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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
Cheryl Abbot
Regional Economist
(214) 767-6970
http://www.bls.gov/ro6/home.htm

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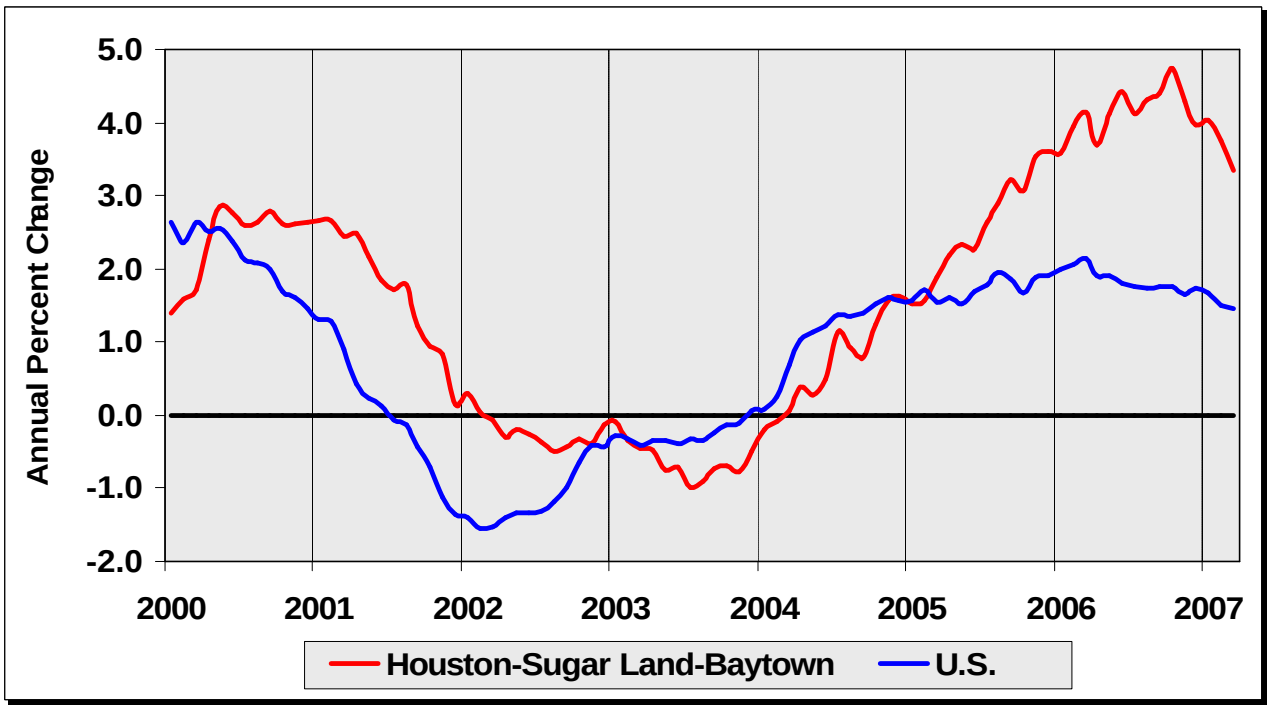
HOUSTON-SUGAR LAND-BAYTOWN METROPOLITAN AREA JOB GROWTH LEADS AMONG THE 12 LARGEST AREAS NATIONWIDE

Total nonfarm employment in the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown Metropolitan Statistical Area stood at 2,499,900 in March 2007, an increase of 81,100 jobs over the year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Since March 2006, employment rose 3.4 percent in the local area, well exceeding the U.S. average of 1.5 percent and the highest rate of growth among the 12 largest metropolitan areas in the nation. (See table 1.) Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that the March gain continued the trend of over-the-year increases that began in Houston in March 2004. (See chart A. All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

Chart A. Total nonfarm employment, over-the-year percent change in the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown metropolitan area, January 2000-March 2007



Industry employment

In the Houston area, all but one industry supersector added jobs from March 2006 to March 2007 and two of these added more than 10,000 jobs during this period. Professional and business services experienced the largest employment gain, 12,100, growing 3.4 percent over the year. Educational and health services added nearly as many jobs during the 12-month period, 11,900, increasing at a 4.4-percent pace.

Two other supersectors added slightly less than 10,000 jobs over the year. Employment in trade, transportation, and utilities rose 9,500 from March 2006, although the growth rate in this industry, 1.9 percent, was among the slowest locally. Still, this supersector is the largest employer in the area, accounting for one of every five jobs in Houston. Government, the third-largest local employer, comprising 14.4 percent of the workforce, also gained 9,500 during the 12-month span, an increase of 2.7 percent.

Annual employment gains in five supersectors were clustered from 7,700 to 6,600, but their rates of job growth were quite varied. Employment in the other services industry (which includes equipment and machinery repairing, promoting or administering religious activities, grantmaking, advocacy, and such services as providing dry cleaning and laundry, personal care, death care, pet care, photofinishing, temporary parking, and dating) rose by 7,700 in the Houston metropolitan area, an advance of 8.4 percent. Natural resources and mining added 7,300 jobs over the year, an increase of 9.8 percent, the fastest rate of gain among the local supersectors.

Manufacturing also added 7,300 jobs in Houston from March a year ago, growing at a rate of 3.3 percent rate. To put this growth in perspective, at the national level, manufacturing employment was down 0.7 percent over the year. Manufacturing accounted for 9.0 percent of Houston jobs compared to the U.S. average of 10.3 percent. Other local supersectors registering similar gains during the period included construction, up 7,000, and leisure and hospitality, up 6,600. The annual rate of increase in construction jobs was 3.8 percent while leisure and hospitality rose 3.1 percent.

Financial activities added, 2,500 jobs, growing at a 1.8-percent pace. Only the information supersector (which includes such industries as software publishing, traditional publishing, publishing on the Internet, motion picture and sound recording, broadcasting, telecommunications, and data processing) experienced little change over the year.

Employment in the 12 largest areas

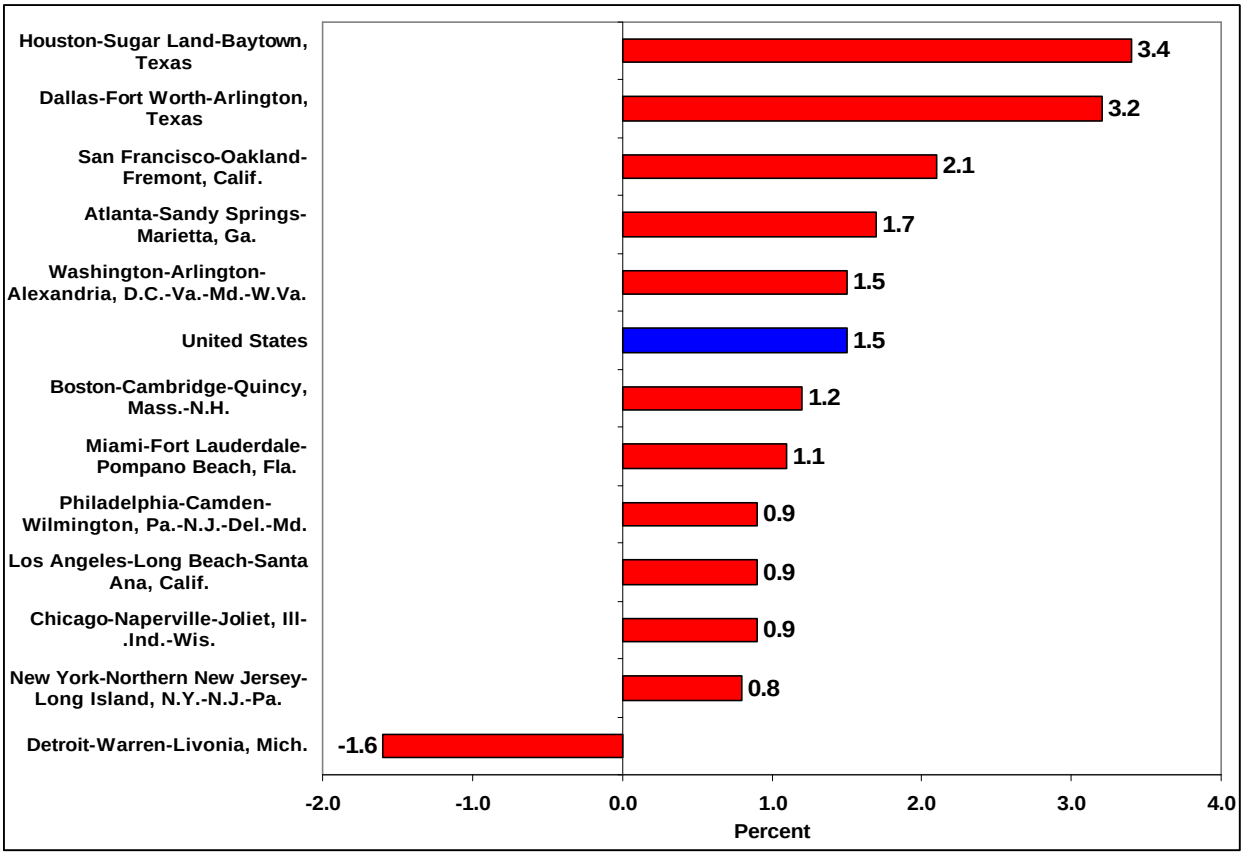
With an annual increase of 3.4 percent, the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown area registered the fastest rate of job growth among the nation's 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas in March 2007. The Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas, area ranked a close second with employment growth of 3.2 percent. Three other metropolitan areas had gains equal to or above the national average of 1.5 percent: San Francisco-Oakland-Freemont, Calif., 2.1 percent; Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, Ga., 1.7 percent; and Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va., 1.5 percent. With the exception of San Francisco, the metropolitan areas with growth rates at or above that of the nation were all located in the South region of the country. (See chart B.)

Six metropolitan areas had below-average employment growth that fell in a tight band ranging from 1.2 to 0.8 percent in March 2007. These areas were Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, Mass.-N.H.; Miami-Fort Lauderdale Miami Beach, Fla.; Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md.; Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Calif.; Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill.-Ind.-Wis.; and New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.Y.-N.J.-Pa. Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Mich., was the only metropolitan area among the 12 largest to experience an over-the-year employment loss, declining 1.6 percent.

The fastest-growing industry supersector from March 2006 to March 2007 varied among metropolitan areas, but one stood out. Education and health services had the highest percentage increase in employment in 5 of the 12 areas (Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia) among those industries adding at least 1,000 jobs. Job growth in two areas, San Francisco and Washington, D.C., was led by professional and business services.

The two metropolitan areas with the fastest rates of job growth — Houston and Dallas — also added the most jobs. Employment grew by 91,500 in Dallas and 81,100 in Houston from March 2006 to March 2007. Employment in two other areas rose by 50,000 or more over the year — New York (68,300) and Los Angeles (51,000). In 6 of the 12 areas — Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, and Philadelphia — education and health services added the most jobs. In four areas — Dallas, Houston, San Francisco, and Washington — the professional and business services supersector had the largest numerical increase.

Chart B. Over-the-year percent change in employment, 12 largest metropolitan areas and the United States, March 2007



Additional information

More complete information on the technical procedures used to develop these estimates and additional data appear in *Employment and Earnings,* which is available by subscription from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 (telephone 202-512-1800). Industry employment data for states and metropolitan areas from the CES program are also available in the above-mentioned news releases and from the Internet at (http://www.bls.gov/sae/).

For personal assistance or further information on the Current Employment Statistics program, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Southwest Information Office at 214-767-6970 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.

Technical Note

This release presents nonfarm payroll employment estimates from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The CES survey is a Federal-State cooperative endeavor in which State employment security agencies prepare the data using concepts, definitions, and technical procedures prescribed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Definitions. Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who receive pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Persons are counted at their place of work rather than at their place of residence; those appearing on more than one payroll are counted on each payroll. Industries are classified on the basis of their principal activity in accordance with the 2002 version of the North American Industry Classification System.

Method of estimation. The employment data are estimated using a "link relative" technique in which a ratio (link relative) of current-month employment to that of the previous month is computed from a sample of establishments reporting for both months. The estimates of employment for the current month are obtained by multiplying the estimates for the previous month by these ratios. Small-domain models are used as the official estimators for approximately 10 percent of CES published series.

Annual revisions. Employment estimates are adjusted annually to a complete count of jobs, called benchmarks, derived principally from tax reports which are submitted by employers who are covered under state unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The benchmark information is used to adjust the monthly estimates between the new benchmark and the preceding one and also to establish the level of employment for the new benchmark month. Thus, the benchmarking process establishes the level of employment, and the sample is used to measure the month-to-month changes in the level for the subsequent months.

Reliability of the estimates. The estimates presented in this release are based on sample survey and administrative data and thus are subject to sampling and other types of errors. Sampling error is a measure of sampling variability--that is, variation that occurs by chance because a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed. Survey data are also subject to nonsampling errors, such as those which can be introduced into the data collection and processing operations. Estimates not directly derived from sample surveys are subject to additional errors resulting from the special estimation processes used. The sums of individual items may not always equal the totals shown in the same tables because of rounding.

Employment estimates. Measures of sampling error for state CES data at the supersector level are available on the BLS Web site at http://www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm. Information on recent benchmark revisions for states is available at http://www.bls.gov/sae/.

Area definitions. The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, dated December 5, 2005. A list of the geographic definitions is published annually in the May issue of Employment and Earnings.

The Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) includes Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, and Waller Counties in Texas.

Table 1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, 12 largest metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)

Area and Industry	Mar 2006	Jan 2007	Feb 2007	Mar 2007(p)	Change from Mar 2006 to Mar 2007	
					Number	Percent
U.S.						
Total nonfarm	134,868	135,189	135,903	136,842	1,974	1.5
Natural resources and mining	654	689	693	700	46	7.0
Construction	7,337	7,290	7,177	7,357	20	0.3
Manufacturing	14,141	14,010	14,015	14,038	-103	-0.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	25,928	26,180	25,996	26,163	235	0.9
Information	3,048	3,053	3,075	3,073	25	0.8
Financial activities	8,282	8,383	8,404	8,415	133	1.6
Professional and business services	17,225	17,408	17,504	17,611	386	2.2
Educational and health services	17,862	17,988	18,253	18,350	488	2.7
Leisure and hospitality	12,674	12,792	12,891	13,096	422	3.3
Other services	5,410	5,378	5,408	5,440	30	0.6
Government	22,307	22,018	22,487	22,599	292	1.3
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA						
Total nonfarm	2,378.3	2,395.8	2,407.0	2,419.9	41.6	1.7
Natural resources and mining	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	-0.1	-4.8
Construction	133.5	136.8	138.0	138.8	5.3	4.0
Manufacturing	178.9	174.6	175.0	175.1	-3.8	-2.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	540.9	548.3	545.5	548.3	7.4	1.4
Information	90.6	89.0	88.9	89.1	-1.5	-1.7
Financial activities	159.6	162.1	162.8	162.6	3.0	1.9
Professional and business services	394.5	396.4	399.4	401.6	7.1	1.8
Educational and health services	240.8	246.2	247.6	248.2	7.4	3.1
Leisure and hospitality	221.8	221.5	224.3	228.9	7.1	3.2
Other services	95.6	95.9	96.3	96.5	0.9	0.9
Government	320.0	323.0	327.2	328.8	8.8	2.8
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH						
Total nonfarm	2,417.9	2,428.0	2,433.8	2,447.3	29.4	1.2
Natural resources and mining	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	0.1	10.0
Construction	94.0	93.5	91.2	92.5	-1.5	-1.6
Manufacturing	222.8	222.3	222.1	221.9	-0.9	-0.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	413.1	419.5	412.2	413.1	0.0	0.0
Information	74.1	75.1	75.1	75.2	1.1	1.5
Financial activities	185.9	187.4	187.1	187.3	1.4	0.8
Professional and business services	386.3	392.1	393.1	395.7	9.4	2.4
Educational and health services	453.0	452.4	463.2	466.7	13.7	3.0
Leisure and hospitality	199.1	199.0	199.3	203.1	4.0	2.0
Other services	86.3	84.5	84.2	84.8	-1.5	-1.7
Government	302.3	301.1	305.3	305.9	3.6	1.2
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI						
Total nonfarm	4,446.4	4,446.6	4,456.3	4,488.2	41.8	0.9
Natural resources and mining	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	0.1	4.3
Construction	203.4	197.5	196.0	205.6	2.2	1.1
Manufacturing	487.1	480.9	482.2	482.4	-4.7	-1.0
Trade, trasportation, and utilities	908.2	916.9	906.8	911.8	3.6	0.4
Information	91.0	90.2	90.1	90.0	-1.0	-1.1
Financial activities	328.9	333.0	334.7	335.6	6.7	2.0
Professional and business services	707.9	715.1	715.3	722.6	14.7	2.1
Educational and health services	572.3	581.4	585.8	587.3	15.0	2.6
Leisure and hospitality	379.4	380.2	380.6	385.7	6.3	1.7
Other services	197.2	195.8	195.4	197.0	-0.2	-0.1
Government	568.7	553.3	567.1	567.8	-0.9	-0.2

(p) preliminary

Table 1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, 12 largest metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)-continued

Area and Industry	Mar 2006	Jan 2007	Feb 2007	Mar 2007(p)	Change from Mar 2006 to Mar 2007	
					Number	Percent
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX						
Total nonfarm	2,823.5	2,877.1	2,894.2	2,915.0	91.5	3.2
Natural resources, mining, and construction	171.2	174.6	176.1	179.0	7.8	4.6
Manufacturing	296.8	298.6	301.6	302.3	5.5	1.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	605.2	610.6	607.7	611.3	6.1	1.0
Information	92.3	92.9	93.6	93.1	0.8	0.9
Financial activities	227.4	234.5	235.2	235.9	8.5	3.7
Professional and business services	404.4	417.7	421.9	427.9	23.5	5.8
Educational and health services	295.8	303.5	305.2	306.1	10.3	3.5
Leisure and hospitality	259.6	267.1	270.4	274.9	15.3	5.9
Other services	106.0	108.0	109.0	109.8	3.8	3.6
Government	364.8	369.6	373.5	374.7	9.9	2.7
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI						
Total nonfarm	2,004.7	1,946.3	1,960.7	1,973.5	-31.2	-1.6
Natural resources, mining, and construction	70.9	65.6	64.1	65.2	-5.7	-8.0
Manufacturing	275.6	252.0	264.5	266.4	-9.2	-3.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	369.1	365.8	360.4	360.9	-8.2	-2.2
Information	34.4	34.0	34.3	33.7	-0.7	-2.0
Financial activities	114.8	113.0	112.8	113.1	-1.7	-1.5
Professional and business services	357.5	349.8	350.6	352.4	-5.1	-1.4
Educational and health services	275.0	275.0	276.9	277.1	2.1	0.8
Leisure and hospitality	179.1	175.4	176.4	179.9	0.8	0.4
Other services	90.2	89.5	89.9	90.9	0.7	0.8
Government	238.1	226.2	230.8	233.9	-4.2	-1.8
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX						
Total nonfarm	2,418.8	2,469.1	2,484.6	2,499.9	81.1	3.4
Natural resources and mining	74.2	80.1	81.2	81.5	7.3	9.8
Construction	181.9	183.5	187.3	188.9	7.0	3.8
Manufacturing	218.1	225.3	224.6	225.4	7.3	3.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	493.5	505.3	501.6	503.0	9.5	1.9
Information	35.5	35.0	35.1	35.2	-0.3	-0.8
Financial activities	139.5	140.7	141.4	142.0	2.5	1.8
Professional and business services	351.7	358.9	361.1	363.8	12.1	3.4
Educational and health services	267.8	275.2	277.8	279.7	11.9	4.4
Leisure and hospitality	215.1	215.3	217.9	221.7	6.6	3.1
Other services	91.3	97.3	98.0	99.0	7.7	8.4
Government	350.2	352.5	358.6	359.7	9.5	2.7
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA						
Total nonfarm	5,597.4	5,590.8	5,625.6	5,648.4	51.0	0.9
Natural resources and mining	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	0.0	0.0
Construction	259.1	257.2	258.1	259.7	0.6	0.2
Manufacturing	650.6	637.6	641.2	641.9	-8.7	-1.3
Trade, trasportation, and utilities	1,073.4	1,084.2	1,076.5	1,075.8	2.4	0.2
Information	245.1	235.2	241.1	244.1	-1.0	-0.4
Financial activities	388.5	386.0	387.1	386.7	-1.8	-0.5
Professional and business services	862.1	867.8	874.3	879.1	17.0	2.0
Educational and health services	618.7	628.2	638.0	640.0	21.3	3.4
Leisure and hospitality	547.8	546.6	552.4	557.5	9.7	1.8
Other services	192.9	193.2	194.6	195.5	2.6	1.3
Government	754.7	750.3	757.8	763.6	8.9	1.2

(p) preliminary

Table 1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, 12 largest metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)-continued

Area and Industry	Mar 2006	Jan 2007	Feb 2007	Mar 2007(p)	Change from Mar 2006 to Mar 2007	
					Number	Percent
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL						
Total nonfarm	2,434.2	2,429.3	2,446.0	2,460.8	26.6	1.1
Natural resources and mining	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Construction	157.0	159.8	160.5	159.6	2.6	1.7
Manufacturing	101.2	99.4	98.9	98.0	-3.2	-3.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	540.5	545.8	544.5	547.1	6.6	1.2
Information	54.3	53.5	53.7	53.6	-0.7	-1.3
Financial activities	182.7	183.9	185.4	186.0	3.3	1.8
Professional and business services	403.6	398.5	403.6	408.9	5.3	1.3
Educational and health services	305.4	303.6	307.2	308.2	2.8	0.9
Leisure and hospitality	260.2	255.4	260.7	264.8	4.6	1.8
Other services	101.7	102.7	103.4	104.1	2.4	2.4
Government	327.0	326.1	327.5	329.9	2.9	0.9
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA						
Total nonfarm	8,354.2	8,346.4	8,366.1	8,422.5	68.3	0.8
Natural resources, mining, and construction	329.2	329.4	327.3	336.0	6.8	2.1
Manufacturing	469.8	451.1	450.6	451.2	-18.6	-4.0
Trade, trasportation, and utilities	1,569.9	1,589.9	1,572.5	1,578.4	8.5	0.5
Information	289.3	288.5	288.5	290.2	0.9	0.3
Financial activities	781.3	789.6	790.9	793.4	12.1	1.5
Professional and business services	1,247.8	1,249.3	1,253.4	1,264.4	16.6	1.3
Educational and health services	1,413.2	1,408.6	1,428.5	1,438.3	25.1	1.8
Leisure and hospitality	599.7	592.7	595.7	607.2	7.5	1.3
Other services	361.7	363.0	365.3	368.0	6.3	1.7
Government	1,292.3	1,284.3	1,293.4	1,295.4	3.1	0.2
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmingon, PA-NJ-DE-MD						
Total nonfarm	2,777.8	2,776.3	2,786.2	2,803.0	25.2	0.9
Natural resources, mining, and construction	126.3	122.9	121.6	125.0	-1.3	-1.0
Manufacturing	228.9	224.8	224.7	224.7	-4.2	-1.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	526.8	535.0	528.6	531.9	5.1	1.0
Information	55.4	55.2	55.0	54.9	-0.5	-0.9
Financial activities	219.2	219.0	218.9	219.5	0.3	0.1
Professional and business services	410.3	413.4	415.0	418.9	8.6	2.1
Educational and health services	513.5	518.0	526.6	526.1	12.6	2.5
Leisure and hospitality	210.5	209.6	209.5	213.3	2.8	1.3
Other services	124.2	123.9	124.0	124.5	0.3	0.2
Government	362.7	354.5	362.3	364.2	1.5	0.4
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA						
Total nonfarm	1,988.1	2,009.5	2,021.3	2,029.4	41.3	2.1
Natural resources and mining	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.3	23.1
Construction	111.0	113.9	112.8	112.8	1.8	1.6
Manufacturing	139.7	141.5	141.4	141.7	2.0	1.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	354.0	360.7	357.7	357.6	3.6	1.0
Information	69.3	67.8	68.1	67.9	-1.4	-2.0
Financial activities	157.3	158.6	159.1	159.3	2.0	1.3
Professional and business services	342.4	349.8	352.4	354.8	12.4	3.6
Educational and health services	224.5	226.4	231.4	231.9	7.4	3.3
Leisure and hospitality	200.0	201.9	203.7	206.3	6.3	3.2
Other services	72.4	72.6	73.7	74.1	1.7	2.3

(p) preliminary

Table 1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, 12 largest metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)-continued

Area and Industry	Mar 2006	Jan 2007	Feb 2007	Mar 2007(p)	Change from Mar 2006 to Mar 2007	
					Number	Percent
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV						
Total nonfarm	2,946.7	2,955.8	2,967.0	2,990.2	43.5	1.5
Natural resources, mining, and construction	189.7	187.2	187.2	190.2	0.5	0.3
Manufacturing	63.6	62.5	62.6	62.7	-0.9	-1.4
Trade, trasportation, and utilities	398.7	404.1	399.8	401.7	3.0	0.8
Information	99.4	97.7	98.1	98.6	-0.8	-0.8
Financial activities	161.0	160.5	161.4	162.1	1.1	0.7
Professional and business services	657.6	667.5	672.8	679.7	22.1	3.4
Educational and health services	319.3	319.8	323.7	325.9	6.6	2.1
Leisure and hospitality	241.8	240.0	241.1	245.6	3.8	1.6
Other services	174.0	174.4	175.0	176.2	2.2	1.3
Government	641.6	642.1	645.3	647.5	5.9	0.9

(p) preliminary