

ESC Monthly Activity

April 2007

Employment Security Commission
of North Carolina

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		APRIL (Preliminary)	LABOR MARKET INFORMATION ACTIVITY	Prior Month (Revised)
		4.5%	U. S. Unemployment Rate	4.4%
		4.8%	North Carolina Unemployment Rate	4.5%
		4,528,369	Size of North Carolina Civilian Labor Force	4,520,971
		4,312,899	Number of workers employed in North Carolina	4,319,254
		215,470	Number of workers unemployed in North Carolina	201,717
		APRIL	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) ACTIVITY ¹	Prior Month ²
Unemployment		298,401	Individuals receiving one or more UI checks - 2006	298,401
Benefit Payments		86,592	Individuals receiving UI benefits - April 2007	85,852
April 2007		281,354	Weeks of UI paid in April 2007	261,679
Mecklenburg	\$7,108,650	\$830.5 Million	Amount paid in UI - 2006	\$830.5 Million
Wake	\$4,622,211	\$66.7 Million	Amount paid in UI - April 2007 ³	\$69.2 Million
Guilford	\$3,879,018	\$397.00	Amount paid in Federal Benefits - TEUC - April 2007	\$614.00
Rowan	\$2,458,037	\$256.13	Average UI Check - 2006 (per week)	\$256.13
Forsyth	\$2,441,652	\$264.67	Average UI Check - April 2007	\$258.29
Gaston	\$2,115,920	\$39 / \$457	Minimum/Maximum amount of UI benefits (per week)	\$39 / \$457
Davidson	\$1,853,848	13.7 Weeks	Average Duration (Oct. 2006 - Dec. 2006)	13.7 Weeks
Cumberland	\$1,728,174	19th (Lowest)	Duration Ranking (Oct. 2006 - Dec. 2006) <i>tie: NC and AR</i>	19th (Lowest)
Iredell	\$1,655,348	\$1,091.4 Million	Total collected in UI Taxes in 12-month period ending April 2007	\$1,085.7 Million
Catawba	\$1,556,372	\$839.0 Million	Total paid in UI Benefits in 12-month period ending April 2007	\$830.6 Million
		\$113.6 Million	Trust Fund Balance - April 30, 2007	\$117.4 Million
		\$0	Federal Loan Balance - April 30, 2007	\$0
		\$0	Tax Anticipation Bonds Payback Balance - April 30, 2007	\$0
		\$0	Tax Anticipation Bonds on-hand - April 30, 2007	\$0
		\$35.4 Million	State Reserve Balance - April 30, 2007	\$16.3 Million
Current Locations		APRIL	EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ACTIVITY	Prior Month ²
93 local offices		16,612	New Job Applicants - April 2007	18,535
105 Job Link Career Centers		230,376	Total New Jobseekers for PY (July 2005 - June 2006)	230,376
60 ESC hosted		194,015	Total New Jobseekers - Y-T-D (July 2006 - April 2007)	177,403
45 non-ESC hosted		268,956	Jobseekers available as of April 30, 2007	271,541
42 community colleges				
5 military bases		31,821	Jobseekers Provided Service - April 2007 ⁴	36,534
4 universities		22,246	Jobseekers Referred to Jobs - April 2007 ⁴	25,983
		264,519	Total Services Provided - April 2007	286,411
		26,999	Job Openings listed - April 2007	26,013
		293,232	Job Openings listed for PY (July 2005 - June 2006)	293,232
		241,805	Job Openings listed - Y-T-D (July 2006 - April 2007)	214,806
		3,160	UI Eligible Claimants entering employment - April 2007	3,851
		36,313	UI Eligible Claimants entering employment - Y-T-D (July 2006 - April 2007)	33,916
		8,568	Jobseekers entering employment - April 2007	10,250
		132,290	Jobseekers entering employment - Y-T-D (July 2006 - April 2007)	121,384

¹Regular UI Benefits unless otherwise noted.

²Data in this column represent prior month, prior quarter or prior year data as published in the previous month's report; i.e., prior year equals 2004 data.

³Includes benefits paid from the UI Trust Fund for UI benefits for period March 30, 2007 - April 29, 2007.

⁴Totals for *Jobseekers Provided Service* and *Jobseekers Referred to Jobs* represent the number of customers who, during the report month, received a reportable service or were referred to employment for the first time since the beginning of the Program Year.

This information may be downloaded from ESC Online,
the Employment Security Commission Web Page at:
<http://www.ncesc.com>

Highlights



The Employment Security Commission (ESC) processed a total of 334,106 Weeks claimed for Unemployment Insurance in April 2007, up 8.7 percent from March (307,263) and up 8.3 percent from April a year ago (308,524).

April's statewide Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) at 2.1 percent rose above the March's 1.8 percent, and was above the 2.0 percent of April a year ago.

There were 48,342 Initial Claims filed in April 2007, up 10.0 percent from the prior month's total of 43,959. Compared with April 2006 (38,415), Initial Claims' volume increased 25.8 percent.

North Carolina has one of the lowest duration rates of Weeks claimed for Unemployment Insurance benefits. During the fourth quarter of 2006, the average duration was 13.7 weeks for North Carolina and Arkansas while the national average was 15.3 weeks. During the same quarter, states with lower duration weeks were Georgia and North Dakota, 11.0 weeks; Alabama, 11.3 weeks; South Dakota, 11.4 weeks; Idaho, 11.6 weeks; New Hampshire, 11.7 weeks; Wyoming, 12.1 weeks; Iowa and Virginia, 12.5 weeks; Indiana, 12.8 weeks; Nebraska, 12.9 weeks; Hawaii, 13.1 weeks; Kentucky and Wisconsin, 13.2 weeks; Nevada, 13.3 weeks; South Carolina, 13.4 weeks; Colorado, 13.5 weeks; and Tennessee, 13.6 weeks.

During April 2007, 23 counties reported a decrease in the IUR with 73 reporting an increase and 4 remaining unchanged. When comparing current rates to April 2006, 57 counties experienced a decrease in the IUR with 41 having an increase and 2 remained unchanged. Counties with the lowest rates in April 2007 were Orange, 0.73 percent; Watauga, 0.88 percent; Durham, 0.90 percent; Wake, 1.07 percent; and Buncombe, 1.14 percent. Counties with the highest rates in April 2007 were Graham, 8.66 percent; Caswell, 6.76 percent; Tyrrell, 6.02 percent; Mitchell, 6.01 percent and Washington, 5.46 percent.

The Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund balance was at \$113,605,317 on April 30, 2007. Since January 1, 2007 the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund has decreased \$73,012,596. In April, the Employment Security Commission collected \$77,170,205 in Unemployment Insurance taxes assessed to employers. The Federal Loan had a zero balance, and the State Reserve Fund had a balance of \$35,355,011 on April 30, 2007.

As of March 31, 2007, there were 195,356 covered employers in the state.

ESC Finance and Budget reports that claimants in April 2007 were paid \$66,727,401 in unemployment benefits. The weekly average payment per claimant without earnings was \$272.44, an increase of 1.9 percent from the prior month (\$267.25). This average increased 4.0 percent from April 2006 (\$261.86). Claimants receiving first payments in April totaled 21,327, a 27.8 percent increase from March (16,690) and a 37.3 percent increase from the April 2006 level (15,536). Claimants exhausting benefit rights numbered 8,935, for an increase of 14.0 percent from March's volume (7,839) and an increase of 1.7 percent from the April 2006 volume (8,785).

New and renewed job applications taken in April by ESC local offices totaled 17,242, down 10.0 percent from March's volume (19,161) and up 7.8 percent from April 2006 (15,994).

Individuals placed in April by ESC local offices totaled 4,800, down 18.9 percent from March's volume (5,918) and down 15.4 percent from April 2006 (5,676).

A total of 5,190 non-farm placements occurred in April 2007. This represented a 23.5 percent decrease since March 2007 (6,784) and down 19.4 percent from April 2006 (6,443). A breakout showing the characteristics of applicants placed includes: women, 45.0 percent; veteran, 14.5 percent; minority, 48.8 percent; UI claimants, 42.9 percent; applicants under 22, 12.3 percent; males over 21, 48.3 percent; and, disabled, 11.0 percent.