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For Immediate Release: January 18, 2019
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North Carolina's December Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state's seasonally adjusted December unemployment rate was 3.6 percent, remaining unchanged from November's revised rate. The national rate increased 0.2 of a percentage point to 3.9 percent.

North Carolina's December 2018 unemployment rate decreased 0.9 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 4,299 over the month to 4,818,454 and increased 74,190 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 1,173 over the month to 178,436 and decreased 43,413 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 1,200 to 4,536,400 in December. The major industries with the largest over-the-month increases were Manufacturing at 2,200, followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services, 1,900; Education & Health Services, 900; Government, 500; Construction, 200; and Mining & Logging, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Professional & Business Services, 2,900; Information, 700; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 700; Financial Activities, 200; and Other Services, 100.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since December 2017

	Dec 2017	Jan 2018	Feb 2018	Mar 2018	Apr 2018	May 2018	Jun 2018	Jul 2018	Aug 2018	Sep 2018	Oct 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2018
N.C.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6
U.S.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.9

Please note: 2017 numbers have undergone annual revision

Since December 2017, Total Nonfarm jobs gained 87,200 with the Total Private sector growing by 82,700 and Government increasing by 4,500. The largest over-the-year increase among major industries was Trade, Transportation & Utilities at 22,800, followed by Professional & Business Services, 14,300; Education & Health Services, 13,200; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 9,900; Financial Activities, 7,500; Manufacturing, 7,500; Construction, 6,400; Government, 4,500; and Information, 2,200. Major industries experiencing decreases were Other Services, 1,000; and Mining & Logging, 100.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, January 30, 2019 when the county unemployment rates for December 2018 will be released.

[These data can be accessed on the Commerce website at https://d4.nccommerce.com/](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, January 18, 2019

				<i>Month Ago</i>		<i>Year Ago</i>	
	<i>December 2018</i>	<i>November 2018</i>	<i>December 2017</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
<i>North Carolina</i> <i>(Local Area Unemployment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,996,890	4,991,418	4,966,113	5,472	0.1	30,777	0.6
Employed	4,818,454	4,814,155	4,744,264	4,299	0.1	74,190	1.6
Unemployed	178,436	177,263	221,849	1,173	0.7	-43,413	-19.6
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.6	4.5	0.0	xxx	-0.9	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,979,245	4,994,533	4,927,249	-15,288	-0.3	51,996	1.1
Employed	4,791,992	4,821,975	4,713,336	-29,983	-0.6	78,656	1.7
Unemployed	187,253	172,558	213,913	14,695	8.5	-26,660	-12.5
Unemployment Rate	3.8	3.5	4.3	0.3	xxx	-0.5	xxx
<i>United States</i> <i>(Current Population Survey)</i>							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	163,240,000	162,821,000	160,636,000	419,000	0.3	xxx	xxx
Employed	156,945,000	156,803,000	154,065,000	142,000	0.1	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	6,294,000	6,018,000	6,572,000	276,000	4.6	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	3.9	3.7	4.1	0.2	xxx	xxx	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	162,510,000	162,665,000	159,880,000	-155,000	-0.1	xxx	xxx
Employed	156,481,000	157,015,000	153,602,000	-534,000	-0.3	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	6,029,000	5,650,000	6,278,000	379,000	6.7	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.5	3.9	0.2	xxx	xxx	xxx

*Effective January 2018, 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.

2018 estimates for the current month are preliminary. Estimates for the previous month have undergone monthly revision.

2017 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, January 18, 2019

				<i>Month Ago</i>		<i>Year Ago</i>	
	<i>December 2018</i>	<i>November 2018</i>	<i>December 2017</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
North Carolina <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,536,400	4,535,200	4,449,200	1,200	<0.1	87,200	2.0
Total Private	3,797,400	3,796,700	3,714,700	700	<0.1	82,700	2.2
Mining & Logging	5,600	5,500	5,700	100	1.8	-100	-1.8
Construction	216,900	216,700	210,500	200	0.1	6,400	3.0
Manufacturing	475,600	473,400	468,100	2,200	0.5	7,500	1.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	856,500	857,200	833,700	-700	-0.1	22,800	2.7
Information	82,000	82,700	79,800	-700	-0.8	2,200	2.8
Financial Activities	242,500	242,700	235,000	-200	-0.1	7,500	3.2
Professional & Business Services	646,000	648,900	631,700	-2,900	-0.4	14,300	2.3
Education & Health Services	615,900	615,000	602,700	900	0.1	13,200	2.2
Leisure & Hospitality Services	506,600	504,700	496,700	1,900	0.4	9,900	2.0
Other Services	149,800	149,900	150,800	-100	-0.1	-1,000	-0.7
Government	739,000	738,500	734,500	500	0.1	4,500	0.6
North Carolina <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,569,100	4,580,400	4,484,600	-11,300	-0.2	84,500	1.9
Total Private	3,812,900	3,820,300	3,733,000	-7,400	-0.2	79,900	2.1
Mining & Logging	5,500	5,500	5,700	0	0.0	-200	-3.5
Construction	216,800	217,900	211,500	-1,100	-0.5	5,300	2.5
Manufacturing	477,100	476,000	469,900	1,100	0.2	7,200	1.5
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	878,300	872,800	855,300	5,500	0.6	23,000	2.7
Information	82,600	83,000	80,700	-400	-0.5	1,900	2.4
Financial Activities	241,500	241,700	233,600	-200	-0.1	7,900	3.4
Professional & Business Services	646,900	655,900	633,100	-9,000	-1.4	13,800	2.2
Education & Health Services	621,900	621,600	608,500	300	<0.1	13,400	2.2
Leisure & Hospitality Services	493,600	497,000	483,900	-3,400	-0.7	9,700	2.0
Other Services	148,700	148,900	150,800	-200	-0.1	-2,100	-1.4
Government	756,200	760,100	751,600	-3,900	-0.5	4,600	0.6

All 2018 Labor Force and CES data for the current month are preliminary.
 All 2017 Labor Force and CES estimates have been benchmarked.
 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 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 2015, 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 www.bls.gov/lau/laumthd.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 introduced smoothed seasonally adjusted (SSA) estimates in January 2010. These are seasonally-adjusted data that have incorporated a long-run trend smoothing procedure, resulting in estimates that are less volatile than those previously produced. The estimates are smoothed using a filtering procedure, based on moving averages, to remove the irregular fluctuations from the seasonally-adjusted series, leaving the trend. The same process is used on both historical and current year estimates. For more information about the smoothing technique, see the BLS website at www.bls.gov/lau/lassaqa.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 July 15, 2015. 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 2012 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/sae/benchmark2017.pdf.

Seasonal adjustment. Payroll employment data are seasonally adjusted at the statewide supersector level. In some states, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is computed by aggregating the independently adjusted supersector series. In other states, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is independently adjusted. Revisions of historical data for the most recent 5 years are made once a year, coincident with annual benchmark adjustments.

Reliability of the estimates

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. 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.

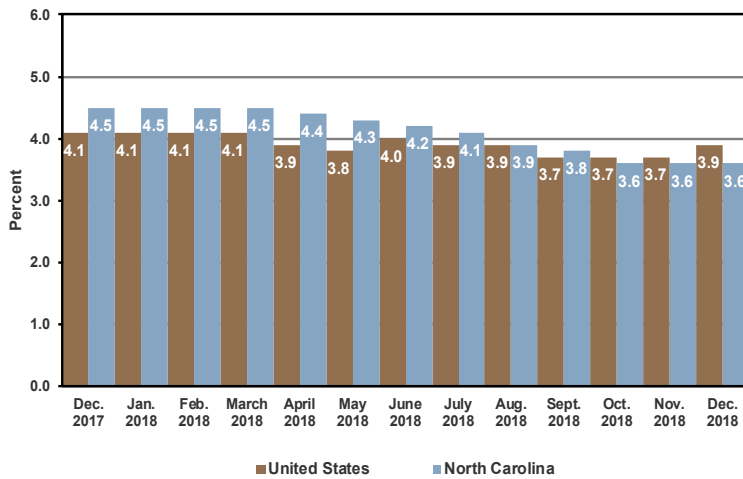
Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, January 30, 2019 when the county unemployment rates for December 2018 will be released.

The complete data release schedule for 2018/2019 can be accessed here:

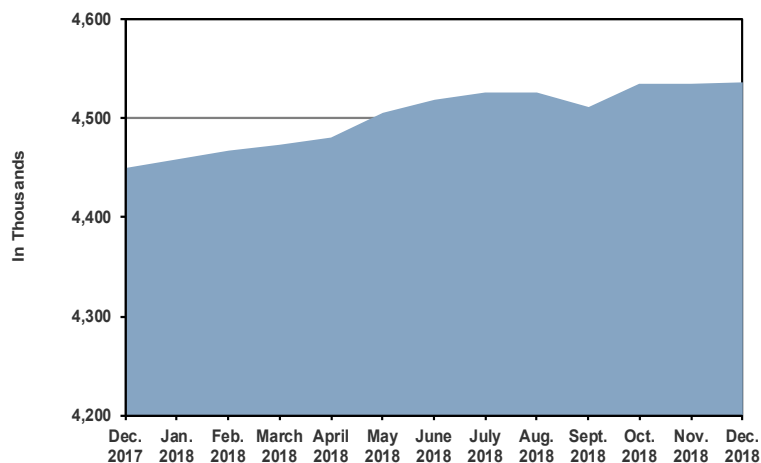
<https://www.nccommerce.com/documents/release-dates-unemployment-rates>

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

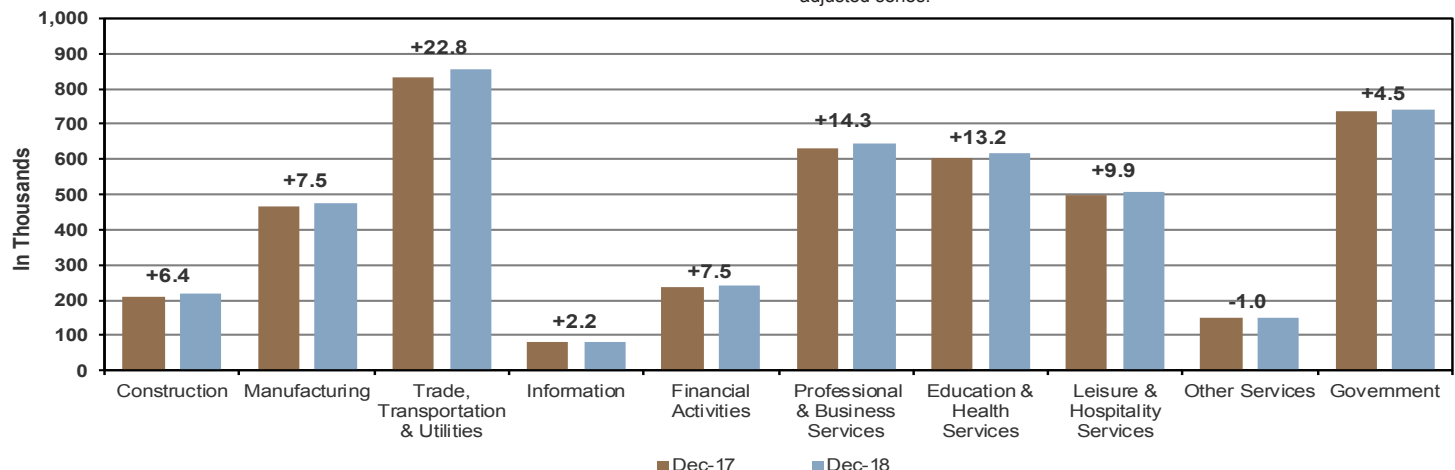


**US data are not smoothed.

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%).

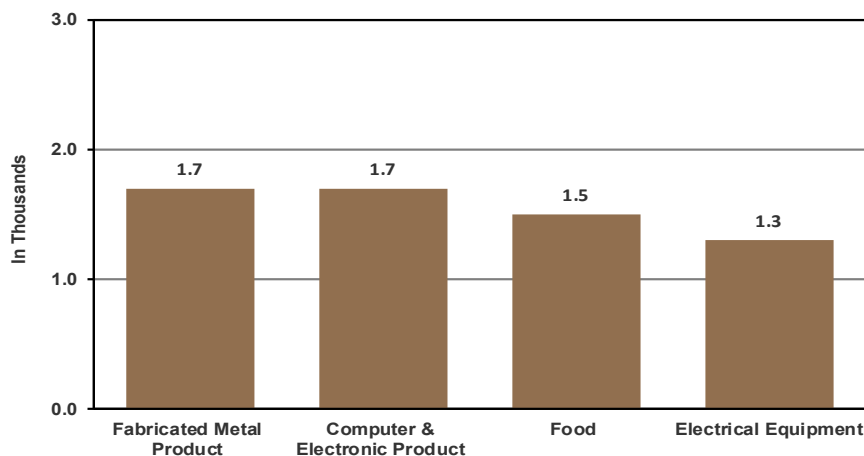
Amongst manufacturing industries, Fabricated Metal Product and Computer & Electronic Product had the largest net over-the-year increase at 1,700. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Food, 1,500; and Electrical Equipment, Appliance, & Component, 1,300.

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.

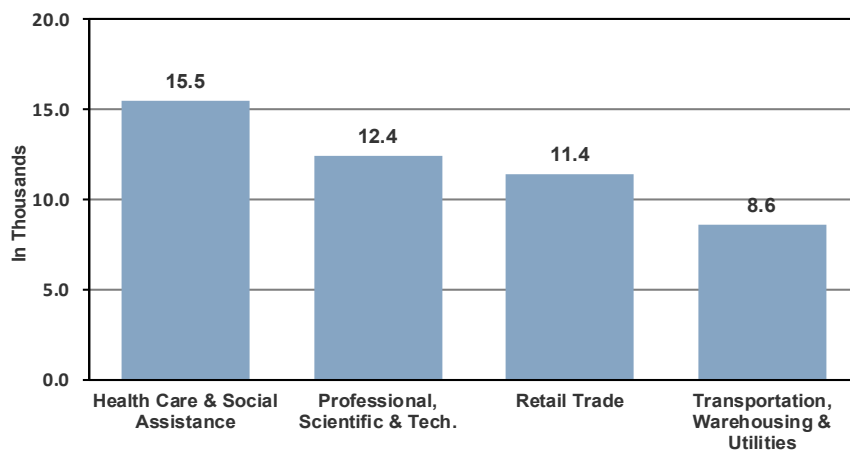
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in December decreased 18 minutes from November's revised rate of 34.2. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.50 to \$25.64, as Average Weekly Earnings increased by \$9.41 to \$869.20.

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)

