

For Immediate Release: August 20, 2021
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North Carolina’s July Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state’s seasonally adjusted July unemployment rate was 4.4 percent, decreasing 0.2 of a percentage point from June’s revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.5 of a percentage point to 5.4 percent.

North Carolina’s July 2021 unemployment rate decreased 4.4 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 8,361 over the month to 4,777,400 and increased 278,125 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 9,579 over the month to 222,315 and decreased 210,978 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 75,600 to 4,580,800 in July. Major industries experiencing increases were Government, 53,800; Professional & Business Services, 10,700; Construction, 4,300; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 3,800; Manufacturing, 3,100; Financial Activities, 600; and Other Services, 600. Major industries experiencing decreases were Education & Health Services, 900; and Information, 400. Mining & Logging and Trade, Transportation & Utilities employment remained unchanged.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since July 2020

	Jul 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	Jun 2021	Jul 2021
N.C.	8.8	6.8	7.3	6.8	6.4	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.6	4.4
U.S.	10.2	8.4	7.8	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.2	6.0	6.1	5.8	5.9	5.4

Please note: 2020 numbers have undergone annual revision

Since July 2020, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 270,200 with the Total Private sector increasing by 215,400 and Government increasing by 54,800. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 70,200; Government, 54,800; Professional & Business Services, 46,100; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 34,700; Manufacturing, 23,800; Construction, 16,100; Education & Health Services, 8,100; Information, 5,800; Other Services, 5,800; Financial Activities, 4,600; and Mining & Logging, 200.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, September 1, 2021 when the county unemployment rates for July 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, August 20, 2021

	July 2021	June 2021	July 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	4,999,715	5,000,933	4,932,568	-1,218	> -0.1	67,147	1.4
Employed	4,777,400	4,769,039	4,499,275	8,361	0.2	278,125	6.2
Unemployed	222,315	231,894	433,293	-9,579	-4.1	-210,978	-48.7
Unemployment Rate	4.4	4.6	8.8	-0.2	xxx	-4.4	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	5,049,564	5,038,055	4,977,349	11,509	0.2	72,215	1.5
Employed	4,817,155	4,790,626	4,516,595	26,529	0.6	300,560	6.7
Unemployed	232,409	247,429	460,754	-15,020	-6.1	-228,345	-49.6
Unemployment Rate	4.6	4.9	9.3	-0.3	xxx	-4.7	xxx
United States <i>(Current Population Survey)</i>							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	161,347,000	161,086,000	160,085,000	261,000	0.2	xxx	xxx
Employed	152,645,000	151,602,000	143,777,000	1,043,000	0.7	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	8,702,000	9,484,000	16,308,000	-782,000	-8.2	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.9	10.2	-0.5	xxx	xxx	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	162,817,000	162,167,000	161,374,000	650,000	0.4	xxx	xxx
Employed	153,596,000	152,283,000	144,492,000	1,313,000	0.9	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	9,221,000	9,883,000	16,882,000	-662,000	-6.7	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	5.7	6.1	10.5	-0.4	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, August 20, 2021

	July 2021	June 2021	July 2020	Month Ago		Year Ago	
				Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,580,800	4,505,200	4,310,600	75,600	1.7	270,200	6.3
Total Private	3,816,300	3,794,500	3,600,900	21,800	0.6	215,400	6.0
Mining & Logging	5,800	5,800	5,600	0	0.0	200	3.6
Construction	241,500	237,200	225,400	4,300	1.8	16,100	7.1
Manufacturing	468,400	465,300	444,600	3,100	0.7	23,800	5.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	868,800	868,800	834,100	0	0.0	34,700	4.2
Information	77,500	77,900	71,700	-400	-0.5	5,800	8.1
Financial Activities	259,800	259,200	255,200	600	0.2	4,600	1.8
Professional & Business Services	671,400	660,700	625,300	10,700	1.6	46,100	7.4
Education & Health Services	599,100	600,000	591,000	-900	-0.2	8,100	1.4
Leisure & Hospitality Services	466,700	462,900	396,500	3,800	0.8	70,200	17.7
Other Services	157,300	156,700	151,500	600	0.4	5,800	3.8
Government	764,500	710,700	709,700	53,800	7.6	54,800	7.7
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,513,700	4,508,600	4,239,900	5,100	0.1	273,800	6.5
Total Private	3,850,700	3,822,400	3,624,800	28,300	0.7	225,900	6.2
Mining & Logging	5,800	5,800	5,600	0	0.0	200	3.6
Construction	245,400	239,800	228,200	5,600	2.3	17,200	7.5
Manufacturing	469,100	466,100	446,000	3,000	0.6	23,100	5.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	868,100	871,600	833,300	-3,500	-0.4	34,800	4.2
Information	77,700	78,000	72,100	-300	-0.4	5,600	7.8
Financial Activities	262,900	260,200	258,200	2,700	1.0	4,700	1.8
Professional & Business Services	673,600	661,100	626,600	12,500	1.9	47,000	7.5
Education & Health Services	594,500	595,000	585,700	-500	-0.1	8,800	1.5
Leisure & Hospitality Services	493,700	486,400	415,500	7,300	1.5	78,200	18.8
Other Services	159,900	158,400	153,600	1,500	0.9	6,300	4.1
Government	663,000	686,200	615,100	-23,200	-3.4	47,900	7.8

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.

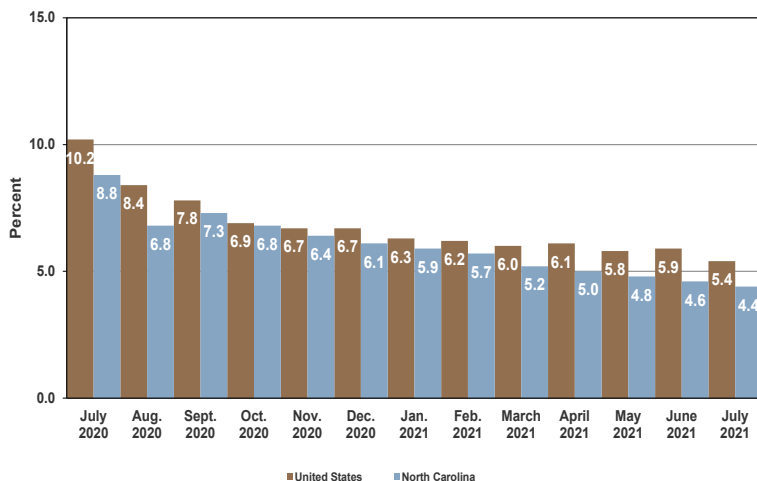
Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, September 1, 2021 when the county unemployment rates for July 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 July 2020–July 2021 (Seasonally Adjusted)



The North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.4 percent in July, decreasing 0.2 of a percentage point from June’s revised rate and declining 4.4 percentage points from July 2020. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 9,579 (4.1%). The civilian labor force fell by 1,218 (>0.1%) to 4,999,715.

Nationally, July’s unemployment rate was 5.4 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 8,702,000, while the civilian labor force was 161,347,000.

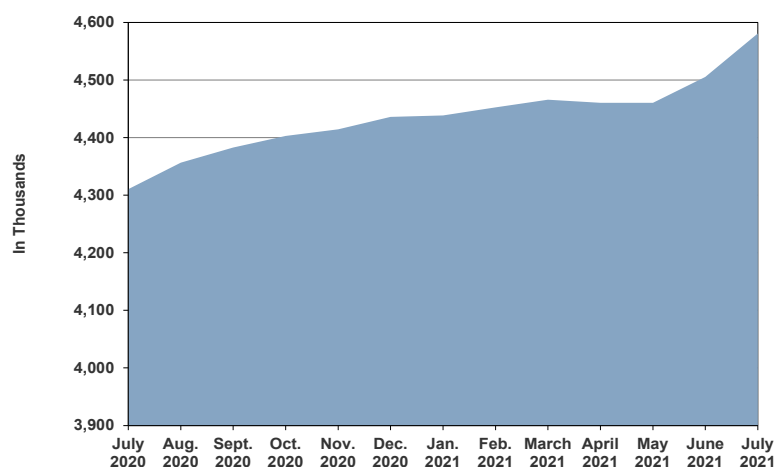
Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,580,800) increased 75,600 (1.7%) since June 2021 and grew 270,200 (6.3%) since July 2020. Private sector employment increased 21,800 (0.6%) over the month and grew 215,400 (6.0%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Government (53,800; 7.6%) had the largest over-the-month increase in jobs, followed by Professional & Business Services (10,700; 1.6%), Construction (4,300; 1.8%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (3,800; 0.8%), Manufacturing (3,100; 0.7%), Financial Activities (600; 0.2%), and Other Services (600; 0.4%). Education & Health Services (900; 0.2%) reported the largest over-the-month decline, followed by Information (400; 0.5%). Mining & Logging and Trade, Transportation, & Utilities remained unchanged.

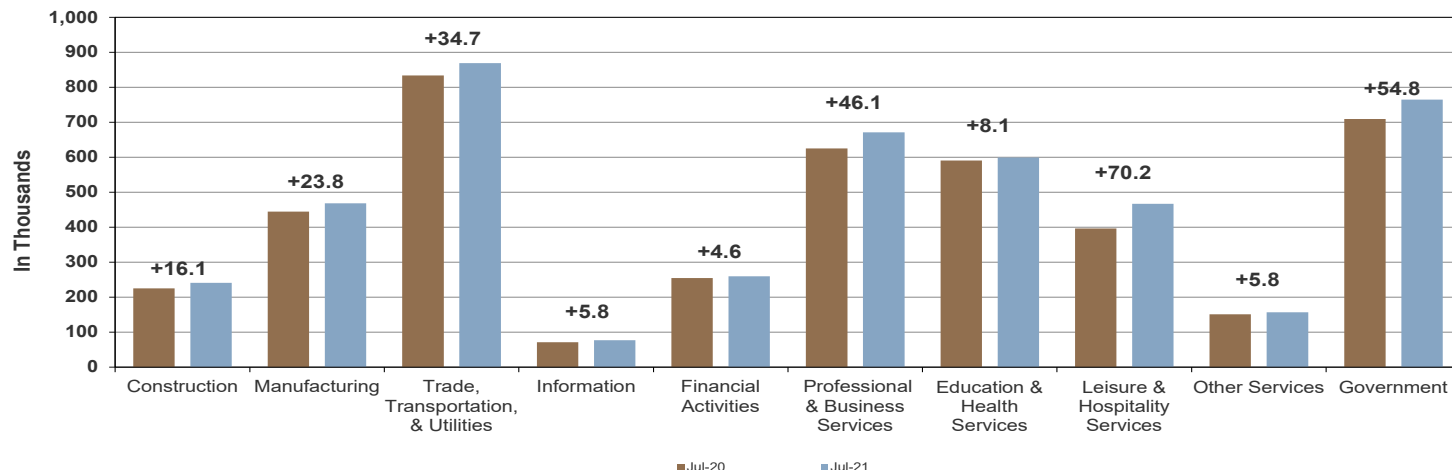
Since July 2020, Leisure & Hospitality Services (70,200; 17.7%) reported the largest jobs increase over the year, followed by Government (54,800; 7.7%), Professional & Business Services (46,100; 7.4%), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (34,700; 4.2%), Manufacturing (23,800; 5.4%), Construction (16,100; 7.1%), Education & Health Services (8,100; 1.4%), Other Services (5,800; 3.8%), Information (5,800; 8.1%), Financial Activities (4,600; 1.8%), and Mining & Logging (200; 3.6%).

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 July 2020–July 2021 (Seasonally Adjusted)



Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries July 2020 Compared to July 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 July 2021 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,513,700 was 5,100 (0.1%) higher than the June 2021 not seasonally adjusted employment level of 4,508,600. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Professional & Business Services had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 12,500 (1.9%), followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services (7,300; 1.5%), Construction (5,600; 2.3%), Manufacturing (3,000; 0.6%), Financial Activities (2,700; 1.0%), and Other Services (1,500; 0.9%). Government (23,200; 3.4%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (3,500; 0.4%), Education & Health Services (500; 0.1%), and Information (300; 0.4%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged.

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 233,300 (6.6%) jobs. Leisure & Hospitality Services (78,200; 18.8%) reported the largest increase over the year, followed by Government (47,900; 7.8%), Professional & Business Services (47,000; 7.5%), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (34,800; 4.2%), Education & Health Services (8,800; 1.5%), Other Services (6,300; 4.1%), Information (5,600; 7.8%), and Financial Activities (4,700; 1.8%).

The Goods Producing sector increased by 40,500 (6.0%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing had the largest increase with 23,100 (5.2%), followed by Construction (17,200; 7.5%), and Mining & Logging (200; 3.6%).

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

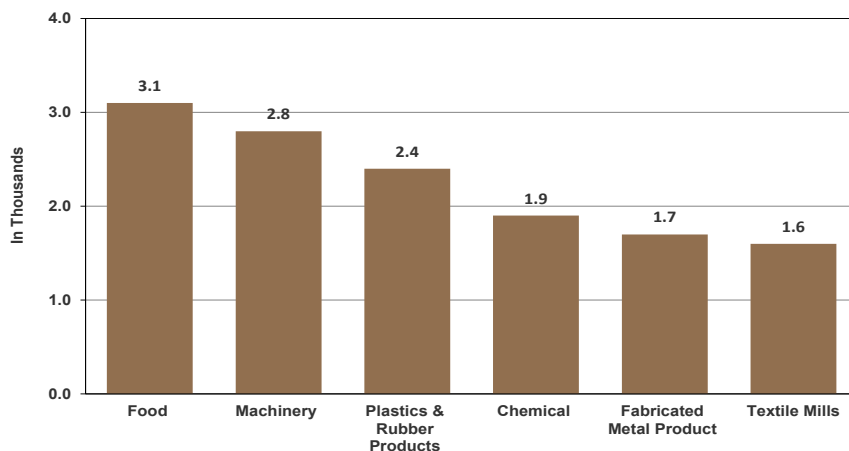
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in July decreased 12 minutes from June's revised rate of 34.7. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.32 to \$27.98, and Average Weekly Earnings increased by \$5.51 to \$965.31.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in July decreased 6 minutes from the July 2020 rate of 34.6. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$1.54 and Average Weekly Earnings increased by \$50.49.

Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains

July 2020–July 2021

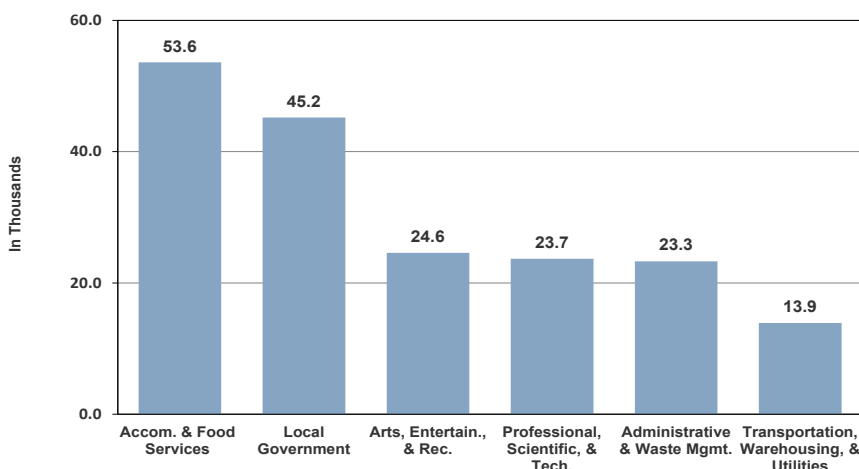
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Selected Service Industries With Job Gains

July 2020–July 2021

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Total Private Average Weekly Wage

July 2018–July 2021

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

