



*For Immediate Release: May 19, 2026
For More Information, Contact: Patrice Gist Bethea/919.814.4612*

North Carolina’s March County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in all 100 counties in March 2026. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.5 percent while Stanly and Currituck Counties each had the lowest at 2.8 percent. All fifteen of the state’s metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 4.7 percent while Raleigh had the lowest at 3.0 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.5 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
March	95	5	0
February (Revised)	90	9	1

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 93 counties, increased in five, and remained unchanged in two. All 15 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in March by 31,114 to 5,108,174, while those unemployed decreased by 17,410 to 185,549. Since March 2025, the number of workers employed statewide increased 10,610, while those unemployed decreased 16,597.

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, May 22, 2026 when the statewide unemployment rate for April 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
March 2026

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,293,723	185,549	3.5				
ALAMANCE	84,068	2,967	3.5	JOHNSTON	130,457	3,940	3.0
ALEXANDER	15,740	528	3.4	JONES	3,817	135	3.5
ALLEGHANY	4,659	176	3.8	LEE	30,543	1,036	3.4
ANSON	8,868	366	4.1	LENOIR	24,669	885	3.6
ASHE	12,334	362	2.9	LINCOLN	47,476	1,520	3.2
AVERY	7,777	250	3.2	MCDOWELL	18,696	679	3.6
BEAUFORT	19,464	674	3.5	MACON	16,859	574	3.4
BERTIE	6,094	276	4.5	MADISON	10,495	364	3.5
BLADEN	11,155	530	4.8	MARTIN	9,211	338	3.7
BRUNSWICK	69,190	2,765	4.0	MECKLENBURG	660,311	24,199	3.7
BUNCOMBE	137,372	4,627	3.4	MITCHELL	6,490	250	3.9
BURKE	38,835	1,327	3.4	MONTGOMERY	10,335	374	3.6
CABARRUS	123,994	4,248	3.4	MOORE	46,568	1,464	3.1
CALDWELL	35,538	1,244	3.5	NASH	42,590	1,877	4.4
CAMDEN	5,382	154	2.9	NEW HANOVER	127,158	4,028	3.2
CARTERET	32,044	1,048	3.3	NORTHAMPTON	6,403	279	4.4
CASWELL	9,818	320	3.3	ONSLow	72,835	2,713	3.7
CATAWBA	76,374	2,596	3.4	ORANGE	78,037	2,451	3.1
CHATHAM	39,986	1,229	3.1	PAMLICO	5,144	157	3.1
CHEROKEE	11,175	425	3.8	PASQUOTANK	17,848	655	3.7
CHOWAN	6,300	213	3.4	PENDER	32,453	1,065	3.3
CLAY	4,727	154	3.3	PERQUIMANS	5,406	196	3.6
CLEVELAND	44,685	1,874	4.2	PERSON	20,157	641	3.2
COLUMBUS	19,981	789	3.9	PITT	86,169	3,228	3.7
CRAVEN	40,580	1,481	3.6	POLK	9,507	298	3.1
CUMBERLAND	129,559	5,666	4.4	RANDOLPH	67,562	2,310	3.4
CURRITUCK	16,468	464	2.8	RICHMOND	19,238	719	3.7
DARE	18,245	931	5.1	ROBESON	44,078	2,055	4.7
DAVIDSON	80,362	2,798	3.5	ROCKINGHAM	40,391	1,538	3.8
DAVIE	20,772	689	3.3	ROWAN	70,083	2,385	3.4
DUPLIN	23,549	684	2.9	RUTHERFORD	26,473	1,107	4.2
DURHAM	186,421	5,993	3.2	SAMPSON	24,983	905	3.6
EDGECOMBE	20,440	1,098	5.4	SCOTLAND	13,454	640	4.8
FORSYTH	184,302	6,717	3.6	STANLY	34,959	971	2.8
FRANKLIN	40,044	1,259	3.1	STOKES	20,235	674	3.3
GASTON	115,990	4,273	3.7	SURRY	32,410	990	3.1
GATES	4,480	146	3.3	SWAIN	6,245	215	3.4
GRAHAM	3,455	134	3.9	TRANSYLVANIA	14,066	471	3.3
GRANVILLE	29,145	951	3.3	TYRRELL	1,191	63	5.3
GREENE	8,722	266	3.0	UNION	132,780	4,199	3.2
GUILFORD	268,030	10,534	3.9	VANCE	18,895	804	4.3
HALIFAX	18,299	936	5.1	WAKE	695,312	21,142	3.0
HARNETT	61,087	2,246	3.7	WARREN	7,248	316	4.4
HAYWOOD	28,686	904	3.2	WASHINGTON	3,999	169	4.2
HENDERSON	56,449	1,676	3.0	WATAUGA	28,211	914	3.2
HERTFORD	8,204	322	3.9	WAYNE	49,137	1,787	3.6
HOKE	20,663	911	4.4	WILKES	25,678	909	3.5
HYDE	1,515	129	8.5	WILSON	34,575	1,549	4.5
IREDELL	103,871	3,507	3.4	YADKIN	17,055	525	3.1
JACKSON	22,288	714	3.2	YANCEY	8,652	278	3.2

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	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.5	3.8	3.8	-0.3	-0.3	JOHNSTON	3.0	3.3	3.2	-0.3	-0.2
ALAMANCE	3.5	3.8	3.8	-0.3	-0.3	JONES	3.5	4.1	4.2	-0.6	-0.7
ALEXANDER	3.4	3.6	3.8	-0.2	-0.4	LEE	3.4	3.8	3.8	-0.4	-0.4
ALLEGHANY	3.8	4.4	3.7	-0.6	0.1	LENOIR	3.6	3.9	3.8	-0.3	-0.2
ANSON	4.1	4.4	4.4	-0.3	-0.3	LINCOLN	3.2	3.5	3.4	-0.3	-0.2
ASHE	2.9	3.2	3.6	-0.3	-0.7	MCDOWELL	3.6	3.9	4.5	-0.3	-0.9
AVERY	3.2	3.4	4.3	-0.2	-1.1	MACON	3.4	3.8	3.7	-0.4	-0.3
BEAUFORT	3.5	3.8	3.5	-0.3	0.0	MADISON	3.5	3.8	5.3	-0.3	-1.8
BERTIE	4.5	5.2	4.8	-0.7	-0.3	MARTIN	3.7	4.1	3.8	-0.4	-0.1
BLADEN	4.8	5.3	5.1	-0.5	-0.3	MECKLENBURG	3.7	4.1	3.9	-0.4	-0.2
BRUNSWICK	4.0	4.6	4.2	-0.6	-0.2	MITCHELL	3.9	4.3	5.9	-0.4	-2.0
BUNCOMBE	3.4	3.7	5.5	-0.3	-2.1	MONTGOMERY	3.6	4.1	3.9	-0.5	-0.3
BURKE	3.4	3.6	3.9	-0.2	-0.5	MOORE	3.1	3.4	3.3	-0.3	-0.2
CABARRUS	3.4	3.8	3.6	-0.4	-0.2	NASH	4.4	4.9	4.6	-0.5	-0.2
CALDWELL	3.5	3.8	3.8	-0.3	-0.3	NEW HANOVER	3.2	3.5	3.6	-0.3	-0.4
CAMDEN	2.9	3.0	2.9	-0.1	0.0	NORTHAMPTON	4.4	5.2	4.5	-0.8	-0.1
CARTERET	3.3	3.8	3.7	-0.5	-0.4	ONSLow	3.7	4.0	4.0	-0.3	-0.3
CASWELL	3.3	3.7	3.5	-0.4	-0.2	ORANGE	3.1	3.3	3.4	-0.2	-0.3
CATAWBA	3.4	3.7	3.6	-0.3	-0.2	PAMLICO	3.1	3.3	3.7	-0.2	-0.6
CHATHAM	3.1	3.3	3.3	-0.2	-0.2	PASQUOTANK	3.7	4.1	3.9	-0.4	-0.2
CHEROKEE	3.8	4.2	3.9	-0.4	-0.1	PENDER	3.3	3.6	3.5	-0.3	-0.2
CHOWAN	3.4	3.7	3.5	-0.3	-0.1	PERQUIMANS	3.6	4.0	3.8	-0.4	-0.2
CLAY	3.3	3.5	3.7	-0.2	-0.4	PERSON	3.2	3.5	3.4	-0.3	-0.2
CLEVELAND	4.2	4.6	4.3	-0.4	-0.1	PITT	3.7	4.0	4.1	-0.3	-0.4
COLUMBUS	3.9	4.4	4.3	-0.5	-0.4	POLK	3.1	3.4	3.7	-0.3	-0.6
Craven	3.6	4.0	3.8	-0.4	-0.2	RANDOLPH	3.4	3.8	3.5	-0.4	-0.1
CUMBERLAND	4.4	4.7	4.7	-0.3	-0.3	RICHMOND	3.7	4.3	4.1	-0.6	-0.4
CURRITUCK	2.8	3.2	3.0	-0.4	-0.2	ROBESON	4.7	5.2	5.2	-0.5	-0.5
DARE	5.1	6.9	5.6	-1.8	-0.5	ROCKINGHAM	3.8	4.1	4.1	-0.3	-0.3
DAVIDSON	3.5	3.7	3.8	-0.2	-0.3	ROWAN	3.4	3.7	3.8	-0.3	-0.4
DAVIE	3.3	3.4	3.5	-0.1	-0.2	RUTHERFORD	4.2	4.6	4.8	-0.4	-0.6
DUPLIN	2.9	3.2	3.3	-0.3	-0.4	SAMPSON	3.6	4.1	3.9	-0.5	-0.3
DURHAM	3.2	3.5	3.3	-0.3	-0.1	SCOTLAND	4.8	5.3	5.2	-0.5	-0.4
EDGEcombe	5.4	6.2	5.3	-0.8	0.1	STANLY	2.8	3.1	3.1	-0.3	-0.3
FORSYTH	3.6	4.0	3.9	-0.4	-0.3	STOKES	3.3	3.6	3.6	-0.3	-0.3
FRANKLIN	3.1	3.4	3.3	-0.3	-0.2	SURRY	3.1	3.4	3.4	-0.3	-0.3
GASTON	3.7	4.1	3.9	-0.4	-0.2	SWAIN	3.4	4.1	4.2	-0.7	-0.8
GATES	3.3	3.7	3.5	-0.4	-0.2	TRANSYLVANIA	3.3	3.6	3.8	-0.3	-0.5
GRAHAM	3.9	4.4	4.0	-0.5	-0.1	TYRRELL	5.3	6.8	6.2	-1.5	-0.9
GRANVILLE	3.3	3.6	3.6	-0.3	-0.3	UNION	3.2	3.4	3.4	-0.2	-0.2
GREENE	3.0	3.3	3.3	-0.3	-0.3	VANCE	4.3	4.7	4.4	-0.4	-0.1
GUILFORD	3.9	4.3	4.3	-0.4	-0.4	WAKE	3.0	3.3	3.2	-0.3	-0.2
HALIFAX	5.1	5.7	4.9	-0.6	0.2	WARREN	4.4	4.8	5.0	-0.4	-0.6
HARNETT	3.7	4.0	3.9	-0.3	-0.2	WASHINGTON	4.2	4.9	4.7	-0.7	-0.5
HAYWOOD	3.2	3.4	4.0	-0.2	-0.8	WATAUGA	3.2	3.3	3.8	-0.1	-0.6
HENDERSON	3.0	3.2	3.6	-0.2	-0.6	WAYNE	3.6	4.0	3.8	-0.4	-0.2
HERTFORD	3.9	4.2	4.4	-0.3	-0.5	WILKES	3.5	3.8	3.9	-0.3	-0.4
HOKE	4.4	4.8	4.3	-0.4	0.1	WILSON	4.5	5.0	5.0	-0.5	-0.5
HYDE	8.5	10.7	7.8	-2.2	0.7	YADKIN	3.1	3.2	3.3	-0.1	-0.2
IREDELL	3.4	3.7	3.5	-0.3	-0.1	YANCEY	3.2	3.5	4.9	-0.3	-1.7
JACKSON	3.2	3.5	3.9	-0.3	-0.7						

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
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**
*Preliminary Data for
March 2026*

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	204,316	6,667	3.3
BURLINGTON	84,068	2,967	3.5
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,490,229	54,604	3.7
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	324,601	10,314	3.2
FAYETTEVILLE	150,222	6,577	4.4
GOLDSBORO	49,137	1,787	3.6
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	375,983	14,382	3.8
GREENVILLE	86,169	3,228	3.7
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	166,487	5,695	3.4
JACKSONVILLE	72,835	2,713	3.7
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	46,568	1,464	3.1
RALEIGH	865,813	26,341	3.0
ROCKY MOUNT	63,030	2,975	4.7
WILMINGTON	228,801	7,858	3.4
WINSTON-SALEM	322,726	11,403	3.5

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	34,959	971	2.8
ANDERSON CREEK	61,087	2,246	3.7
BOONE	28,211	914	3.2
BREVARD	14,066	471	3.3
ELIZABETH CITY	17,848	655	3.7
FOREST CITY	26,473	1,107	4.2
HENDERSON	18,895	804	4.3
KILL DEVIL HILLS	18,245	931	5.1
KINSTON	24,669	885	3.6
LAURINBURG	13,454	640	4.8
LUMBERTON	44,078	2,055	4.7
MARION	18,696	679	3.6
MOREHEAD CITY	32,044	1,048	3.3
MOUNT AIRY	32,410	990	3.1
MOREHEAD CITY	49,541	1,773	3.6
NEW BERN	25,678	909	3.5
NORTH WILKESBORO	24,702	1,215	4.9
ROCKINGHAM	19,238	719	3.7
SANFORD	30,543	1,036	3.4
SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN	44,685	1,874	4.2
WASHINGTON	19,464	674	3.5
WAYNESVILLE	28,686	904	3.2
WILSON	34,575	1,549	4.5

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

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD	247,068	8,042	3.3
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,755,056	63,823	3.6
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST	273,560	11,455	4.2
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	815,187	29,742	3.6
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	105,633	3,902	3.7
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	81,585	2,821	3.5
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY	1,300,939	40,741	3.1
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	122,307	5,739	4.7

*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	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	3.3	3.6	5.0	-0.3	-1.7
BURLINGTON	3.5	3.8	3.8	-0.3	-0.3
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.7	4.1	3.8	-0.4	-0.1
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.2	3.4	3.3	-0.2	-0.1
FAYETTEVILLE	4.4	4.7	4.6	-0.3	-0.2
GOLDSBORO	3.6	4.0	3.8	-0.4	-0.2
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	3.8	4.2	4.1	-0.4	-0.3
GREENVILLE	3.7	4.0	4.1	-0.3	-0.4
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.4	3.7	3.7	-0.3	-0.3
JACKSONVILLE	3.7	4.0	4.0	-0.3	-0.3
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.1	3.4	3.3	-0.3	-0.2
RALEIGH	3.0	3.3	3.2	-0.3	-0.2
ROCKY MOUNT	4.7	5.3	4.8	-0.6	-0.1
WILMINGTON	3.4	3.8	3.8	-0.4	-0.4
WINSTON-SALEM	3.5	3.8	3.8	-0.3	-0.3

Micropolitan Statistical Area	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	2.8	3.1	3.1	-0.3	-0.3
ANDERSON CREEK	3.7	4.0	3.9	-0.3	-0.2
BOONE	3.2	3.3	3.8	-0.1	-0.6
BREVARD	3.3	3.6	3.8	-0.3	-0.5
ELIZABETH CITY	3.7	4.1	3.9	-0.4	-0.2
FOREST CITY	4.2	4.6	4.8	-0.4	-0.6
HENDERSON	4.3	4.7	4.4	-0.4	-0.1
KILL DEVIL HILLS	5.1	6.9	5.6	-1.8	-0.5
KINSTON	3.6	3.9	3.8	-0.3	-0.2
LAURINBURG	4.8	5.3	5.2	-0.5	-0.4
LUMBERTON	4.7	5.2	5.2	-0.5	-0.5
MARION	3.6	3.9	4.5	-0.3	-0.9
MOREHEAD CITY	3.3	3.8	3.7	-0.5	-0.4
MOUNT AIRY	3.1	3.4	3.4	-0.3	-0.3
MOREHEAD CITY	3.6	3.9	3.8	-0.3	-0.2
NEW BERN	3.5	3.8	3.9	-0.3	-0.4
NORTH WILKESBORO	4.9	5.6	4.8	-0.7	0.1
ROCKINGHAM	3.7	4.3	4.1	-0.6	-0.4
SANFORD	3.4	3.8	3.8	-0.4	-0.4
SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN	4.2	4.6	4.3	-0.4	-0.1
WASHINGTON	3.5	3.8	3.5	-0.3	0.0
WAYNESVILLE	3.2	3.4	4.0	-0.2	-0.8
WILSON	4.5	5.0	5.0	-0.5	-0.5

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

Combined Statistical Area	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD	3.3	3.6	4.8	-0.3	-1.5
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.6	4.1	3.8	-0.5	-0.2
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST	4.2	4.6	4.5	-0.4	-0.3
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	3.6	4.0	3.9	-0.4	-0.3
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	3.7	4.0	4.0	-0.3	-0.3
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.5	3.9	3.8	-0.4	-0.3
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY	3.1	3.4	3.3	-0.3	-0.2
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.7	5.3	4.9	-0.6	-0.2

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 March 2026

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
STANLY	34,959	971	2.8	1	DAVIDSON	80,362	2,798	3.5	51
CURRITUCK	16,468	464	2.8	2	CALDWELL	35,538	1,244	3.5	52
CAMDEN	5,382	154	2.9	3	ALAMANCE	84,068	2,967	3.5	53
DUPLIN	23,549	684	2.9	4	JONES	3,817	135	3.5	54
ASHE	12,334	362	2.9	5	WILKES	25,678	909	3.5	55
HENDERSON	56,449	1,676	3.0	6	LENOIR	24,669	885	3.6	56
JOHNSTON	130,457	3,940	3.0	7	MONTGOMERY	10,335	374	3.6	57
WAKE	695,312	21,142	3.0	8	SAMPSON	24,983	905	3.6	58
GREENE	8,722	266	3.0	9	PERQUIMANS	5,406	196	3.6	59
PAMLICO	5,144	157	3.1	10	MCDOWELL	18,696	679	3.6	60
SURRY	32,410	990	3.1	11	WAYNE	49,137	1,787	3.6	61
CHATHAM	39,986	1,229	3.1	12	FORSYTH	184,302	6,717	3.6	62
YADKIN	17,055	525	3.1	13	GRAVEN	40,580	1,481	3.6	63
POLK	9,507	298	3.1	14	MECKLENBURG	660,311	24,199	3.7	64
ORANGE	78,037	2,451	3.1	15	MARTIN	9,211	338	3.7	65
MOORE	46,568	1,464	3.1	16	PASQUOTANK	17,848	655	3.7	66
FRANKLIN	40,044	1,259	3.1	17	HARNETT	61,087	2,246	3.7	67
HAYWOOD	28,686	904	3.2	18	GASTON	115,990	4,273	3.7	68
UNION	132,780	4,199	3.2	19	ONSLOW	72,835	2,713	3.7	69
NEW HANOVER	127,158	4,028	3.2	20	RICHMOND	19,238	719	3.7	70
PERSON	20,157	641	3.2	21	PITT	86,169	3,228	3.7	71
LINCOLN	47,476	1,520	3.2	22	ALLEGHANY	4,659	176	3.8	72
JACKSON	22,288	714	3.2	23	CHEROKEE	11,175	425	3.8	73
YANCEY	8,652	278	3.2	24	ROCKINGHAM	40,391	1,538	3.8	74
AVERY	7,777	250	3.2	25	MITCHELL	6,490	250	3.9	75
DURHAM	186,421	5,993	3.2	26	GRAHAM	3,455	134	3.9	76
WATAUGA	28,211	914	3.2	27	HERTFORD	8,204	322	3.9	77
CLAY	4,727	154	3.3	28	GUILFORD	268,030	10,534	3.9	78
GATES	4,480	146	3.3	29	COLUMBUS	19,981	789	3.9	79
CASWELL	9,818	320	3.3	30	BRUNSWICK	69,190	2,765	4.0	80
GRANVILLE	29,145	951	3.3	31	ANSON	8,868	366	4.1	81
CARTERET	32,044	1,048	3.3	32	RUTHERFORD	26,473	1,107	4.2	82
PENDER	32,453	1,065	3.3	33	CLEVELAND	44,685	1,874	4.2	83
DAVIE	20,772	689	3.3	34	WASHINGTON	3,999	169	4.2	84
STOKES	20,235	674	3.3	35	VANCE	18,895	804	4.3	85
TRANSYLVANIA	14,066	471	3.3	36	NORTHAMPTON	6,403	279	4.4	86
ALEXANDER	15,740	528	3.4	37	WARREN	7,248	316	4.4	87
BUNCOMBE	137,372	4,627	3.4	38	CUMBERLAND	129,559	5,666	4.4	88
IREDELL	103,871	3,507	3.4	39	NASH	42,590	1,877	4.4	89
CHOWAN	6,300	213	3.4	40	HOKE	20,663	911	4.4	90
LEE	30,543	1,036	3.4	41	WILSON	34,575	1,549	4.5	91
CATAWBA	76,374	2,596	3.4	42	BERTIE	6,094	276	4.5	92
ROWAN	70,083	2,385	3.4	43	ROBESON	44,078	2,055	4.7	93
MACON	16,859	574	3.4	44	BLADEN	11,155	530	4.8	94
BURKE	38,835	1,327	3.4	45	SCOTLAND	13,454	640	4.8	95
RANDOLPH	67,562	2,310	3.4	46	DARE	18,245	931	5.1	96
CABARRUS	123,994	4,248	3.4	47	HALIFAX	18,299	936	5.1	97
SWAIN	6,245	215	3.4	48	TYRRELL	1,191	63	5.3	98
BEAUFORT	19,464	674	3.5	49	EDGECOMBE	20,440	1,098	5.4	99
MADISON	10,495	364	3.5	50	HYDE	1,515	129	8.5	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, May 22, 2026 when the statewide unemployment rate for April 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>