



For Immediate Release: September 2, 2026
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North Carolina's July County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in all 100 counties in July 2026. Edgecombe and Halifax Counties each had the highest unemployment rate at 5.5 percent while Currituck County had the lowest at 2.8 percent. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 4.9 percent while Raleigh had the lowest at 3.2 percent. The 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
July	94	6	0
June (Revised)	98	2	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 90 counties, increased in four, and remained unchanged in six. Fourteen metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year and one remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in July by 44,910 to 5,007,249, while those unemployed increased by 9,044 to 193,903. Since July 2025, the number of workers employed statewide decreased 110,239, while those unemployed decreased 24,413.

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, September 18, 2026, when the statewide unemployment rate for August 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
July 2026

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,201,152	193,903	3.7	JOHNSTON	130,295	4,155	3.2
ALAMANCE	82,650	3,163	3.8	JONES	3,576	143	4.0
ALEXANDER	15,279	558	3.7	LEE	29,821	1,144	3.8
ALLEGHANY	4,474	174	3.9	LENOIR	23,607	963	4.1
ANSON	8,725	411	4.7	LINCOLN	47,102	1,623	3.4
ASHE	11,938	383	3.2	MCDOWELL	17,948	719	4.0
AVERY	7,950	253	3.2	MACON	16,682	596	3.6
BEAUFORT	18,632	697	3.7	MADISON	10,312	360	3.5
BERTIE	5,704	292	5.1	MARTIN	8,544	369	4.3
BLADEN	10,325	541	5.2	MECKLENBURG	655,465	24,415	3.7
BRUNSWICK	68,453	2,827	4.1	MITCHELL	6,248	228	3.6
BUNCOMBE	135,287	4,551	3.4	MONTGOMERY	9,828	412	4.2
BURKE	37,799	1,382	3.7	MOORE	45,644	1,607	3.5
CABARRUS	122,981	4,366	3.6	NASH	41,689	1,942	4.7
CALDWELL	34,699	1,284	3.7	NEW HANOVER	126,104	4,273	3.4
CAMDEN	5,323	166	3.1	NORTHAMPTON	6,052	289	4.8
CARTERET	32,126	1,073	3.3	ONSLOW	68,803	2,901	4.2
CASWELL	9,412	356	3.8	ORANGE	77,611	2,729	3.5
CATAWBA	74,528	2,704	3.6	PAMLICO	5,154	184	3.6
CHATHAM	39,639	1,313	3.3	PASQUOTANK	17,312	665	3.8
CHEROKEE	10,753	437	4.1	PENDER	32,018	1,124	3.5
CHOWAN	6,016	214	3.6	PERQUIMANS	5,046	207	4.1
CLAY	4,535	171	3.8	PERSON	19,926	675	3.4
CLEVELAND	42,462	1,880	4.4	PITT	83,703	3,595	4.3
COLUMBUS	19,169	849	4.4	POLK	9,208	314	3.4
CRAVEN	38,945	1,534	3.9	RANDOLPH	65,310	2,471	3.8
CUMBERLAND	125,326	5,929	4.7	RICHMOND	18,018	729	4.0
CURRITUCK	16,286	457	2.8	ROBESON	41,145	2,230	5.4
DARE	20,993	651	3.1	ROCKINGHAM	39,071	1,560	4.0
DAVIDSON	78,881	2,946	3.7	ROWAN	69,526	2,550	3.7
DAVIE	20,300	738	3.6	RUTHERFORD	25,449	1,112	4.4
DUPLIN	21,316	771	3.6	SAMPSON	22,833	943	4.1
DURHAM	185,136	6,252	3.4	SCOTLAND	12,717	623	4.9
EDGECOMBE	19,932	1,093	5.5	STANLY	32,320	1,082	3.3
FORSYTH	181,014	7,108	3.9	STOKES	19,861	711	3.6
FRANKLIN	39,996	1,356	3.4	SURRY	30,892	1,077	3.5
GASTON	115,078	4,360	3.8	SWAIN	6,487	204	3.1
GATES	4,404	165	3.7	TRANSYLVANIA	14,372	490	3.4
GRAHAM	3,351	117	3.5	TYRRELL	1,220	58	4.8
GRANVILLE	28,438	996	3.5	UNION	131,728	4,499	3.4
GREENE	8,144	298	3.7	VANCE	18,247	859	4.7
GUILFORD	259,621	11,070	4.3	WAKE	695,677	22,341	3.2
HALIFAX	17,586	960	5.5	WARREN	6,962	334	4.8
HARNETT	58,753	2,428	4.1	WASHINGTON	3,727	184	4.9
HAYWOOD	27,890	944	3.4	WATAUGA	27,671	1,027	3.7
HENDERSON	55,643	1,770	3.2	WAYNE	47,869	1,946	4.1
HERTFORD	7,828	335	4.3	WILKES	24,078	982	4.1
HOKE	19,933	947	4.8	WILSON	33,258	1,680	5.1
HYDE	1,527	74	4.8	YADKIN	16,657	570	3.4
IREDELL	102,850	3,601	3.5	YANCEY	8,446	279	3.3
JACKSON	21,880	785	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	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.7	3.5	4.1	0.2	-0.4	JOHNSTON	3.2	3.0	3.4	0.2	-0.2
ALAMANCE	3.8	3.6	4.4	0.2	-0.6	JONES	4.0	3.6	4.6	0.4	-0.6
ALEXANDER	3.7	3.3	3.8	0.4	-0.1	LEE	3.8	3.5	4.2	0.3	-0.4
ALLEGHANY	3.9	3.6	3.8	0.3	0.1	LENOIR	4.1	3.8	4.4	0.3	-0.3
ANSON	4.7	4.3	4.9	0.4	-0.2	LINCOLN	3.4	3.2	3.5	0.2	-0.1
ASHE	3.2	3.0	3.4	0.2	-0.2	MCDOWELL	4.0	3.7	4.5	0.3	-0.5
AVERY	3.2	3.0	3.9	0.2	-0.7	MACON	3.6	3.4	3.5	0.2	0.1
BEAUFORT	3.7	3.5	3.7	0.2	0.0	MADISON	3.5	3.4	4.4	0.1	-0.9
BERTIE	5.1	4.6	5.3	0.5	-0.2	MARTIN	4.3	4.0	4.5	0.3	-0.2
BLADEN	5.2	4.8	6.3	0.4	-1.1	MECKLENBURG	3.7	3.6	4.2	0.1	-0.5
BRUNSWICK	4.1	4.0	4.3	0.1	-0.2	MITCHELL	3.6	3.5	4.8	0.1	-1.2
BUNCOMBE	3.4	3.2	4.5	0.2	-1.1	MONTGOMERY	4.2	3.8	4.5	0.4	-0.3
BURKE	3.7	3.4	4.0	0.3	-0.3	MOORE	3.5	3.2	3.6	0.3	-0.1
CABARRUS	3.6	3.4	3.8	0.2	-0.2	NASH	4.7	4.5	5.4	0.2	-0.7
CALDWELL	3.7	3.6	4.0	0.1	-0.3	NEW HANOVER	3.4	3.2	3.7	0.2	-0.3
CAMDEN	3.1	2.8	3.1	0.3	0.0	NORTHAMPTON	4.8	4.3	5.7	0.5	-0.9
CARTERET	3.3	3.1	3.5	0.2	-0.2	ONslow	4.2	3.9	4.3	0.3	-0.1
CASWELL	3.8	3.5	3.9	0.3	-0.1	ORANGE	3.5	3.3	3.7	0.2	-0.2
CATAWBA	3.6	3.4	3.9	0.2	-0.3	PAMLICO	3.6	3.4	3.7	0.2	-0.1
CHATHAM	3.3	3.1	3.5	0.2	-0.2	PASQUOTANK	3.8	3.7	4.3	0.1	-0.5
CHEROKEE	4.1	3.9	4.3	0.2	-0.2	PENDER	3.5	3.3	3.8	0.2	-0.3
CHOWAN	3.6	3.3	3.7	0.3	-0.1	PERQUIMANS	4.1	3.9	4.0	0.2	0.1
CLAY	3.8	3.5	3.7	0.3	0.1	PERSON	3.4	3.2	3.7	0.2	-0.3
CLEVELAND	4.4	4.2	4.8	0.2	-0.4	PITT	4.3	4.0	4.7	0.3	-0.4
COLUMBUS	4.4	4.2	4.7	0.2	-0.3	POLK	3.4	3.1	3.7	0.3	-0.3
Craven	3.9	3.7	4.1	0.2	-0.2	RANDOLPH	3.8	3.6	3.9	0.2	-0.1
CUMBERLAND	4.7	4.4	5.3	0.3	-0.6	RICHMOND	4.0	3.7	4.7	0.3	-0.7
CURRITUCK	2.8	2.7	2.8	0.1	0.0	ROBESON	5.4	4.8	6.2	0.6	-0.8
DARE	3.1	3.0	3.2	0.1	-0.1	ROCKINGHAM	4.0	3.8	4.5	0.2	-0.5
DAVIDSON	3.7	3.5	4.1	0.2	-0.4	ROWAN	3.7	3.5	4.0	0.2	-0.3
DAVIE	3.6	3.4	3.7	0.2	-0.1	RUTHERFORD	4.4	4.2	5.2	0.2	-0.8
DUPLIN	3.6	3.2	3.7	0.4	-0.1	SAMPSON	4.1	3.7	4.4	0.4	-0.3
DURHAM	3.4	3.2	3.7	0.2	-0.3	SCOTLAND	4.9	4.6	5.9	0.3	-1.0
EDGEcombe	5.5	5.3	6.2	0.2	-0.7	STANLY	3.3	3.1	3.6	0.2	-0.3
FORSYTH	3.9	3.8	4.3	0.1	-0.4	STOKES	3.6	3.5	4.0	0.1	-0.4
FRANKLIN	3.4	3.3	3.7	0.1	-0.3	SURRY	3.5	3.3	3.7	0.2	-0.2
GASTON	3.8	3.6	4.2	0.2	-0.4	SWAIN	3.1	2.9	3.5	0.2	-0.4
GATES	3.7	3.4	3.9	0.3	-0.2	TRANSYLVANIA	3.4	3.3	3.5	0.1	-0.1
GRAHAM	3.5	3.4	3.6	0.1	-0.1	TYRRELL	4.8	4.2	5.1	0.6	-0.3
GRANVILLE	3.5	3.4	3.9	0.1	-0.4	UNION	3.4	3.2	3.6	0.2	-0.2
GREENE	3.7	3.2	3.9	0.5	-0.2	VANCE	4.7	4.4	5.0	0.3	-0.3
GUILFORD	4.3	4.0	4.8	0.3	-0.5	WAKE	3.2	3.1	3.4	0.1	-0.2
HALIFAX	5.5	5.1	6.1	0.4	-0.6	WARREN	4.8	4.7	5.3	0.1	-0.5
HARNETT	4.1	3.8	4.4	0.3	-0.3	WASHINGTON	4.9	4.3	5.1	0.6	-0.2
HAYWOOD	3.4	3.3	3.7	0.1	-0.3	WATAUGA	3.7	3.3	4.0	0.4	-0.3
HENDERSON	3.2	3.0	3.3	0.2	-0.1	WAYNE	4.1	3.7	4.1	0.4	0.0
HERTFORD	4.3	4.0	4.9	0.3	-0.6	WILKES	4.1	3.7	4.4	0.4	-0.3
HOKE	4.8	4.4	4.8	0.4	0.0	WILSON	5.1	4.7	6.0	0.4	-0.9
HYDE	4.8	4.5	4.8	0.3	0.0	YADKIN	3.4	3.2	3.5	0.2	-0.1
IREDELL	3.5	3.3	3.8	0.2	-0.3	YANCEY	3.3	3.2	4.2	0.1	-0.9
JACKSON	3.6	3.2	3.8	0.4	-0.2						

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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
July 2026

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	201,242	6,681	3.3
BURLINGTON	82,650	3,163	3.8
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,482,142	55,235	3.7
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	322,312	10,969	3.4
FAYETTEVILLE	145,259	6,876	4.7
GOLDSBORO	47,869	1,946	4.1
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	364,002	15,101	4.1
GREENVILLE	83,703	3,595	4.3
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	162,305	5,928	3.7
JACKSONVILLE	68,803	2,901	4.2
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	45,644	1,607	3.5
RALEIGH	865,968	27,852	3.2
ROCKY MOUNT	61,621	3,035	4.9
WILMINGTON	226,575	8,224	3.6
WINSTON-SALEM	316,713	12,073	3.8

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	32,320	1,082	3.3
ANDERSON CREEK	58,753	2,428	4.1
BOONE	27,671	1,027	3.7
BREVARD	14,372	490	3.4
ELIZABETH CITY	17,312	665	3.8
FOREST CITY	25,449	1,112	4.4
HENDERSON	18,247	859	4.7
KILL DEVIL HILLS	20,993	651	3.1
KINSTON	23,607	963	4.1
LAURINBURG	12,717	623	4.9
LUMBERTON	41,145	2,230	5.4
MARION	17,948	719	4.0
MOREHEAD CITY	32,126	1,073	3.3
MOUNT AIRY	30,892	1,077	3.5
MOREHEAD CITY	47,675	1,861	3.9
NEW BERN	24,078	982	4.1
NORTH WILKESBORO	23,638	1,249	5.3
ROCKINGHAM	18,018	729	4.0
SANFORD	29,821	1,144	3.8
SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN	42,462	1,880	4.4
WASHINGTON	18,632	697	3.7
WAYNESVILLE	27,890	944	3.4
WILSON	33,258	1,680	5.1

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Data for
July 2026

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD	243,504	8,115	3.3
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,737,177	64,844	3.7
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST	262,783	12,065	4.6
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	794,257	31,414	4.0
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	102,335	4,292	4.2
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	79,801	2,934	3.7
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY	1,295,101	43,252	3.3
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	118,517	5,964	5.0

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
MULTICOUNTY SMALL LABOR MARKET AREA
MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES**

Metropolitan Statistical Area	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	3.3	3.2	4.2	0.1	-0.9
BURLINGTON	3.8	3.6	4.4	0.2	-0.6
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.7	3.6	4.2	0.1	-0.5
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.4	3.2	3.7	0.2	-0.3
FAYETTEVILLE	4.7	4.4	5.2	0.3	-0.5
GOLDSBORO	4.1	3.7	4.1	0.4	0.0
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	4.1	3.9	4.6	0.2	-0.5
GREENVILLE	4.3	4.0	4.7	0.3	-0.4
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.7	3.5	3.9	0.2	-0.2
JACKSONVILLE	4.2	3.9	4.3	0.3	-0.1
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.5	3.2	3.6	0.3	-0.1
RALEIGH	3.2	3.1	3.4	0.1	-0.2
ROCKY MOUNT	4.9	4.7	5.7	0.2	-0.8
WILMINGTON	3.6	3.5	3.9	0.1	-0.3
WINSTON-SALEM	3.8	3.6	4.2	0.2	-0.4

Micropolitan Statistical Area	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	3.3	3.1	3.6	0.2	-0.3
ANDERSON CREEK	4.1	3.8	4.4	0.3	-0.3
BOONE	3.7	3.3	4.0	0.4	-0.3
BREVARD	3.4	3.3	3.5	0.1	-0.1
ELIZABETH CITY	3.8	3.7	4.3	0.1	-0.5
FOREST CITY	4.4	4.2	5.2	0.2	-0.8
HENDERSON	4.7	4.4	5.0	0.3	-0.3
KILL DEVIL HILLS	3.1	3.0	3.2	0.1	-0.1
KINSTON	4.1	3.8	4.4	0.3	-0.3
LAURINBURG	4.9	4.6	5.9	0.3	-1.0
LUMBERTON	5.4	4.8	6.2	0.6	-0.8
MARION	4.0	3.7	4.5	0.3	-0.5
MOREHEAD CITY	3.3	3.1	3.5	0.2	-0.2
MOUNT AIRY	3.5	3.3	3.7	0.2	-0.2
MOREHEAD CITY	3.9	3.6	4.1	0.3	-0.2
NEW BERN	4.1	3.7	4.4	0.4	-0.3
NORTH WILKESBORO	5.3	4.9	6.0	0.4	-0.7
ROCKINGHAM	4.0	3.7	4.7	0.3	-0.7
SANFORD	3.8	3.5	4.2	0.3	-0.4
SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN	4.4	4.2	4.8	0.2	-0.4
WASHINGTON	3.7	3.5	3.7	0.2	0.0
WAYNESVILLE	3.4	3.3	3.7	0.1	-0.3
WILSON	5.1	4.7	6.0	0.4	-0.9

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

Combined Statistical Area	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD	3.3	3.2	4.1	0.1	-0.8
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.7	3.6	4.2	0.1	-0.5
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST	4.6	4.2	5.1	0.4	-0.5
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	4.0	3.7	4.4	0.3	-0.4
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	4.2	3.9	4.5	0.3	-0.3
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.7	3.4	3.9	0.3	-0.2
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY	3.3	3.2	3.6	0.1	-0.3
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	5.0	4.7	5.8	0.3	-0.8

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 July 2026

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
CURRITUCK	16,286	457	2.8	1	BEAUFORT	18,632	697	3.7	51
DARE	20,993	651	3.1	2	GATES	4,404	165	3.7	52
CAMDEN	5,323	166	3.1	3	CLAY	4,535	171	3.8	53
SWAIN	6,487	204	3.1	4	CASWELL	9,412	356	3.8	54
HENDERSON	55,643	1,770	3.2	5	RANDOLPH	65,310	2,471	3.8	55
AVERY	7,950	253	3.2	6	GASTON	115,078	4,360	3.8	56
JOHNSTON	130,295	4,155	3.2	7	ALAMANCE	82,650	3,163	3.8	57
ASHE	11,938	383	3.2	8	LEE	29,821	1,144	3.8	58
WAKE	695,677	22,341	3.2	9	PASQUOTANK	17,312	665	3.8	59
YANCEY	8,446	279	3.3	10	ALLEGHANY	4,474	174	3.9	60
CHATHAM	39,639	1,313	3.3	11	FORSYTH	181,014	7,108	3.9	61
CARTERET	32,126	1,073	3.3	12	CRAVEN	38,945	1,534	3.9	62
STANLY	32,320	1,082	3.3	13	ROCKINGHAM	39,071	1,560	4.0	63
BUNCOMBE	135,287	4,551	3.4	14	JONES	3,576	143	4.0	64
DURHAM	185,136	6,252	3.4	15	MCDOWELL	17,948	719	4.0	65
HAYWOOD	27,890	944	3.4	16	RICHMOND	18,018	729	4.0	66
PERSON	19,926	675	3.4	17	CHEROKEE	10,753	437	4.1	67
NEW HANOVER	126,104	4,273	3.4	18	WAYNE	47,869	1,946	4.1	68
FRANKLIN	39,996	1,356	3.4	19	WILKES	24,078	982	4.1	69
TRANSYLVANIA	14,372	490	3.4	20	LENOIR	23,607	963	4.1	70
POLK	9,208	314	3.4	21	PERQUIMANS	5,046	207	4.1	71
UNION	131,728	4,499	3.4	22	BRUNSWICK	68,453	2,827	4.1	72
YADKIN	16,657	570	3.4	23	SAMPSON	22,833	943	4.1	73
LINCOLN	47,102	1,623	3.4	24	HARNETT	58,753	2,428	4.1	74
SURRY	30,892	1,077	3.5	25	MONTGOMERY	9,828	412	4.2	75
MADISON	10,312	360	3.5	26	ONSLOW	68,803	2,901	4.2	76
GRAHAM	3,351	117	3.5	27	GUILFORD	259,621	11,070	4.3	77
IREDELL	102,850	3,601	3.5	28	HERTFORD	7,828	335	4.3	78
GRANVILLE	28,438	996	3.5	29	PITT	83,703	3,595	4.3	79
PENDER	32,018	1,124	3.5	30	MARTIN	8,544	369	4.3	80
ORANGE	77,611	2,729	3.5	31	RUTHERFORD	25,449	1,112	4.4	81
MOORE	45,644	1,607	3.5	32	CLEVELAND	42,462	1,880	4.4	82
CABARRUS	122,981	4,366	3.6	33	COLUMBUS	19,169	849	4.4	83
CHOWAN	6,016	214	3.6	34	NASH	41,689	1,942	4.7	84
PAMLICO	5,154	184	3.6	35	VANCE	18,247	859	4.7	85
MACON	16,682	596	3.6	36	ANSON	8,725	411	4.7	86
STOKES	19,861	711	3.6	37	CUMBERLAND	125,326	5,929	4.7	87
JACKSON	21,880	785	3.6	38	HOKE	19,933	947	4.8	88
DUPLIN	21,316	771	3.6	39	TYRRELL	1,220	58	4.8	89
CATAWBA	74,528	2,704	3.6	40	NORTHAMPTON	6,052	289	4.8	90
DAVIE	20,300	738	3.6	41	WARREN	6,962	334	4.8	91
MITCHELL	6,248	228	3.6	42	HYDE	1,527	74	4.8	92
ALEXANDER	15,279	558	3.7	43	SCOTLAND	12,717	623	4.9	93
BURKE	37,799	1,382	3.7	44	WASHINGTON	3,727	184	4.9	94
GREENE	8,144	298	3.7	45	WILSON	33,258	1,680	5.1	95
ROWAN	69,526	2,550	3.7	46	BERTIE	5,704	292	5.1	96
CALDWELL	34,699	1,284	3.7	47	BLADEN	10,325	541	5.2	97
WATAUGA	27,671	1,027	3.7	48	ROBESON	41,145	2,230	5.4	98
MECKLENBURG	655,465	24,415	3.7	49	HALIFAX	17,586	960	5.5	99
DAVIDSON	78,881	2,946	3.7	50	EDGEcombe	19,932	1,093	5.5	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 Friday, September 18, 2026, when the statewide unemployment rate for August 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>