



For Immediate Release: November 19, 2021
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North Carolina’s October Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH— The state’s seasonally adjusted October unemployment rate was 4.1 percent, decreasing 0.2 of a percentage point from September’s revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.2 of a percentage point to 4.6 percent.

North Carolina’s October 2021 unemployment rate decreased 2.7 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 11,009 over the month to 4,825,767 and increased 138,415 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 6,223 over the month to 208,126 and decreased 132,870 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 31,200 to 4,554,300 in October. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 12,800; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 7,500; Education & Health Services, 3,900; Manufacturing, 3,700; Construction, 2,200; Professional & Business Services, 1,800; Other Services, 900; and Information, 200. Major industries experiencing decreases were Financial Activities, 900; Government, 800; and Mining & Logging, 100.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since October 2020

	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	Jun 2021	Jul 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2021	Oct 2021
N.C.	6.8	6.4	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.1
U.S.	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.2	6.0	6.1	5.8	5.9	5.4	5.2	4.8	4.6

Please note: 2020 numbers have undergone annual revision

Since October 2020, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 151,400 with the Total Private sector increasing by 150,500 and Government increasing by 900. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 48,400; Professional & Business Services, 33,500; Manufacturing, 21,400; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 18,900; Construction, 16,100; Information, 5,600; Other Services, 3,900; Financial Activities, 1,700; Education & Health Services, 1,000; and Government, 900. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged over the year.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Thursday, December 2, 2021 when the county unemployment rates for October 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, November 19, 2021

	October 2021	September 2021	October 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	5,033,893	5,029,107	5,028,348	4,786	0.1	5,545	0.1
Employed	4,825,767	4,814,758	4,687,352	11,009	0.2	138,415	3.0
Unemployed	208,126	214,349	340,996	-6,223	-2.9	-132,870	-39.0
Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.3	6.8	-0.2	xxx	-2.7	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	5,069,845	5,055,808	5,053,339	14,037	0.3	16,506	0.3
Employed	4,884,941	4,865,016	4,728,271	19,925	0.4	156,670	3.3
Unemployed	184,904	190,792	325,068	-5,888	-3.1	-140,164	-43.1
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.8	6.4	-0.2	xxx	-2.8	xxx
United States <i>(Current Population Survey)</i>							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	161,458,000	161,354,000	160,718,000	104,000	0.1	xxx	xxx
Employed	154,039,000	153,680,000	149,669,000	359,000	0.2	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	7,419,000	7,674,000	11,049,000	-255,000	-3.3	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	4.6	4.8	6.9	-0.2	xxx	xxx	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	161,863,000	161,392,000	161,053,000	471,000	0.3	xxx	xxx
Employed	154,966,000	154,026,000	150,433,000	940,000	0.6	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	6,896,000	7,366,000	10,620,000	-470,000	-6.4	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	4.3	4.6	6.6	-0.3	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, November 19, 2021

	October 2021	September 2021	October 2020	Month Ago		Year Ago	
				Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,554,300	4,523,100	4,402,900	31,200	0.7	151,400	3.4
Total Private	3,849,000	3,817,000	3,698,500	32,000	0.8	150,500	4.1
Mining & Logging	5,600	5,700	5,600	-100	-1.8	0	0.0
Construction	243,500	241,300	227,400	2,200	0.9	16,100	7.1
Manufacturing	475,100	471,400	453,700	3,700	0.8	21,400	4.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	877,100	869,600	858,200	7,500	0.9	18,900	2.2
Information	78,500	78,300	72,900	200	0.3	5,600	7.7
Financial Activities	259,600	260,500	257,900	-900	-0.3	1,700	0.7
Professional & Business Services	677,500	675,700	644,000	1,800	0.3	33,500	5.2
Education & Health Services	598,200	594,300	597,200	3,900	0.7	1,000	0.2
Leisure & Hospitality Services	473,500	460,700	425,100	12,800	2.8	48,400	11.4
Other Services	160,400	159,500	156,500	900	0.6	3,900	2.5
Government	705,300	706,100	704,400	-800	-0.1	900	0.1
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,592,600	4,526,400	4,438,300	66,200	1.5	154,300	3.5
Total Private	3,870,100	3,814,300	3,717,200	55,800	1.5	152,900	4.1
Mining & Logging	5,600	5,700	5,600	-100	-1.8	0	0.0
Construction	246,100	243,400	230,200	2,700	1.1	15,900	6.9
Manufacturing	476,100	471,600	453,900	4,500	1.0	22,200	4.9
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	876,200	864,800	856,100	11,400	1.3	20,100	2.3
Information	77,500	77,100	72,400	400	0.5	5,100	7.0
Financial Activities	261,100	261,400	259,200	-300	-0.1	1,900	0.7
Professional & Business Services	688,700	674,900	653,500	13,800	2.0	35,200	5.4
Education & Health Services	603,100	593,100	602,600	10,000	1.7	500	0.1
Leisure & Hospitality Services	475,000	463,700	427,300	11,300	2.4	47,700	11.2
Other Services	160,700	158,600	156,400	2,100	1.3	4,300	2.7
Government	722,500	712,100	721,100	10,400	1.5	1,400	0.2

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.

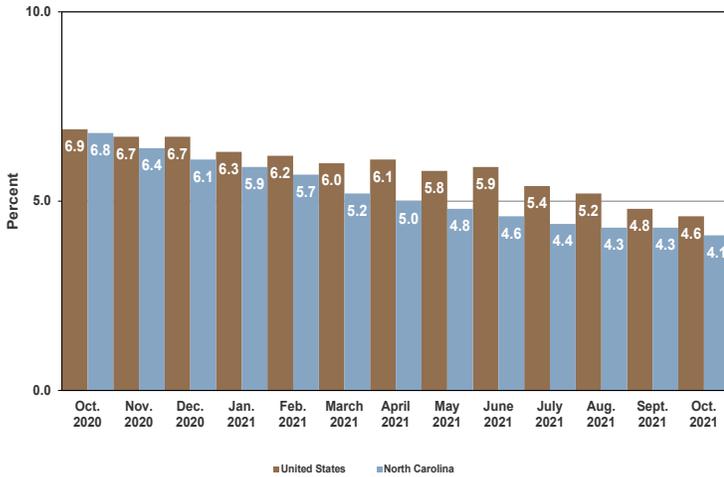
Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Thursday, December 2, 2021 when the county unemployment rates for October 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 October 2020–October 2021 (Seasonally Adjusted)



The North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in October, decreasing 0.2 of a percentage point from September's revised rate and declining 2.7 percentage points from October 2020. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 6,223 (2.9%). The civilian labor force grew by 4,786 (0.1%) to 5,033,893.

Nationally, October's unemployment rate was 4.6 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 7,419,000, while the civilian labor force was 161,458,000.

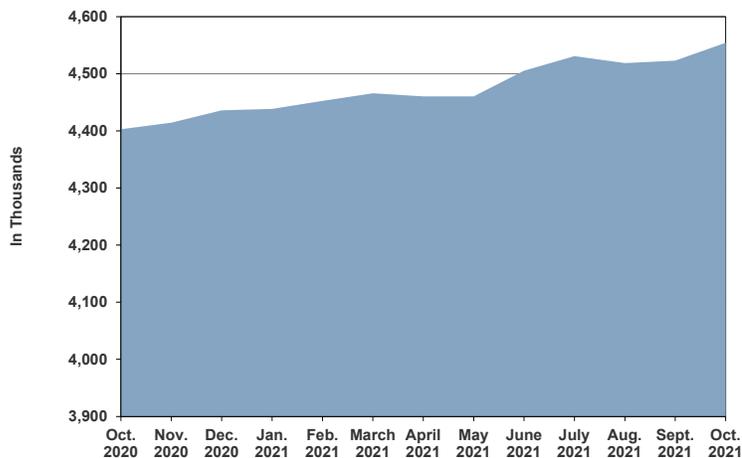
Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,554,300) increased 31,200 (0.7%) since September 2021 and grew 151,400 (3.4%) since October 2020. Private sector employment increased 32,000 (0.8%) over the month and grew 150,500 (4.1%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Leisure & Hospitality Services (12,800; 2.8%) had the largest over-the-month increase in jobs, followed by Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (7,500; 0.9%), Education & Health Services (3,900; 0.7%), Manufacturing (3,700; 0.8%), Construction (2,200; 0.9%), Professional & Business Services (1,800; 0.3%), Other Services (900; 0.6%), and Information (200; 0.3%). Financial Activities (900; 0.3%) reported the largest over-the-month decline, followed by Government (800; 0.1%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

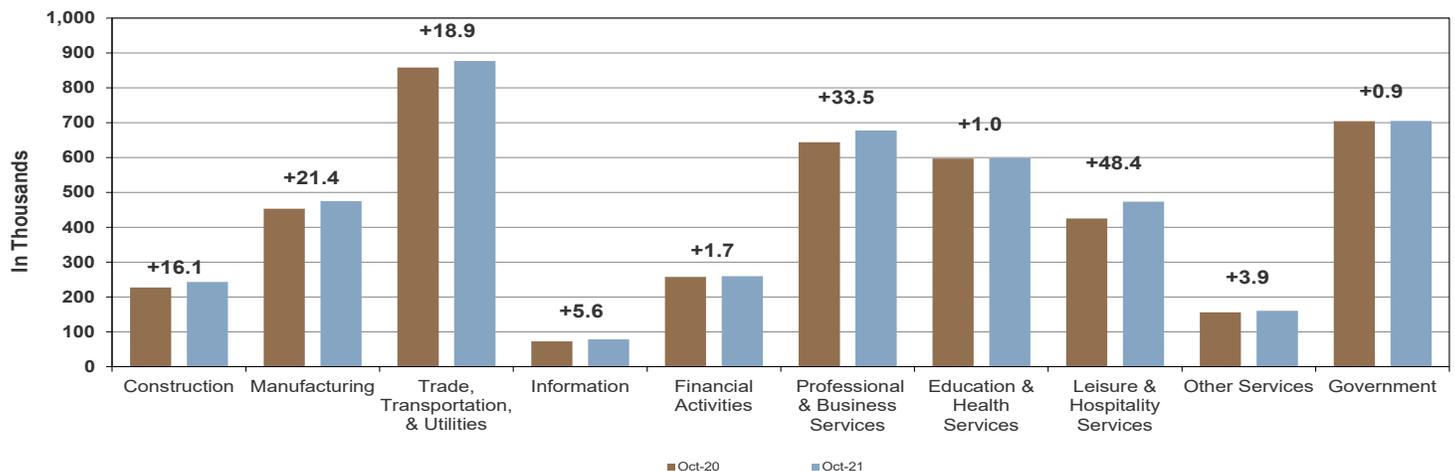
Since October 2020, Leisure & Hospitality Services (48,400; 11.4%) reported the largest jobs increase over the year, followed by Professional & Business Services (33,500; 5.2%), Manufacturing (21,400; 4.7%), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (18,900; 2.2%), Construction (16,100; 7.1%), Information (5,600; 7.7%), Other Services (3,900; 2.5%), Financial Activities (1,700; 0.7%), Education & Health Services (1,000; 0.2%), and Government (900; 0.1%). Mining & Logging reported no change 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.

North Carolina Total Nonfarm Employment October 2020–October 2021 (Seasonally Adjusted)



Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries October 2020 Compared to October 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 October 2021 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,592,600 was 66,200 (1.5%) higher than the September 2021 not seasonally adjusted employment level of 4,526,400. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Professional & Business Services had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 13,800 (2.0%), followed by Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (11,400; 1.3%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (11,300; 2.4%), Government (10,400; 1.5%), Education & Health Services (10,000; 1.7%), Manufacturing (4,500; 1.0%), Construction (2,700; 1.1%), Other Services (2,100; 1.3%), and Information (400; 0.5%). Financial Activities (300; 0.1%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 116,200 (3.1%) jobs. Leisure & Hospitality Services (47,700; 11.2%) reported the largest increase over the year, followed by Professional & Business Services (35,200; 5.4%), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (20,100; 2.3%), Information (5,100; 7.0%), Other Services (4,300; 2.7%), Financial Activities (1,900; 0.7%), Government, (1,400; 0.2%), and Education & Health Services (500; 0.1%).

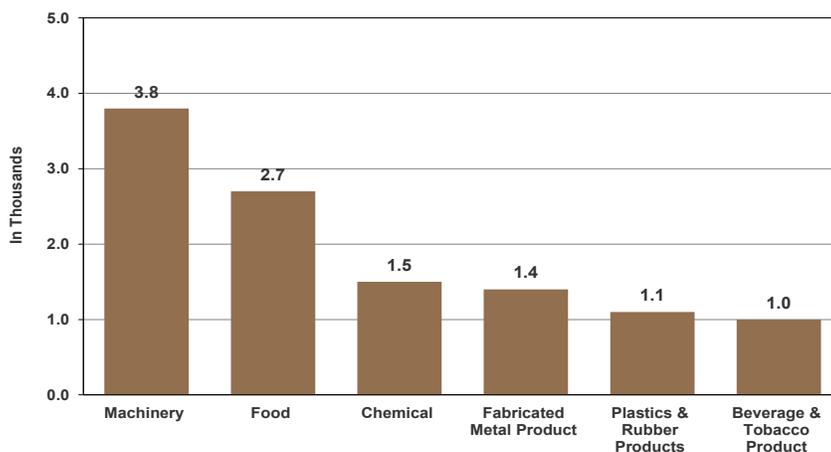
The Goods Producing sector increased by 38,100 (5.5%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing had the largest increase with 22,200 (4.9%), followed by Construction (15,900; 6.9%). Mining & Logging was unchanged over the year.

Amongst manufacturing industries, Machinery had the largest net over-the-year increase of 3,800 jobs, followed by Food, 2,700; Chemical, 1,500; Fabricated Metal Product, 1,400; Plastic & Rubber Products, 1,100; Beverage & Tobacco Product, 1,000; Electrical Equipment, Appliance, & Component, 900; Wood Product, 800; Textile Mills, 500; Printing & Related Support Activities, 500; and Transportation Equipment, 400. Apparel and Computer & Electronic Product had the largest net over-the-year declines with each losing 500 jobs, followed by Textile Product Mills, 100, and Furniture & Related Product, 100.

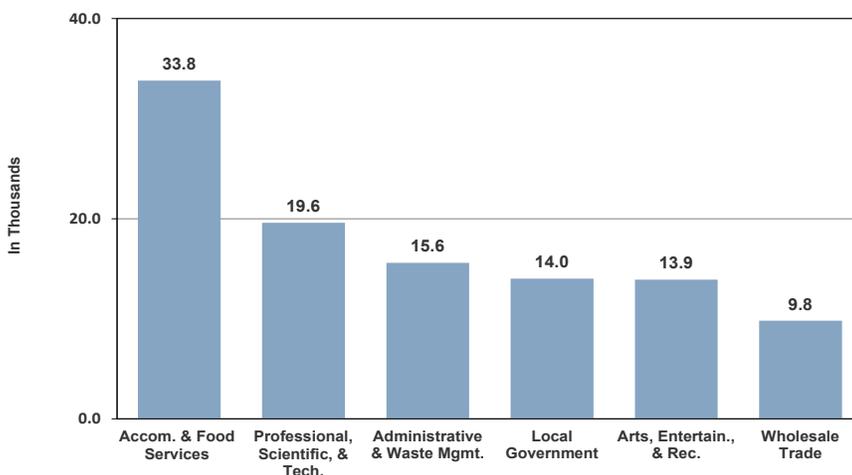
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in October was unchanged from September's revised rate of 34.6. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.29 to \$28.71, and Average Weekly Earnings increased by \$10.04 to \$993.37.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in October declined by 6 minutes from the October 2020 rate of 34.7. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$1.84 and Average Weekly Earnings increased by \$60.98.

Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains October 2020–October 2021 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Selected Service Industries With Job Gains October 2020–October 2021 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



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

