

Health sector employment and wage growth since February 2020

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Filling the need for trusted information on national health issues.

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Emma Wager

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Intro to Data

Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Employment Survey (CES) data is published monthly. This data includes employment numbers and weekly average wages for various sectors of employment. Job openings and quits are tracked through the Job Opportunity and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS).

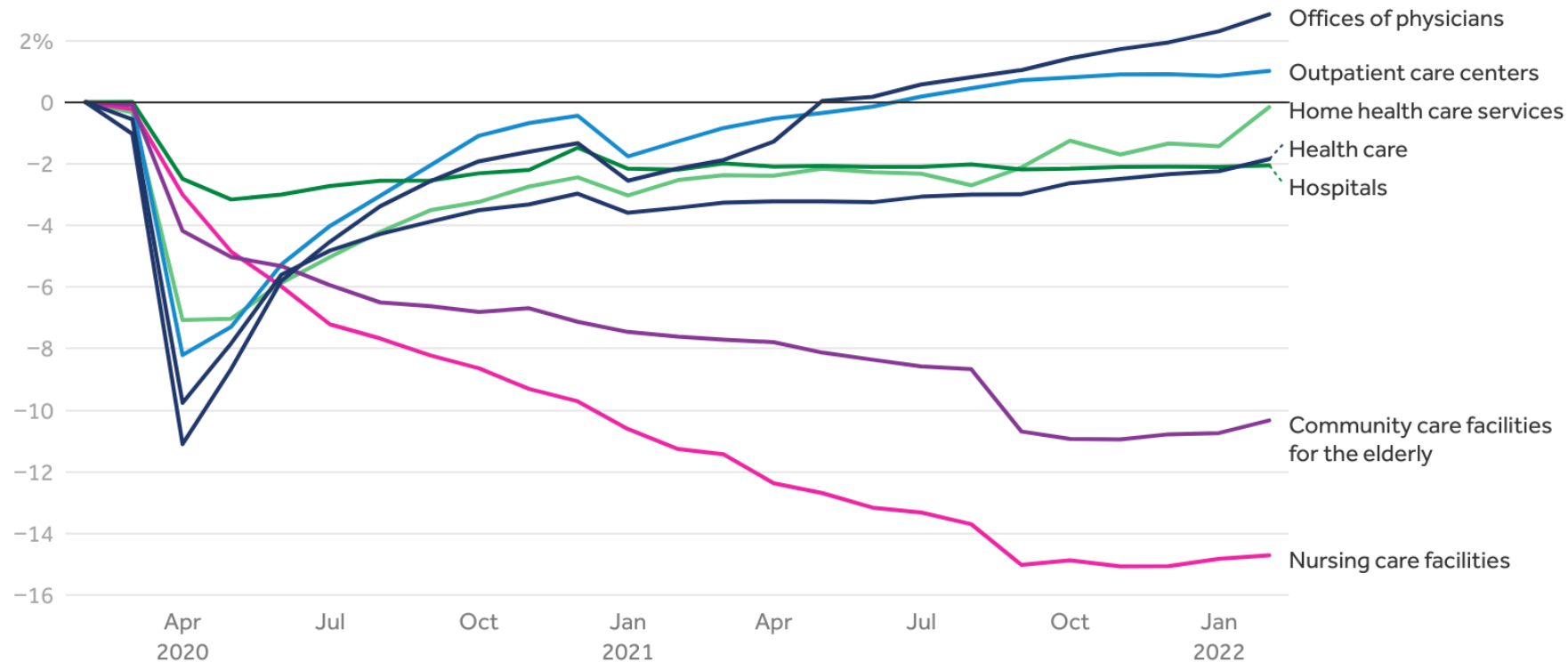
Data is stratified by worksite. Within the health field, the following workplaces are examined:

- Hospitals
- Physicians' offices
- Outpatient care centers
- Home health services
- Nursing care facilities
- Community care facilities for the elderly

This data is not stratified by occupation. Health sector employment data includes nurses, physicians, other care providers, administrative staff, support staff and contracted employees.

Health Sector Employment By Worksite

Cumulative % change in health sector employment by setting, since February 2020, seasonally adjusted

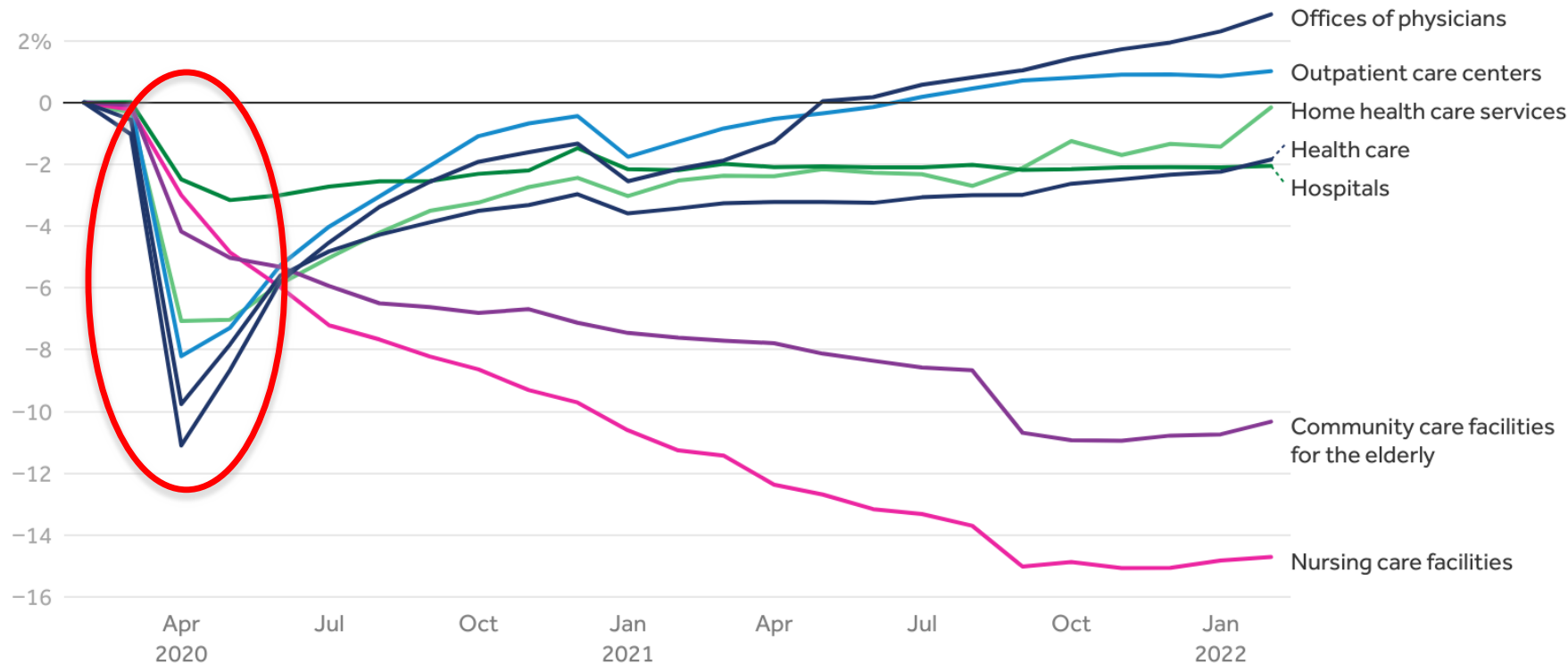


Note: Data for January and February 2022 are preliminary

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Employment Survey (CES)

Health Sector Employment By Worksite

Cumulative % change in health sector employment by setting, since February 2020, seasonally adjusted



The beginning of the pandemic saw a drop in employment across the health sector.

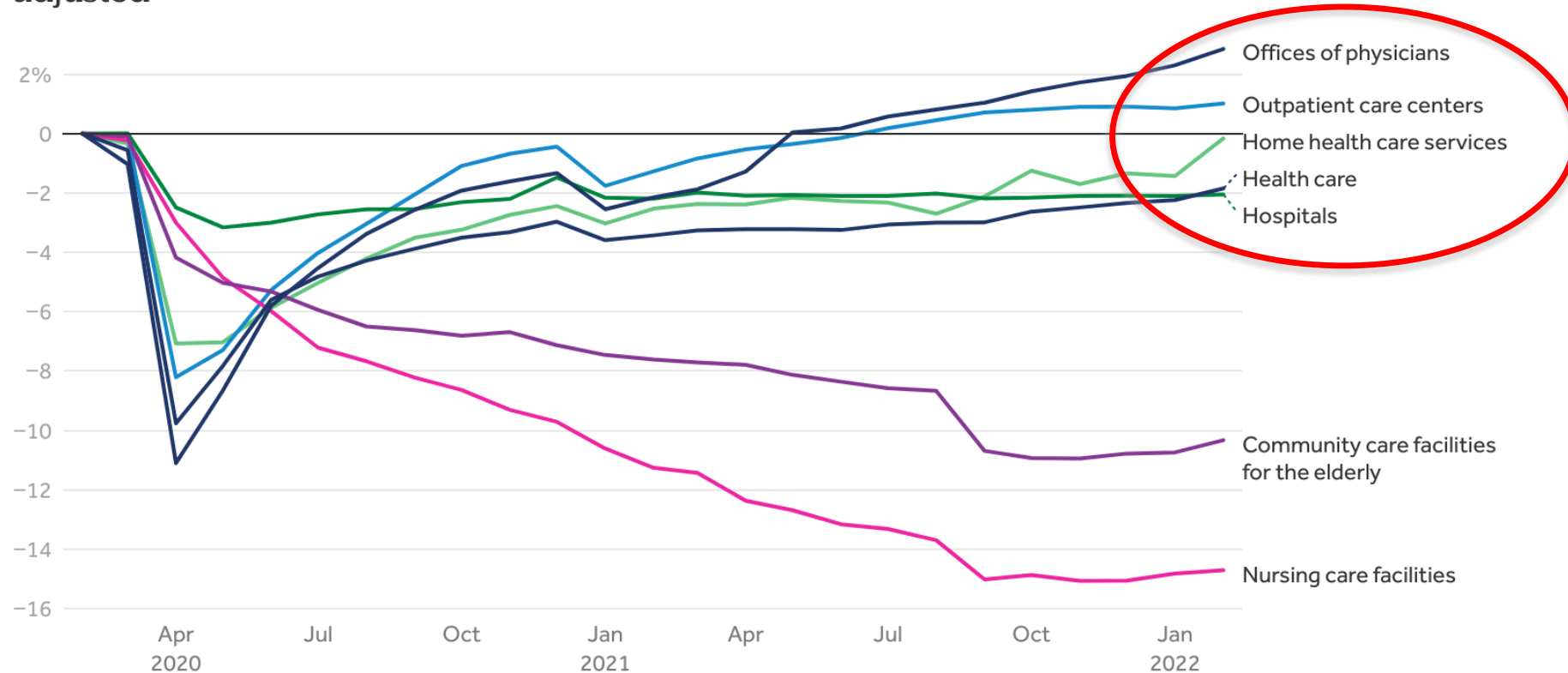
This decline was largest in outpatient care and physician office employees, as elective procedures were canceled and patients were encouraged to stay home.

Note: Data for January and February 2022 are preliminary

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Employment Survey (CES)

Health Sector Employment By Worksite

Cumulative % change in health sector employment by setting, since February 2020, seasonally adjusted



By 2022, physician office and outpatient care have recovered the most, and now employ more people than before the pandemic.

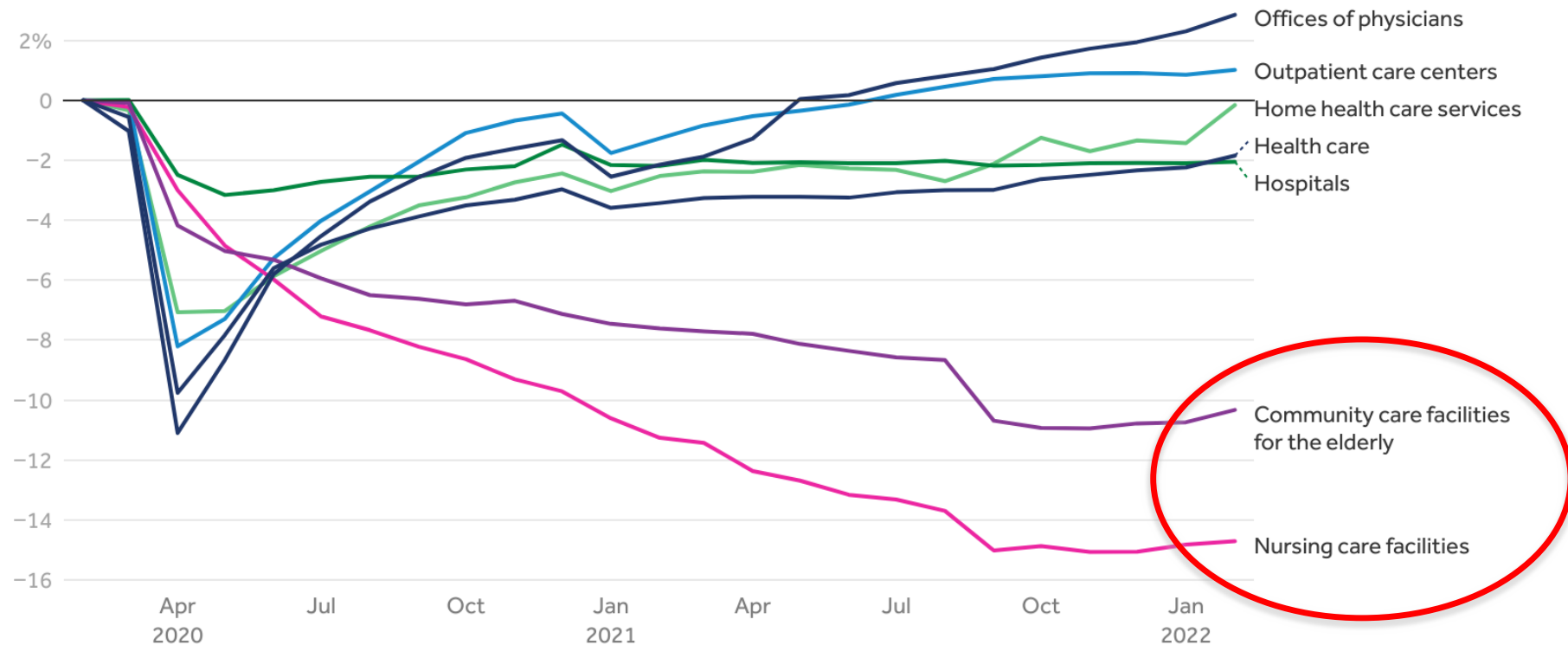
Hospitals and home health services have also made close to full recoveries.

Note: Data for January and February 2022 are preliminary

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Employment Survey (CES)

Health Sector Employment By Worksite

Cumulative % change in health sector employment by setting, since February 2020, seasonally adjusted



Note: Data for January and February 2022 are preliminary

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Employment Survey (CES)

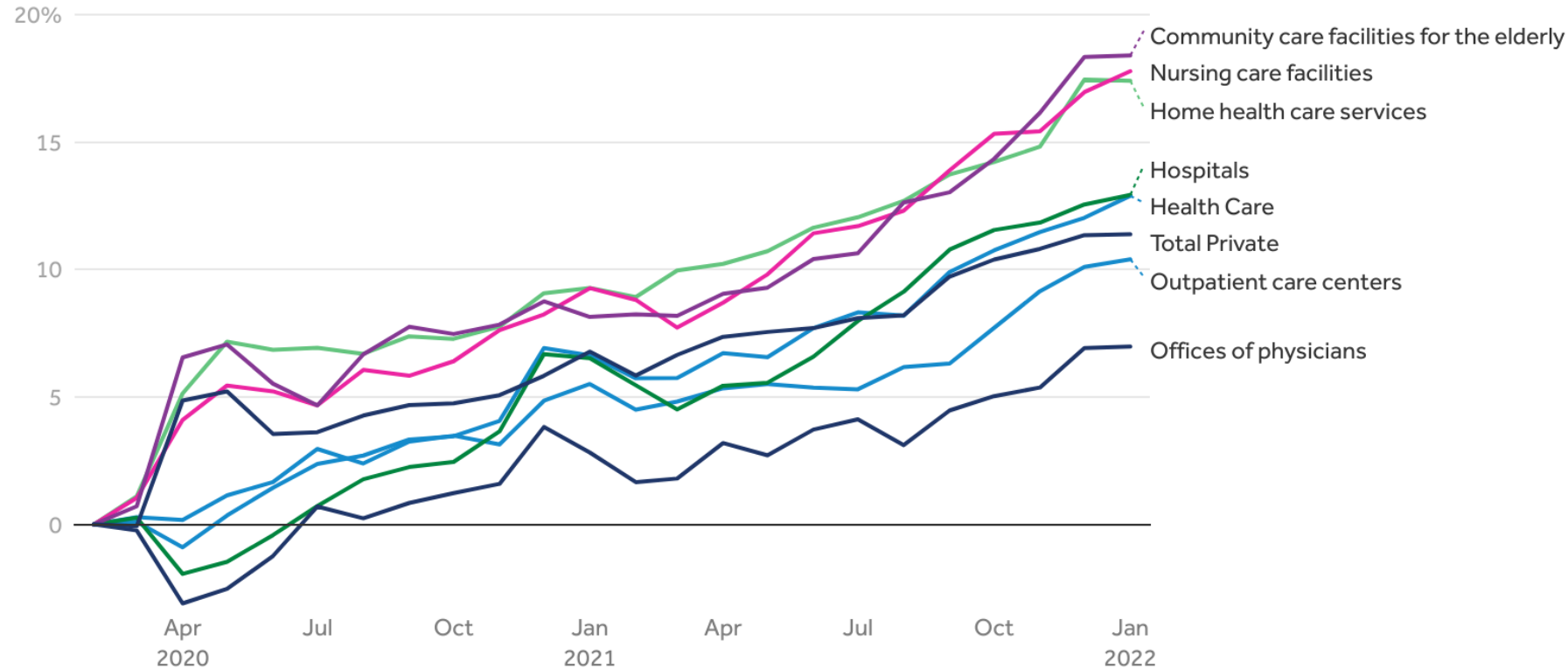
Employment in nursing and elder care facilities has made no recovery and seen a rapid and continuous decline.

These industries were declining in employment numbers before the pandemic, but at much slower rates.

Nursing care employment has dropped 15% since early 2020.

Wages in the Health Sector by Worksite

Cumulative % change in average weekly earnings, by health setting, since February 2020
(seasonally adjusted)

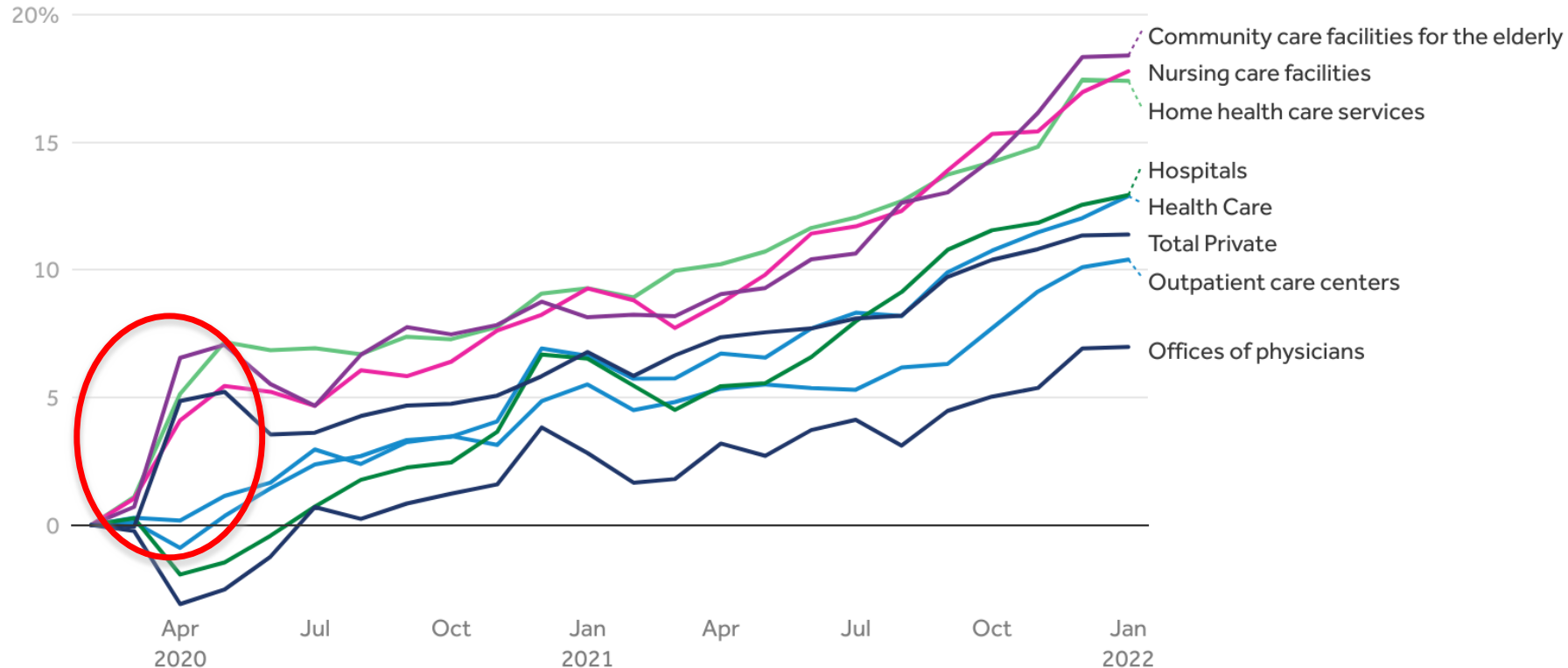


Note: Data for January 2022 is preliminary.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Economic Survey (CES)

Wages in the Health Sector by Worksite

Cumulative % change in average weekly earnings, by health setting, since February 2020
(seasonally adjusted)



At the beginning of the pandemic, home health workers, and nursing and elder care facility employees saw large increases in average earnings.

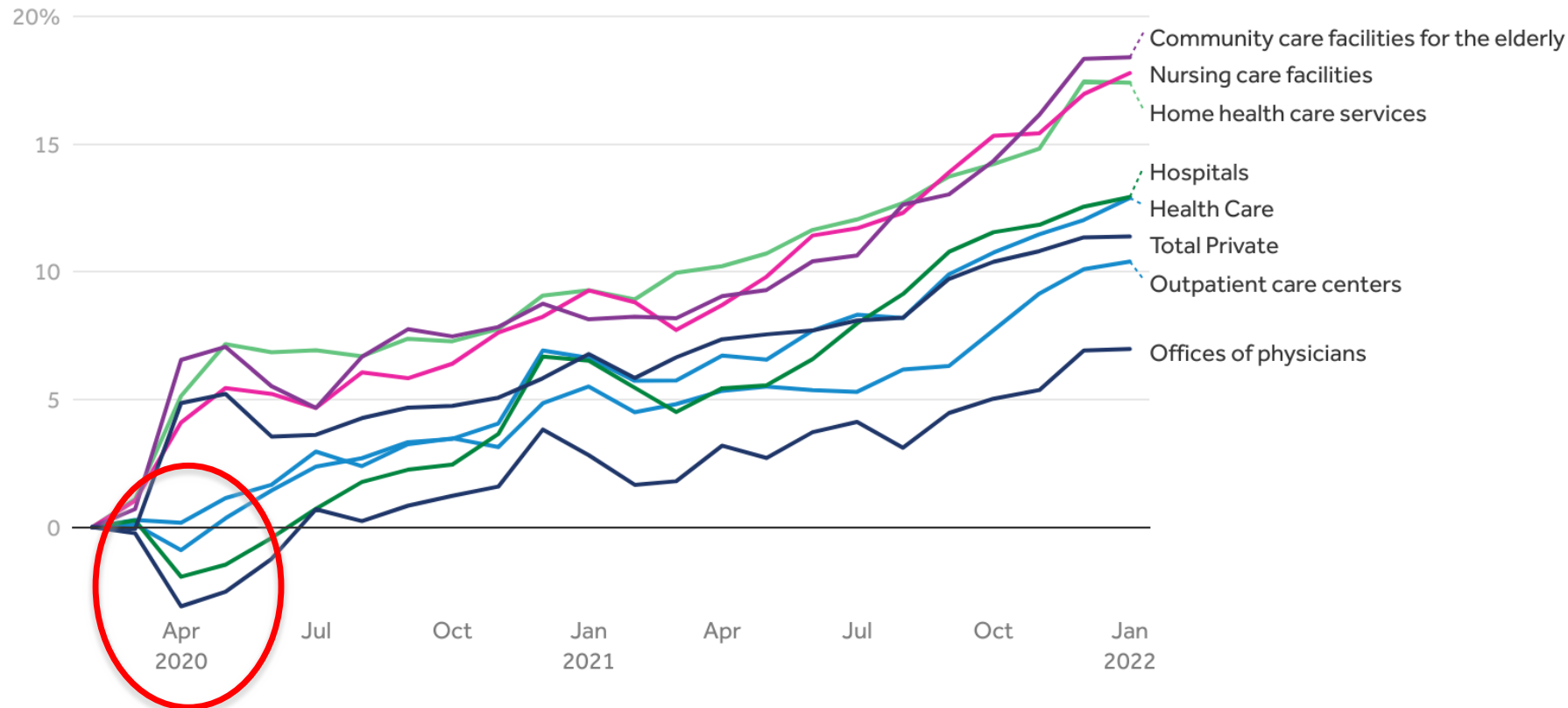
It is important to note that unemployed workers are not counted in this data. These increases stem from a combination of wage growth and layoffs.

Note: Data for January 2022 is preliminary.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Economic Survey (CES)

Wages in the Health Sector by Worksite

Cumulative % change in average weekly earnings, by health setting, since February 2020
(seasonally adjusted)



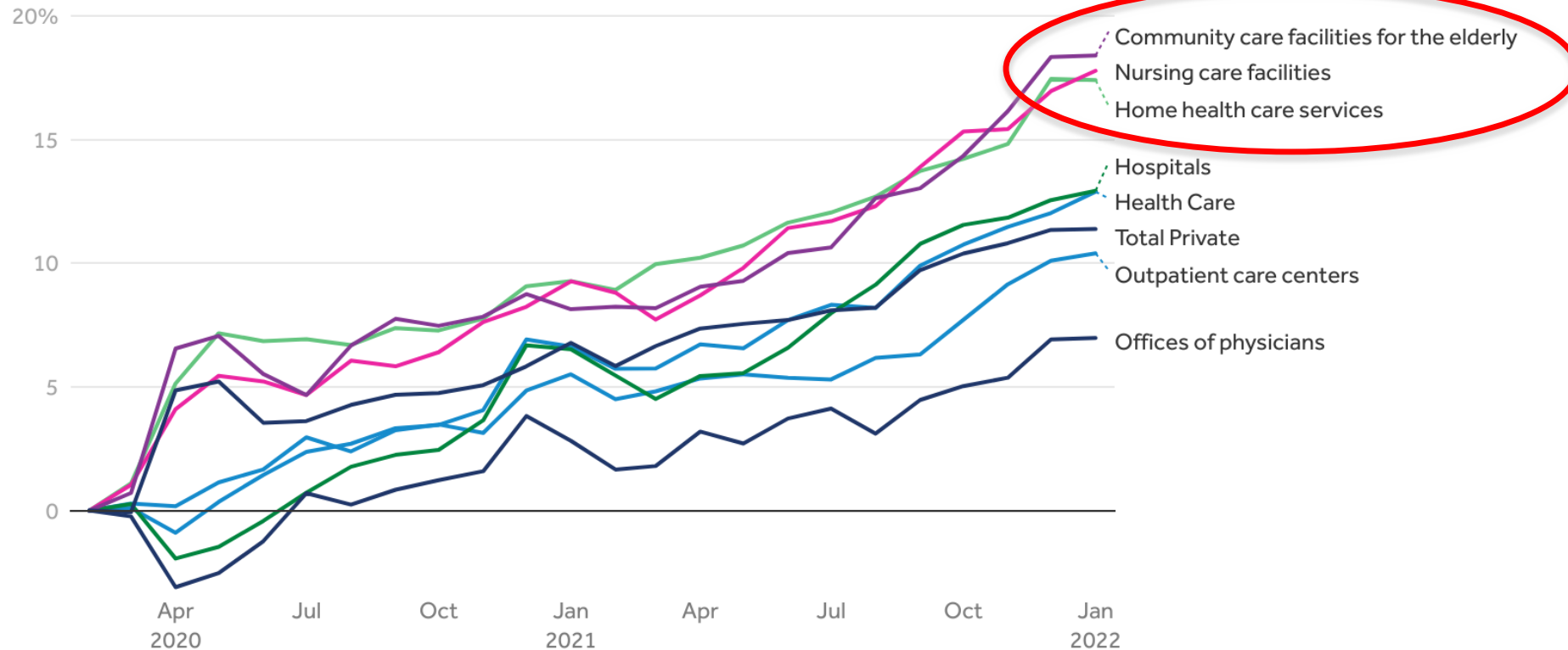
In facilities with more acute and elective care, average wages dropped as procedures declined.

Note: Data for January 2022 is preliminary.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Economic Survey (CES)

Wages in the Health Sector by Worksite

Cumulative % change in average weekly earnings, by health setting, since February 2020
(seasonally adjusted)



In 2022, nursing care, elder care, and home health employees have seen average wage increases of nearly 20% since early 2020.

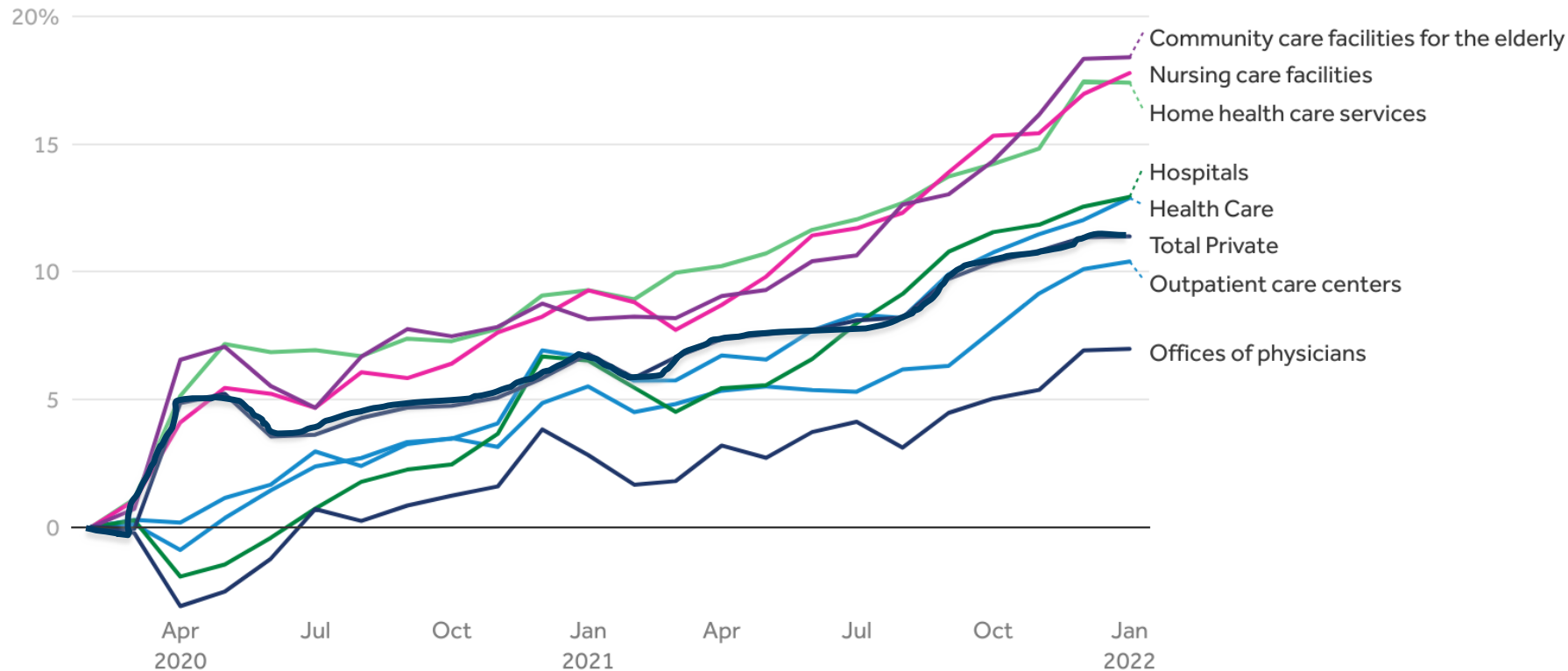
These facilities are facing severe staff shortages, and need to attract employees in a competitive labor market.

Note: Data for January 2022 is preliminary.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Economic Survey (CES)

Wages in the Health Sector by Worksite

Cumulative % change in average weekly earnings, by health setting, since February 2020
(seasonally adjusted)



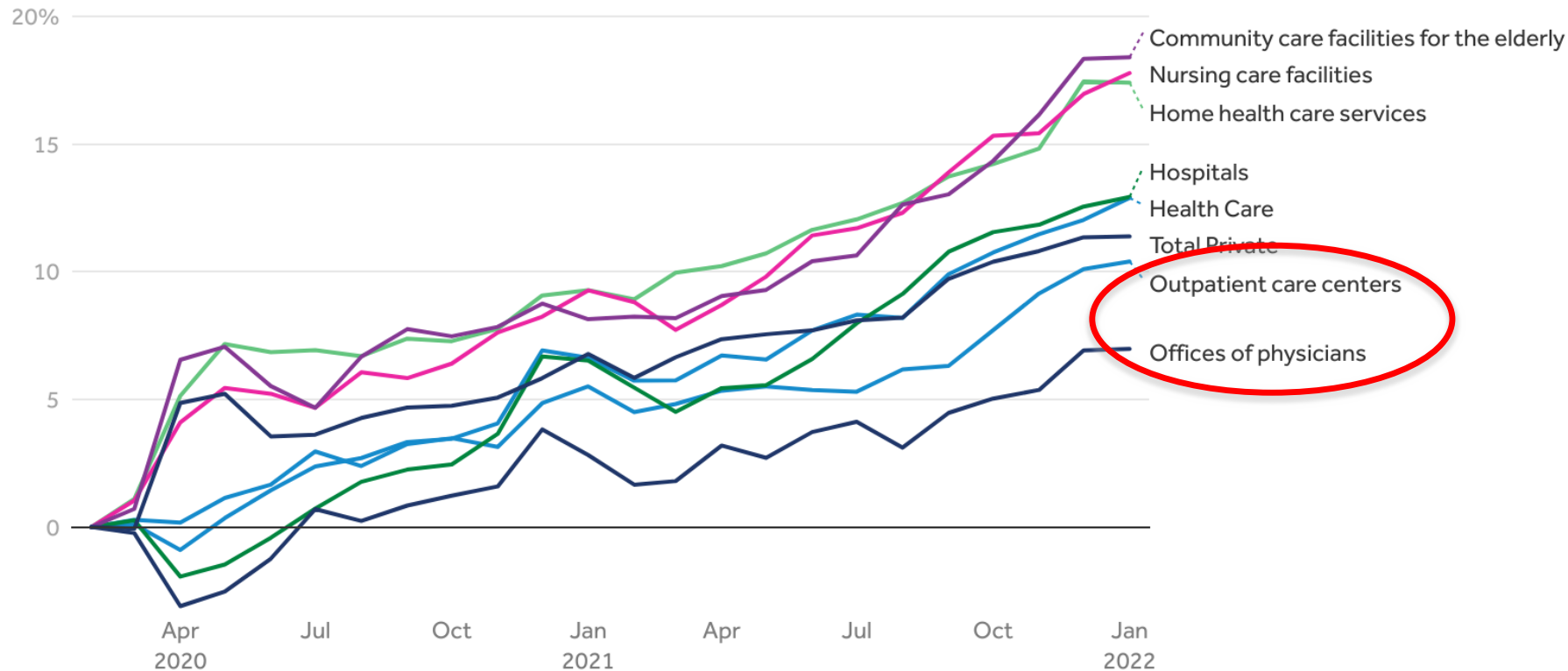
Even in a hot job market, health care wages have grown faster than overall wages.

Note: Data for January 2022 is preliminary.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Economic Survey (CES)

Wages in the Health Sector by Worksite

Cumulative % change in average weekly earnings, by health setting, since February 2020
(seasonally adjusted)



Outpatient care has seen the slowest wage growth, but numbers are still between 5 and 10% since the beginning of the pandemic.

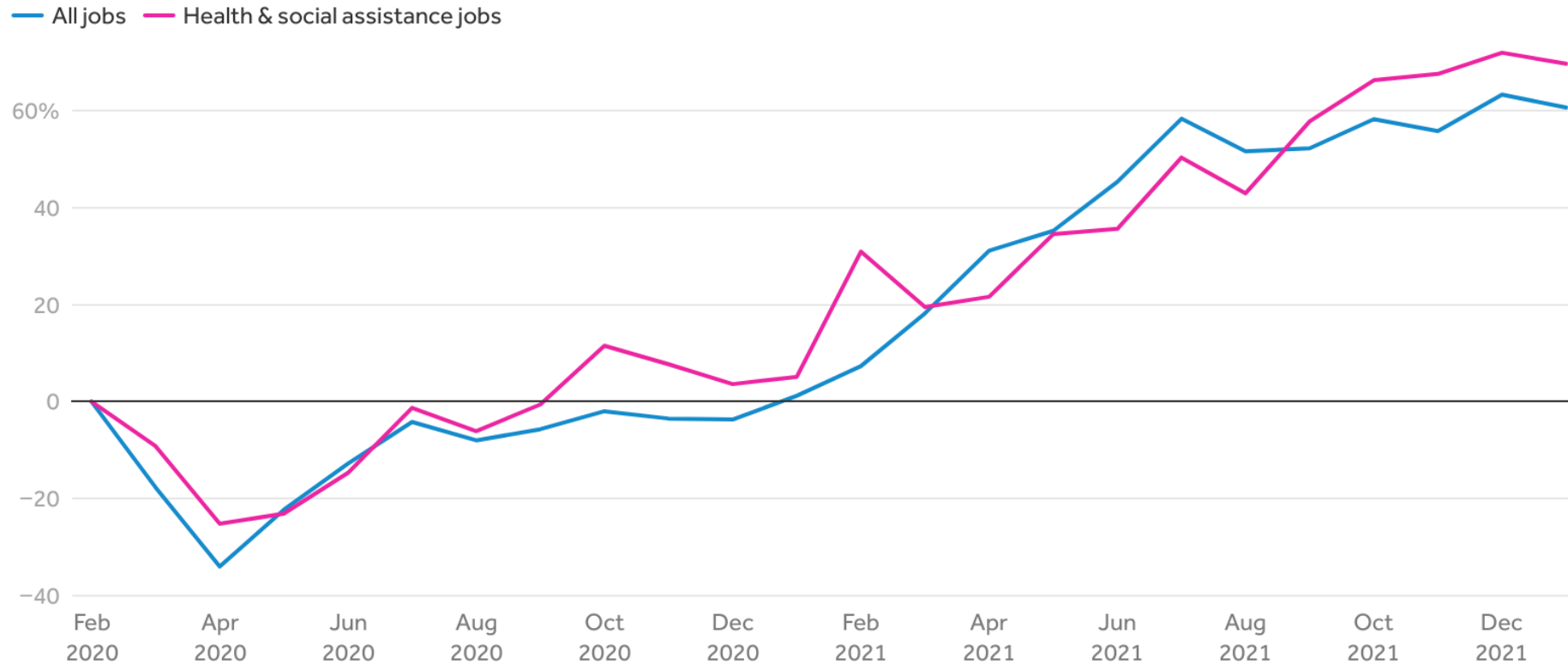
These are the areas with the least staffing concerns. Employment in both is currently above pre-pandemic levels.

Note: Data for January 2022 is preliminary.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Economic Survey (CES)

Job Openings in the Health & Social Assistance Sector

Cumulative % change in job openings since February 2020, by month, health & social assistance jobs, and all jobs



Job openings in health & social assistance are currently almost 70% higher than before the pandemic.

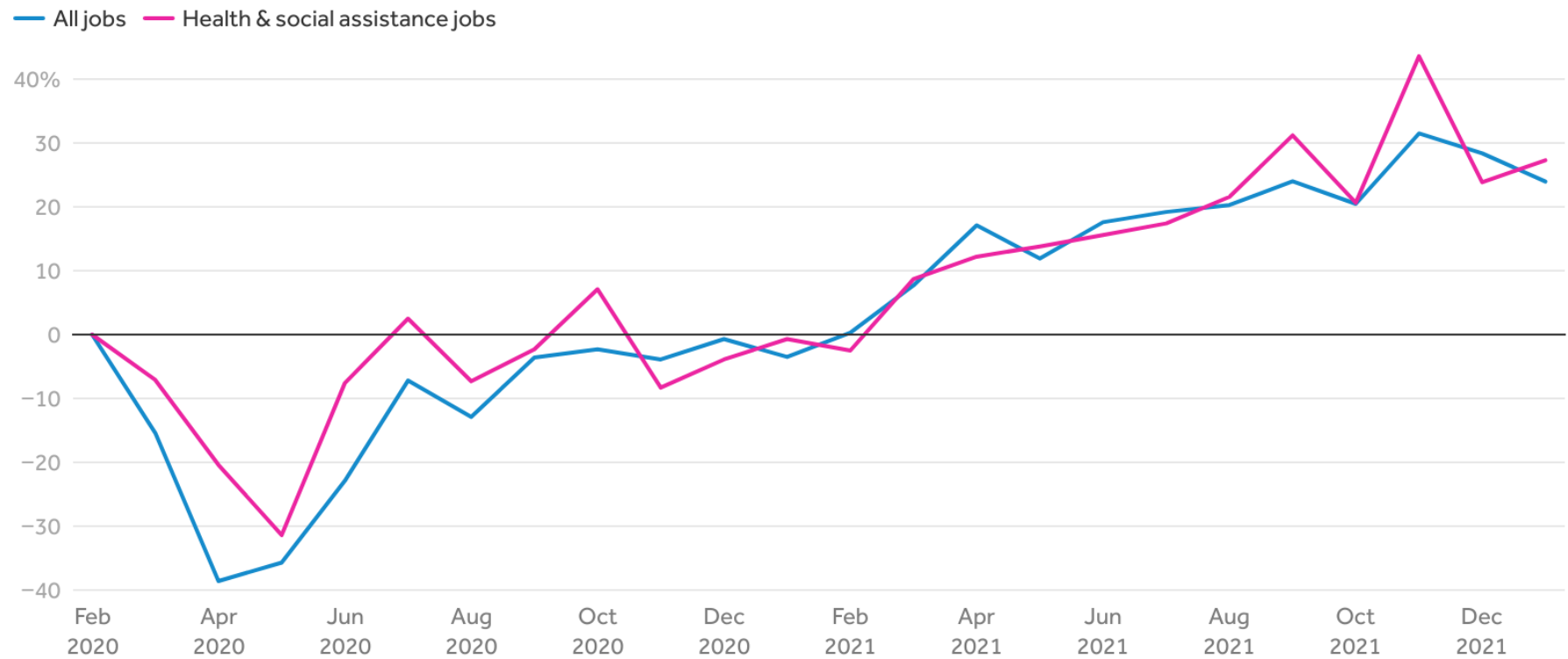
Health & social assistance has seen a larger growth in job openings than the overall job market.

Note: "All jobs" includes nonfarm jobs only. Data from January 2022 is preliminary.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Job Openings & Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS)

Job Quits in the Health & Social Assistance Sector

Cumulative % change in job quits since February 2020, by month, health & social assistance jobs, and all jobs



Job quits in the health & social assistance industry are also higher than pre-pandemic.

Individuals generally quit a job to either take another job with better pay or working conditions, or to leave the industry altogether.

Note: "All jobs" includes nonfarm jobs only. Data from January 2022 is preliminary

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Job Openings & Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS)

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Thank you.