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For Immediate Release: January 26, 2021
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North Carolina's December Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state's seasonally adjusted December unemployment rate was 6.2 percent, remaining unchanged from November's revised rate. The national rate remained unchanged at 6.7 percent.

North Carolina's December 2020 unemployment rate increased 2.6 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 27,571 over the month to 4,702,115 and decreased 215,063 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 630 over the month to 310,675 and increased 124,552 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 33,600 to 4,403,200 in December. Major industries experiencing increases were Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 13,700; Professional & Business Services, 11,700; Manufacturing, 4,500; Education & Health Services, 1,900; Financial Activities, 1,800; Government, 1,700; Information, 900; and Other Services, 300. Major industries experiencing decreases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 2,800; and Mining & Logging, 100. Construction employment remained unchanged.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since December 2019

	Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	Jun 2020	Jul 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020
N.C.	3.6	3.6	3.6	4.3	12.9	12.8	7.5	8.5	6.5	7.2	6.2	6.2	6.2
U.S.	3.6	3.5	3.5	4.4	14.8	13.3	11.1	10.2	8.4	7.8	6.9	6.7	6.7

Please note: 2019 numbers have undergone annual revision

Since December 2019, Total Nonfarm jobs decreased 190,700 with the Total Private sector decreasing by 162,800 and Government decreasing by 27,900. Major industries experiencing increases were Professional & Business Services, 10,500; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 10,200; and Financial Activities, 1,000. Major industries experiencing decreases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 110,100; Manufacturing, 31,500; Education & Health Services, 29,900; Government, 27,900; Construction, 4,700; Information, 4,100; Other Services, 4,100; and Mining & Logging, 100.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 2021 when the county unemployment rates for December 2020 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. Tuesday, January 26, 2021

				<i>Month Ago</i>		<i>Year Ago</i>	
	<i>December 2020</i>	<i>November 2020</i>	<i>December 2019</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
North Carolina <i>(Local Area Unemployment Statistics)</i>							
Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	5,012,790	4,985,849	5,103,301	26,941	0.5	-90,511	-1.8
Employed	4,702,115	4,674,544	4,917,178	27,571	0.6	-215,063	-4.4
Unemployed	310,675	311,305	186,123	-630	-0.2	124,552	66.9
Unemployment Rate	6.2	6.2	3.6	0.0	xxx	2.6	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	4,978,718	4,985,837	5,070,827	-7,119	-0.1	-92,109	-1.8
Employed	4,681,331	4,684,947	4,902,572	-3,616	-0.1	-221,241	-4.5
Unemployed	297,387	300,890	168,255	-3,503	-1.2	129,132	76.7
Unemployment Rate	6.0	6.0	3.3	0.0	xxx	2.7	xxx
United States <i>(Current Population Survey)</i>							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	160,567,000	160,536,000	164,579,000	31,000	< 0.1	xxx	xxx
Employed	149,830,000	149,809,000	158,735,000	21,000	< 0.1	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	10,736,000	10,728,000	5,844,000	8,000	0.1	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	6.7	6.7	3.6	0.0	xxx	xxx	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	160,017,000	160,468,000	164,007,000	-451,000	-0.3	xxx	xxx
Employed	149,613,000	150,203,000	158,504,000	-590,000	-0.4	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	10,404,000	10,264,000	5,503,000	140,000	1.4	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	6.5	6.4	3.4	0.1	xxx	xxx	xxx

*Effective January 2020, 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.

2020 estimates for the current month are preliminary. Estimates for the previous month have undergone monthly revision. 2019 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., Tuesday, January 26, 2021

				Month Ago		Year Ago	
	December 2020	November 2020	December 2019	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,403,200	4,369,600	4,593,900	33,600	0.8	-190,700	-4.2
Total Private	3,696,000	3,664,100	3,858,800	31,900	0.9	-162,800	-4.2
Mining & Logging	5,500	5,600	5,600	-100	-1.8	-100	-1.8
Construction	226,800	226,800	231,500	0	0.0	-4,700	-2.0
Manufacturing	447,500	443,000	479,000	4,500	1.0	-31,500	-6.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	857,700	844,000	847,500	13,700	1.6	10,200	1.2
Information	73,800	72,900	77,900	900	1.2	-4,100	-5.3
Financial Activities	260,600	258,800	259,600	1,800	0.7	1,000	0.4
Professional & Business Services	654,600	642,900	644,100	11,700	1.8	10,500	1.6
Education & Health Services	592,700	590,800	622,600	1,900	0.3	-29,900	-4.8
Leisure & Hospitality Services	418,300	421,100	528,400	-2,800	-0.7	-110,100	-20.8
Other Services	158,500	158,200	162,600	300	0.2	-4,100	-2.5
Government	707,200	705,500	735,100	1,700	0.2	-27,900	-3.8
North Carolina <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,432,200	4,406,700	4,619,400	25,500	0.6	-187,200	-4.1
Total Private	3,708,800	3,679,800	3,867,400	29,000	0.8	-158,600	-4.1
Mining & Logging	5,500	5,600	5,600	-100	-1.8	-100	-1.8
Construction	226,100	227,200	231,200	-1,100	-0.5	-5,100	-2.2
Manufacturing	449,100	444,600	481,100	4,500	1.0	-32,000	-6.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	878,800	856,100	866,800	22,700	2.7	12,000	1.4
Information	74,500	73,200	78,600	1,300	1.8	-4,100	-5.2
Financial Activities	259,700	258,200	258,800	1,500	0.6	900	0.3
Professional & Business Services	654,600	648,000	643,900	6,600	1.0	10,700	1.7
Education & Health Services	596,100	597,900	626,300	-1,800	-0.3	-30,200	-4.8
Leisure & Hospitality Services	406,900	411,500	513,600	-4,600	-1.1	-106,700	-20.8
Other Services	157,500	157,500	161,500	0	0.0	-4,000	-2.5
Government	723,400	726,900	752,000	-3,500	-0.5	-28,600	-3.8

All 2020 Labor Force and CES data for the current month are preliminary.
 All 2019 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 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 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 <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 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 <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/lau/benchmark.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.

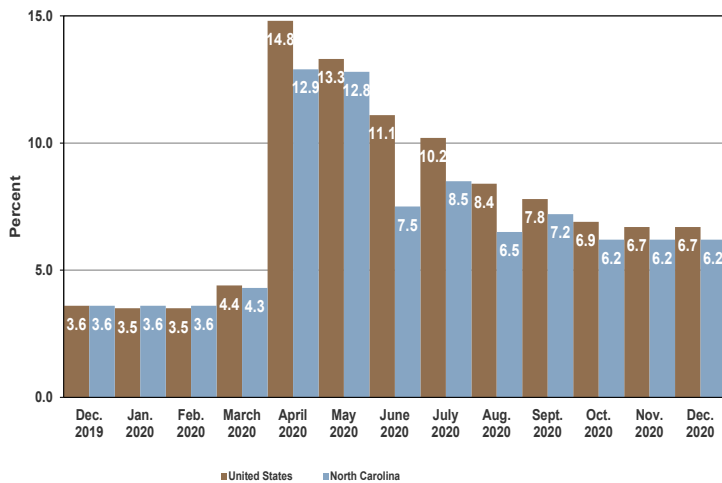
Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 2021 when the county unemployment rates for December 2020 will be released.

The complete data release schedule for 2020 can be accessed here:

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

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



The North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.2 percent in December, remaining unchanged from November's revised rate and growing 2.6 percentage points from December 2019. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 630 (0.2%). The civilian labor force grew by 26,941 (0.5%) to 5,012,790.

Nationally, December's unemployment rate was 6.7 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 10,736,000, while the civilian labor force was 160,567,000.

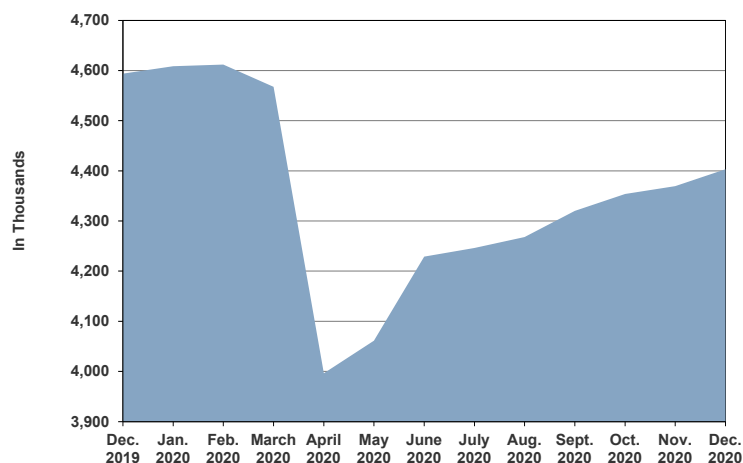
Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,403,200) increased 33,600 (0.8%) since November 2020 and fell 190,700 (4.2%) since December 2019. Private sector employment increased 31,900 (0.9%) over the month and decreased 162,800 (4.2%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (13,700; 1.6%) had the largest over-the-month increase in jobs, followed by Professional & Business Services (11,700; 1.8%), Manufacturing (4,500; 1.0%), Education & Health Services (1,900; 0.3%), Financial Activities (1,800; 0.7%), Government (1,700; 0.2%), Information (900; 1.2%), and Other Services (300; 0.2%). Leisure & Hospitality Services (2,800; 0.7%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%). Construction remained unchanged over the month.

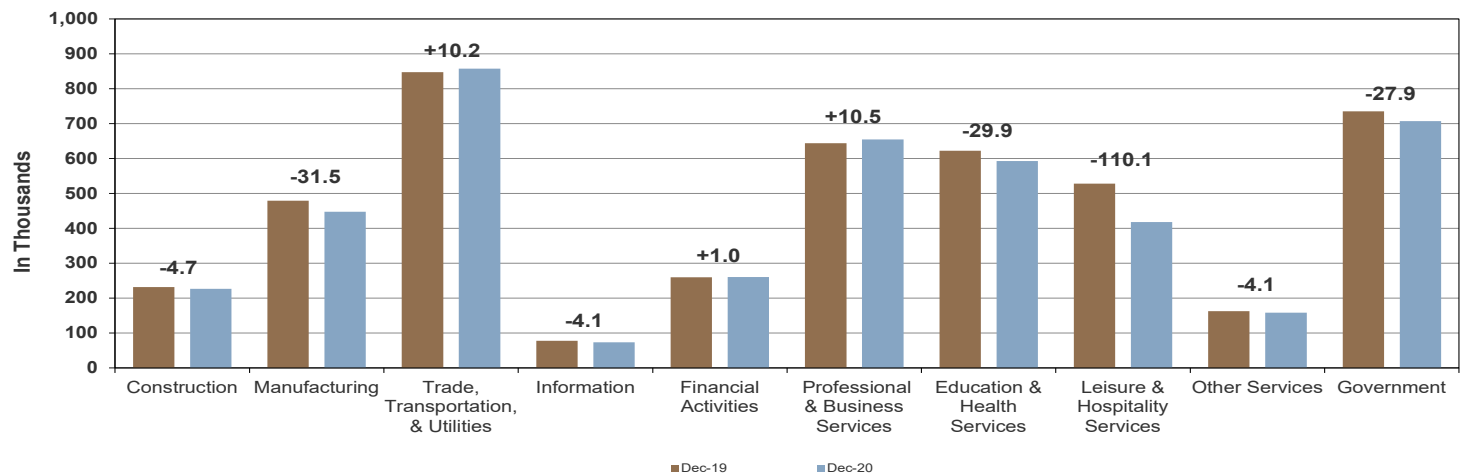
Since December 2019, Professional & Business Services (10,500; 1.6%) reported the largest jobs increase over the year, followed by Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (10,200; 1.2%), and Financial Activities (1,000; 0.4%). Leisure & Hospitality Services (110,100; 20.8%) reported the largest over-the-year decrease, followed by Manufacturing (31,500; 6.6%), Education & Health Services (29,900; 4.8%), Government (27,900; 3.8%), Construction (4,700; 2.0%), Information (4,100; 5.3%), Other Services (4,100; 2.5%), 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.

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



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



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

North Carolina Labor Market Conditions

The December 2020 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,432,200 was 25,500 (0.6%) higher than the November 2020 not seasonally adjusted employment level of 4,406,700. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Trade, Transportation, & Utilities had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 22,700 (2.7%), followed by Professional & Business Services (6,600; 1.0%), Manufacturing (4,500; 1.0%), Financial Activities (1,500; 0.6%), and Information (1,300; 1.8%). Leisure & Hospitality Services (4,600; 1.1%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Government (3,500; 0.5%), Education & Health Services (1,800; 0.3%), Construction (1,100; 0.5%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%). Other 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 150,000 (3.8%) jobs. Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (12,000; 1.4%) reported the largest increase over the year, followed by Professional & Business Services (10,700; 1.7%), and Financial Activities (900; 0.3%). Leisure & Hospitality Services had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment at 106,700 (20.8%), followed by Education & Health Services (30,200; 4.8%), Government (28,600; 3.8%), Information (4,100; 5.2%), and Other Services (4,000; 2.5%).

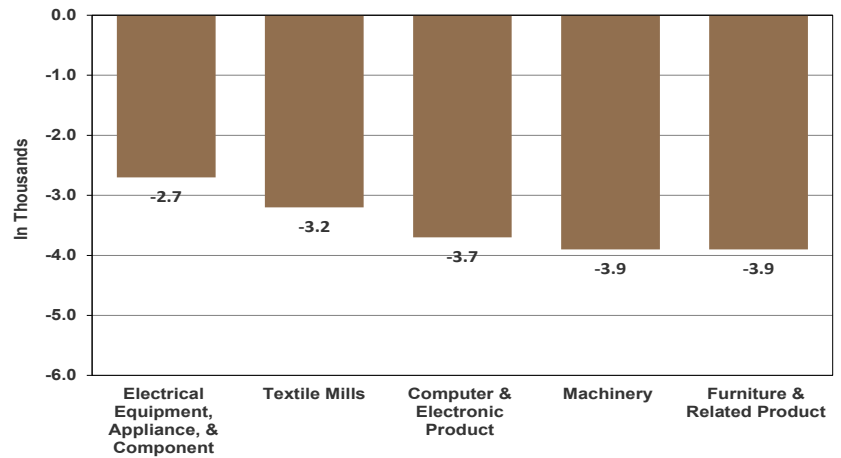
The Goods Producing sector decreased by 37,200 (5.2%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing had the largest decrease with 32,000 (6.7%), followed by Construction (5,100; 2.2%) and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

Amongst manufacturing industries, Pharmaceutical & Medicine Manufacturing had the only net over-the-year increase of 200 jobs. Furniture & Related Product and Machinery each had the largest net over-the-year decline with the loss of 3,900 jobs. Other manufacturing industries with decreases were: Computer & Electronic Product, 3,700; Textile Mills, 3,200; Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component, 2,700; Plastics & Rubber Products, 2,400; Transportation Equipment, 2,400; Fabricated Metal Product, 2,400; Food, 2,300; Printing & Related Support Activities, 2,100; Chemical, 1,800; Wood Product, 1,600; Apparel, 500; and Beverage & Tobacco Product, 300.

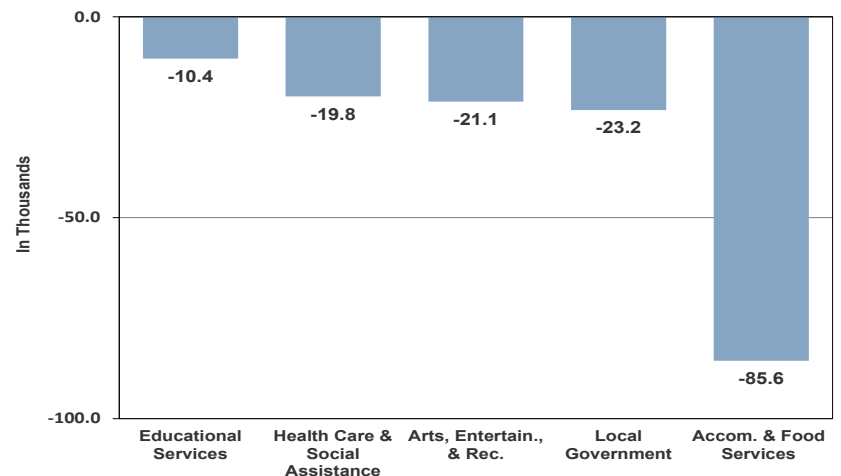
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in December decreased 12 minutes to 34.8 from November's revised rate of 35.0. Average Hourly Earnings fell by \$0.01 to \$27.12, and Average Weekly Earnings decreased by \$5.77 to \$943.78.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in December increased 18 minutes from the rate of 34.5 in December 2019. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$1.11 and Average Weekly Earnings increased by \$46.43.

Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Losses
December 2019–December 2020
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Selected Service Industries With Job Losses
December 2019–December 2020
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



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

