For Immediate Release: December 2, 2021
For More Information, Contact: David Rhoades/919.814.4611

North Carolina's October County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 83 of North Carolina's counties in October, increased in eight, and remained unchanged in nine. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 7.8 percent while Orange County had the lowest at 2.6 percent. Thirteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases, one increased, and one remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 5.8 percent while Durham-Chapel Hill had the lowest at 2.9 percent. The October not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.6 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
October	87	13	0
September (Revised)	86	14	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in all 100 counties. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in October by 19,925 to 4,884,941, while those unemployed decreased by 5,888 to 184,904. Since October 2020, the number of workers employed statewide increased 156,670, while those unemployed decreased 140,164.

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 Friday, December 17, 2021 when the state unemployment rate for November 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
October 2021

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,069,845	184,904	3.6				
ALAMANCE	83,050	2,990	3.6	JOHNSTON	102,840	3,269	3.2
ALEXANDER	18,123	554	3.1	JONES	4,259	141	3.3
ALLEGHANY	4,272	141	3.3	LEE	26,377	1,121	4.2
ANSON	10,554	552	5.2	LENOIR	27,461	1,099	4.0
ASHE	13,404	368	2.7	LINCOLN	44,379	1,341	3.0
AVERY	7,993	216	2.7	MCDOWELL	20,312	676	3.3
BEAUFORT	20,128	729	3.6	MACON	16,310	463	2.8
BERTIE	7,527	332	4.4	MADISON	9,830	308	3.1
BLADEN	14,748	666	4.5	MARTIN	9,032	373	4.1
BRUNSWICK	53,978	2,442	4.5	MECKLENBURG	629,132	23,625	3.8
BUNCOMBE	137,803	4,167	3.0	MITCHELL	5,951	232	3.9
BURKE	41,172	1,367	3.3	MONTGOMERY	11,574	395	3.4
CABARRUS	110,771	3,650	3.3	MOORE	42,013	1,413	3.4
CALDWELL	36,735	1,315	3.6	NASH	42,669	2,203	5.2
CAMDEN	4,627	134	2.9	NEW HANOVER	126,551	3,917	3.1
CARTERET	32,004	972	3.0	NORTHAMPTON	7,554	355	4.7
CASWELL	9,810	405	4.1	ONSLOW	64,992	2,488	3.8
CATAWBA	79,605	2,720	3.4	ORANGE	81,833	2,098	2.6
CHATHAM	37,206	999	2.7	PAMLICO	5,321	180	3.4
CHEROKEE	10,656	394	3.7	PASQUOTANK	16,574	656	4.0
CHOWAN	5,576	205	3.7	PENDER	29,513	928	3.1
CLAY	4,085	145	3.5	PERQUIMANS	4,923	193	3.9
CLEVELAND	48,992	1,970	4.0	PERSON	18,789	707	3.8
COLUMBUS	22,320	1,122	5.0	PITT	92,928	3,447	3.7
CRAVEN	41,153	1,477	3.6	POLK	9,272	353	3.8
CUMBERLAND	126,150	7,002	5.6	RANDOLPH	64,755	2,288	3.5
CURRITUCK	13,923	398	2.9	RICHMOND	16,515	977	5.9
DARE	20,378	717	3.5	ROBESON	49,732	2,977	6.0
DAVIDSON	80,808	2,736	3.4	ROCKINGHAM	39,362	1,676	4.3
DAVIE	20,564	662	3.2	ROWAN	66,167	2,427	3.7
DUPLIN	25,072	820	3.3	RUTHERFORD	24,607	1,225	5.0
DURHAM	177,457	5,481	3.1	SAMPSON	28,661	978	3.4
EDGECOMBE	20,880	1,498	7.2	SCOTLAND	11,223	872	7.8
FORSYTH	188,397	7,060	3.7	STANLY	30,085	1,010	3.4
FRANKLIN	32,446	1,180	3.6	STOKES	21,622	666	3.1
GASTON	111,478	4,490	4.0	SURRY	32,675	1,058	3.2
GATES	5,128	165	3.2	SWAIN	7,346	225	3.1
GRAHAM	3,107	151	4.9	TRANSYLVANIA	14,246	452	3.2
GRANVILLE	30,163	937	3.1	TYRRELL	1,434	75	5.2
GREENE	9,801	303	3.1	UNION	124,967	3,708	3.0
GUILFORD	258,894	11,303	4.4	VANCE	16,645	1,075	6.5
HALIFAX	19,955	1,171	5.9	WAKE	609,307	18,022	3.0
HARNETT	54,281	2,206	4.1	WARREN	6,566	403	6.1
HAYWOOD	29,179	907	3.1	WASHINGTON	4,411	235	5.3
HENDERSON	53,740	1,620	3.0	WATAUGA	29,147	787	2.7
HERTFORD	9,027	454	5.0	WAYNE	51,086	1,990	3.9
HOKE	19,826	993	5.0	WILKES	28,321	1,002	3.5
HYDE	1,857	81	4.4	WILSON	34,186	1,817	5.3
IREDELL	90,637	3,150	3.5	YADKIN	17,625	535	3.0
JACKSON	20,710	666	3.2	YANCEY	8,617	263	3.1

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	October 2021	September 2021	October 2020	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	October 2021	September 2021	October 2020	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.6	3.8	6.4	-0.2	-2.8						
ALAMANCE	3.6	3.8	6.4	-0.2	-2.8	JOHNSTON	3.2	3.3	5.5	-0.1	-2.3
ALEXANDER	3.1	3.2	5.5	-0.1	-2.4	JONES	3.3	3.5	5.2	-0.2	-1.9
ALLEGHANY	3.3	3.5	6.2	-0.2	-2.9	LEE	4.2	4.3	7.0	-0.1	-2.8
ANSON	5.2	5.0	7.8	0.2	-2.6	LENOIR	4.0	4.0	6.1	0.0	-2.1
ASHE	2.7	2.9	5.1	-0.2	-2.4	LINCOLN	3.0	3.2	5.6	-0.2	-2.6
AVERY	2.7	2.9	5.2	-0.2	-2.5	MCDOWELL	3.3	3.5	6.2	-0.2	-2.9
BEAUFORT	3.6	3.8	5.8	-0.2	-2.2	MACON	2.8	3.2	5.5	-0.4	-2.7
BERTIE	4.4	4.9	6.2	-0.5	-1.8	MADISON	3.1	3.4	5.7	-0.3	-2.6
BLADEN	4.5	4.6	6.7	-0.1	-2.2	MARTIN	4.1	4.2	6.6	-0.1	-2.5
BRUNSWICK	4.5	4.7	7.3	-0.2	-2.8	MECKLENBURG	3.8	3.8	7.0	0.0	-3.2
BUNCOMBE	3.0	3.2	6.4	-0.2	-3.4	MITCHELL	3.9	4.1	7.0	-0.2	-3.1
BURKE	3.3	3.5	5.9	-0.2	-2.6	MONTGOMERY	3.4	3.7	6.1	-0.3	-2.7
CABARRUS	3.3	3.4	6.1	-0.1	-2.8	MOORE	3.4	3.5	6.0	-0.1	-2.6
CALDWELL	3.6	3.7	6.8	-0.1	-3.2	NASH	5.2	5.1	7.9	0.1	-2.7
CAMDEN	2.9	3.2	4.8	-0.3	-1.9	NEW HANOVER	3.1	3.3	5.9	-0.2	-2.8
CARTERET	3.0	3.2	5.1	-0.2	-2.1	NORTHAMPTON	4.7	4.8	7.2	-0.1	-2.5
CASWELL	4.1	4.2	6.9	-0.1	-2.8	ONSLOW	3.8	4.0	6.3	-0.2	-2.5
CATAWBA	3.4	3.5	6.3	-0.1	-2.9	ORANGE	2.6	2.8	4.6	-0.2	-2.0
CHATHAM	2.7	2.9	4.8	-0.2	-2.1	PAMLICO	3.4	3.6	5.2	-0.2	-1.8
CHEROKEE	3.7	4.0	6.8	-0.3	-3.1	PASQUOTANK	4.0	4.2	6.5	-0.2	-2.5
CHOWAN	3.7	4.0	5.6	-0.3	-1.9	PENDER	3.1	3.4	5.5	-0.3	-2.4
CLAY	3.5	3.9	6.6	-0.4	-3.1	PERQUIMANS	3.9	4.1	5.8	-0.2	-1.9
CLEVELAND	4.0	4.2	7.3	-0.2	-3.3	PERSON	3.8	4.1	6.3	-0.3	-2.5
COLUMBUS	5.0	5.2	7.9	-0.2	-2.9	PITT	3.7	3.9	6.2	-0.2	-2.5
CRAVEN	3.6	3.7	6.0	-0.1	-2.4	POLK	3.8	3.9	5.4	-0.1	-1.6
CUMBERLAND	5.6	5.6	8.7	0.0	-3.1	RANDOLPH	3.5	3.7	6.2	-0.2	-2.7
CURRITUCK	2.9	3.0	4.9	-0.1	-2.0	RICHMOND	5.9	5.9	8.9	0.0	-3.0
DARE	3.5	3.4	5.8	0.1	-2.3	ROBESON	6.0	6.0	8.9	0.0	-2.9
DAVIDSON	3.4	3.5	6.1	-0.1	-2.7	ROCKINGHAM	4.3	4.4	7.2	-0.1	-2.9
DAVIE	3.2	3.3	5.6	-0.1	-2.4	ROWAN	3.7	3.8	6.7	-0.1	-3.0
DUPLIN	3.3	3.5	5.1	-0.2	-1.8	RUTHERFORD	5.0	5.2	8.1	-0.2	-3.1
DURHAM	3.1	3.2	5.9	-0.1	-2.8	SAMPSON	3.4	3.6	5.3	-0.2	-1.9
EDGECOMBE	7.2	6.8	10.6	0.4	-3.4	SCOTLAND	7.8	7.8	11.9	0.0	-4.1
FORSYTH	3.7	3.8	6.7	-0.1	-3.0	STANLY	3.4	3.5	5.5	-0.1	-2.1
FRANKLIN	3.6	3.7	6.2	-0.1	-2.6	STOKES	3.1	3.2	5.7	-0.1	-2.6
GASTON	4.0	4.1	7.2	-0.1	-3.2	SURRY	3.2	3.4	5.7	-0.2	-2.5
GATES	3.2	3.6	5.3	-0.4	-2.1	SWAIN	3.1	3.1	5.8	0.0	-2.7
GRAHAM	4.9	5.0	8.3	-0.1	-3.4	TRANSYLVANIA	3.2	3.4	5.2	-0.2	-2.0
GRANVILLE	3.1	3.2	5.3	-0.1	-2.2	TYRRELL	5.2	4.6	6.8	0.6	-1.6
GREENE	3.1	3.1	5.4	0.0	-2.3	UNION	3.0	3.1	5.1	-0.1	-2.1
GUILFORD	4.4	4.5	7.7	-0.1	-3.3	VANCE	6.5	6.5	10.0	0.0	-3.5
HALIFAX	5.9	5.7	9.1	0.2	-3.2	WAKE	3.0	3.1	5.6	-0.1	-2.6
HARNETT	4.1	4.2	6.8	-0.1	-2.7	WARREN	6.1	6.3	9.2	-0.2	-3.1
HAYWOOD	3.1	3.3	6.0	-0.2	-2.9	WASHINGTON	5.3	5.0	7.9	0.3	-2.6
HENDERSON	3.0	3.2	5.6	-0.2	-2.6	WATAUGA	2.7	2.9	4.6	-0.2	-1.9
HERTFORD	5.0	5.3	6.7	-0.3	-1.7	WAYNE	3.9	4.0	6.0	-0.1	-2.1
HOKE	5.0	5.2	8.0	-0.2	-3.0	WILKES	3.5	3.8	5.8	-0.3	-2.3
HYDE	4.4	4.2	6.5	0.2	-2.1	WILSON	5.3	5.6	8.2	-0.3	-2.9
IREDELL	3.5	3.6	6.1	-0.1	-2.6	YADKIN	3.0	3.3	5.5	-0.3	-2.5
JACKSON	3.2	3.5	5.5	-0.3	-2.3	YANCEY	3.1	3.3	5.6	-0.2	-2.5

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
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Data for
October 2021

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	230,552	7,002	3.0
BURLINGTON	83,050	2,990	3.6
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,379,737	49,037	3.6
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	315,285	9,285	2.9
FAYETTEVILLE	145,976	7,995	5.5
GOLDSBORO	51,086	1,990	3.9
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	363,011	15,267	4.2
GREENVILLE	92,928	3,447	3.7
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	175,635	5,956	3.4
JACKSONVILLE	64,992	2,488	3.8
NEW BERN	50,733	1,798	3.5
RALEIGH	744,593	22,471	3.0
ROCKY MOUNT	63,549	3,701	5.8
WILMINGTON	156,064	4,845	3.1
WINSTON-SALEM	329,016	11,659	3.5

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	30,085	1,010	3.4
BOONE	29,147	787	2.7
BREVARD	14,246	452	3.2
CULLOWHEE	20,710	666	3.2
DUNN	54,281	2,206	4.1
ELIZABETH CITY	26,124	983	3.8
FOREST CITY	24,607	1,225	5.0
HENDERSON	16,645	1,075	6.5
KILL DEVIL HILLS	21,812	792	3.6
KINSTON	27,461	1,099	4.0
LAURINBURG	11,223	872	7.8
LUMBERTON	49,732	2,977	6.0
MARION	20,312	676	3.3
MOREHEAD CITY	32,004	972	3.0
MOUNT AIRY	32,675	1,058	3.2
NORTH WILKESBORO	28,321	1,002	3.5
OXFORD	30,163	937	3.1
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	42,013	1,413	3.4
ROANOKE RAPIDS	27,509	1,526	5.5
ROCKINGHAM	16,515	977	5.9
SANFORD	26,377	1,121	4.2
SHELBY	48,992	1,970	4.0
WASHINGTON	20,128	729	3.6
WILSON	34,186	1,817	5.3

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Data for
October 2021

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	244,798	7,454	3.0
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,458,814	52,017	3.6
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	206,931	11,844	5.7
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	807,752	30,974	3.8
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	113,056	4,176	3.7
HICKORY-LENOIR	195,947	6,632	3.4
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	82,737	2,770	3.3
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	1,187,344	37,095	3.1
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	125,244	7,044	5.6

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	October 2021	September 2021	October 2020	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	3.0	3.2	6.1	-0.2	-3.1
BURLINGTON	3.6	3.8	6.4	-0.2	-2.8
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.6	3.7	6.4	-0.1	-2.8
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	2.9	3.1	5.5	-0.2	-2.6
FAYETTEVILLE	5.5	5.5	8.6	0.0	-3.1
GOLDSBORO	3.9	4.0	6.0	-0.1	-2.1
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	4.2	4.3	7.4	-0.1	-3.2
GREENVILLE	3.7	3.9	6.2	-0.2	-2.5
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.4	3.5	6.2	-0.1	-2.8
JACKSONVILLE	3.8	4.0	6.3	-0.2	-2.5
NEW BERN	3.5	3.7	5.9	-0.2	-2.4
RALEIGH	3.0	3.2	5.6	-0.2	-2.6
ROCKY MOUNT	5.8	5.7	8.8	0.1	-3.0
WILMINGTON	3.1	3.3	5.8	-0.2	-2.7
WINSTON-SALEM	3.5	3.7	6.4	-0.2	-2.9

Micropolitan Statistical Area	October 2021	September 2021	October 2020	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	3.4	3.5	5.5	-0.1	-2.1
BOONE	2.7	2.9	4.6	-0.2	-1.9
BREVARD	3.2	3.4	5.2	-0.2	-2.0
CULLOWHEE	3.2	3.5	5.5	-0.3	-2.3
DUNN	4.1	4.2	6.8	-0.1	-2.7
ELIZABETH CITY	3.8	4.0	6.0	-0.2	-2.2
FOREST CITY	5.0	5.2	8.1	-0.2	-3.1
HENDERSON	6.5	6.5	10.0	0.0	-3.5
KILL DEVIL HILLS	3.6	3.5	5.9	0.1	-2.3
KINSTON	4.0	4.0	6.1	0.0	-2.1
LAURINBURG	7.8	7.8	11.9	0.0	-4.1
LUMBERTON	6.0	6.0	8.9	0.0	-2.9
MARION	3.3	3.5	6.2	-0.2	-2.9
MOREHEAD CITY	3.0	3.2	5.1	-0.2	-2.1
MOUNT AIRY	3.2	3.4	5.7	-0.2	-2.5
NORTH WILKESBORO	3.5	3.8	5.8	-0.3	-2.3
OXFORD	3.1	3.2	5.3	-0.1	-2.2
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.4	3.5	6.0	-0.1	-2.6
ROANOKE RAPIDS	5.5	5.5	8.6	0.0	-3.1
ROCKINGHAM	5.9	5.9	8.9	0.0	-3.0
SANFORD	4.2	4.3	7.0	-0.1	-2.8
SHELBY	4.0	4.2	7.3	-0.2	-3.3
WASHINGTON	3.6	3.8	5.8	-0.2	-2.2
WILSON	5.3	5.6	8.2	-0.3	-2.9

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

Combined Statistical Area	October 2021	September 2021	October 2020	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	3.0	3.2	6.1	-0.2	-3.1
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.6	3.7	6.4	-0.1	-2.8
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	5.7	5.8	8.9	-0.1	-3.2
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	3.8	4.0	6.8	-0.2	-3.0
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	3.7	3.9	6.1	-0.2	-2.4
HICKORY-LENOIR	3.4	3.5	6.2	-0.1	-2.8
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.3	3.5	5.6	-0.2	-2.3
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.1	3.3	5.7	-0.2	-2.6
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	5.6	5.6	8.6	0.0	-3.0

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 RANKINGS
Preliminary Data for October 2021

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
ORANGE	81,833	2,098	2.6%	1	CALDWELL	36,735	1,315	3.6%	51
CHATHAM	37,206	999	2.7%	2	CRAVEN	41,153	1,477	3.6%	52
WATAUGA	29,147	787	2.7%	3	ALAMANCE	83,050	2,990	3.6%	53
AVERY	7,993	216	2.7%	4	BEAUFORT	20,128	729	3.6%	54
ASHE	13,404	368	2.7%	5	FRANKLIN	32,446	1,180	3.6%	55
MACON	16,310	463	2.8%	6	ROWAN	66,167	2,427	3.7%	56
CURRITUCK	13,923	398	2.9%	7	CHOWAN	5,576	205	3.7%	57
CAMDEN	4,627	134	2.9%	8	CHEROKEE	10,656	394	3.7%	58
WAKE	609,307	18,022	3.0%	9	PITT	92,928	3,447	3.7%	59
UNION	124,967	3,708	3.0%	10	FORSYTH	188,397	7,060	3.7%	60
HENDERSON	53,740	1,620	3.0%	11	MECKLENBURG	629,132	23,625	3.8%	61
LINCOLN	44,379	1,341	3.0%	12	PERSON	18,789	707	3.8%	62
BUNCOMBE	137,803	4,167	3.0%	13	POLK	9,272	353	3.8%	63
YADKIN	17,625	535	3.0%	14	ONSLOW	64,992	2,488	3.8%	64
CARTERET	32,004	972	3.0%	15	WAYNE	51,086	1,990	3.9%	65
YANCEY	8,617	263	3.1%	16	MITCHELL	5,951	232	3.9%	66
ALEXANDER	18,123	554	3.1%	17	PERQUIMANS	4,923	193	3.9%	67
SWAIN	7,346	225	3.1%	18	PASQUOTANK	16,574	656	4.0%	68
STOKES	21,622	666	3.1%	19	LENOIR	27,461	1,099	4.0%	69
DURHAM	177,457	5,481	3.1%	20	CLEVELAND	48,992	1,970	4.0%	70
GREENE	9,801	303	3.1%	21	GASTON	111,478	4,490	4.0%	71
NEW HANOVER	126,551	3,917	3.1%	22	HARNETT	54,281	2,206	4.1%	72
GRANVILLE	30,163	937	3.1%	23	CASWELL	9,810	405	4.1%	73
HAYWOOD	29,179	907	3.1%	24	MARTIN	9,032	373	4.1%	74
MADISON	9,830	308	3.1%	25	LEE	26,377	1,121	4.2%	75
PENDER	29,513	928	3.1%	26	ROCKINGHAM	39,362	1,676	4.3%	76
TRANSYLVANIA	14,246	452	3.2%	27	HYDE	1,857	81	4.4%	77
JOHNSTON	102,840	3,269	3.2%	28	GUILFORD	258,894	11,303	4.4%	78
JACKSON	20,710	666	3.2%	29	BERTIE	7,527	332	4.4%	79
GATES	5,128	165	3.2%	30	BLADEN	14,748	666	4.5%	80
DAVIE	20,564	662	3.2%	31	BRUNSWICK	53,978	2,442	4.5%	81
SURRY	32,675	1,058	3.2%	32	NORTHAMPTON	7,554	355	4.7%	82
DUPLIN	25,072	820	3.3%	33	GRAHAM	3,107	151	4.9%	83
CABARRUS	110,771	3,650	3.3%	34	RUTHERFORD	24,607	1,225	5.0%	84
ALLEGHANY	4,272	141	3.3%	35	HOKE	19,826	993	5.0%	85
JONES	4,259	141	3.3%	36	COLUMBUS	22,320	1,122	5.0%	86
BURKE	41,172	1,367	3.3%	37	HERTFORD	9,027	454	5.0%	87
MCDOWELL	20,312	676	3.3%	38	NASH	42,669	2,203	5.2%	88
STANLY	30,085	1,010	3.4%	39	TYRRELL	1,434	75	5.2%	89
MOORE	42,013	1,413	3.4%	40	ANSON	10,554	552	5.2%	90
PAMLICO	5,321	180	3.4%	41	WILSON	34,186	1,817	5.3%	91
DAVIDSON	80,808	2,736	3.4%	42	WASHINGTON	4,411	235	5.3%	92
SAMPSON	28,661	978	3.4%	43	CUMBERLAND	126,150	7,002	5.6%	93
MONTGOMERY	11,574	395	3.4%	44	HALIFAX	19,955	1,171	5.9%	94
CATAWBA	79,605	2,720	3.4%	45	RICHMOND	16,515	977	5.9%	95
IREDELL	90,637	3,150	3.5%	46	ROBESON	49,732	2,977	6.0%	96
DARE	20,378	717	3.5%	47	WARREN	6,566	403	6.1%	97
RANDOLPH	64,755	2,288	3.5%	48	VANCE	16,645	1,075	6.5%	98
WILKES	28,321	1,002	3.5%	49	EDGECOMBE	20,880	1,498	7.2%	99
CLAY	4,085	145	3.5%	50	SCOTLAND	11,223	872	7.8%	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 2021, 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 Friday, December 17, 2021 when the state unemployment rate for November 2021 will be released.

The complete 2021 data release schedule can be accessed at:

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

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

Scotland	Edgecombe	Vance	Warren	Robeson
7.8%	7.2%	6.5%	6.1%	6.0%

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

Orange	Chatham	Watauga	Avery	Ashe
2.6%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%

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

North Carolina	Durham/Chapel Hill	Asheville	Raleigh	Wilmington	Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton	New Bern	Winston-Salem	Burlington	Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC	Greenville	Jacksonville	Goldsboro	Greensboro/High Point	Fayetteville	Rocky Mount
3.6%	2.9%	3.0%	3.0%	3.1%	3.4%	3.5%	3.5%	3.6%	3.6%	3.7%	3.8%	3.9%	4.2%	5.5%	5.8%

North Carolina's statewide unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 3.6 percent in October. This decreased 0.2 of a percentage point from September's revised rate, and declined 2.8 percentage points over the year.

Over the month, the unemployment rate decreased in 83 of North Carolina's 100 counties. Fifty-five counties had unemployment rates at or below the state's 3.6 percent rate.

Scotland County recorded October's highest unemployment rate at 7.8 percent, followed by Edgecombe at 7.2 percent. Orange County had the lowest unemployment rate at 2.6 percent, followed by Chatham, Watauga, Avery, and Ashe Counties each at 2.7 percent.

Unemployment rates decreased in 13 of the state's 15 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) over the month. The Rocky Mount MSA had the highest unemployment rate in October at 5.8 percent. The Durham/Chapel Hill MSA reported the month's lowest unemployment rate at 2.9 percent, followed by Asheville and Raleigh at 3.0 percent each.

*All October 2021 data are preliminary.

Asheville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | October 2021

UN Rate | 3.0%
Total Nonfarm | 190,900
Monthly Change | 2,700, 1.4%
Yearly Change | 4,800, 2.6%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-1.0%
Manufacturing	300	1.4%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	100	0.3%
Information	100	6.3%
Financial Activities	100	1.6%
Professional & Business Services	900	5.1%
Education & Health Services	400	1.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	0	0.0%
Other Services	100	1.1%
Government	800	3.1%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	300	3.2%
Manufacturing	1,200	5.8%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	100	0.3%
Information	100	6.3%
Financial Activities	200	3.2%
Professional & Business Services	500	2.7%
Education & Health Services	-1,700	-4.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	2,900	12.2%
Other Services	400	4.4%
Government	800	3.1%

Burlington MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | October 2021
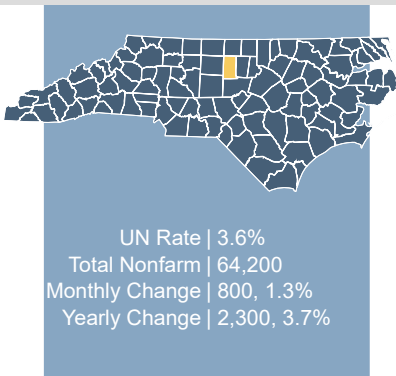
UN Rate | 3.6%
Total Nonfarm | 64,200
Monthly Change | 800, 1.3%
Yearly Change | 2,300, 3.7%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	200	2.4%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-100	-0.7%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	100	1.6%
Education & Health Services	100	0.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	100	1.4%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	400	6.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	200	6.3%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	900	7.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-100	-5.0%
Professional & Business Services	500	8.6%
Education & Health Services	300	2.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	-100	-1.4%
Other Services	200	8.3%
Government	400	6.0%

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

UN Rate | 3.6%
Total Nonfarm | 1,239,700
Monthly Change | 16,000, 1.3%
Yearly Change | 35,300, 2.9%
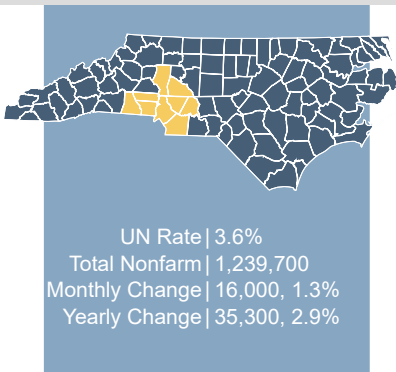
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	1,100	1.6%
Manufacturing	500	0.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	3,900	1.6%
Information	100	0.4%
Financial Activities	-100	-0.1%
Professional & Business Services	3,000	1.4%
Education & Health Services	2,300	1.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,700	1.4%
Other Services	300	0.7%
Government	3,200	2.1%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	2,800	4.1%
Manufacturing	-400	-0.4%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	2,600	1.0%
Information	1,000	4.4%
Financial Activities	1,600	1.4%
Professional & Business Services	12,000	5.7%
Education & Health Services	1,400	1.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	11,700	10.1%
Other Services	1,700	4.0%
Government	900	0.6%

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

UN Rate | 2.9%
Total Nonfarm | 333,800
Monthly Change | 6,800, 2.1%
Yearly Change | 15,200, 4.8%
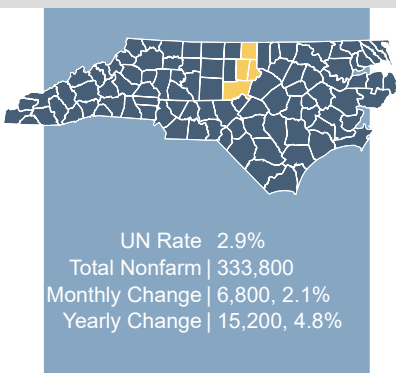
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	400	4.0%
Manufacturing	200	0.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	400	1.0%
Information	100	1.7%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	1,600	3.1%
Education & Health Services	1,800	2.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	600	2.6%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	1,700	2.7%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	800	8.4%
Manufacturing	1,000	3.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,800	4.6%
Information	500	9.1%
Financial Activities	300	1.9%
Professional & Business Services	5,700	11.8%
Education & Health Services	1,700	2.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	3,300	16.3%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	100	0.2%

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

North Carolina **County Labor Market Conditions**

## Fayetteville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | October 2021
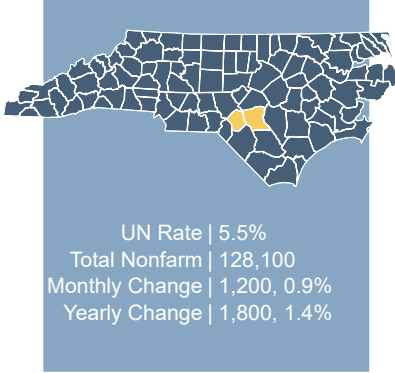
UN Rate | 5.5%
Total Nonfarm | 128,100
Monthly Change | 1,200, 0.9%
Yearly Change | 1,800, 1.4%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	2.0%
Manufacturing	100	1.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	500	2.2%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-100	-2.6%
Professional & Business Services	200	1.8%
Education & Health Services	300	2.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	0	0.0%
Other Services	100	2.3%
Government	0	0.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	500	10.6%
Manufacturing	500	6.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	0	0.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-100	-2.6%
Professional & Business Services	-100	-0.9%
Education & Health Services	100	0.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,800	12.1%
Other Services	200	4.7%
Government	-1,100	-2.8%

Goldsboro MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | October 2021
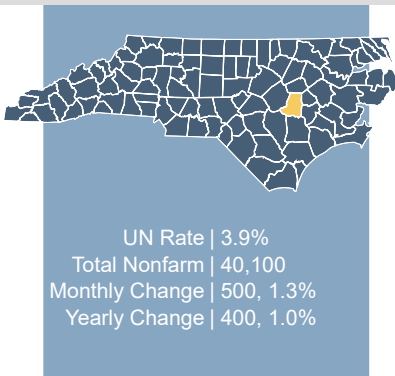
UN Rate | 3.9%
Total Nonfarm | 40,100
Monthly Change | 500, 1.3%
Yearly Change | 400, 1.0%

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	200	2.2%

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	500	5.7%

## Greensboro/High Point MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | October 2021

UN Rate | 4.2%
Total Nonfarm | 352,800
Monthly Change | 4,800, 1.4%
Yearly Change | 8,400, 2.4%
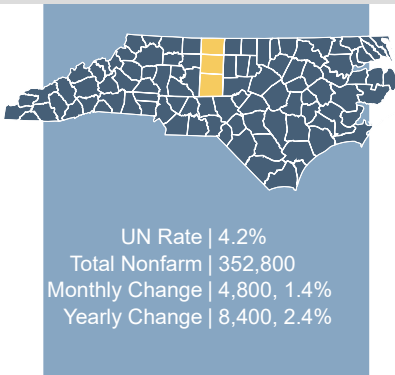
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-200	-1.2%
Manufacturing	600	1.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,500	1.9%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	900	2.0%
Education & Health Services	300	0.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	900	2.8%
Other Services	100	0.9%
Government	700	1.7%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	500	3.1%
Manufacturing	2,600	5.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	3,000	3.9%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	200	0.4%
Education & Health Services	1,000	2.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	2,400	8.0%
Other Services	100	0.9%
Government	-1,400	-3.3%

Greenville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | October 2021
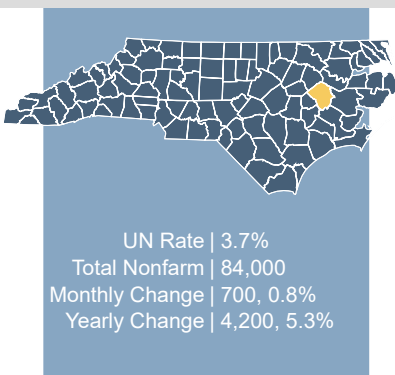
UN Rate | 3.7%
Total Nonfarm | 84,000
Monthly Change | 700, 0.8%
Yearly Change | 4,200, 5.3%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	100	1.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	1.7%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	100	1.2%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	300	3.4%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	0	0.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	300	4.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	500	4.3%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-100	-4.0%
Professional & Business Services	1,200	16.4%
Education & Health Services	100	1.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	800	9.8%
Other Services	100	4.5%
Government	1,300	4.6%

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

North Carolina **County Labor Market Conditions**

Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | October 2021
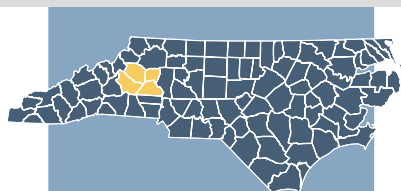
UN Rate | 3.4%
Total Nonfarm | 155,600
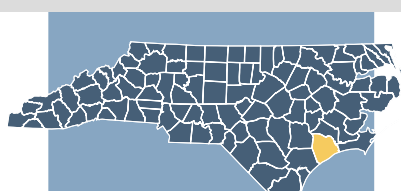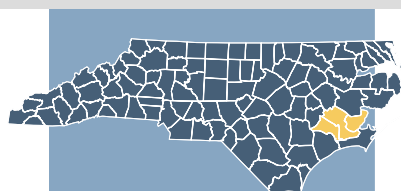Monthly Change | 1,600, 1.0%
Yearly Change | 5,100, 3.4%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	2.0%
Manufacturing	700	1.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300	1.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	200	1.5%
Education & Health Services	100	0.5%
Leisure & Hospitality	-200	-1.4%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	400	1.8%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	400	8.3%
Manufacturing	3,300	8.4%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	100	0.3%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-200	-1.5%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	800	6.3%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	700	3.1%

Jacksonville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | October 2021

UN Rate | 3.8%
Total Nonfarm | 50,100
Monthly Change | 400, 0.8%
Yearly Change | 300, 0.6%

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	-2.8%

New Bern MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | October 2021

UN Rate | 3.5%
Total Nonfarm | 44,300
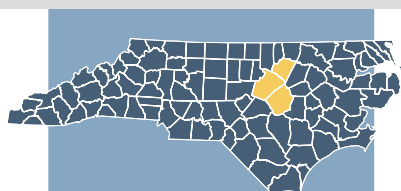Monthly Change | 400, 0.9%
Yearly Change | 200, 0.5%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

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

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%

Raleigh MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | October 2021

UN Rate | 3.0%
Total Nonfarm | 663,200
Monthly Change | 9,400, 1.4%
Yearly Change | 30,700, 4.9%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-400	-0.9%
Manufacturing	500	1.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,900	1.6%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-100	-0.3%
Professional & Business Services	900	0.7%
Education & Health Services	1,800	2.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	2,900	4.4%
Other Services	300	1.2%
Government	1,600	1.7%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	2,300	5.4%
Manufacturing	2,700	9.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	3,700	3.1%
Information	200	0.9%
Financial Activities	1,500	4.5%
Professional & Business Services	5,300	4.1%
Education & Health Services	3,000	3.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	11,500	20.2%
Other Services	-200	-0.8%
Government	700	0.7%

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

North Carolina **County Labor Market Conditions**

Rocky Mount MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | October 2021
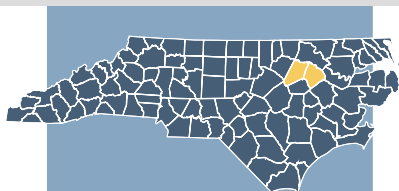
UN Rate | 5.8%
Total Nonfarm | 54,500
Monthly Change | 800, 1.5%
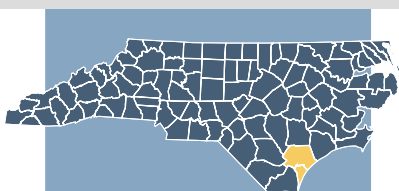Yearly Change | 1,200, 2.3%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	300	3.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-100	-0.8%
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	100	2.0%
Education & Health Services	100	1.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	100	2.0%
Other Services	*	
Government	500	5.1%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	4.0%
Manufacturing	-800	-7.8%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	1.7%
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	200	4.2%
Education & Health Services	100	1.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	500	10.6%
Other Services	*	
Government	900	9.5%

Wilmington MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | October 2021

UN Rate | 3.1%
Total Nonfarm | 135,100
Monthly Change | 1,700, 1.3%
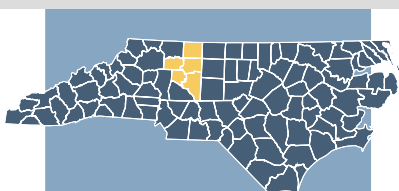Yearly Change | 7,200, 5.6%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-1.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	400	1.6%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	600	3.2%
Education & Health Services	100	0.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	400	2.1%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	300	1.2%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	500	5.4%
Manufacturing	400	7.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	0.8%
Information	100	3.2%
Financial Activities	200	3.2%
Professional & Business Services	2,400	14.0%
Education & Health Services	300	1.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	2,200	12.6%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	900	3.8%

Winston-Salem MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | October 2021

UN Rate | 3.5%
Total Nonfarm | 269,700
Monthly Change | 4,000, 1.5%
Yearly Change | 9,000, 3.5%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-0.8%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	800	1.6%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	1,600	4.4%
Education & Health Services	500	0.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	600	2.3%
Other Services	100	1.2%
Government	500	1.6%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

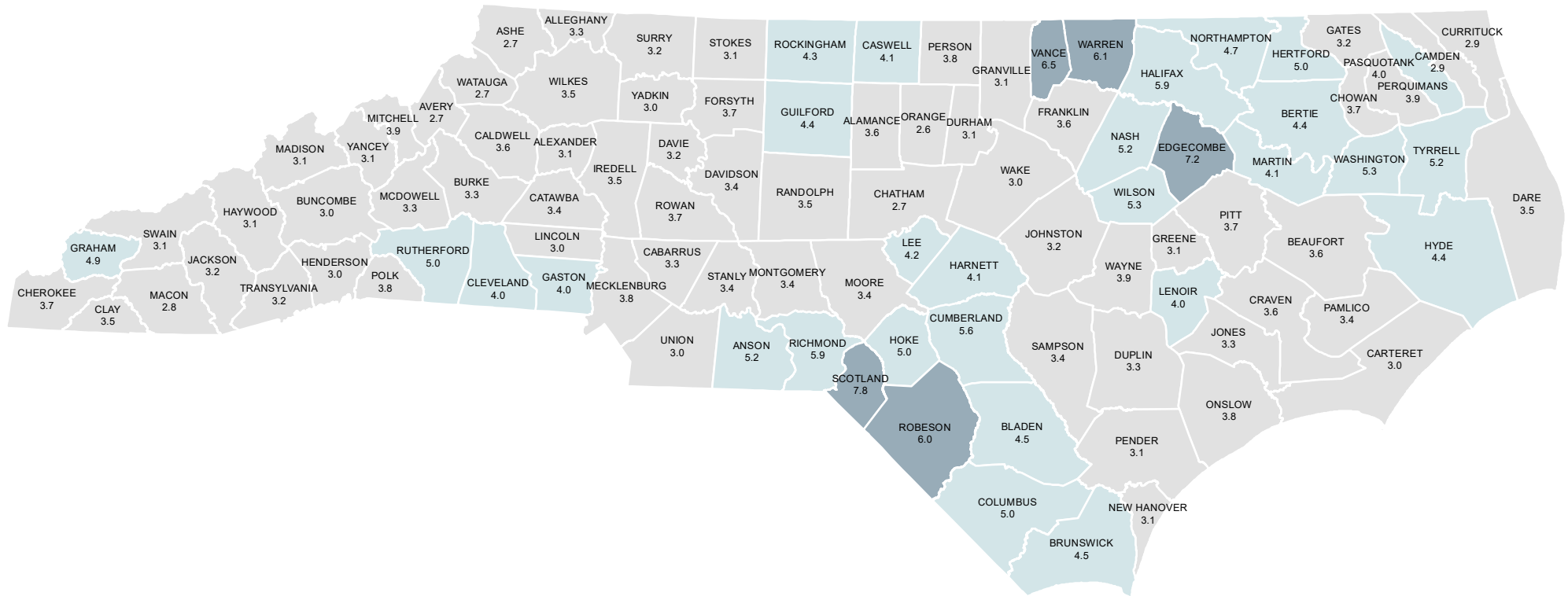| Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	1,200	3.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,000	2.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	100	0.8%
Professional & Business Services	2,600	7.3%
Education & Health Services	-100	-0.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	2,700	11.2%
Other Services	200	2.4%
Government	1,300	4.4%

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

Over the month, all of North Carolina's 15 MSAs experienced net job increase. Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC had the largest net employment increase with 16,000, followed by Raleigh, 9,400; Durham/Chapel Hill, 6,800; Greensboro/High Point, 4,800; Winston-Salem, 4,000; and Asheville, 2,700. Durham/Chapel Hill had the greatest percentage increase at 2.1%, followed by Rocky Mount and Winston-Salem at 1.5% each. 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.
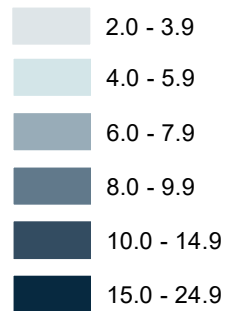
Over the year, employment increased in all of North Carolina's 15 MSAs. Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC had the largest net employment increase at 35,300, followed by Raleigh, 30,700; Durham/Chapel Hill, 15,200; Winston-Salem, 9,000; and Greensboro/High Point, 8,400. Wilmington had the greatest percentage increase at 5.6%, followed by Greenville, 5.3%; Raleigh, 4.9%; and Durham/Chapel Hill, 4.8%.

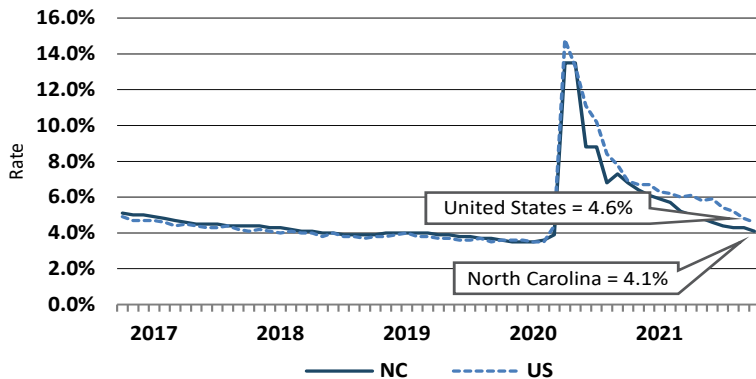# North Carolina Unemployment Rates by County
October 2021

CHEROKEE 3.7
CLAY 3.5
GRAHAM 4.9
SWAIN 3.1
MACON 2.8
JACKSON 3.2
HAYWOOD 3.1
TRANSYLVANIA 3.2
MADISON 3.1
BUNCOMBE 3.0
HENDERSON 3.0
YANCEY 3.1
MITCHELL 3.9
AVERY 2.7
WATAUGA 2.7
MCDOWELL 3.3
POLK 3.8
RUTHERFORD 5.0
BURKE 3.3
CALDWELL 3.6
ASHE 2.7
ALLEGHANY 3.3
WILKES 3.5
ALEXANDER 3.1
CATAWBA 3.4
LINCOLN 3.0
CLEVELAND 4.0
GASTON 4.0
MECKLENBURG 3.8
IREDELL 3.5
SURRY 3.2
YADKIN 3.0
DAVIE 3.2
DAVIDSON 3.4
ROWAN 3.7
CABARRUS 3.3
STANLY 3.4
UNION 3.0
ANSON 5.2
STOKES 3.1
FORSYTH 3.7
RANDOLPH 3.5
MONTGOMERY 3.4
RICHMOND 5.9
MONTGOMERY
MOORE 3.4
ROCKINGHAM 4.3
GUILFORD 4.4
ALAMANCE 3.6
CASWELL 4.1
ORANGE 2.6
DURHAM 3.1
CHATHAM 2.7
LEE 4.2
HARNETT 4.1
HOKE 5.0
SCOTLAND 7.8
ROBESON 6.0
BLADEN 4.5
CUMBERLAND 5.6
PERSON 3.8
GRANVILLE 3.1
WAKE 3.0
JOHNSTON 3.2
SAMPSON 3.4
DUPLIN 3.3
PENDER 3.1
NEW HANOVER 3.1
COLUMBUS 5.0
BRUNSWICK 4.5
VANCE 6.5
WARREN 6.1
FRANKLIN 3.6
NASH 5.2
WILSON 5.3
WAYNE 3.9
LENOIR 4.0
GREENE 3.1
ONSLOW 3.8
JONES 3.3
CRAVEN 3.6
PAMLICO 3.4
CARTERET 3.0
NORTHAMPTON 4.7
HALIFAX 5.9
EDGECOMBE 7.2
MARTIN 4.1
PITT 3.7
BEAUFORT 3.6
HERTFORD 5.0
BERTIE 4.4
WASHINGTON 5.3
TYRRELL 5.2
HYDE 4.4
DARE 3.5
GATES 3.2
CHOWAN 3.7
PASQUOTANK 4.0
PERQUIMANS 3.9
CAMDEN 2.9
CURRITUCK 2.9

October 2021

- 2.0 - 3.9
- 4.0 - 5.9
- 6.0 - 7.9
- 8.0 - 9.9
- 10.0 - 14.9
- 15.0 - 24.9

∧ 8   Counties Higher Than Previous Month
∨ 83   Counties Lower Than Previous Month
= 9   Counties Same as Previous Month

North Carolina Rate 3.6%
Not Seasonally Adjusted

Note: October 2021 data are preliminary.
Prepared by the Labor & Economic Analysis, North Carolina Department of Commerce 11_2021

NC TODAY

Monthly Dashboard*

Employment rebounded in North Carolina in October as our state's economy shook off the effects of latest COVID-19 outbreak. High levels of job openings, residential building permits, and retail sales activity indicate continued strength on the demand side of our economy. However, labor force participation remains well below pre-COVID levels, presenting a continued impediment to hiring. Expectations for economic growth in the Carolinas have declined in recent months, but remain positive, suggesting continued progress heading into 2022.

NC 4.1%   **US** 4.6%

Unemployment Rate Change
↓ 0.2   ↓ 0.2

Change in Employed
↑ 11,009 (0.2%)   ↑ 359,000 (0.2%)

Change in Unemployed
↓ 6,223 (2.9%)   ↓ 255,000 (3.3%)

Change in Labor Force Participation Rate
↔ 0.0 to 59.3%   ↔ 0.0 to 61.6%

Unemployment Rate Trend

NC ↓ 1.0 percentage points from 5.1% in October 2016

US ↓ 0.3 percentage points from 4.9% in October 2016

Unemployment Rate Comparison

Scale: 1.9 2.9 3.7 4.6 6.0 7.3

West Virginia 4.3 ↓
Virginia 3.6 ↓
Tennessee 4.2 ↓
North Carolina 4.1 ↓
South Carolina 3.9 ↓
Alabama 3.1 ↔
Georgia 3.1 ↓

Data

Employment
4,554,300 Total Nonfarm Jobs
↑ 31,200 over the month
↑ 151,400 over the year

Initial UI Claims
25,208 claims filed
↓ 26,860 over the month
↓ 41,123 over the year
Source: US Dept. of Labor, ETA
Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted

Real Taxable Retail Sales
↑ $65.5M over the month
↑ $1,589.1M over the year
Source: NC Dept. of Revenue
Note: September 2021 data most current available at time of release.

Residential Building Permits
↑ 0.2% over the month
↑ 16.4% over the year
Source: United States Census Bureau
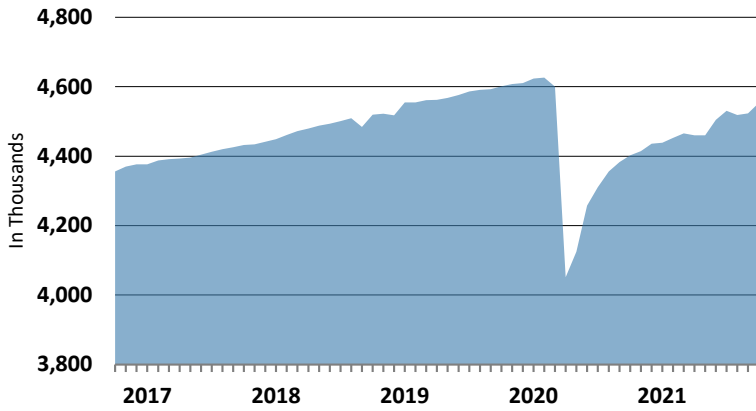Note: Includes multiple-unit housing.

Job Openings
↓ 0.1% over the month
↑ 67.1% over the year
Source: LEAD; The Conference Board
Note: September 2021 data most current available at time of release.
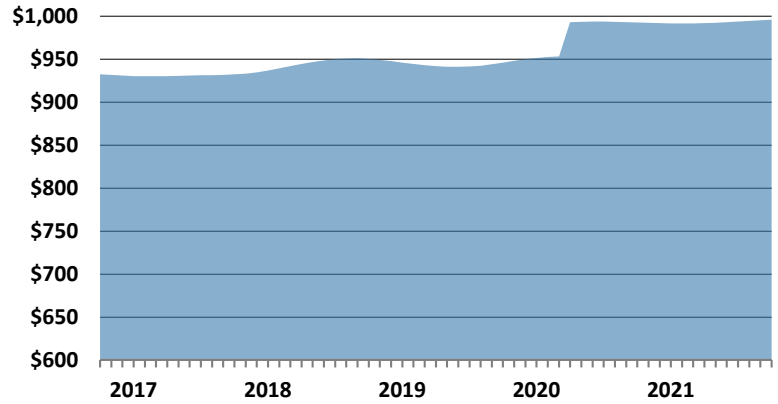
Manufacturing Hours Worked
↑ 0.3% over the month
↓ 2.7% over the year
Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted

Expected Future Business Conditions

NC/SC This is an index of expected business conditions over the next six months based on a survey of contacts in the Carolinas. A positive number reflects expected growth, while a negative number reflects expected decline.
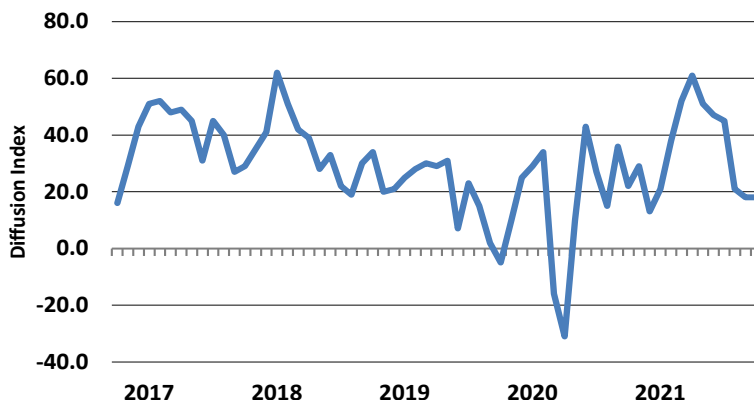
Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Carolinas Survey of Business Activity. Not seasonally adjusted.

*All data produced in this publication are based off October 2021 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.
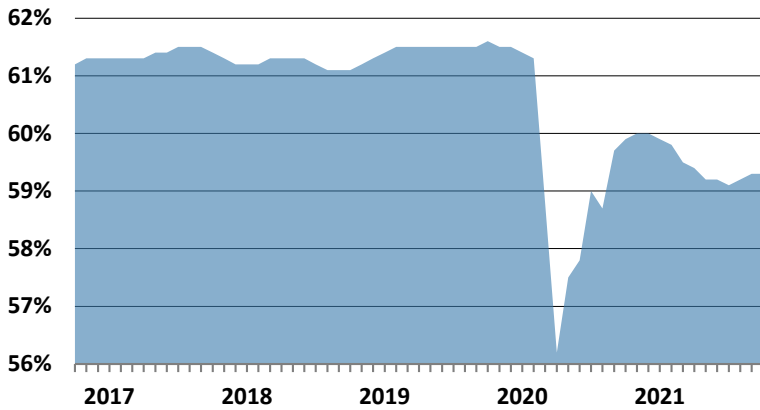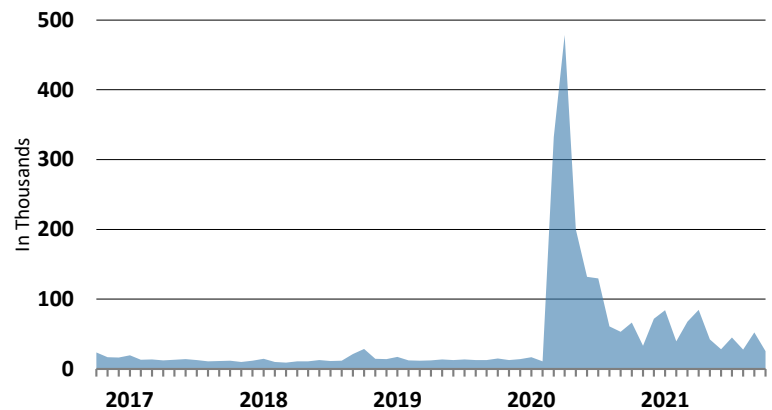
Total Nonfarm Jobs

In Thousands

4,800
4,600
4,400
4,200
4,000
3,800

2017　2018　2019　2020　2021

Average Real Weekly Earnings (Private Nonfarm Sector)

$1,000
$950
$900
$850
$800
$750
$700
$650
$600

2017　2018　2019　2020　2021

Labor Force Participation Rate

62%
61%
60%
59%
58%
57%
56%

2017　2018　2019　2020　2021

Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

In Thousands

500
400
300
200
100
0

2017　2018　2019　2020　2021

Source: US Dept. of Labor, ETA

Residential Building Permits

8,000
7,000
6,000
5,000
4,000
3,000
2,000
1,000
0

2017　2018　2019　2020　2021
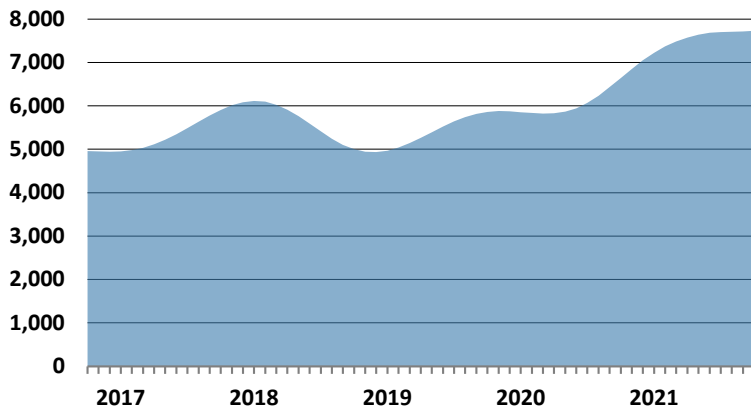
Source: United States Census Bureau
Note: Includes multiple-unit housing.

Real Taxable Retail Sales
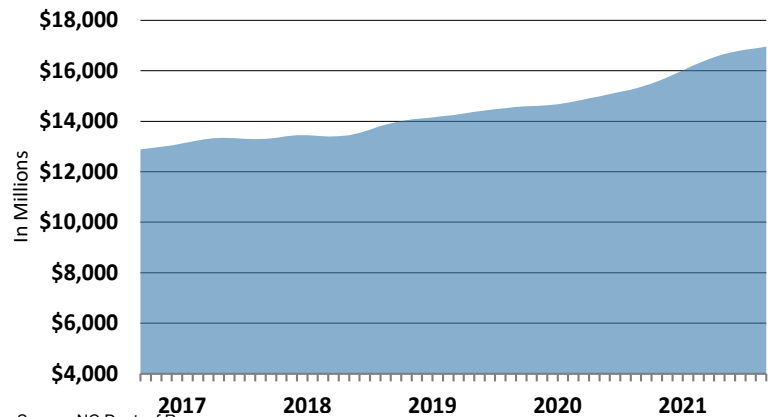
In Millions

$18,000
$16,000
$14,000
$12,000
$10,000
$8,000
$6,000
$4,000

2017　2018　2019　2020　2021

Source: NC Dept. of Revenue
Note: September 2021 data most current available at time of release.

Unemployment Rate By County (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

2.0　3.9　5.9　7.9　9.9　14.9　24.9
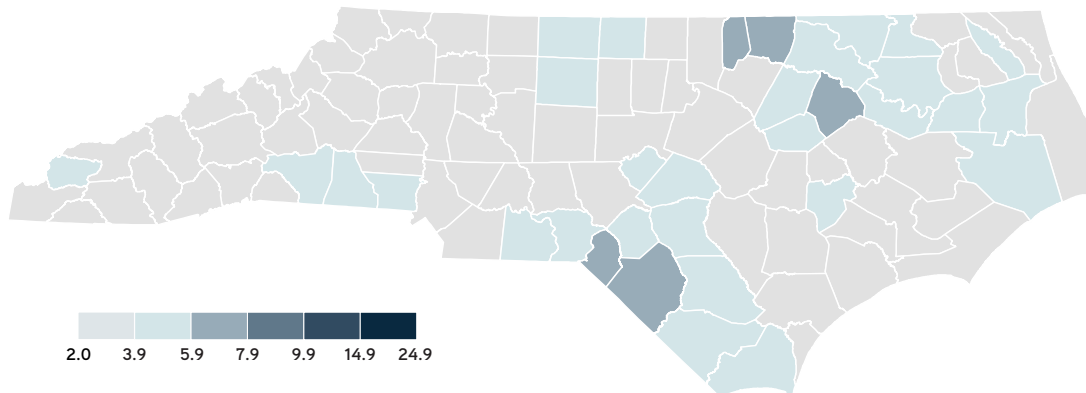
Lowest	
Orange	2.6%
Chatham	2.7%
Watauga	2.7%
Avery	2.7%
Ashe	2.7%

Highest	
Scotland	7.8%
Edgecombe	7.2%
Vance	6.5%
Warren	6.1%
Robeson	6.0%

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