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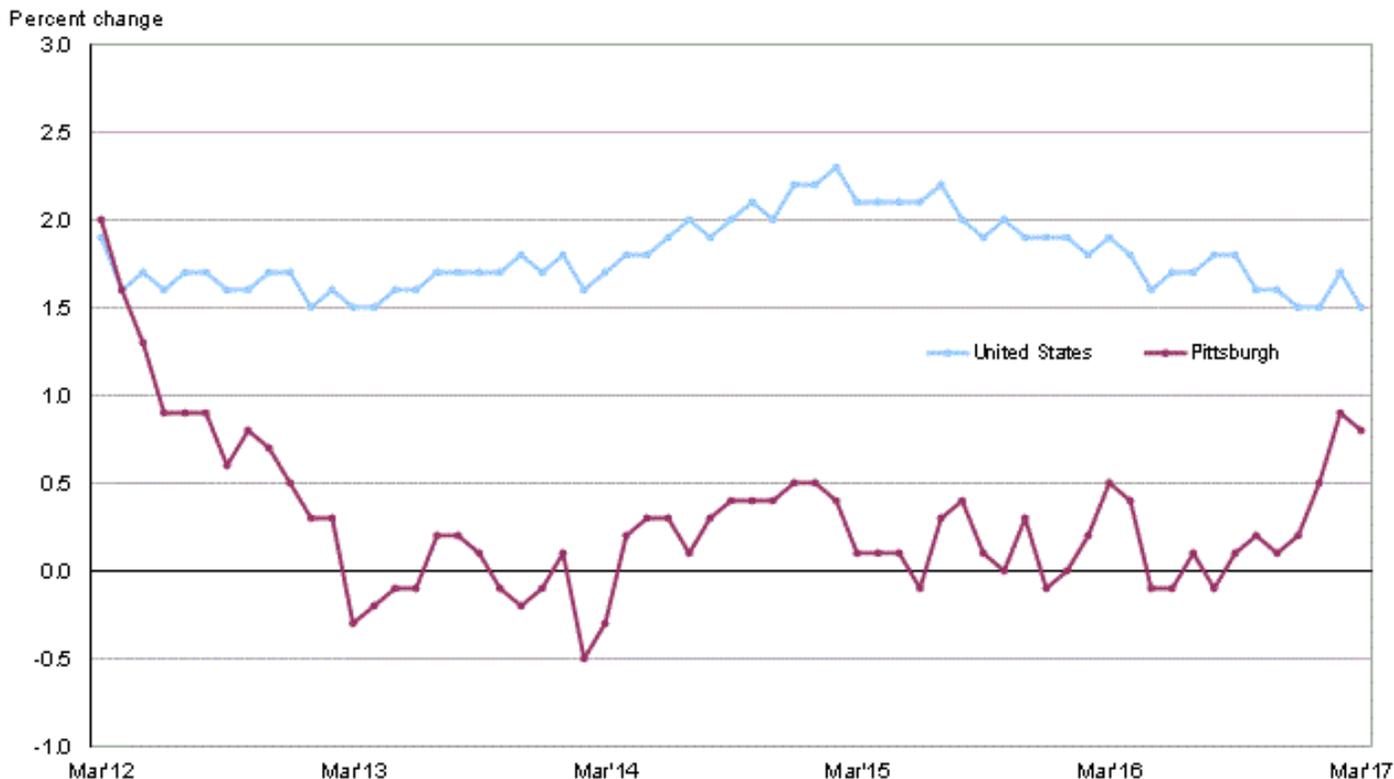
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Pittsburgh Area Employment – March 2017

Local Rate of Employment Growth Slower than the National Average

Total nonfarm employment for the Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area stood at 1,160,400 in March 2017, up 9,200, or 0.8 percent, over the year, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. During the same period, the national job count increased 1.5 percent. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau’s regional commissioner, noted that the Pittsburgh area’s March increase was its seventh consecutive month of over-the-year employment gains. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#); the [Technical Note](#) at the end of this 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 United States and the Pittsburgh metropolitan area, March 2012-March 2017



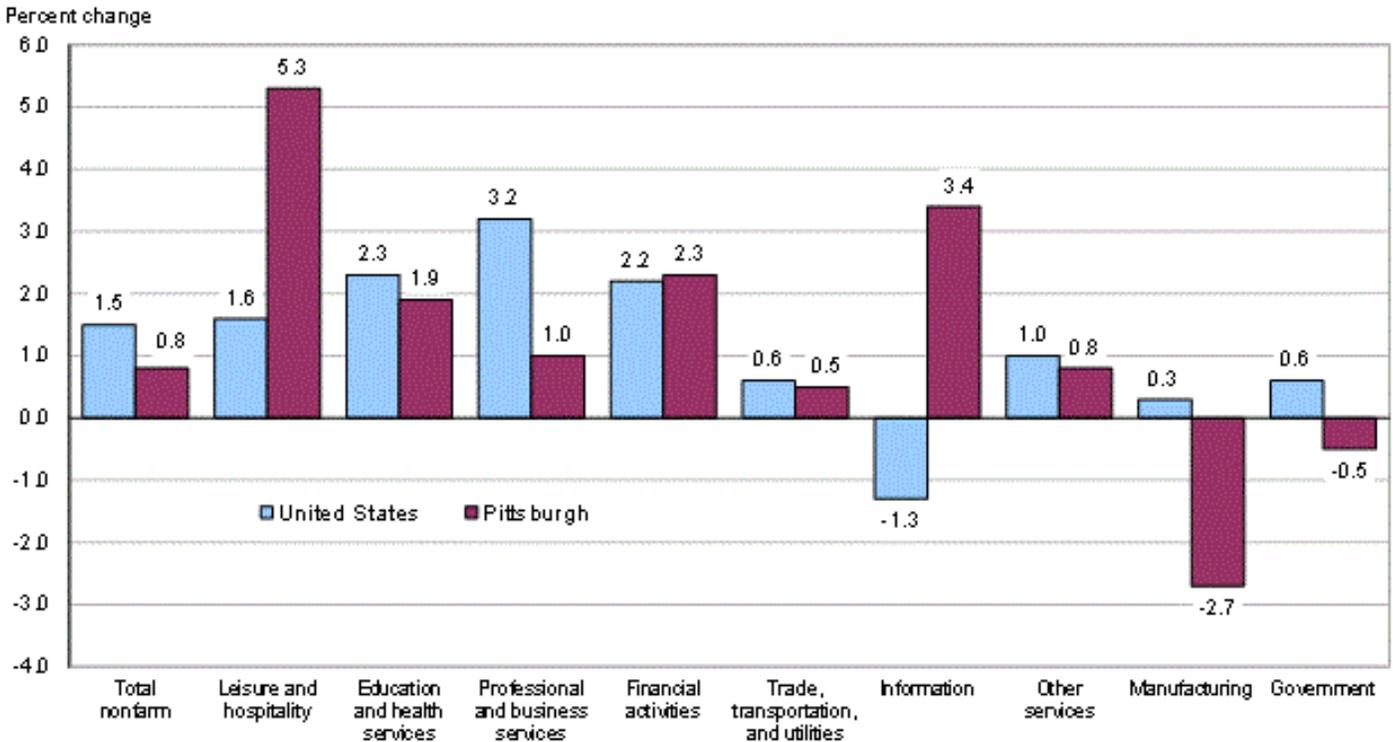
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Industry employment

In the Pittsburgh metropolitan area, leisure and hospitality had the largest employment gain from March 2016 to March 2017, adding 6,000 jobs. The local 5.3-percent increase was more than three times greater than the 1.6-percent national increase for this industry. (See [chart 2](#).) Education and health services employment increased by 4,700 since last March, the second-largest gain in the Pittsburgh area. The over-the-year local increase for this supersector (1.9 percent) was less than the national increase (2.3 percent).

The professional and business services supersector in the Pittsburgh area gained 1,800 jobs from March 2016 to March 2017. The local rate of increase for professional and business services employment (1.0 percent) was less than that for the nation (3.2 percent).

Chart 2. Total nonfarm and selected industry supersector employment, over-the-year-percent change, United States and the Pittsburgh metropolitan area, March 2017



Three local industries each lost more than 1,000 jobs from March 2016 to March 2017—construction, manufacturing, and mining and logging. The local rate of decline for manufacturing employment was 2.7 percent; nationally, this industry gained jobs at a rate of 0.3 percent.

Metropolitan area employment data for April 2017 are scheduled to be released on Friday, May 19, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. (ET).

Changes to Current Employment Statistics Data

Effective with the release of January 2017 data, nonfarm payroll employment estimates for states and metropolitan areas were revised to reflect 2016 benchmark levels. For more information on benchmark procedures, see www.bls.gov/sae/benchmark2017.pdf.

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.

Definitions. Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who receive pay for any part of the pay period which 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 2012 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 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 and administrative data 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 for state CES data at the supersector level are available on the BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm. Information on recent benchmark revisions for states is available at www.bls.gov/sae/.

Area definitions. The substate area data published in this release reflect the delininations issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget on February 29, 2013. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available at www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm.

The **Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties in Pennsylvania.

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 online at 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/.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, United States and the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area, not seasonally adjusted (in thousands)

Area	Back data	Mar 2016	Jan 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	Mar 2016 to Mar 2017	
						Net change	Percent change
United States							
Total nonfarm.....		142,814	143,273	(p)144,279	(p)144,949	(p)2,135	(p)1.5
Mining and logging		681	662	(p)672	(p)684	(p)3	(p)0.4
Construction		6,402	6,415	(p)6,479	(p)6,586	(p)184	(p)2.9
Manufacturing.....		12,288	12,263	(p)12,302	(p)12,329	(p)41	(p)0.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities		26,855	27,241	(p)26,998	(p)27,025	(p)170	(p)0.6
Information		2,776	2,720	(p)2,747	(p)2,739	(p)-37	(p)-1.3
Financial activities		8,181	8,339	(p)8,339	(p)8,360	(p)179	(p)2.2
Professional and business services		19,704	20,098	(p)20,216	(p)20,336	(p)632	(p)3.2
Education and health services		22,590	22,707	(p)23,072	(p)23,111	(p)521	(p)2.3
Leisure and hospitality.....		15,143	15,018	(p)15,167	(p)15,390	(p)247	(p)1.6
Other services		5,642	5,641	(p)5,673	(p)5,698	(p)56	(p)1.0
Government.....		22,552	22,169	(p)22,614	(p)22,691	(p)139	(p)0.6
Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area							
Total Nonfarm		1,151.2	1,145.9	1,152.6	(p)1,160.4	(p)9.2	(p)0.8
Mining and logging		9.1	7.9	7.9	(p)8.0	(p)-1.1	(p)-12.1
Construction		50.6	46.3	46.1	(p)47.7	(p)-2.9	(p)-5.7
Manufacturing.....		85.7	82.6	82.9	(p)83.4	(p)-2.3	(p)-2.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities		211.5	213.3	211.8	(p)212.5	(p)1.0	(p)0.5
Information		17.8	18.4	18.3	(p)18.4	(p)0.6	(p)3.4
Financial activities		70.1	71.6	71.4	(p)71.7	(p)1.6	(p)2.3
Professional and business Services.....		179.9	181.2	181.5	(p)181.7	(p)1.8	(p)1.0
Education and health Services.....		244.3	244.9	248.6	(p)249.0	(p)4.7	(p)1.9
Leisure and hospitality.....		112.6	113.9	115.3	(p)118.6	(p)6.0	(p)5.3
Other services		50.8	51.5	51.1	(p)51.2	(p)0.4	(p)0.8
Government.....		118.8	114.3	117.7	(p)118.2	(p)-0.6	(p)-0.5

Footnotes(p) Preliminary

SOURCE: Current Employment Statistics - National State and Metropolitan Area

The Current Employment Statistics (CES) Survey is a monthly survey of business establishments which provides estimates of employment, hours, and earnings data by industry for the nation as a whole, all States, and most major metropolitan areas since 1939. The CES survey is a Federal-State cooperative program in which State employment security agencies prepare the data using concepts, definitions, and technical procedures prescribed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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