## North Carolina Labor Market Conditions

# January 2020

#### United States/North Carolina Unemployment Rates January 2019–January 2020 (Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted\*\*)



\*\*US data are not smoothed.

North Carolina Total Nonfarm Employment January 2019–January 2020 (Seasonally Adjusted)



#### Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries January 2019 Compared to January 2020 (Seasonally Adjusted)

The North Carolina smoothed seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.6 percent in January, remaining unchanged from the previous month and decreasing 0.4 of a percentage from January 2019. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 1,242 (0.7%). The civilian labor force grew by 7,393 (0.1%) to 5,110,694.

Nationally, January's unemployment rate was 3.6 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 5,892,000, while the civilian labor force was 164,606,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,608,900) increased 15,000 (0.3%) since December 2019 and increased 50,100 (1.1%) since January 2019.<sup>1</sup> Private sector employment grew 14,500 (0.4%) over the month and increased 44,600 (1.2%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Leisure & Hospitality Services (6,800; 1.3%) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (6,800; 0.8%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Education & Health Services (2,800; 0.4%), Professional & Business Services (1,100; 0.2%), Information (1,000; 1.3%), Other Services (500; 0.3%), and Government (500; 0.1%). Financial Activities (2,200; 0.8%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Manufacturing (1,200; 0.3%), and Construction (1,100; 0.5%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged.

Since January 2019, Leisure & Hospitality Services added the largest number of jobs (22,300; 4.3%), followed by Financial Activities (10,300; 4.2%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (8,100; 1.0%), Government (5,500; 0.8%), Other Services (5,000; 3.2%), Information (3,200; 4.2%) and Education & Health Services (2,300; 0.4%). Professional & Business Services (4,200; 0.6%) reported the largest decrease, followed by Construction (1,400; 0.6%), Manufacturing (800; 0.2%), and Mining & Logging (200; 3.4%).

<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 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.



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

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The January 2020 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,551,600 was 67,800 (1.5%) lower than the December 2019 not seasonally adjusted employment level of 4,619,400. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Information had the only over-the-month increase in employment at 400 (0.5%). Trade, Transportation & Utilities (22,100; 2.6%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Government (9,600; 1.3%), Construction (6,800; 2.9%), Professional & Business Services (6,500; 1.0%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (6,500; 1.3%), Education & Health Services (5,900; 0.9%), Manufacturing (5,600; 1.2%), Financial Activities (4,000; 1.6%), and Other Services (1,200; 0.7%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged.

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 51,600 (1.4%) jobs. Leisure & Hospitality Services experienced the largest employment increase at 21,200 (4.4%), followed by Financial Activities (10,700; 4.4%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (5,600; 0.7%), Other Services (4,400; 2.8%), Information (3,600; 4.8%), Government (3,500; 0.5%), Professional & Business Services (1,500; 0.2%), and Education & Heath Services (1,100; 0.2%).

The Goods Producing sector decreased by 1,700 (0.2%) jobs over the year. Construction had the largest decrease with 1,100 (0.5%), followed by Manufacturing (500; 0.1%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

Amongst manufacturing industries, Food had the largest net over-the-year increase at 900. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Machinery, 800; Computer & Electronic Product, 600; Transportation Equipment, 500; Fabricated Metal Product, 400; Chemical, 300; and Beverage & Tobacco Product, 100.

Textile Mills had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 1,200 in January 2020. Other industries with decreases were: Furniture & Related Product, 800; Apparel, 500; Printing & Related Support Activities, 300; Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component, 300; Plastics & Rubber Products, 200; and Textile Product Mills, 200.

Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in January decreased 42 minutes from December's seasonally adjusted rate of 34.5. Average Hourly Earnings fell by \$0.23 to \$25.78, as Average Weekly Earnings decreased by \$25.99 to \$871.36.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in January decreased 30 minutes from the seasonally adjusted rate of 34.3 in January 2019. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.33 and Average Weekly Earnings decreased \$1.58.

#### Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains January 2019–January 2020 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)









