



*For Immediate Release: March 13, 2024
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 all 100 of North Carolina’s counties in January 2024. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.8 percent while Greene County had the lowest at 2.7 percent. All 15 of the state’s metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 5.0 percent while Asheville had the lowest at 2.9 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.6 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
January	90	10	0
December (Revised)	96	4	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 80 counties, increased in eight, and remained unchanged in 12. Fourteen metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year and one remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in January by 13,222 to 5,047,774, while those unemployed increased by 21,136 to 189,783. Since January 2023, the number of workers employed statewide increased 77,336, while those unemployed decreased 4,861.

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 22, 2024 when the statewide unemployment rate for February 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
January 2024*

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,237,557	189,783	3.6				
ALAMANCE	86,255	2,979	3.5	JOHNSTON	111,591	3,619	3.2
ALEXANDER	17,986	638	3.5	JONES	4,349	128	2.9
ALLEGHANY	4,159	192	4.6	LEE	25,693	1,104	4.3
ANSON	10,249	411	4.0	LENOIR	27,902	965	3.5
ASHE	12,659	400	3.2	LINCOLN	47,286	1,513	3.2
AVERY	7,653	242	3.2	MCDOWELL	20,358	654	3.2
BEAUFORT	19,405	793	4.1	MACON	16,257	546	3.4
BERTIE	6,982	331	4.7	MADISON	10,103	315	3.1
BLADEN	14,635	670	4.6	MARTIN	8,703	425	4.9
BRUNSWICK	58,768	2,839	4.8	MECKLENBURG	667,037	24,266	3.6
BUNCOMBE	142,505	4,021	2.8	MITCHELL	6,249	217	3.5
BURKE	40,558	1,330	3.3	MONTGOMERY	11,217	427	3.8
CABARRUS	118,679	4,117	3.5	MOORE	43,173	1,552	3.6
CALDWELL	36,189	1,296	3.6	NASH	42,041	1,955	4.7
CAMDEN	4,772	155	3.2	NEW HANOVER	133,026	4,417	3.3
CARTERET	32,113	1,148	3.6	NORTHAMPTON	7,271	309	4.2
CASWELL	9,899	393	4.0	ONSLow	69,977	2,921	4.2
CATAWBA	79,133	2,700	3.4	ORANGE	83,186	2,288	2.8
CHATHAM	38,160	1,209	3.2	PAMLICO	5,602	203	3.6
CHEROKEE	10,871	453	4.2	PASQUOTANK	17,094	681	4.0
CHOWAN	5,925	222	3.7	PENDER	31,457	1,052	3.3
CLAY	4,216	165	3.9	PERQUIMANS	5,057	224	4.4
CLEVELAND	50,264	1,740	3.5	PERSON	19,251	679	3.5
COLUMBUS	22,115	1,006	4.5	PITT	89,913	3,552	4.0
CRAVEN	42,837	1,520	3.5	POLK	9,454	302	3.2
CUMBERLAND	130,365	6,309	4.8	RANDOLPH	65,434	2,444	3.7
CURRITUCK	14,909	496	3.3	RICHMOND	17,309	809	4.7
DARE	18,393	1,193	6.5	ROBESON	48,260	2,512	5.2
DAVIDSON	81,406	2,864	3.5	ROCKINGHAM	39,426	1,586	4.0
DAVIE	20,710	656	3.2	ROWAN	68,998	2,430	3.5
DUPLIN	25,911	809	3.1	RUTHERFORD	24,115	1,148	4.8
DURHAM	183,673	5,781	3.1	SAMPSON	27,858	1,036	3.7
EDGECOMBE	20,047	1,170	5.8	SCOTLAND	11,358	748	6.6
FORSYTH	188,565	6,842	3.6	STANLY	32,040	981	3.1
FRANKLIN	35,122	1,223	3.5	STOKES	21,577	693	3.2
GASTON	117,050	4,167	3.6	SURRY	33,389	1,070	3.2
GATES	5,200	171	3.3	SWAIN	6,799	247	3.6
GRAHAM	2,852	135	4.7	TRANSYLVANIA	14,722	494	3.4
GRANVILLE	30,723	972	3.2	TYRRELL	1,214	87	7.2
GREENE	9,675	261	2.7	UNION	132,735	4,094	3.1
GUILFORD	260,648	10,776	4.1	VANCE	16,823	871	5.2
HALIFAX	19,414	1,031	5.3	WAKE	654,323	20,869	3.2
HARNETT	55,922	2,300	4.1	WARREN	6,233	354	5.7
HAYWOOD	30,400	999	3.3	WASHINGTON	4,240	210	5.0
HENDERSON	55,690	1,664	3.0	WATAUGA	29,756	825	2.8
HERTFORD	8,410	393	4.7	WAYNE	51,568	2,005	3.9
HOKE	20,657	956	4.6	WILKES	26,000	1,006	3.9
HYDE	1,696	149	8.8	WILSON	34,517	1,811	5.2
IREDELL	96,668	3,344	3.5	YADKIN	17,569	544	3.1
JACKSON	18,678	695	3.7	YANCEY	8,271	267	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	January 2024	December 2023	January 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	January 2024	December 2023	January 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.6	3.2	3.8	0.4	-0.2	JOHNSTON	3.2	3.0	3.4	0.2	-0.2
ALAMANCE	3.5	3.1	3.7	0.4	-0.2	JONES	2.9	2.8	3.6	0.1	-0.7
ALEXANDER	3.5	3.4	3.3	0.1	0.2	LEE	4.3	3.9	4.3	0.4	0.0
ALLEGHANY	4.6	3.8	4.6	0.8	0.0	LENOIR	3.5	3.1	3.7	0.4	-0.2
ANSON	4.0	3.8	4.4	0.2	-0.4	LINCOLN	3.2	2.8	3.2	0.4	0.0
ASHE	3.2	2.6	3.6	0.6	-0.4	MCDOWELL	3.2	2.9	3.6	0.3	-0.4
AVERY	3.2	2.7	3.7	0.5	-0.5	MACON	3.4	2.7	3.8	0.7	-0.4
BEAUFORT	4.1	3.8	4.4	0.3	-0.3	MADISON	3.1	2.8	3.6	0.3	-0.5
BERTIE	4.7	4.2	4.6	0.5	0.1	MARTIN	4.9	4.3	4.4	0.6	0.5
BLADEN	4.6	4.1	4.9	0.5	-0.3	MECKLENBURG	3.6	3.2	3.7	0.4	-0.1
BRUNSWICK	4.8	4.1	5.1	0.7	-0.3	MITCHELL	3.5	3.1	4.3	0.4	-0.8
BUNCOMBE	2.8	2.4	3.0	0.4	-0.2	MONTGOMERY	3.8	3.6	3.8	0.2	0.0
BURKE	3.3	2.9	3.3	0.4	0.0	MOORE	3.6	3.1	3.7	0.5	-0.1
CABARRUS	3.5	3.1	3.5	0.4	0.0	NASH	4.7	4.2	5.2	0.5	-0.5
CALDWELL	3.6	3.2	3.5	0.4	0.1	NEW HANOVER	3.3	3.0	3.5	0.3	-0.2
CAMDEN	3.2	2.9	3.7	0.3	-0.5	NORTHAMPTON	4.2	3.8	5.1	0.4	-0.9
CARTERET	3.6	2.9	4.0	0.7	-0.4	ONSLow	4.2	3.7	4.4	0.5	-0.2
CASWELL	4.0	3.3	4.1	0.7	-0.1	ORANGE	2.8	2.6	3.0	0.2	-0.2
CATAWBA	3.4	3.1	3.5	0.3	-0.1	PAMLICO	3.6	3.4	3.6	0.2	0.0
CHATHAM	3.2	2.9	3.2	0.3	0.0	PASQUOTANK	4.0	3.6	4.8	0.4	-0.8
CHEROKEE	4.2	3.4	4.5	0.8	-0.3	PENDER	3.3	3.0	3.6	0.3	-0.3
CHOWAN	3.7	3.1	4.1	0.6	-0.4	PERQUIMANS	4.4	3.7	4.6	0.7	-0.2
CLAY	3.9	3.5	3.9	0.4	0.0	PERSON	3.5	3.2	3.8	0.3	-0.3
CLEVELAND	3.5	3.2	3.8	0.3	-0.3	PITT	4.0	3.7	4.1	0.3	-0.1
COLUMBUS	4.5	3.9	4.6	0.6	-0.1	POLK	3.2	2.8	3.6	0.4	-0.4
Craven	3.5	3.1	3.9	0.4	-0.4	RANDOLPH	3.7	3.4	3.9	0.3	-0.2
CUMBERLAND	4.8	4.4	5.2	0.4	-0.4	RICHMOND	4.7	4.2	5.0	0.5	-0.3
CURRITUCK	3.3	2.7	3.9	0.6	-0.6	ROBESON	5.2	4.7	5.6	0.5	-0.4
DARE	6.5	4.2	7.5	2.3	-1.0	ROCKINGHAM	4.0	3.6	4.6	0.4	-0.6
DAVIDSON	3.5	3.1	3.7	0.4	-0.2	ROWAN	3.5	3.1	3.7	0.4	-0.2
DAVIE	3.2	2.9	3.4	0.3	-0.2	RUTHERFORD	4.8	4.2	4.9	0.6	-0.1
DUPLIN	3.1	3.0	3.6	0.1	-0.5	SAMPSON	3.7	3.4	3.8	0.3	-0.1
DURHAM	3.1	2.9	3.2	0.2	-0.1	SCOTLAND	6.6	5.9	6.9	0.7	-0.3
EDGEcombe	5.8	5.2	6.5	0.6	-0.7	STANLY	3.1	2.8	3.2	0.3	-0.1
FORSYTH	3.6	3.3	3.8	0.3	-0.2	STOKES	3.2	2.9	3.2	0.3	0.0
FRANKLIN	3.5	3.2	3.7	0.3	-0.2	SURRY	3.2	2.8	3.5	0.4	-0.3
GASTON	3.6	3.2	3.8	0.4	-0.2	SWAIN	3.6	2.6	3.8	1.0	-0.2
GATES	3.3	3.2	3.6	0.1	-0.3	TRANSYLVANIA	3.4	2.9	3.6	0.5	-0.2
GRAHAM	4.7	4.1	5.7	0.6	-1.0	TYRRELL	7.2	5.7	7.8	1.5	-0.6
GRANVILLE	3.2	2.9	3.2	0.3	0.0	UNION	3.1	2.9	3.2	0.2	-0.1
GREENE	2.7	2.5	3.0	0.2	-0.3	VANCE	5.2	4.8	6.2	0.4	-1.0
GUILFORD	4.1	3.6	4.2	0.5	-0.1	WAKE	3.2	2.9	3.1	0.3	0.1
HALIFAX	5.3	4.7	5.9	0.6	-0.6	WARREN	5.7	4.9	6.1	0.8	-0.4
HARNETT	4.1	3.7	4.2	0.4	-0.1	WASHINGTON	5.0	4.6	5.8	0.4	-0.8
HAYWOOD	3.3	2.8	3.2	0.5	0.1	WATAUGA	2.8	2.6	3.2	0.2	-0.4
HENDERSON	3.0	2.6	3.2	0.4	-0.2	WAYNE	3.9	3.5	4.0	0.4	-0.1
HERTFORD	4.7	4.4	4.9	0.3	-0.2	WILKES	3.9	3.3	3.8	0.6	0.1
HOKE	4.6	4.2	4.9	0.4	-0.3	WILSON	5.2	4.8	5.1	0.4	0.1
HYDE	8.8	5.7	10.7	3.1	-1.9	YADKIN	3.1	2.7	3.5	0.4	-0.4
IREDELL	3.5	3.1	3.5	0.4	0.0	YANCEY	3.2	2.7	3.7	0.5	-0.5
JACKSON	3.7	3.2	4.1	0.5	-0.4						

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
January 2024*

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	238,698	6,999	2.9
BURLINGTON	86,255	2,979	3.5
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,458,838	51,113	3.5
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	324,270	9,957	3.1
FAYETTEVILLE	151,022	7,265	4.8
GOLDSBORO	51,568	2,005	3.9
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	365,508	14,806	4.1
GREENVILLE	89,913	3,552	4.0
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	173,866	5,964	3.4
JACKSONVILLE	69,977	2,921	4.2
NEW BERN	52,788	1,851	3.5
RALEIGH	801,036	25,711	3.2
ROCKY MOUNT	62,088	3,125	5.0
WILMINGTON	164,483	5,469	3.3
WINSTON-SALEM	329,827	11,599	3.5

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	32,040	981	3.1
BOONE	29,756	825	2.8
BREVARD	14,722	494	3.4
CULLOWHEE	18,678	695	3.7
DUNN	55,922	2,300	4.1
ELIZABETH CITY	26,923	1,060	3.9
FOREST CITY	24,115	1,148	4.8
HENDERSON	16,823	871	5.2
KILL DEVIL HILLS	19,607	1,280	6.5
KINSTON	27,902	965	3.5
LAURINBURG	11,358	748	6.6
LUMBERTON	48,260	2,512	5.2
MARION	20,358	654	3.2
MOREHEAD CITY	32,113	1,148	3.6
MOUNT AIRY	33,389	1,070	3.2
NORTH WILKESBORO	26,000	1,006	3.9
OXFORD	30,723	972	3.2
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	43,173	1,552	3.6
ROANOKE RAPIDS	26,685	1,340	5.0
ROCKINGHAM	17,309	809	4.7
SANFORD	25,693	1,104	4.3
SHELBY	50,264	1,740	3.5
WASHINGTON	19,405	793	4.1
WILSON	34,517	1,811	5.2

**COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**

*Preliminary Data for
January 2024*

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	253,420	7,493	3.0
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,541,142	53,834	3.5
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	210,640	10,525	5.0
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	814,979	30,454	3.7
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	109,318	4,345	4.0
HICKORY-LENOIR	194,224	6,618	3.4
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	84,901	2,999	3.5
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	1,254,467	40,915	3.3
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	123,290	6,276	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	January 2024	December 2023	January 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	2.9	2.5	3.1	0.4	-0.2
BURLINGTON	3.5	3.1	3.7	0.4	-0.2
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.5	3.1	3.6	0.4	-0.1
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.1	2.8	3.2	0.3	-0.1
FAYETTEVILLE	4.8	4.4	5.1	0.4	-0.3
GOLDSBORO	3.9	3.5	4.0	0.4	-0.1
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	4.1	3.6	4.2	0.5	-0.1
GREENVILLE	4.0	3.7	4.1	0.3	-0.1
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.4	3.1	3.5	0.3	-0.1
JACKSONVILLE	4.2	3.7	4.4	0.5	-0.2
NEW BERN	3.5	3.1	3.8	0.4	-0.3
RALEIGH	3.2	2.9	3.2	0.3	0.0
ROCKY MOUNT	5.0	4.6	5.6	0.4	-0.6
WILMINGTON	3.3	3.0	3.5	0.3	-0.2
WINSTON-SALEM	3.5	3.2	3.7	0.3	-0.2

Micropolitan Statistical Area	January 2024	December 2023	January 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	3.1	2.8	3.2	0.3	-0.1
BOONE	2.8	2.6	3.2	0.2	-0.4
BREVARD	3.4	2.9	3.6	0.5	-0.2
CULLOWHEE	3.7	3.2	4.1	0.5	-0.4
DUNN	4.1	3.7	4.2	0.4	-0.1
ELIZABETH CITY	3.9	3.5	4.6	0.4	-0.7
FOREST CITY	4.8	4.2	4.9	0.6	-0.1
HENDERSON	5.2	4.8	6.2	0.4	-1.0
KILL DEVIL HILLS	6.5	4.3	7.5	2.2	-1.0
KINSTON	3.5	3.1	3.7	0.4	-0.2
LAURINBURG	6.6	5.9	6.9	0.7	-0.3
LUMBERTON	5.2	4.7	5.6	0.5	-0.4
MARION	3.2	2.9	3.6	0.3	-0.4
MOREHEAD CITY	3.6	2.9	4.0	0.7	-0.4
MOUNT AIRY	3.2	2.8	3.5	0.4	-0.3
NORTH WILKESBORO	3.9	3.3	3.8	0.6	0.1
OXFORD	3.2	2.9	3.2	0.3	0.0
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.6	3.1	3.7	0.5	-0.1
ROANOKE RAPIDS	5.0	4.5	5.6	0.5	-0.6
ROCKINGHAM	4.7	4.2	5.0	0.5	-0.3
SANFORD	4.3	3.9	4.3	0.4	0.0
SHELBY	3.5	3.2	3.8	0.3	-0.3
WASHINGTON	4.1	3.8	4.4	0.3	-0.3
WILSON	5.2	4.8	5.1	0.4	0.1

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

Combined Statistical Area	January 2024	December 2023	January 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	3.0	2.6	3.1	0.4	-0.1
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.5	3.1	3.6	0.4	-0.1
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	5.0	4.5	5.3	0.5	-0.3
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	3.7	3.3	3.9	0.4	-0.2
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	4.0	3.7	4.2	0.3	-0.2
HICKORY-LENOIR	3.4	3.1	3.5	0.3	-0.1
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.5	3.0	3.9	0.5	-0.4
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.3	3.0	3.3	0.3	0.0
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	5.1	4.6	5.5	0.5	-0.4

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 January 2024

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
GREENE	9,675	261	2.7	1	MOORE	43,173	1,552	3.6	51
ORANGE	83,186	2,288	2.8	2	PAMLICO	5,602	203	3.6	52
WATAUGA	29,756	825	2.8	3	FORSYTH	188,565	6,842	3.6	53
BUNCOMBE	142,505	4,021	2.8	4	SWAIN	6,799	247	3.6	54
JONES	4,349	128	2.9	5	MECKLENBURG	667,037	24,266	3.6	55
HENDERSON	55,690	1,664	3.0	6	SAMPSON	27,858	1,036	3.7	56
STANLY	32,040	981	3.1	7	JACKSON	18,678	695	3.7	57
UNION	132,735	4,094	3.1	8	RANDOLPH	65,434	2,444	3.7	58
YADKIN	17,569	544	3.1	9	CHOWAN	5,925	222	3.7	59
MADISON	10,103	315	3.1	10	MONTGOMERY	11,217	427	3.8	60
DUPLIN	25,911	809	3.1	11	WILKES	26,000	1,006	3.9	61
DURHAM	183,673	5,781	3.1	12	WAYNE	51,568	2,005	3.9	62
ASHE	12,659	400	3.2	13	CLAY	4,216	165	3.9	63
AVERY	7,653	242	3.2	14	PITT	89,913	3,552	4.0	64
GRANVILLE	30,723	972	3.2	15	CASWELL	9,899	393	4.0	65
DAVIE	20,710	656	3.2	16	PASQUOTANK	17,094	681	4.0	66
CHATHAM	38,160	1,209	3.2	17	ANSON	10,249	411	4.0	67
WAKE	654,323	20,869	3.2	18	ROCKINGHAM	39,426	1,586	4.0	68
POLK	9,454	302	3.2	19	BEAUFORT	19,405	793	4.1	69
LINCOLN	47,286	1,513	3.2	20	HARNETT	55,922	2,300	4.1	70
SURRY	33,389	1,070	3.2	21	GUILFORD	260,648	10,776	4.1	71
STOKES	21,577	693	3.2	22	CHEROKEE	10,871	453	4.2	72
MCDOWELL	20,358	654	3.2	23	ONSLOW	69,977	2,921	4.2	73
YANCEY	8,271	267	3.2	24	NORTHAMPTON	7,271	309	4.2	74
JOHNSTON	111,591	3,619	3.2	25	LEE	25,693	1,104	4.3	75
CAMDEN	4,772	155	3.2	26	PERQUIMANS	5,057	224	4.4	76
BURKE	40,558	1,330	3.3	27	COLUMBUS	22,115	1,006	4.5	77
HAYWOOD	30,400	999	3.3	28	BLADEN	14,635	670	4.6	78
GATES	5,200	171	3.3	29	ALLEGHANY	4,159	192	4.6	79
NEW HANOVER	133,026	4,417	3.3	30	HOKE	20,657	956	4.6	80
CURRITUCK	14,909	496	3.3	31	NASH	42,041	1,955	4.7	81
PENDER	31,457	1,052	3.3	32	HERTFORD	8,410	393	4.7	82
TRANSYLVANIA	14,722	494	3.4	33	RICHMOND	17,309	809	4.7	83
MACON	16,257	546	3.4	34	GRAHAM	2,852	135	4.7	84
CATAWBA	79,133	2,700	3.4	35	BERTIE	6,982	331	4.7	85
ALAMANCE	86,255	2,979	3.5	36	RUTHERFORD	24,115	1,148	4.8	86
LENOIR	27,902	965	3.5	37	BRUNSWICK	58,768	2,839	4.8	87
IREDELL	96,668	3,344	3.5	38	CUMBERLAND	130,365	6,309	4.8	88
CLEVELAND	50,264	1,740	3.5	39	MARTIN	8,703	425	4.9	89
CABARRUS	118,679	4,117	3.5	40	WASHINGTON	4,240	210	5.0	90
MITCHELL	6,249	217	3.5	41	VANCE	16,823	871	5.2	91
FRANKLIN	35,122	1,223	3.5	42	ROBESON	48,260	2,512	5.2	92
DAVIDSON	81,406	2,864	3.5	43	WILSON	34,517	1,811	5.2	93
ROWAN	68,998	2,430	3.5	44	HALIFAX	19,414	1,031	5.3	94
PERSON	19,251	679	3.5	45	WARREN	6,233	354	5.7	95
ALEXANDER	17,986	638	3.5	46	EDGECOMBE	20,047	1,170	5.8	96
CRAVEN	42,837	1,520	3.5	47	DARE	18,393	1,193	6.5	97
GASTON	117,050	4,167	3.6	48	SCOTLAND	11,358	748	6.6	98
CARTERET	32,113	1,148	3.6	49	TYRRELL	1,214	87	7.2	99
CALDWELL	36,189	1,296	3.6	50	HYDE	1,696	149	8.8	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.

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 Friday, March 22, 2024 when the statewide unemployment rate for February 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>