



ROY COOPER  
Governor

ANTHONY M. COPELAND  
Secretary

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For More Information, Contact: David Rhoades/919.814.4611

## North Carolina's January Employment Figures Released

**RALEIGH** — The state's seasonally adjusted January unemployment rate was 3.6 percent, remaining unchanged from December's revised rate. The national rate increased 0.1 of a percentage point to 3.6 percent.

North Carolina's January 2020 unemployment rate decreased 0.4 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 8,635 over the month to 4,925,813 and increased 84,467 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 1,242 over the month to 184,881 and decreased 18,230 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 15,000 to 4,608,900 in January. The major industries with the largest over-the-month increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 6,800; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 6,800; Education & Health Services, 2,800; Professional & Business Services, 1,100; Information, 1,000; Government, 500; and Other Services, 500. Major industries experiencing decreases were Financial Activities, 2,200; Manufacturing, 1,200; and Construction, 1,100. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged over the month.

### Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since January 2019

	Jan 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2019	Apr 2019	May 2019	Jun 2019	Jul 2019	Aug 2019	Sept 2019	Oct 2019	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020
<b>N.C.</b>	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6
<b>U.S.</b>	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.6

*Please note: 2019 numbers have undergone annual revision*

Since January 2019, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 50,100 with the Total Private sector increasing by 44,600 and Government increasing by 5,500. The largest over-the-year increases among major industries were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 22,300; Financial Activities, 10,300; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 8,100; Government, 5,500; Other Services, 5,000; Information, 3,200; and Education & Health Services, 2,300. Major industries experiencing decreases were Professional & Business Services, 4,200; Construction, 1,400; Manufacturing, 800; and Mining & Logging, 200.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Friday, March 20, 2020 when the county unemployment rates for January 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. Monday, March 16, 2020*

	January 2020	December 2019	January 2019	Month Ago		Year Ago	
				Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
<b>North Carolina</b> <i>(Local Area Unemployment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
<b>Labor Force</b>	5,110,694	5,103,301	5,044,457	7,393	0.1	66,237	1.3
<b>Employed</b>	4,925,813	4,917,178	4,841,346	8,635	0.2	84,467	1.7
<b>Unemployed</b>	184,881	186,123	203,111	-1,242	-0.7	-18,230	-9.0
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.6	3.6	4.0	0.0	xxx	-0.4	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
<b>Labor Force</b>	5,085,748	5,070,827	5,013,715	14,921	0.3	72,033	1.4
<b>Employed</b>	4,879,077	4,902,572	4,789,199	-23,495	-0.5	89,878	1.9
<b>Unemployed</b>	206,671	168,255	224,516	38,416	22.8	-17,845	-7.9
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	4.1	3.3	4.5	0.8	xxx	-0.4	xxx
<b>United States</b> <i>(Current Population Survey)</i>							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
<b>Labor Force</b>	164,606,000	164,556,000	163,229,000	50,000	< 0.1	xxx	xxx
<b>Employed</b>	158,714,000	158,803,000	156,694,000	-89,000	-0.1	xxx	xxx
<b>Unemployed</b>	5,892,000	5,753,000	6,535,000	139,000	2.4	xxx	xxx
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.6	3.5	4.0	0.1	xxx	xxx	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
<b>Labor Force</b>	163,497,000	164,007,000	162,104,000	-510,000	-0.3	xxx	xxx
<b>Employed</b>	156,994,000	158,504,000	154,964,000	-1,510,000	-1.0	xxx	xxx
<b>Unemployed</b>	6,504,000	5,503,000	7,140,000	1,001,000	18.2	xxx	xxx
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	4.0	3.4	4.4	0.6	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**

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				Month Ago		Year Ago	
	January 2020	December 2019	January 2019	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
<b>North Carolina</b> <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,608,900	4,593,900	4,558,800	15,000	0.3	50,100	1.1
Total Private	3,873,300	3,858,800	3,828,700	14,500	0.4	44,600	1.2
Mining & Logging	5,600	5,600	5,800	0	0.0	-200	-3.4
Construction	230,400	231,500	231,800	-1,100	-0.5	-1,400	-0.6
Manufacturing	477,800	479,000	478,600	-1,200	-0.3	-800	-0.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	854,300	847,500	846,200	6,800	0.8	8,100	1.0
Information	78,900	77,900	75,700	1,000	1.3	3,200	4.2
Financial Activities	257,400	259,600	247,100	-2,200	-0.8	10,300	4.2
Professional & Business Services	645,200	644,100	649,400	1,100	0.2	-4,200	-0.6
Education & Health Services	625,400	622,600	623,100	2,800	0.4	2,300	0.4
Leisure & Hospitality Services	535,200	528,400	512,900	6,800	1.3	22,300	4.3
Other Services	163,100	162,600	158,100	500	0.3	5,000	3.2
Government	735,600	735,100	730,100	500	0.1	5,500	0.8
<b>North Carolina</b> <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,551,600	4,619,400	4,501,700	-67,800	-1.5	49,900	1.1
Total Private	3,809,200	3,867,400	3,762,800	-58,200	-1.5	46,400	1.2
Mining & Logging	5,600	5,600	5,700	0	0.0	-100	-1.8
Construction	224,400	231,200	225,500	-6,800	-2.9	-1,100	-0.5
Manufacturing	475,500	481,100	476,000	-5,600	-1.2	-500	-0.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	844,700	866,800	839,100	-22,100	-2.5	5,600	0.7
Information	79,000	78,600	75,400	400	0.5	3,600	4.8
Financial Activities	254,800	258,800	244,100	-4,000	-1.5	10,700	4.4
Professional & Business Services	637,400	643,900	635,900	-6,500	-1.0	1,500	0.2
Education & Health Services	620,400	626,300	619,300	-5,900	-0.9	1,100	0.2
Leisure & Hospitality Services	507,100	513,600	485,900	-6,500	-1.3	21,200	4.4
Other Services	160,300	161,500	155,900	-1,200	-0.7	4,400	2.8
Government	742,400	752,000	738,900	-9,600	-1.3	3,500	0.5

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 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](http://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](http://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 April 10, 2018. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available online at [www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm](http://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/web/laus/benchmark.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/web/laus/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](http://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](http://www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm).

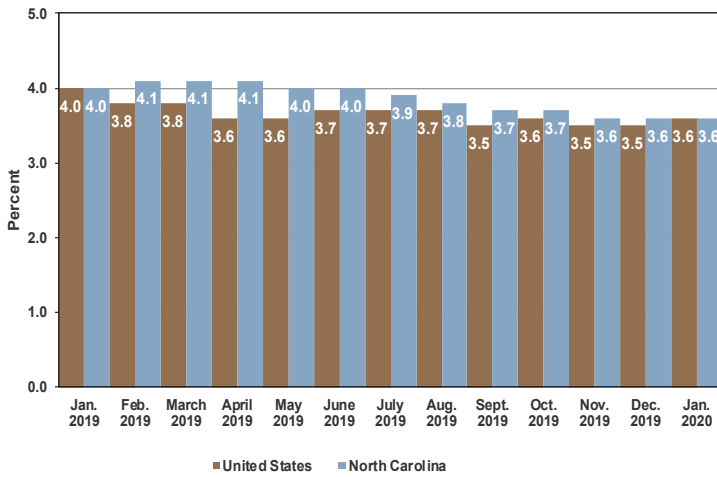
### Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Friday, March 20, 2020 when the county unemployment rates for January 2020 will be released.

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

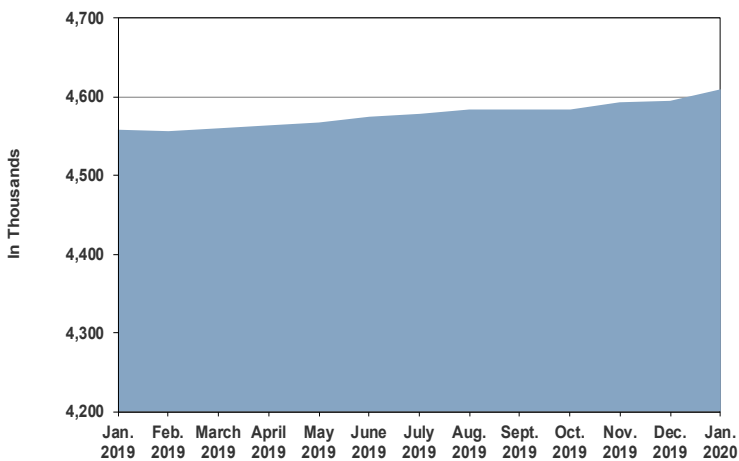
<https://www.nccommerce.com/documents/release-dates-unemployment-rates>

## United States/North Carolina Unemployment Rates January 2019–January 2020 (Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted\*\*)

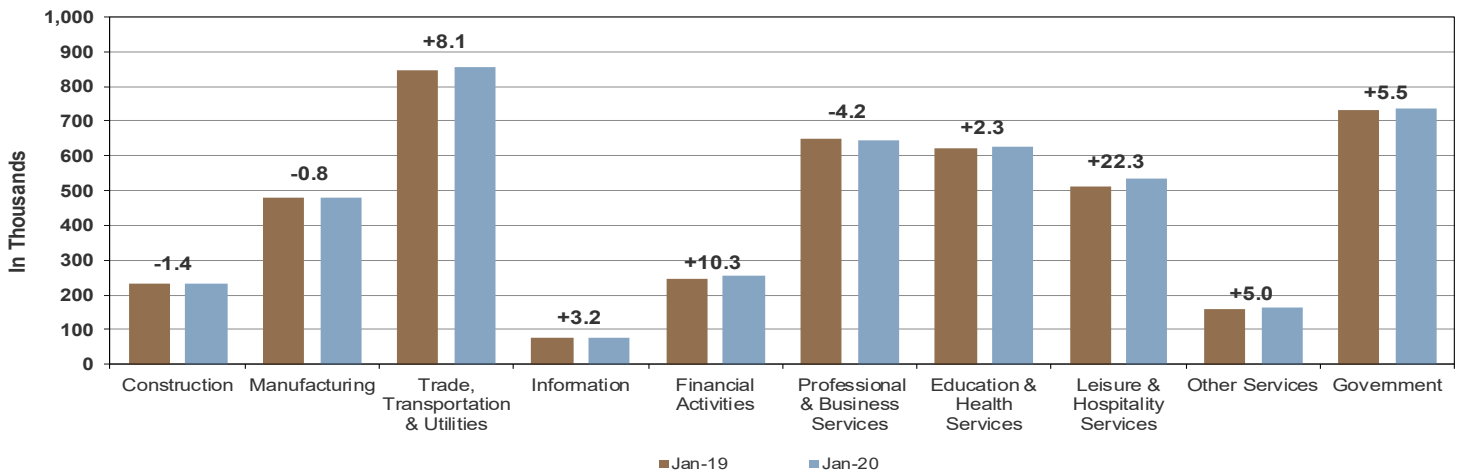


\*\*US data are not smoothed.

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



## Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries January 2019 Compared to January 2020 (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 January, remaining unchanged from the previous month and decreasing 0.4 of a percentage from January 2019. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 1,242 (0.7%). The civilian labor force grew by 7,393 (0.1%) to 5,110,694.

Nationally, January's unemployment rate was 3.6 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 5,892,000, while the civilian labor force was 164,606,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,608,900) increased 15,000 (0.3%) since December 2019 and increased 50,100 (1.1%) since January 2019.<sup>1</sup> Private sector employment grew 14,500 (0.4%) over the month and increased 44,600 (1.2%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Leisure & Hospitality Services (6,800; 1.3%) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (6,800; 0.8%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Education & Health Services (2,800; 0.4%), Professional & Business Services (1,100; 0.2%), Information (1,000; 1.3%), Other Services (500; 0.3%), and Government (500; 0.1%). Financial Activities (2,200; 0.8%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Manufacturing (1,200; 0.3%), and Construction (1,100; 0.5%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged.

Since January 2019, Leisure & Hospitality Services added the largest number of jobs (22,300; 4.3%), followed by Financial Activities (10,300; 4.2%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (8,100; 1.0%), Government (5,500; 0.8%), Other Services (5,000; 3.2%), Information (3,200; 4.2%) and Education & Health Services (2,300; 0.4%). Professional & Business Services (4,200; 0.6%) reported the largest decrease, followed by Construction (1,400; 0.6%), Manufacturing (800; 0.2%), and Mining & Logging (200; 3.4%).

<sup>1</sup>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 Labor Market Conditions

The January 2020 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,551,600 was 67,800 (1.5%) lower than the December 2019 not seasonally adjusted employment level of 4,619,400. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Information had the only over-the-month increase in employment at 400 (0.5%). Trade, Transportation & Utilities (22,100; 2.6%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Government (9,600; 1.3%), Construction (6,800; 2.9%), Professional & Business Services (6,500; 1.0%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (6,500; 1.3%), Education & Health Services (5,900; 0.9%), Manufacturing (5,600; 1.2%), Financial Activities (4,000; 1.6%), and Other Services (1,200; 0.7%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged.

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 51,600 (1.4%) jobs. Leisure & Hospitality Services experienced the largest employment increase at 21,200 (4.4%), followed by Financial Activities (10,700; 4.4%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (5,600; 0.7%), Other Services (4,400; 2.8%), Information (3,600; 4.8%), Government (3,500; 0.5%), Professional & Business Services (1,500; 0.2%), and Education & Health Services (1,100; 0.2%).

The Goods Producing sector decreased by 1,700 (0.2%) jobs over the year. Construction had the largest decrease with 1,100 (0.5%), followed by Manufacturing (500; 0.1%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

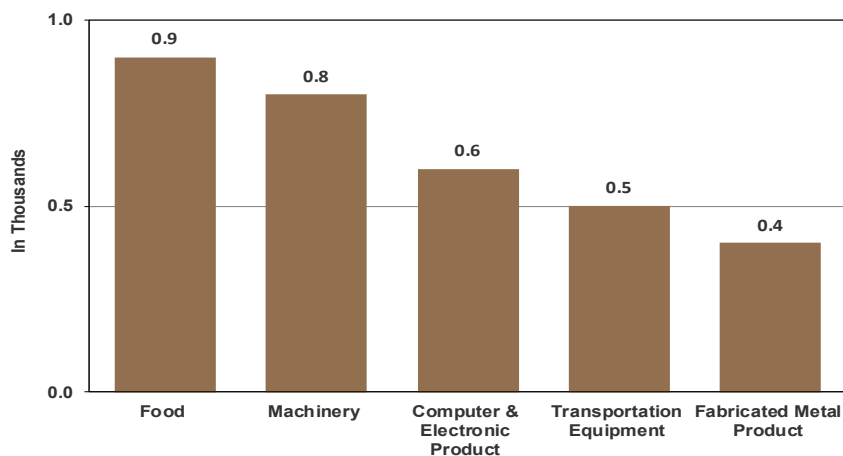
Amongst manufacturing industries, Food had the largest net over-the-year increase at 900. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Machinery, 800; Computer & Electronic Product, 600; Transportation Equipment, 500; Fabricated Metal Product, 400; Chemical, 300; and Beverage & Tobacco Product, 100.

Textile Mills had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 1,200 in January 2020. Other industries with decreases were: Furniture & Related Product, 800; Apparel, 500; Printing & Related Support Activities, 300; Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component, 300; Plastics & Rubber Products, 200; and Textile Product Mills, 200.

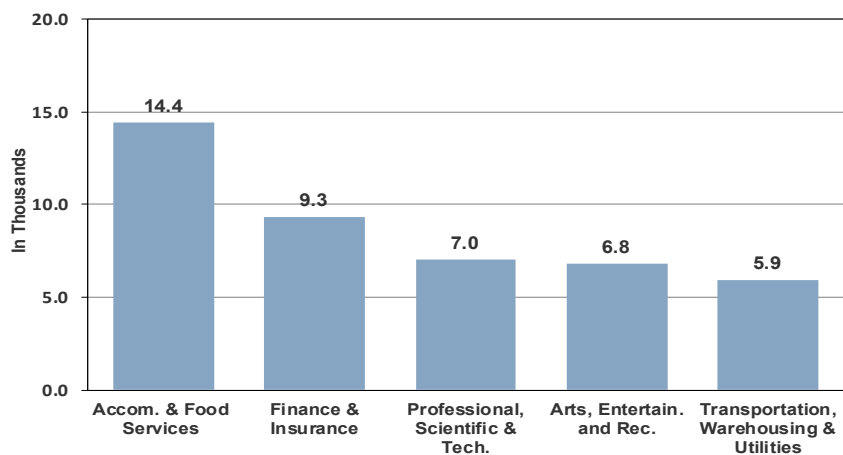
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in January decreased 42 minutes from December's seasonally adjusted rate of 34.5. Average Hourly Earnings fell by \$0.23 to \$25.78, as Average Weekly Earnings decreased by \$25.99 to \$871.36.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in January decreased 30 minutes from the seasonally adjusted rate of 34.3 in January 2019. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.33 and Average Weekly Earnings decreased \$1.58.

## Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains January 2019–January 2020 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



## Selected Service Industries With Job Gains January 2019–January 2020 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



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

