North Carolina's April Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state's seasonally adjusted April unemployment rate was 5.0 percent, decreasing 0.2 of a percentage point from March's revised rate. The national rate increased 0.1 of a percentage point to 6.1 percent.

North Carolina's April 2021 unemployment rate decreased 8.5 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 4,497 over the month to 4,761,974 and increased 707,042 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 8,109 over the month to 250,865 and decreased 383,958 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, decreased 5,800 to 4,459,800 in April. Major industries experiencing increases were Manufacturing, 2,100; Construction, 1,600; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 1,500; Information, 1,000; and Education & Health Services, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Professional & Business Services, 6,500; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 4,400; Government, 700; Financial Activities, 200; Other Services, 200; and Mining & Logging, 100.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since April 2020

	Apr 2020	May 2020	Jun 2020	Jul 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021
N.C.	13.5	13.5	8.8	8.8	6.8	7.3	6.8	6.4	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.2	5.0
U.S.	14.8	13.3	11.1	10.2	8.4	7.8	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.2	6.0	6.1

Please note: 2020 numbers have undergone annual revision

Since April 2020, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 408,400 with the Total Private sector increasing by 426,000 and Government decreasing by 17,600. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 154,500; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 84,100; Professional & Business Services, 60,600; Manufacturing, 36,900; Education & Health Services, 34,100; Other Services, 31,900; Construction, 12,800; Financial Activities, 6,400; and Information, 4,800. Major industries experiencing decreases were Government, 17,600; and Mining & Logging, 100.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, June 2, 2021 when the county unemployment rates for April 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, May 21, 2021

	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	Month Ago Numeric Change	Month Ago Percent Change	Year Ago Numeric Change	Year Ago Percent Change
North Carolina (Local Area Unemployment Statistics)							
Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	5,012,839	5,016,451	4,689,755	-3,612	-0.1	323,084	6.9
Employed	4,761,974	4,757,477	4,054,932	4,497	0.1	707,042	17.4
Unemployed	250,865	258,974	634,823	-8,109	-3.1	-383,958	-60.5
Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.2	13.5	-0.2	xxx	-8.5	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	4,974,962	4,991,166	4,660,070	-16,204	-0.3	314,892	6.8
Employed	4,757,583	4,762,518	4,046,755	-4,935	-0.1	710,828	17.6
Unemployed	217,379	228,648	613,315	-11,269	-4.9	-395,936	-64.6
Unemployment Rate	4.4	4.6	13.2	-0.2	xxx	-8.8	xxx
United States (Current Population Survey)							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	160,988,000	160,558,000	156,478,000	430,000	0.3	xxx	xxx
Employed	151,176,000	150,848,000	133,370,000	328,000	0.2	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	9,812,000	9,710,000	23,109,000	102,000	1.1	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	6.1	6.0	14.8	0.1	xxx	xxx	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	160,379,000	160,397,000	155,830,000	-18,000	> -0.1	xxx	xxx
Employed	151,160,000	150,493,000	133,326,000	667,000	0.4	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	9,220,000	9,905,000	22,504,000	-685,000	-6.9	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	5.7	6.2	14.4	-0.5	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, May 21, 2021

	April 2021	March 2021	April 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	4,459,800	4,465,600	4,051,400	-5,800	-0.1	408,400	10.1
Total Private	3,763,200	3,768,300	3,337,200	-5,100	-0.1	426,000	12.8
Mining & Logging	5,600	5,700	5,700	-100	-1.8	-100	-1.8
Construction	236,600	235,000	223,800	1,600	0.7	12,800	5.7
Manufacturing	462,900	460,800	426,000	2,100	0.5	36,900	8.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	864,000	868,400	779,900	-4,400	-0.5	84,100	10.8
Information	77,200	76,200	72,400	1,000	1.3	4,800	6.6
Financial Activities	257,800	258,000	251,400	-200	-0.1	6,400	2.5
Professional & Business Services	660,400	666,900	599,800	-6,500	-1.0	60,600	10.1
Education & Health Services	600,200	600,100	566,100	100	< 0.1	34,100	6.0
Leisure & Hospitality Services	441,500	440,000	287,000	1,500	0.3	154,500	53.8
Other Services	157,000	157,200	125,100	-200	-0.1	31,900	25.5
Government	696,600	697,300	714,200	-700	-0.1	-17,600	-2.5
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Total Nonfarm	4,472,100	4,459,900	4,062,300	12,200	0.3	409,800	10.1
Total Private	3,753,700	3,743,300	3,327,200	10,400	0.3	426,500	12.8
Mining & Logging	5,600	5,700	5,700	-100	-1.8	-100	-1.8
Construction	236,200	232,400	222,500	3,800	1.6	13,700	6.2
Manufacturing	461,000	458,800	424,400	2,200	0.5	36,600	8.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	858,100	861,300	772,700	-3,200	-0.4	85,400	11.1
Information	77,500	76,300	72,300	1,200	1.6	5,200	7.2
Financial Activities	256,400	256,700	249,900	-300	-0.1	6,500	2.6
Professional & Business Services	661,200	663,300	600,300	-2,100	-0.3	60,900	10.1
Education & Health Services	602,300	602,400	567,000	-100	> -0.1	35,300	6.2
Leisure & Hospitality Services	438,900	429,500	288,000	9,400	2.2	150,900	52.4
Other Services	156,500	156,900	124,400	-400	-0.3	32,100	25.8
Government	718,400	716,600	735,100	1,800	0.3	-16,700	-2.3

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, June 2, 2021 when the county unemployment rates for April 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
April 2020–April 2021
(Seasonally Adjusted)
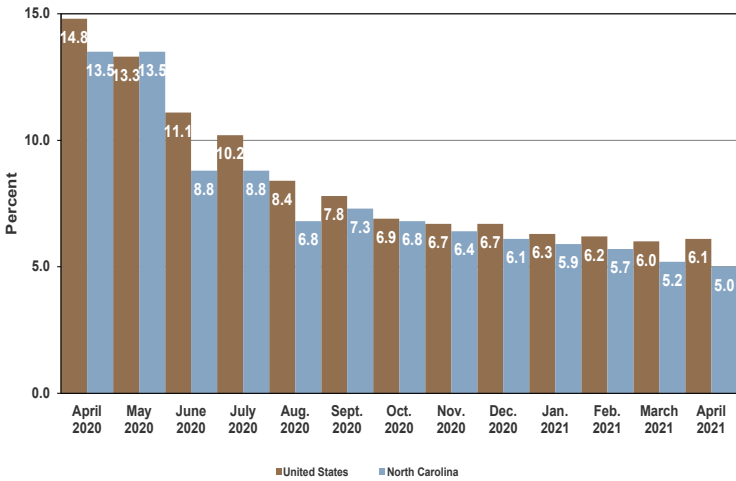
The North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.0 percent in April, decreasing 0.2 of a percentage point from March's revised rate and declining 8.5 percentage points from April 2020. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 8,109 (3.1%). The civilian labor force fell by 3,612 (0.1%) to 5,012,839.

Nationally, April's unemployment rate was 6.1 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 9,812,000, while the civilian labor force was 160,988,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,459,800) decreased 5,800 (0.1%) since March 2021 and grew 408,400 (10.1%) since April 2020. Private sector employment decreased 5,100 (0.1%) over the month and increased 426,000 (12.8%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Manufacturing (2,100; 0.5%) had the largest over-the-month increase in jobs, followed by Construction (1,600; 0.7%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (1,500; 0.3%), Information (1,000; 1.3%), and Education & Health Services (100; <0.1%). Professional & Business Services (6,500; 1.0%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease in jobs, followed by Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (4,400; 0.5%), Government (700; 0.1%), Other Services (200; 0.1%), Financial Activities (200; 0.1%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

Since April 2020, Leisure & Hospitality Services (154,500; 53.8%) reported the largest jobs increase over the year, followed by Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (84,100; 10.8%), Professional & Business Services (60,600; 10.1%), Manufacturing (36,900; 8.7%), Education & Health Services (34,100; 6.0%), Other Services (31,900; 25.5%), Construction (12,800; 5.7%), Financial Activities (6,400; 2.5%), and Information (4,800; 6.6%). Government (17,600; 2.5%) reported the largest over-the-year decrease, followed by Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

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.

North Carolina Total Nonfarm Employment
April 2020–April 2021
(Seasonally Adjusted)
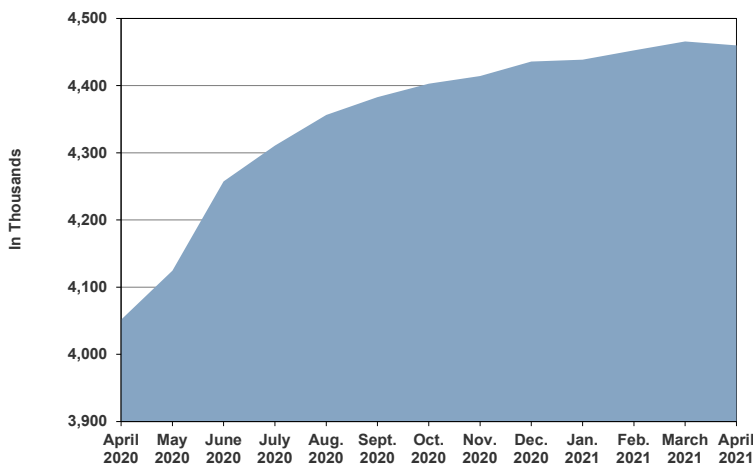
Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries
April 2020 Compared to April 2021
(Seasonally Adjusted)
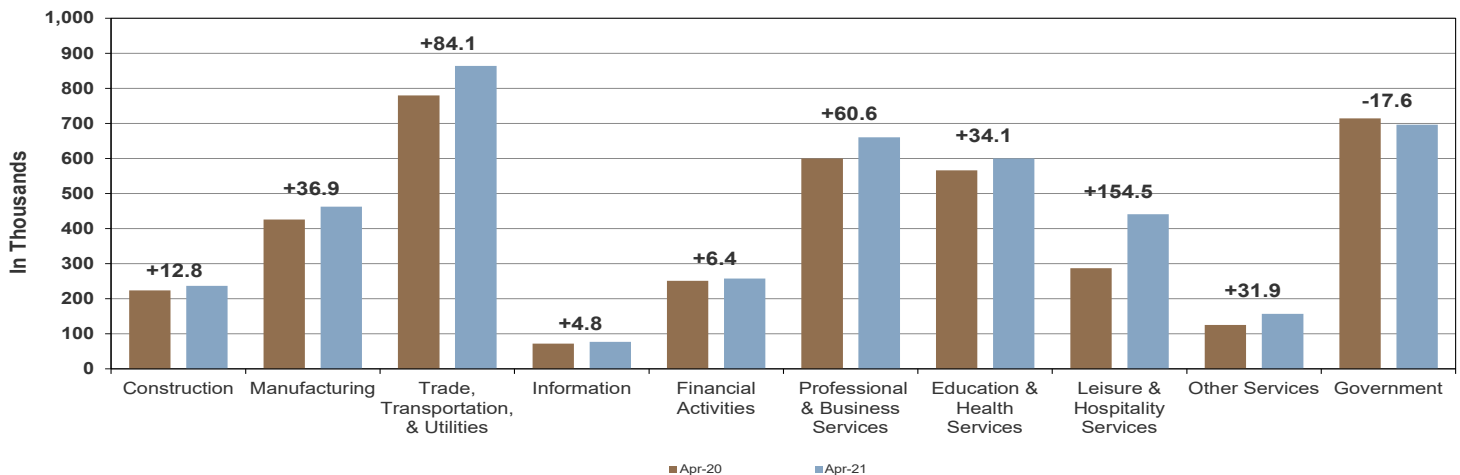
Note: North Carolina 2021 current month estimates are preliminary, while all other data have undergone annual revision.

The April 2021 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,472,100 was 12,200 (0.3%) higher than the March 2021 not seasonally adjusted employment level of 4,459,900. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Leisure & Hospitality Services had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 9,400 (2.2%), followed by Construction (3,800; 1.6%), Manufacturing (2,200; 0.5%), Government (1,800; 0.3%), and Information (1,200; 1.6%).Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (3,200; 0.4%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Professional & Business Services (2,100; 0.3%), Other Services (400; 0.3%), Financial Activities (300; 0.1%), Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%), and Education & Health Services (100; <0.1%).

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed a increase of 359,600 (10.5%) jobs. Leisure & Hospitality Services (150,900; 52.4%) reported the largest increase over the year, followed by Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (85,400; 11.1%), Professional & Business Services (60,900; 10.1%), Education & Health Services (35,300; 6.2%), Other Services (32,100; 25.8%), Financial Activities (6,500; 2.6%), and Information (5,200; 7.2%). Government had the only over-the-year decrease in employment at 16,700 (2.3%).

The Goods Producing sector increased by 50,200 (7.7%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing had the largest increase with 36,600 (8.6%), followed by Construction (13,700; 6.2%). Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%) reported a decrease.

Amongst manufacturing industries, Transportation Equipment had the largest net over-the-year increase of 9,800 jobs, followed by Furniture & Related Product, 4,800; Textile Mills, 4,200; Plastics & Rubber Products, 4,200; Beverage & Tobacco Product, 2,600; Food, 1,900; Chemical, 1,700; Machinery, 1,500; Fabricated Metal Product, 1,200; Apparel, 800, Textile Product Mills, 700; Printing & Related Support Activities, 700; and Wood Product, 100. Computer & Electronic Product had the largest net over-the-year decline with the loss of 1,600 jobs, followed by Electrical Equipment, Appliance, & Component, 1,300.

Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in April increased 12 minutes to 35.0 from March's revised rate of 34.8. Average Hourly Earnings increased by $0.40 to $27.31, and Average Weekly Earnings grew by $19.38 to $955.85.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in April increased 54 minutes from the April 2020 rate of 34.1. Average Hourly Earnings grew by $0.31 and Average Weekly Earnings increased by $35.15.
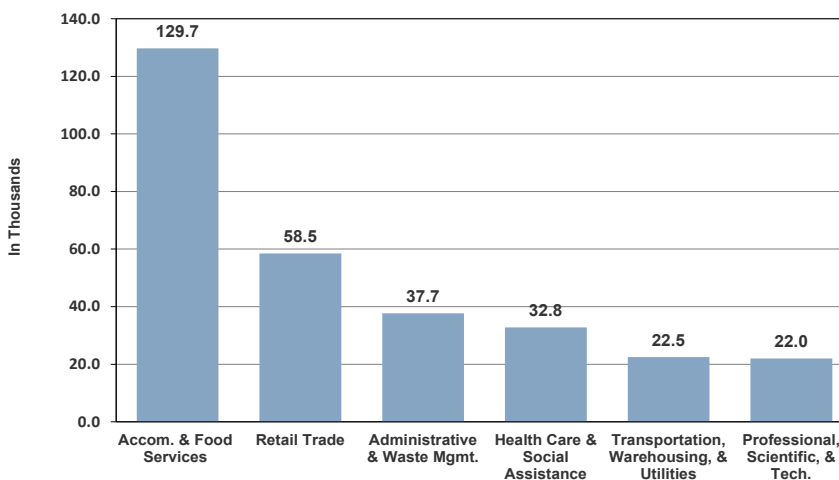
Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains
April 2020–April 2021
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)
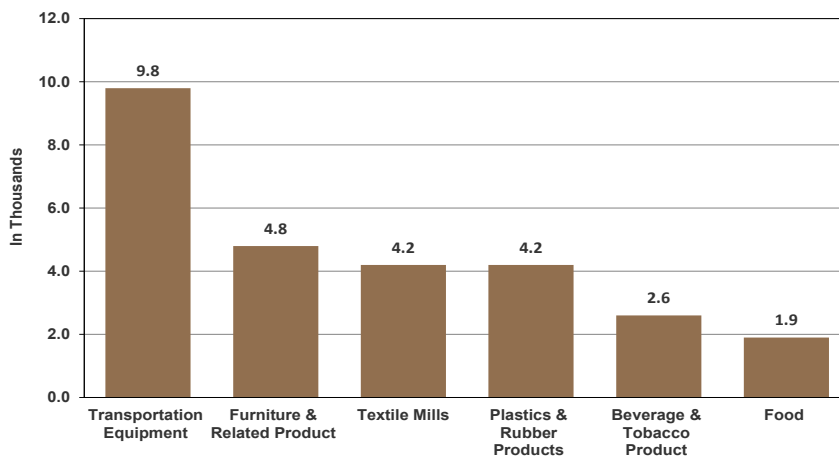
Selected Service Industries With Job Gains
April 2020–April 2021
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

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