NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT *of*
COMMERCE

Roy Cooper
GOVERNOR

Machelle Baker Sanders
SECRETARY

North Carolina's November Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state's seasonally adjusted November unemployment rate was 3.9 percent, decreasing 0.2 of a percentage point from October's revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.4 of a percentage point to 4.2 percent.

North Carolina's November 2021 unemployment rate decreased 2.5 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 18,133 over the month to 4,843,510 and increased 130,872 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 10,177 over the month to 198,226 and decreased 124,884 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 3,500 to 4,554,800 in November. Major industries experiencing increases were Professional & Business Services, 5,000; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 2,400; Manufacturing, 1,700; Education & Health Services, 1,300; Other Services, 900; Information, 300; and Mining & Logging, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 3,700; Construction, 1,900; Financial Activities, 1,300; and Government, 1,300.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since November 2020

	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	Jun 2021	Jul 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021
N.C.	6.4	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.1	3.9
U.S.	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.2	6.0	6.1	5.8	5.9	5.4	5.2	4.8	4.6	4.2

Please note: 2020 numbers have undergone annual revision

Since November 2020, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 140,500 with the Total Private sector increasing by 137,100 and Government increasing by 3,400. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 43,200; Professional & Business Services, 34,400; Manufacturing, 21,300; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 18,200; Construction, 10,700; Information, 5,400; Other Services, 4,800; Government, 3,400; Financial Activities, 100; and Mining & Logging, 100. The only major industry experiencing a decrease over-the-year was Education & Health Services, 1,100.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Thursday, December 30, 2021 when the county unemployment rates for November 2021 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 17, 2021

	November 2021	October 2021	November 2020	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	5,041,736	5,033,780	5,035,748	7,956	0.2	5,988	0.1
Employed	4,843,510	4,825,377	4,712,638	18,133	0.4	130,872	2.8
Unemployed	198,226	208,403	323,110	-10,177	-4.9	-124,884	-38.7
Unemployment Rate	3.9	4.1	6.4	-0.2	xxx	-2.5	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	5,067,228	5,070,465	5,038,460	-3,237	-0.1	28,768	0.6
Employed	4,896,622	4,884,258	4,723,262	12,364	0.3	173,360	3.7
Unemployed	170,606	186,207	315,198	-15,601	-8.4	-144,592	-45.9
Unemployment Rate	3.4	3.7	6.3	-0.3	xxx	-2.9	xxx
United States (Current Population Survey)							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	162,052,000	161,458,000	160,536,000	594,000	0.4	xxx	xxx
Employed	155,175,000	154,039,000	149,809,000	1,136,000	0.7	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	6,877,000	7,419,000	10,728,000	-542,000	-7.3	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.6	6.7	-0.4	xxx	xxx	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	162,099,000	161,863,000	160,468,000	236,000	0.1	xxx	xxx
Employed	155,797,000	154,966,000	150,203,000	831,000	0.5	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	6,302,000	6,896,000	10,264,000	-594,000	-8.6	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	3.9	4.3	6.4	-0.4	xxx	xxx	xxx

Effective January 2021, 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.

2021 estimates for the current month are preliminary. Estimates for the previous month have undergone monthly revision.
2020 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 17, 2021

	November 2021	October 2021	November 2020	Month Ago Numeric Change	Percent Change	Year Ago Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Total Nonfarm	4,554,800	4,551,300	4,414,300	3,500	0.1	140,500	3.2
Total Private	3,850,600	3,845,800	3,713,500	4,800	0.1	137,100	3.7
Mining & Logging	5,700	5,600	5,600	100	1.8	100	1.8
Construction	241,500	243,400	230,800	-1,900	-0.8	10,700	4.6
Manufacturing	474,400	472,700	453,100	1,700	0.4	21,300	4.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	873,900	877,600	855,700	-3,700	-0.4	18,200	2.1
Information	78,900	78,600	73,500	300	0.4	5,400	7.3
Financial Activities	258,500	259,800	258,400	-1,300	-0.5	100	< 0.1
Professional & Business Services	682,700	677,700	648,300	5,000	0.7	34,400	5.3
Education & Health Services	598,500	597,200	599,600	1,300	0.2	-1,100	-0.2
Leisure & Hospitality Services	475,300	472,900	432,100	2,400	0.5	43,200	10.0
Other Services	161,200	160,300	156,400	900	0.6	4,800	3.1
Government	704,200	705,500	700,800	-1,300	-0.2	3,400	0.5
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Total Nonfarm	4,607,800	4,588,100	4,460,000	19,700	0.4	147,800	3.3
Total Private	3,879,300	3,865,600	3,736,200	13,700	0.4	143,100	3.8
Mining & Logging	5,700	5,600	5,600	100	1.8	100	1.8
Construction	242,200	246,100	232,100	-3,900	-1.6	10,100	4.4
Manufacturing	477,500	473,000	455,800	4,500	1.0	21,700	4.8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	890,700	875,700	871,100	15,000	1.7	19,600	2.3
Information	79,000	77,600	73,600	1,400	1.8	5,400	7.3
Financial Activities	258,300	261,800	258,100	-3,500	-1.3	200	0.1
Professional & Business Services	690,700	687,900	653,900	2,800	0.4	36,800	5.6
Education & Health Services	604,000	601,600	605,200	2,400	0.4	-1,200	-0.2
Leisure & Hospitality Services	470,400	475,800	425,400	-5,400	-1.1	45,000	10.6
Other Services	160,800	160,500	155,400	300	0.2	5,400	3.5
Government	728,500	722,500	723,800	6,000	0.8	4,700	0.6

2021 estimates for the current month are preliminary. Estimates for the previous month have undergone monthly revision.
2020 estimates have undergone annual revision.
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 2021, 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 seasonally adjusts statewide estimates using an X-11 type of seasonal adjustment filter. These estimates are then smoothed using a filtering procedure to remove irregular fluctuations from the seasonally-adjusted series. For more information about seasonal adjustment and smoothing procedures, 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 cases, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is computed by aggregating the independently adjusted supersector series. In other cases, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is independently adjusted. Payroll employment data are seasonally adjusted concurrently, using all available estimates, including those for the current month, to develop sample-based seasonal factors. Concurrent sample-based factors are created every month for the current month's preliminary estimate as well as the previous month's final estimate.

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.
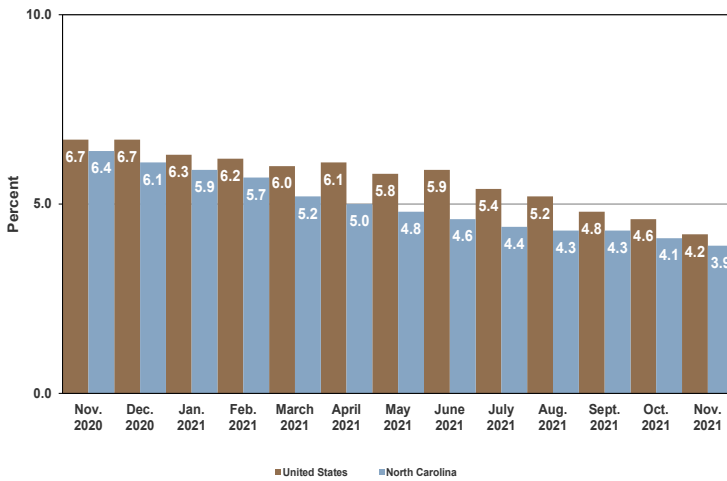
Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Thursday, December 30, 2021 when the county unemployment rates for November 2021 will be released.

The complete data release schedule for 2021 can be accessed here:

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

United States/North Carolina Unemployment Rates
November 2020–November 2021
(Seasonally Adjusted)

The North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.9 percent in November, decreasing 0.2 of a percentage point from October's revised rate and declining 2.5 percentage points from November 2020. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 10,177 (4.9%). The civilian labor force grew by 7,956 (0.2%) to 5,041,736.

Nationally, November's unemployment rate was 4.2 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 6,877,000, while the civilian labor force was 162,052,000.
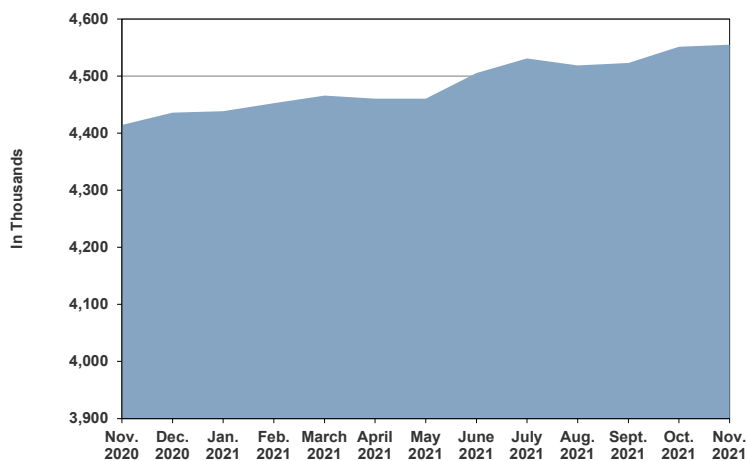
Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,554,800) increased 3,500 (0.1%) since October 2021 and grew 140,500 (3.2%) since November 2020. Private sector employment increased 4,800 (0.1%) over the month and grew 137,100 (3.7%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Professional & Business Services (5,000; 0.7%) had the largest over-the-month increase in jobs, followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services (2,400; 0.5%), Manufacturing (1,700; 0.4%), Education & Health Services (1,300; 0.2%), Other Services (900; 0.6%), Information (300; 0.4%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%). Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (3,700; 0.4%) reported the largest over-the-month decline, followed by Construction (1,900; 0.8%), Financial Activities (1,300; 0.5%), and Government (1,300; 0.2%).
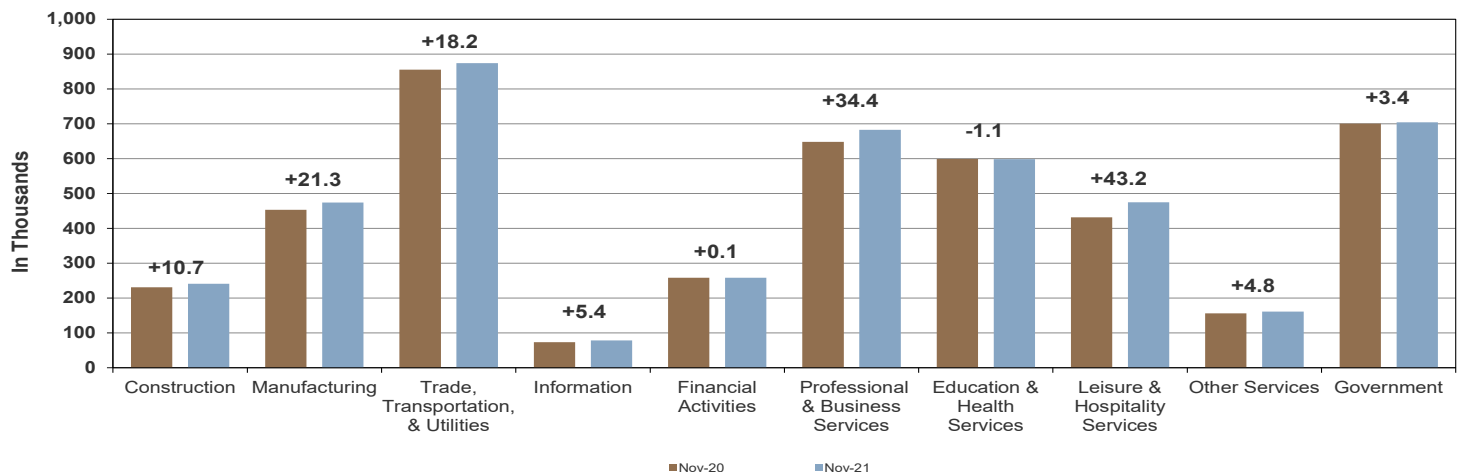
Since November 2020, Leisure & Hospitality Services (43,200; 10.0%) reported the largest jobs increase over the year, followed by Professional & Business Services (34,400; 5.3%), Manufacturing (21,300; 4.7%), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (18,200; 2.1%), Construction (10,700; 4.6%), Information (5,400; 7.3%), Other Services (4,800; 3.1%), Government (3,400; 0.5%), Financial Activities (100; <0.1%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%). Education & Health Services (1,100; 0.2%) reported the only over-the-year decrease.

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 2020–November 2021
(Seasonally Adjusted)

Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries
November 2020 Compared to November 2021
(Seasonally Adjusted)

Note: North Carolina 2021 current month estimates are preliminary, while all other data have undergone annual revision.

North Carolina **Labor Market Conditions**

The November 2021 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,607,800 was 19,700 (0.4%) higher than the October 2021 not seasonally adjusted employment level of 4,588,100. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Trade, Transportation, & Utilities had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 15,000 (1.7%), followed by Government (6,000; 0.8%), Manufacturing (4,500; 1.0%), Professional & Business Services (2,800; 0.4%), Education & Health Services (2,400; 0.4%), Information (1,400; 1.8%), Other Services (300; 0.2%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%). Leisure & Hospitality Services (5,400; 1.1%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Construction (3,900; 1.6%), and Financial Activities (3,500; 1.3%).

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 115,900 (3.1%) jobs. Leisure & Hospitality Services (45,000; 10.6%) reported the largest increase over the year, followed by Professional & Business Services (36,800; 5.6%), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (19,600; 2.3%), Information (5,400; 7.3%), Other Services (5,400; 3.5%), Government, (4,700; 0.6%), and Financial Activities (200; 0.1%). Education & Health Services (1,200; 0.2%) reported the only over-the-year decrease.
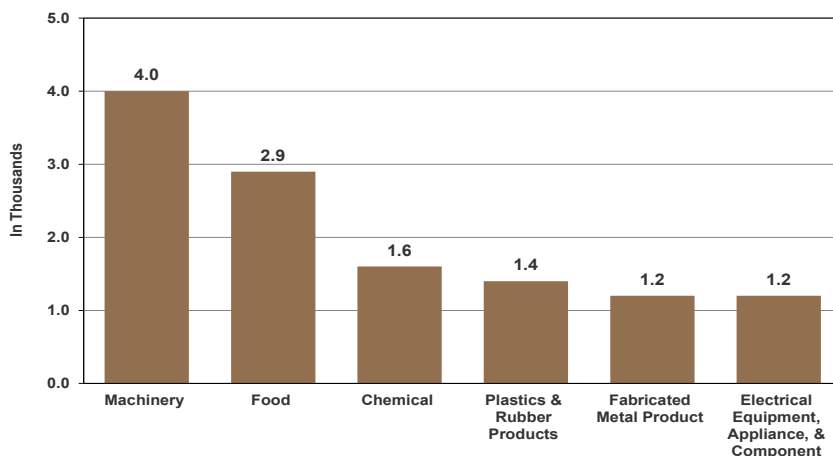
The Goods Producing sector increased by 31,900 (4.6%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing had the largest increase with 21,700 (4.8%), followed by Construction (10,100; 4.4%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

Amongst manufacturing industries, Machinery had the largest net over-the-year increase of 4,000 jobs, followed by Food, 2,900; Chemical, 1,600; Plastic & Rubber Products, 1,400; Fabricated Metal Product, 1,200; Electrical Equipment, Appliance, & Component, 1,200; Wood Product, 1,000; Beverage & Tobacco Product, 1,000; Transportation Equipment, 800; Textile Mills, 600; Furniture & Related Product, 500; Printing & Related Support Activities, 400. Apparel had the largest net over-the-year decline of 400 jobs, followed by Computer & Electronic Product, 200, and Textile Product Mills, 100.
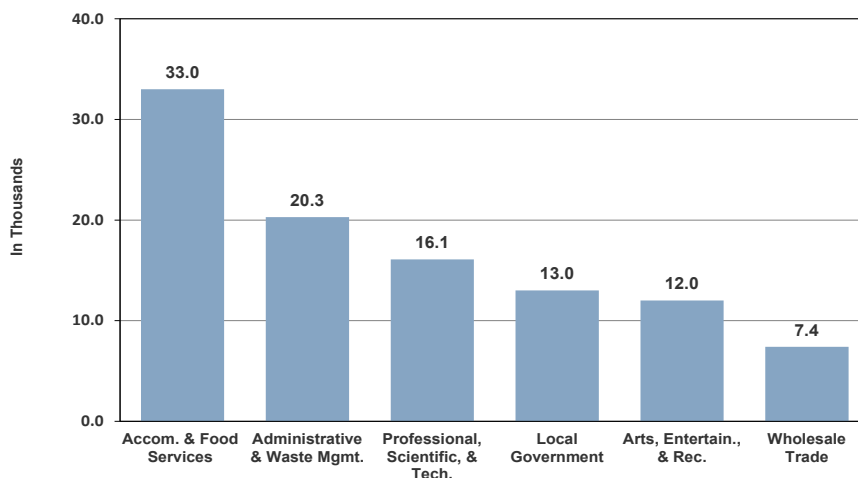
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in November declined by 6 minutes from October's revised rate of 34.7. Average Hourly Earnings grew by $0.36 to $29.11, and Average Weekly Earnings increased by $9.58 to $1,007.21.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in November declined by 24 minutes from the November 2020 rate of 35.0. Average Hourly Earnings grew by $1.89 and Average Weekly Earnings increased by $54.51.

Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains November 2020–November 2021 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Selected Service Industries With Job Gains November 2020–November 2021 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Total Private Average Weekly Wage November 2018–November 2021 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)