

Total Unemployment Rate Rose .2 Percent In October

North Carolina's total unemployment rate for October rose above the previous month's figure for the first time in four months. At 5.6 percent, the rate exceeded September's 5.4 percent but was considerably below October 1980's 6.4 percent according to figures released today by the state Employment Security Commission (ESC). Floyd Outland of ESC's Labor Market Information Division says, "The reversal is due to various small layoffs by manufacturing firms which terminated a total of 6,800 employees." According to Outland, "Our unemployment rate is considerably better than the national rate, and we anticipate staying significantly below national figures."

The national unadjusted unemployment rate in October was 7.5 percent, up slightly from September's 7.3 percent.

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According to the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina, the average hourly earnings of production workers in manufacturing industries were \$6.13 in October of 1981, up \$0.06 from the previous month and up \$0.58 from one year earlier.

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People working in a new office building planned for Charlotte will be able to jog during lunch, shower and return to their jobs without ever leaving the building's grounds.

Or, if they're not sports minded, they can eat lunch outdoors while overlooking a lake, fountain, large oak trees and a rolling, natural terrain.

The unusual office setting is part of the plan for the Willow Oak Building, a new office facility planned for the Oakhill Business Park, a development owned by the NCNB Real Estate Fund.

"The entire Oakhill Business Park, and the Willow Oak Building in particular, are designed with



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people in mind," remarked Dan Page, vice president with Charter Properties, Inc., which is assisting the NCNB Real Estate Fund with the Building's development.

"We plan to create a pleasant place for people to work," Page added. "The special features of the Willow Oak Building and the environment around it will make it different from other office complexes."

Special features of the new building will include shower facilities, a glass, three-story atrium lobby, interior landscaping complementing the lobby and wood accents throughout the building.

And the environment around the building will include mature oak trees, two lakes and an overall park design that will preserve the natural surroundings.

Charter Properties, Inc. is assisting the NCNB Real Estate Fund with coordinating the building's development and will be the exclusive leasing and management agents.

Construction of the new building is scheduled to begin this month, with occupancy slated for July of 1982. The 40,000 square feet, two-story general office building will cost \$2 million.

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Minority suppliers seeking to penetrate the lucrative corporate

market can now find help through the National Business League's Corporate Guide for Minority Vendors. The Corporate Guide is a unique national publication that offers comprehensive information regarding minority procurement opportunities with many of the country's top-firms. Participating firms, many of them Fortune 500 companies, have recognized the Corporate Guide as an effective way to demonstrate their willingness to do business with minority vendors.

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By identifying the needs and specific purchasing personnel of each firm, the Guide provides valuable entry information for minority vendors. The Guide includes an advertisement of each corporation's procurement policies and procedures; an alphabetical directory of purchasing personnel a list of products and services sought by participating corporations; and a new "How To" section which discusses in detail how to prepare a corporate solicitation package.

Some of the numerous corpora-

tions that are sponsors of the 1981 edition include the Celanese Corporation, Rockwell International, United States Teel, Boeing Aerospace Company, the Coca-Cola Company, International Business Machines and many others.

Black and minority businesses have begun to play a vital role in the nation's economic productivity and growth according to the officials of the National Business League.

They agree that by expanding procurement opportunities for this promising sector, corporations can assist their full entry into the economic mainstream. Since the premier edition six years ago, the Corporate Guide has become a principal element ignoring that partnership.

The Corporate Guide for Minority Vendors may be obtained by sending \$1 for postage to the NBL Communications Department.

Please make your check or money order payable to National Business League, 4324 Georgia Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20011.

Founded in 1900 by Booker T. Washington, the National Business League is the nation's oldest business organization. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the League's growing membership can be found in 120 chartered chapters in 37 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, more than 50 national minority business, trade and professional associations are affiliated with the League through its National Council for Policy Review.

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Robert T. Landers, 41, has been named assistant planning director with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission, effective December 21. Landers will replace Fred Bryant, who is retiring after 26 years of service with the City.

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