NORTH CAROLINA
**DEPARTMENT** *of*
**COMMERCE**

Roy Cooper
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# North Carolina's August Employment Figures Released

**RALEIGH —** The state's seasonally adjusted August unemployment rate was 4.3 percent, decreasing 0.1 of a percentage point from July's revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.2 of a percentage point to 5.2 percent.

North Carolina's August 2021 unemployment rate decreased 2.5 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 17,609 over the month to 4,794,967 and increased 215,224 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 5,848 over the month to 216,607 and decreased 114,951 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, decreased 13,200 to 4,517,700 in August. Major industries experiencing increases were Financial Activities, 900; and Information, 500. Major industries experiencing decreases were Government, 6,700; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 4,800; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 2,300; Construction, 400; Education & Health Services, 200; Professional & Business Services, 100; and Other Services, 100. Manufacturing and Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged.

### Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since August 2020

| | Aug 2020 | Sep 2020 | Oct 2020 | Nov 2020 | Dec 2020 | Jan 2021 | Feb 2021 | Mar 2021 | Apr 2021 | May 2021 | Jun 2021 | Jul 2021 | Aug 2021 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| N.C. | 6.8 | 7.3 | 6.8 | 6.4 | 6.1 | 5.9 | 5.7 | 5.2 | 5.0 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 4.3 |
| U.S. | 8.4 | 7.8 | 6.9 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.3 | 6.2 | 6.0 | 6.1 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 5.4 | 5.2 |

*Please note: 2020 numbers have undergone annual revision*

Since August 2020, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 161,400 with the Total Private sector increasing by 175,900 and Government decreasing by 14,500. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 58,200; Professional & Business Services, 39,800; Manufacturing, 23,200; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 23,000; Construction, 14,300; Information, 6,500; Financial Activities, 4,900; Education & Health Services, 2,900; Other Services, 2,900; and Mining & Logging, 200. The only major industry experiencing a decrease over the year was Government, 14,500.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, September 29, 2021 when the county unemployment rates for August 2021 will be released.

**These data can be accessed on the Commerce website at https://d4.nccommerce.com/**

# North Carolina Department of Commerce
# Labor and Economic Analysis Division
## NORTH CAROLINA and U.S. LABOR FORCE DATA

*North Carolina data is embargoed until 10:00 A.M. Friday, September 17, 2021*

| | August 2021 | July 2021 | August 2020 | Month Ago Numeric Change | Month Ago Percent Change | Year Ago Numeric Change | Year Ago Percent Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **North Carolina** *(Local Area Unemployment Statistics)* | | | | | | | |
| ***Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted*** | | | | | | | |
| **Labor Force** | 5,011,574 | 4,999,813 | 4,911,301 | 11,761 | 0.2 | 100,273 | 2.0 |
| **Employed** | 4,794,967 | 4,777,358 | 4,579,743 | 17,609 | 0.4 | 215,224 | 4.7 |
| **Unemployed** | 216,607 | 222,455 | 331,558 | -5,848 | -2.6 | -114,951 | -34.7 |
| **Unemployment Rate** | 4.3 | 4.4 | 6.8 | -0.1 | xxx | -2.5 | xxx |
| ***Not Seasonally Adjusted*** | | | | | | | |
| **Labor Force** | 5,027,377 | 5,049,442 | 4,913,809 | -22,065 | -0.4 | 113,568 | 2.3 |
| **Employed** | 4,805,512 | 4,816,929 | 4,576,543 | -11,417 | -0.2 | 228,969 | 5.0 |
| **Unemployed** | 221,865 | 232,513 | 337,266 | -10,648 | -4.6 | -115,401 | -34.2 |
| **Unemployment Rate** | 4.4 | 4.6 | 6.9 | -0.2 | xxx | -2.5 | xxx |
| **United States** *(Current Population Survey)* | | | | | | | |
| ***Seasonally Adjusted*** | | | | | | | |
| **Labor Force** | 161,537,000 | 161,347,000 | 160,818,000 | 190,000 | 0.1 | xxx | xxx |
| **Employed** | 153,154,000 | 152,645,000 | 147,276,000 | 509,000 | 0.3 | xxx | xxx |
| **Unemployed** | 8,384,000 | 8,702,000 | 13,542,000 | -318,000 | -3.7 | xxx | xxx |
| **Unemployment Rate** | 5.2 | 5.4 | 8.4 | -0.2 | xxx | xxx | xxx |
| ***Not Seasonally Adjusted*** | | | | | | | |
| **Labor Force** | 161,788,000 | 162,817,000 | 160,966,000 | -1,029,000 | -0.6 | xxx | xxx |
| **Employed** | 153,232,000 | 153,596,000 | 147,224,000 | -364,000 | -0.2 | xxx | xxx |
| **Unemployed** | 8,556,000 | 9,221,000 | 13,742,000 | -665,000 | -7.2 | xxx | xxx |
| **Unemployment Rate** | 5.3 | 5.7 | 8.5 | -0.4 | xxx | xxx | xxx |

Effective January 2021, updated US population estimates are used in the national labor force estimates.
The annual population adjustments affect the comparability of national labor force estimates over time.

2021 estimates for the current month are preliminary. Estimates for the previous month have undergone monthly revision.
2020 estimates have undergone annual revision.

# North Carolina Department of Commerce
# Labor and Economic Analysis Division
## NORTH CAROLINA EMPLOYMENT DATA

*North Carolina data is embargoed until 10:00 A.M. Friday, September 17, 2021*

| | August 2021 | July 2021 | August 2020 | Month Ago Numeric Change | Month Ago Percent Change | Year Ago Numeric Change | Year Ago Percent Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)** | | | | | | | |
| **Seasonally Adjusted** | | | | | | | |
| Total Nonfarm | 4,517,700 | 4,530,900 | 4,356,300 | -13,200 | -0.3 | 161,400 | 3.7 |
| Total Private | 3,807,300 | 3,813,800 | 3,631,400 | -6,500 | -0.2 | 175,900 | 4.8 |
| Mining & Logging | 5,700 | 5,700 | 5,500 | 0 | 0.0 | 200 | 3.6 |
| Construction | 240,300 | 240,700 | 226,000 | -400 | -0.2 | 14,300 | 6.3 |
| Manufacturing | 469,200 | 469,200 | 446,000 | 0 | 0.0 | 23,200 | 5.2 |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities | 864,600 | 869,400 | 841,600 | -4,800 | -0.6 | 23,000 | 2.7 |
| Information | 78,400 | 77,900 | 71,900 | 500 | 0.6 | 6,500 | 9.0 |
| Financial Activities | 261,200 | 260,300 | 256,300 | 900 | 0.3 | 4,900 | 1.9 |
| Professional & Business Services | 670,300 | 670,400 | 630,500 | -100 | > -0.1 | 39,800 | 6.3 |
| Education & Health Services | 598,800 | 599,000 | 595,900 | -200 | > -0.1 | 2,900 | 0.5 |
| Leisure & Hospitality Services | 461,400 | 463,700 | 403,200 | -2,300 | -0.5 | 58,200 | 14.4 |
| Other Services | 157,400 | 157,500 | 154,500 | -100 | -0.1 | 2,900 | 1.9 |
| Government | 710,400 | 717,100 | 724,900 | -6,700 | -0.9 | -14,500 | -2.0 |
| **North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)** | | | | | | | |
| **Not Seasonally Adjusted** | | | | | | | |
| Total Nonfarm | 4,505,300 | 4,478,700 | 4,344,200 | 26,600 | 0.6 | 161,100 | 3.7 |
| Total Private | 3,830,400 | 3,853,700 | 3,656,300 | -23,300 | -0.6 | 174,100 | 4.8 |
| Mining & Logging | 5,800 | 5,800 | 5,600 | 0 | 0.0 | 200 | 3.6 |
| Construction | 243,500 | 244,700 | 228,700 | -1,200 | -0.5 | 14,800 | 6.5 |
| Manufacturing | 469,500 | 469,900 | 446,800 | -400 | -0.1 | 22,700 | 5.1 |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities | 861,500 | 871,300 | 840,100 | -9,800 | -1.1 | 21,400 | 2.5 |
| Information | 78,400 | 77,900 | 71,800 | 500 | 0.6 | 6,600 | 9.2 |
| Financial Activities | 263,700 | 263,600 | 259,000 | 100 | < 0.1 | 4,700 | 1.8 |
| Professional & Business Services | 674,100 | 672,900 | 634,800 | 1,200 | 0.2 | 39,300 | 6.2 |
| Education & Health Services | 594,700 | 594,500 | 594,500 | 200 | < 0.1 | 200 | < 0.1 |
| Leisure & Hospitality Services | 481,000 | 493,000 | 419,400 | -12,000 | -2.4 | 61,600 | 14.7 |
| Other Services | 158,200 | 160,100 | 155,600 | -1,900 | -1.2 | 2,600 | 1.7 |
| Government | 674,900 | 625,000 | 687,900 | 49,900 | 8.0 | -13,000 | -1.9 |

2021 estimates for the current month are preliminary. Estimates for the previous month have undergone monthly revision.
2020 estimates have undergone annual revision.
Estimates may not add to totals due to rounding.

## Accessing Data

The data presented in this press release, as well as historical data, can be accessed from NC Commerce's Demand Driven Data Delivery ("D4") system:
https://d4.nccommerce.com/LausSelection.aspx
https://d4.nccommerce.com/CesSelection.aspx


## Technical Notes

This release presents labor force and unemployment estimates from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. Also presented are nonfarm payroll employment estimates from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The LAUS and CES programs are both federal-state cooperative endeavors.

Labor force and unemployment--from the LAUS program

Definitions. The labor force and unemployment estimates are based on the same concepts and definitions as those used for the official national estimates obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a sample survey of households that is conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the U.S. Census Bureau. The LAUS program measures employment and unemployment on a place-of-residence basis. The universe for each is the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over. Employed persons are those who did any work at all for pay or profit in the reference week (the week including the 12th of the month) or worked 15 hours or more without pay in a family business or farm, plus those not working who had a job from which they were temporarily absent, whether or not paid, for such reasons as bad weather, labor-management dispute, illness, or vacation. Unemployed persons are those who were not employed during the reference week (based on the definition above), had actively looked for a job sometime in the 4-week period ending with the reference week, and were currently available for work; persons on lay-off expecting recall need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed. The labor force is the sum of employed and unemployed persons. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed as a percent of the labor force.

Method of estimation. Statewide estimates are produced using an estimation algorithm administered by the BLS. This method, which underwent substantial enhancement at the beginning of 2021, utilizes data from several sources, including the CPS, the CES, and state unemployment insurance (UI) programs. Each month, census division estimates are controlled to national totals, and state estimates are then controlled to their respective division totals. Substate estimates are controlled to their respective state totals. For more information about LAUS estimation procedures, see the BLS website at https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/lau/calculation.htm

Revisions. Labor force and unemployment data for the previous month reflect adjustments made in each subsequent month, while data for prior years reflect adjustments made at the end of each year. The monthly revisions incorporate updated model inputs, while the annually revised estimates reflect updated population data from the U.S. Census Bureau, any revisions in the other data sources, and model reestimation. In most years, historical data for the most recent five years (both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted) are revised near the beginning of each calendar year, prior to the release of January estimates.

Seasonal adjustment. The LAUS program seasonally adjusts statewide estimates using an X-11 type of seasonal adjustment filter. These estimates are then smoothed using a filtering procedure to remove irregular fluctuations from the seasonally-adjusted series. For more information about seasonal adjustment and smoothing procedures, see the BLS website at https://www.bls.gov/lau/lauseas.htm.

Area definitions. The substate area data published in this release reflect the delineations that were issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget on April 10, 2018. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available online at www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm.

Employment--from the CES program

Definitions. Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who receive pay for any part of the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. Persons are counted at their place of work rather than at their place of residence; those appearing on more than one payroll are counted on each payroll. Industries are classified on the basis of their principal activity in accordance with the 2017 version of the North American Industry Classification System.

Method of estimation. CES State and Area employment data are produced using several estimation procedures. Where possible these data are produced using a "weighted link relative" estimation technique in which a ratio of current-month weighted employment to that of the previous-month weighted employment is computed from a sample of establishments reporting for both months. The estimates of employment for the current month are then obtained by multiplying these ratios by the previous month's employment estimates. The weighted link relative technique is utilized for data series where the sample size meets certain statistical criteria.

For some employment series, relatively small sample sizes limit the reliability of the weighted link-relative estimates.  In these cases, BLS uses the CES small domain model (SDM) to generate employment estimates. The SDM combines the direct sample estimates (described above) and forecasts of historical (benchmarked) data to decrease the volatility of the estimates. For more detailed information about the CES small domain model, refer to the BLS Handbook of Methods.

Annual revisions. Employment estimates are adjusted annually to a complete count of jobs, called benchmarks, derived principally from tax reports that are submitted by employers who are covered under state unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The benchmark information is used to adjust the monthly estimates between the new benchmark and the preceding one and also to establish the level of employment for the new benchmark month. Thus, the benchmarking process establishes the level of employment, and the sample is used to measure the month-to-month changes in the level for the subsequent months.  Information on recent benchmark revisions is available online at www.bls.gov/web/laus/benchmark.pdf.

Seasonal adjustment. Payroll employment data are seasonally adjusted at the statewide supersector level. In some cases, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is computed by aggregating the independently adjusted supersector series. In other cases, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is independently adjusted. Payroll employment data are seasonally adjusted concurrently, using all available estimates, including those for the current month, to develop sample-based seasonal factors. Concurrent sample-based factors are created every month for the current month's preliminary estimate as well as the previous month's final estimate.

<u>Reliability of the estimates</u>

The estimates presented in this release are based on sample surveys, administrative data, and modeling and, thus, are subject to sampling and other types of errors. Sampling error is a measure of sampling variability—that is, variation that occurs by chance because a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed. Survey data also are subject to nonsampling errors, such as those which can be introduced into the data collection and processing operations. Estimates not directly derived from sample surveys are subject to additional errors resulting from the specific estimation processes used.

Model-based error measures for seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted data and for over-the-month and over-the-year changes to LAUS estimates are available online at [www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm](www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm).

Measures of sampling error for state CES data at the total nonfarm and supersector levels are available online at [www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm](www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm).
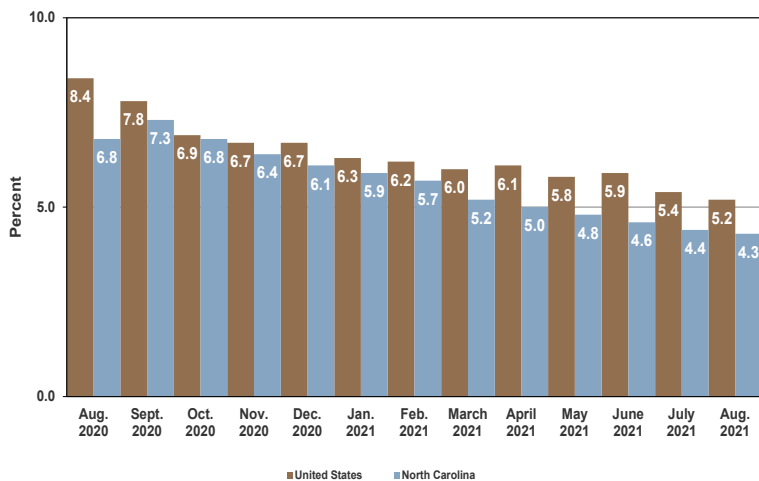
**<u>Release Dates</u>**

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, September 29, 2021 when the county unemployment rates for August 2021 will be released.

The complete data release schedule for 2021 can be accessed here:

[https://www.nccommerce.com/documents/release-dates-unemployment-rates](https://www.nccommerce.com/documents/release-dates-unemployment-rates)

## United States/North Carolina Unemployment Rates
## August 2020–August 2021
(Seasonally Adjusted)



■ United States  ■ North Carolina

## North Carolina Total Nonfarm Employment
## August 2020–August 2021
(Seasonally Adjusted)



## Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries
## August 2020 Compared to August 2021
(Seasonally Adjusted)



■ Aug-20  ■ Aug-21

Note: North Carolina 2021 current month estimates are preliminary, while all other data have undergone annual revision.

The North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in August, decreasing 0.1 of a percentage point from July's revised rate and declining 2.5 percentage points from August 2020. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 5,848 (2.6%). The civilian labor force grew by 11,761 (0.2%) to 5,011,574.

Nationally, August's unemployment rate was 5.2 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 8,384,000, while the civilian labor force was 161,537,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,517,700) decreased 13,200 (0.3%) since July 2021 and grew 161,400 (3.7%) since August 2020. Private sector employment decreased 6,500 (0.2%) over the month and grew 175,900 (4.8%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Financial Activities (900; 0.3%) had the largest over-the-month increase in jobs, followed by Information (500; 0.6%). Government (6,700; 0.9%) reported the largest over-the-month decline, followed by Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (4,800; 0.6%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (2,300; 0.5%), Construction (400; 0.2%), Education & Health Services (200; <0.1%), Other Services (100; 0.1%), and Professional & Business Services (100; <0.1%) . Mining & Logging and Manufacturing remained unchanged.
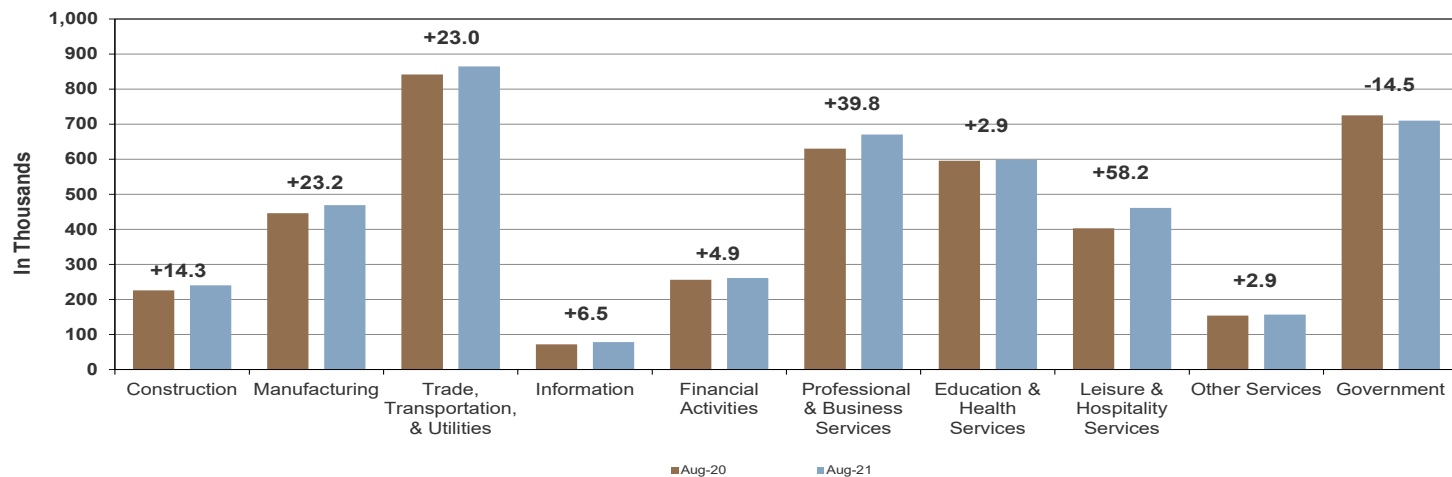
Since August 2020, Leisure & Hospitality Services (58,200; 14.4%) reported the largest jobs increase over the year, followed by Professional & Business Services (39,800; 6.3%), Manufacturing (23,200; 5.2%), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (23,000; 2.7%), Construction (14,300; 6.3%), Information (6,500; 9.0%), Financial Activities (4,900; 1.9%), Education & Health Services (2,900; 0.5%), Other Services (2,900; 1.9%), and Mining & Logging (200; 3.6%). Government (14,500; 2.0%) reported the only over-the-year decrease.

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.
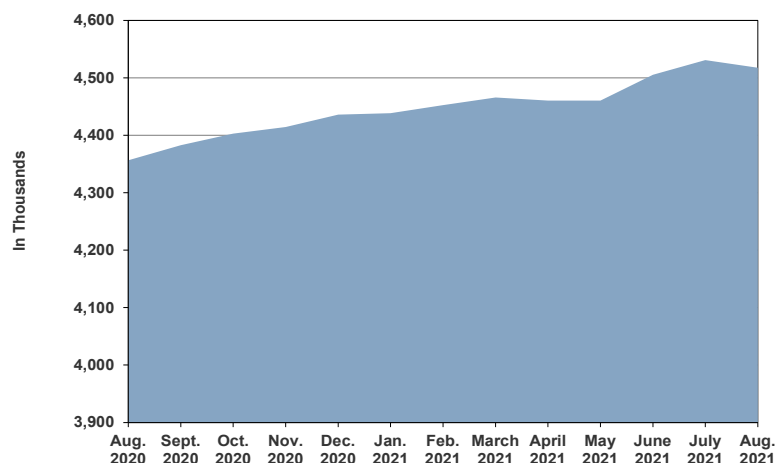
The August 2021 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,505,300 was 26,600 (0.6%) higher than the July 2021 not seasonally adjusted employment level of 4,478,700. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Government had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 49,900 (8.0%), followed by Professional & Business Services (1,200; 0.2%), Information (500; 0.6%), Education & Health Services (200; <0.1%), and Financial Activities (100; <0.1%). Leisure & Hospitality Services (12,000; 2.4%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (9,800; 1.1%), Other Services (1,900; 1.2%), Construction (1,200; 0.5%), and Manufacturing (400; 0.1%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged.

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 123,400 (3.4%) jobs. Leisure & Hospitality Services (61,600; 14.7%) reported the largest increase over the year, followed by Professional & Business Services (39,300; 6.2%), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (21,400; 2.5%), Information (6,600; 9.2%), Financial Activities (4,700; 1.8%), Other Services (2,600; 1.7%), and Education & Health Services (200; <0.1%). Government (13,000; 1.9%) reported the only over-the-year decrease.

The Goods Producing sector increased by 37,700 (5.5%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing had the largest increase with 22,700 (5.1%), followed by Construction (14,800; 6.5%), and Mining & Logging (200; 3.6%).

Amongst manufacturing industries, Plastics & Rubber Products had the largest net over-the-year increase of 3,400 jobs, followed by Food, 2,900; Machinery, 2,800; Chemical, 2,000; Fabricated Metal Product, 1,400; Textile Mills, 1,100; Beverage & Tobacco Product, 1,000; Electrical Equipment, Appliance, & Component, 900; Wood Product, 800; Transportation Equipment, 600; Printing & Related Support Activities, 500; and Textile Product Mills, 100. Computer & Electronic Product had the largest net over-the-year decline with the loss of 700 jobs, followed by Apparel, 200, and Furniture & Related Product, 200.

Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in August increased 30 minutes from July's revised rate of 34.5. Average Hourly Earnings grew by $0.44 to $28.44, and Average Weekly Earnings increased by $29.40 to $995.40.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in August decreased 18 minutes from the August 2020 rate of 35.3. Average Hourly Earnings grew by $1.70 and Average Weekly Earnings increased by $51.48.

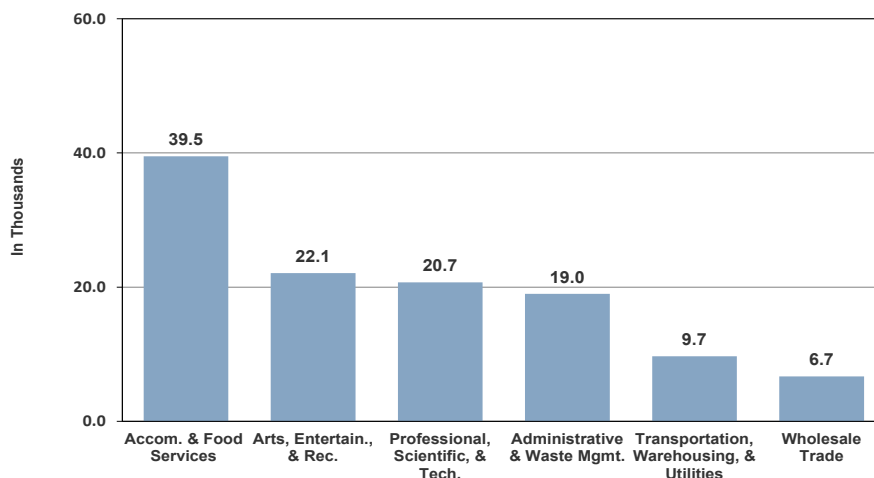**Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains August 2020–August 2021** (Not Seasonally Adjusted)
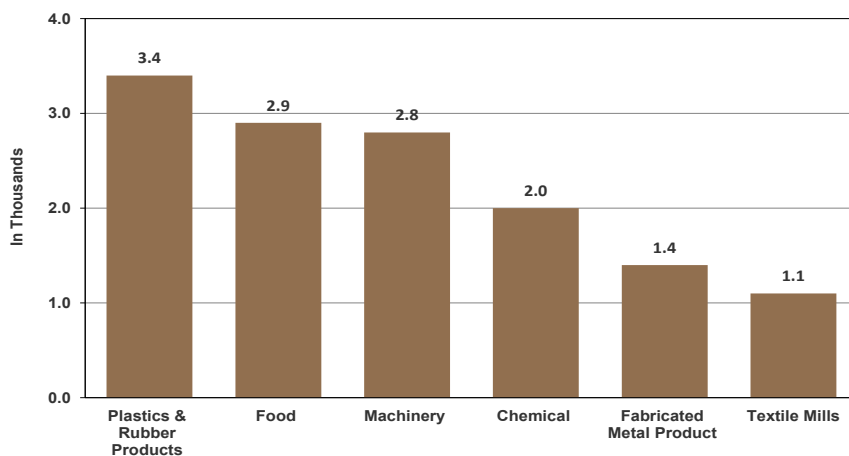


**Selected Service Industries With Job Gains August 2020–August 2021** (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



**Total Private Average Weekly Wage August 2018–August 2021** (Not Seasonally Adjusted)