



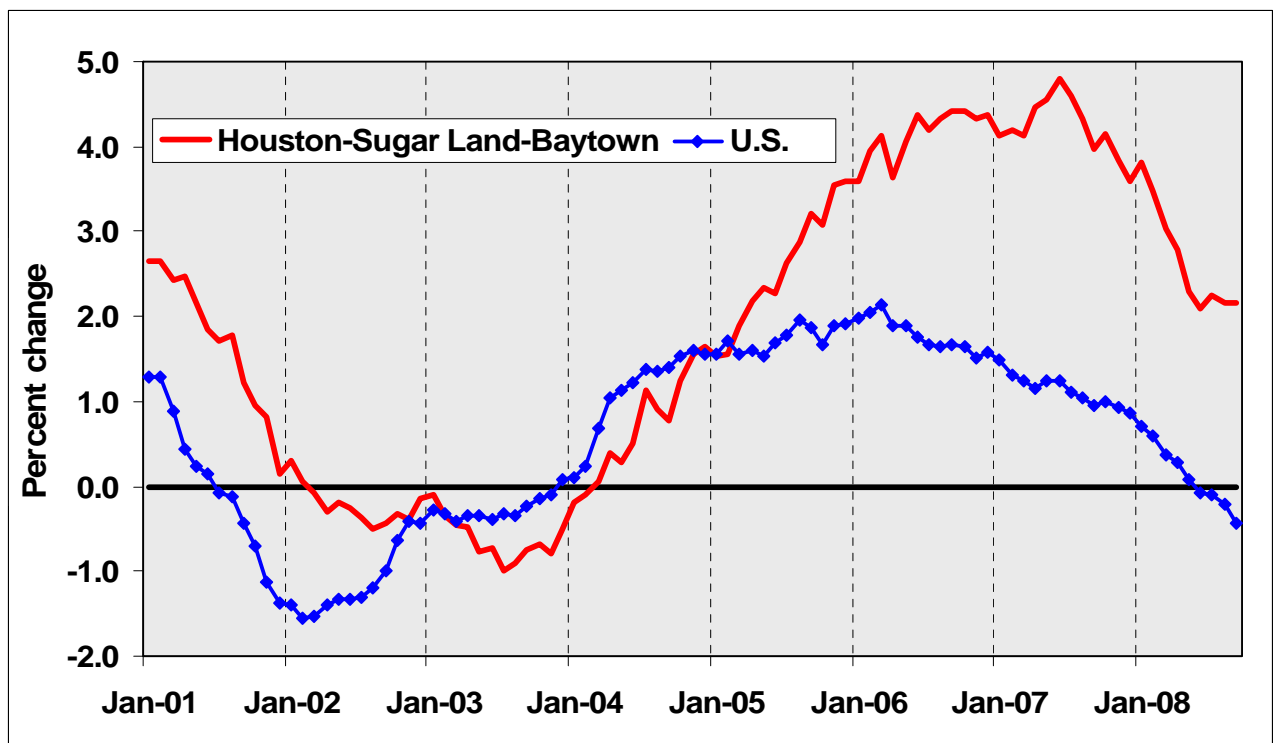
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
Cheryl Abbot, Regional Economist
(214) 767-6970
<http://www.bls.gov/ro6/home.htm>

FOR RELEASE:
October 28, 2008

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 2,626,700 in September 2008, an increase of 55,700 jobs over the year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. From September 2007 to September 2008, nonfarm employment rose 2.2 percent in the local area compared to a 0.4-percent decline nationwide. Among the 12 largest metropolitan areas in the country, Houston had the highest rate of job growth, followed by another Texas area, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, at 1.8 percent. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that while the rate of gain in Houston has slowed notably during the last year, September's advance continued the trend of over-the-year employment increases that began in 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.)

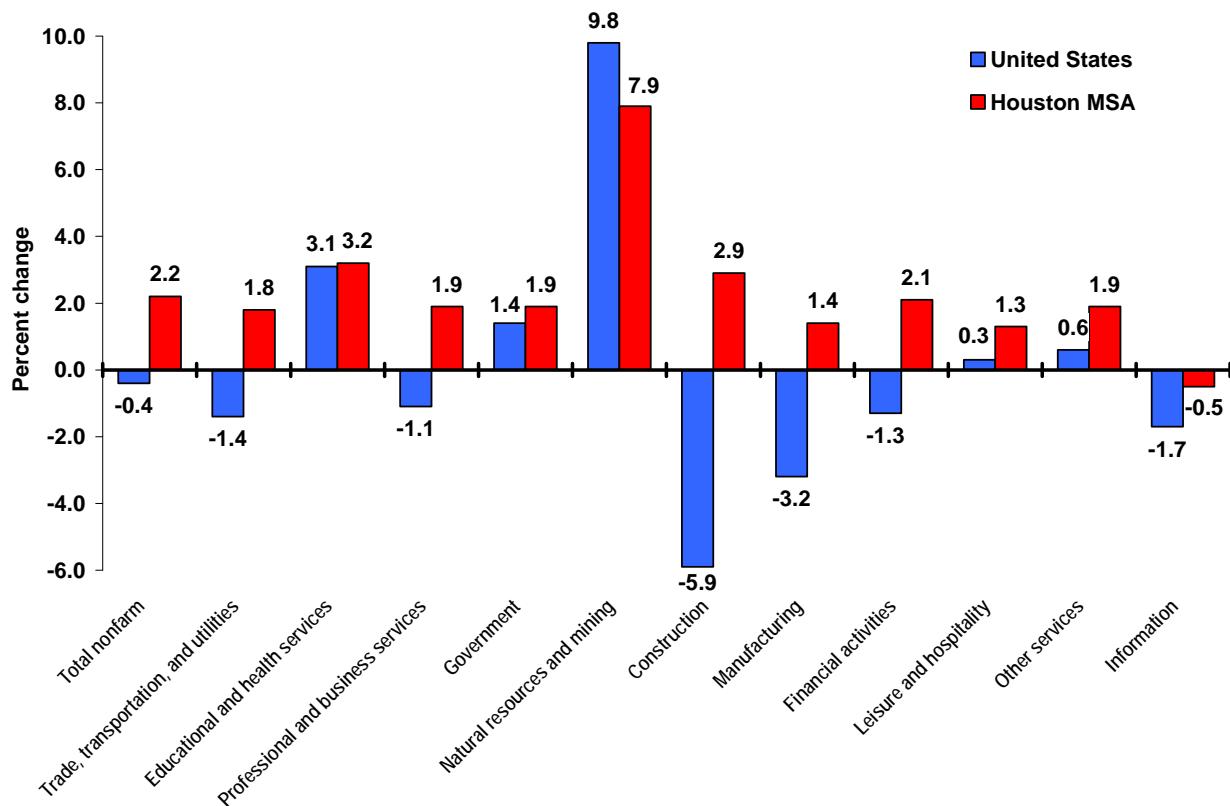
Chart A. Total nonfarm employment, over-the-year percent change in the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown metropolitan area, January 2001-September 2008



Industry employment

In the Houston area, 10 of the 11 industry supersectors added at least 1,000 jobs from September 2007 to September 2008. Trade, transportation, and utilities, and education and health services experienced the largest over-the-year employment gains, up 9,200 and 9,100 jobs, respectively. The local rate of job gain in trade, transportation, and utilities, 1.8 percent, was in sharp contrast to the national decrease of 1.4 percent. In comparison, educational and health services' 3.2-percent increase was similar to the nationwide advance of 3.1 percent. The educational and health services industry accounted for 11 percent of the local workforce, but made up 16 percent of Houston's job growth from September a year ago.

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



Four other local supersectors recorded gains of more than 5,000 jobs from September 2007. Employment in Houston's professional and business services rose by 7,400, or 1.9 percent; this compared to a 1.1-percent decline in the industry nationally. Public sector employment in the Houston area grew by 6,800, an increase of 1.9 percent; nationwide, government grew at a slower pace, advancing 1.4 percent. The natural resources and mining supersector continued to register strong growth locally with the addition of 6,700 jobs. During the 12-month period, employment in this supersector increased 7.9 percent in Houston; still, this was slower than the 9.8-percent rate of growth recorded nationwide. Local employment in natural resources and mining accounted for 3.5 percent of the workforce in September 2008, but the supersector was responsible for 12.0 percent of Houston's over-the-year job growth. Construction employment advanced 5,700 in Houston, a 2.9 percent increase; nationally, this industry declined 5.9 percent.

Smaller local gains were registered in manufacturing, financial activities, leisure and hospitality, and other services, while employment in the local information supersector was little changed during the last 12 months.

Employment in the 12 largest metropolitan areas

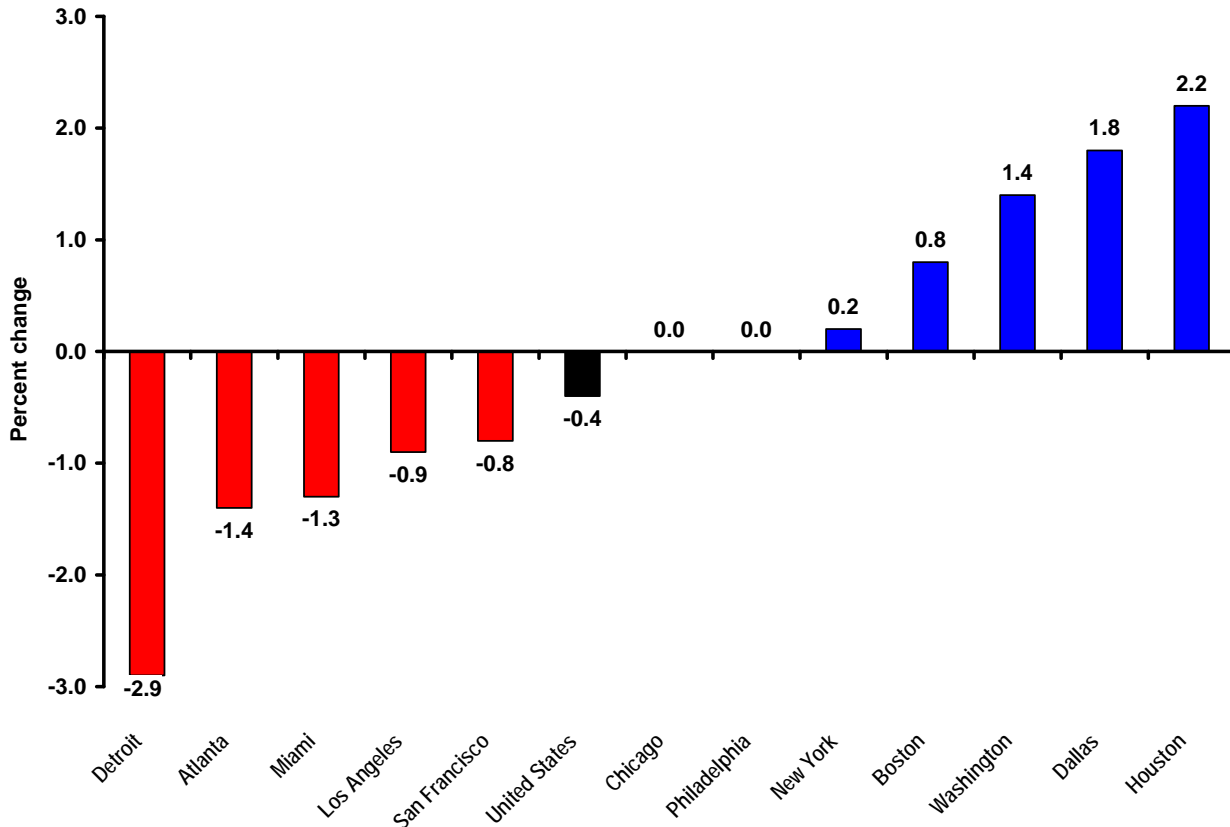
The Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown area was one of the nation's 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas in September 2008. Five of these 12 areas experienced over-the-year job growth, another 5 lost jobs, and 2 areas registered no growth. Nationally, employment declined 0.4 percent.

Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown registered the fastest rate of gain, up 2.2 percent, followed by Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, up 1.8 percent. The other three areas experiencing employment growth during the 12-month period were: Washington-Arlington-Alexandria (1.4 percent), Boston-Cambridge-Quincy (0.8 percent), and New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island (0.2 percent). (See chart C.)

Those areas with over-the-year job losses were: San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont (-0.8 percent), Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana (-0.9 percent), Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach (-1.3 percent), Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta (-1.4 percent), and Detroit-Warren-Livonia (-2.9 percent). Chicago-Naperville-Joliet and Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington registered no job growth.

Houston, the area with the fastest rate of job growth in the nation in September 2008, also added the largest number of jobs over the year, 55,700, followed closely by Dallas with 54,300. Washington was third, adding 40,700 to its count. The largest declines in employment occurred in Detroit (-57,800) and Los Angeles (-53,200). Two other areas, Atlanta and Miami, lost more than 30,000 jobs.

Chart C. Over-the-year percent change in employment, United States and 12 largest metropolitan areas, September 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/.

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 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	Sept 2007	July 2008	Aug 2008	Sept 2008(p)	Change from Sept 2007 to Sept 2008	
					Number	Percent
U.S.						
Total nonfarm	138,075	137,259	137,231	137,476	-599	-0.4
Natural resources and mining	736	790	806	808	72	9.8
Construction	7,811	7,462	7,465	7,350	-461	-5.9
Manufacturing	13,890	13,526	13,521	13,443	-447	-3.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	26,584	26,378	26,335	26,221	-363	-1.4
Information	3,016	2,997	2,988	2,966	-50	-1.7
Financial activities	8,282	8,279	8,258	8,172	-110	-1.3
Professional and business services	18,133	18,022	18,016	17,933	-200	-1.1
Educational and health services	18,372	18,593	18,653	18,947	575	3.1
Leisure and hospitality	13,712	14,324	14,253	13,753	41	0.3
Other services	5,477	5,597	5,561	5,510	33	0.6
Government	22,062	21,291	21,375	22,373	311	1.4
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)						
Total nonfarm	2,571.0	2,607.4	2,617.1	2,626.7	55.7	2.2
Natural resources and mining	85.1	91.3	91.9	91.8	6.7	7.9
Construction	197.5	202.9	203.1	203.2	5.7	2.9
Manufacturing	234.7	237.2	237.5	237.9	3.2	1.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	523.4	530.9	533.7	532.6	9.2	1.8
Information	36.7	37.0	36.9	36.5	-0.2	-0.5
Financial activities	145.7	148.4	148.7	148.7	3.0	2.1
Professional and business services	387.0	394.1	395.4	394.4	7.4	1.9
Educational and health services	285.9	290.5	292.6	295.0	9.1	3.2
Leisure and hospitality	230.6	237.2	237.4	233.6	3.0	1.3
Other services	94.3	96.9	96.5	96.1	1.8	1.9
Government	350.1	341.0	343.4	356.9	6.8	1.9

(p) preliminary

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

Area and Industry	Sept 2007	July 2008	Aug 2008	Sept 2008(p)	Change from Sept 2007 to Sept 2008	
					Number	Percent
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA						
Total nonfarm	2,466.9	2,439.9	2,450.5	2,433.3	-33.6	-1.4
Natural resources and mining	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	-0.1	-4.0
Construction	139.2	135.9	132.0	128.1	-11.1	-8.0
Manufacturing	174.9	169.4	168.0	166.7	-8.2	-4.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	562.8	561.0	560.2	557.8	-5.0	-0.9
Information	87.8	88.5	88.3	88.1	0.3	0.3
Financial activities	162.1	159.7	159.9	158.3	-3.8	-2.3
Professional and business services	412.8	408.5	410.9	404.1	-8.7	-2.1
Educational and health services	256.2	257.1	261.2	263.6	7.4	2.9
Leisure and hospitality	236.2	241.3	240.4	236.3	0.1	0.0
Other services	97.9	99.6	98.4	98.7	0.8	0.8
Government	334.5	316.5	328.8	329.2	-5.3	-1.6
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH						
Total nonfarm	2,494.2	2,499.6	2,491.8	2,513.5	19.3	0.8
Natural resources and mining	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	0.0
Construction	104.5	103.3	103.4	101.4	-3.1	-3.0
Manufacturing	221.6	219.9	220.1	219.1	-2.5	-1.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	417.1	417.3	416.8	416.3	-0.8	-0.2
Information	74.6	75.2	74.8	74.3	-0.3	-0.4
Financial activities	188.6	190.2	190.0	186.7	-1.9	-1.0
Professional and business services	411.8	422.5	424.6	421.8	10.0	2.4
Educational and health services	463.5	466.0	463.2	475.6	12.1	2.6
Leisure and hospitality	222.7	233.7	233.9	226.5	3.8	1.7
Other services	88.3	90.4	90.2	87.6	-0.7	-0.8
Government	300.4	279.9	273.6	303.1	2.7	0.9
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI						
Total nonfarm	4,587.8	4,593.4	4,585.0	4,587.3	-0.5	0.0
Natural resources and mining	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.1	4.2
Construction	224.7	218.4	218.4	215.9	-8.8	-3.9
Manufacturing	482.8	477.8	477.2	476.1	-6.7	-1.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	927.8	935.5	933.5	931.8	4.0	0.4
Information	91.2	91.2	90.9	90.2	-1.0	-1.1
Financial activities	327.5	326.9	326.6	324.1	-3.4	-1.0
Professional and business services	753.7	757.3	759.5	759.8	6.1	0.8
Educational and health services	592.7	593.2	593.3	600.4	7.7	1.3
Leisure and hospitality	416.5	425.4	426.0	418.0	1.5	0.4
Other services	198.5	204.2	203.7	199.6	1.1	0.6
Government	569.5	561.0	553.4	568.9	-0.6	-0.1
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX						
Total nonfarm	2,964.1	3,001.0	3,013.3	3,018.4	54.3	1.8
Natural resources, mining, and construction	192.4	199.3	201.0	201.1	8.7	4.5
Manufacturing	297.5	293.1	293.4	292.2	-5.3	-1.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	623.8	632.4	635.5	634.5	10.7	1.7
Information	89.5	88.7	88.9	88.3	-1.2	-1.3
Financial activities	233.9	238.0	238.2	237.4	3.5	1.5
Professional and business services	448.4	447.6	447.9	448.4	0.0	0.0
Educational and health services	320.9	329.9	333.2	335.8	14.9	4.6
Leisure and hospitality	279.9	294.5	294.8	291.4	11.5	4.1
Other services	107.9	111.3	111.3	110.2	2.3	2.1
Government	369.9	366.2	369.1	379.1	9.2	2.5

(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	Sept 2007	July 2008	Aug 2008	Sept 2008(p)	Change from Sept 2007 to Sept 2008	
					Number	Percent
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI						
Total nonfarm	1,966.0	1,892.9	1,896.3	1,908.2	-57.8	-2.9
Natural resources, mining, and construction	75.8	67.7	67.1	65.2	-10.6	-14.0
Manufacturing	256.6	227.1	229.3	230.2	-26.4	-10.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	363.3	358.1	357.6	356.5	-6.8	-1.9
Information	33.7	32.7	32.7	32.4	-1.3	-3.9
Financial activities	110.1	109.3	108.9	106.4	-3.7	-3.4
Professional and business services	351.3	340.9	343.7	342.7	-8.6	-2.4
Educational and health services	278.8	281.3	281.2	283.5	4.7	1.7
Leisure and hospitality	185.8	186.8	187.1	183.7	-2.1	-1.1
Other services	88.0	86.7	86.3	86.4	-1.6	-1.8
Government	222.6	202.3	202.4	221.2	-1.4	-0.6
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX						
Total nonfarm	2,571.0	2,607.4	2,617.1	2,626.7	55.7	2.2
Natural resources and mining	85.1	91.3	91.9	91.8	6.7	7.9
Construction	197.5	202.9	203.1	203.2	5.7	2.9
Manufacturing	234.7	237.2	237.5	237.9	3.2	1.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	523.4	530.9	533.7	532.6	9.2	1.8
Information	36.7	37.0	36.9	36.5	-0.2	-0.5
Financial activities	145.7	148.4	148.7	148.7	3.0	2.1
Professional and business services	387.0	394.1	395.4	394.4	7.4	1.9
Educational and health services	285.9	290.5	292.6	295.0	9.1	3.2
Leisure and hospitality	230.6	237.2	237.4	233.6	3.0	1.3
Other services	94.3	96.9	96.5	96.1	1.8	1.9
Government	350.1	341.0	343.4	356.9	6.8	1.9
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA						
Total nonfarm	5,628.3	5,554.2	5,543.8	5,575.1	-53.2	-0.9
Natural resources and mining	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	0.0
Construction	264.7	249.1	250.0	249.2	-15.5	-5.9
Manufacturing	622.7	615.0	614.0	612.7	-10.0	-1.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,097.7	1,084.1	1,080.9	1,081.5	-16.2	-1.5
Information	248.2	229.5	238.6	242.3	-5.9	-2.4
Financial activities	367.0	353.4	351.7	349.3	-17.7	-4.8
Professional and business services	879.8	870.9	870.7	868.6	-11.2	-1.3
Educational and health services	631.9	627.2	627.3	644.2	12.3	1.9
Leisure and hospitality	574.3	582.8	580.9	575.9	1.6	0.3
Other services	195.9	197.1	196.0	197.0	1.1	0.6
Government	741.1	740.1	728.7	749.4	8.3	1.1
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL						
Total nonfarm	2,420.8	2,363.3	2,390.3	2,388.4	-32.4	-1.3
Natural resources and mining	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Construction	156.0	139.9	137.7	137.3	-18.7	-12.0
Manufacturing	95.9	91.4	91.4	91.4	-4.5	-4.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	541.0	538.7	536.4	533.3	-7.7	-1.4
Information	51.6	51.1	50.8	50.8	-0.8	-1.6
Financial activities	178.5	174.2	172.9	171.6	-6.9	-3.9
Professional and business services	397.9	390.2	389.5	387.1	-10.8	-2.7
Educational and health services	320.2	324.3	327.2	330.8	10.6	3.3
Leisure and hospitality	249.1	250.3	251.5	251.0	1.9	0.8
Other services	100.8	101.5	101.1	101.3	0.5	0.5
Government	329.1	301.0	331.1	333.1	4.0	1.2

(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	Sept 2007	July 2008	Aug 2008	Sept 2008(p)	Change from Sept 2007 to Sept 2008	
					Number	Percent
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA						
Total nonfarm	8,581.5	8,637.7	8,587.5	8,601.7	20.2	0.2
Natural resources, mining, and construction	375.9	375.3	378.8	377.8	1.9	0.5
Manufacturing	450.9	430.2	429.7	432.5	-18.4	-4.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,612.9	1,605.8	1,601.5	1,612.9	0.0	0.0
Information	290.0	295.9	295.6	294.2	4.2	1.4
Financial activities	796.8	795.8	791.6	782.2	-14.6	-1.8
Professional and business services	1,311.4	1,321.5	1,323.5	1,316.3	4.9	0.4
Educational and health services	1,435.1	1,438.3	1,430.1	1,455.8	20.7	1.4
Leisure and hospitality	664.8	700.2	695.3	678.4	13.6	2.0
Other services	371.3	378.0	376.4	375.6	4.3	1.2
Government	1,272.4	1,296.7	1,265.0	1,276.0	3.6	0.3
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD						
Total nonfarm	2,810.8	2,808.7	2,796.7	2,809.5	-1.3	0.0
Natural resources, mining, and construction	132.6	129.8	130.4	128.7	-3.9	-2.9
Manufacturing	219.3	215.8	215.0	213.9	-5.4	-2.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	529.3	529.1	526.9	527.0	-2.3	-0.4
Information	58.6	57.5	57.5	57.6	-1.0	-1.7
Financial activities	218.9	217.7	217.0	213.7	-5.2	-2.4
Professional and business services	430.7	436.3	436.1	435.4	4.7	1.1
Educational and health services	525.0	526.6	523.9	534.0	9.0	1.7
Leisure and hospitality	225.0	234.7	233.7	226.2	1.2	0.5
Other services	124.2	125.8	124.9	124.0	-0.2	-0.2
Government	347.2	335.4	331.3	349.0	1.8	0.5
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA						
Total nonfarm	2,042.5	2,025.3	2,021.8	2,026.0	-16.5	-0.8
Natural resources and mining	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.1	6.7
Construction	121.4	116.2	116.9	116.1	-5.3	-4.4
Manufacturing	137.9	136.5	136.6	136.3	-1.6	-1.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	359.3	353.6	353.4	353.2	-6.1	-1.7
Information	68.6	67.8	67.9	67.6	-1.0	-1.5
Financial activities	151.2	146.9	146.9	146.5	-4.7	-3.1
Professional and business services	359.4	362.7	362.4	362.0	2.6	0.7
Educational and health services	229.8	229.9	229.6	231.6	1.8	0.8
Leisure and hospitality	216.5	217.9	217.7	215.9	-0.6	-0.3
Other services	75.5	75.4	74.9	74.8	-0.7	-0.9
Government	321.4	316.8	313.9	320.4	-1.0	-0.3
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV						
Total nonfarm	2,992.3	3,031.4	3,025.7	3,033.0	40.7	1.4
Natural resources, mining, and construction	186.8	183.3	183.4	181.5	-5.3	-2.8
Manufacturing	62.5	61.6	61.9	61.8	-0.7	-1.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	401.7	405.9	404.3	401.9	0.2	0.0
Information	93.1	92.6	91.9	91.0	-2.1	-2.3
Financial activities	157.8	156.9	156.7	155.0	-2.8	-1.8
Professional and business services	678.3	694.9	695.4	691.7	13.4	2.0
Educational and health services	328.2	329.4	328.8	340.1	11.9	3.6
Leisure and hospitality	257.8	266.8	266.0	259.6	1.8	0.7
Other services	180.0	189.2	187.9	188.1	8.1	4.5
Government	646.1	650.8	649.4	662.3	16.2	2.5

(p) preliminary