

Employment Up, Unemployment Down in March

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New jobs are finally showing up in statistics showing the state's seasonally adjusted March unemployment rate, which continued its downward trend in March. The rate decreased 0.1 to 6.3 percent, down from February's revised rate of 6.4 percent, according to the N.C. Department of Commerce. After a long time above the national unemployment rate, the state rate was below the national rate of 6.7 percent in March.

North Carolina's March 2014 unemployment rate was 2.2 percentage points lower than a year ago. While seasonally adjusted total non-farm industry employment increased 19,400, the number of people employed increased 10,277 over the month to 4,373,265, with 56,211 more employed so far this year. The number of people unemployed decreased 2,412 over the month to 94,658, and declined 105,637 over the year. The major industry with the largest over-the-month increase was the professional and business services sector, gaining 7,600 jobs, followed by trade, transportation and utilities, adding 5,500; education and health services, 3,500; leisure and hospitality services, 2,800; manufacturing, 900; construction, 300; and other services, 200. The major industries to experience decreases were information, 600; government, 500; and financial activities, 300. Mining and logging employment remained flat over the month.