



ROY COOPER  
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*For Immediate Release: September 27, 2017*  
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## North Carolina's August County and Area Employment Figures Released

**RALEIGH** —Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 26 of North Carolina's counties in August, decreased in 25, and remained unchanged in 49. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 7.7 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.4 percent. One of the state's metro areas experienced a rate increase, three experienced decreases, and 11 remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 6.6 percent had the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 3.7 percent. The August not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.5 percent.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%	Counties With Rates 10% or Above
<b>August</b>	70	30	0
<b>July (Revised)</b>	68	32	0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased all 100 counties. All fifteen metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in August by 49,310 to 4,685,972, while those unemployed decreased 2,281 to 218,650. Since August 2016, the number of workers employed statewide increased 74,052, while those unemployed decreased 36,937.

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, October 20, 2017 when the state unemployment rate for September 2017 will be released.

**This information may be accessed on the Commerce website at <http://www.nccommerce.com/lead>**

**NORTH CAROLINA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**  
*Preliminary Statewide and County Data for*  
**August 2017**

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
STATEWIDE	4,904,622	218,650	4.5				
ALAMANCE	79,450	3,437	4.3	JOHNSTON	93,307	3,854	4.1
ALEXANDER	17,868	661	3.7	JONES	4,569	201	4.4
ALLEGHANY	4,471	207	4.6	LEE	26,348	1,305	5.0
ANSON	10,261	545	5.3	LENOIR	27,213	1,227	4.5
ASHE	12,728	509	4.0	LINCOLN	42,357	1,654	3.9
AVERY	7,804	315	4.0	MCDOWELL	20,833	840	4.0
BEAUFORT	20,128	986	4.9	MACON	15,419	682	4.4
BERTIE	8,180	476	5.8	MADISON	9,759	424	4.3
BLADEN	14,206	830	5.8	MARTIN	9,374	513	5.5
BRUNSWICK	51,798	2,662	5.1	MECKLENBURG	593,188	24,886	4.2
BUNCOMBE	135,198	4,655	3.4	MITCHELL	6,097	309	5.1
BURKE	40,085	1,713	4.3	MONTGOMERY	11,763	535	4.5
CABARRUS	102,421	4,198	4.1	MOORE	40,148	1,769	4.4
CALDWELL	36,005	1,612	4.5	NASH	42,229	2,599	6.2
CAMDEN	4,498	209	4.6	NEW HANOVER	119,716	4,822	4.0
CARTERET	32,648	1,349	4.1	NORTHAMPTON	7,635	481	6.3
CASWELL	9,559	455	4.8	ONSLOW	63,951	3,134	4.9
CATAWBA	76,734	3,200	4.2	ORANGE	76,972	3,103	4.0
CHATHAM	34,768	1,343	3.9	PAMLICO	5,409	245	4.5
CHEROKEE	11,102	539	4.9	PASQUOTANK	16,933	912	5.4
CHOWAN	5,421	293	5.4	PENDER	27,272	1,253	4.6
CLAY	3,978	191	4.8	PERQUIMANS	4,992	276	5.5
CLEVELAND	46,678	2,175	4.7	PERSON	18,392	830	4.5
COLUMBUS	22,218	1,227	5.5	PITT	87,422	4,418	5.1
CRAVEN	42,101	1,955	4.6	POLK	8,910	380	4.3
CUMBERLAND	125,875	7,034	5.6	RANDOLPH	67,111	2,935	4.4
CURRITUCK	12,790	535	4.2	RICHMOND	16,339	979	6.0
DARE	22,732	864	3.8	ROBESON	49,260	3,273	6.6
DAVIDSON	79,173	3,381	4.3	ROCKINGHAM	41,321	2,086	5.0
DAVIE	19,982	794	4.0	ROWAN	65,790	2,982	4.5
DUPLIN	26,097	1,241	4.8	RUTHERFORD	24,419	1,503	6.2
DURHAM	163,777	6,579	4.0	SAMPSON	28,788	1,389	4.8
EDGECOMBE	21,694	1,616	7.4	SCOTLAND	11,224	862	7.7
FORSYTH	181,243	8,014	4.4	STANLY	29,332	1,203	4.1
FRANKLIN	30,379	1,396	4.6	STOKES	21,946	936	4.3
GASTON	107,425	4,815	4.5	SURRY	33,010	1,425	4.3
GATES	5,129	227	4.4	SWAIN	7,436	306	4.1
GRAHAM	3,159	186	5.9	TRANSYLVANIA	14,387	610	4.2
GRANVILLE	29,752	1,171	3.9	TYRRELL	1,671	90	5.4
GREENE	9,363	435	4.6	UNION	117,946	4,704	4.0
GUILFORD	259,249	12,399	4.8	VANCE	18,038	1,119	6.2
HALIFAX	20,138	1,468	7.3	WAKE	574,524	22,160	3.9
HARNETT	52,292	2,655	5.1	WARREN	6,925	452	6.5
HAYWOOD	28,566	1,156	4.0	WASHINGTON	4,730	281	5.9
HENDERSON	52,452	2,038	3.9	WATAUGA	29,551	1,203	4.1
HERTFORD	9,064	528	5.8	WAYNE	52,078	2,624	5.0
HOKE	19,616	1,109	5.7	WILKES	30,359	1,332	4.4
HYDE	2,200	123	5.6	WILSON	35,474	2,526	7.1
IREDELL	85,961	3,575	4.2	YADKIN	17,585	713	4.1
JACKSON	19,215	890	4.6	YANCEY	7,537	330	4.4

*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	August 2017	July 2017	August 2016	OTM Change	OTY Change	County	August 2017	July 2017	August 2016	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	4.5	4.5	5.3	0.0	-0.8						
ALAMANCE	4.3	4.3	5.0	0.0	-0.7	JOHNSTON	4.1	4.1	4.8	0.0	-0.7
ALEXANDER	3.7	3.7	4.6	0.0	-0.9	JONES	4.4	4.2	5.3	0.2	-0.9
ALLEGHANY	4.6	4.7	5.5	-0.1	-0.9	LEE	5.0	5.1	5.9	-0.1	-0.9
ANSON	5.3	5.3	6.2	0.0	-0.9	LENOIR	4.5	4.5	5.6	0.0	-1.1
ASHE	4.0	4.1	4.7	-0.1	-0.7	LINCOLN	3.9	3.9	4.7	0.0	-0.8
AVERY	4.0	4.1	4.9	-0.1	-0.9	MCDOWELL	4.0	4.1	4.9	-0.1	-0.9
BEAUFORT	4.9	4.9	5.9	0.0	-1.0	MACON	4.4	4.4	5.3	0.0	-0.9
BERTIE	5.8	5.9	6.7	-0.1	-0.9	MADISON	4.3	4.3	5.1	0.0	-0.8
BLADEN	5.8	5.7	7.0	0.1	-1.2	MARTIN	5.5	5.6	7.0	-0.1	-1.5
BRUNSWICK	5.1	5.0	6.1	0.1	-1.0	MECKLENBURG	4.2	4.2	4.9	0.0	-0.7
BUNCOMBE	3.4	3.4	4.0	0.0	-0.6	MITCHELL	5.1	5.2	6.1	-0.1	-1.0
BURKE	4.3	4.3	5.1	0.0	-0.8	MONTGOMERY	4.5	4.7	5.4	-0.2	-0.9
CABARRUS	4.1	4.1	4.8	0.0	-0.7	MOORE	4.4	4.4	5.2	0.0	-0.8
CALDWELL	4.5	4.5	5.4	0.0	-0.9	NASH	6.2	6.2	7.0	0.0	-0.8
CAMDEN	4.6	4.5	5.6	0.1	-1.0	NEW HANOVER	4.0	4.0	4.8	0.0	-0.8
CARTERET	4.1	4.1	5.0	0.0	-0.9	NORTHAMPTON	6.3	6.1	7.6	0.2	-1.3
CASWELL	4.8	4.9	5.7	-0.1	-0.9	ONSLow	4.9	5.2	5.6	-0.3	-0.7
CATAWBA	4.2	4.2	5.0	0.0	-0.8	ORANGE	4.0	4.0	4.8	0.0	-0.8
CHATHAM	3.9	3.8	4.5	0.1	-0.6	PAMLICO	4.5	4.6	5.3	-0.1	-0.8
CHEROKEE	4.9	4.8	5.7	0.1	-0.8	PASQUOTANK	5.4	5.4	6.3	0.0	-0.9
CHOWAN	5.4	5.3	6.6	0.1	-1.2	PENDER	4.6	4.6	5.4	0.0	-0.8
CLAY	4.8	4.8	5.5	0.0	-0.7	PERQUIMANS	5.5	5.5	6.6	0.0	-1.1
CLEVELAND	4.7	4.7	5.7	0.0	-1.0	PERSON	4.5	4.5	5.7	0.0	-1.2
COLUMBUS	5.5	5.4	6.4	0.1	-0.9	PITT	5.1	5.1	5.9	0.0	-0.8
CRAVEN	4.6	4.6	5.3	0.0	-0.7	POLK	4.3	4.3	5.1	0.0	-0.8
CUMBERLAND	5.6	5.6	6.6	0.0	-1.0	RANDOLPH	4.4	4.4	5.1	0.0	-0.7
CURRITUCK	4.2	4.1	4.8	0.1	-0.6	RICHMOND	6.0	6.0	7.1	0.0	-1.1
DARE	3.8	3.8	4.4	0.0	-0.6	ROBESON	6.6	6.6	7.6	0.0	-1.0
DAVIDSON	4.3	4.3	5.1	0.0	-0.8	ROCKINGHAM	5.0	5.2	5.9	-0.2	-0.9
DAVIE	4.0	4.0	4.8	0.0	-0.8	ROWAN	4.5	4.5	5.8	0.0	-1.3
DUPLIN	4.8	4.7	5.5	0.1	-0.7	RUTHERFORD	6.2	6.2	6.9	0.0	-0.7
DURHAM	4.0	4.0	4.7	0.0	-0.7	SAMPSON	4.8	4.7	5.9	0.1	-1.1
EDGECOMBE	7.4	7.3	8.7	0.1	-1.3	SCOTLAND	7.7	7.6	9.3	0.1	-1.6
FORSYTH	4.4	4.4	5.2	0.0	-0.8	STANLY	4.1	4.2	4.9	-0.1	-0.8
FRANKLIN	4.6	4.6	5.4	0.0	-0.8	STOKES	4.3	4.3	5.1	0.0	-0.8
GASTON	4.5	4.4	5.5	0.1	-1.0	SURRY	4.3	4.2	5.0	0.1	-0.7
GATES	4.4	4.4	5.5	0.0	-1.1	SWAIN	4.1	4.1	5.2	0.0	-1.1
GRAHAM	5.9	5.7	7.8	0.2	-1.9	TRANSYLVANIA	4.2	4.3	5.0	-0.1	-0.8
GRANVILLE	3.9	3.8	4.5	0.1	-0.6	TYRRELL	5.4	5.2	6.7	0.2	-1.3
GREENE	4.6	4.7	5.4	-0.1	-0.8	UNION	4.0	4.0	4.6	0.0	-0.6
GUILFORD	4.8	4.8	5.6	0.0	-0.8	VANCE	6.2	6.2	7.6	0.0	-1.4
HALIFAX	7.3	7.4	8.1	-0.1	-0.8	WAKE	3.9	3.8	4.5	0.1	-0.6
HARNETT	5.1	5.0	6.0	0.1	-0.9	WARREN	6.5	6.6	7.4	-0.1	-0.9
HAYWOOD	4.0	4.0	4.6	0.0	-0.6	WASHINGTON	5.9	6.2	7.2	-0.3	-1.3
HENDERSON	3.9	3.8	4.5	0.1	-0.6	WATAUGA	4.1	4.2	4.7	-0.1	-0.6
HERTFORD	5.8	5.7	6.8	0.1	-1.0	WAYNE	5.0	5.1	5.9	-0.1	-0.9
HOKE	5.7	5.6	6.7	0.1	-1.0	WILKES	4.4	4.5	4.9	-0.1	-0.5
HYDE	5.6	5.7	6.7	-0.1	-1.1	WILSON	7.1	7.2	8.5	-0.1	-1.4
IREDELL	4.2	4.1	4.9	0.1	-0.7	YADKIN	4.1	4.0	4.6	0.1	-0.5
JACKSON	4.6	4.6	5.5	0.0	-0.9	YANCEY	4.4	4.5	5.4	-0.1	-1.0

Not Seasonally Adjusted

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

*Preliminary Data for  
August 2017*

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE	225,975	8,273	3.7
BURLINGTON	79,450	3,437	4.3
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	1,300,665	55,152	4.2
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	293,909	11,855	4.0
FAYETTEVILLE	145,491	8,143	5.6
GOLDSBORO	52,078	2,624	5.0
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	367,681	17,420	4.7
GREENVILLE	87,422	4,418	5.1
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	170,692	7,186	4.2
JACKSONVILLE	63,951	3,134	4.9
NEW BERN	52,079	2,401	4.6
RALEIGH	698,210	27,410	3.9
ROCKY MOUNT	63,923	4,215	6.6
WILMINGTON	146,988	6,075	4.1
WINSTON-SALEM	319,929	13,838	4.3

Micropolitan Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ALBEMARLE	29,332	1,203	4.1
BOONE	29,551	1,203	4.1
BREVARD	14,387	610	4.2
CULLOWHEE	19,215	890	4.6
DUNN	52,292	2,655	5.1
ELIZABETH CITY	26,423	1,397	5.3
FOREST CITY	24,419	1,503	6.2
HENDERSON	18,038	1,119	6.2
KILL DEVIL HILLS	24,403	954	3.9
KINSTON	27,213	1,227	4.5
LAURINBURG	11,224	862	7.7
LUMBERTON	49,260	3,273	6.6
MARION	20,833	840	4.0
MOREHEAD CITY	32,648	1,349	4.1
MOUNT AIRY	33,010	1,425	4.3
NORTH WILKESBORO	30,359	1,332	4.4
OXFORD	29,752	1,171	3.9
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	40,148	1,769	4.4
ROANOKE RAPIDS	27,773	1,949	7.0
ROCKINGHAM	16,339	979	6.0
SANFORD	26,348	1,305	5.0
SHELBY	46,678	2,175	4.7
WASHINGTON	20,128	986	4.9
WILSON	35,474	2,526	7.1

**COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS  
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**

*Preliminary Data for  
August 2017*

Combined Statistical Area	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	240,362	8,883	3.7
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	1,376,675	58,530	4.3
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	205,975	12,278	6.0
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	800,070	36,120	4.5
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	107,550	5,404	5.0
HICKORY-LENOIR	191,525	8,026	4.2
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	84,727	3,750	4.4
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	1,118,549	45,515	4.1
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	127,170	8,690	6.8

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

Metropolitan Statistical Area	August 2017	July 2017	August 2016	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE	3.7	3.6	4.3	0.1	-0.6
BURLINGTON	4.3	4.3	5.0	0.0	-0.7
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA	4.2	4.2	5.0	0.0	-0.8
DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	4.0	4.0	4.8	0.0	-0.8
FAYETTEVILLE	5.6	5.6	6.6	0.0	-1.0
GOLDSBORO	5.0	5.1	5.9	-0.1	-0.9
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	4.7	4.8	5.5	-0.1	-0.8
GREENVILLE	5.1	5.1	5.9	0.0	-0.8
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	4.2	4.2	5.0	0.0	-0.8
JACKSONVILLE	4.9	5.2	5.6	-0.3	-0.7
NEW BERN	4.6	4.6	5.3	0.0	-0.7
RALEIGH	3.9	3.9	4.6	0.0	-0.7
ROCKY MOUNT	6.6	6.6	7.6	0.0	-1.0
WILMINGTON	4.1	4.1	5.0	0.0	-0.9
WINSTON-SALEM	4.3	4.3	5.1	0.0	-0.8

Micropolitan Statistical Area	August 2017	July 2017	August 2016	OTM Change	OTY Change
ALBEMARLE	4.1	4.2	4.9	-0.1	-0.8
BOONE	4.1	4.2	4.7	-0.1	-0.6
BREVARD	4.2	4.3	5.0	-0.1	-0.8
CULLOWHEE	4.6	4.6	5.5	0.0	-0.9
DUNN	5.1	5.0	6.0	0.1	-0.9
ELIZABETH CITY	5.3	5.2	6.3	0.1	-1.0
FOREST CITY	6.2	6.2	6.9	0.0	-0.7
HENDERSON	6.2	6.2	7.6	0.0	-1.4
KILL DEVIL HILLS	3.9	3.9	4.6	0.0	-0.7
KINSTON	4.5	4.5	5.6	0.0	-1.1
LAURINBURG	7.7	7.6	9.3	0.1	-1.6
LUMBERTON	6.6	6.6	7.6	0.0	-1.0
MARION	4.0	4.1	4.9	-0.1	-0.9
MOREHEAD CITY	4.1	4.1	5.0	0.0	-0.9
MOUNT AIRY	4.3	4.2	5.0	0.1	-0.7
NORTH WILKESBORO	4.4	4.5	4.9	-0.1	-0.5
OXFORD	3.9	3.8	4.5	0.1	-0.6
PINEHURST-SOUTHERN PINES	4.4	4.4	5.2	0.0	-0.8
ROANOKE RAPIDS	7.0	7.0	8.0	0.0	-1.0
ROCKINGHAM	6.0	6.0	7.1	0.0	-1.1
SANFORD	5.0	5.1	5.9	-0.1	-0.9
SHELBY	4.7	4.7	5.7	0.0	-1.0
WASHINGTON	4.9	4.9	5.9	0.0	-1.0
WILSON	7.1	7.2	8.5	-0.1	-1.4

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

Combined Statistical Area	August 2017	July 2017	August 2016	OTM Change	OTY Change
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	3.7	3.7	4.3	0.0	-0.6
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD	4.3	4.2	5.0	0.1	-0.7
FAYETTEVILLE-LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	6.0	6.0	7.0	0.0	-1.0
GREENSBORO-WINSTON-SALEM-HIGH POINT	4.5	4.5	5.3	0.0	-0.8
GREENVILLE-WASHINGTON	5.0	5.1	5.9	-0.1	-0.9
HICKORY-LENOIR	4.2	4.2	5.0	0.0	-0.8
NEW BERN-MOREHEAD CITY	4.4	4.4	5.2	0.0	-0.8
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	4.1	4.0	4.8	0.1	-0.7
ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON-ROANOKE RAPIDS	6.8	6.9	7.9	-0.1	-1.1

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**NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY RANKINGS**  
Preliminary Data for August 2017

County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank	County	Labor Force	Unemployed	Rate	Rank
BUNCOMBE	135,198	4,655	3.4%	1	MONTGOMERY	11,763	535	4.5%	51
ALEXANDER	17,868	661	3.7%	2	PENDER	27,272	1,253	4.6%	52
DARE	22,732	864	3.8%	3	FRANKLIN	30,379	1,396	4.6%	53
WAKE	574,524	22,160	3.9%	4	ALLEGHANY	4,471	207	4.6%	54
CHATHAM	34,768	1,343	3.9%	5	JACKSON	19,215	890	4.6%	55
HENDERSON	52,452	2,038	3.9%	6	CRAVEN	42,101	1,955	4.6%	56
LINCOLN	42,357	1,654	3.9%	7	GREENE	9,363	435	4.6%	57
GRANVILLE	29,752	1,171	3.9%	8	CAMDEN	4,498	209	4.6%	58
DAVIE	19,982	794	4.0%	9	CLEVELAND	46,678	2,175	4.7%	59
UNION	117,946	4,704	4.0%	10	DUPLIN	26,097	1,241	4.8%	60
ASHE	12,728	509	4.0%	11	CASWELL	9,559	455	4.8%	61
DURHAM	163,777	6,579	4.0%	12	GUILFORD	259,249	12,399	4.8%	62
NEW HANOVER	119,716	4,822	4.0%	13	CLAY	3,978	191	4.8%	63
ORANGE	76,972	3,103	4.0%	14	SAMPSON	28,788	1,389	4.8%	64
MCDOWELL	20,833	840	4.0%	15	CHEROKEE	11,102	539	4.9%	65
AVERY	7,804	315	4.0%	16	BEAUFORT	20,128	986	4.9%	66
HAYWOOD	28,566	1,156	4.0%	17	ONSLow	63,951	3,134	4.9%	67
YADKIN	17,585	713	4.1%	18	LEE	26,348	1,305	5.0%	68
WATAUGA	29,551	1,203	4.1%	19	WAYNE	52,078	2,624	5.0%	69
CABARRUS	102,421	4,198	4.1%	20	ROCKINGHAM	41,321	2,086	5.0%	70
STANLY	29,332	1,203	4.1%	21	PITT	87,422	4,418	5.1%	71
SWAIN	7,436	306	4.1%	22	MITCHELL	6,097	309	5.1%	72
JOHNSTON	93,307	3,854	4.1%	23	HARNETT	52,292	2,655	5.1%	73
CARTERET	32,648	1,349	4.1%	24	BRUNSWICK	51,798	2,662	5.1%	74
IREDELL	85,961	3,575	4.2%	25	ANSON	10,261	545	5.3%	75
CATAWBA	76,734	3,200	4.2%	26	PASQUOTANK	16,933	912	5.4%	76
CURRITUCK	12,790	535	4.2%	27	TYRRELL	1,671	90	5.4%	77
MECKLENBURG	593,188	24,886	4.2%	28	CHOWAN	5,421	293	5.4%	78
TRANSYLVANIA	14,387	610	4.2%	29	MARTIN	9,374	513	5.5%	79
POLK	8,910	380	4.3%	30	COLUMBUS	22,218	1,227	5.5%	80
STOKES	21,946	936	4.3%	31	PERQUIMANS	4,992	276	5.5%	81
DAVIDSON	79,173	3,381	4.3%	32	CUMBERLAND	125,875	7,034	5.6%	82
BURKE	40,085	1,713	4.3%	33	HYDE	2,200	123	5.6%	83
SURRY	33,010	1,425	4.3%	34	HOKE	19,616	1,109	5.7%	84
ALAMANCE	79,450	3,437	4.3%	35	BERTIE	8,180	476	5.8%	85
MADISON	9,759	424	4.3%	36	HERTFORD	9,064	528	5.8%	86
RANDOLPH	67,111	2,935	4.4%	37	BLADEN	14,206	830	5.8%	87
YANCEY	7,537	330	4.4%	38	GRAHAM	3,159	186	5.9%	88
WILKES	30,359	1,332	4.4%	39	WASHINGTON	4,730	281	5.9%	89
JONES	4,569	201	4.4%	40	RICHMOND	16,339	979	6.0%	90
MOORE	40,148	1,769	4.4%	41	NASH	42,229	2,599	6.2%	91
FORSYTH	181,243	8,014	4.4%	42	RUTHERFORD	24,419	1,503	6.2%	92
MACON	15,419	682	4.4%	43	VANCE	18,038	1,119	6.2%	93
GATES	5,129	227	4.4%	44	NORTHAMPTON	7,635	481	6.3%	94
CALDWELL	36,005	1,612	4.5%	45	WARREN	6,925	452	6.5%	95
GASTON	107,425	4,815	4.5%	46	ROBESON	49,260	3,273	6.6%	96
LENOIR	27,213	1,227	4.5%	47	WILSON	35,474	2,526	7.1%	97
PERSON	18,392	830	4.5%	48	HALIFAX	20,138	1,468	7.3%	98
PAMLICO	5,409	245	4.5%	49	EDGEcombe	21,694	1,616	7.4%	99
ROWAN	65,790	2,982	4.5%	50	SCOTLAND	11,224	862	7.7%	100

*Not Seasonally Adjusted*

*Estimates subject to monthly and annual revisions.*

North Carolina Department of Commerce  
Labor & Economic Analysis Division  
Local Area Unemployment Statistics  
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## **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 [www.bls.gov/lau/laumthd.htm](http://www.bls.gov/lau/laumthd.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 15, 2015. 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 Friday, October 20, 2017 when the state unemployment rate for September 2017 will be released.

The complete 2017 data release schedule can be accessed at:

<http://www.nccommerce.com/lead/research-publications/schedule-of-release-dates>