

Robeson County: Current Economic Picture

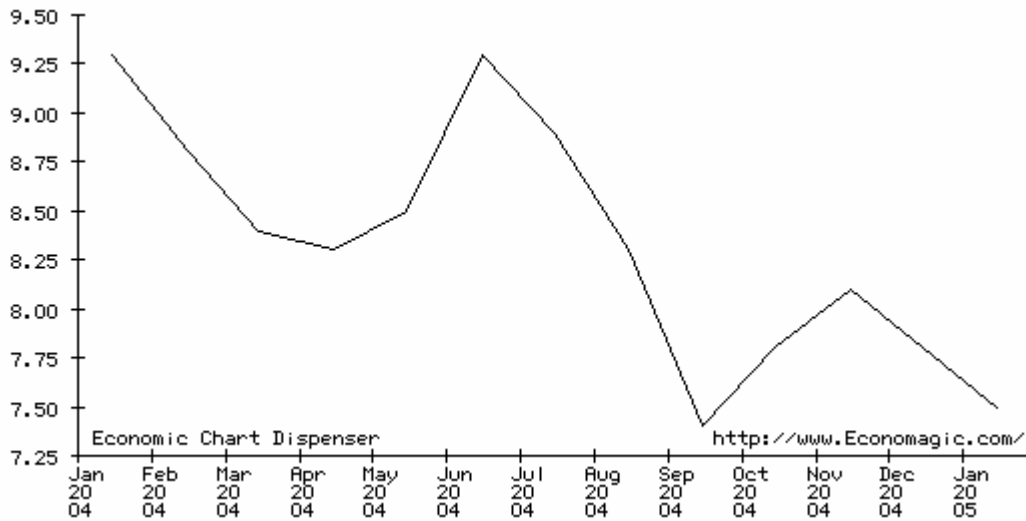
By

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Unemployment Rate

According to the latest data available at the time of writing this document, our unemployment rate has declined from 9.3% in January 2004 to 7.5% in January 2005. Figure 1 graphs these data.

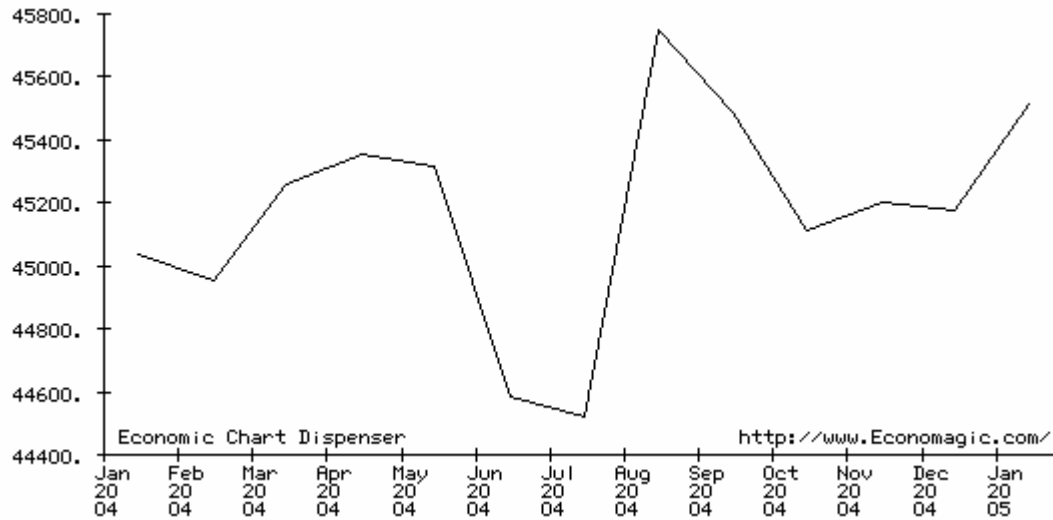
Figure 1: Robeson County Unemployment Rate



Employment Level

The data also show that our employment level increased from 44,354,000 in January 2004 to 45,513,000 January 2005. This is an increase of about 2.6%. Figure 2 graphs these data.

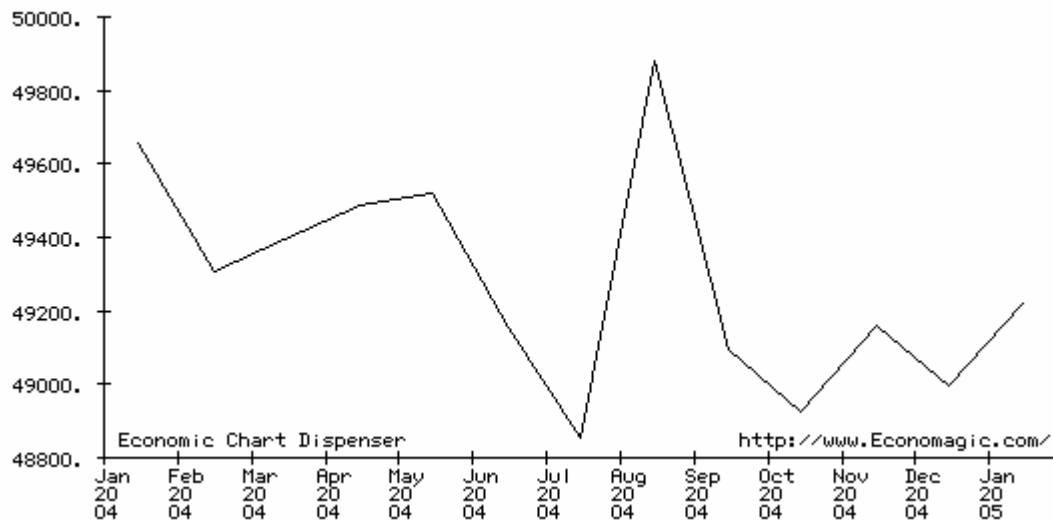
Figure 2: Robeson County Employment Level (in 000s)



Labor Force

If we compare the labor force statistics for the same time period, January 2004-January 2005, the numbers have declined by about 0.9%. In January 2004 the level of labor force was 49,654,000, and in January 2005 the labor force level was 49,219,000. Figure 3 graphs these data.

Figure 3: Robeson County Labor Force (in 000s)



Forecasts: Second Quarter 2005

Our estimates indicate that our unemployment rate during the second quarter of 2005 will further decline to around 6.86%. If the current trend continues, the employment level during the second quarter of 2005 will be around 44,732,000, and our labor force will be around 48,431,000.

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