

The Daily Herald

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The Daily Herald Staff Writer

July 7, 2008 - HALIFAX — Halifax County's economy took an upward turn in 2010, according to Economic Development Director Cathy Scott.

Scott gave a conservative report on the economy with slightly positive changes to Halifax County Commissioners Tuesday.

She said the current unemployment rate — May figures — is 12.1 percent, down from a high of 13.1 percent in 2009, but still double the 6.1 percent figures for 2000.

Scott's figures present a brighter picture for surrounding counties as well. Edgecombe shows a 14.8 percent unemployment rate compared to 6.1 in 2000 — that's down from a high of 16.1 percent last year. Nash County unemployment is at 12 percent, down from 12.5 percent last year. Northampton's unemployment is at 10 percent and is double its 2000 figures, but improved nearly an entire percent over last year. Warren County comes in at 11.5 percent for 2010 — almost double its 6.2 unemployment figures for 2000, but they too improved by one percent over last year.

There are 2,954 people in Halifax County without work, compared to Edgecombe with 3,593, Nash with 5,553 unemployed people, Northampton at 872 and Warren at 910. These figures in the five counties show improvements over 2009.

Scott said the county lost 21 private businesses in the past year, primarily in retail, finance and insurance, and in the healthcare industry.

She said local government lost jobs last year, while state and federal positions stayed relatively the same.

Scott shared photographs of the industrial park, with all its recent growth and promise of new positions.

Scott said indications are Halifax County will pull out of this economic slump, it's just going to be slow, "We've fared pretty well so far in this economy. We only hope this trend in economic development continues."

Unemployment in the area

The following is based on the latest numbers as of May and are improvements over last year.

2,954

Halifax County

872

Northampton County

3,593

Edgecombe County

5,553

Nash County

910

Warren County