**North Carolina Employment Flat in December**

Employers added just 300 net new jobs in the final month of 2019, but North Carolina finished the year with a gain of 93,900 jobs—the fifth largest in the nation. The unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage point to 3.7%.

### A Weak End to a Strong Year
- December’s weak print was due mainly to an uncharacteristic 6,400-job loss in professional & business services. Leisure & hospitality was the strongest sector, adding 5,600 jobs on the month, and is up 5.9% over the year.
- North Carolina added 93,900 jobs in 2019—a 2.1% gain which ranks as the nation’s eighth strongest percentage gain. Private employment rose an even stronger 2.4%.

### 2020 Should Be a Good Year for North Carolina
- The unemployment rate fell 0.1 point to 3.7% as the 7,200-job gain in the household employment measure exceeded the rise in the labor force. It is now equal to the December 2018 rate again.
- Recently released population data show North Carolina’s population grew 1.0% in 2019. Charlotte and Raleigh continue to lead the way, attracting corporate relocations and business expansions, which are attracting jobseekers from other states.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Commerce and Wells Fargo Securities