North Carolina's November Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state's seasonally adjusted November unemployment rate was 3.6 percent, remaining unchanged from October's revised rate. The national rate remained unchanged at 3.7 percent.

North Carolina's November 2018 unemployment rate decreased 0.9 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 3,415 over the month to 4,814,098 and increased 68,418 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 4,294 over the month to 177,230 and decreased 44,690 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 3,400 to 4,537,900 in November. The major industries with the largest over-the-month increases were Trade, Transportation & Utilities at 4,800, followed by Information, 700; Financial Activities, 600; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 300; Government, 300; Education & Health Services, 200; and Manufacturing, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Professional & Business Services, 1,700; Construction, 1,500; and Other Services, 400. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged over the month.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since November 2017

	Nov 2017	Dec 2017	Jan 2018	Feb 2018	Mar 2018	Apr 2018	May 2018	Jun 2018	Jul 2018	Aug 2018	Sep 2018	Oct 2018	Nov 2018
N.C.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6
U.S.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.7

Please note: 2017 numbers have been annually revised

Since November 2017, Total Nonfarm jobs gained 100,700 with the Total Private sector growing by 96,900 and Government increasing by 3,800. The largest over-the-year increase among major industries was Trade, Transportation & Utilities at 25,600, followed by Professional & Business Services, 23,300; Education & Health Services, 14,100; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 9,000; Financial Activities, 8,600; Construction, 7,200; Manufacturing, 6,400; Government, 3,800; and Information, 3,300. Major industries experiencing decreases were Mining & Logging, 300; and Other Services, 300.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Thursday, January 3, 2019 when the county unemployment rates for November 2018 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, December 21, 2018

	November 2018	October 2018	November 2017	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	4,991,328	4,992,207	4,967,600	-879	> -0.1	23,728	0.5
Employed	4,814,098	4,810,683	4,745,680	3,415	0.1	68,418	1.4
Unemployed	177,230	181,524	221,920	-4,294	-2.4	-44,690	-20.1
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.6	4.5	0.0	xxx	-0.9	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	4,994,057	5,012,886	4,966,393	-18,829	-0.4	27,664	0.6
Employed	4,821,673	4,841,524	4,744,091	-19,851	-0.4	77,582	1.6
Unemployed	172,384	171,362	222,302	1,022	0.6	-49,918	-22.5
Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.4	4.5	0.1	xxx	-1.0	xxx
United States *(Current Population Survey)*							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	162,770,000	162,637,000	160,533,000	133,000	0.1	xxx	xxx
Employed	156,795,000	156,562,000	153,917,000	233,000	0.1	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	5,975,000	6,075,000	6,616,000	-100,000	-1.6	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.7	4.1	0.0	xxx	xxx	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	162,665,000	162,723,000	160,466,000	-58,000	> -0.1	xxx	xxx
Employed	157,015,000	156,952,000	154,180,000	63,000	< 0.1	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	5,650,000	5,771,000	6,286,000	-121,000	-2.1	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.5	3.9	0.0	xxx	xxx	xxx

*Effective January 2018, 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.

2018 estimates for the current month are preliminary. Estimates for the previous month have undergone monthly revision.
2017 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, December 21, 2018

	November 2018	October 2018	November 2017	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	4,537,900	4,534,500	4,437,200	3,400	0.1	100,700	2.3
Total Private	3,799,600	3,796,500	3,702,700	3,100	0.1	96,900	2.6
Mining & Logging	5,500	5,500	5,800	0	0.0	-300	-5.2
Construction	216,700	218,200	209,500	-1,500	-0.7	7,200	3.4
Manufacturing	473,900	473,800	467,500	100	<0.1	6,400	1.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	857,000	852,200	831,400	4,800	0.6	25,600	3.1
Information	83,000	82,300	79,700	700	0.9	3,300	4.1
Financial Activities	242,800	242,200	234,200	600	0.2	8,600	3.7
Professional & Business Services	650,500	652,200	627,200	-1,700	-0.3	23,300	3.7
Education & Health Services	615,900	615,700	601,800	200	<0.1	14,100	2.3
Leisure & Hospitality Services	503,800	503,500	494,800	300	0.1	9,000	1.8
Other Services	150,500	150,900	150,800	-400	-0.3	-300	-0.2
Government	738,300	738,000	734,500	300	<0.1	3,800	0.5
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Total Nonfarm	4,581,000	4,566,300	4,480,500	14,700	0.3	100,500	2.2
Total Private	3,820,800	3,810,800	3,724,400	10,000	0.3	96,400	2.6
Mining & Logging	5,500	5,500	5,800	0	0.0	-300	-5.2
Construction	217,800	221,100	211,900	-3,300	-1.5	5,900	2.8
Manufacturing	476,600	474,900	470,600	1,700	0.4	6,000	1.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	872,100	850,700	846,000	21,400	2.5	26,100	3.1
Information	83,200	81,900	80,000	1,300	1.6	3,200	4.0
Financial Activities	241,500	242,800	232,600	-1,300	-0.5	8,900	3.8
Professional & Business Services	656,000	660,100	632,000	-4,100	-0.6	24,000	3.8
Education & Health Services	622,500	620,900	607,800	1,600	0.3	14,700	2.4
Leisure & Hospitality Services	496,100	501,800	487,100	-5,700	-1.1	9,000	1.8
Other Services	149,500	151,100	150,600	-1,600	-1.1	-1,100	-0.7
Government	760,200	755,500	756,100	4,700	0.6	4,100	0.5

All 2018 Labor Force and CES data for the current month are preliminary.
All 2017 Labor Force and CES estimates have been benchmarked.
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 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 2015, 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 www.bls.gov/lau/laumthd.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 introduced smoothed seasonally adjusted (SSA) estimates in January 2010. These are seasonally-adjusted data that have incorporated a long-run trend smoothing procedure, resulting in estimates that are less volatile than those previously produced. The estimates are smoothed using a filtering procedure, based on moving averages, to remove the irregular fluctuations from the seasonally-adjusted series, leaving the trend. The same process is used on both historical and current year estimates. For more information about the smoothing technique, see the BLS website at www.bls.gov/lau/lassaqa.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 July 15, 2015. 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 2012 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/sae/benchmark2017.pdf.

Seasonal adjustment. Payroll employment data are seasonally adjusted at the statewide supersector level. In some states, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is computed by

aggregating the independently adjusted supersector series. In other states, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is independently adjusted. Revisions of historical data for the most recent 5 years are made once a year, coincident with annual benchmark adjustments.

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.
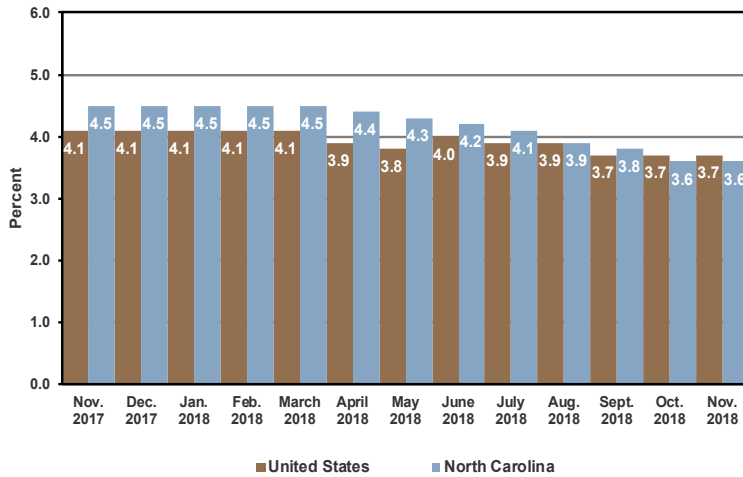
Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Thursday, January 3, 2019 when the county unemployment rates for November 2018 will be released.

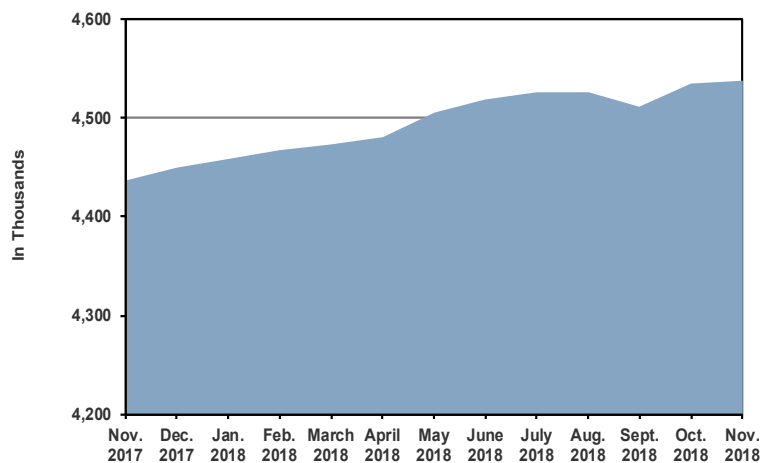The complete 2018 data release schedule can be accessed at:

http://www.nccommerce.com/lead/research-publications/schedule-of-release-dates

United States/North Carolina Unemployment Rates
November 2017–November 2018
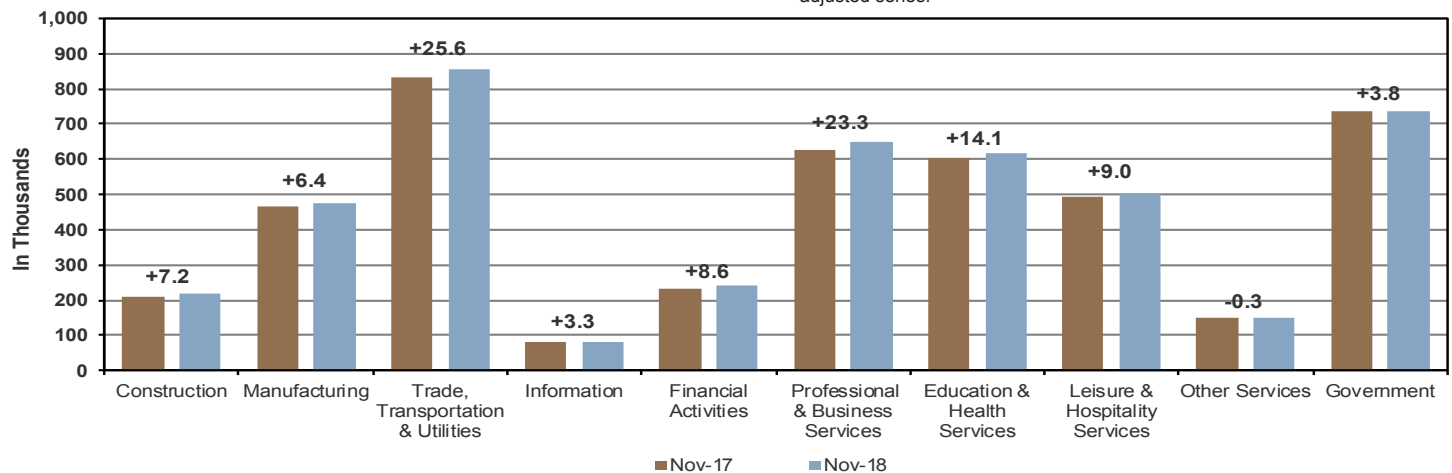(Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted**)

**US data are not smoothed.

North Carolina Total Nonfarm Employment
November 2017–November 2018
(Seasonally Adjusted)

Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries
November 2017 Compared to November 2018
(Seasonally Adjusted)

The North Carolina smoothed seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.6 percent in November, remaining unchanged from the previous month and falling 0.9 of a percentage point from November 2017. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed fell by 4,294 (2.4%). The civilian labor force decreased by 879 (>-0.1%) to 4,991,328.

Nationally, November's unemployment rate was 3.7 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 5,975,000, while the civilian labor force was 162,770,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,537,900) increased 3,400 (0.1%) since October 2018 and increased 100,700 (2.3%) since November 2017.[1] Private sector employment grew over the month by 3,100 (0.1%) and 96,900 (2.6%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Trade, Transportation & Utilities (4,800; 0.6%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Information (700; 0.9%), Financial Activities (600; 0.2%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (300; 0.1%), Government (300; <0.1%), Education & Health Services (200; <0.1%), and Manufacturing (100; <0.1%). Professional & Business Services (1,700; 0.3%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Construction (1,500; 0.7%), and Other Services (400; 0.3%).

Since November 2017, Trade, Transportation & Utilities added the largest number of jobs (25,600; 3.1%), followed by Professional & Business Services (23,300; 3.7%), Education & Health Services (14,100; 2.3%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (9,000; 1.8%), Financial Activities (8,600; 3.7%), Construction (7,200; 3.4%), Manufacturing (6,400; 1.4%), Government (3,800; 0.5%), and Information (3,300; 4.1%). Mining & Logging (300; 5.2%) and Other Services (300; 0.2%) reported a over-the-month decrease.

[1] 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 November 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 November 2018 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,581,000 was 14,700 (0.3%) more than the October 2018 revised employment level of 4,566,300. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Trade, Transportation & Utilities had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 21,400 (2.5%), followed by Government (4,700; 0.6%), Manufacturing (1,700; 0.4%), Education & Health Services (1,600; 0.3%), and Information (1,300; 1.6%). Leisure & Hospitality Services experienced the largest employment decrease at 5,700 (1.1%), Professional & Business Services (4,100; 0.6%), Construction (3,300; 1.5%), Other Services (1,600; 1.1%), and Financial Activities (1,300; 0.5%).

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 88,900 (2.3%) jobs. Trade, Transportation & Utilities experienced the largest employment increase at 26,100 (3.1%), followed by Professional & Business Services (24,000; 3.8%), Education & Health Services (14,700; 2.4%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (9,000; 1.9%), Financial Activities (8,900; 3.8%), Government (4,100; 0.5%), and Information (3,200; 4.0%). Other Services (1,100; 0.7%) reported the only over-the-year decrease.

The Goods Producing sector grew by 11,600 (1.7%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing had the largest increase with 6,000 (1.3%), followed by Construction (5,900; 2.8%). Mining & Logging reported a loss of 300 (5.2%).
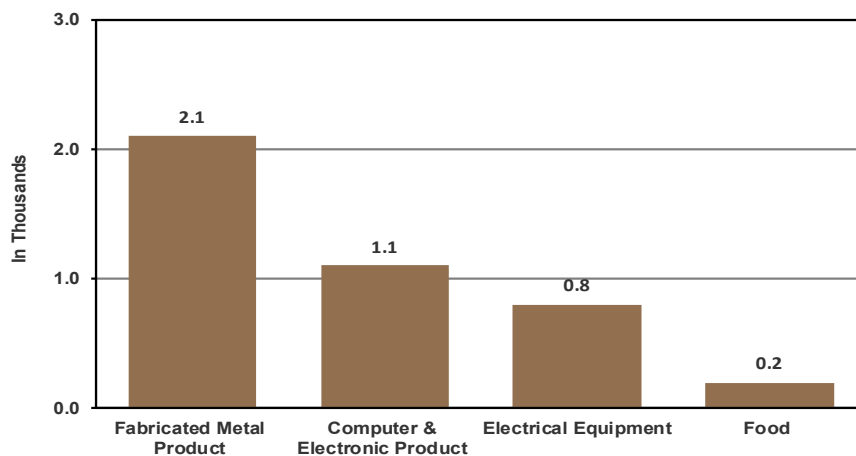
Amongst manufacturing industries, Fabricated Metal Product had the largest net over-the-year increase at 2,100. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Computer & Electronic Product, 1,100; Electrical Equipment, Applicance, & Component, 800; and Food, 200.

Furniture & Related Product had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 600 in November 2018. Other industries with decreases were: Apparel, 500; Beverage & Tobacco Product, 500; Textile Mills, 400; Chemical, 100; Printing & Related Support Activities, 100; and Wood Product, 100.
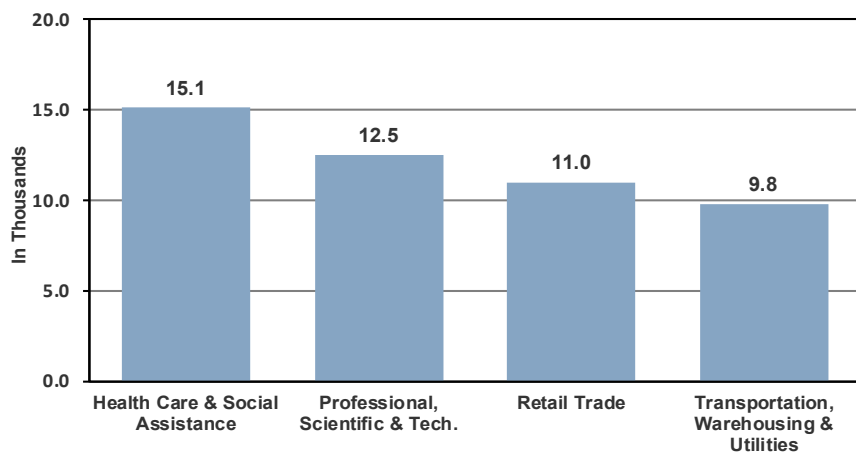
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in November decreased 12 minutes from October's revised rate of 34.5. Average Hourly Earnings fell by $0.22 to $25.04, as Average Weekly Earnings decreased by $12.60 to $858.87.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in November decreased 12 minutes from the revised rate of 34.5 in November 2017. Average Hourly Earnings grew by $0.84 and Average Weekly Earnings increased $23.97.

**Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains
November 2017–November 2018**
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

**Selected Service Industries With Job Gains
November 2017–November 2018**
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

**Total Private Average Weekly Wage
November 2015–November 2018**
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)