



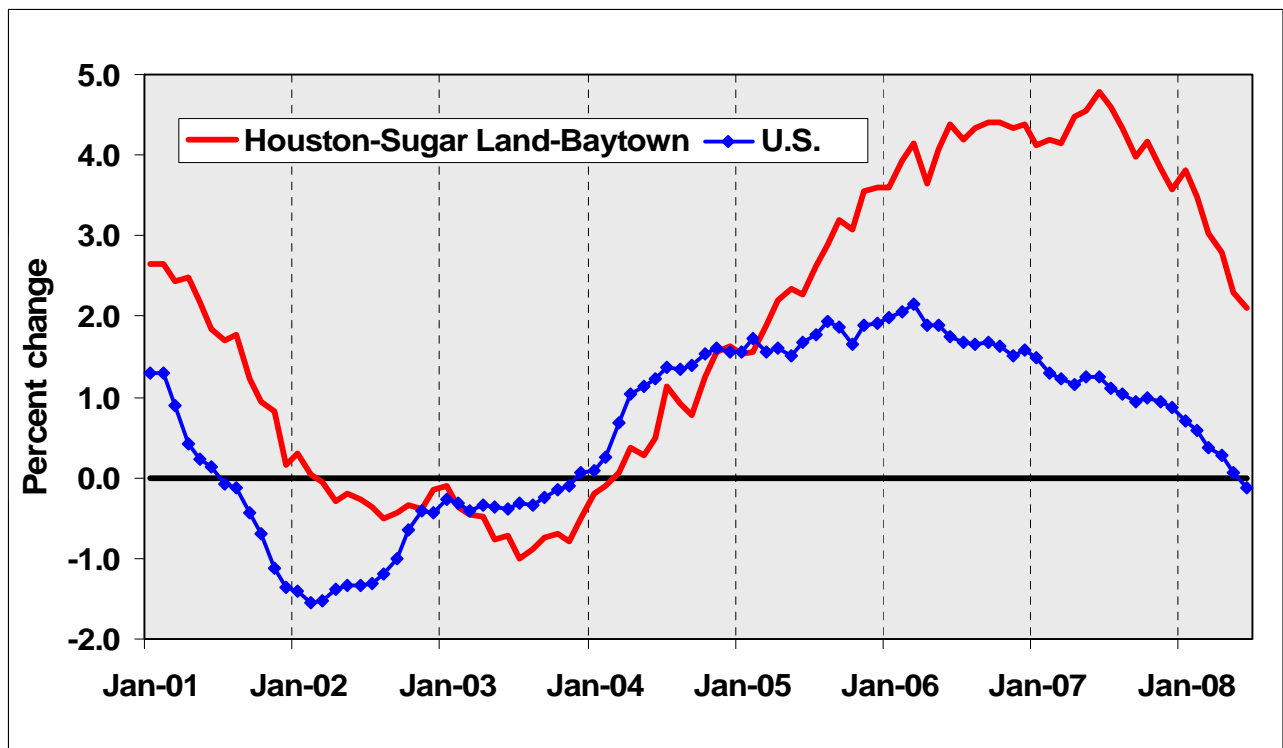
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FOR RELEASE:  
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## HOUSTON-SUGAR LAND-BAYTOWN JOB GROWTH HIGHEST AMONG THE 12 LARGEST AREAS NATIONWIDE

Total nonfarm employment in the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown Metropolitan Statistical Area stood at 2,619,300 in June 2008, an increase of 54,100 jobs over the year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. From June 2007 to June 2008, nonfarm employment rose 2.1 percent in the local area compared to a 0.1-percent decline nationwide. Among the 12 largest metropolitan areas in the country, Houston's rate of job growth led all others, although it was closely followed by the 2.0-percent gain registered in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington area. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that while the rate of gain in Houston has slowed during the last year, the June advance continued the trend of over-the-year employment increases that extends back to March 2004. (See chart A 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.)

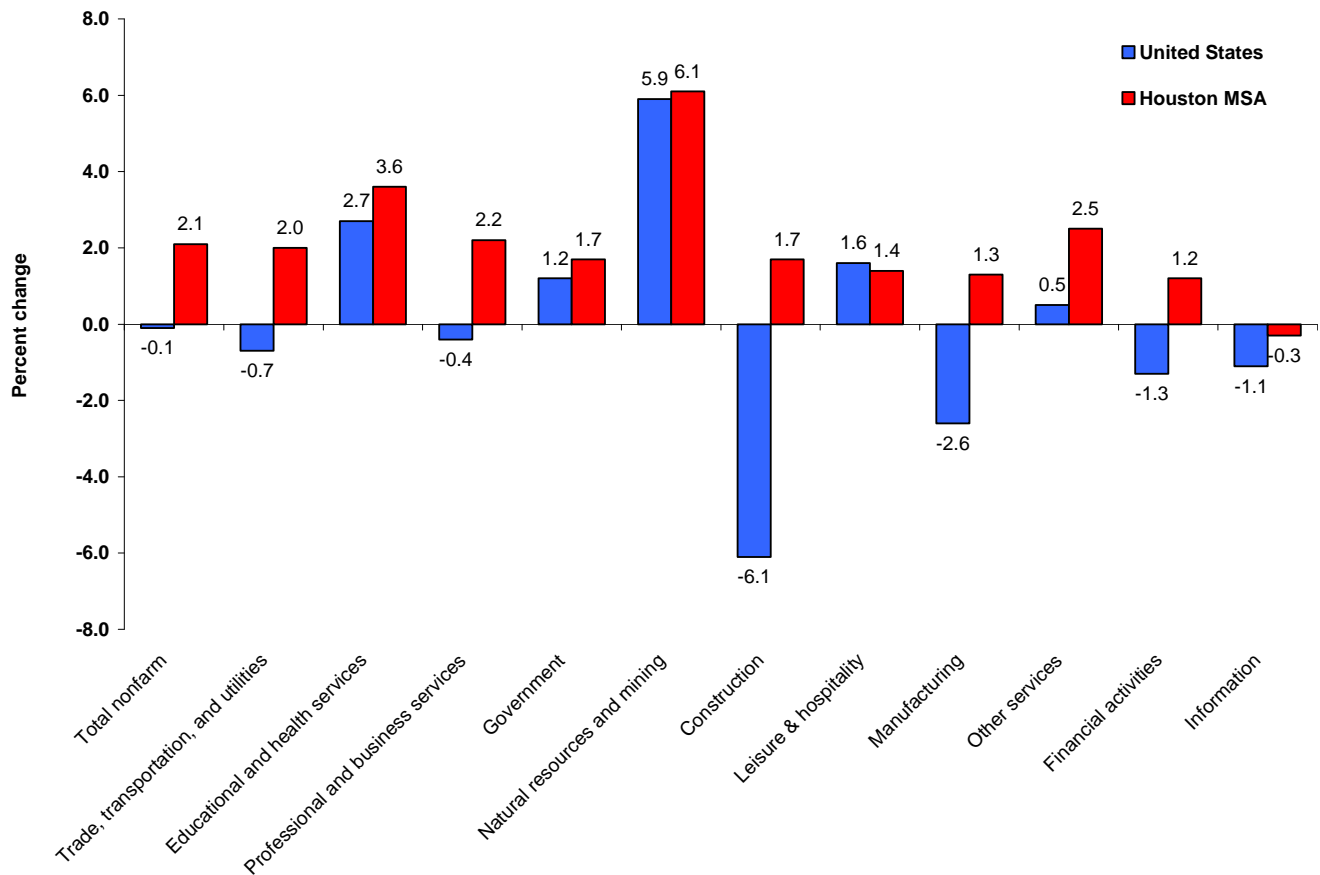
Chart A. Total nonfarm employment, over-the-year percent change in the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown metropolitan area, January 2001-June 2008



## Industry employment

In the Houston area, 10 of 11 industry supersectors added at least 1,000 jobs from June 2007 to June 2008, and 2 of these added more than 10,000. Trade, transportation, and utilities experienced the largest over-the-year employment gain at 10,500; Houston's increase of 2.0 percent compared to a national decrease of 0.7 percent in this supersector. Educational and health services followed with the addition of 10,100 jobs during the 12-month period, increasing at a 3.6-percent pace, faster than the nationwide advance of 2.7 percent. The educational and health services industry accounted for 11 percent of the local workforce, but made up nearly 19 percent of Houston's job growth from June a year ago.

**Chart B. Over-the-year percent change in employment by industry supersector, United States and the Houston metropolitan area, June 2008**



Three other local supersectors recorded gains of more than 5,000 jobs from June 2007 to June 2008. Employment in Houston's professional and business services rose by 8,500, or 2.2 percent; this compared to a 0.4-percent decline in the industry nationally. Public sector employment in the Houston area added 6,000 new jobs, increasing 1.7 percent; nationwide, government grew at a slower pace, advancing 1.2 percent. The natural resources and mining supersector continued to register strong growth locally with the addition of 5,200 jobs. During the 12-month period, employment in this supersector increased 6.1 percent in Houston, close to the 5.9-percent rate of growth recorded nationwide. Employment in natural resources and mining accounted for 3.5 percent of the local workforce in June 2008, but the supersector was responsible for nearly 10 percent of Houston's over-the-year job growth.

Smaller local gains were registered in construction, leisure and hospitality, manufacturing, other services, and financial activities. The only Houston supersector to increase at a slower-than-average pace when compared to the nation was leisure and hospitality, though the difference was not large, 1.4 percent locally versus 1.6 percent nationwide.

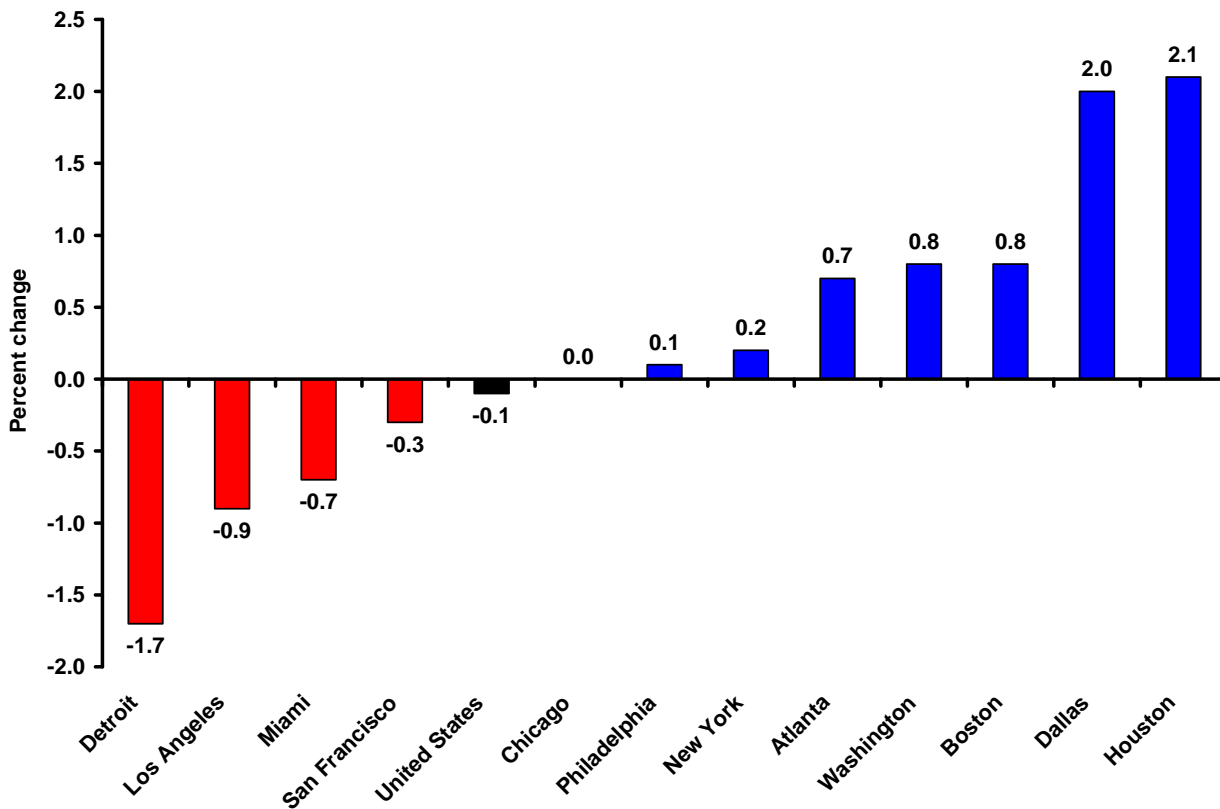
### **Employment in the 12 largest metropolitan areas**

The Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown area was one of the nation's 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas in June 2008. Seven of these 12 areas experienced over-the-year job growth; in contrast, employment declined 0.1 percent for the nation as a whole. Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown registered the fastest rate of gain, up 2.1 percent from June 2007, closely followed by Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, up 2.0 percent. The other five areas experiencing employment growth during the 12-month period were: Boston-Cambridge-Quincy and Washington-Arlington-Alexandria (both at 0.8 percent), Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta (0.7 percent), New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island (0.2 percent), and Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington (0.1 percent). (See chart C.)

Of the five remaining metropolitan areas, Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, registered no job growth. Employment declined in the other four areas: San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont (-0.3 percent), Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach (-0.7 percent), Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana (-0.9 percent), and Detroit-Warren-Livonia (-1.7 percent).

Dallas, the area with the second fastest growth rate in June 2008, added the largest number of jobs over the year, 57,800, followed closely by Houston with the addition of 54,100 jobs. Washington, D.C. was a more distant third, adding 25,300 to its count. The largest declines in employment occurred in Los Angeles (-48,900) and Detroit (-34,800).

**Chart C. Over-the-year percent change in employment, United States and 12 largest metropolitan areas, June 2008**



## **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 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.

**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 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 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/](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 on November 20, 2007. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available at [www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/fy2008/b08-01.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/fy2008/b08-01.pdf).

**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	June 2007	Apr 2008	May 2008	June 2008(p)	Change from June 2007 to June 2008	
					Number	Percent
U.S.						
Total nonfarm	138,791	137,730	138,383	138,624	-167	-0.1
Natural resources and mining	733	743	758	776	43	5.9
Construction	7,913	7,125	7,305	7,433	-480	-6.1
Manufacturing	13,990	13,544	13,564	13,632	-358	-2.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	26,662	26,274	26,395	26,482	-180	-0.7
Information	3,055	3,003	3,009	3,020	-35	-1.1
Financial activities	8,383	8,206	8,227	8,278	-105	-1.3
Professional and business services	18,133	18,000	17,980	18,068	-65	-0.4
Educational and health services	18,137	18,924	18,867	18,633	496	2.7
Leisure and hospitality	14,049	13,581	13,902	14,272	223	1.6
Other services	5,573	5,532	5,552	5,603	30	0.5
Government	22,163	22,798	22,824	22,427	264	1.2
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX						
Total nonfarm	2,565.2	2,597.3	2,606.1	2,619.3	54.1	2.1
Natural resources and mining	85.4	88.4	89.2	90.6	5.2	6.1
Construction	199.9	201.9	201.9	203.3	3.4	1.7
Manufacturing	234.7	236.0	235.7	237.8	3.1	1.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	519.8	524.5	525.4	530.3	10.5	2.0
Information	37.2	36.9	36.9	37.1	-0.1	-0.3
Financial activities	145.7	145.8	146.1	147.5	1.8	1.2
Professional and business services	383.5	386.9	388.3	392.0	8.5	2.2
Educational and health services	281.1	289.8	291.2	291.2	10.1	3.6
Leisure and hospitality	236.6	232.4	235.4	239.8	3.2	1.4
Other services	94.9	95.8	96.2	97.3	2.4	2.5
Government	346.4	358.9	359.8	352.4	6.0	1.7

(p) preliminary

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

Area and Industry	June 2007	Apr 2008	May 2008	June 2008(p)	Change from June 2007 to June 2008	
					Number	Percent
<b>Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,450.1	2,472.9	2,479.1	2,468.2	18.1	0.7
Natural resources and mining	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0
Construction	140.4	138.2	139.5	137.6	-2.8	-2.0
Manufacturing	176.4	173.6	173.1	171.4	-5.0	-2.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	561.8	563.0	565.0	565.0	3.2	0.6
Information	87.9	88.5	88.7	88.8	0.9	1.0
Financial activities	163.3	160.5	161.0	161.2	-2.1	-1.3
Professional and business services	406.6	410.0	409.1	410.6	4.0	1.0
Educational and health services	249.3	259.6	260.9	258.6	9.3	3.7
Leisure and hospitality	241.5	240.4	243.6	244.7	3.2	1.3
Other services	99.2	98.4	99.3	99.8	0.6	0.6
Government	321.2	338.2	336.4	328.0	6.8	2.1
<b>Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,510.2	2,497.7	2,513.5	2,529.4	19.2	0.8
Natural resources and mining	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.1	9.1
Construction	104.2	94.8	98.8	102.1	-2.1	-2.0
Manufacturing	224.0	219.9	219.7	221.3	-2.7	-1.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	423.2	412.7	416.7	421.8	-1.4	-0.3
Information	75.2	75.0	74.8	75.3	0.1	0.1
Financial activities	191.3	187.5	187.6	190.0	-1.3	-0.7
Professional and business services	415.0	413.6	417.4	423.0	8.0	1.9
Educational and health services	453.7	482.0	475.5	464.8	11.1	2.4
Leisure and hospitality	229.6	215.2	223.5	234.2	4.6	2.0
Other services	90.6	87.3	88.4	90.3	-0.3	-0.3
Government	302.3	308.6	309.9	305.4	3.1	1.0
<b>Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI</b>						
Total nonfarm	4,615.7	4,545.2	4,585.3	4,616.6	0.9	0.0
Natural resources and mining	2.5	2.3	2.5	2.6	0.1	4.0
Construction	227.0	205.8	213.5	219.4	-7.6	-3.3
Manufacturing	487.1	478.9	478.8	480.6	-6.5	-1.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	933.9	926.8	935.2	939.8	5.9	0.6
Information	91.6	91.2	91.1	91.5	-0.1	-0.1
Financial activities	333.3	325.0	325.0	327.3	-6.0	-1.8
Professional and business services	754.3	740.9	749.1	758.7	4.4	0.6
Educational and health services	588.6	601.1	601.6	597.5	8.9	1.5
Leisure and hospitality	425.8	402.0	413.8	425.4	-0.4	-0.1
Other services	200.9	196.9	197.0	200.5	-0.4	-0.2
Government	570.3	574.3	577.7	573.3	3.0	0.5
<b>Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,959.0	2,996.3	3,005.5	3,016.8	57.8	2.0
Natural resources, mining, and construction	190.8	193.8	194.8	199.0	8.2	4.3
Manufacturing	299.8	294.8	294.6	296.0	-3.8	-1.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	623.6	626.6	628.1	630.8	7.2	1.2
Information	88.7	89.9	89.4	89.8	1.1	1.2
Financial activities	235.2	236.4	237.0	238.6	3.4	1.4
Professional and business services	442.8	445.1	444.7	448.4	5.6	1.3
Educational and health services	315.7	329.6	330.9	329.0	13.3	4.2
Leisure and hospitality	285.9	288.1	292.1	295.9	10.0	3.5
Other services	109.2	109.0	109.9	111.7	2.5	2.3
Government	367.3	383.0	384.0	377.6	10.3	2.8

(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	June 2007	Apr 2008	May 2008	June 2008(p)	Change from June 2007 to June 2008	
					Number	Percent
<b>Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI</b>						
Total nonfarm	1,996.9	1,919.3	1,946.4	1,962.1	-34.8	-1.7
Natural resources, mining, and construction	75.6	61.0	65.1	66.8	-8.8	-11.6
Manufacturing	262.6	232.9	238.5	246.8	-15.8	-6.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	367.7	359.7	363.0	365.1	-2.6	-0.7
Information	34.3	33.0	33.1	33.1	-1.2	-3.5
Financial activities	113.2	109.7	109.9	110.7	-2.5	-2.2
Professional and business services	354.0	342.3	347.1	350.6	-3.4	-1.0
Educational and health services	277.5	284.1	285.0	284.6	7.1	2.6
Leisure and hospitality	190.8	179.7	186.8	189.9	-0.9	-0.5
Other services	89.8	85.9	86.6	87.1	-2.7	-3.0
Government	231.4	231.0	231.3	227.4	-4.0	-1.7
<b>Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,565.2	2,597.3	2,606.1	2,619.3	54.1	2.1
Natural resources and mining	85.4	88.4	89.2	90.6	5.2	6.1
Construction	199.9	201.9	201.9	203.3	3.4	1.7
Manufacturing	234.7	236.0	235.7	237.8	3.1	1.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	519.8	524.5	525.4	530.3	10.5	2.0
Information	37.2	36.9	36.9	37.1	-0.1	-0.3
Financial activities	145.7	145.8	146.1	147.5	1.8	1.2
Professional and business services	383.5	386.9	388.3	392.0	8.5	2.2
Educational and health services	281.1	289.8	291.2	291.2	10.1	3.6
Leisure and hospitality	236.6	232.4	235.4	239.8	3.2	1.4
Other services	94.9	95.8	96.2	97.3	2.4	2.5
Government	346.4	358.9	359.8	352.4	6.0	1.7
<b>Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA</b>						
Total nonfarm	5,659.4	5,607.2	5,611.1	5,610.5	-48.9	-0.9
Natural resources and mining	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	0.0
Construction	266.1	246.1	246.7	248.4	-17.7	-6.7
Manufacturing	632.1	620.8	619.7	619.4	-12.7	-2.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,092.0	1,079.1	1,080.6	1,083.8	-8.2	-0.8
Information	244.1	230.9	234.6	232.2	-11.9	-4.9
Financial activities	375.0	355.6	354.5	354.1	-20.9	-5.6
Professional and business services	882.2	876.6	872.6	874.8	-7.4	-0.8
Educational and health services	621.9	649.5	646.5	639.0	17.1	2.7
Leisure and hospitality	579.5	573.3	577.4	580.8	1.3	0.2
Other services	197.0	197.1	197.7	198.5	1.5	0.8
Government	764.5	773.2	775.8	774.5	10.0	1.3
<b>Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,416.9	2,432.0	2,431.1	2,399.5	-17.4	-0.7
Natural resources and mining	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	-0.1	-12.5
Construction	159.9	142.3	143.2	143.1	-16.8	-10.5
Manufacturing	99.1	93.8	93.7	93.4	-5.7	-5.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	546.4	544.7	542.4	543.2	-3.2	-0.6
Information	52.6	51.1	51.3	51.3	-1.3	-2.5
Financial activities	180.9	175.5	174.9	175.7	-5.2	-2.9
Professional and business services	400.8	393.3	393.8	394.4	-6.4	-1.6
Educational and health services	317.5	328.8	329.9	328.4	10.9	3.4
Leisure and hospitality	256.5	264.2	262.8	260.5	4.0	1.6
Other services	101.6	102.5	102.7	102.9	1.3	1.3
Government	300.8	335.1	335.7	305.9	5.1	1.7

(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	June 2007	Apr 2008	May 2008	June 2008(p)	Change from June 2007 to June 2008	
					Number	Percent
<b>New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA</b>						
Total nonfarm	8,690.4	8,586.4	8,646.1	8,709.4	19.0	0.2
Natural resources, mining, and construction	375.0	357.5	368.2	375.2	0.2	0.1
Manufacturing	455.5	435.0	435.1	436.1	-19.4	-4.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,630.9	1,602.7	1,614.0	1,629.2	-1.7	-0.1
Information	291.5	293.9	294.5	295.4	3.9	1.3
Financial activities	805.9	788.2	788.1	794.1	-11.8	-1.5
Professional and business services	1,320.5	1,298.5	1,305.0	1,322.3	1.8	0.1
Educational and health services	1,438.3	1,471.2	1,472.1	1,460.3	22.0	1.5
Leisure and hospitality	686.5	649.4	672.9	696.0	9.5	1.4
Other services	375.8	374.0	377.3	380.5	4.7	1.3
Government	1,310.5	1,316.0	1,318.9	1,320.3	9.8	0.7
<b>Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,837.1	2,823.9	2,835.9	2,839.4	2.3	0.1
Natural resources, mining, and construction	131.6	123.8	126.6	128.8	-2.8	-2.1
Manufacturing	222.5	216.5	215.9	217.2	-5.3	-2.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	533.3	526.4	530.0	531.7	-1.6	-0.3
Information	58.0	57.4	57.5	57.6	-0.4	-0.7
Financial activities	221.6	216.4	216.8	218.2	-3.4	-1.5
Professional and business services	435.4	433.3	434.8	438.3	2.9	0.7
Educational and health services	518.2	539.4	536.8	526.5	8.3	1.6
Leisure and hospitality	234.9	223.8	231.1	237.2	2.3	1.0
Other services	125.5	124.4	125.2	126.2	0.7	0.6
Government	356.1	362.5	361.2	357.7	1.6	0.4
<b>San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,043.1	2,036.3	2,038.7	2,036.9	-6.2	-0.3
Natural resources and mining	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.2	14.3
Construction	118.5	112.9	113.8	114.3	-4.2	-3.5
Manufacturing	137.9	136.4	136.5	136.3	-1.6	-1.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	358.8	353.3	353.5	353.6	-5.2	-1.4
Information	68.6	68.0	67.9	67.7	-0.9	-1.3
Financial activities	153.0	147.5	147.0	147.1	-5.9	-3.9
Professional and business services	356.2	360.9	359.8	361.4	5.2	1.5
Educational and health services	230.8	233.9	233.8	231.8	1.0	0.4
Leisure and hospitality	216.2	213.6	216.4	217.8	1.6	0.7
Other services	75.3	75.6	75.8	75.9	0.6	0.8
Government	326.4	332.6	332.6	329.4	3.0	0.9
<b>Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV</b>						
Total nonfarm	3,017.0	3,007.7	3,026.0	3,042.3	25.3	0.8
Natural resources, mining, and construction	189.7	179.9	181.7	184.1	-5.6	-3.0
Manufacturing	62.9	61.0	61.1	61.5	-1.4	-2.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	406.9	401.0	403.6	407.3	0.4	0.1
Information	94.3	91.4	91.7	92.2	-2.1	-2.2
Financial activities	160.9	155.7	156.3	157.1	-3.8	-2.4
Professional and business services	685.6	685.8	688.4	695.2	9.6	1.4
Educational and health services	324.0	339.8	337.4	333.2	9.2	2.8
Leisure and hospitality	264.6	251.4	257.6	265.6	1.0	0.4
Other services	182.6	184.7	186.3	188.3	5.7	3.1
Government	645.5	657.0	661.9	657.8	12.3	1.9

(p) preliminary