



For Immediate Release: May 1, 2024
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North Carolina’s March County and Area Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 44 of North Carolina’s counties in March 2024, increased in 22, and remained unchanged in 34. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 7.6 percent while Greene County had the lowest at 2.8 percent. Six of the state’s metro areas experienced rate increases, four decreased, and five remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 5.0 percent while Asheville had the lowest at 3.0 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.7 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
March	90	10	0
February (Revised)	90	10	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 72 counties, decreased in 11, and remained unchanged in 17. Fourteen metro areas experienced rate increases over the year and one decreased.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in March by 45,082 to 5,094,400, while those unemployed increased by 1,588 to 195,758. Since March 2023, the number of workers employed statewide increased 46,893, while those unemployed increased 15,025.

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 17, 2024 when the statewide unemployment rate for April 2024 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
March 2024

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	5,290,158	195,758	3.7				
ALAMANCE	87,166	3,185	3.7	JOHNSTON	113,119	3,815	3.4
ALEXANDER	18,173	651	3.6	JONES	4,525	147	3.2
ALLEGHANY	4,323	195	4.5	LEE	26,055	1,091	4.2
ANSON	10,496	425	4.0	LENOIR	28,294	995	3.5
ASHE	13,016	382	2.9	LINCOLN	47,589	1,526	3.2
AVERY	7,754	251	3.2	MCDOWELL	20,625	680	3.3
BEAUFORT	19,919	794	4.0	MACON	16,444	551	3.4
BERTIE	7,231	325	4.5	MADISON	10,237	325	3.2
BLADEN	15,340	659	4.3	MARTIN	8,975	400	4.5
BRUNSWICK	60,001	2,604	4.3	MECKLENBURG	669,170	24,624	3.7
BUNCOMBE	144,042	4,240	2.9	MITCHELL	6,377	224	3.5
BURKE	40,842	1,412	3.5	MONTGOMERY	11,409	438	3.8
CABARRUS	119,459	4,331	3.6	MOORE	43,813	1,555	3.5
CALDWELL	36,374	1,352	3.7	NASH	42,572	2,005	4.7
CAMDEN	4,934	156	3.2	NEW HANOVER	134,366	4,391	3.3
CARTERET	32,943	1,128	3.4	NORTHAMPTON	7,474	328	4.4
CASWELL	10,020	369	3.7	ONSLOW	70,974	3,042	4.3
CATAWBA	79,447	2,888	3.6	ORANGE	84,053	2,706	3.2
CHATHAM	38,633	1,227	3.2	PAMLICO	5,682	203	3.6
CHEROKEE	11,075	458	4.1	PASQUOTANK	17,517	719	4.1
CHOWAN	6,132	226	3.7	PENDER	32,066	1,055	3.3
CLAY	4,259	156	3.7	PERQUIMANS	5,255	216	4.1
CLEVELAND	50,829	1,841	3.6	PERSON	19,510	734	3.8
COLUMBUS	22,654	991	4.4	PITT	90,775	3,755	4.1
CRAVEN	43,040	1,524	3.5	POLK	9,579	321	3.4
CUMBERLAND	131,166	6,431	4.9	RANDOLPH	66,007	2,473	3.7
CURRITUCK	14,985	462	3.1	RICHMOND	17,461	811	4.6
DARE	19,225	1,006	5.2	ROBESON	48,951	2,505	5.1
DAVIDSON	81,879	3,012	3.7	ROCKINGHAM	39,710	1,590	4.0
DAVIE	20,885	680	3.3	ROWAN	69,486	2,492	3.6
DUPLIN	27,287	877	3.2	RUTHERFORD	24,326	1,132	4.7
DURHAM	184,855	6,106	3.3	SAMPSON	29,535	1,080	3.7
EDGECOMBE	20,311	1,122	5.5	SCOTLAND	11,555	726	6.3
FORSYTH	189,310	7,182	3.8	STANLY	32,344	1,043	3.2
FRANKLIN	35,532	1,331	3.7	STOKES	21,725	726	3.3
GASTON	117,535	4,273	3.6	SURRY	33,827	1,144	3.4
GATES	5,297	174	3.3	SWAIN	6,966	251	3.6
GRAHAM	3,001	141	4.7	TRANSYLVANIA	15,003	506	3.4
GRANVILLE	31,074	1,010	3.3	TYRRELL	1,323	71	5.4
GREENE	10,094	278	2.8	UNION	133,988	4,435	3.3
GUILFORD	261,937	11,231	4.3	VANCE	16,993	892	5.2
HALIFAX	19,705	1,001	5.1	WAKE	659,273	21,877	3.3
HARNETT	56,687	2,380	4.2	WARREN	6,378	352	5.5
HAYWOOD	30,711	993	3.2	WASHINGTON	4,363	203	4.7
HENDERSON	56,505	1,744	3.1	WATAUGA	30,087	991	3.3
HERTFORD	8,550	429	5.0	WAYNE	52,796	2,036	3.9
HOKE	20,839	935	4.5	WILKES	26,439	1,030	3.9
HYDE	1,804	137	7.6	WILSON	34,846	1,837	5.3
IREDELL	97,185	3,342	3.4	YADKIN	17,839	581	3.3
JACKSON	19,652	809	4.1	YANCEY	8,365	270	3.2

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 MONTHLY AND YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

County	March 2024	February 2024	March 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	March 2024	February 2024	March 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	3.7	3.7	3.5	0.0	0.2	JOHNSTON	3.4	3.3	3.1	0.1	0.3
ALAMANCE	3.7	3.5	3.4	0.2	0.3	JONES	3.2	3.2	3.1	0.0	0.1
ALEXANDER	3.6	3.5	3.0	0.1	0.6	LEE	4.2	4.2	3.9	0.0	0.3
ALLEGHANY	4.5	4.5	3.9	0.0	0.6	LENOIR	3.5	3.5	3.4	0.0	0.1
ANSON	4.0	4.0	3.8	0.0	0.2	LINCOLN	3.2	3.2	3.0	0.0	0.2
ASHE	2.9	3.1	3.2	-0.2	-0.3	MCDOWELL	3.3	3.3	3.2	0.0	0.1
AVERY	3.2	3.3	3.2	-0.1	0.0	MACON	3.4	3.5	3.3	-0.1	0.1
BEAUFORT	4.0	4.1	4.0	-0.1	0.0	MADISON	3.2	3.1	3.1	0.1	0.1
BERTIE	4.5	4.7	4.2	-0.2	0.3	MARTIN	4.5	4.6	4.1	-0.1	0.4
BLADEN	4.3	4.5	4.2	-0.2	0.1	MECKLENBURG	3.7	3.8	3.4	-0.1	0.3
BRUNSWICK	4.3	4.8	4.3	-0.5	0.0	MITCHELL	3.5	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.0
BUNCOMBE	2.9	3.0	2.7	-0.1	0.2	MONTGOMERY	3.8	3.9	3.4	-0.1	0.4
BURKE	3.5	3.5	3.1	0.0	0.4	MOORE	3.5	3.6	3.4	-0.1	0.1
CABARRUS	3.6	3.6	3.3	0.0	0.3	NASH	4.7	4.8	4.7	-0.1	0.0
CALDWELL	3.7	3.6	3.3	0.1	0.4	NEW HANOVER	3.3	3.3	3.2	0.0	0.1
CAMDEN	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0	NORTHAMPTON	4.4	4.2	4.5	0.2	-0.1
CARTERET	3.4	3.6	3.3	-0.2	0.1	ONSLow	4.3	4.3	3.9	0.0	0.4
CASWELL	3.7	4.1	3.5	-0.4	0.2	ORANGE	3.2	2.8	2.8	0.4	0.4
CATAWBA	3.6	3.6	3.2	0.0	0.4	PAMLICO	3.6	3.6	3.3	0.0	0.3
CHATHAM	3.2	3.1	2.9	0.1	0.3	PASQUOTANK	4.1	4.1	4.2	0.0	-0.1
CHEROKEE	4.1	4.1	3.8	0.0	0.3	PENDER	3.3	3.3	3.1	0.0	0.2
CHOWAN	3.7	3.8	3.7	-0.1	0.0	PERQUIMANS	4.1	4.4	3.9	-0.3	0.2
CLAY	3.7	3.9	3.5	-0.2	0.2	PERSON	3.8	3.9	3.4	-0.1	0.4
CLEVELAND	3.6	3.6	3.5	0.0	0.1	PITT	4.1	4.0	3.9	0.1	0.2
COLUMBUS	4.4	4.6	4.1	-0.2	0.3	POLK	3.4	3.4	3.4	0.0	0.0
CrAVEN	3.5	3.6	3.5	-0.1	0.0	RANDOLPH	3.7	3.8	3.5	-0.1	0.2
CUMBERLAND	4.9	5.0	4.8	-0.1	0.1	RICHMOND	4.6	4.8	4.6	-0.2	0.0
CURRITUCK	3.1	3.3	3.2	-0.2	-0.1	ROBESON	5.1	5.2	4.9	-0.1	0.2
DARE	5.2	6.9	5.2	-1.7	0.0	ROCKINGHAM	4.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0
DAVIDSON	3.7	3.6	3.4	0.1	0.3	ROWAN	3.6	3.5	3.4	0.1	0.2
DAVIE	3.3	3.2	3.1	0.1	0.2	RUTHERFORD	4.7	4.8	4.5	-0.1	0.2
DUPLIN	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0	SAMPSON	3.7	3.7	3.4	0.0	0.3
DURHAM	3.3	3.3	3.0	0.0	0.3	SCOTLAND	6.3	6.6	6.3	-0.3	0.0
EDGEcombe	5.5	5.7	5.8	-0.2	-0.3	STANLY	3.2	3.2	2.9	0.0	0.3
FORSYTH	3.8	3.7	3.5	0.1	0.3	STOKES	3.3	3.3	3.0	0.0	0.3
FRANKLIN	3.7	3.7	3.5	0.0	0.2	SURRY	3.4	3.3	3.2	0.1	0.2
GASTON	3.6	3.7	3.4	-0.1	0.2	SWAIN	3.6	4.1	3.4	-0.5	0.2
GATES	3.3	3.4	3.3	-0.1	0.0	TRANSYLVANIA	3.4	3.5	3.1	-0.1	0.3
GRAHAM	4.7	4.8	4.2	-0.1	0.5	TYRRELL	5.4	6.8	6.6	-1.4	-1.2
GRANVILLE	3.3	3.1	3.0	0.2	0.3	UNION	3.3	3.1	3.0	0.2	0.3
GREENE	2.8	2.8	3.0	0.0	-0.2	VANCE	5.2	5.3	5.5	-0.1	-0.3
GUILFORD	4.3	4.2	3.9	0.1	0.4	WAKE	3.3	3.3	3.0	0.0	0.3
HALIFAX	5.1	5.2	5.2	-0.1	-0.1	WARREN	5.5	5.9	5.6	-0.4	-0.1
HARNETT	4.2	4.2	3.8	0.0	0.4	WASHINGTON	4.7	5.0	4.6	-0.3	0.1
HAYWOOD	3.2	3.3	2.9	-0.1	0.3	WATAUGA	3.3	2.7	3.1	0.6	0.2
HENDERSON	3.1	3.1	2.9	0.0	0.2	WAYNE	3.9	3.8	3.7	0.1	0.2
HERTFORD	5.0	4.7	4.8	0.3	0.2	WILKES	3.9	3.9	3.6	0.0	0.3
HOKE	4.5	4.5	4.5	0.0	0.0	WILSON	5.3	5.4	4.9	-0.1	0.4
HYDE	7.6	9.7	8.6	-2.1	-1.0	YADKIN	3.3	3.2	3.1	0.1	0.2
IREDELL	3.4	3.5	3.2	-0.1	0.2	YANCEY	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0
JACKSON	4.1	3.6	3.7	0.5	0.4						

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

*Preliminary Data for
March 2024*

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	241,495	7,302	3.0
BURLINGTON	87,166	3,185	3.7
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,468,037	52,504	3.6
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	327,051	10,773	3.3
FAYETTEVILLE	152,005	7,366	4.8
GOLDSBORO	52,796	2,036	3.9
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	367,654	15,294	4.2
GREENVILLE	90,775	3,755	4.1
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	174,836	6,303	3.6
JACKSONVILLE	70,974	3,042	4.3
NEW BERN	53,247	1,874	3.5
RALEIGH	807,924	27,023	3.3
ROCKY MOUNT	62,883	3,127	5.0
WILMINGTON	166,432	5,446	3.3
WINSTON-SALEM	331,638	12,181	3.7

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	32,344	1,043	3.2
BOONE	30,087	991	3.3
BREVARD	15,003	506	3.4
CULLOWHEE	19,652	809	4.1
DUNN	56,687	2,380	4.2
ELIZABETH CITY	27,706	1,091	3.9
FOREST CITY	24,326	1,132	4.7
HENDERSON	16,993	892	5.2
KILL DEVIL HILLS	20,548	1,077	5.2
KINSTON	28,294	995	3.5
LAURINBURG	11,555	726	6.3
LUMBERTON	48,951	2,505	5.1
MARION	20,625	680	3.3
MOREHEAD CITY	32,943	1,128	3.4
MOUNT AIRY	33,827	1,144	3.4
NORTH WILKESBORO	26,439	1,030	3.9
OXFORD	31,074	1,010	3.3
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	43,813	1,555	3.5
ROANOKE RAPIDS	27,179	1,329	4.9
ROCKINGHAM	17,461	811	4.6
SANFORD	26,055	1,091	4.2
SHELBY	50,829	1,841	3.6
WASHINGTON	19,919	794	4.0
WILSON	34,846	1,837	5.3

**COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**

*Preliminary Data for
March 2024*

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	256,498	7,808	3.0
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,551,210	55,388	3.6
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	212,511	10,597	5.0
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	820,285	31,804	3.9
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	110,694	4,549	4.1
HICKORY-LENOIR	195,461	6,983	3.6
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	86,190	3,002	3.5
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	1,265,784	43,169	3.4
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	124,908	6,293	5.0

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

Metropolitan Statistical Area	March 2024	February 2024	March 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	3.0	3.1	2.8	-0.1	0.2
BURLINGTON	3.7	3.5	3.4	0.2	0.3
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	3.6	3.6	3.3	0.0	0.3
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.3	3.2	3.0	0.1	0.3
FAYETTEVILLE	4.8	4.9	4.7	-0.1	0.1
GOLDSBORO	3.9	3.8	3.7	0.1	0.2
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	4.2	4.1	3.8	0.1	0.4
GREENVILLE	4.1	4.0	3.9	0.1	0.2
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	3.6	3.6	3.2	0.0	0.4
JACKSONVILLE	4.3	4.3	3.9	0.0	0.4
NEW BERN	3.5	3.6	3.4	-0.1	0.1
RALEIGH	3.3	3.3	3.0	0.0	0.3
ROCKY MOUNT	5.0	5.1	5.1	-0.1	-0.1
WILMINGTON	3.3	3.3	3.2	0.0	0.1
WINSTON-SALEM	3.7	3.6	3.4	0.1	0.3

Micropolitan Statistical Area	March 2024	February 2024	March 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	3.2	3.2	2.9	0.0	0.3
BOONE	3.3	2.7	3.1	0.6	0.2
BREVARD	3.4	3.5	3.1	-0.1	0.3
CULLOWHEE	4.1	3.6	3.7	0.5	0.4
DUNN	4.2	4.2	3.8	0.0	0.4
ELIZABETH CITY	3.9	4.0	3.9	-0.1	0.0
FOREST CITY	4.7	4.8	4.5	-0.1	0.2
HENDERSON	5.2	5.3	5.5	-0.1	-0.3
KILL DEVIL HILLS	5.2	6.9	5.3	-1.7	-0.1
KINSTON	3.5	3.5	3.4	0.0	0.1
LAURINBURG	6.3	6.6	6.3	-0.3	0.0
LUMBERTON	5.1	5.2	4.9	-0.1	0.2
MARION	3.3	3.3	3.2	0.0	0.1
MOREHEAD CITY	3.4	3.6	3.3	-0.2	0.1
MOUNT AIRY	3.4	3.3	3.2	0.1	0.2
NORTH WILKESBORO	3.9	3.9	3.6	0.0	0.3
OXFORD	3.3	3.1	3.0	0.2	0.3
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	3.5	3.6	3.4	-0.1	0.1
ROANOKE RAPIDS	4.9	4.9	5.0	0.0	-0.1
ROCKINGHAM	4.6	4.8	4.6	-0.2	0.0
SANFORD	4.2	4.2	3.9	0.0	0.3
SHELBY	3.6	3.6	3.5	0.0	0.1
WASHINGTON	4.0	4.1	4.0	-0.1	0.0
WILSON	5.3	5.4	4.9	-0.1	0.4

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

Combined Statistical Area	March 2024	February 2024	March 2023	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	3.0	3.1	2.8	-0.1	0.2
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	3.6	3.6	3.3	0.0	0.3
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	5.0	5.1	4.9	-0.1	0.1
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	3.9	3.8	3.6	0.1	0.3
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	4.1	4.0	3.9	0.1	0.2
HICKORY-LENOIR	3.6	3.5	3.2	0.1	0.4
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	3.5	3.6	3.4	-0.1	0.1
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	3.4	3.3	3.1	0.1	0.3
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	5.0	5.1	5.0	-0.1	0.0

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.

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NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY RANKINGS
Preliminary Data for March 2024

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
GREENE	10,094	278	2.8	1	CLAY	4,259	156	3.7	51
ASHE	13,016	382	2.9	2	DAVIDSON	81,879	3,012	3.7	52
BUNCOMBE	144,042	4,240	2.9	3	MECKLENBURG	669,170	24,624	3.7	53
CURRITUCK	14,985	462	3.1	4	CASWELL	10,020	369	3.7	54
HENDERSON	56,505	1,744	3.1	5	CHOWAN	6,132	226	3.7	55
CAMDEN	4,934	156	3.2	6	CALDWELL	36,374	1,352	3.7	56
MADISON	10,237	325	3.2	7	FRANKLIN	35,532	1,331	3.7	57
CHATHAM	38,633	1,227	3.2	8	RANDOLPH	66,007	2,473	3.7	58
LINCOLN	47,589	1,526	3.2	9	PERSON	19,510	734	3.8	59
DUPLIN	27,287	877	3.2	10	FORSYTH	189,310	7,182	3.8	60
ORANGE	84,053	2,706	3.2	11	MONTGOMERY	11,409	438	3.8	61
STANLY	32,344	1,043	3.2	12	WAYNE	52,796	2,036	3.9	62
YANCEY	8,365	270	3.2	13	WILKES	26,439	1,030	3.9	63
HAYWOOD	30,711	993	3.2	14	BEAUFORT	19,919	794	4.0	64
AVERY	7,754	251	3.2	15	ROCKINGHAM	39,710	1,590	4.0	65
JONES	4,525	147	3.2	16	ANSON	10,496	425	4.0	66
GRANVILLE	31,074	1,010	3.3	17	PASQUOTANK	17,517	719	4.1	67
DAVIE	20,885	680	3.3	18	PERQUIMANS	5,255	216	4.1	68
YADKIN	17,839	581	3.3	19	JACKSON	19,652	809	4.1	69
NEW HANOVER	134,366	4,391	3.3	20	CHEROKEE	11,075	458	4.1	70
GATES	5,297	174	3.3	21	PITT	90,775	3,755	4.1	71
PENDER	32,066	1,055	3.3	22	LEE	26,055	1,091	4.2	72
WATAUGA	30,087	991	3.3	23	HARNETT	56,687	2,380	4.2	73
MCDOWELL	20,625	680	3.3	24	ONSLOW	70,974	3,042	4.3	74
DURHAM	184,855	6,106	3.3	25	GUILFORD	261,937	11,231	4.3	75
UNION	133,988	4,435	3.3	26	BLADEN	15,340	659	4.3	76
WAKE	659,273	21,877	3.3	27	BRUNSWICK	60,001	2,604	4.3	77
STOKES	21,725	726	3.3	28	COLUMBUS	22,654	991	4.4	78
MACON	16,444	551	3.4	29	NORTHAMPTON	7,474	328	4.4	79
POLK	9,579	321	3.4	30	MARTIN	8,975	400	4.5	80
JOHNSTON	113,119	3,815	3.4	31	HOKE	20,839	935	4.5	81
TRANSYLVANIA	15,003	506	3.4	32	BERTIE	7,231	325	4.5	82
SURRY	33,827	1,144	3.4	33	ALLEGHANY	4,323	195	4.5	83
CARTERET	32,943	1,128	3.4	34	RICHMOND	17,461	811	4.6	84
IREDELL	97,185	3,342	3.4	35	WASHINGTON	4,363	203	4.7	85
BURKE	40,842	1,412	3.5	36	RUTHERFORD	24,326	1,132	4.7	86
MITCHELL	6,377	224	3.5	37	GRAHAM	3,001	141	4.7	87
LENOIR	28,294	995	3.5	38	NASH	42,572	2,005	4.7	88
CRAVEN	43,040	1,524	3.5	39	CUMBERLAND	131,166	6,431	4.9	89
MOORE	43,813	1,555	3.5	40	HERTFORD	8,550	429	5.0	90
PAMLICO	5,682	203	3.6	41	HALIFAX	19,705	1,001	5.1	91
ALEXANDER	18,173	651	3.6	42	ROBESON	48,951	2,505	5.1	92
ROWAN	69,486	2,492	3.6	43	DARE	19,225	1,006	5.2	93
SWAIN	6,966	251	3.6	44	VANCE	16,993	892	5.2	94
CLEVELAND	50,829	1,841	3.6	45	WILSON	34,846	1,837	5.3	95
CABARRUS	119,459	4,331	3.6	46	TYRRELL	1,323	71	5.4	96
CATAWBA	79,447	2,888	3.6	47	WARREN	6,378	352	5.5	97
GASTON	117,535	4,273	3.6	48	EDGECOMBE	20,311	1,122	5.5	98
ALAMANCE	87,166	3,185	3.7	49	SCOTLAND	11,555	726	6.3	99
SAMPSON	29,535	1,080	3.7	50	HYDE	1,804	137	7.6	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.

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 17, 2024 when the statewide unemployment rate for April 2024 will be released.

The complete data release schedule through 2024 can be accessed here:

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