

January NC Unemployment: Wrong Way

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North Carolina's economy continued in the wrong direction at the start of 2013, with January unemployment figures released today. The state rate increased to 9.5 percent from December's annual revised rate of 9.4 percent, while the national rate rose to 7.9 percent from December's 7.8 percent. North Carolina's January 2013 unemployment rate is 0.1 of a percentage point lower than a year ago, and the number of people employed increased 2,888 to 4,323,089 over the month, and increased 83,518 over the year. The number of people unemployed grew 6,243 to 453,276 over the month, and grew 2,634 over the year. Maybe some good news for the High Country in the report; the major industry with the largest over-the-month increase was Leisure & Hospitality Services at 6,500. That was followed by Manufacturing, up 5,400 jobs; Trade, Transportation and Utilities, up 4,000; Construction, 1,600; Information, 1,100; Government, 900; and Financial Activities, 600. Major industries to experience decreases were Professional & Business Services, 2,600; Education and Health Services, 2,300; and Mining & Logging, 100.