

NC Economy Watch

December 2025

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North Carolina's labor market situation

What do we know?

The **federal government shutdown** led to a months-long federal data blackout

- August 2025 state-level unemployment rates: published September 19
- September 2025 state-level unemployment rates: published December 11

In the meantime, however, **North Carolina's unemployment insurance system** has continued to generate data, shedding light on current labor market conditions

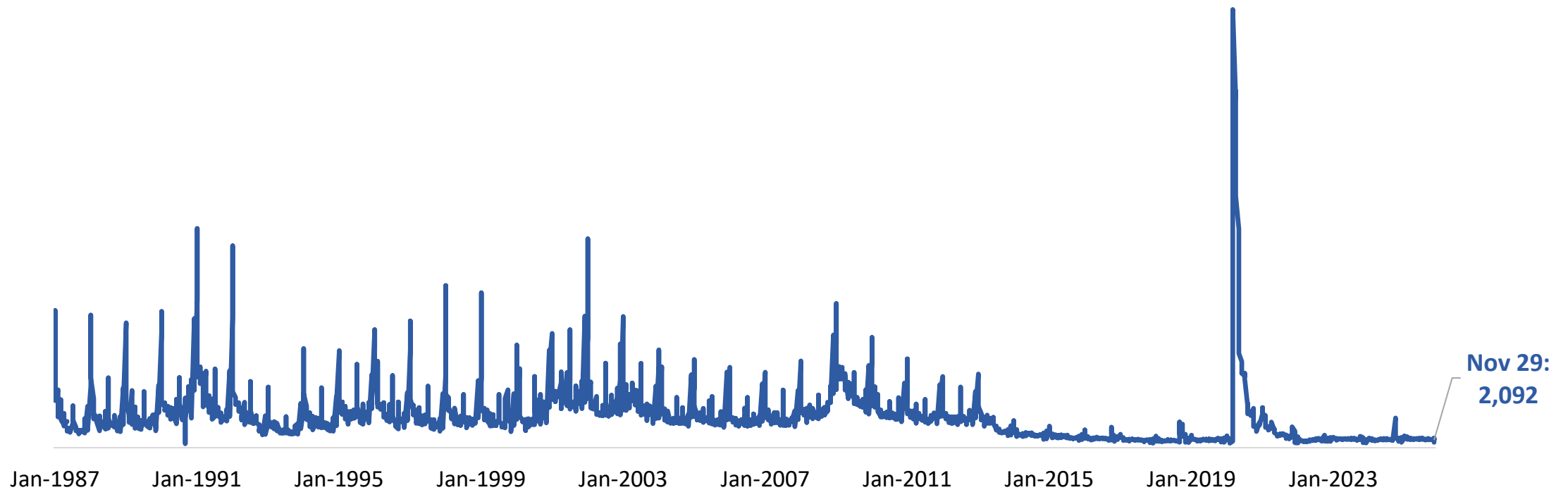
These data have continued to depict a “**low hire, low fire**” **labor market** where layoffs are uncommon but where jobseekers are having increased difficulty finding work

Very few people are being laid off

U.I. initial claims are near an all-time low

Weekly initial claims for unemployment insurance in North Carolina

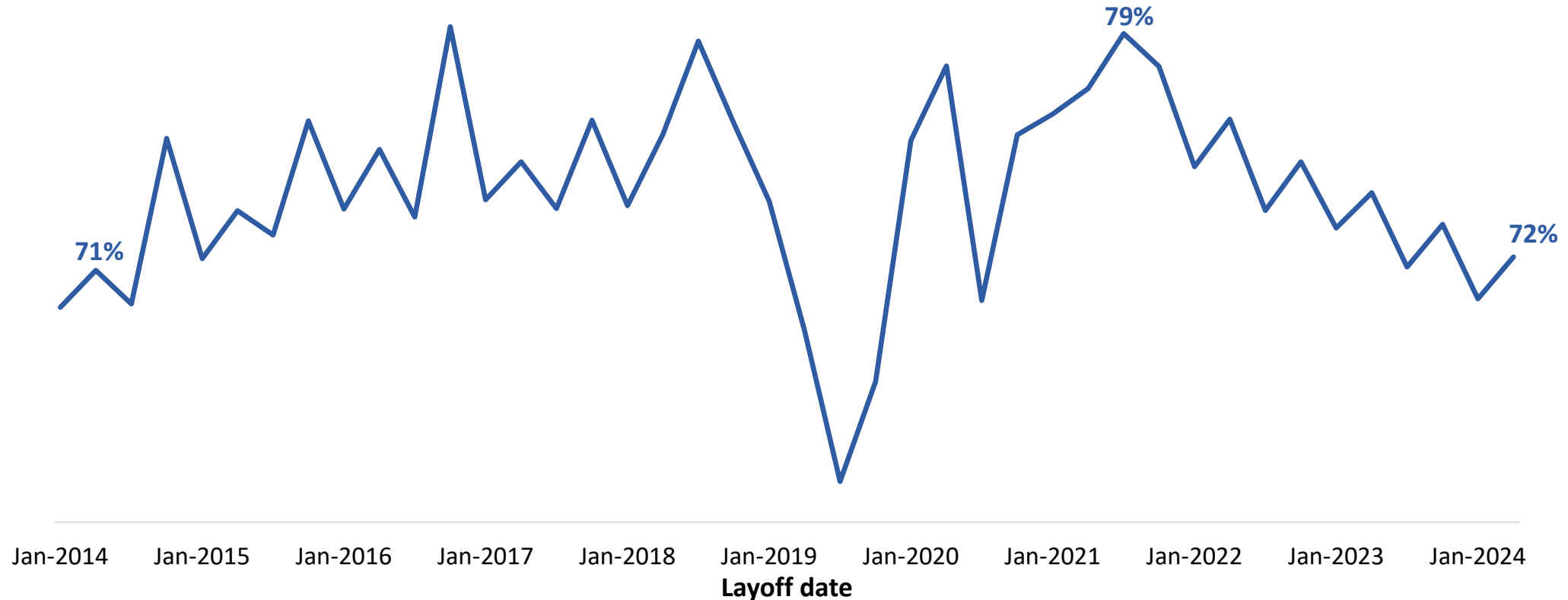
Jan 1997 – Nov 2025



Jobseekers have difficulty finding work

Re-employment has fallen to 2014 levels

% of unemployment insurance claimants in North Carolina re-employed one year after layoff



Upcoming release dates

September 2025 statewide unemployment and jobs data: **[published last Thursday, December 11]**

September 2025 county unemployment data: **December 17**

2025q2 QCEW data: ~**December 19** (TBD)

October 2025 statewide unemployment data: **Canceled by BLS**

October 2025 county unemployment data: **Canceled by BLS**

October 2025 jobs data: **Released with the November 2025 numbers**

November 2025 statewide unemployment and jobs data: **January 7**

November 2025 county unemployment data: **January 16**

Resources of interest

NC UI Claims Dashboard

<https://analytics.nccommerce.com/NC-UI-Claims-Weekly/>

January 2026 NC Economy Watch

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“Thank you!”

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