For Immediate Release: April 3, 2024
For More Information, Contact: David Rhoades/919.814.4611

North Carolina's February County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 50 of North Carolina's counties in February 2024, decreased in fourteen, and remained unchanged in 36. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 9.7 percent while Watauga County had the lowest at 2.7 percent. Thirteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases, one decreased, and one remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 5.1 percent while Asheville had the lowest at 3.1 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.7 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
February	90	10	0
January (Revised)	90	10	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 59 counties, increased in twenty, and remained unchanged in 21. Five metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year, two increased, and eight remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in February by 1,476 to 5,049,879, while those unemployed increased by 4,616 to 194,278. Since February 2023, the number of workers employed statewide increased 52,300, while those unemployed increased 597.

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 Friday, April 19, 2024 when the statewide unemployment rate for March 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
February 2024

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,244,157	194,278	3.7				
ALAMANCE	86,282	3,027	3.5	JOHNSTON	112,046	3,748	3.3
ALEXANDER	17,967	633	3.5	JONES	4,426	141	3.2
ALLEGHANY	4,219	188	4.5	LEE	25,866	1,088	4.2
ANSON	10,315	415	4.0	LENOIR	27,917	961	3.4
ASHE	12,766	399	3.1	LINCOLN	47,221	1,528	3.2
AVERY	7,734	258	3.3	MCDOWELL	20,355	676	3.3
BEAUFORT	19,555	796	4.1	MACON	16,230	567	3.5
BERTIE	7,103	333	4.7	MADISON	10,130	317	3.1
BLADEN	14,944	671	4.5	MARTIN	8,747	397	4.5
BRUNSWICK	59,104	2,857	4.8	MECKLENBURG	665,445	25,078	3.8
BUNCOMBE	142,936	4,324	3.0	MITCHELL	6,262	220	3.5
BURKE	40,498	1,401	3.5	MONTGOMERY	11,315	442	3.9
CABARRUS	118,561	4,296	3.6	MOORE	43,234	1,562	3.6
CALDWELL	36,064	1,315	3.6	NASH	42,171	2,025	4.8
CAMDEN	4,833	154	3.2	NEW HANOVER	133,542	4,457	3.3
CARTERET	32,333	1,177	3.6	NORTHAMPTON	7,326	308	4.2
CASWELL	9,925	404	4.1	ONSLOW	70,071	2,997	4.3
CATAWBA	78,886	2,859	3.6	ORANGE	83,223	2,306	2.8
CHATHAM	38,300	1,206	3.1	PAMLICO	5,616	202	3.6
CHEROKEE	10,879	444	4.1	PASQUOTANK	17,244	710	4.1
CHOWAN	6,005	227	3.8	PENDER	31,722	1,054	3.3
CLAY	4,231	166	3.9	PERQUIMANS	5,144	224	4.4
CLEVELAND	50,501	1,841	3.6	PERSON	19,384	755	3.9
COLUMBUS	22,207	1,032	4.6	PITT	90,025	3,596	4.0
CRAVEN	42,762	1,542	3.6	POLK	9,473	320	3.4
CUMBERLAND	129,980	6,464	5.0	RANDOLPH	65,642	2,467	3.8
CURRITUCK	14,879	490	3.3	RICHMOND	17,344	828	4.8
DARE	18,629	1,290	6.9	ROBESON	48,410	2,512	5.2
DAVIDSON	81,216	2,954	3.6	ROCKINGHAM	39,502	1,576	4.0
DAVIE	20,682	664	3.2	ROWAN	68,896	2,444	3.5
DUPLIN	26,486	846	3.2	RUTHERFORD	24,096	1,147	4.8
DURHAM	183,836	5,981	3.3	SAMPSON	28,679	1,068	3.7
EDGECOMBE	20,106	1,154	5.7	SCOTLAND	11,450	753	6.6
FORSYTH	187,765	6,888	3.7	STANLY	32,085	1,043	3.3
FRANKLIN	35,228	1,288	3.7	STOKES	21,531	707	3.3
GASTON	116,829	4,335	3.7	SURRY	33,516	1,125	3.4
GATES	5,226	177	3.4	SWAIN	6,858	279	4.1
GRAHAM	2,874	138	4.8	TRANSYLVANIA	14,797	517	3.5
GRANVILLE	30,787	973	3.2	TYRRELL	1,255	86	6.9
GREENE	9,852	279	2.8	UNION	132,632	4,165	3.1
GUILFORD	260,893	10,989	4.2	VANCE	16,764	893	5.3
HALIFAX	19,459	1,016	5.2	WAKE	654,662	21,380	3.3
HARNETT	56,321	2,333	4.1	WARREN	6,272	370	5.9
HAYWOOD	30,467	1,020	3.3	WASHINGTON	4,277	215	5.0
HENDERSON	55,941	1,746	3.1	WATAUGA	30,025	823	2.7
HERTFORD	8,446	395	4.7	WAYNE	51,882	1,961	3.8
HOKE	20,592	923	4.5	WILKES	26,072	1,029	3.9
HYDE	1,735	168	9.7	WILSON	34,599	1,859	5.4
IREDELL	96,461	3,346	3.5	YADKIN	17,612	560	3.2
JACKSON	19,307	705	3.7	YANCEY	8,263	268	3.2

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

NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

County	February 2024	January 2024	February 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	February 2024	January 2024	February 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.7	3.6	3.7	0.1	0.0						
ALAMANCE	3.5	3.4	3.5	0.1	0.0	JOHNSTON	3.3	3.2	3.3	0.1	0.0
ALEXANDER	3.5	3.5	3.2	0.0	0.3	JONES	3.2	2.9	3.4	0.3	-0.2
ALLEGHANY	4.5	4.6	4.6	-0.1	-0.1	LEE	4.2	4.3	4.1	-0.1	0.1
ANSON	4.0	4.0	4.2	0.0	-0.2	LENOIR	3.4	3.5	3.7	-0.1	-0.3
ASHE	3.1	3.2	3.6	-0.1	-0.5	LINCOLN	3.2	3.2	3.1	0.0	0.1
AVERY	3.3	3.2	3.5	0.1	-0.2	MCDOWELL	3.3	3.2	3.5	0.1	-0.2
BEAUFORT	4.1	4.1	4.4	0.0	-0.3	MACON	3.5	3.4	3.8	0.1	-0.3
BERTIE	4.7	4.7	4.7	0.0	0.0	MADISON	3.1	3.1	3.5	0.0	-0.4
BLADEN	4.5	4.6	4.7	-0.1	-0.2	MARTIN	4.5	4.9	4.4	-0.4	0.1
BRUNSWICK	4.8	4.8	5.1	0.0	-0.3	MECKLENBURG	3.8	3.6	3.7	0.2	0.1
BUNCOMBE	3.0	2.8	3.0	0.2	0.0	MITCHELL	3.5	3.5	4.1	0.0	-0.6
BURKE	3.5	3.3	3.4	0.2	0.1	MONTGOMERY	3.9	3.8	3.6	0.1	0.3
CABARRUS	3.6	3.5	3.5	0.1	0.1	MOORE	3.6	3.6	3.7	0.0	-0.1
CALDWELL	3.6	3.6	3.6	0.0	0.0	NASH	4.8	4.6	5.0	0.2	-0.2
CAMDEN	3.2	3.2	3.6	0.0	-0.4	NEW HANOVER	3.3	3.3	3.4	0.0	-0.1
CARTERET	3.6	3.6	4.0	0.0	-0.4	NORTHAMPTON	4.2	4.2	5.2	0.0	-1.0
CASWELL	4.1	4.0	4.3	0.1	-0.2	ONSLOW	4.3	4.2	4.3	0.1	0.0
CATAWBA	3.6	3.4	3.5	0.2	0.1	ORANGE	2.8	2.7	2.9	0.1	-0.1
CHATHAM	3.1	3.2	3.2	-0.1	-0.1	PAMLICO	3.6	3.6	3.5	0.0	0.1
CHEROKEE	4.1	4.2	4.4	-0.1	-0.3	PASQUOTANK	4.1	4.0	4.9	0.1	-0.8
CHOWAN	3.8	3.7	3.8	0.1	0.0	PENDER	3.3	3.3	3.5	0.0	-0.2
CLAY	3.9	3.9	3.7	0.0	0.2	PERQUIMANS	4.4	4.4	4.4	0.0	0.0
CLEVELAND	3.6	3.5	3.7	0.1	-0.1	PERSON	3.9	3.5	3.6	0.4	0.3
COLUMBUS	4.6	4.5	4.5	0.1	0.1	PITT	4.0	3.9	4.0	0.1	0.0
CRAVEN	3.6	3.5	3.9	0.1	-0.3	POLK	3.4	3.2	3.6	0.2	-0.2
CUMBERLAND	5.0	4.8	5.1	0.2	-0.1	RANDOLPH	3.8	3.7	3.8	0.1	0.0
CURRITUCK	3.3	3.3	3.8	0.0	-0.5	RICHMOND	4.8	4.7	5.1	0.1	-0.3
DARE	6.9	6.5	7.5	0.4	-0.6	ROBESON	5.2	5.2	5.3	0.0	-0.1
DAVIDSON	3.6	3.5	3.6	0.1	0.0	ROCKINGHAM	4.0	4.0	4.7	0.0	-0.7
DAVIE	3.2	3.2	3.3	0.0	-0.1	ROWAN	3.5	3.5	3.7	0.0	-0.2
DUPLIN	3.2	3.1	3.5	0.1	-0.3	RUTHERFORD	4.8	4.8	5.0	0.0	-0.2
DURHAM	3.3	3.1	3.2	0.2	0.1	SAMPSON	3.7	3.7	3.6	0.0	0.1
EDGECOMBE	5.7	5.8	6.3	-0.1	-0.6	SCOTLAND	6.6	6.6	6.9	0.0	-0.3
FORSYTH	3.7	3.6	3.7	0.1	0.0	STANLY	3.3	3.1	3.1	0.2	0.2
FRANKLIN	3.7	3.5	3.8	0.2	-0.1	STOKES	3.3	3.2	3.3	0.1	0.0
GASTON	3.7	3.6	3.8	0.1	-0.1	SURRY	3.4	3.2	3.4	0.2	0.0
GATES	3.4	3.3	3.7	0.1	-0.3	SWAIN	4.1	3.6	3.7	0.5	0.4
GRAHAM	4.8	4.7	5.1	0.1	-0.3	TRANSYLVANIA	3.5	3.3	3.5	0.2	0.0
GRANVILLE	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0	TYRRELL	6.9	7.2	7.4	-0.3	-0.5
GREENE	2.8	2.7	3.1	0.1	-0.3	UNION	3.1	3.1	3.1	0.0	0.0
GUILFORD	4.2	4.1	4.2	0.1	0.0	VANCE	5.3	5.2	5.9	0.1	-0.6
HALIFAX	5.2	5.3	5.9	-0.1	-0.7	WAKE	3.3	3.2	3.1	0.1	0.2
HARNETT	4.1	4.1	4.1	0.0	0.0	WARREN	5.9	5.7	6.2	0.2	-0.3
HAYWOOD	3.3	3.3	3.2	0.0	0.1	WASHINGTON	5.0	5.0	5.6	0.0	-0.6
HENDERSON	3.1	3.0	3.2	0.1	-0.1	WATAUGA	2.7	2.8	3.0	-0.1	-0.3
HERTFORD	4.7	4.7	5.0	0.0	-0.3	WAYNE	3.8	3.9	3.9	-0.1	-0.1
HOKE	4.5	4.6	4.7	-0.1	-0.2	WILKES	3.9	3.9	3.9	0.0	0.0
HYDE	9.7	8.7	11.0	1.0	-1.3	WILSON	5.4	5.2	5.0	0.2	0.4
IREDELL	3.5	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.0	YADKIN	3.2	3.1	3.4	0.1	-0.2
JACKSON	3.7	3.7	3.9	0.0	-0.2	YANCEY	3.2	3.2	3.4	0.0	-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
February 2024

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	239,474	7,407	3.1
BURLINGTON	86,282	3,027	3.5
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,457,277	52,900	3.6
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	324,743	10,248	3.2
FAYETTEVILLE	150,572	7,387	4.9
GOLDSBORO	51,882	1,961	3.8
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	366,037	15,032	4.1
GREENVILLE	90,025	3,596	4.0
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	173,415	6,208	3.6
JACKSONVILLE	70,071	2,997	4.3
NEW BERN	52,804	1,885	3.6
RALEIGH	801,936	26,416	3.3
ROCKY MOUNT	62,277	3,179	5.1
WILMINGTON	165,264	5,511	3.3
WINSTON-SALEM	328,806	11,773	3.6

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	32,085	1,043	3.3
BOONE	30,025	823	2.7
BREVARD	14,797	517	3.5
CULLOWHEE	19,307	705	3.7
DUNN	56,321	2,333	4.1
ELIZABETH CITY	27,221	1,088	4.0
FOREST CITY	24,096	1,147	4.8
HENDERSON	16,764	893	5.3
KILL DEVIL HILLS	19,884	1,376	6.9
KINSTON	27,917	961	3.4
LAURINBURG	11,450	753	6.6
LUMBERTON	48,410	2,512	5.2
MARION	20,355	676	3.3
MOREHEAD CITY	32,333	1,177	3.6
MOUNT AIRY	33,516	1,125	3.4
NORTH WILKESBORO	26,072	1,029	3.9
OXFORD	30,787	973	3.2
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	43,234	1,562	3.6
ROANOKE RAPIDS	26,785	1,324	4.9
ROCKINGHAM	17,344	828	4.8
SANFORD	25,866	1,088	4.2
SHELBY	50,501	1,841	3.6
WASHINGTON	19,555	796	4.1
WILSON	34,599	1,859	5.4

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Data for
February 2024

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	254,271	7,924	3.1
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,539,863	55,784	3.6
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	210,432	10,652	5.1
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	814,641	30,957	3.8
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	109,580	4,392	4.0
HICKORY-LENOIR	193,770	6,884	3.6
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	85,137	3,062	3.6
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	1,256,417	41,951	3.3
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	123,661	6,362	5.1

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

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

Metropolitan Statistical Area	February 2024	January 2024	February 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	3.1	2.9	3.1	0.2	0.0
BURLINGTON	3.5	3.4	3.5	0.1	0.0
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.6	3.5	3.6	0.1	0.0
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.2	3.1	3.2	0.1	0.0
FAYETTEVILLE	4.9	4.8	5.1	0.1	-0.2
GOLDSBORO	3.8	3.9	3.9	-0.1	-0.1
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	4.1	4.0	4.1	0.1	0.0
GREENVILLE	4.0	3.9	4.0	0.1	0.0
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.6	3.4	3.5	0.2	0.1
JACKSONVILLE	4.3	4.2	4.3	0.1	0.0
NEW BERN	3.6	3.5	3.8	0.1	-0.2
RALEIGH	3.3	3.2	3.2	0.1	0.1
ROCKY MOUNT	5.1	5.0	5.4	0.1	-0.3
WILMINGTON	3.3	3.3	3.4	0.0	-0.1
WINSTON-SALEM	3.6	3.5	3.6	0.1	0.0

Micropolitan Statistical Area	February 2024	January 2024	February 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	3.3	3.1	3.1	0.2	0.2
BOONE	2.7	2.8	3.0	-0.1	-0.3
BREVARD	3.5	3.3	3.5	0.2	0.0
CULLOWHEE	3.7	3.7	3.9	0.0	-0.2
DUNN	4.1	4.1	4.1	0.0	0.0
ELIZABETH CITY	4.0	3.9	4.6	0.1	-0.6
FOREST CITY	4.8	4.8	5.0	0.0	-0.2
HENDERSON	5.3	5.2	5.9	0.1	-0.6
KILL DEVIL HILLS	6.9	6.5	7.5	0.4	-0.6
KINSTON	3.4	3.5	3.7	-0.1	-0.3
LAURINBURG	6.6	6.6	6.9	0.0	-0.3
LUMBERTON	5.2	5.2	5.3	0.0	-0.1
MARION	3.3	3.2	3.5	0.1	-0.2
MOREHEAD CITY	3.6	3.6	4.0	0.0	-0.4
MOUNT AIRY	3.4	3.2	3.4	0.2	0.0
NORTH WILKESBORO	3.9	3.9	3.9	0.0	0.0
OXFORD	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.6	3.6	3.7	0.0	-0.1
ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.9	5.0	5.7	-0.1	-0.8
ROCKINGHAM	4.8	4.7	5.1	0.1	-0.3
SANFORD	4.2	4.3	4.1	-0.1	0.1
SHELBY	3.6	3.5	3.7	0.1	-0.1
WASHINGTON	4.1	4.1	4.4	0.0	-0.3
WILSON	5.4	5.2	5.0	0.2	0.4

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

Combined Statistical Area	February 2024	January 2024	February 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	3.1	2.9	3.1	0.2	0.0
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.6	3.5	3.6	0.1	0.0
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	5.1	5.0	5.2	0.1	-0.1
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	3.8	3.7	3.8	0.1	0.0
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	4.0	4.0	4.1	0.0	-0.1
HICKORY-LENOIR	3.6	3.4	3.5	0.2	0.1
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.6	3.5	3.9	0.1	-0.3
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.3	3.3	3.3	0.0	0.0
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	5.1	5.1	5.4	0.0	-0.3

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 RANKINGS
Preliminary Data for February 2024

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
WATAUGA	30,025	823	2.7	1	FRANKLIN	35,228	1,288	3.7	51
ORANGE	83,223	2,306	2.8	2	FORSYTH	187,765	6,888	3.7	52
GREENE	9,852	279	2.8	3	GASTON	116,829	4,335	3.7	53
BUNCOMBE	142,936	4,324	3.0	4	SAMPSON	28,679	1,068	3.7	54
HENDERSON	55,941	1,746	3.1	5	RANDOLPH	65,642	2,467	3.8	55
ASHE	12,766	399	3.1	6	MECKLENBURG	665,445	25,078	3.8	56
MADISON	10,130	317	3.1	7	WAYNE	51,882	1,961	3.8	57
UNION	132,632	4,165	3.1	8	CHOWAN	6,005	227	3.8	58
CHATHAM	38,300	1,206	3.1	9	PERSON	19,384	755	3.9	59
GRANVILLE	30,787	973	3.2	10	MONTGOMERY	11,315	442	3.9	60
YADKIN	17,612	560	3.2	11	CLAY	4,231	166	3.9	61
JONES	4,426	141	3.2	12	WILKES	26,072	1,029	3.9	62
CAMDEN	4,833	154	3.2	13	ROCKINGHAM	39,502	1,576	4.0	63
DUPLIN	26,486	846	3.2	14	PITT	90,025	3,596	4.0	64
DAVIE	20,682	664	3.2	15	ANSON	10,315	415	4.0	65
LINCOLN	47,221	1,528	3.2	16	SWAIN	6,858	279	4.1	66
YANCEY	8,263	268	3.2	17	CASWELL	9,925	404	4.1	67
STANLY	32,085	1,043	3.3	18	BEAUFORT	19,555	796	4.1	68
DURHAM	183,836	5,981	3.3	19	CHEROKEE	10,879	444	4.1	69
WAKE	654,662	21,380	3.3	20	PASQUOTANK	17,244	710	4.1	70
STOKES	21,531	707	3.3	21	HARNETT	56,321	2,333	4.1	71
CURRITUCK	14,879	490	3.3	22	NORTHAMPTON	7,326	308	4.2	72
MCDOWELL	20,355	676	3.3	23	LEE	25,866	1,088	4.2	73
PENDER	31,722	1,054	3.3	24	GUILFORD	260,893	10,989	4.2	74
AVERY	7,734	258	3.3	25	ONSLOW	70,071	2,997	4.3	75
NEW HANOVER	133,542	4,457	3.3	26	PERQUIMANS	5,144	224	4.4	76
JOHNSTON	112,046	3,748	3.3	27	ALLEGHANY	4,219	188	4.5	77
HAYWOOD	30,467	1,020	3.3	28	HOKE	20,592	923	4.5	78
SURRY	33,516	1,125	3.4	29	BLADEN	14,944	671	4.5	79
POLK	9,473	320	3.4	30	MARTIN	8,747	397	4.5	80
GATES	5,226	177	3.4	31	COLUMBUS	22,207	1,032	4.6	81
LENOIR	27,917	961	3.4	32	HERTFORD	8,446	395	4.7	82
BURKE	40,498	1,401	3.5	33	BERTIE	7,103	333	4.7	83
IREDELL	96,461	3,346	3.5	34	RUTHERFORD	24,096	1,147	4.8	84
MACON	16,230	567	3.5	35	RICHMOND	17,344	828	4.8	85
TRANSYLVANIA	14,797	517	3.5	36	GRAHAM	2,874	138	4.8	86
ALAMANCE	86,282	3,027	3.5	37	NASH	42,171	2,025	4.8	87
MITCHELL	6,262	220	3.5	38	BRUNSWICK	59,104	2,857	4.8	88
ALEXANDER	17,967	633	3.5	39	CUMBERLAND	129,980	6,464	5.0	89
ROWAN	68,896	2,444	3.5	40	WASHINGTON	4,277	215	5.0	90
PAMLICO	5,616	202	3.6	41	ROBESON	48,410	2,512	5.2	91
CRAVEN	42,762	1,542	3.6	42	HALIFAX	19,459	1,016	5.2	92
MOORE	43,234	1,562	3.6	43	VANCE	16,764	893	5.3	93
CABARRUS	118,561	4,296	3.6	44	WILSON	34,599	1,859	5.4	94
CATAWBA	78,886	2,859	3.6	45	EDGECOMBE	20,106	1,154	5.7	95
DAVIDSON	81,216	2,954	3.6	46	WARREN	6,272	370	5.9	96
CARTERET	32,333	1,177	3.6	47	SCOTLAND	11,450	753	6.6	97
CLEVELAND	50,501	1,841	3.6	48	TYRRELL	1,255	86	6.9	98
CALDWELL	36,064	1,315	3.6	49	DARE	18,629	1,290	6.9	99
JACKSON	19,307	705	3.7	50	HYDE	1,735	168	9.7	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.

Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Friday, April 19, 2024 when the statewide unemployment rate for March 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