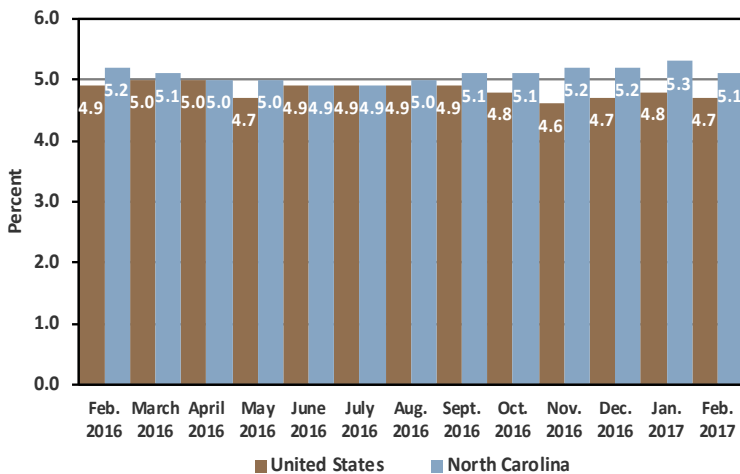
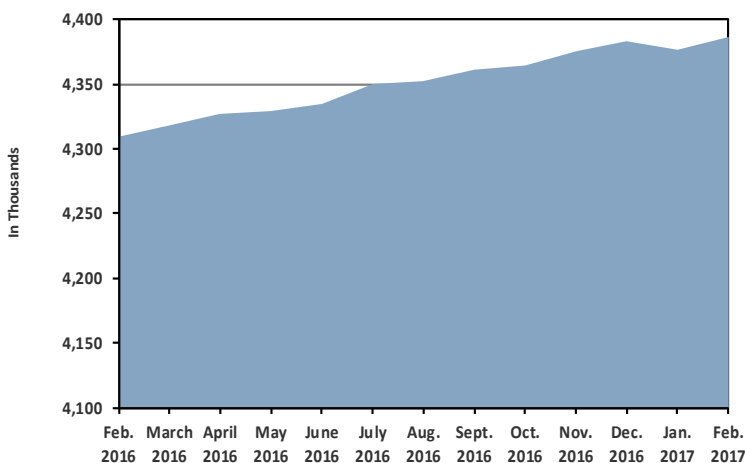


**United States/North Carolina Unemployment Rates**  
February 2016–February 2017  
(Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted\*\*)

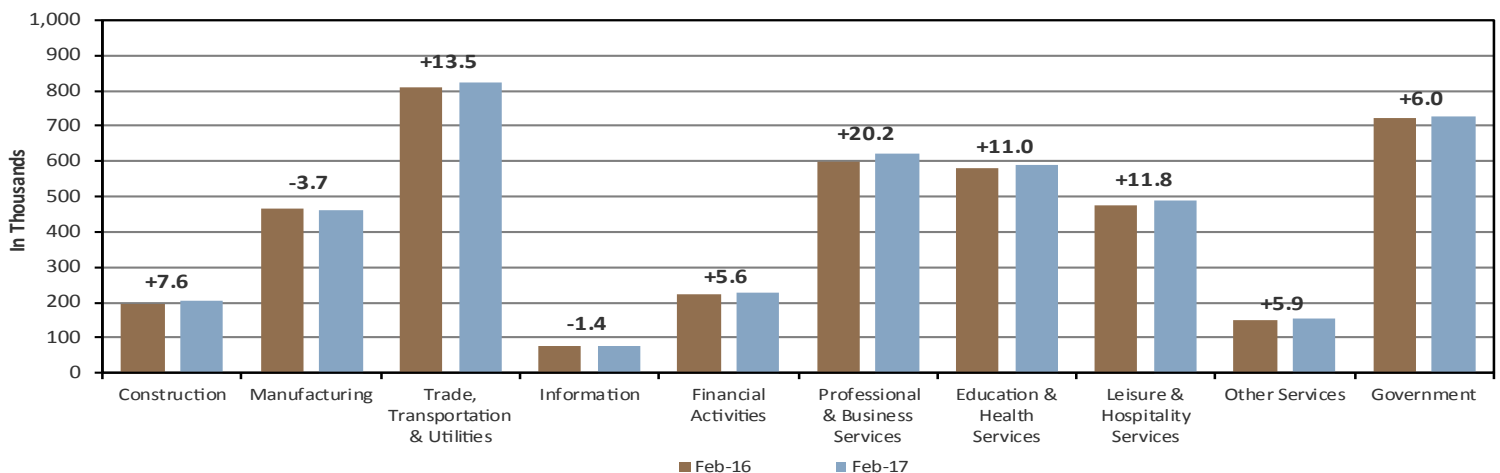


\*\*US data are not smoothed.

**North Carolina Total Nonfarm Employment**  
February 2016–February 2017  
(Seasonally Adjusted)



**Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries**  
February 2016 Compared to February 2017  
(Seasonally Adjusted)



\*N.C. current month data are preliminary, while all other 2017 data are revised and 2016 data have undergone annual revision. U.S. data have undergone annual revision.

The North Carolina smoothed seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in February, decreasing 0.2 of a percentage point from the previous month and falling 0.1 of a percentage point from February 2016. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed fell by 7,612 (2.9%). The civilian labor force increased by 9,036 (0.2%) to 4,944,033.

Nationally, February's unemployment rate was 4.7 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 7,528,000, while the civilian labor force was 160,056,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,386,100) increased 9,100 (0.2%) since January 2017, and 76,800 (1.8%) since February 2016.<sup>1</sup> Private sector employment rose over the month by 8,200 (0.2%), while growing by 70,800 (2.0%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Leisure & Hospitality (3,500; 0.7%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Education & Health Services (1,700; 0.3%), Professional & Business Services (1,200; 0.2%), Other Services (1,000; 0.6%), Government (900; 0.1%), Manufacturing (800; 0.2%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (600; 0.1%), Construction (300; 0.1%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.7%). Information (500; 0.6%) and Financial Activities (500; 0.2%) reported over-the-year decreases.

Since February 2016, Professional & Business Services added the largest number of jobs (20,200; 3.4%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (13,500; 1.7%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (11,800; 2.5%), Education & Health Services (11,000; 1.9%), Construction (7,600; 3.8%), Government (6,000; 0.8%), Other Services (5,900; 4.0%), Financial Activities (5,600; 2.5%), and Mining & Logging (300; 5.4%). Manufacturing (3,700; 0.8%) reported the largest over-the-year decrease, followed by Information (1,400; 1.8%).

<sup>1</sup>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 December 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 February 2017 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,345,100 was 26,300 (0.6%) more than the January 2017 revised employment level of 4,318,800. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Government had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 9,400 (1.3%), followed by Education & Health Services (7,500; 1.3%), Professional & Business Services (5,400; 0.9%), Leisure & Hospitality (5,400; 1.2%), Construction (3,100; 1.6%), Manufacturing (200; <0.1%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%). Trade, Transportation & Utilities (3,700; 0.5%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Financial Activities (800; 0.4%), Information (200; 0.3%), and Other Services (100; 0.1%).

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 74,500 (2.1%) jobs. Professional & Business Services experienced the largest employment increase at 18,800 (3.2%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (14,400; 1.8%), Education & Health Services (14,200; 2.5%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (9,500; 2.1%), Government (8,800; 1.2%), Other Services (5,700; 3.9%), and Financial Activities (4,700; 2.1%). Information (1,600; 2.0%) reported the only over-the-year decrease.

The Goods Producing sector grew by 5,500 (0.8%) jobs over the year. Construction had the largest increase with 8,000 (4.2%), followed by Mining & Logging (300; 5.5%). Manufacturing (2,800; 0.6%) reported a decrease.

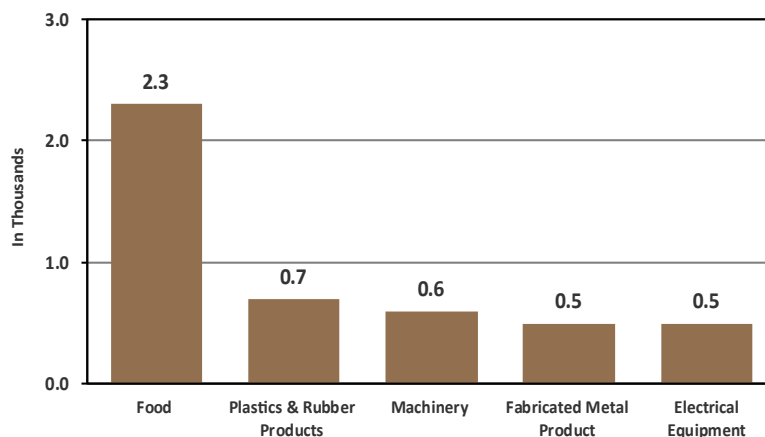
Amongst manufacturing industries, Food had the largest net over-the-year increase at 2,300. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Plastics & Rubber Products, 700; Machinery, 600; Fabricated Metal Product, 500; Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component, 500; and Wood Product, 300.

Transportation Equipment had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 1,600 in February 2017. Other industries with decreases were: Computer & Electronic Product, 1,000; Apparel, 700; Chemical, 500; Textile Mills, 500; Textile Product Mills, 200; and Printing & Related Support Activities, 100. Beverage & Tobacco Product and Furniture & Related Product reported no change.

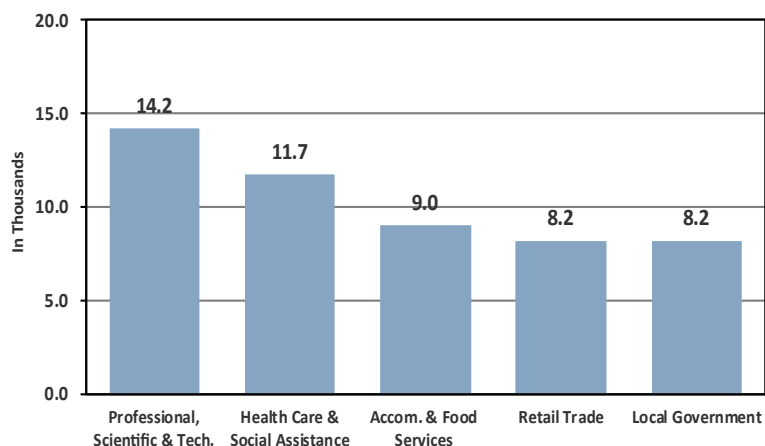
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in February increased 24 minutes from January's revised rate of 34.0. Average Hourly Earnings fell by \$0.05 to \$24.02, as Average Weekly Earnings increased by \$7.91 to \$826.29.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in February increased 36 minutes from 33.8 in February 2016. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.84 and Average Weekly Earnings increased \$42.81.

**Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains**  
February 2016–February 2017  
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



**Selected Service Industries With Job Gains**  
February 2016–February 2017  
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



**Total Private Average Weekly Wage**  
February 2014–February 2017  
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

