



For Immediate Release: September 30, 2026
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North Carolina's August County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 91 counties in August 2026 and remained unchanged in nine. Edgecombe County had the highest unemployment rate at 5.4 percent while Currituck County had the lowest at 2.7 percent. Twelve of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases and three remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 4.8 percent while Asheville and Raleigh each had the lowest at 3.1 percent. The 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
August	97	3	0
July (Revised)	95	5	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 99 counties and remained unchanged in one. All 15 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in August by 32,219 to 5,040,683, while those unemployed decreased by 5,300 to 188,467. Since August 2025, the number of workers employed statewide decreased 22,829, while those unemployed decreased 30,660.

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, October 20, 2026, when the statewide unemployment rate for September 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
August 2026

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,229,150	188,467	3.6	JOHNSTON	130,039	4,029	3.1
ALAMANCE	82,862	3,138	3.8	JONES	3,697	139	3.8
ALEXANDER	15,324	517	3.4	LEE	30,130	1,091	3.6
ALLEGHANY	4,567	160	3.5	LENOIR	23,943	924	3.9
ANSON	8,794	399	4.5	LINCOLN	47,107	1,537	3.3
ASHE	12,277	355	2.9	MCDOWELL	18,232	678	3.7
AVERY	7,969	236	3.0	MACON	16,767	556	3.3
BEAUFORT	19,091	665	3.5	MADISON	10,348	344	3.3
BERTIE	5,839	269	4.6	MARTIN	8,866	351	4.0
BLADEN	10,711	518	4.8	MECKLENBURG	655,093	24,008	3.7
BRUNSWICK	68,614	2,653	3.9	MITCHELL	6,361	218	3.4
BUNCOMBE	135,442	4,337	3.2	MONTGOMERY	10,038	394	3.9
BURKE	37,832	1,288	3.4	MOORE	45,877	1,487	3.2
CABARRUS	123,100	4,308	3.5	NASH	41,907	1,917	4.6
CALDWELL	34,619	1,208	3.5	NEW HANOVER	126,314	4,135	3.3
CAMDEN	5,294	158	3.0	NORTHAMPTON	6,152	277	4.5
CARTERET	32,184	996	3.1	ONSLOW	70,998	2,775	3.9
CASWELL	9,548	351	3.7	ORANGE	77,473	2,741	3.5
CATAWBA	74,500	2,589	3.5	PAMLICO	5,257	175	3.3
CHATHAM	39,533	1,226	3.1	PASQUOTANK	17,453	654	3.7
CHEROKEE	10,862	396	3.6	PENDER	32,202	1,078	3.3
CHOWAN	6,077	205	3.4	PERQUIMANS	5,227	203	3.9
CLAY	4,588	157	3.4	PERSON	19,974	657	3.3
CLEVELAND	43,335	1,844	4.3	PITT	83,911	3,595	4.3
COLUMBUS	19,655	826	4.2	POLK	9,396	293	3.1
CRAVEN	39,592	1,485	3.8	RANDOLPH	66,247	2,348	3.5
CUMBERLAND	126,450	5,859	4.6	RICHMOND	18,580	731	3.9
CURRITUCK	16,140	430	2.7	ROBESON	42,790	2,188	5.1
DARE	21,069	604	2.9	ROCKINGHAM	39,567	1,503	3.8
DAVIDSON	78,924	2,819	3.6	ROWAN	69,607	2,481	3.6
DAVIE	20,381	698	3.4	RUTHERFORD	25,634	1,055	4.1
DUPLIN	22,785	747	3.3	SAMPSON	24,301	884	3.6
DURHAM	184,693	6,023	3.3	SCOTLAND	13,162	617	4.7
EDGECOMBE	20,073	1,078	5.4	STANLY	33,242	1,025	3.1
FORSYTH	181,386	7,009	3.9	STOKES	19,872	672	3.4
FRANKLIN	39,925	1,301	3.3	SURRY	31,525	1,027	3.3
GASTON	115,069	4,236	3.7	SWAIN	6,534	193	3.0
GATES	4,402	158	3.6	TRANSYLVANIA	14,293	463	3.2
GRAHAM	3,422	110	3.2	TYRRELL	1,292	55	4.3
GRANVILLE	28,756	975	3.4	UNION	131,965	4,508	3.4
GREENE	8,396	277	3.3	VANCE	18,531	833	4.5
GUILFORD	263,281	10,937	4.2	WAKE	693,706	21,850	3.1
HALIFAX	17,870	944	5.3	WARREN	7,185	321	4.5
HARNETT	59,715	2,365	4.0	WASHINGTON	3,849	183	4.8
HAYWOOD	28,283	884	3.1	WATAUGA	28,583	1,068	3.7
HENDERSON	55,734	1,658	3.0	WAYNE	48,302	1,871	3.9
HERTFORD	7,935	333	4.2	WILKES	24,922	917	3.7
HOKE	20,136	913	4.5	WILSON	33,798	1,692	5.0
HYDE	1,591	67	4.2	YADKIN	16,727	534	3.2
IREDELL	102,885	3,439	3.3	YANCEY	8,571	260	3.0
JACKSON	22,093	783	3.5				

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	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.6	3.7	4.1	-0.1	-0.5	JOHNSTON	3.1	3.2	3.5	-0.1	-0.4
ALAMANCE	3.8	3.8	4.3	0.0	-0.5	JONES	3.8	4.0	4.5	-0.2	-0.7
ALEXANDER	3.4	3.7	4.0	-0.3	-0.6	LEE	3.6	3.8	4.2	-0.2	-0.6
ALLEGHANY	3.5	3.9	4.0	-0.4	-0.5	LENOIR	3.9	4.1	4.4	-0.2	-0.5
ANSON	4.5	4.7	5.0	-0.2	-0.5	LINCOLN	3.3	3.4	3.7	-0.1	-0.4
ASHE	2.9	3.2	3.6	-0.3	-0.7	MCDOWELL	3.7	4.0	4.4	-0.3	-0.7
AVERY	3.0	3.2	3.8	-0.2	-0.8	MACON	3.3	3.6	3.7	-0.3	-0.4
BEAUFORT	3.5	3.7	3.9	-0.2	-0.4	MADISON	3.3	3.5	4.4	-0.2	-1.1
BERTIE	4.6	5.1	5.5	-0.5	-0.9	MARTIN	4.0	4.3	4.4	-0.3	-0.4
BLADEN	4.8	5.2	6.1	-0.4	-1.3	MECKLENBURG	3.7	3.7	4.2	0.0	-0.5
BRUNSWICK	3.9	4.1	4.6	-0.2	-0.7	MITCHELL	3.4	3.6	4.7	-0.2	-1.3
BUNCOMBE	3.2	3.4	4.4	-0.2	-1.2	MONTGOMERY	3.9	4.2	4.5	-0.3	-0.6
BURKE	3.4	3.7	4.2	-0.3	-0.8	MOORE	3.2	3.5	3.8	-0.3	-0.6
CABARRUS	3.5	3.5	4.0	0.0	-0.5	NASH	4.6	4.7	5.4	-0.1	-0.8
CALDWELL	3.5	3.7	4.2	-0.2	-0.7	NEW HANOVER	3.3	3.4	3.7	-0.1	-0.4
CAMDEN	3.0	3.1	3.4	-0.1	-0.4	NORTHAMPTON	4.5	4.8	5.8	-0.3	-1.3
CARTERET	3.1	3.3	3.7	-0.2	-0.6	ONslow	3.9	4.2	4.4	-0.3	-0.5
CASWELL	3.7	3.8	4.2	-0.1	-0.5	ORANGE	3.5	3.5	3.7	0.0	-0.2
CATAWBA	3.5	3.6	4.0	-0.1	-0.5	PAMLICO	3.3	3.6	3.9	-0.3	-0.6
CHATHAM	3.1	3.3	3.7	-0.2	-0.6	PASQUOTANK	3.7	3.8	4.4	-0.1	-0.7
CHEROKEE	3.6	4.1	4.4	-0.5	-0.8	PENDER	3.3	3.5	3.9	-0.2	-0.6
CHOWAN	3.4	3.6	4.0	-0.2	-0.6	PERQUIMANS	3.9	4.1	4.4	-0.2	-0.5
CLAY	3.4	3.8	4.1	-0.4	-0.7	PERSON	3.3	3.4	4.0	-0.1	-0.7
CLEVELAND	4.3	4.4	4.8	-0.1	-0.5	PITT	4.3	4.3	4.6	0.0	-0.3
COLUMBUS	4.2	4.4	4.6	-0.2	-0.4	POLK	3.1	3.4	3.9	-0.3	-0.8
Craven	3.8	3.9	4.2	-0.1	-0.4	RANDOLPH	3.5	3.8	4.0	-0.3	-0.5
CUMBERLAND	4.6	4.7	5.2	-0.1	-0.6	RICHMOND	3.9	4.0	4.8	-0.1	-0.9
CURRITUCK	2.7	2.8	3.0	-0.1	-0.3	ROBESON	5.1	5.4	5.8	-0.3	-0.7
DARE	2.9	3.1	3.3	-0.2	-0.4	ROCKINGHAM	3.8	4.0	4.5	-0.2	-0.7
DAVIDSON	3.6	3.7	4.2	-0.1	-0.6	ROWAN	3.6	3.7	4.1	-0.1	-0.5
DAVIE	3.4	3.6	3.9	-0.2	-0.5	RUTHERFORD	4.1	4.4	5.0	-0.3	-0.9
DUPLIN	3.3	3.6	3.7	-0.3	-0.4	SAMPSON	3.6	4.1	4.3	-0.5	-0.7
DURHAM	3.3	3.4	3.8	-0.1	-0.5	SCOTLAND	4.7	4.9	5.6	-0.2	-0.9
EDGEcombe	5.4	5.5	6.2	-0.1	-0.8	STANLY	3.1	3.3	3.7	-0.2	-0.6
FORSYTH	3.9	3.9	4.4	0.0	-0.5	STOKES	3.4	3.6	4.2	-0.2	-0.8
FRANKLIN	3.3	3.4	3.7	-0.1	-0.4	SURRY	3.3	3.5	3.8	-0.2	-0.5
GASTON	3.7	3.8	4.3	-0.1	-0.6	SWAIN	3.0	3.1	3.6	-0.1	-0.6
GATES	3.6	3.8	4.1	-0.2	-0.5	TRANSYLVANIA	3.2	3.4	3.8	-0.2	-0.6
GRAHAM	3.2	3.5	3.7	-0.3	-0.5	TYRRELL	4.3	4.8	5.1	-0.5	-0.8
GRANVILLE	3.4	3.5	4.0	-0.1	-0.6	UNION	3.4	3.4	3.7	0.0	-0.3
GREENE	3.3	3.7	3.7	-0.4	-0.4	VANCE	4.5	4.7	4.9	-0.2	-0.4
GUILFORD	4.2	4.3	4.7	-0.1	-0.5	WAKE	3.1	3.2	3.5	-0.1	-0.4
HALIFAX	5.3	5.5	6.3	-0.2	-1.0	WARREN	4.5	4.8	5.2	-0.3	-0.7
HARNETT	4.0	4.1	4.4	-0.1	-0.4	WASHINGTON	4.8	4.9	5.3	-0.1	-0.5
HAYWOOD	3.1	3.4	4.0	-0.3	-0.9	WATAUGA	3.7	3.7	3.7	0.0	0.0
HENDERSON	3.0	3.2	3.6	-0.2	-0.6	WAYNE	3.9	4.1	4.4	-0.2	-0.5
HERTFORD	4.2	4.3	4.8	-0.1	-0.6	WILKES	3.7	4.1	4.4	-0.4	-0.7
HOKE	4.5	4.7	4.9	-0.2	-0.4	WILSON	5.0	5.0	5.8	0.0	-0.8
HYDE	4.2	4.9	5.0	-0.7	-0.8	YADKIN	3.2	3.4	3.6	-0.2	-0.4
IREDELL	3.3	3.5	3.9	-0.2	-0.6	YANCEY	3.0	3.3	4.2	-0.3	-1.2
JACKSON	3.5	3.6	3.7	-0.1	-0.2						

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

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

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	201,524	6,339	3.1
BURLINGTON	82,862	3,138	3.8
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,483,248	54,839	3.7
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	321,673	10,647	3.3
FAYETTEVILLE	146,586	6,772	4.6
GOLDSBORO	48,302	1,871	3.9
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	369,095	14,788	4.0
GREENVILLE	83,911	3,595	4.3
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	162,275	5,602	3.5
JACKSONVILLE	70,998	2,775	3.9
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	45,877	1,487	3.2
RALEIGH	863,670	27,180	3.1
ROCKY MOUNT	61,980	2,995	4.8
WILMINGTON	227,130	7,866	3.5
WINSTON-SALEM	317,290	11,732	3.7

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	33,242	1,025	3.1
ANDERSON CREEK	59,715	2,365	4.0
BOONE	28,583	1,068	3.7
BREVARD	14,293	463	3.2
ELIZABETH CITY	17,453	654	3.7
FOREST CITY	25,634	1,055	4.1
HENDERSON	18,531	833	4.5
KILL DEVIL HILLS	21,069	604	2.9
KINSTON	23,943	924	3.9
LAURINBURG	13,162	617	4.7
LUMBERTON	42,790	2,188	5.1
MARION	18,232	678	3.7
MOREHEAD CITY	32,184	996	3.1
MOUNT AIRY	31,525	1,027	3.3
MOREHEAD CITY	48,546	1,799	3.7
NEW BERN	24,922	917	3.7
NORTH WILKESBORO	24,022	1,221	5.1
ROCKINGHAM	18,580	731	3.9
SANFORD	30,130	1,091	3.6
SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN	43,335	1,844	4.3
WASHINGTON	19,091	665	3.5
WAYNESVILLE	28,283	884	3.1
WILSON	33,798	1,692	5.0

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Data for
August 2026

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD	244,100	7,686	3.1
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,740,332	63,988	3.7
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST	266,995	11,795	4.4
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	800,772	30,685	3.8
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	103,002	4,260	4.1
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	80,730	2,795	3.5
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY	1,293,719	42,116	3.3
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	119,800	5,908	4.9

Not Seasonally Adjusted

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

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

Metropolitan Statistical Area	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	3.1	3.3	4.2	-0.2	-1.1
BURLINGTON	3.8	3.8	4.3	0.0	-0.5
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.7	3.7	4.2	0.0	-0.5
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.3	3.4	3.8	-0.1	-0.5
FAYETTEVILLE	4.6	4.7	5.2	-0.1	-0.6
GOLDSBORO	3.9	4.1	4.4	-0.2	-0.5
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	4.0	4.1	4.5	-0.1	-0.5
GREENVILLE	4.3	4.3	4.6	0.0	-0.3
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.5	3.7	4.1	-0.2	-0.6
JACKSONVILLE	3.9	4.2	4.4	-0.3	-0.5
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.2	3.5	3.8	-0.3	-0.6
RALEIGH	3.1	3.2	3.6	-0.1	-0.5
ROCKY MOUNT	4.8	4.9	5.6	-0.1	-0.8
WILMINGTON	3.5	3.6	4.0	-0.1	-0.5
WINSTON-SALEM	3.7	3.8	4.2	-0.1	-0.5

Micropolitan Statistical Area	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	3.1	3.3	3.7	-0.2	-0.6
ANDERSON CREEK	4.0	4.1	4.4	-0.1	-0.4
BOONE	3.7	3.7	3.7	0.0	0.0
BREVARD	3.2	3.4	3.8	-0.2	-0.6
ELIZABETH CITY	3.7	3.8	4.4	-0.1	-0.7
FOREST CITY	4.1	4.4	5.0	-0.3	-0.9
HENDERSON	4.5	4.7	4.9	-0.2	-0.4
KILL DEVIL HILLS	2.9	3.1	3.3	-0.2	-0.4
KINSTON	3.9	4.1	4.4	-0.2	-0.5
LAURINBURG	4.7	4.9	5.6	-0.2	-0.9
LUMBERTON	5.1	5.4	5.8	-0.3	-0.7
MARION	3.7	4.0	4.4	-0.3	-0.7
MOREHEAD CITY	3.1	3.3	3.7	-0.2	-0.6
MOUNT AIRY	3.3	3.5	3.8	-0.2	-0.5
MOREHEAD CITY	3.7	3.9	4.2	-0.2	-0.5
NEW BERN	3.7	4.1	4.4	-0.4	-0.7
NORTH WILKESBORO	5.1	5.3	6.1	-0.2	-1.0
ROCKINGHAM	3.9	4.0	4.8	-0.1	-0.9
SANFORD	3.6	3.8	4.2	-0.2	-0.6
SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN	4.3	4.4	4.8	-0.1	-0.5
WASHINGTON	3.5	3.7	3.9	-0.2	-0.4
WAYNESVILLE	3.1	3.4	4.0	-0.3	-0.9
WILSON	5.0	5.0	5.8	0.0	-0.8

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

Combined Statistical Area	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD	3.1	3.3	4.1	-0.2	-1.0
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.7	3.7	4.2	0.0	-0.5
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST	4.4	4.6	5.0	-0.2	-0.6
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	3.8	4.0	4.4	-0.2	-0.6
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	4.1	4.2	4.5	-0.1	-0.4
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.5	3.7	4.0	-0.2	-0.5
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY	3.3	3.3	3.7	0.0	-0.4
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.9	5.0	5.8	-0.1	-0.9

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 RANKINGS
Preliminary Data for August 2026

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
CURRITUCK	16,140	430	2.7	1	ROWAN	69,607	2,481	3.6	51
DARE	21,069	604	2.9	2	DAVIDSON	78,924	2,819	3.6	52
ASHE	12,277	355	2.9	3	GATES	4,402	158	3.6	53
SWAIN	6,534	193	3.0	4	LEE	30,130	1,091	3.6	54
AVERY	7,969	236	3.0	5	SAMPSON	24,301	884	3.6	55
HENDERSON	55,734	1,658	3.0	6	CHEROKEE	10,862	396	3.6	56
CAMDEN	5,294	158	3.0	7	MECKLENBURG	655,093	24,008	3.7	57
YANCEY	8,571	260	3.0	8	CASWELL	9,548	351	3.7	58
STANLY	33,242	1,025	3.1	9	WILKES	24,922	917	3.7	59
CARTERET	32,184	996	3.1	10	GASTON	115,069	4,236	3.7	60
JOHNSTON	130,039	4,029	3.1	11	MCDOWELL	18,232	678	3.7	61
CHATHAM	39,533	1,226	3.1	12	WATAUGA	28,583	1,068	3.7	62
POLK	9,396	293	3.1	13	PASQUOTANK	17,453	654	3.7	63
HAYWOOD	28,283	884	3.1	14	CRAVEN	39,592	1,485	3.8	64
WAKE	693,706	21,850	3.1	15	JONES	3,697	139	3.8	65
YADKIN	16,727	534	3.2	16	ALAMANCE	82,862	3,138	3.8	66
BUNCOMBE	135,442	4,337	3.2	17	ROCKINGHAM	39,567	1,503	3.8	67
GRAHAM	3,422	110	3.2	18	LENOIR	23,943	924	3.9	68
TRANSYLVANIA	14,293	463	3.2	19	FORSYTH	181,386	7,009	3.9	69
MOORE	45,877	1,487	3.2	20	BRUNSWICK	68,614	2,653	3.9	70
SURRY	31,525	1,027	3.3	21	WAYNE	48,302	1,871	3.9	71
FRANKLIN	39,925	1,301	3.3	22	PERQUIMANS	5,227	203	3.9	72
DURHAM	184,693	6,023	3.3	23	ONSLOW	70,998	2,775	3.9	73
LINCOLN	47,107	1,537	3.3	24	MONTGOMERY	10,038	394	3.9	74
NEW HANOVER	126,314	4,135	3.3	25	RICHMOND	18,580	731	3.9	75
DUPLIN	22,785	747	3.3	26	MARTIN	8,866	351	4.0	76
PERSON	19,974	657	3.3	27	HARNETT	59,715	2,365	4.0	77
GREENE	8,396	277	3.3	28	RUTHERFORD	25,634	1,055	4.1	78
MACON	16,767	556	3.3	29	GUILFORD	263,281	10,937	4.2	79
MADISON	10,348	344	3.3	30	HERTFORD	7,935	333	4.2	80
PAMLICO	5,257	175	3.3	31	COLUMBUS	19,655	826	4.2	81
IREDELL	102,885	3,439	3.3	32	HYDE	1,591	67	4.2	82
PENDER	32,202	1,078	3.3	33	CLEVELAND	43,335	1,844	4.3	83
CHOWAN	6,077	205	3.4	34	TYRRELL	1,292	55	4.3	84
ALEXANDER	15,324	517	3.4	35	PITT	83,911	3,595	4.3	85
STOKES	19,872	672	3.4	36	WARREN	7,185	321	4.5	86
GRANVILLE	28,756	975	3.4	37	VANCE	18,531	833	4.5	87
BURKE	37,832	1,288	3.4	38	NORTHAMPTON	6,152	277	4.5	88
UNION	131,965	4,508	3.4	39	HOKE	20,136	913	4.5	89
CLAY	4,588	157	3.4	40	ANSON	8,794	399	4.5	90
DAVIE	20,381	698	3.4	41	NASH	41,907	1,917	4.6	91
MITCHELL	6,361	218	3.4	42	BERTIE	5,839	269	4.6	92
CATAWBA	74,500	2,589	3.5	43	CUMBERLAND	126,450	5,859	4.6	93
BEAUFORT	19,091	665	3.5	44	SCOTLAND	13,162	617	4.7	94
CALDWELL	34,619	1,208	3.5	45	WASHINGTON	3,849	183	4.8	95
CABARRUS	123,100	4,308	3.5	46	BLADEN	10,711	518	4.8	96
ALLEGHANY	4,567	160	3.5	47	WILSON	33,798	1,692	5.0	97
ORANGE	77,473	2,741	3.5	48	ROBESON	42,790	2,188	5.1	98
JACKSON	22,093	783	3.5	49	HALIFAX	17,870	944	5.3	99
RANDOLPH	66,247	2,348	3.5	50	EDGECOMBE	20,073	1,078	5.4	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.

Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2026, when the statewide unemployment rate for September 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>