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December Unemployment Rates Increase In 97 Of North Carolina's 100 Counties

RALEIGH — Unemployment rates increased in 97 of North Carolina's 100 counties in December, according to statistics released today by the state's Employment Security Commission.

"Every corner of North Carolina is feeling the effects of our national economy. Layoffs and cutbacks have taken a toll on many of our sectors, including Retail during the holiday season, Professional and Business Services, along with Construction and Manufacturing," said ESC Chairman Moses Carey Jr. "In our offices throughout the state, the ESC is helping those who have filed a claim or are in need of other services like worker retaining."

Forty-three counties were at or below the state's unadjusted unemployment rate of 8.5 percent. Rates increased in all 14 of the state's Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

Total county employment (not-seasonally adjusted) decreased in December by 56,400 workers, from 4,205,375 to 4,148,975. Not-seasonally adjusted unemployment increased, by 27,690 workers. The unemployment total in December was 383,528 workers compared with 355,838 in November.

	<i>Counties With Rates 5% Or Below</i>	<i>Counties With Rates Between 5% & 10%</i>	<i>Counties With Rates 10% Or Above</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>November (Revised)</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>82</i>	<i>17</i>

Orange County had the state's lowest unemployment rate, at 4.8 percent, in December. Meanwhile, Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate, at 13.9 percent.

The five counties receiving the highest amount in unemployment insurance benefits in December were: Mecklenburg, \$16.9 million; Wake, \$12 million; Guilford, \$8.8 million; Gaston, \$5.7 million; and Forsyth, \$5.0 million. In December, \$194.2 million in benefits was paid to 189,458 individuals statewide, compared with \$127.6 million to 141,298 individuals in November.

— More —

This information may be accessed on the ESC's World Wide Web page, at <http://www.ncesc.com>

December County Unemployment Rates

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Unemployment rates in the metropolitan statistical areas for December were:

Asheville — 6.7 percent, up from 6.1 percent in November.

Burlington — 9.4 percent, up from 8.5 percent.

Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord NC-SC — 8.9 percent, up from 8.2 percent.

Durham — 6.1 percent, up from 5.8 percent.

Fayetteville — 7.8 percent, up from 7.4 percent.

Goldsboro — 7.9 percent, up from 7.2 percent.

Greensboro-High Point — 8.6 percent, up from 8.1 percent.

Greenville — 8.3 percent, up from 7.7 percent.

Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton — 10.9 percent, up from 10.2 percent.

Jacksonville — 6.8 percent, up from 6.5 percent.

Raleigh-Cary — 6.5 percent, up from 6.1 percent.

Rocky Mount — 11.7 percent, up from 10.9 percent.

Wilmington — 8.4 percent up from 7.6 percent.

Winston-Salem — 7.6 percent, up from 7.2 percent.

(Micropolitan statistical areas can be found on attached pages.)

Not-seasonally adjusted unemployment rates show employment and unemployment conditions at the time the data were collected. The rates are not adjusted to remove seasonal fluctuations and generally are not used in determining the significance of economic trends. The 2007 benchmark monthly and annual averages for N.C. counties are available on the ESC's website: www.ncesc.com, under "Labor Market Information."

(Editor's Note: The state unemployment rate for **January will be released on **Wednesday, March 11, 2009.**)**

Per the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics instructions, the ESC is now revising the 2008 previous month's data.

NORTH CAROLINA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES*
Preliminary Statewide and County Data for
DECEMBER 2008

County	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	County	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
STATEWIDE	4,532,503	4,148,975	383,528	8.5					
ALAMANCE	69,258	62,740	6,518	9.4	JOHNSTON	77,549	71,359	6,190	8.0
ALEXANDER	17,897	16,037	1,860	10.4	JONES	5,030	4,613	417	8.3
ALLEGHANY	4,695	4,215	480	10.2	LEE	27,490	24,490	3,000	10.9
ANSON	10,901	9,529	1,372	12.6	LENOIR	28,172	25,480	2,692	9.6
ASHE	13,225	11,895	1,330	10.1	LINCOLN	40,558	36,323	4,235	10.4
AVERY	9,136	8,444	692	7.6	MCDOWELL	22,145	19,441	2,704	12.2
BEAUFORT	21,748	19,731	2,017	9.3	MACON	17,118	15,638	1,480	8.6
BERTIE	9,093	8,201	892	9.8	MADISON	10,016	9,265	751	7.5
BLADEN	15,961	14,334	1,627	10.2	MARTIN	11,962	10,874	1,088	9.1
BRUNSWICK	47,825	43,101	4,724	9.9	MECKLENBURG	447,953	410,948	37,005	8.3
BUNCOMBE	118,720	111,239	7,481	6.3	MITCHELL	7,349	6,657	692	9.4
BURKE	40,407	35,666	4,741	11.7	MONTGOMERY	11,627	10,427	1,200	10.3
CABARRUS	81,662	74,746	6,916	8.5	MOORE	38,170	35,172	2,998	7.9
CALDWELL	37,588	33,557	4,031	10.7	NASH	45,152	40,375	4,777	10.6
CAMDEN	4,743	4,382	361	7.6	NEW HANOVER	102,606	94,960	7,646	7.5
CARTERET	33,505	30,892	2,613	7.8	NORTHAMPTON	9,207	8,268	939	10.2
CASWELL	10,708	9,467	1,241	11.6	ONSLOW	61,973	57,785	4,188	6.8
CATAWBA	74,672	66,710	7,962	10.7	ORANGE	67,154	63,905	3,249	4.8
CHATHAM	32,778	30,745	2,033	6.2	PAMLICO	5,840	5,416	424	7.3
CHEROKEE	10,686	9,334	1,352	12.7	PASQUOTANK	18,735	17,156	1,579	8.4
CHOWAN	7,220	6,424	796	11.0	PENDER	23,969	21,740	2,229	9.3
CLAY	4,973	4,511	462	9.3	PERQUIMANS	5,587	5,051	536	9.6
CLEVELAND	50,937	44,821	6,116	12.0	PERSON	19,546	17,699	1,847	9.4
COLUMBUS	25,356	22,507	2,849	11.2	PITT	78,743	72,149	6,594	8.4
CRAVEN	43,850	40,336	3,514	8.0	POLK	9,710	9,018	692	7.1
CUMBERLAND	126,505	116,548	9,957	7.9	RANDOLPH	76,328	69,535	6,793	8.9
CURRITUCK	12,632	11,673	959	7.6	RICHMOND	21,043	18,545	2,498	11.9
DARE	21,719	19,093	2,626	12.1	ROBESON	59,329	53,563	5,766	9.7
DAVIDSON	80,449	72,606	7,843	9.7	ROCKINGHAM	45,959	41,309	4,650	10.1
DAVIE	20,914	19,174	1,740	8.3	ROWAN	73,011	66,253	6,758	9.3
DUPLIN	25,407	23,457	1,950	7.7	RUTHERFORD	31,026	27,060	3,966	12.8
DURHAM	135,626	127,261	8,365	6.2	SAMPSON	33,739	31,336	2,403	7.1
EDGECOMBE	24,692	21,284	3,408	13.8	SCOTLAND	14,541	12,525	2,016	13.9
FORSYTH	174,105	161,239	12,866	7.4	STANLY	31,215	28,241	2,974	9.5
FRANKLIN	28,068	25,776	2,292	8.2	STOKES	24,550	22,607	1,943	7.9
GASTON	101,033	89,500	11,533	11.4	SURRY	35,306	31,846	3,460	9.8
GATES	4,906	4,591	315	6.4	SWAIN	7,494	6,657	837	11.2
GRAHAM	5,782	5,117	665	11.5	TRANSYLVANIA	13,662	12,657	1,005	7.4
GRANVILLE	25,903	23,771	2,132	8.2	TYRRELL	2,252	1,998	254	11.3
GREENE	9,326	8,609	717	7.7	UNION	89,850	82,529	7,321	8.1
GUILFORD	244,395	224,182	20,213	8.3	VANCE	20,407	18,067	2,340	11.5
HALIFAX	24,839	21,811	3,028	12.2	WAKE	439,480	412,648	26,832	6.1
HARNETT	49,051	44,729	4,322	8.8	WARREN	8,048	7,150	898	11.2
HAYWOOD	28,019	25,772	2,247	8.0	WASHINGTON	7,420	6,742	678	9.1
HENDERSON	48,175	44,938	3,237	6.7	WATAUGA	24,071	22,688	1,383	5.7
HERTFORD	10,304	9,446	858	8.3	WAYNE	53,221	49,039	4,182	7.9
HOKE	19,097	17,644	1,453	7.6	WILKES	31,640	28,726	2,914	9.2
HYDE	2,574	2,288	286	11.1	WILSON	41,906	37,966	3,940	9.4
IREDELL	82,975	75,366	7,609	9.2	YADKIN	19,796	18,230	1,566	7.9
JACKSON	21,761	20,168	1,593	7.3	YANCEY	8,048	7,243	805	10.0

*Not Seasonally Adjusted

NORTH CAROLINA STATISTICAL AREA MONTHLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES*

<i>METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS</i>	<i>DECEMBER 2008</i>	<i>NOVEMBER 2008</i>	<i>CHANGE</i>
ASHEVILLE	6.7	6.1	0.6
BURLINGTON	9.4	8.5	0.9
CHARLOTTE-GASTONIA-CONCORD	8.9	8.2	0.7
DURHAM	6.1	5.8	0.3
FAYETTEVILLE	7.8	7.4	0.4
GOLDSBORO	7.9	7.2	0.7
GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT	8.6	8.1	0.5
GREENVILLE	8.3	7.7	0.6
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON	10.9	10.2	0.7
JACKSONVILLE	6.8	6.5	0.3
RALEIGH-CARY	6.5	6.1	0.4
ROCKY MOUNT	11.7	10.9	0.8
WILMINGTON	8.4	7.6	0.8
WINSTON-SALEM	7.6	7.2	0.4
<i>MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS</i>	<i>DECEMBER 2008</i>	<i>NOVEMBER 2008</i>	<i>CHANGE</i>
ALBEMARLE	9.5	8.8	0.7
BOONE	5.7	5.1	0.6
BREVARD	7.4	6.3	1.1
DUNN	8.8	8.1	0.7
ELIZABETH CITY	8.5	7.9	0.6
FOREST CITY	12.8	10.7	2.1
HENDERSON	11.5	11.3	0.2
KILL DEVIL HILLS	12.1	8.1	4.0
KINSTON	9.6	9.0	0.6
LAURINBURG	13.9	13.0	0.9
LINCOLNTON	10.4	9.2	1.2
LUMBERTON	9.7	9.0	0.7
MOREHEAD CITY	7.8	6.7	1.1
MOUNT AIRY	9.8	9.1	0.7
NEW BERN	8.0	7.5	0.5
NORTH WILKESBORO	9.2	8.7	0.5
ROANOKE RAPIDS	11.7	10.7	1.0
ROCKINGHAM	11.9	11.1	0.8
SALISBURY	9.3	8.6	0.7
SANFORD	10.9	9.8	1.1
SHELBY	12.0	10.6	1.4
SOUTHERN PINES-PINEHURST	7.9	7.2	0.7
STATESVILLE-MOESVILLE	9.2	8.1	1.1
THOMASVILLE-LEXINGTON	9.7	9.2	0.5
WASHINGTON	9.3	8.5	0.8
WILSON	9.4	8.7	0.7
<i>COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS</i>	<i>DECEMBER 2008</i>	<i>NOVEMBER 2008</i>	<i>CHANGE</i>
ASHEVILLE-BREVARD	6.7	6.1	0.6
CHARLOTTE-GASTONIA-SALISBURY	9.4	8.5	0.9
GREENSBORO-WINSTON S-HIGH PT	8.5	8.0	0.5
LUMBERTON-LAURINBURG	10.5	9.8	0.7
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CARY	6.5	6.1	0.4
<i>SMALL LABOR MARKET AREA</i>	<i>DECEMBER 2008</i>	<i>NOVEMBER 2008</i>	<i>CHANGE</i>
JACKSON-SWAIN	8.3	6.4	1.9

*Not Seasonally Adjusted

**Estimates subject to revision early in the next calendar year

NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY MONTHLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGES*

COUNTY**	DECEMBER 2008	NOVEMBER 2008	CHANGE	COUNTY	DECEMBER 2008	NOVEMBER 2008	CHANGE
STATEWIDE	8.5	7.8	0.7	JOHNSTON	8.0	7.4	0.6
ALAMANCE	9.4	8.5	0.9	JONES	8.3	7.9	0.4
ALEXANDER	10.4	9.8	0.6	LEE	10.9	9.8	1.1
ALLEGHANY	10.2	9.1	1.1	LENOIR	9.6	9.0	0.6
ANSON	12.6	11.2	1.4	LINCOLN	10.4	9.2	1.2
ASHE	10.1	8.3	1.8	MCDOWELL	12.2	11.3	0.9
AVERY	7.6	6.8	0.8	MACON	8.6	7.3	1.3
BEAUFORT	9.3	8.5	0.8	MADISON	7.5	6.5	1.0
BERTIE	9.8	9.0	0.8	MARTIN	9.1	8.3	0.8
BLADEN	10.2	9.4	0.8	MECKLENBURG	8.3	7.8	0.5
BRUNSWICK	9.9	8.8	1.1	MITCHELL	9.4	9.1	0.3
BUNCOMBE	6.3	5.9	0.4	MONTGOMERY	10.3	10.0	0.3
BURKE	11.7	10.7	1.0	MOORE	7.9	7.2	0.7
CABARRUS	8.5	7.7	0.8	NASH	10.6	9.6	1.0
CALDWELL	10.7	10.6	0.1	NEW HANOVER	7.5	6.9	0.6
CAMDEN	7.6	6.9	0.7	NORTHAMPTON	10.2	9.1	1.1
CARTERET	7.8	6.7	1.1	ONslow	6.8	6.5	0.3
CASWELL	11.6	11.0	0.6	ORANGE	4.8	4.6	0.2
CATAWBA	10.7	9.7	1.0	PAMLICO	7.3	7.1	0.2
CHATHAM	6.2	6.4	-0.2	PASQUOTANK	8.4	7.8	0.6
CHEROKEE	12.7	11.9	0.8	PENDER	9.3	8.3	1.0
CHOWAN	11.0	10.5	0.5	PERQUIMANS	9.6	8.6	1.0
CLAY	9.3	8.2	1.1	PERSON	9.4	8.5	0.9
CLEVELAND	12.0	10.6	1.4	PITT	8.4	7.7	0.7
COLUMBUS	11.2	9.4	1.8	POLK	7.1	6.3	0.8
CRAVEN	8.0	7.5	0.5	RANDOLPH	8.9	8.3	0.6
CUMBERLAND	7.9	7.5	0.4	RICHMOND	11.9	11.1	0.8
CURRITUCK	7.6	6.3	1.3	ROBESON	9.7	9.0	0.7
DARE	12.1	8.1	4.0	ROCKINGHAM	10.1	9.6	0.5
DAVIDSON	9.7	9.2	0.5	ROWAN	9.3	8.6	0.7
DAVIE	8.3	8.0	0.3	RUTHERFORD	12.8	10.7	2.1
DUPLIN	7.7	6.9	0.8	SAMPSON	7.1	6.4	0.7
DURHAM	6.2	5.8	0.4	SCOTLAND	13.9	13.0	0.9
EDGECOMBE	13.8	13.3	0.5	STANLY	9.5	8.8	0.7
FORSYTH	7.4	7.1	0.3	STOKES	7.9	7.5	0.4
FRANKLIN	8.2	7.4	0.8	SURRY	9.8	9.1	0.7
GASTON	11.4	10.0	1.4	SWAIN	11.2	8.3	2.9
GATES	6.4	6.1	0.3	TRANSYLVANIA	7.4	6.3	1.1
GRAHAM	11.5	9.6	1.9	TYRRELL	11.3	9.0	2.3
GRANVILLE	8.2	8.3	-0.1	UNION	8.1	7.5	0.6
GREENE	7.7	7.7	0.0	VANCE	11.5	11.3	0.2
GUILFORD	8.3	7.7	0.6	WAKE	6.1	5.8	0.3
HALIFAX	12.2	11.3	0.9	WARREN	11.2	10.6	0.6
HARNETT	8.8	8.1	0.7	WASHINGTON	9.1	8.0	1.1
HAYWOOD	8.0	7.0	1.0	WATAUGA	5.7	5.1	0.6
HENDERSON	6.7	6.1	0.6	WAYNE	7.9	7.2	0.7
HERTFORD	8.3	7.5	0.8	WILKES	9.2	8.7	0.5
HOKE	7.6	7.1	0.5	WILSON	9.4	8.7	0.7
HYDE	11.1	7.5	3.6	YADKIN	7.9	7.2	0.7
IREDELL	9.2	8.1	1.1	YANCEY	10.0	8.7	1.3
JACKSON	7.3	5.8	1.5				

*Not Seasonally Adjusted

**Estimates subject to revision early in the next calendar year

November 2008 data has been revised.

NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS

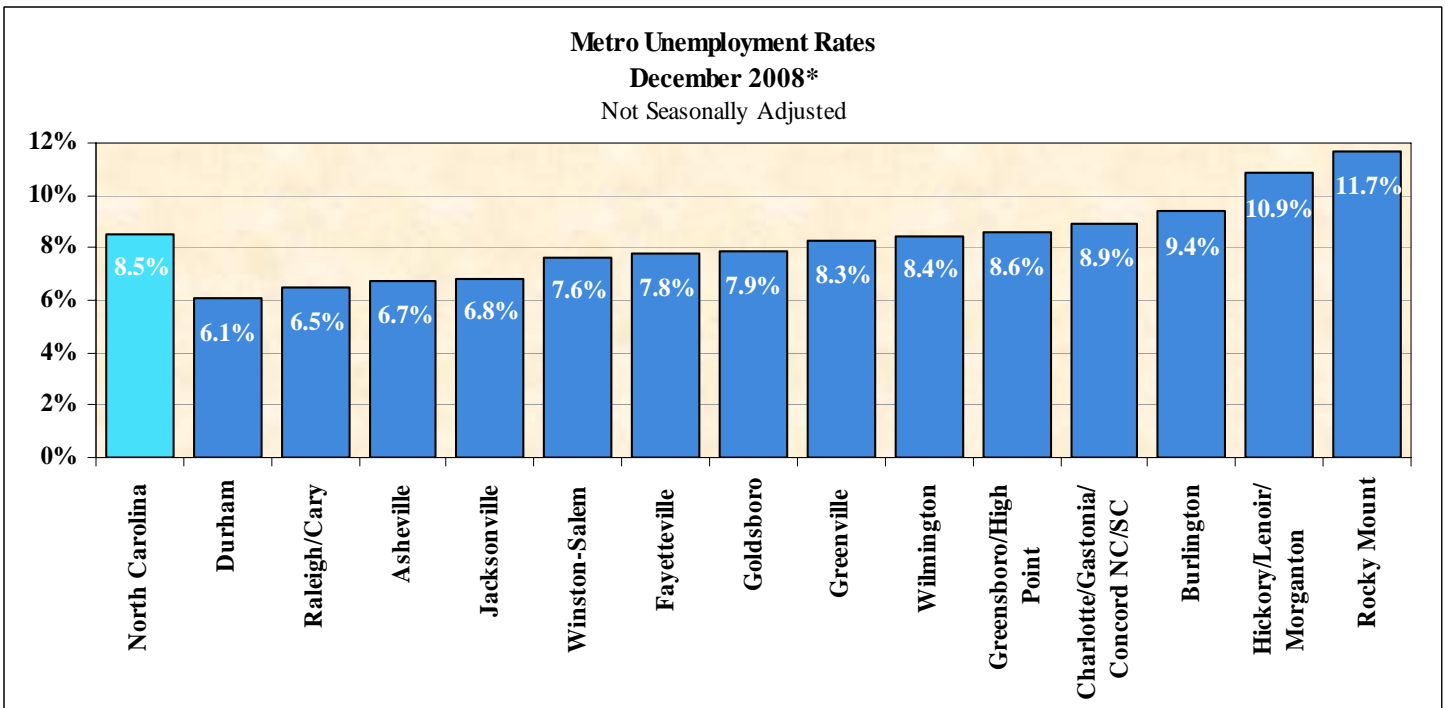
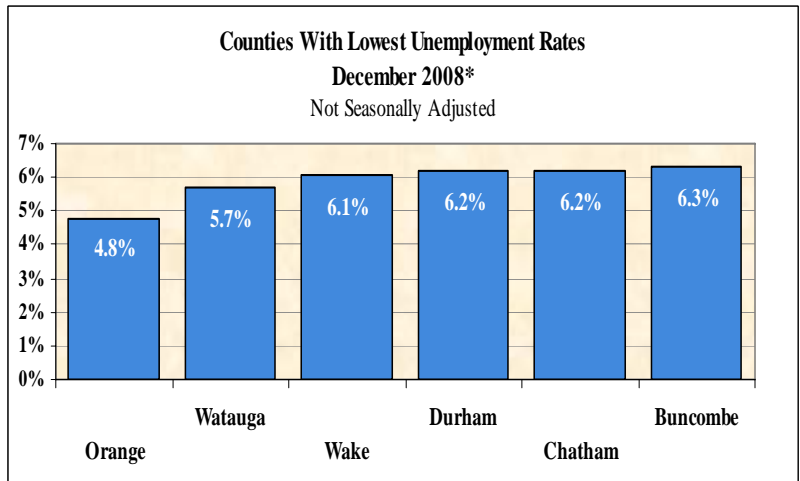
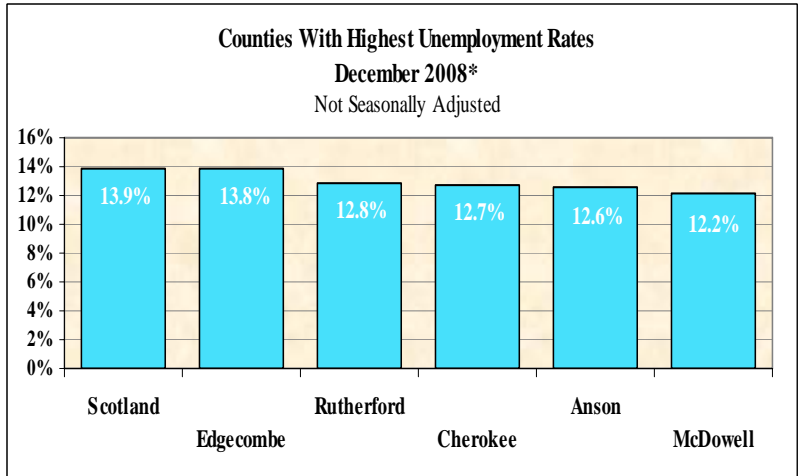
DECEMBER 2008

North Carolina's statewide unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 8.5 percent in December, a 0.7 percentage point increase from November's rate of 7.8 percent, as well as a 3.8 percentage-point gain over the year.

Over the month, the unemployment rate increased in 97 counties, decreased in two and remained unchanged in one. Forty-three counties had unemployment rates at or less than the state's 8.5 percent rate.

Scotland County experienced December's highest unemployment rate at 13.9 percent, which was 0.9 percentage points higher than last month. Edgecombe County had the second-highest rate at 13.8 percent. Orange County had the lowest unemployment rate at 4.8 percent, followed by Watauga County at 5.7 percent and Wake County at 6.1 percent.

Unemployment rates increased in all of the state's 14 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (Metros). The Rocky Mount Metro experienced the highest unemployment rate (11.7%), which was a 0.8 percentage-point increase over the previous month. Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton had the second-highest rate at 10.9 percent, a 0.7 percentage-point increase from November. The Durham Metro had the lowest unemployment rate at 6.1 percent, which increased 0.3 of a percentage point from the previous month. Raleigh/Cary followed at 6.5 percent.

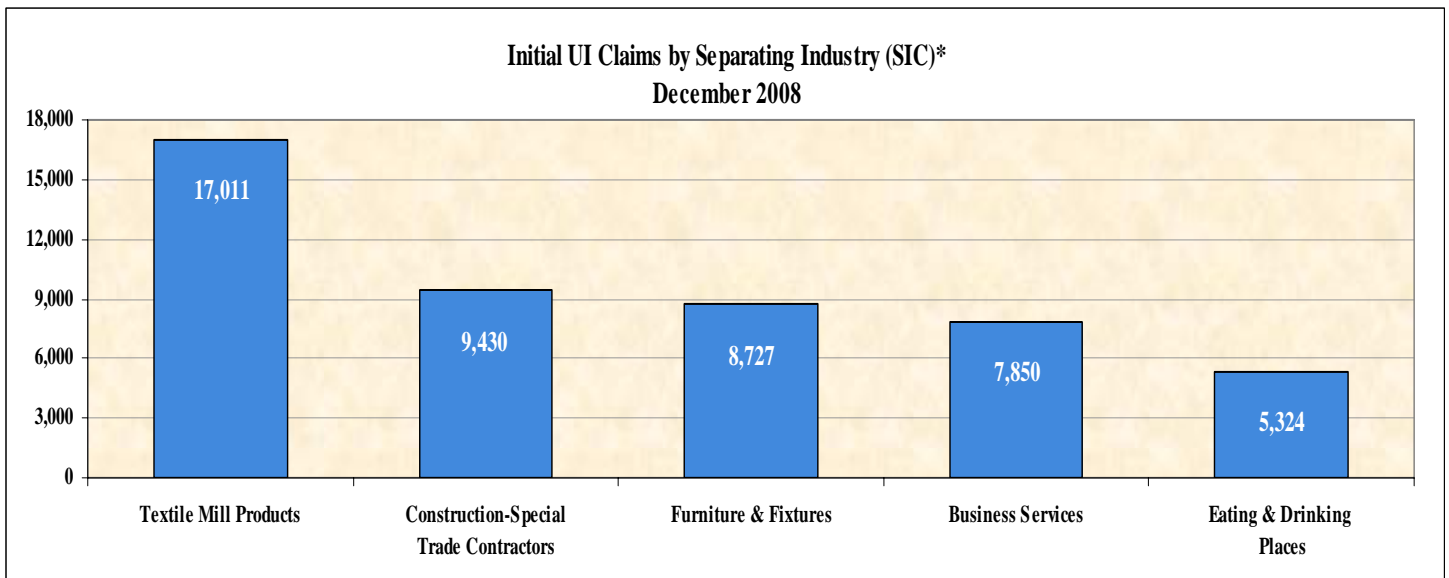
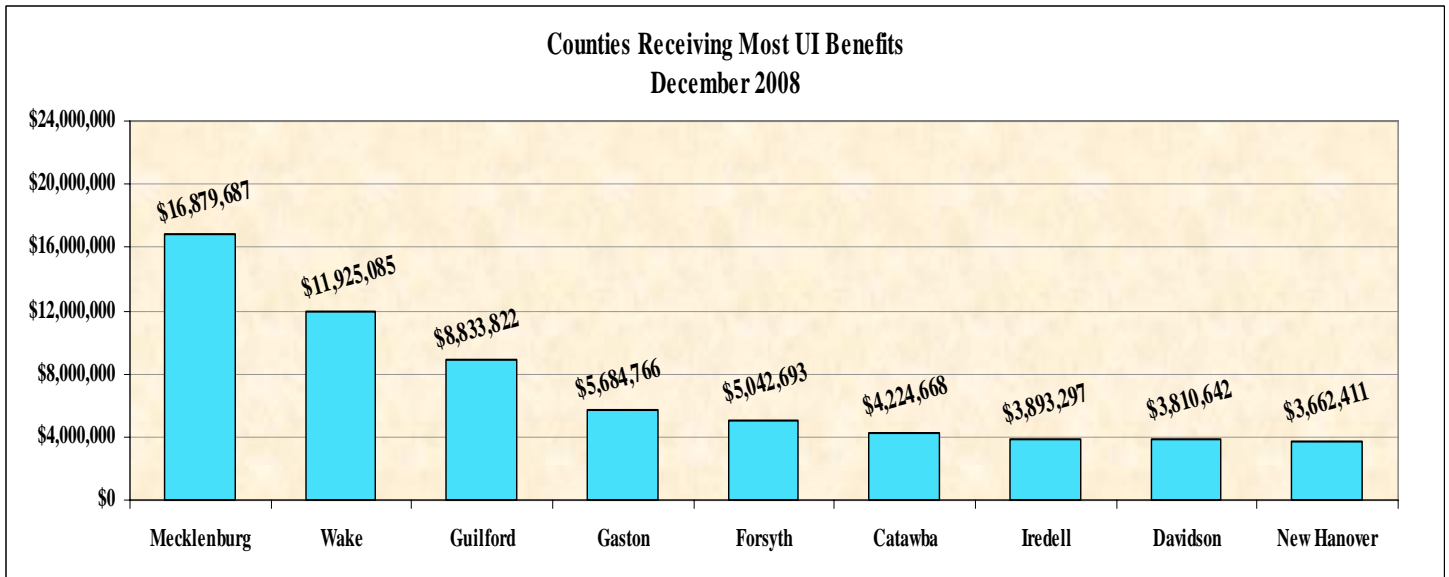


*All December 2008 labor force data are preliminary.

In December 2008, there were 155,913 Unemployment Insurance (UI) Initial Claims filed in North Carolina. Counties with the largest number of Initial UI Claims filed and total UI Benefits received are shown in the graphs.

Total Initial Claims are based on the number of transactions; demographic data are counts of individuals. Not all race/ethnicity and age breakouts are presented, but are available upon request.

Initial UI Claims, December 2008						
County	Transactions		Individuals			
	Initial Claims	Attached To Payroll	Female	African-American	White	45 Or Older
Guilford	7,694	4,929	2,877	3,894	2,705	3,566
Mecklenburg	7,339	2,129	2,810	3,242	2,903	2,566
Catawba	5,857	4,669	2,089	498	4,402	2,780
Randolph	5,319	4,384	2,054	349	3,969	2,422
Davidson	5,072	4,026	1,674	736	3,672	2,476



*18,692 Initial Claims were nonclassifiable.

New Claims totaling 86,024 for the month ending December 2008 increased 36,249 from the prior month. Forty-seven percent of these were Attached New Claims. During the same period a year ago, New Claims totaled 31,224, of which 37 percent were Attached. For the month ending December 2006, New Claims totaled 27,370 and 34 percent of these were Attached.

Asheville Metro	Over-the-Month Employment Change (-500) -0.3%		Over-the-Year Employment Change (-1,400) -0.8%	
	Industry	Change	Industry	Change
	Leisure and Hospitality	400 1.6%	Educational & Health Services	1,200 4.1%
	Educational & Health Services	200 0.7%	Leisure and Hospitality	800 3.3%
	Total	Information 100 4.5%	Information	100 4.5%
	Nonfarm	Other Services 100 1.4%	Other Services	-100 -1.4%
	Employment	Government -100 -0.4%	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const.	-400 -3.3%
	Dec-08	Manufacturing -100 -0.5%	Trade, Transp. & Utilities	-500 -1.5%
	180,200	Trade, Transp. & Utilities -200 -0.6%	Manufacturing	-1,100 -5.3%
	Rate = 6.7%	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const. -200 -1.7%	Professional & Business Services	-1,400 -7.9%
	Professional & Business Services -700 -4.1%			

Burlington Metro	Over-the-Month Employment Change (-800) -1.3%		Over-the-Year Employment Change (-1,800) -2.9%	
	Industry	Change	Industry	Change
	Trade, Transp. & Utilities	-100 -0.9%	Leisure and Hospitality	300 4.6%
	Manufacturing	-100 -1.0%	Educational & Health Services	100 1.1%
	Total	Educational & Health Services -100 -1.1%	Government	-100 -1.4%
	Nonfarm	Government -100 -1.4%	Information	-100 -20.0%
	Employment	Leisure and Hospitality -100 -1.4%	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const.	-300 -7.9%
	Dec-08	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const. -100 -2.8%	Trade, Transp. & Utilities	-400 -3.4%
	60,400	Professional & Business Services -200 -2.4%	Manufacturing	-600 -5.5%
	Rate = 9.4%		Professional & Business Services	-700 -8.0%

Charlotte/Gastonia/Concord NC/SC Metro	Over-the-Month Employment Change (-6,600) -0.8%		Over-the-Year Employment Change (-15,700) -1.8%	
	Industry	Change	Industry	Change
	Financial Activities	300 0.4%	Educational & Health Services	2,000 2.5%
	Trade, Transp. & Utilities	100 0.1%	Financial Activities	1,700 2.2%
	Total	Information -100 -0.5%	Government	1,600 1.5%
	Nonfarm	Educational & Health Services -300 -0.4%	Leisure and Hospitality	300 0.4%
	Employment	Manufacturing -300 -0.4%	Information	-800 -3.6%
	Dec-08	Leisure and Hospitality -600 -0.7%	Other Services	-1,700 -4.3%
	857,000	Other Services -600 -1.6%	Trade, Transp. & Utilities	-3,700 -2.0%
	Rate = 8.9%	Government -1,000 -0.9%	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const.	-4,700 -7.8%
	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const. -1,500 -2.6%	Manufacturing	-4,800 -5.9%	
	Professional & Business Services -2,600 -2.0%	Professional & Business Services	-5,600 -4.1%	

Durham Metro	Over-the-Month Employment Change (-700) -0.2%		Over-the-Year Employment Change (+1,700) 0.6%	
	Industry	Change	Industry	Change
	Trade, Transp. & Utilities	600 1.6%	Professional & Business Services	1,700 4.6%
	Professional & Business Services	100 0.3%	Educational & Health Services	1,700 3.1%
	Total	Educational & Health Services 100 0.2%	Leisure and Hospitality	600 2.8%
	Nonfarm	Manufacturing -100 -0.2%	Trade, Transp. & Utilities	500 1.3%
	Employment	Leisure and Hospitality -100 -0.5%	Financial Activities	100 0.8%
	Dec-08	Other Services -100 -0.5%	Information	-100 -2.6%
	295,400	Financial Activities -100 -0.8%	Manufacturing	-400 -1.0%
	Rate = 6.1%	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const. -300 -3.1%	Other Services	-400 -2.1%
	Government -800 -1.4%	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const.	-700 -7.0%	
		Government	-1,300 -2.3%	

Major industry sectors in each Metro with no significant employment change for the period are not listed.

Fayetteville Metro	Over-the-Month Employment Change (-1,100) -0.8%	Over-the-Year Employment Change (-1,900) -1.5%
	Industry	Industry
	Change	Change
	Manufacturing -100 -1.1%	Financial Activities 200 4.7%
	Information -100 -4.5%	Leisure and Hospitality 200 1.6%
Total Nonfarm Employment Dec-08	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const. -200 -3.1%	Educational & Health Services 200 1.3%
	Professional & Business Services -300 -2.4%	Trade, Transp. & Utilities -100 -0.4%
	Leisure and Hospitality -400 -3.0%	Information -100 -4.5%
		Other Services -300 -6.1%
		Professional & Business Services -600 -4.7%
		Nat. Resources, Mining & Const. -600 -8.8%
		Manufacturing -800 -8.0%
128,600		
Rate = 7.8%		

Goldsboro Metro	Over-the-Month Employment Change (-300) -0.7%	Over-the-Year Employment Change (+400) 0.8%
	Industry	Industry
	Change	Change
	Government -300 -2.3%	Government 400 3.3%
	Educational & Health Services *	Educational & Health Services *
Total Nonfarm Employment Dec-08	Financial Activities *	Financial Activities *
	Information *	Information *
	Leisure & Hospitality *	Leisure & Hospitality *
	Manufacturing *	Manufacturing *
	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const. *	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const. *
	Other Services *	Other Services *
	Professional & Business Services *	Professional & Business Services *
	Trade, Transp. & Utilities *	Trade, Transp. & Utilities *
46,000		
Rate = 7.9%		

Greensboro/High Point Metro	Over-the-Month Employment Change (+500) 0.1%	Over-the-Year Employment Change (+500) 0.1%
	Industry	Industry
	Change	Change
	Trade, Transp. & Utilities 700 0.9%	Educational & Health Services 1,400 2.9%
	Information 100 1.7%	Leisure and Hospitality 1,300 4.0%
Total Nonfarm Employment Dec-08	Financial Activities 100 0.4%	Professional & Business Services 1,000 2.1%
	Leisure and Hospitality 100 0.3%	Other Services 600 4.1%
	Educational & Health Services 100 0.2%	Financial Activities 400 1.8%
	Manufacturing -100 -0.2%	Government 200 0.4%
	Professional & Business Services -100 -0.2%	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const. -100 -0.5%
	Government -400 -0.9%	Information -200 -3.2%
		Trade, Transp. & Utilities -1,400 -1.8%
		Manufacturing -2,700 -4.3%
378,100		
Rate = 8.6%		

Greenville Metro	Over-the-Month Employment Change (-400) -0.5%	Over-the-Year Employment Change (-100) -0.1%
	Industry	Industry
	Change	Change
	Government 100 0.4%	Government 700 3.0%
	Manufacturing -100 -1.5%	Financial Activities 200 8.0%
Total Nonfarm Employment Dec-08	Professional & Business Services -200 -2.9%	Educational & Health Services 200 1.9%
	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const. -200 -4.4%	Leisure and Hospitality 100 1.2%
		Trade, Transp. & Utilities -100 -0.8%
		Professional & Business Services -200 -2.9%
		Nat. Resources, Mining & Const. -400 -8.5%
		Manufacturing -600 -8.3%
78,900		
Rate = 8.3%		

Major industry sectors in each Metro with no significant employment change for the period are not listed. *Survey sample size prohibits release.

Hickory/ Lenoir/ Morganton Metro	Over-the-Month Employment Change (-1,800) -1.1%		Over-the-Year Employment Change (-4,900) -3.0%	
	Industry	Change	Industry	Change
	Other Services	100 1.7%	Educational & Health Services	300 1.6%
	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const.	-100 -1.9%	Government	200 0.8%
	Government	-300 -1.1%	Financial Activities	100 2.6%
	Leisure and Hospitality	-300 -2.4%	Leisure and Hospitality	-100 -0.8%
	Manufacturing	-500 -1.1%	Information	-100 -10.0%
	Professional & Business Services	-700 -5.3%	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const.	-200 -3.8%
			Professional & Business Services	-600 -4.6%
			Trade, Transp. & Utilities	-800 -2.7%
Total Nonfarm Employment Dec-08 159,700			Manufacturing	-3,700 -7.6%
Rate = 10.9%				

Jacksonville Metro	Over-the-Month Employment Change (-200) -0.4%		Over-the-Year Employment Change (+2,000) 4.3%	
	Industry	Change	Industry	Change
	Government	-300 -2.1%	Government	500 3.5%
	Educational & Health Services	*	Educational & Health Services	*
	Financial Activities	*	Financial Activities	*
	Information	*	Information	*
	Leisure & Hospitality	*	Leisure & Hospitality	*
	Manufacturing	*	Manufacturing	*
	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const.	*	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const.	*
	Other Services	*	Other Services	*
Total Nonfarm Employment Dec-08 48,700			Professional & Business Services	*
Rate = 6.8%			Trade, Transp. & Util.	*

Raleigh/ Cary Metro	Over-the-Month Employment Change (-3,100) -0.6%		Over-the-Year Employment Change (+200) 0.0%	
	Industry	Change	Industry	Change
	Educational & Health Services	200 0.4%	Educational & Health Services	2,000 3.9%
	Financial Activities	-100 -0.4%	Leisure and Hospitality	800 1.6%
	Trade, Transp. & Utilities	-200 -0.2%	Financial Activities	500 1.9%
	Other Services	-200 -0.8%	Government	500 0.5%
	Manufacturing	-300 -1.0%	Information	-200 -1.2%
	Government	-600 -0.6%	Professional & Business Services	-400 -0.4%
	Professional & Business Services	-800 -0.9%	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const.	-500 -1.2%
	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const.	-1,100 -2.6%	Trade, Transp. & Utilities	-600 -0.6%
Total Nonfarm Employment Dec-08 529,500			Manufacturing	-1,900 -5.8%
Rate = 6.5%				

Rocky Mount Metro	Over-the-Month Employment Change (-600) -0.9%		Over-the-Year Employment Change (-1,700) -2.6%	
	Industry	Change	Industry	Change
	Educational & Health Services	100 1.4%	Educational & Health Services	200 2.8%
	Trade, Transp. & Utilities	100 0.6%	Government	200 1.8%
	Manufacturing	-100 -1.1%	Leisure and Hospitality	100 1.9%
	Professional & Business Services	-100 -1.7%	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const.	-200 -5.9%
	Government	-400 -3.3%	Trade, Transp. & Utilities	-400 -2.5%
	Financial Activities	*	Professional & Business Services	-400 -6.6%
	Information	*	Manufacturing	-800 -8.5%
	Other Services	*	Financial Activities	*
Total Nonfarm Employment Dec-08 64,000			Information	*
Rate = 11.7%			Other Services	*

Major industry sectors in each Metro with no significant employment change for the period are not listed. *Survey sample size prohibits release.

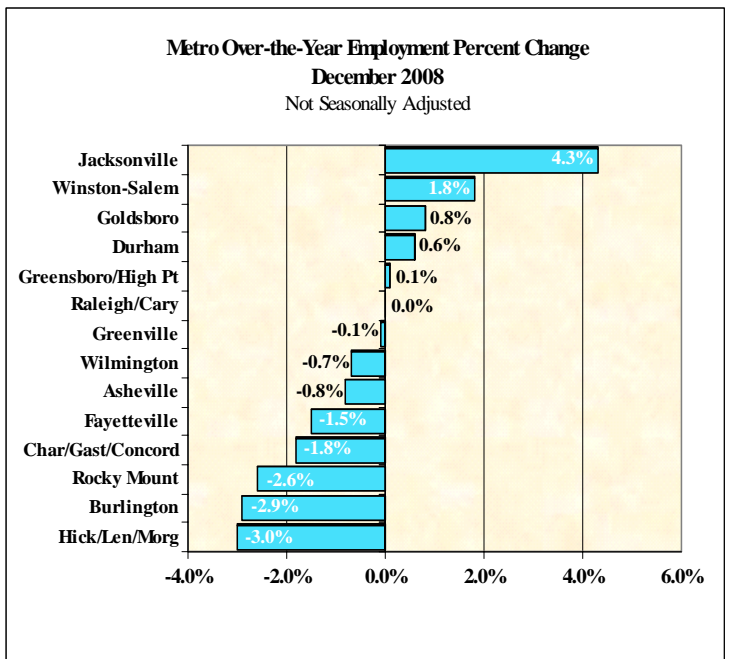
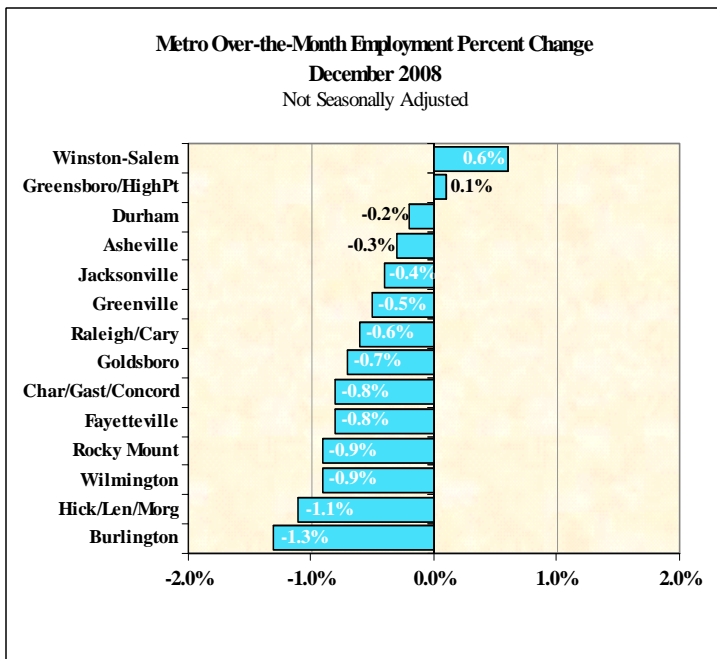
Wilmington Metro	Over-the-Month Employment Change (-1,300) -0.9%	Over-the-Year Employment Change (-1,100) -0.7%
	Industry Change	Industry Change
	Educational & Health Services 100 0.6%	Educational & Health Services 700 4.4%
	Trade, Transp. & Utilities -100 -0.3%	Government 400 1.5%
Total Nonfarm Employment Dec-08	Government -100 -0.4%	Other Services 200 3.1%
	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const. -100 -0.8%	Professional & Business Services 200 1.3%
	Manufacturing -100 -1.2%	Leisure and Hospitality 200 1.0%
	Financial Activities -100 -1.4%	Information -100 -3.1%
	Other Services -100 -1.5%	Financial Activities -200 -2.7%
147,200	Leisure and Hospitality -800 -3.8%	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const. -300 -2.3%
		Manufacturing -500 -5.6%
Rate = 8.4%		Trade, Transp. & Utilities -1,700 -5.4%

Winston-Salem Metro	Over-the-Month Employment Change (+1,400) 0.6%	Over-the-Year Employment Change (+4,100) 1.8%
	Industry Change	Industry Change
	Trade, Transp. & Utilities 800 2.0%	Educational & Health Services 1,900 4.3%
	Leisure and Hospitality 300 1.5%	Government 1,700 6.6%
Total Nonfarm Employment Dec-08	Nat. Resources, Mining & Const. 100 1.0%	Leisure and Hospitality 900 4.6%
	Financial Activities 100 0.8%	Professional & Business Services 400 1.5%
	Professional & Business Services 100 0.4%	Other Services 200 2.2%
		Nat. Resources, Mining & Const. 100 1.0%
		Information -100 -4.8%
226,500		Trade, Transp. & Utilities -300 -0.7%
		Financial Activities -300 -2.3%
Rate = 7.6%		Manufacturing -400 -1.4%

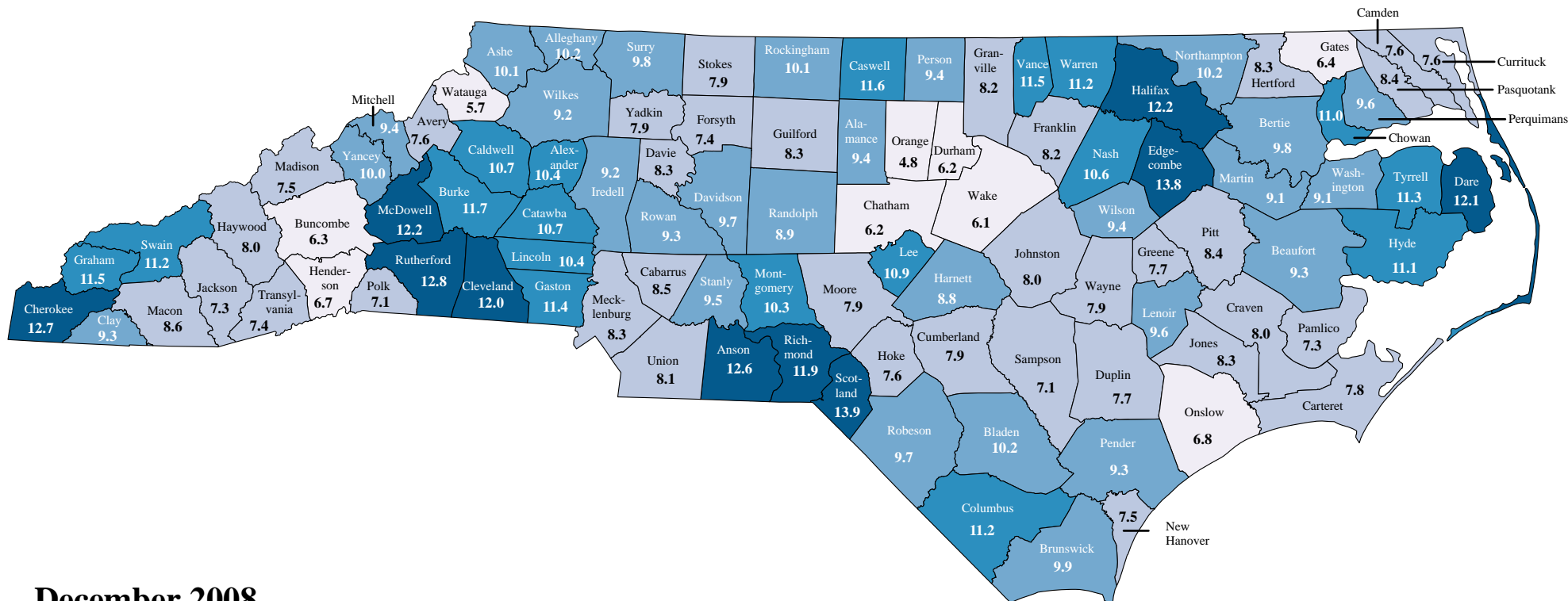
Major industry sectors in each Metro with no significant employment change for the period are not listed.

All December 2008 data are preliminary.

Over the month, industry employment increased in two of the 14 Metros. The Winston-Salem Metro had the largest net employment increase over the month with 1,400, followed by Greensboro with 500. Winston-Salem also showed the greatest percentage increase at 0.6 percent. Over the year, employment rose in six Metros. Winston-Salem experienced the largest net increase in employment at 4,100, while Jacksonville experienced the largest percentage increase (4.3%).



North Carolina Unemployment Rates by County December 2008



December 2008



4.8 - 6.8



6.9 - 8.6



8.7 - 10.2



10.3 - 11.7



11.8 - 13.9

▲ 97 Counties Higher Than Previous Month

▼ 2 Counties Lower Than Previous Month

≡ 1 County Same as Previous Month

North Carolina Rate 8.5%
Not Seasonally Adjusted

Note: December 2008 data are preliminary.

Prepared by the Labor Market Information Division, Employment Security Commission of North Carolina 1_2009