

Area Unemployment Falls To 5.3 Percent

Matches Lowest Rate In Nearly Four Years

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HARRISONBURG — Unemployment fell in the Harrisonburg metro area last month to 5.3 percent, matching the lowest point in nearly four years.

The jobless rate for the metropolitan area, which includes the city and Rockingham County, has been that low in only one month, April, since December 2008.

In Harrisonburg alone, however, the rate from September to October remained flat at 6.5 percent, according to Virginia Employment Commission estimates released Wednesday.

The data show Rockingham County's rate dipped to 4.7 percent in October, a change of 0.3 percent from the month before.

The combined metro rate fell 0.3 percent month-over-month from 5.6 percent in September.

Other communities in the central Valley also saw their jobless rates decrease from September to October, matching the statewide trend.

Virginia's seasonally adjusted October unemployment rate was 5.7 percent, down 0.2 percent from the previous month. From September to October, the national adjusted unemployment rate rose 0.1 percent to 7.9 percent.

Local figures are not adjusted to take seasonal factors into account.

In Page County, October unemployment stood at 8.2 percent, down from 8.5 percent the month before.

Shenandoah County saw its rate drop to 5.9 percent from 6.1 percent in September.

The rate in Augusta County was 5 percent, down 0.3 percent from the month before.

Area unemployment figures for October were also more favorable compared to the same month last year.

In Harrisonburg, the rate in October 2011 was 7.1 percent, while Rockingham County's was 5.1 percent.

Page County's figure was 9.1 percent, and Shenandoah's stood at 6.8 percent. Augusta County's unemployment for October 2011 was 5.9 percent.

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