

Robeson County: Current Economic Picture

By

Mohammad Ashraf, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Economics
School of Business
The University of North Carolina at Pembroke
Email: mohammad.ashraf@uncp.edu
Web: www.uncp.edu/home/ashraf
Phone: (910) 521-6464
Fax: (910) 521-6750

Unemployment Rate

At the time of writing this document, July 2005, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that:

- The overall unemployment rate for the US was 5.3% in May 2005.
- The unemployment rate in North Carolina in May 2005 was 5.1%, slightly lower than the US average. Figure 1 below, shows the unemployment rates of the US and the fifty states.
- The unemployment rate in Robeson County has declined from 7.5% in January 2005 to 7.1% in May 2005. Figure 2 shows the 12-month change in unemployment rates.

Forecasts for Robeson County

Our estimates indicate that over the third quarter:

- The average unemployment rate will be around 6.8%.
- The average employment level will be around 45582.8 thousands.
- The average labor force will be around 48699.2 thousands.

These data indicate that the unemployment rate, level of employment, labor force level is improving. However, we still have one of the highest rates of unemployment in the US.

Figure 1

Unemployment rates by State, seasonally adjusted, May 2005

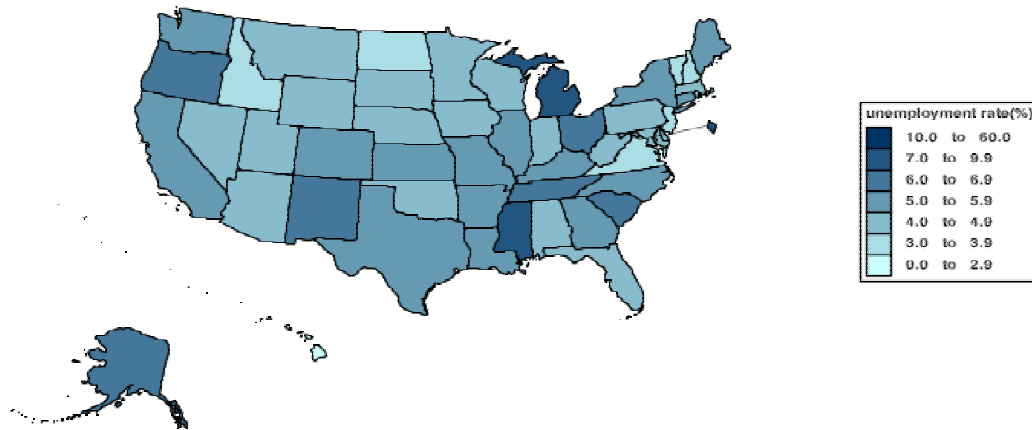
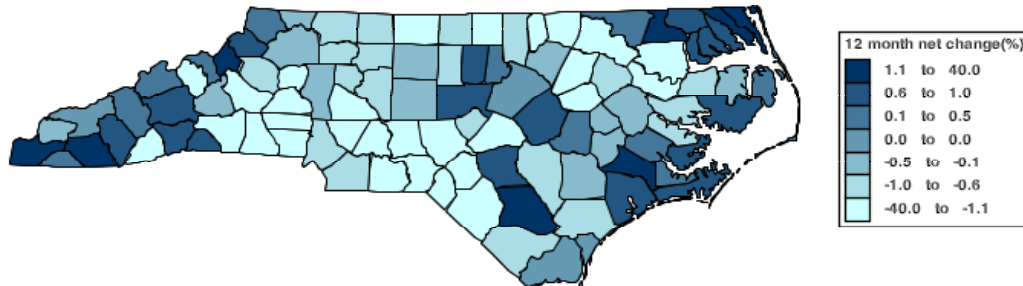


Figure 2

-month change in unemployment rates by county, not seasonally adjusted, North Carolina May 2005



A Publication of the Office of Economic and Business Research
School of Business
The University of North Carolina at Pembroke