

## ESC Monthly Activity February 2010

*Employment Security Commission  
of North Carolina*

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Chairman

		Current Month FEB 10	LABOR MARKET INFORMATION ACTIVITY	Prior Month <sup>1</sup> JAN 10
		<b>9.7%</b>	U. S. Unemployment Rate	<b>9.7%</b>
		<b>11.2%</b>	North Carolina Unemployment Rate	<b>11.1%</b>
		<b>4,549,508</b>	Size of North Carolina Civilian Labor Force	<b>4,538,076</b>
		<b>4,038,734</b>	Number of workers employed in North Carolina	<b>4,035,898</b>
		<b>510,774</b>	Number of workers unemployed in North Carolina	<b>502,178</b>
		<b>3,889,500</b>	Estimated Nonfarm Employment in North Carolina	<b>3,892,300</b>
		<b>FEB 10</b>	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) ACTIVITY<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>JAN 10</b>
		<b>675,300</b>	Individuals receiving one or more UI checks - 2009	<b>675,300</b>
		<b>220,761</b>	Individuals receiving UI benefits – Feb. 2010	<b>237,759</b>
		<b>728,724</b>	Weeks of UI paid in Feb. 2010	<b>803,488</b>
<b>Unemployment</b>		<b>\$2,758.0 Million</b>	Amount paid in UI – 2009	<b>\$2,758.0 Million</b>
<b>Benefit Payments</b>		<b>\$211.9 Million</b>	Amount paid in UI – Feb. 2010 <sup>3</sup>	<b>\$233.7 Million</b>
<b>February 2010</b>		<b>\$107.6 Million</b>	Amount paid in Federal Benefits – EUC Tier I – Feb. 2010 <sup>4</sup>	<b>\$125.7 Million</b>
Mecklenburg	\$20,892,954	<b>\$51.6 Million</b>	Amount paid in Federal Benefits – EUC Tier II – Feb. 2010 <sup>4</sup>	<b>\$47.0 Million</b>
Wake	\$16,801,135	<b>\$39.0 Million</b>	Amount paid in Federal Benefits – EUC Tier III – Feb. 2010 <sup>4</sup>	<b>\$57.0 Million</b>
Guilford	\$10,358,466	<b>\$0.00</b>	Amount paid in Federal Benefits – EUC Tier IV – Feb. 2010 <sup>4</sup>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Forsyth	\$6,648,294	<b>\$11.6 Million</b>	Amount paid in Federal Benefits – EB – Feb. 2010 <sup>5</sup>	<b>\$6.3 Million</b>
Gaston	\$5,434,613	<b>\$28,000</b>	Amount NC paid in Extended Benefits – EB – Feb. 2010 <sup>5</sup>	<b>\$21,000</b>
Cabarrus	\$4,949,334	<b>\$296.02</b>	Average UI Check – 2009 (per week)	<b>\$296.02</b>
Catawba	\$4,818,751	<b>\$290.84</b>	Average UI Check – Feb. 2010	<b>\$290.84</b>
Iredell	\$4,633,928	<b>\$43 / \$505</b>	Minimum/Maximum amount of UI benefits (per week)	<b>\$43 / \$505</b>
Union	\$4,439,134	<b>16.0 Weeks</b>	Average Duration (Jul. 2009 – Sep. 2009)	<b>16.0 Weeks</b>
Rowan	\$4,282,821	<b>17<sup>th</sup> (Lowest)</b>	Duration Ranking (Jul. 2009 – Sep. 2009)	<b>17<sup>th</sup> (Lowest)</b>
		<b>\$957.6 Million</b>	Total collected in UI Taxes in 12-month period ending Feb. 2010	<b>\$956.5 Million</b>
		<b>\$2,787. 1 Million</b>	Total paid in UI Benefits in 12-month period ending Feb. 2010	<b>\$2,752.3 Million</b>
		<b>-\$1,912.5 Million</b>	Trust Fund Balance – Feb. 28, 2010	<b>-\$1,794.1 Million</b>
		<b>\$1,916.3 Million</b>	Federal Loan Balance – Feb. 28, 2010	<b>\$1,798.4 Million</b>
		<b>\$40.9 Million</b>	State Reserve Balance – Feb. 28, 2010	<b>\$30.5 Million</b>
		<b>FEB 10</b>	<b>EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ACTIVITY</b>	<b>JAN 10</b>
<b>Current Locations</b>		<b>19,157</b>	New Job Applicants - Feb. 2010	<b>22,903</b>
89 local offices		<b>267,262</b>	Total New Jobseekers for PY (Jul. 2008 – Jun. 2009)	<b>267,262</b>
102 Job Link Career Centers		<b>178,581</b>	Total New Jobseekers - Y-T-D (Jul. 2009 - Feb. 2010)	<b>159,424</b>
63 ESC hosted		<b>356,694</b>	Jobseekers available as of Feb. 28, 2010	<b>360,523</b>
39 non-ESC hosted		<b>41,121</b>	Jobseekers provided service – Feb. 2010 <sup>6</sup>	<b>50,264</b>
		<b>23,239</b>	Jobseekers referred to jobs – Feb. 2010 <sup>6</sup>	<b>25,917</b>
		<b>335,440</b>	Total Services provided – Feb. 2010	<b>347,417</b>
		<b>12,364</b>	Job Openings listed – Feb. 2010	<b>11,128</b>
		<b>153,282</b>	Job Openings listed for PY (Jul. 2008 – Jun. 2009)	<b>153,282</b>
		<b>99,078</b>	Job Openings listed - Y-T-D (Jul. 2009 - Feb. 2010)	<b>86,714</b>
		<b>1,960</b>	UI Eligible Claimants entering employment – Feb. 2010	<b>1,475</b>
		<b>16,253</b>	UI Eligible Claimants entering employment - Y-T-D (Jul. 2009 - Feb. 2010)	<b>14,459</b>
		<b>5,565</b>	Jobseekers entering employment – Feb. 2010	<b>3,981</b>
		<b>70,026</b>	Jobseekers entering employment - Y-T-D (Jul. 2009 - Feb. 2010)	<b>63,143</b>

<sup>1</sup> Data in this column represent prior month, prior quarter or prior year data; i.e., prior year equals 2009 data.

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

<sup>3</sup> Includes benefits paid according to the federal ETA 5159 Claims and Payment Activities Report.

<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).

# Highlights



The Employment Security Commission (ESC) processed a total of 832,679 Weeks claimed for Unemployment Insurance in February 2010, down 10.6 percent from January (930,945) and down 2.3 percent from February a year ago (852,489).

February's statewide Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) at 5.4 percent dropped below the January's 5.7 percent, and rose slightly above the 5.3 percent of February a year ago.

There were 76,208 State UI Initial Claims (excluding Interstate Liable, UCX and UCFE) filed in February 2010, down 31.2 percent from the prior month's total of 110,710. Compared with February 2009 (120,379), Initial Claims' volume decreased 36.7 percent.

North Carolina has one of the lower duration rates of Weeks claimed for Unemployment Insurance benefits. During the third quarter of 2010, 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 February 2010, 89 counties reported a decrease in the IUR and 11 reported an increase. When comparing current rates to February 2009, 43 counties reported a decrease in the IUR and 55 counties reported an increase while 2 remained unchanged. Counties with the lowest rates in February 2010 were Orange, 1.97 percent; Durham, 2.29 percent; Wake, 3.29 percent; Mecklenburg, 3.62 percent; and Forsyth, 3.69 percent. Counties with the highest rates in February 2010 were Caswell, 17.24 percent; Graham, 15.73 percent; Stokes, 15.41 percent; Perquimans, 13.27 percent; and Yancey, 13.22 percent.

The Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund balance was at a deficit of \$1,912,522,079 on February 28, 2010. Since February 1, 2010 the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund has decreased \$306,456,295. During the month of February, ESC collected \$82,035,584 in Unemployment Insurance taxes assessed to employers. The Federal Loan had a balance of \$1,916,256,270, and the State Reserve Fund had a balance of \$40,850,596 on February 28, 2010.

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

ESC Finance and Budget reports that claimants in February 2010 were paid \$211,943,497 in unemployment benefits. The weekly average payment per claimant without earnings was \$301.27, a \$0.13 increase over the prior month (\$301.14). This average increased 0.2 percent from February 2009 (\$300.65). Claimants receiving first payments in February totaled 41,813, a 30.4 percent decrease from January (60,110) and a 20.4 percent decrease from the February 2009 level (52,546). Claimants exhausting benefit rights numbered 27,353, for a decrease of 6.4 percent from January's volume (29,213) and an increase of 55.8 percent from the February 2009 volume (17,552).

New and renewed job applications taken in February by ESC local offices totaled 20,427, down 16.3 percent from January's volume (24,412) and down 10.9 percent from February 2010 (22,917).

Individuals placed in February by ESC local offices totaled 2,809 up 37.4 percent from January's volume (2,045) and down 4.9 percent from February 2009 (2,953).

A total of 2,976 non-farm placements occurred in February 2010. This represented a 36.8 percent increase since January 2010 (2,176) and down 4.0 percent from February 2009 (3,099). A breakout showing the characteristics of applicants placed includes: women, 40.1 percent; veteran, 15.2 percent; minority, 51.7 percent; UI claimants, 38.1 percent; applicants under 22, 9.9 percent; males over 21, 54.0 percent; and, disabled, 13.5 percent.