



ROY COOPER
Governor

ANTHONY M. COPELAND
Secretary

For Immediate Release: March 13, 2017
For More Information, Contact: Beth Gargan/919.814.4610

North Carolina's January Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state's seasonally adjusted January unemployment rate was 5.3 percent, increasing 0.1 of a percentage point from December's revised rate. The national rate increased 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.8 percent.

North Carolina's January 2017 unemployment rate was unchanged from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 11,256 over the month to 4,674,841 and increased 98,860 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 3,298 over the month to 260,150 and increased 1,780 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, decreased 6,600 to 4,376,100 in January. The major industries with the largest over-the-month increases were Trade, Transportation & Utilities at 1,800, followed by Financial Activities, 1,700; Other Services, 1,500; Construction, 1,100; Education & Health Services, 900; and Mining & Logging, 200. Major industries experiencing decreases were Government, 5,200; Manufacturing, 4,700; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 1,900; Professional & Business Services, 1,200; and Information, 800.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since January 2016

	Jan 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2016	Apr 2016	May 2016	Jun 2016	Jul 2016	Aug 2016	Sep 2016	Oct 2016	Nov 2016	Dec 2016	Jan 2017
N.C.	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.3
U.S.	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.8

Please note: 2016 numbers have been annually revised

Since January 2016, Total Nonfarm jobs gained 79,200 with the Total Private sector growing by 71,200 and Government increasing by 8,000. The largest over-the-year increase among major industries was Professional & Business Services at 18,800, followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 14,600; Education & Health Services, 11,200; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 10,400; Construction, 8,400; Government, 8,000; Financial Activities, 7,100; Other Services, 3,900; and Mining & Logging, 300. Major industries experiencing decreases were Manufacturing, 3,100; and Information, 400.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Friday, March 17, 2017 when the county unemployment rates for January 2017 will be released.

This information may 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. Monday, March 13, 2017

			<i>Month Ago</i>		<i>Year Ago</i>		
	<i>January 2017</i>	<i>December 2016</i>	<i>January 2016</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
<i>North Carolina</i> <i>(Local Area Unemployment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,934,991	4,920,437	4,834,351	14,554	0.3	100,640	2.1
Employed	4,674,841	4,663,585	4,575,981	11,256	0.2	98,860	2.2
Unemployed	260,150	256,852	258,370	3,298	1.3	1,780	0.7
Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.2	5.3	0.1	xxx	0.0	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,896,994	4,888,173	4,783,164	8,821	0.2	113,830	2.4
Employed	4,627,724	4,649,833	4,522,909	-22,109	-0.5	104,815	2.3
Unemployed	269,270	238,340	260,255	30,930	13.0	9,015	3.5
Unemployment Rate	5.5	4.9	5.4	0.6	xxx	0.1	xxx
<i>United States</i> <i>(Current Population Survey)</i>							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	159,716,000	159,640,000	158,362,000	76,000	< 0.1	xxx	xxx
Employed	152,081,000	152,111,000	150,533,000	-30,000	> -0.1	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	7,635,000	7,529,000	7,829,000	106,000	1.4	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	4.8	4.7	4.9	0.1	xxx	xxx	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	158,676,000	158,968,000	157,347,000	-292,000	-0.2	xxx	xxx
Employed	150,527,000	151,798,000	149,037,000	-1,271,000	-0.8	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	8,149,000	7,170,000	8,309,000	979,000	13.7	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	5.1	4.5	5.3	0.6	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., Monday, March 13, 2017

	January 2017	December 2016	January 2016	Month Ago		Year Ago	
				Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,376,100	4,382,700	4,296,900	-6,600	-0.2	79,200	1.8
Total Private	3,648,900	3,650,300	3,577,700	-1,400	<-0.1	71,200	2.0
Mining & Logging	5,900	5,700	5,600	200	3.5	300	5.4
Construction	205,100	204,000	196,700	1,100	0.5	8,400	4.3
Manufacturing	462,100	466,800	465,200	-4,700	-1.0	-3,100	-0.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	822,700	820,900	808,100	1,800	0.2	14,600	1.8
Information	77,500	78,300	77,900	-800	-1.0	-400	-0.5
Financial Activities	230,900	229,200	223,800	1,700	0.7	7,100	3.2
Professional & Business Services	617,800	619,000	599,000	-1,200	-0.2	18,800	3.1
Education & Health Services	589,900	589,000	578,700	900	0.2	11,200	1.9
Leisure & Hospitality Services	483,700	485,600	473,300	-1,900	-0.4	10,400	2.2
Other Services	153,300	151,800	149,400	1,500	1.0	3,900	2.6
Government	727,200	732,400	719,200	-5,200	-0.7	8,000	1.1
North Carolina <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,317,800	4,410,800	4,240,100	-93,000	-2.1	77,700	1.8
Total Private	3,581,900	3,659,800	3,513,900	-77,900	-2.1	68,000	1.9
Mining & Logging	5,800	5,700	5,600	100	1.8	200	3.6
Construction	196,400	203,200	190,500	-6,800	-3.3	5,900	3.1
Manufacturing	462,100	467,600	463,000	-5,500	-1.2	-900	-0.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	814,600	840,100	798,400	-25,500	-3.0	16,200	2.0
Information	76,800	78,500	77,300	-1,700	-2.2	-500	-0.6
Financial Activities	228,100	228,200	221,300	-100	<-0.1	6,800	3.1
Professional & Business Services	604,000	618,900	587,100	-14,900	-2.4	16,900	2.9
Education & Health Services	586,400	594,300	574,800	-7,900	-1.3	11,600	2.0
Leisure & Hospitality Services	455,400	472,100	448,800	-16,700	-3.5	6,600	1.5
Other Services	152,300	151,200	147,100	1,100	0.7	5,200	3.5
Government	735,900	751,000	726,200	-15,100	-2.0	9,700	1.3

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 2005, 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 standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget on February 28, 2013. 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.

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.

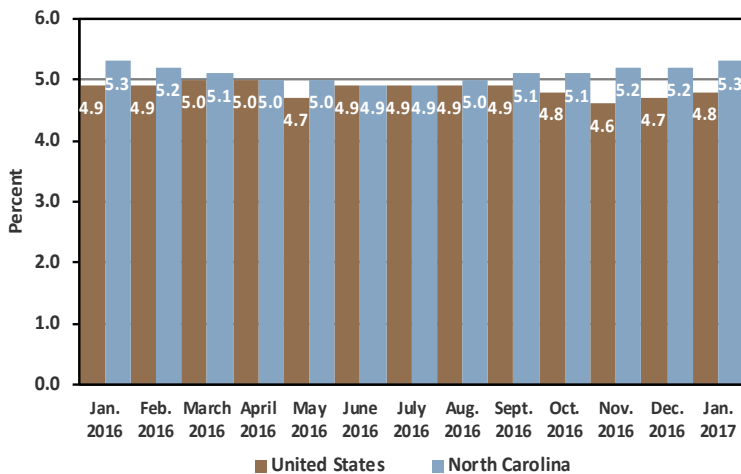
Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Friday, March 17, 2017 when the county unemployment rates for January 2017 will be released.

The complete 2017 data release schedule can be accessed at:

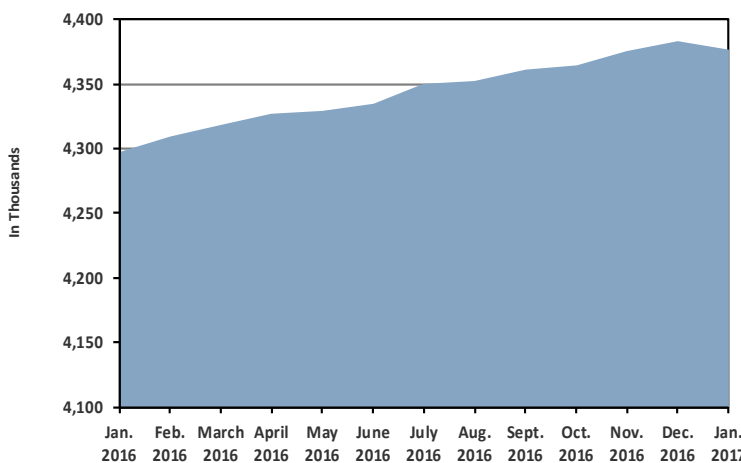
<http://www.nccommerce.com/lead/research-publications/schedule-of-release-dates>

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

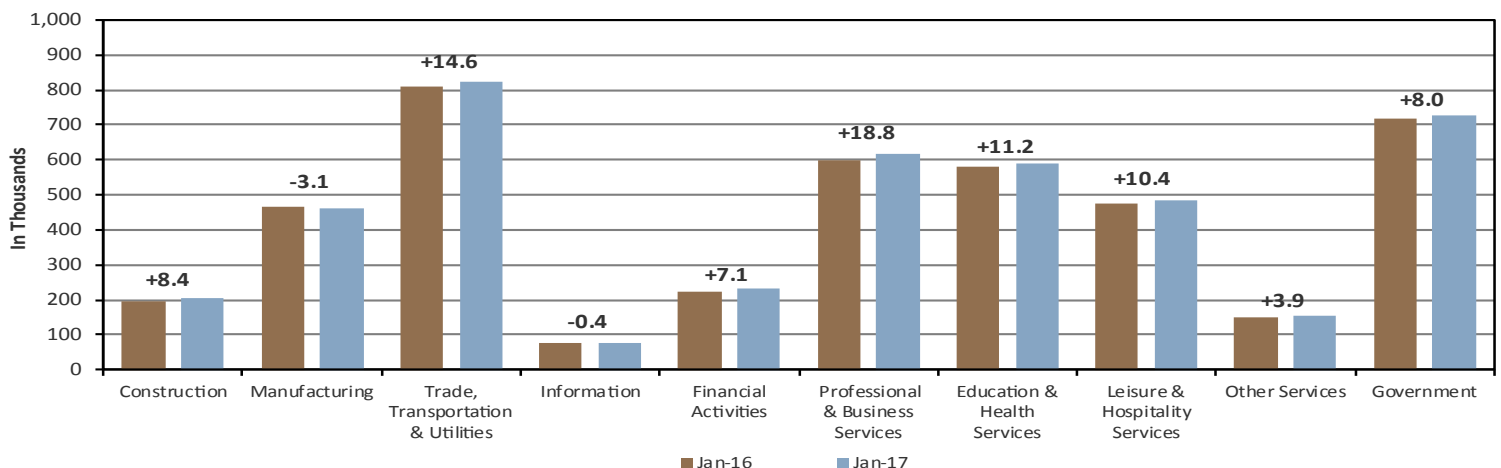


**US data are not smoothed.

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



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



*N.C. current month data are preliminary, while all other seasonally adjusted data have undergone annual revision. U.S. data have undergone annual revision.

The North Carolina smoothed seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.3 percent in January, increasing 0.1 of a percentage point from the previous month and remaining unchanged from January 2016. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed grew by 3,298 (1.3%). The civilian labor force increased by 14,554 (0.3%) to 4,934,991.

Nationally, December's unemployment rate was 4.8 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 7,635,000, while the civilian labor force was 159,716,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,376,100) decreased 6,600 (0.2%) since December 2016, and increased 79,200 (1.8%) since January 2016.¹ Private sector employment fell over the month by 1,400 (<0.1%), while growing by 71,200 (2.0%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Trade, Transportation & Utilities (1,800; 0.2%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Financial Activities (1,700; 0.7%), Other Services (1,500; 1.0%), Construction (1,100; 0.5%), Education & Health Services (900; 0.2%), and Mining & Logging (200; 3.5%). Government (5,200; 0.7%) reported the largest over-the-year decrease followed by Manufacturing (4,700; 1.0%), Leisure & Hospitality (1,900; 0.4%), Professional & Business Services (1,200; 0.2%) and Information (800; 1.0%).

Since January 2016, Professional & Business Services added the largest number of jobs (18,800; 3.1%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (14,600; 1.8%), Education & Health Services (11,200; 1.9%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (10,400; 2.2%), Construction (8,400; 4.3%), Government (8,000; 1.1%), Financial Activities (7,100; 3.2%), Other Services (3,900; 2.6%), and Mining & Logging (300; 5.4%). Manufacturing (3,100; 0.7%) reported the largest over-the-year decrease, followed by Information (400; 0.5%).

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 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 Labor Market Conditions

The January 2017 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,317,800 was 93,000 (2.1%) less than the December 2016 revised employment level of 4,410,800. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Other Services had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 1,100 (0.7%), followed by Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%). Trade, Transportation & Utilities (25,500; 3.0%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Leisure & Hospitality (16,700; 3.5%), Government (15,100; 2.0%), Professional & Business Services (14,900; 2.4%), Education & Health Services (7,900; 1.3%), Construction (6,800; 3.4%), Manufacturing (5,500; 1.2%), Information (1,700; 2.2%), and Financial Activities (100; >-0.1%).

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 72,500 (2.0%) jobs. Professional & Business Services experienced the largest employment increase at 16,900 (2.9%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (16,200; 2.0%), Education & Health Services (11,600; 2.0%), Government (9,700; 1.3%), Financial Activities (6,800; 3.1%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (6,600; 1.5%), and Other Services (5,200; 3.5%). Information (500; 0.7%) reported the only over-the-year decrease.

The Goods Producing sector grew by 5,200 (0.8%) jobs over the year. Construction had the largest increase with 5,900 (3.1%), followed by Mining & Logging (200; 3.6%). Manufacturing (900; 0.2%) reported a decrease.

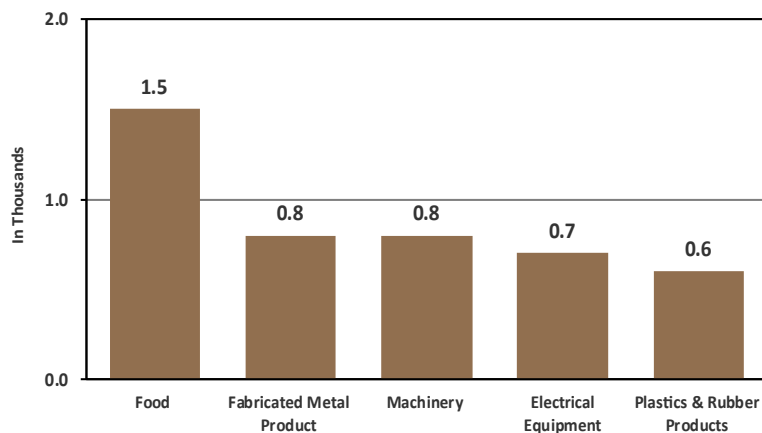
Amongst manufacturing industries, Food had the largest net over-the-year increase at 1,500. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Fabricated Metal Product, 800; Machinery, 800; Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component, 700; Plastics & Rubber Products, 600; Furniture & Related Product, 500; Wood Product, 300; and Beverage & Tobacco Product, 100.

Transportation Equipment had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 1,400 in January 2016. Other industries with decreases were: Apparel, 700; Computer & Electronic Product, 700; Textile Mills, 600; and Chemical, 500. Textile Product Mills and Printing & Related Support Activities reported no change.

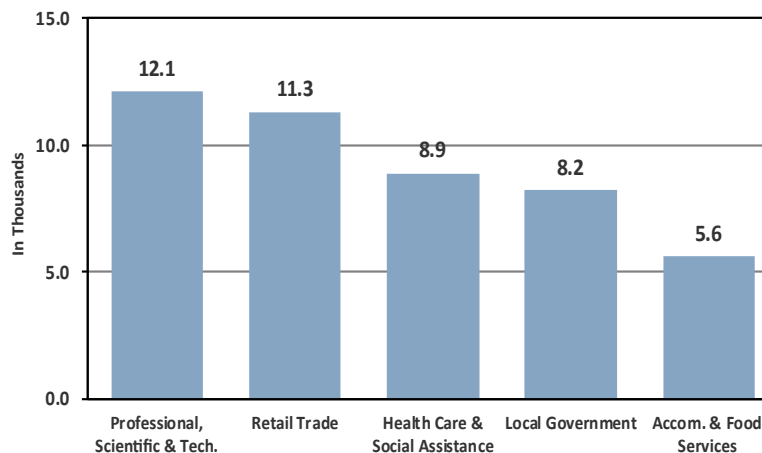
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in January decreased 30 minutes from December's revised rate of 34.4. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.43 to \$24.06, as Average Weekly Earnings increased by \$2.76 to \$815.63.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in January increased 6 minutes from 33.8 in January 2016. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$1.08 and Average Weekly Earnings increased \$38.91.

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



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



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

