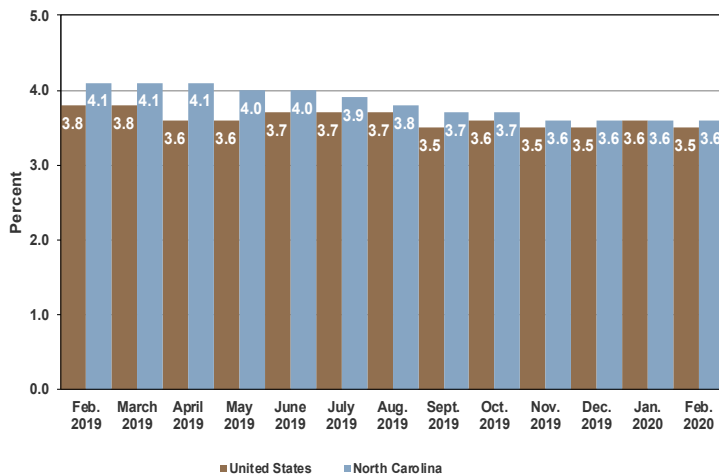
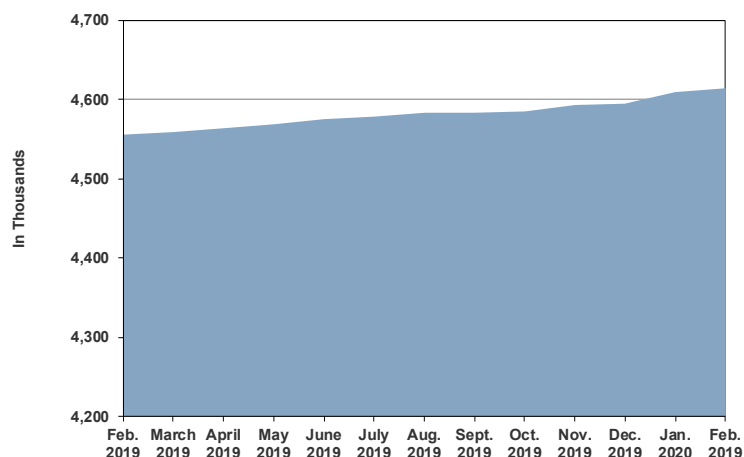


United States/North Carolina Unemployment Rates February 2019–February 2020 (Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted**)

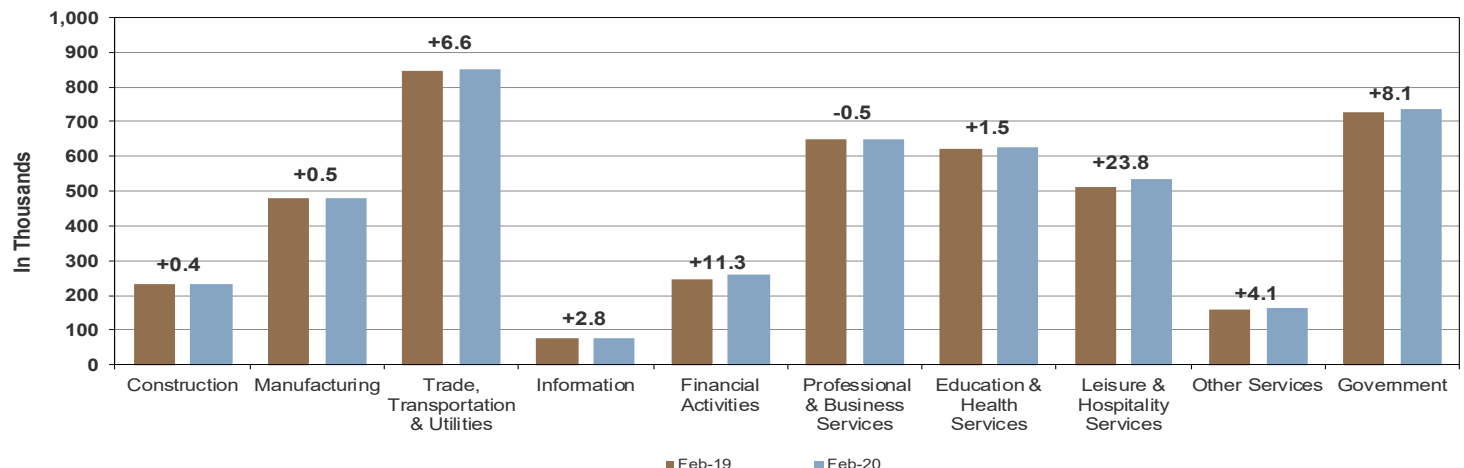


**US data are not smoothed.

North Carolina Total Nonfarm Employment February 2019–February 2020 (Seasonally Adjusted)



Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries February 2019 Compared to February 2020 (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 February, remaining unchanged from the previous month and decreasing 0.5 of a percentage from February 2019. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 2,293 (1.2%). The civilian labor force grew by 3,957 (0.1%) to 5,114,589.

Nationally, February's unemployment rate was 3.5 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 5,787,000, while the civilian labor force was 164,546,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,614,600) increased 5,900 (0.1%) since January 2020 and increased 58,600 (1.3%) since February 2019.¹ Private sector employment grew 4,200 (0.1%) over the month and increased 50,500 (1.3%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Professional & Business Services (2,100; 0.3%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services (1,900; 0.4%), Government (1,700; 0.2%), Financial Activities (1,500; 0.6%), Construction (400; 0.2%), and Information (200; 0.3%). Manufacturing (600; 0.1%) and Other Services (600; 0.4%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Education & Health Services (500; 0.1%), and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (200; <0.1%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged.

Since February 2019, Leisure & Hospitality Services added the largest number of jobs (23,800; 4.6%), followed by Financial Activities (11,300; 4.6%), Government (8,100; 1.1%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (6,600; 0.8%), Other Services (4,100; 2.6%), Information (2,800; 3.7%), Education & Health Services (1,500; 0.2%), Manufacturing (500; 0.1%), and Construction (400; 0.2%). Professional & Business Services (500; 0.1%) reported the only over-the-year 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 February 2020 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,569,000 was 17,200 (0.4%) higher than the January 2020 not seasonally adjusted employment level of 4,551,800. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Government had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 8,700 (1.2%), followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services (3,800; 0.8%), Education & Health Services (3,300; 0.5%), Construction (2,300; 1.0%), Financial Activities (2,000; 0.8%), Professional & Business Services (1,800; 0.3%), Other Services (500; 0.3%), and Information (300; 0.4%). Trade, Transportation & Utilities (4,800; 0.6%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Manufacturing (700; 0.2%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged.

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 41,300 (1.1%) jobs. Leisure & Hospitality Services experienced the largest employment increase at 19,000 (3.9%), followed by Financial Activities (11,400; 4.6%), Other Services (4,300; 2.7%), Government (4,300; 0.6%), Information (2,700; 3.6%), and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (2,200; 0.3%). Professional & Business Services (1,300; 0.2%) and Education & Health Services (1,300; 0.2%) reported the only over-the-year decrease.

The Goods Producing sector decreased by 400 (0.1%) jobs over the year. Construction had the only increase with 300 (0.1%). Manufacturing (600; 0.1%) reported the largest decrease, followed by Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

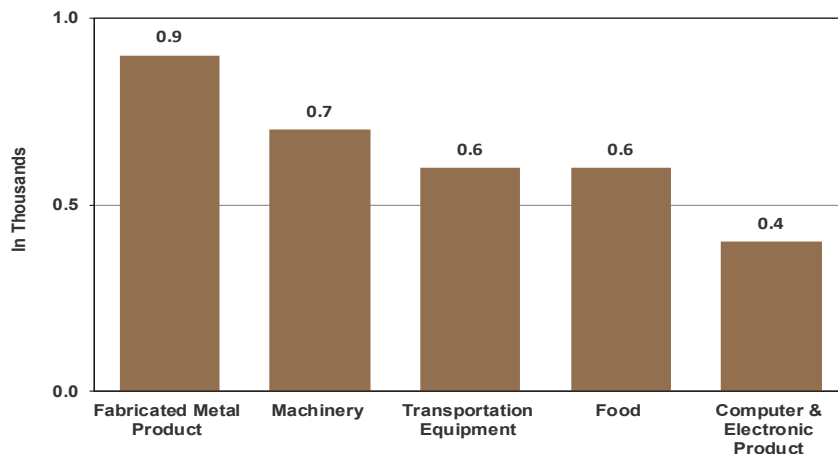
Amongst manufacturing industries, Fabricated Metal Product had the largest net over-the-year increase at 900. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Machinery, 700; Transportation Equipment, 600; Food, 600; Computer & Electronic Product, 400; and Beverage & Tobacco Product, 400.

Textile Mills had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 1,300 in February 2020. Other industries with decreases were: Furniture & Related Product, 900; Plastics & Rubber Products, 600; Apparel, 500; Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component, 500; Printing & Related Support Activities, 400; and Textile Product Mills, 200.

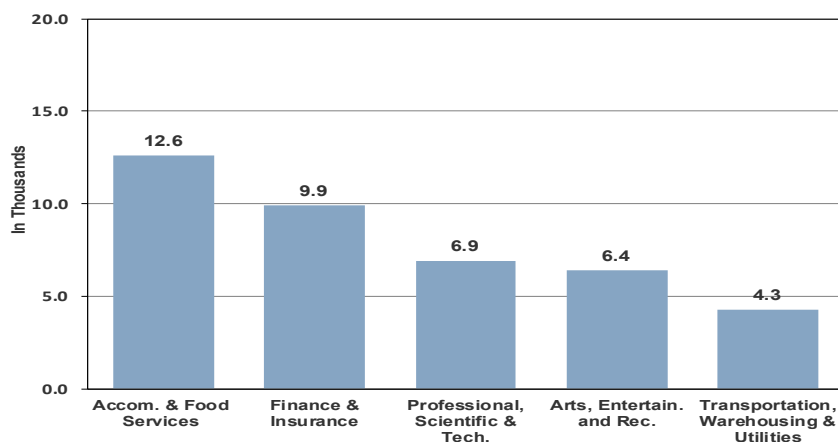
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in February increased 36 minutes from January's revised rate of 33.8. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.22 to \$26.12, as Average Weekly Earnings increased by \$23.11 to \$898.53.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in February remained unchanged from the revised rate of 34.4 in February 2019. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.77 and Average Weekly Earnings increased \$26.49.

Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains February 2019–February 2020 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Selected Service Industries With Job Gains February 2019–February 2020 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Total Private Average Weekly Wage February 2017–February 2020 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

