North Carolina's January Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state's seasonally adjusted January 2022 unemployment rate was 3.9 percent, decreasing 0.2 of a percentage point from December's revised rate. The national rate increased 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.0 percent.

North Carolina's unemployment rate decreased 1.6 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 25,124 over the month to 4,809,793 and increased 179,320 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 9,594 over the month to 197,469 and decreased 70,319 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 4,100 to 4,660,200 in January. Major industries experiencing increases were Professional & Business Services, 3,400; Construction, 2,900; Financial Activities, 2,700; Education & Health Services, 1,100; and Information, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 2,300; Other Services, 2,000; Government, 1,200; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 500; and Manufacturing, 100. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since January 2021

	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	Jun 2021	Jul 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022
N.C.	5.5	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.1	3.9
U.S.	6.4	6.2	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.4	5.2	4.7	4.6	4.2	3.9	4.0

Please note: 2021 numbers have undergone annual revision

Since January 2021, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 166,500 with the Total Private sector increasing by 146,200 and Government increasing by 20,300. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 49,600; Professional & Business Services, 37,300; Government, 20,300; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 12,400; Financial Activities, 11,500; Education & Health Services, 10,400; Manufacturing, 7,300; Construction, 6,500; Other Services, 5,800; and Information, 5,400. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged over the year.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Friday, March 18, 2022 when the county unemployment rates for January 2022 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. Monday, March 14, 2022

	January 2022	December 2021	January 2021	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	5,007,262	4,991,732	4,898,261	15,530	0.3	109,001	2.2
Employed	4,809,793	4,784,669	4,630,473	25,124	0.5	179,320	3.9
Unemployed	197,469	207,063	267,788	-9,594	-4.6	-70,319	-26.3
Unemployment Rate	3.9	4.1	5.5	-0.2	xxx	-1.6	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	5,004,974	4,993,364	4,850,888	11,610	0.2	154,086	3.2
Employed	4,815,473	4,832,694	4,564,428	-17,221	-0.4	251,045	5.5
Unemployed	189,501	160,670	286,460	28,831	17.9	-96,959	-33.8
Unemployment Rate	3.8	3.2	5.9	0.6	xxx	-2.1	xxx
United States (Current Population Survey)							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	163,687,000	162,294,000	160,184,000	1,393,000	0.9	xxx	xxx
Employed	157,174,000	155,975,000	150,004,000	1,199,000	0.8	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	6,513,000	6,319,000	10,180,000	194,000	3.1	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	4.0	3.9	6.4	0.1	xxx	xxx	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	162,825,000	161,696,000	159,234,000	1,129,000	0.7	xxx	xxx
Employed	155,618,000	155,732,000	148,383,000	-114,000	-0.1	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	7,207,000	5,964,000	10,851,000	1,243,000	20.8	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	4.4	3.7	6.8	0.7	xxx	xxx	xxx

Effective January 2022, 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.

2022 estimates for the current month are preliminary. Estimates for the previous month have undergone monthly revision.
2021 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. Monday, March 14, 2022

	January 2022	December 2021	January 2021	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	4,660,200	4,656,100	4,493,700	4,100	0.1	166,500	3.7
Total Private	3,945,400	3,940,100	3,799,200	5,300	0.1	146,200	3.8
Mining & Logging	5,500	5,500	5,500	0	0.0	0	0.0
Construction	241,900	239,000	235,400	2,900	1.2	6,500	2.8
Manufacturing	465,800	465,900	458,500	-100	> -0.1	7,300	1.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	898,200	900,500	885,800	-2,300	-0.3	12,400	1.4
Information	79,900	79,800	74,500	100	0.1	5,400	7.2
Financial Activities	277,600	274,900	266,100	2,700	1.0	11,500	4.3
Professional & Business Services	694,400	691,000	657,100	3,400	0.5	37,300	5.7
Education & Health Services	635,600	634,500	625,200	1,100	0.2	10,400	1.7
Leisure & Hospitality Services	482,600	483,100	433,000	-500	-0.1	49,600	11.5
Other Services	163,900	165,900	158,100	-2,000	-1.2	5,800	3.7
Government	714,800	716,000	694,500	-1,200	-0.2	20,300	2.9
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Total Nonfarm	4,616,700	4,701,200	4,454,400	-84,500	-1.8	162,300	3.6
Total Private	3,895,400	3,967,500	3,753,200	-72,100	-1.8	142,200	3.8
Mining & Logging	5,400	5,500	5,500	-100	-1.8	-100	-1.8
Construction	235,800	237,900	231,600	-2,100	-0.9	4,200	1.8
Manufacturing	465,500	469,200	457,300	-3,700	-0.8	8,200	1.8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	894,300	926,500	880,300	-32,200	-3.5	14,000	1.6
Information	80,000	80,500	73,800	-500	-0.6	6,200	8.4
Financial Activities	276,100	275,200	263,600	900	0.3	12,500	4.7
Professional & Business Services	685,400	693,700	650,800	-8,300	-1.2	34,600	5.3
Education & Health Services	632,300	640,100	622,300	-7,800	-1.2	10,000	1.6
Leisure & Hospitality Services	458,100	474,000	412,400	-15,900	-3.4	45,700	11.1
Other Services	162,500	164,900	155,600	-2,400	-1.5	6,900	4.4
Government	721,300	733,700	701,200	-12,400	-1.7	20,100	2.9

2022 estimates for the current month are preliminary. Estimates for the previous month have undergone monthly revision.
2021 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.
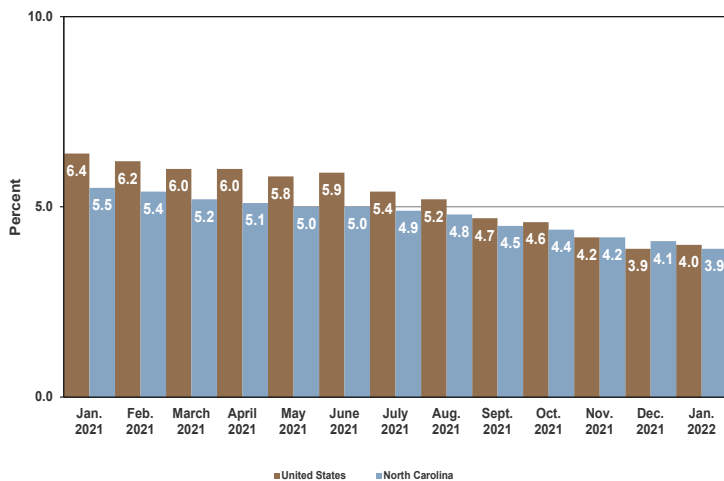

Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Friday, March 18, 2022 when the county unemployment rates for January 2022 will be released.

The complete data release schedule for 2022 can be accessed here:

https://www.nccommerce.com/documents/release-dates-unemployment-rates

United States/North Carolina Unemployment Rates
January 2021–January 2022
(Seasonally Adjusted)

United States | North Carolina

North Carolina Total Nonfarm Employment
January 2021–January 2022
(Seasonally Adjusted)

Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries
January 2021 Compared to January 2022
(Seasonally Adjusted)

Jan-21 | Jan-22

Note: North Carolina 2022 current month estimates are preliminary, while all other data have undergone annual revision.

The North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.9 percent in January, decreasing 0.2 of a percentage point from December's revised rate and declining 1.6 percentage points from January 2021. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 9,594 (4.6%). The civilian labor force grew by 15,530 (0.3%) to 5,007,262.

Nationally, January's unemployment rate was 4.0 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 6,513,000, while the civilian labor force was 163,687,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,660,200) increased 4,100 (0.1%) since December 2021 and grew 166,500 (3.7%) since January 2021. Private sector employment increased 5,300 (0.1%) over the month and grew 146,200 (3.8%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Professional & Business Services (3,400; 0.5%) had the largest over-the-month increase in jobs, followed by Construction (2,900; 1.2%), Financial Activities (2,700; 1.0%), Education & Health Services (1,100; 0.2%), and Information (100; 0.1%). Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (2,300; 0.3%) reported the largest over-the-month decline, followed by Other Services (2,000; 1.2%), Government (1,200; 0.2%), Leisure & Hospitality (500; 0.1%), and Manufacturing (100; <0.1%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged over the month.
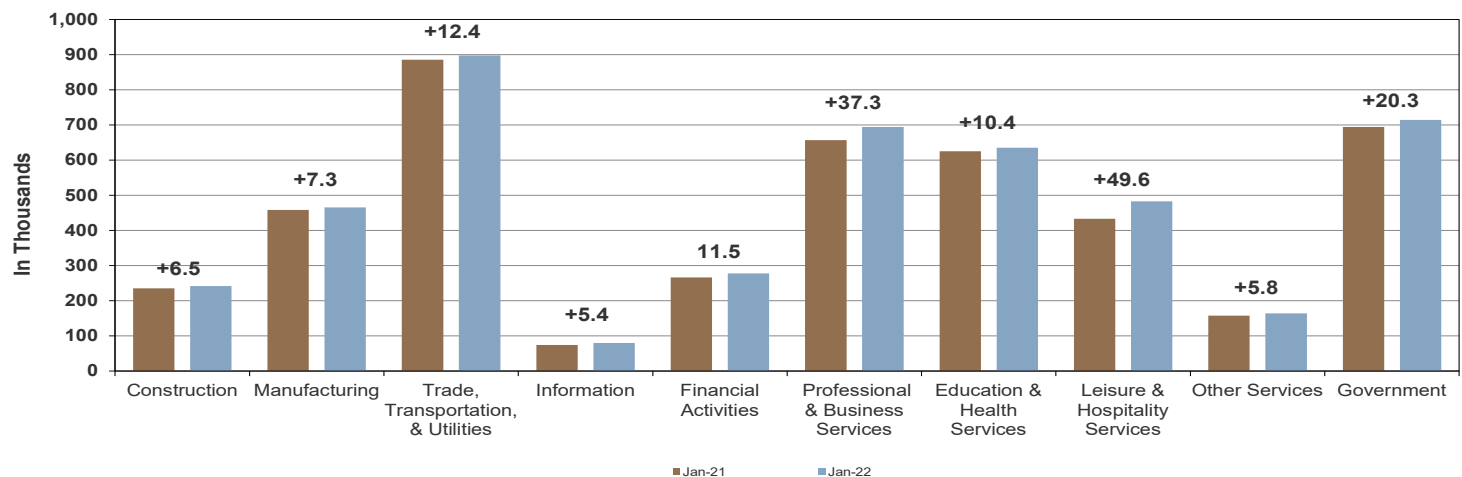
Since January 2021, Leisure & Hospitality Services (49,600; 11.5%) reported the largest jobs increase over the year, followed by Professional & Business Services (37,300; 5.7%), Government (20,300; 2.9%), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (12,400; 1.4%), Financial Activities (11,500; 4.3%), Education & Health Services (10,400; 1.7%), Manufacturing (7,300; 1.6%), Construction (6,500; 2.8%), Other Services (5,800; 3.7%), and Information (5,400; 7.2%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged over the year.

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.
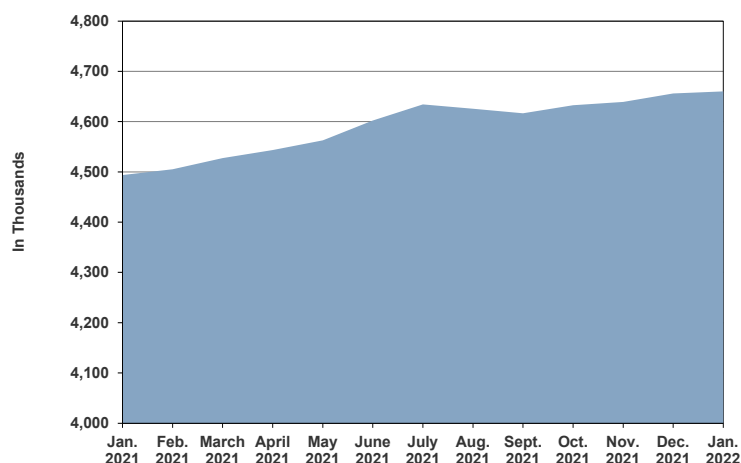
The January 2022 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,616,700 was 84,500 (1.8%) lower than the December 2021 not seasonally adjusted employment level of 4,701,200. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Financial Activities had the only over-the-month increase in employment at 900 (0.3%). Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (32,200; 3.5%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Leisure & Hospitality (15,900; 3.4%), Government (12,400; 1.7%), Professional & Business Services (8,300; 1.2%), Education & Health Services (7,800; 1.2%), Manufacturing (3,700; 0.8%), Other Services (2,400; 1.5%), Construction (2,100; 0.9%), Information (500; 0.6%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 150,000 (4.0%) jobs. Leisure & Hospitality Services (45,700; 11.1%) reported the largest increase over the year, followed by Professional & Business Services (34,600; 5.3%), Government (20,100; 2.9%), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (14,000; 1.6%), Financial Activities (12,500; 4.7%), Education & Health Services (10,000; 1.6%), Other Services (6,900; 4.4%), and Information (6,200; 8.4%).

The Goods Producing sector increased by 12,300 (1.8%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing had the largest increase with 8,200 (1.8%), followed by Construction (4,200; 1.8%). Mining & Logging decreased by 100 (1.8%) jobs over the year.

Amongst manufacturing industries, Transportation Equipment had the largest net over-the-year increase of 1,900 jobs, followed by Machinery, 1,700; Computer & Related Product, 1,700; Plastics & Rubber Products, 1,400; Beverage & Tobacco Product, 1,300; Electrical Equipment, Appliance, & Component, 1,200; Fabricated Metal Product, 1,100; Furniture & Related Product, 800; Wood Product, 500; and Textile Mills, 100. Food had the largest net over-the-year decline of 3,200 jobs, followed by Apparel, 300; and Chemical, 200.Textile Product Mills and Printing & Related Support Activities reported no over-the-year change.

Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in January decreased by 24 minutes from December's benchmarked rate of 34.7. Average Hourly Earnings grew by $0.60 to $29.74, and Average Weekly Earnings increased by $8.92 to $1,020.08.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in January declined by 18 minutes from the January 2021 rate of 34.6. Average Hourly Earnings grew by $2.48 and Average Weekly Earnings increased by $76.88.

Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains
January 2021–January 2022
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)
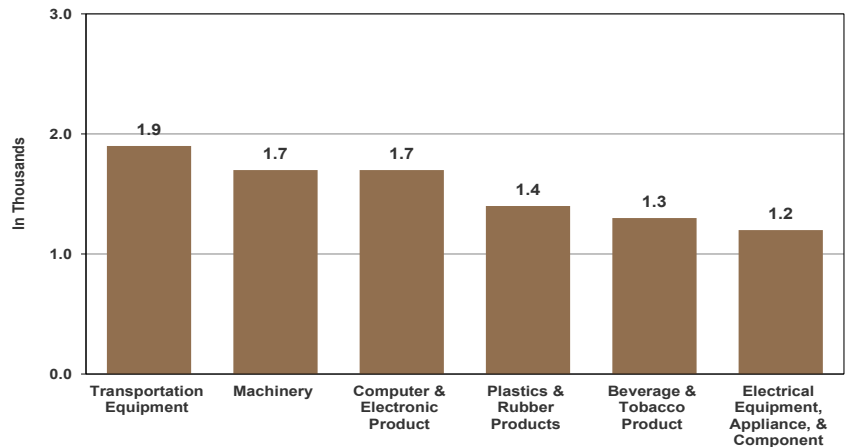
Selected Service Industries With Job Gains
January 2021–January 2022
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)
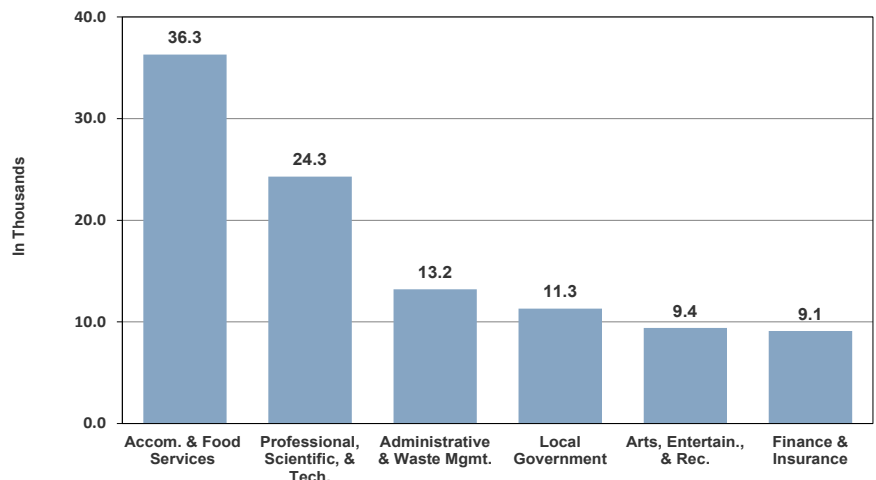
Total Private Average Weekly Wage
January 2019–January 2022
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)