

## Fewer Seek Jobs; Unemployment Drops

Written by Steve Frank

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Finally, in February, unemployment figures for North Carolina—and for the country—began to back off after several months of increases. But an analysis reported by the North Carolina News Network yesterday said that the main reason was some of the unemployed quit filing for compensation— not necessarily that they found jobs. The February rate for North Carolina was down a tenth of a percent to 9.4 percent from January's 9.5, the national rate dropped two tenths of a percent from 7.9 to 7.7%. the number of North Carolinians employed actually decreased by just under 5000 between January and February, but the number reporting that they were unemployed fell by 6500, creating the statistical drop. Bad news for the High Country—the leisure and hospitality services sector lost 3000 jobs between January and February in seasonally adjusted figures—not a great sign for the tourism industry. County by county figures will be released at the end of next week.