North Carolina's December County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 95 of North Carolina's counties in December 2023, increased in three, and remained unchanged in two. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 5.9 percent while Buncombe County had the lowest at 2.4 percent. All 15 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 3.2 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
December	96	4	0
November (Revised)	96	4	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 51 counties, increased in 26, and remained unchanged in 23. Seven metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year, three increased, and five remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in December by 28,036 to 5,058,871, while those unemployed decreased by 10,084 to 167,065. Since December 2022, the number of workers employed statewide increased 95,776, while those unemployed increased 3,277.

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 Monday, March 11, 2024 when the statewide unemployment rate for January 2024 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
December 2023

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,225,936	167,065	3.2				
ALAMANCE	83,663	2,628	3.1	JOHNSTON	111,753	3,256	2.9
ALEXANDER	17,981	599	3.3	JONES	4,220	119	2.8
ALLEGHANY	4,619	155	3.4	LEE	26,288	982	3.7
ANSON	10,040	385	3.8	LENOIR	27,391	844	3.1
ASHE	12,716	325	2.6	LINCOLN	47,201	1,325	2.8
AVERY	7,797	207	2.7	MCDOWELL	20,200	576	2.9
BEAUFORT	19,723	718	3.6	MACON	16,154	440	2.7
BERTIE	6,675	281	4.2	MADISON	10,127	276	2.7
BLADEN	14,388	568	3.9	MARTIN	8,481	366	4.3
BRUNSWICK	57,041	2,329	4.1	MECKLENBURG	666,500	21,281	3.2
BUNCOMBE	143,096	3,482	2.4	MITCHELL	6,121	188	3.1
BURKE	40,580	1,169	2.9	MONTGOMERY	10,966	392	3.6
CABARRUS	118,546	3,683	3.1	MOORE	42,514	1,303	3.1
CALDWELL	36,218	1,135	3.1	NASH	41,884	1,751	4.2
CAMDEN	4,595	134	2.9	NEW HANOVER	128,516	3,868	3.0
CARTERET	32,030	936	2.9	NORTHAMPTON	6,979	274	3.9
CASWELL	9,650	318	3.3	ONSLOW	69,242	2,563	3.7
CATAWBA	79,335	2,427	3.1	ORANGE	83,542	2,153	2.6
CHATHAM	38,124	1,064	2.8	PAMLICO	5,482	184	3.4
CHEROKEE	11,121	366	3.3	PASQUOTANK	16,546	607	3.7
CHOWAN	6,061	184	3.0	PENDER	30,267	913	3.0
CLAY	4,280	144	3.4	PERQUIMANS	4,841	182	3.8
CLEVELAND	49,860	1,560	3.1	PERSON	19,221	595	3.1
COLUMBUS	24,245	844	3.5	PITT	88,467	3,225	3.6
CRAVEN	42,049	1,302	3.1	POLK	9,401	264	2.8
CUMBERLAND	127,509	5,633	4.4	RANDOLPH	65,552	2,186	3.3
CURRITUCK	14,527	402	2.8	RICHMOND	17,218	712	4.1
DARE	18,481	758	4.1	ROBESON	46,937	2,195	4.7
DAVIDSON	83,041	2,502	3.0	ROCKINGHAM	39,468	1,376	3.5
DAVIE	21,113	586	2.8	ROWAN	68,832	2,125	3.1
DUPLIN	24,285	758	3.1	RUTHERFORD	24,416	995	4.1
DURHAM	184,127	5,153	2.8	SAMPSON	28,200	905	3.2
EDGECOMBE	19,888	1,034	5.2	SCOTLAND	11,175	657	5.9
FORSYTH	192,630	6,091	3.2	STANLY	31,135	890	2.9
FRANKLIN	35,238	1,116	3.2	STOKES	22,007	611	2.8
GASTON	116,997	3,729	3.2	SURRY	32,439	930	2.9
GATES	5,061	161	3.2	SWAIN	7,252	180	2.5
GRAHAM	2,758	113	4.1	TRANSYLVANIA	14,472	421	2.9
GRANVILLE	31,081	879	2.8	TYRRELL	1,190	67	5.6
GREENE	9,371	232	2.5	UNION	132,622	3,746	2.8
GUILFORD	261,391	9,358	3.6	VANCE	16,759	794	4.7
HALIFAX	18,658	894	4.8	WAKE	657,193	18,674	2.8
HARNETT	55,858	2,004	3.6	WARREN	6,127	291	4.7
HAYWOOD	30,471	852	2.8	WASHINGTON	4,180	193	4.6
HENDERSON	55,778	1,428	2.6	WATAUGA	30,792	785	2.5
HERTFORD	8,282	360	4.3	WAYNE	50,364	1,763	3.5
HOKE	20,165	846	4.2	WILKES	26,695	859	3.2
HYDE	1,612	92	5.7	WILSON	33,817	1,610	4.8
IREDELL	96,487	2,940	3.0	YADKIN	17,842	473	2.7
JACKSON	19,597	622	3.2	YANCEY	8,116	220	2.7

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.

NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

County	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.2	3.4	3.2	-0.2	0.0						
ALAMANCE	3.1	3.3	3.2	-0.2	-0.1	JOHNSTON	2.9	3.1	2.8	-0.2	0.1
ALEXANDER	3.3	3.5	2.8	-0.2	0.5	JONES	2.8	3.1	3.2	-0.3	-0.4
ALLEGHANY	3.4	3.6	5.7	-0.2	-2.3	LEE	3.7	3.9	3.7	-0.2	0.0
ANSON	3.8	4.1	3.7	-0.3	0.1	LENOIR	3.1	3.3	3.1	-0.2	0.0
ASHE	2.6	2.9	2.9	-0.3	-0.3	LINCOLN	2.8	3.0	2.7	-0.2	0.1
AVERY	2.7	2.8	2.8	-0.1	-0.1	MCDOWELL	2.9	3.2	3.1	-0.3	-0.2
BEAUFORT	3.6	3.8	3.5	-0.2	0.1	MACON	2.7	3.1	2.9	-0.4	-0.2
BERTIE	4.2	4.4	4.1	-0.2	0.1	MADISON	2.7	3.0	3.0	-0.3	-0.3
BLADEN	3.9	4.2	4.0	-0.3	-0.1	MARTIN	4.3	4.6	3.7	-0.3	0.6
BRUNSWICK	4.1	4.2	4.2	-0.1	-0.1	MECKLENBURG	3.2	3.3	3.1	-0.1	0.1
BUNCOMBE	2.4	2.6	2.5	-0.2	-0.1	MITCHELL	3.1	3.3	3.7	-0.2	-0.6
BURKE	2.9	3.2	2.9	-0.3	0.0	MONTGOMERY	3.6	3.8	3.2	-0.2	0.4
CABARRUS	3.1	3.2	3.0	-0.1	0.1	MOORE	3.1	3.4	3.1	-0.3	0.0
CALDWELL	3.1	3.4	3.0	-0.3	0.1	NASH	4.2	4.3	4.4	-0.1	-0.2
CAMDEN	2.9	3.3	3.3	-0.4	-0.4	NEW HANOVER	3.0	3.1	2.9	-0.1	0.1
CARTERET	2.9	3.2	3.1	-0.3	-0.2	NORTHAMPTON	3.9	4.5	4.4	-0.6	-0.5
CASWELL	3.3	3.5	3.5	-0.2	-0.2	ONSLOW	3.7	4.0	3.7	-0.3	0.0
CATAWBA	3.1	3.3	2.9	-0.2	0.2	ORANGE	2.6	2.8	2.6	-0.2	0.0
CHATHAM	2.8	3.0	2.7	-0.2	0.1	PAMLICO	3.4	3.5	3.0	-0.1	0.4
CHEROKEE	3.3	3.6	3.7	-0.3	-0.4	PASQUOTANK	3.7	3.9	4.0	-0.2	-0.3
CHOWAN	3.0	3.4	3.6	-0.4	-0.6	PENDER	3.0	3.3	3.1	-0.3	-0.1
CLAY	3.4	3.6	3.3	-0.2	0.1	PERQUIMANS	3.8	4.0	3.9	-0.2	-0.1
CLEVELAND	3.1	3.3	3.3	-0.2	-0.2	PERSON	3.1	3.4	3.3	-0.3	-0.2
COLUMBUS	3.5	3.5	3.6	0.0	-0.1	PITT	3.6	3.8	3.5	-0.2	0.1
CRAVEN	3.1	3.4	3.3	-0.3	-0.2	POLK	2.8	3.2	3.1	-0.4	-0.3
CUMBERLAND	4.4	4.6	4.6	-0.2	-0.2	RANDOLPH	3.3	3.6	3.3	-0.3	0.0
CURRITUCK	2.8	2.9	3.1	-0.1	-0.3	RICHMOND	4.1	4.4	4.3	-0.3	-0.2
DARE	4.1	3.3	4.4	0.8	-0.3	ROBESON	4.7	4.8	4.7	-0.1	0.0
DAVIDSON	3.0	3.2	3.2	-0.2	-0.2	ROCKINGHAM	3.5	3.6	3.7	-0.1	-0.2
DAVIE	2.8	3.0	2.9	-0.2	-0.1	ROWAN	3.1	3.3	3.1	-0.2	0.0
DUPLIN	3.1	3.4	3.1	-0.3	0.0	RUTHERFORD	4.1	4.4	4.1	-0.3	0.0
DURHAM	2.8	3.0	2.8	-0.2	0.0	SAMPSON	3.2	3.3	3.1	-0.1	0.1
EDGECOMBE	5.2	5.3	5.8	-0.1	-0.6	SCOTLAND	5.9	5.9	5.6	0.0	0.3
FORSYTH	3.2	3.3	3.2	-0.1	0.0	STANLY	2.9	3.1	2.9	-0.2	0.0
FRANKLIN	3.2	3.4	3.1	-0.2	0.1	STOKES	2.8	3.0	2.8	-0.2	0.0
GASTON	3.2	3.3	3.3	-0.1	-0.1	SURRY	2.9	3.2	2.9	-0.3	0.0
GATES	3.2	3.4	2.9	-0.2	0.3	SWAIN	2.5	2.6	2.8	-0.1	-0.3
GRAHAM	4.1	4.4	4.9	-0.3	-0.8	TRANSYLVANIA	2.9	3.2	2.9	-0.3	0.0
GRANVILLE	2.8	3.0	2.7	-0.2	0.1	TYRRELL	5.6	4.8	6.8	0.8	-1.2
GREENE	2.5	2.8	2.6	-0.3	-0.1	UNION	2.8	3.0	2.7	-0.2	0.1
GUILFORD	3.6	3.7	3.6	-0.1	0.0	VANCE	4.7	5.1	5.4	-0.4	-0.7
HALIFAX	4.8	5.0	4.9	-0.2	-0.1	WAKE	2.8	3.0	2.6	-0.2	0.2
HARNETT	3.6	3.7	3.6	-0.1	0.0	WARREN	4.7	5.1	5.6	-0.4	-0.9
HAYWOOD	2.8	3.0	2.7	-0.2	0.1	WASHINGTON	4.6	4.9	4.9	-0.3	-0.3
HENDERSON	2.6	2.9	2.7	-0.3	-0.1	WATAUGA	2.5	2.8	2.6	-0.3	-0.1
HERTFORD	4.3	4.5	4.4	-0.2	-0.1	WAYNE	3.5	3.7	3.5	-0.2	0.0
HOKE	4.2	4.4	4.4	-0.2	-0.2	WILKES	3.2	3.6	3.2	-0.4	0.0
HYDE	5.7	4.3	6.9	1.4	-1.2	WILSON	4.8	4.9	4.4	-0.1	0.4
IREDELL	3.0	3.2	3.0	-0.2	0.0	YADKIN	2.7	3.0	2.8	-0.3	-0.1
JACKSON	3.2	3.4	3.2	-0.2	0.0	YANCEY	2.7	2.9	2.9	-0.2	-0.2

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
December 2023

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	239,472	6,038	2.5
BURLINGTON	83,663	2,628	3.1
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,459,737	45,357	3.1
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	325,014	8,965	2.8
FAYETTEVILLE	147,674	6,479	4.4
GOLDSBORO	50,364	1,763	3.5
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	366,411	12,920	3.5
GREENVILLE	88,467	3,225	3.6
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	174,114	5,330	3.1
JACKSONVILLE	69,242	2,563	3.7
NEW BERN	51,751	1,605	3.1
RALEIGH	804,184	23,046	2.9
ROCKY MOUNT	61,772	2,785	4.5
WILMINGTON	158,783	4,781	3.0
WINSTON-SALEM	336,633	10,263	3.0

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	31,135	890	2.9
BOONE	30,792	785	2.5
BREVARD	14,472	421	2.9
CULLOWHEE	19,597	622	3.2
DUNN	55,858	2,004	3.6
ELIZABETH CITY	25,982	923	3.6
FOREST CITY	24,416	995	4.1
HENDERSON	16,759	794	4.7
KILL DEVIL HILLS	19,671	825	4.2
KINSTON	27,391	844	3.1
LAURINBURG	11,175	657	5.9
LUMBERTON	46,937	2,195	4.7
MARION	20,200	576	2.9
MOREHEAD CITY	32,030	936	2.9
MOUNT AIRY	32,439	930	2.9
NORTH WILKESBORO	26,695	859	3.2
OXFORD	31,081	879	2.8
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	42,514	1,303	3.1
ROANOKE RAPIDS	25,637	1,168	4.6
ROCKINGHAM	17,218	712	4.1
SANFORD	26,288	982	3.7
SHELBY	49,860	1,560	3.1
WASHINGTON	19,723	718	3.6
WILSON	33,817	1,610	4.8

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Data for
December 2023

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	253,944	6,459	2.5
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,540,732	47,807	3.1
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	205,786	9,331	4.5
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	819,146	26,741	3.3
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	108,190	3,943	3.6
HICKORY-LENOIR	194,314	5,906	3.0
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	83,781	2,541	3.0
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	1,259,184	36,670	2.9
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	121,226	5,563	4.6

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	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	2.5	2.8	2.6	-0.3	-0.1
BURLINGTON	3.1	3.3	3.2	-0.2	-0.1
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.1	3.2	3.1	-0.1	0.0
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	2.8	3.0	2.8	-0.2	0.0
FAYETTEVILLE	4.4	4.6	4.6	-0.2	-0.2
GOLDSBORO	3.5	3.7	3.5	-0.2	0.0
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	3.5	3.7	3.6	-0.2	-0.1
GREENVILLE	3.6	3.8	3.5	-0.2	0.1
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.1	3.3	2.9	-0.2	0.2
JACKSONVILLE	3.7	4.0	3.7	-0.3	0.0
NEW BERN	3.1	3.3	3.2	-0.2	-0.1
RALEIGH	2.9	3.0	2.7	-0.1	0.2
ROCKY MOUNT	4.5	4.6	4.8	-0.1	-0.3
WILMINGTON	3.0	3.2	3.0	-0.2	0.0
WINSTON-SALEM	3.0	3.2	3.2	-0.2	-0.2

Micropolitan Statistical Area	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	2.9	3.1	2.9	-0.2	0.0
BOONE	2.5	2.8	2.6	-0.3	-0.1
BREVARD	2.9	3.2	2.9	-0.3	0.0
CULLOWHEE	3.2	3.4	3.2	-0.2	0.0
DUNN	3.6	3.7	3.6	-0.1	0.0
ELIZABETH CITY	3.6	3.8	3.8	-0.2	-0.2
FOREST CITY	4.1	4.4	4.1	-0.3	0.0
HENDERSON	4.7	5.1	5.4	-0.4	-0.7
KILL DEVIL HILLS	4.2	3.4	4.5	0.8	-0.3
KINSTON	3.1	3.3	3.1	-0.2	0.0
LAURINBURG	5.9	5.9	5.6	0.0	0.3
LUMBERTON	4.7	4.8	4.7	-0.1	0.0
MARION	2.9	3.2	3.1	-0.3	-0.2
MOREHEAD CITY	2.9	3.2	3.1	-0.3	-0.2
MOUNT AIRY	2.9	3.2	2.9	-0.3	0.0
NORTH WILKESBORO	3.2	3.6	3.2	-0.4	0.0
OXFORD	2.8	3.0	2.7	-0.2	0.1
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.1	3.4	3.1	-0.3	0.0
ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.6	4.9	4.8	-0.3	-0.2
ROCKINGHAM	4.1	4.4	4.3	-0.3	-0.2
SANFORD	3.7	3.9	3.7	-0.2	0.0
SHELBY	3.1	3.3	3.3	-0.2	-0.2
WASHINGTON	3.6	3.8	3.5	-0.2	0.1
WILSON	4.8	4.9	4.4	-0.1	0.4

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

Combined Statistical Area	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	2.5	2.8	2.6	-0.3	-0.1
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.1	3.2	3.1	-0.1	0.0
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	4.5	4.7	4.7	-0.2	-0.2
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	3.3	3.4	3.3	-0.1	0.0
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	3.6	3.8	3.5	-0.2	0.1
HICKORY-LENOIR	3.0	3.3	2.9	-0.3	0.1
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.0	3.3	3.2	-0.3	-0.2
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	2.9	3.1	2.8	-0.2	0.1
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.6	4.7	4.7	-0.1	-0.1

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 RANKINGS
Preliminary Data for December 2023

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
BUNCOMBE	143,096	3,482	2.4%	1	FRANKLIN	35,238	1,116	3.2%	51
GREENE	9,371	232	2.5%	2	JACKSON	19,597	622	3.2%	52
SWAIN	7,252	180	2.5%	3	GATES	5,061	161	3.2%	53
WATAUGA	30,792	785	2.5%	4	GASTON	116,997	3,729	3.2%	54
ASHE	12,716	325	2.6%	5	MECKLENBURG	666,500	21,281	3.2%	55
HENDERSON	55,778	1,428	2.6%	6	SAMPSON	28,200	905	3.2%	56
ORANGE	83,542	2,153	2.6%	7	WILKES	26,695	859	3.2%	57
YADKIN	17,842	473	2.7%	8	CHEROKEE	11,121	366	3.3%	58
AVERY	7,797	207	2.7%	9	CASWELL	9,650	318	3.3%	59
YANCEY	8,116	220	2.7%	10	ALEXANDER	17,981	599	3.3%	60
MACON	16,154	440	2.7%	11	RANDOLPH	65,552	2,186	3.3%	61
MADISON	10,127	276	2.7%	12	ALLEGHANY	4,619	155	3.4%	62
CURRITUCK	14,527	402	2.8%	13	PAMLICO	5,482	184	3.4%	63
DAVIE	21,113	586	2.8%	14	CLAY	4,280	144	3.4%	64
STOKES	22,007	611	2.8%	15	COLUMBUS	24,245	844	3.5%	65
CHATHAM	38,124	1,064	2.8%	16	ROCKINGHAM	39,468	1,376	3.5%	66
HAYWOOD	30,471	852	2.8%	17	WAYNE	50,364	1,763	3.5%	67
DURHAM	184,127	5,153	2.8%	18	MONTGOMERY	10,966	392	3.6%	68
LINCOLN	47,201	1,325	2.8%	19	GUILFORD	261,391	9,358	3.6%	69
POLK	9,401	264	2.8%	20	HARNETT	55,858	2,004	3.6%	70
JONES	4,220	119	2.8%	21	BEAUFORT	19,723	718	3.6%	71
UNION	132,622	3,746	2.8%	22	PITT	88,467	3,225	3.6%	72
GRANVILLE	31,081	879	2.8%	23	PASQUOTANK	16,546	607	3.7%	73
WAKE	657,193	18,674	2.8%	24	ONSLOW	69,242	2,563	3.7%	74
MCDOWELL	20,200	576	2.9%	25	LEE	26,288	982	3.7%	75
STANLY	31,135	890	2.9%	26	PERQUIMANS	4,841	182	3.8%	76
SURRY	32,439	930	2.9%	27	ANSON	10,040	385	3.8%	77
BURKE	40,580	1,169	2.9%	28	NORTHAMPTON	6,979	274	3.9%	78
TRANSYLVANIA	14,472	421	2.9%	29	BLADEN	14,388	568	3.9%	79
JOHNSTON	111,753	3,256	2.9%	30	RUTHERFORD	24,416	995	4.1%	80
CAMDEN	4,595	134	2.9%	31	BRUNSWICK	57,041	2,329	4.1%	81
CARTERET	32,030	936	2.9%	32	GRAHAM	2,758	113	4.1%	82
NEW HANOVER	128,516	3,868	3.0%	33	DARE	18,481	758	4.1%	83
DAVIDSON	83,041	2,502	3.0%	34	RICHMOND	17,218	712	4.1%	84
PENDER	30,267	913	3.0%	35	NASH	41,884	1,751	4.2%	85
CHOWAN	6,061	184	3.0%	36	HOKE	20,165	846	4.2%	86
IREDELL	96,487	2,940	3.0%	37	BERTIE	6,675	281	4.2%	87
CATAWBA	79,335	2,427	3.1%	38	MARTIN	8,481	366	4.3%	88
MOORE	42,514	1,303	3.1%	39	HERTFORD	8,282	360	4.3%	89
MITCHELL	6,121	188	3.1%	40	CUMBERLAND	127,509	5,633	4.4%	90
LENOIR	27,391	844	3.1%	41	WASHINGTON	4,180	193	4.6%	91
ROWAN	68,832	2,125	3.1%	42	ROBESON	46,937	2,195	4.7%	92
PERSON	19,221	595	3.1%	43	VANCE	16,759	794	4.7%	93
CRAVEN	42,049	1,302	3.1%	44	WARREN	6,127	291	4.7%	94
CABARRUS	118,546	3,683	3.1%	45	WILSON	33,817	1,610	4.8%	95
DUPLIN	24,285	758	3.1%	46	HALIFAX	18,658	894	4.8%	96
CLEVELAND	49,860	1,560	3.1%	47	EDGECOMBE	19,888	1,034	5.2%	97
CALDWELL	36,218	1,135	3.1%	48	TYRRELL	1,190	67	5.6%	98
ALAMANCE	83,663	2,628	3.1%	49	HYDE	1,612	92	5.7%	99
FORSYTH	192,630	6,091	3.2%	50	SCOTLAND	11,175	657	5.9%	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.

<u>Reliability of the estimates</u>

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.

<u>Release Dates</u>

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2024 when the statewide unemployment rate for January 2024 will be released.

The complete data release schedule through 2024 can be accessed here:

https://www.commerce.nc.gov/documents/release-dates-unemployment-rates