



News Release

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For Immediate Release

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N.C.’s Unemployment Rate Back To 11 Percent

Non-Farm Employment Increased By 12,100 Jobs; Overall Jobs Are Down

RALEIGH — North Carolina’s unemployment rate increased to 11 percent in October, according to statistics released today by the N.C. Employment Security Commission. Non-farm payroll in North Carolina increased by 12,100. The rate increased for the first time since May.

“The numbers have been pretty steady since February,” said ESC Chairman Moses Carey Jr. “We’ve had ups and downs concerning the number of people employed and unemployed, but we haven’t experienced any significant changes. We are working as quickly as possible to implement the new extension of benefits for those individuals who have exhausted or are about to exhaust their benefits.”

Seasonally adjusted employment decreased by 5,643 workers to 4,035,471. Unemployment increased by 4,537 workers, to 496,279. Since this time last year, unemployment has increased by 174,184 people. Employment is down by 227,898 workers since October 2008. The state rate in October 2008 was 7 percent.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Since October 2008:

	<i>Oct. 2008</i>	<i>Nov. 2008</i>	<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>N.C.</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>7.5</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>11.0</i>
<i>U.S.</i>	<i>6.6</i>	<i>6.8</i>	<i>7.2</i>	<i>7.6</i>	<i>8.1</i>	<i>8.5</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>10.2</i>

****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 12,100 jobs over the past month and has decreased by 185,800 since October 2008 — to 3,931,900. The largest over-the-month increase occurred in both Educational & Health Services and Government (+5,800). The largest decrease was in Construction (-6,600).

The next unemployment update is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 1**, when the **county** unemployment rates for the month of **October** 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, November 20, 2009

				Month Ago		Year Ago	
	October 2009	September 2009	October 2008	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina (Civilian Labor Force Estimates)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,531,750	4,532,856	4,585,464	-1,106	-0.02	-53,714	-1.17
Employment	4,035,471	4,041,114	4,263,369	-5,643	-0.14	-227,898	-5.35
Unemployment	496,279	491,742	322,095	4,537	0.92	174,184	54.08
Unemployment Rate	11.0	10.8	7.0	0.2	xxx	4.0	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,544,493	4,526,072	4,589,994	18,421	0.41	-45,501	-0.99
Employment	4,060,373	4,053,491	4,272,148	6,882	0.17	-211,775	-4.96
Unemployment	484,120	472,581	317,846	11,539	2.44	166,274	52.31
Unemployment Rate	10.7	10.4	6.9	0.3	xxx	3.8	xxx
United States (Current Population Survey)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	153,975,000	154,006,000	154,878,000	-31,000	-0.02	-903,000	-0.58
Employment	138,275,000	138,864,000	144,657,000	-589,000	-0.42	-6,382,000	-4.41
Unemployment	15,700,000	15,142,000	10,221,000	558,000	3.69	5,479,000	53.61
Unemployment Rate	10.2	9.8	6.6	0.4	xxx	3.6	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	153,635,000	153,617,000	155,012,000	18,000	0.01	-1,377,000	-0.89
Employment	139,088,000	139,079,000	145,543,000	9,000	0.01	-6,455,000	-4.44
Unemployment	14,547,000	14,538,000	9,469,000	9,000	0.06	5,078,000	53.63
Unemployment Rate	9.5	9.5	6.1	0.0	xxx	3.4	xxx
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	3,931,900	3,919,800	4,117,700	12,100	0.3	-185,800	-4.5
Natural Resources & Mining	6,300	6,300	6,500	0	0.0	-200	-3.1
Construction	187,800	194,400	232,000	-6,600	-3.4	-44,200	-19.1
Manufacturing	442,400	440,500	506,800	1,900	0.4	-64,400	-12.7
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	720,200	719,100	760,200	1,100	0.2	-40,000	-5.3
Information	66,800	66,000	70,700	800	1.2	-3,900	-5.5
Financial Activities	199,800	198,800	209,100	1,000	0.5	-9,300	-4.4
Professional & Business Services	466,200	463,600	497,800	2,600	0.6	-31,600	-6.3
Educational & Health Services	546,400	540,600	540,300	5,800	1.1	6,100	1.1
Leisure & Hospitality Services	390,100	389,000	395,900	1,100	0.3	-5,800	-1.5
Other Services	171,500	172,900	180,900	-1,400	-0.8	-9,400	-5.2
Government	734,400	728,600	717,500	5,800	0.8	16,900	2.4
<i>Mfg. Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Mfg. Average Hourly Earnings	\$15.86	\$16.03	\$15.54				
Mfg. Hours Worked	39.3	38.9	40.2				

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.

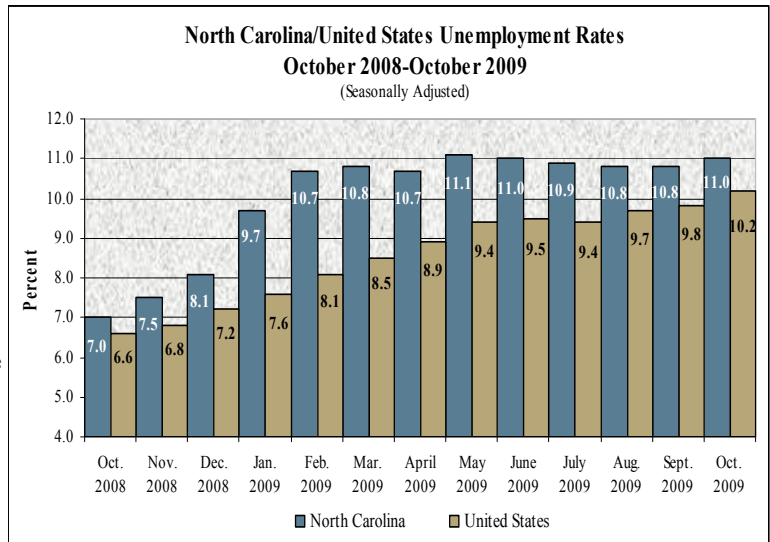
Estimates may not add to totals due to rounding.

NORTH CAROLINA LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS OCTOBER 2009*

The North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 11.0 percent in October, an increase of 0.2 of a percentage point since September and 4.0 percentage points since October 2008. Over the month, the number of persons employed decreased 5,643 (0.1%), as those unemployed increased by 4,537 (0.9%). This resulted in a decline in the civilian labor force of 1,106 to 4,531,750.

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 0.2 of a percentage point over the month to 63.1 percent, while the United States' rate decreased 0.1 of a percentage point to 65.1 percent.

Nationally, the unemployment rate increased 0.4 of a percentage point over the month to 10.2 percent. The number employed decreased 589,000 (0.4%), while the number unemployed rose by 558,000 (3.7%).

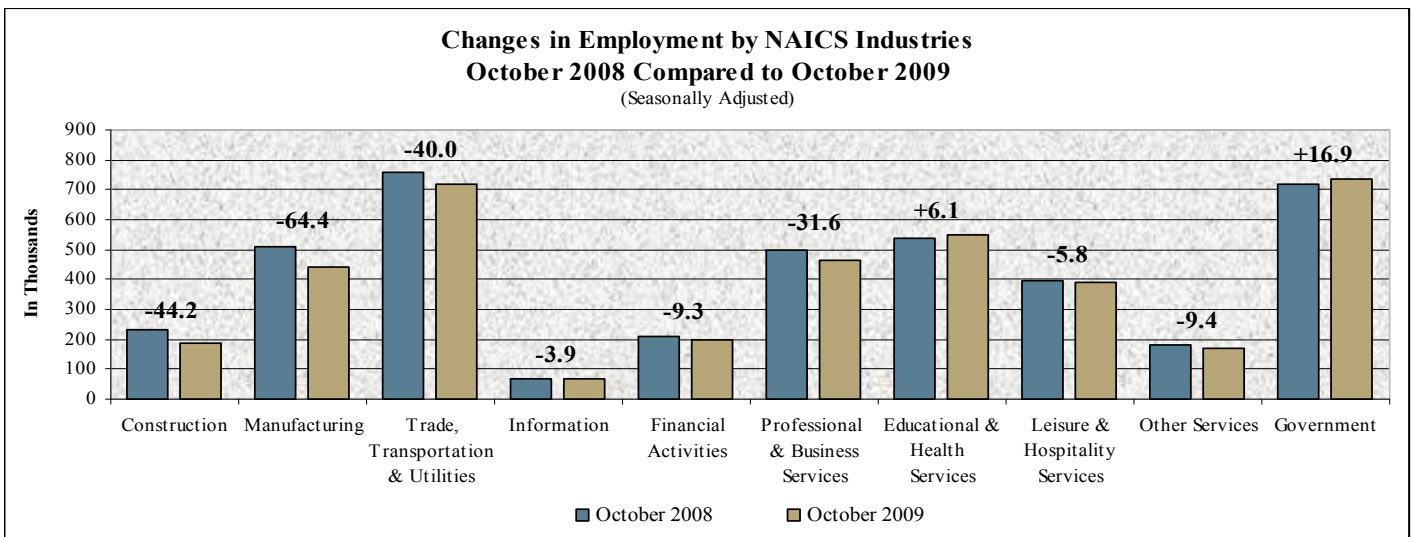
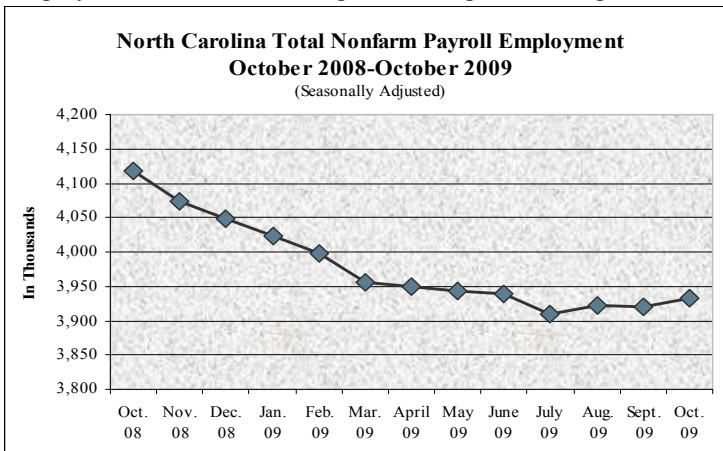


Since the start of the recession in December 2007, both North Carolina's and the US's labor force have increased 0.1 percent. N.C. employment has decreased 6.1 percent compared to 5.5 percent nationally, while unemployment has increased 119.7 percent in

North Carolina and 108.2 percent nationwide. The current recession is in its 22nd 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 an increase of 12,100 in seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment since September 2009 and a loss of 185,800 since October 2008. The current total is 3,931,900 jobs.

Since the beginning of the 2007 national recession (December 2007), North Carolina has lost 240,100 (5.8%) Total Nonfarm jobs, and 90,700 (17.0%) in manufacturing employment. Of those jobs, 69.1 percent were in Durable Goods and 30.9 percent in Nondurable Goods.



* All October 2009 labor force & Current Employment Statistics data are preliminary, while other 2009 data are revised. All other data are benchmarked.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Education & Health Services (5,800; 1.1%) and Government (5,800; 0.8%) had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs. These were followed by Professional & Business Services (2,600; 0.6%). Construction had the largest over-the-month decrease (6,600; 3.4%), followed by Other Services (1,400; 0.8%). Since October 2008, Government added the largest number of jobs (16,900; 2.4%) with Local Government contributing the largest increase, while State Government recorded a job loss of 4,100. Education & Health Services followed with a gain of 6,100; (1.1%). No other major industries reported a net gain.

Over the month, the October 2009 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 3,961,400 was 18,800 (0.5%) higher than September 2009. Among major industries in North Carolina, Government had the largest employment gain of 16,400 (2.2%), followed by Education & Health Services (7,200; 1.3%) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (4,400; 0.6%).

Over the year, the not seasonally adjusted Service Providing sector (all industries except Natural Resources & Mining, Construction and Manufacturing) showed a decrease of 77,200 jobs. Government experienced the largest employment increase with 16,800 (2.3%), followed by Education & Health Services (6,100; 1.1%). Employment decreases were seen in the remaining sectors, including Trade, Transportation & Utilities (40,200; 5.3%), Professional & Business Services (31,500; 6.3%) and Financial Activities (9,300; 4.4%).

Over the year, the not seasonally adjusted Goods Producing sector lost 109,100 jobs.

Food had the largest amount of manufacturing employment (54,800) in October 2009, gaining 1,500 jobs since October 2008.

Furniture & Related Product had the largest net over-the-year decrease (9,100; 21.6%). Likewise, all other manufacturing industries experienced over-the-year declines.

Average Weekly Hours for production workers in October increased by 24 minutes to 39.3 from September's revised 38.9. Average Hourly Earnings fell by \$0.17 to \$15.86, while Average Weekly Earnings declined \$0.27 to \$623.30. Over the month, Durable Goods' Average Hourly Earnings decreased by \$0.07, Average Weekly Earnings grew by \$7.12, and Average Weekly Hours climbed by 36 minutes. Nondurable Goods' Average Hourly Earnings decreased by \$0.28, Average Weekly Earnings dropped by \$12.54, and Average Weekly Hours fell by 6 minutes.

Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance (UI) totaled 78,430 in October, increasing 1,118 from September. Fifty-one percent of Initial Claims for October 2009 were "attached" to a payroll, meaning that employees expect to be recalled to their jobs.

A total of \$192,361,220 in regular UI benefits was paid in October to 196,561 claimants statewide. The average weekly benefit amount was \$297.88. UI benefit amounts paid do not include the \$25 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

For the 12-month period ending October 2009, total NC Trust Fund benefits amounted to \$2,625,953,107. During the same period, the Employment Security Commission received \$960,823,339 in UI contributions from employers. The UI Trust Fund balance at the end of October was in the red (\$1,298,971,788). The State Reserve Fund balance was \$9,663,669.

