



*For Immediate Release:* February 1, 2023  
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## North Carolina’s December County and Area Employment Figures Released

**RALEIGH** — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 96 of North Carolina’s counties in December and increased in four. Tyrell County had the highest unemployment rate at 7.1 percent while Buncombe, Greene, Orange, and Watauga Counties each had the lowest at 2.5 percent. All fifteen of the state’s metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 5.2 percent while Asheville had the lowest at 2.5 percent. The December not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.2 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
<b>December</b>	90	10	0
<b>November (Revised)</b>	84	16	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 47 counties, decreased in 30, and remained unchanged in 23. Five of the state’s metro areas experienced rate increases over the year, four decreased, and six remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in December by 2,607 to 4,926,333, while those unemployed decreased by 29,503 to 163,346. Since December 2021, the number of workers employed statewide increased 93,639, while those unemployed increased 2,676.

It is important to note that employment estimates are subject to large seasonal patterns; therefore, it is advisable to focus on over-the-year changes in the not seasonally adjusted estimates.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Monday, March 13, 2023 when the state unemployment rate for January 2023 will be released.

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

## NORTH CAROLINA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

*Preliminary Statewide and County Data for  
December 2022*

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,089,679	163,346	3.2				
ALAMANCE	82,464	2,626	3.2	JOHNSTON	106,807	2,983	2.8
ALEXANDER	17,740	498	2.8	JONES	4,201	128	3.0
ALLEGHANY	4,357	252	5.8	LEE	26,120	962	3.7
ANSON	10,069	403	4.0	LENOIR	26,887	841	3.1
ASHE	13,017	356	2.7	LINCOLN	45,783	1,210	2.6
AVERY	7,405	212	2.9	MCDOWELL	19,334	600	3.1
BEAUFORT	19,631	664	3.4	MACON	15,442	453	2.9
BERTIE	7,219	305	4.2	MADISON	9,818	286	2.9
BLADEN	13,814	591	4.3	MARTIN	8,500	318	3.7
BRUNSWICK	53,875	2,338	4.3	MECKLENBURG	645,296	20,474	3.2
BUNCOMBE	138,278	3,392	2.5	MITCHELL	5,862	219	3.7
BURKE	40,141	1,140	2.8	MONTGOMERY	11,269	343	3.0
CABARRUS	114,777	3,425	3.0	MOORE	40,664	1,246	3.1
CALDWELL	35,752	1,064	3.0	NASH	41,362	1,912	4.6
CAMDEN	4,568	139	3.0	NEW HANOVER	127,214	3,701	2.9
CARTERET	31,208	945	3.0	NORTHAMPTON	7,095	305	4.3
CASWELL	9,725	330	3.4	ONSLOW	66,437	2,484	3.7
CATAWBA	78,175	2,286	2.9	ORANGE	82,138	2,057	2.5
CHATHAM	37,637	960	2.6	PAMLICO	5,340	159	3.0
CHEROKEE	10,743	400	3.7	PASQUOTANK	16,339	633	3.9
CHOWAN	5,838	212	3.6	PENDER	30,193	931	3.1
CLAY	3,944	133	3.4	PERQUIMANS	4,850	188	3.9
CLEVELAND	47,979	1,646	3.4	PERSON	18,979	613	3.2
COLUMBUS	22,784	900	4.0	PITT	87,708	3,082	3.5
CRAVEN	40,916	1,323	3.2	POLK	9,246	277	3.0
CUMBERLAND	127,557	6,182	4.8	RANDOLPH	65,230	2,106	3.2
CURRITUCK	14,400	427	3.0	RICHMOND	16,149	803	5.0
DARE	18,048	803	4.4	ROBESON	47,374	2,489	5.3
DAVIDSON	80,626	2,547	3.2	ROCKINGHAM	39,387	1,460	3.7
DAVIE	20,520	584	2.8	ROWAN	66,888	2,100	3.1
DUPLIN	24,030	734	3.1	RUTHERFORD	23,920	1,051	4.4
DURHAM	180,613	4,801	2.7	SAMPSON	27,771	859	3.1
EDGECOMBE	19,864	1,285	6.5	SCOTLAND	11,056	708	6.4
FORSYTH	186,568	6,040	3.2	STANLY	30,112	870	2.9
FRANKLIN	33,602	1,038	3.1	STOKES	21,353	571	2.7
GASTON	113,461	3,772	3.3	SURRY	31,416	920	2.9
GATES	5,017	141	2.8	SWAIN	7,081	190	2.7
GRAHAM	2,881	144	5.0	TRANSYLVANIA	14,367	407	2.8
GRANVILLE	30,171	790	2.6	TYRRELL	1,217	86	7.1
GREENE	9,408	235	2.5	UNION	128,688	3,442	2.7
GUILFORD	259,740	9,487	3.7	VANCE	16,579	962	5.8
HALIFAX	18,877	991	5.2	WAKE	624,474	16,302	2.6
HARNETT	54,050	1,951	3.6	WARREN	6,326	369	5.8
HAYWOOD	29,412	788	2.7	WASHINGTON	4,181	219	5.2
HENDERSON	54,057	1,412	2.6	WATAUGA	29,410	748	2.5
HERTFORD	8,426	372	4.4	WAYNE	50,754	1,710	3.4
HOKE	20,216	911	4.5	WILKES	26,455	845	3.2
HYDE	1,736	119	6.9	WILSON	32,618	1,575	4.8
IREDELL	93,505	2,755	2.9	YADKIN	17,410	474	2.7
JACKSON	19,660	600	3.1	YANCEY	8,081	228	2.8

*Not Seasonally Adjusted*

*Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.*

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

## NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

County	December 2022	November 2022	December 2021	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	December 2022	November 2022	December 2021	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.2	3.8	3.2	-0.6	0.0	JOHNSTON	2.8	3.4	2.8	-0.6	0.0
ALAMANCE	3.2	3.7	3.2	-0.5	0.0	JONES	3.0	3.8	2.8	-0.8	0.2
ALEXANDER	2.8	3.3	2.6	-0.5	0.2	LEE	3.7	4.3	3.8	-0.6	-0.1
ALLEGHANY	5.8	3.9	3.2	1.9	2.6	LENOIR	3.1	3.8	3.3	-0.7	-0.2
ANSON	4.0	4.6	4.5	-0.6	-0.5	LINCOLN	2.6	3.2	2.6	-0.6	0.0
ASHE	2.7	3.3	2.5	-0.6	0.2	MCDOWELL	3.1	3.7	2.9	-0.6	0.2
AVERY	2.9	3.2	2.6	-0.3	0.3	MACON	2.9	3.5	2.6	-0.6	0.3
BEAUFORT	3.4	3.9	3.3	-0.5	0.1	MADISON	2.9	3.5	2.7	-0.6	0.2
BERTIE	4.2	4.9	4.2	-0.7	0.0	MARTIN	3.7	4.6	3.7	-0.9	0.0
BLADEN	4.3	4.9	4.3	-0.6	0.0	MECKLENBURG	3.2	3.7	3.3	-0.5	-0.1
BRUNSWICK	4.3	4.9	4.2	-0.6	0.1	MITCHELL	3.7	4.3	3.6	-0.6	0.1
BUNCOMBE	2.5	3.0	2.6	-0.5	-0.1	MONTGOMERY	3.0	3.7	3.1	-0.7	-0.1
BURKE	2.8	3.6	2.9	-0.8	-0.1	MOORE	3.1	3.8	3.0	-0.7	0.1
CABARRUS	3.0	3.5	2.9	-0.5	0.1	NASH	4.6	5.3	4.4	-0.7	0.2
CALDWELL	3.0	3.7	3.1	-0.7	-0.1	NEW HANOVER	2.9	3.4	2.7	-0.5	0.2
CAMDEN	3.0	3.5	2.7	-0.5	0.3	NORTHAMPTON	4.3	4.8	4.3	-0.5	0.0
CARTERET	3.0	3.6	2.8	-0.6	0.2	ONSLow	3.7	4.5	3.4	-0.8	0.3
CASWELL	3.4	4.0	3.4	-0.6	0.0	ORANGE	2.5	3.0	2.2	-0.5	0.3
CATAWBA	2.9	3.6	3.0	-0.7	-0.1	PAMLICO	3.0	3.6	2.8	-0.6	0.2
CHATHAM	2.6	3.1	2.3	-0.5	0.3	PASQUOTANK	3.9	4.5	3.7	-0.6	0.2
CHEROKEE	3.7	4.2	3.2	-0.5	0.5	PENDER	3.1	3.6	2.8	-0.5	0.3
CHOWAN	3.6	4.2	3.2	-0.6	0.4	PERQUIMANS	3.9	4.6	3.8	-0.7	0.1
CLAY	3.4	4.2	3.2	-0.8	0.2	PERSON	3.2	3.9	3.3	-0.7	-0.1
CLEVELAND	3.4	4.0	3.6	-0.6	-0.2	PITT	3.5	4.1	3.4	-0.6	0.1
COLUMBUS	4.0	4.6	4.5	-0.6	-0.5	POLK	3.0	3.7	3.4	-0.7	-0.4
CrAVEN	3.2	3.9	3.0	-0.7	0.2	RANDOLPH	3.2	3.7	3.0	-0.5	0.2
CUMBERLAND	4.8	5.5	4.9	-0.7	-0.1	RICHMOND	5.0	5.7	5.5	-0.7	-0.5
CURRITUCK	3.0	3.3	2.7	-0.3	0.3	ROBESON	5.3	6.1	5.5	-0.8	-0.2
DARE	4.4	4.0	4.6	0.4	-0.2	ROCKINGHAM	3.7	4.3	3.7	-0.6	0.0
DAVIDSON	3.2	3.6	3.0	-0.4	0.2	ROWAN	3.1	3.7	3.2	-0.6	-0.1
DAVIE	2.8	3.4	2.8	-0.6	0.0	RUTHERFORD	4.4	5.2	4.6	-0.8	-0.2
DUPLIN	3.1	3.8	3.0	-0.7	0.1	SAMPSON	3.1	3.7	3.1	-0.6	0.0
DURHAM	2.7	3.2	2.7	-0.5	0.0	SCOTLAND	6.4	7.2	7.0	-0.8	-0.6
EDGEcombe	6.5	7.2	6.5	-0.7	0.0	STANLY	2.9	3.4	2.8	-0.5	0.1
FORSYTH	3.2	3.8	3.3	-0.6	-0.1	STOKES	2.7	3.3	2.7	-0.6	0.0
FRANKLIN	3.1	3.7	3.2	-0.6	-0.1	SURRY	2.9	3.5	2.8	-0.6	0.1
GASTON	3.3	3.8	3.5	-0.5	-0.2	SWAIN	2.7	3.1	3.0	-0.4	-0.3
GATES	2.8	3.5	2.7	-0.7	0.1	TRANSYLVANIA	2.8	3.6	2.6	-0.8	0.2
GRAHAM	5.0	5.2	5.8	-0.2	-0.8	TYRRELL	7.1	5.3	6.4	1.8	0.7
GRANVILLE	2.6	3.2	2.6	-0.6	0.0	UNION	2.7	3.2	2.6	-0.5	0.1
GREENE	2.5	3.1	2.8	-0.6	-0.3	VANCE	5.8	6.6	5.7	-0.8	0.1
GUILFORD	3.7	4.2	3.8	-0.5	-0.1	WAKE	2.6	3.1	2.6	-0.5	0.0
HALIFAX	5.2	6.1	5.3	-0.9	-0.1	WARREN	5.8	6.7	5.6	-0.9	0.2
HARNETT	3.6	4.2	3.6	-0.6	0.0	WASHINGTON	5.2	5.9	5.0	-0.7	0.2
HAYWOOD	2.7	3.2	2.7	-0.5	0.0	WATAUGA	2.5	3.2	2.3	-0.7	0.2
HENDERSON	2.6	3.2	2.6	-0.6	0.0	WAYNE	3.4	4.0	3.4	-0.6	0.0
HERTFORD	4.4	5.4	4.7	-1.0	-0.3	WILKES	3.2	3.9	3.1	-0.7	0.1
HOKE	4.5	5.3	4.5	-0.8	0.0	WILSON	4.8	5.6	4.8	-0.8	0.0
HYDE	6.9	5.0	6.0	1.9	0.9	YADKIN	2.7	3.5	2.7	-0.8	0.0
IREDELL	2.9	3.5	3.0	-0.6	-0.1	YANCEY	2.8	3.5	2.7	-0.7	0.1
JACKSON	3.1	3.7	2.9	-0.6	0.2						

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**METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS  
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**

*Preliminary Data for  
December 2022*

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	231,565	5,878	2.5
BURLINGTON	82,464	2,626	3.2
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,414,791	43,330	3.1
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	319,367	8,431	2.6
FAYETTEVILLE	147,773	7,093	4.8
GOLDSBORO	50,754	1,710	3.4
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	364,357	13,053	3.6
GREENVILLE	87,708	3,082	3.5
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	171,808	4,988	2.9
JACKSONVILLE	66,437	2,484	3.7
NEW BERN	50,457	1,610	3.2
RALEIGH	764,883	20,323	2.7
ROCKY MOUNT	61,226	3,197	5.2
WILMINGTON	157,407	4,632	2.9
WINSTON-SALEM	326,477	10,216	3.1

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	30,112	870	2.9
BOONE	29,410	748	2.5
BREVARD	14,367	407	2.8
CULLOWHEE	19,660	600	3.1
DUNN	54,050	1,951	3.6
ELIZABETH CITY	25,757	960	3.7
FOREST CITY	23,920	1,051	4.4
HENDERSON	16,579	962	5.8
KILL DEVIL HILLS	19,265	889	4.6
KINSTON	26,887	841	3.1
LAURINBURG	11,056	708	6.4
LUMBERTON	47,374	2,489	5.3
MARION	19,334	600	3.1
MOREHEAD CITY	31,208	945	3.0
MOUNT AIRY	31,416	920	2.9
NORTH WILKESBORO	26,455	845	3.2
OXFORD	30,171	790	2.6
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	40,664	1,246	3.1
ROANOKE RAPIDS	25,972	1,296	5.0
ROCKINGHAM	16,149	803	5.0
SANFORD	26,120	962	3.7
SHELBY	47,979	1,646	3.4
WASHINGTON	19,631	664	3.4
WILSON	32,618	1,575	4.8

**COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS  
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**

*Preliminary Data for  
December 2022*

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	245,932	6,285	2.6
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,492,882	45,846	3.1
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	206,203	10,290	5.0
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	804,714	26,815	3.3
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	107,339	3,746	3.5
HICKORY-LENOIR	191,142	5,588	2.9
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	81,665	2,555	3.1
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	1,211,170	33,419	2.8
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	119,816	6,068	5.1

*Not Seasonally Adjusted*

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

Metropolitan Statistical Area	December 2022	November 2022	December 2021	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	2.5	3.1	2.6	-0.6	-0.1
BURLINGTON	3.2	3.7	3.2	-0.5	0.0
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.1	3.5	3.2	-0.4	-0.1
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	2.6	3.2	2.6	-0.6	0.0
FAYETTEVILLE	4.8	5.5	4.8	-0.7	0.0
GOLDSBORO	3.4	4.0	3.4	-0.6	0.0
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	3.6	4.1	3.7	-0.5	-0.1
GREENVILLE	3.5	4.1	3.4	-0.6	0.1
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	2.9	3.6	3.0	-0.7	-0.1
JACKSONVILLE	3.7	4.5	3.4	-0.8	0.3
NEW BERN	3.2	3.8	3.0	-0.6	0.2
RALEIGH	2.7	3.2	2.7	-0.5	0.0
ROCKY MOUNT	5.2	5.9	5.1	-0.7	0.1
WILMINGTON	2.9	3.4	2.7	-0.5	0.2
WINSTON-SALEM	3.1	3.7	3.1	-0.6	0.0

Micropolitan Statistical Area	December 2022	November 2022	December 2021	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	2.9	3.4	2.8	-0.5	0.1
BOONE	2.5	3.2	2.3	-0.7	0.2
BREVARD	2.8	3.6	2.6	-0.8	0.2
CULLOWHEE	3.1	3.7	2.9	-0.6	0.2
DUNN	3.6	4.2	3.6	-0.6	0.0
ELIZABETH CITY	3.7	4.4	3.5	-0.7	0.2
FOREST CITY	4.4	5.2	4.6	-0.8	-0.2
HENDERSON	5.8	6.6	5.7	-0.8	0.1
KILL DEVIL HILLS	4.6	4.1	4.7	0.5	-0.1
KINSTON	3.1	3.8	3.3	-0.7	-0.2
LAURINBURG	6.4	7.2	7.0	-0.8	-0.6
LUMBERTON	5.3	6.1	5.5	-0.8	-0.2
MARION	3.1	3.7	2.9	-0.6	0.2
MOREHEAD CITY	3.0	3.6	2.8	-0.6	0.2
MOUNT AIRY	2.9	3.5	2.8	-0.6	0.1
NORTH WILKESBORO	3.2	3.9	3.1	-0.7	0.1
OXFORD	2.6	3.2	2.6	-0.6	0.0
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.1	3.8	3.0	-0.7	0.1
ROANOKE RAPIDS	5.0	5.7	5.1	-0.7	-0.1
ROCKINGHAM	5.0	5.7	5.5	-0.7	-0.5
SANFORD	3.7	4.3	3.8	-0.6	-0.1
SHELBY	3.4	4.0	3.6	-0.6	-0.2
WASHINGTON	3.4	3.9	3.3	-0.5	0.1
WILSON	4.8	5.6	4.8	-0.8	0.0

**COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS  
MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES**

Combined Statistical Area	December 2022	November 2022	December 2021	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	2.6	3.1	2.6	-0.5	0.0
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.1	3.5	3.2	-0.4	-0.1
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	5.0	5.7	5.1	-0.7	-0.1
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	3.3	3.9	3.3	-0.6	0.0
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	3.5	4.1	3.4	-0.6	0.1
HICKORY-LENOIR	2.9	3.6	3.0	-0.7	-0.1
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.1	3.7	2.9	-0.6	0.2
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	2.8	3.3	2.7	-0.5	0.1
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	5.1	5.8	5.0	-0.7	0.1

*Not Seasonally Adjusted*

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**NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY RANKINGS**  
Preliminary Data for December 2022

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
BUNCOMBE	138,278	3,392	2.5%	1	MECKLENBURG	645,296	20,474	3.2%	51
GREENE	9,408	235	2.5%	2	ALAMANCE	82,464	2,626	3.2%	52
ORANGE	82,138	2,057	2.5%	3	WILKES	26,455	845	3.2%	53
WATAUGA	29,410	748	2.5%	4	RANDOLPH	65,230	2,106	3.2%	54
CHATHAM	37,637	960	2.6%	5	PERSON	18,979	613	3.2%	55
WAKE	624,474	16,302	2.6%	6	CRAVEN	40,916	1,323	3.2%	56
HENDERSON	54,057	1,412	2.6%	7	FORSYTH	186,568	6,040	3.2%	57
GRANVILLE	30,171	790	2.6%	8	GASTON	113,461	3,772	3.3%	58
LINCOLN	45,783	1,210	2.6%	9	WAYNE	50,754	1,710	3.4%	59
DURHAM	180,613	4,801	2.7%	10	CLAY	3,944	133	3.4%	60
STOKES	21,353	571	2.7%	11	BEAUFORT	19,631	664	3.4%	61
UNION	128,688	3,442	2.7%	12	CASWELL	9,725	330	3.4%	62
HAYWOOD	29,412	788	2.7%	13	CLEVELAND	47,979	1,646	3.4%	63
SWAIN	7,081	190	2.7%	14	PITT	87,708	3,082	3.5%	64
YADKIN	17,410	474	2.7%	15	HARNETT	54,050	1,951	3.6%	65
ASHE	13,017	356	2.7%	16	CHOWAN	5,838	212	3.6%	66
JOHNSTON	106,807	2,983	2.8%	17	GUILFORD	259,740	9,487	3.7%	67
ALEXANDER	17,740	498	2.8%	18	LEE	26,120	962	3.7%	68
GATES	5,017	141	2.8%	19	ROCKINGHAM	39,387	1,460	3.7%	69
YANCEY	8,081	228	2.8%	20	CHEROKEE	10,743	400	3.7%	70
TRANSYLVANIA	14,367	407	2.8%	21	MITCHELL	5,862	219	3.7%	71
BURKE	40,141	1,140	2.8%	22	ONSLOW	66,437	2,484	3.7%	72
DAVIE	20,520	584	2.8%	23	MARTIN	8,500	318	3.7%	73
AVERY	7,405	212	2.9%	24	PASQUOTANK	16,339	633	3.9%	74
STANLY	30,112	870	2.9%	25	PERQUIMANS	4,850	188	3.9%	75
NEW HANOVER	127,214	3,701	2.9%	26	COLUMBUS	22,784	900	4.0%	76
MADISON	9,818	286	2.9%	27	ANSON	10,069	403	4.0%	77
CATAWBA	78,175	2,286	2.9%	28	BERTIE	7,219	305	4.2%	78
SURRY	31,416	920	2.9%	29	BLADEN	13,814	591	4.3%	79
MACON	15,442	453	2.9%	30	NORTHAMPTON	7,095	305	4.3%	80
IREDELL	93,505	2,755	2.9%	31	BRUNSWICK	53,875	2,338	4.3%	81
CURRITUCK	14,400	427	3.0%	32	RUTHERFORD	23,920	1,051	4.4%	82
CALDWELL	35,752	1,064	3.0%	33	HERTFORD	8,426	372	4.4%	83
PAMLICO	5,340	159	3.0%	34	DARE	18,048	803	4.4%	84
CABARRUS	114,777	3,425	3.0%	35	HOKE	20,216	911	4.5%	85
POLK	9,246	277	3.0%	36	NASH	41,362	1,912	4.6%	86
CARTERET	31,208	945	3.0%	37	WILSON	32,618	1,575	4.8%	87
CAMDEN	4,568	139	3.0%	38	CUMBERLAND	127,557	6,182	4.8%	88
MONTGOMERY	11,269	343	3.0%	39	RICHMOND	16,149	803	5.0%	89
JONES	4,201	128	3.0%	40	GRAHAM	2,881	144	5.0%	90
JACKSON	19,660	600	3.1%	41	WASHINGTON	4,181	219	5.2%	91
DUPLIN	24,030	734	3.1%	42	HALIFAX	18,877	991	5.2%	92
MOORE	40,664	1,246	3.1%	43	ROBESON	47,374	2,489	5.3%	93
PENDER	30,193	931	3.1%	44	ALLEGHANY	4,357	252	5.8%	94
FRANKLIN	33,602	1,038	3.1%	45	VANCE	16,579	962	5.8%	95
SAMPSON	27,771	859	3.1%	46	WARREN	6,326	369	5.8%	96
MCDOWELL	19,334	600	3.1%	47	SCOTLAND	11,056	708	6.4%	97
LENOIR	26,887	841	3.1%	48	EDGECOMBE	19,864	1,285	6.5%	98
ROWAN	66,888	2,100	3.1%	49	HYDE	1,736	119	6.9%	99
DAVIDSON	80,626	2,547	3.2%	50	TYRRELL	1,217	86	7.1%	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 2021, utilizes data from several sources, including the CPS, Current Employment Statistics (CES), and state unemployment insurance (UI) programs. Substate estimates are produced using the "LAUS Handbook Method", which is also based on data from several sources. Each month, census division estimates are controlled to national totals, and state estimates are then controlled to their respective division totals. Substate estimates are controlled to their respective state totals. For more information about LAUS estimation procedures, see the BLS website at <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/lau/calculation.htm>.

**Revisions.** Labor force and unemployment data for the previous month reflect adjustments made in each subsequent month, while data for prior years reflect adjustments made at the end of each year. The monthly revisions incorporate updated model inputs, while the annually revised estimates reflect updated population data from the U.S. Census Bureau, any revisions in the other data sources, and model reestimation.

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

### **Release Dates**

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Monday, March 13, 2023 when the state unemployment rate for January 2023 will be released.

The complete 2023 data release schedule can be accessed at:

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