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Unemployment Up

RALEIGH — North Carolina's total unemployment rate for November rose above the previous month's figures for the second consecutive month. At 6.2 per cent, the rate exceeded October's 5.6 per cent but was slightly below November 1980's 6.5 per cent according to figures released today by the State Employment Security Commission (ESC).

Floyd Outland of ESC's Labor Market Information Division says, "Effects of the national economy are now being felt in North Carolina, yet we are still in a better position than other parts of the nation."

The national unadjusted employment rate in November was 7.9 per cent, up slightly from October's 7.5 per cent.

The total civilian labor force for November was 2,792,100, slightly below October's 2,794,800 and well above November 1980 when the figure was 2,740,500. There were 173,000 people unemployed in November, compared to 156,000 in October of this year and 177,000 in November 1980.

Total employment in North Carolina during November decreased (-0.7 per cent) to 2,619,100 from October's 2,638,800. This decrease resulted mainly from the seasonal decline in agriculture.

Manufacturing employment fell 5,200 below the previous month due to decreases in nondurable goods (textile mill products principally) and, to a somewhat lesser extent, in durable goods as well. Food and kindred products, chemicals and allied, printing, publishing and allied activities showed the only improvement in nondurable goods employment in November.

Nonmanufacturing employment rose very slightly in November over October. Increases in government employment as well as the Christmas retail trade added seasonal personnel.

A comparison of employment figures for November 1981 in contrast to November 1980 shows a decline in manufacturing jobs and modest improvement in the nonmanufacturing sector. Manufacturing employment was down by 9,900 (-1.2 per nt) overall. Stone c and glass industries lost 700 (-3.8 per cent) of their workers and the category of other durable goods declined by 500 (-3.5 per cent). In contrast, several durable goods industries increased: furniture and fixtures grew by 1,400 (1.7 per cent); primary metals up 200 (2.5 per cent); transporation equipment up 300 (2.0 per cent). The manufacturers of nondurable goods lost 5,300 workers (-2.1 per cent) in textile mill products; 1,400 (-3.7 per cent) in chemical and allied; 1,800 (-6.6 per cent) in rubber and miscellaneous plastic products. In the nonmanufacturing sector 800 (0.1 per cent) more workers were employed in November 1981 over 1980. The very slight improvement was most evident in the 10,700 (3.1 per cent) worker increase in service and miscellaneous industries; 2,100 (1.8 per cent) jobs were added in transportation, communications and public utilities; and 900 (0.9 per cent) more were employed in finance, insurance and real estate. Declines occurred in construction down 6,700 (-5.7 per cent), trade down 2,100 (-0.4 per cent), government down 3,700 (-0.9 per cent), and mining down 400 (-7.8) per cent). The average hourly earnings of production workers in North Carolina's manufacturing industries were \$6.16 in November 1961, up \$0.02 from the previous month and up \$0.55 from one year earlier. The average weekly hours worked by production workers in manufacturing industries in November were 38.7 down from Ocr's 39.1 and down from 39.6 in November 1980.



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