



*For Immediate Release: January 4, 2024  
 For More Information, Contact: David Rhoades/919.814.4611*

## North Carolina’s November County and Area Employment Figures Released

**RALEIGH** — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 39 of North Carolina’s counties in November 2023, decreased in 17, and remained unchanged in 44. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 5.9 percent while Buncombe and Swain Counties each had the lowest at 2.6 percent. Five of the state’s metro areas experienced rate increases, two decreased, and eight remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Fayetteville and Rocky Mount each had the highest rate at 4.6 percent while Asheville had the lowest at 2.8 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.4 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
<b>November</b>	96	4	0
<b>October (Revised)</b>	96	4	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 89 counties, increased in five, and remained unchanged in six. All fifteen of the state’s metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in November by 27,699 to 5,086,500, while those unemployed increased by 402 to 177,244. Since November 2022, the number of workers employed statewide increased 126,461, while those unemployed decreased 7,217.

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, January 23, 2024 when the statewide unemployment rate for December 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  
November 2023*

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,263,744	177,244	3.4				
ALAMANCE	84,379	2,806	3.3	JOHNSTON	112,382	3,520	3.1
ALEXANDER	18,150	634	3.5	JONES	4,283	131	3.1
ALLEGHANY	4,689	169	3.6	LEE	26,473	1,024	3.9
ANSON	10,160	412	4.1	LENOIR	27,605	924	3.3
ASHE	12,837	366	2.9	LINCOLN	47,437	1,405	3.0
AVERY	7,866	222	2.8	MCDOWELL	20,501	651	3.2
BEAUFORT	19,970	769	3.9	MACON	16,275	502	3.1
BERTIE	6,719	298	4.4	MADISON	10,200	303	3.0
BLADEN	14,441	601	4.2	MARTIN	8,621	393	4.6
BRUNSWICK	57,906	2,432	4.2	MECKLENBURG	669,107	21,942	3.3
BUNCOMBE	143,996	3,800	2.6	MITCHELL	6,216	202	3.2
BURKE	40,966	1,297	3.2	MONTGOMERY	11,149	422	3.8
CABARRUS	119,101	3,838	3.2	MOORE	42,904	1,446	3.4
CALDWELL	36,540	1,236	3.4	NASH	42,273	1,824	4.3
CAMDEN	4,661	152	3.3	NEW HANOVER	129,025	4,055	3.1
CARTERET	32,245	1,016	3.2	NORTHAMPTON	7,078	318	4.5
CASWELL	9,751	345	3.5	ONSLow	69,798	2,781	4.0
CATAWBA	80,000	2,611	3.3	ORANGE	84,261	2,347	2.8
CHATHAM	38,477	1,155	3.0	PAMLICO	5,535	192	3.5
CHEROKEE	11,258	411	3.7	PASQUOTANK	16,723	651	3.9
CHOWAN	6,092	205	3.4	PENDER	30,471	992	3.3
CLAY	4,340	157	3.6	PERQUIMANS	4,909	197	4.0
CLEVELAND	50,416	1,680	3.3	PERSON	19,429	656	3.4
COLUMBUS	24,354	856	3.5	PITT	89,368	3,406	3.8
CRAVEN	42,440	1,425	3.4	POLK	9,498	300	3.2
CUMBERLAND	128,104	5,869	4.6	RANDOLPH	66,275	2,361	3.6
CURRITUCK	14,639	421	2.9	RICHMOND	17,317	757	4.4
DARE	19,287	631	3.3	ROBESON	47,247	2,273	4.8
DAVIDSON	83,809	2,672	3.2	ROCKINGHAM	39,867	1,456	3.7
DAVIE	21,341	648	3.0	ROWAN	69,225	2,281	3.3
DUPLIN	24,565	835	3.4	RUTHERFORD	24,621	1,093	4.4
DURHAM	185,802	5,618	3.0	SAMPSON	28,612	944	3.3
EDGECOMBE	20,077	1,057	5.3	SCOTLAND	11,302	669	5.9
FORSYTH	194,366	6,469	3.3	STANLY	31,400	987	3.1
FRANKLIN	35,413	1,196	3.4	STOKES	22,223	669	3.0
GASTON	117,538	3,906	3.3	SURRY	32,741	1,039	3.2
GATES	5,118	174	3.4	SWAIN	7,371	195	2.6
GRAHAM	2,842	124	4.4	TRANSYLVANIA	14,825	479	3.2
GRANVILLE	31,270	939	3.0	TYRRELL	1,251	60	4.8
GREENE	9,527	265	2.8	UNION	133,310	3,969	3.0
GUILFORD	263,854	9,847	3.7	VANCE	16,833	860	5.1
HALIFAX	18,829	944	5.0	WAKE	659,593	19,598	3.0
HARNETT	56,469	2,109	3.7	WARREN	6,232	318	5.1
HAYWOOD	30,687	934	3.0	WASHINGTON	4,285	210	4.9
HENDERSON	56,222	1,604	2.9	WATAUGA	30,855	863	2.8
HERTFORD	8,358	373	4.5	WAYNE	50,790	1,887	3.7
HOKE	20,291	901	4.4	WILKES	26,983	962	3.6
HYDE	1,663	71	4.3	WILSON	33,961	1,653	4.9
IREDELL	96,991	3,114	3.2	YADKIN	18,061	535	3.0
JACKSON	19,994	678	3.4	YANCEY	8,229	242	2.9

*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	November 2023	October 2023	November 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	November 2023	October 2023	November 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.4	3.3	3.6	0.1	-0.2	JOHNSTON	3.1	3.1	3.3	0.0	-0.2
ALAMANCE	3.3	3.3	3.6	0.0	-0.3	JONES	3.1	3.1	3.7	0.0	-0.6
ALEXANDER	3.5	3.4	3.1	0.1	0.4	LEE	3.9	3.9	4.1	0.0	-0.2
ALLEGHANY	3.6	3.6	3.6	0.0	0.0	LENOIR	3.3	3.4	3.5	-0.1	-0.2
ANSON	4.1	4.0	4.0	0.1	0.1	LINCOLN	3.0	2.9	3.1	0.1	-0.1
ASHE	2.9	2.9	3.3	0.0	-0.4	MCDOWELL	3.2	3.2	3.5	0.0	-0.3
AVERY	2.8	2.7	3.1	0.1	-0.3	MACON	3.1	3.1	3.3	0.0	-0.2
BEAUFORT	3.9	3.8	3.9	0.1	0.0	MADISON	3.0	3.0	3.4	0.0	-0.4
BERTIE	4.4	4.4	4.5	0.0	-0.1	MARTIN	4.6	4.5	4.4	0.1	0.2
BLADEN	4.2	4.0	4.4	0.2	-0.2	MECKLENBURG	3.3	3.2	3.4	0.1	-0.1
BRUNSWICK	4.2	4.1	4.6	0.1	-0.4	MITCHELL	3.2	3.3	4.0	-0.1	-0.8
BUNCOMBE	2.6	2.7	2.9	-0.1	-0.3	MONTGOMERY	3.8	3.8	3.7	0.0	0.1
BURKE	3.2	3.2	3.4	0.0	-0.2	MOORE	3.4	3.5	3.6	-0.1	-0.2
CABARRUS	3.2	3.2	3.4	0.0	-0.2	NASH	4.3	4.2	4.8	0.1	-0.5
CALDWELL	3.4	3.3	3.5	0.1	-0.1	NEW HANOVER	3.1	3.1	3.2	0.0	-0.1
CAMDEN	3.3	3.2	3.6	0.1	-0.3	NORTHAMPTON	4.5	4.5	4.6	0.0	-0.1
CARTERET	3.2	3.2	3.5	0.0	-0.3	ONSLow	4.0	3.9	4.2	0.1	-0.2
CASWELL	3.5	3.5	3.9	0.0	-0.4	ORANGE	2.8	2.7	3.0	0.1	-0.2
CATAWBA	3.3	3.2	3.4	0.1	-0.1	PAMLICO	3.5	3.3	3.5	0.2	0.0
CHATHAM	3.0	2.9	3.1	0.1	-0.1	PASQUOTANK	3.9	3.9	4.4	0.0	-0.5
CHEROKEE	3.7	3.6	4.0	0.1	-0.3	PENDER	3.3	3.2	3.5	0.1	-0.2
CHOWAN	3.4	3.5	4.0	-0.1	-0.6	PERQUIMANS	4.0	4.2	4.4	-0.2	-0.4
CLAY	3.6	3.8	3.9	-0.2	-0.3	PERSON	3.4	3.3	3.8	0.1	-0.4
CLEVELAND	3.3	3.4	3.7	-0.1	-0.4	PITT	3.8	3.8	4.0	0.0	-0.2
COLUMBUS	3.5	3.4	4.0	0.1	-0.5	POLK	3.2	3.1	3.6	0.1	-0.4
Craven	3.4	3.4	3.8	0.0	-0.4	RANDOLPH	3.6	3.6	3.6	0.0	0.0
CUMBERLAND	4.6	4.6	5.0	0.0	-0.4	RICHMOND	4.4	4.5	4.8	-0.1	-0.4
CURRITUCK	2.9	2.8	3.4	0.1	-0.5	ROBESON	4.8	4.8	5.3	0.0	-0.5
DARE	3.3	2.9	3.8	0.4	-0.5	ROCKINGHAM	3.7	3.7	4.1	0.0	-0.4
DAVIDSON	3.2	3.2	3.4	0.0	-0.2	ROWAN	3.3	3.2	3.5	0.1	-0.2
DAVIE	3.0	3.0	3.3	0.0	-0.3	RUTHERFORD	4.4	4.5	4.7	-0.1	-0.3
DUPLIN	3.4	3.4	3.6	0.0	-0.2	SAMPSON	3.3	3.4	3.5	-0.1	-0.2
DURHAM	3.0	3.0	3.2	0.0	-0.2	SCOTLAND	5.9	5.9	6.1	0.0	-0.2
EDGEcombe	5.3	5.2	6.2	0.1	-0.9	STANLY	3.1	3.1	3.2	0.0	-0.1
FORSYTH	3.3	3.3	3.6	0.0	-0.3	STOKES	3.0	3.0	3.3	0.0	-0.3
FRANKLIN	3.4	3.3	3.5	0.1	-0.1	SURRY	3.2	3.1	3.3	0.1	-0.1
GASTON	3.3	3.3	3.6	0.0	-0.3	SWAIN	2.6	2.6	3.0	0.0	-0.4
GATES	3.4	3.3	3.5	0.1	-0.1	TRANSYLVANIA	3.2	3.3	3.5	-0.1	-0.3
GRAHAM	4.4	4.2	4.9	0.2	-0.5	TYRRELL	4.8	4.4	4.8	0.4	0.0
GRANVILLE	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	-0.1	UNION	3.0	2.9	3.1	0.1	-0.1
GREENE	2.8	2.9	3.0	-0.1	-0.2	VANCE	5.1	5.2	5.8	-0.1	-0.7
GUILFORD	3.7	3.7	4.0	0.0	-0.3	WAKE	3.0	2.9	3.0	0.1	0.0
HALIFAX	5.0	5.0	5.4	0.0	-0.4	WARREN	5.1	5.1	6.1	0.0	-1.0
HARNETT	3.7	3.7	4.0	0.0	-0.3	WASHINGTON	4.9	4.7	5.3	0.2	-0.4
HAYWOOD	3.0	3.1	3.1	-0.1	-0.1	WATAUGA	2.8	2.8	3.2	0.0	-0.4
HENDERSON	2.9	2.9	3.1	0.0	-0.2	WAYNE	3.7	3.7	4.0	0.0	-0.3
HERTFORD	4.5	4.4	5.2	0.1	-0.7	WILKES	3.6	3.7	3.8	-0.1	-0.2
HOKE	4.4	4.3	4.9	0.1	-0.5	WILSON	4.9	4.7	4.8	0.2	0.1
HYDE	4.3	4.2	4.6	0.1	-0.3	YADKIN	3.0	3.0	3.4	0.0	-0.4
IREDELL	3.2	3.2	3.4	0.0	-0.2	YANCEY	2.9	3.0	3.4	-0.1	-0.5
JACKSON	3.4	3.3	3.7	0.1	-0.3						

Not Seasonally Adjusted

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

*Preliminary Data for  
November 2023*

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	241,105	6,641	2.8
BURLINGTON	84,379	2,806	3.3
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,465,318	46,863	3.2
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	327,969	9,776	3.0
FAYETTEVILLE	148,395	6,770	4.6
GOLDSBORO	50,790	1,887	3.7
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	369,996	13,664	3.7
GREENVILLE	89,368	3,406	3.8
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	175,656	5,778	3.3
JACKSONVILLE	69,798	2,781	4.0
NEW BERN	52,258	1,748	3.3
RALEIGH	807,388	24,314	3.0
ROCKY MOUNT	62,350	2,881	4.6
WILMINGTON	159,496	5,047	3.2
WINSTON-SALEM	339,800	10,993	3.2

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	31,400	987	3.1
BOONE	30,855	863	2.8
BREVARD	14,825	479	3.2
CULLOWHEE	19,994	678	3.4
DUNN	56,469	2,109	3.7
ELIZABETH CITY	26,293	1,000	3.8
FOREST CITY	24,621	1,093	4.4
HENDERSON	16,833	860	5.1
KILL DEVIL HILLS	20,538	691	3.4
KINSTON	27,605	924	3.3
LAURINBURG	11,302	669	5.9
LUMBERTON	47,247	2,273	4.8
MARION	20,501	651	3.2
MOREHEAD CITY	32,245	1,016	3.2
MOUNT AIRY	32,741	1,039	3.2
NORTH WILKESBORO	26,983	962	3.6
OXFORD	31,270	939	3.0
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	42,904	1,446	3.4
ROANOKE RAPIDS	25,907	1,262	4.9
ROCKINGHAM	17,317	757	4.4
SANFORD	26,473	1,024	3.9
SHELBY	50,416	1,680	3.3
WASHINGTON	19,970	769	3.9
WILSON	33,961	1,653	4.9

**COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS  
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**

*Preliminary Data for  
November 2023*

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	255,930	7,120	2.8
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,547,134	49,530	3.2
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	206,944	9,712	4.7
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	826,916	28,502	3.4
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	109,338	4,175	3.8
HICKORY-LENOIR	196,157	6,429	3.3
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	84,503	2,764	3.3
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	1,266,402	39,022	3.1
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	122,218	5,796	4.7

*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	November 2023	October 2023	November 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	2.8	2.8	3.0	0.0	-0.2
BURLINGTON	3.3	3.3	3.6	0.0	-0.3
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.2	3.2	3.3	0.0	-0.1
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.0	2.9	3.2	0.1	-0.2
FAYETTEVILLE	4.6	4.5	5.0	0.1	-0.4
GOLDSBORO	3.7	3.7	4.0	0.0	-0.3
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	3.7	3.7	3.9	0.0	-0.2
GREENVILLE	3.8	3.8	4.0	0.0	-0.2
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.3	3.3	3.4	0.0	-0.1
JACKSONVILLE	4.0	3.9	4.2	0.1	-0.2
NEW BERN	3.3	3.4	3.7	-0.1	-0.4
RALEIGH	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	-0.1
ROCKY MOUNT	4.6	4.5	5.3	0.1	-0.7
WILMINGTON	3.2	3.1	3.3	0.1	-0.1
WINSTON-SALEM	3.2	3.3	3.5	-0.1	-0.3

Micropolitan Statistical Area	November 2023	October 2023	November 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	3.1	3.1	3.2	0.0	-0.1
BOONE	2.8	2.8	3.2	0.0	-0.4
BREVARD	3.2	3.3	3.5	-0.1	-0.3
CULLOWHEE	3.4	3.3	3.7	0.1	-0.3
DUNN	3.7	3.7	4.0	0.0	-0.3
ELIZABETH CITY	3.8	3.8	4.3	0.0	-0.5
FOREST CITY	4.4	4.5	4.7	-0.1	-0.3
HENDERSON	5.1	5.2	5.8	-0.1	-0.7
KILL DEVIL HILLS	3.4	3.0	3.8	0.4	-0.4
KINSTON	3.3	3.4	3.5	-0.1	-0.2
LAURINBURG	5.9	5.9	6.1	0.0	-0.2
LUMBERTON	4.8	4.8	5.3	0.0	-0.5
MARION	3.2	3.2	3.5	0.0	-0.3
MOREHEAD CITY	3.2	3.2	3.5	0.0	-0.3
MOUNT AIRY	3.2	3.1	3.3	0.1	-0.1
NORTH WILKESBORO	3.6	3.7	3.8	-0.1	-0.2
OXFORD	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	-0.1
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.4	3.5	3.6	-0.1	-0.2
ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.9	4.9	5.2	0.0	-0.3
ROCKINGHAM	4.4	4.5	4.8	-0.1	-0.4
SANFORD	3.9	3.9	4.1	0.0	-0.2
SHELBY	3.3	3.4	3.7	-0.1	-0.4
WASHINGTON	3.9	3.8	3.9	0.1	0.0
WILSON	4.9	4.7	4.8	0.2	0.1

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

Combined Statistical Area	November 2023	October 2023	November 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	2.8	2.8	3.0	0.0	-0.2
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.2	3.2	3.4	0.0	-0.2
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	4.7	4.6	5.2	0.1	-0.5
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	3.4	3.4	3.7	0.0	-0.3
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	3.8	3.8	4.0	0.0	-0.2
HICKORY-LENOIR	3.3	3.3	3.4	0.0	-0.1
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.3	3.3	3.6	0.0	-0.3
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.1	3.0	3.2	0.1	-0.1
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.7	4.7	5.1	0.0	-0.4

*Not Seasonally Adjusted*

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

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
BUNCOMBE	143,996	3,800	2.6%	1	MOORE	42,904	1,446	3.4%	51
SWAIN	7,371	195	2.6%	2	PERSON	19,429	656	3.4%	52
GREENE	9,527	265	2.8%	3	FRANKLIN	35,413	1,196	3.4%	53
ORANGE	84,261	2,347	2.8%	4	CALDWELL	36,540	1,236	3.4%	54
WATAUGA	30,855	863	2.8%	5	JACKSON	19,994	678	3.4%	55
AVERY	7,866	222	2.8%	6	DUPLIN	24,565	835	3.4%	56
ASHE	12,837	366	2.9%	7	GATES	5,118	174	3.4%	57
HENDERSON	56,222	1,604	2.9%	8	PAMLICO	5,535	192	3.5%	58
CURRITUCK	14,639	421	2.9%	9	ALEXANDER	18,150	634	3.5%	59
YANCEY	8,229	242	2.9%	10	COLUMBUS	24,354	856	3.5%	60
LINCOLN	47,437	1,405	3.0%	11	CASWELL	9,751	345	3.5%	61
YADKIN	18,061	535	3.0%	12	RANDOLPH	66,275	2,361	3.6%	62
MADISON	10,200	303	3.0%	13	WILKES	26,983	962	3.6%	63
WAKE	659,593	19,598	3.0%	14	ALLEGHANY	4,689	169	3.6%	64
UNION	133,310	3,969	3.0%	15	CLAY	4,340	157	3.6%	65
CHATHAM	38,477	1,155	3.0%	16	CHEROKEE	11,258	411	3.7%	66
GRANVILLE	31,270	939	3.0%	17	ROCKINGHAM	39,867	1,456	3.7%	67
STOKES	22,223	669	3.0%	18	WAYNE	50,790	1,887	3.7%	68
DURHAM	185,802	5,618	3.0%	19	GUILFORD	263,854	9,847	3.7%	69
DAVIE	21,341	648	3.0%	20	HARNETT	56,469	2,109	3.7%	70
HAYWOOD	30,687	934	3.0%	21	MONTGOMERY	11,149	422	3.8%	71
JONES	4,283	131	3.1%	22	PITT	89,368	3,406	3.8%	72
MACON	16,275	502	3.1%	23	BEAUFORT	19,970	769	3.9%	73
JOHNSTON	112,382	3,520	3.1%	24	LEE	26,473	1,024	3.9%	74
NEW HANOVER	129,025	4,055	3.1%	25	PASQUOTANK	16,723	651	3.9%	75
STANLY	31,400	987	3.1%	26	ONSLow	69,798	2,781	4.0%	76
CARTERET	32,245	1,016	3.2%	27	PERQUIMANS	4,909	197	4.0%	77
POLK	9,498	300	3.2%	28	ANSON	10,160	412	4.1%	78
BURKE	40,966	1,297	3.2%	29	BLADEN	14,441	601	4.2%	79
SURRY	32,741	1,039	3.2%	30	BRUNSWICK	57,906	2,432	4.2%	80
MCDOWELL	20,501	651	3.2%	31	HYDE	1,663	71	4.3%	81
DAVIDSON	83,809	2,672	3.2%	32	NASH	42,273	1,824	4.3%	82
IREDELL	96,991	3,114	3.2%	33	GRAHAM	2,842	124	4.4%	83
CABARRUS	119,101	3,838	3.2%	34	RICHMOND	17,317	757	4.4%	84
TRANSYLVANIA	14,825	479	3.2%	35	BERTIE	6,719	298	4.4%	85
MITCHELL	6,216	202	3.2%	36	RUTHERFORD	24,621	1,093	4.4%	86
PENDER	30,471	992	3.3%	37	HOKE	20,291	901	4.4%	87
CAMDEN	4,661	152	3.3%	38	HERTFORD	8,358	373	4.5%	88
CATAWBA	80,000	2,611	3.3%	39	NORTHAMPTON	7,078	318	4.5%	89
DARE	19,287	631	3.3%	40	MARTIN	8,621	393	4.6%	90
MECKLENBURG	669,107	21,942	3.3%	41	CUMBERLAND	128,104	5,869	4.6%	91
ROWAN	69,225	2,281	3.3%	42	TYRRELL	1,251	60	4.8%	92
SAMPSON	28,612	944	3.3%	43	ROBESON	47,247	2,273	4.8%	93
GASTON	117,538	3,906	3.3%	44	WILSON	33,961	1,653	4.9%	94
ALAMANCE	84,379	2,806	3.3%	45	WASHINGTON	4,285	210	4.9%	95
FORSYTH	194,366	6,469	3.3%	46	HALIFAX	18,829	944	5.0%	96
CLEVELAND	50,416	1,680	3.3%	47	WARREN	6,232	318	5.1%	97
LENOIR	27,605	924	3.3%	48	VANCE	16,833	860	5.1%	98
CRAVEN	42,440	1,425	3.4%	49	EDGECOMBE	20,077	1,057	5.3%	99
CHOWAN	6,092	205	3.4%	50	SCOTLAND	11,302	669	5.9%	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, January 23, 2024 when the statewide unemployment rate for December 2023 will be released.

The complete 2023 data release schedule can be accessed at:

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