

State Unemployment Falls Below 9%

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Monday, 20 May 2013 05:39

The state's seasonally adjusted April unemployment rate is finally back below 9%, decreasing to 8.9 percent from March's revised rate of 9.2 percent. The national rate fell to 7.5 percent from March's 7.6 percent. North Carolina's April 2013 unemployment rate was 0.5 of a percentage point lower than a year ago, with the number of people employed decreased 4,188 over the month but up 35,026 over the year. The number of people unemployed fell 15,259 over the month and declined 21,843 over the year. Seasonally adjusted Total Non-farm industry employment increased 6,100 to 4,054,600 in April, with the major industry with the largest over-the-month increase—good news as the vacation season ramps up—Leisure & Hospitality Services, up 6,100, followed by Financial Activities, up 2,000 jobs; both Government and Professional & Business Services up 1,300; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, up 900; and Construction, up 500. Major industries to experience decreases included Education & Health Services, down 2,100 jobs.