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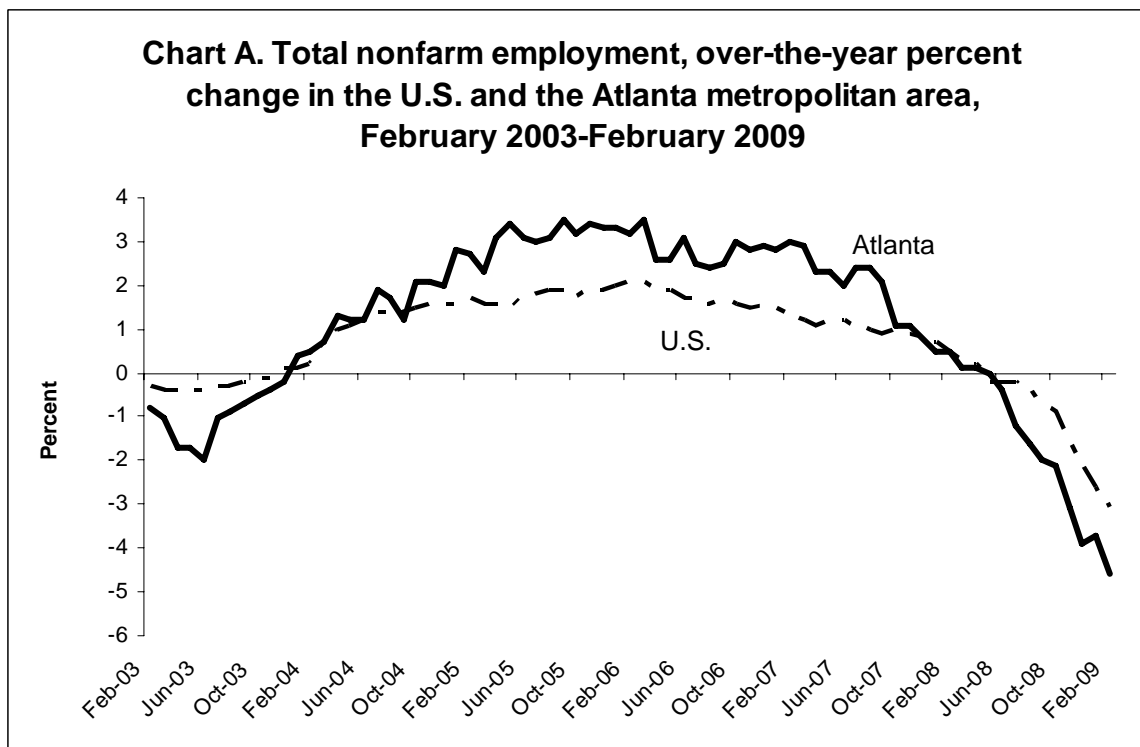
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FOR RELEASE:  
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## ATLANTA AREA EMPLOYMENT: FEBRUARY 2009 Job Count Declined by 111,300 Over the Year

Total nonfarm employment for the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta metropolitan statistical area stood at 2,332,700 in February 2009, a decline of 111,300 jobs from one year-ago, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The 4.6-percent rate of job loss in the Atlanta metropolitan area exceeded the national decrease of 3.1 percent from February 2008 to February 2009. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that this was the eighth consecutive 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.)



## **Industry Employment**

In the Atlanta metropolitan area, the professional and business services and trade, transportation, and utilities supersectors experienced the largest employment declines losing 30,400 and 29,600 jobs, respectively, over the year. The rate of job loss in professional and business services was greater locally (-7.4 percent) than nationally (-5.4 percent). Likewise, the percentage decline in trade, transportation, and utilities in Atlanta (-5.3 percent) exceeded that for the nation (-4.0 percent) from February 2008 to February 2009.

The other industries in Atlanta with large over-the-year job losses were construction (-21,300); manufacturing (-17,600); financial activities (-8,400); and leisure and hospitality (-6,100). The percentage loss in leisure and hospitality (-2.7 percent) was close to that for the nation (-2.4 percent), while in the other three sectors percentage losses exceeded their respective national rates of decline by a wider margin.

Two supersectors in the Atlanta metropolitan area experienced employment gains from February 2008 to February 2009. Education and health services added 4,500 jobs, increasing 1.7 percent. Nationally, this industry expanded at a 2.5-percent pace. Government added 1,900 jobs in Atlanta, up 0.6 percent, matching the national rate of growth in this sector.

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

The Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta area was 1 of the nation's 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas in February 2009. All 12 of these areas experienced over-the-year job losses. (See chart B and table 2.) The last over-the-year period for which all 12 areas reported job declines was December 1991 when the nation was emerging from the 1990-1991 recession. Nationally, employment declined 3.1 percent from February 2008 to February 2009.

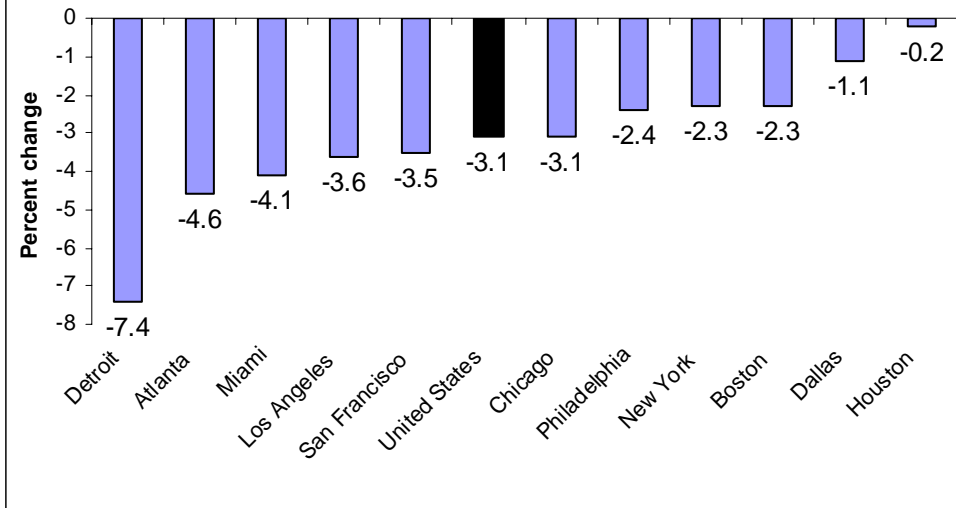
Of these 12 metropolitan areas, five—Detroit-Warren-Livonia (-7.4 percent), Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta (-4.6 percent), Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach (-4.1 percent), Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana (-3.6 percent), and San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont (-3.5 percent)—experienced employment declines at a faster-than-average pace. Job losses in Chicago-Naperville-Joliet occurred at the same rate as that for the nation.

Six metropolitan areas had a percentage loss in jobs that fell below the national average. Four of these areas experienced declines in the 2.5- to 1.0-percent range—Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, and Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington. Percentage losses in the remaining areas of Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown (-0.2 percent) and Washington-Arlington-Alexandria (-0.1 percent) were considerably smaller.

Five metropolitan areas experienced employment declines of over 100,000 from February a year ago, led by Los Angeles (-202,300) and New York (-193,000). Another four areas had job losses of 50,000 or more. Washington had the smallest decline in jobs, down 3,300 over the year.

In 7 of the 12 areas, professional and business services experienced the largest loss of jobs over the 12-month period.

**Chart B. Over-the-year percent change in employment, 12 largest areas and United States, February 2009**



## 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 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, 2008. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm>.

**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	Feb 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009(p)	Change from Feb 2008 to Feb 2009	
					Number	Percent
					<b>United States</b>	
Total nonfarm	136,356.0	135,917.0	132,347.0	132,099.0	-4,257.0	-3.1
Mining and logging	731.0	786.0	766.0	759.0	28.0	3.8
Construction	6,983.0	6,739.0	6,298.0	6,150.0	-833.0	-11.9
Manufacturing	13,578.0	12,944.0	12,522.0	12,353.0	-1,225.0	-9.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	26,246.0	26,475.0	25,536.0	25,199.0	-1,047.0	-4.0
Information	3,014.0	2,954.0	2,899.0	2,890.0	-124.0	-4.1
Financial activities	8,163.0	8,009.0	7,899.0	7,859.0	-304.0	-3.7
Professional and business services	17,695.0	17,406.0	16,899.0	16,746.0	-949.0	-5.4
Education and health services	18,757.0	19,242.0	19,008.0	19,224.0	467.0	2.5
Leisure and hospitality	12,971.0	13,013.0	12,668.0	12,660.0	-311.0	-2.4
Other services	5,482.0	5,455.0	5,387.0	5,394.0	-88.0	-1.6
Government	22,736.0	22,894.0	22,465.0	22,865.0	129.0	0.6
<b>Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,444.0	2,381.3	2,341.5	2,332.7	-111.3	-4.6
Mining and logging	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.5	-0.3	-16.7
Construction	133.3	115.9	113.2	112.0	-21.3	-16.0
Manufacturing	172.1	159.4	157.2	154.5	-17.6	-10.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	557.9	550.4	534.2	528.3	-29.6	-5.3
Information	83.7	82.5	81.6	81.1	-2.6	-3.1
Financial activities	157.8	151.4	150.0	149.4	-8.4	-5.3
Professional and business services	410.2	392.2	382.3	379.8	-30.4	-7.4
Education and health services	259.0	264.3	262.8	263.5	4.5	1.7
Leisure and hospitality	229.8	227.7	224.8	223.7	-6.1	-2.7
Other services	98.3	95.8	95.5	96.9	-1.4	-1.4
Government	340.1	340.2	338.4	342.0	1.9	0.6

(p) preliminary

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

Area and Industry	Feb 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009(p)	Change from Feb 2008 to Feb 2009	
					Number	Percent
					<b>Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA</b>	
Total nonfarm	2,444.0	2,381.3	2,341.5	2,332.7	-111.3	-4.6
Mining and logging	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.5	-0.3	-16.7
Construction	133.3	115.9	113.2	112.0	-21.3	-16.0
Manufacturing	172.1	159.4	157.2	154.5	-17.6	-10.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	557.9	550.4	534.2	528.3	-29.6	-5.3
Information	83.7	82.5	81.6	81.1	-2.6	-3.1
Financial activities	157.8	151.4	150.0	149.4	-8.4	-5.3
Professional and business services	410.2	392.2	382.3	379.8	-30.4	-7.4
Education and health services	259.0	264.3	262.8	263.5	4.5	1.7
Leisure and hospitality	229.8	227.7	224.8	223.7	-6.1	-2.7
Other services	98.3	95.8	95.5	96.9	-1.4	-1.4
Government	340.1	340.2	338.4	342.0	1.9	0.6
<b>Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,467.0	2,479.8	2,412.9	2,409.2	-57.8	-2.3
Mining and logging	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	-0.1	-14.3
Construction	88.7	88.3	79.6	76.7	-12.0	-13.5
Manufacturing	217.5	212.3	210.5	209.0	-8.5	-3.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	411.6	420.4	406.4	397.4	-14.2	-3.4
Information	75.2	74.5	73.7	73.1	-2.1	-2.8
Financial activities	185.6	178.5	176.5	176.0	-9.6	-5.2
Professional and business services	408.9	405.7	391.0	387.7	-21.2	-5.2
Education and health services	476.5	487.2	477.2	488.5	12.0	2.5
Leisure and hospitality	206.4	210.9	202.2	203.2	-3.2	-1.6
Other services	88.0	88.8	86.9	86.1	-1.9	-2.2
Government	307.9	312.5	308.3	310.9	3.0	1.0
<b>Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI</b>						
Total nonfarm	4,468.8	4,488.5	4,354.3	4,331.7	-137.1	-3.1
Mining and logging	1.8	2.1	2.0	1.9	0.1	5.6
Construction	184.9	188.7	169.2	165.9	-19.0	-10.3
Manufacturing	474.2	459.6	453.0	444.3	-29.9	-6.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	918.0	932.6	895.9	887.5	-30.5	-3.3
Information	90.6	89.1	88.2	87.6	-3.0	-3.3
Financial activities	318.6	312.2	306.5	306.1	-12.5	-3.9
Professional and business services	724.8	721.0	695.1	686.9	-37.9	-5.2
Education and health services	602.4	618.0	608.7	611.0	8.6	1.4
Leisure and hospitality	386.3	393.7	378.2	376.4	-9.9	-2.6
Other services	197.2	199.2	195.8	195.5	-1.7	-0.9
Government	570.0	572.3	561.7	568.6	-1.4	-0.2
<b>Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,965.5	3,003.8	2,936.7	2,934.0	-31.5	-1.1
Mining, logging, and construction	192.9	189.5	185.4	186.9	-6.0	-3.1
Manufacturing	290.8	281.8	280.4	279.9	-10.9	-3.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	624.6	642.8	618.3	613.0	-11.6	-1.9
Information	89.2	87.7	87.5	87.3	-1.9	-2.1
Financial activities	232.8	235.6	231.0	230.7	-2.1	-0.9
Professional and business services	446.4	455.1	435.3	430.0	-16.4	-3.7
Education and health services	323.8	336.7	335.0	338.3	14.5	4.5
Leisure and hospitality	277.9	280.7	275.6	278.0	0.1	0.0
Other services	103.4	104.0	101.4	98.9	-4.5	-4.4
Government	383.7	389.9	386.8	391.0	7.3	1.9

(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	Feb 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009(p)	Change from Feb 2008 to Feb 2009	
					Number	Percent
<b>Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI</b>						
Total nonfarm	1,911.8	1,852.3	1,767.7	1,769.4	-142.4	-7.4
Mining, logging, and construction	58.6	58.8	51.8	50.8	-7.8	-13.3
Manufacturing	249.1	225.6	195.3	197.7	-51.4	-20.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	358.3	354.7	339.9	337.2	-21.1	-5.9
Information	32.8	31.5	30.9	30.5	-2.3	-7.0
Financial activities	108.2	102.0	100.5	100.4	-7.8	-7.2
Professional and business services	341.0	312.9	299.7	298.5	-42.5	-12.5
Education and health services	280.6	285.6	281.4	283.5	2.9	1.0
Leisure and hospitality	173.3	175.6	168.7	168.6	-4.7	-2.7
Other services	86.0	84.7	84.2	84.0	-2.0	-2.3
Government	223.9	220.9	215.3	218.2	-5.7	-2.5
<b>Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,580.8	2,628.1	2,576.8	2,574.5	-6.3	-0.2
Mining and logging	87.0	93.7	93.0	93.0	6.0	6.9
Construction	204.5	203.9	199.5	200.4	-4.1	-2.0
Manufacturing	238.0	244.1	241.2	240.6	2.6	1.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	525.5	545.1	523.0	518.3	-7.2	-1.4
Information	36.8	36.1	35.5	35.6	-1.2	-3.3
Financial activities	144.5	143.9	141.3	141.6	-2.9	-2.0
Professional and business services	379.4	384.7	378.3	367.5	-11.9	-3.1
Education and health services	281.7	289.9	288.2	291.4	9.7	3.4
Leisure and hospitality	227.1	229.0	222.4	227.3	0.2	0.1
Other services	90.7	90.2	89.7	90.5	-0.2	-0.2
Government	365.6	367.5	364.7	368.3	2.7	0.7
<b>Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA</b>						
Total nonfarm	5,583.3	5,492.3	5,369.4	5,381.0	-202.3	-3.6
Mining and logging	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	0.0
Construction	243.3	220.6	211.5	207.4	-35.9	-14.8
Manufacturing	616.3	587.9	578.8	576.7	-39.6	-6.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,085.0	1,065.5	1,033.6	1,024.6	-60.4	-5.6
Information	234.8	238.8	217.3	226.6	-8.2	-3.5
Financial activities	356.1	340.1	337.2	336.3	-19.8	-5.6
Professional and business services	859.8	843.4	823.7	822.0	-37.8	-4.4
Education and health services	652.7	662.5	652.3	663.6	10.9	1.7
Leisure and hospitality	566.3	562.6	554.5	556.0	-10.3	-1.8
Other services	193.3	193.6	189.6	191.0	-2.3	-1.2
Government	770.7	772.3	765.9	771.8	1.1	0.1
<b>Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,413.9	2,350.0	2,319.8	2,316.0	-97.9	-4.1
Mining and logging	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	-0.1	-14.3
Construction	144.8	123.5	121.4	118.3	-26.5	-18.3
Manufacturing	96.5	90.3	90.0	89.5	-7.0	-7.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	550.3	539.1	527.6	524.6	-25.7	-4.7
Information	51.5	49.4	48.9	48.9	-2.6	-5.0
Financial activities	176.5	168.4	166.9	166.9	-9.6	-5.4
Professional and business services	363.3	351.9	343.6	342.6	-20.7	-5.7
Education and health services	326.1	337.0	332.4	331.9	5.8	1.8
Leisure and hospitality	266.4	254.3	255.7	259.2	-7.2	-2.7
Other services	104.5	104.3	102.3	102.4	-2.1	-2.0
Government	333.3	331.1	330.4	331.1	-2.2	-0.7

(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	Feb 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009(p)	Change from Feb 2008 to Feb 2009	
					Number	Percent
<b>New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA</b>						
Total nonfarm	8,520.4	8,604.4	8,336.9	8,327.4	-193.0	-2.3
Mining, logging, and construction	344.6	348.8	318.9	312.1	-32.5	-9.4
Manufacturing	434.8	416.1	403.2	401.0	-33.8	-7.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,593.2	1,626.3	1,563.8	1,541.6	-51.6	-3.2
Information	284.4	283.6	276.3	278.2	-6.2	-2.2
Financial activities	791.0	774.0	759.6	755.9	-35.1	-4.4
Professional and business services	1,303.9	1,298.0	1,250.1	1,245.3	-58.6	-4.5
Education and health services	1,469.3	1,505.2	1,478.8	1,493.6	24.3	1.7
Leisure and hospitality	626.5	659.4	628.8	626.3	-0.2	0.0
Other services	366.6	373.7	367.4	368.7	2.1	0.6
Government	1,306.1	1,319.3	1,290.0	1,304.7	-1.4	-0.1
<b>Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,789.8	2,804.2	2,729.8	2,722.4	-67.4	-2.4
Mining, logging, and construction	118.6	115.2	107.6	104.3	-14.3	-12.1
Manufacturing	218.6	211.1	207.9	205.4	-13.2	-6.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	522.2	532.0	511.1	503.5	-18.7	-3.6
Information	57.8	56.0	55.6	55.4	-2.4	-4.2
Financial activities	218.0	214.7	212.5	211.0	-7.0	-3.2
Professional and business services	424.3	421.9	409.2	404.0	-20.3	-4.8
Education and health services	540.9	548.7	539.8	550.6	9.7	1.8
Leisure and hospitality	209.8	218.7	208.6	207.8	-2.0	-1.0
Other services	121.7	123.2	121.8	121.6	-0.1	-0.1
Government	357.9	362.7	355.7	358.8	0.9	0.3
<b>San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,030.6	2,006.9	1,960.5	1,959.1	-71.5	-3.5
Mining and logging	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Construction	110.8	100.4	95.4	94.1	-16.7	-15.1
Manufacturing	137.6	133.6	131.6	131.2	-6.4	-4.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	357.1	357.6	343.2	338.5	-18.6	-5.2
Information	68.3	66.8	66.4	66.3	-2.0	-2.9
Financial activities	145.8	138.8	137.3	136.7	-9.1	-6.2
Professional and business services	372.3	369.4	362.0	361.5	-10.8	-2.9
Education and health services	234.6	237.2	232.6	236.7	2.1	0.9
Leisure and hospitality	210.3	212.2	205.0	204.5	-5.8	-2.8
Other services	74.7	74.6	72.9	73.3	-1.4	-1.9
Government	317.7	314.9	312.7	314.9	-2.8	-0.9
<b>Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,968.1	3,015.2	2,955.3	2,964.8	-3.3	-0.1
Mining, logging, and construction	172.3	167.1	160.3	157.5	-14.8	-8.6
Manufacturing	61.2	59.8	59.2	59.1	-2.1	-3.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	395.3	402.3	387.0	381.5	-13.8	-3.5
Information	92.4	90.4	88.7	88.6	-3.8	-4.1
Financial activities	154.6	152.2	149.1	148.8	-5.8	-3.8
Professional and business services	672.8	685.1	680.2	686.3	13.5	2.0
Education and health services	334.8	345.0	340.7	345.5	10.7	3.2
Leisure and hospitality	246.5	258.3	252.5	250.8	4.3	1.7
Other services	181.2	184.9	182.1	183.0	1.8	1.0
Government	657.0	670.1	655.5	663.7	6.7	1.0

(p) preliminary