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For Immediate Release: November 17, 2017
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North Carolina's October Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state's seasonally adjusted October unemployment rate was 4.1 percent, remaining unchanged from September's revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.1 percent.

North Carolina's October 2017 unemployment rate decreased 1.0 percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 11,504 over the month to 4,742,359 and increased 91,964 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 3,668 over the month to 203,890 and decreased 47,385 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 11,400 to 4,439,300 in October. The major industries with the largest over-the-month increases were Professional & Business Services at 5,600, followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 4,900; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 3,000; Education & Health Services, 900; and Mining & Logging, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Other Services, 1,400; Financial Activities, 700; Government, 700; Manufacturing, 200; and Construction, 100. Information industry employment remained unchanged over the month.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since October 2016

	Oct 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
N.C.	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.7	4.5	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
U.S.	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.1

Please note: 2016 numbers have been annually revised

Since October 2016, Total Nonfarm jobs gained 75,200 with the Total Private sector growing by 66,200 and Government increasing by 9,000. The largest over-the-year increase among major industries was Professional & Business Services at 31,700, followed by Education & Health Services, 18,100; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 10,300; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 9,400; Government, 9,000; Other Services, 2,400; Manufacturing, 1,400; Financial Activities, 1,200; and Mining & Logging, 200. Major industries experiencing decreases were Information, 5,200; and Construction, 3,300.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Thursday, November 30, 2017 when the county unemployment rates for October 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, November 17, 2017

				<i>Month Ago</i>		<i>Year Ago</i>	
	<i>October 2017</i>	<i>September 2017</i>	<i>October 2016</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
North Carolina <i>(Local Area Unemployment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,946,249	4,931,077	4,901,670	15,172	0.3	44,579	0.9
Employed	4,742,359	4,730,855	4,650,395	11,504	0.2	91,964	2.0
Unemployed	203,890	200,222	251,275	3,668	1.8	-47,385	-18.9
Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.1	5.1	0.1	xxx	-1.0	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,955,159	4,966,385	4,928,025	-11,226	-0.2	27,134	0.6
Employed	4,751,139	4,770,352	4,676,813	-19,213	-0.4	74,326	1.6
Unemployed	204,020	196,033	251,212	7,987	4.1	-47,192	-18.8
Unemployment Rate	4.1	3.9	5.1	0.2	xxx	-1.0	xxx
United States <i>(Current Population Survey)</i>							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	160,381,000	161,146,000	159,643,000	-765,000	-0.5	xxx	xxx
Employed	153,861,000	154,345,000	151,902,000	-484,000	-0.3	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	6,520,000	6,801,000	7,740,000	-281,000	-4.1	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.2	4.8	-0.1	xxx	xxx	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	160,465,000	161,049,000	159,783,000	-584,000	-0.4	xxx	xxx
Employed	154,223,000	154,494,000	152,335,000	-271,000	-0.2	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	6,242,000	6,556,000	7,447,000	-314,000	-4.8	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	3.9	4.1	4.7	-0.2	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, November 17, 2017

	October 2017	September 2017	October 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	4,439,300	4,427,900	4,364,100	11,400	0.3	75,200	1.7
Total Private	3,699,200	3,687,100	3,633,000	12,100	0.3	66,200	1.8
Mining & Logging	5,900	5,800	5,700	100	1.7	200	3.5
Construction	200,400	200,500	203,700	-100	>-0.1	-3,300	-1.6
Manufacturing	465,900	466,100	464,500	-200	>-0.1	1,400	0.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	828,300	823,400	818,000	4,900	0.6	10,300	1.3
Information	72,900	72,900	78,100	0	0.0	-5,200	-6.7
Financial Activities	229,200	229,900	228,000	-700	-0.3	1,200	0.5
Professional & Business Services	645,800	640,200	614,100	5,600	0.9	31,700	5.2
Education & Health Services	605,300	604,400	587,200	900	0.1	18,100	3.1
Leisure & Hospitality Services	492,000	489,000	482,600	3,000	0.6	9,400	1.9
Other Services	153,500	154,900	151,100	-1,400	-0.9	2,400	1.6
Government	740,100	740,800	731,100	-700	-0.1	9,000	1.2
North Carolina <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,468,100	4,437,300	4,393,000	30,800	0.7	75,100	1.7
Total Private	3,710,600	3,696,500	3,644,700	14,100	0.4	65,900	1.8
Mining & Logging	5,900	5,800	5,700	100	1.7	200	3.5
Construction	203,300	202,500	206,500	800	0.4	-3,200	-1.5
Manufacturing	467,200	467,200	465,800	0	0.0	1,400	0.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	826,100	820,500	816,200	5,600	0.7	9,900	1.2
Information	72,300	72,800	77,500	-500	-0.7	-5,200	-6.7
Financial Activities	229,400	230,400	228,200	-1,000	-0.4	1,200	0.5
Professional & Business Services	651,600	641,200	620,000	10,400	1.6	31,600	5.1
Education & Health Services	609,300	603,300	590,900	6,000	1.0	18,400	3.1
Leisure & Hospitality Services	491,200	497,400	482,000	-6,200	-1.2	9,200	1.9
Other Services	154,300	155,400	151,900	-1,100	-0.7	2,400	1.6
Government	757,500	740,800	748,300	16,700	2.3	9,200	1.2

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.

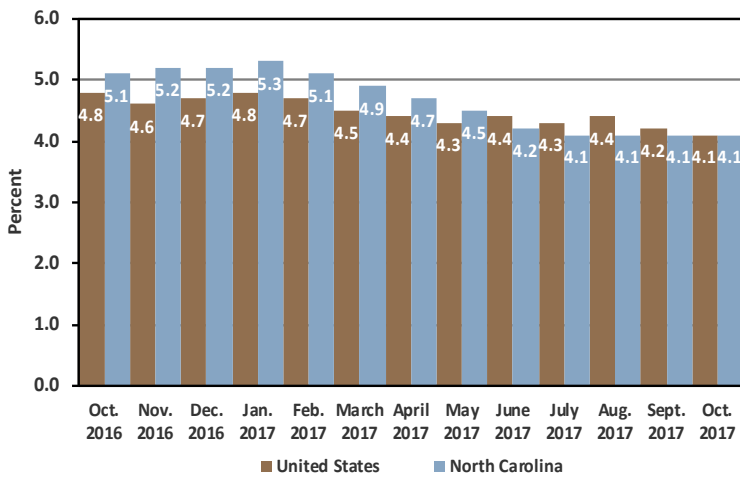
Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Thursday, November 30, 2017 when the county unemployment rates for October 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
October 2016–October 2017
(Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted**)



**US data are not smoothed.

The North Carolina smoothed seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in October, remaining unchanged from the previous month and falling 1.0 percent from October 2016. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed grew by 3,668 (1.8%). The civilian labor force increased by 15,172 (0.3%) to 4,946,249.

Nationally, October's unemployment rate was 4.1 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 6,520,000, while the civilian labor force was 160,381,000.

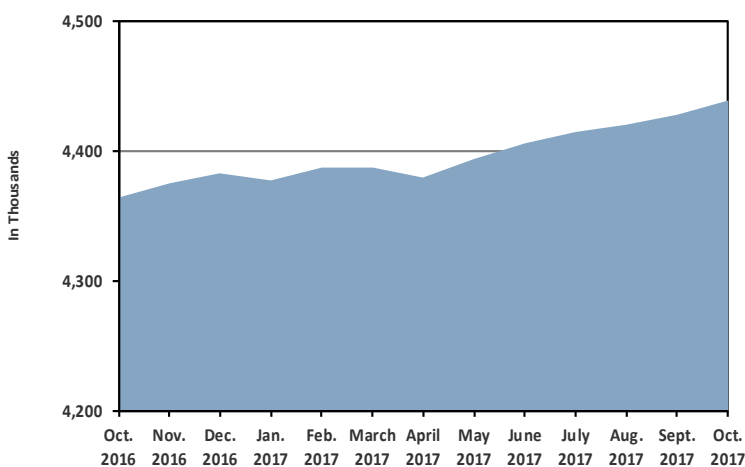
Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,439,300) increased 11,400 (0.3%) since September 2017 and 75,200 (1.7%) since October 2016.¹ Private sector employment grew over the month by 12,100 (0.3%) and 66,200 (1.8%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Professional & Business Services (5,600; 0.9%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (4,900; 0.6%), Leisure & Hospitality (3,000; 0.6%), Education & Health Services (900; 0.1%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.7%). Other Services (1,400; 0.9%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Financial Activities (700; 0.3%), Government (700; 0.1%), Manufacturing (200; >-0.1%), and Construction (100; >-0.1%). Information remained unchanged.

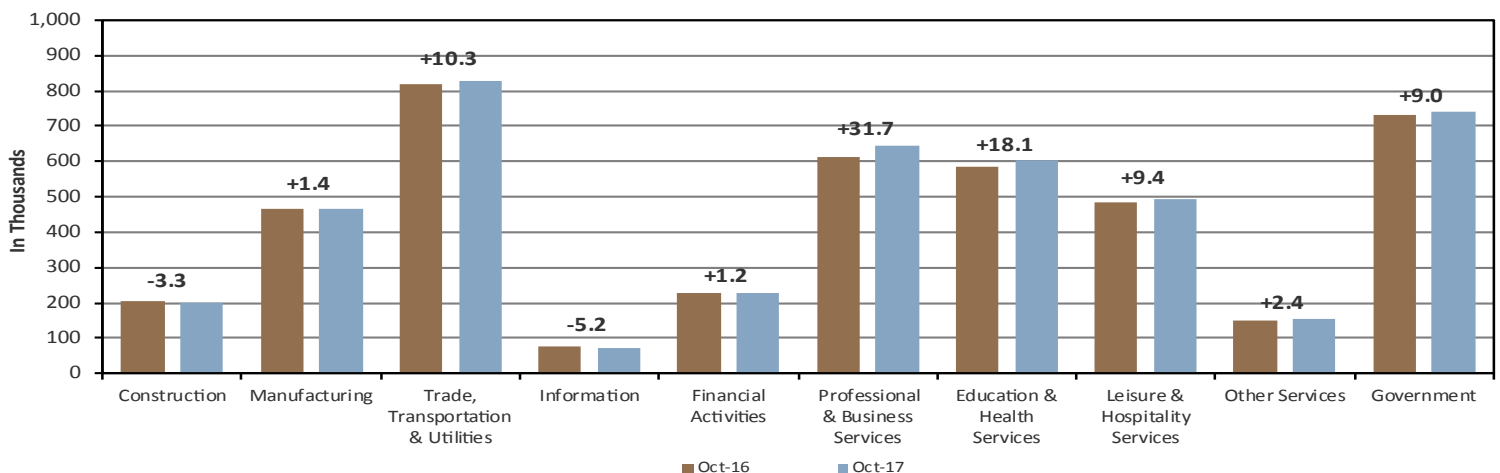
Since October 2016, Professional & Business Services added the largest number of jobs (31,700; 5.2%), followed by Education & Health Services (18,100; 3.1%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (10,300; 1.3%), Leisure & Hospitality (9,400; 1.9%), Government (9,000; 1.2%), Other Services (2,400; 1.6%), Manufacturing (1,400; 0.3%), Financial Activities (1,200; 0.5%) and Mining & Logging (200; 3.5%). Information (5,200; 6.7%) reported the largest over-the-year decrease, followed by Construction (3,300; 1.6%).

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 Total Nonfarm Employment
October 2016–October 2017
(Seasonally Adjusted)



Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries
October 2016 Compared to October 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 October 2017 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,468,100 was 30,800 (0.7%) more than the September 2017 revised employment level of 4,437,300. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Government had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 16,700 (2.3%), followed by Professional & Business Services (10,400; 1.6%), Education & Health Services (6,000; 1.0%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (5,600; 0.7%), Construction (800; 0.4%) and Mining & Logging (100; 1.7%). Leisure & Hospitality (6,200; 1.3%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Other Services (1,100; 0.7%), Financial Activities (1,000; 0.4%), and Information (500; 0.7%). Manufacturing remained unchanged.

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 76,700 (2.1%) jobs. Professional & Business Services experienced the largest employment increase at 31,600 (5.1%), followed by Education & Health Services (18,400; 3.1%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (9,900; 1.2%), Government (9,200; 1.2%), Leisure & Hospitality (9,200; 1.9%), Other Services (2,400; 1.6%), and Financial Activities (1,200; 0.5%). Information (5,200; 6.7%) reported the only over-the-year decrease.

The Goods Producing sector fell by 1,600 (0.2%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing had the largest increase with 1,400 (0.3%), followed by Mining & Logging 200; 3.5%). Construction (3,200; 1.6%) reported a decrease.

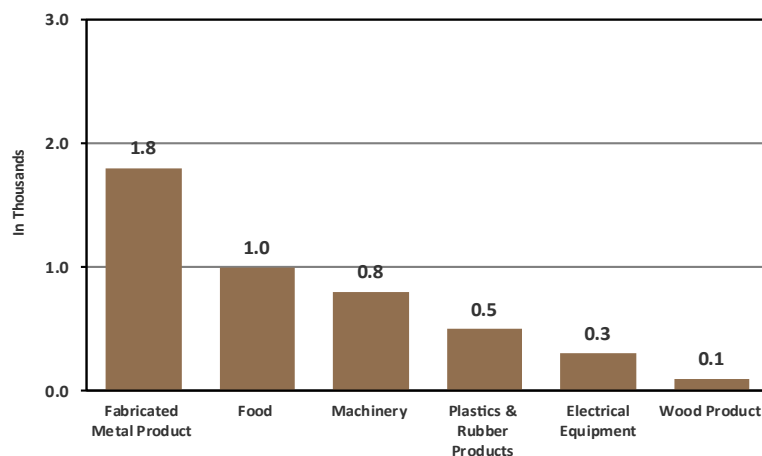
Amongst manufacturing industries, Fabricated Metal Product had the largest net over-the-year increase at 1,800. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Food, 1,000; Machinery, 800; Plastics & Rubber Products, 500; Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component, 300; Wood Product, 100; and Chemical, 100.

Computer & Electronic Product had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 1,600 in October 2017. Other industries with decreases were: Transportation Equipment, 700; Apparel, 500; Textile Product Mills, 200; Textile Mills, 200; Printing & Related Support Activities, 100; and Furniture & Related Product, 100. Beverage & Tobacco Product remained unchanged.

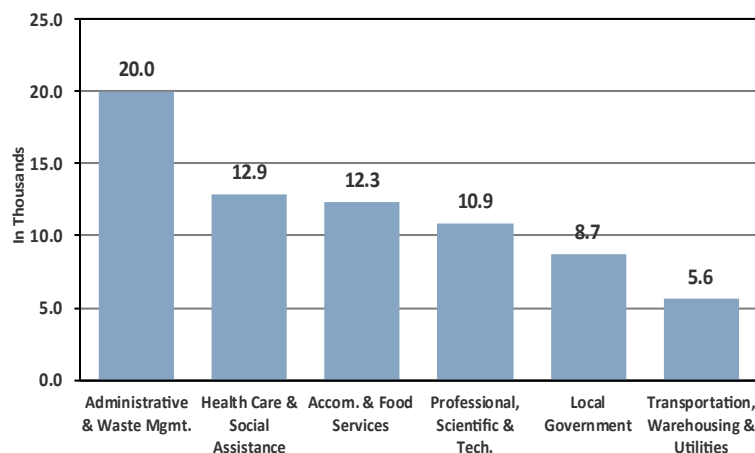
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in October increased 24 minutes from September's revised rate of 34.5. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.32 to \$24.51, as Average Weekly Earnings increased by \$20.84 to \$855.40.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in October increased 18 minutes from the revised rate of 34.6. in October 2016. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.67 and Average Weekly Earnings increased \$30.54.

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



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



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

