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North Carolina's February Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state's seasonally adjusted February unemployment rate was 5.5 percent, decreasing 0.1 of a percentage point from January's revised rate. The national rate remained unchanged at 4.9 percent.

North Carolina's February 2016 unemployment rate was 0.2 of a percentage point lower than a year ago. The number of people employed increased 25,687 over the month to 4,557,152 and increased 103,145 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 164 over the month to 266,243, and decreased 3,998 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, decreased 900 to 4,295,200 in February. The major industries with the largest over-the-month increases were Professional & Business Services at 4,200, followed by Government, 500; Other Services, 200; and Manufacturing, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Education & Health Services, 1,800; Construction, 1,400; Financial Activities, 1,200; Information, 700; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 500; and Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 300. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged over the month.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since February 2015

	Feb 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2015	May 2015	Jun 2015	Jul 2015	Aug 2015	Sep 2015	Oct 2015	Nov 2015	Dec 2015	Jan 2016	Feb 2016
N.C.	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.5
U.S.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9

Please note: 2015 numbers have been annually revised

Since February 2015, Total Nonfarm jobs gained 86,700 with the Total Private sector growing by 81,700 and Government increasing by 5,000. The largest over-the-year increase among major industries was Professional & Business Services at 23,700, followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 20,000; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 15,300; Construction, 9,100; Other Services, 5,200; Government, 5,000; Financial Activities, 3,600; Education & Health Services, 3,100; and Manufacturing, 1,800. Information employment declined by 100 over the year and Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged over the year.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2016 when the county unemployment rates for February 2016 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. Thursday, March 24, 2016

	February 2016	January 2016	February 2015	Month Ago		Year Ago	
				Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina <i>(Local Area Unemployment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,823,395	4,797,872	4,724,248	25,523	0.5	99,147	2.1
Employed	4,557,152	4,531,465	4,454,007	25,687	0.6	103,145	2.3
Unemployed	266,243	266,407	270,241	-164	-0.1	-3,998	-1.5
Unemployment Rate	5.5	5.6	5.7	-0.1	xxx	-0.2	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,818,727	4,765,991	4,726,584	52,736	1.1	92,143	1.9
Employed	4,541,913	4,492,789	4,448,411	49,124	1.1	93,502	2.1
Unemployed	276,814	273,202	278,173	3,612	1.3	-1,359	-0.5
Unemployment Rate	5.7	5.7	5.9	0.0	xxx	-0.2	xxx
United States <i>(Current Population Survey)</i>							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	158,890,000	158,335,000	156,878,000	555,000	0.4	xxx	xxx
Employed	151,074,000	150,544,000	148,231,000	530,000	0.4	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	7,815,000	7,791,000	8,646,000	24,000	0.3	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	4.9	4.9	5.5	0.0	xxx	xxx	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	158,279,000	157,347,000	156,213,000	932,000	0.6	xxx	xxx
Employed	150,060,000	149,037,000	147,118,000	1,023,000	0.7	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	8,219,000	8,309,000	9,095,000	-90,000	-1.1	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	5.2	5.3	5.8	-0.1	xxx	xxx	xxx

*Effective January 2016, 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.

2016 estimates for the current month are preliminary. Estimates for the previous month have undergone monthly revision. 2015 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., Thursday March 24, 2016

			Month Ago		Year Ago		
	February 2016	January 2016	February 2015	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Total Nonfarm	4,295,200	4,296,100	4,208,500	-900	<-0.1	86,700	2.1
Total Private	3,571,100	3,572,500	3,489,400	-1,400	<-0.1	81,700	2.3
Mining & Logging	5,600	5,600	5,600	0	0.0	0	0.0
Construction	196,300	197,700	187,200	-1,400	-0.7	9,100	4.9
Manufacturing	460,600	460,500	458,800	100	<0.1	1,800	0.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	808,500	808,800	788,500	-300	<-0.1	20,000	2.5
Information	74,900	75,600	75,000	-700	-0.9	-100	-0.1
Financial Activities	219,900	221,100	216,300	-1,200	-0.5	3,600	1.7
Professional & Business Services	605,500	601,300	581,800	4,200	0.7	23,700	4.1
Education & Health Services	575,000	576,800	571,900	-1,800	-0.3	3,100	0.5
Leisure & Hospitality Services	469,700	470,200	454,400	-500	-0.1	15,300	3.4
Other Services	155,100	154,900	149,900	200	0.1	5,200	3.5
Government	724,100	723,600	719,100	500	0.1	5,000	0.7
North Carolina <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Total Nonfarm	4,252,700	4,236,400	4,165,000	16,300	0.4	87,700	2.1
Total Private	3,512,800	3,503,600	3,431,000	9,200	0.3	81,800	2.4
Mining & Logging	5,500	5,500	5,500	0	0.0	0	0.0
Construction	190,000	189,100	180,100	900	0.5	9,900	5.5
Manufacturing	458,500	458,200	456,800	300	0.1	1,700	0.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	795,900	798,900	775,300	-3,000	-0.4	20,600	2.7
Information	74,800	75,300	74,700	-500	-0.7	100	0.1
Financial Activities	216,300	217,300	213,900	-1,000	-0.5	2,400	1.1
Professional & Business Services	597,500	592,400	573,800	5,100	0.9	23,700	4.1
Education & Health Services	577,600	572,800	571,800	4,800	0.8	5,800	1.0
Leisure & Hospitality Services	443,000	441,500	431,400	1,500	0.3	11,600	2.7
Other Services	153,700	152,600	147,700	1,100	0.7	6,000	4.1
Government	739,900	732,800	734,000	7,100	1.0	5,900	0.8
Mfg. Production Workers (PW) Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Mfg. PW Average Hourly Earnings	\$17.36	\$17.33	\$16.84				
Mfg. PW Hours Worked	41.2	41.4	41.9				

All 2016 Labor Force and CES data for the current month are preliminary.
All 2015 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.

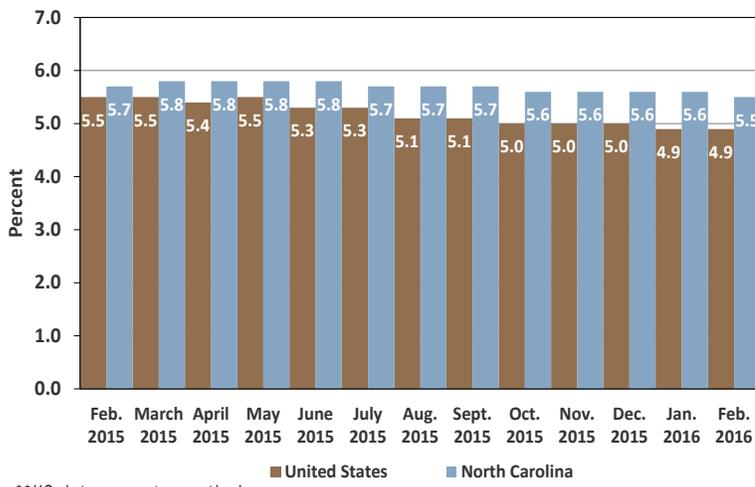
Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2016 when the county unemployment rates for February 2016 will be released.

The complete 2016 data release schedule can be accessed at:

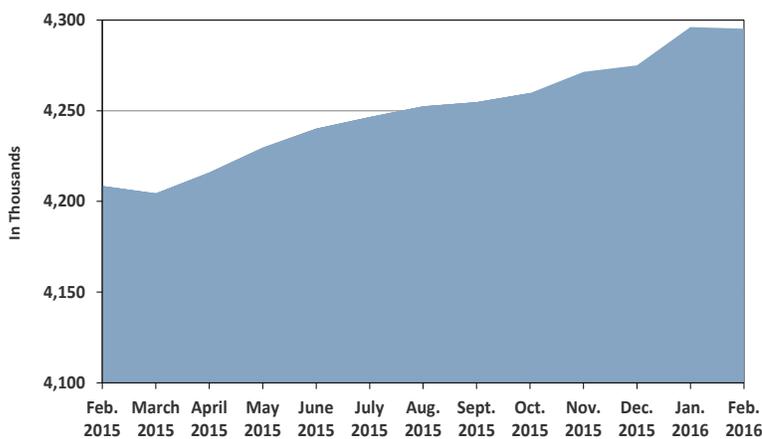
<http://www.nccommerce.com/lead/research-publications/schedule-of-release-dates>

United States/North Carolina Unemployment Rates
February 2015–February 2016
(Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted**)

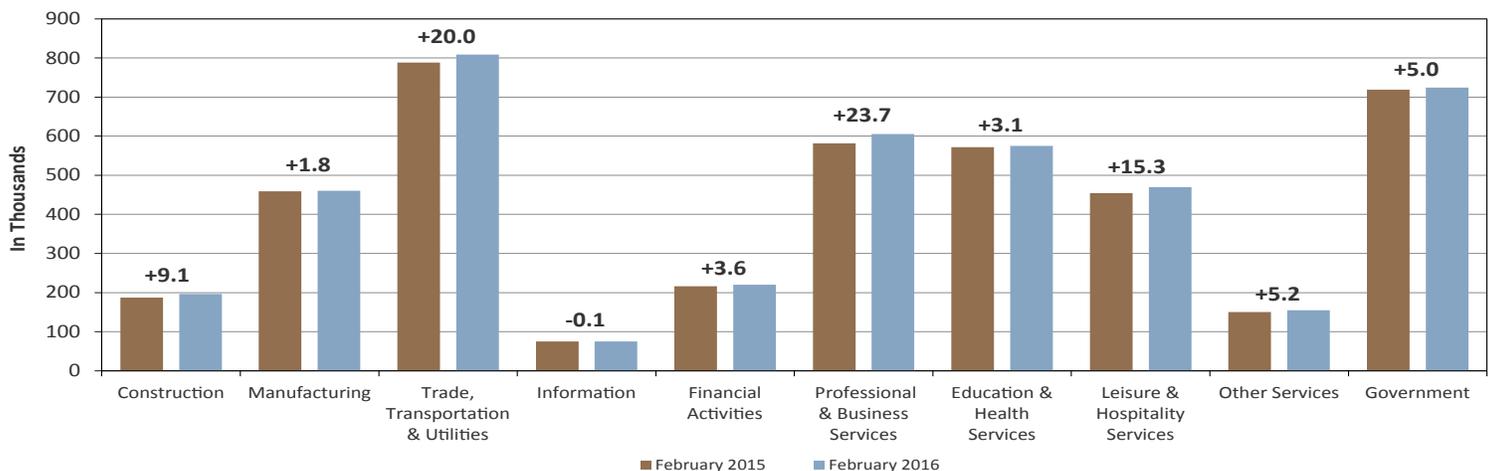


**US data are not smoothed.

North Carolina Total Nonfarm Employment
February 2015–February 2016
(Seasonally Adjusted)



Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries
February 2015 Compared to February 2016
(Seasonally Adjusted)



*N.C. current month data are preliminary, while all other 2016 data are revised and 2015 data have undergone annual revision. U.S. data have undergone annual revision.

The North Carolina smoothed seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.5 percent in February, decreasing 0.1 of a percentage point from the previous month and 0.2 of a percentage point from February 2015. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed fell by 164 (0.1%). The civilian labor force increased by 25,523 (0.5%) to 4,823,395.

Nationally, February's unemployment rate was 4.9 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 7,815,000, while the civilian labor force was 158,890,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,295,200) decreased 900 (>-0.1%) since January 2016, and grew 86,700 (2.1%) since February 2015.¹ Private sector employment fell over the month by 1,400 (>-0.1%), while increasing 81,700 (2.3%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Professional & Business Services (4,200; 0.7%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Government (500; 0.1%), Other Services (200; 0.1%), and Manufacturing (100; <0.1%). Education & Health Services (1,800; 0.3%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Construction (1,400; 0.7%), Financial Activities (1,200; 0.5%), Information (700; 0.9%), Leisure & Hospitality (500; 0.1%), and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (300; >-0.1%). Mining & Logging reported no change.

Since February 2015, Professional & Business Services added the largest number of jobs (23,700; 4.1%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (20,000; 2.5%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (15,300; 3.4%), Construction (9,100; 4.9%), Other Services (5,200; 3.5%), Government (5,000; 0.7%), Financial Activities (3,600; 1.7%), Education & Health Services (3,100; 0.5%), and Manufacturing (1,800; 0.4%). Information (100; 0.1%) reported the only over-the-year decrease, while Mining & Logging reported no change.

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 February 2016 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,252,700 was 16,300 (0.4%) more than the January 2016 revised employment level of 4,236,400. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Government had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 7,100 (1.0%), followed by Professional & Business Services (5,100; 0.9%), Education & Health Services (4,800; 0.8%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (1,500; 0.3%), Other Services (1,100; 0.7%), Construction (900; 0.5%), and Manufacturing (300; 0.1%). Trade, Transportation & Utilities (3,000; 0.4%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Financial Activities (1,000; 0.5%), and Information (500; 0.7%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged.

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 76,100 (2.2%) jobs. Professional & Business Services experienced the largest employment increase at 23,700 (4.1%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (20,600; 2.7%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (11,600; 2.7%), Other Services (6,000; 4.1%), Government (5,900; 0.8%), Education & Health Services (5,800; 1.0%), Financial Activities (2,400; 1.1%), and Information (100; 0.1%).

The Goods Producing sector grew by 11,600 (1.8%) jobs over the year. Construction had the largest employment increase with 9,900 (5.5%), followed by Manufacturing (1,700; 0.4%). Mining & Logging remained unchanged.

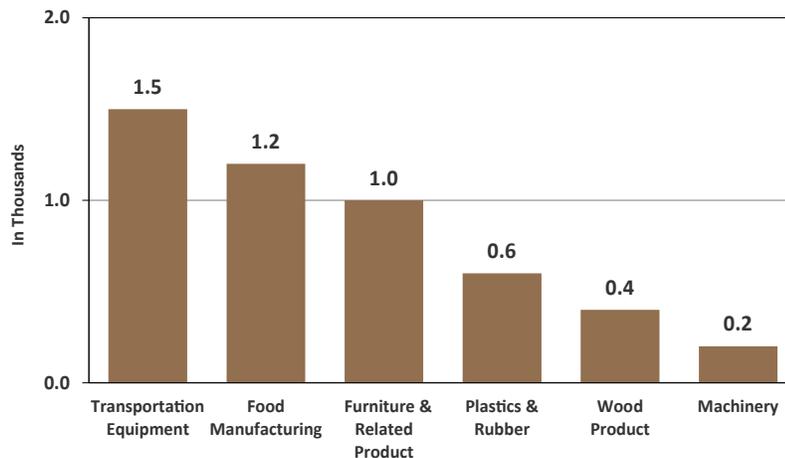
Amongst manufacturing industries, Transportation Equipment had the largest net over-the-year increase at 1,500. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Food, 1,200; Furniture & Related Product, 1,000; Plastics & Rubber Products, 600; Wood Product, 400; Machinery, 200; Computer & Electronic Product, 100; and Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component, 100.

Chemical had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 900 in February 2016. Other industries with decreases were: Fabricated Metal Product, 800; Apparel, 400; Printing & Related Support, 200; Textile Product Mills, 200; and Textile Mills, 100. Beverage & Tobacco Product reported no change over the year.

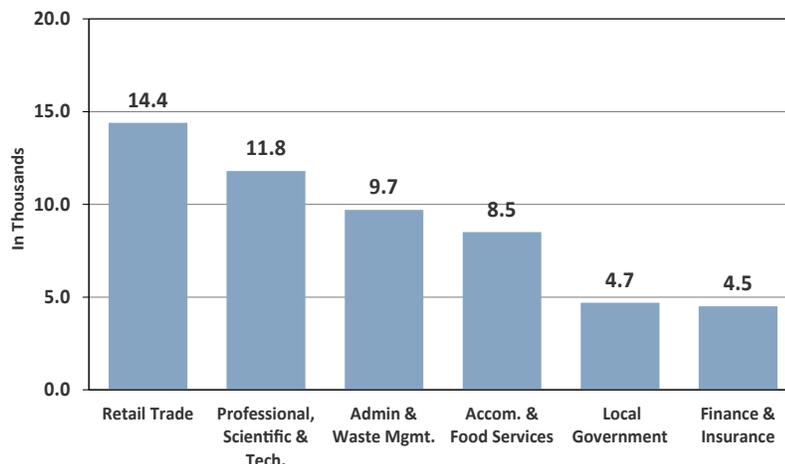
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in February remained unchanged from January's revised rate of 33.8. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.18 to \$23.16, as Average Weekly Earnings increased by \$6.09 to \$782.81.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in February decreased 42 minutes from 34.5 in February 2015. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.81 and Average Weekly Earnings increased \$11.73.

Selected Manufacturing Industries With Job Gains
February 2015–February 2016
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Selected Service Industries With Job Gains
February 2015–February 2016
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Total Private Average Weekly Wage
February 2012–February 2016
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

