

For Immediate Release: March 26, 2021
For More Information, Contact: David Rhoades/919.814.4611

North Carolina’s February Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state’s seasonally adjusted February unemployment rate was 5.7 percent, decreasing 0.2 points from January’s revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.1 points to 6.2 percent.

North Carolina’s February 2021 unemployment rate increased 2.1 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 4,804 over the month to 4,746,591 and decreased 175,050 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 10,931 over the month to 286,788 and increased 103,294 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 14,400 to 4,452,900 in February. Major industries experiencing increases were Professional & Business Services, 6,700; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 3,900; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 2,400; Construction, 1,900; Manufacturing, 700; Education & Health Services, 500; Financial Activities, 300; Information, 100; and Mining & Logging, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Other Services, 1,300; and Government, 900.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since February 2020

	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	Jun 2020	Jul 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021
N.C.	3.6	3.9	13.5	13.5	8.8	8.8	6.8	7.3	6.8	6.4	6.1	5.9	5.7
U.S.	3.5	4.4	14.8	13.3	11.1	10.2	8.4	7.8	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.2

Please note: 2020 numbers have undergone annual revision

Since February 2020, Total Nonfarm jobs decreased 173,700 with the Total Private sector decreasing by 133,700 and Government decreasing by 40,000. Major industries experiencing increases were Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 13,200; and Professional & Business Services, 7,300. Major industries experiencing decreases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 84,900; Government, 40,000; Education & Health Services, 34,300; Manufacturing, 18,800; Other Services, 13,500; Construction, 1,600; Information, 600; Financial Activities, 400; and Mining & Logging, 100.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7, 2021 when the county unemployment rates for February 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, March 26, 2021

	February 2021	January 2021	February 2020	Month Ago		Year Ago	
				Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina <i>(Local Area Unemployment Statistics)</i>							
Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	5,033,379	5,039,506	5,105,135	-6,127	-0.1	-71,756	-1.4
Employed	4,746,591	4,741,787	4,921,641	4,804	0.1	-175,050	-3.6
Unemployed	286,788	297,719	183,494	-10,931	-3.7	103,294	56.3
Unemployment Rate	5.7	5.9	3.6	-0.2	xxx	2.1	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	5,004,228	4,972,173	5,112,398	32,055	0.6	-108,170	-2.1
Employed	4,722,326	4,675,682	4,938,073	46,644	1.0	-215,747	-4.4
Unemployed	281,902	296,491	174,325	-14,589	-4.9	107,577	61.7
Unemployment Rate	5.6	6.0	3.4	-0.4	xxx	2.2	xxx
United States <i>(Current Population Survey)</i>							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	160,211,000	160,161,000	164,448,000	50,000	< 0.1	xxx	xxx
Employed	150,239,000	150,031,000	158,732,000	208,000	0.1	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	9,972,000	10,130,000	5,717,000	-158,000	-1.6	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	6.2	6.3	3.5	-0.1	xxx	xxx	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	160,008,000	159,234,000	164,235,000	774,000	0.5	xxx	xxx
Employed	149,522,000	148,383,000	158,017,000	1,139,000	0.8	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	10,486,000	10,851,000	6,218,000	-365,000	-3.4	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	6.6	6.8	3.8	-0.2	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, March 26, 2021

				Month Ago		Year Ago	
	February 2021	January 2021	February 2020	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,452,900	4,438,500	4,626,600	14,400	0.3	-173,700	-3.8
Total Private	3,754,700	3,739,400	3,888,400	15,300	0.4	-133,700	-3.4
Mining & Logging	5,700	5,600	5,800	100	1.8	-100	-1.7
Construction	234,200	232,300	235,800	1,900	0.8	-1,600	-0.7
Manufacturing	456,100	455,400	474,900	700	0.2	-18,800	-4.0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	869,600	865,700	856,400	3,900	0.5	13,200	1.5
Information	75,600	75,500	76,200	100	0.1	-600	-0.8
Financial Activities	257,500	257,200	257,900	300	0.1	-400	-0.2
Professional & Business Services	664,600	657,900	657,300	6,700	1.0	7,300	1.1
Education & Health Services	597,900	597,400	632,200	500	0.1	-34,300	-5.4
Leisure & Hospitality Services	437,500	435,100	522,400	2,400	0.6	-84,900	-16.3
Other Services	156,000	157,300	169,500	-1,300	-0.8	-13,500	-8.0
Government	698,200	699,100	738,200	-900	-0.1	-40,000	-5.4
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,424,400	4,395,200	4,602,500	29,200	0.7	-178,100	-3.9
Total Private	3,711,000	3,687,000	3,846,800	24,000	0.7	-135,800	-3.5
Mining & Logging	5,700	5,600	5,800	100	1.8	-100	-1.7
Construction	229,900	225,700	231,400	4,200	1.9	-1,500	-0.6
Manufacturing	455,900	455,000	474,200	900	0.2	-18,300	-3.9
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	858,400	859,100	846,400	-700	-0.1	12,000	1.4
Information	76,300	75,900	76,200	400	0.5	100	0.1
Financial Activities	255,300	254,200	255,900	1,100	0.4	-600	-0.2
Professional & Business Services	658,600	649,800	652,900	8,800	1.4	5,700	0.9
Education & Health Services	599,100	594,500	634,800	4,600	0.8	-35,700	-5.6
Leisure & Hospitality Services	417,100	411,400	500,900	5,700	1.4	-83,800	-16.7
Other Services	154,700	155,800	168,300	-1,100	-0.7	-13,600	-8.1
Government	713,400	708,200	755,700	5,200	0.7	-42,300	-5.6

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.

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.

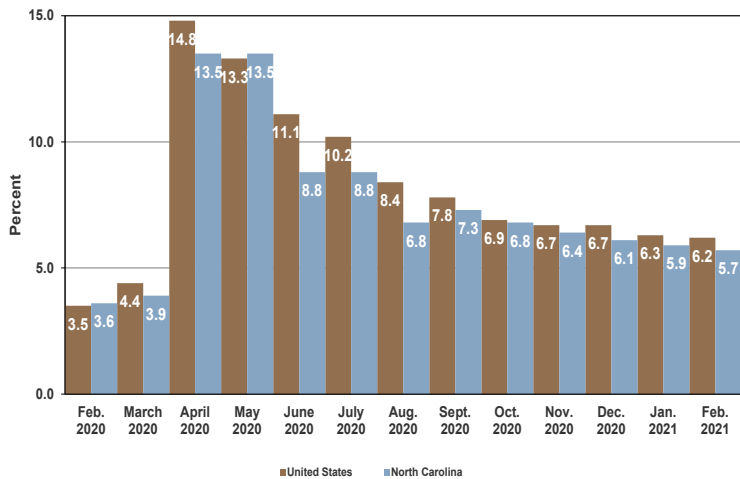
Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7, 2021 when the county unemployment rates for February 2021 will be released.

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

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

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



The North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.7 percent in February, decreasing 0.2 of a percentage point from January's revised rate and growing 2.1 percentage points from February 2020. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 10,931 (3.7%). The civilian labor force fell by 6,127 (0.1%) to 5,033,379.

Nationally, February's unemployment rate was 6.2 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 9,972,000, while the civilian labor force was 160,211,000.

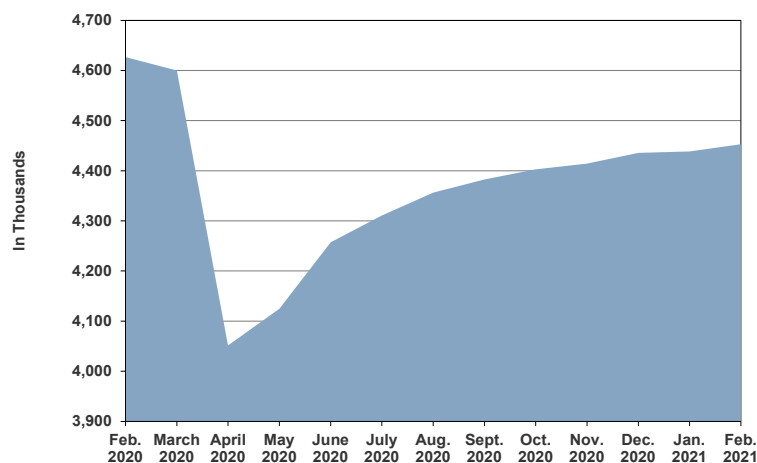
Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,452,900) increased 14,400 (0.3%) since January 2021 and fell 173,700 (3.8%) since February 2020. Private sector employment increased 15,300 (0.4%) over the month and decreased 133,700 (3.4%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Professional & Business Services (6,700; 1.0%) had the largest over-the-month increase in jobs, followed by Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (3,900; 0.5%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (2,400; 0.6%), Construction (1,900; 0.8%), Manufacturing (700; 0.2%), Education & Health Services (500; 0.1%), Financial Activities (300; 0.1%), Information (100; 0.1%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%). Other Services (1,300; 0.8%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Government (900; 0.1%).

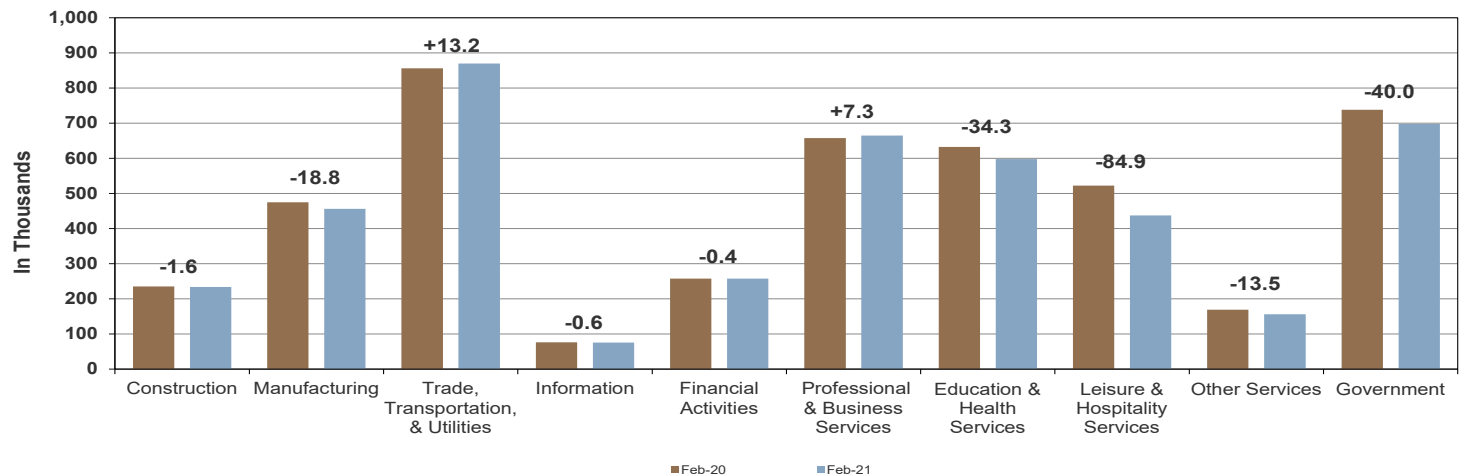
Since February 2020, Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (13,200; 1.5%) reported the largest jobs increase over the year, followed by Professional & Business Services (7,300; 1.1%). Leisure & Hospitality Services (84,900; 16.3%) reported the largest over-the-year decrease, followed by Government (40,000; 5.4%), Education & Health Services (34,300; 5.4%), Manufacturing (18,800; 4.0%), Other Services (13,500; 8.0%), Construction (1,600; 0.7%), Information (600; 0.8%), Financial Activities (400; 0.2%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.7%).

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 February 2020–February 2021 (Seasonally Adjusted)



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



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

North Carolina Labor Market Conditions

The February 2021 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,424,400 was 29,200 (0.7%) higher than the January 2021 not seasonally adjusted employment level of 4,395,200. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Professional & Business Services had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 8,800 (1.4%), followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services (5,700; 1.4%), Government (5,200; 0.7%), Education & Health Services (4,600; 0.8%), Construction (4,200; 1.9%), Financial Activities (1,100; 0.4%), Manufacturing (900; 0.2%), Information (400; 0.5%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%). Other Services (1,100; 0.7%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (700; 0.1%).

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed a decrease of 158,200 (4.1%) jobs. Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (12,000; 1.4%) reported the largest increase over the year, followed by Professional & Business Services (5,700; 0.9%), and Information (100; 0.1%). Leisure & Hospitality Services had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment at 83,800 (16.7%), followed by Government (42,300; 5.6%), Education & Health Services (35,700; 5.6%), Other Services (13,600; 8.1%), and Financial Activities (600; 0.2%).

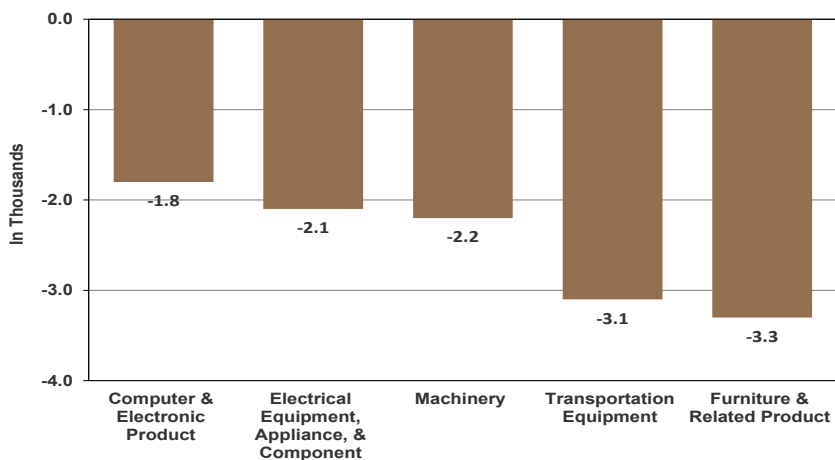
The Goods Producing sector decreased by 19,900 (2.8%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing had the largest decrease with 18,300 (3.9%), followed by Construction (1,500; 0.6%) and Mining & Logging (100; 1.7%).

Amongst manufacturing industries, Chemical had the only net over-the-year increase of 600 jobs. Furniture & Related Product had the largest net over-the-year decline with the loss of 3,300 jobs. Other manufacturing industries with decreases were: Transportation Equipment, 3,100; Machinery, 2,200; Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component, 2,100; Computer & Electronic Product, 1,800; Textile Mills, 1,700; Printing & Related Support Activities, 1,000; Apparel, 900; Fabricated Metal Product, 700; Wood Product, 700; Plastics & Rubber Products, 600; Textile Product Mills, 500; Beverage & Tobacco Product, 500; and Food, 400.

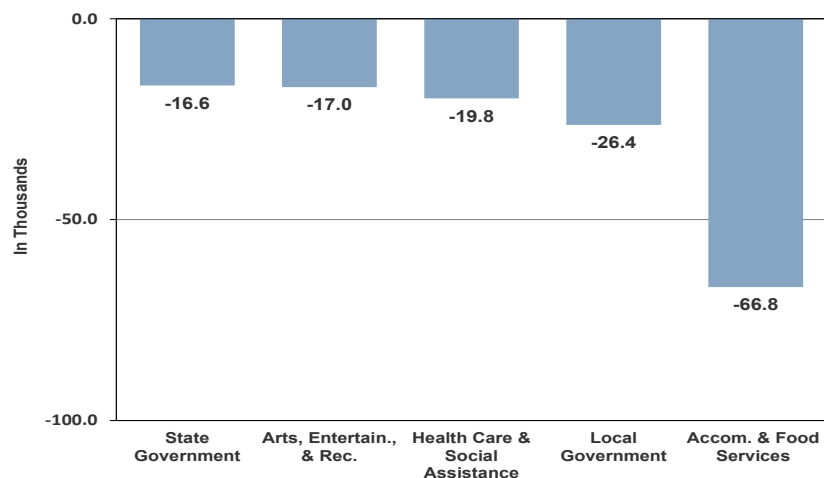
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in February decreased 6 minutes to 34.5 from January's revised rate of 34.6. Average Hourly Earnings increased by \$0.16 to \$27.41, and Average Weekly Earnings grew by \$2.80 to \$945.65.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in February increased 6 minutes from the February 2020 rate of 34.4. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$1.28 and Average Weekly Earnings increased by \$46.78.

Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Losses February 2020–February 2021 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Selected Service Industries With Job Losses February 2020–February 2021 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



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

