



*For Immediate Release: March 17, 2023  
 For More Information, Contact: David Rhoades/919.814.4611*

## North Carolina’s January County and Area Employment Figures Released

**RALEIGH** — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 99 of North Carolina’s counties in January 2023 and decreased in one. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 10.1 percent while Greene, Buncombe, and Orange Counties each had the lowest at 3.0 percent. All fifteen of the state’s metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 5.4 percent while Asheville and Raleigh each had the lowest at 3.1 percent. The January 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
<b>January</b>	88	11	1
<b>December (revised)</b>	93	7	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 71 counties, increased in 14, and remained unchanged in 15. Eleven of the state’s metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year and four remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in January by 1,538 to 4,964,633, while those unemployed increased by 27,047 to 190,835. Since January 2022, the number of workers employed statewide increased 74,495, while those unemployed decreased 6,789.

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, March 24, 2023 when the statewide unemployment rate for February 2023 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  
January 2023*

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,155,468	190,835	3.7				
ALAMANCE	82,693	3,022	3.7	JOHNSTON	108,185	3,621	3.3
ALEXANDER	18,119	582	3.2	JONES	4,328	156	3.6
ALLEGHANY	4,560	189	4.1	LEE	26,320	1,086	4.1
ANSON	10,280	439	4.3	LENOIR	27,653	1,000	3.6
ASHE	12,714	443	3.5	LINCOLN	46,329	1,483	3.2
AVERY	7,703	272	3.5	MCDOWELL	20,280	711	3.5
BEAUFORT	20,042	853	4.3	MACON	15,895	611	3.8
BERTIE	7,207	331	4.6	MADISON	10,037	354	3.5
BLADEN	14,740	697	4.7	MARTIN	8,565	376	4.4
BRUNSWICK	56,580	2,841	5.0	MECKLENBURG	651,933	23,551	3.6
BUNCOMBE	141,184	4,193	3.0	MITCHELL	6,051	256	4.2
BURKE	40,997	1,339	3.3	MONTGOMERY	11,127	414	3.7
CABARRUS	116,045	4,043	3.5	MOORE	42,286	1,539	3.6
CALDWELL	36,516	1,246	3.4	NASH	41,957	2,092	5.0
CAMDEN	4,654	168	3.6	NEW HANOVER	129,777	4,451	3.4
CARTERET	31,659	1,233	3.9	NORTHAMPTON	7,220	360	5.0
CASWELL	9,652	389	4.0	ONSLOW	69,350	2,951	4.3
CATAWBA	79,897	2,739	3.4	ORANGE	81,439	2,438	3.0
CHATHAM	37,436	1,192	3.2	PAMLICO	5,499	196	3.6
CHEROKEE	11,180	485	4.3	PASQUOTANK	16,704	803	4.8
CHOWAN	5,888	237	4.0	PENDER	30,799	1,092	3.5
CLAY	4,223	160	3.8	PERQUIMANS	4,953	227	4.6
CLEVELAND	49,281	1,849	3.8	PERSON	18,814	695	3.7
COLUMBUS	23,941	1,009	4.2	PITT	88,211	3,602	4.1
CRAVEN	42,135	1,620	3.8	POLK	9,303	327	3.5
CUMBERLAND	126,934	6,539	5.2	RANDOLPH	65,526	2,471	3.8
CURRITUCK	14,652	564	3.8	RICHMOND	17,074	830	4.9
DARE	18,076	1,323	7.3	ROBESON	48,213	2,675	5.5
DAVIDSON	82,031	2,968	3.6	ROCKINGHAM	39,624	1,739	4.4
DAVIE	20,892	701	3.4	ROWAN	67,637	2,456	3.6
DUPLIN	25,085	892	3.6	RUTHERFORD	24,691	1,179	4.8
DURHAM	179,024	5,716	3.2	SAMPSON	29,121	1,055	3.6
EDGECOMBE	20,054	1,275	6.4	SCOTLAND	11,338	761	6.7
FORSYTH	189,728	6,949	3.7	STANLY	30,868	1,023	3.3
FRANKLIN	34,037	1,250	3.7	STOKES	21,724	678	3.1
GASTON	114,589	4,276	3.7	SURRY	32,718	1,140	3.5
GATES	5,097	177	3.5	SWAIN	6,867	252	3.7
GRAHAM	2,821	158	5.6	TRANSYLVANIA	14,535	501	3.4
GRANVILLE	30,313	940	3.1	TYRRELL	1,200	92	7.7
GREENE	9,565	283	3.0	UNION	130,117	4,104	3.2
GUILFORD	260,448	10,603	4.1	VANCE	16,819	1,025	6.1
HALIFAX	19,107	1,048	5.5	WAKE	631,672	19,482	3.1
HARNETT	55,029	2,261	4.1	WARREN	6,307	376	6.0
HAYWOOD	30,032	959	3.2	WASHINGTON	4,285	245	5.7
HENDERSON	55,238	1,760	3.2	WATAUGA	29,351	919	3.1
HERTFORD	8,510	408	4.8	WAYNE	50,402	2,020	4.0
HOKE	20,143	978	4.9	WILKES	27,030	988	3.7
HYDE	1,705	173	10.1	WILSON	34,059	1,697	5.0
IREDELL	94,583	3,297	3.5	YADKIN	17,769	611	3.4
JACKSON	18,340	753	4.1	YANCEY	8,144	302	3.7

*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	January 2023	December 2022	January 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	January 2023	December 2022	January 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.7	3.2	3.9	0.5	-0.2	JOHNSTON	3.3	2.8	3.4	0.5	-0.1
ALAMANCE	3.7	3.2	3.9	0.5	-0.2	JONES	3.6	3.2	3.5	0.4	0.1
ALEXANDER	3.2	2.8	3.3	0.4	-0.1	LEE	4.1	3.7	4.5	0.4	-0.4
ALLEGHANY	4.1	5.7	4.2	-1.6	-0.1	LENOIR	3.6	3.1	4.1	0.5	-0.5
ANSON	4.3	3.7	4.9	0.6	-0.6	LINCOLN	3.2	2.7	3.3	0.5	-0.1
ASHE	3.5	2.9	3.5	0.6	0.0	MCDOWELL	3.5	3.1	3.5	0.4	0.0
AVERY	3.5	2.8	3.6	0.7	-0.1	MACON	3.8	2.9	3.6	0.9	0.2
BEAUFORT	4.3	3.5	4.1	0.8	0.2	MADISON	3.5	3.0	3.5	0.5	0.0
BERTIE	4.6	4.1	5.3	0.5	-0.7	MARTIN	4.4	3.7	4.6	0.7	-0.2
BLADEN	4.7	4.0	5.0	0.7	-0.3	MECKLENBURG	3.6	3.1	3.8	0.5	-0.2
BRUNSWICK	5.0	4.2	5.4	0.8	-0.4	MITCHELL	4.2	3.7	4.6	0.5	-0.4
BUNCOMBE	3.0	2.5	3.2	0.5	-0.2	MONTGOMERY	3.7	3.2	3.8	0.5	-0.1
BURKE	3.3	2.9	3.7	0.4	-0.4	MOORE	3.6	3.1	3.8	0.5	-0.2
CABARRUS	3.5	3.0	3.5	0.5	0.0	NASH	5.0	4.4	5.1	0.6	-0.1
CALDWELL	3.4	3.0	3.9	0.4	-0.5	NEW HANOVER	3.4	2.9	3.5	0.5	-0.1
CAMDEN	3.6	3.3	3.7	0.3	-0.1	NORTHAMPTON	5.0	4.4	5.2	0.6	-0.2
CARTERET	3.9	3.1	3.9	0.8	0.0	ONSLow	4.3	3.7	4.3	0.6	0.0
CASWELL	4.0	3.5	4.3	0.5	-0.3	ORANGE	3.0	2.6	2.9	0.4	0.1
CATAWBA	3.4	2.9	3.6	0.5	-0.2	PAMLICO	3.6	3.0	3.8	0.6	-0.2
CHATHAM	3.2	2.7	3.0	0.5	0.2	PASQUOTANK	4.8	4.0	4.6	0.8	0.2
CHEROKEE	4.3	3.7	4.1	0.6	0.2	PENDER	3.5	3.1	3.5	0.4	0.0
CHOWAN	4.0	3.6	4.2	0.4	-0.2	PERQUIMANS	4.6	3.9	4.9	0.7	-0.3
CLAY	3.8	3.3	4.1	0.5	-0.3	PERSON	3.7	3.3	4.1	0.4	-0.4
CLEVELAND	3.8	3.3	4.1	0.5	-0.3	PITT	4.1	3.5	4.2	0.6	-0.1
COLUMBUS	4.2	3.6	5.0	0.6	-0.8	POLK	3.5	3.1	4.2	0.4	-0.7
Craven	3.8	3.3	3.9	0.5	-0.1	RANDOLPH	3.8	3.3	3.7	0.5	0.1
CUMBERLAND	5.2	4.6	5.5	0.6	-0.3	RICHMOND	4.9	4.3	5.9	0.6	-1.0
CURRITUCK	3.8	3.1	3.8	0.7	0.0	ROBESON	5.5	4.7	6.1	0.8	-0.6
DARE	7.3	4.4	7.1	2.9	0.2	ROCKINGHAM	4.4	3.7	4.4	0.7	0.0
DAVIDSON	3.6	3.2	3.6	0.4	0.0	ROWAN	3.6	3.1	3.9	0.5	-0.3
DAVIE	3.4	2.9	3.5	0.5	-0.1	RUTHERFORD	4.8	4.1	5.1	0.7	-0.3
DUPLIN	3.6	3.1	3.7	0.5	-0.1	SAMPSON	3.6	3.1	3.9	0.5	-0.3
DURHAM	3.2	2.8	3.3	0.4	-0.1	SCOTLAND	6.7	5.6	7.3	1.1	-0.6
EDGEcombe	6.4	5.8	7.0	0.6	-0.6	STANLY	3.3	2.9	3.4	0.4	-0.1
FORSYTH	3.7	3.2	3.9	0.5	-0.2	STOKES	3.1	2.8	3.4	0.3	-0.3
FRANKLIN	3.7	3.1	4.0	0.6	-0.3	SURRY	3.5	2.9	3.5	0.6	0.0
GASTON	3.7	3.3	4.0	0.4	-0.3	SWAIN	3.7	2.8	3.9	0.9	-0.2
GATES	3.5	2.9	3.3	0.6	0.2	TRANSYLVANIA	3.4	2.9	3.6	0.5	-0.2
GRAHAM	5.6	4.9	6.9	0.7	-1.3	TYRRELL	7.7	6.8	7.2	0.9	0.5
GRANVILLE	3.1	2.7	3.3	0.4	-0.2	UNION	3.2	2.7	3.2	0.5	0.0
GREENE	3.0	2.6	3.6	0.4	-0.6	VANCE	6.1	5.4	6.1	0.7	0.0
GUILFORD	4.1	3.6	4.4	0.5	-0.3	WAKE	3.1	2.6	3.2	0.5	-0.1
HALIFAX	5.5	4.9	5.9	0.6	-0.4	WARREN	6.0	5.6	6.7	0.4	-0.7
HARNETT	4.1	3.6	4.3	0.5	-0.2	WASHINGTON	5.7	4.9	5.6	0.8	0.1
HAYWOOD	3.2	2.7	3.5	0.5	-0.3	WATAUGA	3.1	2.6	3.1	0.5	0.0
HENDERSON	3.2	2.7	3.3	0.5	-0.1	WAYNE	4.0	3.5	4.3	0.5	-0.3
HERTFORD	4.8	4.4	5.1	0.4	-0.3	WILKES	3.7	3.2	4.0	0.5	-0.3
HOKE	4.9	4.4	5.1	0.5	-0.2	WILSON	5.0	4.4	5.4	0.6	-0.4
HYDE	10.1	6.9	8.4	3.2	1.7	YADKIN	3.4	2.8	3.5	0.6	-0.1
IREDELL	3.5	3.0	3.6	0.5	-0.1	YANCEY	3.7	2.9	3.7	0.8	0.0
JACKSON	4.1	3.2	4.0	0.9	0.1						

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

*Preliminary Data for  
January 2023*

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	236,491	7,266	3.1
BURLINGTON	82,693	3,022	3.7
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,426,084	50,448	3.5
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	316,713	10,041	3.2
FAYETTEVILLE	147,077	7,517	5.1
GOLDSBORO	50,402	2,020	4.0
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	365,598	14,813	4.1
GREENVILLE	88,211	3,602	4.1
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	175,529	5,906	3.4
JACKSONVILLE	69,350	2,951	4.3
NEW BERN	51,962	1,972	3.8
RALEIGH	773,894	24,353	3.1
ROCKY MOUNT	62,011	3,367	5.4
WILMINGTON	160,576	5,543	3.5
WINSTON-SALEM	332,144	11,907	3.6

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	30,868	1,023	3.3
BOONE	29,351	919	3.1
BREVARD	14,535	501	3.4
CULLOWHEE	18,340	753	4.1
DUNN	55,029	2,261	4.1
ELIZABETH CITY	26,311	1,198	4.6
FOREST CITY	24,691	1,179	4.8
HENDERSON	16,819	1,025	6.1
KILL DEVIL HILLS	19,276	1,415	7.3
KINSTON	27,653	1,000	3.6
LAURINBURG	11,338	761	6.7
LUMBERTON	48,213	2,675	5.5
MARION	20,280	711	3.5
MOREHEAD CITY	31,659	1,233	3.9
MOUNT AIRY	32,718	1,140	3.5
NORTH WILKESBORO	27,030	988	3.7
OXFORD	30,313	940	3.1
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	42,286	1,539	3.6
ROANOKE RAPIDS	26,327	1,408	5.3
ROCKINGHAM	17,074	830	4.9
SANFORD	26,320	1,086	4.1
SHELBY	49,281	1,849	3.8
WASHINGTON	20,042	853	4.3
WILSON	34,059	1,697	5.0

**COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS  
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**

*Preliminary Data for  
January 2023*

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	251,026	7,767	3.1
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,506,233	53,320	3.5
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	206,628	10,953	5.3
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	813,153	30,882	3.8
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	108,253	4,455	4.1
HICKORY-LENOIR	195,809	6,617	3.4
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	83,621	3,205	3.8
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	1,219,088	39,706	3.3
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	122,397	6,472	5.3

*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	January 2023	December 2022	January 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	3.1	2.6	3.3	0.5	-0.2
BURLINGTON	3.7	3.2	3.9	0.5	-0.2
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.5	3.1	3.8	0.4	-0.3
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.2	2.8	3.2	0.4	0.0
FAYETTEVILLE	5.1	4.6	5.4	0.5	-0.3
GOLDSBORO	4.0	3.5	4.3	0.5	-0.3
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	4.1	3.6	4.3	0.5	-0.2
GREENVILLE	4.1	3.5	4.2	0.6	-0.1
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.4	2.9	3.7	0.5	-0.3
JACKSONVILLE	4.3	3.7	4.3	0.6	0.0
NEW BERN	3.8	3.2	3.8	0.6	0.0
RALEIGH	3.1	2.7	3.3	0.4	-0.2
ROCKY MOUNT	5.4	4.8	5.7	0.6	-0.3
WILMINGTON	3.5	3.0	3.5	0.5	0.0
WINSTON-SALEM	3.6	3.2	3.8	0.4	-0.2

Micropolitan Statistical Area	January 2023	December 2022	January 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	3.3	2.9	3.4	0.4	-0.1
BOONE	3.1	2.6	3.1	0.5	0.0
BREVARD	3.4	2.9	3.6	0.5	-0.2
CULLOWHEE	4.1	3.2	4.0	0.9	0.1
DUNN	4.1	3.6	4.3	0.5	-0.2
ELIZABETH CITY	4.6	3.8	4.5	0.8	0.1
FOREST CITY	4.8	4.1	5.1	0.7	-0.3
HENDERSON	6.1	5.4	6.1	0.7	0.0
KILL DEVIL HILLS	7.3	4.5	7.1	2.8	0.2
KINSTON	3.6	3.1	4.1	0.5	-0.5
LAURINBURG	6.7	5.6	7.3	1.1	-0.6
LUMBERTON	5.5	4.7	6.1	0.8	-0.6
MARION	3.5	3.1	3.5	0.4	0.0
MOREHEAD CITY	3.9	3.1	3.9	0.8	0.0
MOUNT AIRY	3.5	2.9	3.5	0.6	0.0
NORTH WILKESBORO	3.7	3.2	4.0	0.5	-0.3
OXFORD	3.1	2.7	3.3	0.4	-0.2
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.6	3.1	3.8	0.5	-0.2
ROANOKE RAPIDS	5.3	4.8	5.7	0.5	-0.4
ROCKINGHAM	4.9	4.3	5.9	0.6	-1.0
SANFORD	4.1	3.7	4.5	0.4	-0.4
SHELBY	3.8	3.3	4.1	0.5	-0.3
WASHINGTON	4.3	3.5	4.1	0.8	0.2
WILSON	5.0	4.4	5.4	0.6	-0.4

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

Combined Statistical Area	January 2023	December 2022	January 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	3.1	2.6	3.3	0.5	-0.2
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.5	3.1	3.8	0.4	-0.3
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	5.3	4.7	5.7	0.6	-0.4
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	3.8	3.3	4.0	0.5	-0.2
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	4.1	3.5	4.2	0.6	-0.1
HICKORY-LENOIR	3.4	2.9	3.6	0.5	-0.2
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.8	3.2	3.9	0.6	-0.1
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.3	2.8	3.4	0.5	-0.1
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	5.3	4.7	5.6	0.6	-0.3

*Not Seasonally Adjusted*

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**NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY RANKINGS**  
Preliminary Data for January 2023

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
GREENE	9,565	283	3.0%	1	MONTGOMERY	11,127	414	3.7%	51
BUNCOMBE	141,184	4,193	3.0%	2	GASTON	114,589	4,276	3.7%	52
ORANGE	81,439	2,438	3.0%	3	CLEVELAND	49,281	1,849	3.8%	53
WAKE	631,672	19,482	3.1%	4	RANDOLPH	65,526	2,471	3.8%	54
GRANVILLE	30,313	940	3.1%	5	CLAY	4,223	160	3.8%	55
STOKES	21,724	678	3.1%	6	MACON	15,895	611	3.8%	56
WATAUGA	29,351	919	3.1%	7	CRAVEN	42,135	1,620	3.8%	57
UNION	130,117	4,104	3.2%	8	CURRITUCK	14,652	564	3.8%	58
CHATHAM	37,436	1,192	3.2%	9	CARTERET	31,659	1,233	3.9%	59
HENDERSON	55,238	1,760	3.2%	10	WAYNE	50,402	2,020	4.0%	60
DURHAM	179,024	5,716	3.2%	11	CHOWAN	5,888	237	4.0%	61
HAYWOOD	30,032	959	3.2%	12	CASWELL	9,652	389	4.0%	62
LINCOLN	46,329	1,483	3.2%	13	GUILFORD	260,448	10,603	4.1%	63
ALEXANDER	18,119	582	3.2%	14	PITT	88,211	3,602	4.1%	64
BURKE	40,997	1,339	3.3%	15	JACKSON	18,340	753	4.1%	65
STANLY	30,868	1,023	3.3%	16	HARNETT	55,029	2,261	4.1%	66
JOHNSTON	108,185	3,621	3.3%	17	LEE	26,320	1,086	4.1%	67
DAVIE	20,892	701	3.4%	18	ALLEGHANY	4,560	189	4.1%	68
CALDWELL	36,516	1,246	3.4%	19	COLUMBUS	23,941	1,009	4.2%	69
CATAWBA	79,897	2,739	3.4%	20	MITCHELL	6,051	256	4.2%	70
NEW HANOVER	129,777	4,451	3.4%	21	ONSLow	69,350	2,951	4.3%	71
YADKIN	17,769	611	3.4%	22	BEAUFORT	20,042	853	4.3%	72
TRANSYLVANIA	14,535	501	3.4%	23	ANSON	10,280	439	4.3%	73
GATES	5,097	177	3.5%	24	CHEROKEE	11,180	485	4.3%	74
CABARRUS	116,045	4,043	3.5%	25	ROCKINGHAM	39,624	1,739	4.4%	75
SURRY	32,718	1,140	3.5%	26	MARTIN	8,565	376	4.4%	76
ASHE	12,714	443	3.5%	27	PERQUIMANS	4,953	227	4.6%	77
IREDELL	94,583	3,297	3.5%	28	BERTIE	7,207	331	4.6%	78
MCDOWELL	20,280	711	3.5%	29	BLADEN	14,740	697	4.7%	79
POLK	9,303	327	3.5%	30	RUTHERFORD	24,691	1,179	4.8%	80
MADISON	10,037	354	3.5%	31	HERTFORD	8,510	408	4.8%	81
AVERY	7,703	272	3.5%	32	PASQUOTANK	16,704	803	4.8%	82
PENDER	30,799	1,092	3.5%	33	HOKE	20,143	978	4.9%	83
DUPLIN	25,085	892	3.6%	34	RICHMOND	17,074	830	4.9%	84
PAMLICO	5,499	196	3.6%	35	WILSON	34,059	1,697	5.0%	85
JONES	4,328	156	3.6%	36	NASH	41,957	2,092	5.0%	86
CAMDEN	4,654	168	3.6%	37	NORTHAMPTON	7,220	360	5.0%	87
MECKLENBURG	651,933	23,551	3.6%	38	BRUNSWICK	56,580	2,841	5.0%	88
LENOIR	27,653	1,000	3.6%	39	CUMBERLAND	126,934	6,539	5.2%	89
DAVIDSON	82,031	2,968	3.6%	40	HALIFAX	19,107	1,048	5.5%	90
SAMPSON	29,121	1,055	3.6%	41	ROBESON	48,213	2,675	5.5%	91
ROWAN	67,637	2,456	3.6%	42	GRAHAM	2,821	158	5.6%	92
MOORE	42,286	1,539	3.6%	43	WASHINGTON	4,285	245	5.7%	93
ALAMANCE	82,693	3,022	3.7%	44	WARREN	6,307	376	6.0%	94
WILKES	27,030	988	3.7%	45	VANCE	16,819	1,025	6.1%	95
FORSYTH	189,728	6,949	3.7%	46	EDGEcombe	20,054	1,275	6.4%	96
SWAIN	6,867	252	3.7%	47	SCOTLAND	11,338	761	6.7%	97
FRANKLIN	34,037	1,250	3.7%	48	DARE	18,076	1,323	7.3%	98
PERSON	18,814	695	3.7%	49	TYRRELL	1,200	92	7.7%	99
YANCEY	8,144	302	3.7%	50	HYDE	1,705	173	10.1%	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](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 Friday, March 24, 2023 when the statewide unemployment rate for February 2023 will be released.

The complete 2023 data release schedule can be accessed at:

<https://www.nccommerce.com/documents/release-dates-unemployment-rates>