



News Release

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For Immediate Release
March 25, 2011

Nonfarm Jobs Increase By 17,400 In February Unemployment Rate Decreases To 9.7 Percent

RALEIGH — North Carolina gained 17,400 nonfarm jobs in February. The state’s unemployment decreased to 9.7 percent.

“Clearly Gov. Perdue’s focus on growing jobs in North Carolina should continue to be the No. 1 priority for North Carolina leaders,” said ESC Chairman Lynn R. Holmes. “We are showing signs of slow but steady progress, with job gains in February and over-the-year. Here at the ESC we remain committed to assisting out-of-work citizens with training and services to get them through these hard times and back to work.”

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey increased by 17,400 to 3,879,300 in February. The largest over-the-month employment increase occurred in professional & business services (+6,800). The largest decrease was in trade, transportation & utilities (-1,600). Over the year, nonfarm industry employment has increased by 30,500 jobs.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Since February 2010

	<i>Feb. 2010</i>	<i>Mar. 2010</i>	<i>Apr. 2010</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	<i>June 2010</i>	<i>July 2010</i>	<i>Aug. 2010</i>	<i>Sept. 2010</i>	<i>Oct. 2010</i>	<i>Nov. 2010</i>	<i>Dec. 2010</i>	<i>Jan. 2011</i>	<i>Feb. 2011</i>
<i>N.C.</i>	<i>11.4</i>	<i>11.3</i>	<i>11.1</i>	<i>10.8</i>	<i>10.5</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>10.1</i>	<i>10.0</i>	<i>9.9</i>	<i>9.8</i>	<i>9.8</i>	<i>9.8</i>	<i>9.7</i>
<i>U.S.</i>	<i>9.7</i>	<i>9.7</i>	<i>9.8</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>9.5</i>	<i>9.5</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>9.7</i>	<i>9.8</i>	<i>9.4</i>	<i>9.0</i>	<i>8.9</i>

****2010 Numbers Have Been Benchmarked****

The number of people employed (seasonally adjusted) increased by 5,485 to 4,030,025. The number of people unemployed decreased by 4,275 workers, to 435,297. Since this time last year, the number of people unemployed has decreased by 84,742 and the number of workers employed is down 7,220. The state unemployment rate in February 2010 was 11.4 percent.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 6**, when the **county** unemployment rates for the month of **February** 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 March 25, 2011

				Month Ago		Year Ago	
	February 2011	January 2011	February 2010	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina (Civilian Labor Force Estimates)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,465,322	4,464,112	4,557,284	1,210	0.0	-91,962	-2.0
Employed	4,030,025	4,024,540	4,037,245	5,485	0.1	-7,220	-0.2
Unemployed	435,297	439,572	520,039	-4,275	-1.0	-84,742	-16.3
Unemployment Rate	9.7	9.8	11.4	-0.1	xxx	-1.7	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,434,489	4,432,968	4,524,965	1,521	0.0	-90,476	-2.0
Employed	3,988,617	3,972,071	3,976,674	16,546	0.4	11,943	0.3
Unemployed	445,872	460,897	548,291	-15,025	-3.3	-102,419	-18.7
Unemployment Rate	10.1	10.4	12.1	-0.3	xxx	-2.0	xxx
United States (Current Population Survey)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	153,246,000	153,186,000	153,558,000	60,000	0.0	-312,000	-0.2
Employed	139,573,000	139,323,000	138,698,000	250,000	0.2	875,000	0.6
Unemployed	13,673,000	13,863,000	14,860,000	-190,000	-1.4	-1,187,000	-8.0
Unemployment Rate	8.9	9.0	9.7	-0.1	xxx	-0.8	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	152,635,000	152,536,000	153,194,000	99,000	0.1	-559,000	-0.4
Employed	138,093,000	137,599,000	137,203,000	494,000	0.4	890,000	0.6
Unemployed	14,542,000	14,937,000	15,991,000	-395,000	-2.6	-1,449,000	-9.1
Unemployment Rate	9.5	9.8	10.4	-0.3	xxx	-0.9	xxx
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	3,879,300	3,861,900	3,848,800	17,400	0.5	30,500	0.8
Mining & Logging	5,600	5,700	5,600	-100	-1.8	0	0.0
Construction	170,800	166,300	177,200	4,500	2.7	-6,400	-3.6
Manufacturing	435,400	433,700	430,300	1,700	0.4	5,100	1.2
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	718,500	720,100	710,400	-1,600	-0.2	8,100	1.1
Information	68,400	68,000	67,900	400	0.6	500	0.7
Financial Activities	201,700	202,400	198,800	-700	-0.3	2,900	1.5
Professional & Business Services	495,000	488,200	472,300	6,800	1.4	22,700	4.8
Education & Health Services	537,800	533,700	541,600	4,100	0.8	-3,800	-0.7
Leisure & Hospitality Services	393,800	390,800	385,400	3,000	0.8	8,400	2.2
Other Services	159,000	156,700	154,800	2,300	1.5	4,200	2.7
Government	693,300	696,300	704,500	-3,000	-0.4	-11,200	-1.6
<i>Mfg. Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Mfg. Average Hourly Earnings	\$15.80	\$15.81	\$16.01				
Mfg. Hours Worked	40.9	40.6	40.2				

All 2011 NC Labor Force and CES data for the current month are preliminary.

All 2010 NC Labor Force and CES estimates have been benchmarked.

Estimates may not add to totals due to rounding.

NORTH CAROLINA LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS

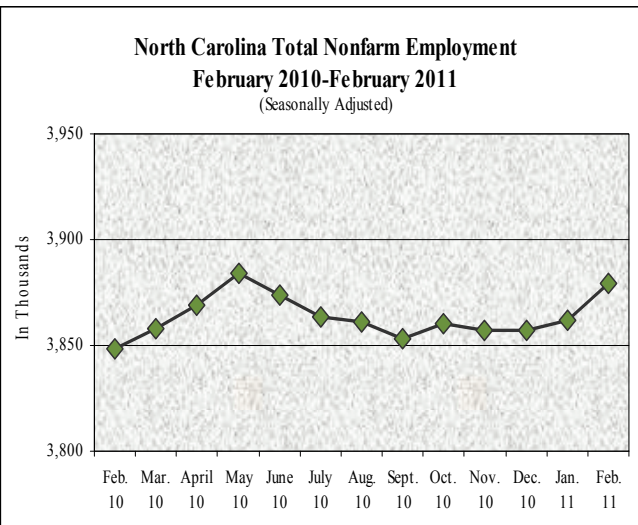
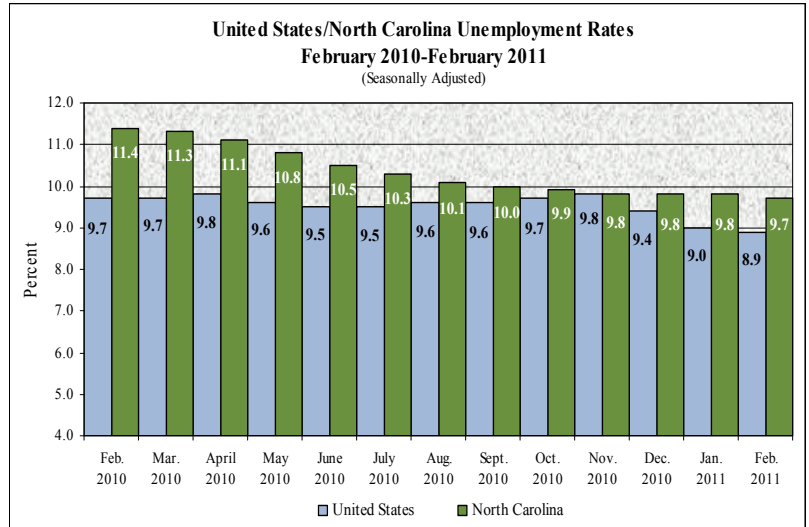
FEBRUARY 2011*

The North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 9.7 percent in February, a decrease of 0.1 of a percentage point from a revised 9.8 percent in January, and 1.7 percentage points lower than February 2010. Over the month, the labor force was relatively flat. The number of persons employed increased 5,485 (0.1%), as those unemployed declined by 4,275 (1.0%).

Nationally, February's unemployment rate decreased 0.1 of a percentage point over the month to 8.9 percent. The number of persons employed increased by 250,000 (0.2%), while the civilian labor force increased by 60,000 (<0.1%).

Since the beginning of the recession in December 2007, North Carolina's labor force has decreased 2.1 percent, while the nation showed a loss of 0.4 percent. The number of people employed in North Carolina has decreased 7.0 percent compared to 4.6 percent nationally, while the number unemployed has increased 92.4 percent in North Carolina and 78.4 percent nationwide.

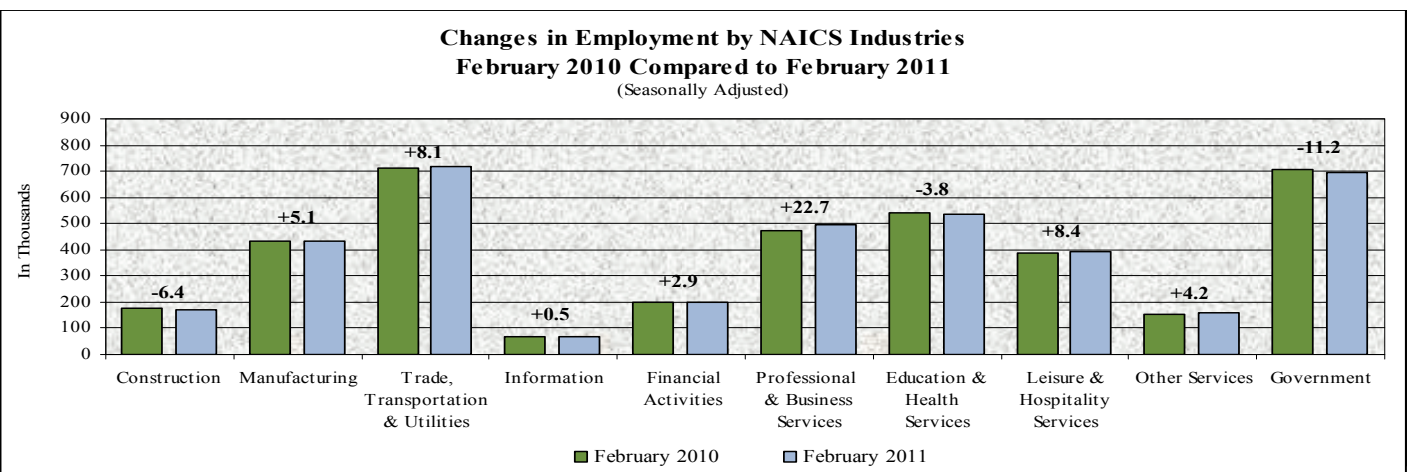
Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, showed an increase of 17,400 (0.5%) since January 2011, and an increase of 30,500 (0.8%) since February 2010.



Since the beginning of the December 2007 national recession, North Carolina has lost 292,500 (7.0%) Total Nonfarm jobs. Manufacturing employment declined by 97,600 (18.3%). Of those jobs, 63.2 percent were in Durable Goods and 36.8 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 (6,800; 1.4%), followed by Construction (4,500; 2.7%), Education & Health Services (4,100; 0.8%) and Leisure & Hospitality Services (3,000; 0.8%). Government (3,000; 0.4%) had the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (1,600; 0.2%), Financial Activities (700; 0.3%) and Mining & Logging (100; 1.8%).

Since February 2010, Professional & Business Services added the largest number of jobs (22,700; 4.8%), followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services, 8,400 (2.2%); Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 8,100 (1.1%) and Manufacturing, 5,100 (1.2%).



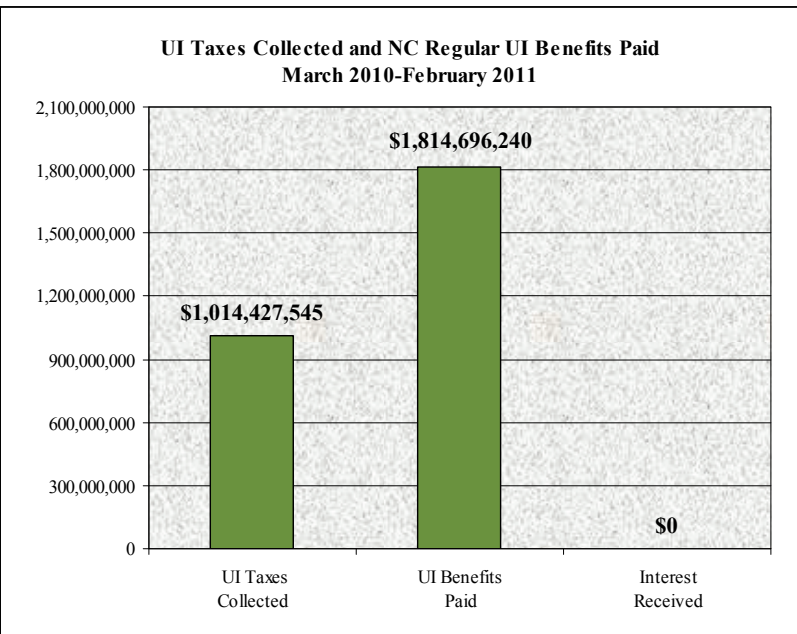
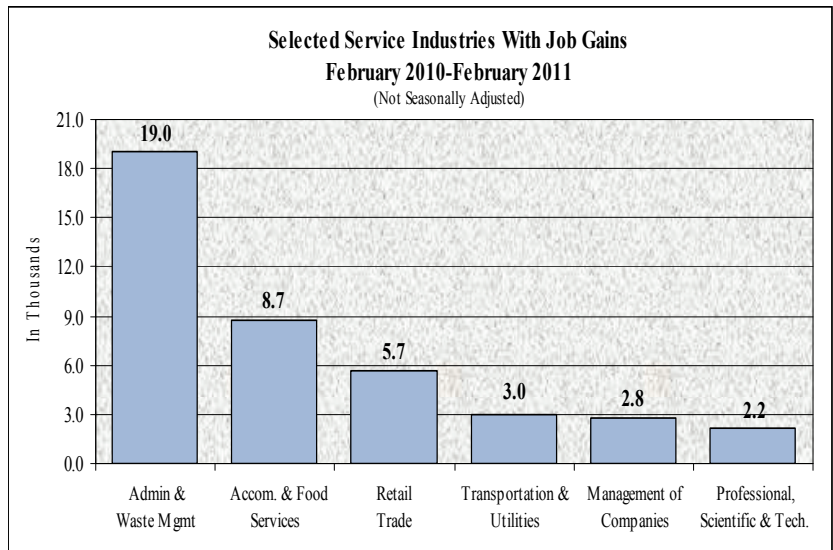
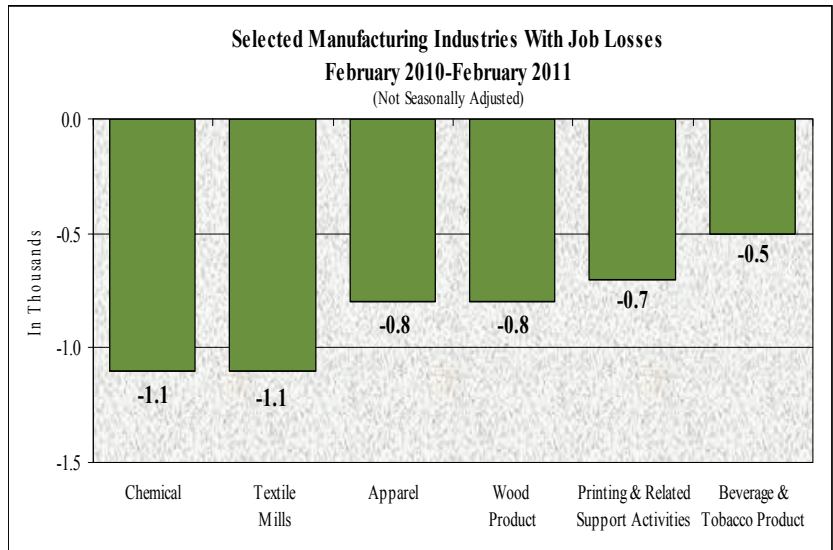
* NC current month data are preliminary, while 2010 data are benchmarked.

The February 2011 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 3,834,200 was 31,300 (0.8%) higher than January 2011. Among the major industries in North Carolina, Professional & Business Services had the largest over-the-month gain in employment at 10,200 (2.1%), followed by Education & Health Services (5,700; 1.1%), Government (5,700; 0.8%) and Leisure & Hospitality (5,100; 1.4%).

Over the year, the Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction, and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 36,600 (1.1%) jobs. Professional & Business Services experienced the largest employment increase with 24,000 (5.2%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (10,300; 1.5%), Leisure & Hospitality (7,900; 2.2%), Financial Activities (3,100; 1.6%), Other Services (2,100; 1.4%) and Information (400; 0.6%). Government experienced the largest employment decrease with 7,200 (1.0%), followed by Education & Health Services (4,000; 0.7%).

The Goods Producing sector lost 5,300 (0.9%) jobs over the year. Construction decreased by 7,700 (4.5%) jobs, while Manufacturing increased by 2,400 (0.6%) and Mining & Logging unchanged.

Food had the largest amount of manufacturing employment (50,800) in February 2011 and increased 800 (1.6%) over the year. Machinery had the largest net over-the-year increase at 1,900. Other manufacturing industries with over-the-year increases were: Fabricated Metal Product, 700; Computer & Electronic Product; 500; and Transportation Equipment; 100.



Average Weekly Hours for manufacturing production workers in February increased by 18 minutes to 40.9 from January's revised 40.6. Average Hourly Earnings fell by \$0.01 to \$15.80, while Average Weekly Earnings rose by \$4.33 to \$646.22.

Regular Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance (UI) totaled 55,120 in February, decreasing 49,587 from January. Forty-six percent of Initial Claims for February 2011 were "attached" to a payroll, meaning that employees expect to be recalled to their jobs.

A total of \$126,011,912 in regular UI benefits was paid in February to 133,653 claimants statewide — a decrease of 21,034 claimants since January 2011.

For the 12-month period ending February 2011, North Carolina paid \$5,225,776,355 in total benefits. The UI Trust Fund balance at the end of February was in the red (\$2,601,272,954). The State Reserve Fund balance was \$106,309,355.