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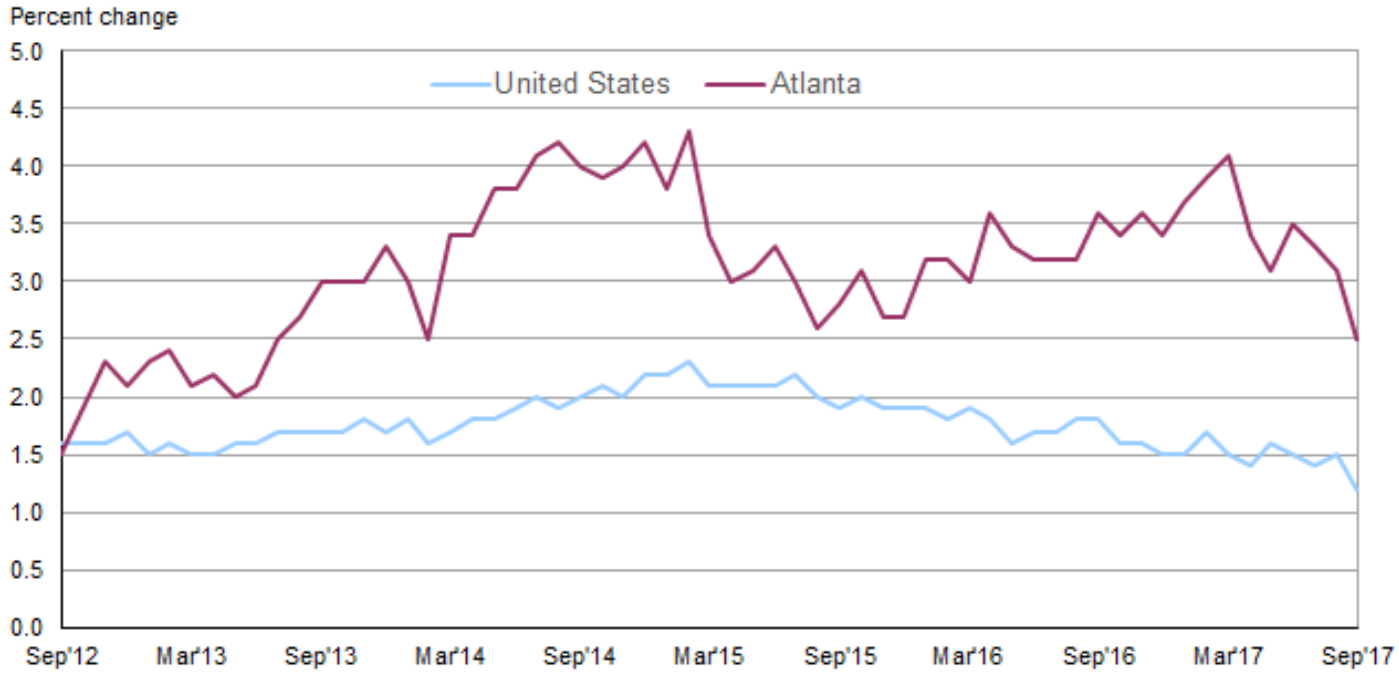
Atlanta Area Employment – September 2017

Local Rate of Employment Growth Above the National Average

Total nonfarm employment for the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, Ga. Metropolitan Statistical Area stood at 2,752,900 in September 2017, up 68,300, or 2.5 percent, over the year, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that among the 12 largest metropolitan areas in the country, Atlanta ranked second in the rate of job growth and third 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 Atlanta metropolitan area, September 2012–September 2017

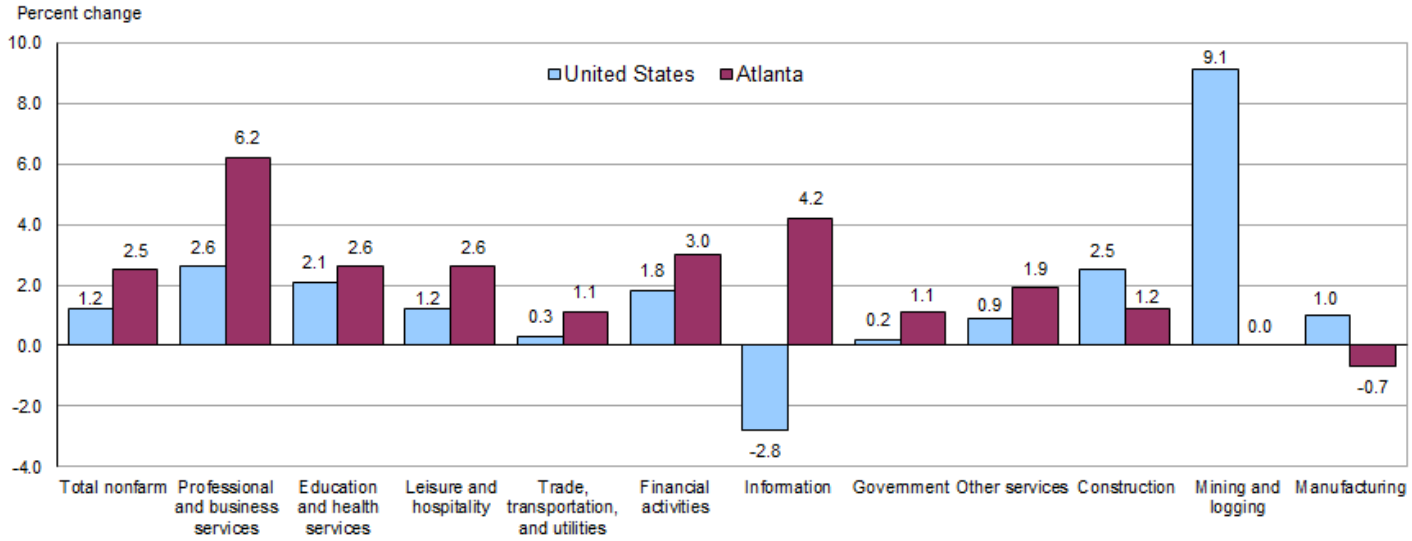


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Industry employment

In the Atlanta metropolitan area, the professional and business services industry had the largest employment gain from September 2016 to September 2017, up 30,500, or 6.2 percent. Nationwide, employment in professional and business services rose 2.6 percent from the previous September. (See chart 2.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Education and health services employment increased by 8,900 since last September, the second-largest gain in the Atlanta area. The 2.6-percent rate of local job growth for this supersector was greater than the 2.1-percent national gain.

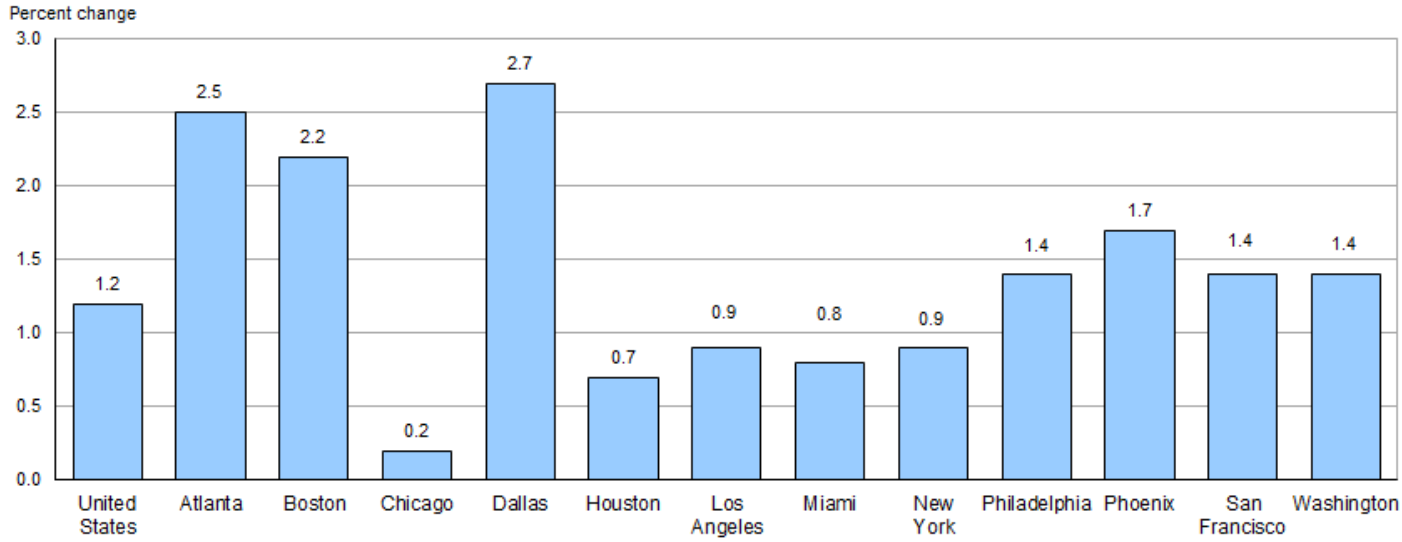
Leisure and hospitality added 7,600 jobs from September 2016 to September 2017. The 2.6-percent rate of local job growth was more than double the national rate of 1.2 percent.

Six of the eight remaining local supersectors had over-the-year job gains ranging from 6,300 to 1,400 in September 2017.

Employment in the 12 largest metropolitan areas

Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell was 1 of the nation's 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas in September 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 1.2 percent. The fastest rate of job growth was in Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, 2.7 percent, followed by Atlanta at 2.5 percent. Chicago-Naperville-Elgin had the slowest rate of job growth, up 0.2 percent. (See chart 3 and table 2.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Dallas added the largest number of jobs over the year, 93,600, followed by New York-Newark-Jersey City (+86,000). Chicago had the smallest employment gain over the year, adding 11,300 jobs. Annual jobs gains in the other nine metropolitan areas ranged from 68,300 to 19,500.

Over the year, education and health services added the most jobs in five areas: Boston-Cambridge-Nashua, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, New York, and San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward. Professional and business services gained the most jobs in four areas: Atlanta, Dallas, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, and Washington-Arlington-Alexandria.

Trade, transportation, and utilities had the largest job losses over the year in Chicago and New York. Manufacturing lost the most jobs in Atlanta and Los Angeles.

Metropolitan area employment data for October 2017 are scheduled to be released on Friday, November 17, 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. CES State and Area employment data are produced using several estimation procedures. Where possible these data are produced using a "weighted link relative" estimation technique in which a ratio of current-month weighted employment to that of the previous-month weighted employment is computed from a sample of establishments reporting for both months. The estimates of employment for the current month are then obtained by multiplying these ratios by the previous month's employment estimates. The weighted link relative technique is utilized for data series where the sample size meets certain statistical criteria.

For some employment series, the sample of establishments is very small or highly variable. In these cases, a model-based approach is used in estimation. These models use the direct sample estimates (described above), combined with forecasts of historical (benchmarked) data to decrease volatility in estimation. Two different models (Fay-Herriot Model and Small Domain Model) are used depending on the industry level being estimated. For more detailed information about each model, refer to the BLS Handbook of Methods.

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 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 for the total private employment series are available for metropolitan areas and metropolitan divisions at www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm. Measures of sampling error for more detailed series at the area and division level are available upon request. Measures of sampling error for states down to the supersector level are available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm. Measures of nonsampling error are not available for the areas contained in this release. 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 on July 15, 2015. 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 from the BLS website 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 Atlanta metropolitan area, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands), September 2017

Area and Industry	Sept 2016	July 2017	Aug 2017	Sept 2017(p)	Sept 2016 to Sept 2017(p)	
					Net change	Percent change
United States						
Total nonfarm	145,084	146,288	146,540	146,880	1,796	1.2
Mining and logging	668	723	729	729	61	9.1
Construction	6,943	7,143	7,171	7,116	173	2.5
Manufacturing	12,372	12,486	12,544	12,490	118	1.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	27,186	27,372	27,346	27,277	91	0.3
Information	2,773	2,735	2,729	2,695	-78	-2.8
Financial activities	8,328	8,538	8,533	8,478	150	1.8
Professional and business services	20,351	20,873	20,933	20,879	528	2.6
Education and health services	22,665	22,802	22,857	23,142	477	2.1
Leisure and hospitality	15,866	16,735	16,653	16,049	183	1.2
Other services	5,695	5,833	5,806	5,749	54	0.9
Government	22,237	21,048	21,239	22,276	39	0.2
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area						
Total nonfarm	2,684.6	2,746.2	2,757.9	2,752.9	68.3	2.5
Mining and logging	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Construction	119.2	121.7	121.0	120.6	1.4	1.2
Manufacturing	162.5	162.3	162.7	161.4	-1.1	-0.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	589.6	597.4	598.4	595.9	6.3	1.1
Information	95.2	99.2	99.3	99.2	4.0	4.2
Financial activities	167.9	173.8	173.3	172.9	5.0	3.0
Professional and business services	494.7	520.4	525.8	525.2	30.5	6.2
Education and health services	336.7	340.5	343.7	345.6	8.9	2.6
Leisure and hospitality	287.9	305.8	301.4	295.5	7.6	2.6
Other services	98.1	102.5	101.2	100.0	1.9	1.9
Government	331.0	320.8	329.3	334.8	3.8	1.1

Footnotes
(p) Preliminary
Note: None of the statistics herein are seasonally adjusted.

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

Area and Industry	Sept 2016	July 2017	Aug 2017	Sept 2017(p)	Sept 2016 to Sept 2017(p)	
					Net change	Percent change
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA						
Total nonfarm	2,684.6	2,746.2	2,757.9	2,752.9	68.3	2.5
Mining and logging	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Construction	119.2	121.7	121.0	120.6	1.4	1.2
Manufacturing	162.5	162.3	162.7	161.4	-1.1	-0.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	589.6	597.4	598.4	595.9	6.3	1.1
Information	95.2	99.2	99.3	99.2	4.0	4.2
Financial activities	167.9	173.8	173.3	172.9	5.0	3.0
Professional and business services	494.7	520.4	525.8	525.2	30.5	6.2
Education and health services	336.7	340.5	343.7	345.6	8.9	2.6
Leisure and hospitality	287.9	305.8	301.4	295.5	7.6	2.6
Other services	98.1	102.5	101.2	100.0	1.9	1.9
Government	331.0	320.8	329.3	334.8	3.8	1.1
Boston-Cambridge-Nashua, MA-NH						
Total nonfarm	2,714.9	2,782.0	2,776.9	2,774.6	59.7	2.2
Mining, logging, and construction	112.7	116.2	117.0	115.8	3.1	2.8
Manufacturing	186.7	188.3	188.1	186.7	0.0	0.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	421.4	428.7	426.7	425.0	3.6	0.9
Information	78.5	78.8	79.1	77.9	-0.6	-0.8
Financial activities	186.5	195.0	193.8	191.4	4.9	2.6
Professional and business services	471.8	488.9	491.0	485.3	13.5	2.9
Education and health services	570.4	589.4	586.0	591.2	20.8	3.6
Leisure and hospitality	271.4	291.1	291.3	276.6	5.2	1.9
Other services	100.8	109.5	111.5	107.1	6.3	6.3
Government	314.7	296.1	292.4	317.6	2.9	0.9
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI						
Total nonfarm	4,687.2	4,718.7	4,711.5	4,698.5	11.3	0.2
Mining and logging	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Construction	181.7	181.9	183.8	182.5	0.8	0.4
Manufacturing	412.9	416.4	412.3	412.3	-0.6	-0.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	941.6	945.2	944.0	934.7	-6.9	-0.7
Information	80.5	84.7	83.3	80.9	0.4	0.5
Financial activities	299.1	312.0	311.5	309.6	10.5	3.5
Professional and business services	832.0	839.2	840.9	838.6	6.6	0.8
Education and health services	713.1	709.2	712.0	718.8	5.7	0.8
Leisure and hospitality	477.3	493.4	491.9	473.0	-4.3	-0.9
Other services	193.3	198.5	197.5	196.1	2.8	1.4
Government	554.1	536.6	532.7	550.4	-3.7	-0.7
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX						
Total nonfarm	3,530.4	3,608.9	3,608.4	3,624.0	93.6	2.7
Mining, logging, and construction	207.2	209.1	210.3	212.6	5.4	2.6
Manufacturing	264.7	270.7	272.7	273.0	8.3	3.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	752.9	764.9	767.4	767.2	14.3	1.9
Information	82.5	82.3	81.1	81.5	-1.0	-1.2
Financial activities	284.4	294.6	293.2	296.2	11.8	4.1
Professional and business services	588.2	609.7	609.9	617.4	29.2	5.0
Education and health services	434.9	439.9	440.5	441.2	6.3	1.4
Leisure and hospitality	370.2	395.2	390.1	378.9	8.7	2.4
Other services	122.1	128.3	127.6	127.3	5.2	4.3
Government	423.3	414.2	415.6	428.7	5.4	1.3
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX						
Total nonfarm	2,994.1	3,041.7	3,029.6	3,013.6	19.5	0.7
Mining and logging	85.6	87.4	86.8	87.1	1.5	1.8
Construction	217.4	210.7	209.5	206.4	-11.0	-5.1

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	Sept 2016	July 2017	Aug 2017	Sept 2017(p)	Sept 2016 to Sept 2017(p)	
					Net change	Percent change
Manufacturing	219.1	235.2	232.7	232.4	13.3	6.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	604.9	603.7	603.1	598.3	-6.6	-1.1
Information	32.3	32.4	32.0	31.5	-0.8	-2.5
Financial activities	155.8	157.8	158.4	159.0	3.2	2.1
Professional and business services	469.8	486.7	484.7	478.6	8.8	1.9
Education and health services	383.9	392.2	395.2	392.9	9.0	2.3
Leisure and hospitality	313.4	329.2	327.1	308.6	-4.8	-1.5
Other services	109.3	112.2	110.7	109.8	0.5	0.5
Government	402.6	394.2	389.4	409.0	6.4	1.6
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA						
Total nonfarm	5,983.6	5,971.0	5,982.7	6,040.1	56.5	0.9
Mining and logging	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.9	-0.2	-4.9
Construction	233.9	249.3	250.0	248.1	14.2	6.1
Manufacturing	515.7	509.8	508.3	505.8	-9.9	-1.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,088.8	1,081.7	1,084.6	1,089.5	0.7	0.1
Information	253.4	252.5	256.0	256.1	2.7	1.1
Financial activities	338.0	339.7	340.8	339.1	1.1	0.3
Professional and business services	912.5	909.6	915.4	918.0	5.5	0.6
Education and health services	972.8	978.4	979.4	1,003.8	31.0	3.2
Leisure and hospitality	730.7	745.8	740.6	740.6	9.9	1.4
Other services	205.0	211.0	212.0	215.4	10.4	5.1
Government	728.7	689.2	691.6	719.8	-8.9	-1.2
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL						
Total nonfarm	2,585.7	2,619.3	2,636.3	2,605.2	19.5	0.8
Mining and logging	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Construction	125.2	129.8	132.2	128.8	3.6	2.9
Manufacturing	87.9	87.0	87.9	88.1	0.2	0.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	587.9	598.4	597.8	592.8	4.9	0.8
Information	48.7	49.0	49.1	48.8	0.1	0.2
Financial activities	176.5	177.0	175.6	175.7	-0.8	-0.5
Professional and business services	427.4	432.6	431.6	424.2	-3.2	-0.7
Education and health services	382.3	394.9	392.6	392.2	9.9	2.6
Leisure and hospitality	314.4	329.2	327.6	312.1	-2.3	-0.7
Other services	124.2	130.8	131.1	126.3	2.1	1.7
Government	310.5	289.9	310.1	315.5	5.0	1.6
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA						
Total nonfarm	9,544.2	9,726.3	9,666.3	9,630.2	86.0	0.9
Mining, logging, and construction	397.4	401.7	402.8	400.3	2.9	0.7
Manufacturing	367.0	365.4	367.0	367.4	0.4	0.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,723.1	1,717.2	1,710.9	1,713.2	-9.9	-0.6
Information	291.7	285.7	286.4	283.2	-8.5	-2.9
Financial activities	771.2	792.7	790.5	778.1	6.9	0.9
Professional and business services	1,533.0	1,573.3	1,567.0	1,555.3	22.3	1.5
Education and health services	1,855.4	1,887.2	1,876.1	1,898.1	42.7	2.3
Leisure and hospitality	912.3	987.3	979.9	930.5	18.2	2.0
Other services	415.7	429.7	426.1	422.1	6.4	1.5
Government	1,277.4	1,286.1	1,259.6	1,282.0	4.6	0.4
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD						
Total nonfarm	2,886.5	2,916.7	2,907.4	2,927.2	40.7	1.4
Mining, logging, and construction	117.4	121.2	120.4	119.7	2.3	2.0
Manufacturing	178.8	179.3	179.1	178.5	-0.3	-0.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	522.3	525.2	523.7	523.3	1.0	0.2
Information	46.2	46.3	46.2	45.7	-0.5	-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	Sept 2016	July 2017	Aug 2017	Sept 2017(p)	Sept 2016 to Sept 2017(p)	
					Net change	Percent change
Financial activities	212.5	217.1	217.7	217.3	4.8	2.3
Professional and business services	462.4	479.8	479.7	475.4	13.0	2.8
Education and health services	627.8	629.3	624.1	636.1	8.3	1.3
Leisure and hospitality	264.8	283.7	283.5	277.0	12.2	4.6
Other services	118.7	120.5	119.5	117.8	-0.9	-0.8
Government	335.6	314.3	313.5	336.4	0.8	0.2
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ						
Total nonfarm	1,988.2	1,967.7	1,999.7	2,022.6	34.4	1.7
Mining and logging	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	-0.1	-3.0
Construction	107.0	110.5	109.8	111.4	4.4	4.1
Manufacturing	120.2	123.2	124.3	123.8	3.6	3.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	385.5	387.2	386.6	387.3	1.8	0.5
Information	35.5	34.3	33.7	33.3	-2.2	-6.2
Financial activities	177.2	180.5	181.2	181.4	4.2	2.4
Professional and business services	341.8	339.9	343.1	344.8	3.0	0.9
Education and health services	295.9	295.5	300.5	304.9	9.0	3.0
Leisure and hospitality	213.4	223.0	223.3	224.2	10.8	5.1
Other services	64.1	61.6	61.2	61.8	-2.3	-3.6
Government	244.3	208.8	232.8	246.5	2.2	0.9
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA						
Total nonfarm	2,356.6	2,388.1	2,391.1	2,390.1	33.5	1.4
Mining and logging	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Construction	116.5	122.8	123.1	123.3	6.8	5.8
Manufacturing	133.6	132.8	133.9	133.5	-0.1	-0.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	376.4	378.8	380.3	378.3	1.9	0.5
Information	101.5	103.2	102.9	102.6	1.1	1.1
Financial activities	142.1	147.7	147.2	145.5	3.4	2.4
Professional and business services	475.2	474.0	473.0	470.2	-5.0	-1.1
Education and health services	338.5	345.1	345.0	349.4	10.9	3.2
Leisure and hospitality	270.0	281.1	282.1	278.7	8.7	3.2
Other services	85.9	88.9	88.9	89.5	3.6	4.2
Government	315.9	312.7	313.7	318.1	2.2	0.7
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV						
Total nonfarm	3,241.5	3,323.4	3,294.4	3,286.0	44.5	1.4
Mining, logging, and construction	159.0	163.9	166.2	163.2	4.2	2.6
Manufacturing	53.9	54.4	54.6	54.1	0.2	0.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	403.3	413.2	411.8	409.1	5.8	1.4
Information	74.1	71.4	71.4	71.3	-2.8	-3.8
Financial activities	158.3	159.6	159.1	158.3	0.0	0.0
Professional and business services	739.1	764.8	762.8	755.7	16.6	2.2
Education and health services	438.0	445.9	444.7	444.1	6.1	1.4
Leisure and hospitality	323.7	349.1	346.1	333.2	9.5	2.9
Other services	195.2	200.4	199.2	197.8	2.6	1.3
Government	696.9	700.7	678.5	699.2	2.3	0.3

Footnotes
(p) Preliminary