North Carolina's November Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state's seasonally adjusted November unemployment rate was 6.2 percent, remaining unchanged from October's revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.2 of a percentage point to 6.7 percent.

North Carolina's November 2020 unemployment rate increased 2.6 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 28,320 over the month to 4,656,817 and decreased 261,796 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 2,650 over the month to 308,905 and increased 123,267 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 16,500 to 4,370,500 in November. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 8,000; Construction, 3,200; Education & Health Services, 2,100; Manufacturing, 1,200; Professional & Business Services, 1,000; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 1,000; Information, 300; Government, 200; and Mining & Logging, 100. The only major industry experiencing a decrease was Financial Activities, 600. Other Services employment remained unchanged.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since November 2019

	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	Jun 2020	Jul 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020
N.C.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	4.3	12.9	12.8	7.5	8.5	6.5	7.2	6.2	6.2
U.S.	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5	4.4	14.7	13.3	11.1	10.2	8.4	7.9	6.9	6.7

Please note: 2019 numbers have undergone annual revision

Since November 2019, Total Nonfarm jobs decreased 222,300 with the Total Private sector decreasing by 191,600 and Government decreasing by 30,700. The only major industry experiencing an over-the-year increase was Financial Activities, 1,500. Major industries experiencing decreases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 100,000; Manufacturing, 35,900; Education & Health Services, 34,600; Government, 30,700; Construction, 6,100; Information, 4,800; Professional & Business Services, 4,700; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 3,600; Other Services, 3,300; and Mining & Logging, 100.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, 2021 when the county unemployment rates for November 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, December 18, 2020

	November 2020	October 2020	November 2019	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	4,965,722	4,934,752	5,104,251	30,970	0.6	-138,529	-2.7
Employed	4,656,817	4,628,497	4,918,613	28,320	0.6	-261,796	-5.3
Unemployed	308,905	306,255	185,638	2,650	0.9	123,267	66.4
Unemployment Rate	6.2	6.2	3.6	0.0	xxx	2.6	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	4,967,029	4,953,747	5,100,768	13,282	0.3	-133,739	-2.6
Employed	4,665,264	4,656,686	4,922,937	8,578	0.2	-257,673	-5.2
Unemployed	301,765	297,061	177,831	4,704	1.6	123,934	69.7
Unemployment Rate	6.1	6.0	3.5	0.1	xxx	2.6	xxx
United States (Current Population Survey)							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	160,467,000	160,867,000	164,347,000	-400,000	-0.2	xxx	xxx
Employed	149,732,000	149,806,000	158,536,000	-74,000	> -0.1	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	10,735,000	11,061,000	5,811,000	-326,000	-2.9	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	6.7	6.9	3.5	-0.2	xxx	xxx	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	160,468,000	161,053,000	164,386,000	-585,000	-0.4	xxx	xxx
Employed	150,203,000	150,433,000	158,945,000	-230,000	-0.2	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	10,264,000	10,620,000	5,441,000	-356,000	-3.4	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	6.4	6.6	3.3	-0.2	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, December 18, 2020

| | | | | Month Ago | | Year Ago | |
	November 2020	October 2020	November 2019	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina **(Current Employment Statistics)**							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Total Nonfarm	4,370,500	4,354,000	4,592,800	16,500	0.4	-222,300	-4.8
Total Private	3,665,200	3,648,900	3,856,800	16,300	0.4	-191,600	-5.0
Mining & Logging	5,600	5,500	5,700	100	1.8	-100	-1.8
Construction	226,000	222,800	232,100	3,200	1.4	-6,100	-2.6
Manufacturing	443,300	442,100	479,200	1,200	0.3	-35,900	-7.5
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	844,400	843,400	848,000	1,000	0.1	-3,600	-0.4
Information	72,300	72,000	77,100	300	0.4	-4,800	-6.2
Financial Activities	258,800	259,400	257,300	-600	-0.2	1,500	0.6
Professional & Business Services	643,000	642,000	647,700	1,000	0.2	-4,700	-0.7
Education & Health Services	590,900	588,800	625,500	2,100	0.4	-34,600	-5.5
Leisure & Hospitality Services	422,200	414,200	522,200	8,000	1.9	-100,000	-19.1
Other Services	158,700	158,700	162,000	0	0.0	-3,300	-2.0
Government	705,300	705,100	736,000	200	< 0.1	-30,700	-4.2
North Carolina **(Current Employment Statistics)**							
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Total Nonfarm	4,408,000	4,384,400	4,633,300	23,600	0.5	-225,300	-4.9
Total Private	3,681,100	3,661,700	3,876,500	19,400	0.5	-195,400	-5.0
Mining & Logging	5,600	5,500	5,700	100	1.8	-100	-1.8
Construction	226,400	225,600	233,600	800	0.4	-7,200	-3.1
Manufacturing	444,900	443,000	482,000	1,900	0.4	-37,100	-7.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	856,800	841,000	862,200	15,800	1.9	-5,400	-0.6
Information	72,500	71,800	77,200	700	1.0	-4,700	-6.1
Financial Activities	258,200	259,400	256,500	-1,200	-0.5	1,700	0.7
Professional & Business Services	648,200	648,600	654,000	-400	-0.1	-5,800	-0.9
Education & Health Services	598,000	595,700	631,100	2,300	0.4	-33,100	-5.2
Leisure & Hospitality Services	412,500	412,500	513,300	0	0.0	-100,800	-19.6
Other Services	158,000	158,600	160,900	-600	-0.4	-2,900	-1.8
Government	726,900	722,700	756,800	4,200	0.6	-29,900	-4.0

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/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, January 5, 2021 when the county unemployment rates for November 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
November 2019–November 2020
(Seasonally Adjusted)
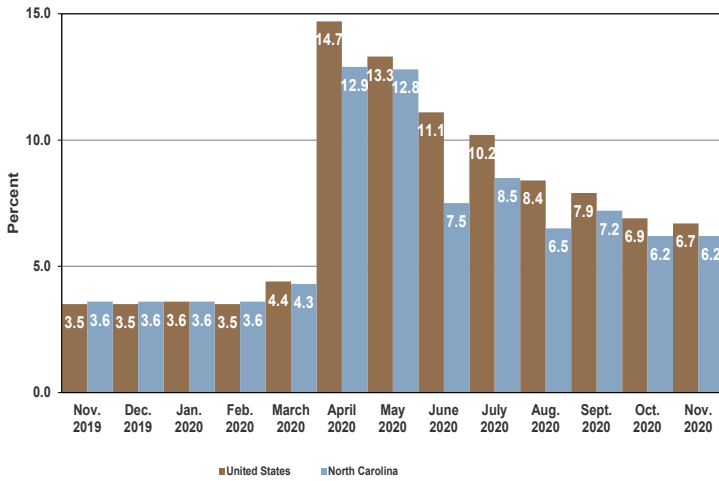
The North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.2 percent in November, remaining unchanged from October's revised rate and growing 2.6 percentage points from November 2019. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed increased by 2,650 (0.9%). The civilian labor force grew by 30,970 (0.6%) to 4,965,722.

Nationally, November's unemployment rate was 6.7 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 10,735,000, while the civilian labor force was 160,467,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,370,500) increased 16,500 (0.4%) since October 2020 and fell 222,300 (4.8%) since November 2019. Private sector employment increased 16,300 (0.4%) over the month and decreased 191,600 (5.0%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Leisure & Hospitality Services (8,000; 1.9%) had the largest over-the-month increase in jobs, followed by Construction (3,200; 1.4%), Education & Health Services (2,100; 0.4%), Manufacturing (1,200; 0.3%), Professional & Business Services (1,000; 0.2%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (1,000; 0.1%), Information (300; 0.4%), Government (200; <0.1%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%). Financial Activities (600; 0.2%) reported the only over-the-month decrease. Other Services remained unchanged over the month.

Since November 2019, Financial Activities (1,500; 0.6%) reported the only jobs increase over the year. Leisure & Hospitality Services (100,000; 19.1%) reported the largest over-the-year decrease, followed by Manufacturing (35,900; 7.5%), Education & Health Services (34,600; 5.5%), Government (30,700; 4.2%), Construction (6,100; 2.6%), Information (4,800; 6.2%), Professional & Business Services (4,700; 0.7%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (3,600; 0.4%), Other Services (3,300; 2.0%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

Note: 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
November 2019–November 2020
(Seasonally Adjusted)
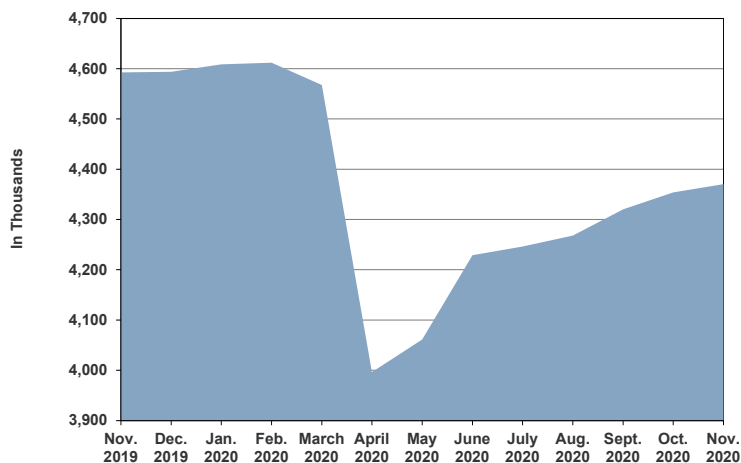
Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries
November 2019 Compared to November 2020
(Seasonally Adjusted)
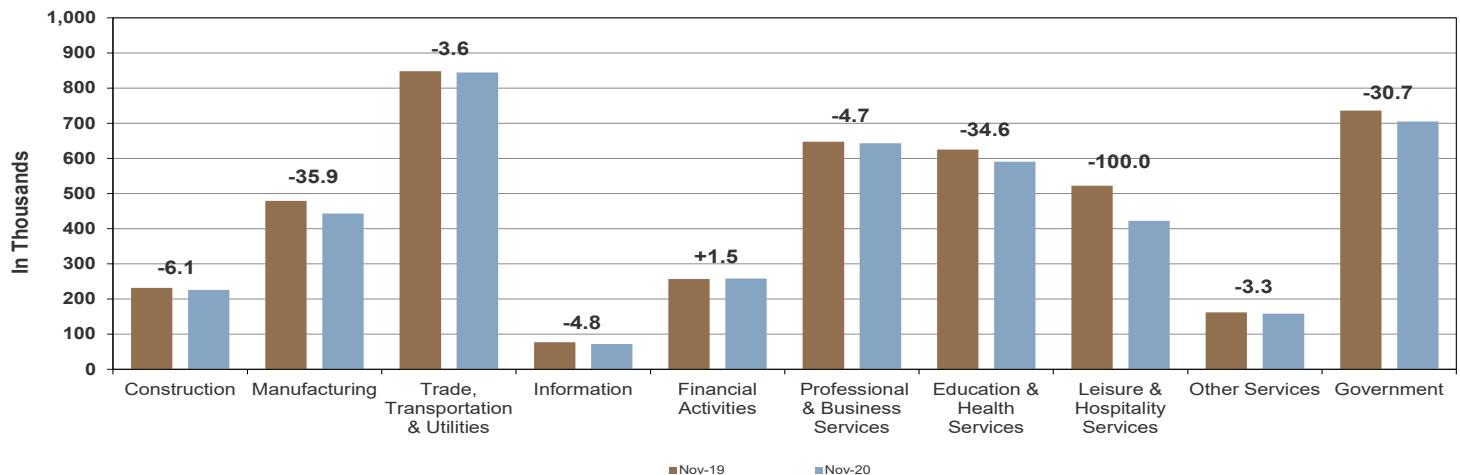
Note: North Carolina 2020 current month estimates are preliminary, while previous month estimates are revised. North Carolina 2019 estimates have undergone annual revision.

The November 2020 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,408,000 was 23,600 (0.5%) higher than the October 2020 not seasonally adjusted employment level of 4,384,400. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Trade, Transportation & Utilities had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 15,800 (1.9%), followed by Government (4,200; 0.6%), Education & Health Services (2,300; 0.4%), Manufacturing (1,900; 0.4%), Construction (800; 0.4%), Information (700; 1.0%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%). Financial Activities (1,200; 0.5%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Other Services (600; 0.4%), and Professional & Business Services (400; 0.1%). Leisure & Hospitality Services remained unchanged over the month.

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed a decrease of 180,900 (4.6%) jobs. Financial Activities (1,700; 0.7%) reported the only increase over the year. Leisure & Hospitality Services had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment at 100,800 (19.6%), followed by Education & Health Services (33,100; 5.2%), Government (29,900; 4.0%), Professional & Business Services (5,800; 0.9%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (5,400; 0.6%), Information (4,700; 6.1%), and Other Services (2,900; 1.8%).

The Goods Producing sector decreased by 44,400 (6.2%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing had the largest decrease with 37,100 (7.7%), followed by Construction (7,200; 3.1%) and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

Amongst manufacturing industries, Furniture & Related Product had the largest net over-the-year decline with the loss of 4,200 jobs. Other manufacturing industries with decreases were: Machinery, 4,100; Textile Mills, 3,500; Computer & Electronic Product, 3,500; Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component, 3,100; Plastics & Rubber Products, 3,000; Food, 2,800; Fabricated Metal Product, 2,800; Transportation Equipment, 2,600; Printing & Related Support Activities, 2,300; Chemical, 2,100; Wood Product, 1,700; Apparel, 500; Beverage & Tobacco Product, 400; and Textile Product Mills, 100.

Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in November increased 12 minutes to 35.0 from October's revised rate of 34.8. Average Hourly Earnings grew by $0.34 to $27.12, and Average Weekly Earnings increased by $17.26 to $949.20.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in November increased 54 minutes from the rate of 34.1 in November 2019. Average Hourly Earnings grew by $1.21 and Average Weekly Earnings increased by $65.67.

Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Losses
November 2019–November 2020
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)
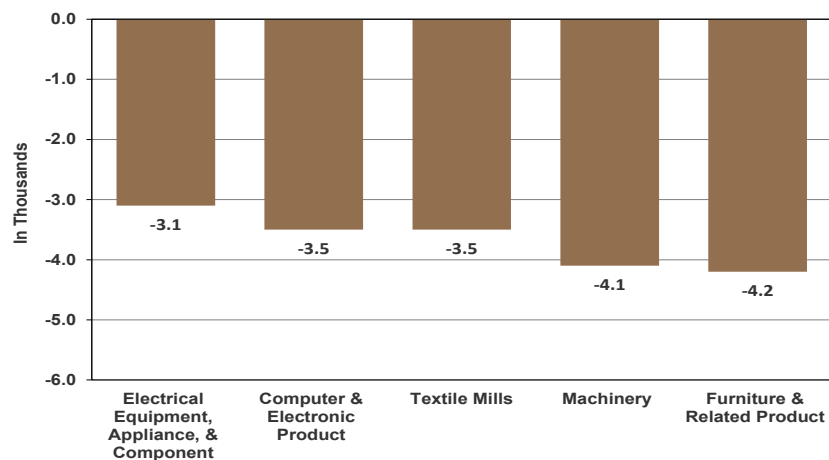
Selected Service Industries With Job Losses
November 2019–November 2020
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)
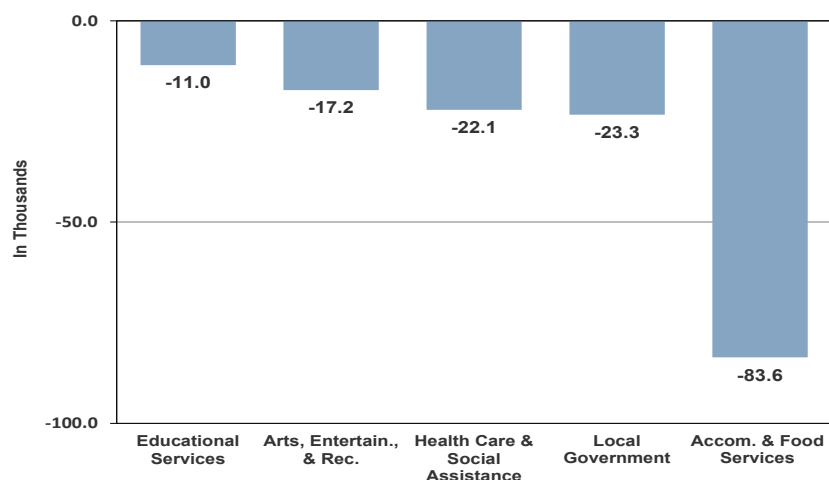
Total Private Average Weekly Wage
November 2017–November 2020
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)