



*For Immediate Release: April 29, 2026
For More Information, Contact: Patrice Gist Bethea/919.814.4612*

North Carolina’s February County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 91 counties in February 2026, increased in five, and remained unchanged in four. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 10.8 percent while Camden County had the lowest at 3.0 percent. All fifteen of the state’s metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 5.3 percent while Raleigh had the lowest at 3.3 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.8 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
February	90	9	1
January (Revised)	86	13	1

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 57 counties, increased in 27, and remained unchanged in 16. Six metro areas experienced rate increases over the year, five decreased, and four remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in February by 39,834 to 5,076,846, while those unemployed decreased by 11,264 to 203,179. Since February 2025, the number of workers employed statewide increased 19,384, while those unemployed decreased 6,890.

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 Wednesday, May 6, 2026 when the statewide unemployment rate for March 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
February 2026*

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,280,025	203,179	3.8				
ALAMANCE	84,046	3,177	3.8	JOHNSTON	130,170	4,305	3.3
ALEXANDER	15,643	563	3.6	JONES	3,809	157	4.1
ALLEGHANY	4,509	200	4.4	LEE	30,441	1,146	3.8
ANSON	8,742	390	4.5	LENOIR	24,614	963	3.9
ASHE	12,166	396	3.3	LINCOLN	47,303	1,647	3.5
AVERY	7,766	262	3.4	MCDOWELL	18,582	734	4.0
BEAUFORT	19,319	734	3.8	MACON	16,651	635	3.8
BERTIE	6,071	315	5.2	MADISON	10,447	398	3.8
BLADEN	10,973	583	5.3	MARTIN	9,075	371	4.1
BRUNSWICK	69,005	3,146	4.6	MECKLENBURG	659,868	26,876	4.1
BUNCOMBE	136,888	5,099	3.7	MITCHELL	6,438	280	4.3
BURKE	38,734	1,410	3.6	MONTGOMERY	10,194	416	4.1
CABARRUS	123,754	4,653	3.8	MOORE	46,184	1,559	3.4
CALDWELL	35,483	1,344	3.8	NASH	42,449	2,080	4.9
CAMDEN	5,365	161	3.0	NEW HANOVER	126,375	4,424	3.5
CARTERET	31,498	1,200	3.8	NORTHAMPTON	6,339	328	5.2
CASWELL	9,784	359	3.7	ONSLow	72,618	2,930	4.0
CATAWBA	76,355	2,814	3.7	ORANGE	78,077	2,598	3.3
CHATHAM	39,975	1,315	3.3	PAMLICO	5,049	169	3.3
CHEROKEE	11,061	466	4.2	PASQUOTANK	17,901	740	4.1
CHOWAN	6,255	229	3.7	PENDER	32,169	1,161	3.6
CLAY	4,697	163	3.5	PERQUIMANS	5,410	219	4.0
CLEVELAND	44,886	2,051	4.6	PERSON	20,217	699	3.5
COLUMBUS	19,701	876	4.4	PITT	86,293	3,470	4.0
CRAVEN	40,535	1,623	4.0	POLK	9,328	315	3.4
CUMBERLAND	129,857	6,138	4.7	RANDOLPH	67,247	2,571	3.8
CURRITUCK	16,431	526	3.2	RICHMOND	19,040	823	4.3
DARE	17,789	1,231	6.9	ROBESON	44,038	2,299	5.2
DAVIDSON	80,130	2,987	3.7	ROCKINGHAM	40,217	1,643	4.1
DAVIE	20,604	709	3.4	ROWAN	69,822	2,575	3.7
DUPLIN	23,128	730	3.2	RUTHERFORD	26,166	1,208	4.6
DURHAM	187,313	6,482	3.5	SAMPSON	24,444	1,008	4.1
EDGECOMBE	20,425	1,266	6.2	SCOTLAND	13,419	713	5.3
FORSYTH	184,321	7,348	4.0	STANLY	34,965	1,068	3.1
FRANKLIN	39,937	1,371	3.4	STOKES	20,205	732	3.6
GASTON	115,869	4,727	4.1	SURRY	32,228	1,087	3.4
GATES	4,436	163	3.7	SWAIN	6,085	249	4.1
GRAHAM	3,301	146	4.4	TRANSYLVANIA	13,911	499	3.6
GRANVILLE	29,175	1,045	3.6	TYRRELL	1,173	80	6.8
GREENE	8,598	285	3.3	UNION	132,187	4,530	3.4
GUILFORD	267,360	11,519	4.3	VANCE	18,850	891	4.7
HALIFAX	18,143	1,033	5.7	WAKE	694,777	23,085	3.3
HARNETT	61,033	2,451	4.0	WARREN	7,149	342	4.8
HAYWOOD	28,777	977	3.4	WASHINGTON	3,950	194	4.9
HENDERSON	56,109	1,790	3.2	WATAUGA	28,226	946	3.4
HERTFORD	8,269	350	4.2	WAYNE	49,010	1,979	4.0
HOKE	20,708	1,000	4.8	WILKES	25,426	959	3.8
HYDE	1,435	155	10.8	WILSON	34,507	1,722	5.0
IREDELL	103,344	3,800	3.7	YADKIN	16,896	546	3.2
JACKSON	21,842	755	3.5	YANCEY	8,547	299	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	February 2026	January 2026	February 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	February 2026	January 2026	February 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.8	4.1	4.0	-0.3	-0.2	JOHNSTON	3.3	3.4	3.2	-0.1	0.1
ALAMANCE	3.8	4.1	3.7	-0.3	0.1	JONES	4.1	4.4	4.4	-0.3	-0.3
ALEXANDER	3.6	3.9	4.1	-0.3	-0.5	LEE	3.8	4.0	3.8	-0.2	0.0
ALLEGHANY	4.4	4.5	4.1	-0.1	0.3	LENOIR	3.9	4.1	3.9	-0.2	0.0
ANSON	4.5	4.9	4.9	-0.4	-0.4	LINCOLN	3.5	3.6	3.4	-0.1	0.1
ASHE	3.3	3.3	3.8	0.0	-0.5	MCDOWELL	4.0	4.1	5.3	-0.1	-1.3
AVERY	3.4	3.7	5.0	-0.3	-1.6	MACON	3.8	4.0	4.0	-0.2	-0.2
BEAUFORT	3.8	3.8	3.6	0.0	0.2	MADISON	3.8	4.1	6.4	-0.3	-2.6
BERTIE	5.2	5.0	5.1	0.2	0.1	MARTIN	4.1	4.3	4.1	-0.2	0.0
BLADEN	5.3	5.7	5.5	-0.4	-0.2	MECKLENBURG	4.1	4.3	4.1	-0.2	0.0
BRUNSWICK	4.6	4.7	4.7	-0.1	-0.1	MITCHELL	4.3	4.5	7.6	-0.2	-3.3
BUNCOMBE	3.7	4.0	6.8	-0.3	-3.1	MONTGOMERY	4.1	4.5	4.2	-0.4	-0.1
BURKE	3.6	3.7	4.3	-0.1	-0.7	MOORE	3.4	3.6	3.4	-0.2	0.0
CABARRUS	3.8	4.0	3.7	-0.2	0.1	NASH	4.9	5.3	4.8	-0.4	0.1
CALDWELL	3.8	4.1	4.0	-0.3	-0.2	NEW HANOVER	3.5	3.7	3.8	-0.2	-0.3
CAMDEN	3.0	3.1	2.8	-0.1	0.2	NORTHAMPTON	5.2	5.5	5.0	-0.3	0.2
CARTERET	3.8	4.0	3.9	-0.2	-0.1	ONSLow	4.0	4.3	4.0	-0.3	0.0
CASWELL	3.7	4.1	3.8	-0.4	-0.1	ORANGE	3.3	3.7	3.0	-0.4	0.3
CATAWBA	3.7	3.9	3.8	-0.2	-0.1	PAMLICO	3.3	3.7	4.2	-0.4	-0.9
CHATHAM	3.3	3.5	3.2	-0.2	0.1	PASQUOTANK	4.1	4.5	4.1	-0.4	0.0
CHEROKEE	4.2	4.1	4.0	0.1	0.2	PENDER	3.6	3.8	3.7	-0.2	-0.1
CHOWAN	3.7	3.9	3.6	-0.2	0.1	PERQUIMANS	4.0	4.2	4.2	-0.2	-0.2
CLAY	3.5	3.5	3.8	0.0	-0.3	PERSON	3.5	3.7	3.5	-0.2	0.0
CLEVELAND	4.6	4.9	4.4	-0.3	0.2	PITT	4.0	4.4	4.0	-0.4	0.0
COLUMBUS	4.4	4.8	4.6	-0.4	-0.2	POLK	3.4	3.6	4.1	-0.2	-0.7
Craven	4.0	4.1	4.0	-0.1	0.0	RANDOLPH	3.8	4.0	3.6	-0.2	0.2
CUMBERLAND	4.7	5.1	4.9	-0.4	-0.2	RICHMOND	4.3	4.5	4.6	-0.2	-0.3
CURRITUCK	3.2	3.2	3.4	0.0	-0.2	ROBESON	5.2	5.7	5.4	-0.5	-0.2
DARE	6.9	7.3	7.6	-0.4	-0.7	ROCKINGHAM	4.1	4.3	4.3	-0.2	-0.2
DAVIDSON	3.7	4.0	4.0	-0.3	-0.3	ROWAN	3.7	4.0	3.9	-0.3	-0.2
DAVIE	3.4	3.8	3.6	-0.4	-0.2	RUTHERFORD	4.6	4.8	5.3	-0.2	-0.7
DUPLIN	3.2	3.4	3.3	-0.2	-0.1	SAMPSON	4.1	4.2	4.2	-0.1	-0.1
DURHAM	3.5	3.7	3.3	-0.2	0.2	SCOTLAND	5.3	5.4	5.7	-0.1	-0.4
EDGEcombe	6.2	6.5	5.7	-0.3	0.5	STANLY	3.1	3.2	3.2	-0.1	-0.1
FORSYTH	4.0	4.3	4.0	-0.3	0.0	STOKES	3.6	3.9	3.8	-0.3	-0.2
FRANKLIN	3.4	3.7	3.4	-0.3	0.0	SURRY	3.4	3.6	3.5	-0.2	-0.1
GASTON	4.1	4.3	4.2	-0.2	-0.1	SWAIN	4.1	4.4	4.6	-0.3	-0.5
GATES	3.7	3.6	3.4	0.1	0.3	TRANSYLVANIA	3.6	3.7	3.9	-0.1	-0.3
GRAHAM	4.4	4.6	5.0	-0.2	-0.6	TYRRELL	6.8	7.2	7.5	-0.4	-0.7
GRANVILLE	3.6	3.7	3.7	-0.1	-0.1	UNION	3.4	3.6	3.4	-0.2	0.0
GREENE	3.3	3.5	3.3	-0.2	0.0	VANCE	4.7	4.9	4.5	-0.2	0.2
GUILFORD	4.3	4.6	4.3	-0.3	0.0	WAKE	3.3	3.5	3.2	-0.2	0.1
HALIFAX	5.7	6.2	5.3	-0.5	0.4	WARREN	4.8	5.3	5.2	-0.5	-0.4
HARNETT	4.0	4.3	3.9	-0.3	0.1	WASHINGTON	4.9	4.8	5.1	0.1	-0.2
HAYWOOD	3.4	3.5	4.5	-0.1	-1.1	WATAUGA	3.4	3.8	3.2	-0.4	0.2
HENDERSON	3.2	3.3	4.0	-0.1	-0.8	WAYNE	4.0	4.3	3.9	-0.3	0.1
HERTFORD	4.2	4.6	4.5	-0.4	-0.3	WILKES	3.8	4.0	3.9	-0.2	-0.1
HOKE	4.8	5.1	4.3	-0.3	0.5	WILSON	5.0	5.3	5.2	-0.3	-0.2
HYDE	10.8	10.0	10.4	0.8	0.4	YADKIN	3.2	3.4	3.3	-0.2	-0.1
IREDELL	3.7	3.9	3.7	-0.2	0.0	YANCEY	3.5	3.6	5.8	-0.1	-2.3
JACKSON	3.5	3.9	3.6	-0.4	-0.1						

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
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**
*Preliminary Data for
February 2026*

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	203,444	7,287	3.6
BURLINGTON	84,046	3,177	3.8
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,488,271	61,736	4.1
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	325,582	11,094	3.4
FAYETTEVILLE	150,565	7,138	4.7
GOLDSBORO	49,010	1,979	4.0
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	374,824	15,733	4.2
GREENVILLE	86,293	3,470	4.0
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	166,215	6,131	3.7
JACKSONVILLE	72,618	2,930	4.0
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	46,184	1,559	3.4
RALEIGH	864,884	28,761	3.3
ROCKY MOUNT	62,874	3,346	5.3
WILMINGTON	227,549	8,731	3.8
WINSTON-SALEM	322,156	12,322	3.8

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	34,965	1,068	3.1
ANDERSON CREEK	61,033	2,451	4.0
BOONE	28,226	946	3.4
BREVARD	13,911	499	3.6
ELIZABETH CITY	17,901	740	4.1
FOREST CITY	26,166	1,208	4.6
HENDERSON	18,850	891	4.7
KILL DEVIL HILLS	17,789	1,231	6.9
KINSTON	24,614	963	3.9
LAURINBURG	13,419	713	5.3
LUMBERTON	44,038	2,299	5.2
MARION	18,582	734	4.0
MOREHEAD CITY	31,498	1,200	3.8
MOUNT AIRY	32,228	1,087	3.4
MOREHEAD CITY	49,393	1,949	3.9
NEW BERN	25,426	959	3.8
NORTH WILKESBORO	24,482	1,361	5.6
ROCKINGHAM	19,040	823	4.3
SANFORD	30,441	1,146	3.8
SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN	44,886	2,051	4.6
WASHINGTON	19,319	734	3.8
WAYNESVILLE	28,777	977	3.4
WILSON	34,507	1,722	5.0

**COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**
*Preliminary Data for
February 2026*

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD	246,132	8,763	3.6
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,752,919	71,720	4.1
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST	273,246	12,532	4.6
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	813,254	32,319	4.0
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	105,612	4,204	4.0
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	80,891	3,149	3.9
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY	1,300,790	44,343	3.4
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	121,863	6,429	5.3

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates are subject to monthly and annual revisions

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

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

Metropolitan Statistical Area	February 2026	January 2026	February 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	3.6	3.8	6.0	-0.2	-2.4
BURLINGTON	3.8	4.1	3.7	-0.3	0.1
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	4.1	4.3	4.0	-0.2	0.1
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.4	3.7	3.2	-0.3	0.2
FAYETTEVILLE	4.7	5.1	4.8	-0.4	-0.1
GOLDSBORO	4.0	4.3	3.9	-0.3	0.1
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	4.2	4.5	4.2	-0.3	0.0
GREENVILLE	4.0	4.4	4.0	-0.4	0.0
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.7	3.9	4.0	-0.2	-0.3
JACKSONVILLE	4.0	4.3	4.0	-0.3	0.0
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.4	3.6	3.4	-0.2	0.0
RALEIGH	3.3	3.5	3.2	-0.2	0.1
ROCKY MOUNT	5.3	5.7	5.1	-0.4	0.2
WILMINGTON	3.8	4.0	4.0	-0.2	-0.2
WINSTON-SALEM	3.8	4.1	3.9	-0.3	-0.1

Micropolitan Statistical Area	February 2026	January 2026	February 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	3.1	3.2	3.2	-0.1	-0.1
ANDERSON CREEK	4.0	4.3	3.9	-0.3	0.1
BOONE	3.4	3.8	3.2	-0.4	0.2
BREVARD	3.6	3.7	3.9	-0.1	-0.3
ELIZABETH CITY	4.1	4.5	4.1	-0.4	0.0
FOREST CITY	4.6	4.8	5.3	-0.2	-0.7
HENDERSON	4.7	4.9	4.5	-0.2	0.2
KILL DEVIL HILLS	6.9	7.3	7.6	-0.4	-0.7
KINSTON	3.9	4.1	3.9	-0.2	0.0
LAURINBURG	5.3	5.4	5.7	-0.1	-0.4
LUMBERTON	5.2	5.7	5.4	-0.5	-0.2
MARION	4.0	4.1	5.3	-0.1	-1.3
MOREHEAD CITY	3.8	4.0	3.9	-0.2	-0.1
MOUNT AIRY	3.4	3.6	3.5	-0.2	-0.1
MOREHEAD CITY	3.9	4.1	4.0	-0.2	-0.1
NEW BERN	3.8	4.0	3.9	-0.2	-0.1
NORTH WILKESBORO	5.6	6.0	5.2	-0.4	0.4
ROCKINGHAM	4.3	4.5	4.6	-0.2	-0.3
SANFORD	3.8	4.0	3.8	-0.2	0.0
SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN	4.6	4.9	4.4	-0.3	0.2
WASHINGTON	3.8	3.8	3.6	0.0	0.2
WAYNESVILLE	3.4	3.5	4.5	-0.1	-1.1
WILSON	5.0	5.3	5.2	-0.3	-0.2

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

Combined Statistical Area	February 2026	January 2026	February 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD	3.6	3.8	5.8	-0.2	-2.2
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	4.1	4.3	4.0	-0.2	0.1
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST	4.6	4.9	4.7	-0.3	-0.1
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	4.0	4.3	4.0	-0.3	0.0
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	4.0	4.3	3.9	-0.3	0.1
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.9	4.1	4.0	-0.2	-0.1
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY	3.4	3.6	3.3	-0.2	0.1
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	5.3	5.6	5.2	-0.3	0.1

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 February 2026

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
CAMDEN	5,365	161	3.0	1	CARTERET	31,498	1,200	3.8	51
STANLY	34,965	1,068	3.1	2	MACON	16,651	635	3.8	52
DUPLIN	23,128	730	3.2	3	RANDOLPH	67,247	2,571	3.8	53
HENDERSON	56,109	1,790	3.2	4	LENOIR	24,614	963	3.9	54
CURRITUCK	16,431	526	3.2	5	MCDOWELL	18,582	734	4.0	55
YADKIN	16,896	546	3.2	6	FORSYTH	184,321	7,348	4.0	56
ASHE	12,166	396	3.3	7	CRAVEN	40,535	1,623	4.0	57
CHATHAM	39,975	1,315	3.3	8	HARNETT	61,033	2,451	4.0	58
JOHNSTON	130,170	4,305	3.3	9	PITT	86,293	3,470	4.0	59
GREENE	8,598	285	3.3	10	ONSLOW	72,618	2,930	4.0	60
WAKE	694,777	23,085	3.3	11	WAYNE	49,010	1,979	4.0	61
ORANGE	78,077	2,598	3.3	12	PERQUIMANS	5,410	219	4.0	62
PAMLICO	5,049	169	3.3	13	MECKLENBURG	659,868	26,876	4.1	63
WATAUGA	28,226	946	3.4	14	GASTON	115,869	4,727	4.1	64
SURRY	32,228	1,087	3.4	15	MONTGOMERY	10,194	416	4.1	65
AVERY	7,766	262	3.4	16	ROCKINGHAM	40,217	1,643	4.1	66
MOORE	46,184	1,559	3.4	17	MARTIN	9,075	371	4.1	67
POLK	9,328	315	3.4	18	SWAIN	6,085	249	4.1	68
HAYWOOD	28,777	977	3.4	19	JONES	3,809	157	4.1	69
UNION	132,187	4,530	3.4	20	SAMPSON	24,444	1,008	4.1	70
FRANKLIN	39,937	1,371	3.4	21	PASQUOTANK	17,901	740	4.1	71
DAVIE	20,604	709	3.4	22	CHEROKEE	11,061	466	4.2	72
JACKSON	21,842	755	3.5	23	HERTFORD	8,269	350	4.2	73
PERSON	20,217	699	3.5	24	GUILFORD	267,360	11,519	4.3	74
DURHAM	187,313	6,482	3.5	25	RICHMOND	19,040	823	4.3	75
CLAY	4,697	163	3.5	26	MITCHELL	6,438	280	4.3	76
LINCOLN	47,303	1,647	3.5	27	GRAHAM	3,301	146	4.4	77
YANCEY	8,547	299	3.5	28	ALLEGHANY	4,509	200	4.4	78
NEW HANOVER	126,375	4,424	3.5	29	COLUMBUS	19,701	876	4.4	79
GRANVILLE	29,175	1,045	3.6	30	ANSON	8,742	390	4.5	80
TRANSYLVANIA	13,911	499	3.6	31	BRUNSWICK	69,005	3,146	4.6	81
ALEXANDER	15,643	563	3.6	32	CLEVELAND	44,886	2,051	4.6	82
PENDER	32,169	1,161	3.6	33	RUTHERFORD	26,166	1,208	4.6	83
STOKES	20,205	732	3.6	34	CUMBERLAND	129,857	6,138	4.7	84
BURKE	38,734	1,410	3.6	35	VANCE	18,850	891	4.7	85
CHOWAN	6,255	229	3.7	36	WARREN	7,149	342	4.8	86
CASWELL	9,784	359	3.7	37	HOKE	20,708	1,000	4.8	87
GATES	4,436	163	3.7	38	NASH	42,449	2,080	4.9	88
IREDELL	103,344	3,800	3.7	39	WASHINGTON	3,950	194	4.9	89
CATAWBA	76,355	2,814	3.7	40	WILSON	34,507	1,722	5.0	90
ROWAN	69,822	2,575	3.7	41	NORTHAMPTON	6,339	328	5.2	91
BUNCOMBE	136,888	5,099	3.7	42	BERTIE	6,071	315	5.2	92
DAVIDSON	80,130	2,987	3.7	43	ROBESON	44,038	2,299	5.2	93
CABARRUS	123,754	4,653	3.8	44	BLADEN	10,973	583	5.3	94
LEE	30,441	1,146	3.8	45	SCOTLAND	13,419	713	5.3	95
WILKES	25,426	959	3.8	46	HALIFAX	18,143	1,033	5.7	96
ALAMANCE	84,046	3,177	3.8	47	EDGECOMBE	20,425	1,266	6.2	97
CALDWELL	35,483	1,344	3.8	48	TYRRELL	1,173	80	6.8	98
BEAUFORT	19,319	734	3.8	49	DARE	17,789	1,231	6.9	99
MADISON	10,447	398	3.8	50	HYDE	1,435	155	10.8	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 Wednesday, May 6, 2026 when the statewide unemployment rate for March 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>