

North Carolina Aviation Industry Contributes \$88 Billion Annually to State Economy

North Carolina's aviation industry contributes \$88 billion each year to the state's economy and supports more than 427,000 jobs statewide, according to the 2025 North Carolina: The State of Aviation report.

The N.C. Department of Transportation's Division of Aviation released the report today to highlight the industry's substantial economic impact and the vital role local airports play.

"North Carolina's aviation industry is not only a cornerstone of our economy, but also a key driver of innovation," said Nick Short, interim director of the NCDOT Division of Aviation. "This report highlights the critical role our airports play in fostering economic growth, supporting new technologies, and positioning the state as a leader in the future of aviation."

The biennial report examines the extensive economic influence of the state's aviation system, which includes 10 commercial service airports and 62 general aviation airports. These facilities play a vital role in supporting diverse sectors such as agriculture, military operations, emergency response and aerospace innovation.

The state's airports are also seeing significant growth in passenger services, with total passenger counts climbing to 74.3 million annually. These commercial service facilities connect travelers to 188 airline destinations, supporting business and leisure travel while enhancing the state's global connectivity.

Local communities earn significant returns from the state's general aviation facilities, where nearly 4,000 aircraft generate \$6.8 million in local property tax revenues. A single \$15 million aircraft based at Hickory Regional Airport, for instance, generates the same property taxes as 60 typical homes, without the high level of public infrastructure residential areas require.

The report contains data compiled and analyzed for NCDOT by N.C. State University's Institute for Transportation Research and Education. Impacts are calculated based on factors such as jobs supported by the airports and the businesses that rely on them, and the impact of airport capital projects and operations.

To explore the full report and learn more about how each airport contributes to its community and the state's economy, visit the NCDOT State of Aviation webpage, ncdot.gov/aviation.

Tahje Rashad Ruffin Charged with Rape and Attempt to Bring Contraband to Inmate

This is a release from the Polkton Police Department: Incident 12/20/2024. Back in elementary school boys and girls use to pass notes and say "Do you love me check yes or no" Well one of the former employees of the state decided he would try a little note passing with a resident of the state.

After the notes and the love story started they decided that their first date should be at about 2am in the janitor closet in the POD where the resident resided. After their first date the planned their second date which consisted of the former employee attempting to bring some contraband into his love by suitcasing it on his person. Due to corrections investigators, Anson County Sheriffs Office and Polkton Police Department his package to his love was located and he was arrested and spent Christmas in jail under a \$ 150,000.00

Tahje Rashad Ruffin, age 27, charged with: Possession of controlled substance on correction facility; Provide contraband to inmate; Second degree rape.



Tahje Ruffin

Anson County's November Unemployment Rate

Anson County Anson County's unemployment rate for November was 4.0%, up slightly from October's 3.7% rate. In November Anson County ranked #62 of the 100 counties statewide (low unemployment rate to high).

Anson's total labor force in November was 10,103, with 9,703 employed and 400 unemployed. In October the total labor force was 10,140, with 9,761 employed and 379 unemployed.

Statewide Statewide the November unemployment rate was 3.7%. In October it was 3.6%.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 85 counties in November 2024, decreased in 12, and remained unchanged in three. Mitchell County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.9 percent while Orange and Currituck Counties each had the lowest at 2.9 percent.

Fourteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases and one decreased. Among the metro areas, Asheville had the highest rate at 6.1 percent while Wilmington had the lowest at 3.0 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.7%.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 79 counties, decreased in eight, and remained unchanged in 13. Twelve metro areas experienced rate increases over the year, two decreased, and one remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in November by 30,435 to 5,046,880, while those unemployed increased by 3,967 to 193,883. Since November 2023, the number of workers employed statewide decreased 21,571, while those unemployed increased 17,420.

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.

Funny, Random & Weird Holidays

- Jan 9 Thursday - Static Electricity Day
- Jan 9 Thursday - Word Nerd Day
- Jan 10 Friday - Cut Your Energy Costs Day
- Jan 11 Saturday - Learn Your Name in Morse Code Day
- Jan 12 Sunday - Marzipan Day
- Jan 13 Monday - Clean Off Your Desk Day
- Jan 13 Monday - Make Your Dreams Come True Day
- Jan 14 Tuesday - Organize Your Home Day
- Jan 15 Wednesday - Strawberry Ice Cream Day
- Jan 15 Wednesday - Bagel and Lox Day

Lions Club Info

The Wadesboro Lions Club meets at the Papa Joe's Restaurant the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. For more information call Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448.



MOBILE FOOD MARKET

FREE FOOD MONTHLY
THURSDAY JAN 16 BEGINS AT 10AM

On the Square
Uptown Wadesboro
Corner of Wade & Greene Streets

FRESH VEGETABLES, FRUIT & BREAD (IF AVAILABLE)
BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS BLOOD SUGAR CHECKS
OTHER HEALTHY LIVING TOPICS & BOOTHS

Nothing is required for you to receive produce, just come.

Sponsored by NC Cooperative Extension, Anson County, Sandhills Aginnovation, Pilgrim's & Atrium Health
Food given out as supplies last

TANK LEARY'S TRACTOR SERVICES

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- Gutter Clean
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704-475-7024

FINANCING AVAILABLE

FULLY STOCKED APPLIANCE SECTION - ALL PRICE RANGES

SAME OR NEXT DAY DELIVERY

CHEST & UPRIGHT FREEZERS 5 - 20 CUBIC FEET

MARTIN FURNITURE FACTORY OUTLET
Highway 74 West in Wadesboro • 704-694-3185 Mon-Fri 8:30-5 Sat 8:30-1

VISIT OUR SLEEP SHOP
Mon-Fri 8:30-5
Saturday 8:30-1

A Matter of Balance

A workshop for people concerned about falls

You will learn how to:

- ✓ View falls as controllable
- ✓ Set goals for increasing activity
- ✓ Make changes to reduce fall risk at home
- ✓ Exercise to increase strength and balance

In Person No Cost

February 4 - 27
Tuesdays & Thursdays

12 noon to 2pm

Location:
Grace Senior Center
199 Highway 742 South
Wadesboro

Centralina Area Agency on Aging

A Matter of Balance was most helpful - it made me more aware of what can be done to ensure safety at home. The class provided a definite time each week to meet and discuss concerns with others. - Former Participant

All participants are welcome, respected, and valued. Please contact us to request accommodations.

Please call Grace Senior Center for information 704-694-6616

ANSON COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN PRESENTS

BARN BLAST

FRIDAY
JANUARY 31, 2025
6:00 to 11:00 PM

DINNER • DANCING • LIVE AUCTION

SPCC Lockhart-Taylor Center | Wadesboro, NC

TICKETS \$75 each or \$600 for Reserved Table for 8
AVAILABLE NOW (704) 694-4036
www.AnsonChildren.org

All proceeds will benefit Anson County Partnership for Children.

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