North Carolina's January Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state's seasonally adjusted January unemployment rate was 4.5 percent, remaining unchanged from December's revised rate. The national rate remained unchanged at 4.1 percent.

North Carolina's January 2018 unemployment rate decreased 0.4 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 3,505 over the month to 4,747,769 and increased 85,879 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 407 over the month to 222,256 and decreased 20,263 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 8,700 to 4,457,900 in January. The major industries with the largest over-the-month increases were Professional & Business Services at 3,000, followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services, 2,100; Construction, 1,800; Government, 1,100; Manufacturing, 1,100; Education & Health Services, 800; Financial Activities, 800; and Mining & Logging, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 1,000; Other Services, 1,000; and Information, 100.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since January 2017

	Jan 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2017	May 2017	Jun 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Sep 2017	Oct 2017	Nov 2017	Dec 2017	Jan 2018
N.C.	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
U.S.	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1

Please note: 2017 numbers have been annually revised

Since January 2017, Total Nonfarm jobs gained 70,200 with the Total Private sector growing by 63,100 and Government increasing by 7,100. The largest over-the-year increase among major industries was Professional & Business Services at 21,100, followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services, 10,000; Education & Health Services, 8,500; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 8,400; Government, 7,100; Construction, 6,300; Financial Activities, 5,600; Manufacturing, 3,700; Information, 1,100; and Mining & Logging, 100. The only major industry experiencing a decrease was Other Services, 1,700.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Friday, March 16, 2018 when the county unemployment rates for January 2018 will be released.

This information can be accessed on the Commerce website at http://www.nccommerce.com/lead

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. Monday, March 12, 2018

	January 2018	December 2017	January 2017	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	4,970,025	4,966,113	4,904,409	3,912	0.1	65,616	1.3
Employed	4,747,769	4,744,264	4,661,890	3,505	0.1	85,879	1.8
Unemployed	222,256	221,849	242,519	407	0.2	-20,263	-8.4
Unemployment Rate	4.5	4.5	4.9	0.0	xxx	-0.4	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	4,936,295	4,927,249	4,862,112	9,046	0.2	74,183	1.5
Employed	4,705,785	4,713,336	4,607,928	-7,551	-0.2	97,857	2.1
Unemployed	230,510	213,913	254,184	16,597	7.8	-23,674	-9.3
Unemployment Rate	4.7	4.3	5.2	0.3	xxx	-0.5	xxx
United States *(Current Population Survey)*							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	161,115,000	160,597,000	159,718,000	518,000	0.3	xxx	xxx
Employed	154,430,000	154,021,000	152,076,000	409,000	0.3	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	6,684,000	6,576,000	7,642,000	108,000	1.6	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.1	4.8	0.0	xxx	xxx	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	160,037,000	159,880,000	158,676,000	157,000	0.1	xxx	xxx
Employed	152,848,000	153,602,000	150,527,000	-754,000	-0.5	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	7,189,000	6,278,000	8,149,000	911,000	14.5	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	4.5	3.9	5.1	0.6	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., Monday, March 12, 2018

	January 2018	December 2017	January 2017	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	4,457,900	4,449,200	4,387,700	8,700	0.2	70,200	1.6
Total Private	3,722,300	3,714,700	3,659,200	7,600	0.2	63,100	1.7
Mining & Logging	5,800	5,700	5,700	100	1.8	100	1.8
Construction	212,300	210,500	206,000	1,800	0.9	6,300	3.1
Manufacturing	469,200	468,100	465,500	1,100	0.2	3,700	0.8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	832,700	833,700	824,300	-1,000	-0.1	8,400	1.0
Information	79,700	79,800	78,600	-100	-0.1	1,100	1.4
Financial Activities	235,800	235,000	230,200	800	0.3	5,600	2.4
Professional & Business Services	634,700	631,700	613,600	3,000	0.5	21,100	3.4
Education & Health Services	603,500	602,700	595,000	800	0.1	8,500	1.4
Leisure & Hospitality Services	498,800	496,700	488,800	2,100	0.4	10,000	2.0
Other Services	149,800	150,800	151,500	-1,000	-0.7	-1,700	-1.1
Government	735,600	734,500	728,500	1,100	0.1	7,100	1.0
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Total Nonfarm	4,397,900	4,484,600	4,319,900	-86,700	-1.9	78,000	1.8
Total Private	3,657,100	3,733,000	3,586,300	-75,900	-2.0	70,800	2.0
Mining & Logging	5,700	5,700	5,600	0	0.0	100	1.8
Construction	205,900	211,500	198,800	-5,600	-2.6	7,100	3.6
Manufacturing	468,400	469,900	462,700	-1,500	-0.3	5,700	1.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	825,600	855,300	815,500	-29,700	-3.5	10,100	1.2
Information	79,500	80,700	78,200	-1,200	-1.5	1,300	1.7
Financial Activities	234,000	233,600	226,900	400	0.2	7,100	3.1
Professional & Business Services	620,700	633,100	598,000	-12,400	-2.0	22,700	3.8
Education & Health Services	598,700	608,500	590,200	-9,800	-1.6	8,500	1.4
Leisure & Hospitality Services	470,100	483,900	461,500	-13,800	-2.9	8,600	1.9
Other Services	148,500	150,800	148,900	-2,300	-1.5	-400	-0.3
Government	740,800	751,600	733,600	-10,800	-1.4	7,200	1.0

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.

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.
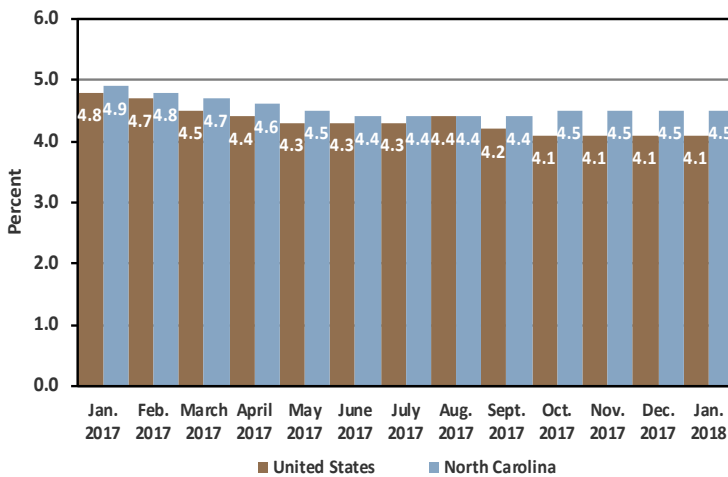
Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Friday, March 16, 2018 when the county unemployment rates for January 2018 will be released.

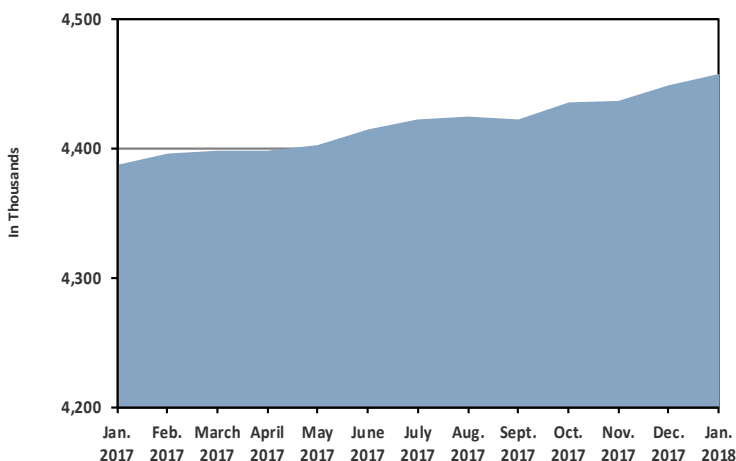The complete 2018 data release schedule can be accessed at:

http://www.nccommerce.com/lead/research-publications/schedule-of-release-dates

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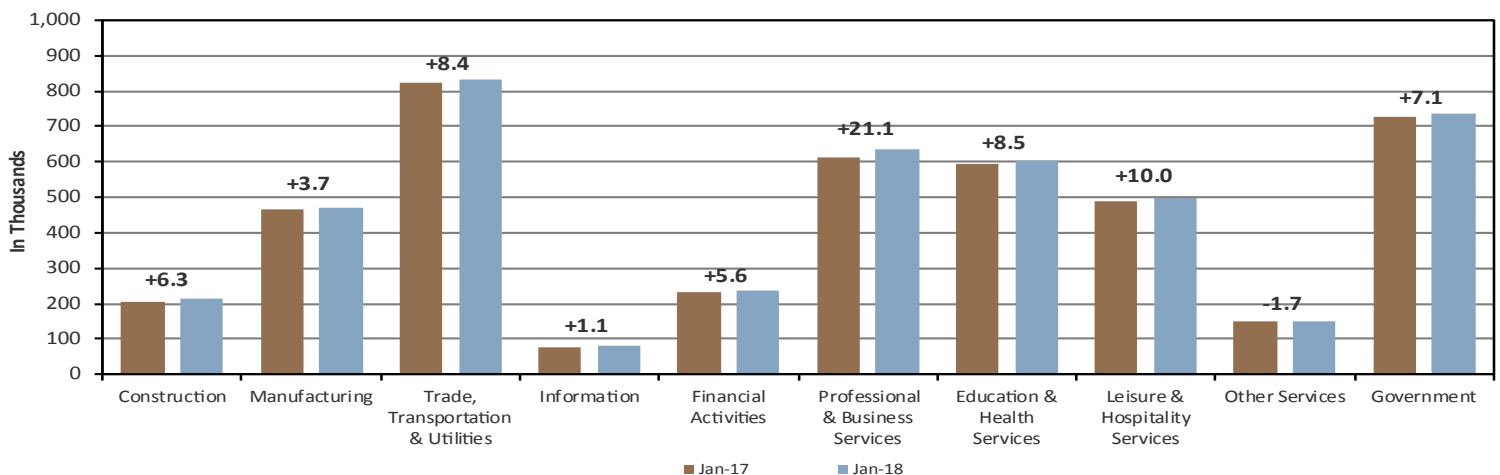(Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted**)

**US data are not smoothed.

North Carolina Total Nonfarm Employment
January 2017–January 2018
(Seasonally Adjusted)

Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries
January 2017 Compared to January 2018
(Seasonally Adjusted)

The North Carolina smoothed seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.5 percent in January, remaining unchanged from the previous month and falling 0.4 of a percentage point from January 2017. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed grew by 407 (0.2%). The civilian labor force increased by 3,912 (0.1%) to 4,970,025.

Nationally, January's unemployment rate was 4.1 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 6,684,000, while the civilian labor force was 161,115,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,457,900) increased 8,700 (0.2%) since December 2017 and 70,200 (1.6%) since January 2017.[1] Private sector employment grew over the month by 7,600 (0.2%) and 63,100 (1.7%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Professional & Business Services (3,000; 0.5%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services (2,100; 0.4%), Construction (1,800; 0.9%), Government (1,100; 0.1%), Manufacturing (1,100; 0.2%), Education & Health Services (800; 0.1%), Financial Activities (800; 0.3%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%). Other Services (1,000; 0.7%) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (1,000; 0.1%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Information (100; 0.1%).

Since January 2017, Professional & Business Services added the largest number of jobs (21,100; 3.4%), followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services (10,000; 2.0%), Education & Health Services (8,500; 1.4%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (8,400; 1.0%), Government (7,100; 1.0%), Construction (6,300; 3.1%), Financial Activities (5,600; 2.4%), Manufacturing (3,700; 0.8%), Information (1,100; 1.4%) and Mining & Logging (100, 1.8%). Other Services (1,700; 1.1%) reported the only over-the-year decrease.

[1]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.

*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 January 2018 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,397,900 was 86,700 (1.9%) less than the December 2017 revised employment level of 4,484,600. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Financial Activities had the only over-the-month increase in employment at 400 (0.2%). Trade, Transportation & Utilities (29,700; 3.5%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Leisure & Hospitality (13,800; 2.9%), Professional & Business Services (12,400; 2.0%), Government (10,800; 1.4%), Education & Health Services (9,800; 1.6%), Construction (5,600; 2.7%), Other Services (2,300; 1.5%), Manufacutring (1,500; 0.3%), and Information (1,200; 1.5%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged.

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 65,100 (1.8%) jobs. Professional & Business Services experienced the largest employment increase at 22,700 (3.8%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (10,100; 1.2%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (8,600; 1.9%), Education & Health Services (8,500; 1.4%), Government (7,200; 1.0%), Financial Activities (7,100; 3.1%), and Information (1,300; 1.7%). Other Services (400; 0.3%) reported the only over-the-year decrease.

The Goods Producing sector grew by 12,900 (1.9%) jobs over the year. Construction had the largest increase with 7,100 (3.6%), followed by Manufacturing (5,700; 1.2%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).
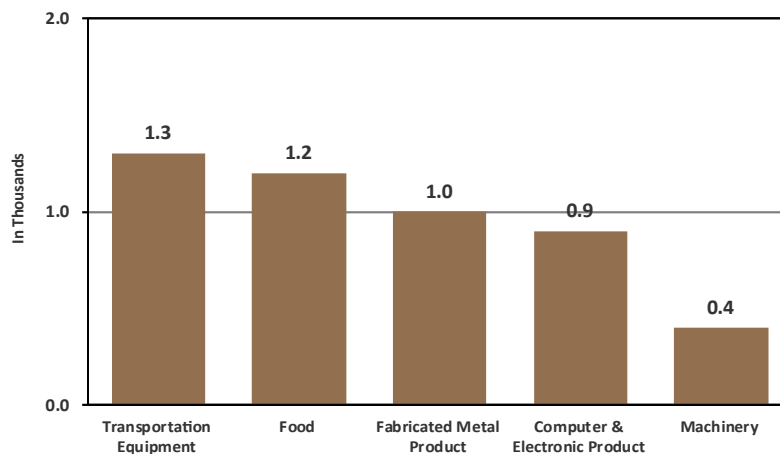
Amongst manufacturing industries, Transportation Equipment had the largest net over-the-year increase at 1,300. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Food, 1,200; Fabricated Metal Product, 1,000; Computer & Electronic Product, 900; Machinery, 400; Beverage & Tobacco Product, 300; and Plastics & Rubber Products, 100.

Apparel had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 400 in January 2018. Other industries with decreases were: Textile Mills, 300; Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component, 300; Furniture & Related Product, 200; and Printing & Related Services, 100. Chemical, Textile Product Mills, and Wood Product remained unchanged.
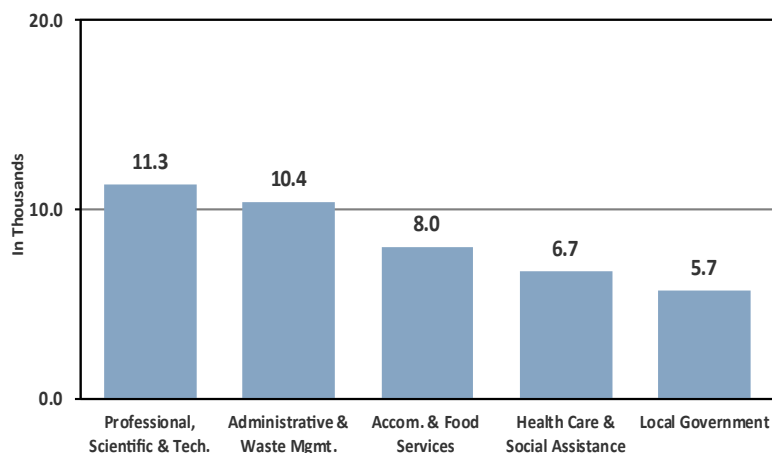
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in January decreased 30 minutes from December's revised rate of 34.4. Average Hourly Earnings grew by $0.28 to $24.56, as Average Weekly Earnings fell by $2.65 to $832.58.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in January decreased 6 minutes from the revised rate of 34.0 in January 2017. Average Hourly Earnings grew by $0.50 and Average Weekly Earnings increased $14.54.

Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains
January 2017–January 2018
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Selected Service Industries With Job Gains
January 2017–January 2018
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Total Private Average Weekly Wage
January 2015–January 2018
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)