



# News Release

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**For Immediate Release**

April 16, 2010

## North Carolina’s March Unemployment Rate Drops Slightly To 11.1 Percent

**RALEIGH** — North Carolina’s unemployment rate decreased to 11.1 percent in March, according to statistics released today by the state’s Employment Security Commission. The rate decreased from 11.2 percent in February.

“North Carolina gained 3,300 jobs in March,” said ESC Chairman Lynn Holmes. “Manufacturing and Construction both had small gains in the month. But, we need to see a more consistent pattern of growth in our job sectors in the coming months before we can be sure this is a sign of sustained growth.”

Seasonally adjusted, total non-farm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased by 3,300 jobs over the past month to 3,891,800. The largest over-the-month increases occurred in Leisure & Hospitality (+2,200) and Manufacturing (+2,100). The largest decrease was in Professional & Business Services (-2,400). Since March 2009, non-farm employment has decreased by 61,600 jobs.

*Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Since March 2009:*

	Mar. 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
<i>N.C.</i>	10.3	10.7	10.9	11.0	11.0	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.9	11.1	11.2	11.1
<i>U.S.</i>	8.6	8.9	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.7	9.8	10.1	10.0	10.0	9.7	9.7	9.7

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

The number of people employed (seasonally adjusted) increased by 18,122 workers to 4,056,681. The number of people unemployed decreased by 2,794 workers, to 507,686. Since this time last year, unemployment has increased by 34,442 people. Employment is down by 43,735 workers since March 2009. The state rate in March 2009 was 10.3 percent.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for **Friday, April 23**, 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, April 16, 2010

	March 2010	February 2010	March 2009	Month Ago		Year Ago	
				Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
<b>North Carolina</b> (Civilian Labor Force Estimates)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,564,367	4,549,039	4,573,659	15,328	0.34	-9,292	-0.20
Employed	4,056,681	4,038,559	4,100,416	18,122	0.45	-43,735	-1.07
Unemployed	507,686	510,480	473,244	-2,794	-0.55	34,442	7.28
Unemployment Rate	11.1	11.2	10.3	-0.1	xxx	0.8	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,555,083	4,526,680	4,538,125	28,403	0.63	16,958	0.37
Employed	4,058,349	3,991,545	4,058,017	66,804	1.67	332	0.01
Unemployed	496,734	535,135	480,108	-38,401	-7.18	16,626	3.46
Unemployment Rate	10.9	11.8	10.6	-0.9	xxx	0.3	xxx
<b>United States</b> (Current Population Survey)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	153,910,000	153,512,000	154,164,000	398,000	0.26	-254,000	-0.16
Employed	138,905,000	138,641,000	140,854,000	264,000	0.19	-1,949,000	-1.38
Unemployed	15,005,000	14,871,000	13,310,000	134,000	0.90	1,695,000	12.73
Unemployment Rate	9.7	9.7	8.6	0.0	xxx	1.1	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	153,660,000	153,194,000	153,728,000	466,000	0.30	-68,000	-0.04
Employed	137,983,000	137,203,000	139,833,000	780,000	0.57	-1,850,000	-1.32
Unemployed	15,678,000	15,991,000	13,895,000	-313,000	-1.96	1,783,000	12.83
Unemployment Rate	10.2	10.4	9.0	-0.2	xxx	1.2	xxx
<b>North Carolina</b> (Current Employment Statistics)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	3,891,800	3,888,500	3,953,400	3,300	0.1	-61,600	-1.6
Mining & Logging	6,200	6,100	6,000	100	1.6	200	3.3
Construction	174,400	173,100	202,100	1,300	0.8	-27,700	-13.7
Manufacturing	430,900	428,800	461,100	2,100	0.5	-30,200	-6.5
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	713,200	715,300	728,800	-2,100	-0.3	-15,600	-2.1
Information	69,100	68,600	70,700	500	0.7	-1,600	-2.3
Financial Activities	198,700	198,800	204,700	-100	-0.1	-6,000	-2.9
Professional & Business Services	463,700	466,100	469,500	-2,400	-0.5	-5,800	-1.2
Education & Health Services	548,100	549,700	540,800	-1,600	-0.3	7,300	1.3
Leisure & Hospitality Services	396,600	394,400	394,000	2,200	0.6	2,600	0.7
Other Services	162,200	160,500	164,400	1,700	1.1	-2,200	-1.3
Government	728,700	727,100	711,300	1,600	0.2	17,400	2.4
<i>Mfg. Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Mfg. Average Hourly Earnings	\$15.95	\$16.00	\$15.86				
Mfg. Hours Worked	39.9	39.6	38.0				

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)

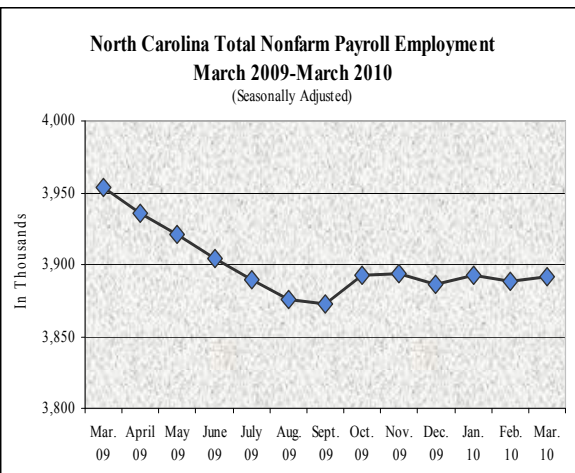
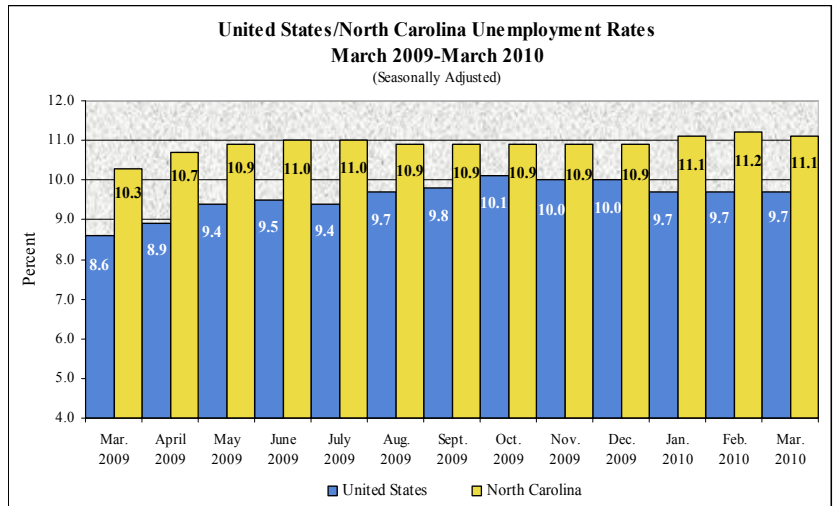
## NORTH CAROLINA LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS MARCH 2010\*

The North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 11.1 percent in March, a decrease of 0.1 of a percentage point from a revised 11.2 percent in February and 0.8 of a percentage point higher than March 2009. Over the month, the number of persons employed increased 18,122 (0.5%), as those unemployed decreased by 2,794 (0.6%). This resulted in a rise in the civilian labor force of 15,328 to 4,564,367.

Nationally, March's unemployment rate remained the same as the previous month at 9.7 percent. The number of persons employed increased 264,000 (0.2%), while the number unemployed also rose by 134,000 (0.9%).

Since the start of the recession in December 2007, North Carolina's labor force has increased 0.3 percent, while the nation's percent gain was negligible. The number of people employed in North Carolina has fallen 6.3 percent compared to 5 percent nationally, while the number unemployed has increased 127.2 percent in North Carolina and 95 percent nationwide.

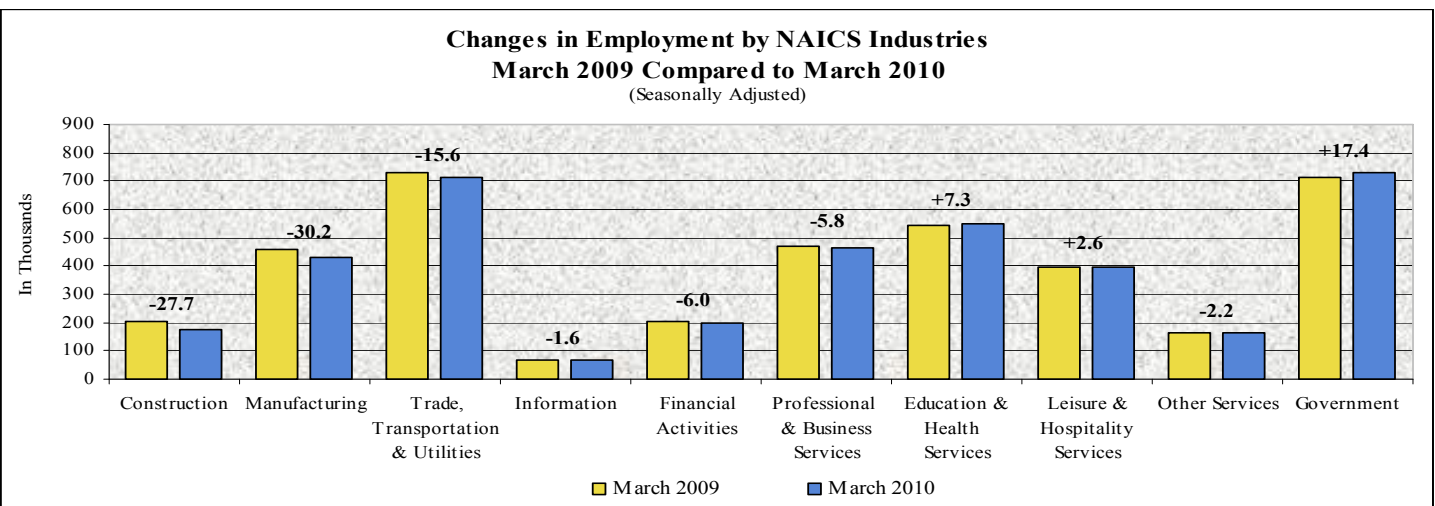
The monthly payroll survey of employers in North Carolina showed an increase of 3,300 in seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment since February 2010, and a loss of 61,600 since March 2009. The current total is 3,891,800 jobs.



Since the beginning of the 2007 national recession, North Carolina has lost 277,700 (6.7%) Total Nonfarm jobs, and 101,500 (19.1%) in Manufacturing employment. Of those jobs, 65 percent were in Durable Goods and 35 percent in Nondurable Goods.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Leisure & Hospitality Services had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs (2,200; 0.6%), followed by Manufacturing (2,100; 0.5%) and Other Services (1,700; 1.1%). Professional & Business Services had the largest over-the-month decrease (2,400; 0.5%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (2,100; 0.3%) and Education & Health Services (1,600; 0.3%).

Since March 2009, Government added the largest number of jobs (17,400; 2.4%) with Local Government contributing the largest increase, 12,300 (State Government recorded a job gain of 2,800). Education & Health Services showed a gain of 7,300 (1.3%), followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services at 2,600 (0.7%), while Mining & Logging added 200 (3.3%) jobs.



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

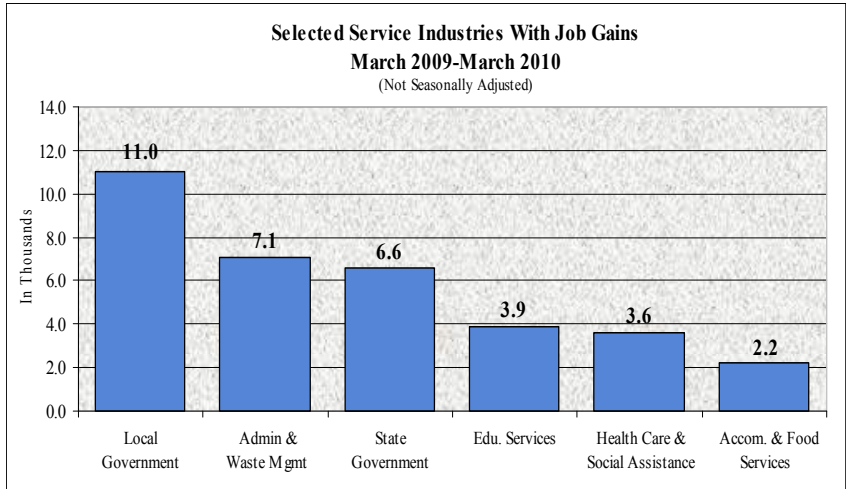
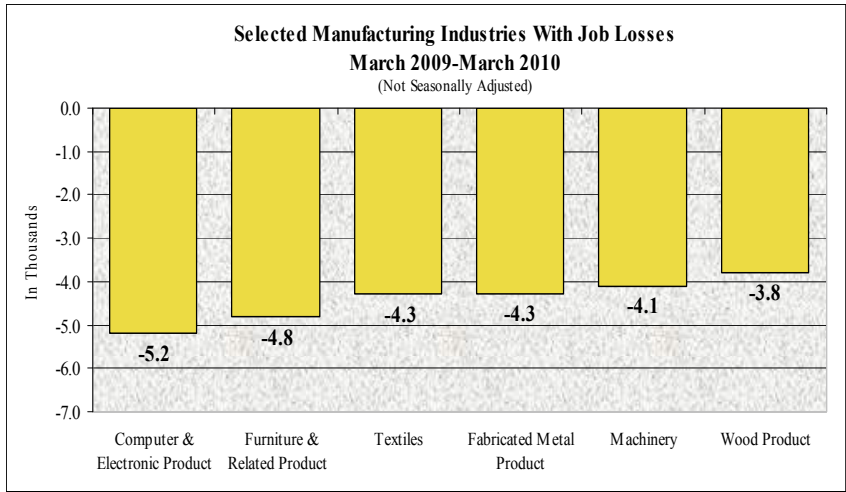
The March 2010 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 3,874,900 was 28,500 (0.7%) higher than February 2010. Among major industries in North Carolina, Leisure & Hospitality had the largest over-the-month gain in employment at 8,700 (2.3%), followed by Government (5,600; 0.8%), Construction (4,800; 2.9%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (3,500; 0.5%), Manufacturing (3,300; 0.8%) and Mining & Logging (100; 1.7%).

Over the year, the not seasonally adjusted Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction and Manufacturing) showed a decrease of 3,800 jobs. Government experienced the largest employment increase with 19,500 (2.7%), followed by Education & Health Services (7,500; 1.4%). However, Leisure & Hospitality remained the same. Employment decreases were seen in Trade, Transportation & Utilities (16,000; 2.2%), Financial Activities (5,700; 2.8%), Professional & Business Services (4,700; 1.0%), and Information (1,700; 2.4%).

Not seasonally adjusted, the Goods Producing sector lost 55,200 jobs over the year. Manufacturing decreased by 29,800 (6.5%) jobs and Construction, 25,500 (12.9%) jobs, while Mining & Logging recorded an increase of 100 (1.7%) jobs.

Food had the largest amount of manufacturing employment (49,300) in March 2010, but has lost 2,400 jobs since March 2009. Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing had the largest net over-the-year decrease (5,200; 13.6%). Likewise, all other manufacturing industries experienced over-the-year declines except Beverage & Tobacco Product, which gained 600 (4.9%).

Average Weekly Hours for manufacturing production workers in February increased by 18 minutes to 39.9 from February's revised 39.6. Average Hourly Earnings fell by \$0.05 to \$15.95, while Average Weekly Earnings grew by \$2.81 to \$636.41. Over the month, Durable Goods' Average Hourly Earnings decreased by \$0.04, Average Weekly Earnings rose by \$13.29, and Average Weekly Hours increased by 54 minutes. Nondurable Goods' Average Hourly Earnings fell by \$0.09, Average Weekly Earnings declined by \$11.37, and Average Weekly Hours decreased by 30 minutes.



Regular Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance (UI) totaled 80,191 in March, increasing 3,983 from February. Forty-six 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 \$227,227,627 in regular UI benefits was paid in March to 216,344 claimants statewide. The average weekly benefit amount was \$289.52. UI benefit amounts paid do not include the \$25 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

For the 12-month period ending March 2010, North Carolina paid \$2,733,739,683 in regular UI benefits and \$5,382,928,482 in total benefits. During the same period, the Employment Security Commission received \$958,514,562 in UI contributions from employers. The UI Trust Fund balance at the end of March was in the red (\$2,134,228,364). The State Reserve Fund balance was \$21,283,817.

