



For Immediate Release: July 1, 2026
For More Information, Contact: Patrice Gist Bethea/919.814.4612

North Carolina’s May County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 70 counties, decreased in five, and remained unchanged in 25 in May 2026. Hyde and Edgecombe Counties each had the highest unemployment rate at 5.2 percent while Currituck County had the lowest at 2.7 percent. Thirteen of the state’s metro areas experienced rate increases and two remained unchanged. 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 |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| May | 97 | 3 | 0 |
| April (Revised) | 98 | 2 | 0 |

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 89 counties, increased in four, and remained unchanged in seven. All fifteen metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in May by 16,577 to 5,065,683, while those unemployed increased by 3,227 to 183,720. Since May 2025, the number of workers employed statewide decreased 35,878, while those unemployed decreased 13,930.

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, July 21, 2026, when the statewide unemployment rate for June 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
May 2026*

| County | Labor Force | Unemployed | Rate | County | Labor Force | Unemployed | Rate |
|------------|-------------|------------|------|--------------|-------------|------------|------|
| STATEWIDE | 5,249,403 | 183,720 | 3.5 | | | | |
| ALAMANCE | 83,220 | 2,986 | 3.6 | JOHNSTON | 129,857 | 3,933 | 3.0 |
| ALEXANDER | 15,522 | 523 | 3.4 | JONES | 3,754 | 133 | 3.5 |
| ALLEGHANY | 4,680 | 170 | 3.6 | LEE | 30,238 | 1,027 | 3.4 |
| ANSON | 8,791 | 361 | 4.1 | LENOIR | 24,182 | 908 | 3.8 |
| ASHE | 12,250 | 356 | 2.9 | LINCOLN | 47,141 | 1,499 | 3.2 |
| AVERY | 7,847 | 244 | 3.1 | MCDOWELL | 18,485 | 686 | 3.7 |
| BEAUFORT | 19,107 | 664 | 3.5 | MACON | 16,855 | 577 | 3.4 |
| BERTIE | 5,961 | 274 | 4.6 | MADISON | 10,429 | 356 | 3.4 |
| BLADEN | 10,860 | 532 | 4.9 | MARTIN | 8,992 | 338 | 3.8 |
| BRUNSWICK | 68,952 | 2,773 | 4.0 | MECKLENBURG | 655,683 | 23,542 | 3.6 |
| BUNCOMBE | 136,575 | 4,458 | 3.3 | MITCHELL | 6,429 | 232 | 3.6 |
| BURKE | 38,278 | 1,289 | 3.4 | MONTGOMERY | 10,198 | 379 | 3.7 |
| CABARRUS | 123,111 | 4,187 | 3.4 | MOORE | 46,251 | 1,479 | 3.2 |
| CALDWELL | 35,133 | 1,252 | 3.6 | NASH | 42,087 | 1,856 | 4.4 |
| CAMDEN | 5,285 | 153 | 2.9 | NEW HANOVER | 126,858 | 4,026 | 3.2 |
| CARTERET | 32,375 | 1,039 | 3.2 | NORTHAMPTON | 6,242 | 274 | 4.4 |
| CASWELL | 9,671 | 326 | 3.4 | ONSLow | 72,026 | 2,723 | 3.8 |
| CATAWBA | 75,429 | 2,614 | 3.5 | ORANGE | 77,361 | 2,447 | 3.2 |
| CHATHAM | 39,623 | 1,232 | 3.1 | PAMLICO | 5,161 | 176 | 3.4 |
| CHEROKEE | 11,110 | 430 | 3.9 | PASQUOTANK | 17,652 | 641 | 3.6 |
| CHOWAN | 6,207 | 211 | 3.4 | PENDER | 32,309 | 1,053 | 3.3 |
| CLAY | 4,714 | 164 | 3.5 | PERQUIMANS | 5,333 | 206 | 3.9 |
| CLEVELAND | 44,009 | 1,829 | 4.2 | PERSON | 19,902 | 620 | 3.1 |
| COLUMBUS | 19,662 | 788 | 4.0 | PITT | 84,826 | 3,294 | 3.9 |
| CRAVEN | 40,138 | 1,488 | 3.7 | POLK | 9,496 | 305 | 3.2 |
| CUMBERLAND | 127,750 | 5,515 | 4.3 | RANDOLPH | 66,722 | 2,321 | 3.5 |
| CURRITUCK | 16,193 | 444 | 2.7 | RICHMOND | 18,886 | 695 | 3.7 |
| DARE | 20,015 | 667 | 3.3 | ROBESON | 43,147 | 2,058 | 4.8 |
| DAVIDSON | 79,579 | 2,761 | 3.5 | ROCKINGHAM | 39,896 | 1,524 | 3.8 |
| DAVIE | 20,571 | 702 | 3.4 | ROWAN | 69,619 | 2,393 | 3.4 |
| DUPLIN | 22,957 | 702 | 3.1 | RUTHERFORD | 26,241 | 1,074 | 4.1 |
| DURHAM | 184,542 | 5,943 | 3.2 | SAMPSON | 24,513 | 888 | 3.6 |
| EDGECOMBE | 20,151 | 1,053 | 5.2 | SCOTLAND | 13,201 | 603 | 4.6 |
| FORSYTH | 182,484 | 6,723 | 3.7 | STANLY | 34,290 | 995 | 2.9 |
| FRANKLIN | 39,894 | 1,300 | 3.3 | STOKES | 20,052 | 686 | 3.4 |
| GASTON | 115,153 | 4,185 | 3.6 | SURRY | 31,960 | 1,029 | 3.2 |
| GATES | 4,396 | 142 | 3.2 | SWAIN | 6,445 | 194 | 3.0 |
| GRAHAM | 3,465 | 115 | 3.3 | TRANSYLVANIA | 14,165 | 470 | 3.3 |
| GRANVILLE | 28,800 | 939 | 3.3 | TYRRELL | 1,238 | 58 | 4.7 |
| GREENE | 8,544 | 280 | 3.3 | UNION | 131,922 | 4,197 | 3.2 |
| GUILFORD | 264,606 | 10,400 | 3.9 | VANCE | 18,620 | 832 | 4.5 |
| HALIFAX | 18,049 | 924 | 5.1 | WAKE | 692,265 | 21,055 | 3.0 |
| HARNETT | 60,155 | 2,264 | 3.8 | WARREN | 7,263 | 326 | 4.5 |
| HAYWOOD | 28,500 | 917 | 3.2 | WASHINGTON | 3,894 | 171 | 4.4 |
| HENDERSON | 56,205 | 1,706 | 3.0 | WATAUGA | 28,039 | 885 | 3.2 |
| HERTFORD | 8,031 | 320 | 4.0 | WAYNE | 48,438 | 1,785 | 3.7 |
| HOKE | 20,353 | 886 | 4.4 | WILKES | 25,297 | 915 | 3.6 |
| HYDE | 1,551 | 80 | 5.2 | WILSON | 34,085 | 1,611 | 4.7 |
| IREDELL | 103,144 | 3,436 | 3.3 | YADKIN | 16,894 | 539 | 3.2 |
| JACKSON | 22,369 | 692 | 3.1 | YANCEY | 8,593 | 268 | 3.1 |

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 | May 2026 | April 2026 | May 2025 | OTM Change | OTY Change | County | May 2026 | April 2026 | May 2025 | OTM Change | OTY Change |
|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|------------|--------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|------------|
| STATEWIDE | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 0.1 | -0.2 | JOHNSTON | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| ALAMANCE | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 0.1 | -0.2 | JONES | 3.5 | 3.5 | 4.0 | 0.0 | -0.5 |
| ALEXANDER | 3.4 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 0.2 | -0.2 | LEE | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 0.1 | -0.3 |
| ALLEGHANY | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 0.1 | -0.2 | LENOIR | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 0.2 | -0.1 |
| ANSON | 4.1 | 4.0 | 4.3 | 0.1 | -0.2 | LINCOLN | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| ASHE | 2.9 | 2.8 | 3.5 | 0.1 | -0.6 | MCDOWELL | 3.7 | 3.6 | 4.1 | 0.1 | -0.4 |
| AVERY | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.9 | -0.1 | -0.8 | MACON | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 0.1 | -0.2 |
| BEAUFORT | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 0.1 | 0.0 | MADISON | 3.4 | 3.4 | 4.6 | 0.0 | -1.2 |
| BERTIE | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 0.1 | 0.1 | MARTIN | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| BLADEN | 4.9 | 4.6 | 5.1 | 0.3 | -0.2 | MECKLENBURG | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 0.0 | -0.2 |
| BRUNSWICK | 4.0 | 3.8 | 4.2 | 0.2 | -0.2 | MITCHELL | 3.6 | 3.7 | 5.0 | -0.1 | -1.4 |
| BUNCOMBE | 3.3 | 3.2 | 4.6 | 0.1 | -1.3 | MONTGOMERY | 3.7 | 3.6 | 4.0 | 0.1 | -0.3 |
| BURKE | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.8 | 0.1 | -0.4 | MOORE | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| CABARRUS | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 0.0 | -0.1 | NASH | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.7 | 0.1 | -0.3 |
| CALDWELL | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.8 | 0.2 | -0.2 | NEW HANOVER | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 0.1 | -0.3 |
| CAMDEN | 2.9 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 0.1 | -0.1 | NORTHAMPTON | 4.4 | 4.2 | 4.8 | 0.2 | -0.4 |
| CARTERET | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 0.0 | -0.2 | ONSLow | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| CASWELL | 3.4 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 0.2 | -0.2 | ORANGE | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| CATAWBA | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 0.1 | 0.0 | PAMLICO | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.8 | 0.1 | -0.4 |
| CHATHAM | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 0.1 | -0.2 | PASQUOTANK | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 0.1 | -0.2 |
| CHEROKEE | 3.9 | 3.7 | 4.0 | 0.2 | -0.1 | PENDER | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 0.1 | -0.2 |
| CHOWAN | 3.4 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 0.2 | 0.0 | PERQUIMANS | 3.9 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 0.3 | 0.4 |
| CLAY | 3.5 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 0.3 | -0.1 | PERSON | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 0.0 | -0.4 |
| CLEVELAND | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 0.1 | -0.1 | PITT | 3.9 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| COLUMBUS | 4.0 | 3.8 | 4.3 | 0.2 | -0.3 | POLK | 3.2 | 3.0 | 3.6 | 0.2 | -0.4 |
| Craven | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 0.1 | -0.1 | RANDOLPH | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 0.2 | -0.1 |
| CUMBERLAND | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.7 | 0.0 | -0.4 | RICHMOND | 3.7 | 3.6 | 4.1 | 0.1 | -0.4 |
| CURRITUCK | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 0.0 | -0.2 | ROBESON | 4.8 | 4.7 | 5.0 | 0.1 | -0.2 |
| DARE | 3.3 | 3.6 | 3.6 | -0.3 | -0.3 | ROCKINGHAM | 3.8 | 3.7 | 4.2 | 0.1 | -0.4 |
| DAVIDSON | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.8 | 0.1 | -0.3 | ROWAN | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 0.0 | -0.3 |
| DAVIE | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 0.1 | -0.1 | RUTHERFORD | 4.1 | 3.9 | 4.6 | 0.2 | -0.5 |
| DUPLIN | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 0.1 | -0.1 | SAMPSON | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 0.1 | -0.2 |
| DURHAM | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 0.0 | -0.1 | SCOTLAND | 4.6 | 4.6 | 5.2 | 0.0 | -0.6 |
| EDGEcombe | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 0.0 | -0.2 | STANLY | 2.9 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| FORSYTH | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 0.1 | -0.2 | STOKES | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 0.1 | -0.3 |
| FRANKLIN | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.4 | 0.2 | -0.1 | SURRY | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.4 | 0.1 | -0.2 |
| GASTON | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 0.0 | -0.3 | SWAIN | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.6 | 0.0 | -0.6 |
| GATES | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.6 | -0.1 | -0.4 | TRANSYLVANIA | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 0.0 | -0.4 |
| GRAHAM | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | TYRRELL | 4.7 | 4.6 | 5.0 | 0.1 | -0.3 |
| GRANVILLE | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 0.1 | -0.3 | UNION | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| GREENE | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 0.2 | 0.0 | VANCE | 4.5 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| GUILFORD | 3.9 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 0.0 | -0.2 | WAKE | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 0.0 | -0.2 |
| HALIFAX | 5.1 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 0.2 | 0.2 | WARREN | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.7 | 0.2 | -0.2 |
| HARNETT | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 0.1 | -0.1 | WASHINGTON | 4.4 | 4.2 | 4.8 | 0.2 | -0.4 |
| HAYWOOD | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.9 | 0.1 | -0.7 | WATAUGA | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 0.0 | -0.2 |
| HENDERSON | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.4 | 0.0 | -0.4 | WAYNE | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| HERTFORD | 4.0 | 3.8 | 4.1 | 0.2 | -0.1 | WILKES | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.9 | 0.1 | -0.3 |
| HOKE | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 0.1 | 0.0 | WILSON | 4.7 | 4.6 | 5.0 | 0.1 | -0.3 |
| HYDE | 5.2 | 5.7 | 4.9 | -0.5 | 0.3 | YADKIN | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| IREDELL | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 0.0 | -0.2 | YANCEY | 3.1 | 3.1 | 4.3 | 0.0 | -1.2 |
| JACKSON | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.4 | 0.0 | -0.3 | | | | | | |

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
May 2026*

| Metropolitan Statistical Area | Labor Force | Unemployed | Rate |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------|------|
| ASHEVILLE | 203,209 | 6,520 | 3.2 |
| BURLINGTON | 83,220 | 2,986 | 3.6 |
| CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA | 1,483,835 | 52,902 | 3.6 |
| DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL | 321,428 | 10,242 | 3.2 |
| FAYETTEVILLE | 148,103 | 6,401 | 4.3 |
| GOLDSBORO | 48,438 | 1,785 | 3.7 |
| GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT | 371,224 | 14,245 | 3.8 |
| GREENVILLE | 84,826 | 3,294 | 3.9 |
| HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON | 164,362 | 5,678 | 3.5 |
| JACKSONVILLE | 72,026 | 2,723 | 3.8 |
| PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES | 46,251 | 1,479 | 3.2 |
| RALEIGH | 862,016 | 26,288 | 3.0 |
| ROCKY MOUNT | 62,238 | 2,909 | 4.7 |
| WILMINGTON | 228,119 | 7,852 | 3.4 |
| WINSTON-SALEM | 319,580 | 11,411 | 3.6 |

| Micropolitan Statistical Area | Labor Force | Unemployed | Rate |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------|------|
| ALBEMARLE | 34,290 | 995 | 2.9 |
| ANDERSON CREEK | 60,155 | 2,264 | 3.8 |
| BOONE | 28,039 | 885 | 3.2 |
| BREVARD | 14,165 | 470 | 3.3 |
| ELIZABETH CITY | 17,652 | 641 | 3.6 |
| FOREST CITY | 26,241 | 1,074 | 4.1 |
| HENDERSON | 18,620 | 832 | 4.5 |
| KILL DEVIL HILLS | 20,015 | 667 | 3.3 |
| KINSTON | 24,182 | 908 | 3.8 |
| LAURINBURG | 13,201 | 603 | 4.6 |
| LUMBERTON | 43,147 | 2,058 | 4.8 |
| MARION | 18,485 | 686 | 3.7 |
| MOREHEAD CITY | 32,375 | 1,039 | 3.2 |
| MOUNT AIRY | 31,960 | 1,029 | 3.2 |
| MOREHEAD CITY | 49,053 | 1,797 | 3.7 |
| NEW BERN | 25,297 | 915 | 3.6 |
| NORTH WILKESBORO | 24,291 | 1,198 | 4.9 |
| ROCKINGHAM | 18,886 | 695 | 3.7 |
| SANFORD | 30,238 | 1,027 | 3.4 |
| SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN | 44,009 | 1,829 | 4.2 |
| WASHINGTON | 19,107 | 664 | 3.5 |
| WAYNESVILLE | 28,500 | 917 | 3.2 |
| WILSON | 34,085 | 1,611 | 4.7 |

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

| Combined Statistical Area | Labor Force | Unemployed | Rate |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------|------|
| ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD | 245,874 | 7,907 | 3.2 |
| CHARLOTTE-CONCORD | 1,744,981 | 62,090 | 3.6 |
| FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST | 269,588 | 11,236 | 4.2 |
| GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT | 805,984 | 29,671 | 3.7 |
| GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON | 103,933 | 3,958 | 3.8 |
| NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY | 81,428 | 2,836 | 3.5 |
| RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY | 1,292,457 | 40,653 | 3.1 |
| ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS | 120,614 | 5,718 | 4.7 |

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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 | May 2026 | April 2026 | May 2025 | OTM Change | OTY Change |
|-------------------------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|------------|
| ASHEVILLE | 3.2 | 3.1 | 4.3 | 0.1 | -1.1 |
| BURLINGTON | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 0.1 | -0.2 |
| CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| FAYETTEVILLE | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.7 | 0.0 | -0.4 |
| GOLDSBORO | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT | 3.8 | 3.7 | 4.0 | 0.1 | -0.2 |
| GREENVILLE | 3.9 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 0.2 | -0.2 |
| JACKSONVILLE | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| RALEIGH | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 0.0 | -0.2 |
| ROCKY MOUNT | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.9 | 0.1 | -0.2 |
| WILMINGTON | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 0.1 | -0.3 |
| WINSTON-SALEM | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 0.1 | -0.2 |

| Micropolitan Statistical Area | May 2026 | April 2026 | May 2025 | OTM Change | OTY Change |
|-------------------------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|------------|
| ALBEMARLE | 2.9 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| ANDERSON CREEK | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| BOONE | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 0.0 | -0.2 |
| BREVARD | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 0.0 | -0.4 |
| ELIZABETH CITY | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 0.1 | -0.2 |
| FOREST CITY | 4.1 | 3.9 | 4.6 | 0.2 | -0.5 |
| HENDERSON | 4.5 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| KILL DEVIL HILLS | 3.3 | 3.6 | 3.6 | -0.3 | -0.3 |
| KINSTON | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 0.2 | -0.1 |
| LAURINBURG | 4.6 | 4.6 | 5.2 | 0.0 | -0.6 |
| LUMBERTON | 4.8 | 4.7 | 5.0 | 0.1 | -0.2 |
| MARION | 3.7 | 3.6 | 4.1 | 0.1 | -0.4 |
| MOREHEAD CITY | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 0.0 | -0.2 |
| MOUNT AIRY | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.4 | 0.1 | -0.2 |
| MOREHEAD CITY | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| NEW BERN | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.9 | 0.1 | -0.3 |
| NORTH WILKESBORO | 4.9 | 4.7 | 4.9 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| ROCKINGHAM | 3.7 | 3.6 | 4.1 | 0.1 | -0.4 |
| SANFORD | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 0.1 | -0.3 |
| SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| WASHINGTON | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| WAYNESVILLE | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.9 | 0.1 | -0.7 |
| WILSON | 4.7 | 4.6 | 5.0 | 0.1 | -0.3 |

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

| Combined Statistical Area | May 2026 | April 2026 | May 2025 | OTM Change | OTY Change |
|-------------------------------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|------------|
| ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD | 3.2 | 3.1 | 4.2 | 0.1 | -1.0 |
| CHARLOTTE-CONCORD | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.5 | 0.1 | -0.3 |
| GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 0.1 | -0.2 |
| GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 0.1 | -0.2 |
| RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 0.0 | -0.2 |
| ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.9 | 0.0 | -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 May 2026

| County | Labor Force | Unemployed | Rate | Rank | County | Labor Force | Unemployed | Rate | Rank |
|--------------|-------------|------------|------|------|-------------|-------------|------------|------|------|
| CURRITUCK | 16,193 | 444 | 2.7 | 1 | BEAUFORT | 19,107 | 664 | 3.5 | 51 |
| CAMDEN | 5,285 | 153 | 2.9 | 2 | RANDOLPH | 66,722 | 2,321 | 3.5 | 52 |
| STANLY | 34,290 | 995 | 2.9 | 3 | CLAY | 4,714 | 164 | 3.5 | 53 |
| ASHE | 12,250 | 356 | 2.9 | 4 | JONES | 3,754 | 133 | 3.5 | 54 |
| SWAIN | 6,445 | 194 | 3.0 | 5 | CALDWELL | 35,133 | 1,252 | 3.6 | 55 |
| JOHNSTON | 129,857 | 3,933 | 3.0 | 6 | ALAMANCE | 83,220 | 2,986 | 3.6 | 56 |
| HENDERSON | 56,205 | 1,706 | 3.0 | 7 | MECKLENBURG | 655,683 | 23,542 | 3.6 | 57 |
| WAKE | 692,265 | 21,055 | 3.0 | 8 | MITCHELL | 6,429 | 232 | 3.6 | 58 |
| DUPLIN | 22,957 | 702 | 3.1 | 9 | WILKES | 25,297 | 915 | 3.6 | 59 |
| JACKSON | 22,369 | 692 | 3.1 | 10 | SAMPSON | 24,513 | 888 | 3.6 | 60 |
| CHATHAM | 39,623 | 1,232 | 3.1 | 11 | PASQUOTANK | 17,652 | 641 | 3.6 | 61 |
| AVERY | 7,847 | 244 | 3.1 | 12 | ALLEGHANY | 4,680 | 170 | 3.6 | 62 |
| PERSON | 19,902 | 620 | 3.1 | 13 | GASTON | 115,153 | 4,185 | 3.6 | 63 |
| YANCEY | 8,593 | 268 | 3.1 | 14 | RICHMOND | 18,886 | 695 | 3.7 | 64 |
| WATAUGA | 28,039 | 885 | 3.2 | 15 | FORSYTH | 182,484 | 6,723 | 3.7 | 65 |
| ORANGE | 77,361 | 2,447 | 3.2 | 16 | WAYNE | 48,438 | 1,785 | 3.7 | 66 |
| NEW HANOVER | 126,858 | 4,026 | 3.2 | 17 | GRAVEN | 40,138 | 1,488 | 3.7 | 67 |
| LINCOLN | 47,141 | 1,499 | 3.2 | 18 | MCDOWELL | 18,485 | 686 | 3.7 | 68 |
| UNION | 131,922 | 4,197 | 3.2 | 19 | MONTGOMERY | 10,198 | 379 | 3.7 | 69 |
| YADKIN | 16,894 | 539 | 3.2 | 20 | LENOIR | 24,182 | 908 | 3.8 | 70 |
| MOORE | 46,251 | 1,479 | 3.2 | 21 | MARTIN | 8,992 | 338 | 3.8 | 71 |
| CARTERET | 32,375 | 1,039 | 3.2 | 22 | HARNETT | 60,155 | 2,264 | 3.8 | 72 |
| POLK | 9,496 | 305 | 3.2 | 23 | ONSLOW | 72,026 | 2,723 | 3.8 | 73 |
| HAYWOOD | 28,500 | 917 | 3.2 | 24 | ROCKINGHAM | 39,896 | 1,524 | 3.8 | 74 |
| SURRY | 31,960 | 1,029 | 3.2 | 25 | PERQUIMANS | 5,333 | 206 | 3.9 | 75 |
| DURHAM | 184,542 | 5,943 | 3.2 | 26 | CHEROKEE | 11,110 | 430 | 3.9 | 76 |
| GATES | 4,396 | 142 | 3.2 | 27 | PITT | 84,826 | 3,294 | 3.9 | 77 |
| FRANKLIN | 39,894 | 1,300 | 3.3 | 28 | GUILFORD | 264,606 | 10,400 | 3.9 | 78 |
| PENDER | 32,309 | 1,053 | 3.3 | 29 | HERTFORD | 8,031 | 320 | 4.0 | 79 |
| GRANVILLE | 28,800 | 939 | 3.3 | 30 | COLUMBUS | 19,662 | 788 | 4.0 | 80 |
| BUNCOMBE | 136,575 | 4,458 | 3.3 | 31 | BRUNSWICK | 68,952 | 2,773 | 4.0 | 81 |
| GREENE | 8,544 | 280 | 3.3 | 32 | RUTHERFORD | 26,241 | 1,074 | 4.1 | 82 |
| TRANSYLVANIA | 14,165 | 470 | 3.3 | 33 | ANSON | 8,791 | 361 | 4.1 | 83 |
| GRAHAM | 3,465 | 115 | 3.3 | 34 | CLEVELAND | 44,009 | 1,829 | 4.2 | 84 |
| IREDELL | 103,144 | 3,436 | 3.3 | 35 | CUMBERLAND | 127,750 | 5,515 | 4.3 | 85 |
| DARE | 20,015 | 667 | 3.3 | 36 | HOKE | 20,353 | 886 | 4.4 | 86 |
| BURKE | 38,278 | 1,289 | 3.4 | 37 | NORTHAMPTON | 6,242 | 274 | 4.4 | 87 |
| ALEXANDER | 15,522 | 523 | 3.4 | 38 | WASHINGTON | 3,894 | 171 | 4.4 | 88 |
| CASWELL | 9,671 | 326 | 3.4 | 39 | NASH | 42,087 | 1,856 | 4.4 | 89 |
| LEE | 30,238 | 1,027 | 3.4 | 40 | VANCE | 18,620 | 832 | 4.5 | 90 |
| CHOWAN | 6,207 | 211 | 3.4 | 41 | WARREN | 7,263 | 326 | 4.5 | 91 |
| CABARRUS | 123,111 | 4,187 | 3.4 | 42 | SCOTLAND | 13,201 | 603 | 4.6 | 92 |
| PAMLICO | 5,161 | 176 | 3.4 | 43 | BERTIE | 5,961 | 274 | 4.6 | 93 |
| DAVIE | 20,571 | 702 | 3.4 | 44 | TYRRELL | 1,238 | 58 | 4.7 | 94 |
| MADISON | 10,429 | 356 | 3.4 | 45 | WILSON | 34,085 | 1,611 | 4.7 | 95 |
| STOKES | 20,052 | 686 | 3.4 | 46 | ROBESON | 43,147 | 2,058 | 4.8 | 96 |
| MACON | 16,855 | 577 | 3.4 | 47 | BLADEN | 10,860 | 532 | 4.9 | 97 |
| ROWAN | 69,619 | 2,393 | 3.4 | 48 | HALIFAX | 18,049 | 924 | 5.1 | 98 |
| CATAWBA | 75,429 | 2,614 | 3.5 | 49 | HYDE | 1,551 | 80 | 5.2 | 99 |
| DAVIDSON | 79,579 | 2,761 | 3.5 | 50 | EDGECOMBE | 20,151 | 1,053 | 5.2 | 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 Tuesday, July 21, 2026, when the statewide unemployment rate for June 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>