

## NC Unemployment Below 7% in December

Written by Steve Frank

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Fewer employed, fewer unemployed, that as the North Carolina seasonally adjusted unemployment rate landed at 6.9 percent in December, decreasing 0.5 of a percentage point from the previous month, and falling 2.5 percentage points from December 2012. Over the month, the number of persons unemployed fell by 21,097 (6.1%), while the civilian labor force declined by 1,880 (>-0.1%) to 4,656,304. Nationally, December's unemployment rate was 6.7 percent. The number of persons unemployed was 10,351,000, while the civilian labor force was 154,937,000. Construction (500; 0.3%) had the largest over-the-month decrease, followed by Professional & Business Services (200; >-0.1%). Since December 2012, Professional & Business Services added the largest number of jobs (22,200; 4.1%), followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (18,800; 2.5%), Leisure & Hospitality (8,800; 2.1%) and Education & Health Services, 8000, 1.4%.