



For Immediate Release: December 11, 2025  
For More Information, Contact: David Rhoades/919.814.4611

## North Carolina's September Employment Figures Released

**RALEIGH** — The state's seasonally adjusted September 2025 unemployment rate was 3.7 percent, unchanged from August's revised rate. The national rate increased 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.4 percent.

North Carolina's unemployment rate was unchanged from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 1,020 over the month to 5,089,209 and decreased 306 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 2,954 over the month to 197,807 and increased 2,499 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 10,200 to 5,106,700 in September. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 3,200; Professional & Business Services, 2,500; Private Education & Health Services, 2,000; Construction, 1,300; Financial Activities, 700; Information, 300; Manufacturing, 300; Government, 100; Mining & Logging, 100; and Other Services, 100. The only major sector experiencing a decrease was Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 400.

### Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since September 2024

	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025	Jun 2025	Jul 2025	Aug 2025	Sep 2025
N.C.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7
U.S.	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4

*Estimates are subject to monthly and annual revisions*

Since September 2024, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 79,700 with the Total Private sector increasing by 71,800 and Government increasing by 7,900. Major industries experiencing increases were Private Education & Health Services, 21,400; Professional & Business Services, 20,100; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 11,100; Construction, 9,700; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 8,600; Government, 7,900; Other Services, 4,800; Financial Activities, 4,000; and Mining & Logging, 200. Major industries experiencing decreases over the year were Manufacturing, 7,700; and Information, 400.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 2025 when the county unemployment rates for September 2025 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. Thursday, December 11, 2025*

				Month Ago		Year Ago		
		September 2025	August 2025	September 2024	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina (Local Area Unemployment Statistics)								
Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted								
Labor Force	5,287,016	5,283,042	5,284,823	3,974	0.1	2,193	0.0	
Employed	5,089,209	5,088,189	5,089,515	1,020	0.0	-306	0.0	
Unemployed	197,807	194,853	195,308	2,954	1.5	2,499	1.3	
Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.7	3.7	0.0	xxx	0.0	xxx	
Not Seasonally Adjusted								
Labor Force	5,313,871	5,266,925	5,294,450	46,946	0.9	19,421	0.4	
Employed	5,117,735	5,054,219	5,122,864	63,516	1.3	-5,129	-0.1	
Unemployed	196,136	212,706	171,586	-16,570	-7.8	24,550	14.3	
Unemployment Rate	3.7	4.0	3.2	-0.3	xxx	0.5	xxx	
United States (Current Population Survey)								
Seasonally Adjusted								
Labor Force	171,248,000	170,778,000	168,703,000	470,000	0.3	xxx	xxx	
Employed	163,645,000	163,394,000	161,802,000	251,000	0.2	xxx	xxx	
Unemployed	7,603,000	7,384,000	6,901,000	219,000	3.0	xxx	xxx	
Unemployment Rate	4.4	4.3	4.1	0.1	xxx	xxx	xxx	
Not Seasonally Adjusted								
Labor Force	171,217,000	171,035,000	168,569,000	182,000	0.1	xxx	xxx	
Employed	163,894,000	163,288,000	162,046,000	606,000	0.4	xxx	xxx	
Unemployed	7,324,000	7,747,000	6,524,000	-423,000	-5.5	xxx	xxx	
Unemployment Rate	4.3	4.5	3.9	-0.2	xxx	xxx	xxx	

Annual population adjustments affect the comparability of national labor force estimates over time.  
Estimates are subject to monthly and annual revisions.

# North Carolina Department of Commerce

## Labor and Economic Analysis Division

### NORTH CAROLINA EMPLOYMENT DATA

*North Carolina data is embargoed until 10:00 A.M. Thursday, December 11, 2025*

			Month Ago		Year Ago		
	September 2025	August 2025	September 2024	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
<b>North Carolina</b> <b>(Current Employment Statistics)</b>							
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>							
Total Nonfarm	5,106,700	5,096,500	5,027,000	10,200	0.2	79,700	1.6
Total Private	4,326,900	4,316,800	4,255,100	10,100	0.2	71,800	1.7
Mining & Logging	6,200	6,100	6,000	100	1.6	200	3.3
Construction	283,000	281,700	273,300	1,300	0.5	9,700	3.5
Manufacturing	457,500	457,200	465,200	300	0.1	-7,700	-1.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	944,600	945,000	936,000	-400	0.0	8,600	0.9
Information	85,300	85,000	85,700	300	0.4	-400	-0.5
Financial Activities	313,200	312,500	309,200	700	0.2	4,000	1.3
Professional & Business Services	761,500	759,000	741,400	2,500	0.3	20,100	2.7
Private Education & Health Services	723,600	721,600	702,200	2,000	0.3	21,400	3.0
Leisure & Hospitality Services	549,800	546,600	538,700	3,200	0.6	11,100	2.1
Other Services	202,200	202,100	197,400	100	0.0	4,800	2.4
Government	779,800	779,700	771,900	100	0.0	7,900	1.0
<b>North Carolina</b> <b>(Current Employment Statistics)</b>							
<b>Not Seasonally Adjusted</b>							
Total Nonfarm	5,107,600	5,095,300	5,012,800	12,300	0.2	94,800	1.9
Total Private	4,322,400	4,338,300	4,236,900	-15,900	-0.4	85,500	2.0
Mining & Logging	6,200	6,200	6,000	0	0.0	200	3.3
Construction	284,600	284,000	272,400	600	0.2	12,200	4.5
Manufacturing	458,500	457,800	464,800	700	0.2	-6,300	-1.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	938,300	944,000	927,500	-5,700	-0.6	10,800	1.2
Information	85,200	85,000	85,300	200	0.2	-100	-0.1
Financial Activities	314,400	315,800	309,100	-1,400	-0.4	5,300	1.7
Professional & Business Services	761,800	760,800	739,100	1,000	0.1	22,700	3.1
Private Education & Health Services	722,400	717,700	697,700	4,700	0.7	24,700	3.5
Leisure & Hospitality Services	550,500	564,300	539,200	-13,800	-2.4	11,300	2.1
Other Services	200,500	202,700	195,800	-2,200	-1.1	4,700	2.4
Government	785,200	757,000	775,900	28,200	3.7	9,300	1.2

Estimates are subject to monthly and annual revisions.  
2024 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 July 21, 2023. 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](http://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](http://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/sac/additional-resources/reliability-of-state-and-area-estimates.htm>.

### **Release Dates**

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 2025 when the county unemployment rates for September 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>