NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT *of*
COMMERCE

Roy Cooper
GOVERNOR

Machelle Baker Sanders
SECRETARY

North Carolina's September County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 98 of North Carolina's counties in September 2023 and increased in two. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 5.6 percent while Swain and Buncombe Counties each had the lowest at 2.5 percent. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 4.5 percent while Asheville had the lowest at 2.7 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.2 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
September	97	3	0
August (Revised)	93	7	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 90 counties, increased in four, and remained unchanged in six. Fourteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year and one remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in September by 53,039 to 5,134,777, while those unemployed decreased by 18,714 to 170,391. Since September 2022, the number of workers employed statewide increased 142,319, while those unemployed decreased 7,967.

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, November 17, 2023 when the statewide unemployment rate for October 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
September 2023

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,305,168	170,391	3.2				
ALAMANCE	84,852	2,707	3.2	JOHNSTON	112,378	3,383	3.0
ALEXANDER	18,286	651	3.6	JONES	4,292	129	3.0
ALLEGHANY	4,791	174	3.6	LEE	26,359	968	3.7
ANSON	10,211	391	3.8	LENOIR	27,665	890	3.2
ASHE	13,053	358	2.7	LINCOLN	48,156	1,373	2.9
AVERY	8,257	225	2.7	MCDOWELL	20,558	617	3.0
BEAUFORT	20,041	738	3.7	MACON	16,509	485	2.9
BERTIE	6,746	283	4.2	MADISON	10,394	306	2.9
BLADEN	14,627	540	3.7	MARTIN	8,572	349	4.1
BRUNSWICK	59,816	2,286	3.8	MECKLENBURG	677,862	20,925	3.1
BUNCOMBE	146,810	3,721	2.5	MITCHELL	6,210	215	3.5
BURKE	41,321	1,282	3.1	MONTGOMERY	11,236	406	3.6
CABARRUS	120,463	3,577	3.0	MOORE	42,953	1,436	3.3
CALDWELL	36,837	1,193	3.2	NASH	42,355	1,739	4.1
CAMDEN	4,651	149	3.2	NEW HANOVER	131,300	3,936	3.0
CARTERET	32,842	972	3.0	NORTHAMPTON	7,088	326	4.6
CASWELL	9,782	312	3.2	ONSLOW	70,544	2,654	3.8
CATAWBA	80,471	2,481	3.1	ORANGE	84,856	2,313	2.7
CHATHAM	38,789	1,074	2.8	PAMLICO	5,535	167	3.0
CHEROKEE	11,321	405	3.6	PASQUOTANK	16,706	626	3.7
CHOWAN	5,889	195	3.3	PENDER	30,957	951	3.1
CLAY	4,356	158	3.6	PERQUIMANS	4,926	200	4.1
CLEVELAND	50,121	1,578	3.1	PERSON	19,486	645	3.3
COLUMBUS	24,492	816	3.3	PITT	90,183	3,280	3.6
CRAVEN	42,681	1,374	3.2	POLK	9,633	294	3.1
CUMBERLAND	128,029	5,608	4.4	RANDOLPH	66,867	2,411	3.6
CURRITUCK	14,786	396	2.7	RICHMOND	17,306	744	4.3
DARE	21,330	577	2.7	ROBESON	47,618	2,236	4.7
DAVIDSON	84,198	2,575	3.1	ROCKINGHAM	40,206	1,437	3.6
DAVIE	21,411	619	2.9	ROWAN	70,190	2,211	3.2
DUPLIN	24,628	796	3.2	RUTHERFORD	24,854	1,045	4.2
DURHAM	186,365	5,328	2.9	SAMPSON	28,689	933	3.3
EDGECOMBE	20,121	1,053	5.2	SCOTLAND	11,207	626	5.6
FORSYTH	195,205	6,328	3.2	STANLY	31,591	926	2.9
FRANKLIN	35,401	1,142	3.2	STOKES	22,383	662	3.0
GASTON	118,998	3,745	3.1	SURRY	32,906	1,001	3.0
GATES	5,151	168	3.3	SWAIN	7,562	187	2.5
GRAHAM	2,918	115	3.9	TRANSYLVANIA	15,111	474	3.1
GRANVILLE	31,299	892	2.8	TYRRELL	1,350	53	3.9
GREENE	9,488	266	2.8	UNION	135,168	3,795	2.8
GUILFORD	265,722	9,449	3.6	VANCE	16,855	857	5.1
HALIFAX	18,802	916	4.9	WAKE	659,570	18,593	2.8
HARNETT	56,524	2,065	3.7	WARREN	6,352	307	4.8
HAYWOOD	31,235	902	2.9	WASHINGTON	4,323	191	4.4
HENDERSON	57,272	1,584	2.8	WATAUGA	30,972	860	2.8
HERTFORD	8,328	350	4.2	WAYNE	51,045	1,854	3.6
HOKE	20,292	856	4.2	WILKES	26,874	958	3.6
HYDE	1,755	69	3.9	WILSON	33,688	1,559	4.6
IREDELL	98,221	2,983	3.0	YADKIN	18,119	524	2.9
JACKSON	20,224	663	3.3	YANCEY	8,437	247	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	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.2	3.6	3.4	-0.4	-0.2						
ALAMANCE	3.2	3.7	3.5	-0.5	-0.3	JOHNSTON	3.0	3.4	3.2	-0.4	-0.2
ALEXANDER	3.6	3.2	2.9	0.4	0.7	JONES	3.0	3.3	3.3	-0.3	-0.3
ALLEGHANY	3.6	4.1	3.2	-0.5	0.4	LEE	3.7	4.0	4.0	-0.3	-0.3
ANSON	3.8	4.4	4.1	-0.6	-0.3	LENOIR	3.2	3.7	3.4	-0.5	-0.2
ASHE	2.7	3.0	3.3	-0.3	-0.6	LINCOLN	2.9	3.1	2.9	-0.2	0.0
AVERY	2.7	3.0	2.8	-0.3	-0.1	MCDOWELL	3.0	3.3	3.3	-0.3	-0.3
BEAUFORT	3.7	4.1	3.8	-0.4	-0.1	MACON	2.9	3.2	3.2	-0.3	-0.3
BERTIE	4.2	4.8	4.5	-0.6	-0.3	MADISON	2.9	3.3	3.2	-0.4	-0.3
BLADEN	3.7	4.1	4.1	-0.4	-0.4	MARTIN	4.1	4.5	4.2	-0.4	-0.1
BRUNSWICK	3.8	4.1	4.2	-0.3	-0.4	MECKLENBURG	3.1	3.5	3.3	-0.4	-0.2
BUNCOMBE	2.5	2.8	2.7	-0.3	-0.2	MITCHELL	3.5	3.6	3.8	-0.1	-0.3
BURKE	3.1	3.5	3.3	-0.4	-0.2	MONTGOMERY	3.6	3.7	3.6	-0.1	0.0
CABARRUS	3.0	3.3	3.3	-0.3	-0.3	MOORE	3.3	3.7	3.4	-0.4	-0.1
CALDWELL	3.2	3.5	3.3	-0.3	-0.1	NASH	4.1	4.6	4.8	-0.5	-0.7
CAMDEN	3.2	3.6	3.6	-0.4	-0.4	NEW HANOVER	3.0	3.4	3.1	-0.4	-0.1
CARTERET	3.0	3.2	3.2	-0.2	-0.2	NORTHAMPTON	4.6	5.0	4.7	-0.4	-0.1
CASWELL	3.2	3.7	3.8	-0.5	-0.6	ONSLOW	3.8	4.2	4.1	-0.4	-0.3
CATAWBA	3.1	3.4	3.3	-0.3	-0.2	ORANGE	2.7	3.1	2.9	-0.4	-0.2
CHATHAM	2.8	3.1	3.0	-0.3	-0.2	PAMLICO	3.0	3.3	3.4	-0.3	-0.4
CHEROKEE	3.6	3.9	3.6	-0.3	0.0	PASQUOTANK	3.7	4.2	4.3	-0.5	-0.6
CHOWAN	3.3	3.8	3.8	-0.5	-0.5	PENDER	3.1	3.4	3.3	-0.3	-0.2
CLAY	3.6	4.1	3.9	-0.5	-0.3	PERQUIMANS	4.1	4.2	4.0	-0.1	0.1
CLEVELAND	3.1	3.6	3.7	-0.5	-0.6	PERSON	3.3	3.8	3.4	-0.5	-0.1
COLUMBUS	3.3	3.6	3.8	-0.3	-0.5	PITT	3.6	4.3	3.9	-0.7	-0.3
CRAVEN	3.2	3.6	3.6	-0.4	-0.4	POLK	3.1	3.4	3.5	-0.3	-0.4
CUMBERLAND	4.4	5.0	4.8	-0.6	-0.4	RANDOLPH	3.6	3.8	3.5	-0.2	0.1
CURRITUCK	2.7	3.0	3.2	-0.3	-0.5	RICHMOND	4.3	4.7	4.7	-0.4	-0.4
DARE	2.7	2.8	3.0	-0.1	-0.3	ROBESON	4.7	5.2	5.2	-0.5	-0.5
DAVIDSON	3.1	3.4	3.3	-0.3	-0.2	ROCKINGHAM	3.6	3.9	4.0	-0.3	-0.4
DAVIE	2.9	3.1	3.2	-0.2	-0.3	ROWAN	3.2	3.5	3.4	-0.3	-0.2
DUPLIN	3.2	3.5	3.4	-0.3	-0.2	RUTHERFORD	4.2	4.9	4.4	-0.7	-0.2
DURHAM	2.9	3.2	3.0	-0.3	-0.1	SAMPSON	3.3	3.7	3.4	-0.4	-0.1
EDGECOMBE	5.2	5.9	6.2	-0.7	-1.0	SCOTLAND	5.6	6.2	5.9	-0.6	-0.3
FORSYTH	3.2	3.6	3.5	-0.4	-0.3	STANLY	2.9	3.2	3.2	-0.3	-0.3
FRANKLIN	3.2	3.6	3.4	-0.4	-0.2	STOKES	3.0	3.3	3.2	-0.3	-0.2
GASTON	3.1	3.5	3.4	-0.4	-0.3	SURRY	3.0	3.4	3.3	-0.4	-0.3
GATES	3.3	3.4	3.5	-0.1	-0.2	SWAIN	2.5	2.7	2.9	-0.2	-0.4
GRAHAM	3.9	4.3	4.5	-0.4	-0.6	TRANSYLVANIA	3.1	3.4	3.3	-0.3	-0.2
GRANVILLE	2.8	3.2	3.0	-0.4	-0.2	TYRRELL	3.9	3.8	4.4	0.1	-0.5
GREENE	2.8	3.1	3.1	-0.3	-0.3	UNION	2.8	3.1	3.0	-0.3	-0.2
GUILFORD	3.6	4.1	3.9	-0.5	-0.3	VANCE	5.1	5.5	5.7	-0.4	-0.6
HALIFAX	4.9	5.4	5.5	-0.5	-0.6	WAKE	2.8	3.1	2.9	-0.3	-0.1
HARNETT	3.7	4.1	3.9	-0.4	-0.2	WARREN	4.8	5.4	7.8	-0.6	-3.0
HAYWOOD	2.9	3.2	2.9	-0.3	0.0	WASHINGTON	4.4	4.7	4.6	-0.3	-0.2
HENDERSON	2.8	3.0	3.0	-0.2	-0.2	WATAUGA	2.8	3.2	3.1	-0.4	-0.3
HERTFORD	4.2	4.8	5.0	-0.6	-0.8	WAYNE	3.6	4.0	3.8	-0.4	-0.2
HOKE	4.2	4.8	4.9	-0.6	-0.7	WILKES	3.6	3.9	3.6	-0.3	0.0
HYDE	3.9	4.4	3.9	-0.5	0.0	WILSON	4.6	5.5	4.8	-0.9	-0.2
IREDELL	3.0	3.4	3.2	-0.4	-0.2	YADKIN	2.9	3.2	3.1	-0.3	-0.2
JACKSON	3.3	3.9	3.5	-0.6	-0.2	YANCEY	2.9	3.1	3.7	-0.2	-0.8

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.

METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Data for
September 2023

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	245,711	6,513	2.7
BURLINGTON	84,852	2,707	3.2
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,481,396	44,144	3.0
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	329,496	9,360	2.8
FAYETTEVILLE	148,321	6,464	4.4
GOLDSBORO	51,045	1,854	3.6
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	372,795	13,297	3.6
GREENVILLE	90,183	3,280	3.6
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	176,915	5,607	3.2
JACKSONVILLE	70,544	2,654	3.8
NEW BERN	52,508	1,670	3.2
RALEIGH	807,349	23,118	2.9
ROCKY MOUNT	62,476	2,792	4.5
WILMINGTON	162,257	4,887	3.0
WINSTON-SALEM	341,316	10,708	3.1

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	31,591	926	2.9
BOONE	30,972	860	2.8
BREVARD	15,111	474	3.1
CULLOWHEE	20,224	663	3.3
DUNN	56,524	2,065	3.7
ELIZABETH CITY	26,283	975	3.7
FOREST CITY	24,854	1,045	4.2
HENDERSON	16,855	857	5.1
KILL DEVIL HILLS	22,680	630	2.8
KINSTON	27,665	890	3.2
LAURINBURG	11,207	626	5.6
LUMBERTON	47,618	2,236	4.7
MARION	20,558	617	3.0
MOREHEAD CITY	32,842	972	3.0
MOUNT AIRY	32,906	1,001	3.0
NORTH WILKESBORO	26,874	958	3.6
OXFORD	31,299	892	2.8
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	42,953	1,436	3.3
ROANOKE RAPIDS	25,890	1,242	4.8
ROCKINGHAM	17,306	744	4.3
SANFORD	26,359	968	3.7
SHELBY	50,121	1,578	3.1
WASHINGTON	20,041	738	3.7
WILSON	33,688	1,559	4.6

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Data for
September 2023

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	260,822	6,987	2.7
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,563,108	46,648	3.0
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	207,146	9,326	4.5
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	831,869	27,713	3.3
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	110,224	4,018	3.6
HICKORY-LENOIR	197,473	6,224	3.2
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	85,350	2,642	3.1
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	1,267,882	37,260	2.9
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	122,054	5,593	4.6

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

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

Metropolitan Statistical Area	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	2.7	2.9	2.8	-0.2	-0.1
BURLINGTON	3.2	3.7	3.5	-0.5	-0.3
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.0	3.3	3.2	-0.3	-0.2
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	2.8	3.2	3.0	-0.4	-0.2
FAYETTEVILLE	4.4	4.9	4.8	-0.5	-0.4
GOLDSBORO	3.6	4.0	3.8	-0.4	-0.2
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	3.6	4.0	3.8	-0.4	-0.2
GREENVILLE	3.6	4.3	3.9	-0.7	-0.3
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.2	3.4	3.2	-0.2	0.0
JACKSONVILLE	3.8	4.2	4.1	-0.4	-0.3
NEW BERN	3.2	3.5	3.5	-0.3	-0.3
RALEIGH	2.9	3.2	3.0	-0.3	-0.1
ROCKY MOUNT	4.5	5.0	5.3	-0.5	-0.8
WILMINGTON	3.0	3.4	3.1	-0.4	-0.1
WINSTON-SALEM	3.1	3.5	3.4	-0.4	-0.3

Micropolitan Statistical Area	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	2.9	3.2	3.2	-0.3	-0.3
BOONE	2.8	3.2	3.1	-0.4	-0.3
BREVARD	3.1	3.4	3.3	-0.3	-0.2
CULLOWHEE	3.3	3.9	3.5	-0.6	-0.2
DUNN	3.7	4.1	3.9	-0.4	-0.2
ELIZABETH CITY	3.7	4.1	4.1	-0.4	-0.4
FOREST CITY	4.2	4.9	4.4	-0.7	-0.2
HENDERSON	5.1	5.5	5.7	-0.4	-0.6
KILL DEVIL HILLS	2.8	2.9	3.1	-0.1	-0.3
KINSTON	3.2	3.7	3.4	-0.5	-0.2
LAURINBURG	5.6	6.2	5.9	-0.6	-0.3
LUMBERTON	4.7	5.2	5.2	-0.5	-0.5
MARION	3.0	3.3	3.3	-0.3	-0.3
MOREHEAD CITY	3.0	3.2	3.2	-0.2	-0.2
MOUNT AIRY	3.0	3.4	3.3	-0.4	-0.3
NORTH WILKESBORO	3.6	3.9	3.6	-0.3	0.0
OXFORD	2.8	3.2	3.0	-0.4	-0.2
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.3	3.7	3.4	-0.4	-0.1
ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.8	5.3	5.2	-0.5	-0.4
ROCKINGHAM	4.3	4.7	4.7	-0.4	-0.4
SANFORD	3.7	4.0	4.0	-0.3	-0.3
SHELBY	3.1	3.6	3.7	-0.5	-0.6
WASHINGTON	3.7	4.1	3.8	-0.4	-0.1
WILSON	4.6	5.5	4.8	-0.9	-0.2

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

Combined Statistical Area	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	2.7	3.0	2.9	-0.3	-0.2
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.0	3.3	3.3	-0.3	-0.3
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	4.5	5.1	5.0	-0.6	-0.5
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	3.3	3.8	3.6	-0.5	-0.3
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	3.6	4.2	3.9	-0.6	-0.3
HICKORY-LENOIR	3.2	3.4	3.2	-0.2	0.0
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.1	3.4	3.4	-0.3	-0.3
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	2.9	3.3	3.1	-0.4	-0.2
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.6	5.2	5.1	-0.6	-0.5

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 RANKINGS
Preliminary Data for September 2023

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
SWAIN	7,562	187	2.5%	1	CALDWELL	36,837	1,193	3.2%	51
BUNCOMBE	146,810	3,721	2.5%	2	FORSYTH	195,205	6,328	3.2%	52
CURRITUCK	14,786	396	2.7%	3	SAMPSON	28,689	933	3.3%	53
DARE	21,330	577	2.7%	4	GATES	5,151	168	3.3%	54
AVERY	8,257	225	2.7%	5	JACKSON	20,224	663	3.3%	55
ORANGE	84,856	2,313	2.7%	6	PERSON	19,486	645	3.3%	56
ASHE	13,053	358	2.7%	7	CHOWAN	5,889	195	3.3%	57
HENDERSON	57,272	1,584	2.8%	8	COLUMBUS	24,492	816	3.3%	58
CHATHAM	38,789	1,074	2.8%	9	MOORE	42,953	1,436	3.3%	59
WATAUGA	30,972	860	2.8%	10	MITCHELL	6,210	215	3.5%	60
GREENE	9,488	266	2.8%	11	GUILFORD	265,722	9,449	3.6%	61
UNION	135,168	3,795	2.8%	12	ALEXANDER	18,286	651	3.6%	62
WAKE	659,570	18,593	2.8%	13	WILKES	26,874	958	3.6%	63
GRANVILLE	31,299	892	2.8%	14	ROCKINGHAM	40,206	1,437	3.6%	64
LINCOLN	48,156	1,373	2.9%	15	CHEROKEE	11,321	405	3.6%	65
DURHAM	186,365	5,328	2.9%	16	RANDOLPH	66,867	2,411	3.6%	66
HAYWOOD	31,235	902	2.9%	17	MONTGOMERY	11,236	406	3.6%	67
DAVIE	21,411	619	2.9%	18	CLAY	4,356	158	3.6%	68
YADKIN	18,119	524	2.9%	19	ALLEGHANY	4,791	174	3.6%	69
YANCEY	8,437	247	2.9%	20	WAYNE	51,045	1,854	3.6%	70
STANLY	31,591	926	2.9%	21	PITT	90,183	3,280	3.6%	71
MACON	16,509	485	2.9%	22	HARNETT	56,524	2,065	3.7%	72
MADISON	10,394	306	2.9%	23	LEE	26,359	968	3.7%	73
STOKES	22,383	662	3.0%	24	BEAUFORT	20,041	738	3.7%	74
CARTERET	32,842	972	3.0%	25	BLADEN	14,627	540	3.7%	75
CABARRUS	120,463	3,577	3.0%	26	PASQUOTANK	16,706	626	3.7%	76
NEW HANOVER	131,300	3,936	3.0%	27	ONSLOW	70,544	2,654	3.8%	77
MCDOWELL	20,558	617	3.0%	28	BRUNSWICK	59,816	2,286	3.8%	78
JONES	4,292	129	3.0%	29	ANSON	10,211	391	3.8%	79
JOHNSTON	112,378	3,383	3.0%	30	TYRRELL	1,350	53	3.9%	80
PAMLICO	5,535	167	3.0%	31	HYDE	1,755	69	3.9%	81
IREDELL	98,221	2,983	3.0%	32	GRAHAM	2,918	115	3.9%	82
SURRY	32,906	1,001	3.0%	33	PERQUIMANS	4,926	200	4.1%	83
POLK	9,633	294	3.1%	34	MARTIN	8,572	349	4.1%	84
DAVIDSON	84,198	2,575	3.1%	35	NASH	42,355	1,739	4.1%	85
PENDER	30,957	951	3.1%	36	BERTIE	6,746	283	4.2%	86
CATAWBA	80,471	2,481	3.1%	37	HERTFORD	8,328	350	4.2%	87
MECKLENBURG	677,862	20,925	3.1%	38	RUTHERFORD	24,854	1,045	4.2%	88
BURKE	41,321	1,282	3.1%	39	HOKE	20,292	856	4.2%	89
TRANSYLVANIA	15,111	474	3.1%	40	RICHMOND	17,306	744	4.3%	90
GASTON	118,998	3,745	3.1%	41	CUMBERLAND	128,029	5,608	4.4%	91
CLEVELAND	50,121	1,578	3.1%	42	WASHINGTON	4,323	191	4.4%	92
ROWAN	70,190	2,211	3.2%	43	NORTHAMPTON	7,088	326	4.6%	93
CASWELL	9,782	312	3.2%	44	WILSON	33,688	1,559	4.6%	94
ALAMANCE	84,852	2,707	3.2%	45	ROBESON	47,618	2,236	4.7%	95
CAMDEN	4,651	149	3.2%	46	WARREN	6,352	307	4.8%	96
LENOIR	27,665	890	3.2%	47	HALIFAX	18,802	916	4.9%	97
CRAVEN	42,681	1,374	3.2%	48	VANCE	16,855	857	5.1%	98
FRANKLIN	35,401	1,142	3.2%	49	EDGECOMBE	20,121	1,053	5.2%	99
DUPLIN	24,628	796	3.2%	50	SCOTLAND	11,207	626	5.6%	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.

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 Friday, November 17, 2023 when the statewide unemployment rate for October 2023 will be released.

The complete 2023 data release schedule can be accessed at:

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