North Carolina's December County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH —Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 99 of North Carolina's counties in December and remained unchanged in one. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.6 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.0 percent. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 5.0 percent had the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 3.1 percent. The December not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.8 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
December	84	16	0
November (Revised)	91	9	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 99 counties and increased in one. All 15 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in December by 29,983 to 4,791,992, while those unemployed increased 14,695 to 187,253. Since December 2017, the number of workers employed statewide increased 78,656, while those unemployed decreased 26,660.

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 Monday, March 11, 2019 when the state unemployment rate for January 2019 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
December 2018

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	4,979,245	187,253	3.8				
ALAMANCE	80,231	2,861	3.6	JOHNSTON	95,952	3,400	3.5
ALEXANDER	18,320	600	3.3	JONES	4,407	189	4.3
ALLEGHANY	4,228	192	4.5	LEE	26,373	1,092	4.1
ANSON	10,367	462	4.5	LENOIR	27,893	1,066	3.8
ASHE	12,822	452	3.5	LINCOLN	43,195	1,436	3.3
AVERY	7,386	269	3.6	MCDOWELL	20,730	759	3.7
BEAUFORT	19,654	920	4.7	MACON	15,215	581	3.8
BERTIE	7,716	371	4.8	MADISON	9,899	348	3.5
BLADEN	14,176	730	5.1	MARTIN	9,308	458	4.9
BRUNSWICK	50,766	2,685	5.3	MECKLENBURG	615,399	21,136	3.4
BUNCOMBE	138,025	4,131	3.0	MITCHELL	5,967	268	4.5
BURKE	40,913	1,474	3.6	MONTGOMERY	11,545	450	3.9
CABARRUS	106,758	3,633	3.4	MOORE	40,985	1,531	3.7
CALDWELL	36,924	1,499	4.1	NASH	42,633	1,960	4.6
CAMDEN	4,563	174	3.8	NEW HANOVER	117,873	4,431	3.8
CARTERET	31,712	1,481	4.7	NORTHAMPTON	7,554	367	4.9
CASWELL	9,814	407	4.1	ONSLOW	64,701	2,915	4.5
CATAWBA	79,045	2,726	3.4	ORANGE	77,435	2,457	3.2
CHATHAM	35,573	1,158	3.3	PAMLICO	5,305	212	4.0
CHEROKEE	11,164	502	4.5	PASQUOTANK	17,069	801	4.7
CHOWAN	5,650	246	4.4	PENDER	27,124	1,150	4.2
CLAY	4,126	183	4.4	PERQUIMANS	4,976	243	4.9
CLEVELAND	47,932	1,808	3.8	PERSON	18,490	724	3.9
COLUMBUS	22,224	1,125	5.1	PITT	88,954	3,541	4.0
CRAVEN	41,311	1,802	4.4	POLK	8,878	341	3.8
CUMBERLAND	128,816	6,381	5.0	RANDOLPH	67,429	2,466	3.7
CURRITUCK	13,219	472	3.6	RICHMOND	16,555	867	5.2
DARE	17,741	961	5.4	ROBESON	49,623	2,752	5.5
DAVIDSON	80,946	2,907	3.6	ROCKINGHAM	41,153	1,758	4.3
DAVIE	20,503	670	3.3	ROWAN	67,212	2,510	3.7
DUPLIN	24,878	1,035	4.2	RUTHERFORD	24,687	1,193	4.8
DURHAM	167,429	5,578	3.3	SAMPSON	28,751	1,090	3.8
EDGECOMBE	21,513	1,259	5.9	SCOTLAND	11,442	791	6.9
FORSYTH	186,082	6,767	3.6	STANLY	29,997	1,044	3.5
FRANKLIN	30,748	1,202	3.9	STOKES	22,246	781	3.5
GASTON	110,948	4,032	3.6	SURRY	34,197	1,226	3.6
GATES	5,215	212	4.1	SWAIN	6,715	268	4.0
GRAHAM	3,047	177	5.8	TRANSYLVANIA	13,933	532	3.8
GRANVILLE	29,929	986	3.3	TYRRELL	1,339	92	6.9
GREENE	9,516	348	3.7	UNION	121,997	4,004	3.3
GUILFORD	260,971	10,209	3.9	VANCE	17,198	937	5.4
HALIFAX	20,062	1,122	5.6	WAKE	585,502	18,635	3.2
HARNETT	52,868	2,359	4.5	WARREN	6,337	364	5.7
HAYWOOD	29,164	997	3.4	WASHINGTON	4,523	273	6.0
HENDERSON	53,574	1,780	3.3	WATAUGA	28,997	961	3.3
HERTFORD	9,081	443	4.9	WAYNE	52,586	2,195	4.2
HOKE	20,054	984	4.9	WILKES	30,264	1,138	3.8
HYDE	1,909	165	8.6	WILSON	34,932	1,879	5.4
IREDELL	88,966	3,035	3.4	YADKIN	17,888	601	3.4
JACKSON	19,007	771	4.1	YANCEY	8,297	298	3.6

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	December 2018	November 2018	December 2017	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	December 2018	November 2018	December 2017	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.8	3.5	4.3	0.3	-0.5						
ALAMANCE	3.6	3.2	4.0	0.4	-0.4	JOHNSTON	3.5	3.2	4.0	0.3	-0.5
ALEXANDER	3.3	2.9	3.6	0.4	-0.3	JONES	4.3	4.1	4.6	0.2	-0.3
ALLEGHANY	4.5	3.6	5.2	0.9	-0.7	LEE	4.1	3.9	4.9	0.2	-0.8
ANSON	4.5	4.1	4.8	0.4	-0.3	LENOIR	3.8	3.6	4.4	0.2	-0.6
ASHE	3.5	3.1	4.0	0.4	-0.5	LINCOLN	3.3	3.0	3.9	0.3	-0.6
AVERY	3.6	3.2	4.2	0.4	-0.6	MCDOWELL	3.7	3.1	3.9	0.6	-0.2
BEAUFORT	4.7	4.4	5.0	0.3	-0.3	MACON	3.8	3.3	4.3	0.5	-0.5
BERTIE	4.8	4.4	5.8	0.4	-1.0	MADISON	3.5	3.2	4.0	0.3	-0.5
BLADEN	5.1	4.9	5.8	0.2	-0.7	MARTIN	4.9	4.4	5.6	0.5	-0.7
BRUNSWICK	5.3	4.7	6.1	0.6	-0.8	MECKLENBURG	3.4	3.2	4.0	0.2	-0.6
BUNCOMBE	3.0	2.7	3.4	0.3	-0.4	MITCHELL	4.5	3.8	4.9	0.7	-0.4
BURKE	3.6	3.2	4.1	0.4	-0.5	MONTGOMERY	3.9	3.5	4.3	0.4	-0.4
CABARRUS	3.4	3.1	3.9	0.3	-0.5	MOORE	3.7	3.4	4.4	0.3	-0.7
CALDWELL	4.1	3.6	4.4	0.5	-0.3	NASH	4.6	4.3	5.6	0.3	-1.0
CAMDEN	3.8	3.4	4.3	0.4	-0.5	NEW HANOVER	3.8	3.5	4.2	0.3	-0.4
CARTERET	4.7	4.5	4.5	0.2	0.2	NORTHAMPTON	4.9	4.3	6.1	0.6	-1.2
CASWELL	4.1	4.0	4.8	0.1	-0.7	ONSLOW	4.5	4.2	5.0	0.3	-0.5
CATAWBA	3.4	3.1	4.0	0.3	-0.6	ORANGE	3.2	2.8	3.6	0.4	-0.4
CHATHAM	3.3	2.9	3.7	0.4	-0.4	PAMLICO	4.0	3.9	4.7	0.1	-0.7
CHEROKEE	4.5	3.8	5.3	0.7	-0.8	PASQUOTANK	4.7	4.2	5.5	0.5	-0.8
CHOWAN	4.4	4.1	5.3	0.3	-0.9	PENDER	4.2	3.9	4.8	0.3	-0.6
CLAY	4.4	3.8	5.0	0.6	-0.6	PERQUIMANS	4.9	4.3	5.8	0.6	-0.9
CLEVELAND	3.8	3.5	4.5	0.3	-0.7	PERSON	3.9	3.6	4.3	0.3	-0.4
COLUMBUS	5.1	4.6	5.5	0.5	-0.4	PITT	4.0	3.7	4.6	0.3	-0.6
CRAVEN	4.4	4.1	4.6	0.3	-0.2	POLK	3.8	3.4	4.1	0.4	-0.3
CUMBERLAND	5.0	4.6	5.5	0.4	-0.5	RANDOLPH	3.7	3.3	4.2	0.4	-0.5
CURRITUCK	3.6	3.1	4.4	0.5	-0.8	RICHMOND	5.2	4.8	6.0	0.4	-0.8
DARE	5.4	3.8	6.7	1.6	-1.3	ROBESON	5.5	5.3	6.3	0.2	-0.8
DAVIDSON	3.6	3.3	4.1	0.3	-0.5	ROCKINGHAM	4.3	4.3	5.0	0.0	-0.7
DAVIE	3.3	3.0	4.1	0.3	-0.8	ROWAN	3.7	3.4	4.4	0.3	-0.7
DUPLIN	4.2	3.9	4.8	0.3	-0.6	RUTHERFORD	4.8	4.4	5.8	0.4	-1.0
DURHAM	3.3	3.1	3.9	0.2	-0.6	SAMPSON	3.8	3.6	4.5	0.2	-0.7
EDGECOMBE	5.9	5.7	7.5	0.2	-1.6	SCOTLAND	6.9	6.6	7.8	0.3	-0.9
FORSYTH	3.6	3.4	4.2	0.2	-0.6	STANLY	3.5	3.2	4.1	0.3	-0.6
FRANKLIN	3.9	3.6	4.5	0.3	-0.6	STOKES	3.5	3.1	4.1	0.4	-0.6
GASTON	3.6	3.4	4.4	0.2	-0.8	SURRY	3.6	3.2	4.1	0.4	-0.5
GATES	4.1	3.7	4.3	0.4	-0.2	SWAIN	4.0	3.3	4.8	0.7	-0.8
GRAHAM	5.8	4.6	7.4	1.2	-1.6	TRANSYLVANIA	3.8	3.4	4.4	0.4	-0.6
GRANVILLE	3.3	3.0	3.8	0.3	-0.5	TYRRELL	6.9	5.4	9.1	1.5	-2.2
GREENE	3.7	3.4	4.2	0.3	-0.5	UNION	3.3	3.0	3.8	0.3	-0.5
GUILFORD	3.9	3.6	4.6	0.3	-0.7	VANCE	5.4	5.0	6.1	0.4	-0.7
HALIFAX	5.6	5.3	6.9	0.3	-1.3	WAKE	3.2	2.9	3.7	0.3	-0.5
HARNETT	4.5	4.1	5.0	0.4	-0.5	WARREN	5.7	5.3	6.7	0.4	-1.0
HAYWOOD	3.4	3.0	3.8	0.4	-0.4	WASHINGTON	6.0	5.5	7.1	0.5	-1.1
HENDERSON	3.3	3.0	3.7	0.3	-0.4	WATAUGA	3.3	3.0	3.7	0.3	-0.4
HERTFORD	4.9	4.5	5.5	0.4	-0.6	WAYNE	4.2	3.9	4.9	0.3	-0.7
HOKE	4.9	4.6	5.5	0.3	-0.6	WILKES	3.8	3.4	4.1	0.4	-0.3
HYDE	8.6	5.6	10.3	3.0	-1.7	WILSON	5.4	5.3	6.6	0.1	-1.2
IREDELL	3.4	3.1	4.1	0.3	-0.7	YADKIN	3.4	3.0	3.8	0.4	-0.4
JACKSON	4.1	3.5	4.6	0.6	-0.5	YANCEY	3.6	3.2	4.2	0.4	-0.6

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

METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Data for
December 2018

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	230,662	7,256	3.1
BURLINGTON	80,231	2,861	3.6
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,343,634	46,012	3.4
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	298,927	9,917	3.3
FAYETTEVILLE	148,870	7,365	4.9
GOLDSBORO	52,586	2,195	4.2
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	369,553	14,433	3.9
GREENVILLE	88,954	3,541	4.0
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	175,202	6,299	3.6
JACKSONVILLE	64,701	2,915	4.5
NEW BERN	51,023	2,203	4.3
RALEIGH	712,202	23,237	3.3
ROCKY MOUNT	64,146	3,219	5.0
WILMINGTON	144,997	5,581	3.8
WINSTON-SALEM	327,665	11,726	3.6

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	29,997	1,044	3.5
BOONE	28,997	961	3.3
BREVARD	13,933	532	3.8
CULLOWHEE	19,007	771	4.1
DUNN	52,868	2,359	4.5
ELIZABETH CITY	26,608	1,218	4.6
FOREST CITY	24,687	1,193	4.8
HENDERSON	17,198	937	5.4
KILL DEVIL HILLS	19,080	1,053	5.5
KINSTON	27,893	1,066	3.8
LAURINBURG	11,442	791	6.9
LUMBERTON	49,623	2,752	5.5
MARION	20,730	759	3.7
MOREHEAD CITY	31,712	1,481	4.7
MOUNT AIRY	34,197	1,226	3.6
NORTH WILKESBORO	30,264	1,138	3.8
OXFORD	29,929	986	3.3
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	40,985	1,531	3.7
ROANOKE RAPIDS	27,616	1,489	5.4
ROCKINGHAM	16,555	867	5.2
SANFORD	26,373	1,092	4.1
SHELBY	47,932	1,808	3.8
WASHINGTON	19,654	920	4.7
WILSON	34,932	1,879	5.4

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Data for
December 2018

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	244,595	7,788	3.2
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,421,563	48,864	3.4
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	209,935	10,908	5.2
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	811,646	30,246	3.7
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	108,608	4,461	4.1
HICKORY-LENOIR	195,932	7,058	3.6
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	82,735	3,684	4.5
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	1,137,497	38,528	3.4
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	126,694	6,587	5.2

Not Seasonally Adjusted
Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.

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

Metropolitan Statistical Area	December 2018	November 2018	December 2017	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	3.1	2.8	3.5	0.3	-0.4
BURLINGTON	3.6	3.2	4.0	0.4	-0.4
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.4	3.2	4.1	0.2	-0.7
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.3	3.0	3.8	0.3	-0.5
FAYETTEVILLE	4.9	4.6	5.5	0.3	-0.6
GOLDSBORO	4.2	3.9	4.9	0.3	-0.7
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	3.9	3.6	4.6	0.3	-0.7
GREENVILLE	4.0	3.7	4.6	0.3	-0.6
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.6	3.2	4.0	0.4	-0.4
JACKSONVILLE	4.5	4.2	5.0	0.3	-0.5
NEW BERN	4.3	4.1	4.7	0.2	-0.4
RALEIGH	3.3	3.0	3.8	0.3	-0.5
ROCKY MOUNT	5.0	4.8	6.3	0.2	-1.3
WILMINGTON	3.8	3.6	4.3	0.2	-0.5
WINSTON-SALEM	3.6	3.3	4.1	0.3	-0.5

Micropolitan Statistical Area	December 2018	November 2018	December 2017	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	3.5	3.2	4.1	0.3	-0.6
BOONE	3.3	3.0	3.7	0.3	-0.4
BREVARD	3.8	3.4	4.4	0.4	-0.6
CULLOWHEE	4.1	3.5	4.6	0.6	-0.5
DUNN	4.5	4.1	5.0	0.4	-0.5
ELIZABETH CITY	4.6	4.1	5.4	0.5	-0.8
FOREST CITY	4.8	4.4	5.8	0.4	-1.0
HENDERSON	5.4	5.0	6.1	0.4	-0.7
KILL DEVIL HILLS	5.5	3.9	6.8	1.6	-1.3
KINSTON	3.8	3.6	4.4	0.2	-0.6
LAURINBURG	6.9	6.6	7.8	0.3	-0.9
LUMBERTON	5.5	5.3	6.3	0.2	-0.8
MARION	3.7	3.1	3.9	0.6	-0.2
MOREHEAD CITY	4.7	4.5	4.5	0.2	0.2
MOUNT AIRY	3.6	3.2	4.1	0.4	-0.5
NORTH WILKESBORO	3.8	3.4	4.1	0.4	-0.3
OXFORD	3.3	3.0	3.8	0.3	-0.5
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.7	3.4	4.4	0.3	-0.7
ROANOKE RAPIDS	5.4	5.0	6.7	0.4	-1.3
ROCKINGHAM	5.2	4.8	6.0	0.4	-0.8
SANFORD	4.1	3.9	4.9	0.2	-0.8
SHELBY	3.8	3.5	4.5	0.3	-0.7
WASHINGTON	4.7	4.4	5.0	0.3	-0.3
WILSON	5.4	5.3	6.6	0.1	-1.2

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

Combined Statistical Area	December 2018	November 2018	December 2017	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	3.2	2.9	3.6	0.3	-0.4
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.4	3.2	4.1	0.2	-0.7
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	5.2	4.9	5.8	0.3	-0.6
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	3.7	3.4	4.3	0.3	-0.6
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	4.1	3.8	4.7	0.3	-0.6
HICKORY-LENOIR	3.6	3.2	4.0	0.4	-0.4
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	4.5	4.2	4.6	0.3	-0.1
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.4	3.1	3.9	0.3	-0.5
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	5.2	5.0	6.5	0.2	-1.3

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 December 2018

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
BUNCOMBE	138,025	4,131	3.0%	1	PITT	88,954	3,541	4.0%	51
ORANGE	77,435	2,457	3.2%	2	SWAIN	6,715	268	4.0%	52
WAKE	585,502	18,635	3.2%	3	PAMLICO	5,305	212	4.0%	53
CHATHAM	35,573	1,158	3.3%	4	JACKSON	19,007	771	4.1%	54
DAVIE	20,503	670	3.3%	5	CALDWELL	36,924	1,499	4.1%	55
ALEXANDER	18,320	600	3.3%	6	GATES	5,215	212	4.1%	56
UNION	121,997	4,004	3.3%	7	LEE	26,373	1,092	4.1%	57
GRANVILLE	29,929	986	3.3%	8	CASWELL	9,814	407	4.1%	58
WATAUGA	28,997	961	3.3%	9	DUPLIN	24,878	1,035	4.2%	59
HENDERSON	53,574	1,780	3.3%	10	WAYNE	52,586	2,195	4.2%	60
LINCOLN	43,195	1,436	3.3%	11	PENDER	27,124	1,150	4.2%	61
DURHAM	167,429	5,578	3.3%	12	ROCKINGHAM	41,153	1,758	4.3%	62
YADKIN	17,888	601	3.4%	13	JONES	4,407	189	4.3%	63
CABARRUS	106,758	3,633	3.4%	14	CHOWAN	5,650	246	4.4%	64
IREDELL	88,966	3,035	3.4%	15	CRAVEN	41,311	1,802	4.4%	65
HAYWOOD	29,164	997	3.4%	16	CLAY	4,126	183	4.4%	66
MECKLENBURG	615,399	21,136	3.4%	17	ANSON	10,367	462	4.5%	67
CATAWBA	79,045	2,726	3.4%	18	HARNETT	52,868	2,359	4.5%	68
STANLY	29,997	1,044	3.5%	19	MITCHELL	5,967	268	4.5%	69
STOKES	22,246	781	3.5%	20	CHEROKEE	11,164	502	4.5%	70
MADISON	9,899	348	3.5%	21	ONSLOW	64,701	2,915	4.5%	71
ASHE	12,822	452	3.5%	22	ALLEGHANY	4,228	192	4.5%	72
JOHNSTON	95,952	3,400	3.5%	23	NASH	42,633	1,960	4.6%	73
ALAMANCE	80,231	2,861	3.6%	24	CARTERET	31,712	1,481	4.7%	74
CURRITUCK	13,219	472	3.6%	25	BEAUFORT	19,654	920	4.7%	75
SURRY	34,197	1,226	3.6%	26	PASQUOTANK	17,069	801	4.7%	76
DAVIDSON	80,946	2,907	3.6%	27	BERTIE	7,716	371	4.8%	77
YANCEY	8,297	298	3.6%	28	RUTHERFORD	24,687	1,193	4.8%	78
BURKE	40,913	1,474	3.6%	29	NORTHAMPTON	7,554	367	4.9%	79
GASTON	110,948	4,032	3.6%	30	HERTFORD	9,081	443	4.9%	80
FORSYTH	186,082	6,767	3.6%	31	PERQUIMANS	4,976	243	4.9%	81
AVERY	7,386	269	3.6%	32	HOKE	20,054	984	4.9%	82
GREENE	9,516	348	3.7%	33	MARTIN	9,308	458	4.9%	83
RANDOLPH	67,429	2,466	3.7%	34	CUMBERLAND	128,816	6,381	5.0%	84
MCDOWELL	20,730	759	3.7%	35	COLUMBUS	22,224	1,125	5.1%	85
ROWAN	67,212	2,510	3.7%	36	BLADEN	14,176	730	5.1%	86
MOORE	40,985	1,531	3.7%	37	RICHMOND	16,555	867	5.2%	87
NEW HANOVER	117,873	4,431	3.8%	38	BRUNSWICK	50,766	2,685	5.3%	88
WILKES	30,264	1,138	3.8%	39	WILSON	34,932	1,879	5.4%	89
CLEVELAND	47,932	1,808	3.8%	40	DARE	17,741	961	5.4%	90
SAMPSON	28,751	1,090	3.8%	41	VANCE	17,198	937	5.4%	91
CAMDEN	4,563	174	3.8%	42	ROBESON	49,623	2,752	5.5%	92
TRANSYLVANIA	13,933	532	3.8%	43	HALIFAX	20,062	1,122	5.6%	93
MACON	15,215	581	3.8%	44	WARREN	6,337	364	5.7%	94
LENOIR	27,893	1,066	3.8%	45	GRAHAM	3,047	177	5.8%	95
POLK	8,878	341	3.8%	46	EDGECOMBE	21,513	1,259	5.9%	96
MONTGOMERY	11,545	450	3.9%	47	WASHINGTON	4,523	273	6.0%	97
FRANKLIN	30,748	1,202	3.9%	48	TYRRELL	1,339	92	6.9%	98
GUILFORD	260,971	10,209	3.9%	49	SCOTLAND	11,442	791	6.9%	99
PERSON	18,490	724	3.9%	50	HYDE	1,909	165	8.6%	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 2015, 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 www.bls.gov/lau/laumthd.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 15, 2015. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available online at www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm.

<u>Reliability of the estimates</u>

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.

<u>Release Dates</u>

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2019 when the state unemployment rate for January 2019 will be released.

The complete 2019 data release schedule can be accessed at:

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

North Carolina
County Labor Market Conditions

Counties With Highest Unemployment Rates
December 2018*
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Bar chart showing: Hyde 8.6%, Scotland 6.9%, Tyrrell 6.9%, Washington 6.0%, Edgecombe 5.9%

Counties With Lowest Unemployment Rates
December 2018*
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Bar chart showing: Buncombe 3.0%, Orange 3.2%, Wake 3.2%, Chatham 3.3%, Davie 3.3%

Metropolitan Statistical Areas' Unemployment Rates
December 2018*
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Bar chart showing: North Carolina 3.8%, Asheville 3.1%, Durham/Chapel Hill 3.3%, Raleigh 3.3%, Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC 3.4%, Burlington 3.6%, Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton 3.6%, Winston-Salem 3.6%, Wilmington 3.8%, Greensboro/High Point 3.9%, Greenville 4.0%, Goldsboro 4.2%, New Bern 4.3%, Jacksonville 4.5%, Fayetteville 4.9%, Rocky Mount 5.0%

North Carolina's statewide unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 3.8 percent in December. This increased 0.3 of a percentage point from November's revised rate, while falling 0.5 of a percentage point over the year.

Over the month, the unemployment rate increased in 99 of 100 counties. Forty-six counties had unemployment rates at or below the state's 3.8 percent rate.

Hyde County recorded December's highest unemployment rate at 8.6 percent, followed by Scotland & Tyrrell at 6.9 percent, Washington at 6.0 percent, and Edgecombe at 5.9 percent. Buncombe County had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.0 percent, followed by Orange & Wake at 3.2 percent.

Unemployment rates increased in all of the state's 15 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) over the month. The Rocky Mount MSA had the highest unemployment rate in December at 5.0 percent, followed by Fayetteville at 4.9 percent, Jacksonville at 4.5 percent, New Bern at 4.3 percent, and Goldsboro at 4.2 percent. Asheville reported the month's lowest unemployment rate at 3.1 percent, followed by Raleigh & Durham/Chapel Hill at 3.3 percent.
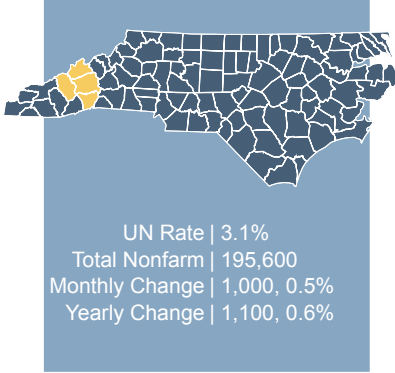
*All December 2018 data are preliminary.

North Carolina **County Labor Market Conditions**

## Asheville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2018

UN Rate | 3.1%
Total Nonfarm | 195,600
Monthly Change | 1,000, 0.5%
Yearly Change | 1,100, 0.6%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	100	0.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	500	1.4%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-200	-1.1%
Education & Health Services	100	0.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	600	2.2%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-100	-0.4%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	300	3.4%
Manufacturing	1,000	4.8%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	800	2.2%
Information	-100	-5.0%
Financial Activities	100	1.5%
Professional & Business Services	-700	-3.8%
Education & Health Services	-300	-0.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	-300	-1.1%
Other Services	200	2.5%
Government	100	0.4%

Burlington MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2018
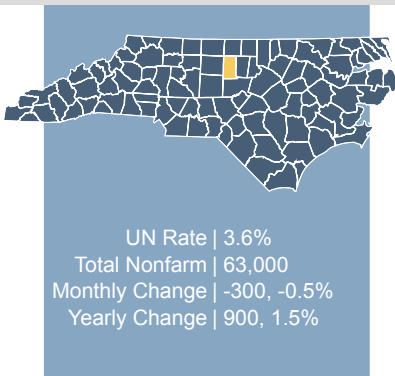
UN Rate | 3.6%
Total Nonfarm | 63,000
Monthly Change | -300, -0.5%
Yearly Change | 900, 1.5%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	100	1.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-100	-0.7%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-100	-1.8%
Education & Health Services	-100	-0.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	0	0.0%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-100	-1.4%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	3.7%
Manufacturing	300	3.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-100	-0.7%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	500	9.8%
Education & Health Services	-200	-1.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	300	3.9%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	0	0.0%

Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2018

UN Rate | 3.4%
Total Nonfarm | 1,235,800
Monthly Change | 1,100, 0.1%
Yearly Change | 24,500, 2.0%
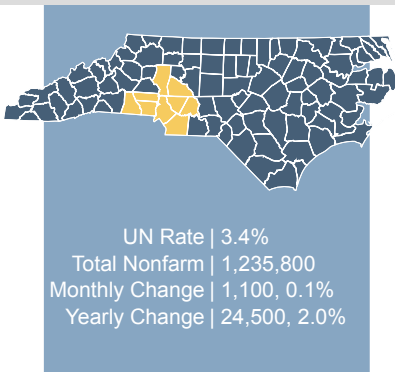
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-500	-0.8%
Manufacturing	500	0.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,600	0.6%
Information	200	0.7%
Financial Activities	300	0.3%
Professional & Business Services	-2,700	-1.3%
Education & Health Services	900	0.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	600	0.4%
Other Services	700	1.7%
Government	-500	-0.3%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	1,000	1.6%
Manufacturing	100	0.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,500	2.6%
Information	700	2.5%
Financial Activities	2,100	2.2%
Professional & Business Services	8,500	4.2%
Education & Health Services	4,200	3.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	-2,400	-1.7%
Other Services	400	1.0%
Government	3,400	2.1%

Durham/Chapel Hill MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2018

UN Rate | 3.3%
Total Nonfarm | 320,400
Monthly Change | 0, 0.0%
Yearly Change | 7,200, 2.3%
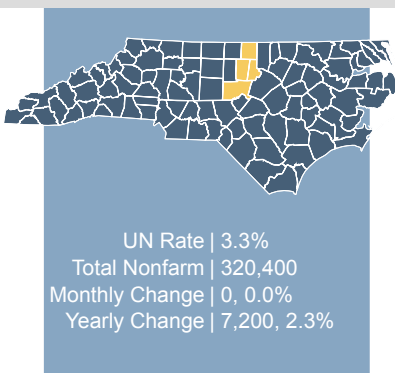
Over-the-Month Employment Change

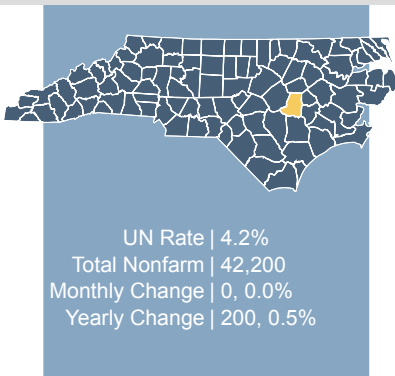| Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	1.2%
Manufacturing	200	0.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	400	1.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	100	0.7%
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	-100	-0.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	-300	-1.0%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-400	-0.6%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	400	4.9%
Manufacturing	700	2.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,300	3.4%
Information	-100	-2.2%
Financial Activities	400	2.7%
Professional & Business Services	900	2.1%
Education & Health Services	1,700	2.5%
Leisure & Hospitality	700	2.5%
Other Services	200	1.8%
Government	1,000	1.4%

Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All December 2018 data are preliminary.

Fayetteville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2018
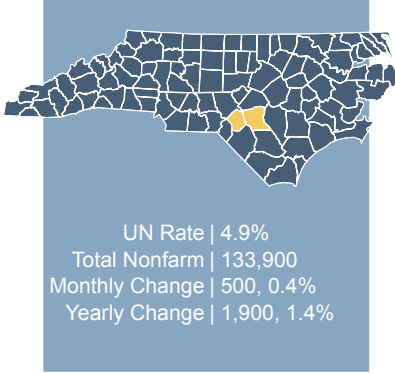
UN Rate | 4.9%
Total Nonfarm | 133,900
Monthly Change | 500, 0.4%
Yearly Change | 1,900, 1.4%

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	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	200	1.6%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	100	0.6%
Other Services	-100	-2.2%
Government	200	0.5%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	400	1.6%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	200	1.6%
Education & Health Services	200	1.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	400	2.6%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	700	1.7%

Goldsboro MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2018

UN Rate | 4.2%
Total Nonfarm | 42,200
Monthly Change | 0, 0.0%
Yearly Change | 200, 0.5%

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	1.1%

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	1.1%

Greensboro/High Point MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2018
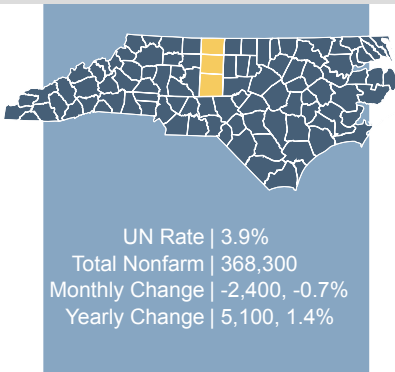
UN Rate | 3.9%
Total Nonfarm | 368,300
Monthly Change | -2,400, -0.7%
Yearly Change | 5,100, 1.4%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	300	0.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	700	0.9%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-2,000	-4.0%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	-700	-1.9%
Other Services	-100	-0.8%
Government	-600	-1.3%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	1,000	6.7%
Manufacturing	1,100	2.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	3,300	4.3%
Information	-100	-2.1%
Financial Activities	100	0.6%
Professional & Business Services	-1,900	-3.8%
Education & Health Services	-200	-0.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,500	4.4%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	300	0.7%

Greenville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2018
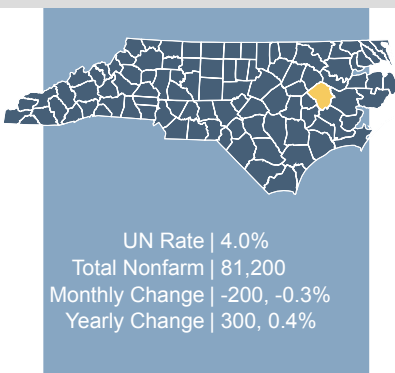
UN Rate | 4.0%
Total Nonfarm | 81,200
Monthly Change | -200, -0.3%
Yearly Change | 300, 0.4%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	0	0.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	-100	-1.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	-100	-1.0%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	0	0.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	200	6.5%
Manufacturing	300	4.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-200	-1.7%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-100	-3.3%
Professional & Business Services	100	1.5%
Education & Health Services	-100	-1.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	0	0.0%
Other Services	100	4.6%
Government	0	0.0%

*Data not collected for these industrial sectors. Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All December 2018 data are preliminary.

North Carolina **County Labor Market Conditions**

## Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2018
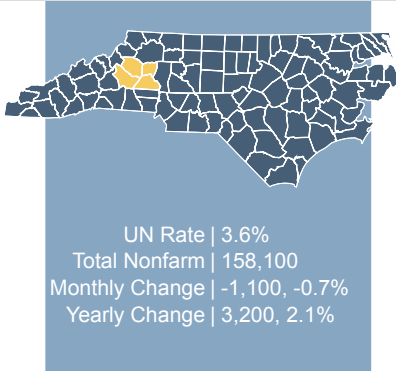
UN Rate | 3.6%
Total Nonfarm | 158,100
Monthly Change | -1,100, -0.7%
Yearly Change | 3,200, 2.1%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	200	0.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	0	0.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-400	-2.8%
Education & Health Services	100	0.5%
Leisure & Hospitality	-800	-5.3%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-200	-0.9%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	300	7.5%
Manufacturing	800	1.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,500	4.9%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	100	3.2%
Professional & Business Services	-600	-4.1%
Education & Health Services	200	1.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	900	6.7%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	0	0.0%

Jacksonville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2018
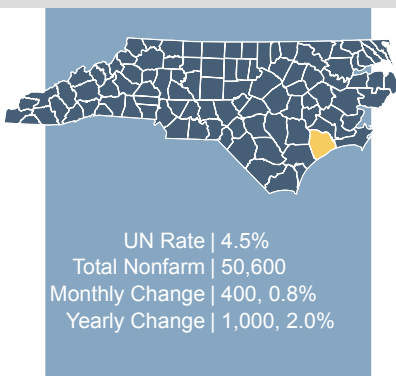
UN Rate | 4.5%
Total Nonfarm | 50,600
Monthly Change | 400, 0.8%
Yearly Change | 1,000, 2.0%

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	400	2.7%

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	200	1.4%

New Bern MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2018

UN Rate | 4.3%
Total Nonfarm | 44,900
Monthly Change | -100, -0.2%
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	0	0.0%

Raleigh MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2018

UN Rate | 3.3%
Total Nonfarm | 644,700
Monthly Change | -1,700, -0.3%
Yearly Change | 18,800, 3.0%
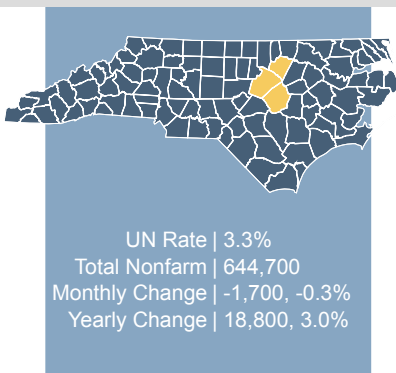
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	400	1.0%
Manufacturing	200	0.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,400	1.2%
Information	100	0.4%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-700	-0.6%
Education & Health Services	200	0.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	-1,100	-1.6%
Other Services	-300	-1.2%
Government	-1,900	-1.9%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	3,200	8.4%
Manufacturing	600	1.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	4,800	4.2%
Information	900	4.0%
Financial Activities	2,300	7.2%
Professional & Business Services	2,800	2.4%
Education & Health Services	3,200	4.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	300	0.4%
Other Services	400	1.7%
Government	300	0.3%

*Data not collected for these industrial sectors. Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All December 2018 data are preliminary.

Rocky Mount MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2018

UN Rate | 5.0%
Total Nonfarm | 56,700
Monthly Change | -200, -0.4%
Yearly Change | -200, -0.4%
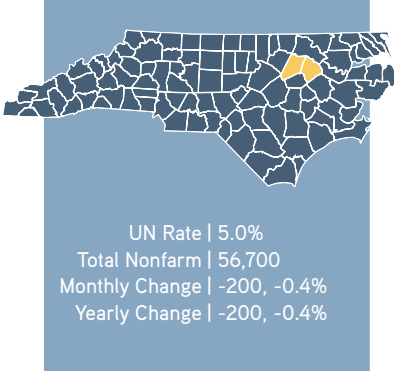
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	4.0%
Manufacturing	-100	-1.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	1.6%
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
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	200	8.3%
Manufacturing	-100	-1.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300	2.5%
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	100	2.1%
Education & Health Services	100	1.5%
Leisure & Hospitality	100	1.8%
Other Services	*	
Government	0	0.0%

Wilmington MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2018
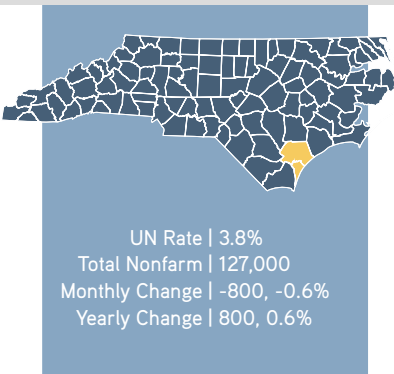
UN Rate | 3.8%
Total Nonfarm | 127,000
Monthly Change | -800, -0.6%
Yearly Change | 800, 0.6%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	100	1.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	0.8%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-400	-2.5%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	-400	-2.3%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-300	-1.2%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	500	7.0%
Manufacturing	200	3.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,300	5.2%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	200	3.4%
Professional & Business Services	-700	-4.2%
Education & Health Services	200	1.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	-700	-3.9%
Other Services	-600	-11.8%
Government	400	1.7%

Winston-Salem MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2018
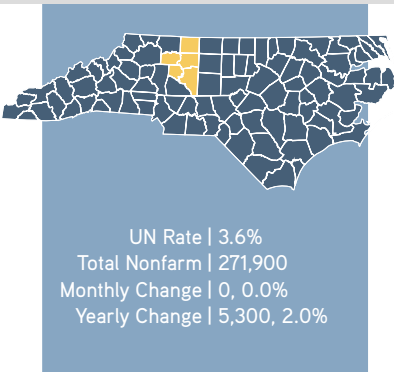
UN Rate | 3.6%
Total Nonfarm | 271,900
Monthly Change | 0, 0.0%
Yearly Change | 5,300, 2.0%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	200	0.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	500	1.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	300	0.8%
Education & Health Services	-300	-0.5%
Leisure & Hospitality	-600	-2.1%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-100	-0.3%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

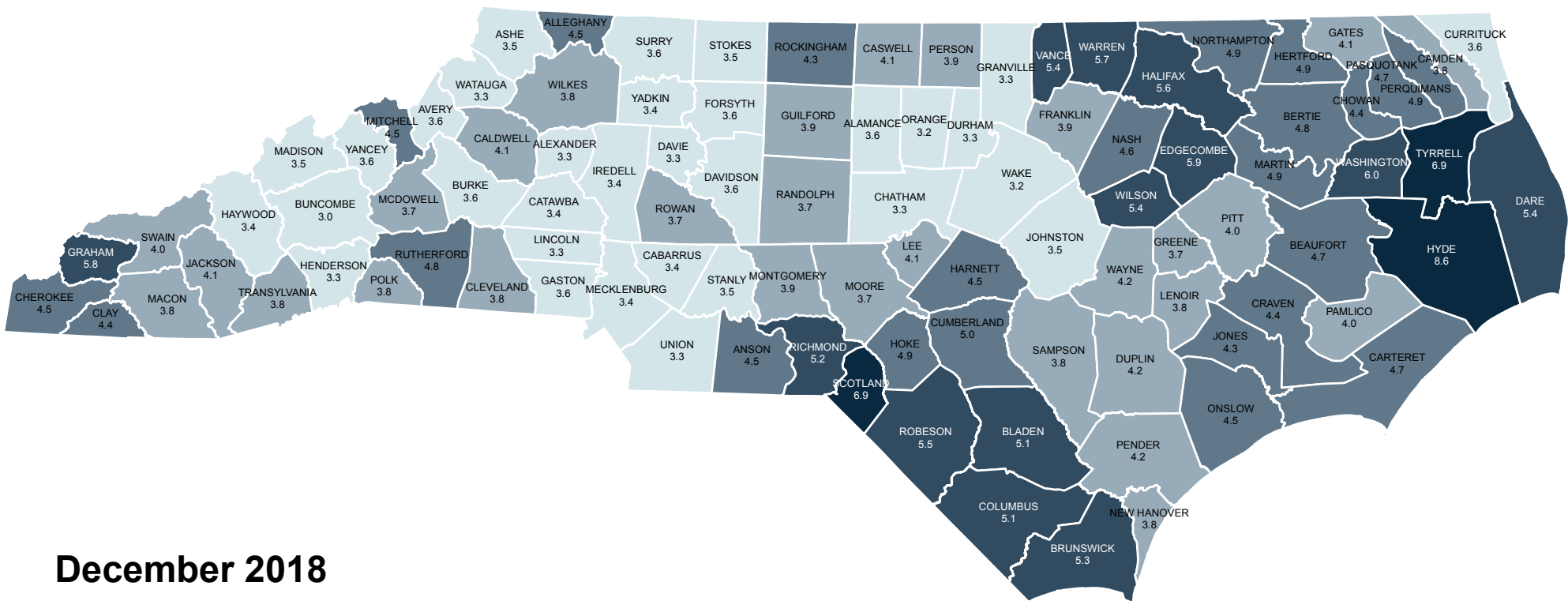| Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	3.8%
Manufacturing	-400	-1.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,600	3.3%
Information	-100	-5.6%
Financial Activities	200	1.5%
Professional & Business Services	2,600	7.4%
Education & Health Services	700	1.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	400	1.4%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-100	-0.3%

Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All December 2018 data are preliminary.

Over the month, net industry employment increased in four of 15 MSAs. Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC had the largest net employment increase with 1,100, followed by Asheville, 1,000; Fayetteville, 500; and Jacksonville, 400. Jacksonville experienced the greatest percentage increase at 0.8 of a percentage point, followed by Asheville, 0.5 of a percentage point; Fayetteville, 0.4 of a percentage point; and Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC, 0.1 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.
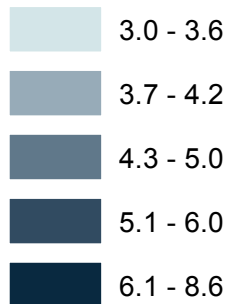
Over the year, employment increased in 14 of 15 MSAs. Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC had the largest net employment increase at 24,500, followed by Raleigh, 18,800; Durham/Chapel Hill, 7,200; Winston-Salem, 5,300; Greensboro/High Point, 5,100; and Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton, 3,200. Raleigh had the greatest percentage increase at 3.0 percent, followed by Durham/Chapel Hill, 2.3 percent; and Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton, 2.1 percent.

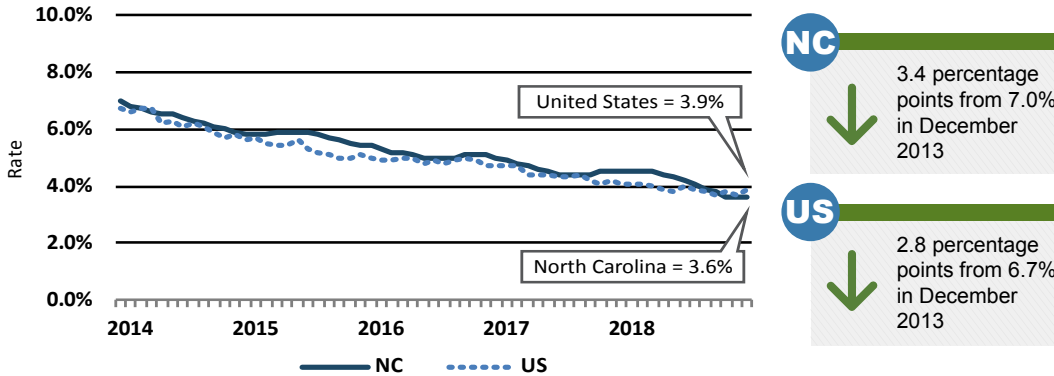# North Carolina Unemployment Rates by County
December 2018

CURRITUCK 3.6
CAMDEN 3.8
GATES 4.1
PASQUOTANK 4.7
PERQUIMANS 4.9
CHOWAN 4.4
HERTFORD 4.9
NORTHAMPTON 4.9
WASHINGTON 6.0
TYRRELL 6.9
DARE 5.4
BERTIE 4.8
MARTIN 4.9
HALIFAX 5.6
WARREN 5.7
VANCE 5.4
EDGECOMBE 5.9
BEAUFORT 4.7
HYDE 8.6
NASH 4.6
WILSON 5.4
PITT 4.0
FRANKLIN 3.9
GREENE 3.7
CRAVEN 4.4
PAMLICO 4.0
GRANVILLE 3.3
PERSON 3.9
CASWELL 4.1
ROCKINGHAM 4.3
WAKE 3.2
JOHNSTON 3.5
WAYNE 4.2
LENOIR 3.8
JONES 4.3
CARTERET 4.7
STOKES 3.5
SURRY 3.6
DURHAM 3.3
ORANGE 3.2
ALAMANCE 3.6
CHATHAM 3.3
LEE 4.1
HARNETT 4.5
SAMPSON 3.8
DUPLIN 4.2
ONSLOW 4.5
PENDER 4.2
NEW HANOVER 3.8
GUILFORD 3.9
FORSYTH 3.6
YADKIN 3.4
ASHE 3.5
ALLEGHANY 4.5
WILKES 3.8
WATAUGA 3.3
DAVIE 3.3
DAVIDSON 3.6
RANDOLPH 3.7
MONTGOMERY 3.9
MOORE 3.7
CUMBERLAND 5.0
HOKE 4.9
ROBESON 5.5
BLADEN 5.1
COLUMBUS 5.1
BRUNSWICK 5.3
SCOTLAND 6.9
RICHMOND 5.2
ANSON 4.5
STANLY 3.5
UNION 3.3
MECKLENBURG 3.4
CABARRUS 3.4
ROWAN 3.7
IREDELL 3.4
ALEXANDER 3.3
CALDWELL 4.1
CATAWBA 3.4
LINCOLN 3.3
GASTON 3.6
CLEVELAND 3.8
BURKE 3.6
MCDOWELL 3.7
RUTHERFORD 4.8
POLK 3.8
HENDERSON 3.3
TRANSYLVANIA 3.8
BUNCOMBE 3.0
MADISON 3.5
YANCEY 3.6
MITCHELL 4.5
AVERY 3.6
HAYWOOD 3.4
JACKSON 4.1
SWAIN 4.0
GRAHAM 5.8
MACON 3.8
CLAY 4.4
CHEROKEE 4.5

December 2018

▢	3.0 - 3.6
▢	3.7 - 4.2
▢	4.3 - 5.0
▢	5.1 - 6.0
▢	6.1 - 8.6

^	99	Counties Higher Than Previous Month
∨	0	Counties Lower Than Previous Month
=	1	Counties Same as Previous Month

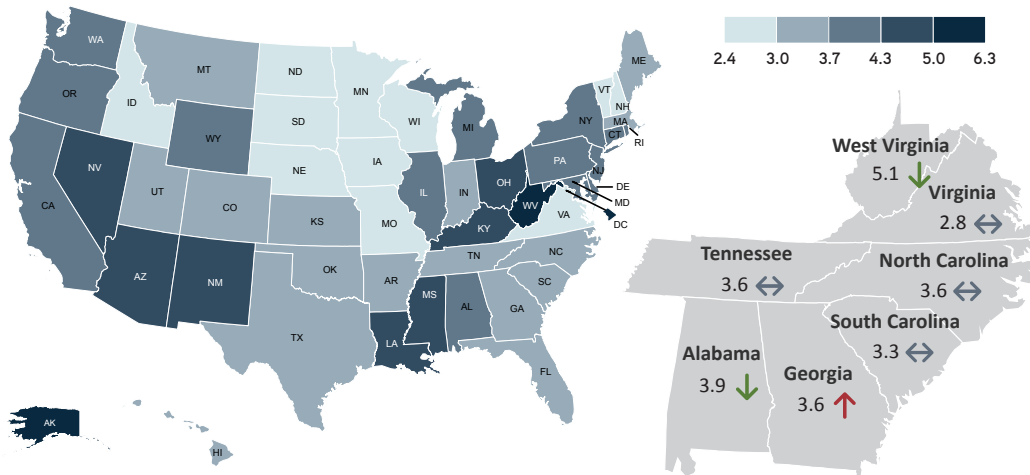## North Carolina Rate 3.8%
Not Seasonally Adjusted

Note: December 2018 data are preliminary.
Prepared by the Labor & Economic Analysis, North Carolina Department of Commerce 1_2019

This edition of NCToday and our monthly labor market releases will be the last until March. At the beginning of each year, LEAD, in accordance with guidelines from the U.S. BLS, will undertake an annual process of revising prior labor market "estimates." Using the most recent version of the economic data that go into our modeled estimates, we will recalculate our monthly unemployment and jobs numbers. Our positive assessment of NC's 2018 economy will likely still hold – however, expect to see some modest changes in how we progressed in 2018 and previous years.

NC 3.6%   **US** 3.9%

Unemployment Rate Change
⇔ 0.0   ↑ 0.2

Change in Employed
↑ 4,299 (0.1%)   ↑ 142,000 (0.1%)

Change in Unemployed
↑ 1,173 (0.7%)   ↑ 276,000 (4.6%)

Labor Force Participation Rate
⇔ 0.0 to 61.0%   ↑ 0.2 to 63.1%

Unemployment Rate Trend

NC ↓ 3.4 percentage points from 7.0% in December 2013

US ↓ 2.8 percentage points from 6.7% in December 2013

United States = 3.9%

North Carolina = 3.6%

Unemployment Rate Comparison

2.4 3.0 3.7 4.3 5.0 6.3

West Virginia 5.1
Virginia 2.8 ⇔
Tennessee 3.6 ⇔
North Carolina 3.6 ⇔
South Carolina 3.3 ⇔
Alabama 3.9 ↓
Georgia 3.6 ↑

Philadelphia Federal Reserve Leading Indicators for North Carolina

NC

This leading index predicts the six-month growth rate of the state's economy (as measured by the Phili Fed's current indicator index). A positive number reflects economic growth, while a negative projects a decline.
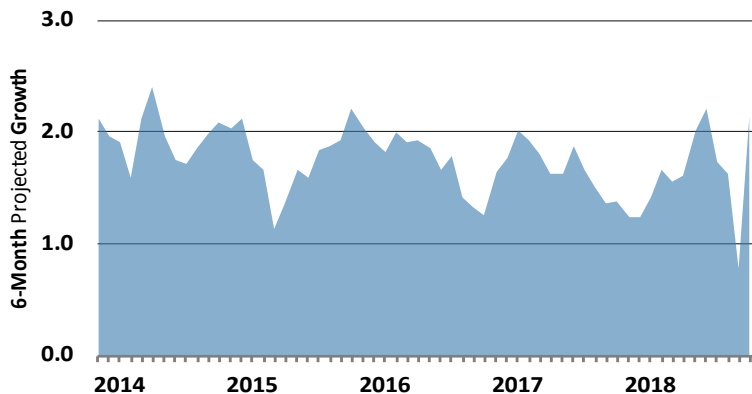
Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia Note: September 2018 data most current available.
Note: November 2018 data most current available due to federal government shutdown.

*All data produced in this publication are based off December 2018 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.

Data

Industry Employment
4,536,400 Total Nonfarm Jobs
↑ 1,200 over the month
↑ 87,200 over the year

Initial UI Claims
13,287 Individuals Filing
↓ 177 over the month
↑ 2,743 over the year
Source: US Dept. of Labor, ETA

Real Taxable Retail Sales
↑ $51.0M over the month
↑ $499.8M over the year
Source: NC Dept. of Revenue
Note: November 2018 data most current available at time of release.

Residential Building Permits
Source: United States Census Bureau
Note: Includes multiple-unit housing.
September 2018 data most current available due to federal government shutdown.

Job Postings
↓ 3.9% over the month
↑ 19.3% over the year
Source: The Conference Board; BLS; LEAD
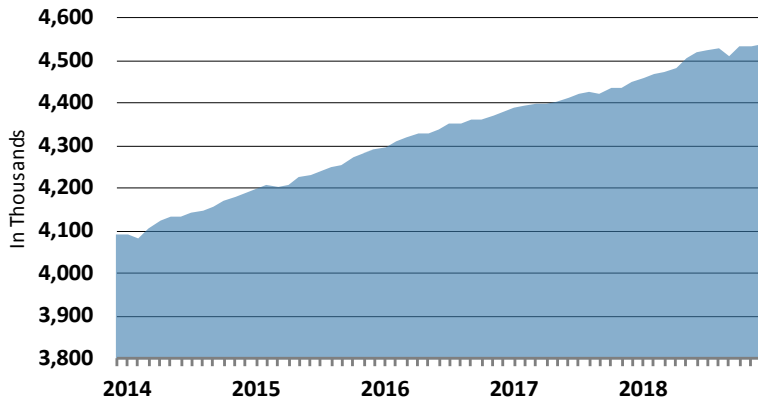Note: November 2018 data most current available at time of release.

Manufacturing Hours Worked
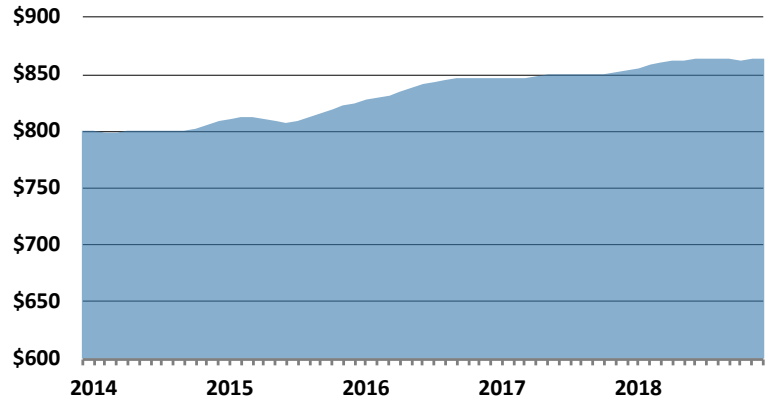↓ 3.9% over the month
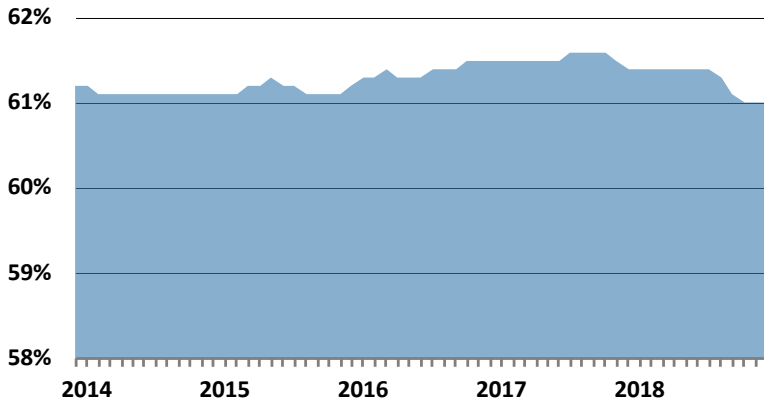↓ 2.7% over the year
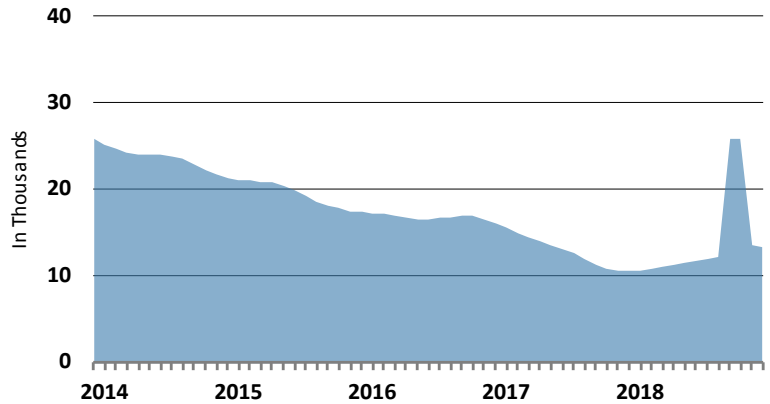Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted

Total Nonfarm Jobs

In Thousands
4,600 / 4,500 / 4,400 / 4,300 / 4,200 / 4,100 / 4,000 / 3,900 / 3,800
2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

Average Real Weekly Earnings (Private Nonfarm Sector)

$900 / $850 / $800 / $750 / $700 / $650 / $600
2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

Labor Force Participation Rate

62% / 61% / 60% / 59% / 58%
2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims

In Thousands
40 / 30 / 20 / 10 / 0
2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

Source: US Dept. of Labor, ETA

Residential Building Permits

7,000 / 6,000 / 5,000 / 4,000 / 3,000 / 2,000 / 1,000 / 0
2014 2015 2016 2017 2018
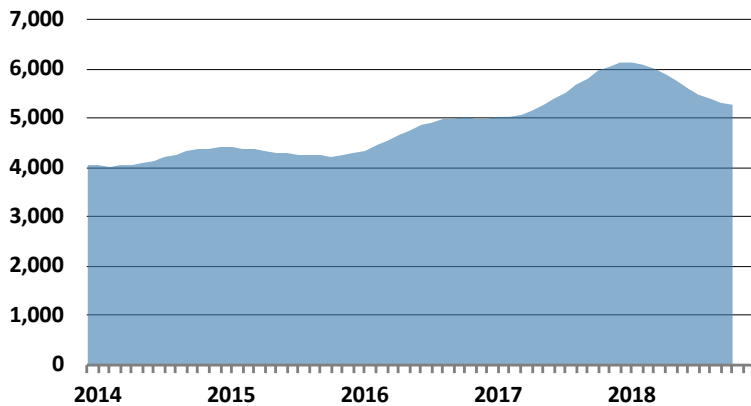
Source: United States Census Bureau
Note: Includes multiple-unit housing.

Real Taxable Retail Sales
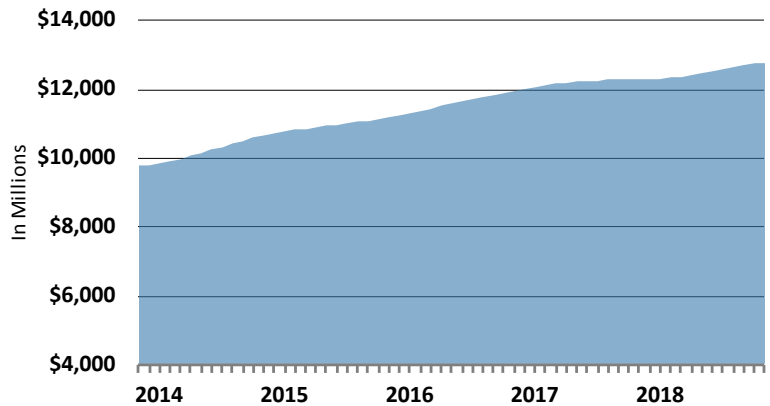
In Millions
$14,000 / $12,000 / $10,000 / $8,000 / $6,000 / $4,000
2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

Source: NC Dept. of Revenue
Note: November 2018 data most current available at time of release.

Unemployment Rate By County (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

3.0 3.6 4.2 5.0 6.0 8.6
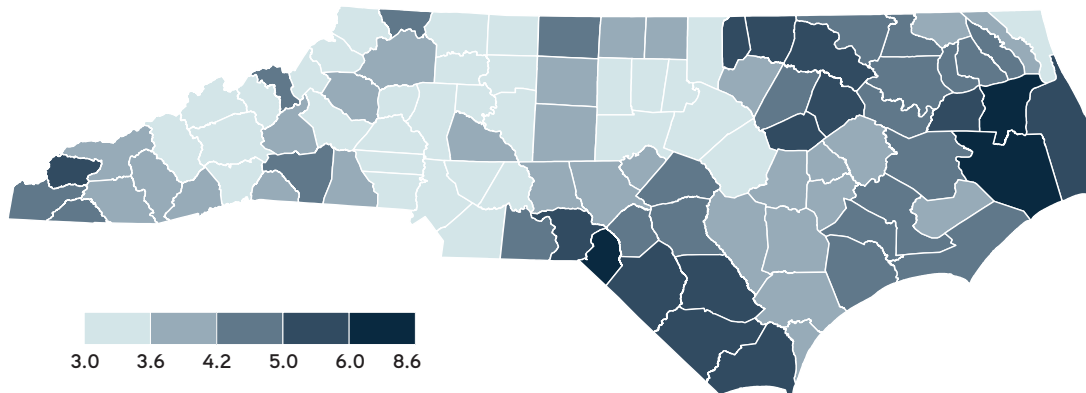
Lowest	
Buncombe	2.7%
Orange	2.8%
Alexander	2.9%
Wake	2.9%
Chatham	2.9%

Highest	
Scotland	6.6%
Hyde	5.8%
Edgecombe	5.7%
Washington	5.5%
Tyrrell	5.3%

*All data produced in this publication are based off December 2018 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.