

Media Release

Caroline Unemployment Up Slightly June Increase Smallest in Fredericksburg Region

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Alan L. Partin, Interim County Administrator

Bowling Green, VA--Caroline County's unemployment rate rose slightly in the month of June to 7.8% according to statistics from the Virginia Employment Commission. Though higher than hoped for, the .2% increase is the smallest in the region. In comparison, Fredericksburg (10.3%) and King George (7.4%) both rose by .5%, while Spotsylvania (5.6%) and Stafford (5.2%) rose by .4% and .3% respectively.

Caroline has had the largest drop in unemployment and the smallest increases throughout this year —resisting the trends of a sluggish job market. The County's unemployment numbers do not reflect new hires in July by the McKesson contractor completing preparations for opening or the actual McKesson Corporation, which only recently began hiring. Caroline should start to see the effects of the McKesson hires with potentially lower unemployment numbers in late Fall.

Unemployment in Virginia is holding relatively steady at 6.3% and the national rate remains at 9.3%.

As federal spending appears likely to contract in the coming years, however, there may be a potential detrimental impact on Virginia. If the communities that are benefiting most from federal government contracts for their business base are excluded from the unemployment calculations, Virginia's overall rate goes up.

By removing northern Virginia counties like Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William, Loudoun and Fauquier from the calculation, Virginia's unemployment rate surges to 7%. Removing Stafford and Spotsylvania inches the rate to 7.1%. These counties, however, have very dynamic economies and would likely adjust in time to a reduction in federal spending.

Elsewhere in the Commonwealth, the City of Martinsville suffers the highest unemployment with 17.3% in spite of recent recruitment announcements, and Arlington has the lowest unemployment with a statistical full employment rate of 3.9%.

The Board of Supervisors and staff continue to focus efforts on creating economic development and employment opportunities for County residents.

Contact:

Gary R. Wilson

Director of Economic Development & Tourism

804.633.4074

gwilson@co.caroline.va.us