

Unemployment Jumps in June

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Unemployment rates took another turn in the wrong direction for 81 of North Carolina's counties in June while improving for 14 counties, and remained the same in five. In the High Country, Ashe County, with both good and bad economic news over the past week, saw the unemployment rate jump .4% to 11.4%, while Avery's rate dropped .2% to 10.1%. In Watauga, the rate inched up .1% to 8.2%. Ashe County received news of new jobs for the GE plant there, with planned expansion over the next year, while hearing that the Gates Plant—a long time staple in the area, may close by the end of the year. State-wide, Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 16.2 percent while Currituck County had the lowest at 5.8 percent. All 14 of the State's metro areas experienced rate increases. The June not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 9.3 percent.