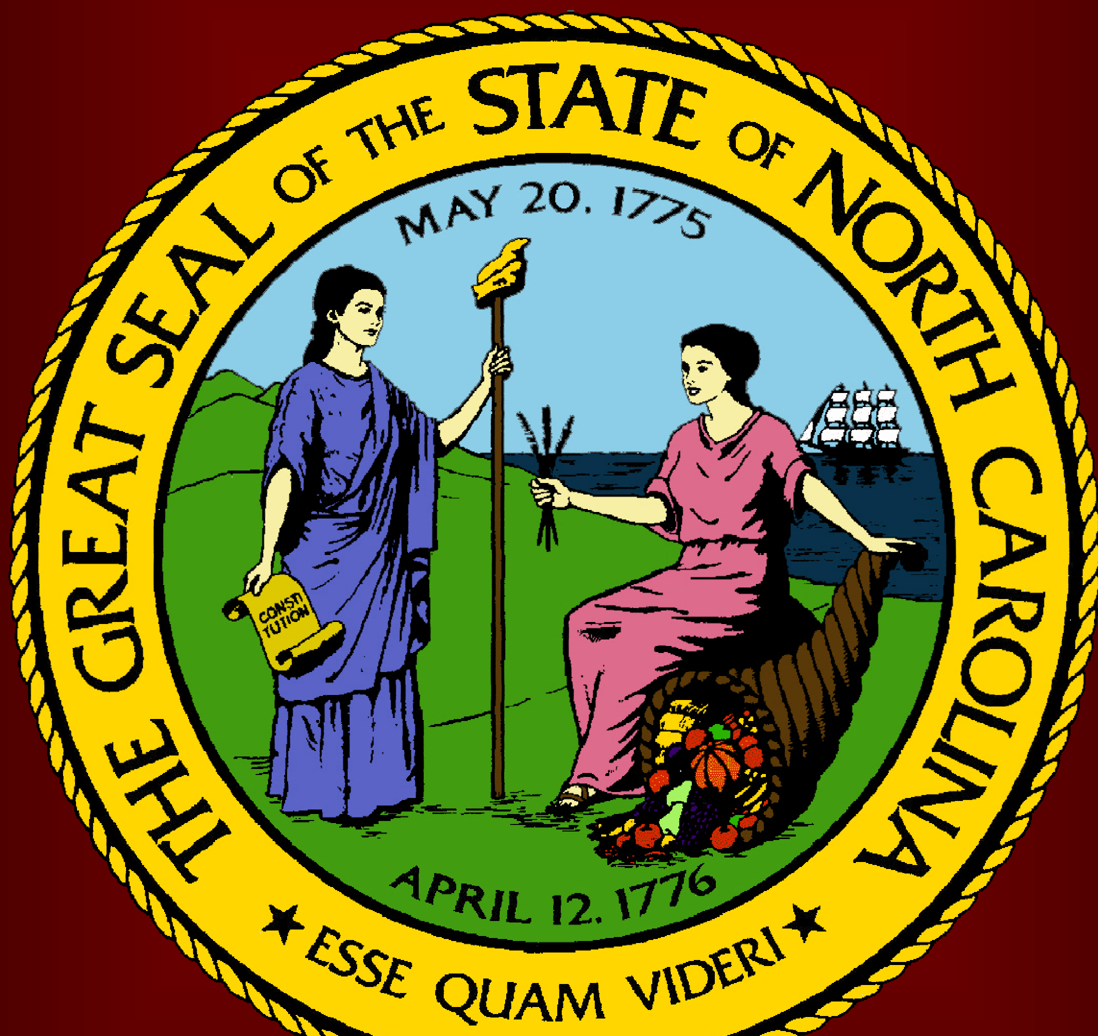
NORTH CAROLINA
ECONOMIC STATUS REPORT:
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGIONS



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION
OF NORTH CAROLINA
PART 2 OF A SERIES

The ***North Carolina Economic Analysis Report: Economic Development Regions (EDR)*** is the second in a series of reports on North Carolina's economy. Each report in the series focuses on a different approach in examining the state's economic picture. The first report in the series, ***North Carolina Employment Update,*** published June 2007, highlighted conditions in the state's Metropolitan Statistical Areas (Metros) using employment data from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Data were presented for the state as a whole, and for the 14 Metros within the state. Employment data represented place of work and were a count of jobs, not people.

The ***North Carolina Economic Analysis Report: Economic Development Regions, 2007*** concentrates on identifying and, where applicable, distinguishing variants in economic trends between the Metropolitan/Micropolitan/Rural counties of the state (see map on page 8 for designations). As such, the picture of the state's economy, created by this report, may differ from other reports prepared by the LMI division that do not focus on these distinctions.

The units of analysis were the seven EDRs, representing a compilation of data from the state's 100 counties. The BLS Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) was the source of the industry composition data for the study. In this series, data are available at the county level, affording the ability to compile the data for each EDR. However, because of the method of employer reporting of the data to the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina (ESC), the 2006 period was the latest data available at the time of this study. For that reason, annual average data were used for comparison purposes. And, as in the first study in this series, the data were reported by place of work and represent the number of jobs, not people.

Table of Contents

NOTES ON DATA

Metropolitan, Micropolitan, Rural County Designations - For analysis purposes, all counties have been designated as Metropolitan, Micropolitan or Rural. Definitions of these designations can be found in the Glossary of Terms that appears at the end of this report. It is important to note, however, that the boundaries that define the Economic Development Regions frequently divide traditionally defined Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas. Therefore, data for the Metropolitan and Micropolitan counties in this report (aggregated and reported by Economic Development Region), may not coincide with data for the Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Areas that contain those counties.

Population Demographics - Data describing the demographic characteristics of the state's population come from the US Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program. This program publishes total resident population estimates and demographic components of change (births, deaths and migration) each year. They also publish the estimates by demographic characteristics (age, sex, race and Hispanic origin) for the nation, states and counties. The reference date for estimates is July 1 of each year. Data in this report are from 2001 and 2006.

Personal Income - Data on 2001–2005 (latest data availble) local area (county) personal income are estimates supplied by the Regional Economic Measurement Division of the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Personal income represents the income from all sources received by, or on behalf of, persons living in that area. Because the estimates of some components of personal income (wage and salary disbursements, supplements to wages, and salaries and contributions for government social insurance) are made on a place-of-work basis, state and county personal income includes an adjustment for residence. Income is not adjusted for inflation.

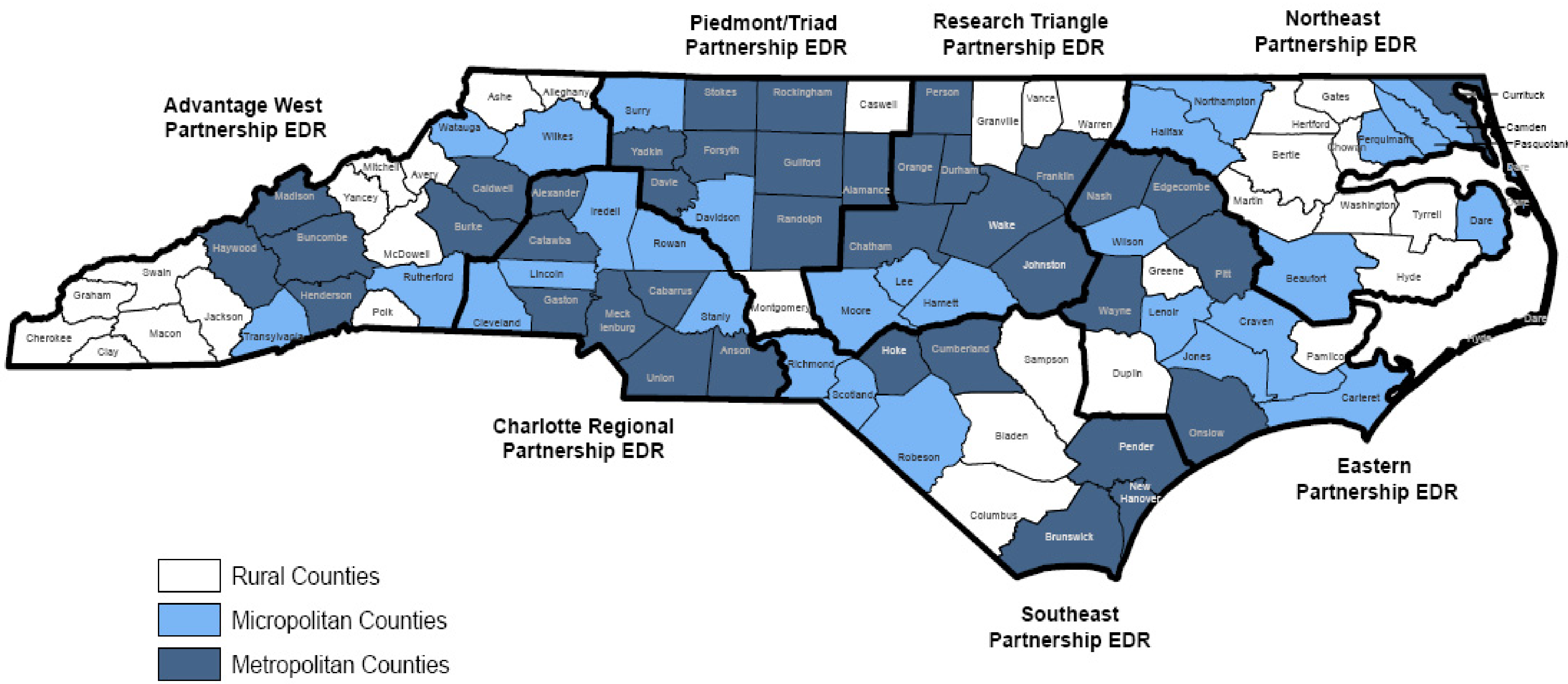
Labor Force/Unemployment - The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program, administered by the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina, generates monthly estimates of labor force, the employed and the unemployed, as well as unemployment rates for the state, counties, the 14 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (Metros) and designated labor market areas in the state. The labor force data are based on the same concepts and definitions as those used for the official national estimates obtained from the Current Population Survey. All states use regression models in which the techniques are based on historical and current relationships within each state's economy in order to develop the estimates of those employed and unemployed. The sum of these two estimates equals the labor force. Data represent the number of people employed or unemployed by their county of residence, not by the county in which they are employed. Information on business closings and/or layoffs is collected from a statewide survey of newspapers, other publications and information supplied to the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina.

Industry Composition/Size Class - To obtain reliable data that could be summed to the Economic Development Region (EDR) level, the data in this report on industry composition, employment and size class of the businesses in the EDRs were compiled using the Bureau of Labor Statistic's Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). QCEW data represent the number of jobs by place of work (one person may work multiple jobs at multiple establishments). The size classes of establishments within the EDRs are based on employment during the first calendar quarter. The QCEW database was designed to accurately capture and display employment and wage data during a specific quarter. For that reason, the data does have limitations when used for time series analysis. Administrative non-economic code changes may take place, thereby causing large series breaks to occur (e.g., industry designation changes). Thus, it is sometimes hard to interpret whether a change in employment or wages over time is a true economic event or a non-economic code change.

Projections - Industrial and occupational projections data are developed by the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina's Projections Unit of the Labor Market Information Division. Analysts use industrial data to review historical patterns of employment to predict future employment. In addition, analysts examine changes in technology and other factors to predict the number, wage level and location of future jobs. At this time, projections are completed at the statewide and Workforce Development Board level; therefore, they are not provided in this report for each Economic Development Region.

Definitions of specific terms used within these classes of data can be found in the Glossary of Terms that appears at the end of this report.

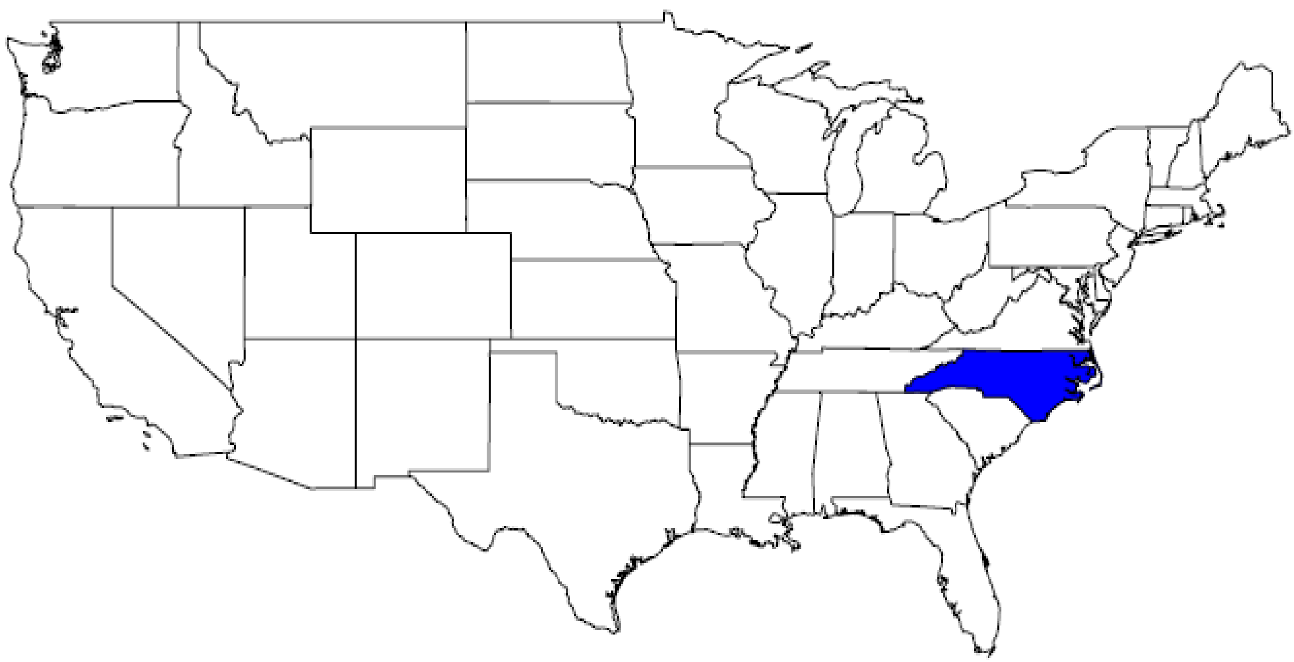
North Carolina Economic Development Regions And County Designation: Metropolitan, Micropolitan & Rural



Source: 2004, U.S. Census Bureau

Map prepared by the Labor Market Information Division of the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina 07_2007

Statewide



Statewide

As the 10th most populous state in the country, North Carolina's population, estimated at 8,856,505 in 2006, claimed approximately 3 percent of the total US population, and continues to be one of the most desirable states in which to live. According to a migration study conducted by United Van Lines in 2006, North Carolina was the top destination among the Southeastern states to welcome new residents.

North Carolina has the largest state-maintained highway system in the country. The major interstate highways are I-95, which stretches north to south across the Coastal Plain; I-85, which parallels it across the Piedmont; and I-40, which leads from the Atlantic coast in Wilmington to the Blue Ridge Mountains (eventually ending in Barstow, CA). The North Carolina ferry system is the second largest in the nation, transporting more than 23 million passengers and 820,000 vehicles each year. The major ports are in Morehead City and Wilmington. In addition, North Carolina has 76 publicly owned and 225 privately owned airports, with larger airports located in Asheville, Charlotte, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Kinston, Raleigh/Durham, Wilmington and Winston-Salem. Charlotte/Douglas, Piedmont Triad, Raleigh/Durham and Wilmington are all international airports.

The Tar Heel State consists of 48,843 square miles of land and 3,826 square miles of water. The state is divided into three topographical regions: Coastal Plain; Piedmont Plateau; and Blue Ridge/Appalachian Mountains. Along the entire eastern Coastal Plain are a myriad of beaches, which draw thousands of year-round visitors. Further inland are farming communities that produce bright leaf tobacco, peanuts, soybeans and sweet potatoes. Acres of pine forests support pulp manufacturing and other forest-related industries.

In contrast, the Piedmont Plateau is home to eight of the 10 largest cities in North Carolina, offering a mixture of urban and rural communities. Amid its rolling hills, the region has many tobacco farms, but it also has a large manufacturing sector, particularly in furniture and textiles. Its many Metropolitan Statistical Areas (Metros), such as Charlotte, Raleigh/Cary, and Durham/Chapel Hill offer many distinguished educational institutions and cultural events. Raleigh, the capital city, has a large government workforce, while Charlotte is one of the nation's leading financial centers. The southeastern section of the Piedmont is commonly referred to as "The Sandhills," and is a major producer of peaches. The area is also famous for its golf courses, such as Pinehurst, sponsor of PGA events.

The beauty of the Blue Ridge/Appalachian Mountains makes this region one of the most attractive spots for vacationers and retirees with its breathtaking waterfalls and mountain views. Mount Mitchell, the highest peak in Eastern North America (6,684 ft.), is located in this range. This region is especially known for its apple orchards, paper and textile plants, in addition to the small businesses of mountain artisans and craftsmen.

In addition to the beaches, mountains and high quality of living afforded to those who choose North Carolina as their home, the state's array of excellent educational institutions, both public and private, attracts students and faculty from all over the country.

Population Demographics:

- In July 2006, North Carolina's population was estimated at 8,856,505, an increase of 8.0 percent from July 2001. Fifty-one percent were female and 49 percent, male. The population was overwhelmingly Non-Hispanic (93.3%); however, the Hispanic population has grown at a significantly faster rate than the Non-Hispanic population since 2001.

- The gender distribution remained substantially unchanged; however, the older age groups (40 and over) comprised a higher proportion of the population in 2006 than in 2001, indicating the overall aging of the state's population. Between 2001 to 2006, the top three age groups (50-59, 60-69 and 70+) grew at the fastest rates among all age groups.

- Most of the growth across the state occurred in the Metropolitan counties (9.8%), although the Micropolitan and Rural counties also increased their populations (4.8% and 3.0%, respectively).

- The 50–59 age group experienced the largest overall net increase of 193,613 (20.1%). In 2001, this age group represented 11.7 percent of the state's population, but increased to 13.1 percent in 2006. This may indicate the aging of the population, but it also may indicate an increase in immigration for this age group, representing a high growth rate among the Hispanic population (88.3%).

- Among the Hispanic population, significant growth (42.2%–88.3%) occurred across all age groups except the 20–29 year-olds, who experienced a moderate decline (1.1%). In percentage terms, the second fastest-growing age group among Hispanics were 70 year old and over, although this age group comprised the smallest number of individuals. Growth among the Hispanic population occurred mainly in the Metropolitan counties of the state (45.1%), but was also considerable in Micropolitan (35.7%) and Rural counties (33.8%).

Table 1

North Carolina Population Demographics

	Non-Hispanic						Hispanic					
	July 2001		July 2006		Total		July 2001		July 2006		Total	
Age Group	Male	Female	Male	Female	Net Change	Percent Change	Male	Female	Male	Female	Net Change	Percent Change
0-9	523,448	498,505	538,158	512,705	28,910	2.8	46,862	43,844	74,855	70,255	54,404	60.0
10-19	536,471	514,402	571,055	542,330	62,512	5.9	34,168	26,361	46,183	39,874	25,528	42.2
20-29	529,391	525,272	539,107	537,574	22,018	2.1	81,095	43,496	75,950	47,218	-1,423	-1.1
30-39	592,366	605,773	561,664	585,535	-50,940	-4.3	48,972	29,200	76,769	47,452	46,049	58.9
40-49	584,663	615,910	618,846	650,760	69,033	5.8	22,180	14,794	40,008	26,933	29,967	81.0
50-59	457,161	491,035	541,093	587,410	180,307	19.0	8,545	6,526	16,344	12,033	13,306	88.3
60-69	284,649	329,054	338,268	386,213	110,778	18.1	3,306	3,119	5,980	5,694	5,249	81.7
70+	264,509	429,990	293,284	458,607	57,392	8.3	1,956	2,518	3,734	4,614	3,874	86.6
Totals	***3,772,658***	***4,009,941***	***4,001,475***	***4,261,134***	***480,010***	***6.2***	***247,084***	***169,858***	***339,823***	***254,073***	***176,954***	***42.4***

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Personal Income:

- Personal Income from all sources in North Carolina grew by 19.4 percent between 2001 and 2005, increasing to $269.2 billion (in current dollars). Overall, income growth was quite sluggish (1.5%–2.8%) from 2001–2003, likely due to the recession and slow economic recovery. In contrast, a notable rise in income was observed during 2004–2005 (annual growth of 7.4% and 6.7%, respectively) due to the strong growth of both the state and U.S. economies.

- The largest percentage increase in statewide Personal Income occurred in the following four Economic Development Regions (EDRs): Charlotte Regional, Eastern, Northeast and Southeast Partnerships. Personal Income in these regions grew by 21–25 percent during the five-year period.

- The Charlotte Regional, Research Triangle and Piedmont Triad EDRs were the major contributors to state Personal Income over this period, together contributing about two-thirds ($176.5 billion) of the state's total. Each of these three EDRs is characterized by a specific industry cluster: Charlotte Regional is a major banking and commercial center; Research Triangle houses state and local government offices and is a hub of high-tech industries; and Piedmont Triad continues to be an important center for traditional manufacturing industries (Textile and Furniture, etc).

- Nearly three-fourths ($198 billion) of the state's Personal Income was generated in the state's 39 Metropolitan counties, another 19 percent ($51.8 billion) came from the 29 Micropolitan counties, while the 32 Rural counties contributed the remaining 7.2 percent ($19.4 billion).

- Income from Personal Transfer Payments increased by 30 percent from 2001 to a total of $43.3 billion in 2005. The proportion of transfer payments to Personal Income increased by 1.3 percentage points over this same period to 16.1 percent in 2005.

- The proportional increase of Transfer Payments was due, in part, to the aging of the state's population, resulting in increased retirement payments, social security and medical and disability benefits that accompany this phenomenon. Additionally, this increase may also reflect a variety of government benefit payments made to veterans and to dislocated workers resulting from the closures of textile and other manufacturing plants and businesses. Substantial increases occurred in the receipt of food stamps (93.6%), unemployment compensation for veterans (237.7%), other unemployment compensation[1] (167.4%) and veterans' readjustment benefits[2] (71.4%) over this five-year span.

- Statewide, Proprietors' Income (Farm and Nonfarm) increased by about 17 percent, to $20 billion in 2005. Of this amount, 91 percent ($18.3 billion) came from nonfarm sources. However, the proportion of Proprietors' Income to total Personal Income declined slightly (0.2%) to 7.4 percent in 2005.

Table 2

Types of Income as Proportion of Total Personal Income by Economic Development Region 2001 and 2005

	2001			2005		
	Transfer Payments (%)	Proprietors' Income (%)	All Other (%)	Transfer Payments (%)	Proprietors' Income (%)	All Other (%)
Advantage West EDR	19.5	8.8	71.7	21.7	8.2	70.1
Charlotte Regional EDR	12.0	8.2	79.8	12.9	9.2	77.9
Eastern EDR	17.7	6.2	76.1	19.0	5.7	75.3
Northeast EDR	24.1	7.3	68.6	25.4	7.4	67.2
Piedmont Triad EDR	14.6	7.1	78.3	16.3	6.8	76.9
Research Triangle EDR	10.8	7.6	81.6	12.1	6.9	81.0
Southeast EDR	19.7	7.4	72.9	20.7	6.2	73.1

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

[1] Other unemployment compensation includes trade readjustment allowance payments, Redwood Park benefit payments, public service employment benefit payments and transitional benefit payments.

[2] Veteran's readjustment benefits consist largely of educational assistance to spouses and children of disabled or deceased veterans, payments to paraplegics, and payments for autos and conveyances for disabled veterans.

Labor Force/Unemployment:

Between 2001–2006, employment grew across the state by 8.2 percent and unemployment decreased by 8.8 percent. The majority of these shifts occurred from 2003–2006 during the recovery period from the recession. Employment grew by 7.2 percent from 2003–2006 versus 0.9 percent from 2001–2003. Unemployment increased 16.5 percent from 2001–2003, but fell 21.7 percent from 2003–2006. This pattern held true across all classifications of counties — Metropolitan, Micropolitan and Rural.

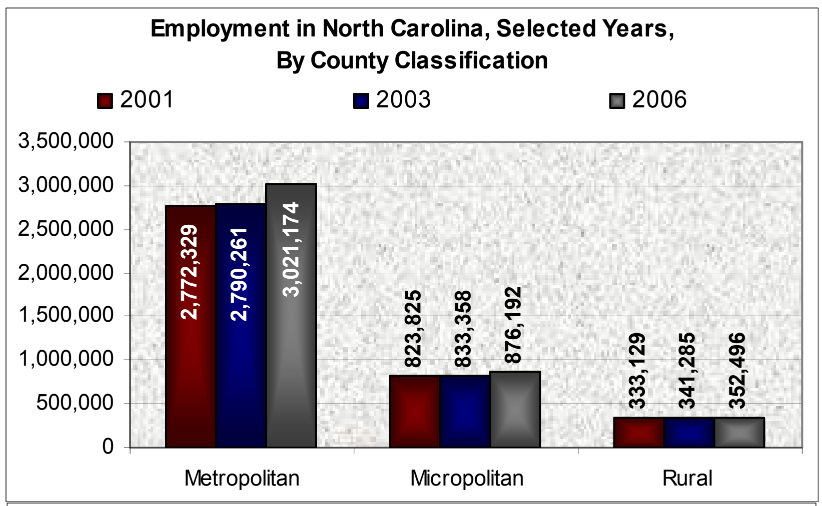
Employment growth occurred across all classes of counties, with Metropolitan counties experiencing slightly more growth proportionally than Micropolitan or Rural counties. From 2001–2006, Metropolitan counties' employment grew at 9.0 percent, while the growth rate for Micropolitan counties was 6.4 percent, compared with 5.8 percent for Rural counties.

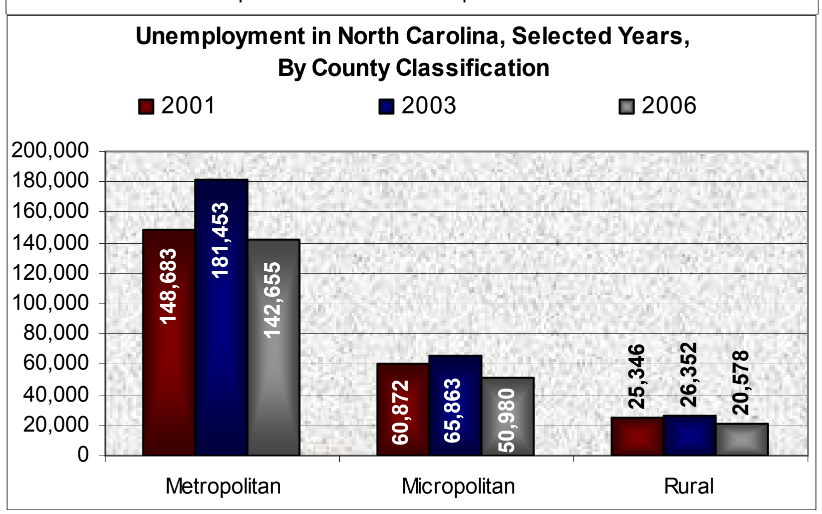
The distribution of employment across Metropolitan, Micropolitan and Rural counties showed a slight movement from the Micropolitan and Rural counties to the Metropolitan counties. In 2001, 70.6 percent of employment was located in Metropolitan counties, 20.9 percent in Micropolitan and 8.5 percent in Rural counties. In 2006, Metropolitan counties accounted for 71.1 percent of employment, while Micropolitan claimed 20.6 percent and Rural dropped to 8.3 percent.

Rates of change for unemployment, on the other hand, decreased much more significantly for the Micropolitan and Rural counties from 2001–2006 than for Metropolitan counties. The decreases for Micropolitan and Rural counties, respectively, were 16.3 percent and 18.8 percent, while Metropolitan counties decreased unemployment by 4.1 percent.

Similarly, unemployment levels increased proportionally in the Metropolitan counties from 2001–2006. In 2001, 63.3 percent of unemployment was located in Metropolitan counties, 25.9 percent in Micropolitan counties and 10.8 percent in Rural counties. In contrast, in 2006, Metropolitan counties accounted for 66.6 percent of the unemployed, while Micropolitan and Rural counties accounted for 23.8 percent and 9.6 percent, respectively.

Among the EDRs, the Charlotte Regional had the highest percentage of potential individuals affected by announced layoffs and business closings (28.2% of total possibly affected), while the Research Triangle (RTPR) had the highest percentage of events (36.1%).





Source: ESC of North Carolina, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Industry Composition:

- Between 2001–2006, North Carolina showed an increase of 130,116 jobs (3.4%) based on annual industry figures.

- The proportional distribution across all seven EDRs was largely unchanged during the time period. In 2006, 75 percent of the state's jobs were concentrated in Metropolitan counties, 18.2 percent in Micropolitan counties, and 6.8 percent in Rural counties.

- The largest increase over the five-year period was the addition of 81,637 jobs (19.2 percent) in Health Care and Social Assistance. Ambulatory Health Care Services and Hospitals contributed substantially to the increase in this sector, with a gain of 55,853 jobs.

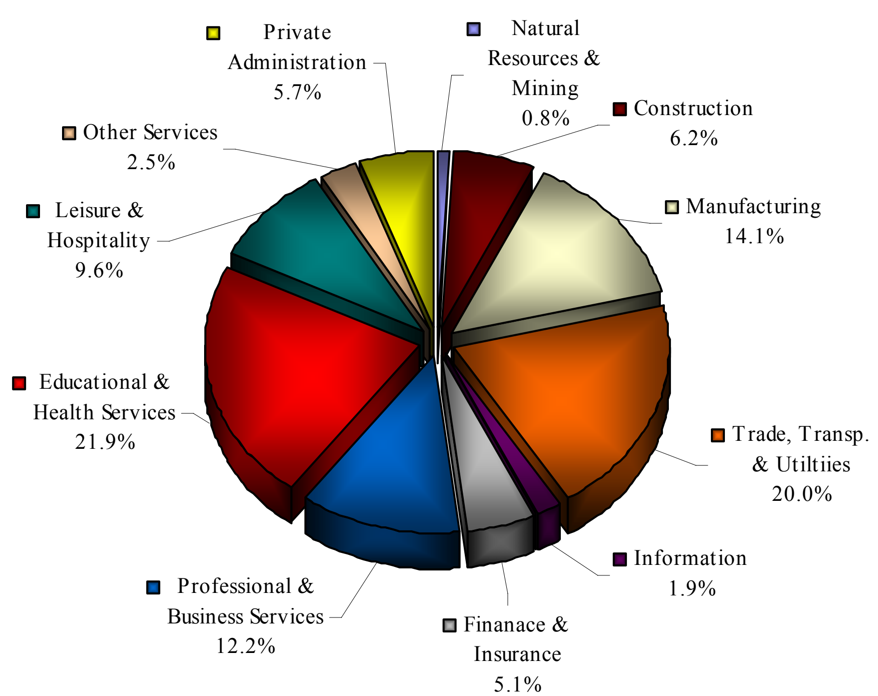
- Jobs in Accommodation and Food Services sector increased by 42,399 (14.9%) over the five-year period. Nearly all of this gain was attributable to growth in Food Services and Drinking Places, which increased by 42,343 (17.3%) jobs.

- The Manufacturing sector showed the largest five-year net decrease, losing 152,042 jobs, or 21.6 percent.

- Within the Manufacturing sector, jobs in Textiles (combining Textile Mills and Textile Product Mills) and Apparel subsectors decreased by 69,604 (46.5%). Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing subsector also experienced a large decrease from 2001–2006, losing 19,942 (27.5%) jobs.

- The Information sector also had a large net decrease (9,654 or 11.5%) over the five-year period. Within this sector, Telecommunications along with Internet Search Providers, Web Search Portals and Data Processing Services lost 24.9 percent and 22.5 percent of their jobs, respectively.

North Carolina
2006 Average Annual Employment by Supersector



Source: ESC of North Carolina, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Industrial Projections:

- Between 2004–2014, North Carolina is expected to add nearly 700,000 jobs, while increasing the total number employed from 4.1 million to 4.8 million — a growth rate of about 17 percent. It is predicted that the state will outperform the nation as a whole. In the United States, employment is projected to increase from 145.6 million to 164.5 million between 2004 and 2014, a growth rate of 13 percent.

- Two of the state's 11 major industry sectors are predicted to lose jobs by 2014: Manufacturing is projected to decline 7 percent; and Natural Resources and Mining, approximately 3 percent. Each of the remaining sectors is expected to increase.

- In 2004, approximately one out of seven jobs were found in Manufacturing; by 2014, this ratio is expected to change to approximately one in nine. The cause has been the relocation of plants and work to areas outside the country. Four subsectors will experience the greatest decline: Textile Mills; Apparel; Furniture and Related Products; as well as Beverage and Tobacco Products. Combined, these industries are anticipated to lose 50,880 jobs.

- Of the 21 subsectors found in Manufacturing, seven are projected to experience job growth. The largest percentage growth is expected to be found in Fabricated Metals (12%), followed by Chemical Manufacturing (10%), Manufacturing of Transportation Equipment (10%), and Food Manufacturing (9%).

- Four supersectors are predicted to increase jobs at a rate above the state average: Professional and Business Services, Educational and Health Services, Construction and Leisure and Hospitality. Professional and Business Services will show the greatest growth for the decade 2004-2014 (32 percent). Much of this growth can be attributed to anticipated growth of firms that specialize in the Administrative and Support Services sector (39%).

- In 2004, approximately 64 percent of Government employment was found in the Educational and Health Services supersector. Thise supersector is projected to increase by 27 percent and 32 percent, respectively.

Occupational Projections:

- Of the 22 major occupational groups in North Carolina, 21 are expected to increase over the 10-year period. Production Workers is the only major occupational group expected to decline. Textile-related production occupations are fueling this decline (i.e., Textile Bleaching and Dyeing Machine Operators and Tenders). However, some occupations within this group of workers are expected to increase, such as food-related production occupations (i.e., Bakers).

- The top three growing major occupational groups in North Carolina are expected to be: 1) Healthcare Support; 2) Healthcare Practitioners & Technicians; and 3) Education, Training & Library. The growth in healthcare will be driven in part by an aging population as a result of longer life expectancy and retiree in-migration, in addition to overall population growth.

- One occupational group Farming, Fishing & Forestry, is expected to grow slightly statewide, but decline slightly nationwide.

- Changing technology is likely to contribute to the decline of some occupations. For example, Travel Agents are expected to decline as consumers use alternative methods to purchase tickets.

- Occupations requiring the least amount of experience (short-term, on-the-job training) are expected, as a group, to grow less than total overall growth in North Carolina. This implies that, as a state, North Carolina will experience an increased demand for skilled workers.

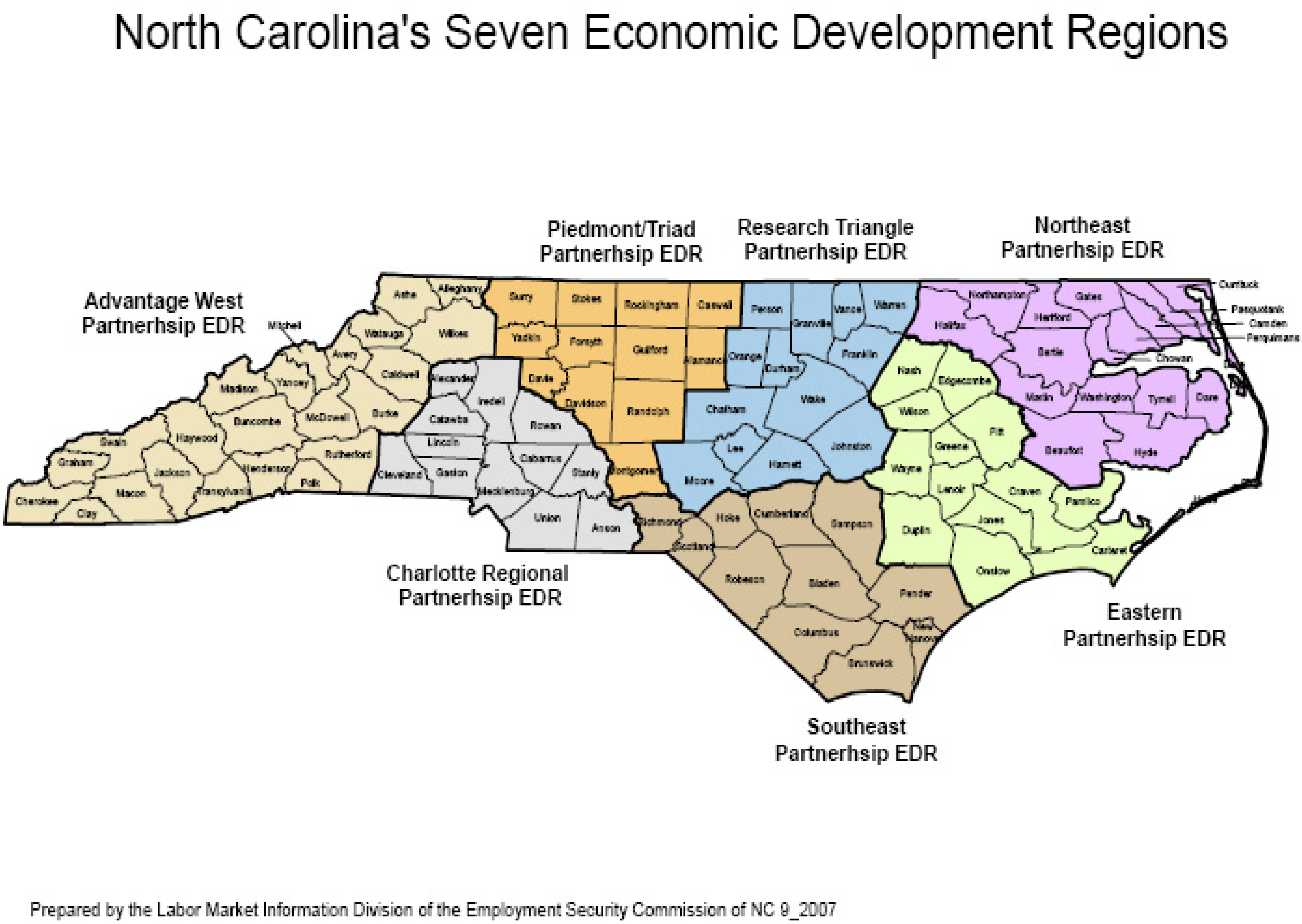
- Many of the fastest-growing occupations in the state are related to healthcare (i.e., Physician Assistants); still others are related to computer and mathematical sciences (i.e., Network and Computer Systems Administrators).

- Some of the fastest-declining occupations in North Carolina are related to textile production (i.e., Textile Knitting and Weaving Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders) or those occupations involved in railroad transportation (i.e., Rail Yard Engineers, Dinky Operators, and Hostlers).

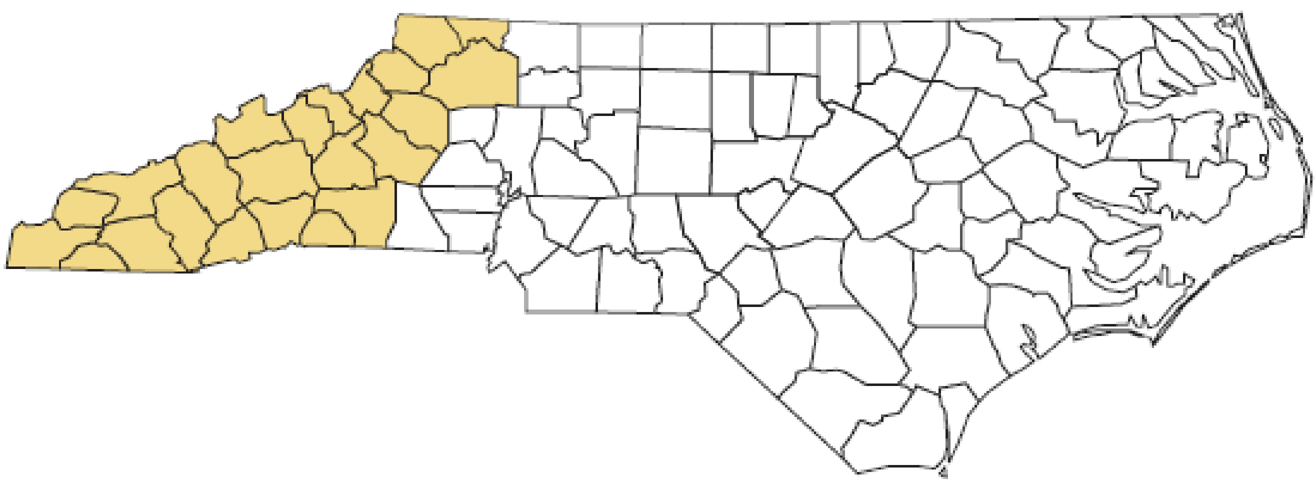
- Retail Salespersons and Cashiers are expected to experience the greatest number of annual openings. These positions have a high turnover; therefore, these openings are mainly replacements for existing positions rather than the creation of new jobs.

North Carolina Economic Development Regions

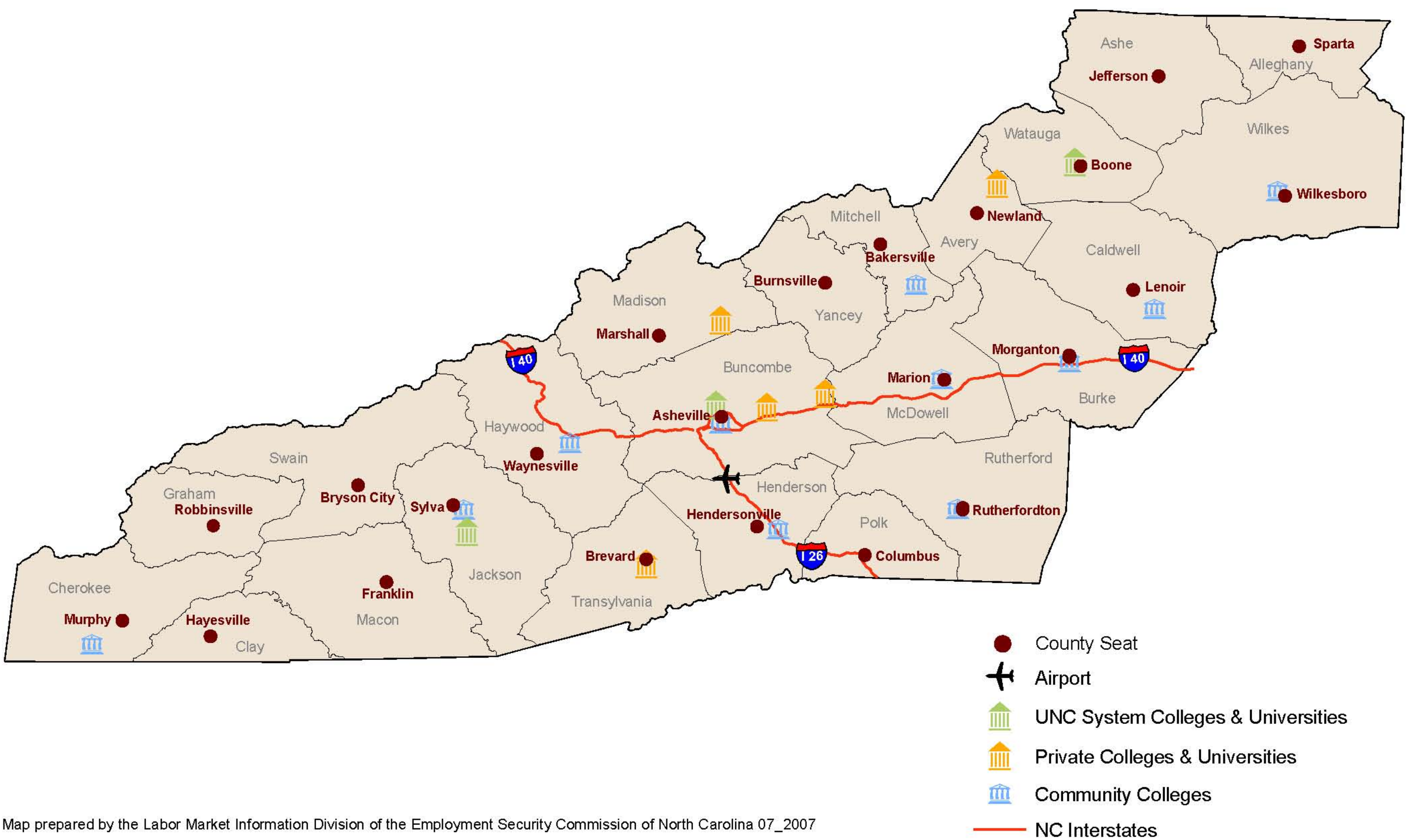
North Carolina is divided into seven Economic Development Regions: Advantage West Partnership, Charlotte Regional Partnership, Eastern Partnership, Northeast Partnership, Piedmont/Triad Partnership, Research Triangle Partnership and Southeast Partnership. An economic analysis of each region is included in this report.



Advantage West Partnership Economic Development Region



Advantage West Partnership Economic Development Region



Map prepared by the Labor Market Information Division of the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina 07_2007

Advantage West Partnership Economic Development Region

North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains make a picturesque backdrop for the 23 counties that comprise the Advantage West Partnership Economic Development Region (Advantage West). Encompassing 10,000 square miles — roughly the size of the state of Maryland — and about 20 percent of North Carolina's geographic area, Advantage West not only attracts tourists, students, retirees and families wanting to improve their quality of life, but a plethora of business and industry drawn to the area's plentiful resources and large population of skilled workers. In fact, 12 percent of North Carolina's population, or 1,048,102 people, called the region home in 2006.

The Great Smoky Mountains, Black Mountains and Pisgahs — in addition to the Blue Ridge Mountains — are among the Appalachian ranges that dominate the region, which is bordered by southwest Virginia, eastern Tennessee, northeast Georgia and upstate South Carolina.

Accessibility to the rest of the state, as well as the country, can be achieved through interstate highways I-26 and I-40, that link to I-77, I-85 and I-81; the Asheville Regional Airport; and Norfolk Southern Railroad. Ports in Charleston, SC and Savannah, GA, offer closer proximity than North Carolina's Wilmington and Morehead City ports; however, inland port services are available in Charlotte and upstate South Carolina.

Advantage West offers its citizens an abundance of educational institutions from which to choose. There are three public universities, 10 community colleges and several liberal arts colleges.

A rich mountain heritage of skilled craftsmen and artisans, fine resorts, natural attractions — such as Mount Mitchell, Linville Gorge and Whitewater Falls — kayaking, whitewater rafting, skiing, camping and hiking on and around the stunning Blue Ridge Parkway, combine to make Advantage West a prime tourist area throughout the year.

In many instances, these attractions provide the perfect background for the motion picture industry. Blue Ridge Motion Pictures in Asheville houses a 40-acre site with three soundstages, as well as state-of-the-art equipment for computer-generated animation and special effects. Among the national release films shot in Advantage West were "Last of the Mohicans," "Nell," "Dirty Dancing" and "The Fugitive." "A Noise of Many Waters" and "Scoring the Perfect Woman" are two films currently in production in West Jefferson and Asheville, respectively.

In analyzing the data for this region, the counties were designated as follows: Metropolitan (Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson and Madison); Micropolitan (Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga and Wilkes); and Rural (Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Swain and Yancey).

Population Demographics:

- In July 2006, Advantage West's total population was estimated at 1,048,102, an increase of 3.8 percent since July 2001. Fifty-one percent were female and 49 percent, male. The Non-Hispanic population comprised 96.2 percent of the total population. The Hispanic population, however, grew at a significantly faster rate than the Non-Hispanic population.

- Across race and ethnicity, a significant amount of growth occurred in the 50-and-over age groups (9.3%), compared to the younger age groups (0.5%–5.2%), indicating an overall aging population. This was true across the Metropolitan, Micropolitan and Rural counties of the region.

Twenty to 29 year-olds also experienced significant increases; however, this was more pronounced in the Rural counties of the region (9.7%) than in the Metropolitan (5.7%) counties, while the Micropolitan counties experienced a slight decline (1.3%). Thirty to 39 year-olds experienced decreases in number across all three county designations.

All age groups among the Hispanic population experienced significant growth (39.2%–65.6%), except 20–29 year-olds who decreased (1.6%). Within the Non-Hispanic population, growth occurred in all age groups except nine and under, 30–39 and 40–49 year-olds. The Non-Hispanic population, however, experienced growth at a significantly slower rate than the Hispanic population (2.8% versus 36.9%).

Among the Non-Hispanic population, 20–29 year-olds experienced growth over the five-year period (5.6%). This growth occurred within both Metropolitan and Rural counties of the region, with Rural counties experiencing the fastest growth for this age group (10.2%).

Among the Hispanic population, the nine-and-under age group experienced substantial growth (50.8%), as did the 30–39 year-olds (53.5%). The growth in these age groups was concentrated in both Metropolitan and Rural counties of the region.

The gender distribution remained unchanged among the Non-Hispanic population, while the Hispanic population experienced a moderate shift, with females increasing by 44.0 percent, while males increased by only 32.2 percent.

Table 3

Advantage West Population Demographics 2001 and 2006												
	Non-Hispanic						Hispanic					
	July 2001		July 2006		Total		July 2001		July 2006		Total	
Age Group	Male	Female	Male	Female	Net Change	Percent Change	Male	Female	Male	Female	Net Change	Percent Change
0-9	56,685	53,753	55,439	52,386	-2,613	-2.4	3,171	3,021	4,805	4,530	3,143	50.8
10-19	63,403	58,971	64,322	59,612	1,560	1.3	2,463	1,873	3,302	2,732	1,698	39.2
20-29	60,370	58,783	63,609	62,264	6,720	5.6	5,696	2,739	5,228	3,074	-133	-1.6
30-39	66,936	66,364	62,912	62,389	-7,999	-6.0	3,505	1,850	5,223	2,997	2,865	53.5
40-49	71,229	74,460	70,711	73,176	-1,802	-1.2	1,694	1,007	2,827	1,647	1,773	65.6
50-59	63,804	68,902	69,661	75,400	12,355	9.3	709	559	1,250	835	817	64.4
60-69	45,742	51,916	50,070	57,619	10,031	10.3	277	296	455	473	355	62.0
70+	47,548	71,942	51,872	76,448	8,830	7.4	224	291	364	470	319	61.9
Total	***475,717***	***505,091***	***488,596***	***519,294***	***27,082***	***2.8***	***17,739***	***11,636***	***23,454***	***16,758***	***10,837***	***36.9***

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Personal Income:

Personal Income from all sources in Advantage West grew by 15.2 percent between 2001 and 2006, increasing to $28.4 billion (in current dollars). This comprised slightly more than one-tenth of the state's total Personal Income in 2005.

Metropolitan counties contributed more than half of the region's's Personal Income ($16 billion in 2005). Of this group, Buncombe County alone contributed about 23 percent, followed by Henderson County, which contributed an additional 10.5 percent.

The growth rate in Personal Income in this region (15.2%) lagged that of the state overall (19.4%). Growth rates ranged from a low of 7.9 percent in Alleghany County to a high of 24.6 percent in Swain County. Rates of growth in four counties (Polk, Watauga, Jackson and Swain) all exceeded the state's growth rate. These counties were Rural except Watauga (Micropolitan).

Advantage West accounted for approximately 14 percent ($6.2 billion) of the state's Personal Transfer Payments disbursed in 2005. The Transfer Payments in this region increased by 28 percent, with Cherokee County experiencing the highest rate of growth (32.3%). Increases in Transfer Payments in Cherokee County were spread across virtually all types of payments in the category. Additional increases in Transfer Payments in this region may reflect government payments subsequent to catastrophic hurricane and flooding damage incurred during September 2004: 16 of 23 counties in Advantage West were declared disaster areas.

Slightly more than half of the Transfer Payments were made to people living in six Metropolitan counties, about 19 percent to four Micropolitan counties, and the balance, 28 percent, to residents of 13 Rural counties.

Buncombe County received the most Transfer Payments, about 20 percent ($1.2 billion) of the region's total receipts. Henderson County followed with an additional 10 percent.

Just over one-tenth of the state's Proprietors' Income ($2.3 billion) was generated in Advantage West. This source of income grew at a slower rate (7.4%) than did the statewide rate (16.6%) during the five-year period.

Buncombe County contributed the greatest (18.3%) to the region's Proprietors' Income, followed by Burke and Caldwell counties, each contributing between 9 and 10 percent. Other notable contributors to Proprietors' Income were Henderson, Rutherford and Wilkes counties, each contributing between 7 and 8 percent.

Table 4

Advantage West
Business Establishment Class Size

Establishment Size	# of Establishments	March 2006 Private Employment	Establishments % of Total	Employment % of Total
0 - 9	19,848	58,453	75.9	18.0
10 - 49	5,209	105,054	19.9	32.3
50 - 99	628	42,889	2.4	13.2
100 - 499	417	79,778	1.6	24.6
500 +	43	38,671	0.2	11.9
Total	26,145	324,845		

Source: ESC of North Carolina, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Labor Force/Unemployment:

During the economic recovery period from 2003–2006, Advantage West had the lowest employment growth among the state's EDRs. The Micropolitan counties actually experienced a loss in employment (0.8%) during this recession recovery period, while the Metropolitan counties' employment increased by 4.5 percent and the Rural counties by 5.4 percent.

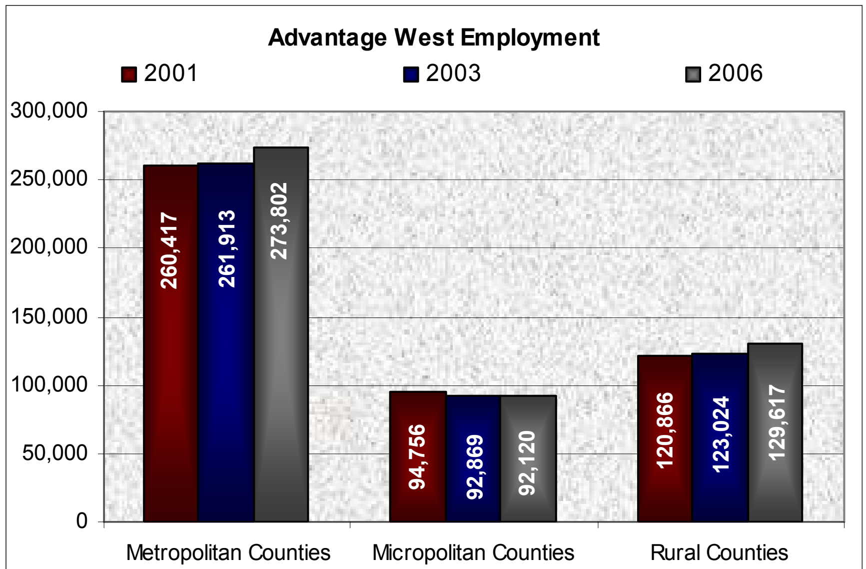
Growth in employment and reduction in unemployment was most pronounced in the Rural counties of the region, with 7.2 percent growth in employment from 2001–2006, and a simultaneous 21.6 percent drop in unemployment.

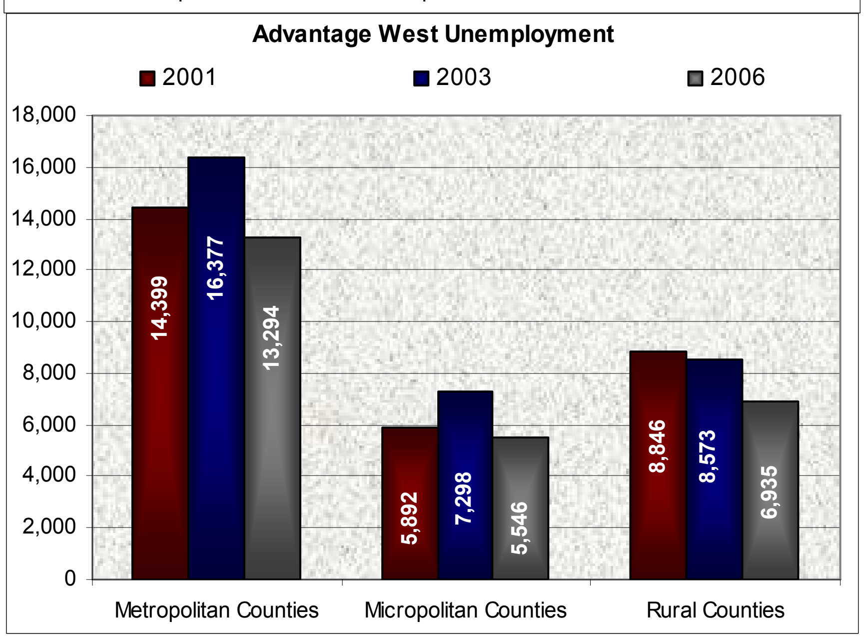
Employment growth in the Metropolitan counties was fueled by Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson and Madison counties.

Caldwell and Burke counties were hard hit by closings and layoffs in the Furniture and Textile industries. Forty percent of all layoffs and closings in Caldwell County were related to the Furniture Manufacturing subsector, including Broyhill Furniture Industries, Bernhardt Furniture Company and Thomasville Furniture Industries.

Rutherford, a Micropolitan county, had several layoffs and closings in the Manufacturing sector as well. Several companies such as Spring Ford Industries, Cone Mills, Parkdale America and Broyhill Furniture Industries closed due to foreign and import competition, thus certifying affected employees as eligible for federal trade adjustment benefits.

Like Rutherford County, Rural counties McDowell and Mitchell were also hard hit. Companies such as Drexel Heritage Furniture Industries, Coats North American, Henredon Furniture Industries, Ethan Allen Interiors and Lexington Home Brands either closed or laid off large groups of employees who were later determined eligible for federal trade adjustment benefits.





Source: ESC of North Carolina, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS),

Industry Composition:

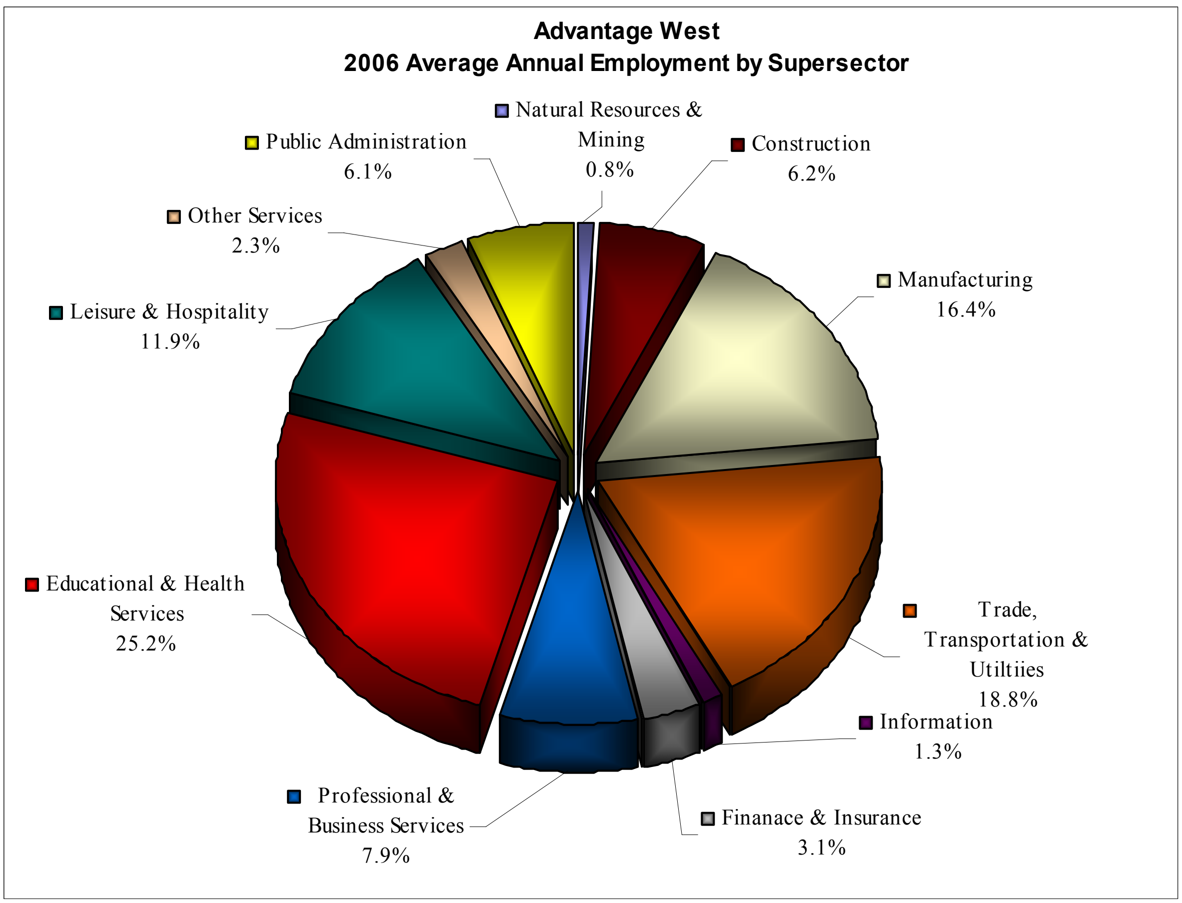
In 2006, Advantage West ranked fourth in employment size among the state's EDRs with 406,013 jobs, accounting for 10.3 percent of the state's total. Fifty-seven percent were concentrated in Metropolitan areas, while Micropolitan areas accounted for 19 percent and Rural areas comprised 24 percent.

Between 2001 and 2006, Advantage West lost 1,289 jobs (0.3%). During this period, jobs in the private sector decreased by 4,631 (1.4%). In the public sector, Local Government boosted employment by 2,704 jobs (6.0%), as did State Government, with 905 (4.5%). Federal Government jobs decreased by 267 (5.1%).

The majority of supersectors within the region showed signs of economic growth over the five-year period. Within the Educational and Health Services Supersector, the Health Care and Social Assistance sector was the predominant industry in employment growth, adding 6,965 jobs (12.4%) largely on the strength of increases in the Ambulatory Health Care Services subsector, which grew by 3,615 (21.5%). The Social Assistance subsector, which includes Individual and Family Services and Child Day Care Services, increased by 1,243 (21%) over 2001 levels.

Job growth also occurred in the Accommodation and Food Services sector, which increased by 4,010 (11.3%). Much of the increase within this sector is attributable to Food Services and Drinking Places, which added 3,807 jobs (13.6%).

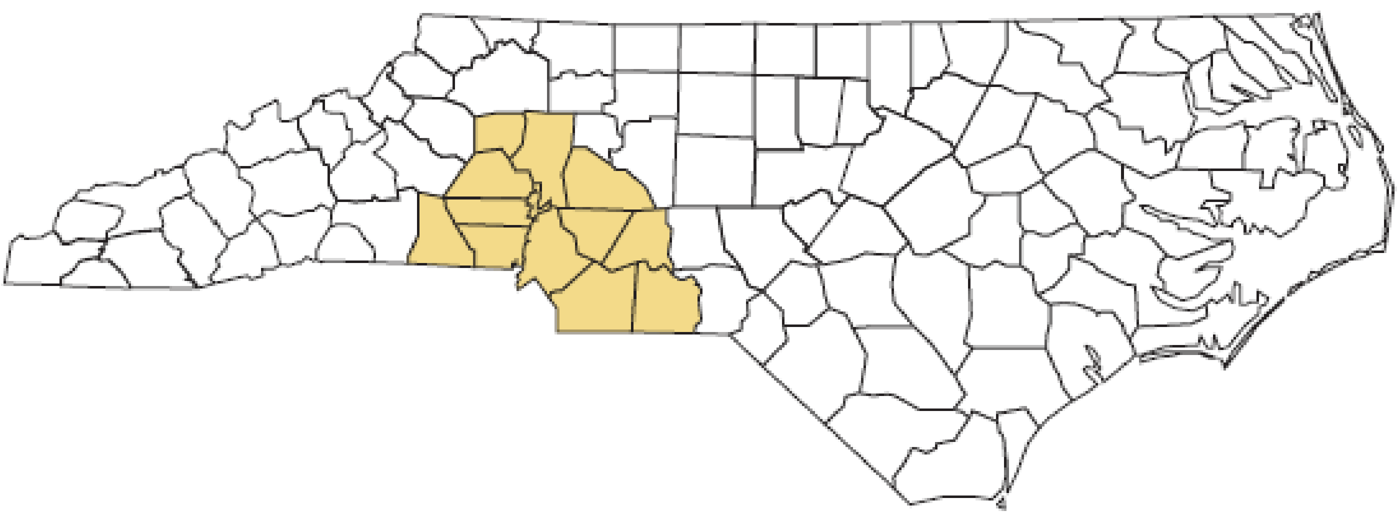
Manufacturing suffered significantly, losing 27,206 jobs (29.1%). Within this sector, Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing was hardest hit, reporting losses of 9,856 (49.8%), mainly due to forced closings, bankruptcies and consolidations. Textile Mills subsector also contributed to declines, with the number of jobs falling 41.5 percent, or 5,355. Foreign competition, layoffs and plant closings also forced Apparel Manufacturing subsectors to experience a decrease of 61.3 percent, or 3,717 jobs.



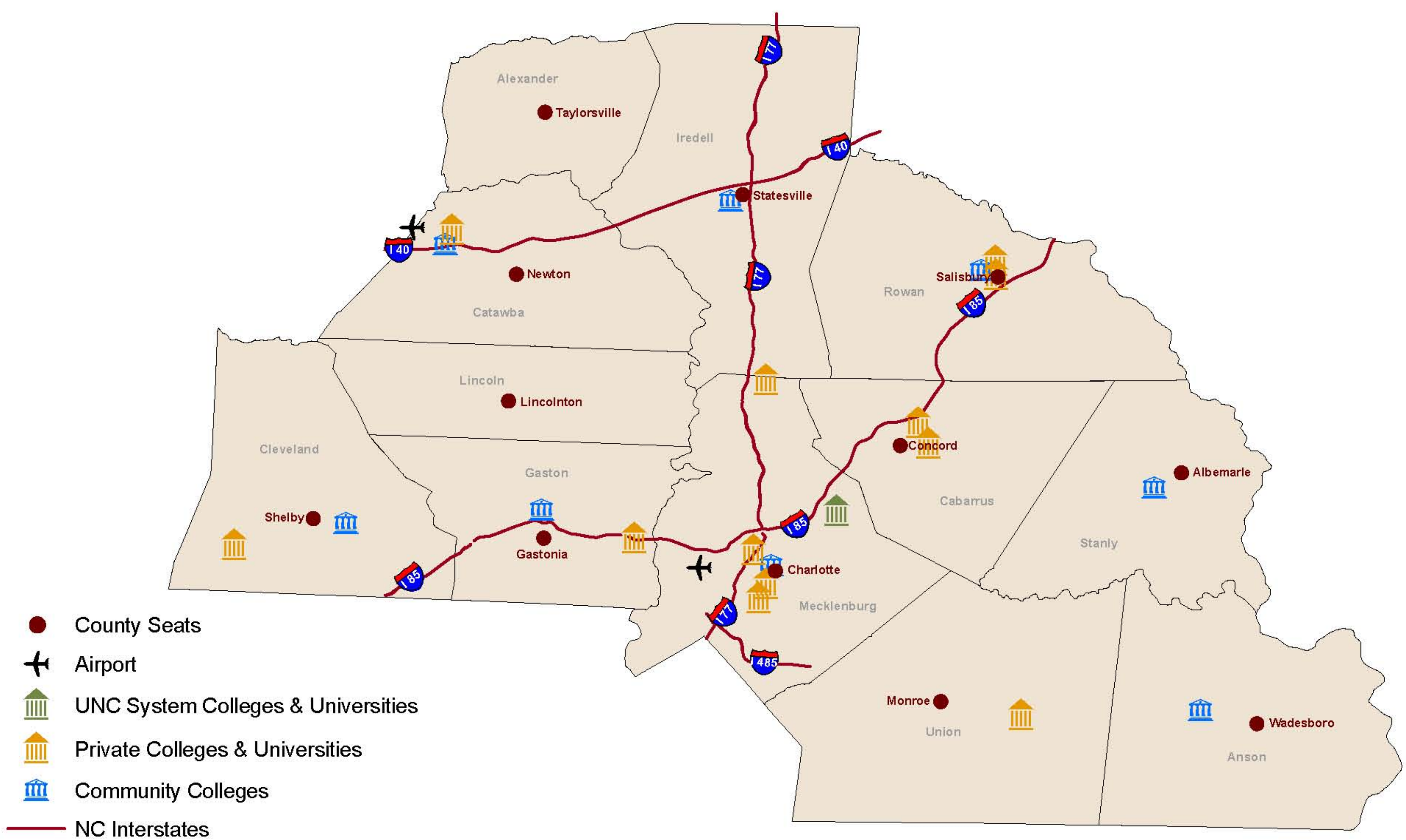
Source: ESC of North Carolina, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Charlotte Regional Partnership

Economic Development Region



Charlotte Regional Partnership Economic Development Region



Map prepared by the Labor Market Information Division of the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina 07_2007

Charlotte Regional Partnership Economic Development Region

Located in the heart of the Piedmont between the Coastal Plain and the Appalachian Mountains, the Charlotte Regional Partnership Economic Development Region (Charlotte Regional) lays claim to the second largest financial center in the country (next to New York), major manufacturing companies, a flourishing film industry and expanding tourism.

Home to 24 percent of North Carolina's population (2,086,027 in 1986), Charlotte Regional comprises 12 North Carolina counties: Alexander; Anson; Cabarrus; Catawba; Cleveland; Gaston; Iredell; Lincoln; Mecklenburg; Rowan; Stanly; Union; and four counties in South Carolina. This report considers only those counties located within North Carolina's boundaries.

Accessibility to both national and international destinations has been the key to the region's appeal to business and industry. The city of Charlotte is at the crossroads of I-77 and I-85. I-40 connects Knoxville, Tennessee to Wilmington, North Carolina, making it favorable for more than 450 trucking firms. The Charlotte Douglas International Airport is the 10th busiest airport in the country, serving more than 29 million passengers annually. In addition, there are 16 regional airports providing even more accessibility to other parts of the country. Norfolk Southern Rail and CSX serve more than 46,000 miles of track, covering more than 20 states in the South, East, Midwest and Canada. The seaports of Charleston, Savannah, Wilmington and Morehead City can be reached within a four-hour truck or rail ride.

Charlotte Regional is a prime educational area, boasting eight community colleges with 11 campuses, one public university and 27 private colleges and universities.

In addition, Charlotte Regional's diverse geography of foothills and flatlands, urban and rural areas, small towns and large city locations has made it attractive to many film and television production companies that shoot both commercial and independent films. A sampling of features filmed in this region includes "Talladega Nights," "Cold Mountain," "Nell," "Days of Thunder," and "The Color Purple."

The region also draws sports enthusiasts from across the state to its professional football and basketball games (Panthers and Bobcats, respectively); it also houses the headquarters for NASCAR. Just last year, the U.S. National Whitewater Center opened outside Charlotte, complete with a custom-made whitewater river for kayaking and canoeing. The Center also will be the official Olympic training center for whitewater slalom racing.

Charlotte Regional has no rural counties. Seven of its counties are designated as Metropolitan (Alexander, Anson, Cabarrus, Catawba, Gaston, Mecklenburg and Union), while the remaining five are Micropolitan (Cleveland, Iredell, Lincoln, Rowan and Stanly).

Population Demographics:

- In July 2006, Charlotte Regional's total population was estimated at 2,086,027, increasing by 11.8 percent since July 2001. The female population was approximately 51 percent, while males were 49 percent. The population was 92.3 percent Non-Hispanic; however, the Hispanic population has grown at a considerably faster rate (55.2%) than the Non-Hispanic population (9.3%) since 2001.

- Charlotte Regional has the largest total population and the largest Hispanic population of any of the state's Economic Development Regions.

- Since 2001, this region has experienced growth at rates faster than the statewide averages in both its Metropolitan and Micropolitan counties.

The 50–59 age group experienced the largest overall increase (50,980 or 23.5%) among all age groups. The Hispanic population showed especially significant growth (100.8%) in this age group. The large amounts of growth may indicate signs of an aging population and/or an increase in migration for this age group.

The nine-and-under age group showed a considerable amount of growth (78.4%) among the Hispanic population, followed by a significant increase in 30–39 year-olds (69.7%). Most of this growth (86.9%) occurred in the region's Metropolitan counties.

Table 5

Charlotte Regional Population Demographics 2001 and 2006

	Non-Hispanic						Hispanic					
	July 2001		July 2006		Total		July 2001		July 2006		Total	
Age Group	Male	Female	Male	Female	Net Change	Percent Change	Male	Female	Male	Female	Net Change	Percent Change
0-9	124,892	118,623	131,172	124,463	12,120	5.0	11,029	10,204	19,511	18,367	16,645	78.4
10-19	120,530	115,456	133,337	127,128	24,479	10.4	7,958	6,100	11,525	10,169	7,636	54.3
20-29	112,091	118,480	117,545	122,222	9,196	4.0	20,371	10,770	20,269	12,949	2,077	6.7
30-39	146,562	147,642	143,103	148,258	-2,843	-1.0	12,697	7,499	21,207	13,057	14,068	69.7
40-49	136,764	140,595	152,806	156,699	32,146	11.6	5,719	3,972	11,272	7,815	9,396	97.0
50-59	103,286	109,243	125,610	133,742	46,823	22.0	2,316	1,807	4,611	3,669	4,157	100.8
60-69	58,926	67,459	74,437	83,087	31,139	24.6	837	755	1,751	1,578	1,737	109.1
70+	52,653	88,764	58,296	94,116	10,995	7.8	432	632	976	1,280	1,192	112.0
Total	***855,704***	***906,262***	***936,306***	***989,715***	***164,055***	***9.3***	***61,359***	***41,739***	***91,122***	***68,884***	***56,908***	***55.2***

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Personal Income:

Between 2001 and 2005, Personal Income from all sources in Charlotte Regional grew by 22 percent, increasing to $69.4 billion (in current dollars). The region's total Personal Income accounted for approximately one-fourth of the state's total in 2005.

Eighty percent of the region's Personal Income ($55.5 billion) in 2005 was concentrated in its seven Metropolitan counties, with about half ($34.2 billion) coming from Mecklenburg County alone.

The growth rate for Personal Income in this region (22%) exceeded that for the state as a whole (19.4%). Personal Income growth in Union County (30%), Mecklenburg County (27%), Iredell and Lincoln counties (22%) grew at a rate that exceeded the state average, while income in seven counties (Alexander, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Cabarrus, Rowan and Stanley) increased, but at rates (10-19%) below the statewide average. The smallest growth rate was in Anson County (8.5%).

The region accounts for approximately 21 percent ($9.0 billion) of the state's Personal Transfer Payments, an increase of 32 percent from 2001–2005; however, its proportion of the state's total Transfer Payments remained substantially unchanged.

About one-third of the region's Transfer Payments ($2.9 billion) were received by the residents of Mecklenburg County, while another 12.6 percent ($1.1 billion) were received in Gaston County.

The net amount of Proprietors' Income increased markedly (37%), from $4.7 billion in 2001 to $6.4 billion in 2005. As a result, the region's share of the state's total Personal Income increased during the five-year period from 8.2 percent to 9.2 percent.

Because of the magnitude of economic activity, the Charlotte Regional EDR contributes about one-third ($6.4 billion) to the state's total Proprietors' Income.

Table 6

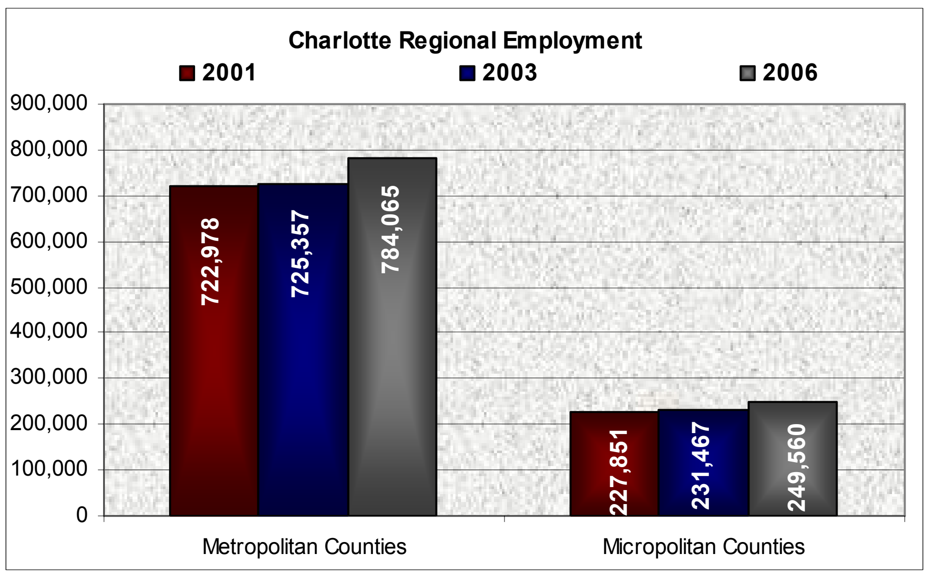
Charlotte Regional Business Establishment Class Size				
Establishment Size	**# of Establishments**	**March 2006 Private Employment**	**Establishments % of Total**	**Employment % of Total**
0 - 9	40,340	113,018	72.3	12.9
10 - 49	12,189	254,932	21.8	29.2
50 - 99	1,843	126,102	3.3	14.4
100 - 499	1,310	241,476	2.3	27.7
500 +	147	137,772	0.3	15.8
Total	55,829	873,300		

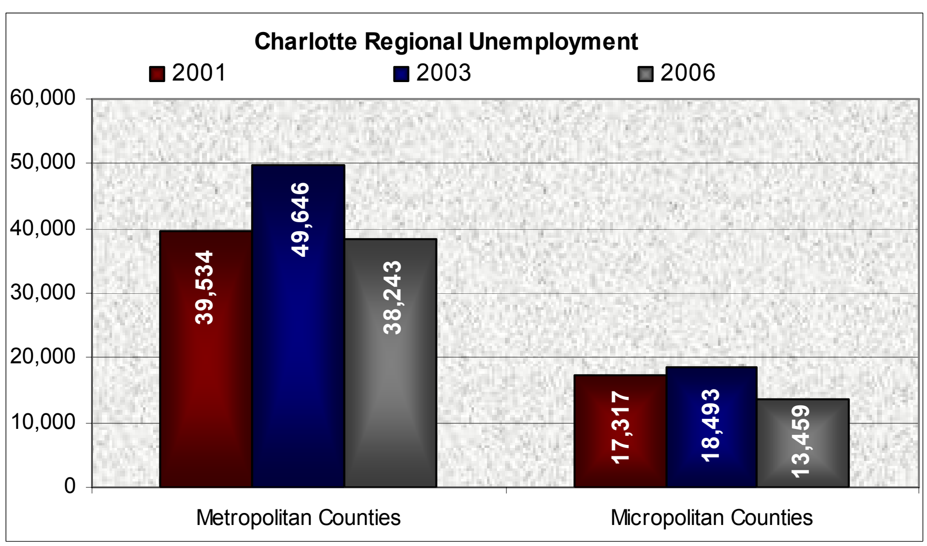
Source: ESC of North Carolina, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Labor Force/Unemployment:

Charlotte Regional's employment growth rates for both Metropolitan and Micropolitan counties were about the same, 8.4 percent and 9.5 percent, respectively, when comparing 2005 with 2001. Unemployment, however, decreased more significantly in the Micropolitan counties (22.3%) compared to the Metropolitan counties (3.3%).

Employment in Charlotte Regional was relatively stable until 2004. This occurred in spite of the fact that this region took the brunt of the Pillowtex Corporation closings, which occurred in 2003, and other large closings and layoffs at Carolina Mills Incorporated, WestPoint Stevens Incorporated, Continental Tire North America and Solectron Corporation.





Source: ESC of North Carolina, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS),

- Mecklenburg County had the most layoff and closing events in this region (45.1%), followed by Gaston and Catawba counties. (Most of the events in Mecklenburg County were relatively small and affected one to 25 individuals each.)

- There were several layoffs and closings in the Truck Manufacturing subsector, which have affected the Micropolitan counties of Rowan and Cleveland. These include Freightliner LLC, Copeland Corporation and GDX Automotive.

Industry Composition:

- Charlotte Regional increased its total jobs by 32,569 (3.3%) to 1,020,008, from 2001 to 2006. This region ranked first in jobs among all North Carolina's EDRs, accounting for 25.8 percent of the state's total. Eighty-two percent of this regions's total industry employment is concentrated in its Metropolitan counties, with Micropolitan counties accounting for the remaining 18 percent.

- Jobs in the private sector increased by 18,349 (2.1%). The public sector also grew: Local Government added 11,133 jobs (11.7%); State Government, 2,509 (17.5%); and Federal Government employment increased 6.4 percent, or 577.

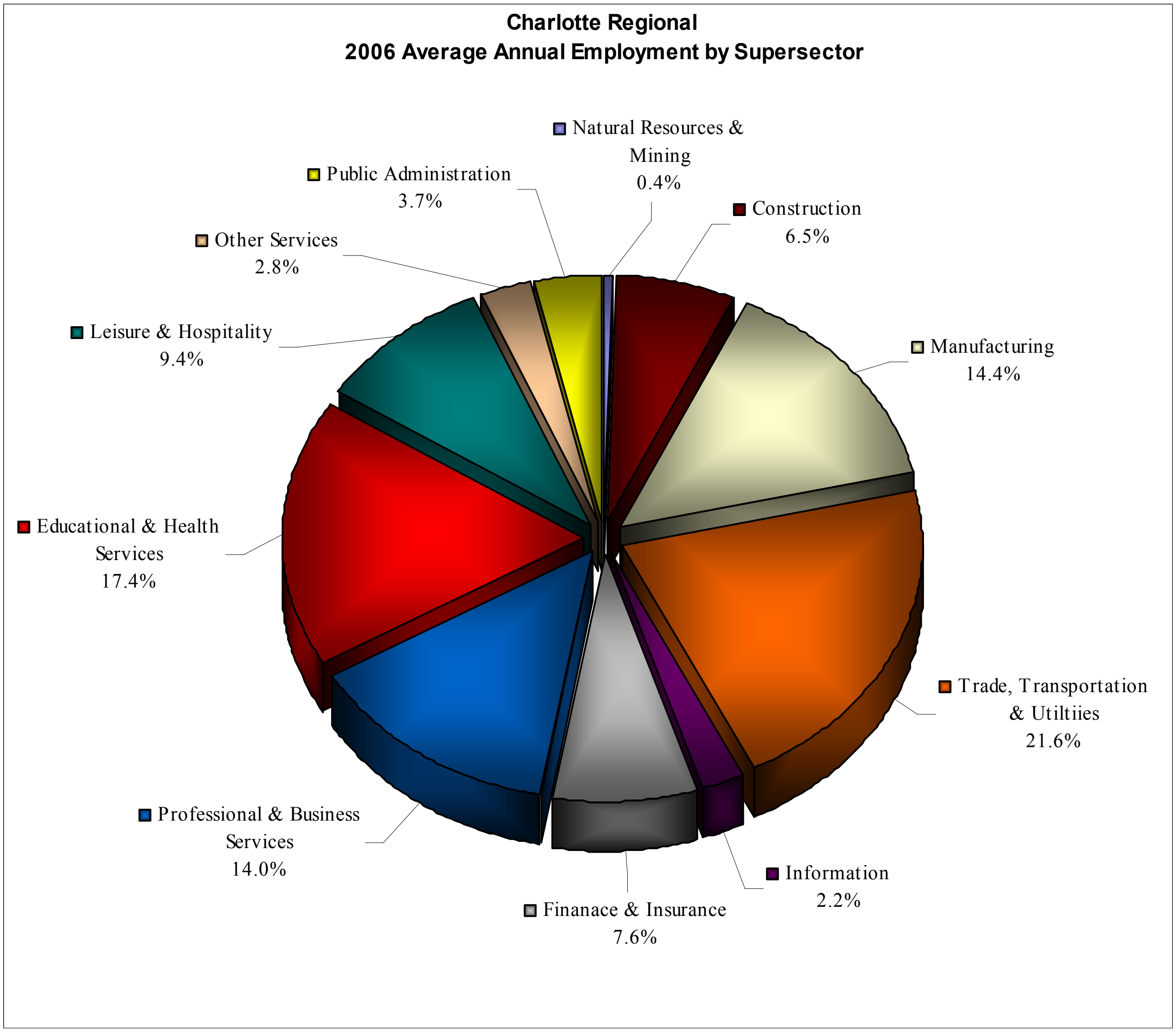
- Finance and Insurance; Health Care and Social Assistance; and Accommodation and Food Services were the predominant sectors reporting substantial growth over the five-year time span. Finance and Insurance appeared to outpace other sectors by adding 20,193 jobs (47.7%); however, this increase was largely due to noneconomic administrative movement of jobs that were formerly classified in one subsector (Management of Companies and Enterprises) to another (Credit Intermediation & Related Activity), which increased by 88.8 percent.

- The Health Care and Social Assistance sector increased by adding 17,804 jobs (19.5%), mainly in Ambulatory Health Care Services, with 5,936.

- Losses in the Manufacturing sector occurred in the Electrical Equipment and Appliances Manufacturing subsector, which shed 48.9 percent or 5,218 jobs. The Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing subsector lost 4,606 due to restructuring and slow business.

- The Accommodation and Food Services sector reported a net growth of 12,367 jobs (18.1%), mainly due to extensive growth in the Food Services and Drinking Places subsector, which reported growth of 20.3 percent, or 12,214 jobs.

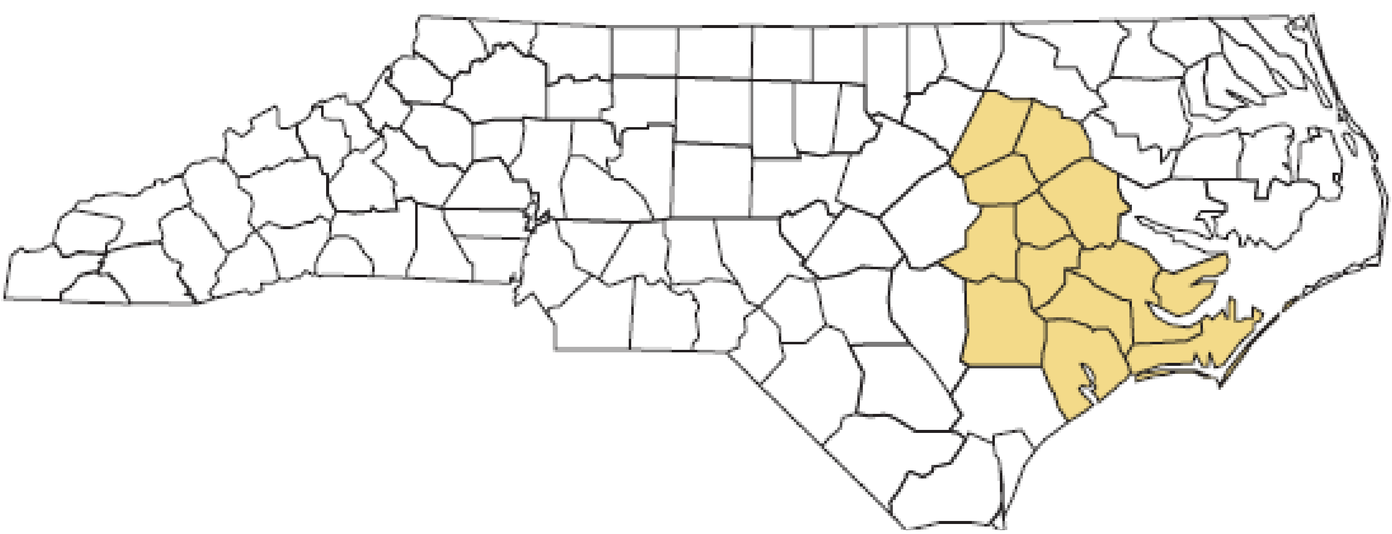
- In 2006, Manufacturing comprised 14 percent of the area's overall total industrial employment. However, jobs in this sector decreased notably since 2001, losing 42,603 or 22.5 percent. The Textile Mills subsector, which includes Fabric Yarn and Thread Mills, experienced the greatest loss: 14.635 (54.3 percent). Company relocations, outsourcing and foreign competition were the main reasons for economic instability within the supersector. The greatest impact of these economic conditions was felt in Catawba and Gaston counties, as unemployment rates soared in Catawba County in 2003 and in Gaston County in 2002.



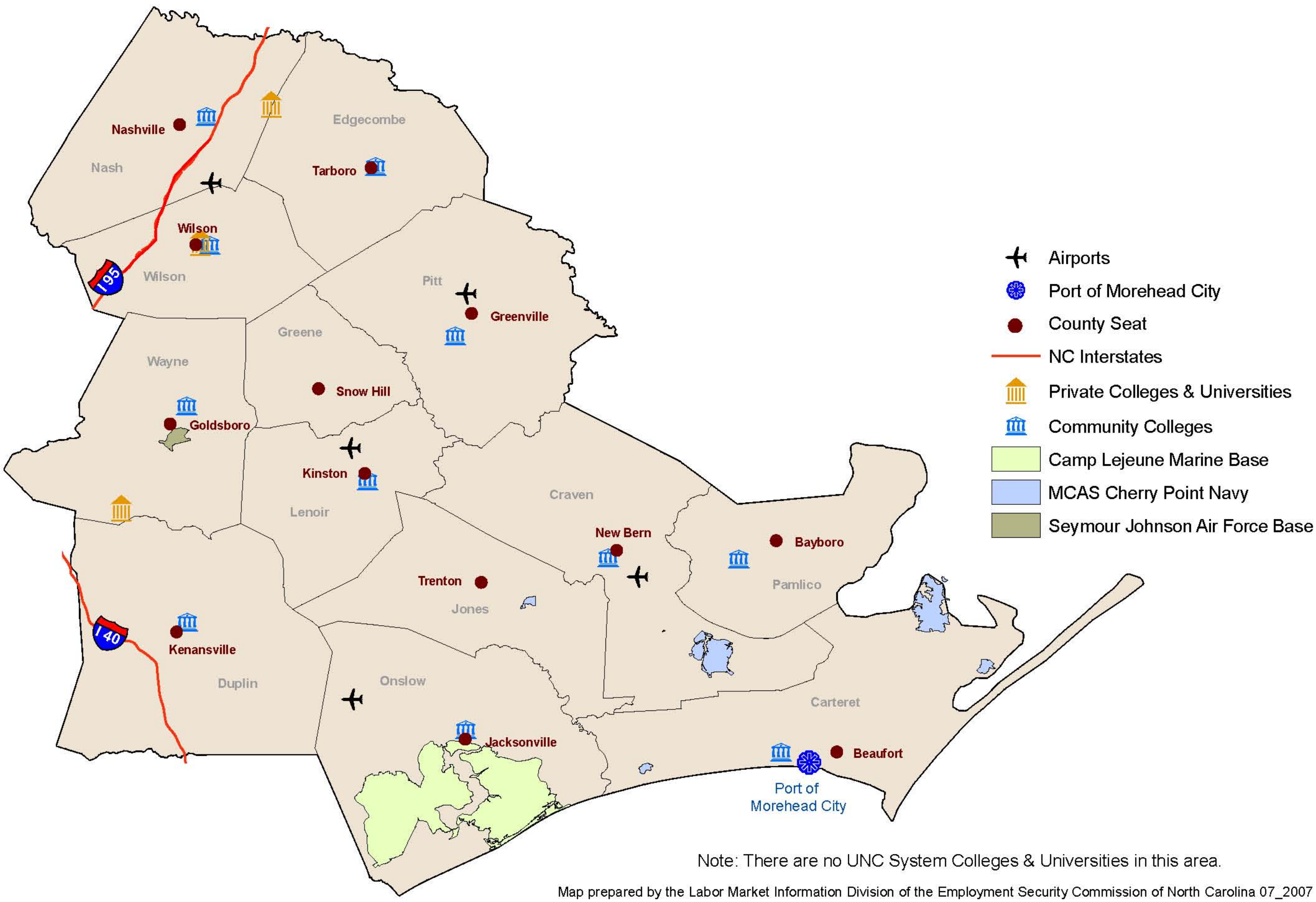
Source: ESC of North Carolina, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Eastern Partnership

Economic Development Region



Eastern Partnership Economic Development Region



Note: There are no UNC System Colleges & Universities in this area.

Map prepared by the Labor Market Information Division of the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina 07_2007

Eastern Partnership Economic Development Region

Miles of white sandy beaches, a concentration of military installations and a diverse base of manufacturing companies characterize a major part of North Carolina's Eastern Partnership Economic Development Region (Eastern Region).

As part of the Inner Coastal Plain, this area is bounded on the east by the Atlantic Ocean and on the west by the Fall Line, a zone that marks the boundary between the Inner Coastal Plain and the Piedmont. The region's elevation is higher than the Coastal Plain, and the land is better drained.

The 13 counties included in this Eastern Region — Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Edgecombe, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Nash, Onslow, Pamlico, Pitt, Wayne and Wilson — total 7,000 square miles and provide a healthy infrastructure of major highways, airports, seaports and rail systems. I-40 runs through Duplin County and connects eastern North Carolina with Raleigh-Durham, Greensboro and the western part of the state. I-95 runs through Wilson and Nash counties, and US Highway 70 links area cities with the Port of Morehead City to the east, the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area to the west, and connects to I-40 and I-95. Regional airports in Greenville, New Bern and Jacksonville provide daily flights to Charlotte, Atlanta and Philadelphia. Two major airports outside of the region — Raleigh-Durham International and Wilmington International — are within easy driving distance. The Port of Morehead City is the second largest of North Carolina's ports and is the major deepwater port serving the Eastern Region. The state's largest — the Port of Wilmington — is also easily accessible. Norfolk Southern and CSX are the main suppliers of railroad freight service, and passenger rail service is available daily at stations in Rocky Mount and Wilson.

Eastern Region's 2006 population (945,096), was approximately 11 percent of the state's total. This population is served by a network of 11 community colleges, one public university and three private liberal arts colleges.

Because of Eastern Region's 65 miles of beaches, tourism plays a major role in the economy. In fact, three of the region's counties — Carteret, Onslow and Pamlico — front the Atlantic Ocean and experience an increased number of tourists each year. In addition to the coastline, historic sites and parks also draw many visitors annually.

The Eastern EDR is home to four military bases — Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base, Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station and New River Marine Corps Air Station. Together they combine to provide the fourth largest concentration of military personnel in the country.

Eastern Region contains a mix of counties by population category: five Metropolitan (Edgecombe, Nash, Onslow, Pitt and Wayne); five Micropolitan (Carteret, Craven, Jones, Lenoir and Wilson); and three Rural (Green, Duplin and Pamlico).

Population Demographics:

- In July 2006, Eastern Region's population was estimated at 945,096, increasing 2.9 percent since July 2001, the smallest percentage increase of all the EDRs. Males and females are distributed almost equally. The population is predominantly Non-Hispanic (94.1%), although the Hispanic population is growing at a much faster rate (20.9%) than the Non-Hispanics (2.0%).

- The Metropolitan counties of the region account for 59.0 percent of the total population; however, of the three county designations, the Rural counties experienced the fastest growth at a rate of 4.5 percent. This growth also exceeded the statewide average growth rate for Rural counties (3.0%).

The 50–59 age group experienced the largest overall net increase of 19,615 (19.4%), reaching an estimated 120,572 in July 2006. In 2001, this age group comprised 11.0 percent of the region's total population and increased to 12.8 percent in 2006. The Hispanic population showed significant growth (75.5%) for this age group as well. Along with signs of an aging population, this growth may also indicate an increase in migration into the region.

The Non-Hispanic population decreased in three age groups. The most significant decrease (12.0%) occurred among the 30–39 year olds. Thirty-six percent of the decrease in this age group occurred within the male population in the region's five Metropolitan counties.

The Hispanic population experienced substantial increases in all age groups, except among the 20–29-year-olds (12.5%). Each of the older age groups (40 and up) experienced growth rates at or above 50 percent. The fastest growth across all age groups occurred in the Rural counties (29.6%).

Table 7

Eastern Population Demographics
2001 and 2006

	Non-Hispanic						Hispanic					
	July 2001		July 2006		Total		July 2001		July 2006		Total	
Age Group	Male	Female	Male	Female	Net Change	Percent Change	Male	Female	Male	Female	Net Change	Percent Change
0-9	60,287	57,408	63,445	59,708	5,458	4.6	5,522	5,109	7,217	6,632	3,218	30.3
10-19	64,139	59,986	64,841	59,306	22	0.0	4,366	3,145	5,247	4,013	1,749	23.3
20-29	74,510	61,634	71,897	60,372	-3,875	-2.8	9,472	4,804	8,342	4,143	-1,791	-12.5
30-39	59,165	61,779	51,370	55,053	-14,521	-12.0	4,475	2,849	6,157	3,976	2,809	38.4
40-49	62,065	67,246	60,600	66,857	-1,854	-1.4	2,207	1,626	3,301	2,439	1,907	49.8
50-59	47,743	51,776	55,816	62,233	18,530	18.6	777	661	1,428	1,095	1,085	75.5
60-69	31,494	37,708	35,097	41,521	7,416	10.7	321	328	499	502	352	54.2
70+	28,376	46,601	31,324	49,841	6,188	8.3	223	291	344	480	310	60.3
Total	***427,779***	***444,138***	***434,390***	***454,891***	***17,364***	***2.0***	***27,363***	***18,813***	***32,535***	***23,280***	***9,639***	***20.9***

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Personal Income:

Personal Income from all sources in the Eastern Region grew by 21 percent between 2001 and 2005, increasing to $26.9 billion (in current dollars). This accounted for approximately 10 percent of the state's total Personal Income in 2005.

The region's five Metropolitan counties contributed about 59 percent ($15.9 billion) to the area's total Personal Income. The five Micropolitan counties contributed another one-third ($8.9 billion), while the remainder (8%) came from the three Rural counties.

Onslow County generated the most Personal Income, about 18 percent ($4.9 billion) of the region's total. Pitt County contributed another 15 percent ($4.0) billion), while Craven and Wayne counties each added approximately 11 percent ($3.0 billion).

The growth rate for Personal Income in this region (20.7%) was slightly higher than that of the state as a whole (19.4%). Growth rates in six counties (Pamlico, Craven, Carteret, Wilson, Pitt and Onslow) all exceeded the state rate, while Edgecombe County (11.4%) grew at the slowest rate. Onslow County, home of Camp Lejeune Marine base, experienced the highest growth rate (36%).

Eastern Region received about 12 percent ($5.1 billion) of the state's Transfer Payments. Metropolitan counties received slightly more than half ($2.8 billion), with each county receiving between 7 percent and 14 percent. Residents of Pitt County received the largest proportion of these payments (14%) and also experienced one of the fastest growth rates (36.8%). Closer examination reveals a dramatic increase (1,534%) in federal education and training assistance[1], which grew from $1.3 million in 2001 to $22 million in 2005.

The Micropolitan counties shared another 36 percent ($1.8 billion) of Transfer Payments, with each garnering between 7 percent and 10 percent. Eastern Region's Rural counties accounted for the remaining 9 percent of Transfer Payments.

Eastern Region contributed 7.6 percent ($1.5 billion) to the state's total Proprietors' Income in 2005. Proprietors' Income in this area grew at a rather slow pace (11%), partly due to sharp declines in both Farm and Nonfarm employment.

Nearly half of the region's Proprietors' Income ($749 million) came from the Metropolitan counties. About one-third ($490 million) was contributed by the Micropolitan counties, with the balance (19%) shared among the Rural counties.

Table 8

Eastern Business Establishment Class Size				
Establishment Size	**# of Establishments**	**March 2006 Private Employment**	**Establishments % of Total**	**Employment % of Total**
0 - 9	14,896	46,241	72.0	16.2
10 - 49	4,772	96,929	23.1	34.1
50 - 99	645	43,884	3.1	15.4
100 - 499	342	62,273	1.7	21.9
500 +	42	35,258	0.2	12.4
Total	20,697	284,585		

Source: ESC of North Carolina, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Labor Force/Unemployment:

Eastern Region's employment growth was highest in the Micropolitan counties (9.1%) between 2001 and 2006, followed by the Rural counties (7.4%), and the Metropolitan counties (6.8%).

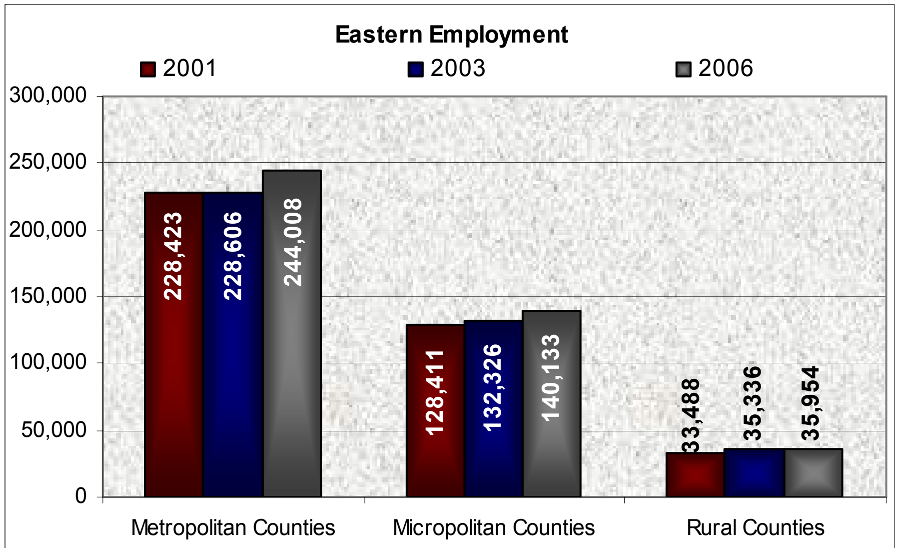
Unemployment decreased at about the same rate for both Micropolitan and Rural counties (13.1% and 13%, respectively), while it decreased at a slower rate in the Metropolitan counties (7.7%).

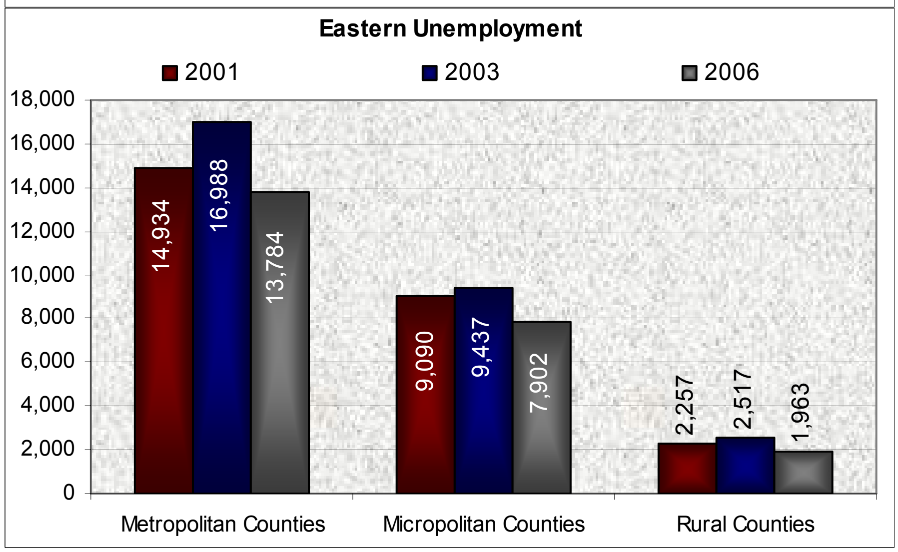
There were several job losses within the textile industry in this region. Pillowtex Corporation, Ansell Golden Needles and Glenoit Corporation in Edgecombe County suffered job losses due to import competition. West Pharmaceutical in Lenoir County had job losses due to an explosion and fire in 2003.

[1] Federal education and training assistance consists of: **Federal fellowships -** These benefits consist of the payments to outstanding science students who receive National Science Foundation (NSF) grants, the subsistence payments to the cadets at the six state maritime academies and the payments for all other Federal fellowships. **Higher education student assistance -** These benefits consist of the Federal payments, called Pell Grants, for an undergraduate education for students with low incomes. **Job Corps payments -** these benefits are primarily the allowances for living expenses received by economically disadvantaged individuals who are between the ages of 16 and 21 and who are enrolled in the designated vocational and educational training programs. These benefits also include the adjustment allowances received by trainees upon the successful completion of their training. **Interest payments on guaranteed student loans -** These payments are made by the Department of Education to commercial lending institutions on behalf of the individuals who receive low-interest, deferred-payment loans from these institutions in order to pay the expenses of higher education.

Onslow, a Metropolitan county, had the most growth from 2003–2006. According to the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce publication, Chamber Voice, most of the growth was attributable to Construction.

Duplin, a Rural county, was the only county in this region to experience employment loss from 2003–2006. This was due to closings at ConAgra Foods (2003) and Circle S Foods (2004), both poultry processing plants.





Source: ESC of North Carolina, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS),

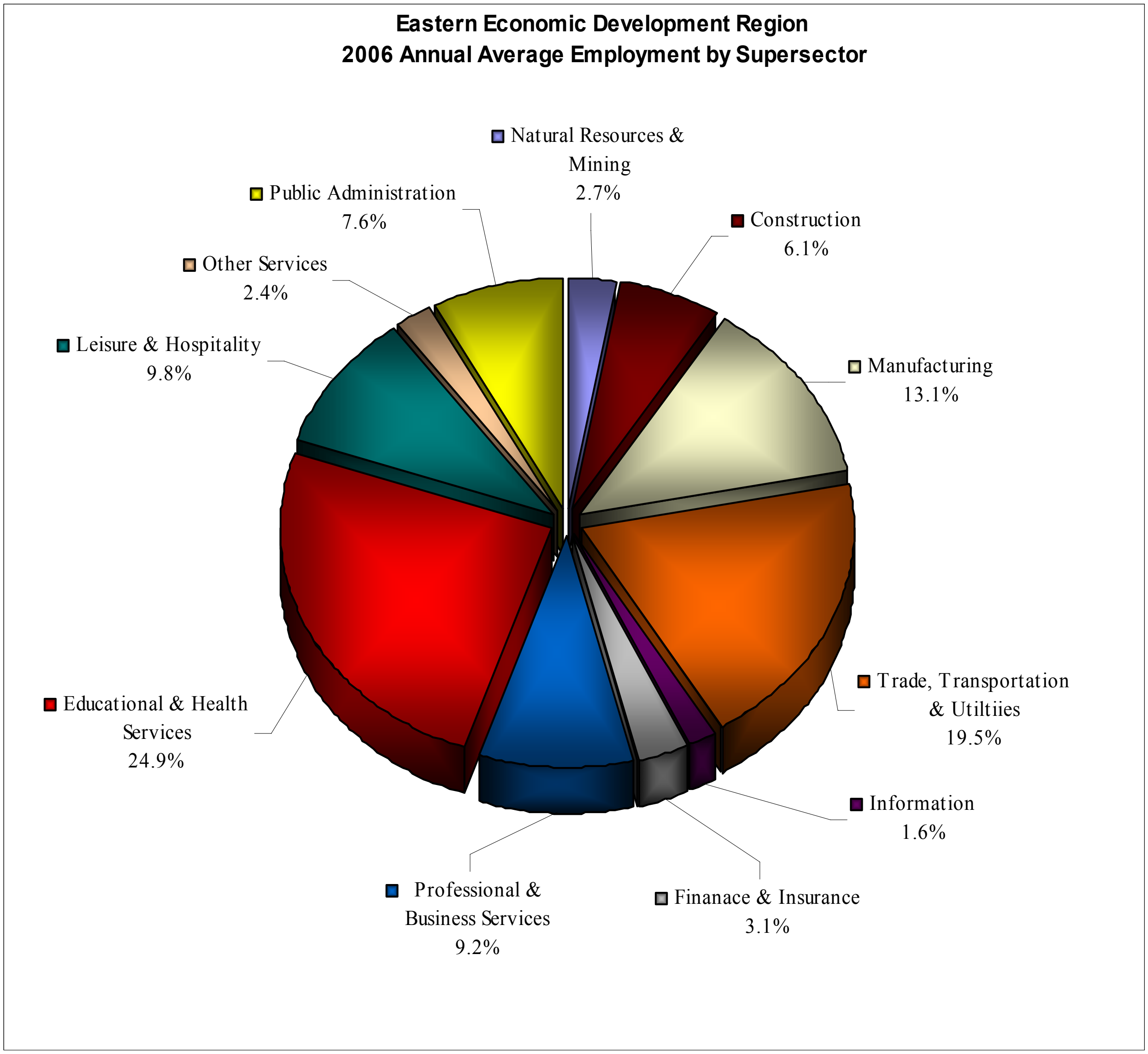
Industry Composition:

From 2001–2006, the Eastern Region experienced an increase of 6,409 jobs (1.7%). In 2006, Eastern Region ranked sixth in total industry employment (9.8%) among the seven EDRs. Most of the region's jobs (57.6%) were concentrated in Metropolitan counties, while 35.2 percent was in Micropolitan counties, and 7.2 percent was in Rural counties.

The largest net increase over the five-year period was in the Health Care and Social Assistance sector, with an increase of 6,977 (13.8%).Within this sector, both Ambulatory Health Care Services and Hospitals were the major contributors, providing an addition of 4,863 jobs.

Jobs in the Educational Services sector increased by 3,601 (10.7%), accounted for by both public and private educational establishments.

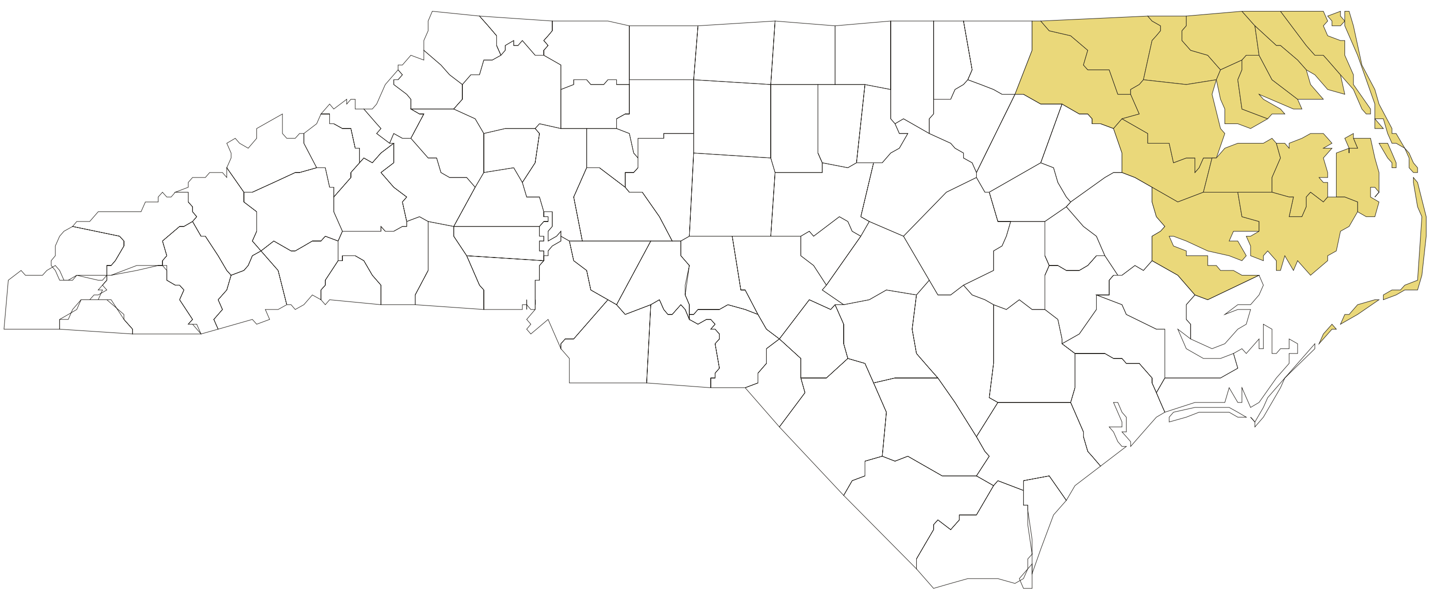
The Manufacturing sector suffered the region's largest five-year net employment decrease at 10,286 (17.1%). Leading contributors to this decline were Textiles (combining Textile Mills and Textile Product Mills) and Apparel subsectors, which together decreased by 6,114 (62.4%).



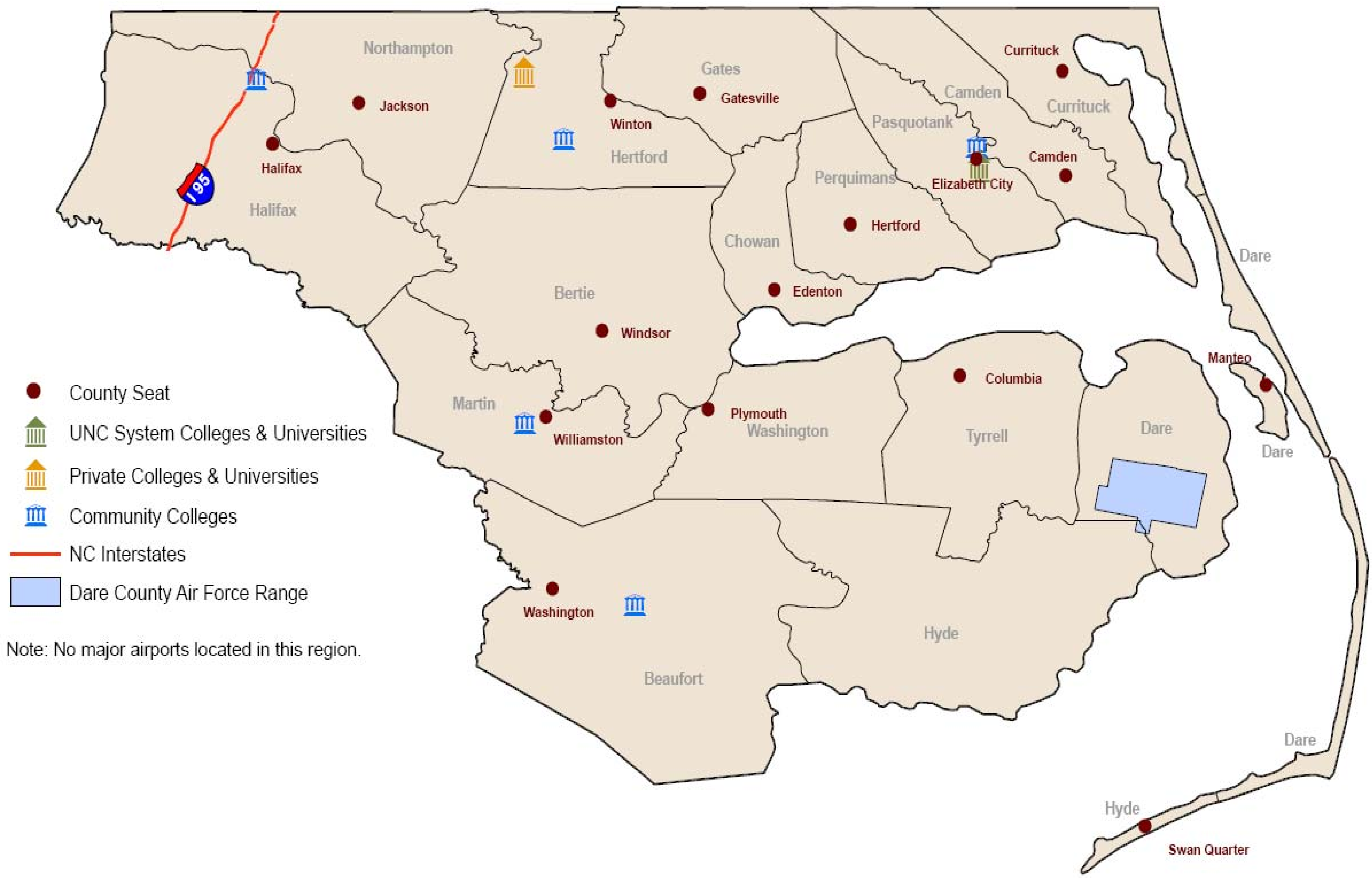
Source: ESC of North Carolina, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Northeast Partnership

Economic Development Region



Northeast Partnership Economic Development Region



Northeast Partnership Economic Development Region

North Carolina's Northeast Partnership Economic Development Region (Northeast) lies between Interstate 95 to the west, the Atlantic Ocean to the east, the Eastern Region to the south, and Virginia to the north.

The 16 counties that comprise Northeast are part of the Coastal Plain, which has a low, flat to gently sloping terrain that tilts slightly seaward. Much of the region is less than 250 feet above sea level. Most of the Atlantic Coastal Plain has a sandy surface, marsh grasses and water-tolerant trees that cover the wetter areas, known as the Tidewater. Seven of Northeast's counties are included in this area: Camden; Chowan; Currituck; Dare; Gates; Pasquotank; and Perquimans. The remaining counties are Beaufort, Bertie, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Tyreell and Washington. The area's irregular shoreline has numerous bays and sounds that penetrate westward into the Coastal Plain. The barrier islands provide long stretches of attractive beaches. The outermost barrier islands, known as the Outer Banks, encloses the Pamlico Sound. Capes Hatteras and Lookout create dangerous shoals hazardous to shipping, with Diamond Shoals, the site of hundreds of shipwrecks, just offshore from Hatteras.

A diversity of industry is supported by a network of major interstates and highways, including I-95 and US 64 with proximity to I-85, I-40 and I-674; the Intercoastal Waterway; the Norfolk, VA and Morehead City Ports; several rail systems; and access to three international airports — Raleigh-Durham, Norfolk and Richmond — as well as several regional airports. Slightly more than 4 percent of the state's population, or 358,021 people, resided within Northeast in 2006.

The region offers an array of educational institutions, with four community colleges, one public university and three private colleges. The region also draws thousands of visitors each year who vacation along the Outer Banks' beaches, as well as visit national parks, wildlife refuges, historical sites and museums.

Northeast contains within its borders only one Metropolitan county (Currituck). Seven of the region's counties are classified as Micropolitan (Beaufort, Camden, Dare, Halifax, Northampton, Pasquotank and Perquimans), and another eight as Rural (Bertie, Chowan, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Tyrell and Washington).

Population Demographics:

- In July 2006, Northeast's population was estimated at 358,021, representing a 4.3 percent increase since July 2001. Northeast is the least populated of the state's seven Economic Development Regions.

- The region's population was 51.8 percent female, 48.2 percent male, and 98 percent Non-Hispanic. However, since 2001, the Hispanic population has increased at a much faster rate than the Non-Hispanic population.

- Contrary to the other EDRs where the fastest growth between 2001 and 2006 was in the older age groups, the 20–29 age group showed the largest net increase (19.4%), climbing to an estimated 45,352. This rate was even higher (20.4%) among the Non-Hispanic population. Most of this increase (37.7%) was in Metropolitan Currituck County.

- The Hispanic population has experienced marginal growth of at least 28.3 percent in each of the age groups presented in Table 9, with the exception of persons aged 20–29-year-old. The rapid growth in the number of Hispanic children under 10 years of age appears particularly notable and may point to potential challenges for educational and other child-oriented services. This growth was most pronounced in the Metropolitan and Micropolitan counties (66.5% and 95.8%, respectively).

Table 9

Northeast Population Demographics 2001 and 2006												
	Non-Hispanic						Hispanic					
	July 2001		July 2006		Total		July 2001		July 2006		Total	
Age Group	Male	Female	Male	Female	Net Change	Percent Change	Male	Female	Male	Female	Net Change	Percent Change
0-9	21,216	20,450	20,818	20,425	-423	-1.0	665	602	1,180	1,099	1,012	79.9
10-19	24,726	23,579	24,306	22,933	-1,066	-2.2	494	438	653	543	264	28.3
20-29	18,420	18,178	22,565	21,507	7,474	20.4	836	546	684	596	-102	-7.4
30-39	21,928	23,038	19,671	20,993	-4,302	-9.6	631	396	752	568	293	28.5
40-49	25,800	27,375	25,701	27,337	-137	-0.3	314	272	483	418	315	53.8
50-59	21,087	22,701	24,285	26,241	6,738	15.4	151	131	236	172	126	44.7
60-69	14,721	16,981	16,170	18,838	3,306	10.4	75	75	99	99	48	32.0
70+	14,114	23,125	14,940	23,490	1,191	3.2	74	78	105	114	67	44.1
Total	***162,012***	***175,427***	***168,456***	***181,764***	***12,781***	***3.8***	***3,240***	***2,538***	***4,192***	***3,609***	***2,023***	***35.0***

Source: US Census Bureau

Personal Income:

- Between 2001–2005, Personal Income from all sources in Northeast grew by 20.7 percent, increasing to $9.16 billion (in current dollars). This constituted approximately 3.4 percent of the state's total Personal Income in 2005, the lowest proportion contributed by any EDR.

- Of the 16 counties in the region, Currituck, the only Metropolitan County, contributed 7.6 percent ($693 million) to Northeast's Personal Income in 2005. The seven Micropolitan counties together generated nearly 62 percent ($5.7 billion). Leading counties were: Halifax (14.2%); Beaufort (12.9%); Dare (12.3%); and Pasquotank (10%). Combined, the eight Rural counties generated about 31 percent of the region's Personal Income ($2.8 billion).

- The growth rate for Personal Income in this region (20.7%) exceeded that of the state as a whole (19.4%). Growth rates in six counties (Gates, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Dare, Camden and Currituck) all exceeded the state rate, while Bertie County experienced the smallest growth rate (8.7%).

- Northeast accounted for 5.4 percent of the state's Personal Transfer Payments. This source of income grew by 27 percent, from $1.8 billion in 2001 to $2.3 billion in 2005, slightly below the statewide average pace (30%). Beaufort County received the largest proportion (13.6%) in the region and also experienced one of the fastest growth rates in these payments (30.1%). The greatest increases in Transfer Payments in Beaufort County occurred in Other Government and Retirement Disability Insurance[1] (235.5%) and Other Unemployment Compensation[2] (166.7%).

- Northeast contributed 3.4 percent ($675 million) to the state's Proprietors' Income. About 70 percent ($472 million) was generated by the seven Micropolitan counties, while approximately one-fourth came from the eight Rural counties. Another fourth of this income ($172 million) was generated by Dare County. Other major contributors were Beaufort, Halifax and Northampton counties, each contributing about 10 percent.

[1] Other government retirement and disability insurance benefits consist largely of temporary disability payments, Pension Benefit Guaranty payments, and black lung payments.
[2] Consists of trade readjustment allowance payments, Redwood Park benefit payments, public service employment benefit payments, and transitional benefit payments.

The region experienced notable growth in Proprietors' Income of 21.6 percent from 2001–2005. Among the reasons for this increase was growth in Farm Income attributable to increases in government payments[1].

Table 10

Northeast Business Establishment Class Size				
Establishment Size	**# of Establishments**	**March 2006 Private Employment**	**Establishments % of Total**	**Employment % of Total**
0 - 9	6,786	20,748	76.6	22.0
10 - 49	1,771	34,731	20.0	36.8
50 - 99	187	12,498	2.1	13.2
100 - 499	102	18,580	1.2	19.7
500 +	8	7,832	0.1	8.3
Total	*8,854*	*94,389*		

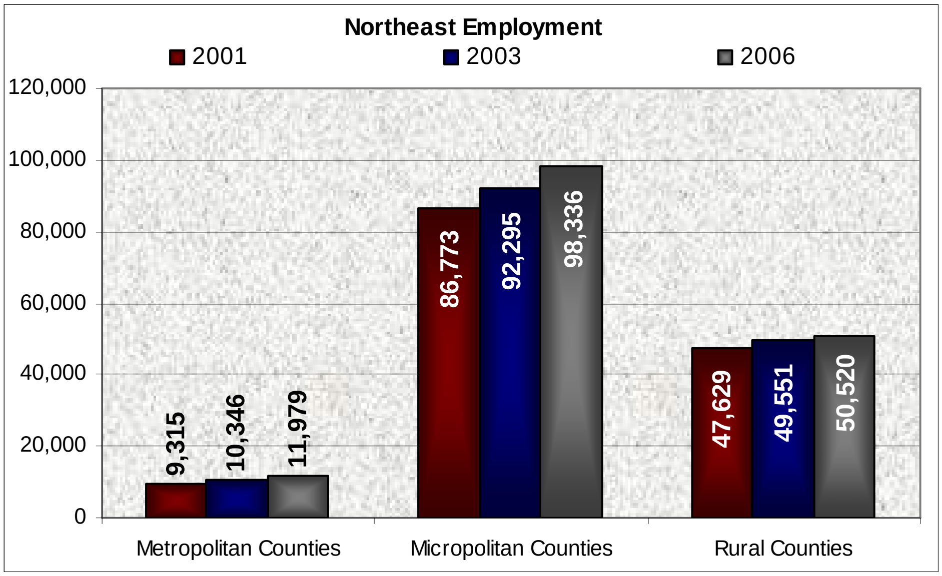
Source: ESC of North Carolina, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

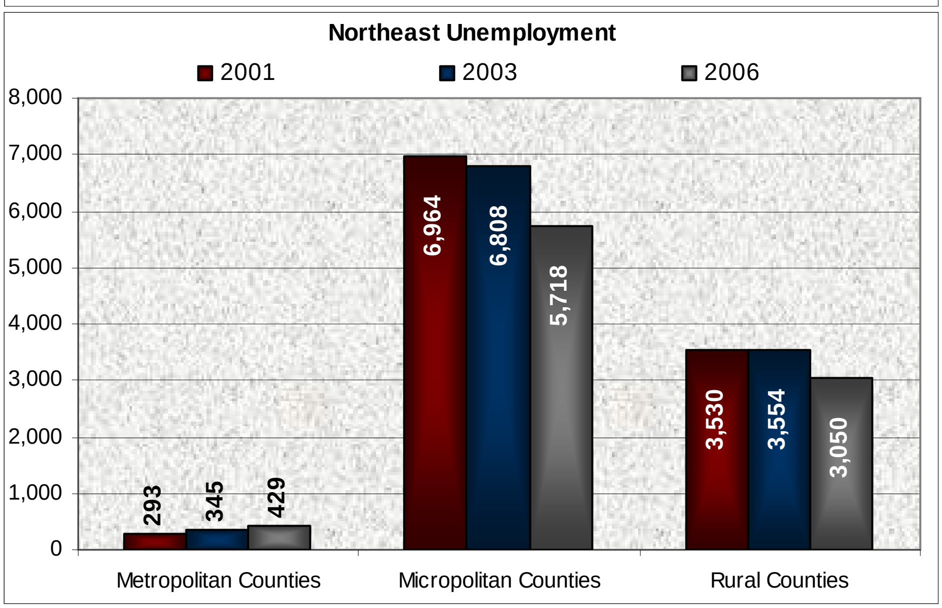
Labor Force/Unemployment:

Northeast was the only EDR in the state to experience employment growth in every one of its counties from 2001–2003. Some of this is attributable to residents moving into the area and commuting to jobs in the Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Hampton area.

Employment growth was especially strong in Currituck, the sole Metropolitan county (28.6%) in the region, followed by the Micropolitan counties (13.3%) and the Rural counties (6.1%).

Unemployment decreased in both the Micropolitan (17.9%) and Rural counties (13.6%). What at first appears to be significant growth in the rate of unemployment in Currituck County (46.4%) is principally a statistical artifact created by the low net numbers involved (293 to 429 individuals) and the already considerably lower rate of unemployment (3.0% to 3.5%).





Source: ESC of North Carolina, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

[1] Federal government payments to farmers are payments made to farm operators under several federal government farm subsidy programs during a given calendar year. These payments include deficiency payments under price support programs for specific commodities, disaster payments, conservation payments, and direct payments to farmers under federal appropriations legislation.

- Construction and Tourism have contributed to employment growth in this area due to the increasing popularity of the Outer Banks and the evolving entertainment and music district in Halifax County.

- Rural counties Hyde and Martin are the only counties to experience an employment decline during the economic recovery period from 2003–2006 in this region. This is due to losses in Manufacturing (Seafood Product Preparation and Packaging) and Logging.

Industry Composition:

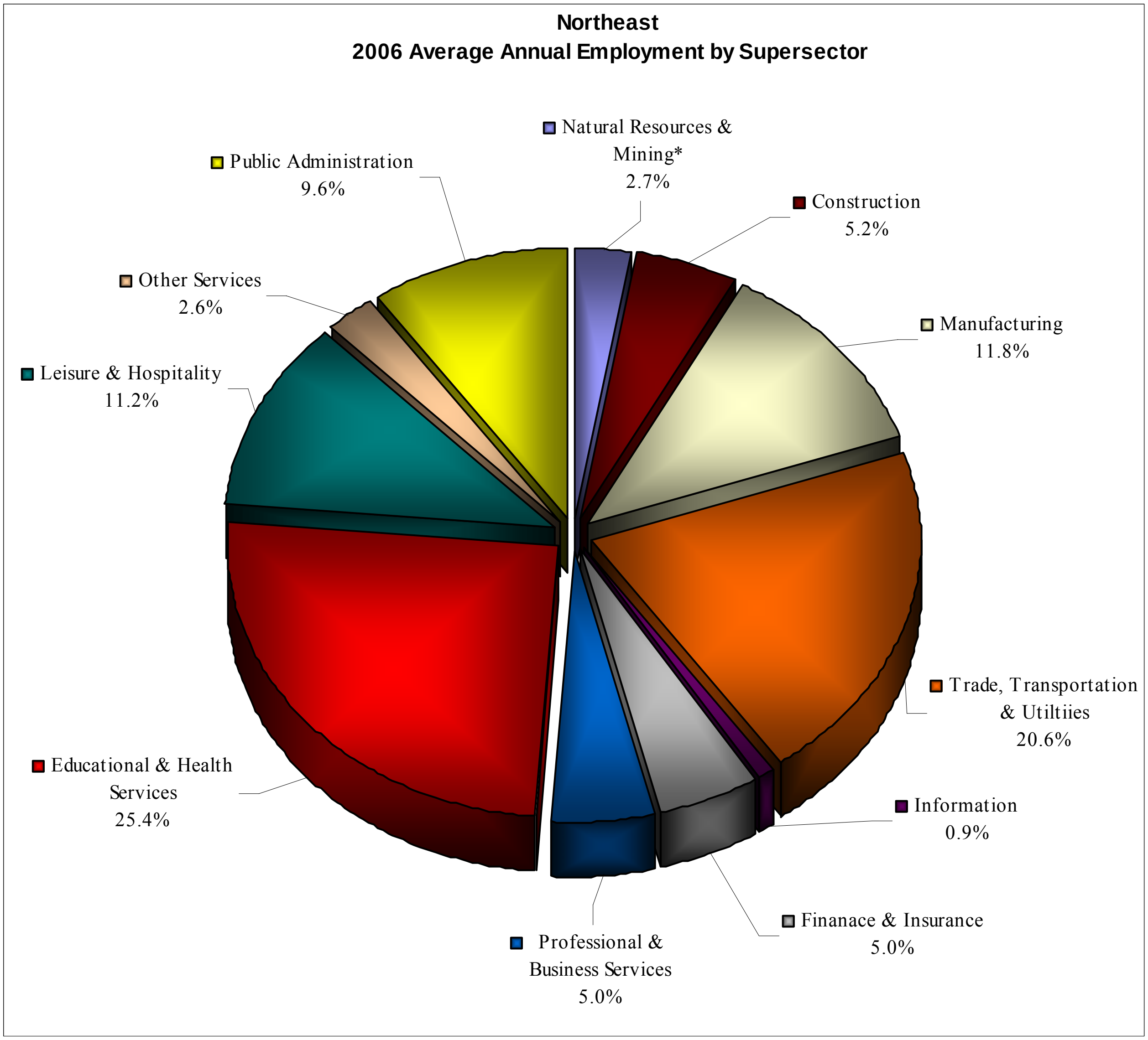
- Between 2001–2006, Northeast increased industry employment 8,454 (7.1%) to a total of 127,303 jobs. In 2006, the region ranked seventh among the state's EDRs, with employment accounting for 3.2 percent of the state's total. Micropolitan counties comprised 64.8 percent of the area's jobs, while one Metropolitan county accounted for 4.3 percent. The remaining 31 percent are located in the Rural counties of the region.

- Employment in the private sector increased by 7,867 (8.7%). Local Government and State Government each added jobs (491, 2.5% and 161, 2.3%), respectively. Federal Government employment, however, decreased by 65 (3.7%).

- Retail Trade was the largest sector, comprising 15 percent of the region's total industry employment. This was followed by Health Care and Social Assistance, which accounted for 14 percent and reported the largest gains (3,550), mainly due to growth in Ambulatory Health Care Services, which added 35 percent, or 2,010 jobs over the five-year span.

- The Accommodation and Food Services sector also contributed to employment gains by adding 1,364 jobs (11.8%), largely on the strength of the Food Services and Drinking Places subsector, which increased by 12.7 percent, or 1,257.

- The Manufacturing sector accounted for 12 percent of the area's total jobs. A downturn in this sector caused decreases of 16 percent, or 2,880, since 2001. Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), consolidation and import competition were the main reasons for the Textile Mills subsector to report a loss of 58.5 percent, or 1,183 jobs. Losses also occurred within the following subsectors: Paper Manufacturing (27.7%), or 618 jobs; Apparel Manufacturing (Cut and Sew Apparel), 514 jobs (66.5%).

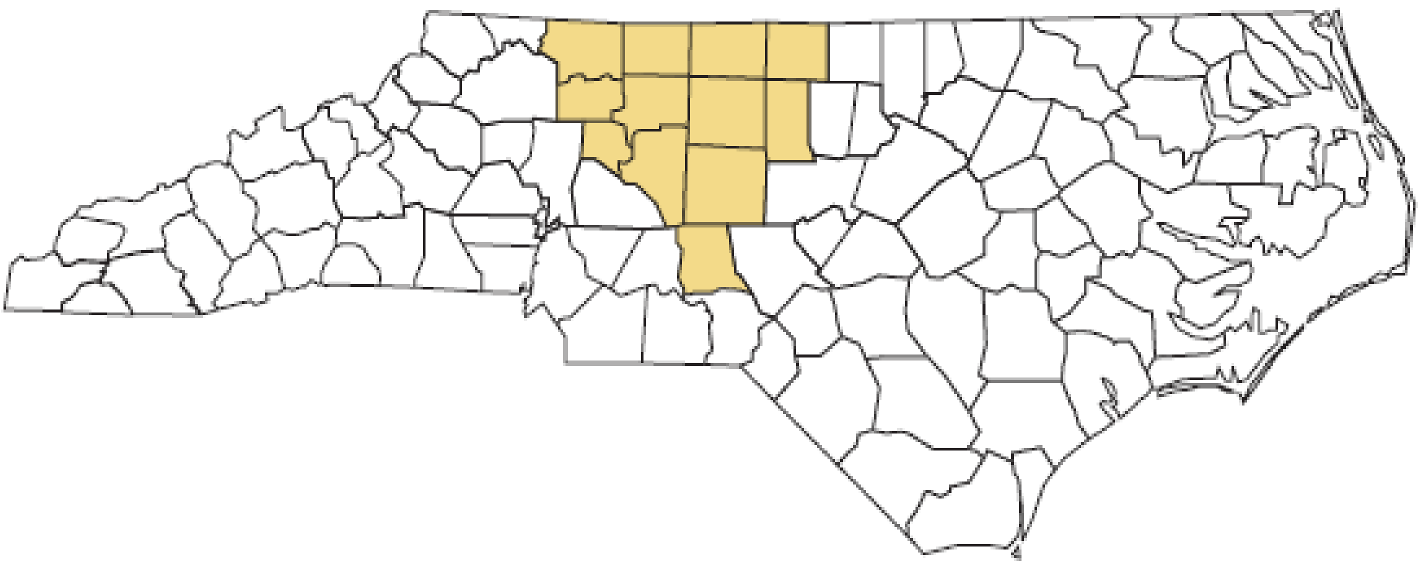


Note: "*" Indicates disclosure suppression.

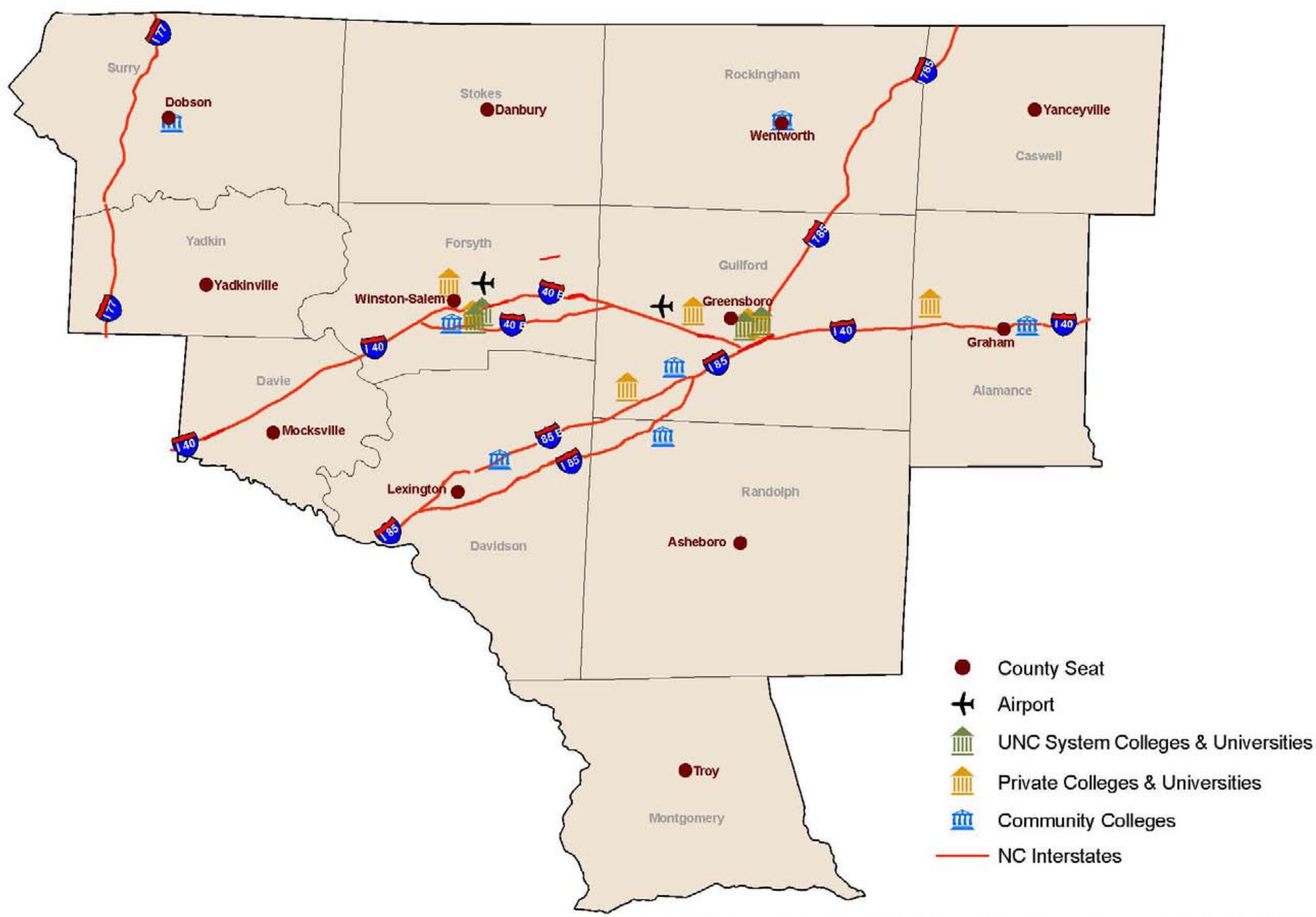
Source: ESC of North Carolina, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Piedmont Triad Partnership

Economic Development Region



Piedmont Triad Partnership Economic Development Region



Map prepared by the Labor Market Information Division of the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina 07_2007

Piedmont Triad Partnership Economic Development Region

The cities of Greensboro, Winston-Salem and High Point are among the 10 largest cities in North Carolina, and geographically form the "Triad" in the Piedmont Triad Partnership Economic Development Region (Piedmont Triad).

Twelve counties comprise Piedmont Triad: Alamance; Caswell; Davidson; Davie; Forsyth; Guilford; Montgomery; Randolph; Rockingham; Stokes; Surry; and Yadkin. The Piedmont Triad is located in central North Carolina and is characterized by low rolling hills. The region is bordered by Virginia to the north, RTPR to the east, Advantage West to the west and Charlotte Regional to the south.

Approximately 1,564,760 people, or 18 percent of North Carolina's population, lived in Piedmont Triad in 2006, which is abundant with nationally recognized universities and colleges. There are four public universities, seven private colleges and universities and nine community colleges with 26 campuses and centers.

Transportation within and throughout the region is supported by a multitude of interstates and highways, such as I-85, I-40, I-77, I-73 and I-74. More than 100 trucking companies have located here because of the region's midway location on the East Coast, making it a perfect hub for truckers traveling not only north to south, but east to west as well. Norfolk Southern and CSX Railway provide rail freight service and Amtrak offers passenger rail service in each of the major cities. The Piedmont Triad International Airport offers 75 daily flights with non-stop service to 14 major cities. The airport is also preparing for the FedEx Mid-Atlantic sorting hub, which is scheduled to open by 2009. In addition, there are eight other regional and county airports.

Eight of Piedmont Triad's counties are Metropolitan (Alamance, Davie, Forsyth, Guilford, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes and Yadkin), while two are Rural (Caswell and Montgomery). The remaining two are characterized as Micropolitan (Davidson and Surry).

Population Demographics:

- In July 2006, Piedmont Triad's population was estimated at 1,564,760, an increase of 5.3 percent since July 2001. The female population was 31 percent, while the males were 49 percent. While the majority (92.4%) of the population was Non-Hispanic, the Hispanic population grew at a much faster rate since 2001.

- The Piedmont Triad EDR had the third largest population of all the EDRs; however, the growth rates in all classes of counties — Metropolitan (5.8%), Micropolitan (3.5%) and Rural (1.3%) — were lower than the statewide averages.

- Across both sex and ethnicity, most of the growth (13.5%) occurred within the 50 and older age groups, indicative of an aging population. The 20–29 and 30–39 age groups experienced declines; however, the 10–19 age group experienced growth (6.8%), which may help to mitigate the declines over the next five to 10 years.

- Among the Hispanic population, strong growth exceeding 47 percent occurred across all age groups, except 20–29 year-olds, which decreased 2.6 percent. This growth occurred across Metropolitan, Micropolitan and Rural counties. The fastest growth rates were among the older age groups (40 and over).

Table 11

Piedmont Triad Population Demographics 2001 and 2006												
	Non-Hispanic						Hispanic					
	July 2001		July 2006		Total		July 2001		July 2006		Total	
Age Group	Male	Female	Male	Female	Net Change	Percent Change	Male	Female	Male	Female	Net Change	Percent Change
0-9	91,483	87,122	88,425	84,839	-5,341	-3.0	9,828	9,381	15,582	14,785	11,158	58.1
10-19	93,753	91,954	97,885	95,540	7,718	4.2	6,534	5,404	9,158	8,440	5,660	47.4
20-29	84,016	90,486	83,207	88,694	-2,601	-1.5	15,164	9,237	13,790	9,975	-636	-2.6
30-39	105,423	109,904	95,911	100,573	-18,843	-8.8	9,420	5,846	15,114	10,186	10,034	65.7
40-49	107,387	112,716	111,073	116,294	7,264	3.3	4,130	2,702	7,647	5,142	5,957	87.2
50-59	85,745	92,417	98,896	107,099	27,833	15.6	1,670	1,190	3,171	2,120	2,431	85.0
60-69	53,367	61,902	62,186	70,822	17,739	15.4	615	545	1,164	1,052	1,056	91.0
70+	50,886	84,733	55,461	88,998	8,840	6.5	354	455	726	805	722	89.2
Total	***672,060***	***731,234***	***693,044***	***752,859***	***42,609***	***3.0***	***47,715***	***34,760***	***66,352***	***52,505***	***36,382***	***44.1***

Source: US Census Bureau

Personal Income:

- Personal Income in Piedmont Triad grew by 15.4 percent between 2001 and 2005, increasing to $47.5 billion (in current dollars). This constituted about 18 percent of the state's total Personal Income in 2005. This region is the third largest contributing region after Charlotte Regional and RTPR.

- More than 56 percent of the region's Personal Income ($26.7 billion) in 2005 was concentrated in Guilford and Forsyth counties; Guilford contributed 32 percent ($15.3 billion) and Forsyth, 24 percent ($11.4 billion). An additional $13 billion (27.7%) came from the remaining six Metropolitan counties. The two Micropolitan counties contributed $6.4 billion (13.4%), while the remaining $1.25 billion (2.6%) came from Rural counties.

- The growth rate in Personal Income in this region was at a slower pace (15.4%) than the statewide average (19.4%), as its large Manufacturing sector suffered severely due to the recession, plant closures and layoffs during 2001–2003 (particularly Textiles and Furniture industries). Only Davie County's growth rate (20%) exceeded that of the state as a whole. The remaining counties experienced growth at rates ranging from a low of 9.1 percent (Surry County) to 18.3 percent (Forsyth County).

- In 2005, Piedmont Triad received about 18 percent ($7.7 billion) of the state's Personal Transfer Payments. This represented an increase of 29 percent over 2001, but occurred at a growth rate below the state's average (30.3%).

- About 27 percent ($2.1 billion) of the region's Transfer Payments were received by the residents of Guilford County, while Forsyth County accounted for another 21 percent ($1.6 billion). Transfer payments increased in each of the counties in the region, ranging from 26 percent in Rockingham and Surry counties to 35 percent in Montgomery County.

- Piedmont Triad generated about 16 percent ($3.2 billion) of the state's total Proprietors' Income during 2005. This source of income grew at a moderate rate of 10 percent, compared to the statewide average (16.6%).

Nearly two-thirds of Proprietors' Income ($2.1 billion) was in Guilford and Forsyth counties, while 6 percent to 8 percent each was generated by Randolph, Alamance and Davidson counties (these three counties combined contributed $675 million dollars).

Proprietors' Income in five counties (Davidson, Alamance, Davie, Forsyth and Guilford) increased between 8 percent and 18 percent, but declined in the other seven counties. This income dropped by 62 percent and 24 percent in Caswell and Montgomery counties, respectively, due to declines in farm incomes, while it dropped between 5 percent and 9 percent in five other counties mainly due to an economic slowdown.

Table 12

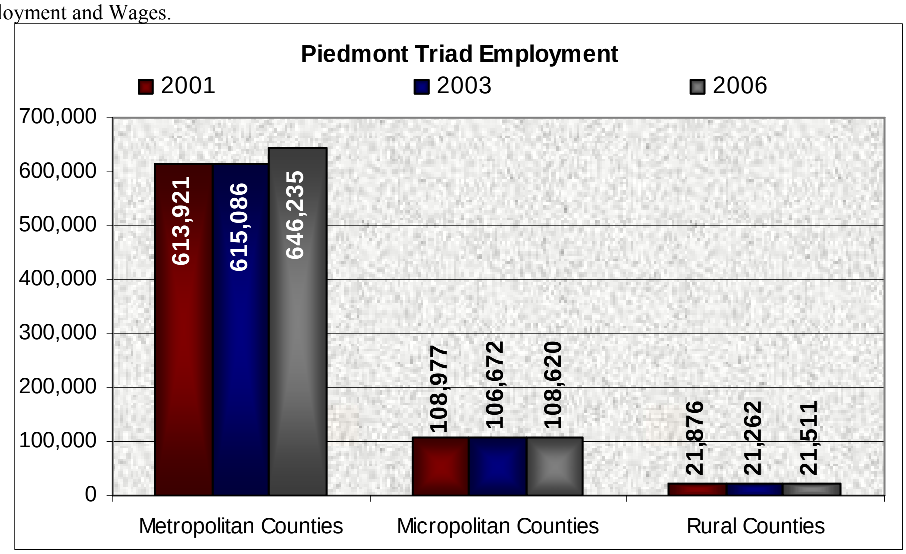
Piedmont Triad Business Establishment Class Size				
Establishment Size	**# of Establishments**	**March 2006 Private Employment**	**Establishments % of Total**	**Employment % of Total**
0 - 9	26,628	79,101	71.6	12.6
10 - 49	8,232	171,668	22.1	27.4
50 - 99	1,267	86,014	3.4	13.7
100 - 499	944	177,400	2.5	28.4
500 +	109	111,541	0.3	17.8
Total	*37,180*	*625,724*		

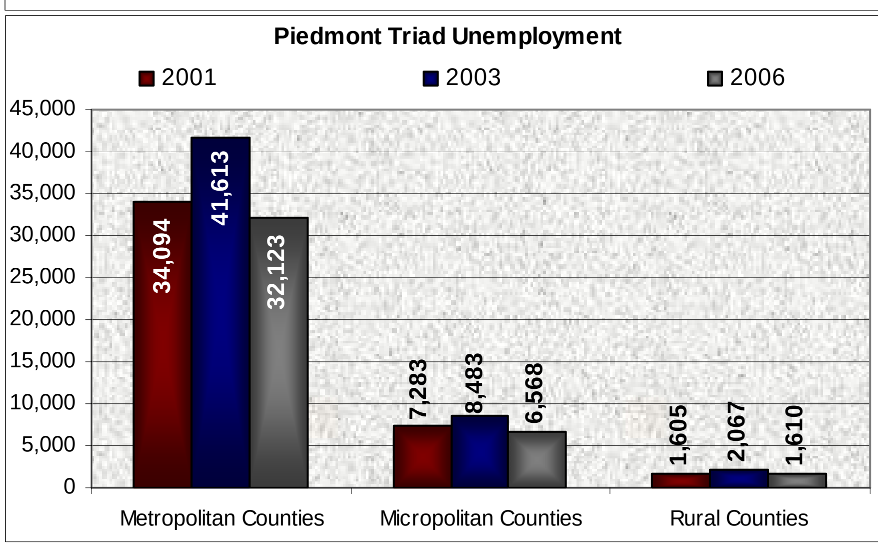
Source: ESC of North Carolina, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Labor Force/Unemployment:

Employment growth in Piedmont Triad remained fairly stagnant between 2001 and 2006. Employment increased in the Metropolitan counties by 5.3 percent, but decreased in both the Micropolitan (0.3%) and Rural counties (1.7%), despite growth of 1.8 percent and 1.2 percent, respectively, from 2003–2006.

Unemployment decreased from 2001–2006 in the Metropolitan (5.8%) and Micropolitan counties (9.8%), but still increased slightly in Rural counties (0.3%) despite a marked decrease (22.1%) from 2003–2006.





Source: ESC of North Carolina, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Rural counties Caswell and Montgomery, experienced employment loss from 2001–2003 and, by 2006, had not recovered entirely. According to the 2000 Census, many residents in Caswell County commuted to work in another county. Since Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) reports employment and unemployment data by county of residence, employment losses may be due to losses of jobs in other counties. Most residents of Montgomery County worked within the county and therefore, may have been affected by closings or layoffs at Spring Industries (2002), Renfro Corporation (2003) and Candor Hosiery Mills (2004).

Micropolitan counties Surry and Davidson also had employment decline from 2001–2003, but by 2006 had generally recovered to 2001 levels. This is due largely to Davidson County, which was hard hit by losses in Textile and Furniture Manufacturing. The remaining industries have expanded, according to Davidson County Economic Development. Surry County employment was flat during this time period, while unemployment declined. This is due to closings at Pine State Knitwear (2003) and Bassett Furniture Industries (2005) and a layoff at Renfro Corporation (2005). Employees from these companies were enrolled in federal trade adjustment programs and were not counted as either employed or unemployed.

Industry Composition:

Between 2001 and 2006, Piedmont Triad's employment of 713,448 reflected a loss of 13,689 jobs (1.9%). In 2006, the region ranked third among the state's EDRs, and accounted for 18 percent of the state's total industry employment. Metropolitan counties comprised 87.3 percent, while Micropolitan counties accounted for 10.7 percent. The remaining 2 percent was located in the Rural counties of the region.

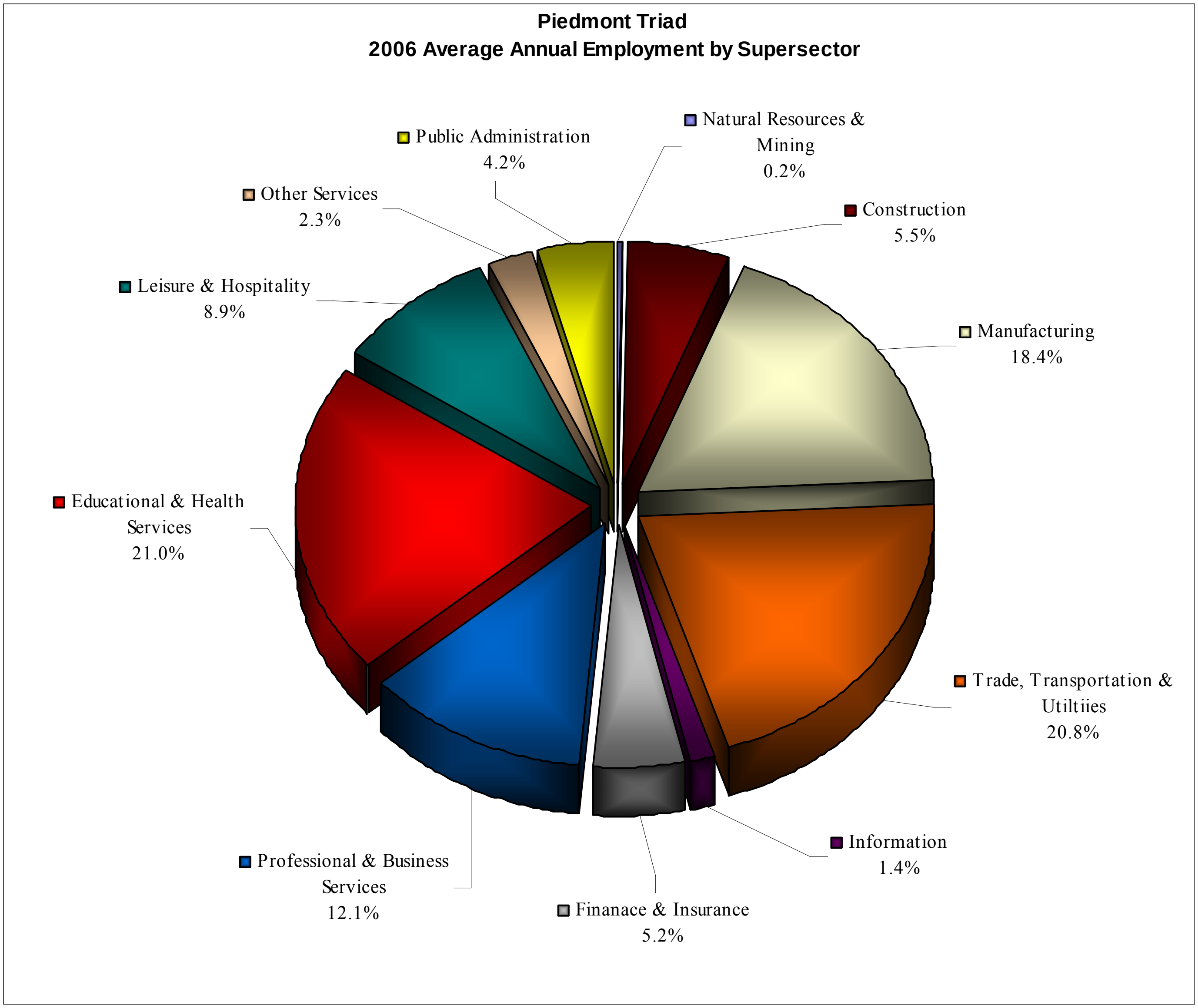
Jobs in the private sector declined 2.7 percent, or 17,615. The public sector, however, increased by 2,681, (4.5%) in Local Government and 1,363 (8.6%) in State Government. Federal Government employment, however, declined by 1.8 percent, or 119.

Health Care and Social Assistance, Accommodation and Food Services, and, Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services were the major growing sectors. Health Care and Social Assistance comprised 12 percent of the region's total industry employment. Jobs in this industry grew notably by 19.2 percent (13,992). The driving force behind this industry's growth occurred in the Ambulatory Health Care Services subsector, which boosted employment levels by 30.5 percent, or 7,192.

The Accommodation and Food Services sector contributed to employment gains by adding 7,715 jobs (16.1%), mainly in the Food Services and Drinking Places subsector, which increased 18.6 percent, or 7,914 jobs.

Within the Manufacturing sector, employment totaled more than 18 percent of the area's overall industry employment, making it one of the region's predominant industries. Employment decreases in the Household Furniture, Textile Mills and Tobacco Manufacturing subsectors were the most influential, causing employment to drop 21.4 percent, or 35,594. Import competition, restructuring and industry downturns caused plants to shutdown and lay off workers. The Textile Mills subsector fell 40.1 percent, or 11,832, and Apparel Manufacturing subsector declined 37.8 percent (6,398). These effects triggered unemployment rates as high as 7.2 percent in July 2002.

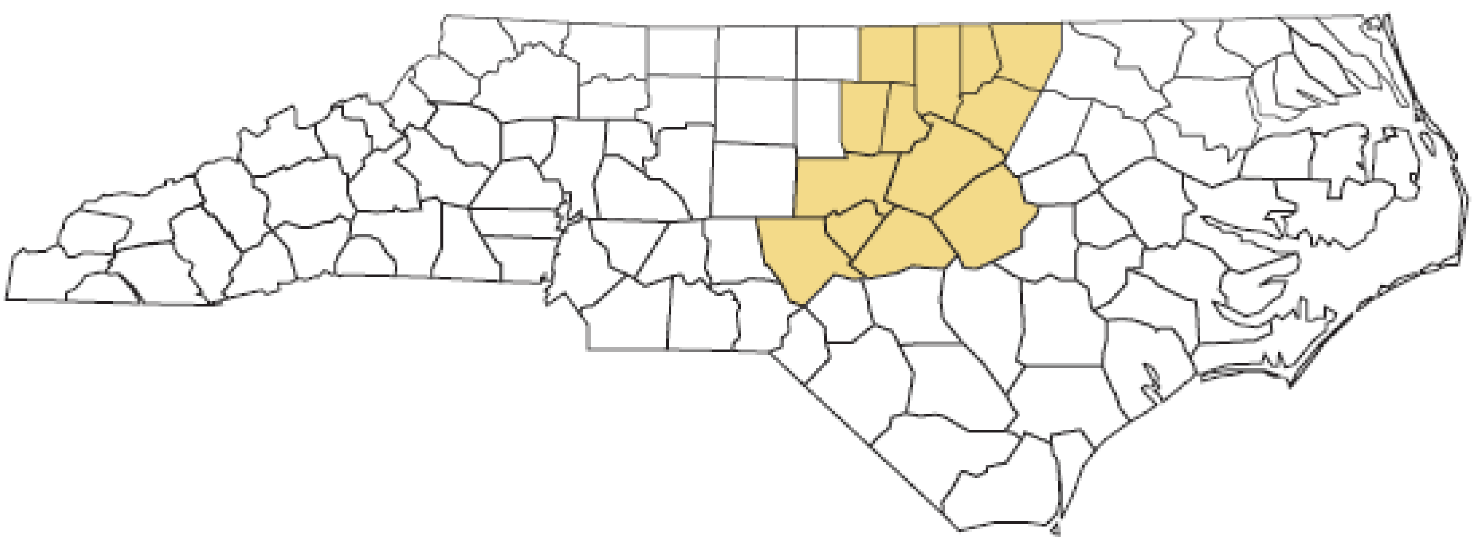
Employment in the Transportation and Warehousing sector fell 14.2 percent (5,623 workers), mainly due to losses in the Truck Transportation subsector. This subsector encountered losses of 14.8 percent, or 2,263 jobs.



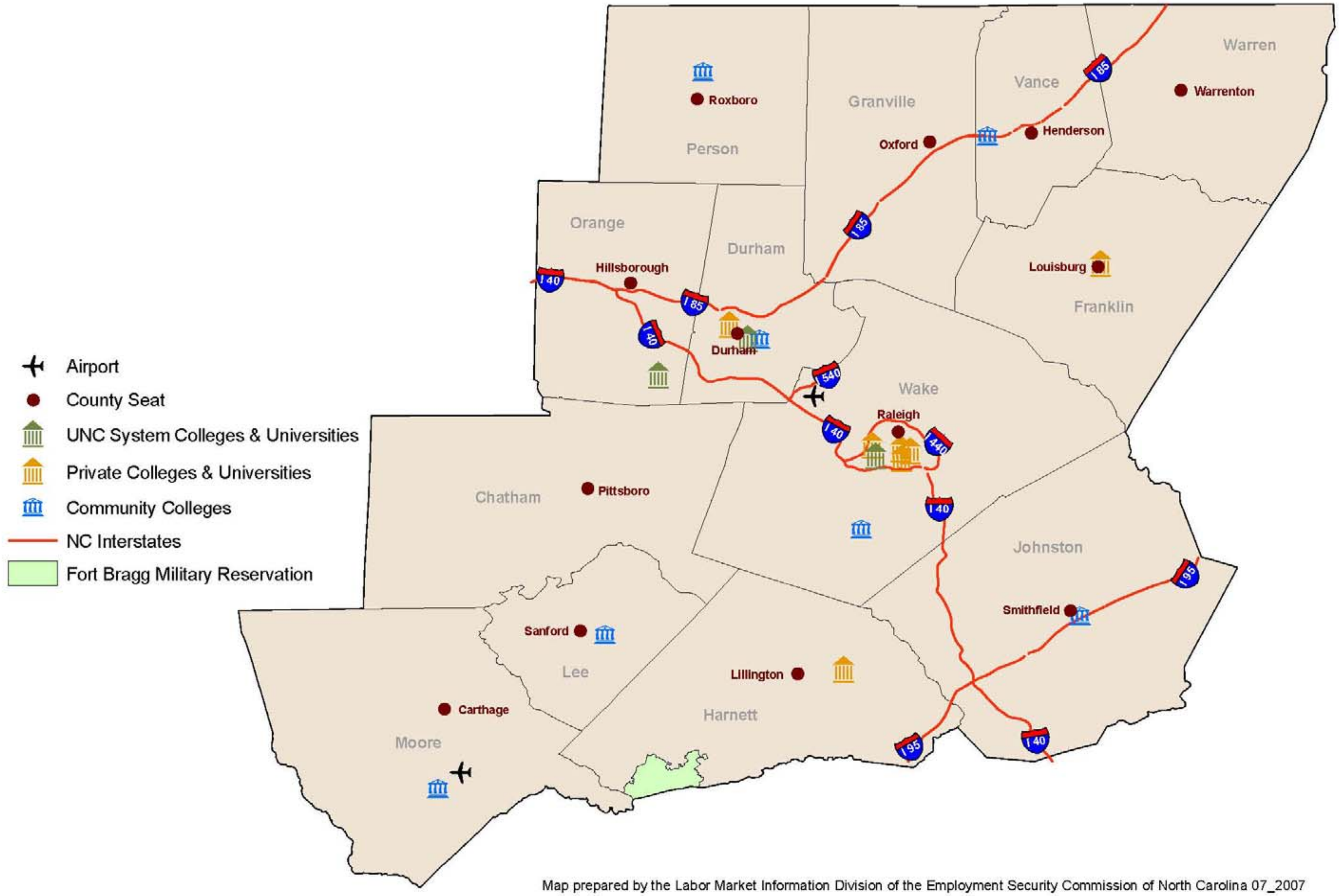
Source: ESC of North Carolina , Quarterly Census Employment and Wages

Research Triangle Partnership

Economic Development Region



Research Triangle Partnership Economic Development Region



Map prepared by the Labor Market Information Division of the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina 07_2007

Research Triangle Partnership Economic Development Region

Sandwiched between the Northeast and Piedmont Triad, Research Triangle Research Partnership Economic Development Region (RTPR) is bordered by Virginia to the north and Southeast Economic Development Region to the south. The region consists of 13 counties: Chatham; Durham; Franklin; Granville; Harnett; Johnston; Lee; Moore; Orange; Person; Vance; Wake; and Warren. RTPR encompassed 20.6 percent of North Carolina's population, or 1,823,181 residents, in 2006.

Three interstate highways intersect within RTPR: I-40, I-85, and I-95, allowing access to many East Coast destinations. The Raleigh-Durham International Airport, along with one regional and six county airports, combine with two rail systems (CSX and Norfolk Southern) to open up the region to the rest of the country and the entire world. This region is home to the Research Triangle Park, which houses a diverse list of industries, including Biotech, Pharmaceuticals, Information Technology and Telecommunications.

The region boasts three public universities, eight private colleges and universities and seven community colleges.

Seven of RTPR's counties are classified as Metropolitan, including: Chatham; Durham; Franklin; Johnston; Orange; Person; and Wake. Three Micropolitan (Harnett, Lee and Moore) and three Rural counties (Granville, Vance and Warren) comprise the rest of the region.

Population Demographics:

- In July 2006, the total population within the boundaries of RTPR was estimated at 1,823,181, an increase of 13.7 percent since 2001. Fifty-one percent were female and 49 percent male. While the population was predominantly Non-Hispanic (92%), the Hispanic population has continued to grow at a rapid pace since 2001.

- The RTPR experienced growth rates in excess of the statewide averages across all three classes of counties: Metropolitan (15%); Micropolitan (11.2%); and Rural (3.7%).

- The most notable growth (29.8%) occurred among the 50–59 year-olds and the individuals between 60 and 69 years of age. The slowest growing age groups were the 20–29 and 30–39 year-olds; however, with growth in the 0–19 age groups hovering at 14.2 percent, the region is well situated to supply a ready future labor force.

- The RTPR has the second fastest-growing and the second-largest Hispanic population of all the EDRs, trailing only the Charlotte Regional EDR. The fastest growth of the Hispanic population in the region is occurring among Metropolitan counties (51.9%), with Micropolitan (36.7%) and Rural counties lagging behind (34.5%).

- Among the Hispanic population, significant growth (46.8%-108.2%) occurred within all age groups except 20–29 year-olds, who experienced a slower growth rate of 0.4 percent. Among this age group, growth occurred in the Metropolitan counties of the region (1.5%), while the Micropolitan and Rural counties experienced declines (6.1% and 1.3%, respectively).

Table 13

RTPR Population Demographics 2001 and 2006												
	Non-Hispanic						Hispanic					
	July 2001		July 2006		Total		July 2001		July 2006		Total	
Age Group	Male	Female	Male	Female	Net Change	Percent Change	Male	Female	Male	Female	Net Change	Percent Change
0-9	102,758	97,973	111,383	105,909	16,561	8.3	11,123	10,432	19,287	17,900	15,632	72.5
10-19	102,850	100,009	115,450	111,057	23,648	11.7	8,073	6,018	11,075	9,608	6,592	46.8
20-29	108,398	112,707	113,276	116,158	8,329	3.8	21,361	10,760	20,333	11,931	143	0.4
30-39	124,514	128,179	124,825	130,856	2,988	1.2	13,415	7,424	22,094	12,514	13,769	66.1
40-49	116,507	123,450	130,491	137,247	27,781	11.6	5,682	3,342	11,030	6,505	8,511	94.3
50-59	83,664	89,148	106,339	115,316	48,843	28.3	2,019	1,364	4,258	2,785	3,660	108.2
60-69	46,107	53,270	60,548	67,639	28,810	29.0	753	659	1,429	1,244	1,261	89.3
70+	42,151	69,237	47,844	75,186	11,642	10.5	380	444	781	883	840	101.9
Total	***726,949***	***773,973***	***810,156***	***859,368***	***168,602***	***11.2***	***62,806***	***40,443***	***90,287***	***63,370***	***50,408***	***48.8***

Source: US Census Bureau

Personal Income:

- Between 2001 and 2005, Personal Income in RTPR grew by 18.8 percent, increasing to $59.6 billion (in current dollars). This was the second most influential EDR in the state in terms of Personal Income, generating about 22 percent of the state's total in 2005.

- About 84 percent of the region's Personal Income ($49.9 billion) was generated by Metropolitan counties. Another 12 percent ($7 billion) came from Micropolitan counties and the remainder, $2.7 billion, by Rural counties.

- Wake County alone contributed close to half of the region's Personal Income ($28.3 billion) in 2005. In addition to a cluster of commercial and business activities, the universities, schools and colleges, offices of the state, county and city governments all contributed to the county's share of the region's Personal Income.

- Another 14 percent of the region's Personal Income ($8.2 billion) came from Durham County, a center of high-tech computer and bio-tech industries in the Research Triangle Park.

- The rate of growth rate in Personal Income in this region (18.8%) was marginally behind that of the state as a whole (19.4%). Growth in three Metropolitan (Chatham, Orange, Johnston counties) and two Micropolitan (Harnett and Lee counties) areas exceeded the state rate, while the remaining counties experienced growth rates ranging from 8.6 percent (Vance to 18.6 percent).

- RTPR accounted for about 17 percent (estimated at $7.2 billion in 2005) of the total Transfer Payments of the state. Transfer Payments to the area increased by 32 percent, possibly reflecting the increasing cost of benefits for the aging population. The population aged 50 years and older grew by 16 percent in this region from 2001–2005.

- About one-third ($2.4 billion) of the region's Transfer Payments were received by the residents of Wake County, while another 14 percent ($1.0 billion) were received in Durham County. Transfer Payments increased across all the counties of the EDR, ranging from 23 percent in Warren County to 37 percent in Johnston County.

The RTPR contributed about one-fifth ($4.1 billion) to the state's Proprietors' Income. Because of the economic downturn and slow recovery, this source of income grew at a rather slow pace (8.4%) from 2001 to 2005, well below the statewide average rate (16.6%).

Losses occurred in six counties over this period (Person, Vance, Warren, Granville, Johnston and Harnett), and ranged from a decrease of 0.1 percent in Harnett to 63 percent in Person County. Vance and Person counties' losses are attributable, for the most part, to a significant decrease in the value of inventory change for crops[1] in the counties (111% and 158%, respectively).

Nearly half of the Proprietors' Income (about $2 billion) was generated in Wake County, while another 16 percent ($659 million) was contributed by Durham County.

About 83 percent of the region's Proprietors' Income ($3.4 billion) was generated by the seven Metropolitan counties. Another 15 percent ($603 million) was contributed by the three Micropolitan counties and the balance ($82.5 million) came from the three Rural counties.

Table 14

RTPR Business Establishment Class Size				
Establishment Size	**# of Establishments**	**March 2006 Private Employment**	**Establishments % of Total**	**Employment % of Total**
0 - 9	31,757	95,798	73.9	13.9
10 - 49	9,891	204,801	21.0	29.7
50 - 99	1,422	96,492	3.0	14.0
100 - 499	877	167,293	1.9	24.3
500 +	88	125,141	0.2	18.1
Total	*47,035*	*689,525*		

Source: ESC of North Carolina, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Labor Force/Unemployment:

RTPR experienced an interesting mix of growth in employment and reduction of unemployment across the Metropolitan, Micropolitan and Rural counties between 2001 and 2006. Employment grew by 11.8 percent in the Metropolitan counties, while unemployment also increased marginally by 0.7 percent. In Micropolitan counties, employment increased by 8.2 percent and unemployment decreased by 6.8 percent. Rural counties experienced slower employment growth (1.5%), but also demonstrated significant reductions in unemployment (20.0%).

Telecommunications industries in this EDR, particularly in Durham and Wake counties, were very hard hit. Several companies such as Nortel Networks, Cisco Systems, IBM Corp., Sony Ericson Inc. and Alcatel USA Inc. either closed locations or had large-scale layoffs of 100 or more employees due to import competition, foreign competition, restructuring and/or outsourcing.

Midway Airlines in Wake County filed bankruptcy and closed, laying off all employees. Other travel-related companies such as Maupin Travel, LSG Sky Chefs and the American Airlines Travel Center were also affected by events stemming from the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

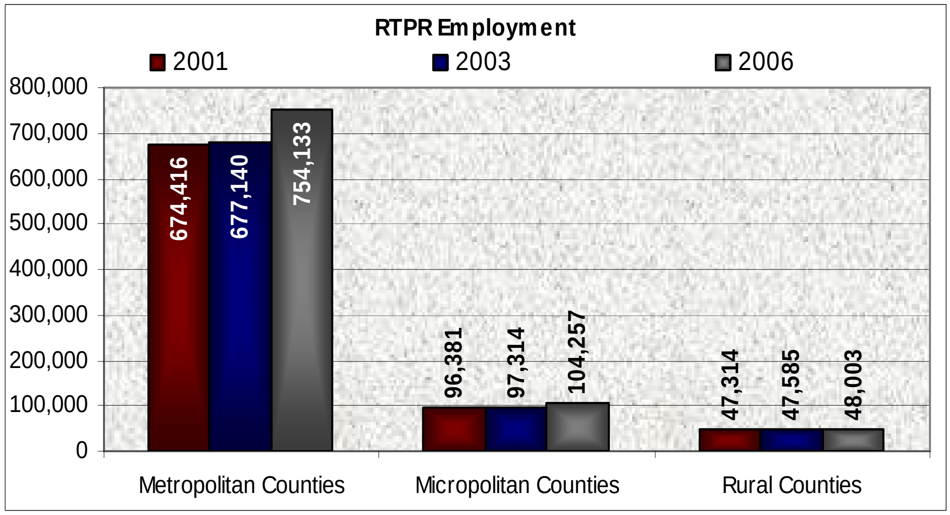
[1] The value of inventory change for crops is the estimated value of the net change in the farm inventories of crop commodities that are held for sale during a given calendar year.

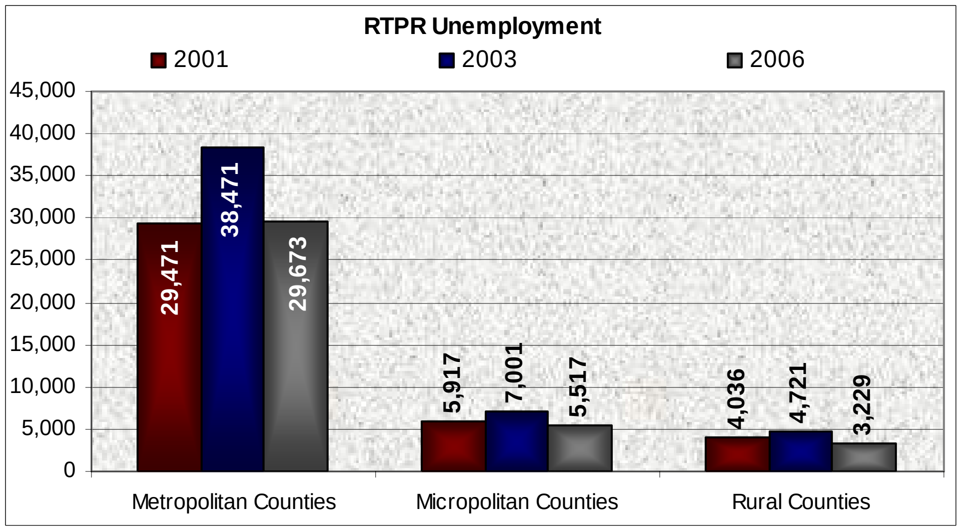
Industry Composition:

- Between 2001 and 2006, the RTPR showed an employment increase of 53,711 (6.6%) and in 2006 ranked second in total employment with 22.2 percent of the state's total employment among the seven EDRs in North Carolina. Eighty-six percent of the region's employment was concentrated in Metropolitan counties, 9.6 percent in Micropolitan counties, and 4.4 percent in Rural counties in 2006.

- The largest net employment increase was in the Health Care and Social Assistance sector with 20,548 (21.8%). Within this sector, Ambulatory Health Care Services and Hospitals subsectors contributed to this increase with a total of 14,461 jobs.

- Jobs in the Educational Services sector increased by 12,790 (15.7%). These data include both public and private educational establishments.



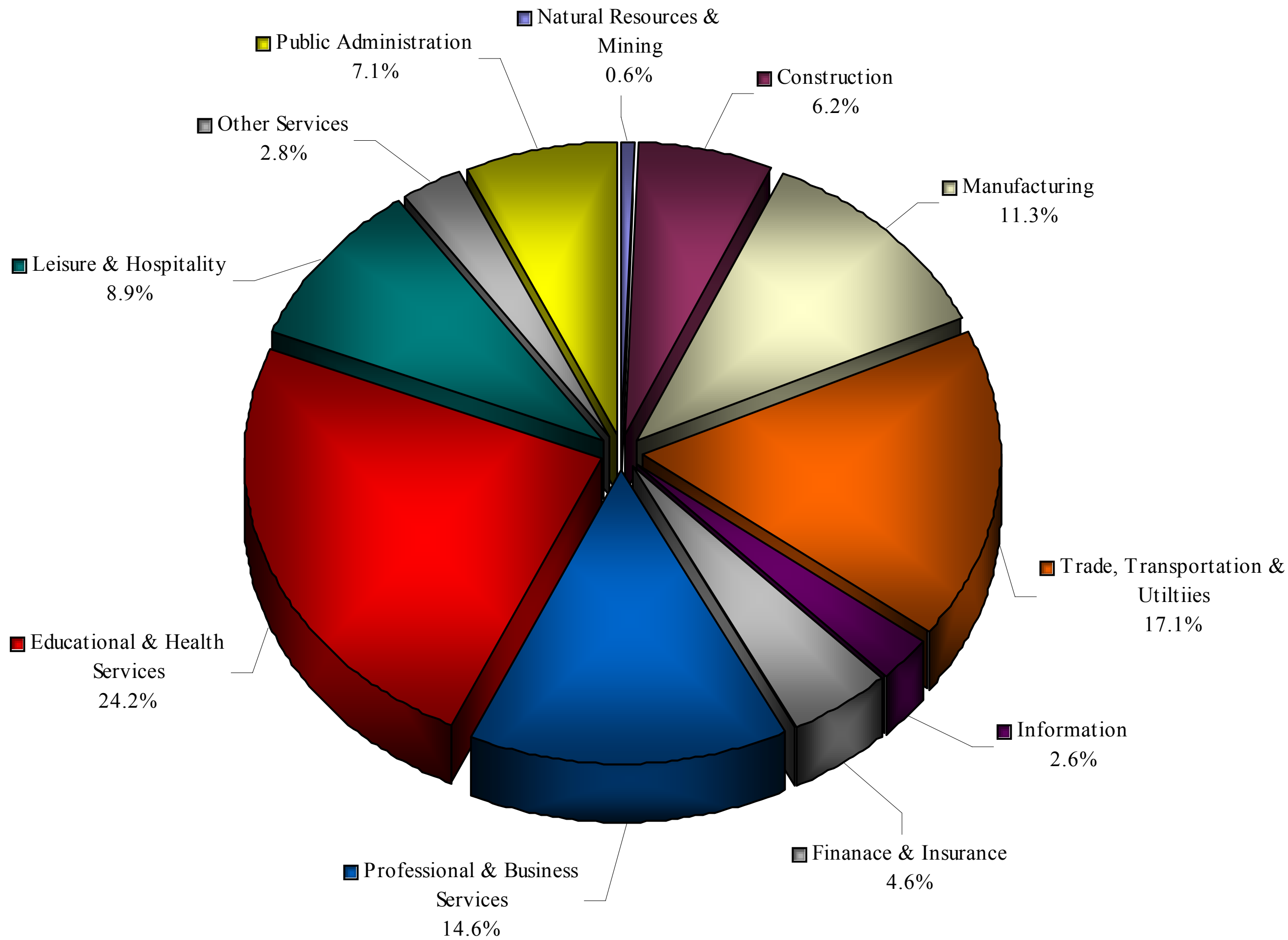


Source: ESC of North Carolina, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

- The Manufacturing sector showed the largest five-year net employment decrease at 18,900 (16.2%). Within Manufacturing, employment in the Textiles (combining Textile Mills and Textile Product Mills) and Apparel subsectors together decreased by 6,064 (47.7%).

- The Information sector also had a large net decrease in employment (3,590 or 14%), with the Telecommunications subsector losing 39.5 percent of its jobs.

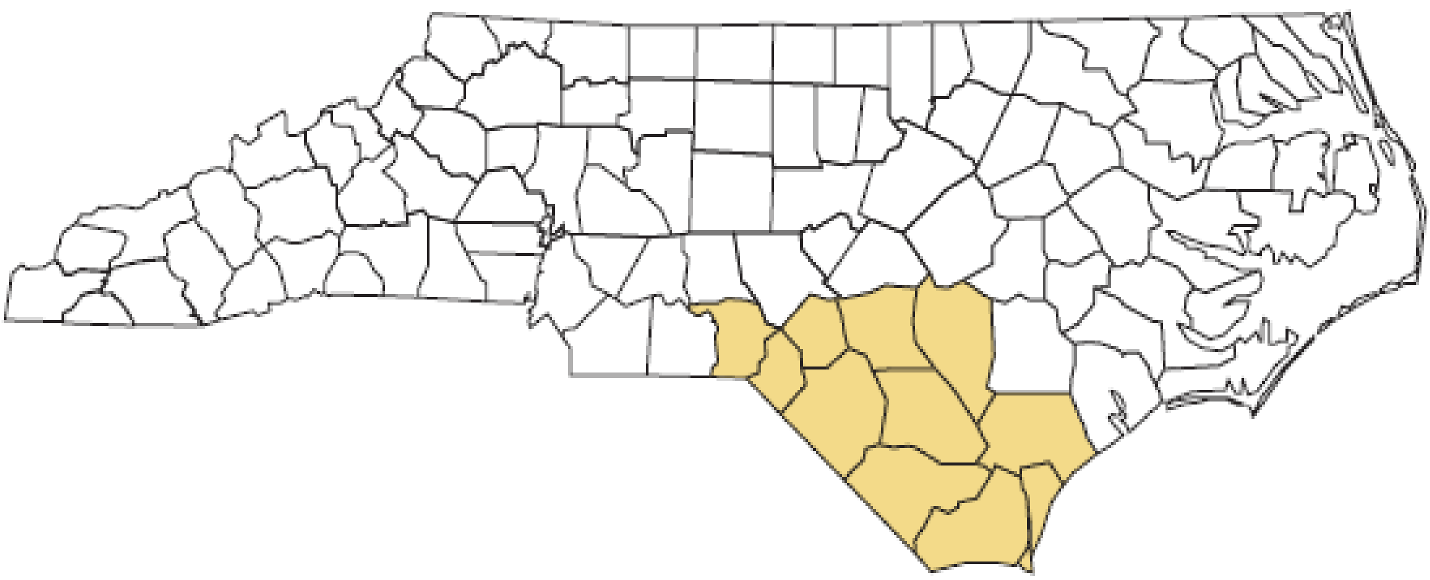
RTPR
2006 Average Annual Employment by Supersector



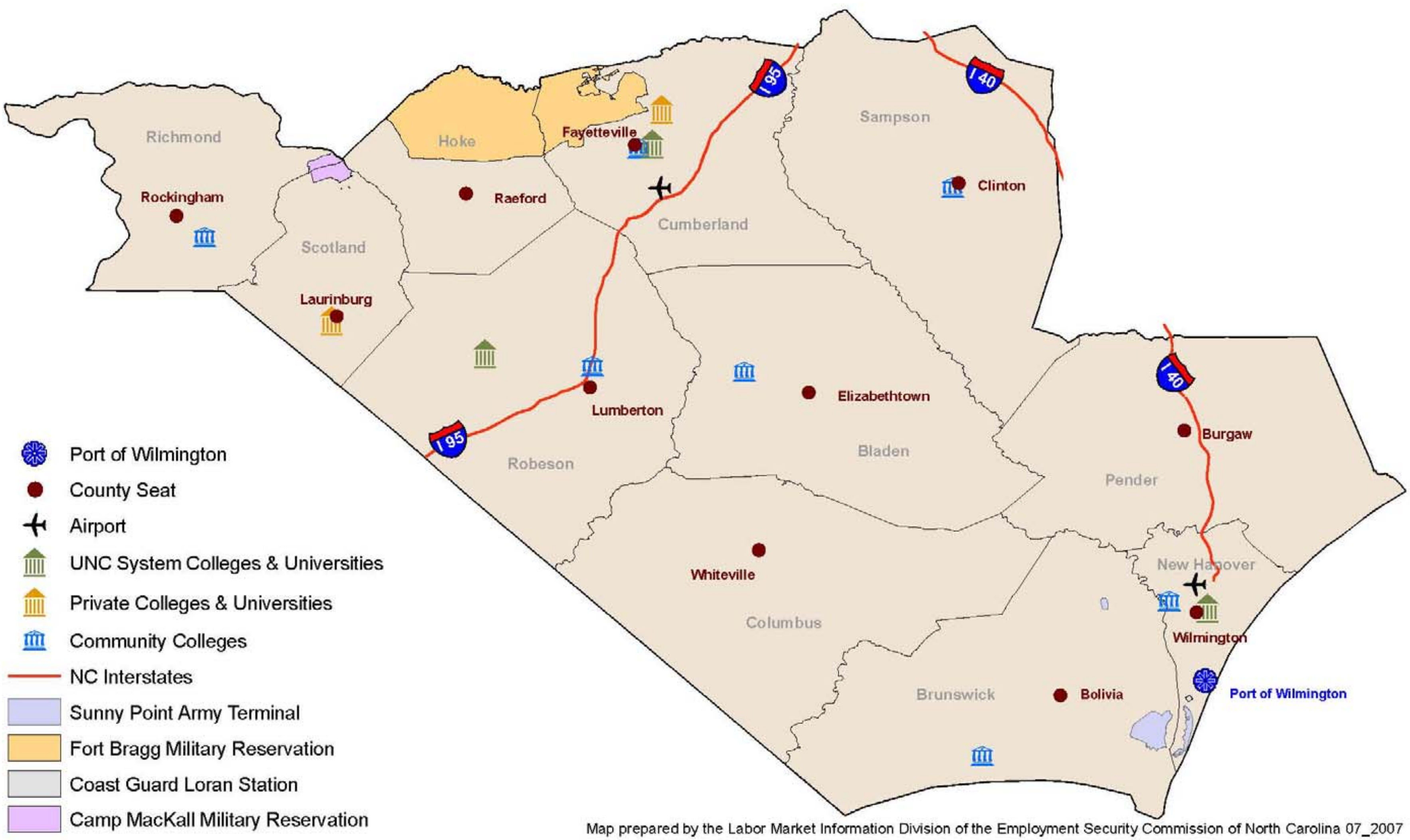
Source: ESC of North Carolina, Quarterly Census Employment and Wages

Southeast Partnership

Economic Development Region



Southeast Partnership Economic Development Region



Map prepared by the Labor Market Information Division of the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina 07_2007

Southeast Partnership Economic Development Region

As part of America's Sunbelt, North Carolina's Southeast Partnership Economic Development Region (Southeast) enjoys miles of Atlantic beaches to its east, touches the RTPR and Piedmont Triad to its north, borders the Charlotte Regional to its west and is bounded by South Carolina to the south. This inner portion of the Atlantic Coastal Plain is accented with rolling surfaces and light sandy soils that help make it a leading agricultural region.

The Southeast consists of 11 counties: Bladen; Brunswick; Columbia; Cumberland; Hoke; New Hanover; Pender; Richmond; Robeson; Sampson; and Scotland. It has a diverse population that includes the Waccamaw Siouan Indian Tribe in Bladen and Columbus counties. Approximately 1,031,318 people, or 12 percent of North Carolina's population, reside in the region.

The Southeast boasts a transportation system that readily connects to any part of the country and beyond, including two interstates — I-95 and I-40 — as well as the current construction of I-73/74. Air travel is highlighted by a system of 13 smaller non-commercial airports and two regional airports: Fayetteville Regional and Wilmington International, which provide daily passenger jet service. Mainline rail carriers CSX Corporation and Norfolk-Southern provide freight transportation, and the Southeast claims one of two ports operated by the N.C. Ports Authority — the Port of Wilmington, which handles bulk, break-bulk and containerized cargo. It is also home to the Southport Marina with major expansion plans currently underway.

The Southeast boasts three universities, one private university, one private college and nine community colleges.

By sheer size and income generated, Fort Bragg exerts a powerful influence on Southeast's economy, generating more than $7 million annually. As one of the largest military complexes in the world, it encompasses 160,700 acres of land that stretches into five counties, and hosts America's only airborne corps and airborne division, the "Green Berets" of the Special Operations Command and the Army's largest support command.

Tourism also plays a major economic role because of the region's miles of shoreline for water enthusiasts and its many natural barrier islands as well. Swimming, boating and surfing draw visitors to the beaches year after year, as well as deep sea fishing.

Within its borders, Southeast contains five counties designated as Metropolitan (Brunswick, Cumberland, Hoke, New Hanover and Pender counties), with three designated Micropolitan (Richland, Robeson and Scotland counties) and Rural (Bladen, Columbus and Sampson counties).

Population Demographics:

- In July 2006, Southeast's population was estimated at 1,031,318, an increase of 6 percent since July 2001. The population was approximately 51 percent female and 49 percent male. Although the population was largely Non-Hispanic (94.4%), the Hispanic population has been growing at a faster rate than the Non-Hispanics since 2001.

- Across both sex and ethnicity, the most significant growth (13.5%–18.3%) occurred among the 50 and older age groups, reflecting, once again, an aging population.

- The 30–39 year-old age group experienced a decrease (2.2%) similar to that observed in several other regions. The decline in this age group was fueled by declines in the Micropolitan and Rural counties (2.9% and 4.7%, respectively), while Metropolitan counties experienced a smaller decrease in this age group (1.5%).

Within the Hispanic population, substantial growth (25.2%–71.1%) occurred in all age groups, except among 20–29 year-olds, who experienced a decrease of 7.6 percent. This decrease was confined to the Metropolitan and Rural counties, which experienced losses in this age group of 13.7 and 1.9 percent, respectively, while the Micropolitan counties actually grew (2.4%).

Among the Hispanic population, the nine-and-under age group was the largest (14,215). Those in this age group were largely found in the Metropolitan counties (52.2%), although their rates of growth were higher in the Micropolitan (72.6%) and Rural (48.7%) counties.

Table 15

Southeast Population Demographics 2001 and 2006												
	Non-Hispanic						Hispanic					
	July 2001		July 2006		Total		July 2001		July 2006		Total	
Age Group	Male	Female	Male	Female	Net Change	Percent Change	Male	Female	Male	Female	Net Change	Percent Change
0-9	66,127	63,176	67,476	64,975	3,148	2.4	5,524	5,095	7,273	6,942	3,596	33.9
10-19	67,070	64,447	70,914	66,754	6,151	4.7	4,280	3,383	5,223	4,369	1,929	25.2
20-29	71,586	65,004	67,008	66,357	-3,225	-2.4	8,195	4,640	7,304	4,550	-981	-7.6
30-39	67,838	68,867	63,872	67,413	-5,420	-4.0	4,829	3,336	6,222	4,154	2,211	27.1
40-49	64,911	70,068	67,464	73,150	5,635	4.2	2,434	1,873	3,448	2,967	2,108	48.9
50-59	51,832	56,848	60,486	67,379	19,185	17.7	903	814	1,390	1,357	1,030	60.0
60-69	34,292	39,818	39,760	46,687	12,337	16.6	428	461	583	746	440	49.5
70+	28,781	45,588	33,547	50,528	9,706	13.1	269	327	438	582	424	71.1
Total	***452,437***	***473,816***	***470,527***	***503,243***	***47,517***	***5.1***	***26,862***	***19,929***	***31,881***	***25,667***	***10,757***	***23.0***

Source: US Census Bureau

Personal Income:

Personal Income in Southeast grew by nearly 25 percent between 2001 and 2005, increasing to $28.4 billion (in current dollars). This constituted approximately 10 percent of the state's total Personal Income in 2005.

Seventy-one percent of the region's Personal Income ($20 billion) in 2005 was concentrated in Metropolitan counties, while Micropolitan counties contributed an additional 16 percent ($4.5 billion) and Rural counties added the remaining 13 percent ($3.7 billion).

Approximately $9.9 billion (35%) of the region's Personal Income ($28.3 billion) is generated by Cumberland County alone. This county is home to major military bases, and the increased military spending during recent years contributed to considerable commercial and business activity, resulting in faster personal income growth. Personal Income in Cumberland County increased by 33 percent over the five-year period. An additional 21 percent of the area's Personal Income ($5.8 billion) came from New Hanover County.

The region's growth rate (24.7%) for Personal Income was well over the statewide average (19.4%). Growth rates for all of the Metropolitan counties exceeded the state average (23.4%–35.7%) as did the growth rate in Rural Sampson County (21.6%). Growth rates in the remaining counties ranged from 7.7 percent in Richmond County to 16.5 percent in Robeson County.

- The Southeast shared 13.5 percent ($5.9 billion) of the state's Transfer Payments. This income increased by 31 percent, from $4.5 billion in 2001 to $5.9 billion in 2005, only marginally exceeding the statewide average growth rate (30%). The growth rate of Transfer Payments was highest in Brunswick County (46.6%), largely the result of significant increases in unemployment compensation for veterans (235.5%), other government retirement and disability insurance benefits (206.8%), and veteran's pension and disability benefits (135%).

- About 58 percent ($3.4 billion) of the region's Transfer Payments were received by the people living in Metropolitan counties. Another one-fourth ($1.4 billion) was shared by Micropolitan counties, whereas about 17 percent (about $1.0 billion) was received by the people residing in Rural counties.

- Southeast contributed about 9 percent to the state's total Proprietors' Income. Proprietors' Income growth in this region remained weak (5.2%) during the five-year period, when compared to the statewide average rate of growth of 16.6 percent. Total Proprietors' Income for the region increased to $1.8 billion in 2005. Four counties (Columbus, Richmond, Cumberland and Pender) experienced negative growth rates ranging from 0.9 to 12.6 percent. In all four cases, substantial losses were reflected in the value of inventory change[1] category of farm income and expenses.

- About 62 percent of Proprietors' Income ($1.1 billion) came from Metropolitan counties, while about 13 percent ($233 million) was generated by Micropolitan counties, and the remaining one-fourth ($439 million) was contributed by Rural counties.

Table 16

Southeast Business Establishment Class Size				
Establishment Size	# of Establishments	March 2006 Private Employment	Establishments % of Total	Employment % of Total
0 - 9	16,064	49,459	72.6	16.8
10 - 49	5,071	101,618	22.9	34.5
50 - 99	619	42,813	2.8	14.6
100 - 499	341	64,930	1.5	22.1
500 +	34	35,343	0.2	12.0
Total	*22,129*	*294,163*		

Source: ESC of North Carolina, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

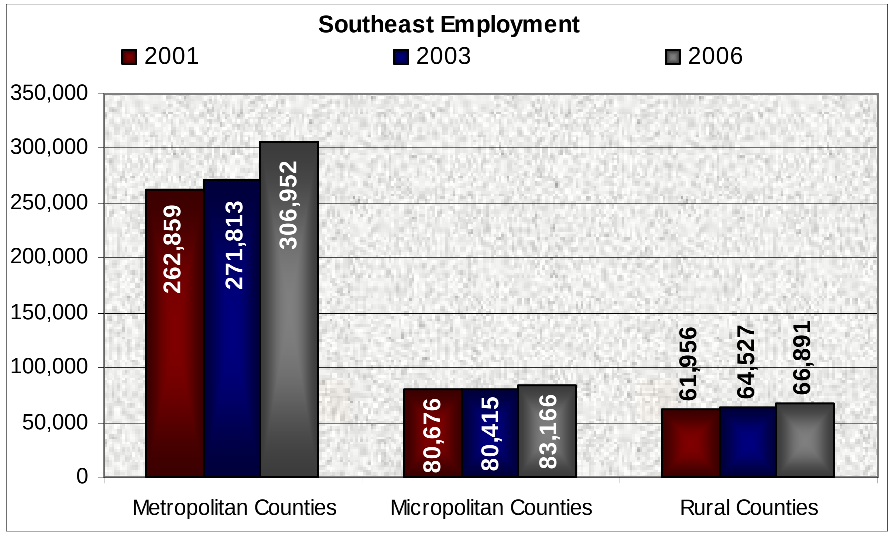
Labor Force/Unemployment:

- Although Southeast experienced overall increases in employment between 2001–2006, it gained proportionally more in its Metropolitan counties (16.8%) than in its Micropolitan (3.1%) or Rural counties (8.0%).

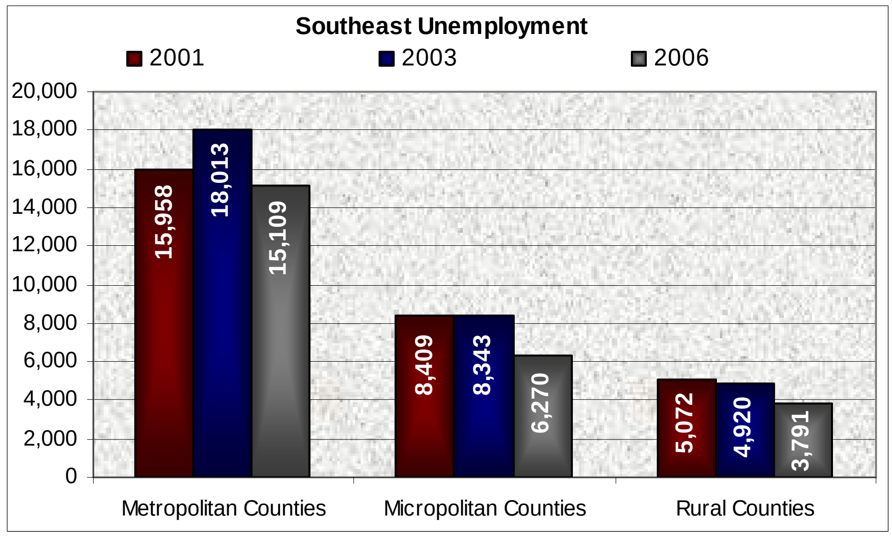
- Unemployment was down considerably more in the Micropolitan (25.4%) and Rural counties (25.3%) than in the Metropolitan counties (5.3%).

[1] The value of inventory change is the estimated value of the net change in the farm inventories of livestock and crops that are held for sale during a given calendar year. This estimate is added to the estimate of realized net income so that the estimate of farm Proprietors' Income for a given year will include only the farm income from production during that year, or from "current" production.

Micropolitan Scotland County was the only county in this region to lose employment from 2003–2006. Spring Industries (2003), Charles Craft Inc. (2005) and WestPoint Home (2006) closures contributed to this loss. As a result of Charles Craft and WestPoint Home closing, employees were eligible for Federal Trade Act benefits and were considered outside of the labor force while in training.



Richmond County, another Micropolitan county, experienced an employment reduction from 2001–2003. These were not attributable to industry losses in the county, but to declines in other counties to which residents commuted.



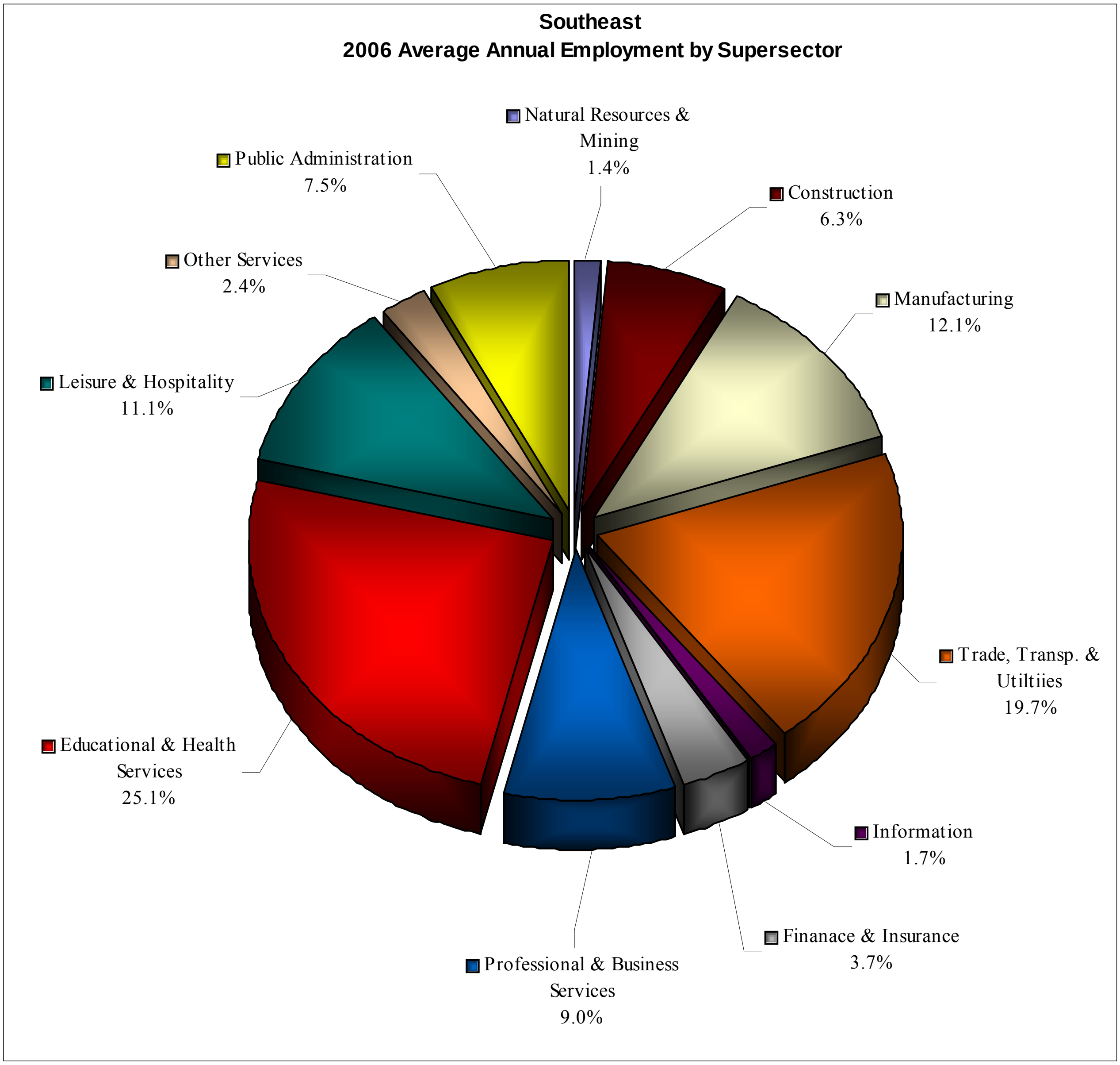
Source: ESC of North Carolina, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Industry Composition:

Southeast showed an increase of 25,874 jobs (7.3%) between 2001 and 2006, and in the latter year ranked fifth in total employment (9.8%) among the seven EDRs in North Carolina. Also in 2006, the region's Metropolitan counties accounted for 68.7 percent of these jobs, while another 18.5 percent was in Micropolitan counties and 12.8 percent in Rural.

The largest net increase over the five-year period was in Health Care and Social Assistance (11,934; 26.9%). Within this sector, Ambulatory Health Care Services and Hospitals subsectors contributed an increase of 8,073 jobs.

The Manufacturing sector showed the largest five-year net employment decrease at 13,687 (23.0 %). Employment in the Textile Mills and Apparel subsectors together decreased by 5,398 (55.3%). Although most manufacturing subsectors had employment losses, there was an increase in the Food Manufacturing subsector by 1,475 (12.7%) jobs.



Source: ESC of North Carolina, Quarterly Census Employment and Wages

Glossary

Benchmark: A point of reference (either an estimate or a count) from which measurement can be made or upon which adjustments to estimates are based. In US Department of Labor (DOL) terminology, these are comprehensive employment data compiled annually and used as a basis for developing and adjusting interim estimates made from sample information. Monthly employment estimates are developed from reports submitted by a sample of employers, and the series are revised to benchmarks once each year used either singularly or in combined sources that provide the most complete count of employment.

Business Closing: An employer's establishment, worksite, division or plant with plans to end operations or has ceased operating at the time of Employment Security Commission of North Carolina (ESC) contact.

Dislocated Worker: An individual who meets one of the following criteria:

> Terminated or laid off, or who has received a notice of termination or layoff from employment, is eligible for or has exhausted his/her entitlement to unemployment compensation, and is unlikely to return to his/her previous industry or occupation
>
> Terminated, or who has received a notice of termination of employment, as a result of any permanent closure of a plant or facility
>
> Long-term unemployed and has limited opportunities for employment or re-employment in the same or similar occupation in the area in which such individual resides, including any older individual who may have substantial barriers to employment by reason of age

Employment: Used in labor market statistics and analysis, employment is expressed as the number of persons, who during a given survey week, did any work at all as paid employees, in their own business, profession, or farm, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a member of the family. Employment also includes all those persons who were not working, but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, labor-management disputes or personal reasons, whether or not they were seeking other jobs.

Goods Producing Industries: Mining, Construction and Manufacturing.

Hispanic: An ethnic classification that includes persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban or any other nationality based on the Spanish cultures or languages; persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for states and counties for years after 2000 are developed using a cohort-component method whereby each component of population change — births, deaths, domestic migration and international migration — is estimated separately for each birth cohort by sex, race and Hispanic origin.

Industry: Used in the compilation of economic statistics, an industry describes a type of economic activity in which a firm or group of firms is engaged. The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) provides numerical classifications for these activities.

Labor Market Information (LMI): A term used to describe the delivery of labor force, employment, unemployment, wage, supply and demand, occupational, industrial, economic and demographic data for the analysis of manpower problems.

Layoff: An employee's suspension from pay by a company for reasons such as lack of orders, plant breakdown, shortage of materials, or termination of seasonal or temporary employment.

Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS): A federal (Bureau of Labor Statistics [BLS]/state Employment Security Commission of North Carolina [ESC]) cooperative program which produces employment, labor force and unemployment estimates for states and local areas. These are developed by the Employment Security agencies in accordance with BLS definitions and procedures. Data are used for planning and budgetary purposes, as an indication of need for employment and training programs, and in allocating federal funds.

Metropolitan County: A county that resides within a Metropolitan Statistical Area (Metro). See also Metropolitan Statistical Area

Metropolitan Statistical Area (Metro): An area qualifies for recognition as a Metro in one of two ways: it must either have at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more, plus an adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core, as measured by commuting ties. It must also be defined as one or more contiguous counties. There are 14 Metros in North Carolina consisting of 35 counties. The National Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is responsible for the definition of all Metros**.**

> Beginning with the January 2005 data, North Carolina began reporting on all 14 Metros. The areas are: Asheville (Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson and Madison counties); Burlington (Alamance County); Charlotte/Gastonia/Concord (Anson, Cabarrus, Gaston, Mecklenburg, Union counties and York County, SC); Durham (Chatham, Durham, Orange and Person counties); Fayetteville (Cumberland and Hoke counties); Goldsboro (Wayne County); Greensboro/High Point (Guilford, Randolph and Rockingham counties); Winston-Salem (Davie, Forsyth, Stokes and Yadkin counties); Greenville (Greene and Pitt counties); Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton (Alexander, Burke, Caldwell and Catawba counties); Jacksonville (Onslow County); Raleigh/Cary (Franklin, Johnston and Wake counties); Rocky Mount (Edgecombe, Nash counties); Wilmington (Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender counties).

Micropolitan County: A county that resides within a Micropolitan Statistical Area (Micro). See also Micropolitan Statistical Area

Micropolitan Statistical Area (Micro): An area qualifies for recognition as a Micro in one of two ways: it must either have at least one urbanized area with a population of 10,000, but less than 50,000, or comprise the central county or counties having a high degree of social and economic integration with the core, as measured by commuting ties. The National Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is responsible for the definition of all Micros.

Nonfarm (nonagricultural) Wage and Salary Employment: The count of all full-time and part-time employees (including employees on paid vacation or paid sick leave) by industry who worked or received compensation from nonfarm establishments for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month (employees involved in labor management disputes are not included). Manufacturing hours and earnings data by industry are also collected as part of this survey.

NonHispanic: Those who responded "No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino" on the Census 2000 questionnaire. Estimates for states and counties for years after 2000 are developed using a cohort-component method whereby each component of population change — births, deaths, domestic migration and international migration — is estimated separately for each birth cohort by sex, race and Hispanic origin.

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS): The NAICS is a new industrial classification system, which uses a production-based framework with special attention to new and emerging industries, service industries in general, and industries involved in advanced technology. It is an outgrowth of the North American Free Trade Act (NAFTA) and allows the collection and tabulation of industry-level data to measure the economic impact of employers shifting activities between Canada, Mexico and the United States. Classification is by sector (two-digit) and subsector (three-digit). Conversion from Standard Industrial Classification system (SIC) to NAICS was a three-year cycle that began with data collected in 1999. Both SIC and NAICS codes were assigned until the year 2000 to assure uniformity and comparability in the analysis and presentation of statistical data.

Personal Income: Income received by persons from all sources. It includes income received from participation in production as well as from government and business transfer payments. It is the sum of compensation of employees (received), supplements to wages and salaries, Proprietors' Income with Inventory Valuation Adjustment (IVA) and Capital Consumption Adjustment (CCAdj), rental income of persons with CCAdj, personal income receipts on assets, and personal current transfer receipts, less contributions for government social insurance.

Personal Current Transfer Payments: These consist of net insurance settlements and income payments to persons for which no current services are performed. It is the sum of government social benefits and net current transfer from business. Ex: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Proprietors' Income: This component of Personal Income is the current production income (including income in kind) of sole proprietorships and partnerships and of tax-exempt cooperatives. Corporate directors' fees are included in Proprietors' Income, but the imputed net rental income of owner-occupants of all dwellings is included in rental income of persons. Proprietors' Income excludes dividends and monetary interest received by non-financial business and rental incomes received by persons not primarily engaged in the real estate business; these incomes are included in dividends, net interest and rental income of persons, respectively.

Race (White, Black and Other): The Census Bureau complies with the Office of Management and Budget's standards for maintaining, collecting and presenting data on race, which were revised in October 1997. They generally reflect a social definition of race recognized in this country. They do not conform to any biological, anthropological or genetic criteria. The revised standards have five minimum categories for data on race: American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Black or African-American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and White. Where only three categories are listed — White, Black and Other — the American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander have been aggregated to comprise the "Other" category.

Supersector/Sector/Subsector: The NAICS system uses a six-digit coding system to identify particular industries and their placement in this hierarchial structure. Super-sectors are the broadest of catagories such as Natural Resources and Mining, Construction and Manufacturing. The first two digits identify the sector such as Wholesale Trade, Education Services and Public Administration. This is a general category of economic activity within the assigned broader category. The third digit designates the Subsector. This is a little more specific to the category of economic activity within the sector, such as Ambulatory Health Care Services, Tax Preparation Services and Newspaper Publisher.

Service Providing Industries: Trade, Transportation and Utilities; Information; Financial Activities; Professional and Business; Educational and Health; Leisure and Hospitality; Other; and Government Services. See also Goods Producing Industries.

Unemployed: Persons in the labor force 16 years old and over who did not work during the survey week, but who made specific efforts to find a job within the last four weeks, and who are able and available for work during the survey week. Also included were those who were not working and were waiting to report to a new wage or salary job within 30 days.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment insurance is a program in which the accumulation of funds paid by employers are used for payment of unemployment insurance to workers during periods of job loss which is beyond their control. Unemployment insurance replaces a part of the worker's wage loss if he becomes eligible for payments.

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA): This program provides benefits for trade-affected workers who have lost their job as a result of increased imports or shifts in production out of the United States.

Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA): This federal benefit under the Trade Act of 2002 is used when regular unemployment insurance benefits have been exhausted.

Sources Cited

Encyclopedia: The State Library of North Carolina. July 30, 2007. http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/NC/GEO/GEO.HTM#Over

US Census Bureau. July 30, 2007. Table 1: Estimates of Population Change for the United States and States, and for Puerto Rico and State Rankings: July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006.

Advantage West Regional Partnership. July 20, 2007. http://www.advantagewest.com/regional-overview/our-region.cfm/section/regional

Charlotte Regional Partnership. July 25, 2007. http://www.charlotteusa.com/

Eastern Regional Partnership. July 23, 2007. http://www.nceast.org/

Northeast Regional Partnership. July 20, 2007. http://www.ncnortheast.com/

Piedmont Triad Regional Partnership. July 27, 2007. http://www.piedmonttriadnc.com/

Research Triangle Regional Partnership. July 27, 2007. http://www.researchtriangle.org/

Southeast Regional Partnership. July 23, 2007. http://www.ncse.org/

Labor Market Information Division
Employment Security Commission of North Carolina
700 Wade Ave
Raleigh, NC 27605

Phone: 919-733-2936
www.esc.com