



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

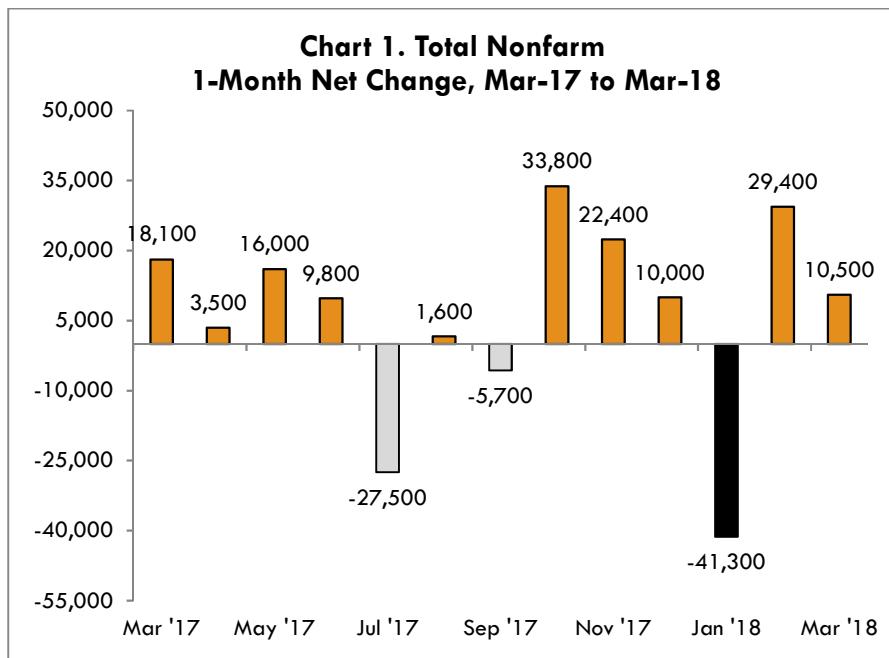
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*Workforce Solutions is an affiliate of the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, which manages a regional system that helps employers solve their workforce problems and residents build careers so both can compete in the global economy. The workforce system 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.*

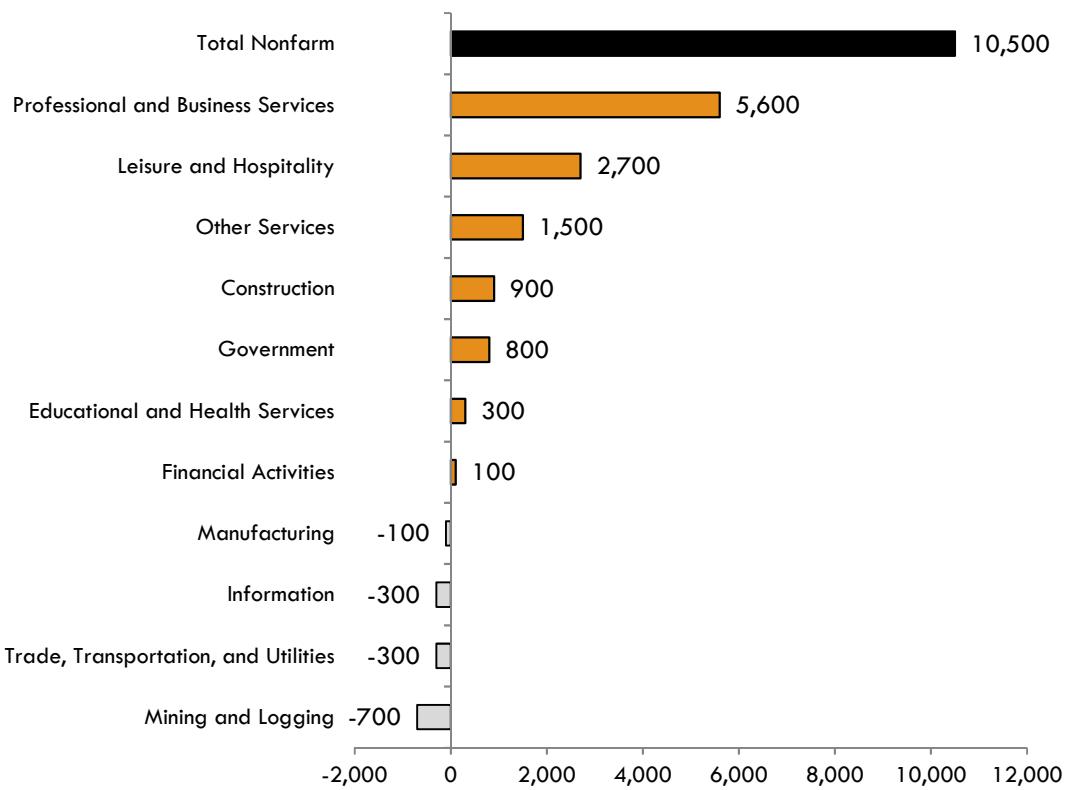
# Total Nonfarm

## 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.

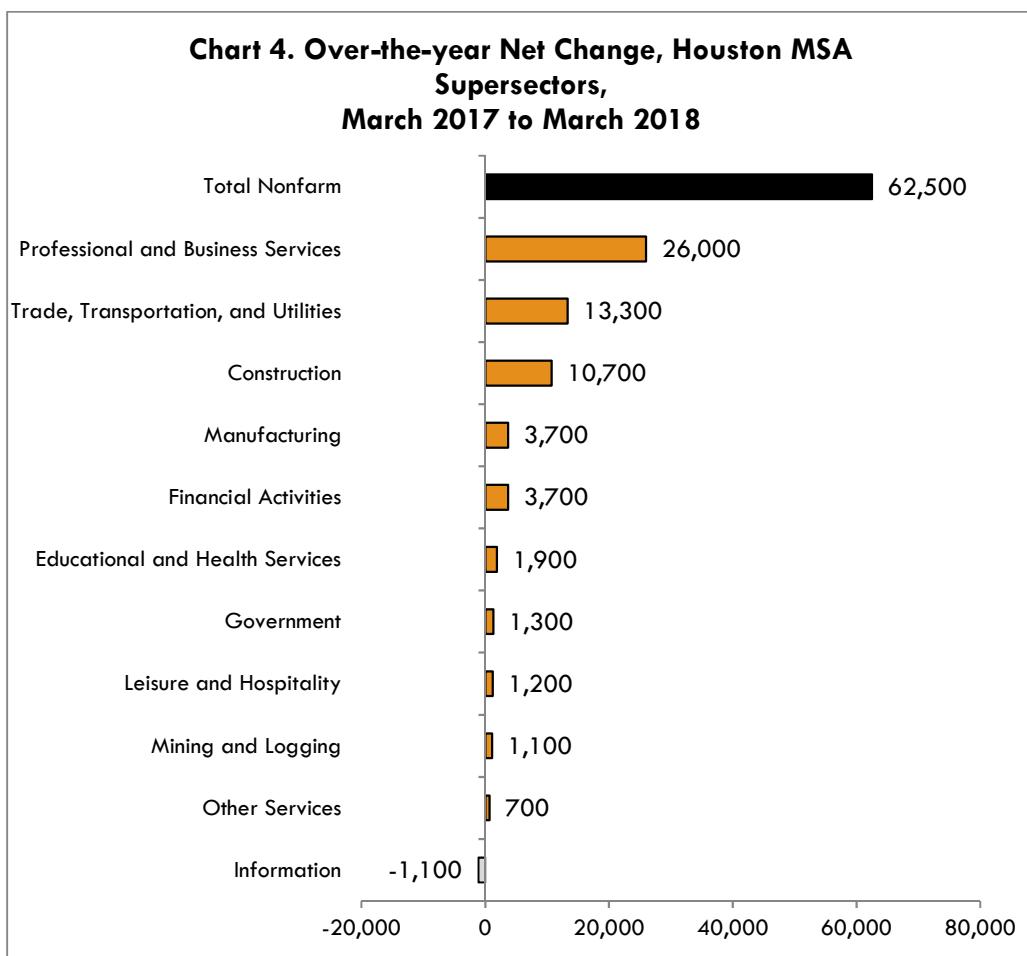
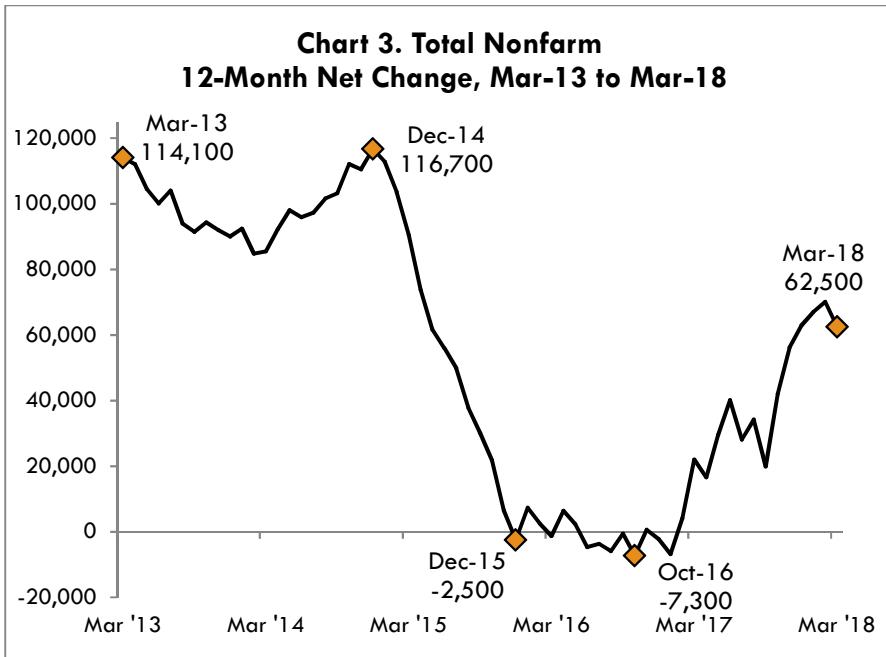


**Chart 2. Over-the-month Net Change, Houston MSA  
Supersectors,  
March 2018**



#### Year over Year Change

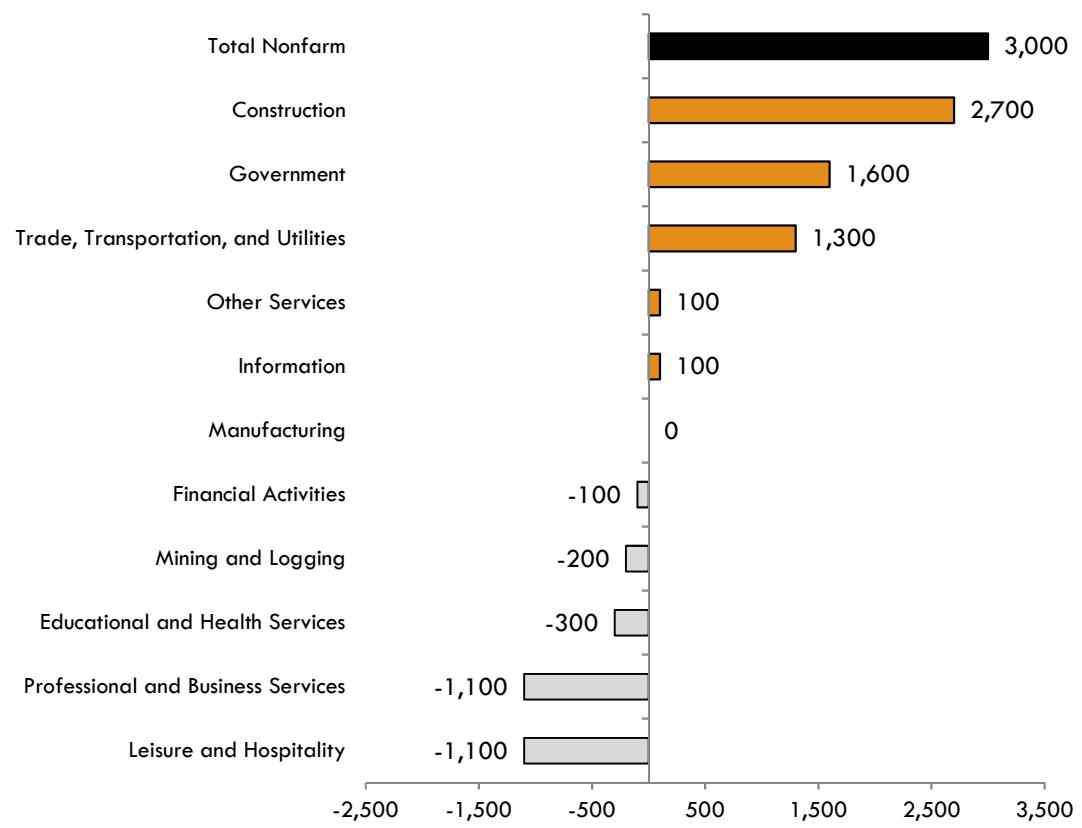
Over the year, Total Nonfarm employment was up 62,500, or 2.1 percent. To compare, March 2017 saw a year-over-year gain of 22,000 jobs. **NOTE:** This now marks the fourth consecutive month of year-over-year growth in excess of 60,000 jobs, a pace last seen in May 2015. The largest over-the-year gain 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.

**Chart 5. Net Revisions for Selected Supersectors and Major Industries, February 2018**

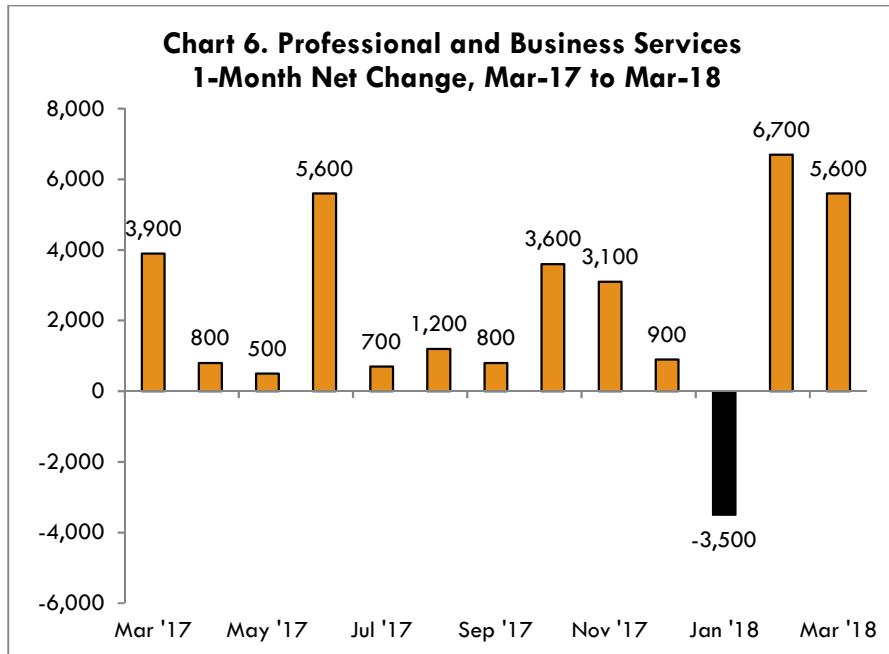


## GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

### Professional and Business Services

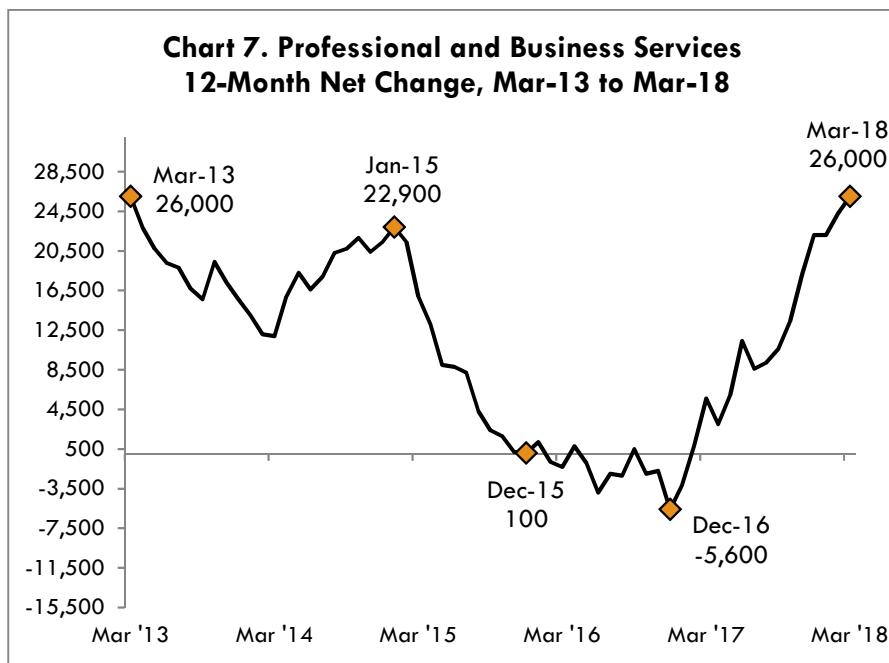
#### One Month Change

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 primarily 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.



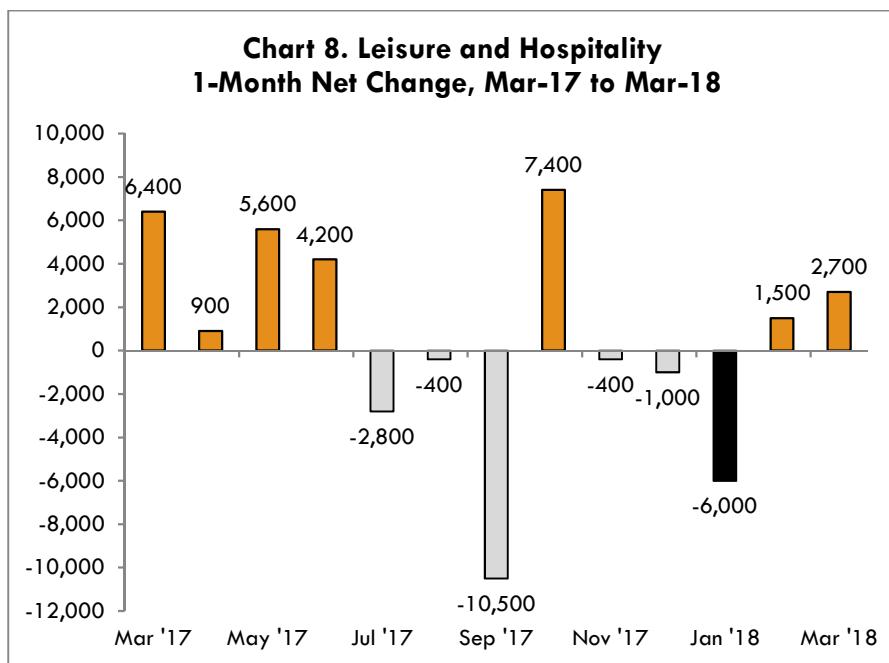
### Previous Month's Revisions

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

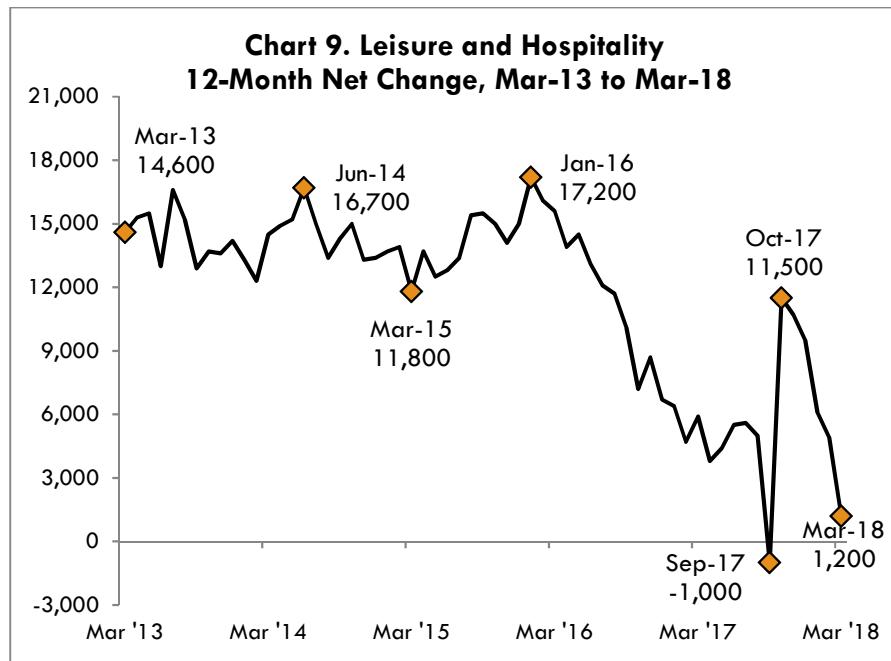
Leisure and Hospitality was the second-largest gaining sector over the month up 2,700 jobs, or 0.9 percent. The largest over-the-month gain on record for this sector occurred in March 2014, up 7,800 jobs. The largest one-month decline on record occurred in August 1996, down -1,600 jobs. Historically 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 job 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.



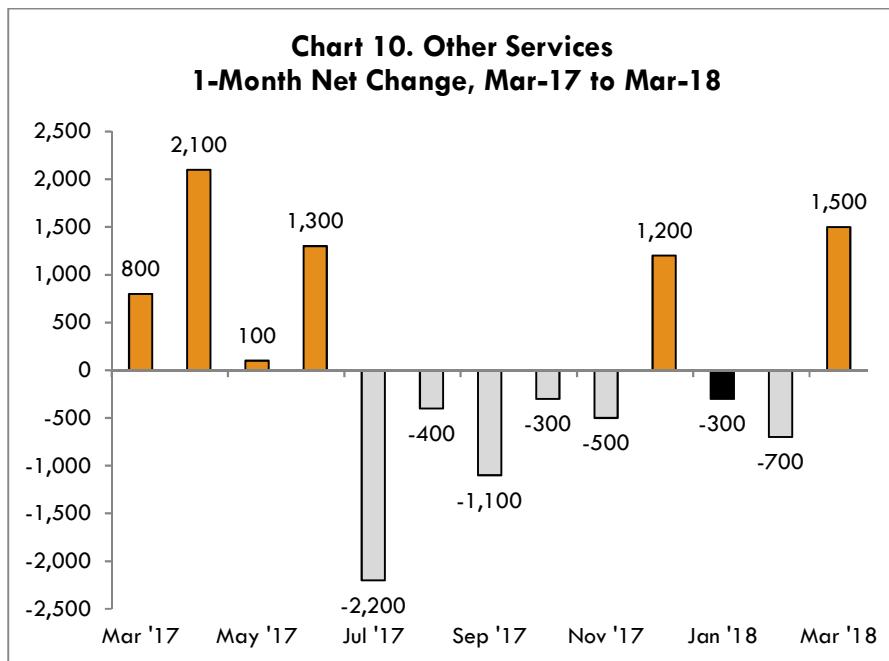
#### *Previous Month's Revisions*

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

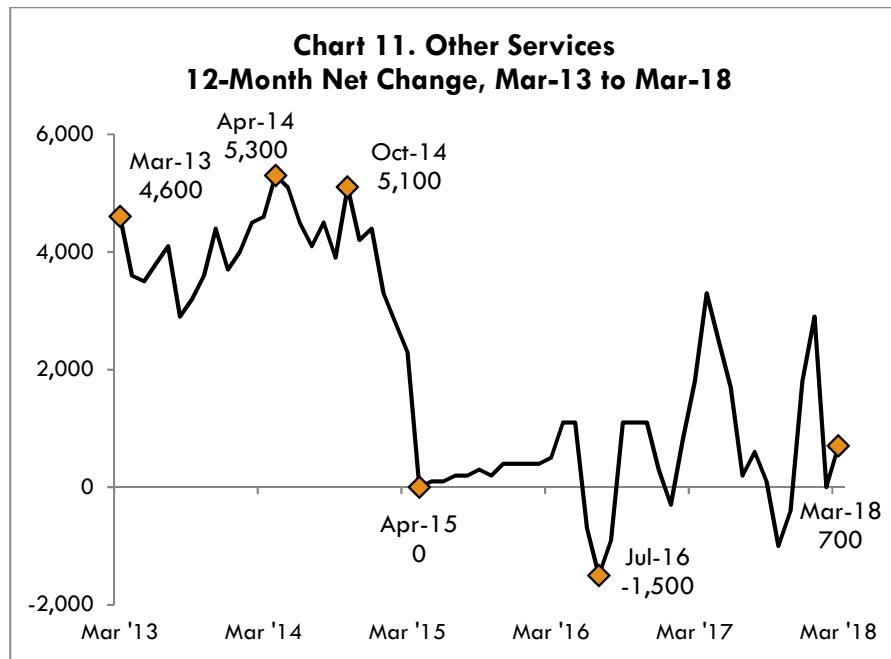
### One Month Change

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*

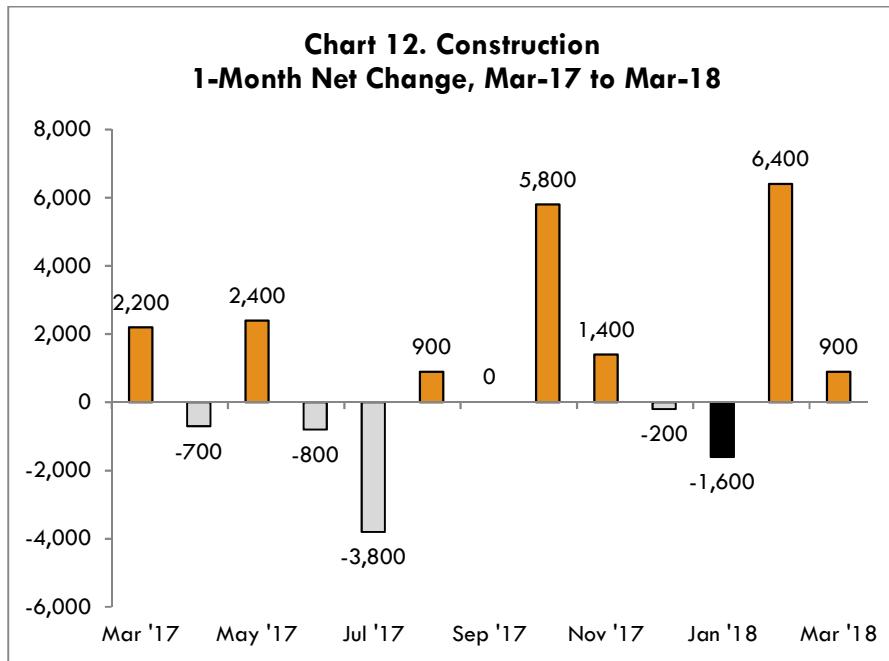
Other Services employment was revised upward by 100 jobs for a January to February smaller net loss of -700 compared to an original estimate of -800 jobs.

# 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.

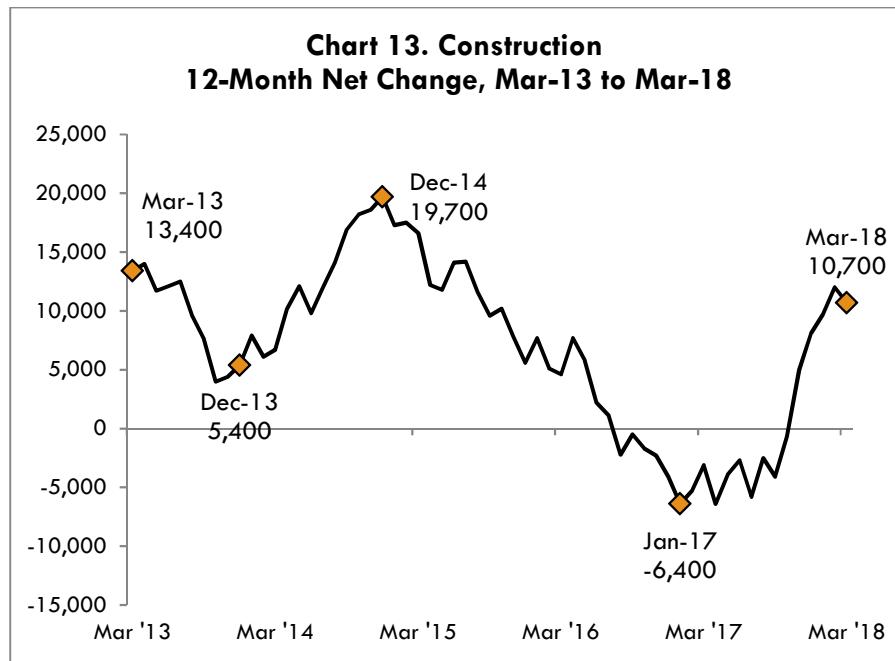
Construction has typically experienced gains in March with three exceptions occurring in 2016, 2009, and 2003. Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 900 jobs over the month. The second-largest contributor was Construction of Buildings, 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.



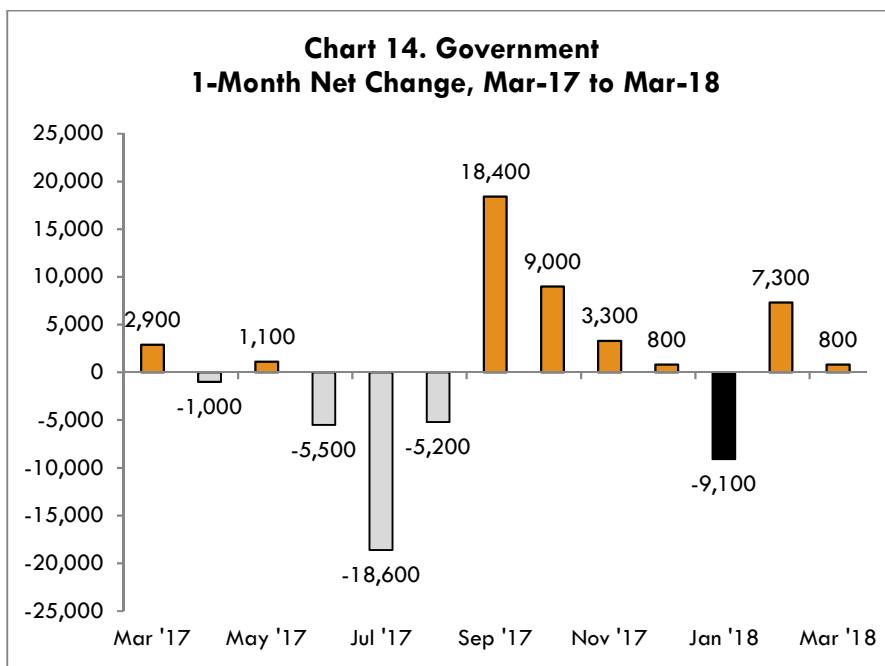
#### *Previous Month's Revisions*

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

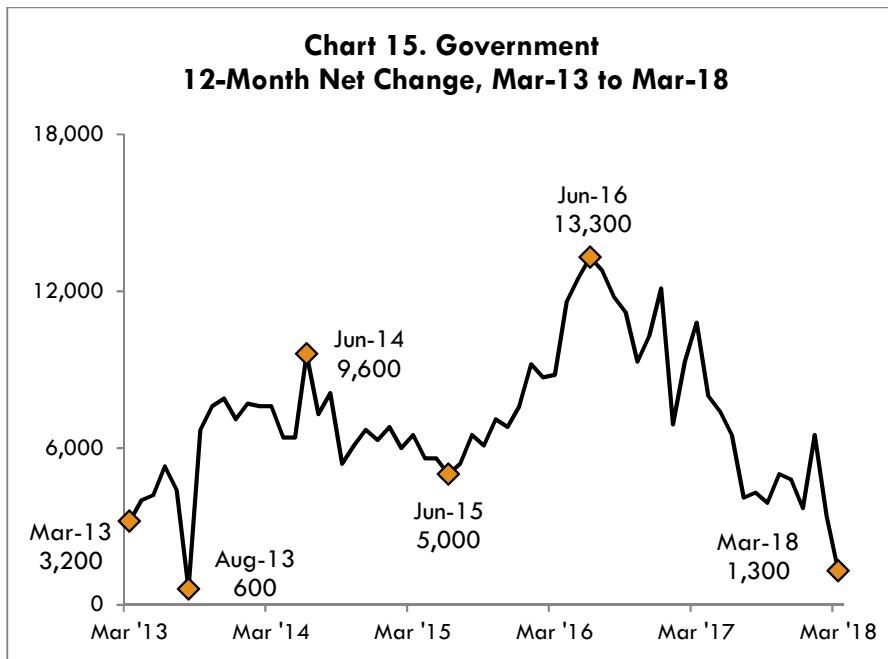
### One Month Change

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.



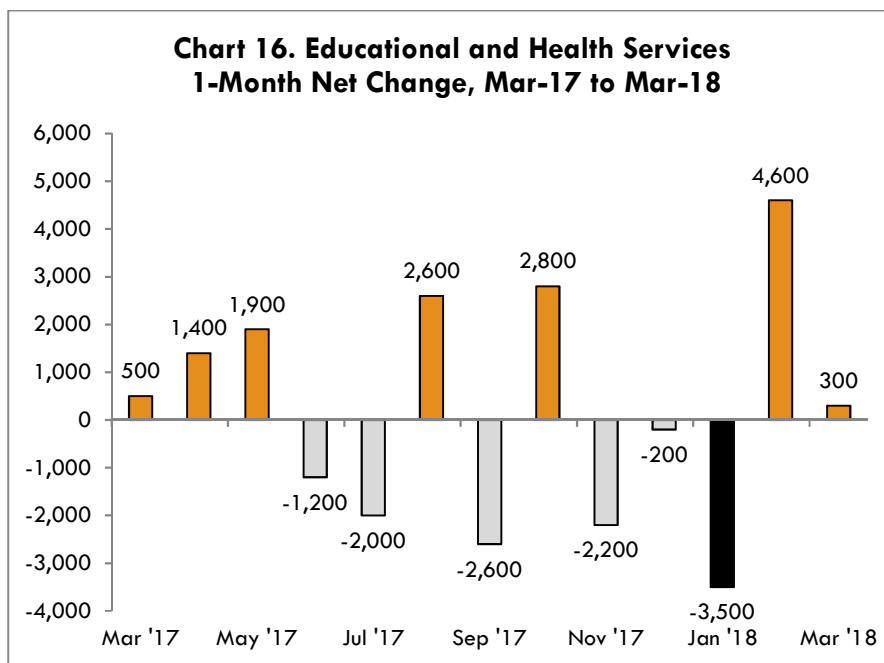
*Previous Month's Revisions*

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

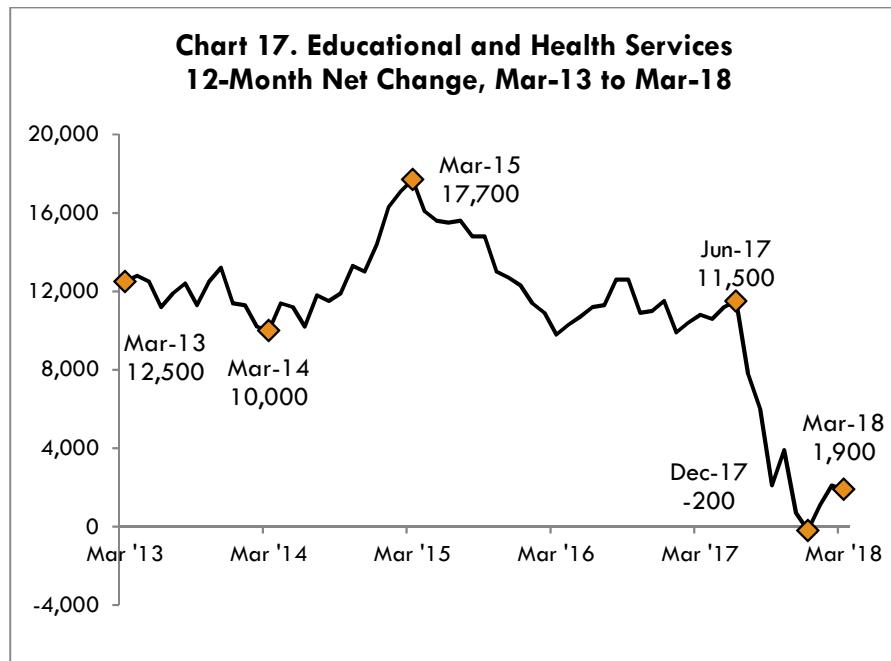
Educational and Health Services also saw an increase over the month up 300 jobs, or 0.1 percent. The largest over-the-month gain on record for this sector occurred in March 1999, up 4,700 jobs. The largest one-month decline on record occurred in February 1990, down -7,300 jobs. Historically in the month 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.)



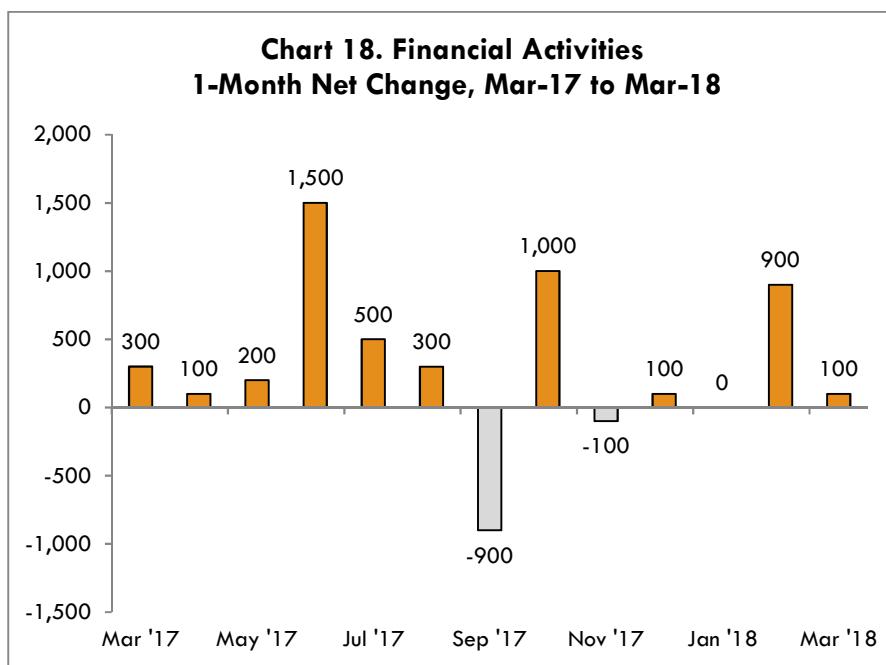
#### *Previous Month's Revisions*

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

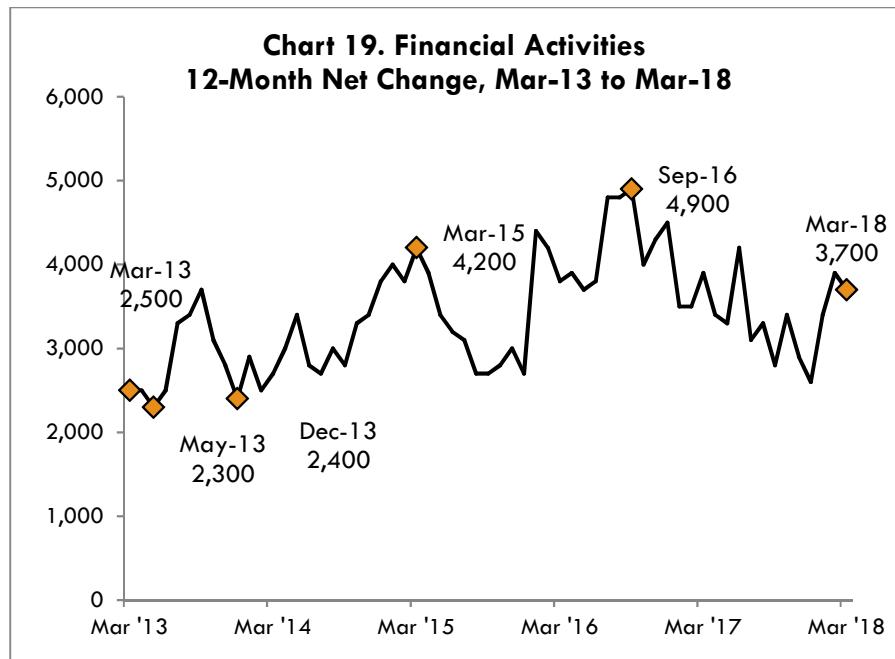
### One Month Change

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*

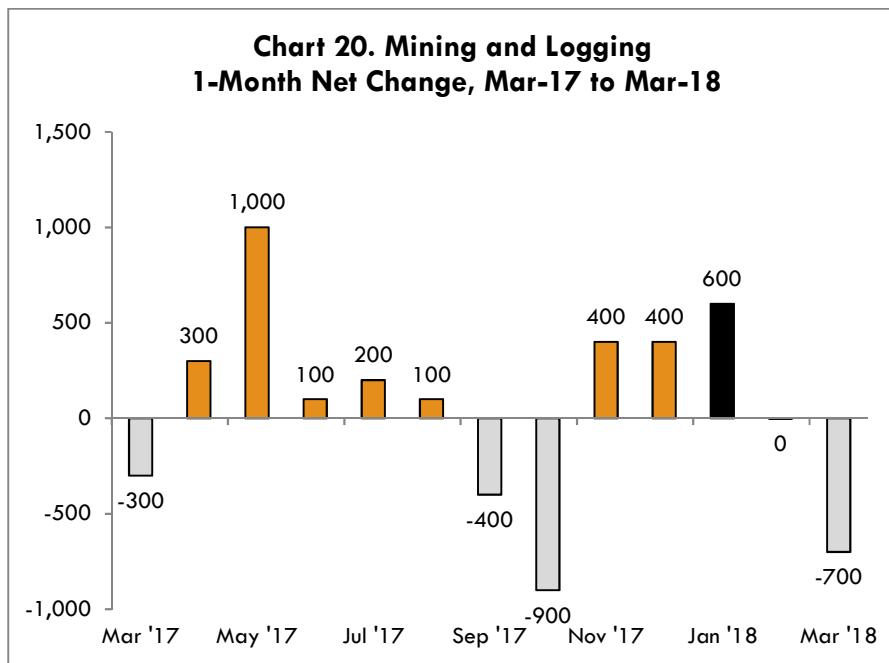
Financial Activities employment was revised downward by -100 jobs for a January to February smaller net gain of 900 compared to an original estimate of 1,000 jobs.

## DECLINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

### Mining and Logging

#### One Month Change

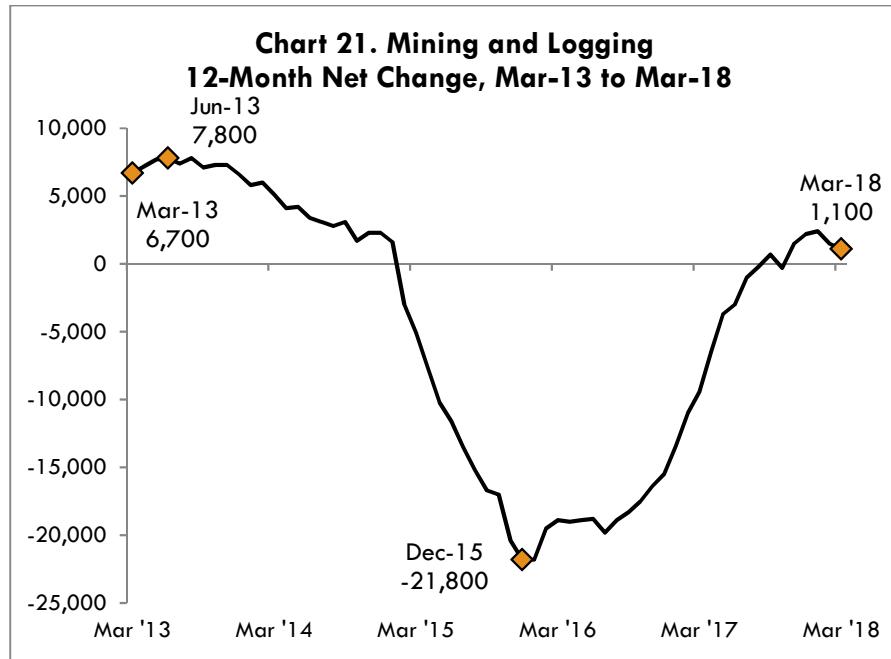
Mining and Logging was the largest declining sector over the month down -700 jobs, or -0.9 percent. The largest over-the-month gain on record for this sector occurred in June 2011, up 2,800 jobs. The largest one-month decline on record occurred in February 2015, down -3,800 jobs. Historically in the 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.



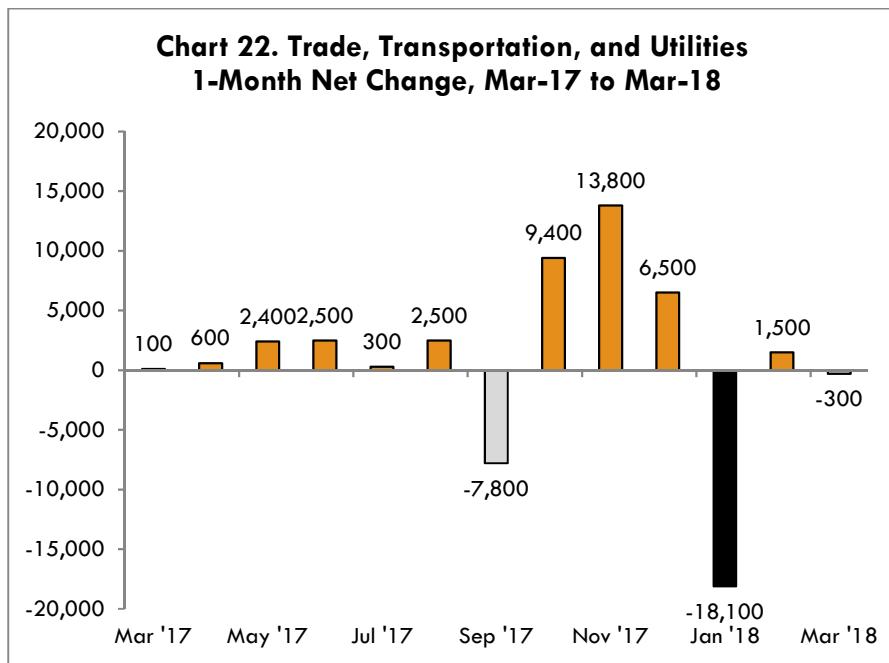
#### *Previous Month's Revisions*

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

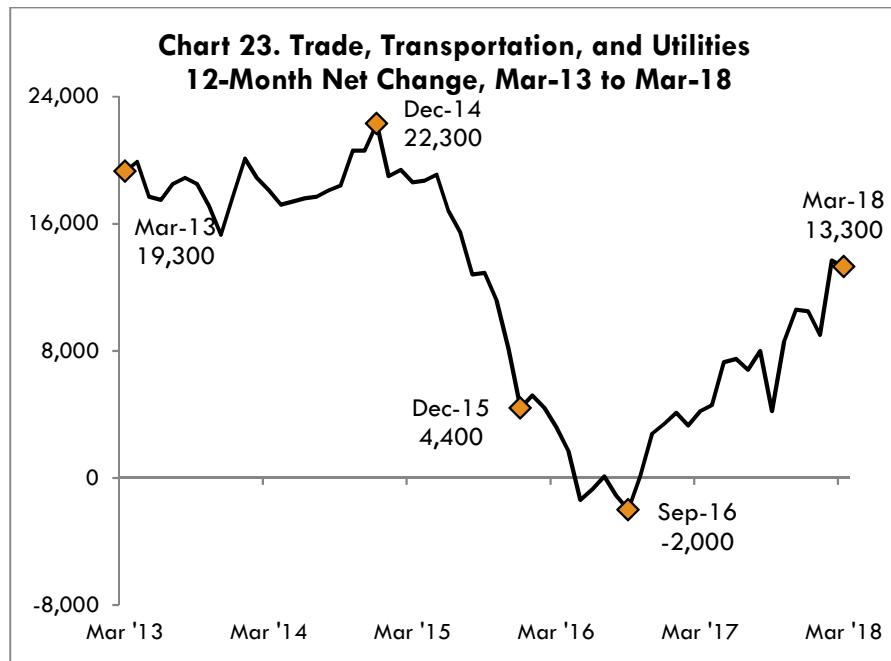
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities was the second-largest declining sector over the month down -300 jobs, or 0.0 percent. The largest over-the-month gain on record for this sector occurred in November 2012, up 14,000 jobs. The largest one-month decline on record occurred in April 2009, down -3,600 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.



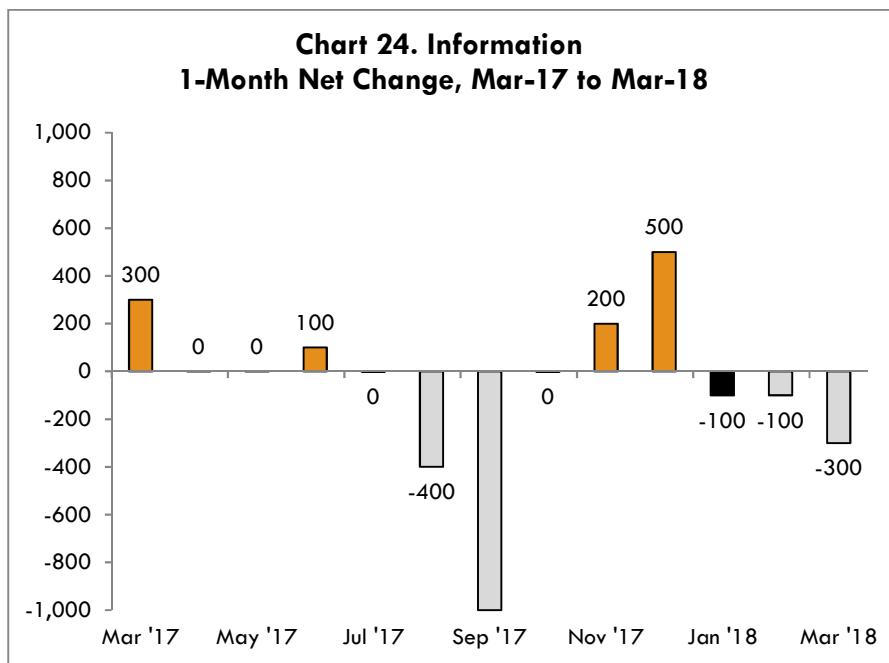
#### *Previous Month's Revisions*

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

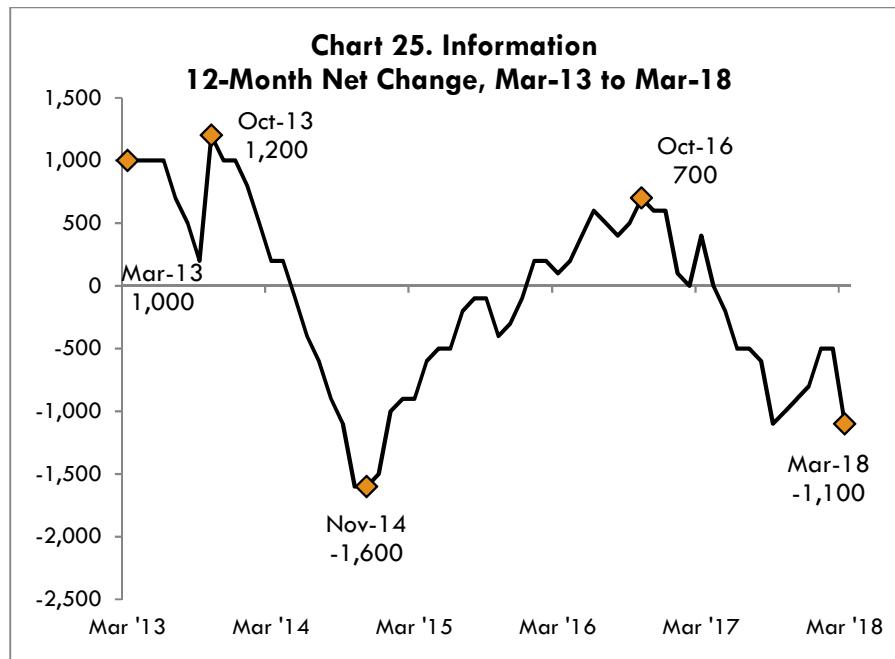
## One Month Change

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 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.



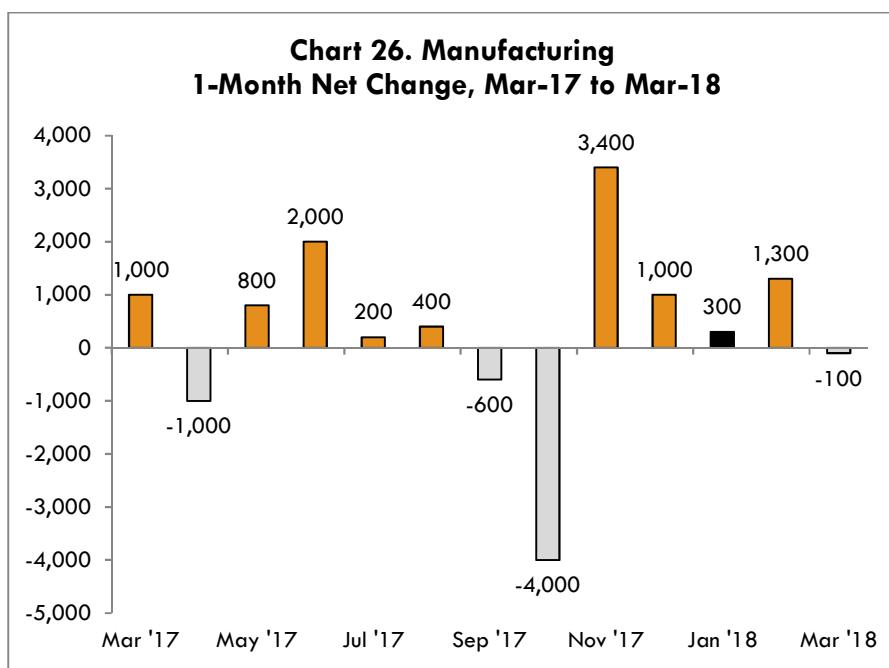
*Previous Month's Revisions*

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

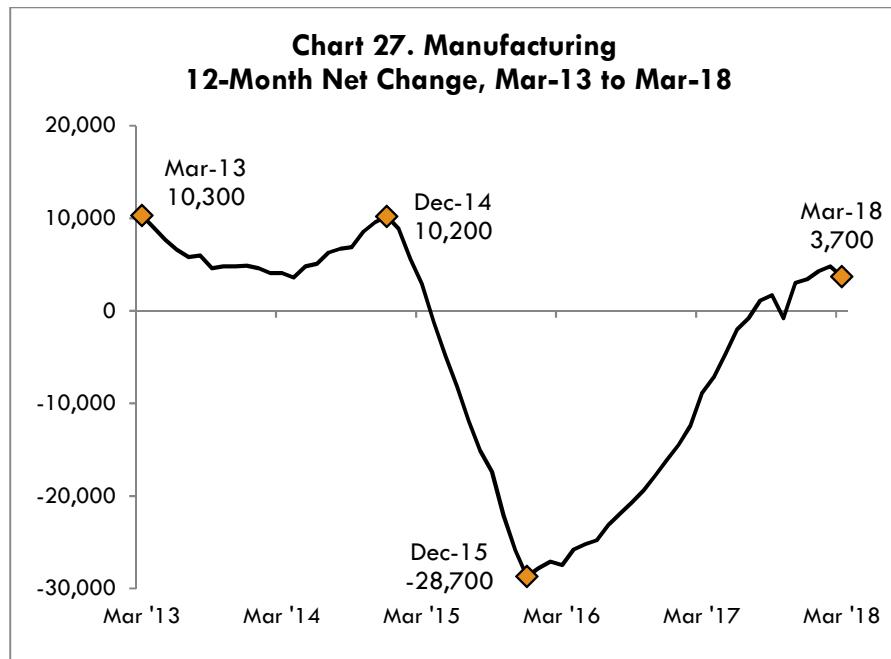
## One Month Change

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*

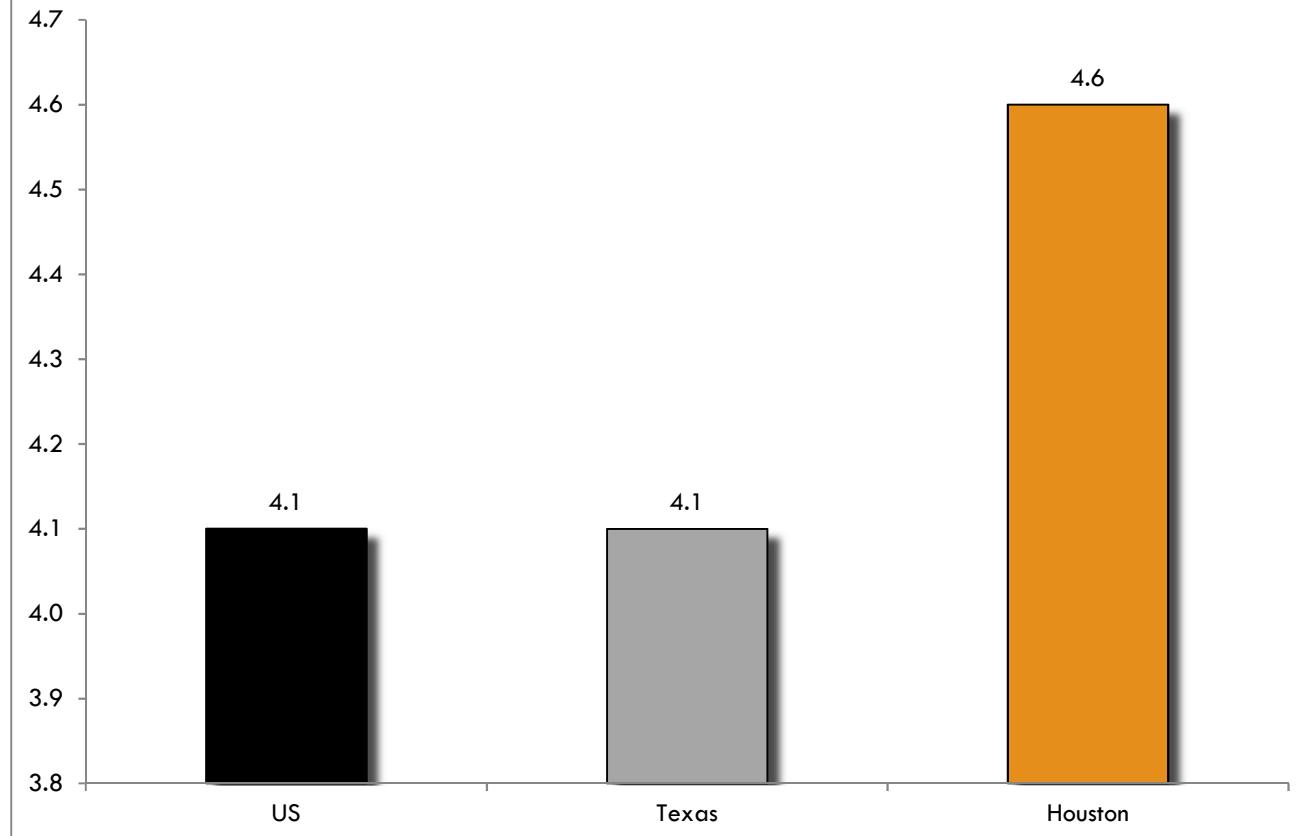
Manufacturing employment saw no revision from January to February leaving the previous month's original increase of 1,300 intact.

## **UNEMPLOYMENT RATES**

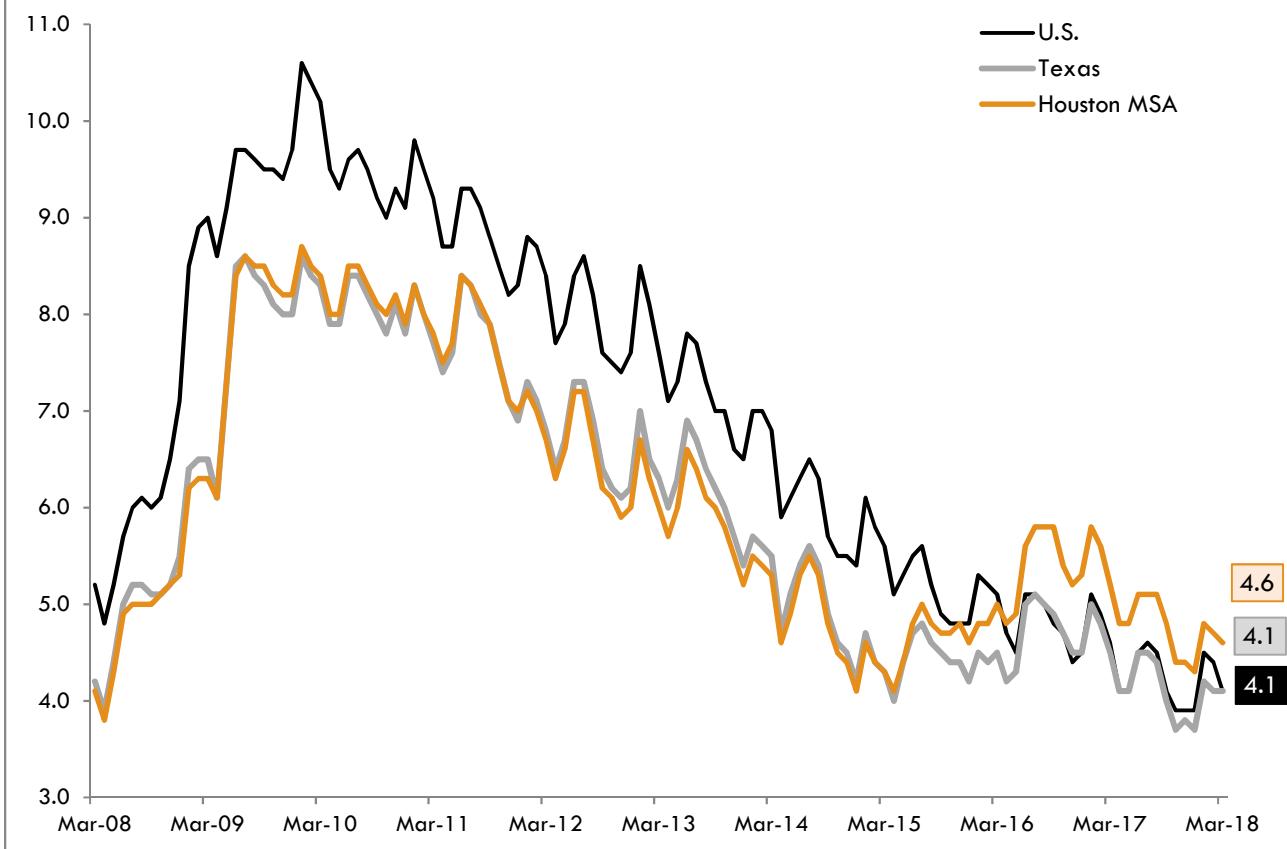
### **Not-Seasonally Adjusted**

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 28. Unemployment Rates (NSA) - U.S., Texas, and Houston MSA  
March 2018**

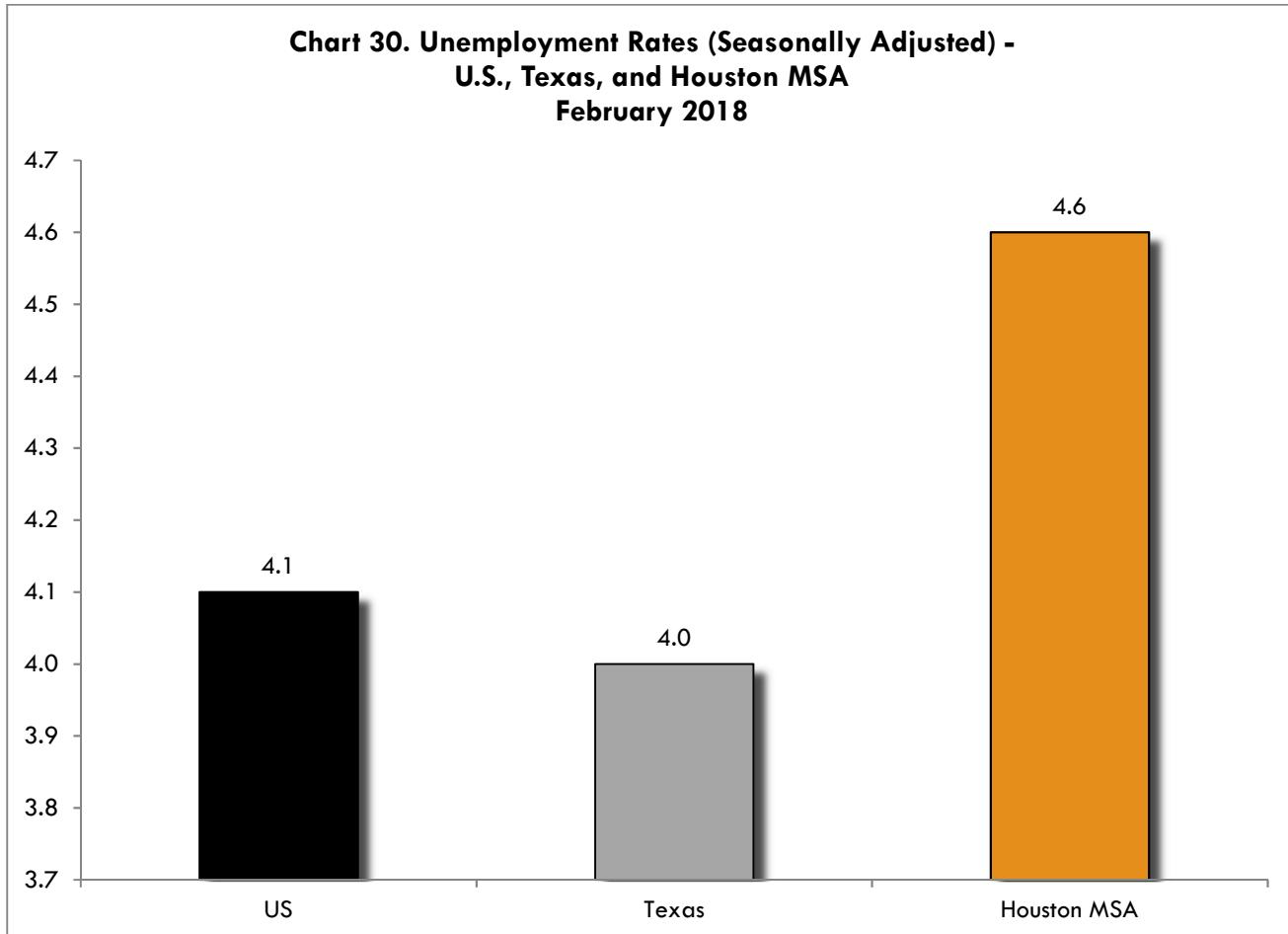


**Chart 29. Unemployment Rates (NSA) - U.S., Texas, and Houston MSA,  
March 2008 to March 2018**

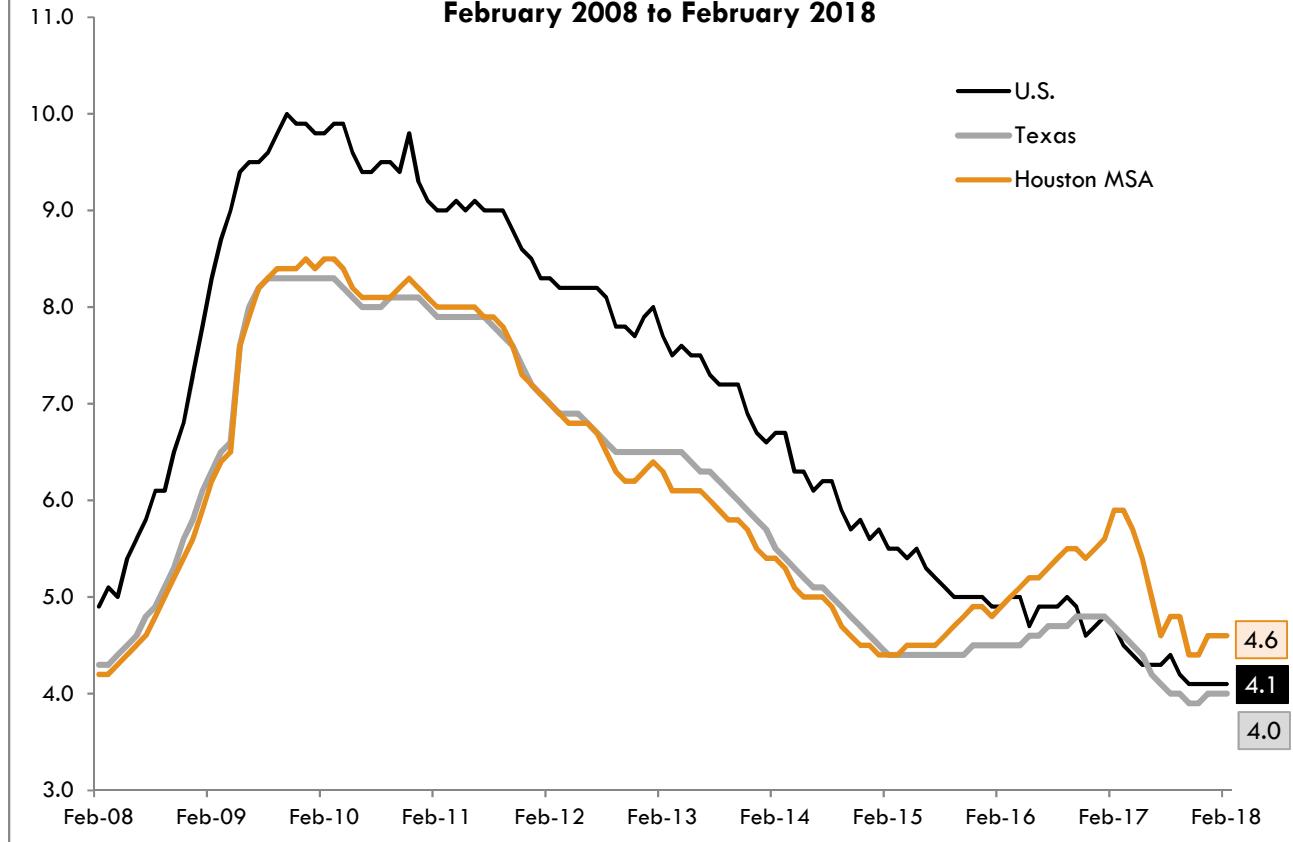


## Seasonally Adjusted

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 %
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>3,072,000</b>	<b>3,061,500</b>	<b>3,009,500</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>62,500</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
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%
<b>.Mining and Logging</b>	<b>77,800</b>	<b>78,500</b>	<b>76,700</b>	<b>-700</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
...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%
<b>.Construction</b>	<b>227,100</b>	<b>226,200</b>	<b>216,400</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>10,700</b>	<b>4.9%</b>
..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%
<b>.Manufacturing</b>	<b>222,600</b>	<b>222,700</b>	<b>218,900</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
..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%
<b>..Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</b>	<b>623,300</b>	<b>623,600</b>	<b>610,000</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>13,300</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
...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%
<b>..Information</b>	<b>31,400</b>	<b>31,700</b>	<b>32,500</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>	<b>-1,100</b>	<b>-3.4%</b>
...Telecommunications	13,600	13,700	13,900	-100	-0.7%	-300	-2.2%
<b>..Financial Activities</b>	<b>161,400</b>	<b>161,300</b>	<b>157,700</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
...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%
<b>..Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>501,600</b>	<b>496,000</b>	<b>475,600</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>26,000</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
...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%
<b>..Educational and Health Services</b>	<b>385,300</b>	<b>385,000</b>	<b>383,400</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
...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%
<b>..Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>316,700</b>	<b>314,000</b>	<b>315,500</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
...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%
<b>..Other Services</b>	<b>109,700</b>	<b>108,200</b>	<b>109,000</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>415,100</b>	<b>414,300</b>	<b>413,800</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
.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%