



ROY COOPER
Governor

ANTHONY M. COPELAND
Secretary

For Immediate Release: June 15, 2018
For More Information, Contact: Beth Gargan/919.814.4610

North Carolina's May Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state's seasonally adjusted May unemployment rate was 4.3 percent, decreasing 0.1 of a percentage point from April's revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.1 of a percentage point to 3.8 percent.

North Carolina's May 2018 unemployment rate decreased 0.2 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 12,280 over the month to 4,774,254 and increased 64,944 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 5,969 over the month to 213,611 and decreased 6,727 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 21,600 to 4,502,100 in May. The major industries with the largest over-the-month increases were Professional & Business Services at 8,800, followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 6,000; Manufacturing, 3,300; Education & Health Services, 3,000; Financial Activities, 600; Construction, 500; Information, 300; and Other Services, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 700; and Government, 300. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged over the month.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since May 2017

	May 2017	Jun 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Sep 2017	Oct 2017	Nov 2017	Dec 2017	Jan 2018	Feb 2018	Mar 2018	Apr 2018	May 2018
N.C.	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.3
U.S.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.8

Please note: 2017 numbers have been annually revised

Since May 2017, Total Nonfarm jobs gained 99,600 with the Total Private sector growing by 94,900 and Government increasing by 4,700. The largest over-the-year increase among major industries was Professional & Business Services at 27,700, followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 20,400; Education & Health Services, 11,400; Manufacturing, 10,100; Construction, 8,300; Financial Activities, 5,900; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 5,400; Information, 4,900; Government, 4,700; Other Services, 600; and Mining & Logging, 200.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, June 27, 2018 when the county unemployment rates for May 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. Friday, June 15, 2018

				<i>Month Ago</i>		<i>Year Ago</i>	
	<i>May 2018</i>	<i>April 2018</i>	<i>May 2017</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
<i>North Carolina</i> <i>(Local Area Unemployment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,987,865	4,981,554	4,929,648	6,311	0.1	58,217	1.2
Employed	4,774,254	4,761,974	4,709,310	12,280	0.3	64,944	1.4
Unemployed	213,611	219,580	220,338	-5,969	-2.7	-6,727	-3.1
Unemployment Rate	4.3	4.4	4.5	-0.1	xxx	-0.2	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	5,019,980	4,983,756	4,940,145	36,224	0.7	79,835	1.6
Employed	4,835,398	4,798,166	4,727,009	37,232	0.8	108,389	2.3
Unemployed	184,582	185,590	213,136	-1,008	-0.5	-28,554	-13.4
Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.7	4.3	0.0	xxx	-0.6	xxx
<i>United States</i> <i>(Current Population Survey)</i>							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	161,539,000	161,527,000	159,729,000	12,000	< 0.1	xxx	xxx
Employed	155,474,000	155,181,000	152,892,000	293,000	0.2	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	6,065,000	6,346,000	6,837,000	-281,000	-4.4	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	3.8	3.9	4.3	-0.1	xxx	xxx	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	161,765,000	161,280,000	159,979,000	485,000	0.3	xxx	xxx
Employed	156,009,000	155,348,000	153,407,000	661,000	0.4	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	5,756,000	5,932,000	6,572,000	-176,000	-3.0	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.7	4.1	-0.1	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., Friday, June 15, 2018

	May 2018	April 2018	May 2017	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	4,502,100	4,480,500	4,402,500	21,600	0.5	99,600	2.3
Total Private	3,765,900	3,744,000	3,671,000	21,900	0.6	94,900	2.6
Mining & Logging	5,800	5,800	5,600	0	0.0	200	3.6
Construction	216,000	215,500	207,700	500	0.2	8,300	4.0
Manufacturing	476,800	473,500	466,700	3,300	0.7	10,100	2.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	844,600	838,600	824,200	6,000	0.7	20,400	2.5
Information	83,400	83,100	78,500	300	0.4	4,900	6.2
Financial Activities	237,700	237,100	231,800	600	0.3	5,900	2.5
Professional & Business Services	642,000	633,200	614,300	8,800	1.4	27,700	4.5
Education & Health Services	609,500	606,500	598,100	3,000	0.5	11,400	1.9
Leisure & Hospitality Services	498,000	498,700	492,600	-700	-0.1	5,400	1.1
Other Services	152,100	152,000	151,500	100	0.1	600	0.4
Government	736,200	736,500	731,500	-300	0.0	4,700	0.6
North Carolina <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,533,800	4,482,200	4,436,000	51,600	1.2	97,800	2.2
Total Private	3,779,000	3,727,800	3,687,000	51,200	1.4	92,000	2.5
Mining & Logging	5,800	5,800	5,600	0	0.0	200	3.6
Construction	217,800	214,400	208,800	3,400	1.6	9,000	4.3
Manufacturing	474,400	469,200	465,900	5,200	1.1	8,500	1.8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	844,400	833,200	822,200	11,200	1.3	22,200	2.7
Information	83,000	82,600	78,600	400	0.5	4,400	5.6
Financial Activities	237,700	235,600	231,800	2,100	0.9	5,900	2.5
Professional & Business Services	642,800	632,000	614,100	10,800	1.7	28,700	4.7
Education & Health Services	610,400	607,200	600,600	3,200	0.5	9,800	1.6
Leisure & Hospitality Services	509,500	496,500	507,000	13,000	2.6	2,500	0.5
Other Services	153,200	151,300	152,400	1,900	1.3	800	0.5
Government	754,800	754,400	749,000	400	0.1	5,800	0.8

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.

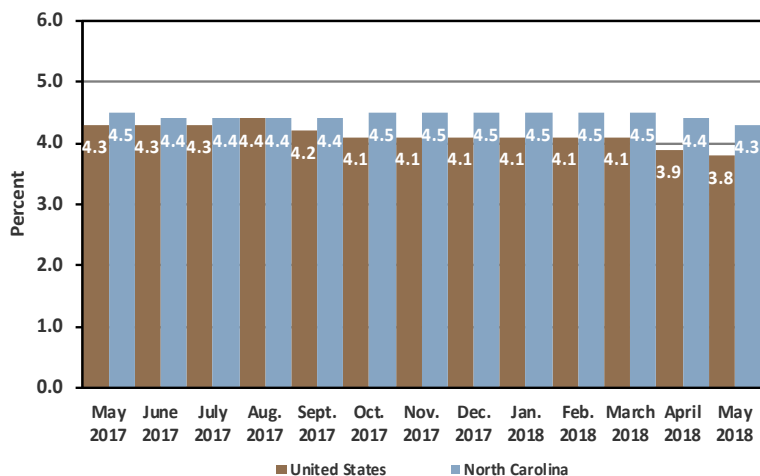
Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, June 27, 2018 when the county unemployment rates for May 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
May 2017–May 2018
(Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted**)



**US data are not smoothed.

The North Carolina smoothed seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in May, decreasing 0.1 of a percentage point from the previous month and falling 0.2 of a percentage point from May 2017. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed fell by 5,969 (2.7%). The civilian labor force increased by 6,311 (0.1%) to 4,987,865.

Nationally, May's unemployment rate was 3.8 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 6,065,000, while the civilian labor force was 161,539,000.

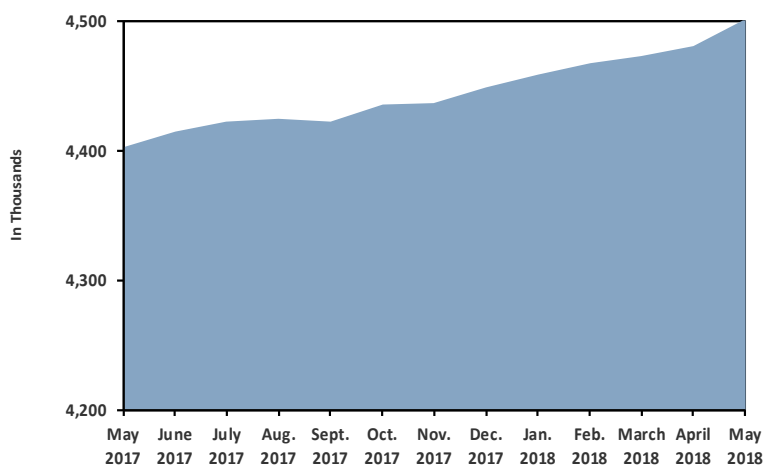
Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,502,100) increased 21,600 (0.5%) since April 2018 and 99,600 (2.3%) since May 2017. Private sector employment grew over the month by 21,900 (0.6%) and 94,900 (2.6%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Professional & Business Services (8,800; 1.4%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (6,000; 0.7%), Manufacturing (3,300; 0.7%), Education & Health Services (3,000; 0.5%), Financial Activities (600; 0.3%), Construction (500; 0.2%), Information (300; 0.4%), and Other Services (100; 0.1%). Leisure & Hospitality Services (700; 0.1%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Government (300; >-0.1%).

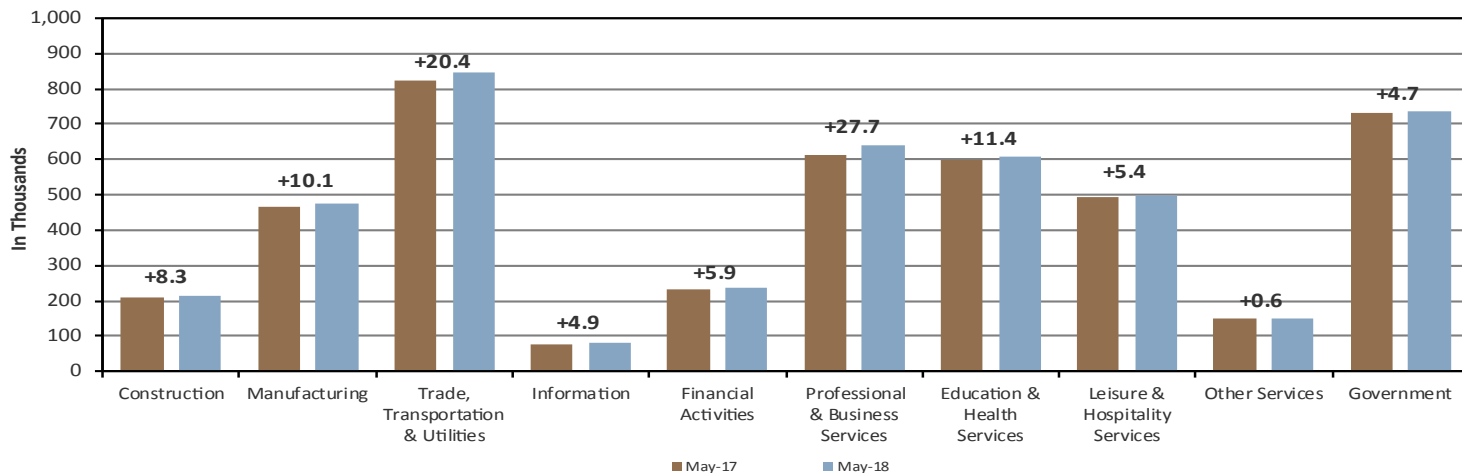
Since May 2017, Professional & Business Services added the largest number of jobs (27,700; 4.5%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (20,400; 2.5%), Education & Health Services (11,400; 1.9%), Manufacturing (10,100; 2.2%), Construction (8,300; 4.0%), Financial Activities (5,900; 2.5%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (5,400; 1.1%), Information (4,900; 6.2%), Government (4,700; 0.6%), Other Services (600; 0.4%), and Mining & Logging (200; 3.6%).

*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
May 2017–May 2018
(Seasonally Adjusted)



Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries
May 2017 Compared to May 2018
(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.

North Carolina Labor Market Conditions

The May 2018 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,533,800 was 51,600 (1.2%) more than the April 2018 revised employment level of 4,482,200. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Leisure & Hospitality Services had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 13,000 (2.6%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (11,200; 1.3%), Professional & Business Services (10,800; 1.7%), Manufacturing (5,200; 1.1%), Construction (3,400; 1.6%), Education & Health Services (3,200; 0.5%), Financial Activities (2,100; 0.9%), Other Services (1,900; 1.3%), Government (400; 0.1%), and Information (400; 0.5%). 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 80,100 (2.1%) jobs. Professional & Business Services experienced the largest employment increase at 28,700 (4.7%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (22,200; 2.7%), Education & Health Services (9,800; 1.6%), Financial Activities (5,900; 2.6%), Government (5,800; 0.8%), Information (4,400; 5.6%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (2,500; 0.5%), and Other Services (800; 0.5%).

The Goods Producing sector grew by 17,700 (2.6%) jobs over the year. Construction had the largest increase with 9,000 (4.3%), followed by Manufacturing (8,500; 1.8%), and Mining & Logging (200; 3.6%).

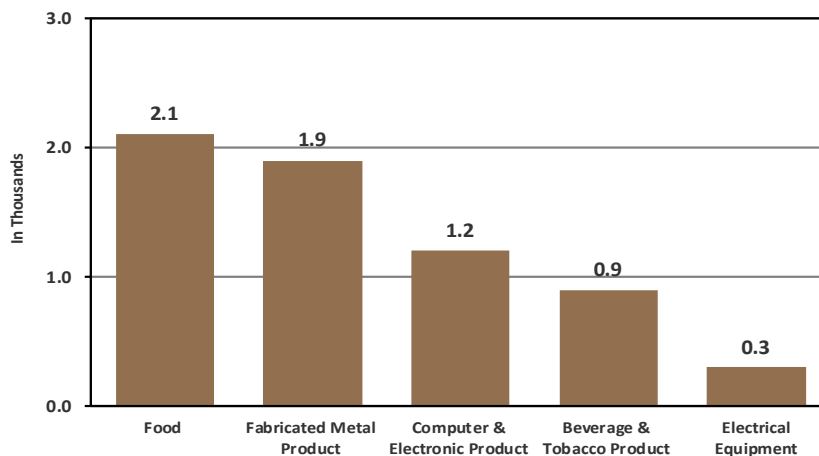
Amongst manufacturing industries, Food had the largest net over-the-year increase at 2,100. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Fabricated Metal Product, 1,900; Computer & Electronic Product, 1,200; Beverage & Tobacco Product, 900; Electrical Equipment, 300; Plastics & Rubber Products, 300; Wood Product, 200; Machinery, 200; and Transportation Equipment, 100.

Furniture & Related Product had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 900 in May 2018. Other industries with decreases were: Apparel, 400; Textile Mills, 200; and Printing & Related Support Activities, 100.

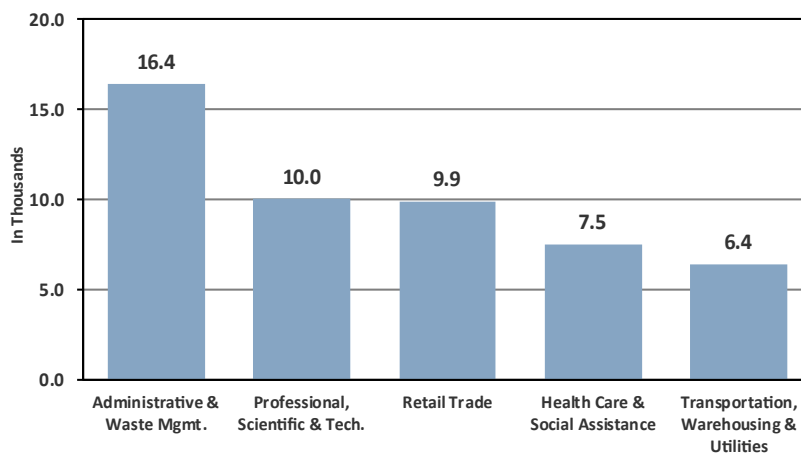
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in May decreased 24 minutes from April's revised rate of 35.2. Average Hourly Earnings fell by \$0.16 to \$24.88, as Average Weekly Earnings decreased by \$15.59 to \$865.82.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in May increased 24 minutes from the revised rate of 34.4 in May 2017. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.90 and Average Weekly Earnings increased \$40.91.

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



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



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

