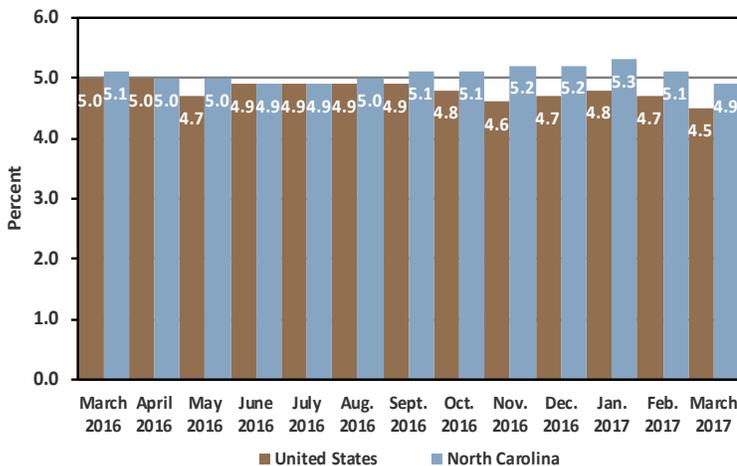


**United States/North Carolina Unemployment Rates**  
March 2016–March 2017  
(Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted\*\*)



\*\*US data are not smoothed.

The North Carolina smoothed seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in March, decreasing 0.2 of a percentage point from the previous month and falling 0.2 of a percentage point from March 2016. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed fell by 8,149 (3.2%). The civilian labor force increased by 7,182 (0.1%) to 4,950,855.

Nationally, March's unemployment rate was 4.5 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 7,202,000, while the civilian labor force was 160,201,000.

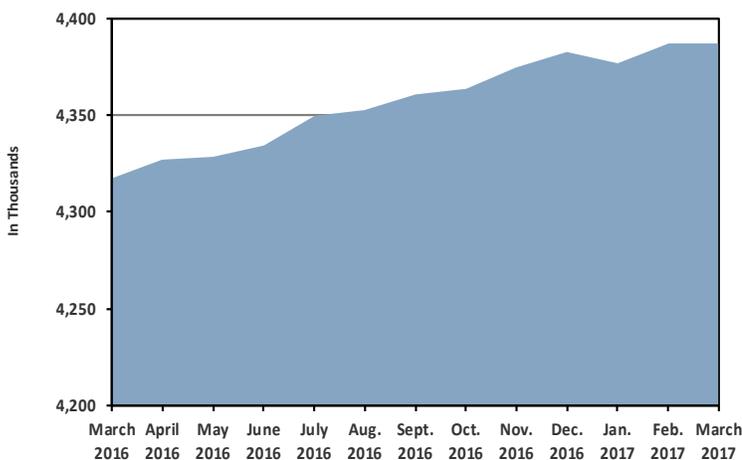
Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,387,600) increased 500 (<0.1%) since February 2017, and 69,700 (1.6%) since March 2016.<sup>1</sup> Private sector employment declined over the month by 4,400 (0.1%), while growing by 62,400 (1.7%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Government (4,900; 0.7%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Manufacturing (2,600; 0.6%), Professional & Business Services (900; 0.1%), Financial Activities (500; 0.2%), and Education & Health Services (300; 0.1%). Construction (3,700; 1.8%) reported the largest over-the-year decrease, followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (3,000; 0.4%), Information (1,600; 2.1%), Other Services (300; 0.2%), and Leisure & Hospitality (100; >-0.1%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged over the month.

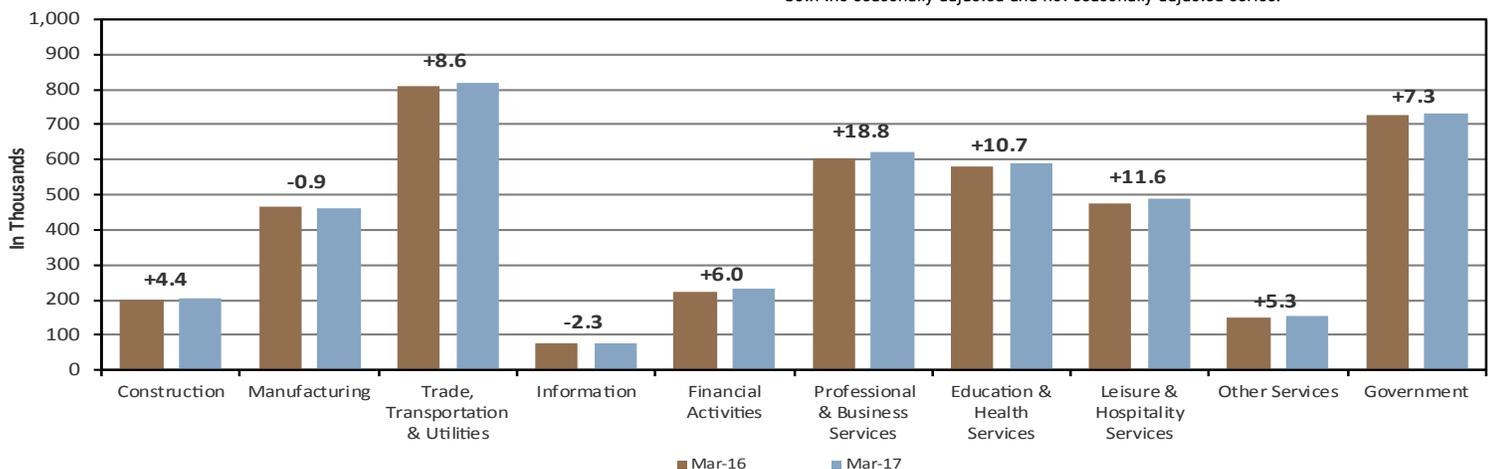
Since March 2016, Professional & Business Services added the largest number of jobs (18,800; 3.1%), followed by Leisure & Hospitality (11,600; 2.4%), Education & Health Services (10,700; 1.8%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (8,600; 1.1%), Government (7,300; 1.0%), Financial Activities (6,000; 2.7%), Other Services (5,300; 3.6%), Construction (4,400; 2.2%), and Mining & Logging (200; 3.6%). Information (2,300; 3.0%) reported the largest over-the-year decrease, followed by Manufacturing (900; 0.2%).

<sup>1</sup>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 December 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 2016–March 2017  
(Seasonally Adjusted)



**Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries**  
March 2016 Compared to March 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.

# North Carolina Labor Market Conditions

The March 2017 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,375,600 was 29,400 (0.7%) more than the February 2017 revised employment level of 4,346,200. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Leisure & Hospitality had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 9,900 (2.1%), followed by Government (7,100; 1.0%), Professional & Business Services (6,200; 1.0%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (3,100; 0.4%), Financial Activities (1,400; 0.6%), Manufacturing (1,300; 0.3%), Other Services (1,100; 0.7%), Education & Health Services (800; 0.1%), Construction (100; <0.1%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.0%). Information (1,600; 2.1%) reported the only over-the-month decrease.

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 74,200 (2.0%) jobs. Professional & Business Services experienced the largest employment increase at 21,000 (3.5%), followed by Education & Health Services (13,700; 2.4%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (11,700; 1.5%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (9,900; 2.2%), Government (8,600; 1.2%), Financial Activities (5,900; 2.7%), and Other Services (5,700; 3.8%). Information (2,500; 3.2%) reported the only over-the-year decrease.

The Goods Producing sector grew by 4,100 (0.6%) jobs over the year. Construction had the largest increase with 5,500 (2.8%), followed by Mining & Logging (200; 4.1%). Manufacturing (1,700; 0.4%) reported a decrease.

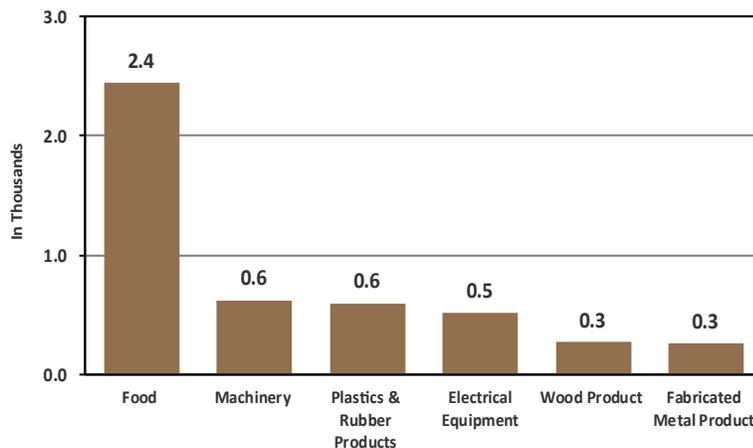
Amongst manufacturing industries, Food had the largest net over-the-year increase at 2,400. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Machinery, 600; Plastics & Rubber, 600; Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component, 500; Wood Product, 300; Fabricated Metal Product, 300; and Beverage & Tobacco Product, 100.

Computer & Electronic Product had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 900 in March 2017. Other industries with decreases were: Transportation Equipment, 700; Apparel, 700; Textile Mills, 400; Chemical, 300; Textile Product Mills, 100; Furniture & Related Product, 100; and Printing & Related Support Activities, 100.

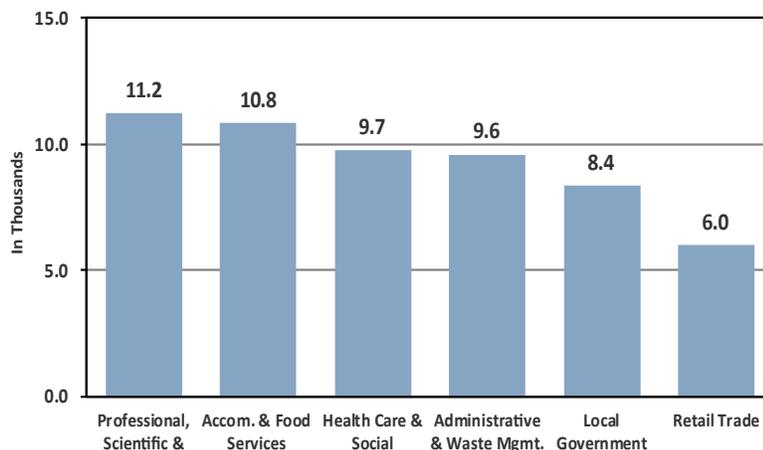
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in March increased 6 minutes from February's revised rate of 34.4. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.02 to \$24.01, as Average Weekly Earnings decreased by \$1.72 to \$823.54.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in March increased 12 minutes from 34.1 in March 2016. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.82 and Average Weekly Earnings increased \$32.76.

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



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



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

