



*For Immediate Release: October 28, 2026
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North Carolina's September County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in all 100 counties in September 2026. Edgecombe County had the highest unemployment rate at 4.7 percent while Currituck County had the lowest at 2.3 percent. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 4.2 percent while Raleigh had the lowest at 2.7 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.1 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
September	100	0	0
August (Revised)	97	3	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in all 100 counties. All 15 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in September by 79,395 to 5,120,418, while those unemployed decreased by 23,482 to 164,944. Since September 2025, the number of workers employed statewide decreased 310, while those unemployed decreased 31,849.

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 20, 2026, when the statewide unemployment rate for October 2026 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 2026*

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,285,362	164,944	3.1	JOHNSTON	130,865	3,515	2.7
ALAMANCE	83,676	2,649	3.2	JONES	3,758	124	3.3
ALEXANDER	15,476	453	2.9	LEE	30,569	948	3.1
ALLEGHANY	4,603	143	3.1	LENOIR	24,404	816	3.3
ANSON	8,865	358	4.0	LINCOLN	47,601	1,362	2.9
ASHE	12,372	327	2.6	MCDOWELL	18,583	600	3.2
AVERY	8,086	208	2.6	MACON	17,120	490	2.9
BEAUFORT	19,344	593	3.1	MADISON	10,470	292	2.8
BERTIE	5,950	251	4.2	MARTIN	9,031	318	3.5
BLADEN	10,797	470	4.4	MECKLENBURG	662,350	21,640	3.3
BRUNSWICK	69,137	2,503	3.6	MITCHELL	6,507	199	3.1
BUNCOMBE	137,407	3,900	2.8	MONTGOMERY	10,188	354	3.5
BURKE	38,209	1,118	2.9	MOORE	46,371	1,308	2.8
CABARRUS	124,308	3,769	3.0	NASH	42,464	1,720	4.1
CALDWELL	35,034	1,072	3.1	NEW HANOVER	127,187	3,609	2.8
CAMDEN	5,365	135	2.5	NORTHAMPTON	6,240	240	3.8
CARTERET	32,175	897	2.8	ONSLOW	71,803	2,434	3.4
CASWELL	9,720	304	3.1	ORANGE	78,148	2,154	2.8
CATAWBA	75,347	2,308	3.1	PAMLICO	5,057	160	3.2
CHATHAM	40,021	1,086	2.7	PASQUOTANK	17,784	549	3.1
CHEROKEE	11,064	368	3.3	PENDER	32,383	948	2.9
CHOWAN	6,167	178	2.9	PERQUIMANS	5,366	188	3.5
CLAY	4,754	146	3.1	PERSON	20,181	589	2.9
CLEVELAND	44,212	1,640	3.7	PITT	85,216	2,955	3.5
COLUMBUS	19,758	734	3.7	POLK	9,523	259	2.7
CRAVEN	40,044	1,317	3.3	RANDOLPH	66,982	2,066	3.1
CUMBERLAND	128,460	5,173	4.0	RICHMOND	18,924	667	3.5
CURRITUCK	16,402	375	2.3	ROBESON	43,435	1,885	4.3
DARE	20,119	537	2.7	ROCKINGHAM	40,027	1,332	3.3
DAVIDSON	79,910	2,519	3.2	ROWAN	70,271	2,165	3.1
DAVIE	20,615	620	3.0	RUTHERFORD	26,062	949	3.6
DUPLIN	23,167	645	2.8	SAMPSON	24,578	754	3.1
DURHAM	186,784	5,271	2.8	SCOTLAND	13,326	549	4.1
EDGECOMBE	20,285	946	4.7	STANLY	35,137	901	2.6
FORSYTH	183,230	6,001	3.3	STOKES	20,132	614	3.0
FRANKLIN	40,164	1,137	2.8	SURRY	31,907	886	2.8
GASTON	116,203	3,723	3.2	SWAIN	6,494	164	2.5
GATES	4,448	130	2.9	TRANSYLVANIA	14,193	406	2.9
GRAHAM	3,436	102	3.0	TYRRELL	1,293	50	3.9
GRANVILLE	28,994	842	2.9	UNION	133,173	3,817	2.9
GREENE	8,511	236	2.8	VANCE	18,648	749	4.0
GUILFORD	265,551	9,105	3.4	WAKE	698,382	19,248	2.8
HALIFAX	18,066	827	4.6	WARREN	7,195	284	3.9
HARNETT	61,122	2,065	3.4	WASHINGTON	3,911	168	4.3
HAYWOOD	28,677	796	2.8	WATAUGA	28,833	755	2.6
HENDERSON	56,516	1,463	2.6	WAYNE	48,433	1,618	3.3
HERTFORD	8,042	284	3.5	WILKES	25,441	819	3.2
HOKE	20,431	796	3.9	WILSON	34,301	1,425	4.2
HYDE	1,555	62	4.0	YADKIN	16,929	479	2.8
IREDELL	103,949	3,012	2.9	YANCEY	8,745	231	2.6
JACKSON	22,914	599	2.6				

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates are subject to monthly and annual revisions

North Carolina Department of Commerce
Labor & Economic Analysis Division
Local Area Unemployment Statistics

NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

County	September 2026	August 2026	September 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	September 2026	August 2026	September 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.1	3.6	3.7	-0.5	-0.6	JOHNSTON	2.7	3.1	3.1	-0.4	-0.4
ALAMANCE	3.2	3.8	3.8	-0.6	-0.6	JONES	3.3	3.8	3.9	-0.5	-0.6
ALEXANDER	2.9	3.4	3.6	-0.5	-0.7	LEE	3.1	3.6	3.7	-0.5	-0.6
ALLEGHANY	3.1	3.5	3.4	-0.4	-0.3	LENOIR	3.3	3.9	3.8	-0.6	-0.5
ANSON	4.0	4.6	4.5	-0.6	-0.5	LINCOLN	2.9	3.3	3.3	-0.4	-0.4
ASHE	2.6	2.9	3.1	-0.3	-0.5	MCDOWELL	3.2	3.7	3.8	-0.5	-0.6
AVERY	2.6	3.0	3.4	-0.4	-0.8	MACON	2.9	3.3	3.3	-0.4	-0.4
BEAUFORT	3.1	3.5	3.4	-0.4	-0.3	MADISON	2.8	3.3	3.8	-0.5	-1.0
BERTIE	4.2	4.6	4.6	-0.4	-0.4	MARTIN	3.5	4.0	3.8	-0.5	-0.3
BLADEN	4.4	4.8	5.4	-0.4	-1.0	MECKLENBURG	3.3	3.7	3.8	-0.4	-0.5
BRUNSWICK	3.6	3.9	4.1	-0.3	-0.5	MITCHELL	3.1	3.4	3.9	-0.3	-0.8
BUNCOMBE	2.8	3.2	3.8	-0.4	-1.0	MONTGOMERY	3.5	3.9	4.0	-0.4	-0.5
BURKE	2.9	3.4	3.7	-0.5	-0.8	MOORE	2.8	3.2	3.4	-0.4	-0.6
CABARRUS	3.0	3.5	3.6	-0.5	-0.6	NASH	4.1	4.6	4.9	-0.5	-0.8
CALDWELL	3.1	3.5	3.7	-0.4	-0.6	NEW HANOVER	2.8	3.3	3.3	-0.5	-0.5
CAMDEN	2.5	3.0	3.1	-0.5	-0.6	NORTHAMPTON	3.8	4.6	5.0	-0.8	-1.2
CARTERET	2.8	3.1	3.4	-0.3	-0.6	ONslow	3.4	3.9	3.8	-0.5	-0.4
CASWELL	3.1	3.7	3.7	-0.6	-0.6	ORANGE	2.8	3.5	3.4	-0.7	-0.6
CATAWBA	3.1	3.5	3.5	-0.4	-0.4	PAMLICO	3.2	3.3	3.7	-0.1	-0.5
CHATHAM	2.7	3.1	3.3	-0.4	-0.6	PASQUOTANK	3.1	3.7	3.8	-0.6	-0.7
CHEROKEE	3.3	3.6	3.8	-0.3	-0.5	PENDER	2.9	3.3	3.5	-0.4	-0.6
CHOWAN	2.9	3.4	3.5	-0.5	-0.6	PERQUIMANS	3.5	3.9	4.0	-0.4	-0.5
CLAY	3.1	3.4	3.6	-0.3	-0.5	PERSON	2.9	3.3	3.5	-0.4	-0.6
CLEVELAND	3.7	4.3	4.3	-0.6	-0.6	PITT	3.5	4.3	4.0	-0.8	-0.5
COLUMBUS	3.7	4.2	4.1	-0.5	-0.4	POLK	2.7	3.1	3.5	-0.4	-0.8
CRAVEN	3.3	3.8	3.7	-0.5	-0.4	RANDOLPH	3.1	3.5	3.5	-0.4	-0.4
CUMBERLAND	4.0	4.6	4.6	-0.6	-0.6	RICHMOND	3.5	3.9	4.3	-0.4	-0.8
CURRITUCK	2.3	2.7	2.6	-0.4	-0.3	ROBESON	4.3	5.1	5.3	-0.8	-1.0
DARE	2.7	2.9	3.1	-0.2	-0.4	ROCKINGHAM	3.3	3.8	4.0	-0.5	-0.7
DAVIDSON	3.2	3.6	3.7	-0.4	-0.5	ROWAN	3.1	3.6	4.3	-0.5	-1.2
DAVIE	3.0	3.4	3.7	-0.4	-0.7	RUTHERFORD	3.6	4.1	4.4	-0.5	-0.8
DUPLIN	2.8	3.3	3.3	-0.5	-0.5	SAMPSON	3.1	3.6	3.9	-0.5	-0.8
DURHAM	2.8	3.3	3.4	-0.5	-0.6	SCOTLAND	4.1	4.7	4.9	-0.6	-0.8
EDGECOMBE	4.7	5.4	5.5	-0.7	-0.8	STANLY	2.6	3.1	3.1	-0.5	-0.5
FORSYTH	3.3	3.9	3.9	-0.6	-0.6	STOKES	3.0	3.4	3.7	-0.4	-0.7
FRANKLIN	2.8	3.3	3.3	-0.5	-0.5	SURRY	2.8	3.3	3.4	-0.5	-0.6
GASTON	3.2	3.7	3.9	-0.5	-0.7	SWAIN	2.5	2.9	3.3	-0.4	-0.8
GATES	2.9	3.6	3.7	-0.7	-0.8	TRANSYLVANIA	2.9	3.2	3.5	-0.3	-0.6
GRAHAM	3.0	3.2	3.3	-0.2	-0.3	TYRRELL	3.9	4.3	4.5	-0.4	-0.6
GRANVILLE	2.9	3.4	3.6	-0.5	-0.7	UNION	2.9	3.4	3.4	-0.5	-0.5
GREENE	2.8	3.3	3.4	-0.5	-0.6	VANCE	4.0	4.5	4.4	-0.5	-0.4
GUILFORD	3.4	4.2	4.2	-0.8	-0.8	WAKE	2.8	3.1	3.1	-0.3	-0.3
HALIFAX	4.6	5.3	5.6	-0.7	-1.0	WARREN	3.9	4.5	4.5	-0.6	-0.6
HARNETT	3.4	3.9	3.9	-0.5	-0.5	WASHINGTON	4.3	4.8	4.9	-0.5	-0.6
HAYWOOD	2.8	3.1	3.5	-0.3	-0.7	WATAUGA	2.6	3.7	3.4	-1.1	-0.8
HENDERSON	2.6	3.0	3.1	-0.4	-0.5	WAYNE	3.3	3.9	3.9	-0.6	-0.6
HERTFORD	3.5	4.2	4.2	-0.7	-0.7	WILKES	3.2	3.7	3.9	-0.5	-0.7
HOKE	3.9	4.5	4.5	-0.6	-0.6	WILSON	4.2	5.0	4.9	-0.8	-0.7
HYDE	4.0	4.2	4.4	-0.2	-0.4	YADKIN	2.8	3.2	3.2	-0.4	-0.4
IREDELL	2.9	3.3	3.7	-0.4	-0.8	YANCEY	2.6	3.0	3.6	-0.4	-1.0
JACKSON	2.6	3.5	3.3	-0.9	-0.7						

Not Seasonally Adjusted

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North Carolina Department of Commerce
Labor & Economic Analysis Division
Local Area Unemployment Statistics

METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Data for
September 2026

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	204,393	5,655	2.8
BURLINGTON	83,676	2,649	3.2
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,494,983	48,611	3.3
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	325,134	9,100	2.8
FAYETTEVILLE	148,891	5,969	4.0
GOLDSBORO	48,433	1,618	3.3
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	372,560	12,503	3.4
GREENVILLE	85,216	2,955	3.5
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	164,066	4,951	3.0
JACKSONVILLE	71,803	2,434	3.4
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	46,371	1,308	2.8
RALEIGH	869,411	23,900	2.7
ROCKY MOUNT	62,749	2,666	4.2
WILMINGTON	228,707	7,060	3.1
WINSTON-SALEM	320,816	10,233	3.2

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	35,137	901	2.6
ANDERSON CREEK	61,122	2,065	3.4
BOONE	28,833	755	2.6
BREVARD	14,193	406	2.9
ELIZABETH CITY	17,784	549	3.1
FOREST CITY	26,062	949	3.6
HENDERSON	18,648	749	4.0
KILL DEVIL HILLS	20,119	537	2.7
KINSTON	24,404	816	3.3
LAURINBURG	13,326	549	4.1
LUMBERTON	43,435	1,885	4.3
MARION	18,583	600	3.2
MOREHEAD CITY	32,175	897	2.8
MOUNT AIRY	31,907	886	2.8
MOREHEAD CITY	48,859	1,601	3.3
NEW BERN	25,441	819	3.2
NORTH WILKESBORO	24,306	1,067	4.4
ROCKINGHAM	18,924	667	3.5
SANFORD	30,569	948	3.1
SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN	44,212	1,640	3.7
WASHINGTON	19,344	593	3.1
WAYNESVILLE	28,677	796	2.8
WILSON	34,301	1,425	4.2

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Data for
September 2026

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD	247,263	6,857	2.8
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,756,981	56,703	3.2
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST	270,947	10,378	3.8
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	808,959	26,271	3.2
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	104,560	3,548	3.4
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	81,034	2,498	3.1
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY	1,304,884	36,762	2.8
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	121,356	5,158	4.3

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates are subject to monthly and annual revisions

North Carolina Department of Commerce
Labor & Economic Analysis Division
Local Area Unemployment Statistics

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

Metropolitan Statistical Area	September 2026	August 2026	September 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	2.8	3.1	3.6	-0.3	-0.8
BURLINGTON	3.2	3.8	3.8	-0.6	-0.6
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.3	3.7	3.9	-0.4	-0.6
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	2.8	3.3	3.4	-0.5	-0.6
FAYETTEVILLE	4.0	4.6	4.6	-0.6	-0.6
GOLDSBORO	3.3	3.9	3.9	-0.6	-0.6
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	3.4	4.0	4.0	-0.6	-0.6
GREENVILLE	3.5	4.3	4.0	-0.8	-0.5
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.0	3.5	3.6	-0.5	-0.6
JACKSONVILLE	3.4	3.9	3.8	-0.5	-0.4
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	2.8	3.2	3.4	-0.4	-0.6
RALEIGH	2.7	3.1	3.2	-0.4	-0.5
ROCKY MOUNT	4.2	4.8	5.1	-0.6	-0.9
WILMINGTON	3.1	3.5	3.6	-0.4	-0.5
WINSTON-SALEM	3.2	3.7	3.8	-0.5	-0.6

Micropolitan Statistical Area	September 2026	August 2026	September 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	2.6	3.1	3.1	-0.5	-0.5
ANDERSON CREEK	3.4	3.9	3.9	-0.5	-0.5
BOONE	2.6	3.7	3.4	-1.1	-0.8
BREVARD	2.9	3.2	3.5	-0.3	-0.6
ELIZABETH CITY	3.1	3.7	3.8	-0.6	-0.7
FOREST CITY	3.6	4.1	4.4	-0.5	-0.8
HENDERSON	4.0	4.5	4.4	-0.5	-0.4
KILL DEVIL HILLS	2.7	2.9	3.1	-0.2	-0.4
KINSTON	3.3	3.9	3.8	-0.6	-0.5
LAURINBURG	4.1	4.7	4.9	-0.6	-0.8
LUMBERTON	4.3	5.1	5.3	-0.8	-1.0
MARION	3.2	3.7	3.8	-0.5	-0.6
MOREHEAD CITY	2.8	3.1	3.4	-0.3	-0.6
MOUNT AIRY	2.8	3.3	3.4	-0.5	-0.6
MOREHEAD CITY	3.3	3.7	3.8	-0.4	-0.5
NEW BERN	3.2	3.7	3.9	-0.5	-0.7
NORTH WILKESBORO	4.4	5.1	5.4	-0.7	-1.0
ROCKINGHAM	3.5	3.9	4.3	-0.4	-0.8
SANFORD	3.1	3.6	3.7	-0.5	-0.6
SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN	3.7	4.3	4.3	-0.6	-0.6
WASHINGTON	3.1	3.5	3.4	-0.4	-0.3
WAYNESVILLE	2.8	3.1	3.5	-0.3	-0.7
WILSON	4.2	5.0	4.9	-0.8	-0.7

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

Combined Statistical Area	September 2026	August 2026	September 2025	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD	2.8	3.1	3.6	-0.3	-0.8
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.2	3.7	3.9	-0.5	-0.7
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST	3.8	4.4	4.5	-0.6	-0.7
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	3.2	3.8	3.9	-0.6	-0.7
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	3.4	4.1	3.8	-0.7	-0.4
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.1	3.5	3.6	-0.4	-0.5
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY	2.8	3.3	3.3	-0.5	-0.5
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.3	4.9	5.1	-0.6	-0.8

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates are subject to monthly and annual revisions

North Carolina Department of Commerce
Labor & Economic Analysis Division
Local Area Unemployment Statistics

NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY RANKINGS
Preliminary Data for September 2026

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
CURRITUCK	16,402	375	2.3	1	ROWAN	70,271	2,165	3.1	51
CAMDEN	5,365	135	2.5	2	RANDOLPH	66,982	2,066	3.1	52
SWAIN	6,494	164	2.5	3	PASQUOTANK	17,784	549	3.1	53
STANLY	35,137	901	2.6	4	LEE	30,569	948	3.1	54
AVERY	8,086	208	2.6	5	ALLEGHANY	4,603	143	3.1	55
HENDERSON	56,516	1,463	2.6	6	CASWELL	9,720	304	3.1	56
JACKSON	22,914	599	2.6	7	DAVIDSON	79,910	2,519	3.2	57
WATAUGA	28,833	755	2.6	8	PAMLICO	5,057	160	3.2	58
YANCEY	8,745	231	2.6	9	ALAMANCE	83,676	2,649	3.2	59
ASHE	12,372	327	2.6	10	GASTON	116,203	3,723	3.2	60
DARE	20,119	537	2.7	11	WILKES	25,441	819	3.2	61
JOHNSTON	130,865	3,515	2.7	12	MCDOWELL	18,583	600	3.2	62
CHATHAM	40,021	1,086	2.7	13	MECKLENBURG	662,350	21,640	3.3	63
POLK	9,523	259	2.7	14	FORSYTH	183,230	6,001	3.3	64
WAKE	698,382	19,248	2.8	15	CRAVEN	40,044	1,317	3.3	65
ORANGE	78,148	2,154	2.8	16	JONES	3,758	124	3.3	66
GREENE	8,511	236	2.8	17	CHEROKEE	11,064	368	3.3	67
HAYWOOD	28,677	796	2.8	18	ROCKINGHAM	40,027	1,332	3.3	68
SURRY	31,907	886	2.8	19	WAYNE	48,433	1,618	3.3	69
DUPLIN	23,167	645	2.8	20	LENOIR	24,404	816	3.3	70
CARTERET	32,175	897	2.8	21	HARNETT	61,122	2,065	3.4	71
MADISON	10,470	292	2.8	22	ONSLOW	71,803	2,434	3.4	72
MOORE	46,371	1,308	2.8	23	GUILFORD	265,551	9,105	3.4	73
DURHAM	186,784	5,271	2.8	24	PITT	85,216	2,955	3.5	74
YADKIN	16,929	479	2.8	25	MONTGOMERY	10,188	354	3.5	75
FRANKLIN	40,164	1,137	2.8	26	PERQUIMANS	5,366	188	3.5	76
NEW HANOVER	127,187	3,609	2.8	27	MARTIN	9,031	318	3.5	77
BUNCOMBE	137,407	3,900	2.8	28	RICHMOND	18,924	667	3.5	78
TRANSYLVANIA	14,193	406	2.9	29	HERTFORD	8,042	284	3.5	79
LINCOLN	47,601	1,362	2.9	30	BRUNSWICK	69,137	2,503	3.6	80
MACON	17,120	490	2.9	31	RUTHERFORD	26,062	949	3.6	81
UNION	133,173	3,817	2.9	32	CLEVELAND	44,212	1,640	3.7	82
CHOWAN	6,167	178	2.9	33	COLUMBUS	19,758	734	3.7	83
IREDELL	103,949	3,012	2.9	34	NORTHAMPTON	6,240	240	3.8	84
GRANVILLE	28,994	842	2.9	35	TYRRELL	1,293	50	3.9	85
PERSON	20,181	589	2.9	36	HOKE	20,431	796	3.9	86
GATES	4,448	130	2.9	37	WARREN	7,195	284	3.9	87
BURKE	38,209	1,118	2.9	38	HYDE	1,555	62	4.0	88
ALEXANDER	15,476	453	2.9	39	VANCE	18,648	749	4.0	89
PENDER	32,383	948	2.9	40	CUMBERLAND	128,460	5,173	4.0	90
GRAHAM	3,436	102	3.0	41	ANSON	8,865	358	4.0	91
DAVIE	20,615	620	3.0	42	NASH	42,464	1,720	4.1	92
CABARRUS	124,308	3,769	3.0	43	SCOTLAND	13,326	549	4.1	93
STOKES	20,132	614	3.0	44	WILSON	34,301	1,425	4.2	94
MITCHELL	6,507	199	3.1	45	BERTIE	5,950	251	4.2	95
CALDWELL	35,034	1,072	3.1	46	WASHINGTON	3,911	168	4.3	96
CATAWBA	75,347	2,308	3.1	47	ROBESON	43,435	1,885	4.3	97
BEAUFORT	19,344	593	3.1	48	BLADEN	10,797	470	4.4	98
SAMPSON	24,578	754	3.1	49	HALIFAX	18,066	827	4.6	99
CLAY	4,754	146	3.1	50	EDGECOMBE	20,285	946	4.7	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

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 Friday, November 20, 2026, when the statewide unemployment rate for October 2026 will be released.

The complete data release schedule through 2026 can be accessed here:
<https://www.commerce.nc.gov/release-dates-unemployment-rates/open>