

# Robeson County: Current Economic Picture

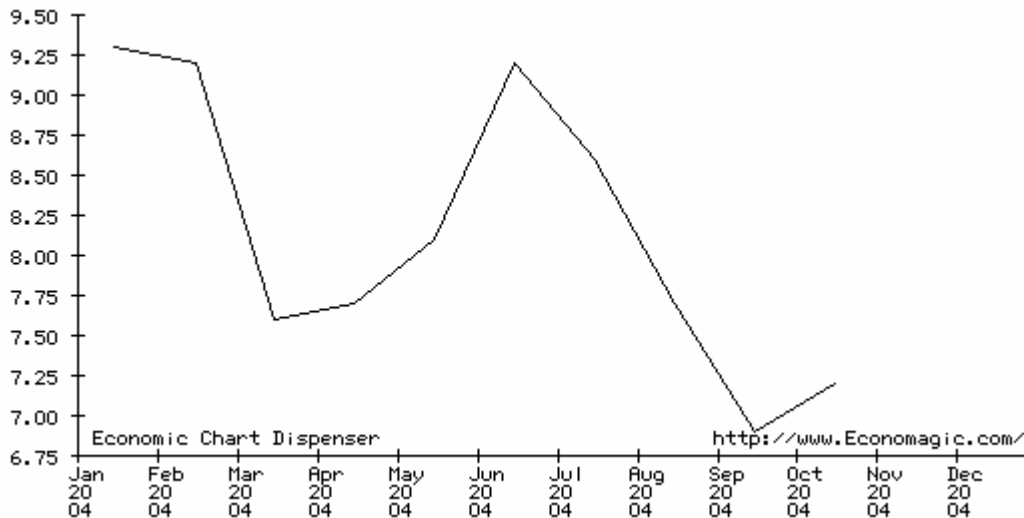
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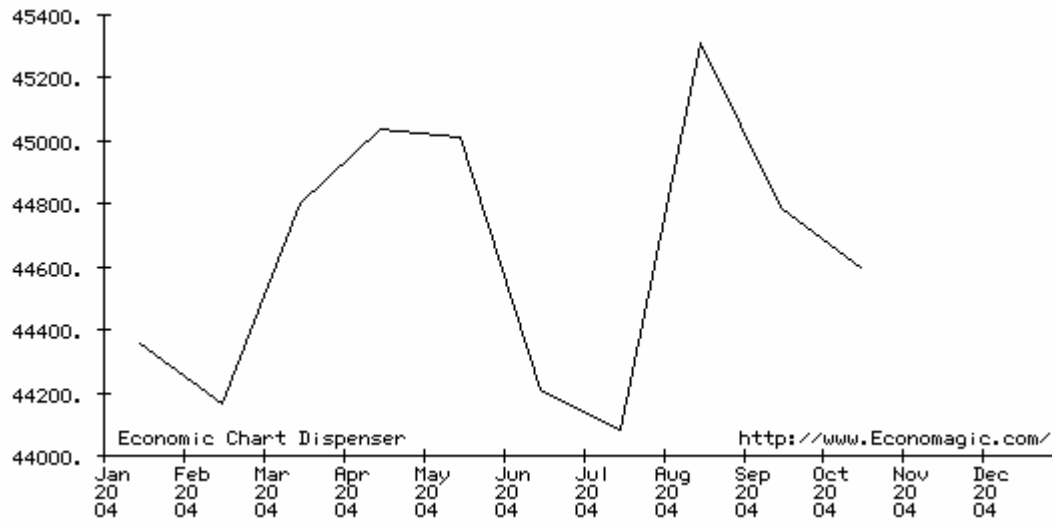
## Robeson County During 2004

2004 was a good year for Robeson county. Our unemployment rate decreased from 9.3 percent in January 2004 to 7.2 percent in October 2004. We also saw an increase in employment level. The number of individuals employed in January 2004 were 44165000, and in October 2004 there were 44598000 individuals with jobs (data for November and December 2004 were not available at the time of writing this document). Please see figures 1 and 2 for a graphical explanation.

**Figure 1: Unemployment Rate**



**Figure 2: Employment Level (in 1000s)**



We estimate the unemployment rate during the first quarter of 2005 to be between 7.11 percent and 8.02 percent. Our estimates indicate that the level of employment in Robeson county will be between 44401000 and 44431000. (Data Source: [www.economagic.com](http://www.economagic.com))

**Some Figures about the U.S. and North Carolina**

On December 28, 2004, U.S. Census Bureau released its estimates for the population growth in the US. According to the estimates on January 1, 2005, population of the United States will be 295,160,302. This is a net increase of 2,835,602 from January 1, 2004. In percentage terms, the US population increased by 1.0 percent from January 1, 2004 to January 1, 2005.

It is expected that we will experience one birth every eight seconds and one death every 13 seconds. The net migration to the United States in January 2005 is expected to be one person every 26 seconds. This means that our total population will increase by one person every 12 seconds.

During July 1, 2003 and July 1, 2004, North Carolina and New Mexico replaced California and Hawaii in the list of top-ten fastest growing states. In North Carolina, population increased from 8,421,190 to 8,541,221 during this period—a change of about 1.4 percent. This makes North Carolina the 6<sup>th</sup> fastest growing state in the nation with respect to numbers and the 9<sup>th</sup> fastest growing state with respect to percent change.

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