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For Immediate Release: December 22, 2017
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North Carolina's November Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state's seasonally adjusted November unemployment rate was 4.3 percent, increasing 0.2 of a percentage point from October's revised rate. The national rate remained unchanged at 4.1 percent.

North Carolina's November 2017 unemployment rate decreased 0.9 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed decreased 3,262 over the month to 4,739,461 and increased 81,649 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 9,654 over the month to 213,437 and decreased 41,228 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 2,900 to 4,446,500 in November. The major industries with the largest over-the-month increases were Professional & Business Services at 4,600, followed by Other Services, 1,100; Manufacturing, 900; Construction, 200; and Education & Health Services, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Financial Activities, 1,600; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 1,500; Information, 400; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 400; and Government, 100. Mining & Logging industry employment remained unchanged over the month.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since November 2016

	Nov 2016	Dec 2016	Jan 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2017	May 2017	Jun 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Sep 2017	Oct 2017	Nov 2017
N.C.	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.7	4.5	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.3
U.S.	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.1

Please note: 2016 numbers have been annually revised

Since November 2016, Total Nonfarm jobs gained 71,500 with the Total Private sector growing by 62,400 and Government increasing by 9,100. The largest over-the-year increase among major industries was Professional & Business Services at 34,600, followed by Education & Health Services, 18,300; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 9,500; Government, 9,100; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 4,000; Other Services, 2,800; Manufacturing, 600; and Mining & Logging, 200. Major industries experiencing decreases were Information, 4,000; Construction, 3,100; and Financial Activities, 500.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Thursday, January 4, 2018 when the county unemployment rates for November 2017 will be released.

This information can be accessed on the Commerce website at <http://www.nccommerce.com/lead>

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 22, 2017

			<i>Month Ago</i>		<i>Year Ago</i>				
			<i>November 2017</i>	<i>October 2017</i>	<i>November 2016</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>Numeric</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Numeric</i>
North Carolina <i>(Local Area Unemployment Statistics)</i>									
<i>Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted</i>									
Labor Force	4,952,898	4,946,506	4,912,477	6,392	0.1	40,421	0.8		
Employed	4,739,461	4,742,723	4,657,812	-3,262	-0.1	81,649	1.8		
Unemployed	213,437	203,783	254,665	9,654	4.7	-41,228	-16.2		
Unemployment Rate	4.3	4.1	5.2	0.2	xxx	-0.9	xxx		
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>									
Labor Force	4,944,492	4,955,702	4,921,006	-11,210	-0.2	23,486	0.5		
Employed	4,722,457	4,751,957	4,679,561	-29,500	-0.6	42,896	0.9		
Unemployed	222,035	203,745	241,445	18,290	9.0	-19,410	-8.0		
Unemployment Rate	4.5	4.1	4.9	0.4	xxx	-0.4	xxx		
United States <i>(Current Population Survey)</i>									
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>									
Labor Force	160,529,000	160,381,000	159,456,000	148,000	0.1	xxx	xxx		
Employed	153,918,000	153,861,000	152,048,000	57,000	< 0.1	xxx	xxx		
Unemployed	6,610,000	6,520,000	7,409,000	90,000	1.4	xxx	xxx		
Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.1	4.6	0.0	xxx	xxx	xxx		
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>									
Labor Force	160,466,000	160,465,000	159,451,000	1,000	< 0.1	xxx	xxx		
Employed	154,180,000	154,223,000	152,385,000	-43,000	> -0.1	xxx	xxx		
Unemployed	6,286,000	6,242,000	7,066,000	44,000	0.7	xxx	xxx		
Unemployment Rate	3.9	3.9	4.4	0.0	xxx	xxx	xxx		

*Effective January 2017, 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.

2017 estimates for the current month are preliminary. Estimates for the previous month have undergone monthly revision. 2016 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 22, 2017

			<i>Month Ago</i>		<i>Year Ago</i>		
	<i>November 2017</i>	<i>October 2017</i>	<i>November 2016</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
North Carolina <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,446,500	4,443,600	4,375,000	2,900	0.1	71,500	1.6
Total Private	3,706,500	3,703,500	3,644,100	3,000	0.1	62,400	1.7
Mining & Logging	5,900	5,900	5,700	0	0.0	200	3.5
Construction	200,600	200,400	203,700	200	0.1	-3,100	-1.5
Manufacturing	466,400	465,500	465,800	900	0.2	600	0.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	828,300	828,700	818,800	-400	>-0.1	9,500	1.2
Information	74,300	74,700	78,300	-400	-0.5	-4,000	-5.1
Financial Activities	228,300	229,900	228,800	-1,600	-0.7	-500	-0.2
Professional & Business Services	652,400	647,800	617,800	4,600	0.7	34,600	5.6
Education & Health Services	605,100	605,000	586,800	100	<0.1	18,300	3.1
Leisure & Hospitality Services	490,600	492,100	486,600	-1,500	-0.3	4,000	0.8
Other Services	154,600	153,500	151,800	1,100	0.7	2,800	1.8
Government	740,000	740,100	730,900	-100	>-0.1	9,100	1.2
North Carolina <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,487,700	4,472,400	4,414,100	15,300	0.3	73,600	1.7
Total Private	3,727,700	3,714,900	3,661,500	12,800	0.3	66,200	1.8
Mining & Logging	5,900	5,900	5,700	0	0.0	200	3.5
Construction	202,800	203,300	205,100	-500	-0.2	-2,300	-1.1
Manufacturing	469,300	466,800	467,100	2,500	0.5	2,200	0.5
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	841,000	826,500	830,600	14,500	1.8	10,400	1.3
Information	74,500	74,100	78,700	400	0.5	-4,200	-5.3
Financial Activities	228,700	230,100	228,300	-1,400	-0.6	400	0.2
Professional & Business Services	656,200	653,600	622,300	2,600	0.4	33,900	5.4
Education & Health Services	610,500	609,000	594,300	1,500	0.2	16,200	2.7
Leisure & Hospitality Services	483,700	491,300	477,200	-7,600	-1.5	6,500	1.4
Other Services	155,100	154,300	152,200	800	0.5	2,900	1.9
Government	760,000	757,500	752,600	2,500	0.3	7,400	1.0

All 2017 Labor Force and CES data for the current month are preliminary.
 All 2016 Labor Force and CES estimates have been benchmarked.
 Estimates may not add to totals due to rounding.

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.

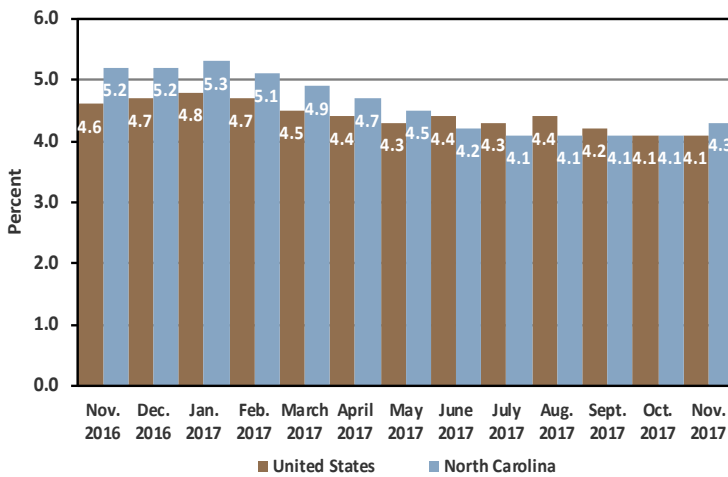
Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Thursday, January 4, 2018 when the county unemployment rates for November 2017 will be released.

The complete 2017 data release schedule can be accessed at:

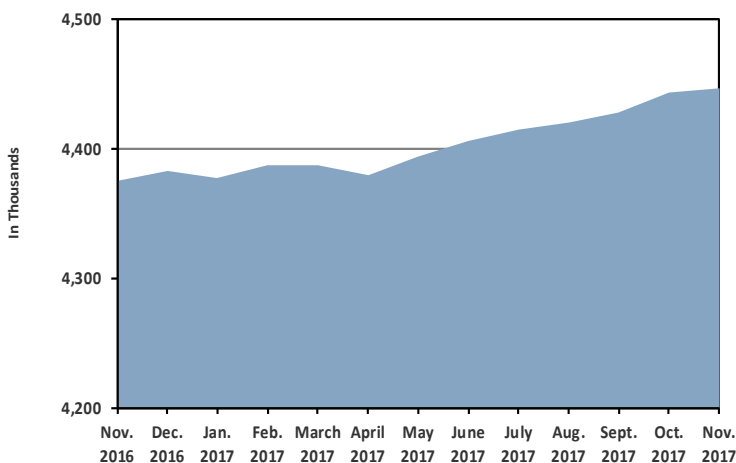
<http://www.nccommerce.com/lead/research-publications/schedule-of-release-dates>

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

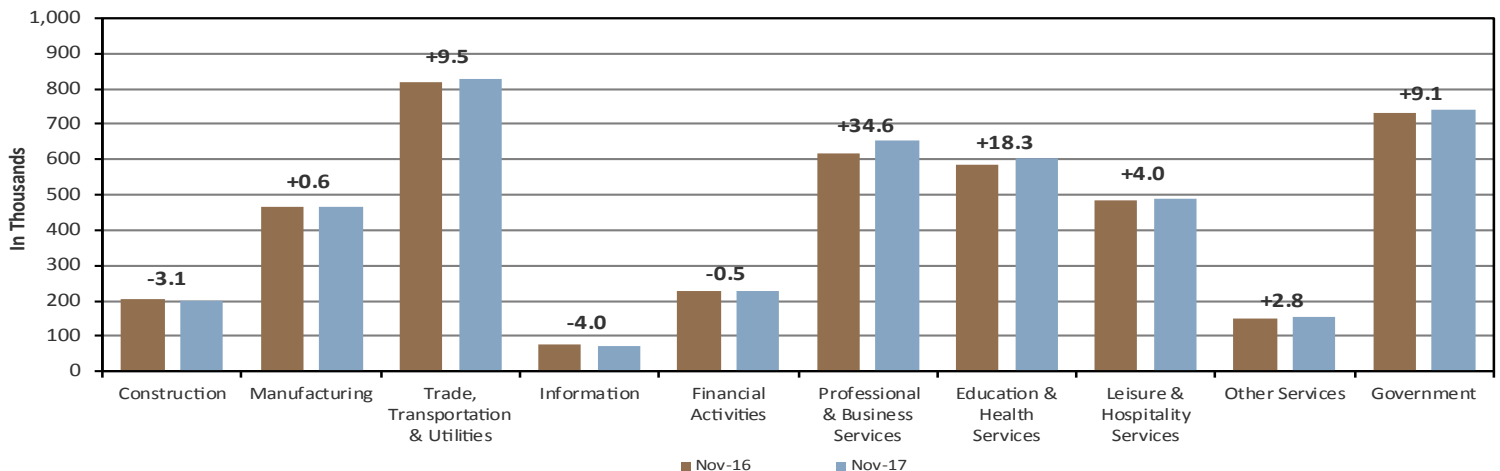


**US data are not smoothed.

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



Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries
November 2016 Compared to November 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 4.3 percent in November, increasing 0.2 of a percentage point from the previous month and falling 0.9 of a percentage point from November 2016. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed grew by 9,654 (4.7%). The civilian labor force increased by 6,392 (0.1%) to 4,952,898.

Nationally, November's unemployment rate was 4.1 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 6,610,000, while the civilian labor force was 160,529,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,446,500) increased 2,900 (0.1%) since October 2017 and 71,500 (1.6%) since November 2016.¹ Private sector employment grew over the month by 3,000 (0.1%) and 62,400 (1.7%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Professional & Business Services (4,600; 0.7%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Other Services (1,100; 0.7%), Manufacturing (900; 0.2%), Construction (200; 0.1%), and Education & Health Services (100; <0.1%). Financial Activities (1,600; 0.7%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services (1,500; 0.3%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (400; >-0.1%), Information (400; 0.5%), and Government (100; >-0.1%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged.

Since November 2016, Professional & Business Services added the largest number of jobs (34,600; 5.6%), followed by Education & Health Services (18,300; 3.1%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (9,500; 1.2%), Government (9,100; 1.2%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (4,000; 0.8%), Other Services (2,800; 1.8%), Manufacturing (600; 0.1%) and Mining & Logging (200; 3.5%). Information (4,000; 5.1%) reported the largest over-the-year decrease, followed by Construction (3,100; 1.5%), and Financial Activities (500; 0.2%).

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 November 2017 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,487,700 was 15,300 (0.3%) more than the October 2017 revised employment level of 4,472,400. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Trade, Transportation & Utilities had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 14,500 (1.8%), followed by Professional & Business Services (2,600; 0.4%), Government (2,500; 0.3%), Manufacturing (2,500; 0.5%), Education & Health Services (1,500; 0.3%), Other Services (800; 0.5%), and Information (400; 0.5%). Leisure & Hospitality (7,600; 1.6%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Financial Activities (1,400; 0.6%), and Construction (500; 0.3%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged.

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 73,500 (2.0%) jobs. Professional & Business Services experienced the largest employment increase at 33,900 (5.5%), followed by Education & Health Services (16,200; 2.7%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (10,400; 1.3%), Government (7,400; 1.0%), Leisure & Hospitality (6,500; 1.4%), Other Services (2,900; 1.9%), and Financial Activities (400; 0.2%). Information (4,200; 5.3%) reported the only over-the-year decrease.

The Goods Producing sector grew by 100 (<0.1%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing had the largest increase with 2,200 (0.5%), followed by Mining & Logging 200; 3.5%). Construction (2,300; 1.1%) reported a decrease.

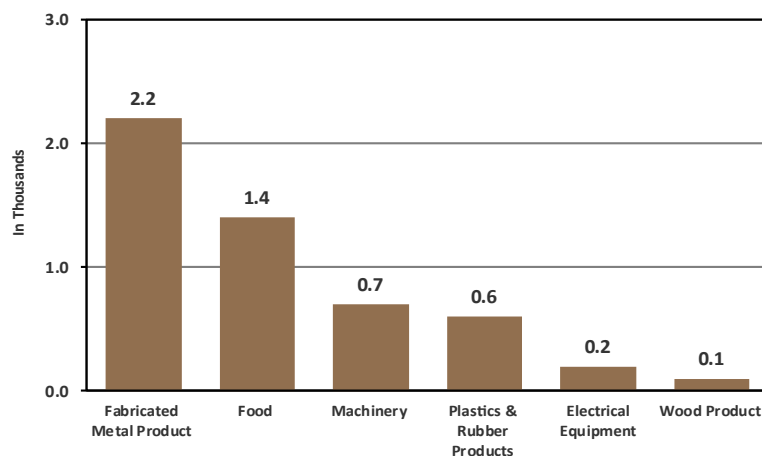
Amongst manufacturing industries, Fabricated Metal Product had the largest net over-the-year increase at 2,200. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Food, 1,400; Machinery, 700; Plastics & Rubber Products, 600; Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component, 200; Wood Product, 100; Beverage & Tobacco Product, 100; and Chemical, 100.

Computer & Electronic Product had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 1,300 in November 2017. Other industries with decreases were: Transportation Equipment, 1,000; Apparel, 400; Textile Product Mills, 300; Textile Mills, 300; Furniture & Related Product, 300; and Printing & Related Support Activities, 100.

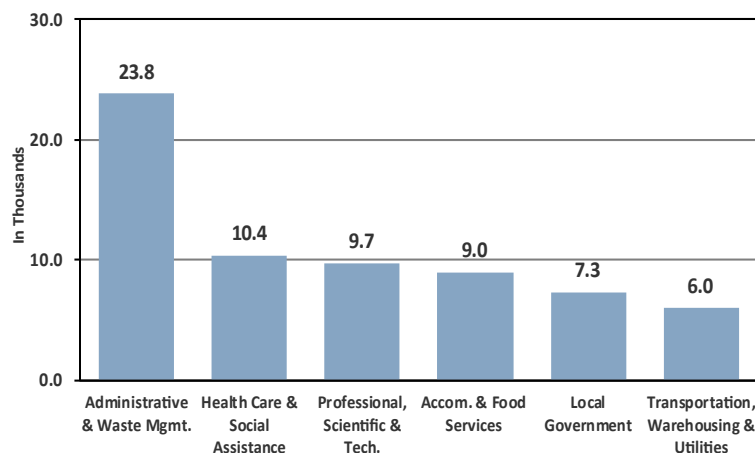
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in November decreased 24 minutes from October's revised rate of 34.9. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.08 to \$24.55, as Average Weekly Earnings decreased by \$7.02 to \$846.98.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in November remained unchanged from the revised rate of 34.5 in November 2016. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.85 and Average Weekly Earnings increased \$29.33.

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



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



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

