North Carolina's December County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 99 counties in December 2025 and increased in one. Edgecombe County had the highest unemployment rate at 5.4 percent while Stanly County had the lowest at 2.6 percent. All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 4.8 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
December	97	3	0
November (Revised)	84	16	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 65 counties, decreased in 24, and remained unchanged in 11. Thirteen metro areas experienced rate increases over the year and two decreased.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in December by 36,570 to 5,108,591, while those unemployed decreased by 39,163 to 181,301. Since December 2024, the number of workers employed statewide increased 41,381, while those unemployed increased 3,101.

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.

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 2025

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,289,892	181,301	3.4				
ALAMANCE	85,979	2,947	3.4	JOHNSTON	128,197	3,769	2.9
ALEXANDER	15,853	508	3.2	JONES	3,847	130	3.4
ALLEGHANY	4,697	170	3.6	LEE	31,394	1,036	3.3
ANSON	8,966	363	4.0	LENOIR	24,522	869	3.5
ASHE	12,418	348	2.8	LINCOLN	48,578	1,461	3.0
AVERY	7,546	241	3.2	MCDOWELL	18,423	655	3.6
BEAUFORT	19,093	627	3.3	MACON	16,831	538	3.2
BERTIE	5,765	247	4.3	MADISON	10,728	356	3.3
BLADEN	11,597	533	4.6	MARTIN	9,021	328	3.6
BRUNSWICK	66,436	2,616	3.9	MECKLENBURG	665,976	23,209	3.5
BUNCOMBE	140,784	4,663	3.3	MITCHELL	6,918	234	3.4
BURKE	39,375	1,305	3.3	MONTGOMERY	10,307	368	3.6
CABARRUS	126,986	4,123	3.2	MOORE	44,536	1,441	3.2
CALDWELL	36,095	1,257	3.5	NASH	42,320	1,937	4.6
CAMDEN	5,266	147	2.8	NEW HANOVER	125,221	3,941	3.1
CARTERET	31,771	1,051	3.3	NORTHAMPTON	6,384	286	4.5
CASWELL	9,937	333	3.4	ONSLOW	73,160	2,632	3.6
CATAWBA	76,608	2,544	3.3	ORANGE	78,428	2,435	3.1
CHATHAM	39,633	1,175	3.0	PAMLICO	4,687	162	3.5
CHEROKEE	11,109	393	3.5	PASQUOTANK	18,234	690	3.8
CHOWAN	6,468	209	3.2	PENDER	31,769	1,028	3.2
CLAY	4,761	154	3.2	PERQUIMANS	5,788	201	3.5
CLEVELAND	45,757	1,884	4.1	PERSON	20,364	642	3.2
COLUMBUS	20,159	780	3.9	PITT	83,508	3,089	3.7
CRAVEN	41,539	1,469	3.5	POLK	9,727	303	3.1
CUMBERLAND	130,027	5,612	4.3	RANDOLPH	66,760	2,270	3.4
CURRITUCK	15,839	431	2.7	RICHMOND	19,270	724	3.8
DARE	17,986	762	4.2	ROBESON	45,782	2,164	4.7
DAVIDSON	80,596	2,731	3.4	ROCKINGHAM	39,754	1,486	3.7
DAVIE	20,763	665	3.2	ROWAN	72,383	2,372	3.3
DUPLIN	22,001	677	3.1	RUTHERFORD	25,641	1,121	4.4
DURHAM	186,745	5,863	3.1	SAMPSON	23,779	899	3.8
EDGECOMBE	20,440	1,100	5.4	SCOTLAND	12,779	617	4.8
FORSYTH	185,936	6,762	3.6	STANLY	35,478	933	2.6
FRANKLIN	39,211	1,212	3.1	STOKES	20,521	677	3.3
GASTON	118,983	4,295	3.6	SURRY	32,416	996	3.1
GATES	4,405	142	3.2	SWAIN	6,558	194	3.0
GRAHAM	3,449	124	3.6	TRANSYLVANIA	14,024	451	3.2
GRANVILLE	28,895	933	3.2	TYRRELL	1,483	55	3.7
GREENE	8,636	261	3.0	UNION	135,014	4,125	3.1
GUILFORD	262,821	10,504	4.0	VANCE	18,544	791	4.3
HALIFAX	18,414	956	5.2	WAKE	681,935	20,196	3.0
HARNETT	58,626	2,171	3.7	WARREN	7,086	304	4.3
HAYWOOD	29,560	894	3.0	WASHINGTON	3,909	159	4.1
HENDERSON	57,668	1,603	2.8	WATAUGA	28,410	928	3.3
HERTFORD	8,208	338	4.1	WAYNE	51,246	1,802	3.5
HOKE	20,394	877	4.3	WILKES	25,988	903	3.5
HYDE	1,607	84	5.2	WILSON	34,459	1,546	4.5
IREDELL	104,757	3,291	3.1	YADKIN	17,215	496	2.9
JACKSON	21,467	705	3.3	YANCEY	8,564	279	3.3

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	December 2025	November 2025	December 2024	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	December 2025	November 2025	December 2024	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.4	4.2	3.4	-0.8	0.0						
ALAMANCE	3.4	4.1	3.2	-0.7	0.2	JOHNSTON	2.9	3.6	2.8	-0.7	0.1
ALEXANDER	3.2	4.0	3.5	-0.8	-0.3	JONES	3.4	4.4	3.5	-1.0	-0.1
ALLEGHANY	3.6	4.3	3.3	-0.7	0.3	LEE	3.3	4.1	3.2	-0.8	0.1
ANSON	4.0	4.9	4.0	-0.9	0.0	LENOIR	3.5	4.4	3.4	-0.9	0.1
ASHE	2.8	3.7	3.1	-0.9	-0.3	LINCOLN	3.0	3.8	3.0	-0.8	0.0
AVERY	3.2	4.0	5.3	-0.8	-2.1	MCDOWELL	3.6	4.6	4.7	-1.0	-1.1
BEAUFORT	3.3	4.1	3.2	-0.8	0.1	MACON	3.2	4.0	3.0	-0.8	0.2
BERTIE	4.3	5.4	4.6	-1.1	-0.3	MADISON	3.3	4.2	5.6	-0.9	-2.3
BLADEN	4.6	5.6	4.5	-1.0	0.1	MARTIN	3.6	4.5	3.7	-0.9	-0.1
BRUNSWICK	3.9	4.9	3.8	-1.0	0.1	MECKLENBURG	3.5	4.1	3.4	-0.6	0.1
BUNCOMBE	3.3	4.2	6.0	-0.9	-2.7	MITCHELL	3.4	4.3	6.5	-0.9	-3.1
BURKE	3.3	4.2	3.7	-0.9	-0.4	MONTGOMERY	3.6	4.6	3.5	-1.0	0.1
CABARRUS	3.2	3.9	3.1	-0.7	0.1	MOORE	3.2	4.2	3.0	-1.0	0.2
CALDWELL	3.5	4.3	3.3	-0.8	0.2	NASH	4.6	5.4	4.1	-0.8	0.5
CAMDEN	2.8	3.6	2.6	-0.8	0.2	NEW HANOVER	3.1	3.8	3.0	-0.7	0.1
CARTERET	3.3	4.1	3.1	-0.8	0.2	NORTHAMPTON	4.5	5.7	4.5	-1.2	0.0
CASWELL	3.4	4.2	3.0	-0.8	0.4	ONSLOW	3.6	4.4	3.4	-0.8	0.2
CATAWBA	3.3	4.1	3.2	-0.8	0.1	ORANGE	3.1	3.7	3.0	-0.6	0.1
CHATHAM	3.0	3.9	2.8	-0.9	0.2	PAMLICO	3.5	4.6	3.4	-1.1	0.1
CHEROKEE	3.5	4.6	3.4	-1.1	0.1	PASQUOTANK	3.8	4.3	3.5	-0.5	0.3
CHOWAN	3.2	3.9	3.1	-0.7	0.1	PENDER	3.2	4.0	3.0	-0.8	0.2
CLAY	3.2	4.2	2.9	-1.0	0.3	PERQUIMANS	3.5	4.4	3.5	-0.9	0.0
CLEVELAND	4.1	4.9	3.7	-0.8	0.4	PERSON	3.2	4.1	3.1	-0.9	0.1
COLUMBUS	3.9	4.7	3.9	-0.8	0.0	PITT	3.7	4.4	3.6	-0.7	0.1
CRAVEN	3.5	4.5	3.3	-1.0	0.2	POLK	3.1	3.9	3.5	-0.8	-0.4
CUMBERLAND	4.3	5.2	4.2	-0.9	0.1	RANDOLPH	3.4	4.1	3.2	-0.7	0.2
CURRITUCK	2.7	3.3	2.6	-0.6	0.1	RICHMOND	3.8	4.5	3.9	-0.7	-0.1
DARE	4.2	4.3	3.8	-0.1	0.4	ROBESON	4.7	5.5	4.6	-0.8	0.1
DAVIDSON	3.4	4.2	3.3	-0.8	0.1	ROCKINGHAM	3.7	4.7	3.5	-1.0	0.2
DAVIE	3.2	4.0	3.0	-0.8	0.2	ROWAN	3.3	4.1	3.2	-0.8	0.1
DUPLIN	3.1	3.9	3.0	-0.8	0.1	RUTHERFORD	4.4	5.3	4.7	-0.9	-0.3
DURHAM	3.1	3.8	2.9	-0.7	0.2	SAMPSON	3.8	4.7	3.6	-0.9	0.2
EDGECOMBE	5.4	6.4	4.6	-1.0	0.8	SCOTLAND	4.8	5.6	4.8	-0.8	0.0
FORSYTH	3.6	4.4	3.4	-0.8	0.2	STANLY	2.6	3.4	2.7	-0.8	-0.1
FRANKLIN	3.1	3.9	3.0	-0.8	0.1	STOKES	3.3	4.2	3.1	-0.9	0.2
GASTON	3.6	4.4	3.4	-0.8	0.2	SURRY	3.1	4.0	3.0	-0.9	0.1
GATES	3.2	4.2	3.2	-1.0	0.0	SWAIN	3.0	3.6	3.2	-0.6	-0.2
GRAHAM	3.6	4.1	3.6	-0.5	0.0	TRANSYLVANIA	3.2	4.1	3.4	-0.9	-0.2
GRANVILLE	3.2	4.1	3.1	-0.9	0.1	TYRRELL	3.7	4.5	3.8	-0.8	-0.1
GREENE	3.0	3.7	3.0	-0.7	0.0	UNION	3.1	3.6	2.9	-0.5	0.2
GUILFORD	4.0	4.7	3.8	-0.7	0.2	VANCE	4.3	5.1	3.9	-0.8	0.4
HALIFAX	5.2	6.0	4.6	-0.8	0.6	WAKE	3.0	3.6	2.8	-0.6	0.2
HARNETT	3.7	4.4	3.4	-0.7	0.3	WARREN	4.3	5.1	4.5	-0.8	-0.2
HAYWOOD	3.0	4.0	3.9	-1.0	-0.9	WASHINGTON	4.1	5.2	4.1	-1.1	0.0
HENDERSON	2.8	3.7	3.4	-0.9	-0.6	WATAUGA	3.3	3.8	3.5	-0.5	-0.2
HERTFORD	4.1	4.7	3.9	-0.6	0.2	WAYNE	3.5	4.3	3.3	-0.8	0.2
HOKE	4.3	5.2	3.8	-0.9	0.5	WILKES	3.5	4.5	3.4	-1.0	0.1
HYDE	5.2	5.1	5.1	0.1	0.1	WILSON	4.5	5.3	4.3	-0.8	0.2
IREDELL	3.1	3.9	3.1	-0.8	0.0	YADKIN	2.9	3.8	2.8	-0.9	0.1
JACKSON	3.3	3.8	3.4	-0.5	-0.1	YANCEY	3.3	4.3	5.2	-1.0	-1.9

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
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Data for
December 2025

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	209,180	6,622	3.2
BURLINGTON	85,979	2,947	3.4
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,510,906	54,439	3.6
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	325,170	10,115	3.1
FAYETTEVILLE	150,421	6,489	4.3
GOLDSBORO	51,246	1,802	3.5
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	369,335	14,260	3.9
GREENVILLE	83,508	3,089	3.7
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	167,931	5,614	3.3
JACKSONVILLE	73,160	2,632	3.6
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	44,536	1,441	3.2
RALEIGH	849,343	25,177	3.0
ROCKY MOUNT	62,760	3,037	4.8
WILMINGTON	223,426	7,585	3.4
WINSTON-SALEM	325,031	11,331	3.5

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	35,478	933	2.6
ANDERSON CREEK	58,626	2,171	3.7
BOONE	28,410	928	3.3
BREVARD	14,024	451	3.2
ELIZABETH CITY	18,234	690	3.8
FOREST CITY	25,641	1,121	4.4
HENDERSON	18,544	791	4.3
KILL DEVIL HILLS	17,986	762	4.2
KINSTON	24,522	869	3.5
LAURINBURG	12,779	617	4.8
LUMBERTON	45,782	2,164	4.7
MARION	18,423	655	3.6
MOREHEAD CITY	31,771	1,051	3.3
MOUNT AIRY	32,416	996	3.1
MOREHEAD CITY	50,073	1,761	3.5
NEW BERN	25,988	903	3.5
NORTH WILKESBORO	24,798	1,242	5.0
ROCKINGHAM	19,270	724	3.8
SANFORD	31,394	1,036	3.3
SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN	45,757	1,884	4.1
WASHINGTON	19,093	627	3.3
WAYNESVILLE	29,560	894	3.0
WILSON	34,459	1,546	4.5

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Data for
December 2025

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD	252,764	7,967	3.2
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,778,495	63,525	3.6
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST	272,788	11,435	4.2
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	812,761	29,534	3.6
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	102,601	3,716	3.6
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	81,844	2,812	3.4
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY	1,283,077	39,290	3.1
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	122,017	5,825	4.8

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates are subject to monthly and annual revisions

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	December 2025	November 2025	December 2024	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	3.2	4.0	5.3	-0.8	-2.1
BURLINGTON	3.4	4.1	3.2	-0.7	0.2
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.6	4.2	3.4	-0.6	0.2
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.1	3.8	2.9	-0.7	0.2
FAYETTEVILLE	4.3	5.2	4.1	-0.9	0.2
GOLDSBORO	3.5	4.3	3.3	-0.8	0.2
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	3.9	4.6	3.7	-0.7	0.2
GREENVILLE	3.7	4.4	3.6	-0.7	0.1
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.3	4.1	3.4	-0.8	-0.1
JACKSONVILLE	3.6	4.4	3.4	-0.8	0.2
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.2	4.2	3.0	-1.0	0.2
RALEIGH	3.0	3.6	2.8	-0.6	0.2
ROCKY MOUNT	4.8	5.7	4.3	-0.9	0.5
WILMINGTON	3.4	4.2	3.2	-0.8	0.2
WINSTON-SALEM	3.5	4.3	3.3	-0.8	0.2

Micropolitan Statistical Area	December 2025	November 2025	December 2024	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	2.6	3.4	2.7	-0.8	-0.1
ANDERSON CREEK	3.7	4.4	3.4	-0.7	0.3
BOONE	3.3	3.8	3.5	-0.5	-0.2
BREVARD	3.2	4.1	3.4	-0.9	-0.2
ELIZABETH CITY	3.8	4.3	3.5	-0.5	0.3
FOREST CITY	4.4	5.3	4.7	-0.9	-0.3
HENDERSON	4.3	5.1	3.9	-0.8	0.4
KILL DEVIL HILLS	4.2	4.3	3.8	-0.1	0.4
KINSTON	3.5	4.4	3.4	-0.9	0.1
LAURINBURG	4.8	5.6	4.8	-0.8	0.0
LUMBERTON	4.7	5.5	4.6	-0.8	0.1
MARION	3.6	4.6	4.7	-1.0	-1.1
MOREHEAD CITY	3.3	4.1	3.1	-0.8	0.2
MOUNT AIRY	3.1	4.0	3.0	-0.9	0.1
MOREHEAD CITY	3.5	4.5	3.3	-1.0	0.2
NEW BERN	3.5	4.5	3.4	-1.0	0.1
NORTH WILKESBORO	5.0	6.0	4.5	-1.0	0.5
ROCKINGHAM	3.8	4.5	3.9	-0.7	-0.1
SANFORD	3.3	4.1	3.2	-0.8	0.1
SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN	4.1	4.9	3.7	-0.8	0.4
WASHINGTON	3.3	4.1	3.2	-0.8	0.1
WAYNESVILLE	3.0	4.0	3.9	-1.0	-0.9
WILSON	4.5	5.3	4.3	-0.8	0.2

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

Combined Statistical Area	December 2025	November 2025	December 2024	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD	3.2	4.0	5.0	-0.8	-1.8
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.6	4.2	3.4	-0.6	0.2
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST	4.2	5.0	4.0	-0.8	0.2
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	3.6	4.4	3.4	-0.8	0.2
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	3.6	4.3	3.5	-0.7	0.1
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.4	4.3	3.2	-0.9	0.2
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY	3.1	3.7	2.9	-0.6	0.2
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.8	5.7	4.3	-0.9	0.5

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 RANKINGS
Preliminary Data for December 2025

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
STANLY	35,478	933	2.6	1	DAVIDSON	80,596	2,731	3.4	51
CURRITUCK	15,839	431	2.7	2	RANDOLPH	66,760	2,270	3.4	52
HENDERSON	57,668	1,603	2.8	3	ALAMANCE	85,979	2,947	3.4	53
CAMDEN	5,266	147	2.8	4	PAMLICO	4,687	162	3.5	54
ASHE	12,418	348	2.8	5	PERQUIMANS	5,788	201	3.5	55
YADKIN	17,215	496	2.9	6	WILKES	25,988	903	3.5	56
JOHNSTON	128,197	3,769	2.9	7	CALDWELL	36,095	1,257	3.5	57
SWAIN	6,558	194	3.0	8	MECKLENBURG	665,976	23,209	3.5	58
WAKE	681,935	20,196	3.0	9	WAYNE	51,246	1,802	3.5	59
CHATHAM	39,633	1,175	3.0	10	CRAVEN	41,539	1,469	3.5	60
LINCOLN	48,578	1,461	3.0	11	CHEROKEE	11,109	393	3.5	61
GREENE	8,636	261	3.0	12	LENOIR	24,522	869	3.5	62
HAYWOOD	29,560	894	3.0	13	MCDOWELL	18,423	655	3.6	63
UNION	135,014	4,125	3.1	14	MONTGOMERY	10,307	368	3.6	64
SURRY	32,416	996	3.1	15	GRAHAM	3,449	124	3.6	65
DUPLIN	22,001	677	3.1	16	ONSLOW	73,160	2,632	3.6	66
FRANKLIN	39,211	1,212	3.1	17	GASTON	118,983	4,295	3.6	67
ORANGE	78,428	2,435	3.1	18	ALLEGHANY	4,697	170	3.6	68
POLK	9,727	303	3.1	19	MARTIN	9,021	328	3.6	69
DURHAM	186,745	5,863	3.1	20	FORSYTH	185,936	6,762	3.6	70
IREDELL	104,757	3,291	3.1	21	PITT	83,508	3,089	3.7	71
NEW HANOVER	125,221	3,941	3.1	22	HARNETT	58,626	2,171	3.7	72
PERSON	20,364	642	3.2	23	TYRRELL	1,483	55	3.7	73
AVERY	7,546	241	3.2	24	ROCKINGHAM	39,754	1,486	3.7	74
MACON	16,831	538	3.2	25	RICHMOND	19,270	724	3.8	75
DAVIE	20,763	665	3.2	26	SAMPSON	23,779	899	3.8	76
ALEXANDER	15,853	508	3.2	27	PASQUOTANK	18,234	690	3.8	77
TRANSYLVANIA	14,024	451	3.2	28	COLUMBUS	20,159	780	3.9	78
GATES	4,405	142	3.2	29	BRUNSWICK	66,436	2,616	3.9	79
GRANVILLE	28,895	933	3.2	30	GUILFORD	262,821	10,504	4.0	80
CHOWAN	6,468	209	3.2	31	ANSON	8,966	363	4.0	81
CLAY	4,761	154	3.2	32	WASHINGTON	3,909	159	4.1	82
MOORE	44,536	1,441	3.2	33	CLEVELAND	45,757	1,884	4.1	83
PENDER	31,769	1,028	3.2	34	HERTFORD	8,208	338	4.1	84
CABARRUS	126,986	4,123	3.2	35	DARE	17,986	762	4.2	85
YANCEY	8,564	279	3.3	36	VANCE	18,544	791	4.3	86
WATAUGA	28,410	928	3.3	37	BERTIE	5,765	247	4.3	87
ROWAN	72,383	2,372	3.3	38	WARREN	7,086	304	4.3	88
BEAUFORT	19,093	627	3.3	39	HOKE	20,394	877	4.3	89
JACKSON	21,467	705	3.3	40	CUMBERLAND	130,027	5,612	4.3	90
STOKES	20,521	677	3.3	41	RUTHERFORD	25,641	1,121	4.4	91
LEE	31,394	1,036	3.3	42	NORTHAMPTON	6,384	286	4.5	92
CARTERET	31,771	1,051	3.3	43	WILSON	34,459	1,546	4.5	93
BUNCOMBE	140,784	4,663	3.3	44	NASH	42,320	1,937	4.6	94
BURKE	39,375	1,305	3.3	45	BLADEN	11,597	533	4.6	95
MADISON	10,728	356	3.3	46	ROBESON	45,782	2,164	4.7	96
CATAWBA	76,608	2,544	3.3	47	SCOTLAND	12,779	617	4.8	97
CASWELL	9,937	333	3.4	48	HALIFAX	18,414	956	5.2	98
JONES	3,847	130	3.4	49	HYDE	1,607	84	5.2	99
MITCHELL	6,918	234	3.4	50	EDGECOMBE	20,440	1,100	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.

<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>

Release dates for the 2026 estimation year have not yet been announced by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Once they are announced, the complete data release schedule through 2026 will be available here:
https://www.commerce.nc.gov/release-dates-unemployment-rates/open