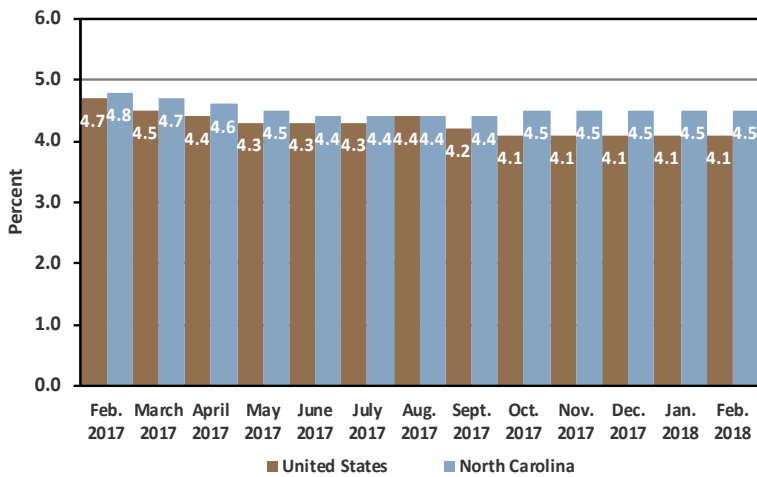
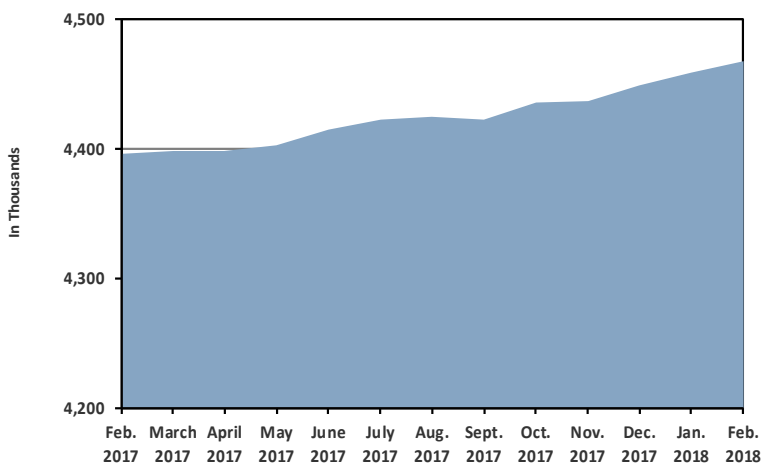


United States/North Carolina Unemployment Rates
February 2017–February 2018
(Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted**)

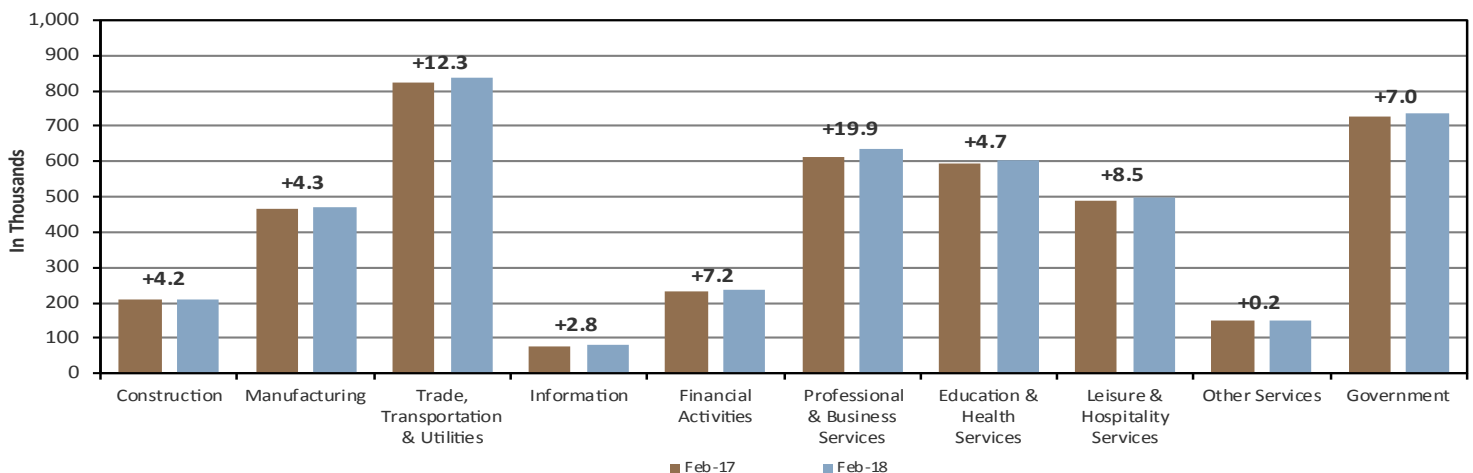


**US data are not smoothed.

North Carolina Total Nonfarm Employment
February 2017–February 2018
(Seasonally Adjusted)



Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries
February 2017 Compared to February 2018
(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 4.5 percent in February, remaining unchanged from the previous month and falling 0.3 of a percentage point from February 2017. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed grew by 289 (0.1%). The civilian labor force increased by 4,525 (0.1%) to 4,974,418.

Nationally, February's unemployment rate was 4.1 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 6,706,000, while the civilian labor force was 161,921,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,467,600) increased 9,000 (0.2%) since January 2018 and 71,300 (1.6%) since February 2017.¹ Private sector employment grew over the month by 8,700 (0.2%) and 64,300 (1.8%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Trade, Transportation & Utilities (4,200; 0.5%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Financial Activities (1,700; 0.7%), Manufacturing (1,400; 0.3%), Other Services (1,200; 0.8%), Information (900; 3.1%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (500; 0.1%), Government (300; <0.1%), and Professional & Business Services (200; <0.1%). Education & Health Services (1,100; 0.2%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Construction (300; 0.1%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged.

Since February 2017, Professional & Business Services added the largest number of jobs (19,900; 3.2%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (12,300; 1.5%), Leisure & Hospitality (8,500; 1.7%), Financial Activities (7,200; 3.1%), Government (7,000; 1.0%), Education & Health Services (4,700; 0.8%), Manufacturing (4,300; 0.9%), Construction (4,200; 2.0%), Information (2,800; 3.6%), Mining & Logging (200; 3.6%), and Other Services (200; 0.1%).

¹It 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 Labor Market Conditions

The February 2018 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,428,000 was 31,700 (0.7%) less than the January 2018 revised employment level of 4,396,300. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Government had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 9,200 (1.2%), followed by Education & Health Services (5,800; 1.0%), Leisure & Hospitality (3,700; 0.8%), Professional & Business Services (3,400; 0.6%), Construction (3,000; 1.5%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (1,900; 0.2%), Financial Activities (1,400; 0.6%), Information (1,400; 1.7%), Other Services (1,100; 0.7%), and Manufacturing (800; 0.2%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged.

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 62,400 (1.7%) jobs. Professional & Business Services experienced the largest employment increase at 18,600 (3.1%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (13,300; 1.6%), Government (7,100; 1.0%), Financial Activities (7,100; 3.1%), Education & Health Services (6,300; 1.1%), Leisure & Hospitality (6,200; 1.3%), Information (3,200; 4.1%) and Other Services (600; 0.4%).

The Goods Producing sector grew by 9,900 (1.5%) jobs over the year. Construction had the largest increase with 6,300 (3.1%), followed by Manufacturing (3,500; 0.8%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

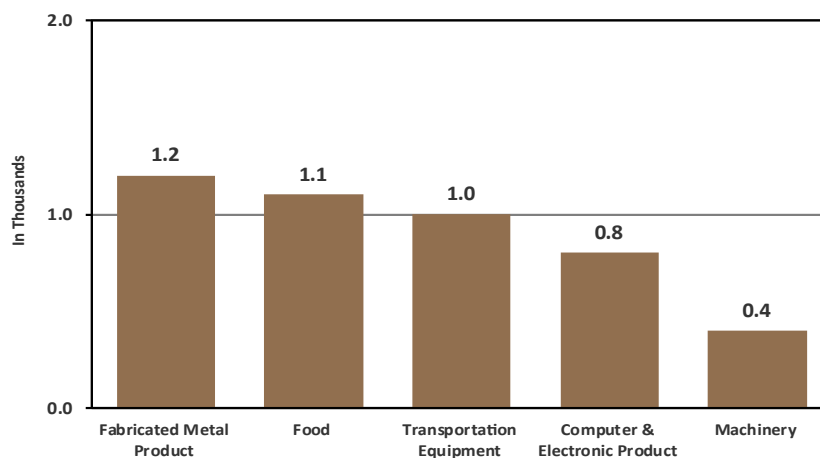
Amongst manufacturing industries, Fabricated Metal Product had the largest net over-the-year increase at 1,200. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Food, 1,100; Transportation Equipment, 1,000; Computer & Electronic Product, 800; Machinery, 400; and Beverage & Tobacco Product, 200.

Furniture & Related Product and Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 600 in February 2018. Other industries with decreases were: Apparel, 500; Textile Mills, 500; Printing & Related Product, 100; Textile Product Mills, 100; and Wood Product, 100. Chemical and Plastics & Rubber Products remained unchanged.

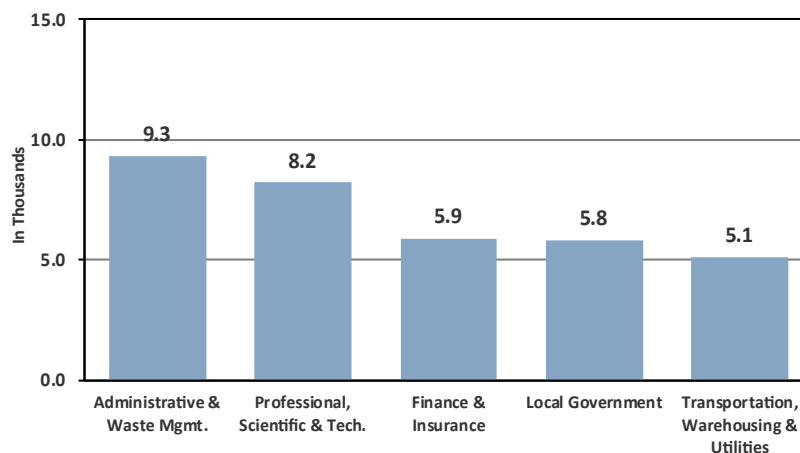
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in February increased 48 minutes from January's revised rate of 33.9. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.06 to \$24.85, as Average Weekly Earnings increased by \$21.92 to \$862.30.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in February increased 18 minutes from the revised rate of 34.4 in February 2017. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.87 and Average Weekly Earnings increased \$37.39.

Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains
February 2017–February 2018
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Selected Service Industries With Job Gains
February 2017–February 2018
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Total Private Average Weekly Wage
February 2015–February 2018
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

