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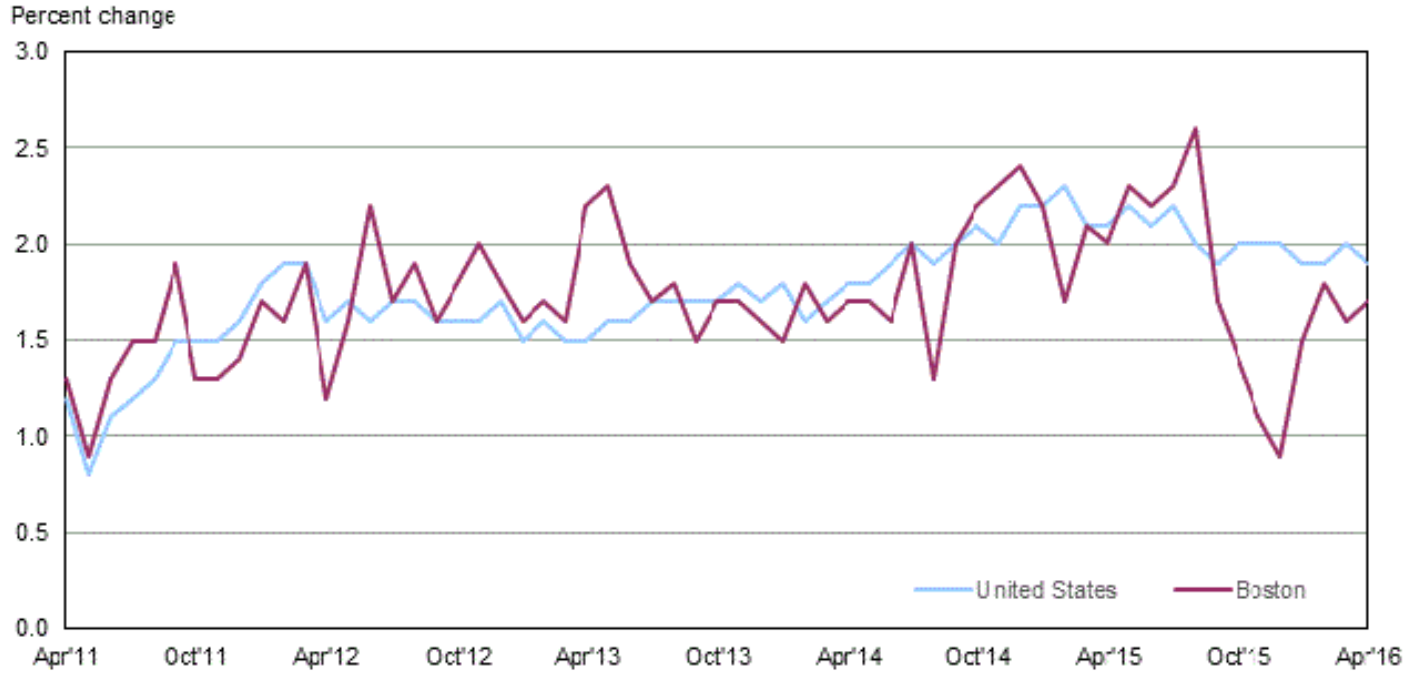
NEW ENGLAND INFORMATION OFFICE: Boston, Mass.
Technical information: (617) 565-2327 BLSInfoBoston@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/new-england
Media contact: (617) 565-2326 BLSMediaBoston@bls.gov

Boston Area Employment — April 2016

Total nonfarm employment in the Boston-Cambridge-Nashua metropolitan area stood at 2,682,800 in April 2016, up 43,900 from one year ago, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that nonfarm employment rose 1.7 percent locally from April a year ago. During the same period, the national job count increased 1.9 percent. (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 Boston metropolitan area, April 2011–April 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Boston-Cambridge-Nashua area includes 10 metropolitan divisions – separately identifiable employment centers within the larger metropolitan area. The Boston-Cambridge-Newton Metropolitan Division, which made up 67 percent of the workforce, gained 29,900 jobs from April 2015 to April 2016. Seven of the other nine divisions for which data are published also added jobs over the year.

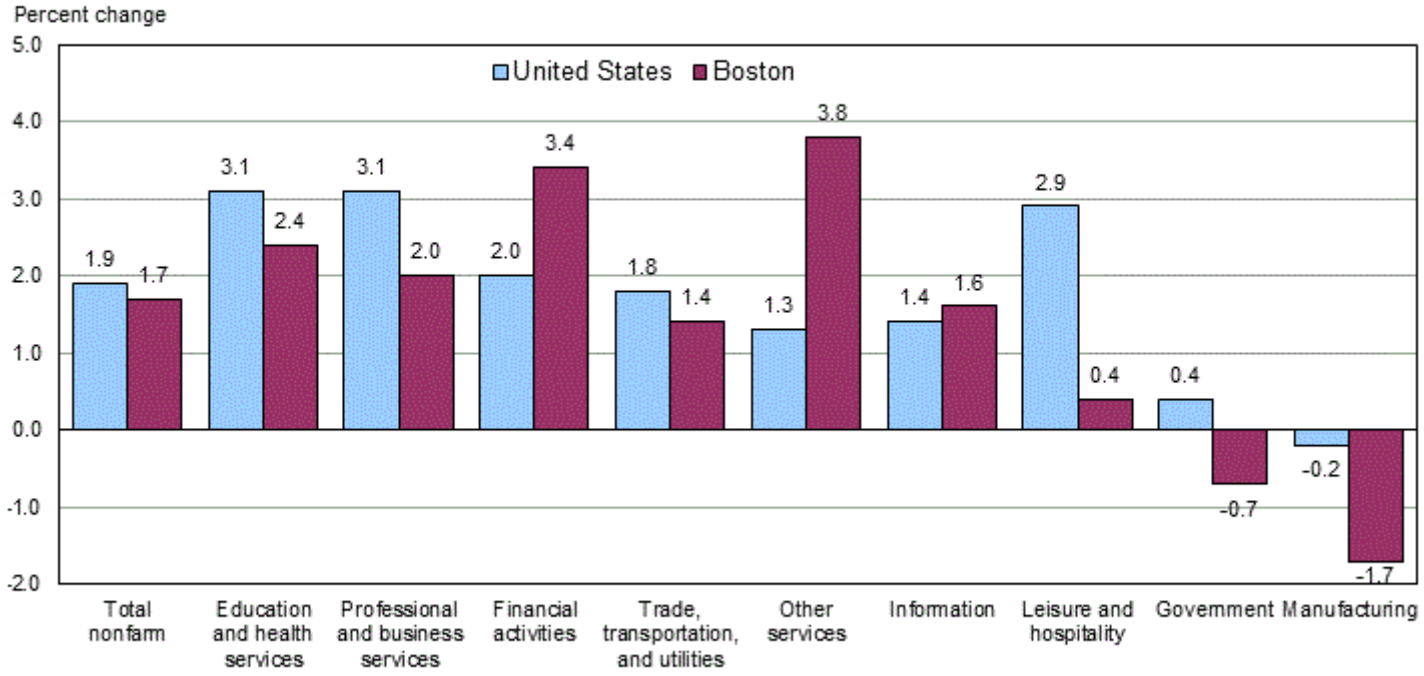
Industry employment

Education and health services, the largest industry in the Boston area, had the largest local employment gain, adding 13,600 jobs from April 2015 to April 2016. However, the 2.4-percent rate of local job growth in this supersector was lower than the 3.1-percent gain nationwide.

Professional and business services had the next largest annual employment gain in the Boston area from April 2015, adding 9,000 jobs, followed by mining, logging, and construction which added 8,900 jobs. The 2.0-percent rate of job growth in Boston's professional and business services supersector was lower than the 3.1-percent gain nationwide.

Locally, financial activities and trade, transportation, and utilities added 6,100 and 5,800 jobs, respectively. The 3.4-percent rate of local job growth in financial activities was higher than the 2.0-percent gain nationwide, while the 1.4-percent local job growth rate in trade, transportation, and utilities was lower than the nation's 1.8-percent gain.

Chart 2. Total nonfarm and selected industry supersector employment, over-the-year percent change, United States and the Boston metropolitan area, April 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

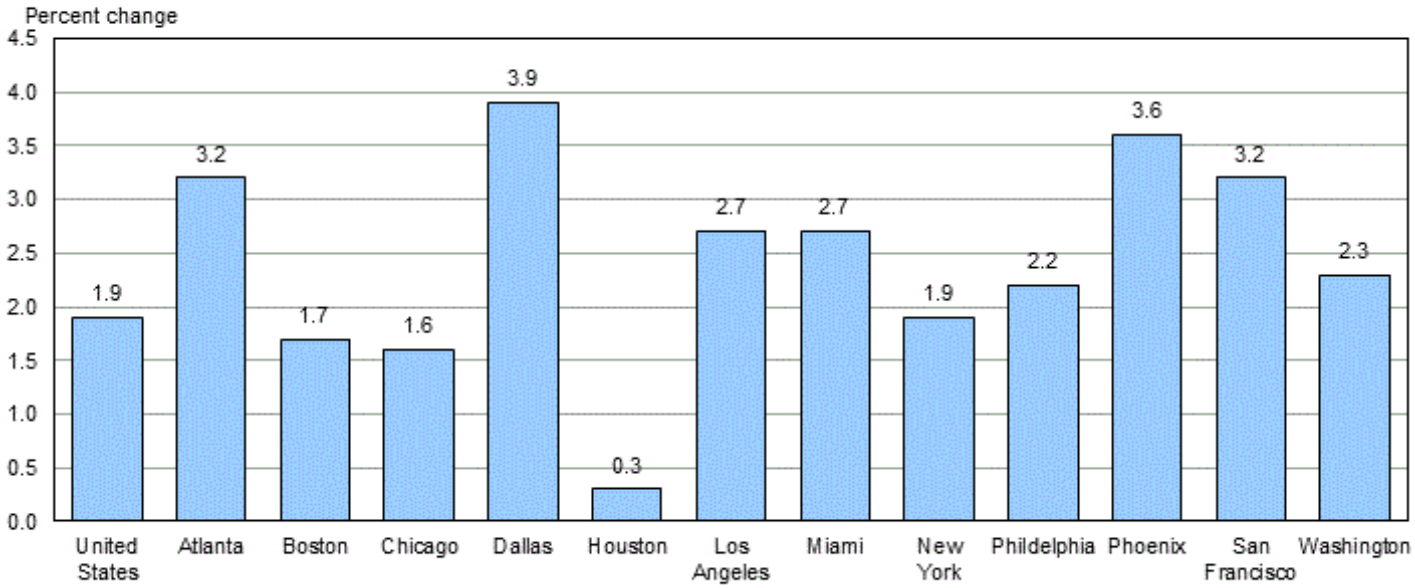
Three other supersectors in the Boston area gained at least 1,000 jobs over the year— other services (+3,800), information (+1,200), and leisure and hospitality (+1,000). The local rates of job growth in other services (3.8 percent) and information (1.6 percent) outpaced the 1.3-percent and 1.4-percent national increases, respectively, while the local job growth for leisure and hospitality (0.4 percent) lagged that for the nation (2.9 percent).

Two supersectors in the Boston area lost jobs over the year—manufacturing (-3,300) and government (-2,200). Nationally, government employment increased.

Employment in the 12 Largest Metropolitan Areas

Boston-Cambridge-Nashua was 1 of the nation's 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas in April 2016. All 12 areas experienced over-the-year job growth during the period, with 8 exceeding the national average of 1.9 percent. The fastest rate of job growth was in Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington at 3.9 percent. The slowest rates of job growth were in Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land (0.3 percent), Chicago-Naperville-Elgin (1.6 percent) and Boston (1.7 percent). (See chart 3 and table 2.)

Chart 3. Total nonfarm employment, over-the-year percent change, United States and 12 largest metropolitan areas, April 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Since April 2015, the New York-Newark-Jersey City area added the largest number of jobs, 173,900. Employment in both Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim and Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington also increased by over 130,000. Houston experienced the smallest employment gain over the year, adding 10,000 jobs, followed by Boston, up 43,900 jobs.

Professional and business services had the largest employment gains in 6 of the 12 metropolitan areas from April a year ago—Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, and Washington-Arlington-Alexandria. Education and health services added the most jobs in three areas—Boston, Los Angeles, and New York. Four areas experienced no annual job losses in any supersector—Atlanta, Miami, New York and Philadelphia. Manufacturing had the largest over-the-year losses in Boston, Dallas, Houston, and Los Angeles.

Metropolitan area employment data for May 2016 are scheduled to be released on Friday, June 17, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT).

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.

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 2012 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 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 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 www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm. Information on recent benchmark revisions for states is available 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 February 28, 2013. A detailed list of geographic definitions is available at www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm. Areas in the six New England states are defined as Metropolitan New England City and Town Areas (NECTAs), while areas in other states are county-based and identified as metropolitan areas and metropolitan divisions. However, for comparative purposes, the Boston NECTA and its divisions have been referred to as a metropolitan area and metropolitan divisions.

The Boston-Cambridge-Nashua, MA-NH Metropolitan New England City and Town Area (NECTA) includes 10 NECTA divisions--subdivisions of the larger NECTA which function as distinct social, economic, and cultural areas within the larger region. The NECTA divisions that compose the Boston-Cambridge-Nashua, MA-NH NECTA include: Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA, Brockton-Bridgewater-Easton, MA, Framingham, MA, Haverhill- Newburyport-Amesbury town, MA-NH, Lawrence-Methuen town-Salem, MA-NH, Lowell-Billerica-Chelmsford, MA-NH, Lynn-Saugus-Marblehead, MA, Nashua, NH-MA, Peabody-Salem-Beverly, MA, Taunton- Middleborough-Norton, MA, and select cities and towns within.

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 online at www.bls.gov/opub/ee/home.htm. Industry employment data for states and metropolitan areas from the Current Employment Statistics program are also available in the above mentioned news releases and from the Internet at www.bls.gov/sae/.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request: voice phone: (202)-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800)-877-8339.

Table 1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, U.S. and Boston metropolitan area, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)

Area and Industry	Apr 2015	Feb 2016	Mar 2016	Apr 2016(p)	Apr 2015 to Apr 2016(p) Net change	Apr 2015 to Apr 2016(p) Percent change
U.S.						
Total nonfarm	141,286	141,992	142,887	143,944	2,658	1.9
Mining and logging	834	718	704	695	-139	-16.7
Construction	6,296	6,213	6,349	6,558	262	4.2
Manufacturing	12,261	12,238	12,229	12,241	-20	-0.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	26,570	26,827	26,962	27,047	477	1.8
Information	2,743	2,764	2,777	2,782	39	1.4
Financial activities	8,049	8,158	8,182	8,209	160	2.0
Professional and business services	19,491	19,724	19,829	20,090	599	3.1
Educational and health services	22,091	22,581	22,671	22,767	676	3.1
Leisure and hospitality	14,938	14,795	15,040	15,376	438	2.9
Other services	5,610	5,626	5,655	5,684	74	1.3
Government	22,403	22,348	22,489	22,495	92	0.4
Boston-Cambridge-Nashua, MA-NH						
Total nonfarm	2,638.9	2,625.6	2,643.5	2,682.8	43.9	1.7
Mining, logging, and construction	98.6	99.5	101.1	107.5	8.9	9.0
Manufacturing	192.0	188.7	188.4	188.7	-3.3	-1.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	411.3	410.3	413.2	417.1	5.8	1.4
Information	76.7	76.9	77.0	77.9	1.2	1.6
Financial activities	179.0	184.1	183.9	185.1	6.1	3.4
Professional and business services	451.2	446.1	448.2	460.2	9.0	2.0
Educational and health services	560.7	568.6	572.6	574.3	13.6	2.4
Leisure and hospitality	250.0	236.0	240.5	251.0	1.0	0.4
Other services	99.9	100.1	102.4	103.7	3.8	3.8
Government	319.5	315.3	316.2	317.3	-2.2	-0.7
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA division						
Total nonfarm	1,769.4	1,760.2	1,773.0	1,799.3	29.9	1.7
Mining, logging, and construction	60.6	61.4	62.1	65.6	5.0	8.3
Manufacturing	81.8	80.8	80.5	80.8	-1.0	-1.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	242.3	240.2	242.1	245.4	3.1	1.3
Information	56.2	56.6	56.8	57.5	1.3	2.3
Financial activities	147.8	152.6	152.3	153.4	5.6	3.8
Professional and business services	337.6	334.8	336.2	344.0	6.4	1.9
Educational and health services	405.7	409.5	412.7	413.6	7.9	1.9
Leisure and hospitality	171.6	161.2	164.2	171.8	0.2	0.1
Other services	66.3	66.9	68.7	69.3	3.0	4.5
Government	199.5	196.2	197.4	197.9	-1.6	-0.8

p) Preliminary

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

Area and Industry	Apr 2015	Feb 2016	Mar 2016	Apr 2016 (p)	Apr 2015 to Apr 2016(p) Net change	Apr 2015 to Apr 2016(p) Percent change
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA						
Total nonfarm	2,563.4	2,611.2	2,625.2	2,646.7	83.3	3.2
Mining and logging	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.1	7.1
Construction	106.7	112.4	112.5	113.8	7.1	6.7
Manufacturing	155.7	160.2	161.0	162.2	6.5	4.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	571.9	586.7	589.4	591.5	19.6	3.4
Information	88.0	86.2	86.1	88.0	0.0	0.0
Financial activities	161.6	161.9	162.0	162.3	0.7	0.4
Professional and business services	471.2	483.8	484.8	492.1	20.9	4.4
Education and health services	316.8	322.6	325.9	325.9	9.1	2.9
Leisure and hospitality	268.7	271.6	275.0	283.0	14.3	5.3
Other services	96.3	96.3	96.9	97.1	0.8	0.8
Government	325.1	328.0	330.1	329.3	4.2	1.3
Boston-Cambridge-Nashua, MA-NH						
Total nonfarm	2,638.9	2,625.6	2,643.5	2,682.8	43.9	1.7
Mining, logging, and construction	98.6	99.5	101.1	107.5	8.9	9.0
Manufacturing	192.0	188.7	188.4	188.7	-3.3	-1.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	411.3	410.3	413.2	417.1	5.8	1.4
Information	76.7	76.9	77.0	77.9	1.2	1.6
Financial activities	179.0	184.1	183.9	185.1	6.1	3.4
Professional and business services	451.2	446.1	448.2	460.2	9.0	2.0
Education and health services	560.7	568.6	572.6	574.3	13.6	2.4
Leisure and hospitality	250.0	236.0	240.5	251.0	1.0	0.4
Other services	99.9	100.1	102.4	103.7	3.8	3.8
Government	319.5	315.3	316.2	317.3	-2.2	-0.7
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI						
Total nonfarm	4,550.1	4,542.2	4,573.3	4,624.1	74.0	1.6
Mining and logging	1.6	1.2	1.3	1.4	-0.2	-12.5
Construction	161.1	149.5	156.2	166.5	5.4	3.4
Manufacturing	411.6	411.0	411.0	412.2	0.6	0.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	915.2	920.2	924.1	928.6	13.4	1.5
Information	80.4	80.7	80.7	81.0	0.6	0.7
Financial activities	290.1	290.2	292.3	290.2	0.1	0.0
Professional and business services	800.1	783.5	787.8	809.9	9.8	1.2
Education and health services	700.7	712.9	711.9	715.2	14.5	2.1
Leisure and hospitality	444.0	440.3	451.1	462.1	18.1	4.1
Other services	193.4	194.9	195.2	194.0	0.6	0.3
Government	551.9	557.8	561.7	563.0	11.1	2.0
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX						
Total nonfarm	3,367.6	3,451.4	3,465.5	3,498.2	130.6	3.9
Mining, logging, and construction	197.6	196.8	197.1	202.1	4.5	2.3
Manufacturing	263.0	260.1	260.4	261.2	-1.8	-0.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	708.9	740.4	744.9	748.0	39.1	5.5
Information	79.9	80.6	80.3	79.6	-0.3	-0.4
Financial activities	273.3	283.2	283.8	287.2	13.9	5.1
Professional and business services	554.2	566.5	567.8	573.7	19.5	3.5
Education and health services	413.2	425.3	427.1	431.4	18.2	4.4
Leisure and hospitality	347.4	359.4	363.5	371.7	24.3	7.0
Other services	118.6	117.3	118.2	120.4	1.8	1.5
Government	411.5	421.8	422.4	422.9	11.4	2.8
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX						
Total nonfarm	2,983.5	2,983.2	2,987.5	2,993.5	10.0	0.3
Mining and logging	102.3	90.1	90.5	88.2	-14.1	-13.8

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

Area and Industry	Apr 2015	Feb 2016	Mar 2016	Apr 2016 (p)	Apr 2015 to Apr 2016(p) Net change	Apr 2015 to Apr 2016(p) Percent change
Construction	214.4	220.7	219.0	219.9	5.5	2.6
Manufacturing	250.8	234.5	234.7	232.3	-18.5	-7.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	606.3	609.1	610.7	612.6	6.3	1.0
Information	32.4	31.9	31.0	31.7	-0.7	-2.2
Financial activities	150.5	151.6	152.2	151.8	1.3	0.9
Professional and business services	471.7	459.7	459.5	459.1	-12.6	-2.7
Education and health services	364.9	378.4	377.3	381.9	17.0	4.7
Leisure and hospitality	298.3	309.3	312.9	316.9	18.6	6.2
Other services	106.3	105.6	105.7	105.7	-0.6	-0.6
Government	385.6	392.3	394.0	393.4	7.8	2.0
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA						
Total nonfarm	5,787.7	5,890.9	5,917.2	5,942.7	155.0	2.7
Mining and logging	4.7	4.2	4.1	4.1	-0.6	-12.8
Construction	211.0	225.0	225.7	230.4	19.4	9.2
Manufacturing	518.3	510.0	511.9	511.3	-7.0	-1.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,061.3	1,077.7	1,079.1	1,082.9	21.6	2.0
Information	229.0	235.7	237.5	240.8	11.8	5.2
Financial activities	328.9	332.3	333.6	335.1	6.2	1.9
Professional and business services	877.9	893.4	896.7	901.8	23.9	2.7
Education and health services	938.2	975.3	980.3	982.2	44.0	4.7
Leisure and hospitality	685.4	698.7	703.4	708.2	22.8	3.3
Other services	199.7	200.5	200.9	202.3	2.6	1.3
Government	733.3	738.1	744.0	743.6	10.3	1.4
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL						
Total nonfarm	2,502.1	2,556.1	2,561.7	2,570.1	68.0	2.7
Mining and logging	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Construction	109.1	116.1	117.0	119.1	10.0	9.2
Manufacturing	83.5	85.7	85.6	84.9	1.4	1.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	580.6	591.0	591.1	591.7	11.1	1.9
Information	47.6	48.0	48.2	48.1	0.5	1.1
Financial activities	173.2	180.3	181.2	182.5	9.3	5.4
Professional and business services	401.2	411.6	411.7	413.4	12.2	3.0
Education and health services	366.4	374.8	374.7	376.6	10.2	2.8
Leisure and hospitality	311.4	316.9	319.1	320.4	9.0	2.9
Other services	121.2	123.4	124.0	124.0	2.8	2.3
Government	307.3	307.7	308.5	308.8	1.5	0.5
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA						
Total nonfarm	9,285.8	9,294.6	9,380.5	9,459.7	173.9	1.9
Mining, logging, and construction	362.9	353.6	369.2	381.1	18.2	5.0
Manufacturing	365.8	369.6	369.0	369.5	3.7	1.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,694.9	1,695.3	1,698.4	1,707.5	12.6	0.7
Information	282.4	287.1	287.4	285.5	3.1	1.1
Financial activities	755.8	762.7	765.4	766.8	11.0	1.5
Professional and business services	1,472.2	1,468.1	1,484.4	1,496.8	24.6	1.7
Education and health services	1,788.6	1,815.7	1,836.7	1,843.4	54.8	3.1
Leisure and hospitality	848.0	822.8	840.6	868.7	20.7	2.4
Other services	408.2	413.4	415.9	420.2	12.0	2.9
Government	1,307.0	1,306.3	1,313.5	1,320.2	13.2	1.0
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD						
Total nonfarm	2,818.6	2,828.2	2,854.2	2,881.8	63.2	2.2
Mining, logging, and construction	109.0	105.0	108.2	113.1	4.1	3.8
Manufacturing	180.8	181.0	182.2	182.7	1.9	1.1

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

Area and Industry	Apr 2015	Feb 2016	Mar 2016	Apr 2016 (p)	Apr 2015 to Apr 2016(p) Net change	Apr 2015 to Apr 2016(p) Percent change
Trade, transportation, and utilities	511.7	514.5	519.6	522.3	10.6	2.1
Information	46.1	46.3	46.3	46.5	0.4	0.9
Financial activities	206.9	209.4	209.4	209.0	2.1	1.0
Professional and business services	446.5	452.0	457.0	463.1	16.6	3.7
Education and health services	608.9	620.4	620.2	623.0	14.1	2.3
Leisure and hospitality	249.8	239.0	248.4	258.5	8.7	3.5
Other services	117.0	118.1	118.6	119.5	2.5	2.1
Government	341.9	342.5	344.3	344.1	2.2	0.6
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ						
Total nonfarm	1,909.3	1,963.3	1,970.9	1,978.1	68.8	3.6
Mining and logging	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	0.0	0.0
Construction	97.4	103.0	105.0	104.6	7.2	7.4
Manufacturing	118.7	119.6	120.1	118.3	-0.4	-0.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	370.7	382.0	382.2	383.3	12.6	3.4
Information	36.4	38.2	38.3	39.2	2.8	7.7
Financial activities	165.0	174.2	175.1	175.4	10.4	6.3
Professional and business services	318.3	331.4	329.6	335.6	17.3	5.4
Education and health services	279.5	291.1	291.6	291.8	12.3	4.4
Leisure and hospitality	212.4	212.5	217.2	216.9	4.5	2.1
Other services	65.2	66.3	67.0	66.6	1.4	2.1
Government	242.4	241.7	241.5	243.1	0.7	0.3
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA						
Total nonfarm	2,238.9	2,285.2	2,297.3	2,310.2	71.3	3.2
Mining and logging	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	-0.1	-10.0
Construction	106.2	113.2	114.6	117.1	10.9	10.3
Manufacturing	124.2	126.6	126.7	127.3	3.1	2.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	358.8	370.4	370.6	367.8	9.0	2.5
Information	83.0	85.8	86.3	86.1	3.1	3.7
Financial activities	128.1	128.5	129.1	129.4	1.3	1.0
Professional and business services	457.8	470.5	472.5	475.6	17.8	3.9
Education and health services	328.1	339.3	341.2	340.4	12.3	3.7
Leisure and hospitality	256.0	255.7	257.5	265.8	9.8	3.8
Other services	83.4	82.6	83.4	84.0	0.6	0.7
Government	312.3	311.7	314.5	315.8	3.5	1.1
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV						
Total nonfarm	3,160.6	3,179.6	3,206.6	3,232.3	71.7	2.3
Mining, logging, and construction	148.1	149.3	156.1	158.9	10.8	7.3
Manufacturing	52.6	52.2	52.4	52.5	-0.1	-0.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	396.1	401.7	405.9	410.5	14.4	3.6
Information	77.2	75.4	75.2	75.1	-2.1	-2.7
Financial activities	152.6	154.1	154.3	154.7	2.1	1.4
Professional and business services	718.8	722.4	730.1	735.7	16.9	2.4
Education and health services	417.6	422.7	423.4	424.7	7.1	1.7
Leisure and hospitality	305.8	304.1	310.4	320.5	14.7	4.8
Other services	196.3	197.6	199.2	199.4	3.1	1.6
Government	695.5	700.1	699.6	700.3	4.8	0.7

p) Preliminary