



News Release

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For Immediate Release

September 18, 2009

State's Unemployment Rate Dips Slightly To 10.8 Percent In August

RALEIGH — North Carolina's unemployment rate decreased to 10.8 percent in August, according to statistics released today by the N.C. Employment Security Commission.

"A small loss in the labor force led to the decrease in the rate," said ESC Chairman Moses Carey Jr. "Much like previous months, we have not experienced a lot of change in the labor force one way or the other. These small changes have resulted in slight decreases throughout the past few months. However, we are still dealing with a high unemployment rate and continue to assist our customers throughout the state during these tough economic times."

Seasonally adjusted employment decreased by 8,330 workers to 4,031,573. Unemployment decreased by 6,534 workers, to 488,974. Since this time last year, unemployment has increased by 189,252 people. Employment is down by 217,761 workers since August 2008. The state rate in August 2008 was 6.6 percent.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates For Last 12 Months:

	Sept. 2008	Oct. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2008	Jan. 2009	Feb. 2009	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2009	May 2009	June 2009	July 2009	Aug. 2009
N.C.	6.8	7.0	7.5	8.1	9.7	10.7	10.8	10.7	11.1	11.0	10.9	10.8
U.S.	6.2	6.6	6.8	7.2	7.6	8.1	8.5	8.9	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.7

****Previous Months In 2009 Are Revised — 2008 Numbers Have Been Benchmarked****

Seasonally adjusted, total non-farm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased by 7,000 jobs over the past month and has decreased by 214,000 since August 2008 — to 3,916,600. The largest over-the-month increase occurred in Government (+20,100). The largest decrease was in Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-4,400).

The next unemployment update is scheduled for **Friday, September 25**, when the **county** unemployment rates for the month of **August** 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, September 18, 2009

				Month Ago		Year Ago	
	August 2009	July 2009	August 2008	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina (Civilian Labor Force Estimates)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,520,547	4,535,411	4,549,056	-14,864	-0.33	-28,509	-0.63
Employment	4,031,573	4,039,903	4,249,334	-8,330	-0.21	-217,761	-5.12
Unemployment	488,974	495,508	299,722	-6,534	-1.32	189,252	63.14
Unemployment Rate	10.8	10.9	6.6	-0.1	xxx	4.2	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,541,306	4,595,200	4,566,697	-53,894	-1.17	-25,391	-0.56
Employment	4,055,583	4,085,179	4,259,495	-29,596	-0.72	-203,912	-4.79
Unemployment	485,723	510,021	307,202	-24,298	-4.76	178,521	58.11
Unemployment Rate	10.7	11.1	6.7	-0.4	xxx	4.0	xxx
United States (Current Population Survey)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	154,577,000	154,504,000	154,823,000	73,000	0.05	-246,000	-0.16
Employment	139,649,000	140,041,000	145,273,000	-392,000	-0.28	-5,624,000	-3.87
Unemployment	14,928,000	14,462,000	9,550,000	466,000	3.22	5,378,000	56.31
Unemployment Rate	9.7	9.4	6.2	0.3	xxx	3.5	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	154,897,000	156,255,000	155,387,000	-1,358,000	-0.87	-490,000	-0.32
Employment	140,074,000	141,055,000	145,909,000	-981,000	-0.70	-5,835,000	-4.00
Unemployment	14,823,000	15,201,000	9,479,000	-378,000	-2.49	5,344,000	56.38
Unemployment Rate	9.6	9.7	6.1	-0.1	xxx	3.5	xxx
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	3,916,600	3,909,600	4,130,600	7,000	0.2	-214,000	-5.2
Natural Resources & Mining	6,300	6,400	6,500	-100	-1.6	-200	-3.1
Construction	193,800	192,300	232,000	1,500	0.8	-38,200	-16.5
Manufacturing	438,700	442,800	512,200	-4,100	-0.9	-73,500	-14.3
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	723,400	727,800	766,700	-4,400	-0.6	-43,300	-5.6
Information	66,000	67,100	71,300	-1,100	-1.6	-5,300	-7.4
Financial Activities	198,800	199,400	211,700	-600	-0.3	-12,900	-6.1
Professional & Business Services	466,900	468,100	504,000	-1,200	-0.3	-37,100	-7.4
Educational & Health Services	541,300	541,700	534,100	-400	-0.1	7,200	1.3
Leisure & Hospitality Services	390,600	392,800	397,400	-2,200	-0.6	-6,800	-1.7
Other Services	174,500	175,000	186,900	-500	-0.3	-12,400	-6.6
Government	716,300	696,200	707,800	20,100	2.9	8,500	1.2
<i>Mfg. Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Mfg. Average Hourly Earnings	\$15.90	\$15.90	\$15.42				
Mfg. Hours Worked	38.9	38.7	40.7				

All 2009 Labor Force and CES data for the current month are preliminary, previous month are revised.

All 2008 Labor Force and CES estimates have been benchmarked.

Estimates may not add to totals due to rounding.

NORTH CAROLINA LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS

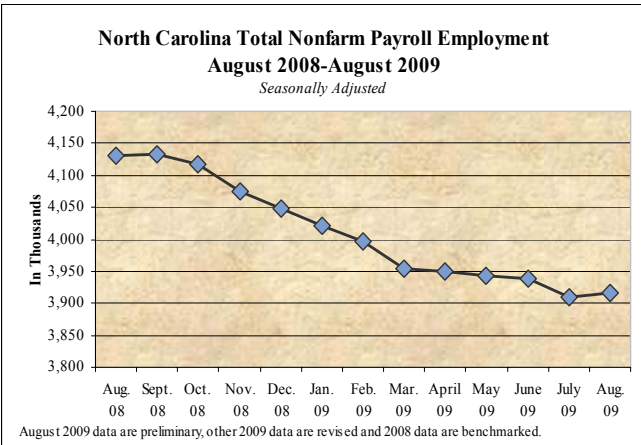
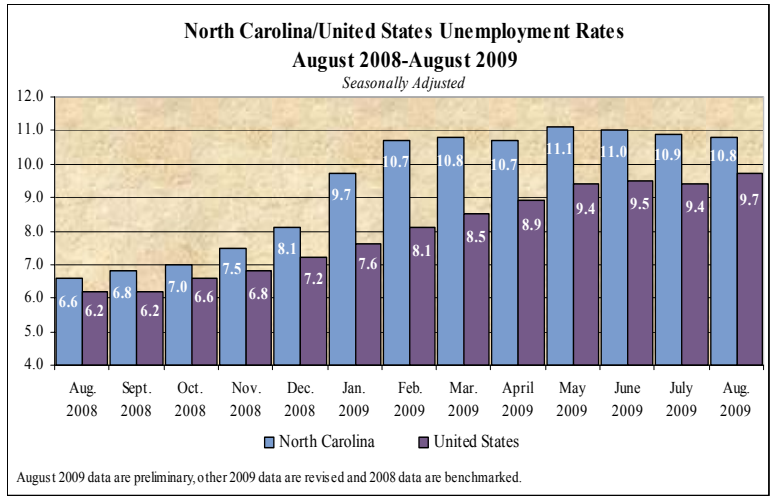
AUGUST 2009*

The North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 10.8 percent in August, a decrease of 0.1 of a percentage point since July and 4.2 percentage points higher than August 2008. Over the month, the number of persons employed decreased 8,330 (0.2%), as those unemployed also declined by 6,534 (1.3%). This resulted in a drop in the civilian labor force of 14,864 to 4,520,547.

Nationally, the unemployment rate increased 0.3 of a percentage point over the month to 9.7 percent. The number employed decreased 392,000 (0.3%), while the number unemployed rose by 466,000 (3.2%).

Since the start of the recession in December 2007, North Carolina's labor force has decreased 0.1 percent in comparison to the nation's 0.5 percent gain. N.C. employment has decreased 6.2 percent compared to 4.5 percent nationally, while unemployment has increased 116.5 percent in North Carolina and 98.0 percent nationwide.

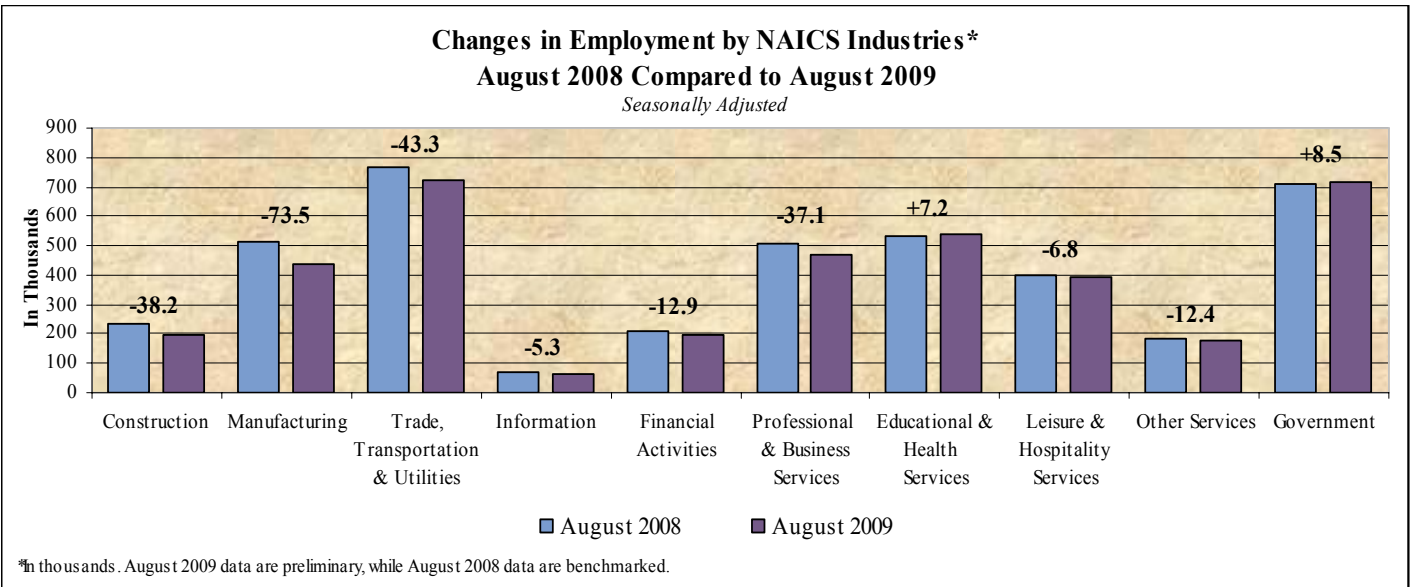
The current recession is in its 20th month of contraction in comparison to the July 1990–March 1991 and March 2001–November 2001 recessions, which both lasted eight months.



The seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate reflects the percentage of working-age population who are either employed or unemployed and actively seeking work. North Carolina's rate decreased 0.3 of a percentage point over the month to 63.2 percent, while the United States' rate remained the same as the previous month at 65.5 percent.

The monthly payroll survey of employers in North Carolina showed an increase of 7,000 in seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment since July 2009 and a loss of 214,000 since August 2008. The current total is 3,916,600 jobs.

Since the beginning of the 2007 national recession (December 2007), North Carolina has lost 255,400 (6.1%) Total Nonfarm jobs, and 94,400 (17.7%) in manufacturing employment. Of those jobs, 67.9 percent were in Durable Goods and 32.1 percent in Nondurable Goods.



*All August 2009 labor force & CES data are preliminary.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Government had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs (20,100; 2.9%), mostly in Local Government's Education sector. This was followed by Construction (1,500; 0.8%). Trade, Transportation & Utilities had the largest over-the-month decrease (4,400; 0.6%), followed by Manufacturing (4,100; 0.9%), Leisure & Hospitality Services (2,200; 0.6%) and Professional & Business Services (1,200; 0.3%). Since August 2008, Government added the largest number of jobs (8,500; 1.2%) with Local Government contributing the largest increase, while State Government recorded a job loss of 7,000. In addition, Educational & Health Services followed with (7,200; 1.3%). No other major industries reported a net gain.

The August 2009 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 3,917,900 was 59,100 (1.5%) higher than July 2009. Among major industries in North Carolina, Government had the largest employment gain of 65,600 (10.6%), followed by Professional & Business Services (2,500; 0.5%), Educational & Health Services (1,700; 0.3%) and Construction (1,600; 0.8%).

Over the year, the not seasonally adjusted Service Providing sector (all industries except Natural Resources & Mining, Construction and Manufacturing) showed a decrease of 100,700 jobs. Educational & Health Services experienced the largest employment increase with 6,700 (1.3%), followed by Government (3,800; 0.6%). Employment decreases were seen in the remaining sectors, including Trade, Transportation & Utilities (39,900; 5.2%), Professional & Business Services (36,300; 7.1%) and Financial Activities (13,300; 6.2%).

Over the year, the not seasonally adjusted Goods Producing sector lost 112,000 jobs.

Food had the largest amount of manufacturing employment (53,700) in August 2009, gaining 200 jobs since August 2008. Furniture and Related Product had the largest net over-the-year decrease (10,900; 24.3%). Likewise, all other manufacturing industries experienced over-the-year declines.

Average Weekly Hours for production workers in August increased by 12 minutes to 38.9 from July's revised 38.7. Average Hourly Earnings remained the same at \$15.90, while Average Weekly Earnings rose \$3.18 to \$618.51. Over the month, Durable Goods' Average Hourly Earnings increased by \$0.04, Average Weekly Earnings grew by \$4.77, and Average Weekly Hours climbed by 12 minutes. Nondurable Goods' Average Hourly Earnings decreased by \$0.05, Average Weekly Earnings rose by \$1.18, and Average Weekly Hours increased by 12 minutes.

Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance (UI) totaled 82,299 in August, decreasing 20,092 from July. Fifty-one percent of Initial Claims for August 2009 were "attached" to a payroll, meaning that employees expect to be recalled to their jobs.

A total of \$217,826,045 in regular UI benefits was paid in August to 218,257 claimants statewide. The average weekly benefit amount was \$302.96. UI benefit amounts paid do not include the \$25 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

For the 12-month period ending August 2009, total Regular UI benefits amounted to \$2,439,362,067. During the same period, the Employment Security Commission received \$969,933,792 in UI contributions from employers. The UI Trust Fund balance at the end of August was in the red (\$952,098,075). The State Reserve Fund balance was \$49,436,072.

