NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT *of* COMMERCE

Roy Cooper
GOVERNOR

Machelle Baker Sanders
SECRETARY

North Carolina's December County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 91 of North Carolina's counties in December, increased in four, and remained unchanged in five. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 6.9 percent while Orange County had the lowest at 2.2 percent. All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 5.0 percent while Durham-Chapel Hill had the lowest at 2.5 percent. The December not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.2 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
December	90	10	0
November (Revised)	92	8	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) increased in December by 13,301 to 4,909,662, while those unemployed decreased by 9,893 to 160,692. Since December 2020, the number of workers employed statewide increased 199,479, while those unemployed decreased 146,441.

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 14, 2022 when the state unemployment rate for January 2022 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 2021

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,070,354	160,692	3.2				
ALAMANCE	83,141	2,576	3.1	JOHNSTON	102,678	2,814	2.7
ALEXANDER	18,212	459	2.5	JONES	4,233	118	2.8
ALLEGHANY	4,108	130	3.2	LEE	26,402	973	3.7
ANSON	10,438	457	4.4	LENOIR	27,679	907	3.3
ASHE	13,218	321	2.4	LINCOLN	44,617	1,159	2.6
AVERY	7,428	189	2.5	MCDOWELL	20,155	568	2.8
BEAUFORT	19,938	640	3.2	MACON	15,901	395	2.5
BERTIE	7,450	301	4.0	MADISON	9,845	266	2.7
BLADEN	14,713	593	4.0	MARTIN	8,961	323	3.6
BRUNSWICK	53,090	2,222	4.2	MECKLENBURG	633,311	20,780	3.3
BUNCOMBE	138,033	3,576	2.6	MITCHELL	5,841	215	3.7
BURKE	41,401	1,176	2.8	MONTGOMERY	11,420	341	3.0
CABARRUS	111,551	3,196	2.9	MOORE	41,764	1,188	2.8
CALDWELL	36,910	1,108	3.0	NASH	42,897	1,885	4.4
CAMDEN	4,588	119	2.6	NEW HANOVER	127,244	3,392	2.7
CARTERET	31,636	853	2.7	NORTHAMPTON	7,571	311	4.1
CASWELL	9,805	325	3.3	ONSLOW	65,446	2,147	3.3
CATAWBA	80,143	2,304	2.9	ORANGE	81,586	1,789	2.2
CHATHAM	36,971	845	2.3	PAMLICO	5,311	147	2.8
CHEROKEE	10,480	330	3.1	PASQUOTANK	16,460	593	3.6
CHOWAN	5,719	188	3.3	PENDER	29,613	806	2.7
CLAY	4,013	123	3.1	PERQUIMANS	4,870	182	3.7
CLEVELAND	48,850	1,734	3.5	PERSON	18,717	612	3.3
COLUMBUS	22,165	1,031	4.7	PITT	92,998	3,008	3.2
CRAVEN	41,164	1,250	3.0	POLK	9,144	305	3.3
CUMBERLAND	128,054	6,183	4.8	RANDOLPH	64,574	1,928	3.0
CURRITUCK	13,945	375	2.7	RICHMOND	16,426	887	5.4
DARE	18,378	803	4.4	ROBESON	49,672	2,655	5.3
DAVIDSON	80,702	2,363	2.9	ROCKINGHAM	39,234	1,444	3.7
DAVIE	20,524	560	2.7	ROWAN	66,490	2,097	3.2
DUPLIN	24,715	708	2.9	RUTHERFORD	24,487	1,087	4.4
DURHAM	177,030	4,650	2.6	SAMPSON	28,253	854	3.0
EDGECOMBE	20,958	1,321	6.3	SCOTLAND	11,121	763	6.9
FORSYTH	188,139	6,027	3.2	STANLY	30,070	844	2.8
FRANKLIN	32,414	1,025	3.2	STOKES	21,576	572	2.7
GASTON	112,160	3,898	3.5	SURRY	32,563	901	2.8
GATES	5,109	135	2.6	SWAIN	6,904	202	2.9
GRAHAM	2,922	162	5.5	TRANSYLVANIA	13,951	372	2.7
GRANVILLE	30,132	793	2.6	TYRRELL	1,294	75	5.8
GREENE	9,755	264	2.7	UNION	125,642	3,185	2.5
GUILFORD	258,504	9,921	3.8	VANCE	16,689	958	5.7
HALIFAX	20,023	1,035	5.2	WAKE	609,439	15,537	2.5
HARNETT	53,738	1,921	3.6	WARREN	6,420	355	5.5
HAYWOOD	29,236	782	2.7	WASHINGTON	4,303	215	5.0
HENDERSON	53,777	1,370	2.5	WATAUGA	29,563	681	2.3
HERTFORD	8,954	404	4.5	WAYNE	51,303	1,734	3.4
HOKE	20,130	906	4.5	WILKES	28,314	842	3.0
HYDE	1,741	104	6.0	WILSON	34,119	1,582	4.6
IREDELL	91,149	2,692	3.0	YADKIN	17,592	468	2.7
JACKSON	19,924	572	2.9	YANCEY	8,415	214	2.5

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 2021	November 2021	December 2020	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	December 2021	November 2021	December 2020	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.2	3.4	6.1	-0.2	-2.9						
ALAMANCE	3.1	3.3	6.1	-0.2	-3.0	JOHNSTON	2.7	2.9	5.4	-0.2	-2.7
ALEXANDER	2.5	2.8	5.4	-0.3	-2.9	JONES	2.8	3.1	5.4	-0.3	-2.6
ALLEGHANY	3.2	3.2	6.5	0.0	-3.3	LEE	3.7	3.9	6.6	-0.2	-2.9
ANSON	4.4	4.7	7.4	-0.3	-3.0	LENOIR	3.3	3.6	6.1	-0.3	-2.8
ASHE	2.4	2.6	5.1	-0.2	-2.7	LINCOLN	2.6	2.8	5.3	-0.2	-2.7
AVERY	2.5	2.6	5.6	-0.1	-3.1	MCDOWELL	2.8	3.0	5.9	-0.2	-3.1
BEAUFORT	3.2	3.4	5.9	-0.2	-2.7	MACON	2.5	2.7	5.4	-0.2	-2.9
BERTIE	4.0	4.2	6.3	-0.2	-2.3	MADISON	2.7	2.9	5.6	-0.2	-2.9
BLADEN	4.0	4.2	6.7	-0.2	-2.7	MARTIN	3.6	3.8	6.6	-0.2	-3.0
BRUNSWICK	4.2	4.4	7.5	-0.2	-3.3	MECKLENBURG	3.3	3.5	6.3	-0.2	-3.0
BUNCOMBE	2.6	2.8	5.7	-0.2	-3.1	MITCHELL	3.7	3.7	6.9	0.0	-3.2
BURKE	2.8	3.1	5.8	-0.3	-3.0	MONTGOMERY	3.0	3.1	6.0	-0.1	-3.0
CABARRUS	2.9	3.1	5.7	-0.2	-2.8	MOORE	2.8	3.1	5.8	-0.3	-3.0
CALDWELL	3.0	3.3	6.5	-0.3	-3.5	NASH	4.4	4.6	7.3	-0.2	-2.9
CAMDEN	2.6	2.8	5.2	-0.2	-2.6	NEW HANOVER	2.7	2.9	5.6	-0.2	-2.9
CARTERET	2.7	2.9	5.2	-0.2	-2.5	NORTHAMPTON	4.1	4.4	7.4	-0.3	-3.3
CASWELL	3.3	3.6	6.7	-0.3	-3.4	ONSLOW	3.3	3.5	6.4	-0.2	-3.1
CATAWBA	2.9	3.1	5.9	-0.2	-3.0	ORANGE	2.2	2.4	4.7	-0.2	-2.5
CHATHAM	2.3	2.5	4.7	-0.2	-2.4	PAMLICO	2.8	3.1	5.4	-0.3	-2.6
CHEROKEE	3.1	3.4	6.6	-0.3	-3.5	PASQUOTANK	3.6	3.7	6.9	-0.1	-3.3
CHOWAN	3.3	3.5	6.0	-0.2	-2.7	PENDER	2.7	2.9	5.6	-0.2	-2.9
CLAY	3.1	3.3	6.5	-0.2	-3.4	PERQUIMANS	3.7	3.8	6.2	-0.1	-2.5
CLEVELAND	3.5	3.7	6.7	-0.2	-3.2	PERSON	3.3	3.4	6.1	-0.1	-2.8
COLUMBUS	4.7	4.7	7.9	0.0	-3.2	PITT	3.2	3.4	6.2	-0.2	-3.0
CRAVEN	3.0	3.3	6.1	-0.3	-3.1	POLK	3.3	3.6	5.5	-0.3	-2.2
CUMBERLAND	4.8	5.1	8.4	-0.3	-3.6	RANDOLPH	3.0	3.2	6.1	-0.2	-3.1
CURRITUCK	2.7	2.7	5.2	0.0	-2.5	RICHMOND	5.4	5.5	8.7	-0.1	-3.3
DARE	4.4	3.7	7.3	0.7	-2.9	ROBESON	5.3	5.6	8.7	-0.3	-3.4
DAVIDSON	2.9	3.1	6.0	-0.2	-3.1	ROCKINGHAM	3.7	3.9	7.0	-0.2	-3.3
DAVIE	2.7	3.0	5.3	-0.3	-2.6	ROWAN	3.2	3.3	6.4	-0.1	-3.2
DUPLIN	2.9	3.1	5.4	-0.2	-2.5	RUTHERFORD	4.4	4.7	7.9	-0.3	-3.5
DURHAM	2.6	2.8	5.6	-0.2	-3.0	SAMPSON	3.0	3.1	5.6	-0.1	-2.6
EDGECOMBE	6.3	6.5	9.7	-0.2	-3.4	SCOTLAND	6.9	7.0	11.2	-0.1	-4.3
FORSYTH	3.2	3.4	6.3	-0.2	-3.1	STANLY	2.8	3.1	5.4	-0.3	-2.6
FRANKLIN	3.2	3.4	6.1	-0.2	-2.9	STOKES	2.7	2.9	5.6	-0.2	-2.9
GASTON	3.5	3.7	6.6	-0.2	-3.1	SURRY	2.8	3.0	5.5	-0.2	-2.7
GATES	2.6	2.9	5.6	-0.3	-3.0	SWAIN	2.9	3.0	5.7	-0.1	-2.8
GRAHAM	5.5	5.0	8.9	0.5	-3.4	TRANSYLVANIA	2.7	3.0	5.3	-0.3	-2.6
GRANVILLE	2.6	2.8	5.0	-0.2	-2.4	TYRRELL	5.8	4.9	8.4	0.9	-2.6
GREENE	2.7	2.8	5.2	-0.1	-2.5	UNION	2.5	2.7	5.1	-0.2	-2.6
GUILFORD	3.8	4.0	7.1	-0.2	-3.3	VANCE	5.7	5.9	9.4	-0.2	-3.7
HALIFAX	5.2	5.5	8.6	-0.3	-3.4	WAKE	2.5	2.7	5.2	-0.2	-2.7
HARNETT	3.6	3.8	6.7	-0.2	-3.1	WARREN	5.5	5.8	9.1	-0.3	-3.6
HAYWOOD	2.7	2.9	5.7	-0.2	-3.0	WASHINGTON	5.0	5.0	7.8	0.0	-2.8
HENDERSON	2.5	2.8	5.3	-0.3	-2.8	WATAUGA	2.3	2.5	4.8	-0.2	-2.5
HERTFORD	4.5	4.7	7.3	-0.2	-2.8	WAYNE	3.4	3.6	6.2	-0.2	-2.8
HOKE	4.5	4.8	7.8	-0.3	-3.3	WILKES	3.0	3.3	5.8	-0.3	-2.8
HYDE	6.0	4.8	7.0	1.2	-1.0	WILSON	4.6	4.9	7.6	-0.3	-3.0
IREDELL	3.0	3.2	5.8	-0.2	-2.8	YADKIN	2.7	2.9	5.5	-0.2	-2.8
JACKSON	2.9	3.0	5.7	-0.1	-2.8	YANCEY	2.5	2.8	5.5	-0.3	-3.0

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
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Data for
December 2021

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	230,891	5,994	2.6
BURLINGTON	83,141	2,576	3.1
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,387,855	44,175	3.2
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	314,304	7,896	2.5
FAYETTEVILLE	148,184	7,089	4.8
GOLDSBORO	51,303	1,734	3.4
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	362,312	13,293	3.7
GREENVILLE	92,998	3,008	3.2
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	176,666	5,047	2.9
JACKSONVILLE	65,446	2,147	3.3
NEW BERN	50,708	1,515	3.0
RALEIGH	744,531	19,376	2.6
ROCKY MOUNT	63,855	3,206	5.0
WILMINGTON	156,857	4,198	2.7
WINSTON-SALEM	328,533	9,990	3.0

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	30,070	844	2.8
BOONE	29,563	681	2.3
BREVARD	13,951	372	2.7
CULLOWHEE	19,924	572	2.9
DUNN	53,738	1,921	3.6
ELIZABETH CITY	25,918	894	3.4
FOREST CITY	24,487	1,087	4.4
HENDERSON	16,689	958	5.7
KILL DEVIL HILLS	19,672	878	4.5
KINSTON	27,679	907	3.3
LAURINBURG	11,121	763	6.9
LUMBERTON	49,672	2,655	5.3
MARION	20,155	568	2.8
MOREHEAD CITY	31,636	853	2.7
MOUNT AIRY	32,563	901	2.8
NORTH WILKESBORO	28,314	842	3.0
OXFORD	30,132	793	2.6
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	41,764	1,188	2.8
ROANOKE RAPIDS	27,594	1,346	4.9
ROCKINGHAM	16,426	887	5.4
SANFORD	26,402	973	3.7
SHELBY	48,850	1,734	3.5
WASHINGTON	19,938	640	3.2
WILSON	34,119	1,582	4.6

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

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	244,842	6,366	2.6
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,466,775	46,753	3.2
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	208,977	10,507	5.0
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	806,549	26,760	3.3
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	112,936	3,648	3.2
HICKORY-LENOIR	196,821	5,615	2.9
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	82,344	2,368	2.9
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	1,185,796	31,917	2.7
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	125,568	6,134	4.9

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	December 2021	November 2021	December 2020	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	2.6	2.8	5.6	-0.2	-3.0
BURLINGTON	3.1	3.3	6.1	-0.2	-3.0
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.2	3.3	6.0	-0.1	-2.8
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	2.5	2.7	5.3	-0.2	-2.8
FAYETTEVILLE	4.8	5.1	8.3	-0.3	-3.5
GOLDSBORO	3.4	3.6	6.2	-0.2	-2.8
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	3.7	3.9	6.9	-0.2	-3.2
GREENVILLE	3.2	3.4	6.2	-0.2	-3.0
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	2.9	3.1	6.0	-0.2	-3.1
JACKSONVILLE	3.3	3.5	6.4	-0.2	-3.1
NEW BERN	3.0	3.3	5.9	-0.3	-2.9
RALEIGH	2.6	2.8	5.3	-0.2	-2.7
ROCKY MOUNT	5.0	5.2	8.1	-0.2	-3.1
WILMINGTON	2.7	2.9	5.6	-0.2	-2.9
WINSTON-SALEM	3.0	3.2	6.1	-0.2	-3.1

Micropolitan Statistical Area	December 2021	November 2021	December 2020	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	2.8	3.1	5.4	-0.3	-2.6
BOONE	2.3	2.5	4.8	-0.2	-2.5
BREVARD	2.7	3.0	5.3	-0.3	-2.6
CULLOWHEE	2.9	3.0	5.7	-0.1	-2.8
DUNN	3.6	3.8	6.7	-0.2	-3.1
ELIZABETH CITY	3.4	3.6	6.5	-0.2	-3.1
FOREST CITY	4.4	4.7	7.9	-0.3	-3.5
HENDERSON	5.7	5.9	9.4	-0.2	-3.7
KILL DEVIL HILLS	4.5	3.8	7.4	0.7	-2.9
KINSTON	3.3	3.6	6.1	-0.3	-2.8
LAURINBURG	6.9	7.0	11.2	-0.1	-4.3
LUMBERTON	5.3	5.6	8.7	-0.3	-3.4
MARION	2.8	3.0	5.9	-0.2	-3.1
MOREHEAD CITY	2.7	2.9	5.2	-0.2	-2.5
MOUNT AIRY	2.8	3.0	5.5	-0.2	-2.7
NORTH WILKESBORO	3.0	3.3	5.8	-0.3	-2.8
OXFORD	2.6	2.8	5.0	-0.2	-2.4
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	2.8	3.1	5.8	-0.3	-3.0
ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.9	5.2	8.3	-0.3	-3.4
ROCKINGHAM	5.4	5.5	8.7	-0.1	-3.3
SANFORD	3.7	3.9	6.6	-0.2	-2.9
SHELBY	3.5	3.7	6.7	-0.2	-3.2
WASHINGTON	3.2	3.4	5.9	-0.2	-2.7
WILSON	4.6	4.9	7.6	-0.3	-3.0

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

Combined Statistical Area	December 2021	November 2021	December 2020	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	2.6	2.8	5.6	-0.2	-3.0
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.2	3.3	6.0	-0.1	-2.8
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	5.0	5.3	8.6	-0.3	-3.6
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	3.3	3.5	6.4	-0.2	-3.1
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	3.2	3.4	6.1	-0.2	-2.9
HICKORY-LENOIR	2.9	3.1	6.0	-0.2	-3.1
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	2.9	3.1	5.7	-0.2	-2.8
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	2.7	2.9	5.4	-0.2	-2.7
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.9	5.1	8.0	-0.2	-3.1

Not Seasonally Adjusted

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NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY RANKINGS
Preliminary Data for December 2021

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
ORANGE	81,586	1,789	2.2%	1	ALAMANCE	83,141	2,576	3.1%	51
CHATHAM	36,971	845	2.3%	2	CHEROKEE	10,480	330	3.1%	52
WATAUGA	29,563	681	2.3%	3	ROWAN	66,490	2,097	3.2%	53
ASHE	13,218	321	2.4%	4	FRANKLIN	32,414	1,025	3.2%	54
MACON	15,901	395	2.5%	5	ALLEGHANY	4,108	130	3.2%	55
ALEXANDER	18,212	459	2.5%	6	FORSYTH	188,139	6,027	3.2%	56
UNION	125,642	3,185	2.5%	7	BEAUFORT	19,938	640	3.2%	57
YANCEY	8,415	214	2.5%	8	PITT	92,998	3,008	3.2%	58
AVERY	7,428	189	2.5%	9	PERSON	18,717	612	3.3%	59
HENDERSON	53,777	1,370	2.5%	10	LENOIR	27,679	907	3.3%	60
WAKE	609,439	15,537	2.5%	11	ONSLOW	65,446	2,147	3.3%	61
BUNCOMBE	138,033	3,576	2.6%	12	MECKLENBURG	633,311	20,780	3.3%	62
CAMDEN	4,588	119	2.6%	13	CHOWAN	5,719	188	3.3%	63
LINCOLN	44,617	1,159	2.6%	14	CASWELL	9,805	325	3.3%	64
DURHAM	177,030	4,650	2.6%	15	POLK	9,144	305	3.3%	65
GRANVILLE	30,132	793	2.6%	16	WAYNE	51,303	1,734	3.4%	66
GATES	5,109	135	2.6%	17	GASTON	112,160	3,898	3.5%	67
STOKES	21,576	572	2.7%	18	CLEVELAND	48,850	1,734	3.5%	68
YADKIN	17,592	468	2.7%	19	HARNETT	53,738	1,921	3.6%	69
NEW HANOVER	127,244	3,392	2.7%	20	PASQUOTANK	16,460	593	3.6%	70
TRANSYLVANIA	13,951	372	2.7%	21	MARTIN	8,961	323	3.6%	71
HAYWOOD	29,236	782	2.7%	22	ROCKINGHAM	39,234	1,444	3.7%	72
CURRITUCK	13,945	375	2.7%	23	MITCHELL	5,841	215	3.7%	73
CARTERET	31,636	853	2.7%	24	LEE	26,402	973	3.7%	74
MADISON	9,845	266	2.7%	25	PERQUIMANS	4,870	182	3.7%	75
GREENE	9,755	264	2.7%	26	GUILFORD	258,504	9,921	3.8%	76
PENDER	29,613	806	2.7%	27	BLADEN	14,713	593	4.0%	77
DAVIE	20,524	560	2.7%	28	BERTIE	7,450	301	4.0%	78
JOHNSTON	102,678	2,814	2.7%	29	NORTHAMPTON	7,571	311	4.1%	79
SURRY	32,563	901	2.8%	30	BRUNSWICK	53,090	2,222	4.2%	80
PAMLICO	5,311	147	2.8%	31	DARE	18,378	803	4.4%	81
JONES	4,233	118	2.8%	32	ANSON	10,438	457	4.4%	82
STANLY	30,070	844	2.8%	33	NASH	42,897	1,885	4.4%	83
MCDOWELL	20,155	568	2.8%	34	RUTHERFORD	24,487	1,087	4.4%	84
BURKE	41,401	1,176	2.8%	35	HOKE	20,130	906	4.5%	85
MOORE	41,764	1,188	2.8%	36	HERTFORD	8,954	404	4.5%	86
DUPLIN	24,715	708	2.9%	37	WILSON	34,119	1,582	4.6%	87
CABARRUS	111,551	3,196	2.9%	38	COLUMBUS	22,165	1,031	4.7%	88
JACKSON	19,924	572	2.9%	39	CUMBERLAND	128,054	6,183	4.8%	89
CATAWBA	80,143	2,304	2.9%	40	WASHINGTON	4,303	215	5.0%	90
SWAIN	6,904	202	2.9%	41	HALIFAX	20,023	1,035	5.2%	91
DAVIDSON	80,702	2,363	2.9%	42	ROBESON	49,672	2,655	5.3%	92
IREDELL	91,149	2,692	3.0%	43	RICHMOND	16,426	887	5.4%	93
WILKES	28,314	842	3.0%	44	WARREN	6,420	355	5.5%	94
RANDOLPH	64,574	1,928	3.0%	45	GRAHAM	2,922	162	5.5%	95
MONTGOMERY	11,420	341	3.0%	46	VANCE	16,689	958	5.7%	96
CALDWELL	36,910	1,108	3.0%	47	TYRRELL	1,294	75	5.8%	97
SAMPSON	28,253	854	3.0%	48	HYDE	1,741	104	6.0%	98
CRAVEN	41,164	1,250	3.0%	49	EDGECOMBE	20,958	1,321	6.3%	99
CLAY	4,013	123	3.1%	50	SCOTLAND	11,121	763	6.9%	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

NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY RANKINGS
Revised Data for November 2021

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
ORANGE	81,802	1,938	2.4%	1	ALAMANCE	83,171	2,741	3.3%	51
WATAUGA	29,407	726	2.5%	2	CRAVEN	41,276	1,364	3.3%	52
CHATHAM	37,153	923	2.5%	3	ROWAN	66,159	2,203	3.3%	53
ASHE	13,324	341	2.6%	4	FRANKLIN	32,447	1,099	3.4%	54
AVERY	7,638	198	2.6%	5	PITT	92,960	3,151	3.4%	55
MACON	16,069	431	2.7%	6	FORSYTH	188,633	6,431	3.4%	56
UNION	125,040	3,383	2.7%	7	CHEROKEE	10,610	365	3.4%	57
CURRITUCK	13,921	377	2.7%	8	BEAUFORT	20,021	689	3.4%	58
WAKE	609,575	16,627	2.7%	9	PERSON	18,758	646	3.4%	59
CAMDEN	4,604	128	2.8%	10	MECKLENBURG	629,658	21,828	3.5%	60
YANCEY	8,503	237	2.8%	11	CHOWAN	5,680	199	3.5%	61
HENDERSON	53,574	1,494	2.8%	12	ONSLOW	65,504	2,306	3.5%	62
LINCOLN	44,421	1,241	2.8%	13	LENOIR	27,689	987	3.6%	63
BUNCOMBE	137,410	3,841	2.8%	14	CASWELL	9,821	351	3.6%	64
ALEXANDER	18,205	510	2.8%	15	WAYNE	51,460	1,841	3.6%	65
GREENE	9,800	277	2.8%	16	POLK	9,165	333	3.6%	66
GRANVILLE	30,227	855	2.8%	17	DARE	19,284	707	3.7%	67
DURHAM	177,344	5,020	2.8%	18	PASQUOTANK	16,476	609	3.7%	68
YADKIN	17,658	504	2.9%	19	GASTON	111,532	4,126	3.7%	69
CARTERET	31,812	916	2.9%	20	MITCHELL	5,910	221	3.7%	70
NEW HANOVER	126,895	3,656	2.9%	21	CLEVELAND	48,979	1,836	3.7%	71
MADISON	9,797	283	2.9%	22	MARTIN	9,032	340	3.8%	72
STOKES	21,671	628	2.9%	23	HARNETT	54,366	2,057	3.8%	73
JOHNSTON	102,786	2,992	2.9%	24	PERQUIMANS	4,895	188	3.8%	74
GATES	5,116	149	2.9%	25	LEE	26,335	1,014	3.9%	75
HAYWOOD	29,107	848	2.9%	26	ROCKINGHAM	39,146	1,533	3.9%	76
PENDER	29,567	866	2.9%	27	GUILFORD	257,617	10,423	4.0%	77
TRANSYLVANIA	14,033	415	3.0%	28	BERTIE	7,500	312	4.2%	78
SURRY	32,668	976	3.0%	29	BLADEN	14,721	616	4.2%	79
DAVIE	20,603	616	3.0%	30	BRUNSWICK	53,525	2,336	4.4%	80
SWAIN	7,006	211	3.0%	31	NORTHAMPTON	7,521	332	4.4%	81
MCDOWELL	20,207	610	3.0%	32	NASH	42,830	1,963	4.6%	82
JACKSON	20,103	612	3.0%	33	ANSON	10,506	490	4.7%	83
BURKE	41,364	1,264	3.1%	34	RUTHERFORD	24,493	1,148	4.7%	84
CABARRUS	110,921	3,399	3.1%	35	HERTFORD	8,992	422	4.7%	85
STANLY	30,064	926	3.1%	36	COLUMBUS	22,360	1,062	4.7%	86
MOORE	42,031	1,297	3.1%	37	HOKE	19,933	947	4.8%	87
JONES	4,263	132	3.1%	38	HYDE	1,794	87	4.8%	88
CATAWBA	79,984	2,480	3.1%	39	WILSON	34,061	1,673	4.9%	89
DAVIDSON	80,945	2,524	3.1%	40	TYRRELL	1,354	67	4.9%	90
DUPLIN	24,871	776	3.1%	41	WASHINGTON	4,376	220	5.0%	91
MONTGOMERY	11,491	359	3.1%	42	GRAHAM	2,983	150	5.0%	92
PAMLICO	5,334	167	3.1%	43	CUMBERLAND	126,693	6,495	5.1%	93
SAMPSON	28,522	898	3.1%	44	RICHMOND	16,475	898	5.5%	94
IREDELL	90,671	2,867	3.2%	45	HALIFAX	19,854	1,084	5.5%	95
RANDOLPH	64,422	2,078	3.2%	46	ROBESON	49,610	2,775	5.6%	96
ALLEGHANY	4,182	135	3.2%	47	WARREN	6,516	381	5.8%	97
CALDWELL	36,893	1,208	3.3%	48	VANCE	16,668	989	5.9%	98
CLAY	4,087	134	3.3%	49	EDGECOMBE	20,942	1,371	6.5%	99
WILKES	28,406	934	3.3%	50	SCOTLAND	11,165	779	7.0%	100

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.

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 Monday, March 14, 2022 when the state unemployment rate for January 2022 will be released.

The complete 2022 data release schedule can be accessed at:

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

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

County	Rate
Scotland	6.9%
Edgecombe	6.3%
Hyde	6.0%
Tyrrell	5.8%

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

County	Rate
Orange	2.2%
Chatham	2.3%
Watauga	2.3%
Ashe	2.4%

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

Area	Rate
North Carolina	3.2%
Durham/Chapel Hill	2.5%
Asheville	2.6%
Raleigh	2.6%
Wilmington	2.7%
Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton	2.9%
New Bern	3.0%
Winston-Salem	3.0%
Burlington	3.1%
Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC	3.2%
Greenville	3.2%
Jacksonville	3.3%
Goldsboro	3.4%
Greensboro/High Point	3.7%
Fayetteville	4.8%
Rocky Mount	5.0%

North Carolina's statewide unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 3.2 percent in December. This decreased 0.2 of a percentage point from November's revised rate, and declined 2.9 percentage points over the year.

Over the month, the unemployment rate decreased in 91 of North Carolina's 100 counties. Fifty-eight counties had unemployment rates at or below the state's 3.2 percent rate.

Scotland County recorded December's highest unemployment rate at 6.9 percent, followed by Edgecombe at 6.3 percent. Orange County had the lowest unemployment rate at 2.2 percent, followed by Chatham and Watauga Counties each at 2.3 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 December at 5.0 percent. The Durham/Chapel Hill MSA reported the month's lowest unemployment rate at 2.5 percent, followed by Asheville and Raleigh at 2.6 percent each.

*All December 2021 data are preliminary.

Asheville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2021

UN Rate | 2.6%
Total Nonfarm | 193,100
Monthly Change | 1,800, 0.9%
Yearly Change | 5,700, 3.0%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	1.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,200	3.3%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-100	-0.5%
Education & Health Services	400	1.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	400	1.5%
Other Services	-100	-1.1%
Government	-100	-0.4%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	600	6.3%
Manufacturing	700	3.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	600	1.6%
Information	100	6.3%
Financial Activities	100	1.6%
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	-1,100	-3.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	3,200	13.6%
Other Services	400	4.4%
Government	1,100	4.3%

Burlington MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2021

UN Rate | 3.1%
Total Nonfarm | 64,800
Monthly Change | -100, -0.2%
Yearly Change | 2,300, 3.7%
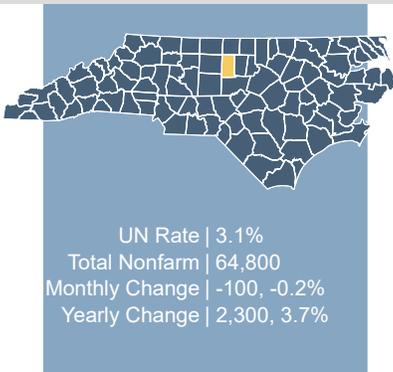
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-2.9%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	100	0.7%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-100	-1.6%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	0	0.0%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	0	0.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	3.1%
Manufacturing	200	2.4%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	400	2.9%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	500	8.6%
Education & Health Services	300	2.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	100	1.4%
Other Services	100	4.0%
Government	600	9.2%

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

UN Rate | 3.2%
Total Nonfarm | 1,257,200
Monthly Change | 9,100, 0.7%
Yearly Change | 39,900, 3.3%
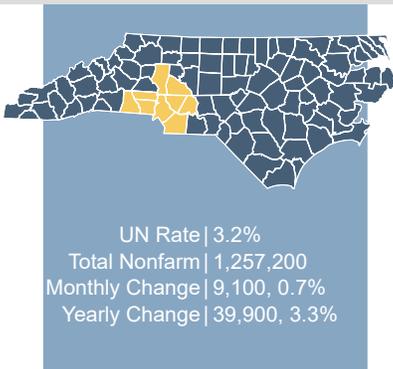
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-1,300	-1.8%
Manufacturing	-700	-0.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	7,800	3.0%
Information	300	1.3%
Financial Activities	800	0.7%
Professional & Business Services	-1,000	-0.4%
Education & Health Services	1,000	0.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,400	1.1%
Other Services	500	1.1%
Government	300	0.2%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	400	0.6%
Manufacturing	-2,300	-2.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,600	2.5%
Information	1,100	4.7%
Financial Activities	700	0.6%
Professional & Business Services	12,300	5.8%
Education & Health Services	3,800	3.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	12,700	11.1%
Other Services	2,900	6.8%
Government	1,700	1.1%

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

UN Rate 2.5%
Total Nonfarm | 335,100
Monthly Change | -300, -0.1%
Yearly Change | 15,300, 4.8%
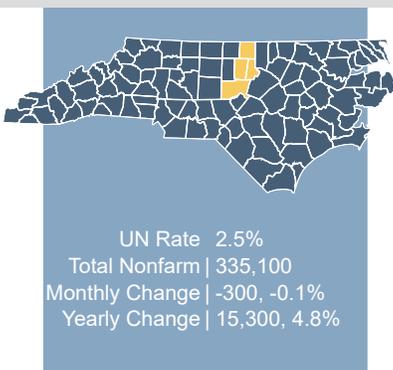
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-200	-2.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	800	1.9%
Information	200	3.3%
Financial Activities	100	0.6%
Professional & Business Services	400	0.8%
Education & Health Services	-300	-0.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	-800	-3.4%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-500	-0.8%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	300	3.2%
Manufacturing	400	1.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	2,700	6.7%
Information	500	8.8%
Financial Activities	100	0.6%
Professional & Business Services	4,500	9.2%
Education & Health Services	1,900	2.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	3,100	15.6%
Other Services	100	0.9%
Government	1,700	2.7%

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

## Fayetteville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2021

UN Rate | 4.8%
Total Nonfarm | 131,500
Monthly Change | 2,100, 1.6%
Yearly Change | 3,800, 3.0%
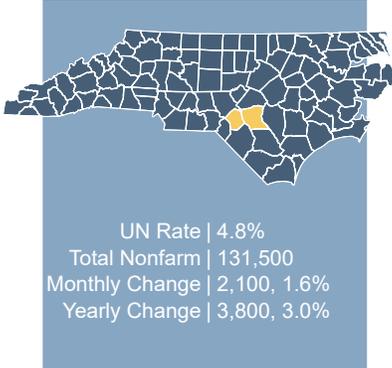
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-1.9%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	800	3.3%
Information	100	11.1%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	200	1.8%
Education & Health Services	-100	-0.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	300	1.8%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	900	2.3%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	400	8.3%
Manufacturing	400	5.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	0.8%
Information	100	11.1%
Financial Activities	-100	-2.6%
Professional & Business Services	400	3.6%
Education & Health Services	200	1.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	2,200	14.9%
Other Services	200	4.7%
Government	-200	-0.5%

Goldsboro MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2021

UN Rate | 3.4%
Total Nonfarm | 40,800
Monthly Change | 0, 0.0%
Yearly Change | 700, 1.7%

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	5.7%

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

UN Rate | 3.7%
Total Nonfarm | 355,000
Monthly Change | 2,000, 0.6%
Yearly Change | 8,900, 2.6%
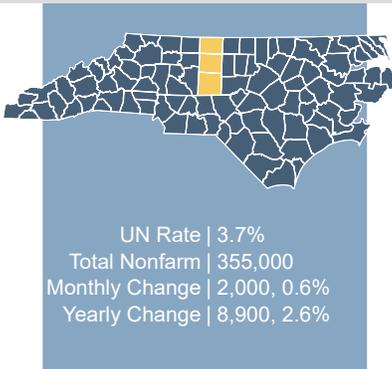
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	200	1.2%
Manufacturing	500	1.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,100	1.3%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	600	1.3%
Education & Health Services	-500	-1.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	300	0.9%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-200	-0.5%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	1,000	6.4%
Manufacturing	2,500	5.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	3,400	4.3%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-100	-0.6%
Professional & Business Services	1,000	2.2%
Education & Health Services	-600	-1.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	2,200	7.4%
Other Services	100	0.9%
Government	-600	-1.4%

Greenville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2021
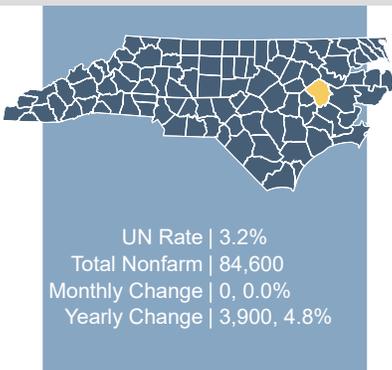
UN Rate | 3.2%
Total Nonfarm | 84,600
Monthly Change | 0, 0.0%
Yearly Change | 3,900, 4.8%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	500	4.1%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-200	-2.4%
Education & Health Services	100	1.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	-300	-3.3%
Other Services	-100	-4.2%
Government	0	0.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	3.2%
Manufacturing	100	1.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	400	3.2%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-100	-4.0%
Professional & Business Services	800	10.7%
Education & Health Services	500	5.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	700	8.6%
Other Services	100	4.5%
Government	1,300	4.6%

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

North Carolina **County Labor Market Conditions**

Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2021
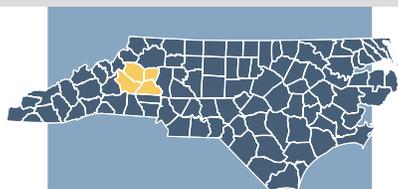
UN Rate | 2.9%
Total Nonfarm | 157,900
Monthly Change | 700, 0.4%
Yearly Change | 6,400, 4.2%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	2.0%
Manufacturing	400	0.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	600	1.9%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-100	-0.7%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	-100	-0.7%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-200	-0.9%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	400	8.3%
Manufacturing	4,000	10.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	900	2.8%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-100	-3.1%
Professional & Business Services	-100	-0.7%
Education & Health Services	100	0.5%
Leisure & Hospitality	400	3.1%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	800	3.6%

Jacksonville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2021

UN Rate | 3.3%
Total Nonfarm | 50,900
Monthly Change | 100, 0.2%
Yearly Change | 800, 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	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	-100	-0.7%

New Bern MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2021

UN Rate | 3.0%
Total Nonfarm | 44,700
Monthly Change | 100, 0.2%
Yearly Change | 600, 1.4%

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	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 2021

UN Rate | 2.6%
Total Nonfarm | 667,400
Monthly Change | 400, 0.1%
Yearly Change | 25,900, 4.0%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	-200	-0.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	800	0.6%
Information	400	1.8%
Financial Activities	200	0.6%
Professional & Business Services	-500	-0.4%
Education & Health Services	-100	-0.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,100	1.6%
Other Services	-200	-0.8%
Government	-1,100	-1.1%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	2,200	5.2%
Manufacturing	2,200	7.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	2,400	2.0%
Information	500	2.3%
Financial Activities	1,700	5.1%
Professional & Business Services	3,600	2.7%
Education & Health Services	2,300	2.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	10,500	18.2%
Other Services	-200	-0.8%
Government	700	0.7%

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

Rocky Mount MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2021

UN Rate | 5.0%
Total Nonfarm | 55,500
Monthly Change | 200, 0.4%
Yearly Change | 900, 1.6%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	100	1.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300	2.4%
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	0	0.0%
Other Services	*	
Government	-100	-0.9%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	4.0%
Manufacturing	-800	-7.8%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300	2.4%
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	200	4.2%
Education & Health Services	100	1.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	400	8.5%
Other Services	*	
Government	600	6.1%

Wilmington MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2021
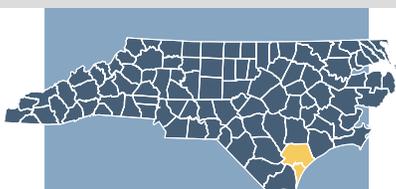
UN Rate | 2.7%
Total Nonfarm | 137,100
Monthly Change | 1,100, 0.8%
Yearly Change | 8,800, 6.9%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	1.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	500	1.9%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	300	1.5%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	300	1.5%
Other Services	-100	-2.2%
Government	0	0.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	600	6.5%
Manufacturing	300	5.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	500	1.9%
Information	100	3.2%
Financial Activities	100	1.6%
Professional & Business Services	2,800	16.1%
Education & Health Services	300	1.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	2,900	17.3%
Other Services	100	2.3%
Government	1,100	4.5%

Winston-Salem MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | December 2021

UN Rate | 3.0%
Total Nonfarm | 271,200
Monthly Change | -1,000, -0.4%
Yearly Change | 8,400, 3.2%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	400	1.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300	0.6%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-100	-0.8%
Professional & Business Services	-1,000	-2.6%
Education & Health Services	-400	-0.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	-100	-0.4%
Other Services	-100	-1.2%
Government	0	0.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	1,100	3.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-100	-0.2%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-100	-0.8%
Professional & Business Services	1,500	4.2%
Education & Health Services	1,500	2.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	3,000	12.3%
Other Services	200	2.5%
Government	1,300	4.3%

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

Over the month, 10 of North Carolina's 15 MSAs experienced net job increase. Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC had the largest net employment increase with 9,100, followed by Fayetteville, 2,100; Greensboro/High Point, 2,000; Asheville, 1,800; and Wilmington, 1,100. Fayetteville had the greatest percentage increase at 1.6%, followed by Asheville at 0.9%; Wilmington, 0.8%; and Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC, 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 of North Carolina's 15 MSAs. Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC had the largest net employment increase at 39,900, followed by Raleigh, 25,900; Durham/Chapel Hill, 15,300; Greensboro/High Point, 8,900; and Wilmington, 8,800. Wilmington had the greatest percentage increase at 6.9%, followed by Durham/Chapel Hill, 4.8%; Greenville, 4.8%; and Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton, 4.2%.

North Carolina Unemployment Rates by County
December 2021

December 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
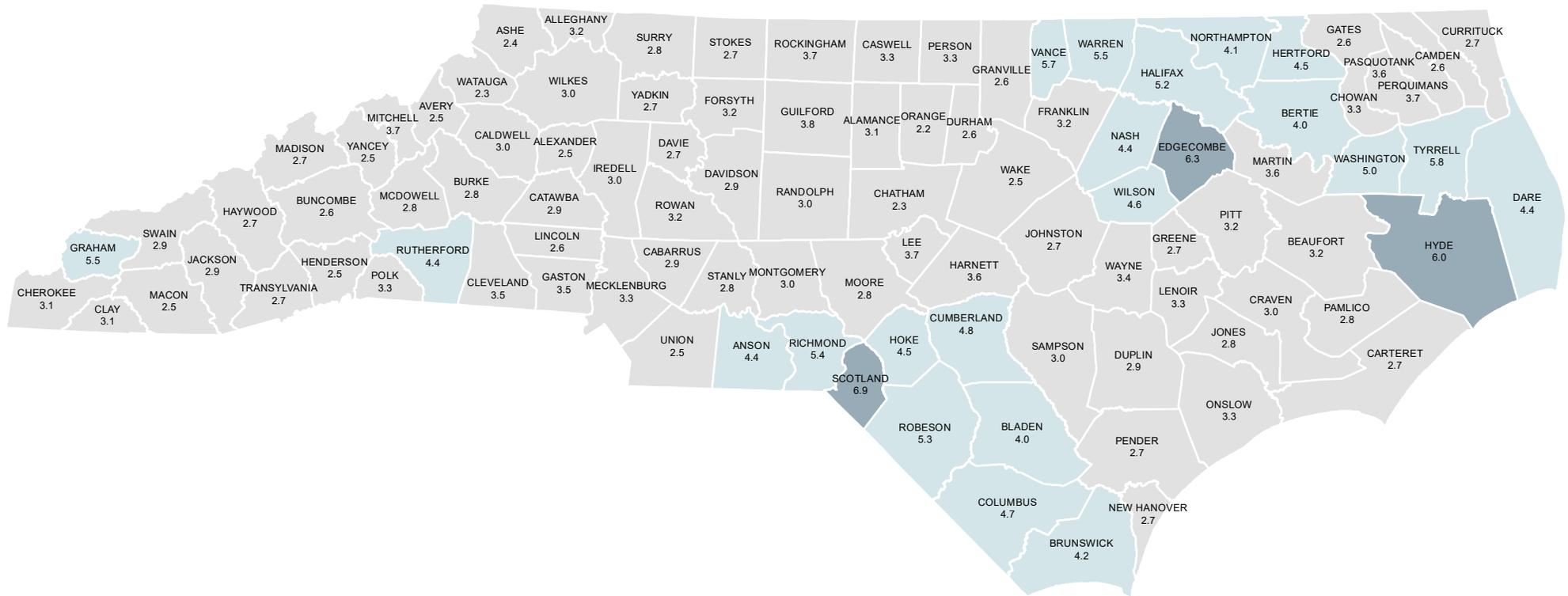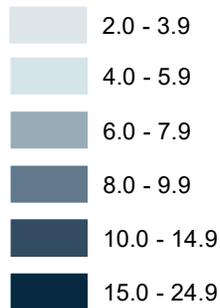
∧ 4 Counties Higher Than Previous Month
∨ 91 Counties Lower Than Previous Month
= 5 Counties Same as Previous Month

North Carolina Rate 3.2%
Not Seasonally Adjusted

Note: December 2021 data are preliminary.
Prepared by the Labor & Economic Analysis, North Carolina Department of Commerce 1_2022

NC TODAY

Monthly Dashboard*

North Carolina's labor market saw notable gains in December, with employment and job openings growing robustly and labor force participation ticking up slightly. Our state's unemployment rate declined to 3.7%, approaching it's pre-COVID level. However, fewer unemployed workers and more job openings means that our labor market is getting tighter, leading to increased hiring challenges for employers. Expectations for economic growth in the Carolinas have declined in recent months, but remain positive, suggesting continued progress in 2022.

NC 3.7%   **US** 3.9%

Unemployment Rate Change
↓ 0.2   ↓ 0.3

Change in Employed
↑ 25,884 (0.5%)   ↑ 651,000 (0.4%)

Change in Unemployed
↓ 9,881 (5.0%)   ↓ 483,000 (7.1%)

Change in Labor Force Participation Rate
↑ 0.1 to 59.4%   ↔ 0.0 to 61.9%

Unemployment Rate Trend

United States = 3.9%
North Carolina = 3.7%
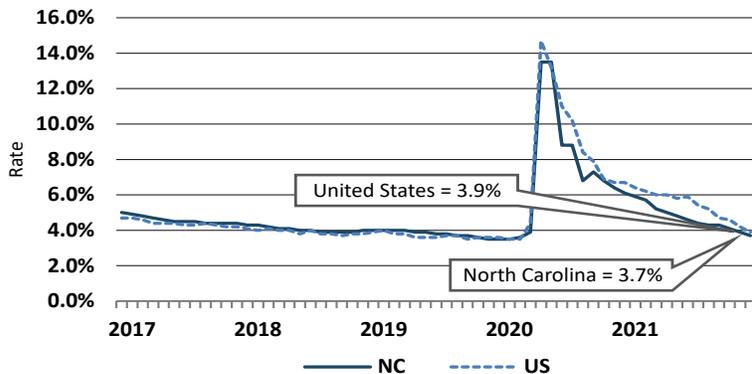
NC ↓ 1.3 percentage points from 5.0% in December 2016

US ↓ 0.8 percentage points from 4.7% in December 2016

Unemployment Rate Comparison

1.7 2.8 3.5 4.1 5.4 6.5

West Virginia 3.7 ↓
Virginia 3.2 ↓
Tennessee 3.8 ↓
North Carolina 3.7 ↓
South Carolina 3.5 ↓
Alabama 3.1 ↔
Georgia 2.6 ↓
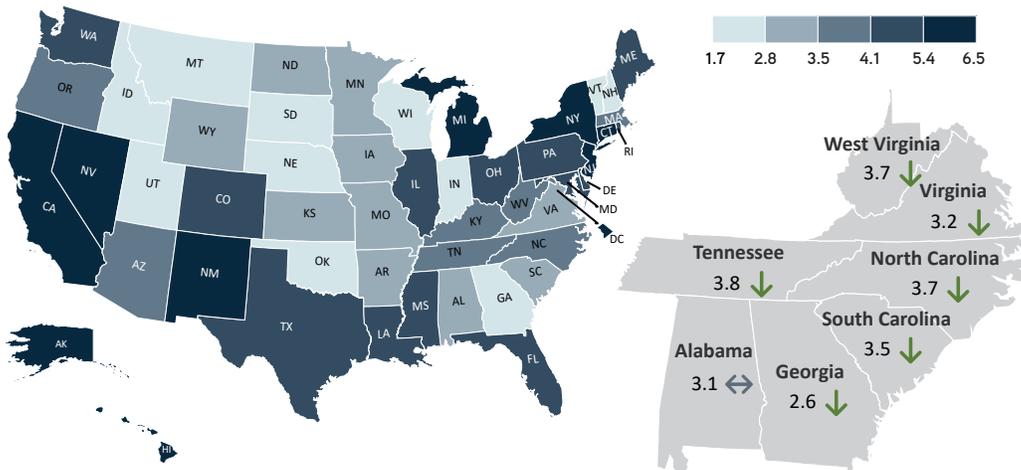
Expected Future Business Conditions

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.
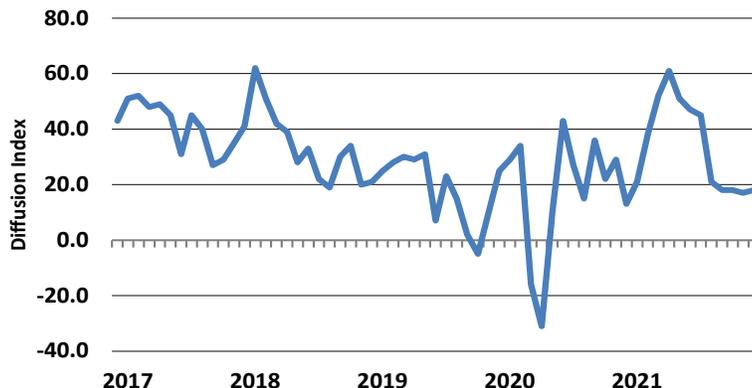
Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Carolinas Survey of Business Activity. Not seasonally adjusted.

Data

Employment
4,579,300 Total Nonfarm Jobs
↑ 20,000 over the month
↑ 143,500 over the year

Initial UI Claims
26,569 claims filed
↓ 5,141 over the month
↓ 45,490 over the year
Source: US Dept. of Labor, ETA
Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted

Real Taxable Retail Sales
↑ $121.7M over the month
↑ $1,534.6M over the year
Source: NC Dept. of Revenue
Note: November 2021 data most current available at time of release.

Residential Building Permits
↑ 0.4% over the month
↑ 10.5% over the year
Source: United States Census Bureau
Note: Includes multiple-unit housing. November 2021 data most current available at time of release.

Job Openings
↑ 1.7% over the month
↑ 63.1% over the year
Source: LEAD; The Conference Board
Note: November 2021 data most current available at time of release.

Manufacturing Hours Worked
↑ 1.2% over the month
↓ 1.0% over the year
Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted

*All data produced in this publication are based off December 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

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

2017 · 2018 · 2019 · 2020 · 2021
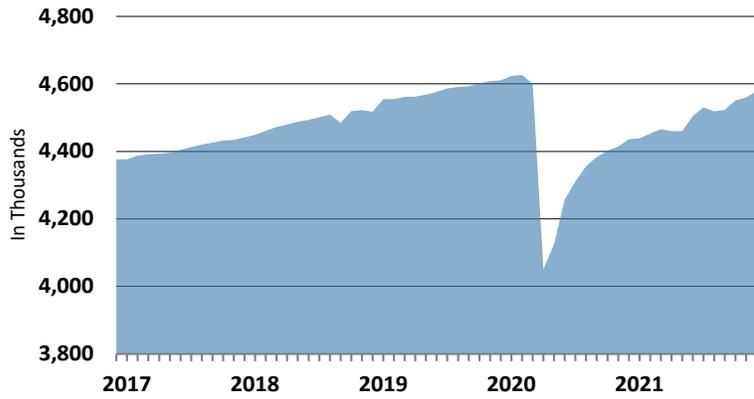
Average Real Weekly Earnings (Private Nonfarm Sector)

$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
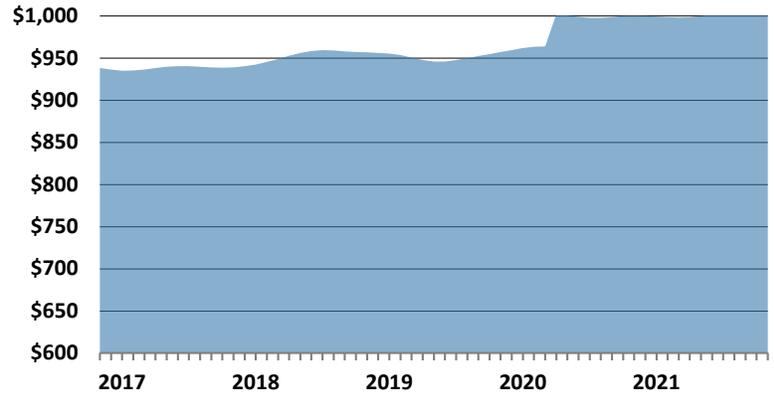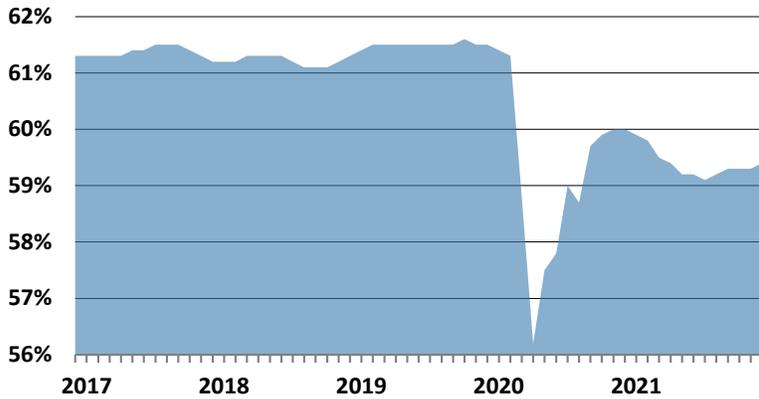
Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

In Thousands

500 · 400 · 300 · 200 · 100 · 0

2017 · 2018 · 2019 · 2020 · 2021
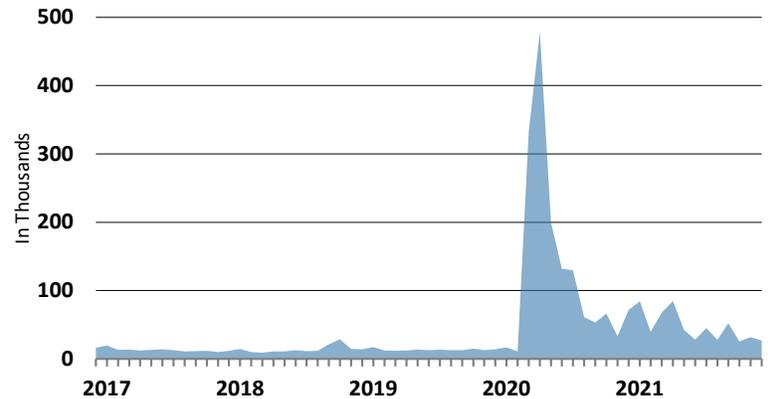
Source: US Dept. of Labor, ETA

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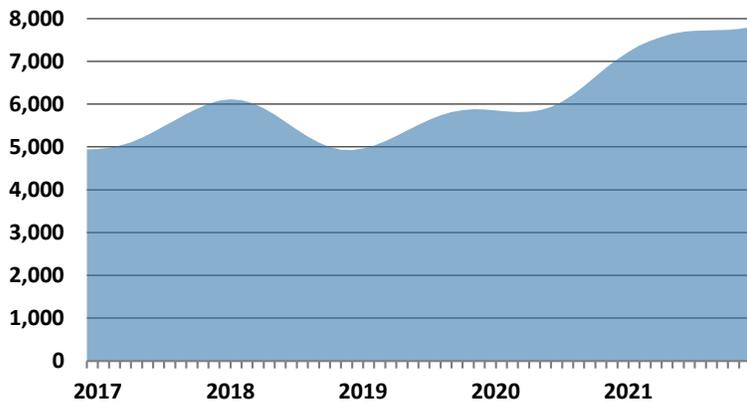
Source: United States Census Bureau
Note: Includes multiple-unit housing.

Real Taxable Retail Sales
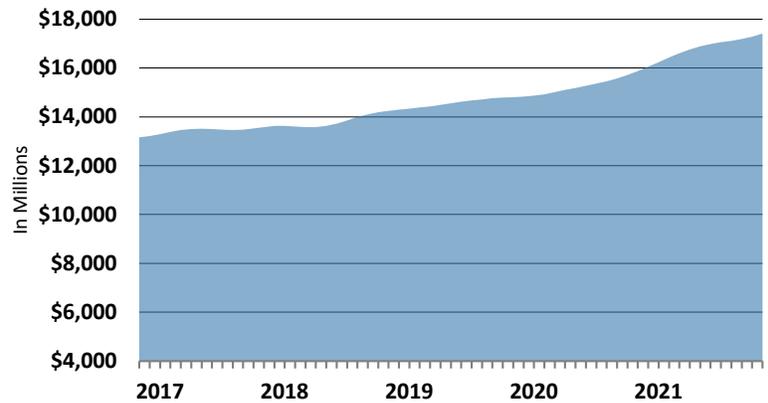
In Millions

$18,000 · $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: November 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
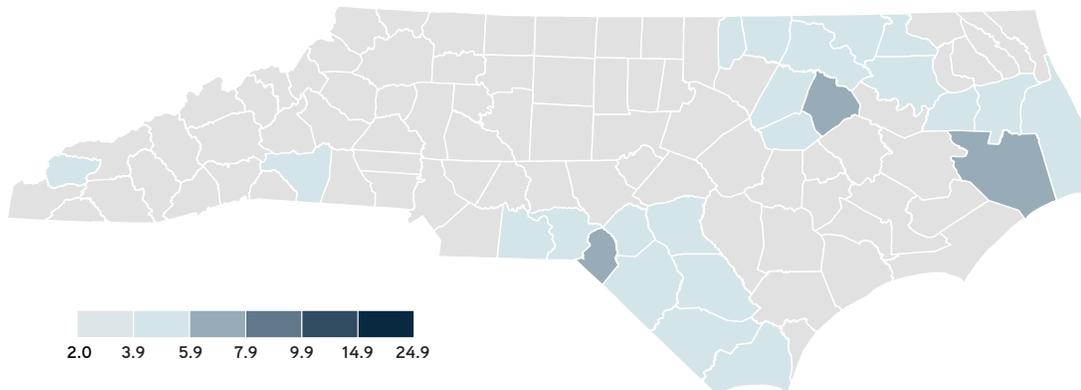
Lowest	
Orange	2.2%
Chatham	2.3%
Watauga	2.3%
Ashe	2.4%
Macon	2.5%

Highest	
Scotland	6.9%
Edgecombe	6.3%
Hyde	6.0%
Tyrrell	5.8%
Vance	5.7%

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