



News Release

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For Immediate Release

June 18, 2010

North Carolina’s Unemployment Rate Decreases For Third Consecutive Month

Total Non-Farm Jobs Increase By 12,900 In May

RALEIGH — North Carolina’s unemployment rate dropped to 10.3 percent in May, according to statistics released today by the state’s Employment Security Commission. The rate was 10.8 percent in April.

“Our state’s economy continues to experience a measure of improvement based on the May data,” said ESC Chairman Lynn R. Holmes. “While there has been an increase of almost 30,000 jobs over the last three months, we continue to experience variation in the growth among the job sectors. We are committed to continuing to provide assistance to those North Carolinians who are eligible for benefits and who are searching for jobs.”

Seasonally adjusted, total non-farm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased by 12,900 jobs over the past month to 3,917,600. The largest over-the-month increase occurred in Government (+16,100). The largest decrease was in Manufacturing (-2,900). Since May 2009, non-farm employment has decreased by 3,300 jobs.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Since May 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	May 2010
<i>N.C.</i>	10.9	11.0	11.0	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.9	11.1	11.2	11.1	10.8	10.3
<i>U.S.</i>	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.7	9.8	10.1	10.0	10.0	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.9	9.7

2009 Numbers Have Been Benchmarked

The number of people employed (seasonally adjusted) increased by 14,722 workers to 4,094,595. The number of people unemployed decreased by 20,749 workers, to 472,614. Since this time last year, the number of people unemployed has decreased by 23,678 people. The number of workers employed is up 35,437 since May 2009. The state rate in May 2009 was 10.9 percent.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for **Friday, June 25**, when the **county** unemployment rates for the month of **May** 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, June 18, 2010

				Month Ago		Year Ago	
	May 2010	April 2010	May 2009	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina (Civilian Labor Force Estimates)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,567,209	4,573,236	4,555,450	-6,027	-0.1	11,759	0.3
Employed	4,094,595	4,079,873	4,059,158	14,722	0.4	35,437	0.9
Unemployed	472,614	493,363	496,292	-20,749	-4.2	-23,678	-4.8
Unemployment Rate	10.3	10.8	10.9	-0.5	xxx	-0.6	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,547,316	4,549,897	4,564,157	-2,581	-0.1	-16,841	-0.4
Employed	4,096,669	4,090,171	4,068,912	6,498	0.2	27,757	0.7
Unemployed	450,647	459,726	495,245	-9,079	-2.0	-44,598	-9.0
Unemployment Rate	9.9	10.1	10.9	-0.2	xxx	-1.0	xxx
United States (Current Population Survey)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	154,393,000	154,715,000	154,956,000	-322,000	-0.2	-563,000	-0.4
Employed	139,420,000	139,455,000	140,438,000	-35,000	0.0	-1,018,000	-0.7
Unemployed	14,973,000	15,260,000	14,518,000	-287,000	-1.9	455,000	3.1
Unemployment Rate	9.7	9.9	9.4	-0.2	xxx	0.3	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	153,866,000	153,911,000	154,336,000	-45,000	0.0	-470,000	-0.3
Employed	139,497,000	139,302,000	140,363,000	195,000	0.1	-866,000	-0.6
Unemployed	14,369,000	14,609,000	13,973,000	-240,000	-1.6	396,000	2.8
Unemployment Rate	9.3	9.5	9.1	-0.2	xxx	0.2	xxx
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	3,917,600	3,904,700	3,920,900	12,900	0.3	-3,300	-0.1
Mining & Logging	6,200	6,200	5,900	0	0.0	300	5.1
Construction	171,900	172,100	194,500	-200	-0.1	-22,600	-11.6
Manufacturing	429,000	431,900	450,600	-2,900	-0.7	-21,600	-4.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	713,200	711,900	722,300	1,300	0.2	-9,100	-1.3
Information	69,300	68,800	70,200	500	0.7	-900	-1.3
Financial Activities	198,600	198,400	202,200	200	0.1	-3,600	-1.8
Professional & Business Services	472,000	470,400	460,800	1,600	0.3	11,200	2.4
Education & Health Services	549,700	550,200	541,700	-500	-0.1	8,000	1.5
Leisure & Hospitality Services	391,700	394,400	394,800	-2,700	-0.7	-3,100	-0.8
Other Services	163,000	163,500	164,800	-500	-0.3	-1,800	-1.1
Government	753,000	736,900	713,100	16,100	2.2	39,900	5.6
<i>Mfg. Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Mfg. Average Hourly Earnings	\$16.12	\$16.03	\$15.66				
Mfg. Hours Worked	40.7	40.3	38.6				

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

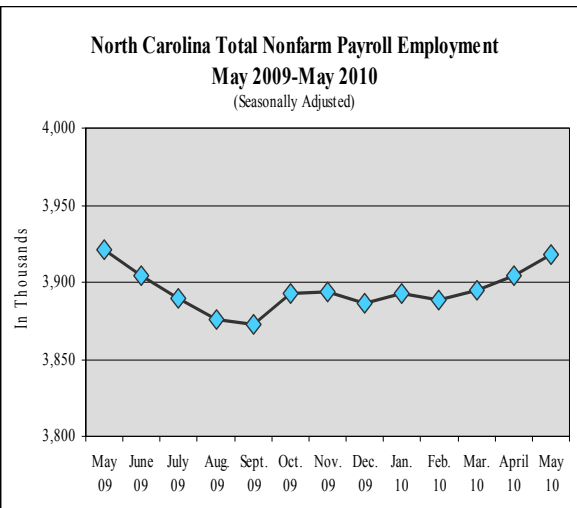
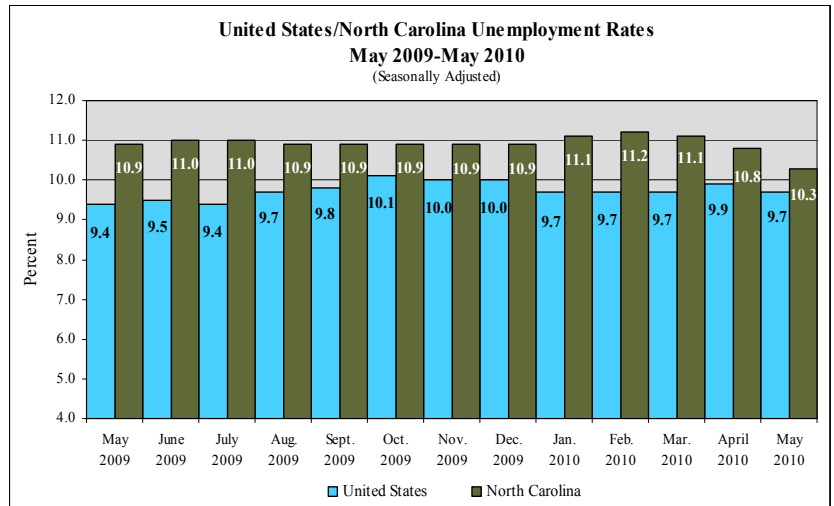
NORTH CAROLINA LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS MAY 2010*

The North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 10.3 percent in May, a decrease of 0.5 of a percentage point from a revised 10.8 percent in April, and 0.6 of a percentage point lower than May 2009. Over the month, the number of persons employed increased 14,722 (0.4%), as those unemployed decreased by 20,749 (4.2%). This resulted in a decrease in the civilian labor force of 6,027 to 4,567,209.

Nationally, May's unemployment rate decreased 0.2 of a percentage point over the month to 9.7 percent. The number of persons employed fell by 35,000 (minimal percent change), while the number unemployed dropped by 287,000 (1.9%).

Since the start of the recession in December 2007, both North Carolina and the nation's labor force increased 0.3 percent. The number of people employed in North Carolina has decreased 5.4 percent compared to 4.6 percent nationally, while the number unemployed has increased 111.5 percent in North Carolina and 94.6 percent nationwide.

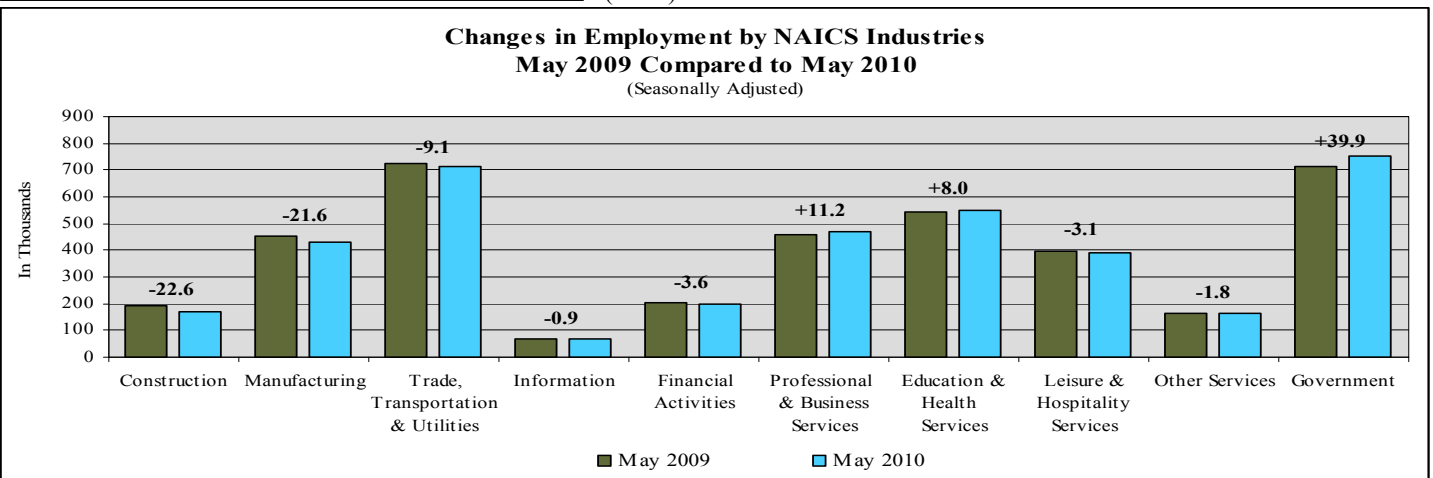
The monthly payroll survey of employers in North Carolina showed an increase of 12,900 in seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment since April 2010, and a loss of 3,300 since May 2009. The current total is 3,917,600 jobs.



Since the beginning of the 2007 national recession, North Carolina has lost 251,900 (6.0%) Total Nonfarm jobs, and 103,400 (19.4%) in Manufacturing employment. Of those jobs, 65.8 percent were in Durable Goods and 34.2 percent in Nondurable Goods.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Government had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs (16,100; 2.2%), followed by Professional & Business Services (1,600; 0.3%) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (1,300; 0.2%). Manufacturing (2,900; 0.7%) had the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services (2,700; 0.7%).

Since May 2009, Government added the largest number of jobs (39,900; 5.6%) with Local Government contributing the largest increase, 16,900 (State Government also recorded a job gain of 6,600). Professional & Business Services reported an increase of 11,200 (2.4%), followed by Education & Health Services at 8,000 (1.5%), and Mining & Logging at 300 (5.1%).



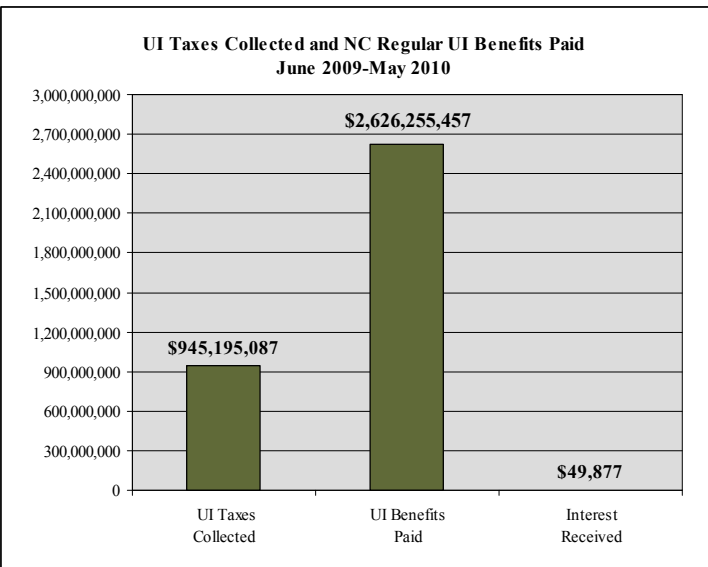
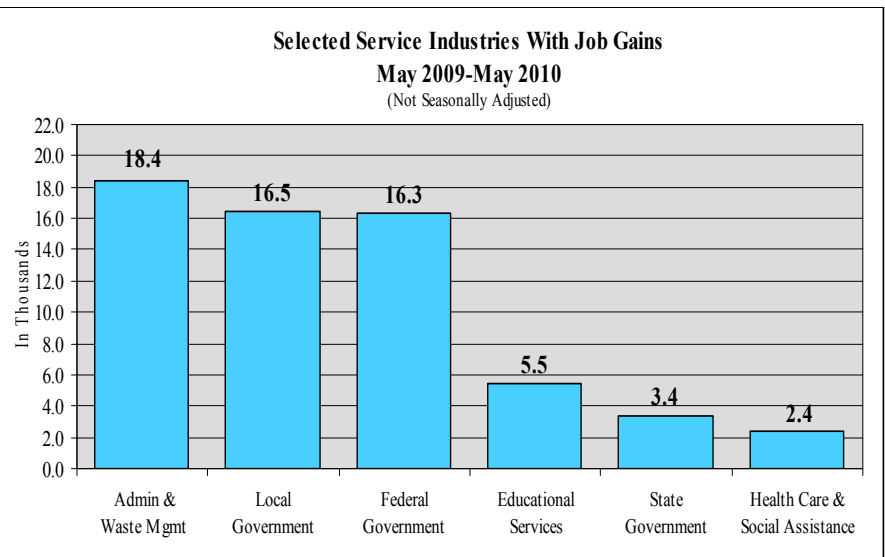
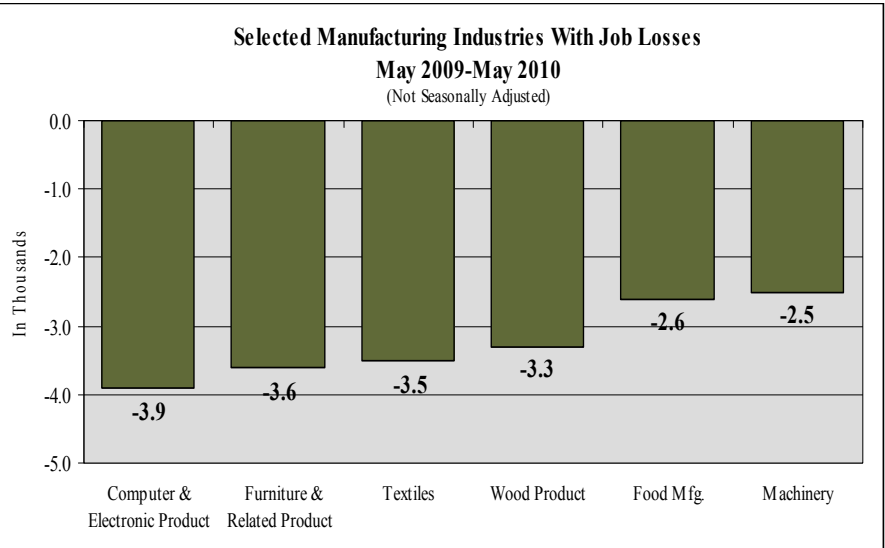
* NC current month data are preliminary, other 2010 data are revised, while 2009 data are benchmarked.

The May 2010 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 3,944,500 was 33,700 (0.9%) higher than April 2010. Among major industries in North Carolina, Government had the largest over-the-month gain in employment at 12,600 (1.7%), followed by Leisure & Hospitality Services (9,700; 2.5%), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (6,900; 1.0%), Professional & Business Services (3,800; 0.8%), Construction (2,000; 1.2%), and Other Services (1,500; 0.9%).

Over the year, the not seasonally adjusted Service Providing sector (all industries except Mining & Logging, Construction and Manufacturing) showed an increase of 39,900 jobs. Government experienced the largest employment increase with 36,200 (5.0%), followed by Professional & Business Services (13,300; 2.9%), and Education & Health Services (7,900; 1.5%). Employment decreases were seen in Trade, Transportation & Utilities (7,500; 1.0%), Financial Activities (4,300; 2.1%), Leisure & Hospitality (2,500; 0.6%), and Other Services (2,100; 1.3%).

Not seasonally adjusted, the Goods Producing sector lost 38,200 (5.9%) jobs over the year. Manufacturing decreased by 19,000 (4.2%) jobs and Construction, 19,500 (10.1%), while Mining & Logging recorded an increase of 300 (5.1%) jobs.

Food had the largest amount of manufacturing employment (49,800) in May 2010, but has lost 2,600 jobs since May 2009. Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing had the largest net over-the-year decrease (3,900; 10.7%). Likewise, all other manufacturing industries experienced over-the-year declines except Beverage & Tobacco Product, which gained 400 (3.3%) jobs.



Average Weekly Hours for manufacturing production workers in May increased by 24 minutes to 40.7 from April's revised 40.3. Average Hourly Earnings rose by \$0.09 to \$16.12, while Average Weekly Earnings grew by \$10.07 to \$656.08.

Regular Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance (UI) totaled 56,007 in May, decreasing 3,964 from April. Forty-three percent of Initial Claims for April 2010 were "attached" to a payroll, meaning that employees expect to be recalled to their jobs.

A total of \$194,535,924 in regular UI benefits was paid in May to 176,980 claimants statewide. The average weekly benefit amount was \$291.38. UI benefit amounts paid do not include the \$25 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

For the 12-month period ending May 2010, North Carolina paid \$5,505,720,311 in total benefits. The UI Trust Fund balance at the end of May was in the red (\$2,162,692,279). The State Reserve Fund balance was \$81,554,587.