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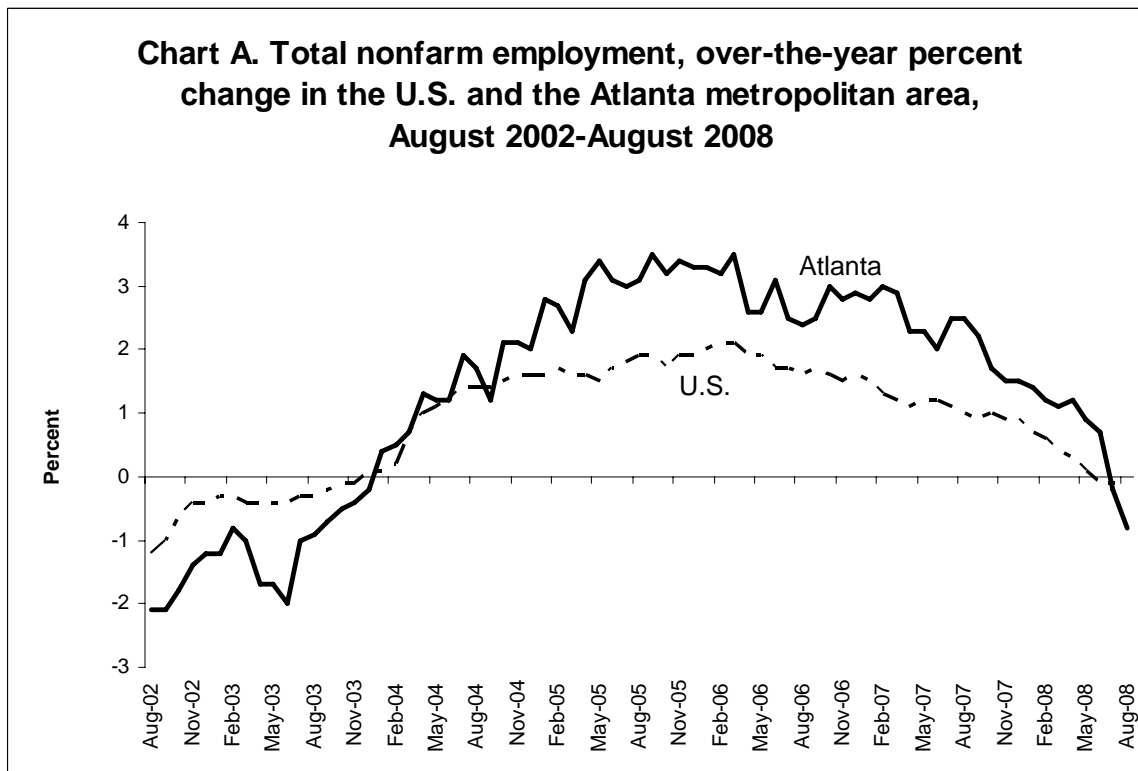
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FOR RELEASE:  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2008

### August 2008 Job Count for the Atlanta Area Declines by 20,100 Over the Year

Total nonfarm employment for the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta Metropolitan Statistical Area stood at 2,449,800 in August 2008, 20,100 below its year-ago level, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The 0.8 percent rate of job loss in the Atlanta metropolitan area exceeded the 0.2-percent national decrease in jobs from August 2007 to August 2008. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that this was the second month of over-the-year declines for the area. (See chart A and table 1. 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 U.S. and the Atlanta metropolitan area, August 2002-August 2008**



## **Industry Employment**

In the Atlanta metropolitan area manufacturing and construction experienced employment losses of 8,100 and 8,000 jobs, respectively, over the year. The local rate of job loss in manufacturing, at 4.6 percent, compared to the national decline of 3.0 percent. In comparison, construction's 5.7-percent drop in Atlanta was similar to the rate of decline nationally from August 2006 to August 2007.

The other industries in Atlanta with large job losses were financial activities (-3,700); professional and business services (-3,200); and trade, transportation, and utilities (-2,800). Locally, the rate of job loss in financial activities, at 2.3 percent, was almost double the national average of 1.3 percent. In the other two local supersectors, the percentage loss in jobs in professional and business services (-0.8 percent) matched the national rate of decline and in trade, transportation, and utilities (-0.5 percent), it was below that for the nation in August 2008.

In contrast to the above-mentioned industries, the education and health services supersector was a source of growth in the Atlanta area in August 2008, adding 5,800 jobs over the year. Still, the local rate of job growth in this industry, at 2.3 percent, fell below the 3.2-percent rate experienced nationally.

## **Employment in the 12 Largest Areas**

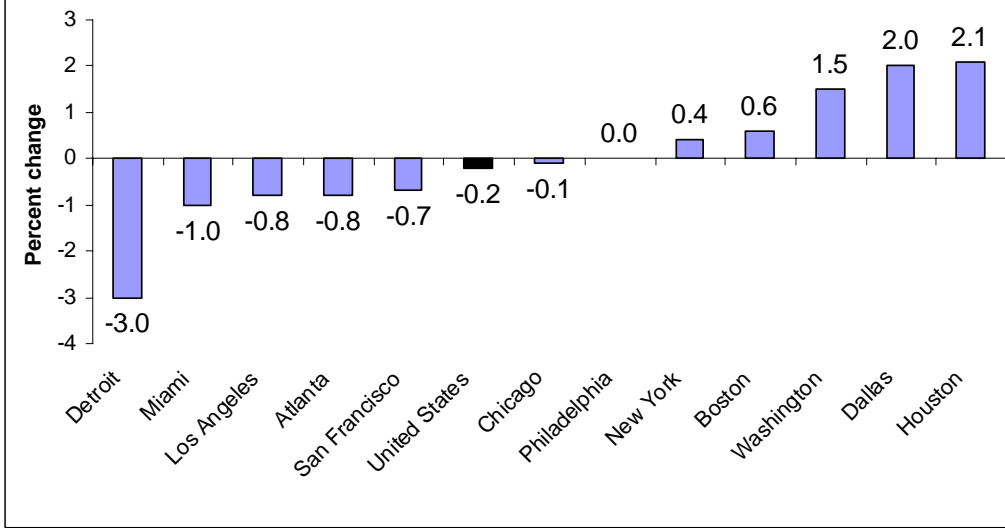
The Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta area was 1 of the nation's 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas in August 2008. Six of these 12 areas experienced over-the-year job losses, 5 at a rate surpassing the national average (-0.2 percent). Detroit-Warren-Livonia suffered the sharpest over-the-year decline, down 3.0 percent. Employment in Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach retreated by 1.0 percent. Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta and Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana reported losses of 0.8 percent, followed closely by San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, down 0.7 percent. Chicago-Naperville-Joliet (-0.1 percent) was the only area to lose jobs at a slower-than-average pace.

To put this loss of jobs in historical perspective, the last 12-month period when at least half of the largest areas reported job declines was February 2004, when many areas were still emerging from the 2001 recession.

Houston and Dallas led the large areas with job growth of 2.1 and 2.0 percent, respectively, while Washington-Arlington-Alexandria followed with an increase of 1.5 percent. Boston-Cambridge-Quincy and New York posted smaller gains of 0.6 and 0.4 percent, respectively. In Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, employment remained virtually unchanged. (See chart B.)

Detroit, the area with the largest percentage decline in employment in August 2008, also lost the most jobs, 58,900. Los Angeles followed with job losses of 43,400. Dallas, the area with the second fastest growth rate in August 2008, added the largest number of jobs over-the-year 59,800, followed by Houston at 53,400, then Washington, with 44,600.

**Chart B. Over-the-year percent change in employment, 12 largest areas and United States, August 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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/](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 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/](http://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](http://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	Aug 2007	June 2008	July 2008	Aug 2008(p)	Change from Aug 2007 to Aug 2008	
					Number	Percent
<b>United States</b>						
Total nonfarm	137,524.0	138,676.0	137,208.0	137,231.0	-293.0	-0.2
Natural resources and mining	743.0	777.0	791.0	806.0	63.0	8.5
Construction	7,912.0	7,421.0	7,461.0	7,465.0	-447.0	-5.6
Manufacturing	13,934.0	13,627.0	13,524.0	13,521.0	-413.0	-3.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	26,614.0	26,474.0	26,367.0	26,335.0	-279.0	-1.0
Information	3,031.0	3,021.0	2,997.0	2,988.0	-43.0	-1.4
Financial activities	8,363.0	8,274.0	8,281.0	8,258.0	-105.0	-1.3
Professional and business services	18,157.0	18,090.0	18,021.0	18,016.0	-141.0	-0.8
Education and health services	18,068.0	18,700.0	18,592.0	18,653.0	585.0	3.2
Leisure and hospitality	14,108.0	14,251.0	14,329.0	14,253.0	145.0	1.0
Other services	5,537.0	5,601.0	5,595.0	5,561.0	24.0	0.4
Government	21,057.0	22,440.0	21,250.0	21,375.0	318.0	1.5
<b>Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,469.9	2,467.9	2,439.9	2,449.8	-20.1	-0.8
Natural resources and mining	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	-0.1	-4.0
Construction	140.5	137.9	135.9	132.5	-8.0	-5.7
Manufacturing	175.8	172.1	169.4	167.7	-8.1	-4.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	562.5	565.0	561.0	559.7	-2.8	-0.5
Information	87.7	88.9	88.5	88.1	0.4	0.5
Financial activities	163.2	160.4	159.7	159.5	-3.7	-2.3
Professional and business services	413.6	409.9	408.5	410.4	-3.2	-0.8
Education and health services	254.4	258.5	257.1	260.2	5.8	2.3
Leisure and hospitality	240.9	244.8	241.3	241.0	0.1	0.0
Other services	99.5	100.1	99.6	99.5	0.0	0.0
Government	329.3	327.9	316.5	328.8	-0.5	-0.2

(p) preliminary

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

Area and Industry	Aug 2007	June 2008	July 2008	Aug 2008(p)	Change from Aug 2007 to Aug 2008	
					Number	Percent
<b>Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,469.9	2,467.9	2,439.9	2,449.8	-20.1	-0.8
Natural resources and mining	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	-0.1	-4.0
Construction	140.5	137.9	135.9	132.5	-8.0	-5.7
Manufacturing	175.8	172.1	169.4	167.7	-8.1	-4.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	562.5	565.0	561.0	559.7	-2.8	-0.5
Information	87.7	88.9	88.5	88.1	0.4	0.5
Financial activities	163.2	160.4	159.7	159.5	-3.7	-2.3
Professional and business services	413.6	409.9	408.5	410.4	-3.2	-0.8
Education and health services	254.4	258.5	257.1	260.2	5.8	2.3
Leisure and hospitality	240.9	244.8	241.3	241.0	0.1	0.0
Other services	99.5	100.1	99.6	99.5	0.0	0.0
Government	329.3	327.9	316.5	328.8	-0.5	-0.2
<b>Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,475.7	2,529.2	2,499.6	2,491.5	15.8	0.6
Natural resources and mining	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.1	9.1
Construction	105.7	102.2	103.3	103.5	-2.2	-2.1
Manufacturing	222.7	221.1	219.9	220.1	-2.6	-1.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	417.0	421.9	417.3	416.6	-0.4	-0.1
Information	75.2	75.3	75.2	74.8	-0.4	-0.5
Financial activities	191.5	189.9	190.2	190.0	-1.5	-0.8
Professional and business services	416.3	422.9	422.5	424.5	8.2	2.0
Education and health services	452.9	465.1	466.0	463.2	10.3	2.3
Leisure and hospitality	230.1	234.2	233.7	233.9	3.8	1.7
Other services	90.8	90.0	90.4	90.3	-0.5	-0.6
Government	272.4	305.4	279.9	273.4	1.0	0.4
<b>Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI</b>						
Total nonfarm	4,593.6	4,612.7	4,593.4	4,587.9	-5.7	-0.1
Natural resources and mining	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0
Construction	226.5	217.7	218.4	218.6	-7.9	-3.5
Manufacturing	483.0	480.3	477.8	477.3	-5.7	-1.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	928.9	939.5	935.5	934.1	5.2	0.6
Information	91.7	91.5	91.2	90.8	-0.9	-1.0
Financial activities	331.2	327.1	326.9	326.6	-4.6	-1.4
Professional and business services	757.8	758.5	757.3	759.7	1.9	0.3
Education and health services	584.4	597.4	593.2	593.0	8.6	1.5
Leisure and hospitality	426.2	424.3	425.4	426.1	-0.1	0.0
Other services	205.2	200.6	204.2	203.8	-1.4	-0.7
Government	555.6	573.3	561.0	555.4	-0.2	0.0
<b>Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,954.5	3,015.4	3,001.0	3,014.3	59.8	2.0
Natural resources, mining, and construction	191.5	198.9	199.3	200.0	8.5	4.4
Manufacturing	297.7	295.1	293.1	292.9	-4.8	-1.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	624.3	631.1	632.4	635.4	11.1	1.8
Information	90.2	90.2	88.7	88.8	-1.4	-1.6
Financial activities	235.8	238.3	238.0	238.0	2.2	0.9
Professional and business services	448.5	446.5	447.6	447.7	-0.8	-0.2
Education and health services	318.3	328.4	329.9	332.7	14.4	4.5
Leisure and hospitality	286.0	295.8	294.5	294.7	8.7	3.0
Other services	108.5	111.8	111.3	111.3	2.8	2.6
Government	353.7	379.3	366.2	372.8	19.1	5.4

(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	Aug 2007	June 2008	July 2008	Aug 2008(p)	Change from Aug 2007 to Aug 2008	
					Number	Percent
<b>Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI</b>						
Total nonfarm	1,954.7	1,954.3	1,892.9	1,895.8	-58.9	-3.0
Natural resources, mining, and construction	77.0	66.8	67.7	67.0	-10.0	-13.0
Manufacturing	257.9	243.2	227.1	229.0	-28.9	-11.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	365.3	363.9	358.1	357.7	-7.6	-2.1
Information	34.2	33.1	32.7	32.8	-1.4	-4.1
Financial activities	112.3	110.2	109.3	108.5	-3.8	-3.4
Professional and business services	354.4	348.8	340.9	345.0	-9.4	-2.7
Education and health services	273.9	283.9	281.3	281.4	7.5	2.7
Leisure and hospitality	188.0	189.7	186.8	187.1	-0.9	-0.5
Other services	89.1	87.2	86.7	86.4	-2.7	-3.0
Government	202.6	227.5	202.3	200.9	-1.7	-0.8
<b>Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,561.6	2,619.1	2,607.4	2,615.0	53.4	2.1
Natural resources and mining	85.7	90.4	91.3	92.0	6.3	7.4
Construction	197.3	203.5	202.9	203.7	6.4	3.2
Manufacturing	234.7	237.4	237.2	237.4	2.7	1.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	524.6	530.1	530.9	532.5	7.9	1.5
Information	37.0	37.1	37.0	36.9	-0.1	-0.3
Financial activities	146.3	147.7	148.4	148.8	2.5	1.7
Professional and business services	387.5	392.5	394.1	395.0	7.5	1.9
Education and health services	283.8	291.2	290.5	292.5	8.7	3.1
Leisure and hospitality	234.7	239.6	237.2	237.6	2.9	1.2
Other services	94.7	97.7	96.9	97.1	2.4	2.5
Government	335.3	351.9	341.0	341.5	6.2	1.8
<b>Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA</b>						
Total nonfarm	5,595.2	5,611.6	5,554.2	5,551.8	-43.4	-0.8
Natural resources and mining	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	0.0
Construction	266.7	248.7	249.1	250.8	-15.9	-6.0
Manufacturing	624.1	619.4	615.0	614.3	-9.8	-1.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,094.7	1,082.3	1,084.1	1,082.8	-11.9	-1.1
Information	245.5	234.9	229.5	238.5	-7.0	-2.9
Financial activities	371.6	354.7	353.4	353.1	-18.5	-5.0
Professional and business services	881.6	874.9	870.9	873.0	-8.6	-1.0
Education and health services	613.5	637.3	627.2	628.0	14.5	2.4
Leisure and hospitality	578.1	581.1	582.8	582.0	3.9	0.7
Other services	194.5	198.5	197.1	195.9	1.4	0.7
Government	719.9	774.8	740.1	728.4	8.5	1.2
<b>Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,414.7	2,395.9	2,363.3	2,391.3	-23.4	-1.0
Natural resources and mining	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Construction	156.7	143.0	139.9	138.7	-18.0	-11.5
Manufacturing	96.3	93.3	91.4	91.4	-4.9	-5.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	541.6	542.6	538.7	536.2	-5.4	-1.0
Information	52.0	51.3	51.1	50.8	-1.2	-2.3
Financial activities	179.4	175.4	174.2	172.9	-6.5	-3.6
Professional and business services	396.8	392.6	390.2	389.4	-7.4	-1.9
Education and health services	316.4	328.7	324.3	327.6	11.2	3.5
Leisure and hospitality	248.2	260.0	250.3	251.4	3.2	1.3
Other services	100.2	102.8	101.5	101.1	0.9	0.9
Government	326.4	305.5	301.0	331.1	4.7	1.4

(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	Aug 2007	June 2008	July 2008	Aug 2008(p)	Change from Aug 2007 to Aug 2008	
					Number	Percent
<b>New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA</b>						
Total nonfarm	8,556.1	8,706.3	8,637.7	8,589.7	33.6	0.4
Natural resources, mining, and construction	377.4	374.1	375.3	379.0	1.6	0.4
Manufacturing	450.3	435.9	430.2	429.7	-20.6	-4.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,595.4	1,628.3	1,605.8	1,601.5	6.1	0.4
Information	290.4	296.0	295.9	295.7	5.3	1.8
Financial activities	804.8	793.4	795.8	792.7	-12.1	-1.5
Professional and business services	1,321.8	1,323.2	1,321.5	1,323.5	1.7	0.1
Education and health services	1,401.4	1,459.8	1,438.3	1,429.3	27.9	2.0
Leisure and hospitality	683.5	694.9	700.2	695.9	12.4	1.8
Other services	370.9	381.2	378.0	376.8	5.9	1.6
Government	1,260.2	1,319.5	1,296.7	1,265.6	5.4	0.4
<b>Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,797.6	2,839.3	2,808.7	2,798.9	1.3	0.0
Natural resources, mining, and construction	133.5	128.7	129.8	130.5	-3.0	-2.2
Manufacturing	221.0	217.4	215.8	215.7	-5.3	-2.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	529.0	531.5	529.1	527.7	-1.3	-0.2
Information	57.9	57.6	57.5	57.7	-0.2	-0.3
Financial activities	221.4	217.6	217.7	217.2	-4.2	-1.9
Professional and business services	433.8	437.5	436.3	436.2	2.4	0.6
Education and health services	515.6	527.6	526.6	524.3	8.7	1.7
Leisure and hospitality	231.7	236.7	234.7	233.6	1.9	0.8
Other services	124.8	126.2	125.8	124.9	0.1	0.1
Government	328.9	358.5	335.4	331.1	2.2	0.7
<b>San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,036.6	2,039.5	2,025.3	2,023.3	-13.3	-0.7
Natural resources and mining	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.1	6.7
Construction	123.0	114.8	116.2	117.5	-5.5	-4.5
Manufacturing	137.7	136.4	136.5	136.6	-1.1	-0.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	359.2	353.6	353.6	353.6	-5.6	-1.6
Information	69.1	67.9	67.8	67.8	-1.3	-1.9
Financial activities	152.4	147.2	146.9	147.1	-5.3	-3.5
Professional and business services	360.6	361.4	362.7	363.2	2.6	0.7
Education and health services	226.7	231.4	229.9	229.3	2.6	1.1
Leisure and hospitality	217.8	218.3	217.9	218.1	0.3	0.1
Other services	75.4	76.0	75.4	75.1	-0.3	-0.4
Government	313.2	330.9	316.8	313.4	0.2	0.1
<b>Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,980.8	3,044.3	3,031.4	3,025.4	44.6	1.5
Natural resources, mining, and construction	189.1	183.9	183.3	183.5	-5.6	-3.0
Manufacturing	62.8	61.8	61.6	61.9	-0.9	-1.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	403.3	407.4	405.9	405.0	1.7	0.4
Information	94.0	92.3	92.6	92.2	-1.8	-1.9
Financial activities	159.2	157.2	156.9	156.6	-2.6	-1.6
Professional and business services	684.4	695.1	694.9	695.3	10.9	1.6
Education and health services	317.0	333.6	329.4	327.9	10.9	3.4
Leisure and hospitality	264.8	265.9	266.8	266.3	1.5	0.6
Other services	180.5	188.7	189.2	187.9	7.4	4.1
Government	625.7	658.4	650.8	648.8	23.1	3.7

(p) preliminary