

ESC Monthly Activity

January 2007

Employment Security Commission
of North Carolina

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		JANUARY (Preliminary)	LABOR MARKET INFORMATION ACTIVITY	Prior Month (Revised)
		4.6%	U. S. Unemployment Rate	4.5%
		Available 3/8/07	North Carolina Unemployment Rate	4.9%
		Available 3/8/07	Size of North Carolina Civilian Labor Force	4,512,234
		Available 3/8/07	Number of workers employed in North Carolina	4,289,304
		Available 3/8/07	Number of workers unemployed in North Carolina	222,930
		JANUARY	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) ACTIVITY ¹	Prior Month ²
Unemployment		298,401	Individuals receiving one or more UI checks - 2006	309,823
Benefit Payments		108,990	Individuals receiving UI benefits – January 2007	86,878
January 2007		355,460	Weeks of UI paid in January 2007	258,503
Mecklenburg	\$7,730,272	\$830.5 Million	Amount paid in UI – 2006	\$814.3 Million
Wake	\$5,438,478	\$89.4 Million	Amount paid in UI – January 2007 ³	\$67.9 Million
Guilford	\$4,843,584	\$1,193	Amount paid in Federal Benefits – TEUC – January 2007	\$246.00
Forsyth	\$2,853,946	\$256.13	Average UI Check – 2006 (per week)	\$248.21
Cumberland	\$2,424,366	\$257.40	Average UI Check – January 2007	\$260.33
Davidson	\$2,302,143	\$39 / \$457	Minimum/Maximum amount of UI benefits (per week)	\$39 / \$457
Gaston	\$2,052,712	13.4 Weeks	Average Duration (Jul. 2006 – Sep. 2006)	13.4 Weeks
Catawba	\$1,926,315	15th (Lowest)	Duration Ranking (Jul. 2006 – Sep. 2006)	15th (Lowest)
Caldwell	\$1,779,993	\$1,083.3 Million	Total collected in UI Taxes in 12-month period ending January 2007	\$1,083.4 Million
Durham	\$1,703,000	\$832.3 Million	Total paid in UI Benefits in 12-month period ending January 2007	\$830.5 Million
		\$133.5 Million	Trust Fund Balance – January 31, 2007	\$186.6 Million
		\$0	Federal Loan Balance – January 31, 2007	\$0
		\$0	Tax Anticipation Bonds Payback Balance - January 31, 2007	\$0
		\$0	Tax Anticipation Bonds on-hand – January 31, 2007	\$0
		\$39.9 Million	State Reserve Balance – January 31, 2007	\$34.5 Million
Current Locations		JANUARY	EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ACTIVITY	Prior Month ²
93 local offices		21,318	New Job Applicants - January 2007	14,495
105 Job Link Career Centers		230,376	Total New Jobseekers for PY (July 2005 – June 2006)	230,376
60 ESC hosted		141,208	Total New Jobseekers - Y-T-D (July 2006 - January 2007)	119,890
45 non-ESC hosted		273,396	Jobseekers available as of January 31, 2007	267,408
42 community colleges				
5 military bases		44,328	Jobseekers Provided Service – January 2007 ⁴	32,556
4 universities		30,324	Jobseekers Referred to Jobs – January 2007 ⁴	20,147
		303,587	Total Services Provided – January 2007	214,905
		24,095	Job Openings listed - January 2007	17,059
		293,232	Job Openings listed for PY (July 2005 – June 2006)	293,232
		160,911	Job Openings listed - Y-T-D (July 2006 - January 2007)	136,816
		3,073	UI Eligible Claimants entering employment - January 2007	2,923
		26,761	UI Eligible Claimants entering employment - Y-T-D (July 2006 - January 2007)	23,690
		8,472	Jobseekers entering employment - January 2007	9,375
		97,576	Jobseekers entering employment - Y-T-D (July 2006 - January 2007)	86,394

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 **December 30, 2006 – January 28, 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 424,448 Weeks claimed for Unemployment Insurance in January 2007, up 36.4 percent from December (311,175) and down 4.3 percent from January a year ago (443,289).

January's statewide Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) at 2.4 percent rose above the December's 1.9 percent, and was below the 2.7 percent of January a year ago.

There were 83,458 Initial Claims filed in January 2007, up 62.9 percent from the prior month's total of 51,224. Compared with January 2006 (80,767), Initial Claims' volume increased 3.3 percent.

North Carolina has one of the lowest duration rates of Weeks claimed for Unemployment Insurance benefits. During the third quarter of 2006, the average duration was 13.4 weeks for North Carolina while the national average was 15.5 weeks. During the same quarter, states with lower duration weeks were Georgia, 11.2 weeks; Wyoming, 11.4 weeks; Alabama, New Hampshire, and South Dakota, 11.5 weeks; North Dakota, 11.9 weeks; Idaho, 12.0 weeks; Virginia, 12.4 weeks; Iowa, 12.6 weeks; Indiana, 12.8 weeks; Hawaii, 13.1 weeks; Kentucky and Nebraska, 13.2 weeks; and Arkansas and Wisconsin, 13.3 weeks.

During January 2007, 1 county reported a decrease in the IUR with 99 reporting an increase. When comparing current rates to January 2006, 77 counties experienced a decrease in the IUR with 21 having an increase and 2 remaining unchanged. In January 2007, counties with the lowest rates were Orange, 0.84 percent; Durham, 0.99 percent; Wake, 1.15 percent; Watauga, 1.20 percent; and Mecklenburg, 1.35 percent. Counties with the highest rates in January 2007 were Tyrrell, 8.94 percent; Caswell, 8.45 percent; Mitchell, 8.07 percent; Graham, 7.71 percent and Hyde, 7.56 percent.

The Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund balance was at \$133,500,245 on January 31, 2007. Since January 1, 2007 the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund has decreased \$53,117,668. In January, the Employment Security Commission collected \$41,887,451 in Unemployment Insurance taxes assessed to employers. The Federal Loan had a zero balance, and the State Reserve Fund had a balance of \$39,872,762 on January 31, 2007.

As of December 31, 2006, there were 192,761 covered employers in the state.

ESC Finance and Budget reports that claimants in January 2007 were paid \$89,424,668 in unemployment benefits. The weekly average payment per claimant without earnings was \$268.63, a decrease of 0.3 percent from the prior month (\$269.37). This average increased 3.1 percent from January 2006 (\$260.67). Claimants receiving first payments in January totaled 32,963, a 60.9 percent increase from December (20,493) and a 0.2 percent increase from the January 2006 level (32,913). Claimants exhausting benefit rights numbered 9,695, for an increase of 39.0 percent from December's volume (6,974) and an increase of 1.2 percent from the January 2006 volume (9,580).

New and renewed job applications taken in January by ESC local offices totaled 21,942, up 47.0 percent from December's volume (14,928) and up 3.3 percent from January 2006 (21,251).

Individuals placed in January by ESC local offices totaled 5,301, down 13.1 percent from December's volume (6,097) and down 7.1 percent from January 2006 (5,708).

A total of 5,687 non-farm placements occurred in January 2007. This represented a 12.4 percent decrease since December 2006 (6,494) and down 9.0 percent from January 2006 (6,250). A breakout showing the characteristics of applicants placed includes: women, 42.1 percent; veteran, 14.6 percent; minority, 49.7 percent; UI claimants, 40.3 percent; applicants under 22, 12.4 percent; males over 21, 50.2 percent; and, disabled, 10.0 percent.