



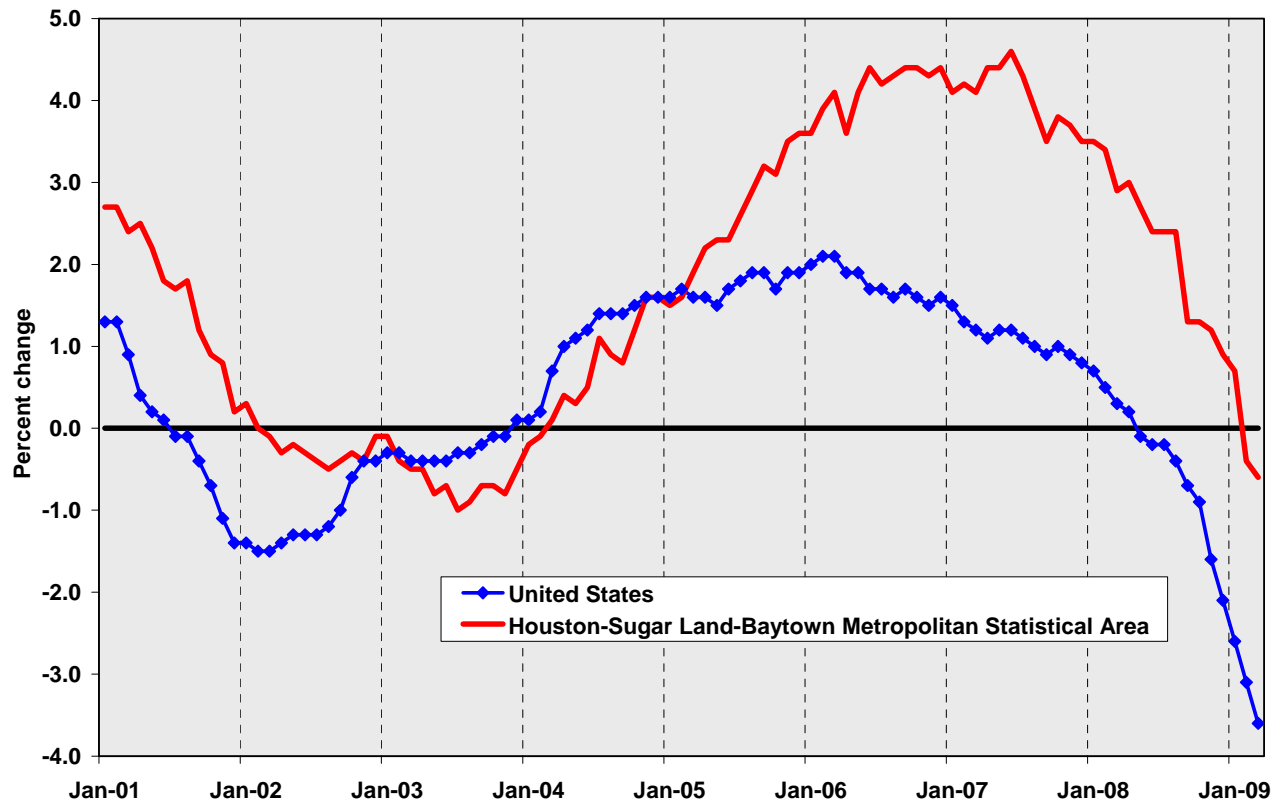
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FOR RELEASE:
April 23, 2009

HOUSTON-SUGAR LAND-BAYTOWN EMPLOYMENT: MARCH 2009

Total nonfarm employment in the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown Metropolitan Statistical Area stood at 2,577,600 in March 2009, down 14,400 jobs from one year ago, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. From March 2008 to March 2009, local nonfarm employment fell 0.6 percent compared to the national decline of 3.6 percent. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted this was the second consecutive month of over-the-year job losses following nearly five years of expansion in the Houston area. (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-March 2009



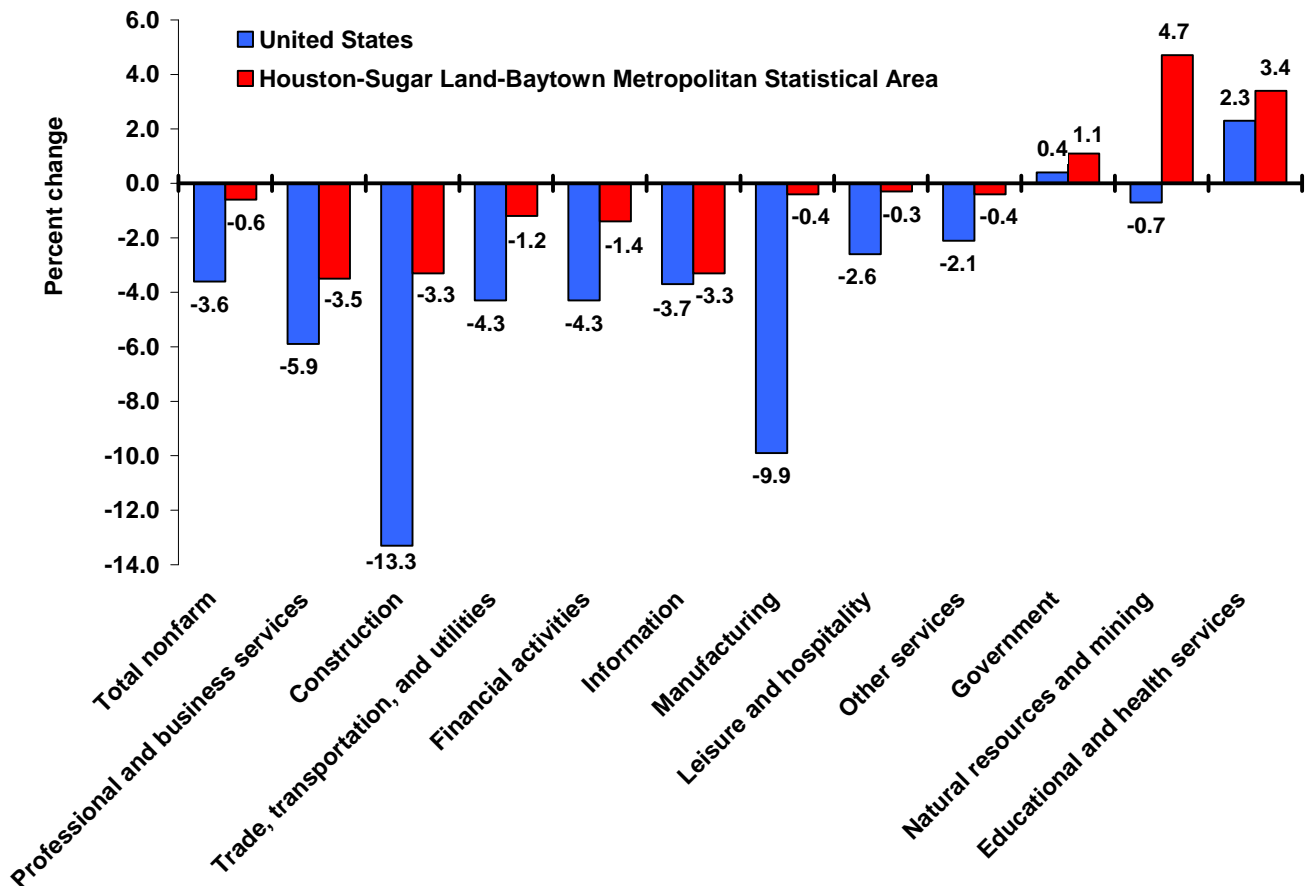
Industry employment

More than half of the 11 industry supersectors in the Houston metropolitan area experienced annual employment declines. Professional and business services experienced the largest decrease with the loss of 13,500 jobs from a year ago. This was the industry's second consecutive month of over-the-year losses following virtually uninterrupted growth since March 2004. Still, the 3.5-percent decline from March a year ago was slower-paced than the national decrease of 5.9 percent. (See table 1 and chart B.)

From March 2008 to March 2009, construction lost 6,800 jobs, declining at a 3.3-percent pace. Nationally, the rate of decline in this industry was much sharper at 13.3 percent. Houston's trade, transportation, and utilities supersector lost nearly as many jobs as the construction industry, down 6,300, but the percentage decline was smaller at 1.2 percent. Nationwide, employment in trade, transportation, and public utilities fell 4.3 percent.

Elsewhere, financial activities lost 2,000 jobs in Houston from March 2008, a decline of 1.4 percent. This supersector has registered over-the-year losses since July 2008. Nationwide, financial activities fell at a 4.3-percent pace from March a year ago. Employment in Houston's information supersector was down 1,200, or 3.3 percent, from March 2008, close to the national 3.7-percent decline in this industry. The local manufacturing sector registered a loss of 1,000 jobs, down 0.4 percent, compared to the much steeper 9.9-percent decline nationwide.

Chart B. Over-the-year percent change in employment by industry supersector, United States and the Houston metropolitan area, March 2009



Three supersectors in the Houston metropolitan area experienced job growth from March 2008 to March 2009. Educational and health services had the largest gain, adding 9,500 jobs over the year, growing at a 3.4-percent pace. Nationally, the educational and health services industry expanded 2.3 percent.

Mining and logging added 4,100 jobs to the local economy, a 4.7-percent increase from March a year ago. Although the local rate of job growth has slowed substantially from the last half of 2008 when it was above 8.0 percent, this latest gain continued the string of over-the-year increases that began in January 2003. Nationally, mining and logging employment was down 0.7 percent from March 2008, ending a series of over-the-year gains that began in February 2004.

Government employment rose by 3,900 in the Houston area from March 2008 to March 2009, a 1.1-percent gain. Local growth in the public sector has slowed in recent months, but with only a few exceptions this sector has recorded annual job gains since reporting of over-the-year changes began in January 1991. Nationwide, government employment edged up 0.4 percent since March 2008.

Employment in the 12 largest metropolitan areas

The Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown area was 1 of the nation's 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas in March 2009. All of these areas experienced over-the-year job losses. (See chart C and table 2.) Nationally, employment fell 3.6 percent from March 2008 to March 2009.

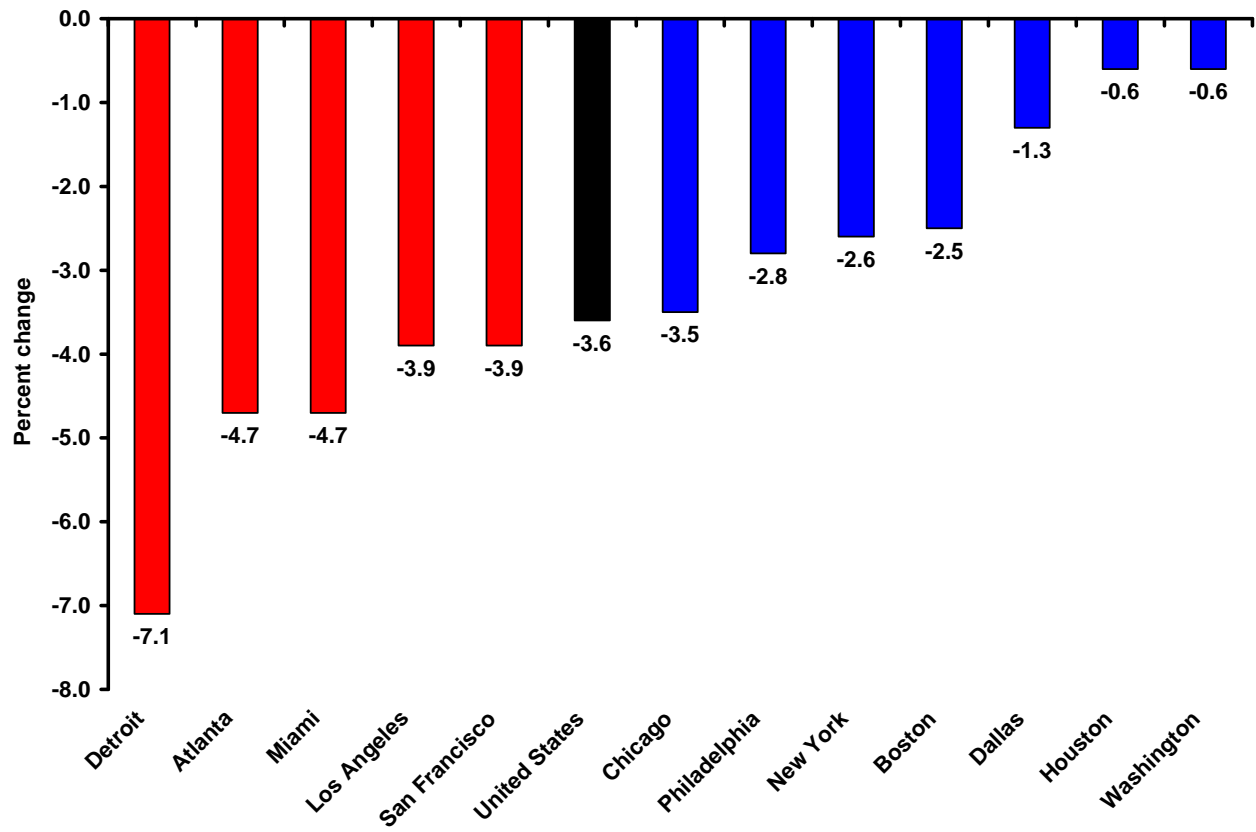
Of these 12 metropolitan areas, 5 — Detroit-Warren-Livonia (-7.1 percent), Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta and Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach (-4.7 percent each), and Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana and San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont (-3.9 percent each) — recorded employment declines at a faster-than-average pace.

Conversely, seven metropolitan areas lost jobs at a slower pace than that for the nation. Five of these areas experienced declines in the 3.5 to 1.0-percent range — Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, and Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington. Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown and Washington-Arlington-Alexandria posted the smallest losses (-0.6 percent each).

Two metropolitan areas experienced employment declines of over 200,000 from March a year ago: Los Angeles (-221,300) and New York (-219,700). Four other areas lost more than 100,000 jobs led by Chicago (-157,600). Two areas, Houston and Washington, lost fewer than 20,000 jobs over the year.

In 7 of the 12 areas, professional and business services recorded the largest loss of jobs from March 2008. Education and health services added the most jobs in 11 of the 12 areas.

Chart C. Over-the-year percent change in employment, United States and 12 largest metropolitan areas, March 2009



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 972-850-4800 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 surveys, 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 list of 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	Mar 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2009(p)	Change from Mar 2008 to Mar 2009	
					Number	Percent
U.S.						
Total nonfarm	136,944	132,302	132,130	132,072	-4872	-3.6
Mining and logging	741	766	754	736	-5	-0.7
Construction	7,047	6,295	6,152	6,113	-934	-13.3
Manufacturing	13,559	12,519	12,344	12,210	-1349	-9.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	26,330	25,534	25,212	25,199	-1131	-4.3
Information	3,016	2,895	2,903	2,904	-112	-3.7
Financial activities	8,171	7,901	7,863	7,823	-348	-4.3
Professional and business services	17,733	16,877	16,741	16,678	-1055	-5.9
Educational and health services	18,833	19,013	19,239	19,269	436	2.3
Leisure and hospitality	13,156	12,667	12,678	12,813	-343	-2.6
Other services	5,518	5,388	5,400	5,402	-116	-2.1
Government	22,840	22,447	22,844	22,925	85	0.4
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX						
Total nonfarm	2,592.0	2,576.8	2,571.4	2,577.6	-14.4	-0.6
Mining and logging	87.2	93.0	92.3	91.3	4.1	4.7
Construction	204.8	199.5	200.2	198.0	-6.8	-3.3
Manufacturing	238.3	241.2	238.8	237.3	-1.0	-0.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	528.1	523.0	517.5	521.8	-6.3	-1.2
Information	36.7	35.5	35.6	35.5	-1.2	-3.3
Financial activities	144.2	141.3	141.7	142.2	-2.0	-1.4
Professional and business services	381.4	378.3	368.7	367.9	-13.5	-3.5
Educational and health services	281.0	288.2	289.8	290.5	9.5	3.4
Leisure and hospitality	232.2	222.4	226.4	231.5	-0.7	-0.3
Other services	90.9	89.7	90.3	90.5	-0.4	-0.4
Government	367.2	364.7	370.1	371.1	3.9	1.1

(p) preliminary

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

Area and Industry	Mar 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2009(p)	Change from Mar 2008 to Mar 2009	
					Number	Percent
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA						
Total nonfarm	2,445.6	2,341.5	2,330.6	2,329.7	-115.9	-4.7
Mining and logging	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.4	-0.4	-22.2
Construction	132.2	113.2	111.6	109.2	-23.0	-17.4
Manufacturing	171.7	157.2	155.1	152.8	-18.9	-11.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	558.1	534.2	526.9	529.1	-29.0	-5.2
Information	84.0	81.6	81.8	80.7	-3.3	-3.9
Financial activities	157.3	150.0	148.8	148.1	-9.2	-5.8
Professional and business services	407.9	382.3	379.8	379.7	-28.2	-6.9
Educational and health services	259.2	262.8	263.0	262.0	2.8	1.1
Leisure and hospitality	233.4	224.8	223.7	227.5	-5.9	-2.5
Other services	98.2	95.5	96.8	96.1	-2.1	-2.1
Government	341.8	338.4	341.6	343.1	1.3	0.4
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH						
Total nonfarm	2,476.0	2,412.9	2,409.5	2,413.1	-62.9	-2.5
Mining and logging	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	-0.1	-14.3
Construction	90.5	79.6	76.8	77.3	-13.2	-14.6
Manufacturing	217.2	210.5	208.7	208.6	-8.6	-4.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	412.0	406.4	397.6	396.9	-15.1	-3.7
Information	75.4	73.7	73.1	72.8	-2.6	-3.4
Financial activities	185.8	176.5	175.8	175.9	-9.9	-5.3
Professional and business services	409.8	391.0	387.8	387.0	-22.8	-5.6
Educational and health services	478.9	477.2	488.2	490.9	12.0	2.5
Leisure and hospitality	209.0	202.2	203.2	205.1	-3.9	-1.9
Other services	88.5	86.9	86.0	86.2	-2.3	-2.6
Government	308.2	308.3	311.7	311.8	3.6	1.2
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI						
Total nonfarm	4,489.0	4,354.3	4,331.4	4,331.4	-157.6	-3.5
Mining and logging	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.8	-0.1	-5.3
Construction	190.0	169.2	166.1	170.7	-19.3	-10.2
Manufacturing	474.7	453.0	444.4	438.6	-36.1	-7.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	920.5	895.9	887.5	888.1	-32.4	-3.5
Information	90.6	88.2	87.5	87.2	-3.4	-3.8
Financial activities	318.6	306.5	305.8	303.0	-15.6	-4.9
Professional and business services	724.4	695.1	686.9	683.5	-40.9	-5.6
Educational and health services	603.2	608.7	611.1	611.8	8.6	1.4
Leisure and hospitality	394.0	378.2	376.1	381.3	-12.7	-3.2
Other services	198.4	195.8	195.7	196.7	-1.7	-0.9
Government	572.7	561.7	568.5	568.7	-4.0	-0.7
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX						
Total nonfarm	2,975.9	2,936.7	2,934.2	2,937.1	-38.8	-1.3
Mining, logging, and construction	195.2	185.4	185.7	183.7	-11.5	-5.9
Manufacturing	289.7	280.4	280.1	278.5	-11.2	-3.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	626.4	618.3	613.0	617.1	-9.3	-1.5
Information	89.2	87.5	87.3	86.9	-2.3	-2.6
Financial activities	233.0	231.0	231.8	229.7	-3.3	-1.4
Professional and business services	448.5	435.3	429.2	431.0	-17.5	-3.9
Educational and health services	324.6	335.0	339.1	338.5	13.9	4.3
Leisure and hospitality	281.1	275.6	277.6	280.5	-0.6	-0.2
Other services	103.3	101.4	98.9	98.5	-4.8	-4.6
Government	384.9	386.8	391.5	392.7	7.8	2.0

(p) preliminary

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

Area and Industry	Mar 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2009(p)	Change from Mar 2008 to Mar 2009	
					Number	Percent
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI						
Total nonfarm	1,907.5	1,767.7	1,773.0	1,772.2	-135.3	-7.1
Mining, logging, and construction	58.6	51.8	50.3	49.9	-8.7	-14.8
Manufacturing	243.2	195.3	200.2	202.1	-41.1	-16.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	358.9	339.9	337.4	337.4	-21.5	-6.0
Information	32.4	30.9	30.7	30.2	-2.2	-6.8
Financial activities	107.6	100.5	100.3	99.5	-8.1	-7.5
Professional and business services	339.6	299.7	297.4	293.4	-46.2	-13.6
Educational and health services	280.9	281.4	283.5	283.8	2.9	1.0
Leisure and hospitality	175.7	168.7	168.7	170.4	-5.3	-3.0
Other services	86.2	84.2	84.8	84.8	-1.4	-1.6
Government	224.4	215.3	219.7	220.7	-3.7	-1.6
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX						
Total nonfarm	2,592.0	2,576.8	2,571.4	2,577.6	-14.4	-0.6
Mining and logging	87.2	93.0	92.3	91.3	4.1	4.7
Construction	204.8	199.5	200.2	198.0	-6.8	-3.3
Manufacturing	238.3	241.2	238.8	237.3	-1.0	-0.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	528.1	523.0	517.5	521.8	-6.3	-1.2
Information	36.7	35.5	35.6	35.5	-1.2	-3.3
Financial activities	144.2	141.3	141.7	142.2	-2.0	-1.4
Professional and business services	381.4	378.3	368.7	367.9	-13.5	-3.5
Educational and health services	281.0	288.2	289.8	290.5	9.5	3.4
Leisure and hospitality	232.2	222.4	226.4	231.5	-0.7	-0.3
Other services	90.9	89.7	90.3	90.5	-0.4	-0.4
Government	367.2	364.7	370.1	371.1	3.9	1.1
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA						
Total nonfarm	5,603.7	5,369.4	5,373.4	5,382.4	-221.3	-3.9
Mining and logging	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	0.0
Construction	243.6	211.5	205.3	204.8	-38.8	-15.9
Manufacturing	615.3	578.8	575.2	573.8	-41.5	-6.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,080.7	1,033.6	1,025.4	1,023.7	-57.0	-5.3
Information	243.4	217.3	227.8	236.1	-7.3	-3.0
Financial activities	355.2	337.2	335.6	335.3	-19.9	-5.6
Professional and business services	862.1	823.7	816.1	815.2	-46.9	-5.4
Educational and health services	655.3	652.3	667.0	669.2	13.9	2.1
Leisure and hospitality	573.2	554.5	554.5	553.2	-20.0	-3.5
Other services	194.5	189.6	190.4	190.0	-4.5	-2.3
Government	775.4	765.9	771.1	776.1	0.7	0.1
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL						
Total nonfarm	2,420.2	2,319.8	2,313.8	2,306.8	-113.4	-4.7
Mining and logging	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	-0.2	-25.0
Construction	144.1	121.4	118.1	113.6	-30.5	-21.2
Manufacturing	95.7	90.0	89.6	88.4	-7.3	-7.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	550.3	527.6	524.4	524.6	-25.7	-4.7
Information	51.5	48.9	48.9	48.7	-2.8	-5.4
Financial activities	176.6	166.9	167.3	166.0	-10.6	-6.0
Professional and business services	365.2	343.6	342.4	339.2	-26.0	-7.1
Educational and health services	328.0	332.4	332.0	333.0	5.0	1.5
Leisure and hospitality	269.6	255.7	259.6	261.6	-8.0	-3.0
Other services	105.4	102.3	102.2	102.6	-2.8	-2.7
Government	333.0	330.4	328.7	328.5	-4.5	-1.4

(p) preliminary

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

Area and Industry	Mar 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2009(p)	Change from Mar 2008 to Mar 2009	
					Number	Percent
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA						
Total nonfarm	8,571.3	8,336.9	8,329.9	8,351.6	-219.7	-2.6
Mining, logging, and construction	351.0	318.9	311.8	317.0	-34.0	-9.7
Manufacturing	435.7	403.2	400.7	397.8	-37.9	-8.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,599.6	1,563.8	1,541.7	1,540.6	-59.0	-3.7
Information	284.6	276.3	278.0	275.9	-8.7	-3.1
Financial activities	791.3	759.6	757.0	755.1	-36.2	-4.6
Professional and business services	1,313.4	1,250.1	1,244.2	1,249.8	-63.6	-4.8
Educational and health services	1,478.1	1,478.8	1,496.6	1,505.6	27.5	1.9
Leisure and hospitality	638.0	628.8	626.5	633.7	-4.3	-0.7
Other services	368.6	367.4	370.0	369.6	1.0	0.3
Government	1,311.0	1,290.0	1,303.4	1,306.5	-4.5	-0.3
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD						
Total nonfarm	2,801.8	2,729.8	2,721.5	2,724.6	-77.2	-2.8
Mining, logging, and construction	121.2	107.6	103.6	103.6	-17.6	-14.5
Manufacturing	218.8	207.9	205.9	205.1	-13.7	-6.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	523.9	511.1	503.1	504.6	-19.3	-3.7
Information	57.6	55.6	55.3	55.0	-2.6	-4.5
Financial activities	218.2	212.5	210.7	209.8	-8.4	-3.8
Professional and business services	428.0	409.2	404.8	406.4	-21.6	-5.0
Educational and health services	538.5	539.8	549.5	545.5	7.0	1.3
Leisure and hospitality	214.8	208.6	207.4	211.6	-3.2	-1.5
Other services	121.6	121.8	121.7	122.1	0.5	0.4
Government	359.2	355.7	359.5	360.9	1.7	0.5
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA						
Total nonfarm	2,032.6	1,960.5	1,955.6	1,953.0	-79.6	-3.9
Mining and logging	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Construction	109.8	95.4	93.9	93.0	-16.8	-15.3
Manufacturing	137.5	131.6	130.7	130.3	-7.2	-5.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	356.4	343.2	338.2	336.1	-20.3	-5.7
Information	68.0	66.4	65.9	65.6	-2.4	-3.5
Financial activities	145.6	137.3	136.1	135.9	-9.7	-6.7
Professional and business services	373.1	362.0	361.1	360.8	-12.3	-3.3
Educational and health services	235.2	232.6	235.6	235.8	0.6	0.3
Leisure and hospitality	211.5	205.0	204.0	204.8	-6.7	-3.2
Other services	75.1	72.9	73.0	72.7	-2.4	-3.2
Government	319.0	312.7	315.7	316.6	-2.4	-0.8
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV						
Total nonfarm	2,985.9	2,955.3	2,961.6	2,967.6	-18.3	-0.6
Mining, logging, and construction	173.6	160.3	156.9	155.2	-18.4	-10.6
Manufacturing	61.2	59.2	58.7	58.6	-2.6	-4.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	395.7	387.0	381.0	379.9	-15.8	-4.0
Information	92.3	88.7	88.2	87.2	-5.1	-5.5
Financial activities	154.5	149.1	148.6	149.1	-5.4	-3.5
Professional and business services	676.4	680.2	686.4	688.7	12.3	1.8
Educational and health services	336.4	340.7	344.6	346.7	10.3	3.1
Leisure and hospitality	252.3	252.5	250.6	251.6	-0.7	-0.3
Other services	182.6	182.1	182.5	184.2	1.6	0.9
Government	660.9	655.5	664.1	666.4	5.5	0.8

(p) preliminary