

February Unemployment Report Generally Positive

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The State Employment Security Commission has released State and County unemployment figures for February. The state rate dropped to 4.5%, the lowest level in six years. Employment Security Commission Director, Larry Parker, said that 69 of the state's 100 counties saw their unemployment levels drop in February.

Ashe County unemployment dropped from 7.3% in January to 6.7% in February. Avery County's rate dropped from 6.1% in January to 5.9% in February. In an unusual move, Watauga County experienced an increase in unemployment from 3.8% in January to 4.1% in February.