



For Immediate Release: October 22, 2024
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North Carolina’s September Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state’s seasonally adjusted September 2024 unemployment rate was 3.8 percent, remaining unchanged from August’s revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.1 percent.

North Carolina’s unemployment rate increased 0.2 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 659 over the month to 5,068,142 and increased 3,902 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 1,708 over the month to 197,885 and increased 11,192 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 8,000 to 5,033,700 in September. Major industries experiencing increases were Education & Health Services, 6,800; Professional & Business Services, 1,900; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 1,200; Construction, 400; Other Services, 200; Manufacturing, 100; and Mining & Logging, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 1,500; Financial Activities, 1,000; and Information, 200. Government employment remained unchanged.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since September 2023

	Sep 2023	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	Apr 2024	May 2024	Jun 2024	Jul 2024	Aug 2024	Sep 2024
N.C.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8
U.S.	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.1

Please note: 2023 numbers have undergone annual revision

Since September 2023, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 76,600 with the Total Private sector increasing by 59,900 and Government increasing by 16,700. Major industries experiencing increases were Education & Health Services, 29,700; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 17,100; Government, 16,700; Construction, 7,900; Other Services, 5,500; Professional & Business Services, 4,200; and Financial Activities, 2,500. Major industries experiencing decreases over the year were Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 4,100; Manufacturing, 2,200; and Information, 700. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged over the year.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, October 30, 2024 when the county unemployment rates for September 2024 will be released.

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

North Carolina Department of Commerce

Labor and Economic Analysis Division

NORTH CAROLINA and U.S. LABOR FORCE DATA

North Carolina data is embargoed until 10:00 A.M. Tuesday, October 22, 2024

	September 2024		August 2024		Month Ago		Year Ago	
					Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina <i>(Local Area Unemployment Statistics)</i>								
<i>Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted</i>								
Labor Force	5,266,027	5,267,076	5,250,933	-1,049	> -0.1	15,094	0.3	
Employed	5,068,142	5,067,483	5,064,240	659	< 0.1	3,902	0.1	
Unemployed	197,885	199,593	186,693	-1,708	-0.9	11,192	6.0	
Unemployment Rate	3.8	3.8	3.6	0.0	xxx	0.2	xxx	
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>								
Labor Force	5,264,782	5,251,868	5,260,391	12,914	0.2	4,391	0.1	
Employed	5,097,020	5,027,974	5,090,363	69,046	1.4	6,657	0.1	
Unemployed	167,762	223,894	170,028	-56,132	-25.1	-2,266	-1.3	
Unemployment Rate	3.2	4.3	3.2	-1.1	xxx	0.0	xxx	
United States <i>(Current Population Survey)</i>								
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>								
Labor Force	168,699,000	168,549,000	167,897,000	150,000	0.1	xxx	xxx	
Employed	161,864,000	161,434,000	161,550,000	430,000	0.3	xxx	xxx	
Unemployed	6,834,000	7,115,000	6,347,000	-281,000	-3.9	xxx	xxx	
Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.2	3.8	-0.1	xxx	xxx	xxx	
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>								
Labor Force	168,569,000	168,763,000	167,718,000	-194,000	-0.1	xxx	xxx	
Employed	162,046,000	161,348,000	161,669,000	698,000	0.4	xxx	xxx	
Unemployed	6,524,000	7,415,000	6,049,000	-891,000	-12.0	xxx	xxx	
Unemployment Rate	3.9	4.4	3.6	-0.5	xxx	xxx	xxx	

Effective January 2024, updated US population estimates are used in the national labor force estimates. The annual population adjustments affect the comparability of national labor force estimates over time.

2024 estimates for the current month are preliminary. Estimates for the previous month have undergone monthly revision. 2023 estimates have undergone annual revision.

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NORTH CAROLINA EMPLOYMENT DATA

North Carolina data is embargoed until 10:00 A.M. Tuesday, October 22, 2024

			<i>Month Ago</i>		<i>Year Ago</i>		
	<i>September 2024</i>	<i>August 2024</i>	<i>September 2023</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
<i>North Carolina</i> <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	5,033,700	5,025,700	4,957,100	8,000	0.2	76,600	1.5
Total Private	4,269,600	4,261,600	4,209,700	8,000	0.2	59,900	1.4
Mining & Logging	5,700	5,600	5,700	100	1.8	0	0.0
Construction	269,800	269,400	261,900	400	0.1	7,900	3.0
Manufacturing	464,200	464,100	466,400	100	< 0.1	-2,200	-0.5
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	929,300	928,100	933,400	1,200	0.1	-4,100	-0.4
Information	84,000	84,200	84,700	-200	-0.2	-700	-0.8
Financial Activities	311,400	312,400	308,900	-1,000	-0.3	2,500	0.8
Professional & Business Services	748,800	746,900	744,600	1,900	0.3	4,200	0.6
Education & Health Services	703,100	696,300	673,400	6,800	1.0	29,700	4.4
Leisure & Hospitality Services	549,700	551,200	532,600	-1,500	-0.3	17,100	3.2
Other Services	203,600	203,400	198,100	200	0.1	5,500	2.8
Government	764,100	764,100	747,400	0	0.0	16,700	2.2
<i>North Carolina</i> <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	5,028,000	5,027,400	4,950,100	600	< 0.1	77,900	1.6
Total Private	4,257,400	4,283,600	4,194,600	-26,200	-0.6	62,800	1.5
Mining & Logging	5,700	5,700	5,700	0	0.0	0	0.0
Construction	270,500	271,500	261,900	-1,000	-0.4	8,600	3.3
Manufacturing	463,000	464,600	466,300	-1,600	-0.3	-3,300	-0.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	922,200	925,900	925,000	-3,700	-0.4	-2,800	-0.3
Information	83,800	84,200	84,400	-400	-0.5	-600	-0.7
Financial Activities	312,100	315,800	308,300	-3,700	-1.2	3,800	1.2
Professional & Business Services	750,400	751,300	741,400	-900	-0.1	9,000	1.2
Education & Health Services	700,400	691,400	670,400	9,000	1.3	30,000	4.5
Leisure & Hospitality Services	547,700	569,500	533,400	-21,800	-3.8	14,300	2.7
Other Services	201,600	203,700	197,800	-2,100	-1.0	3,800	1.9
Government	770,600	743,800	755,500	26,800	3.6	15,100	2.0

2024 estimates for the current month are preliminary. Estimates for the previous month have undergone monthly revision.
 2023 estimates have undergone annual revision.
 Estimates may not add to totals due to rounding.

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>

<https://d4.nccommerce.com/CesSelection.aspx>

Technical Notes

This release presents labor force and unemployment estimates from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. Also presented are nonfarm payroll employment estimates from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The LAUS and CES programs are both federal-state cooperative endeavors.

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, the CES, and state unemployment insurance (UI) programs. 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. In most years, historical data for the most recent five years (both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted) are revised near the beginning of each calendar year, prior to the release of January estimates.

Seasonal adjustment. The LAUS program seasonally adjusts statewide estimates using an X-11 type of seasonal adjustment filter. These estimates are then smoothed using a filtering procedure to remove irregular fluctuations from the seasonally-adjusted series. For more information about seasonal adjustment and smoothing procedures, see the BLS website at <https://www.bls.gov/lau/lauscas.htm>.

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 <https://www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm>.

Employment--from the CES program

Definitions. Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who receive pay for any part of the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. Persons are counted at their place of work rather than at their place of residence; those appearing on more than one payroll are counted on each payroll. Industries are classified on the basis of their principal activity in accordance with the 2017 version of the North American Industry Classification System.

Method of estimation. CES State and Area employment data are produced using several estimation procedures. Where possible these data are produced using a "weighted link relative" estimation technique in which a ratio of current-month weighted employment to that of the previous-month weighted employment is computed from a sample of establishments reporting for both months. The estimates of employment for the current month are then obtained by multiplying these ratios by the previous month's employment estimates. The weighted link relative technique is utilized for data series where the sample size meets certain statistical criteria.

For some employment series, relatively small sample sizes limit the reliability of the weighted link-relative estimates. In these cases, BLS uses the CES small domain model (SDM) to generate employment estimates. The SDM combines the direct sample estimates (described above) and forecasts of historical (benchmarked) data to decrease the volatility of the estimates. For more detailed information about the CES small domain model, refer to the BLS Handbook of Methods.

Annual revisions. Employment estimates are adjusted annually to a complete count of jobs, called benchmarks, derived principally from tax reports that are submitted by employers who are covered under state unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The benchmark information is used to adjust the monthly estimates between the new benchmark and the preceding one and also to establish the level of employment for the new benchmark month. Thus, the benchmarking process establishes the level of employment, and the sample is used to measure the month-to-month changes in the level for the subsequent months. Information on recent benchmark revisions is available online at www.bls.gov/web/laus/benchmark.pdf.

Seasonal adjustment. Payroll employment data are seasonally adjusted at the statewide supersector level. In some cases, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is computed by aggregating the independently adjusted supersector series. In other cases, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is independently adjusted. Payroll employment data are seasonally adjusted concurrently, using all available estimates, including those for the current month, to develop sample-based seasonal factors. Concurrent sample-based factors are created every month for the current month's preliminary estimate as well as the previous month's final estimate.

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 estimates are available online at www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm.

Measures of sampling error for state CES data at the total nonfarm and supersector levels are available online at <https://www.bls.gov/sac/additional-resources/reliability-of-state-and-area-estimates.htm>.

Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Wednesday, October 30, 2024 when the county unemployment rates for September 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>