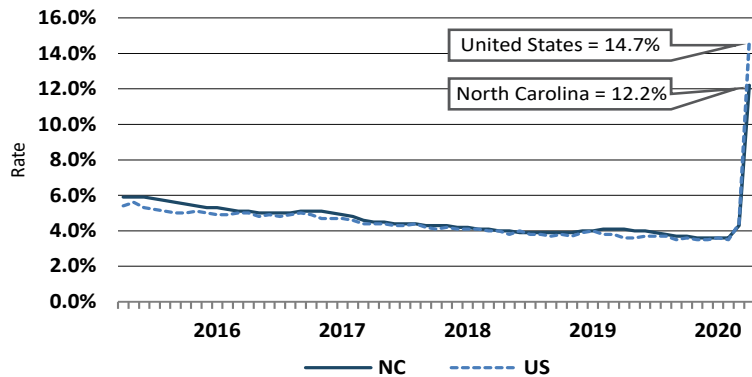


North Carolina's seasonally adjusted April unemployment rate was 12.2%, an increase of 8.1 percentage points from a year ago; the national rate increased 11.1 percentage points to 14.7% during the same period. Unemployment increased across the state in April, as it did across the country. Compared to April 2019, unemployment rates grew in every county in the state - from an increase of 1.8 percentage points, in Bertie County, to 20 points, in Dare County. While NC also experienced a sharp decline in jobs over the month (-12.5%), the drop was not as great as the national overall (-13.5%). The statewide employment statistics for May will be released on June 19.

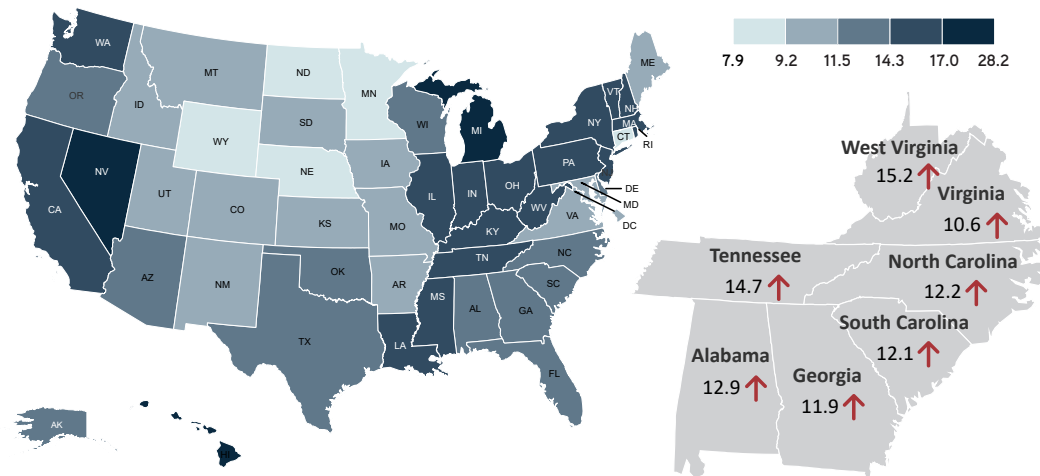
## Unemployment Rate Trend



**NC**  
6.3 percentage points from 5.9% in April 2015

**US**  
9.3 percentage points from 5.4% in April 2015

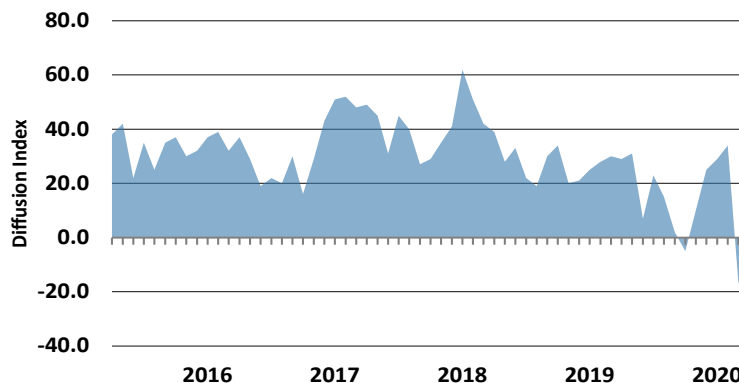
## Unemployment Rate Comparison



## Expected Future Business Conditions

NC/SC

This is an index of expected business conditions over the next six months based on a survey of contacts in the Carolinas. A positive number reflects expected growth, while a negative number reflects expected decline.



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Carolinas Survey of Business Activity. Not seasonally adjusted. Note: March 2020 data most current available.

**NC**

**12.2%**

**US**

**14.7%**

**Unemployment Rate Change**

↑ 7.9      ↑ 10.3

**Change in Employed**

↓ 643,157 (13.5%)      ↓ 22,369,000 (14.4%)

**Change in Unemployed**

↑ 357,418 (165.7%)      ↑ 15,938,000 (223.2%)

**Labor Force Participation Rate**

↓ 3.5 to 56.3%      ↓ 2.5 to 60.2%

**Data**

## Industry Employment

3,996,000 Total Nonfarm Jobs  
 ↓ 571,700 over the month  
 ↓ 568,200 over the year

## Initial UI Claims

518,386 Individuals Filing  
 ↑ 124,072 over the month  
 ↑ 504,906 over the year  
 Source: US Dept. of Labor, ETA

## Real Taxable Retail Sales

↑ \$71.7M over the month  
 ↑ \$325.5M over the year  
 Source: NC Dept. of Revenue  
 Note: March 2020 data most current available at time of release.

## Residential Building Permits

↓ 0.7% over the month  
 ↑ 10.5% over the year  
 Source: United States Census Bureau  
 Note: Includes multiple-unit housing.

## Job Postings

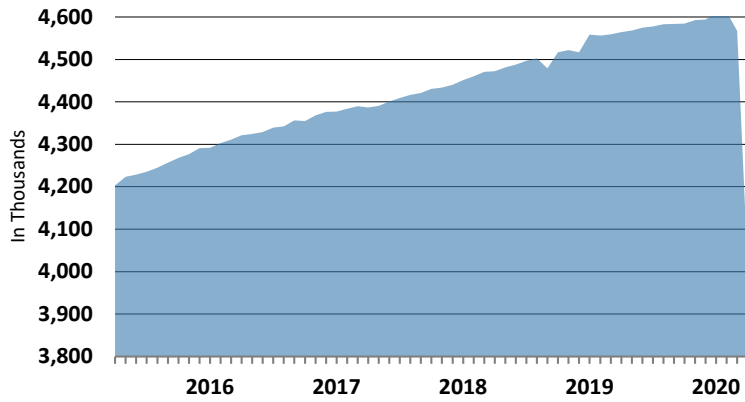
↓ 3.2% over the month  
 ↓ 15.9% over the year  
 Source: LEAD; The Conference Board  
 Note: March 2020 data most current available at time of release.

## Manufacturing Hours Worked

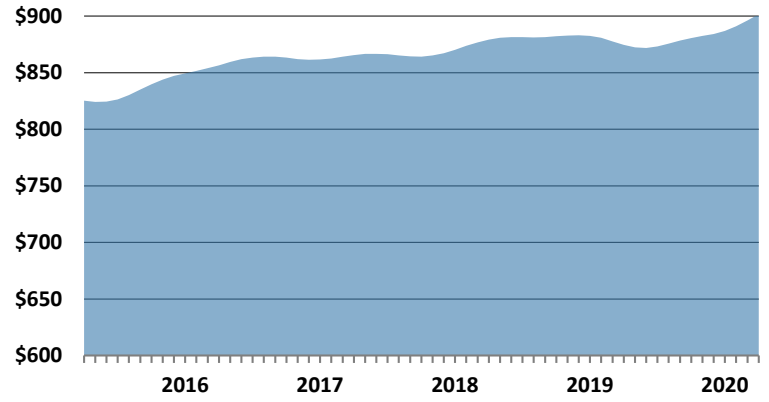
↓ 5.6% over the month  
 ↓ 5.4% over the year  
 Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted

\*All data produced in this publication are based off April 2020 figures, are generated by LEAD, and have been seasonally adjusted and/or smoothed unless otherwise stated. Dollar amounts have been adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index.

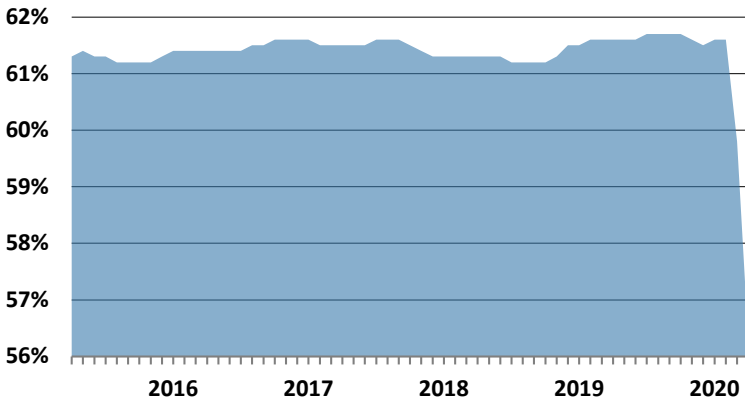
## Total Nonfarm Jobs



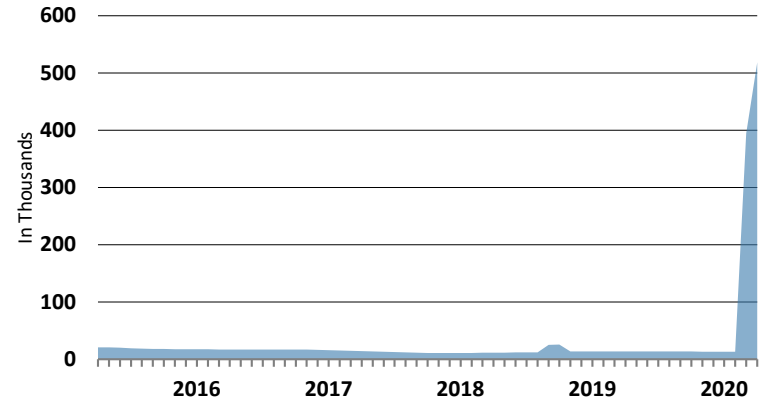
## Average Real Weekly Earnings (Private Nonfarm Sector)



## Labor Force Participation Rate

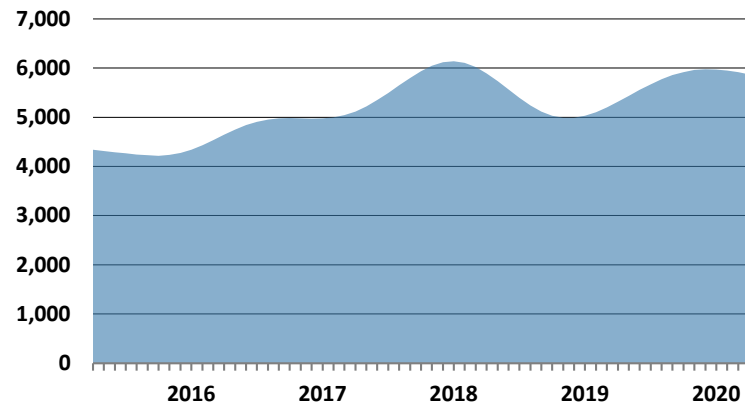


## Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims



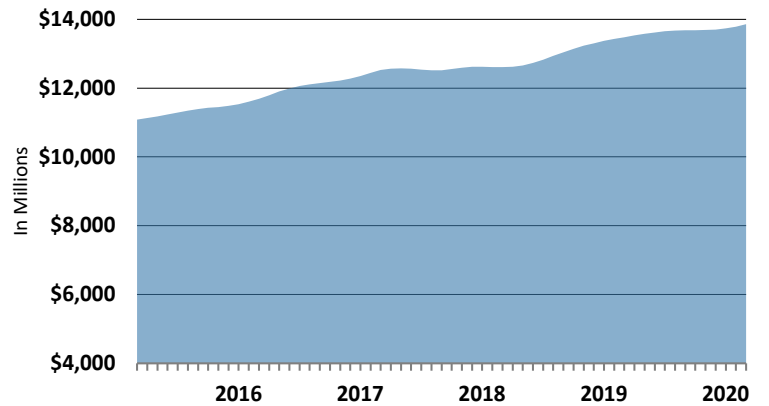
Source: US Dept. of Labor, ETA

## Residential Building Permits



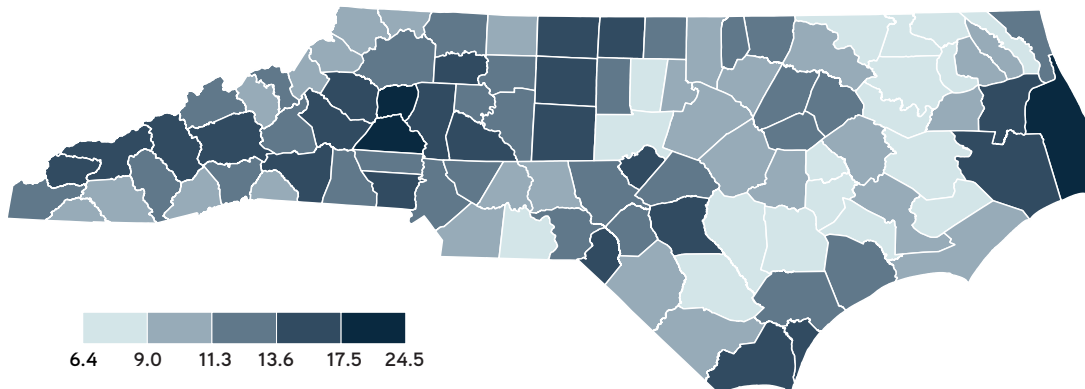
Source: United States Census Bureau  
Note: Includes multiple-unit housing.

## Real Taxable Retail Sales



Source: NC Dept. of Revenue  
Note: March 2020 data most current available at time of release.

## Unemployment Rate By County (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Lowest	
Bertie	6.4%
Lenoir	6.8%
Hertford	6.9%
Duplin	7.2%
Gates	7.2%

Highest	
Dare	24.5%
Alexander	20.1%
Catawba	18.8%
Buncombe	17.5%
Brunswick	17.3%

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