



*For Immediate Release: January 16, 2026
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North Carolina's November County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — When compared to the same month last year, unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 89 counties in November 2025, decreased in eight, and remained unchanged in three. Fourteen metro areas experienced rate increases over the year and one decreased. October 2025 data are unavailable due to the lapse in appropriations.

Edgecombe County had the highest unemployment rate at 6.3 percent while Currituck County had the lowest at 3.3 percent. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 5.7 percent while Raleigh had the lowest at 3.6 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.1 percent.

Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
85	15	0

October 2025 data are unavailable due to the lapse in appropriations

Since November 2024, the number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased 531 to 5,072,337, while those unemployed increased 22,644 to 218,867.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, 2026 when the statewide unemployment rate for December 2025 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 2025*

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,291,204	218,867	4.1	JOHNSTON	127,903	4,585	3.6
ALAMANCE	86,122	3,547	4.1	JONES	3,826	166	4.3
ALEXANDER	15,873	638	4.0	LEE	31,405	1,280	4.1
ALLEGHANY	4,684	199	4.2	LENOIR	24,395	1,066	4.4
ANSON	8,940	435	4.9	LINCOLN	48,502	1,831	3.8
ASHE	12,440	462	3.7	MCDOWELL	18,573	850	4.6
AVERY	7,277	286	3.9	MACON	16,886	678	4.0
BEAUFORT	19,136	783	4.1	MADISON	10,737	448	4.2
BERTIE	5,729	306	5.3	MARTIN	9,010	407	4.5
BLADEN	11,590	634	5.5	MECKLENBURG	664,711	27,347	4.1
BRUNSWICK	66,909	3,256	4.9	MITCHELL	7,019	301	4.3
BUNCOMBE	141,106	5,821	4.1	MONTGOMERY	10,331	475	4.6
BURKE	39,459	1,651	4.2	MOORE	44,679	1,844	4.1
CABARRUS	126,653	4,968	3.9	NASH	42,326	2,287	5.4
CALDWELL	36,259	1,541	4.2	NEW HANOVER	126,087	4,787	3.8
CAMDEN	5,283	187	3.5	NORTHAMPTON	6,423	363	5.7
CARTERET	32,046	1,292	4.0	ONSLOW	73,082	3,233	4.4
CASWELL	9,928	415	4.2	ORANGE	78,425	2,853	3.6
CATAWBA	76,770	3,109	4.0	PAMILICO	4,680	213	4.6
CHATHAM	39,725	1,521	3.8	PASQUOTANK	18,217	780	4.3
CHEROKEE	11,251	512	4.6	PENDER	31,913	1,273	4.0
CHOWAN	6,429	251	3.9	PERQUIMANS	5,753	249	4.3
CLAY	4,812	201	4.2	PERSON	20,310	822	4.0
CLEVELAND	45,895	2,227	4.9	PITT	83,486	3,618	4.3
COLUMBUS	20,131	939	4.7	POLK	9,721	380	3.9
CRAVEN	41,467	1,866	4.5	RANDOLPH	66,832	2,729	4.1
CUMBERLAND	130,485	6,710	5.1	RICHMOND	19,155	858	4.5
CURRITUCK	15,935	527	3.3	ROBESON	47,511	2,480	5.2
DARE	18,567	785	4.2	ROCKINGHAM	39,960	1,869	4.7
DAVIDSON	80,860	3,380	4.2	ROWAN	72,266	2,933	4.1
DAVIE	20,795	835	4.0	RUTHERFORD	25,780	1,367	5.3
DUPLIN	21,771	848	3.9	SAMPSON	23,577	1,088	4.6
DURHAM	186,456	7,069	3.8	SCOTLAND	12,842	704	5.5
EDGECOMBE	20,442	1,297	6.3	STANLY	35,262	1,188	3.4
FORSYTH	186,068	8,038	4.3	STOKES	20,593	863	4.2
FRANKLIN	39,145	1,499	3.8	SURRY	32,363	1,270	3.9
GASTON	118,777	5,154	4.3	SWAIN	6,540	236	3.6
GATES	4,423	184	4.2	TRANSYLVANIA	14,122	581	4.1
GRAHAM	3,519	142	4.0	TYRRELL	1,535	69	4.5
GRANVILLE	28,912	1,176	4.1	UNION	134,563	4,844	3.6
GREENE	8,586	318	3.7	VANCE	18,517	937	5.1
GUILFORD	263,125	12,179	4.6	WAKE	680,464	24,372	3.6
HALIFAX	18,438	1,108	6.0	WARREN	7,102	363	5.1
HARNETT	59,194	2,609	4.4	WASHINGTON	3,923	202	5.1
HAYWOOD	29,359	1,180	4.0	WATAUGA	28,092	1,054	3.8
HENDERSON	57,808	2,110	3.7	WAYNE	50,795	2,152	4.2
HERTFORD	8,232	388	4.7	WILKES	25,780	1,165	4.5
HOKE	20,427	1,051	5.1	WILSON	34,300	1,807	5.3
HYDE	1,631	82	5.0	YADKIN	17,265	656	3.8
IREDELL	104,640	4,049	3.9	YANCEY	8,613	365	4.2
JACKSON	21,545	817	3.8				

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates are subject to monthly and annual revisions

NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

County	November 2025	October 2025	November 2024	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	November 2025	October 2025	November 2024	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	4.1	*	3.7	*	0.4	JOHNSTON	3.6	*	3.1	*	0.5
ALAMANCE	4.1	*	3.5	*	0.6	JONES	4.3	*	3.8	*	0.5
ALEXANDER	4.0	*	3.7	*	0.3	LEE	4.1	*	3.6	*	0.5
ALLEGHANY	4.2	*	3.6	*	0.6	LENOIR	4.4	*	3.8	*	0.6
ANSON	4.9	*	4.3	*	0.6	LINCOLN	3.8	*	3.3	*	0.5
ASHE	3.7	*	3.5	*	0.2	MCDOWELL	4.6	*	5.6	*	-1.0
AVERY	3.9	*	7.0	*	-3.1	MACON	4.0	*	3.4	*	0.6
BEAUFORT	4.1	*	3.6	*	0.5	MADISON	4.2	*	6.3	*	-2.1
BERTIE	5.3	*	5.1	*	0.2	MARTIN	4.5	*	4.2	*	0.3
BLADEN	5.5	*	4.9	*	0.6	MECKLENBURG	4.1	*	3.6	*	0.5
BRUNSWICK	4.9	*	4.1	*	0.8	MITCHELL	4.3	*	8.4	*	-4.1
BUNCOMBE	4.1	*	7.5	*	-3.4	MONTGOMERY	4.6	*	3.9	*	0.7
BURKE	4.2	*	4.0	*	0.2	MOORE	4.1	*	3.4	*	0.7
CABARRUS	3.9	*	3.3	*	0.6	NASH	5.4	*	4.5	*	0.9
CALDWELL	4.2	*	3.7	*	0.5	NEW HANOVER	3.8	*	3.2	*	0.6
CAMDEN	3.5	*	2.8	*	0.7	NORTHAMPTON	5.7	*	4.7	*	1.0
CARTERET	4.0	*	3.4	*	0.6	ONslow	4.4	*	3.7	*	0.7
CASWELL	4.2	*	3.5	*	0.7	ORANGE	3.6	*	3.1	*	0.5
CATAWBA	4.0	*	3.5	*	0.5	PAMLICO	4.6	*	3.7	*	0.9
CHATHAM	3.8	*	3.2	*	0.6	PASQUOTANK	4.3	*	3.7	*	0.6
CHEROKEE	4.6	*	3.8	*	0.8	PENDER	4.0	*	3.2	*	0.8
CHOWAN	3.9	*	3.5	*	0.4	PERQUIMANS	4.3	*	3.8	*	0.5
CLAY	4.2	*	3.3	*	0.9	PERSON	4.0	*	3.4	*	0.6
CLEVELAND	4.9	*	4.0	*	0.9	PITT	4.3	*	3.8	*	0.5
COLUMBUS	4.7	*	4.0	*	0.7	POLK	3.9	*	3.9	*	0.0
CRAYEN	4.5	*	3.8	*	0.7	RANDOLPH	4.1	*	3.5	*	0.6
CUMBERLAND	5.1	*	4.5	*	0.6	RICHMOND	4.5	*	4.2	*	0.3
CURRITUCK	3.3	*	2.8	*	0.5	ROBESON	5.2	*	4.9	*	0.3
DARE	4.2	*	3.5	*	0.7	ROCKINGHAM	4.7	*	3.8	*	0.9
DAVIDSON	4.2	*	3.7	*	0.5	ROWAN	4.1	*	3.4	*	0.7
DAVIE	4.0	*	3.3	*	0.7	RUTHERFORD	5.3	*	5.2	*	0.1
DUPLIN	3.9	*	3.4	*	0.5	SAMPSON	4.6	*	3.9	*	0.7
DURHAM	3.8	*	3.2	*	0.6	SCOTLAND	5.5	*	4.9	*	0.6
EDGECOMBE	6.3	*	5.0	*	1.3	STANLY	3.4	*	3.0	*	0.4
FORSYTH	4.3	*	3.7	*	0.6	STOKES	4.2	*	3.5	*	0.7
FRANKLIN	3.8	*	3.3	*	0.5	SURRY	3.9	*	3.3	*	0.6
GASTON	4.3	*	3.6	*	0.7	SWAIN	3.6	*	3.6	*	0.0
GATES	4.2	*	3.5	*	0.7	TRANSYLVANIA	4.1	*	4.0	*	0.1
GRAHAM	4.0	*	3.5	*	0.5	TYRRELL	4.5	*	3.7	*	0.8
GRANVILLE	4.1	*	3.5	*	0.6	UNION	3.6	*	3.2	*	0.4
GREENE	3.7	*	3.2	*	0.5	VANCE	5.1	*	4.3	*	0.8
GUILFORD	4.6	*	4.0	*	0.6	WAKE	3.6	*	3.1	*	0.5
HALIFAX	6.0	*	5.0	*	1.0	WARREN	5.1	*	4.8	*	0.3
HARNETT	4.4	*	3.7	*	0.7	WASHINGTON	5.1	*	4.3	*	0.8
HAYWOOD	4.0	*	4.5	*	-0.5	WATAUGA	3.8	*	3.8	*	0.0
HENDERSON	3.7	*	4.0	*	-0.3	WAYNE	4.2	*	3.6	*	0.6
HERTFORD	4.7	*	4.1	*	0.6	WILKES	4.5	*	3.9	*	0.6
HOKE	5.1	*	4.3	*	0.8	WILSON	5.3	*	4.8	*	0.5
HYDE	5.0	*	4.6	*	0.4	YADKIN	3.8	*	3.1	*	0.7
IREDELL	3.9	*	3.3	*	0.6	YANCEY	4.2	*	6.2	*	-2.0
JACKSON	3.8	*	3.5	*	0.3						

Not Seasonally Adjusted

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*Data unavailable due to the 2025 lapse in appropriations.

METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

*Preliminary Data for
November 2025*

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	209,651	8,379	4.0
BURLINGTON	86,122	3,547	4.1
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,507,745	63,285	4.2
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	324,916	12,265	3.8
FAYETTEVILLE	150,912	7,761	5.1
GOLDSBORO	50,795	2,152	4.2
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	369,917	16,777	4.5
GREENVILLE	83,486	3,618	4.3
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	168,361	6,939	4.1
JACKSONVILLE	73,082	3,233	4.4
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	44,679	1,844	4.1
RALEIGH	847,512	30,456	3.6
ROCKY MOUNT	62,768	3,584	5.7
WILMINGTON	224,909	9,316	4.1
WINSTON-SALEM	325,581	13,772	4.2
Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	35,262	1,188	3.4
ANDERSON CREEK	59,194	2,609	4.4
BOONE	28,092	1,054	3.8
BREVARD	14,122	581	4.1
ELIZABETH CITY	18,217	780	4.3
FOREST CITY	25,780	1,367	5.3
HENDERSON	18,517	937	5.1
KILL DEVIL HILLS	18,567	785	4.2
KINSTON	24,395	1,066	4.4
LAURINBURG	12,842	704	5.5
LUMBERTON	47,511	2,480	5.2
MARION	18,573	850	4.6
MOREHEAD CITY	32,046	1,292	4.0
MOUNT AIRY	32,363	1,270	3.9
MOREHEAD CITY	49,973	2,245	4.5
NEW BERN	25,780	1,165	4.5
NORTH WILKESBORO	24,861	1,471	5.9
ROCKINGHAM	19,155	858	4.5
SANFORD	31,405	1,280	4.1
SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN	45,895	2,227	4.9
WASHINGTON	19,136	783	4.1
WAYNESVILLE	29,359	1,180	4.0
WILSON	34,300	1,807	5.3

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

*Preliminary Data for
November 2025*

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD	253,132	10,140	4.0
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,775,836	74,489	4.2
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST	275,099	13,647	5.0
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	813,983	35,366	4.3
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	102,622	4,401	4.3
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	82,019	3,537	4.3
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY	1,281,544	47,547	3.7
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	121,929	6,862	5.6

Not Seasonally Adjusted

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North Carolina Department of Commerce

Labor & Economic Analysis Division

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

(919) 707-1500

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

Metropolitan Statistical Area	November 2025	October 2025	November 2024	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	4.0	*	6.5	*	-2.5
BURLINGTON	4.1	*	3.5	*	0.6
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	4.2	*	3.6	*	0.6
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.8	*	3.2	*	0.6
FAYETTEVILLE	5.1	*	4.4	*	0.7
GOLDSBORO	4.2	*	3.6	*	0.6
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	4.5	*	3.9	*	0.6
GREENVILLE	4.3	*	3.8	*	0.5
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	4.1	*	3.7	*	0.4
JACKSONVILLE	4.4	*	3.7	*	0.7
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	4.1	*	3.4	*	0.7
RALEIGH	3.6	*	3.1	*	0.5
ROCKY MOUNT	5.7	*	4.7	*	1.0
WILMINGTON	4.1	*	3.5	*	0.6
WINSTON-SALEM	4.2	*	3.6	*	0.6

Micropolitan Statistical Area	November 2025	October 2025	November 2024	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	3.4	*	3.0	*	0.4
ANDERSON CREEK	4.4	*	3.7	*	0.7
BOONE	3.8	*	3.8	*	0.0
BREVARD	4.1	*	4.0	*	0.1
ELIZABETH CITY	4.3	*	3.7	*	0.6
FOREST CITY	5.3	*	5.2	*	0.1
HENDERSON	5.1	*	4.3	*	0.8
KILL DEVIL HILLS	4.2	*	3.5	*	0.7
KINSTON	4.4	*	3.8	*	0.6
LAURINBURG	5.5	*	4.9	*	0.6
LUMBERTON	5.2	*	4.9	*	0.3
MARION	4.6	*	5.6	*	-1.0
MOREHEAD CITY	4.0	*	3.4	*	0.6
MOUNT AIRY	3.9	*	3.3	*	0.6
MOREHEAD CITY	4.5	*	3.8	*	0.7
NEW BERN	4.5	*	3.9	*	0.6
NORTH WILKESBORO	5.9	*	4.9	*	1.0
ROCKINGHAM	4.5	*	4.2	*	0.3
SANFORD	4.1	*	3.6	*	0.5
SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN	4.9	*	4.0	*	0.9
WASHINGTON	4.1	*	3.6	*	0.5
WAYNESVILLE	4.0	*	4.5	*	-0.5
WILSON	5.3	*	4.8	*	0.5

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

Combined Statistical Area	November 2025	October 2025	November 2024	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD	4.0	*	6.2	*	-2.2
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	4.2	*	3.6	*	0.6
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST	5.0	*	4.4	*	0.6
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	4.3	*	3.7	*	0.6
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	4.3	*	3.8	*	0.5
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	4.3	*	3.7	*	0.6
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY	3.7	*	3.2	*	0.5
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	5.6	*	4.8	*	0.8

Not Seasonally Adjusted

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**Data unavailable due to the 2025 lapse in appropriations.*

North Carolina Department of Commerce

Labor & Economic Analysis Division

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

(919) 707-1500

NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY RANKINGS
Preliminary Data for November 2025

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
CURRITUCK	15,935	527	3.3	1	BURKE	39,459	1,651	4.2	51
STANLY	35,262	1,188	3.4	2	STOKES	20,593	863	4.2	52
CAMDEN	5,283	187	3.5	3	DARE	18,567	785	4.2	53
WAKE	680,464	24,372	3.6	4	WAYNE	50,795	2,152	4.2	54
JOHNSTON	127,903	4,585	3.6	5	YANCEY	8,613	365	4.2	55
UNION	134,563	4,844	3.6	6	ALLEGHANY	4,684	199	4.2	56
SWAIN	6,540	236	3.6	7	CALDWELL	36,259	1,541	4.2	57
ORANGE	78,425	2,853	3.6	8	PASQUOTANK	18,217	780	4.3	58
HENDERSON	57,808	2,110	3.7	9	MITCHELL	7,019	301	4.3	59
GREENE	8,586	318	3.7	10	FORSYTH	186,068	8,038	4.3	60
ASHE	12,440	462	3.7	11	PERQUIMANS	5,753	249	4.3	61
WATAUGA	28,092	1,054	3.8	12	PITT	83,486	3,618	4.3	62
LINCOLN	48,502	1,831	3.8	13	JONES	3,826	166	4.3	63
DURHAM	186,456	7,069	3.8	14	GASTON	118,777	5,154	4.3	64
JACKSON	21,545	817	3.8	15	LENOIR	24,395	1,066	4.4	65
NEW HANOVER	126,087	4,787	3.8	16	HARNETT	59,194	2,609	4.4	66
YADKIN	17,265	656	3.8	17	ONslow	73,082	3,233	4.4	67
CHATHAM	39,725	1,521	3.8	18	RICHMOND	19,155	858	4.5	68
FRANKLIN	39,145	1,499	3.8	19	TYRRELL	1,535	69	4.5	69
IREDELL	104,640	4,049	3.9	20	CRAVEN	41,467	1,866	4.5	70
DUPLIN	21,771	848	3.9	21	MARTIN	9,010	407	4.5	71
CHOWAN	6,429	251	3.9	22	WILKES	25,780	1,165	4.5	72
POLK	9,721	380	3.9	23	CHEROKEE	11,251	512	4.6	73
CABARRUS	126,653	4,968	3.9	24	PAMLICO	4,680	213	4.6	74
SURRY	32,363	1,270	3.9	25	MCDOWELL	18,573	850	4.6	75
AVERY	7,277	286	3.9	26	MONTGOMERY	10,331	475	4.6	76
PENDER	31,913	1,273	4.0	27	SAMPSON	23,577	1,088	4.6	77
MACON	16,886	678	4.0	28	GUILFORD	263,125	12,179	4.6	78
DAVIE	20,795	835	4.0	29	COLUMBUS	20,131	939	4.7	79
HAYWOOD	29,359	1,180	4.0	30	ROCKINGHAM	39,960	1,869	4.7	80
ALEXANDER	15,873	638	4.0	31	HERTFORD	8,232	388	4.7	81
CARTERET	32,046	1,292	4.0	32	CLEVELAND	45,895	2,227	4.9	82
GRAHAM	3,519	142	4.0	33	ANSON	8,940	435	4.9	83
PERSON	20,310	822	4.0	34	BRUNSWICK	66,909	3,256	4.9	84
CATAWBA	76,770	3,109	4.0	35	HYDE	1,631	82	5.0	85
ROWAN	72,266	2,933	4.1	36	VANCE	18,517	937	5.1	86
GRANVILLE	28,912	1,176	4.1	37	WARREN	7,102	363	5.1	87
LEE	31,405	1,280	4.1	38	CUMBERLAND	130,485	6,710	5.1	88
RANDOLPH	66,832	2,729	4.1	39	HOKE	20,427	1,051	5.1	89
BEAUFORT	19,136	783	4.1	40	WASHINGTON	3,923	202	5.1	90
MECKLENBURG	664,711	27,347	4.1	41	ROBESON	47,511	2,480	5.2	91
TRANSYLVANIA	14,122	581	4.1	42	WILSON	34,300	1,807	5.3	92
ALAMANCE	86,122	3,547	4.1	43	RUTHERFORD	25,780	1,367	5.3	93
BUNCOMBE	141,106	5,821	4.1	44	BERTIE	5,729	306	5.3	94
MOORE	44,679	1,844	4.1	45	NASH	42,326	2,287	5.4	95
GATES	4,423	184	4.2	46	BLADEN	11,590	634	5.5	96
MADISON	10,737	448	4.2	47	SCOTLAND	12,842	704	5.5	97
CLAY	4,812	201	4.2	48	NORTHAMPTON	6,423	363	5.7	98
DAVIDSON	80,860	3,380	4.2	49	HALIFAX	18,438	1,108	6.0	99
CASWELL	9,928	415	4.2	50	EDGEcombe	20,442	1,297	6.3	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

(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 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, January 27, 2026 when the statewide unemployment rate for December 2025 will be released.

The complete data release schedule through 2025 can be accessed here:
<https://www.commerce.nc.gov/release-dates-unemployment-rates/open>