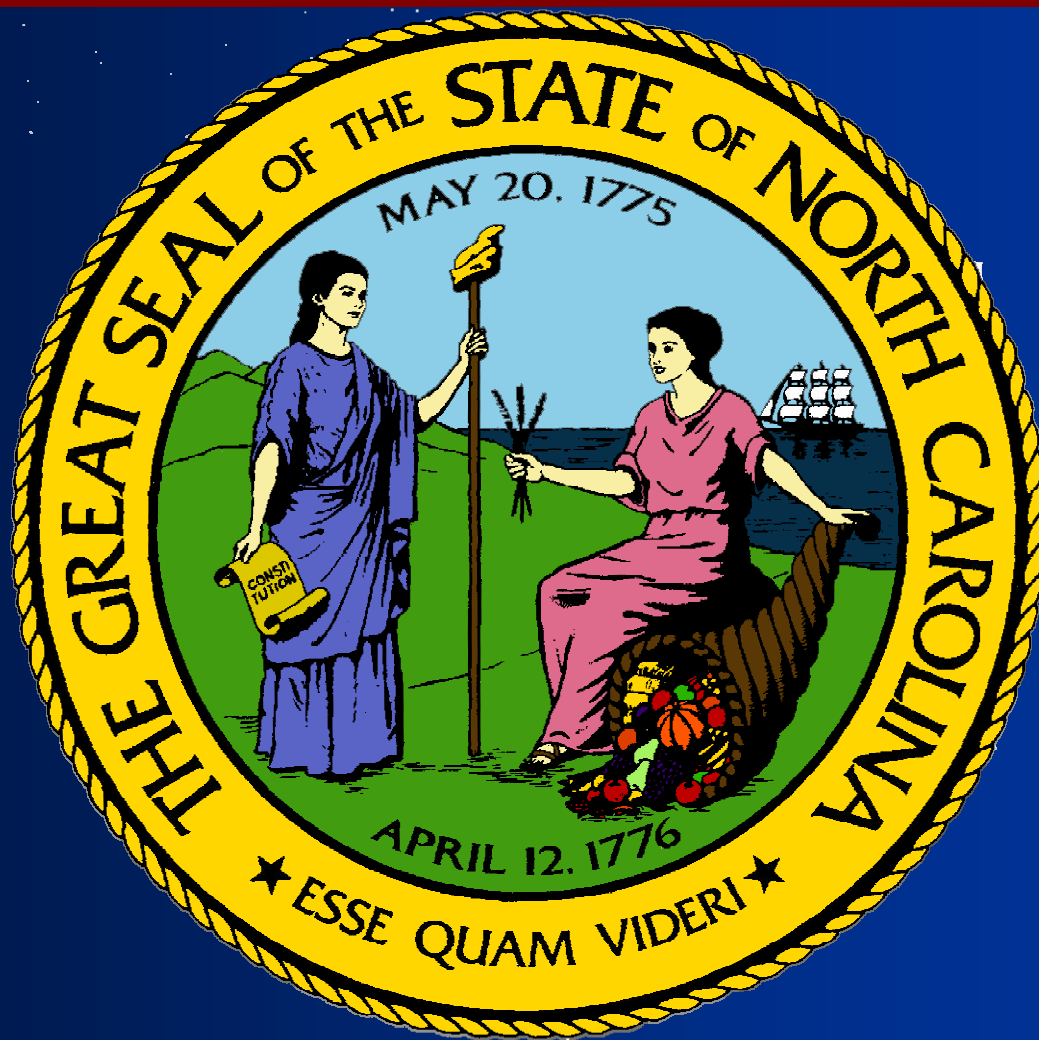


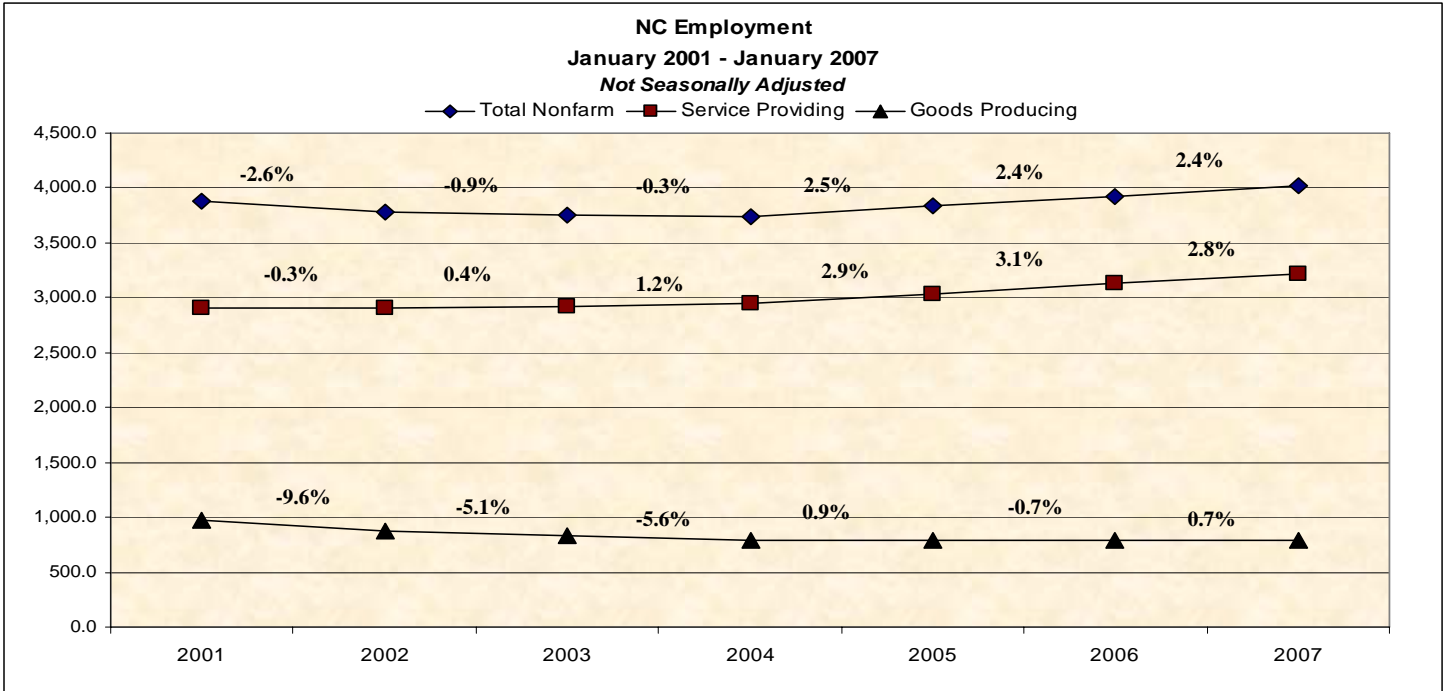
June 2007

North Carolina Employment Update

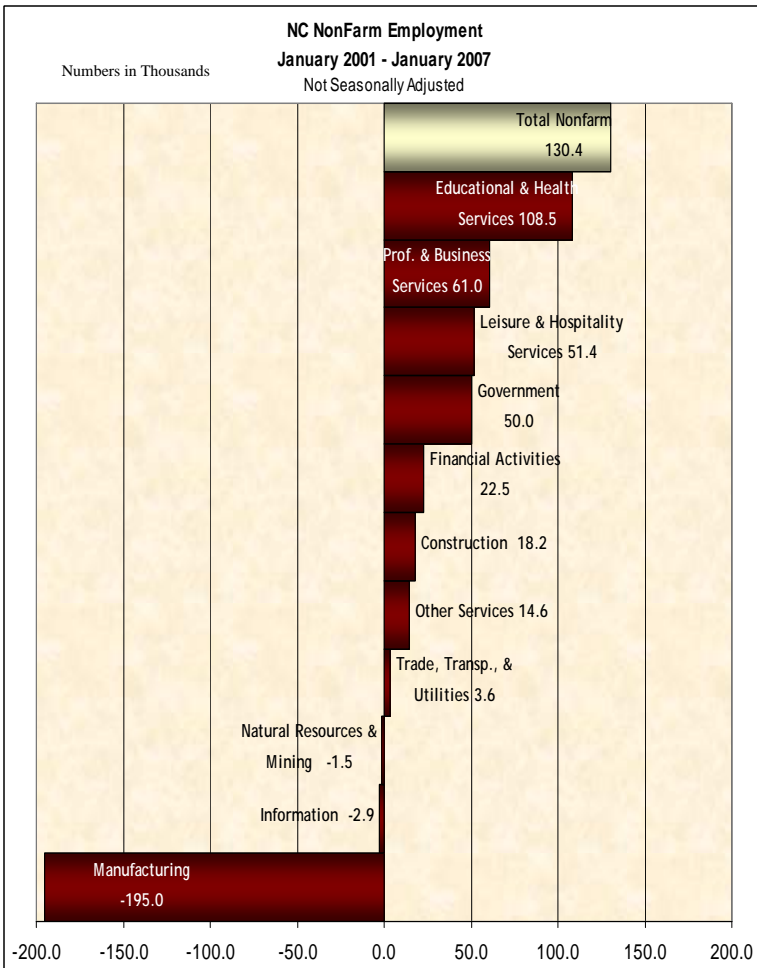


Employment Security Commission of North Carolina

Statewide



Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI



Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

□ Between 2001 and 2006, North Carolina's population grew by more than 656,964 people; an 8 percent increase to 8,856,505.* This rate of growth exceeds other states in the southern region as well as the nation.

□ North Carolina's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), constant 2000 dollars, increased \$60.9 billion to \$346.6 billion (21%) between 2001 and 2005, roughly comparable with the increase in the US GDP (23%)*.

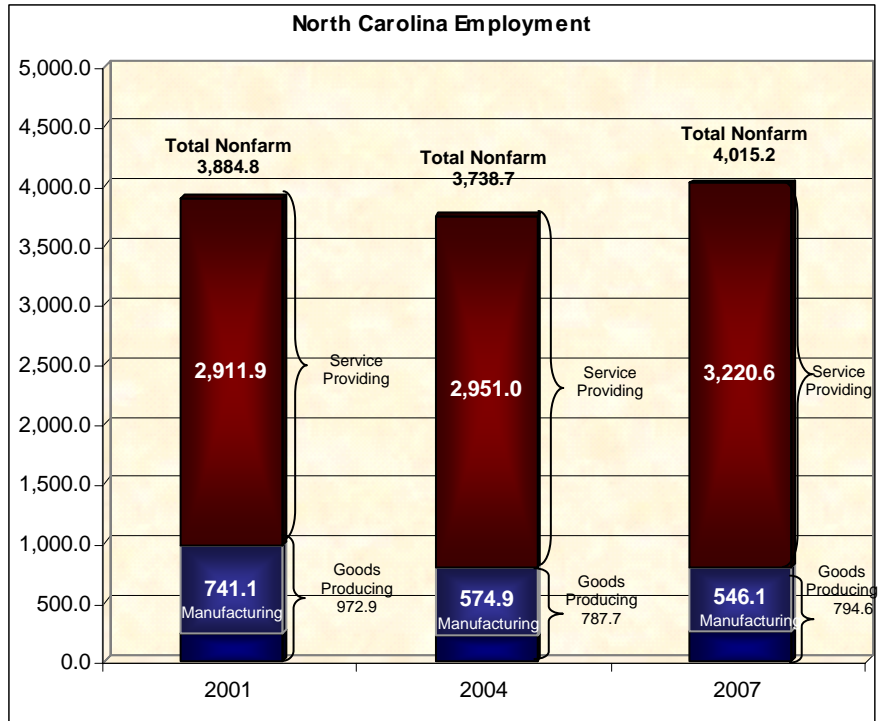
□ Between January 2001 and January 2007, the state's (not seasonally adjusted) labor force grew 313,575 (7.5%), while employment grew 291,567 (7.4%).

□ North Carolina's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate seems relatively unchanged between January 2001 and January 2007 (4.9% vs. 5.0%), a figure near the benchmark of which many economists consider "full employment." Nonetheless, this relatively static figure masks a dramatic increase followed by a relatively steady decrease in the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate peaked at 7.5 percent in January 2002 with recovery becoming pronounced beginning in 2004.

*Latest data available

❑ North Carolina suffered large losses in Manufacturing employment from January 2001 through January 2007, continuing and accelerating a long-term trend that has resulted in a reshaping of the state's industrial base. Manufacturing employment declined 195,000 (26.3%) during this period. Durable Goods Manufacturing employment fell 22.4 percent, with Furniture, Computer and Electronics Product and Electrical Equipment and Appliance Manufacturing accounting for the bulk of this loss.

❑ Non Durable Goods employment experienced a 30.3 percent loss, in large measure to the decline in the manufacturing of textiles. Textile Mills, Textile Product Mills and Apparel Manufacturing each lost more than half of their employment base during this six-year period.

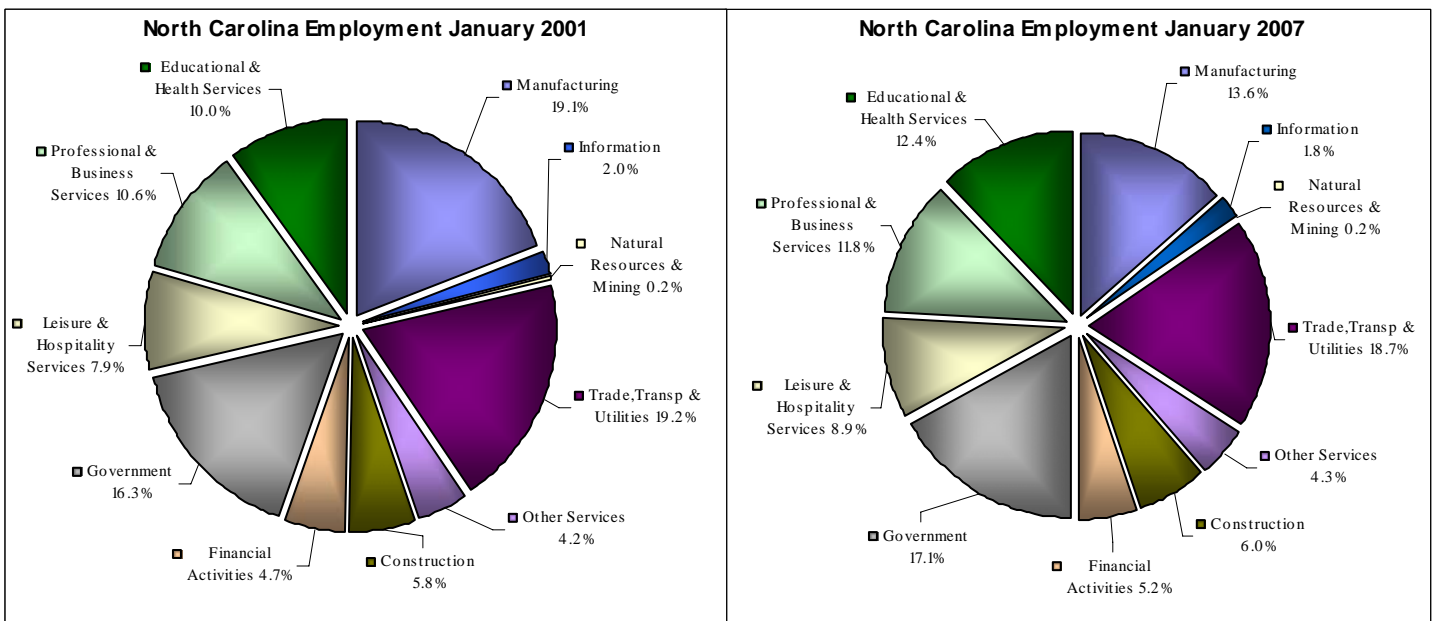


Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

❑ All Manufacturing sectors lost employment between 2001 and 2007, with the exception of Pharmaceutical and Medicine Manufacturing, which gained 3,400 (21.4%), and Food Manufacturing, a gain of 600 jobs (0.6%).

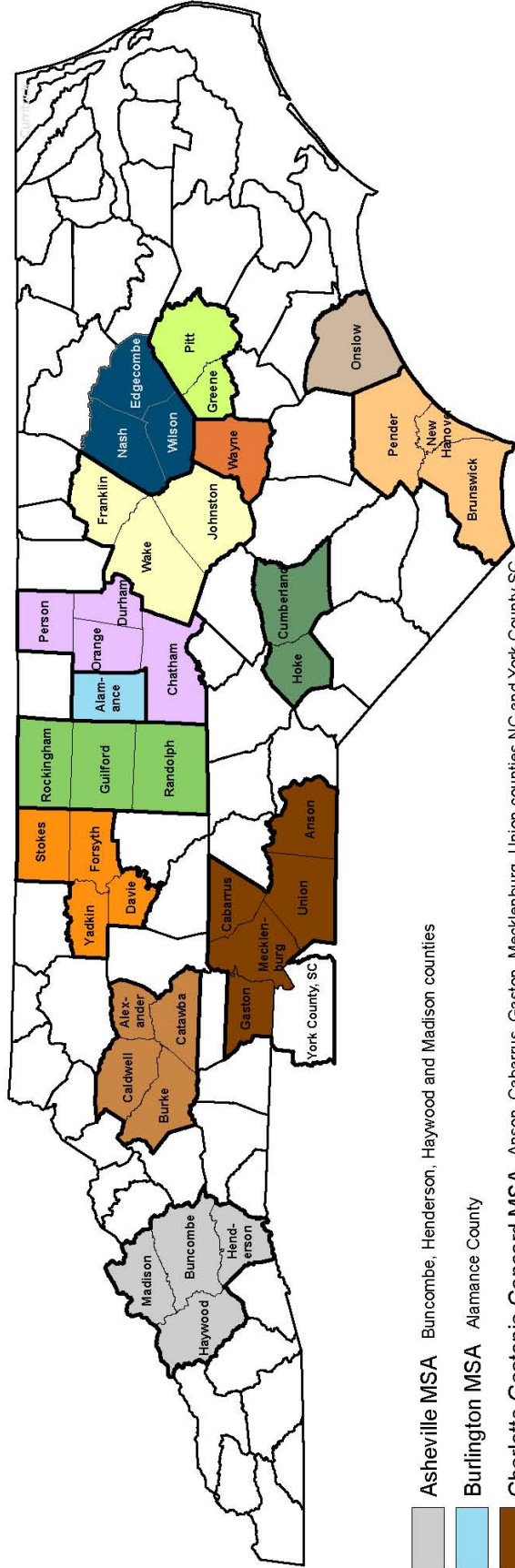
❑ In marked contrast to the decline in Manufacturing, the Service Providing industries experienced large gains of 308,700 jobs (10.6%). Major contributors to this growth were Health Care and Social Services, which showed an increase of 91,900 jobs (27.8%). Approximately half of this increase was attributable to growth in the Ambulatory Health sector. Large industry gains also occurred in Professional and Business Services, gaining 61,000 jobs (14.8%), Accommodation and Food Services added 47,500 jobs (17.8%) and Employment Services, 22,200 jobs (25.1%).

❑ In the public sector, Local Government experienced an increase of 42,200 (10.8%) with close to half of this increase related to Local Government Educational Services (20,900).



Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

North Carolina Metropolitan Statistical Areas



Note: Reporting for the Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord Metro includes York County SC data.

Map prepared by the Labor Market Information Division of the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina 5_2007

Metropolitan Statistical Area Population and Unemployment Rates

Metro Area	Population Estimates						2001 to 2006 Change	
	July 1, 2006*	July 1, 2005	July 1, 2004	July 1, 2003	July 1, 2002	July 1, 2001	Numeric	%
Asheville	398,009	391,850	387,088	382,127	377,871	373,823	24,186	6.5
Burlington	142,661	140,227	138,282	136,488	135,640	133,631	9,030	6.8
Charlotte/Gastonia/Concord (NC and SC)	1,583,016	1,521,474	1,472,619	1,437,558	1,406,500	1,374,686	208,330	15.2
Durham	464,389	456,180	449,669	444,881	440,990	434,432	29,957	6.9
Fayetteville	341,363	339,702	344,872	343,572	340,216	337,109	4,254	1.3
Goldensboro	113,847	113,827	113,978	113,153	113,077	113,171	676	0.6
Greensboro/High Point	685,378	674,219	665,317	661,224	656,444	651,908	33,470	5.1
Greenville	165,776	162,359	160,053	158,161	156,358	154,316	11,460	7.4
Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton	359,856	355,966	352,879	350,357	348,968	347,004	12,852	3.7
Jacksonville	150,673	150,508	154,312	151,122	149,583	148,006	2,667	1.8
Raleigh/Cary	994,551	951,809	915,187	887,887	861,925	834,589	159,962	19.2
Rocky Mount	146,276	145,194	144,705	144,072	143,647	143,355	2,921	2.0
Wilmington	326,166	314,608	302,787	293,332	287,351	281,325	44,841	15.9
Winston-Salem	456,614	448,220	440,897	436,537	433,250	428,635	27,979	6.5
Statewide	8,856,505	8,672,459	8,531,040	8,415,710	8,313,494	8,199,541	656,964	8.0
Region (South)	109,083,752	107,552,100	105,991,954	104,536,740	103,256,083	101,902,289	7,181,463	7.1
Nation	299,398,484	296,507,061	293,638,158	290,796,023	288,125,973	285,226,284	14,172,200	5.0

Note: The South region includes the South Atlantic division: Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia; the East South Central division: Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee; and the West South Central division: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.

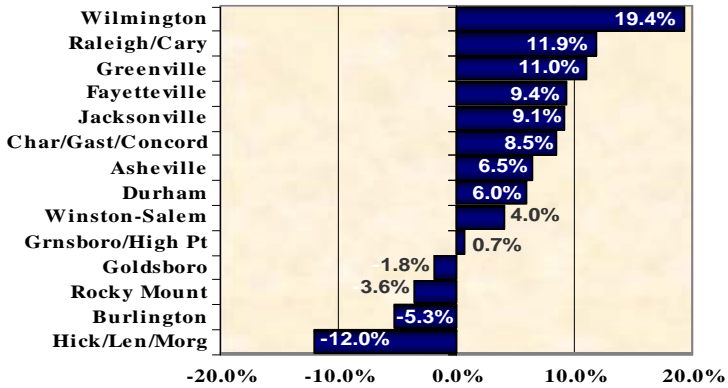
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates * Latest data available

Metro Area	Unemployment Rate						
	January 2001	January 2002	January 2003	January 2004	January 2005	January 2006	January 2007
Asheville	4.8	6.3	5.7	5.1	4.9	4.2	4.0
Burlington	4.1	7.5	7.5	6.8	6.0	5.6	5.6
Charlotte/Gastonia/Concord (NC and SC)	4.3	6.6	6.4	6.3	5.6	4.8	4.8
Durham	3.6	5.7	5.7	4.9	4.4	3.9	4.0
Fayetteville	5.6	8.0	7.1	6.2	5.5	5.3	5.6
Goldensboro	5.0	7.1	6.6	5.9	5.4	4.8	4.7
Greensboro/High Point	4.4	7.0	6.7	6.3	5.4	4.8	5.1
Greenville	5.2	7.1	6.5	6.0	5.8	5.0	5.2
Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton	4.5	8.9	8.2	7.5	6.7	6.0	6.4
Jacksonville	5.4	7.3	7.5	6.3	5.6	4.6	4.5
Raleigh/Cary	3.2	5.9	5.8	4.8	4.5	3.7	3.7
Rocky Mount	5.9	9.8	9.3	7.9	7.4	6.4	6.5
Wilmington	5.1	7.6	7.1	5.7	5.2	4.2	4.5
Winston-Salem	4.3	6.3	6.1	5.8	4.9	4.3	4.5
Statewide	4.9	7.5	6.9	6.3	5.7	4.9	5.0

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), ESC of NC, LMID

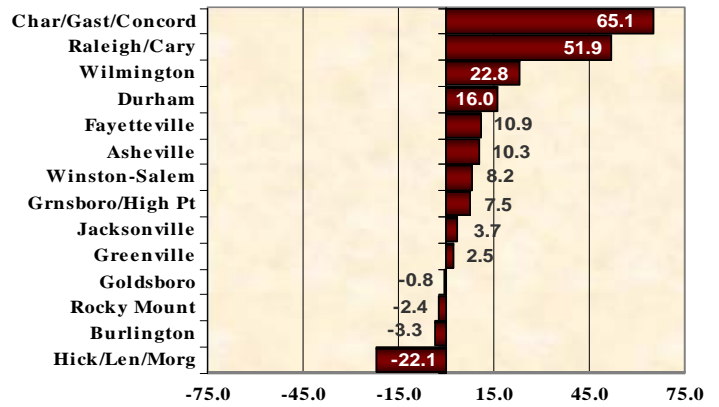
Metropolitan Statistical Areas (Metro) Percent/Net Change Jan. 2001-Jan. 2007

Metro Nonfarm Employment Percent Change
January 2001-January 2007
Not Seasonally Adjusted



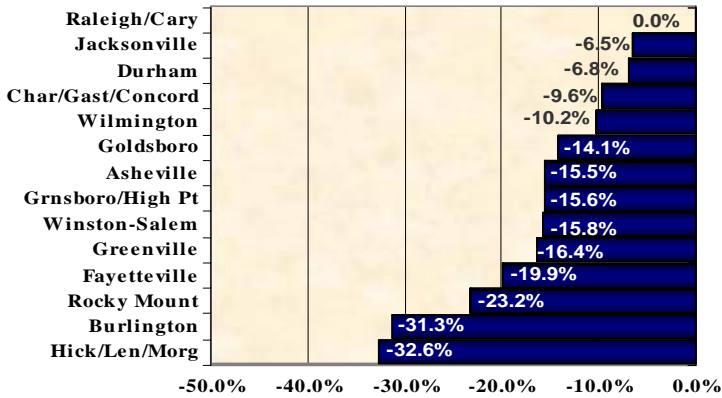
Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

Metro Nonfarm Net Employment Change
January 2001-January 2007
Numbers in Thousands
Not Seasonally Adjusted



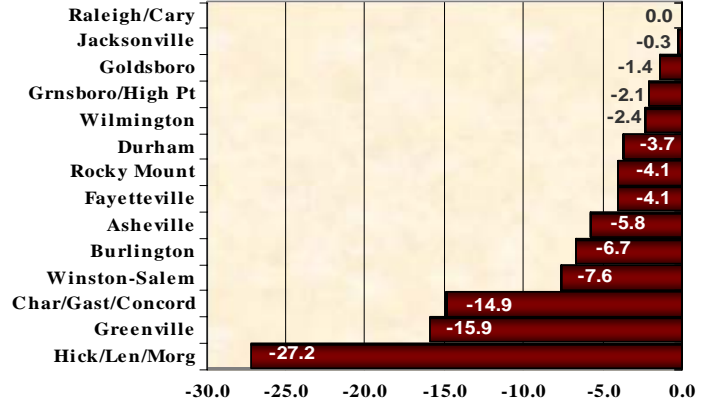
Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

Metro Goods Producing Employment Percent Change
January 2001-January 2007
Not Seasonally Adjusted



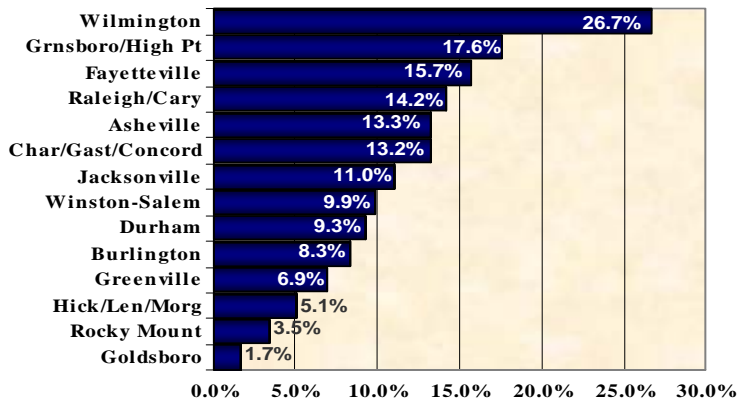
Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

Metro Goods Producing Net Employment Change
January 2001-January 2007
Numbers in Thousands
Not Seasonally Adjusted



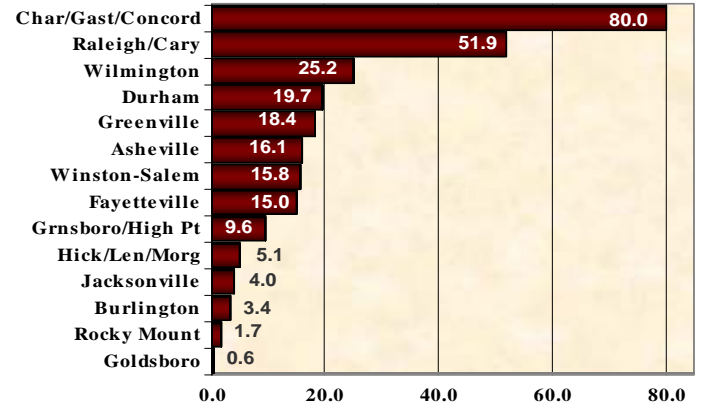
Source: Current Employment Statistics,

Metro Service Providing Employment Percent Change
January 2001-January 2007
Not Seasonally Adjusted



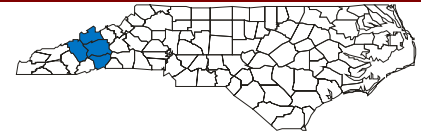
Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

Metro Service Providing Net Employment Change
January 2001-January 2007
Numbers in Thousands
Not Seasonally Adjusted



Source: Current Employment Statistics,

Asheville Metro



- ❑ As of July 2006, the population of the Asheville Metro was estimated to be 398,009, an increase of 24,186, or 6.5 percent since 2001.
- ❑ The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.8 percent, January 2001. In January 2002, the rate reached 6.3 percent, and in January 2007, 4.0 percent.
- ❑ Asheville's Total Nonfarm employment in January 2007 was 169,000, a net increase of 10,300 jobs (6.5%) since January 2001.

❑ The Goods Producing industries lost 5,800 jobs (15.5%) over the six-year period. However, these job losses were offset by an increase of 16,100 jobs (13.3%) in the Service Providing industries.

❑ Employment within the Manufacturing industry decreased by 6,100 jobs (22.3%) since January 2001. The loss was partly due to several business closings and layoffs within the Metro. Layoffs occurred within both Textile Mills and Furniture Manufacturing, with layoffs attributable to restructuring, slow sales and import competition. The Metro also experienced additional layoffs and closures in Electrical Equipment & Appliance and Transportation Equipment Manufacturing, mainly due to foreign competition.

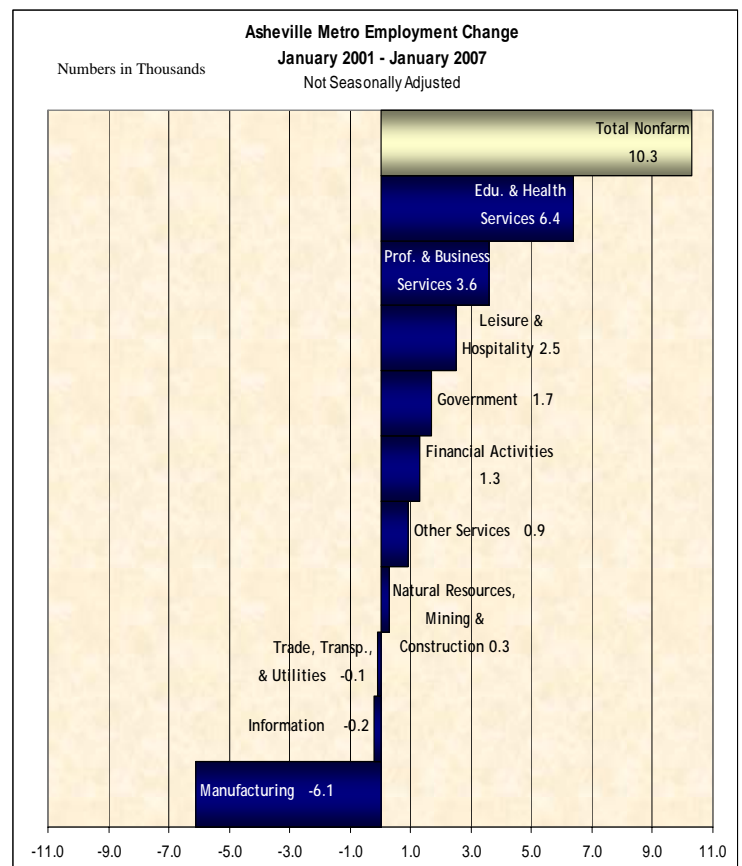
❑ Although Manufacturing has lost a significant amount of jobs, it comprised 12.5 percent of the Metro's employment in January 2007.

❑ The other Goods Producing sectors: Construction, Natural Resources, and Mining each gained 300 jobs.

❑ Within the Service Providing industries, Educational and Health Services had the largest increase (6,400 jobs or 29%) over the six-year period. In January 2007, Educational and Health Services was the second largest major industry, accounting for 16.7 percent of the Metro's total employment.

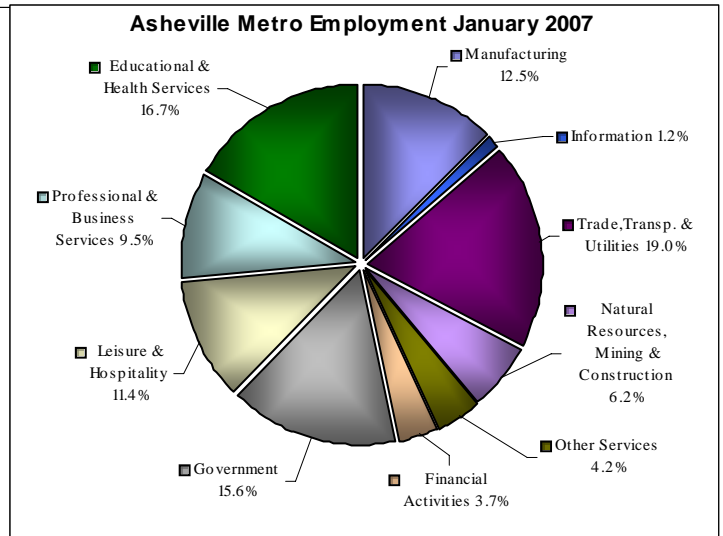
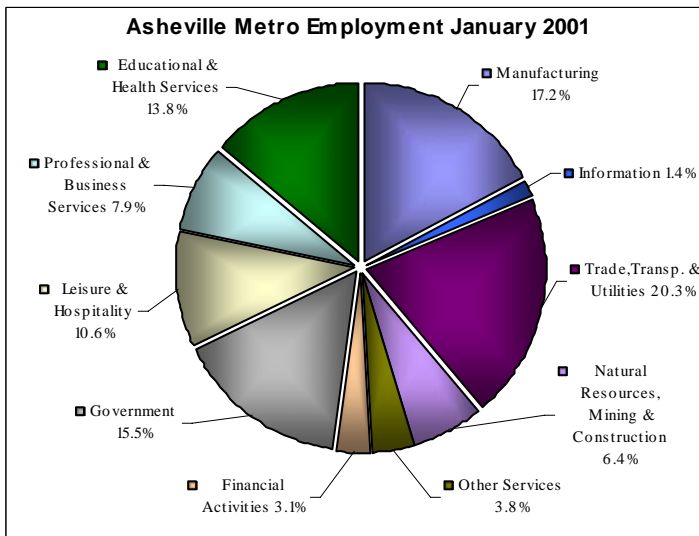
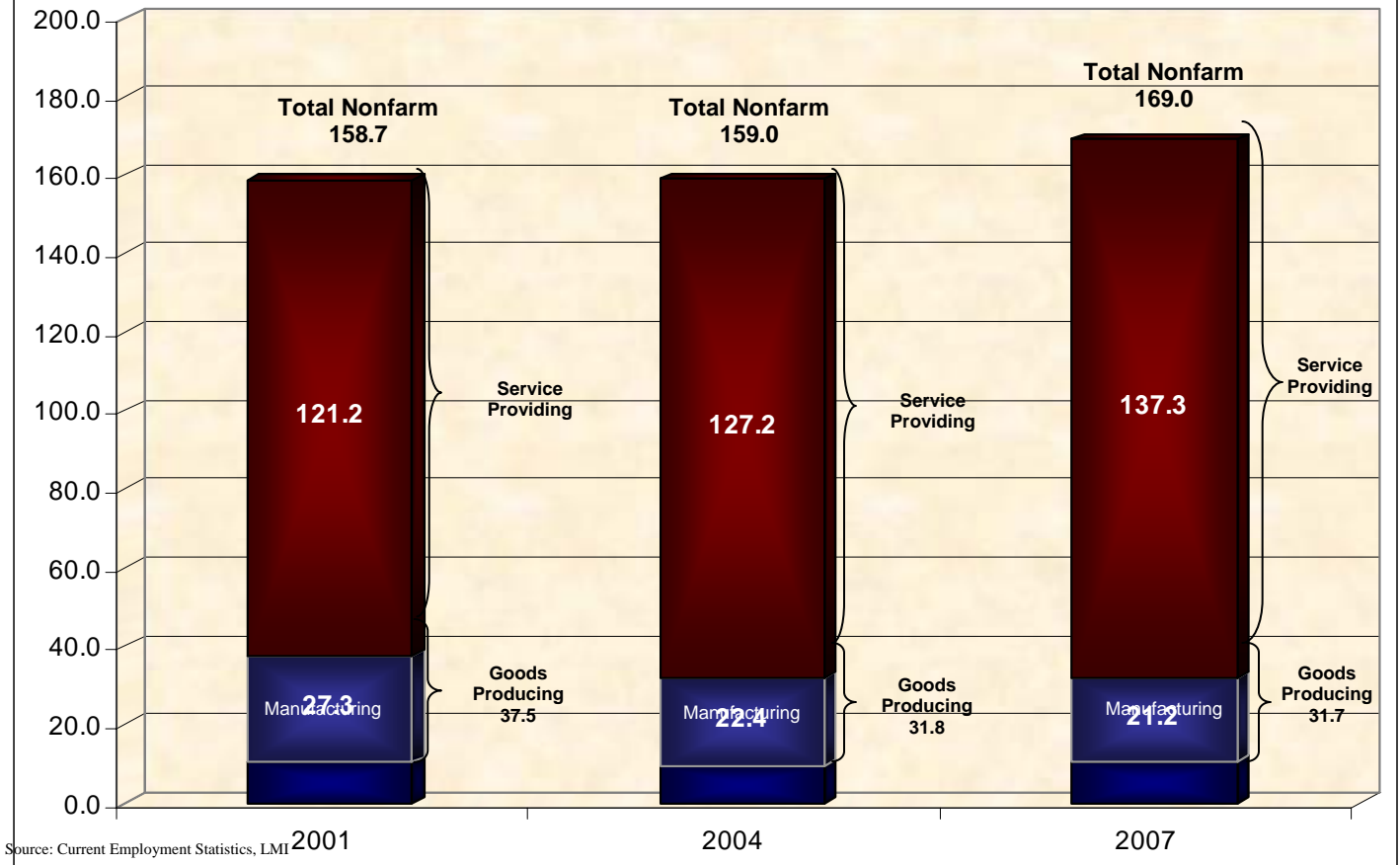
❑ Trade, Transportation and Utilities was the largest major industry accounting for 19 percent of all employment. Within this industry, the Transportation, Warehouse and Utilities sector saw a loss of 600 jobs (11.8%). These losses were somewhat offset by growth within Wholesale Trade, gaining 400 jobs (8.3%): Professional and Business Services increased nearly 29 percent by adding 3,600 jobs, while Leisure and Hospitality Services increased by 2,500 jobs (14.9%).

❑ In January 2007, Government accounted for 16 percent of all employment in the Metro. Employment within this major industry increased by 6.9 percent (1,700 jobs) over the six-year period. Local Government experienced the largest increase by adding 1,300 jobs (7.9%).



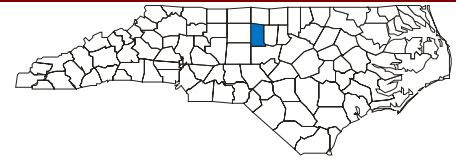
Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

Asheville Metro



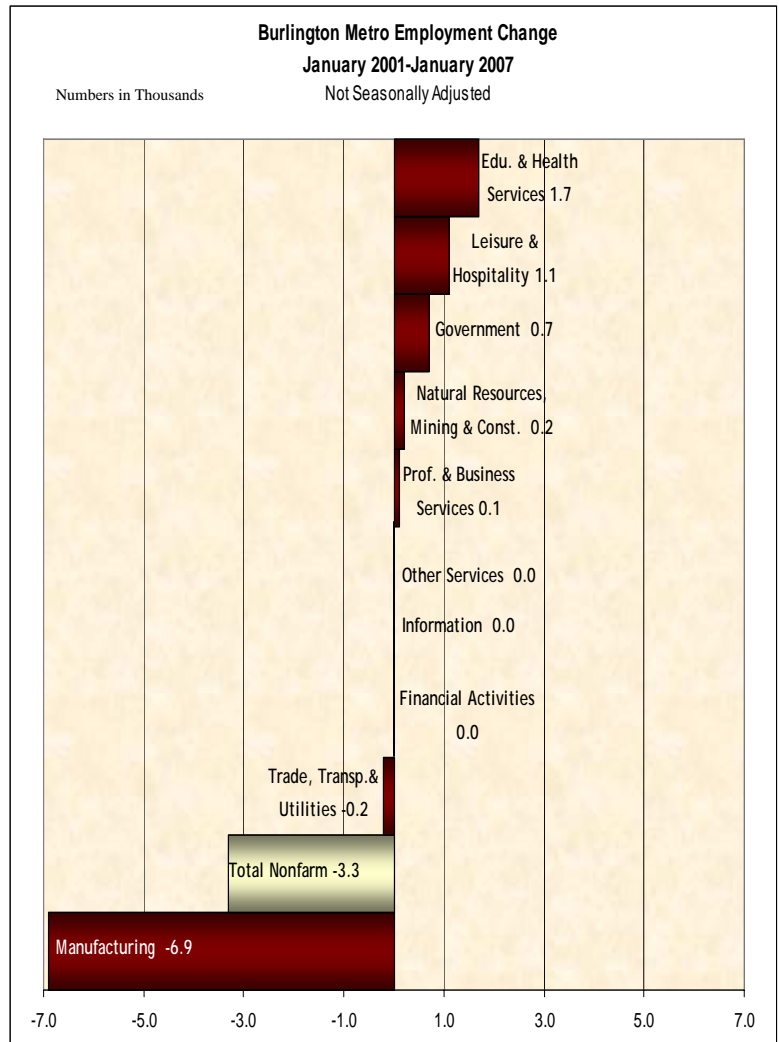
Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

Burlington Metro

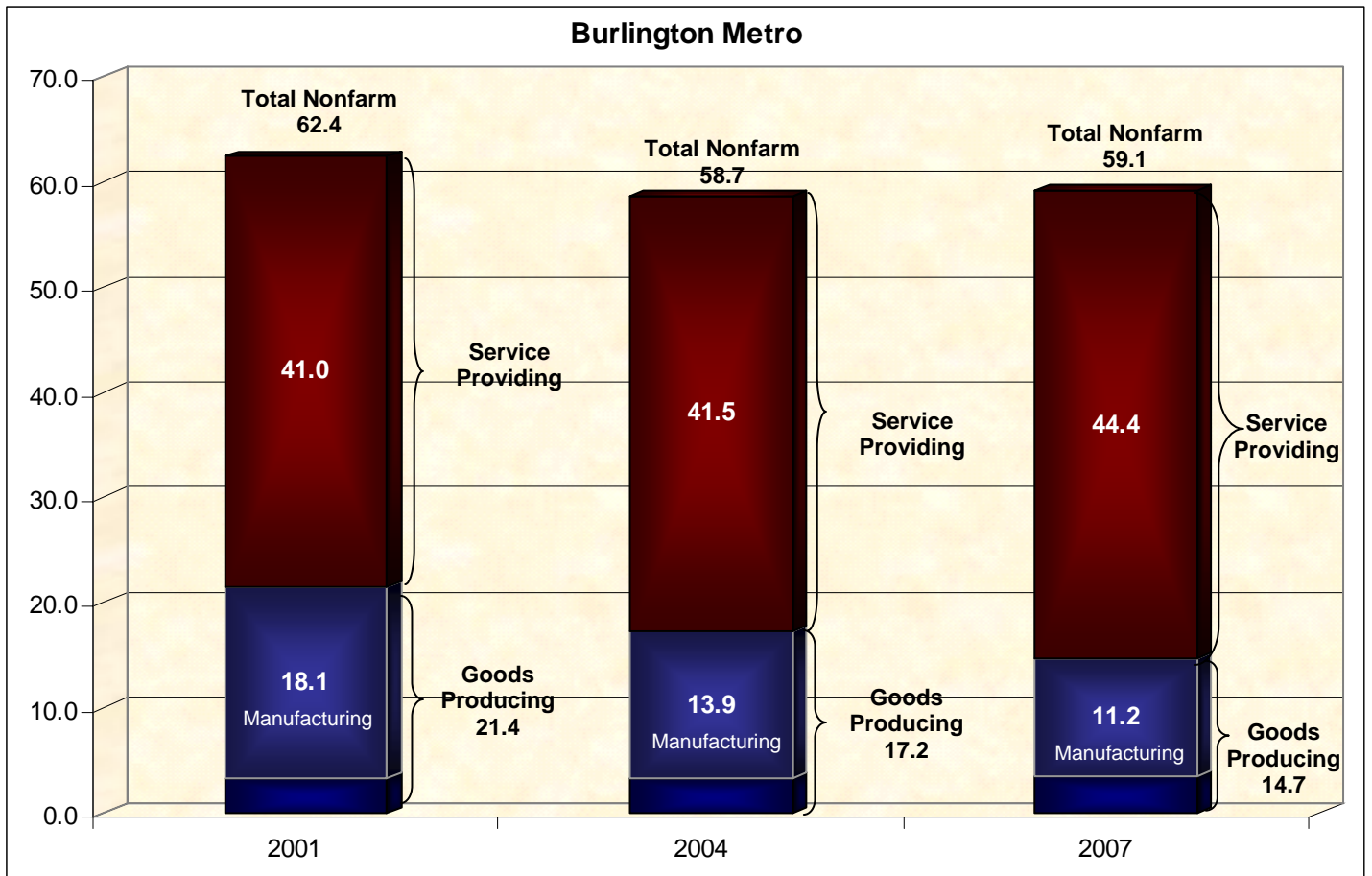


- ❑ In 2006, the population of the Burlington Metro was estimated to be 142,661. The area experienced an increase of 9,030 people (6.8%) since 2001.
- ❑ Between January 2001 and January 2007, the Burlington Metro experienced a net loss of 3,300 jobs, a decline of 5.3 percent.
- ❑ Over the last several years, the Burlington Metro has experienced several business layoffs and closings. These layoffs have been predominately within the Textile, Hosiery, Furniture and Electronic-Related industries. Several of these layoffs were attributable to consolidation, import competition and shifting work out of the country.

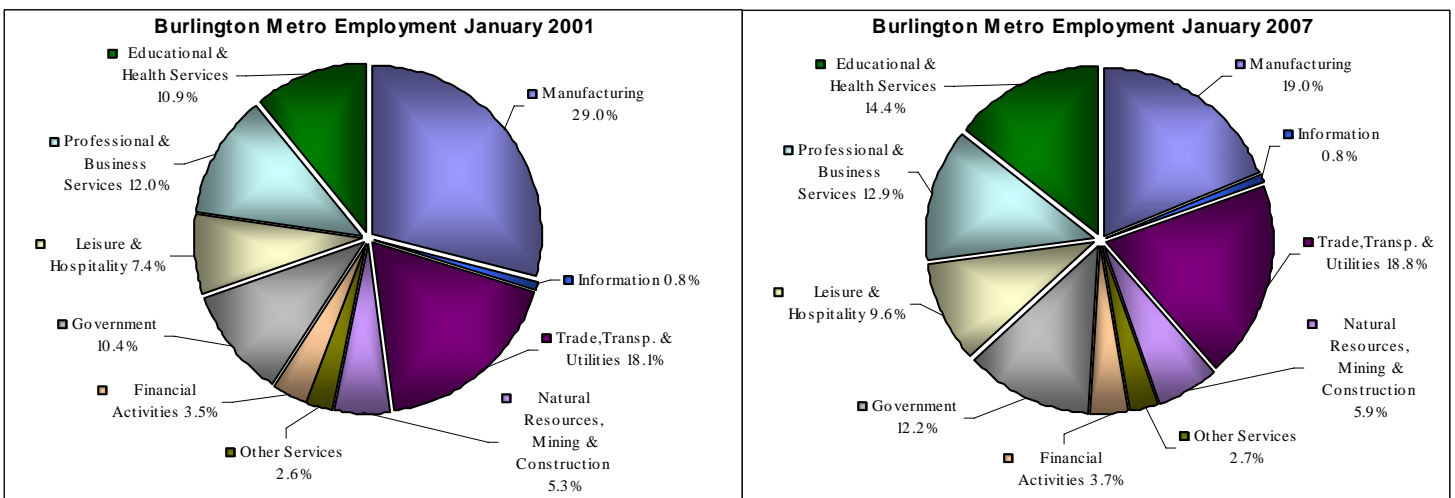
- ❑ In January 2001, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.1 percent. This rate increased during 2002 and 2003. Recently, the unemployment rate has moderated somewhat to 5.6 percent in January 2007.
- ❑ Between January 2001 and January 2007, the Goods Producing industries lost 6,700 jobs (31.3%). Manufacturing lost 6,900 jobs, a 38.1 percent decline from January 2001.
- ❑ In January 2001, Manufacturing comprised 29 percent of the Metro's total employment; by January 2007, it comprised only 19 percent. However, Manufacturing remains the largest major industry in the Burlington Metro.
- ❑ Within the Service Providing sector, the largest employment growth occurred in two major industries: Educational and Health Services, which added 1,700 jobs (25.0%); while Leisure and Hospitality Services added 1,100 jobs (23.9%).
- ❑ In January 2007, Trade, Transportation and Utilities was the second largest major industry, accounting for 18.8 percent of the Burlington Metro's Total Nonfarm employment.



Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

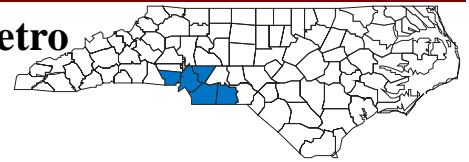


Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI



Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

Charlotte/Gastonia/Concord Metro



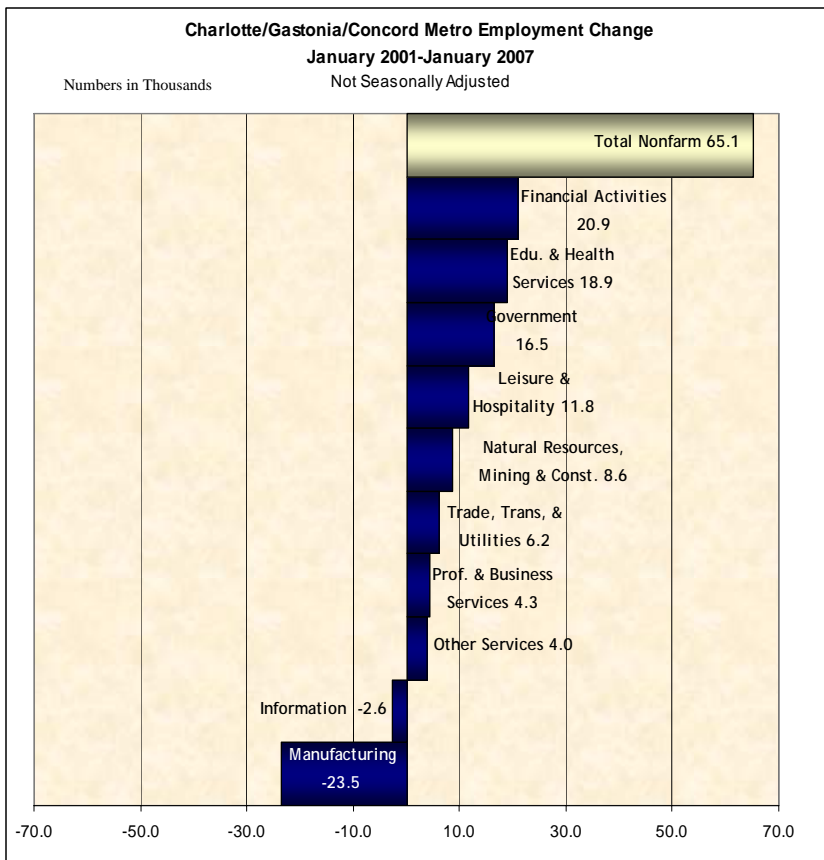
❑ In July 2006, the Charlotte/Gastonia/Concord Metro population was 1,583,016. This is the largest populated Metro in the state. Between July 2001 and July 2006, the Metro gained 208,330 people (15.2%).

❑ In January 2001, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.3 percent. The January rate reached 6.6 percent in 2002. In January 2007, the unemployment rate was 4.8 percent.

❑ In January 2007, total employment in the Charlotte/Gastonia/Concord Metro (which includes York, S.C.) was 828,100. This is an increase of 65,100 jobs (8.5%) since January 2001.

❑ The Goods Producing industries experienced a loss of 14,900 jobs (9.6%), while Service Providing industries increased significantly by adding 80,000 jobs (13.2%) over the six-year period.

❑ Since January 2001, Manufacturing declined by 22.2 percent, a loss of 23,500 jobs. The manufacturing of Non Durable Goods experienced the greatest decline of 16,400 jobs (30.1%), primarily in the Textile Mills industry, which lost 10,000 jobs (60.2%) alone. Plastics and Rubber Product and Nonmetallic Mineral Product industries also showed significant declines. Durable Goods Manufacturing lost 7,100 jobs (13.8%). Transportation Equipment lost 600 jobs (7.4%). Layoffs and closings within the Manufacturing industry were due to declining demand, lost contracts, bankruptcy and foreign competition. In fact, the closing of the Pillowtex manufacturing facilities in Cabarrus County is a prime example of this.



❑ In January 2007, Manufacturing accounted for 10 percent of the total employment in the Charlotte Metro.

❑ From January 2001 to January 2007, Natural Resources, Mining, and Construction increased employment by 8,600 jobs (17.4%). Within this group of industries, Specialty Trade Contractors experienced the greatest increase, adding 19.2 percent (6,000 jobs).

❑ Within the Service Providing industries, Financial Activities accounted for 9.5 percent of all employment in January 2007. This industry added 20,900 jobs (36.2%). The majority of this job growth occurred in the Finance and Insurance industries, which grew by 20,600 jobs (45.5%) over the six-year period.

❑ Educational and Health Services increased by 18,900 jobs (34.7%). Within this major industry, Health Care and Social Assistance had the greatest increase, adding 14,600 jobs (31.3%).

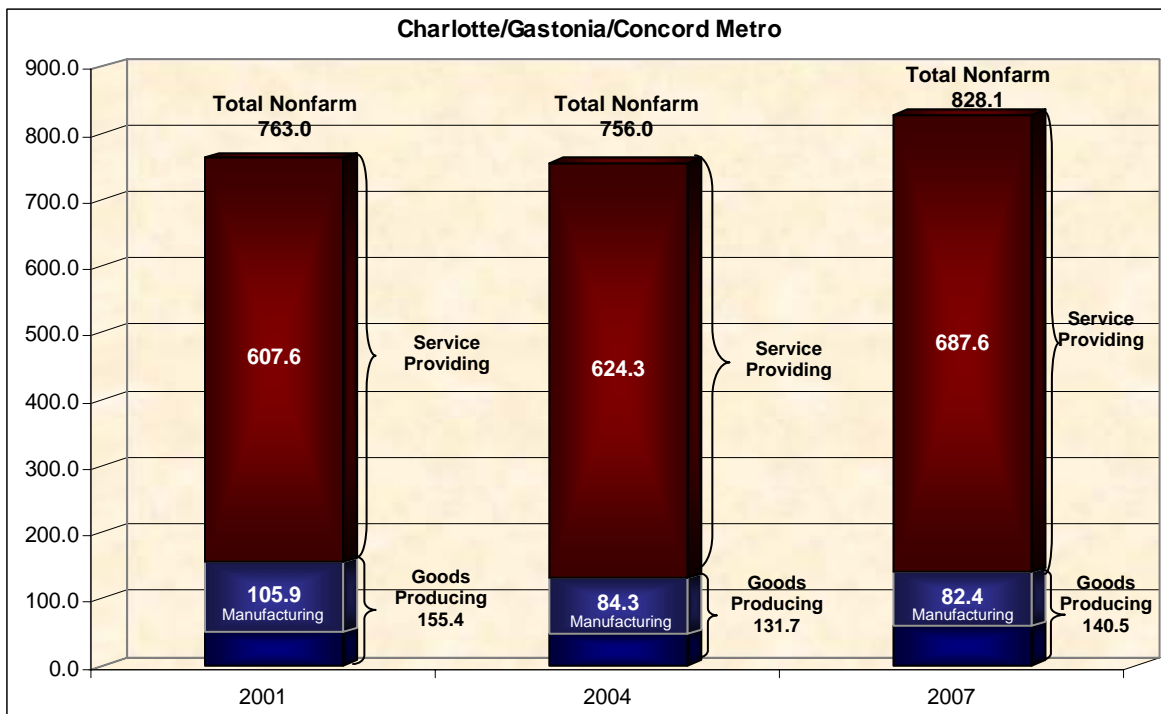
Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

□ Leisure and Hospitality Services increased employment by 11,800 jobs (19.2%). The Food Services and Drinking Places industries added 12,100 jobs (26.5%).

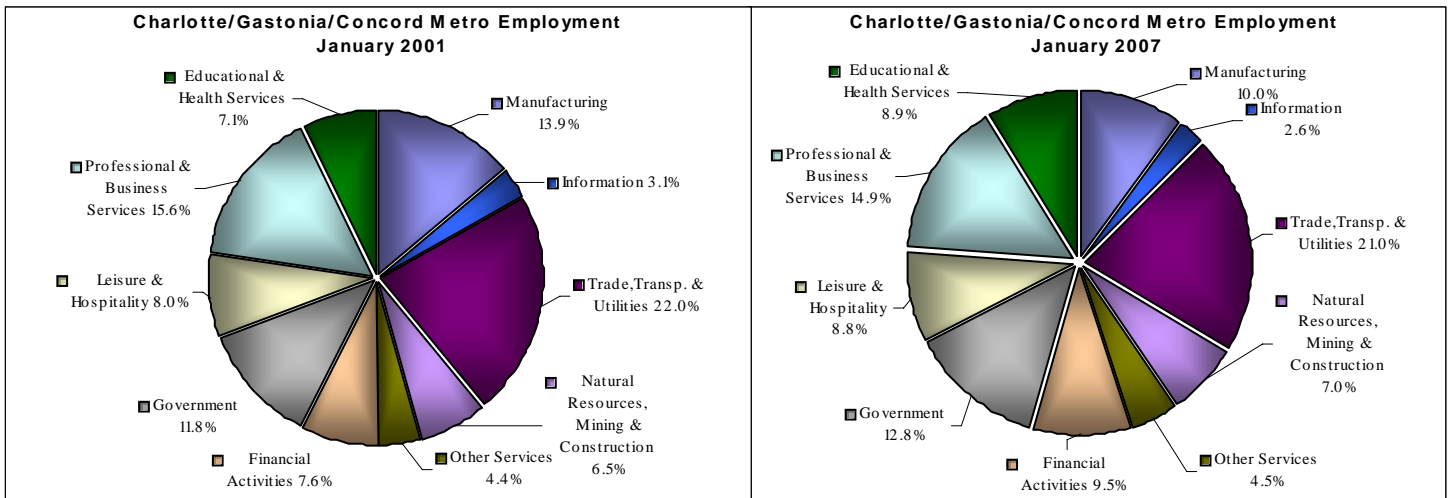
□ Trade, Transportation and Utilities experienced a growth of 6,200 jobs (3.7%). This growth was in spite of a loss of 1,400 jobs (2.9%) in the Wholesale Trade industry. The losses experienced in Wholesale Trade were offset by the increase of 5,700 jobs (6.8%) in Retail Trade and the addition of 1,900 jobs (5.5%) in Transportation, Warehouse and Utilities. The Trade, Transportation and Utilities is the largest major industry in the Metro and accounted for 21 percent of all employment in the Metro.

□ Professional and Business Services is the second largest industry, accounting for 14.9 percent of the January 2007 Total Nonfarm employment in the Metro. This industry added 4,300 jobs over the six-year period. Within this industry, Professional, Scientific and Technical Services added 4,100 jobs (10.8%).

□ In January 2007, Government was the third largest industry in the Metro. It accounted for 12.8 percent of all employment. Between January 2001 and January 2007, this industry added 16,500 jobs (18.4%), with Local Government adding 14,200 jobs (19.7%).

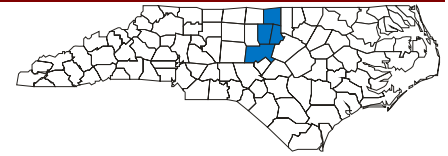


Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI



Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

Durham Metro



- ❑ As of July 2006, the population of Durham was 464,389, this includes a growth of 29,957 (6.9%) since July 2001.
- ❑ The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.0 percent in January 2007 and 3.6 percent in January 2001. In January 2002 and January 2003, the rate climbed to 5.7 percent.
- ❑ Between January 2001 and January 2007, the Durham Metro experienced an increase of 16,000 jobs, or an increase of 6 percent. The Goods Producing industries experienced a loss of 3,700 jobs (6.8%), while employment in Service Providing industries increased by 9.3 percent (19,700 jobs).

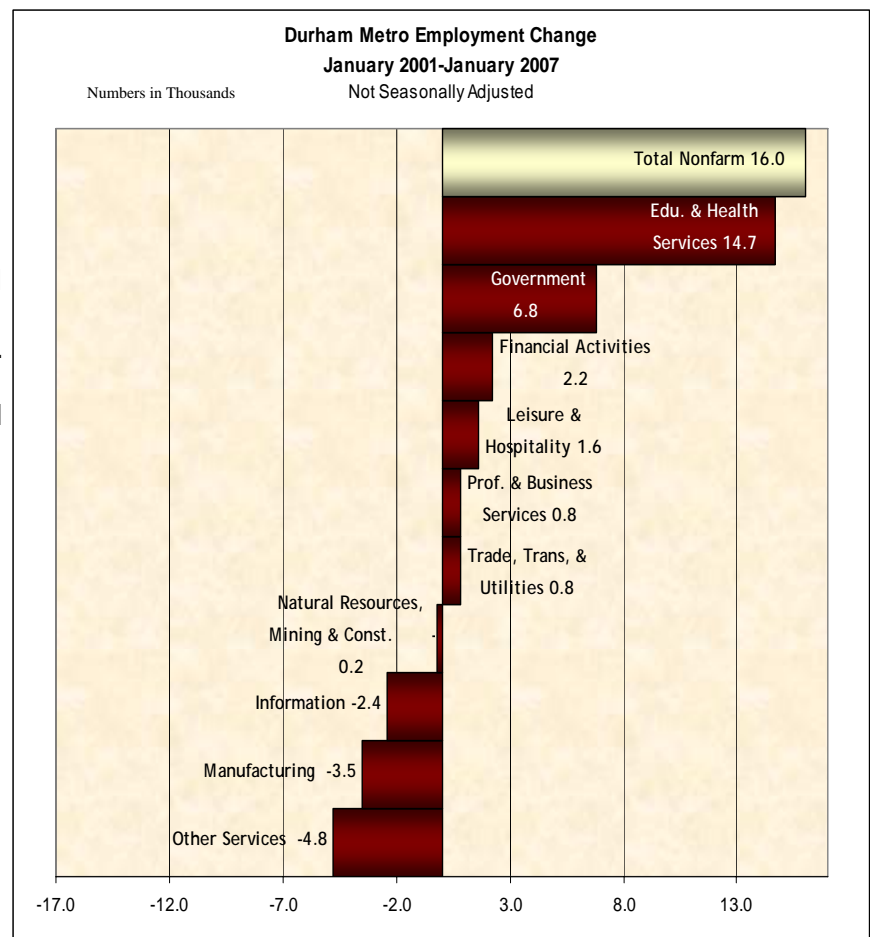
❑ Within the Goods Producing industries, manufacturing experienced the largest decrease of 3,500 jobs (7.8%). Budget cuts and restructuring in this industrial group led to layoffs and business closings. Losses were heaviest for those companies engaged in Telecommunications and Computer manufacturing. Non Durable Goods also experienced a decline, reporting a loss of 1,400 jobs (8.6%). Within this group of industries, Chemical Manufacturing, which includes Pharmaceutical Manufacturing, offset some of these losses by adding 1,200 jobs (16.9%).

❑ In January 2007, Educational and Health Services, comprised 18.6 percent of the Metro's Total Nonfarm employment. This industry experienced the largest net gain of 14,700 and percentage increase (38.8%) in employment over the six-year period.

❑ Trade, Transportation and Utilities added 800 jobs (2.4%) over the six-year period. Wholesale Trade added 1,500 jobs (25.0%). These gains were offset by the loss of 800 jobs in Retail Trade, due to declines in Food and Beverage Stores.

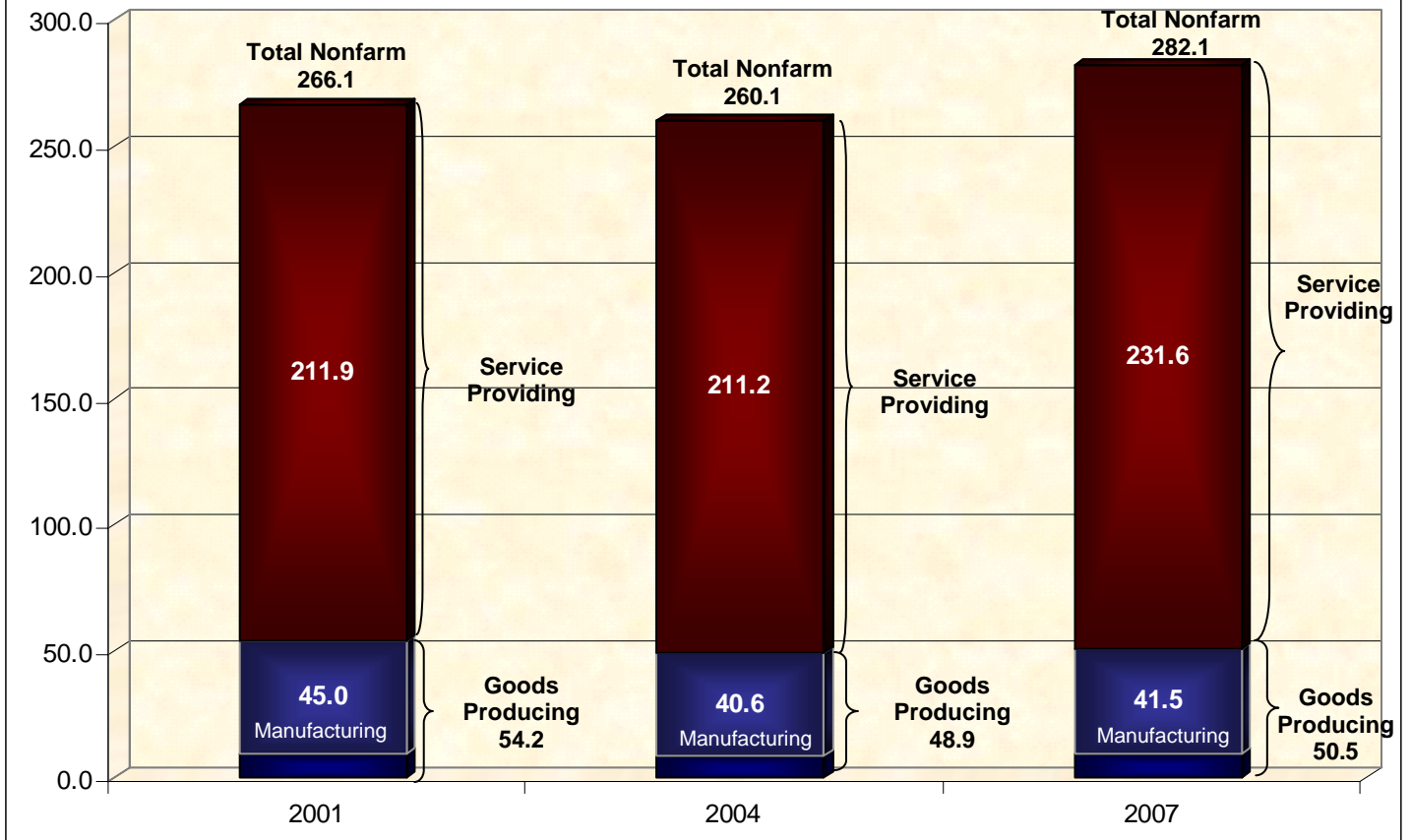
❑ Within the other Service Providing industries, Information decreased by 39.3 percent, (2,400 jobs). Government added 6,800 jobs, (14.3%). This was due to the growth of 3,200 jobs in both State (13.0%) and Local Government (18.0%), respectively.

❑ As of January 2007, the Durham Metro comprised 7.0 percent of the state's Total Nonfarm employment.

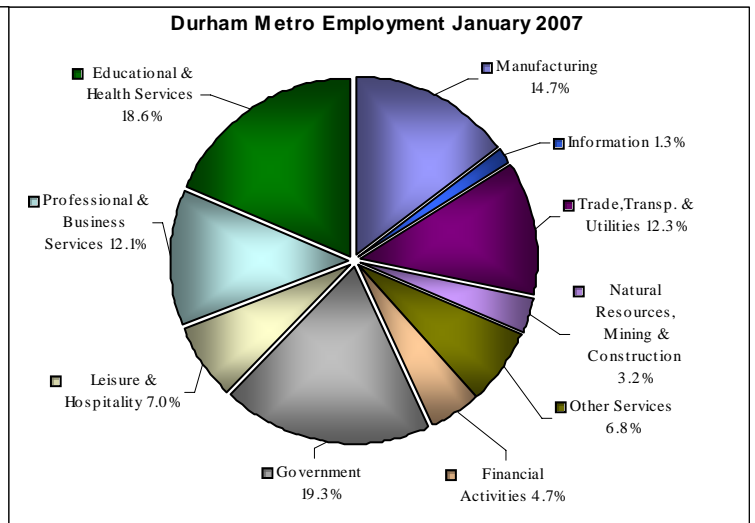
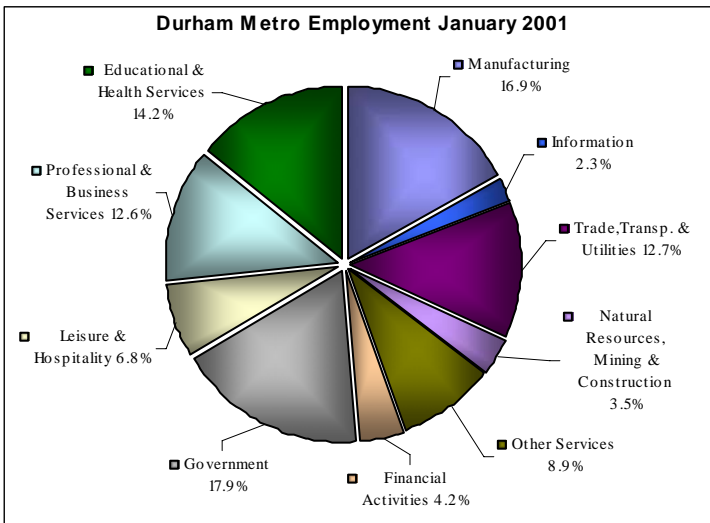


Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

Durham Metro

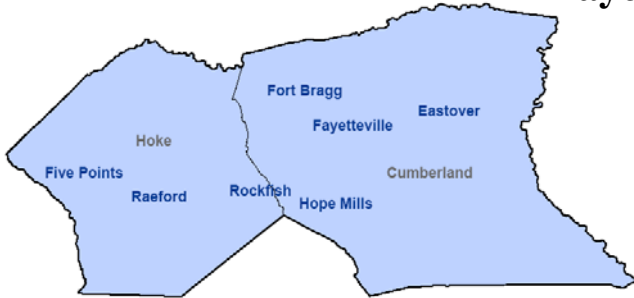
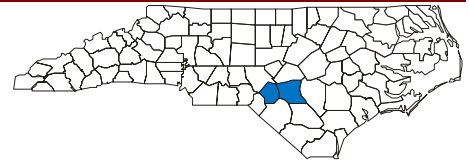


Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI



Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

Fayetteville Metro



□ In July 2006, the population in the Fayetteville Metro was estimated at 341,363. Between July 2001 and July 2006, Fayetteville's was the slowest growing among the metropolitan areas. The population increased by 1.3 percent or 4,254 people.

□ In January 2007, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.6 percent. In January 2001, the rate was 5.6 percent; however, the rate climbed to 8.0 percent in January 2002, and then declined during the latter half of 2002 and continued its decline to its current level.

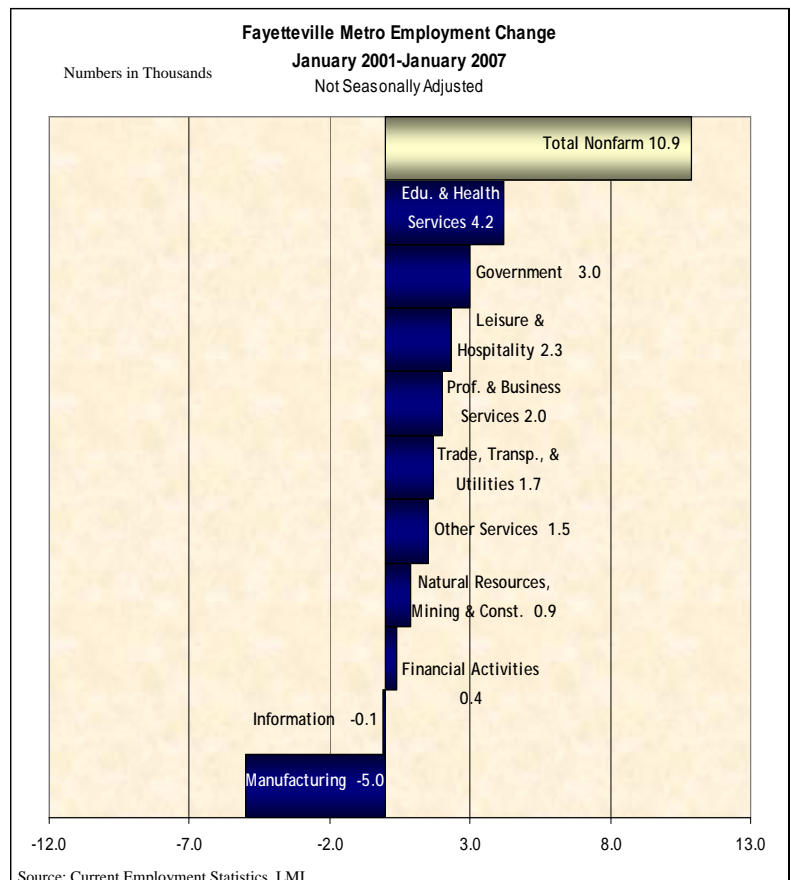
□ The Total Nonfarm employment in the Fayetteville Metro in January 2007 was 126,800. This represents a net increase of 10,900 jobs, (9.4%) over January 2001 employment levels.

□ The Goods Producing industries lost 4,100 jobs (19.9%); however, these losses were more than offset by an increase of 15,000 jobs in the Service Providing industries (15.7%).

□ Within the Goods Producing industries, Manufacturing lost 5,000 jobs (33.3%). However, Natural Resources, Mining and Construction gained 900 jobs (16.1%). Job losses in Manufacturing were due to layoffs in Textiles, Auto Parts, Tires and Tools.

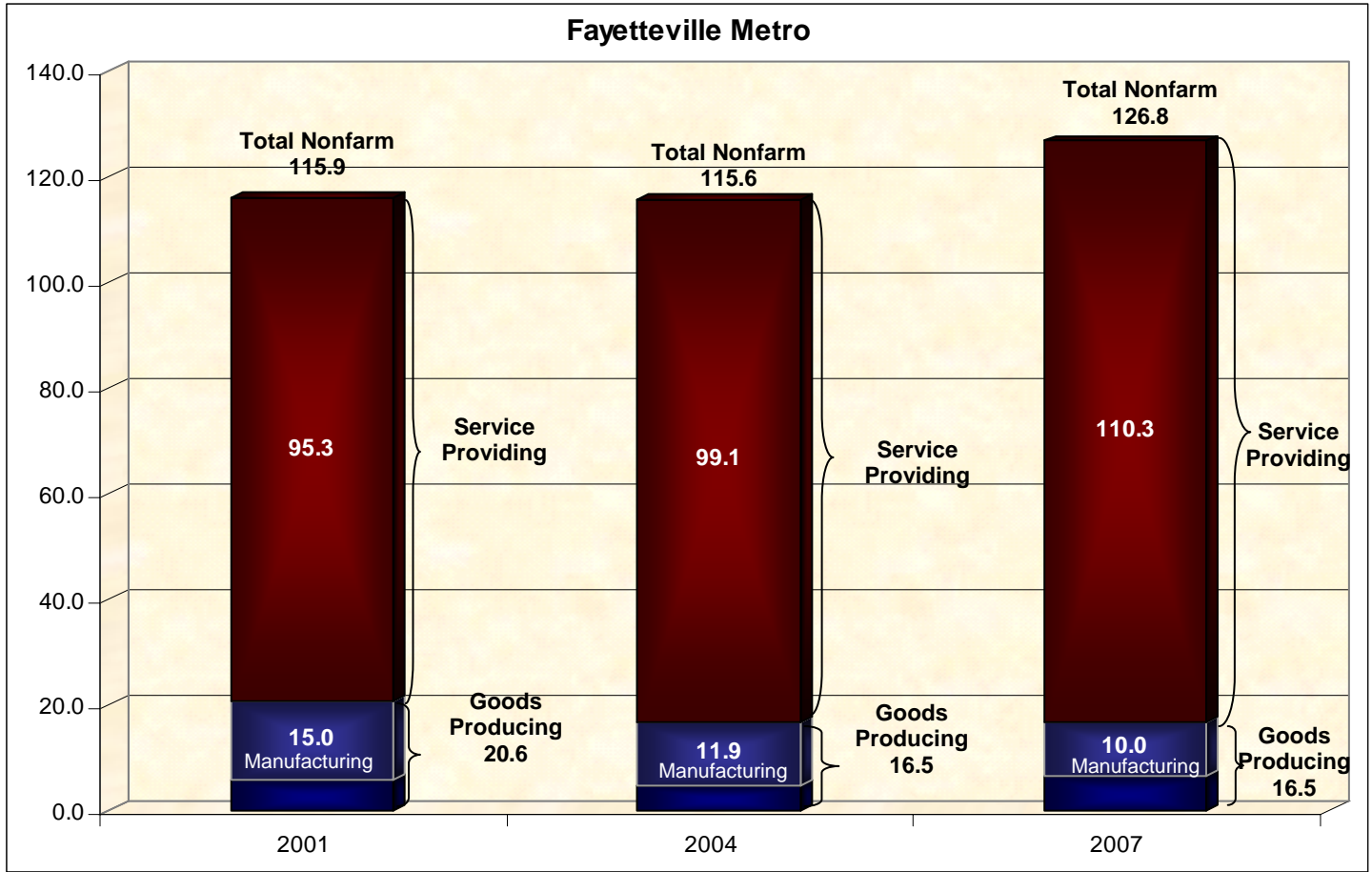
□ Within the Service Providing sector, the largest job growth occurred in four industrial groups: Educational and Health Services added 4,200 jobs (44.7%); Leisure and Hospitality Services 2,300 jobs (21.1%); Professional and Business Services, 2,000 jobs (20.0%), and Trade, Transportation and Utilities 1,700 jobs (7.7%).

□ The economy of Fayetteville, home of Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, is heavily influenced by government employment. In January 2007, Government employment accounted for 28.8 percent of Total Nonfarm employment in the Metro. This industry added 3,000 jobs (9.0%) during the six-year period. Federal Government employment gained 600 jobs (5.7%), while Local Government amassed 1,700 jobs (8.9%) over the six-year period.

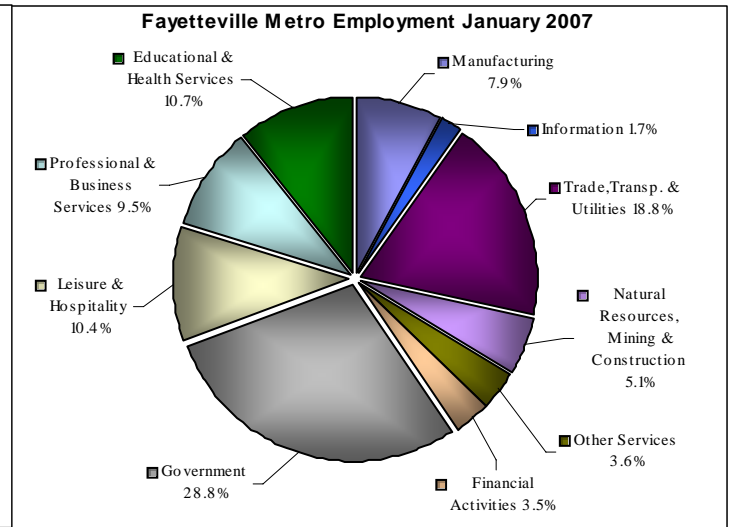
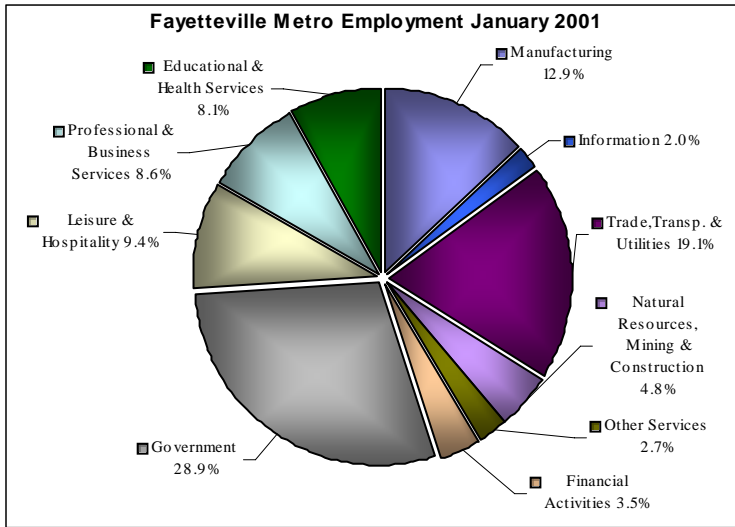


□ In January 2007, Trade, Transportation and Utilities comprised 18.8 percent of Total Nonfarm employment in the Metro. This industry added 1,700 jobs (7.7%) over the six-year period, due to growth in both Retail Trade adding 900 jobs (5.9%) and Transportation, Warehouse and Utilities gaining 700 jobs (17.1%).

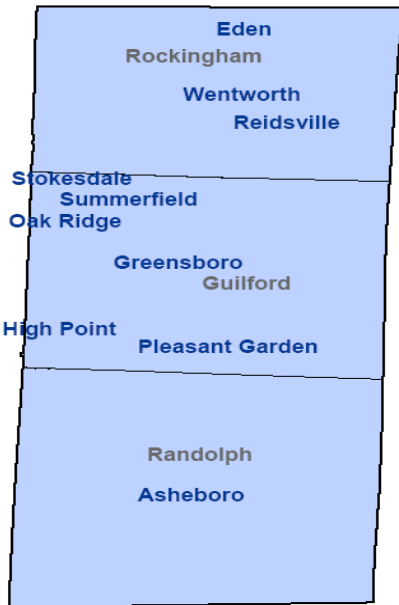
□ The Fayetteville Metro comprised 3.2 percent of the state's January 2007 Total Nonfarm employment.



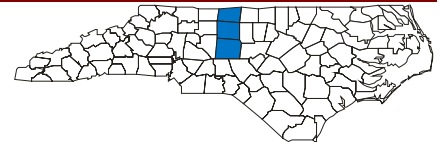
Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI



Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI



Greensboro/High Point Metro



- As of July 2006, the Greensboro/High Point Metro was the third most populated Metro in the state. Population grew by 33,470 (5.1%) from July 2001 to an estimated 685,378 people in July 2006.
- In January 2001, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.4 percent. The January rate reached 7.0 percent in 2002. In January 2007, the rate was 5.1 percent.
- In January 2007, Total Nonfarm employment in the Greensboro/High Point Metro was 364,900. This is an increase of 2,500 jobs (0.7%) over the 2001 level. The Goods Producing industries accounted for 22.3 percent of all employment in the Metro, while Service Providing accounted for 77.7 percent.

□ The Goods Producing industries lost 15,900 jobs, a 16.4 percent decline, while Service Providing gained 18,400 jobs (6.9%).

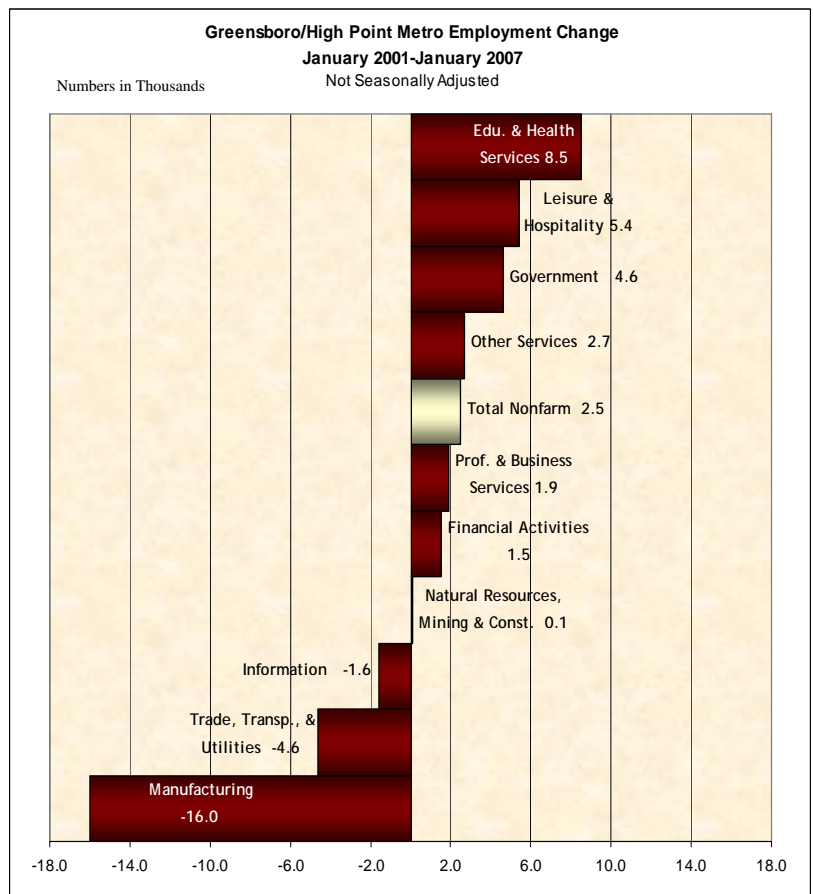
□ Within Goods Producing, Manufacturing lost 16,000 jobs (20.4%) during the six-year period. Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing lost 2,500 jobs (18.4%). Layoffs and closings in the Metro were predominately in the manufacturing of textiles, furniture and electronics. These were partly attributed to Pillowtex facilities closing in Rockingham County.

□ Within the Service Providing industries, the largest job growth occurred in: Educational and Health Services, 8,500 jobs (22.7%); Leisure and Hospitality Services, 5,400 jobs (21.4%); Government, 4,600 jobs (11.6%) and Other Services, 2,700 jobs (23.9%).

□ While a large number of the Service Providing industries experienced growth, a few experienced declines in employment. Trade, Transportation and Utilities reported a decline of 4,600 jobs (5.8%) and Information lost 1,600 jobs, a 19.0 percent decrease.

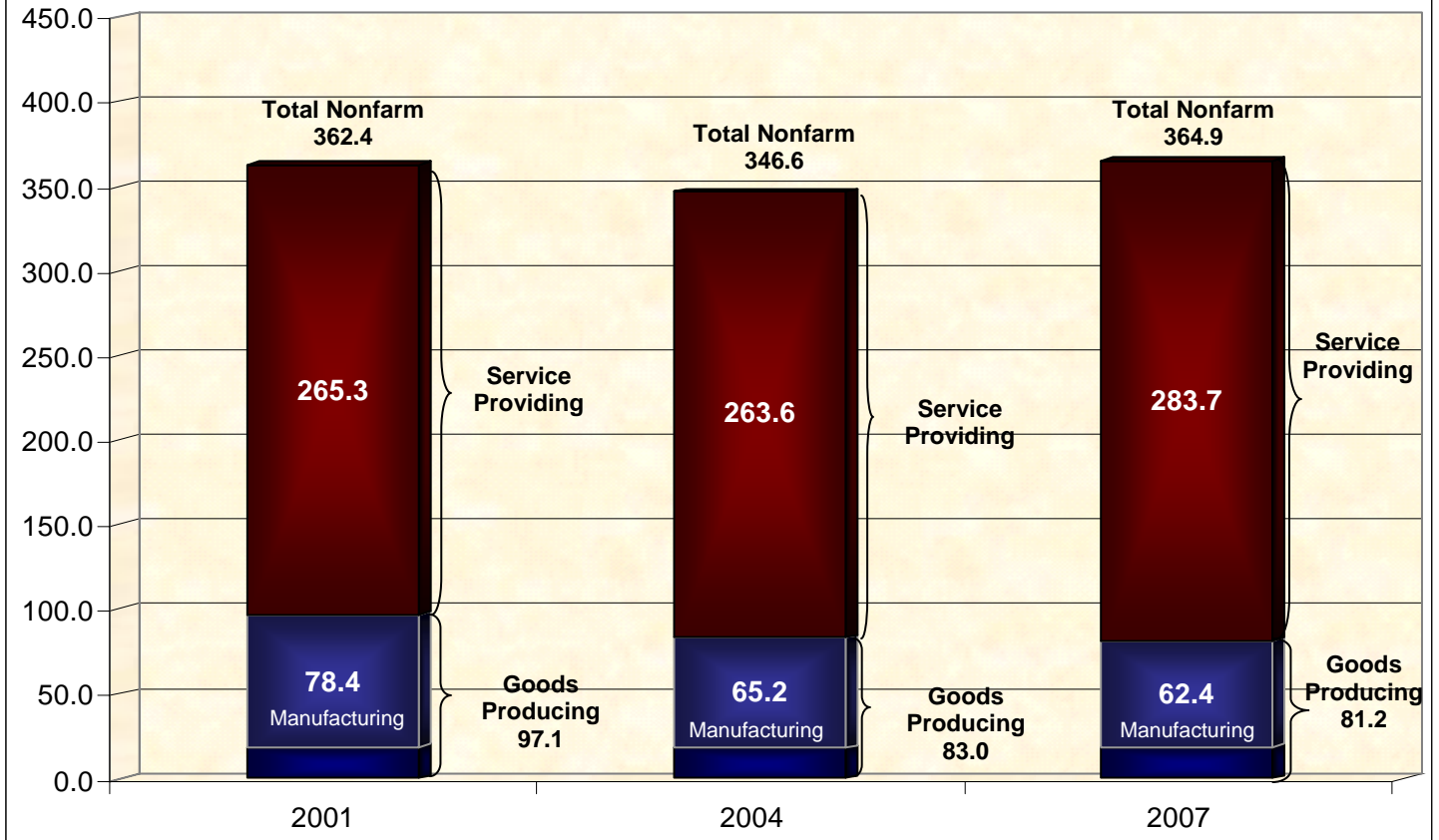
□ Losses in Trade, Transportation and Utilities were partially due to decreases in Wholesale Trade losing 300 jobs and in Food and Beverage Stores, which lost 1,800 jobs (27.7%).

□ In January 2001, employment in the Greensboro/High Point Metro accounted for 9.1 percent of the state's Total Nonfarm employment.

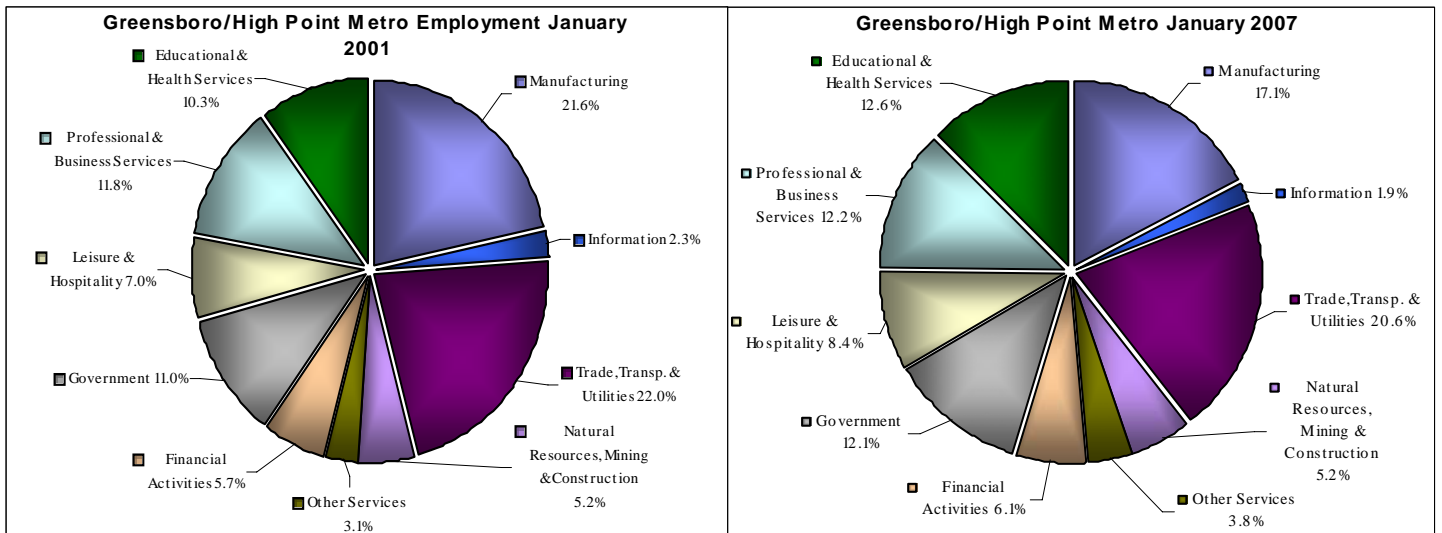


Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

Greensboro/High Point Metro

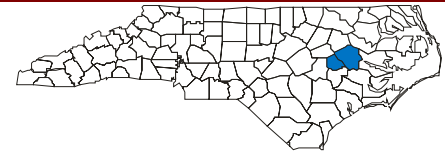


Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI



Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

Greenville Metro



As of July 2006, the population of the Greenville Metro was 165,776, which increased by 11,460 since July 2001—a growth rate of 7.4 percent.

The January 2007 not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.2 percent. The January 2002 employment rate reached 7.1 percent and has steadily declined.

Total Nonfarm employment in the Greenville Metro was 75,600 in January 2007, representing an increase of 7,500 jobs (11.0%) between January 2001 and January 2007. The Goods Producing industries comprised 15.1 percent of total employment, while Service Providing comprised 84.9 percent of the total employment.

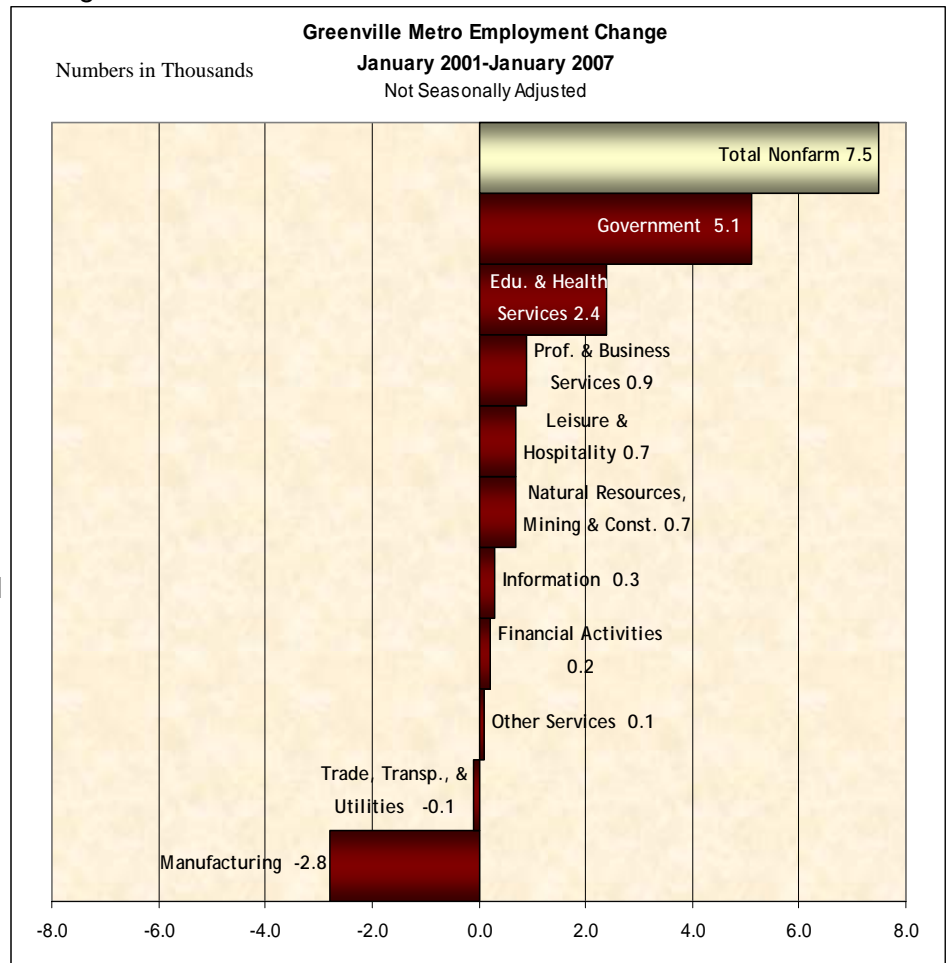
The Goods Producing industries experienced a loss of 2,100 jobs (15.6%), while employment in Service Providing grew by 9,600 jobs (17.6%).

In the Greenville Metro, Manufacturing experienced a loss of 2,800 jobs, a decline of 28 percent. By January 2007, Manufacturing comprised only 9.4 percent of total employment, down from 14.5 percent in January 2001. This decline was due to layoffs and closings concentrated mainly in Textiles, Industrial Truck and Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturing. Employers reported the decline was due to foreign competition, relocation of plants and general restructuring.

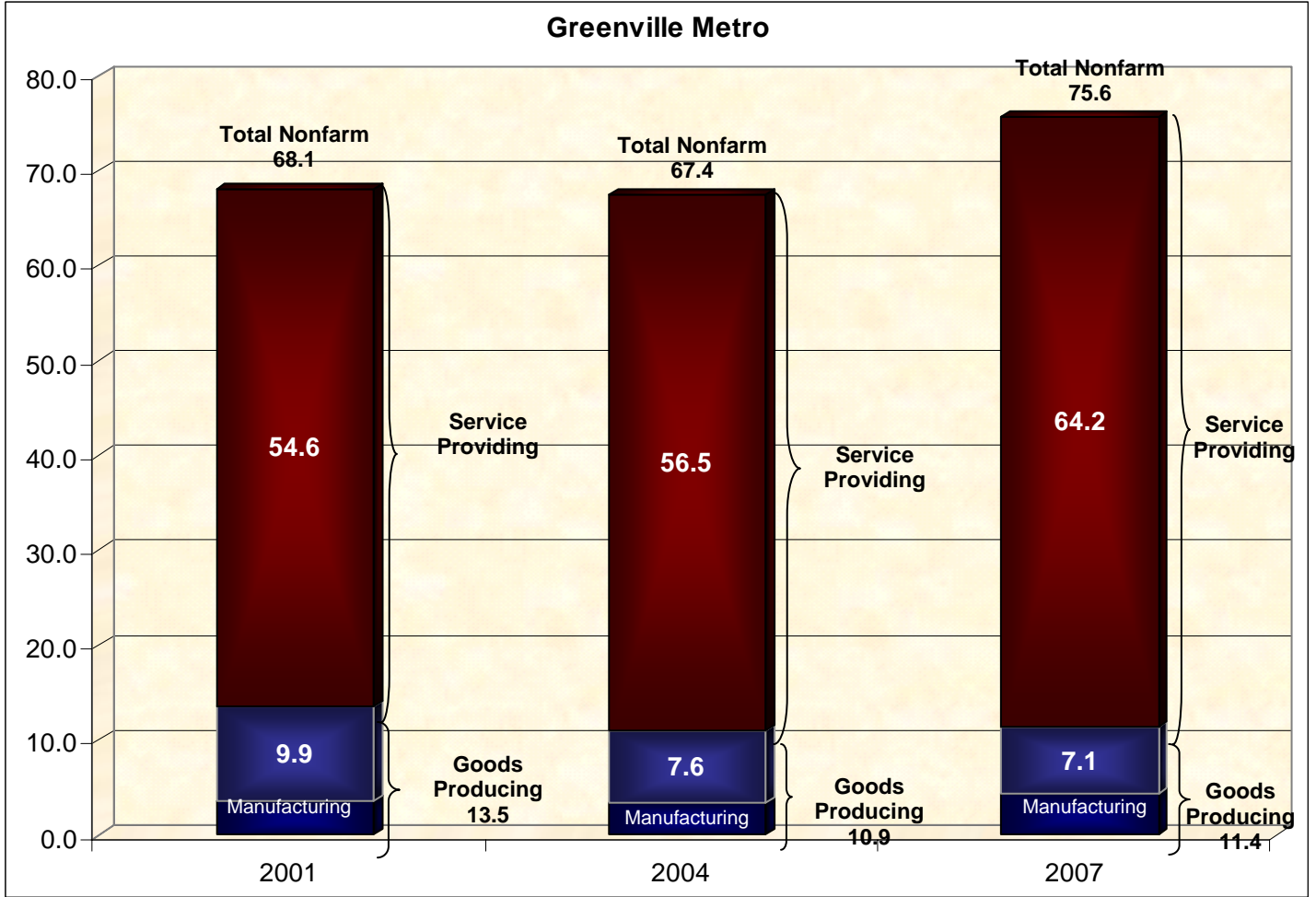
All industries within Service Providing experienced positive job growth with the exception of Trade, Transportation and Utilities (100 jobs, 0.9%). This decline was due to losses in Wholesale Trade (300), but were somewhat offset by growth in Retail Trade (200 jobs).

Employment in Educational and Health Services increased by 2,400 jobs or 36.9 percent, primarily to Ambulatory Health Services and Social Assistance Services. Within the other Service Providing industries, Information added 300 jobs (37.5%) and Government gained 5,100 jobs (27.9%). Local Government elevated payrolls by 22.7 percent or 2,500 jobs.

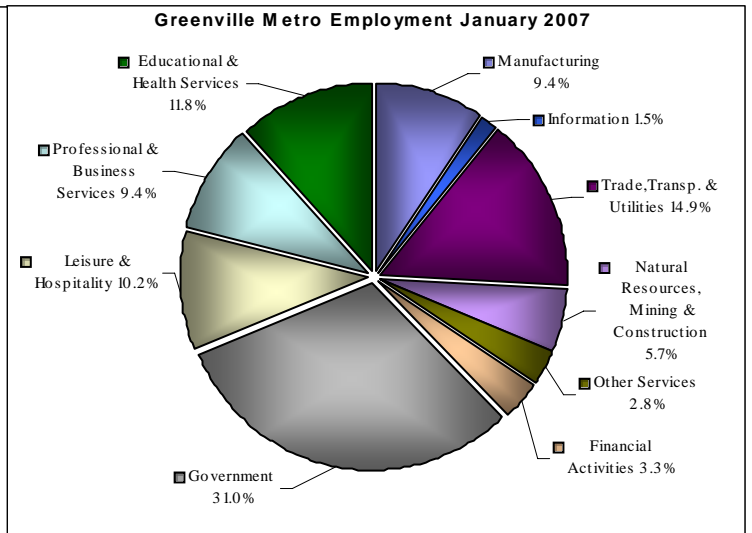
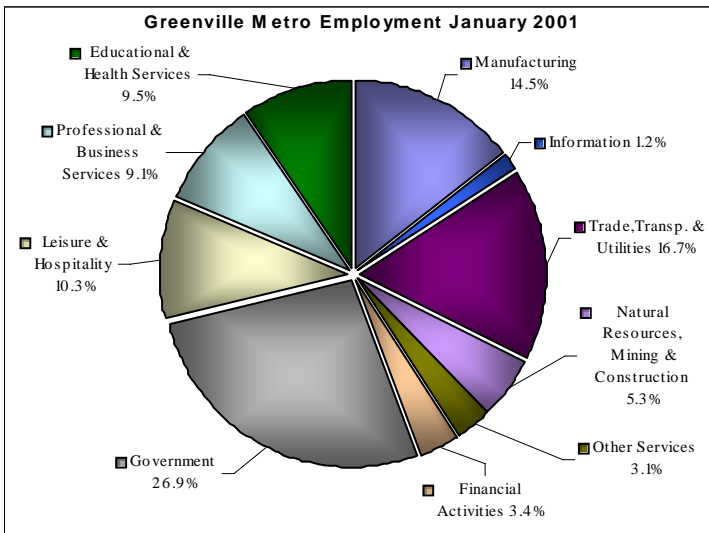
As of January 2007, the Greenville Metro comprised 1.9 percent of the state's Total Nonfarm employment.



Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

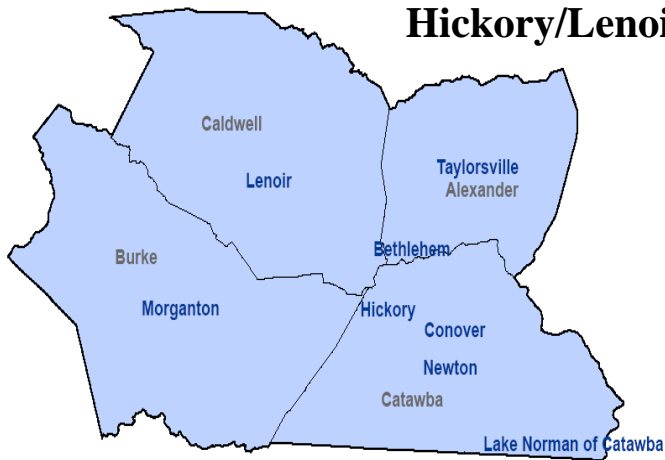
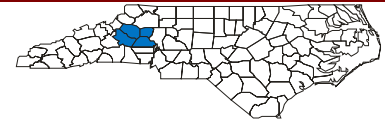


Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI



Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton Metro



□ The Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton Metro had an estimated population of 359,856 in July 2006, increasing by 3.7 percent (12,852 people) over the six-year period, from 347,004 in July 2001.

□ In January 2001, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.5 percent, and climbed to 8.9 percent the following year. In January 2007, the unemployment rate was 6.4 percent.

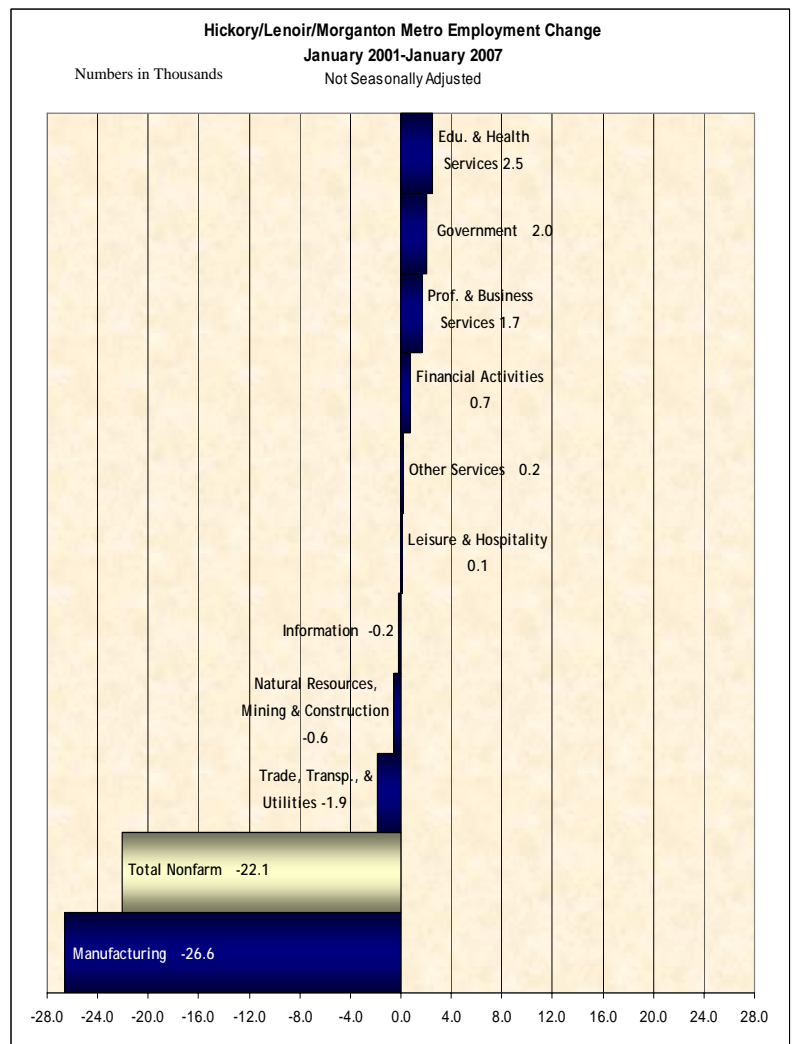
□ Total Nonfarm employment in the Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton Metro was 162,300 in January 2007. When compared to January 2001, this was a decrease of 22,100 jobs (12.0%) and the largest net and percentage decrease of any in the state.

□ The Goods Producing industries experienced a loss of 27,200 jobs (32.6%) over the six-year period, while Service Providing showed a modest increase of 5,100 jobs (5.1%).

□ In January 2007, Manufacturing accounted for 31.4 percent of all employment in the Metro, down from 42.1 percent in January 2001. Manufacturing also suffered the greatest loss of jobs (26,600, 34.3%). The manufacturing of Durable Goods was hit particularly hard in Furniture and Related Product, which declined by 32.4 percent—a loss of 10,300 jobs. Overall, employment in Durable Goods Manufacturing declined by 17,900 jobs or 34.6 percent. Reasons provided by employers for layoffs and closings included businesses restructuring, as well as foreign competition.

□ In addition to the major job losses in Furniture Manufacturing, Electrical Equipment & Appliance Manufacturing experienced a significant decline of 5,800 jobs (60.4%). The Metro experienced layoffs in Fiber Optic Cable Manufacturing due to economic slowdown and cost cuts.

□ Manufacturing of Non Durable Goods suffered declines as well, losing 8,700 jobs (33.6%). Within these industries, Textile Mills experienced large declines, (4,600 jobs, 49.5%), along with Plastics and Rubber Manufacturing, which lost 1,400 jobs (30.4%).



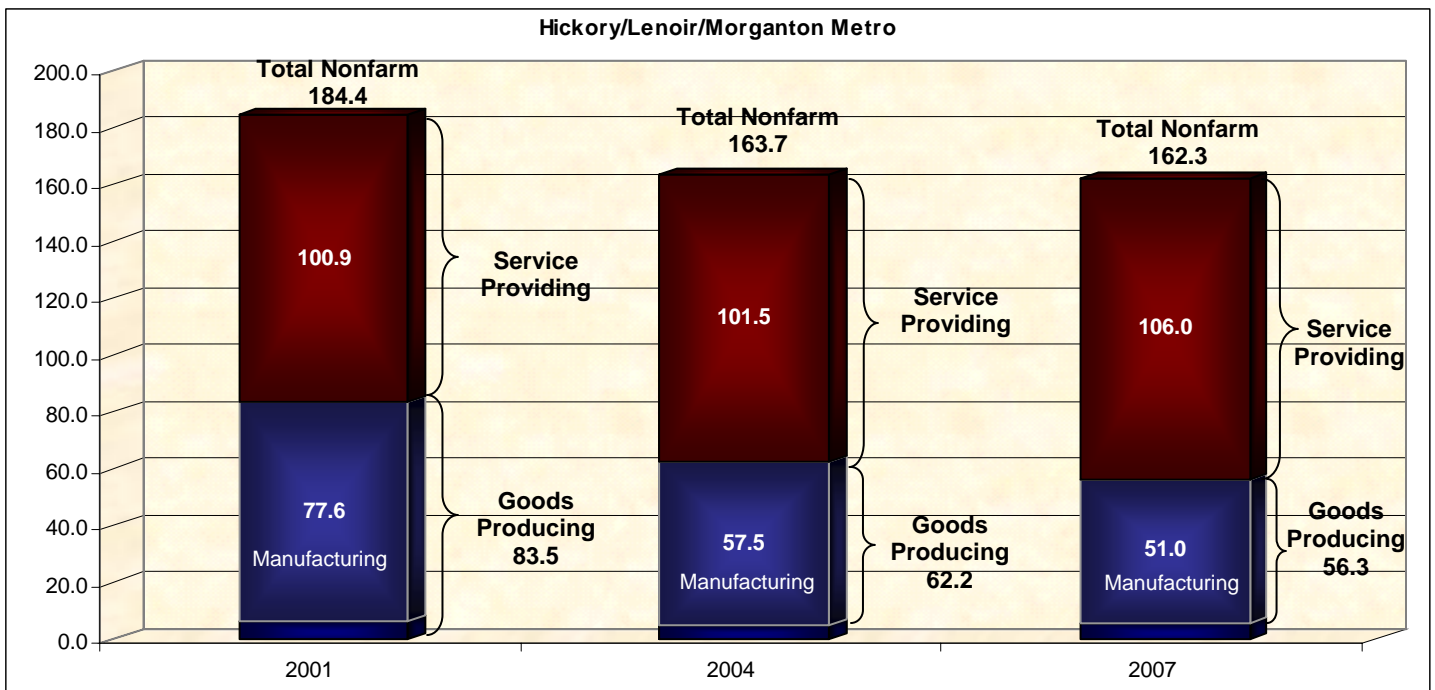
Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

□ Within the Service Providing industries, Trade, Transportation and Utilities reported a loss of 1,900 jobs (a drop of 6.3%). Retail Trade experienced a decrease of 1,900 jobs, a 10.8 percent decline. The large majority of these losses were due to decreases in Food and Beverage Stores (1,200 jobs, 32.4%). This major industry accounted for 17.5 percent of all employment in the Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton Metro in January 2007.

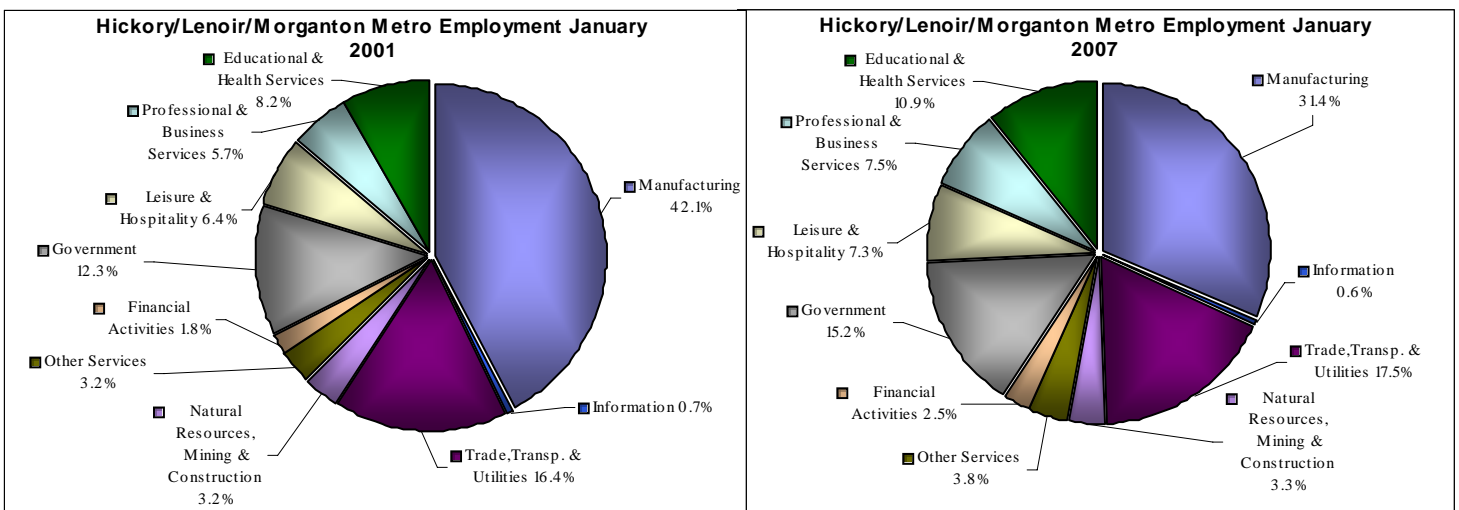
□ Within Service Providing, Educational and Health Services added 2,500 jobs (16.4%) over the six-year period, accounting 11 percent of all employment in the Metro.

□ Government added 2,000 jobs (8.8%), with State Government, adding 1,300 jobs (20%). In January 2007, Government employment comprised 15 percent of the Metro Total Nonfarm employment.

□ In January 2007, the Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton Metro comprised 4.0 percent of the state's Total Nonfarm employment.

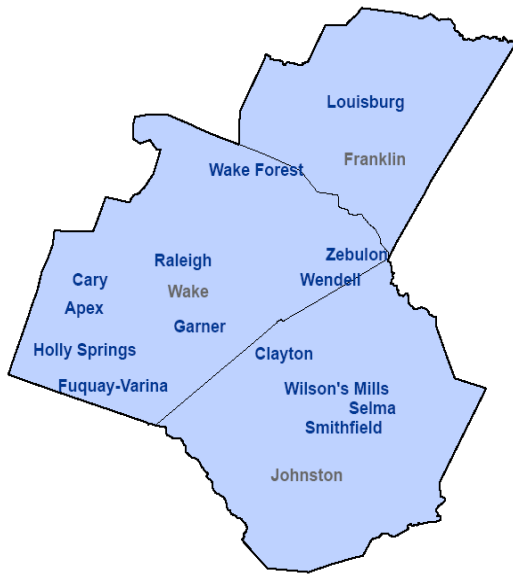
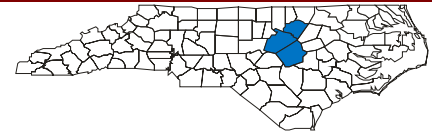


Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI



Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

Raleigh/Cary Metro



□ As of July 2006, the population in the Raleigh/Cary Metro was 994,551. Since 2001, the population has grown by 159,962 people—a 19.2 percent increase. This percentage change is the largest of the state's Metro's.

□ The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.7 percent in January 2007 and 3.2 percent in January 2001. The Metro's January unemployment rate reached 5.9 percent in January 2002.

□ Between January 2001 and January 2007, the Raleigh/Cary Metro added 51,900 jobs (11.9%). Employment in Service Providing industries grew by 51,900 jobs (14.2%) to 416,600. However, employment in Goods Producing remained unchanged at 69,800.

□ Employment in Manufacturing decreased by 5,500 jobs (14.5%). The manufacturing of Durable Goods experienced a loss of 5,800 jobs (23.7%), while Non Durable Goods increased by 300 jobs (2.2%). These decreases were due to layoffs in Communications Equipment and Computer Equipment Manufacturing.

□ Growth within Service Providing occurred in all major industries with the exception of Information. The Telecommunications sector experienced a loss of 3,400 jobs, primarily due to companies restructuring and downsizing. In addition to these more traditional economic shifts, some businesses changed their industrial definition in response to a competitive environment. As a result, these factors led to a decline of 1,600 jobs (8.5%) in the Information industry.

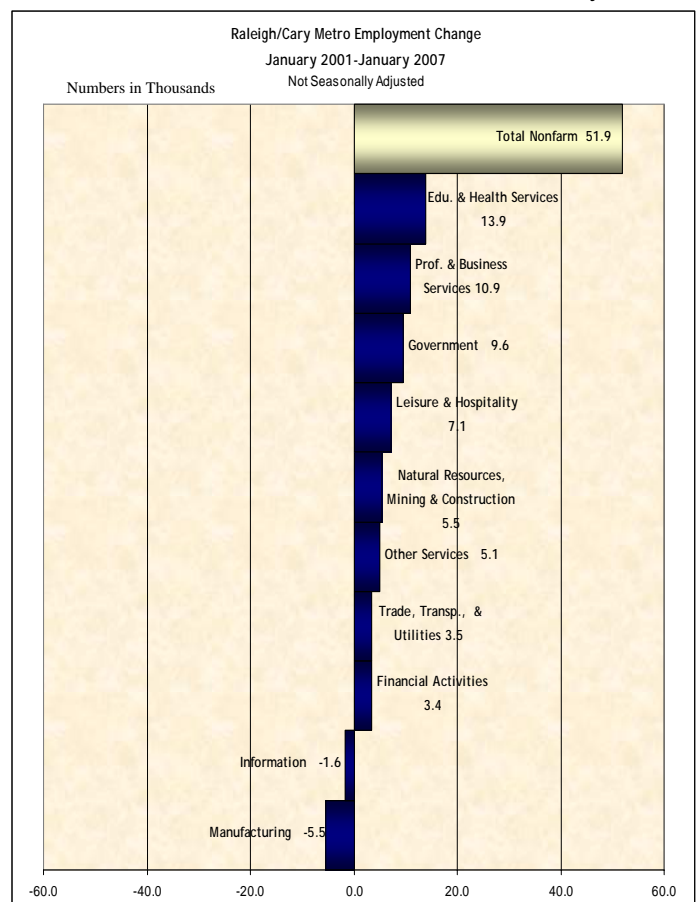
□ Educational and Health Services added 13,900 jobs (41.5%) over the six-year period. This growth was due to the addition of 11,500 jobs (41.4%) in the Healthcare and Social Assistance sector, and the addition of 5,700 jobs (48.3%) in Ambulatory Health Care Services.

□ Professional and Business Services added 10,900 jobs (15.3%). This job growth was fueled by the addition of 5,900 jobs (18.6%) in Professional, Scientific & Technical; Management of Companies, 3,200 jobs (43.8%); and Administrative and Waste Management, which added 1,800 jobs (5.6%).

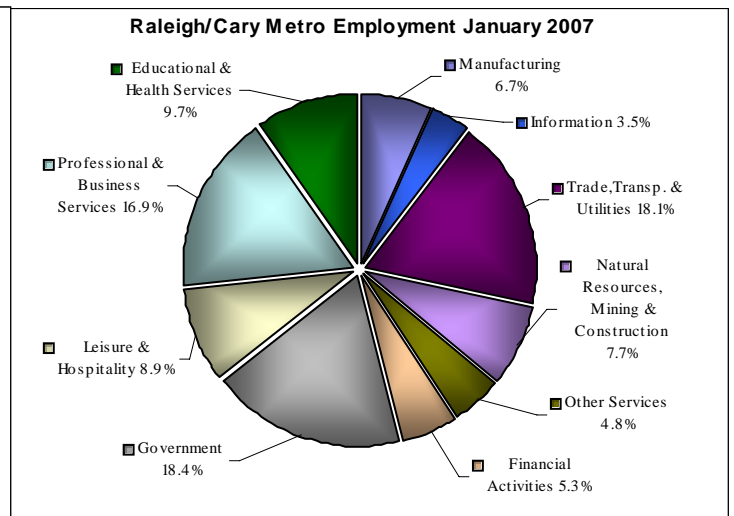
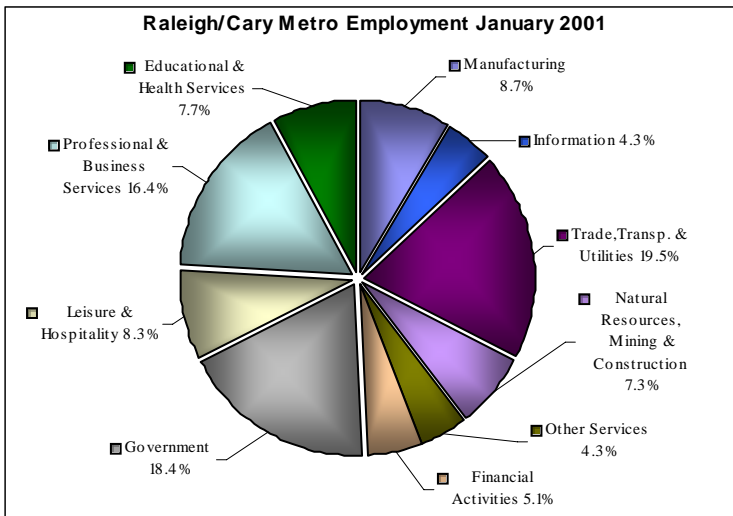
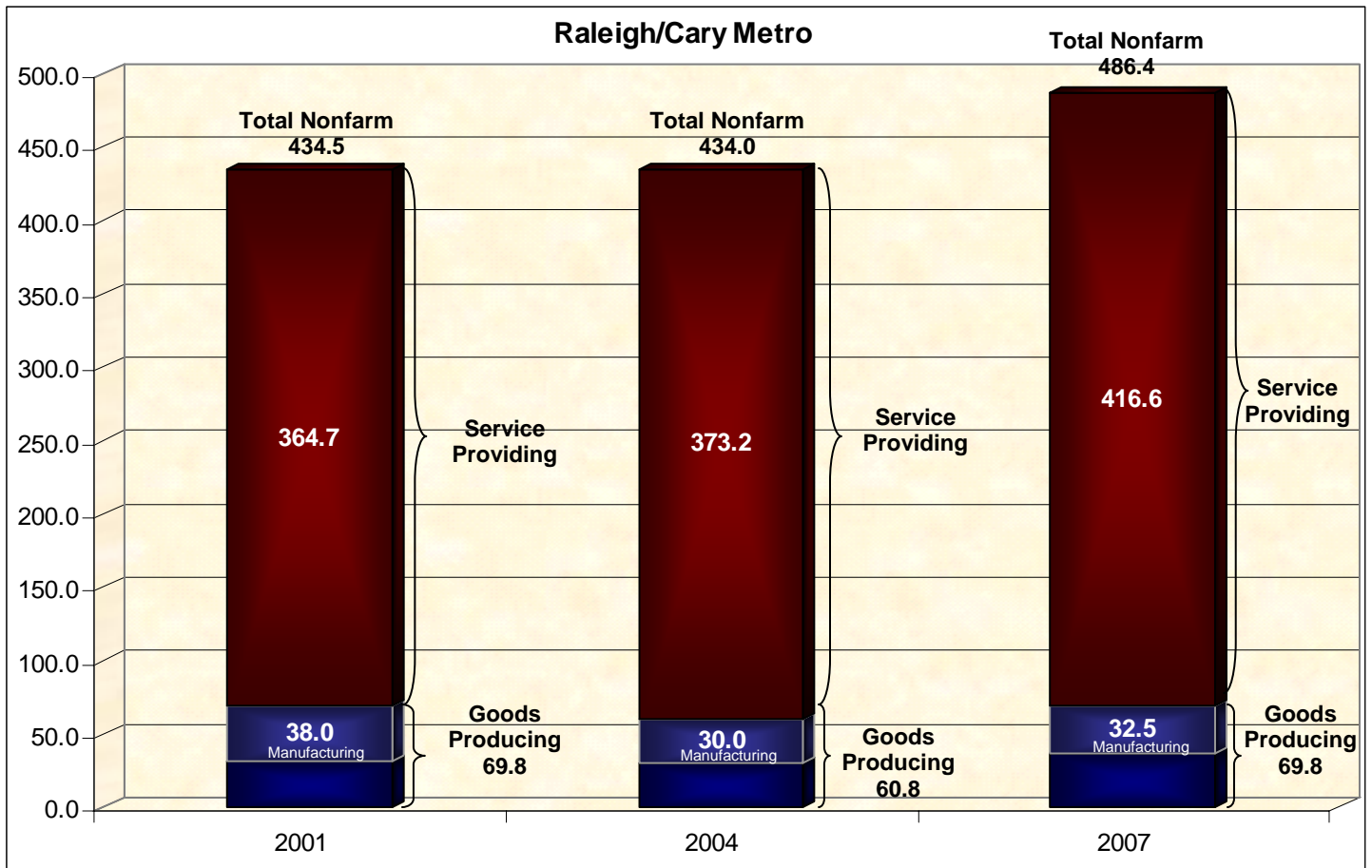
□ Employment growth in Food Services and Drinking Places (7,300 jobs, 26.6%) boosted job levels in Leisure and Hospitality, which added 7,100 jobs (19.7%) over the six-year period.

□ Government employment increased by 12.0 percent or 9,600 jobs on the strength of Local Government, adding 8,500 jobs (23.0%) over the six-year period.

□ As of January 2007, the Raleigh/Cary Metro comprised 12.1 percent of the state's Total Nonfarm employment.

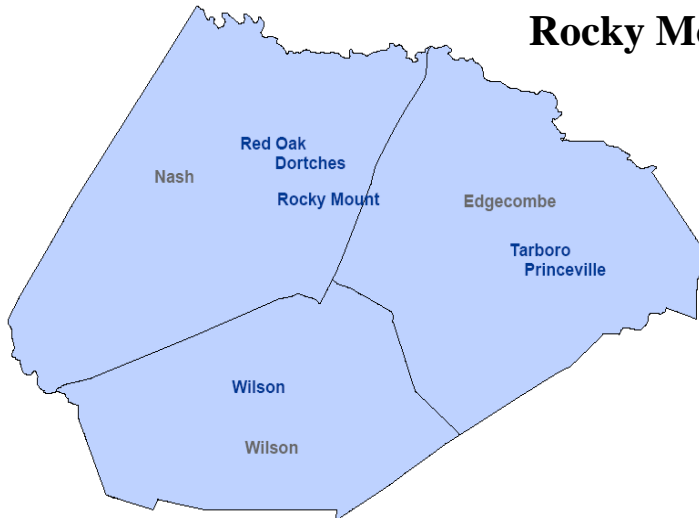
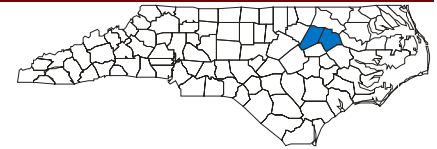


Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI



Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

Rocky Mount Metro



□ In July 2006, the population for the Rocky Mount Metro was estimated at 146,276, an increase of 2.0 percent (2,921) since July 2001.

□ The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.5 percent in January 2007. In January 2001, the rate was 5.9 percent. In 2002 and 2003, the rate reached 9.8 and 9.3 percent, respectively. In January 2004, the rate fell to 7.7 percent and continued to improve to its current level.

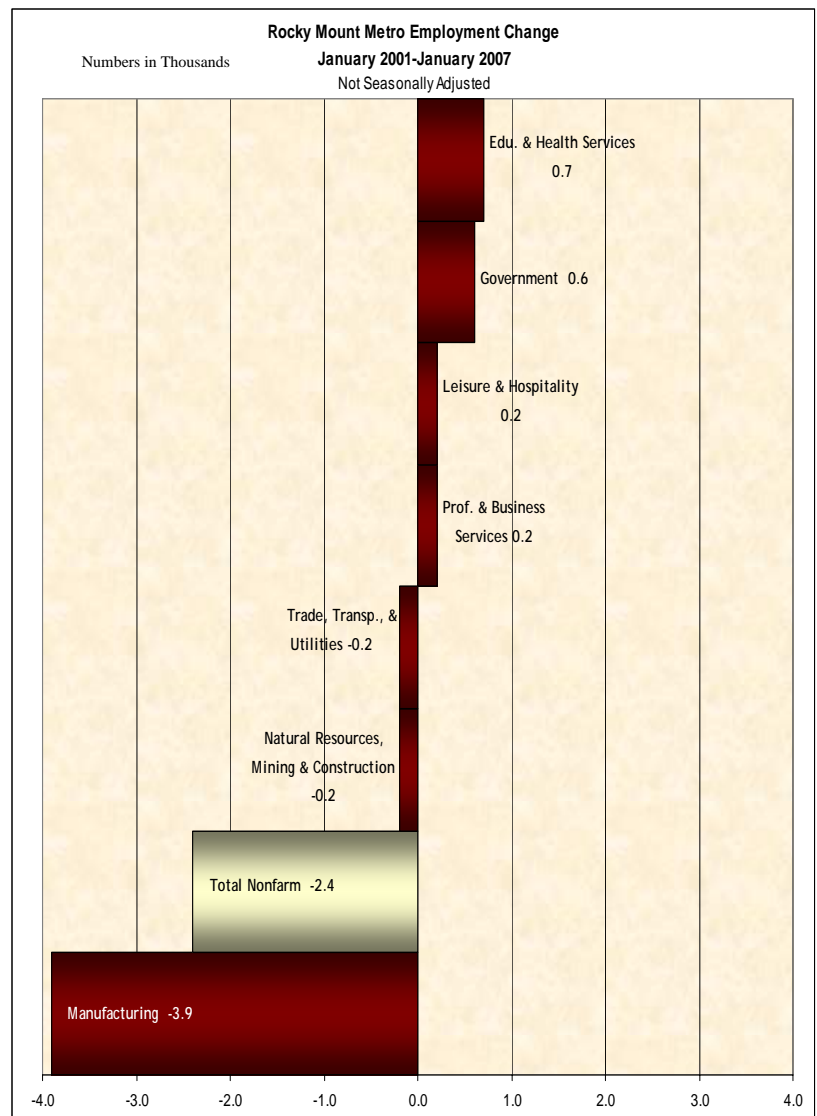
□ The Total Nonfarm employment in the Metro was 63,800 in January 2007. Since January 2001, employment for the Rocky Mount Metro showed a net decrease of 2,400 jobs, which is a 3.6 percent decline in employment over the six-year period.

□ The Goods Producing industries experienced a loss of 4,100 jobs, a decline of 23.2 percent. This was primarily due to the loss of 3,900 jobs (28.7%) in manufacturing. Layoffs and closures occurred in Beverage and Tobacco Product due to business consolidations and declining demand. Apparel Manufacturing also experienced a large loss due to foreign competition. However, in January 2007, Manufacturing was the third largest, accounting for 15.2 percent of the employment in the Metro.

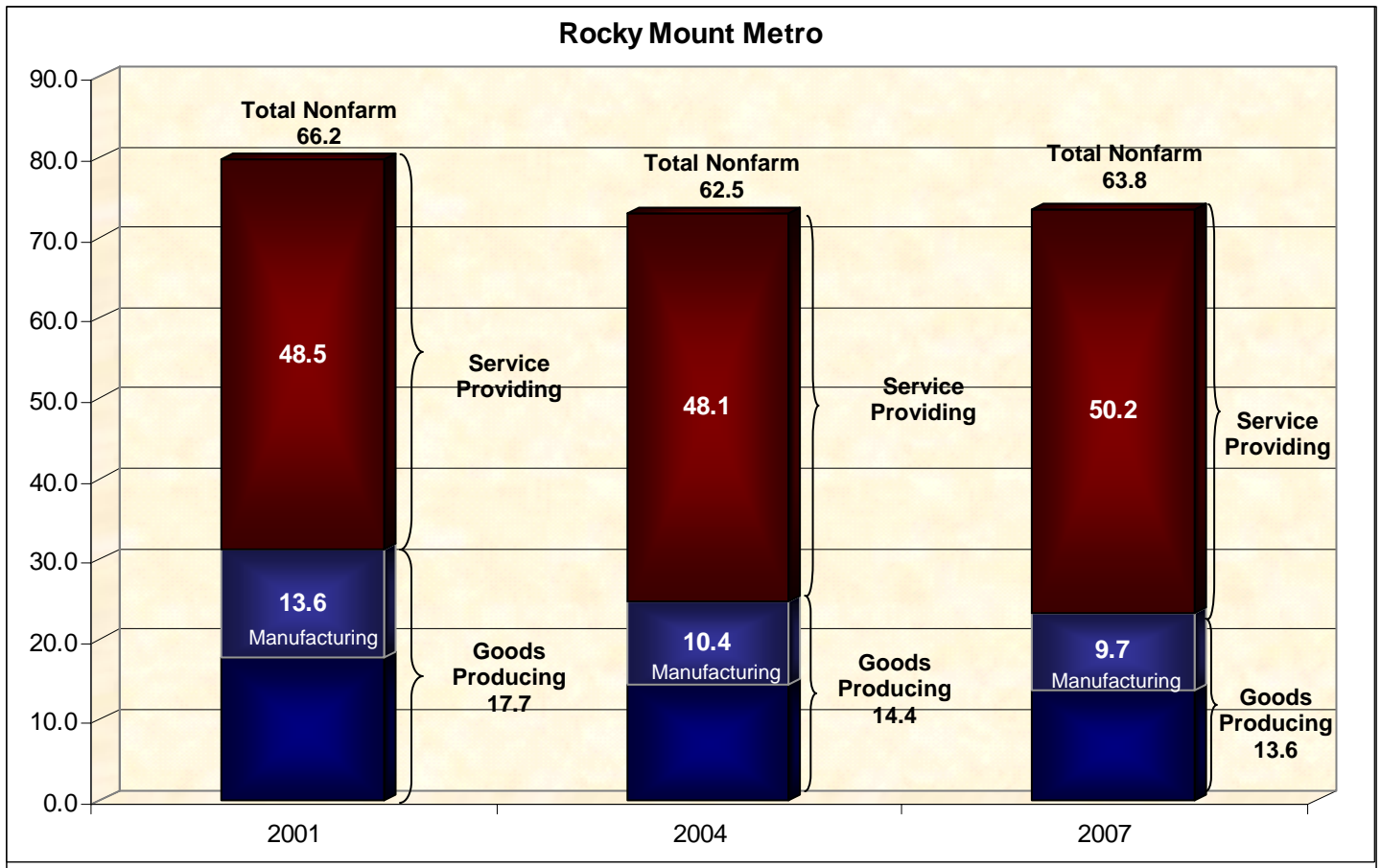
□ The Service Providing industries had a 3.5 percent increase in employment (1,700 jobs). Within Service Providing, Professional and Business Services gained 200 jobs (3.8%), while Educational and Health Services added 700 jobs (12.3%), Leisure and Hospitality Services, 200 jobs (4.7%), and Government, 600 jobs (5.6%) over the six-year period.

□ Trade, Transportation and Utilities declined by 1.3 percent, which was driven by the loss of 1,200 jobs in Retail Trade. This industrial group accounted for 24.3 percent of all employment in January 2007, and is the largest major industry in the Metro.

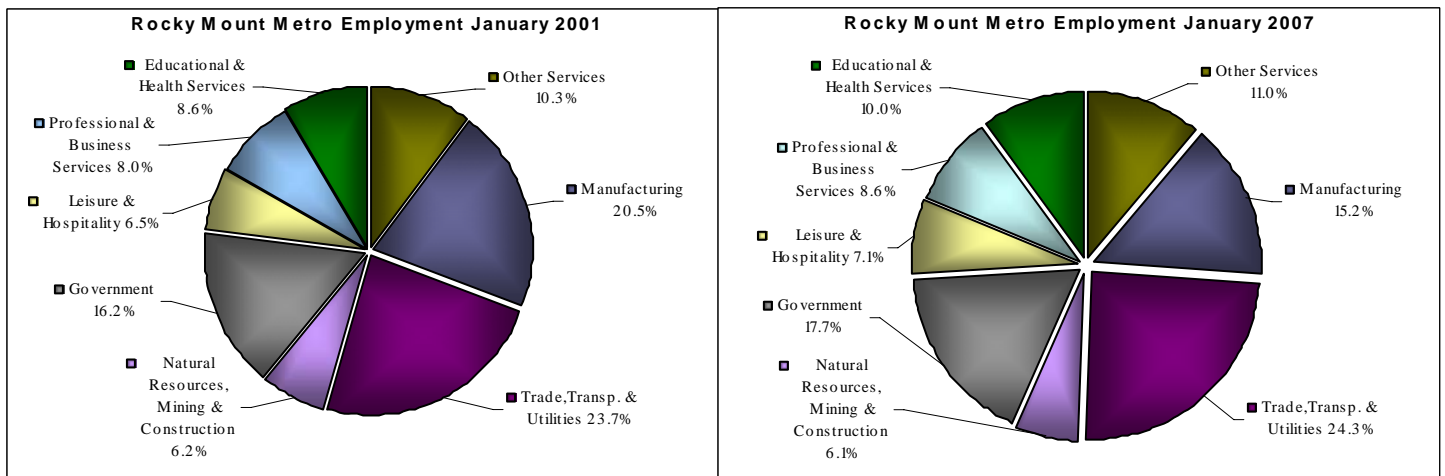
□ In January 2007, employment in the Rocky Mount Metro comprised 1.6 percent of the state's Total Nonfarm employment.



Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

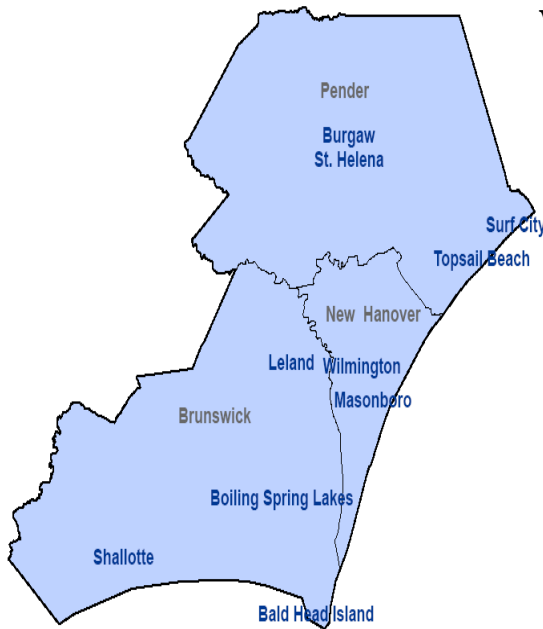
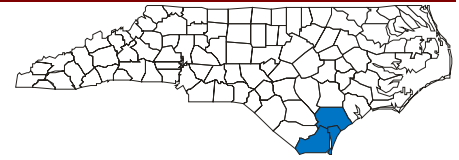


Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI



Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

Wilmington Metro



- ❑ As of July 2006, the population in the Wilmington Metro was 326,166. This is an increase of 44,841, or 15.9 percent since July 2001.
- ❑ The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.5 percent in January 2007 and 5.1 percent in January 2001. The January unemployment rate reached 7.6 percent in January 2002.
- ❑ Between January 2001 and January 2007, the Wilmington Metro added 22,800 jobs (19.4%). The Goods Producing industries experienced a loss of 2,400 jobs (10.2%), while employment in the Service Providing industries increased by 25,200 jobs (26.7%).

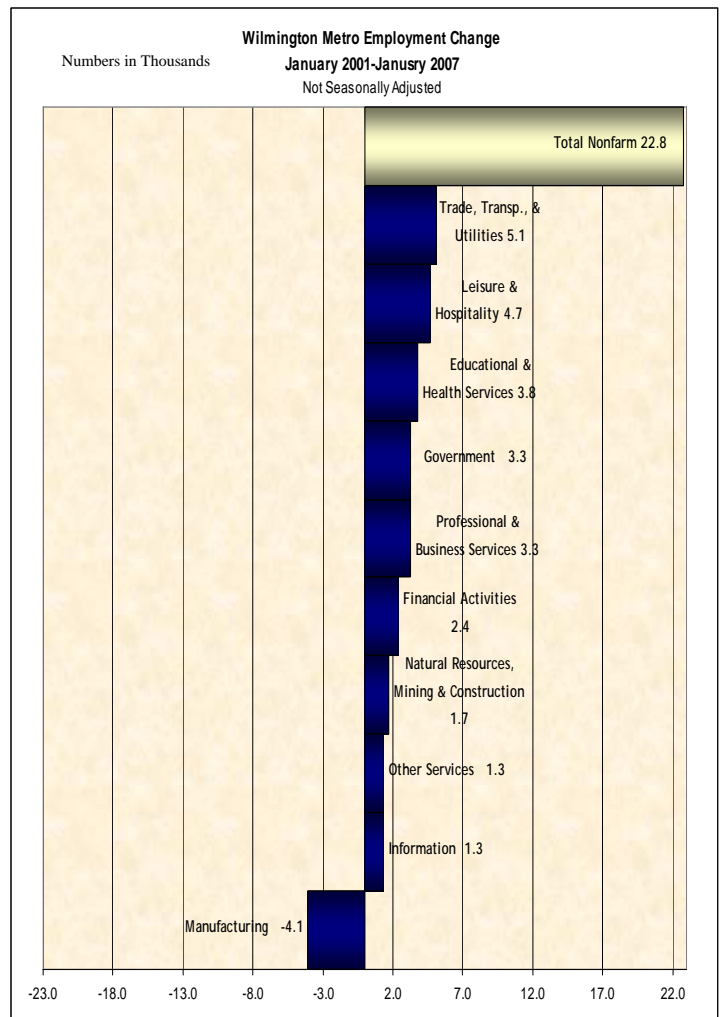
❑ Employment in Manufacturing declined by 32.8 percent (4,100 jobs). The Metro experienced layoffs in Textile Mills, Mineral Product Manufacturing, and Glass Product Manufacturing due to restructuring and costs reductions.

❑ Growth in the Service Providing occurred in all major industries. The Trade, Transportation and Utilities added 5,100 jobs (21.1%). This was largely due to the addition of 3,000 jobs (18.1%) in Retail Trade. Information experienced the largest percentage increase, 68.4 percent or an additional 1,300 jobs. The second highest increase was reported in Financial Activities as it advanced its payrolls by 50 percent or 2,400 jobs.

❑ Leisure and Hospitality Services gained 4,700 jobs (34.1%) on the strength of Food Services and Drinking Places (3,500 jobs, 34.3%).

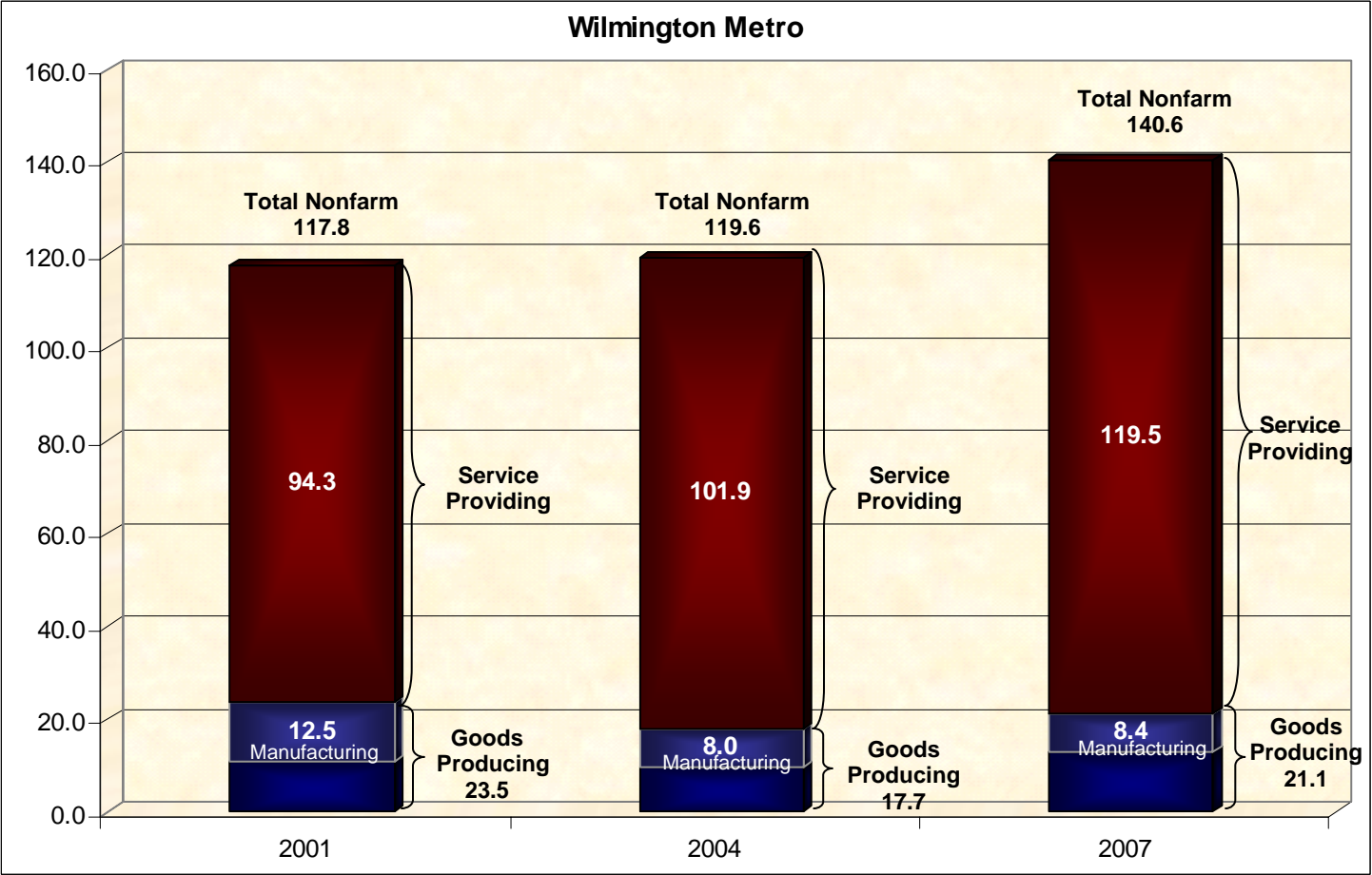
❑ Professional and Business Services added 3,300 jobs (28.4%), primarily in the Administrative and Waste Management sector, which added 1,500 jobs (28.3%). Educational and Health Services added 3,800 jobs (33.9%).

❑ The Government sector added 3,300 jobs (15.2%). This was due to growth in Local and State Government, which added 1,900 jobs (11.9%) and 1,300 jobs (29.5%), respectively.

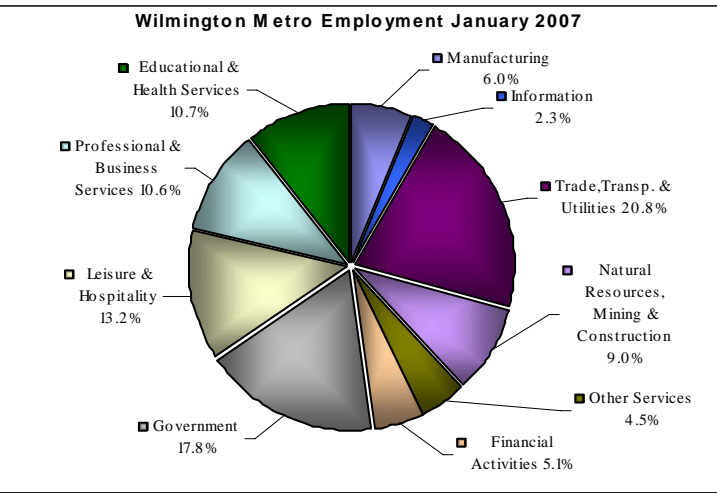
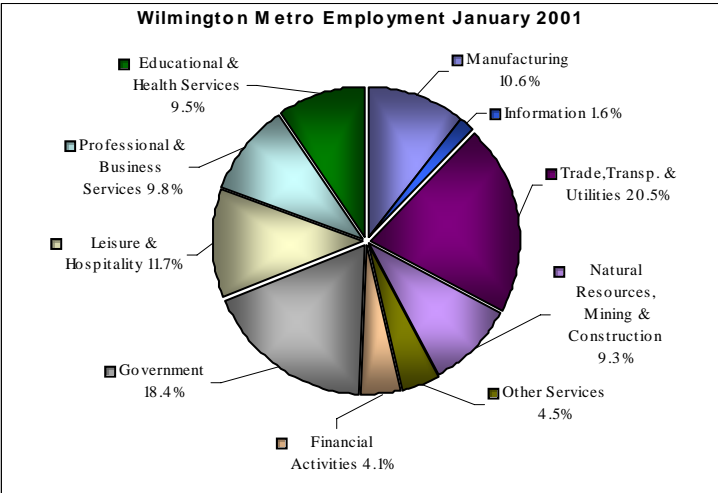


Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

❑ As of January 2007, the Wilmington Metro comprised 3.5 percent of the state's Total Nonfarm employment.

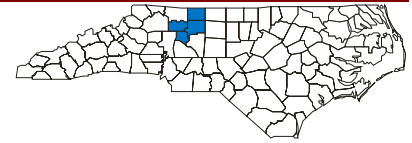


Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI



Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

Winston-Salem Metro



Between July 2001 and July 2006, population in the Winston-Salem Metro grew by 27,979 people (6.5%) to 456,614.

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the Winston-Salem Metro was 4.5 percent in January 2007. In January 2001, the rate was 4.3 percent. The January rate reached a high of 6.3 percent in 2002 and 6.1 in 2003. Since that time, the rate has continued to improve to its current level.

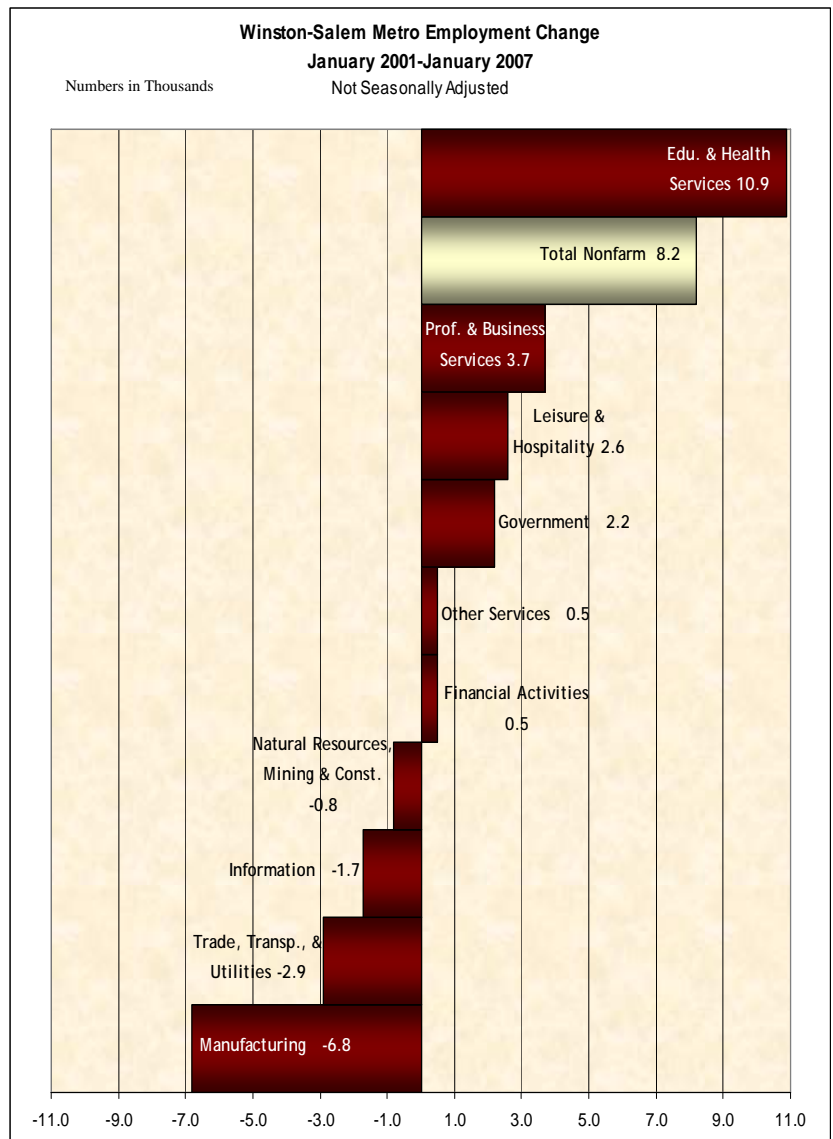
Winston-Salem experienced a 4.0 percent increase in its Total Nonfarm employment (8,200 jobs) from January 2001 to January 2007.

The Goods Producing industries lost 7,600 jobs, a 15.8 percent decrease over the six-year period. These job losses were largely due to a decline in Manufacturing, which experienced a loss of 6,800 jobs (18.2%). Layoffs within the Manufacturing industries occurred in Textiles, Hosiery, Furniture and Tobacco.

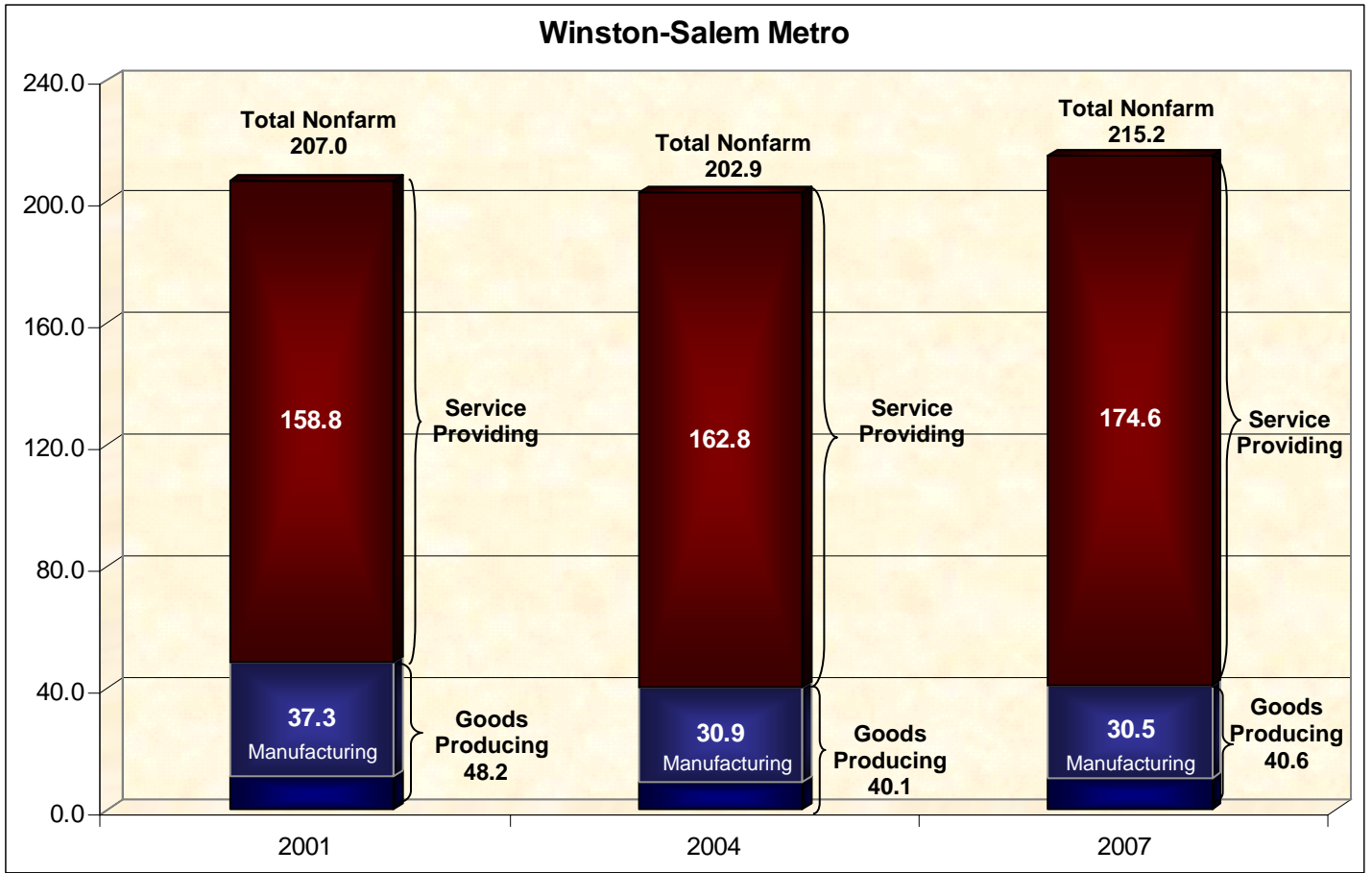
The Service Providing industries gained 15,800 jobs (9.9%). The largest gains were in Educational and Health Services with 10,900 jobs, a 34.8 percent increase. Professional and Business Services added 3,700 jobs (15.9%).

Two major industries within Service Providing experienced employment declines. Trade, Transportation and Utilities industries lost 2,900 jobs (6.9%) and Information lost 1,700 jobs (44.7%). Declines in Retail Trade (1,600, 6.6%) were due in large part to job losses within Food and Beverage Stores 1,100 (24.4%). Layoffs also occurred in Air Transportation due to slowdowns in air travel.

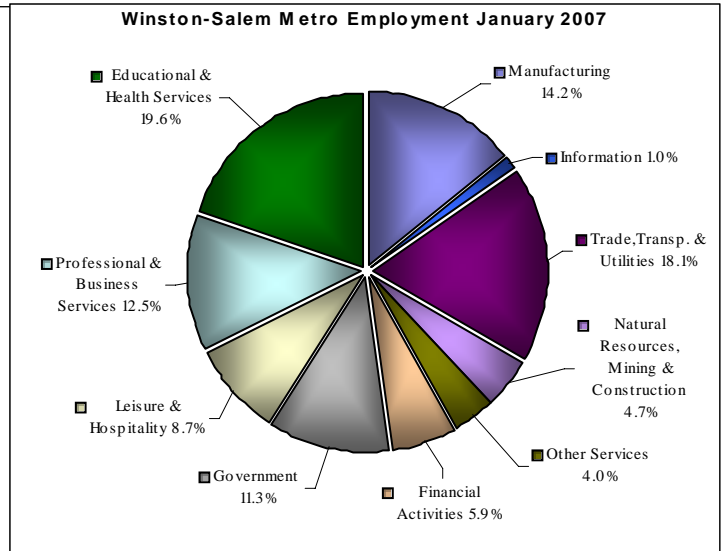
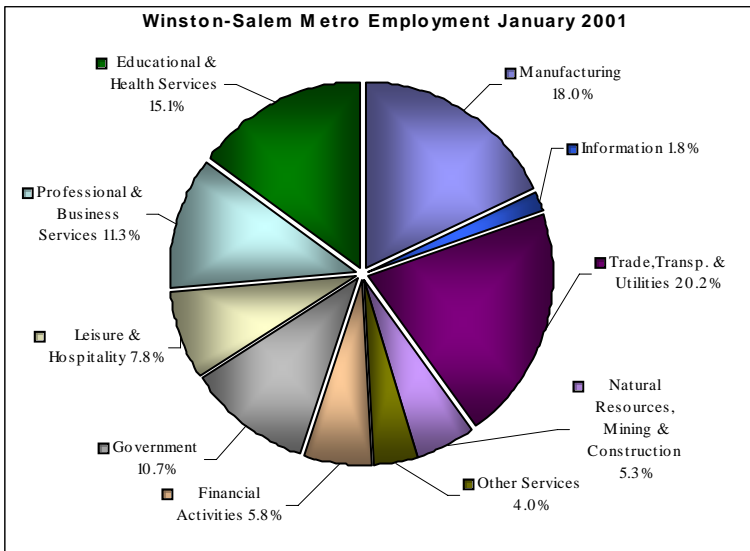
In January 2007, employment in the Winston-Salem Metro comprised 5.4 percent of the state's Total Nonfarm employment.



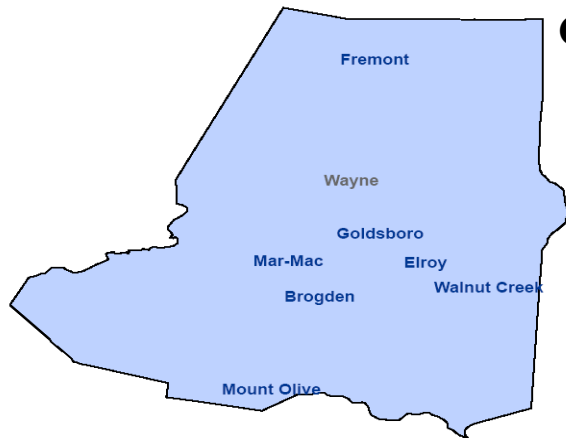
Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI



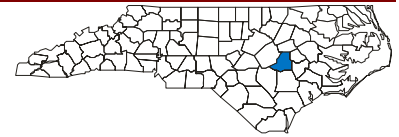
Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI



Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI



Goldsboro Metro



❑ In July 2006, the Goldsboro Metro population was estimated to be 113,847. This includes a growth of 676 people (0.6%) since July 2001. It is the smallest of all of the state's Metros in terms of population and its growth rate was the slowest of all of the state's Metros.

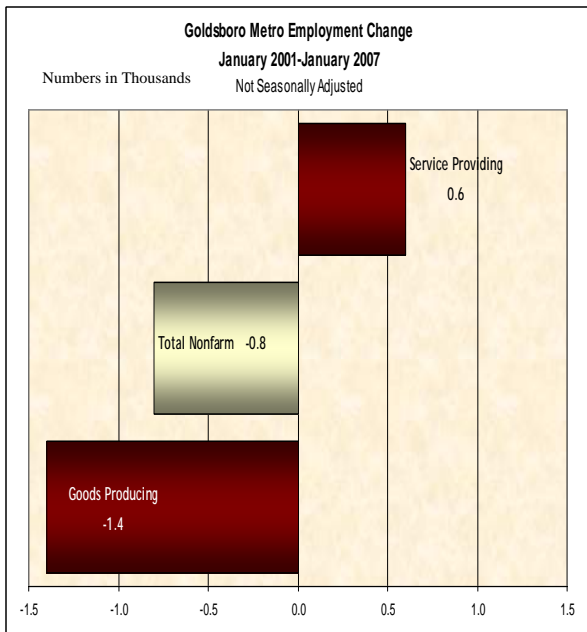
❑ The January 2007 not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.7 percent, a slight decrease from 5.0 percent in January 2001. The January unemployment rate for the Goldsboro Metro reached 7.1 percent in January 2002.

❑ The Metro's Total Nonfarm employment was 43,800 in January 2007, representing a decrease of 1.8 percent (800 jobs) from January 2001 employment levels.

❑ Between January 2001 and January 2007, the Goods Producing industries lost 1,400 jobs (14.1%), while the Service Providing industries gained 600 jobs (1.7%). These Goods Producing industries account for 19.4 percent of all employment in the Metro, while Service Providing accounts for 80.6 percent of all employment.

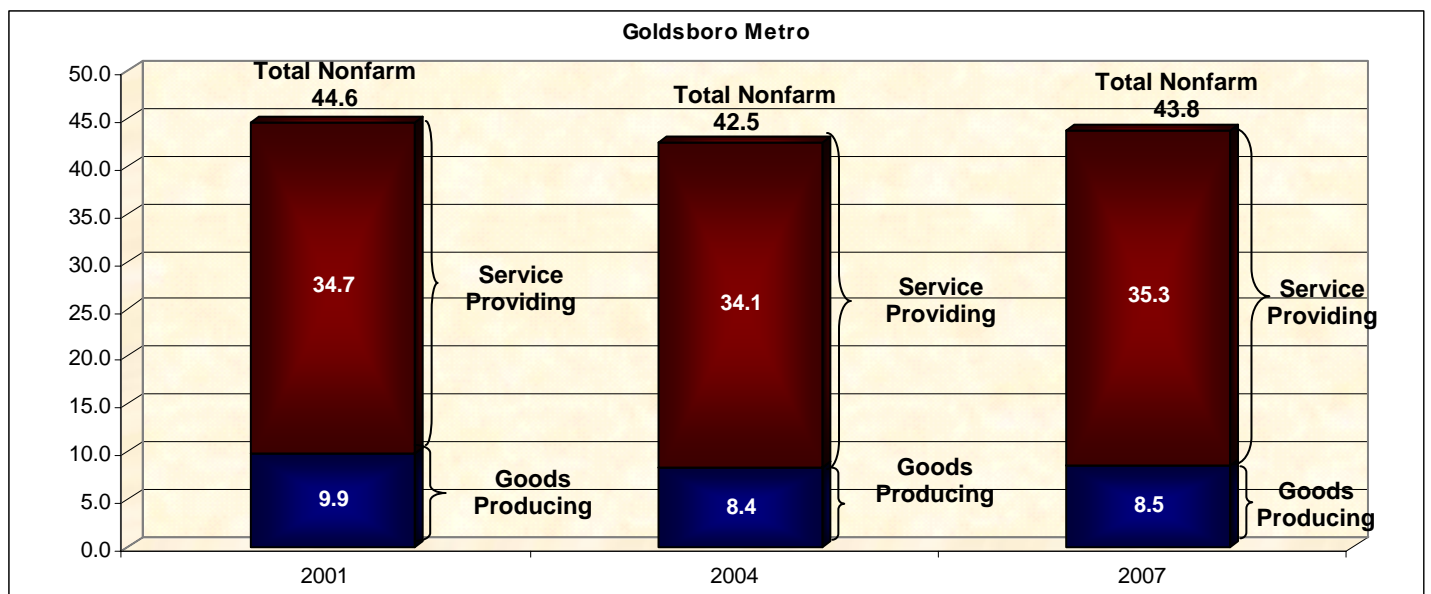
❑ Job losses in Goods Producing industries were partially due to closings within both fabric and hosiery mills.

❑ The Goldsboro Metro is one of four that experienced a decline in total employment over the six-year period. The Metro accounts for 1.1 percent of the state's Total Nonfarm employment.



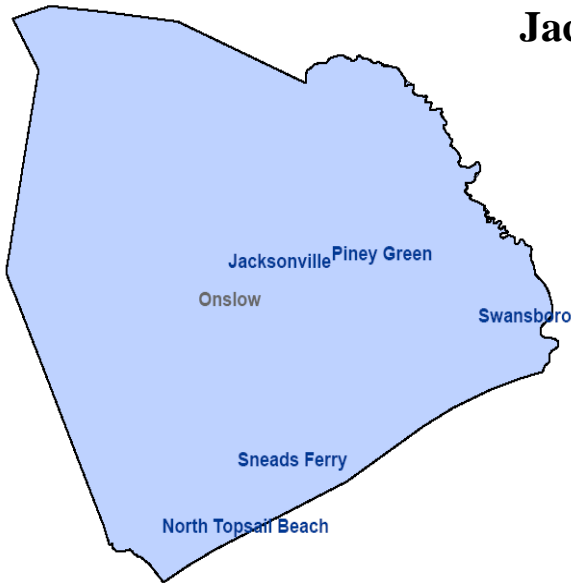
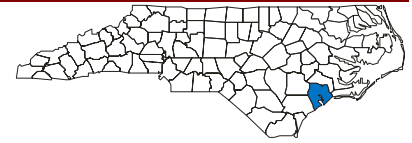
Note: Due to confidentiality data not available for all sectors.

Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI



Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

Jacksonville Metro



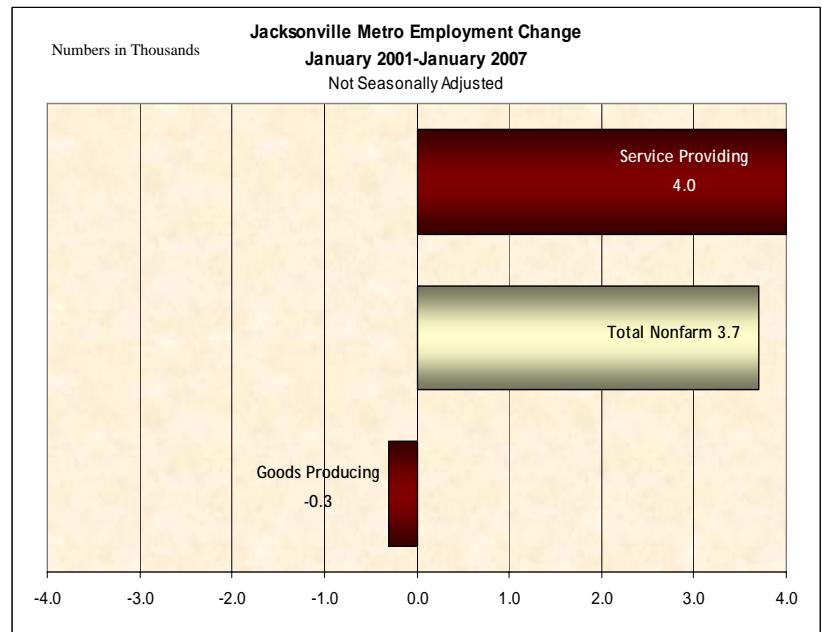
As of July 2006, the population in the Jacksonville Metro was 150,673, representing a 1.8 percent (2,667) increase in population from July 2001.

The January 2001 not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.4 percent. In January 2003, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate reached 7.5 percent. During the next three years, the rate continued to demonstrate signs of improvement. In January 2007, the rate was 4.5 percent.

In January 2007, the total employment for the Jacksonville Metro was 44,500. This was a 9.1 percent increase from the January 2001 employment level.

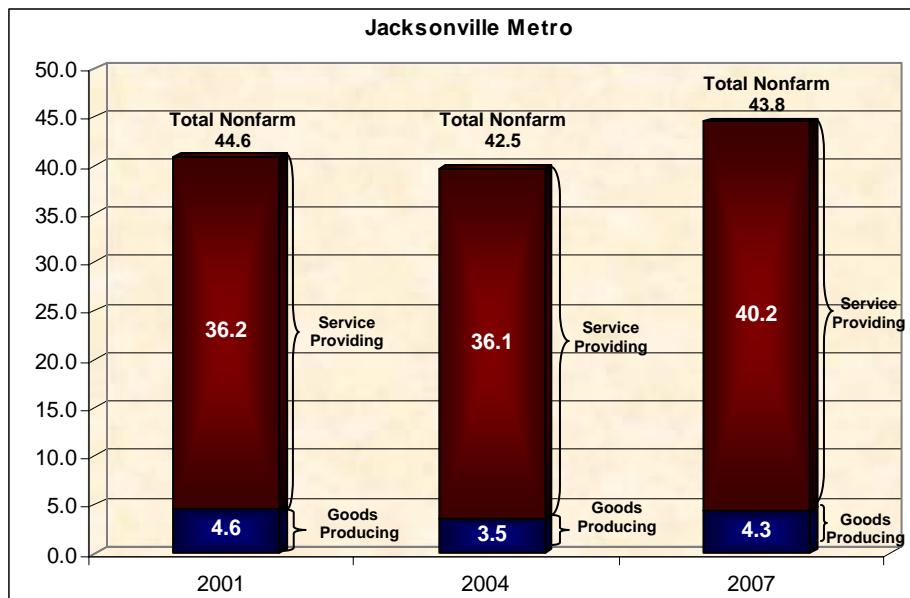
The Service Providing industries experienced 11.0 percent growth, by adding 4,000 jobs over the six-year period. In January 2007, Service Providing accounted for 90.3 percent of all employment in the Metro.

Federal Government employment decreased by 500 jobs (9.1%). However, this was offset by the employment growth in State and Local Government, 10.0 percent and 6.2 percent, respectively.



Note: Due to confidentiality, data not available for all sectors.

Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI



Source: Current Employment Statistics, LMI

Since January 2001, the Goods Producing industries declined by 300 jobs (6.5%). Job declines in Goods Producing was partially due to plant closings in Animal Processing.

In January 2007, the Jacksonville Metro accounted for 1.1 percent of the state's Total Nonfarm employment.