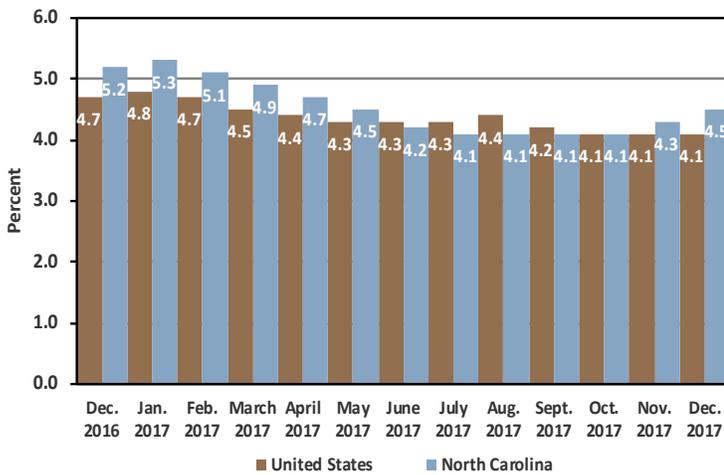
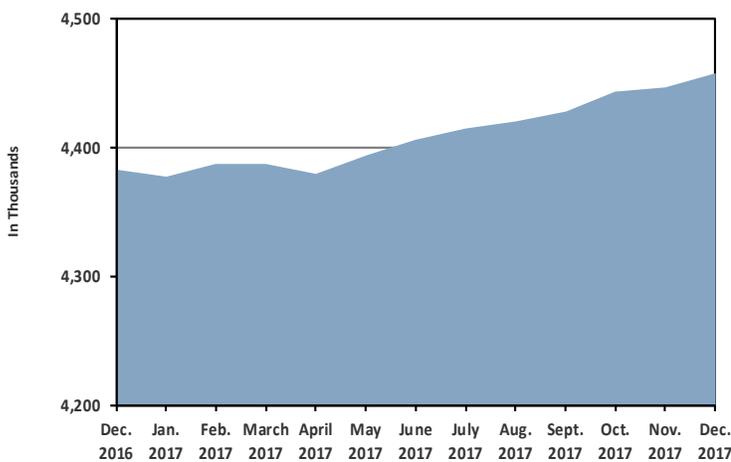


United States/North Carolina Unemployment Rates
December 2016–December 2017
(Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted**)

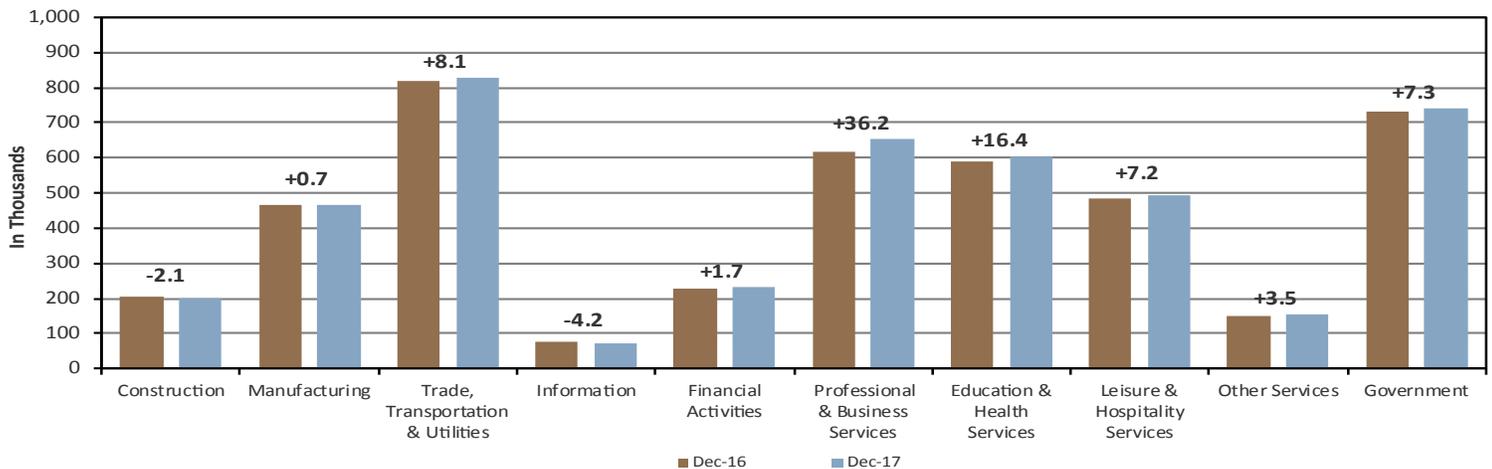


**US data are not smoothed.

North Carolina Total Nonfarm Employment
December 2016–December 2017
(Seasonally Adjusted)



Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries
December 2016 Compared to December 2017
(Seasonally Adjusted)



*N.C. current month data are preliminary, while all other 2017 data are revised and 2016 data have undergone annual revision. U.S. data have undergone annual revision.

The North Carolina smoothed seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.5 percent in December, increasing 0.2 of a percentage point from the previous month and falling 0.7 of a percentage point from December 2016. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed grew by 8,755 (4.1%). The civilian labor force decreased by 3,326 (0.1%) to 4,949,223.

Nationally, December's unemployment rate was 4.1 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 6,576,000, while the civilian labor force was 160,597,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,457,700) increased 12,500 (0.3%) since November 2017 and 75,000 (1.7%) since December 2016.¹ Private sector employment grew over the month by 12,800 (0.3%) and 67,700 (1.9%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Professional & Business Services (3,600; 0.6%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Financial Services (2,800; 1.2%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (2,600; 0.5%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (1,600; 0.2%), Construction (1,300; 0.6%), Other Services (900; 0.6%), and Manufacturing (700; 0.1%). Education & Health Services (700; 0.1%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Government (300; >-0.1%). Information and Mining & Logging remained unchanged.

Since December 2016, Professional & Business Services added the largest number of jobs (36,200; 5.8%), followed by Education & Health Services (16,400; 2.8%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (8,100; 1.0%), Government (7,300; 1.0%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (7,200; 1.5%), Other Services (3,500; 2.3%), Financial Activities (1,700; 0.7%), Manufacturing (700; 0.1%), and Mining & Logging (200, 3.5%). Information (4,200; 5.4%) reported the largest over-the-year decrease, followed by Construction (2,100; 1.0%).

¹It 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 Labor Market Conditions

The December 2017 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,493,300 was 6,800 (0.2%) more than the November 2017 revised employment level of 4,486,500. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Trade, Transportation & Utilities had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 8,900 (1.1%), followed by Financial Activities (1,500; 0.7%), Professional & Business Services (1,000; 0.2%), Other Services (300; 0.2%), and Information (200; 0.3%). Leisure & Hospitality (2,400; 0.5%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Government (1,700; 0.2%), Manufacturing (600; 0.1%) and Education & Health Services (400; 0.1%). Construction and Mining & Logging remained unchanged.

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 81,200 (2.2%) jobs. Professional & Business Services experienced the largest employment increase at 37,500 (6.1%), followed by Education & Health Services (16,800; 2.8%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (8,900; 1.1%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (8,900; 1.9%), Government (7,300; 1.0%), Other Services (4,000; 2.7%), and Financial Activities (1,800; 0.8%). Information (4,000; 5.1%) reported the only over-the-year decrease.

The Goods Producing sector grew by 1,300 (0.2%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing had the largest increase with 1,500 (0.3%), followed by Mining & Logging (200; 3.5%). Construction (400; 0.2%) reported a decrease.

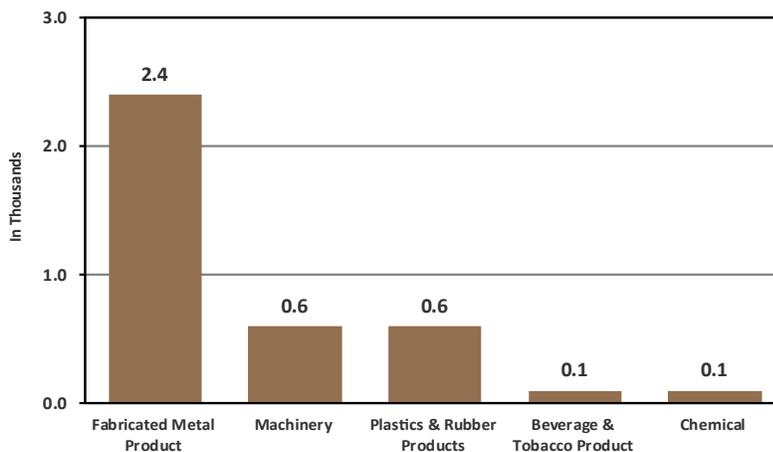
Amongst manufacturing industries, Fabricated Metal Product had the largest net over-the-year increase at 2,400. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Machinery, 600; Plastics & Rubber Products, 600; Beverage & Tobacco Products, 100; and Chemical, 100.

Computer & Electronic Product had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 1,200 in December 2017. Other industries with decreases were: Food, 700; Transportation Equipment, 600; Apparel, 400; Furniture & Related Product, 300; Textile Product Mills, 200; and Wood Product, 100. Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component, Printing & Related Services, and Textile Mills remained unchanged.

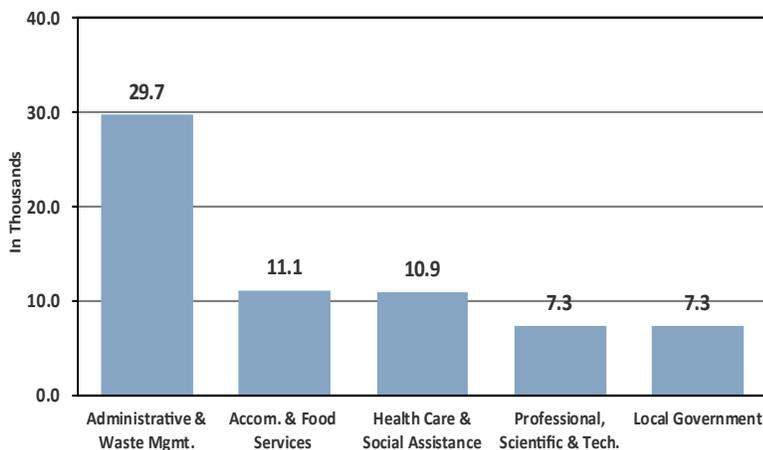
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in December decreased 6 minutes from November's revised rate of 34.5. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.17 to \$24.34, as Average Weekly Earnings increased by \$3.43 to \$837.30.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in December remained unchanged from the revised rate of 34.4 in December 2016. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.71 and Average Weekly Earnings increased \$24.43.

Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains
December 2016–December 2017
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Selected Service Industries With Job Gains
December 2016–December 2017
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Total Private Average Weekly Wage
December 2014–December 2017
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

