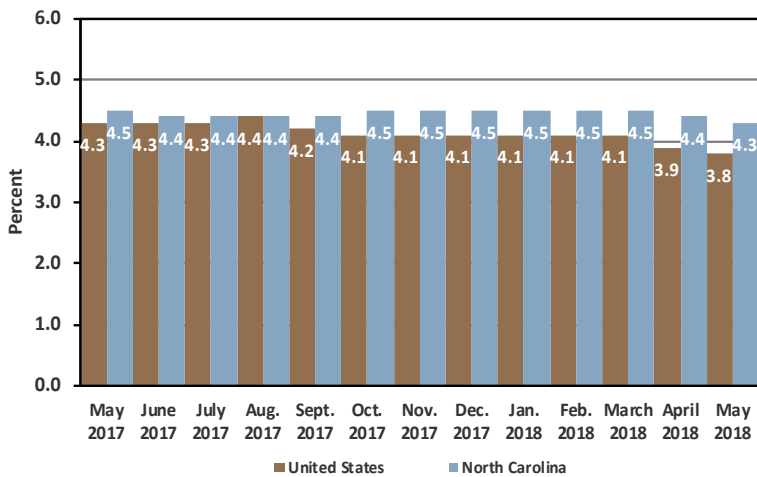


# North Carolina Labor Market Conditions

May  
2018\*

**United States/North Carolina Unemployment Rates**  
May 2017–May 2018  
(Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted\*\*)



\*\*US data are not smoothed.

The North Carolina smoothed seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in May, decreasing 0.1 of a percentage point from the previous month and falling 0.2 of a percentage point from May 2017. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed fell by 5,969 (2.7%). The civilian labor force increased by 6,311 (0.1%) to 4,987,865.

Nationally, May's unemployment rate was 3.8 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 6,065,000, while the civilian labor force was 161,539,000.

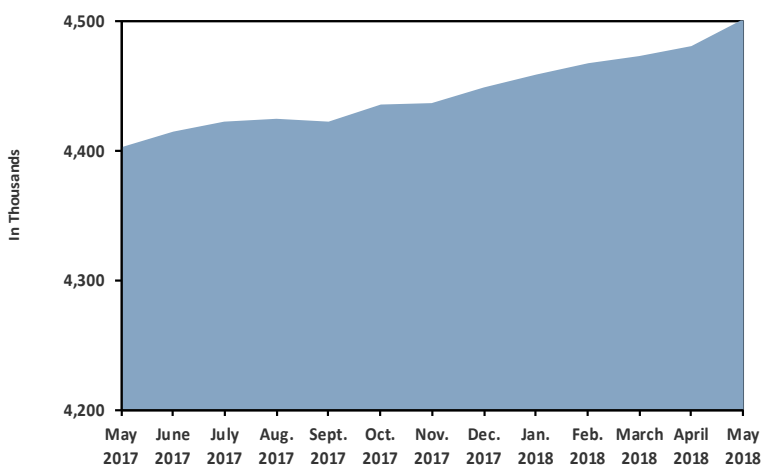
Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,502,100) increased 21,600 (0.5%) since April 2018 and 99,600 (2.3%) since May 2017. Private sector employment grew over the month by 21,900 (0.6%) and 94,900 (2.6%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Professional & Business Services (8,800; 1.4%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (6,000; 0.7%), Manufacturing (3,300; 0.7%), Education & Health Services (3,000; 0.5%), Financial Activities (600; 0.3%), Construction (500; 0.2%), Information (300; 0.4%), and Other Services (100; 0.1%). Leisure & Hospitality Services (700; 0.1%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Government (300; >-0.1%).

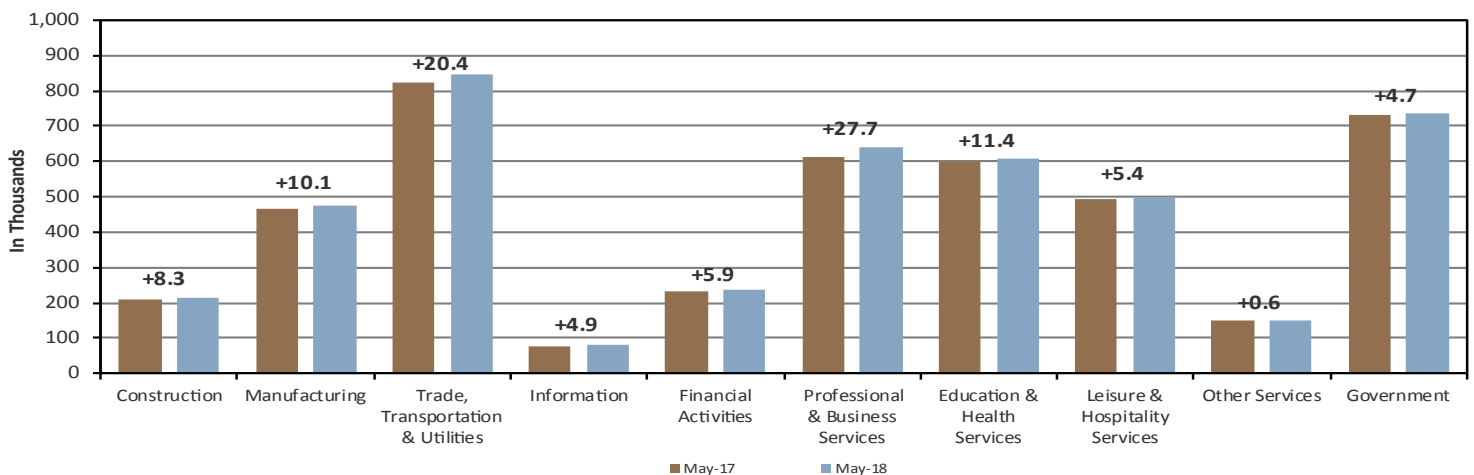
Since May 2017, Professional & Business Services added the largest number of jobs (27,700; 4.5%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (20,400; 2.5%), Education & Health Services (11,400; 1.9%), Manufacturing (10,100; 2.2%), Construction (8,300; 4.0%), Financial Activities (5,900; 2.5%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (5,400; 1.1%), Information (4,900; 6.2%), Government (4,700; 0.6%), Other Services (600; 0.4%), and Mining & Logging (200; 3.6%).

\*It is important to note that industry employment estimates are subject to large seasonal patterns. Seasonal adjustment factors are applied to the data. However, these factors may not be fully capturing the seasonal trend. Therefore, when interpreting the changes in industry employment, it is advisable to focus on over-the-year changes in both the seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted series.

**North Carolina Total Nonfarm Employment**  
May 2017–May 2018  
(Seasonally Adjusted)



**Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries**  
May 2017 Compared to May 2018  
(Seasonally Adjusted)



\*N.C. current month data are preliminary, while all other seasonally adjusted data have undergone annual revision. U.S. data have undergone annual revision.

# North Carolina Labor Market Conditions

The May 2018 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,533,800 was 51,600 (1.2%) more than the April 2018 revised employment level of 4,482,200. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Leisure & Hospitality Services had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 13,000 (2.6%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (11,200; 1.3%), Professional & Business Services (10,800; 1.7%), Manufacturing (5,200; 1.1%), Construction (3,400; 1.6%), Education & Health Services (3,200; 0.5%), Financial Activities (2,100; 0.9%), Other Services (1,900; 1.3%), Government (400; 0.1%), and Information (400; 0.5%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged over the month.

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 80,100 (2.1%) jobs. Professional & Business Services experienced the largest employment increase at 28,700 (4.7%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (22,200; 2.7%), Education & Health Services (9,800; 1.6%), Financial Activities (5,900; 2.6%), Government (5,800; 0.8%), Information (4,400; 5.6%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (2,500; 0.5%), and Other Services (800; 0.5%).

The Goods Producing sector grew by 17,700 (2.6%) jobs over the year. Construction had the largest increase with 9,000 (4.3%), followed by Manufacturing (8,500; 1.8%), and Mining & Logging (200; 3.6%).

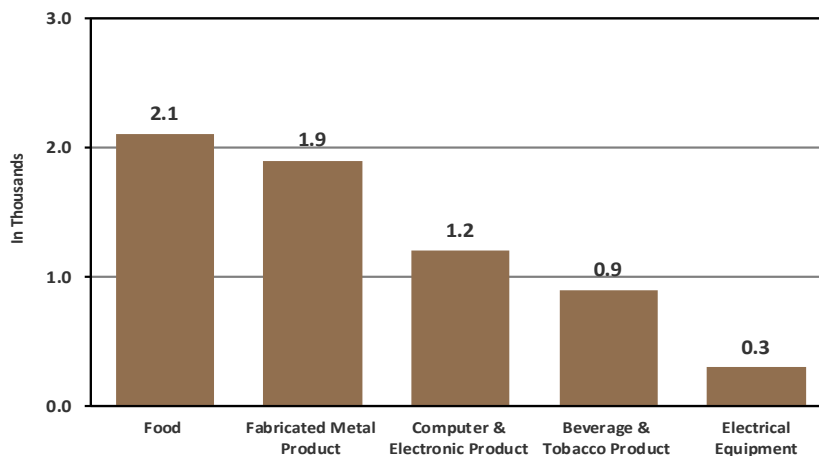
Amongst manufacturing industries, Food had the largest net over-the-year increase at 2,100. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Fabricated Metal Product, 1,900; Computer & Electronic Product, 1,200; Beverage & Tobacco Product, 900; Electrical Equipment, 300; Plastics & Rubber Products, 300; Wood Product, 200; Machinery, 200; and Transportation Equipment, 100.

Furniture & Related Product had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 900 in May 2018. Other industries with decreases were: Apparel, 400; Textile Mills, 200; and Printing & Related Support Activities, 100.

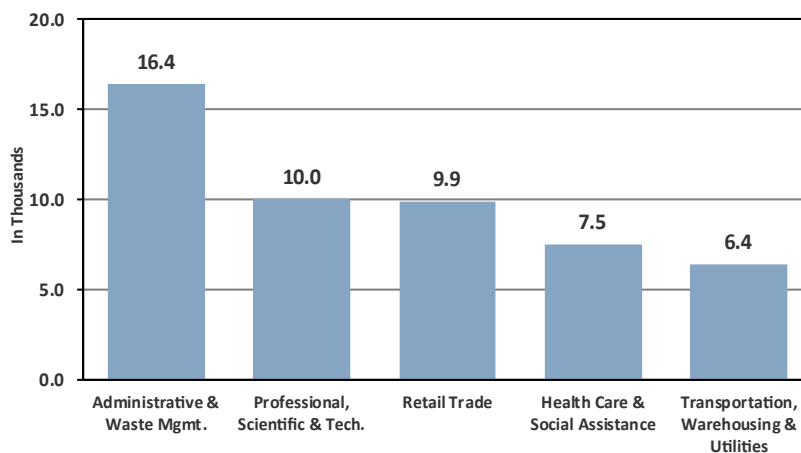
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in May decreased 24 minutes from April's revised rate of 35.2. Average Hourly Earnings fell by \$0.16 to \$24.88, as Average Weekly Earnings decreased by \$15.59 to \$865.82.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in May increased 24 minutes from the revised rate of 34.4 in May 2017. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.90 and Average Weekly Earnings increased \$40.91.

**Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains**  
May 2017–May 2018  
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



**Selected Service Industries With Job Gains**  
May 2017–May 2018  
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



**Total Private Average Weekly Wage**  
May 2015–May 2018  
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

