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North Carolina’s January Employment Figures Released

RALEIGH — The state’s seasonally adjusted January unemployment rate was 5.6 percent, remaining unchanged from December’s revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.9 percent.

North Carolina’s January 2016 unemployment rate was 0.1 of a percentage point lower than a year ago. The number of people employed increased 18,257 over the month to 4,531,610 and increased 87,478 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 1,415 over the month to 267,017, and decreased 1,427 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 23,200 to 4,298,200 in January. The major industries with the largest over-the-month increases were Government and Leisure & Hospitality Services, each at 5,000, followed by Construction, 3,800; Education & Health Services, 2,800; Manufacturing, 2,700; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 2,600; Financial Activities, 1,500; Other Services, 1,000; and Mining & Logging, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Information, 800; and Professional & Business Services, 500.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since January 2015

	Jan 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2015	May 2015	Jun 2015	Jul 2015	Aug 2015	Sep 2015	Oct 2015	Nov 2015	Dec 2015	Jan 2016
N.C.	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6
U.S.	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9

Please note: 2015 numbers have been annually revised

Since January 2015, Total Nonfarm jobs gained 104,300 with the Total Private sector growing by 99,900 and Government increasing by 4,400. The largest over-the-year increase among major industries was Professional & Business Services at 24,500, followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 22,300; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 17,900; Construction, 12,400; Education & Health Services, 7,700; Financial Activities, 5,500; Other Services, 5,200; Government, 4,400; Manufacturing, 3,300; and Information, 1,100. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged over the year.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Friday, March 18, 2016 when the county unemployment rates for January 2016 will be released.

This information may be accessed on the Commerce website at <http://www.nccommerce.com/lead>



North Carolina Department of Commerce Labor and Economic Analysis Division

NORTH CAROLINA and U.S. LABOR FORCE DATA

North Carolina data is embargoed until 10:00 A.M. Monday, March 14, 2016

				<i>Month Ago</i>		<i>Year Ago</i>	
	<i>January 2016</i>	<i>December 2015</i>	<i>January 2015</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
North Carolina <i>(Local Area Unemployment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,798,627	4,781,785	4,712,576	16,842	0.4	86,051	1.8
Employed	4,531,610	4,513,353	4,444,132	18,257	0.4	87,478	2.0
Unemployed	267,017	268,432	268,444	-1,415	-0.5	-1,427	-0.5
Unemployment Rate	5.6	5.6	5.7	0.0	xxx	-0.1	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	4,767,867	4,758,598	4,703,083	9,269	0.2	64,784	1.4
Employed	4,493,107	4,508,327	4,419,157	-15,220	-0.3	73,950	1.7
Unemployed	274,760	250,271	283,926	24,489	9.8	-9,166	-3.2
Unemployment Rate	5.8	5.3	6.0	0.5	xxx	-0.2	xxx
United States <i>(Current Population Survey)</i>							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	158,335,000	157,833,000	157,025,000	502,000	0.3	xxx	xxx
Employed	150,544,000	149,929,000	148,104,000	615,000	0.4	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	7,791,000	7,904,000	8,920,000	-113,000	-1.4	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.0	5.7	-0.1	xxx	xxx	xxx
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Labor Force	157,347,000	157,245,000	156,050,000	102,000	0.1	xxx	xxx
Employed	149,037,000	149,703,000	146,552,000	-666,000	-0.4	xxx	xxx
Unemployed	8,309,000	7,542,000	9,498,000	767,000	10.2	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate	5.3	4.8	6.1	0.5	xxx	xxx	xxx

*Effective January 2016, updated US population estimates are used in the national labor force estimates. The annual population adjustments affect the comparability of national labor force estimates over time.

2016 estimates for the current month are preliminary.
2015 estimates have undergone annual revision.

North Carolina Department of Commerce Labor and Economic Analysis Division

NORTH CAROLINA EMPLOYMENT DATA

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				<i>Month Ago</i>		<i>Year Ago</i>	
	<i>January 2016</i>	<i>December 2015</i>	<i>January 2015</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>	<i>Numeric Change</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
<i>North Carolina</i> <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,298,200	4,275,000	4,193,900	23,200	0.5	104,300	2.5
Total Private	3,574,600	3,556,400	3,474,700	18,200	0.5	99,900	2.9
Mining & Logging	5,600	5,500	5,600	100	1.8	0	0.0
Construction	197,600	193,800	185,200	3,800	2.0	12,400	6.7
Manufacturing	461,200	458,500	457,900	2,700	0.6	3,300	0.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	808,800	806,200	786,500	2,600	0.3	22,300	2.8
Information	75,700	76,500	74,600	-800	-1.0	1,100	1.5
Financial Activities	220,800	219,300	215,300	1,500	0.7	5,500	2.6
Professional & Business Services	600,400	600,900	575,900	-500	-0.1	24,500	4.3
Education & Health Services	578,300	575,500	570,600	2,800	0.5	7,700	1.3
Leisure & Hospitality Services	471,200	466,200	453,300	5,000	1.1	17,900	3.9
Other Services	155,000	154,000	149,800	1,000	0.6	5,200	3.5
Government	723,600	718,600	719,200	5,000	0.7	4,400	0.6
<i>North Carolina</i> <i>(Current Employment Statistics)</i>							
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
Total Nonfarm	4,238,400	4,310,900	4,141,600	-72,500	-1.7	96,800	2.3
Total Private	3,505,600	3,572,200	3,413,400	-66,600	-1.9	92,200	2.7
Mining & Logging	5,500	5,500	5,500	0	0.0	0	0.0
Construction	189,000	194,400	178,400	-5,400	-2.8	10,600	5.9
Manufacturing	458,900	460,300	455,400	-1,400	-0.3	3,500	0.8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	798,900	826,500	776,600	-27,600	-3.3	22,300	2.9
Information	75,400	76,900	74,200	-1,500	-2.0	1,200	1.6
Financial Activities	217,000	217,900	212,700	-900	-0.4	4,300	2.0
Professional & Business Services	591,500	601,800	567,900	-10,300	-1.7	23,600	4.2
Education & Health Services	574,300	580,800	566,600	-6,500	-1.1	7,700	1.4
Leisure & Hospitality Services	442,400	454,300	428,900	-11,900	-2.6	13,500	3.1
Other Services	152,700	153,800	147,200	-1,100	-0.7	5,500	3.7
Government	732,800	738,700	728,200	-5,900	-0.8	4,600	0.6
<i>Mfg. Production Workers (PW) Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>							
<i>Mfg. PW Average Hourly Earnings</i>	\$17.36	\$17.39	\$16.90				
<i>Mfg. PW Hours Worked</i>	41.4	42.7	42.4				

All 2016 Labor Force and CES data for the current month are preliminary.
All 2015 Labor Force and CES estimates have been benchmarked.
Estimates may not add to totals due to rounding.

Technical Notes

This release presents labor force and unemployment estimates from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. Also presented are nonfarm payroll employment estimates the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The LAUS and CES programs are both federal-state cooperative endeavors.

Labor force and unemployment--from the LAUS program

Definitions. The labor force and unemployment estimates are based on the same concepts and definitions as those used for the official national estimates obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a sample survey of households that is conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the U.S. Census Bureau. The LAUS program measures employment and unemployment on a place-of-residence basis. The universe for each is the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over. Employed persons are those who did any work at all for pay or profit in the reference week (the week including the 12th of the month) or worked 15 hours or more without pay in a family business or farm, plus those not working who had a job from which they were temporarily absent, whether or not paid, for such reasons as bad weather, labor-management dispute, illness, or vacation. Unemployed persons are those who were not employed during the reference week (based on the definition above), had actively looked for a job sometime in the 4-week period ending with the reference week, and were currently available for work; persons on lay-off expecting recall need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed. The labor force is the sum of employed and unemployed persons. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed as a percent of the labor force.

Method of estimation. Statewide estimates are produced using an estimation algorithm administered by the BLS. This method, which underwent substantial enhancement at the beginning of 2005, utilizes data from several sources, including the CPS, the CES, and state unemployment insurance (UI) programs. Each month, census division estimates are controlled to national totals, and state estimates are then controlled to their respective division totals. Substate estimates are controlled to their respective state totals. For more information about LAUS estimation procedures, see the BLS website at www.bls.gov/lau/laumthd.htm

Revisions. Labor force and unemployment data for the previous month reflect adjustments made in each subsequent month, while data for prior years reflect adjustments made at the end of each year. The monthly revisions incorporate updated model inputs, while the annually revised estimates reflect updated population data from the U.S. Census Bureau, any revisions in the other data sources, and model reestimation. In most years, historical data for the most recent five years (both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted) are revised near the beginning of each calendar year, prior to the release of January estimates.

Seasonal adjustment. The LAUS program introduced smoothed seasonally adjusted (SSA) estimates in January 2010. These are seasonally-adjusted data that have incorporated a long-run trend smoothing procedure, resulting in estimates that are less volatile than those previously produced. The estimates are smoothed using a filtering procedure, based on moving averages, to remove the irregular fluctuations from the seasonally-adjusted series, leaving the trend. The same process is used on both historical and current year estimates. For more information about the smoothing technique, see the BLS website at www.bls.gov/lau/lassaqa.htm.

Area definitions. The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget on February 28, 2013. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available online at www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm.

Employment--from the CES program

Definitions. Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who receive pay for any part of the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. Persons are counted at their place of work rather than at their place of residence; those appearing on more than one payroll are counted on each payroll. Industries are classified on the basis of their principal activity in accordance with the 2012 version of the North American Industry Classification System.

Method of estimation. CES State and Area employment data are produced using several estimation procedures. Where possible these data are produced using a "weighted link relative" estimation technique in which a ratio of current-month weighted employment to that of the previous-month weighted employment is computed from a sample of establishments reporting for both months. The estimates of employment for the current month are then obtained by multiplying these ratios by the previous month's employment estimates. The weighted link relative technique is utilized for data series where the sample size meets certain statistical criteria.

For some employment series, relatively small sample sizes limit the reliability of the weighted link-relative estimates. In these cases, BLS uses the CES small domain model (SDM) to generate employment estimates. The SDM combines the direct sample estimates (described above) and forecasts of historical (benchmarked) data to decrease the volatility of the estimates. For more detailed information about the CES small domain model, refer to the BLS Handbook of Methods.

Annual revisions. Employment estimates are adjusted annually to a complete count of jobs, called benchmarks, derived principally from tax reports that are submitted by employers who are covered under state unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The benchmark information is used to adjust the monthly estimates between the new benchmark and the preceding one and also to establish the level of employment for the new benchmark month. Thus, the benchmarking process establishes the level of employment, and the sample is used to measure the month-to-month changes in the level for the subsequent months.

Seasonal adjustment. Payroll employment data are seasonally adjusted at the statewide supersector level. In some states, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is computed by aggregating the independently adjusted supersector series. In other states, the seasonally adjusted payroll employment total is independently adjusted. Revisions of historical data for the most recent 5 years are made once a year, coincident with annual benchmark adjustments.

Reliability of the estimates

The estimates presented in this release are based on sample surveys, administrative data, and modeling and, thus, are subject to sampling and other types of errors. Sampling error is a measure of sampling variability--that is, variation that occurs by chance because a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed. Survey data also are subject to nonsampling errors, such as those which can be introduced into the data collection and processing operations. Estimates not directly derived from sample surveys are subject to additional errors resulting from the specific estimation processes used.

Model-based error measures for seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted data and for over-the-month and over-the-year changes to LAUS estimates are available online at www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm. Measures of sampling error for state CES data at the total nonfarm and supersector levels are available online at www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm.

Release Dates

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Friday, March 18, 2016 when the county unemployment rates for January 2016 will be released.

The complete 2016 data release schedule can be accessed at:

<http://www.nccommerce.com/lead/research-publications/schedule-of-release-dates>