



*For Immediate Release: March 25, 2022*  
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## North Carolina’s February Employment Figures Released

**RALEIGH** — The state’s seasonally adjusted February 2022 unemployment rate was 3.7 percent, decreasing 0.2 of a percentage point from January’s revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.2 of a percentage point to 3.8 percent.

North Carolina’s unemployment rate decreased 1.7 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 18,085 over the month to 4,827,774 and increased 183,269 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 10,157 over the month to 187,258 and decreased 75,556 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 22,400 to 4,688,000 in February. Major industries experiencing increases were Professional & Business Services, 6,200; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 5,300; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 4,700; Manufacturing, 3,300; Education & Health Services, 2,300; Financial Activities, 1,700; and Construction, 500. Major industries experiencing decreases were Government, 1,100; and Other Services, 500. Information and Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged.

### Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since February 2021

	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	Jun 2021	Jul 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022
<b>N.C.</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.7</b>
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.8</b>

*Please note: 2021 numbers have undergone annual revision*

Since February 2021, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 182,600 with the Total Private sector increasing by 164,000 and Government increasing by 18,600. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 56,400; Professional & Business Services, 43,100; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 19,800; Government, 18,600; Financial Activities, 11,900; Education & Health Services, 10,000; Manufacturing, 8,100; Other Services, 5,400; Information, 5,200; and Construction, 4,200. The only major industry experiencing a decrease over the year was Mining & Logging, 100.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2022 when the county unemployment rates for February 2022 will be released.

These data can be accessed on the Commerce website at <https://d4.nccommerce.com/>

# North Carolina Department of Commerce

## Labor and Economic Analysis Division

### NORTH CAROLINA and U.S. LABOR FORCE DATA

*North Carolina data is embargoed until 10:00 A.M. Friday, March 25, 2022*

	February 2022	January 2022	February 2021	Month Ago		Year Ago	
				Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
<b>North Carolina</b> <i>(Local Area Unemployment Statistics)</i>							
<b>Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted</b>							
<b>Labor Force</b>	5,015,032	5,007,104	4,907,319	7,928	0.2	107,713	2.2
<b>Employed</b>	4,827,774	4,809,689	4,644,505	18,085	0.4	183,269	3.9
<b>Unemployed</b>	187,258	197,415	262,814	-10,157	-5.1	-75,556	-28.7
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.7	3.9	5.4	-0.2	xxx	-1.7	xxx
<b>Not Seasonally Adjusted</b>							
<b>Labor Force</b>	5,032,060	5,004,212	4,906,409	27,848	0.6	125,651	2.6
<b>Employed</b>	4,846,145	4,814,912	4,623,892	31,233	0.6	222,253	4.8
<b>Unemployed</b>	185,915	189,300	282,517	-3,385	-1.8	-96,602	-34.2
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.7	3.8	5.8	-0.1	xxx	-2.1	xxx
<b>United States</b> <i>(Current Population Survey)</i>							
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>							
<b>Labor Force</b>	163,991,000	163,687,000	160,359,000	304,000	0.2	xxx	xxx
<b>Employed</b>	157,722,000	157,174,000	150,367,000	548,000	0.3	xxx	xxx
<b>Unemployed</b>	6,270,000	6,513,000	9,992,000	-243,000	-3.7	xxx	xxx
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.8	4.0	6.2	-0.2	xxx	xxx	xxx
<b>Not Seasonally Adjusted</b>							
<b>Labor Force</b>	163,725,000	162,825,000	160,008,000	900,000	0.6	xxx	xxx
<b>Employed</b>	156,942,000	155,618,000	149,522,000	1,324,000	0.9	xxx	xxx
<b>Unemployed</b>	6,782,000	7,207,000	10,486,000	-425,000	-5.9	xxx	xxx
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	4.1	4.4	6.6	-0.3	xxx	xxx	xxx

Effective January 2022, updated US population estimates are used in the national labor force estimates. The annual population adjustments affect the comparability of national labor force estimates over time.

2022 estimates for the current month are preliminary. Estimates for the previous month have undergone monthly revision. 2021 estimates have undergone annual revision.

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

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			Month Ago		Year Ago		
	February 2022	January 2022	February 2021	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
<b>North Carolina</b> <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>							
Total Nonfarm	4,688,000	4,665,600	4,505,400	22,400	0.5	182,600	4.1
Total Private	3,974,400	3,950,900	3,810,400	23,500	0.6	164,000	4.3
Mining & Logging	5,500	5,500	5,600	0	0.0	-100	-1.8
Construction	240,100	239,600	235,900	500	0.2	4,200	1.8
Manufacturing	468,200	464,900	460,100	3,300	0.7	8,100	1.8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	906,900	902,200	887,100	4,700	0.5	19,800	2.2
Information	79,700	79,700	74,500	0	0.0	5,200	7.0
Financial Activities	279,200	277,500	267,300	1,700	0.6	11,900	4.5
Professional & Business Services	703,200	697,000	660,100	6,200	0.9	43,100	6.5
Education & Health Services	636,800	634,500	626,800	2,300	0.4	10,000	1.6
Leisure & Hospitality Services	490,700	485,400	434,300	5,300	1.1	56,400	13.0
Other Services	164,100	164,600	158,700	-500	-0.3	5,400	3.4
Government	713,600	714,700	695,000	-1,100	-0.2	18,600	2.7
<b>North Carolina</b> <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<b>Not Seasonally Adjusted</b>							
Total Nonfarm	4,665,900	4,616,100	4,486,700	49,800	1.1	179,200	4.0
Total Private	3,937,500	3,894,800	3,776,300	42,700	1.1	161,200	4.3
Mining & Logging	5,500	5,400	5,600	100	1.9	-100	-1.8
Construction	235,900	233,200	233,200	2,700	1.2	2,700	1.2
Manufacturing	468,000	463,700	460,300	4,300	0.9	7,700	1.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	899,800	897,100	877,900	2,700	0.3	21,900	2.5
Information	80,500	79,900	74,300	600	0.8	6,200	8.3
Financial Activities	277,000	275,300	265,300	1,700	0.6	11,700	4.4
Professional & Business Services	702,300	686,300	658,600	16,000	2.3	43,700	6.6
Education & Health Services	636,400	630,500	628,700	5,900	0.9	7,700	1.2
Leisure & Hospitality Services	469,300	459,900	415,800	9,400	2.0	53,500	12.9
Other Services	162,800	163,500	156,600	-700	-0.4	6,200	4.0
Government	728,400	721,300	710,400	7,100	1.0	18,000	2.5

2022 estimates for the current month are preliminary. Estimates for the previous month have undergone monthly revision.  
2021 estimates have undergone annual revision.  
Estimates may not add to totals due to rounding.

## **Accessing Data**

The data presented in this press release, as well as historical data, can be accessed from NC Commerce's Demand Driven Data Delivery ("D4") system:

<https://d4.nccommerce.com/LausSelection.aspx>

<https://d4.nccommerce.com/CesSelection.aspx>

## **Technical Notes**

This release presents labor force and unemployment estimates from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. Also presented are nonfarm payroll employment estimates from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The LAUS and CES programs are both federal-state cooperative endeavors.

### **Labor force and unemployment--from the LAUS program**

**Definitions.** The labor force and unemployment estimates are based on the same concepts and definitions as those used for the official national estimates obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a sample survey of households that is conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the U.S. Census Bureau. The LAUS program measures employment and unemployment on a place-of-residence basis. The universe for each is the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over. Employed persons are those who did any work at all for pay or profit in the reference week (the week including the 12th of the month) or worked 15 hours or more without pay in a family business or farm, plus those not working who had a job from which they were temporarily absent, whether or not paid, for such reasons as bad weather, labor-management dispute, illness, or vacation. Unemployed persons are those who were not employed during the reference week (based on the definition above), had actively looked for a job sometime in the 4-week period ending with the reference week, and were currently available for work; persons on lay-off expecting recall need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed. The labor force is the sum of employed and unemployed persons. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed as a percent of the labor force.

**Method of estimation.** Statewide estimates are produced using an estimation algorithm administered by the BLS. This method, which underwent substantial enhancement at the beginning of 2021, utilizes data from several sources, including the CPS, the CES, and state unemployment insurance (UI) programs. Each month, census division estimates are controlled to national totals, and state estimates are then controlled to their respective division totals. Substate estimates are controlled to their respective state totals. For more information about LAUS estimation procedures, see the BLS website at <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/lau/calculation.htm>

**Revisions.** Labor force and unemployment data for the previous month reflect adjustments made in each subsequent month, while data for prior years reflect adjustments made at the end of each year. The monthly revisions incorporate updated model inputs, while the annually revised estimates reflect updated population data from the U.S. Census Bureau, any revisions in the other data sources, and model reestimation. In most years, historical data for the most recent five years (both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted) are revised near the beginning of each calendar year, prior to the release of January estimates.

Seasonal adjustment. The LAUS program seasonally adjusts statewide estimates using an X-11 type of seasonal adjustment filter. These estimates are then smoothed using a filtering procedure to remove irregular fluctuations from the seasonally-adjusted series. For more information about seasonal adjustment and smoothing procedures, see the BLS website at <https://www.bls.gov/lau/lauseas.htm>.

Area definitions. The substate area data published in this release reflect the delineations that were issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget on April 10, 2018. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available online at [www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm](http://www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm).

### Employment--from the CES program

Definitions. Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who receive pay for any part of the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. Persons are counted at their place of work rather than at their place of residence; those appearing on more than one payroll are counted on each payroll. Industries are classified on the basis of their principal activity in accordance with the 2017 version of the North American Industry Classification System.

Method of estimation. CES State and Area employment data are produced using several estimation procedures. Where possible these data are produced using a "weighted link relative" estimation technique in which a ratio of current-month weighted employment to that of the previous-month weighted employment is computed from a sample of establishments reporting for both months. The estimates of employment for the current month are then obtained by multiplying these ratios by the previous month's employment estimates. The weighted link relative technique is utilized for data series where the sample size meets certain statistical criteria.

For some employment series, relatively small sample sizes limit the reliability of the weighted link-relative estimates. In these cases, BLS uses the CES small domain model (SDM) to generate employment estimates. The SDM combines the direct sample estimates (described above) and forecasts of historical (benchmarked) data to decrease the volatility of the estimates. For more detailed information about the CES small domain model, refer to the BLS Handbook of Methods.

Annual revisions. Employment estimates are adjusted annually to a complete count of jobs, called benchmarks, derived principally from tax reports that are submitted by employers who are covered under state unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The benchmark information is used to adjust the monthly estimates between the new benchmark and the preceding one and also to establish the level of employment for the new benchmark month. Thus, the benchmarking process establishes the level of employment, and the sample is used to measure the month-to-month changes in the level for the subsequent months. Information on recent benchmark revisions is available online at [www.bls.gov/web/laus/benchmark.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/web/laus/benchmark.pdf).

Seasonal adjustment. Payroll employment data are seasonally adjusted at the statewide supersector level. In some cases, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is computed by aggregating the independently adjusted supersector series. In other cases, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is independently adjusted. Payroll employment data are seasonally adjusted concurrently, using all available estimates, including those for the current month, to develop sample-based seasonal factors. Concurrent sample-based factors are created every month for the current month's preliminary estimate as well as the previous month's final estimate.

### Reliability of the estimates

The estimates presented in this release are based on sample surveys, administrative data, and modeling and, thus, are subject to sampling and other types of errors. Sampling error is a measure of sampling variability—that is, variation that occurs by chance because a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed. Survey data also are subject to nonsampling errors, such as those which can be introduced into the data collection and processing operations. Estimates not directly derived from sample surveys are subject to additional errors resulting from the specific estimation processes used.

Model-based error measures for seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted data and for over-the-month and over-the-year changes to LAUS estimates are available online at [www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm](http://www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm).

Measures of sampling error for state CES data at the total nonfarm and supersector levels are available online at [www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm](http://www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm).

### Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2022 when the county unemployment rates for February 2022 will be released.

The complete data release schedule for 2022 can be accessed here:

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