NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT *of*
COMMERCE

Roy Cooper
GOVERNOR

Machelle Baker Sanders
SECRETARY

North Carolina's April County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 91 of North Carolina's counties in April, increased in seven, and remained unchanged in two. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.5 percent while Orange County had the lowest at 3.0 percent. All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 6.3 percent while Durham-Chapel Hill had the lowest at 3.5 percent. The April not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.4 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
April	75	25	0
March (Revised)	69	31	0

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

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in April by 4,935 to 4,757,583, while those unemployed decreased by 11,269 to 217,379. Since April 2020, the number of workers employed statewide increased 710,828, while those unemployed decreased 395,936.

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 Wednesday, June 23, 2021 when the state unemployment rate for May 2021 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
April 2021

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	4,974,962	217,379	4.4				
ALAMANCE	81,179	3,471	4.3	JOHNSTON	100,357	3,779	3.8
ALEXANDER	17,926	751	4.2	JONES	4,297	162	3.8
ALLEGHANY	4,162	178	4.3	LEE	25,469	1,233	4.8
ANSON	10,363	557	5.4	LENOIR	27,509	1,180	4.3
ASHE	12,701	450	3.5	LINCOLN	43,481	1,619	3.7
AVERY	7,354	259	3.5	MCDOWELL	20,472	807	3.9
BEAUFORT	19,754	814	4.1	MACON	15,496	579	3.7
BERTIE	7,580	391	5.2	MADISON	9,660	371	3.8
BLADEN	14,624	724	5.0	MARTIN	8,962	437	4.9
BRUNSWICK	53,385	2,861	5.4	MECKLENBURG	616,916	27,986	4.5
BUNCOMBE	135,463	5,342	3.9	MITCHELL	5,759	279	4.8
BURKE	40,409	1,621	4.0	MONTGOMERY	11,446	457	4.0
CABARRUS	108,750	4,410	4.1	MOORE	40,383	1,638	4.1
CALDWELL	36,103	1,612	4.5	NASH	42,503	2,428	5.7
CAMDEN	4,612	156	3.4	NEW HANOVER	122,042	4,737	3.9
CARTERET	31,404	1,127	3.6	NORTHAMPTON	7,604	410	5.4
CASWELL	9,639	453	4.7	ONSLOW	65,142	2,932	4.5
CATAWBA	78,289	3,355	4.3	ORANGE	79,118	2,354	3.0
CHATHAM	35,993	1,121	3.1	PAMLICO	5,325	197	3.7
CHEROKEE	10,556	477	4.5	PASQUOTANK	16,489	773	4.7
CHOWAN	5,519	251	4.5	PENDER	28,540	1,082	3.8
CLAY	4,018	174	4.3	PERQUIMANS	4,911	226	4.6
CLEVELAND	47,898	2,306	4.8	PERSON	18,316	827	4.5
COLUMBUS	22,277	1,251	5.6	PITT	90,719	3,959	4.4
CRAVEN	41,142	1,736	4.2	POLK	9,025	368	4.1
CUMBERLAND	125,962	7,793	6.2	RANDOLPH	64,113	2,721	4.2
CURRITUCK	13,882	534	3.8	RICHMOND	16,632	1,061	6.4
DARE	19,192	1,109	5.8	ROBESON	49,576	3,218	6.5
DAVIDSON	79,543	3,344	4.2	ROCKINGHAM	38,955	1,957	5.0
DAVIE	20,403	942	4.6	ROWAN	65,765	3,723	5.7
DUPLIN	25,006	938	3.8	RUTHERFORD	24,145	1,383	5.7
DURHAM	172,315	6,452	3.7	SAMPSON	28,896	1,100	3.8
EDGECOMBE	20,778	1,535	7.4	SCOTLAND	11,133	944	8.5
FORSYTH	185,218	8,223	4.4	STANLY	29,683	1,149	3.9
FRANKLIN	31,631	1,337	4.2	STOKES	21,241	807	3.8
GASTON	109,350	5,202	4.8	SURRY	32,316	1,271	3.9
GATES	5,140	211	4.1	SWAIN	6,677	292	4.4
GRAHAM	3,034	184	6.1	TRANSYLVANIA	13,936	506	3.6
GRANVILLE	29,832	1,064	3.6	TYRRELL	1,374	85	6.2
GREENE	9,799	344	3.5	UNION	122,233	4,208	3.4
GUILFORD	255,891	12,991	5.1	VANCE	16,519	1,197	7.2
HALIFAX	20,045	1,311	6.5	WAKE	593,510	21,333	3.6
HARNETT	53,271	2,484	4.7	WARREN	6,458	449	7.0
HAYWOOD	28,671	1,106	3.9	WASHINGTON	4,409	275	6.2
HENDERSON	52,769	1,918	3.6	WATAUGA	27,663	888	3.2
HERTFORD	9,005	537	6.0	WAYNE	50,175	2,294	4.6
HOKE	19,835	1,149	5.8	WILKES	27,904	1,160	4.2
HYDE	1,796	104	5.8	WILSON	33,892	2,095	6.2
IREDELL	89,232	4,030	4.5	YADKIN	17,428	677	3.9
JACKSON	19,491	776	4.0	YANCEY	8,196	304	3.7

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.

North Carolina Department of Commerce
Labor & Economic Analysis Division
Local Area Unemployment Statistics
(919) 707-1500

NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

County	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	4.4	4.6	13.2	-0.2	-8.8						
ALAMANCE	4.3	4.5	13.0	-0.2	-8.7	JOHNSTON	3.8	4.0	11.1	-0.2	-7.3
ALEXANDER	4.2	3.9	20.3	0.3	-16.1	JONES	3.8	4.1	9.2	-0.3	-5.4
ALLEGHANY	4.3	4.9	12.0	-0.6	-7.7	LEE	4.8	4.9	15.0	-0.1	-10.2
ANSON	5.4	5.9	8.9	-0.5	-3.5	LENOIR	4.3	4.7	7.6	-0.4	-3.3
ASHE	3.5	4.0	12.1	-0.5	-8.6	LINCOLN	3.7	3.9	13.1	-0.2	-9.4
AVERY	3.5	4.1	12.2	-0.6	-8.7	MCDOWELL	3.9	4.4	12.7	-0.5	-8.8
BEAUFORT	4.1	4.5	8.8	-0.4	-4.7	MACON	3.7	4.2	12.8	-0.5	-9.1
BERTIE	5.2	5.1	6.9	0.1	-1.7	MADISON	3.8	4.1	13.3	-0.3	-9.5
BLADEN	5.0	5.3	10.1	-0.3	-5.1	MARTIN	4.9	5.3	9.1	-0.4	-4.2
BRUNSWICK	5.4	5.8	17.9	-0.4	-12.5	MECKLENBURG	4.5	4.7	13.5	-0.2	-9.0
BUNCOMBE	3.9	4.2	18.5	-0.3	-14.6	MITCHELL	4.8	5.2	14.0	-0.4	-9.2
BURKE	4.0	4.4	15.7	-0.4	-11.7	MONTGOMERY	4.0	4.3	11.3	-0.3	-7.3
CABARRUS	4.1	4.2	12.6	-0.1	-8.5	MOORE	4.1	4.1	14.5	0.0	-10.4
CALDWELL	4.5	4.7	16.3	-0.2	-11.8	NASH	5.7	5.8	12.9	-0.1	-7.2
CAMDEN	3.4	3.6	9.3	-0.2	-5.9	NEW HANOVER	3.9	4.1	15.7	-0.2	-11.8
CARTERET	3.6	4.0	12.9	-0.4	-9.3	NORTHAMPTON	5.4	5.9	8.3	-0.5	-2.9
CASWELL	4.7	5.1	14.6	-0.4	-9.9	ONSLOW	4.5	4.8	12.9	-0.3	-8.4
CATAWBA	4.3	4.5	18.9	-0.2	-14.6	ORANGE	3.0	3.2	8.6	-0.2	-5.6
CHATHAM	3.1	3.4	8.8	-0.3	-5.7	PAMLICO	3.7	4.2	8.7	-0.5	-5.0
CHEROKEE	4.5	4.7	13.4	-0.2	-8.9	PASQUOTANK	4.7	5.2	12.2	-0.5	-7.5
CHOWAN	4.5	4.8	8.6	-0.3	-4.1	PENDER	3.8	4.0	13.0	-0.2	-9.2
CLAY	4.3	4.5	12.4	-0.2	-8.1	PERQUIMANS	4.6	4.8	10.9	-0.2	-6.3
CLEVELAND	4.8	5.1	13.9	-0.3	-9.1	PERSON	4.5	4.8	13.4	-0.3	-8.9
COLUMBUS	5.6	6.1	12.0	-0.5	-6.4	PITT	4.4	4.5	10.1	-0.1	-5.7
CRAVEN	4.2	4.5	11.3	-0.3	-7.1	POLK	4.1	4.3	11.4	-0.2	-7.3
CUMBERLAND	6.2	6.5	15.3	-0.3	-9.1	RANDOLPH	4.2	4.5	15.2	-0.3	-11.0
CURRITUCK	3.8	4.4	13.7	-0.6	-9.9	RICHMOND	6.4	6.7	12.7	-0.3	-6.3
DARE	5.8	7.4	28.2	-1.6	-22.4	ROBESON	6.5	6.8	11.1	-0.3	-4.6
DAVIDSON	4.2	4.4	13.9	-0.2	-9.7	ROCKINGHAM	5.0	5.3	15.9	-0.3	-10.9
DAVIE	4.6	4.0	13.6	0.6	-9.0	ROWAN	5.7	4.7	15.0	1.0	-9.3
DUPLIN	3.8	4.1	8.0	-0.3	-4.2	RUTHERFORD	5.7	6.1	15.9	-0.4	-10.2
DURHAM	3.7	4.0	10.4	-0.3	-6.7	SAMPSON	3.8	4.3	7.9	-0.5	-4.1
EDGECOMBE	7.4	7.5	14.1	-0.1	-6.7	SCOTLAND	8.5	8.9	16.1	-0.4	-7.6
FORSYTH	4.4	4.6	12.7	-0.2	-8.3	STANLY	3.9	4.1	10.8	-0.2	-6.9
FRANKLIN	4.2	4.5	11.5	-0.3	-7.3	STOKES	3.8	4.2	11.3	-0.4	-7.5
GASTON	4.8	4.9	14.4	-0.1	-9.6	SURRY	3.9	4.2	14.2	-0.3	-10.3
GATES	4.1	3.9	7.8	0.2	-3.7	SWAIN	4.4	4.9	16.5	-0.5	-12.1
GRAHAM	6.1	6.8	16.5	-0.7	-10.4	TRANSYLVANIA	3.6	3.9	11.9	-0.3	-8.3
GRANVILLE	3.6	3.8	9.6	-0.2	-6.0	TYRRELL	6.2	7.4	17.3	-1.2	-11.1
GREENE	3.5	4.0	8.2	-0.5	-4.7	UNION	3.4	3.7	10.7	-0.3	-7.3
GUILFORD	5.1	5.3	15.1	-0.2	-10.0	VANCE	7.2	7.6	13.9	-0.4	-6.7
HALIFAX	6.5	6.9	12.0	-0.4	-5.5	WAKE	3.6	3.8	11.5	-0.2	-7.9
HARNETT	4.7	4.9	12.7	-0.2	-8.0	WARREN	7.0	7.2	13.5	-0.2	-6.5
HAYWOOD	3.9	4.2	15.4	-0.3	-11.5	WASHINGTON	6.2	6.7	10.5	-0.5	-4.3
HENDERSON	3.6	3.9	14.6	-0.3	-11.0	WATAUGA	3.2	3.4	13.9	-0.2	-10.7
HERTFORD	6.0	5.3	7.6	0.7	-1.6	WAYNE	4.6	4.8	9.6	-0.2	-5.0
HOKE	5.8	6.2	13.5	-0.4	-7.7	WILKES	4.2	4.4	12.4	-0.2	-8.2
HYDE	5.8	8.5	15.9	-2.7	-10.1	WILSON	6.2	6.2	14.6	0.0	-8.4
IREDELL	4.5	4.4	14.7	0.1	-10.2	YADKIN	3.9	4.1	15.7	-0.2	-11.8
JACKSON	4.0	4.3	13.8	-0.3	-9.8	YANCEY	3.7	4.2	11.4	-0.5	-7.7

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.

METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Data for
April 2021

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	226,563	8,737	3.9
BURLINGTON	81,179	3,471	4.3
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,354,417	59,884	4.4
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	305,742	10,754	3.5
FAYETTEVILLE	145,797	8,942	6.1
GOLDSBORO	50,175	2,294	4.6
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	358,959	17,669	4.9
GREENVILLE	90,719	3,959	4.4
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	172,727	7,339	4.2
JACKSONVILLE	65,142	2,932	4.5
NEW BERN	50,764	2,095	4.1
RALEIGH	725,498	26,449	3.6
ROCKY MOUNT	63,281	3,963	6.3
WILMINGTON	150,582	5,819	3.9
WINSTON-SALEM	323,833	13,993	4.3

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	29,683	1,149	3.9
BOONE	27,663	888	3.2
BREVARD	13,936	506	3.6
CULLOWHEE	19,491	776	4.0
DUNN	53,271	2,484	4.7
ELIZABETH CITY	26,012	1,155	4.4
FOREST CITY	24,145	1,383	5.7
HENDERSON	16,519	1,197	7.2
KILL DEVIL HILLS	20,566	1,194	5.8
KINSTON	27,509	1,180	4.3
LAURINBURG	11,133	944	8.5
LUMBERTON	49,576	3,218	6.5
MARION	20,472	807	3.9
MOREHEAD CITY	31,404	1,127	3.6
MOUNT AIRY	32,316	1,271	3.9
NORTH WILKESBORO	27,904	1,160	4.2
OXFORD	29,832	1,064	3.6
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	40,383	1,638	4.1
ROANOKE RAPIDS	27,649	1,721	6.2
ROCKINGHAM	16,632	1,061	6.4
SANFORD	25,469	1,233	4.8
SHELBY	47,898	2,306	4.8
WASHINGTON	19,754	814	4.1
WILSON	33,892	2,095	6.2

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Data for
April 2021

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	240,499	9,243	3.8
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,431,998	63,339	4.4
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	206,506	13,104	6.3
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	796,287	36,404	4.6
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	110,473	4,773	4.3
HICKORY-LENOIR	193,199	8,146	4.2
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	82,168	3,222	3.9
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	1,156,331	43,181	3.7
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	124,822	7,779	6.2

Not Seasonally Adjusted
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North Carolina Department of Commerce

Labor & Economic Analysis Division

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

(919) 707-1500

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

Metropolitan Statistical Area	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	3.9	4.2	17.0	-0.3	-13.1
BURLINGTON	4.3	4.5	13.0	-0.2	-8.7
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	4.4	4.6	13.0	-0.2	-8.6
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.5	3.8	9.9	-0.3	-6.4
FAYETTEVILLE	6.1	6.4	15.1	-0.3	-9.0
GOLDSBORO	4.6	4.8	9.6	-0.2	-5.0
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	4.9	5.2	15.2	-0.3	-10.3
GREENVILLE	4.4	4.5	10.1	-0.1	-5.7
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	4.2	4.4	17.8	-0.2	-13.6
JACKSONVILLE	4.5	4.8	12.9	-0.3	-8.4
NEW BERN	4.1	4.4	10.8	-0.3	-6.7
RALEIGH	3.6	3.8	11.4	-0.2	-7.8
ROCKY MOUNT	6.3	6.4	13.3	-0.1	-7.0
WILMINGTON	3.9	4.1	15.2	-0.2	-11.3
WINSTON-SALEM	4.3	4.4	13.1	-0.1	-8.8

Micropolitan Statistical Area	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	3.9	4.1	10.8	-0.2	-6.9
BOONE	3.2	3.4	13.9	-0.2	-10.7
BREVARD	3.6	3.9	11.9	-0.3	-8.3
CULLOWHEE	4.0	4.3	13.8	-0.3	-9.8
DUNN	4.7	4.9	12.7	-0.2	-8.0
ELIZABETH CITY	4.4	4.9	11.4	-0.5	-7.0
FOREST CITY	5.7	6.1	15.9	-0.4	-10.2
HENDERSON	7.2	7.6	13.9	-0.4	-6.7
KILL DEVIL HILLS	5.8	7.4	27.5	-1.6	-21.7
KINSTON	4.3	4.7	7.6	-0.4	-3.3
LAURINBURG	8.5	8.9	16.1	-0.4	-7.6
LUMBERTON	6.5	6.8	11.1	-0.3	-4.6
MARION	3.9	4.4	12.7	-0.5	-8.8
MOREHEAD CITY	3.6	4.0	12.9	-0.4	-9.3
MOUNT AIRY	3.9	4.2	14.2	-0.3	-10.3
NORTH WILKESBORO	4.2	4.4	12.4	-0.2	-8.2
OXFORD	3.6	3.8	9.6	-0.2	-6.0
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	4.1	4.1	14.5	0.0	-10.4
ROANOKE RAPIDS	6.2	6.6	11.0	-0.4	-4.8
ROCKINGHAM	6.4	6.7	12.7	-0.3	-6.3
SANFORD	4.8	4.9	15.0	-0.1	-10.2
SHELBY	4.8	5.1	13.9	-0.3	-9.1
WASHINGTON	4.1	4.5	8.8	-0.4	-4.7
WILSON	6.2	6.2	14.6	0.0	-8.4

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

Combined Statistical Area	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	3.8	4.1	16.7	-0.3	-12.9
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	4.4	4.6	13.0	-0.2	-8.6
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	6.3	6.6	14.2	-0.3	-7.9
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	4.6	4.8	14.1	-0.2	-9.5
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	4.3	4.5	9.8	-0.2	-5.5
HICKORY-LENOIR	4.2	4.4	17.2	-0.2	-13.0
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.9	4.3	11.6	-0.4	-7.7
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.7	3.9	11.2	-0.2	-7.5
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	6.2	6.4	13.1	-0.2	-6.9

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.

North Carolina Department of Commerce

Labor & Economic Analysis Division

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

(919) 707-1500

NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY RANKINGS
Preliminary Data for April 2021

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
ORANGE	79,118	2,354	3.0%	1	LENOIR	27,509	1,180	4.3%	51
CHATHAM	35,993	1,121	3.1%	2	CLAY	4,018	174	4.3%	52
WATAUGA	27,663	888	3.2%	3	PITT	90,719	3,959	4.4%	53
CAMDEN	4,612	156	3.4%	4	SWAIN	6,677	292	4.4%	54
UNION	122,233	4,208	3.4%	5	FORSYTH	185,218	8,223	4.4%	55
GREENE	9,799	344	3.5%	6	CALDWELL	36,103	1,612	4.5%	56
AVERY	7,354	259	3.5%	7	ONSLOW	65,142	2,932	4.5%	57
ASHE	12,701	450	3.5%	8	PERSON	18,316	827	4.5%	58
GRANVILLE	29,832	1,064	3.6%	9	IREDELL	89,232	4,030	4.5%	59
CARTERET	31,404	1,127	3.6%	10	CHEROKEE	10,556	477	4.5%	60
WAKE	593,510	21,333	3.6%	11	MECKLENBURG	616,916	27,986	4.5%	61
TRANSYLVANIA	13,936	506	3.6%	12	CHOWAN	5,519	251	4.5%	62
HENDERSON	52,769	1,918	3.6%	13	WAYNE	50,175	2,294	4.6%	63
PAMLICO	5,325	197	3.7%	14	PERQUIMANS	4,911	226	4.6%	64
YANCEY	8,196	304	3.7%	15	DAVIE	20,403	942	4.6%	65
LINCOLN	43,481	1,619	3.7%	16	HARNETT	53,271	2,484	4.7%	66
MACON	15,496	579	3.7%	17	PASQUOTANK	16,489	773	4.7%	67
DURHAM	172,315	6,452	3.7%	18	CASWELL	9,639	453	4.7%	68
DUPLIN	25,006	938	3.8%	19	GASTON	109,350	5,202	4.8%	69
JOHNSTON	100,357	3,779	3.8%	20	CLEVELAND	47,898	2,306	4.8%	70
JONES	4,297	162	3.8%	21	LEE	25,469	1,233	4.8%	71
PENDER	28,540	1,082	3.8%	22	MITCHELL	5,759	279	4.8%	72
STOKES	21,241	807	3.8%	23	MARTIN	8,962	437	4.9%	73
SAMPSON	28,896	1,100	3.8%	24	BLADEN	14,624	724	5.0%	74
MADISON	9,660	371	3.8%	25	ROCKINGHAM	38,955	1,957	5.0%	75
CURRITUCK	13,882	534	3.8%	26	GUILFORD	255,891	12,991	5.1%	76
HAYWOOD	28,671	1,106	3.9%	27	BERTIE	7,580	391	5.2%	77
STANLY	29,683	1,149	3.9%	28	BRUNSWICK	53,385	2,861	5.4%	78
NEW HANOVER	122,042	4,737	3.9%	29	ANSON	10,363	557	5.4%	79
YADKIN	17,428	677	3.9%	30	NORTHAMPTON	7,604	410	5.4%	80
SURRY	32,316	1,271	3.9%	31	COLUMBUS	22,277	1,251	5.6%	81
MCDOWELL	20,472	807	3.9%	32	ROWAN	65,765	3,723	5.7%	82
BUNCOMBE	135,463	5,342	3.9%	33	NASH	42,503	2,428	5.7%	83
JACKSON	19,491	776	4.0%	34	RUTHERFORD	24,145	1,383	5.7%	84
MONTGOMERY	11,446	457	4.0%	35	DARE	19,192	1,109	5.8%	85
BURKE	40,409	1,621	4.0%	36	HYDE	1,796	104	5.8%	86
CABARRUS	108,750	4,410	4.1%	37	HOKE	19,835	1,149	5.8%	87
MOORE	40,383	1,638	4.1%	38	HERTFORD	9,005	537	6.0%	88
POLK	9,025	368	4.1%	39	GRAHAM	3,034	184	6.1%	89
GATES	5,140	211	4.1%	40	WILSON	33,892	2,095	6.2%	90
BEAUFORT	19,754	814	4.1%	41	TYRRELL	1,374	85	6.2%	91
WILKES	27,904	1,160	4.2%	42	CUMBERLAND	125,962	7,793	6.2%	92
ALEXANDER	17,926	751	4.2%	43	WASHINGTON	4,409	275	6.2%	93
DAVIDSON	79,543	3,344	4.2%	44	RICHMOND	16,632	1,061	6.4%	94
CRAVEN	41,142	1,736	4.2%	45	ROBESON	49,576	3,218	6.5%	95
FRANKLIN	31,631	1,337	4.2%	46	HALIFAX	20,045	1,311	6.5%	96
RANDOLPH	64,113	2,721	4.2%	47	WARREN	6,458	449	7.0%	97
ALAMANCE	81,179	3,471	4.3%	48	VANCE	16,519	1,197	7.2%	98
ALLEGHANY	4,162	178	4.3%	49	EDGECOMBE	20,778	1,535	7.4%	99
CATAWBA	78,289	3,355	4.3%	50	SCOTLAND	11,133	944	8.5%	100

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.

North Carolina Department of Commerce

Labor & Economic Analysis Division

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

(919) 707-1500

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 April 10, 2018. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available online at 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 Wednesday, June 23, 2021 when the state unemployment rate for May 2021 will be released.

The complete 2021 data release schedule can be accessed at:

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

Counties With Highest Unemployment Rates
April 2021*
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

County	Rate
Scotland	8.5%
Edgecombe	7.4%
Vance	7.2%
Warren	7.0%
Halifax	6.5%
Robeson	6.5%

Counties With Lowest Unemployment Rates
April 2021*
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

County	Rate
Orange	3.0%
Chatham	3.1%
Watauga	3.2%
Camden	3.4%
Union	3.4%

Metropolitan Statistical Areas' Unemployment Rates
April 2021*
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	Rate
North Carolina	4.4%
Durham/Chapel Hill	3.5%
Raleigh	3.6%
Asheville	3.9%
Wilmington	3.9%
New Bern	4.1%
Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton	4.2%
Burlington	4.3%
Winston-Salem	4.3%
Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC	4.4%
Greenville	4.4%
Jacksonville	4.5%
Goldsboro	4.6%
Greensboro/High Point	4.9%
Fayetteville	6.1%
Rocky Mount	6.3%

North Carolina's statewide unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 4.4 percent in April. This decreased 0.2 of a percentage point from March's revised rate, and declined 8.8 percentage points over the year.

Over the month, the unemployment rate decreased in 91 of North Carolina's 100 counties. Fifty-five counties had unemployment rates at or below the state's 4.4 percent rate.

Scotland County recorded April's highest unemployment rate at 8.5 percent, followed by Edgecombe at 7.4 percent. Orange had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.0 percent, followed by Chatham at 3.1 percent.

Unemployment rates decreased in all of the state's 15 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) over the month. The Rocky Mount MSA had the highest unemployment rate in April at 6.3 percent, followed by Fayetteville at 6.1 percent. The Durham/Chapel Hill MSA reported the month's lowest unemployment rate at 3.5 percent, followed by the Raleigh MSA at 3.6 percent.

*All April 2021 data are preliminary.

Asheville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | April 2021

UN Rate | 3.9%
Total Nonfarm | 186,500
Monthly Change | -200, -0.1%
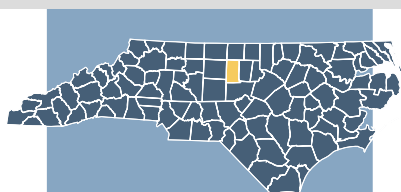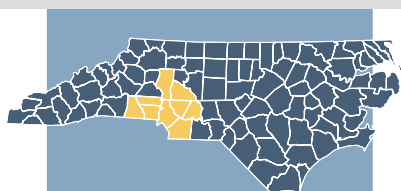Yearly Change | 24,000, 14.8%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	1.1%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-1,000	-2.8%
Information	100	6.3%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-400	-2.1%
Education & Health Services	-300	-0.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,000	4.3%
Other Services	100	1.1%
Government	200	0.8%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	500	5.5%
Manufacturing	1,800	9.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	3,800	12.2%
Information	100	6.3%
Financial Activities	400	6.8%
Professional & Business Services	2,300	14.2%
Education & Health Services	1,900	5.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	11,400	89.8%
Other Services	2,100	29.6%
Government	-300	-1.1%

Burlington MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | April 2021

UN Rate | 4.3%
Total Nonfarm | 62,400
Monthly Change | 200, 0.3%
Yearly Change | 6,600, 11.8%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	3.1%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	0	0.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-100	-5.0%
Professional & Business Services	300	5.2%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	-100	-1.4%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	0	0.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	200	6.5%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	2,400	21.1%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	1,300	27.1%
Education & Health Services	700	5.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,700	32.7%
Other Services	500	25.0%
Government	-200	-3.0%

Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | April 2021

UN Rate | 4.4%
Total Nonfarm | 1,207,600
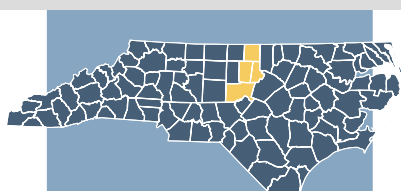Monthly Change | -600, >-0.1%
Yearly Change | 109,300, 10.0%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	600	0.9%
Manufacturing	-500	-0.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-1,800	-0.7%
Information	100	0.4%
Financial Activities	-900	-0.8%
Professional & Business Services	-1,900	-0.9%
Education & Health Services	-500	-0.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	2,700	2.3%
Other Services	-100	-0.2%
Government	1,700	1.1%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	2,200	3.3%
Manufacturing	7,200	7.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	23,300	10.3%
Information	200	0.9%
Financial Activities	1,300	1.2%
Professional & Business Services	14,800	7.5%
Education & Health Services	11,300	10.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	38,100	46.7%
Other Services	9,700	28.7%
Government	1,200	0.8%

Durham/Chapel Hill MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | April 2021

UN Rate | 3.5
Total Nonfarm | 321,900
Monthly Change | 1,100, 0.3%
Yearly Change | 21,100, 7.0%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	1.0%
Manufacturing	200	0.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	500	1.3%
Information	100	1.7%
Financial Activities	100	0.6%
Professional & Business Services	-800	-1.6%
Education & Health Services	100	0.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	900	4.5%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-100	-0.2%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	1,100	12.6%
Manufacturing	2,000	6.4%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	4,700	13.3%
Information	500	9.3%
Financial Activities	300	1.9%
Professional & Business Services	5,400	12.4%
Education & Health Services	3,000	4.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	5,600	36.4%
Other Services	1,600	17.4%
Government	-3,100	-4.6%

Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All April 2021 data are preliminary.

Fayetteville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | April 2021
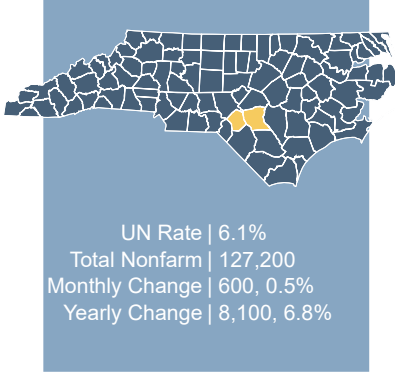
UN Rate | 6.1%
Total Nonfarm | 127,200
Monthly Change | 600, 0.5%
Yearly Change | 8,100, 6.8%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	100	1.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	0	0.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	200	1.3%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	300	0.8%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-2.0%
Manufacturing	-300	-3.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	2,200	10.4%
Information	-100	-10.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	100	0.9%
Education & Health Services	1,000	7.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	4,300	39.4%
Other Services	800	22.2%
Government	200	0.5%

Goldsboro MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | April 2021

UN Rate | 4.6%
Total Nonfarm | 38,900
Monthly Change | -400, -1.0%
Yearly Change | 600, 1.6%

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	-500	-5.4%

Greensboro/High Point MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | April 2021

UN Rate | 4.9%
Total Nonfarm | 346,800
Monthly Change | 1,000, 0.3%
Yearly Change | 29,400, 9.3%
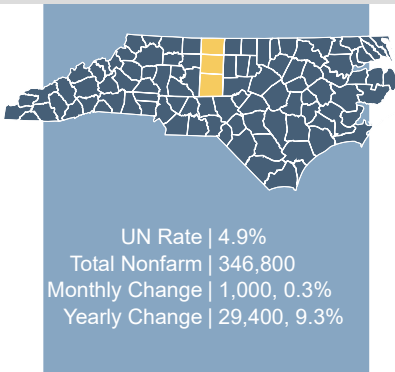
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	300	1.9%
Manufacturing	-100	-0.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300	0.4%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-100	-0.6%
Professional & Business Services	200	0.4%
Education & Health Services	200	0.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	-700	-2.3%
Other Services	100	0.9%
Government	800	1.9%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	1,200	7.9%
Manufacturing	4,500	9.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	7,900	11.3%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-500	-2.7%
Professional & Business Services	2,800	6.6%
Education & Health Services	3,100	6.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	9,400	45.4%
Other Services	2,500	27.8%
Government	-1,500	-3.4%

Greenville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | April 2021
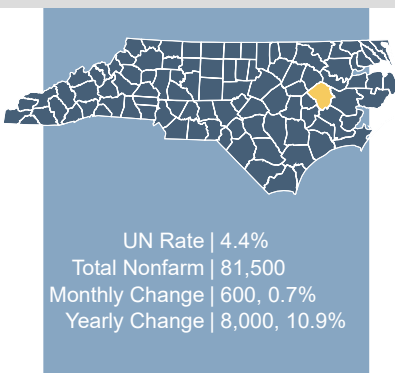
UN Rate | 4.4%
Total Nonfarm | 81,500
Monthly Change | 600, 0.7%
Yearly Change | 8,000, 10.9%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	100	1.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	100	0.9%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	200	2.6%
Education & Health Services	100	1.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	0	0.0%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	100	0.3%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-3.0%
Manufacturing	200	3.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,600	15.8%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	100	4.3%
Professional & Business Services	2,000	33.9%
Education & Health Services	1,200	13.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	2,100	35.0%
Other Services	600	35.3%
Government	300	1.0%

*Data unavailable due to sample cell size. Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All April 2021 data are preliminary.

Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | April 2021
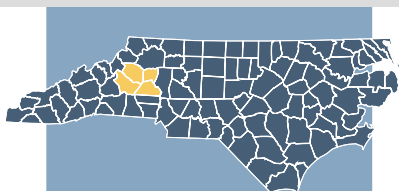
UN Rate | 4.2%
Total Nonfarm | 152,100
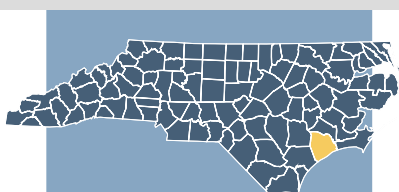Monthly Change | 1,100, 0.7%
Yearly Change | 18,400, 13.8%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	2.0%
Manufacturing	300	0.8%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	0	0.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	600	4.5%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	100	0.4%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	500	11.1%
Manufacturing	6,200	18.4%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	3,500	12.7%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	100	3.2%
Professional & Business Services	1,400	11.8%
Education & Health Services	900	5.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	4,900	55.1%
Other Services	800	22.2%
Government	100	0.4%

Jacksonville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | April 2021

UN Rate | 4.5%
Total Nonfarm | 49,900
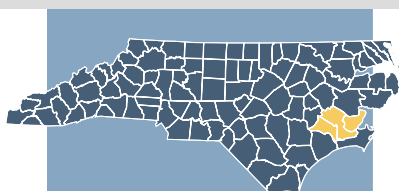Monthly Change | 400, 0.8%
Yearly Change | 5,100, 11.4%

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	200	1.4%

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	-300	-2.1%

New Bern MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | April 2021

UN Rate | 4.1%
Total Nonfarm | 44,100
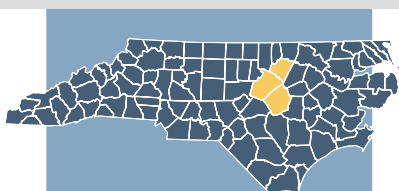Monthly Change | 0, 0.0%
Yearly Change | 3,200, 7.8%

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	0	0.0%

Raleigh MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | April 2021

UN Rate | 3.6%
Total Nonfarm | 642,200
Monthly Change | 2,800, 0.4%
Yearly Change | 66,700, 11.6%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	0.2%
Manufacturing	200	0.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-400	-0.3%
Information	-100	-0.4%
Financial Activities	900	2.7%
Professional & Business Services	200	0.2%
Education & Health Services	100	0.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	500	0.9%
Other Services	-100	-0.4%
Government	1,400	1.5%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	1,500	3.7%
Manufacturing	400	1.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	16,700	16.3%
Information	200	0.9%
Financial Activities	700	2.1%
Professional & Business Services	14,400	12.2%
Education & Health Services	6,700	9.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	21,600	57.6%
Other Services	5,500	27.6%
Government	-1,000	-1.0%

*Data unavailable due to sample cell size. Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All April 2021 data are preliminary.

North Carolina **County Labor Market Conditions**

## Rocky Mount MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | April 2021
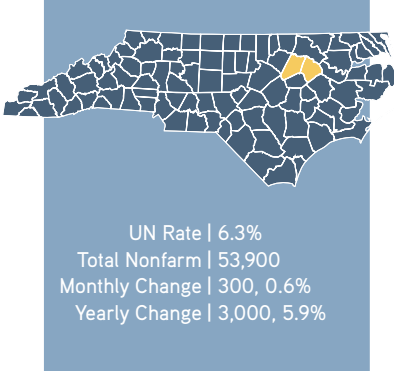
UN Rate | 6.3%
Total Nonfarm | 53,900
Monthly Change | 300, 0.6%
Yearly Change | 3,000, 5.9%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-200	-1.7%
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	-100	-2.0%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	100	2.1%
Other Services	*	
Government	200	2.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	-500	-5.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	800	7.3%
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	300	6.7%
Education & Health Services	200	3.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,000	26.3%
Other Services	*	
Government	-100	-1.0%

Wilmington MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | April 2021
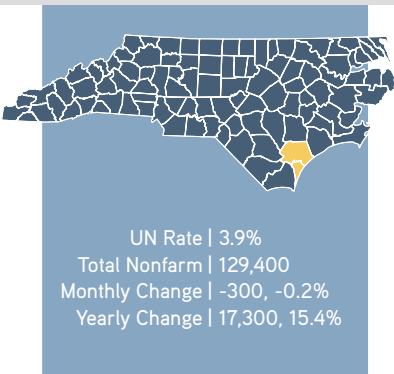
UN Rate | 3.9%
Total Nonfarm | 129,400
Monthly Change | -300, -0.2%
Yearly Change | 17,300, 15.4%

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	3.2%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-100	-0.6%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	-100	-0.6%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	0	0.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	600	6.5%
Manufacturing	700	15.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	2,400	10.5%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	400	6.9%
Professional & Business Services	2,100	13.6%
Education & Health Services	1,900	13.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	8,100	85.3%
Other Services	1,200	36.4%
Government	-100	-0.4%

Winston-Salem MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | April 2021
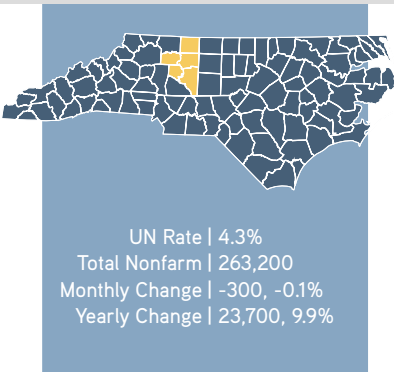
UN Rate | 4.3%
Total Nonfarm | 263,200
Monthly Change | -300, -0.1%
Yearly Change | 23,700, 9.9%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	-100	-0.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-300	-0.6%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-400	-1.1%
Education & Health Services	-200	-0.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	900	3.7%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-200	-0.7%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

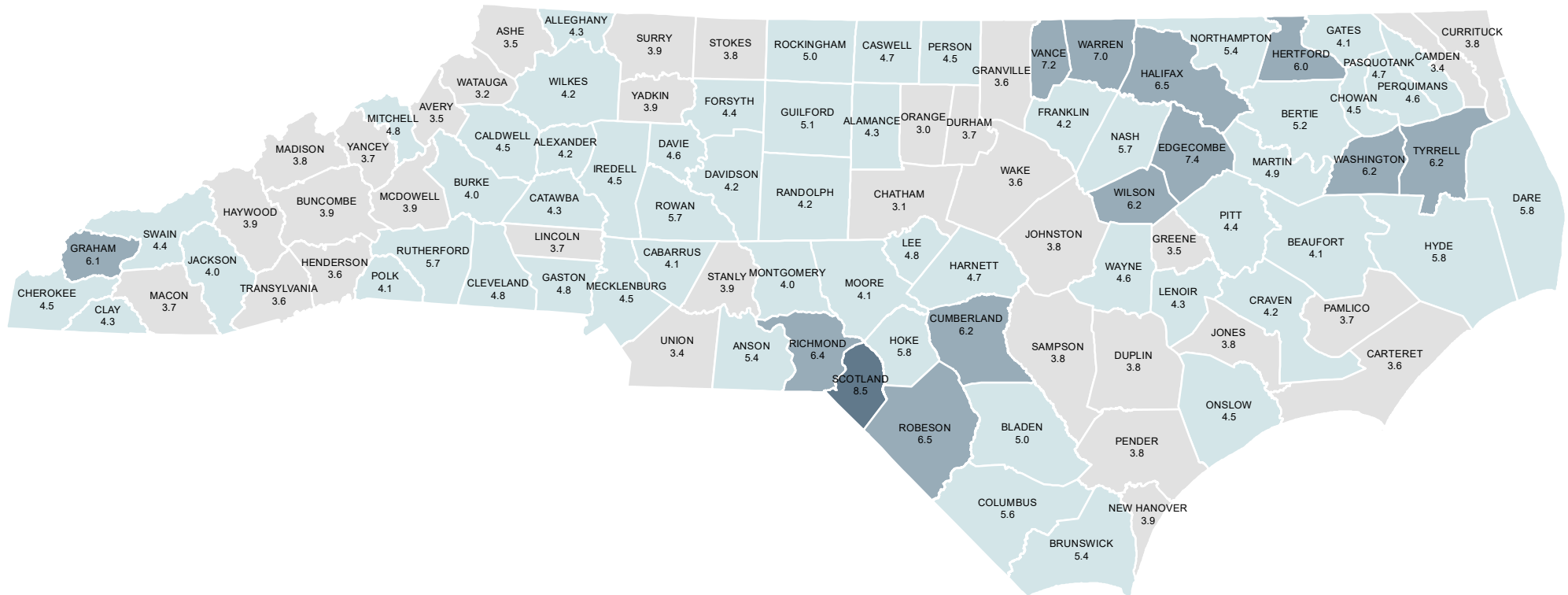| Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	500	4.4%
Manufacturing	2,400	7.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,800	16.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-500	-3.7%
Professional & Business Services	4,200	13.3%
Education & Health Services	2,100	3.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	8,000	46.5%
Other Services	1,700	26.2%
Government	-1,500	-4.8%

*Data unavailable due to sample cell size. Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All April 2021 data are preliminary.

Over the month, 9 of North Carolina's 15 MSAs experienced net job increase. Raleigh had the largest net employment increase with 2,800, followed by Durham/Chapel Hill, 1,100; Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton, 1,100; Greensboro/High Point, 1,000; Fayetteville, 600; Greenville, 600; Jacksonville, 400; Rocky Mount, 300; and Burlington, 200. Jacksonville had the greatest percentage increase at 0.8%, followed by Greenville, 0.7%, and Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton, 0.7%. 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.
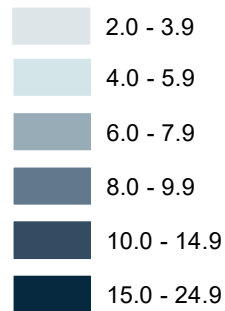
Over the year, employment increased in all 15 MSAs. Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC had the largest net employment increase at 109,300, followed by Raleigh, 66,700; Greensboro/High Point, 29,400; Asheville, 24,000; Winston-Salem, 23,700; Durham/Chapel Hill, 21,100; Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton, 18,400; and Wilmington, 17,300. Wilmington had the greatest percentage increase at 15.4%, followed by Asheville, 14.8%; Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton, 13.8%; Burlington, 11.8%; Raleigh, 11.6%; and Jacksonville, 11.4%.

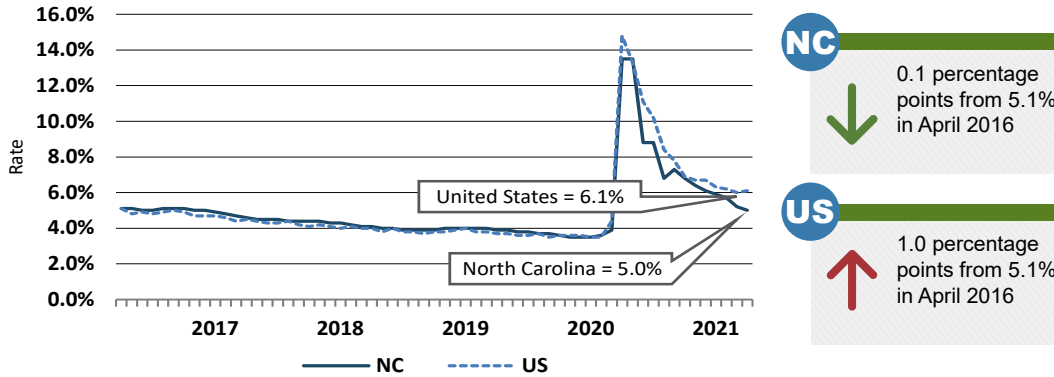# North Carolina Unemployment Rates by County
April 2021

CHEROKEE 4.5
CLAY 4.3
GRAHAM 6.1
SWAIN 4.4
JACKSON 4.0
MACON 3.7
HAYWOOD 3.9
MADISON 3.8
YANCEY 3.7
BUNCOMBE 3.9
TRANSYLVANIA 3.6
HENDERSON 3.6
POLK 4.1
MCDOWELL 3.9
MITCHELL 4.8
AVERY 3.5
WATAUGA 3.2
ASHE 3.5
ALLEGHANY 4.3
WILKES 4.2
BURKE 4.0
CALDWELL 4.5
ALEXANDER 4.2
RUTHERFORD 5.7
CLEVELAND 4.8
GASTON 4.8
LINCOLN 3.7
CATAWBA 4.3
IREDELL 4.5
MECKLENBURG 4.5
CABARRUS 4.1
UNION 3.4
SURRY 3.9
YADKIN 3.9
DAVIE 4.6
DAVIDSON 4.2
ROWAN 5.7
STANLY 3.9
ANSON 5.4
STOKES 3.8
FORSYTH 4.4
GUILFORD 5.1
RANDOLPH 4.2
MONTGOMERY 4.0
RICHMOND 6.4
SCOTLAND 8.5
ROBESON 6.5
ROCKINGHAM 5.0
CASWELL 4.7
ALAMANCE 4.3
ORANGE 3.0
DURHAM 3.7
CHATHAM 3.1
LEE 4.8
MOORE 4.1
HOKE 5.8
BLADEN 5.0
COLUMBUS 5.6
PERSON 4.5
GRANVILLE 3.6
WAKE 3.6
HARNETT 4.7
CUMBERLAND 6.2
SAMPSON 3.8
PENDER 3.8
NEW HANOVER 3.9
BRUNSWICK 5.4
VANCE 7.2
WARREN 7.0
FRANKLIN 4.2
NASH 5.7
JOHNSTON 3.8
WAYNE 4.6
DUPLIN 3.8
ONSLOW 4.5
NORTHAMPTON 5.4
HALIFAX 6.5
EDGECOMBE 7.4
WILSON 6.2
PITT 4.4
GREENE 3.5
LENOIR 4.3
JONES 3.8
CRAVEN 4.2
PAMLICO 3.7
CARTERET 3.6
GATES 4.1
HERTFORD 6.0
BERTIE 5.2
MARTIN 4.9
BEAUFORT 4.1
CHOWAN 4.5
WASHINGTON 6.2
TYRRELL 6.2
HYDE 5.8
DARE 5.8
CURRITUCK 3.8
CAMDEN 3.4
PASQUOTANK 4.7
PERQUIMANS 4.6

April 2021

- 2.0 - 3.9
- 4.0 - 5.9
- 6.0 - 7.9
- 8.0 - 9.9
- 10.0 - 14.9
- 15.0 - 24.9

∧ 7   Counties Higher Than Previous Month
∨ 91 Counties Lower Than Previous Month
= 2   Counties Same as Previous Month
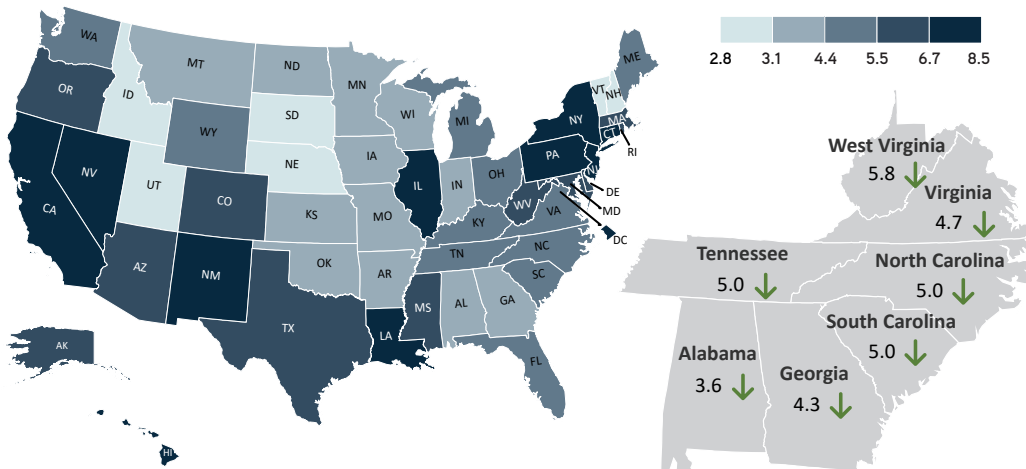
North Carolina Rate 4.4%
Not Seasonally Adjusted

Note: April 2021 data are preliminary.
Prepared by the Labor & Economic Analysis, North Carolina Department of Commerce 5_2021

NC TODAY

Monthly Dashboard*

North Carolina's employment recovery stalled in April as the state recorded a net decline of 5,800 jobs. Employers are posting more job openings than ever, but worker shortages persist as labor force participation remains stuck below its pre-pandemic rate. Despite these hiring challenges, contacts surveyed by the Richmond Fed are more optimistic about business conditions in the Carolinas than they've been in over three years.
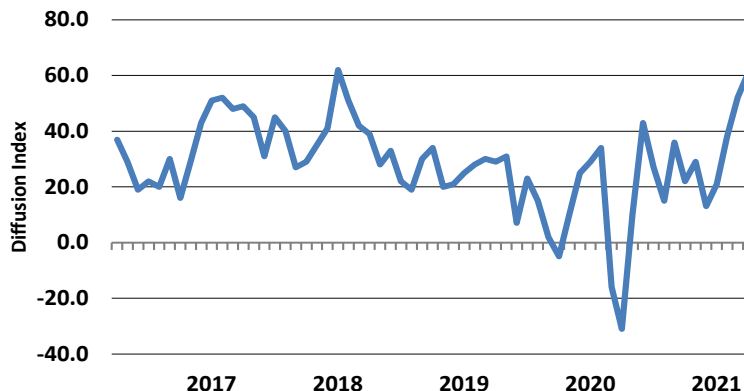
NC 5.0%   **US** 6.1%

Unemployment Rate Change
↓ 0.2   ↑ 0.1

Change in Employed
↑ 4,497 (0.1%)   ↑ 328,000 (0.2%)

Change in Unemployed
↓ 8,109 (3.1%)   ↑ 102,000 (1.1%)

Change in Labor Force Participation Rate
↓ 0.1 to 59.4%   ↑ 0.2 to 61.7%

Unemployment Rate Trend

NC — 0.1 percentage points from 5.1% in April 2016 ↓

United States = 6.1%

North Carolina = 5.0%

US — 1.0 percentage points from 5.1% in April 2016 ↑

Data

Employment
4,459,800 Total Nonfarm Jobs
↓ 5,800 over the month
↑ 408,400 over the year

Initial UI Claims
84,451 claims filed
↑ 16,830 over the month
↓ 394,266 over the year
Source: US Dept. of Labor, ETA
Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted

Unemployment Rate Comparison

2.8 3.1 4.4 5.5 6.7 8.5

West Virginia 5.8
Virginia 4.7 ↓
Tennessee 5.0 ↓
North Carolina 5.0 ↓
South Carolina 5.0 ↓
Alabama 3.6 ↓
Georgia 4.3 ↓

Real Taxable Retail Sales
↑ $68.6M over the month
↑ $1,192.0M over the year
Source: NC Dept. of Revenue
Note: March 2021 data most current available at time of release.

Residential Building Permits
↑ 1.1% over the month
↑ 34.0% over the year
Source: United States Census Bureau
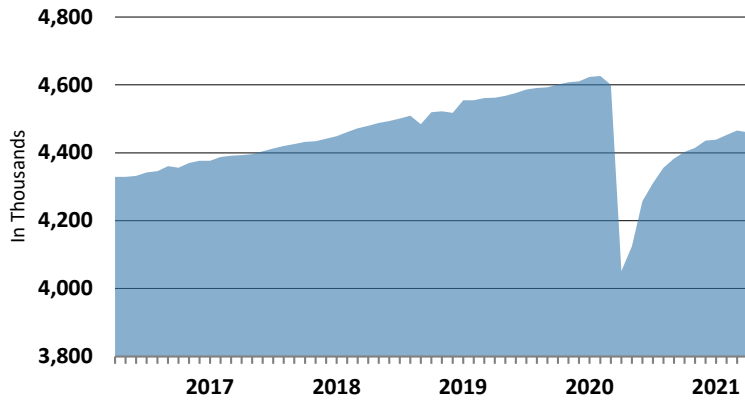Note: Includes multiple-unit housing.

Job Openings
↑ 6.7% over the month
↑ 50.2% over the year
Source: LEAD; The Conference Board
Note: March 2021 data most current available at time of release.

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.
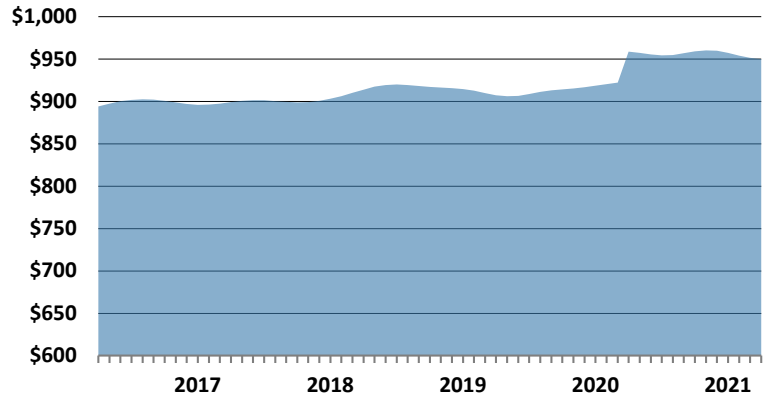
Manufacturing Hours Worked
↓ 0.2% over the month
↑ 5.0% over the year
Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted

*All data produced in this publication are based off April 2021 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.
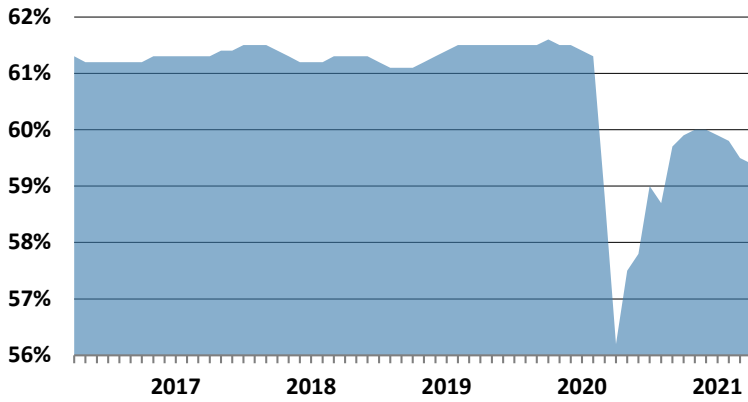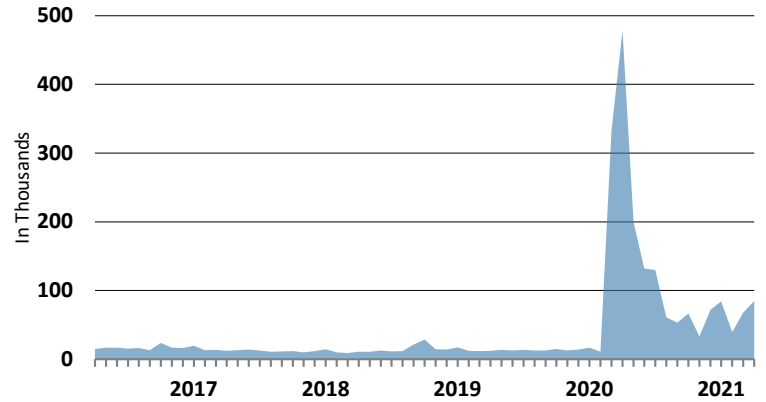
Total Nonfarm Jobs

In Thousands

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021

4,800
4,600
4,400
4,200
4,000
3,800

Average Real Weekly Earnings (Private Nonfarm Sector)

$1,000
$950
$900
$850
$800
$750
$700
$650
$600

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021

Labor Force Participation Rate

62%
61%
60%
59%
58%
57%
56%

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021

Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

In Thousands

500
400
300
200
100
0

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021

Source: US Dept. of Labor, ETA

Residential Building Permits

8,000
7,000
6,000
5,000
4,000
3,000
2,000
1,000
0

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
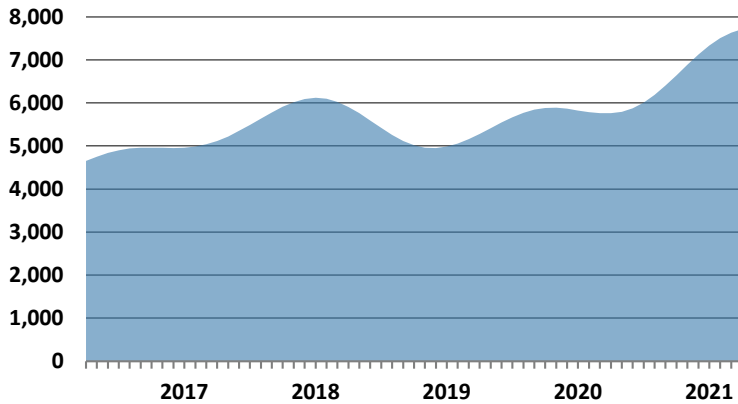
Source: United States Census Bureau
Note: Includes multiple-unit housing.

Real Taxable Retail Sales

In Millions

$16,000
$14,000
$12,000
$10,000
$8,000
$6,000
$4,000

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
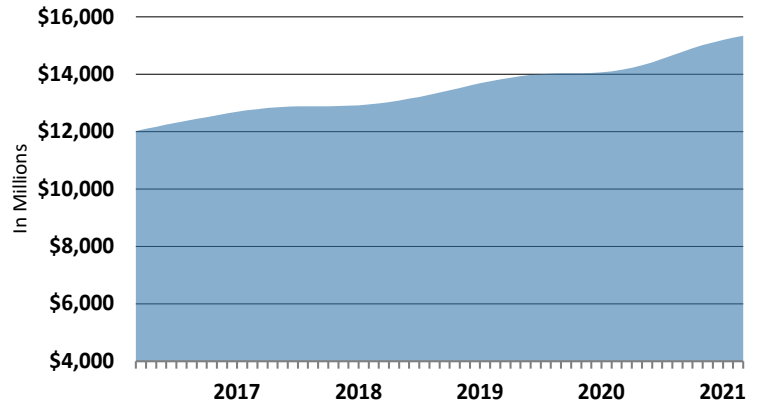
Source: NC Dept. of Revenue
Note: March 2021 data most current available at time of release.

Unemployment Rate By County (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

2.0 3.9 5.9 7.9 9.9 14.9 24.9
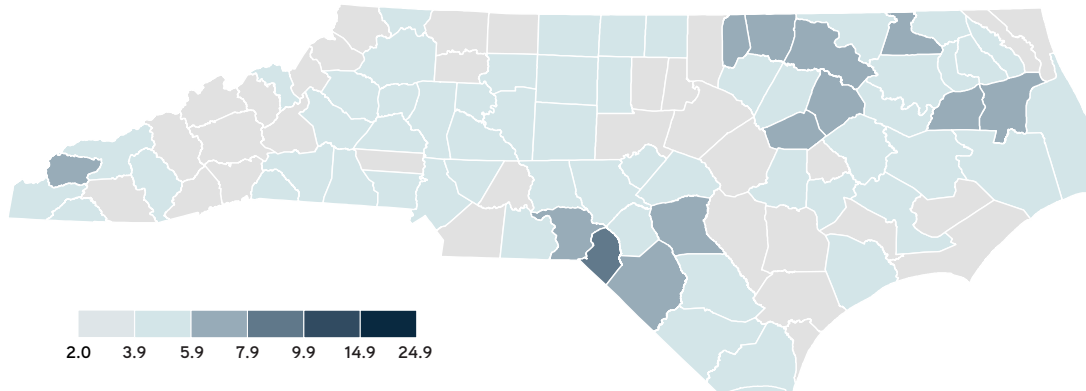
Lowest	
Orange	3.0%
Chatham	3.1%
Watauga	3.2%
Camden	3.4%
Union	3.4%

Highest	
Scotland	8.5%
Edgecombe	7.4%
Vance	7.2%
Warren	7.0%
Halifax	6.5%

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Dollar amounts have been adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index.