North Carolina County Labor Market Conditions

February 2021

Counties With Highest Unemployment Rates February 2021* (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Counties With Lowest Unemployment Rates February 2021* (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Metropolitan Statistical Areas' Unemployment Rates February 2021* (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



North Carolina's statewide unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 5.6 percent in February. This decreased 0.4 of a percentage point from January's revised rate, and grew 2.2 percentage points over the year.

Over the month, the unemployment rate decreased in 96 of North Carolina's 100 counties. Fifty-three counties had unemployment rates at or below the state's 5.6 percent rate.

Scotland County recorded February's highest unemployment rate at 10.9 percent, followed by Hyde at 10.3 percent. Orange had the lowest unemployment rate at 4.0 percent.

Unemployment rates decreased in all of the state's 15 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) over the month. The Fayetteville MSA had the highest unemployment rate in February at 7.8 percent, followed by Rocky Mount at 7.7 percent. The Durham/Chapel Hill and Raleigh MSAs reported the month's lowest unemployment rate at 4.7 percent each, followed by Asheville and Wilmington MSAs at 5.1 percent each.

*All February 2021 data are preliminary.

Asheville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | February 2021



UN Rate | 5.1% Total Nonfarm | 185,500 Monthly Change | 800, 0.4% Yearly Change | -12,300, -6.2%

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Industry	Char	ige
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-1.1%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-100	-0.3%
Information	100	6.3%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	400	2.2%
Education & Health Services	200	0.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	200	0.9%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	100	0.4%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

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Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-200	-2.1%
Manufacturing	-900	-4.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-200	-0.6%
Information	-300	-15.0%
Financial Activities	-200	-3.1%
Professional & Business Services	400	2.2%
Education & Health Services	-1,800	-4.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	-6,400	-21.8%
Other Services	-1,100	-10.9%
Government	-1,600	-5.9%

Burlington MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | February 2021



Over-the-Month Employment Change		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	100	1.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	0	0.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	700	12.1%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	100	1.4%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	200	3.2%

Over-the-Year Employment Change		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-3.1%
Manufacturing	-700	-7.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	600	4.6%
Information	-100	-25.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	800	14.0%
Education & Health Services	-300	-2.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	-1,000	-12.5%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-800	-11 1%

Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | February 2021



UN Rate | 5.5% Total Nonfarm | 1,199,500 Ionthly Change | 4,800, 0.4% Yearly Change | -52,100, -4.2%

Industry Change Mining, Logging & Construction 1,800 2.7% Manufacturing 900 0.9% -2,000 -0.8% Trade, Transportation & Utilities 300 1.3% Information **Financial Activities** 200 0.2% Professional & Business Services 1,300 0.6% **Education & Health Services** 700 0.6% Leisure & Hospitality -600 -0.5% Other Services 100 0.2%

2,100

1.4%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Over-the-Year Employment Change		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-700	-1.0%
Manufacturing	-5,500	-5.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	500	0.2%
Information	-1,000	-4.1%
Financial Activities	2,200	2.0%
Professional & Business Services	-2,700	-1.3%
Education & Health Services	-7,300	-5.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	-28,700	-20.4%
Other Services	-3,800	-8.2%
Government	-5,100	-3.2%

Durham/Chapel Hill MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | February 2021

Government

R		
	UN Rate 4.7%	
	Total Nonfarm 318,800	
	Monthly Change 3,100, 1.0%	
	Yearly Change -14,100, -4.2%	

Over-the-Month Employment Change		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	500	1.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	0	0.0%
Information	100	1.8%
Financial Activities	100	0.6%
Professional & Business Services	400	0.8%
Education & Health Services	700	1.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	600	3.1%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	700	1.1%

Over-the-Year Employment Change		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	200	2.2%
Manufacturing	100	0.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-200	-0.5%
Information	200	3.6%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	2,400	5.1%
Education & Health Services	-2,300	-3.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	-8,500	-29.7%
Other Services	-1,400	-11.5%
Government	-4,600	-6.7%

Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All February 2021 data are preliminary.

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Fayetteville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | February 2021



UN Rate | 7.8% Total Nonfarm | 125,900 Monthly Change | 1,700, 1.4% Yearly Change | -6,600, -5.0%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Over-the-wonth Employment Change		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	2.1%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	0	0.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	100	0.9%
Education & Health Services	200	1.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	400	2.8%
Other Services	100	2.3%
Government	800	2.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-500	-9.4%
Manufacturing	-600	-7.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	0.9%
Information	-200	-18.2%
Financial Activities	-200	-5.1%
Professional & Business Services	-1,200	-9.6%
Education & Health Services	-1,000	-6.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	-1,700	-10.4%
Other Services	-300	-6.4%
Government	-1,100	-2.7%

Goldsboro MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | February 2021



Total Nonfarm | 39,100 Monthly Change | 100, 0.3% Yearly Change | -2,400, -5.8%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Chan	ige
Mining, Logging & Construction	*	
Manufacturing	*	
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	*	
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	*	
Education & Health Services	*	
Leisure & Hospitality	*	
Other Services	*	
Government	-100	-1.2%

Over-the-Year Employment Change			
Industry	Char	ige	
Mining, Logging & Construction	*		
Manufacturing			
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	*		
Information			
Financial Activities	*		
Professional & Business Services			
Education & Health Services	*		
Leisure & Hospitality			
Other Services	*		
Government	-700	-7.6%	

Greensboro/High Point MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | February 2021



UN Rate | 6.4% Total Nonfarm | 343,200 Monthly Change | 100, 0.0% Yearly Change | -21,600, -5.9%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	300	1.9%
Manufacturing	-200	-0.4%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-700	-0.9%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	100	0.6%
Professional & Business Services	400	0.9%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	0	0.0%
Other Services	-100	-0.9%
Government	300	0.7%

Over-the-Year Employment Change Industry Change 0.6% Mining, Logging & Construction 100 Manufacturing -2,900 -5.5% -1.0% Trade, Transportation & Utilities -800 Information -300 -6.5% **Financial Activities** -900 -4.8% Professional & Business Services -2,700 -5.7% **Education & Health Services** -2,600 -5.0% Leisure & Hospitality -6,900 -18.8% Other Services -1,300 -10.3%

-3,300

-7.3%

Government

Greenville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | February 2021

R		
	UN Rate 5.6%	
	Total Nonfarm 80,000	
	Monthly Change 0, 0.0%	
	Yearly Change -2,200, -2.7%	

Over-the-Month Employment Change			
Industry	Change		
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-3.2%	
Manufacturing	-100	-1.5%	
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-300	-2.5%	
Information	0	0.0%	
Financial Activities	100	4.2%	
Professional & Business Services	-100	-1.3%	
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%	
Leisure & Hospitality	100	1.3%	
Other Services	0	0.0%	
Government	400	1.4%	

Over-the-Year Employment Change		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-400	-11.8%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-100	-0.9%
Information	-100	-16.7%
Financial Activities	100	4.2%
Professional & Business Services	700	10.4%
Education & Health Services	-200	-2.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	-1,700	-17.5%
Other Services	-100	-4.3%
Government	-400	-1.4%

*Data unavailable due to sample cell size. Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All February 2021 data are preliminary.

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Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | February 2021



Over-the-Month Employment Change

Over-the-worth Employment Change			
Industry	Change		
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%	
Manufacturing	400	1.0%	
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-200	-0.6%	
Information	0	0.0%	
Financial Activities	0	0.0%	
Professional & Business Services	-100	-0.7%	
Education & Health Services	100	0.5%	
Leisure & Hospitality	200	1.6%	
Other Services	0	0.0%	
Government	100	0.5%	

Over-the-Year Employment Change

over-the-real Employment onlarge		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	200	4.3%
Manufacturing	-1,800	-4.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,000	3.3%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-100	-3.1%
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	-1,600	-8.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	-1,000	-7.1%
Other Services	-300	-6.4%
Government	-1,100	-4.8%

Jacksonville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | February 2021



Over-the-Month Employment Change

	J -	
Industry	Chan	ge
Mining, Logging & Construction	*	
Manufacturing	*	
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	*	
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	*	
Education & Health Services	*	
Leisure & Hospitality	*	
Other Services	*	
Government	200	1.4%

Over-the-Year Employment Change			
Industry	Char	nge	
Mining, Logging & Construction	*		
Manufacturing			
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	*		
Information	*		
Financial Activities	*		
Professional & Business Services	*		
Education & Health Services	*		
Leisure & Hospitality	*		
Other Services	*		
Government	-400	-2.7%	

New Bern MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | February 2021



Monthly Change | 200, 0.5%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	*
Manufacturing	*
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	*
Information	*
Financial Activities	*
Professional & Business Services	*
Education & Health Services	*
Leisure & Hospitality	*
Other Services	*
Government	100 0.7%

Over-the-Year Employment Change		
Industry	Char	ige
Mining, Logging & Construction	*	
Manufacturing		
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	*	
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	*	
Education & Health Services	*	
Leisure & Hospitality	*	
Other Services	*	
Government	-300	-2.1%

Raleigh MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | February 2021

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	UN Rate 4.7%	
	Total Nonfarm 634,700	
	Monthly Change 3,300, 0.5%	
	Yearly Change -21,000, -3.2%	

Over-the-Month Employment Change			
Industry	Change		
Mining, Logging & Construction	200	0.5%	
Manufacturing	100	0.3%	
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300	0.3%	
Information	200	0.9%	
Financial Activities	-200	-0.6%	
Professional & Business Services	700	0.5%	
Education & Health Services	700	0.9%	
Leisure & Hospitality	500	0.9%	
Other Services	-200	-0.8%	
Government	1,000	1.1%	

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Cha	nge	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-300	-0.7%	
Manufacturing	-1,500	-4.8%	
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,500	4.8%	
Information	-100	-0.4%	
Financial Activities	-1,600	-4.7%	
Professional & Business Services	5,600	4.5%	
Education & Health Services	-4,800	-5.7%	
Leisure & Hospitality	-15,600	-21.5%	
Other Services	-2,000	-7.3%	
Government	-6,200	-6.1%	

*Data unavailable due to sample cell size. Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All February 2021 data are preliminary.

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Rocky Mount MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | February 2021



UN Rate | 7.7% Total Nonfarm | 54,000 Monthly Change | 300, 0.6% Yearly Change | -2,000, -3.6%

Over-the-Month Employment Change			
Industry	Change		
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%	
Manufacturing	0	0.0%	
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-100	-0.9%	
Information			
Financial Activities	*		
Professional & Business Services	100	2.1%	
Education & Health Services	100	1.7%	
Leisure & Hospitality	0	0.0%	
Other Services	*		
Government	-300	-3.0%	

Over-the-Year Employment Change

over the real Employment onange		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	-800	-7.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	0	0.0%
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	-500	-7.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	-800	-14.8%
Other Services	*	
Government	-900	-8.5%

Wilmington MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | February 2021



Over-the-Month Employment Change			
Industry	Change		
Mining, Logging & Construction	300	3.3%	
Manufacturing	100	2.0%	
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	0	0.0%	
Information	100	3.2%	
Financial Activities	0	0.0%	
Professional & Business Services	100	0.6%	
Education & Health Services	100	0.6%	
Leisure & Hospitality	300	1.8%	
Other Services	0	0.0%	
Government	300	1.3%	

Over-the-Year Employment Change			
Industry	Change		
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-1.0%	
Manufacturing	-600	-10.3%	
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-400	-1.6%	
Information	-100	-3.0%	
Financial Activities	-100	-1.6%	
Professional & Business Services	500	3.0%	
Education & Health Services	-400	-2.5%	
Leisure & Hospitality	-2,700	-13.8%	
Other Services	-600	-12.0%	
Government	-1,000	-4.0%	

Winston-Salem MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | February 2021

	Over-the-Month Employment Cha	nge		Over-the
	Industry	Chan	ige	Industry
	Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%	Mining, Lo
	Manufacturing	300	0.9%	Manufact
	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	100	0.2%	Trade, Tra
	Information	0	0.0%	Informatio
<u> </u>	Financial Activities	100	0.8%	Financial
UN Rate 5.5%	Professional & Business Services	1,000	3.0%	Professio
Total Nonfarm 260,300 Monthly Change 1,600, 0.6% Yearly Change -12,800, -4.7%	Education & Health Services	0	0.0%	Educatior
	Leisure & Hospitality	-200	-0.8%	Leisure &
	Other Services	0	0.0%	Other Ser
	Government	300	1.0%	Governm

Over-the-Year Employment Change		
Industry	Cha	nge
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	0.9%
Manufacturing	-200	-0.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,400	2.9%
Information	-100	-5.9%
Financial Activities	-1,300	-9.2%
Professional & Business Services	-1,100	-3.1%
Education & Health Services	-2,700	-4.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	-5,800	-19.8%
Other Services	-900	-9.9%
Government	-2 200	-6.9%

*Data unavailable due to sample cell size. Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All February 2021 data are preliminary.

Over the month, 14 of North Carolina's 15 MSAs experienced net job increase. Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC had the largest net employment increase with 4,800, followed by Raleigh, 3,300; Durham/Chapel Hill, 3,100; Fayetteville, 1,700; Winston-Salem, 1,600; Wilmington, 1,300; Burlington, 1,100; Jacksonville, 1,000; Asheville, 800; Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton, 500; Rocky Mount, 300; New Bern, 200; Goldsboro, 100; and Greensboro-High Point, 100. Jacksonville had the greatest percentage increase at 2.1%, followed by Burlington, 1.8%, and Fayetteville, 1.4%. It is important to note that employment estimates are subject to large seasonal patterns; therefore, it is advisable to focus on over-the-year changes in the not seasonally adjusted series.

Over the year, employment decreased in all 15 MSAs. Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC had the largest net employment decrease at 52,100, followed by Greensboro/High Point, 21,600; Raleigh, 21,000; Durham/Chapel Hill, 14,100; Winston-Salem, 12,800; and Asheville, 12,300. Asheville had the greatest percentage decrease at 6.2%, followed by Greensboro/High Point, 5.9%; Goldsboro, 5.8%; and Fayetteville, 5.0%.

North Carolina Unemployment Rates by County February 2021



Feb	ruary	202
	2.0 - 3.	9

4.0 - 5.9

6.0 - 7.9

8.0 - 9.9

10.0 - 14.9

15.0 - 24.9

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- Counties Higher Than Previous Month 3
- 96 **Counties Lower Than Previous Month**
- **Counties Same as Previous Month** 1

North Carolina Rate 5.6% Not Seasonally Adjusted

Note: February 2021 data are preliminary. Prepared by the Labor & Economic Analysis, North Carolina Department of Commerce 3 2021