



*For Immediate Release: March 21, 2025
For More Information, Contact: David Rhoades/919.814.4611*

North Carolina’s January County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 99 counties in January 2025 and remained unchanged in one. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.3 percent while Camden County had the lowest at 3.0 percent. All fifteen of the state’s metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the metro areas, Asheville had the highest rate at 6.0 percent while Raleigh had the lowest at 3.2 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.0 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
January	80	20	0
December (Revised)	94	6	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 69 counties, decreased in 18, and remained unchanged in 13. Nine metro areas experienced rate increases over the year, two decreased, and four remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in January by 10,772 to 5,077,982, while those unemployed increased by 31,684 to 209,884. Since January 2024, the number of workers employed statewide increased 25,816, while those unemployed increased 14,733.

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, March 28, 2025 when the statewide unemployment rate for February 2025 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
January 2025*

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,287,866	209,884	4.0				
ALAMANCE	86,370	3,267	3.8	JOHNSTON	128,268	4,161	3.2
ALEXANDER	16,155	639	4.0	JONES	3,866	158	4.1
ALLEGHANY	4,569	193	4.2	LEE	30,934	1,155	3.7
ANSON	8,908	419	4.7	LENOIR	24,555	982	4.0
ASHE	12,321	479	3.9	LINCOLN	48,099	1,677	3.5
AVERY	7,536	399	5.3	MCDOWELL	19,000	1,000	5.3
BEAUFORT	19,106	708	3.7	MACON	16,442	659	4.0
BERTIE	5,966	321	5.4	MADISON	10,997	694	6.3
BLADEN	11,885	621	5.2	MARTIN	9,105	392	4.3
BRUNSWICK	66,049	3,069	4.6	MECKLENBURG	659,242	26,132	4.0
BUNCOMBE	144,990	9,813	6.8	MITCHELL	7,158	525	7.3
BURKE	40,227	1,732	4.3	MONTGOMERY	10,455	432	4.1
CABARRUS	125,617	4,586	3.7	MOORE	44,464	1,594	3.6
CALDWELL	36,668	1,455	4.0	NASH	42,586	2,043	4.8
CAMDEN	5,410	160	3.0	NEW HANOVER	124,198	4,520	3.6
CARTERET	31,230	1,227	3.9	NORTHAMPTON	6,500	330	5.1
CASWELL	9,971	342	3.4	ONSLow	73,960	2,983	4.0
CATAWBA	77,835	2,952	3.8	ORANGE	77,996	2,553	3.3
CHATHAM	39,496	1,311	3.3	PAMLICO	4,653	202	4.3
CHEROKEE	11,151	455	4.1	PASQUOTANK	18,079	769	4.3
CHOWAN	6,373	233	3.7	PENDER	31,491	1,142	3.6
CLAY	4,707	169	3.6	PERQUIMANS	5,700	240	4.2
CLEVELAND	45,704	1,994	4.4	PERSON	20,314	728	3.6
COLUMBUS	19,964	923	4.6	PITT	83,660	3,397	4.1
CRAVEN	41,751	1,668	4.0	POLK	9,540	377	4.0
CUMBERLAND	133,024	6,564	4.9	RANDOLPH	67,167	2,471	3.7
CURRITUCK	16,339	555	3.4	RICHMOND	19,238	845	4.4
DARE	17,378	1,227	7.1	ROBESON	45,621	2,409	5.3
DAVIDSON	80,785	3,136	3.9	ROCKINGHAM	40,049	1,665	4.2
DAVIE	20,770	719	3.5	ROWAN	71,700	2,721	3.8
DUPLIN	22,623	763	3.4	RUTHERFORD	26,427	1,473	5.6
DURHAM	185,795	6,238	3.4	SAMPSON	24,160	1,056	4.4
EDGECOMBE	20,556	1,136	5.5	SCOTLAND	13,114	750	5.7
FORSYTH	185,995	7,312	3.9	STANLY	34,344	1,089	3.2
FRANKLIN	39,278	1,373	3.5	STOKES	20,556	767	3.7
GASTON	117,658	4,686	4.0	SURRY	32,559	1,158	3.6
GATES	4,525	158	3.5	SWAIN	6,253	284	4.5
GRAHAM	3,449	153	4.4	TRANSYLVANIA	13,986	574	4.1
GRANVILLE	29,050	1,071	3.7	TYRRELL	1,267	80	6.3
GREENE	8,684	293	3.4	UNION	133,457	4,493	3.4
GUILFORD	264,533	11,428	4.3	VANCE	18,714	874	4.7
HALIFAX	18,288	976	5.3	WAKE	681,875	21,920	3.2
HARNETT	59,187	2,371	4.0	WARREN	7,131	368	5.2
HAYWOOD	29,774	1,319	4.4	WASHINGTON	3,941	200	5.1
HENDERSON	58,003	2,320	4.0	WATAUGA	27,641	1,071	3.9
HERTFORD	8,384	355	4.2	WAYNE	51,629	1,947	3.8
HOKE	20,789	947	4.6	WILKES	25,810	1,069	4.1
HYDE	1,603	133	8.3	WILSON	34,736	1,770	5.1
IREDELL	103,679	3,695	3.6	YADKIN	17,259	581	3.4
JACKSON	19,205	830	4.3	YANCEY	8,648	506	5.9

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates are 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	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	4.0	3.4	3.7	0.6	0.3						
ALAMANCE	3.8	3.2	3.6	0.6	0.2	JOHNSTON	3.2	2.8	3.1	0.4	0.1
ALEXANDER	4.0	3.5	3.9	0.5	0.1	JONES	4.1	3.6	3.4	0.5	0.7
ALLEGHANY	4.2	3.3	4.4	0.9	-0.2	LEE	3.7	3.2	3.9	0.5	-0.2
ANSON	4.7	4.0	4.5	0.7	0.2	LENOIR	4.0	3.4	4.0	0.6	0.0
ASHE	3.9	3.1	3.3	0.8	0.6	LINCOLN	3.5	3.0	3.4	0.5	0.1
AVERY	5.3	5.3	3.6	0.0	1.7	MCDOWELL	5.3	4.7	3.5	0.6	1.8
BEAUFORT	3.7	3.2	4.2	0.5	-0.5	MACON	4.0	3.0	3.6	1.0	0.4
BERTIE	5.4	4.6	5.1	0.8	0.3	MADISON	6.3	5.6	3.0	0.7	3.3
BLADEN	5.2	4.5	5.3	0.7	-0.1	MARTIN	4.3	3.7	4.6	0.6	-0.3
BRUNSWICK	4.6	3.8	4.6	0.8	0.0	MECKLENBURG	4.0	3.4	3.9	0.6	0.1
BUNCOMBE	6.8	6.0	3.0	0.8	3.8	MITCHELL	7.3	6.5	3.2	0.8	4.1
BURKE	4.3	3.7	3.3	0.6	1.0	MONTGOMERY	4.1	3.5	4.1	0.6	0.0
CABARRUS	3.7	3.1	3.5	0.6	0.2	MOORE	3.6	3.1	3.6	0.5	0.0
CALDWELL	4.0	3.3	3.5	0.7	0.5	NASH	4.8	4.1	4.7	0.7	0.1
CAMDEN	3.0	2.6	3.0	0.4	0.0	NEW HANOVER	3.6	3.0	3.7	0.6	-0.1
CARTERET	3.9	3.1	3.8	0.8	0.1	NORTHAMPTON	5.1	4.5	4.4	0.6	0.7
CASWELL	3.4	3.0	4.1	0.4	-0.7	ONSLow	4.0	3.4	3.9	0.6	0.1
CATAWBA	3.8	3.2	3.6	0.6	0.2	ORANGE	3.3	2.9	3.0	0.4	0.3
CHATHAM	3.3	2.8	3.3	0.5	0.0	PAMLICO	4.3	3.9	4.2	0.4	0.1
CHEROKEE	4.1	3.3	4.2	0.8	-0.1	PASQUOTANK	4.3	3.5	4.0	0.8	0.3
CHOWAN	3.7	3.1	3.7	0.6	0.0	PENDER	3.6	3.0	3.5	0.6	0.1
CLAY	3.6	2.9	3.7	0.7	-0.1	PERQUIMANS	4.2	3.5	4.0	0.7	0.2
CLEVELAND	4.4	3.7	3.9	0.7	0.5	PERSON	3.6	3.0	3.4	0.6	0.2
COLUMBUS	4.6	3.9	4.8	0.7	-0.2	PITT	4.1	3.6	4.2	0.5	-0.1
Craven	4.0	3.4	3.8	0.6	0.2	POLK	4.0	3.5	3.1	0.5	0.9
CUMBERLAND	4.9	4.2	4.7	0.7	0.2	RANDOLPH	3.7	3.2	3.7	0.5	0.0
CURRITUCK	3.4	2.6	3.2	0.8	0.2	RICHMOND	4.4	3.9	4.1	0.5	0.3
DARE	7.1	3.9	7.0	3.2	0.1	ROBESON	5.3	4.6	5.3	0.7	0.0
DAVIDSON	3.9	3.3	3.7	0.6	0.2	ROCKINGHAM	4.2	3.5	4.0	0.7	0.2
DAVIE	3.5	2.9	3.3	0.6	0.2	ROWAN	3.8	3.2	3.6	0.6	0.2
DUPLIN	3.4	3.0	3.2	0.4	0.2	RUTHERFORD	5.6	4.7	4.3	0.9	1.3
DURHAM	3.4	2.9	3.3	0.5	0.1	SAMPSON	4.4	3.6	4.2	0.8	0.2
EDGEcombe	5.5	4.6	5.7	0.9	-0.2	SCOTLAND	5.7	4.8	5.6	0.9	0.1
FORSYTH	3.9	3.4	3.8	0.5	0.1	STANLY	3.2	2.7	3.1	0.5	0.1
FRANKLIN	3.5	3.0	3.3	0.5	0.2	STOKES	3.7	3.1	3.4	0.6	0.3
GASTON	4.0	3.4	3.7	0.6	0.3	SURRY	3.6	3.0	3.3	0.6	0.3
GATES	3.5	3.1	3.6	0.4	-0.1	SWAIN	4.5	3.2	4.0	1.3	0.5
GRAHAM	4.4	3.6	4.0	0.8	0.4	TRANSYLVANIA	4.1	3.4	3.5	0.7	0.6
GRANVILLE	3.7	3.1	3.6	0.6	0.1	TYRRELL	6.3	3.8	7.9	2.5	-1.6
GREENE	3.4	3.1	3.1	0.3	0.3	UNION	3.4	2.9	3.2	0.5	0.2
GUILFORD	4.3	3.8	4.2	0.5	0.1	VANCE	4.7	3.9	4.6	0.8	0.1
HALIFAX	5.3	4.6	5.7	0.7	-0.4	WAKE	3.2	2.8	3.2	0.4	0.0
HARNETT	4.0	3.4	4.0	0.6	0.0	WARREN	5.2	4.5	5.0	0.7	0.2
HAYWOOD	4.4	3.9	3.5	0.5	0.9	WASHINGTON	5.1	4.1	5.2	1.0	-0.1
HENDERSON	4.0	3.4	2.9	0.6	1.1	WATAUGA	3.9	3.5	3.1	0.4	0.8
HERTFORD	4.2	3.9	4.2	0.3	0.0	WAYNE	3.8	3.3	3.9	0.5	-0.1
HOKE	4.6	3.8	4.5	0.8	0.1	WILKES	4.1	3.4	3.9	0.7	0.2
HYDE	8.3	5.2	9.9	3.1	-1.6	WILSON	5.1	4.3	5.1	0.8	0.0
IREDELL	3.6	3.1	3.4	0.5	0.2	YADKIN	3.4	2.8	3.2	0.6	0.2
JACKSON	4.3	3.4	3.7	0.9	0.6	YANCEY	5.9	5.2	3.4	0.7	2.5

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates are 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
January 2025*

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	213,990	12,827	6.0
BURLINGTON	86,370	3,267	3.8
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,487,000	57,775	3.9
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	323,601	10,830	3.3
FAYETTEVILLE	153,813	7,511	4.9
GOLDSBORO	51,629	1,947	3.8
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	371,749	15,564	4.2
GREENVILLE	83,660	3,397	4.1
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	170,885	6,778	4.0
JACKSONVILLE	73,960	2,983	4.0
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	44,464	1,594	3.6
RALEIGH	849,421	27,454	3.2
ROCKY MOUNT	63,142	3,179	5.0
WILMINGTON	221,738	8,731	3.9
WINSTON-SALEM	325,365	12,515	3.8

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	34,344	1,089	3.2
ANDERSON CREEK	59,187	2,371	4.0
BOONE	27,641	1,071	3.9
BREVARD	13,986	574	4.1
ELIZABETH CITY	18,079	769	4.3
FOREST CITY	26,427	1,473	5.6
HENDERSON	18,714	874	4.7
KILL DEVIL HILLS	17,378	1,227	7.1
KINSTON	24,555	982	4.0
LAURINBURG	13,114	750	5.7
LUMBERTON	45,621	2,409	5.3
MARION	19,000	1,000	5.3
MOREHEAD CITY	31,230	1,227	3.9
MOUNT AIRY	32,559	1,158	3.6
MOREHEAD CITY	50,270	2,028	4.0
NEW BERN	25,810	1,069	4.1
NORTH WILKESBORO	24,788	1,306	5.3
ROCKINGHAM	19,238	845	4.4
SANFORD	30,934	1,155	3.7
SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN	45,704	1,994	4.4
WASHINGTON	19,106	708	3.7
WAYNESVILLE	29,774	1,319	4.4
WILSON	34,736	1,770	5.1

**COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**

*Preliminary Data for
January 2025*

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD	257,750	14,720	5.7
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,756,933	68,636	3.9
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST	276,250	13,109	4.7
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	816,043	32,504	4.0
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	102,766	4,105	4.0
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	81,500	3,255	4.0
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY	1,281,857	42,684	3.3
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	122,666	6,255	5.1

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates are 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	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	6.0	5.3	3.0	0.7	3.0
BURLINGTON	3.8	3.2	3.6	0.6	0.2
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.9	3.4	3.7	0.5	0.2
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.3	2.9	3.2	0.4	0.1
FAYETTEVILLE	4.9	4.1	4.7	0.8	0.2
GOLDSBORO	3.8	3.3	3.9	0.5	-0.1
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	4.2	3.6	4.1	0.6	0.1
GREENVILLE	4.1	3.6	4.2	0.5	-0.1
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	4.0	3.4	3.5	0.6	0.5
JACKSONVILLE	4.0	3.4	3.9	0.6	0.1
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.6	3.1	3.6	0.5	0.0
RALEIGH	3.2	2.8	3.2	0.4	0.0
ROCKY MOUNT	5.0	4.3	5.0	0.7	0.0
WILMINGTON	3.9	3.2	3.9	0.7	0.0
WINSTON-SALEM	3.8	3.3	3.7	0.5	0.1

Micropolitan Statistical Area	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	3.2	2.7	3.1	0.5	0.1
ANDERSON CREEK	4.0	3.4	4.0	0.6	0.0
BOONE	3.9	3.5	3.1	0.4	0.8
BREVARD	4.1	3.4	3.5	0.7	0.6
ELIZABETH CITY	4.3	3.5	4.0	0.8	0.3
FOREST CITY	5.6	4.7	4.3	0.9	1.3
HENDERSON	4.7	3.9	4.6	0.8	0.1
KILL DEVIL HILLS	7.1	3.9	7.0	3.2	0.1
KINSTON	4.0	3.4	4.0	0.6	0.0
LAURINBURG	5.7	4.8	5.6	0.9	0.1
LUMBERTON	5.3	4.6	5.3	0.7	0.0
MARION	5.3	4.7	3.5	0.6	1.8
MOREHEAD CITY	3.9	3.1	3.8	0.8	0.1
MOUNT AIRY	3.6	3.0	3.3	0.6	0.3
MOREHEAD CITY	4.0	3.4	3.8	0.6	0.2
NEW BERN	4.1	3.4	3.9	0.7	0.2
NORTH WILKESBORO	5.3	4.6	5.3	0.7	0.0
ROCKINGHAM	4.4	3.9	4.1	0.5	0.3
SANFORD	3.7	3.2	3.9	0.5	-0.2
SHELBY-KINGS MOUNTAIN	4.4	3.7	3.9	0.7	0.5
WASHINGTON	3.7	3.2	4.2	0.5	-0.5
WAYNESVILLE	4.4	3.9	3.5	0.5	0.9
WILSON	5.1	4.3	5.1	0.8	0.0

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

Combined Statistical Area	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-WAYNESVILLE-BREVARD	5.7	5.0	3.1	0.7	2.6
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.9	3.4	3.7	0.5	0.2
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-PINEHURST	4.7	4.1	4.6	0.6	0.1
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	4.0	3.4	3.8	0.6	0.2
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	4.0	3.5	4.2	0.5	-0.2
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	4.0	3.3	3.8	0.7	0.2
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY	3.3	2.9	3.3	0.4	0.0
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	5.1	4.3	5.1	0.8	0.0

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates are 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 January 2025

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
CAMDEN	5,410	160	3.0	1	ONSLow	73,960	2,983	4.0	51
STANLY	34,344	1,089	3.2	2	PITT	83,660	3,397	4.1	52
WAKE	681,875	21,920	3.2	3	CHEROKEE	11,151	455	4.1	53
JOHNSTON	128,268	4,161	3.2	4	JONES	3,866	158	4.1	54
ORANGE	77,996	2,553	3.3	5	TRANSYLVANIA	13,986	574	4.1	55
CHATHAM	39,496	1,311	3.3	6	MONTGOMERY	10,455	432	4.1	56
DURHAM	185,795	6,238	3.4	7	WILKES	25,810	1,069	4.1	57
YADKIN	17,259	581	3.4	8	ROCKINGHAM	40,049	1,665	4.2	58
UNION	133,457	4,493	3.4	9	PERQUIMANS	5,700	240	4.2	59
DUPLIN	22,623	763	3.4	10	ALLEGHANY	4,569	193	4.2	60
GREENE	8,684	293	3.4	11	HERTFORD	8,384	355	4.2	61
CURRITUCK	16,339	555	3.4	12	PASQUOTANK	18,079	769	4.3	62
CASWELL	9,971	342	3.4	13	MARTIN	9,105	392	4.3	63
DAVIE	20,770	719	3.5	14	BURKE	40,227	1,732	4.3	64
LINCOLN	48,099	1,677	3.5	15	GUILFORD	264,533	11,428	4.3	65
GATES	4,525	158	3.5	16	JACKSON	19,205	830	4.3	66
FRANKLIN	39,278	1,373	3.5	17	PAMLICO	4,653	202	4.3	67
SURRY	32,559	1,158	3.6	18	CLEVELAND	45,704	1,994	4.4	68
IREDELL	103,679	3,695	3.6	19	SAMPSON	24,160	1,056	4.4	69
PERSON	20,314	728	3.6	20	RICHMOND	19,238	845	4.4	70
MOORE	44,464	1,594	3.6	21	HAYWOOD	29,774	1,319	4.4	71
CLAY	4,707	169	3.6	22	GRAHAM	3,449	153	4.4	72
PENDER	31,491	1,142	3.6	23	SWAIN	6,253	284	4.5	73
NEW HANOVER	124,198	4,520	3.6	24	HOKE	20,789	947	4.6	74
CABARRUS	125,617	4,586	3.7	25	COLUMBUS	19,964	923	4.6	75
CHOWAN	6,373	233	3.7	26	BRUNSWICK	66,049	3,069	4.6	76
RANDOLPH	67,167	2,471	3.7	27	VANCE	18,714	874	4.7	77
GRANVILLE	29,050	1,071	3.7	28	ANSON	8,908	419	4.7	78
BEAUFORT	19,106	708	3.7	29	NASH	42,586	2,043	4.8	79
STOKES	20,556	767	3.7	30	CUMBERLAND	133,024	6,564	4.9	80
LEE	30,934	1,155	3.7	31	WASHINGTON	3,941	200	5.1	81
WAYNE	51,629	1,947	3.8	32	NORTHAMPTON	6,500	330	5.1	82
ALAMANCE	86,370	3,267	3.8	33	WILSON	34,736	1,770	5.1	83
CATAWBA	77,835	2,952	3.8	34	WARREN	7,131	368	5.2	84
ROWAN	71,700	2,721	3.8	35	BLADEN	11,885	621	5.2	85
WATAUGA	27,641	1,071	3.9	36	MCDOWELL	19,000	1,000	5.3	86
DAVIDSON	80,785	3,136	3.9	37	ROBESON	45,621	2,409	5.3	87
ASHE	12,321	479	3.9	38	AVERY	7,536	399	5.3	88
CARTERET	31,230	1,227	3.9	39	HALIFAX	18,288	976	5.3	89
FORSYTH	185,995	7,312	3.9	40	BERTIE	5,966	321	5.4	90
POLK	9,540	377	4.0	41	EDGEcombe	20,556	1,136	5.5	91
ALEXANDER	16,155	639	4.0	42	RUTHERFORD	26,427	1,473	5.6	92
MECKLENBURG	659,242	26,132	4.0	43	SCOTLAND	13,114	750	5.7	93
CALDWELL	36,668	1,455	4.0	44	YANCEY	8,648	506	5.9	94
GASTON	117,658	4,686	4.0	45	MADISON	10,997	694	6.3	95
CRAVEN	41,751	1,668	4.0	46	TYRRELL	1,267	80	6.3	96
LENOIR	24,555	982	4.0	47	BUNCOMBE	144,990	9,813	6.8	97
HENDERSON	58,003	2,320	4.0	48	DARE	17,378	1,227	7.1	98
HARNETT	59,187	2,371	4.0	49	MITCHELL	7,158	525	7.3	99
MACON	16,442	659	4.0	50	HYDE	1,603	133	8.3	100

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates are 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 July 21, 2023. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available online at <https://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, March 28, 2025 when the statewide unemployment rate for February 2025 will be released.

The complete data release schedule through 2025 can be accessed here:

<https://www.commerce.nc.gov/documents/release-dates-unemployment-rates>