

Employment in the information sector in March 2004

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Employment in the information sector stood at 3,158,000 in the United States in March 2004, 1.7 percent less

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than the year before.¹ Nationwide, 56,000 jobs were lost over this 12-month period, continuing a trend of over-the-year declines that began in September 2001. (See chart 1.) Since the start of the most recent recession in March 2001, this industry sector has lost 555,000 jobs or approximately 1 out of every 7 positions. Nearly three-fourths of the monthly over-the-year losses in information since March 2001 occurred in the telecommunications (–276,300) and publishing (–127,300) industries. (Use of not seasonally adjusted data does not allow for over-the-month comparisons; ac-

cordingly, monthly analysis was based on the over-the-year change.)

Information employment by State

Among the 14 States in the Nation in which information-sector employment exceeded 75,000, 11 reported over-the-year job decreases in March 2004, two (Georgia and North Carolina) were essentially unchanged, and only one (Washington) recorded an increase.² The largest over-the-year employment declines were in California (–16,800),

Chart 1. Employment in the information sector, over-the-year net change, 1999–2004

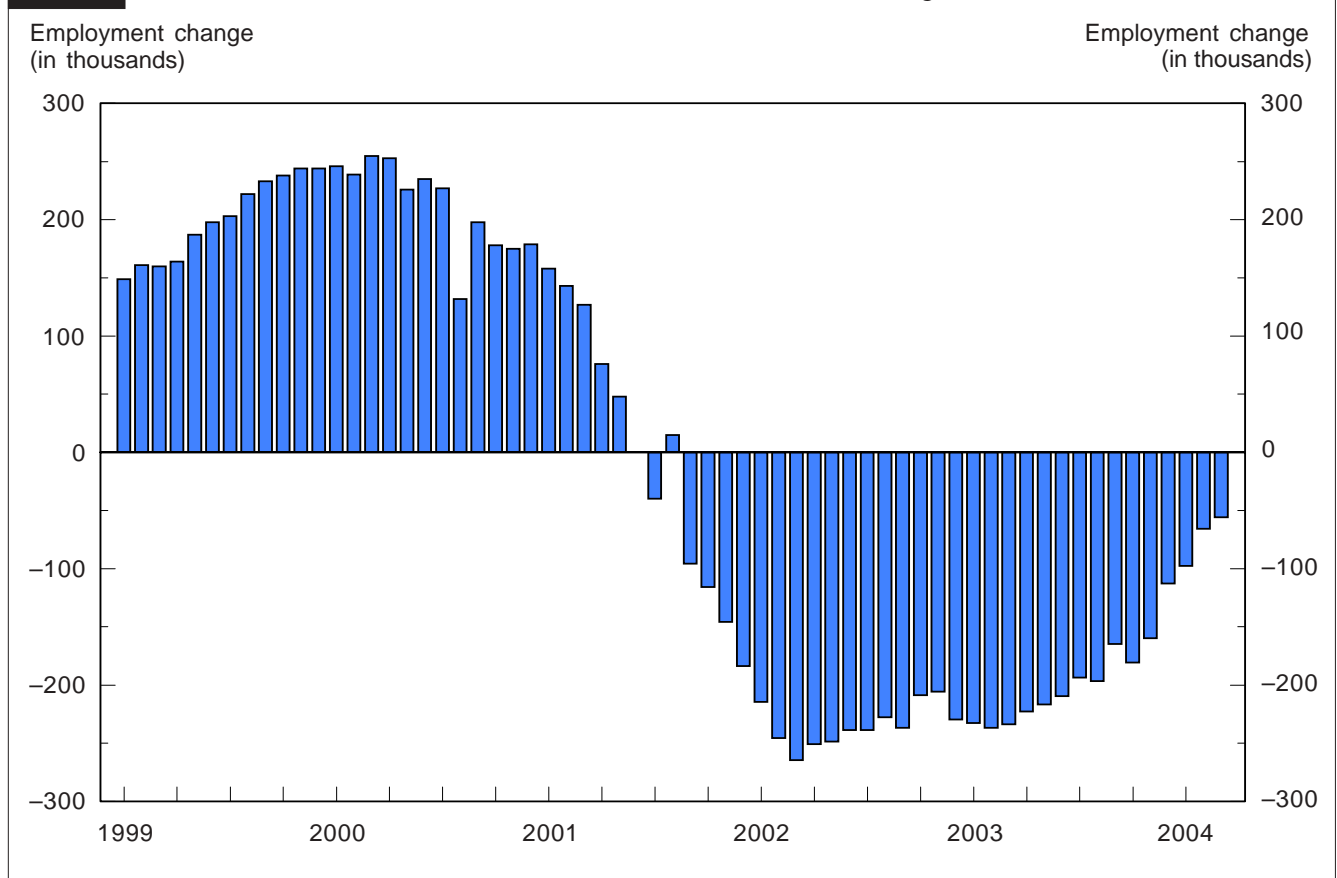


Table 1. Employment change in the information sector, March 2003–04, United States and selected States, not seasonally adjusted

[Numbers in thousands]

Area	March 2003	January 2004	February 2004	March 2004 ³	Changes from March 2003 to March 2004	
					Net	Percent
United States	3,214.0	3,151.0	3,155.0	3,158.0	-56.0	-1.7
Northeast						
Massachusetts	93.0	88.6	88.4	88.0	-5.0	-5.4
New Jersey	102.8	99.1	99.7	100.8	-2.0	-1.9
New York	278.1	270.3	273.6	276.2	-1.9	-0.7
Pennsylvania	124.3	121.1	120.9	121.7	-2.6	-2.1
South						
Florida	173.0	171.1	171.6	170.1	-2.9	-1.7
Georgia	127.3	126.8	127.3	126.5	-0.8	-0.6
North Carolina	75.8	74.7	75.6	75.1	-0.7	-0.9
Texas	237.5	228.5	229.1	230.4	-7.1	-3.0
Virginia	101.5	101.1	100.3	100.4	-1.1	-1.1
Midwest						
Illinois	135.2	131.7	131.2	131.4	-3.8	-2.8
Ohio	97.7	95.6	95.0	95.1	-2.6	-2.7
West						
California	481.0	466.2	466.7	464.2	-16.8	-3.5
Colorado	85.7	82.7	83.3	82.7	-3.0	-3.5
Washington	91.5	92.7	93.4	93.8	2.3	2.5

NOTE: States selected had information-sector employment levels exceeding 75,000 in September 2003.

¹ Data for the United States are preliminary.

² Data are preliminary.

Table 2. Employment change in selected industries in the information sector over the March 2003–04 period, United States and selected States

[Preliminary data, not seasonally adjusted]

Area	Total	Publishing, except Internet	Motion picture and sound recording	Broadcasting, except Internet	Telecommunications	Internet service providers ¹
United States	-56,000	-20,900	9,000	6,500	-43,900	-7,800
Northeast						
Massachusetts	-5,000	-2,200	-	-	-1,600	-
New Jersey	-2,000	-700	-	-	-1,400	-500
New York	-1,900	500	900	300	-3,700	-800
Pennsylvania	-2,600	-1,100	-	-	-900	-700
South						
Florida	-2,900	600	-	-500	-1,900	-1,400
Georgia	-800	-	-	-	800	0
North Carolina	-700	-400	-	-	-1,200	-300
Texas	-7,100	-1,500	-	-	-6,100	-600
Virginia	-1,100	-	-	-	-2,700	-
Midwest						
Illinois	-3,800	-1,200	-100	-300	-1,800	-200
Ohio	-2,600	-700	-	-	-1,700	-
West						
California	-16,800	-5,200	-3,100	700	-8,300	-1,300
Colorado	-3,000	-900	-	-	-2,300	-
Washington	2,300	-	-	0	-100	-

¹ Data for Internet service providers, Web search portals, and data processing services are included in this category.

NOTE: Data for Internet publishing and broadcasting and other information services are available for the United States as a whole but are omitted from this table. Dash indicates data not available.

followed by Texas (-7,100), and Massachusetts (-5,000). (See table 1.) These three States employed 1 out of every 4 workers in this industry. The largest over-the-year percentage declines in employment occurred in Massachusetts (-5.4 percent), followed by Colorado and California (-3.5 percent each), and Texas (-3.0 percent).

The only State to post an over-the-year employment increase in the information sector was Washington, which added 2,300 jobs between March 2003 and 2004, a gain of 2.5 percent. This was the third consecutive month that the State had more information jobs than a year earlier. Until these recent advances, Washington had registered over-the-year job declines in every month since July 2001. In the other 13 States, over-the-year job declines in the information sec-

tor have continued for lengthy periods, ranging from 30 to 36 consecutive months.

Among States with employment declines in the information industry, the telecommunications subsector was typically the hardest hit, with particularly heavy losses in California (-8,300), Texas (-6,100), and New York (-3,700). (See table 2.) Employment declines were also widespread in the publishing subsector, with five States (California, Massachusetts, Texas, Illinois, and Pennsylvania) recording declines of more than 1,000 jobs since last March. Other subsectors were highly concentrated; Florida and California, which have a large concentration of Internet service providers jobs, bore the brunt of this industry's losses—down 1,400 and 1,300 jobs, respectively. The de-

clines in these two States accounted for more than one-third of the over-the-year job losses in the Internet service providers industry nationwide. Despite the loss of 3,100 motion picture and sound recording jobs in California, this industry gained 9,000 jobs nationwide between March 2003 and 2004. Broadcasting was the only other information industry sector to add jobs over the year nationwide, up 6,500.

Employment in the information sector is not regionally concentrated, with those States with job counts exceeding 75,000 located in all four geographic regions of the country.³ (See map.) Likewise, over-the-year employment declines in this industry extended to all regions of the country over the last 2 years. (See tables 3, 4, and 5 for changes during 2002, 2003, and 2004.)

Table 3. Employment changes over the July–December 2002 period, United States and selected States, not seasonally adjusted

[Numbers in thousands]

Area and region	Over-the-year net change						Over-the-year percent change					
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
United States	-239.0	-228.0	-237.0	-209.0	-206.0	-230.0	-6.6	-6.3	-6.6	-5.9	-5.8	-6.5
Northeast												
Massachusetts	-12.1	-11.7	-11.1	-9.2	-8.7	-7.8	-10.8	-10.6	-10.3	-8.7	-8.3	-7.4
New Jersey	-14.7	-12.5	-16.9	-19.9	-19.2	-19.7	-11.7	-10.1	-13.4	-16.0	-15.3	-15.7
New York	-34.1	-29.7	-29.5	-26.6	-27.5	-26.9	-10.5	-9.2	-9.3	-8.4	-8.6	-8.5
Pennsylvania	-8.2	-7.5	-6.9	-6.9	-6.8	-7.0	-6.0	-5.5	-5.2	-5.2	-5.1	-5.3
South												
Florida	-11.4	-10.9	-9.9	-8.6	-8.0	-8.1	-6.1	-5.8	-5.3	-4.7	-4.4	-4.4
Georgia	-12.0	-11.8	-12.1	-10.9	-13.3	-13.0	-8.4	-8.3	-8.5	-7.7	-9.4	-9.2
North Carolina	-2.8	-3.3	-2.3	-1.9	-2.4	-1.0	-3.4	-4.0	-2.9	-2.4	-3.0	-1.3
Texas	-21.8	-22.0	-22.1	-21.0	-20.9	-19.3	-8.1	-8.2	-8.3	-7.9	-7.9	-7.4
Virginia	-14.3	-13.6	-14.0	-12.2	-10.5	-10.2	-12.0	-11.5	-12.0	-10.7	-9.3	-9.0
Midwest												
Illinois	-11.4	-11.4	-11.9	-10.4	-11.1	-12.1	-7.3	-7.4	-7.8	-6.9	-7.4	-8.0
Ohio	-5.5	-5.5	-5.3	-5.9	-5.3	-5.4	-5.1	-5.2	-5.1	-5.7	-5.1	-5.2
West												
California	-52.6	-43.8	-47.6	-36.1	-27.6	-43.1	-9.8	-8.2	-9.0	-6.9	-5.3	-8.2
Colorado	-14.9	-14.5	-13.9	-12.9	-12.3	-11.9	-14.0	-13.7	-13.4	-12.6	-12.1	-11.8
Washington	-5.4	-5.1	-3.9	-3.0	-2.7	-3.4	-5.4	-5.1	-4.0	-3.1	-2.8	-3.5

Table 4. Employment changes over the January–December 2003 period, United States and selected States, not seasonally adjusted

[Numbers in thousands]

Area and region	Over-the year net change											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
United States	-233.0	-237.0	-234.0	-223.0	-217.0	-210.0	-194.0	-197.0	-165.0	-181.0	-160.0	-113.0
Northeast												
Massachusetts	-9.8	-9.6	-9.5	-8.4	-8.2	-7.3	-8.3	-7.7	-7.0	-6.8	-7.0	-7.3
New Jersey	-18.2	-17.9	-17.5	-14.2	-14.3	-13.1	-8.7	-8.0	-7.6	-3.5	-4.5	-3.5
New York	-22.4	-22.3	-20.9	-23.5	-22.1	-26.4	-19.3	-14.6	-16.1	-14.8	-15.0	-12.3
Pennsylvania	-6.3	-6.5	-6.4	-5.5	-5.7	-4.9	-4.2	-3.6	-3.5	-3.5	-3.6	-3.7
South												
Florida	-8.8	-8.0	-7.8	-8.7	-8.2	-7.7	-5.9	-5.1	-2.8	-1.9	-3.5	-3.4
Georgia	-4.7	-5.5	-6.2	-6.5	-6.8	-5.7	-5.8	-4.7	-4.6	-3.9	-1.8	-1.4
North Carolina	-3.4	-3.3	-3.8	-4.8	-4.5	-3.9	-3.3	-2.7	-1.4	-1.6	-1.7	-2.7
Texas	-19.7	-18.4	-17.7	-16.1	-15.9	-15.2	-12.0	-11.7	-11.8	-11.5	-11.7	-11.6
Virginia	-8.6	-7.8	-7.3	-6.9	-6.6	-5.5	-3.3	-3.3	-2.6	-1.6	-1.8	-1.3
Midwest												
Illinois	-12.1	-11.5	-12.4	-12.1	-11.7	-10.9	-8.6	-8.7	-7.3	-7.0	-6.3	-6.0
Ohio	-5.3	-4.8	-4.5	-4.3	-3.6	-3.8	-3.1	-3.1	-3.2	-2.5	-3.0	-2.8
West												
California	-30.3	-24.8	-38.8	-30.6	-27.3	-35.3	-23.0	-19.5	-20.2	-23.2	-23.2	-14.7
Colorado	-11.6	-10.9	-10.5	-10.2	-9.2	-8.7	-6.9	-6.6	-6.0	-4.9	-5.1	-4.4
Washington	-2.0	-1.9	-2.0	-2.1	-1.6	-1.8	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5
Over-the year percent change												
United States	-6.7	-6.9	-6.8	-6.5	-6.4	-6.1	-5.7	-5.8	-5.0	-5.4	-4.8	-3.4
Northeast												
Massachusetts	-9.5	-9.3	-9.3	-8.4	-8.2	-7.3	-8.3	-7.8	-7.2	-7.0	-7.2	-7.5
New Jersey	-15.0	-14.9	-14.5	-12.2	-12.3	-11.3	-7.8	-7.2	-6.9	-3.3	-4.2	-3.3
New York	-7.5	-7.4	-7.0	-7.9	-7.2	-8.7	-6.6	-5.0	-5.6	-5.1	-5.1	-4.2
Pennsylvania	-4.8	-5.0	-4.9	-4.3	-4.4	-3.8	-3.3	-2.8	-2.8	-2.8	-2.9	-2.9
South												
Florida	-4.9	-4.4	-4.3	-4.9	-4.6	-4.3	-3.3	-2.9	-1.6	-1.1	-2.0	-1.9
Georgia	-3.5	-4.1	-4.6	-4.9	-5.1	-4.3	-4.4	-3.6	-3.5	-3.0	-1.4	-1.1
North Carolina	-4.3	-4.2	-4.8	-6.1	-5.7	-4.9	-4.2	-3.5	-1.8	-2.1	-2.2	-3.5
Texas	-7.6	-7.2	-6.9	-6.4	-6.3	-6.0	-4.8	-4.7	-4.8	-4.7	-4.8	-4.8
Virginia	-7.8	-7.1	-6.7	-6.4	-6.1	-5.1	-3.1	-3.2	-2.5	-1.6	-1.7	-1.3
Midwest												
Illinois	-8.1	-7.8	-8.4	-8.2	-7.9	-7.4	-6.0	-6.1	-5.2	-5.0	-4.5	-4.3
Ohio	-5.1	-4.7	-4.4	-4.2	-3.5	-3.7	-3.1	-3.1	-3.2	-2.5	-3.0	-2.8
West												
California	-5.9	-4.9	-7.5	-6.1	-5.4	-7.0	-4.7	-4.0	-4.2	-4.8	-4.7	-3.1
Colorado	-11.8	-11.2	-10.9	-10.7	-9.8	-9.3	-7.5	-7.3	-6.7	-5.5	-5.7	-5.0
Washington	-2.1	-2.0	-2.1	-2.3	-1.7	-1.9	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6	-1.1	-1.1

Table 5. Employment changes over the January–March 2004 period, United States and selected States, not seasonally adjusted

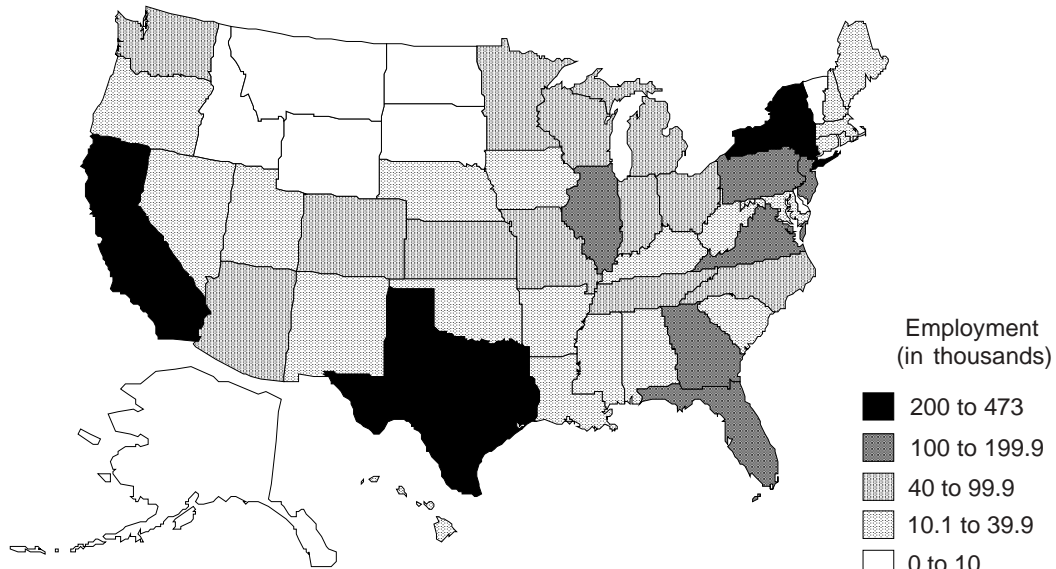
[Numbers in thousands]

Area and region	Over-the year net change			Over-the year percent change		
	January	February	March ¹	January	February	March ¹
United States	-98.0	-66.0	-56.0	-3.0	-2.0	-1.7
Northeast						
Massachusetts	-5.1	-4.7	-5.0	-5.4	-5.0	-5.4
New Jersey	-3.7	-2.7	-2.0	-3.6	-2.6	-1.9
New York	-6.7	-7.4	-1.9	-2.4	-2.6	-7
Pennsylvania	-3.0	-2.6	-2.6	-2.4	-2.1	-2.1
South						
Florida	-6	-1.0	-2.9	-3	-6	-1.7
Georgia	-3.5	-2.1	-8	-2.7	-1.6	-6
North Carolina	-1.5	-5	-7	-2.0	-7	-9
Texas	-10.1	-8.8	-7.1	-4.2	-3.7	-3.0
Virginia	-2	-1.3	-1.1	-2	-1.3	-1.1
Midwest						
Illinois	-4.7	-5.1	-3.8	-3.4	-3.7	-2.8
Ohio	-2.6	-2.7	-2.6	-2.6	-2.8	-2.7
West						
California	-13.6	-19.8	-16.8	-2.8	-4.1	-3.5
Colorado	-3.8	-2.8	-3.0	-4.4	-3.3	-3.5
Washington5	1.4	2.3	.5	1.5	2.5

¹ Data are preliminary.

NOTE: February data for the United States are also preliminary.

Information industry employment, 2003 annual average



Notes

¹ The nonfarm payroll series for States and metropolitan areas produced from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program are based on the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). NAICS is the product of a cooperative effort on the part of the statistical agencies of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. NAICS uses a production-oriented approach to categorize economic units. Units with similar production processes are classified in the same industry. See <http://www.bls.gov/sae/saewhatis.htm> for an overview of NAICS classification. All State nonfarm payroll employment estimates have a NAICS-based history extending back to January 1990, except for total nonfarm employment esti-

mates which have retained their beginning date.

This report contains data for the Information sector (NAICS sector code 51), which includes software publishing, and both traditional publishing and publishing exclusively on the Internet; the motion picture and sound recording industries; the broadcasting industries, including traditional broadcasting and those broadcasting exclusively over the Internet; the telecommunications industries; and the industries known as Internet service providers and Web search portals, data processing industries, and the information services industries. These nonfarm payroll data series reflect March 2003 benchmark levels, the completion of the conversion of the CES survey sample from a quota-based basis to a probability-based basis, and a modification of the seasonal adjustment process.

² State estimation procedures are designed to produce accurate data for each individual state. BLS independently develops a national employment series; State estimates are not forced to sum to national totals. Because each State series is subject to larger sampling and nonsampling errors than the national series, summing them cumulates individual State-level errors and can cause significant distortions at an aggregate level. Due to these statistical limitations, BLS does not compile a “sum-of-states” employment series, and cautions users that such a series is subject to a relatively large and volatile error structure.

³ There are four geographic regions in the United States as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau: Northeast, South, Midwest, and West.