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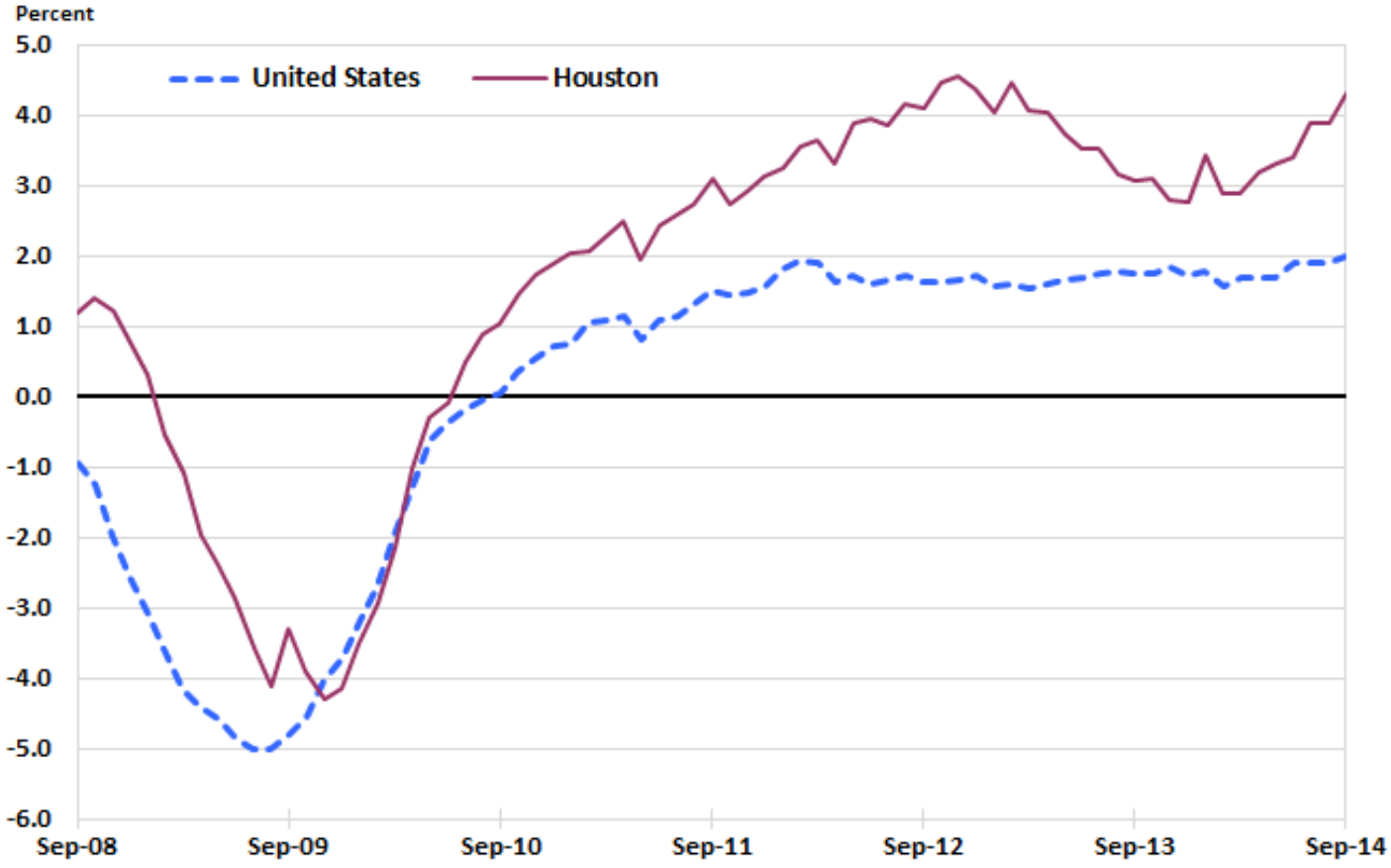
Houston Area Employment — September 2014

Total nonfarm employment in the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown Metropolitan Statistical Area stood at 2,921,700 in September 2014, up 119,400 from one year earlier, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. From September 2013 to September 2014, local nonfarm employment rose 4.3 percent, well above the national rate of 2.0 percent. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that among the 12 largest metropolitan areas in the country, Houston ranked first in the rate of job growth and second in the number of jobs added. (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 Houston metropolitan area, September 2008–September 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Industry employment

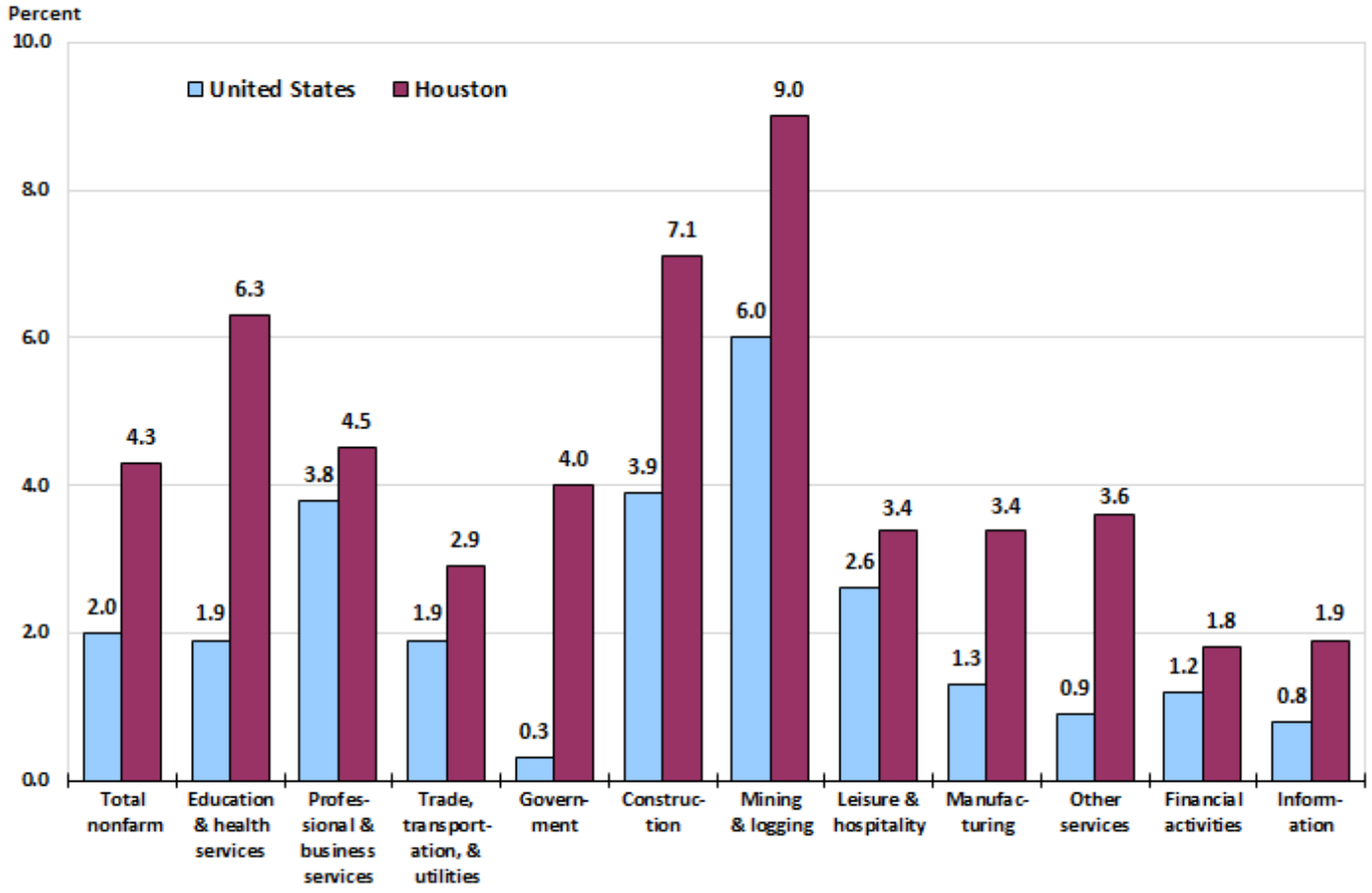
Education and health services registered the largest annual job gain among Houston's supersectors, up 21,300 from September 2013. The local gain in education and health services continued the sector's uninterrupted annual gains registered every month since February 1991. The sector's 6.3-percent local growth rate was more than three times the 1.9-percent national growth rate. Local sector gains were strongest in the health care industry, including ambulatory health care services and hospitals. (See table 1 and chart 2.)

The professional and business services supersector added 19,300 jobs from September 2013 to September 2014. Annual growth was particularly strong in the architectural, engineering, and related services industry, as well as the employment services industry. Over the year, local employment in professional and business services rose 4.5 percent compared to a national gain of 3.8 percent.

Trade, transportation, and utilities–the area's largest supersector–registered an annual job increase of 16,200 during the period. The growth was led by a gain of 7,400 jobs in the transportation and utilities industry, an increase of 5.6 percent. The wholesale and retail trade industries, which accounted for three-fourths of the sector's total employment, rose 1.8 and 2.2 percent, respectively. The total supersector expanded 2.9 percent locally and 1.9 percent nationally.

Government employment rose 14,600 over the year–the 23rd consecutive month of annual increases following a 20-month period of declines. Gains within Houston's local government jurisdiction accounted for nearly all of the total government rise, with over half of the gain occurring in local educational services. State government employment in Houston was little changed over the year while employment in federal government declined slightly. Locally, total government employment rose 4.0 percent compared to 0.3 percent nationally.

Chart 2. Total nonfarm and industry supersector employment, over-the-year percent change, United States and the Houston metropolitan area, September 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The construction supersector in the Houston area gained 13,500 jobs over the year, led by construction of buildings, up 8,400 jobs or 17.0 percent. Houston's total construction sector rose 7.1 percent compared to a national gain of 3.9 percent.

The local mining and logging supersector added 9,800 jobs since September 2013, a 9.0-percent gain compared to the national increase of 6.0 percent.

Houston's leisure and hospitality supersector expanded 9,400 jobs during the 12-month period, with most of the gain occurring in its largest industry, food services and drinking places. Since September 2013, leisure and hospitality employment rose 3.4 percent locally and 2.6 percent nationally.

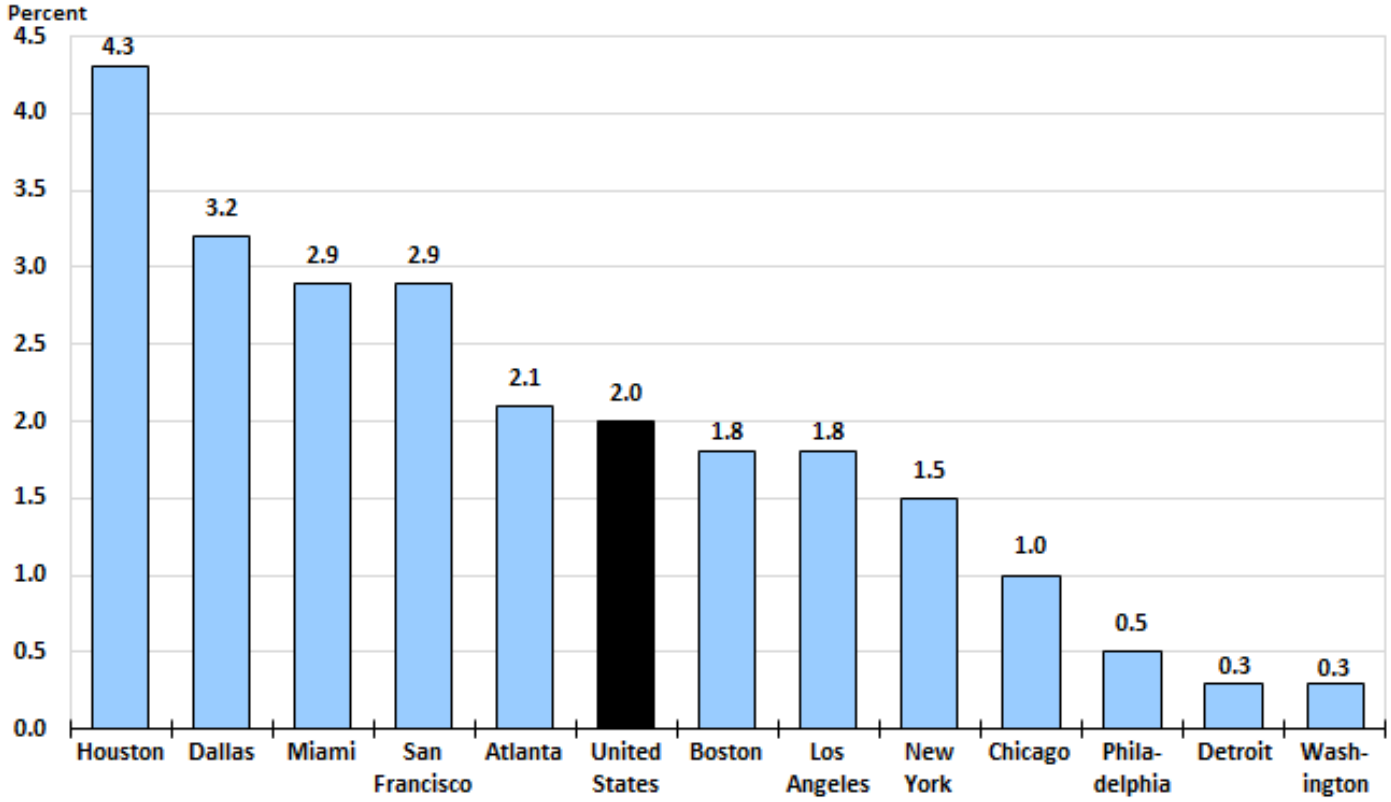
Employment in local manufacturing advanced 8,500 since September 2013, marking 48 consecutive months of over-the-year gains. Non-durable manufacturing, which accounts for about 30 percent of total local manufacturing employment, was responsible for more than 80 percent (7,100) of the supersector's current annual gain. Locally, manufacturing increased 3.4 percent over the year, while nationally, it rose 1.3 percent.

Two additional supersectors recorded employment advances of at least 1,000 from September a year ago: other services (3,600) and financial activities (2,600). Local growth rates in both supersectors (3.6 and 1.8 percent, respectively), were above their national rates.

Employment in the 12 largest metropolitan areas

Houston was one of the nation's 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas in September 2014. All of these areas experienced over-the-year job growth during the period, with 5 exceeding the national average of 2.0 percent. (See chart 3 and table 2.) The fastest rate of job growth was registered in Houston, up 4.3 percent, followed by Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, up 3.2 percent. The slowest rate of expansion, 0.3 percent, was experienced in both Detroit-Warren-Livonia and Washington-Arlington-Alexandria.

Chart 3. Total nonfarm employment, over-the-year percent change, United States and 12 largest metropolitan areas, September 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island added the largest number of jobs from the previous September, up 130,500. Three other areas added more than 100,000 jobs over the year–Houston, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, and Dallas. Five areas had employment increases ranging from 69,200 to 45,000. Detroit registered the smallest 12-month increase, up 4,700 during the period.

Professional and business services led employment growth in 5 of the 12 metropolitan areas–Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, Dallas, Detroit, Los Angeles, and San Francisco-Oakland-Freemont. (See table 2.) Education and health services recorded the largest gains in three–areas: Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, Houston, and New York.

Over the year, manufacturing recorded the largest loss of jobs in three areas–Chicago, Dallas, and Los Angeles. The Boston, Houston, and Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach areas experienced no annual job loss in any supersector.

Additional information

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request: voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 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 between State employment security agencies and 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 December 1, 2009. A detailed list of geographic definitions is available at www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm.

The **Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown Metropolitan Statistical Area** 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	Sep. 2013	Jul. 2014	Aug. 2014	Sep. 2014(p)	Change from Sep. 2013 to Sep. 2014	
					Number	Percent
U.S.						
Total nonfarm	137,069	138,669	139,051	139,752	2,683	2.0
Mining and logging	886	931	935	939	53	6.0
Construction	6,081	6,316	6,350	6,316	235	3.9
Manufacturing	12,065	12,218	12,249	12,222	157	1.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	25,908	26,444	26,432	26,411	503	1.9
Information	2,665	2,689	2,697	2,685	20	0.8
Financial activities	7,897	8,031	8,031	7,993	96	1.2
Professional and business services	18,773	19,362	19,460	19,492	719	3.8
Education and health services	21,086	21,163	21,229	21,497	411	1.9
Leisure and hospitality	14,498	15,337	15,300	14,874	376	2.6
Other services	5,463	5,574	5,559	5,511	48	0.9
Government	21,747	20,604	20,809	21,812	65	0.3
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area						
Total nonfarm	2,802.3	2,892.7	2,898.1	2,921.7	119.4	4.3
Mining and logging	108.3	116.4	117.6	118.1	9.8	9.0
Construction	189.6	195.7	201.4	203.1	13.5	7.1
Manufacturing	252.9	261.5	262.1	261.4	8.5	3.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	567.0	585.4	585.4	583.2	16.2	2.9
Information	32.4	33.3	33.2	33.0	0.6	1.9
Financial activities	144.1	146.5	147.5	146.7	2.6	1.8
Professional and business services	430.0	446.1	447.4	449.3	19.3	4.5
Education and health services	336.4	348.5	354.5	357.7	21.3	6.3
Leisure and hospitality	273.4	291.3	287.5	282.8	9.4	3.4
Other services	99.0	103.5	102.6	102.6	3.6	3.6
Government	369.2	364.5	358.9	383.8	14.6	4.0

(p) preliminary

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

Area and Industry	Sep. 2013	Jul. 2014	Aug. 2014	Sep. 2014(p)	Change from Sep. 2013 to Sep. 2014	
					Number	Percent
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA						
Total nonfarm	2,416.7	2,464.7	2,472.6	2,468.6	51.9	2.1
Mining and logging	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	94.6	97.7	98.0	98.5	3.9	4.1
Manufacturing	149.6	153.7	154.3	154.2	4.6	3.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	536.3	551.0	550.2	550.7	14.4	2.7
Information	84.9	87.4	86.9	86.2	1.3	1.5
Financial activities	157.0	162.3	161.0	160.5	3.5	2.2
Professional and business services	439.5	458.2	457.8	452.7	13.2	3.0
Education and health services	295.4	291.8	295.9	298.1	2.7	0.9
Leisure and hospitality	247.9	264.4	261.0	256.5	8.6	3.5
Other services	93.7	92.2	93.1	91.4	-2.3	-2.5
Government	316.6	304.8	313.2	318.6	2.0	0.6
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH						
Total nonfarm	2,568.1	2,610.8	2,592.2	2,613.4	45.3	1.8
Mining and logging	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Construction	94.4	96.5	96.2	95.0	0.6	0.6
Manufacturing	193.4	195.2	195.1	193.9	0.5	0.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	408.2	418.9	405.5	416.2	8.0	2.0
Information	74.3	79.4	79.8	79.6	5.3	7.1
Financial activities	172.3	176.1	176.2	174.0	1.7	1.0
Professional and business services	437.2	450.9	451.3	448.5	11.3	2.6
Education and health services	536.5	543.8	541.4	549.1	12.6	2.3
Leisure and hospitality	251.0	265.0	266.8	254.6	3.6	1.4
Other services	98.5	104.7	103.9	99.6	1.1	1.1
Government	301.7	279.7	275.4	302.3	0.6	0.2
Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL-IN-WI						
Total nonfarm	4,473.6	4,505.7	4,511.1	4,518.6	45.0	1.0
Mining and logging	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	-0.1	-6.7
Construction	159.7	167.0	167.7	166.1	6.4	4.0
Manufacturing	409.3	407.8	408.7	405.8	-3.5	-0.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	897.1	903.0	903.7	909.2	12.1	1.3
Information	79.5	80.9	80.6	79.8	0.3	0.4
Financial activities	290.5	291.7	290.6	288.6	-1.9	-0.7
Professional and business services	780.1	794.5	799.1	800.0	19.9	2.6
Education and health services	678.3	673.7	675.3	680.8	2.5	0.4
Leisure and hospitality	436.1	449.0	451.2	439.9	3.8	0.9
Other services	191.9	194.5	193.5	193.4	1.5	0.8
Government	549.6	542.2	539.3	553.6	4.0	0.7
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX						
Total nonfarm	3,118.9	3,202.8	3,214.3	3,219.1	100.2	3.2
Mining, logging, and construction	180.2	191.2	193.3	192.7	12.5	6.9
Manufacturing	258.5	258.6	258.5	255.9	-2.6	-1.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	643.1	664.3	666.6	666.3	23.2	3.6
Information	79.3	80.5	79.7	79.3	0.0	0.0
Financial activities	255.8	256.3	258.5	257.0	1.2	0.5
Professional and business services	491.5	525.4	530.2	526.5	35.0	7.1
Education and health services	386.5	389.9	390.1	392.4	5.9	1.5
Leisure and hospitality	320.8	337.1	334.5	332.9	12.1	3.8
Other services	112.5	115.1	115.0	114.9	2.4	2.1
Government	390.7	384.4	387.9	401.2	10.5	2.7
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI						
Total nonfarm	1,875.2	1,865.1	1,866.8	1,879.9	4.7	0.3
Mining, logging, and construction	61.6	64.5	65.6	66.7	5.1	8.3

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	Sep. 2013	Jul. 2014	Aug. 2014	Sep. 2014(p)	Change from Sep. 2013 to Sep. 2014	
					Number	Percent
Manufacturing	233.0	230.8	233.3	235.5	2.5	1.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	347.9	354.2	353.3	352.3	4.4	1.3
Information	26.8	27.4	27.5	27.2	0.4	1.5
Financial activities	102.1	98.1	98.1	96.8	-5.3	-5.2
Professional and business services	362.0	359.3	365.8	369.0	7.0	1.9
Education and health services	296.1	297.4	294.0	294.4	-1.7	-0.6
Leisure and hospitality	180.7	185.7	182.6	177.4	-3.3	-1.8
Other services	77.7	76.5	76.3	76.4	-1.3	-1.7
Government	187.3	171.2	170.3	184.2	-3.1	-1.7
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX						
Total nonfarm	2,802.3	2,892.7	2,898.1	2,921.7	119.4	4.3
Mining and logging	108.3	116.4	117.6	118.1	9.8	9.0
Construction	189.6	195.7	201.4	203.1	13.5	7.1
Manufacturing	252.9	261.5	262.1	261.4	8.5	3.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	567.0	585.4	585.4	583.2	16.2	2.9
Information	32.4	33.3	33.2	33.0	0.6	1.9
Financial activities	144.1	146.5	147.5	146.7	2.6	1.8
Professional and business services	430.0	446.1	447.4	449.3	19.3	4.5
Education and health services	336.4	348.5	354.5	357.7	21.3	6.3
Leisure and hospitality	273.4	291.3	287.5	282.8	9.4	3.4
Other services	99.0	103.5	102.6	102.6	3.6	3.6
Government	369.2	364.5	358.9	383.8	14.6	4.0
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA						
Total nonfarm	5,577.1	5,622.8	5,639.1	5,679.1	102.0	1.8
Mining and logging	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.6	0.4	7.7
Construction	197.0	207.8	210.2	214.4	17.4	8.8
Manufacturing	525.6	511.0	510.1	508.6	-17.0	-3.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,030.3	1,041.7	1,041.5	1,044.0	13.7	1.3
Information	226.5	229.0	236.5	235.8	9.3	4.1
Financial activities	323.4	321.2	322.4	321.3	-2.1	-0.6
Professional and business services	859.1	887.9	892.4	897.6	38.5	4.5
Education and health services	901.6	909.8	914.8	923.9	22.3	2.5
Leisure and hospitality	633.8	650.3	649.2	647.0	13.2	2.1
Other services	191.7	196.5	196.6	195.0	3.3	1.7
Government	682.9	662.1	659.8	685.9	3.0	0.4
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL						
Total nonfarm	2,346.3	2,379.5	2,402.7	2,415.5	69.2	2.9
Mining and logging	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Construction	96.7	101.0	102.9	104.6	7.9	8.2
Manufacturing	78.0	78.4	78.9	80.1	2.1	2.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	546.7	563.9	564.6	567.0	20.3	3.7
Information	46.1	46.5	46.7	46.7	0.6	1.3
Financial activities	165.8	169.3	168.8	169.1	3.3	2.0
Professional and business services	371.5	382.9	384.7	384.4	12.9	3.5
Education and health services	346.6	349.3	350.2	354.1	7.5	2.2
Leisure and hospitality	280.0	291.7	288.8	287.6	7.6	2.7
Other services	110.7	115.6	115.0	114.9	4.2	3.8
Government	303.6	280.3	301.5	306.4	2.8	0.9
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA						
Total nonfarm	8,710.1	8,873.8	8,839.9	8,840.6	130.5	1.5
Mining, logging, and construction	333.1	334.8	333.5	332.2	-0.9	-0.3
Manufacturing	357.6	354.3	356.6	356.0	-1.6	-0.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,608.5	1,632.9	1,633.4	1,643.3	34.8	2.2
Information	277.8	275.4	276.5	271.7	-6.1	-2.2

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	Sep. 2013	Jul. 2014	Aug. 2014	Sep. 2014(p)	Change from Sep. 2013 to Sep. 2014	
					Number	Percent
Financial activities	738.5	747.8	747.8	741.7	3.2	0.4
Professional and business services	1,397.9	1,430.2	1,436.2	1,430.2	32.3	2.3
Education and health services	1,608.8	1,636.7	1,631.9	1,658.1	49.3	3.1
Leisure and hospitality	801.6	854.6	847.6	818.0	16.4	2.0
Other services	380.6	390.7	388.9	385.0	4.4	1.2
Government	1,205.7	1,216.4	1,187.5	1,204.4	-1.3	-0.1
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD						
Total nonfarm	2,751.8	2,763.9	2,752.2	2,765.8	14.0	0.5
Mining, logging, and construction	105.8	115.3	114.7	113.1	7.3	6.9
Manufacturing	180.0	179.8	179.3	179.5	-0.5	-0.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	507.1	512.5	512.7	512.3	5.2	1.0
Information	47.0	46.2	46.2	45.9	-1.1	-2.3
Financial activities	202.8	206.4	206.5	204.4	1.6	0.8
Professional and business services	437.5	447.9	444.9	443.6	6.1	1.4
Education and health services	573.0	571.2	567.3	576.9	3.9	0.7
Leisure and hospitality	245.8	256.3	254.0	243.9	-1.9	-0.8
Other services	120.8	120.7	120.4	120.9	0.1	0.1
Government	332.0	307.6	306.2	325.3	-6.7	-2.0
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA						
Total nonfarm	2,114.6	2,160.7	2,166.1	2,175.5	60.9	2.9
Mining and logging	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	-0.1	-7.7
Construction	96.9	103.1	104.9	104.4	7.5	7.7
Manufacturing	117.4	118.5	118.1	118.3	0.9	0.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	345.0	352.2	351.7	353.7	8.7	2.5
Information	73.4	76.9	77.2	76.6	3.2	4.4
Financial activities	126.3	127.3	127.1	126.0	-0.3	-0.2
Professional and business services	420.4	436.3	436.3	440.5	20.1	4.8
Education and health services	315.1	321.9	321.8	324.2	9.1	2.9
Leisure and hospitality	244.6	251.7	254.4	252.2	7.6	3.1
Other services	79.9	80.3	80.9	80.2	0.3	0.4
Government	294.3	291.3	292.5	298.2	3.9	1.3
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV						
Total nonfarm	3,080.4	3,108.0	3,081.6	3,091.1	10.7	0.3
Mining, logging, and construction	149.2	150.5	151.8	150.7	1.5	1.0
Manufacturing	47.9	45.8	46.4	45.5	-2.4	-5.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	387.5	397.5	394.7	392.6	5.1	1.3
Information	75.6	74.0	73.5	73.1	-2.5	-3.3
Financial activities	151.1	156.8	156.7	156.2	5.1	3.4
Professional and business services	703.5	713.3	708.5	700.9	-2.6	-0.4
Education and health services	396.7	390.6	385.5	393.5	-3.2	-0.8
Leisure and hospitality	294.2	312.9	309.4	302.7	8.5	2.9
Other services	189.5	193.6	192.9	190.9	1.4	0.7
Government	685.2	673.0	662.2	685.0	-0.2	0.0

(p) preliminary