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For Immediate Release: June 21, 2019
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North Carolina's May Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state's seasonally adjusted May unemployment rate was 4.1 percent, increasing 0.1 of a percentage point from April's revised rate. The national rate remained unchanged at 3.6 percent.

North Carolina's May 2019 unemployment rate increased 0.1 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 14,161 over the month to 4,852,204 and increased 64,656 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 4,474 over the month to 206,902 and increased 8,975 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 1,100 to 4,559,500 in May. The major industries with the largest over-the-month increases were Government at 2,300, followed by Construction, 2,000; Financial Activities, 1,500; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 1,500; Education & Health Services, 600; and Information, 500. Major industries experiencing decreases were Professional & Business Services, 3,800; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 2,500; Manufacturing, 700; and Other Services, 300. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since May 2018

	May 2018	Jun 2018	Jul 2018	Aug 2018	Sep 2018	Oct 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2018	Jan 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2019	Apr 2019	May 2019
N.C.	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.1
U.S.	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.6

Please note: 2018 numbers have undergone annual revision

Since May 2018, Total Nonfarm jobs gained 67,000 with the Total Private sector growing by 67,200 and Government decreasing by 200. The largest over-the-year increase among major industries was Trade, Transportation & Utilities at 18,600, followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services, 14,700; Education & Health Services, 13,400; Professional & Business Services, 11,400; Financial Activities, 5,200; Construction, 3,200; Manufacturing, 1,100; and Other Services, 500. Major industries experiencing decreases were Information, 700; Government, 200; and Mining & Logging, 200.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Tuesday, July 2, 2019 when the county unemployment rates for May 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. Friday, June 21, 2019

	May 2019	April 2019	May 2018	Month Ago		Year Ago	
				Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina <i>(Local Area Unemployment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	5,059,106	5,040,471	4,985,475	18,635	0.4	73,631	1.5
Employed	4,852,204	4,838,043	4,787,548	14,161	0.3	64,656	1.4
Unemployed	206,902	202,428	197,927	4,474	2.2	8,975	4.5
Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.0	4.0	0.1	xxx	0.1	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	5,122,634	5,066,547	5,004,225	56,087	1.1	118,409	2.4
Employed	4,916,851	4,886,550	4,821,167	30,301	0.6	95,684	2.0
Unemployed	205,783	179,997	183,058	25,786	14.3	22,725	12.4
Unemployment Rate	4.0	3.6	3.7	0.4	xxx	0.3	xxx
United States <i>(Current Population Survey)</i>							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	162,646,000	162,470,000	161,667,000	176,000	0.1	xxx	xxx
Employed	156,758,000	156,645,000	155,539,000	113,000	0.1	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	5,888,000	5,824,000	6,128,000	64,000	1.1	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.6	3.8	0.0	xxx	xxx	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	162,655,000	162,097,000	161,765,000	558,000	0.3	xxx	xxx
Employed	157,152,000	156,710,000	156,009,000	442,000	0.3	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	5,503,000	5,387,000	5,756,000	116,000	2.2	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	3.4	3.3	3.6	0.1	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., Friday, June 21, 2019

				<i>Month Ago</i>		<i>Year Ago</i>	
	<i>May 2019</i>	<i>April 2019</i>	<i>May 2018</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
North Carolina <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,559,500	4,558,400	4,492,500	1,100	<0.1	67,000	1.5
Total Private	3,824,300	3,825,500	3,757,100	-1,200	>-0.1	67,200	1.8
Mining & Logging	5,600	5,600	5,800	0	0.0	-200	-3.4
Construction	223,100	221,100	219,900	2,000	0.9	3,200	1.5
Manufacturing	475,600	476,300	474,500	-700	-0.1	1,100	0.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	851,600	850,100	833,000	1,500	0.2	18,600	2.2
Information	80,200	79,700	80,900	500	0.6	-700	-0.9
Financial Activities	244,800	243,300	239,600	1,500	0.6	5,200	2.2
Professional & Business Services	644,800	648,600	633,400	-3,800	-0.6	11,400	1.8
Education & Health Services	625,400	624,800	612,000	600	0.1	13,400	2.2
Leisure & Hospitality Services	518,200	520,700	503,500	-2,500	-0.5	14,700	2.9
Other Services	155,000	155,300	154,500	-300	-0.2	500	0.3
Government	735,200	732,900	735,400	2,300	0.3	-200	>-0.1
North Carolina <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,587,700	4,560,200	4,528,400	27,500	0.6	59,300	1.3
Total Private	3,835,300	3,811,400	3,773,800	23,900	0.6	61,500	1.6
Mining & Logging	5,600	5,600	5,800	0	0.0	-200	-3.4
Construction	224,200	218,900	221,000	5,300	2.4	3,200	1.4
Manufacturing	474,700	472,600	473,600	2,100	0.4	1,100	0.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	849,700	846,200	831,300	3,500	0.4	18,400	2.2
Information	79,600	79,200	81,300	400	0.5	-1,700	-2.1
Financial Activities	245,100	241,700	239,400	3,400	1.4	5,700	2.4
Professional & Business Services	642,200	648,300	632,900	-6,100	-0.9	9,300	1.5
Education & Health Services	625,200	625,800	615,600	-600	-0.1	9,600	1.6
Leisure & Hospitality Services	532,800	518,300	517,600	14,500	2.8	15,200	2.9
Other Services	156,200	154,800	155,300	1,400	0.9	900	0.6
Government	752,400	748,800	754,600	3,600	0.5	-2,200	-0.3

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.

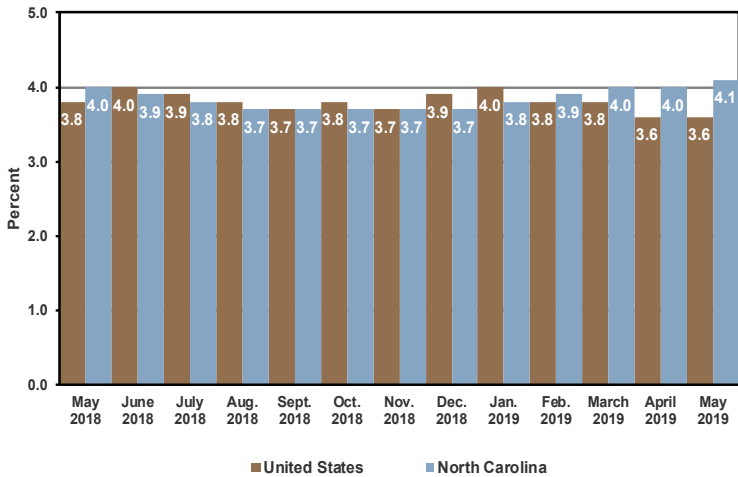
Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Tuesday, July 2, 2019 when the county unemployment rates for May 2019 will be released.

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

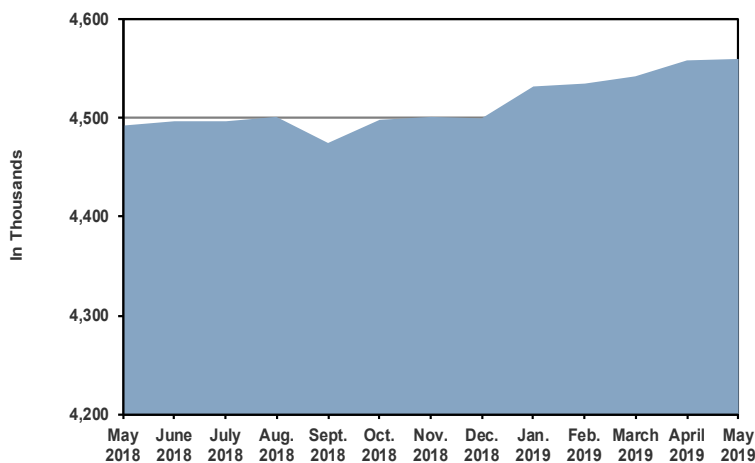
<https://www.nccommerce.com/documents/release-dates-unemployment-rates>

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

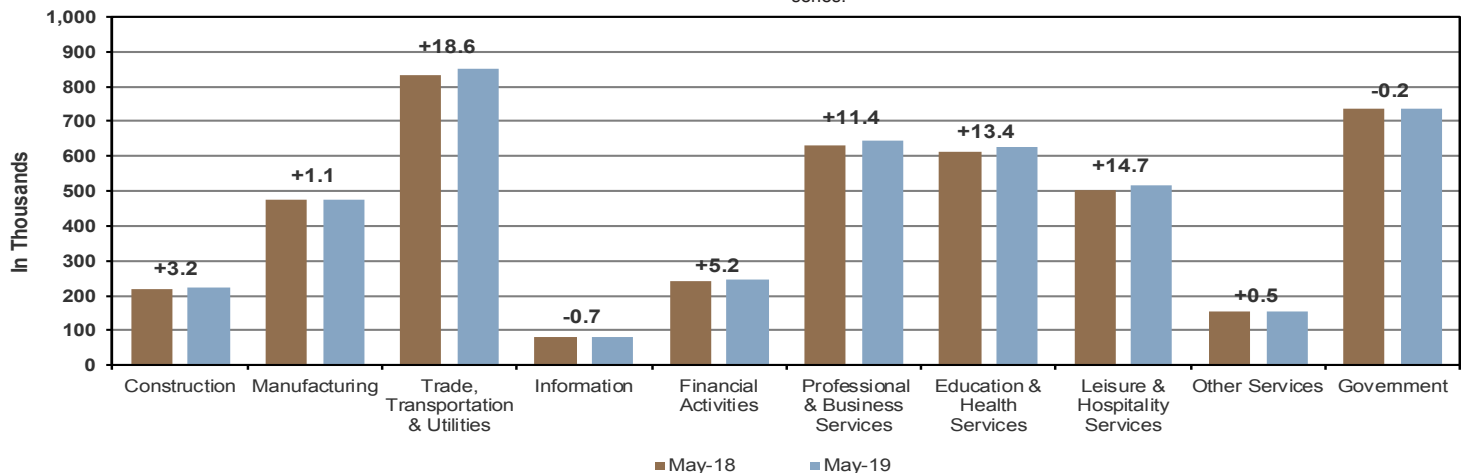


**US data are not smoothed.

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



Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries May 2018 Compared to May 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 North Carolina smoothed seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in May, increasing 0.1 of a percentage point from the previous month and May 2018. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed increased by 4,474 (2.2%). The civilian labor force grew by 18,635 (0.4%) to 5,059,106.

Nationally, May's unemployment rate was 3.6 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 5,888,000, while the civilian labor force was 162,646,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,559,500) increased 1,100 (<0.1%) since April 2019 and increased 67,000 (1.5%) since May 2018.¹ Private sector employment fell 1,200 (>-0.1%) over the month and increased 67,200 (1.8%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Government (2,300; 0.3%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Construction (2,000; 0.9%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (1,500; 0.2%), Financial Activities (1,500; 0.6%), Education & Health Services (600; 0.1%), and Information (500; 0.6%). Professional & Business Services (3,800; 0.6%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services (2,500; 0.5%), Manufacturing (700; 0.1%), and Other Services (300; 0.2%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged over the month.

Since May 2018, Trade, Transportation & Utilities added the largest number of jobs (18,600; 2.2%), followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services (14,700; 2.9%), Education & Health Services (13,400; 2.2%), Professional & Business Services (11,400; 1.8%), Financial Activities (5,200; 2.2%), Construction (3,200; 1.5%), Manufacturing (1,100; 0.2%), and Other Services (500; 0.3%). Information (700; 0.9%) reported the largest decrease, followed by Mining & Logging (200; 3.4%), and Government (200; >-0.1%).

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 May 2019 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,587,700 was 27,500 (0.6%) higher than the April 2019 revised employment level of 4,560,200. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Leisure & Hospitality Services had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 14,500 (2.8%) followed by Construction (5,300; 2.4%), Government with 3,600 (0.5%); Trade, Transportation & Utilities (3,500; 0.4%), Financial Activities (3,400; 1.4%), Manufacturing (2,100; 0.4%), Other Services (1,400; 0.9%), and Information (400; 0.5%). Professional & Business Services (6,100; 0.9%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Education & Health Services (600; 0.1%). Mining & Logging reported no change over the month.

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 55,200 (1.4%) jobs. Trade, Transportation & Utilities experienced the largest employment increase at 18,400 (2.2%), followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services (15,200; 2.9%), Education & Health Services (9,600; 1.6%), Professional & Business Services (9,300; 1.5%), and Other Services (900; 0.6%). Government (2,200; 0.3%) reported the largest over-the-year decrease, followed by Information (1,700; 2.1%).

The Goods Producing sector grew by 4,100 (0.6%) jobs over the year. Construction had the largest increase with 3,200 (1.5%), followed by Manufacturing (1,100; 0.2%). Mining & Logging reported a loss of 200 (3.5%).

Amongst manufacturing industries, Transportation Equipment had the largest net over-the-year increase at 2,500. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Fabricated Metal Product, 900; Plastics & Rubber Products, 900; Computer & Electronic Product, 600; Wood Product, 400; and Machinery, 400.

Textile Mills had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 1,100 in May 2019. Other industries with decreases were: Food, 1,000; Chemical, 900; Printing & Related Support Activities, 700; Apparel, 500; Beverage & Tobacco Product, 400; Textile Product Mills, 100; and Furniture & Related Product, 100.

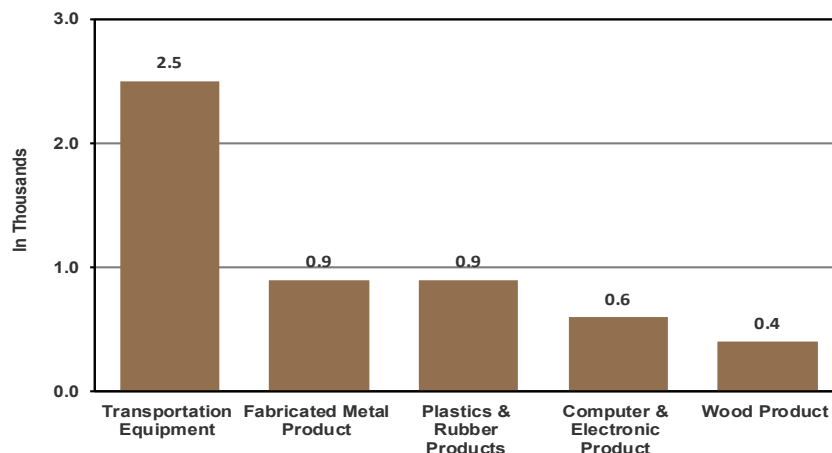
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in May remained unchanged from April's revised rate of 34.2. Average Hourly Earnings fell by \$0.04 to \$25.14, as Average Weekly Earnings decreased by \$1.37 to \$859.79.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in May decreased 30 minutes from the revised rate of 34.7 in May 2018. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.42 and Average Weekly Earnings increased \$2.01.

Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains

May 2018–May 2019

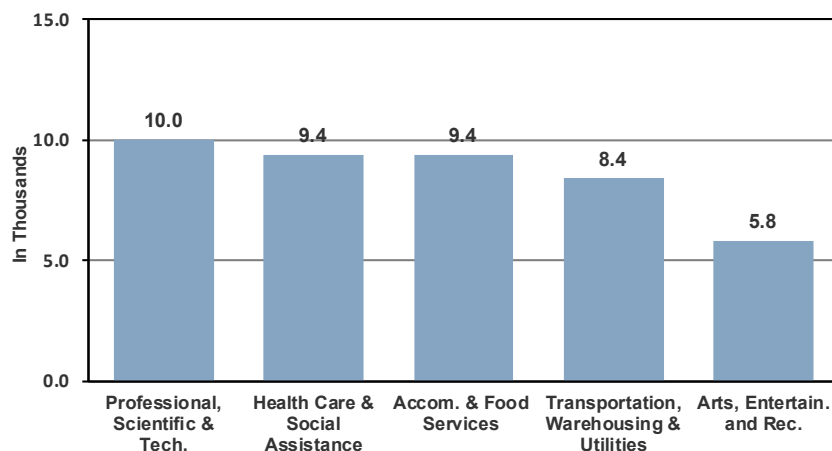
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Selected Service Industries With Job Gains

May 2018–May 2019

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Total Private Average Weekly Wage

May 2016–May 2019

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

