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Governor

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For Immediate Release: February 3, 2021
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North Carolina's December County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 55 of North Carolina's counties in December, decreased in 28, and remained unchanged in 17. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 10.2 percent while Watauga County had the lowest at 4.3 percent. Four of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases, seven decreased, and four remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Fayetteville had the highest rate at 8.2 percent while Durham-Chapel Hill and Raleigh each had the lowest at 5.2 percent. The December not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 6.0 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
December	8	91	1
November (Revised)	13	86	1

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 99 counties and decreased in one. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in December by 3,616 to 4,681,331, while those unemployed decreased by 3,503 to 297,387. Since December 2019, the number of workers employed statewide decreased 221,241, while those unemployed increased 129,132.

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 15, 2021 when the state unemployment rate for January 2021 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 2020*

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	4,978,718	297,387	6.0				
ALAMANCE	82,048	4,819	5.9	JOHNSTON	97,802	5,197	5.3
ALEXANDER	17,286	941	5.4	JONES	4,292	227	5.3
ALLEGHANY	4,525	270	6.0	LEE	25,924	1,662	6.4
ANSON	10,718	762	7.1	LENOIR	28,852	1,657	5.7
ASHE	13,399	648	4.8	LINCOLN	42,926	2,238	5.2
AVERY	7,872	402	5.1	MCDOWELL	20,584	1,179	5.7
BEAUFORT	19,466	1,145	5.9	MACON	15,849	831	5.2
BERTIE	8,004	477	6.0	MADISON	9,694	529	5.5
BLADEN	15,311	978	6.4	MARTIN	8,980	598	6.7
BRUNSWICK	50,650	3,713	7.3	MECKLENBURG	617,825	37,872	6.1
BUNCOMBE	134,907	7,537	5.6	MITCHELL	5,974	391	6.5
BURKE	39,346	2,296	5.8	MONTGOMERY	11,114	673	6.1
CABARRUS	107,789	6,006	5.6	MOORE	42,538	2,322	5.5
CALDWELL	35,241	2,315	6.6	NASH	42,464	3,055	7.2
CAMDEN	4,641	230	5.0	NEW HANOVER	120,145	6,562	5.5
CARTERET	31,632	1,625	5.1	NORTHAMPTON	7,783	549	7.1
CASWELL	9,855	639	6.5	ONSLow	66,027	4,101	6.2
CATAWBA	75,707	4,511	6.0	ORANGE	77,072	3,506	4.5
CHATHAM	35,000	1,613	4.6	PAMLICO	5,190	279	5.4
CHEROKEE	11,444	693	6.1	PASQUOTANK	16,864	1,111	6.6
CHOWAN	5,875	342	5.8	PENDER	27,970	1,542	5.5
CLAY	4,235	258	6.1	PERQUIMANS	4,983	297	6.0
CLEVELAND	50,206	3,195	6.4	PERSON	18,105	1,084	6.0
COLUMBUS	23,402	1,721	7.4	PITT	87,494	5,419	6.2
CRAVEN	40,674	2,454	6.0	POLK	8,912	492	5.5
CUMBERLAND	125,852	10,382	8.2	RANDOLPH	64,429	3,792	5.9
CURRITUCK	13,879	694	5.0	RICHMOND	17,481	1,452	8.3
DARE	16,882	1,286	7.6	ROBESON	51,852	4,329	8.3
DAVIDSON	79,573	4,613	5.8	ROCKINGHAM	39,162	2,655	6.8
DAVIE	20,252	1,056	5.2	ROWAN	65,682	4,062	6.2
DUPLIN	25,547	1,318	5.2	RUTHERFORD	25,590	1,912	7.5
DURHAM	168,358	9,274	5.5	SAMPSON	29,939	1,576	5.3
EDGECOMBE	21,160	2,000	9.5	SCOTLAND	12,294	1,259	10.2
FORSYTH	185,060	11,347	6.1	STANLY	30,717	1,576	5.1
FRANKLIN	30,954	1,853	6.0	STOKES	21,342	1,171	5.5
GASTON	110,453	7,149	6.5	SURRY	34,071	1,771	5.2
GATES	5,261	276	5.2	SWAIN	7,440	377	5.1
GRAHAM	3,326	259	7.8	TRANSYLVANIA	14,361	733	5.1
GRANVILLE	29,941	1,456	4.9	TYRRELL	1,274	107	8.4
GREENE	9,690	498	5.1	UNION	122,035	6,080	5.0
GUILFORD	256,701	17,644	6.9	VANCE	18,159	1,580	8.7
HALIFAX	20,613	1,721	8.3	WAKE	587,226	29,950	5.1
HARNETT	53,183	3,460	6.5	WARREN	6,695	576	8.6
HAYWOOD	28,647	1,610	5.6	WASHINGTON	4,292	343	8.0
HENDERSON	52,606	2,750	5.2	WATAUGA	31,777	1,363	4.3
HERTFORD	9,457	636	6.7	WAYNE	49,900	3,106	6.2
HOKE	19,796	1,527	7.7	WILKES	30,231	1,626	5.4
HYDE	1,719	121	7.0	WILSON	34,878	2,577	7.4
IREDELL	88,604	5,063	5.7	YADKIN	17,431	932	5.3
JACKSON	20,104	1,090	5.4	YANCEY	8,245	437	5.3

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 2020	November 2020	December 2019	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	December 2020	November 2020	December 2019	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	6.0	6.0	3.3	0.0	2.7	JOHNSTON	5.3	5.3	3.1	0.0	2.2
ALAMANCE	5.9	5.9	3.2	0.0	2.7	JONES	5.3	5.1	3.3	0.2	2.0
ALEXANDER	5.4	5.6	2.8	-0.2	2.6	LEE	6.4	6.5	3.8	-0.1	2.6
ALLEGHANY	6.0	5.5	4.5	0.5	1.5	LENOIR	5.7	5.8	3.3	-0.1	2.4
ANSON	7.1	7.1	3.8	0.0	3.3	LINCOLN	5.2	5.3	3.1	-0.1	2.1
ASHE	4.8	4.9	3.0	-0.1	1.8	MCDOWELL	5.7	5.6	3.5	0.1	2.2
AVERY	5.1	5.0	3.4	0.1	1.7	MACON	5.2	5.1	3.3	0.1	1.9
BEAUFORT	5.9	5.8	3.9	0.1	2.0	MADISON	5.5	5.4	3.0	0.1	2.5
BERTIE	6.0	5.9	4.1	0.1	1.9	MARTIN	6.7	6.6	4.2	0.1	2.5
BLADEN	6.4	6.2	4.2	0.2	2.2	MECKLENBURG	6.1	6.5	3.1	-0.4	3.0
BRUNSWICK	7.3	7.0	4.7	0.3	2.6	MITCHELL	6.5	6.2	4.0	0.3	2.5
BUNCOMBE	5.6	5.8	2.6	-0.2	3.0	MONTGOMERY	6.1	5.6	3.5	0.5	2.6
BURKE	5.8	5.7	3.2	0.1	2.6	MOORE	5.5	5.4	3.3	0.1	2.2
CABARRUS	5.6	5.7	3.1	-0.1	2.5	NASH	7.2	7.4	4.0	-0.2	3.2
CALDWELL	6.6	6.6	3.4	0.0	3.2	NEW HANOVER	5.5	5.5	3.0	0.0	2.5
CAMDEN	5.0	4.7	3.4	0.3	1.6	NORTHAMPTON	7.1	6.8	4.7	0.3	2.4
CARTERET	5.1	4.8	3.5	0.3	1.6	ONSLow	6.2	6.0	3.9	0.2	2.3
CASWELL	6.5	6.6	3.8	-0.1	2.7	ORANGE	4.5	4.4	2.7	0.1	1.8
CATAWBA	6.0	6.1	3.1	-0.1	2.9	PAMLICO	5.4	5.3	3.1	0.1	2.3
CHATHAM	4.6	4.5	2.9	0.1	1.7	PASQUOTANK	6.6	6.2	4.0	0.4	2.6
CHEROKEE	6.1	5.9	3.8	0.2	2.3	PENDER	5.5	5.3	3.4	0.2	2.1
CHOWAN	5.8	5.3	3.8	0.5	2.0	PERQUIMANS	6.0	5.4	4.4	0.6	1.6
CLAY	6.1	6.1	4.0	0.0	2.1	PERSON	6.0	6.0	3.5	0.0	2.5
CLEVELAND	6.4	6.4	3.7	0.0	2.7	PITT	6.2	6.1	3.6	0.1	2.6
COLUMBUS	7.4	7.2	4.4	0.2	3.0	POLK	5.5	5.3	3.3	0.2	2.2
CrAVEN	6.0	5.8	3.4	0.2	2.6	RANDOLPH	5.9	5.8	3.2	0.1	2.7
CUMBERLAND	8.2	8.4	4.4	-0.2	3.8	RICHMOND	8.3	8.2	4.7	0.1	3.6
CURRITUCK	5.0	4.7	3.2	0.3	1.8	ROBESON	8.3	8.3	4.7	0.0	3.6
DARE	7.6	6.3	4.6	1.3	3.0	ROCKINGHAM	6.8	6.9	3.8	-0.1	3.0
DAVIDSON	5.8	5.9	3.3	-0.1	2.5	ROWAN	6.2	6.2	3.8	0.0	2.4
DAVIE	5.2	5.3	3.0	-0.1	2.2	RUTHERFORD	7.5	7.4	4.4	0.1	3.1
DUPLIN	5.2	5.0	3.5	0.2	1.7	SAMPSON	5.3	5.1	3.2	0.2	2.1
DURHAM	5.5	5.6	2.9	-0.1	2.6	SCOTLAND	10.2	10.4	5.7	-0.2	4.5
EDGEcombe	9.5	9.8	4.8	-0.3	4.7	STANLY	5.1	5.1	3.3	0.0	1.8
FORSYTH	6.1	6.3	3.2	-0.2	2.9	STOKES	5.5	5.5	3.2	0.0	2.3
FRANKLIN	6.0	5.9	3.4	0.1	2.6	SURRY	5.2	5.1	3.2	0.1	2.0
GASTON	6.5	6.7	3.5	-0.2	3.0	SWAIN	5.1	5.0	3.4	0.1	1.7
GATES	5.2	5.1	3.5	0.1	1.7	TRANSYLVANIA	5.1	4.8	3.3	0.3	1.8
GRAHAM	7.8	7.2	5.4	0.6	2.4	TYRRELL	8.4	7.9	5.7	0.5	2.7
GRANVILLE	4.9	5.0	2.9	-0.1	2.0	UNION	5.0	5.0	2.9	0.0	2.1
GREENE	5.1	5.1	3.0	0.0	2.1	VANCE	8.7	9.1	5.1	-0.4	3.6
GUILFORD	6.9	7.1	3.4	-0.2	3.5	WAKE	5.1	5.2	2.8	-0.1	2.3
HALIFAX	8.3	8.6	5.2	-0.3	3.1	WARREN	8.6	8.6	5.2	0.0	3.4
HARNETT	6.5	6.3	3.8	0.2	2.7	WASHINGTON	8.0	7.9	5.3	0.1	2.7
HAYWOOD	5.6	5.6	2.9	0.0	2.7	WATAUGA	4.3	4.2	2.7	0.1	1.6
HENDERSON	5.2	5.2	2.8	0.0	2.4	WAYNE	6.2	6.1	3.5	0.1	2.7
HERTFORD	6.7	6.2	4.2	0.5	2.5	WILKES	5.4	5.3	3.6	0.1	1.8
HOKE	7.7	7.9	4.4	-0.2	3.3	WILSON	7.4	7.7	4.9	-0.3	2.5
HYDE	7.0	6.7	10.2	0.3	-3.2	YADKIN	5.3	5.2	3.1	0.1	2.2
IREDELL	5.7	5.8	3.2	-0.1	2.5	YANCEY	5.3	5.2	3.4	0.1	1.9
JACKSON	5.4	5.2	3.3	0.2	2.1						

Not Seasonally Adjusted

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North Carolina Department of Commerce
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**METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**

*Preliminary Data for
December 2020*

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	225,854	12,426	5.5
BURLINGTON	82,048	4,819	5.9
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,344,434	77,322	5.8
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	298,535	15,477	5.2
FAYETTEVILLE	145,648	11,909	8.2
GOLDSBORO	49,900	3,106	6.2
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	360,292	24,091	6.7
GREENVILLE	87,494	5,419	6.2
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	167,580	10,063	6.0
JACKSONVILLE	66,027	4,101	6.2
NEW BERN	50,156	2,960	5.9
RALEIGH	715,982	37,000	5.2
ROCKY MOUNT	63,624	5,055	7.9
WILMINGTON	148,115	8,104	5.5
WINSTON-SALEM	323,658	19,119	5.9

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	30,717	1,576	5.1
BOONE	31,777	1,363	4.3
BREVARD	14,361	733	5.1
CULLOWHEE	20,104	1,090	5.4
DUNN	53,183	3,460	6.5
ELIZABETH CITY	26,488	1,638	6.2
FOREST CITY	25,590	1,912	7.5
HENDERSON	18,159	1,580	8.7
KILL DEVIL HILLS	18,156	1,393	7.7
KINSTON	28,852	1,657	5.7
LAURINBURG	12,294	1,259	10.2
LUMBERTON	51,852	4,329	8.3
MARION	20,584	1,179	5.7
MOREHEAD CITY	31,632	1,625	5.1
MOUNT AIRY	34,071	1,771	5.2
NORTH WILKESBORO	30,231	1,626	5.4
OXFORD	29,941	1,456	4.9
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	42,538	2,322	5.5
ROANOKE RAPIDS	28,396	2,270	8.0
ROCKINGHAM	17,481	1,452	8.3
SANFORD	25,924	1,662	6.4
SHELBY	50,206	3,195	6.4
WASHINGTON	19,466	1,145	5.9
WILSON	34,878	2,577	7.4

**COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**

*Preliminary Data for
December 2020*

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	240,215	13,159	5.5
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,425,357	82,093	5.8
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	209,794	17,497	8.3
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	800,069	49,800	6.2
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	106,960	6,564	6.1
HICKORY-LENOIR	188,164	11,242	6.0
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	81,788	4,585	5.6
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	1,141,724	60,635	5.3
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	126,898	9,902	7.8

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

Metropolitan Statistical Area	December 2020	November 2020	December 2019	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	5.5	5.6	2.7	-0.1	2.8
BURLINGTON	5.9	5.9	3.2	0.0	2.7
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	5.8	5.9	3.1	-0.1	2.7
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	5.2	5.2	2.9	0.0	2.3
FAYETTEVILLE	8.2	8.3	4.4	-0.1	3.8
GOLDSBORO	6.2	6.1	3.5	0.1	2.7
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	6.7	6.9	3.4	-0.2	3.3
GREENVILLE	6.2	6.1	3.6	0.1	2.6
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	6.0	6.1	3.2	-0.1	2.8
JACKSONVILLE	6.2	6.0	3.9	0.2	2.3
NEW BERN	5.9	5.7	3.4	0.2	2.5
RALEIGH	5.2	5.2	2.9	0.0	2.3
ROCKY MOUNT	7.9	8.2	4.2	-0.3	3.7
WILMINGTON	5.5	5.5	3.1	0.0	2.4
WINSTON-SALEM	5.9	6.0	3.2	-0.1	2.7

Micropolitan Statistical Area	December 2020	November 2020	December 2019	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	5.1	5.1	3.3	0.0	1.8
BOONE	4.3	4.2	2.7	0.1	1.6
BREVARD	5.1	4.8	3.3	0.3	1.8
CULLOWHEE	5.4	5.2	3.3	0.2	2.1
DUNN	6.5	6.3	3.8	0.2	2.7
ELIZABETH CITY	6.2	5.8	4.0	0.4	2.2
FOREST CITY	7.5	7.4	4.4	0.1	3.1
HENDERSON	8.7	9.1	5.1	-0.4	3.6
KILL DEVIL HILLS	7.7	6.4	4.6	1.3	3.1
KINSTON	5.7	5.8	3.3	-0.1	2.4
LAURINBURG	10.2	10.4	5.7	-0.2	4.5
LUMBERTON	8.3	8.3	4.7	0.0	3.6
MARION	5.7	5.6	3.5	0.1	2.2
MOREHEAD CITY	5.1	4.8	3.5	0.3	1.6
MOUNT AIRY	5.2	5.1	3.2	0.1	2.0
NORTH WILKESBORO	5.4	5.3	3.6	0.1	1.8
OXFORD	4.9	5.0	2.9	-0.1	2.0
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	5.5	5.4	3.3	0.1	2.2
ROANOKE RAPIDS	8.0	8.1	5.1	-0.1	2.9
ROCKINGHAM	8.3	8.2	4.7	0.1	3.6
SANFORD	6.4	6.5	3.8	-0.1	2.6
SHELBY	6.4	6.4	3.7	0.0	2.7
WASHINGTON	5.9	5.8	3.9	0.1	2.0
WILSON	7.4	7.7	4.9	-0.3	2.5

**COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES**

Combined Statistical Area	December 2020	November 2020	December 2019	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	5.5	5.6	2.7	-0.1	2.8
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	5.8	5.9	3.1	-0.1	2.7
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	8.3	8.4	4.5	-0.1	3.8
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	6.2	6.4	3.3	-0.2	2.9
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	6.1	6.1	3.6	0.0	2.5
HICKORY-LENOIR	6.0	6.0	3.2	0.0	2.8
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	5.6	5.4	3.4	0.2	2.2
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	5.3	5.4	3.0	-0.1	2.3
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	7.8	8.0	4.6	-0.2	3.2

Not Seasonally Adjusted

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NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY RANKINGS
Preliminary Data for December 2020

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
WATAUGA	31,777	1,363	4.3%	1	CATAWBA	75,707	4,511	6.0%	51
ORANGE	77,072	3,506	4.5%	2	BERTIE	8,004	477	6.0%	52
CHATHAM	35,000	1,613	4.6%	3	PERQUIMANS	4,983	297	6.0%	53
ASHE	13,399	648	4.8%	4	ALLEGHANY	4,525	270	6.0%	54
GRANVILLE	29,941	1,456	4.9%	5	FRANKLIN	30,954	1,853	6.0%	55
CAMDEN	4,641	230	5.0%	6	PERSON	18,105	1,084	6.0%	56
UNION	122,035	6,080	5.0%	7	CRAVEN	40,674	2,454	6.0%	57
CURRITUCK	13,879	694	5.0%	8	MONTGOMERY	11,114	673	6.1%	58
SWAIN	7,440	377	5.1%	9	CHEROKEE	11,444	693	6.1%	59
WAKE	587,226	29,950	5.1%	10	CLAY	4,235	258	6.1%	60
TRANSYLVANIA	14,361	733	5.1%	11	MECKLENBURG	617,825	37,872	6.1%	61
AVERY	7,872	402	5.1%	12	FORSYTH	185,060	11,347	6.1%	62
STANLY	30,717	1,576	5.1%	13	ROWAN	65,682	4,062	6.2%	63
CARTERET	31,632	1,625	5.1%	14	PITT	87,494	5,419	6.2%	64
GREENE	9,690	498	5.1%	15	ONSLow	66,027	4,101	6.2%	65
DUPLIN	25,547	1,318	5.2%	16	WAYNE	49,900	3,106	6.2%	66
SURRY	34,071	1,771	5.2%	17	CLEVELAND	50,206	3,195	6.4%	67
LINCOLN	42,926	2,238	5.2%	18	BLADEN	15,311	978	6.4%	68
DAVIE	20,252	1,056	5.2%	19	LEE	25,924	1,662	6.4%	69
HENDERSON	52,606	2,750	5.2%	20	GASTON	110,453	7,149	6.5%	70
MACON	15,849	831	5.2%	21	CASWELL	9,855	639	6.5%	71
GATES	5,261	276	5.2%	22	HARNETT	53,183	3,460	6.5%	72
SAMPSON	29,939	1,576	5.3%	23	MITCHELL	5,974	391	6.5%	73
JONES	4,292	227	5.3%	24	CALDWELL	35,241	2,315	6.6%	74
YANCEY	8,245	437	5.3%	25	PASQUOTANK	16,864	1,111	6.6%	75
JOHNSTON	97,802	5,197	5.3%	26	MARTIN	8,980	598	6.7%	76
YADKIN	17,431	932	5.3%	27	HERTFORD	9,457	636	6.7%	77
PAMLICO	5,190	279	5.4%	28	ROCKINGHAM	39,162	2,655	6.8%	78
WILKES	30,231	1,626	5.4%	29	GUILFORD	256,701	17,644	6.9%	79
JACKSON	20,104	1,090	5.4%	30	HYDE	1,719	121	7.0%	80
ALEXANDER	17,286	941	5.4%	31	NORTHAMPTON	7,783	549	7.1%	81
MADISON	9,694	529	5.5%	32	ANSON	10,718	762	7.1%	82
MOORE	42,538	2,322	5.5%	33	NASH	42,464	3,055	7.2%	83
NEW HANOVER	120,145	6,562	5.5%	34	BRUNSWICK	50,650	3,713	7.3%	84
STOKES	21,342	1,171	5.5%	35	COLUMBUS	23,402	1,721	7.4%	85
DURHAM	168,358	9,274	5.5%	36	WILSON	34,878	2,577	7.4%	86
PENDER	27,970	1,542	5.5%	37	RUTHERFORD	25,590	1,912	7.5%	87
POLK	8,912	492	5.5%	38	DARE	16,882	1,286	7.6%	88
CABARRUS	107,789	6,006	5.6%	39	HOKE	19,796	1,527	7.7%	89
BUNCOMBE	134,907	7,537	5.6%	40	GRAHAM	3,326	259	7.8%	90
HAYWOOD	28,647	1,610	5.6%	41	WASHINGTON	4,292	343	8.0%	91
IREDELL	88,604	5,063	5.7%	42	CUMBERLAND	125,852	10,382	8.2%	92
MCDOWELL	20,584	1,179	5.7%	43	RICHMOND	17,481	1,452	8.3%	93
LENOIR	28,852	1,657	5.7%	44	ROBESON	51,852	4,329	8.3%	94
DAVIDSON	79,573	4,613	5.8%	45	HALIFAX	20,613	1,721	8.3%	95
CHOWAN	5,875	342	5.8%	46	TYRRELL	1,274	107	8.4%	96
BURKE	39,346	2,296	5.8%	47	WARREN	6,695	576	8.6%	97
ALAMANCE	82,048	4,819	5.9%	48	VANCE	18,159	1,580	8.7%	98
BEAUFORT	19,466	1,145	5.9%	49	EDGECOMBE	21,160	2,000	9.5%	99
RANDOLPH	64,429	3,792	5.9%	50	SCOTLAND	12,294	1,259	10.2%	100

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

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 <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/lau/calculation.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.

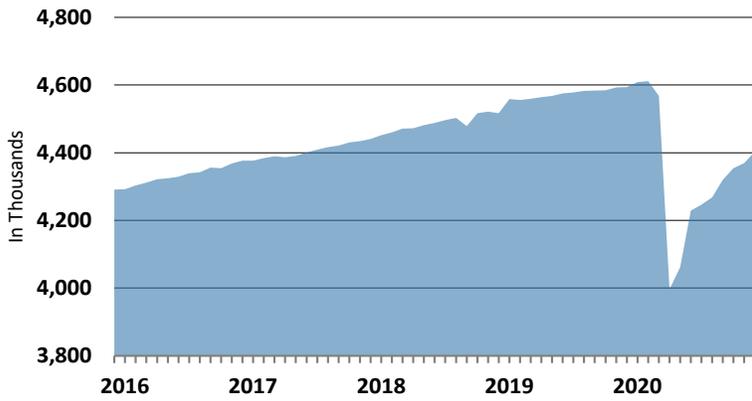
Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Monday, March 15, 2021 when the state unemployment rate for January 2021 will be released.

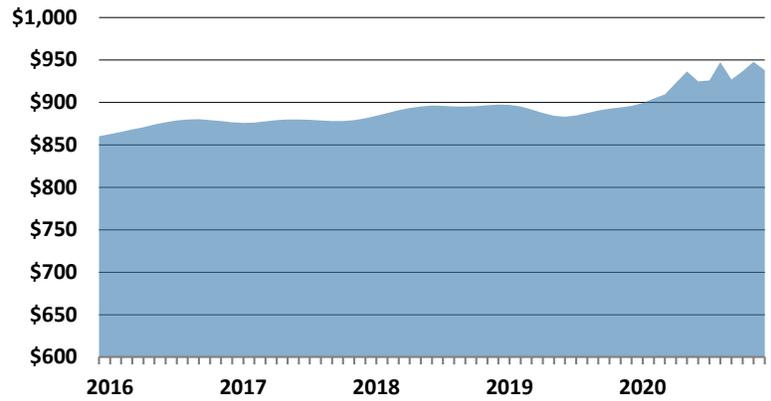
The complete 2021 data release schedule can be accessed at:

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

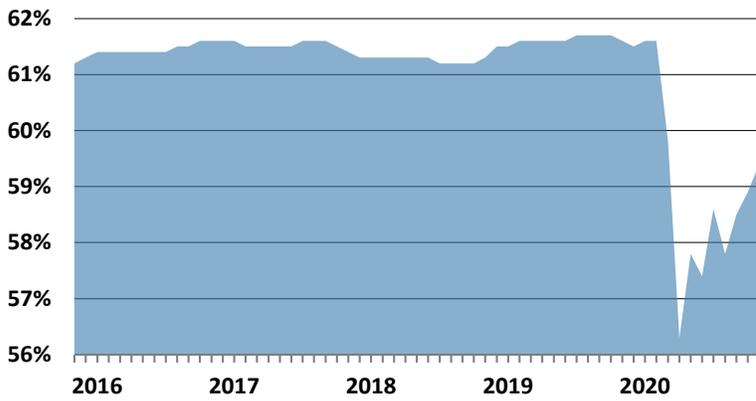
Total Nonfarm Jobs



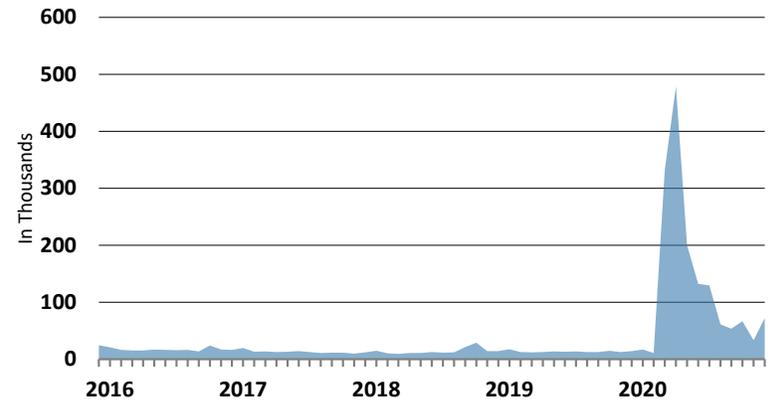
Average Real Weekly Earnings (Private Nonfarm Sector)



Labor Force Participation Rate

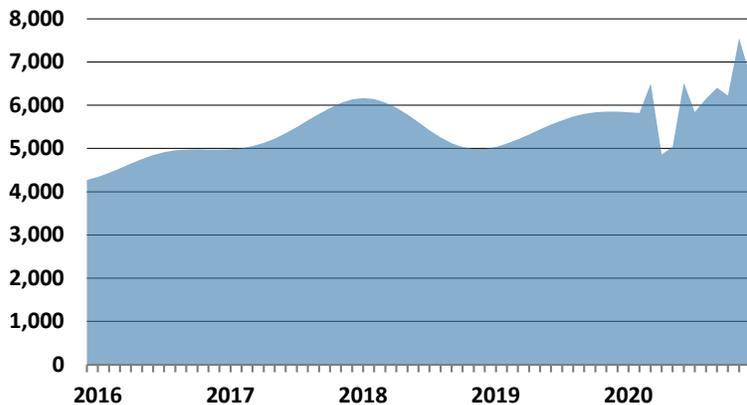


Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims



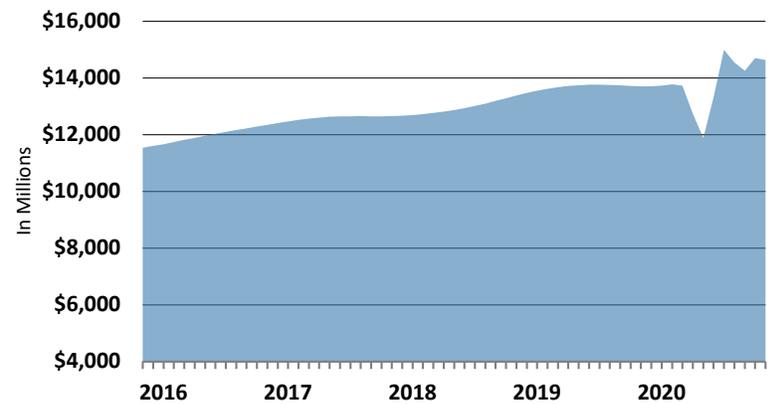
Source: US Dept. of Labor, ETA

Residential Building Permits



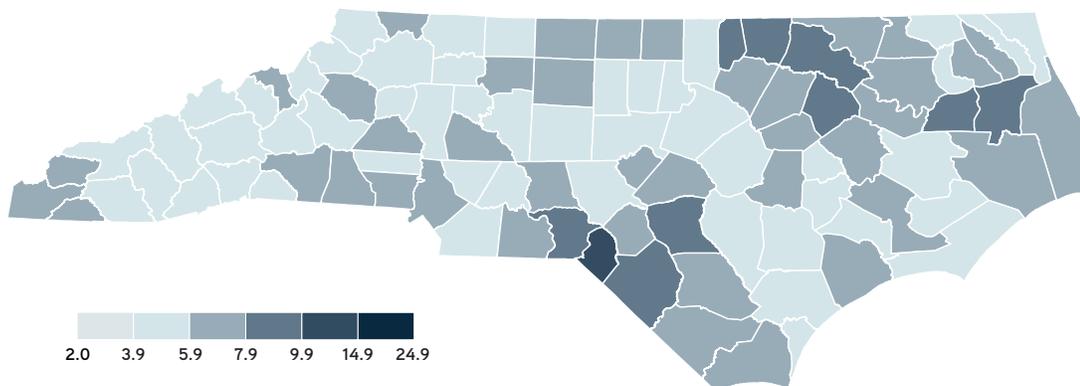
Source: United States Census Bureau
Note: Includes multiple-unit housing.

Real Taxable Retail Sales



Source: NC Dept. of Revenue
Note: November 2020 data most current available at time of release.

Unemployment Rate By County (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

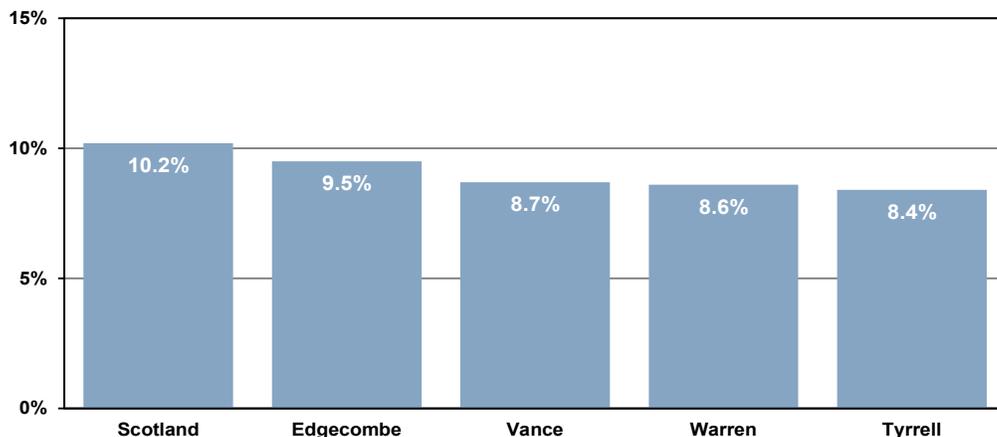


Lowest	
Watauga	4.3%
Orange	4.5%
Chatham	4.6%
Ashe	4.8%
Granville	4.9%
Highest	
Scotland	10.2%
Edgecombe	9.5%
Vance	8.7%
Warren	8.6%
Tyrrell	8.4%

*All data produced in this publication are based off December 2020 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.

Counties With Highest Unemployment Rates

December 2020*
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



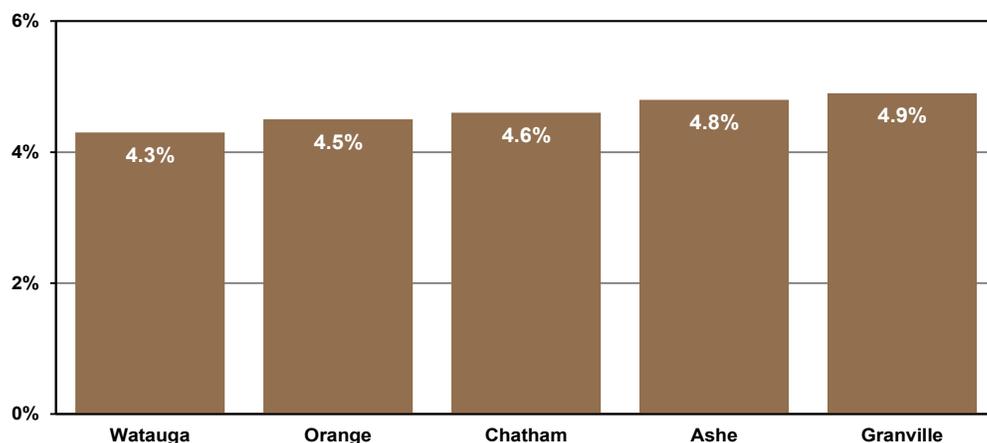
North Carolina's statewide unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 6.0 percent in December. This remained unchanged from November's revised rate, and grew 2.7 percentage points over the year.

Over the month, the unemployment rate increased in 55 of North Carolina's 100 counties. Fifty-seven counties had unemployment rates at or below the state's 6.0 percent rate.

Scotland County recorded December's highest unemployment rate at 10.2 percent, followed by Edgecombe at 9.5 percent. Watauga had the lowest unemployment rate at 4.3 percent.

Counties With Lowest Unemployment Rates

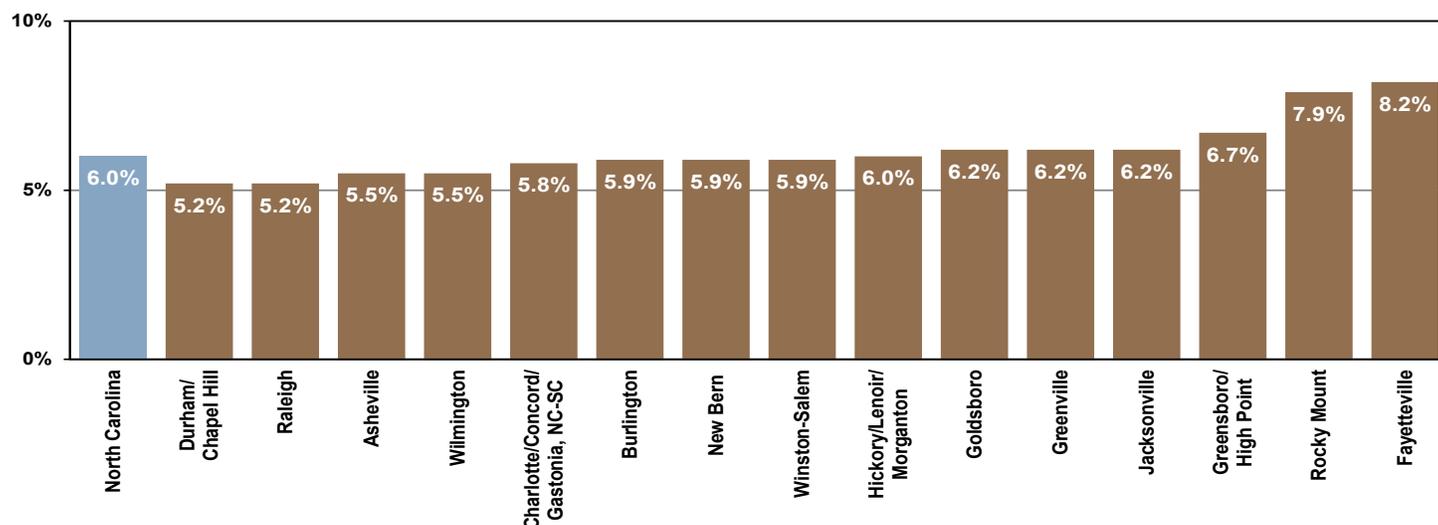
December 2020*
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Unemployment rates decreased in 7 of the state's 15 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) over the month. The Fayetteville MSA had the highest unemployment rate in December at 8.2 percent, followed by Rocky Mount at 7.9 percent. Durham/Chapel Hill MSA and Raleigh MSA each reported the month's lowest unemployment rate at 5.2 percent, followed by Wilmington and Asheville at 5.5 percent.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas' Unemployment Rates

December 2020*
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



*All December 2020 data are preliminary.

North Carolina County Labor Market Conditions

Asheville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2020



UN Rate | 5.5%
 Total Nonfarm | 183,200
 Monthly Change | 1,300, 0.7%
 Yearly Change | -16,700, -8.4%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	0 0.0%
Manufacturing	300 1.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,100 3.1%
Information	200 14.3%
Financial Activities	0 0.0%
Professional & Business Services	500 2.7%
Education & Health Services	-300 -0.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	-400 -1.9%
Other Services	0 0.0%
Government	-100 -0.4%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	400 4.0%
Manufacturing	-1,500 -6.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	0 0.0%
Information	-400 -20.0%
Financial Activities	0 0.0%
Professional & Business Services	600 3.3%
Education & Health Services	-4,200 -11.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	-8,600 -29.1%
Other Services	-1,300 -14.0%
Government	-1,700 -6.4%

Burlington MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2020



UN Rate | 5.9%
 Total Nonfarm | 62,800
 Monthly Change | 400, 0.6%
 Yearly Change | -2,000, -3.1%

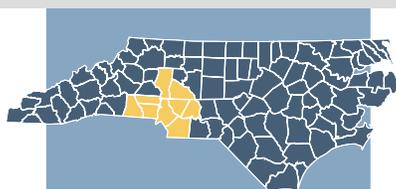
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	0 0.0%
Manufacturing	100 1.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300 2.3%
Information	0 0.0%
Financial Activities	-100 -4.5%
Professional & Business Services	0 0.0%
Education & Health Services	0 0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	0 0.0%
Other Services	100 5.0%
Government	0 0.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	200 6.1%
Manufacturing	-900 -9.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	100 0.8%
Information	-100 -25.0%
Financial Activities	100 5.0%
Professional & Business Services	-200 -3.7%
Education & Health Services	300 2.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	-1,100 -12.9%
Other Services	-200 -8.7%
Government	-200 -2.7%

Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2020



UN Rate | 5.8%
 Total Nonfarm | 1,190,700
 Monthly Change | 5,800, 0.5%
 Yearly Change | -62,600, -5.0%

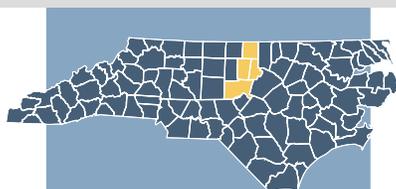
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	-800 -1.1%
Manufacturing	700 0.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,300 2.5%
Information	200 0.9%
Financial Activities	200 0.2%
Professional & Business Services	1,400 0.7%
Education & Health Services	-700 -0.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	-1,600 -1.5%
Other Services	-300 -0.8%
Government	400 0.3%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100 -0.1%
Manufacturing	-7,800 -7.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,500 0.6%
Information	-1,300 -5.3%
Financial Activities	2,100 2.0%
Professional & Business Services	2,100 1.0%
Education & Health Services	-8,400 -6.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	-35,800 -24.9%
Other Services	-2,800 -6.6%
Government	-12,100 -7.6%

Durham/Chapel Hill MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2020



UN Rate | 5.2%
 Total Nonfarm | 308,600
 Monthly Change | 1,200, 0.4%
 Yearly Change | -15,600, -4.8%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	0 0.0%
Manufacturing	200 0.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	800 2.0%
Information	100 2.1%
Financial Activities	100 0.6%
Professional & Business Services	700 1.6%
Education & Health Services	400 0.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	-500 -2.7%
Other Services	0 0.0%
Government	-600 -0.8%

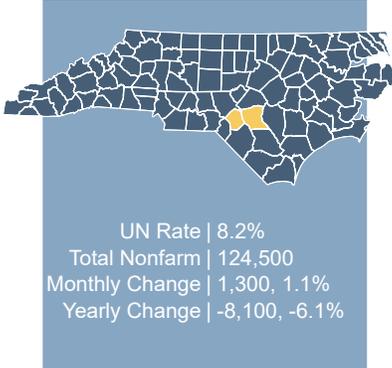
Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	300 3.2%
Manufacturing	-6,200 -22.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	700 1.7%
Information	-100 -2.0%
Financial Activities	-100 -0.6%
Professional & Business Services	400 0.9%
Education & Health Services	-2,100 -2.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	-9,400 -34.1%
Other Services	-500 -4.3%
Government	1,400 2.0%

Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All December 2020 data are preliminary.

North Carolina County Labor Market Conditions

Fayetteville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2020



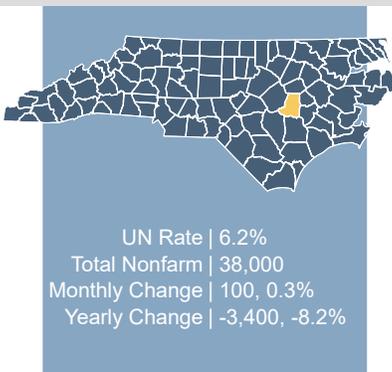
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100 -1.9%
Manufacturing	100 1.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	700 2.9%
Information	0 0.0%
Financial Activities	0 0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-100 -1.0%
Education & Health Services	-100 -0.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	400 3.1%
Other Services	0 0.0%
Government	400 1.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	-500 -8.6%
Manufacturing	-600 -6.8%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,700 7.2%
Information	-100 -9.1%
Financial Activities	-200 -5.1%
Professional & Business Services	-500 -4.6%
Education & Health Services	-1,400 -9.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	-3,600 -21.1%
Other Services	-1,100 -23.4%
Government	-1,800 -4.3%

Goldsboro MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2020



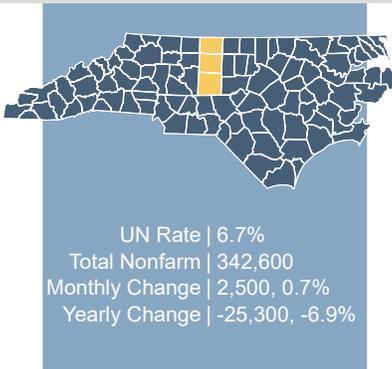
Over-the-Month Employment Change

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 -2.1%

Greensboro/High Point MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2020



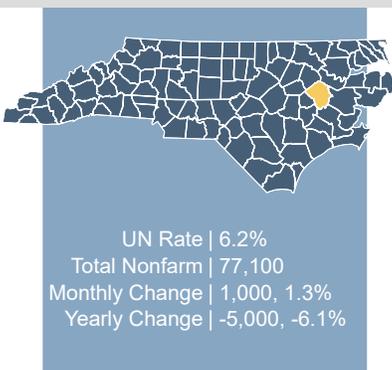
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	0 0.0%
Manufacturing	600 1.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,700 2.1%
Information	0 0.0%
Financial Activities	0 0.0%
Professional & Business Services	300 0.7%
Education & Health Services	500 1.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	-300 -1.0%
Other Services	0 0.0%
Government	-300 -0.7%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100 -0.6%
Manufacturing	-8,300 -15.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,700 2.1%
Information	-400 -8.5%
Financial Activities	-300 -1.5%
Professional & Business Services	-3,000 -6.3%
Education & Health Services	-4,100 -7.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	-8,100 -21.4%
Other Services	-300 -2.4%
Government	-2,400 -5.3%

Greenville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2020



Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	0 0.0%
Manufacturing	400 6.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	800 6.3%
Information	0 0.0%
Financial Activities	0 0.0%
Professional & Business Services	300 4.6%
Education & Health Services	-400 -4.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	-100 -1.4%
Other Services	0 0.0%
Government	0 0.0%

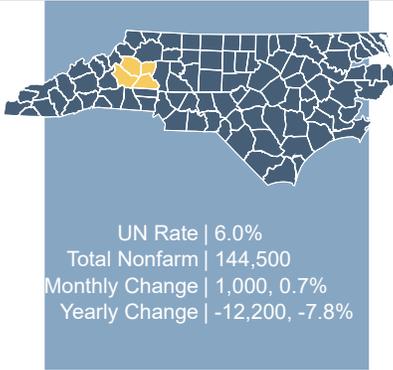
Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	0 0.0%
Manufacturing	-300 -4.4%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,300 10.6%
Information	-100 -14.3%
Financial Activities	-100 -4.0%
Professional & Business Services	400 6.3%
Education & Health Services	-100 -1.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	-2,600 -27.4%
Other Services	-300 -13.6%
Government	-3,200 -11.3%

*Data unavailable due to sample cell size. Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All December 2020 data are preliminary.

North Carolina County Labor Market Conditions

Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2020



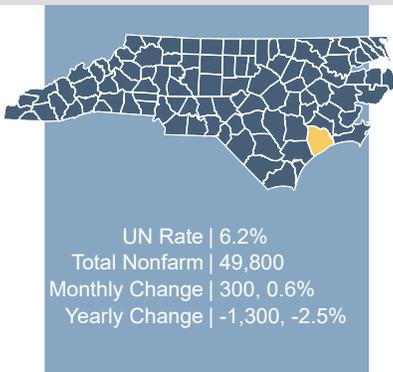
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	0 0.0%
Manufacturing	100 0.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	700 2.4%
Information	0 0.0%
Financial Activities	0 0.0%
Professional & Business Services	300 2.1%
Education & Health Services	-100 -0.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	300 2.5%
Other Services	100 2.4%
Government	-400 -1.8%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	0 0.0%
Manufacturing	-5,900 -13.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-800 -2.6%
Information	0 0.0%
Financial Activities	-100 -3.0%
Professional & Business Services	400 2.9%
Education & Health Services	-2,100 -10.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	-2,100 -14.8%
Other Services	-400 -8.7%
Government	-1,200 -5.2%

Jacksonville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2020



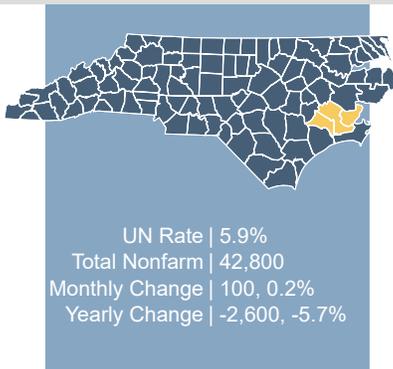
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	*
Manufacturing	*
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	*
Information	*
Financial Activities	*
Professional & Business Services	*
Education & Health Services	*
Leisure & Hospitality	*
Other Services	*
Government	400 2.8%

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	0 0.0%

New Bern MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2020



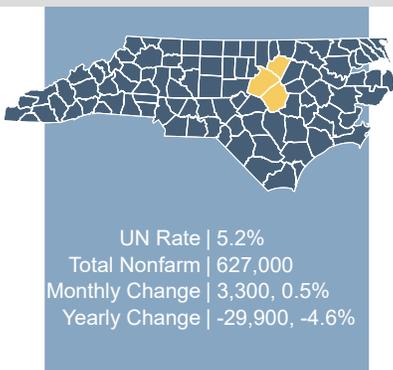
Over-the-Month Employment Change

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	-700 -4.8%

Raleigh MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2020



Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100 -0.2%
Manufacturing	400 1.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	3,200 2.8%
Information	300 1.4%
Financial Activities	100 0.3%
Professional & Business Services	1,100 0.8%
Education & Health Services	-300 -0.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	-200 -0.4%
Other Services	-100 -0.4%
Government	-1,100 -1.2%

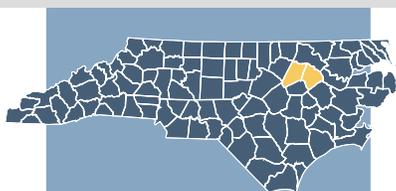
Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	1,800 4.3%
Manufacturing	-2,900 -8.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,400 1.2%
Information	-500 -2.2%
Financial Activities	100 0.3%
Professional & Business Services	7,300 5.9%
Education & Health Services	-9,200 -11.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	-18,800 -25.1%
Other Services	-1,300 -5.0%
Government	-7,800 -7.8%

*Data unavailable due to sample cell size. Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All December 2020 data are preliminary.

North Carolina County Labor Market Conditions

Rocky Mount MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2020



UN Rate | 7.9%
 Total Nonfarm | 53,500
 Monthly Change | 300, 0.6%
 Yearly Change | -3,800, -6.6%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	0 0.0%
Manufacturing	0 0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	500 4.0%
Information	*
Financial Activities	*
Professional & Business Services	100 1.8%
Education & Health Services	-100 -1.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	-100 -2.6%
Other Services	*
Government	-200 -2.2%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	0 0.0%
Manufacturing	-2,000 -19.4%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	900 7.5%
Information	*
Financial Activities	*
Professional & Business Services	700 14.3%
Education & Health Services	-1,000 -14.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	-1,900 -33.9%
Other Services	*
Government	-1,700 -16.0%

Wilmington MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2020



UN Rate | 5.5%
 Total Nonfarm | 125,500
 Monthly Change | 500, 0.4%
 Yearly Change | -9,800, -7.2%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	100 1.1%
Manufacturing	0 0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	900 3.5%
Information	0 0.0%
Financial Activities	100 1.8%
Professional & Business Services	100 0.6%
Education & Health Services	0 0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	-500 -3.3%
Other Services	0 0.0%
Government	-200 -0.9%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100 -1.1%
Manufacturing	1,100 18.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200 0.7%
Information	-100 -3.2%
Financial Activities	-600 -9.4%
Professional & Business Services	-300 -1.7%
Education & Health Services	-1,500 -9.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	-6,000 -29.3%
Other Services	-300 -5.3%
Government	-2,200 -8.9%

Winston-Salem MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2020



UN Rate | 5.9%
 Total Nonfarm | 259,300
 Monthly Change | 2,900, 1.1%
 Yearly Change | -12,600, -4.6%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	0 0.0%
Manufacturing	500 1.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,400 2.9%
Information	0 0.0%
Financial Activities	100 0.7%
Professional & Business Services	1,400 4.1%
Education & Health Services	-300 -0.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	100 0.4%
Other Services	-100 -1.2%
Government	-200 -0.6%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change
Mining, Logging & Construction	-800 -7.0%
Manufacturing	-1,000 -3.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-300 -0.6%
Information	0 0.0%
Financial Activities	0 0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-100 -0.3%
Education & Health Services	-3,200 -5.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	-5,700 -19.6%
Other Services	-700 -7.8%
Government	-800 -2.5%

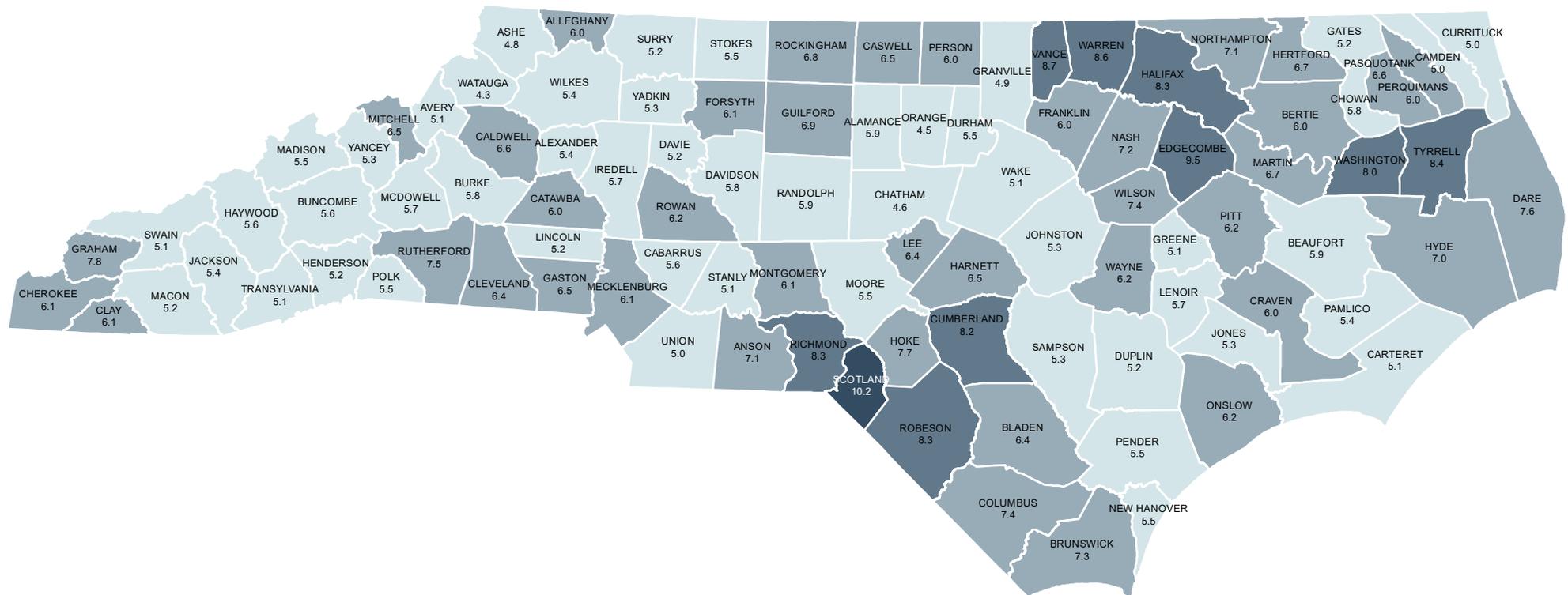
*Data unavailable due to sample cell size. Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All December 2020 data are preliminary.

Over the month, all of North Carolina's 15 MSAs experienced net job growth. Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC had the largest net employment increase with 5,800, followed by Raleigh, 3,300; Winston-Salem, 2,900; Greensboro/High Point, 2,500; Asheville, 1,300; Fayetteville, 1,300; Durham/Chapel Hill, 1,200; Greenville, 1,000; and Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton, 1,000. Greenville had the greatest percentage increase at 1.3% followed by Winston-Salem, 1.1%, and Fayetteville, 1.1%. 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.

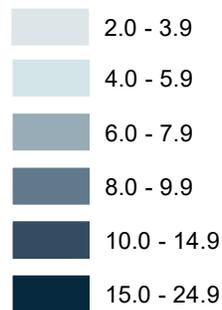
Over the year, employment decreased in all 15 MSAs. Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC had the largest net employment decrease at 62,600, followed by Raleigh, 29,900; Greensboro/High Point, 25,300; Asheville, 16,700; and Durham/Chapel Hill, 15,600. Asheville had the greatest percentage decrease at 8.4%, followed by Goldsboro, 8.2%; Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton, 7.8%; Wilmington, 7.2%; Greensboro/High Point, 6.9%; and Rocky Mount, 6.6%.

North Carolina Unemployment Rates by County

December 2020



December 2020



- ^ 55 Counties Higher Than Previous Month
- v 28 Counties Lower Than Previous Month
- = 17 Counties Same as Previous Month

North Carolina Rate 6.0%
Not Seasonally Adjusted