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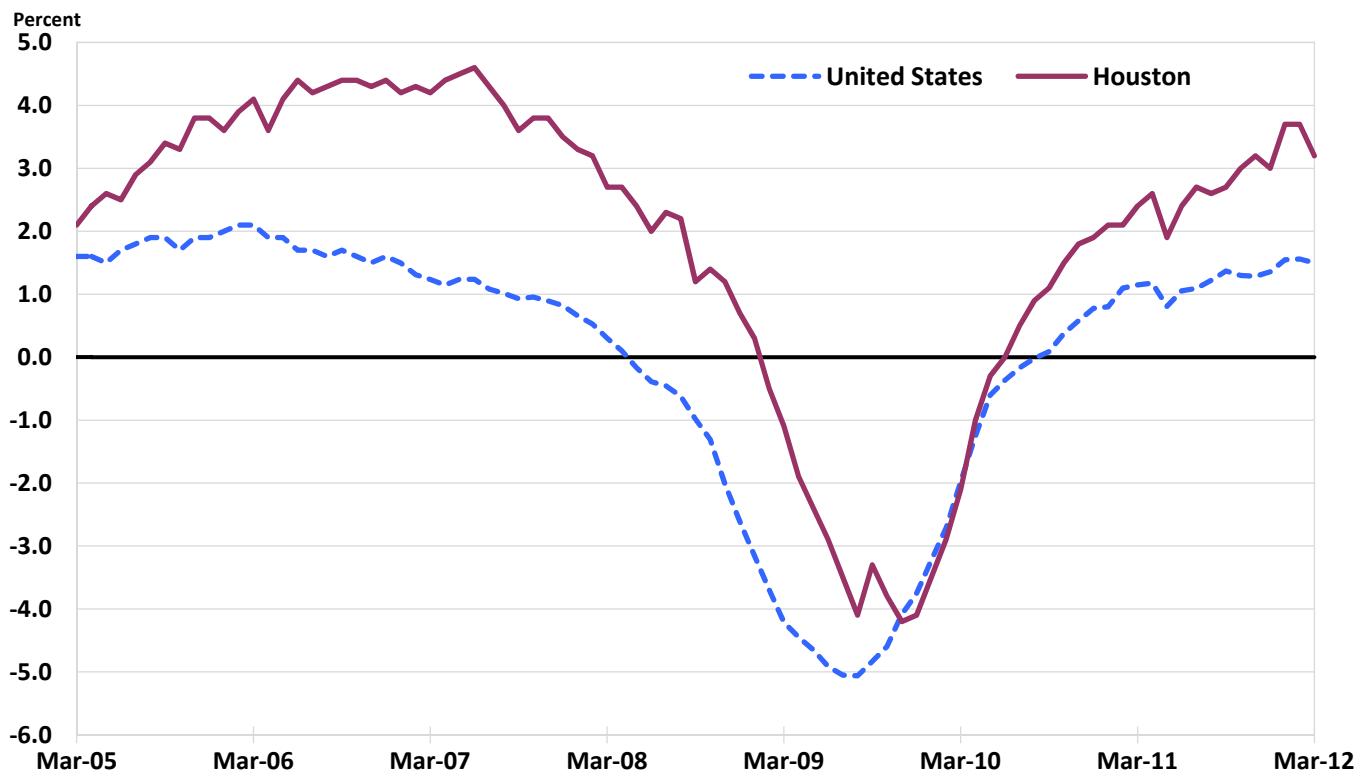
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HOUSTON AREA EMPLOYMENT – MARCH 2012

Total nonfarm employment in the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown Metropolitan Statistical Area stood at 2,649,500 in March 2012, up 82,300 from one year ago, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. From March 2011 to March 2012, local nonfarm employment rose 3.2 percent compared to the national increase of 1.5 percent. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that among the 12 largest metropolitan areas in the country, Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown ranked first in the rate of job growth and second in the number of jobs added, behind only New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island. (See chart 1 and table 1; Technical Note at end of release contains metropolitan area definitions. All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

Chart 1. Total nonfarm employment, over-the-year percent change in the United States and the Houston metropolitan area, March 2005–March 2012



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Industry employment

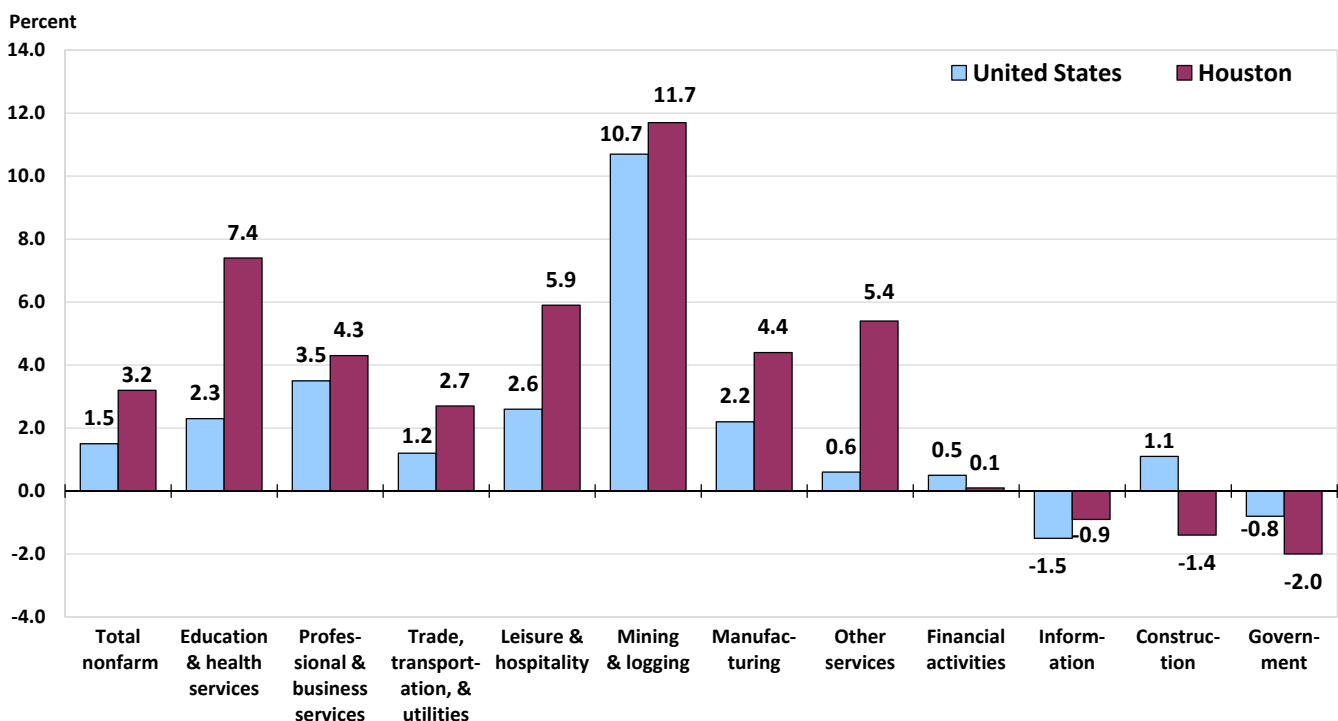
The education and health services supersector reported the largest employment gain in the Houston metropolitan area, adding 23,200 jobs from March 2011 to March 2012, with almost all of the increase occurring in health care and social assistance, up 21,600. The 7.4-percent rate of growth in the education and health services supersector was more than three times the 2.3-percent gain nationwide. (See table 1 and chart 2.)

Professional and business services had the next largest increase in employment in the Houston area from March a year ago, up 16,200 or 4.3 percent. Nationwide, employment in this industry advanced 3.5 percent.

Two supersectors in the Houston area reported employment gains of just over 14,000 during this 12-month period – trade, transportation, and utilities and leisure and hospitality. Job growth in both of these supersectors was more than twice the national rate of expansion. Employment in Houston’s leisure and hospitality industry rose 5.9 percent since March 2011 compared to a nationwide gain of 2.6 percent. In the area’s largest supersector—trade, transportation, and utilities—employment was up 2.7 percent during this 12-month period compared to a national increase of 1.2 percent. Locally, job gains in this industry were concentrated within retail trade (10,200) and wholesale trade (5,100).

Local employment advanced by nearly 10,000 from March a year ago in both mining and logging, and manufacturing. Mining and logging recorded the fastest growth rate among the Houston area supersectors, up 11.7 percent over the year; nationwide, employment in this industry advanced 10.7 percent. Locally, employment in manufacturing rose 4.4 percent in March 2012, marking the 18th consecutive month of over-the-year growth for the industry following 19 months of annual decline. Manufacturing in Houston added jobs at double the national rate of 2.2 percent.

Chart 2. Over-the-year percent change in employment by industry supersector, United States and the Houston metropolitan area, March 2012



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

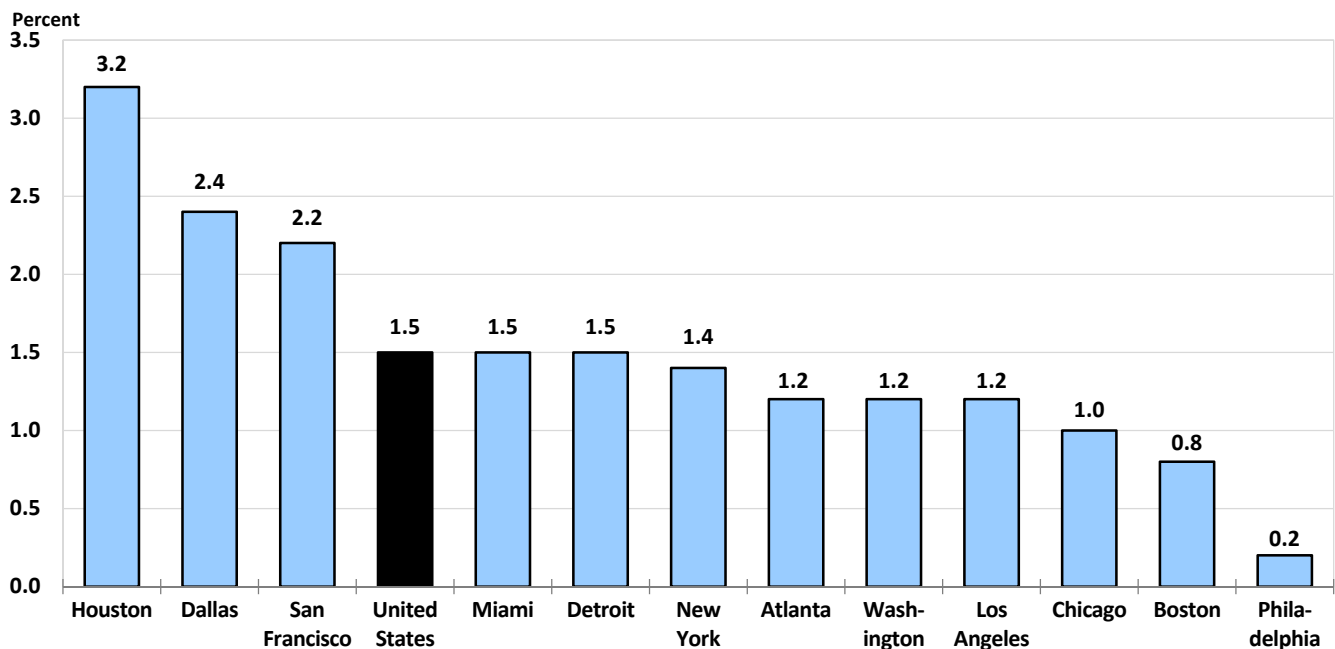
Among the remaining supersectors in the Houston area, two experienced employment decreases of at least 1,000 from March 2011, the largest occurring in government, down 7,700 or 2.0 percent. The decline in public sector employment was concentrated in local government, which lost 6,500 jobs. Nationwide, public sector employment decreased 0.8 percent. The local construction supersector had the second largest loss of jobs, down 2,400 from March 2011, a decrease of 1.4 percent. In contrast, employment in this industry grew nationwide, up 1.1 percent during the 12-month period.

Employment in the 12 largest metropolitan areas

Houston was 1 of the nation’s 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas in March 2012. All of these areas experienced over-the-year job gains during the period, with three—Houston, Dallas, and San Francisco—registering rates of growth well above the 1.5-percent national average. Employment growth was slowest in Philadelphia at 0.2 percent. (See chart 3 and table 2.)

The New York area added the largest number of jobs, 112,500, from March 2011. Houston followed, up 82,300, then Dallas and Los Angeles, up more than 60,000 each. Over-the-year employment gains of at least 25,000 were recorded in six other areas. Only one area added fewer than 10,000 jobs in March 2012, Philadelphia, up 6,300.

Chart 3. Over-the-year percent change in employment, United States and 12 largest metropolitan areas, March 2012



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Among the 12 metropolitan areas, professional and business services registered the largest employment gains from March a year ago in 6 areas—Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco, while education and health services led in 4 others—Houston, Miami, Philadelphia and Washington.

The public sector experienced the largest loss of jobs in eight areas—Boston, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, and San Francisco. In two additional areas, Chicago and Miami, government registered the second largest drop in employment in March 2012. The public sector job loss was largest in New York, down 11,100 over the year, followed by Los Angeles, down 9,500.

Additional information

For personal assistance or further information on the Current Employment Statistics program, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Southwest Information Office at 972-850-4800 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.

Changes to Current Employment Statistics Data

Effective with the release of January 2012 data, nonfarm payroll estimates for all states, metropolitan areas, and metropolitan divisions were revised to reflect 2011 benchmark levels. For more information on benchmark procedures, see www.bls.gov/sae/benchmark2012.pdf.

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 between State employment security agencies and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Employment definition. Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who receive pay for any part of the pay period that 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 2007 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 the approximately 39 percent of CES published series which have insufficient sample for direct sample-based estimates.

Annual revisions. Employment estimates are adjusted annually to a complete count of jobs, called benchmarks, derived principally from tax reports that 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 surveys, administrative data, and modeling 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 also are 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 specific 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 are available for state CES data at the total nonfarm and supersector level and for metropolitan area CES data. Information on recent benchmark revisions for states is available on the BLS Web site at 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 on December 1, 2009. A detailed list of geographic definitions is available at www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm.

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, U.S. and Houston metropolitan area, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)

Area and Industry	Mar. 2011	Jan. 2012	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012(p)	Change from Mar. 2011 to Mar. 2012	
					Number	Percent
U.S.						
Total nonfarm	130,061	130,297	131,199	132,010	1,949	1.5
Mining and logging	741	813	817	820	79	10.7
Construction	5,158	5,158	5,129	5,215	57	1.1
Manufacturing	11,588	11,755	11,774	11,842	254	2.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	24,600	25,047	24,837	24,907	307	1.2
Information	2,667	2,599	2,643	2,628	-39	-1.5
Financial activities	7,641	7,645	7,652	7,681	40	0.5
Professional and business services	16,994	17,335	17,488	17,596	602	3.5
Education and health services	19,891	19,977	20,298	20,356	465	2.3
Leisure and hospitality	12,881	12,817	12,943	13,212	331	2.6
Other services	5,305	5,293	5,307	5,337	32	0.6
Government	22,595	21,858	22,311	22,416	-179	-0.8
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown Texas Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)						
Total nonfarm	2,567.2	2,622.4	2,637.0	2,649.5	82.3	3.2
Mining and logging	84.9	93.3	93.6	94.8	9.9	11.7
Construction	169.4	168.1	171.0	167.0	-2.4	-1.4
Manufacturing	223.5	228.3	231.3	233.4	9.9	4.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	522.1	535.7	534.7	536.4	14.3	2.7
Information	31.7	31.1	31.1	31.4	-0.3	-0.9
Financial activities	136.5	138.7	138.5	136.7	0.2	0.1
Professional and business services	372.8	386.0	386.0	389.0	16.2	4.3
Education and health services	312.4	330.6	335.4	335.6	23.2	7.4
Leisure and hospitality	240.0	245.3	245.8	254.1	14.1	5.9
Other services	91.0	96.1	95.9	95.9	4.9	5.4
Government	382.9	369.2	373.7	375.2	-7.7	-2.0

(p) preliminary

Table 2. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, 12 largest metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)

Area and Industry	Mar. 2011	Jan. 2012	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012(p)	Change from Mar. 2011 to Mar. 2012	
					Number	Percent
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA						
Total nonfarm	2,287.6	2,303.4	2,314.4	2,315.0	27.4	1.2
Mining and logging	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Construction	89.8	88.4	88.3	85.7	-4.1	-4.6
Manufacturing	145.1	148.5	149.2	149.5	4.4	3.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	516.4	531.1	530.2	530.5	14.1	2.7
Information	79.1	78.7	79.4	78.7	-0.4	-0.5
Financial activities	141.3	136.5	135.2	134.2	-7.1	-5.0
Professional and business services	393.3	407.9	413.2	411.8	18.5	4.7
Education and health services	286.5	290.4	294.1	294.4	7.9	2.8
Leisure and hospitality	220.8	213.0	214.6	218.9	-1.9	-0.9
Other services	93.0	92.6	92.4	92.0	-1.0	-1.1
Government	321.0	315.0	316.5	318.0	-3.0	-0.9
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy MA-NH						
Total nonfarm	2,416.6	2,417.4	2,418.4	2,435.3	18.7	0.8
Mining and logging	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.1	25.0
Construction	71.3	72.5	70.7	72.6	1.3	1.8
Manufacturing	193.4	196.2	195.6	196.5	3.1	1.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	394.5	407.0	398.3	400.5	6.0	1.5
Information	71.8	71.7	72.3	72.5	0.7	1.0
Financial activities	171.6	168.8	168.0	168.7	-2.9	-1.7
Professional and business services	391.4	393.7	395.3	399.8	8.4	2.1
Education and health services	508.5	500.7	507.9	510.1	1.6	0.3
Leisure and hospitality	213.4	209.9	211.3	214.3	0.9	0.4
Other services	91.8	94.6	94.5	95.2	3.4	3.7
Government	308.5	301.9	304.1	304.6	-3.9	-1.3
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet IL-IN-WI						
Total nonfarm	4,220.4	4,224.1	4,229.7	4,262.9	42.5	1.0
Mining and logging	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	0.1	7.1
Construction	130.4	121.9	120.1	125.5	-4.9	-3.8
Manufacturing	408.7	411.5	412.9	416.2	7.5	1.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	852.3	859.6	847.0	850.7	-1.6	-0.2
Information	79.0	78.6	78.0	78.2	-0.8	-1.0
Financial activities	282.6	283.2	282.7	282.7	0.1	0.0
Professional and business services	682.8	695.4	698.6	708.5	25.7	3.8
Education and health services	651.7	653.2	660.9	660.5	8.8	1.4
Leisure and hospitality	383.6	384.5	383.9	394.1	10.5	2.7
Other services	188.3	190.1	190.7	190.2	1.9	1.0
Government	559.6	544.7	553.5	554.8	-4.8	-0.9
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington TX						
Total nonfarm	2,896.8	2,928.0	2,947.1	2,966.8	70.0	2.4
Mining, logging, and construction	155.7	152.4	155.0	159.1	3.4	2.2
Manufacturing	252.0	255.7	256.2	257.5	5.5	2.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	591.7	610.9	609.7	610.9	19.2	3.2
Information	78.6	78.0	78.2	79.1	0.5	0.6
Financial activities	233.4	238.3	240.5	240.7	7.3	3.1
Professional and business services	440.0	446.4	448.7	451.9	11.9	2.7
Education and health services	362.1	361.7	366.1	370.9	8.8	2.4
Leisure and hospitality	283.7	295.5	295.5	298.6	14.9	5.3
Other services	101.9	101.9	102.7	103.3	1.4	1.4
Government	397.7	387.2	394.5	394.8	-2.9	-0.7

(p) preliminary

Table 2. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, 12 largest metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)-continued

Area and Industry	Mar. 2011	Jan. 2012	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012(p)	Change from Mar. 2011 to Mar. 2012	
					Number	Percent
Detroit-Warren-Livonia MI						
Total nonfarm	1,751.2	1,755.0	1,761.2	1,777.8	26.6	1.5
Mining, logging, and construction	46.3	46.9	45.3	47.0	0.7	1.5
Manufacturing	199.1	207.4	208.7	212.1	13.0	6.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	325.8	330.7	326.6	328.4	2.6	0.8
Information	26.1	25.7	25.7	25.6	-0.5	-1.9
Financial activities	97.3	99.0	98.0	98.5	1.2	1.2
Professional and business services	318.8	323.8	329.3	330.3	11.5	3.6
Education and health services	288.8	287.9	290.9	293.9	5.1	1.8
Leisure and hospitality	165.7	162.9	161.4	165.0	-0.7	-0.4
Other services	79.7	79.3	79.0	80.2	0.5	0.6
Government	203.6	191.4	196.3	196.8	-6.8	-3.3
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown TX						
Total nonfarm	2,567.2	2,622.4	2,637.0	2,649.5	82.3	3.2
Mining and logging	84.9	93.3	93.6	94.8	9.9	11.7
Construction	169.4	168.1	171.0	167.0	-2.4	-1.4
Manufacturing	223.5	228.3	231.3	233.4	9.9	4.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	522.1	535.7	534.7	536.4	14.3	2.7
Information	31.7	31.1	31.1	31.4	-0.3	-0.9
Financial activities	136.5	138.7	138.5	136.7	0.2	0.1
Professional and business services	372.8	386.0	386.0	389.0	16.2	4.3
Education and health services	312.4	330.6	335.4	335.6	23.2	7.4
Leisure and hospitality	240.0	245.3	245.8	254.1	14.1	5.9
Other services	91.0	96.1	95.9	95.9	4.9	5.4
Government	382.9	369.2	373.7	375.2	-7.7	-2.0
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana CA						
Total nonfarm	5,156.2	5,137.8	5,193.4	5,219.3	63.1	1.2
Mining and logging	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	0.1	2.3
Construction	169.1	169.6	170.7	172.6	3.5	2.1
Manufacturing	519.9	512.3	516.2	516.3	-3.6	-0.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	981.4	1,003.2	994.2	999.0	17.6	1.8
Information	219.6	204.2	233.1	218.3	-1.3	-0.6
Financial activities	313.7	311.6	313.8	315.4	1.7	0.5
Professional and business services	781.1	791.2	795.6	806.9	25.8	3.3
Education and health services	698.5	694.8	706.9	712.1	13.6	1.9
Leisure and hospitality	555.6	558.8	563.4	572.1	16.5	3.0
Other services	178.5	175.7	175.7	177.2	-1.3	-0.7
Government	734.4	711.9	719.3	724.9	-9.5	-1.3
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach FL						
Total nonfarm	2,220.0	2,227.9	2,243.3	2,252.2	32.2	1.5
Mining and logging	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Construction	84.3	77.9	79.6	79.9	-4.4	-5.2
Manufacturing	75.5	77.0	77.5	77.3	1.8	2.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	511.3	525.7	522.8	524.5	13.2	2.6
Information	44.0	43.3	43.4	43.4	-0.6	-1.4
Financial activities	152.1	150.6	151.1	151.9	-0.2	-0.1
Professional and business services	340.9	341.4	345.7	344.9	4.0	1.2
Education and health services	340.9	351.1	355.6	355.9	15.0	4.4
Leisure and hospitality	264.5	258.7	262.3	268.0	3.5	1.3
Other services	93.7	93.3	94.6	97.1	3.4	3.6
Government	312.1	308.2	310.0	308.6	-3.5	-1.1

(p) preliminary

Table 2. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, 12 largest metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)-continued

Area and Industry	Mar. 2011	Jan. 2012	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012(p)	Change from Mar. 2011 to Mar. 2012	
					Number	Percent
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island NY-NJ-PA						
Total nonfarm	8,298.0	8,319.6	8,351.5	8,410.5	112.5	1.4
Mining, logging, and construction	277.0	267.1	264.4	269.4	-7.6	-2.7
Manufacturing	361.1	358.3	358.3	357.4	-3.7	-1.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,526.0	1,562.2	1,540.9	1,551.8	25.8	1.7
Information	268.4	262.4	266.3	269.7	1.3	0.5
Financial activities	729.3	741.6	742.2	743.7	14.4	2.0
Professional and business services	1,269.1	1,295.4	1,311.3	1,320.3	51.2	4.0
Education and health services	1,564.6	1,555.1	1,567.9	1,579.6	15.0	1.0
Leisure and hospitality	670.6	672.9	678.5	690.4	19.8	3.0
Other services	358.6	362.5	365.2	366.0	7.4	2.1
Government	1,273.3	1,242.1	1,256.5	1,262.2	-11.1	-0.9
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington PA-NJ-DE-MD						
Total nonfarm	2,695.5	2,670.6	2,684.8	2,701.8	6.3	0.2
Mining, logging, and construction	95.2	97.3	95.5	96.6	1.4	1.5
Manufacturing	185.8	185.9	184.2	185.0	-0.8	-0.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	494.8	495.1	490.0	492.7	-2.1	-0.4
Information	49.7	49.0	48.8	48.7	-1.0	-2.0
Financial activities	198.5	197.5	197.8	198.5	0.0	0.0
Professional and business services	410.5	409.5	416.5	419.6	9.1	2.2
Education and health services	569.4	569.1	579.8	579.5	10.1	1.8
Leisure and hospitality	220.3	214.9	213.8	219.9	-0.4	-0.2
Other services	119.9	118.7	117.2	118.8	-1.1	-0.9
Government	351.4	333.6	341.2	342.5	-8.9	-2.5
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont CA						
Total nonfarm	1,881.4	1,891.9	1,911.3	1,923.4	42.0	2.2
Mining and logging	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Construction	74.1	77.0	77.0	76.9	2.8	3.8
Manufacturing	116.1	114.1	115.6	115.8	-0.3	-0.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	316.3	324.2	321.5	321.5	5.2	1.6
Information	62.8	65.1	65.8	65.8	3.0	4.8
Financial activities	123.8	122.3	122.6	122.4	-1.4	-1.1
Professional and business services	351.2	360.0	367.6	369.0	17.8	5.1
Education and health services	248.7	245.8	254.0	257.0	8.3	3.3
Leisure and hospitality	208.2	209.9	210.2	214.1	5.9	2.8
Other services	72.8	75.8	76.8	78.7	5.9	8.1
Government	306.0	296.3	298.8	300.8	-5.2	-1.7
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria DC-VA-MD-WV						
Total nonfarm	2,974.7	2,977.9	2,989.3	3,011.3	36.6	1.2
Mining, logging, and construction	136.0	140.2	140.0	142.3	6.3	4.6
Manufacturing	51.0	49.7	49.5	49.6	-1.4	-2.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	374.5	376.2	368.9	371.9	-2.6	-0.7
Information	80.5	78.5	79.9	79.8	-0.7	-0.9
Financial activities	144.1	147.2	147.7	148.7	4.6	3.2
Professional and business services	687.5	679.4	682.4	686.0	-1.5	-0.2
Education and health services	366.7	374.3	380.5	382.0	15.3	4.2
Leisure and hospitality	258.1	263.1	264.8	270.4	12.3	4.8
Other services	182.1	182.0	180.9	182.1	0.0	0.0
Government	694.2	687.3	694.7	698.5	4.3	0.6

(p) preliminary