



*For Immediate Release: February 5, 2025  
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## North Carolina’s December County and Area Employment Figures Released

**RALEIGH** — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 95 counties in December 2024, increased in four, and remained unchanged in one. Mitchell County had the highest unemployment rate at 7.3 percent while Currituck County had the lowest at 2.7 percent. All fifteen of the state’s metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Asheville had the highest rate at 5.1 percent while Wilmington had the lowest at 2.8 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>December</b>	93	7	0
<b>November (Revised)</b>	88	12	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 52 counties, decreased in 29, and remained unchanged in 19. Eight metro areas experienced rate increases over the year, three decreased, and four remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in December by 5,333 to 5,041,982, while those unemployed decreased by 15,384 to 178,498. Since December 2023, the number of workers employed statewide increased 7,430, while those unemployed increased 9,851.

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 17, 2025 when the statewide unemployment rate for January 2025 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 2024*

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,220,480	178,498	3.4				
ALAMANCE	86,029	2,761	3.2	JOHNSTON	111,246	3,378	3.0
ALEXANDER	17,622	571	3.2	JONES	4,288	135	3.1
ALLEGHANY	4,020	151	3.8	LEE	25,254	960	3.8
ANSON	10,028	375	3.7	LENOIR	27,409	848	3.1
ASHE	12,559	387	3.1	LINCOLN	47,569	1,384	2.9
AVERY	7,985	403	5.0	MCDOWELL	20,024	910	4.5
BEAUFORT	19,016	649	3.4	MACON	16,252	485	3.0
BERTIE	6,643	299	4.5	MADISON	10,251	614	6.0
BLADEN	14,228	563	4.0	MARTIN	8,522	348	4.1
BRUNSWICK	57,429	2,401	4.2	MECKLENBURG	671,859	21,790	3.2
BUNCOMBE	145,110	8,636	6.0	MITCHELL	6,424	467	7.3
BURKE	40,109	1,510	3.8	MONTGOMERY	10,971	381	3.5
CABARRUS	119,493	3,691	3.1	MOORE	42,732	1,323	3.1
CALDWELL	35,597	1,249	3.5	NASH	41,314	1,764	4.3
CAMDEN	4,727	140	3.0	NEW HANOVER	132,820	3,725	2.8
CARTERET	32,243	980	3.0	NORTHAMPTON	7,149	311	4.4
CASWELL	9,735	297	3.1	ONSLow	69,949	2,617	3.7
CATAWBA	77,834	2,491	3.2	ORANGE	83,519	2,297	2.8
CHATHAM	38,001	1,064	2.8	PAMLICO	5,526	168	3.0
CHEROKEE	10,639	372	3.5	PASQUOTANK	16,992	624	3.7
CHOWAN	6,045	201	3.3	PENDER	31,332	924	2.9
CLAY	4,136	135	3.3	PERQUIMANS	4,972	199	4.0
CLEVELAND	49,989	1,680	3.4	PERSON	19,266	631	3.3
COLUMBUS	22,188	843	3.8	PITT	89,584	3,120	3.5
CRAVEN	42,507	1,364	3.2	POLK	9,530	350	3.7
CUMBERLAND	129,550	5,725	4.4	RANDOLPH	64,397	2,134	3.3
CURRITUCK	14,768	404	2.7	RICHMOND	17,047	771	4.5
DARE	18,648	666	3.6	ROBESON	47,231	2,240	4.7
DAVIDSON	80,723	2,658	3.3	ROCKINGHAM	38,811	1,401	3.6
DAVIE	20,525	610	3.0	ROWAN	69,430	2,236	3.2
DUPLIN	25,070	775	3.1	RUTHERFORD	23,854	1,266	5.3
DURHAM	184,228	5,333	2.9	SAMPSON	26,631	899	3.4
EDGECOMBE	19,575	974	5.0	SCOTLAND	11,021	631	5.7
FORSYTH	187,079	6,266	3.3	STANLY	32,068	927	2.9
FRANKLIN	35,034	1,118	3.2	STOKES	21,381	650	3.0
GASTON	118,069	3,888	3.3	SURRY	32,875	989	3.0
GATES	5,149	152	3.0	SWAIN	6,917	207	3.0
GRAHAM	2,791	129	4.6	TRANSYLVANIA	14,614	498	3.4
GRANVILLE	30,393	862	2.8	TYRRELL	1,199	48	4.0
GREENE	9,526	272	2.9	UNION	133,643	3,849	2.9
GUILFORD	257,307	9,835	3.8	VANCE	16,515	753	4.6
HALIFAX	18,981	862	4.5	WAKE	653,177	18,745	2.9
HARNETT	55,240	2,003	3.6	WARREN	6,011	328	5.5
HAYWOOD	30,139	1,168	3.9	WASHINGTON	4,108	170	4.1
HENDERSON	55,142	1,967	3.6	WATAUGA	30,428	960	3.2
HERTFORD	8,063	364	4.5	WAYNE	50,692	1,761	3.5
HOKE	20,431	813	4.0	WILKES	25,570	913	3.6
HYDE	1,636	79	4.8	WILSON	33,722	1,557	4.6
IREDELL	97,333	3,045	3.1	YADKIN	17,356	487	2.8
JACKSON	19,437	708	3.6	YANCEY	8,289	440	5.3

*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	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.4	3.7	3.2	-0.3	0.2	JOHNSTON	3.0	3.3	3.0	-0.3	0.0
ALAMANCE	3.2	3.4	3.1	-0.2	0.1	JONES	3.1	3.4	2.8	-0.3	0.3
ALEXANDER	3.2	3.4	3.4	-0.2	-0.2	LEE	3.8	4.1	3.9	-0.3	-0.1
ALLEGHANY	3.8	4.1	3.8	-0.3	0.0	LENOIR	3.1	3.4	3.1	-0.3	0.0
ANSON	3.7	4.0	3.8	-0.3	-0.1	LINCOLN	2.9	3.1	2.8	-0.2	0.1
ASHE	3.1	3.4	2.6	-0.3	0.5	MCDOWELL	4.5	5.3	2.9	-0.8	1.6
AVERY	5.0	6.5	2.7	-1.5	2.3	MACON	3.0	3.3	2.7	-0.3	0.3
BEAUFORT	3.4	3.8	3.8	-0.4	-0.4	MADISON	6.0	6.7	2.8	-0.7	3.2
BERTIE	4.5	4.9	4.2	-0.4	0.3	MARTIN	4.1	4.6	4.3	-0.5	-0.2
BLADEN	4.0	4.3	4.1	-0.3	-0.1	MECKLENBURG	3.2	3.4	3.2	-0.2	0.0
BRUNSWICK	4.2	4.5	4.1	-0.3	0.1	MITCHELL	7.3	9.1	3.1	-1.8	4.2
BUNCOMBE	6.0	7.4	2.4	-1.4	3.6	MONTGOMERY	3.5	3.7	3.6	-0.2	-0.1
BURKE	3.8	4.0	2.9	-0.2	0.9	MOORE	3.1	3.5	3.1	-0.4	0.0
CABARRUS	3.1	3.3	3.1	-0.2	0.0	NASH	4.3	4.6	4.2	-0.3	0.1
CALDWELL	3.5	3.8	3.2	-0.3	0.3	NEW HANOVER	2.8	3.0	3.0	-0.2	-0.2
CAMDEN	3.0	3.2	2.9	-0.2	0.1	NORTHAMPTON	4.4	4.6	3.8	-0.2	0.6
CARTERET	3.0	3.3	2.9	-0.3	0.1	ONSLow	3.7	4.0	3.7	-0.3	0.0
CASWELL	3.1	3.5	3.3	-0.4	-0.2	ORANGE	2.8	2.9	2.6	-0.1	0.2
CATAWBA	3.2	3.5	3.1	-0.3	0.1	PAMLICO	3.0	3.2	3.4	-0.2	-0.4
CHATHAM	2.8	3.1	2.9	-0.3	-0.1	PASQUOTANK	3.7	3.9	3.6	-0.2	0.1
CHEROKEE	3.5	3.9	3.4	-0.4	0.1	PENDER	2.9	3.1	3.0	-0.2	-0.1
CHOWAN	3.3	3.6	3.1	-0.3	0.2	PERQUIMANS	4.0	4.4	3.7	-0.4	0.3
CLAY	3.3	3.6	3.5	-0.3	-0.2	PERSON	3.3	3.5	3.2	-0.2	0.1
CLEVELAND	3.4	3.6	3.2	-0.2	0.2	PITT	3.5	3.7	3.7	-0.2	-0.2
COLUMBUS	3.8	3.9	3.9	-0.1	-0.1	POLK	3.7	4.1	2.8	-0.4	0.9
Craven	3.2	3.6	3.1	-0.4	0.1	RANDOLPH	3.3	3.6	3.4	-0.3	-0.1
CUMBERLAND	4.4	4.7	4.4	-0.3	0.0	RICHMOND	4.5	4.9	4.2	-0.4	0.3
CURRITUCK	2.7	2.9	2.7	-0.2	0.0	ROBESON	4.7	5.0	4.7	-0.3	0.0
DARE	3.6	3.2	4.2	0.4	-0.6	ROCKINGHAM	3.6	3.9	3.6	-0.3	0.0
DAVIDSON	3.3	3.6	3.1	-0.3	0.2	ROWAN	3.2	3.4	3.1	-0.2	0.1
DAVIE	3.0	3.3	2.9	-0.3	0.1	RUTHERFORD	5.3	5.8	4.2	-0.5	1.1
DUPLIN	3.1	3.4	3.0	-0.3	0.1	SAMPSON	3.4	3.7	3.4	-0.3	0.0
DURHAM	2.9	3.1	2.9	-0.2	0.0	SCOTLAND	5.7	5.9	5.9	-0.2	-0.2
EDGEcombe	5.0	5.3	5.2	-0.3	-0.2	STANLY	2.9	3.2	2.8	-0.3	0.1
FORSYTH	3.3	3.6	3.3	-0.3	0.0	STOKES	3.0	3.4	2.9	-0.4	0.1
FRANKLIN	3.2	3.5	3.2	-0.3	0.0	SURRY	3.0	3.3	2.8	-0.3	0.2
GASTON	3.3	3.5	3.2	-0.2	0.1	SWAIN	3.0	3.4	2.6	-0.4	0.4
GATES	3.0	3.3	3.2	-0.3	-0.2	TRANSYLVANIA	3.4	3.9	2.9	-0.5	0.5
GRAHAM	4.6	4.5	4.1	0.1	0.5	TYRRELL	4.0	3.6	5.7	0.4	-1.7
GRANVILLE	2.8	3.1	2.9	-0.3	-0.1	UNION	2.9	3.1	2.9	-0.2	0.0
GREENE	2.9	3.1	2.5	-0.2	0.4	VANCE	4.6	5.1	4.8	-0.5	-0.2
GUILFORD	3.8	4.0	3.6	-0.2	0.2	WAKE	2.9	3.1	2.9	-0.2	0.0
HALIFAX	4.5	5.0	4.7	-0.5	-0.2	WARREN	5.5	5.7	4.9	-0.2	0.6
HARNETT	3.6	3.9	3.7	-0.3	-0.1	WASHINGTON	4.1	4.3	4.6	-0.2	-0.5
HAYWOOD	3.9	4.4	2.8	-0.5	1.1	WATAUGA	3.2	3.5	2.6	-0.3	0.6
HENDERSON	3.6	4.2	2.6	-0.6	1.0	WAYNE	3.5	3.8	3.5	-0.3	0.0
HERTFORD	4.5	4.8	4.4	-0.3	0.1	WILKES	3.6	4.0	3.3	-0.4	0.3
HOKE	4.0	4.4	4.2	-0.4	-0.2	WILSON	4.6	5.1	4.8	-0.5	-0.2
HYDE	4.8	4.2	5.7	0.6	-0.9	YADKIN	2.8	3.1	2.7	-0.3	0.1
IREDELL	3.1	3.3	3.1	-0.2	0.0	YANCEY	5.3	6.3	2.7	-1.0	2.6
JACKSON	3.6	3.6	3.2	0.0	0.4						

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

*Preliminary Data for  
December 2024*

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	240,642	12,385	5.1
BURLINGTON	86,029	2,761	3.2
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,475,912	48,947	3.3
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	325,014	9,325	2.9
FAYETTEVILLE	149,981	6,538	4.4
GOLDSBORO	50,692	1,761	3.5
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	360,515	13,370	3.7
GREENVILLE	89,584	3,120	3.5
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	171,162	5,821	3.4
JACKSONVILLE	69,949	2,617	3.7
NEW BERN	52,321	1,667	3.2
RALEIGH	799,457	23,241	2.9
ROCKY MOUNT	60,889	2,738	4.5
WILMINGTON	164,152	4,649	2.8
WINSTON-SALEM	327,064	10,671	3.3

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	32,068	927	2.9
BOONE	30,428	960	3.2
BREVARD	14,614	498	3.4
CULLOWHEE	19,437	708	3.6
DUNN	55,240	2,003	3.6
ELIZABETH CITY	26,691	963	3.6
FOREST CITY	23,854	1,266	5.3
HENDERSON	16,515	753	4.6
KILL DEVIL HILLS	19,847	714	3.6
KINSTON	27,409	848	3.1
LAURINBURG	11,021	631	5.7
LUMBERTON	47,231	2,240	4.7
MARION	20,024	910	4.5
MOREHEAD CITY	32,243	980	3.0
MOUNT AIRY	32,875	989	3.0
NORTH WILKESBORO	25,570	913	3.6
OXFORD	30,393	862	2.8
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	42,732	1,323	3.1
ROANOKE RAPIDS	26,130	1,173	4.5
ROCKINGHAM	17,047	771	4.5
SANFORD	25,254	960	3.8
SHELBY	49,989	1,680	3.4
WASHINGTON	19,016	649	3.4
WILSON	33,722	1,557	4.6

**COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS  
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**

*Preliminary Data for  
December 2024*

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	255,256	12,883	5.0
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,557,969	51,554	3.3
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	208,233	9,409	4.5
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	806,483	27,791	3.4
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	108,600	3,769	3.5
HICKORY-LENOIR	191,186	6,731	3.5
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	84,564	2,647	3.1
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	1,251,873	37,144	3.0
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	120,741	5,468	4.5

*Not Seasonally Adjusted*

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

Metropolitan Statistical Area	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	5.1	6.2	2.5	-1.1	2.6
BURLINGTON	3.2	3.4	3.1	-0.2	0.1
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.3	3.6	3.1	-0.3	0.2
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	2.9	3.1	2.8	-0.2	0.1
FAYETTEVILLE	4.4	4.6	4.4	-0.2	0.0
GOLDSBORO	3.5	3.8	3.5	-0.3	0.0
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	3.7	3.9	3.6	-0.2	0.1
GREENVILLE	3.5	3.7	3.7	-0.2	-0.2
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.4	3.7	3.1	-0.3	0.3
JACKSONVILLE	3.7	4.0	3.7	-0.3	0.0
NEW BERN	3.2	3.6	3.1	-0.4	0.1
RALEIGH	2.9	3.1	2.9	-0.2	0.0
ROCKY MOUNT	4.5	4.8	4.6	-0.3	-0.1
WILMINGTON	2.8	3.0	3.0	-0.2	-0.2
WINSTON-SALEM	3.3	3.5	3.2	-0.2	0.1

Micropolitan Statistical Area	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	2.9	3.2	2.8	-0.3	0.1
BOONE	3.2	3.5	2.6	-0.3	0.6
BREVARD	3.4	3.9	2.9	-0.5	0.5
CULLOWHEE	3.6	3.6	3.2	0.0	0.4
DUNN	3.6	3.9	3.7	-0.3	-0.1
ELIZABETH CITY	3.6	3.8	3.5	-0.2	0.1
FOREST CITY	5.3	5.8	4.2	-0.5	1.1
HENDERSON	4.6	5.1	4.8	-0.5	-0.2
KILL DEVIL HILLS	3.6	3.2	4.3	0.4	-0.7
KINSTON	3.1	3.4	3.1	-0.3	0.0
LAURINBURG	5.7	5.9	5.9	-0.2	-0.2
LUMBERTON	4.7	5.0	4.7	-0.3	0.0
MARION	4.5	5.3	2.9	-0.8	1.6
MOREHEAD CITY	3.0	3.3	2.9	-0.3	0.1
MOUNT AIRY	3.0	3.3	2.8	-0.3	0.2
NORTH WILKESBORO	3.6	4.0	3.3	-0.4	0.3
OXFORD	2.8	3.1	2.9	-0.3	-0.1
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.1	3.5	3.1	-0.4	0.0
ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.5	4.9	4.5	-0.4	0.0
ROCKINGHAM	4.5	4.9	4.2	-0.4	0.3
SANFORD	3.8	4.1	3.9	-0.3	-0.1
SHELBY	3.4	3.6	3.2	-0.2	0.2
WASHINGTON	3.4	3.8	3.8	-0.4	-0.4
WILSON	4.6	5.1	4.8	-0.5	-0.2

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

Combined Statistical Area	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	5.0	6.1	2.6	-1.1	2.4
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.3	3.6	3.1	-0.3	0.2
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	4.5	4.8	4.5	-0.3	0.0
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	3.4	3.7	3.3	-0.3	0.1
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	3.5	3.7	3.7	-0.2	-0.2
HICKORY-LENOIR	3.5	3.8	3.1	-0.3	0.4
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.1	3.5	3.0	-0.4	0.1
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.0	3.2	3.0	-0.2	0.0
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.5	4.9	4.6	-0.4	-0.1

*Not Seasonally Adjusted*

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**NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY RANKINGS**  
**Preliminary Data for December 2024**

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
CURRITUCK	14,768	404	2.7	1	MONTGOMERY	10,971	381	3.5	51
ORANGE	83,519	2,297	2.8	2	WAYNE	50,692	1,761	3.5	52
CHATHAM	38,001	1,064	2.8	3	PITT	89,584	3,120	3.5	53
NEW HANOVER	132,820	3,725	2.8	4	CHEROKEE	10,639	372	3.5	54
YADKIN	17,356	487	2.8	5	CALDWELL	35,597	1,249	3.5	55
GRANVILLE	30,393	862	2.8	6	HENDERSON	55,142	1,967	3.6	56
GREENE	9,526	272	2.9	7	WILKES	25,570	913	3.6	57
WAKE	653,177	18,745	2.9	8	DARE	18,648	666	3.6	58
UNION	133,643	3,849	2.9	9	ROCKINGHAM	38,811	1,401	3.6	59
STANLY	32,068	927	2.9	10	HARNETT	55,240	2,003	3.6	60
DURHAM	184,228	5,333	2.9	11	JACKSON	19,437	708	3.6	61
LINCOLN	47,569	1,384	2.9	12	PASQUOTANK	16,992	624	3.7	62
PENDER	31,332	924	2.9	13	POLK	9,530	350	3.7	63
GATES	5,149	152	3.0	14	ANSON	10,028	375	3.7	64
CAMDEN	4,727	140	3.0	15	ONSLOW	69,949	2,617	3.7	65
DAVIE	20,525	610	3.0	16	ALLEGHANY	4,020	151	3.8	66
MACON	16,252	485	3.0	17	BURKE	40,109	1,510	3.8	67
SWAIN	6,917	207	3.0	18	COLUMBUS	22,188	843	3.8	68
SURRY	32,875	989	3.0	19	LEE	25,254	960	3.8	69
JOHNSTON	111,246	3,378	3.0	20	GUILFORD	257,307	9,835	3.8	70
CARTERET	32,243	980	3.0	21	HAYWOOD	30,139	1,168	3.9	71
STOKES	21,381	650	3.0	22	BLADEN	14,228	563	4.0	72
PAMLICO	5,526	168	3.0	23	HOKE	20,431	813	4.0	73
CASWELL	9,735	297	3.1	24	PERQUIMANS	4,972	199	4.0	74
ASHE	12,559	387	3.1	25	TYRRELL	1,199	48	4.0	75
CABARRUS	119,493	3,691	3.1	26	MARTIN	8,522	348	4.1	76
DUPLIN	25,070	775	3.1	27	WASHINGTON	4,108	170	4.1	77
LENOIR	27,409	848	3.1	28	BRUNSWICK	57,429	2,401	4.2	78
MOORE	42,732	1,323	3.1	29	NASH	41,314	1,764	4.3	79
IREDELL	97,333	3,045	3.1	30	NORTHAMPTON	7,149	311	4.4	80
JONES	4,288	135	3.1	31	CUMBERLAND	129,550	5,725	4.4	81
WATAUGA	30,428	960	3.2	32	BERTIE	6,643	299	4.5	82
FRANKLIN	35,034	1,118	3.2	33	HERTFORD	8,063	364	4.5	83
CATAWBA	77,834	2,491	3.2	34	RICHMOND	17,047	771	4.5	84
CRAVEN	42,507	1,364	3.2	35	HALIFAX	18,981	862	4.5	85
ALAMANCE	86,029	2,761	3.2	36	MCDOWELL	20,024	910	4.5	86
ROWAN	69,430	2,236	3.2	37	VANCE	16,515	753	4.6	87
ALEXANDER	17,622	571	3.2	38	WILSON	33,722	1,557	4.6	88
MECKLENBURG	671,859	21,790	3.2	39	GRAHAM	2,791	129	4.6	89
CLAY	4,136	135	3.3	40	ROBESON	47,231	2,240	4.7	90
PERSON	19,266	631	3.3	41	HYDE	1,636	79	4.8	91
DAVIDSON	80,723	2,658	3.3	42	EDGEcombe	19,575	974	5.0	92
GASTON	118,069	3,888	3.3	43	AVERY	7,985	403	5.0	93
RANDOLPH	64,397	2,134	3.3	44	RUTHERFORD	23,854	1,266	5.3	94
CHOWAN	6,045	201	3.3	45	YANCEY	8,289	440	5.3	95
FORSYTH	187,079	6,266	3.3	46	WARREN	6,011	328	5.5	96
CLEVELAND	49,989	1,680	3.4	47	SCOTLAND	11,021	631	5.7	97
SAMPSON	26,631	899	3.4	48	BUNCOMBE	145,110	8,636	6.0	98
TRANSYLVANIA	14,614	498	3.4	49	MADISON	10,251	614	6.0	99
BEAUFORT	19,016	649	3.4	50	MITCHELL	6,424	467	7.3	100

*Not Seasonally Adjusted*

*Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.*

North Carolina Department of Commerce  
 Labor & Economic Analysis Division  
 Local Area Unemployment Statistics  
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## **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 Monday, March 17, 2025 when the statewide unemployment rate for January 2025 will be released.

The complete data release schedule through 2025 can be accessed here:

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