May Unemployment Drops Across High Country

Written by Steve Frank
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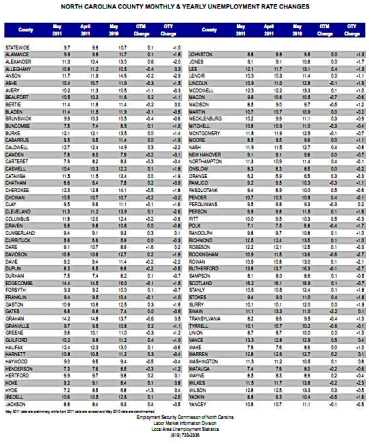
Unemployment rates decreased in just under half of North Carolina's 100 counties in May. Rates decreased in 40 counties, increased in 44 counties and remained the same in 16. "Seasonal hiring has begun to increase in some areas of North Carolina," said ESC Chairman Lynn R. Holmes.

"We experienced growth in several of our industrial sectors last month and over the year. We continue to focus on growing jobs and working with our economic, education and workforce development partners. Our offices remain committed to assisting job seekers and employers." North Carolina had 40 counties that were at or below the state's unadjusted unemployment rate of 9.7 percent. Rates increased in 10 of the state's Metropolitan Statistical Areas, decreased in one and remained the same in three. Ashe Unemployment dropped .3 of a percent to 10.4, while Avery dropped over a point, from 11.3 to 10.2%. Watauga dropped .2 from 7.6 to 7.4%



NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY MONTHLY & YEARLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES

County	May 2011	April 2011	May 2010	OTM Change	OTY Change
STATEWIDE	9.7	9.6	10.7	0.1	-1.0
ALAMANCE	9.9	9.8	11.7	0.1	-1.8
ALEXANDER	11.3	10.4	13.0	0.9	-2.0
ALLEGHANY	10.8	11.2	10.5	-0.4	0.3
ANSON	11.7	11.9	14.5	-0.2	-2.8
ASHE	10.4	10.7	11.0	-0.3	-0.6
AVERY	10.2	11.3	10.5	-1.1	-0.3
BEAUFORT	10.5	10.3	11.6	0.2	-1.1
BERTIE	11.4	11.6	11.4	-0.2	0.0
BLADEN	11.4	11.5	11.9	-0.1	-0.5
BRUNSWICK	9.9	10.3	13.5	-0.4	-3.6
BUNCOMBE	7.8	7.4	8.5	0.1	-0.8
BURKE	12.1	12.1	13.5	0.0	-1.4
CABARRUS	9.5	9.6	11.4	0.0	-1.9
CALDWELL	13.7	13.4	14.9	0.3	-2.2
CAMDEN	7.5	8.0	7.9	-0.2	-0.1
CARTERET	7.9	8.2	8.3	-0.3	-0.4
CASWELL	10.4	10.3	12.2	0.1	-1.8
CATAWBA	11.5	11.5	13.4	0.0	-1.9
CHATHAM	6.8	6.4	7.6	0.2	-0.8
CHEROKEE	12.0	12.4	14.1	-0.5	-2.1
CHOWAN	10.5	10.7	11.7	-0.2	-1.2
CLAY	9.3	9.0	11.1	0.1	-1.8
CLEVELAND	11.3	11.2	13.9	0.1	-2.6
COLUMBUS	11.8	12.0	12.4	-0.2	-0.6
CRAVEN	8.6	8.8	10.6	0.0	-2.0
CUMBERLAND	9.4	9.1	9.3	0.3	0.1
CURRITUCK	8.6	8.6	8.8	0.0	-0.2
DARE	8.1	10.7	8.9	-1.6	-0.2
DAVIDSON	10.8	10.6	12.7	0.2	-1.9
DAVIE	9.2	9.4	11.4	-0.2	-2.2
DUPLIN	9.3	9.2	9.8	-0.2	-0.5
DURHAM	7.5	7.4	8.2	0.1	-0.7
EDGECOMBE	14.4	14.5	16.0	-0.1	-1.6
FORSYTH	9.3	9.2	10.0	0.1	-0.7
FRANKLIN	9.4	9.5	10.4	-0.1	-1.0
GASTON	10.9	10.8	12.5	0.3	-1.6
GATES	6.8	6.8	7.4	0.0	-0.6
GRAHAM	14.2	14.8	13.7	-0.6	0.5
GRANVILLE	9.7	9.5	10.8	0.2	-1.1
GREENE	9.6	10.1	11.0	-0.3	-1.2
GUILFORD	10.2	9.8	11.2	0.4	-1.0
HALIFAX	12.4	12.3	13.0	0.1	-0.6
HARNETT	10.8	10.6	11.2	0.3	-0.4
HAYWOOD	9.0	9.5	9.4	-0.5	-0.4
HENDERSON	7.3	7.6	8.8	-0.3	-1.5
HERTFORD	9.9	9.7	9.8	0.2	0.1
HOKE	9.2	9.1	8.4	0.1	0.8
HYDE	7.2	8.5	6.8	-1.3	0.4
IREDELL	10.6	10.5	12.6	0.1	-2.0
JACKSON	8.8	8.4	9.3	0.4	-0.5

County	May 2011	April 2011	May 2010	OTM Change	OTY Change
JOHNSTON	9.8	9.6	9.8	0.2	0.0
JONES	9.1	9.1	10.8	0.0	-1.7
LEE	12.1	11.7	13.1	0.4	-1.0
LENOIR	12.3	12.3	11.4	0.0	0.9
LINCOLN	10.9	11.0	12.8	-0.1	-1.9
MCDOWELL	12.3	12.2	13.3	0.1	-1.0
MACON	9.8	10.4	10.5	-0.7	-0.8
MADISON	8.8	9.0	9.7	-0.2	-1.0
MARTIN	10.7	10.7	10.3	0.0	0.4
MECKLENBURG	10.2	9.9	11.1	0.3	-0.9
MITCHELL	10.6	10.9	11.0	-0.3	-0.4
MONTGOMERY	11.8	11.9	12.5	-0.1	-0.7
MOORE	8.8	8.8	9.6	0.0	-0.8
NASH	11.9	11.8	12.7	0.1	-0.8
NEW HANOVER	9.1	9.1	9.6	0.0	-0.5
NORTHAMPTON	11.3	11.6	11.4	-0.3	-0.1
ONSLOW	8.3	8.3	8.8	0.0	-0.5
ORANGE	6.2	6.3	6.5	-0.1	-0.3
PAMLICO	9.2	9.8	10.3	-0.6	-1.1
PASQUOTANK	9.4	9.8	10.3	-0.4	-0.9
PENDER	10.7	10.5	10.8	0.2	-0.1
PERQUIMANS	9.8	9.8	9.3	-0.1	0.5
PERSON	9.8	9.8	11.8	0.1	-2.0
PITT	10.0	9.5	10.3	0.5	-0.3
POLK	7.1	7.6	8.8	-0.4	-1.7
RANDOLPH	9.8	9.7	10.8	0.1	-1.0
RICHMOND	12.6	12.4	13.5	0.1	-0.9
ROBESON	12.2	12.1	12.5	0.1	-0.3
ROCKINGHAM	10.9	11.8	13.6	-0.8	-2.7
ROWAN	10.3	10.5	13.0	0.1	-2.1
RUTHERFORD	13.6	13.7	14.3	-0.1	-0.7
SAMPSON	8.1	8.0	8.6	0.1	-0.5
SCOTLAND	16.2	16.1	16.6	0.1	-0.5
STANLY	10.6	10.5	12.4	0.1	-1.8
STOKES	9.4	9.5	11.0	0.4	-0.6
SURRY	10.1	10.1	12.0	0.0	-1.9
SWAIN	11.1	13.3	11.9	-2.2	-0.1
TRANSYLVANIA	8.2	8.6	9.6	-0.4	-1.3
TYRRELL	13.1	10.7	10.2	2.4	2.9
UNION	8.7	8.7	10.3	0.0	-1.3
VANCE	13.5	12.8	12.9	0.8	0.6
WAKE	7.6	7.6	8.6	0.0	-1.0
WARREN	12.8	12.6	12.7	0.2	0.1
WASHINGTON	11.3	11.2	10.8	0.1	0.5
WATAUGA	7.4	7.6	8.0	-0.2	-0.6
WAYNE	8.8	8.9	8.9	0.2	-0.1
WILKES	11.8	11.7	13.8	-0.2	-2.0
WILSON	12.8	12.5	13.3	0.3	-0.5
YADKIN	9.8	9.5	10.4	-0.5	-0.6
YANCEY	10.6	10.7	11.1	-0.1	-0.5

May 2011 data are preliminary while April 2011 data are revised and May 2010 data are benchmarked.

Employment Security Commission of North Carolina
Labor Market Information Division
Local Area Unemployment Statistics
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