

Professional, Construction Jobs Up

Written by Steve Frank

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More encouraging economic news, as North Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased another 0.1 of a percentage point in September to 9.6 percent. We still lag behind the nation, with the national rate declining .3 of a percentage point to 7.8 percent. There's also encouraging news in where the gains took place, with the largest over-the-month increase in the Professional & Business Services sector, which gained 6,000, followed by Construction, adding 1,100 jobs. Construction increases generally mean improvement in a number of areas, such as housing and business expansion. Since September 2010, North Carolina has gained 79,300 nonfarm jobs. North Carolina's September 2012 unemployment rate is 1.1 percentage point lower than a year ago. The number of people employed (smoothed seasonally adjusted) increased by 29,232 to 4,225,436 over the month, and by 61,656 over the year. The state unemployment rate in September 2011 was 10.7 percent. Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased by 100 to 3,953,000 in September. The next unemployment update is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 2, when the county unemployment rates for September 2012 will be released.