



# News Release

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For Immediate Release

May 21, 2010

## North Carolina's Unemployment Rate Drops For Second Straight Month

### Total Non-Farm Jobs Increase By 7,500 In April

**RALEIGH** — North Carolina's unemployment rate decreased to 10.8 percent in April, according to statistics released today by the state's Employment Security Commission. The rate had been 11.1 percent in March.

"There is some good news in the April data," said ESC Chairman Lynn Holmes. "North Carolina gained jobs for the second consecutive month, however we have seen some variation in the sectors experiencing the growth. While overall job growth is up and the unemployment rate is slightly lower, we still face challenges in this tough economy. We will still be working — as always — with customers across the state in numerous ways to provide benefits and job search help."

Seasonally adjusted, total non-farm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased by 7,500 jobs over the past month to 3,902,000. The largest over-the-month increases occurred in Professional & Business Services (+6,300) and Government (+6,000). The largest decreases were in Leisure & Hospitality (-3,100) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-3,100). Since April 2009, non-farm employment has decreased by 33,600 jobs.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Since April 2009:

	Apr. 2009	May 2009	June 2009	July 2009	Aug. 2009	Sept. 2009	Oct. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2009	Jan. 2010	Feb. 2010	Mar. 2010	Apr. 2010
<b>N.C.</b>	10.7	10.9	11.0	11.0	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.9	11.1	11.2	11.1	10.8
<b>U.S.</b>	8.9	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.7	9.8	10.1	10.0	10.0	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.9

**\*\*2009 Numbers Have Been Benchmarked\*\***

The number of people employed (seasonally adjusted) increased by 22,736 workers to 4,079,689. The number of people unemployed decreased by 16,516 workers, to 491,467. Since this time last year, the number of unemployed has increased by 5,072 people. The number of workers employed is down by 1,819 since April 2009. The state rate in April 2009 was 10.7 percent.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for **Friday, May 28**, when the **county** unemployment rates for the month of **April** will be released.

— More —

This information may be accessed on the ESC's World Wide Web page, at <http://www.ncesc.com>



# NORTH CAROLINA & U.S. LABOR FORCE DATA

North Carolina data is embargoed until 10:00 A.M., Friday, May 21, 2010

				Month Ago		Year Ago	
	April 2010	March 2010	April 2009	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
<b>North Carolina</b> (Civilian Labor Force Estimates)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,571,156	4,564,936	4,564,265	6,220	0.1	6,891	0.2
Employed	4,079,689	4,056,953	4,077,870	22,736	0.6	1,819	0.0
Unemployed	491,467	507,983	486,395	-16,516	-3.3	5,072	1.0
Unemployment Rate	10.8	11.1	10.7	-0.3	xxx	0.1	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,544,767	4,556,433	4,555,691	-11,666	-0.3	-10,924	-0.2
Employed	4,089,754	4,058,974	4,085,089	30,780	0.8	4,665	0.1
Unemployed	455,013	497,459	470,602	-42,446	-8.5	-15,589	-3.3
Unemployment Rate	10.0	10.9	10.3	-0.9	xxx	-0.3	xxx
<b>United States</b> (Current Population Survey)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	154,715,000	153,910,000	154,718,000	805,000	0.5	-3,000	0.0
Employed	139,455,000	138,905,000	140,902,000	550,000	0.4	-1,447,000	-1.0
Unemployed	15,260,000	15,005,000	13,816,000	255,000	1.7	1,444,000	10.5
Unemployment Rate	9.9	9.7	8.9	0.2	xxx	1.0	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	153,911,000	153,660,000	153,834,000	251,000	0.2	77,000	0.1
Employed	139,302,000	137,983,000	140,586,000	1,319,000	1.0	-1,284,000	-0.9
Unemployed	14,609,000	15,678,000	13,248,000	-1,069,000	-6.8	1,361,000	10.3
Unemployment Rate	9.5	10.2	8.6	-0.7	xxx	0.9	xxx
<b>North Carolina</b> (Current Employment Statistics)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	3,902,000	3,894,500	3,935,600	7,500	0.2	-33,600	-0.9
Mining & Logging	6,200	6,300	6,000	-100	-1.6	200	3.3
Construction	172,000	173,800	197,600	-1,800	-1.0	-25,600	-13.0
Manufacturing	431,200	430,500	457,300	700	0.2	-26,100	-5.7
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	711,400	714,500	723,800	-3,100	-0.4	-12,400	-1.7
Information	68,700	69,100	70,600	-400	-0.6	-1,900	-2.7
Financial Activities	197,900	198,200	202,300	-300	-0.2	-4,400	-2.2
Professional & Business Services	469,900	463,600	464,200	6,300	1.4	5,700	1.2
Education & Health Services	550,300	548,400	540,800	1,900	0.3	9,500	1.8
Leisure & Hospitality Services	394,600	397,700	393,100	-3,100	-0.8	1,500	0.4
Other Services	163,700	162,300	164,200	1,400	0.9	-500	-0.3
Government	736,100	730,100	715,700	6,000	0.8	20,400	2.9
<i>Mfg. Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Mfg. Average Hourly Earnings	\$15.99	\$15.94	\$15.94				
Mfg. Hours Worked	40.1	40.0	38.1				

All 2010 Labor Force and CES data for the current month are preliminary, previous month are revised.

All 2009 Labor Force and CES estimates have been benchmarked.

Estimates may not add to totals due to rounding.

The 2010 Release Schedule is also available online at [http://www.ncesc1.com/pmi/rates/PressReleases/NC\\_Release\\_Dates.pdf](http://www.ncesc1.com/pmi/rates/PressReleases/NC_Release_Dates.pdf)

# NORTH CAROLINA LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS

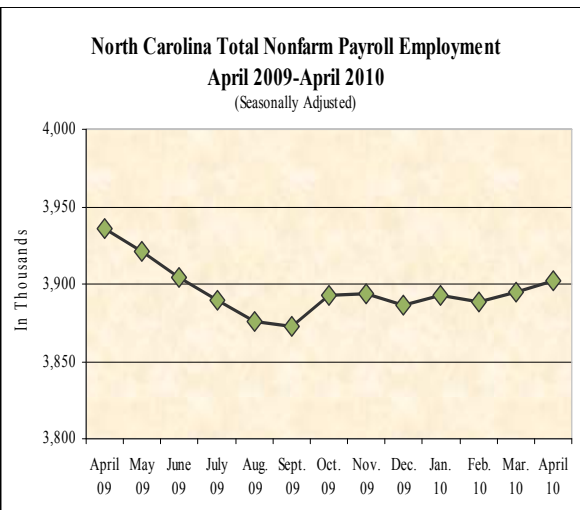
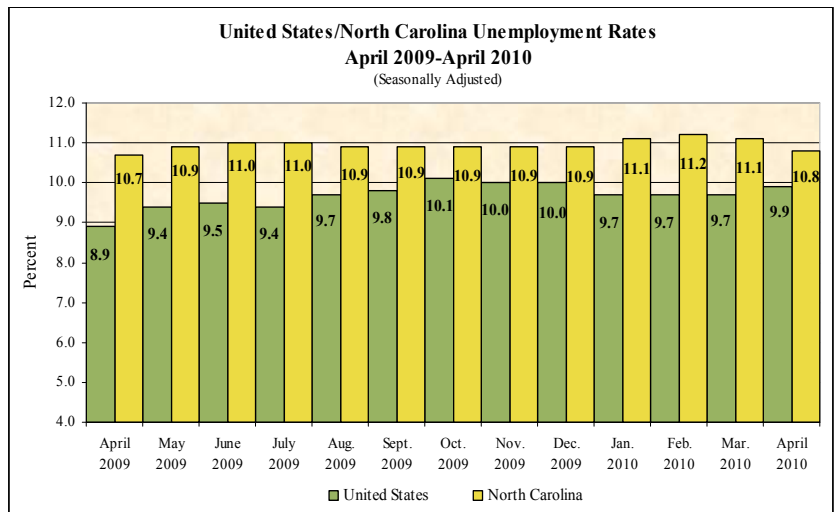
## APRIL 2010\*

The North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 10.8 percent in April, a decrease of 0.3 of a percentage point from a revised 11.1 percent in March and 0.1 of a percentage point higher than April 2009. Over the month, the number of persons employed increased 22,736 (0.6%), as those unemployed decreased by 16,516 (3.3%). This resulted in a rise in the civilian labor force of 6,220 to 4,571,156.

Nationally, April's unemployment rate increased 0.2 of a percentage point over the month to 9.9 percent. The number of persons employed increased 550,000 (0.4%), while the number unemployed also rose by 255,000 (1.7%).

Since the start of the recession in December 2007, North Carolina's labor force has increased 0.4 percent, while the nation's rose 0.5 percent. The number of people employed in North Carolina has decreased 5.7 percent compared to 4.6 percent nationally, while the number unemployed has increased 119.9 percent in North Carolina and 98.3 percent nationwide.

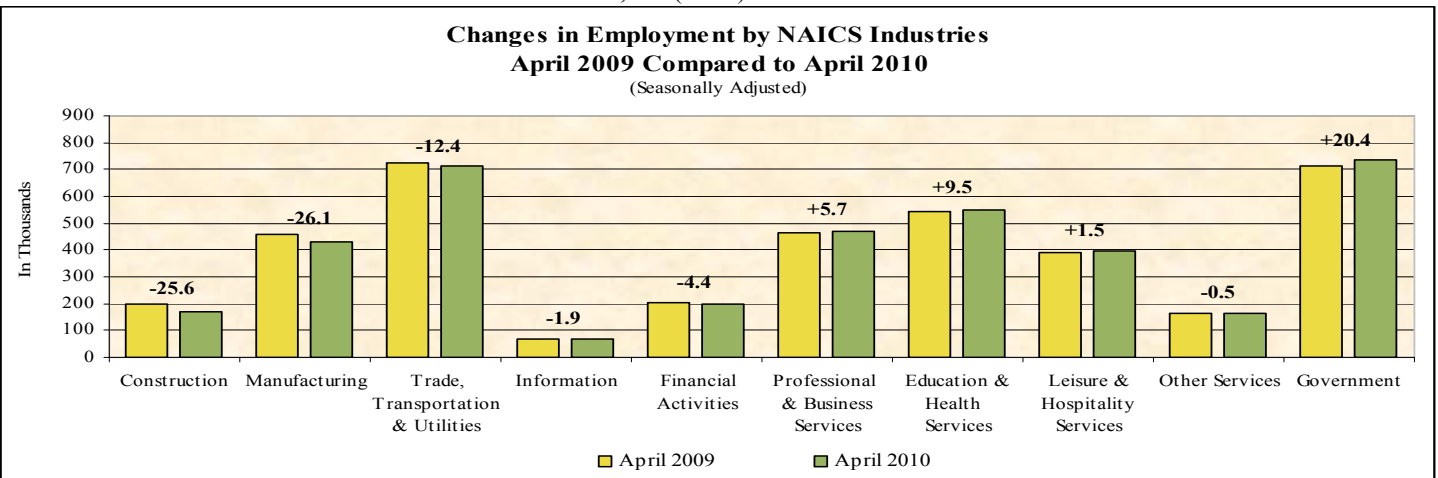
The monthly payroll survey of employers in North Carolina showed an increase of 7,500 in seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment since March 2010, and a loss of 33,600 since April 2009. The current total is 3,902,000 jobs.



Since the beginning of the 2007 national recession, North Carolina has lost 267,500 (6.4%) Total Nonfarm jobs, and 101,200 (19.0%) in Manufacturing employment. Of those jobs, 65.6 percent were in Durable Goods and 34.4 percent in Nondurable Goods.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Professional & Business Services had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs (6,300; 1.4%), followed by Government (6,000; 0.8%) and Education & Health Services (1,900; 0.3%). Leisure & Hospitality Services (3,100; 0.8%) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (3,100; 0.4%) both tied for the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Construction (1,800; 1.0%).

Since April 2009, Government added the largest number of jobs (20,400; 2.9%) with Local Government contributing the largest increase, 14,400 (State Government, also recorded a job gain of 4,800). Education & Health Services reported an increase of 9,500 (1.8%), followed by Professional & Business Services at 5,700 (1.2%), and Leisure & Hospitality Services at 1,500 (0.4%).



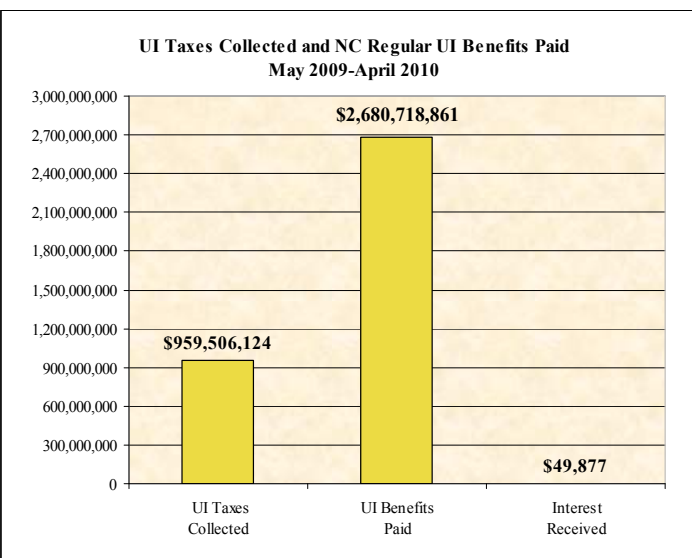
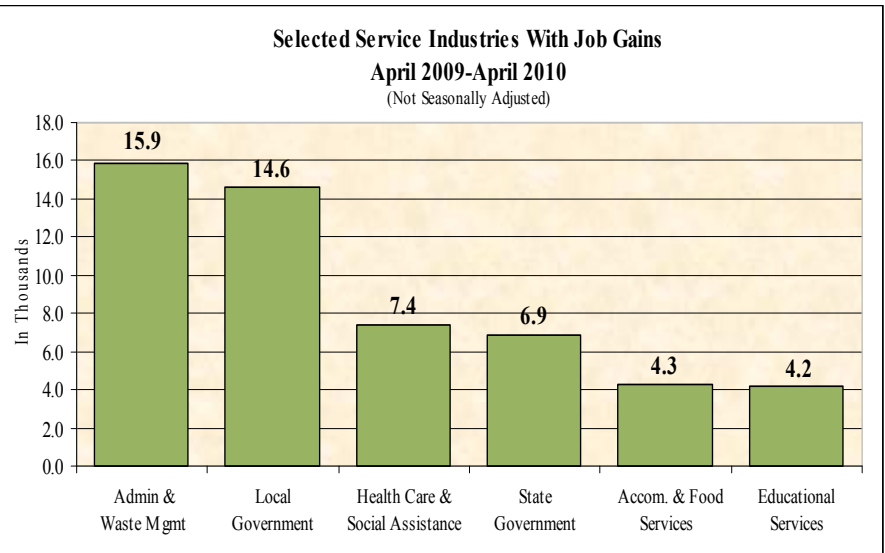
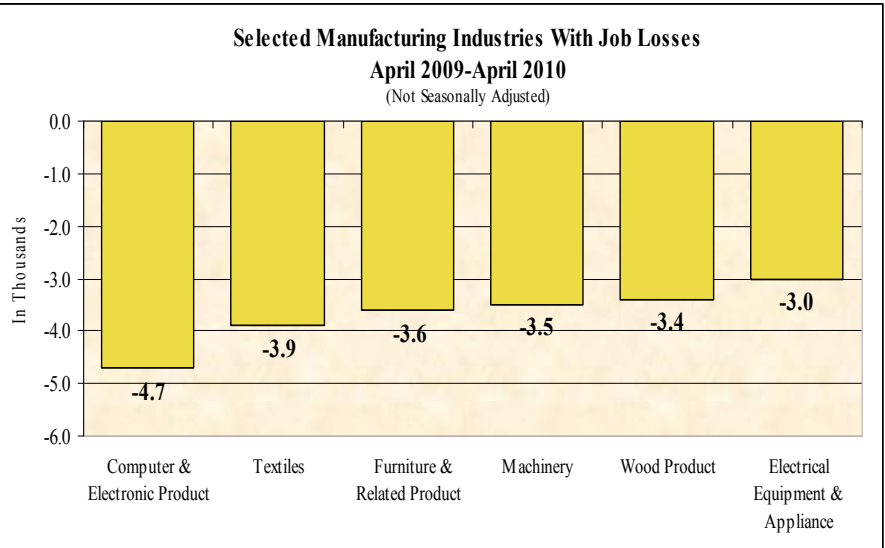
\* NC current month data are preliminary, other 2010 data are revised, while 2009 data are benchmarked.

The April 2010 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 3,908,100 was 30,600 (0.8%) higher than March 2010. Among major industries in North Carolina, Professional & Business Services had the largest over-the-month gain in employment at 9,600 (2.1%), followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services (8,500; 2.2%), Government (5,100; 0.7%), Education & Health Services (3,200; 0.6%), Manufacturing (2,100; 0.5%) and Other Services (1,300; 0.8%).

Over the year, the not seasonally adjusted Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 25,500 jobs. Government experienced the largest employment increase with 22,200 (3.0%), followed by Education & Health Services (11,600; 2.1%), Professional & Business Services (7,500; 1.6%) and Leisure & Hospitality (2,100; 0.5%). Employment decreases were seen in Trade, Transportation & Utilities (10,000; 1.4%), Financial Activities (4,700; 2.3%), Information (1,800; 2.6%), and Other Services (1,400; 0.9%).

Not seasonally adjusted, the Goods Producing sector lost 43,800 (6.7%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing decreased by 22,600 (5.0%) jobs and Construction, 21,500 (11.1%), while Mining & Logging recorded an increase of 300 (5.1%) jobs.

Food had the largest amount of manufacturing employment (49,300) in April 2010, but has lost 2,200 jobs since April 2009. Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing had the largest net over-the-year decrease (4,700; 12.6%). Likewise, all other manufacturing industries experienced over-the-year declines except Beverage & Tobacco Product, which gained 100 (0.8%) jobs.



Average Weekly Hours for manufacturing production workers in April increased by six minutes to 40.1 from March's revised 40.0. Average Hourly Earnings rose by \$0.05 to \$15.99, while Average Weekly Earnings grew by \$3.60 to \$641.20.

Regular Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance (UI) totaled 59,971 in April, decreasing 20,220 from March. Forty-four percent of Initial Claims for March 2010 were "attached" to a payroll, meaning that employees expect to be recalled to their jobs.

A total of \$189,312,939 in regular UI benefits was paid in April to 190,311 claimants statewide. The average weekly benefit amount was \$292.39. UI benefit amounts paid do not include the \$25 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

For the 12-month period ending April 2010, North Carolina paid \$5,421,309,492 in total benefits. The UI Trust Fund balance at the end of April was in the red (\$2,271,901,032). The State Reserve Fund balance was \$34,272,094.