NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT *of*
COMMERCE

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North Carolina's September Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state's seasonally adjusted September unemployment rate was 4.2 percent, decreasing 0.1 of a percentage point from August's revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.4 of a percentage point to 4.8 percent.

North Carolina's September 2021 unemployment rate decreased 3.1 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 15,497 over the month to 4,810,394 and increased 167,700 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 5,074 over the month to 211,500 and decreased 152,782 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 3,700 to 4,522,300 in September. Major industries experiencing increases were Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 5,700; Professional & Business Services, 3,900; Other Services, 1,200; Construction, 800; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 500; and Information, 300. Major industries experiencing decreases were Government, 4,400; Education & Health Services, 3,300; Financial Activities, 700; and Manufacturing, 300. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since September 2020

	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	Jun 2021	Jul 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2021
N.C.	7.3	6.8	6.4	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.2
U.S.	7.8	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.2	6.0	6.1	5.8	5.9	5.4	5.2	4.8

Please note: 2020 numbers have undergone annual revision

Since September 2020, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 139,500 with the Total Private sector increasing by 145,700 and Government decreasing by 6,200. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 39,700; Professional & Business Services, 39,400; Manufacturing, 21,100; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 20,800; Construction, 14,400; Information, 6,200; Other Services, 3,700; Financial Activities, 3,000; and Mining & Logging, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Government, 6,200; and Education & Health Services, 2,700.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, November 3, 2021 when the county unemployment rates for September 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, October 22, 2021

	September 2021	August 2021	September 2020	Month Ago Numeric Change	Percent Change	Year Ago Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina *(Local Area Unemployment Statistics)*							
Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	5,021,894	5,011,471	5,006,976	10,423	0.2	14,918	0.3
Employed	4,810,394	4,794,897	4,642,694	15,497	0.3	167,700	3.6
Unemployed	211,500	216,574	364,282	-5,074	-2.3	-152,782	-41.9
Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.3	7.3	-0.1	xxx	-3.1	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	5,045,589	5,026,291	5,016,045	19,298	0.4	29,544	0.6
Employed	4,855,844	4,805,141	4,658,537	50,703	1.1	197,307	4.2
Unemployed	189,745	221,150	357,508	-31,405	-14.2	-167,763	-46.9
Unemployment Rate	3.8	4.4	7.1	-0.6	xxx	-3.3	xxx
United States *(Current Population Survey)*							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	161,354,000	161,537,000	160,078,000	-183,000	-0.1	xxx	xxx
Employed	153,680,000	153,154,000	147,543,000	526,000	0.3	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	7,674,000	8,384,000	12,535,000	-710,000	-8.5	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	4.8	5.2	7.8	-0.4	xxx	xxx	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	161,392,000	161,788,000	160,073,000	-396,000	-0.2	xxx	xxx
Employed	154,026,000	153,232,000	147,796,000	794,000	0.5	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	7,366,000	8,556,000	12,277,000	-1,190,000	-13.9	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	4.6	5.3	7.7	-0.7	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, October 22, 2021

	September 2021	August 2021	September 2020	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	4,522,300	4,518,600	4,382,800	3,700	0.1	139,500	3.2
Total Private	3,816,600	3,808,500	3,670,900	8,100	0.2	145,700	4.0
Mining & Logging	5,700	5,700	5,600	0	0.0	100	1.8
Construction	241,100	240,300	226,700	800	0.3	14,400	6.4
Manufacturing	470,600	470,900	449,500	-300	-0.1	21,100	4.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	871,600	865,900	850,800	5,700	0.7	20,800	2.4
Information	78,400	78,100	72,200	300	0.4	6,200	8.6
Financial Activities	260,400	261,100	257,400	-700	-0.3	3,000	1.2
Professional & Business Services	675,400	671,500	636,000	3,900	0.6	39,400	6.2
Education & Health Services	594,500	597,800	597,200	-3,300	-0.6	-2,700	-0.5
Leisure & Hospitality Services	460,000	459,500	420,300	500	0.1	39,700	9.4
Other Services	158,900	157,700	155,200	1,200	0.8	3,700	2.4
Government	705,700	710,100	711,900	-4,400	-0.6	-6,200	-0.9
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Total Nonfarm	4,528,100	4,505,900	4,379,500	22,200	0.5	148,600	3.4
Total Private	3,816,000	3,831,000	3,663,400	-15,000	-0.4	152,600	4.2
Mining & Logging	5,700	5,800	5,600	-100	-1.7	100	1.8
Construction	244,000	243,600	228,200	400	0.2	15,800	6.9
Manufacturing	471,400	471,000	449,900	400	0.1	21,500	4.8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	867,800	862,100	844,800	5,700	0.7	23,000	2.7
Information	77,200	78,000	71,500	-800	-1.0	5,700	8.0
Financial Activities	261,100	263,500	257,800	-2,400	-0.9	3,300	1.3
Professional & Business Services	675,000	674,800	636,600	200	< 0.1	38,400	6.0
Education & Health Services	593,000	595,000	594,100	-2,000	-0.3	-1,100	-0.2
Leisure & Hospitality Services	462,700	478,900	420,200	-16,200	-3.4	42,500	10.1
Other Services	158,100	158,300	154,700	-200	-0.1	3,400	2.2
Government	712,100	674,900	716,100	37,200	5.5	-4,000	-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.
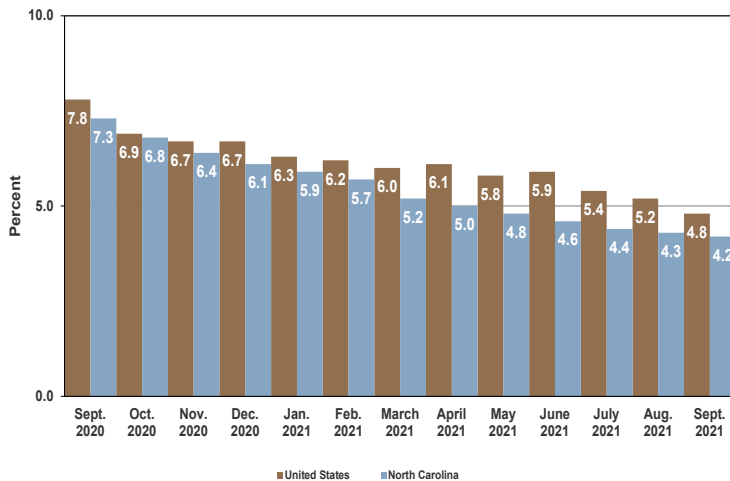
Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, November 3, 2021 when the county unemployment rates for September 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
September 2020–September 2021
(Seasonally Adjusted)

United States / North Carolina

North Carolina Total Nonfarm Employment
September 2020–September 2021
(Seasonally Adjusted)

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

Sep-20 / Sep-21

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

The North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.2 percent in September, decreasing 0.1 of a percentage point from August's revised rate and declining 3.1 percentage points from September 2020. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 5,074 (2.3%). The civilian labor force grew by 10,423 (0.2%) to 5,021,894.

Nationally, September's unemployment rate was 4.8 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 7,674,000, while the civilian labor force was 161,354,000.
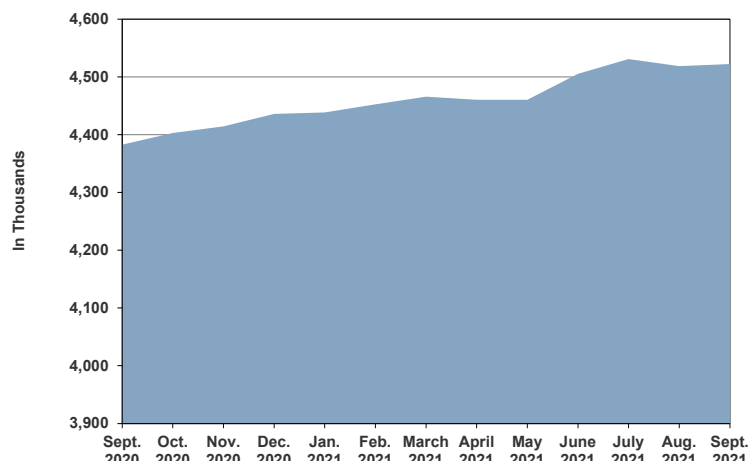
Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,522,300) increased 3,700 (0.1%) since August 2021 and grew 139,500 (3.2%) since September 2020. Private sector employment increased 8,100 (0.2%) over the month and grew 145,700 (4.0%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (5,700; 0.7%) had the largest over-the-month increase in jobs, followed by Professional & Business Services (3,900; 0.6%), Other Services (1,200; 0.8%), Construction (800; 0.3%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (500; 0.1%), and Information (300; 0.4%). Government (4,400; 0.6%) reported the largest over-the-month decline, followed by Education & Health Services (3,300; 0.6%), Financial Activities (700; 0.3%), and Manufacturing (300; 0.1%) . Mining & Logging remained unchanged.
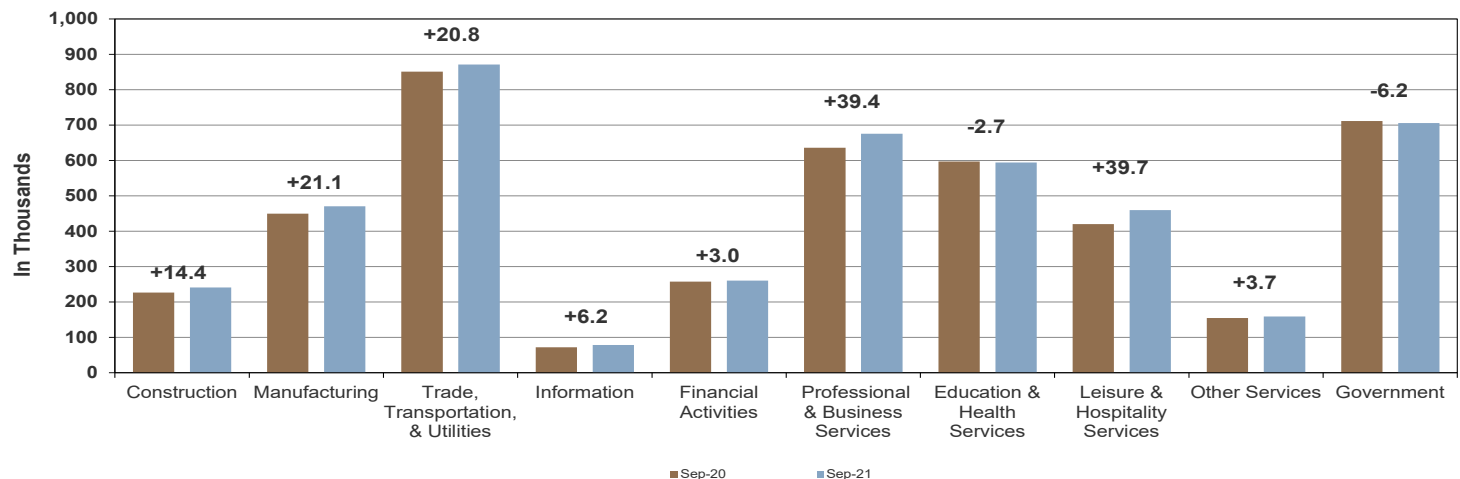
Since September 2020, Leisure & Hospitality Services (39,700; 9.4%) reported the largest jobs increase over the year, followed by Professional & Business Services (39,400; 6.2%), Manufacturing (21,100; 4.7%), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (20,800; 2.4%), Construction (14,400; 6.4%), Information (6,200; 8.6%), Other Services (3,700; 2.4%), Financial Activities (3,000; 1.2%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%). Government (6,200; 0.9%) reported the largest over-the-year decrease, followed by Education & Health Services (2,700; 0.5%).

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.

The September 2021 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,528,100 was 22,200 (0.5%) higher than the August 2021 not seasonally adjusted employment level of 4,505,900. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Government had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 37,200 (5.5%), followed by Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (5,700; 0.7%), Manufacturing (400; 0.1%), Construction (400; 0.2%), and Professional & Business Services (200; <0.1%). Leisure & Hospitality Services (16,200; 3.4%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Financial Activities (2,400; 0.9%), Education & Health Services (2,000; 0.3%), Information (800; 1.0%), Other Services (200; 0.1%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.7%).

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 111,200 (3.0%) jobs. Leisure & Hospitality Services (42,500; 10.1%) reported the largest increase over the year, followed by Professional & Business Services (38,400; 6.0%), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (23,000; 2.7%), Information (5,700; 8.0%), Other Services (3,400; 2.2%), and Financial Activities (3,300; 1.3%).Government (4,000; 0.6%) reported the largest over-the-year decrease, followed by Education & Health Services (1,100; 0.2%).
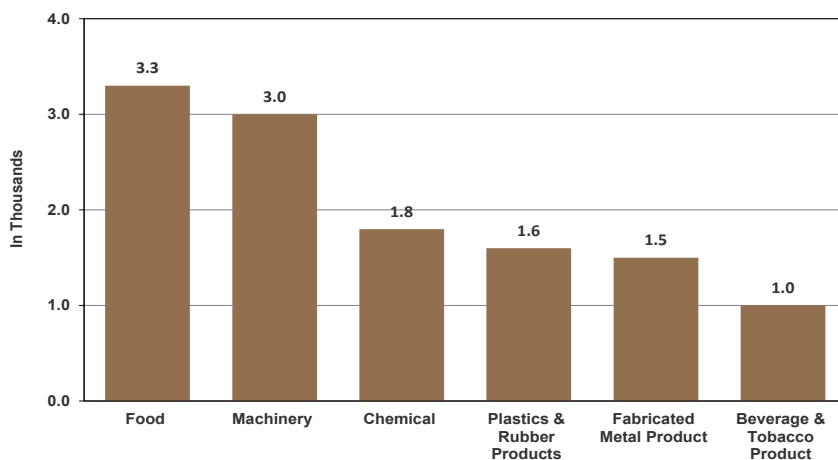
The Goods Producing sector increased by 37,400 (5.5%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing had the largest increase with 21,500 (4.8%), followed by Construction (15,800; 6.9%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

Amongst manufacturing industries, Food had the largest net over-the-year increase of 3,300 jobs, followed by Machinery, 3,000; Chemical, 1,800; Plastics & Rubber Products, 1,600; Fabricated Metal Product, 1,500; Beverage & Tobacco Product, 1,000; Electrical Equipment, Appliance, & Component, 900; Wood Product, 800; Textile Mills, 600; Printing & Related Support Activities, 500; and Transportation Equipment, 400. Computer & Electronic Product had the largest net over-the-year decline with the loss of 700 jobs, followed by Apparel, 300, Furniture & Related Product, 200, and Textile Product Mills, 100.
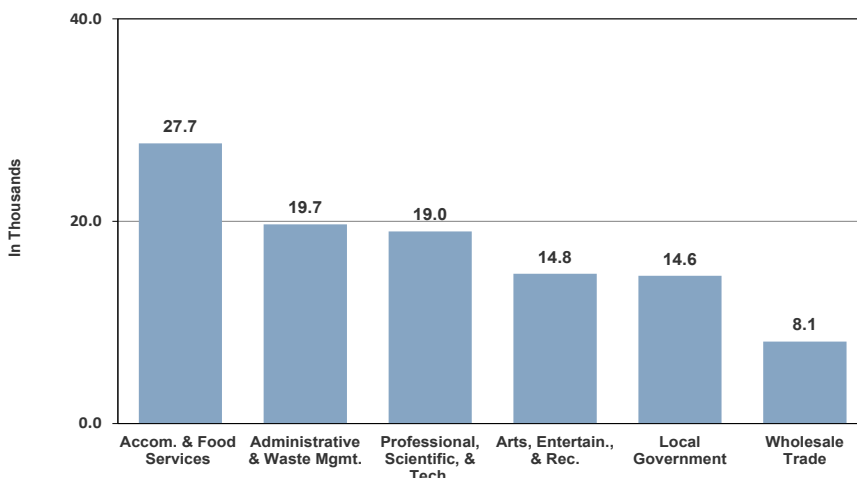
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in September decreased 24 minutes from August's revised rate of 35.0. Average Hourly Earnings fell by $0.10 to $28.39, and Average Weekly Earnings decreased by $14.86 to $982.29.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in September remained unchanged from the September 2020 rate of 34.6. Average Hourly Earnings grew by $1.67 and Average Weekly Earnings increased by $57.78.

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

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

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