



*For Immediate Release: May 31, 2023  
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## North Carolina’s April County and Area Employment Figures Released

**RALEIGH** — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 98 of North Carolina’s counties in April 2023 and increased in two. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 6.8 percent while Buncombe County had the lowest at 2.4 percent. All fifteen of the state’s metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 4.5 percent while Asheville had the lowest at 2.5 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.1 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
<b>April</b>	97	3	0
<b>March (Revised)</b>	91	9	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 76 counties, increased in 10, and remained unchanged in 14. Eleven of the state’s metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year, one increased, and three remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in April by 8,286 to 5,051,146, while those unemployed decreased by 21,948 to 163,394. Since April 2022, the number of workers employed statewide increased 63,968, while those unemployed decreased 2,657.

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, June 16, 2023 when the statewide unemployment rate for May 2023 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  
April 2023*

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,214,540	163,394	3.1				
ALAMANCE	84,074	2,651	3.2	JOHNSTON	109,575	3,167	2.9
ALEXANDER	18,184	486	2.7	JONES	4,378	128	2.9
ALLEGHANY	4,682	222	4.7	LEE	25,964	932	3.6
ANSON	10,295	371	3.6	LENOIR	27,535	880	3.2
ASHE	12,720	348	2.7	LINCOLN	47,125	1,286	2.7
AVERY	7,598	211	2.8	MCDOWELL	20,470	589	2.9
BEAUFORT	20,013	690	3.4	MACON	15,887	478	3.0
BERTIE	7,102	280	3.9	MADISON	10,293	299	2.9
BLADEN	14,602	561	3.8	MARTIN	8,596	332	3.9
BRUNSWICK	59,052	2,179	3.7	MECKLENBURG	661,794	20,251	3.1
BUNCOMBE	144,795	3,469	2.4	MITCHELL	6,074	203	3.3
BURKE	41,184	1,186	2.9	MONTGOMERY	11,016	366	3.3
CABARRUS	117,829	3,451	2.9	MOORE	41,695	1,338	3.2
CALDWELL	36,659	1,099	3.0	NASH	42,297	1,760	4.2
CAMDEN	4,696	137	2.9	NEW HANOVER	132,924	3,708	2.8
CARTERET	31,770	927	2.9	NORTHAMPTON	7,221	301	4.2
CASWELL	9,687	308	3.2	ONSLow	69,872	2,501	3.6
CATAWBA	80,023	2,324	2.9	ORANGE	82,494	2,218	2.7
CHATHAM	37,901	977	2.6	PAMLICO	5,534	164	3.0
CHEROKEE	11,113	388	3.5	PASQUOTANK	16,737	620	3.7
CHOWAN	5,879	195	3.3	PENDER	31,588	906	2.9
CLAY	4,295	134	3.1	PERQUIMANS	5,002	182	3.6
CLEVELAND	49,667	1,626	3.3	PERSON	19,023	607	3.2
COLUMBUS	24,208	813	3.4	PITT	89,618	3,127	3.5
CRAVEN	42,321	1,372	3.2	POLK	9,334	290	3.1
CUMBERLAND	127,769	5,520	4.3	RANDOLPH	66,057	2,082	3.2
CURRITUCK	14,759	415	2.8	RICHMOND	17,059	698	4.1
DARE	18,918	703	3.7	ROBESON	47,951	2,243	4.7
DAVIDSON	82,824	2,460	3.0	ROCKINGHAM	39,829	1,394	3.5
DAVIE	21,136	602	2.8	ROWAN	68,735	2,123	3.1
DUPLIN	25,322	770	3.0	RUTHERFORD	24,655	1,057	4.3
DURHAM	180,943	5,025	2.8	SAMPSON	29,611	895	3.0
EDGECOMBE	20,165	1,055	5.2	SCOTLAND	11,348	769	6.8
FORSYTH	191,716	6,054	3.2	STANLY	30,905	875	2.8
FRANKLIN	34,444	1,109	3.2	STOKES	22,002	592	2.7
GASTON	116,188	3,572	3.1	SURRY	32,676	950	2.9
GATES	5,175	157	3.0	SWAIN	7,075	185	2.6
GRAHAM	2,844	119	4.2	TRANSYLVANIA	14,634	427	2.9
GRANVILLE	30,370	824	2.7	TYRRELL	1,273	65	5.1
GREENE	9,672	265	2.7	UNION	132,426	3,617	2.7
GUILFORD	262,419	9,250	3.5	VANCE	16,550	826	5.0
HALIFAX	19,040	872	4.6	WAKE	639,578	17,512	2.7
HARNETT	55,611	1,958	3.5	WARREN	6,357	311	4.9
HAYWOOD	30,796	801	2.6	WASHINGTON	4,211	173	4.1
HENDERSON	56,675	1,470	2.6	WATAUGA	28,829	849	2.9
HERTFORD	8,421	368	4.4	WAYNE	51,400	1,760	3.4
HOKE	20,309	819	4.0	WILKES	26,653	880	3.3
HYDE	1,754	87	5.0	WILSON	33,351	1,549	4.6
IREDELL	96,075	2,828	2.9	YADKIN	17,977	505	2.8
JACKSON	19,430	680	3.5	YANCEY	8,230	232	2.8

*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	April 2023	March 2023	April 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	April 2023	March 2023	April 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.1	3.5	3.2	-0.4	-0.1	JOHNSTON	2.9	3.2	2.9	-0.3	0.0
ALAMANCE	3.2	3.6	3.3	-0.4	-0.1	JONES	2.9	3.2	3.0	-0.3	-0.1
ALEXANDER	2.7	3.0	2.8	-0.3	-0.1	LEE	3.6	3.9	3.7	-0.3	-0.1
ALLEGHANY	4.7	3.6	3.3	1.1	1.4	LENOIR	3.2	3.5	3.4	-0.3	-0.2
ANSON	3.6	3.9	3.9	-0.3	-0.3	LINCOLN	2.7	3.1	2.8	-0.4	-0.1
ASHE	2.7	3.3	2.8	-0.6	-0.1	MCDOWELL	2.9	3.2	3.0	-0.3	-0.1
AVERY	2.8	3.3	3.0	-0.5	-0.2	MACON	3.0	3.5	3.1	-0.5	-0.1
BEAUFORT	3.4	3.9	3.5	-0.5	-0.1	MADISON	2.9	3.2	3.1	-0.3	-0.2
BERTIE	3.9	4.4	4.3	-0.5	-0.4	MARTIN	3.9	4.3	4.1	-0.4	-0.2
BLADEN	3.8	4.2	3.7	-0.4	0.1	MECKLENBURG	3.1	3.5	3.1	-0.4	0.0
BRUNSWICK	3.7	4.5	4.1	-0.8	-0.4	MITCHELL	3.3	3.6	3.6	-0.3	-0.3
BUNCOMBE	2.4	2.8	2.7	-0.4	-0.3	MONTGOMERY	3.3	3.5	3.2	-0.2	0.1
BURKE	2.9	3.2	3.0	-0.3	-0.1	MOORE	3.2	3.5	3.3	-0.3	-0.1
CABARRUS	2.9	3.3	3.0	-0.4	-0.1	NASH	4.2	4.8	4.5	-0.6	-0.3
CALDWELL	3.0	3.4	3.2	-0.4	-0.2	NEW HANOVER	2.8	3.2	2.9	-0.4	-0.1
CAMDEN	2.9	3.3	3.5	-0.4	-0.6	NORTHAMPTON	4.2	4.6	4.2	-0.4	0.0
CARTERET	2.9	3.4	3.0	-0.5	-0.1	ONSLow	3.6	4.0	3.8	-0.4	-0.2
CASWELL	3.2	3.7	3.4	-0.5	-0.2	ORANGE	2.7	2.9	2.7	-0.2	0.0
CATAWBA	2.9	3.3	3.0	-0.4	-0.1	PAMLICO	3.0	3.4	3.2	-0.4	-0.2
CHATHAM	2.6	3.0	2.7	-0.4	-0.1	PASQUOTANK	3.7	4.3	3.8	-0.6	-0.1
CHEROKEE	3.5	3.8	3.4	-0.3	0.1	PENDER	2.9	3.2	3.0	-0.3	-0.1
CHOWAN	3.3	3.8	3.5	-0.5	-0.2	PERQUIMANS	3.6	4.1	3.9	-0.5	-0.3
CLAY	3.1	3.5	3.4	-0.4	-0.3	PERSON	3.2	3.5	3.4	-0.3	-0.2
CLEVELAND	3.3	3.6	3.4	-0.3	-0.1	PITT	3.5	4.0	3.6	-0.5	-0.1
COLUMBUS	3.4	3.9	3.9	-0.5	-0.5	POLK	3.1	3.5	3.5	-0.4	-0.4
Craven	3.2	3.6	3.2	-0.4	0.0	RANDOLPH	3.2	3.5	3.1	-0.3	0.1
CUMBERLAND	4.3	5.0	4.5	-0.7	-0.2	RICHMOND	4.1	4.7	4.5	-0.6	-0.4
CURRITUCK	2.8	3.3	3.0	-0.5	-0.2	ROBESON	4.7	5.0	4.9	-0.3	-0.2
DARE	3.7	5.4	3.7	-1.7	0.0	ROCKINGHAM	3.5	4.0	3.6	-0.5	-0.1
DAVIDSON	3.0	3.4	3.1	-0.4	-0.1	ROWAN	3.1	3.5	3.2	-0.4	-0.1
DAVIE	2.8	3.1	3.0	-0.3	-0.2	RUTHERFORD	4.3	4.6	4.1	-0.3	0.2
DUPLIN	3.0	3.3	3.2	-0.3	-0.2	SAMPSON	3.0	3.4	3.2	-0.4	-0.2
DURHAM	2.8	3.1	2.8	-0.3	0.0	SCOTLAND	6.8	6.4	5.7	0.4	1.1
EDGEcombe	5.2	6.0	6.1	-0.8	-0.9	STANLY	2.8	3.2	2.9	-0.4	-0.1
FORSYTH	3.2	3.5	3.2	-0.3	0.0	STOKES	2.7	3.1	2.9	-0.4	-0.2
FRANKLIN	3.2	3.6	3.3	-0.4	-0.1	SURRY	2.9	3.3	2.9	-0.4	0.0
GASTON	3.1	3.5	3.2	-0.4	-0.1	SWAIN	2.6	3.4	2.9	-0.8	-0.3
GATES	3.0	3.3	3.0	-0.3	0.0	TRANSYLVANIA	2.9	3.1	3.0	-0.2	-0.1
GRAHAM	4.2	4.5	4.7	-0.3	-0.5	TYRRELL	5.1	6.9	4.6	-1.8	0.5
GRANVILLE	2.7	3.0	2.8	-0.3	-0.1	UNION	2.7	3.1	2.8	-0.4	-0.1
GREENE	2.7	3.1	2.9	-0.4	-0.2	VANCE	5.0	5.6	5.1	-0.6	-0.1
GUILFORD	3.5	4.0	3.6	-0.5	-0.1	WAKE	2.7	3.1	2.7	-0.4	0.0
HALIFAX	4.6	5.1	4.8	-0.5	-0.2	WARREN	4.9	5.7	5.3	-0.8	-0.4
HARNETT	3.5	3.9	3.6	-0.4	-0.1	WASHINGTON	4.1	4.8	4.5	-0.7	-0.4
HAYWOOD	2.6	3.0	2.8	-0.4	-0.2	WATAUGA	2.9	3.1	2.9	-0.2	0.0
HENDERSON	2.6	2.9	2.8	-0.3	-0.2	WAYNE	3.4	3.8	3.6	-0.4	-0.2
HERTFORD	4.4	4.9	4.5	-0.5	-0.1	WILKES	3.3	3.6	3.3	-0.3	0.0
HOKE	4.0	4.6	4.2	-0.6	-0.2	WILSON	4.6	5.1	4.7	-0.5	-0.1
HYDE	5.0	8.8	4.9	-3.8	0.1	YADKIN	2.8	3.1	3.0	-0.3	-0.2
IREDELL	2.9	3.3	2.9	-0.4	0.0	YANCEY	2.8	3.4	3.2	-0.6	-0.4
JACKSON	3.5	3.9	3.3	-0.4	0.2						

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**METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS  
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**

*Preliminary Data for  
April 2023*

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	242,559	6,039	2.5
BURLINGTON	84,074	2,651	3.2
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,449,353	42,224	2.9
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	320,361	8,827	2.8
FAYETTEVILLE	148,078	6,339	4.3
GOLDSBORO	51,400	1,760	3.4
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	368,305	12,726	3.5
GREENVILLE	89,618	3,127	3.5
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	176,050	5,095	2.9
JACKSONVILLE	69,872	2,501	3.6
NEW BERN	52,233	1,664	3.2
RALEIGH	783,597	21,788	2.8
ROCKY MOUNT	62,462	2,815	4.5
WILMINGTON	164,512	4,614	2.8
WINSTON-SALEM	335,655	10,213	3.0

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	30,905	875	2.8
BOONE	28,829	849	2.9
BREVARD	14,634	427	2.9
CULLOWHEE	19,430	680	3.5
DUNN	55,611	1,958	3.5
ELIZABETH CITY	26,435	939	3.6
FOREST CITY	24,655	1,057	4.3
HENDERSON	16,550	826	5.0
KILL DEVIL HILLS	20,191	768	3.8
KINSTON	27,535	880	3.2
LAURINBURG	11,348	769	6.8
LUMBERTON	47,951	2,243	4.7
MARION	20,470	589	2.9
MOREHEAD CITY	31,770	927	2.9
MOUNT AIRY	32,676	950	2.9
NORTH WILKESBORO	26,653	880	3.3
OXFORD	30,370	824	2.7
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	41,695	1,338	3.2
ROANOKE RAPIDS	26,261	1,173	4.5
ROCKINGHAM	17,059	698	4.1
SANFORD	25,964	932	3.6
SHELBY	49,667	1,626	3.3
WASHINGTON	20,013	690	3.4
WILSON	33,351	1,549	4.6

**COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS  
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**

*Preliminary Data for  
April 2023*

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	257,193	6,466	2.5
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,529,925	44,725	2.9
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	207,377	9,351	4.5
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	820,710	26,540	3.2
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	109,631	3,817	3.5
HICKORY-LENOIR	196,520	5,684	2.9
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	84,003	2,591	3.1
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	1,232,453	35,155	2.9
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	122,074	5,537	4.5

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

Metropolitan Statistical Area	April 2023	March 2023	April 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	2.5	2.9	2.7	-0.4	-0.2
BURLINGTON	3.2	3.6	3.3	-0.4	-0.1
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	2.9	3.4	3.0	-0.5	-0.1
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	2.8	3.1	2.8	-0.3	0.0
FAYETTEVILLE	4.3	4.9	4.5	-0.6	-0.2
GOLDSBORO	3.4	3.8	3.6	-0.4	-0.2
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	3.5	3.9	3.5	-0.4	0.0
GREENVILLE	3.5	4.0	3.6	-0.5	-0.1
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	2.9	3.3	3.0	-0.4	-0.1
JACKSONVILLE	3.6	4.0	3.8	-0.4	-0.2
NEW BERN	3.2	3.6	3.1	-0.4	0.1
RALEIGH	2.8	3.1	2.8	-0.3	0.0
ROCKY MOUNT	4.5	5.1	5.0	-0.6	-0.5
WILMINGTON	2.8	3.2	2.9	-0.4	-0.1
WINSTON-SALEM	3.0	3.4	3.2	-0.4	-0.2

Micropolitan Statistical Area	April 2023	March 2023	April 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	2.8	3.2	2.9	-0.4	-0.1
BOONE	2.9	3.1	2.9	-0.2	0.0
BREVARD	2.9	3.1	3.0	-0.2	-0.1
CULLOWHEE	3.5	3.9	3.3	-0.4	0.2
DUNN	3.5	3.9	3.6	-0.4	-0.1
ELIZABETH CITY	3.6	4.1	3.7	-0.5	-0.1
FOREST CITY	4.3	4.6	4.1	-0.3	0.2
HENDERSON	5.0	5.6	5.1	-0.6	-0.1
KILL DEVIL HILLS	3.8	5.5	3.8	-1.7	0.0
KINSTON	3.2	3.5	3.4	-0.3	-0.2
LAURINBURG	6.8	6.4	5.7	0.4	1.1
LUMBERTON	4.7	5.0	4.9	-0.3	-0.2
MARION	2.9	3.2	3.0	-0.3	-0.1
MOREHEAD CITY	2.9	3.4	3.0	-0.5	-0.1
MOUNT AIRY	2.9	3.3	2.9	-0.4	0.0
NORTH WILKESBORO	3.3	3.6	3.3	-0.3	0.0
OXFORD	2.7	3.0	2.8	-0.3	-0.1
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.2	3.5	3.3	-0.3	-0.1
ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.5	5.0	4.7	-0.5	-0.2
ROCKINGHAM	4.1	4.7	4.5	-0.6	-0.4
SANFORD	3.6	3.9	3.7	-0.3	-0.1
SHELBY	3.3	3.6	3.4	-0.3	-0.1
WASHINGTON	3.4	3.9	3.5	-0.5	-0.1
WILSON	4.6	5.1	4.7	-0.5	-0.1

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

Combined Statistical Area	April 2023	March 2023	April 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	2.5	2.9	2.8	-0.4	-0.3
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	2.9	3.4	3.0	-0.5	-0.1
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	4.5	5.0	4.6	-0.5	-0.1
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	3.2	3.7	3.3	-0.5	-0.1
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	3.5	4.0	3.6	-0.5	-0.1
HICKORY-LENOIR	2.9	3.3	3.0	-0.4	-0.1
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.1	3.5	3.1	-0.4	0.0
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	2.9	3.2	2.9	-0.3	0.0
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.5	5.1	4.9	-0.6	-0.4

*Not Seasonally Adjusted*

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**NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY RANKINGS**  
Preliminary Data for April 2023

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
BUNCOMBE	144,795	3,469	2.4%	1	FORSYTH	191,716	6,054	3.2%	51
CHATHAM	37,901	977	2.6%	2	CASWELL	9,687	308	3.2%	52
HENDERSON	56,675	1,470	2.6%	3	PERSON	19,023	607	3.2%	53
HAYWOOD	30,796	801	2.6%	4	LENOIR	27,535	880	3.2%	54
SWAIN	7,075	185	2.6%	5	MOORE	41,695	1,338	3.2%	55
ALEXANDER	18,184	486	2.7%	6	FRANKLIN	34,444	1,109	3.2%	56
ORANGE	82,494	2,218	2.7%	7	CRAVEN	42,321	1,372	3.2%	57
STOKES	22,002	592	2.7%	8	CLEVELAND	49,667	1,626	3.3%	58
GRANVILLE	30,370	824	2.7%	9	WILKES	26,653	880	3.3%	59
LINCOLN	47,125	1,286	2.7%	10	CHOWAN	5,879	195	3.3%	60
UNION	132,426	3,617	2.7%	11	MONTGOMERY	11,016	366	3.3%	61
ASHE	12,720	348	2.7%	12	MITCHELL	6,074	203	3.3%	62
WAKE	639,578	17,512	2.7%	13	COLUMBUS	24,208	813	3.4%	63
GREENE	9,672	265	2.7%	14	WAYNE	51,400	1,760	3.4%	64
AVERY	7,598	211	2.8%	15	BEAUFORT	20,013	690	3.4%	65
DURHAM	180,943	5,025	2.8%	16	PITT	89,618	3,127	3.5%	66
NEW HANOVER	132,924	3,708	2.8%	17	CHEROKEE	11,113	388	3.5%	67
YADKIN	17,977	505	2.8%	18	JACKSON	19,430	680	3.5%	68
CURRITUCK	14,759	415	2.8%	19	ROCKINGHAM	39,829	1,394	3.5%	69
YANCEY	8,230	232	2.8%	20	HARNETT	55,611	1,958	3.5%	70
STANLY	30,905	875	2.8%	21	GUILFORD	262,419	9,250	3.5%	71
DAVIE	21,136	602	2.8%	22	ONSLow	69,872	2,501	3.6%	72
PENDER	31,588	906	2.9%	23	LEE	25,964	932	3.6%	73
MCDOWELL	20,470	589	2.9%	24	ANSON	10,295	371	3.6%	74
BURKE	41,184	1,186	2.9%	25	PERQUIMANS	5,002	182	3.6%	75
JOHNSTON	109,575	3,167	2.9%	26	BRUNSWICK	59,052	2,179	3.7%	76
CATAWBA	80,023	2,324	2.9%	27	PASQUOTANK	16,737	620	3.7%	77
MADISON	10,293	299	2.9%	28	DARE	18,918	703	3.7%	78
SURRY	32,676	950	2.9%	29	BLADEN	14,602	561	3.8%	79
CAMDEN	4,696	137	2.9%	30	MARTIN	8,596	332	3.9%	80
CARTERET	31,770	927	2.9%	31	BERTIE	7,102	280	3.9%	81
TRANSYLVANIA	14,634	427	2.9%	32	HOKE	20,309	819	4.0%	82
JONES	4,378	128	2.9%	33	RICHMOND	17,059	698	4.1%	83
CABARRUS	117,829	3,451	2.9%	34	WASHINGTON	4,211	173	4.1%	84
IREDELL	96,075	2,828	2.9%	35	NASH	42,297	1,760	4.2%	85
WATAUGA	28,829	849	2.9%	36	NORTHAMPTON	7,221	301	4.2%	86
PAMLICO	5,534	164	3.0%	37	GRAHAM	2,844	119	4.2%	87
DAVIDSON	82,824	2,460	3.0%	38	RUTHERFORD	24,655	1,057	4.3%	88
CALDWELL	36,659	1,099	3.0%	39	CUMBERLAND	127,769	5,520	4.3%	89
MACON	15,887	478	3.0%	40	HERTFORD	8,421	368	4.4%	90
SAMPSON	29,611	895	3.0%	41	HALIFAX	19,040	872	4.6%	91
GATES	5,175	157	3.0%	42	WILSON	33,351	1,549	4.6%	92
DUPLIN	25,322	770	3.0%	43	ROBESON	47,951	2,243	4.7%	93
MECKLENBURG	661,794	20,251	3.1%	44	ALLEGHANY	4,682	222	4.7%	94
GASTON	116,188	3,572	3.1%	45	WARREN	6,357	311	4.9%	95
ROWAN	68,735	2,123	3.1%	46	HYDE	1,754	87	5.0%	96
POLK	9,334	290	3.1%	47	VANCE	16,550	826	5.0%	97
CLAY	4,295	134	3.1%	48	TYRRELL	1,273	65	5.1%	98
RANDOLPH	66,057	2,082	3.2%	49	EDGEcombe	20,165	1,055	5.2%	99
ALAMANCE	84,074	2,651	3.2%	50	SCOTLAND	11,348	769	6.8%	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](http://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](http://www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm).

### **Release Dates**

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Friday, June 16, 2023 when the statewide unemployment rate for May 2023 will be released.

The complete 2023 data release schedule can be accessed at:

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