NEWS RELEASE
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

For Release: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 **17-396-ATL**

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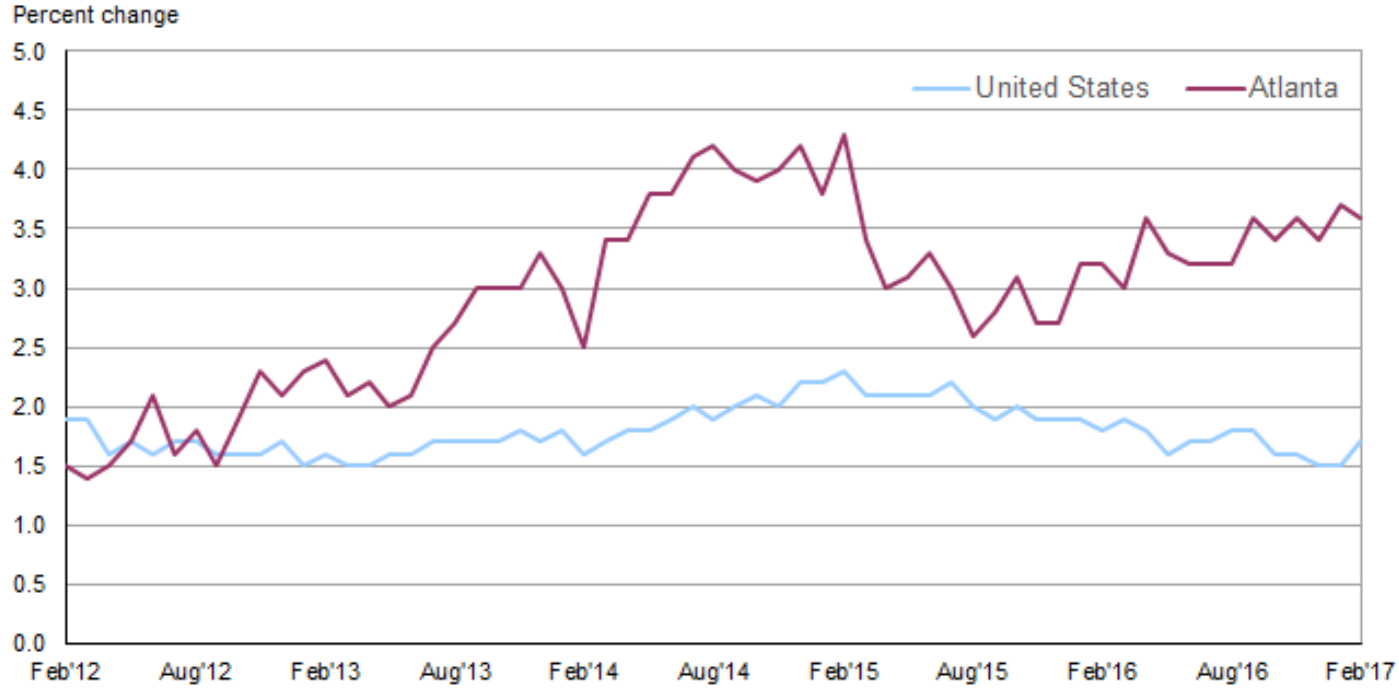
Atlanta Area Employment – February 2017

Local Rate of Employment Growth Above the National Average

Total nonfarm employment for the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, Ga. Metropolitan Statistical Area stood at 2,710,900 in February 2017, up 95,400, or 3.6 percent, over the year, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the Atlanta area has had over-the-year employment gains of 75,000 or more since January 2016. (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, February 2012–February 2017

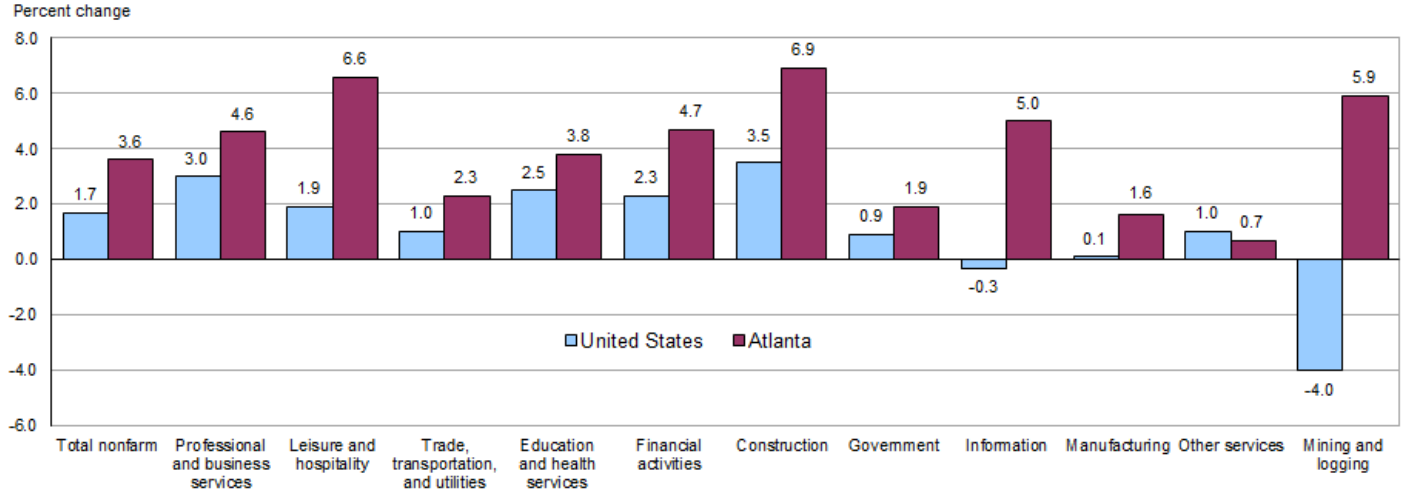


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Industry employment

In the Atlanta metropolitan area, the professional and business services industry had the largest employment gain from February 2016 to February 2017, up 22,100 or 4.6 percent. Nationwide, employment in professional and business services rose 3.0 percent from the previous February. (See chart 2.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Leisure and hospitality employment increased by 17,600 since last February, the second-largest gain in the Atlanta area. The local growth rate for leisure and hospitality (6.6 percent) was greater than the nationwide average of 1.9 percent.

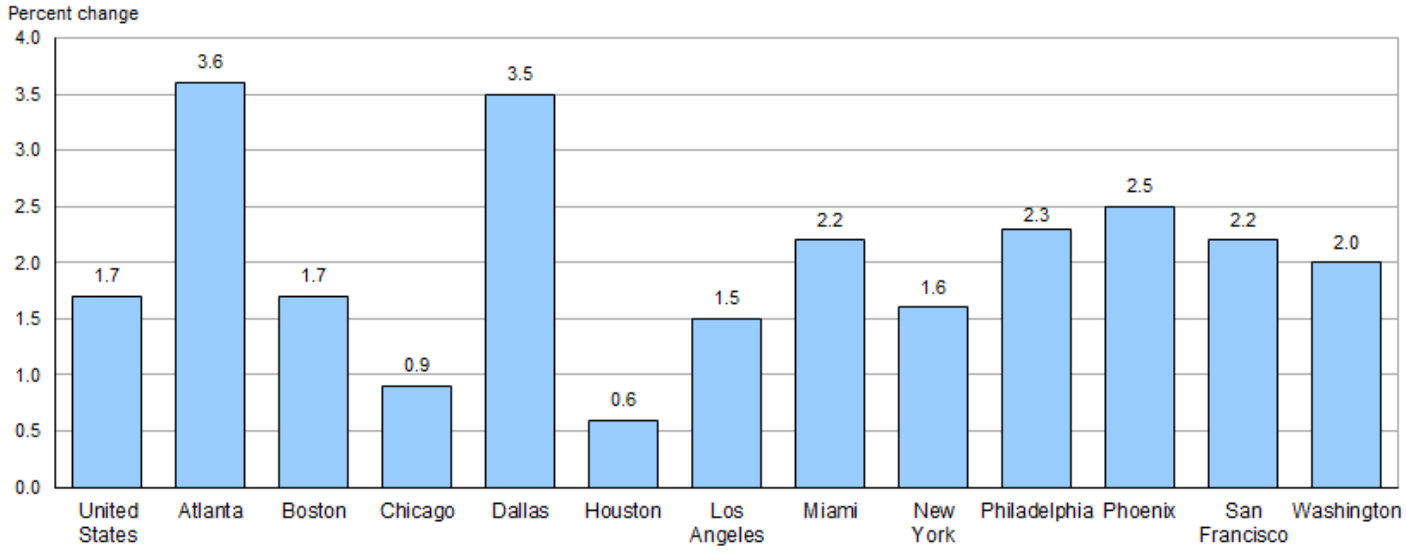
Two other supersectors in the Atlanta area gained at least 12,000 jobs since last February. —The area's trade, transportation, and utilities gained 13,400 jobs, up 2.3 percent; nationwide, this supersector rose 1.0 percent over the year. Education and health services in Atlanta added 12,700 jobs, a 3.8-percent increase which exceeded the national gain of 2.5 percent.

There was no over-the-year loss of jobs among any of the major industry supersectors for the Atlanta area ending February 2017.

Twelve largest metropolitan areas

Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell was 1 of the nation's 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas in February 2017. 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. Atlanta had the fastest rate of job growth, 3.6 percent, followed by Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington at 3.5 percent. Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land and Chicago-Naperville-Elgin had the slowest rates of job growth at 0.6 percent and 0.9 percent, respectively. (See chart 3 and table 2.)

Chart 3. Total nonfarm employment, over-the-year percent change, United States and 12 largest metropolitan areas, February 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The New York-Newark-Jersey City area added the largest number of jobs over the year, 145,800, followed by Dallas (+119,300) and Atlanta (+95,400). Houston had the smallest employment gain over the year, adding 19,300 jobs.

Education and health services had the largest employment gain in six areas—Boston-Cambridge-Nashua, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, New York, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, and San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward. Professional and business services added the most jobs in three areas—Atlanta, Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, and Washington-Arlington-Alexandria.

Manufacturing had the largest over-the-year losses in three areas—Boston, Los Angeles, and New York. Four areas experienced no annual job losses in any supersector—Atlanta, Dallas, Philadelphia, and San Francisco.

Metropolitan area employment data for March 2017 are scheduled to be released on Friday, April 21, 2017.

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 https://www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm. Information on recent benchmark revisions for states is available at https://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, dated December 1, 2009. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available at https://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 https://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 https://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 Atlanta metropolitan area, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands), February 2017

Area and Industry	Feb 2016	Dec 2016	Jan 2017	Feb 2017(p)	Feb 2016 to Feb 2017(p)	
					Net change	Percent change
United States						
Total nonfarm	141,919	146,158	143,261	144,271	2,352	1.7
Mining and logging	698	669	662	670	-28	-4.0
Construction	6,256	6,660	6,414	6,475	219	3.5
Manufacturing	12,290	12,341	12,261	12,301	11	0.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	26,727	28,090	27,235	26,992	265	1.0
Information	2,762	2,775	2,722	2,755	-7	-0.3
Financial activities	8,155	8,373	8,342	8,342	187	2.3
Professional and business services	19,609	20,521	20,088	20,207	598	3.0
Education and health services	22,505	23,023	22,707	23,064	559	2.5
Leisure and hospitality	14,889	15,394	15,027	15,175	286	1.9
Other services	5,615	5,676	5,640	5,669	54	1.0
Government	22,413	22,636	22,163	22,621	208	0.9
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area						
Total nonfarm	2,615.5	2,735.8	2,698.6	2,710.9	95.4	3.6
Mining and logging	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.1	5.9
Construction	110.9	119.1	118.1	118.5	7.6	6.9
Manufacturing	160.9	163.5	163.1	163.4	2.5	1.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	581.6	614.7	599.3	595.0	13.4	2.3
Information	94.0	98.9	97.7	98.7	4.7	5.0
Financial activities	163.5	169.0	170.1	171.2	7.7	4.7
Professional and business services	480.6	506.9	497.2	502.7	22.1	4.6
Education and health services	329.9	340.3	338.0	342.6	12.7	3.8
Leisure and hospitality	268.7	288.9	284.5	286.3	17.6	6.6
Other services	95.9	98.5	97.0	96.6	0.7	0.7
Government	327.8	334.2	331.8	334.1	6.3	1.9

(p) Preliminary

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

Area and Industry	Feb 2016	Dec 2016	Jan 2017	Feb 2017(p)	Feb 2016 to Feb 2017(p)	
					Net change	Percent change
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA						
Total nonfarm	2,615.5	2,735.8	2,698.6	2,710.9	95.4	3.6
Mining and logging	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.1	5.9
Construction	110.9	119.1	118.1	118.5	7.6	6.9
Manufacturing	160.9	163.5	163.1	163.4	2.5	1.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	581.6	614.7	599.3	595.0	13.4	2.3
Information	94.0	98.9	97.7	98.7	4.7	5.0
Financial activities	163.5	169.0	170.1	171.2	7.7	4.7
Professional and business services	480.6	506.9	497.2	502.7	22.1	4.6
Education and health services	329.9	340.3	338.0	342.6	12.7	3.8
Leisure and hospitality	268.7	288.9	284.5	286.3	17.6	6.6
Other services	95.9	98.5	97.0	96.6	0.7	0.7
Government	327.8	334.2	331.8	334.1	6.3	1.9
Boston-Cambridge-Nashua, MA-NH						
Total nonfarm	2,644.2	2,741.4	2,685.1	2,689.1	44.9	1.7
Mining, logging, and construction	99.1	107.5	101.7	99.7	0.6	0.6
Manufacturing	186.7	187.4	185.5	185.4	-1.3	-0.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	413.5	433.6	424.9	414.7	1.2	0.3
Information	77.1	78.8	78.4	78.4	1.3	1.7
Financial activities	183.7	188.6	189.2	189.1	5.4	2.9
Professional and business services	454.9	475.8	464.5	467.4	12.5	2.7
Education and health services	569.7	586.0	577.3	588.2	18.5	3.2
Leisure and hospitality	245.8	260.0	250.2	246.5	0.7	0.3
Other services	98.0	100.9	100.3	99.9	1.9	1.9
Government	315.7	322.8	313.1	319.8	4.1	1.3
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI						
Total nonfarm	4,551.8	4,683.8	4,574.2	4,592.3	40.5	0.9
Mining and logging	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.5	0.0	0.0
Construction	149.5	163.1	153.7	156.5	7.0	4.7
Manufacturing	413.1	413.1	411.3	412.4	-0.7	-0.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	924.0	975.0	939.7	926.0	2.0	0.2
Information	79.7	81.3	80.3	80.5	0.8	1.0
Financial activities	294.5	300.5	304.4	305.7	11.2	3.8
Professional and business services	799.7	820.3	796.2	796.0	-3.7	-0.5
Education and health services	712.1	718.8	711.7	721.6	9.5	1.3
Leisure and hospitality	440.2	458.4	443.1	443.2	3.0	0.7
Other services	192.5	191.1	190.4	192.0	-0.5	-0.3
Government	545.0	560.6	542.0	556.9	11.9	2.2
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX						
Total nonfarm	3,447.9	3,593.6	3,557.9	3,567.2	119.3	3.5
Mining, logging, and construction	200.0	208.6	207.9	208.3	8.3	4.2
Manufacturing	264.1	266.1	265.7	265.5	1.4	0.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	733.2	783.0	767.4	759.3	26.1	3.6
Information	81.3	83.1	82.4	82.5	1.2	1.5
Financial activities	277.8	288.6	288.8	288.2	10.4	3.7
Professional and business services	569.2	598.5	590.2	593.3	24.1	4.2
Education and health services	426.3	435.7	436.9	439.2	12.9	3.0
Leisure and hospitality	351.6	370.0	368.5	373.2	21.6	6.1
Other services	118.0	122.6	121.5	123.8	5.8	4.9
Government	426.4	437.4	428.6	433.9	7.5	1.8
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX						
Total nonfarm	2,992.4	3,036.0	2,995.0	3,011.7	19.3	0.6
Mining and logging	93.9	86.3	87.7	87.3	-6.6	-7.0
Construction	219.3	214.9	213.4	216.8	-2.5	-1.1

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	Feb 2016	Dec 2016	Jan 2017	Feb 2017(p)	Feb 2016 to Feb 2017(p)	
					Net change	Percent change
Manufacturing	230.3	222.1	222.6	226.8	-3.5	-1.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	606.6	627.3	609.9	602.1	-4.5	-0.7
Information	32.2	33.4	32.8	32.7	0.5	1.6
Financial activities	153.7	156.6	155.2	153.8	0.1	0.1
Professional and business services	467.3	472.5	466.2	468.9	1.6	0.3
Education and health services	375.7	387.5	382.7	386.4	10.7	2.8
Leisure and hospitality	304.4	313.1	310.8	315.2	10.8	3.5
Other services	107.4	107.2	107.3	106.9	-0.5	-0.5
Government	401.6	415.1	406.4	414.8	13.2	3.3
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA						
Total nonfarm	5,920.5	6,064.6	5,963.8	6,008.3	87.8	1.5
Mining and logging	4.3	4.0	3.9	4.0	-0.3	-7.0
Construction	226.0	228.9	222.5	229.2	3.2	1.4
Manufacturing	519.9	515.2	508.8	510.2	-9.7	-1.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,074.4	1,132.4	1,096.9	1,086.0	11.6	1.1
Information	256.3	253.4	249.9	255.0	-1.3	-0.5
Financial activities	334.3	340.3	338.1	337.7	3.4	1.0
Professional and business services	893.6	911.5	898.3	910.3	16.7	1.9
Education and health services	966.1	988.1	984.2	998.0	31.9	3.3
Leisure and hospitality	703.2	730.0	709.9	718.4	15.2	2.2
Other services	201.6	206.8	207.4	208.1	6.5	3.2
Government	740.8	754.0	743.9	751.4	10.6	1.4
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL						
Total nonfarm	2,571.2	2,651.4	2,627.1	2,627.3	56.1	2.2
Mining and logging	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Construction	117.9	125.1	121.9	124.0	6.1	5.2
Manufacturing	87.6	89.3	88.7	88.4	0.8	0.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	587.9	614.2	601.7	596.1	8.2	1.4
Information	49.2	49.4	48.8	49.0	-0.2	-0.4
Financial activities	175.3	176.3	174.6	174.1	-1.2	-0.7
Professional and business services	419.1	434.0	428.6	429.0	9.9	2.4
Education and health services	377.0	389.4	388.9	392.2	15.2	4.0
Leisure and hospitality	324.0	331.9	332.5	330.8	6.8	2.1
Other services	124.0	128.4	128.5	128.6	4.6	3.7
Government	308.5	312.7	312.2	314.4	5.9	1.9
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA						
Total nonfarm	9,327.6	9,697.0	9,427.3	9,473.4	145.8	1.6
Mining, logging, and construction	357.2	380.9	365.2	363.0	5.8	1.6
Manufacturing	365.9	363.5	357.1	362.8	-3.1	-0.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,693.4	1,798.6	1,735.2	1,707.9	14.5	0.9
Information	281.2	291.8	283.9	285.1	3.9	1.4
Financial activities	763.7	770.1	768.0	769.1	5.4	0.7
Professional and business services	1,471.6	1,547.1	1,501.9	1,507.7	36.1	2.5
Education and health services	1,853.3	1,924.9	1,881.2	1,917.5	64.2	3.5
Leisure and hospitality	832.7	879.8	841.8	843.3	10.6	1.3
Other services	409.5	418.3	411.8	411.7	2.2	0.5
Government	1,299.1	1,322.0	1,281.2	1,305.3	6.2	0.5
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD						
Total nonfarm	2,811.3	2,933.6	2,859.5	2,876.3	65.0	2.3
Mining, logging, and construction	104.9	112.6	107.8	109.7	4.8	4.6
Manufacturing	177.9	178.5	177.0	178.0	0.1	0.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	511.8	546.5	527.9	520.3	8.5	1.7
Information	46.2	46.9	46.1	46.2	0.0	0.0
Financial activities	209.4	214.4	212.5	211.5	2.1	1.0

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	Feb 2016	Dec 2016	Jan 2017	Feb 2017(p)	Feb 2016 to Feb 2017(p)	
					Net change	Percent change
Professional and business services	447.4	467.6	455.6	455.3	7.9	1.8
Education and health services	618.1	644.7	630.8	647.5	29.4	4.8
Leisure and hospitality	240.8	258.0	247.3	247.2	6.4	2.7
Other services	116.7	119.9	118.7	118.6	1.9	1.6
Government	338.1	344.5	335.8	342.0	3.9	1.2
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ						
Total nonfarm	1,961.4	2,032.6	1,990.9	2,010.7	49.3	2.5
Mining and logging	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	102.3	104.7	103.9	104.4	2.1	2.1
Manufacturing	120.9	122.2	121.6	122.1	1.2	1.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	380.6	403.4	391.0	387.6	7.0	1.8
Information	36.5	35.8	35.4	35.9	-0.6	-1.6
Financial activities	171.5	180.0	179.5	180.7	9.2	5.4
Professional and business services	332.9	355.0	341.3	343.0	10.1	3.0
Education and health services	290.0	299.1	296.2	298.7	8.7	3.0
Leisure and hospitality	216.0	221.4	221.0	225.8	9.8	4.5
Other services	64.3	62.6	60.9	61.9	-2.4	-3.7
Government	243.2	245.2	236.9	247.4	4.2	1.7
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA						
Total nonfarm	2,304.1	2,392.9	2,345.5	2,354.5	50.4	2.2
Mining and logging	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Construction	108.8	114.2	112.2	113.3	4.5	4.1
Manufacturing	130.5	132.6	131.3	130.6	0.1	0.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	370.3	395.1	378.3	375.1	4.8	1.3
Information	96.1	102.2	100.2	99.6	3.5	3.6
Financial activities	139.8	146.0	144.8	145.3	5.5	3.9
Professional and business services	463.4	478.8	469.1	469.7	6.3	1.4
Education and health services	335.4	344.6	342.2	346.9	11.5	3.4
Leisure and hospitality	260.4	267.8	260.9	264.9	4.5	1.7
Other services	83.9	86.2	84.6	85.5	1.6	1.9
Government	314.6	324.5	321.0	322.7	8.1	2.6
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV						
Total nonfarm	3,174.1	3,269.8	3,218.2	3,236.5	62.4	2.0
Mining, logging, and construction	150.1	153.4	152.4	150.9	0.8	0.5
Manufacturing	53.0	54.1	52.6	52.8	-0.2	-0.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	395.8	420.0	404.8	401.4	5.6	1.4
Information	75.4	72.0	71.1	72.2	-3.2	-4.2
Financial activities	154.8	155.9	154.9	156.0	1.2	0.8
Professional and business services	722.5	745.1	738.4	742.1	19.6	2.7
Education and health services	434.7	440.9	437.3	444.7	10.0	2.3
Leisure and hospitality	301.9	324.9	316.6	319.7	17.8	5.9
Other services	191.7	196.0	192.6	194.7	3.0	1.6
Government	694.2	707.5	697.5	702.0	7.8	1.1

(p) Preliminary