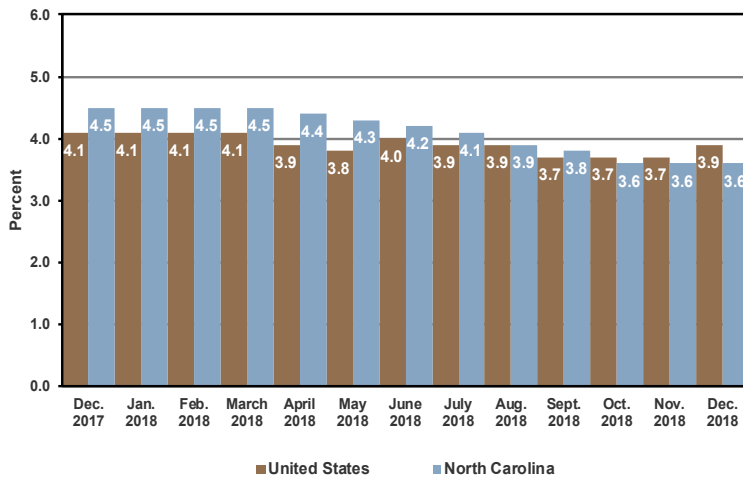
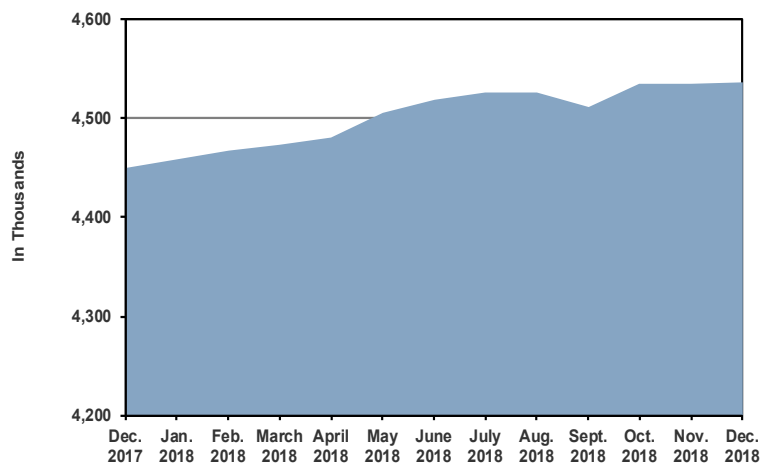


United States/North Carolina Unemployment Rates December 2017–December 2018 (Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted**)

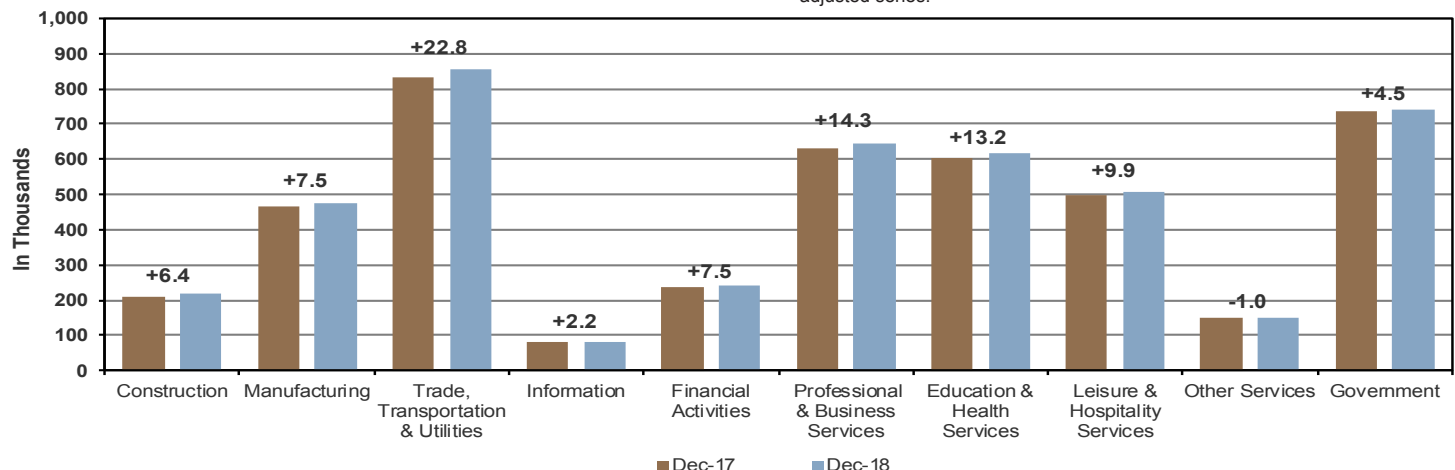


**US data are not smoothed.

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



Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries December 2017 Compared to December 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.

The North Carolina smoothed seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.6 percent in December, remaining unchanged from the previous month and falling 0.9 of a percentage point from December 2017. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed increased by 1,173 (0.7%). The civilian labor force grew by 5,472 (0.1%) to 4,996,890.

Nationally, December's unemployment rate was 3.9 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 6,294,000, while the civilian labor force was 163,240,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,536,400) increased 1,200 (<0.1%) since November 2018 and increased 87,200 (2.0%) since December 2017.¹ Private sector employment grew over the month by 700 (<0.1%) and 82,700 (2.2%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Manufacturing (2,200; 0.5%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services (1,900; 0.4%), Education & Health Services (900; 0.1%), Government (500; 0.1%), Construction (200; 0.1%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%). Professional & Business Services (2,900; 0.4%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (700; 0.1%), Information (700; 0.8%), Financial Activities (200; 0.1%), and Other Services (100; 0.1%).

Since December 2017, Trade, Transportation & Utilities added the largest number of jobs (22,800; 2.7%), followed by Professional & Business Services (14,300; 2.3%), Education & Health Services (13,200; 2.2%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (9,900; 2.0%), Financial Activities (7,500; 3.2%), Manufacturing (7,500; 1.6%), Construction (6,400; 3.0%), Government (4,500; 0.6%), and Information (2,200; 2.8%). Other Services (1,000; 0.7%) reported a over-the-month decrease, followed by Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

¹It 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 December 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 Labor Market Conditions

The December 2018 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,569,100 was 11,300 (0.3%) less than the November 2018 revised employment level of 4,580,400. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Trade, Transportation & Utilities had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 5,500 (0.6%), followed by Manufacturing (1,100; 0.2%), and Education & Health Services (300; 0.1%). Professional & Business Services experienced the largest employment decrease at 9,000 (1.4%), Government (3,900; 0.5%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (3,400; 0.7%), Construction (1,100; 0.5%), Information (400; 0.5%), Other Services (200; 0.1%), and Financial Activities (200; 0.1%).

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 72,200 (1.9%) jobs. Trade, Transportation & Utilities experienced the largest employment increase at 23,000 (2.7%), followed by Professional & Business Services (13,800; 2.2%), Education & Health Services (13,400; 2.2%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (9,700; 2.0%), Financial Activities (7,900; 3.4%), Government (4,600; 0.6%), and Information (1,900; 2.4%). Other Services (2,100; 1.4%) reported the only over-the-year decrease.

The Goods Producing sector grew by 12,300 (1.8%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing had the largest increase with 7,200 (1.5%), followed by Construction (5,300; 2.5%). Mining & Logging reported a loss of 200 (3.5%).

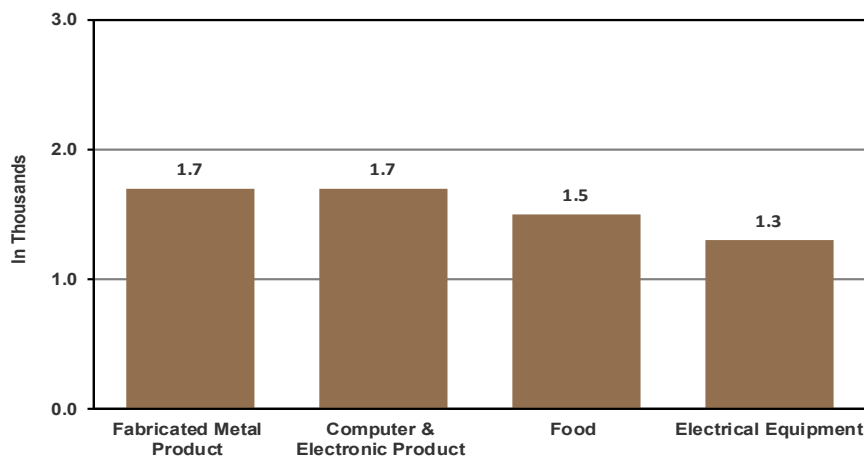
Amongst manufacturing industries, Fabricated Metal Product and Computer & Electronic Product had the largest net over-the-year increase at 1,700. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Food, 1,500; and Electrical Equipment, Appliance, & Component, 1,300.

Furniture & Related Product had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 1,200 in December 2018. Other industries with decreases were: Apparel, 500; Beverage & Tobacco Product, 500; Textile Mills, 400; Chemical, 100; Printing & Related Support Activities, 100; and Machinery, 100.

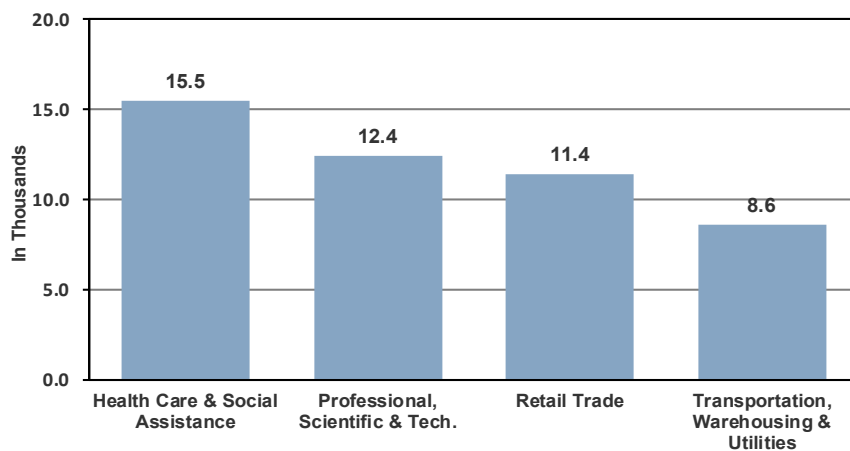
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in December decreased 18 minutes from November's revised rate of 34.2. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.50 to \$25.64, as Average Weekly Earnings increased by \$9.41 to \$869.20.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in December decreased 30 minutes from the revised rate of 34.4 in December 2017. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$1.36 and Average Weekly Earnings increased \$33.97.

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



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



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

