



News Release

For More Information, Contact:

Larry Parker/919.733.4329

Andy James

For Immediate Release

October 16, 2009

State's Unemployment Stays At 10.8 Percent In September

RALEIGH — North Carolina's unemployment rate remained at 10.8 percent in September, according to statistics released today by the N.C. Employment Security Commission.

“While we have positive news about a small increase in employment across the state, the fact that the unemployment rate remains about the same as it has been for months is a sobering point,” said ESC Chairman Moses Carey Jr. “And, as we have been, we are hopeful that new job announcements by Gov. Bev Perdue will continue to help fill-in the gaps made by announced layoffs. We are working to make sure that every available employee is connected with every available employer.”

Seasonally adjusted employment increased by 9,696 workers to 4,042,297. Unemployment increased by 2,857 workers, to 491,766. Since this time last year, unemployment has increased by 182,941 people. Employment is down by 219,834 workers since September 2008. The state rate in September 2008 was 6.8 percent.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates For Last 12 Months:

	<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>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>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>

*****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, decreased by 600 jobs over the past month and has decreased by 210,200 since September 2008 — to 3,921,700. The largest over-the-month increase occurred in Government (+13,000). The largest decrease was in Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-6,500).

The next unemployment update is scheduled for **Friday, October 23**, when the *county* unemployment rates for the month of **September** 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, October 16, 2009

				Month Ago		Year Ago	
	September 2009	August 2009	September 2008	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
North Carolina (Civilian Labor Force Estimates)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,534,063	4,521,510	4,570,956	12,553	0.28	-36,893	-0.81
Employment	4,042,297	4,032,601	4,262,131	9,696	0.24	-219,834	-5.16
Unemployment	491,766	488,909	308,825	2,857	0.58	182,941	59.24
Unemployment Rate	10.8	10.8	6.8	0.0	xxx	4.0	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,527,091	4,542,302	4,561,699	-15,211	-0.33	-34,608	-0.76
Employment	4,054,662	4,056,569	4,267,969	-1,907	-0.05	-213,307	-5.00
Unemployment	472,429	485,733	293,730	-13,304	-2.74	178,699	60.84
Unemployment Rate	10.4	10.7	6.4	-0.3	xxx	4.0	xxx
United States (Current Population Survey)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	154,006,000	154,577,000	154,621,000	-571,000	-0.37	-615,000	-0.40
Employment	138,864,000	139,649,000	145,029,000	-785,000	-0.56	-6,165,000	-4.25
Unemployment	15,142,000	14,928,000	9,592,000	214,000	1.43	5,550,000	57.86
Unemployment Rate	9.8	9.7	6.2	0.1	xxx	3.6	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	153,617,000	154,897,000	154,509,000	-1,280,000	-0.83	-892,000	-0.58
Employment	139,079,000	140,074,000	145,310,000	-995,000	-0.71	-6,231,000	-4.29
Unemployment	14,538,000	14,823,000	9,199,000	-285,000	-1.92	5,339,000	58.04
Unemployment Rate	9.5	9.6	6.0	-0.1	xxx	3.5	xxx
North Carolina (Current Employment Statistics)							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	3,921,700	3,922,300	4,131,900	-600	0.0	-210,200	-5.1
Natural Resources & Mining	6,300	6,300	6,500	0	0.0	-200	-3.1
Construction	195,600	193,400	230,400	2,200	1.1	-34,800	-15.1
Manufacturing	439,800	440,500	509,500	-700	-0.2	-69,700	-13.7
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	718,200	724,700	764,200	-6,500	-0.9	-46,000	-6.0
Information	66,000	66,100	71,000	-100	-0.2	-5,000	-7.0
Financial Activities	198,300	198,900	211,300	-600	-0.3	-13,000	-6.2
Professional & Business Services	461,600	466,400	503,000	-4,800	-1.0	-41,400	-8.2
Educational & Health Services	539,900	541,600	534,900	-1,700	-0.3	5,000	0.9
Leisure & Hospitality Services	392,000	392,800	397,400	-800	-0.2	-5,400	-1.4
Other Services	173,800	174,400	187,700	-600	-0.3	-13,900	-7.4
Government	730,200	717,200	716,000	13,000	1.8	14,200	2.0
<i>Mfg. Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Mfg. Average Hourly Earnings	\$15.90	\$15.92	\$15.60				
Mfg. Hours Worked	39.2	39.0	39.9				

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.

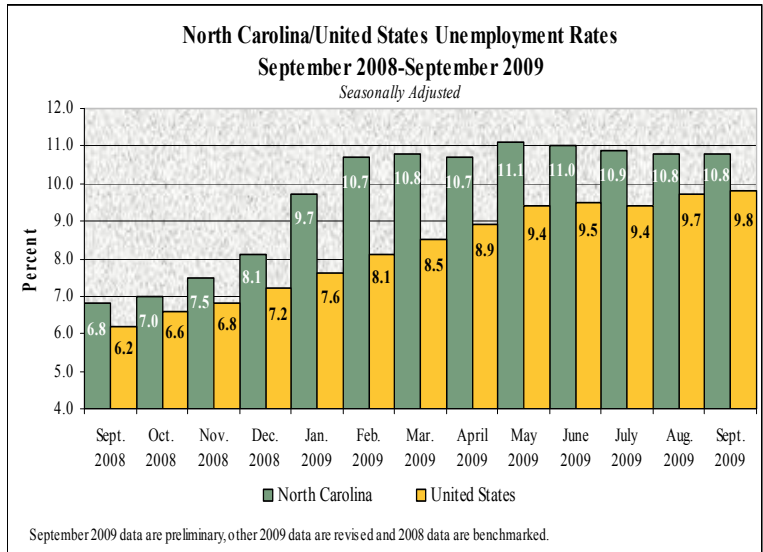
NORTH CAROLINA LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS

SEPTEMBER 2009*

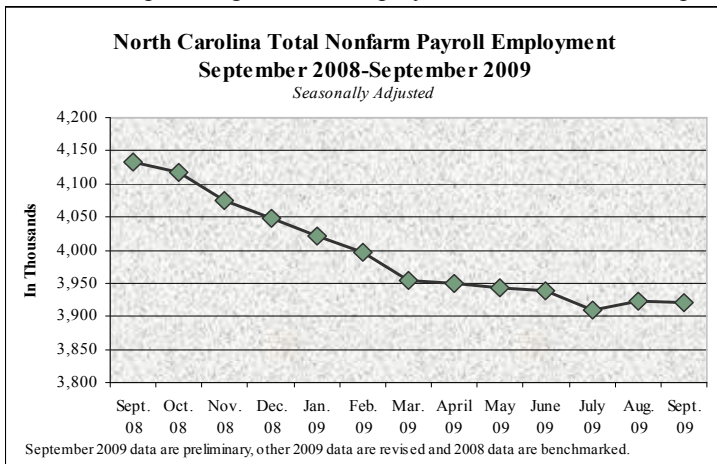
The North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 10.8 percent in September, remaining the same as the previous month and 4.0 percentage points higher than September 2008. Over the month, the number of persons employed increased 9,696 (0.2%), as those unemployed also grew by 2,857 (0.6%). This resulted in a rise in the civilian labor force of 12,553 to 4,534,063.

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 increased 0.1 of a percentage point over the month to 63.3 percent, while the United States' rate decreased 0.3 of a percentage point to 65.2.

Nationally, the unemployment rate increased 0.1 of a percentage point over the month to 9.8 percent. The number employed decreased 785,000 (0.6%), while the number unemployed rose by 214,000 (1.4%).

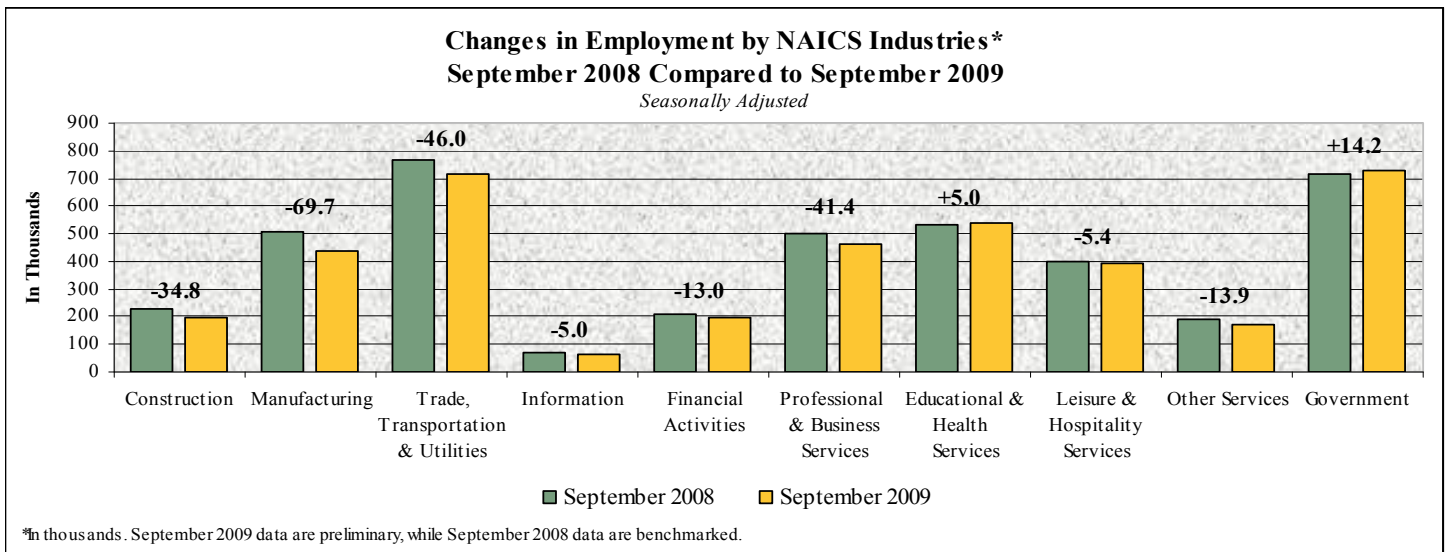


Since the start of the recession in December 2007, North Carolina's labor force has increased 0.2 percent in comparison to the nation's 0.1 percent gain. N.C. employment has decreased 6.0 percent compared to 5.1 percent nationally, while unemployment has increased 117.7 percent in North Carolina and 100.8 percent nationwide. The current recession is in its 21st 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 600 in seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment since August 2009 and a loss of 210,200 since September 2008. The current total is 3,921,700 jobs.

Since the beginning of the 2007 national recession (December 2007), North Carolina has lost 250,300 (6.0%) Total Nonfarm jobs, and 93,300 (17.5%) in manufacturing employment. Of those jobs, 69.3 percent were in Durable Goods and 30.7 percent in Nondurable Goods.



*All September 2009 labor force & Current Employment Statistics data are preliminary.

Of the major industries for which payroll data are seasonally adjusted, Government had the largest over-the-month gain in jobs (13,000; 1.8%), mostly in Local Government's Education sector. This was followed by Construction (2,200; 1.1%). Trade, Transportation & Utilities had the largest over-the-month decrease (6,500; 0.9%), followed by Professional & Business Services (4,800; 1.0%) and Educational & Health Services (1,700; 0.3%). Since September 2008, Government added the largest number of jobs (14,200; 2.0%) with Local Government contributing the largest increase, while State Government recorded a job loss of 3,400. In addition, Educational & Health Services followed with 5,000; (0.9%). No other major industries reported a net gain.

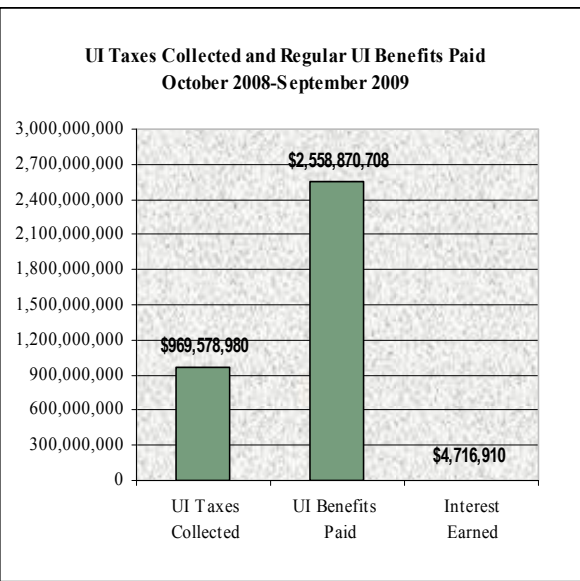
Over the month, the September 2009 not seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment level of 3,944,600 was 20,900 (0.5%) higher than August 2009. Among major industries in North Carolina, Government had the largest employment gain of 50,600 (7.4%), followed by Educational & Health Services (1,300; 0.2%) and Construction (1,000; 0.5%).

Over the year, the not seasonally adjusted Service Providing sector (all industries except Natural Resources & Mining, Construction and Manufacturing) showed a decrease of 104,700 jobs. Government experienced the largest employment increase with 8,600 (1.2%), followed by Educational & Health Services (5,600; 1.0%). Employment decreases were seen in the remaining sectors, including Trade, Transportation & Utilities (42,100; 5.5%), Professional & Business Services (41,300; 8.1%) and Financial Activities (12,700; 6.0%).

Over the year, the not seasonally adjusted Goods Producing sector lost 105,100 jobs.

Food had the largest amount of manufacturing employment (53,800) in September 2009, gaining 100 jobs since September 2008. Furniture and Related Product had the largest net over-the-year decrease (10,400; 23.5%). Likewise, all other manufacturing industries experienced over-the-year declines.

Average Weekly Hours for production workers in September increased by 12 minutes to 39.2 from August's revised 39.0. Average Hourly Earnings fell by \$0.02 to \$15.90, while Average Weekly Earnings rose \$2.40 to \$623.28. Over the month, Durable Goods' Average Hourly Earnings increased by \$0.01, Average Weekly Earnings grew by \$6.87, and Average Weekly Hours climbed by 24 minutes. Nondurable Goods' Average Hourly Earnings decreased by \$0.05, Average Weekly Earnings dropped by \$1.96, and Average Weekly Hours remained the same.



Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance (UI) totaled 77,312 in September, decreasing 4,987 from August. Fifty-two percent of Initial Claims for September 2009 were "attached" to a payroll, meaning that employees expect to be recalled to their jobs.

A total of \$233,774,046 in regular UI benefits was paid in September to 204,303 claimants statewide. The average weekly benefit amount was \$298.65. UI benefit amounts paid do not include the \$25 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

For the 12-month period ending September 2009, total Regular UI benefits amounted to \$2,558,870,708. During the same period, the Employment Security Commission received \$969,578,980 in UI contributions from employers. The UI Trust Fund balance at the end of September was in the red (\$1,183,149,121). The State Reserve Fund balance was \$50,990,526.

