

ESC Monthly Activity

September 2009

Employment Security Commission
of North Carolina

Released: Thursday
October 22, 2009

Moses Carey, Jr.
Chairman

		Current Month SEP 09	LABOR MARKET INFORMATION ACTIVITY	Prior Month ¹ AUG 09
			U. S. Unemployment Rate	9.7%
			North Carolina Unemployment Rate	10.8%
Valerie Dorsett		9.8%	Size of North Carolina Civilian Labor Force	4,521,510
David Gantt		10.8%	Number of workers employed in North Carolina	4,032,601
Edward W. Kelly, III		4,534,063	Number of workers unemployed in North Carolina	488,909
Kevin McLaughlin		4,042,297	Estimated Nonfarm Employment in North Carolina	3,922,300
Thom Myers		491,766		
Charles Roth		3,921,700		
		SEP 09	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) ACTIVITY²	AUG 09
Unemployment		414,992	Individuals receiving one or more UI checks - 2008	414,992
Benefit Payments		204,303	Individuals receiving UI benefits – Sep. 2009	218,257
September 2009		710,881	Weeks of UI paid in Sep. 2009	798,553
Mecklenburg	\$24,129,608	\$1,313.6 Million	Amount paid in UI – 2008	\$1,313.6 Million
Wake	\$18,608,888	\$233.8 Million	Amount paid in UI – Sep. 2009 ³	\$217.8 Million
Guilford	\$11,456,774	\$136.5 Million	Amount paid in Federal Benefits – EUC Tier I – Sep. 2009 ⁴	\$122.0 Million
Forsyth	\$6,919,404	\$31.3 Million	Amount paid in Federal Benefits – EUC Tier II – Sep. 2009 ⁴	\$27.9 Million
Gaston	\$6,378,570	\$14,264	Amount NC paid in Extended Benefits – EB – Sep. 2009 ⁵	\$25,769
Cabarrus	\$4,978,411	\$277.00	Average UI Check – 2008 (per week)	\$277.00
Catawba	\$4,898,731	\$298.65	Average UI Check – Sep. 2009	\$302.96
Rowan	\$4,811,199	\$43 / \$505	Minimum/Maximum amount of UI benefits (per week)	\$43 / \$505
Durham	\$4,686,888	14.7 Weeks	Average Duration (Apr. 2009 – June. 2009)	13.3 Weeks
Iredell	\$4,592,028	18th (Lowest)	Duration Ranking (Apr. 2009 – June. 2009)	20th (Lowest)
		\$969.6 Million	Total collected in UI Taxes in 12-month period ending Sep. 2009	\$969.9 Million
		\$2,558.9 Million	Total paid in UI Benefits in 12-month period ending Sep. 2009	\$2,439.4 Million
		-\$1,183.1 Million	Trust Fund Balance – Sep. 30, 2009	-\$952.1 Million
		\$1,184.4 Million	Federal Loan Balance – Sep. 30, 2009	\$957.5 Million
		\$51.0 Million	State Reserve Balance – Sep. 30, 2009	\$49.4 Million
Current Locations		SEP 09	EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ACTIVITY	AUG 09
89 local offices		23,242	New Job Applicants - Sep. 2009	24,964
101 Job Link Career Centers		267,262	Total New Jobseekers for PY (Jul. 2008 – Jun. 2009)	267,262
61 ESC hosted		75,519	Total New Jobseekers - Y-T-D (Jul. 2009 - Sep. 2009)	52,277
40 non-ESC hosted		365,690	Jobseekers available as of Sep. 30, 2009	368,930
42 community colleges		69,442	Jobseekers provided service – Sep. 2009 ⁶	82,731
		37,123	Jobseekers referred to jobs – Sep. 2009 ⁶	43,456
		340,695	Total Services provided – Sep. 2009	331,712
		12,084	Job Openings listed – Sep. 2009	14,658
		153,282	Job Openings listed for PY (Jul. 2008 – Jun. 2009)	153,282
		40,625	Job Openings listed - Y-T-D (Jul. 2009 - Sep. 2009)	28,541
		1,801	UI Eligible Claimants entering employment – Sep. 2009	1,798
		6,516	UI Eligible Claimants entering employment - Y-T-D (Jul. 2009 - Sep. 2009)	3,827
		7,552	Jobseekers entering employment – Sep. 2009	9,566
		29,723	Jobseekers entering employment - Y-T-D (Jul. 2009 - Sep. 2009)	19,310

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

² Regular UI Benefits unless otherwise noted.

³ Includes benefits paid from the UI Trust Fund for UI benefits for period Aug 29, 2009 – Sep. 29, 2009.

⁴ Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) provides up to 33 weeks of 100% federally funded compensation.

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

⁶ 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 798,412 Weeks claimed for Unemployment Insurance in September 2009, down 12.6 percent from August (913,185) and up 59.0 percent from September a year ago (502,299).

September's statewide Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) at 4.5 percent dropped below the August's 5.4 percent, and was above the 2.9 percent of September a year ago.

There were 77,312 State UI Initial Claims (excluding Interstate Liable, UCX and UCFE) filed in September 2009, down 6.1 percent from the prior month's total of 82,299. Compared with September 2008 (69,597), Initial Claims' volume increased 11.1 percent.

North Carolina has one of the lower duration rates of Weeks claimed for Unemployment Insurance benefits. During the second quarter of 2009, the average duration was 14.7 weeks for North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee, while the national average remained at 16.2 weeks. During the same quarter, states with lower duration weeks were: South Dakota, 11.5 weeks; North Dakota, 11.8 weeks; Nebraska, 12.0 weeks; Georgia and Iowa, 13.2 weeks; Alabama, 13.3 weeks; Virginia, 13.5 weeks; Colorado, 13.7 weeks; West Virginia, 13.8 weeks; Oklahoma, 13.9 weeks; Louisiana, 14.0 weeks; Arkansas and Wyoming, 14.2 weeks; Idaho and Texas, 14.4 weeks; Wisconsin, 14.5 weeks; and Indiana and New Hampshire, 14.6 weeks.

During September 2009, 95 counties reported a decrease in the IUR and 5 counties reported an increase. When comparing current rates to September 2008, all 100 counties reported an increase. Counties with the lowest rates in September 2009 were Dare, 1.81 percent; Orange, 1.95 percent; Watauga, 2.02 percent; Hyde, 2.18 percent; and Swain, 2.23 percent. Counties with the highest rates in September 2009 were Caswell, 13.86 percent; Stokes, 13.21 percent; Perquimans, 10.92 percent; Jones, 10.44 percent; and Washington, 10.02 percent.

The Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund balance was at a deficit of \$1,183,149,121 on September 30, 2009. Since January 1, 2009 the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund has decreased \$1,373,311,901. During the month of September, ESC collected \$4,502,102 in Unemployment Insurance taxes assessed to employers. The Federal Loan had a balance of \$1,184,416,738, and the State Reserve Fund had a balance of \$50,990,526 on September 30, 2009.

As of September 30, 2009, there were 199,855 covered employers in the state.

ESC Finance and Budget reports that claimants in September 2009 were paid \$233,774,046 in unemployment benefits. The weekly average payment per claimant without earnings was \$322.62, an increase of 3.4 percent from the prior month (\$311.89). This average increased 11.4 percent from September 2008 (\$289.67). Claimants receiving first payments in September totaled 35,576, a 3.1 percent decrease from August (36,700) and a 21.6 percent increase from the September 2008 level (29,246). Claimants exhausting benefit rights numbered 29,013, for a decrease of 13.2 percent from August's volume (33,408) and an increase of 145.9 percent from the September 2008 volume (11,800).

New and renewed job applications taken in September by ESC local offices totaled 24,050, down 6.0 percent from August's volume (25,573) and up 3.8 percent from September 2008 (23,180).

Individuals placed in September by ESC local offices totaled 4,026 down 42.0 percent from August's volume (6,939) and down 29.3 percent from September 2008 (5,698).

A total of 3,126 non-farm placements occurred in September 2009. This represented an 18.8 percent decrease since August 2009 (3,851) and down 32.3 percent from September 2008 (4,615). A breakout showing the characteristics of applicants placed includes: women, 41.3 percent; veteran, 13.9 percent; minority, 49.3 percent; UI claimants, 26.4 percent; applicants under 22, 10.4 percent; males over 21, 52.2 percent; and, disabled, 11.3 percent.