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North Carolina’s April Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state’s seasonally adjusted April unemployment rate was 5.4 percent, decreasing 0.1 of a percentage point from March’s revised rate. The national rate remained unchanged at 5.0 percent.

North Carolina’s April 2016 unemployment rate was 0.4 of a percentage point lower than a year ago. The number of people employed increased 20,245 over the month to 4,611,868 and increased 141,785 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 1,357 over the month to 264,491, and decreased 10,571 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 1,000 to 4,311,500 in April. The major industries with the largest over-the-month increases were Professional & Business Services at 4,100, followed by Information, 1,300; Education & Health Services, 300; Construction, 200; and Other Services, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Manufacturing, 2,700; Government, 2,100; Financial Activities, 100; and Leisure & Hospitality Services, 100. Mining & Logging and Trade, Transportation & Utilities employment remained unchanged over the month.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since April 2015

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

Please note: 2015 numbers have been annually revised

Since April 2015, Total Nonfarm jobs gained 95,600 with the Total Private sector growing by 94,900 and Government increasing by 700. The largest over-the-year increase among major industries was Professional & Business Services at 29,700, followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 25,100; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 17,500; Construction, 10,000; Education & Health Services, 6,500; Other Services, 5,700; Financial Activities, 3,100; Government, 700; and Information, 300. Major industries experiencing decreases were Manufacturing, 2,800; and Mining & Logging, 200.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, June 1, 2016 when the county unemployment rates for April 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. Friday, May 20, 2016

				<i>Month Ago</i>		<i>Year Ago</i>	
	<i>April 2016</i>	<i>March 2016</i>	<i>April 2015</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	4,876,359	4,857,471	4,745,145	18,888	0.4	131,214	2.8
Employed	4,611,868	4,591,623	4,470,083	20,245	0.4	141,785	3.2
Unemployed	264,491	265,848	275,062	-1,357	-0.5	-10,571	-3.8
Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.5	5.8	-0.1	xxx	-0.4	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,857,560	4,876,473	4,768,208	-18,913	-0.4	89,352	1.9
Employed	4,614,275	4,614,445	4,507,995	-170	> -0.1	106,280	2.4
Unemployed	243,285	262,028	260,213	-18,743	-7.2	-16,928	-6.5
Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.4	5.5	-0.4	xxx	-0.5	xxx
United States <i>(Current Population Survey)</i>							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	158,924,000	159,286,000	157,032,000	-362,000	-0.2	xxx	xxx
Employed	151,004,000	151,320,000	148,509,000	-316,000	-0.2	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	7,920,000	7,966,000	8,523,000	-46,000	-0.6	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.0	5.4	0.0	xxx	xxx	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	158,488,000	158,854,000	156,554,000	-366,000	-0.2	xxx	xxx
Employed	151,075,000	150,738,000	148,587,000	337,000	0.2	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	7,413,000	8,116,000	7,966,000	-703,000	-8.7	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	4.7	5.1	5.1	-0.4	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., Friday, May 20, 2016

				Month Ago		Year Ago	
	April 2016	March 2016	April 2015	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Total Nonfarm	4,311,500	4,310,500	4,215,900	1,000	< 0.1	95,600	2.3
Total Private	3,591,000	3,587,900	3,496,100	3,100	0.1	94,900	2.7
Mining & Logging	5,400	5,400	5,600	0	0.0	-200	-3.6
Construction	196,500	196,300	186,500	200	0.1	10,000	5.4
Manufacturing	456,600	459,300	459,400	-2,700	-0.6	-2,800	-0.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	817,600	817,600	792,500	0	0.0	25,100	3.2
Information	75,600	74,300	75,300	1,300	1.7	300	0.4
Financial Activities	220,600	220,700	217,500	-100	0.0	3,100	1.4
Professional & Business Services	612,200	608,100	582,500	4,100	0.7	29,700	5.1
Education & Health Services	578,500	578,200	572,000	300	0.1	6,500	1.1
Leisure & Hospitality Services	472,100	472,200	454,600	-100	> -0.1	17,500	3.8
Other Services	155,900	155,800	150,200	100	0.1	5,700	3.8
Government	720,500	722,600	719,800	-2,100	-0.3	700	0.1
North Carolina <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Total Nonfarm	4,325,100	4,294,200	4,227,700	30,900	0.7	97,400	2.3
Total Private	3,580,000	3,551,900	3,487,400	28,100	0.8	92,600	2.7
Mining & Logging	5,400	5,400	5,500	0	0.0	-100	-1.8
Construction	195,000	193,400	186,400	1,600	0.8	8,600	4.6
Manufacturing	455,300	457,300	458,100	-2,000	-0.4	-2,800	-0.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	812,800	809,900	787,200	2,900	0.4	25,600	3.3
Information	74,900	74,300	74,900	600	0.8	0	0.0
Financial Activities	218,900	217,400	216,300	1,500	0.7	2,600	1.2
Professional & Business Services	612,200	603,600	582,800	8,600	1.4	29,400	5.0
Education & Health Services	581,600	581,200	572,900	400	0.1	8,700	1.5
Leisure & Hospitality Services	467,800	454,600	453,300	13,200	2.9	14,500	3.2
Other Services	156,100	154,800	150,000	1,300	0.8	6,100	4.1
Government	745,100	742,300	740,300	2,800	0.4	4,800	0.6
Mfg. Production Workers (PW) Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Mfg. PW Average Hourly Earnings	\$17.47	\$17.37	\$16.87				
Mfg. PW Hours Worked	42.5	41.5	42.8				

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 Friday, May 20, 2016 when the county unemployment rates for April 2016 will be released.

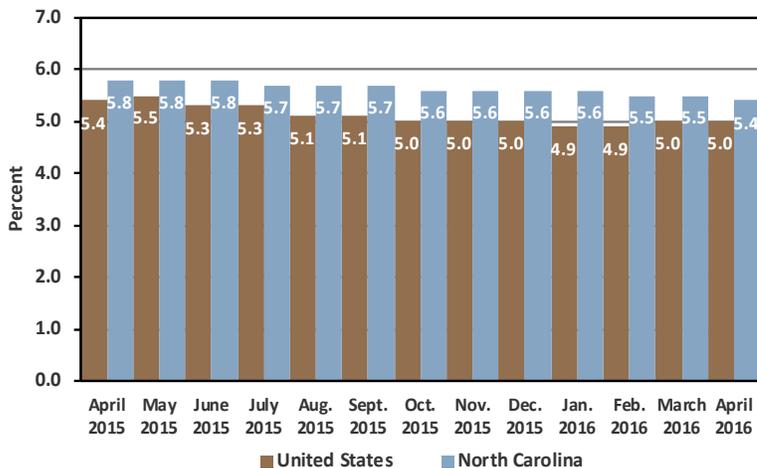
The complete 2016 data release schedule can be accessed at:

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

North Carolina Labor Market Conditions

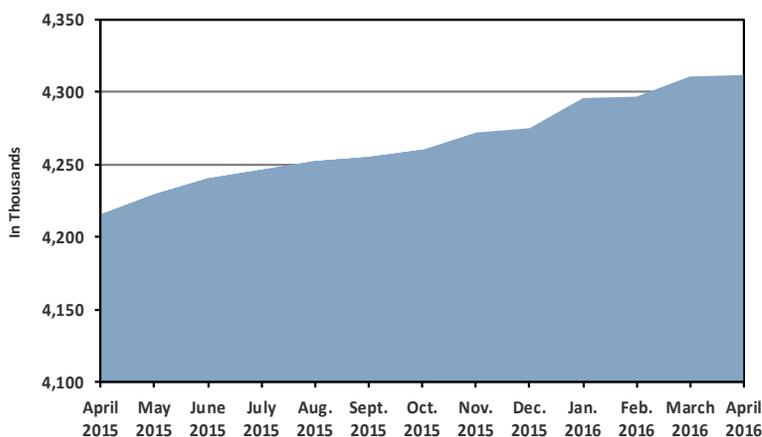
April 2016*

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

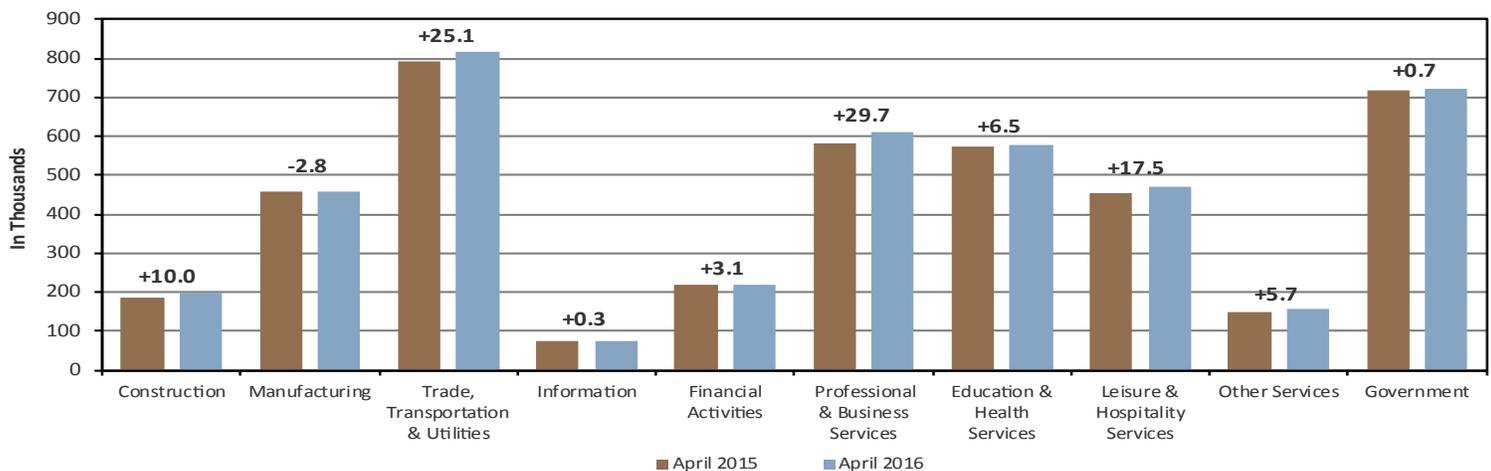


**US data are not smoothed.

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



Changes in Employment by NAICS Industries
April 2015 Compared to April 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 5.4 percent in April, decreasing 0.1 of a percentage point from the previous month and falling 0.4 of a percentage point from April 2015. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed fell by 1,357 (0.5%). The civilian labor force increased by 18,888 (0.4%) to 4,876,359.

Nationally, April's unemployment rate was 5.0 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 7,920,000, while the civilian labor force was 158,924,000.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment (4,311,500) increased 1,000 (<0.1%) since March 2016, and 95,600 (2.3%) since April 2015.¹ Private sector employment increased over the month by 3,100 (0.1%) and 94,900 (2.7%) over the year.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Professional & Business Services (4,100; 0.7%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs, followed by Information (1,300; 1.7%), Education & Health Services (300; 0.1%), Construction (200; 0.1%), and Other Services (100; 0.1%). Manufacturing (2,700; 0.6%) reported the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Government (2,100; 0.3%), Financial Activities (100; >-0.1%), and Leisure & Hospitality (100; >-0.1%). Mining & Logging and Trade, Transportation & Utilities remained unchanged.

Since April 2015, Professional & Business Services added the largest number of jobs (29,700; 5.1%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (25,100; 3.2%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (17,500; 3.8%), Construction (10,000; 5.4%), Education & Health Services (6,500; 1.1%), Other Services (5,700; 3.8%), Financial Activities (3,100; 1.4%), Government (700; 0.1%), and Information (300; 0.4%). Manufacturing (2,800; 0.6%) reported the largest over-the-year decrease, followed by Mining & Logging (200; 3.6%).

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 Labor Market Conditions

The April 2016 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 4,325,100 was 30,900 (0.7%) more than the March 2016 revised employment level of 4,294,200. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Leisure & Hospitality Services had the largest over-the-month increase in employment at 13,200 (2.9%), followed by Professional & Business Services (8,600; 1.4%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (2,900; 0.4%), Government (2,800; 0.4%), Construction (1,600; 0.8%), Financial Activities (1,500; 0.7%), Other Services (1,300; 0.8%), Information (600; 0.8%), and Education & Health Services (400; 0.1%). Manufacturing (2,000; 0.4%) reported the only over-the-month decrease, while Mining remained unchanged.

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 91,700 (2.6%) jobs. Professional & Business Services experienced the largest employment increase at 29,400; 5.0%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (25,600; 3.3%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (14,500; 3.2%), Education & Health Services (8,700; 1.5%), Other Services (6,100; 4.1%), Government (4,800; 0.7%), and Financial Activities (2,600; 1.2%). Manufacturing (2,800; 0.6%) reported the largest over-the-year decrease, followed by Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%). Information remained unchanged.

The Goods Producing sector grew by 5,700 (0.9%) jobs over the year. Construction had the largest employment increase with 8,600 (4.6%). Manufacturing (2,800; 0.6%) and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%) reported decreases.

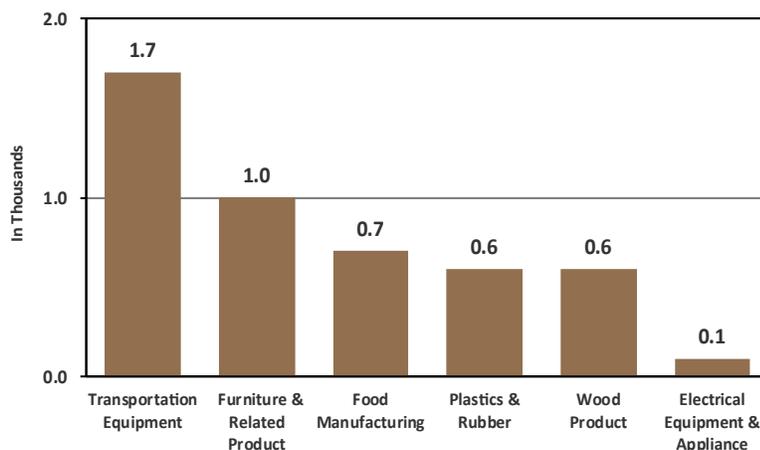
Amongst manufacturing industries, Transportation Equipment had the largest net over-the-year increase at 1,700. Other manufacturing industries with gains were: Furniture & Related Product, 1,000; Food, 700; Plastics & Rubber Products, 600; Wood Product, 600; and Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component, 100.

Chemical had the largest net over-the-year decrease at 800 in April 2016. Other industries with decreases were: Beverage & Tobacco Product, 700; Fabricated Metal, 700; Apparel, 500; Machinery, 300; Printing & Related Support, 300; Textile Product Mills, 300; Textile Mills, 200; and Computer & Electronic Product, 200.

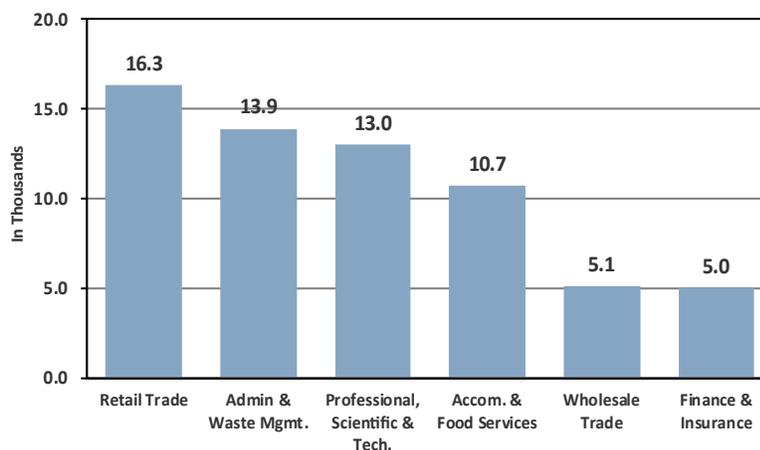
Over the month, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in April increased 12 minutes from March's revised rate of 34.1. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$0.08 to \$23.27, as Average Weekly Earnings rose by \$7.38 to \$798.16.

Over the year, Average Weekly Hours for total private workers in April decreased 6 minutes from 34.4 in April 2015. Average Hourly Earnings grew by \$1.23 and Average Weekly Earnings increased \$39.98.

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



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



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

