North Carolina's December County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH —Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 45 of North Carolina's counties in December, increased in 25, and remained unchanged in 30. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 9.7 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 2.5 percent. Ten of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases, one increased, and four remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Fayetteville had the highest rate at 4.4 percent and Asheville had the lowest rate at 2.7 percent. The December not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.3 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
December	92	8	0
November (Revised)	91	9	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 95 counties, increased in three, and remained unchanged in two. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in December by 27,197 to 4,909,376, while those unemployed decreased by 4,392 to 169,153. Since December 2018, the number of workers employed statewide increased 128,272, while those unemployed decreased 16,003.

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 estimates.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2020 when the state unemployment rate for January 2020 will be released.

These data can be accessed on the Commerce website at https://d4.nccommerce.com/

NORTH CAROLINA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Statewide and County Data for
December 2019

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,078,529	169,153	3.3				
ALAMANCE	81,883	2,598	3.2	JOHNSTON	98,922	3,090	3.1
ALEXANDER	18,150	509	2.8	JONES	4,461	151	3.4
ALLEGHANY	4,378	198	4.5	LEE	26,180	983	3.8
ANSON	10,563	426	4.0	LENOIR	28,419	954	3.4
ASHE	12,965	398	3.1	LINCOLN	44,089	1,372	3.1
AVERY	7,089	244	3.4	MCDOWELL	20,553	715	3.5
BEAUFORT	19,669	767	3.9	MACON	15,639	510	3.3
BERTIE	7,830	327	4.2	MADISON	10,540	312	3.0
BLADEN	14,896	626	4.2	MARTIN	9,023	395	4.4
BRUNSWICK	53,741	2,477	4.6	MECKLENBURG	628,986	19,432	3.1
BUNCOMBE	145,028	3,672	2.5	MITCHELL	5,838	244	4.2
BURKE	40,869	1,336	3.3	MONTGOMERY	11,616	408	3.5
CABARRUS	109,801	3,373	3.1	MOORE	42,461	1,392	3.3
CALDWELL	36,800	1,263	3.4	NASH	43,482	1,762	4.1
CAMDEN	4,631	161	3.5	NEW HANOVER	125,358	3,708	3.0
CARTERET	31,381	1,104	3.5	NORTHAMPTON	7,879	379	4.8
CASWELL	9,942	387	3.9	ONSLOW	64,600	2,583	4.0
CATAWBA	79,112	2,486	3.1	ORANGE	78,755	2,149	2.7
CHATHAM	35,270	1,037	2.9	PAMLICO	5,395	171	3.2
CHEROKEE	11,067	426	3.8	PASQUOTANK	16,830	678	4.0
CHOWAN	5,666	216	3.8	PENDER	29,373	993	3.4
CLAY	4,105	167	4.1	PERQUIMANS	5,055	224	4.4
CLEVELAND	49,034	1,803	3.7	PERSON	18,489	665	3.6
COLUMBUS	22,540	1,031	4.6	PITT	90,845	3,258	3.6
CRAVEN	41,860	1,447	3.5	POLK	9,141	297	3.2
CUMBERLAND	129,243	5,745	4.4	RANDOLPH	67,356	2,183	3.2
CURRITUCK	13,686	445	3.3	RICHMOND	16,690	801	4.8
DARE	17,798	811	4.6	ROBESON	50,943	2,399	4.7
DAVIDSON	81,880	2,682	3.3	ROCKINGHAM	40,929	1,575	3.8
DAVIE	20,926	624	3.0	ROWAN	68,057	2,555	3.8
DUPLIN	25,826	922	3.6	RUTHERFORD	25,292	1,127	4.5
DURHAM	169,232	4,917	2.9	SAMPSON	30,179	982	3.3
EDGECOMBE	21,646	1,049	4.8	SCOTLAND	11,688	679	5.8
FORSYTH	189,554	6,073	3.2	STANLY	32,797	1,021	3.1
FRANKLIN	31,446	1,062	3.4	STOKES	22,275	710	3.2
GASTON	112,955	3,937	3.5	SURRY	34,287	1,131	3.3
GATES	5,336	190	3.6	SWAIN	6,350	231	3.6
GRAHAM	3,084	171	5.5	TRANSYLVANIA	14,621	476	3.3
GRANVILLE	30,033	871	2.9	TYRRELL	1,341	75	5.6
GREENE	9,661	301	3.1	UNION	125,003	3,594	2.9
GUILFORD	262,869	9,108	3.5	VANCE	17,605	899	5.1
HALIFAX	20,736	1,088	5.2	WAKE	599,949	16,970	2.8
HARNETT	53,612	2,043	3.8	WARREN	6,665	350	5.3
HAYWOOD	30,661	892	2.9	WASHINGTON	4,385	239	5.5
HENDERSON	56,755	1,591	2.8	WATAUGA	29,585	810	2.7
HERTFORD	9,213	390	4.2	WAYNE	52,970	1,863	3.5
HOKE	20,183	888	4.4	WILKES	29,310	1,058	3.6
HYDE	1,977	192	9.7	WILSON	34,670	1,733	5.0
IREDELL	90,755	2,890	3.2	YADKIN	18,241	559	3.1
JACKSON	19,493	655	3.4	YANCEY	8,583	288	3.4

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.

North Carolina Department of Commerce
Labor & Economic Analysis Division
Local Area Unemployment Statistics
(919) 707-1500

NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

County	December 2019	November 2019	December 2018	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	December 2019	November 2019	December 2018	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.3	3.4	3.7	-0.1	-0.4						
ALAMANCE	3.2	3.2	3.5	0.0	-0.3	JOHNSTON	3.1	3.2	3.5	-0.1	-0.4
ALEXANDER	2.8	2.8	3.2	0.0	-0.4	JONES	3.4	3.2	4.2	0.2	-0.8
ALLEGHANY	4.5	4.1	4.5	0.4	0.0	LEE	3.8	3.9	4.1	-0.1	-0.3
ANSON	4.0	4.1	4.3	-0.1	-0.3	LENOIR	3.4	3.6	3.7	-0.2	-0.3
ASHE	3.1	2.9	3.5	0.2	-0.4	LINCOLN	3.1	3.2	3.3	-0.1	-0.2
AVERY	3.4	3.2	3.6	0.2	-0.2	MCDOWELL	3.5	3.5	3.6	0.0	-0.1
BEAUFORT	3.9	4.1	4.6	-0.2	-0.7	MACON	3.3	3.2	3.8	0.1	-0.5
BERTIE	4.2	4.3	4.6	-0.1	-0.4	MADISON	3.0	3.0	3.4	0.0	-0.4
BLADEN	4.2	4.3	5.0	-0.1	-0.8	MARTIN	4.4	4.4	4.8	0.0	-0.4
BRUNSWICK	4.6	4.4	5.2	0.2	-0.6	MECKLENBURG	3.1	3.2	3.4	-0.1	-0.3
BUNCOMBE	2.5	2.5	2.9	0.0	-0.4	MITCHELL	4.2	4.0	4.4	0.2	-0.2
BURKE	3.3	3.3	3.5	0.0	-0.2	MONTGOMERY	3.5	3.5	3.8	0.0	-0.3
CABARRUS	3.1	3.2	3.4	-0.1	-0.3	MOORE	3.3	3.3	3.7	0.0	-0.4
CALDWELL	3.4	3.5	4.0	-0.1	-0.6	NASH	4.1	4.2	4.4	-0.1	-0.3
CAMDEN	3.5	3.6	3.7	-0.1	-0.2	NEW HANOVER	3.0	3.0	3.7	0.0	-0.7
CARTERET	3.5	3.4	4.8	0.1	-1.3	NORTHAMPTON	4.8	4.8	4.7	0.0	0.1
CASWELL	3.9	4.1	4.0	-0.2	-0.1	ONSLOW	4.0	4.0	4.7	0.0	-0.7
CATAWBA	3.1	3.2	3.4	-0.1	-0.3	ORANGE	2.7	2.7	3.1	0.0	-0.4
CHATHAM	2.9	2.9	3.2	0.0	-0.3	PAMLICO	3.2	3.2	3.8	0.0	-0.6
CHEROKEE	3.8	3.9	4.4	-0.1	-0.6	PASQUOTANK	4.0	4.1	4.6	-0.1	-0.6
CHOWAN	3.8	4.0	4.3	-0.2	-0.5	PENDER	3.4	3.4	4.1	0.0	-0.7
CLAY	4.1	3.7	4.5	0.4	-0.4	PERQUIMANS	4.4	4.4	4.8	0.0	-0.4
CLEVELAND	3.7	3.8	3.7	-0.1	0.0	PERSON	3.6	3.6	3.9	0.0	-0.3
COLUMBUS	4.6	4.5	5.1	0.1	-0.5	PITT	3.6	3.7	3.9	-0.1	-0.3
CRAVEN	3.5	3.6	4.2	-0.1	-0.7	POLK	3.2	3.2	3.7	0.0	-0.5
CUMBERLAND	4.4	4.6	5.0	-0.2	-0.6	RANDOLPH	3.2	3.3	3.6	-0.1	-0.4
CURRITUCK	3.3	3.1	3.5	0.2	-0.2	RICHMOND	4.8	4.9	5.2	-0.1	-0.4
DARE	4.6	3.7	5.5	0.9	-0.9	ROBESON	4.7	4.9	5.5	-0.2	-0.8
DAVIDSON	3.3	3.3	3.5	0.0	-0.2	ROCKINGHAM	3.8	4.0	4.3	-0.2	-0.5
DAVIE	3.0	3.0	3.2	0.0	-0.2	ROWAN	3.8	3.8	3.7	0.0	0.1
DUPLIN	3.6	3.6	4.2	0.0	-0.6	RUTHERFORD	4.5	4.3	4.8	0.2	-0.3
DURHAM	2.9	3.0	3.3	-0.1	-0.4	SAMPSON	3.3	3.3	3.7	0.0	-0.4
EDGECOMBE	4.8	5.2	5.6	-0.4	-0.8	SCOTLAND	5.8	6.1	6.8	-0.3	-1.0
FORSYTH	3.2	3.3	3.6	-0.1	-0.4	STANLY	3.1	3.1	3.5	0.0	-0.4
FRANKLIN	3.4	3.4	3.9	0.0	-0.5	STOKES	3.2	3.2	3.5	0.0	-0.3
GASTON	3.5	3.6	3.6	-0.1	-0.1	SURRY	3.3	3.3	3.5	0.0	-0.2
GATES	3.6	3.6	3.9	0.0	-0.3	SWAIN	3.6	3.5	4.0	0.1	-0.4
GRAHAM	5.5	4.8	5.7	0.7	-0.2	TRANSYLVANIA	3.3	3.1	3.8	0.2	-0.5
GRANVILLE	2.9	3.0	3.3	-0.1	-0.4	TYRRELL	5.6	5.5	7.1	0.1	-1.5
GREENE	3.1	3.4	3.6	-0.3	-0.5	UNION	2.9	3.0	3.3	-0.1	-0.4
GUILFORD	3.5	3.6	3.9	-0.1	-0.4	VANCE	5.1	5.3	5.3	-0.2	-0.2
HALIFAX	5.2	5.5	5.5	-0.3	-0.3	WAKE	2.8	2.9	3.2	-0.1	-0.4
HARNETT	3.8	3.9	4.5	-0.1	-0.7	WARREN	5.3	5.2	5.5	0.1	-0.2
HAYWOOD	2.9	2.8	3.3	0.1	-0.4	WASHINGTON	5.5	5.2	5.9	0.3	-0.4
HENDERSON	2.8	2.7	3.2	0.1	-0.4	WATAUGA	2.7	2.7	3.3	0.0	-0.6
HERTFORD	4.2	4.4	4.7	-0.2	-0.5	WAYNE	3.5	3.6	4.1	-0.1	-0.6
HOKE	4.4	4.5	4.9	-0.1	-0.5	WILKES	3.6	3.5	3.7	0.1	-0.1
HYDE	9.7	9.8	9.1	-0.1	0.6	WILSON	5.0	5.2	5.3	-0.2	-0.3
IREDELL	3.2	3.3	3.4	-0.1	-0.2	YADKIN	3.1	3.0	3.3	0.1	-0.2
JACKSON	3.4	3.3	4.0	0.1	-0.6	YANCEY	3.4	3.2	3.6	0.2	-0.2

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.

METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Data for
December 2019

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	242,984	6,467	2.7
BURLINGTON	81,883	2,598	3.2
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,373,676	42,004	3.1
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	301,746	8,768	2.9
FAYETTEVILLE	149,426	6,633	4.4
GOLDSBORO	52,970	1,863	3.5
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	371,154	12,866	3.5
GREENVILLE	90,845	3,258	3.6
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	174,931	5,594	3.2
JACKSONVILLE	64,600	2,583	4.0
NEW BERN	51,716	1,769	3.4
RALEIGH	730,317	21,122	2.9
ROCKY MOUNT	65,128	2,811	4.3
WILMINGTON	154,731	4,701	3.0
WINSTON-SALEM	332,876	10,648	3.2

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	32,797	1,021	3.1
BOONE	29,585	810	2.7
BREVARD	14,621	476	3.3
CULLOWHEE	19,493	655	3.4
DUNN	53,612	2,043	3.8
ELIZABETH CITY	26,516	1,063	4.0
FOREST CITY	25,292	1,127	4.5
HENDERSON	17,605	899	5.1
KILL DEVIL HILLS	19,139	886	4.6
KINSTON	28,419	954	3.4
LAURINBURG	11,688	679	5.8
LUMBERTON	50,943	2,399	4.7
MARION	20,553	715	3.5
MOREHEAD CITY	31,381	1,104	3.5
MOUNT AIRY	34,287	1,131	3.3
NORTH WILKESBORO	29,310	1,058	3.6
OXFORD	30,033	871	2.9
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	42,461	1,392	3.3
ROANOKE RAPIDS	28,615	1,467	5.1
ROCKINGHAM	16,690	801	4.8
SANFORD	26,180	983	3.8
SHELBY	49,034	1,803	3.7
WASHINGTON	19,669	767	3.9
WILSON	34,670	1,733	5.0

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Data for
December 2019

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	257,605	6,943	2.7
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,455,507	44,828	3.1
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	212,057	9,711	4.6
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	820,200	27,243	3.3
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	110,514	4,025	3.6
HICKORY-LENOIR	195,484	6,309	3.2
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	83,097	2,873	3.5
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	1,159,493	34,686	3.0
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	128,413	6,011	4.7

Not Seasonally Adjusted
Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.

North Carolina Department of Commerce

Labor & Economic Analysis Division

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

(919) 707-1500

METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS
MULTICOUNTY SMALL LABOR MARKET AREA
MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

Metropolitan Statistical Area	December 2019	November 2019	December 2018	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	2.7	2.6	3.0	0.1	-0.3
BURLINGTON	3.2	3.2	3.5	0.0	-0.3
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.1	3.1	3.4	0.0	-0.3
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	2.9	3.0	3.3	-0.1	-0.4
FAYETTEVILLE	4.4	4.6	5.0	-0.2	-0.6
GOLDSBORO	3.5	3.6	4.1	-0.1	-0.6
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	3.5	3.6	3.9	-0.1	-0.4
GREENVILLE	3.6	3.7	3.9	-0.1	-0.3
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.2	3.3	3.5	-0.1	-0.3
JACKSONVILLE	4.0	4.0	4.7	0.0	-0.7
NEW BERN	3.4	3.5	4.2	-0.1	-0.8
RALEIGH	2.9	3.0	3.3	-0.1	-0.4
ROCKY MOUNT	4.3	4.5	4.8	-0.2	-0.5
WILMINGTON	3.0	3.1	3.7	-0.1	-0.7
WINSTON-SALEM	3.2	3.2	3.5	0.0	-0.3

Micropolitan Statistical Area	December 2019	November 2019	December 2018	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	3.1	3.1	3.5	0.0	-0.4
BOONE	2.7	2.7	3.3	0.0	-0.6
BREVARD	3.3	3.1	3.8	0.2	-0.5
CULLOWHEE	3.4	3.3	4.0	0.1	-0.6
DUNN	3.8	3.9	4.5	-0.1	-0.7
ELIZABETH CITY	4.0	4.1	4.5	-0.1	-0.5
FOREST CITY	4.5	4.3	4.8	0.2	-0.3
HENDERSON	5.1	5.3	5.3	-0.2	-0.2
KILL DEVIL HILLS	4.6	3.9	5.6	0.7	-1.0
KINSTON	3.4	3.6	3.7	-0.2	-0.3
LAURINBURG	5.8	6.1	6.8	-0.3	-1.0
LUMBERTON	4.7	4.9	5.5	-0.2	-0.8
MARION	3.5	3.5	3.6	0.0	-0.1
MOREHEAD CITY	3.5	3.4	4.8	0.1	-1.3
MOUNT AIRY	3.3	3.3	3.5	0.0	-0.2
NORTH WILKESBORO	3.6	3.5	3.7	0.1	-0.1
OXFORD	2.9	3.0	3.3	-0.1	-0.4
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.3	3.3	3.7	0.0	-0.4
ROANOKE RAPIDS	5.1	5.3	5.3	-0.2	-0.2
ROCKINGHAM	4.8	4.9	5.2	-0.1	-0.4
SANFORD	3.8	3.9	4.1	-0.1	-0.3
SHELBY	3.7	3.8	3.7	-0.1	0.0
WASHINGTON	3.9	4.1	4.6	-0.2	-0.7
WILSON	5.0	5.2	5.3	-0.2	-0.3

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

Combined Statistical Area	December 2019	November 2019	December 2018	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	2.7	2.7	3.1	0.0	-0.4
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.1	3.2	3.4	-0.1	-0.3
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	4.6	4.7	5.2	-0.1	-0.6
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	3.3	3.4	3.7	-0.1	-0.4
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	3.6	3.8	4.0	-0.2	-0.4
HICKORY-LENOIR	3.2	3.3	3.6	-0.1	-0.4
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.5	3.5	4.4	0.0	-0.9
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.0	3.1	3.4	-0.1	-0.4
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.7	4.9	5.0	-0.2	-0.3

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.

NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY RANKINGS
Preliminary Data for December 2019

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
BUNCOMBE	145,028	3,672	2.5%	1	GASTON	112,955	3,937	3.5%	51
ORANGE	78,755	2,149	2.7%	2	MONTGOMERY	11,616	408	3.5%	52
WATAUGA	29,585	810	2.7%	3	WAYNE	52,970	1,863	3.5%	53
HENDERSON	56,755	1,591	2.8%	4	CARTERET	31,381	1,104	3.5%	54
ALEXANDER	18,150	509	2.8%	5	GATES	5,336	190	3.6%	55
WAKE	599,949	16,970	2.8%	6	DUPLIN	25,826	922	3.6%	56
UNION	125,003	3,594	2.9%	7	PITT	90,845	3,258	3.6%	57
GRANVILLE	30,033	871	2.9%	8	PERSON	18,489	665	3.6%	58
DURHAM	169,232	4,917	2.9%	9	WILKES	29,310	1,058	3.6%	59
HAYWOOD	30,661	892	2.9%	10	SWAIN	6,350	231	3.6%	60
CHATHAM	35,270	1,037	2.9%	11	CLEVELAND	49,034	1,803	3.7%	61
NEW HANOVER	125,358	3,708	3.0%	12	ROWAN	68,057	2,555	3.8%	62
MADISON	10,540	312	3.0%	13	LEE	26,180	983	3.8%	63
DAVIE	20,926	624	3.0%	14	HARNETT	53,612	2,043	3.8%	64
YADKIN	18,241	559	3.1%	15	CHOWAN	5,666	216	3.8%	65
ASHE	12,965	398	3.1%	16	ROCKINGHAM	40,929	1,575	3.8%	66
CABARRUS	109,801	3,373	3.1%	17	CHEROKEE	11,067	426	3.8%	67
MECKLENBURG	628,986	19,432	3.1%	18	CASWELL	9,942	387	3.9%	68
LINCOLN	44,089	1,372	3.1%	19	BEAUFORT	19,669	767	3.9%	69
STANLY	32,797	1,021	3.1%	20	ONSLOW	64,600	2,583	4.0%	70
GREENE	9,661	301	3.1%	21	PASQUOTANK	16,830	678	4.0%	71
JOHNSTON	98,922	3,090	3.1%	22	ANSON	10,563	426	4.0%	72
CATAWBA	79,112	2,486	3.1%	23	NASH	43,482	1,762	4.1%	73
PAMLICO	5,395	171	3.2%	24	CLAY	4,105	167	4.1%	74
ALAMANCE	81,883	2,598	3.2%	25	BERTIE	7,830	327	4.2%	75
IREDELL	90,755	2,890	3.2%	26	MITCHELL	5,838	244	4.2%	76
STOKES	22,275	710	3.2%	27	BLADEN	14,896	626	4.2%	77
FORSYTH	189,554	6,073	3.2%	28	HERTFORD	9,213	390	4.2%	78
RANDOLPH	67,356	2,183	3.2%	29	MARTIN	9,023	395	4.4%	79
POLK	9,141	297	3.2%	30	HOKE	20,183	888	4.4%	80
CURRITUCK	13,686	445	3.3%	31	PERQUIMANS	5,055	224	4.4%	81
SAMPSON	30,179	982	3.3%	32	CUMBERLAND	129,243	5,745	4.4%	82
TRANSYLVANIA	14,621	476	3.3%	33	RUTHERFORD	25,292	1,127	4.5%	83
MACON	15,639	510	3.3%	34	ALLEGHANY	4,378	198	4.5%	84
BURKE	40,869	1,336	3.3%	35	DARE	17,798	811	4.6%	85
DAVIDSON	81,880	2,682	3.3%	36	COLUMBUS	22,540	1,031	4.6%	86
MOORE	42,461	1,392	3.3%	37	BRUNSWICK	53,741	2,477	4.6%	87
SURRY	34,287	1,131	3.3%	38	ROBESON	50,943	2,399	4.7%	88
YANCEY	8,583	288	3.4%	39	RICHMOND	16,690	801	4.8%	89
LENOIR	28,419	954	3.4%	40	NORTHAMPTON	7,879	379	4.8%	90
JACKSON	19,493	655	3.4%	41	EDGECOMBE	21,646	1,049	4.8%	91
FRANKLIN	31,446	1,062	3.4%	42	WILSON	34,670	1,733	5.0%	92
PENDER	29,373	993	3.4%	43	VANCE	17,605	899	5.1%	93
JONES	4,461	151	3.4%	44	HALIFAX	20,736	1,088	5.2%	94
CALDWELL	36,800	1,263	3.4%	45	WARREN	6,665	350	5.3%	95
AVERY	7,089	244	3.4%	46	WASHINGTON	4,385	239	5.5%	96
CRAVEN	41,860	1,447	3.5%	47	GRAHAM	3,084	171	5.5%	97
GUILFORD	262,869	9,108	3.5%	48	TYRRELL	1,341	75	5.6%	98
CAMDEN	4,631	161	3.5%	49	SCOTLAND	11,688	679	5.8%	99
MCDOWELL	20,553	715	3.5%	50	HYDE	1,977	192	9.7%	100

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.

Accessing Data

The data presented in this press release, as well as historical data, can be accessed from NC Commerce's Demand Driven Data Delivery ("D4") system: https://d4.nccommerce.com/LausSelection.aspx

Technical Notes

This release presents labor force and unemployment estimates from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. The LAUS program is a federal-state cooperative endeavor.

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, Current Employment Statistics (CES), and state unemployment insurance (UI) programs. Substate estimates are produced using the "LAUS Handbook Method", which is also based on data from several sources. 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.

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 April 10, 2018. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available online at www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm.

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 statewide estimates are available online at www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm.

Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2020 when the state unemployment rate for January 2020 will be released.
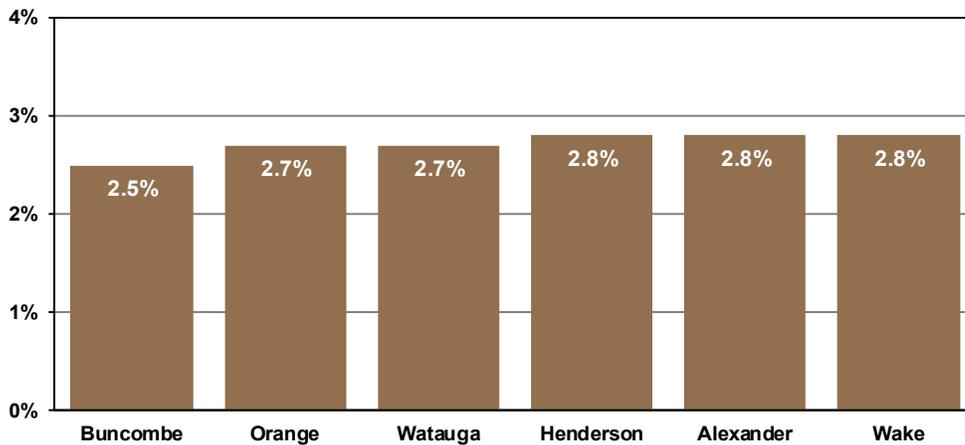
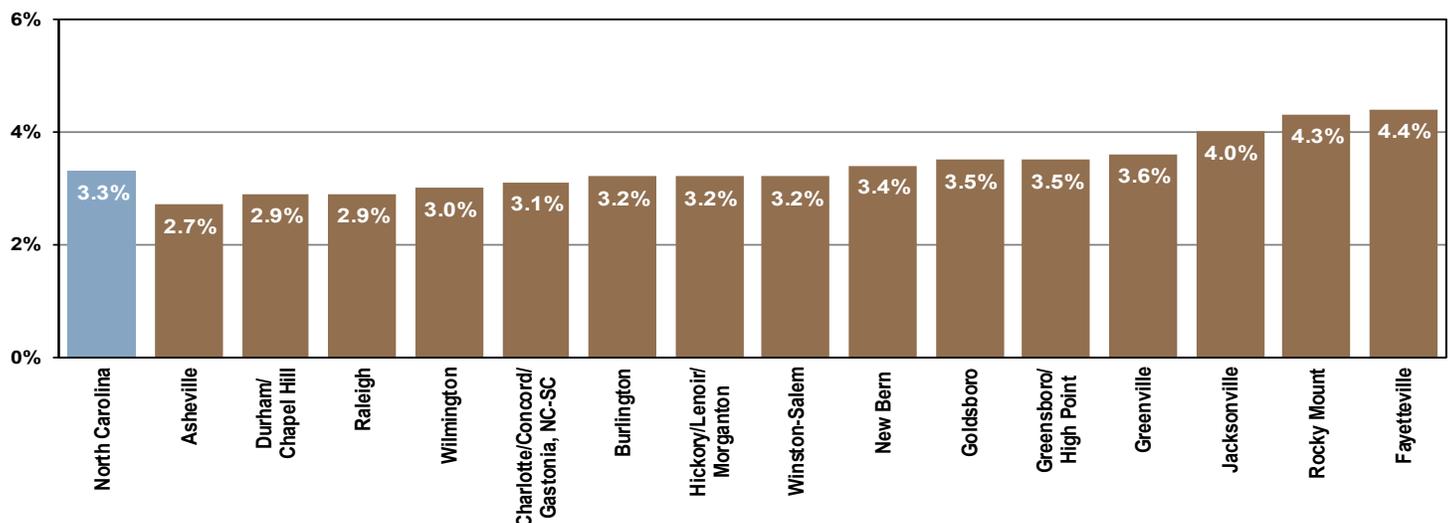The complete 2020 data release schedule can be accessed at:

https://www.nccommerce.com/documents/release-dates-unemployment-rates

Counties With Highest Unemployment Rates
December 2019*
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Hyde	9.7%
Scotland	5.8%
Tyrrell	5.6%
Graham	5.5%
Washington	5.5%
Warren	5.3%
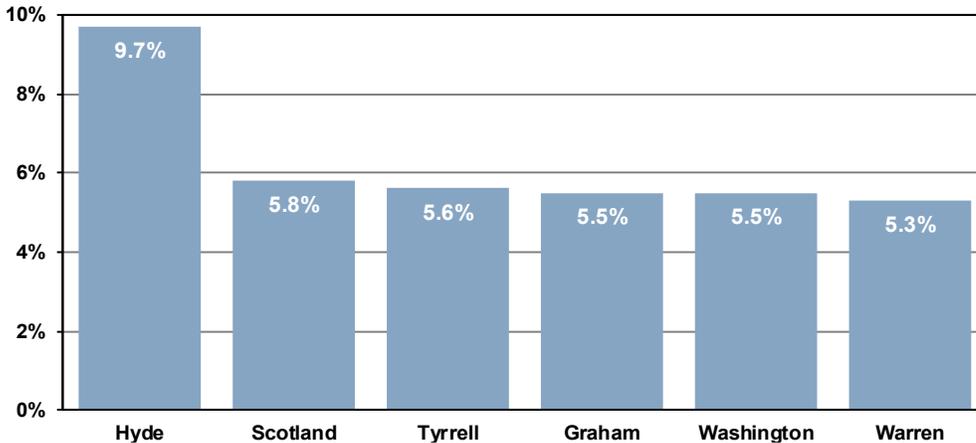
Counties With Lowest Unemployment Rates
December 2019*
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Buncombe	2.5%
Orange	2.7%
Watauga	2.7%
Henderson	2.8%
Alexander	2.8%
Wake	2.8%

Metropolitan Statistical Areas' Unemployment Rates
December 2019*
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

North Carolina	3.3%
Asheville	2.7%
Durham/Chapel Hill	2.9%
Raleigh	2.9%
Wilmington	3.0%
Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC	3.1%
Burlington	3.2%
Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton	3.2%
Winston-Salem	3.2%
New Bern	3.4%
Goldsboro	3.5%
Greensboro/High Point	3.5%
Greenville	3.6%
Jacksonville	4.0%
Rocky Mount	4.3%
Fayetteville	4.4%

North Carolina's statewide unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 3.3 percent in December. This decreased 0.1 of a percentage point from November's revised rate, and fell 0.4 of a percentage point over the year.

Over the month, the unemployment rate decreased in 45 of North Carolina's 100 counties. Thirty-eight counties had unemployment rates at or below the state's 3.3 percent rate.

Hyde County recorded December's highest unemployment rate at 9.7 percent, followed by Scotland at 5.8 percent. Buncombe County had the lowest unemployment rate at 2.5 percent, followed by Orange & Watauga at 2.7 percent.

Unemployment rates decreased in 10 of the state's 15 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) over the month. The Fayetteville MSA had the highest unemployment rate in December at 4.4 percent, followed by Rocky Mount at 4.3 percent, and Jacksonville at 4.0 percent. Asheville reported the month's lowest unemployment rate at 2.7 percent, followed by Durham/Chapel Hill & Raleigh at 2.9 percent.

*All December 2019 data are preliminary.

North Carolina **County Labor Market Conditions**

Asheville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019
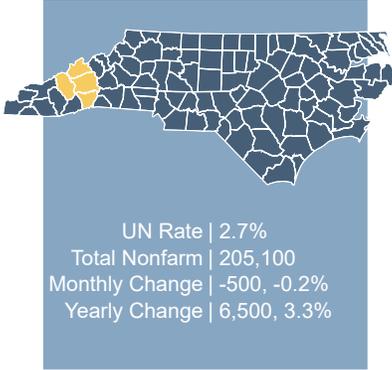
UN Rate | 2.7%
Total Nonfarm | 205,100
Monthly Change | -500, -0.2%
Yearly Change | 6,500, 3.3%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	200	0.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-100	-0.3%
Information	100	5.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-400	-2.1%
Education & Health Services	400	1.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	-500	-1.7%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-200	-0.8%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	600	6.0%
Manufacturing	700	3.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,100	3.0%
Information	100	5.0%
Financial Activities	100	1.5%
Professional & Business Services	300	1.6%
Education & Health Services	2,700	7.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	300	1.1%
Other Services	300	3.5%
Government	300	1.2%

## Burlington MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019
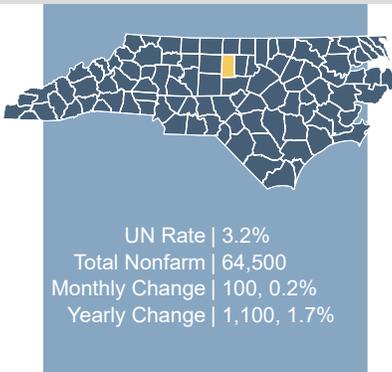
UN Rate | 3.2%
Total Nonfarm | 64,500
Monthly Change | 100, 0.2%
Yearly Change | 1,100, 1.7%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	100	1.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	100	0.8%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	-100	-0.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	0	0.0%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	0	0.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	100	1.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	0	0.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	400	3.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	400	4.9%
Other Services	100	4.8%
Government	100	1.4%

Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019

UN Rate | 3.1%
Total Nonfarm | 1,255,800
Monthly Change | 2,200, 0.2%
Yearly Change | 33,600, 2.8%
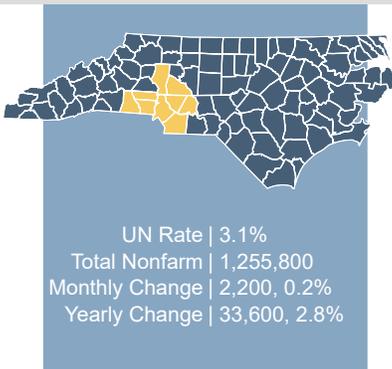
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-400	-0.6%
Manufacturing	700	0.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	2,300	0.9%
Information	700	2.3%
Financial Activities	1,000	1.0%
Professional & Business Services	-3,400	-1.6%
Education & Health Services	-1,300	-1.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,700	1.2%
Other Services	600	1.4%
Government	300	0.2%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-1,500	-2.3%
Manufacturing	2,100	1.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,100	2.0%
Information	1,600	5.4%
Financial Activities	6,100	6.3%
Professional & Business Services	7,800	3.8%
Education & Health Services	3,300	2.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	7,400	5.3%
Other Services	1,500	3.6%
Government	200	0.1%

Durham/Chapel Hill MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019

UN Rate | 2.9%
Total Nonfarm | 319,900
Monthly Change | -1,600, -0.5%
Yearly Change | 2,800, 0.9%
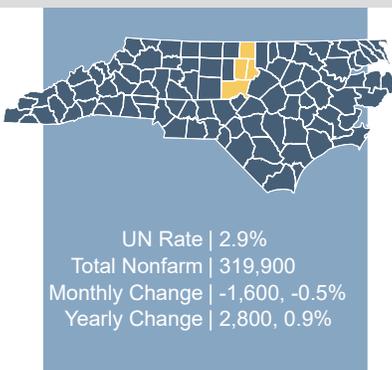
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-1.1%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	600	1.6%
Information	200	4.6%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-1,300	-2.9%
Education & Health Services	-200	-0.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	-500	-1.7%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-300	-0.4%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	500	1.3%
Information	300	7.0%
Financial Activities	400	2.7%
Professional & Business Services	-2,800	-6.1%
Education & Health Services	1,300	1.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,100	4.0%
Other Services	-100	-0.9%
Government	2,100	3.1%

Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All December 2019 data are preliminary.

North Carolina **County Labor Market Conditions**

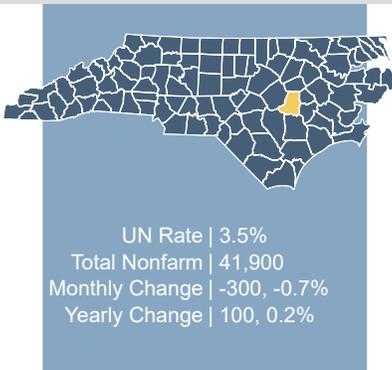## Fayetteville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019
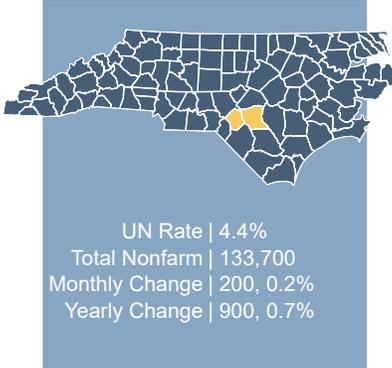
UN Rate | 4.4%
Total Nonfarm | 133,700
Monthly Change | 200, 0.2%
Yearly Change | 900, 0.7%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-100	-0.4%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	100	2.6%
Professional & Business Services	-100	-0.9%
Education & Health Services	-100	-0.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	200	1.2%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	200	0.5%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	100	1.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-100	-0.4%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	100	2.6%
Professional & Business Services	-800	-6.6%
Education & Health Services	200	1.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	500	3.1%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	900	2.2%

## Goldsboro MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019

UN Rate | 3.5%
Total Nonfarm | 41,900
Monthly Change | -300, -0.7%
Yearly Change | 100, 0.2%

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	0	0.0%

Over-the-Year 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	200	2.2%

## Greensboro/High Point MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019

UN Rate | 3.5%
Total Nonfarm | 367,300
Monthly Change | -1,700, -0.5%
Yearly Change | 6,900, 1.9%
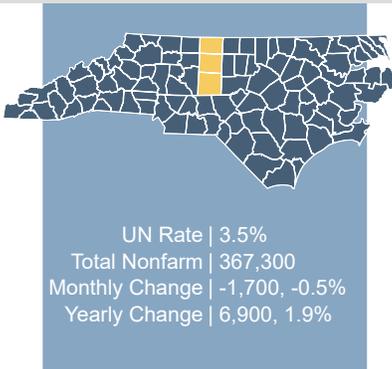
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-0.6%
Manufacturing	-100	-0.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	800	1.0%
Information	100	2.2%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-1,500	-3.1%
Education & Health Services	100	0.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	-600	-1.6%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-400	-0.9%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	0.7%
Manufacturing	700	1.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	3,500	4.6%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-200	-1.1%
Professional & Business Services	200	0.4%
Education & Health Services	1,500	2.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,100	3.1%
Other Services	100	0.8%
Government	-100	-0.2%

Greenville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019
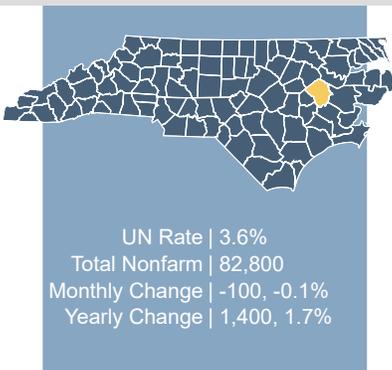
UN Rate | 3.6%
Total Nonfarm | 82,800
Monthly Change | -100, -0.1%
Yearly Change | 1,400, 1.7%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	100	0.8%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	-100	-1.1%
Other Services	-100	-4.4%
Government	0	0.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	2.8%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300	2.5%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-100	-3.7%
Professional & Business Services	200	2.9%
Education & Health Services	400	4.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	0	0.0%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	500	1.8%

*Data not collected for these industrial sectors. Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All December 2019 data are preliminary.

North Carolina **County Labor Market Conditions**

Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019

UN Rate | 3.2%
Total Nonfarm | 156,300
Monthly Change | -700, -0.5%
Yearly Change | 0, 0.0%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	100	0.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	100	0.3%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-500	-3.5%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	0	0.0%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-400	-1.7%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	2.3%
Manufacturing	500	1.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	600	2.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	100	3.2%
Professional & Business Services	-400	-2.8%
Education & Health Services	200	1.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	-1,000	-7.1%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-100	-0.4%

Jacksonville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019

UN Rate | 4.0%
Total Nonfarm | 50,000
Monthly Change | 100, 0.2%
Yearly Change | 400, 0.8%

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	Change	
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 | December 2019

UN Rate | 3.4%
Total Nonfarm | 45,500
Monthly Change | 200, 0.4%
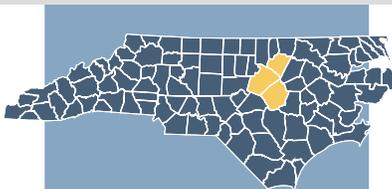Yearly Change | 600, 1.3%

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	0	0.0%

Over-the-Year 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%

Raleigh MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019

UN Rate | 2.9%
Total Nonfarm | 658,600
Monthly Change | -1,100, -0.2%
Yearly Change | 23,200, 3.7%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	200	0.5%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	900	0.8%
Information	500	2.2%
Financial Activities	100	0.3%
Professional & Business Services	-1,400	-1.1%
Education & Health Services	-700	-0.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	900	1.2%
Other Services	-200	-0.8%
Government	-1,400	-1.4%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	1,300	3.2%
Manufacturing	300	0.8%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	2,600	2.3%
Information	1,200	5.4%
Financial Activities	600	1.8%
Professional & Business Services	6,600	5.6%
Education & Health Services	2,700	3.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	5,600	8.2%
Other Services	600	2.5%
Government	1,700	1.7%

*Data not collected for these industrial sectors. Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All December 2019 data are preliminary.

Rocky Mount MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019
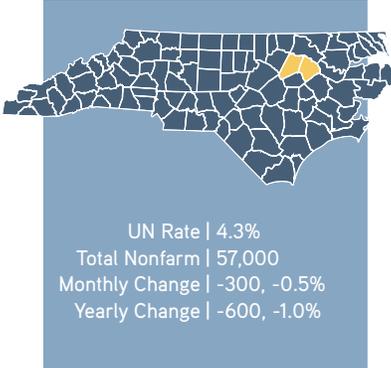
UN Rate | 4.3%
Total Nonfarm | 57,000
Monthly Change | -300, -0.5%
Yearly Change | -600, -1.0%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	-100	-1.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	1.7%
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	-100	-1.9%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	0	0.0%
Other Services	*	
Government	-200	-1.8%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-3.7%
Manufacturing	-600	-5.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	1.7%
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	100	1.5%
Leisure & Hospitality	300	5.5%
Other Services	*	
Government	0	0.0%

Wilmington MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019
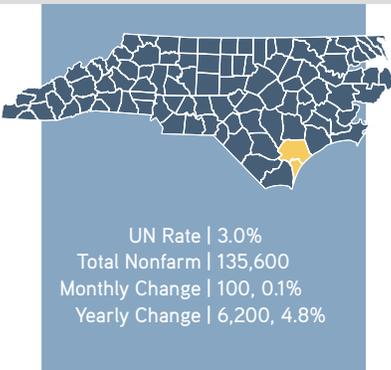
UN Rate | 3.0%
Total Nonfarm | 135,600
Monthly Change | 100, 0.1%
Yearly Change | 6,200, 4.8%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	0.8%
Information	100	3.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	100	0.5%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-300	-1.2%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	800	3.2%
Information	100	3.0%
Financial Activities	200	3.3%
Professional & Business Services	1,200	7.6%
Education & Health Services	400	2.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	2,800	14.2%
Other Services	300	6.0%
Government	400	1.7%

Winston-Salem MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019

UN Rate | 3.2%
Total Nonfarm | 275,200
Monthly Change | 0, 0.0%
Yearly Change | 5,000, 1.9%
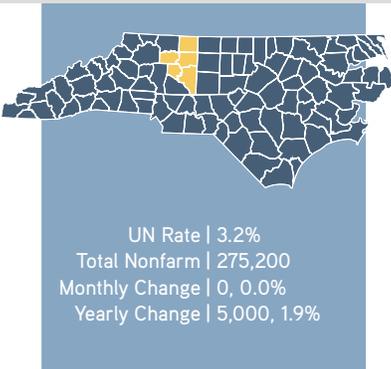
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	0.9%
Manufacturing	100	0.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	0.4%
Information	100	5.6%
Financial Activities	100	0.8%
Professional & Business Services	-1,100	-2.9%
Education & Health Services	-100	-0.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	600	2.0%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	0	0.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	600	5.5%
Manufacturing	700	2.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-100	-0.2%
Information	100	5.6%
Financial Activities	200	1.5%
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	1,400	2.5%
Leisure & Hospitality	2,000	7.1%
Other Services	100	1.2%
Government	0	0.0%

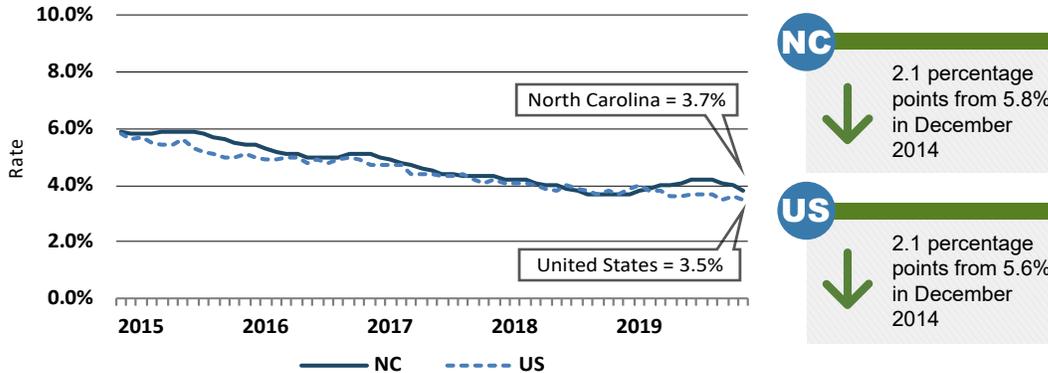Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All December 2019 data are preliminary.

Over the month, net industry employment increased in six of North Carolina's 15 MSAs. Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC had the largest net employment increase with 2,200, followed by Fayetteville & New Bern, 200; and Burlington, Jacksonville, and Wilmington, 100. New Bern experienced the greatest percentage increase at 0.4 of a percentage point, followed by Burlington, Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC, Fayetteville, and Jacksonville, 0.2 of a percentage point. 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 increased in 13 of 15 MSAs. Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC had the largest net employment increase at 33,600, followed by Raleigh, 23,200; Greensboro/High Point, 6,900; Asheville, 6,500; and Wilmington; 6,200. Wilmington had the greatest percentage increase at 4.8 percent, followed by Raleigh, 3.7 percent; Asheville, 3.3 percent; and Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC, 2.8 percent.

North Carolina Unemployment Rates by County
December 2019

County	Rate	County	Rate	County	Rate
ASHE	3.1	ALLEGHANY	4.5	SURRY	3.3
STOKES	3.2	ROCKINGHAM	3.8	CASWELL	3.9
PERSON	3.6	GRANVILLE	2.9	VANCE	5.1
WARREN	5.3	NORTHAMPTON	4.8	GATES	3.6
CURRITUCK	3.3	WATAUGA	2.7	WILKES	3.6
YADKIN	3.1	FORSYTH	3.2	GUILFORD	3.5
ALAMANCE	3.2	ORANGE	2.7	DURHAM	2.9
FRANKLIN	3.4	HALIFAX	5.2	HERTFORD	4.2
PASQUOTANK	4.0	CAMDEN	3.5	AVERY	3.4
MITCHELL	4.2	CALDWELL	3.4	ALEXANDER	2.8
DAVIE	3.0	NASH	4.1	EDGECOMBE	4.8
BERTIE	4.2	CHOWAN	3.8	PERQUIMANS	4.4
MADISON	3.0	YANCEY	3.4	BURKE	3.3
IREDELL	3.2	DAVIDSON	3.3	WAKE	2.8
WILSON	5.0	MARTIN	4.4	WASHINGTON	5.5
TYRRELL	5.6	HAYWOOD	2.9	BUNCOMBE	2.5
MCDOWELL	3.5	CATAWBA	3.1	ROWAN	3.8
RANDOLPH	3.2	CHATHAM	2.9	PITT	3.6
BEAUFORT	3.9	DARE	4.6	SWAIN	3.6
GRAHAM	5.5	JACKSON	3.4	LINCOLN	3.1
CABARRUS	3.1	STANLY	3.1	MONTGOMERY	3.5
LEE	3.8	HARNETT	3.8	JOHNSTON	3.1
GREENE	3.1	WAYNE	3.5	LENOIR	3.4
CRAVEN	3.5	HYDE	9.7	HENDERSON	2.8
RUTHERFORD	4.5	CLEVELAND	3.7	GASTON	3.5
MECKLENBURG	3.1	MOORE	3.3	SAMPSON	3.3
DUPLIN	3.6	JONES	3.4	PAMLICO	3.2
CHEROKEE	3.8	CLAY	4.1	MACON	3.3
TRANSYLVANIA	3.3	POLK	3.2	UNION	2.9
ANSON	4.0	RICHMOND	4.8	HOKE	4.4
CUMBERLAND	4.4	CARTERET	3.5	SCOTLAND	5.8
ROBESON	4.7	BLADEN	4.2	PENDER	3.4
ONSLOW	4.0	COLUMBUS	4.6	NEW HANOVER	3.0
BRUNSWICK	4.6				

December 2019

Legend:
- 2.5 - 3.2
- 3.3 - 3.9
- 4.0 - 4.8
- 4.9 - 5.8
- 5.9 - 9.7

^ 25 Counties Higher Than Previous Month
v 45 Counties Lower Than Previous Month
= 30 Counties Same as Previous Month

North Carolina Rate 3.3%
Not Seasonally Adjusted
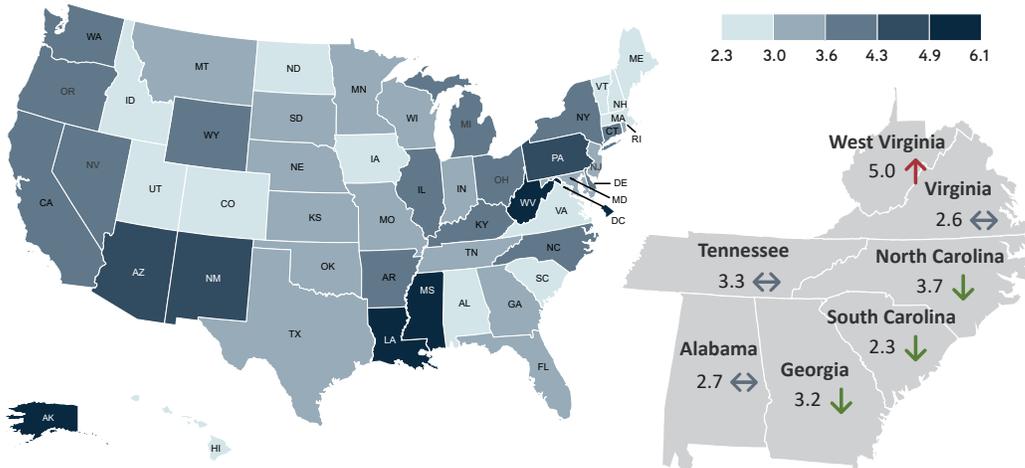
NC TODAY

Monthly Dashboard*

According to the latest preliminary release of monthly economic data, North Carolina's economy continues to trend upward. Now, with a full year of data in the books, the jobs and unemployment estimates for 2019 will be reviewed and revised as appropriate, according to U.S. BLS practices. If the past is prologue, we might expect to see some modest adjustments of monthly figures – particularly those that appear outside of the long-term trend. However, this isn't expected to change the overall outlook on NC's labor market or our long and steady story of growth. Revisions, as well as January 2020's figures, will be released in March.

NC 3.7%   US 3.5%

Unemployment Rate Change
↓ 0.1   ↔ 0.0

Change in Employed
↑ 7,227 (0.1%)   ↑ 210,000 (0.1%)

Change in Unemployed
↓ 6,432 (3.3%)   ↓ 58,000 (1.0%)

Labor Force Participation Rate
↔ 0.0 to 61.8%   ↔ 0.0 to 63.2%

Unemployment Rate Trend

North Carolina = 3.7%
United States = 3.5%

NC ↓ 2.1 percentage points from 5.8% in December 2014

US ↓ 2.1 percentage points from 5.6% in December 2014

Data

Industry Employment
4,593,600 Total Nonfarm Jobs
↑ 300 over the month
↑ 93,900 over the year

Unemployment Rate Comparison

West Virginia 5.0 ↑
Virginia 2.6 ↔
Tennessee 3.3 ↔
North Carolina 3.7 ↓
South Carolina 2.3 ↓
Alabama 2.7 ↔
Georgia 3.2 ↓

2.3 3.0 3.6 4.3 4.9 6.1

Initial UI Claims
12,880 Individuals Filing
↓ 266 over the month
↓ 0,520 over the year
Source: US Dept. of Labor, ETA

Real Taxable Retail Sales
↑ $40.6M over the month
↑ $489.5M over the year
Source: NC Dept. of Revenue
Note: November 2019 data most current available at time of release.

Residential Building Permits
↑ 0.8% over the month
↑ 18.6% over the year
Source: United States Census Bureau
Note: Includes multiple-unit housing.

Philadelphia Federal Reserve Leading Indicators for North Carolina

NC This leading index predicts the six-month growth rate of the state's economy (as measured by the Phili Fed's current indicator index). A positive number reflects economic growth, while a negative projects a decline.
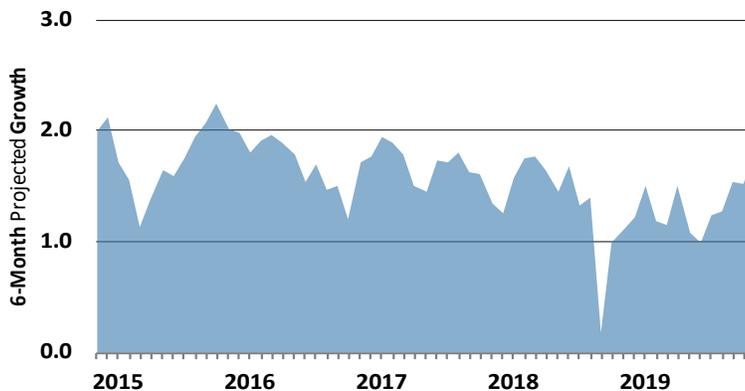
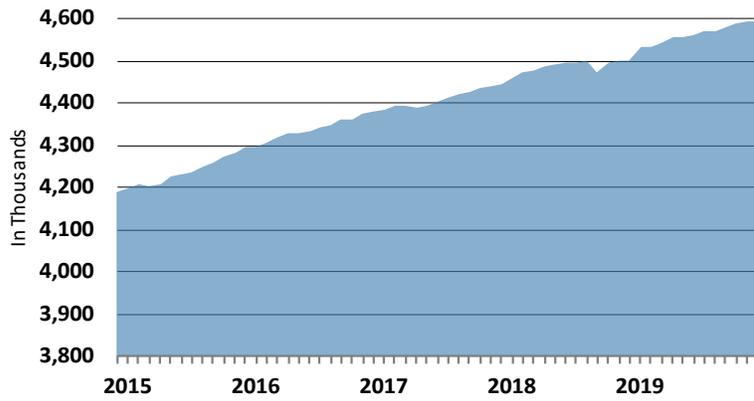Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia Note: November 2019 data most current available.

Job Postings
↑ 0.4% over the month
↓ 4.9% over the year
Source: LEAD; The Conference Board
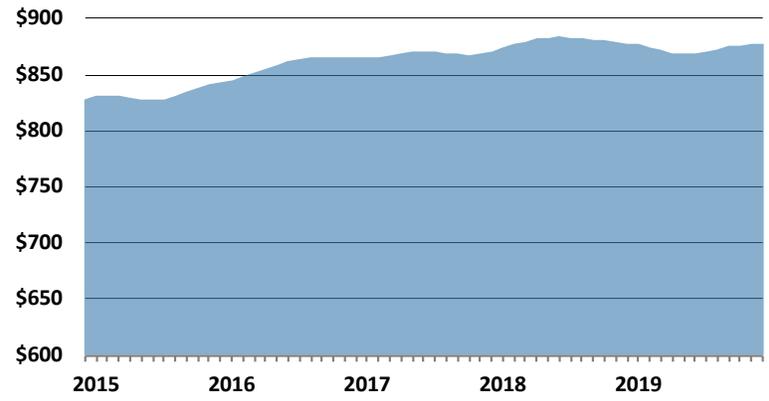Note: November 2019 data most current available at time of release.

Manufacturing Hours Worked
↑ 0.5% over the month
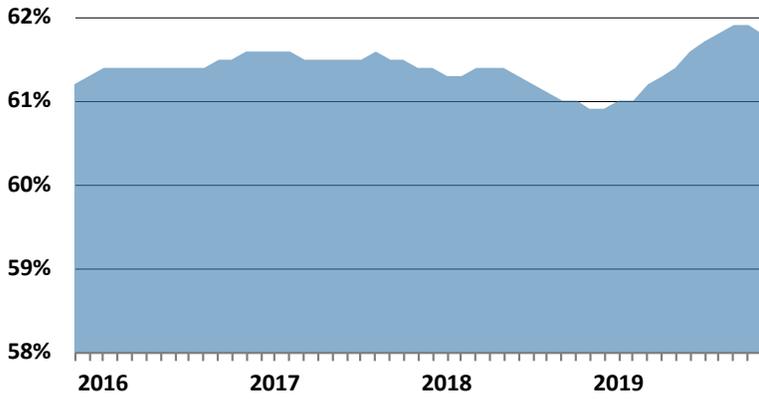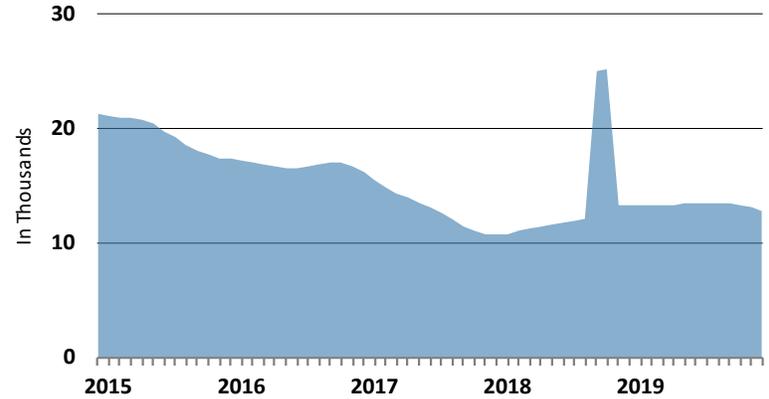↑ 1.5% over the year
Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted

*All data produced in this publication are based off December 2019 figures, are generated by LEAD, and have been seasonally adjusted and/or smoothed unless otherwise stated. Dollar amounts have been adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index.

Total Nonfarm Jobs

In Thousands

4,600
4,500
4,400
4,300
4,200
4,100
4,000
3,900
3,800

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

Average Real Weekly Earnings (Private Nonfarm Sector)

$900
$850
$800
$750
$700
$650
$600

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

Labor Force Participation Rate

62%
61%
60%
59%
58%

2016 2017 2018 2019

Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims

In Thousands

30
20
10
0

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

Source: US Dept. of Labor, ETA

Residential Building Permits

7,000
6,000
5,000
4,000
3,000
2,000
1,000
0

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019
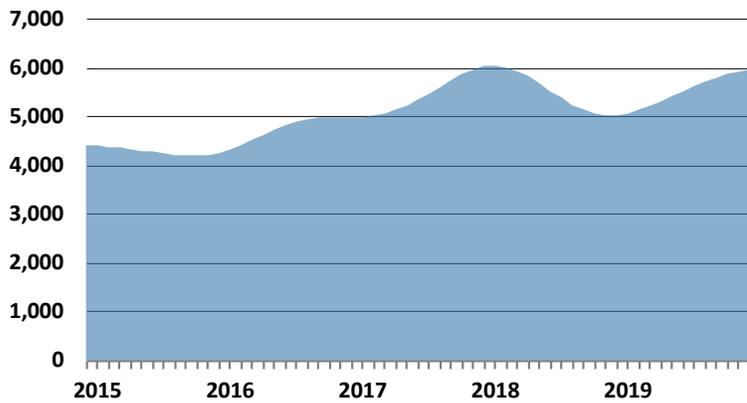
Source: United States Census Bureau
Note: Includes multiple-unit housing.

Real Taxable Retail Sales
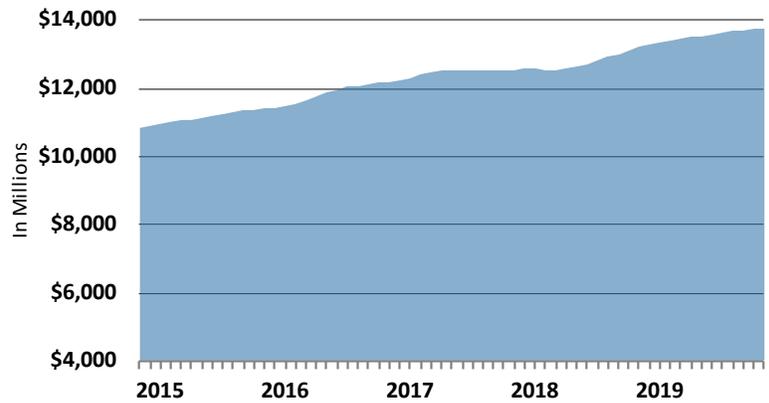
In Millions

$14,000
$12,000
$10,000
$8,000
$6,000
$4,000

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

Source: NC Dept. of Revenue
Note: November 2019 data most current available at time of release.

Unemployment Rate By County (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

2.5 3.2 3.9 4.8 5.8 9.7
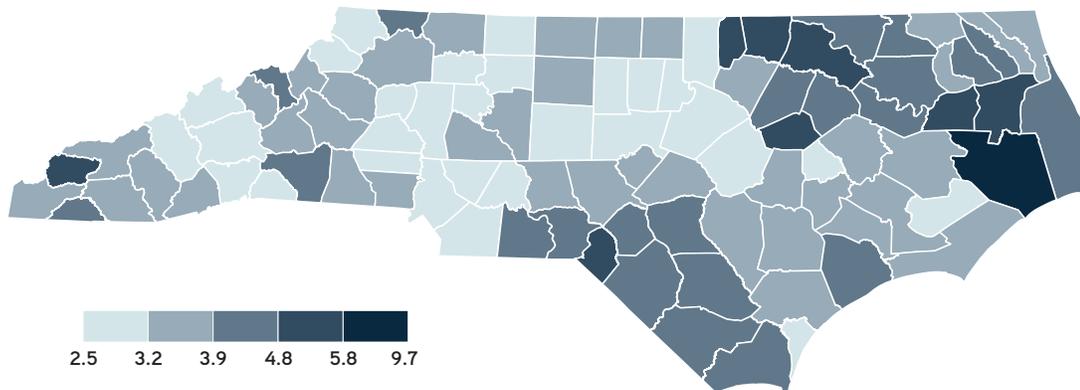
Lowest	
Buncombe	2.5%
Orange	2.7%
Watauga	2.7%
Henderson	2.8%
Alexander	2.8%

Highest	
Hyde	9.7%
Scotland	5.8%
Tyrrell	5.6%
Graham	5.5%
Washington	5.5%

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Dollar amounts have been adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index.