

## Unemployment Falls in Region, Across State

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Not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 97 of North Carolina's counties in April, increased in two and remained the same in one. All 14 of the State's metro areas experienced rate decreases, while the state rate fell .4% to 8.5%. Over 10 percentage points separated the counties with the highest to the lowest unemployment, Graham County with the highest unemployment rate at 15.9 percent while Orange County had the lowest at 5.3%. The number of workers employed statewide increased in April by 17,251, those unemployed fell 19,921. In the High Country, both Ashe and Avery unemployment fell 1.1%, Avery to 11.1%, Ashe to 11%, while Watauga's rate fell .7% to 7.9%.