



*For Immediate Release: August 30, 2023*  
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## North Carolina’s July County and Area Employment Figures Released

**RALEIGH** — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 39 of North Carolina’s counties in July 2023, increased in 27, and remained unchanged in 34. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 6.7 percent while Buncombe and Swain Counties each had the lowest at 2.7 percent. Two of the state’s metro areas experienced rate decreases, two increased, and 11 remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 5.2 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
<b>July</b>	91	9	0
<b>June (Revised)</b>	93	7	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 97 counties, increased in two, and remained unchanged in one. All 15 of the state’s metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in July by 23,199 to 5,099,279, while those unemployed increased by 291 to 189,200. Since July 2022, the number of workers employed statewide increased 98,709, while those unemployed decreased 14,075.

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 Tuesday, September 19, 2023 when the statewide unemployment rate for August 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  
July 2023*

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,288,479	189,200	3.6				
ALAMANCE	84,702	3,208	3.8	JOHNSTON	112,285	3,748	3.3
ALEXANDER	18,163	557	3.1	JONES	4,349	138	3.2
ALLEGHANY	4,741	207	4.4	LEE	26,123	1,053	4.0
ANSON	10,150	430	4.2	LENOIR	27,612	1,017	3.7
ASHE	12,918	372	2.9	LINCOLN	48,292	1,454	3.0
AVERY	8,269	245	3.0	MCDOWELL	20,355	671	3.3
BEAUFORT	20,007	802	4.0	MACON	16,629	520	3.1
BERTIE	6,784	315	4.6	MADISON	10,322	334	3.2
BLADEN	14,760	625	4.2	MARTIN	8,473	399	4.7
BRUNSWICK	61,228	2,444	4.0	MECKLENBURG	679,980	22,990	3.4
BUNCOMBE	145,546	3,982	2.7	MITCHELL	6,172	228	3.7
BURKE	41,391	1,456	3.5	MONTGOMERY	11,101	425	3.8
CABARRUS	120,974	4,028	3.3	MOORE	41,976	1,531	3.6
CALDWELL	36,820	1,282	3.5	NASH	42,392	1,982	4.7
CAMDEN	4,570	161	3.5	NEW HANOVER	131,700	4,407	3.3
CARTERET	33,754	1,056	3.1	NORTHAMPTON	7,083	355	5.0
CASWELL	9,562	347	3.6	ONSLow	68,103	2,920	4.3
CATAWBA	80,423	2,730	3.4	ORANGE	85,277	2,703	3.2
CHATHAM	38,977	1,166	3.0	PAMLICO	5,577	177	3.2
CHEROKEE	11,198	423	3.8	PASQUOTANK	16,407	713	4.3
CHOWAN	5,897	215	3.6	PENDER	31,097	1,037	3.3
CLAY	4,360	165	3.8	PERQUIMANS	4,847	197	4.1
CLEVELAND	49,852	1,761	3.5	PERSON	19,558	694	3.5
COLUMBUS	24,999	908	3.6	PITT	89,267	3,896	4.4
CRAVEN	42,998	1,542	3.6	POLK	9,630	320	3.3
CUMBERLAND	126,016	6,409	5.1	RANDOLPH	65,555	2,407	3.7
CURRITUCK	14,946	447	3.0	RICHMOND	17,210	807	4.7
DARE	22,922	643	2.8	ROBESON	46,955	2,581	5.5
DAVIDSON	83,176	2,815	3.4	ROCKINGHAM	39,570	1,593	4.0
DAVIE	21,155	670	3.2	ROWAN	70,481	2,428	3.4
DUPLIN	24,502	899	3.7	RUTHERFORD	24,450	1,192	4.9
DURHAM	186,869	5,872	3.1	SAMPSON	28,577	1,071	3.7
EDGECOMBE	20,244	1,254	6.2	SCOTLAND	11,046	738	6.7
FORSYTH	192,949	7,137	3.7	STANLY	31,592	996	3.2
FRANKLIN	35,354	1,273	3.6	STOKES	22,103	698	3.2
GASTON	119,283	4,016	3.4	SURRY	32,288	1,083	3.4
GATES	5,210	177	3.4	SWAIN	7,549	207	2.7
GRAHAM	2,929	126	4.3	TRANSYLVANIA	15,422	506	3.3
GRANVILLE	30,693	985	3.2	TYRRELL	1,459	57	3.9
GREENE	9,328	296	3.2	UNION	135,810	4,267	3.1
GUILFORD	261,661	11,005	4.2	VANCE	16,758	908	5.4
HALIFAX	18,777	1,028	5.5	WAKE	657,767	20,554	3.1
HARNETT	55,693	2,323	4.2	WARREN	6,411	344	5.4
HAYWOOD	30,979	966	3.1	WASHINGTON	4,338	200	4.6
HENDERSON	56,830	1,682	3.0	WATAUGA	30,458	1,025	3.4
HERTFORD	8,294	428	5.2	WAYNE	51,018	2,003	3.9
HOKE	19,978	951	4.8	WILKES	26,536	1,029	3.9
HYDE	1,872	86	4.6	WILSON	33,770	1,804	5.3
IREDELL	98,554	3,246	3.3	YADKIN	17,939	574	3.2
JACKSON	19,230	791	4.1	YANCEY	8,323	266	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	July 2023	June 2023	July 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	July 2023	June 2023	July 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.6	3.6	3.9	0.0	-0.3						
ALAMANCE	3.8	3.8	4.1	0.0	-0.3	JOHNSTON	3.3	3.3	3.5	0.0	-0.2
ALEXANDER	3.1	3.2	3.3	-0.1	-0.2	JONES	3.2	3.4	3.5	-0.2	-0.3
ALLEGHANY	4.4	4.6	3.8	-0.2	0.6	LEE	4.0	4.1	4.5	-0.1	-0.5
ANSON	4.2	4.2	4.6	0.0	-0.4	LENOIR	3.7	3.6	3.9	0.1	-0.2
ASHE	2.9	3.1	3.6	-0.2	-0.7	LINCOLN	3.0	3.1	3.4	-0.1	-0.4
AVERY	3.0	2.9	3.3	0.1	-0.3	MCDOWELL	3.3	3.3	3.7	0.0	-0.4
BEAUFORT	4.0	4.1	4.3	-0.1	-0.3	MACON	3.1	3.2	3.6	-0.1	-0.5
BERTIE	4.6	4.8	5.2	-0.2	-0.6	MADISON	3.2	3.3	3.7	-0.1	-0.5
BLADEN	4.2	4.4	4.5	-0.2	-0.3	MARTIN	4.7	4.7	4.7	0.0	0.0
BRUNSWICK	4.0	4.2	4.5	-0.2	-0.5	MECKLENBURG	3.4	3.4	3.7	0.0	-0.3
BUNCOMBE	2.7	2.8	3.1	-0.1	-0.4	MITCHELL	3.7	3.6	4.3	0.1	-0.6
BURKE	3.5	3.6	3.6	-0.1	-0.1	MONTGOMERY	3.8	3.8	4.2	0.0	-0.4
CABARRUS	3.3	3.3	3.6	0.0	-0.3	MOORE	3.6	3.7	4.0	-0.1	-0.4
CALDWELL	3.5	3.5	3.8	0.0	-0.3	NASH	4.7	4.7	5.4	0.0	-0.7
CAMDEN	3.5	3.4	4.0	0.1	-0.5	NEW HANOVER	3.3	3.3	3.4	0.0	-0.1
CARTERET	3.1	3.3	3.5	-0.2	-0.4	NORTHAMPTON	5.0	4.9	5.3	0.1	-0.3
CASWELL	3.6	3.7	4.6	-0.1	-1.0	ONSLow	4.3	4.2	4.8	0.1	-0.5
CATAWBA	3.4	3.4	3.7	0.0	-0.3	ORANGE	3.2	3.1	3.5	0.1	-0.3
CHATHAM	3.0	3.0	3.3	0.0	-0.3	PAMLICO	3.2	3.3	3.7	-0.1	-0.5
CHEROKEE	3.8	3.9	4.3	-0.1	-0.5	PASQUOTANK	4.3	4.2	5.1	0.1	-0.8
CHOWAN	3.6	3.8	4.3	-0.2	-0.7	PENDER	3.3	3.4	3.7	-0.1	-0.4
CLAY	3.8	3.7	4.2	0.1	-0.4	PERQUIMANS	4.1	4.2	4.7	-0.1	-0.6
CLEVELAND	3.5	3.6	4.2	-0.1	-0.7	PERSON	3.5	3.7	3.9	-0.2	-0.4
COLUMBUS	3.6	3.8	4.4	-0.2	-0.8	PITT	4.4	4.2	4.6	0.2	-0.2
Craven	3.6	3.6	3.9	0.0	-0.3	POLK	3.3	3.5	4.0	-0.2	-0.7
CUMBERLAND	5.1	5.0	5.6	0.1	-0.5	RANDOLPH	3.7	3.7	4.0	0.0	-0.3
CURRITUCK	3.0	3.1	3.6	-0.1	-0.6	RICHMOND	4.7	4.5	5.3	0.2	-0.6
DARE	2.8	3.0	3.3	-0.2	-0.5	ROBESON	5.5	5.2	6.1	0.3	-0.6
DAVIDSON	3.4	3.5	3.7	-0.1	-0.3	ROCKINGHAM	4.0	4.1	4.4	-0.1	-0.4
DAVIE	3.2	3.2	3.6	0.0	-0.4	ROWAN	3.4	3.4	3.8	0.0	-0.4
DUPLIN	3.7	3.5	4.2	0.2	-0.5	RUTHERFORD	4.9	4.7	5.1	0.2	-0.2
DURHAM	3.1	3.2	3.4	-0.1	-0.3	SAMPSON	3.7	3.6	4.3	0.1	-0.6
EDGEcombe	6.2	6.1	6.9	0.1	-0.7	SCOTLAND	6.7	6.5	7.0	0.2	-0.3
FORSYTH	3.7	3.7	4.1	0.0	-0.4	STANLY	3.2	3.2	3.6	0.0	-0.4
FRANKLIN	3.6	3.7	3.8	-0.1	-0.2	STOKES	3.2	3.1	3.6	0.1	-0.4
GASTON	3.4	3.4	3.8	0.0	-0.4	SURRY	3.4	3.5	3.8	-0.1	-0.4
GATES	3.4	3.4	3.8	0.0	-0.4	SWAIN	2.7	2.7	3.1	0.0	-0.4
GRAHAM	4.3	4.5	5.3	-0.2	-1.0	TRANSYLVANIA	3.3	3.3	3.4	0.0	-0.1
GRANVILLE	3.2	3.2	3.6	0.0	-0.4	TYRRELL	3.9	4.2	4.6	-0.3	-0.7
GREENE	3.2	3.0	3.5	0.2	-0.3	UNION	3.1	3.1	3.5	0.0	-0.4
GUILFORD	4.2	4.2	4.5	0.0	-0.3	VANCE	5.4	5.6	6.2	-0.2	-0.8
HALIFAX	5.5	5.4	6.1	0.1	-0.6	WAKE	3.1	3.1	3.3	0.0	-0.2
HARNETT	4.2	4.2	4.5	0.0	-0.3	WARREN	5.4	5.4	6.7	0.0	-1.3
HAYWOOD	3.1	3.1	3.3	0.0	-0.2	WASHINGTON	4.6	4.7	5.3	-0.1	-0.7
HENDERSON	3.0	3.0	3.3	0.0	-0.3	WATAUGA	3.4	3.2	3.9	0.2	-0.5
HERTFORD	5.2	5.0	5.9	0.2	-0.7	WAYNE	3.9	3.9	4.4	0.0	-0.5
HOKE	4.8	4.7	5.4	0.1	-0.6	WILKES	3.9	3.9	4.3	0.0	-0.4
HYDE	4.6	4.4	4.3	0.2	0.3	WILSON	5.3	5.2	5.8	0.1	-0.5
IREDELL	3.3	3.3	3.6	0.0	-0.3	YADKIN	3.2	3.4	3.4	-0.2	-0.2
JACKSON	4.1	3.9	4.3	0.2	-0.2	YANCEY	3.2	3.3	3.7	-0.1	-0.5

Not Seasonally Adjusted

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

*Preliminary Data for  
July 2023*

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	243,677	6,964	2.9
BURLINGTON	84,702	3,208	3.8
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,490,532	50,077	3.4
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	330,681	10,435	3.2
FAYETTEVILLE	145,994	7,360	5.0
GOLDSBORO	51,018	2,003	3.9
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	366,786	15,005	4.1
GREENVILLE	89,267	3,896	4.4
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	176,797	6,025	3.4
JACKSONVILLE	68,103	2,920	4.3
NEW BERN	52,924	1,857	3.5
RALEIGH	805,406	25,575	3.2
ROCKY MOUNT	62,636	3,236	5.2
WILMINGTON	162,797	5,444	3.3
WINSTON-SALEM	337,322	11,894	3.5

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	31,592	996	3.2
BOONE	30,458	1,025	3.4
BREVARD	15,422	506	3.3
CULLOWHEE	19,230	791	4.1
DUNN	55,693	2,323	4.2
ELIZABETH CITY	25,824	1,071	4.1
FOREST CITY	24,450	1,192	4.9
HENDERSON	16,758	908	5.4
KILL DEVIL HILLS	24,381	700	2.9
KINSTON	27,612	1,017	3.7
LAURINBURG	11,046	738	6.7
LUMBERTON	46,955	2,581	5.5
MARION	20,355	671	3.3
MOREHEAD CITY	33,754	1,056	3.1
MOUNT AIRY	32,288	1,083	3.4
NORTH WILKESBORO	26,536	1,029	3.9
OXFORD	30,693	985	3.2
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	41,976	1,531	3.6
ROANOKE RAPIDS	25,860	1,383	5.3
ROCKINGHAM	17,210	807	4.7
SANFORD	26,123	1,053	4.0
SHELBY	49,852	1,761	3.5
WASHINGTON	20,007	802	4.0
WILSON	33,770	1,804	5.3

**COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS  
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**

*Preliminary Data for  
July 2023*

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	259,099	7,470	2.9
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,571,976	52,834	3.4
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	203,995	10,679	5.2
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	821,098	31,190	3.8
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	109,274	4,698	4.3
HICKORY-LENOIR	197,152	6,696	3.4
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	86,678	2,913	3.4
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	1,265,354	41,279	3.3
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	122,266	6,423	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	July 2023	June 2023	July 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	2.9	2.9	3.2	0.0	-0.3
BURLINGTON	3.8	3.8	4.1	0.0	-0.3
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.4	3.4	3.6	0.0	-0.2
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.2	3.2	3.4	0.0	-0.2
FAYETTEVILLE	5.0	5.0	5.6	0.0	-0.6
GOLDSBORO	3.9	3.9	4.4	0.0	-0.5
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	4.1	4.1	4.4	0.0	-0.3
GREENVILLE	4.4	4.2	4.6	0.2	-0.2
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.4	3.5	3.6	-0.1	-0.2
JACKSONVILLE	4.3	4.2	4.8	0.1	-0.5
NEW BERN	3.5	3.5	3.8	0.0	-0.3
RALEIGH	3.2	3.2	3.3	0.0	-0.1
ROCKY MOUNT	5.2	5.2	5.9	0.0	-0.7
WILMINGTON	3.3	3.3	3.5	0.0	-0.2
WINSTON-SALEM	3.5	3.6	3.9	-0.1	-0.4

Micropolitan Statistical Area	July 2023	June 2023	July 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	3.2	3.2	3.6	0.0	-0.4
BOONE	3.4	3.2	3.9	0.2	-0.5
BREVARD	3.3	3.3	3.4	0.0	-0.1
CULLOWHEE	4.1	3.9	4.3	0.2	-0.2
DUNN	4.2	4.2	4.5	0.0	-0.3
ELIZABETH CITY	4.1	4.0	4.8	0.1	-0.7
FOREST CITY	4.9	4.7	5.1	0.2	-0.2
HENDERSON	5.4	5.6	6.2	-0.2	-0.8
KILL DEVIL HILLS	2.9	3.1	3.4	-0.2	-0.5
KINSTON	3.7	3.6	3.9	0.1	-0.2
LAURINBURG	6.7	6.5	7.0	0.2	-0.3
LUMBERTON	5.5	5.2	6.1	0.3	-0.6
MARION	3.3	3.3	3.7	0.0	-0.4
MOREHEAD CITY	3.1	3.3	3.5	-0.2	-0.4
MOUNT AIRY	3.4	3.5	3.8	-0.1	-0.4
NORTH WILKESBORO	3.9	3.9	4.3	0.0	-0.4
OXFORD	3.2	3.2	3.6	0.0	-0.4
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.6	3.7	4.0	-0.1	-0.4
ROANOKE RAPIDS	5.3	5.3	5.9	0.0	-0.6
ROCKINGHAM	4.7	4.5	5.3	0.2	-0.6
SANFORD	4.0	4.1	4.5	-0.1	-0.5
SHELBY	3.5	3.6	4.2	-0.1	-0.7
WASHINGTON	4.0	4.1	4.3	-0.1	-0.3
WILSON	5.3	5.2	5.8	0.1	-0.5

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

Combined Statistical Area	July 2023	June 2023	July 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	2.9	2.9	3.2	0.0	-0.3
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.4	3.4	3.6	0.0	-0.2
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	5.2	5.1	5.8	0.1	-0.6
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	3.8	3.8	4.1	0.0	-0.3
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	4.3	4.2	4.5	0.1	-0.2
HICKORY-LENOIR	3.4	3.4	3.6	0.0	-0.2
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.4	3.4	3.7	0.0	-0.3
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.3	3.3	3.5	0.0	-0.2
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	5.3	5.2	5.9	0.1	-0.6

*Not Seasonally Adjusted*

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

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
BUNCOMBE	145,546	3,982	2.7%	1	CASWELL	9,562	347	3.6%	51
SWAIN	7,549	207	2.7%	2	COLUMBUS	24,999	908	3.6%	52
DARE	22,922	643	2.8%	3	CHOWAN	5,897	215	3.6%	53
ASHE	12,918	372	2.9%	4	MOORE	41,976	1,531	3.6%	54
HENDERSON	56,830	1,682	3.0%	5	DUPLIN	24,502	899	3.7%	55
AVERY	8,269	245	3.0%	6	RANDOLPH	65,555	2,407	3.7%	56
CURRITUCK	14,946	447	3.0%	7	LENOIR	27,612	1,017	3.7%	57
CHATHAM	38,977	1,166	3.0%	8	MITCHELL	6,172	228	3.7%	58
LINCOLN	48,292	1,454	3.0%	9	FORSYTH	192,949	7,137	3.7%	59
ALEXANDER	18,163	557	3.1%	10	SAMPSON	28,577	1,071	3.7%	60
HAYWOOD	30,979	966	3.1%	11	CHEROKEE	11,198	423	3.8%	61
WAKE	657,767	20,554	3.1%	12	CLAY	4,360	165	3.8%	62
MACON	16,629	520	3.1%	13	ALAMANCE	84,702	3,208	3.8%	63
CARTERET	33,754	1,056	3.1%	14	MONTGOMERY	11,101	425	3.8%	64
UNION	135,810	4,267	3.1%	15	WILKES	26,536	1,029	3.9%	65
DURHAM	186,869	5,872	3.1%	16	TYRRELL	4,459	57	3.9%	66
STANLY	31,592	996	3.2%	17	WAYNE	51,018	2,003	3.9%	67
STOKES	22,103	698	3.2%	18	BRUNSWICK	61,228	2,444	4.0%	68
DAVIE	21,155	670	3.2%	19	BEAUFORT	20,007	802	4.0%	69
ORANGE	85,277	2,703	3.2%	20	ROCKINGHAM	39,570	1,593	4.0%	70
JONES	4,349	138	3.2%	21	LEE	26,123	1,053	4.0%	71
GREENE	9,328	296	3.2%	22	PERQUIMANS	4,847	197	4.1%	72
PAMLICO	5,577	177	3.2%	23	JACKSON	19,230	791	4.1%	73
YANCEY	8,323	266	3.2%	24	HARNETT	55,693	2,323	4.2%	74
YADKIN	17,939	574	3.2%	25	GUILFORD	261,661	11,005	4.2%	75
GRANVILLE	30,693	985	3.2%	26	BLADEN	14,760	625	4.2%	76
MADISON	10,322	334	3.2%	27	ANSON	10,150	430	4.2%	77
TRANSYLVANIA	15,422	506	3.3%	28	ONSLOW	68,103	2,920	4.3%	78
IREDELL	98,554	3,246	3.3%	29	GRAHAM	2,929	126	4.3%	79
MCDOWELL	20,355	671	3.3%	30	PASQUOTANK	16,407	713	4.3%	80
POLK	9,630	320	3.3%	31	PITT	89,267	3,896	4.4%	81
CABARRUS	120,974	4,028	3.3%	32	ALLEGHANY	4,741	207	4.4%	82
PENDER	31,097	1,037	3.3%	33	HYDE	1,872	86	4.6%	83
JOHNSTON	112,285	3,748	3.3%	34	WASHINGTON	4,338	200	4.6%	84
NEW HANOVER	131,700	4,407	3.3%	35	BERTIE	6,784	315	4.6%	85
SURRY	32,288	1,083	3.4%	36	NASH	42,392	1,982	4.7%	86
WATAUGA	30,458	1,025	3.4%	37	RICHMOND	17,210	807	4.7%	87
GASTON	119,283	4,016	3.4%	38	MARTIN	8,473	399	4.7%	88
MECKLENBURG	679,980	22,990	3.4%	39	HOKE	19,978	951	4.8%	89
DAVIDSON	83,176	2,815	3.4%	40	RUTHERFORD	24,450	1,192	4.9%	90
CATAWBA	80,423	2,730	3.4%	41	NORTHAMPTON	7,083	355	5.0%	91
GATES	5,210	177	3.4%	42	CUMBERLAND	126,016	6,409	5.1%	92
ROWAN	70,481	2,428	3.4%	43	HERTFORD	8,294	428	5.2%	93
CALDWELL	36,820	1,282	3.5%	44	WILSON	33,770	1,804	5.3%	94
BURKE	41,391	1,456	3.5%	45	WARREN	6,411	344	5.4%	95
CAMDEN	4,570	161	3.5%	46	VANCE	16,758	908	5.4%	96
CLEVELAND	49,852	1,761	3.5%	47	HALIFAX	18,777	1,028	5.5%	97
PERSON	19,558	694	3.5%	48	ROBESON	46,955	2,581	5.5%	98
CRAVEN	42,998	1,542	3.6%	49	EDGECOMBE	20,244	1,254	6.2%	99
FRANKLIN	35,354	1,273	3.6%	50	SCOTLAND	11,046	738	6.7%	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](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 Tuesday, September 19, 2023 when the statewide unemployment rate for August 2023 will be released.

The complete 2023 data release schedule can be accessed at:

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