



*For Immediate Release: July 3, 2024  
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## North Carolina’s May County and Area Employment Figures Released

**RALEIGH** — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 95 of North Carolina’s counties in May 2024, decreased in four, and remained unchanged in one. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 6.0 percent while Buncombe and Currituck Counties each had the lowest at 2.8 percent. All fifteen of the state’s metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 4.7 percent while Asheville had the lowest at 2.9 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
<b>May</b>	95	5	0
<b>April (Revised)</b>	97	3	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 71 counties, decreased in 17, and remained unchanged in 12. Eleven metro areas experienced rate increases over the year, one decreased, and three remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in May by 17,523 to 5,100,685, while those unemployed increased by 12,332 to 185,896. Since May 2023, the number of workers employed statewide increased 42,648, while those unemployed increased 8,953.

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, July 19, 2024 when the statewide unemployment rate for June 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  
May 2024*

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,286,581	185,896	3.5				
ALAMANCE	87,059	3,039	3.5	JOHNSTON	113,079	3,635	3.2
ALEXANDER	18,073	608	3.4	JONES	4,517	137	3.0
ALLEGHANY	4,319	185	4.3	LEE	25,398	1,001	3.9
ANSON	10,349	411	4.0	LENOIR	27,796	951	3.4
ASHE	12,899	377	2.9	LINCOLN	47,849	1,454	3.0
AVERY	7,902	247	3.1	MCDOWELL	20,439	689	3.4
BEAUFORT	19,682	761	3.9	MACON	16,613	537	3.2
BERTIE	7,017	326	4.6	MADISON	10,290	317	3.1
BLADEN	14,761	630	4.3	MARTIN	8,780	388	4.4
BRUNSWICK	61,037	2,482	4.1	MECKLENBURG	672,189	22,984	3.4
BUNCOMBE	144,867	4,058	2.8	MITCHELL	6,242	220	3.5
BURKE	40,778	1,401	3.4	MONTGOMERY	11,214	412	3.7
CABARRUS	119,884	4,019	3.4	MOORE	43,029	1,498	3.5
CALDWELL	36,268	1,280	3.5	NASH	42,648	1,890	4.4
CAMDEN	4,874	156	3.2	NEW HANOVER	134,648	4,100	3.0
CARTERET	33,068	1,073	3.2	NORTHAMPTON	7,360	303	4.1
CASWELL	9,937	360	3.6	ONSLow	71,188	2,895	4.1
CATAWBA	79,199	2,766	3.5	ORANGE	84,266	2,533	3.0
CHATHAM	38,792	1,202	3.1	PAMLICO	5,694	188	3.3
CHEROKEE	10,932	447	4.1	PASQUOTANK	17,308	680	3.9
CHOWAN	6,014	215	3.6	PENDER	32,103	1,017	3.2
CLAY	4,235	150	3.5	PERQUIMANS	5,201	218	4.2
CLEVELAND	50,064	1,742	3.5	PERSON	19,508	693	3.6
COLUMBUS	22,418	962	4.3	PITT	90,583	3,538	3.9
CRAVEN	43,325	1,492	3.4	POLK	9,562	312	3.3
CUMBERLAND	130,995	6,104	4.7	RANDOLPH	65,983	2,383	3.6
CURRITUCK	15,018	428	2.8	RICHMOND	17,181	787	4.6
DARE	20,808	688	3.3	ROBESON	48,071	2,391	5.0
DAVIDSON	81,822	2,910	3.6	ROCKINGHAM	39,753	1,570	3.9
DAVIE	20,868	673	3.2	ROWAN	69,833	2,383	3.4
DUPLIN	26,645	855	3.2	RUTHERFORD	23,868	1,095	4.6
DURHAM	185,176	5,794	3.1	SAMPSON	28,764	995	3.5
EDGECOMBE	20,330	1,079	5.3	SCOTLAND	11,227	678	6.0
FORSYTH	189,027	6,810	3.6	STANLY	31,773	1,005	3.2
FRANKLIN	35,530	1,266	3.6	STOKES	21,744	720	3.3
GASTON	118,130	4,103	3.5	SURRY	33,399	1,092	3.3
GATES	5,299	172	3.2	SWAIN	7,018	218	3.1
GRAHAM	2,978	129	4.3	TRANSYLVANIA	15,031	506	3.4
GRANVILLE	30,803	958	3.1	TYRRELL	1,402	57	4.1
GREENE	9,961	291	2.9	UNION	134,650	4,216	3.1
GUILFORD	261,937	10,726	4.1	VANCE	16,574	861	5.2
HALIFAX	19,457	965	5.0	WAKE	659,465	20,536	3.1
HARNETT	56,100	2,280	4.1	WARREN	6,357	338	5.3
HAYWOOD	30,856	946	3.1	WASHINGTON	4,338	180	4.1
HENDERSON	56,808	1,715	3.0	WATAUGA	29,124	930	3.2
HERTFORD	8,331	412	4.9	WAYNE	52,790	1,985	3.8
HOKE	20,857	935	4.5	WILKES	25,924	1,016	3.9
HYDE	1,859	76	4.1	WILSON	34,115	1,834	5.4
IREDELL	97,719	3,267	3.3	YADKIN	17,789	562	3.2
JACKSON	19,491	731	3.8	YANCEY	8,343	263	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	May 2024	April 2024	May 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	May 2024	April 2024	May 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.5	3.3	3.4	0.2	0.1	JOHNSTON	3.2	3.0	3.1	0.2	0.1
ALAMANCE	3.5	3.3	3.3	0.2	0.2	JONES	3.0	2.7	3.2	0.3	-0.2
ALEXANDER	3.4	3.2	3.0	0.2	0.4	LEE	3.9	3.7	3.8	0.2	0.1
ALLEGHANY	4.3	3.8	4.7	0.5	-0.4	LENOIR	3.4	3.2	3.3	0.2	0.1
ANSON	4.0	3.7	3.9	0.3	0.1	LINCOLN	3.0	2.9	3.0	0.1	0.0
ASHE	2.9	2.6	2.9	0.3	0.0	MCDOWELL	3.4	3.0	3.2	0.4	0.2
AVERY	3.1	2.9	2.9	0.2	0.2	MACON	3.2	2.9	3.0	0.3	0.2
BEAUFORT	3.9	3.5	4.1	0.4	-0.2	MADISON	3.1	2.8	3.2	0.3	-0.1
BERTIE	4.6	4.3	4.2	0.3	0.4	MARTIN	4.4	4.1	4.2	0.3	0.2
BLADEN	4.3	4.1	4.1	0.2	0.2	MECKLENBURG	3.4	3.3	3.2	0.1	0.2
BRUNSWICK	4.1	3.8	4.0	0.3	0.1	MITCHELL	3.5	3.2	3.4	0.3	0.1
BUNCOMBE	2.8	2.6	2.6	0.2	0.2	MONTGOMERY	3.7	3.5	3.5	0.2	0.2
BURKE	3.4	3.1	3.4	0.3	0.0	MOORE	3.5	3.3	3.5	0.2	0.0
CABARRUS	3.4	3.3	3.1	0.1	0.3	NASH	4.4	4.2	4.5	0.2	-0.1
CALDWELL	3.5	3.3	3.4	0.2	0.1	NEW HANOVER	3.0	2.8	3.0	0.2	0.0
CAMDEN	3.2	2.8	3.1	0.4	0.1	NORTHAMPTON	4.1	3.8	4.4	0.3	-0.3
CARTERET	3.2	3.1	3.1	0.1	0.1	ONSLow	4.1	3.8	3.9	0.3	0.2
CASWELL	3.6	3.6	3.4	0.0	0.2	ORANGE	3.0	2.7	2.9	0.3	0.1
CATAWBA	3.5	3.2	3.3	0.3	0.2	PAMLICO	3.3	3.2	3.2	0.1	0.1
CHATHAM	3.1	2.9	2.9	0.2	0.2	PASQUOTANK	3.9	3.6	3.8	0.3	0.1
CHEROKEE	4.1	3.7	3.7	0.4	0.4	PENDER	3.2	2.9	3.1	0.3	0.1
CHOWAN	3.6	3.2	3.6	0.4	0.0	PERQUIMANS	4.2	3.8	3.8	0.4	0.4
CLAY	3.5	3.2	3.6	0.3	-0.1	PERSON	3.6	3.4	3.5	0.2	0.1
CLEVELAND	3.5	3.2	3.4	0.3	0.1	PITT	3.9	3.6	3.9	0.3	0.0
COLUMBUS	4.3	4.0	3.8	0.3	0.5	POLK	3.3	3.0	3.4	0.3	-0.1
Craven	3.4	3.2	3.4	0.2	0.0	RANDOLPH	3.6	3.3	3.5	0.3	0.1
CUMBERLAND	4.7	4.4	4.6	0.3	0.1	RICHMOND	4.6	4.2	4.4	0.4	0.2
CURRITUCK	2.8	2.7	2.9	0.1	-0.1	ROBESON	5.0	4.6	4.8	0.4	0.2
DARE	3.3	3.8	3.3	-0.5	0.0	ROCKINGHAM	3.9	3.6	3.9	0.3	0.0
DAVIDSON	3.6	3.3	3.3	0.3	0.3	ROWAN	3.4	3.2	3.3	0.2	0.1
DAVIE	3.2	3.0	3.1	0.2	0.1	RUTHERFORD	4.6	4.2	4.4	0.4	0.2
DUPLIN	3.2	2.9	3.3	0.3	-0.1	SAMPSON	3.5	3.2	3.3	0.3	0.2
DURHAM	3.1	2.9	3.0	0.2	0.1	SCOTLAND	6.0	5.8	6.2	0.2	-0.2
EDGEcombe	5.3	5.1	5.5	0.2	-0.2	STANLY	3.2	3.0	3.0	0.2	0.2
FORSYTH	3.6	3.3	3.5	0.3	0.1	STOKES	3.3	3.1	3.1	0.2	0.2
FRANKLIN	3.6	3.4	3.5	0.2	0.1	SURRY	3.3	3.0	3.1	0.3	0.2
GASTON	3.5	3.3	3.3	0.2	0.2	SWAIN	3.1	3.2	2.7	-0.1	0.4
GATES	3.2	2.8	3.4	0.4	-0.2	TRANSYLVANIA	3.4	3.1	3.2	0.3	0.2
GRAHAM	4.3	4.1	4.1	0.2	0.2	TYRRELL	4.1	4.8	4.5	-0.7	-0.4
GRANVILLE	3.1	2.9	2.9	0.2	0.2	UNION	3.1	2.9	2.9	0.2	0.2
GREENE	2.9	2.6	2.9	0.3	0.0	VANCE	5.2	4.8	5.3	0.4	-0.1
GUILFORD	4.1	3.8	3.9	0.3	0.2	WAKE	3.1	3.0	3.0	0.1	0.1
HALIFAX	5.0	4.7	5.0	0.3	0.0	WARREN	5.3	5.0	5.1	0.3	0.2
HARNETT	4.1	3.7	3.8	0.4	0.3	WASHINGTON	4.1	4.0	4.7	0.1	-0.6
HAYWOOD	3.1	2.8	2.8	0.3	0.3	WATAUGA	3.2	2.9	3.1	0.3	0.1
HENDERSON	3.0	2.7	2.8	0.3	0.2	WAYNE	3.8	3.5	3.7	0.3	0.1
HERTFORD	4.9	4.5	4.7	0.4	0.2	WILKES	3.9	3.5	3.7	0.4	0.2
HOKE	4.5	4.0	4.3	0.5	0.2	WILSON	5.4	5.1	4.8	0.3	0.6
HYDE	4.1	4.3	4.6	-0.2	-0.5	YADKIN	3.2	2.8	3.1	0.4	0.1
IREDELL	3.3	3.1	3.1	0.2	0.2	YANCEY	3.2	2.9	3.1	0.3	0.1
JACKSON	3.8	3.5	3.6	0.3	0.2						

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

*Preliminary Data for  
May 2024*

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	242,821	7,036	2.9
BURLINGTON	87,059	3,039	3.5
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,473,858	50,091	3.4
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	327,742	10,222	3.1
FAYETTEVILLE	151,852	7,039	4.6
GOLDSBORO	52,790	1,985	3.8
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	367,673	14,679	4.0
GREENVILLE	90,583	3,538	3.9
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	174,318	6,055	3.5
JACKSONVILLE	71,188	2,895	4.1
NEW BERN	53,536	1,817	3.4
RALEIGH	808,074	25,437	3.1
ROCKY MOUNT	62,978	2,969	4.7
WILMINGTON	166,751	5,117	3.1
WINSTON-SALEM	331,250	11,675	3.5

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	31,773	1,005	3.2
BOONE	29,124	930	3.2
BREVARD	15,031	506	3.4
CULLOWHEE	19,491	731	3.8
DUNN	56,100	2,280	4.1
ELIZABETH CITY	27,383	1,054	3.8
FOREST CITY	23,868	1,095	4.6
HENDERSON	16,574	861	5.2
KILL DEVIL HILLS	22,210	745	3.4
KINSTON	27,796	951	3.4
LAURINBURG	11,227	678	6.0
LUMBERTON	48,071	2,391	5.0
MARION	20,439	689	3.4
MOREHEAD CITY	33,068	1,073	3.2
MOUNT AIRY	33,399	1,092	3.3
NORTH WILKESBORO	25,924	1,016	3.9
OXFORD	30,803	958	3.1
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	43,029	1,498	3.5
ROANOKE RAPIDS	26,817	1,268	4.7
ROCKINGHAM	17,181	787	4.6
SANFORD	25,398	1,001	3.9
SHELBY	50,064	1,742	3.5
WASHINGTON	19,682	761	3.9
WILSON	34,115	1,834	5.4

**COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS  
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**

*Preliminary Data for  
May 2024*

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	257,852	7,542	2.9
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,555,695	52,838	3.4
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	211,150	10,108	4.8
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	819,381	30,485	3.7
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	110,265	4,299	3.9
HICKORY-LENOIR	194,757	6,744	3.5
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	86,604	2,890	3.3
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	1,264,691	40,759	3.2
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	123,910	6,071	4.9

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**METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS  
MULTICOUNTY SMALL LABOR MARKET AREA  
MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES**

Metropolitan Statistical Area	May 2024	April 2024	May 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	2.9	2.7	2.7	0.2	0.2
BURLINGTON	3.5	3.3	3.3	0.2	0.2
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.4	3.2	3.1	0.2	0.3
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.1	2.9	3.0	0.2	0.1
FAYETTEVILLE	4.6	4.3	4.6	0.3	0.0
GOLDSBORO	3.8	3.5	3.7	0.3	0.1
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	4.0	3.7	3.8	0.3	0.2
GREENVILLE	3.9	3.6	3.9	0.3	0.0
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.5	3.2	3.3	0.3	0.2
JACKSONVILLE	4.1	3.8	3.9	0.3	0.2
NEW BERN	3.4	3.1	3.4	0.3	0.0
RALEIGH	3.1	3.0	3.0	0.1	0.1
ROCKY MOUNT	4.7	4.5	4.8	0.2	-0.1
WILMINGTON	3.1	2.8	3.0	0.3	0.1
WINSTON-SALEM	3.5	3.3	3.4	0.2	0.1

Micropolitan Statistical Area	May 2024	April 2024	May 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	3.2	3.0	3.0	0.2	0.2
BOONE	3.2	2.9	3.1	0.3	0.1
BREVARD	3.4	3.1	3.2	0.3	0.2
CULLOWHEE	3.8	3.5	3.6	0.3	0.2
DUNN	4.1	3.7	3.8	0.4	0.3
ELIZABETH CITY	3.8	3.5	3.7	0.3	0.1
FOREST CITY	4.6	4.2	4.4	0.4	0.2
HENDERSON	5.2	4.8	5.3	0.4	-0.1
KILL DEVIL HILLS	3.4	3.8	3.4	-0.4	0.0
KINSTON	3.4	3.2	3.3	0.2	0.1
LAURINBURG	6.0	5.8	6.2	0.2	-0.2
LUMBERTON	5.0	4.6	4.8	0.4	0.2
MARION	3.4	3.0	3.2	0.4	0.2
MOREHEAD CITY	3.2	3.1	3.1	0.1	0.1
MOUNT AIRY	3.3	3.0	3.1	0.3	0.2
NORTH WILKESBORO	3.9	3.5	3.7	0.4	0.2
OXFORD	3.1	2.9	2.9	0.2	0.2
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.5	3.3	3.5	0.2	0.0
ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.7	4.5	4.8	0.2	-0.1
ROCKINGHAM	4.6	4.2	4.4	0.4	0.2
SANFORD	3.9	3.7	3.8	0.2	0.1
SHELBY	3.5	3.2	3.4	0.3	0.1
WASHINGTON	3.9	3.5	4.1	0.4	-0.2
WILSON	5.4	5.1	4.8	0.3	0.6

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

Combined Statistical Area	May 2024	April 2024	May 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	2.9	2.7	2.8	0.2	0.1
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.4	3.2	3.1	0.2	0.3
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	4.8	4.5	4.7	0.3	0.1
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	3.7	3.5	3.6	0.2	0.1
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	3.9	3.6	4.0	0.3	-0.1
HICKORY-LENOIR	3.5	3.2	3.3	0.3	0.2
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.3	3.1	3.3	0.2	0.0
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.2	3.0	3.1	0.2	0.1
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.9	4.7	4.8	0.2	0.1

*Not Seasonally Adjusted*

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**NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY RANKINGS**  
**Preliminary Data for May 2024**

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
BUNCOMBE	144,867	4,058	2.8	1	CATAWBA	79,199	2,766	3.5	51
CURRITUCK	15,018	428	2.8	2	MITCHELL	6,242	220	3.5	52
GREENE	9,961	291	2.9	3	CALDWELL	36,268	1,280	3.5	53
ASHE	12,899	377	2.9	4	CLAY	4,235	150	3.5	54
ORANGE	84,266	2,533	3.0	5	PERSON	19,508	693	3.6	55
HENDERSON	56,808	1,715	3.0	6	DAVIDSON	81,822	2,910	3.6	56
JONES	4,517	137	3.0	7	FRANKLIN	35,530	1,266	3.6	57
LINCOLN	47,849	1,454	3.0	8	CHOWAN	6,014	215	3.6	58
NEW HANOVER	134,648	4,100	3.0	9	FORSYTH	189,027	6,810	3.6	59
HAYWOOD	30,856	946	3.1	10	RANDOLPH	65,983	2,383	3.6	60
MADISON	10,290	317	3.1	11	CASWELL	9,937	360	3.6	61
CHATHAM	38,792	1,202	3.1	12	MONTGOMERY	11,214	412	3.7	62
SWAIN	7,018	218	3.1	13	JACKSON	19,491	731	3.8	63
GRANVILLE	30,803	958	3.1	14	WAYNE	52,790	1,985	3.8	64
WAKE	659,465	20,536	3.1	15	BEAUFORT	19,682	761	3.9	65
AVERY	7,902	247	3.1	16	PITT	90,583	3,538	3.9	66
DURHAM	185,176	5,794	3.1	17	WILKES	25,924	1,016	3.9	67
UNION	134,650	4,216	3.1	18	PASQUOTANK	17,308	680	3.9	68
YANCEY	8,343	263	3.2	19	LEE	25,398	1,001	3.9	69
YADKIN	17,789	562	3.2	20	ROCKINGHAM	39,753	1,570	3.9	70
STANLY	31,773	1,005	3.2	21	ANSON	10,349	411	4.0	71
PENDER	32,103	1,017	3.2	22	HARNETT	56,100	2,280	4.1	72
WATAUGA	29,124	930	3.2	23	TYRRELL	1,402	57	4.1	73
CAMDEN	4,874	156	3.2	24	BRUNSWICK	61,037	2,482	4.1	74
DUPLIN	26,645	855	3.2	25	ONslow	71,188	2,895	4.1	75
JOHNSTON	113,079	3,635	3.2	26	HYDE	1,859	76	4.1	76
DAVIE	20,868	673	3.2	27	CHEROKEE	10,932	447	4.1	77
MACON	16,613	537	3.2	28	GUILFORD	261,937	10,726	4.1	78
CARTERET	33,068	1,073	3.2	29	NORTHAMPTON	7,360	303	4.1	79
GATES	5,299	172	3.2	30	WASHINGTON	4,338	180	4.1	80
POLK	9,562	312	3.3	31	PERQUIMANS	5,201	218	4.2	81
SURRY	33,399	1,092	3.3	32	BLADEN	14,761	630	4.3	82
PAMLICO	5,694	188	3.3	33	ALLEGHANY	4,319	185	4.3	83
DARE	20,808	688	3.3	34	COLUMBUS	22,418	962	4.3	84
STOKES	21,744	720	3.3	35	GRAHAM	2,978	129	4.3	85
IREDELL	97,719	3,267	3.3	36	MARTIN	8,780	388	4.4	86
CABARRUS	119,884	4,019	3.4	37	NASH	42,648	1,890	4.4	87
ALEXANDER	18,073	608	3.4	38	HOKE	20,857	935	4.5	88
TRANSYLVANIA	15,031	506	3.4	39	RICHMOND	17,181	787	4.6	89
MCDOWELL	20,439	689	3.4	40	RUTHERFORD	23,868	1,095	4.6	90
ROWAN	69,833	2,383	3.4	41	BERTIE	7,017	326	4.6	91
MECKLENBURG	672,189	22,984	3.4	42	CUMBERLAND	130,995	6,104	4.7	92
LENOIR	27,796	951	3.4	43	HERTFORD	8,331	412	4.9	93
BURKE	40,778	1,401	3.4	44	HALIFAX	19,457	965	5.0	94
CRAVEN	43,325	1,492	3.4	45	ROBESON	48,071	2,391	5.0	95
SAMPSON	28,764	995	3.5	46	VANCE	16,574	861	5.2	96
GASTON	118,130	4,103	3.5	47	EDGECOMBE	20,330	1,079	5.3	97
CLEVELAND	50,064	1,742	3.5	48	WARREN	6,357	338	5.3	98
MOORE	43,029	1,498	3.5	49	WILSON	34,115	1,834	5.4	99
ALAMANCE	87,059	3,039	3.5	50	SCOTLAND	11,227	678	6.0	100

*Not Seasonally Adjusted*

*Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.*

North Carolina Department of Commerce  
 Labor & Economic Analysis Division  
 Local Area Unemployment Statistics  
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## **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 Friday, July 19, 2024 when the statewide unemployment rate for June 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>