For Immediate Release: April 18, 2019
For More Information, Contact: Beth Gargan/919.814.4610

North Carolina's March Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state's seasonally adjusted March unemployment rate was 4.0 percent, increasing 0.1 of a percentage point from February's revised rate. The national rate remained unchanged at 3.8 percent.

North Carolina's March 2019 unemployment rate decreased 0.1 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 8,543 over the month to 4,826,260 and increased 54,964 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 5,136 over the month to 199,899 and decreased 5,031 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 6,200 to 4,540,800 in March. The major industries with the largest over-the-month increases were Education & Health Services at 2,700, followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 2,600; Information, 800; Government, 700; Other Services, 700; and Professional & Business Services, 500. Major industries experiencing decreases were Manufacturing, 1,200; Financial Activities, 200; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 200; Construction, 100; and Mining & Logging, 100.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since March 2018

	Mar 2018	Apr 2018	May 2018	Jun 2018	Jul 2018	Aug 2018	Sep 2018	Oct 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2018	Jan 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2019
N.C.	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.0
U.S.	4.0	3.9	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.8

Please note: 2018 numbers have undergone annual revision

Since March 2018, Total Nonfarm jobs gained 62,900 with the Total Private sector growing by 64,200 and Government decreasing by 1,300. The largest over-the-year increase among major industries was Leisure & Hospitality Services, 17,800, followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 13,300; Professional & Business Services, 12,300; Education & Health Services, 9,500; Construction, 4,700; Financial Activities, 4,000; Other Services, 1,600; Manufacturing, 1,000; and Information, 400. Major industries experiencing decreases were Government, 1,300; and Mining & Logging, 400.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1, 2019 when the county unemployment rates for March 2019 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. Thursday, April 18, 2019

	March 2019	February 2019	March 2018	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	5,026,159	5,012,480	4,976,226	13,679	0.3	49,933	1.0
Employed	4,826,260	4,817,717	4,771,296	8,543	0.2	54,964	1.2
Unemployed	199,899	194,763	204,930	5,136	2.6	-5,031	-2.5
Unemployment Rate	4.0	3.9	4.1	0.1	xxx	-0.1	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	5,065,196	5,035,556	4,987,008	29,640	0.6	78,188	1.6
Employed	4,858,751	4,824,256	4,785,923	34,495	0.7	72,828	1.5
Unemployed	206,445	211,300	201,085	-4,855	-2.3	5,360	2.7
Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.2	4.0	-0.1	xxx	0.1	xxx
United States (*Current Population Survey*)							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	162,960,000	163,184,000	161,646,000	-224,000	-0.1	xxx	xxx
Employed	156,748,000	156,949,000	155,160,000	-201,000	-0.1	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	6,211,000	6,235,000	6,486,000	-24,000	-0.4	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	3.8	3.8	4.0	0.0	xxx	xxx	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	162,823,000	162,793,000	161,548,000	30,000	< 0.1	xxx	xxx
Employed	156,441,000	156,167,000	154,877,000	274,000	0.2	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	6,382,000	6,625,000	6,671,000	-243,000	-3.7	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	3.9	4.1	4.1	-0.2	xxx	xxx	xxx

*Effective January 2019, 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.

2019 estimates for the current month are preliminary. Estimates for the previous month have undergone monthly revision.
2018 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., Thursday, April 18, 2019

	March 2019	February 2019	March 2018	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	4,540,800	4,534,600	4,477,900	6,200	0.1	62,900	1.4
Total Private	3,809,300	3,803,800	3,745,100	5,500	0.1	64,200	1.7
Mining & Logging	5,500	5,600	5,900	-100	-1.8	-400	-6.8
Construction	222,500	222,600	217,800	-100	-0.1	4,700	2.2
Manufacturing	474,100	475,300	473,100	-1,200	-0.3	1,000	0.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	846,100	843,500	832,800	2,600	0.3	13,300	1.6
Information	80,100	79,300	79,700	800	1.0	400	0.5
Financial Activities	242,700	242,900	238,700	-200	-0.1	4,000	1.7
Professional & Business Services	642,200	641,700	629,900	500	0.1	12,300	2.0
Education & Health Services	619,300	616,600	609,800	2,700	0.4	9,500	1.6
Leisure & Hospitality Services	520,700	520,900	502,900	-200	-0.1	17,800	3.5
Other Services	156,100	155,400	154,500	700	0.5	1,600	1.0
Government	731,500	730,800	732,800	700	0.1	-1,300	-0.2
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Total Nonfarm	4,525,400	4,493,000	4,459,100	32,400	0.7	66,300	1.5
Total Private	3,776,700	3,748,600	3,709,100	28,100	0.7	67,600	1.8
Mining & Logging	5,500	5,500	5,900	0	0.0	-400	-6.8
Construction	220,200	218,500	215,100	1,700	0.8	5,100	2.4
Manufacturing	471,800	474,000	471,800	-2,200	-0.5	0	0.0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	840,000	831,900	823,500	8,100	1.0	16,500	2.0
Information	79,800	79,100	79,500	700	0.9	300	0.4
Financial Activities	241,500	240,200	236,300	1,300	0.5	5,200	2.2
Professional & Business Services	635,800	632,500	623,800	3,300	0.5	12,000	1.9
Education & Health Services	621,600	617,800	610,200	3,800	0.6	11,400	1.9
Leisure & Hospitality Services	504,800	495,200	489,800	9,600	1.9	15,000	3.1
Other Services	155,700	153,900	153,200	1,800	1.2	2,500	1.6
Government	748,700	744,400	750,000	4,300	0.6	-1,300	-0.2

All 2019 Labor Force and CES data for the current month are preliminary.
All 2018 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

　　　　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 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 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.

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.
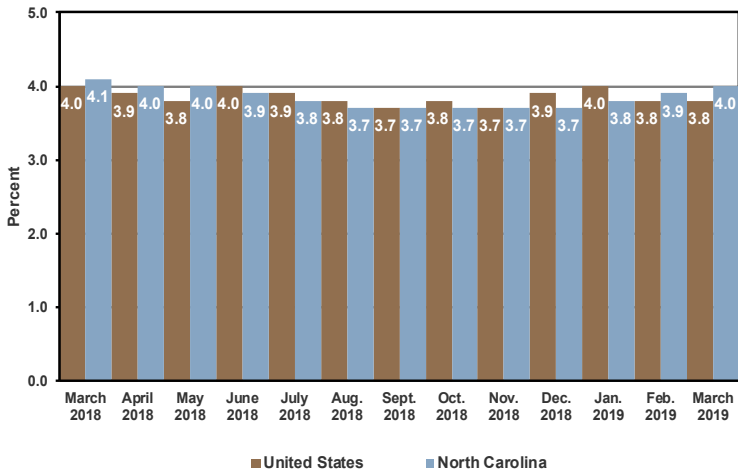
Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1, 2019 when the county unemployment rates for March 2019 will be released.

The complete data release schedule for 2019 can be accessed here:

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

United States/North Carolina Unemployment Rates
March 2018–March 2019
(Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted**)

**US data are not smoothed.

The North Carolina smoothed seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.0 percent in March, increasing 0.1 of a percentage point from the previous month and falling 0.1 of a percentage point from March 2018. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed increased by 5,136 (2.6%). The civilian labor force grew by 13,679 (0.3%) to 5,026,159.
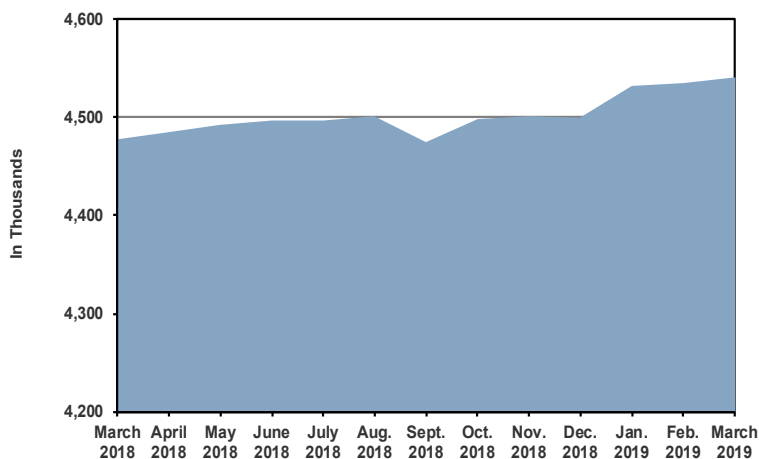
Nationally, March's unemployment rate was 3.8 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 6,211,000, while the civilian labor force was 162,960,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,540,800) increased 6,200 (0.1%) since February 2019 and increased 62,900 (1.4%) since March 2018.[1] Private sector employment grew 5,500 (0.1%) over the month and 64,200 (1.7%) over the year.
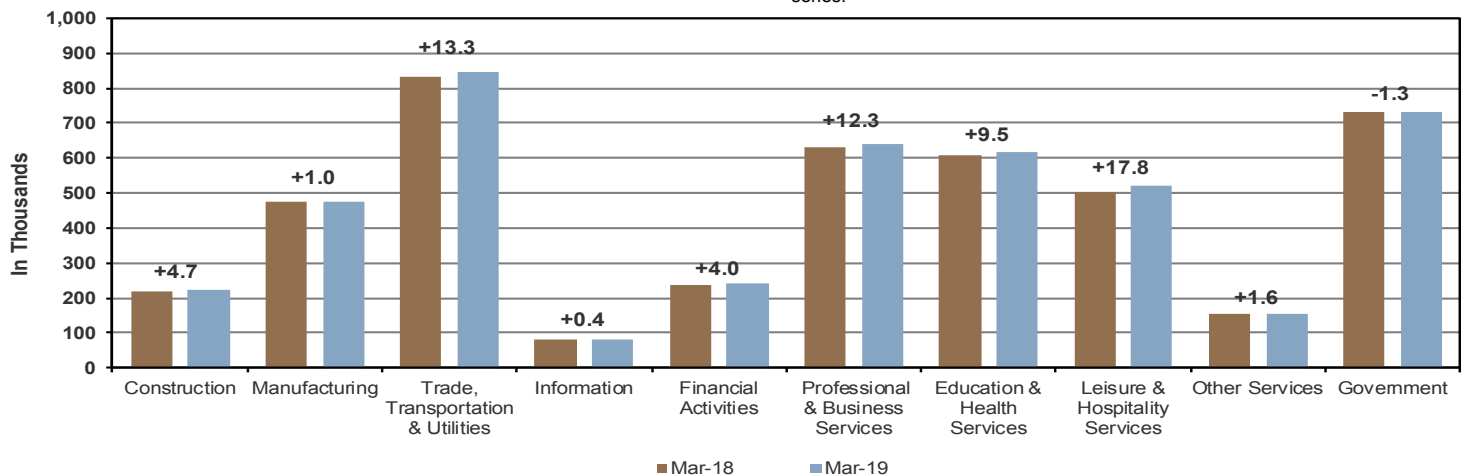
Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Education & Health Services (2,700; 0.4%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (2,600; 0.3%), Information (800; 1.0%), Government (700; 0.1%), Other Services (700; 0.5%), and Professional & Business Services (500; 0.1%). Manufacturing (1,200; 0.3%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Financial Activities (200; 0.1%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (200; >-0.1%), Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%), and Construction (100; >-0.1%).

Since March 2018, Leisure & Hospitality Services added the largest number of jobs (17,800; 3.5%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (13,300; 1.6%), Professional & Business Services (12,300; 2.0%), Education & Health Services (9,500; 1.6%), Construction (4,700; 2.2%), Financial Activities (4,000; 1.7%), Other Services (1,600; 1.0%), Manufacturing (1,000; 0.2%), and Information (400; 0.5%). Government (1,300; 0.2%) reported the largest decrease, followed by Mining & Logging (400; 6.8%).

North Carolina Total Nonfarm Employment
March 2018–March 2019
(Seasonally Adjusted)

[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 March 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.

Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries
March 2018 Compared to March 2019
(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 March 2019 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,525,400 was 32,400 (0.7%) higher than the February 2019 revised employment level of 4,493,000. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Leisure & Hospitality Services had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 9,600 (1.9%) followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities with 8,100 (1.0%); Government (4,300; 0.6%), Education & Health Services (3,800; 0.6%), Professional & Business Services (3,300; 0.5%), Other Services (1,800; 1.2%), Construction (1,700; 0.8%), Financial Activities (1,300; 0.5%), and Information (700; 0.9%). Manufacturing (2,200; 0.2%) reported the only over-the-month decrease. Mining & Logging remained unchanged over the month.

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 61,600 (1.6%) jobs. Trade, Transportation & Utilities experienced the largest employment increase at 16,500 (2.0%), followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services (15,000; 3.1%), Professional & Business Services (12,000; 1.9%), Education & Health Services (11,400; 1.9%), Financial Activities (5,200; 2.2%), Other Services (2,500; 1.6%), and Information (300; 0.4%).Government (1,300; 0.2%) reported the only over-the-year decrease.

The Goods Producing sector grew by 4,700 (0.7%) jobs over the year. Construction had the only increase with 5,100 (2.4%). Mining & Logging reported a loss of 400 (6.8%), while Manufacturing reported no change over the year.

Amongst manufacturing industries, Transportation Equipment had the largest net over-the-year increase at 1,700. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Plastics & Rubber Products, 1,000; Machinery, 700; Computer & Electronic Product, 700; Fabricated Metal Product, 600; Wood Product, 300; and Electrical Equipment, Appliance, & Component, 200.
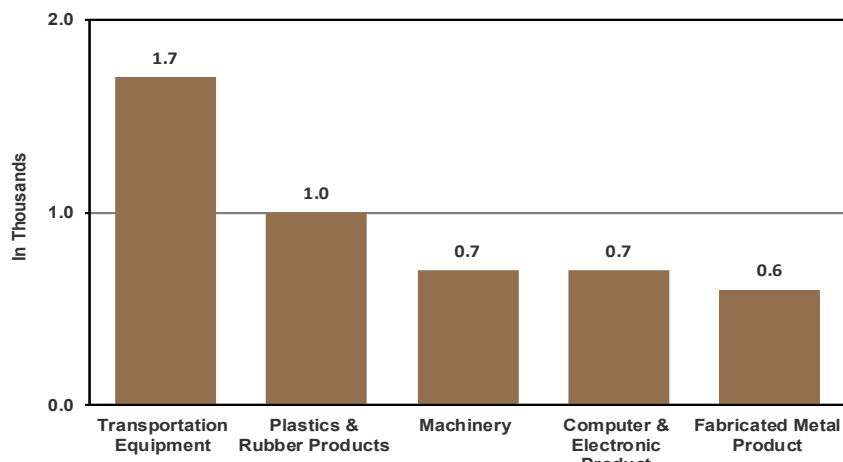
Textile Mills had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 800 in March 2019. Other industries with decreases were: Printing & Related Support Activities, 600; Beverage & Tobacco Product, 600; Apparel, 500; Furniture & Related Product, 400; Chemical, 300; Food, 200; and Textile Product Mills, 100.

Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in March increased 6 minutes from February's revised rate of 34.2. Average Hourly Earnings fell by $0.08 to $25.17, as Average Weekly Earnings decreased by $0.22 to $863.33.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in March decreased 12 minutes from the revised rate of 34.5 in March 2018. Average Hourly Earnings grew by $0.39 and Average Weekly Earnings increased $8.42.
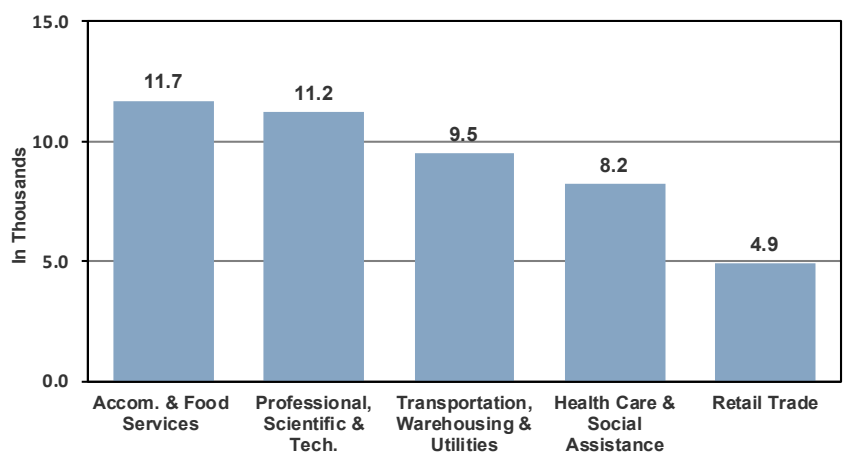
**Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains
March 2018–March 2019**
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

**Selected Service Industries With Job Gains
March 2018–March 2019**
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

**Total Private Average Weekly Wage
March 2016–March 2019**
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)