

SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE  
Atlanta, Ga.

**For release: Wednesday, October 3, 2012**

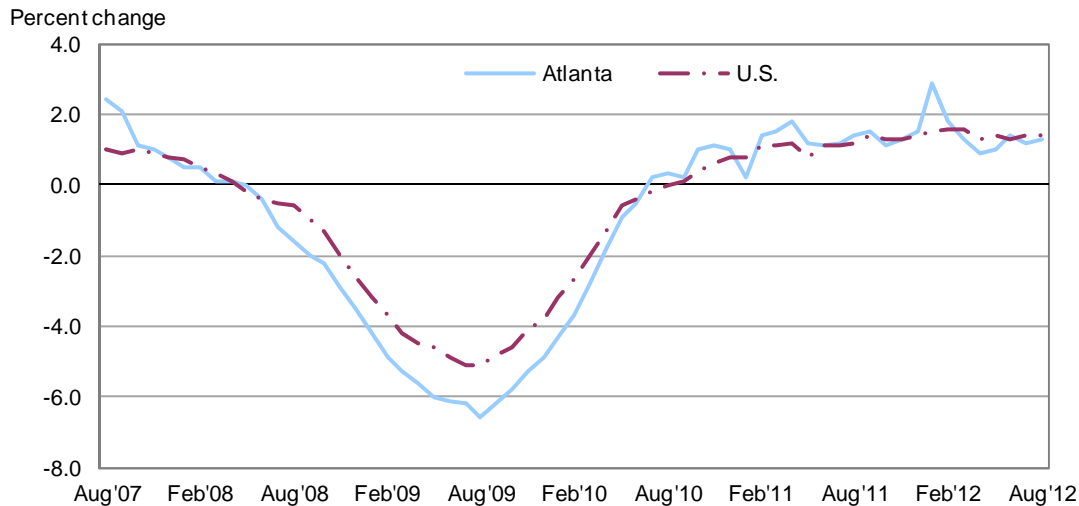
12-1959-ATL

Technical information: (404) 893-4222 • [BLSinfoAtlanta@bls.gov](mailto:BLSinfoAtlanta@bls.gov) • [www.bls.gov/ro4](http://www.bls.gov/ro4)  
Media contact: (404) 893-4220

### ATLANTA AREA EMPLOYMENT – AUGUST 2012

Total nonfarm employment for the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) stood at 2,339,000 in August 2012, an increase of 29,400, or 1.3 percent, from one year ago, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the Atlanta area has recorded over-the-year employment gains each month for over two years. Nationally, nonfarm employment increased 1.4 percent. (See chart 1 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 1. Total nonfarm employment, over-the-year percent change in the U.S. and Atlanta metropolitan area, August 2007–August 2012**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

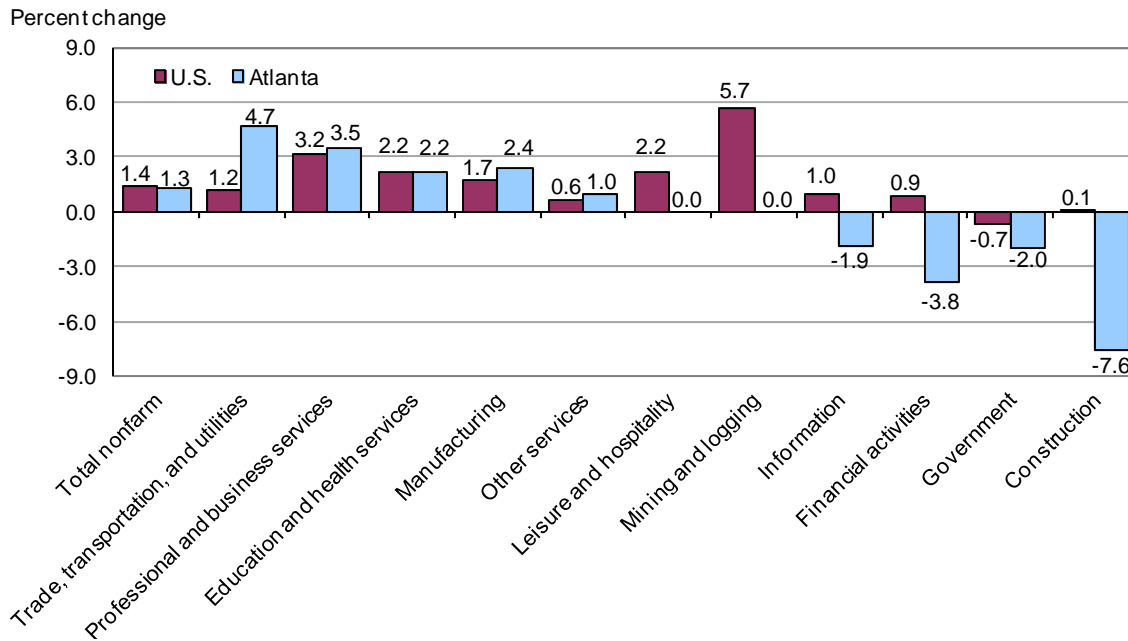
## Industry employment

In the Atlanta metropolitan area, trade, transportation, and utilities added the most jobs in August 2012, up 24,300, or 4.7 percent, over the 12-month period. Atlanta’s employment in trade, transportation, and utilities grew at a faster rate and added more jobs over-the-year in August 2012 than for any month since August 1999. This supersector grew 1.2 percent nationally. (See chart 2.)

Professional and business services had the second largest increase in jobs locally, increasing by 14,300 from the previous August. Employment in professional and business services rose 3.5 percent in Atlanta, similar to the 3.2 percent growth nationally.

Two additional supersectors, education and health services, and manufacturing, added at least 3,000 jobs in Atlanta over the year, up 6,300 and 3,600, respectively, in August 2012. Employment in education and health services grew 2.2 percent over the 12-month period and manufacturing was up 2.4 percent. Nationwide, over-the-year employment in these supersectors increased 2.2 and 1.7 percent, respectively.

**Chart 2. Over-the-year percent change in employment by industry supersector, United States and the Atlanta metropolitan area, August 2012**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

In the Atlanta metropolitan area, three supersectors recorded employment declines of 5,000 or more from the previous August. Construction experienced the largest loss of jobs over the year, down 7,200 or 7.6 percent. With the exception of a few months in 2011 and 2012, this supersector has been losing jobs since July 2007. Nationwide, construction added 7,000 jobs.

Government lost the second most jobs in Atlanta, down 6,100 or 2.0 percent. This supersector also lost jobs nationally, declining 0.7 percent. Locally, financial activities lost 5,300 jobs over the year. Nationally, the financial activities supersector added jobs since August 2011.

## Employment in the 12 largest metropolitan areas

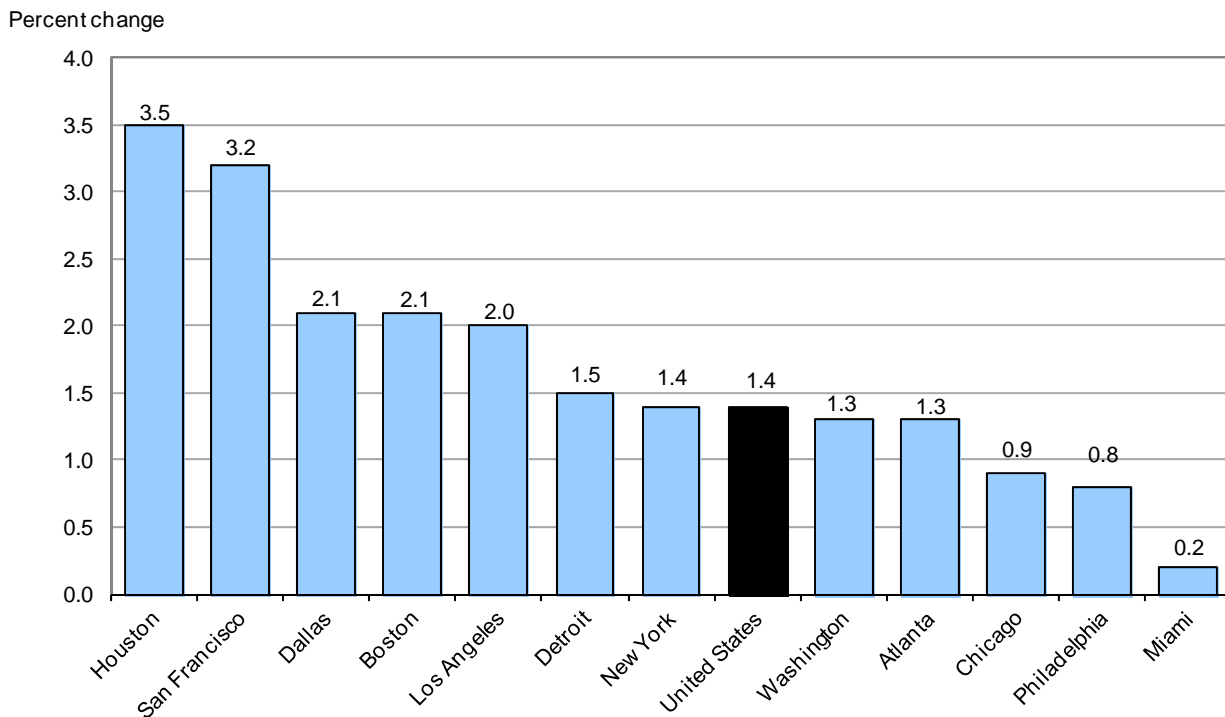
The Atlanta area was 1 of the nation’s 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas in August 2012. All of these areas experienced over-the-year job gains during the period, though the rates of growth were varied. Employment growth was more than double the national rate of 1.4 percent in Houston and San Francisco, up 3.5 and 3.2 percent, respectively. Three areas—Boston, Dallas, and Los Angeles—had a growth rate of 2.0 percent or more. The three slowest-growing areas, Miami, Philadelphia, and Chicago, all had rates of growth below 1.0 percent. (See chart 3 and table 2.)

Among the 12 areas, New York added the most jobs since August 2011, up 117,900. Los Angeles and Houston followed with the addition of 103,000 and 89,500 jobs, respectively. Employment in three other areas—Dallas, San Francisco, and Boston—grew between 62,000 and 52,000. Only Miami gained fewer than 10,000 jobs over the 12-month period, up just 4,900.

Three industry supersectors accounted for the highest job growth in the 12 metropolitan areas from August a year ago. Professional and business services registered the largest employment gains in eight areas (Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia and San Francisco). Education and health services experienced the largest gains in two other areas (Miami and Washington), while trade, transportation, and utilities had the most growth in the remaining two areas (Atlanta and Houston).

Widespread employment declines were recorded in the public sector over the year. Government experienced the largest loss of jobs in six areas (Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, and New York) and the second largest loss in three other areas (Atlanta, Miami, and Philadelphia). Employment losses in the public sector exceeded 25,000 in New York. Both Washington and San Francisco added more than 2,500 jobs in government over the year.

**Chart 3. Over-the-year percent change in employment, United States and 12 largest areas, August 2012**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## 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 between State employment security agencies and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**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 are not always equal the totals shown in the same tables because of rounding.

**Employment estimates.** Measures of sampling error for state CES data at the supersector level are available online at [www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm](http://www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm). Information on recent benchmark revisions for states is available at [www.bls.gov/sae/](http://www.bls.gov/sae/).

More complete information on the technical procedures used to develop these estimates and additional data appear in *Employment and Earnings*, which is available online at <http://www.bls.gov/opub/ee/home.htm>. 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/).

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.

**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 December 1, 2009. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available at [www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm](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.

**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 2011	June 2012	July 2012	Aug 2012(p)	Change from Aug 2011 to 2012(p)	
					Number	Percent
<b>United States</b>						
Total nonfarm	131,278.0	134,057.0	132,840.0	133,092.0	1,814.0	1.4
Mining and logging	811.0	851.0	855.0	857.0	46.0	5.7
Construction	5,806.0	5,716.0	5,779.0	5,813.0	7.0	0.1
Manufacturing	11,874.0	12,040.0	12,053.0	12,074.0	200.0	1.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	25,068.0	25,386.0	25,332.0	25,357.0	289.0	1.2
Information	2,625.0	2,640.0	2,642.0	2,652.0	27.0	1.0
Financial activities	7,726.0	7,787.0	7,801.0	7,793.0	67.0	0.9
Professional and business services	17,514.0	18,015.0	17,997.0	18,078.0	564.0	3.2
Education and health services	19,592.0	20,091.0	19,998.0	20,019.0	427.0	2.2
Leisure and hospitality	13,979.0	14,198.0	14,278.0	14,284.0	305.0	2.2
Other services	5,391.0	5,438.0	5,448.0	5,422.0	31.0	0.6
Government	20,892.0	21,895.0	20,657.0	20,743.0	-149.0	-0.7
<b>Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,309.6	2,339.1	2,326.6	2,339.0	29.4	1.3
Mining and logging	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Construction	94.2	88.1	87.6	87.0	-7.2	-7.6
Manufacturing	148.0	148.6	148.8	151.6	3.6	2.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	521.8	542.9	542.6	546.1	24.3	4.7
Information	79.7	77.9	78.0	78.2	-1.5	-1.9
Financial activities	140.3	135.0	135.2	135.0	-5.3	-3.8
Professional and business services	403.9	417.5	420.8	418.2	14.3	3.5
Education and health services	290.3	290.2	291.1	296.6	6.3	2.2
Leisure and hospitality	226.9	229.5	227.6	227.0	0.1	0.0
Other services	94.4	95.4	95.7	95.3	0.9	1.0
Government	308.8	312.7	297.9	302.7	-6.1	-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	Aug 2011	June 2012	July 2012	Aug 2012(p)	Change from Aug 2011 to 2012(p)	
					Number	Percent
<b>Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,309.6	2,339.1	2,326.6	2,339.0	29.4	1.3
Mining and logging	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Construction	94.2	88.1	87.6	87.0	-7.2	-7.6
Manufacturing	148.0	148.6	148.8	151.6	3.6	2.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	521.8	542.9	542.6	546.1	24.3	4.7
Information	79.7	77.9	78.0	78.2	-1.5	-1.9
Financial activities	140.3	135.0	135.2	135.0	-5.3	-3.8
Professional and business services	403.9	417.5	420.8	418.2	14.3	3.5
Education and health services	290.3	290.2	291.1	296.6	6.3	2.2
Leisure and hospitality	226.9	229.5	227.6	227.0	0.1	0.0
Other services	94.4	95.4	95.7	95.3	0.9	1.0
Government	308.8	312.7	297.9	302.7	-6.1	-2.0
<b>Boston-Cambridge-Quincy MA-NH</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,434.7	2,518.6	2,496.9	2,486.8	52.1	2.1
Mining and logging	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Construction	85.2	86.1	88.9	89.2	4.0	4.7
Manufacturing	196.7	200.7	200.6	200.8	4.1	2.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	405.8	412.1	408.2	406.3	0.5	0.1
Information	68.5	76.1	76.8	76.5	8.0	11.7
Financial activities	174.0	175.1	175.1	175.1	1.1	0.6
Professional and business services	406.2	428.1	426.2	428.8	22.6	5.6
Education and health services	484.0	497.0	499.1	494.0	10.0	2.1
Leisure and hospitality	241.3	243.0	246.2	245.1	3.8	1.6
Other services	97.9	98.7	98.8	98.5	0.6	0.6
Government	274.5	301.1	276.4	271.9	-2.6	-0.9
<b>Chicago-Joliet-Naperville IL-IN-WI</b>						
Total nonfarm	4,315.2	4,376.0	4,350.7	4,354.0	38.8	0.9
Mining and logging	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	0.2	13.3
Construction	156.6	148.4	152.0	155.4	-1.2	-0.8
Manufacturing	413.2	424.2	425.7	424.8	11.6	2.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	865.5	866.2	861.7	861.0	-4.5	-0.5
Information	79.7	78.4	78.6	77.9	-1.8	-2.3
Financial activities	284.9	286.9	287.6	286.3	1.4	0.5
Professional and business services	720.7	739.6	742.2	747.4	26.7	3.7
Education and health services	643.7	652.8	645.1	648.0	4.3	0.7
Leisure and hospitality	420.4	431.2	430.6	430.7	10.3	2.5
Other services	194.0	193.7	192.2	192.4	-1.6	-0.8
Government	535.0	553.0	533.3	528.4	-6.6	-1.2
<b>Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington TX</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,924.3	2,990.2	2,976.8	2,985.4	61.1	2.1
Mining, logging, and construction	159.1	163.4	166.4	168.7	9.6	6.0
Manufacturing	257.3	255.2	258.1	257.6	0.3	0.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	607.3	614.3	611.8	617.0	9.7	1.6
Information	78.9	78.4	78.6	78.5	-0.4	-0.5
Financial activities	237.2	243.9	241.5	242.3	5.1	2.2
Professional and business services	451.5	459.7	463.6	467.0	15.5	3.4
Education and health services	361.7	373.7	375.1	375.4	13.7	3.8
Leisure and hospitality	292.9	309.2	306.1	304.2	11.3	3.9
Other services	103.4	105.7	104.6	104.4	1.0	1.0
Government	375.0	386.7	371.0	370.3	-4.7	-1.3

(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 2011	June 2012	July 2012	Aug 2012(p)	Change from Aug 2011 to 2012(p)	
					Number	Percent
<b>Detroit-Warren-Livonia MI</b>						
Total nonfarm	1,774.8	1,834.7	1,796.7	1,802.2	27.4	1.5
Mining, logging, and construction	61.6	57.5	58.9	59.5	-2.1	-3.4
Manufacturing	203.2	214.6	209.7	214.7	11.5	5.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	333.8	336.5	333.6	334.0	0.2	0.1
Information	25.8	25.6	26.0	25.8	0.0	0.0
Financial activities	99.3	100.8	100.9	101.5	2.2	2.2
Professional and business services	327.4	345.4	333.0	340.1	12.7	3.9
Education and health services	287.0	294.6	294.2	291.3	4.3	1.5
Leisure and hospitality	176.6	185.9	185.2	182.6	6.0	3.4
Other services	80.1	82.0	81.5	80.5	0.4	0.5
Government	180.0	191.8	173.7	172.2	-7.8	-4.3
<b>Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown TX</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,593.4	2,692.5	2,679.1	2,682.9	89.5	3.5
Mining and logging	89.9	96.5	96.7	96.6	6.7	7.5
Construction	176.2	179.7	177.2	183.1	6.9	3.9
Manufacturing	230.3	237.3	237.7	236.0	5.7	2.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	527.4	547.4	548.5	548.7	21.3	4.0
Information	31.7	31.1	31.1	31.4	-0.3	-0.9
Financial activities	137.7	139.9	140.6	141.5	3.8	2.8
Professional and business services	385.6	393.3	393.3	395.8	10.2	2.6
Education and health services	321.8	335.0	335.9	336.7	14.9	4.6
Leisure and hospitality	247.2	268.9	266.2	266.1	18.9	7.6
Other services	93.6	99.9	101.2	100.9	7.3	7.8
Government	352.0	363.5	350.7	346.1	-5.9	-1.7
<b>Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana CA</b>						
Total nonfarm	5,085.9	5,262.1	5,204.5	5,188.9	103.0	2.0
Mining and logging	4.5	4.7	4.7	4.6	0.1	2.2
Construction	173.4	179.4	178.6	181.1	7.7	4.4
Manufacturing	520.5	516.3	515.2	513.9	-6.6	-1.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	992.2	1,001.8	1,000.8	1,000.3	8.1	0.8
Information	219.7	224.4	218.6	223.6	3.9	1.8
Financial activities	314.1	320.6	323.0	324.0	9.9	3.2
Professional and business services	784.7	814.0	813.1	818.9	34.2	4.4
Education and health services	676.9	698.6	691.9	692.0	15.1	2.2
Leisure and hospitality	569.1	596.1	597.5	596.5	27.4	4.8
Other services	175.9	182.1	180.5	179.0	3.1	1.8
Government	654.9	724.1	680.6	655.0	0.1	0.0
<b>Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach FL</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,207.6	2,207.6	2,189.2	2,212.5	4.9	0.2
Mining and logging	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Construction	82.6	77.6	78.5	78.7	-3.9	-4.7
Manufacturing	76.3	76.4	75.9	75.7	-0.6	-0.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	517.0	523.8	521.9	522.8	5.8	1.1
Information	43.4	43.1	43.1	43.0	-0.4	-0.9
Financial activities	151.6	154.1	150.9	151.8	0.2	0.1
Professional and business services	339.5	346.5	346.0	344.5	5.0	1.5
Education and health services	343.6	353.8	349.8	351.9	8.3	2.4
Leisure and hospitality	255.0	255.2	249.5	249.4	-5.6	-2.2
Other services	91.5	94.1	93.5	92.9	1.4	1.5
Government	306.4	282.3	279.4	301.1	-5.3	-1.7

(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	Aug 2011	June 2012	July 2012	Aug 2012(p)	Change from Aug 2011 to 2012(p)	
					Number	Percent
<b>New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island NY-NJ-PA</b>						
Total nonfarm	8,396.5	8,620.8	8,559.1	8,514.4	117.9	1.4
Mining, logging, and construction	314.4	290.6	298.7	297.0	-17.4	-5.5
Manufacturing	363.4	362.4	359.8	357.9	-5.5	-1.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,539.6	1,582.9	1,555.8	1,561.9	22.3	1.4
Information	256.2	273.0	270.7	273.2	17.0	6.6
Financial activities	749.3	752.1	752.9	750.0	0.7	0.1
Professional and business services	1,320.4	1,373.0	1,373.1	1,374.7	54.3	4.1
Education and health services	1,508.6	1,567.6	1,551.1	1,540.2	31.6	2.1
Leisure and hospitality	748.3	776.4	788.3	781.3	33.0	4.4
Other services	367.6	380.4	381.5	376.2	8.6	2.3
Government	1,228.7	1,262.4	1,227.2	1,202.0	-26.7	-2.2
<b>Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington PA-NJ-DE-MD</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,674.9	2,741.3	2,700.2	2,696.1	21.2	0.8
Mining, logging, and construction	106.5	100.3	100.7	100.8	-5.7	-5.4
Manufacturing	186.8	187.8	187.4	188.4	1.6	0.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	492.4	500.9	498.3	496.4	4.0	0.8
Information	46.7	49.5	49.6	49.7	3.0	6.4
Financial activities	200.7	200.8	200.5	200.9	0.2	0.1
Professional and business services	422.7	432.3	430.6	433.3	10.6	2.5
Education and health services	551.1	564.3	556.6	557.6	6.5	1.2
Leisure and hospitality	235.7	247.2	245.6	241.0	5.3	2.2
Other services	121.3	122.1	121.5	121.0	-0.3	-0.2
Government	311.0	336.1	309.4	307.0	-4.0	-1.3
<b>San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont CA</b>						
Total nonfarm	1,882.5	1,949.7	1,937.7	1,941.9	59.4	3.2
Mining and logging	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Construction	82.3	82.9	84.1	85.5	3.2	3.9
Manufacturing	116.8	115.3	116.0	115.6	-1.2	-1.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	320.0	327.5	327.5	328.9	8.9	2.8
Information	63.9	66.6	66.4	66.8	2.9	4.5
Financial activities	123.5	122.5	122.2	121.8	-1.7	-1.4
Professional and business services	358.1	374.9	376.5	378.2	20.1	5.6
Education and health services	242.7	256.3	254.5	254.4	11.7	4.8
Leisure and hospitality	219.6	223.9	223.2	227.3	7.7	3.5
Other services	76.9	78.4	78.8	79.0	2.1	2.7
Government	277.3	300.0	287.1	283.0	5.7	2.1
<b>Washington-Arlington-Alexandria DC-VA-MD-WV</b>						
Total nonfarm	2,985.7	3,054.2	3,046.3	3,023.9	38.2	1.3
Mining, logging, and construction	145.8	147.4	148.2	149.9	4.1	2.8
Manufacturing	50.2	50.8	50.0	49.6	-0.6	-1.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	378.8	379.9	376.5	375.4	-3.4	-0.9
Information	77.9	79.9	79.7	80.2	2.3	3.0
Financial activities	146.7	150.7	150.6	150.6	3.9	2.7
Professional and business services	689.6	700.8	701.7	699.1	9.5	1.4
Education and health services	363.2	378.5	377.5	374.8	11.6	3.2
Leisure and hospitality	276.7	286.5	287.4	284.7	8.0	2.9
Other services	184.2	185.2	185.4	184.1	-0.1	-0.1
Government	672.6	694.5	689.3	675.5	2.9	0.4

(p) preliminary