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LABOR MARKET INFORMATION	Current Month ^P MAY 2014	Prior Month ¹ APR 2014	Prior Year ¹ MAY 2013
U.S. Unemployment Rate	6.3%	6.3%	7.5%
North Carolina Unemployment Rate	6.4%	6.2%	8.3%
Number of workers unemployed in North Carolina	300,917	292,122	391,216
Number of workers employed in North Carolina	4,397,574	4,387,387	4,315,582
Size of North Carolina Civilian Labor Force	4,698,491	4,679,509	4,706,798
Estimated Nonfarm Employment in North Carolina	4,122,300	4,116,600	4,044,700

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) ACTIVITY ²	Current Month MAY 2014	Prior Month ¹ APR 2014	Prior Year ¹ MAY 2013
Individuals receiving UI benefits ²	42,382	44,892	90,858
Weeks of UI paid ²	158,520	173,699	304,500
Amount paid in UI and Federal Benefits ^{2,4,5}	\$36.5 Million	\$39.9 Million	\$177.5 Million
Amount paid in UI ^{2,3}	\$35.4 Million	\$38.5 Million	\$88.4 Million
Amount paid in Federal Benefits – EUC Tier I ⁴	\$15,390	\$4,004	\$31.9 Million
Amount paid in Federal Benefits – EUC Tier II ⁴	\$6,353	\$2,116	\$24.4 Million
Amount paid in Federal Benefits – EUC Tier III ⁴	\$3,226	\$1,335	\$15.3 Million
Amount paid in Federal Benefits – EUC Tier IV ⁴	\$1,093	\$2,040	\$12.9 Million
Amount paid in Federal Benefits – EB ⁵	\$61	\$1,825	\$2,582
Minimum/Maximum amount of UI benefits (per week) ²	\$15 / \$350	\$15 / \$350	\$46 / \$535
Average Weekly UI Benefit Amount ²	\$223.16	\$221.91	290.25
Average Weekly UI Benefit Amount (total unemployment) ⁶	\$227.93	\$227.41	\$301.06
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.3%	1.4%	2.1%
Total collected in UI Taxes in 12-month period ending May 2014	\$1.6 Billion	\$1.5 Billion	\$1.5 Billion
Total paid in UI Benefits in 12-month period ending May 2014 ²	\$731.0 Million	\$784.0 Million	\$1.2 Billion
Trust Fund Balance	-\$1.0 Billion	-\$1.6 Billion	-\$2.1 Billion
Federal Loan Balance	\$1.0 Billion	\$1.6 Billion	\$2.1 Billion
State Reserve Balance	\$77.1 Million	\$31.5 Million	\$80.1 Million
Initial Claims ²	23,306	21,988	48,287
Initial Claims Attached ⁷	51	67	19,129
New Claims ²	19,691	19,181	29,231
New Claims Attached ⁷	39	61	4,461
Weeks Claimed ²	219,513	240,312	367,990
Weeks Claimed Attached ⁷	35	85	36,857
Claimants receiving First Payments ²	11,848	11,169	18,260
Claimants receiving Final Payments ²	6,801	6,188	10,817
Average Duration (monthly)	17.5 Weeks	17.7 Weeks	15.9 Weeks
Average Duration (calendar year quarter ending) ⁸	Apr. 13 – Mar. 14	Jan. 13 – Dec. 13	Apr. 12 – Mar. 13
Average Duration (Apr. 2013 – Mar. 2014) ⁸	17.8 Weeks	17.4 Weeks	16.1 Weeks
Duration Ranking (Apr. 2013 – Mar. 2014) ⁸	13 th	18 th	29 th

UI BENEFITS PAID – TOP 15 COUNTIES
MAY 2014²

1. Mecklenburg	\$4,719,184	6. Durham	\$830,643	11. Cabarrus	\$621,414
2. Wake	\$3,428,902	7. New Hanover	\$778,681	12. Davidson	\$565,766
3. Guilford	\$1,909,932	8. Gaston	\$750,290	13. Johnston	\$543,156
4. Forsyth	\$1,284,261	9. Union	\$673,444	14. Iredell	\$528,788
5. Cumberland	\$982,054	10. Buncombe	\$658,812	15. Catawba	\$527,598

^P Represents North Carolina preliminary data

¹ Data in this column represent prior month, prior quarter or prior year data; i.e., prior year equals 2013 data.

² Regular UI benefits paid under the state UI program unless otherwise noted.

³ Includes benefits paid according to the federal ETA 5159 Claims and Payment Activities Report.

⁴ The Emergency Unemployment Compensation program (EUC08) ended in North Carolina on June 29, 2013. North Carolina will continue to pay EUC08 benefits for weeks prior to June 29, 2013.

⁵ Extended Benefits program (EB) provides 80 percent or up to a maximum of 20 weeks of extended unemployment insurance benefits.

⁶ Average Weekly UI Benefit Amount (total unemployment) utilizing calculations as stated in the ETA UI Data Summary.

⁷ Attached unemployment occurs when an individual is either partially or totally unemployed because of lack of work during a payroll week as established by his employer, but the individual retains his attachment to the payroll and work force of that employer.

⁸ Average Duration and Ranking as stated in the ETA UI Data Summary (calendar year quarter ending).

Highlights

The N.C. Department of Commerce Division of Employment Security (DES) paid \$36,545,095 in Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits to unemployed claimants across North Carolina during May 2014, down 8.4 percent from April (\$39,913,892), and 79.4 percent from May a year ago (\$177,469,372). These payments include state and federally funded benefits administered under the State UI, Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) and Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service Members (UCX) programs. North Carolina paid \$35,375,860 in regular UI benefits from the State UI program in May 2014, down 8.2 percent from the previous month (\$38,544,813), and 60.0 percent from May a year ago (\$88,381,312). A total of \$1,143,012 was paid in UCFE and UCX benefits administered under Regular UI in May 2014, down 15.8 percent from May (\$1,357,734) and 74.6 percent from May of last year (\$4,504,889). The Emergency Unemployment Compensation program (EUC08) ended in North Carolina on June 29, 2013; however, North Carolina will continue to pay EUC08 benefits for weeks prior to this date.

There were 158,520 weeks compensated for Regular UI under the State UI program in May 2014, down 8.7 percent from April (173,699), and 47.9 percent from May a year ago (304,500). Claimants, who were partially unemployed and qualified for UI benefits, received an average UI weekly benefit amount of \$223.16 in May 2014, up 0.6 percent from April (\$221.91), and down 23.1 percent from May 2013 (\$290.25). Claimants who were totally unemployed and qualified for UI benefits received an average of \$227.93 in May 2014, up 0.2 percent from April (\$227.41), and down 24.3 percent from May 2013 (\$301.06). (The maximum weekly benefit is currently \$350.00)

Individuals receiving one or more Unemployment Insurance (UI) payments, from all programs during calendar year 2013, were 383,492. Individuals receiving UI benefits for May 2014 totaled 42,382 — a 5.6 percent decrease from the prior month (44,892), and 53.4 percent from the May 2013 volume (90,858).

North Carolina's average duration of weeks claimed for Unemployment Insurance benefits increased from 17.4 weeks during the fourth quarter 2013 to 17.8 weeks during the first quarter 2014. The national average decreased from 16.8 weeks during the fourth quarter 2013 to 16.7 weeks during the first quarter 2014. During this time period, average duration for neighboring states and those within the Southeast Region were: Kentucky 21.5; Virginia, 16.5; Florida, 16.2; Mississippi, 15.8; Alabama, 15.4; Tennessee, 15.0; South Carolina, 12.6; and Georgia, 11.0.

May's statewide Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR), at 1.3 percent, was below the 1.4 percent of April 2014 and the 2.1 percent of May a year ago.

The Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund balance was at a deficit of \$1,032,760,575.71 on May 31, 2014. Since Jan. 1, 2014, when the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund was at a deficit of \$1,829,007,705.45, the deficit improved \$796,247,129.74. During May, DES collected \$604,994,408.75 in Unemployment Insurance taxes assessed to employers. The Federal Loan had a balance of \$1,037,147,665.71, and the State Reserve Fund had a balance of \$77,074,228.34.

There were 23,306 state UI Initial Claims (excluding Interstate Liable, UCX and UCFE) filed in May 2014, up 6.0 percent from the prior month's total of 21,988. Compared with May 2013 (48,287), Initial Claims' volume decreased 51.7 percent. Of the 23,306 Initial Claims in May 2014, 51 were attached Initial Claims, which decreased 16 from the prior month's total of 67, and decreased 99.7 percent from May 2013 (19,129).

There were 19,691 New Claims in May 2014, up 2.7 percent from the prior month's total of 19,181, and down 32.6 percent from May 2013 level (29,231). Attached New Claims in May totaled 39, a decrease of 22 from the prior month (61), and fell 99.1 percent from May 2013 (4,461).

DES processed a total of 219,513 weeks claimed for Unemployment Insurance in May 2014, down 8.7 percent from April (240,312), and 40.3 percent from May a year ago (367,990). Attached weeks claimed in May totaled 35, a decrease of 50 from the prior month (85), and fell 99.9 percent from May 2013 (36,857).

In May 2014, there were 11,848 claimants receiving first payments for unemployment insurance benefits — a 6.1 percent increase from the prior month (11,169), and a 35.1 percent decrease from the May 2013 volume (18,260). In May 2014, there were 6,801 claimants who received their final payment for unemployment benefits — a 9.9 percent increase from the prior month (6,188), and a 37.1 percent decrease from May 2013 (10,817).

As of March 31, 2014, there were 199,948 covered employers in the state compared to 199,263 at the end of the prior quarter, and 197,913 at the end of March 2013.