



**NORTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR  
PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH INC.**

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**N. C. Policy Center Finds Eastern N.C. Still Trails State Economically Despite Recent Gains**

Eastern North Carolina continues to lag the state in terms of assets needed for growth, says the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research in a follow-up report on the state's poorest region. The East, the Center found, has improved on some indicators such as Internet access, natural gas availability, and employment. But, an over-reliance on agriculture, low-wage retail, and low-skill manufacturing, combined with a less educated work force, hurts the region in competing for new jobs.

"The state seems to keep looking for one big project that can drive the East the way Research Triangle Park drives the Triangle, such as the Global TransPark or the new international port near Southport," says Mike McLaughlin of *North Carolina Insight*, the Center's journal. "But our bottom line finding is that different approaches to economic development are necessary for different parts of the East. "What works for Wilmington will not work for Warsaw," adds McLaughlin.

**Reasons The East Needs Special Attention**

The Center finds the East still has fewer college graduates, more high school dropouts, lower per capita income, and higher poverty than the rest of the state. Sparse population and a lack of cultural amenities also can be obstacles for some areas, says the Center's McLaughlin. Indeed, state Senate Majority Leader Tony Rand (D-Cumberland) says that if North Carolina's eastern third were a state it would be among the poorest in the nation.

The Center's research builds on its 2001 study that found fewer college graduates, more high school dropouts, and higher poverty and unemployment in the East. Additionally, the previous study found the region trailing on such measures as Internet access, housing affordability, and natural gas availability.

In explaining why the state needs to focus attention on the East, Tom Lambeth, former director of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation says, "If you are sitting in a boat and it springs a leak, it really doesn't matter whether it is in your end of the boat. If it goes down, all aboard will drown. In a global economy, in a time of regional and national economic competition, stagnation in any one part of North Carolina has an impact on all of the state."

**A Mixed Economic Record in 2005 and an Uncertain Future**

Since the Center's initial research, economic development efforts in the East have been a "one step forward, two steps back" proposition. For example, Nash County took a step forward in 2005 when the Cheesecake Factory announced plans for a \$17 million bakery employing 500 workers. But neighboring

Edgecombe County went backwards with job losses totaling 344 when Glenoit Fabrics Corp. laid off 126 workers, and Glenoit Universal Ltd. closed its rug factory, idling 218. Wilmington, in New Hanover County, took a step forward with 200 jobs and a potential \$78 million investment over five years when General Electric announced it would relocate some activities in its nuclear energy division to the port city and add new product lines at its aircraft engine division. But the Hoke County town of Raeford, also in the southeastern region of the state, took two steps back when Burlington Industries laid off 200 workers from its military dress uniform division. Military Manufacturing Group Inc. also closed, idling 35 parachute makers, and the personal care products company Unilever outsourced 50 jobs to foreign shores. These job losses in Raeford totaled 285 in 2005 alone. Finally, the Beaufort County town of Washington announced in October that Egret Boats would open a manufacturing facility employing 110 people. But, the region took a step back when Weyerhaeuser Co. announced it would idle 200 at its pulp and paper plant in nearby Plymouth, continuing a trend that has seen its work force at the plant reduced from 1,300 to 750 over a three-year period.

The future looks equally mixed. Major layoffs announced in the East for 2006 already include the closings of power tool manufacturer Black and Decker in Fayetteville, costing 675 jobs; Clayson Knitting Co. in Robeson County, costing 150 jobs; and the closings of two major facilities in Wilson County accounting for 880 lost jobs – VF Jeans (445 workers) and Cox Target Media of Elm City (435 jobs).

However, announcements that hold promise include Rose Acre Farms' decision to open a \$56 million egg processing facility in rural Hyde County, employing 125 in the state's least populated county where the last big economic development project to hatch was a state prison. Another possible success is the groundbreaking in March 2006 for the first theater in a planned entertainment district in Roanoke Rapids that promoters hope ultimately will bring \$129 million in investment and 2,595 jobs based on a projection of 13 theaters. So far, only one theater owner has committed to the project, Randy Parton, brother of the country music superstar Dolly Parton. The intent is to create a Branson, Missouri-style clustering of country music-themed theaters.

### **Key Findings**

Among the Center's key findings are:

**(1) The East's Dependence on Public Employment** – Eastern North Carolina is more dependent on public employment than the state as a whole, with local, state, and federal governments employing 23.7 percent of the work force compared to 17.7 percent statewide. In several counties, public institutions are the largest employers. Pitt County Memorial Hospital and East Carolina University together employ more than 10,000 in Pitt County, while the leading private employer in Pitt County, NACCO Materials Handling Group Inc., employs about 1,200. In New Hanover County, the number of public employees at New Hanover Medical Center (3,900) and UNC-Wilmington (1,600) exceed that of the largest private sector employer in the county, the discount retailer Wal-Mart. Yet, in several other Eastern counties, Wal-Mart employs the largest number of private sector workers.

**(2) Fewer Manufacturing Jobs** – The East has fewer manufacturing jobs than the statewide average, with manufacturers employing 12.9 percent of the eastern work force compared to 15.6 percent for the state as a whole. The Center found that manufacturers were among the three largest employers in 27 of the region's 41 counties, but many of these firms are low-wage, low-skill industries susceptible to international competition. Such plants often close with little notice, leaving eastern towns reeling.

That was the case in St. Pauls in Robeson County, which is attempting to rebound from a rash of textile mill closings. For example, the 2001 closing of Carolina Mills' two yarn-spinning plants in St. Pauls left 550 people unemployed and knocked a hole in the tax base. At one time, the mills contributed so much to St. Pauls' public coffers that the municipality provided water, sewer, and trash service free of charge to all residents.



“The mills and the jobs they provided were the foundation of the community,” says Lawrence DiRe, St. Pauls’ town administrator. “The problem was that we were an economic one-trick pony. Our economy wasn’t diversified, so when the mills left, we had little to fall back on.”

**(3) Number of Farms Declining Sharply, But Agriculture Still Important** – Meanwhile, the number of farms, farmers, and farm workers continues to shrink, while farm size and farm values increase. From 1974 to 2004, the number of North Carolina farms decreased by 58 percent, while the size of farms increased by 57 percent.

The farm economy faces challenges on a number of fronts. The federal buyout of the tobacco support program changes the business arrangement for raising the region’s most lucrative crop. Livestock production and especially hog farms face issues around environmental regulation, waste management, and odor control. And, debate rages about whether consolidation of ownership into larger and more valuable farms is a good thing or a bad thing for the farmer. Ultimately, global competition may render many of these questions moot.

Yet Eastern North Carolina continues to have seven of the state’s top 10 counties in agricultural production. And, North Carolina is first in the nation in production of tobacco and sweet potatoes and second in production of hogs, turkeys raised, and Christmas tree cash receipts. George Upton, Sampson County agricultural extension chairman, is optimistic about agriculture’s future. “We haven’t had any layoffs,” quips Upton. “Farmers don’t seek incentives, and they don’t opt to move their operations overseas to cut costs. Hard luck and hard times may have hit some individual farmers, but farm values are up, and working farms still produce much of the cash flow in the eastern economy.”

“Clearly, working the soil still provides a good living for many Eastern North Carolina families,” says the Center’s McLaughlin. “But the region leans too hard on the plow of agriculture to pull its economy, when agriculture is a troubled economic sector.”

**(4) The Rising Service Sector in the East** – Three of four workers in the East are employed in the service or retail sectors, but most of them are in lower paying, non-professional jobs. As part of the service sector, tourism is huge along the coast, with beaches in Brunswick, Carteret, Dare, Hyde, New Hanover, Onslow, and Pender counties attracting thousands of visitors and generating millions of dollars in tourism revenue annually. Historic sites such as the colonial capitals of Edenton and New Bern also draw increasing numbers of visitors.

**(5) Heavy Dependence on Military Bases** – The East also relies heavily on the U.S. military, with six major installations providing some 116,000 uniformed jobs and more than 21,000 civilian jobs. The region escaped the latest federal Base Realignment and Closure Act cuts with few net job losses, but could face further reductions in the future. For the present, the East hosts the fourth highest number of troops in the nation, but North Carolina is 23<sup>rd</sup> in defense contracts and attracts less than 1 percent of U.S. Department of Defense procurement dollars.

**(6) Small Businesses Very Important** – Large employers like Nucor Corporation’s steel plant in Hertford County are a rarity in the East. “The vast majority of businesses in Eastern North Carolina are small ones, employing fewer than 50 people,” say Catherine Moga Bryant, senior research associate at the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center. “These establishments often are overlooked because of their size, but collectively they have a significant economic impact.”

Data collected by the Rural Center show that small and medium-sized establishments, measured in terms of employment, comprise most of the businesses in the state and the East. Of the East's 57,243 employers in 2002, 95 percent employed 49 or fewer people, and 86 percent had 19 or fewer employees. Indeed, small business is the major contributor to the economy of the East, according to Scott Daugherty of the University of North Carolina's Small Business Technology Development Center.

"The state as a whole needs to help the East play catch-up, and it's going to take a serious, long-term commitment to do this," says the Center's McLaughlin.

The N.C. Center for Public Policy Research is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit corporation created in 1977 to evaluate state government programs and to study public policy issues facing North Carolina. The Center is supported in part by a grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation in Winston-Salem, with additional support from eight other private foundations, 140 corporate contributors, and about 600 individual and organizational members across the state. In addition to publishing *North Carolina Insight*, the Center recently has conducted in-depth studies on the teacher shortage in North Carolina, domestic violence, ways to improve voter turnout, and the pros and cons of state lotteries. The Center also publishes a citizens' guide to the legislature and is currently engaged in a four-part study of governance of the 16 public universities in North Carolina. Copies of the issue of *North Carolina Insight* containing the Center's latest research on opportunities and challenges facing Eastern North Carolina are available for \$20, which includes tax, postage, and handling. To order, write the Center at P.O. Box 430, Raleigh, NC 27602, call (919) 832-2839, fax (919) 832-2847, or order through the Center's web site at [www.nccppr.org](http://www.nccppr.org).

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For more information on the Center's study of economic issues facing Eastern North Carolina, call Mike McLaughlin of *North Carolina Insight* at the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research at (919) 832-2839, or email him at [mikemcl@nccppr.org](mailto:mikemcl@nccppr.org).

**Table 4. Three Largest Private Employers,  
by County in Eastern N.C., 2003**

| County         | Employer                     | Industry                  | # of Employees |
|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Beaufort    | PCS Phosphate                | Manufacturing             | 1,000+         |
|                | Beaufort County Hospital     | Education/Health Services | 500-999        |
|                | National Spinning Company    | Manufacturing             | 250-499        |
| 2. Bertie      | Perdue Products              | Manufacturing             | 1,000+         |
|                | Quality Home Staffing        | Education/Health Services | 250-499        |
|                | VF Jeanswear                 | Manufacturing             | 250-499        |
| 3. Bladen      | Smithfield Packing           | Manufacturing             | 1,000+         |
|                | Youngblood Staffing          | Professional Services     | 250-499        |
|                | Danaher Controls             | Manufacturing             | 100-249        |
| 4. Brunswick   | Progress Energy              | Utilities                 | 500-999        |
|                | Wal-Mart Associates          | Trade/Transportation      | 500-999        |
|                | Bald Head Island LP          | Financial Activities      | 250-499        |
| 5. Camden      | Rainbow Shop                 | Trade/Transportation      | 50-99          |
|                | Blackwater Lodge & Training  | Education/Health Services | 50-99          |
|                | Coca-Cola Enterprises        | Manufacturing             | 50-99          |
| 6. Carteret    | Wal-Mart Associates          | Trade/Transportation      | 500-999        |
|                | Security Services of America | Professional Services     | 250-499        |
|                | Atlantic Veneer Corp.        | Manufacturing             | 250-499        |
| 7. Chowan      | East Carolina Health         | Education/Health Services | 250-499        |
|                | The Moore Company            | Manufacturing             | 250-499        |
|                | Life Inc.                    | Education/Health Services | 100-249        |
| 8. Columbus    | International Paper          | Manufacturing             | 1,000+         |
|                | Columbus County Hospital     | Education/Health Services | 500-999        |
|                | Georgia-Pacific Corp.        | Manufacturing             | 250-499        |
| 9. Craven      | Moen Incorporated            | Manufacturing             | 500-999        |
|                | Brunswick Corp.              | Manufacturing             | 500-999        |
|                | BSH Home Appliance Corp.     | Manufacturing             | 500-999        |
| 10. Cumberland | Wal-Mart Associates          | Trade/Transportation      | 1,000+         |
|                | Goodyear Tire & Rubber       | Manufacturing             | 1,000+         |
|                | Purolator Products           | Manufacturing             | 1,000+         |
| 11. Currituck  | Brindley & Brindley Realty   | Financial Services        | 500-999        |
|                | Food Lion                    | Trade/Transportation      | 100-249        |
|                | Griggs Lumber & Products     | Trade/Transportation      | 100-249        |
| 12. Dare       | Food Lion                    | Trade/Transportation      | 250-499        |
|                | Whitecap Linen               | Other Services            | 250-499        |
|                | Sun Realty                   | Financial Services        | 250-499        |
| 13. Duplin     | Carolina Turkeys             | Manufacturing             | 1,000+         |
|                | Murphy-Brown                 | Natural Resources/Mining  | 1,000+         |
|                | House of Raeford             | Manufacturing             | 500-999        |
| 14. Edgecombe  | Barnhill Contracting         | Construction              | 500-999        |
|                | Sara Lee Corp.               | Manufacturing             | 500-999        |
|                | QVC Rocky Mount              | Trade/Transportation      | 500-999        |

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**Table 4, continued**

| County          | Employer                           | Industry                  | # of Employees |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 15. Gates       | Centennial Employee Corp.          | Education/Health Service  | 50-99          |
|                 | Ashton Lewis Lumber                | Manufacturing             | 50-99          |
|                 | Family Foods of Gatesville         | Trade/Transportation      | 50-99          |
| 16. Greene      | Associated Materials               | Manufacturing             | 100-249        |
|                 | Parker Hannifin Corp.              | Manufacturing             | 100-249        |
|                 | Britthaven Inc.                    | Education/Health Services | 100-249        |
| 17. Halifax     | International Paper                | Manufacturing             | 500-999        |
|                 | Wal-Mart Associates                | Trade/Transportation      | 250-499        |
|                 | Safelite Glass Corp.               | Manufacturing             | 250-499        |
| 18. Harnett     | Campbell University                | Education/Health Services | 500-999        |
|                 | Food Lion, LLC                     | Trade/Transportation      | 500-999        |
|                 | Morganite Inc.                     | Manufacturing             | 500-999        |
| 19. Hertford    | East Carolina Health               | Education/Health Services | 500-999        |
|                 | Nucor Corporation                  | Manufacturing             | 250-499        |
|                 | The GEO Group                      | Professional Services     | 250-499        |
| 20. Hoke        | House of Raeford                   | Manufacturing             | 1,000+         |
|                 | Burlington Industries              | Manufacturing             | 500-999        |
|                 | Conopco Inc.                       | Manufacturing             | 500-999        |
| 21. Hyde        | The East Carolina Bank             | Professional Services     | 50-99          |
|                 | Cross Creek Healthcare             | Education/Health Services | 50-99          |
|                 | Mattamuskeet Seafood               | Manufacturing             | 50-99          |
| 22. Johnston    | Bayer Healthcare                   | Manufacturing             | 1,000+         |
|                 | Caterpillar Inc.                   | Manufacturing             | 500-999        |
|                 | Steve Tarts Race Shop              | Manufacturing             | 500-999        |
| 23. Jones       | Trent Village Nursing Home         | Education/Health Services | 50-99          |
|                 | Eastern Carolina Internal Medicine | Education/Health Services | 50-99          |
|                 | Charles Blythe Equipment           | Trade/Transportation      | 50-99          |
| 24. Lenoir      | Invista Inc.                       | Manufacturing             | 500-999        |
|                 | Electrolux Home Products           | Manufacturing             | 500-999        |
|                 | Manpower Temporary Services        | Professional Services     | 500-999        |
| 25. Martin      | Weyerhaeuser Company               | Manufacturing             | 1,000+         |
|                 | Williamston Yarn Mill              | Manufacturing             | 250-499        |
|                 | Martin General Hospital            | Education/Health Services | 250-499        |
| 26. Nash        | Abbott Laboratories                | Manufacturing             | 1,000+         |
|                 | RBC Centura Bank                   | Financial Activities      | 1,000+         |
|                 | Cummins Business Services          | Manufacturing             | 1,000+         |
| 27. New Hanover | Wal-Mart Associates                | Trade/Transportation      | 1,000+         |
|                 | Corning Inc.                       | Manufacturing             | 500-999        |
|                 | Pharmaco                           | Professional Services     | 500-999        |
| 28. Northampton | Lowes Home Center                  | Trade/Transportation      | 250-499        |
|                 | Severn Peanut Co.                  | Trade/Transportation      | 100-249        |
|                 | Georgia Pacific Resins             | Manufacturing             | 100-249        |

**Table 4, continued**

| County         | Employer                   | Industry                  | # of Employees |
|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 29. Onslow     | Wal-Mart Associates        | Trade/Transportation      | 500-999        |
|                | Coastal Enterprises        | Education/Health Services | 500-999        |
|                | Food Lion                  | Trade/Transportation      | 250-499        |
| 30. Pamlico    | YMCA                       | Other Services            | 250-499        |
|                | Food Lion                  | Trade/Transportation      | 100-249        |
|                | Britthaven Inc.            | Education/Health Services | 50-99          |
| 31. Pasquotank | Lear Siegler Service       | Trade/Transportation      | 250-499        |
|                | Wal-Mart Associates        | Trade/Transportation      | 250-499        |
|                | Food Lion                  | Trade/Transportation      | 100-249        |
| 32. Pender     | AG Mart Produce            | Natural Resources/Mining  | 500-999        |
|                | Del Laboratories           | Trade/Transportation      | 250-499        |
|                | LL Building Products       | Manufacturing             | 100-249        |
| 33. Perquimans | Mariner Health Central     | Education/Health Service  | 50-99          |
|                | Apricot Inc.               | Manufacturing             | 50-99          |
|                | Food Lion                  | Trade/Transportation      | 50-99          |
| 34. Pitt       | DMS Pharmaceuticals        | Manufacturing             | 1,000+         |
|                | NACCO Materials            | Manufacturing             | 500-999        |
|                | Whitaker Trucking          | Trade/Transportation      | 500-999        |
| 35. Robeson    | SE Regional Medical Center | Education/Health Services | 1,000+         |
|                | Mountaire Farms of NC      | Manufacturing             | 1,000+         |
|                | Campbell Soup              | Manufacturing             | 500-999        |
| 36. Sampson    | Premium Standard Farms     | Manufacturing             | 500-999        |
|                | Prestage Farms             | Natural Resources/Mining  | 500-999        |
|                | Wal-Mart Associates        | Trade/Transportation      | 250-499        |
| 37. Scotland   | West Point Stevens Inc.    | Manufacturing             | 1,000+         |
|                | Scotland Memorial Hospital | Education/Health Services | 500-999        |
|                | Staffing Connection        | Professional Services     | 500-999        |
| 38. Tyrrell    | Capt. Neill's Seafood      | Manufacturing             | 100-249        |
|                | Double Dee Farms           | Natural Resources/Mining  | 20-49          |
|                | Durwood Cooper Farms       | Natural Resources/Mining  | 20-49          |
| 39. Washington | HIS Acquisition            | Education/Health Services | 50-99          |
|                | New Colony Farms           | Natural Resources/Mining  | 50-99          |
|                | Home Life Care             | Education/Health Services | 50-99          |
| 40. Wayne      | Case Farms                 | Manufacturing             | 500-999        |
|                | Mt. Olive Pickle           | Manufacturing             | 500-999        |
|                | Cooper Standard Automotive | Manufacturing             | 500-999        |
| 41. Wilson     | Bridgestone/Firestone      | Manufacturing             | 1,000+         |
|                | Branch Banking & Trust     | Financial Activities      | 1,000+         |
|                | VF Jeanswear               | Manufacturing             | 1,000+         |

Source: North Carolina Employment Security Commission, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2003  
<http://jobs.esc.state.nc.us/mil/largest/top10ten.htm>.

**Table 2. Eastern North Carolina Workforce by  
Major Sector and County, 2004**

| <b>County</b>   | <b>Total<br/>Work Force</b> | <b>Agriculture<br/>% Total</b> | <b>Manufacturing<br/>% Total</b> | <b>Service &amp; Retail<br/>% Total</b> | <b>Service<br/>% Total (1)</b> | <b>Retail<br/>% Total</b> |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Beaufort     | 17,228                      | 2.6%                           | 18.6%                            | 84.4%                                   | 71.5%                          | 12.9%                     |
| 2. Bertie       | 6,848                       | 5.4                            | *                                | 72.5                                    | 66.9                           | 5.6                       |
| 3. Bladen       | 14,146                      | 5.2                            | *                                | 51.2                                    | 45.2                           | 6.0                       |
| 4. Brunswick    | 25,754                      | 0.6                            | 6.3                              | 84.2                                    | 67.6                           | 16.6                      |
| 5. Camden       | 1,818                       | 8.0                            | *                                | 80.4                                    | 63.6                           | 16.8                      |
| 6. Carteret     | 22,579                      | 0.5                            | 7.2                              | 84.8                                    | 68.0                           | 16.8                      |
| 7. Chowan       | 5,753                       | 3.8                            | 18.9                             | 72.3                                    | 62.0                           | 10.3                      |
| 8. Columbus     | 17,701                      | 2.0                            | 16.0                             | 77.4                                    | 74.8                           | 12.4                      |
| 9. Craven       | 39,999                      | 1.2                            | 11.0                             | 82.5                                    | 70.8                           | 11.7                      |
| 10. Cumberland  | 110,778                     | 0.2                            | 8.3                              | 86.7                                    | 72.8                           | 13.9                      |
| 11. Currituck   | 5,315                       | 1.4                            | 2.2                              | 72.5                                    | 51.9                           | 20.5                      |
| 12. Dare        | 19,785                      | 0.0                            | 3.7                              | 87.6                                    | 69.2                           | 18.4                      |
| 13. Duplin      | 20,466                      | 16.2                           | 29.3                             | 50.5                                    | 42.5                           | 8.0                       |
| 14. Edgecombe   | 22,186                      | 1.5                            | 22.0                             | 67.0                                    | 58.7                           | 8.3                       |
| 15. Gates       | 1,606                       | 8.8                            | 10.7                             | 78.8                                    | 68.4                           | 10.4                      |
| 16. Greene      | 3,837                       | 7.7                            | 8.1                              | 76.0                                    | 67.1                           | 8.7                       |
| 17. Halifax     | 17,691                      | 2.5                            | 12.4                             | 80.4                                    | 65.3                           | 15.2                      |
| 18. Harnett     | 22,722                      | 1.0                            | 12.0                             | 73.7                                    | 61.2                           | 12.4                      |
| 19. Hertford    | 9,489                       | 2.7                            | 12.9                             | 80.2                                    | 67.9                           | 12.3                      |
| 20. Hoke        | 7,600                       | 4.4                            | 32.4                             | 41.9                                    | 36.6                           | 5.3                       |
| 21. Hyde        | 2,132                       | 9.5                            | 4.7                              | 75.8                                    | 67.8                           | 8.1                       |
| 22. Johnston    | 38,016                      | 2.2                            | 17.6                             | 70.4                                    | 56.3                           | 14.1                      |
| 23. Jones       | 1,722                       | 8.7                            | 3.2                              | 77.2                                    | 69.0                           | 8.3                       |
| 24. Lenoir      | 28,074                      | 1.7                            | 14.5                             | 74.9                                    | 63.6                           | 11.3                      |
| 25. Martin      | 9,473                       | 3.3                            | 23.8                             | 74.7                                    | 62.5                           | 12.2                      |
| 26. Nash        | 41,208                      | 3.1                            | 18.2                             | 76.3                                    | 63.3                           | 13.0                      |
| 27. New Hanover | 91,063                      | 0.1                            | 6.1                              | 85.2                                    | 70.5                           | 14.7                      |
| 28. Northampton | 5,738                       | 6.0                            | 9.5                              | 67.7                                    | 46.7                           | 20.9                      |
| 29. Onslow      | 40,169                      | 0.5                            | 2.3                              | 89.6                                    | 68.9                           | 20.6                      |
| 30. Pamlico     | 3,018                       | 3.7                            | 3.7                              | 67.7                                    | 69.0                           | 15.0                      |
| 31. Pasquotank  | 16,274                      | 1.1                            | 4.4                              | 84.0                                    | 74.0                           | 16.3                      |
| 32. Pender      | 10,374                      | 7.1                            | 8.5                              | 90.3                                    | 69.4                           | 12.5                      |
| 33. Perquimans  | 2,154                       | 2.5                            | 5.2                              | 81.8                                    | 73.9                           | 11.4                      |
| 34. Pitt        | 65,304                      | 1.4                            | 11.2                             | 85.2                                    | 68.7                           | 12.7                      |
| 35. Robeson     | 37,796                      | 0.6                            | 18.5                             | 81.4                                    | 61.9                           | 5.4                       |
| 36. Sampson     | 18,990                      | 12.3                           | 18.4                             | 67.3                                    | 53.0                           | 11.0                      |



**Table 2, continued**

| County              | Total<br>Work Force | Agriculture<br>% Total | Manufacturing<br>% Total | Service & Retail<br>% Total | Service<br>% Total (1) | Retail<br>% Total |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 37. Scotland        | 16,103              | 0.7                    | 32.8                     | 64.0                        | 52.9                   | 10.8              |
| 38. Tyrrell         | 989                 | 10.3                   | *                        | 64.6                        | 54.5                   | 10.1              |
| 39. Washington      | 3,378               | 9.7                    | 5.2                      | 82.7                        | 69.7                   | 13.0              |
| 40. Wayne           | 43,518              | 3.5                    | 15.0                     | 76.0                        | 62.2                   | 13.8              |
| 41. Wilson          | 38,211              | 1.3                    | 22.5                     | 67.4                        | 57.2                   | 10.2              |
| 41 Eastern Counties | 881,251             | 2.2%                   | 12.9%                    | 77.6%                       | 64.7%                  | 12.9%             |
| N.C. Statewide      | 3,778,403           | 0.9%                   | 15.6%                    | 77.5%                       | 65.5%                  | 12.0%             |

Notes: "\*" denotes missing data. (1) Service sector is the sum of employment in the wholesale trade; transportation/warehousing; information; finance/insurance; real estate; professional/technical services; management; administrative/waste services; educational services; health care/social assistance; arts/entertainment; accommodation/food service; other services; and public administration sectors.

Sources: N.C. Department of Commerce Economic Development Information System, Employment Security Commission of North Carolina

**Table 8. North Carolina Agricultural Products Ranking  
in Top Five Among the 50 States, 2004**

| Rank | Item                                 | Percent of<br>U.S. Production | Top 3 States with N.C. |
|------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1    | Total tobacco                        | 39.8                          | NC, KY, TN             |
|      | Flue-cured tobacco                   | 75.3                          | NC, SC, VA             |
|      | Sweet potatoes                       | 42.0                          | NC, CA, MS             |
| 2    | Hogs and pigs                        | 16.2                          | IA, NC, MN             |
|      | Christmas tree—cash receipts         | 21.3                          | OR, NC, MI             |
|      | Turkeys raised                       | 14.8                          | MN, NC, AR             |
| 3    | Cucumbers for pickles                | 11.8                          | MI, FL, NC             |
|      | Trout sold                           | 8.3                           | ID, WA, NC             |
|      | Poultry & egg products—cash receipts | 9.2                           | GA, AR, NC             |
| 4    | Blueberries                          | 10.1                          | MI, NJ, OR, NC         |
|      | Broilers (chickens)                  | 8.6                           | GA, AR, AL, NC         |
|      | Greenhouse and nursery—cash receipts | 6.2                           | GA, TX, AL, NC         |
|      | Strawberries                         | .8                            | CA, FL, OR, NC         |
| 5    | Catfish sold—food size               | 1.5                           | MS, AL, AR (NC-5)      |
|      | Peanuts                              | 8.4                           | GA, TX, AL (NC-5)      |
|      | Snap beans                           | 4.6                           | FL, GA, CA (NC-5)      |

Source: N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services