



*For Immediate Release: June 3, 2026  
For More Information, Contact: Patrice Gist Bethea/919.814.4612*

## North Carolina’s April County and Area Employment Figures Released

**RALEIGH** — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 57 counties, increased in eight, and remained unchanged in 35 in April 2026. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 5.7 percent while Currituck County had the lowest at 2.7 percent. Eight of the state’s metro areas experienced rate decreases, one experienced a rate increase, and six remained the same. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 4.6 percent while Raleigh had the lowest at 3.0 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.4 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
<b>April</b>	98	2	0
<b>March (Revised)</b>	95	5	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 38 counties, increased in 44, and remained unchanged in 18. Three metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year, eight experienced an increase, and four remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in April by 26,598 to 5,081,937, while those unemployed decreased by 4,827 to 180,636. Since April 2025, the number of workers employed statewide decreased 34,578, while those unemployed decreased 2,905.

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 Tuesday, June 23, 2026, when the statewide unemployment rate for May 2026 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 2026**

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,262,573	180,636	3.4				
ALAMANCE	83,385	2,939	3.5	JOHNSTON	130,015	3,864	3.0
ALEXANDER	15,610	504	3.2	JONES	3,773	132	3.5
ALLEGHANY	4,631	162	3.5	LEE	30,342	1,005	3.3
ANSON	8,808	350	4.0	LENOIR	24,418	884	3.6
ASHE	12,282	347	2.8	LINCOLN	47,191	1,471	3.1
AVERY	7,676	239	3.1	MCDOWELL	18,658	672	3.6
BEAUFORT	19,200	652	3.4	MACON	16,800	553	3.3
BERTIE	6,011	267	4.4	MADISON	10,454	352	3.4
BLADEN	10,953	509	4.6	MARTIN	9,071	336	3.7
BRUNSWICK	69,017	2,617	3.8	MECKLENBURG	656,417	23,334	3.6
BUNCOMBE	136,854	4,365	3.2	MITCHELL	6,420	240	3.7
BURKE	38,496	1,259	3.3	MONTGOMERY	10,230	374	3.7
CABARRUS	123,273	4,162	3.4	MOORE	46,387	1,429	3.1
CALDWELL	35,319	1,214	3.4	NASH	42,204	1,836	4.4
CAMDEN	5,335	148	2.8	NEW HANOVER	127,185	3,933	3.1
CARTERET	32,139	1,016	3.2	NORTHAMPTON	6,301	264	4.2
CASWELL	9,711	316	3.3	ONSLOW	72,233	2,663	3.7
CATAWBA	75,847	2,559	3.4	ORANGE	77,684	2,459	3.2
CHATHAM	39,745	1,190	3.0	PAMLICO	5,106	166	3.3
CHEROKEE	11,082	410	3.7	PASQUOTANK	17,854	623	3.5
CHOWAN	6,207	201	3.2	PENDER	32,416	1,041	3.2
CLAY	4,681	151	3.2	PERQUIMANS	5,375	193	3.6
CLEVELAND	44,497	1,826	4.1	PERSON	19,980	619	3.1
COLUMBUS	19,769	751	3.8	PITT	85,586	3,213	3.8
CRAVEN	40,243	1,463	3.6	POLK	9,415	281	3.0
CUMBERLAND	128,512	5,483	4.3	RANDOLPH	66,866	2,226	3.3
CURRITUCK	16,353	437	2.7	RICHMOND	19,008	689	3.6
DARE	19,215	689	3.6	ROBESON	43,531	2,032	4.7
DAVIDSON	79,746	2,698	3.4	ROCKINGHAM	39,979	1,473	3.7
DAVIE	20,627	688	3.3	ROWAN	69,686	2,343	3.4
DUPLIN	23,164	692	3.0	RUTHERFORD	26,254	1,035	3.9
DURHAM	185,145	5,872	3.2	SAMPSON	24,659	870	3.5
EDGECOMBE	20,216	1,050	5.2	SCOTLAND	13,330	619	4.6
FORSYTH	182,849	6,609	3.6	STANLY	34,726	963	2.8
FRANKLIN	39,921	1,255	3.1	STOKES	20,090	669	3.3
GASTON	115,282	4,144	3.6	SURRY	32,108	995	3.1
GATES	4,451	148	3.3	SWAIN	6,293	190	3.0
GRAHAM	3,417	115	3.4	TRANSYLVANIA	14,113	466	3.3
GRANVILLE	28,909	937	3.2	TYRRELL	1,223	57	4.7
GREENE	8,604	267	3.1	UNION	132,091	4,134	3.1
GUILFORD	265,331	10,256	3.9	VANCE	18,672	787	4.2
HALIFAX	18,082	893	4.9	WAKE	692,992	20,713	3.0
HARNETT	60,645	2,214	3.7	WARREN	7,221	312	4.3
HAYWOOD	28,558	875	3.1	WASHINGTON	3,934	166	4.2
HENDERSON	56,334	1,674	3.0	WATAUGA	28,416	922	3.2
HERTFORD	8,181	308	3.8	WAYNE	48,614	1,757	3.6
HOKE	20,475	879	4.3	WILKES	25,393	889	3.5
HYDE	1,532	88	5.7	WILSON	34,284	1,594	4.6
IREDELL	103,319	3,417	3.3	YADKIN	16,945	529	3.1
JACKSON	22,386	700	3.1	YANCEY	8,610	268	3.1

*Not Seasonally Adjusted*

*Estimates are subject to monthly and annual revisions*

North Carolina Department of Commerce  
 Labor & Economic Analysis Division  
 Local Area Unemployment Statistics

## NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

County	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.4	3.5	3.5	-0.1	-0.1	JOHNSTON	3.0	3.0	2.9	0.0	0.1
ALAMANCE	3.5	3.5	3.4	0.0	0.1	JONES	3.5	3.5	3.9	0.0	-0.4
ALEXANDER	3.2	3.4	3.5	-0.2	-0.3	LEE	3.3	3.4	3.5	-0.1	-0.2
ALLEGHANY	3.5	3.8	3.3	-0.3	0.2	LENOIR	3.6	3.6	3.6	0.0	0.0
ANSON	4.0	4.1	4.1	-0.1	-0.1	LINCOLN	3.1	3.2	3.0	-0.1	0.1
ASHE	2.8	2.9	3.1	-0.1	-0.3	MCDOWELL	3.6	3.6	4.1	0.0	-0.5
AVERY	3.1	3.2	4.1	-0.1	-1.0	MACON	3.3	3.4	3.3	-0.1	0.0
BEAUFORT	3.4	3.5	3.2	-0.1	0.2	MADISON	3.4	3.5	4.6	-0.1	-1.2
BERTIE	4.4	4.5	4.3	-0.1	0.1	MARTIN	3.7	3.7	3.5	0.0	0.2
BLADEN	4.6	4.7	4.5	-0.1	0.1	MECKLENBURG	3.6	3.7	3.6	-0.1	0.0
BRUNSWICK	3.8	4.0	3.9	-0.2	-0.1	MITCHELL	3.7	3.9	5.2	-0.2	-1.5
BUNCOMBE	3.2	3.4	4.8	-0.2	-1.6	MONTGOMERY	3.7	3.6	3.8	0.1	-0.1
BURKE	3.3	3.4	3.5	-0.1	-0.2	MOORE	3.1	3.1	2.9	0.0	0.2
CABARRUS	3.4	3.4	3.2	0.0	0.2	NASH	4.4	4.4	4.3	0.0	0.1
CALDWELL	3.4	3.5	3.7	-0.1	-0.3	NEW HANOVER	3.1	3.2	3.3	-0.1	-0.2
CAMDEN	2.8	2.9	2.7	-0.1	0.1	NORTHAMPTON	4.2	4.4	4.3	-0.2	-0.1
CARTERET	3.2	3.3	3.1	-0.1	0.1	ONSLow	3.7	3.7	3.6	0.0	0.1
CASWELL	3.3	3.3	3.1	0.0	0.2	ORANGE	3.2	3.1	3.0	0.1	0.2
CATAWBA	3.4	3.4	3.3	0.0	0.1	PAMLICO	3.3	3.1	3.4	0.2	-0.1
CHATHAM	3.0	3.1	3.0	-0.1	0.0	PASQUOTANK	3.5	3.6	3.5	-0.1	0.0
CHEROKEE	3.7	3.8	3.6	-0.1	0.1	PENDER	3.2	3.3	3.2	-0.1	0.0
CHOWAN	3.2	3.4	3.1	-0.2	0.1	PERQUIMANS	3.6	3.6	3.1	0.0	0.5
CLAY	3.2	3.3	3.1	-0.1	0.1	PERSON	3.1	3.2	3.1	-0.1	0.0
CLEVELAND	4.1	4.2	3.9	-0.1	0.2	PITT	3.8	3.7	3.7	0.1	0.1
COLUMBUS	3.8	3.9	3.8	-0.1	0.0	POLK	3.0	3.1	3.4	-0.1	-0.4
Craven	3.6	3.6	3.5	0.0	0.1	RANDOLPH	3.3	3.4	3.2	-0.1	0.1
CUMBERLAND	4.3	4.4	4.3	-0.1	0.0	RICHMOND	3.6	3.7	3.7	-0.1	-0.1
CURRITUCK	2.7	2.8	2.6	-0.1	0.1	ROBESON	4.7	4.7	4.7	0.0	0.0
DARE	3.6	5.1	3.9	-1.5	-0.3	ROCKINGHAM	3.7	3.8	3.9	-0.1	-0.2
DAVIDSON	3.4	3.5	3.5	-0.1	-0.1	ROWAN	3.4	3.4	3.4	0.0	0.0
DAVIE	3.3	3.3	3.2	0.0	0.1	RUTHERFORD	3.9	4.2	4.4	-0.3	-0.5
DUPLIN	3.0	2.9	2.9	0.1	0.1	SAMPSON	3.5	3.6	3.5	-0.1	0.0
DURHAM	3.2	3.2	3.0	0.0	0.2	SCOTLAND	4.6	4.7	4.7	-0.1	-0.1
EDGEcombe	5.2	5.4	5.0	-0.2	0.2	STANLY	2.8	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0
FORSYTH	3.6	3.6	3.6	0.0	0.0	STOKES	3.3	3.3	3.3	0.0	0.0
FRANKLIN	3.1	3.1	3.0	0.0	0.1	SURRY	3.1	3.1	3.1	0.0	0.0
GASTON	3.6	3.7	3.7	-0.1	-0.1	SWAIN	3.0	3.4	3.5	-0.4	-0.5
GATES	3.3	3.2	3.2	0.1	0.1	TRANSYLVANIA	3.3	3.3	3.5	0.0	-0.2
GRAHAM	3.4	3.9	3.3	-0.5	0.1	TYRRELL	4.7	5.3	5.0	-0.6	-0.3
GRANVILLE	3.2	3.3	3.3	-0.1	-0.1	UNION	3.1	3.2	3.1	-0.1	0.0
GREENE	3.1	3.0	3.0	0.1	0.1	VANCE	4.2	4.2	4.1	0.0	0.1
GUILFORD	3.9	3.9	3.8	0.0	0.1	WAKE	3.0	3.0	2.9	0.0	0.1
HALIFAX	4.9	5.1	4.7	-0.2	0.2	WARREN	4.3	4.4	4.6	-0.1	-0.3
HARNETT	3.7	3.7	3.6	0.0	0.1	WASHINGTON	4.2	4.2	4.4	0.0	-0.2
HAYWOOD	3.1	3.1	3.7	0.0	-0.6	WATAUGA	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0
HENDERSON	3.0	3.0	3.2	0.0	-0.2	WAYNE	3.6	3.6	3.5	0.0	0.1
HERTFORD	3.8	3.9	3.9	-0.1	-0.1	WILKES	3.5	3.5	3.6	0.0	-0.1
HOKE	4.3	4.4	4.0	-0.1	0.3	WILSON	4.6	4.5	4.7	0.1	-0.1
HYDE	5.7	8.5	4.9	-2.8	0.8	YADKIN	3.1	3.1	2.9	0.0	0.2
IREDELL	3.3	3.4	3.2	-0.1	0.1	YANCEY	3.1	3.2	4.2	-0.1	-1.1
JACKSON	3.1	3.2	3.2	-0.1	-0.1						

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North Carolina Department of Commerce  
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Local Area Unemployment Statistics

**METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS  
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**  
*Preliminary Data for  
April 2026*

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	203,642	6,391	3.1
BURLINGTON	83,385	2,939	3.5
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,482,992	51,980	3.5
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	322,554	10,140	3.1
FAYETTEVILLE	148,987	6,362	4.3
GOLDSBORO	48,614	1,757	3.6
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	372,176	13,955	3.7
GREENVILLE	85,586	3,213	3.8
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	165,272	5,536	3.3
JACKSONVILLE	72,233	2,663	3.7
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	46,387	1,429	3.1
RALEIGH	862,928	25,832	3.0
ROCKY MOUNT	62,420	2,886	4.6
WILMINGTON	228,618	7,591	3.3
WINSTON-SALEM	320,257	11,193	3.5

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	34,726	963	2.8
ANDERSON CREEK	60,645	2,214	3.7
BOONE	28,416	922	3.2
BREVARD	14,113	466	3.3
ELIZABETH CITY	17,854	623	3.5
FOREST CITY	26,254	1,035	3.9
HENDERSON	18,672	787	4.2
KILL DEVIL HILLS	19,215	689	3.6
KINSTON	24,418	884	3.6
LAURINBURG	13,330	619	4.6
LUMBERTON	43,531	2,032	4.7
MARION	18,658	672	3.6
MOREHEAD CITY	32,139	1,016	3.2
MOUNT AIRY	32,108	995	3.1
MOREHEAD CITY	49,122	1,761	3.6
NEW BERN	25,393	889	3.5
NORTH WILKESBORO	24,383	1,157	4.7
ROCKINGHAM	19,008	689	3.6
SANFORD	30,342	1,005	3.3
SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN	44,497	1,826	4.1
WASHINGTON	19,200	652	3.4
WAYNESVILLE	28,558	875	3.1
WILSON	34,284	1,594	4.6

**COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS  
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**  
*Preliminary Data for  
April 2026*

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD	246,313	7,732	3.1
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,746,145	60,977	3.5
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST	271,243	11,131	4.1
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	807,926	29,082	3.6
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	104,786	3,865	3.7
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	81,261	2,777	3.4
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY	1,295,141	39,978	3.1
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	121,087	5,637	4.7

*Not Seasonally Adjusted  
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Local Area Unemployment Statistics

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

Metropolitan Statistical Area	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	3.1	3.3	4.3	-0.2	-1.2
BURLINGTON	3.5	3.5	3.4	0.0	0.1
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.5	3.7	3.5	-0.2	0.0
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.1	3.2	3.0	-0.1	0.1
FAYETTEVILLE	4.3	4.4	4.3	-0.1	0.0
GOLDSBORO	3.6	3.6	3.5	0.0	0.1
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	3.7	3.8	3.7	-0.1	0.0
GREENVILLE	3.8	3.7	3.7	0.1	0.1
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.3	3.4	3.4	-0.1	-0.1
JACKSONVILLE	3.7	3.7	3.6	0.0	0.1
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.1	3.1	2.9	0.0	0.2
RALEIGH	3.0	3.0	2.9	0.0	0.1
ROCKY MOUNT	4.6	4.7	4.5	-0.1	0.1
WILMINGTON	3.3	3.4	3.4	-0.1	-0.1
WINSTON-SALEM	3.5	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.0

Micropolitan Statistical Area	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	2.8	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0
ANDERSON CREEK	3.7	3.7	3.6	0.0	0.1
BOONE	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0
BREVARD	3.3	3.3	3.5	0.0	-0.2
ELIZABETH CITY	3.5	3.6	3.5	-0.1	0.0
FOREST CITY	3.9	4.2	4.4	-0.3	-0.5
HENDERSON	4.2	4.2	4.1	0.0	0.1
KILL DEVIL HILLS	3.6	5.1	3.9	-1.5	-0.3
KINSTON	3.6	3.6	3.6	0.0	0.0
LAURINBURG	4.6	4.7	4.7	-0.1	-0.1
LUMBERTON	4.7	4.7	4.7	0.0	0.0
MARION	3.6	3.6	4.1	0.0	-0.5
MOREHEAD CITY	3.2	3.3	3.1	-0.1	0.1
MOUNT AIRY	3.1	3.1	3.1	0.0	0.0
MOREHEAD CITY	3.6	3.6	3.5	0.0	0.1
NEW BERN	3.5	3.5	3.6	0.0	-0.1
NORTH WILKESBORO	4.7	4.9	4.6	-0.2	0.1
ROCKINGHAM	3.6	3.7	3.7	-0.1	-0.1
SANFORD	3.3	3.4	3.5	-0.1	-0.2
SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN	4.1	4.2	3.9	-0.1	0.2
WASHINGTON	3.4	3.5	3.2	-0.1	0.2
WAYNESVILLE	3.1	3.1	3.7	0.0	-0.6
WILSON	4.6	4.5	4.7	0.1	-0.1

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

Combined Statistical Area	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD	3.1	3.3	4.2	-0.2	-1.1
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.5	3.6	3.5	-0.1	0.0
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST	4.1	4.2	4.1	-0.1	0.0
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	3.6	3.6	3.6	0.0	0.0
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	3.7	3.7	3.6	0.0	0.1
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.4	3.5	3.3	-0.1	0.1
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY	3.1	3.1	3.0	0.0	0.1
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.7	4.7	4.6	0.0	0.1

*Not Seasonally Adjusted*

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North Carolina Department of Commerce  
Labor & Economic Analysis Division  
Local Area Unemployment Statistics

**NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY RANKINGS**  
Preliminary Data for April 2026

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
CURRITUCK	16,353	437	2.7	1	DAVIDSON	79,746	2,698	3.4	51
STANLY	34,726	963	2.8	2	BEAUFORT	19,200	652	3.4	52
CAMDEN	5,335	148	2.8	3	CALDWELL	35,319	1,214	3.4	53
ASHE	12,282	347	2.8	4	PASQUOTANK	17,854	623	3.5	54
HENDERSON	56,334	1,674	3.0	5	ALLEGHANY	4,631	162	3.5	55
JOHNSTON	130,015	3,864	3.0	6	JONES	3,773	132	3.5	56
POLK	9,415	281	3.0	7	WILKES	25,393	889	3.5	57
DUPLIN	23,164	692	3.0	8	ALAMANCE	83,385	2,939	3.5	58
WAKE	692,992	20,713	3.0	9	SAMPSON	24,659	870	3.5	59
CHATHAM	39,745	1,190	3.0	10	MECKLENBURG	656,417	23,334	3.6	60
SWAIN	6,293	190	3.0	11	DARE	19,215	689	3.6	61
HAYWOOD	28,558	875	3.1	12	PERQUIMANS	5,375	193	3.6	62
MOORE	46,387	1,429	3.1	13	GASTON	115,282	4,144	3.6	63
NEW HANOVER	127,185	3,933	3.1	14	MCDOWELL	18,658	672	3.6	64
PERSON	19,980	619	3.1	15	WAYNE	48,614	1,757	3.6	65
SURRY	32,108	995	3.1	16	FORSYTH	182,849	6,609	3.6	66
GREENE	8,604	267	3.1	17	LENOIR	24,418	884	3.6	67
YANCEY	8,610	268	3.1	18	RICHMOND	19,008	689	3.6	68
AVERY	7,676	239	3.1	19	CRAVEN	40,243	1,463	3.6	69
LINCOLN	47,191	1,471	3.1	20	HARNETT	60,645	2,214	3.7	70
YADKIN	16,945	529	3.1	21	MONTGOMERY	10,230	374	3.7	71
JACKSON	22,386	700	3.1	22	ROCKINGHAM	39,979	1,473	3.7	72
UNION	132,091	4,134	3.1	23	ONSLOW	72,233	2,663	3.7	73
FRANKLIN	39,921	1,255	3.1	24	CHEROKEE	11,082	410	3.7	74
CARTERET	32,139	1,016	3.2	25	MARTIN	9,071	336	3.7	75
ORANGE	77,684	2,459	3.2	26	MITCHELL	6,420	240	3.7	76
DURHAM	185,145	5,872	3.2	27	PITT	85,586	3,213	3.8	77
BUNCOMBE	136,854	4,365	3.2	28	HERTFORD	8,181	308	3.8	78
PENDER	32,416	1,041	3.2	29	BRUNSWICK	69,017	2,617	3.8	79
CLAY	4,681	151	3.2	30	COLUMBUS	19,769	751	3.8	80
ALEXANDER	15,610	504	3.2	31	GUILFORD	265,331	10,256	3.9	81
CHOWAN	6,207	201	3.2	32	RUTHERFORD	26,254	1,035	3.9	82
GRANVILLE	28,909	937	3.2	33	ANSON	8,808	350	4.0	83
WATAUGA	28,416	922	3.2	34	CLEVELAND	44,497	1,826	4.1	84
PAMLICO	5,106	166	3.3	35	NORTHAMPTON	6,301	264	4.2	85
CASWELL	9,711	316	3.3	36	VANCE	18,672	787	4.2	86
BURKE	38,496	1,259	3.3	37	WASHINGTON	3,934	166	4.2	87
MACON	16,800	553	3.3	38	CUMBERLAND	128,512	5,483	4.3	88
TRANSYLVANIA	14,113	466	3.3	39	HOKE	20,475	879	4.3	89
IREDELL	103,319	3,417	3.3	40	WARREN	7,221	312	4.3	90
LEE	30,342	1,005	3.3	41	NASH	42,204	1,836	4.4	91
GATES	4,451	148	3.3	42	BERTIE	6,011	267	4.4	92
RANDOLPH	66,866	2,226	3.3	43	SCOTLAND	13,330	619	4.6	93
STOKES	20,090	669	3.3	44	BLADEN	10,953	509	4.6	94
DAVIE	20,627	688	3.3	45	WILSON	34,284	1,594	4.6	95
ROWAN	69,686	2,343	3.4	46	TYRRELL	1,223	57	4.7	96
GRAHAM	3,417	115	3.4	47	ROBESON	43,531	2,032	4.7	97
MADISON	10,454	352	3.4	48	HALIFAX	18,082	893	4.9	98
CATAWBA	75,847	2,559	3.4	49	EDGECOMBE	20,216	1,050	5.2	99
CABARRUS	123,273	4,162	3.4	50	HYDE	1,532	88	5.7	100

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates are subject to monthly and annual revisions

North Carolina Department of Commerce  
Labor & Economic Analysis Division  
Local Area Unemployment Statistics

## **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 July 21, 2023. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available online at <https://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 Tuesday, June 23, 2026, when the statewide unemployment rate for May 2026 will be released.

The complete data release schedule through 2026 can be accessed here:  
<https://www.commerce.nc.gov/release-dates-unemployment-rates/open>