North Carolina's March County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH —Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased all 100 of North Carolina's counties in March. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 12.7 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.3 percent. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 6.3 percent had the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 3.5 percent. The March not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.3 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
March	68	31	1
February (Revised)	58	40	2

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 76 counties, increased in 17, and remained unchanged in seven. 13 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year and two remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in March by 29,951 to 4,780,438, while those unemployed decreased 11,315 to 215,431. Since March 2017, the number of workers employed statewide increased 68,826, while those unemployed decreased 6,419.

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 Friday, May 18, 2018 when the state unemployment rate for April 2018 will be released.

This information can be accessed on the Commerce website at http://www.nccommerce.com/lead

NORTH CAROLINA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Statewide and County Data for
March 2018

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	4,995,869	215,431	4.3				
ALAMANCE	80,437	3,230	4.0	JOHNSTON	95,468	3,746	3.9
ALEXANDER	18,356	633	3.4	JONES	4,499	198	4.4
ALLEGHANY	4,344	238	5.5	LEE	26,762	1,245	4.7
ANSON	10,677	515	4.8	LENOIR	28,190	1,243	4.4
ASHE	12,676	541	4.3	LINCOLN	43,097	1,581	3.7
AVERY	7,386	338	4.6	MCDOWELL	21,099	818	3.9
BEAUFORT	20,034	1,020	5.1	MACON	14,803	707	4.8
BERTIE	8,006	471	5.9	MADISON	10,004	426	4.3
BLADEN	14,549	837	5.8	MARTIN	9,631	533	5.5
BRUNSWICK	51,131	2,851	5.6	MECKLENBURG	615,484	25,062	4.1
BUNCOMBE	138,751	4,639	3.3	MITCHELL	6,092	318	5.2
BURKE	41,004	1,627	4.0	MONTGOMERY	11,923	513	4.3
CABARRUS	106,710	4,171	3.9	MOORE	40,533	1,744	4.3
CALDWELL	36,895	1,540	4.2	NASH	43,257	2,434	5.6
CAMDEN	4,717	205	4.3	NEW HANOVER	119,130	4,799	4.0
CARTERET	31,006	1,420	4.6	NORTHAMPTON	7,751	456	5.9
CASWELL	9,771	477	4.9	ONSLOW	64,966	3,115	4.8
CATAWBA	79,233	3,067	3.9	ORANGE	77,597	2,793	3.6
CHATHAM	35,678	1,309	3.7	PAMLICO	5,419	251	4.6
CHEROKEE	11,364	554	4.9	PASQUOTANK	17,579	902	5.1
CHOWAN	5,632	290	5.1	PENDER	27,448	1,209	4.4
CLAY	3,976	208	5.2	PERQUIMANS	5,133	271	5.3
CLEVELAND	48,404	2,100	4.3	PERSON	18,629	863	4.6
COLUMBUS	22,210	1,214	5.5	PITT	90,301	4,114	4.6
CRAVEN	41,876	1,898	4.5	POLK	8,972	366	4.1
CUMBERLAND	129,009	6,999	5.4	RANDOLPH	67,813	2,787	4.1
CURRITUCK	13,264	564	4.3	RICHMOND	16,774	1,025	6.1
DARE	17,954	1,391	7.7	ROBESON	50,016	3,208	6.4
DAVIDSON	80,926	3,272	4.0	ROCKINGHAM	41,456	2,042	4.9
DAVIE	20,535	781	3.8	ROWAN	67,276	2,938	4.4
DUPLIN	25,309	1,219	4.8	RUTHERFORD	24,426	1,427	5.8
DURHAM	167,970	6,405	3.8	SAMPSON	29,557	1,332	4.5
EDGECOMBE	22,021	1,662	7.5	SCOTLAND	11,585	917	7.9
FORSYTH	186,212	7,836	4.2	STANLY	30,150	1,197	4.0
FRANKLIN	30,593	1,340	4.4	STOKES	22,294	937	4.2
GASTON	111,017	4,758	4.3	SURRY	33,586	1,375	4.1
GATES	5,233	231	4.4	SWAIN	6,808	400	5.9
GRAHAM	3,039	233	7.7	TRANSYLVANIA	14,127	600	4.2
GRANVILLE	30,632	1,148	3.7	TYRRELL	1,374	120	8.7
GREENE	9,666	400	4.1	UNION	121,931	4,590	3.8
GUILFORD	262,586	11,905	4.5	VANCE	18,019	1,155	6.4
HALIFAX	20,564	1,370	6.7	WAKE	582,413	21,635	3.7
HARNETT	53,529	2,672	5.0	WARREN	6,688	449	6.7
HAYWOOD	29,372	1,143	3.9	WASHINGTON	4,741	326	6.9
HENDERSON	53,894	1,954	3.6	WATAUGA	28,141	1,140	4.1
HERTFORD	9,178	515	5.6	WAYNE	53,435	2,567	4.8
HOKE	20,090	1,068	5.3	WILKES	31,271	1,263	4.0
HYDE	2,011	256	12.7	WILSON	35,600	2,308	6.5
IREDELL	88,944	3,497	3.9	YADKIN	17,939	689	3.8
JACKSON	18,922	951	5.0	YANCEY	7,382	330	4.5

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.

NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

County	March 2018	February 2018	March 2017	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	March 2018	February 2018	March 2017	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	4.3	4.6	4.5	-0.3	-0.2						
ALAMANCE	4.0	4.2	4.3	-0.2	-0.3	JOHNSTON	3.9	4.1	4.1	-0.2	-0.2
ALEXANDER	3.4	3.5	3.7	-0.1	-0.3	JONES	4.4	4.7	4.2	-0.3	0.2
ALLEGHANY	5.5	5.8	5.5	-0.3	0.0	LEE	4.7	4.9	5.1	-0.2	-0.4
ANSON	4.8	5.1	5.2	-0.3	-0.4	LENOIR	4.4	4.7	4.5	-0.3	-0.1
ASHE	4.3	4.7	4.4	-0.4	-0.1	LINCOLN	3.7	3.9	4.0	-0.2	-0.3
AVERY	4.6	4.8	4.9	-0.2	-0.3	MCDOWELL	3.9	4.1	4.2	-0.2	-0.3
BEAUFORT	5.1	5.3	5.1	-0.2	0.0	MACON	4.8	5.2	5.1	-0.4	-0.3
BERTIE	5.9	6.0	6.0	-0.1	-0.1	MADISON	4.3	4.6	4.5	-0.3	-0.2
BLADEN	5.8	6.2	5.5	-0.4	0.3	MARTIN	5.5	5.8	5.6	-0.3	-0.1
BRUNSWICK	5.6	6.4	5.5	-0.8	0.1	MECKLENBURG	4.1	4.3	4.2	-0.2	-0.1
BUNCOMBE	3.3	3.5	3.5	-0.2	-0.2	MITCHELL	5.2	5.8	5.6	-0.6	-0.4
BURKE	4.0	4.1	4.2	-0.1	-0.2	MONTGOMERY	4.3	4.5	4.6	-0.2	-0.3
CABARRUS	3.9	4.1	4.1	-0.2	-0.2	MOORE	4.3	4.5	4.4	-0.2	-0.1
CALDWELL	4.2	4.4	4.3	-0.2	-0.1	NASH	5.6	6.0	5.8	-0.4	-0.2
CAMDEN	4.3	4.4	4.4	-0.1	-0.1	NEW HANOVER	4.0	4.3	4.1	-0.3	-0.1
CARTERET	4.6	5.0	4.6	-0.4	0.0	NORTHAMPTON	5.9	6.4	6.2	-0.5	-0.3
CASWELL	4.9	5.2	4.6	-0.3	0.3	ONSLOW	4.8	5.1	4.8	-0.3	0.0
CATAWBA	3.9	4.0	4.2	-0.1	-0.3	ORANGE	3.6	3.8	3.9	-0.2	-0.3
CHATHAM	3.7	3.9	3.8	-0.2	-0.1	PAMLICO	4.6	5.0	4.6	-0.4	0.0
CHEROKEE	4.9	5.2	4.8	-0.3	0.1	PASQUOTANK	5.1	5.7	5.6	-0.6	-0.5
CHOWAN	5.1	5.5	5.2	-0.4	-0.1	PENDER	4.4	4.7	4.6	-0.3	-0.2
CLAY	5.2	5.4	5.0	-0.2	0.2	PERQUIMANS	5.3	5.5	5.6	-0.2	-0.3
CLEVELAND	4.3	4.6	4.7	-0.3	-0.4	PERSON	4.6	4.8	4.7	-0.2	-0.1
COLUMBUS	5.5	5.9	5.3	-0.4	0.2	PITT	4.6	4.8	4.7	-0.2	-0.1
CRAVEN	4.5	4.7	4.6	-0.2	-0.1	POLK	4.1	4.3	4.3	-0.2	-0.2
CUMBERLAND	5.4	5.8	5.6	-0.4	-0.2	RANDOLPH	4.1	4.3	4.4	-0.2	-0.3
CURRITUCK	4.3	5.1	4.6	-0.8	-0.3	RICHMOND	6.1	6.6	5.9	-0.5	0.2
DARE	7.7	10.7	7.5	-3.0	0.2	ROBESON	6.4	6.7	6.4	-0.3	0.0
DAVIDSON	4.0	4.2	4.3	-0.2	-0.3	ROCKINGHAM	4.9	5.2	5.0	-0.3	-0.1
DAVIE	3.8	4.0	4.0	-0.2	-0.2	ROWAN	4.4	4.6	4.7	-0.2	-0.3
DUPLIN	4.8	5.1	4.6	-0.3	0.2	RUTHERFORD	5.8	6.2	5.9	-0.4	-0.1
DURHAM	3.8	4.0	4.0	-0.2	-0.2	SAMPSON	4.5	4.7	4.7	-0.2	-0.2
EDGECOMBE	7.5	8.1	7.3	-0.6	0.2	SCOTLAND	7.9	8.1	7.6	-0.2	0.3
FORSYTH	4.2	4.4	4.4	-0.2	-0.2	STANLY	4.0	4.1	4.1	-0.1	-0.1
FRANKLIN	4.4	4.6	4.6	-0.2	-0.2	STOKES	4.2	4.4	4.3	-0.2	-0.1
GASTON	4.3	4.5	4.5	-0.2	-0.2	SURRY	4.1	4.2	4.3	-0.1	-0.2
GATES	4.4	4.8	4.7	-0.4	-0.3	SWAIN	5.9	6.8	6.1	-0.9	-0.2
GRAHAM	7.7	8.8	7.1	-1.1	0.6	TRANSYLVANIA	4.2	4.4	4.4	-0.2	-0.2
GRANVILLE	3.7	4.1	3.8	-0.4	-0.1	TYRRELL	8.7	9.8	8.7	-1.1	0.0
GREENE	4.1	4.3	4.2	-0.2	-0.1	UNION	3.8	3.9	4.0	-0.1	-0.2
GUILFORD	4.5	4.8	4.7	-0.3	-0.2	VANCE	6.4	7.0	6.0	-0.6	0.4
HALIFAX	6.7	7.2	7.1	-0.5	-0.4	WAKE	3.7	3.9	3.9	-0.2	-0.2
HARNETT	5.0	5.2	5.1	-0.2	-0.1	WARREN	6.7	7.1	6.5	-0.4	0.2
HAYWOOD	3.9	4.1	4.2	-0.2	-0.3	WASHINGTON	6.9	7.5	6.7	-0.6	0.2
HENDERSON	3.6	3.7	3.8	-0.1	-0.2	WATAUGA	4.1	4.2	4.5	-0.1	-0.4
HERTFORD	5.6	6.0	5.9	-0.4	-0.3	WAYNE	4.8	5.0	5.0	-0.2	-0.2
HOKE	5.3	5.6	5.6	-0.3	-0.3	WILKES	4.0	4.3	4.2	-0.3	-0.2
HYDE	12.7	14.8	11.7	-2.1	1.0	WILSON	6.5	6.8	6.8	-0.3	-0.3
IREDELL	3.9	4.2	4.2	-0.3	-0.3	YADKIN	3.8	3.9	4.0	-0.1	-0.2
JACKSON	5.0	5.3	5.3	-0.3	-0.3	YANCEY	4.5	4.8	4.8	-0.3	-0.3

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

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

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	232,021	8,162	3.5
BURLINGTON	80,437	3,230	4.0
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,342,679	54,296	4.0
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	299,874	11,370	3.8
FAYETTEVILLE	149,099	8,067	5.4
GOLDSBORO	53,435	2,567	4.8
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	371,855	16,734	4.5
GREENVILLE	90,301	4,114	4.6
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	175,488	6,867	3.9
JACKSONVILLE	64,966	3,115	4.8
NEW BERN	51,794	2,347	4.5
RALEIGH	708,474	26,721	3.8
ROCKY MOUNT	65,278	4,096	6.3
WILMINGTON	146,578	6,008	4.1
WINSTON-SALEM	327,906	13,515	4.1

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	30,150	1,197	4.0
BOONE	28,141	1,140	4.1
BREVARD	14,127	600	4.2
CULLOWHEE	18,922	951	5.0
DUNN	53,529	2,672	5.0
ELIZABETH CITY	27,429	1,378	5.0
FOREST CITY	24,426	1,427	5.8
HENDERSON	18,019	1,155	6.4
KILL DEVIL HILLS	19,328	1,511	7.8
KINSTON	28,190	1,243	4.4
LAURINBURG	11,585	917	7.9
LUMBERTON	50,016	3,208	6.4
MARION	21,099	818	3.9
MOREHEAD CITY	31,006	1,420	4.6
MOUNT AIRY	33,586	1,375	4.1
NORTH WILKESBORO	31,271	1,263	4.0
OXFORD	30,632	1,148	3.7
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	40,533	1,744	4.3
ROANOKE RAPIDS	28,315	1,826	6.4
ROCKINGHAM	16,774	1,025	6.1
SANFORD	26,762	1,245	4.7
SHELBY	48,404	2,100	4.3
WASHINGTON	20,034	1,020	5.1
WILSON	35,600	2,308	6.5

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

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	246,148	8,762	3.6
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,421,233	57,593	4.1
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	210,700	12,192	5.8
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	813,784	34,854	4.3
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	110,335	5,134	4.7
HICKORY-LENOIR	196,587	7,685	3.9
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	82,800	3,767	4.5
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	1,137,290	44,311	3.9
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	129,193	8,230	6.4

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
MULTICOUNTY SMALL LABOR MARKET AREA
MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

Metropolitan Statistical Area	March 2018	February 2018	March 2017	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	3.5	3.7	3.7	-0.2	-0.2
BURLINGTON	4.0	4.2	4.3	-0.2	-0.3
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	4.0	4.3	4.2	-0.3	-0.2
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.8	4.0	4.0	-0.2	-0.2
FAYETTEVILLE	5.4	5.8	5.6	-0.4	-0.2
GOLDSBORO	4.8	5.0	5.0	-0.2	-0.2
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	4.5	4.7	4.7	-0.2	-0.2
GREENVILLE	4.6	4.8	4.7	-0.2	-0.1
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.9	4.1	4.2	-0.2	-0.3
JACKSONVILLE	4.8	5.1	4.8	-0.3	0.0
NEW BERN	4.5	4.7	4.6	-0.2	-0.1
RALEIGH	3.8	3.9	4.0	-0.1	-0.2
ROCKY MOUNT	6.3	6.7	6.3	-0.4	0.0
WILMINGTON	4.1	4.4	4.2	-0.3	-0.1
WINSTON-SALEM	4.1	4.3	4.3	-0.2	-0.2

Micropolitan Statistical Area	March 2018	February 2018	March 2017	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	4.0	4.1	4.1	-0.1	-0.1
BOONE	4.1	4.2	4.5	-0.1	-0.4
BREVARD	4.2	4.4	4.4	-0.2	-0.2
CULLOWHEE	5.0	5.3	5.3	-0.3	-0.3
DUNN	5.0	5.2	5.1	-0.2	-0.1
ELIZABETH CITY	5.0	5.4	5.4	-0.4	-0.4
FOREST CITY	5.8	6.2	5.9	-0.4	-0.1
HENDERSON	6.4	7.0	6.0	-0.6	0.4
KILL DEVIL HILLS	7.8	10.6	7.6	-2.8	0.2
KINSTON	4.4	4.7	4.5	-0.3	-0.1
LAURINBURG	7.9	8.1	7.6	-0.2	0.3
LUMBERTON	6.4	6.7	6.4	-0.3	0.0
MARION	3.9	4.1	4.2	-0.2	-0.3
MOREHEAD CITY	4.6	5.0	4.6	-0.4	0.0
MOUNT AIRY	4.1	4.2	4.3	-0.1	-0.2
NORTH WILKESBORO	4.0	4.3	4.2	-0.3	-0.2
OXFORD	3.7	4.1	3.8	-0.4	-0.1
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	4.3	4.5	4.4	-0.2	-0.1
ROANOKE RAPIDS	6.4	7.0	6.8	-0.6	-0.4
ROCKINGHAM	6.1	6.6	5.9	-0.5	0.2
SANFORD	4.7	4.9	5.1	-0.2	-0.4
SHELBY	4.3	4.6	4.7	-0.3	-0.4
WASHINGTON	5.1	5.3	5.1	-0.2	0.0
WILSON	6.5	6.8	6.8	-0.3	-0.3

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

Combined Statistical Area	March 2018	February 2018	March 2017	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	3.6	3.7	3.8	-0.1	-0.2
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	4.1	4.3	4.2	-0.2	-0.1
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	5.8	6.1	5.9	-0.3	-0.1
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	4.3	4.5	4.5	-0.2	-0.2
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	4.7	4.9	4.8	-0.2	-0.1
HICKORY-LENOIR	3.9	4.1	4.2	-0.2	-0.3
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	4.5	4.8	4.6	-0.3	-0.1
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.9	4.1	4.1	-0.2	-0.2
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	6.4	6.8	6.6	-0.4	-0.2

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 March 2018

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
BUNCOMBE	138,751	4,639	3.3%	1	CRAVEN	41,876	1,898	4.5%	51
ALEXANDER	18,356	633	3.4%	2	GUILFORD	262,586	11,905	4.5%	52
ORANGE	77,597	2,793	3.6%	3	PITT	90,301	4,114	4.6%	53
HENDERSON	53,894	1,954	3.6%	4	AVERY	7,386	338	4.6%	54
LINCOLN	43,097	1,581	3.7%	5	CARTERET	31,006	1,420	4.6%	55
CHATHAM	35,678	1,309	3.7%	6	PAMLICO	5,419	251	4.6%	56
WAKE	582,413	21,635	3.7%	7	PERSON	18,629	863	4.6%	57
GRANVILLE	30,632	1,148	3.7%	8	LEE	26,762	1,245	4.7%	58
UNION	121,931	4,590	3.8%	9	MACON	14,803	707	4.8%	59
DAVIE	20,535	781	3.8%	10	ONSLOW	64,966	3,115	4.8%	60
DURHAM	167,970	6,405	3.8%	11	WAYNE	53,435	2,567	4.8%	61
YADKIN	17,939	689	3.8%	12	DUPLIN	25,309	1,219	4.8%	62
CATAWBA	79,233	3,067	3.9%	13	ANSON	10,677	515	4.8%	63
MCDOWELL	21,099	818	3.9%	14	CHEROKEE	11,364	554	4.9%	64
HAYWOOD	29,372	1,143	3.9%	15	CASWELL	9,771	477	4.9%	65
CABARRUS	106,710	4,171	3.9%	16	ROCKINGHAM	41,456	2,042	4.9%	66
JOHNSTON	95,468	3,746	3.9%	17	HARNETT	53,529	2,672	5.0%	67
IREDELL	88,944	3,497	3.9%	18	JACKSON	18,922	951	5.0%	68
BURKE	41,004	1,627	4.0%	19	BEAUFORT	20,034	1,020	5.1%	69
STANLY	30,150	1,197	4.0%	20	PASQUOTANK	17,579	902	5.1%	70
ALAMANCE	80,437	3,230	4.0%	21	CHOWAN	5,632	290	5.1%	71
NEW HANOVER	119,130	4,799	4.0%	22	MITCHELL	6,092	318	5.2%	72
WILKES	31,271	1,263	4.0%	23	CLAY	3,976	208	5.2%	73
DAVIDSON	80,926	3,272	4.0%	24	PERQUIMANS	5,133	271	5.3%	74
WATAUGA	28,141	1,140	4.1%	25	HOKE	20,090	1,068	5.3%	75
MECKLENBURG	615,484	25,062	4.1%	26	CUMBERLAND	129,009	6,999	5.4%	76
POLK	8,972	366	4.1%	27	COLUMBUS	22,210	1,214	5.5%	77
SURRY	33,586	1,375	4.1%	28	ALLEGHANY	4,344	238	5.5%	78
RANDOLPH	67,813	2,787	4.1%	29	MARTIN	9,631	533	5.5%	79
GREENE	9,666	400	4.1%	30	BRUNSWICK	51,131	2,851	5.6%	80
CALDWELL	36,895	1,540	4.2%	31	HERTFORD	9,178	515	5.6%	81
STOKES	22,294	937	4.2%	32	NASH	43,257	2,434	5.6%	82
FORSYTH	186,212	7,836	4.2%	33	BLADEN	14,549	837	5.8%	83
TRANSYLVANIA	14,127	600	4.2%	34	RUTHERFORD	24,426	1,427	5.8%	84
CURRITUCK	13,264	564	4.3%	35	SWAIN	6,808	400	5.9%	85
MADISON	10,004	426	4.3%	36	BERTIE	8,006	471	5.9%	86
ASHE	12,676	541	4.3%	37	NORTHAMPTON	7,751	456	5.9%	87
GASTON	111,017	4,758	4.3%	38	RICHMOND	16,774	1,025	6.1%	88
MONTGOMERY	11,923	513	4.3%	39	VANCE	18,019	1,155	6.4%	89
MOORE	40,533	1,744	4.3%	40	ROBESON	50,016	3,208	6.4%	90
CLEVELAND	48,404	2,100	4.3%	41	WILSON	35,600	2,308	6.5%	91
CAMDEN	4,717	205	4.3%	42	HALIFAX	20,564	1,370	6.7%	92
ROWAN	67,276	2,938	4.4%	43	WARREN	6,688	449	6.7%	93
FRANKLIN	30,593	1,340	4.4%	44	WASHINGTON	4,741	326	6.9%	94
JONES	4,499	198	4.4%	45	EDGECOMBE	22,021	1,662	7.5%	95
PENDER	27,448	1,209	4.4%	46	GRAHAM	3,039	233	7.7%	96
LENOIR	28,190	1,243	4.4%	47	DARE	17,954	1,391	7.7%	97
GATES	5,233	231	4.4%	48	SCOTLAND	11,585	917	7.9%	98
YANCEY	7,382	330	4.5%	49	TYRRELL	1,374	120	8.7%	99
SAMPSON	29,557	1,332	4.5%	50	HYDE	2,011	256	12.7%	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

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.

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 Friday, May 18, 2018 when the state unemployment rate for March 2018 will be released.

The complete 2018 data release schedule can be accessed at:

http://www.nccommerce.com/lead/research-publications/schedule-of-release-dates

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

North Carolina's statewide unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 4.3 percent in March. This decreased 0.3 of a percentage point from February's revised rate, while falling 0.2 of a percentage point over the year.

Over the month, the unemployment rate decreased in all 100 counties. Forty-two counties had unemployment rates at or below the state's 4.3 percent rate.

Hyde County recorded March's highest unemployment rate at 12.7 percent, followed by Tyrrell at 8.7 percent, Scotland at 7.9 percent, and Dare & Graham at 7.7 percent. Buncombe County had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.3 percent, followed by Alexander at 3.4 percent, and Orange & Henderson at 3.6 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 March at 6.3 percent, followed by Fayetteville at 5.4 percent, and Goldsboro & Jacksonville at 4.8 percent. Asheville reported the month's lowest unemployment rate at 3.5 percent, followed by Raleigh & Durham/Chapel Hill at 3.8 percent.

Counties With Lowest Unemployment Rates
March 2018*
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)
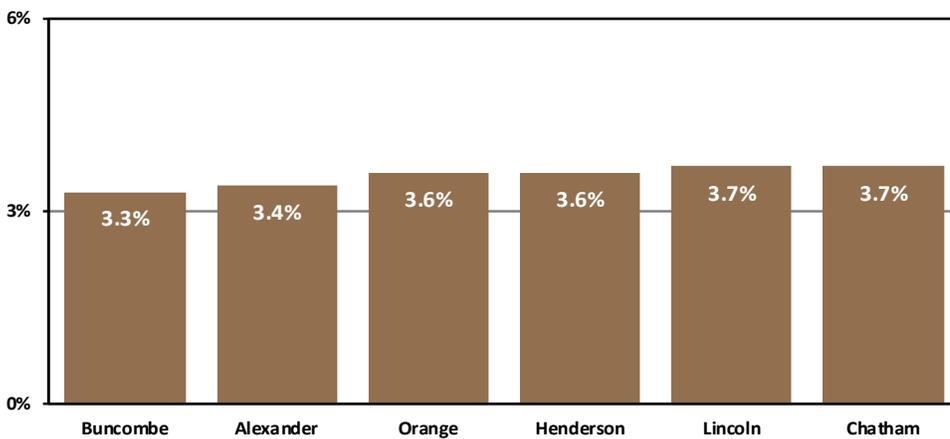
Metropolitan Statistical Areas' Unemployment Rates
March 2018*
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

*All March 2018 data are preliminary.

Asheville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | March 2018

UN Rate | 3.5%
Total Nonfarm | 191,800
Monthly Change | (1,000) 0.5%
Yearly Change | (3,200) 1.7%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	1.2%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300	0.8%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	-300	-0.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	700	2.6%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	200	0.8%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	300	3.6%
Manufacturing	600	2.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	600	1.7%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	100	1.6%
Professional & Business Services	600	3.5%
Education & Health Services	300	0.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	200	0.7%
Other Services	100	1.3%
Government	400	1.5%

Burlington MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | March 2018

UN Rate | 4.0%
Total Nonfarm | 61,500
Monthly Change | (400) 0.7%
Yearly Change | (100) 0.2%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	3.9%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	0	0.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	100	2.0%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	100	1.3%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	100	1.4%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	0	0.0%
Information	-100	-20.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	200	4.1%
Education & Health Services	-100	-0.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	0	0.0%
Other Services	100	5.0%
Government	0	0.0%

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

UN Rate | 4.0%
Total Nonfarm | 1,202,400
Monthly Change | (11,800) 1.0%
Yearly Change | (34,800) 3.0%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	800	1.3%
Manufacturing	100	0.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	2,900	1.2%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-100	-0.1%
Professional & Business Services	2,400	1.2%
Education & Health Services	900	0.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	3,500	2.6%
Other Services	400	1.0%
Government	900	0.6%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	2,000	3.3%
Manufacturing	600	0.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,900	2.9%
Information	700	2.5%
Financial Activities	2,400	2.7%
Professional & Business Services	1,900	1.0%
Education & Health Services	4,900	4.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	5,500	4.2%
Other Services	1,700	4.3%
Government	8,200	5.3%

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

UN Rate 3.8%
Total Nonfarm | 313,700
Monthly Change | (3,000) 1.0%
Yearly Change | (5,300) 1.7%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	1.3%
Manufacturing	100	0.4%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	700	1.9%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	300	0.7%
Education & Health Services	500	0.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,200	4.4%
Other Services	100	0.9%
Government	0	0.0%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	1.3%
Manufacturing	100	0.4%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,800	5.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	100	0.7%
Professional & Business Services	500	1.2%
Education & Health Services	-900	-1.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,600	5.9%
Other Services	100	0.9%
Government	1,900	2.8%

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

Fayetteville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | March 2018

UN Rate | 5.4%
Total Nonfarm | 130,700
Monthly Change | (1,200) 0.9%
Yearly Change | (600) 0.5%

Over-the-Month Employment Change		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	100	1.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	700	3.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	100	2.6%
Professional & Business Services	-200	-1.6%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	200	1.3%
Other Services	100	2.2%
Government	200	0.5%

Over-the-Year Employment Change		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	200	4.4%
Manufacturing	100	1.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	0.9%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	100	2.6%
Professional & Business Services	-400	-3.2%
Education & Health Services	-100	-0.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	-100	-0.6%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	600	1.5%

Goldsboro MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | March 2018

UN Rate | 4.8%
Total Nonfarm | 41,600
Monthly Change | (100) 0.2%
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	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%

Greensboro/High Point MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | March 2018

UN Rate | 4.5%
Total Nonfarm | 360,400
Monthly Change | (900) 0.3%
Yearly Change | (2,900) 0.8%

Over-the-Month Employment Change		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	300	2.0%
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	-500	-1.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	900	2.6%
Other Services	100	0.8%
Government	100	0.2%

Over-the-Year Employment Change		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	300	2.0%
Manufacturing	100	0.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	2,000	2.8%
Information	-100	-2.1%
Financial Activities	-300	-1.7%
Professional & Business Services	1,800	3.7%
Education & Health Services	-900	-1.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	-300	-0.9%
Other Services	-100	-0.8%
Government	400	0.9%

Greenville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | March 2018

UN Rate | 4.6%
Total Nonfarm | 80,400
Monthly Change | (600) 0.8%
Yearly Change | (800) 1.0%

Over-the-Month Employment Change		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	3.2%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	100	0.9%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	100	1.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	100	1.1%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	200	0.7%

Over-the-Year Employment Change		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	200	6.7%
Manufacturing	200	3.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300	2.7%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	100	1.5%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	-200	-2.1%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	200	0.7%

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

Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | March 2018

UN Rate | 3.9%
Total Nonfarm | 154,300
Monthly Change | (400) 0.3%
Yearly Change | (800) 0.5%

Over-the-Month Employment Change			Over-the-Year Employment Change		
Industry	Change		Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%	Mining, Logging & Construction	300	7.9%
Manufacturing	100	0.2%	Manufacturing	300	0.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	100	0.3%	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	900	3.1%
Information	0	0.0%	Information	-100	-11.1%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%	Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-300	-2.0%	Professional & Business Services	-200	-1.4%
Education & Health Services	100	0.5%	Education & Health Services	200	1.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	200	1.5%	Leisure & Hospitality	-500	-3.6%
Other Services	0	0.0%	Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	200	0.9%	Government	-100	-0.4%

Jacksonville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | March 2018

UN Rate | 4.8%
Total Nonfarm | 49,500
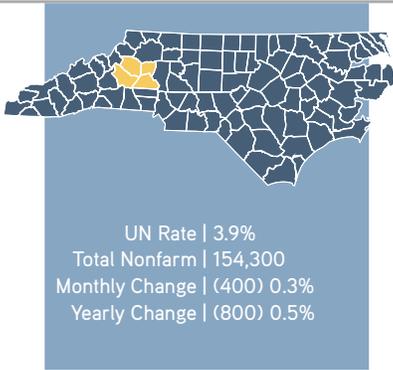Monthly Change | (100) 0.2%
Yearly Change | (0) 0.0%

Over-the-Month Employment Change			Over-the-Year Employment Change		
Industry	Change		Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	*		Mining, Logging & Construction	*	
Manufacturing	*		Manufacturing	*	
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	*		Trade, Transportation & Utilities	*	
Information	*		Information	*	
Financial Activities	*		Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	*		Professional & Business Services	*	
Education & Health Services	*		Education & Health Services	*	
Leisure & Hospitality	*		Leisure & Hospitality	*	
Other Services	*		Other Services	*	
Government	-100	-0.7%	Government	100	0.7%

New Bern MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | March 2018

UN Rate | 4.5%
Total Nonfarm | 44,600
Monthly Change | (300) 0.7%
Yearly Change | (-400) -0.9%

Over-the-Month Employment Change			Over-the-Year Employment Change		
Industry	Change		Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	*		Mining, Logging & Construction	*	
Manufacturing	*		Manufacturing	*	
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	*		Trade, Transportation & Utilities	*	
Information	*		Information	*	
Financial Activities	*		Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	*		Professional & Business Services	*	
Education & Health Services	*		Education & Health Services	*	
Leisure & Hospitality	*		Leisure & Hospitality	*	
Other Services	*		Other Services	*	
Government	100	0.7%	Government	0	0.0%

Raleigh MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | March 2018

UN Rate | 3.8%
Total Nonfarm | 623,300
Monthly Change | (1,900) 0.3%
Yearly Change | (15,400) 2.5%

Over-the-Month Employment Change			Over-the-Year Employment Change		
Industry	Change		Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	300	0.8%	Mining, Logging & Construction	2,700	7.3%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%	Manufacturing	400	1.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	600	0.5%	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	3,300	3.1%
Information	100	0.4%	Information	1,200	5.6%
Financial Activities	-300	-0.9%	Financial Activities	1,300	4.2%
Professional & Business Services	-400	-0.3%	Professional & Business Services	5,100	4.6%
Education & Health Services	500	0.7%	Education & Health Services	200	0.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	900	1.3%	Leisure & Hospitality	0	0.0%
Other Services	300	1.3%	Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	-100	-0.1%	Government	1,200	1.2%

*Data not collected for these industrial sectors. Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All March 2018 data are preliminary.
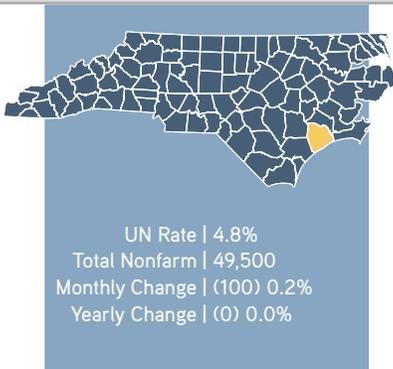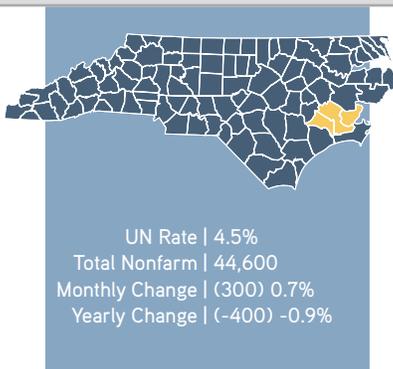
Rocky Mount MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | March 2018

UN Rate | 6.3%
Total Nonfarm | 55,600
Monthly Change | (100) 0.2%
Yearly Change | (-900) -1.6%

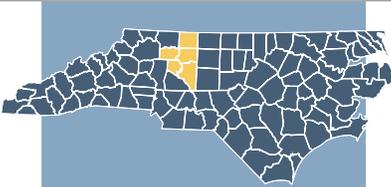| Over-the-Month Employment Change			Over-the-Year Employment Change		
Industry	Change		Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%	Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	-300	-3.0%	Manufacturing	-200	-2.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	1.7%	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	500	4.4%
Information	*		Information	*	
Financial Activities	*		Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%	Professional & Business Services	-300	-5.9%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%	Education & Health Services	-100	-1.5%
Leisure & Hospitality	100	1.9%	Leisure & Hospitality	-300	-5.2%
Other Services	*		Other Services	*	
Government	100	0.9%	Government	-100	-0.9%

Wilmington MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | March 2018

UN Rate | 4.1%
Total Nonfarm | 125,700
Monthly Change | (1,500) 1.2%
Yearly Change | (1,600) 1.3%

Over-the-Month Employment Change			Over-the-Year Employment Change		
Industry	Change		Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%	Mining, Logging & Construction	100	1.4%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%	Manufacturing	-300	-5.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	0	0.0%	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	700	2.9%
Information	0	0.0%	Information	-200	-6.3%
Financial Activities	100	1.7%	Financial Activities	300	5.3%
Professional & Business Services	200	1.3%	Professional & Business Services	300	1.9%
Education & Health Services	100	0.7%	Education & Health Services	200	1.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,000	5.6%	Leisure & Hospitality	0	0.0%
Other Services	0	0.0%	Other Services	100	2.0%
Government	100	0.4%	Government	400	1.7%

Winston-Salem MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | March 2018

UN Rate | 4.1%
Total Nonfarm | 264,700
Monthly Change | (500) 0.2%
Yearly Change | (2,000) 0.8%

Over-the-Month Employment Change			Over-the-Year Employment Change		
Industry	Change		Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	1.0%	Mining, Logging & Construction	200	1.9%
Manufacturing	-500	-1.5%	Manufacturing	-300	-0.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	0	0.0%	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-200	-0.4%
Information	0	0.0%	Information	-100	-5.6%
Financial Activities	100	0.8%	Financial Activities	300	2.3%
Professional & Business Services	200	0.6%	Professional & Business Services	-1,000	-2.8%
Education & Health Services	100	0.2%	Education & Health Services	2,100	4.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	100	0.4%	Leisure & Hospitality	800	2.9%
Other Services	100	1.2%	Other Services	200	2.4%
Government	300	0.9%	Government	0	0.0%

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

Over the month, net industry employment increased in all 15 MSAs. Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC had the largest net employment increase with 11,800, followed by Durham/Chapel Hill, 3,000; Raleigh, 1,900; Wilmington, 1,500; and Fayetteville, 1,200. Wilmington experienced the greatest percentage increase at 1.2 percent, followed by Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC & Durham/Chapel Hill, 1.0 percent; and Fayetteville, 0.9 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 11 of 15 MSAs. Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC had the largest net employment increase at 34,800, followed by Raleigh, 15,400; Durham/Chapel Hill, 5,300; Asheville, 3,200 and Greensboro/High Point, 2,900. Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC had the greatest percentage increase at 3.0 percent, followed by Raleigh, 2.5 percent; and Durham/Chapel Hill & Asheville, 1.7 percent.

North Carolina Unemployment Rates by County
March 2018

County	Rate
ASHE	4.3
ALLEGHANY	5.5
SURRY	4.1
STOKES	4.2
ROCKINGHAM	4.9
CASWELL	4.9
PERSON	4.6
GRANVILLE	3.7
VANCE	6.4
WARREN	6.7
NORTHAMPTON	5.9
HERTFORD	5.6
GATES	4.4
CURRITUCK	4.3
CAMDEN	4.3
PASQUOTANK	5.1
WATAUGA	4.1
WILKES	4.0
YADKIN	3.8
FORSYTH	4.2
GUILFORD	4.5
ALAMANCE	4.0
ORANGE	3.6
DURHAM	3.8
FRANKLIN	4.4
HALIFAX	6.7
NASH	5.6
BERTIE	5.9
CHOWAN	5.1
PERQUIMANS	5.3
AVERY	4.6
MITCHELL	5.2
CALDWELL	4.2
ALEXANDER	3.4
DAVIE	3.8
EDGECOMBE	7.5
MARTIN	5.5
WASHINGTON	6.9
TYRRELL	8.7
MADISON	4.3
YANCEY	4.5
BURKE	4.0
IREDELL	3.9
DAVIDSON	4.0
WAKE	3.7
WILSON	6.5
PITT	4.6
BEAUFORT	5.1
DARE	7.7
HAYWOOD	3.9
BUNCOMBE	3.3
McDOWELL	3.9
CATAWBA	3.9
ROWAN	4.4
RANDOLPH	4.1
CHATHAM	3.7
JOHNSTON	3.9
GREENE	4.1
HYDE	12.7
GRAHAM	7.7
SWAIN	5.9
JACKSON	5.0
HENDERSON	3.6
RUTHERFORD	5.8
LINCOLN	3.7
CABARRUS	3.9
STANLY	4.0
MONTGOMERY	4.3
MOORE	4.3
LEE	4.7
HARNETT	5.0
WAYNE	4.8
LENOIR	4.4
CRAVEN	4.5
PAMLICO	4.6
CHEROKEE	4.9
CLAY	5.2
MACON	4.8
TRANSYLVANIA	4.2
POLK	4.1
CLEVELAND	4.3
GASTON	4.3
MECKLENBURG	4.1
UNION	3.8
ANSON	4.8
RICHMOND	6.1
HOKE	5.3
CUMBERLAND	5.4
SAMPSON	4.5
DUPLIN	4.8
JONES	4.4
CARTERET	4.6
SCOTLAND	7.9
ROBESON	6.4
BLADEN	5.8
PENDER	4.4
ONSLOW	4.8
COLUMBUS	5.5
NEW HANOVER	4.0
BRUNSWICK	5.6

March 2018

- 3.3 - 4.1
- 4.2 - 4.9
- 5.0 - 6.1
- 6.2 - 8.7
- 8.8 - 12.7

^ 0   Counties Higher Than Previous Month
∨ 100   Counties Lower Than Previous Month
= 0   Counties Same as Previous Month

North Carolina Rate 4.3%
Not Seasonally Adjusted

Note: March 2018 data are preliminary.
Prepared by the Labor & Economic Analysis, North Carolina Department of Commerce 4_2018

NC TODAY

Monthly Dashboard*

"Steady" is the best way to describe North Carolina' labor market in March – and that's not necessarily a bad thing. The state's unemployment rate held at 4.5% for the 6th straight month. The labor force participation rate has not changed since December. Job growth has been slow, but positive, and non-farm employment remains at an all-time high. All the while, unemployment insurance claims continue to hit new lows. It's hard to find signs of any immediate change on the near-term horizon, so we might be looking for a synonym of steady to describe our economy next month.
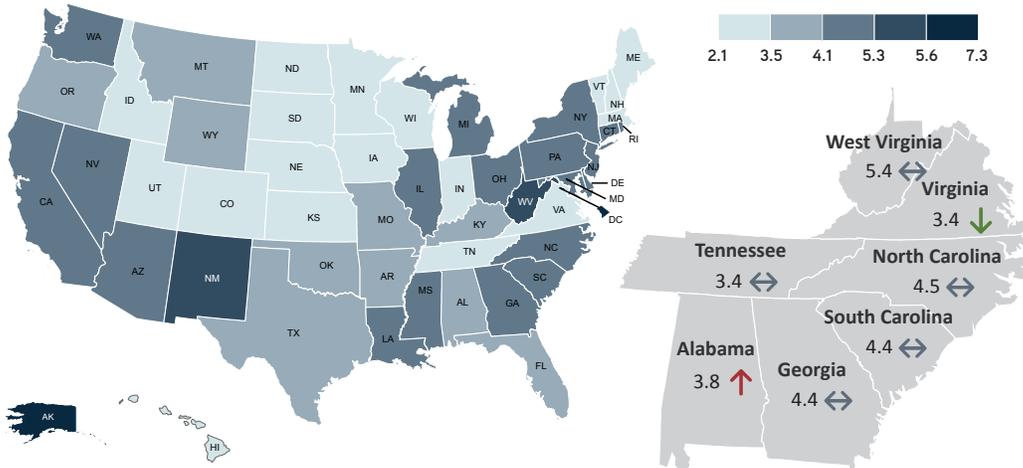
NC 4.5% **US** 4.1%

Unemployment Rate Change
⇔ 0.0   ⇔ 0.0

Change in Employed
↑ 3,495 (0.1%)   ↓ 37,000 (> -0.1%)

Change in Unemployed
↑ 131 (0.1%)   ↓ 121,000 (1.8%)

Labor Force Participation Rate
⇔ 0.0 to 61.4%   ↓ 0.1 to 62.9%

Unemployment Rate Trend
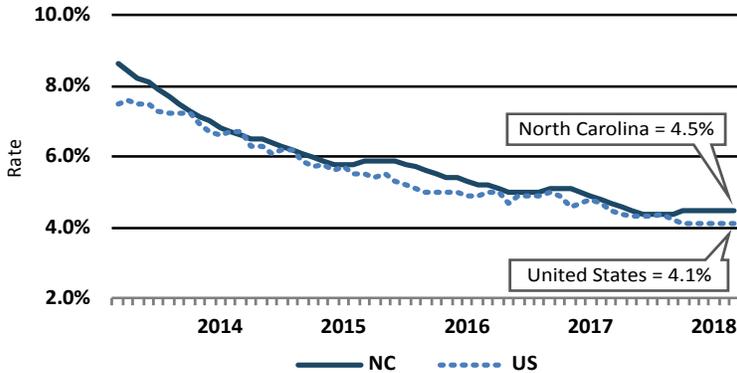
NC ↓ 4.1 percentage points from 8.6% in March 2013

US ↓ 3.4 percentage points from 7.5% in March 2013

North Carolina = 4.5%
United States = 4.1%

Unemployment Rate Comparison

2.1   3.5   4.1   5.3   5.6   7.3

West Virginia 5.4 ⇔
Virginia 3.4 ↓
Tennessee 3.4 ⇔
North Carolina 4.5 ⇔
South Carolina 4.4 ⇔
Alabama 3.8 ↑
Georgia 4.4 ⇔

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.
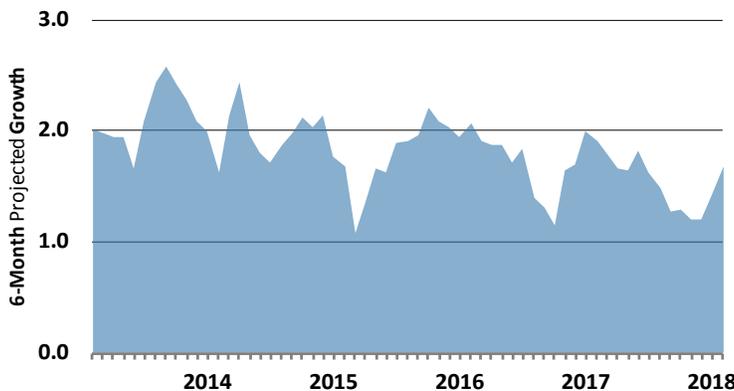
Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia Note: December 2017 data most current available.

*All data produced in this publication are based off March 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
4,472,000 Total Nonfarm Jobs
↑ 4,100 over the month
↑ 73,300 over the year

Initial UI Claims
10,337 Individuals Filing
↓ 123 over the month
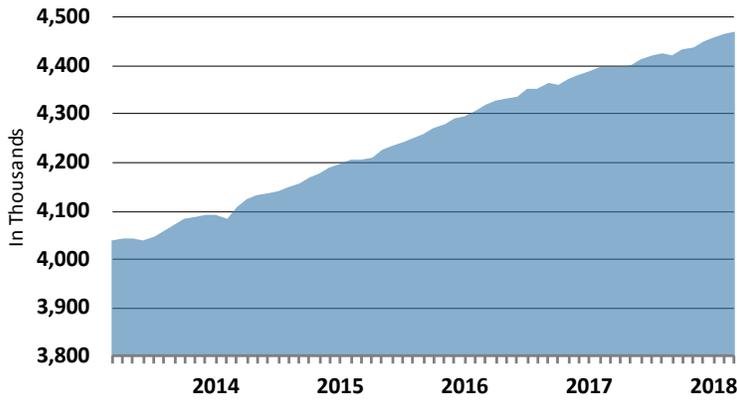↓ 4,530 over the year
Source: US Dept. of Labor, ETA

Real Taxable Retail Sales
↑ $58.2M over the month
↑ $365.1M over the year
Source: NC Dept. of Revenue
Note: February 2018 data most current available at time of release.

Residential Building Permits
↑ 0.1% over the month
↑ 19.5% over the year
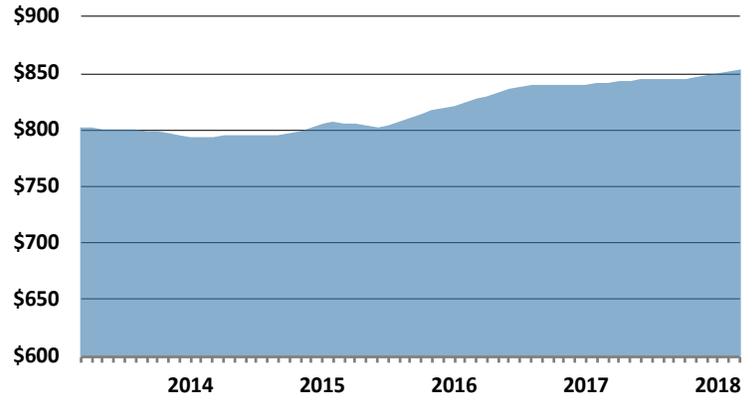Source: United States Census Bureau
Note: Includes multiple-unit housing.

Job Postings
↓ 0.7% over the month
↑ 6.2% over the year
Source: The Conference Board; BLS; LEAD
Note: February 2018 data most current available at time of release.

Manufacturing Hours Worked
↓ 0.2% over the month
↓ 0.5% over the year
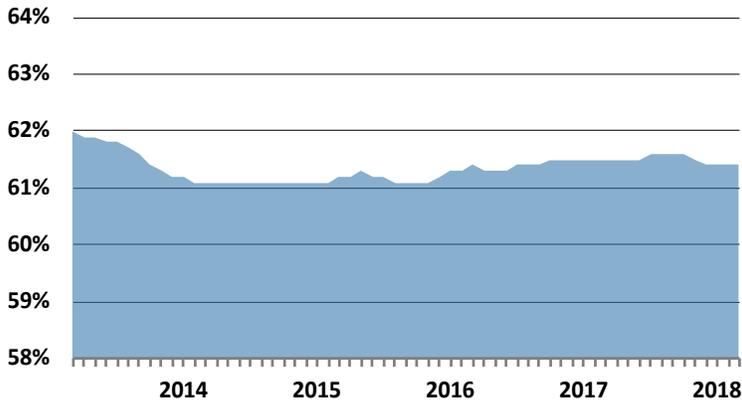Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted
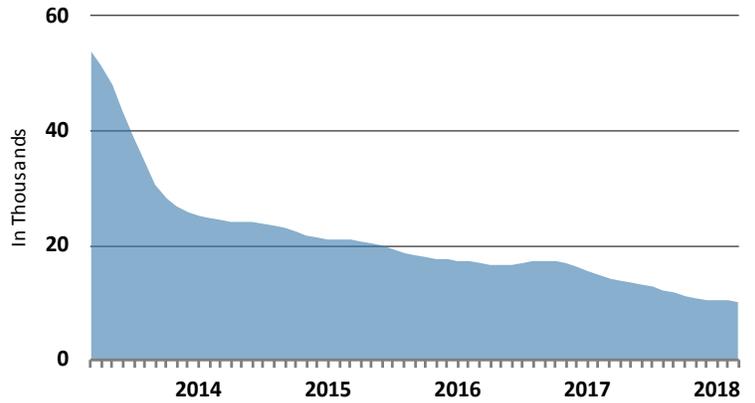
Total Nonfarm Jobs

In Thousands

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

64%
63%
62%
61%
60%
59%
58%

2014　2015　2016　2017　2018

Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims

In Thousands

60

40

20

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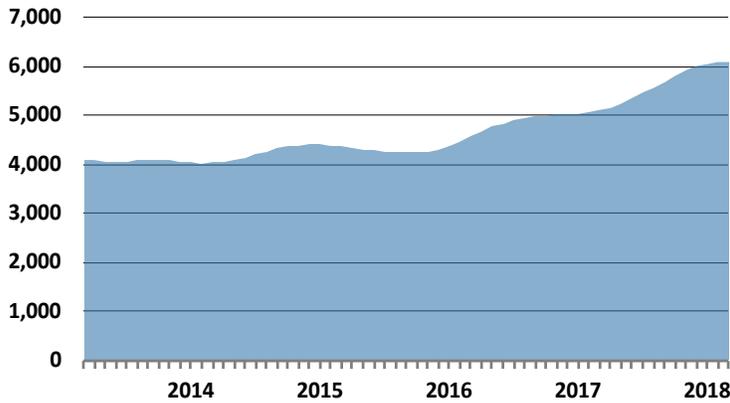
Source: United States Census Bureau
Note: Includes multiple-unit housing.

Real Taxable Retail Sales
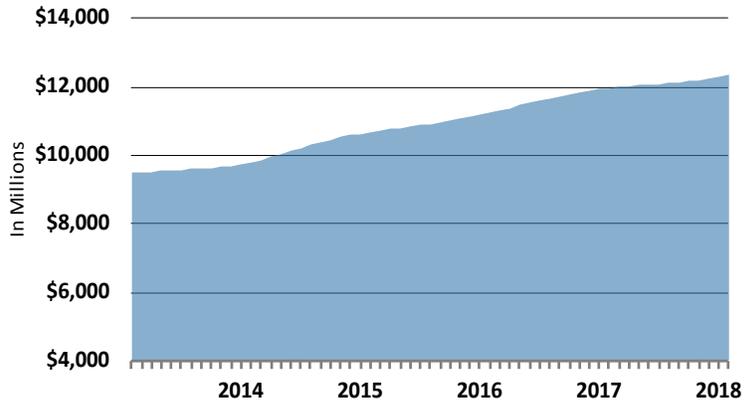
In Millions

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

2014　2015　2016　2017　2018

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

Unemployment Rate By County (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

3.3　4.1　4.9　6.1　8.7　12.7
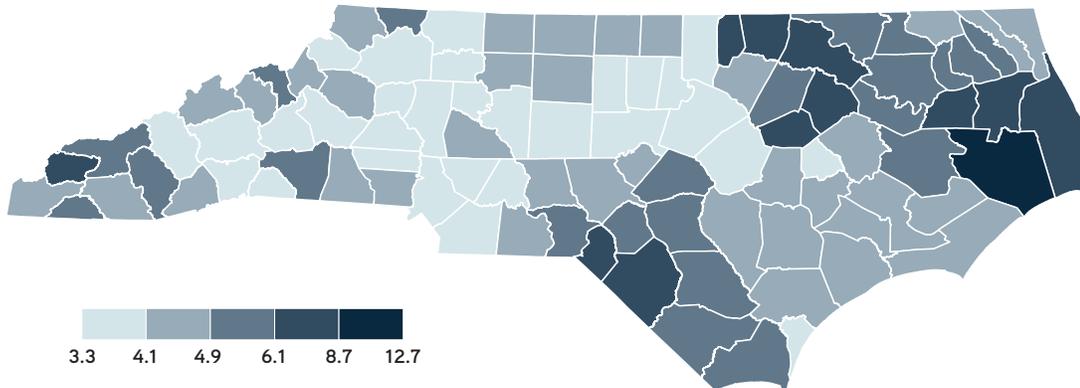
Lowest	
Buncombe	3.3%
Alexander	3.4%
Orange	3.6%
Henderson	3.6%
Lincoln	3.7%

Highest	
Hyde	12.7%
Tyrrell	8.7%
Scotland	7.9%
Dare	7.7%
Graham	7.7%

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