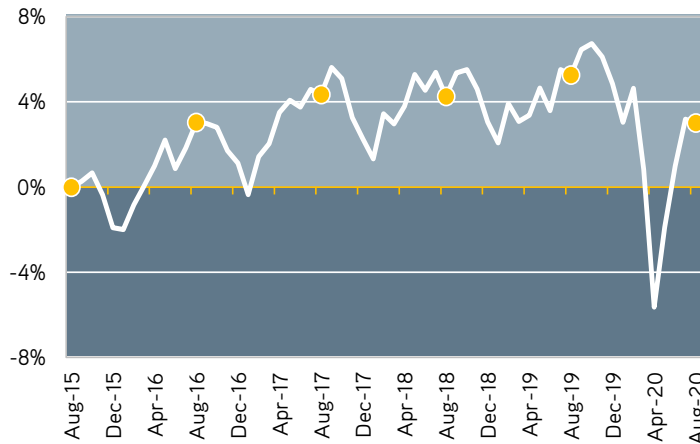


LABOR MARKET OVERVIEW

Regional Labor Market Snapshot

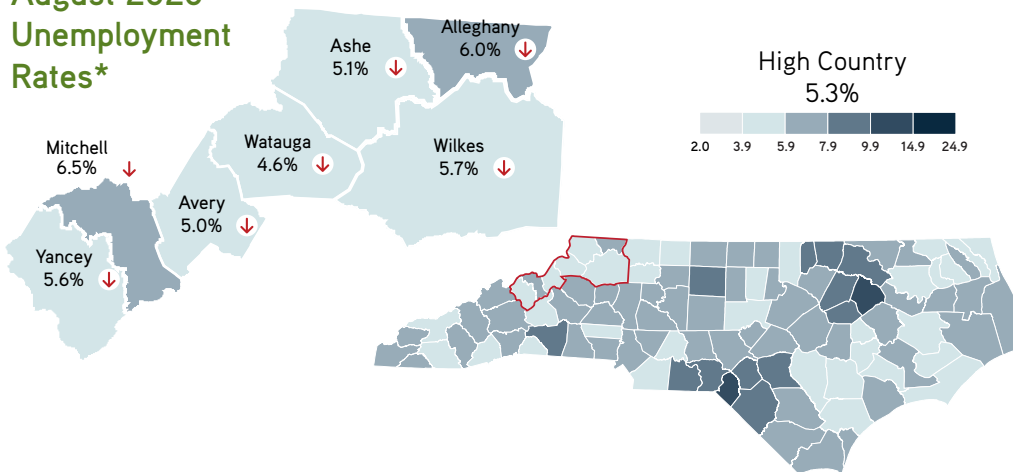
Change in Employment since 2015*



High Country Region

Source: LAUS, Labor & Economic Analysis, NC Dept. of Commerce

August 2020 Unemployment Rates*



Trending

UNEMPLOYMENT*

August 2020

High Country Total = 5,214

	Current	Previous
Region	5.3%	7.0%
NC	6.8%	8.8%
US	8.5%	10.5%

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT*

High Country Total = 93,253

158 Fewer People Working in August than previous month
2,044 Fewer People Working than same period one year ago

METRO JOB GROWTH*

Asheville Total = 177,900

3,100 More Jobs in August than previous month

Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton Total = 139,000

2,000 More Jobs in August than previous month

TAXABLE RETAIL SALES

High Country Total = \$282,756,933

18.2% Higher than same period one year ago

Source: NC Dept. of Revenue
 Note: July 2020 data most current available at time of release.

ONLINE JOB ADS

1,630 Online Advertised Vacancies reported in July

455 More Vacancies than same period one year ago

Source: LEAD/The Conference Board
 Note: July 2020 data most current available at time of release.

Who's Hiring

past 90 days from Sept. 19, 2020

• Lowe's Companies, Inc	127
• Carrols Corporation	67
• Food Lion	58
• Appalachian Regional Healthcare System	57
• Appalachian State University	54
• WILKES COUNTY SCHOOLS	51
• Lowes Foods, LLC	42
• Ashe County Schools	38

Source: DWS, NC Dept. of Commerce, NCWorks.gov

What Jobs

past 90 days from Sept. 19, 2020

• Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	219
• Retail Salespersons	101
• Registered Nurses	98
• Driver/Sales Workers	86
• Combined Food Prep. & Serving Workers	79
• First-Line Supervisors, Food Prep.	72
• Nursing Assistants	58
• Cashiers	50

Source: DWS, NC Dept. of Commerce, NCWorks.gov

*August 2020 data are preliminary. Previous month's data are revised while all other data have undergone annual revision. All data produced in this publication are generated by LEAD unless otherwise stated. LEAD generated data are not seasonally adjusted.

This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment & Training Administration.

LABOR MARKET OVERVIEW

High Country Workforce Development Board

Civilian Labor Force Estimates*

		August 2020	July 2020	June 2020	August 2019
Alleghany	Labor Force	4,516	4,503	4,411	4,417
	Employed	4,247	4,191	4,133	4,200
	Unemployed	269	312	278	217
	Rate	6.0	6.9	6.3	4.9
Ashe	Labor Force	12,991	13,077	12,664	12,925
	Employed	12,328	12,184	11,976	12,429
	Unemployed	663	893	688	496
	Rate	5.1	6.8	5.4	3.8
Avery	Labor Force	7,913	8,156	7,907	7,754
	Employed	7,516	7,618	7,460	7,459
	Unemployed	397	538	447	295
	Rate	5.0	6.6	5.7	3.8
Mitchell	Labor Force	5,951	6,135	5,935	6,090
	Employed	5,565	5,609	5,475	5,794
	Unemployed	386	526	460	296
	Rate	6.5	8.6	7.8	4.9
Watauga	Labor Force	29,975	30,819	29,763	30,360
	Employed	28,585	28,823	27,974	29,190
	Unemployed	1,390	1,996	1,789	1,170
	Rate	4.6	6.5	6.0	3.9
Wilkes	Labor Force	28,978	29,681	28,890	29,376
	Employed	27,327	27,488	26,993	28,091
	Unemployed	1,651	2,193	1,897	1,285
	Rate	5.7	7.4	6.6	4.4
Yancey	Labor Force	8,143	8,115	7,970	8,476
	Employed	7,685	7,498	7,413	8,134
	Unemployed	458	617	557	342
	Rate	5.6	7.6	7.0	4.0

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