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For Immediate Release: June 19, 2020
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North Carolina's May Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state's seasonally adjusted May unemployment rate was 12.9 percent, remaining unchanged from April's revised rate. The national rate decreased 1.4 percentage points to 13.3 percent.

North Carolina's May 2020 unemployment rate increased 8.9 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 118,154 over the month to 4,200,388 and decreased 662,968 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 16,021 over the month to 621,713 and increased 417,511 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 67,100 to 4,063,300 in May. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 44,800; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 17,200; Education & Health Services, 16,700; Other Services, 10,700; Professional & Business Services, 9,700; Manufacturing, 5,300; and Financial Activities, 900. Major industries experiencing decreases were Government, 35,600; Information, 2,100; Construction, 400; and Mining & Logging, 100.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since May 2019

	May 2019	Jun 2019	Jul 2019	Aug 2019	Sept 2019	Oct 2019	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020
N.C.	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	4.3	12.9	12.9
U.S.	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5	4.4	14.7	13.3

Please note: 2019 numbers have undergone annual revision

Since May 2019, Total Nonfarm jobs decreased 504,800 with the Total Private sector decreasing by 449,100 and Government decreasing by 55,700. The only over-the-year increase among major industries was in Financial Activities, 1,300. Major industries experiencing decreases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 202,400; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 58,600; Education & Health Services, 56,200; Government, 55,700; Manufacturing, 48,100; Professional & Business Services, 45,500; Other Services, 22,100; Construction, 12,800; Information, 4,400; and Mining & Logging, 300.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, July 1, 2020 when the county unemployment rates for May 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, June 19, 2020

	May 2020	April 2020	May 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	4,822,101	4,687,926	5,067,558	134,175	2.9	-245,457	-4.8
Employed	4,200,388	4,082,234	4,863,356	118,154	2.9	-662,968	-13.6
Unemployed	621,713	605,692	204,202	16,021	2.6	417,511	204.5
Unemployment Rate	12.9	12.9	4.0	0.0	xxx	8.9	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	4,841,906	4,683,309	5,081,718	158,597	3.4	-239,812	-4.7
Employed	4,224,833	4,098,139	4,885,278	126,694	3.1	-660,445	-13.5
Unemployed	617,073	585,170	196,440	31,903	5.5	420,633	214.1
Unemployment Rate	12.7	12.5	3.9	0.2	xxx	8.8	xxx
United States <i>(Current Population Survey)</i>							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	158,227,000	156,481,000	162,782,000	1,746,000	1.1	xxx	xxx
Employed	137,242,000	133,403,000	156,844,000	3,839,000	2.9	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	20,985,000	23,078,000	5,938,000	-2,093,000	-9.1	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	13.3	14.7	3.6	-1.4	xxx	xxx	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	157,975,000	155,830,000	162,655,000	2,145,000	1.4	xxx	xxx
Employed	137,461,000	133,326,000	157,152,000	4,135,000	3.1	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	20,514,000	22,504,000	5,503,000	-1,990,000	-8.8	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	13.0	14.4	3.4	-1.4	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, June 19, 2020

	May 2020	April 2020	May 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	4,063,300	3,996,200	4,568,100	67,100	1.7	-504,800	-11.1
Total Private	3,387,200	3,284,500	3,836,300	102,700	3.1	-449,100	-11.7
Mining & Logging	5,500	5,600	5,800	-100	-1.8	-300	-5.2
Construction	218,200	218,600	231,000	-400	-0.2	-12,800	-5.5
Manufacturing	429,400	424,100	477,500	5,300	1.2	-48,100	-10.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	788,800	771,600	847,400	17,200	2.2	-58,600	-6.9
Information	71,100	73,200	75,500	-2,100	-2.9	-4,400	-5.8
Financial Activities	252,200	251,300	250,900	900	0.4	1,300	0.5
Professional & Business Services	602,700	593,000	648,200	9,700	1.6	-45,500	-7.0
Education & Health Services	570,400	553,700	626,600	16,700	3.0	-56,200	-9.0
Leisure & Hospitality Services	311,600	266,800	514,000	44,800	16.8	-202,400	-39.4
Other Services	137,300	126,600	159,400	10,700	8.5	-22,100	-13.9
Government	676,100	711,700	731,800	-35,600	-5.0	-55,700	-7.6
North Carolina <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,094,800	4,009,200	4,601,200	85,600	2.1	-506,400	-11.0
Total Private	3,398,700	3,279,300	3,849,200	119,400	3.6	-450,500	-11.7
Mining & Logging	5,500	5,500	5,800	0	0.0	-300	-5.2
Construction	221,200	217,100	231,900	4,100	1.9	-10,700	-4.6
Manufacturing	428,100	422,400	476,500	5,700	1.3	-48,400	-10.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	789,000	768,000	844,900	21,000	2.7	-55,900	-6.6
Information	71,000	72,600	75,900	-1,600	-2.2	-4,900	-6.5
Financial Activities	252,200	250,500	250,600	1,700	0.7	1,600	0.6
Professional & Business Services	602,600	593,600	646,900	9,000	1.5	-44,300	-6.8
Education & Health Services	572,500	556,400	629,000	16,100	2.9	-56,500	-9.0
Leisure & Hospitality Services	318,300	266,300	527,700	52,000	19.5	-209,400	-39.7
Other Services	138,300	126,900	160,000	11,400	9.0	-21,700	-13.6
Government	696,100	729,900	752,000	-33,800	-4.6	-55,900	-7.4

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.

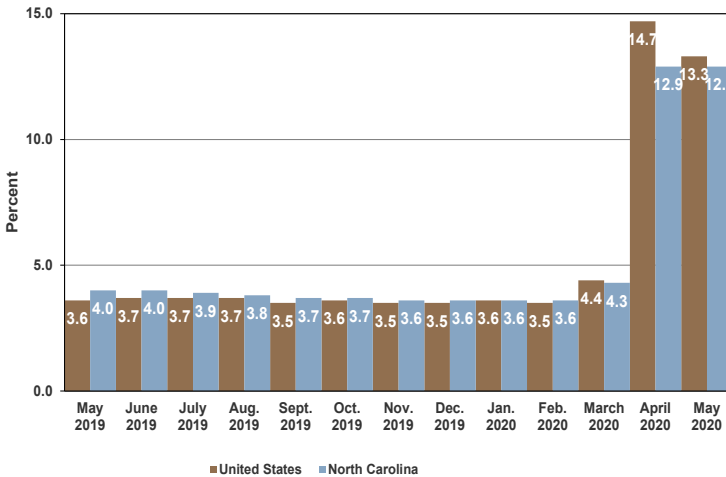
Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, July 1, 2020 when the county unemployment rates for May 2020 will be released.

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

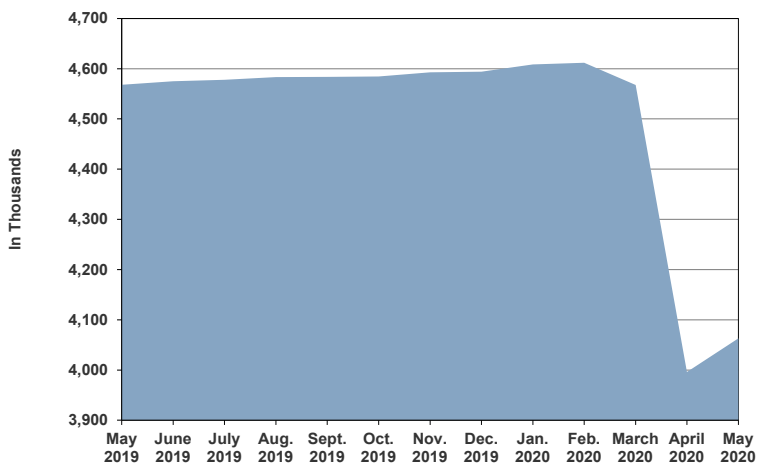
<https://www.nccommerce.com/documents/release-dates-unemployment-rates>

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

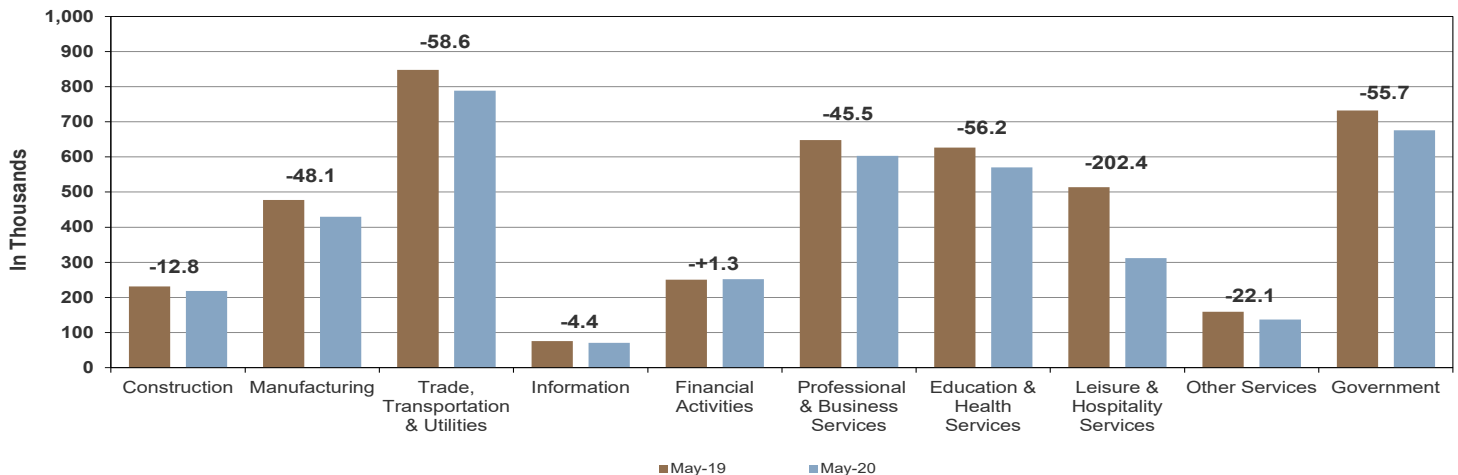


**US data are not smoothed.

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



Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries May 2019 Compared to May 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 12.9 percent in May, remaining unchanged from April's revised rate and growing 8.9 percentage points from May 2019. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed increased by 16,021 (2.6%). The civilian labor force grew by 134,175 (2.9%) to 4,822,101.

Nationally, May's unemployment rate was 13.3 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 20,985,000, while the civilian labor force was 158,227,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,063,300) increased 67,100 (1.7%) since April 2020 and fell 504,800 (11.1%) since May 2019.¹ Private sector employment increased 102,700 (3.1%) over the month and decreased 449,100 (11.7%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Leisure & Hospitality Services (44,800; 16.8%) had the largest over-the-month increase in jobs, followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (17,200; 2.2%), Education & Health Services (16,700; 3.0%), Other Services (10,700; 8.5%), Professional & Business Services (9,700; 1.6%), Manufacturing (5,300; 1.2%), and Financial Activities (900; 0.4%). Government (35,600; 5.0%) reported the largest decrease, followed by Information (2,100; 2.9%), Construction (400; 0.2%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

Since May 2019, Leisure & Hospitality Services lost the largest number of jobs (202,400; 39.4%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (58,600; 6.9%), Education & Health Services (56,200; 9.0%), Government (55,700; 7.6%), Manufacturing (48,100; 10.1%), Professional & Business Services (45,500; 7.0%), Other Services (22,100; 13.9%), Construction (12,800; 5.5%), Information (4,400; 5.8%), and Mining & Logging (300; 5.2%). Financial Activities (1,300; 0.5%) reported the only over-the-year increase.

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 2020 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,094,800 was 85,600 (2.1%) higher than the April 2020 not seasonally adjusted employment level of 4,009,200. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Leisure & Hospitality Services had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 52,000 (19.5%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (21,000; 2.7%), Education & Health Services (16,100; 2.9%), Other Services (11,400; 9.0%), Professional & Business Services (9,000; 1.5%), Manufacturing (5,700; 1.3%), Construction (4,100; 1.9%), and Financial Activities (1,700; 0.7%). Government (33,800; 4.6%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Information (1,600; 2.2%). Mining & Logging reported no change.

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed a decrease of 447,000 (11.5%) jobs. Leisure & Hospitality Services experienced the largest employment decrease at 209,400 (39.7%), followed by Education & Health Services (56,500; 9.0%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (55,900; 6.6%), Government (55,900; 7.4%), Professional & Business Services (44,300; 6.8%), Other Services (21,700; 13.6%), and Information (4,900; 6.5%). Financial Activities (1,600; 0.6%) reported the only over-the-year increase.

The Goods Producing sector decreased by 59,400 (8.3%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing had the largest decrease with 48,400 (10.2%), followed by Construction (10,700; 4.6%) and Mining & Logging (300; 5.2%).

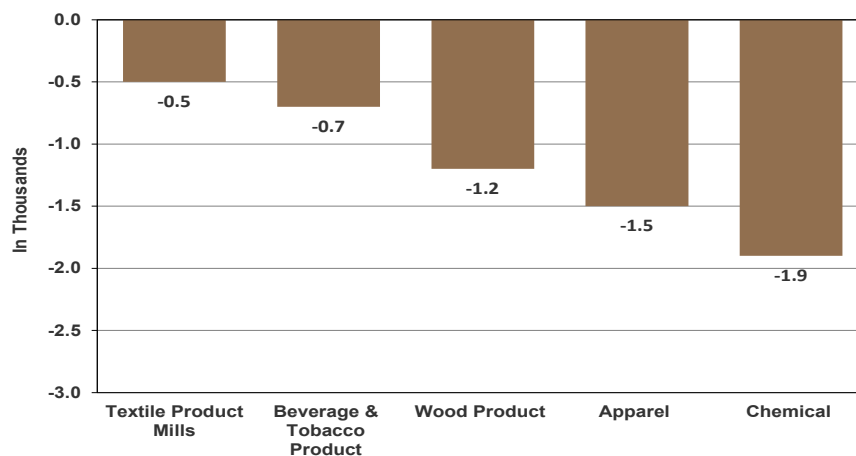
Amongst manufacturing industries, Furniture & Related Product had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 7,700. Other manufacturing industries with decreases were: Textile Mills, 5,800; Computer & Electronic Product, 4,200; Plastics & Rubber Products, 4,000; Transportation Equipment, 3,700; Machinery, 3,600; Fabricated Metal Product, 3,600; Printing & Related Support Activities, 2,800; Food, 2,500; Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component, 2,500; Chemical, 1,900; Apparel, 1,500; Wood Product, 1,200; Beverage & Tobacco Product, 700; and Textile Product Mills, 500. No increases were reported by manufacturing industries over the year.

Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in May increased 36 minutes from April's revised rate of 34.1. Average Hourly Earnings fell by \$0.51 to \$26.55, as Average Weekly Earnings decreased by \$1.46 to \$921.29.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in May increased 24 minutes from the revised rate of 34.3 in May 2019. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$1.33 and Average Weekly Earnings increased \$56.24.

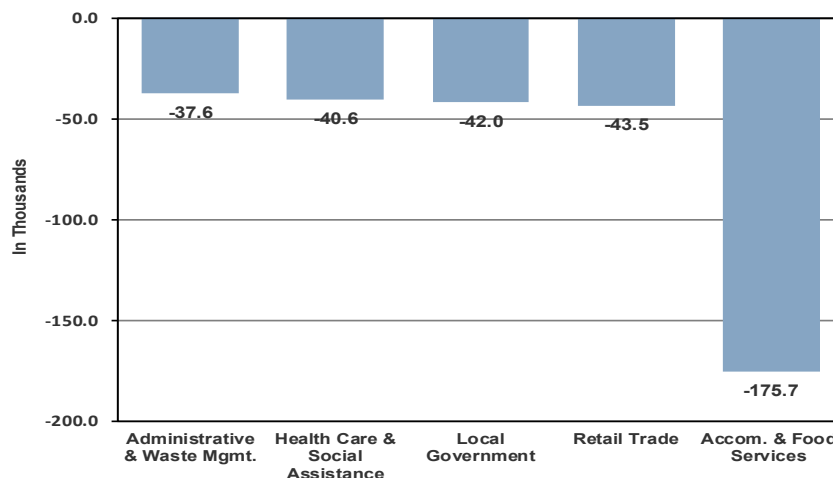
Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Losses

May 2019–May 2020
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Selected Service Industries With Job Losses

May 2019–May 2020
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Total Private Average Weekly Wage

May 2017–May 2020
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

