



*For Immediate Release: April 16, 2026
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North Carolina’s January County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in all 100 counties in January 2026. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 10.0 percent while Camden County had the lowest at 3.1 percent. All fifteen of the state’s metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 5.7 percent while Raleigh had the lowest at 3.5 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.1 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
January	86	13	1
December (Revised)	97	3	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 65 counties, decreased in 26, and remained unchanged in 9. Twelve metro areas experienced rate increases over the year, two decreased, and one remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in January by 76,782 to 5,036,491, while those unemployed increased by 34,788 to 214,601. Since January 2025, the number of workers employed statewide decreased 28,304, while those unemployed increased 3,965.

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, April 22, 2026 when the statewide unemployment rate for February 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
January 2026

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,251,092	214,601	4.1				
ALAMANCE	83,583	3,441	4.1	JOHNSTON	129,486	4,463	3.4
ALEXANDER	15,616	603	3.9	JONES	3,781	165	4.4
ALLEGHANY	4,463	201	4.5	LEE	30,085	1,201	4.0
ANSON	8,736	427	4.9	LENOIR	24,461	996	4.1
ASHE	12,020	402	3.3	LINCOLN	47,092	1,701	3.6
AVERY	7,628	282	3.7	MCDOWELL	18,407	748	4.1
BEAUFORT	19,162	733	3.8	MACON	16,618	658	4.0
BERTIE	5,980	301	5.0	MADISON	10,389	421	4.1
BLADEN	10,890	618	5.7	MARTIN	9,007	385	4.3
BRUNSWICK	68,374	3,238	4.7	MECKLENBURG	657,475	28,155	4.3
BUNCOMBE	136,215	5,474	4.0	MITCHELL	6,365	284	4.5
BURKE	38,594	1,445	3.7	MONTGOMERY	10,140	455	4.5
CABARRUS	123,351	4,953	4.0	MOORE	45,958	1,637	3.6
CALDWELL	35,439	1,447	4.1	NASH	42,364	2,246	5.3
CAMDEN	5,360	167	3.1	NEW HANOVER	125,326	4,658	3.7
CARTERET	31,157	1,257	4.0	NORTHAMPTON	6,290	344	5.5
CASWELL	9,715	398	4.1	ONSLow	72,536	3,127	4.3
CATAWBA	76,207	3,010	3.9	ORANGE	77,605	2,864	3.7
CHATHAM	39,654	1,372	3.5	PAMLICO	4,943	184	3.7
CHEROKEE	10,930	451	4.1	PASQUOTANK	17,758	799	4.5
CHOWAN	6,240	242	3.9	PENDER	31,885	1,208	3.8
CLAY	4,634	162	3.5	PERQUIMANS	5,370	224	4.2
CLEVELAND	44,558	2,197	4.9	PERSON	20,051	742	3.7
COLUMBUS	19,640	943	4.8	PITT	85,788	3,762	4.4
CRAVEN	40,426	1,676	4.1	POLK	9,248	331	3.6
CUMBERLAND	129,575	6,568	5.1	RANDOLPH	66,849	2,676	4.0
CURRITUCK	16,399	522	3.2	RICHMOND	18,967	859	4.5
DARE	17,534	1,276	7.3	ROBESON	43,936	2,518	5.7
DAVIDSON	79,730	3,172	4.0	ROCKINGHAM	39,995	1,719	4.3
DAVIE	20,520	774	3.8	ROWAN	69,639	2,783	4.0
DUPLIN	22,840	774	3.4	RUTHERFORD	26,049	1,253	4.8
DURHAM	185,789	6,853	3.7	SAMPSON	24,239	1,030	4.2
EDGECOMBE	20,353	1,315	6.5	SCOTLAND	13,284	712	5.4
FORSYTH	183,432	7,866	4.3	STANLY	34,484	1,114	3.2
FRANKLIN	39,765	1,456	3.7	STOKES	20,099	776	3.9
GASTON	115,486	4,997	4.3	SURRY	31,930	1,141	3.6
GATES	4,425	160	3.6	SWAIN	5,999	261	4.4
GRAHAM	3,288	150	4.6	TRANSYLVANIA	13,753	513	3.7
GRANVILLE	28,917	1,075	3.7	TYRRELL	1,152	83	7.2
GREENE	8,529	297	3.5	UNION	131,728	4,797	3.6
GUILFORD	266,189	12,374	4.6	VANCE	18,680	923	4.9
HALIFAX	18,087	1,114	6.2	WAKE	691,308	24,160	3.5
HARNETT	60,268	2,569	4.3	WARREN	7,120	376	5.3
HAYWOOD	28,450	1,002	3.5	WASHINGTON	3,899	186	4.8
HENDERSON	55,731	1,843	3.3	WATAUGA	27,736	1,067	3.8
HERTFORD	8,211	376	4.6	WAYNE	48,997	2,095	4.3
HOKE	20,636	1,045	5.1	WILKES	25,237	1,013	4.0
HYDE	1,432	143	10.0	WILSON	34,273	1,806	5.3
IREDELL	102,955	3,965	3.9	YADKIN	16,799	569	3.4
JACKSON	21,322	825	3.9	YANCEY	8,444	304	3.6

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	January 2026	December 2025	January 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	January 2026	December 2025	January 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	4.1	3.4	4.0	0.7	0.1						
ALAMANCE	4.1	3.5	3.8	0.6	0.3	JOHNSTON	3.4	2.9	3.3	0.5	0.1
ALEXANDER	3.9	3.2	4.0	0.7	-0.1	JONES	4.4	3.4	4.1	1.0	0.3
ALLEGHANY	4.5	3.6	4.2	0.9	0.3	LEE	4.0	3.4	3.8	0.6	0.2
ANSON	4.9	4.1	4.8	0.8	0.1	LENOIR	4.1	3.5	4.0	0.6	0.1
ASHE	3.3	2.8	4.0	0.5	-0.7	LINCOLN	3.6	3.0	3.6	0.6	0.0
AVERY	3.7	3.1	5.5	0.6	-1.8	MCDOWELL	4.1	3.5	5.4	0.6	-1.3
BEAUFORT	3.8	3.1	3.6	0.7	0.2	MACON	4.0	3.2	4.1	0.8	-0.1
BERTIE	5.0	4.0	5.3	1.0	-0.3	MADISON	4.1	3.3	6.5	0.8	-2.4
BLADEN	5.7	4.8	5.4	0.9	0.3	MARTIN	4.3	3.5	4.2	0.8	0.1
BRUNSWICK	4.7	3.8	4.6	0.9	0.1	MECKLENBURG	4.3	3.5	4.0	0.8	0.3
BUNCOMBE	4.0	3.3	7.0	0.7	-3.0	MITCHELL	4.5	3.6	7.9	0.9	-3.4
BURKE	3.7	3.3	4.3	0.4	-0.6	MONTGOMERY	4.5	3.5	4.2	1.0	0.3
CABARRUS	4.0	3.3	3.7	0.7	0.3	MOORE	3.6	3.1	3.4	0.5	0.2
CALDWELL	4.1	3.5	4.0	0.6	0.1	NASH	5.3	4.5	4.7	0.8	0.6
CAMDEN	3.1	2.7	3.0	0.4	0.1	NEW HANOVER	3.7	3.1	3.7	0.6	0.0
CARTERET	4.0	3.2	3.9	0.8	0.1	NORTHAMPTON	5.5	4.5	5.1	1.0	0.4
CASWELL	4.1	3.3	3.4	0.8	0.7	ONSLow	4.3	3.6	4.1	0.7	0.2
CATAWBA	3.9	3.3	3.8	0.6	0.1	ORANGE	3.7	3.1	3.2	0.6	0.5
CHATHAM	3.5	2.9	3.3	0.6	0.2	PAMLICO	3.7	3.2	4.0	0.5	-0.3
CHEROKEE	4.1	3.5	4.1	0.6	0.0	PASQUOTANK	4.5	3.8	4.2	0.7	0.3
CHOWAN	3.9	3.2	3.7	0.7	0.2	PENDER	3.8	3.2	3.7	0.6	0.1
CLAY	3.5	3.2	3.7	0.3	-0.2	PERQUIMANS	4.2	3.6	4.3	0.6	-0.1
CLEVELAND	4.9	4.2	4.5	0.7	0.4	PERSON	3.7	3.1	3.6	0.6	0.1
COLUMBUS	4.8	3.8	4.6	1.0	0.2	PITT	4.4	3.7	4.1	0.7	0.3
CRAVEN	4.1	3.5	4.0	0.6	0.1	POLK	3.6	3.2	4.0	0.4	-0.4
CUMBERLAND	5.1	4.2	4.9	0.9	0.2	RANDOLPH	4.0	3.3	3.7	0.7	0.3
CURRITUCK	3.2	2.6	3.3	0.6	-0.1	RICHMOND	4.5	3.7	4.3	0.8	0.2
DARE	7.3	4.2	7.0	3.1	0.3	ROBESON	5.7	4.8	5.4	0.9	0.3
DAVIDSON	4.0	3.4	3.9	0.6	0.1	ROCKINGHAM	4.3	3.6	4.1	0.7	0.2
DAVIE	3.8	3.2	3.5	0.6	0.3	ROWAN	4.0	3.3	3.9	0.7	0.1
DUPLIN	3.4	2.9	3.3	0.5	0.1	RUTHERFORD	4.8	4.2	5.5	0.6	-0.7
DURHAM	3.7	3.1	3.3	0.6	0.4	SAMPSON	4.2	3.6	4.3	0.6	-0.1
EDGEcombe	6.5	5.3	5.5	1.2	1.0	SCOTLAND	5.4	4.6	5.8	0.8	-0.4
FORSYTH	4.3	3.6	4.0	0.7	0.3	STANLY	3.2	2.7	3.2	0.5	0.0
FRANKLIN	3.7	3.0	3.5	0.7	0.2	STOKES	3.9	3.3	3.8	0.6	0.1
GASTON	4.3	3.7	4.1	0.6	0.2	SURRY	3.6	3.0	3.6	0.6	0.0
GATES	3.6	3.1	3.5	0.5	0.1	SWAIN	4.4	3.1	4.7	1.3	-0.3
GRAHAM	4.6	3.7	4.6	0.9	0.0	TRANSYLVANIA	3.7	3.2	4.1	0.5	-0.4
GRANVILLE	3.7	3.1	3.7	0.6	0.0	TYRRELL	7.2	4.5	6.9	2.7	0.3
GREENE	3.5	2.9	3.4	0.6	0.1	UNION	3.6	3.1	3.4	0.5	0.2
GUILFORD	4.6	3.9	4.3	0.7	0.3	VANCE	4.9	4.1	4.6	0.8	0.3
HALIFAX	6.2	5.1	5.4	1.1	0.8	WAKE	3.5	2.9	3.2	0.6	0.3
HARNETT	4.3	3.6	4.0	0.7	0.3	WARREN	5.3	4.2	5.2	1.1	0.1
HAYWOOD	3.5	3.0	4.6	0.5	-1.1	WASHINGTON	4.8	4.0	5.1	0.8	-0.3
HENDERSON	3.3	2.8	4.1	0.5	-0.8	WATAUGA	3.8	3.2	3.8	0.6	0.0
HERTFORD	4.6	3.9	4.2	0.7	0.4	WAYNE	4.3	3.6	3.9	0.7	0.4
HOKE	5.1	4.2	4.5	0.9	0.6	WILKES	4.0	3.4	4.1	0.6	-0.1
HYDE	10.0	5.5	9.4	4.5	0.6	WILSON	5.3	4.4	5.1	0.9	0.2
IREDELL	3.9	3.2	3.6	0.7	0.3	YADKIN	3.4	2.9	3.4	0.5	0.0
JACKSON	3.9	3.1	4.0	0.8	-0.1	YANCEY	3.6	3.2	6.1	0.4	-2.5

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
January 2026*

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	202,335	7,738	3.8
BURLINGTON	83,583	3,441	4.1
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,481,066	64,421	4.3
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	323,099	11,831	3.7
FAYETTEVILLE	150,211	7,613	5.1
GOLDSBORO	48,997	2,095	4.3
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	373,033	16,769	4.5
GREENVILLE	85,788	3,762	4.4
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	165,856	6,505	3.9
JACKSONVILLE	72,536	3,127	4.3
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	45,958	1,637	3.6
RALEIGH	860,559	30,079	3.5
ROCKY MOUNT	62,717	3,561	5.7
WILMINGTON	225,585	9,104	4.0
WINSTON-SALEM	320,580	13,157	4.1

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	34,484	1,114	3.2
ANDERSON CREEK	60,268	2,569	4.3
BOONE	27,736	1,067	3.8
BREVARD	13,753	513	3.7
ELIZABETH CITY	17,758	799	4.5
FOREST CITY	26,049	1,253	4.8
HENDERSON	18,680	923	4.9
KILL DEVIL HILLS	17,534	1,276	7.3
KINSTON	24,461	996	4.1
LAURINBURG	13,284	712	5.4
LUMBERTON	43,936	2,518	5.7
MARION	18,407	748	4.1
MOREHEAD CITY	31,157	1,257	4.0
MOUNT AIRY	31,930	1,141	3.6
MOREHEAD CITY	49,150	2,025	4.1
NEW BERN	25,237	1,013	4.0
NORTH WILKESBORO	24,377	1,458	6.0
ROCKINGHAM	18,967	859	4.5
SANFORD	30,085	1,201	4.0
SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN	44,558	2,197	4.9
WASHINGTON	19,162	733	3.8
WAYNESVILLE	28,450	1,002	3.5
WILSON	34,273	1,806	5.3

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

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD	244,538	9,253	3.8
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,744,849	74,993	4.3
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST	272,356	13,339	4.9
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	809,126	34,508	4.3
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	104,950	4,495	4.3
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	80,307	3,282	4.1
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY	1,292,691	46,603	3.6
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	121,367	6,825	5.6

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	January 2026	December 2025	January 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	3.8	3.2	6.2	0.6	-2.4
BURLINGTON	4.1	3.5	3.8	0.6	0.3
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	4.3	3.6	4.0	0.7	0.3
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.7	3.0	3.3	0.7	0.4
FAYETTEVILLE	5.1	4.2	4.8	0.9	0.3
GOLDSBORO	4.3	3.6	3.9	0.7	0.4
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	4.5	3.7	4.1	0.8	0.4
GREENVILLE	4.4	3.7	4.1	0.7	0.3
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.9	3.3	4.0	0.6	-0.1
JACKSONVILLE	4.3	3.6	4.1	0.7	0.2
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.6	3.1	3.4	0.5	0.2
RALEIGH	3.5	2.9	3.3	0.6	0.2
ROCKY MOUNT	5.7	4.7	5.0	1.0	0.7
WILMINGTON	4.0	3.3	4.0	0.7	0.0
WINSTON-SALEM	4.1	3.5	3.9	0.6	0.2

Micropolitan Statistical Area	January 2026	December 2025	January 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	3.2	2.7	3.2	0.5	0.0
ANDERSON CREEK	4.3	3.6	4.0	0.7	0.3
BOONE	3.8	3.2	3.8	0.6	0.0
BREVARD	3.7	3.2	4.1	0.5	-0.4
ELIZABETH CITY	4.5	3.8	4.2	0.7	0.3
FOREST CITY	4.8	4.2	5.5	0.6	-0.7
HENDERSON	4.9	4.1	4.6	0.8	0.3
KILL DEVIL HILLS	7.3	4.2	7.0	3.1	0.3
KINSTON	4.1	3.5	4.0	0.6	0.1
LAURINBURG	5.4	4.6	5.8	0.8	-0.4
LUMBERTON	5.7	4.8	5.4	0.9	0.3
MARION	4.1	3.5	5.4	0.6	-1.3
MOREHEAD CITY	4.0	3.2	3.9	0.8	0.1
MOUNT AIRY	3.6	3.0	3.6	0.6	0.0
MOREHEAD CITY	4.1	3.5	4.0	0.6	0.1
NEW BERN	4.0	3.4	4.1	0.6	-0.1
NORTH WILKESBORO	6.0	5.0	5.3	1.0	0.7
ROCKINGHAM	4.5	3.7	4.3	0.8	0.2
SANFORD	4.0	3.4	3.8	0.6	0.2
SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN	4.9	4.2	4.5	0.7	0.4
WASHINGTON	3.8	3.1	3.6	0.7	0.2
WAYNESVILLE	3.5	3.0	4.6	0.5	-1.1
WILSON	5.3	4.4	5.1	0.9	0.2

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

Combined Statistical Area	January 2026	December 2025	January 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD	3.8	3.2	5.9	0.6	-2.1
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	4.3	3.6	4.0	0.7	0.3
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST	4.9	4.1	4.7	0.8	0.2
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	4.3	3.6	4.0	0.7	0.3
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	4.3	3.6	4.0	0.7	0.3
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	4.1	3.4	4.0	0.7	0.1
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY	3.6	3.0	3.3	0.6	0.3
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	5.6	4.7	5.1	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 January 2026

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
CAMDEN	5,360	167	3.1	1	MCDOWELL	18,407	748	4.1	51
CURRITUCK	16,399	522	3.2	2	LENOIR	24,461	996	4.1	52
STANLY	34,484	1,114	3.2	3	CALDWELL	35,439	1,447	4.1	53
HENDERSON	55,731	1,843	3.3	4	CASWELL	9,715	398	4.1	54
ASHE	12,020	402	3.3	5	ALAMANCE	83,583	3,441	4.1	55
YADKIN	16,799	569	3.4	6	CHEROKEE	10,930	451	4.1	56
DUPLIN	22,840	774	3.4	7	CRAVEN	40,426	1,676	4.1	57
JOHNSTON	129,486	4,463	3.4	8	PERQUIMANS	5,370	224	4.2	58
CHATHAM	39,654	1,372	3.5	9	SAMPSON	24,239	1,030	4.2	59
GREENE	8,529	297	3.5	10	HARNETT	60,268	2,569	4.3	60
WAKE	691,308	24,160	3.5	11	MARTIN	9,007	385	4.3	61
CLAY	4,634	162	3.5	12	WAYNE	48,997	2,095	4.3	62
HAYWOOD	28,450	1,002	3.5	13	MECKLENBURG	657,475	28,155	4.3	63
MOORE	45,958	1,637	3.6	14	FORSYTH	183,432	7,866	4.3	64
SURRY	31,930	1,141	3.6	15	ROCKINGHAM	39,995	1,719	4.3	65
POLK	9,248	331	3.6	16	ONSLOW	72,536	3,127	4.3	66
YANCEY	8,444	304	3.6	17	GASTON	115,486	4,997	4.3	67
LINCOLN	47,092	1,701	3.6	18	SWAIN	5,999	261	4.4	68
GATES	4,425	160	3.6	19	JONES	3,781	165	4.4	69
UNION	131,728	4,797	3.6	20	PITT	85,788	3,762	4.4	70
FRANKLIN	39,765	1,456	3.7	21	MITCHELL	6,365	284	4.5	71
DURHAM	185,789	6,853	3.7	22	MONTGOMERY	10,140	455	4.5	72
ORANGE	77,605	2,864	3.7	23	PASQUOTANK	17,758	799	4.5	73
AVERY	7,628	282	3.7	24	ALLEGHANY	4,463	201	4.5	74
PERSON	20,051	742	3.7	25	RICHMOND	18,967	859	4.5	75
NEW HANOVER	125,326	4,658	3.7	26	GRAHAM	3,288	150	4.6	76
GRANVILLE	28,917	1,075	3.7	27	HERTFORD	8,211	376	4.6	77
PAMLICO	4,943	184	3.7	28	GUILFORD	266,189	12,374	4.6	78
TRANSYLVANIA	13,753	513	3.7	29	BRUNSWICK	68,374	3,238	4.7	79
BURKE	38,594	1,445	3.7	30	WASHINGTON	3,899	186	4.8	80
DAVIE	20,520	774	3.8	31	COLUMBUS	19,640	943	4.8	81
PENDER	31,885	1,208	3.8	32	RUTHERFORD	26,049	1,253	4.8	82
BEAUFORT	19,162	733	3.8	33	ANSON	8,736	427	4.9	83
WATAUGA	27,736	1,067	3.8	34	CLEVELAND	44,558	2,197	4.9	84
IREDELL	102,955	3,965	3.9	35	VANCE	18,680	923	4.9	85
STOKES	20,099	776	3.9	36	BERTIE	5,980	301	5.0	86
ALEXANDER	15,616	603	3.9	37	HOKE	20,636	1,045	5.1	87
JACKSON	21,322	825	3.9	38	CUMBERLAND	129,575	6,568	5.1	88
CHOWAN	6,240	242	3.9	39	WILSON	34,273	1,806	5.3	89
CATAWBA	76,207	3,010	3.9	40	WARREN	7,120	376	5.3	90
MACON	16,618	658	4.0	41	NASH	42,364	2,246	5.3	91
DAVIDSON	79,730	3,172	4.0	42	SCOTLAND	13,284	712	5.4	92
LEE	30,085	1,201	4.0	43	NORTHAMPTON	6,290	344	5.5	93
ROWAN	69,639	2,783	4.0	44	BLADEN	10,890	618	5.7	94
RANDOLPH	66,849	2,676	4.0	45	ROBESON	43,936	2,518	5.7	95
WILKES	25,237	1,013	4.0	46	HALIFAX	18,087	1,114	6.2	96
CABARRUS	123,351	4,953	4.0	47	EDGECOMBE	20,353	1,315	6.5	97
BUNCOMBE	136,215	5,474	4.0	48	TYRRELL	1,152	83	7.2	98
CARTERET	31,157	1,257	4.0	49	DARE	17,534	1,276	7.3	99
MADISON	10,389	421	4.1	50	HYDE	1,432	143	10.0	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, April 22, 2026 when the statewide unemployment rate for February 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>