United States/North Carolina Unemployment Rates
November 2019–November 2020
(Seasonally Adjusted)

Legend: United States (brown), North Carolina (blue)

Values by month (US, NC):
Nov. 2019: 3.5, 3.6; Dec. 2019: 3.5, 3.6; Jan. 2020: 3.6, 3.6; Feb. 2020: 3.5, 3.6; March 2020: 4.4, 4.3; April 2020: 14.7, 12.9; May 2020: 13.3, 12.8; June 2020: 11.1, 7.5; July 2020: 10.2, 8.5; Aug. 2020: 8.4, 6.5; Sept. 2020: 7.9, 7.2; Oct. 2020: 6.9, 6.2; Nov. 2020: 6.7, 6.2

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

Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries
November 2019 Compared to November 2020
(Seasonally Adjusted)

Construction: −6.1; Manufacturing: −35.9; Trade, Transportation & Utilities: −3.6; Information: −4.8; Financial Activities: +1.5; Professional & Business Services: −4.7; Education & Health Services: −34.6; Leisure & Hospitality Services: −100.0; Other Services: −3.3; Government: −30.7

Legend: Nov-19 (brown), Nov-20 (blue)

Note: North Carolina 2020 current month estimates are preliminary, while previous month estimates are revised. North Carolina 2019 estimates have undergone annual revision.

The North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.2 percent in November, remaining unchanged from October's revised rate and growing 2.6 percentage points from November 2019. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed increased by 2,650 (0.9%). The civilian labor force grew by 30,970 (0.6%) to 4,965,722.

Nationally, November's unemployment rate was 6.7 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 10,735,000, while the civilian labor force was 160,467,000.
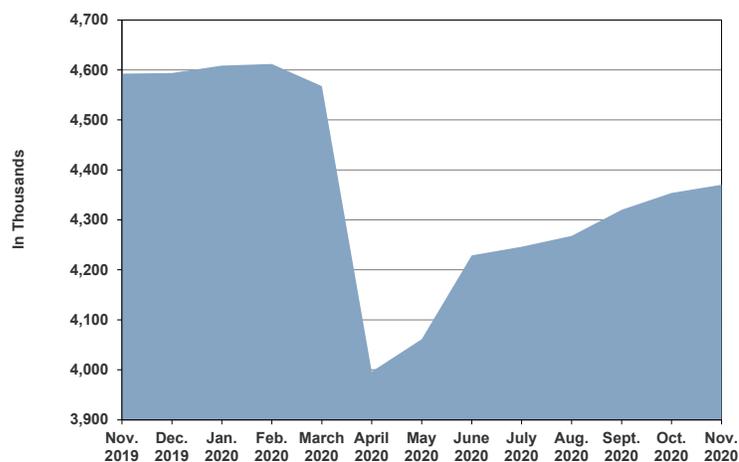
Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,370,500) increased 16,500 (0.4%) since October 2020 and fell 222,300 (4.8%) since November 2019. Private sector employment increased 16,300 (0.4%) over the month and decreased 191,600 (5.0%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Leisure & Hospitality Services (8,000; 1.9%) had the largest over-the-month increase in jobs, followed by Construction (3,200; 1.4%), Education & Health Services (2,100; 0.4%), Manufacturing (1,200; 0.3%), Professional & Business Services (1,000; 0.2%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (1,000; 0.1%), Information (300; 0.4%), Government (200; <0.1%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%). Financial Activities (600; 0.2%) reported the only over-the-month decrease. Other Services remained unchanged over the month.
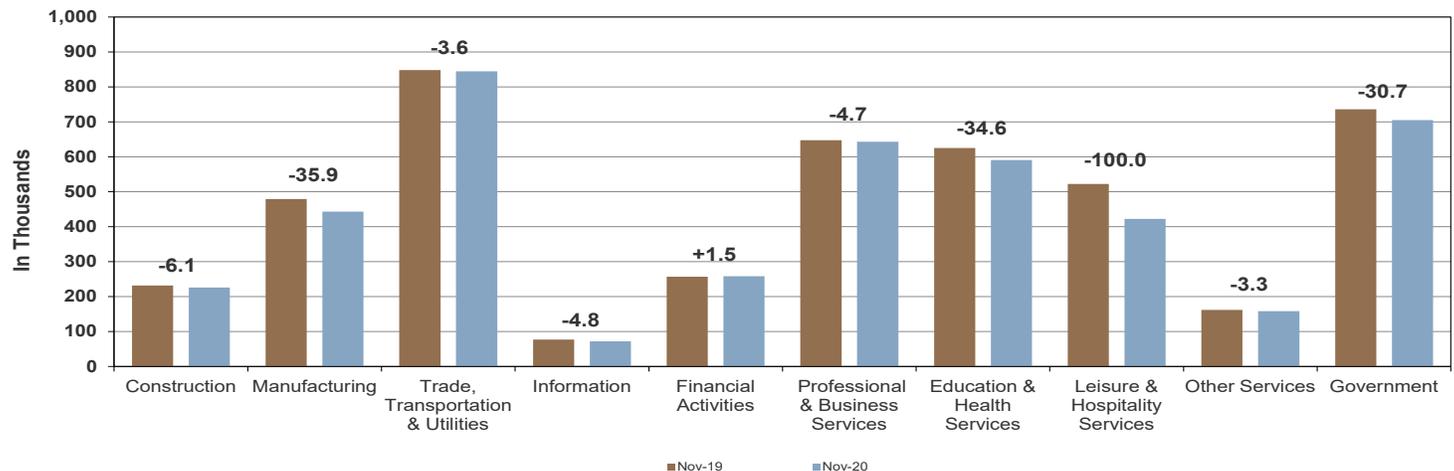
Since November 2019, Financial Activities (1,500; 0.6%) reported the only jobs increase over the year. Leisure & Hospitality Services (100,000; 19.1%) reported the largest over-the-year decrease, followed by Manufacturing (35,900; 7.5%), Education & Health Services (34,600; 5.5%), Government (30,700; 4.2%), Construction (6,100; 2.6%), Information (4,800; 6.2%), Professional & Business Services (4,700; 0.7%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (3,600; 0.4%), Other Services (3,300; 2.0%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

Note: 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.

The November 2020 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,408,000 was 23,600 (0.5%) higher than the October 2020 not seasonally adjusted employment level of 4,384,400. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Trade, Transportation & Utilities had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 15,800 (1.9%), followed by Government (4,200; 0.6%), Education & Health Services (2,300; 0.4%), Manufacturing (1,900; 0.4%), Construction (800; 0.4%), Information (700; 1.0%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%). Financial Activities (1,200; 0.5%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Other Services (600; 0.4%), and Professional & Business Services (400; 0.1%). Leisure & Hospitality Services remained unchanged over the month.

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed a decrease of 180,900 (4.6%) jobs. Financial Activities (1,700; 0.7%) reported the only increase over the year. Leisure & Hospitality Services had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment at 100,800 (19.6%), followed by Education & Health Services (33,100; 5.2%), Government (29,900; 4.0%), Professional & Business Services (5,800; 0.9%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (5,400; 0.6%), Information (4,700; 6.1%), and Other Services (2,900; 1.8%).

The Goods Producing sector decreased by 44,400 (6.2%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing had the largest decrease with 37,100 (7.7%), followed by Construction (7,200; 3.1%) and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

Amongst manufacturing industries, Furniture & Related Product had the largest net over-the-year decline with the loss of 4,200 jobs. Other manufacturing industries with decreases were: Machinery, 4,100; Textile Mills, 3,500; Computer & Electronic Product, 3,500; Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component, 3,100; Plastics & Rubber Products, 3,000; Food, 2,800; Fabricated Metal Product, 2,800; Transportation Equipment, 2,600; Printing & Related Support Activities, 2,300; Chemical, 2,100; Wood Product, 1,700; Apparel, 500; Beverage & Tobacco Product, 400; and Textile Product Mills, 100.

Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in November increased 12 minutes to 35.0 from October's revised rate of 34.8. Average Hourly Earnings grew by $0.34 to $27.12, and Average Weekly Earnings increased by $17.26 to $949.20.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in November increased 54 minutes from the rate of 34.1 in November 2019. Average Hourly Earnings grew by $1.21 and Average Weekly Earnings increased by $65.67.

Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Losses
November 2019–November 2020
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)
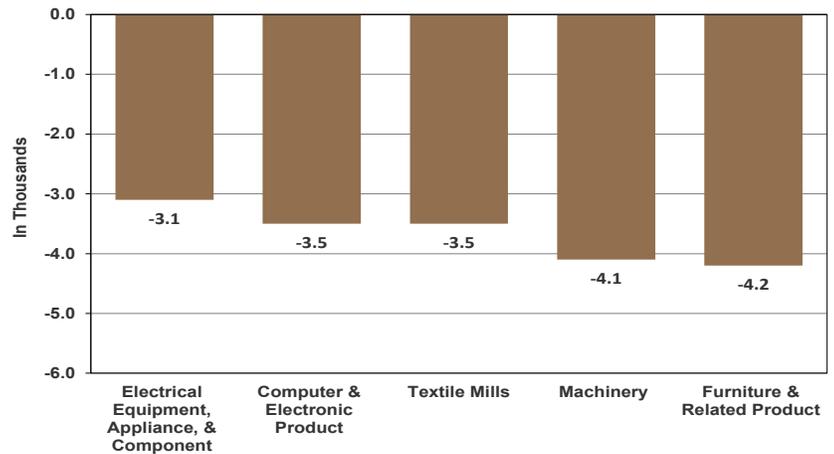
Selected Service Industries With Job Losses
November 2019–November 2020
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)
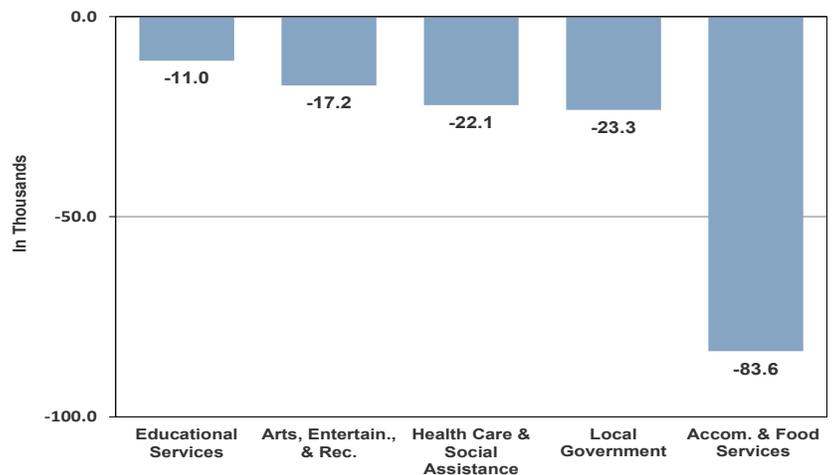
Total Private Average Weekly Wage
November 2017–November 2020
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)