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## North Carolina's April Employment Figures Released

**RALEIGH** — The state's seasonally adjusted April unemployment rate was 12.2 percent, increasing 7.9 percentage points from March's revised rate. The national rate increased 10.3 percentage points to 14.7 percent.

North Carolina's April 2020 unemployment rate increased 8.1 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed decreased 643,157 over the month to 4,112,383 and decreased 744,300 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 357,418 over the month to 573,118 and increased 367,922 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, decreased 571,700 to 3,996,000 in April. Major industries experiencing decreases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 249,800; Education & Health Services, 63,200; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 63,200; Professional & Business Services, 55,700; Manufacturing, 51,200; Other Services, 33,200; Government, 26,000; Construction, 12,500; Financial Activities, 8,900; and Information, 8,000. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged over the month.

### Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since April 2019

	Apr 2019	May 2019	Jun 2019	Jul 2019	Aug 2019	Sept 2019	Oct 2019	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020
<b>N.C.</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>12.2</b>
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>14.7</b>

*Please note: 2019 numbers have undergone annual revision*

Since April 2019, Total Nonfarm jobs decreased 568,200 with the Total Private sector decreasing by 549,000 and Government decreasing by 19,200. The only over-the-year increase among major industries was in Financial Activities, 1,200. Major industries experiencing decreases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 251,500; Education & Health Services, 68,900; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 68,900; Professional & Business Services, 57,100; Manufacturing, 56,200; Other Services, 31,100; Government, 19,200; Construction, 11,600; Information, 4,800; and Mining & Logging, 100.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2020 when the county unemployment rates for April 2020 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. Friday, May 22, 2020*

	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Month Ago		Year Ago	
				Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
<b>North Carolina</b> <i>(Local Area Unemployment Statistics)</i>							
<b>Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted</b>							
<b>Labor Force</b>	4,685,501	4,971,240	5,061,879	-285,739	-5.7	-376,378	-7.4
<b>Employed</b>	4,112,383	4,755,540	4,856,683	-643,157	-13.5	-744,300	-15.3
<b>Unemployed</b>	573,118	215,700	205,196	357,418	165.7	367,922	179.3
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	12.2	4.3	4.1	7.9	xxx	8.1	xxx
<b>Not Seasonally Adjusted</b>							
<b>Labor Force</b>	4,675,542	4,979,418	5,050,492	-303,876	-6.1	-374,950	-7.4
<b>Employed</b>	4,090,238	4,766,611	4,871,580	-676,373	-14.2	-781,342	-16.0
<b>Unemployed</b>	585,304	212,807	178,912	372,497	175.0	406,392	227.1
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	12.5	4.3	3.5	8.2	xxx	9.0	xxx
<b>United States</b> <i>(Current Population Survey)</i>							
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>							
<b>Labor Force</b>	156,481,000	162,913,000	162,546,000	-6,432,000	-3.9	xxx	xxx
<b>Employed</b>	133,403,000	155,772,000	156,696,000	-22,369,000	-14.4	xxx	xxx
<b>Unemployed</b>	23,078,000	7,140,000	5,850,000	15,938,000	223.2	xxx	xxx
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	14.7	4.4	3.6	10.3	xxx	xxx	xxx
<b>Not Seasonally Adjusted</b>							
<b>Labor Force</b>	155,830,000	162,537,000	162,097,000	-6,707,000	-4.1	xxx	xxx
<b>Employed</b>	133,326,000	155,167,000	156,710,000	-21,841,000	-14.1	xxx	xxx
<b>Unemployed</b>	22,504,000	7,370,000	5,387,000	15,134,000	205.3	xxx	xxx
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	14.4	4.5	3.3	9.9	xxx	xxx	xxx

\*Effective January 2019, updated US population estimates are used in the national labor force estimates.

The annual population adjustments affect the comparability of national labor force estimates over time.

2019 estimates for the current month are preliminary. Estimates for the previous month have undergone monthly revision.

2018 estimates have undergone annual revision.

North Carolina Department of Commerce  
Labor and Economic Analysis Division  
**NORTH CAROLINA EMPLOYMENT DATA**

*North Carolina data is embargoed until 10:00 A.M., Friday, May 22, 2020*

	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Month Ago		Year Ago	
				Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
<b>North Carolina</b> <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	3,996,000	4,567,700	4,564,200	-571,700	-12.5	-568,200	-12.4
Total Private	3,283,700	3,829,400	3,832,700	-545,700	-14.3	-549,000	-14.3
Mining & Logging	5,600	5,600	5,700	0	0.0	-100	-1.8
Construction	219,000	231,500	230,600	-12,500	-5.4	-11,600	-5.0
Manufacturing	421,500	472,700	477,700	-51,200	-10.8	-56,200	-11.8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	777,900	841,100	846,800	-63,200	-7.5	-68,900	-8.1
Information	70,800	78,800	75,600	-8,000	-10.2	-4,800	-6.3
Financial Activities	251,000	259,900	249,800	-8,900	-3.4	1,200	0.5
Professional & Business Services	590,700	646,400	647,800	-55,700	-8.6	-57,100	-8.8
Education & Health Services	556,900	620,100	625,800	-63,200	-10.2	-68,900	-11.0
Leisure & Hospitality Services	262,300	512,100	513,800	-249,800	-48.8	-251,500	-48.9
Other Services	128,000	161,200	159,100	-33,200	-20.6	-31,100	-19.5
Government	712,300	738,300	731,500	-26,000	-3.5	-19,200	-2.6
<b>North Carolina</b> <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,009,200	4,552,400	4,571,100	-543,200	-11.9	-561,900	-12.3
Total Private	3,278,700	3,797,300	3,819,200	-518,600	-13.7	-540,500	-14.2
Mining & Logging	5,500	5,600	5,700	-100	-1.8	-200	-3.5
Construction	217,500	229,700	229,800	-12,200	-5.3	-12,300	-5.4
Manufacturing	419,800	470,800	475,500	-51,000	-10.8	-55,700	-11.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	774,300	834,000	839,100	-59,700	-7.2	-64,800	-7.7
Information	70,200	78,600	75,200	-8,400	-10.7	-5,000	-6.6
Financial Activities	250,200	258,100	248,400	-7,900	-3.1	1,800	0.7
Professional & Business Services	591,400	639,800	646,700	-48,400	-7.6	-55,300	-8.6
Education & Health Services	559,600	622,200	627,700	-62,600	-10.1	-68,100	-10.8
Leisure & Hospitality Services	261,900	498,000	512,600	-236,100	-47.4	-250,700	-48.9
Other Services	128,300	160,500	158,500	-32,200	-20.1	-30,200	-19.1
Government	730,500	755,100	751,900	-24,600	-3.3	-21,400	-2.8

All 2020 Labor Force and CES data for the current month are preliminary.  
All 2019 Labor Force and CES estimates have been benchmarked.  
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 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 2015, 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 introduced smoothed seasonally adjusted (SSA) estimates in January 2010. These are seasonally-adjusted data that have incorporated a long-run trend smoothing procedure, resulting in estimates that are less volatile than those previously produced. The estimates are smoothed using a filtering procedure, based on moving averages, to remove the irregular fluctuations from the seasonally-adjusted series, leaving the trend. The same process is used on both historical and current year estimates. For more information about the smoothing technique, 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 April 10, 2018. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available online at [www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm](http://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/lau/benchmark.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/web/lau/benchmark.pdf).

Seasonal adjustment. Payroll employment data are seasonally adjusted at the statewide supersector level. In some states, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is computed by aggregating the independently adjusted supersector series. In other states, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is independently adjusted. Revisions of historical data for the most recent 5 years are made once a year, coincident with annual benchmark adjustments.

### 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 [www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm](http://www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm).

### Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2020 when the county unemployment rates for April 2020 will be released.

The complete data release schedule for 2020 can be accessed here:

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