Written by Lauren Ohnesorge Monday, 21 May 2007 02:58

According to information released Friday by the state Employment Security Commission, North Carolina's unemployment rate rose for the first time in seven months in April.

The rate increased from 4.5 percent in March to 4.8 percent last month. This marked the largest increase in unemployment since April of 2003. The national unemployment rate rose to 4.5 percent.