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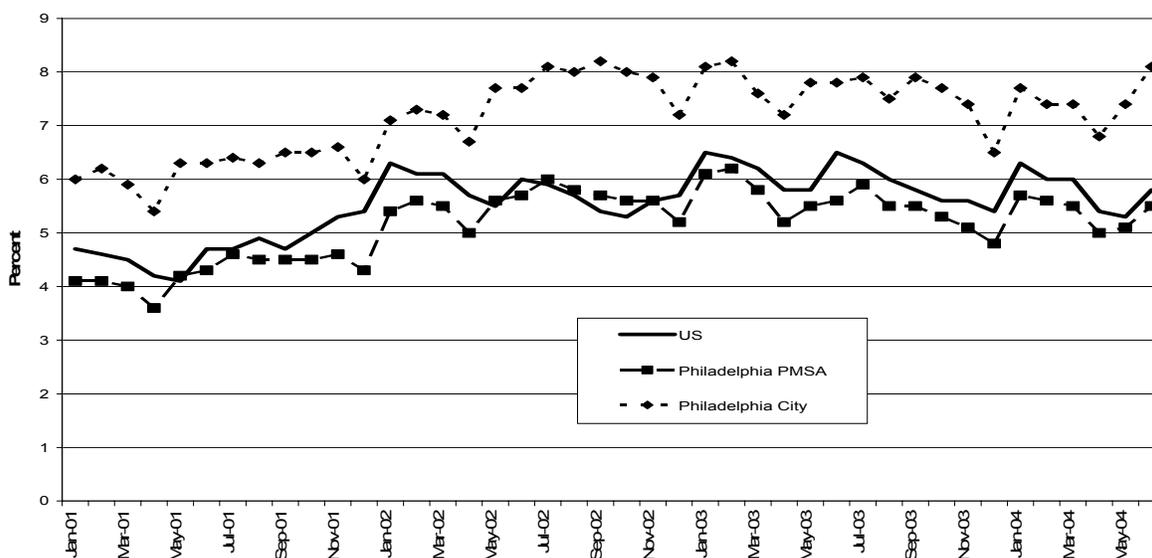
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PHILADELPHIA AREA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HOLDS STEADY AT 5.5 IN JUNE; JOB COUNT RISES BY 11,900 FROM A YEAR AGO

The unemployment rate for the Philadelphia, Penn.-N.J. metropolitan area¹ was 5.5 percent in June, essentially unchanged from a year ago, and slightly below the 5.8 percent for the nation, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that the Philadelphia area's jobless rate has been equal to or below the national average since November 2002. (See chart 1 and table 1.)

Total nonfarm employment for the Philadelphia area stood at 2,436,800 in June, 11,900, or 0.5 percent, above its year-ago level. Over the same period, the nation's job count grew by 1,495,000, or 1.1 percent—the largest over-the-year advance since the start of the last recession in March 2001. From September 2001 through March 2004, Philadelphia's annual job growth was relatively weak with minimal expansion or contraction (± 0.4 percent). Nationally, the rate of job loss peaked at 1.5 percent in both February and March 2002 and slowed steadily until February 2004, when employment began to expand again after 30 months of over-the-year declines. (All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

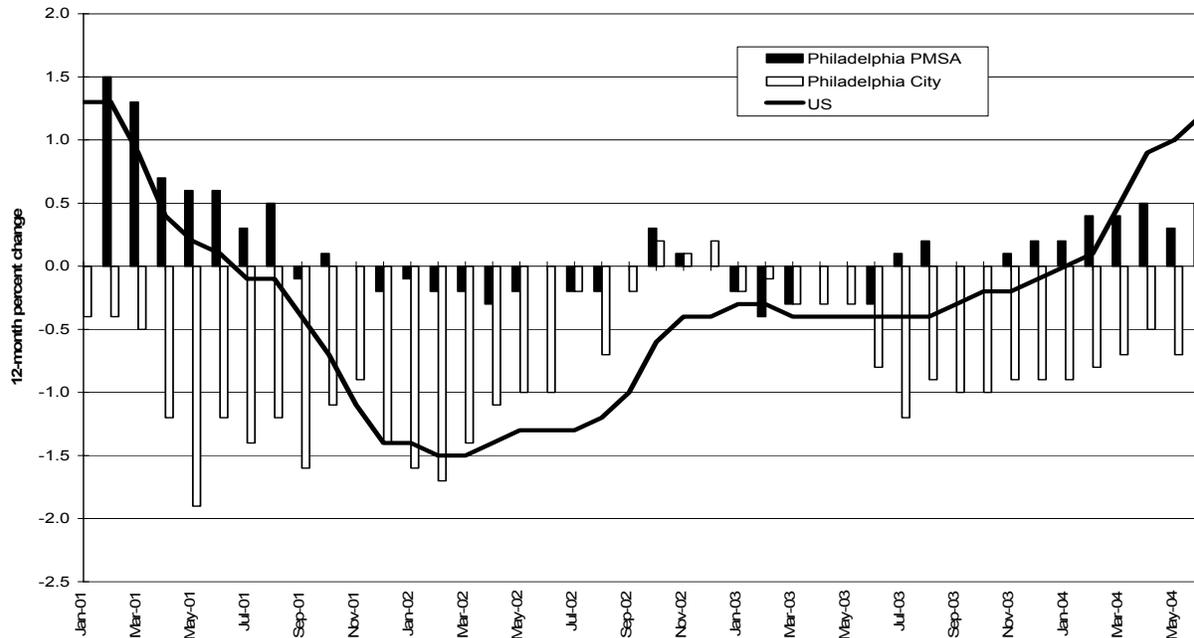
Chart 1. Unemployment rates in the United States, Philadelphia metropolitan area, and Philadelphia City, January 2001-June 2004



¹ The Philadelphia metropolitan area referenced in this release is the Philadelphia Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) consisting of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania; and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem Counties in New Jersey. Philadelphia County is comprised solely of Philadelphia City and will be referred to as such in the text.

In the Philadelphia metropolitan area as a whole, growth was widespread among the various industry divisions; however, over one-half of the latest increase reflected continuing expansion in educational and health services, which added 6,100 jobs between June 2003 and 2004. Other bright spots included leisure and hospitality; professional and business services; other services; construction and mining; trade, transportation, and utilities; and information, all of which added to their job counts over the last 12 months. Manufacturing and government, on the other hand, both lost jobs between June 2003 and 2004, while employment in financial activities was essentially unchanged from the previous year. (See table 2.)

Chart 2. Total nonfarm employment, over-the-year percent change in the United States, Philadelphia metropolitan area, and Philadelphia City, January 2001-March 2004



Unemployment in the Philadelphia area

Over the last several years, the Philadelphia area's unemployment rate has closely tracked that of the nation. Since the start of the recession in March 2001, the rate differential was generally small, equaling 0.5 percentage point or less in 28 of the 39 months. The jobless rate for Philadelphia City, on the other hand, has been consistently higher than the U.S. rate during this period, sometimes by 2.0 percentage points or more.

The Philadelphia metropolitan area consists of five counties in Pennsylvania and four counties in New Jersey. Though geographically close to one another, these nine counties highlight the sometimes large differences in unemployment rates that can exist across the components of an economically cohesive metropolitan area. Within the Philadelphia area, Philadelphia City had the highest jobless rate in June 2004, 8.1 percent. (See table A.) Chester County had the lowest rate, 3.4 percent, followed by Montgomery County and Burlington County (4.2 percent each), and Bucks County (4.9 percent). The four remaining counties all had rates in the 5.2- to 5.8-percent range—Gloucester, Camden, Delaware, and Salem. Other than Philadelphia City, Salem County (5.8 percent) was the only other county to exceed the 5.5 percent recorded for the metropolitan area as a whole. Compared with a year earlier, jobless rates decreased by 0.3 percentage point or more in the four New Jersey counties, with Camden recording the largest drop—0.9 percentage point. Two of the five counties in Pennsylvania, Chester and Montgomery, also experienced declines, of 0.4 and 0.3 percentage point, respectively, but the three remaining counties of Bucks, Delaware, and Philadelphia City had rate increases of 0.3 percentage point each. (See table A.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, Philadelphia metropolitan area and geographic components, not seasonally adjusted

	June 2003	Mar. 2004	Apr. 2004	May 2004	June 2004p	Net change from June 2003 to June 2004p
Household Data	Unemployment Rates (percent)					
United States	6.5	6.0	5.4	5.3	5.8	-0.7
Philadelphia, PA-NJ PMSA	5.6	5.5	5.0	5.1	5.5	-0.1
Bucks County, PA	4.6	4.9	4.2	4.4	4.9	0.3
Chester County, PA	3.8	3.6	3.0	3.1	3.4	-0.4
Delaware County, PA	5.2	5.0	4.6	4.9	5.5	0.3
Montgomery County PA	4.5	4.4	3.8	3.9	4.2	-0.3
Philadelphia City, PA	7.8	7.4	6.8	7.4	8.1	0.3
Burlington County, NJ	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.0	4.2	-0.5
Camden County, NJ	6.3	5.9	5.6	5.3	5.4	-0.9
Gloucester County, NJ	5.5	5.5	5.0	4.8	5.2	-0.3
Salem County, NJ	6.5	6.8	5.7	5.6	5.8	-0.7
Establishment Data	Nonfarm employment (in thousands)					
United States	130,830	129,816	130,978	131,881	132,325	1495.0
Philadelphia, PA-NJ PMSA	2,424.9	2,401.3	2,420.7	2,427.0	2,436.8	11.9
Philadelphia City	678.1	676.5	680.7	677.1	673.6	-4.5
Surrounding Counties	1,746.8	1,724.8	1,740.0	1,749.9	1,763.2	16.4

p=preliminary.

NOTE: Philadelphia City comprises all of Philadelphia County. Surrounding counties refers to all counties in the Philadelphia metropolitan area except Philadelphia County/City.

Employment in the Philadelphia Area

Employment in the Philadelphia metropolitan area was up 0.5 percent between June 2003 and 2004 with the addition of 11,900 jobs. That marked the ninth consecutive month of over-the-year growth. However, this expansion was well below the peak increase of 63,500 jobs between August 1997 and 1998. All of the recent advance occurred in the eight counties surrounding Philadelphia City. Not since December 2002 has the City added jobs over the year.

One out of every two new jobs area-wide was in educational and health services. Employment in this industry rose by 6,100 from June 2003 to June 2004 in the metropolitan area. The advance represented a 1.4-percent increase—the 55th consecutive monthly over-the-year gain in this industry. Nearly two out of three new educational and health services jobs in June 2004 were located in Philadelphia City. (See table 2.)

Jobs in leisure and hospitality rose by 4,400 in the Philadelphia area, an increase of 2.3 percent—the 114th straight over-the-year advance, surpassing all other industries. Virtually all of the recent expansion in leisure and hospitality occurred in the surrounding counties.

Employment in professional and business services rose by 4,000 in the metropolitan area between June 2003 and June 2004, an increase of 1.2 percent. All of the recent growth in this industry occurred in the counties surrounding Philadelphia City where 251,900 professional and business services jobs were located, representing three-fourths of the region's job count.

The other services industry, which includes equipment and machinery repairing, promoting or administering religious activities, grantmaking, advocacy, and such services as providing drycleaning and laundry, personal care, death care, pet care, photofinishing, temporary parking, and dating, rose by 2,700 in the Philadelphia area, an increase of 2.4 percent. This marked nearly seven years of uninterrupted over-the-year advances in this industry beginning in

July 1997. Again, virtually all of the June 2003 to June 2004 increase occurred in the surrounding counties.

Employment in construction and mining rose by 2,200 from June 2003 to June 2004. Likewise, trade, transportation, and utilities (the largest industry sector in the Philadelphia area, accounting for nearly one-fifth of all employment) added 2,200 to its job count in the metropolitan area during this 12-month period. Advances in both these industries, all of which took place in the surrounding counties, represented increases of 2.1 and 0.5 percent, respectively.

Over the last 12 months, employment was up 1,300 in the information industry (which includes software publishing, and both traditional publishing and publishing exclusively on the Internet; the motion picture and sound recording industries; the broadcasting industries, including traditional broadcasting and those broadcasting exclusively over the Internet; the telecommunications industries; and the industries known as Internet services providers and Web search portals, data processing industries, and the information services industries).

Financial activities employment was essentially unchanged from the previous year, as job gains in the surrounding counties were more than offset by declines in the City. The City's loss represented a 2.7-percent drop in employment in financial activities—the 14th month of consecutive over-the-year declines. There were just over 50,000 financial activities jobs in the City in June 2004, less than one-third of the Philadelphia area's count in this industry.

Public sector employment in the Philadelphia area fell by 2,800 over the year, or 0.9 percent. Philadelphia City (-1,500) and the surrounding counties (-1,300) shared nearly equally in the overall loss of government jobs in the metropolitan area. However, the City's loss represented a 1.3-percent drop in public sector employment—the 23rd month of consecutive over-the-year decline—while the surrounding counties' loss resulted in a 0.7-percent decline.

Manufacturing employment fell by 7,300 from June 2003 to June 2004 in the metropolitan area—the 43rd consecutive over-the-year decline in this industry. In both manufacturing sectors—nondurables and durables—job declines were heaviest in the surrounding counties. Overall, there were 216,000 factory jobs in the Philadelphia area in June 2004. Since June 1990, the first year this data series was available, the manufacturing industry lost 107,000 jobs, or about one-third of its total, in the Philadelphia area, including 37,300 in Philadelphia City.

Unemployment in the 30 largest metropolitan areas

The Philadelphia area is one of six large metropolitan areas in the Northeast region of the United States. In addition to Philadelphia, with an unemployment rate of 5.5 percent in June, four other Northeastern areas—Nassau-Suffolk, N.Y.; Boston, Mass.-N.H.; Newark, N.J.; and Pittsburgh, Penn.—had rates roughly equal to or below the national average of 5.8 percent. The jobless rate in the remaining metropolitan area in the Northeast, New York, N.Y., was 6.9 percent, one of the highest in the country when compared to those in the other large areas. (See table 3.) Over the year, Newark's unemployment rate declined by 1.3 percentage points, and Boston's, by 0.7 percentage point. New York's rate edged down 0.4 percentage point while the three remaining areas in the region saw little if any change in their jobless rates from June a year ago.

In the South region, Washington, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.Va., had the lowest unemployment rate, 3.3 percent; this was also the lowest rate among the 30 largest metropolitan areas nationwide. All together, four of the eight areas in the South had jobless rates equal to or less than the national average. In the West, six of ten areas had unemployment rates less than the U.S. average, including Orange County Calif., which had the second lowest unemployment rate in the nation, 3.5 percent. Of the six large areas in the Midwest, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.-Wisc., was the only one to post a rate (4.6 percent) below the national average. Detroit, Mich., had the highest unemployment rate in the Midwest region, as well as among the 30 areas nationwide, 7.3 percent.

Unemployment rates declined over the year in 28 of the 30 largest areas. Although Portland-Vancouver, Ore.-Wash., had the highest jobless rate in the West and the fifth highest in the nation, the area also experienced the largest drop in its rate among the 30 metropolitan areas over the 12-month period—2.3 percentage points. No other area had a rate decrease of similar magnitude. The next largest declines were in the 1.3- to 1.5-percent point range and were spread out across the country—one in the Northeast, two in the South, and three in the West. The two metropolitan areas with jobless rates that did not decrease over the year were Nassau-Suffolk and Pittsburgh, both in the Northeast.

Employment in the 30 largest metropolitan areas

The Northeast experienced over-the-year job gains in four of its six major metropolitan areas. Newark led the region with a rise of 1.3 percent, followed closely by Nassau-Suffolk (1.2 percent), then New York (0.8 percent), and Philadelphia (0.5 percent). In the other two areas, Boston shed 0.7 percent of its jobs since June 2003, the second-sharpest contraction among the 30 large areas, and Pittsburgh registered no growth (0.0 percent).

The South presented the sunniest job picture of the four regions with all eight of its metropolitan areas recording over-the-year job growth. A particularly strong gain was recorded in Washington, D.C. (2.9 percent), which again led the 30 largest areas. The employment situation in the Midwest region was not as bright. Three of the six areas experienced over-the-year job losses, and a fourth area, Cleveland-Lorain-Elyria, Ohio, had no growth. Detroit shed 1.7 percent of its jobs from June a year ago—the largest percentage loss among the 30 metropolitan areas. Still, St. Louis, Mo.-Ill., had one of the highest rates of job growth in the country, 2.5 percent. The West region had 8 of its 10 areas add jobs over the year, with particularly strong growth (1.5 percent or more) in four of these—Phoenix-Mesa, Ariz.; Riverside-San Bernardino, Calif.; Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, Wash., and San Diego, Calif. Only San Francisco, Calif., registered a loss of more than one-half a percent, with employment down 0.6 percent from June a year ago.

Table 1. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population, United States, Philadelphia metropolitan area, and Philadelphia City, not seasonally adjusted

Area and Employment Status	June 2003	Apr. 2004	May 2004	June 2004(p)	Change from June 2003 to June 2004 (p)
United States					
Civilian labor force	148,117,000	146,260,000	146,659,000	148,478,000	361,000
Unemployed	9,649,000	7,837,000	7,792,000	8,616,000	-1,033,000
Unemployment rate	6.5	5.4	5.3	5.8	-0.7
Philadelphia, PA-NJ PMSA					
Civilian labor force	2,648,438	2,636,709	2,639,678	2,665,612	17,174
Unemployed	149,207	130,601	135,201	147,308	-1,899
Unemployment rate	5.6	5.0	5.1	5.5	-0.1
Philadelphia City					
Civilian labor force	673,534	667,960	671,972	680,910	7,376
Unemployed	52,593	45,527	49,659	54,909	2,316
Unemployment rate	7.8	6.8	7.4	8.1	0.3

NOTE: Data refer to place of residence. All estimates are provisional and will be revised when new benchmark and population information becomes available.

Table 2. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry, United States, Philadelphia metropolitan area, Philadelphia City, and surrounding counties, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)

Area and Industry	June 2003	Apr. 2004	May 2004	June 2004(p)	Change from June 2003 to June 2004 (p)	
					Number	Percent
United States						
Total nonfarm	130,830	130,978	131,881	132,325	1,495.0	1.1
Natural Resources & Mining	580	574	587	597	17.0	2.9
Construction	6,940	6,734	6,965	7,143	203.0	2.9
Manufacturing	14,604	14,319	14,392	14,488	-116.0	-0.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	25,285	25,232	25,407	25,564	279.0	1.1
Information	3,207	3,160	3,180	3,193	-14.0	-0.4
Financial Activities	8,048	7,995	8,038	8,117	69.0	0.9
Professional & Business Services	16,102	16,335	16,423	16,614	512.0	3.2
Educational & Health Services	16,398	17,024	16,958	16,716	318.0	1.9
Leisure & Hospitality	12,633	12,226	12,546	12,893	260.0	2.1
Other Services	5,453	5,397	5,424	5,478	25.0	0.5
Government	21,580	21,982	21,961	21,522	-58.0	-0.3
Philadelphia PMSA						
Total nonfarm	2,424.9	2,420.7	2,427.0	2,436.8	11.9	0.5
Construction & Mining	105.1	103.3	105.5	107.3	2.2	2.1
Manufacturing	223.3	215.7	215.4	216.0	-7.3	-3.3
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	472.0	468.5	471.5	474.2	2.2	0.5
Information	58.6	59.4	59.7	59.9	1.3	2.2
Financial Activities	181.6	178.6	179.1	180.7	-0.9	-0.5
Professional & Business Services	331.6	332.6	333.1	335.6	4.0	1.2
Educational & Health Services	440.7	454.5	450.4	446.8	6.1	1.4
Leisure & Hospitality	188.6	181.2	187.1	193.0	4.4	2.3
Other Services	110.8	111.2	112.2	113.5	2.7	2.4
Government	312.6	315.7	313.0	309.8	-2.8	-0.9
Philadelphia City						
Total nonfarm	678.1	680.7	677.1	673.6	-4.5	-0.7
Construction & Mining	12.8	11.7	11.8	12.0	-0.8	-6.3
Manufacturing	34.1	31.8	31.5	31.4	-2.7	-7.9
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	97.7	95.8	96.0	96.1	-1.6	-1.6
Information	17.5	18.0	18.1	18.1	0.6	3.4
Financial Activities	51.6	50.2	50.0	50.2	-1.4	-2.7
Professional & Business Services	85.2	83.5	83.4	83.7	-1.5	-1.8
Educational & Health Services	181.8	191.9	188.4	185.8	4.0	2.2
Leisure & Hospitality	53.0	52.9	53.4	53.3	0.3	0.6
Other Services	30.2	30.0	30.2	30.3	0.1	0.3
Government	114.2	114.9	114.3	112.7	-1.5	-1.3
Surrounding Counties						
Total nonfarm	1,746.8	1,740.0	1,749.9	1,763.2	16.4	0.9
Construction & Mining	92.3	91.6	93.7	95.3	3.0	3.3
Manufacturing	189.2	183.9	183.9	184.6	-4.6	-2.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	374.3	372.7	375.5	378.1	3.8	1.0
Information	41.1	41.4	41.6	41.8	0.7	1.7
Financial Activities	130.0	128.4	129.1	130.5	0.5	0.4
Professional & Business Services	246.4	249.1	249.7	251.9	5.5	2.2
Educational & Health Services	258.9	262.6	262.0	261.0	2.1	0.8
Leisure & Hospitality	135.6	128.3	133.7	139.7	4.1	3.0
Other Services	80.6	81.2	82.0	83.2	2.6	3.2
Government	198.4	200.8	198.7	197.1	-1.3	-0.7

p = preliminary.

NOTE: Data are counts of jobs by place of work. Estimates are currently projected from March 2003 benchmark levels. Estimates subsequent to the current benchmark are provisional and will be revised when new information becomes available.

Table 3. Unemployment rates, 30 large metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted

Area	June 2003	Apr. 2004	May 2004	June 2004(p)	Change from June 2003 to June 2004(p)
Northeast					
Boston, MA-NH PMSA	5.4	4.0	4.4	4.7	-0.7
Nassau-Suffolk, NY PMSA	4.1	4.2	3.9	4.2	0.1
New York, NY PMSA	7.3	6.7	6.2	6.9	-0.4
Newark, NJ PMSA	6.3	5.1	4.8	5.0	-1.3
Philadelphia, PA-NJ PMSA	5.6	5.0	5.1	5.5	-0.1
Pittsburgh, PA MSA	5.7	4.9	5.0	5.7	0.0
South					
Atlanta, GA MSA	5.6	3.6	3.9	4.6	-1.0
Baltimore, MD PMSA	5.5	4.2	4.3	4.8	-0.7
Dallas, TX PMSA	8.1	5.8	5.9	6.6	-1.5
Fort Worth-Arlington, TX PMSA	7.4	5.3	5.4	6.1	-1.3
Houston, TX PMSA	7.9	6.0	6.2	7.0	-0.9
Miami, FL PMSA	7.8	6.5	6.3	7.1	-0.7
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL PMSA	4.7	3.8	3.7	4.1	-0.6
Washington, DC-MD-VA-WV PMSA	3.9	2.9	3.0	3.3	-0.6
Midwest					
Chicago, IL PMSA	7.1	6.0	6.2	6.2	-0.9
Cleveland-Lorain-Elyria, OH PMSA	7.0	6.5	5.9	6.5	-0.5
Detroit, MI PMSA	7.8	6.1	6.6	7.3	-0.5
Kansas City, MO-KS MSA	6.5	5.2	5.3	5.9	-0.6
Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI MSA	5.2	4.2	3.8	4.6	-0.6
St. Louis, MO-IL MSA ¹	6.5	5.0	5.3	6.0	-0.5
West					
Denver, CO PMSA ¹	6.7	5.3	4.7	5.3	-1.4
Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA PMSA	7.3	6.3	6.4	6.7	-0.6
Oakland, CA PMSA	6.7	5.5	5.3	5.6	-1.1
Orange County, CA PMSA	3.9	3.4	3.3	3.5	-0.4
Phoenix-Mesa, AZ MSA	5.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	-1.1
Portland-Vancouver, OR-WA PMSA	9.1	6.7	6.5	6.8	-2.3
Riverside-San Bernardino, CA PMSA	6.1	5.4	5.3	5.8	-0.3
San Diego, CA MSA	4.5	3.9	3.9	4.1	-0.4
San Francisco, CA PMSA	6.2	4.8	4.5	4.7	-1.5
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA PMSA	7.3	6.0	5.8	5.9	-1.4

¹ Geographic area does not match official Office of Management and Budget definition.

(P) = preliminary

NOTE: Data refer to place of residence. All estimates are provisional and will be revised when new benchmark and population information becomes available.

Table 4. Employees on nonfarm payrolls, 30 large metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)

Area	June 2003	Apr. 2004	May 2004	June 2004(p)	Change from June 2003 to June 2004 (p)	
					Number	Percent
Northeast						
Boston, MA-NH PMSA	1,954.6	1,910.9	1,924.7	1,940.0	-14.6	-0.7
Nassau-Suffolk, NY PMSA	1,242.4	1,229.1	1,244.1	1,257.2	14.8	1.2
New York, NY PMSA	4,103.6	4,093.1	4,118.6	4,135.4	31.8	0.8
Newark, NJ PMSA	1,018.7	1,018.1	1,024.3	1,031.8	13.1	1.3
Philadelphia, PA-NJ PMSA	2,424.9	2,420.7	2,427.0	2,436.8	11.9	0.5
Pittsburgh, PA MSA	1,125.5	1,106.2	1,116.8	1,125.7	0.2	0.0
South						
Atlanta, GA MSA	2,153.2	2,170.2	2,174.7	2,180.3	27.1	1.3
Baltimore, MD PMSA	1,261.5	1,255.6	1,265.7	1,271.5	10.0	0.8
Dallas, TX PMSA	1,905.1	1,910.8	1,913.0	1,912.6	7.5	0.4
Fort Worth-Arlington, TX PMSA	781.1	778.7	782.4	783.0	1.9	0.2
Houston, TX PMSA	2,101.4	2,102.9	2,113.2	2,115.0	13.6	0.6
Miami, FL PMSA	1,004.5	1,015.3	1,017.7	1,016.5	12.0	1.2
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL PMSA	1,218.8	1,247.2	1,249.2	1,236.4	17.6	1.4
Washington, DC-MD-VA-WV PMSA	2,839.0	2,875.9	2,898.7	2,921.0	82.0	2.9
Midwest						
Chicago, IL PMSA	4,128.6	4,059.0	4,092.4	4,121.2	-7.4	-0.2
Cleveland-Lorain-Elyria, OH PMSA	1,121.3	1,106.7	1,119.4	1,121.6	0.3	0.0
Detroit, MI PMSA	2,097.0	2,028.2	2,062.6	2,060.7	-36.3	-1.7
Kansas City, MO-KS MSA	953.6	943.3	946.9	951.9	-1.7	-0.2
Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI MSA	1,741.2	1,729.5	1,753.6	1,765.7	24.5	1.4
St. Louis, MO-IL MSA ¹	1,308.2	1,316.2	1,325.9	1,340.6	32.4	2.5
West						
Denver, CO PMSA ¹	1,154.3	1,136.5	1,146.7	1,155.8	1.5	0.1
Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA PMSA	3,999.5	4,001.5	4,018.1	4,017.2	17.7	0.4
Oakland, CA PMSA	1,031.2	1,020.9	1,026.0	1,029.3	-1.9	-0.2
Orange County, CA PMSA	1,432.9	1,430.4	1,433.4	1,437.1	4.2	0.3
Phoenix-Mesa, AZ MSA	1,599.4	1,660.2	1,660.0	1,640.6	41.2	2.6
Portland-Vancouver, OR-WA PMSA	929.1	924.6	929.1	930.4	1.3	0.1
Riverside-San Bernardino, CA PMSA	1,094.1	1,107.5	1,113.6	1,115.2	21.1	1.9
San Diego, CA MSA	1,249.2	1,254.8	1,261.5	1,268.5	19.3	1.5
San Francisco, CA PMSA	959.2	944.9	949.0	953.3	-5.9	-0.6
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA PMSA	1,345.4	1,346.6	1,357.2	1,367.9	22.5	1.7

¹ Geographic area does not match official Office of Management and Budget definition.

(p) = preliminary

NOTE: Data are counts of jobs by place of work. Estimates are currently projected from March 2003 benchmark levels. Estimates subsequent to the current benchmark are provisional and will be revised when new information becomes available.

Technical Note

This release presents employment and unemployment data from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program (tables A, 1, and 3) and nonfarm payroll employment estimates from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program (tables A, 2, and 4). A Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area contains two or more Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Metropolitan areas that are not part of a Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area are referred to as Metropolitan Statistical Areas. The rankings were based on population estimates for Metropolitan Statistical Areas and Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas collected by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2000. The LAUS and CES programs are both Federal-State cooperative endeavors.

Labor force and unemployment—from the LAUS program

Definitions. The labor force and unemployment data are based on the same concepts and definitions as those used for the official national estimates obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a sample survey of households that is conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the U.S. Census Bureau. The labor force includes both the employed and the unemployed. Employed persons are those who did any work at all for pay or profit in the survey reference week (the week including the 12th of the month) or worked 15 hours or more without pay in a family business or farm, plus those not working who have a job from which they were temporarily absent, whether or not paid, for such reasons as labor-management dispute, illness, or vacation. Unemployed persons are those who did not work at all (in the reference week), have actively looked for a job (sometime in the 4-week period ending with the survey reference week), and are currently available for work; persons on layoff expecting recall need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed.

Method of estimation. Effective January 1996, estimates for all states, the District of Columbia, the Los Angeles-Long Beach metropolitan area, and New York City are produced using estimating equations based on regression techniques. For all other substate areas, estimates are prepared through indirect estimation procedures. Employment estimates, which are based largely on "place of work" estimates from the CES program, are adjusted to refer to place of residence as used in the CPS. Unemployment estimates are aggregates of persons previously employed in industries covered by state unemployment (UI) laws and entrants to the labor force from the CPS. The substate estimates of employment and unemployment that geographically exhaust the entire state are adjusted proportionally to ensure that they add to the independently estimated state totals. A detailed description of the estimation procedures is available from BLS upon request.

Annual revisions. Labor force and unemployment data shown for the prior year reflect adjustments made at the end of each year, usually with January estimates. The adjusted estimates reflect updated population data from the U.S. Census Bureau and any revisions in the other data sources. In addition, data for all states, the District of Columbia, and the two large substate areas noted are adjusted annually to equal the CPS annual averages, usually effective with January estimates. All other substate estimates are adjusted to add to the revised (benchmarked) state estimates.

Employment—from the CES program

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 2002 version of the North American Industry Classification System.

Method of estimation. The employment data are estimated using a "link relative" technique in which a ratio (link relative) of current-month employment to that of the previous month is computed from a sample of establishments reporting for both months. The estimates of employment for the current month are obtained by multiplying the estimates for the previous month by these ratios. Small-domain models are used as the official estimators for approximately 10 percent of CES published series.

Annual revisions. Employment estimates are adjusted annually to a complete count of jobs, called benchmarks, derived principally from tax reports which are submitted by employers who are covered under state unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The benchmark information is used to adjust the monthly estimates between the new benchmark and the preceding one and also to establish the level of employment for the new benchmark month. Thus, the benchmarking process establishes the level of employment, and the sample is used to measure the month-to-month changes in the level for the subsequent months.

Reliability of the estimates

The estimates presented in this release are based on sample survey and administrative data and thus are subject to sampling and other types of errors. Sampling error is a measure of sampling variability--that is, variation that occurs by chance because a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed. Survey data are also subject to nonsampling errors, such as those which can be introduced into the data collection and processing operations. Estimates not directly derived from sample surveys are subject to additional errors resulting from the special estimation processes used. The sums of individual items may not always equal the totals shown in the same tables because of rounding. With respect to the LAUS program, unemployment rates are computed, in most instances, from unrounded data rather than from data that may be displayed in the tables; differences, however, are generally insignificant.

Labor force and unemployment estimates. Measures of sampling error, in the form of the standard errors for state annual average estimates derived from the CPS, are available in the annual BLS bulletin, *Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment*. Error measures cannot be computed for substate areas because of the special estimation processes used. Measures of nonsampling error for CPS data are not available, but additional information on the subject is provided in the BLS monthly periodical, *Employment and Earnings*.

Employment estimates. Measures of sampling error are available for state CES data at the NAICS supersector level and for metropolitan area CES data at the total nonfarm level. Information on recent benchmark revisions for states is available on the BLS Web site at (<http://www.bls.gov/sae/>).

Area definitions. The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, dated June 30, 1999. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is published annually in the May issue of *Employment and Earnings*.

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 by subscription from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 (telephone 202-512-1800).

Estimates of unadjusted and seasonally adjusted labor force and unemployment data for states, census regions and divisions, and two areas are available in two news releases, the Regional and State Employment and Unemployment release and the Metropolitan Area release. Estimates of labor force and unemployment for all states, metropolitan areas, labor market areas, counties, cities with a population of 25,000 or more, and other areas used in the administration of various federal economic assistance programs are available from the BLS Internet at (<http://www.bls.gov/lau/>). Industry employment data for states and metropolitan areas from the CES program are also available in the above mentioned news releases and from the Internet at (<http://www.bls.gov/sae/>).

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.