

## Contents

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[Summary](#)

[Mining & Logging](#)

[Construction](#)

[Manufacturing](#)

[Wholesale Trade](#)

[Retail Trade](#)

[Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities](#)

[Information](#)

[Financial Activities](#)

[Professional & Business Services](#)

[Private Education & Health Services](#)

[Leisure & Hospitality](#)

[Other Services](#)

[Government](#)

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# Current Employment Statistics Highlights



**March 2025**

Release Date: April 4, 2025

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 2025

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 228,000 in March, higher than the average monthly gain of 158,000 over the prior 12 months. In March, job gains occurred in health care, in social assistance, and in transportation and warehousing. Employment also increased in retail trade, partially reflecting the return of workers from a strike. Federal government employment declined.

The total nonfarm employment change for January revised down from +125,000 to +111,000, and the change for February revised down from +151,000 to +117,000. On net, employment over these months is 48,000 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, average hourly earnings have increased by 3.8 percent. In March, average weekly hours of all employees were unchanged at 34.2 hours.

#### +77,000 Private Education and Health Services

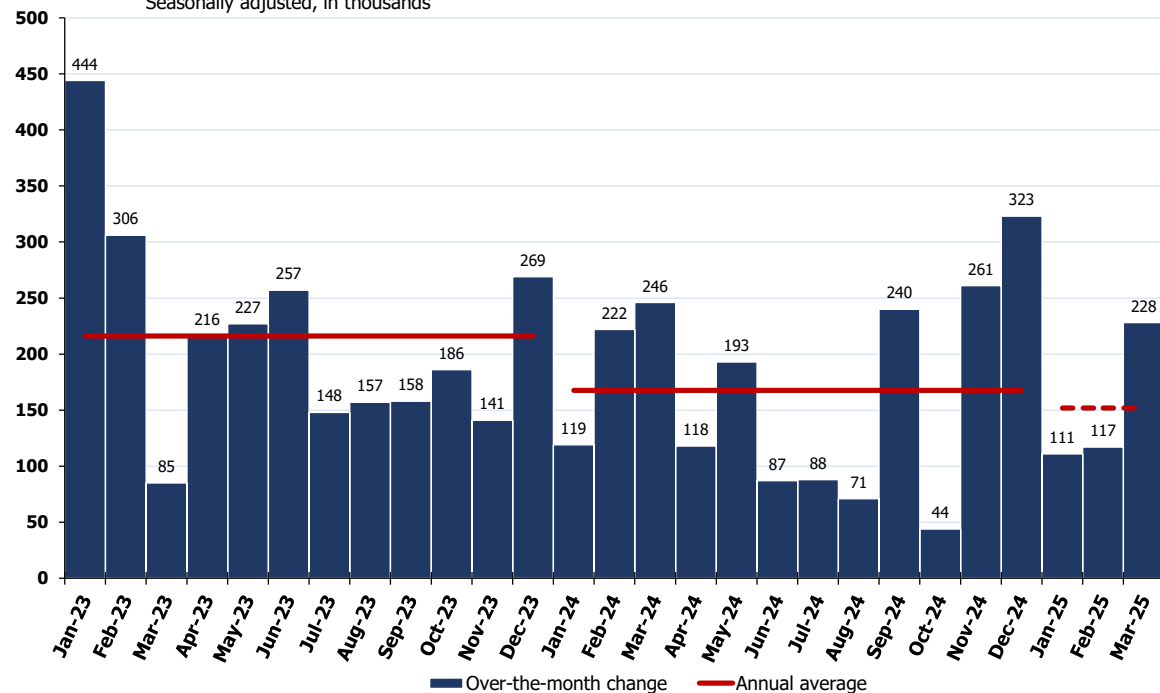
Employment in health care increased by 54,000 in March, in line with the average monthly gain of 52,000 over the prior 12 months. Over the month, employment continued to trend up in ambulatory health

care services (+20,000), hospitals (+17,000), and nursing and residential care facilities (+17,000).

In March, employment in social assistance increased by 24,000, higher than the average

monthly gain of 19,000 over the prior 12 months.

Employment in total nonfarm  
Over-the-month change, January 2023–March 2025  
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, April 04, 2025.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

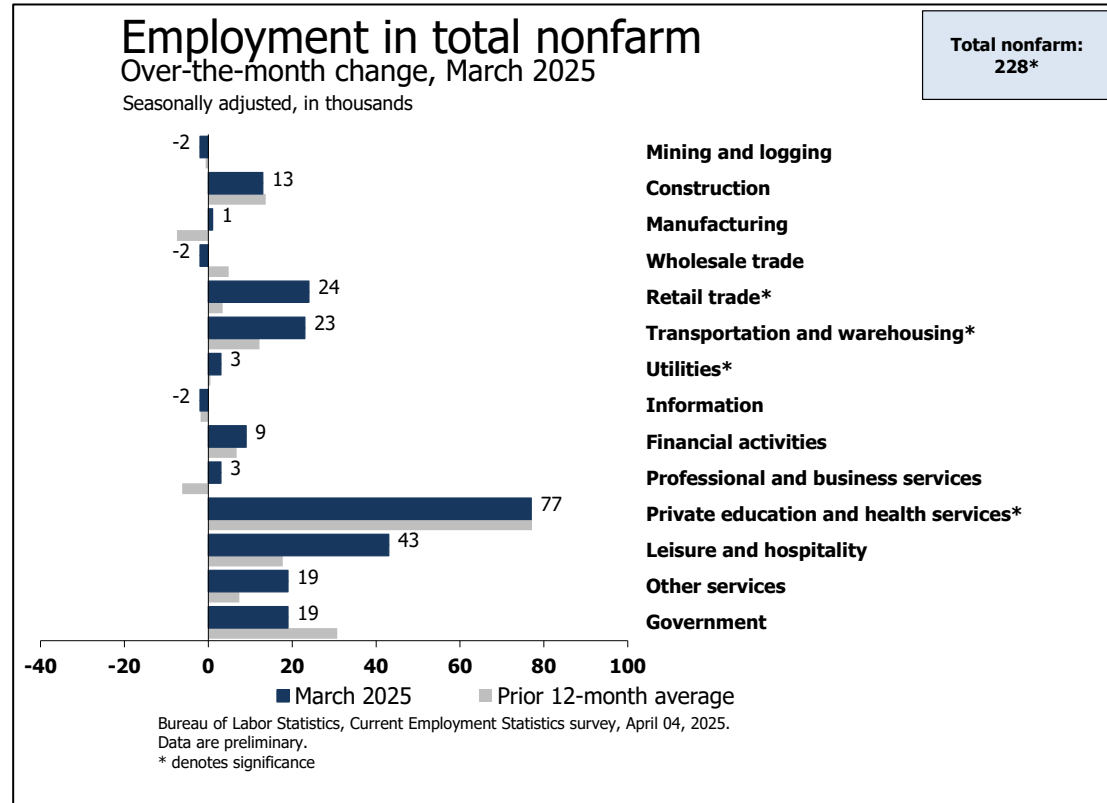
### Current Employment Statistics Summary, March 2025

#### +24,000 Retail Trade

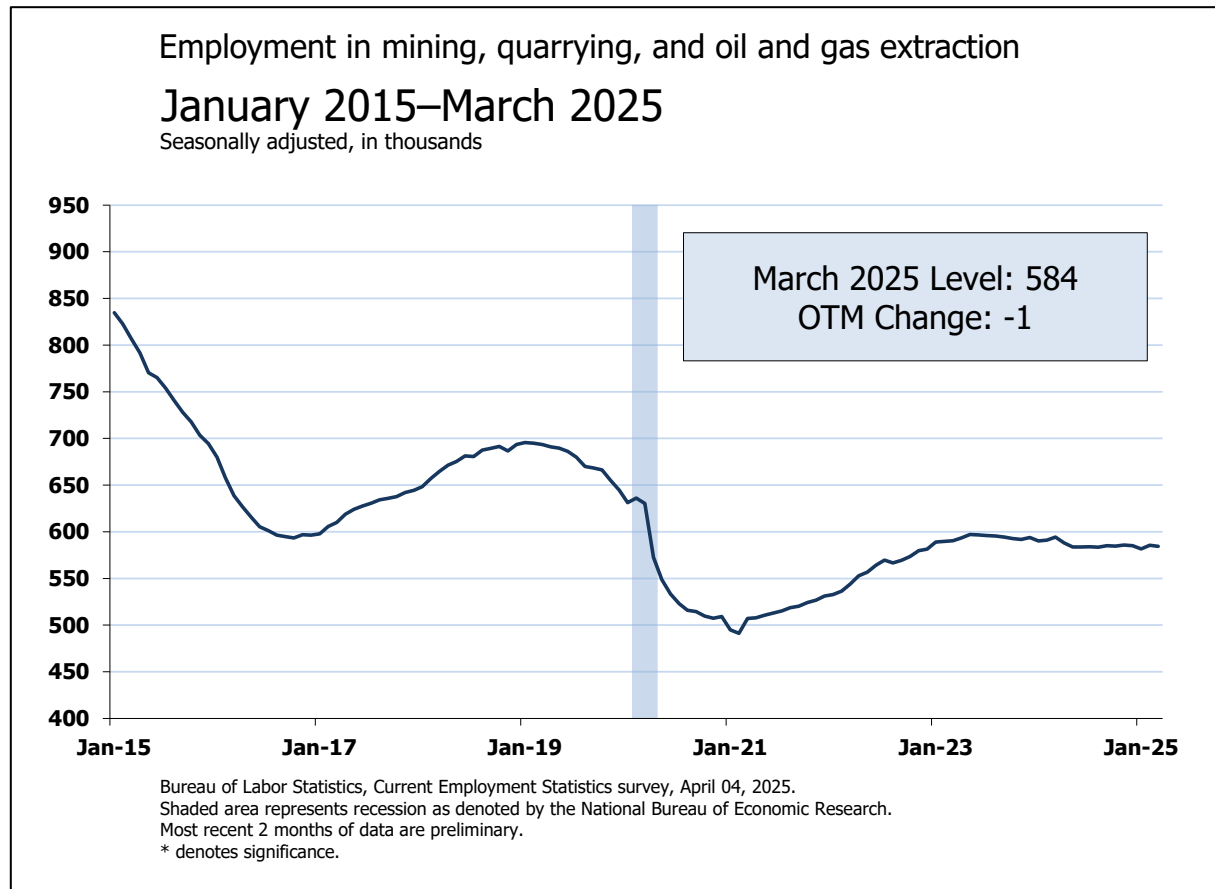
Retail trade added 24,000 jobs in March, as workers returning from a strike contributed to a job gain in food and beverage retailers (+21,000). General merchandise retailers lost 5,000 jobs. Employment in retail trade changed little over the year.

#### +23,000 Transportation and Warehousing

Employment in transportation and warehousing rose by 23,000 in March, about double the prior 12-month average gain of 12,000. In March, job gains in couriers and messengers (+16,000) and truck transportation (+10,000) were partially offset by a job loss in warehousing and storage (-9,000).



## Mining and Logging



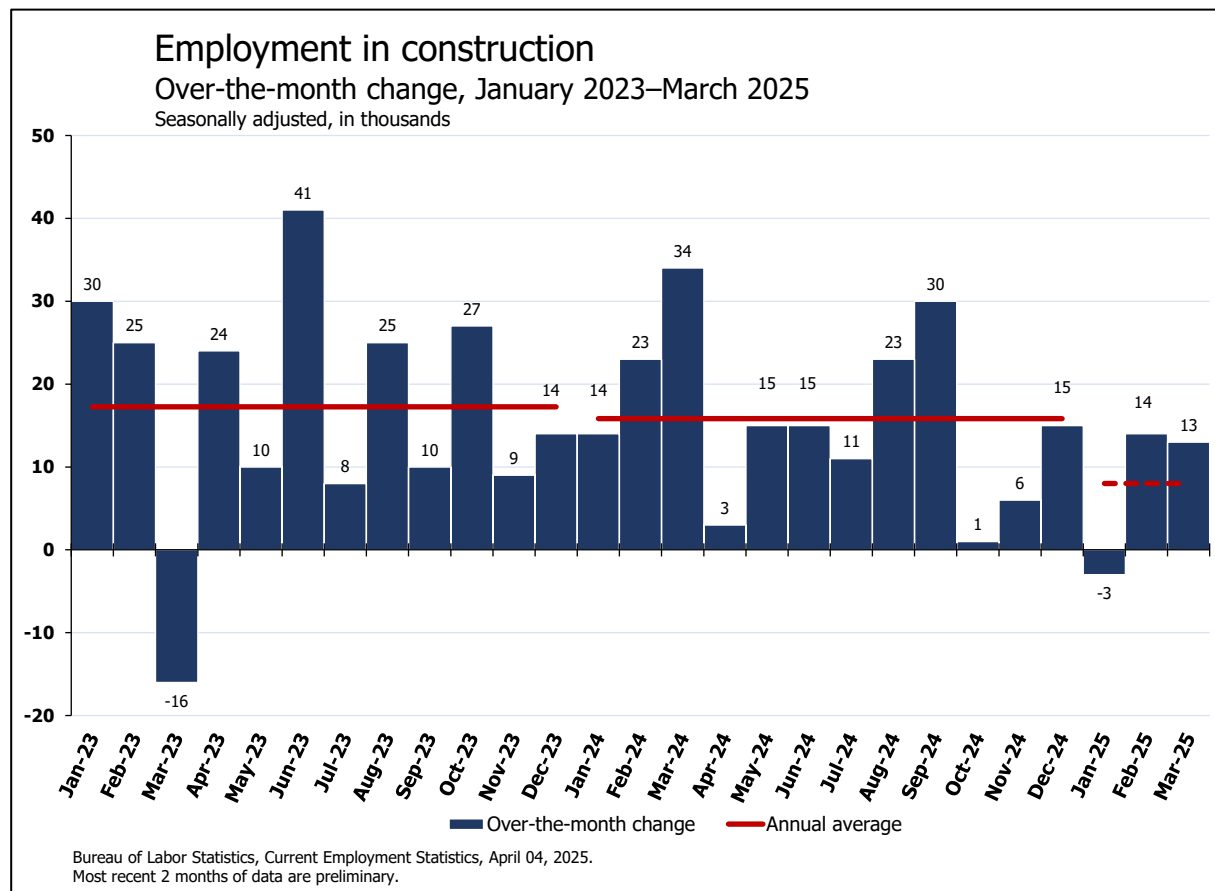
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction employment changed little in March (-1,000).

Over the month, the [North America Rotary Rig Count](#)\* increased, while the average weekly price of [West Texas Intermediate](#)\*\* crude oil decreased.

\*To access the North American rotary rigs: select the link named "North America Rotary Rig Count Report – New Report," go to the NAM Breakdown tab, and scroll to cell U7 ("Monthly chg").

\*\*To access West Texas Intermediate crude oil: select "EDIT GRAPH" and change the "Modify frequency" to "Weekly, Ending Friday." Above the graph, modify the date range to one year, including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.

## Construction



Employment in construction changed little in March (+13,000). Growth in the industry had averaged 14,000 jobs per month over the prior 12 months. Over the month, nonresidential specialty trade contractors added jobs (+19,000).

Recent residential construction-related indicators are mixed. In February, [housing starts](#) and [new residential sales](#) changed little. However, [residential building permits](#) decreased in February, and the [average 30-year fixed mortgage rate](#) decreased in March.

## Manufacturing



Employment in manufacturing was flat in March (+1,000). The industry has lost 136,000 jobs since its most recent peak in February 2023.

In March, the 1-month manufacturing diffusion index fell by 9.1 points to 45.1. A number below 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries are losing jobs than are adding jobs.

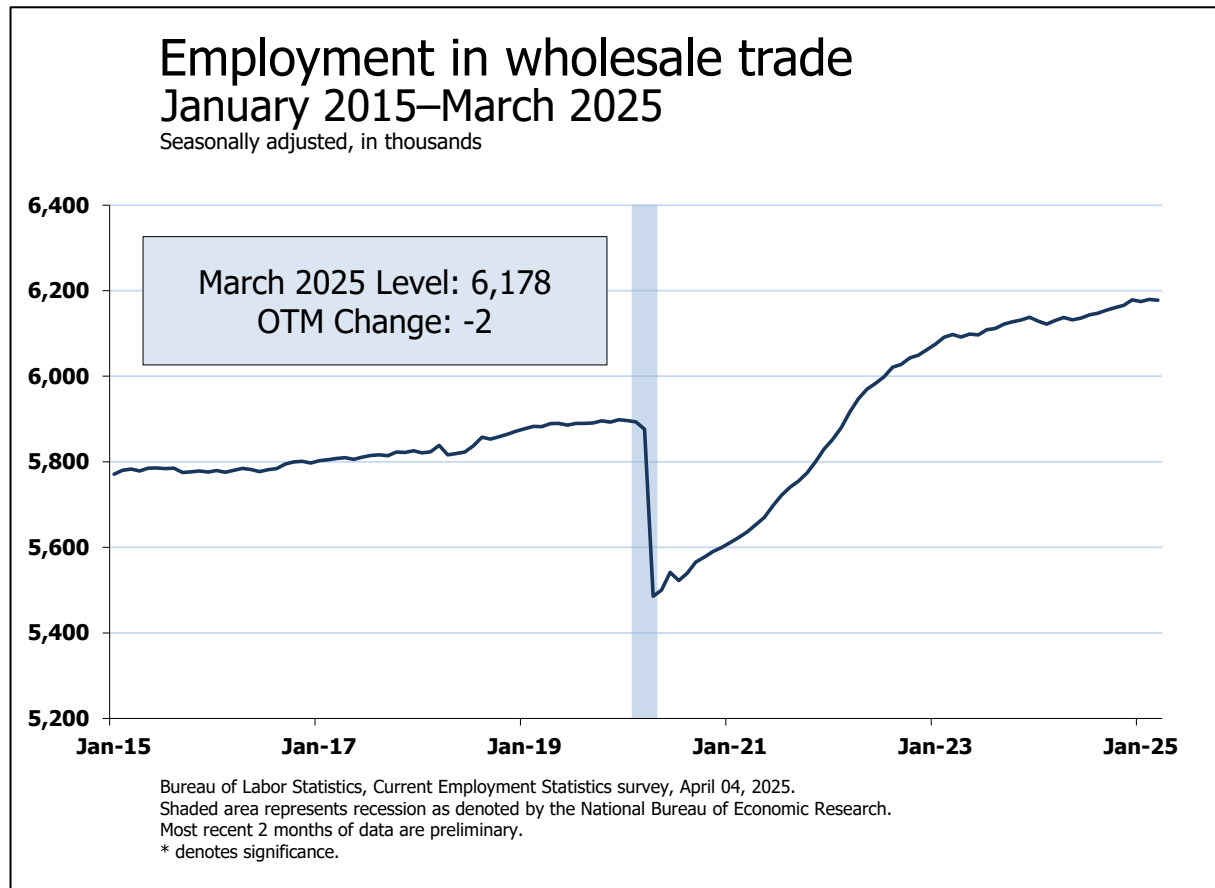
Recent weakness in manufacturing employment and in the 1-month manufacturing diffusion index corresponds with weakness in both [the Institute of Supply Management's Purchasing Managers' Index \(PMI\)](#) and [the S&P Global US Manufacturing PMI](#) in March.

Over the month, manufacturing average hourly earnings for both all employees and production employees rose by 24 cents, to \$35.16 and \$28.92, respectively.

In March, average weekly hours of all employees in manufacturing changed little (+0.1 hour) to 40.2 hours. Average weekly hours of production workers edged up by 0.1 hour to 41.1 hours. Average weekly overtime hours of both all employees and production workers were unchanged in March, at 2.9 and 3.7 hours, respectively.

## Wholesale Trade

In March, employment in wholesale trade changed little (-2,000).

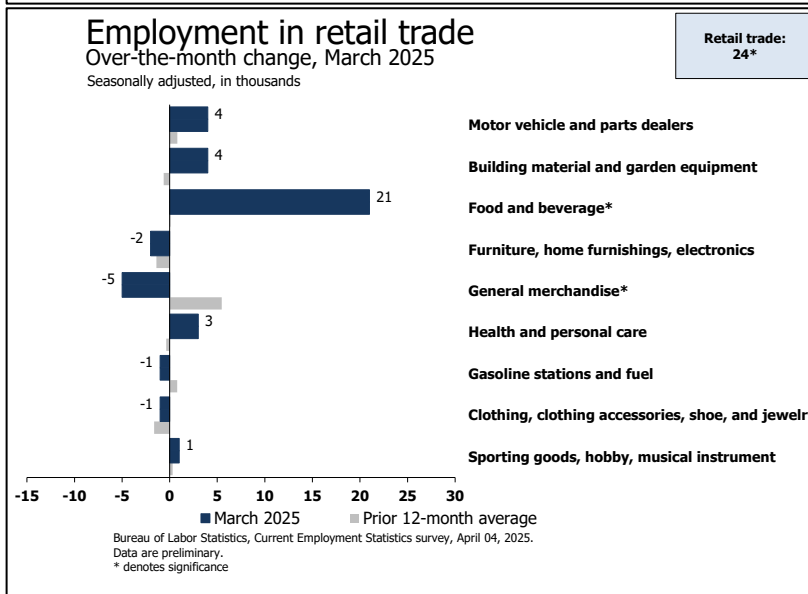
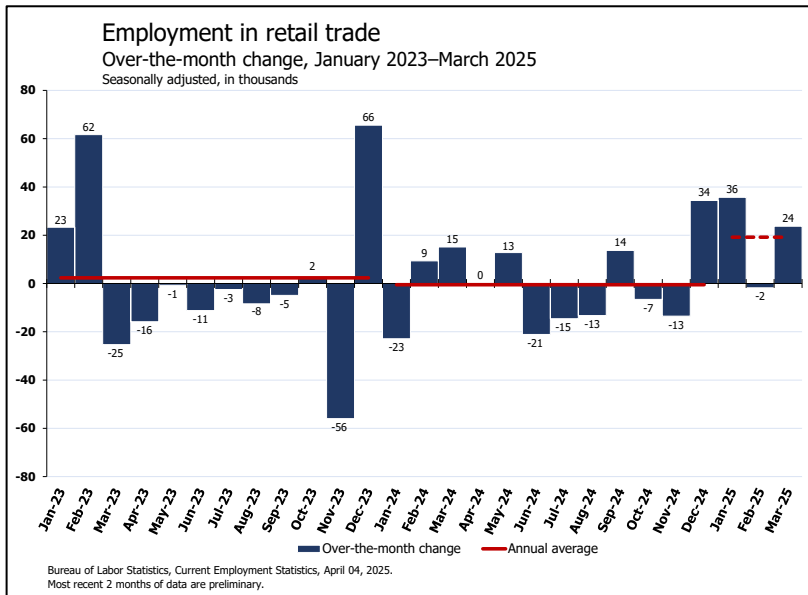


## Retail Trade

Retail trade added 24,000 jobs in March. Employment in retail trade changed little over the year.

In March, employment increased by 21,000 in food and beverage retailers, partially reflecting the return of workers from a strike. General merchandise retailers lost 5,000 jobs over the month.

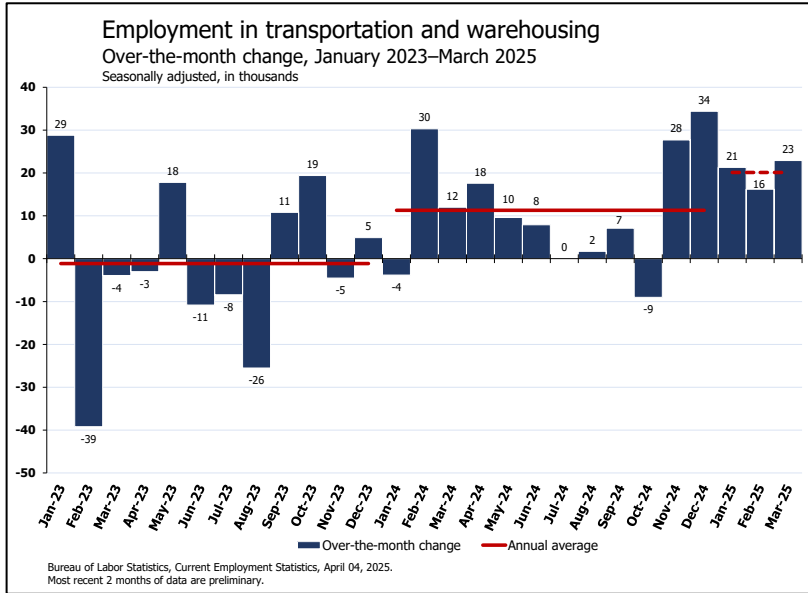
Recent retail-related economic indicators are mostly positive. In March, the per-gallon price of [regular gasoline](#)\* decreased, and [Auto Sales](#) increased. Similarly, the [Real Personal Consumption Expenditures](#) for goods and [Retail Sales](#) increased in February. In contrast, the [Consumer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



\*The per-gallon price of regular gasoline is a weekly measure, and the over-the-month change reflects the difference in price for the week following the week of the 12<sup>th</sup> for both months.

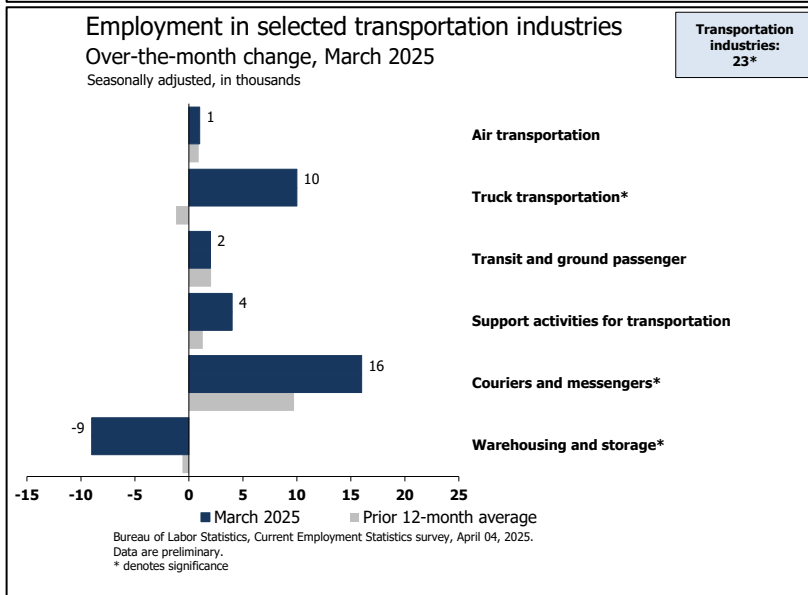


## Transportation and Warehousing



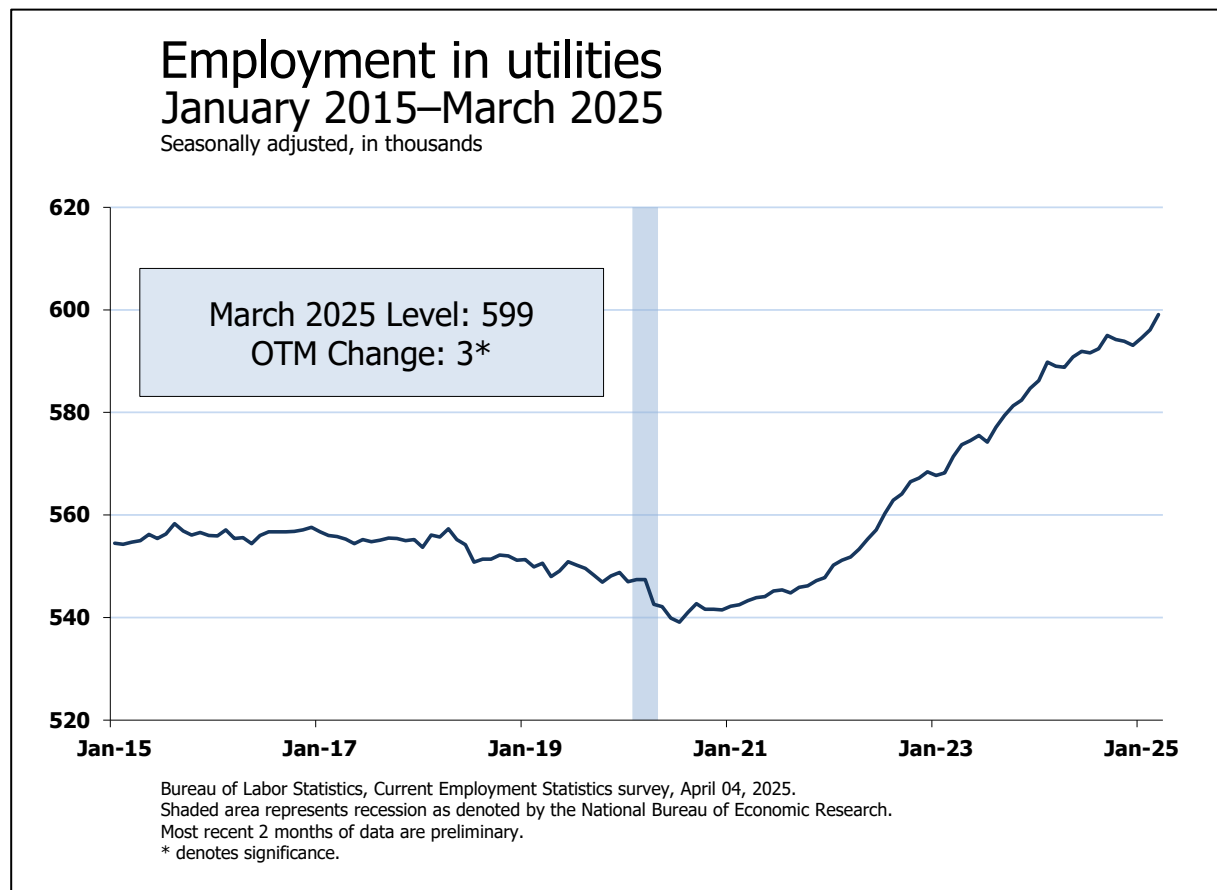
Employment in transportation and warehousing increased by 23,000 in March, about double the average monthly gain over the prior 12 months (+12,000).

Over the month, job gains in couriers and messengers (+16,000) and truck transportation (+10,000) were partially offset by a job loss in warehousing and storage (-9,000).

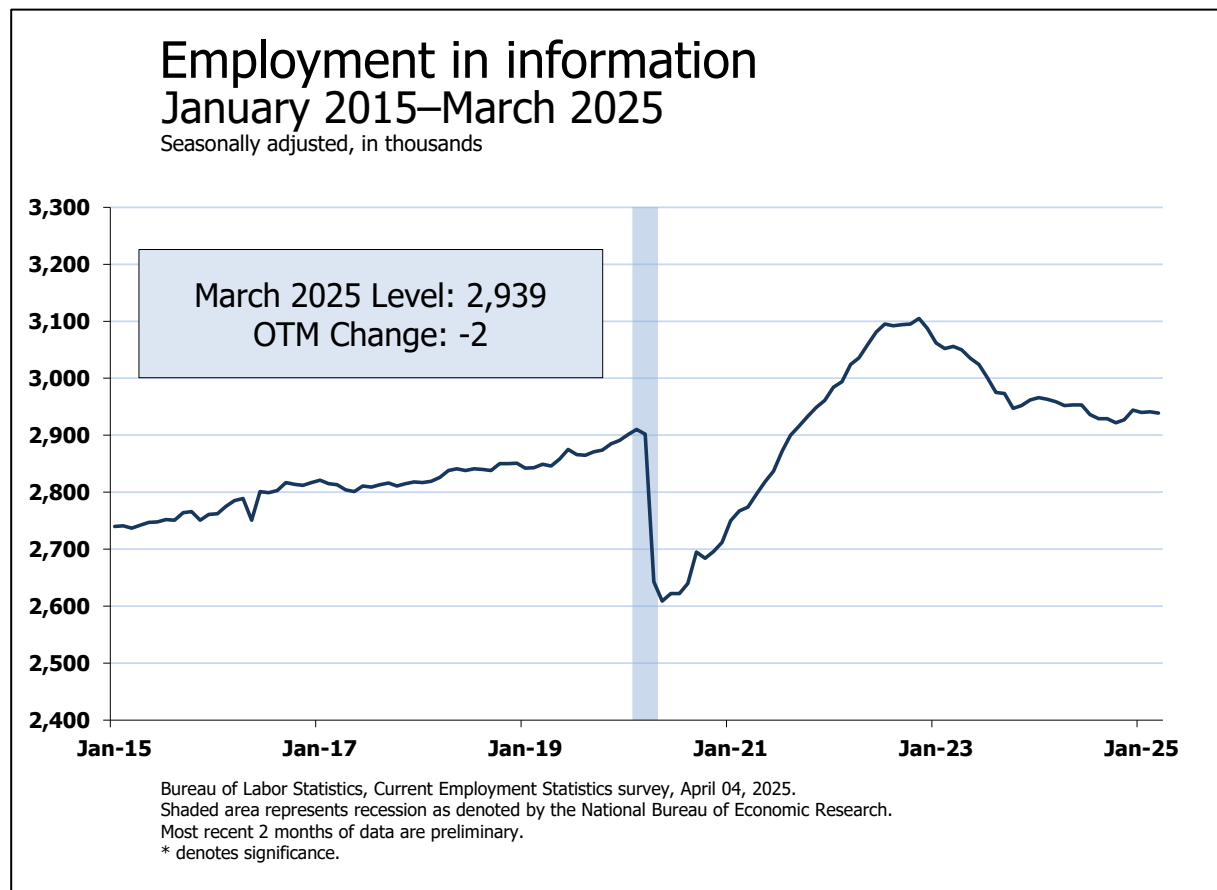


## Utilities

Utilities employment increased by 3,000 in March. So far this year, the industry has added 6,000 jobs.



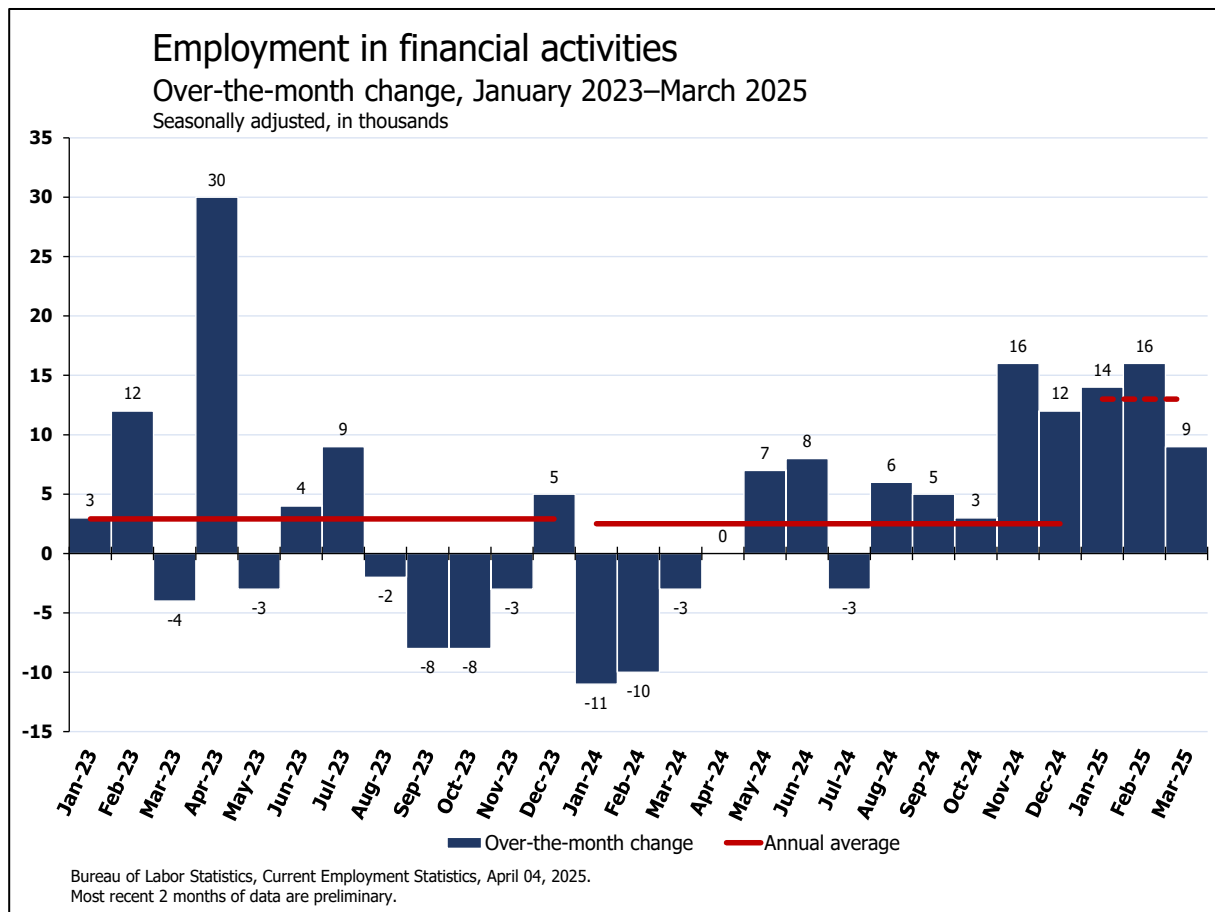
## Information



Employment in information changed little in March (-2,000) and has shown little net change over the most recent 12 months.

In March, telecommunications employment declined by 3,000.

### Financial Activities

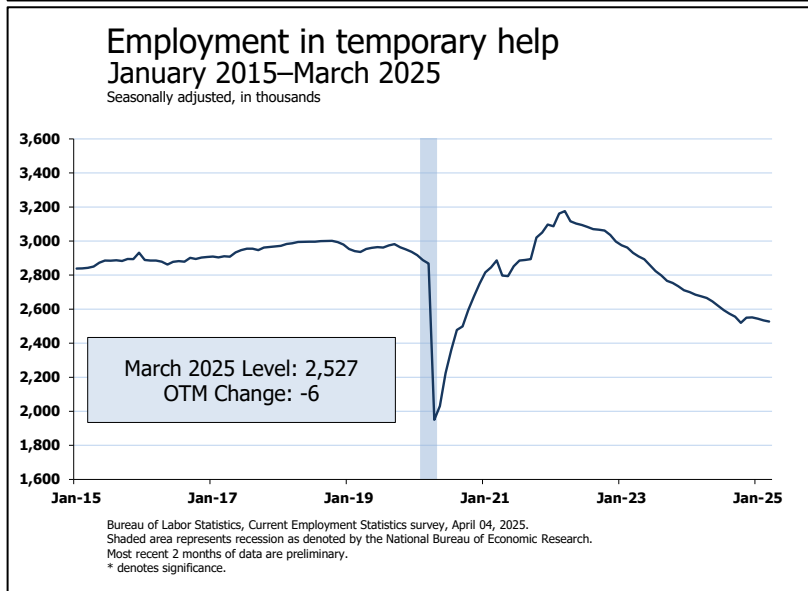
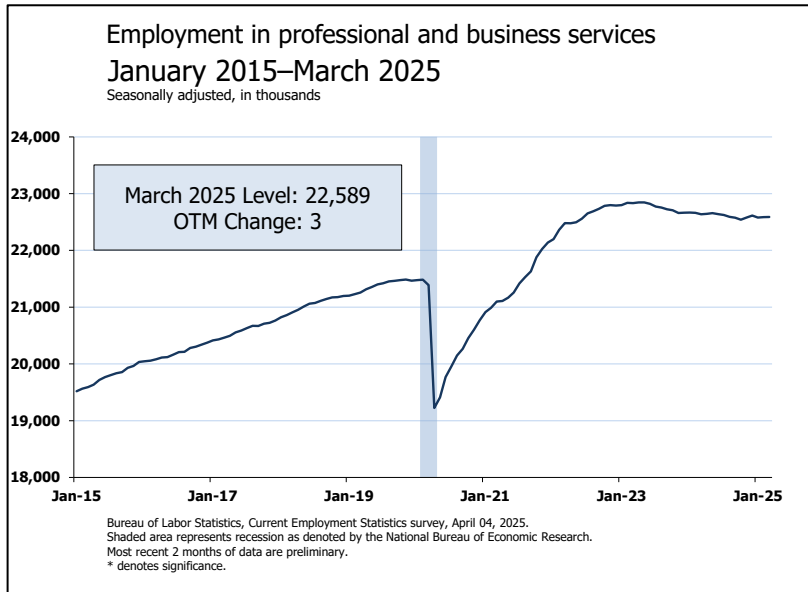


Employment in financial activities continued to trend up in March (+9,000), in line with its prior 12-month average gain of 7,000 per month. The industry has added 93,000 jobs since its most recent trough in April 2024.

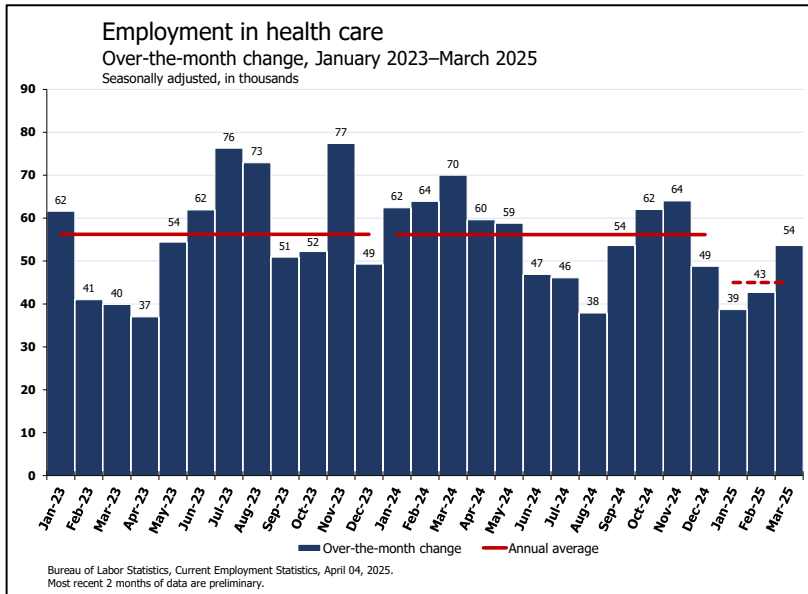
## Professional and Business Services

Employment in professional and business services was flat in March (+3,000). The industry has lost 257,000 jobs since its most recent peak in May 2023.

In March, employment in temporary help services changed little (-6,000). Since reaching an employment peak in March 2022, temporary help services has shed 649,000 jobs, a decline of 20.4 percent.



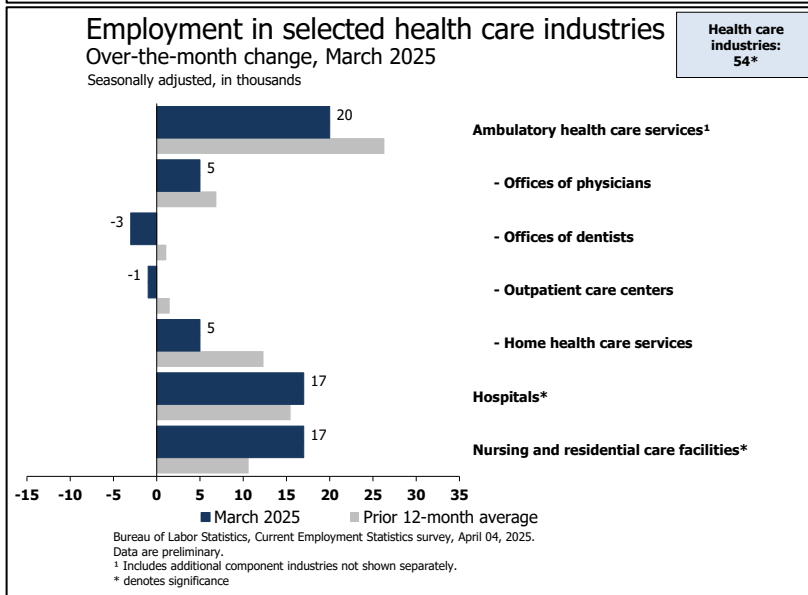
## Private Education and Health Services



Health care added 54,000 jobs in March, in line with its prior 12-month average gain of 52,000 per month.

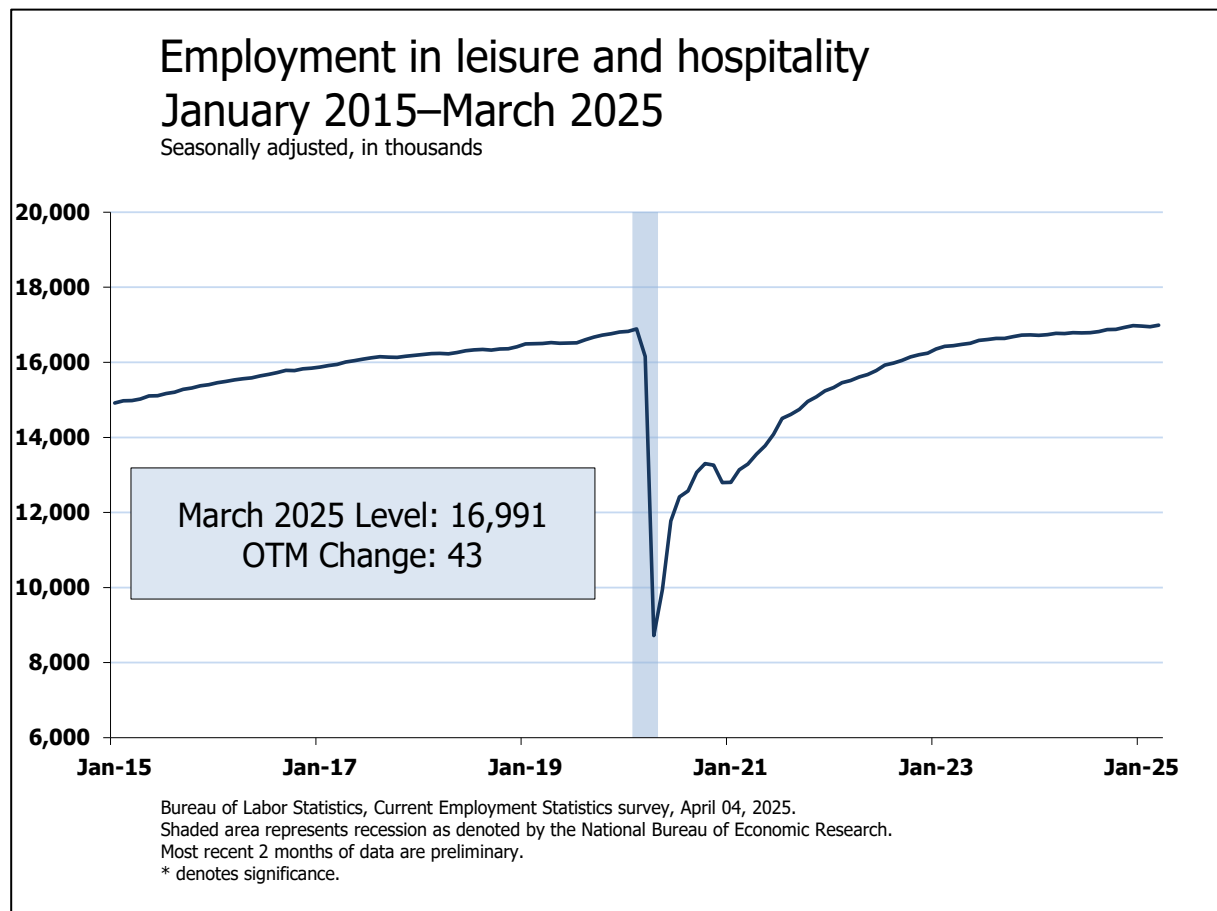
Over the month, employment continued to trend up in ambulatory health care services (+20,000), hospitals (+17,000), and nursing and residential care facilities (+17,000). Within nursing and residential care facilities, job growth was concentrated in skilled nursing care facilities (+11,000) and in residential intellectual and developmental disability, mental health, and substance abuse facilities (+6,000).

Employment in social assistance increased by 24,000 in March, higher than the average monthly gain of 19,000 over the prior 12 months. Over the month, individual and family services added 22,000 jobs.



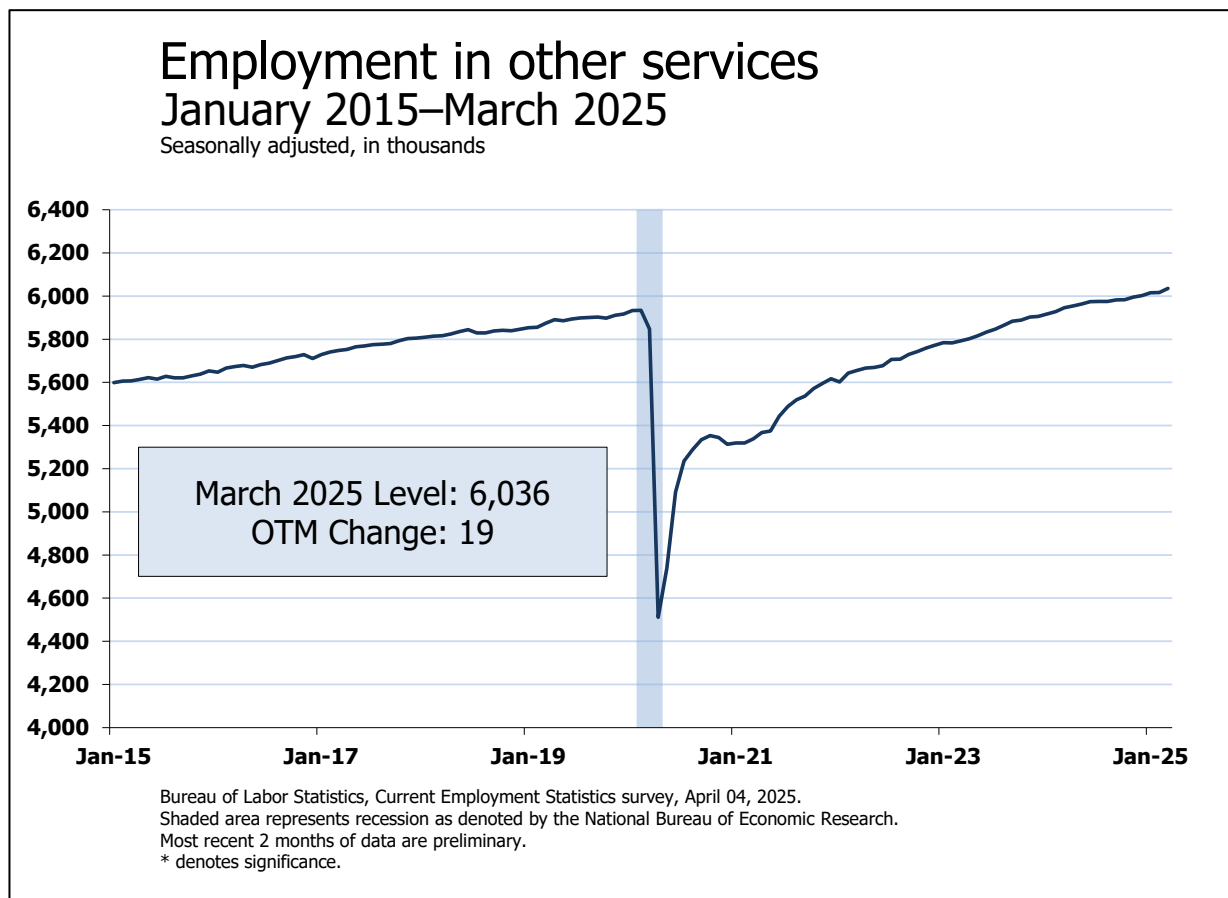
## Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in leisure and hospitality changed little in March (+43,000). Over the prior 12 months, industry employment had averaged gains of 18,000 per month.



## Other Services

Employment in other services changed little in March (+19,000). Over the most recent 12 months, the industry has added 90,000 jobs.

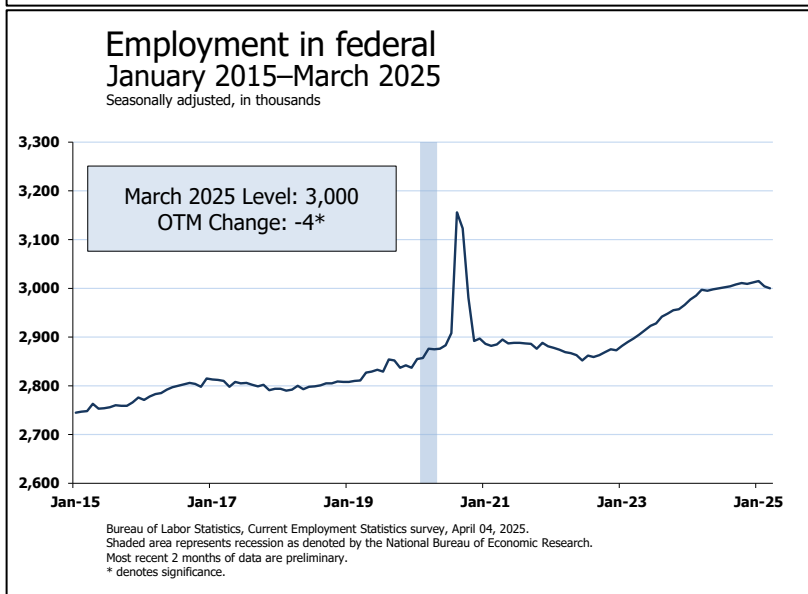
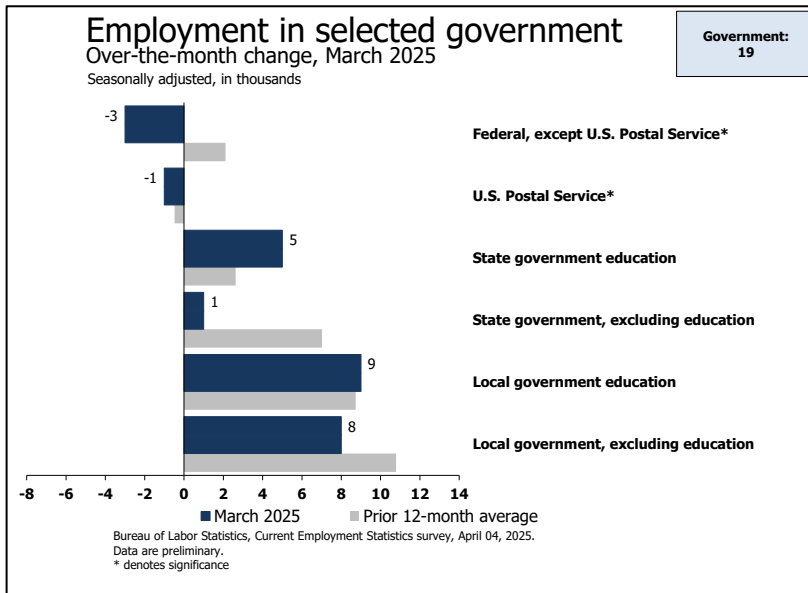


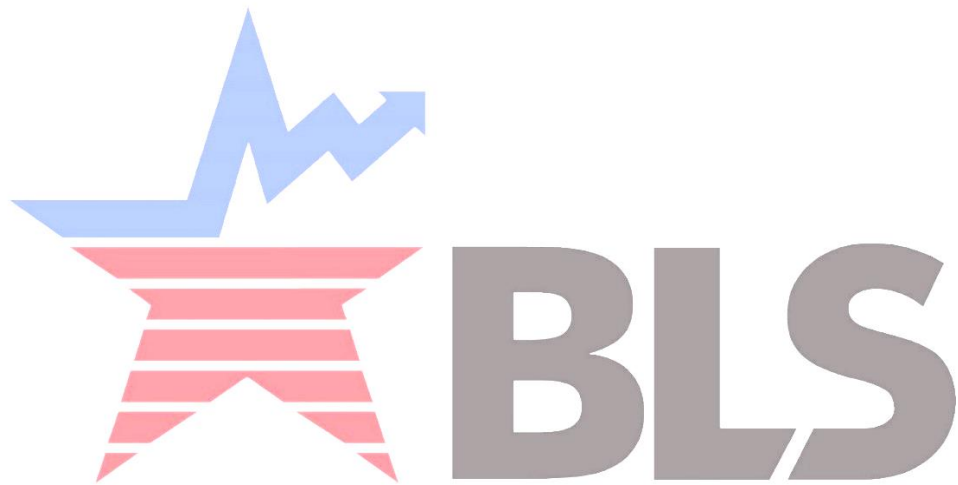


## Government

In March, employment in government changed little (+19,000). Growth in the industry had averaged 31,000 jobs per month over the prior 12 months.

Over the month, federal government employment declined by 4,000, following a loss of 11,000 jobs in February. (Employees on paid leave or receiving ongoing severance pay are included as employed in the establishment survey.)





**Prepared by Staff of the National Estimates Branch  
Current Employment Statistics Survey  
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