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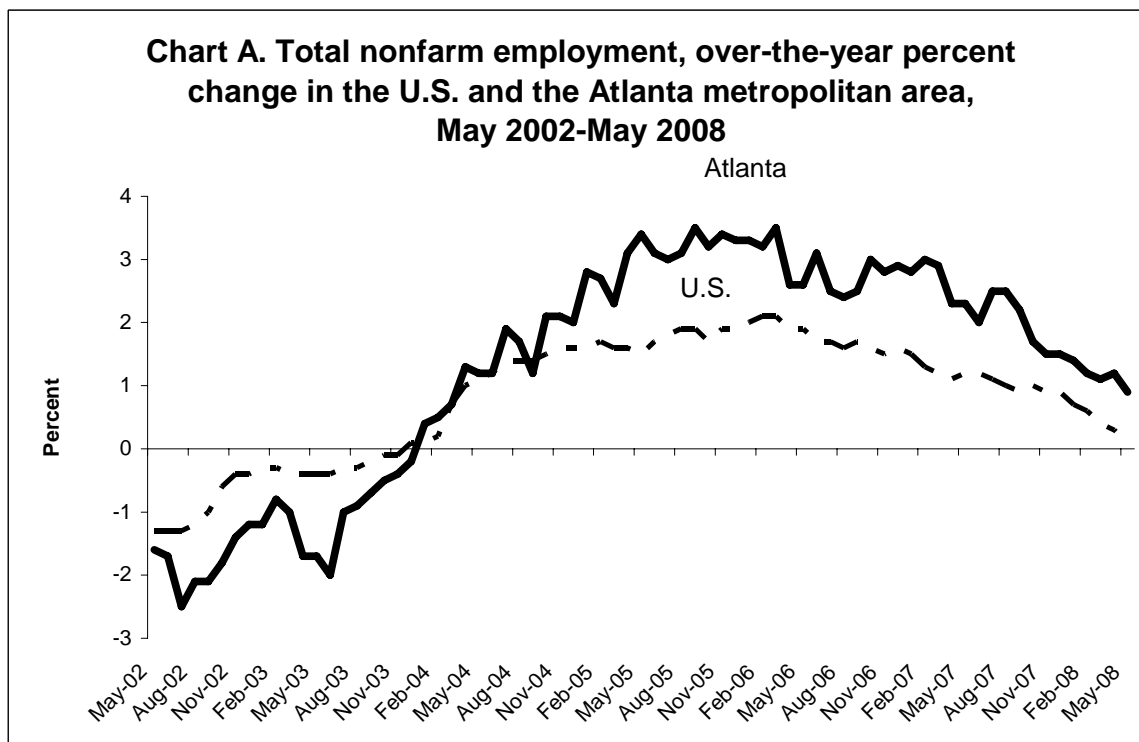
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FOR RELEASE:
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May 2008 Job Count for the Atlanta Area Rises by 22,900 Over the Year

Total nonfarm employment for the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta Metropolitan Statistical Area stood at 2,478,700 in May 2008, 22,900 above its year-ago level, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The Atlanta area job count increased at a 0.9-percent pace over the past 12 months; nationally, employment increased at a 0.1-percent rate. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that over-the-year employment gains in the area extended back over four years to January 2004. During this expansionary period, Atlanta's rate of job growth exceeded the national average almost the entire time. (See chart A and table 1. All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)



Industry Employment

In the Atlanta metropolitan area, five industry supersectors added at least 3,000 jobs from May 2007 to May 2008. Education and health services experienced the largest employment gain with the addition of 9,200 jobs over the year, an increase of 3.7 percent, compared to the national rate of growth of 2.9 percent. The government supersector increased by 6,900, or 2.1 percent, from a year ago, almost twice the national rate of growth of 1.1 percent. (See table 1.) The three remaining industries in the Atlanta area with significant employment gains were leisure and hospitality (4,000); trade, transportation, and utilities (3,700); and professional and business services (3,400). Both the trade, transportation, and utilities and professional and business services supersectors experienced above-average employment gains compared to the nation for these industries in May 2008.

Two supersectors in the Atlanta metropolitan area lost a significant number of jobs from May 2007 to May 2008. Manufacturing declined by 3,400 jobs, or 1.9 percent which was below the nation's 2.4 percent loss in this supersector. The financial industry dropped 2,100 jobs, or 1.3 percent, similar to the 1.1 percent decline recorded in U.S. financial employment. Interestingly, since May 2007, construction jobs in the Atlanta area fell 0.1 percent compared to the 5.4-percent decline in this industry nationwide.

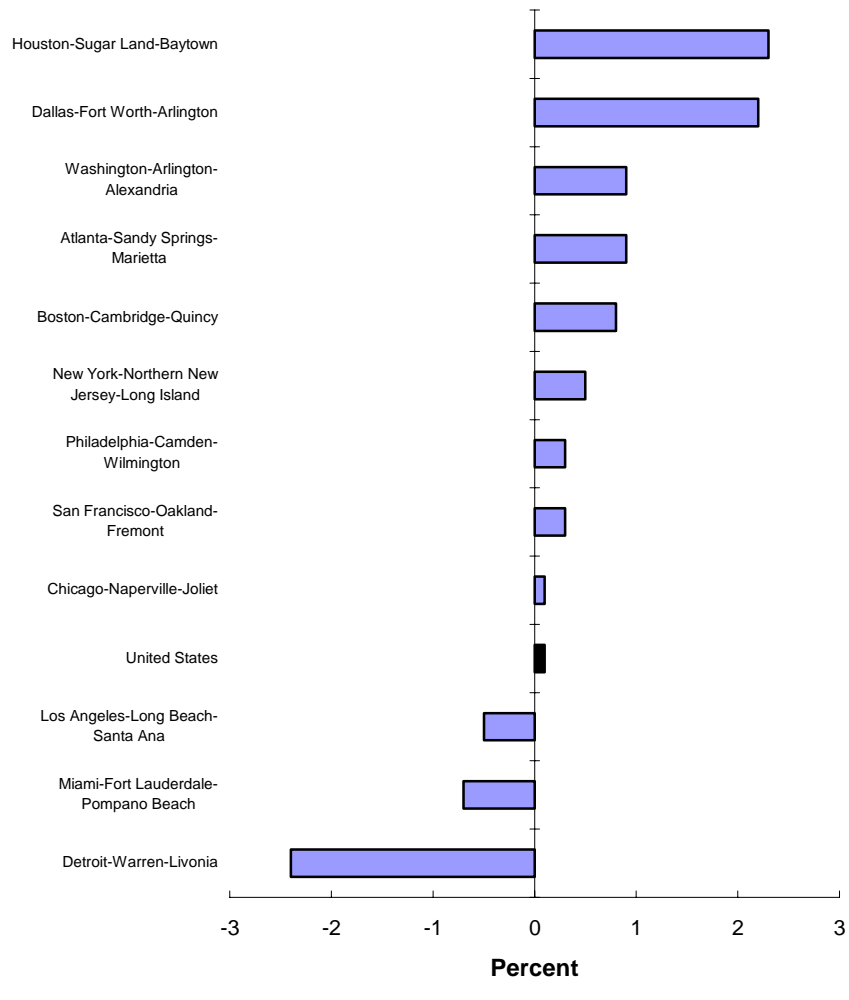
Employment in the 12 Largest Areas

Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta was one of the nation's 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas in May 2008. Eight of these 12 areas experienced over-the-year job growth greater than the national increase of 0.1 percent. Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown registered the fastest rate of gain, up 2.3 percent from May 2007, closely followed by Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, up 2.2 percent. The other six areas with above-average growth were: Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta and Washington-Arlington-Alexandria (both at 0.9 percent), Boston-Cambridge-Quincy (0.8 percent), New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island (0.5 percent), and Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington and San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont (both at 0.3 percent). The Chicago-Naperville-Joliet area had growth equal to the national average at 0.1 percent. (See chart B.)

Employment declined in the remaining three areas: Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana (-0.5 percent), Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach (-0.7 percent), and Detroit-Warren-Livonia (-2.4 percent).

Dallas, the area with the second fastest growth rate in May 2008, also added the largest number of jobs over the year, 66,100. Houston ranked second with the addition of 58,300. The largest declines in employment occurred in Detroit (-47,400) and Los Angeles (-27,800).

Chart B. Over-the-year percent change in employment, 12 largest areas and United States, May 2008



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 places 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 (NAICS).

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, 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 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 are available for state CES data at the total nonfarm and supersector level and for metropolitan CES data. 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 November 20, 2007. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/fy2008/b08-01.pdf.

The Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, Ga., Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

Includes the counties of Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dawson, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Haralson, Heard, Henry, Jasper, Lamar, Meriwether, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton in Georgia.

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 Current Employment Statistics program are also available in the above mentioned news releases and from the Internet at www.bls.gov/sae/.

For personal assistance or further information on the Current Employment Statistics program, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Southeast BLS information office at 404-893-4222 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET. Current and historical information on the Current Employment Statistics program and other surveys are also available on our regional Web site at www.bls.gov/ro4/home.htm.

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.

Table 1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, United States and Atlanta metropolitan area, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)

Area and Industry	May 2007	Mar 2008	Apr 2008	May 2008(p)	Change from May 2007 to May 2008	
					Number	Percent
United States						
Total nonfarm	138,289.0	137,033.0	137,730.0	138,383.0	94.0	0.1
Natural resources and mining	720.0	738.0	743.0	758.0	38.0	5.3
Construction	7,725.0	6,998.0	7,125.0	7,305.0	-420.0	-5.4
Manufacturing	13,903.0	13,576.0	13,544.0	13,564.0	-339.0	-2.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	26,559.0	26,265.0	26,274.0	26,395.0	-164.0	-0.6
Information	3,044.0	3,008.0	3,003.0	3,009.0	-35.0	-1.1
Financial activities	8,318.0	8,194.0	8,206.0	8,227.0	-91.0	-1.1
Professional and business services	17,937.0	17,796.0	18,000.0	17,980.0	43.0	0.2
Education and health services	18,331.0	18,850.0	18,924.0	18,867.0	536.0	2.9
Leisure and hospitality	13,655.0	13,307.0	13,581.0	13,902.0	247.0	1.8
Other services	5,520.0	5,509.0	5,532.0	5,552.0	32.0	0.6
Government	22,577.0	22,792.0	22,798.0	22,824.0	247.0	1.1
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area						
Total nonfarm	2,455.8	2,471.0	2,472.9	2,478.7	22.9	0.9
Natural resources and mining	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0
Construction	139.9	137.6	138.2	139.7	-0.2	-0.1
Manufacturing	176.2	174.6	173.6	172.8	-3.4	-1.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	561.3	562.7	563.0	565.0	3.7	0.7
Information	87.8	88.2	88.5	88.7	0.9	1.0
Financial activities	163.2	160.7	160.5	161.1	-2.1	-1.3
Professional and business services	405.3	412.1	410.0	408.7	3.4	0.8
Education and health services	251.5	258.2	259.6	260.7	9.2	3.7
Leisure and hospitality	239.8	236.7	240.4	243.8	4.0	1.7
Other services	98.8	97.9	98.4	99.3	0.5	0.5
Government	329.5	339.9	338.2	336.4	6.9	2.1

(p) preliminary

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

Area and Industry	May 2007	Mar 2008	Apr 2008	May 2008(p)	Change from May 2007 to May 2008	
					Number	Percent
					Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA	
Total nonfarm	2,455.8	2,471.0	2,472.9	2,478.7	22.9	0.9
Natural resources and mining	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0
Construction	139.9	137.6	138.2	139.7	-0.2	-0.1
Manufacturing	176.2	174.6	173.6	172.8	-3.4	-1.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	561.3	562.7	563.0	565.0	3.7	0.7
Information	87.8	88.2	88.5	88.7	0.9	1.0
Financial activities	163.2	160.7	160.5	161.1	-2.1	-1.3
Professional and business services	405.3	412.1	410.0	408.7	3.4	0.8
Education and health services	251.5	258.2	259.6	260.7	9.2	3.7
Leisure and hospitality	239.8	236.7	240.4	243.8	4.0	1.7
Other services	98.8	97.9	98.4	99.3	0.5	0.5
Government	329.5	339.9	338.2	336.4	6.9	2.1
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH						
Total nonfarm	2,493.4	2,471.0	2,497.7	2,513.1	19.7	0.8
Natural resources and mining	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.2	0.1	9.1
Construction	100.7	89.2	94.8	98.8	-1.9	-1.9
Manufacturing	222.2	219.9	219.9	219.8	-2.4	-1.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	417.6	411.6	412.7	416.5	-1.1	-0.3
Information	74.4	75.1	75.0	74.8	0.4	0.5
Financial activities	189.1	187.5	187.5	187.7	-1.4	-0.7
Professional and business services	409.5	405.6	413.6	416.9	7.4	1.8
Education and health services	464.5	477.7	482.0	475.7	11.2	2.4
Leisure and hospitality	219.2	208.0	215.2	223.5	4.3	2.0
Other services	88.8	87.2	87.3	88.2	-0.6	-0.7
Government	306.3	308.2	308.6	310.0	3.7	1.2
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI						
Total nonfarm	4,580.2	4,505.8	4,545.2	4,585.1	4.9	0.1
Natural resources and mining	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.4	-0.1	-4.0
Construction	220.8	195.3	205.8	213.4	-7.4	-3.4
Manufacturing	483.7	479.6	478.9	478.7	-5.0	-1.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	926.6	925.5	926.8	935.2	8.6	0.9
Information	90.8	91.3	91.2	91.2	0.4	0.4
Financial activities	330.6	325.4	325.0	324.8	-5.8	-1.8
Professional and business services	746.0	724.8	740.9	749.1	3.1	0.4
Education and health services	591.8	599.3	601.1	601.7	9.9	1.7
Leisure and hospitality	415.6	390.1	402.0	413.8	-1.8	-0.4
Other services	198.1	197.1	196.9	197.2	-0.9	-0.5
Government	573.1	575.2	574.3	577.6	4.5	0.8
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX						
Total nonfarm	2,942.8	2,975.8	2,996.3	3,008.9	66.1	2.2
Natural resources, mining, and construction	186.3	192.8	193.8	196.1	9.8	5.3
Manufacturing	297.7	294.7	294.8	296.1	-1.6	-0.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	619.4	625.8	626.6	629.0	9.6	1.5
Information	88.7	91.0	89.9	89.4	0.7	0.8
Financial activities	233.0	234.5	236.4	237.1	4.1	1.8
Professional and business services	437.7	437.3	445.1	446.5	8.8	2.0
Education and health services	315.9	328.9	329.6	330.5	14.6	4.6
Leisure and hospitality	283.6	280.5	288.1	291.2	7.6	2.7
Other services	106.9	108.3	109.0	109.4	2.5	2.3
Government	373.6	382.0	383.0	383.6	10.0	2.7

(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	May 2007	Mar 2008	Apr 2008	May 2008(p)	Change from May 2007 to May 2008	
					Number	Percent
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI						
Total nonfarm	1,995.1	1,909.1	1,919.3	1,947.7	-47.4	-2.4
Natural resources, mining, and construction	72.9	58.4	61.0	65.7	-7.2	-9.9
Manufacturing	262.9	238.7	232.9	239.2	-23.7	-9.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	367.1	358.7	359.7	362.8	-4.3	-1.2
Information	34.4	33.3	33.0	33.0	-1.4	-4.1
Financial activities	112.5	109.6	109.7	110.0	-2.5	-2.2
Professional and business services	352.0	337.0	342.3	348.6	-3.4	-1.0
Education and health services	279.0	283.6	284.1	285.0	6.0	2.2
Leisure and hospitality	189.5	174.1	179.7	186.5	-3.0	-1.6
Other services	89.2	85.3	85.9	86.4	-2.8	-3.1
Government	235.6	230.4	231.0	230.5	-5.1	-2.2
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX						
Total nonfarm	2,547.4	2,595.0	2,597.3	2,605.7	58.3	2.3
Natural resources and mining	84.0	87.9	88.4	89.2	5.2	6.2
Construction	196.4	202.2	201.9	202.0	5.6	2.9
Manufacturing	232.1	235.1	236.0	235.7	3.6	1.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	513.9	522.2	524.5	525.2	11.3	2.2
Information	37.0	36.8	36.9	36.9	-0.1	-0.3
Financial activities	144.2	145.7	145.8	146.0	1.8	1.2
Professional and business services	377.8	388.7	386.9	388.3	10.5	2.8
Education and health services	281.2	290.9	289.8	291.5	10.3	3.7
Leisure and hospitality	230.8	230.8	232.4	235.6	4.8	2.1
Other services	93.2	95.1	95.8	96.0	2.8	3.0
Government	356.8	359.6	358.9	359.3	2.5	0.7
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA						
Total nonfarm	5,641.5	5,608.1	5,607.2	5,613.7	-27.8	-0.5
Natural resources and mining	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.1	0.1	2.0
Construction	262.2	246.1	246.1	246.6	-15.6	-5.9
Manufacturing	630.2	622.7	620.8	619.8	-10.4	-1.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,086.8	1,080.9	1,079.1	1,082.9	-3.9	-0.4
Information	241.9	234.6	230.9	233.4	-8.5	-3.5
Financial activities	377.3	356.0	355.6	354.3	-23.0	-6.1
Professional and business services	874.5	877.3	876.6	874.3	-0.2	0.0
Education and health services	631.3	646.7	649.5	647.0	15.7	2.5
Leisure and hospitality	572.9	568.4	573.3	576.5	3.6	0.6
Other services	195.1	196.9	197.1	198.2	3.1	1.6
Government	764.3	773.4	773.2	775.6	11.3	1.5
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL						
Total nonfarm	2,447.4	2,440.6	2,432.0	2,430.9	-16.5	-0.7
Natural resources and mining	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Construction	158.5	144.0	142.3	143.4	-15.1	-9.5
Manufacturing	99.0	94.7	93.8	93.5	-5.5	-5.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	547.0	546.4	544.7	541.8	-5.2	-1.0
Information	52.4	51.7	51.1	51.2	-1.2	-2.3
Financial activities	180.4	176.0	175.5	175.5	-4.9	-2.7
Professional and business services	400.2	396.7	393.3	393.0	-7.2	-1.8
Education and health services	318.1	326.5	328.8	330.0	11.9	3.7
Leisure and hospitality	260.1	266.8	264.2	263.9	3.8	1.5
Other services	101.2	103.1	102.5	102.7	1.5	1.5
Government	329.8	334.0	335.1	335.2	5.4	1.6

(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	May 2007	Mar 2008	Apr 2008	May 2008(p)	Change from May 2007 to May 2008	
					Number	Percent
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA						
Total nonfarm	8,607.9	8,540.7	8,586.4	8,647.7	39.8	0.5
Natural resources, mining, and construction	366.3	344.9	357.5	368.6	2.3	0.6
Manufacturing	453.8	437.1	435.0	435.1	-18.7	-4.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,611.2	1,601.0	1,602.7	1,614.5	3.3	0.2
Information	289.1	292.3	293.9	295.6	6.5	2.2
Financial activities	794.4	790.0	788.2	787.5	-6.9	-0.9
Professional and business services	1,300.2	1,286.3	1,298.5	1,303.7	3.5	0.3
Education and health services	1,452.1	1,469.2	1,471.2	1,473.1	21.0	1.4
Leisure and hospitality	662.4	632.2	649.4	672.7	10.3	1.6
Other services	371.4	373.0	374.0	377.8	6.4	1.7
Government	1,307.0	1,314.7	1,316.0	1,319.1	12.1	0.9
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD						
Total nonfarm	2,826.9	2,803.5	2,823.9	2,835.2	8.3	0.3
Natural resources, mining, and construction	129.1	121.5	123.8	126.6	-2.5	-1.9
Manufacturing	221.2	217.1	216.5	215.9	-5.3	-2.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	529.7	525.5	526.4	530.2	0.5	0.1
Information	57.2	57.3	57.4	57.4	0.2	0.3
Financial activities	219.8	217.0	216.4	216.9	-2.9	-1.3
Professional and business services	432.5	426.9	433.3	434.6	2.1	0.5
Education and health services	525.8	536.1	539.4	536.6	10.8	2.1
Leisure and hospitality	228.4	216.9	223.8	230.9	2.5	1.1
Other services	124.0	124.0	124.4	124.8	0.8	0.6
Government	359.2	361.2	362.5	361.3	2.1	0.6
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA						
Total nonfarm	2,034.8	2,035.6	2,036.3	2,040.6	5.8	0.3
Natural resources and mining	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.2	14.3
Construction	116.1	112.7	112.9	113.7	-2.4	-2.1
Manufacturing	137.5	137.0	136.4	136.4	-1.1	-0.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	357.5	354.9	353.3	353.8	-3.7	-1.0
Information	68.6	68.3	68.0	68.0	-0.6	-0.9
Financial activities	152.9	147.9	147.5	147.4	-5.5	-3.6
Professional and business services	352.9	359.8	360.9	359.6	6.7	1.9
Education and health services	231.7	234.5	233.9	234.1	2.4	1.0
Leisure and hospitality	213.6	211.9	213.6	216.8	3.2	1.5
Other services	75.0	75.5	75.6	75.9	0.9	1.2
Government	327.6	331.5	332.6	333.3	5.7	1.7
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV						
Total nonfarm	2,998.9	2,994.9	3,007.7	3,025.4	26.5	0.9
Natural resources, mining, and construction	187.1	177.3	179.9	181.9	-5.2	-2.8
Manufacturing	62.3	61.4	61.0	60.9	-1.4	-2.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	403.0	399.6	401.0	404.1	1.1	0.3
Information	93.8	92.0	91.4	91.6	-2.2	-2.3
Financial activities	160.1	156.2	155.7	156.1	-4.0	-2.5
Professional and business services	677.8	681.8	685.8	689.2	11.4	1.7
Education and health services	328.0	339.3	339.8	336.4	8.4	2.6
Leisure and hospitality	256.6	247.3	251.4	257.8	1.2	0.5
Other services	180.7	183.4	184.7	185.7	5.0	2.8
Government	649.5	656.6	657.0	661.7	12.2	1.9

(p) preliminary