

Media Release

Caroline County Unemployment Largest Drop In Region Second Month in a Row

Lowest Unemployment Rate Since December 2008

June 1, 2011

Alan Partin, Interim County Administrator

Bowling Green, Virginia:

Caroline County unemployment dropped 1% in April from 8.4% to 7.4%, the second month in a row where the County led the Fredericksburg region in declining joblessness according to the Virginia Employment Commission.

The last time Caroline had an unemployment rate lower than 7.4% was in December 2008; the start of the international recession that impacted nearly every corner of the globe and saw staggering losses in real estate values and employment opportunity.

Caroline's large drop in unemployment for the second month in a row may be an encouraging sign that the local economic situation may be strengthening. County staff also notes that national economic conditions remain fragile while high gasoline prices are clearly negatively affecting the travel industry.

Every community in the Fredericksburg region saw lower unemployment in April. Stafford declined from 5.4% to 4.9%; Spotsylvania 5.6% to 5.1%; King George 7.5% to 6.7%; and Fredericksburg from 9.7% to 9.3%.

Elsewhere in Virginia, Arlington enjoyed the lowest unemployment at 3.4%; while Martinsville suffered the highest unemployment with 16.7%. The City of Williamsburg's 13.7% unemployment serves as a barometer for the impact of current economic conditions as it affects the travel industry, given that community's investment in the tourism industry.

Nationally, North Dakota held the lead with low unemployment at 3.2%, Nevada, the highest unemployment with 11.9%. Virginia was 7th of 51 states and the District of Columbia at 5.8%.

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