



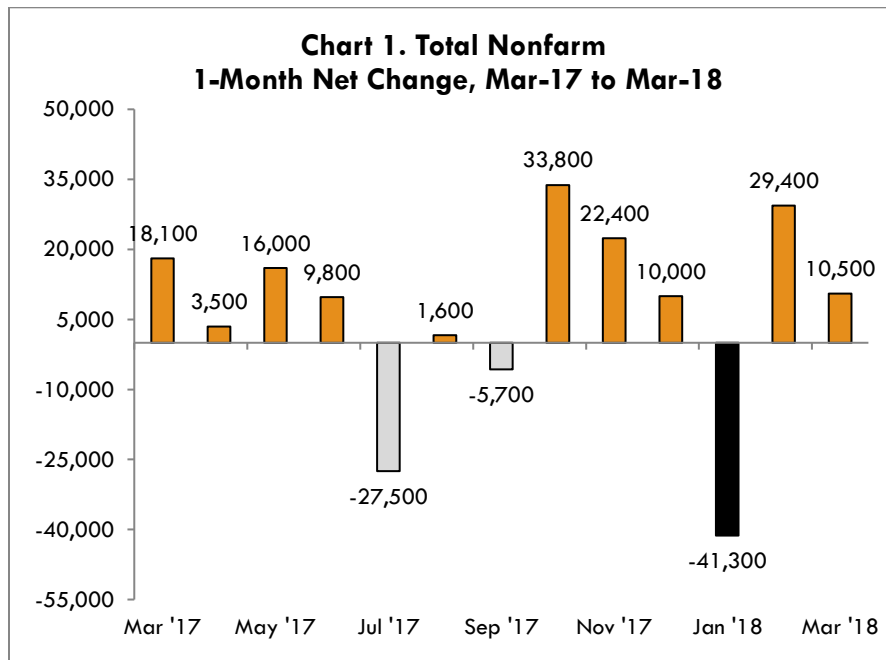
Current Employment and Local Area
Unemployment Statistics
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land
March 2018

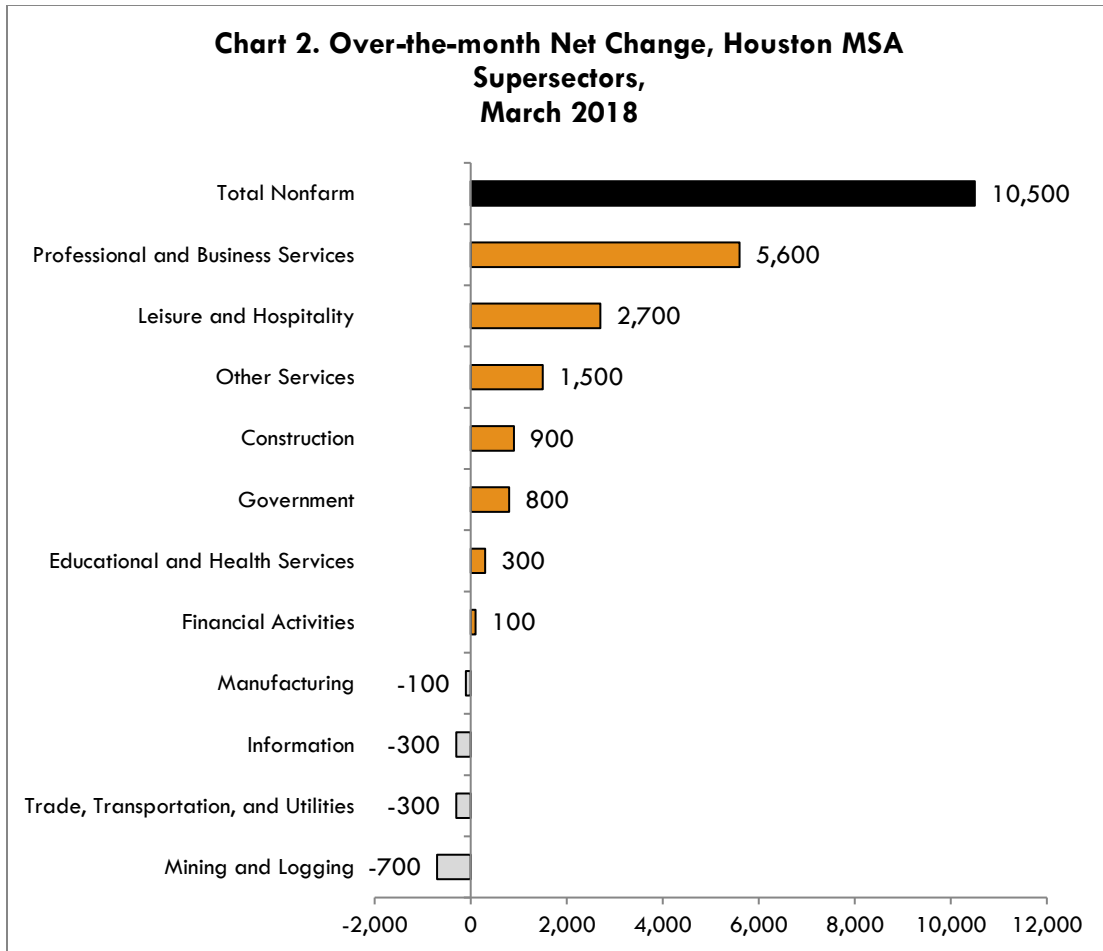
Workforce Solutions is an affiliate of the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, which manages a regional system that helps employers solve their workforce problems and residents build careers so both can compete in the global economy. The workforce system serves the City of Houston and the surrounding 13 Texas Gulf Coast counties including: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.

Total Nonfarm

One Month Change

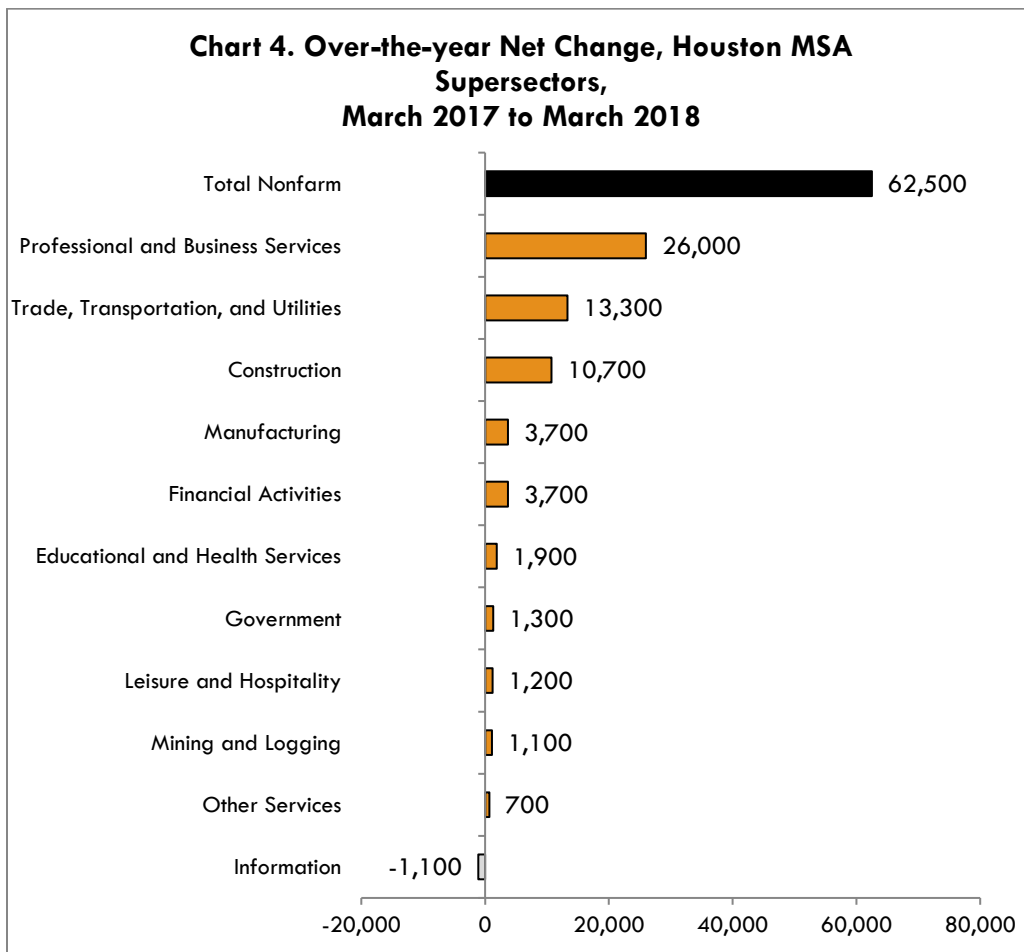
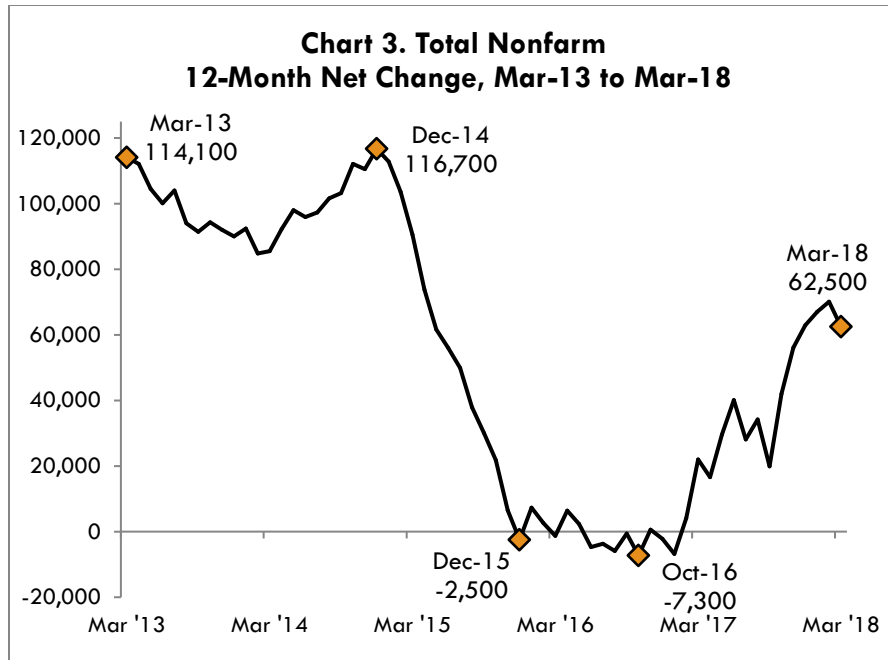
Houston MSA Total Nonfarm employment stood at 3,072,000 in March, up 10,500 jobs over the month, or 0.3 percent. A year ago Houston registered an over-the-month increase of 18,100 jobs. The largest over-the-month gain on record for Total Nonfarm Employment occurred in February 2013, up 36,900 jobs. The largest one-month decline on record outside of seasonal job losses in January and July occurred in September 2008, down -21,900 jobs. Historically in the month of March, Total Nonfarm has on average added 12,800 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are slightly below the long-term average. Note that job growth is typical in March of each year and in fact the only example of a decline in this month since records began occurred in March of 2009 as a result of the Great Recession. The primary drivers of this March's growth were increases in Professional and Business Services, Leisure and Hospitality, and Other Services. Gains were also recorded in Construction, Government, and Educational and Health Services. The net increase in jobs over the month was partially offset by losses in Mining and Logging, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, and Information.





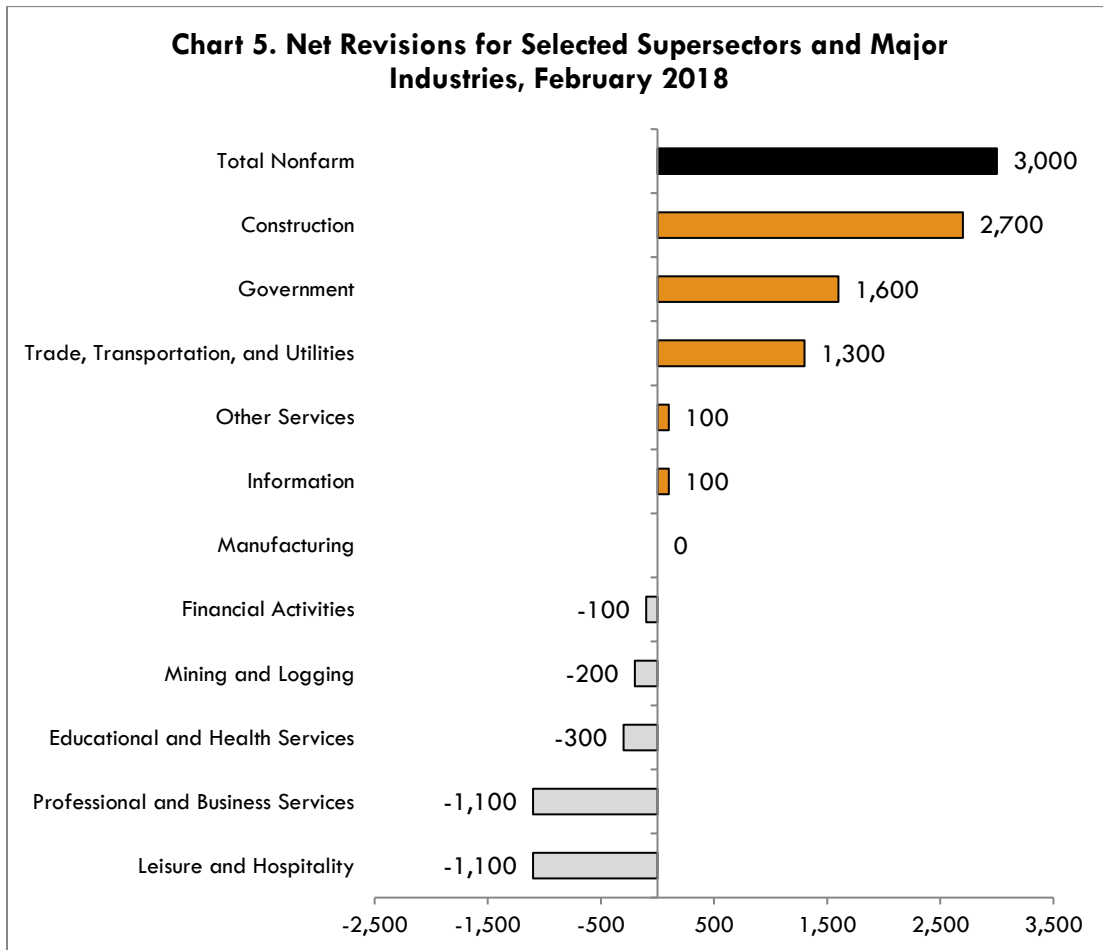
Year over Year Change

Over the year, Total Nonfarm employment was up 62,500, or 2.1 percent. To compare, March 2017 saw a year-over-year gain of 22,000 jobs. **NOTE:** This now marks the fourth consecutive month of year-over-year growth in excess of 60,000 jobs, a pace last seen in May 2015. The largest over-the-year gain on record for Total Nonfarm Employment occurred in November 2012, up 124,000 jobs. The largest over-the-year decline on record occurred in November 2009, down -114,600 jobs. Currently 10 out of 11 sectors show positive growth year over year, of which the top three are Professional and Business Services (26,000), Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (13,300), and Construction (10,700). At present Information is the only sector in decline with losses of -1,100.



Previous Month's Revisions

Total Nonfarm employment was revised upward by 3,000 jobs for a January to February larger net gain of 29,400 compared to an original estimate of 26,400 jobs. An upward revision of 2,700 jobs in Construction was the largest contributor followed by Government (1,600) and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (1,300). Downward revisions in Professional and Business Services (-1,100), Leisure and Hospitality (-1,100), and Educational and Health Services (-300) provided a partial offset of the overall upward revision to Total Nonfarm employment.

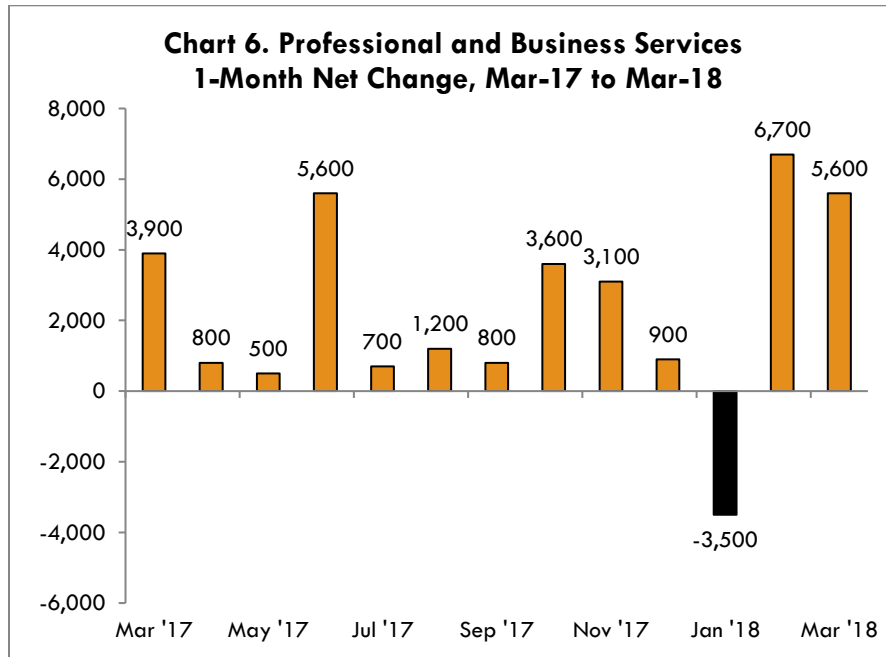


GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Professional and Business Services

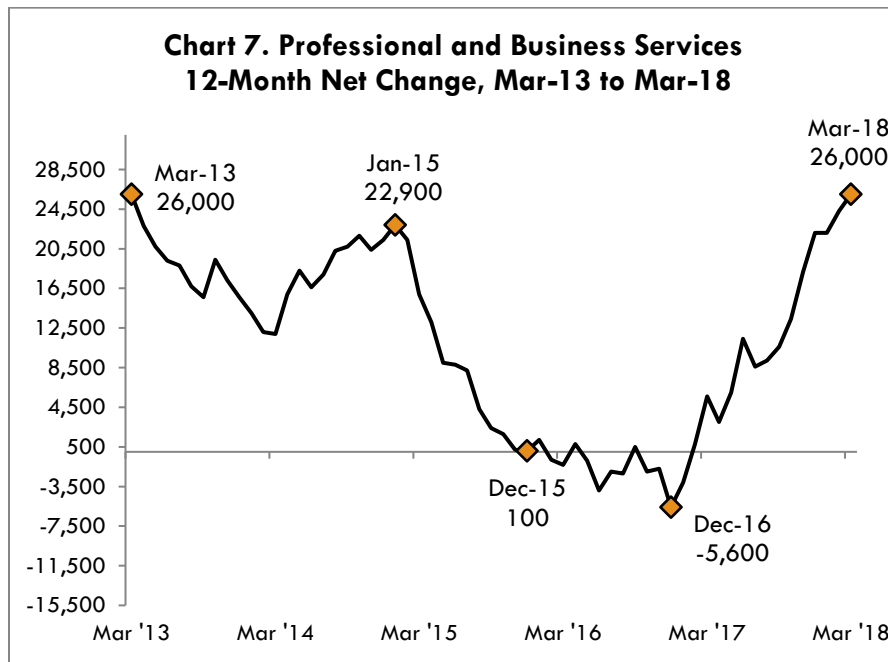
One Month Change

Professional and Business Services was the largest gaining sector over the month up 5,600 jobs, or 1.1 percent. This was the largest-ever one-month gain in the month of March since records began in 1990. The largest over-the-month gain on record for this sector occurred in June 2000, up 7,500 jobs. The largest one-month decline on record occurred in September 2008, down -6,900 jobs. Historically in the month of March, Professional and Business Services has added an average of 2,800 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are substantially above the long-term average. March is typically a strong month for job growth in this sector. Since records began, there have only been three instances of job losses in Professional and Business Services in the month of March: 2015 and 2016 due to low oil prices and 2009 due to the Great Recession. Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 6,100 jobs over the month. **NOTE:** With this category, Employment Services, also known as temporary staffing agencies, was the primary driver with an increase of 6,600 jobs. Strength in this component industry suggests continued confidence in improvement of the local economy and in the past has preceded permanent hiring. One component industry that provided a partial offset was Management of Companies and Enterprises, which lost -100 jobs from February to March. Lastly, Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services offset a portion of the sector's gains with a loss of -400 jobs.



Year over Year and Year to Date

Year over year, Professional and Business Services was up 26,000 jobs, or 5.5 percent, a pace not seen since March 2013. Currently, this sector is the fastest-growing in percentage terms in the Houston. Furthermore, 40.9 percent of total (gross) jobs added across the region over the past year can be attributed to Professional and Business Services. The largest over-the-year gain on record for this sector occurred in November 2012, up 30,900 jobs. The largest over-the-year decline on record occurred in October 2009, down -35,100 jobs. Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 14,600 jobs over the year. **NOTE:** As was the case over the month, Employment Services was the primary driver of this trend, up 16,100 jobs for a growth rate of 20.3 percent, the fastest pace of growth of any component industry for which monthly data are available. The second-largest contributor to Professional and Business Services job growth was Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, which added 11,100 jobs from March a year ago. Lastly, Management of Companies and Enterprises contributed 300 jobs. Year to date this sector is up 12,300 jobs compared to the same point in time a year ago when the net change from January to March was an increase of 8,400. Professional and Business Services' share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has risen from 15.8 percent to 16.3 percent over the past year.



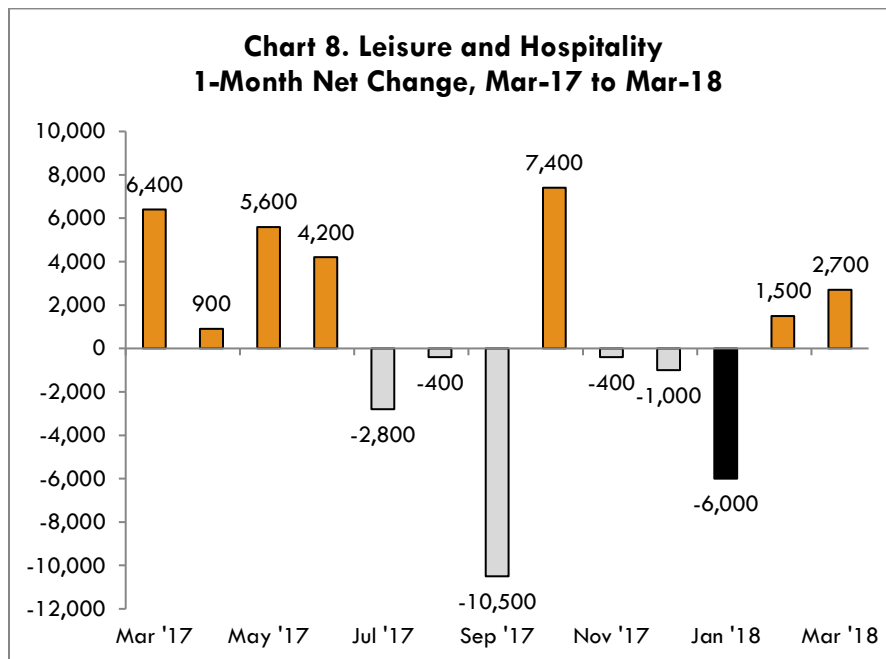
Previous Month's Revisions

Professional and Business Services employment was revised downward by -1,100 jobs for a January to February smaller net gain of 6,700 compared to an original estimate of 7,800 jobs.

Leisure and Hospitality

One Month Change

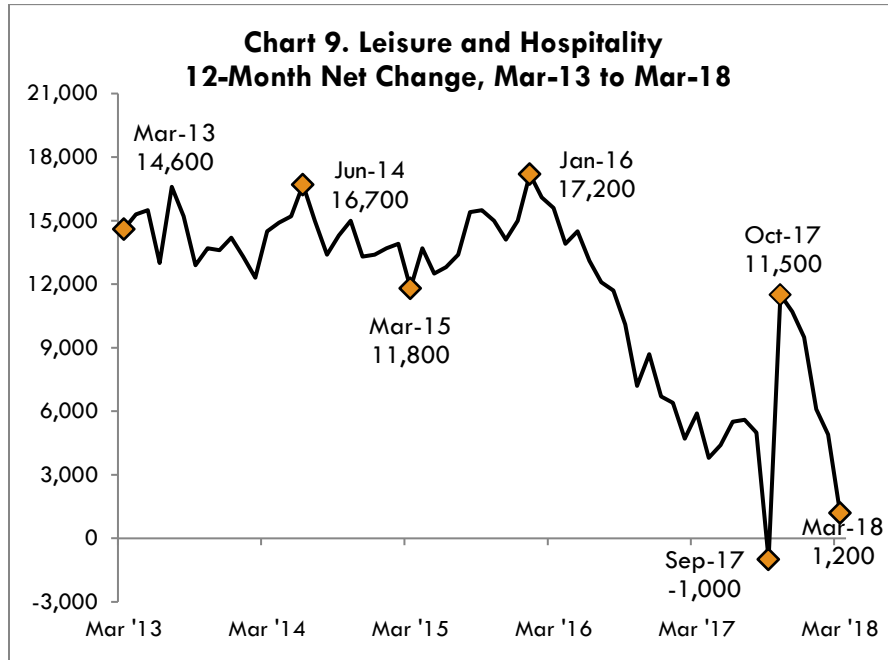
Leisure and Hospitality was the second-largest gaining sector over the month up 2,700 jobs, or 0.9 percent. The largest over-the-month gain on record for this sector occurred in March 2014, up 7,800 jobs. The largest one-month decline on record occurred in August 1996, down -1,600 jobs. Historically in the month of March, Leisure and Hospitality has on average added 4,300 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are moderately below the long-term average. Gains are typical in March in Leisure and Hospitality with no instances of jobs losses in this month since records began in 1990. This marks the second of five consecutive months during which no over-the-month job losses have ever been recorded. Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 1,400 jobs over the month. The second-largest contributor was Accommodation and Food Services, which added 1,300 jobs from February to March.



Year over Year and Year to Date

Year over year, Leisure and Hospitality was up 1,200 jobs, or 0.4 percent. Currently, this sector is the third slowest-growing in percentage terms in the Houston area. **NOTE:** Furthermore, after post-Hurricane Harvey spike in growth in October 2017 to 11,500 jobs or 3.7 percent, this sector show signs of reverting back to the trend of slowing job growth that began in January 2016. The largest over-the-year gain on record for this sector occurred in January 2016, up 17,200 jobs. The largest over-the-year decline on record occurred in August 1991, down -4,100 jobs. Accommodation and Food Services was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 1,600 jobs over the year. One component industry that provided a partial offset was Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation, which lost -400 jobs from March a year ago. Year to date this sector is up 4,200 jobs compared to the same point in time a year ago when the net change from January to March was an increase of 9,100. Leisure and

Hospitality's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has shrunk from 10.5 percent to 10.3 percent over the past year.



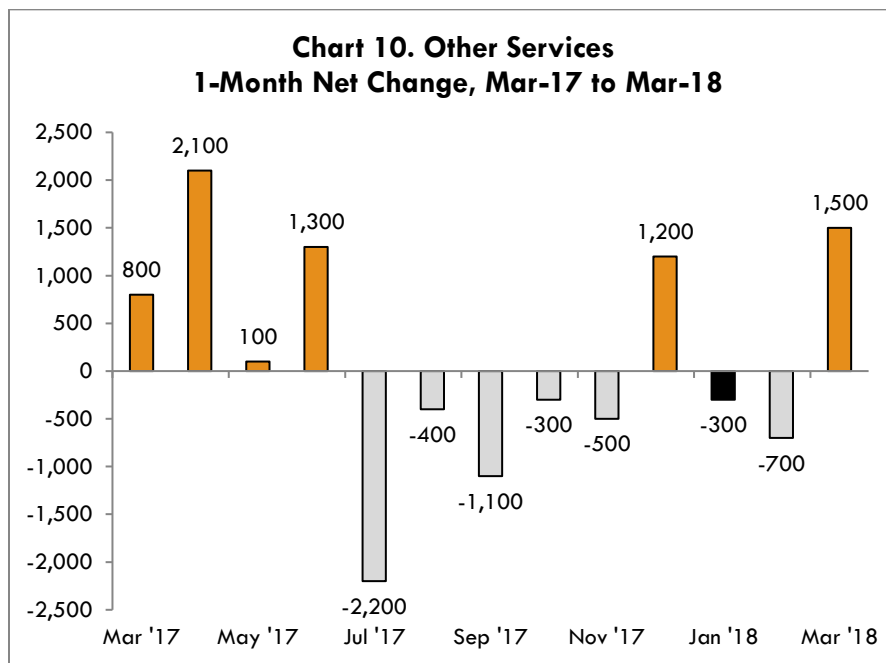
Previous Month's Revisions

Leisure and Hospitality employment was revised downward by -1,100 jobs for a January to February smaller net gain of 1,500 compared to an original estimate of 2,600 jobs.

Other Services

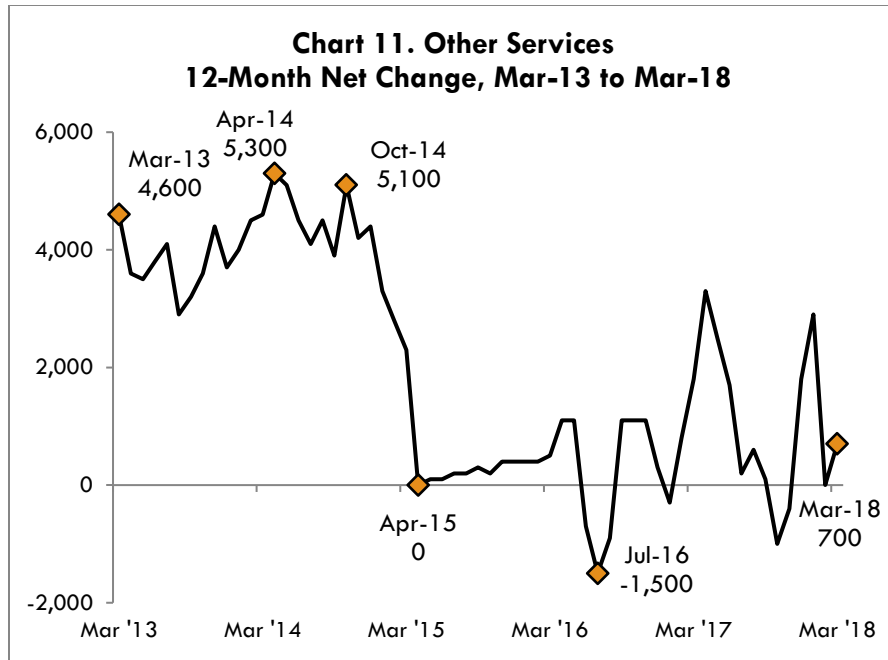
One Month Change

Other Services was the third-largest gaining sector over the month up 1,500 jobs, or 1.4 percent. This was the largest-ever one-month gain in the month of March since records began in 1990. The largest over-the-month gain on record for this sector occurred in June 2006, up 4,900 jobs. The largest one-month decline on record occurred in January 2007, down -3,500 jobs. Historically in the month of March, Other Services has on average lost -80 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are substantially above the long-term average. As a catch-all category, Other Services has shown a nearly even of gains and losses over the years. **NOTE:** This sector experienced its first-ever loss in February, which remains the case even after revisions (see section Previous Month's Revisions below). However, it appears that March's above-average growth has compensated for this outlier event. Historically the average growth of February and March combined is approximately 400 jobs. This February and March is no exception.



Year over Year and Year to Date

Year over year, Other Services was up 700 jobs, or 0.6 percent. The largest over-the-year gain on record for this sector occurred in April 2014, up 5,300 jobs. The largest over-the-year decline on record occurred in December 2007, down -3,600 jobs. Year to date this sector is up 800 jobs compared to the same point in time a year ago when the net change from January to March was an increase of 3,000. Other Services' share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 3.6 percent over the past year.



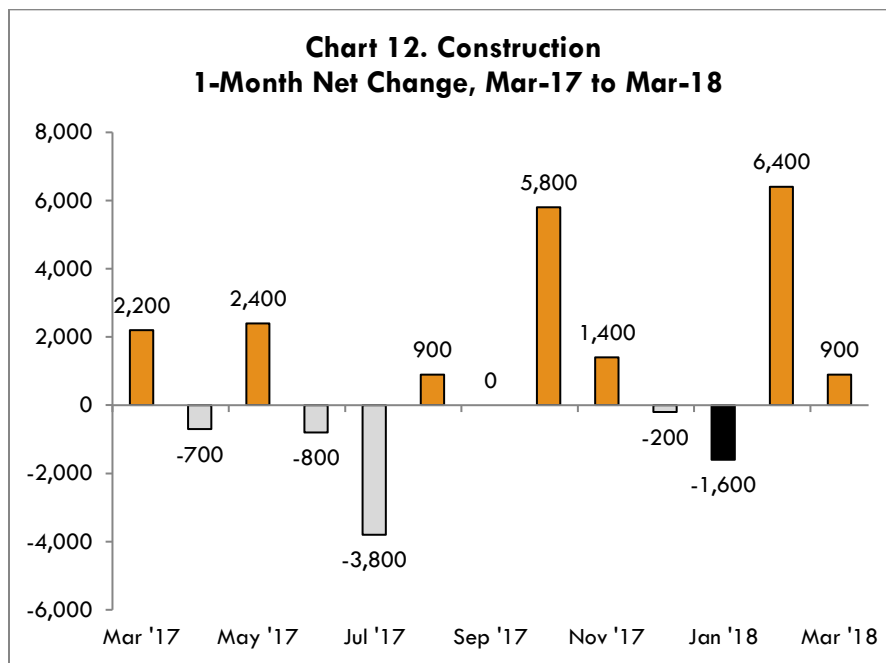
Previous Month's Revisions

Other Services employment was revised upward by 100 jobs for a January to February smaller net loss of -700 compared to an original estimate of -800 jobs.

Construction

One Month Change

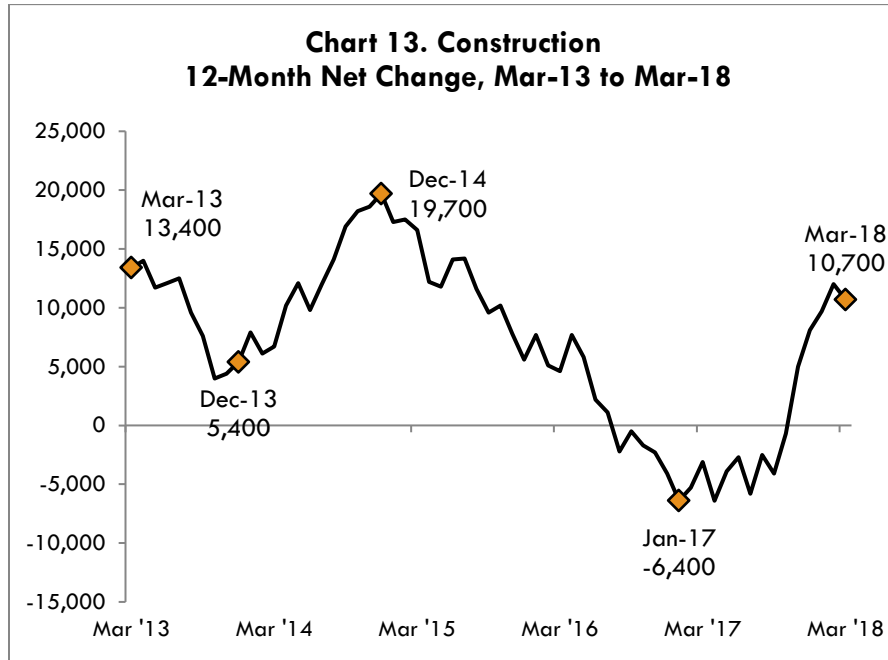
Construction also saw an increase over the month up 900 jobs, or 0.4 percent. The largest over-the-month gain on record for this sector occurred in February 2013, up 7,200 jobs. The largest one-month decline on record occurred in April 2009, down -5,400 jobs. Historically in the month of March, Construction has on average added 1,700 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are moderately below the long-term average. Construction has typically experienced gains in March with three exceptions occurring in 2016, 2009, and 2003. Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 900 jobs over the month. The second-largest contributor was Construction of Buildings, which added 500 jobs from February to March. Lastly, Specialty Trade Contractors offset a portion of the sector's gains with a loss of -500 jobs. **NOTE:** It appears that February's unusually strong growth of 6,400 jobs may have simply pulled forward growth that would have normally occurred in March.



Year over Year and Year to Date

Year over year, Construction was up 10,700 jobs, or 4.9 percent. Currently, this sector is the second-fastest growing in percentage terms in the Houston area. Furthermore, 16.8 percent of total (gross) jobs added across the region over the past year can be attributed to Construction. **NOTE:** This sector continues to exhibit strong year-over-year growth as recovery efforts post-Hurricane Harvey continue. The largest over-the-year gain on record for this sector occurred in December 2014, up 19,700 jobs. The largest over-the-year decline on record occurred in November 2009, down -33,700 jobs. Construction of Buildings was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 9,000 jobs over the year. The second-largest contributor was Specialty Trade Contractors, which added 1,800 jobs from March a year ago. Lastly, Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction offset a portion of the sector's gains with a loss of -100 jobs. Year to date this sector is up 7,300 jobs compared to the same point in time

a year ago when the net change from January to March was an increase of 6,300. Construction's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has risen from 7.2 percent to 7.4 percent over the past year.



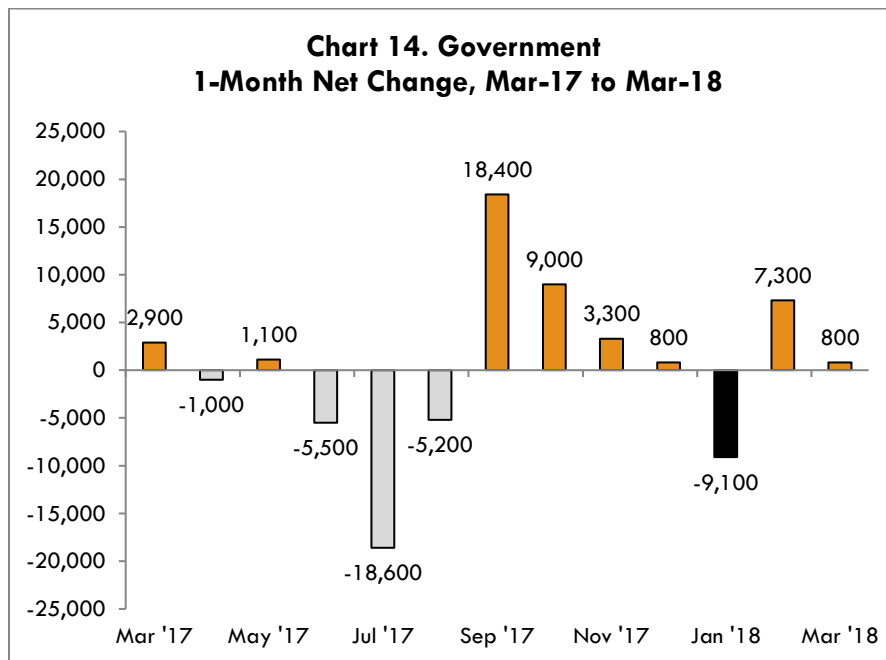
Previous Month's Revisions

Construction employment was revised upward by 2,700 jobs for a January to February larger net gain of 6,400 compared to an original estimate of 3,700 jobs.

Government

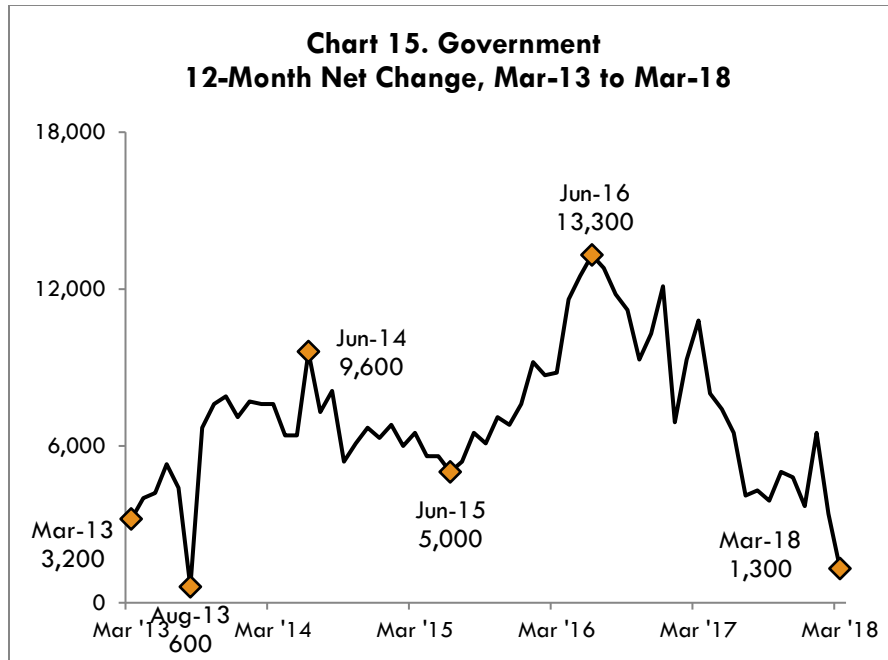
One Month Change

Government also saw an increase over the month up 800 jobs, or 0.2 percent. The largest over-the-month gain on record for this sector occurred in September 2013, up 22,500 jobs. The largest one-month decline on record occurred in April 2006, down -2,500 jobs. Historically in the month of March, Government has on average added 400 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are moderately above the long-term average. Government typically experiences job gains in March with the only examples of losses occurring in the early-to-mid 1990s. Local Government was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 1,000 jobs over the month. One component industry that provided a partial offset was Federal Government, which lost -100 jobs from February to March. Lastly, State Government offset a portion of the sector's gains with a loss of -100 jobs.



Year over Year and Year to Date

Year over year, Government was up 1,300 jobs, or 0.3 percent. Currently, this sector is the second-slowest growing in percentage terms in the Houston area. The largest over-the-year gain on record for this sector occurred in May 2010, up 19,100 jobs. The largest over-the-year decline on record occurred in January 2012, down -17,100 jobs. State Government was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 1,100 jobs over the year. The second-largest contributor was Federal Government, which added 300 jobs from March a year ago. Lastly, Local Government offset a portion of the sector's gains with a loss of -100 jobs. Year to date this sector is up 8,100 jobs compared to the same point in time a year ago when the net change from January to March was an increase of 13,300. Government's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has shrunk from 13.8 percent to 13.5 percent over the past year.



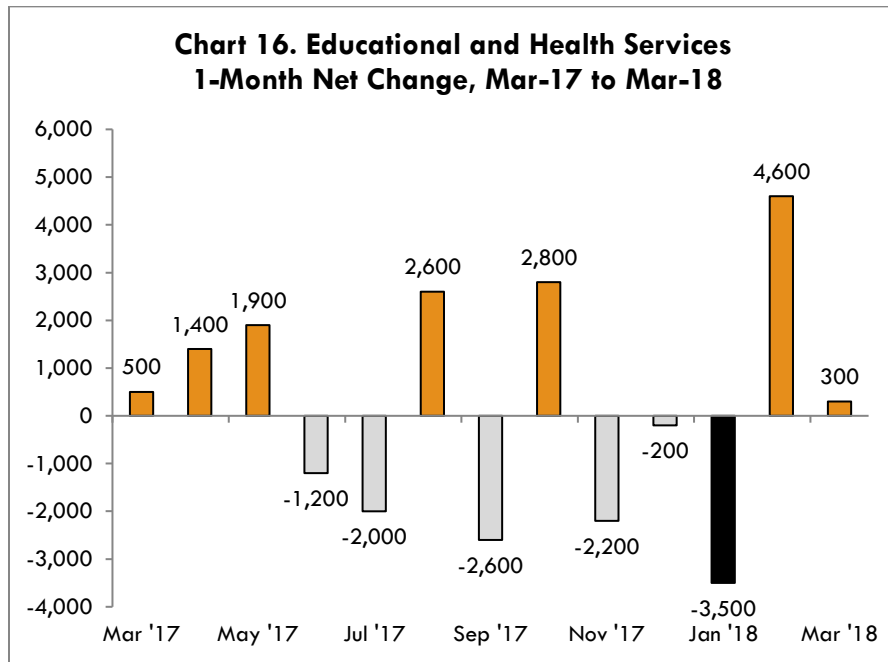
Previous Month's Revisions

Government employment was revised upward by 1,600 jobs for a January to February larger net gain of 7,300 compared to an original estimate of 5,700 jobs.

Educational and Health Services

One Month Change

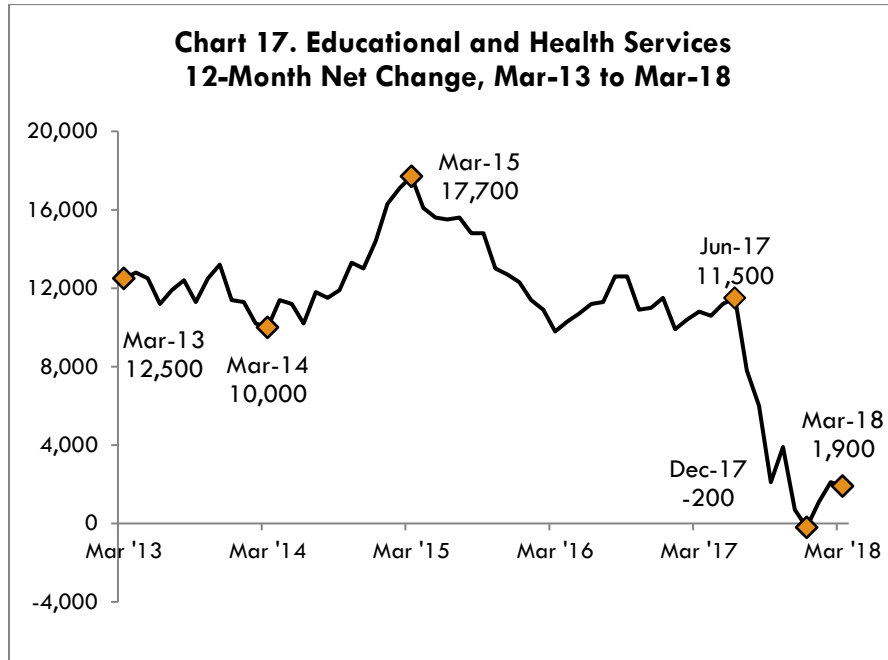
Educational and Health Services also saw an increase over the month up 300 jobs, or 0.1 percent. The largest over-the-month gain on record for this sector occurred in March 1999, up 4,700 jobs. The largest one-month decline on record occurred in February 1990, down -7,300 jobs. Historically in the month of March, Educational and Health Services has on average added 1,300 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are substantially below the long-term average. March is typically a strong month for job growth in this sector. Since records began, there have only been two instances of job losses in Educational and Health Services in the month of March: 2016 possibly indirectly related to low oil prices and/or industry-specific factors and 2008 due to the Great Recession. Health Care and Social Assistance was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 500 jobs over the month. One component industry that provided a partial offset was Educational Services, which lost -200 jobs from February to March.



Year over Year and Year to Date

Year over year, Educational and Health Services was up 1,900 jobs, or 0.5 percent. The largest over-the-year gain on record for this sector occurred in March 2015, up 17,700 jobs. The largest over-the-year decline on record occurred in January 1991, down -3,200 jobs. Health Care and Social Assistance was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 1,200 jobs over the year. The second-largest contributor was Educational Services, which added 700 jobs from March a year ago. Year to date this sector is up 4,900 jobs compared to the same point in time a year ago when the net change from January to March was an increase of 4,100. Educational and Health Services' share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has shrunk from 12.8 percent to 12.6 percent over the past year. **NOTE:** Job growth in this sector has slowed considerably since June 2017, possibly related to

various closures of smaller hospitals and layoffs among others. (See special report on 2017 Benchmark Revisions for additional commentary.)



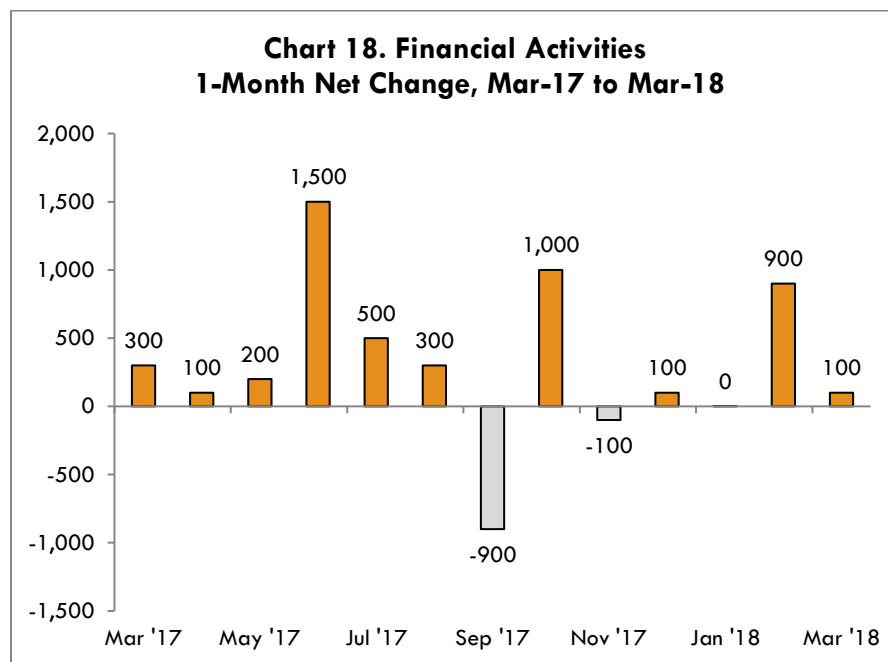
Previous Month's Revisions

Educational and Health Services employment was revised downward by -300 jobs for a January to February smaller net gain of 4,600 compared to an original estimate of 4,900 jobs.

Financial Activities

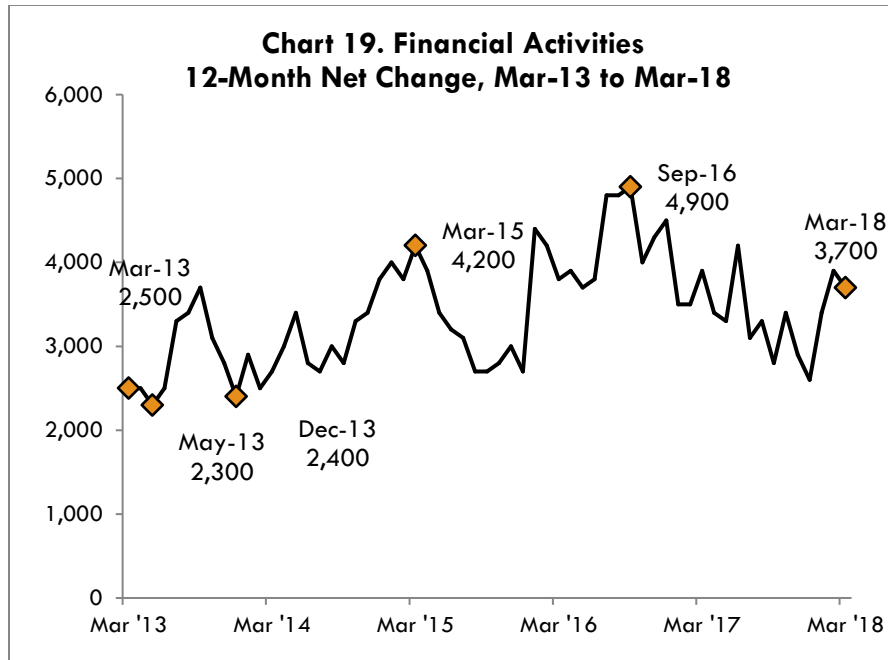
One Month Change

Financial Activities also saw an increase over the month up 100 jobs, or 0.1 percent. The largest over-the-month gain on record for this sector occurred in October 1997, up 2,100 jobs. The largest one-month decline on record occurred in July 1990, down -1,600 jobs. Historically in the month of March, Financial Activities has on average added 300 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are somewhat below the long-term average. Finance and Insurance was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 500 jobs over the month. One component industry that provided a partial offset was Real Estate and Rental and Leasing, which lost 400 jobs from February to March.



Year over Year and Year to Date

Year over year, Financial Activities was up 3,700 jobs, or 2.3 percent. Currently, this sector is the third-fastest growing in percentage terms in the Houston area. The largest over-the-year gain on record for this sector occurred in September 1998, up 9,100 jobs. The largest over-the-year decline on record occurred in August 2009, down -6,300 jobs. Real Estate and Rental and Leasing was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 3,300 jobs over the year. The second-largest contributor was Finance and Insurance, which added 400 jobs from March a year ago. Year to date this sector is up 1,000 jobs compared to the same point in time a year ago when the net change from January to March was an increase of 700. Financial Activities' share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 5.3 percent over the past year.



Previous Month's Revisions

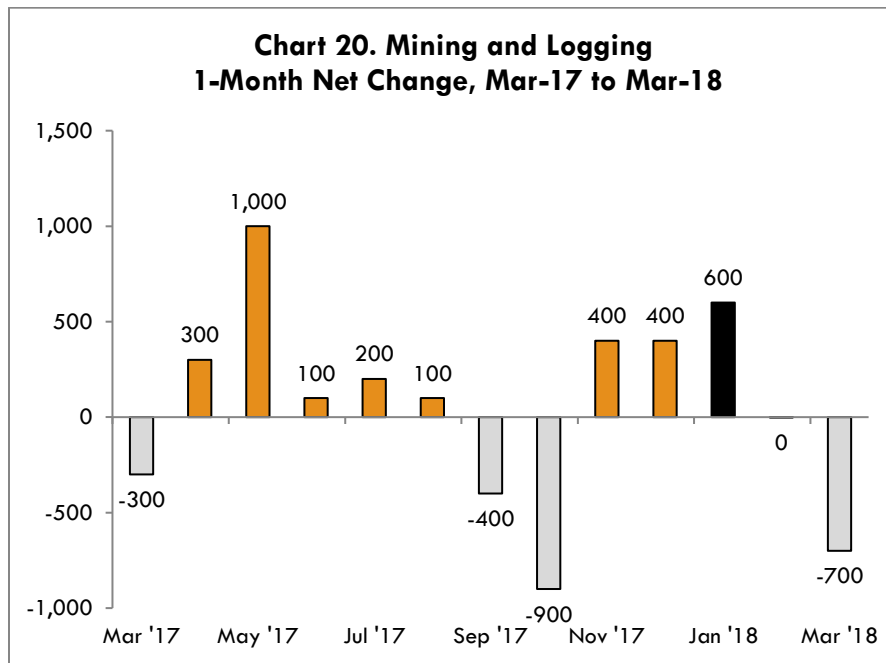
Financial Activities employment was revised downward by -100 jobs for a January to February smaller net gain of 900 compared to an original estimate of 1,000 jobs.

DECLINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Mining and Logging

One Month Change

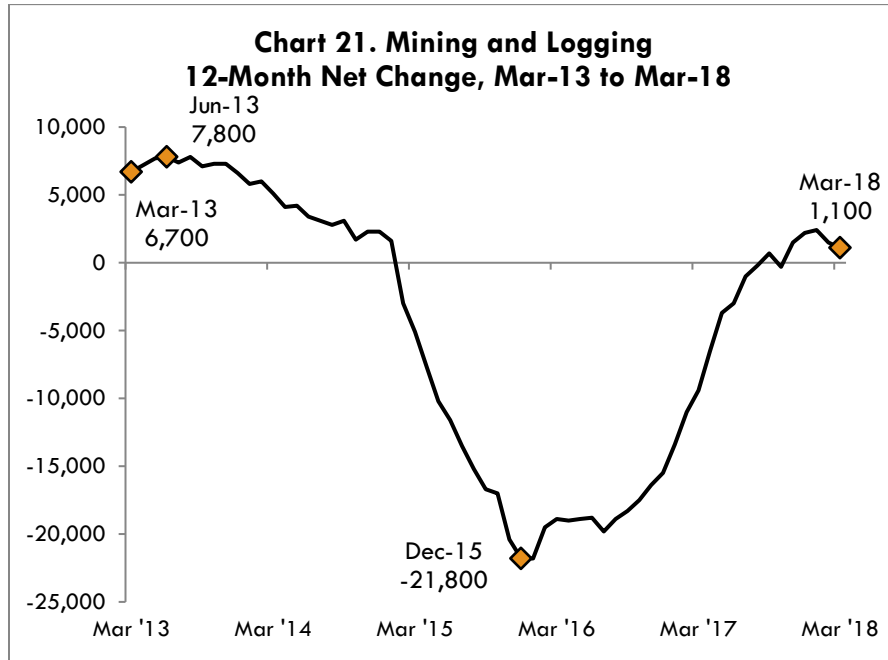
Mining and Logging was the largest declining sector over the month down -700 jobs, or -0.9 percent. The largest over-the-month gain on record for this sector occurred in June 2011, up 2,800 jobs. The largest one-month decline on record occurred in February 2015, down -3,800 jobs. Historically in the month of March, Mining and Logging has on average lost -90 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's losses are somewhat greater than the long-term average. Mining and Logging has posted gains in the Month of March roughly two-thirds of the time over the past two and a half decades. Other Mining and Logging Undefined* was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -500 jobs over the month. The second-largest declining contributor was Oil and Gas Extraction, which lost -400 jobs from February to March. Lastly, Support Activities for Mining offset a portion of the sector's losses with a gain of 200 jobs.



Year over Year and Year to Date

Year over year, Mining and Logging was up 1,100 jobs, or 1.4 percent. The largest over-the-year gain on record for this sector occurred in December 2011, up 11,900 jobs. The largest over-the-year decline on record occurred in December 2015, down -21,800 jobs. Support Activities for Mining was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 3,100 jobs over the year. One component industry that provided a partial offset was Other Mining and Logging Undefined*, which lost jobs from March a year ago. Lastly, Oil and Gas Extraction offset a portion of the sector's gains with a loss of -2,000 jobs. Year to date this sector is down -700 jobs compared to the same point in time a year ago when the net change from January to March was an increase of 600. Mining and

Logging's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 2.6 percent over the past year.



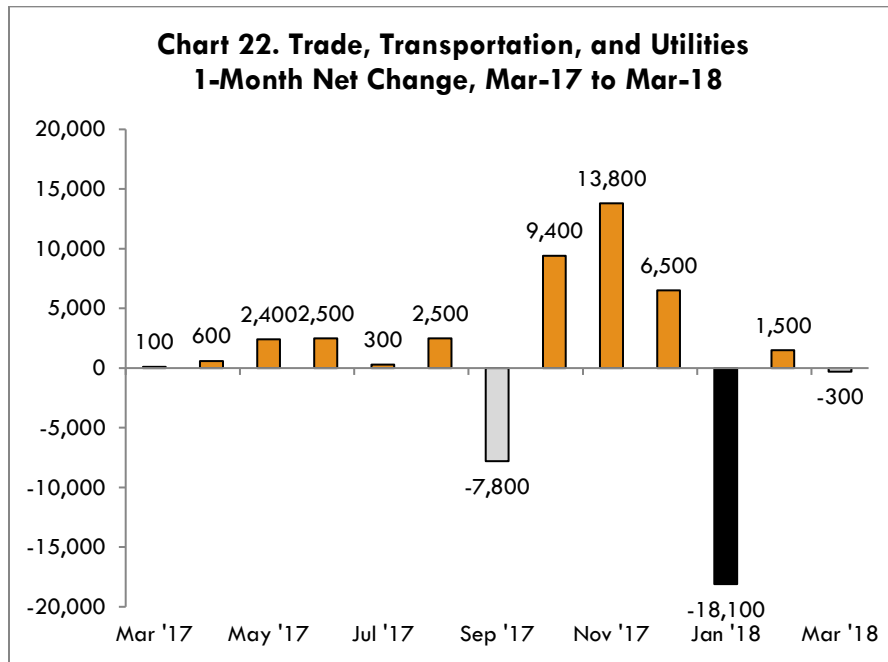
Previous Month's Revisions

Mining and Logging employment was revised downward by -200 jobs for a January to February complete loss of gains resulting in a net change of zero compared to an original estimate of +200 jobs.

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities

One Month Change

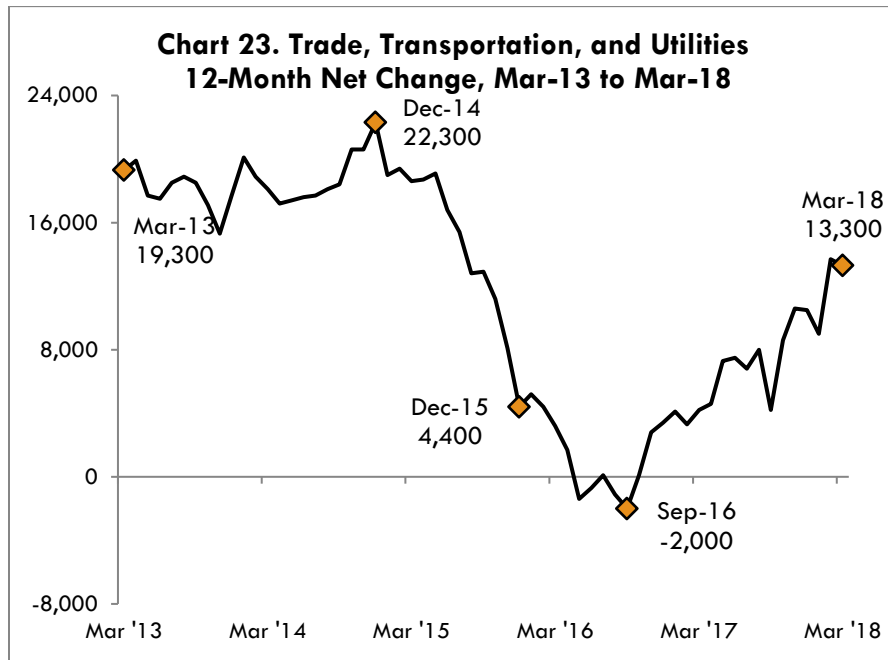
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities was the second-largest declining sector over the month down -300 jobs, or 0.0 percent. The largest over-the-month gain on record for this sector occurred in November 2012, up 14,000 jobs. The largest one-month decline on record occurred in April 2009, down -3,600 jobs. Historically in the month of March, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities has on average added 1,700 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's losses are substantially below the long-term average. March is typically a month of gains for Trade, Transportation, and Utilities with the only notable exceptions occurring during economic downturns. **NOTE:** With losses of only 300, revisions next month could reverse this phenomenon. Retail Trade was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -1,100 jobs over the month. The second-largest declining contributor was Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities, which lost -300 jobs from February to March. Lastly, Wholesale Trade offset a portion of the sector's losses with a gain of 1,100 jobs.



Year over Year and Year to Date

Year over year, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities was up 13,300 jobs, or 2.2 percent. Furthermore, 20.9 percent of total (gross) jobs added across the region over the past year can be attributed to Trade, Transportation, and Utilities. The largest over-the-year gain on record for this sector occurred in November 2007, up 23,300 jobs. The largest over-the-year decline on record occurred in November 2009, down -23,200 jobs. Retail Trade was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 6,400 jobs over the year. The second-largest contributor was Wholesale Trade, which added 4,700 jobs from March a year ago. Lastly, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities contributed 2,200 jobs. Year to date this sector is up 1,200 jobs compared to the same point in time a year ago when the net change from January to March was a decrease of -3,100. Trade, Transportation, and

Utilities' share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 20.3 percent over the past year.



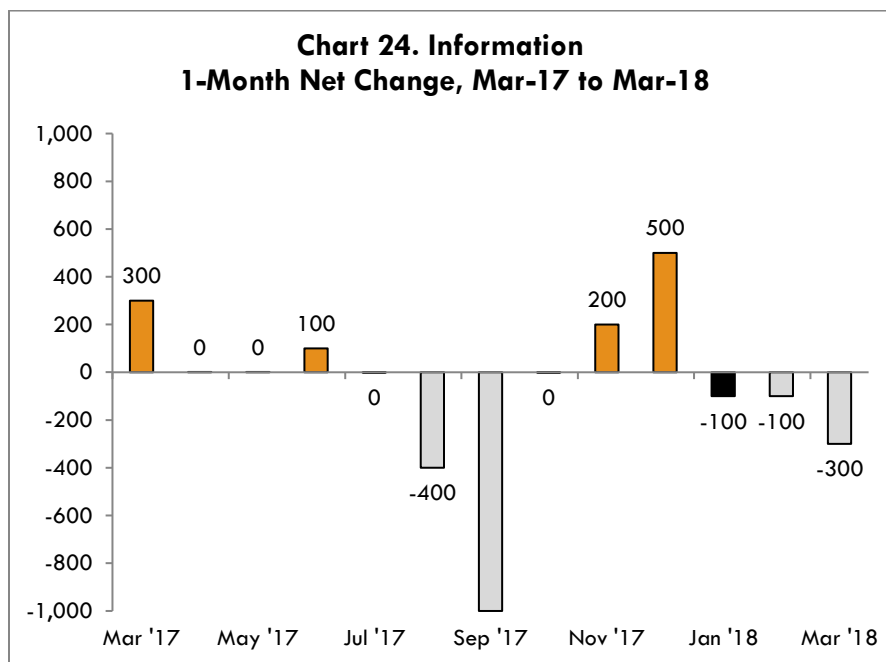
Previous Month's Revisions

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities employment was revised upward by 1,300 jobs for a January to February larger net gain of 1,500 compared to an original estimate of 200 jobs.

Information

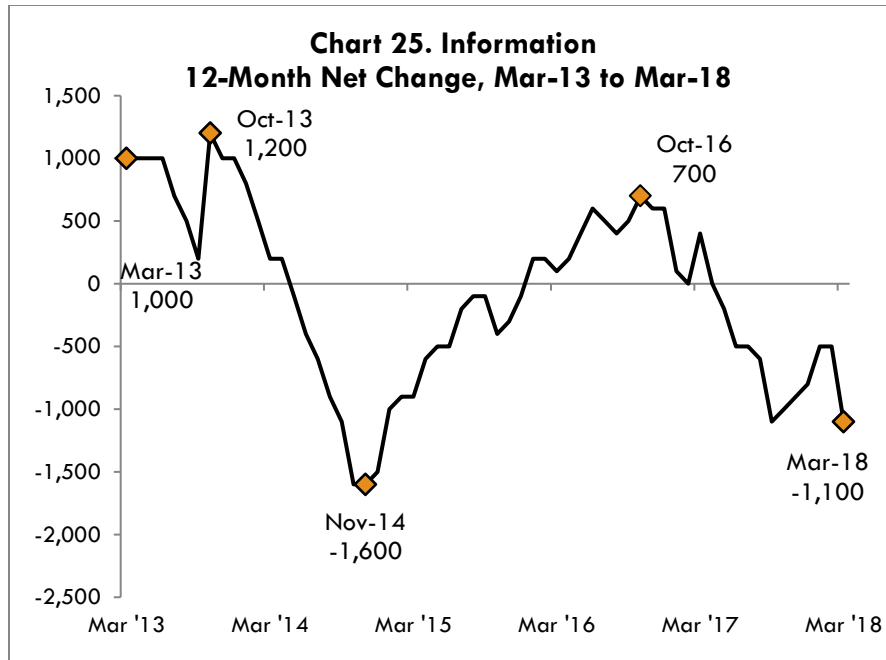
One Month Change

Information was the third-largest declining sector over the month down -300 jobs, or -0.9 percent. The largest over-the-month gain on record for this sector occurred in July 1994, up 1,500 jobs. The largest one-month decline on record occurred in July 2001, down -1,700 jobs. Historically in the month of March, Information has on average added 30 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's losses are substantially below the long-term average. Other Information Undefined* was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -200 jobs over the month. The second-largest declining contributor was Telecommunications, which lost -100 jobs from February to March.



Year over Year and Year to Date

Year over year, Information was down -1,100 jobs, or -3.4 percent. Currently, this is the only declining sector in in the Houston area. Furthermore, all (gross) jobs lost across the region over the past year can be attributed to Information. The largest over-the-year gain on record for this sector occurred in June 1997, up 4,600 jobs. The largest over-the-year decline on record occurred in April 2002, down -7,000 jobs. Other Information Undefined* was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -800 jobs over the year. The second-largest declining contributor was Telecommunications, which lost -300 jobs from March a year ago. Year to date this sector is down -400 jobs compared to the same point in time a year ago when the net change from January to March was an increase of 200. Information's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 1.1 percent over the past year.



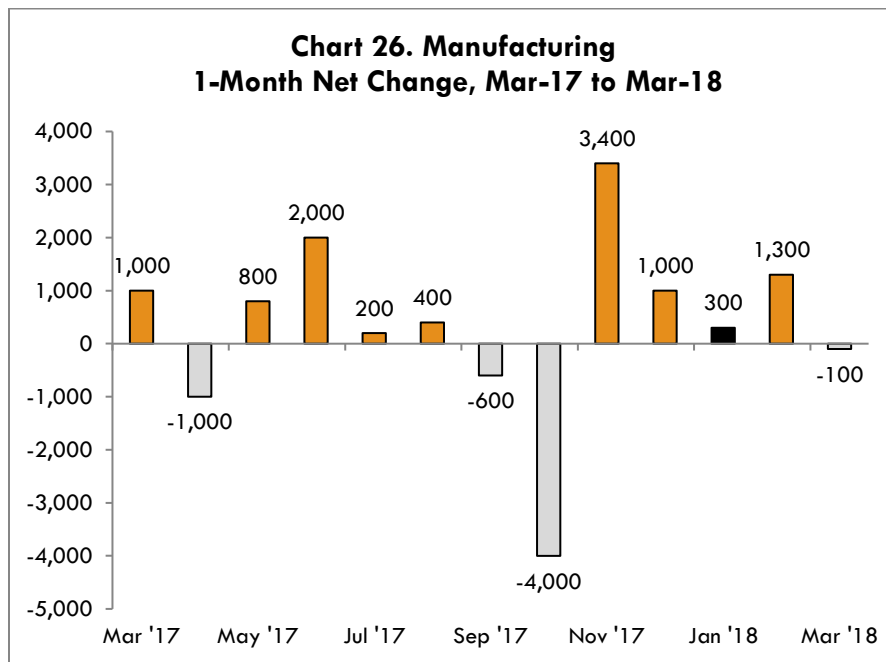
Previous Month's Revisions

Information employment was revised upward by 100 jobs for a January to February smaller net loss of -100 compared to an original estimate of -200 jobs.

Manufacturing

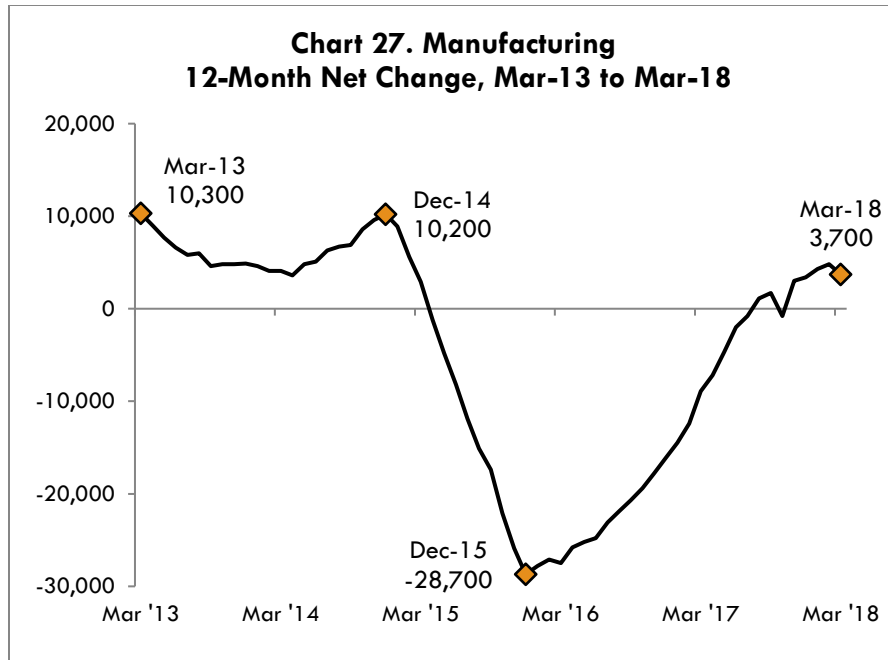
One Month Change

Manufacturing also saw a decrease over the month down -100 jobs, or 0.0 percent. The largest over-the-month gain on record for this sector occurred in November 2017, up 3,400 jobs. The largest one-month decline on record occurred in April 1999, down -5,100 jobs. Historically in the month of March, Manufacturing has on average added 400 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's losses are below the long-term average. Manufacturing has typically experienced modest gains in March. Exceptions to this trend have understandably coincided with economic downturns over the past two and a half decades. Non-Durable Goods was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -800 jobs over the month. One component industry that provided a partial offset was Durable Goods, which gained 700 jobs from February to March.



Year over Year and Year to Date

Year over year, Manufacturing was up 3,700 jobs, or 1.7 percent. The largest over-the-year gain on record for this sector occurred in June 2012, up 17,700 jobs. The largest over-the-year decline on record occurred in November 2009, down -28,800 jobs. Durable Goods was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 5,200 jobs over the year. One component industry that provided a partial offset was Non-Durable Goods, which lost -1,500 jobs from March a year ago. Year to date this sector is up 1,200 jobs compared to the same point in time a year ago when the net change from January to March was an increase of 1,800. The absolute number of jobs in this sector most recently peaked in December 2014 at 262,500 before reaching a low of 216,700 in October 2017. Since that time, employment levels have risen by 5,900, which implies that 12.9 percent of the -45,800 jobs lost in this sector have been recovered to date. Manufacturing's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 7.3 percent over the past year.



Previous Month's Revisions

Manufacturing employment saw no revision from January to February leaving the previous month's original increase of 1,300 intact.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Not-Seasonally Adjusted

The Houston MSA (not-seasonally-adjusted) unemployment rate stood at 4.6 percent in March, down slightly from February's 4.7 percent and down from 5.2 percent a year ago. This was above the statewide and national rates both of which were 4.1 percent. 156,205 individuals were unemployed in Houston in March, down slightly from February's 159,844 and down from 172,978 in March 2017. The net number of unemployed individuals in Houston has risen by 23,889 since the most recent low of 132,316 in December 2014 however the current month's unemployment level remains below the all-time high of 257,474 recorded in June 2011.

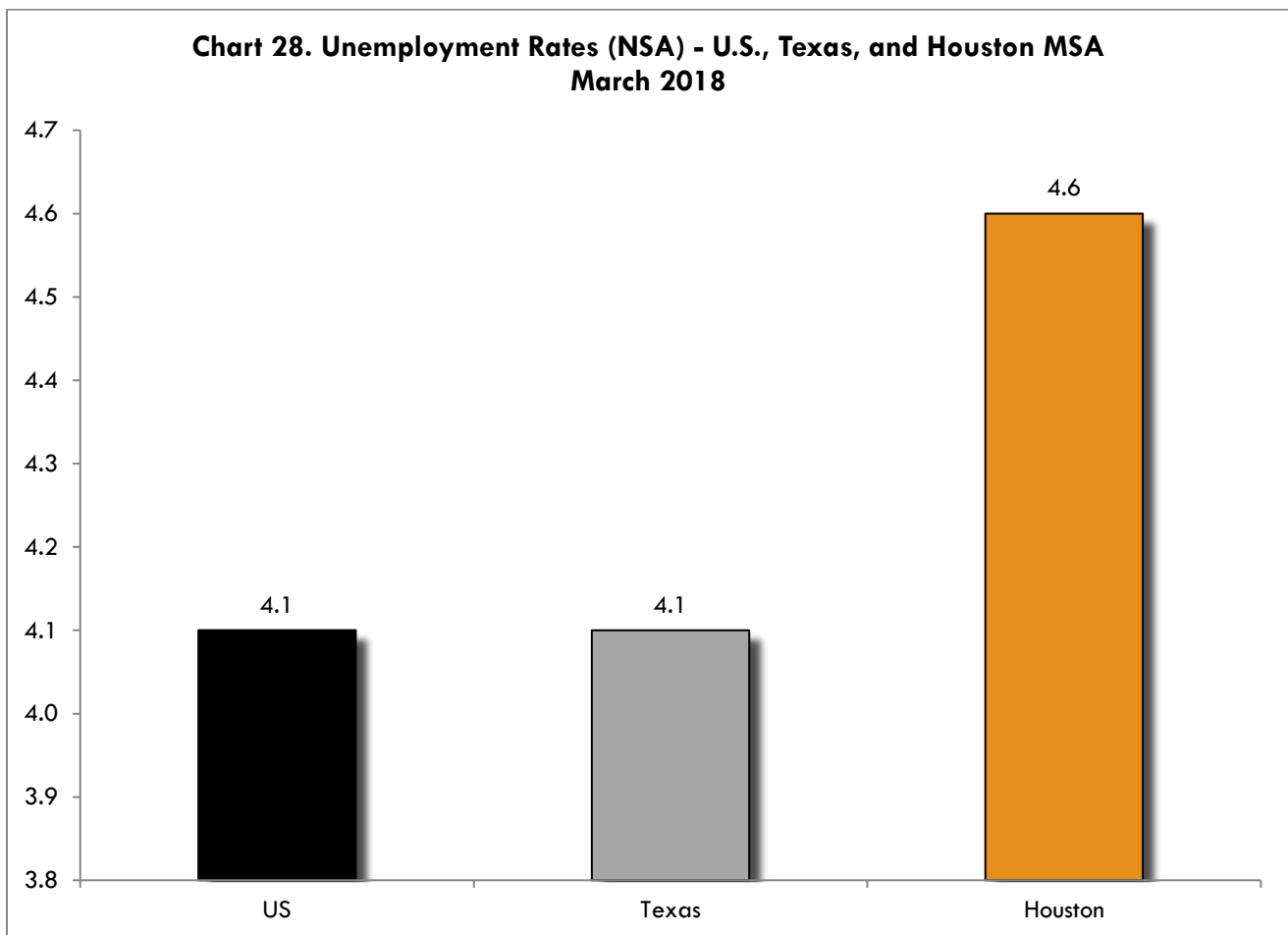
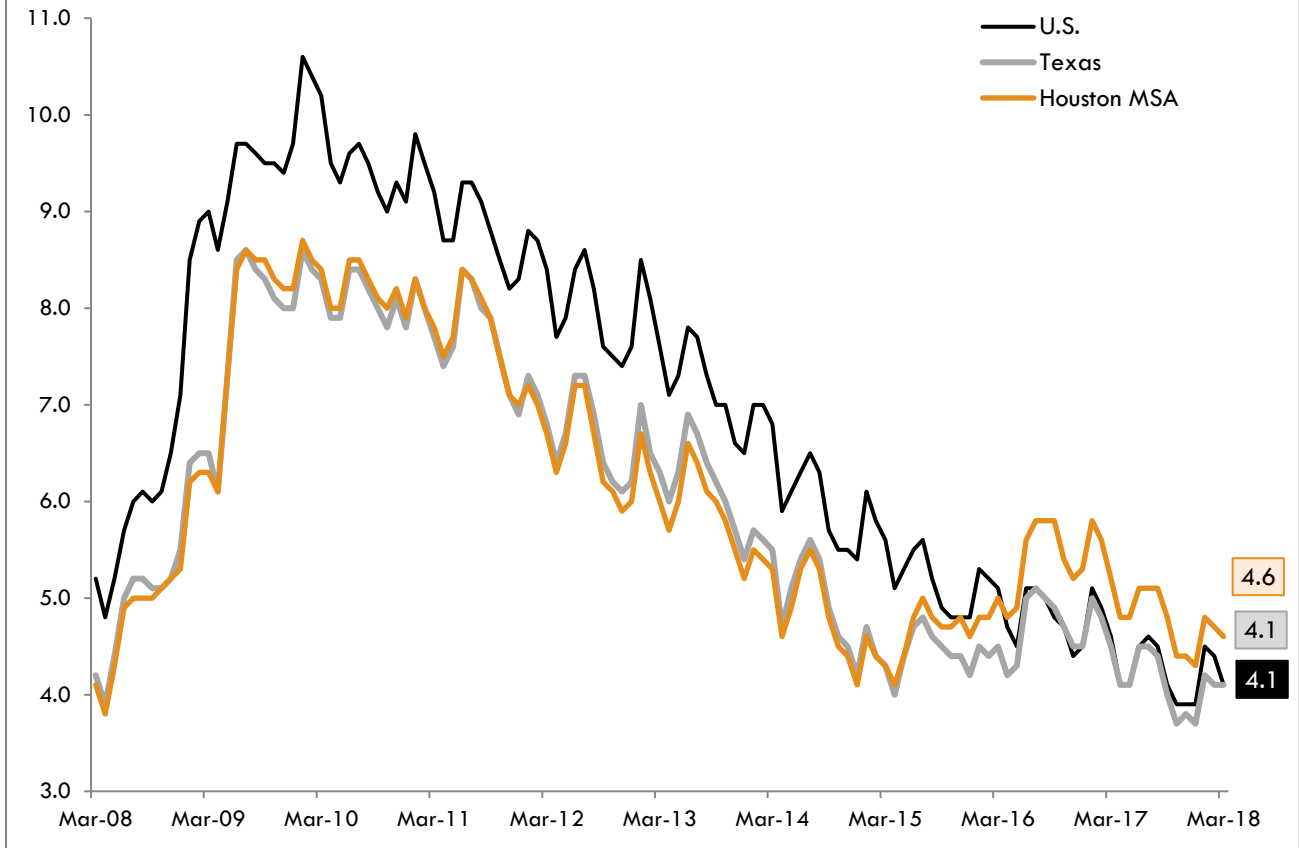
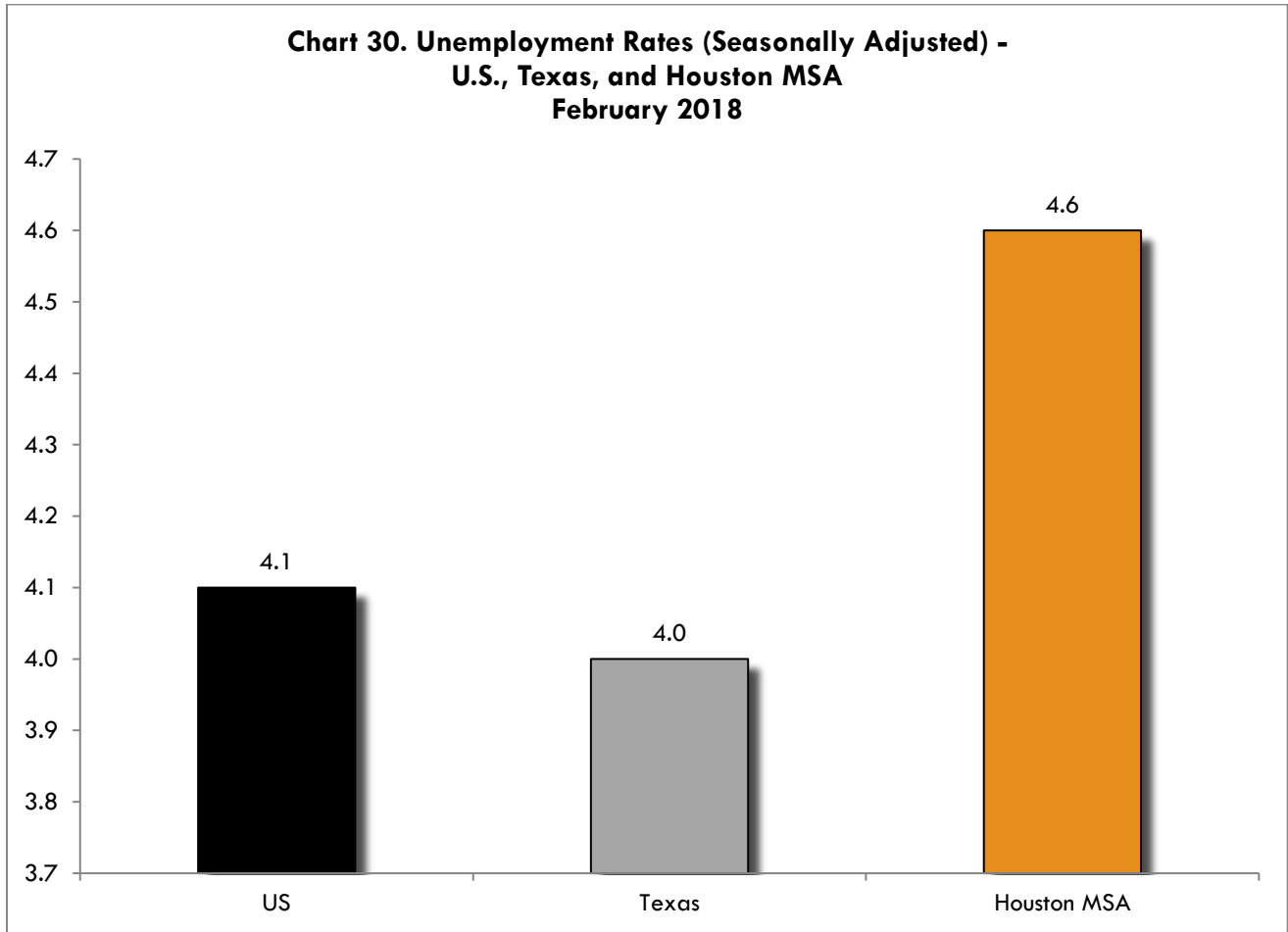


Chart 29. Unemployment Rates (NSA) - U.S., Texas, and Houston MSA, March 2008 to March 2018

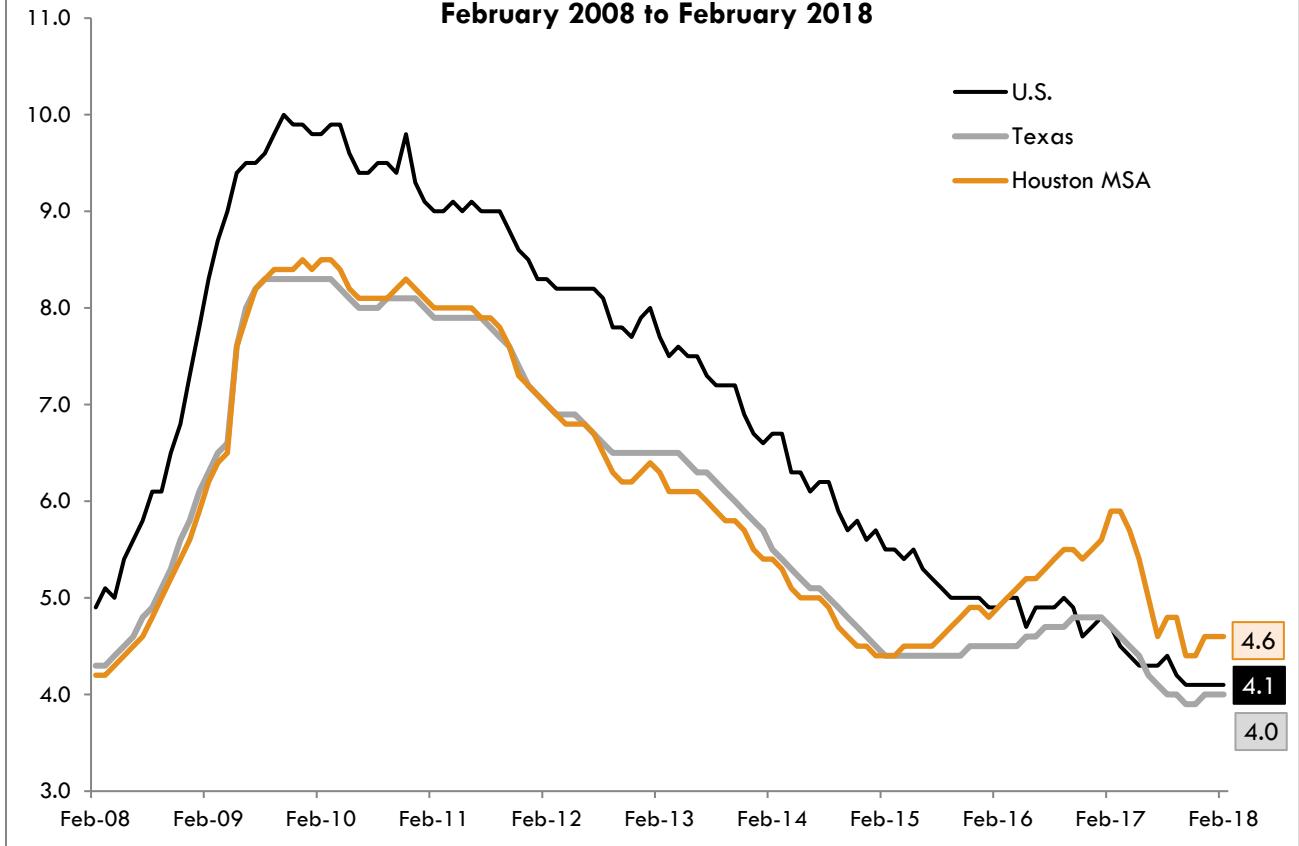


Seasonally Adjusted

The Houston MSA (seasonally-adjusted) unemployment rate stood at 4.6 percent in February, unchanged from January and down from 5.9 percent a year ago. This was above the statewide rate of 4.0 percent and above the national rate of 4.1 percent. 156,458 individuals were unemployed in Houston in February, virtually unchanged from January's 155,468 and down from 195,057 in February 2017. The net number of unemployed individuals in Houston has risen by 13,044 since the most recent low of 143,414 in February 2015 however the current month's unemployment level remains below the all-time high of 249,727 recorded in March 2010.



**Chart 31. Unemployment Rates (Seasonally Adjusted) -
U.S., Texas, and Houston MSA,
February 2008 to February 2018**



| NAICS Industry | Mar-18 | Feb-18 | Mar-17 | Monthly | Monthly % | Yearly | Yearly % |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Total Nonfarm | 3,072,000 | 3,061,500 | 3,009,500 | 10,500 | 0.3% | 62,500 | 2.1% |
| Total Private | 2,656,900 | 2,647,200 | 2,595,700 | 9,700 | 0.4% | 61,200 | 2.4% |
| Goods Producing | 527,500 | 527,400 | 512,000 | 100 | 0.0% | 15,500 | 3.0% |
| Mining and Logging | 77,800 | 78,500 | 76,700 | -700 | -0.9% | 1,100 | 1.4% |
| ...Oil and Gas Extraction | 36,000 | 36,400 | 38,000 | -400 | -1.1% | -2,000 | -5.3% |
| ...Support Activities for Mining | 40,500 | 40,300 | 37,400 | 200 | 0.5% | 3,100 | 8.3% |
| Construction | 227,100 | 226,200 | 216,400 | 900 | 0.4% | 10,700 | 4.9% |
| ..Construction of Buildings | 66,000 | 65,500 | 57,000 | 500 | 0.8% | 9,000 | 15.8% |
| ..Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction | 48,400 | 47,500 | 48,500 | 900 | 1.9% | -100 | -0.2% |
| ..Specialty Trade Contractors | 112,700 | 113,200 | 110,900 | -500 | -0.4% | 1,800 | 1.6% |
| Manufacturing | 222,600 | 222,700 | 218,900 | -100 | 0.0% | 3,700 | 1.7% |
| ..Durable Goods | 141,300 | 140,600 | 136,100 | 700 | 0.5% | 5,200 | 3.8% |
| ...Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing | 50,300 | 49,500 | 46,900 | 800 | 1.6% | 3,400 | 7.2% |
| ...Machinery Manufacturing | 43,000 | 42,600 | 41,500 | 400 | 0.9% | 1,500 | 3.6% |
|Agriculture, Construction, and Mining Machinery Mfg. | 29,200 | 28,700 | 27,300 | 500 | 1.7% | 1,900 | 7.0% |
| ...Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing | 13,600 | 13,600 | 14,300 | 0 | 0.0% | -700 | -4.9% |
| ..Non-Durable Goods | 81,300 | 82,100 | 82,800 | -800 | -1.0% | -1,500 | -1.8% |
| ...Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing | 10,100 | 10,200 | 10,000 | -100 | -1.0% | 100 | 1.0% |
| ...Chemical Manufacturing | 38,700 | 38,600 | 38,600 | 100 | 0.3% | 100 | 0.3% |
| Service Providing | 2,544,500 | 2,534,100 | 2,497,500 | 10,400 | 0.4% | 47,000 | 1.9% |
| .Private Service Providing | 2,129,400 | 2,119,800 | 2,083,700 | 9,600 | 0.5% | 45,700 | 2.2% |
| ..Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 623,300 | 623,600 | 610,000 | -300 | 0.0% | 13,300 | 2.2% |
| ...Wholesale Trade | 168,100 | 167,000 | 163,400 | 1,100 | 0.7% | 4,700 | 2.9% |
|Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods | 97,300 | 96,100 | 93,400 | 1,200 | 1.2% | 3,900 | 4.2% |
|Prof. and Commercial Equip. Supplies Wholesalers | 14,400 | 14,300 | 14,100 | 100 | 0.7% | 300 | 2.1% |
|Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods | 46,000 | 46,500 | 46,200 | -500 | -1.1% | -200 | -0.4% |
| ...Retail Trade | 312,400 | 313,500 | 306,000 | -1,100 | -0.4% | 6,400 | 2.1% |
|Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers | 41,400 | 41,200 | 42,000 | 200 | 0.5% | -600 | -1.4% |
|Bldg. Material and Garden Equip. and Supplies Dealers | 24,700 | 23,800 | 22,100 | 900 | 3.8% | 2,600 | 11.8% |
|Food and Beverage Stores | 67,700 | 68,200 | 67,400 | -500 | -0.7% | 300 | 0.4% |
|Health and Personal Care Stores | 19,000 | 18,900 | 19,600 | 100 | 0.5% | -600 | -3.1% |
|Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores | 29,900 | 30,200 | 30,200 | -300 | -1.0% | -300 | -1.0% |
|General Merchandise Stores | 57,600 | 57,900 | 58,800 | -300 | -0.5% | -1,200 | -2.0% |
|Department Stores | 18,300 | 18,500 | 19,600 | -200 | -1.1% | -1,300 | -6.6% |
|Other General Merchandise Stores | 39,300 | 39,400 | 39,200 | -100 | -0.3% | 100 | 0.3% |
| ...Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities | 142,800 | 143,100 | 140,600 | -300 | -0.2% | 2,200 | 1.6% |
|Utilities | 16,400 | 16,400 | 16,200 | 0 | 0.0% | 200 | 1.2% |
|Air Transportation | 21,100 | 21,100 | 21,600 | 0 | 0.0% | -500 | -2.3% |
|Truck Transportation | 25,400 | 25,300 | 24,900 | 100 | 0.4% | 500 | 2.0% |
|Pipeline Transportation | 11,900 | 11,700 | 11,900 | 200 | 1.7% | 0 | 0.0% |
| ..Information | 31,400 | 31,700 | 32,500 | -300 | -0.9% | -1,100 | -3.4% |
| ...Telecommunications | 13,600 | 13,700 | 13,900 | -100 | -0.7% | -300 | -2.2% |
| ..Financial Activities | 161,400 | 161,300 | 157,700 | 100 | 0.1% | 3,700 | 2.3% |
| ...Finance and Insurance | 100,900 | 100,400 | 100,500 | 500 | 0.5% | 400 | 0.4% |
|Credit Intermediation and Related Activities | 44,400 | 44,100 | 44,900 | 300 | 0.7% | -500 | -1.1% |
|Depository Credit Intermediation | 28,500 | 28,600 | 29,000 | -100 | -0.3% | -500 | -1.7% |
|Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Fin. Investments | 20,800 | 20,800 | 20,300 | 0 | 0.0% | 500 | 2.5% |
|Insurance Carriers and Related Activities | 35,700 | 35,500 | 35,300 | 200 | 0.6% | 400 | 1.1% |
| ...Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 60,500 | 60,900 | 57,200 | -400 | -0.7% | 3,300 | 5.8% |
| ..Professional and Business Services | 501,600 | 496,000 | 475,600 | 5,600 | 1.1% | 26,000 | 5.5% |
| ...Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 232,900 | 233,300 | 221,800 | -400 | -0.2% | 11,100 | 5.0% |
|Legal Services | 25,600 | 25,600 | 24,900 | 0 | 0.0% | 700 | 2.8% |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
|Accounting, Tax Preparation, Bookkeeping, and Payroll | 28,600 | 28,800 | 29,300 | -200 | -0.7% | -700 | -2.4% |
|Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services | 66,700 | 66,100 | 65,700 | 600 | 0.9% | 1,000 | 1.5% |
|Computer Systems Design and Related Services | 32,200 | 32,600 | 31,100 | -400 | -1.2% | 1,100 | 3.5% |
| ...Management of Companies and Enterprises | 42,200 | 42,300 | 41,900 | -100 | -0.2% | 300 | 0.7% |
| ...Admin. and Support and Waste Mgmt. and Remediation | 226,500 | 220,400 | 211,900 | 6,100 | 2.8% | 14,600 | 6.9% |
|Administrative and Support Services | 215,700 | 208,600 | 200,000 | 7,100 | 3.4% | 15,700 | 7.9% |
|Employment Services | 95,400 | 88,800 | 79,300 | 6,600 | 7.4% | 16,100 | 20.3% |
|Services to Buildings and Dwellings | 49,600 | 47,500 | 47,800 | 2,100 | 4.4% | 1,800 | 3.8% |
| ..Educational and Health Services | 385,300 | 385,000 | 383,400 | 300 | 0.1% | 1,900 | 0.5% |
| ...Educational Services | 60,200 | 60,400 | 59,500 | -200 | -0.3% | 700 | 1.2% |
| ...Health Care and Social Assistance | 325,100 | 324,600 | 323,900 | 500 | 0.2% | 1,200 | 0.4% |
|Ambulatory Health Care Services | 157,000 | 158,300 | 154,500 | -1,300 | -0.8% | 2,500 | 1.6% |
|Hospitals | 84,800 | 84,300 | 85,300 | 500 | 0.6% | -500 | -0.6% |
| ..Leisure and Hospitality | 316,700 | 314,000 | 315,500 | 2,700 | 0.9% | 1,200 | 0.4% |
| ...Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 33,300 | 31,900 | 33,700 | 1,400 | 4.4% | -400 | -1.2% |
| ...Accommodation and Food Services | 283,400 | 282,100 | 281,800 | 1,300 | 0.5% | 1,600 | 0.6% |
|Accommodation | 27,100 | 26,800 | 26,500 | 300 | 1.1% | 600 | 2.3% |
|Food Services and Drinking Places | 256,300 | 255,300 | 255,300 | 1,000 | 0.4% | 1,000 | 0.4% |
| ..Other Services | 109,700 | 108,200 | 109,000 | 1,500 | 1.4% | 700 | 0.6% |
| Government | 415,100 | 414,300 | 413,800 | 800 | 0.2% | 1,300 | 0.3% |
| .Federal Government | 29,000 | 29,100 | 28,700 | -100 | -0.3% | 300 | 1.0% |
| .State Government | 86,400 | 86,500 | 85,300 | -100 | -0.1% | 1,100 | 1.3% |
| ..State Government Educational Services | 51,300 | 51,300 | 50,900 | 0 | 0.0% | 400 | 0.8% |
| .Local Government | 299,700 | 298,700 | 299,800 | 1,000 | 0.3% | -100 | 0.0% |
| ..Local Government Educational Services | 212,700 | 211,500 | 211,100 | 1,200 | 0.6% | 1,600 | 0.8% |