

For Immediate Release: April 16, 2021
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North Carolina’s March Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state’s seasonally adjusted March unemployment rate was 5.2 percent, decreasing 0.5 of a percentage point from February’s revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.2 of a percentage point to 6.0 percent.

North Carolina’s March 2021 unemployment rate increased 1.3 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 11,338 over the month to 4,757,553 and increased 44,472 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 27,619 over the month to 259,036 and increased 70,274 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 17,300 to 4,469,600 in March. Major industries experiencing increases were Manufacturing, 4,300; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 4,100; Professional & Business Services, 3,800; Education & Health Services, 1,400; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 1,100; Financial Activities, 700; Other Services, 600; Information, 500; Government, 400; Construction, 300; and Mining & Logging, 100.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since March 2020

	Mar 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
N.C.	3.9	13.5	13.5	8.8	8.8	6.8	7.3	6.8	6.4	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.2
U.S.	4.4	14.8	13.3	11.1	10.2	8.4	7.8	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.2	6.0

Please note: 2020 numbers have undergone annual revision

Since March 2020, Total Nonfarm jobs decreased 130,400 with the Total Private sector decreasing by 90,800 and Government decreasing by 39,600. Major industries experiencing increases were Professional & Business Services, 15,600; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 14,500; Information, 100; and Financial Activities, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 65,500; Government, 39,600; Education & Health Services, 31,000; Manufacturing, 12,000; Other Services, 11,200; Construction, 1,300; and Mining & Logging, 100.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, 2021 when the county unemployment rates for March 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, April 16, 2021

	March 2021	February 2021	March 2020	Month Ago		Year Ago	
				Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina <i>(Local Area Unemployment Statistics)</i>							
Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	5,016,589	5,032,870	4,901,843	-16,281	-0.3	114,746	2.3
Employed	4,757,553	4,746,215	4,713,081	11,338	0.2	44,472	0.9
Unemployed	259,036	286,655	188,762	-27,619	-9.6	70,274	37.2
Unemployment Rate	5.2	5.7	3.9	-0.5	xxx	1.3	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	4,992,356	5,001,539	4,890,781	-9,183	-0.2	101,575	2.1
Employed	4,762,691	4,721,513	4,696,824	41,178	0.9	65,867	1.4
Unemployed	229,665	280,026	193,957	-50,361	-18.0	35,708	18.4
Unemployment Rate	4.6	5.6	4.0	-1.0	xxx	0.6	xxx
United States <i>(Current Population Survey)</i>							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	160,558,000	160,211,000	162,721,000	347,000	0.2	xxx	xxx
Employed	150,848,000	150,239,000	155,536,000	609,000	0.4	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	9,710,000	9,972,000	7,185,000	-262,000	-2.6	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	6.0	6.2	4.4	-0.2	xxx	xxx	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	160,397,000	160,008,000	162,537,000	389,000	0.2	xxx	xxx
Employed	150,493,000	149,522,000	155,167,000	971,000	0.6	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	9,905,000	10,486,000	7,370,000	-581,000	-5.5	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	6.2	6.6	4.5	-0.4	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, April 16, 2021

	March 2021	February 2021	March 2020	Month Ago		Year Ago	
				Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,469,600	4,452,300	4,600,000	17,300	0.4	-130,400	-2.8
Total Private	3,771,200	3,754,300	3,862,000	16,900	0.5	-90,800	-2.4
Mining & Logging	5,700	5,600	5,800	100	1.8	-100	-1.7
Construction	233,700	233,400	235,000	300	0.1	-1,300	-0.6
Manufacturing	461,300	457,000	473,300	4,300	0.9	-12,000	-2.5
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	870,000	868,900	855,500	1,100	0.1	14,500	1.7
Information	76,500	76,000	76,400	500	0.7	100	0.1
Financial Activities	258,000	257,300	257,900	700	0.3	100	< 0.1
Professional & Business Services	668,600	664,800	653,000	3,800	0.6	15,600	2.4
Education & Health Services	599,200	597,800	630,200	1,400	0.2	-31,000	-4.9
Leisure & Hospitality Services	441,200	437,100	506,700	4,100	0.9	-65,500	-12.9
Other Services	157,000	156,400	168,200	600	0.4	-11,200	-6.7
Government	698,400	698,000	738,000	400	0.1	-39,600	-5.4
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,460,500	4,422,400	4,589,000	38,100	0.9	-128,500	-2.8
Total Private	3,743,500	3,709,300	3,831,700	34,200	0.9	-88,200	-2.3
Mining & Logging	5,700	5,600	5,800	100	1.8	-100	-1.7
Construction	231,500	229,100	232,400	2,400	1.0	-900	-0.4
Manufacturing	459,500	456,200	472,300	3,300	0.7	-12,800	-2.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	861,100	857,800	846,700	3,300	0.4	14,400	1.7
Information	77,000	76,600	76,200	400	0.5	800	1.0
Financial Activities	257,000	255,100	255,800	1,900	0.7	1,200	0.5
Professional & Business Services	663,600	658,200	649,800	5,400	0.8	13,800	2.1
Education & Health Services	601,400	598,900	630,100	2,500	0.4	-28,700	-4.6
Leisure & Hospitality Services	430,100	416,600	495,000	13,500	3.2	-64,900	-13.1
Other Services	156,600	155,200	167,600	1,400	0.9	-11,000	-6.6
Government	717,000	713,100	757,300	3,900	0.5	-40,300	-5.3

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.

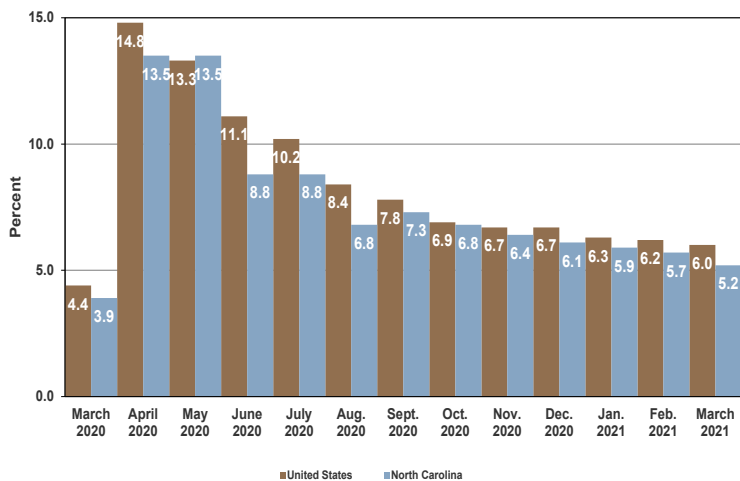
Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, 2021 when the county unemployment rates for March 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 March 2020–March 2021 (Seasonally Adjusted)



The North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.2 percent in March, decreasing 0.5 of a percentage point from February's revised rate and growing 1.3 percentage points from March 2020. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 27,619 (9.6%). The civilian labor force fell by 16,281 (0.3%) to 5,016,589.

Nationally, March's unemployment rate was 6.0 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 9,710,000, while the civilian labor force was 160,558,000.

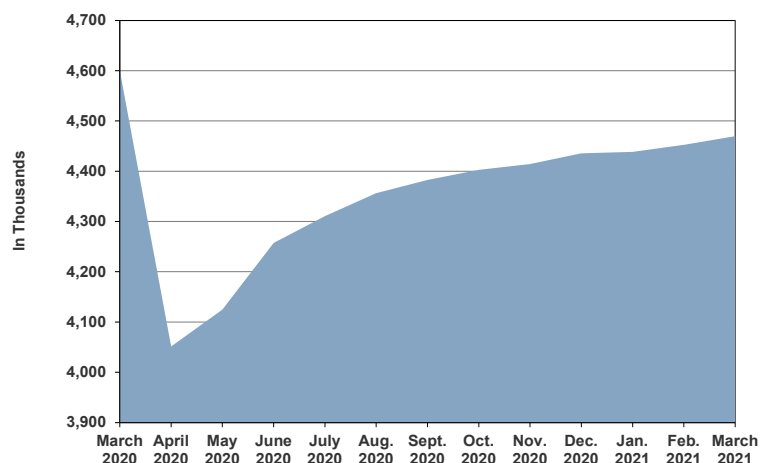
Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,469,600) increased 17,300 (0.4%) since February 2021 and fell 130,400 (2.8%) since March 2020. Private sector employment increased 16,900 (0.5%) over the month and decreased 90,800 (2.4%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Manufacturing (4,300; 0.9%) had the largest over-the-month increase in jobs, followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services (4,100; 0.9%), Professional & Business Services (3,800; 0.6%), Education & Health Services (1,400; 0.2%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (1,100; 0.1%), Financial Activities (700; 0.3%), Other Services (600; 0.4%), Information (500; 0.7%), Government (400; 0.1%), Construction (300; 0.1%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

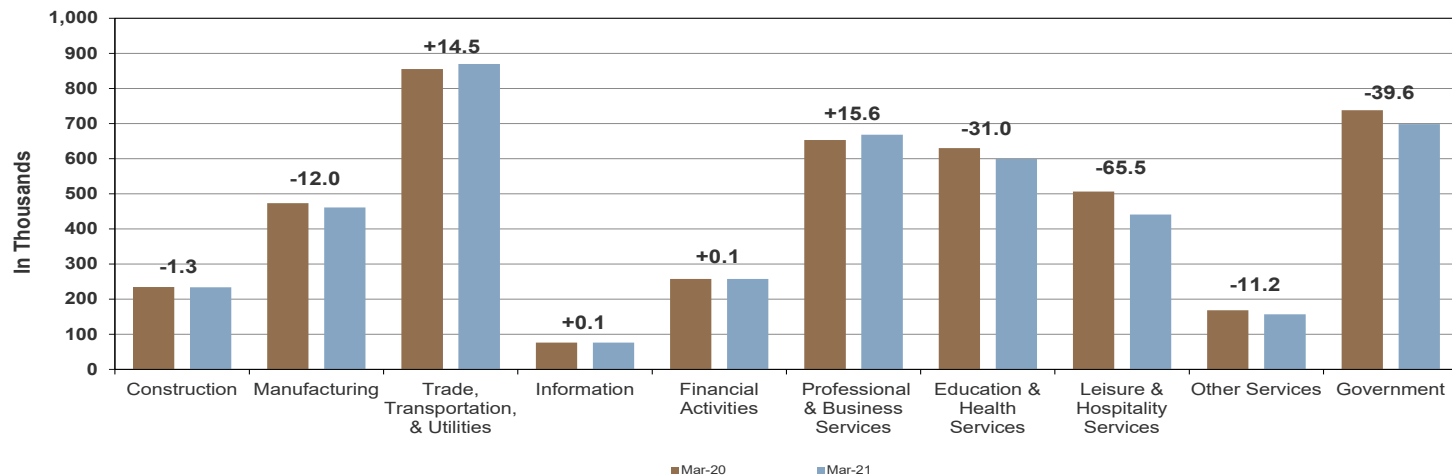
Since March 2020, Professional & Business Services (15,600; 2.4%) reported the largest jobs increase over the year, followed by Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (14,500; 1.7%), Financial Activities (100; <0.1%), and Information (100; 0.1%). Leisure & Hospitality Services (65,500; 12.9%) reported the largest over-the-year decrease, followed by Government (39,600; 5.4%), Education & Health Services (31,000; 4.9%), Manufacturing (12,000; 2.5%), Other Services (11,200; 6.7%), Construction (1,300; 0.6%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.7%).

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 March 2020–March 2021 (Seasonally Adjusted)



Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries March 2020 Compared to March 2021 (Seasonally Adjusted)



Note: North Carolina 2021 current month estimates are preliminary, while all other data have undergone annual revision.

North Carolina Labor Market Conditions

The March 2021 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,460,500 was 38,100 (0.9%) higher than the February 2021 not seasonally adjusted employment level of 4,422,400. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Leisure & Hospitality Services had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 13,500 (3.2%), followed by Professional & Business Services (5,400; 0.8%), Government (3,900; 0.5%), Manufacturing (3,300; 0.7%), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (3,300; 0.4%), Education & Health Services (2,500; 0.4%), Construction (2,400; 1.0%), Financial Activities (1,900; 0.7%), Other Services (1,400; 0.9%), Information (400; 0.5%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed a decrease of 114,700 (3.0%) jobs. Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (14,400; 1.7%) reported the largest increase over the year, followed by Professional & Business Services (13,800; 2.1%), Financial Activities (1,200; 0.5%), and Information (800; 1.0%). Leisure & Hospitality Services had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment at 64,900 (13.1%), followed by Government (40,300; 5.3%), Education & Health Services (28,700; 4.6%), and Other Services (11,000; 6.6%).

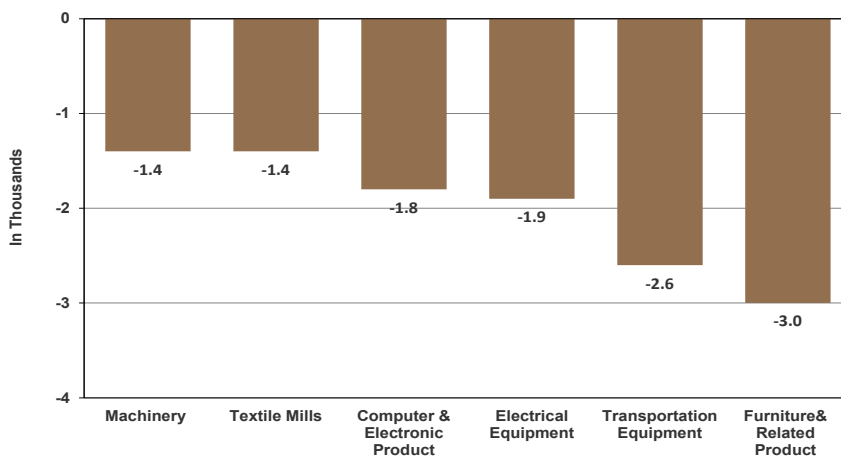
The Goods Producing sector decreased by 13,800 (1.9%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing had the largest decrease with 12,800 (2.7%), followed by Construction (900; 0.4%) and Mining & Logging (100; 1.7%).

Amongst manufacturing industries, Chemical had the largest net over-the-year increase of 1,100 jobs, followed by Food, 500. Furniture & Related Product had the largest net over-the-year decline with the loss of 3,000 jobs. Other manufacturing industries with decreases were: Transportation Equipment, 2,600; Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component, 1,900; Computer & Electronic Product, 1,800; Textile Mills, 1,400; Machinery, 1,400; Printing & Related Support Activities, 900; Apparel, 900; Wood Product, 500; Textile Product Mills, 400; Fabricated Metal Product, 300; Plastics & Rubber Products, 200; and Beverage & Tobacco Product, 100.

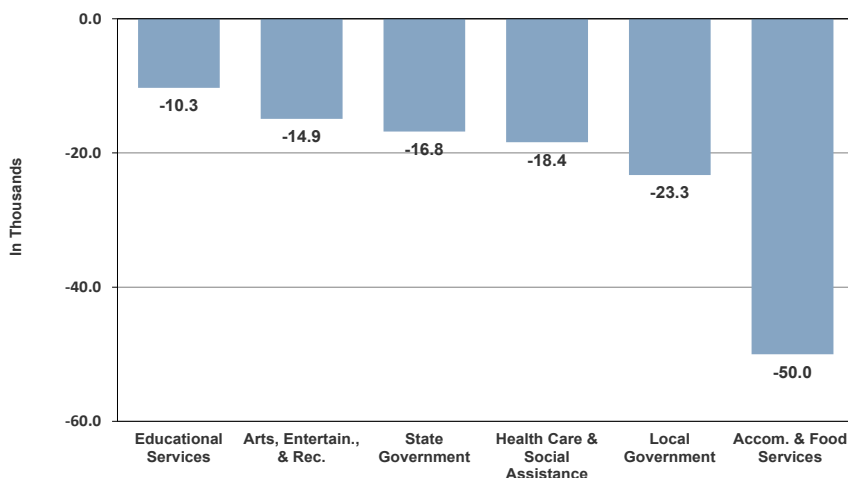
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in March increased 12 minutes to 34.8 from February's revised rate of 34.6. Average Hourly Earnings decreased by \$0.31 to \$27.04, and Average Weekly Earnings fell by \$5.32 to \$940.99.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in March increased 18 minutes from the March 2020 rate of 34.5. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.98 and Average Weekly Earnings increased by \$41.92.

Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Losses March 2020–March 2021 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Selected Service Industries With Job Losses March 2020–March 2021 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



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

