North Carolina's September County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 95 of North Carolina's counties in September, decreased in three, and remained unchanged in two. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 12.0 percent, while Watauga County had the lowest at 4.6 percent. Thirteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases, one decreased, and one remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 9.4 percent and Durham-Chapel Hill had the lowest at 6.0 percent. The September not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 7.0 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
September	3	94	3
August (Revised)	10	88	2

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

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in September by 86,137 to 4,575,430, while those unemployed increased by 17,367 to 343,190. Since September 2019, the number of workers employed statewide decreased 344,447, while those unemployed increased 168,572.

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, November 20, 2020 when the state unemployment rate for October 2020 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
September 2020

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	4,918,620	343,190	7.0				
ALAMANCE	80,514	5,510	6.8	JOHNSTON	95,561	5,861	6.1
ALEXANDER	17,042	1,083	6.4	JONES	4,258	234	5.5
ALLEGHANY	4,628	291	6.3	LEE	25,746	1,895	7.4
ANSON	10,720	913	8.5	LENOIR	28,578	1,765	6.2
ASHE	13,367	687	5.1	LINCOLN	42,074	2,510	6.0
AVERY	8,034	413	5.1	MCDOWELL	20,709	1,256	6.1
BEAUFORT	19,195	1,218	6.3	MACON	15,849	927	5.8
BERTIE	7,779	493	6.3	MADISON	9,555	591	6.2
BLADEN	15,378	1,028	6.7	MARTIN	8,891	633	7.1
BRUNSWICK	50,851	3,990	7.8	MECKLENBURG	611,172	47,585	7.8
BUNCOMBE	134,601	10,020	7.4	MITCHELL	6,049	409	6.8
BURKE	38,712	2,536	6.6	MONTGOMERY	11,120	732	6.6
CABARRUS	106,059	7,148	6.7	MOORE	42,420	2,638	6.2
CALDWELL	34,768	2,618	7.5	NASH	41,936	3,561	8.5
CAMDEN	4,601	221	4.8	NEW HANOVER	119,418	7,731	6.5
CARTERET	31,537	1,662	5.3	NORTHAMPTON	7,602	546	7.2
CASWELL	9,695	689	7.1	ONSLOW	64,085	4,235	6.6
CATAWBA	74,870	5,385	7.2	ORANGE	75,565	3,769	5.0
CHATHAM	34,385	1,771	5.2	PAMLICO	5,138	280	5.4
CHEROKEE	11,455	776	6.8	PASQUOTANK	16,722	1,084	6.5
CHOWAN	5,589	325	5.8	PENDER	27,648	1,652	6.0
CLAY	4,243	278	6.6	PERQUIMANS	4,949	298	6.0
CLEVELAND	49,151	3,700	7.5	PERSON	17,834	1,227	6.9
COLUMBUS	23,142	1,848	8.0	PITT	86,061	6,020	7.0
CRAVEN	40,404	2,592	6.4	POLK	8,936	500	5.6
CUMBERLAND	123,486	11,660	9.4	RANDOLPH	63,809	4,260	6.7
CURRITUCK	13,663	708	5.2	RICHMOND	17,225	1,567	9.1
DARE	18,961	1,244	6.6	ROBESON	50,913	4,660	9.2
DAVIDSON	78,560	5,248	6.7	ROCKINGHAM	38,840	2,987	7.7
DAVIE	19,969	1,194	6.0	ROWAN	64,619	4,713	7.3
DUPLIN	25,387	1,299	5.1	RUTHERFORD	25,532	2,111	8.3
DURHAM	166,172	10,996	6.6	SAMPSON	29,837	1,613	5.4
EDGECOMBE	21,009	2,348	11.2	SCOTLAND	12,268	1,474	12.0
FORSYTH	183,176	13,322	7.3	STANLY	30,328	1,728	5.7
FRANKLIN	30,194	2,016	6.7	STOKES	20,970	1,238	5.9
GASTON	108,735	8,358	7.7	SURRY	33,656	1,983	5.9
GATES	5,175	277	5.4	SWAIN	7,758	453	5.8
GRAHAM	3,441	259	7.5	TRANSYLVANIA	14,576	778	5.3
GRANVILLE	29,557	1,662	5.6	TYRRELL	1,412	107	7.6
GREENE	9,590	556	5.8	UNION	119,541	6,799	5.7
GUILFORD	256,098	21,379	8.3	VANCE	17,990	1,815	10.1
HALIFAX	20,355	1,942	9.5	WAKE	574,657	35,177	6.1
HARNETT	52,561	3,664	7.0	WARREN	6,869	649	9.4
HAYWOOD	28,371	1,929	6.8	WASHINGTON	4,378	372	8.5
HENDERSON	51,918	3,147	6.1	WATAUGA	30,488	1,410	4.6
HERTFORD	9,314	629	6.8	WAYNE	49,544	3,171	6.4
HOKE	19,363	1,658	8.6	WILKES	29,481	1,730	5.9
HYDE	1,836	141	7.7	WILSON	34,706	2,967	8.5
IREDELL	87,117	5,920	6.8	YADKIN	17,170	1,030	6.0
JACKSON	21,202	1,237	5.8	YANCEY	8,251	473	5.7

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.

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

NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

County	September 2020	August 2020	September 2019	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	September 2020	August 2020	September 2019	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	7.0	6.8	3.4	0.2	3.6						
ALAMANCE	6.8	6.6	3.4	0.2	3.4	JOHNSTON	6.1	6.0	3.2	0.1	2.9
ALEXANDER	6.4	6.3	2.9	0.1	3.5	JONES	5.5	5.3	3.3	0.2	2.2
ALLEGHANY	6.3	6.0	4.0	0.3	2.3	LEE	7.4	7.1	4.0	0.3	3.4
ANSON	8.5	8.0	3.8	0.5	4.7	LENOIR	6.2	5.9	3.4	0.3	2.8
ASHE	5.1	5.0	3.0	0.1	2.1	LINCOLN	6.0	5.8	3.1	0.2	2.9
AVERY	5.1	5.0	3.0	0.1	2.1	MCDOWELL	6.1	5.8	3.5	0.3	2.6
BEAUFORT	6.3	5.9	4.1	0.4	2.2	MACON	5.8	5.8	3.3	0.0	2.5
BERTIE	6.3	5.9	4.3	0.4	2.0	MADISON	6.2	6.1	3.3	0.1	2.9
BLADEN	6.7	6.5	4.3	0.2	2.4	MARTIN	7.1	6.6	4.5	0.5	2.6
BRUNSWICK	7.8	7.5	4.5	0.3	3.3	MECKLENBURG	7.8	7.6	3.3	0.2	4.5
BUNCOMBE	7.4	7.5	2.6	-0.1	4.8	MITCHELL	6.8	6.4	3.8	0.4	3.0
BURKE	6.6	6.3	3.3	0.3	3.3	MONTGOMERY	6.6	6.2	3.7	0.4	2.9
CABARRUS	6.7	6.6	3.2	0.1	3.5	MOORE	6.2	6.0	3.3	0.2	2.9
CALDWELL	7.5	7.2	3.6	0.3	3.9	NASH	8.5	8.2	4.4	0.3	4.1
CAMDEN	4.8	4.6	3.2	0.2	1.6	NEW HANOVER	6.5	6.4	3.1	0.1	3.4
CARTERET	5.3	4.9	3.4	0.4	1.9	NORTHAMPTON	7.2	6.6	4.8	0.6	2.4
CASWELL	7.1	6.8	4.0	0.3	3.1	ONSLOW	6.6	6.3	4.0	0.3	2.6
CATAWBA	7.2	6.9	3.2	0.3	4.0	ORANGE	5.0	4.9	2.8	0.1	2.2
CHATHAM	5.2	5.0	2.9	0.2	2.3	PAMLICO	5.4	5.2	3.3	0.2	2.1
CHEROKEE	6.8	6.5	3.9	0.3	2.9	PASQUOTANK	6.5	6.4	3.9	0.1	2.6
CHOWAN	5.8	5.7	4.1	0.1	1.7	PENDER	6.0	5.8	3.4	0.2	2.6
CLAY	6.6	6.4	4.0	0.2	2.6	PERQUIMANS	6.0	5.7	4.4	0.3	1.6
CLEVELAND	7.5	7.0	3.7	0.5	3.8	PERSON	6.9	6.6	3.8	0.3	3.1
COLUMBUS	8.0	7.4	4.4	0.6	3.6	PITT	7.0	6.6	3.8	0.4	3.2
CRAVEN	6.4	6.0	3.6	0.4	2.8	POLK	5.6	5.2	3.4	0.4	2.2
CUMBERLAND	9.4	9.2	4.6	0.2	4.8	RANDOLPH	6.7	6.4	3.3	0.3	3.4
CURRITUCK	5.2	4.8	3.1	0.4	2.1	RICHMOND	9.1	8.8	4.8	0.3	4.3
DARE	6.6	6.2	3.2	0.4	3.4	ROBESON	9.2	8.9	4.9	0.3	4.3
DAVIDSON	6.7	6.3	3.3	0.4	3.4	ROCKINGHAM	7.7	7.5	3.9	0.2	3.8
DAVIE	6.0	6.1	3.0	-0.1	3.0	ROWAN	7.3	7.0	3.5	0.3	3.8
DUPLIN	5.1	4.9	3.5	0.2	1.6	RUTHERFORD	8.3	8.0	4.4	0.3	3.9
DURHAM	6.6	6.5	3.0	0.1	3.6	SAMPSON	5.4	5.3	3.4	0.1	2.0
EDGECOMBE	11.2	10.7	5.3	0.5	5.9	SCOTLAND	12.0	11.5	6.0	0.5	6.0
FORSYTH	7.3	7.0	3.3	0.3	4.0	STANLY	5.7	5.4	3.4	0.3	2.3
FRANKLIN	6.7	6.5	3.6	0.2	3.1	STOKES	5.9	5.6	3.1	0.3	2.8
GASTON	7.7	7.5	3.4	0.2	4.3	SURRY	5.9	5.7	3.3	0.2	2.6
GATES	5.4	5.1	3.6	0.3	1.8	SWAIN	5.8	5.7	3.2	0.1	2.6
GRAHAM	7.5	7.2	4.5	0.3	3.0	TRANSYLVANIA	5.3	5.0	3.2	0.3	2.1
GRANVILLE	5.6	5.4	3.0	0.2	2.6	TYRRELL	7.6	6.5	4.8	1.1	2.8
GREENE	5.8	5.3	3.3	0.5	2.5	UNION	5.7	5.5	3.1	0.2	2.6
GUILFORD	8.3	8.2	3.7	0.1	4.6	VANCE	10.1	9.5	5.4	0.6	4.7
HALIFAX	9.5	8.8	5.4	0.7	4.1	WAKE	6.1	6.0	3.0	0.1	3.1
HARNETT	7.0	6.8	4.1	0.2	2.9	WARREN	9.4	9.0	5.1	0.4	4.3
HAYWOOD	6.8	6.7	2.9	0.1	3.9	WASHINGTON	8.5	7.7	5.0	0.8	3.5
HENDERSON	6.1	6.0	2.8	0.1	3.3	WATAUGA	4.6	4.6	3.0	0.0	1.6
HERTFORD	6.8	6.4	4.6	0.4	2.2	WAYNE	6.4	6.2	3.7	0.2	2.7
HOKE	8.6	8.3	4.5	0.3	4.1	WILKES	5.9	5.6	3.6	0.3	2.3
HYDE	7.7	7.3	5.7	0.4	2.0	WILSON	8.5	8.3	5.4	0.2	3.1
IREDELL	6.8	6.5	3.2	0.3	3.6	YADKIN	6.0	5.8	3.0	0.2	3.0
JACKSON	5.8	6.1	3.4	-0.3	2.4	YANCEY	5.7	5.6	3.2	0.1	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

METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Data for
September 2020

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	224,445	15,687	7.0
BURLINGTON	80,514	5,510	6.8
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,332,637	93,276	7.0
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	293,956	17,763	6.0
FAYETTEVILLE	142,849	13,318	9.3
GOLDSBORO	49,544	3,171	6.4
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	358,747	28,626	8.0
GREENVILLE	86,061	6,020	7.0
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	165,392	11,622	7.0
JACKSONVILLE	64,085	4,235	6.6
NEW BERN	49,800	3,106	6.2
RALEIGH	700,412	43,054	6.1
ROCKY MOUNT	62,945	5,909	9.4
WILMINGTON	147,066	9,383	6.4
WINSTON-SALEM	319,845	22,032	6.9

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	30,328	1,728	5.7
BOONE	30,488	1,410	4.6
BREVARD	14,576	778	5.3
CULLOWHEE	21,202	1,237	5.8
DUNN	52,561	3,664	7.0
ELIZABETH CITY	26,272	1,603	6.1
FOREST CITY	25,532	2,111	8.3
HENDERSON	17,990	1,815	10.1
KILL DEVIL HILLS	20,373	1,351	6.6
KINSTON	28,578	1,765	6.2
LAURINBURG	12,268	1,474	12.0
LUMBERTON	50,913	4,660	9.2
MARION	20,709	1,256	6.1
MOREHEAD CITY	31,537	1,662	5.3
MOUNT AIRY	33,656	1,983	5.9
NORTH WILKESBORO	29,481	1,730	5.9
OXFORD	29,557	1,662	5.6
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	42,420	2,638	6.2
ROANOKE RAPIDS	27,957	2,488	8.9
ROCKINGHAM	17,225	1,567	9.1
SANFORD	25,746	1,895	7.4
SHELBY	49,151	3,700	7.5
WASHINGTON	19,195	1,218	6.3
WILSON	34,706	2,967	8.5

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Preliminary Data for
September 2020

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	239,021	16,465	6.9
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,412,116	98,704	7.0
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	206,030	19,452	9.4
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	792,762	58,151	7.3
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	105,256	7,238	6.9
HICKORY-LENOIR	186,101	12,878	6.9
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	81,337	4,768	5.9
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	1,120,222	69,853	6.2
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	125,608	11,364	9.0

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	September 2020	August 2020	September 2019	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	7.0	7.0	2.7	0.0	4.3
BURLINGTON	6.8	6.6	3.4	0.2	3.4
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	7.0	7.1	3.1	-0.1	3.9
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	6.0	5.9	3.0	0.1	3.0
FAYETTEVILLE	9.3	9.1	4.6	0.2	4.7
GOLDSBORO	6.4	6.2	3.7	0.2	2.7
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	8.0	7.8	3.6	0.2	4.4
GREENVILLE	7.0	6.6	3.8	0.4	3.2
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	7.0	6.8	3.3	0.2	3.7
JACKSONVILLE	6.6	6.3	4.0	0.3	2.6
NEW BERN	6.2	5.9	3.5	0.3	2.7
RALEIGH	6.1	6.0	3.0	0.1	3.1
ROCKY MOUNT	9.4	9.0	4.7	0.4	4.7
WILMINGTON	6.4	6.3	3.1	0.1	3.3
WINSTON-SALEM	6.9	6.6	3.3	0.3	3.6

Micropolitan Statistical Area	September 2020	August 2020	September 2019	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	5.7	5.4	3.4	0.3	2.3
BOONE	4.6	4.6	3.0	0.0	1.6
BREVARD	5.3	5.0	3.2	0.3	2.1
CULLOWHEE	5.8	6.1	3.4	-0.3	2.4
DUNN	7.0	6.8	4.1	0.2	2.9
ELIZABETH CITY	6.1	5.9	3.9	0.2	2.2
FOREST CITY	8.3	8.0	4.4	0.3	3.9
HENDERSON	10.1	9.5	5.4	0.6	4.7
KILL DEVIL HILLS	6.6	6.2	3.3	0.4	3.3
KINSTON	6.2	5.9	3.4	0.3	2.8
LAURINBURG	12.0	11.5	6.0	0.5	6.0
LUMBERTON	9.2	8.9	4.9	0.3	4.3
MARION	6.1	5.8	3.5	0.3	2.6
MOREHEAD CITY	5.3	4.9	3.4	0.4	1.9
MOUNT AIRY	5.9	5.7	3.3	0.2	2.6
NORTH WILKESBORO	5.9	5.6	3.6	0.3	2.3
OXFORD	5.6	5.4	3.0	0.2	2.6
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	6.2	6.0	3.3	0.2	2.9
ROANOKE RAPIDS	8.9	8.2	5.2	0.7	3.7
ROCKINGHAM	9.1	8.8	4.8	0.3	4.3
SANFORD	7.4	7.1	4.0	0.3	3.4
SHELBY	7.5	7.0	3.7	0.5	3.8
WASHINGTON	6.3	5.9	4.1	0.4	2.2
WILSON	8.5	8.3	5.4	0.2	3.1

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

Combined Statistical Area	September 2020	August 2020	September 2019	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	6.9	6.8	2.8	0.1	4.1
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	7.0	7.1	3.1	-0.1	3.9
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	9.4	9.2	4.7	0.2	4.7
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	7.3	7.1	3.4	0.2	3.9
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	6.9	6.5	3.9	0.4	3.0
HICKORY-LENOIR	6.9	6.7	3.3	0.2	3.6
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	5.9	5.5	3.5	0.4	2.4
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	6.2	6.1	3.1	0.1	3.1
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	9.0	8.7	5.0	0.3	4.0

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 September 2020

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
WATAUGA	30,488	1,410	4.6%	1	MONTGOMERY	11,120	732	6.6%	51
CAMDEN	4,601	221	4.8%	2	ONSLOW	64,085	4,235	6.6%	52
ORANGE	75,565	3,769	5.0%	3	DURHAM	166,172	10,996	6.6%	53
DUPLIN	25,387	1,299	5.1%	4	RANDOLPH	63,809	4,260	6.7%	54
ASHE	13,367	687	5.1%	5	FRANKLIN	30,194	2,016	6.7%	55
AVERY	8,034	413	5.1%	6	DAVIDSON	78,560	5,248	6.7%	56
CHATHAM	34,385	1,771	5.2%	7	BLADEN	15,378	1,028	6.7%	57
CURRITUCK	13,663	708	5.2%	8	CABARRUS	106,059	7,148	6.7%	58
CARTERET	31,537	1,662	5.3%	9	HERTFORD	9,314	629	6.8%	59
TRANSYLVANIA	14,576	778	5.3%	10	MITCHELL	6,049	409	6.8%	60
GATES	5,175	277	5.4%	11	CHEROKEE	11,455	776	6.8%	61
SAMPSON	29,837	1,613	5.4%	12	IREDELL	87,117	5,920	6.8%	62
PAMLICO	5,138	280	5.4%	13	HAYWOOD	28,371	1,929	6.8%	63
JONES	4,258	234	5.5%	14	ALAMANCE	80,514	5,510	6.8%	64
POLK	8,936	500	5.6%	15	PERSON	17,834	1,227	6.9%	65
GRANVILLE	29,557	1,662	5.6%	16	HARNETT	52,561	3,664	7.0%	66
UNION	119,541	6,799	5.7%	17	PITT	86,061	6,020	7.0%	67
STANLY	30,328	1,728	5.7%	18	CASWELL	9,695	689	7.1%	68
YANCEY	8,251	473	5.7%	19	MARTIN	8,891	633	7.1%	69
GREENE	9,590	556	5.8%	20	NORTHAMPTON	7,602	546	7.2%	70
CHOWAN	5,589	325	5.8%	21	CATAWBA	74,870	5,385	7.2%	71
JACKSON	21,202	1,237	5.8%	22	FORSYTH	183,176	13,322	7.3%	72
SWAIN	7,758	453	5.8%	23	ROWAN	64,619	4,713	7.3%	73
MACON	15,849	927	5.8%	24	LEE	25,746	1,895	7.4%	74
WILKES	29,481	1,730	5.9%	25	BUNCOMBE	134,601	10,020	7.4%	75
SURRY	33,656	1,983	5.9%	26	GRAHAM	3,441	259	7.5%	76
STOKES	20,970	1,238	5.9%	27	CLEVELAND	49,151	3,700	7.5%	77
LINCOLN	42,074	2,510	6.0%	28	CALDWELL	34,768	2,618	7.5%	78
PENDER	27,648	1,652	6.0%	29	TYRRELL	1,412	107	7.6%	79
DAVIE	19,969	1,194	6.0%	30	HYDE	1,836	141	7.7%	80
YADKIN	17,170	1,030	6.0%	31	GASTON	108,735	8,358	7.7%	81
PERQUIMANS	4,949	298	6.0%	32	ROCKINGHAM	38,840	2,987	7.7%	82
HENDERSON	51,918	3,147	6.1%	33	MECKLENBURG	611,172	47,585	7.8%	83
MCDOWELL	20,709	1,256	6.1%	34	BRUNSWICK	50,851	3,990	7.8%	84
WAKE	574,657	35,177	6.1%	35	COLUMBUS	23,142	1,848	8.0%	85
JOHNSTON	95,561	5,861	6.1%	36	RUTHERFORD	25,532	2,111	8.3%	86
LENOIR	28,578	1,765	6.2%	37	GUILFORD	256,098	21,379	8.3%	87
MADISON	9,555	591	6.2%	38	NASH	41,936	3,561	8.5%	88
MOORE	42,420	2,638	6.2%	39	WASHINGTON	4,378	372	8.5%	89
ALLEGHANY	4,628	291	6.3%	40	ANSON	10,720	913	8.5%	90
BERTIE	7,779	493	6.3%	41	WILSON	34,706	2,967	8.5%	91
BEAUFORT	19,195	1,218	6.3%	42	HOKE	19,363	1,658	8.6%	92
ALEXANDER	17,042	1,083	6.4%	43	RICHMOND	17,225	1,567	9.1%	93
WAYNE	49,544	3,171	6.4%	44	ROBESON	50,913	4,660	9.2%	94
CRAVEN	40,404	2,592	6.4%	45	CUMBERLAND	123,486	11,660	9.4%	95
NEW HANOVER	119,418	7,731	6.5%	46	WARREN	6,869	649	9.4%	96
PASQUOTANK	16,722	1,084	6.5%	47	HALIFAX	20,355	1,942	9.5%	97
BURKE	38,712	2,536	6.6%	48	VANCE	17,990	1,815	10.1%	98
CLAY	4,243	278	6.6%	49	EDGECOMBE	21,009	2,348	11.2%	99
DARE	18,961	1,244	6.6%	50	SCOTLAND	12,268	1,474	12.0%	100

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.

North Carolina Department of Commerce

Labor & Economic Analysis Division

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

(919) 707-1500

Accessing Data

The data presented in this press release, as well as historical data, can be accessed from NC Commerce's Demand Driven Data Delivery ("D4") system:
https://d4.nccommerce.com/LausSelection.aspx

Technical Notes

This release presents labor force and unemployment estimates from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. The LAUS program is a federal-state cooperative endeavor.

Labor force and unemployment--from the LAUS program

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

Method of estimation. Statewide estimates are produced using an estimation algorithm administered by the BLS. This method, which underwent substantial enhancement at the beginning of 2015, utilizes data from several sources, including the CPS, Current Employment Statistics (CES), and state unemployment insurance (UI) programs. Substate estimates are produced using the "LAUS Handbook Method", which is also based on data from several sources. Each month, census division estimates are controlled to national totals, and state estimates are then controlled to their respective division totals. Substate estimates are controlled to their respective state totals. For more information about LAUS estimation procedures, see the BLS website at 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 Friday, November 20, 2020 when the state unemployment rate for October 2020 will be released.

The complete 2020 data release schedule can be accessed at:

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

Counties With Highest Unemployment Rates
September 2020*
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

County	Rate
Scotland	12.0%
Edgecombe	11.2%
Vance	10.1%
Halifax	9.5%
Warren	9.4%
Cumberland	9.4%
Robeson	9.2%
Richmond	9.1%

Counties With Lowest Unemployment Rates
September 2020*
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

County	Rate
Watauga	4.6%
Camden	4.8%
Orange	5.0%
Duplin	5.1%
Ashe	5.1%
Avery	5.1%
Chatham	5.2%
Currituck	5.2%

Metropolitan Statistical Areas' Unemployment Rates
September 2020*
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	Rate
North Carolina	7.0%
Durham/Chapel Hill	6.0%
Raleigh	6.1%
New Bern	6.2%
Goldsboro	6.4%
Wilmington	6.4%
Jacksonville	6.6%
Burlington	6.8%
Winston-Salem	6.9%
Asheville	7.0%
Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC	7.0%
Greenville	7.0%
Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton	7.0%
Greensboro/High Point	8.0%
Fayetteville	9.3%
Rocky Mount	9.4%

North Carolina's statewide unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 7.0 percent in September. This increased 0.2 of a percentage point from August's revised rate, and grew 3.6 percentage points over the year.

Over the month, the unemployment rate increased in 95 of North Carolina's 100 counties. Sixty-seven counties had unemployment rates at or below the state's 7.0 percent rate.

Scotland County recorded September's highest unemployment rate at 12.0 percent, followed by Edgecombe at 11.2 percent. Watauga had the lowest unemployment rate at 4.6 percent.

Unemployment rates increased in 13 of the state's 15 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) over the month. The Rocky Mount MSA had the highest unemployment rate in September at 9.4 percent, followed by Fayetteville at 9.3 percent. Durham/Chapel Hill MSA reported the month's lowest unemployment rate at 6.0 percent, followed by Raleigh at 6.1 percent, and New Bern at 6.2 percent.

*All September 2020 data are preliminary.

North Carolina **County Labor Market Conditions**

## Asheville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | September 2020

UN Rate | 7.0%
Total Nonfarm | 178,800
Monthly Change | 900, 0.5%
Yearly Change | -20,500, -10.3%
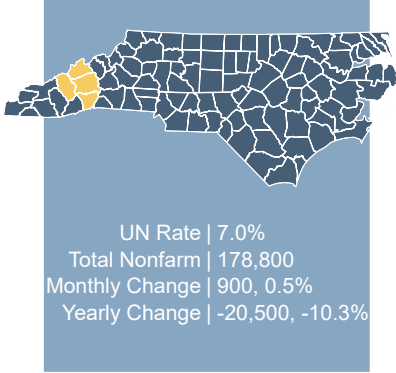
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-1.0%
Manufacturing	200	1.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	100	0.3%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	-100	-0.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	-1,400	-6.2%
Other Services	-100	-1.2%
Government	2,300	10.1%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	200	2.0%
Manufacturing	-2,000	-8.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-1,200	-3.3%
Information	-500	-26.3%
Financial Activities	-100	-1.5%
Professional & Business Services	-800	-4.4%
Education & Health Services	-3,900	-10.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	-9,700	-31.6%
Other Services	-1,300	-14.1%
Government	-1,200	-4.6%

Burlington MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | September 2020
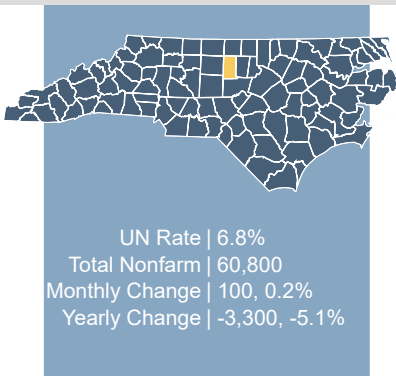
UN Rate | 6.8%
Total Nonfarm | 60,800
Monthly Change | 100, 0.2%
Yearly Change | -3,300, -5.1%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	100	1.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	0	0.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-300	-5.7%
Education & Health Services	200	1.5%
Leisure & Hospitality	-500	-6.6%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	600	9.2%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	-1,000	-10.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-700	-5.3%
Information	-100	-25.0%
Financial Activities	100	5.0%
Professional & Business Services	-400	-7.4%
Education & Health Services	300	2.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	-1,200	-14.5%
Other Services	-200	-9.1%
Government	-100	-1.4%

## Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | September 2020

UN Rate | 7.0%
Total Nonfarm | 1,156,100
Monthly Change | 9,400, 0.8%
Yearly Change | -82,800, -6.7%
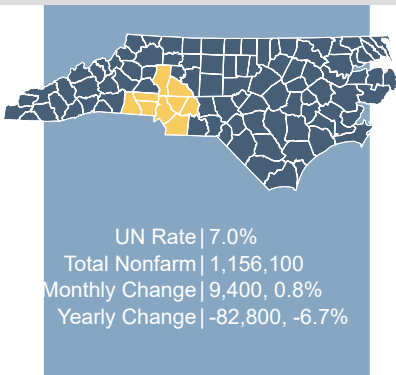
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	900	1.3%
Manufacturing	-900	-0.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	900	0.4%
Information	-200	-0.9%
Financial Activities	1,300	1.2%
Professional & Business Services	-200	-0.1%
Education & Health Services	1,600	1.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	-1,500	-1.4%
Other Services	500	1.3%
Government	7,000	5.1%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-400	-0.6%
Manufacturing	-7,300	-6.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-5,600	-2.3%
Information	-1,600	-6.6%
Financial Activities	4,200	4.0%
Professional & Business Services	-8,900	-4.2%
Education & Health Services	-10,800	-8.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	-39,900	-27.7%
Other Services	-2,300	-5.4%
Government	-10,200	-6.6%

Durham/Chapel Hill MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | September 2020
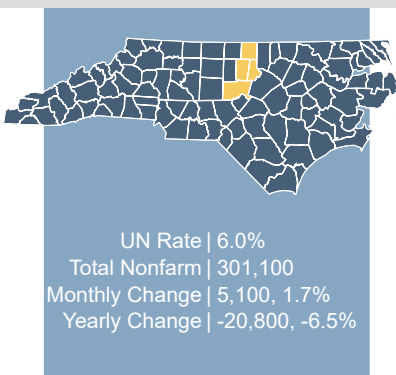
UN Rate | 6.0%
Total Nonfarm | 301,100
Monthly Change | 5,100, 1.7%
Yearly Change | -20,800, -6.5%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

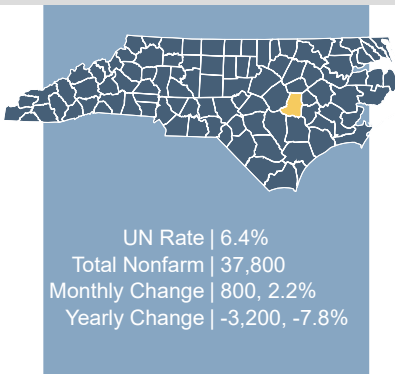| Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-1.1%
Manufacturing	400	1.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	0.5%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	400	1.0%
Education & Health Services	1,600	2.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	-500	-2.8%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	3,100	4.7%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	1.1%
Manufacturing	-6,500	-23.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	100	0.3%
Information	-100	-2.1%
Financial Activities	-100	-0.6%
Professional & Business Services	-3,100	-6.8%
Education & Health Services	-1,900	-2.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	-11,000	-38.6%
Other Services	-400	-3.5%
Government	2,100	3.1%

Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All September 2020 data are preliminary.

Fayetteville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | September 2020
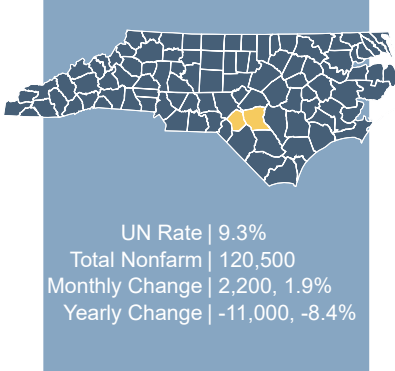
UN Rate | 9.3%
Total Nonfarm | 120,500
Monthly Change | 2,200, 1.9%
Yearly Change | -11,000, -8.4%

Over-the-Month Employment Change		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	300	3.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	0.9%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	-200	-1.5%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	1,900	5.2%

Over-the-Year Employment Change		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-600	-10.2%
Manufacturing	-800	-9.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-300	-1.3%
Information	-100	-9.1%
Financial Activities	-200	-5.1%
Professional & Business Services	-900	-8.0%
Education & Health Services	-1,600	-10.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	-3,700	-22.0%
Other Services	-1,000	-21.7%
Government	-1,800	-4.5%

Goldsboro MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | September 2020

UN Rate | 6.4%
Total Nonfarm | 37,800
Monthly Change | 800, 2.2%
Yearly Change | -3,200, -7.8%

Over-the-Month Employment Change		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	*	
Manufacturing	*	
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	*	
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	*	
Education & Health Services	*	
Leisure & Hospitality	*	
Other Services	*	
Government	500	5.7%

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

Greensboro/High Point MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | September 2020
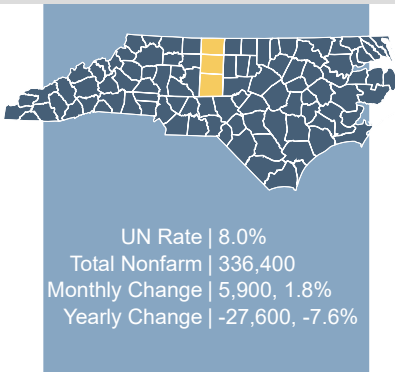
UN Rate | 8.0%
Total Nonfarm | 336,400
Monthly Change | 5,900, 1.8%
Yearly Change | -27,600, -7.6%

Over-the-Month Employment Change		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	100	0.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	0.3%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	200	0.5%
Education & Health Services	300	0.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	600	2.1%
Other Services	-100	-0.8%
Government	4,600	12.2%

Over-the-Year Employment Change		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	-8,400	-15.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-700	-0.9%
Information	-400	-8.7%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	-3,600	-7.6%
Education & Health Services	-3,700	-7.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	-8,500	-22.5%
Other Services	-300	-2.4%
Government	-2,000	-4.5%

Greenville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | September 2020
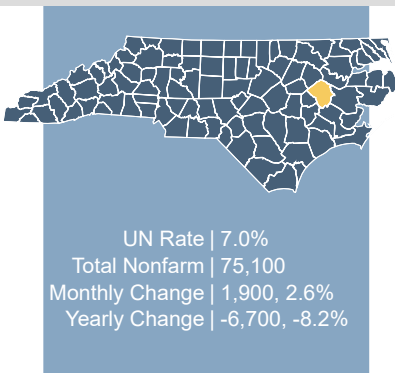
UN Rate | 7.0%
Total Nonfarm | 75,100
Monthly Change | 1,900, 2.6%
Yearly Change | -6,700, -8.2%

Over-the-Month Employment Change		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-100	-0.8%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-100	-4.2%
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	-100	-1.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	100	1.5%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	2,100	9.1%

Over-the-Year Employment Change		
Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	100	2.6%
Manufacturing	-500	-7.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	700	6.0%
Information	-100	-14.3%
Financial Activities	-200	-8.0%
Professional & Business Services	-400	-6.2%
Education & Health Services	200	2.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	-2,800	-28.9%
Other Services	-300	-13.6%
Government	-3,400	-11.9%

*Data unavailable due to sample cell size. Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All September 2020 data are preliminary.

North Carolina **County Labor Market Conditions**

## Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | September 2020
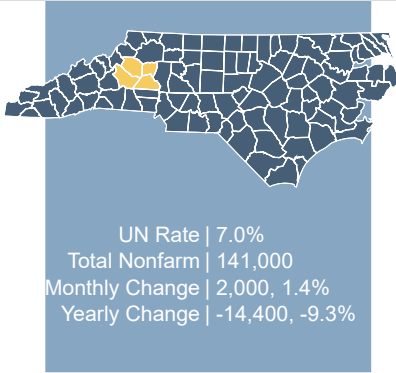
UN Rate | 7.0%
Total Nonfarm | 141,000
Monthly Change | 2,000, 1.4%
Yearly Change | -14,400, -9.3%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	300	0.8%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	100	0.3%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	100	0.7%
Education & Health Services	100	0.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	300	2.7%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	1,100	5.3%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-2.2%
Manufacturing	-6,200	-14.8%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-1,200	-4.0%
Information	-100	-12.5%
Financial Activities	-100	-3.0%
Professional & Business Services	-500	-3.5%
Education & Health Services	-2,100	-10.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	-2,900	-20.4%
Other Services	-300	-6.7%
Government	-900	-3.9%

Jacksonville MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | September 2020
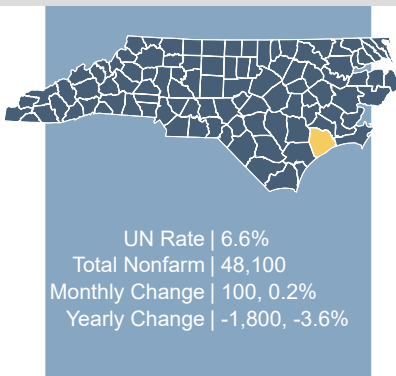
UN Rate | 6.6%
Total Nonfarm | 48,100
Monthly Change | 100, 0.2%
Yearly Change | -1,800, -3.6%

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	300	2.2%

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	-400	-2.8%

New Bern MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | September 2020
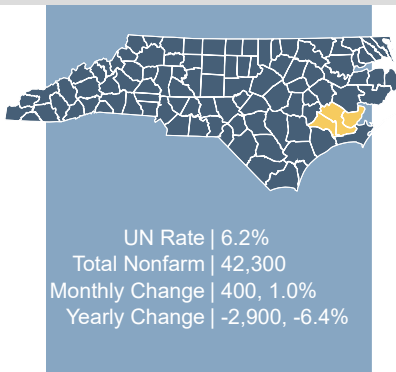
UN Rate | 6.2%
Total Nonfarm | 42,300
Monthly Change | 400, 1.0%
Yearly Change | -2,900, -6.4%

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	300	2.3%

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	-700	-4.9%

Raleigh MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | September 2020

UN Rate | 6.1%
Total Nonfarm | 605,500
Monthly Change | 7,000, 1.2%
Yearly Change | -46,800, -7.2%
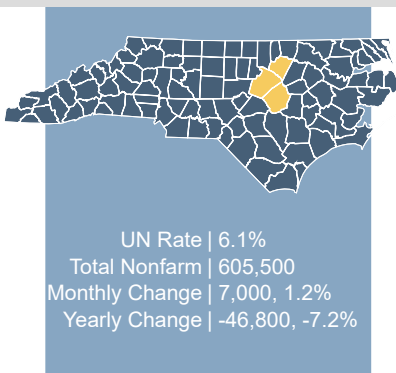
Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-0.2%
Manufacturing	100	0.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300	0.3%
Information	-200	-0.9%
Financial Activities	-100	-0.3%
Professional & Business Services	100	0.1%
Education & Health Services	2,100	3.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	0	0.0%
Other Services	-200	-0.8%
Government	5,000	5.7%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	600	1.4%
Manufacturing	-3,500	-9.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-3,200	-2.9%
Information	-800	-3.6%
Financial Activities	300	0.9%
Professional & Business Services	1,300	1.0%
Education & Health Services	-12,400	-15.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	-20,500	-28.2%
Other Services	-1,300	-5.1%
Government	-7,300	-7.3%

*Data unavailable due to sample cell size. Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All September 2020 data are preliminary.

Rocky Mount MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | September 2020
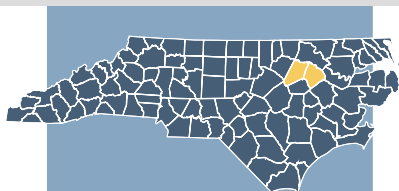
UN Rate | 9.4%
Total Nonfarm | 52,000
Monthly Change | 500, 1.0%
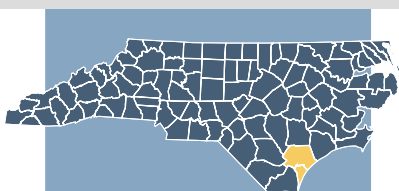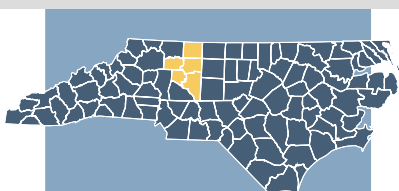Yearly Change | -4,000, -7.1%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-3.4%
Manufacturing	400	5.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-200	-1.7%
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	0	0.0%
Education & Health Services	100	1.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	-100	-2.7%
Other Services	*	
Government	500	5.9%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-3.4%
Manufacturing	-1,500	-15.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-100	-0.9%
Information	*	
Financial Activities	*	
Professional & Business Services	500	10.2%
Education & Health Services	-1,000	-14.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	-2,100	-36.8%
Other Services	*	
Government	-1,500	-14.3%

Wilmington MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | September 2020

UN Rate | 6.4%
Total Nonfarm | 123,200
Monthly Change | 1,000, 0.8%
Yearly Change | -10,600, -7.9%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-1.1%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-500	-1.9%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	200	1.2%
Education & Health Services	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	400	2.7%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Government	1,000	4.7%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-400	-4.3%
Manufacturing	900	15.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-300	-1.2%
Information	-200	-6.5%
Financial Activities	-600	-9.4%
Professional & Business Services	-500	-3.0%
Education & Health Services	-1,600	-10.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	-5,600	-27.1%
Other Services	-300	-5.3%
Government	-2,000	-8.2%

Winston-Salem MSA | Total Nonfarm Employment | September 2020

UN Rate | 6.9%
Total Nonfarm | 253,300
Monthly Change | 4,200, 1.7%
Yearly Change | -18,400, -6.8%

Over-the-Month Employment Change

Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-100	-0.9%
Manufacturing	500	1.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	400	0.9%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	900	2.7%
Education & Health Services	-200	-0.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	-200	-0.9%
Other Services	-100	-1.2%
Government	3,000	10.6%

Over-the-Year Employment Change

| Industry	Change	
Mining, Logging & Construction	-1,100	-9.5%
Manufacturing	-1,600	-4.8%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-1,000	-2.1%
Information	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	-100	-0.7%
Professional & Business Services	-3,000	-8.1%
Education & Health Services	-4,300	-7.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	-6,300	-21.6%
Other Services	-700	-7.8%
Government	-300	-0.9%

*Data unavailable due to sample cell size. Note: All data are Not Seasonally Adjusted. All September 2020 data are preliminary.

Over the month, all of North Carolina's 15 MSAs experienced net job growth. Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC had the largest net employment increase with 9,400, followed by Raleigh, 7,000; Greensboro/High Point, 5,900; Durham/Chapel Hill, 5,100; and Winston-Salem, 4,200. Greenville had the greatest percentage increase at 2.6 percent, followed by Goldsboro, 2.2%, Fayetteville, 1.9%, and Greensboro/High Point, 1.8%. 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 decreased in all 15 MSAs. Charlotte/Concord/Gastonia, NC-SC had the largest net employment decrease at 82,800, followed by Raleigh, 46,800; Greensboro/High Point, 27,600; Durham/Chapel Hill; 20,800; and Asheville, 20,500. Asheville had the greatest percentage decrease at 10.3 percent, followed by Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton, 9.3 percent; Fayetteville, 8.4 percent; and Greenville, 8.2 percent.

North Carolina Unemployment Rates by County
September 2020

September 2020

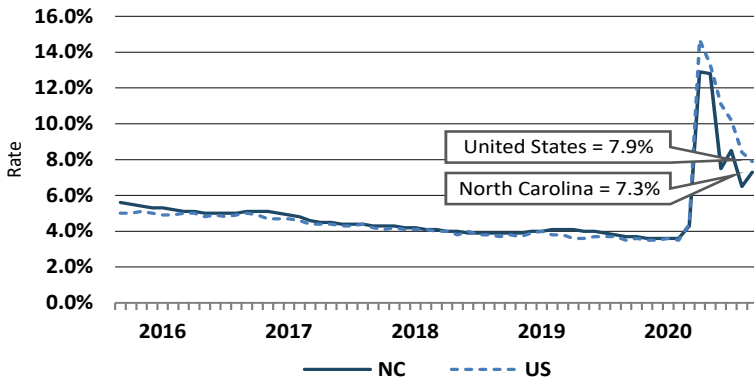|	
	2.0 - 3.9
	4.0 - 5.9
	6.0 - 7.9
	8.0 - 9.9
	10.0 - 14.9
	15.0 - 24.9
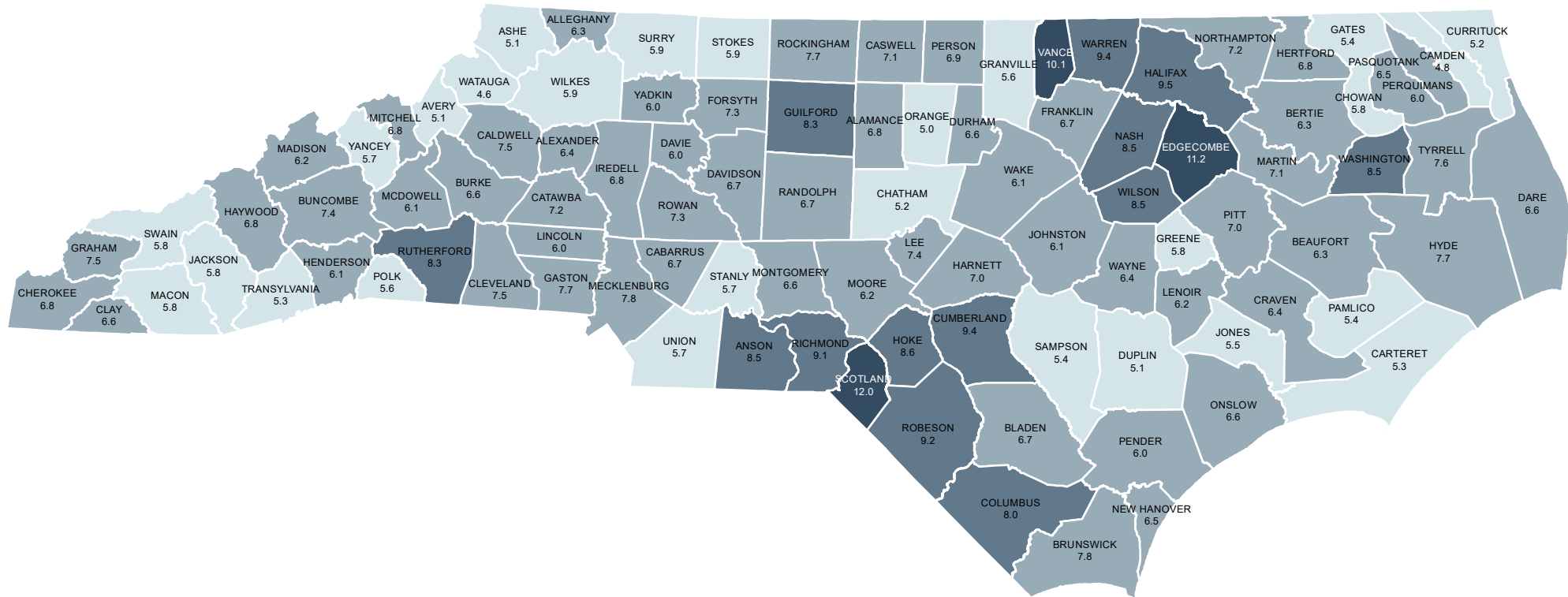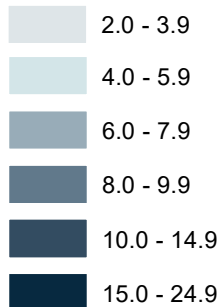
ʌ 95   Counties Higher Than Previous Month

ᵥ 3   Counties Lower Than Previous Month

= 2   County Same as Previous Month

North Carolina Rate 7.0%
Not Seasonally Adjusted

Note: September 2020 data are preliminary.
Prepared by the Labor & Economic Analysis, North Carolina Department of Commerce 10_2020

NC T⊙DΔY

Monthly Dashboard*

North Carolina recorded a fifth consecutive month of job growth in September. The unemployment rate increased over the month, alongside a gain in labor force participation, but initial claims for unemployment insurance continued to decline. Business contacts surveyed by the Richmond Fed expect conditions in the Carolinas to continue improving over the next six months.

NC 7.3%   **US** 7.9%

Unemployment Rate Change
↑ 0.8   ↓ 0.5

Change in Employed
↑ 38,683 (0.9%)   ↑ 275,000 (0.2%)

Change in Unemployed
↑ 44,278 (14.2%)   ↓ 970,000 (7.2%)

Labor Force Participation Rate
↑ 0.9 to 58.7%   ↓ 0.3 to 61.4%

Unemployment Rate Trend

Rate

16.0%
14.0%
12.0%
10.0%
8.0%
6.0%
4.0%
2.0%
0.0%

2016 2017 2018 2019 2020

United States = 7.9%
North Carolina = 7.3%

—— NC   ---- US

NC 1.7 percentage points from 5.6% in September 2015

US 2.9 percentage points from 5% in September 2015

Data

Industry Employment
4,316,200 Total Nonfarm Jobs
↑ 48,100 over the month
↓ 267,400 over the year

Initial UI Claims
60,881 Individuals Filing
↓ 4,467 over the month
↑ 47,234 over the year
Source: US Dept. of Labor, ETA

Real Taxable Retail Sales
↓ $434.4M over the month
↑ $721.7M over the year
Source: NC Dept. of Revenue
Note: August 2020 data most current available at time of release.

Residential Building Permits
↑ 4.1% over the month
↑ 8.8% over the year
Source: United States Census Bureau
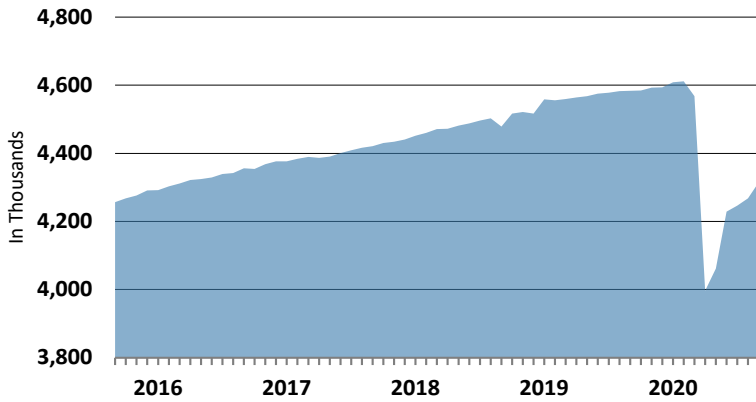Note: Includes multiple-unit housing.

Job Postings
↓ 2.9% over the month
↓ 11.7% over the year
Source: LEAD; The Conference Board
Note: August 2020 data most current available at time of release.
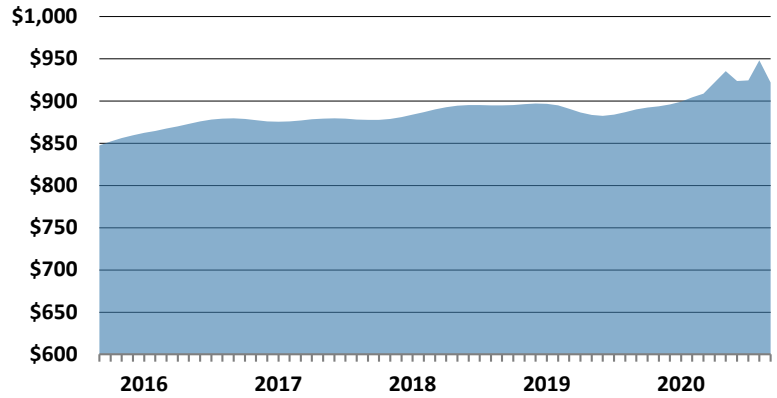
Manufacturing Hours Worked
↓ 1.9% over the month
↑ 1.0% over the year
Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted

Unemployment Rate Comparison

4.0 5.0 6.6 7.9 8.9 13.2

West Virginia 8.6 ↓
Virginia 6.2 ↑
Tennessee 6.3 ↓
North Carolina 7.3 ↑
South Carolina 5.1 ↓
Alabama 6.6 ↑
Georgia 6.4 ↑
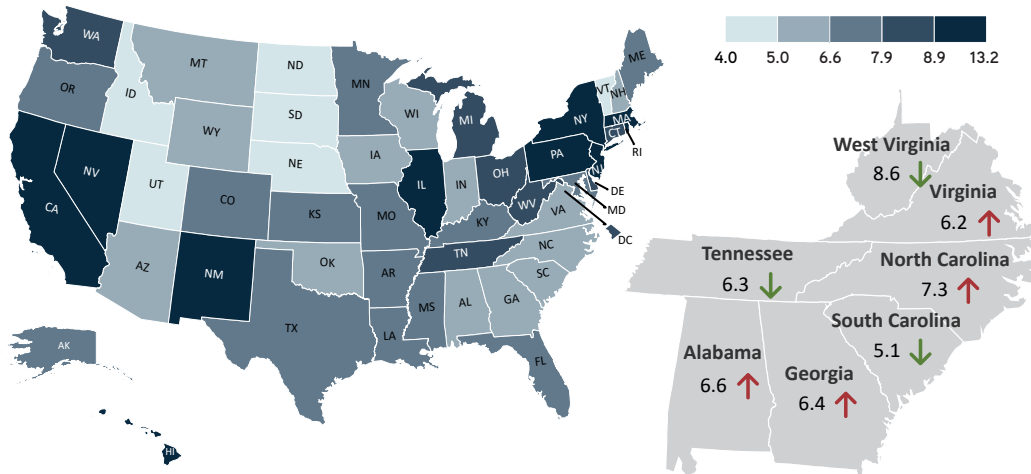
Expected Future Business Conditions

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.

Diffusion Index

80.0
60.0
40.0
20.0
0.0
-20.0
-40.0

2016 2017 2018 2019 2020
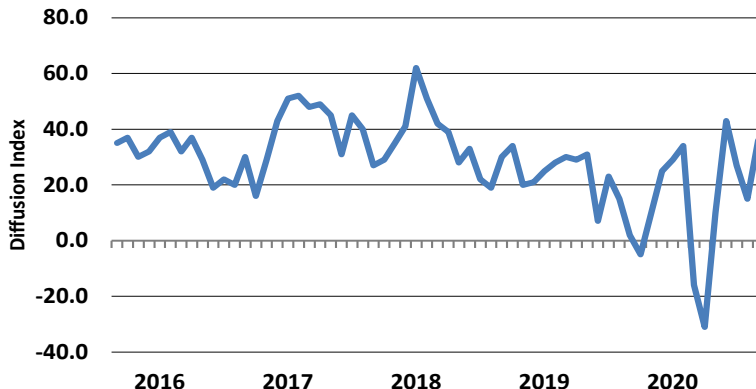
Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Carolinas Survey of Business Activity. Not seasonally adjusted.

*All data produced in this publication are based off September 2020 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.
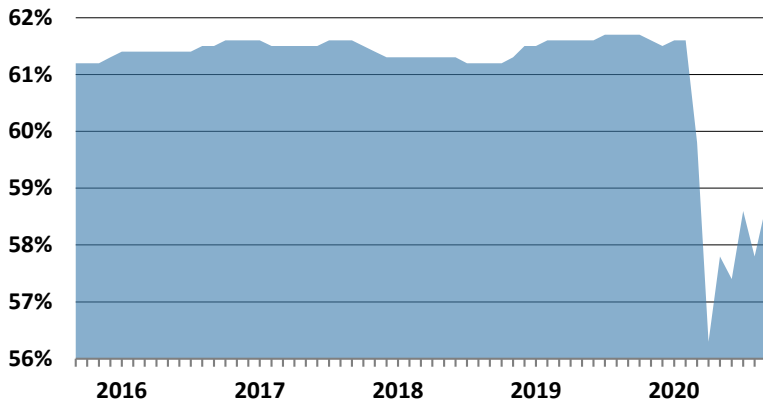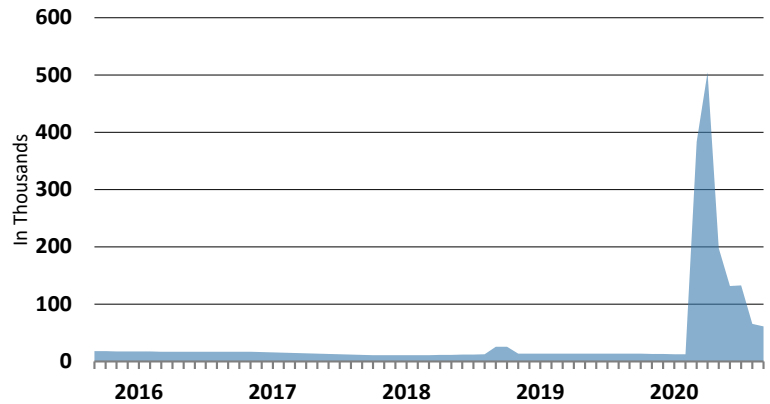
Total Nonfarm Jobs

In Thousands

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

2016 2017 2018 2019 2020

Average Real Weekly Earnings (Private Nonfarm Sector)

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

2016 2017 2018 2019 2020

Labor Force Participation Rate

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

2016 2017 2018 2019 2020

Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims

In Thousands

600
500
400
300
200
100
0

2016 2017 2018 2019 2020

Source: US Dept. of Labor, ETA

Residential Building Permits

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

2016 2017 2018 2019 2020
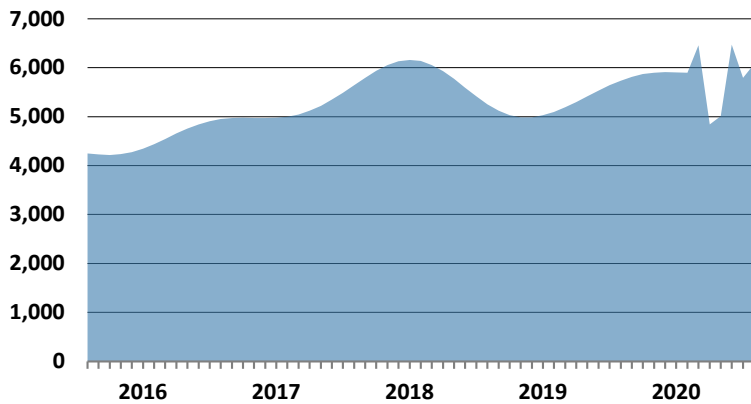
Source: United States Census Bureau
Note: Includes multiple-unit housing.

Real Taxable Retail Sales

In Millions

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

2016 2017 2018 2019 2020
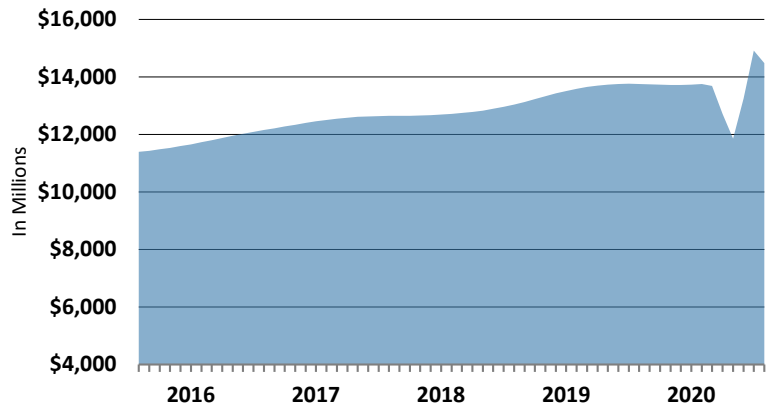
Source: NC Dept. of Revenue
Note: August 2020 data most current available at time of release.

Unemployment Rate By County (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

2.0 3.9 5.9 7.9 9.9 14.9 24.9
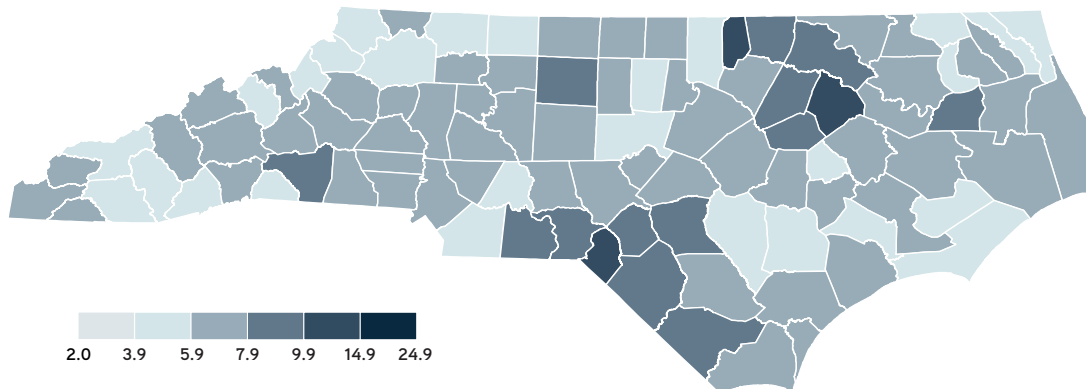
Lowest	
Watauga	4.6%
Camden	4.8%
Orange	5.0%
Duplin	5.1%
Ashe	5.1%

Highest	
Scotland	12.0%
Edgecombe	11.2%
Vance	10.1%
Halifax	9.5%
Warren	9.4%

*All data produced in this publication are based off September 2020 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.