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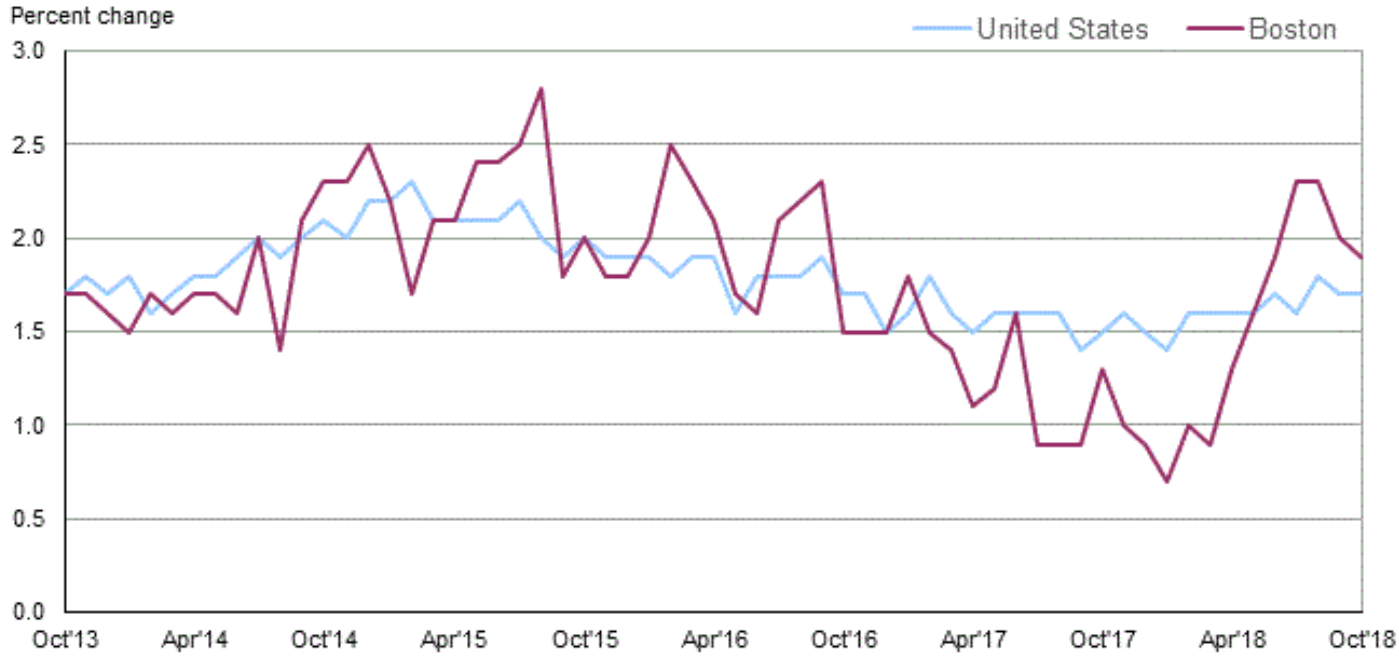
Boston Area Employment — October 2018

Total nonfarm employment in the Boston-Cambridge-Nashua, Mass.-N.H. Metropolitan New England City and Town Area stood at 2,820,600 in October 2018, up 53,100 from one year ago, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that local nonfarm employment rose 1.9 percent from October a year ago. During the same period, the national job count increased 1.7 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 United States and the Boston metropolitan area, October 2013–October 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

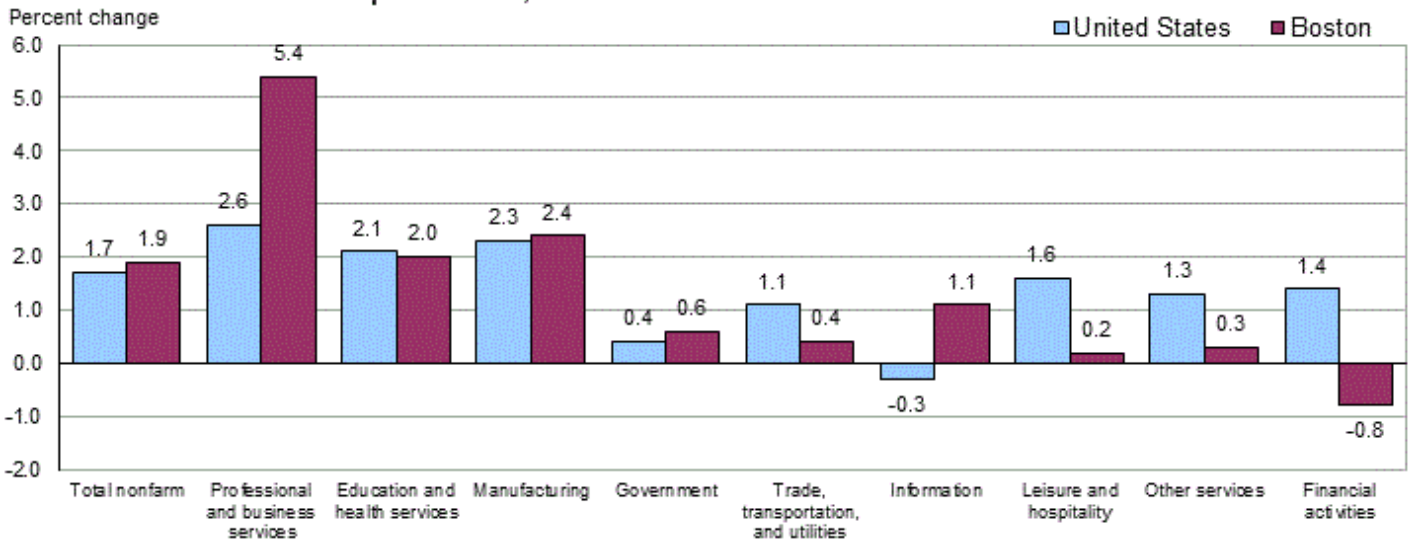
The Boston-Cambridge-Nashua area includes 10 metropolitan divisions¾separately identifiable employment centers within the larger metropolitan area. The Boston-Cambridge-Newton Metropolitan Division, which made up 68 percent of the workforce, gained 40,600 jobs from October 2017 to October 2018. The other divisions for which data are published also added jobs over the year, with the exception of the Peabody Division.

Industry employment

Professional and business services had the largest annual employment gain in the Boston area from October 2017, adding 26,600 jobs. The 5.4-percent rate of job growth in Boston's professional and business services supersector exceeded the 2.6-percent nationwide gain.

Education and health services, the largest industry in the Boston area, had the second-largest local employment gain, adding 11,500 jobs from October 2017 to October 2018. The 2.0-percent rate of local job growth in this supersector was similar to the national gain of 2.1 percent.

Chart 2. Total nonfarm and selected industry supersector employment, over-the-year percent change, United States and the Boston metropolitan area, October 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

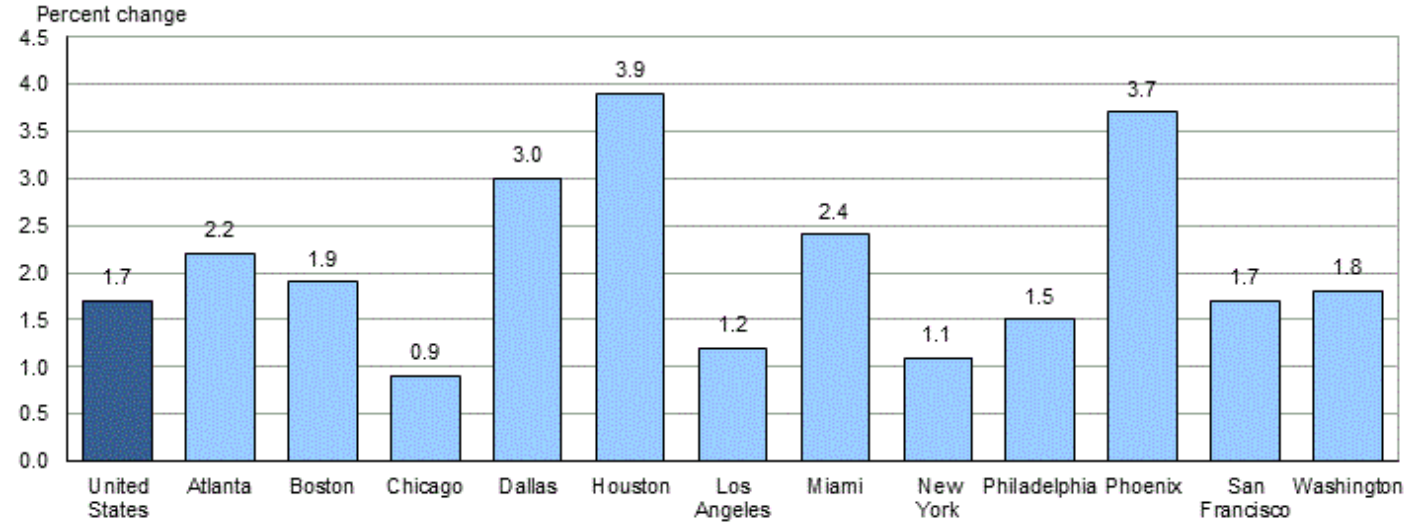
Three other supersectors in the Boston area gained at least 1,000 jobs over the year— manufacturing (+4,500), government (+1,800), and trade, transportation, and utilities (+1,700). The local rates of job growth in the manufacturing and government supersectors outpaced that of the nation, while the local rate of job growth in trade, transportation and utilities lagged that of the nation.

One supersector in the Boston area lost jobs over the year. The local area's financial activities supersector lost 1,500 jobs, a 0.8-percent rate of decline. Nationally, financial activities gained jobs, up 1.4 percent from October a year ago.

Employment in the twelve largest metropolitan areas

Boston-Cambridge-Nashua was 1 of the nation's 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas in October 2018. All 12 areas had over-the-year job growth during the period, with the rates of job growth in 7 areas exceeding the national increase of 1.7 percent. Houston (+3.9 percent), Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale (+3.7 percent), and Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington (+3.0 percent) had the fastest rates of job growth. New York- Newark-Jersey City (+1.1 percent) and Chicago-Naperville-Elgin (+0.9 percent) had the slowest rates of job growth. (See **chart 3** and **table 2**.)

Chart 3. Total nonfarm employment, over-the-year percent change, United States and 12 largest metropolitan areas, October 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Houston added the largest number of jobs over the year, 117,800, followed by Dallas (+109,000) and New York (+108,500). Chicago had the smallest employment gain over the year, 41,300, followed by San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward (+41,700) and Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington (+43,600). Annual job gains in the remaining six metropolitan areas ranged from 76,700 in Phoenix to 53,100 in Boston-Cambridge-Nashua.

Over the year, professional and business services added the most jobs in six areas: Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, Boston, Dallas, Houston, San Francisco, and Washington-Arlington-Alexandria. Construction gained the most jobs in three areas: Chicago, Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, and Phoenix.

The other services sector recorded the largest employment loss in three areas: Atlanta, Chicago, and San Francisco. Information lost the most jobs in three other areas: Houston, New York, and and Philadelphia. Dallas, Phoenix, and Washington were the only metropolitan areas to record no losses in any supersector.

Metropolitan area employment data for November 2018 are scheduled to be released on Friday, December 21, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. (EST).

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 are available for metropolitan areas or metropolitan divisions upon request. Measures of sampling error for states down to the supersector level is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm. Information on recent benchmark revisions is available online at www.bls.gov/sae/benchmark2017.pdf.

Area definitions. The substate area data published in this release reflect the delineations issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget July 15, 2015. A detailed list of geographic definitions is available at www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm.

Areas in the six New England states are defined as Metropolitan New England City and Town Areas (NECTAs), while areas in other states are county-based and identified as metropolitan areas and metropolitan divisions. However, for comparative purposes, the Boston NECTA and its divisions have been referred to as a metropolitan area and metropolitan divisions.

The Boston-Cambridge-Nashua, Mass.-N.H. Metropolitan New England City and Town Area (NECTA) includes 10 NECTA divisions--subdivisions of the larger NECTA which function as distinct social, economic, and cultural areas within the larger region. The NECTA divisions that compose the Boston-Cambridge-Nashua, Mass.-N.H. NECTA include: Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA; Brockton-Bridgewater-Easton, Mass.; Framingham, Mass.; Haverhill- Newburyport-Amesbury town, Mass.-N.H.; Lawrence-Methuen town-Salem, Mass.-N.H.; Lowell-Billerica-Chelmsford, Mass.-N.H.; Lynn-Saugus-Marblehead, Mass.; Nashua, N.H.-Mass.; Peabody-Salem-Beverly, Mass.; Taunton-Middleborough-Norton, Mass.; and select cities and towns within.

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, U.S. and Boston metropolitan area, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)

Area and Industry	Oct 2017	Aug 2018	Sept 2018	Oct 2018(p)	Change from Oct 2017 to Oct 2018	
					Net change	Percent change
U.S.						
Total nonfarm	148,203	149,406	149,738	150,753	2,550	1.7
Mining and logging	700	763	759	764	64	9.1
Construction	7,182	7,529	7,474	7,500	318	4.4
Manufacturing	12,509	12,823	12,791	12,800	291	2.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	27,604	27,797	27,715	27,910	306	1.1
Information	2,784	2,787	2,753	2,776	-8	-0.3
Financial activities	8,499	8,654	8,606	8,616	117	1.4
Professional and business services	20,815	21,217	21,185	21,352	537	2.6
Educational and health services	23,515	23,430	23,691	24,018	503	2.1
Leisure and hospitality	16,100	17,076	16,530	16,360	260	1.6
Other services	5,808	5,910	5,864	5,886	78	1.3
Government	22,687	21,420	22,370	22,771	84	0.4
Boston-Cambridge-Nashua, MA-NH						
Total nonfarm	2,767.5	2,805.7	2,800.6	2,820.6	53.1	1.9
Mining, logging, and construction	118.6	125.2	124.2	125.3	6.7	5.6
Manufacturing	187.3	192.2	190.5	191.8	4.5	2.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	427.2	426.5	424.6	428.9	1.7	0.4
Information	79.3	81.7	79.7	80.2	0.9	1.1
Financial activities	185.0	186.4	184.1	183.5	-1.5	-0.8
Professional and business services	489.0	515.6	511.9	515.6	26.6	5.4
Educational and health services	586.0	585.1	588.1	597.5	11.5	2.0
Leisure and hospitality	275.4	298.2	279.9	276.0	0.6	0.2
Other services	105.0	108.4	104.8	105.3	0.3	0.3
Government	314.7	286.4	312.8	316.5	1.8	0.6
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA division						
Total nonfarm	1,865.2	1,899.2	1,891.3	1,905.8	40.6	2.2
Mining, logging, and construction	70.9	74.3	74.1	74.9	4.0	5.6
Manufacturing	79.8	82.8	81.7	82.6	2.8	3.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	253.0	251.3	250.9	252.9	-0.1	0.0
Information	59.5	60.8	59.5	60.0	0.5	0.8
Financial activities	153.8	154.7	152.6	152.1	-1.7	-1.1
Professional and business services	367.7	392.5	390.0	393.2	25.5	6.9
Educational and health services	422.1	420.9	424.0	432.3	10.2	2.4
Leisure and hospitality	191.0	207.5	194.5	191.4	0.4	0.2
Other services	70.1	71.5	69.4	69.8	-0.3	-0.4
Government	197.3	182.9	194.6	196.6	-0.7	-0.4

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

Area	Oct 2017	Aug 2018	Sep 2018	Oct 2018(p)	Oct 2017 to Oct 2018(p)	
					Net change	Percent change
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA						
Total nonfarm	2,752.2	2,789.6	2,796.5	2,813.0	60.8	2.2
Mining and logging	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Construction	124.8	132.2	133.5	135.1	10.3	8.3
Manufacturing	167.8	169.1	169.3	169.0	1.2	0.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	607.7	616.9	620.1	621.6	13.9	2.3
Information	99.7	96.5	97.6	98.1	-1.6	-1.6
Financial activities	170.9	170.0	169.0	169.8	-1.1	-0.6
Professional and business services	503.1	507.0	508.5	519.0	15.9	3.2
Education and health services	346.5	356.2	358.3	359.8	13.3	3.8

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Area	Oct 2017	Aug 2018	Sep 2018	Oct 2018(p)	Oct 2017 to Oct 2018(p)	
					Net change	Percent change
Leisure and hospitality	290.7	308.1	302.9	301.3	10.6	3.6
Other services	100.5	98.6	98.4	97.8	-2.7	-2.7
Government	338.9	333.4	337.3	339.9	1.0	0.3
Boston-Cambridge-Nashua, MA-NH (NECTA)						
Total nonfarm	2,767.5	2,805.7	2,800.6	2,820.6	53.1	1.9
Mining, logging, and construction	118.6	125.2	124.2	125.3	6.7	5.6
Manufacturing	187.3	192.2	190.5	191.8	4.5	2.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	427.2	426.5	424.6	428.9	1.7	0.4
Information	79.3	81.7	79.7	80.2	0.9	1.1
Financial activities	185.0	186.4	184.1	183.5	-1.5	-0.8
Professional and business services	489.0	515.6	511.9	515.6	26.6	5.4
Education and health services	586.0	585.1	588.1	597.5	11.5	2.0
Leisure and hospitality	275.4	298.2	279.9	276.0	0.6	0.2
Other services	105.0	108.4	104.8	105.3	0.3	0.3
Government	314.7	286.4	312.8	316.5	1.8	0.6
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI						
Total nonfarm	4,754.6	4,766.3	4,751.5	4,795.9	41.3	0.9
Mining and logging	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Construction	182.6	191.8	191.1	193.2	10.6	5.8
Manufacturing	416.2	423.0	423.7	424.8	8.6	2.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	955.6	953.0	944.7	959.1	3.5	0.4
Information	77.9	74.9	74.2	76.1	-1.8	-2.3
Financial activities	305.8	312.5	309.6	310.0	4.2	1.4
Professional and business services	842.3	844.0	838.0	844.9	2.6	0.3
Education and health services	735.5	720.5	726.2	738.7	3.2	0.4
Leisure and hospitality	482.6	507.5	490.2	486.0	3.4	0.7
Other services	195.2	194.5	191.7	191.6	-3.6	-1.8
Government	559.3	543.0	560.5	569.9	10.6	1.9
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX						
Total nonfarm	3,643.4	3,714.1	3,720.8	3,752.4	109.0	3.0
Mining, logging, and construction	216.6	231.5	229.9	231.1	14.5	6.7
Manufacturing	273.8	279.3	279.5	281.1	7.3	2.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	778.1	787.4	786.7	791.1	13.0	1.7
Information	82.6	83.9	83.6	84.2	1.6	1.9
Financial activities	296.8	299.8	302.8	303.8	7.0	2.4
Professional and business services	600.3	626.7	623.5	629.5	29.2	4.9
Education and health services	446.6	456.8	457.3	461.1	14.5	3.2
Leisure and hospitality	382.9	397.5	392.4	396.3	13.4	3.5
Other services	124.0	128.0	126.8	127.4	3.4	2.7
Government	441.7	423.2	438.3	446.8	5.1	1.2
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX						
Total nonfarm	3,041.0	3,122.1	3,135.2	3,158.8	117.8	3.9
Mining and logging	77.1	80.7	80.4	81.6	4.5	5.8
Construction	220.2	243.9	243.7	245.8	25.6	11.6
Manufacturing	216.7	231.2	232.6	232.8	16.1	7.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	619.9	634.5	629.8	635.9	16.0	2.6
Information	31.2	31.1	30.8	31.0	-0.2	-0.6
Financial activities	160.4	164.3	164.6	165.2	4.8	3.0
Professional and business services	488.8	518.0	517.0	519.4	30.6	6.3
Education and health services	386.3	394.6	394.1	395.1	8.8	2.3
Leisure and hospitality	319.9	325.9	324.1	323.6	3.7	1.2
Other services	108.5	111.9	112.5	114.6	6.1	5.6
Government	412.0	386.0	405.6	413.8	1.8	0.4
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA						

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Area	Oct 2017	Aug 2018	Sep 2018	Oct 2018(p)	Oct 2017 to Oct 2018(p)	
					Net change	Percent change
Total nonfarm	6,121.5	6,105.4	6,135.3	6,193.9	72.4	1.2
Mining and logging	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	0.1	3.4
Construction	246.0	249.3	248.0	249.7	3.7	1.5
Manufacturing	505.4	504.9	504.7	501.8	-3.6	-0.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,109.2	1,101.1	1,097.2	1,106.2	-3.0	-0.3
Information	247.1	248.5	244.4	246.6	-0.5	-0.2
Financial activities	339.8	340.9	341.0	340.4	0.6	0.2
Professional and business services	931.7	946.3	946.3	961.2	29.5	3.2
Education and health services	1,027.1	1,027.8	1,036.6	1,046.8	19.7	1.9
Leisure and hospitality	752.5	781.8	780.7	783.4	30.9	4.1
Other services	205.2	201.9	203.3	205.4	0.2	0.1
Government	754.6	700.0	730.1	749.4	-5.2	-0.7
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL						
Total nonfarm	2,636.0	2,664.1	2,668.6	2,700.0	64.0	2.4
Mining and logging	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.1	14.3
Construction	132.5	144.8	145.6	147.3	14.8	11.2
Manufacturing	90.4	98.0	96.1	97.5	7.1	7.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	595.5	601.5	600.3	607.3	11.8	2.0
Information	50.0	50.5	50.2	51.0	1.0	2.0
Financial activities	177.1	182.2	181.1	182.2	5.1	2.9
Professional and business services	440.6	434.6	437.9	446.1	5.5	1.2
Education and health services	396.2	395.6	398.0	404.0	7.8	2.0
Leisure and hospitality	314.2	321.6	321.7	325.6	11.4	3.6
Other services	124.1	125.2	126.6	127.6	3.5	2.8
Government	314.7	309.3	310.3	310.6	-4.1	-1.3
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA						
Total nonfarm	9,770.9	9,795.8	9,782.2	9,879.4	108.5	1.1
Mining, logging, and construction	408.0	416.4	415.6	415.5	7.5	1.8
Manufacturing	364.2	365.0	364.9	365.5	1.3	0.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,759.1	1,748.2	1,746.8	1,764.0	4.9	0.3
Information	288.6	286.9	285.1	286.4	-2.2	-0.8
Financial activities	780.7	787.7	779.7	778.9	-1.8	-0.2
Professional and business services	1,560.8	1,582.3	1,571.6	1,580.4	19.6	1.3
Education and health services	1,956.4	1,922.1	1,965.7	2,017.2	60.8	3.1
Leisure and hospitality	917.9	1,000.0	953.1	929.7	11.8	1.3
Other services	424.0	430.2	424.7	431.8	7.8	1.8
Government	1,311.2	1,257.0	1,275.0	1,310.0	-1.2	-0.1
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD						
Total nonfarm	2,947.4	2,942.9	2,968.2	2,991.0	43.6	1.5
Mining, logging, and construction	118.4	123.0	122.2	122.8	4.4	3.7
Manufacturing	180.7	181.0	181.6	181.9	1.2	0.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	525.5	525.3	525.7	531.9	6.4	1.2
Information	44.9	44.7	44.1	43.7	-1.2	-2.7
Financial activities	215.0	218.5	218.4	217.1	2.1	1.0
Professional and business services	476.0	481.7	483.1	488.2	12.2	2.6
Education and health services	658.2	644.8	662.3	671.4	13.2	2.0
Leisure and hospitality	268.4	286.2	270.7	267.6	-0.8	-0.3
Other services	118.9	121.6	120.0	120.6	1.7	1.4
Government	341.4	316.1	340.1	345.8	4.4	1.3
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ						
Total nonfarm	2,067.1	2,101.6	2,123.8	2,143.8	76.7	3.7
Mining and logging	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	117.2	130.4	131.0	133.9	16.7	14.2

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Area	Oct 2017	Aug 2018	Sep 2018	Oct 2018(p)	Oct 2017 to Oct 2018(p)	
					Net change	Percent change
Manufacturing	125.2	131.0	131.8	132.3	7.1	5.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	396.5	400.5	400.7	401.1	4.6	1.2
Information	35.5	37.0	37.8	38.3	2.8	7.9
Financial activities	188.3	190.8	191.2	192.3	4.0	2.1
Professional and business services	353.8	358.2	361.8	368.0	14.2	4.0
Education and health services	313.3	318.6	321.5	325.1	11.8	3.8
Leisure and hospitality	223.0	228.4	229.0	233.0	10.0	4.5
Other services	64.9	65.3	65.0	65.8	0.9	1.4
Government	246.2	238.2	250.8	250.8	4.6	1.9
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA						
Total nonfarm	2,418.3	2,442.6	2,448.9	2,460.0	41.7	1.7
Mining and logging	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
Construction	121.4	125.0	124.7	124.9	3.5	2.9
Manufacturing	141.9	143.7	143.6	142.1	0.2	0.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	385.4	389.1	387.3	386.3	0.9	0.2
Information	107.7	112.3	111.9	111.9	4.2	3.9
Financial activities	142.9	144.7	143.6	143.4	0.5	0.3
Professional and business services	482.1	499.4	496.7	502.4	20.3	4.2
Education and health services	354.5	352.3	356.1	359.5	5.0	1.4
Leisure and hospitality	272.5	278.6	278.7	277.0	4.5	1.7
Other services	86.9	85.7	85.0	85.4	-1.5	-1.7
Government	322.5	311.3	320.8	326.6	4.1	1.3
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV						
Total nonfarm	3,292.7	3,334.0	3,339.6	3,353.4	60.7	1.8
Mining, logging, and construction	162.5	169.7	169.2	168.6	6.1	3.8
Manufacturing	54.9	55.8	55.9	56.1	1.2	2.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	406.0	414.2	413.8	415.6	9.6	2.4
Information	73.2	74.0	73.7	74.4	1.2	1.6
Financial activities	158.1	161.4	161.6	160.6	2.5	1.6
Professional and business services	749.8	777.7	768.3	770.1	20.3	2.7
Education and health services	448.4	439.1	446.1	449.8	1.4	0.3
Leisure and hospitality	328.8	349.6	339.5	338.5	9.7	3.0
Other services	207.4	211.0	209.5	210.7	3.3	1.6
Government	703.6	681.5	702.0	709.0	5.4	0.8

Footnotes
(1) U.S. data are preliminary for two months after they are first published.
(p) Preliminary