

Print this Page

[Return to story](#)

Area unemployment rate at highest level since '92

April 8, 2010 3:10 am

BY BILL FREEHLING

The Fredericksburg-area jobless rate rose to 7.3 percent in February, its highest monthly tally in 18 years.

The jobless rate in the George Washington Regional Commission planning district--Fredericksburg and Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania and Stafford counties--rose from 7.1 percent in January and 6.5 percent in February 2009.

The data, which aren't adjusted for seasonal factors, were released yesterday. The Virginia Employment Commission noted that February's record snowfall impacted the job tallies.

The region's 7.3 percent jobless rate is the highest since March 1992, when it was 7.9 percent. Fredericksburg and Caroline both had double-digit jobless rates.

Still, the region continues to do better than nearly all others in Virginia. Of the state's 21 planning districts, only those in the Northern Virginia and Charlottesville areas had lower rates than the GWRC in February.

Stafford's 6.5 percent rate was tied for seventh-best in the state (Arlington's 4.7 percent rate was the best; Martinsville's 21.4 percent figure the worst). Fauquier and Spotsylvania also finished in the top 10.

The statewide jobless rate was 7.7 percent, which was the highest since February 1983. It was up from 7.6 percent in January and 6.6 percent in February 2009.

Virginia tied with New Hampshire for the 10th-lowest jobless rate in the U.S. in February. The seasonally unadjusted U.S. rate was 10.4 percent that month.

Bill Freehling: 540/374-5405

Email: bfreehling@freelancestar.com

LOCALITY

Feb. '10

Jan. '10

Feb. '09

Fredericksburg

10.7%

10.4%

10.5%

Stafford

6.5%

6.3%

5.6%

Spotsylvania

6.6%

6.4%

5.8%

Caroline

10.5%

10.1%

9.2%

King George

9.2%

9.3%

8.7%

Westmoreland

9.9%

9.5%

9.3%

Orange

9.3%

9.0%

8.3%

Fauquier

6.6%

6.5%

5.8%

Culpeper

9.4%

9.2%

8.8%

Louisa

9.5%

9.9%

8.2%