

Unemployment Falls in Region, Across State

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Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 99 of North Carolina's 100 counties in March and remained the same in one. Rates in Ashe and Avery stayed in the double-digit range, with Ashe dropping nearly a point--.9%--now at 12.1% while Avery dropped .3% matching their figure from a year ago in March at 12.3%. Watauga unemployment dropped .3% to 8.6%, just below the rate from March of 2012. In the March figures, Graham County had the highest unemployment rate at 17.8 percent while Orange County had the lowest at 5.6 percent. The March not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 8.9 percent. The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in March by 17,248 to 4,273,673, while those unemployed fell 26,855 to 419,546. Since March 2012, the number of workers employed statewide increased 32,155, while those unemployed decreased 22,262.