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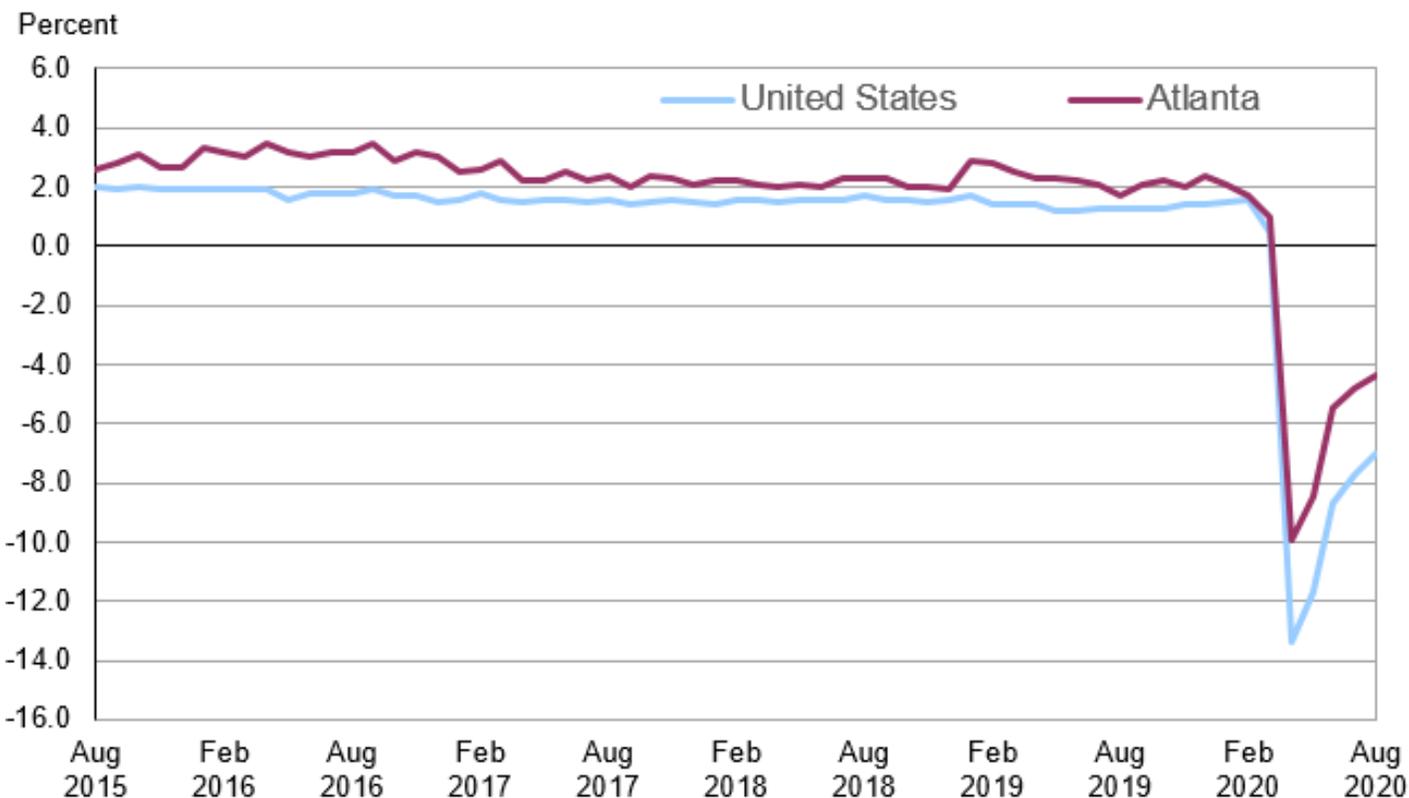
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Atlanta Area Employment – August 2020
Local Rate of Employment Loss Below the National Average

Total nonfarm employment for the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area stood at 2,726,200 in August 2020, down 126,500, or 4.4 percent, over the year, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. During the same period, the national job count declined 7.0 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).) Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the Atlanta area has had over-the-year employment losses of 100,000 or more each month since April 2020. (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, August 2015–August 2020

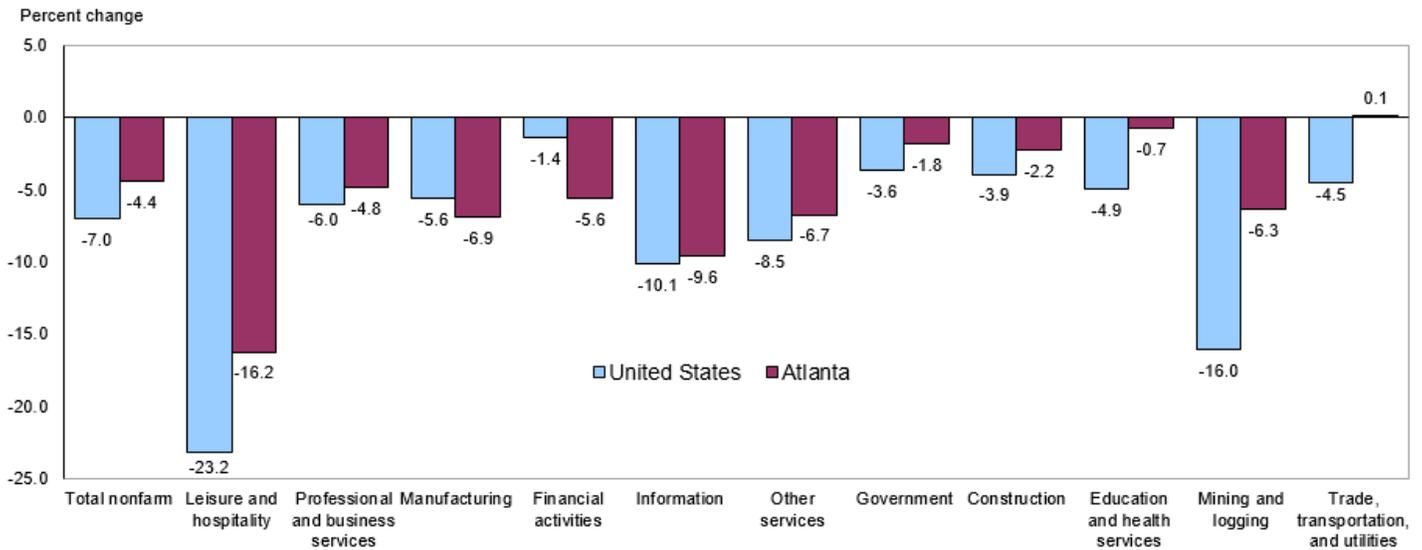


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Industry employment

Employment in Atlanta’s leisure and hospitality supersector fell sharply (-50,400) for the 12 months ending in August, the largest loss of jobs among local major industry sectors. Local employment losses were primarily in the food services and drinking places subsector (-29,800). Atlanta’s over-the-year rate of job loss for the leisure and hospitality industry was 16.2 percent; the national rate of job loss was 23.2 percent. (See [chart 2](#).)

Chart 2. Total nonfarm and selected industry supersector employment, over-the-year percent change, United States and the Atlanta metropolitan area, August 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

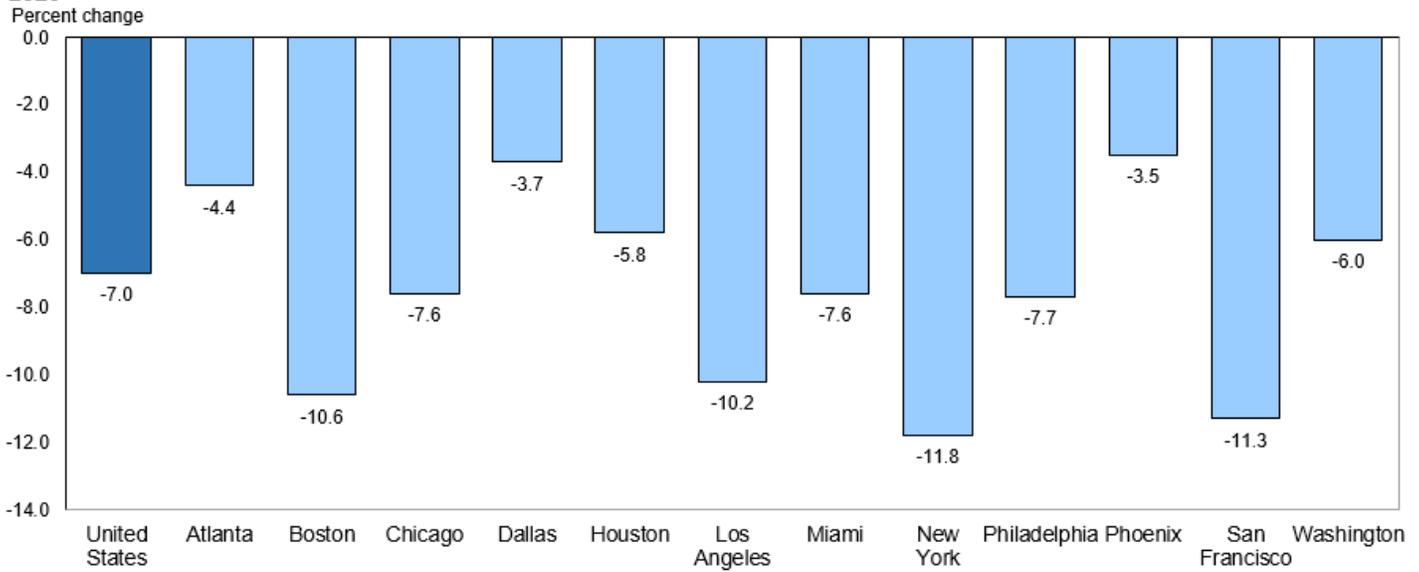
The professional and business services supersector in the Atlanta area lost 26,100 jobs from August 2019 to August 2020, a 4.8-percent decline. The employment services industry group accounted for 12,700 of the jobs lost in the industry sector. Nationally, employment in professional and business services was down 6.0 percent over the year.

Five other local area supersectors had job losses greater than 6,000, ranging from 12,000 in manufacturing to 6,100 in government.

Employment in the 12 largest metropolitan areas

Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell was 1 of the nation’s 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas in August 2020. All 12 areas had over-the-year job losses during the period, with the rates of job losses in 7 areas exceeding the national decrease of 7.0 percent. New York-Newark-Jersey City had the fastest rate of job loss (-11.8 percent), followed by San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward (-11.3 percent). Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale (-3.5 percent) had the slowest rate of job loss. (See [chart 3](#) and [table 2](#).)

Chart 3. Total nonfarm employment, over-the-year percent change, United States and 12 largest metropolitan areas, August 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

New York lost the largest number of jobs over the year (-1,176,100), followed by Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim (-633,000). The smallest employment loss occurred in Phoenix (-77,300). Annual losses in the remaining nine metropolitan areas ranged from 366,600 in Chicago-Naperville-Elgin to 126,500 in Atlanta.

Over the year, leisure and hospitality lost the most jobs in all 12 metropolitan areas. New York had the largest loss of jobs for this sector (-404,900), followed by Los Angeles (-251,900). Phoenix had the smallest job loss for the leisure and hospitality sector (-48,100). The remaining nine areas had job losses ranging from 128,700 in Chicago to 50,400 in Atlanta for this industry sector.

Three areas had job gains over 1,000 within at least one supersector from August 2019 to August 2020: Dallas (financial activities), Phoenix (trade, transportation, and utilities; education and health services; and other services), and Washington (government).

Metropolitan area employment data for September 2020 are scheduled to be released on Tuesday, October 20, 2020.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on August 2020 Establishment Survey Data

BLS has continued to review all estimation and methodological procedures for the establishment survey, which included the review of data, estimation processes, the application of the birth-death model, and seasonal adjustment. Business births and deaths cannot be adequately captured by the establishment survey as they occur. Therefore, the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program uses a model to account for the relatively stable net employment change generated by business births and deaths. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the relationship between business births and deaths is no longer stable. Typically, reports with zero employment are not included in estimation. For the July final and August preliminary estimates, CES included a portion of these reports in the estimates and made modifications to the birth-death model. In addition for both months, the establishment survey included a portion of the reports that returned to reporting positive employment from reporting zero employment. For more information, see www.bls.gov/web/empsit/cesbd.htm.

In the establishment survey, workers who are paid by their employer for all or any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month are counted as employed, even if they were not actually at their jobs. Workers who are temporarily or permanently absent from their jobs and are not being paid are not counted as employed, even if they are continuing to receive benefits. The length of the reference period does vary across the respondents in the establishment survey; one-third of businesses have a weekly pay period, slightly over 40 percent a bi-weekly, about 20 percent semi-monthly, and a small amount monthly.

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 2017 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 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 the total nonfarm employment series are available for metropolitan areas and metropolitan divisions at www.bls.gov/sae/additional-resources/reliability-of-state-and-area-estimates.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 at the supersector level and for the private service-providing, goods-producing, total private and total nonfarm levels are available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/sae/additional-resources/reliability-of-state-and-area-estimates.htm. Information on recent benchmark revisions is available online at www.bls.gov/sae/publications/benchmark-article/annual-benchmark-article.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 April 10, 2018. 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. Detailed industry employment data for metropolitan areas from the CES program are available from the State and Area Employment databases at www.bls.gov/sae/data/home.htm.

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)

Area and Industry	Aug 2019	June 2020	July 2020	Aug 2020(p)	Aug 2019 to Aug 2020(p)	
					Net change	Percent change
United States						
Total nonfarm.....	151,141	138,502	139,063	140,598	-10,543	-7.0
Mining and logging	744	630	630	625	-119	-16.0
Construction	7,760	7,365	7,426	7,459	-301	-3.9
Manufacturing.....	12,929	12,139	12,175	12,211	-718	-5.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	27,619	25,868	26,087	26,382	-1,237	-4.5
Information	2,887	2,584	2,585	2,594	-293	-10.1
Financial activities	8,835	8,648	8,682	8,713	-122	-1.4
Professional and business services	21,521	19,838	20,002	20,220	-1,301	-6.0
Education and health services	23,980	22,556	22,649	22,815	-1,165	-4.9
Leisure and hospitality.....	17,244	12,437	13,139	13,249	-3,995	-23.2
Other services	5,951	5,246	5,405	5,445	-506	-8.5
Government.....	21,671	21,191	20,283	20,885	-786	-3.6
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area						
Total nonfarm.....	2,852.7	2,687.9	2,702.0	2,726.2	-126.5	-4.4
Mining and logging	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	-0.1	-6.3
Construction	130.4	127.8	127.0	127.5	-2.9	-2.2
Manufacturing.....	173.0	159.7	159.7	161.0	-12.0	-6.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	598.0	588.0	589.7	598.4	0.4	0.1
Information	101.0	91.2	91.4	91.3	-9.7	-9.6
Financial activities	179.8	174.1	172.3	169.8	-10.0	-5.6
Professional and business services	548.1	515.9	517.2	522.0	-26.1	-4.8
Education and health services	370.7	362.5	363.7	368.2	-2.5	-0.7
Leisure and hospitality.....	311.1	250.6	262.5	260.7	-50.4	-16.2
Other services	105.4	94.4	96.2	98.3	-7.1	-6.7
Government.....	333.6	322.2	320.8	327.5	-6.1	-1.8

Footnotes

(p) Preliminary

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

Area and Industry	Aug 2019	June 2020	July 2020	Aug 2020(p)	Aug 2019 to Aug 2020(p)	
					Net change	Percent change
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA						
Total nonfarm.....	2,852.7	2,687.9	2,702.0	2,726.2	-126.5	-4.4
Mining and logging	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	-0.1	-6.3
Construction	130.4	127.8	127.0	127.5	-2.9	-2.2
Manufacturing.....	173.0	159.7	159.7	161.0	-12.0	-6.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	598.0	588.0	589.7	598.4	0.4	0.1
Information	101.0	91.2	91.4	91.3	-9.7	-9.6
Financial activities	179.8	174.1	172.3	169.8	-10.0	-5.6
Professional and business services	548.1	515.9	517.2	522.0	-26.1	-4.8
Education and health services	370.7	362.5	363.7	368.2	-2.5	-0.7
Leisure and hospitality.....	311.1	250.6	262.5	260.7	-50.4	-16.2
Other services	105.4	94.4	96.2	98.3	-7.1	-6.7
Government.....	333.6	322.2	320.8	327.5	-6.1	-1.8
Boston-Cambridge-Nashua, MA-NH						
Total nonfarm.....	2,817.0	2,446.4	2,487.8	2,518.0	-299.0	-10.6
Mining, logging, and construction.....	127.7	106.4	110.8	111.1	-16.6	-13.0
Manufacturing.....	189.4	175.4	176.3	176.5	-12.9	-6.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	426.3	364.0	375.4	384.0	-42.3	-9.9
Information	84.3	79.5	80.4	81.4	-2.9	-3.4
Financial activities	190.7	185.5	186.0	185.2	-5.5	-2.9
Professional and business services	525.9	490.7	494.7	498.4	-27.5	-5.2
Education and health services	579.2	525.0	533.7	540.3	-38.9	-6.7
Leisure and hospitality.....	295.6	157.6	181.3	190.8	-104.8	-35.5
Other services	107.9	70.9	78.0	78.8	-29.1	-27.0
Government.....	290.0	291.4	271.2	271.5	-18.5	-6.4
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI						
Total nonfarm.....	4,797.0	4,344.8	4,399.7	4,430.4	-366.6	-7.6
Mining and logging	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.7	-0.2	-10.5
Construction	191.1	179.0	181.4	181.4	-9.7	-5.1
Manufacturing.....	420.6	402.4	400.3	400.8	-19.8	-4.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	949.4	893.2	901.3	904.1	-45.3	-4.8
Information	79.5	75.7	75.4	75.3	-4.2	-5.3
Financial activities	323.1	311.2	312.8	310.9	-12.2	-3.8
Professional and business services	852.8	778.7	786.7	793.6	-59.2	-6.9
Education and health services	725.9	690.3	692.2	696.8	-29.1	-4.0
Leisure and hospitality.....	515.0	329.1	379.4	386.3	-128.7	-25.0
Other services	200.7	179.5	179.9	181.4	-19.3	-9.6
Government.....	537.0	504.0	488.7	498.1	-38.9	-7.2
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX						
Total nonfarm.....	3,797.8	3,642.0	3,627.5	3,657.5	-140.3	-3.7
Mining, logging, and construction.....	229.9	229.8	229.9	228.1	-1.8	-0.8
Manufacturing.....	290.9	280.0	279.8	279.0	-11.9	-4.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	795.5	782.8	780.3	786.6	-8.9	-1.1
Information	82.1	80.1	79.5	79.9	-2.2	-2.7
Financial activities	322.4	328.5	331.4	332.3	9.9	3.1
Professional and business services	651.9	626.4	634.0	645.5	-6.4	-1.0
Education and health services	464.3	431.4	428.2	434.5	-29.8	-6.4
Leisure and hospitality.....	402.8	334.0	327.3	323.0	-79.8	-19.8
Other services	129.8	121.2	118.1	120.6	-9.2	-7.1
Government.....	428.2	427.8	419.0	428.0	-0.2	0.0
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX						
Total nonfarm.....	3,150.3	2,980.4	2,962.2	2,967.5	-182.8	-5.8
Mining and logging	79.8	61.5	60.6	59.9	-19.9	-24.9
Construction	239.1	218.7	217.9	216.3	-22.8	-9.5

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	Aug 2019	June 2020	July 2020	Aug 2020(p)	Aug 2019 to Aug 2020(p)	
					Net change	Percent change
Manufacturing.....	237.3	219.7	215.8	214.3	-23.0	-9.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	627.4	607.6	605.0	610.1	-17.3	-2.8
Information.....	32.8	29.6	29.4	28.8	-4.0	-12.2
Financial activities.....	167.8	164.5	164.6	164.7	-3.1	-1.8
Professional and business services.....	510.6	500.8	505.4	509.4	-1.2	-0.2
Education and health services.....	406.0	395.7	398.7	394.2	-11.8	-2.9
Leisure and hospitality.....	338.1	285.0	279.6	279.8	-58.3	-17.2
Other services.....	116.0	98.7	100.2	104.7	-11.3	-9.7
Government.....	395.4	398.6	385.0	385.3	-10.1	-2.6
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA						
Total nonfarm.....	6,211.8	5,591.0	5,563.6	5,578.8	-633.0	-10.2
Mining and logging.....	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0
Construction.....	260.9	251.4	249.3	251.7	-9.2	-3.5
Manufacturing.....	500.0	457.1	458.9	455.6	-44.4	-8.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,109.3	1,010.4	1,024.1	1,036.0	-73.3	-6.6
Information.....	238.2	200.2	202.5	204.6	-33.6	-14.1
Financial activities.....	343.3	331.4	337.4	335.2	-8.1	-2.4
Professional and business services.....	978.8	888.1	895.7	896.7	-82.1	-8.4
Education and health services.....	1,070.9	1,014.1	1,016.3	1,016.9	-54.0	-5.0
Leisure and hospitality.....	780.0	542.1	543.4	528.1	-251.9	-32.3
Other services.....	211.8	160.2	164.7	161.5	-50.3	-23.7
Government.....	716.3	733.7	669.0	690.2	-26.1	-3.6
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL						
Total nonfarm.....	2,714.4	2,493.0	2,479.6	2,507.4	-207.0	-7.6
Mining and logging.....	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.1	14.3
Construction.....	143.2	142.0	140.6	138.0	-5.2	-3.6
Manufacturing.....	92.0	84.5	85.3	85.6	-6.4	-7.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	610.7	573.8	576.7	580.5	-30.2	-4.9
Information.....	51.0	48.0	47.0	46.7	-4.3	-8.4
Financial activities.....	189.8	189.2	190.4	189.1	-0.7	-0.4
Professional and business services.....	455.7	420.2	421.2	423.7	-32.0	-7.0
Education and health services.....	407.1	381.7	376.4	380.7	-26.4	-6.5
Leisure and hospitality.....	327.3	254.9	244.7	241.1	-86.2	-26.3
Other services.....	119.4	108.1	108.3	108.0	-11.4	-9.5
Government.....	317.5	289.8	288.2	313.2	-4.3	-1.4
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA						
Total nonfarm.....	9,928.7	8,508.1	8,618.4	8,752.6	-1,176.1	-11.8
Mining, logging, and construction.....	429.6	359.2	376.8	380.9	-48.7	-11.3
Manufacturing.....	359.9	324.4	326.5	328.9	-31.0	-8.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,712.9	1,461.7	1,520.9	1,536.4	-176.5	-10.3
Information.....	301.4	277.0	280.4	284.9	-16.5	-5.5
Financial activities.....	802.4	746.8	751.4	758.2	-44.2	-5.5
Professional and business services.....	1,626.5	1,426.1	1,444.6	1,446.6	-179.9	-11.1
Education and health services.....	1,992.8	1,839.8	1,844.4	1,854.1	-138.7	-7.0
Leisure and hospitality.....	992.8	475.4	560.2	587.9	-404.9	-40.8
Other services.....	428.9	322.6	358.8	367.8	-61.1	-14.2
Government.....	1,281.5	1,275.1	1,154.4	1,206.9	-74.6	-5.8
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD						
Total nonfarm.....	2,961.9	2,680.1	2,705.7	2,733.5	-228.4	-7.7
Mining, logging, and construction.....	124.5	106.4	107.1	108.8	-15.7	-12.6
Manufacturing.....	184.4	176.8	176.7	175.6	-8.8	-4.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	525.2	481.0	485.7	493.9	-31.3	-6.0
Information.....	50.4	46.9	47.1	46.9	-3.5	-6.9

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	Aug 2019	June 2020	July 2020	Aug 2020(p)	Aug 2019 to Aug 2020(p)	
					Net change	Percent change
Financial activities	218.9	210.3	211.6	211.7	-7.2	-3.3
Professional and business services	473.2	446.4	447.1	449.1	-24.1	-5.1
Education and health services	651.2	618.4	622.7	626.7	-24.5	-3.8
Leisure and hospitality.....	290.9	169.2	192.7	197.6	-93.3	-32.1
Other services	123.6	95.5	104.9	107.9	-15.7	-12.7
Government.....	319.6	329.2	310.1	315.3	-4.3	-1.3
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ						
Total nonfarm.....	2,179.3	2,060.7	2,050.7	2,102.0	-77.3	-3.5
Mining and logging	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	-0.1	-2.8
Construction	136.3	133.4	132.0	132.2	-4.1	-3.0
Manufacturing.....	134.6	130.5	129.9	130.4	-4.2	-3.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	405.5	407.7	408.3	413.1	7.6	1.9
Information	40.8	37.8	38.0	38.5	-2.3	-5.6
Financial activities	204.3	203.4	202.6	204.4	0.1	0.0
Professional and business services	371.2	341.9	343.4	345.5	-25.7	-6.9
Education and health services	339.3	330.4	332.5	342.6	3.3	1.0
Leisure and hospitality.....	229.2	189.4	177.6	181.1	-48.1	-21.0
Other services	70.6	71.6	71.4	72.4	1.8	2.5
Government.....	243.9	211.0	211.4	238.3	-5.6	-2.3
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA						
Total nonfarm.....	2,494.7	2,200.6	2,196.4	2,213.1	-281.6	-11.3
Mining and logging	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Construction	130.9	115.9	115.0	115.6	-15.3	-11.7
Manufacturing.....	143.9	125.4	126.4	127.1	-16.8	-11.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	373.8	328.5	334.4	337.2	-36.6	-9.8
Information	131.3	119.9	121.4	120.7	-10.6	-8.1
Financial activities	149.0	146.2	146.8	147.5	-1.5	-1.0
Professional and business services	510.2	480.9	483.9	485.5	-24.7	-4.8
Education and health services	361.4	333.7	335.6	336.6	-24.8	-6.9
Leisure and hospitality.....	289.4	181.5	187.1	186.2	-103.2	-35.7
Other services	89.1	68.5	71.0	69.7	-19.4	-21.8
Government.....	315.4	299.8	274.5	286.7	-28.7	-9.1
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV						
Total nonfarm.....	3,345.9	3,119.2	3,128.1	3,144.5	-201.4	-6.0
Mining, logging, and construction.....	168.7	162.9	166.8	166.7	-2.0	-1.2
Manufacturing.....	57.2	54.4	54.3	54.3	-2.9	-5.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	408.0	374.6	382.2	383.2	-24.8	-6.1
Information	77.5	73.2	74.0	73.9	-3.6	-4.6
Financial activities	162.3	158.1	157.4	157.8	-4.5	-2.8
Professional and business services	787.2	764.6	768.7	769.9	-17.3	-2.2
Education and health services	442.3	408.0	406.0	407.1	-35.2	-8.0
Leisure and hospitality.....	347.6	223.4	243.6	243.4	-104.2	-30.0
Other services	212.5	203.5	203.9	204.3	-8.2	-3.9
Government.....	682.6	696.5	671.2	683.9	1.3	0.2

Footnotes

(p) Preliminary