

NC Economy Watch

April 2026

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Annual data revisions

Many data users crave “real-time data”. Unfortunately, **the fastest data are seldom the most accurate.**

Quality data collection takes time. That’s why the US Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes **data revisions** every year – to give us a **more accurate** reading on economic conditions than the preliminary estimates that were first published.

This year, North Carolina’s job numbers were **revised downward** for the second year in a row, pointing to a widespread labor market slowdown...

Data Revisions (Yet Again) Show a Slower Rate of Job Growth

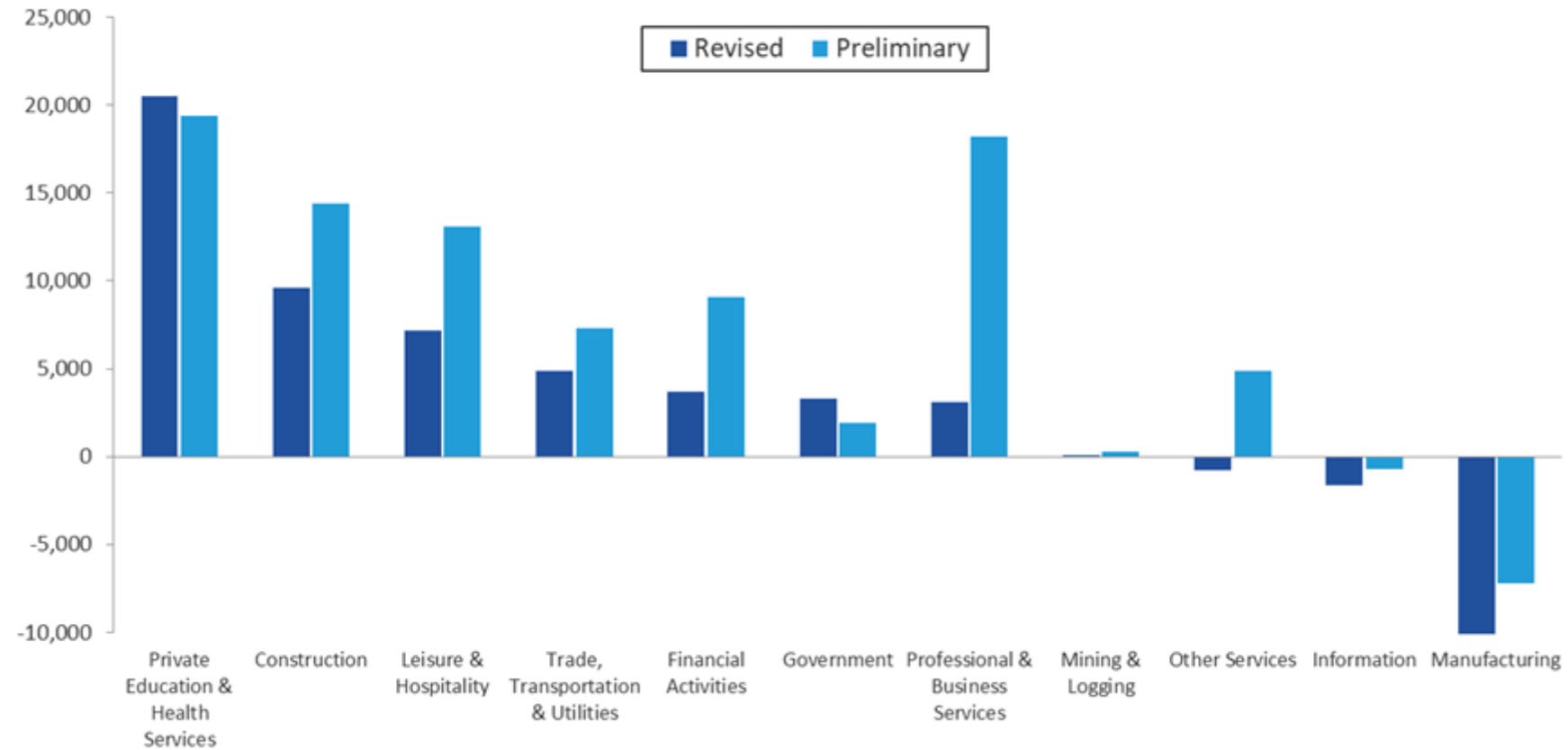
Over-the-year % job growth in North Carolina (Jan 2024 - Dec 2025)



NC Department of Commerce, Labor & Economic Analysis Division (LEAD)
Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics (Current Employment Statistics)

Downward Revisions Were Widespread Across Most of North Carolina's Industry Sectors

Over-the-year job growth by sector in North Carolina (Dec 2025), preliminary vs. revised

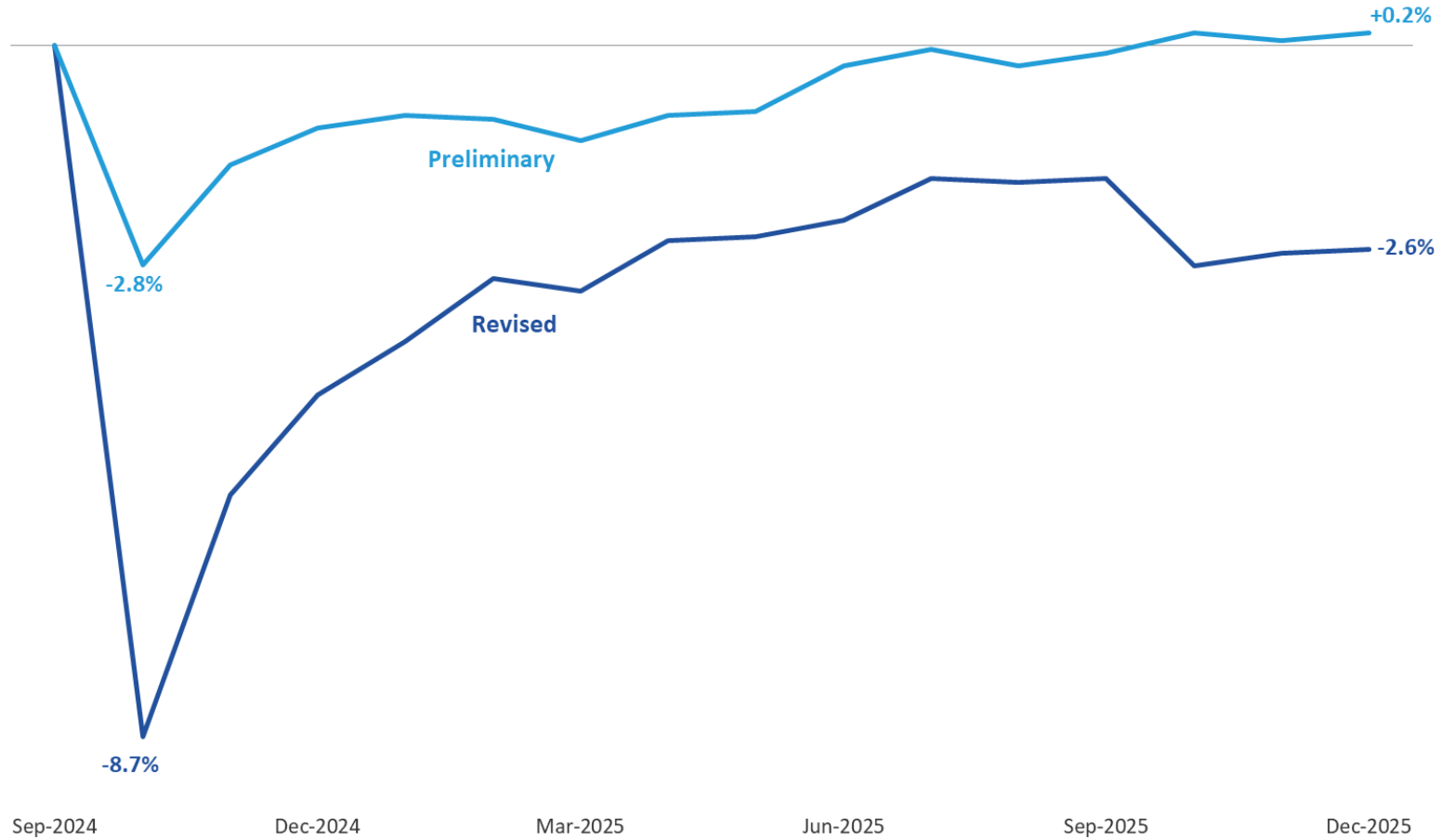


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Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics (Current Employment Statistics)

Revised Data Depict An Incomplete Recovery Following Hurricane Helene

% change in employment since Sep 2024 in the Asheville, NC metro area



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Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics (Current Employment Statistics)

What can you do to get a better reading on labor market conditions?

Focus on slower, higher-quality data. Data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (**QCEW**) are much more accurate than the preliminary, survey-based Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates that are reported each month.

In general, you should always consult several different data sources. Every data source has strengths and weaknesses, and no one single number can ever tell the whole truth.

Listen to LEAD. Not everybody has time to dig through reams of economic statistics. We follow all the numbers so you don't have to!

Resources of interest

LEAD Feed: April 2026 NC Economy Watch

[Data Revisions Point to a Widespread Labor Market Slowdown](#)

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“Thank you!”

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