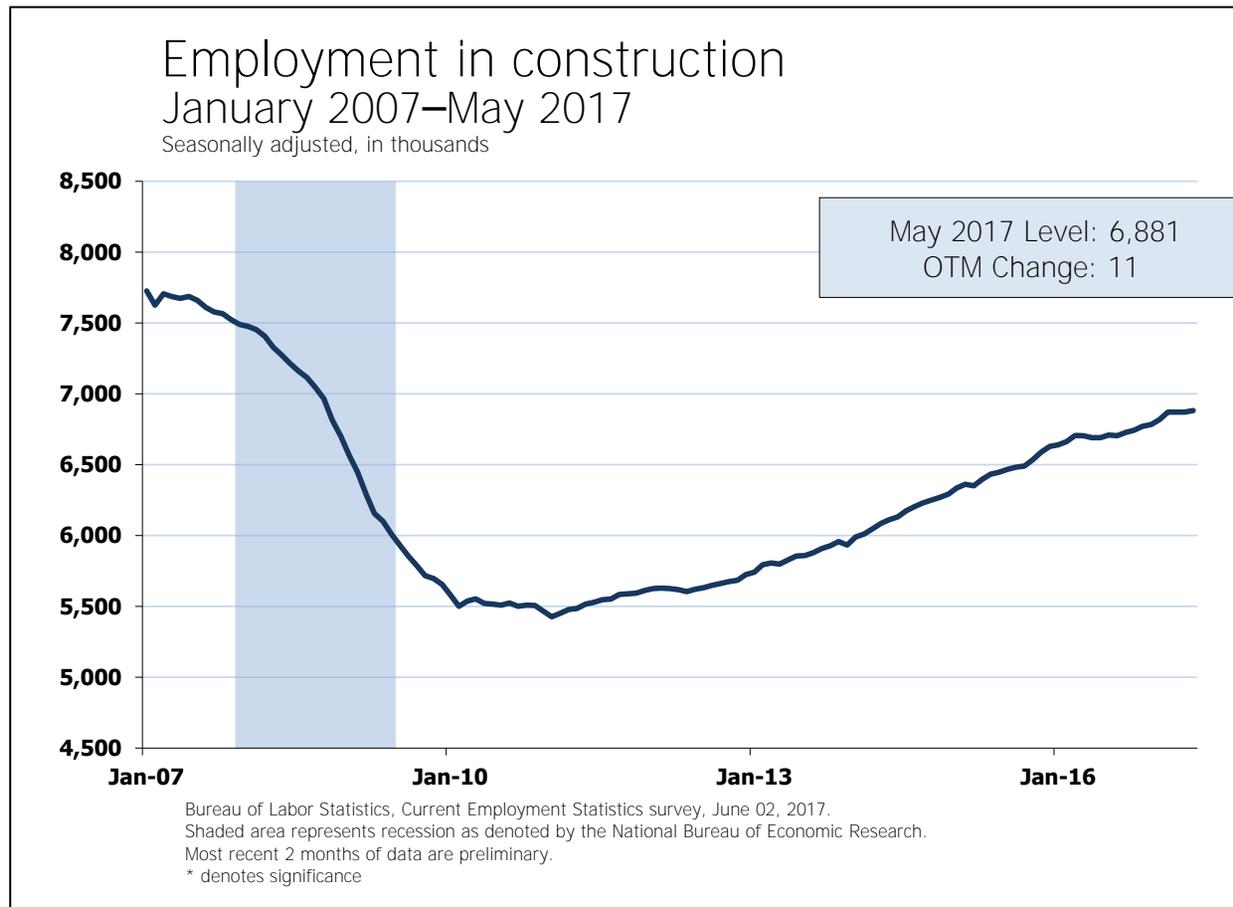
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 02, 2017.
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

Mining and Logging



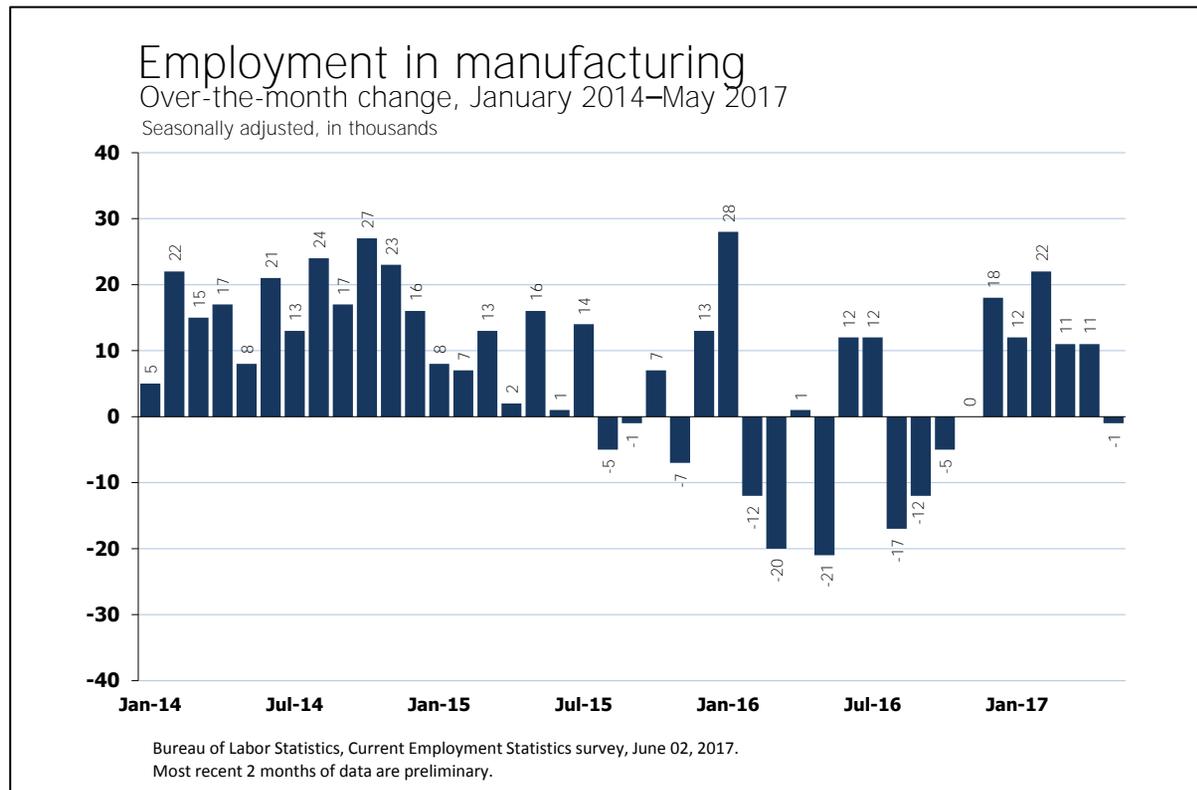
Employment in mining increased by 7,000 in May. During the first 5 months of 2017 the industry has gained 39,000 jobs. Support activities for mining added 8,000 jobs in May. Domestic [oil-rig](#) counts increased 4 percent over the month, while the price of West Texas Intermediate [oil](#) fell 10 percent over the month.

Construction



Construction employment changed little (+11,000) in May. So far this year, however, the industry has added an average 20,000 jobs per month, compared to gains averaging 13,000 in 2016.

Manufacturing

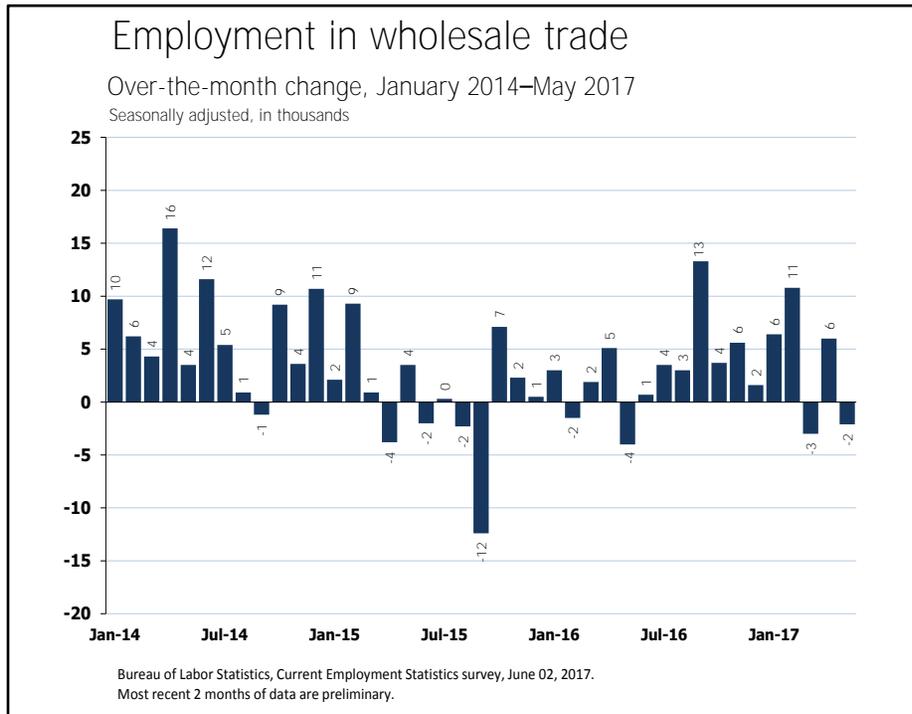


Employment in manufacturing was flat in May (-1,000). During the prior 6 months, manufacturing had added an average 12,000 jobs each month.

The 1-month diffusion index fell by 7 points in May to 48.1. A value below 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries are losing jobs than are gaining them. The diffusion index last fell below 50 in November 2016.

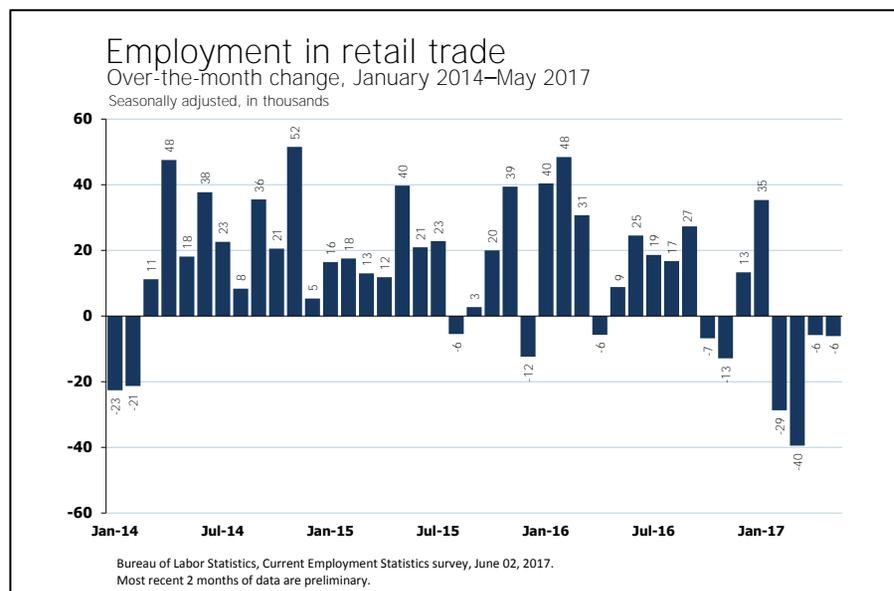
In May, employment was unchanged in both durable goods (+2,000) and nondurable goods (-3,000).

Wholesale Trade

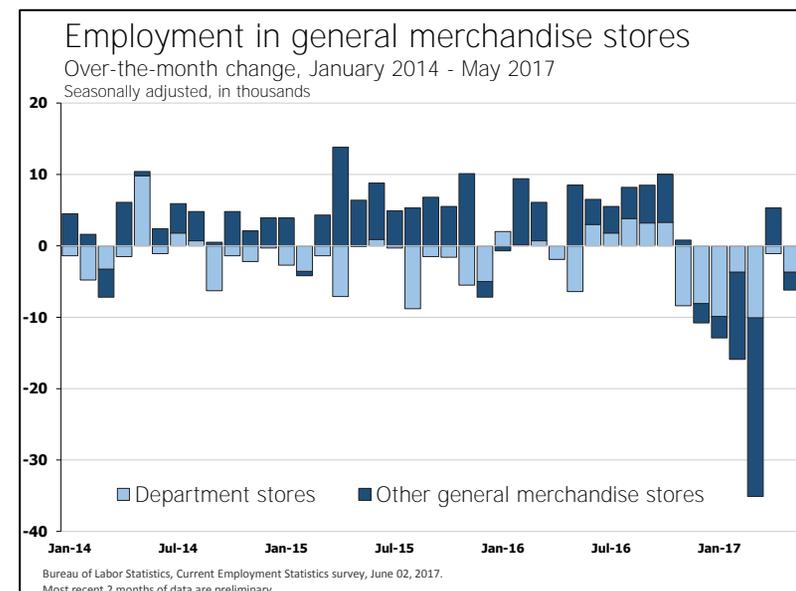


Employment in wholesale trade was essentially unchanged in May. Despite little movement in recent months, the industry has added 50,000 jobs over the last 12 months, with nondurable goods accounting for just over half of those gains (+27,000).

Retail Trade



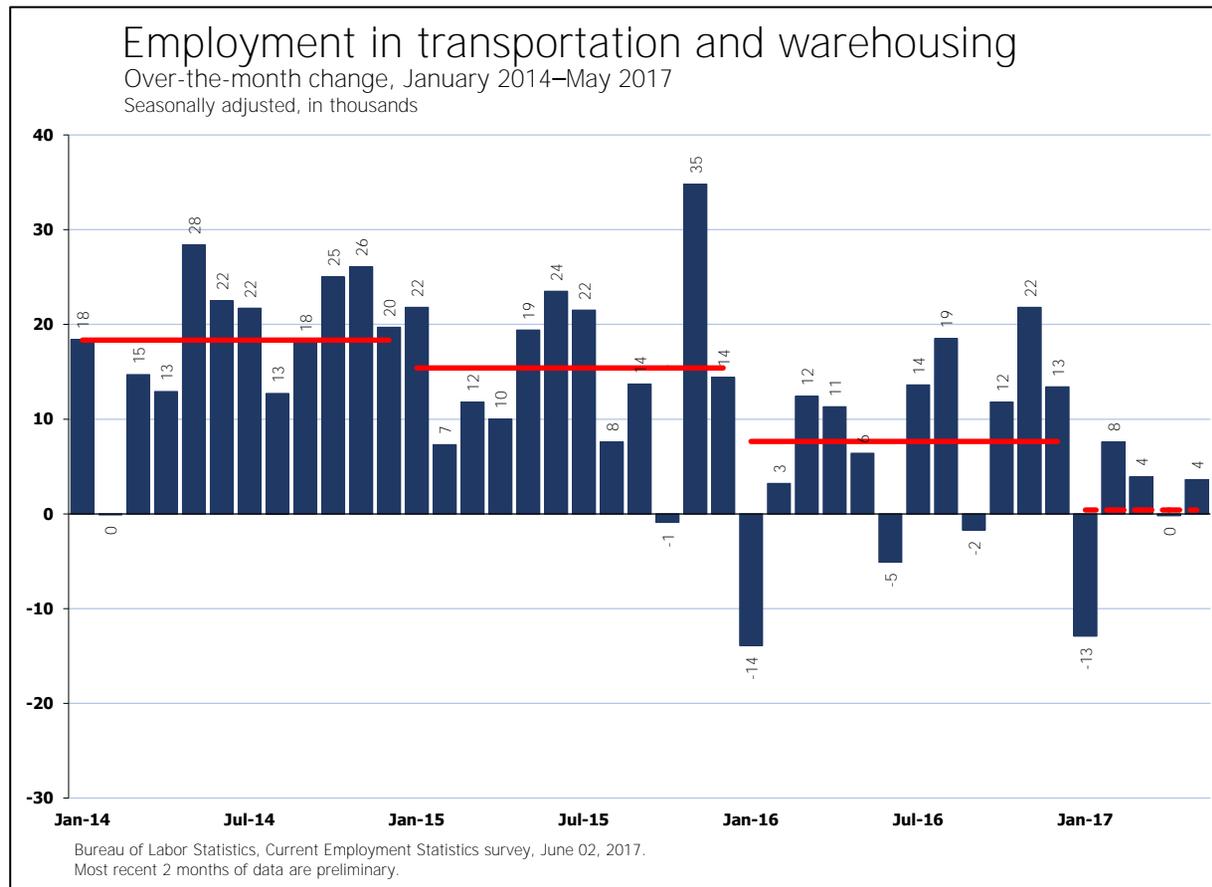
In May, employment in retail trade changed little (-6,000). So far this year, retail trade has lost an average of 9,000 jobs per month, compared to 2016 when monthly job gains averaged 17,000.



Employment in general merchandise stores continued to trend down in May (-6,000). In the past 6 months, this industry has lost an average 13,000 jobs per month.

Within general merchandise stores, employment in both department stores (-4,000) and other general merchandise stores (-3,000) continued to trend down. Over the past 6 months, employment in these industries declined each month by an average of 6,000 and 7,000 jobs, respectively.

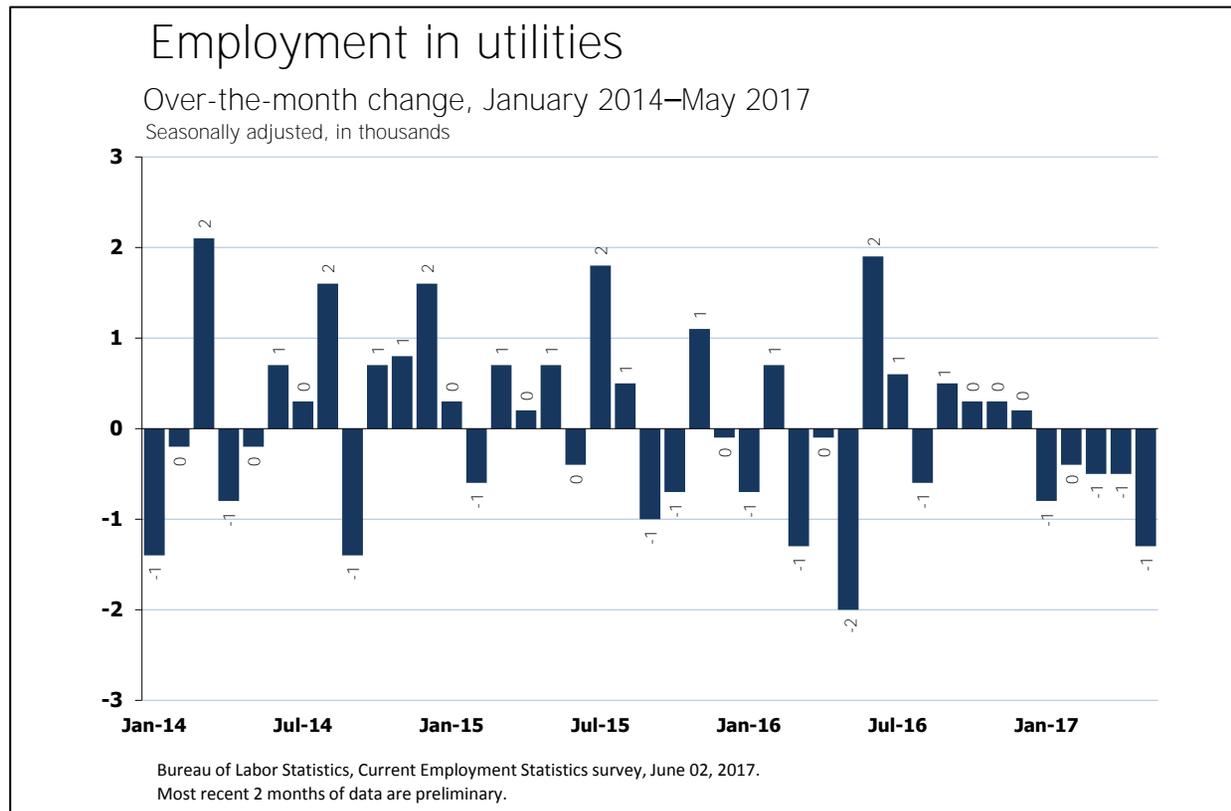
Transportation and Warehousing



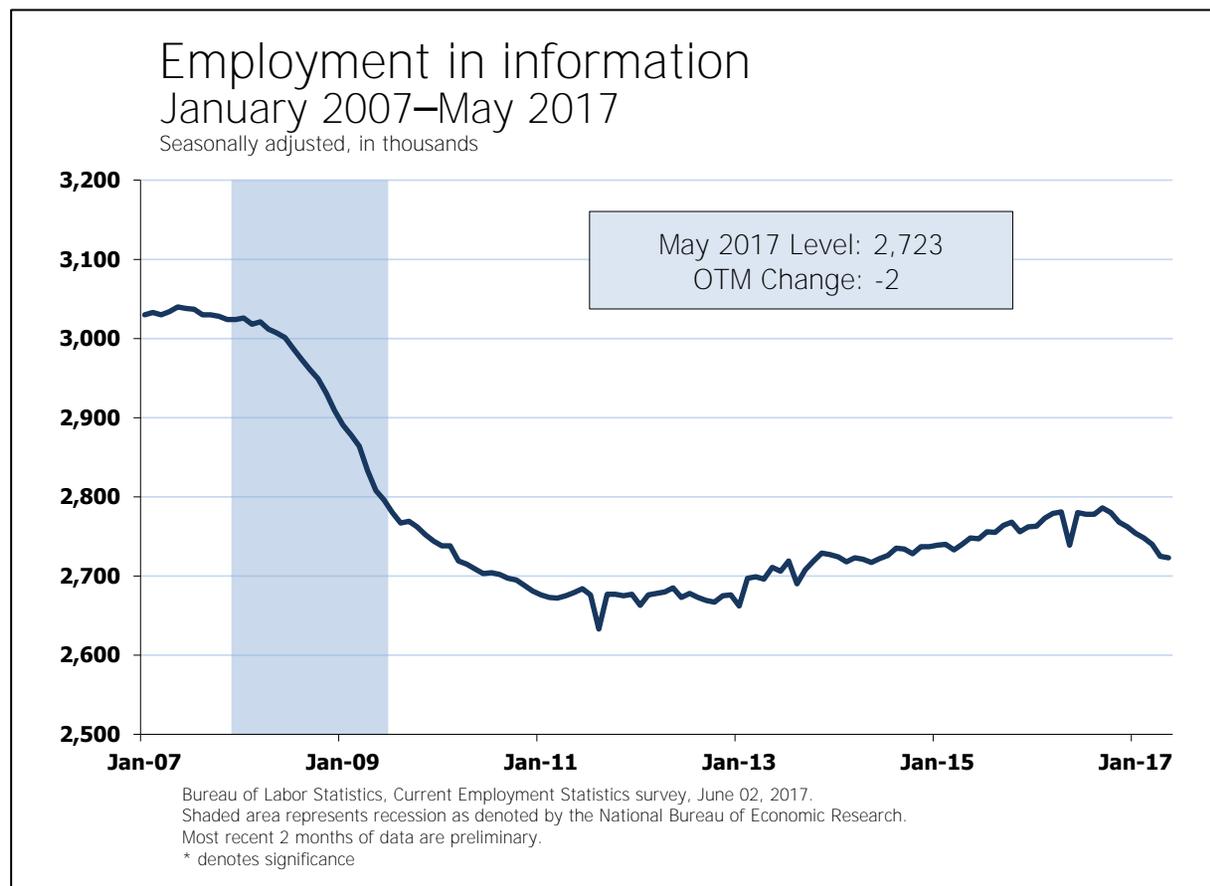
Employment in transportation and warehousing changed little in May (+4,000) and has shown essentially no change year to date. The industry had added an average 8,000 jobs per month in 2016.

Utilities

In May, employment in utilities edged down by 1,000.



Information

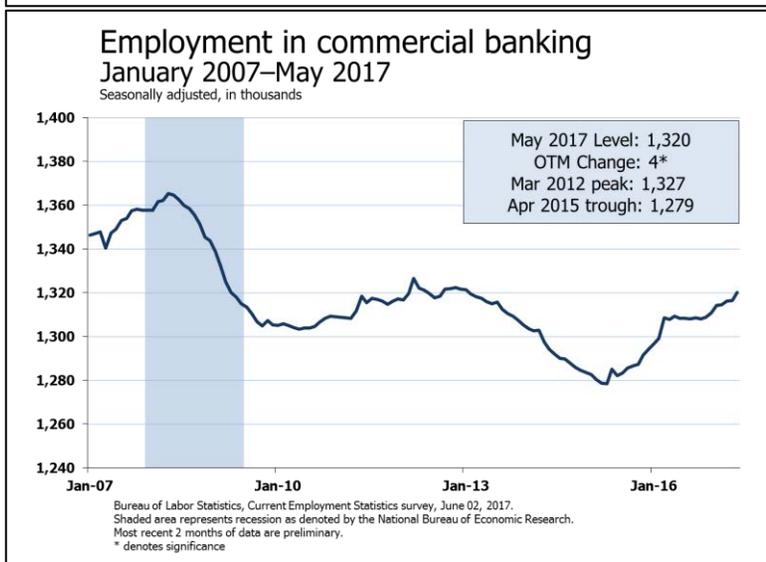
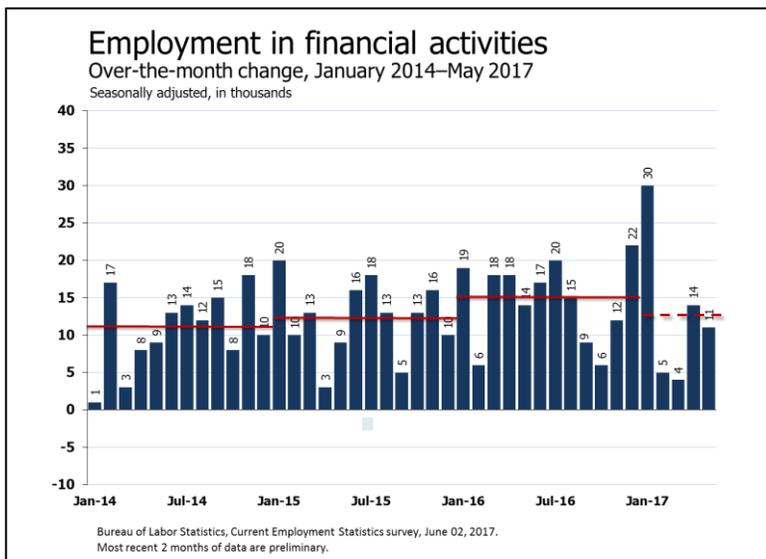


Employment in information was essentially unchanged in May (-2,000). Since a recent peak in September 2016, this industry has lost 63,000 jobs. Over these 8 months of weakness, telecommunications accounted for 65 percent of job losses.

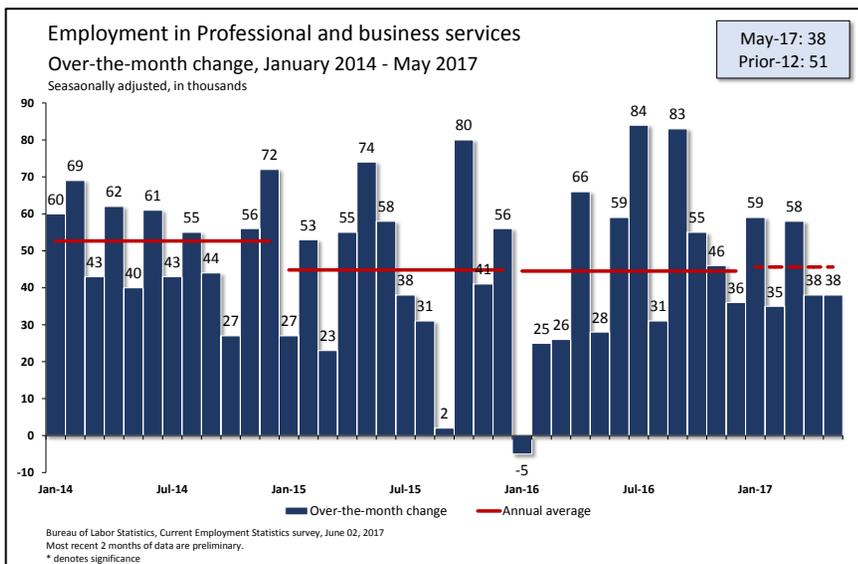
Financial Activities

Employment in financial activities continued to trend up in May (+11,000).

Commercial banking, which added 4,000 jobs in May, experienced moderate job growth over the last 6 months after a flat period during most of 2016. Employment in this industry is 7,000 short of reaching its March 2012 peak level. In May, employment changes in most other components of financial activities were weaker than their prior 12-month averages.

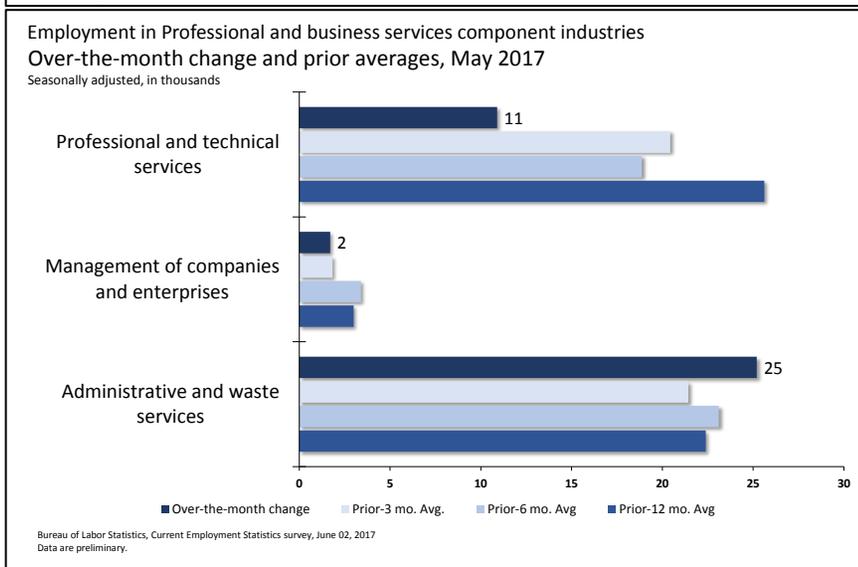


Professional and Business Services

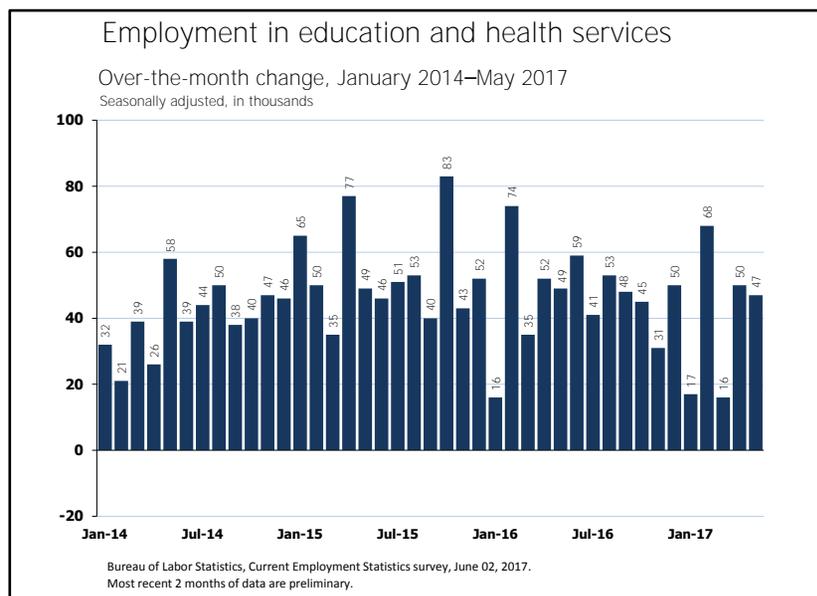


Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up by 38,000 in May. Employment in this sector has changed by an average 46,000 so far this year.

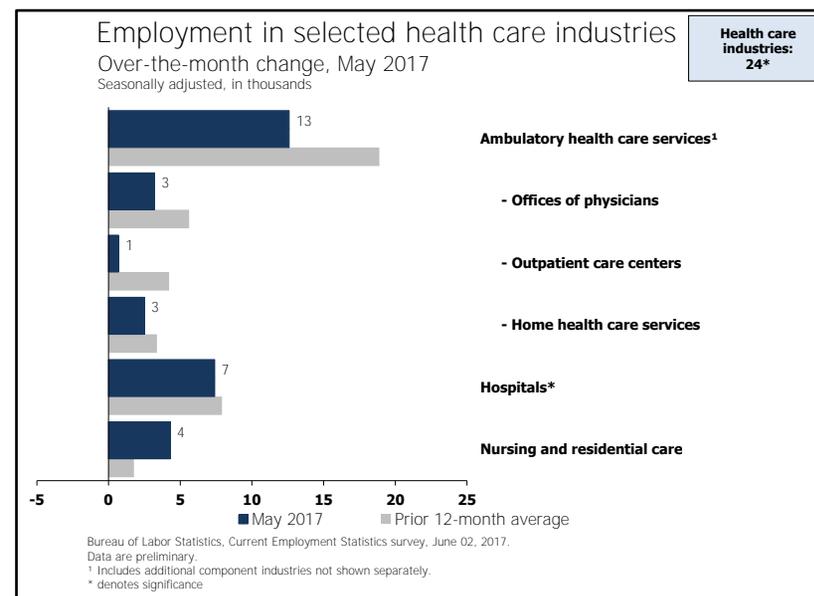
In May, administrative and waste services contributed the largest share to employment change (+25,000). Employment also continued to trend up in professional and technical services (+11,000), but at a slower pace than its prior 3-, 6-, and 12- month averages. So far in 2017, professional and technical services has added 99,000 jobs, while administrative and waste services added 117,000 jobs



Private Education and Health Services

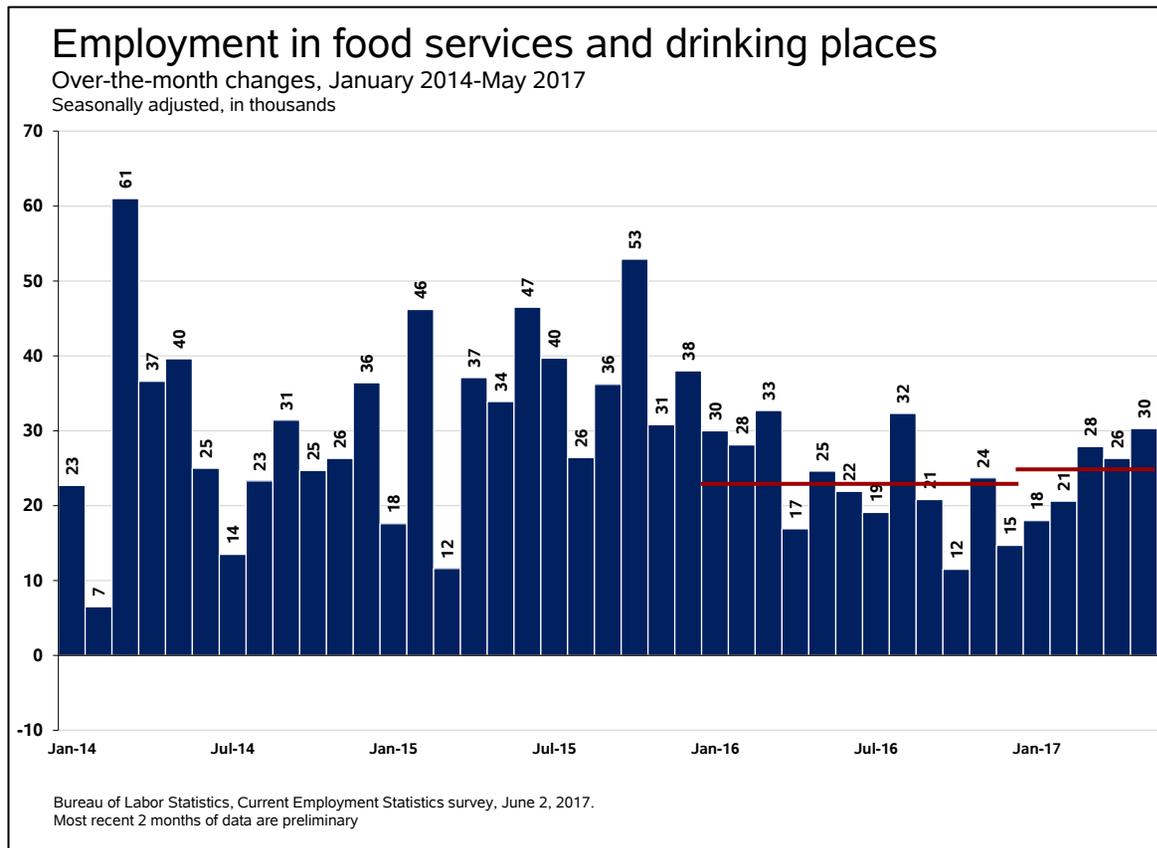


Private education and health care added 47,000 jobs in May, similar to the number of jobs added in April. Over the past 12 months, this industry has added 525,000 jobs, an increase of 2.3 percent. Health care added 329,000 of these jobs.



Health care industries added 24,000 jobs in May, including a gain of 7,000 in hospitals. Health care has added an average 22,000 jobs a month so far in 2017, compared to an average monthly gain of 32,000 in 2016.

Leisure and Hospitality



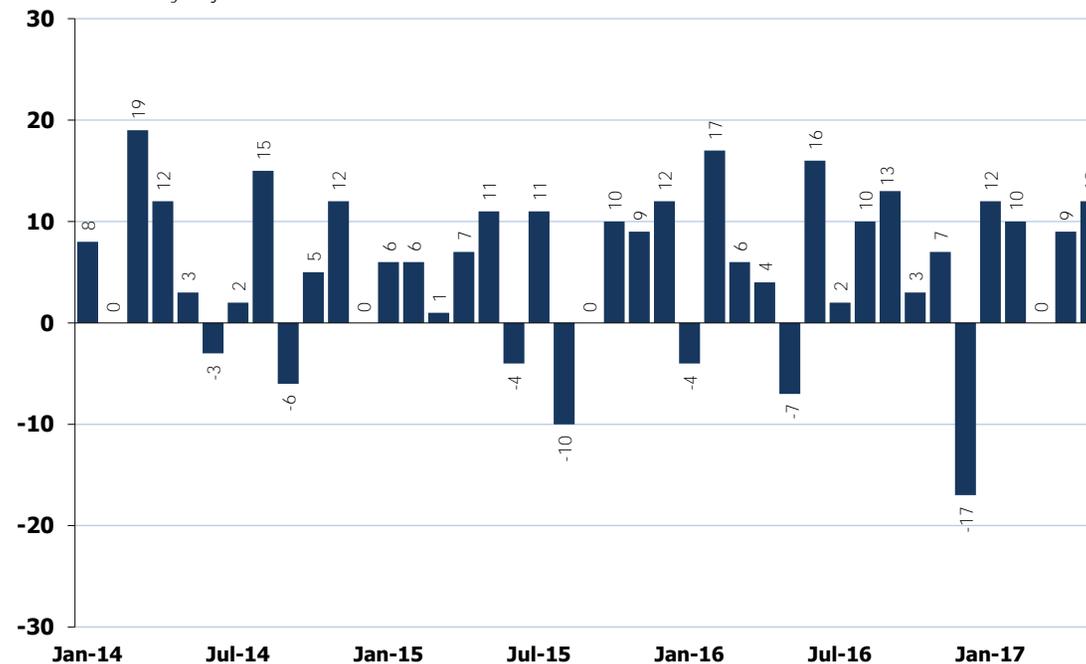
Leisure and hospitality employment continued to trend up in May (+31,000). Thus far this year, food services and drinking places has added an average 25,000 jobs per month, in line with the 2016 average monthly gain (+23,000).

Other Services

Employment in other services

Over-the-month change, January 2014–May 2017

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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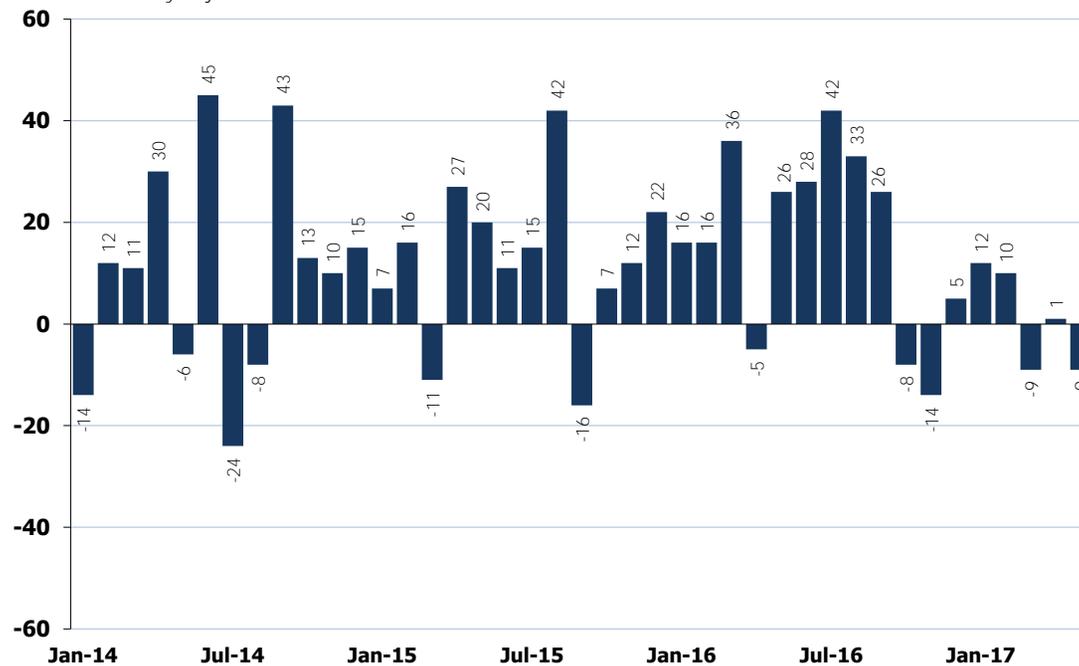
Employment in other services continued to trend up in May (+12,000). This industry has added 77,000 jobs over the year, a change of 1.4 percent. Personal and laundry services accounted for 42,000 of the job gains over this period.

Government

Employment in government

Over-the-month change, January 2014–May 2017

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, June 02, 2017.
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Employment in government agencies changed little in May (-9,000), continuing the recent flat trend. Government employment has been essentially flat since September 2016 (-12,000).



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