

ESC Monthly Activity

October 2006

Employment Security Commission
of North Carolina

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		OCTOBER (Preliminary)	LABOR MARKET INFORMATION ACTIVITY	Prior Month (Revised)
		4.4%	U. S. Unemployment Rate	4.6%
		4.7%	North Carolina Unemployment Rate	4.9%
		4,476,259	Size of North Carolina Civilian Labor Force	4,466,723
		4,266,502	Number of workers employed in North Carolina	4,249,229
		209,757	Number of workers unemployed in North Carolina	217,494
		OCTOBER	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) ACTIVITY ¹	Prior Month ²
Unemployment		309,823	Individuals receiving one or more UI checks - 2005	309,823
Benefit Payments		79,884	Individuals receiving UI benefits – October 2006	78,061
October 2006		278,546	Weeks of UI paid in October 2006	234,227
Mecklenburg	\$6,970,715	\$814.3 Million	Amount paid in UI – 2005	\$814.3 Million
Wake	\$5,102,177	\$66.3 Million	Amount paid in UI – October 2006 ³	\$62.4 Million
Guilford	\$3,899,149	\$563	Amount paid in Federal Benefits – TEUC – October 2006	\$113
Forsyth	\$2,436,088	\$248.21	Average UI Check – 2005 (per week)	\$248.21
Cumberland	\$2,286,432	\$262.48	Average UI Check – October 2006	\$261.42
Davidson	\$1,909,209	\$39 / \$457	Minimum/Maximum amount of UI benefits (per week)	\$39 / \$457
Gaston	\$1,829,907	13.6 Weeks	Average Duration (Apr. 2006 – Jun. 2006) <i>tie: NC; AR and NV</i>	13.6 Weeks
Durham	\$1,661,310	15th (Lowest)	Duration Ranking (Apr. 2006 – Jun. 2006)	15th (Lowest)
Catawba	\$1,575,223	\$1,088.6 Million	Total collected in UI Taxes in 12-month period ending October 2006	\$1,092.7 Million
Caldwell	\$1,557,144	\$832.9 Million	Total paid in UI Benefits in 12-month period ending October 2006	\$829.7 Million
		\$166.3 Million	Trust Fund Balance – October 31, 2006	\$206.0 Million
		\$0	Federal Loan Balance – October 31, 2006	\$0
		\$0	Tax Anticipation Bonds Payback Balance - October 31, 2006	\$0
		\$0	Tax Anticipation Bonds on-hand – October 31, 2006	\$0
		\$45.6 Million	State Reserve Balance – October 31, 2006	\$38.3 Million
Current Locations		OCTOBER	EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ACTIVITY	Prior Month ²
93 local offices		21,635	New Job Applicants - October 2006	20,710
102 Job Link Career Centers		230,376	Total New Jobseekers for PY (July 2005 – June 2006)	230,376
57 ESC hosted		88,179	Total New Jobseekers - Y-T-D (July 2006 - October 2006)	66,544
45 non-ESC hosted		294,576	Jobseekers available as of October 31, 2006	302,027
42 community colleges				
5 military bases		53,155	Jobseekers Provided Service – October 2006 ⁴	57,704
4 universities		36,228	Jobseekers Referred to Jobs – October 2006 ⁴	39,129
		297,416	Total Services Provided – October 2006	282,453
		24,856	Job Openings listed - October 2006	24,632
		293,232	Job Openings listed for PY (July 2005 – June 2006)	293,232
		101,756	Job Openings listed - Y-T-D (July 2006 - October 2006)	76,900
		3,019	UI Eligible Claimants entering employment - October 2006	3,281
		16,006	UI Eligible Claimants entering employment - Y-T-D (July 2006 - October 2006)	12,247
		11,367	Jobseekers entering employment - October 2006	11,160
		59,489	Jobseekers entering employment - Y-T-D (July 2006 - October 2006)	45,548

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 September 29, 2006 – October 30, 2006.

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 332,227 Weeks claimed for Unemployment Insurance in October 2006, up 19.2 percent from September (278,817) and down 3.9 percent from October a year ago (345,809).

October's statewide Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) at 2.0 percent rose above the September's 1.8 percent, and was below the 2.2 percent of October a year ago.

There were 47,621 Initial Claims filed in October 2006, up 9.4 percent from the prior month's total of 43,519. Compared with October 2005 (49,757), Initial Claims' volume decreased 4.3 percent.

North Carolina has one of the lowest duration rates of Weeks claimed for Unemployment Insurance benefits. During the second quarter of 2006, the average duration was 13.6 weeks for North Carolina, Arkansas and Nevada while the national average was 15.3 weeks. During the same quarter, states with lower duration weeks were Georgia, 11.1 weeks; Alabama, 11.3 weeks; Wyoming, 11.5 weeks; New Hampshire, 11.6 weeks; North Dakota, 11.9 weeks; South Dakota, 12.0 weeks; Idaho, 12.3 weeks; Virginia, 12.5 weeks; Iowa, 12.7 weeks; Mississippi, 12.9 weeks; Indiana, 13.0 weeks; Hawaii, 13.2 weeks; Nebraska, 13.4 weeks; and Wisconsin, 13.5 weeks.

During October 2006, 5 counties reported a decrease in the IUR with 94 reporting an increase and 1 remaining unchanged. When comparing current rates to October 2005, 74 counties experienced a decrease in the IUR with 26 having an increase. In October 2006, counties with the lowest rates were Watauga, 0.61 percent; Orange, 0.79 percent; Jackson, 0.93 percent; Hyde, 0.94 percent and Transylvania, 0.99 percent. Counties with the highest rates in October 2006 were Caswell, 8.97 percent; Caldwell, 5.53 percent; Person, 5.48 percent; Hoke, 5.41 percent and Washington, 5.04 percent.

The Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund balance was at \$166,335,354 on October 31, 2006. Since January 1, 2006 the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund has increased \$123,683,662. In October, the Employment Security Commission collected \$34,150,158 in Unemployment Insurance taxes assessed to employers. The Federal Loan had a zero balance, and the State Reserve Fund had a balance of \$45,628,102 on October 31, 2006.

As of September 30, 2006, there were 192,201 covered employers in the state.

ESC Finance and Budget reports that claimants in October 2006 were paid \$66,349,279 in unemployment benefits. The weekly average payment per claimant without earnings was \$270.70, an increase of 0.1 percent from the prior month (\$270.49). This average increased 3.2 percent from October 2005 (\$262.21). Claimants receiving first payments in October totaled 19,059, an 11.1 percent increase from September (17,158) and a 5.7 percent increase from the October 2005 level (18,024). Claimants exhausting benefit rights numbered 8,626, for an increase of 27.2 percent from September's volume (6,781) and a decrease of 0.2 percent from the October 2005 volume (8,639).

New and renewed job applications taken in October by ESC local offices totaled 22,083, up 5.1 percent from September's volume (21,007) and up 12.2 percent from October 2005 (19,690).

Individuals placed in October by ESC local offices totaled 7,447, down 4.2 percent from September's volume (7,770) and down 2.0 percent from October 2005 (7,601).

A total of 7,277 non-farm placements occurred in October 2006. This represented a 3.4 percent increase since September 2006 (7,038) and up 2.0 percent from October 2005 (7,137). A breakout showing the characteristics of applicants placed includes: women, 45.3 percent; veteran, 12.3 percent; minority, 52.1 percent; UI claimants, 28.5 percent; applicants under 22, 12.5 percent; males over 21, 47.8 percent; and, disabled, 6.9 percent.