For Immediate Release: December 20, 2024
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North Carolina's November Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state's seasonally adjusted November 2024 unemployment rate was 3.7 percent, unchanged from October's revised rate. The national rate increased 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.2 percent.

North Carolina's unemployment rate increased 0.1 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed decreased 1,747 over the month to 5,065,649 and increased 4,027 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 109 over the month to 197,114 and increased 9,135 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 15,000 to 5,042,000 in November. Major industries experiencing increases were Professional & Business Services, 6,700; Construction, 3,800; Education & Health Services, 3,400; Other Services, 2,600; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 900; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 400; Government, 300; and Financial Activities, 200. Major industries experiencing decreases were Manufacturing, 3,000; and Information, 300. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since November 2023

	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	Apr 2024	May 2024	Jun 2024	Jul 2024	Aug 2024	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024
N.C.	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7
U.S.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.2

Please note: 2023 numbers have undergone annual revision

Since November 2023, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 82,200 with the Total Private sector increasing by 66,200 and Government increasing by 16,000. Major industries experiencing increases were Education & Health Services, 29,000; Government, 16,000; Professional & Business Services, 16,000; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 15,700; Construction, 7,600; Other Services, 4,600; and Financial Activities, 1,900. Major industries experiencing decreases over the year were Manufacturing, 7,500; Information, 700; and Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 400. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged over the year.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Friday, January 3, 2025 when the county unemployment rates for November 2024 will be released.

These data can be accessed on the Commerce website at https://d4.nccommerce.com/

North Carolina Department of Commerce
Labor and Economic Analysis Division
NORTH CAROLINA and U.S. LABOR FORCE DATA

North Carolina data is embargoed until 10:00 A.M. Friday, December 20, 2024

	November 2024	October 2024	November 2023	Month Ago Numeric Change	Month Ago Percent Change	Year Ago Numeric Change	Year Ago Percent Change
North Carolina *(Local Area Unemployment Statistics)*							
Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	5,262,763	5,264,401	5,249,601	-1,638	> -0.1	13,162	0.3
Employed	5,065,649	5,067,396	5,061,622	-1,747	> -0.1	4,027	0.1
Unemployed	197,114	197,005	187,979	109	0.1	9,135	4.9
Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.7	3.6	0.0	xxx	0.1	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	5,240,763	5,267,231	5,244,914	-26,468	-0.5	-4,151	-0.1
Employed	5,046,880	5,077,315	5,068,451	-30,435	-0.6	-21,571	-0.4
Unemployed	193,883	189,916	176,463	3,967	2.1	17,420	9.9
Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.6	3.4	0.1	xxx	0.3	xxx
United States *(Current Population Survey)*							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	168,286,000	168,479,000	168,127,000	-193,000	-0.1	xxx	xxx
Employed	161,141,000	161,496,000	161,866,000	-355,000	-0.2	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	7,145,000	6,984,000	6,262,000	161,000	2.3	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.1	3.7	0.1	xxx	xxx	xxx
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Labor Force	168,164,000	168,569,000	167,977,000	-405,000	-0.2	xxx	xxx
Employed	161,456,000	161,938,000	162,149,000	-482,000	-0.3	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	6,708,000	6,631,000	5,827,000	77,000	1.2	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	4.0	3.9	3.5	0.1	xxx	xxx	xxx

Effective January 2024, updated US population estimates are used in the national labor force estimates.
The annual population adjustments affect the comparability of national labor force estimates over time.

2024 estimates for the current month are preliminary. Estimates for the previous month have undergone monthly revision.
2023 estimates have undergone annual revision.

North Carolina Department of Commerce
Labor and Economic Analysis Division
NORTH CAROLINA EMPLOYMENT DATA

North Carolina data is embargoed until 10:00 A.M. Friday, December 20, 2024

	November 2024	October 2024	November 2023	Month Ago Numeric Change	Month Ago Percent Change	Year Ago Numeric Change	Year Ago Percent Change
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
Seasonally Adjusted							
Total Nonfarm	5,042,000	5,027,000	4,959,800	15,000	0.3	82,200	1.7
Total Private	4,275,800	4,261,100	4,209,600	14,700	0.3	66,200	1.6
Mining & Logging	5,700	5,700	5,700	0	0.0	0	0.0
Construction	269,600	265,800	262,000	3,800	1.4	7,600	2.9
Manufacturing	458,500	461,500	466,000	-3,000	-0.7	-7,500	-1.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	930,100	929,700	930,500	400	< 0.1	-400	> -0.1
Information	83,300	83,600	84,000	-300	-0.4	-700	-0.8
Financial Activities	311,700	311,500	309,800	200	0.1	1,900	0.6
Professional & Business Services	756,200	749,500	740,200	6,700	0.9	16,000	2.2
Education & Health Services	706,100	702,700	677,100	3,400	0.5	29,000	4.3
Leisure & Hospitality Services	551,400	550,500	535,700	900	0.2	15,700	2.9
Other Services	203,200	200,600	198,600	2,600	1.3	4,600	2.3
Government	766,200	765,900	750,200	300	< 0.1	16,000	2.1
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Total Nonfarm	5,083,000	5,052,600	5,001,400	30,400	0.6	81,600	1.6
Total Private	4,299,300	4,273,700	4,232,800	25,600	0.6	66,500	1.6
Mining & Logging	5,700	5,700	5,700	0	0.0	0	0.0
Construction	270,900	267,600	263,000	3,300	1.2	7,900	3.0
Manufacturing	459,500	461,700	467,900	-2,200	-0.5	-8,400	-1.8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	946,800	929,800	947,600	17,000	1.8	-800	-0.1
Information	83,500	83,600	84,000	-100	-0.1	-500	-0.6
Financial Activities	311,500	312,000	309,900	-500	-0.2	1,600	0.5
Professional & Business Services	763,700	757,500	746,400	6,200	0.8	17,300	2.3
Education & Health Services	710,500	706,900	680,900	3,600	0.5	29,600	4.3
Leisure & Hospitality Services	543,600	547,700	528,300	-4,100	-0.7	15,300	2.9
Other Services	203,600	201,200	199,100	2,400	1.2	4,500	2.3
Government	783,700	778,900	768,600	4,800	0.6	15,100	2.0

2024 estimates for the current month are preliminary. Estimates for the previous month have undergone monthly revision.
2023 estimates have undergone annual revision.
Estimates may not add to totals due to rounding.

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
https://d4.nccommerce.com/CesSelection.aspx

Technical Notes

This release presents labor force and unemployment estimates from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. Also presented are nonfarm payroll employment estimates from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The LAUS and CES programs are both federal-state cooperative endeavors.

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, the CES, and state unemployment insurance (UI) programs. 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. In most years, historical data for the most recent five years (both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted) are revised near the beginning of each calendar year, prior to the release of January estimates.

Seasonal adjustment. The LAUS program seasonally adjusts statewide estimates using an X-11 type of seasonal adjustment filter. These estimates are then smoothed using a filtering procedure to remove irregular fluctuations from the seasonally-adjusted series. For more information about seasonal adjustment and smoothing procedures, see the BLS website at https://www.bls.gov/lau/lauseas.htm.

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 https://www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm.

Employment--from the CES program

Definitions. Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who receive pay for any part of the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. Persons are counted at their place of work rather than at their place of residence; those appearing on more than one payroll are counted on each payroll. Industries are classified on the basis of their principal activity in accordance with the 2017 version of the North American Industry Classification System.

Method of estimation. CES State and Area employment data are produced using several estimation procedures. Where possible these data are produced using a "weighted link relative" estimation technique in which a ratio of current-month weighted employment to that of the previous-month weighted employment is computed from a sample of establishments reporting for both months. The estimates of employment for the current month are then obtained by multiplying these ratios by the previous month's employment estimates. The weighted link relative technique is utilized for data series where the sample size meets certain statistical criteria.

For some employment series, relatively small sample sizes limit the reliability of the weighted link-relative estimates. In these cases, BLS uses the CES small domain model (SDM) to generate employment estimates. The SDM combines the direct sample estimates (described above) and forecasts of historical (benchmarked) data to decrease the volatility of the estimates. For more detailed information about the CES small domain model, refer to the BLS Handbook of Methods.

Annual revisions. Employment estimates are adjusted annually to a complete count of jobs, called benchmarks, derived principally from tax reports that are submitted by employers who are covered under state unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The benchmark information is used to adjust the monthly estimates between the new benchmark and the preceding one and also to establish the level of employment for the new benchmark month. Thus, the benchmarking process establishes the level of employment, and the sample is used to measure the month-to-month changes in the level for the subsequent months. Information on recent benchmark revisions is available online at www.bls.gov/web/laus/benchmark.pdf.

Seasonal adjustment. Payroll employment data are seasonally adjusted at the statewide supersector level. In some cases, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is computed by aggregating the independently adjusted supersector series. In other cases, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is independently adjusted. Payroll employment data are seasonally adjusted concurrently, using all available estimates, including those for the current month, to develop sample-based seasonal factors. Concurrent sample-based factors are created every month for the current month's preliminary estimate as well as the previous month's final estimate.

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 estimates are available online at www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm.

Measures of sampling error for state CES data at the total nonfarm and supersector levels are available online at https://www.bls.gov/sae/additional-resources/reliability-of-state-and-area-estimates.htm.

Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Friday, January 3, 2025 when the county unemployment rates for November 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