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Serving Anson County and the Municipalities of Ansonville, Lilesville, McFarlan, Morven, Peachland, Polkton and Wadesboro.

## Anson County's November Unemployment Rate Information

**Anson County** Anson County's unemployment rate for November was 4.1%. The October rate was 4.0%. Anson County ranked #78 of the 100 counties statewide (low to high).

Here are other past rates in Anson County: **2023:** September 3.8%; August 4.2%; July 4.2%; June 4.2%; May 4.0%; April 3.6%; March 3.9%; February 4%; January 4.3%. **2022:** December 4.0%; November 4.6%; October 4.9%; September 4.2%; August 4.9%; July 4.7%; June 5.3%; May 4.7%; April 4.6%; March 4.9%; February 5.1%; January 5.1%. **2021:** December 4.4%; November 4.7%; October 5.2%; September 4.9%; August 5.8%; July 6.5%; June 6.1%; May 5.5%; April 5.4%; March 5.9%; February 7.5%; January 7.7%. **The 2020 rates were:** December 7.1%; November 7.2%; October 7.2%; September 8.5%; August 8%; July 10%; June 7.9%; May 10.1%; and April 8.2%.

In March 2020 the unemployment rate in Anson County was 4.9 percent, just before it was affected by the pandemic.

**Statewide** Statewide the unemployment rate for November was 3.4%. In October it was 3.3%.

Here are other statewide past rates: **2023:** September 3.2%; August 3.6%; July 3.6%; June 3.6%; May 3.4%; April 3.1%; March 3.5%; February 3.6%; January 3.7%.

**2022:** December 3.2%; November 3.8%; October 3.9%; September 3.3%; August 3.9%; July 3.7%; June 4.1%; May 3.6%; April 3.4%; March 3.6%; February 3.7%; January 3.8%. **2021:** December 3.2%; November 3.4%; October 3.6%; September 3.8%; August 4.4%; July 4.6%; June 4.9%; May 4.5%; April 4.4%; March 4.6%; February 5.6%; January 6%. **2020:** December 6%; November and October 6.1%; September 7%; August 6.8%; July 8.9%.

Anson's total labor force in November was 10,160, with 9,748 employed and 412 unemployed. In October the total labor force was 10,203, with 9,794 employed and 409 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 39 of North Carolina's counties in November 2023, decreased in 17, and remained unchanged in 44. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 5.9 percent while Buncombe and Swain Counties each had the lowest at 2.6 percent.

Five of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases, two decreased, and eight remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Fayetteville and Rocky Mount each had the highest rate at 4.6 percent while Asheville had the lowest at 2.8 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.4 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 89 counties, increased in five, and remained unchanged in six. All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in November by 27,699 to 5,086,500, while those unemployed increased by 402 to 177,244. Since November 2022, the number of workers employed statewide increased 126,461, while those unemployed decreased 7,217.

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.

## Seize Your Business Opportunities in 2024 with South Piedmont Community College's Small Business Center

This is a release from South Piedmont Community College: Happy New Year! As we embark on the exciting journey that is 2024, the Small Business Center at South Piedmont Community College is thrilled to be your partner in success.

This year is brimming with possibilities, and we want to ensure you make the most of every opportunity. Whether you're dreaming of starting a new venture, aiming for business growth, or contemplating a reinvention, now is the perfect time to take action. Together, let's turn your aspirations into accomplishments and make this year your most successful yet.

Training: [www.ncsbc.net](http://www.ncsbc.net) | Counseling & Premier Mastermind Group: [spcc.edu/small-business-center/mastermind-group](http://spcc.edu/small-business-center/mastermind-group)

### Upcoming Small Business Webinars

- Jan. 10 - Sales and Use Tax Workshop
- Jan. 11 - Great Ideas: No Guarantee of Success
- Jan. 16 - Digital Fundraising for Your Nonprofit
- Jan. 23 - Building a No Code App for Your Business
- Jan. 23 - Launch Unison
- Jan. 30 - AI, Automation, & Your Small Business
- Jan. 31 - Online Seller
- Feb. 01 - Starting Your Business the Lean Way
- Feb. 06 - Top Tech Tools for Biz Owners
- Feb. 13 - Small Business Startup: Ready, Set, Go!
- Feb. 15 - Budgeting: It's More than Numbers
- Feb. 27 - The Power of Accessibility

## Anson Mobile Market is Back for 2024!

Next event is January 18 on the Square in Wadesboro

Anson County Extension, the Anson County Health Department and Atrium Health Anson have partnered to offer the Anson Mobile Market. This is an event that will afford the citizens of Anson County to receive six-eight different types of fresh produce monthly. This is a free initiative, so please stop by and get some produce.

This event is to assist in the scarcity of fresh, healthy food in the county. It will also serve as an educational event to offer education on the two targeted areas of the county health assessment which are tobacco use and hypertension. Agencies will be set up offering services and information in those two targeted areas.

This month's event will be in the Uptown Wadesboro Square on Thursday, January 18 starting at 10 a.m. Bundle up and come for some fresh, free goodies.

## Christmas Giving Project Was a HUGE Success!

Employees of Anson County Schools' Central Office, First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro, Jon G's Barbecue in Peachland, Loba-Wakol in Wadesboro, Uwharrie Bank, numerous community members, civic organizations, and anonymous donors recently provided Christmas gifts and groceries to over 100 children and their families in Anson County Schools through the Anson County Schools' Christmas Giving Project.

The Christmas Giving Project originally started 43 years ago through First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro by Tim Harris and Cameron Keith to support needy children and their families all over Anson County. By the end of the Christmas project there are usually over 100 children who are supported throughout our schools. Now, with the help of Jon G's BBQ in Peachland, through their donation drive they have each year in December, we have been fortunate to provide every child's family with multiple boxes of food to help get them through the two-week holiday break from school.

With the generous monetary donation from Jon G's Barbecue, including a trailer full of new and unwrapped toys from The Lift (First Baptist of Indian Trail), it allowed us to provide food and groceries to over 30 families this year. We were blown away by the generous donation from the campaign Jon G's organized when their owners (Kelly and Jon) had a vision again this year to raise money for groceries/food for needy children and their families in our schools. They had an overwhelming response to their campaign. and on December 15 Kelly and Jon gave First Presbyterian Church a donation of over \$3,000 to go toward the purchase of groceries for each family.

First Presbyterian Church had previously set aside \$500 plus donations from church members. With both Jon G's donation and the church's contribution, around 20 buggies full of groceries were purchased to serve needy families. The team of employees at Wadesboro Food Lion helped make the shopping experience smooth with them reserving a checkout lane just for our groceries. Everyone worked as a team to help fill vehicles full of groceries. It was a heartwarming sight!

In addition to business and community donations, an anonymous donor allowed us to purchase socks, underwear and coats for the needy children. Any monetary donations that come in after December 15 will be used toward the Missions/Blessing Bag Project at First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro several years ago), provides enough food each week for 25 children to take home during the weekend.

The grocery bags are filled with food and placed in their bookbags for students to take home.

We were humbled by the generosity of the local community, people throughout North Carolina, and beyond in making sure our children and their families had a wonderful Christmas this year. And, we were endlessly blessed to see the precious smiles from youngsters and see the tears and hear words of thankfulness from their mothers, grandmothers, and fathers as families received their gifts. It was equally moving to hear the excitement of the employees and citizens who contributed to this project. Each person and business gave so willingly while knowing very little about the child - beyond his or her gender and age - for whom they had purchased gifts or donated money toward feeding. It's much more wonderful to give than to receive, and a lot of people made 2023 a great Christmas for so many children. The hope and joy given to the families are priceless!

A BIG THANK YOU goes to the school guidance counselors, social workers, nurses and principals; it wouldn't have been possible without their willingness to work with the families and provide gift information for the project. Lastly, a special thanks to First Presbyterian Church members and their youth who worked behind the scenes, Anson County Schools' Central Office staff and custodial crew for helping organize and transport gifts and for helping make this project a success through their amazing teamwork. Article and pictures submitted by Anne Trexler Hyatt, Public Information Officer, Clerk to the Board of Education, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent



## Lt. Steven Kelly Promoted to Rank of Major at Wadesboro Police Department

### Adrian Robson promoted to rank of Patrol Sergeant

Wadesboro Police Chief Brandon Chewing recently announced the promotion of two officers. Lieutenant Steven Kelly was promoted to the rank of Major. Major Kelly will be second in command at the Wadesboro Police Department and assist Chief Chewing in running the department.

Patrolman Adrian Robson was promoted to the rank of Patrol Sergeant. He will be responsible for supervising a patrol shift.



Major Kelly

Sgt. Robson

## Commissioners Meet January 16

The Anson County Board of Commissioners hold their second regular meeting for January will be held on Tuesday, January 16 at 6 p.m.

The meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

The Commissioners' board meetings are live streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) and search for Anson Commissioners.

## January is Cervical Cancer Month

The 2 most important things you can do to help prevent cervical cancer is to get vaccinated against HPV and have regular screening tests starting at age 21.

Read about some ways you can reduce your risk of cervical cancer here: [cdc.gov/cancer/cervical](http://cdc.gov/cancer/cervical).