

Media Release

January 5, 2010

From: Caroline County Board of Supervisors,
Percy Ashcraft, County Administrator

Re: Caroline County October Unemployment Rate

Virginia Employment Commission data released today for November indicates that Caroline County's unemployment rate rose to 9.5%, an unanticipated jump from October's 8.5%.

Caroline County's Web Site: www.visitcaroline.com now offers a direct link to the Virginia Employment Commission's web page featuring job opening for Caroline County businesses. To find the latest in job opening, go to Caroline County's site, www.visitcaroline.com/employment.html and click on **Virginia Workforce Connection.**

Caroline's unemployment rate had held steady since August. The 9.5% number represents a significant step up from October, but is still below the year's high of 10.5% in February.

Other communities in the region also showed increases in unemployment in November:

Spotsylvania remained at 5.3%.

Stafford also rose slightly from 5.4% to 5.5%.

King George rose from a previous steady 7.9% to 8.2%.

Hanover County rose slightly from 6.3% to 6.4%.

Fredericksburg increased in unemployment significantly from 8.7% to 9.5%.

The wide area increase indicates that the regional economy remained soft in the closing months of 2010. Reduction in construction jobs due to the onset of winter and plant closings in nearby communities may have contributed to the higher rates.

Elsewhere in Virginia, Arlington enjoyed the lowest November unemployment in Virginia at 3.9% and Martinsville suffered the highest unemployment in October at 18.9%. Both communities experienced a rise in unemployment in November.

Nationally, North Dakota had the lowest November unemployment at 3.3%, up from 2.8% while Nevada had the highest unemployment with 14% up from 13.7%. Virginia was ranked 9th in unemployment with only 6.6% (6.5% in October).

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