

Brighter Employment Picture Painted in September

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Significant improvement in the unemployment statistics for the state, with rates decreased in 97 of North Carolina's 100 counties in September, increased in one, and were unchanged in two. When compared to the same month last year, unemployment rates declined in all 100 counties.

North Carolina had 36 counties that were at or below the state's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 8.9 percent. Unemployment rates decreased in all 14 of the state's Metropolitan Statistical Areas. The number of workers employed (not seasonally adjusted) increased in September by 72,188 to 4,291,292, while those unemployed fell 31,303 to 421,149. Since September 2011, the number of workers unemployed decreased 62,424, while those employed increased 103,546. Counties in the High Country saw significant reduction in their unemployment numbers, Ashe dropping .7 of a percent to 10.2%, Avery dropping .6 of a percent to 9.9%, and Watauga's rate dropped a full percent, landing at 7.3%