North Carolina
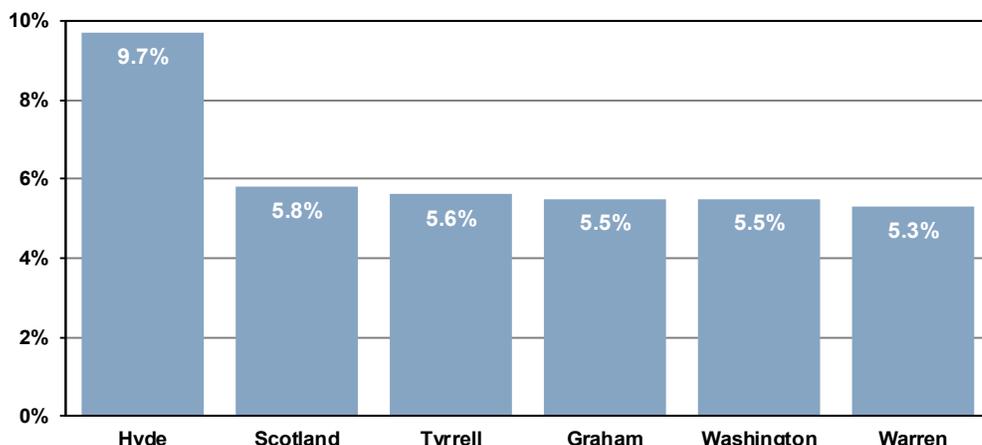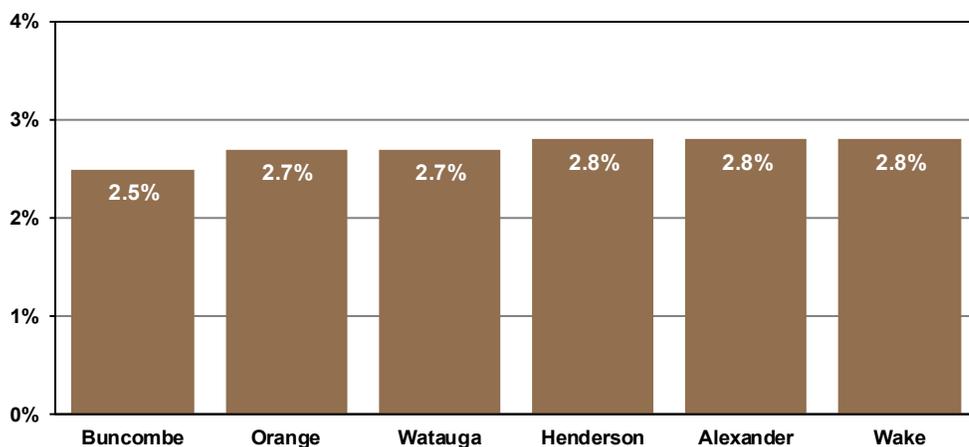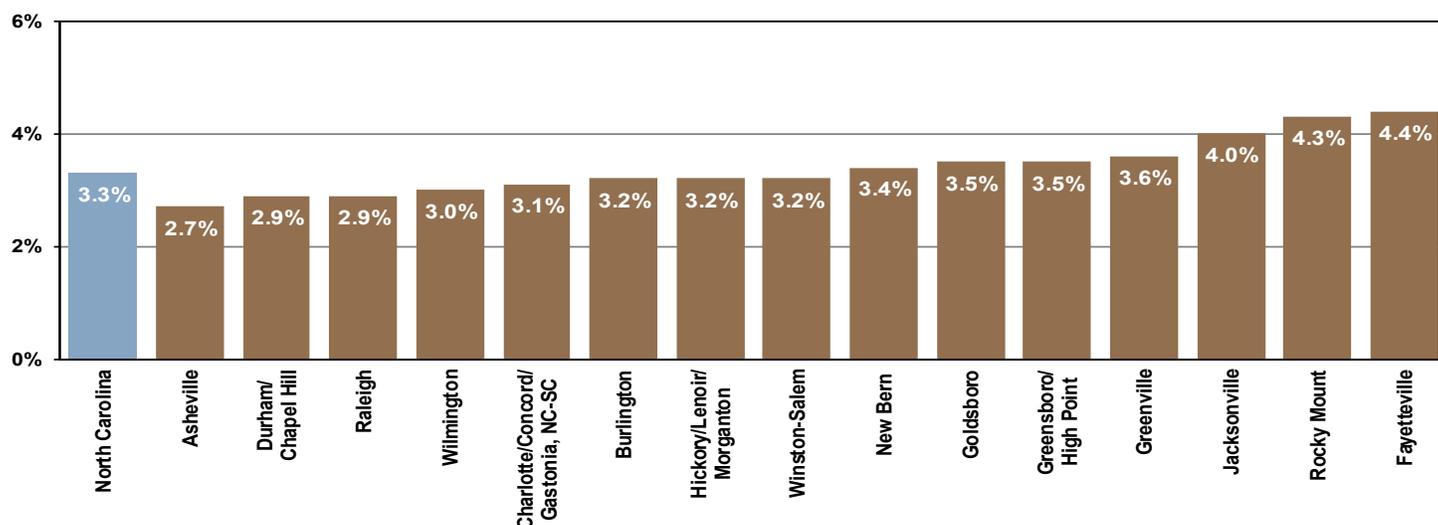# County Labor Market Conditions

December 2019

Counties With Highest Unemployment Rates
December 2019*
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Counties With Lowest Unemployment Rates
December 2019*
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Metropolitan Statistical Areas' Unemployment Rates
December 2019*
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

*All December 2019 data are preliminary.

North Carolina's statewide unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 3.3 percent in December. This decreased 0.1 of a percentage point from November's revised rate, and fell 0.4 of a percentage point over the year.

Over the month, the unemployment rate decreased in 45 of North Carolina's 100 counties. Thirty-eight counties had unemployment rates at or below the state's 3.3 percent rate.

Hyde County recorded December's highest unemployment rate at 9.7 percent, followed by Scotland at 5.8 percent. Buncombe County had the lowest unemployment rate at 2.5 percent, followed by Orange & Watauga at 2.7 percent.

Unemployment rates decreased in 10 of the state's 15 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) over the month. The Fayetteville MSA had the highest unemployment rate in December at 4.4 percent, followed by Rocky Mount at 4.3 percent, and Jacksonville at 4.0 percent. Asheville reported the month's lowest unemployment rate at 2.7 percent, followed by Durham/Chapel Hill & Raleigh at 2.9 percent.

Asheville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019

UN Rate | 2.7%
Total Nonfarm | 205,100
Monthly Change | -500, -0.2%
Yearly Change | 6,500, 3.3%
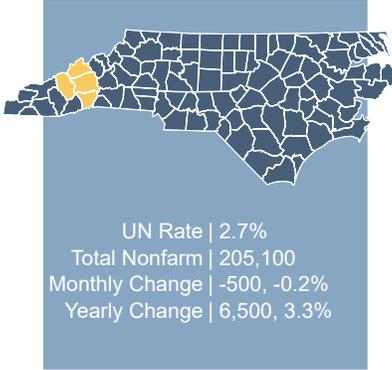
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	200	0.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-100	-0.3%
Information	100	5.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-400	-2.1%
Education & Health Services	400	1.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	-500	-1.7%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-200	-0.8%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	600	6.0%
Manufacturing	700	3.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,100	3.0%
Information	100	5.0%
Financial Activities	100	1.5%
Professional & Business Services	300	1.6%
Education & Health Services	2,700	7.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	300	1.1%
Other Services	300	3.5%
Government	300	1.2%

## Burlington MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019

UN Rate | 3.2%
Total Nonfarm | 64,500
Monthly Change | 100, 0.2%
Yearly Change | 1,100, 1.7%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	100	1.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	100	0.8%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	-100	-0.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	0	0.0%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	0	0.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	100	1.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	0	0.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	400	3.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	400	4.9%
Other Services	100	4.8%
Government	100	1.4%

Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019

UN Rate | 3.1%
Total Nonfarm | 1,255,800
Monthly Change | 2,200, 0.2%
Yearly Change | 33,600, 2.8%
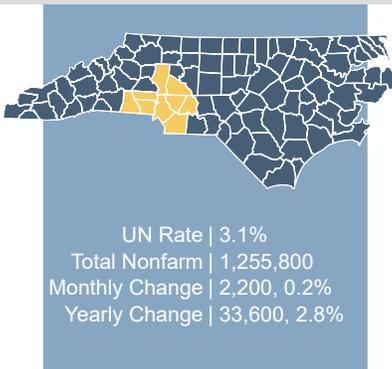
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-400	-0.6%
Manufacturing	700	0.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	2,300	0.9%
Information	700	2.3%
Financial Activities	1,000	1.0%
Professional & Business Services	-3,400	-1.6%
Education & Health Services	-1,300	-1.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,700	1.2%
Other Services	600	1.4%
Government	300	0.2%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-1,500	-2.3%
Manufacturing	2,100	1.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,100	2.0%
Information	1,600	5.4%
Financial Activities	6,100	6.3%
Professional & Business Services	7,800	3.8%
Education & Health Services	3,300	2.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	7,400	5.3%
Other Services	1,500	3.6%
Government	200	0.1%

Durham/Chapel Hill MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019

UN Rate | 2.9%
Total Nonfarm | 319,900
Monthly Change | -1,600, -0.5%
Yearly Change | 2,800, 0.9%
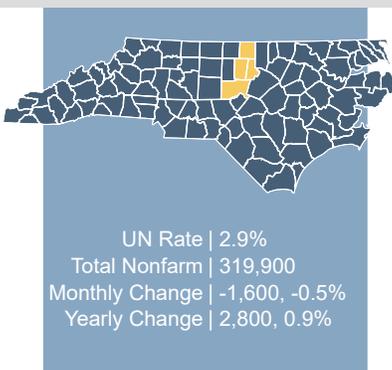
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-1.1%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	600	1.6%
Information	200	4.6%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-1,300	-2.9%
Education & Health Services	-200	-0.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	-500	-1.7%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-300	-0.4%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	500	1.3%
Information	300	7.0%
Financial Activities	400	2.7%
Professional & Business Services	-2,800	-6.1%
Education & Health Services	1,300	1.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,100	4.0%
Other Services	-100	-0.9%
Government	2,100	3.1%

Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All December 2019 data are preliminary.

Fayetteville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019
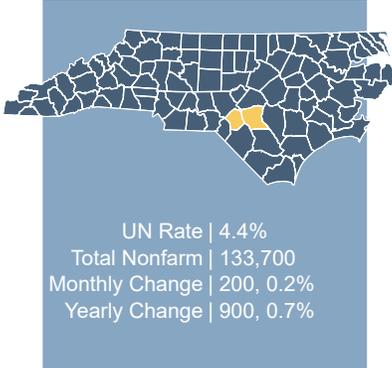
UN Rate | 4.4%
Total Nonfarm | 133,700
Monthly Change | 200, 0.2%
Yearly Change | 900, 0.7%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-100	-0.4%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	100	2.6%
Professional & Business Services	-100	-0.9%
Education & Health Services	-100	-0.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	200	1.2%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	200	0.5%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	100	1.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-100	-0.4%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	100	2.6%
Professional & Business Services	-800	-6.6%
Education & Health Services	200	1.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	500	3.1%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	900	2.2%

## Goldsboro MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019

UN Rate | 3.5%
Total Nonfarm | 41,900
Monthly Change | -300, -0.7%
Yearly Change | 100, 0.2%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	*	
Manufacturing	*	
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	*	
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	*	
Education & Health Services	*	
Leisure & Hospitality	*	
Other Services	*	
Government	0	0.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	*	
Manufacturing	*	
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	*	
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	*	
Education & Health Services	*	
Leisure & Hospitality	*	
Other Services	*	
Government	200	2.2%

## Greensboro/High Point MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019

UN Rate | 3.5%
Total Nonfarm | 367,300
Monthly Change | -1,700, -0.5%
Yearly Change | 6,900, 1.9%
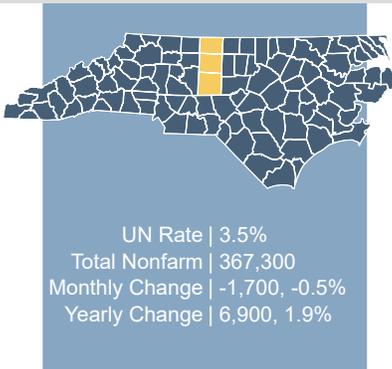
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-0.6%
Manufacturing	-100	-0.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	800	1.0%
Information	100	2.2%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-1,500	-3.1%
Education & Health Services	100	0.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	-600	-1.6%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-400	-0.9%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	0.7%
Manufacturing	700	1.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	3,500	4.6%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-200	-1.1%
Professional & Business Services	200	0.4%
Education & Health Services	1,500	2.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,100	3.1%
Other Services	100	0.8%
Government	-100	-0.2%

Greenville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019
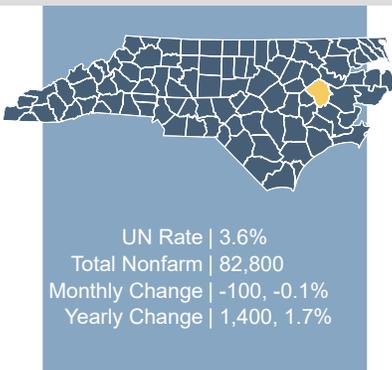
UN Rate | 3.6%
Total Nonfarm | 82,800
Monthly Change | -100, -0.1%
Yearly Change | 1,400, 1.7%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	100	0.8%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	-100	-1.1%
Other Services	-100	-4.4%
Government	0	0.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	2.8%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300	2.5%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-100	-3.7%
Professional & Business Services	200	2.9%
Education & Health Services	400	4.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	0	0.0%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	500	1.8%

*Data not collected for these industrial sectors. Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All December 2019 data are preliminary.

North Carolina **County Labor Market Conditions**

Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019

UN Rate | 3.2%
Total Nonfarm | 156,300
Monthly Change | -700, -0.5%
Yearly Change | 0, 0.0%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	100	0.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	100	0.3%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-500	-3.5%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	0	0.0%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-400	-1.7%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	2.3%
Manufacturing	500	1.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	600	2.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	100	3.2%
Professional & Business Services	-400	-2.8%
Education & Health Services	200	1.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	-1,000	-7.1%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-100	-0.4%

Jacksonville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019

UN Rate | 4.0%
Total Nonfarm | 50,000
Monthly Change | 100, 0.2%
Yearly Change | 400, 0.8%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	*	
Manufacturing	*	
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	*	
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	*	
Education & Health Services	*	
Leisure & Hospitality	*	
Other Services	*	
Government	-100	-0.7%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	*	
Manufacturing	*	
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	*	
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	*	
Education & Health Services	*	
Leisure & Hospitality	*	
Other Services	*	
Government	-400	-2.7%

New Bern MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019

UN Rate | 3.4%
Total Nonfarm | 45,500
Monthly Change | 200, 0.4%
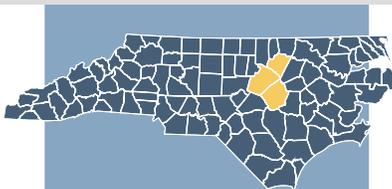Yearly Change | 600, 1.3%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	*	
Manufacturing	*	
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	*	
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	*	
Education & Health Services	*	
Leisure & Hospitality	*	
Other Services	*	
Government	0	0.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	*	
Manufacturing	*	
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	*	
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	*	
Education & Health Services	*	
Leisure & Hospitality	*	
Other Services	*	
Government	100	0.7%

Raleigh MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019

UN Rate | 2.9%
Total Nonfarm | 658,600
Monthly Change | -1,100, -0.2%
Yearly Change | 23,200, 3.7%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	200	0.5%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	900	0.8%
Information	500	2.2%
Financial Activities	100	0.3%
Professional & Business Services	-1,400	-1.1%
Education & Health Services	-700	-0.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	900	1.2%
Other Services	-200	-0.8%
Government	-1,400	-1.4%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	1,300	3.2%
Manufacturing	300	0.8%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	2,600	2.3%
Information	1,200	5.4%
Financial Activities	600	1.8%
Professional & Business Services	6,600	5.6%
Education & Health Services	2,700	3.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	5,600	8.2%
Other Services	600	2.5%
Government	1,700	1.7%

*Data not collected for these industrial sectors. Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All December 2019 data are preliminary.

Rocky Mount MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019
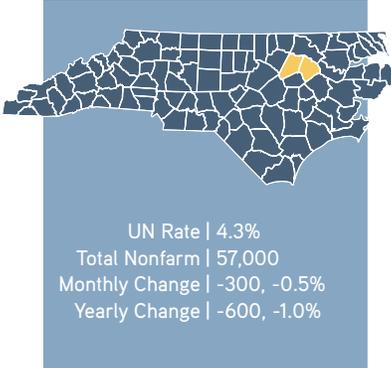
UN Rate | 4.3%
Total Nonfarm | 57,000
Monthly Change | -300, -0.5%
Yearly Change | -600, -1.0%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	-100	-1.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	1.7%
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	-100	-1.9%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	0	0.0%
Other Services	*	
Government	-200	-1.8%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-3.7%
Manufacturing	-600	-5.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	1.7%
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	100	1.5%
Leisure & Hospitality	300	5.5%
Other Services	*	
Government	0	0.0%

Wilmington MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019
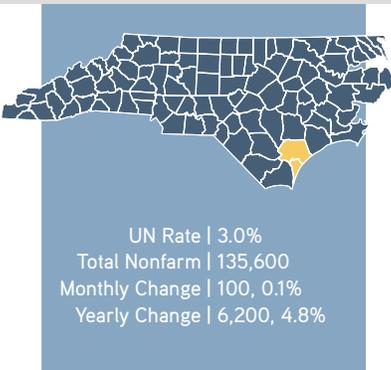
UN Rate | 3.0%
Total Nonfarm | 135,600
Monthly Change | 100, 0.1%
Yearly Change | 6,200, 4.8%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	0.8%
Information	100	3.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	100	0.5%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-300	-1.2%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	800	3.2%
Information	100	3.0%
Financial Activities	200	3.3%
Professional & Business Services	1,200	7.6%
Education & Health Services	400	2.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	2,800	14.2%
Other Services	300	6.0%
Government	400	1.7%

Winston-Salem MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2019

UN Rate | 3.2%
Total Nonfarm | 275,200
Monthly Change | 0, 0.0%
Yearly Change | 5,000, 1.9%
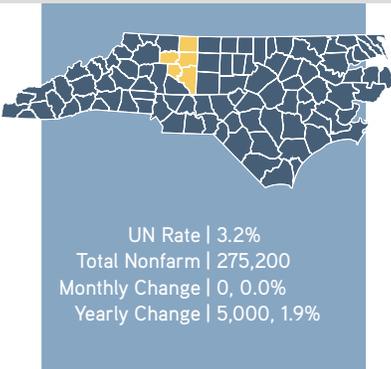
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	0.9%
Manufacturing	100	0.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	0.4%
Information	100	5.6%
Financial Activities	100	0.8%
Professional & Business Services	-1,100	-2.9%
Education & Health Services	-100	-0.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	600	2.0%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	0	0.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	600	5.5%
Manufacturing	700	2.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-100	-0.2%
Information	100	5.6%
Financial Activities	200	1.5%
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	1,400	2.5%
Leisure & Hospitality	2,000	7.1%
Other Services	100	1.2%
Government	0	0.0%

Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All December 2019 data are preliminary.

Over the month, net industry employment increased in six of North Carolina's 15 MSAs. Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC had the largest net employment increase with 2,200, followed by Fayetteville & New Bern, 200; and Burlington, Jacksonville, and Wilmington, 100. New Bern experienced the greatest percentage increase at 0.4 of a percentage point, followed by Burlington, Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC, Fayetteville, and Jacksonville, 0.2 of a percentage point. 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 series.

Over the year, employment increased in 13 of 15 MSAs. Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC had the largest net employment increase at 33,600, followed by Raleigh, 23,200; Greensboro/High Point, 6,900; Asheville, 6,500; and Wilmington; 6,200. Wilmington had the greatest percentage increase at 4.8 percent, followed by Raleigh, 3.7 percent; Asheville, 3.3 percent; and Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC, 2.8 percent.

North Carolina Unemployment Rates by County
December 2019

December 2019

☐	2.5 - 3.2
▨	3.3 - 3.9
▨	4.0 - 4.8
▨	4.9 - 5.8
■	5.9 - 9.7

∧ 25 Counties Higher Than Previous Month

∨ 45 Counties Lower Than Previous Month

= 30 Counties Same as Previous Month

North Carolina Rate 3.3%
Not Seasonally Adjusted

Note: December 2019 data are preliminary.
Prepared by the Labor & Economic Analysis, North Carolina Department of Commerce 1_2020