



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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## Kerry Talks Down North Carolina Economy, While State Unemployment Rate Plummetts in July

*New Data Shows Another 8,400 New Private Sector Jobs Created Statewide Last Month*

**WASHINGTON** – Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) campaigned in Charlotte, North Carolina today and once again painted a gloomy economic picture seeking to instill fear in voters. At the same, a new report from the Department of Labor reported North Carolina employers continued to hire in July, adding an impressive 8,400 jobs. Even more striking is the fact that the statewide unemployment rate precipitously dropped from 5.5 percent in June to 5.0 percent in July.

Many analysts claim that the increases in employment are a result of the pro-growth tax policies promoted by the Bush Administration. In fact, since the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act was enacted last June, 55,000 private sector jobs have been created in North Carolina. The state unemployment rate has declined from a peak rate of 7.0 in April 2002 to 5.0 percent. Along with the steady increase in employment, after tax incomes are also rising, leaving consumers with the confidence to move forward.

**“Pessimism has never created one job in America” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. “John Kerry went to North Carolina armed with scare tactics and negative rhetoric, while the facts clearly show that the economy is strong and growing stronger.”**

Kerry remains hyper-critical of Presidents Bush’s tax cuts, charging that they have shifted the tax burden onto middle-class families and resulted in the elimination of jobs. Last week, a report from the Congressional Budget office contradicted his claims, showing that the all taxpayers pay less under the tax cuts and that the richest Americans have assumed a greater share of the overall tax bill.

**“John Kerry in unfairly attacking the tax cuts that have pulled our economic through the shocks of terrorist attacks, recession and war,” continued Norquist. “While our economy continues to grow and real people’s lives get better, Kerry wants to scare Americans with lies and negativity. This brand of pessimism is not the kind leadership we need from a presidential candidate.”**

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Chris Butler at (202) 785-0266 or at [cbutler@atr.org](mailto:cbutler@atr.org).