

Commissioners Meet May 5

The first May meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners takes place on Tuesday, May 5 at 6 p.m. The second May meeting take place on May 19 at 6 p.m. Meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center, located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro. To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Info 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 and search for Anson Commissioners.

North Carolina's January Unemployment Rates Rise Across All Counties

Unemployment rates increased in every county across North Carolina in January 2026, reflecting a statewide seasonal slowdown at the start of the year. According to newly released figures, the state's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stood at 4.1 percent. Hyde County recorded the highest rate at 10.0 percent, while Camden County reported the lowest at 3.1 percent. In Anson County, the labor force totaled 8,736 in January, with 427 residents unemployed, resulting in an unemployment rate of 4.9 percent. All 15 of North Carolina's metro areas also saw increases in January. Rocky Mount posted the highest metro rate at 5.7 percent, while Raleigh had the lowest at 3.5 percent. The majority of counties remained at relatively lower levels despite the increases. A total of 86 counties reported unemployment rates of 5 percent or below, while 13 counties fell between 5 percent and 10 percent, and just one county exceeded 10 percent. By comparison, in December, 97 counties were at or below 5 percent, with none above 10 percent.

When compared to January 2025, unemployment rates increased in 65 counties, decreased in 26 and remained unchanged in nine. Among metro areas, twelve experienced increases over the year, two saw decreases and one remained unchanged. Statewide employment numbers also reflected the seasonal shift. The number of employed workers decreased by 76,782 in January to 5,036,491, while the number of unemployed workers increased by 34,788 to 214,601. Over the past year, total employment declined by 28,304, while the number of unemployed rose by 3,965. Officials note that January often brings higher unemployment rates due to the end of seasonal jobs, particularly in retail and holiday-related industries, though the data still provides an important snapshot of economic conditions across the state.

Anson Unemployment Drops to 4.5 Percent in February

Anson County's unemployment rate fell to 4.5 percent in February, down from January's 4.9%, according to the latest figures released by the state. The county reported a labor force of 8,742, with 390 individuals unemployed. Across North Carolina, unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 91 counties, increased in five and remained unchanged in four. Hyde County recorded the highest rate at 10.8 percent, while Camden County had the lowest at 3.0 percent. All 15 of the state's metro areas saw rate decreases during the month. Rocky Mount posted the highest metro rate at 5.3 percent, while Raleigh had the lowest at 3.3 percent. The statewide unemployment rate for February was 3.8 percent. Compared to February 2025, unemployment rates decreased in 57 counties, increased in 27 and remained unchanged in 16. Statewide employment numbers also improved in February. The number of workers employed increased by 39,834 to 5,076,846, while the number of unemployed workers decreased by 11,264 to 203,179. Over the past year, employment rose by 19,384, while unemployment declined by 6,890. Officials note that employment figures can fluctuate due to seasonal patterns and recommend focusing on year-over-year trends for a clearer picture of economic conditions.

State Unemployment Rate Holds Steady in February

North Carolina's unemployment rate remained unchanged in February 2026, holding at 3.8 percent, according to newly released state labor figures. The rate matched January's revised total and was also unchanged from February 2025, signaling a relatively stable labor market despite shifts in employment across industries. Nationally, the unemployment rate edged up slightly to 4.4 percent, an increase of 0.1 percentage point. Statewide, the number of employed workers rose modestly in February, increasing by 701 to 5,110,580. Over the past year, employment has grown by 21,711. Meanwhile, the number of unemployed individuals declined by 2,352 over the month to 201,100 and decreased slightly by 244 compared to the same time last year. While overall employment showed stability, total nonfarm jobs dipped in February. Seasonally adjusted employment fell by 2,600 to 5,069,400, reflecting a mixed performance across major industries. Several sectors posted gains during the month, led by Private Education and Health Services, which added 2,700 jobs. Government employment increased by 1,200, followed by Other Services with 900 new jobs and Construction with a gain of 600. Other industries saw declines, including Trade, Transportation and Utilities, which dropped by 3,300 jobs, and Leisure and Hospitality Services, down 1,900. Manufacturing employment decreased by 1,100, while Financial Activities, Professional and Business Services, and Information also posted losses. Over the past year, total nonfarm employment has increased by 36,300 jobs, with the private sector accounting for the majority of those gains. Private Education and Health Services led annual growth with an increase of 22,000 jobs, followed by Construction and Leisure and Hospitality. However, some industries have experienced longer-term declines. Manufacturing employment fell by 12,500 jobs over the year, while Trade, Transportation and Utilities and Information also posted losses. Officials note that employment estimates are subject to monthly and annual revisions, but the latest figures suggest North Carolina's job market continues to show resilience, even as individual sectors experience ups and downs.

Causey Reaches Rate Deal, Consumers Avoid Steeper Hike

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey has reached a settlement with insurance companies on dwelling insurance rates—an agreement that reins in a much larger proposed increase but still leaves consumers paying a bit more. Under the deal, rates will rise an average of 5 percent per year over the next two years, with increases taking effect October 1, 2026, and October 1, 2027. The adjustments will vary depending on location across the state. The agreement comes after the N.C. Rate Bureau - representing insurance companies—requested a 68.3 percent increase over two years, a figure that likely caused more than a few homeowners to double-check their wallets (and maybe their blood pressure). By comparison, the negotiated settlement keeps increases far lower, avoiding what could have been a much steeper financial hit. Officials say the agreement will save North Carolina consumers more than \$268 million compared to the original request. The settlement also includes mitigation credits for property owners who invest in fortified homes and roofs designed to better withstand high winds - an incentive that rewards those willing to weatherproof both their homes and, perhaps, their insurance bills. Because of the agreement, a scheduled July 6 hearing on the proposed rate hike has been canceled. Dwelling insurance, which applies to non-owner-occupied properties such as rentals or investment homes, differs from standard homeowners insurance but still plays a key role for many property owners. While the final rate increases are far from the eye-popping levels initially proposed, the outcome serves as a reminder that when it comes to insurance, even "good news" can still come with a bill attached.

Tiger's Den Opens at Wadesboro Elementary

New resource center supports families in need

Good news for local families: The Tiger's Den Family Resource Center is now open at Wadesboro Elementary School, offering a wide range of support services for students and their families. The new center is designed to help meet everyday needs and remove barriers to success, providing access to essential items and resources in a welcoming, supportive environment. **Available resources include:**

- Clothing for the whole family, including new and gently used items
- Shoes in all sizes
- Perishable and nonperishable food items to help put food on the table
- School supplies to help students succeed in the classroom
- Cleaning supplies to help families maintain safe and healthy homes
- Job-seeking resources to assist individuals in taking the next step toward employment

School officials say the goal of the Tiger's Den is to strengthen families and support student success by ensuring basic needs are met. The center is open to all families in the school community, reinforcing the message: "Strong families. Strong tigers. Stronger together."



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ANSON COUNTY
HOMES OF HOPE

SAT, MAY 2
9AM-4PM
LOCKHART-TAYLOR CENTER


Join us for a day of fun, shopping and community

- LOCAL ARTISANS & CRAFTERS
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IDENTITY SHRED-A-THON & FRAUD PREVENTION LUNCH & LEARN

TUESDAY, MAY 5 10AM - 12PM
LOCKHART-TAYLOR CENTER

Medicare fraud and financial scams targeting older adults continue to evolve, using new technologies, and increasingly sophisticated tactics. This Lunch & Learn will help you understand what's happening, what to watch for, and how to stay safe.

JOIN GRACE SENIOR CENTER SHIP VOLUNTEERS
Sheriff's Office & Police Department
State Employees Credit Union
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On Tuesday, May 5 at Lockhart-Taylor Center
Ingram Room, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Bring your private papers to be shredded... and enter our drawing for a FREE Paper Shredder!

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