



News Release

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For Immediate Release
September 16, 2011

Despite Employment Gains, Unemployment Rate Edges Up in August

RALEIGH — North Carolina’s labor market retracted last month and even with an employment increase of 16,500 jobs, the unemployment rate for August was 10.4 percent.

“Since January, the data shows private sector job growth,” said ESC Chairman Lynn R. Holmes. “The Employment Security Commission continues to work with our workforce development partners to provide assistance to our customers statewide.”

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey increased by 16,500 to 3,882,500 in August. The largest over-the-month employment increase occurred in government (+13,600). Since January, private sector jobs have increased by 31,600. The government sector is down 11,000 in that same time frame.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Since August 2010

	<i>Aug. 2010</i>	<i>Sept. 2010</i>	<i>Oct. 2010</i>	<i>Nov. 2010</i>	<i>Dec. 2010</i>	<i>Jan. 2011</i>	<i>Feb. 2011</i>	<i>Mar. 2011</i>	<i>Apr. 2011</i>	<i>May 2011</i>	<i>June 2011</i>	<i>July 2011</i>	<i>Aug. 2011</i>
<i>N.C.</i>	<i>10.1</i>	<i>10.0</i>	<i>9.9</i>	<i>9.8</i>	<i>9.8</i>	<i>9.8</i>	<i>9.8</i>	<i>9.7</i>	<i>9.7</i>	<i>9.7</i>	<i>9.9</i>	<i>10.1</i>	<i>10.4</i>
<i>U.S.</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>9.7</i>	<i>9.8</i>	<i>9.4</i>	<i>9.0</i>	<i>8.9</i>	<i>8.8</i>	<i>9.0</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>9.1</i>

*****2010 Numbers Have Been Benchmarked*****

The household survey shows the number of people unemployed increased by 11,747, to 468,140. The number of people employed decreased by 14,524 (seasonally adjusted), to 4,030,903. Since this time last year, the number of people unemployed has increased by 14,556. The state unemployment rate in August 2010 was 10.1 percent.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Friday, September 23, when the county unemployment rates for the month of August will be released.

— *More* —

This information may be accessed on the ESC’s World Wide Web page, at <http://www.ncesc.com>



NORTH CAROLINA & U.S. LABOR FORCE DATA

North Carolina data is embargoed until 10:00 A.M., Friday, September 16, 2011

				Month Ago		Year Ago	
	August 2011	July 2011	August 2010	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina (Civilian Labor Force Estimates)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,499,043	4,501,820	4,485,466	-2,777	-0.1	13,577	0.3
Employed	4,030,903	4,045,427	4,031,882	-14,524	-0.4	-979	>-0.1
Unemployed	468,140	456,393	453,584	11,747	2.6	14,556	3.2
Unemployment Rate	10.4	10.1	10.1	0.3	xxx	0.3	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,510,234	4,559,191	4,502,867	-48,957	-1.1	7,367	0.2
Employed	4,038,915	4,084,865	4,048,649	-45,950	-1.1	-9,734	-0.2
Unemployed	471,319	474,326	454,218	-3,007	-0.6	17,101	3.8
Unemployment Rate	10.4	10.4	10.1	0.0	xxx	0.3	xxx
United States (Current Population Survey)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	153,594,000	153,228,000	154,117,000	366,000	0.2	-523,000	-0.3
Employed	139,627,000	139,296,000	139,267,000	331,000	0.2	360,000	0.3
Unemployed	13,967,000	13,931,000	14,849,000	36,000	0.3	-882,000	-5.9
Unemployment Rate	9.1	9.1	9.6	0.0	xxx	-0.5	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	154,344,000	154,812,000	154,678,000	-468,000	-0.3	-334,000	-0.2
Employed	140,335,000	140,384,000	139,919,000	-49,000	>-0.1	416,000	0.3
Unemployed	14,008,000	14,428,000	14,759,000	-420,000	-2.9	-751,000	-5.1
Unemployment Rate	9.1	9.3	9.5	-0.2	xxx	-0.4	xxx
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	3,882,500	3,866,000	3,861,400	16,500	0.4	21,100	0.5
Total Private	3,197,200	3,194,300	3,161,400	2,900	0.1	35,800	1.1
Mining & Logging	5,600	5,700	5,600	-100	-1.8	0	0.0
Construction	169,000	169,200	174,600	-200	-0.1	-5,600	-3.2
Manufacturing	433,700	434,900	431,200	-1,200	-0.3	2,500	0.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	718,100	721,700	712,100	-3,600	-0.5	6,000	0.8
Information	69,100	68,700	68,300	400	0.6	800	1.2
Financial Activities	203,200	203,400	198,800	-200	-0.1	4,400	2.2
Professional & Business Services	500,000	496,100	484,500	3,900	0.8	15,500	3.2
Education & Health Services	539,800	537,300	537,000	2,500	0.5	2,800	0.5
Leisure & Hospitality Services	403,300	403,500	392,000	-200	0.0	11,300	2.9
Other Services	155,400	153,800	157,300	1,600	1.0	-1,900	-1.2
Government	685,300	671,700	700,000	13,600	2.0	-14,700	-2.1
Mfg. Production Workers (PW) Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Mfg. PW Average Hourly Earnings	\$16.05	\$16.02	\$15.60				
Mfg. PW Hours Worked	40.8	41.2	40.4				

All 2011 Labor Force and CES data for the current month are preliminary, previous month are revised.

All 2010 Labor Force and CES estimates have been benchmarked.

Estimates may not add to totals due to rounding.

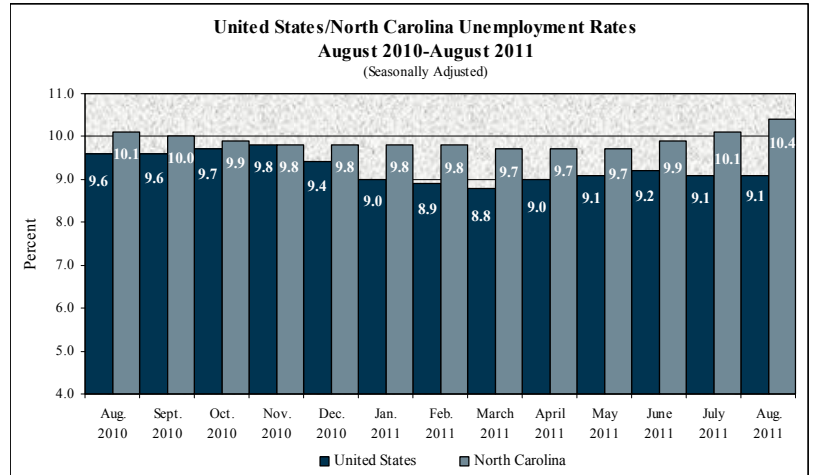
NORTH CAROLINA LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS

AUGUST 2011*

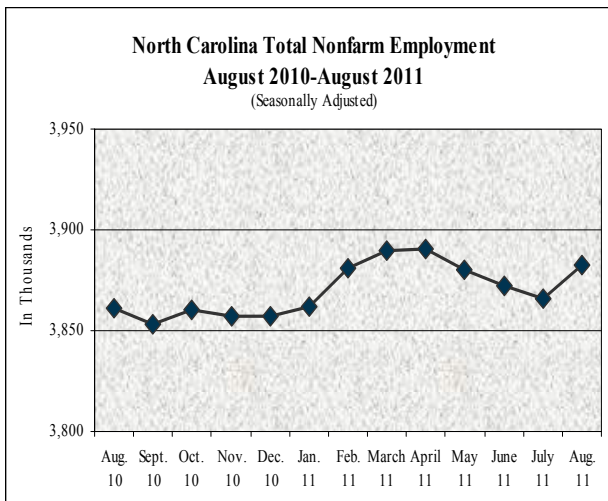
The North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 10.4 percent in August, an increase of 0.3 of a percentage point over the month, and 0.3 of a percentage point higher than August 2010. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed grew by 11,747 (2.6%). The civilian labor force was relatively unchanged at 4,499,043.

Nationally, August's unemployment rate remained unchanged over the month at 9.1 percent. The number of persons unemployed increased by 36,000 (0.3%), while the civilian labor force grew by 366,000 (0.2%).

Since the beginning of the recession in December 2007, North Carolina's labor force has decreased 1.3 percent, while the nation showed a loss of 0.2 percent. The number of people employed in North Carolina has decreased 7.0 percent, compared to 4.5 percent nationally, while the number unemployed has increased 106.9 percent in North Carolina and 82.2 percent nationwide.



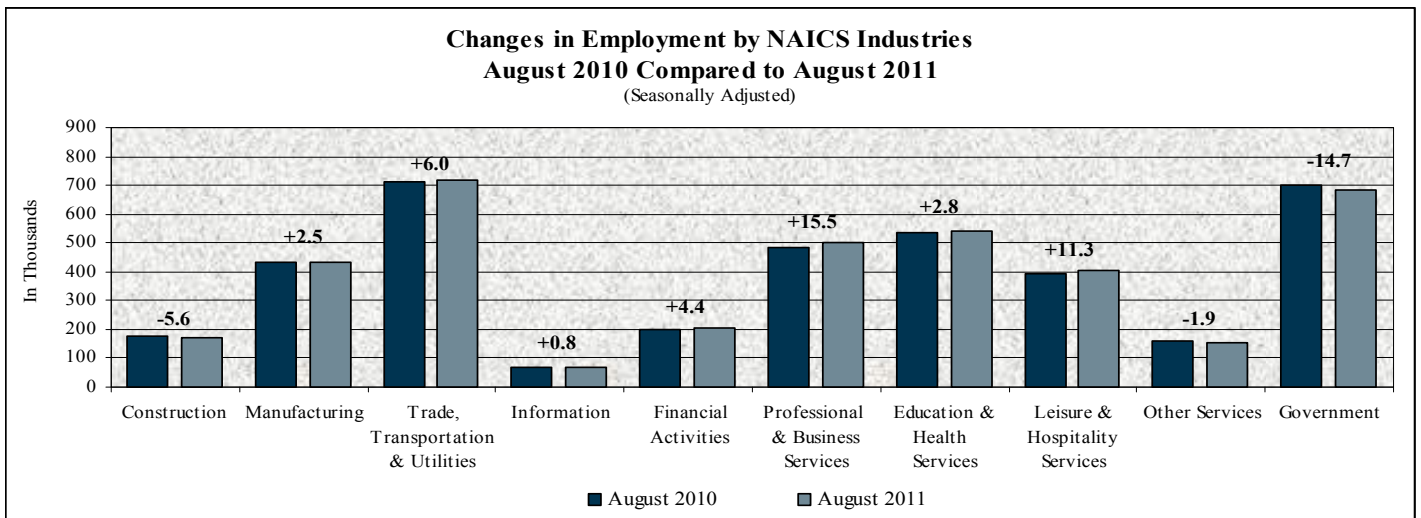
Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, showed an increase of 16,500 (0.4%) since July 2011, and an increase of 21,100 (0.5%) since August 2010. Private sector employment grew by 2,900 (0.1%) over the month and 35,800 (1.1%) over the year.



Since the beginning of the December 2007 national recession, North Carolina has lost 289,300 (6.9%) Total Nonfarm jobs. Manufacturing employment declined by 99,300 (18.6%). Of those jobs, 63.0 percent were in Durable Goods and 37.0 percent in Nondurable Goods.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Government had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs (13,600; 2.0%), followed by Professional & Business Services (3,900; 0.8%), Education & Health Services (2,500; 0.5%), Other Services (1,600; 1.0%) and Information (400; 0.6%). Trade, Transportation & Utilities (3,600; 0.5%) had the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Manufacturing (1,200; 0.3%).

Since August 2010, Professional & Business Services added the largest number of jobs (15,500; 3.2%), followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services (11,300; 2.9%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (6,000; 0.8%), Financial Activities (4,400; 2.2%), Education & Health Services (2,800; 0.5%), Manufacturing (2,500; 0.6%) and Information (800; 1.2%).



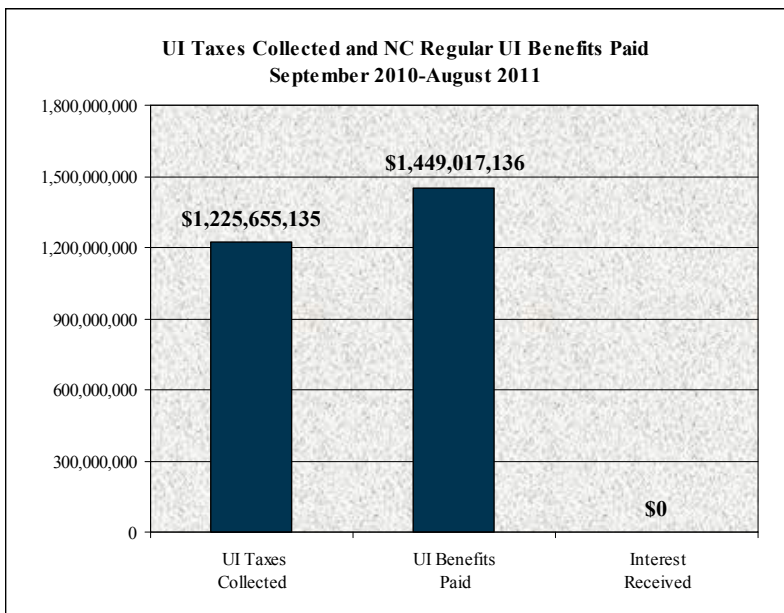
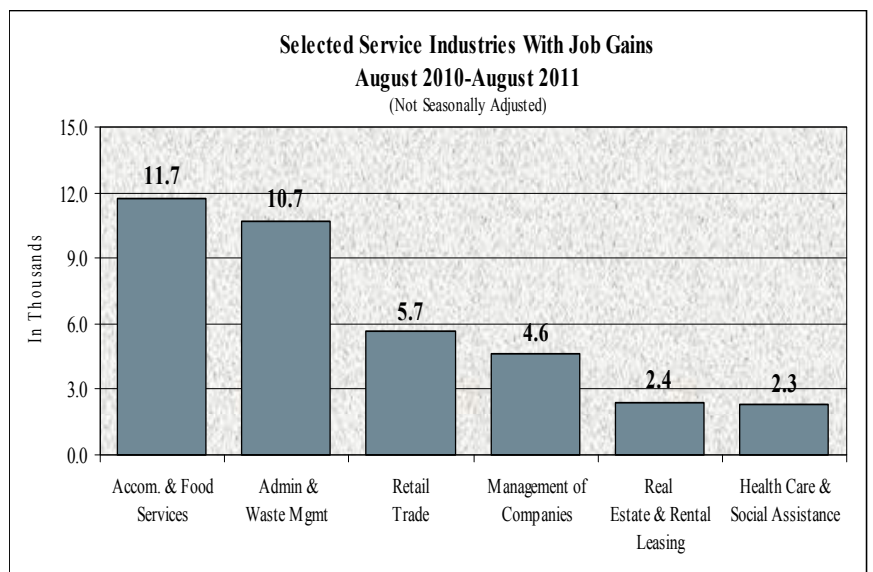
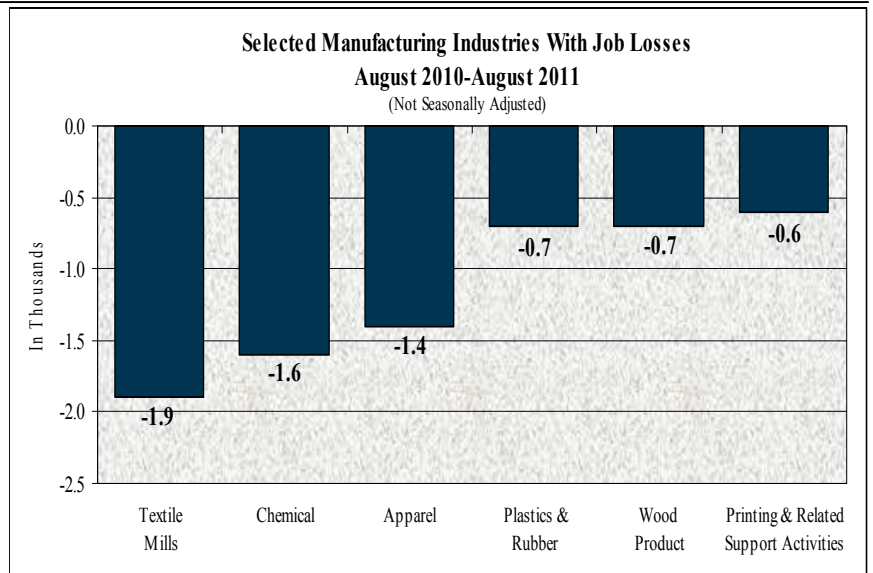
* NC current month data are preliminary, while 2010 data are benchmarked.

The August 2011 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 3,884,800 was 70,900 (1.9%) higher than July 2011. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Government had the largest over-the-month gain in employment at 59,000 (10.0%), followed by Professional & Business Services (7,100; 1.4%), Education & Health Services (4,100; 0.8%), Construction (1,900; 1.1%), Manufacturing (1,400; 0.3%) and Information (400; 0.6%).

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 13,200 (0.4%) jobs. Professional & Business Services experienced the largest employment increase with 17,400 (3.6%), followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services (12,700; 3.1%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (5,000; 0.7%), Financial Activities (4,000; 2.0%), Education & Health Services (1,100; 0.2%) and Information (800; 1.2%). Government experienced the largest employment decrease with 25,800 (3.8%), followed by Other Services (2,000; 1.3%).

The Goods Producing sector lost 1,300 (0.2%) jobs over the year. Construction decreased by 4,900 (2.7%) jobs, while Manufacturing increased by 3,600 (0.8%) and Mining & Logging showed no change.

Food had the largest amount of manufacturing employment with 51,300 in August 2011, but decreased by 300 (0.6%) over the year. Machinery had the largest net over-the-year increase at 1,600. Other manufacturing industries with over-the-year increases were: Fabricated Metal Product, 900; and Transportation Equipment, 600.



Average Weekly Hours for manufacturing production workers in August decreased by 24 minutes to 40.8 from July's revised 41.2. Average Hourly Earnings increased by \$0.03 to \$16.05, while Average Weekly Earnings declined by \$5.18 to \$654.84.

Regular Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance (UI) totaled 52,821 in August, decreasing 7,402 from July. Thirty-eight percent of Initial Claims for August 2011 were "attached" to a payroll, meaning that employees expect to be recalled to their jobs.

A total of \$117,987,637 in regular UI benefits was paid in August to 112,015 claimants statewide — a decrease of 1,978 claimants since July 2011.

For the 12-month period ending August 2011, \$4,360,549,093 was paid from all programs, both state and federal. The UI Trust Fund balance at the end of August was in the red (\$2,427,029,330). The State Reserve Fund balance was \$107,390,861.