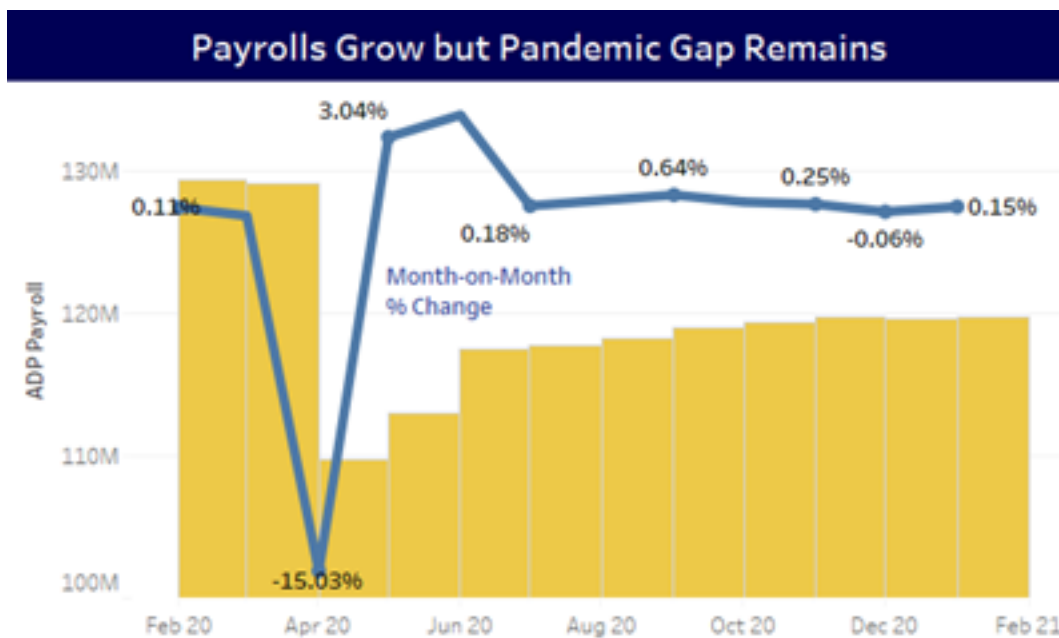


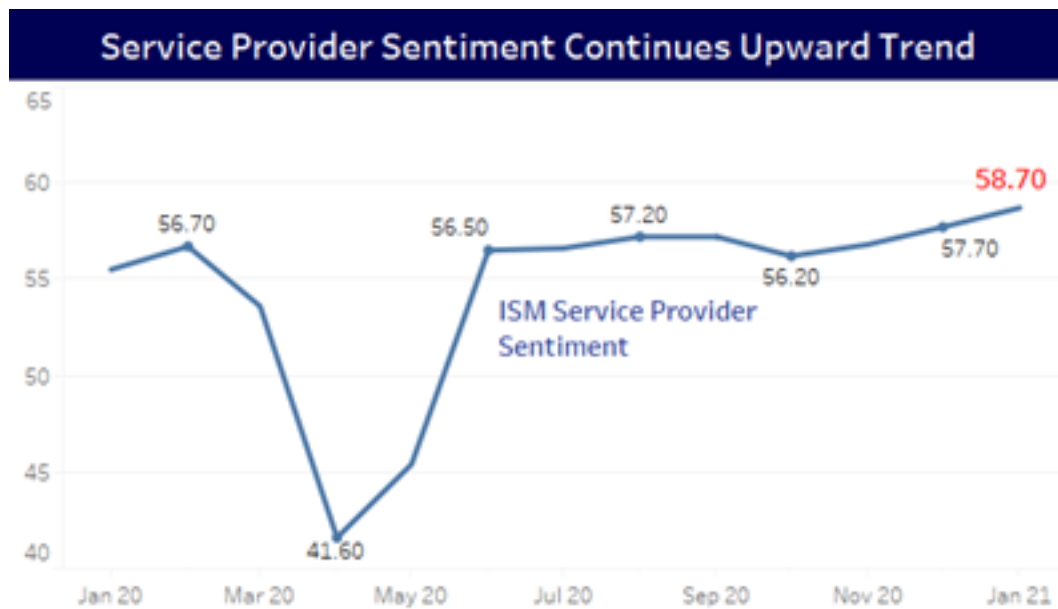
ADP Shows Net Job Creation in January

The Bureau of Labor Statistics will release the jobs report for January on Friday. Given troublingly high weekly unemployment claims in January and the 140,000 jobs lost in December—the first monthly job loss since April, many anticipate the economy could again lose jobs in January. But some recent data indicates this is not certain.

Today, the payroll company ADP released its [monthly payroll report](#) for January. It showed the economy **adding** 174,000 jobs. The ADP number and the BLS figure do not always jibe. ADP did originally show a drop in December that was on par with what BLS found.



More data: The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) releases monthly surveys of the sentiment of [manufacturers](#) and [service providers](#). In January, services ticked up and are now higher than pre-pandemic. This is surprising because services have taken the brunt of the economic pain during the pandemic. Manufacturing sentiment fell slightly but remains well above its pre-pandemic level and strongly in growth territory.



On the jobs front, both surveys found businesses adding jobs at a strong pace. Services showed a sharp increase.

Bottom line: The virus has taken a toll on the economy the last few months. The extent of that toll is now showing up in the data, and it may not be as severe as originally feared. Hopefully the economy added jobs in January and has started on a path of adding jobs uninterrupted for months and years to come.

—Curtis Dubay, Senior Economist, U.S. Chamber of Commerce