

ESC Monthly Activity

September 2007

Employment Security Commission
of North Carolina

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		SEPTEMBER (Preliminary)	LABOR MARKET INFORMATION ACTIVITY	Prior Month (Revised)
		4.7%	U. S. Unemployment Rate	4.6%
		4.9%	North Carolina Unemployment Rate	4.8%
		4,546,961	Size of North Carolina Civilian Labor Force	4,509,739
		4,324,635	Number of workers employed in North Carolina	4,294,035
		222,326	Number of workers unemployed in North Carolina	215,704
		SEPTEMBER	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) ACTIVITY ¹	Prior Month ²
Unemployment		298,401	Individuals receiving one or more UI checks - 2006	298,401
Benefit Payments		78,380	Individuals receiving UI benefits - September 2007	81,686
September 2007		251,256	Weeks of UI paid in September 2007	257,606
Mecklenburg	\$7,649,352	\$830.5 Million	Amount paid in UI - 2006	\$830.5 Million
Wake	\$4,675,669	\$67.4 Million	Amount paid in UI - September 2007 ³	\$73.8 Million
Guilford	\$3,489,643	\$83	Amount paid in Federal Benefits - TEUC - September 2007	\$88
Gaston	\$2,712,868	\$256.13	Average UI Check - 2006 (per week)	\$256.13
Forsyth	\$2,548,502	\$277.63	Average UI Check - September 2007	\$272.97
Rowan	\$2,494,357	\$41 / \$476	Minimum/Maximum amount of UI benefits (per week)	\$41 / \$476
Iredell	\$1,647,528	13.4 Weeks	Average Duration (Apr. 2007 - Jun. 2007)	13.4 Weeks
Cumberland	\$1,535,286	16th (Lowest)	Duration Ranking (Apr. 2007 - Jun. 2007) <i>tie: NC, KS and CO</i>	16th (Lowest)
Davidson	\$1,489,276	\$1,088.1 Million	Total collected in UI Taxes in 12-month period ending September 2007	\$1,088.5 Million
Durham	\$1,460,406	\$867.1 Million	Total paid in UI Benefits in 12-month period ending September 2007	\$862.1 Million
		\$457.8 Million	Trust Fund Balance - September 30, 2007	\$508.2 Million
		\$0	Federal Loan Balance - September 30, 2007	\$0
		\$0	Tax Anticipation Bonds Payback Balance - September 30, 2007	\$0
		\$0	Tax Anticipation Bonds on-hand - September 30, 2007	\$0
		\$11.7 Million	State Reserve Balance - September 30, 2007	\$19.5 Million
Current Locations		SEPTEMBER	EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ACTIVITY	Prior Month ²
93 local offices		19,236	New Job Applicants - September 2007	22,967
105 Job Link Career Centers		231,780	Total New Jobseekers for PY (July 2006 - June 2007)	231,780
60 ESC hosted		66,842	Total New Jobseekers - Y-T-D (July 2007 - September 2007)	47,606
45 non-ESC hosted		298,736	Jobseekers available as of September 30, 2007	298,570
42 community colleges				
5 military bases		55,216	Jobseekers Provided Service - September 2007 ⁴	74,242
4 universities		36,823	Jobseekers Referred to Jobs - September 2007 ⁴	48,277
		267,970	Total Services Provided - September 2007	312,733
		21,858	Job Openings listed - September 2007	25,064
		287,272	Job Openings listed for PY (July 2006 - June 2007)	287,272
		70,099	Job Openings listed - Y-T-D (July 2007 - September 2007)	48,241
		2,536	UI Eligible Claimants entering employment - September 2007	3,169
		10,401	UI Eligible Claimants entering employment - Y-T-D (July 2007 - September 2007)	6,517
		9,773	Jobseekers entering employment - September 2007	12,879
		41,441	Jobseekers entering employment - Y-T-D (July 2007 - September 2007)	27,339

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 August 31, 2007 - September 27, 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.

Highlights



The Employment Security Commission (ESC) processed a total of 296,073 Weeks claimed for Unemployment Insurance in September 2007, down 2.9 percent from August (305,036) and up 6.2 percent from September a year ago (278,817).

September's statewide Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) at 1.9 percent rose above the August's 1.7 percent, and the 1.8 percent of September a year ago.

There were 40,149 Initial Claims filed in September 2007, down 12.2 percent from the prior month's total of 45,724. Compared with September 2006 (43,519), Initial Claims' volume decreased 7.7 percent.

North Carolina has one of the lowest duration rates of Weeks claimed for Unemployment Insurance benefits. During the second quarter of 2007, the average duration was 13.4 weeks for North Carolina, Colorado and Kansas while the national average remained at 15.1 weeks. During the same quarter, states with lower duration weeks were Georgia and North Dakota, 11.1 weeks; South Dakota, 11.2 weeks; Idaho, 11.3 weeks; Alabama, 11.4 weeks; New Hampshire, 12.2 weeks; Nebraska and Wyoming, 12.3 weeks; Virginia, 12.5 weeks; Iowa, 12.7 weeks; Indiana, Kentucky and Wisconsin, 13.1 weeks; and, Utah, 13.3 weeks.

During September 2007, 7 counties reported a decrease in the IUR with 91 reporting an increase and 2 remaining unchanged. When comparing current rates to September 2006, 31 counties experienced a decrease in the IUR with 67 having an increase and 2 remaining unchanged. Counties with the lowest rates in September 2007 were Watauga, 0.50 percent; Dare, 0.70 percent; Orange, 0.75 percent; Transylvania, 0.86 percent; and Durham and Hyde, 0.96 percent. Counties with the highest rates in September 2007 were Caswell, 6.01 percent; Graham, 5.63 percent; Rowan, 4.46 percent; Warren, 4.41 percent and Stokes, 4.29 percent.

The Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund balance was at \$457,799,101 on September 30, 2007. Since January 1, 2007 the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund has increased \$271,181,189. In September, the Employment Security Commission collected \$4,142,993 in Unemployment Insurance taxes assessed to employers. The Federal Loan had a zero balance, and the State Reserve Fund had a balance of \$11,655,339 on September 30, 2007.

As of June 30, 2007, there were 198,576 covered employers in the state.

ESC Finance and Budget reports that claimants in September 2007 were paid \$67,410,095 in unemployment benefits. The weekly average payment per claimant without earnings was \$284.38, an increase of 1.2 percent from the prior month (\$280.93). This average increased 5.1 percent from September 2006 (\$270.49). Claimants receiving first payments in September totaled 15,676, an 11.8 percent decrease from August (17,770) and an 8.6 percent decrease from the September 2006 level (17,158). Claimants exhausting benefit rights numbered 7,681, for a decrease of 3.7 percent from August's volume (7,976) and an increase of 13.3 percent from the September 2006 volume (6,781).

New and renewed job applications taken in September by ESC local offices totaled 19,541, down 15.9 percent from August's volume (23,226) and down 7.0 percent from September 2006 (21,007).

Individuals placed in September by ESC local offices totaled 6,971, down 21.7 percent from August's volume (8,904) and down 10.3 percent from September 2006 (7,770).

A total of 5,997 non-farm placements occurred in September 2007. This represented a 16.4 percent decrease since August 2007 (7,170) and down 14.8 percent from September 2006 (7,038). A breakout showing the characteristics of applicants placed includes: women, 44.5 percent; veteran, 11.2 percent; minority, 52.8 percent; UI claimants, 25.4 percent; applicants under 22, 10.0 percent; males over 21, 49.9 percent; and, disabled, 8.7 percent.