

# ESC Monthly Activity

## December 2009

Employment Security Commission  
of North Carolina

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Moses Carey, Jr.  
Chairman

		Current Month DEC 09	LABOR MARKET INFORMATION ACTIVITY	Prior Month <sup>1</sup> NOV 09
			<b>UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) ACTIVITY<sup>2</sup></b>	
		<b>DEC 09</b>		<b>NOV 09</b>
<i>Unemployment</i>		<b>675,300</b>	Individuals receiving one or more UI checks - 2009	<b>414,992</b>
<i>Benefit Payments</i>		<b>218,772</b>	Individuals receiving UI benefits – Dec. 2009	<b>205,202</b>
<i>December 2009</i>		<b>738,706</b>	Weeks of UI paid in Dec. 2009	<b>737,300</b>
Mecklenburg	\$22,263,452	<b>\$2,727.4 Million</b>	Amount paid in UI – 2009	<b>\$1,313.6 Million</b>
Wake	\$17,646,091	<b>\$227.9 Million</b>	Amount paid in UI – Dec. 2009 <sup>3</sup>	<b>\$195.3 Million</b>
Guilford	\$10,612,891	<b>\$138.2 Million</b>	Amount paid in Federal Benefits – EUC Tier I – Dec. 2009 <sup>4</sup>	<b>\$137.1 Million</b>
Forsyth	\$6,914,092	<b>\$49.0 Million</b>	Amount paid in Federal Benefits – EUC Tier II – Dec. 2009 <sup>4</sup>	<b>\$40.0 Million</b>
Gaston	\$6,082,972	<b>\$3.6 Million</b>	Amount paid in Federal Benefits – EUC Tier III – Dec. 2009 <sup>4</sup>	<b>-</b>
Cabarrus	\$4,942,602	<b>\$19,000</b>	Amount NC paid in Extended Benefits – EB – Dec. 2009 <sup>5</sup>	<b>\$10,000</b>
Catawba	\$4,750,639	<b>\$296.02</b>	Average UI Check – 2009 (per week)	<b>\$277.00</b>
Union	\$4,497,621	<b>\$289.01</b>	Average UI Check – Dec. 2009	<b>\$295.83</b>
Iredell	\$4,449,496	<b>\$43 / \$505</b>	Minimum/Maximum amount of UI benefits (per week)	<b>\$43 / \$505</b>
Durham	\$4,362,513	<b>16.0 Weeks</b>	Average Duration (Jul. 2009 – Sep. 2009)	<b>16.0 Weeks</b>
		<b>17<sup>th</sup> (Lowest)</b>	Duration Ranking (Jul. 2009 – Sep. 2009)	<b>17<sup>th</sup> (Lowest)</b>
		<b>\$955.6 Million</b>	Total collected in UI Taxes in 12-month period ending Dec. 2009	<b>\$955.2 Million</b>
		<b>\$2,727.4 Million</b>	Total paid in UI Benefits in 12-month period ending Dec. 2009	<b>\$2,693.6 Million</b>
		<b>-\$1,606.1 Million</b>	Trust Fund Balance – Dec. 31, 2009	<b>-\$1,393.7 Million</b>
		<b>\$1,606.7 Million</b>	Federal Loan Balance – Dec. 31, 2009	<b>\$1,397.4 Million</b>
		<b>\$26.9 Million</b>	State Reserve Balance – Dec. 31, 2009	<b>\$18.2 Million</b>
<b>Current Locations</b>		<b>DEC 09</b>	<b>EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ACTIVITY</b>	<b>NOV 09</b>
89 local offices		<b>19,067</b>	New Job Applicants - Dec. 2009	<b>19,692</b>
102 Job Link Career Centers		<b>267,262</b>	Total New Jobseekers for PY (Jul. 2008 – Jun. 2009)	<b>267,262</b>
63 ESC hosted		<b>136,521</b>	Total New Jobseekers - Y-T-D (Jul. 2009 - Dec. 2009)	<b>117,454</b>
39 non-ESC hosted		<b>349,413</b>	Jobseekers available as of Dec. 31, 2009	<b>351,955</b>
		<b>47,509</b>	Jobseekers provided service – Dec. 2009 <sup>6</sup>	<b>50,150</b>
		<b>21,933</b>	Jobseekers referred to jobs – Dec. 2009 <sup>6</sup>	<b>24,310</b>
		<b>323,909</b>	Total Services provided – Dec. 2009	<b>312,177</b>
		<b>12,767</b>	Job Openings listed – Dec. 2009	<b>9,808</b>
		<b>153,282</b>	Job Openings listed for PY (Jul. 2008 – Jun. 2009)	<b>153,282</b>
		<b>75,586</b>	Job Openings listed - Y-T-D (Jul. 2009 - Dec. 2009)	<b>62,819</b>
		<b>1,533</b>	UI Eligible Claimants entering employment – Dec. 2009	<b>1,408</b>
		<b>13,160</b>	UI Eligible Claimants entering employment - Y-T-D (Jul. 2009 - Dec. 2009)	<b>11,146</b>
		<b>5,335</b>	Jobseekers entering employment – Dec. 2009	<b>5,291</b>
		<b>56,831</b>	Jobseekers entering employment - Y-T-D (Jul. 2009 - Dec. 2009)	<b>48,411</b>

<sup>1</sup> Data in this column represent prior month, prior quarter or prior year data; i.e., prior year equals 2008 data.

<sup>2</sup> Regular UI Benefits unless otherwise noted.

<sup>3</sup> Includes benefits paid from the UI Trust Fund for UI benefits for period Nov. 30, 2009 – Dec. 30, 2009.

<sup>4</sup> Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) provides up to 53 weeks of 100% federally funded compensation.

<sup>5</sup> Extended Benefits program (EB) provides 80% or up to a maximum of 20 weeks of extended unemployment insurance benefits.

<sup>6</sup> Totals 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 (July 1, 2009).

*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 862,882 Weeks claimed for Unemployment Insurance in December 2009, up 1.2 percent from November (852,682) and up 9.3 percent from December a year ago (789,562).

December's statewide Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) at 4.7 percent dropped below the November's 5.1 percent, and was above the 4.3 percent of December a year ago.

There were 107,302 State UI Initial Claims (excluding Interstate Liable, UCX and UCFE) filed in December 2009, up 20.6 percent from the prior month's total of 88,938. Compared with December 2008 (155,913), Initial Claims' volume decreased 31.2 percent.

North Carolina has one of the lower duration rates of Weeks claimed for Unemployment Insurance benefits. During the third quarter of 2009, the average duration was 16.0 weeks for North Carolina, Mississippi, Texas and Wyoming, while the national average increased from 16.2 weeks to 17.4 weeks. During the same quarter, states with lower duration weeks were; South Dakota, 12.7 weeks; North Dakota, 12.8 weeks; Nebraska, 13.0 weeks; Georgia, 14.0 weeks; Iowa, 14.2 weeks; Virginia, 14.6 weeks; Alabama, 14.7 weeks; Colorado, 14.9 weeks; West Virginia, 15.2 weeks; Louisiana, 15.3 weeks; Arkansas and Idaho, 15.4 weeks; Oklahoma, 15.6 weeks; Wisconsin, 15.7 weeks; and Indiana and South Carolina, 15.8 weeks.

During December 2009, 69 counties reported a decrease in the IUR and 31 counties reported an increase. When comparing current rates to December 2008, 40 counties reported a decrease in the IUR and 60 counties reported an increase. Counties with the lowest rates in December 2009 were Orange, 1.94 percent; Durham, 2.22 percent; Watauga, 2.83 percent; Wake, 3.08 percent; and Buncombe, 3.23 percent. Counties with the highest rates in December 2009 were Caswell, 16.13 percent; Stokes, 12.55 percent; Perquimans, 11.64 percent; Graham, 11.31 percent; and Tyrrell, 11.20 percent.

The Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund balance was at a deficit of \$1,606,065,783 on December 31, 2009. Since January 1, 2009 the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund has decreased \$1,796,228,563. During the month of December, ESC collected \$24,471,284 in Unemployment Insurance taxes assessed to employers. The Federal Loan had a balance of \$1,606,700,137, and the State Reserve Fund had a balance of \$26,942,453 on December 31, 2009.

As of December 31, 2009, there were 198,849 covered employers in the state.

ESC Finance and Budget reports that claimants in December 2009 were paid \$227,895,299 in unemployment benefits. The weekly average payment per claimant without earnings was \$301.50, a decrease of 1.8 percent from the prior month (\$306.89). This average increased 3.6 percent from December 2008 (\$291.14). Claimants receiving first payments in December totaled 49,858, a 16.1 percent increase from November (42,942) and a 17.5 percent decrease from the December 2008 level (60,422). Claimants exhausting benefit rights numbered 25,812, for a decrease of 11.1 percent from November's volume (29,043) and an increase of 67.5 percent from the December 2008 volume (15,409).

New and renewed job applications taken in December by ESC local offices totaled 20,219, down 2.6 percent from November's volume (20,749) and down 10.5 percent from December 2008 (22,581).

Individuals placed in December by ESC local offices totaled 3,025 up 9.2 percent from November's volume (2,769) and up 12.3 percent from December 2008 (2,694).

A total of 3,127 non-farm placements occurred in December 2009. This represented an 8.0 percent increase since November 2009 (2,896) and up 21.0 percent from December 2008 (2,585). A breakout showing the characteristics of applicants placed includes: women, 36.9 percent; veteran, 13.4 percent; minority, 53.6 percent; UI claimants, 32.6 percent; applicants under 22, 14.6 percent; males over 21, 54.1 percent; and, disabled, 11.2 percent.