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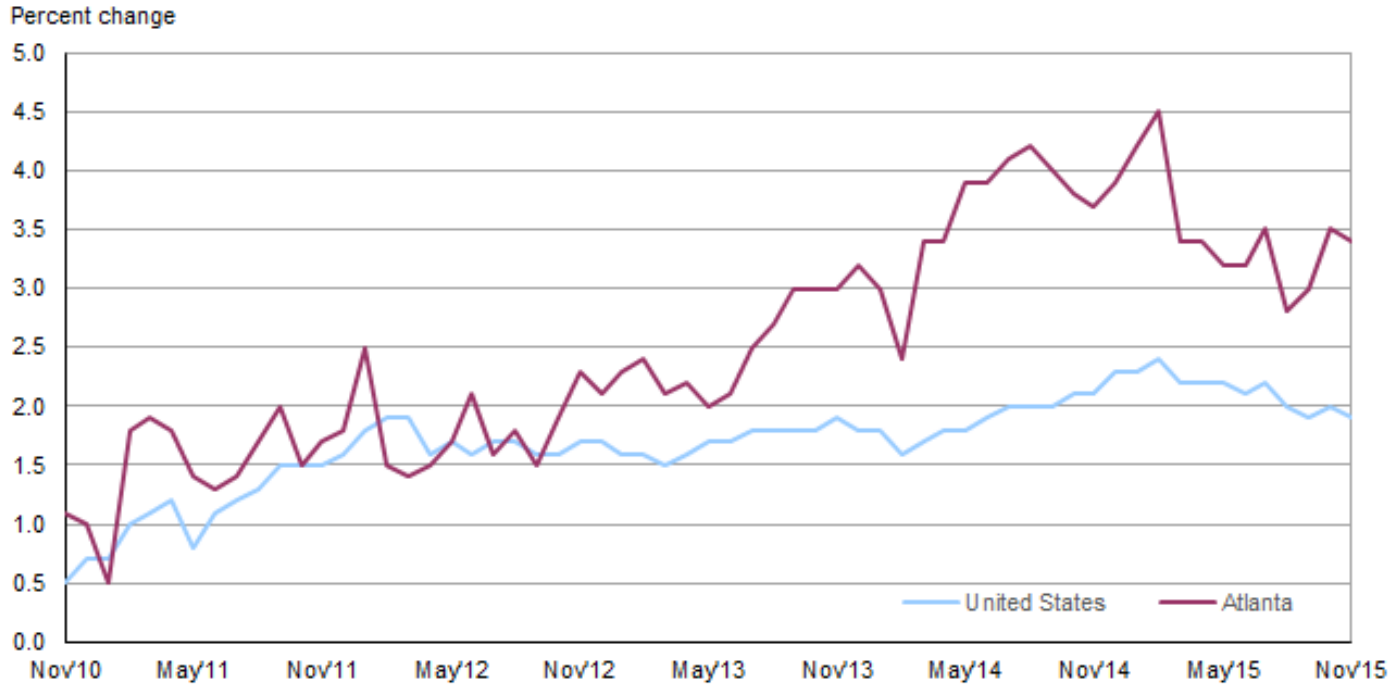
Atlanta Area Employment – November 2015

Total nonfarm employment for the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, Ga. Metropolitan Statistical Area stood at 2,646,000 in November 2015, up 86,500, or 3.4 percent over the year, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the local area has had over-the-year employment gains of 50,000 or more since July 2013. Nationally, nonfarm employment increased 1.9 percent from November 2014 to November 2015. (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 Atlanta metropolitan area, November 2010–November 2015



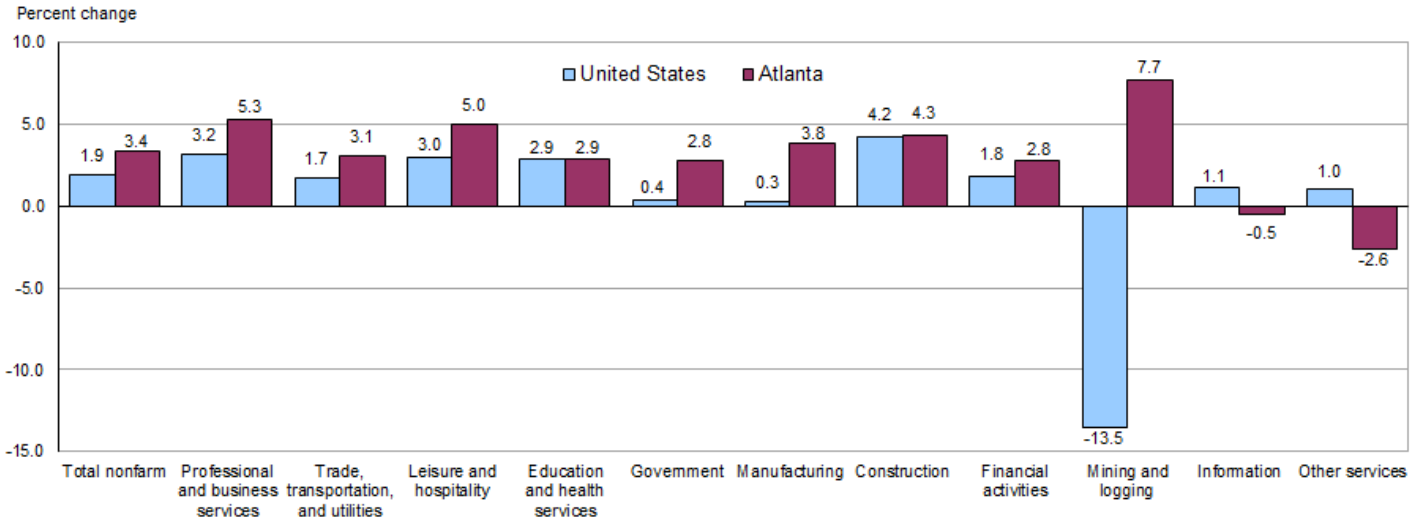
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Industry employment

In the Atlanta metropolitan area, professional and business services recorded the largest employment gain from November 2014 to November 2015, adding 25,100 jobs. The area's 5.3-percent growth in professional and business services employment was larger than the nationwide increase of 3.2 percent. (See chart 2.)

Trade, transportation, and utilities had the second largest increase in jobs locally, increasing by 18,000 from the previous November. Employment in this supersector grew 3.1 percent in Atlanta compared to 1.7 percent for the nation.

Chart 2. Total nonfarm and selected industry supersector employment, over-the-year percent change, United States and the Atlanta metropolitan area, November 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

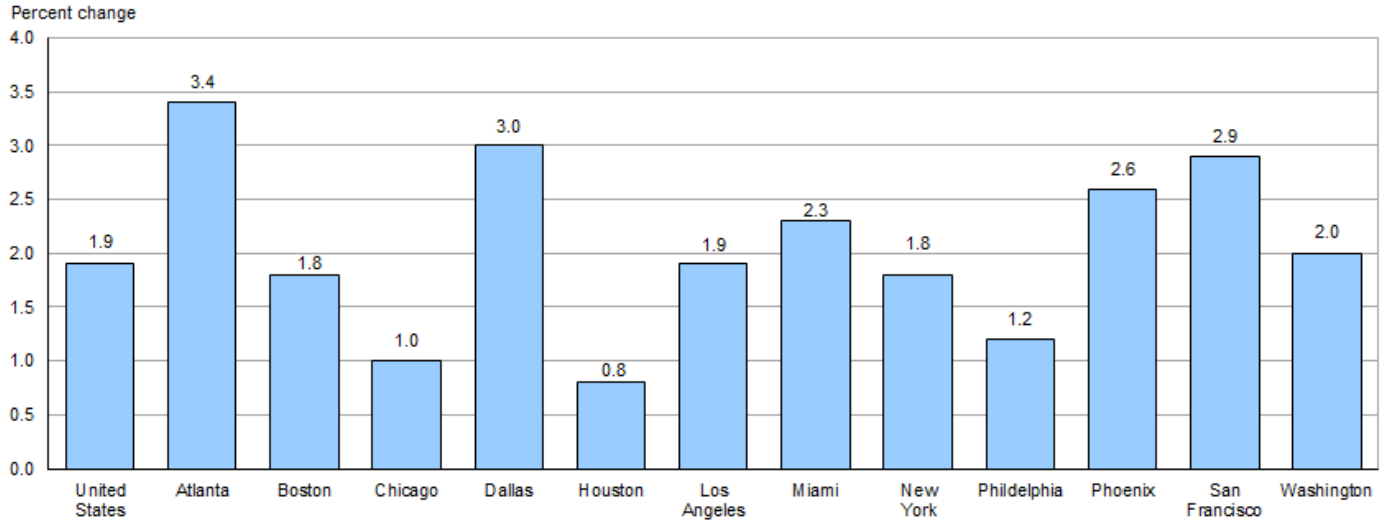
Three other supersectors in the Atlanta area gained at least 9,000 jobs since last November—leisure and hospitality (13,100); education and health services (9,200); and government (9,100). Locally, the rate of job growth in each supersector was equal to or greater than the respective national rate.

Other services was the only supersector in the Atlanta area that had an employment decline greater than 1,000 from the previous November, down 2,500 (-2.6 percent). Nationally, this supersector added jobs over the 12-month period, advancing 1.0 percent.

Twelve largest metropolitan areas

Atlanta was 1 of the nation's 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas in November 2015. All 12 areas experienced over-the-year job growth during the period, with 6 exceeding the national average of 1.9 percent. The fastest rate of job growth was in Atlanta, up 3.4 percent, followed by Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, up 3.0 percent. The slowest growth rate occurred in Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land (0.8 percent). (See chart 3 and table 2.)

Chart 3. Total nonfarm employment, over-the-year percent change, United States and the 12 largest metropolitan areas, November 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The New York-Newark-Jersey City area added the largest number of jobs, 167,000 since November 2014. Employment increased by over 100,000 in two other areas—Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim (112,200) and Dallas (101,200). Houston experienced the smallest gain, adding 23,700 jobs over the 12-month period.

Professional and business services recorded the most job growth in 6 of the 12 metropolitan areas from November a year ago—Atlanta, Boston-Cambridge-Nashua, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, and Washington-Arlington-Alexandria. Leisure and hospitality added the most jobs in three other areas—Dallas, Houston, and Los Angeles.

Manufacturing recorded the largest over-the-year loss of jobs in four areas—Chicago, Dallas, Houston, and Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington. Five other areas recorded no job losses greater than 1,000 for any supersector since last November—Boston, Miami, New York, Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, and Washington.

Metropolitan area employment data for December 2015 are scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 3, 2016.

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 delineations issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget on February 28, 2013. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available at www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm.

The **Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, Ga. Metropolitan Statistical Area** 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, Morgan, 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 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, Atlanta metropolitan area and its components, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands), November 2015

Area and Industry	Nov 2014	Sept 2015	Oct 2015	Nov 2015 (p)	Change from Nov 2014 to Nov 2015 (p)	
					Number	Percent
United States						
Total nonfarm	141,478	142,604	143,784	144,128	2,650	1.9
Mining and logging	916	816	808	792	-124	-13.5
Construction	6,339	6,627	6,662	6,606	267	4.2
Manufacturing	12,290	12,370	12,347	12,332	42	0.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	27,106	26,883	27,119	27,554	448	1.7
Information	2,778	2,796	2,806	2,809	31	1.1
Financial activities	8,041	8,163	8,176	8,183	142	1.8
Professional and business services	19,507	19,919	20,131	20,127	620	3.2
Education and health services	21,912	22,102	22,468	22,553	641	2.9
Leisure and hospitality	14,616	15,422	15,264	15,061	445	3.0
Other services	5,592	5,631	5,655	5,646	54	1.0
Government	22,381	21,875	22,348	22,465	84	0.4
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area						
Total nonfarm	2,559.5	2,595.6	2,627.6	2,646.0	86.5	3.4
Mining and logging	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	0.1	7.7
Construction	104.6	109.5	109.2	109.1	4.5	4.3
Manufacturing	153.6	156.9	158.7	159.4	5.8	3.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	576.8	571.5	582.1	594.8	18.0	3.1
Information	87.6	87.6	88.0	87.2	-0.4	-0.5
Financial activities	162.6	164.8	166.7	167.1	4.5	2.8
Professional and business services	472.2	490.4	496.8	497.3	25.1	5.3
Education and health services	313.6	318.6	321.6	322.8	9.2	2.9
Leisure and hospitality	263.0	270.7	274.6	276.1	13.1	5.0
Other services	96.7	93.2	94.3	94.2	-2.5	-2.6
Government	327.5	331.1	334.2	336.6	9.1	2.8

(P) Preliminary

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

Area and Industry	Nov 2014	Sept 2015	Oct 2015	Nov 2015 (p)	Change from Nov 2014 to Nov 2015 (p)	
					Number	Percent
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA						
Total nonfarm	2,559.5	2,595.6	2,627.6	2,646.0	86.5	3.4
Mining and logging	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	0.1	7.7
Construction	104.6	109.5	109.2	109.1	4.5	4.3
Manufacturing	153.6	156.9	158.7	159.4	5.8	3.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	576.8	571.5	582.1	594.8	18.0	3.1
Information	87.6	87.6	88.0	87.2	-0.4	-0.5
Financial activities	162.6	164.8	166.7	167.1	4.5	2.8
Professional and business services	472.2	490.4	496.8	497.3	25.1	5.3
Education and health services	313.6	318.6	321.6	322.8	9.2	2.9
Leisure and hospitality	263.0	270.7	274.6	276.1	13.1	5.0
Other services	96.7	93.2	94.3	94.2	-2.5	-2.6
Government	327.5	331.1	334.2	336.6	9.1	2.8
Boston-Cambridge-Nashua, MA-NH						
Total nonfarm	2,628.1	2,647.9	2,671.3	2,676.0	47.9	1.8
Mining, logging, and construction	99.0	103.6	105.4	105.7	6.7	6.8
Manufacturing	191.7	190.1	190.3	190.9	-0.8	-0.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	421.1	412.5	417.0	422.4	1.3	0.3
Information	75.8	77.6	77.2	77.0	1.2	1.6
Financial activities	173.3	176.8	177.6	178.2	4.9	2.8
Professional and business services	449.2	459.5	463.4	462.5	13.3	3.0
Education and health services	550.4	550.4	560.3	562.4	12.0	2.2
Leisure and hospitality	246.6	259.9	257.1	250.0	3.4	1.4
Other services	101.2	102.1	102.7	102.8	1.6	1.6
Government	319.8	315.4	320.3	324.1	4.3	1.3
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI						
Total nonfarm	4,566.8	4,580.0	4,609.9	4,613.8	47.0	1.0
Mining and logging	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	-0.1	-6.3
Construction	163.5	170.8	172.7	170.6	7.1	4.3
Manufacturing	409.9	406.6	405.9	404.3	-5.6	-1.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	929.1	917.8	923.6	936.8	7.7	0.8
Information	80.5	79.8	80.3	81.0	0.5	0.6
Financial activities	289.7	288.0	288.3	289.3	-0.4	-0.1
Professional and business services	809.4	826.1	826.7	822.7	13.3	1.6
Education and health services	700.0	695.4	708.6	710.9	10.9	1.6
Leisure and hospitality	431.2	446.4	442.8	434.2	3.0	0.7
Other services	192.0	194.9	196.7	197.5	5.5	2.9
Government	559.9	552.7	562.8	565.0	5.1	0.9
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX						
Total nonfarm	3,341.9	3,397.3	3,427.7	3,443.1	101.2	3.0
Mining, logging, and construction	196.7	193.1	193.0	193.9	-2.8	-1.4
Manufacturing	263.3	258.3	257.9	257.9	-5.4	-2.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	704.8	712.7	720.5	729.1	24.3	3.4
Information	81.8	81.7	81.3	82.5	0.7	0.9
Financial activities	271.7	275.4	277.0	277.8	6.1	2.2
Professional and business services	552.9	568.6	575.8	576.2	23.3	4.2
Education and health services	411.2	425.9	430.6	431.8	20.6	5.0
Leisure and hospitality	333.3	355.8	357.9	358.0	24.7	7.4
Other services	116.0	120.8	119.9	119.1	3.1	2.7
Government	410.2	405.0	413.8	416.8	6.6	1.6
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX						
Total nonfarm	2,982.7	2,979.8	3,001.6	3,006.4	23.7	0.8
Mining and logging	113.4	111.2	108.4	107.9	-5.5	-4.9
Construction	209.1	205.3	214.5	213.1	4.0	1.9

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Area and Industry	Nov 2014	Sept 2015	Oct 2015	Nov 2015 (p)	Change from Nov 2014 to Nov 2015 (p)	
					Number	Percent
Manufacturing	257.4	244.4	242.5	242.0	-15.4	-6.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	612.4	605.1	605.8	614.1	1.7	0.3
Information	32.7	34.6	34.1	33.8	1.1	3.4
Financial activities	148.8	143.8	144.8	144.9	-3.9	-2.6
Professional and business services	471.3	473.5	473.1	469.5	-1.8	-0.4
Education and health services	359.8	371.2	374.9	374.9	15.1	4.2
Leisure and hospitality	289.0	303.8	306.8	308.5	19.5	6.7
Other services	104.9	103.8	104.8	103.6	-1.3	-1.2
Government	383.9	383.1	391.9	394.1	10.2	2.7
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA						
Total nonfarm	5,844.8	5,873.4	5,923.2	5,957.0	112.2	1.9
Mining and logging	5.4	5.2	5.2	4.9	-0.5	-9.3
Construction	209.7	219.9	222.3	224.1	14.4	6.9
Manufacturing	525.7	526.0	522.9	522.3	-3.4	-0.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,093.1	1,081.7	1,085.9	1,107.0	13.9	1.3
Information	225.3	220.5	221.0	217.8	-7.5	-3.3
Financial activities	326.5	324.6	324.3	325.1	-1.4	-0.4
Professional and business services	900.1	906.6	917.5	919.1	19.0	2.1
Education and health services	963.8	979.2	988.5	991.3	27.5	2.9
Leisure and hospitality	666.3	688.8	693.7	694.2	27.9	4.2
Other services	202.8	207.5	207.7	208.8	6.0	3.0
Government	726.1	713.4	734.2	742.4	16.3	2.2
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL						
Total nonfarm	2,488.0	2,483.2	2,509.8	2,545.9	57.9	2.3
Mining and logging	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Construction	107.6	108.6	109.4	111.8	4.2	3.9
Manufacturing	82.1	80.8	80.7	81.3	-0.8	-1.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	581.1	572.4	578.4	592.3	11.2	1.9
Information	48.5	47.9	48.3	48.6	0.1	0.2
Financial activities	173.7	173.6	176.1	176.4	2.7	1.6
Professional and business services	401.4	409.6	415.4	423.1	21.7	5.4
Education and health services	365.0	366.9	370.4	370.2	5.2	1.4
Leisure and hospitality	302.4	302.9	305.2	313.1	10.7	3.5
Other services	119.3	119.4	121.1	122.5	3.2	2.7
Government	306.3	300.5	304.2	306.0	-0.3	-0.1
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA						
Total nonfarm	9,293.0	9,289.5	9,402.7	9,460.0	167.0	1.8
Mining, logging, and construction	358.3	376.1	378.1	384.5	26.2	7.3
Manufacturing	368.4	366.4	369.1	369.8	1.4	0.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,745.7	1,712.6	1,726.0	1,757.3	11.6	0.7
Information	284.9	280.8	284.3	284.4	-0.5	-0.2
Financial activities	752.7	761.4	763.8	763.9	11.2	1.5
Professional and business services	1,456.6	1,454.2	1,469.7	1,474.9	18.3	1.3
Education and health services	1,767.8	1,768.5	1,810.8	1,829.0	61.2	3.5
Leisure and hospitality	838.7	887.4	874.2	861.9	23.2	2.8
Other services	408.7	417.6	418.4	419.2	10.5	2.6
Government	1,311.2	1,264.5	1,308.3	1,315.1	3.9	0.3
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD						
Total nonfarm	2,829.1	2,817.8	2,847.8	2,863.6	34.5	1.2
Mining, logging, and construction	108.6	117.8	118.5	117.3	8.7	8.0
Manufacturing	179.7	177.6	177.2	177.9	-1.8	-1.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	523.8	520.0	525.0	534.0	10.2	1.9
Information	46.2	45.2	45.3	45.5	-0.7	-1.5
Financial activities	204.6	207.2	207.6	207.4	2.8	1.4

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Area and Industry	Nov 2014	Sept 2015	Oct 2015	Nov 2015 (p)	Change from Nov 2014 to Nov 2015 (p)	
					Number	Percent
Professional and business services	457.3	447.8	452.1	457.1	-0.2	0.0
Education and health services	603.8	596.3	607.8	611.8	8.0	1.3
Leisure and hospitality	243.2	255.8	253.9	249.5	6.3	2.6
Other services	119.3	119.5	120.1	120.4	1.1	0.9
Government	342.6	330.6	340.3	342.7	0.1	0.0
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ						
Total nonfarm	1,906.4	1,906.2	1,934.3	1,956.0	49.6	2.6
Mining and logging	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	-0.1	-2.9
Construction	96.9	102.6	102.9	104.8	7.9	8.2
Manufacturing	117.7	117.0	117.4	118.0	0.3	0.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	378.2	369.6	376.3	387.0	8.8	2.3
Information	34.9	34.9	35.3	36.2	1.3	3.7
Financial activities	165.2	168.0	169.5	169.2	4.0	2.4
Professional and business services	319.4	318.7	325.2	326.7	7.3	2.3
Education and health services	276.4	279.0	283.9	285.9	9.5	3.4
Leisure and hospitality	203.2	203.9	207.7	209.9	6.7	3.3
Other services	66.4	67.3	68.4	69.0	2.6	3.9
Government	244.7	241.8	244.4	246.0	1.3	0.5
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA						
Total nonfarm	2,237.0	2,271.2	2,293.0	2,301.8	64.8	2.9
Mining and logging	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	-0.1	-11.1
Construction	104.7	108.5	110.3	109.6	4.9	4.7
Manufacturing	122.9	124.3	124.2	124.0	1.1	0.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	367.2	364.0	369.6	379.6	12.4	3.4
Information	79.6	82.6	82.7	82.8	3.2	4.0
Financial activities	128.0	127.6	127.6	126.9	-1.1	-0.9
Professional and business services	458.8	479.9	482.7	483.9	25.1	5.5
Education and health services	329.2	331.6	335.6	336.1	6.9	2.1
Leisure and hospitality	254.6	262.9	263.0	260.1	5.5	2.2
Other services	83.8	86.1	87.9	86.8	3.0	3.6
Government	307.3	302.9	308.6	311.2	3.9	1.3
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV						
Total nonfarm	3,158.7	3,176.9	3,209.9	3,220.6	61.9	2.0
Mining, logging, and construction	151.2	155.4	156.3	157.4	6.2	4.1
Manufacturing	50.0	49.1	49.5	50.0	0.0	0.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	409.1	400.4	405.5	411.5	2.4	0.6
Information	76.1	76.2	75.6	76.2	0.1	0.1
Financial activities	151.4	150.8	153.0	151.5	0.1	0.1
Professional and business services	710.4	723.8	735.2	735.3	24.9	3.5
Education and health services	416.3	420.9	425.7	427.8	11.5	2.8
Leisure and hospitality	300.3	306.0	307.3	304.5	4.2	1.4
Other services	194.6	197.4	196.6	197.4	2.8	1.4
Government	699.3	696.9	705.2	709.0	9.7	1.4

(P) Preliminary