North Carolina's November Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state's seasonally adjusted November unemployment rate was 3.8 percent, decreasing 0.2 of a percentage point from October's revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.1 of a percentage point to 3.5 percent.

North Carolina's November 2019 unemployment rate increased 0.1 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 7,892 over the month to 4,932,389 and increased 130,472 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 6,711 over the month to 197,456 and increased 12,077 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 2,300 to 4,592,000 in November. The major industries with the largest over-the-month increases were Other Services, 900; Construction, 700; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 600; Information, 500; Government, 500; Manufacturing, 500; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 400; and Financial Activities, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Education & Health Services, 1,300; and Professional & Business Services, 600. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged over the month.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since November 2018

	Nov 2018	Dec 2018	Jan 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2019	Apr 2019	May 2019	Jun 2019	Jul 2019	Aug 2019	Sept 2019	Oct 2019	Nov 2019
N.C.	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.8
U.S.	3.7	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.5

Please note: 2018 numbers have undergone annual revision

Since November 2018, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 91,300 with the Total Private sector increasing by 87,900 and Government increasing by 3,400. The largest over-the-year increase among major industries was Leisure & Hospitality Services at 23,600, followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 19,900; Education & Health Services, 14,100; Professional & Business Services, 12,700; Financial Activities, 8,300; Other Services, 6,500; Government, 3,400; Information, 2,600; and Construction, 800. Major industries experiencing decreases were Manufacturing, 500; and Mining & Logging, 100.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Friday, January 3, 2020 when the county unemployment rates for November 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, December 20, 2019

	November 2019	October 2019	November 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	5,129,845	5,128,664	4,987,296	1,181	< 0.1	142,549	2.9
Employed	4,932,389	4,924,497	4,801,917	7,892	0.2	130,472	2.7
Unemployed	197,456	204,167	185,379	-6,711	-3.3	12,077	6.5
Unemployment Rate	3.8	4.0	3.7	-0.2	xxx	0.1	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	5,109,338	5,153,426	4,992,016	-44,088	-0.9	117,322	2.4
Employed	4,935,767	4,968,201	4,811,766	-32,434	-0.7	124,001	2.6
Unemployed	173,571	185,225	180,250	-11,654	-6.3	-6,679	-3.7
Unemployment Rate	3.4	3.6	3.6	-0.2	xxx	-0.2	xxx
United States *(Current Population Survey)*							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	164,404,000	164,364,000	162,821,000	40,000	< 0.1	xxx	xxx
Employed	158,593,000	158,510,000	156,803,000	83,000	0.1	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	5,811,000	5,855,000	6,018,000	-44,000	-0.8	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.6	3.7	-0.1	xxx	xxx	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	164,386,000	164,576,000	162,665,000	-190,000	-0.1	xxx	xxx
Employed	158,945,000	159,067,000	157,015,000	-122,000	-0.1	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	5,441,000	5,510,000	5,650,000	-69,000	-1.3	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	3.3	3.3	3.5	0.0	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, December 20, 2019

	November 2019	October 2019	November 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	4,592,000	4,589,700	4,500,700	2,300	0.1	91,300	2.0
Total Private	3,857,000	3,855,200	3,769,100	1,800	<0.1	87,900	2.3
Mining & Logging	5,600	5,600	5,700	0	0.0	-100	-1.8
Construction	220,500	219,800	219,700	700	0.3	800	0.4
Manufacturing	472,400	471,900	472,900	500	0.1	-500	-0.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	859,700	859,100	839,800	600	0.1	19,900	2.4
Information	82,900	82,400	80,300	500	0.6	2,600	3.2
Financial Activities	250,100	250,000	241,800	100	<0.1	8,300	3.4
Professional & Business Services	650,400	651,000	637,700	-600	-0.1	12,700	2.0
Education & Health Services	625,200	626,500	611,100	-1,300	-0.2	14,100	2.3
Leisure & Hospitality Services	529,800	529,400	506,200	400	0.1	23,600	4.7
Other Services	160,400	159,500	153,900	900	0.6	6,500	4.2
Government	735,000	734,500	731,600	500	0.1	3,400	0.5
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Total Nonfarm	4,629,500	4,617,500	4,540,400	12,000	0.3	89,100	2.0
Total Private	3,873,300	3,866,300	3,787,300	7,000	0.2	86,000	2.3
Mining & Logging	5,600	5,600	5,700	0	0.0	-100	-1.8
Construction	221,500	221,100	220,700	400	0.2	800	0.4
Manufacturing	475,000	472,500	475,300	2,500	0.5	-300	-0.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	873,800	856,800	854,300	17,000	2.0	19,500	2.3
Information	83,300	81,800	80,500	1,500	1.8	2,800	3.5
Financial Activities	249,300	250,800	241,100	-1,500	-0.6	8,200	3.4
Professional & Business Services	655,200	658,800	642,800	-3,600	-0.5	12,400	1.9
Education & Health Services	630,500	631,300	617,100	-800	-0.1	13,400	2.2
Leisure & Hospitality Services	519,500	528,100	496,900	-8,600	-1.6	22,600	4.5
Other Services	159,600	159,500	152,900	100	0.1	6,700	4.4
Government	756,200	751,200	753,100	5,000	0.7	3,100	0.4

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.
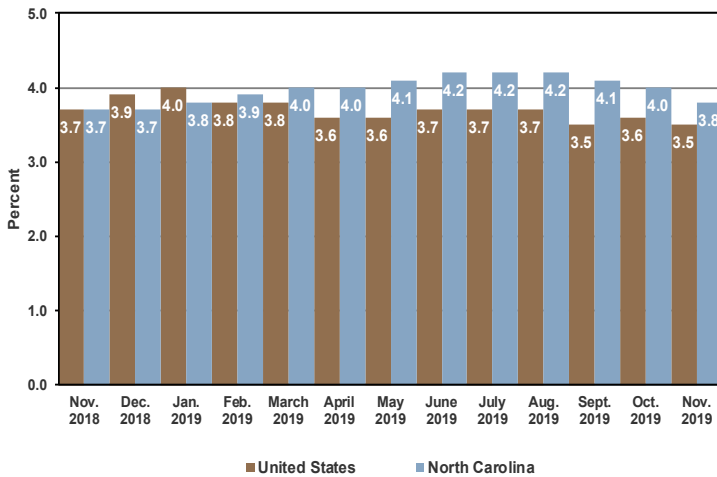
Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Friday, January 3, 2020 when the county unemployment rates for November 2019 will be released.

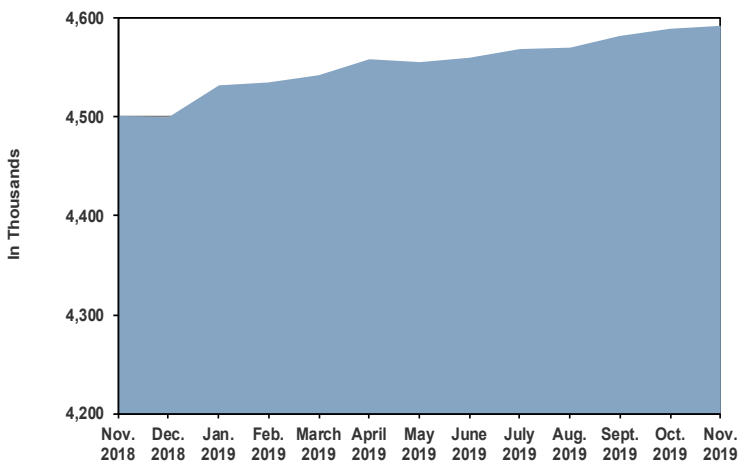The complete data release schedule for 2019 can be accessed here:

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

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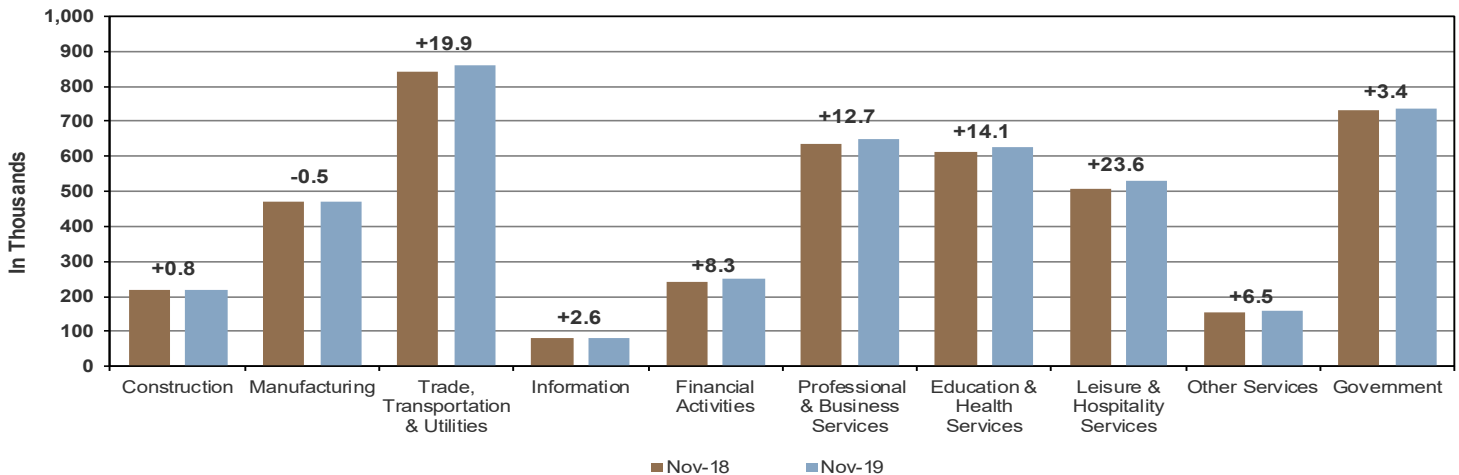(Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted**)

**US data are not smoothed.

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

Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries
October 2018 Compared to October 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 3.8 percent in November, decreasing 0.2 of a percentage point from the previous month and increasing 0.1 of a percentage point from November 2018. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 6,711 (3.3%). The civilian labor force grew by 1,181 (<0.1%) to 5,129,845.

Nationally, November's unemployment rate was 3.5 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 5,811,000, while the civilian labor force was 164,404,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,592,000) increased 2,300 (0.1%) since October 2019 and increased 91,300 (2.0%) since November 2018.[1] Private sector employment grew 1,800 (<0.1%) over the month and increased 87,900 (2.3%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Other Services (900; 0.6%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Construction (700; 0.3%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (600; 0.1%), Manufacturing (500; 0.1%), Information (500; 0.6%), Government (500; 0.1%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (400; 0.1%), and Financial Activities (100; <0.1%). Education & Health Services (1,300; 0.2%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Professional & Business Services (600; 0.1%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged.

Since November 2018, Leisure & Hospitality Services added the largest number of jobs (23,600; 4.7%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (19,900; 2.4%), Education & Health Services (14,100; 2.3%), Professional & Business Services (12,700; 2.0%), Financial Activities (8,300; 3.4%), Other Services (6,500; 4.2%), Government (3,400; 0.5%), Information (2,600; 3.2%), and Construction (800; 0.4%). Manufacturing (500; 0.1%) reported the largest decrease, followed by Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

[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 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.

The November 2019 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,629,500 was 12,000 (0.3%) higher than the October 2019 revised employment level of 4,617,500. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Trade, Transportation & Utilities had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 17,000 (2.0%) followed by Government (5,000; 0.7%), Manufacturing (2,500; 0.5%), Information (1,500; 1.8%), Construction (400; 0.2%), and Other Services (100; 0.1%). Leisure & Hospitality Services (8,600; 1.6%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Professional & Business Services (3,600; 0.6%), Financial Activities (1,500; 0.6%), and Education & Health Services (800; 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 88,700 (2.3%) jobs. Leisure & Hospitality Services experienced the largest employment increase at 22,600 (4.6%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (19,500; 2.3%), Education & Health Services (13,400; 2.2%), Professional & Business Services (12,400; 1.9%), Financial Activities (8,200; 3.4%), Other Services (6,700; 4.4%), Government (3,100; 0.4%), and Information (2,800; 3.5%).

The Goods Producing sector grew by 400 (0.1%) jobs over the year. Construction had the only increase with 800 (0.4%). Manufacturing reported a decrease of 300 (0.1%), followed by Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).
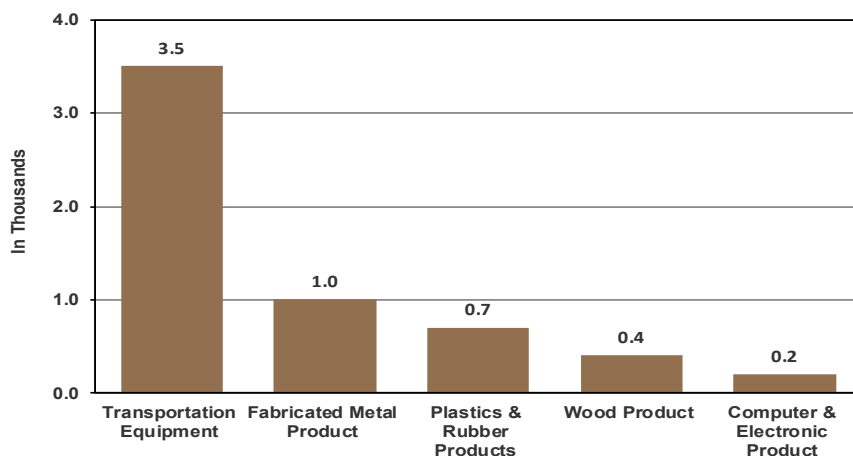
Amongst manufacturing industries, Transportation Equipment had the largest net over-the-year increase at 3,500. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Fabricated Metal Product, 1,000; Plastics & Rubber Products, 700; Wood Product, 400; Computer & Electronic Product, 200; and Beverage & Tobacco Product, 200.

Food had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 1,400 in November 2019. Other industries with decreases were: Textile Mills, 1,200; Furniture & Related Product, 500; Chemical, 400; Apparel, 400; Printing & Related Support Activities, 200; and Textile Product Mills, 100.
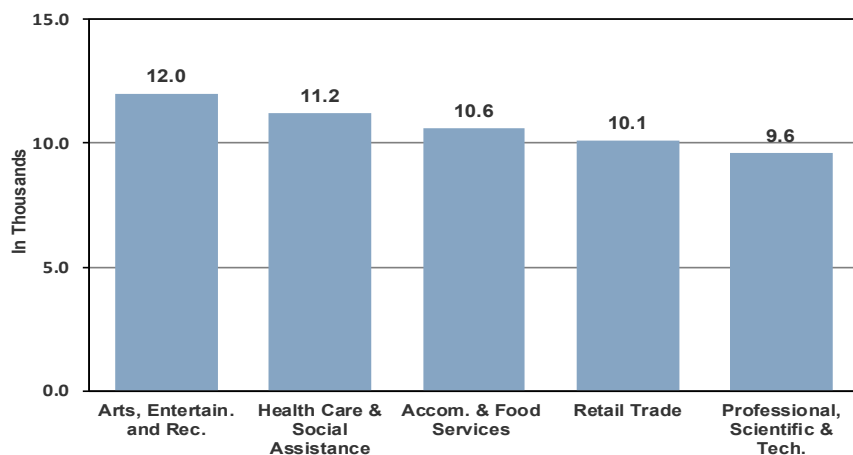
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in November decreased 18 minutes from October's revised rate of 34.2. Average Hourly Earnings grew by $0.24 to $25.70, as Average Weekly Earnings increased by $0.50 to $871.23.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in November decreased 18 minutes from the revised rate of 34.2 in November 2018. Average Hourly Earnings grew by $0.51 and Average Weekly Earnings increased $9.73.

Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains
October 2018–October 2019
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

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

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