



ROY COOPER  
Governor

ANTHONY M. COPELAND  
Secretary

For Immediate Release: April 20, 2018  
For More Information, Contact: Beth Gargan/919.814.4610

## North Carolina's March Employment Figures Released

**RALEIGH** — The state's seasonally adjusted March unemployment rate was 4.5 percent, remaining unchanged from February's revised rate. The national rate remained unchanged at 4.1 percent.

North Carolina's March 2018 unemployment rate decreased 0.2 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 3,495 over the month to 4,755,447 and increased 69,723 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 131 over the month to 222,519 and decreased 7,754 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 4,100 to 4,472,000 in March. The major industries with the largest over-the-month increases were Education & Health Services at 2,200, followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services, 1,500; Construction, 1,200; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 1,100; Information, 700; Other Services, 200; and Mining & Logging, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Professional & Business Services, 2,000; Manufacturing, 500; Financial Activities, 300; and Government, 100.

### Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since March 2017

	Mar 2017	Apr 2017	May 2017	Jun 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Sep 2017	Oct 2017	Nov 2017	Dec 2017	Jan 2018	Feb 2018	Mar 2018
<b>N.C.</b>	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
<b>U.S.</b>	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1

*Please note: 2017 numbers have been annually revised*

Since March 2017, Total Nonfarm jobs gained 73,300 with the Total Private sector growing by 67,900 and Government increasing by 5,400. The largest over-the-year increase among major industries was Professional & Business Services at 15,300, followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 14,500; Education & Health Services, 8,900; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 8,700; Construction, 6,600; Financial Activities, 6,400; Government, 5,400; Information, 3,500; Manufacturing, 3,500; Other Services, 400; and Mining & Logging, 100.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, May 2, 2018 when the county unemployment rates for March 2018 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, April 20, 2018*

				<i>Month Ago</i>		<i>Year Ago</i>	
	<i>March 2018</i>	<i>February 2018</i>	<i>March 2017</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
<b>North Carolina</b> <i>(Local Area Unemployment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
<b>Labor Force</b>	4,977,966	4,974,340	4,915,997	3,626	0.1	61,969	1.3
<b>Employed</b>	4,755,447	4,751,952	4,685,724	3,495	0.1	69,723	1.5
<b>Unemployed</b>	222,519	222,388	230,273	131	0.1	-7,754	-3.4
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	4.5	4.5	4.7	0.0	xxx	-0.2	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
<b>Labor Force</b>	4,995,869	4,977,233	4,933,462	18,636	0.4	62,407	1.3
<b>Employed</b>	4,780,438	4,750,487	4,711,612	29,951	0.6	68,826	1.5
<b>Unemployed</b>	215,431	226,746	221,850	-11,315	-5.0	-6,419	-2.9
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	4.3	4.6	4.5	-0.2	xxx	-0.2	xxx
<b>United States</b> <i>(Current Population Survey)</i>							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
<b>Labor Force</b>	161,763,000	161,921,000	160,235,000	-158,000	-0.1	xxx	xxx
<b>Employed</b>	155,178,000	155,215,000	153,064,000	-37,000	> -0.1	xxx	xxx
<b>Unemployed</b>	6,585,000	6,706,000	7,171,000	-121,000	-1.8	xxx	xxx
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	4.1	4.1	4.5	0.0	xxx	xxx	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
<b>Labor Force</b>	161,548,000	161,494,000	159,912,000	54,000	< 0.1	xxx	xxx
<b>Employed</b>	154,877,000	154,403,000	152,628,000	474,000	0.3	xxx	xxx
<b>Unemployed</b>	6,671,000	7,091,000	7,284,000	-420,000	-5.9	xxx	xxx
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	4.1	4.4	4.6	-0.3	xxx	xxx	xxx

\*Effective January 2018, 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.

2018 estimates for the current month are preliminary. Estimates for the previous month have undergone monthly revision.

2017 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, April 20, 2018*

				Month Ago		Year Ago	
	March 2018	February 2018	March 2017	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
<b>North Carolina</b> <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	4,472,000	4,467,900	4,398,700	4,100	0.1	73,300	1.7
<b>Total Private</b>	3,736,400	3,732,200	3,668,500	4,200	0.1	67,900	1.9
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	5,800	5,700	5,700	100	1.8	100	1.8
<b>Construction</b>	213,700	212,500	207,100	1,200	0.6	6,600	3.2
<b>Manufacturing</b>	469,800	470,300	466,300	-500	-0.1	3,500	0.8
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	839,000	837,900	824,500	1,100	0.1	14,500	1.8
<b>Information</b>	82,400	81,700	78,900	700	0.9	3,500	4.4
<b>Financial Activities</b>	237,200	237,500	230,800	-300	-0.1	6,400	2.8
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	630,300	632,300	615,000	-2,000	-0.3	15,300	2.5
<b>Education &amp; Health Services</b>	605,100	602,900	596,200	2,200	0.4	8,900	1.5
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality Services</b>	501,200	499,700	492,500	1,500	0.3	8,700	1.8
<b>Other Services</b>	151,900	151,700	151,500	200	0.1	400	0.3
<b>Government</b>	735,600	735,700	730,200	-100	<-0.1	5,400	0.7
<b>North Carolina</b> <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	4,459,700	4,428,800	4,376,800	30,900	0.7	82,900	1.9
<b>Total Private</b>	3,706,400	3,678,800	3,630,500	27,600	0.8	75,900	2.1
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	5,800	5,700	5,700	100	1.8	100	1.8
<b>Construction</b>	212,300	209,000	204,200	3,300	1.6	8,100	4.0
<b>Manufacturing</b>	467,900	469,200	465,000	-1,300	-0.3	2,900	0.6
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	833,200	826,200	814,600	7,000	0.8	18,600	2.3
<b>Information</b>	82,200	81,800	78,600	400	0.5	3,600	4.6
<b>Financial Activities</b>	235,500	234,900	228,600	600	0.3	6,900	3.0
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	625,100	623,100	609,100	2,000	0.3	16,000	2.6
<b>Education &amp; Health Services</b>	607,500	604,600	596,000	2,900	0.5	11,500	1.9
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality Services</b>	485,700	474,200	478,400	11,500	2.4	7,300	1.5
<b>Other Services</b>	151,200	150,100	150,300	1,100	0.7	900	0.6
<b>Government</b>	753,300	750,000	746,300	3,300	0.4	7,000	0.9

All 2018 Labor Force and CES data for the current month are preliminary.  
 All 2017 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm).

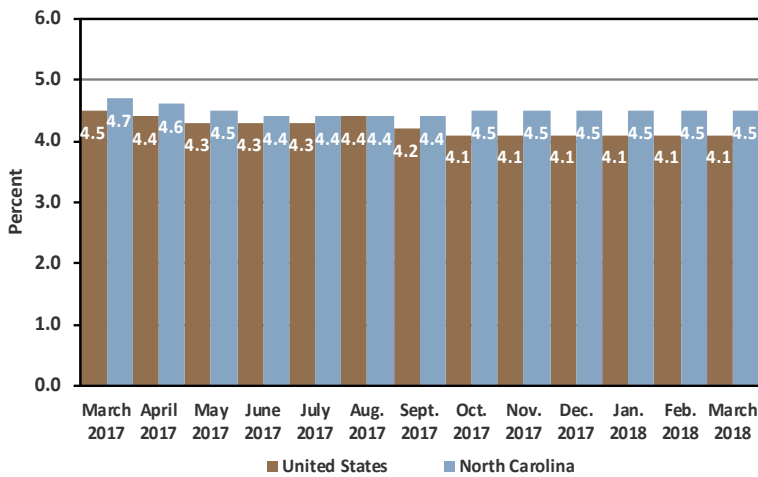
### **Release Dates**

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, May 2, 2018 when the county unemployment rates for March 2018 will be released.

The complete 2018 data release schedule can be accessed at:

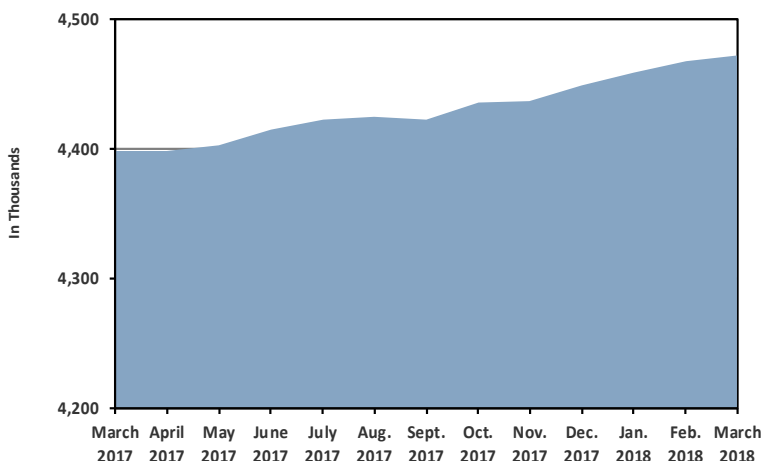
<http://www.nccommerce.com/lead/research-publications/schedule-of-release-dates>

### United States/North Carolina Unemployment Rates March 2017–March 2018 (Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted\*\*)

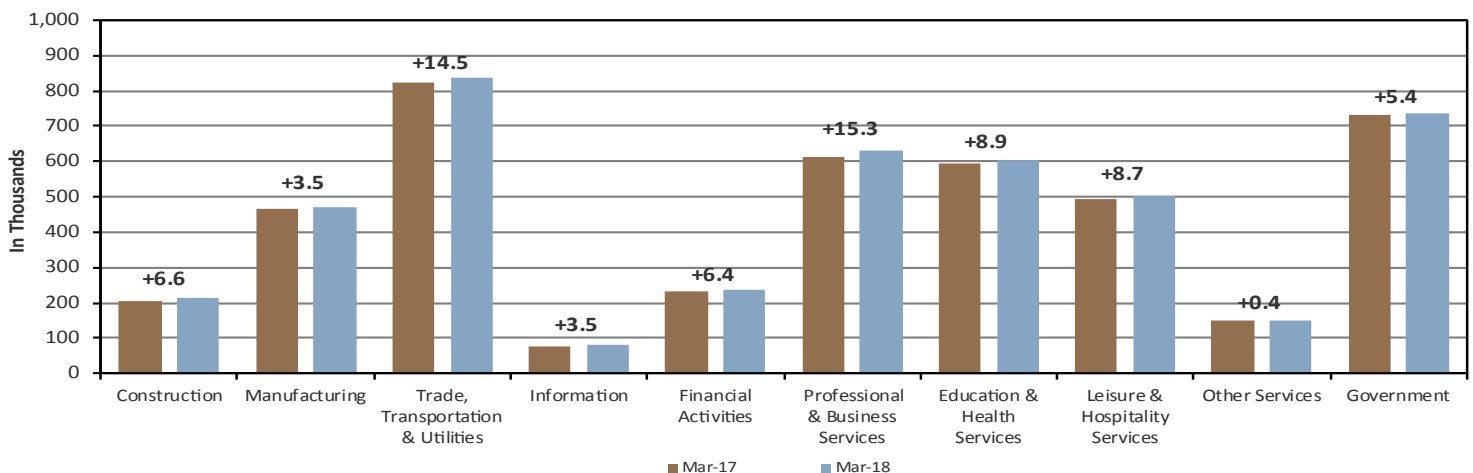


\*\*US data are not smoothed.

### North Carolina Total Nonfarm Employment March 2017–March 2018 (Seasonally Adjusted)



### Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries March 2017 Compared to March 2018 (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 4.5 percent in March, remaining unchanged from the previous month and falling 0.2 of a percentage point from March 2017. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed grew by 131 (0.1%). The civilian labor force increased by 3,626 (0.1%) to 4,977,966.

Nationally, March's unemployment rate was 4.1 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 6,585,000, while the civilian labor force was 161,763,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,472,000) increased 4,100 (0.1%) since February 2018 and 73,300 (1.7%) since March 2017.<sup>1</sup> Private sector employment grew over the month by 4,200 (0.1%) and 67,900 (1.9%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Education & Health Services (2,200; 0.4%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Leisure & Hospitality (1,500; 0.3%), Construction (1,200; 0.6%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (1,100; 0.1%), Information (700; 0.9%), Other Services (200; 0.1%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%). Professional & Business Services (2,000; 0.3%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Manufacturing (500; 0.1%), Financial Activities (300; 0.1%), and Government (100; <0.1%).

Since March 2017, Professional & Business Services added the largest number of jobs (15,300; 2.5%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (14,500; 1.8%), Education & Health Services (8,900; 1.5%), Leisure & Hospitality (8,700; 1.8%), Construction (6,600; 3.2%), Financial Activities (6,400; 2.8%), Government (5,400; 0.7%), Manufacturing (3,500; 0.8%), Information (3,500; 4.4%), Other Services (400; 0.3%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

<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 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 March 2018 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,459,700 was 30,900 (0.7%) less than the February 2018 revised employment level of 4,428,800. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Leisure & Hospitality had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 11,500 (2.4%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (7,000; 0.9%), Government (3,300; 0.4%), Construction (3,300; 1.6%), Education & Health Services (2,900; 0.5%), Professional & Business Services (2,000; 0.3%), Other Services (1,100; 0.7%), Financial Activities (600; 0.3%), Information (400; 0.5%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%). Manufacturing reported the only employment decrease of 1,300 (0.3%).

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 71,800 (1.9%) jobs. Trade, Transportation & Utilities experienced the largest employment increase at 18,600 (2.3%), followed by Professional & Business Services (16,000; 2.6%), Leisure & Hospitality (7,300; 1.5%), Government (7,000; 0.9%), Financial Activities (6,900; 3.0%), Information (3,600; 4.6%), and Other Services (900; 0.6%).

The Goods Producing sector grew by 11,100 (1.6%) jobs over the year. Construction had the largest increase with 8,100 (4.0%), followed by Manufacturing (2,900; 0.6%), and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

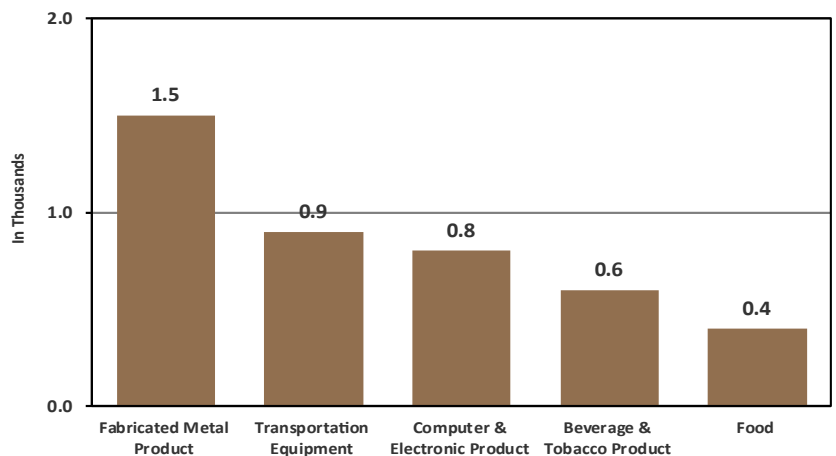
Amongst manufacturing industries, Fabricated Metal Product had the largest net over-the-year increase at 1,500. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Transportation Equipment, 900; Computer & Electronic Product, 800; Beverage & Tobacco Product, 600; Food, 400; Machinery, 200; and Wood Product, 100.

Textile Mills had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 700 in March 2018. Other industries with decreases were: Apparel, 500; Furniture & Related Product, 500; Electrical Equipment, 300; and Printing & Related Support Activities, 100.

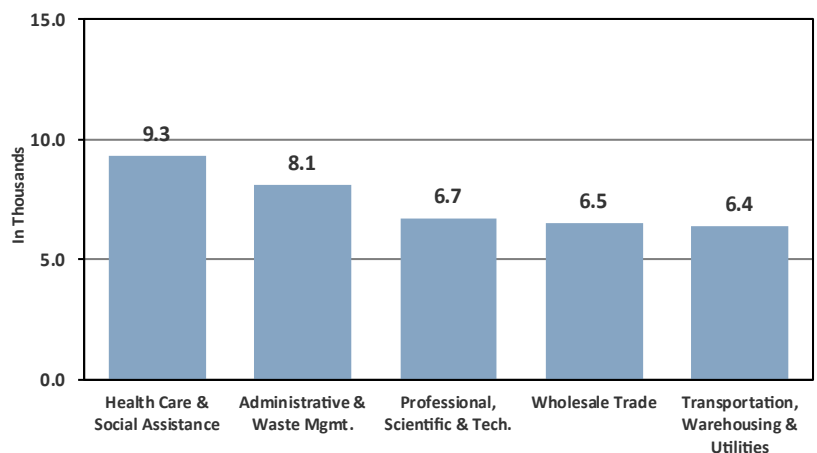
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in March decreased 12 minutes from February's revised rate of 34.6. Average Hourly Earnings fell by \$0.12 to \$24.75, as Average Weekly Earnings decreased by \$9.10 to \$851.40.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in March increased 6 minutes from the revised rate of 34.3 in March 2017. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.74 and Average Weekly Earnings increased \$27.86.

**Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains**  
March 2017–March 2018  
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



**Selected Service Industries With Job Gains**  
March 2017–March 2018  
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



**Total Private Average Weekly Wage**  
March 2015–March 2018  
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

