

ROY COOPER
Governor

ANTHONY M. COPELAND
Secretary

For Immediate Release: August 21, 2020
For More Information, Contact: David Rhoades/919.814.4611

North Carolina's July Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state's seasonally adjusted July unemployment rate was 8.5 percent, increasing 1.0 point from June's revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.9 of a percentage point to 10.2 percent.

North Carolina's July 2020 unemployment rate increased 4.6 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 72,211 over the month to 4,502,345 and decreased 382,495 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 62,712 over the month to 419,812 and increased 220,318 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 57,200 to 4,286,300 in July. Major industries experiencing increases were Government, 43,400; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 8,500; Professional & Business Services, 4,800; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 3,600; Education & Health Services, 1,900; Construction, 1,500; and Financial Activities, 700. Major industries experiencing decreases were Manufacturing, 5,600; Other Services, 1,000; Information, 500, and Mining & Logging, 100.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since July 2019

	Jul 2019	Aug 2019	Sept 2019	Oct 2019	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	Jun 2020	Jul 2020
N.C.	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	4.3	12.9	12.8	7.5	8.5
U.S.	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5	4.4	14.7	13.3	11.1	10.2

Please note: 2019 numbers have undergone annual revision

Since July 2019, Total Nonfarm jobs decreased 291,700 with the Total Private sector decreasing by 295,600 and Government increasing by 3,900. The only over-the-year increase among major industries was in Government, 3,900. Major industries experiencing decreases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 128,400; Education & Health Services, 42,400; Manufacturing, 40,600; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 32,300; Professional & Business Services, 30,700; Construction, 9,200; Other Services, 5,700; Information, 5,000; Financial Activities, 900; and Mining & Logging, 400.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, 2020 when the county unemployment rates for July 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. Friday, August 21, 2020

	July 2020	June 2020	July 2019	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	4,922,157	4,787,234	5,084,334	134,923	2.8	-162,177	-3.2
Employed	4,502,345	4,430,134	4,884,840	72,211	1.6	-382,495	-7.8
Unemployed	419,812	357,100	199,494	62,712	17.6	220,318	110.4
Unemployment Rate	8.5	7.5	3.9	1.0	xxx	4.6	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	4,965,432	4,812,847	5,125,881	152,585	3.2	-160,449	-3.1
Employed	4,524,153	4,441,083	4,906,342	83,070	1.9	-382,189	-7.8
Unemployed	441,279	371,764	219,539	69,515	18.7	221,740	101.0
Unemployment Rate	8.9	7.7	4.3	1.2	xxx	4.6	xxx
United States <i>(Current Population Survey)</i>							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	159,870,000	159,932,000	163,373,000	-62,000	> -0.1	xxx	xxx
Employed	143,532,000	142,182,000	157,346,000	1,350,000	0.9	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	16,338,000	17,750,000	6,027,000	-1,412,000	-8.0	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	10.2	11.1	3.7	-0.9	xxx	xxx	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	161,374,000	160,883,000	164,941,000	491,000	0.3	xxx	xxx
Employed	144,492,000	142,811,000	158,385,000	1,681,000	1.2	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	16,882,000	18,072,000	6,556,000	-1,190,000	-6.6	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	10.5	11.2	4.0	-0.7	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., Friday, August 21, 2020

	July 2020	June 2020	July 2019	Month Ago		Year Ago	
				Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,286,300	4,229,100	4,578,000	57,200	1.4	-291,700	-6.4
Total Private	3,547,800	3,534,000	3,843,400	13,800	0.4	-295,600	-7.7
Mining & Logging	5,400	5,500	5,800	-100	-1.8	-400	-6.9
Construction	221,900	220,400	231,100	1,500	0.7	-9,200	-4.0
Manufacturing	437,000	442,600	477,600	-5,600	-1.3	-40,600	-8.5
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	816,200	812,600	848,500	3,600	0.4	-32,300	-3.8
Information	70,800	71,300	75,800	-500	-0.7	-5,000	-6.6
Financial Activities	252,200	251,500	253,100	700	0.3	-900	-0.4
Professional & Business Services	618,600	613,800	649,300	4,800	0.8	-30,700	-4.7
Education & Health Services	585,500	583,600	627,900	1,900	0.3	-42,400	-6.8
Leisure & Hospitality Services	386,300	377,800	514,700	8,500	2.2	-128,400	-24.9
Other Services	153,900	154,900	159,600	-1,000	-0.6	-5,700	-3.6
Government	738,500	695,100	734,600	43,400	6.2	3,900	0.5
North Carolina <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,228,900	4,240,100	4,518,200	-11,200	-0.3	-289,300	-6.4
Total Private	3,576,800	3,559,000	3,876,900	17,800	0.5	-300,100	-7.7
Mining & Logging	5,500	5,500	5,800	0	0.0	-300	-5.2
Construction	223,500	223,200	234,500	300	0.1	-11,000	-4.7
Manufacturing	437,800	443,400	479,500	-5,600	-1.3	-41,700	-8.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	818,100	815,100	848,800	3,000	0.4	-30,700	-3.6
Information	71,400	71,300	76,200	100	0.1	-4,800	-6.3
Financial Activities	256,100	253,300	256,300	2,800	1.1	-200	-0.1
Professional & Business Services	621,600	616,700	652,600	4,900	0.8	-31,000	-4.8
Education & Health Services	579,000	577,400	622,400	1,600	0.3	-43,400	-7.0
Leisure & Hospitality Services	404,900	395,900	538,700	9,000	2.3	-133,800	-24.8
Other Services	158,900	157,200	162,100	1,700	1.1	-3,200	-2.0
Government	652,100	681,100	641,300	-29,000	-4.3	10,800	1.7

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.

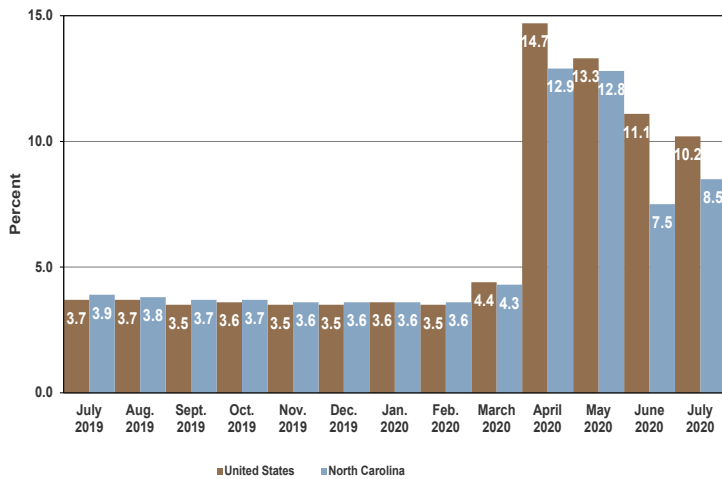
Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, 2020 when the county unemployment rates for July 2020 will be released.

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

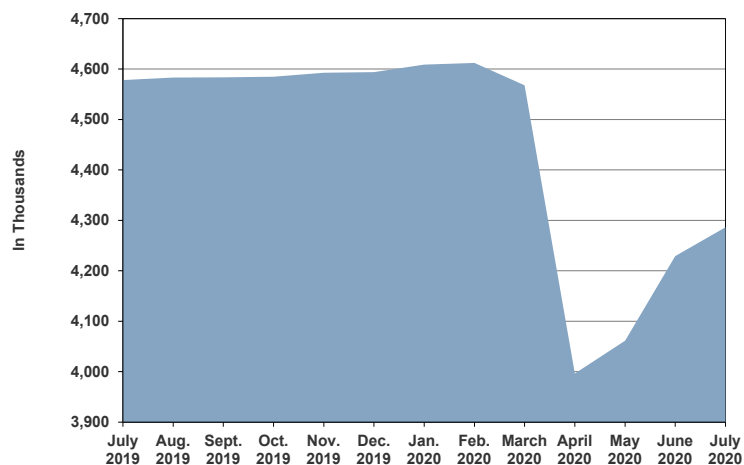
<https://www.nccommerce.com/documents/release-dates-unemployment-rates>

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

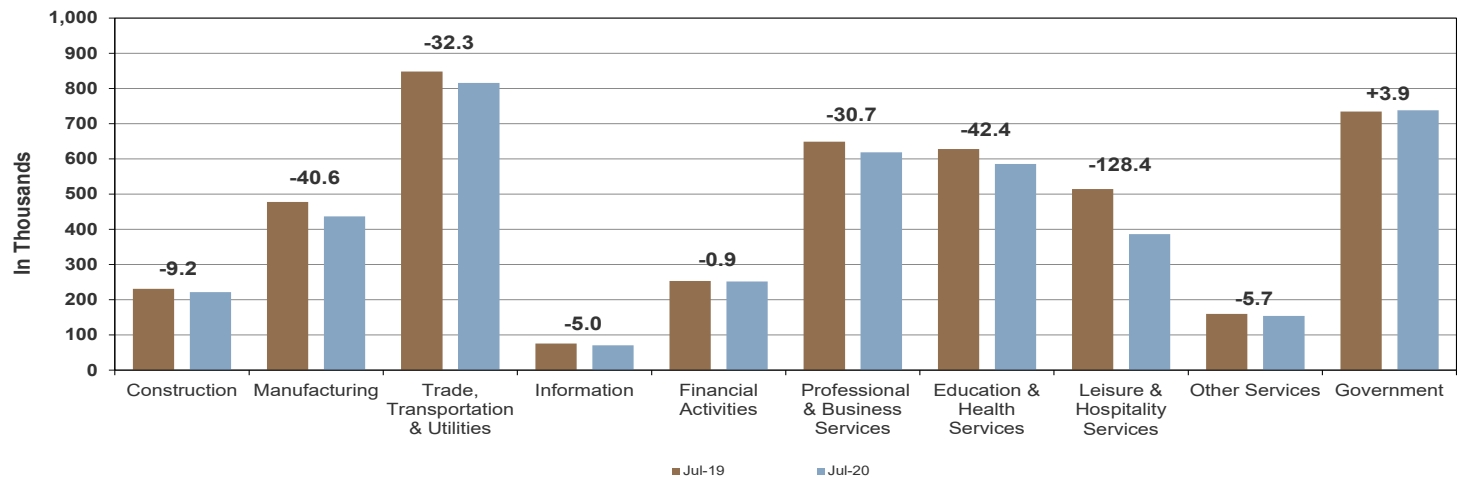


**US data are not smoothed.

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



Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries July 2019 Compared to July 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 8.5 percent in July, increasing 1.0 percentage points from June's revised rate and growing 4.6 percentage points from July 2019. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed increased by 62,712 (17.6%). The civilian labor force grew by 134,923 (2.8%) to 4,922,157.

Nationally, July's unemployment rate was 10.2 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 16,338,000, while the civilian labor force was 159,870,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,286,300) increased 57,200 (1.4%) since June 2020 and fell 291,700 (6.4%) since July 2019.¹ Private sector employment increased 13,800 (0.4%) over the month and decreased 295,600 (7.7%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Government (43,400; 6.2%) had the largest over-the-month increase in jobs, followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services (8,500; 2.2%), Professional & Business Services (4,800; 0.8%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (3,600; 0.4%), Education & Health Services (1,900; 0.3%), Construction (1,500; 0.7%), and Financial Activities (700; 0.3%). Manufacturing (5,600; 1.3%) reported the largest decrease, followed by Other Services (1,000; 0.6%), Information (500; 0.7%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

Since July 2019, Government (3,900; 0.5%) reported the only jobs increase over the year. Leisure & Hospitality Services (128,400; 24.9%) reported the largest over-the-year decrease, followed by Education & Health Services (42,400; 6.8%), Manufacturing (40,600; 8.5%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (32,300; 3.8%), Professional & Business Services (30,700; 4.7%), Construction (9,200; 4.0%), Other Services (5,700; 3.6%), Information (5,000; 6.6%), Financial Activities (900; 0.4%), and Mining & Logging (400; 6.9%).

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 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 July 2020 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,228,900 was 11,200 (0.3%) lower than the June 2020 not seasonally adjusted employment level of 4,240,100. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Leisure & Hospitality Services had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 9,000 (2.3%), followed by Professional & Business Services (4,900; 0.8%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (3,000; 0.4%), Financial Activities (2,800; 1.1%), Other Services (1,700; 1.1%), Education & Health Services (1,600; 0.3%), Construction (300; 0.1%), and Information (100; 0.1%). Government (29,000; 4.3%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Manufacturing (5,600; 1.3%). Mining & Logging reported no change.

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed a decrease of 236,300 (6.2%) jobs. Government experienced the only employment increase at 10,800 (1.7%). Leisure & Hospitality Services had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment at 133,800 (24.8%), followed by Education & Health Services (43,400; 7.0%), Professional & Business Services (31,000; 4.8%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (30,700; 3.6%), Information (4,800; 6.3%), Other Services (3,200; 2.0%), and Financial Activities (200; 0.1%).

The Goods Producing sector decreased by 53,000 (7.4%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing had the largest decrease with 41,700 (8.7%), followed by Construction (11,000; 4.7%) and Mining & Logging (300; 5.2%).

Amongst manufacturing industries, Textile Mills had the largest net over-the-year decline with the loss of 4,700 jobs. Other manufacturing industries with decreases were: Fabricated Metal Product, 4,100; Furniture & Related Product, 4,000; Machinery, 4,000; Food, 3,900; Computer & Electronic Product, 3,800; Plastics & Rubber Products, 3,400; Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component, 3,000; Printing & Related Support Activities, 2,600; Chemical, 2,000; Transportation Equipment, 1,900; Wood Product, 1,300; Apparel, 900; Beverage & Tobacco Product, 500; and Textile Product Mills, 300.

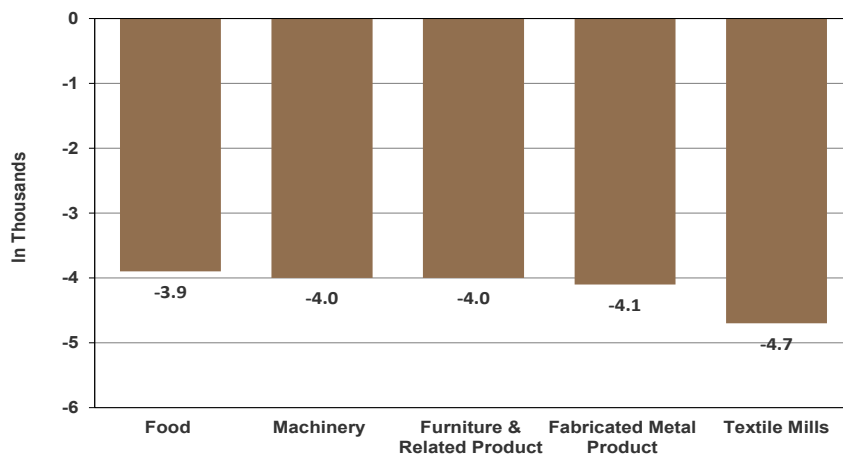
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in July decreased 12 minutes from June's revised rate of 34.8. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.43 to \$26.50, as Average Weekly Earnings increased by \$9.66 to \$916.90.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in July increased 24 minutes from the revised rate of 34.2 in July 2019. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$1.29 and Average Weekly Earnings increased \$54.72.

Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Losses

July 2019–July 2020

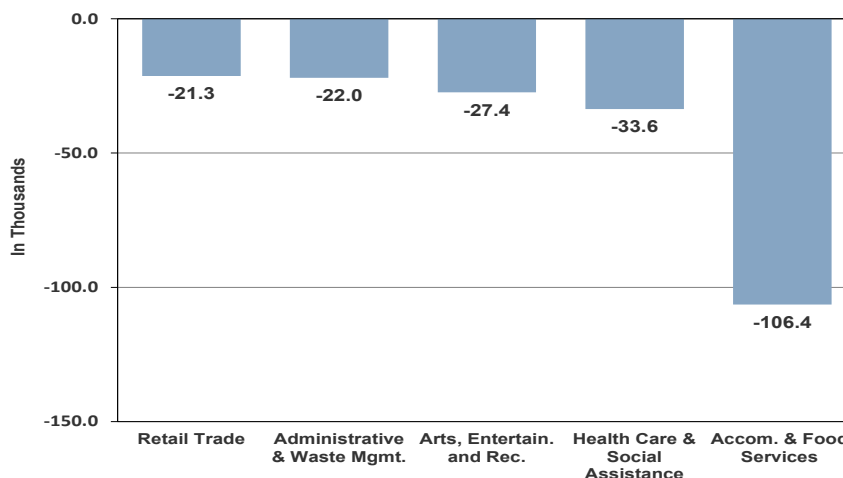
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Selected Service Industries With Job Losses

July 2019–July 2020

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Total Private Average Weekly Wage

July 2017–July 2020

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

