



News Release

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For Immediate Release

January 22, 2010

N.C.’s Unemployment Rate Increases To 11.2 Percent

Non-Farm Employment Drops By 2,400 Jobs In December

RALEIGH — North Carolina’s unemployment rate increased to 11.2 percent in December, according to statistics released today by the Employment Security Commission.

“The effects of a national recession continues to impact our jobless rate.” Said ESC Chairman Moses Carey Jr. “Non-farm payroll was down in December. Clearly, too many people are without a job, which is why we are working hard to provide job search assistance — among other services — for job seekers, and unemployment benefits to thousands of people. Over the year, we have paid over \$4.8 billion in benefits throughout North Carolina.”

Seasonally adjusted, total non-farm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, decreased by 2,400 jobs over the past month and has decreased by 124,200 since December 2008 — to 3,924,000. The largest over-the-month increase occurred in Professional & Business Services (+1,900). The largest decrease was in Leisure and Hospitality (-2,600).

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Since December 2008:

	<i>Dec. 2008</i>	<i>Jan. 2009</i>	<i>Feb. 2009</i>	<i>Mar. 2009</i>	<i>Apr. 2009</i>	<i>May 2009</i>	<i>June 2009</i>	<i>July 2009</i>	<i>Aug. 2009</i>	<i>Sept. 2009</i>	<i>Oct. 2009</i>	<i>Nov. 2009</i>	<i>Dec. 2009</i>
<i>N.C.</i>	<i>8.1</i>	<i>9.7</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>10.8</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>11.1</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>10.9</i>	<i>10.8</i>	<i>10.8</i>	<i>10.9</i>	<i>10.8</i>	<i>11.2</i>
<i>U.S.</i>	<i>7.4</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>8.2</i>	<i>8.6</i>	<i>8.9</i>	<i>9.4</i>	<i>9.5</i>	<i>9.4</i>	<i>9.7</i>	<i>9.8</i>	<i>10.1</i>	<i>10.0</i>	<i>10.0</i>

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

Seasonally adjusted employment decreased by 31,338 workers to 4,016,382. Unemployment increased by 19,022 workers, to 505,939. Since this time last year, unemployment has increased by 136,266 people. Employment is down by 191,258 workers since December 2008. The state rate in December 2008 was 8.1 percent.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for **Friday, January 29**, when the **county** unemployment rates for the month of **December** 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, January 22, 2010

	December 2009	November 2009	December 2008	Month Ago		Year Ago	
				Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina (Civilian Labor Force Estimates)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,522,321	4,534,637	4,577,313	-12,316	-0.27	-54,992	-1.20
Employment	4,016,382	4,047,720	4,207,640	-31,338	-0.77	-191,258	-4.55
Unemployment	505,939	486,917	369,673	19,022	3.91	136,266	36.86
Unemployment Rate	11.2	10.7	8.1	0.5	xxx	3.1	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,491,366	4,531,516	4,518,472	-40,150	-0.89	-27,106	-0.60
Employment	3,999,788	4,048,712	4,137,880	-48,924	-1.21	-138,092	-3.34
Unemployment	491,578	482,804	380,592	8,774	1.82	110,986	29.16
Unemployment Rate	10.9	10.7	8.4	0.2	xxx	2.5	xxx
United States (Current Population Survey)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	153,059,000	153,720,000	154,587,000	-661,000	-0.43	-1,528,000	-0.99
Employment	137,792,000	138,381,000	143,188,000	-589,000	-0.43	-5,396,000	-3.77
Unemployment	15,267,000	15,340,000	11,400,000	-73,000	-0.48	3,867,000	33.92
Unemployment Rate	10.0	10.0	7.4	0.0	xxx	2.6	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	152,693,000	153,539,000	154,349,000	-846,000	-0.55	-1,656,000	-1.07
Employment	137,953,000	139,132,000	143,350,000	-1,179,000	-0.85	-5,397,000	-3.76
Unemployment	14,740,000	14,407,000	10,999,000	333,000	2.31	3,741,000	34.01
Unemployment Rate	9.7	9.4	7.1	0.3	xxx	2.6	xxx
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	3,924,000	3,926,400	4,048,200	-2,400	-0.1	-124,200	-3.1
Natural Resources & Mining	6,300	6,400	6,500	-100	-1.6	-200	-3.1
Construction	187,100	188,300	220,400	-1,200	-0.6	-33,300	-15.1
Manufacturing	437,600	438,500	491,100	-900	-0.2	-53,500	-10.9
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	720,300	721,100	743,900	-800	-0.1	-23,600	-3.2
Information	66,600	66,000	70,500	600	0.9	-3,900	-5.5
Financial Activities	200,300	200,100	208,300	200	0.1	-8,000	-3.8
Professional & Business Services	469,800	467,900	477,700	1,900	0.4	-7,900	-1.7
Education & Health Services	548,000	547,700	541,300	300	0.1	6,700	1.2
Leisure & Hospitality Services	384,600	387,200	394,100	-2,600	-0.7	-9,500	-2.4
Other Services	168,600	169,200	177,000	-600	-0.4	-8,400	-4.7
Government	734,800	734,000	717,400	800	0.1	17,400	2.4
<i>Mfg. Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Mfg. Average Hourly Earnings	\$15.83	\$15.90	\$15.89				
Mfg. Hours Worked	40.1	39.8	39.2				

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

All 2008 Labor Force and CES estimates have been benchmarked.

Estimates may not add to totals due to rounding.

NORTH CAROLINA 2010 SCHEDULE OF LAUS & CES RELEASE DATES FOR US, STATEWIDE & AREA LABOR FORCE DATA

(Release dates are on Friday unless noted otherwise.)

Reference Month	Release Dates		
	US	STATEWIDE*	ALL AREAS
December 2009 Data	1/8/10	1/22/10	1/29/10
January 2010 Data	2/5/10	(Wed) 3/10/10	3/19/10
February Data	3/5/10	3/26/10	(Wed) 4/7/10
March Data	**4/2/10	4/16/10	4/23/10
April Data	5/7/10	5/21/10	5/28/10
May Data	6/4/10	6/18/10	6/25/10
June Data	7/2/10	7/16/10	7/23/10
July Data	8/6/10	8/20/10	8/27/10
August Data	9/3/10	9/17/10	9/24/10
September Data	10/8/10	10/22/10	10/29/10
October Data	11/5/10	11/19/10	(Tue) 11/30/10
November Data	12/3/10	12/17/10	(Tue) 1/4/2011
December Data	1/7/11	(Mon) 1/24/11	2/1/11

* CES state and area data will be released along with the LAUS state estimates.

Note: Statewide and area release dates for January and February data do not follow the usual monthly schedule due to the longer processing time required for annual benchmarking and the need to spread out LAUS releases.

In other months, the dates may vary from the norm due to federal/state holidays.

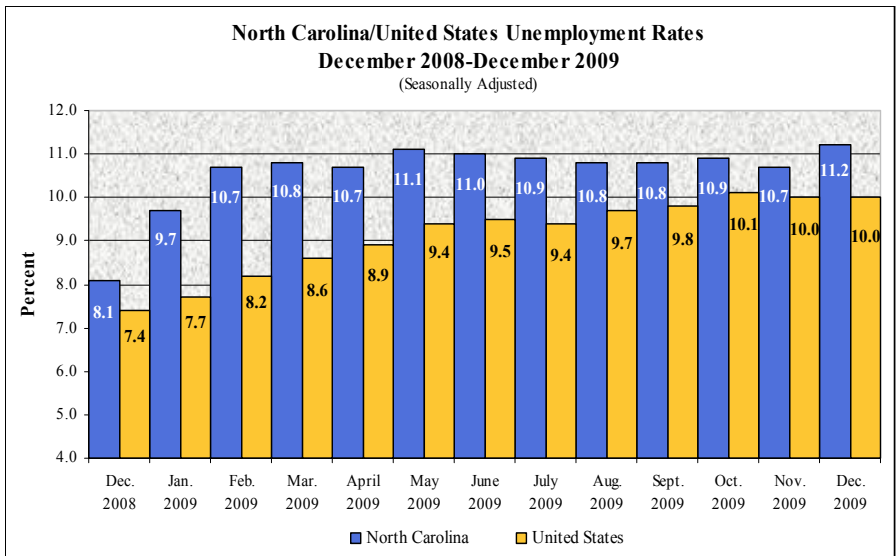
**Data will be released by BLS but due to state holiday will not be posted on ESC website until 4/5/2010.

NORTH CAROLINA LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS

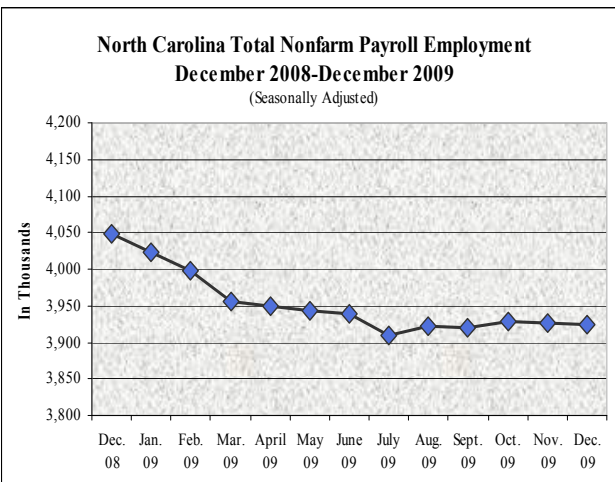
DECEMBER 2009*†

The North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 11.2 percent in December, an increase of 0.5 of a percentage point from a revised 10.7 percent in November and 3.1 percentage points higher than December 2008. Over the month, the number of persons employed decreased 31,338 (0.8%), as those unemployed increased by 19,022 (3.9%). This resulted in a decline in the civilian labor force of 12,316 to 4,522,321.

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 62.8 (lowest for the year), while the United States' rate fell by 0.3 of a percentage point to 64.6 percent.



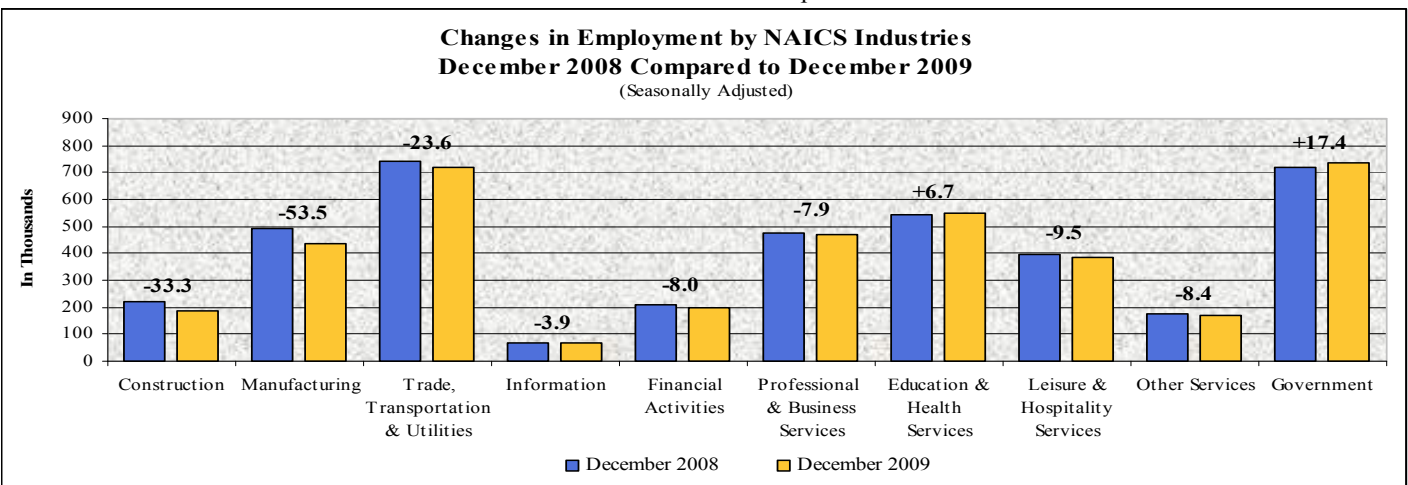
Nationally, the unemployment rate remained the same as the previous month at 10.0 percent. The number employed decreased 589,000 (0.4%), while the number unemployed fell by 73,000 (0.5%).



Since the start of the recession in December 2007, North Carolina's labor force has decreased 0.1 percent while the nation's fell 0.5 percent. N.C. employment has fallen 6.6 percent compared to 5.7 percent nationally, while unemployment has increased 124.0 percent in North Carolina and 98.4 percent nationwide. The current recession is in its 24th month of contraction in comparison to the July 1990–March 1991 and March 2001–November 2001 recessions, which both lasted eight months.

The monthly payroll survey of employers in North Carolina showed a decrease of 2,400 in seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment since November 2009, and a loss of 124,200 since December 2008. The current total is 3,924,000 jobs.

Since the beginning of the 2007 national recession, North Carolina has lost 248,000 (5.9%) Total Nonfarm jobs, and 95,500 (17.9%) in manufacturing employment. Of those jobs, 68.5 percent were in Durable Goods and 31.5 percent in Nondurable Goods.



* All North Carolina December 2009 labor force & Current Employment Statistics data are preliminary, while other 2009 data are revised. All other data are benchmarked. † All US data is benchmarked, however December 2009 data may be revised.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Professional & Business Services had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs (1,900; 0.4%), followed by Government (800; 0.1%) and Information (600; 0.9%). Leisure & Hospitality Services had the largest over-the-month decrease (2,600; 0.7%), followed by Construction (1,200; 0.6%) and Manufacturing (900; 0.2%). Since December 2008, Government added the largest number of jobs (17,400; 2.4%) with Local Government contributing the largest increase (State Government recorded a job loss of 4,200). Education & Health Services followed with a gain of 6,700; (1.2%). No other major industries reported a net over-the-year gain.

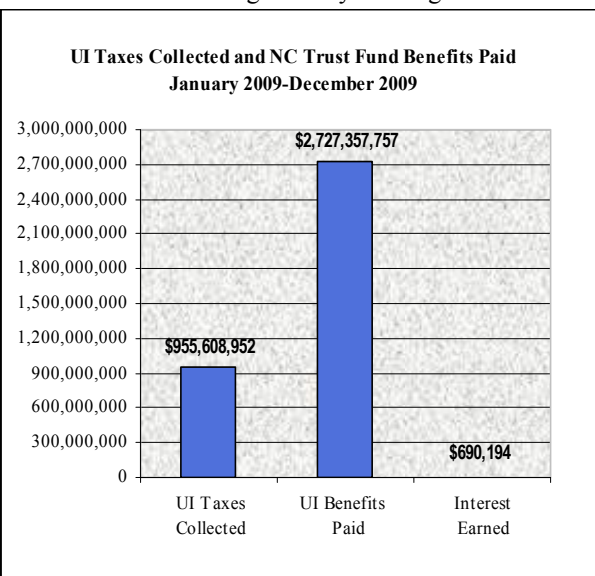
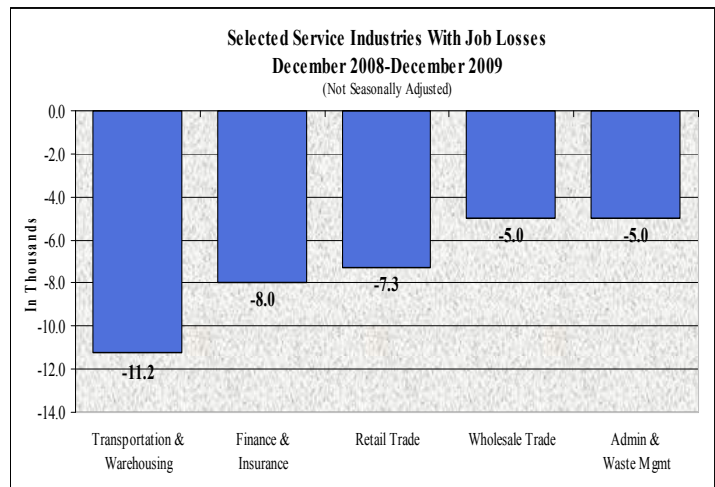
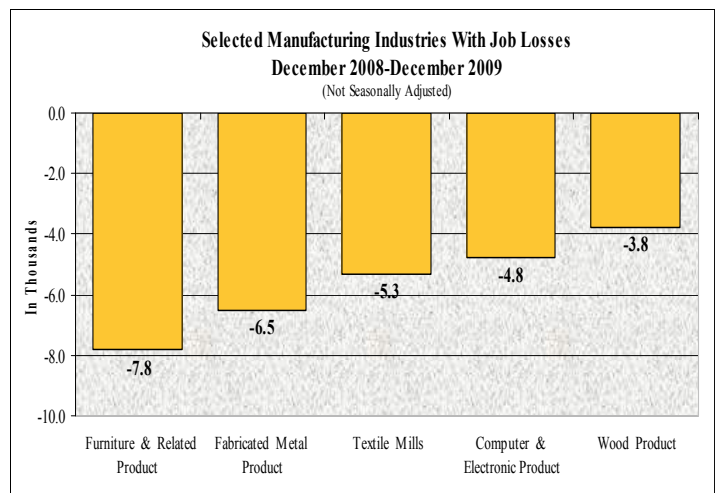
Over the month, the December 2009 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 3,944,400 was 14,600 (0.4%) lower than November 2009. Among major industries in North Carolina, Trade, Transportation & Utilities had the largest employment gain of 2,500 (0.3%), followed by Information (400; 0.6%) and Financial Activities (100; <0.1%).

Over the year, the not seasonally adjusted Service Providing sector (all industries except Natural Resources & Mining, Construction and Manufacturing) showed a decrease of 37,600 jobs. Government experienced the largest employment increase with 17,200 (2.3%), followed by Education & Health Services (6,600; 1.2%). Employment decreases were seen in the remaining sectors, including Trade, Transportation & Utilities (24,000; 3.2%), Leisure & Hospitality (8,900; 2.3%), Other Services (8,500; 4.9%), and Financial Activities (8,100; 3.9%).

Over the year, the not seasonally adjusted Goods Producing sector lost 86,900 jobs.

Food had the largest amount of manufacturing employment (53,000) in December 2009, losing 400 jobs since December 2008. Furniture & Related Product had the largest net over-the-year decrease (7,800; 19.5%). Likewise, all other manufacturing industries experienced over-the-year declines.

Average Weekly Hours for production workers in December increased by 18 minutes to 40.1 from November's revised 39.8. Average Hourly Earnings fell by \$0.07 to \$15.83, while Average Weekly Earnings grew by \$1.96 to \$634.78. Over the month, Durable Goods' Average Hourly Earnings remained the same as the previous month at \$16.40, Average Weekly Earnings rose by \$11.48, and Average Weekly Hours climbed by 42 minutes. Nondurable Goods' Average Hourly Earnings declined by \$0.14, Average Weekly Earnings decreased by \$7.20, and Average Weekly Hours fell by 6 minutes.



Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance (UI) totaled 107,302 in December, increasing 18,364 from November. Sixty-one percent of Initial Claims for December 2009 were "attached" to a payroll, meaning that employees expect to be recalled to their jobs.

A total of \$213,491,396 in regular UI benefits was paid in December to 218,772 claimants statewide. The average weekly benefit amount was \$289.01. UI benefit amounts paid do not include the \$25 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

For the 12-month period ending December 2009, NC Trust Fund benefits amounted to \$2,727,357,757. During the same period, the Employment Security Commission received \$955,608,952 in UI contributions from employers. The UI Trust Fund balance at the end of December was in the red (\$1,606,065,783). The State Reserve Fund balance was \$26,942,453.