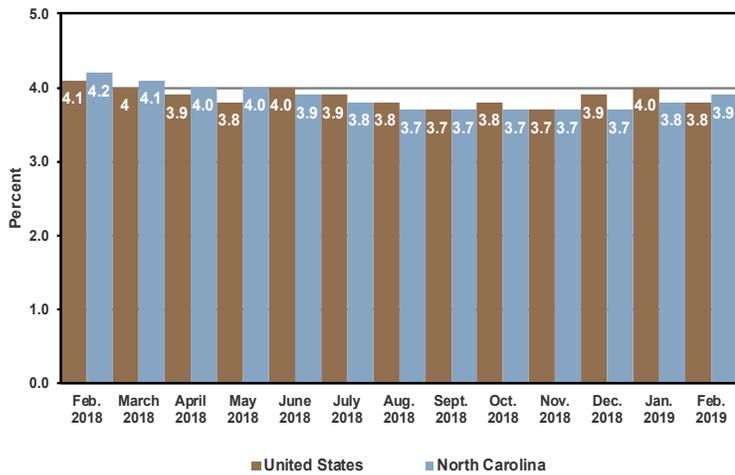


United States/North Carolina Unemployment Rates February 2018–February 2019 (Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted**)



**US data are not smoothed.

The North Carolina smoothed seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.9 percent in February, increasing 0.1 of a percentage point from the previous month and falling 0.3 of a percentage point from February 2018. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed increased by 3,712 (1.9%). The civilian labor force grew by 12,543 (0.3%) to 5,012,673.

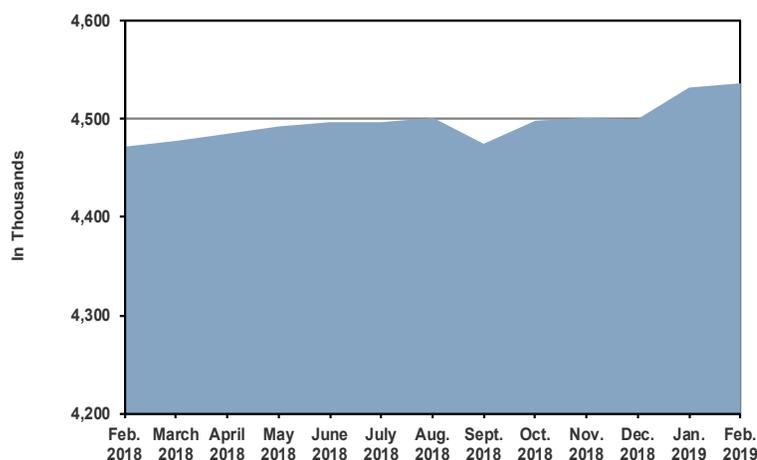
Nationally, February's unemployment rate was 3.8 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 6,235,000, while the civilian labor force was 163,184,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,536,000) increased 3,800 (0.1%) since January 2019 and increased 64,800 (1.4%) since February 2018.¹ Private sector employment grew 3,600 (0.1%) over the month and 66,200 (1.8%) over the year.

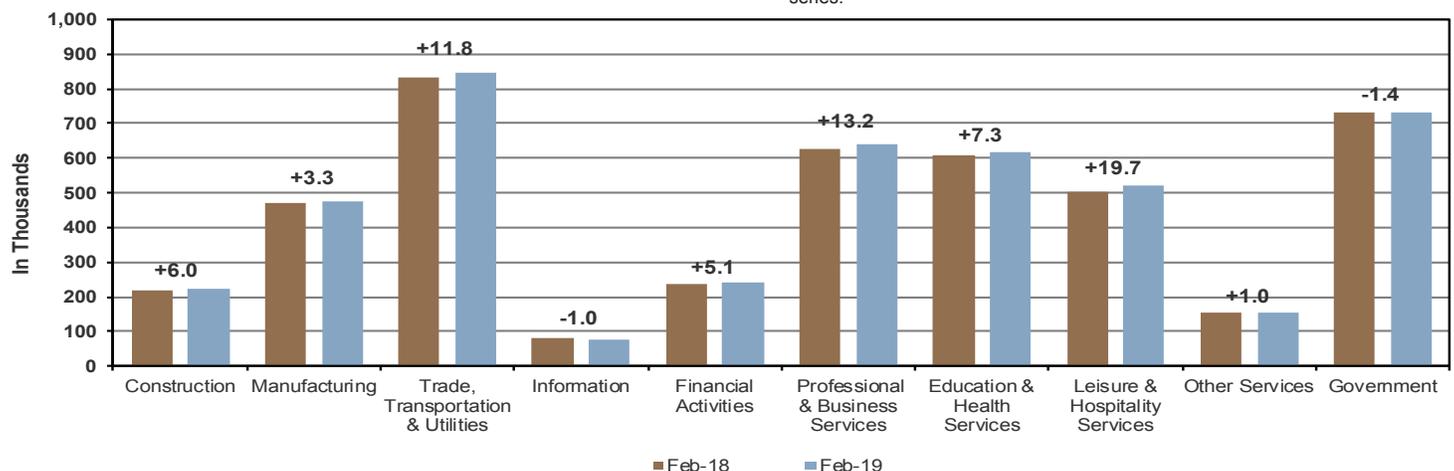
Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Leisure & Hospitality Services (3,000; 0.6%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Professional & Business Services (1,300; 0.2%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (1,000; 0.1%), Other Services (900; 0.6%), Manufacturing (900; 0.2%), Financial Activities (300; 0.1%), and Government (200; <0.1%). Education & Health Services (2,100; 0.3%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Construction (1,600; 0.7%), and Information (100; 0.1%). Mining & Logging report no over-the-month change.

Since February 2018, Leisure & Hospitality Services added the largest number of jobs (19,700; 3.9%), followed by Professional & Business Services (13,200; 2.1%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (11,800; 1.4%), Education & Health Services (7,300; 1.2%), Construction (6,000; 2.8%), Financial Activities (5,100; 2.1%), Manufacturing (3,300; 0.7%), and Other Services (1,000; 0.6%). Government (1,400; 0.2%) reported an over-the-year decrease, followed by Information (1,000; 1.3%), and Mining & Logging (200; 3.4%).

North Carolina Total Nonfarm Employment February 2018–February 2019 (Seasonally Adjusted)



Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries February 2018 Compared to February 2019 (Seasonally Adjusted)



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 February 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.

*N.C. current month data are preliminary, while all other seasonally adjusted data have undergone annual revision. U.S. data have undergone annual revision.

North Carolina Labor Market Conditions

The February 2019 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,495,700 was 23,300 (0.5%) higher than the January 2019 revised employment level of 4,472,400. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Government had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 9,000 (1.2%) followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services with 6,400 (1.3%); Professional & Business Services (3,800; 0.6%), Education & Health Services (3,000; 0.5%), Other Services (1,400; 0.9%), Construction (700; 0.3%), Manufacturing (600; 0.1%) and Information (500; 0.6%). Trade Transportation & Utilities (1,700; 0.2%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Financial Activities (400; 0.2%)

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 53,700 (1.4%) jobs. Leisure & Hospitality Services experienced the largest employment increase at 16,700 (3.5%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (13,400; 1.6%), Professional & Business Services (11,600; 1.9%), Education & Health Services (7,600; 1.2%), Financial Activities (5,000; 2.1%), and Other Services (1,600; 1.0%). Government (1,200; 0.2%) reported the largest over-the-year decrease, followed by Information (1,000; 1.3%).

The Goods Producing sector grew by 9,000 (1.3%) jobs over the year. Construction had the largest increase with 6,700 (3.2%), followed by Manufacturing (2,600; 0.6%). Mining & Logging reported a loss of 300 (5.2%).

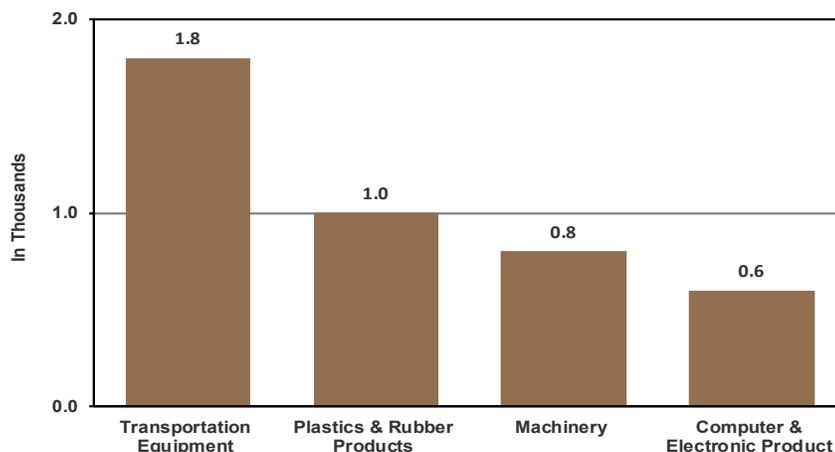
Amongst manufacturing industries, Transportation Equipment had the largest net over-the-year increase at 1,800. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Plastics & Rubber Products, 1,000; Machinery, 800; Computer & Electronic Product, 600; Fabricated Metal Product, 300; Food, 300; Wood Product, 300; and Electrical Equipment, Appliance, & Component, 100.

Textile Mills had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 900 in February 2019. Other industries with decreases were: Printing & Related Support Activities, 600; Apparel, 400; Beverage & Tobacco Product, 400; Furniture & Related Product, 300; Chemical, 100; and Textile Product Mills, 100.

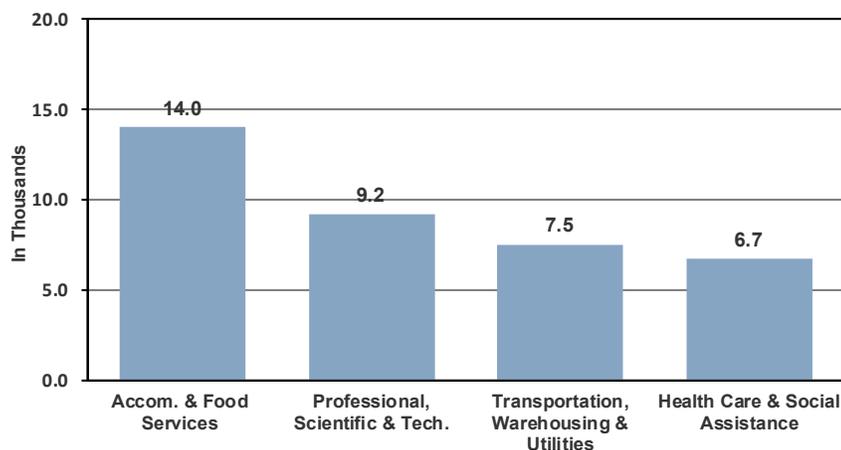
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in February increased 12 minutes from January's revised rate of 34.1. Average Hourly Earnings fell by \$0.04 to \$25.25, as Average Weekly Earnings increased by \$3.69 to \$866.08.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in February decreased 24 minutes from the revised rate of 34.7 in February 2018. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.40 and Average Weekly Earnings increased \$3.78.

Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains February 2018–February 2019 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Selected Service Industries With Job Gains February 2018–February 2019 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Total Private Average Weekly Wage February 2016–February 2019 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

