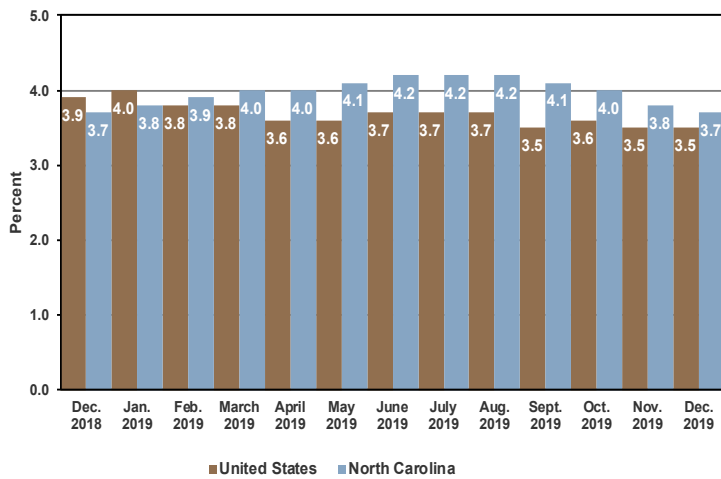
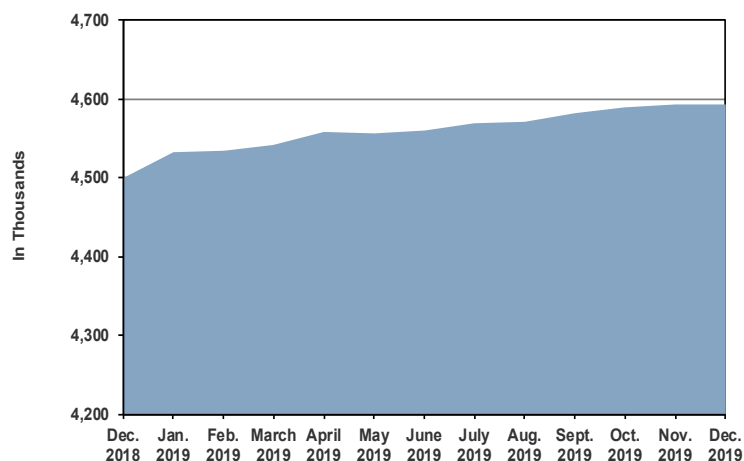


United States/North Carolina Unemployment Rates December 2018–December 2019 (Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted**)

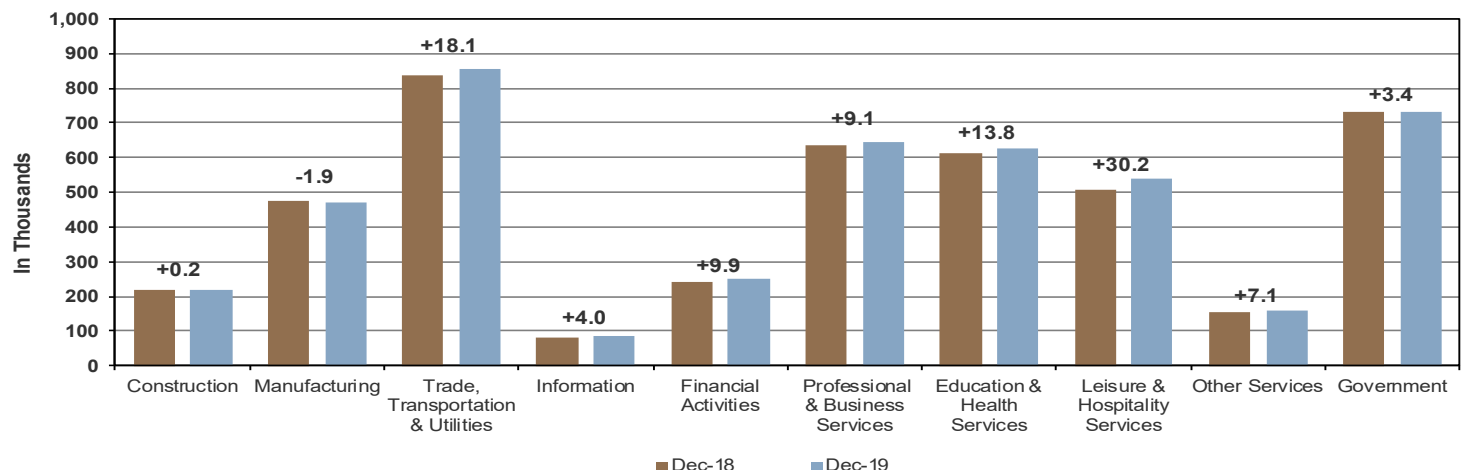


**US data are not smoothed.

North Carolina Total Nonfarm Employment December 2018–December 2019 (Seasonally Adjusted)



Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries December 2018 Compared to December 2019 (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 3.7 percent in December, decreasing 0.1 of a percentage point from the previous month and remained unchanged from December 2018. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 6,432 (3.3%). The civilian labor force grew by 795 (<0.1%) to 5,130,786.

Nationally, December's unemployment rate was 3.5 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 5,753,000, while the civilian labor force was 164,556,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,593,600) increased 300 (<0.1%) since November 2019 and increased 93,900 (2.1%) since December 2018.¹ Private sector employment grew 1,200 (<0.1%) over the month and increased 90,500 (2.4%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Leisure & Hospitality Services (5,600; 1.1%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Financial Activities (1,200; 0.5%), Information (900; 1.1%), Other Services (600; 0.4%), Education & Health Services (400; 0.1%), and Manufacturing (100; <0.1%). Professional & Business Services (6,400; 1.0%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (1,100; 0.1%), Government (900; 0.1%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%). Construction remained unchanged.

Since December 2018, Leisure & Hospitality Services added the largest number of jobs (30,200; 5.9%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (18,100; 2.2%), Education & Health Services (13,800; 2.3%), Financial Activities (9,900; 4.1%), Professional & Business Services (9,100; 1.4%), Other Services (7,100; 4.6%), Information (4,000; 5.0%), Government (3,400; 0.5%), and Construction (200; 0.1%). Manufacturing (1,900; 0.4%) reported the only decrease. Mining & Logging remained unchanged.

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 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 Labor Market Conditions

The December 2019 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,620,400 was 11,600 (0.3%) lower than the November 2019 revised employment level of 4,632,000. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Trade, Transportation & Utilities had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 5,200 (0.6%), followed by Information (1,800; 2.2%), Financial Activities (1,500; 0.6%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (900; 0.2%), and Other Services (700; 0.4%). Professional & Business Services (12,200; 1.9%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Government (5,900; 0.8%), Construction (1,700; 0.8%), Manufacturing (1,200; 0.3%), Education & Health Services (600; 0.1%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 92,300 (2.4%) jobs. Leisure & Hospitality Services experienced the largest employment increase at 28,500 (5.8%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (17,400; 2.0%), Education & Health Services (13,200; 2.1%), Financial Activities (10,300; 4.3%), Professional & Business Services (8,800; 1.4%), Other Activities (7,100; 4.6%), Information (4,500; 5.6%), and Government (2,500; 0.3%).

The Goods Producing sector decreased by 200 (0.3%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing had the largest decrease with 1,900 (0.4%), followed by Construction (100; 0.1%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged over the year.

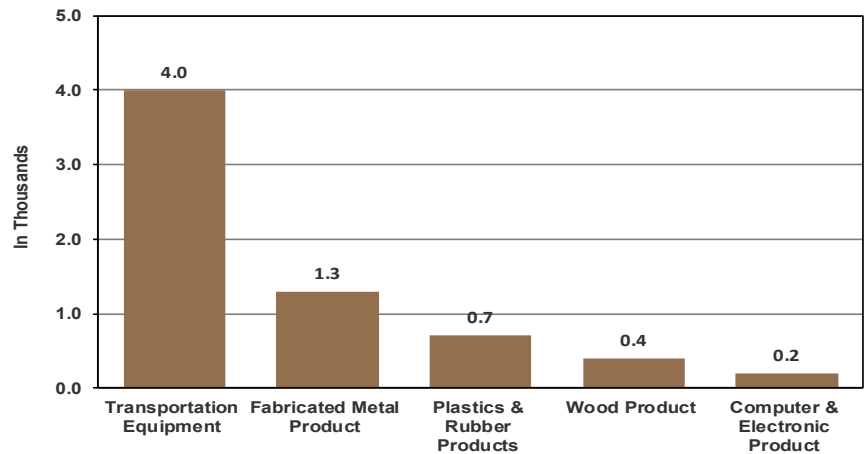
Amongst manufacturing industries, Transportation Equipment had the largest net over-the-year increase at 4,000. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Fabricated Metal Product, 1,300; Plastics & Rubber Products, 700; Wood Product, 400; and Computer & Electronic Product, 200.

Food had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 1,800 in December 2019. Other industries with decreases were: Textile Mills, 1,100; Chemical, 400; Apparel, 400; Printing & Related Support Activities, 300; Furniture & Related Product, 300; Textile Product Mills, 100; Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component, 100; and Machinery, 100.

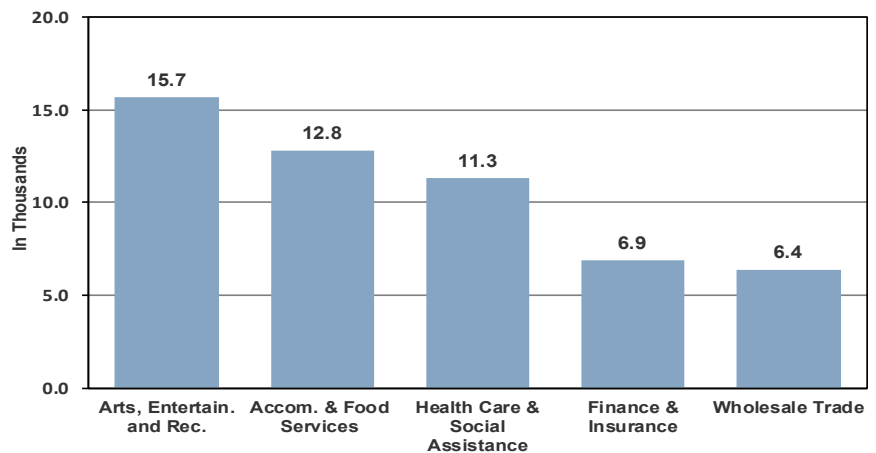
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in December increased 24 minutes from November's revised rate of 33.9. Average Hourly Earnings fell by \$0.09 to \$25.84, as Average Weekly Earnings increased by \$7.28 to \$886.31.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in December increased 30 minutes from the revised rate of 33.8 in December 2018. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.18 and Average Weekly Earnings increased \$19.00.

Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains December 2018–December 2019 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Selected Service Industries With Job Gains December 2018–December 2019 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Total Private Average Weekly Wage December 2016–December 2019 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

