

Eastern North Carolina Regional Index 2006



**A comparison of 41 counties
in eastern North Carolina in:
Population Indicators
Education Indicators
Economic Indicators
Social/Family Indicators
Housing Indicators
Health Indicators**

Report Prepared By:
East Carolina University

Regional Development Services

Ron Nowaczyk
Associate Vice Chancellor
Economic Development and Community Engagement

Regional Development Institute

Dick Brockett
Associate Director, Economic Development

Mack Simpson
Associate Director, Community Development

Vicki Luttrell
Information and Communication Specialist

Marian Ballenger
Undergraduate Communications Intern

Center for Survey Research

Mandee Foushee
Project Manager

Christopher Jewett
Graduate Assistant

Lesley Longest
Graduate Assistant

Ruchi Patel
Graduate Assistant



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Introduction

Water. Agriculture. Manufacturing. Seafood and Aquaculture Industry. Tourism and Hospitality. Military. Sense of Community. Better Schools. Improved Transportation, Sewer and High Speed Internet.

These words and many others have been used to describe life in eastern North Carolina and issues facing its residents. The rural setting of eastern North Carolina defines many of its attractions and contributes to its rich history and sense of connectedness among its residents. However, like many rural parts of the United States, eastern North Carolina has experienced a transition over the past decades. Agriculture no longer dominates the labor market and a significant portion of manufacturing has relocated outside North Carolina and the borders of the United States. Health and education issues are cited by many leaders as a growing concern in this region. Several counties also experience persistent poverty rates above the national and state average.

While these changes are cause for concern in some areas, other parts of eastern North Carolina are thriving. Several counties in the region serve as destination spots for tourism, which typically leads to high retail sales, high personal income amounts and high housing unit values. Other counties have strong military presence, which typically leads to lower poverty and crime rates, higher personal income amounts and an increase in the number of housing units being built. The region also has 34 post-secondary schools, including public and private colleges and universities and community colleges. Residents in the counties where these schools are located tend to have higher education levels and higher personal income than the rest of the region. As tourism, the military presence and educational factors continue to change, the region is also becoming an ideal location for retirees.

Eastern North Carolina is clearly in transition. This transition is not unique to area residents. Rural regions of the United States have responded to these changes in different ways. For those that have been successful, one common theme has been “regionalism.” Solutions to rural problems require cooperation and collaboration among rural communities to address problems. Regional approaches to rural issues allows for a greater concentration of efforts than communities facing those issues alone. Regional planning not only provides a roadmap to improvement, but also leads to increased outside funding.

In August 2005, board members and executive directors from regional United Ways met with East Carolina University representatives to discuss potential regional projects to help improve the quality of life for residents in eastern North Carolina. Identifying issues facing the region was the first priority determined at that meeting. Before the United Ways and other agencies

can approach these issues with a regional focus, the extent and severity of the issues need to be known. East Carolina University agreed to examine a number of objective measures focusing on health and human needs in eastern North Carolina. This report is the result.

The report provides snapshots of each of the 41 counties adjacent to or east of I-95. In addition to some general demographic information, statistics are reported for various items under five broad categories of education, economy, social/family, housing and health. Recognizing that for many of these categories, the region trails the state and nation, each county is indexed against the regional average for easy comparison of needs among counties based on their peers in the region. The statistical profile for the measures includes a deviation line that displays the county's relative standing from the regional average. For some of these measures, being above the average is positive (green lines), for others it may be negative (red lines).

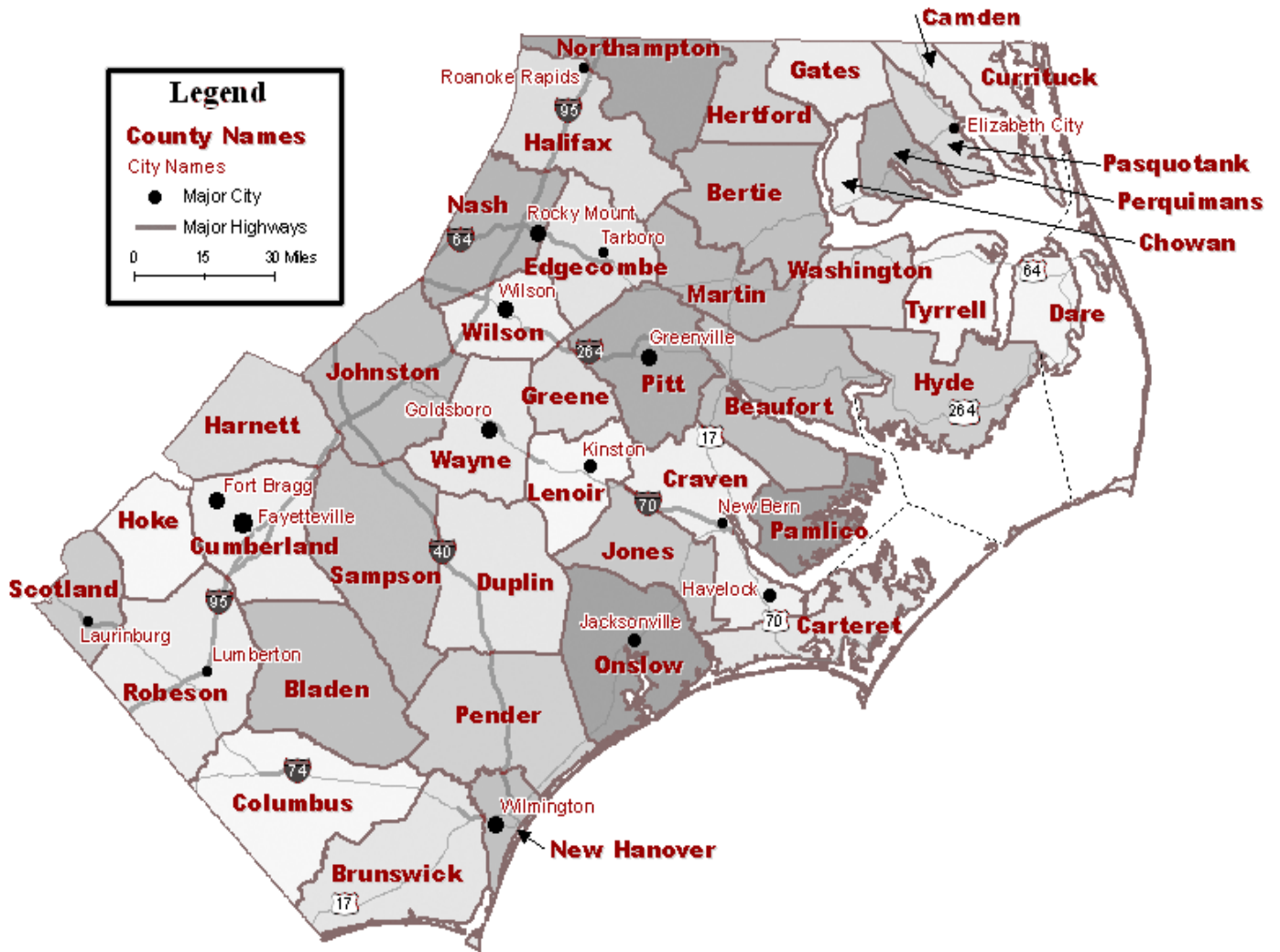
Each county's snapshot includes a brief narrative in addition to the statistics. The narratives were written by ECU Regional Development Services staff after discussing the data with individual county managers and other county representatives. The narratives represent RDS staff's interpretation of the county and are not necessarily the official position of county leaders. They are intended to add information that goes beyond the numbers presented.

The intent of this report is to further discussion among leaders in the region to identify common concerns that could lead to regional action. It is not intended to be a "report card." Much of the data may be obvious, some of it may not. While citizen perceptions may be commonly heard and discussed, the objective data presented in this report should be an important component in regional discussions as well. This report provides a subset of data. East Carolina University has developed a website to allow users to learn more about the data in the region and combine data by counties. Visit <http://www.ecu.edu/rds/ecaccess.htm> to learn more about this tool.

This report will be distributed throughout eastern North Carolina and should serve the region and its community leaders as they work to improve the life of residents in eastern North Carolina. The report is available electronically at: <http://www.ecu.edu/rds/news/news.htm>

For specific questions or comments on this report and its content, contact East Carolina University's Regional Development Services at 252-737-1380.

Map of Eastern North Carolina Counties



Indicators

The regional statistic for each indicator is presented on the following page along with state statistics. Definitions of each indicator and source of the data are listed in the glossary of this report.

Education – On most indicators, the region trails the state averages, especially in terms of high school and college graduates. The public school dropout rate is higher than the state average and total per pupil expenditures is higher for the region than in the state overall.

Economy – The region trails the state averages in all areas. This is especially true for per capita personal income where the regional average is 88 percent of the state average. Unemployment is also slightly higher in the region relative to the state average.

Social/Family – Poverty in the region is significantly higher than in the state on all measures. Violent crime, property crime and delinquent juveniles all rank higher in the region than in the state.

Housing – The home ownership rate in the region exceeds the rate across the state. However, the value of homes and the percent of new homes being built in the region is lower than the state and the number of older homes and homes with incomplete plumbing are higher than the state.

Health – The region has fewer health professionals (physicians, nurses and dentists) per population than in the state. On all health indicators, the region trails the state averages.

The indicators were selected primarily because of the reliability of the data sources, the uniform method of reporting data, and the completeness of data, which allows for county comparisons. In some instances, the data provided have already been updated since the creation of this report. Readers interested in viewing updated information should go to the Websites listed in the Glossary of this report to learn more about the individual indicators.

Indicator	Region	State
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Education

Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	76.0	78.1
Percent With Associate Degree	6.5	6.8
Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	16.2	22.5
Public School Drop Out Rate	5.48	4.86
Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,544.23	\$1,811.66
Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$8,282.69	\$7,327.60

Economy

Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$4.87	\$1.23
Per Capita Retail Sales	\$12,460	\$17,727.32
Net Commuting	-1,511	436
Unemployment Rate	5.9	5.5
Per Capita Personal Income	\$24,599	\$28,071
Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.19	\$1.24

Social/Family

Percent in Poverty	16.2	13.4
Percent Children in Poverty	23.1	19.1
Percent Elders in Poverty	16.9	11.0
Percent Female Householders with Children	14.9	7.3
Percent Children in Childcare	14.6	14.3
Violent Crime Rate	463.1	446.9
Property Crime Rate	4,386.3	4,127.1
Percent Delinquent Juveniles	3.39	2.73

Housing

Home Ownership Rate	72.6	69.4
Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$86,227	\$108,300
Percent Houses Built Before 1940	8.9	7.3
Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	2.1	1.1
Percent Increase in Housing Units	7.53	11.21

Health

Physician Ratio	666	499
Nurse Ratio	132	112
Dentist Ratio	3,071	2,388
Infant Mortality Rate	10.3	8.7
Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,207.0	1,073.7
Mortality Rate due to Cancer	984.0	929.2
Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	155.0	128.1

Beaufort County

Beaufort County is experiencing a rate of population growth slower than that of the region. The percent of the county's child population is significantly lower than the region's, supporting the supposition that the county is becoming a retirement and tourism destination.

As the "Gateway to the Atlantic," Beaufort has more miles of shoreline than any other county in the state. Large waterfront developments in or near Washington, Belhaven and Chocowinity are attracting affluent residents that are drawn to the water lifestyle. Many other waterfront developments of less density exist or are being planned along the Pamlico River and its tributaries.

The county is relying increasingly on tourism for its economy. With recent setbacks in agriculture and the seafood industry, more attention has gone into accommodating visitors to the county. Historic communities such as Bath and Washington complement other attractions like the Aurora Fossil Museum, the North Carolina Estuarium and Goose Creek State Park.

The county's industrial base has remained solid over the past decade. That base will get a noteworthy boost soon, as the state's first ethanol plant opens near Aurora. The impact of this plant may reach beyond its direct employment and addition to the tax base – the plant will convert locally grown crops into ethanol, thereby having a spin-off effect beyond its obvious benefit.

Most of the county's socio-economic indicators are close to regional averages, although its unemployment and poverty rates are somewhat high. Such rates are consistent with an area that has had a historic dependence on agriculture and fishing. The county's crime rates are slightly better than those of the region. Its Pamlico Pals mentoring program is well-known and well-respected and may positively impact the low crime rates and low juvenile delinquency rate.

Beaufort County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	46,077		●	
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	2.49	●		
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	2.54	●		
Percent White Population (2005)	70.97			●
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	29.03		●	
Percent Child Population (2005)	22.07	●		

Beaufort County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	75			
	Percent With Associate Degree	6.7			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	16			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	5.35			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$ 1,384.86			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$ 7,676.52			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$6.00			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$13,829.44			
	Net Commuting	45			
	Unemployment Rate	7.1			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$23,324			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.10			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	17.4			
	Percent Children in Poverty	26.2			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	19.3			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	13.3			
	Percent Children in Childcare	11.7			
	Violent Crime Rate	388.3			
	Property Crime Rate	3,145.5			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	3.1			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	75			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$81,900			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	9.6			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	2.7			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	4.94			

Health	Physician Ratio	751			
	Nurse Ratio	119			
	Dentist Ratio	3,524			
	Infant Mortality Rate	13.7			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,948			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,291			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	123			

Bertie County

Bertie County's population is decreasing and is projected to decrease at an even greater rate between 2005 and 2010. New development of waterfront areas, sewer system expansion and a new by-pass around Windsor may reverse the projected population loss.



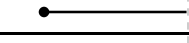
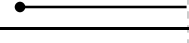
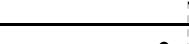
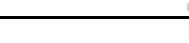
The county's high school drop out rate and per pupil expenditures are better than the regional averages. The county is implementing Project Bright Futures, a digital inclusion plan that will ensure everyone in the county will have access to affordable high speed internet in their homes and across the county, computers for every student in school, a county-hosted Website for business information and advertising, free computer training and a computer purchase program for low income residents. The intent of this project is to improve the entire school system by increasing test scores and providing essential skills for survival in today's electronic world.

The county's economic indicators are not as good as the regional averages. The unemployment rate is among the highest in the region. Its per capita retail sales and per capita income figures indicate a population where a high percentage of people are in poverty and make retail purchases in other counties.

Poverty is high in the county, particularly among old and young residents. The home ownership rate of Bertie's population is above the regional average, but the median value of the housing stock is below the regional average. The percentage of homes with incomplete plumbing is one of the highest in the region. Both indicators should improve as waterfront developments gain momentum.

All crime indicators in the county are better than the regional average, with the violent crime rate being one of the lowest in the region. All of the county's health indicators are worse than the region. The mortality rates for cancer and diabetes are among the region's highest.

Bertie County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	19,700			
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	-0.37			
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	-1.28			
Percent White Population (2005)	36.32			
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	63.68			
Percent Child Population (2005)	23.50			

Bertie County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	63.8			
	Percent With Associate Degree	4.9			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	8.8			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	5.18			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,695.52			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$8,971.46			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$6.98			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$4,946.08			
	Net Commuting	-605			
	Unemployment Rate	7.8			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$20,845			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.49			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	20.6			
	Percent Children in Poverty	30.3			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	30.7			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	20.1			
	Percent Children in Childcare	13.3			
	Violent Crime Rate	171.8			
	Property Crime Rate	2,977.5			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	2.8			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	74.9			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$59,200			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	11			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	4.8			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	2.73			

Health	Physician Ratio	1,646			
	Nurse Ratio	196			
	Dentist Ratio	9,874			
	Infant Mortality Rate	12.5			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,616			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,454			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	364			

Bladen County

Bladen County is located in the southeastern part of the state in what is known as the Coastal Plains. Once North Carolina’s largest county, Bladen received its name, “Mother of Counties,” because 55 counties have been carved from it. Bladen now includes 879 square miles and is the fourth largest county in the state. Originally, Bladen contained over 1,000 lakes. The lakes, believed to have been created by a bombardment of meteors 100,000 years ago, have developed into important recreational areas and tourist attractions. Within the county’s present boundaries, seven of the lakes remain.

Bladen County has diversity of industries offering employment opportunities in food processing, manufacturing and assembly, textiles, chemicals and agri-business. There is an abundant labor supply, and workforce training is available at Bladen Community College for new and expanding industries.

The below average population of the county may be due to the younger residents leaving to go to college and then not returning after they graduate. Current initiatives to target both the population and the economy include attracting more people to the county by creating more jobs.

Violent crime rates in the county are above the regional average and are currently being addressed by the local sheriff’s office. The county has a strong Smart Start program in place for children.

Health indicators are almost all above the regional average. Diabetes is a major concern in Bladen County, leading Bladen Health Watch, a local agency affiliated with the hospital, to obtain grants to address the issue. This is an important initiative because Bladen County is ranked fourth in the state for incidents of diabetes.

Bladen County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	33,204		●	
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	2.87		●	
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	4		●	
Percent White Population (2005)	59.92		●	
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	40.08			●
Percent Child Population (2005)	23.86		●	

Bladen County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	70.6			
	Percent With Associate Degree	6.3			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	11.3			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	5.47			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,296.24			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$8,343.36			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$6.27			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$9,831.74			
	Net Commuting	-442			
	Unemployment Rate	7.9			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$21,244			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.64			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	19.2			
	Percent Children in Poverty	28.5			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	24.2			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	15.7			
	Percent Children in Childcare	10.8			
	Violent Crime Rate	1,056.4			
	Property Crime Rate	3,872.5			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	4.5			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	77.8			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$65,200			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	6.9			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	2.7			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	3.16			

Health	Physician Ratio	1,440			
	Nurse Ratio	210			
	Dentist Ratio	6,624			
	Infant Mortality Rate	9.9			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,748			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,173			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	232			

Brunswick County

Brunswick County is a dynamic county comprised of a collection of both rural and coastal communities with major activity centers scattered throughout its 856 square miles. According to the 2000 U.S. census, the county's 43.5 percent growth in population exceeded the state's overall 21.4 percent growth in the 1990s. In response, significant infrastructure upgrades are underway with an emphasis on expanding sewer and water facilities.

Business development continues as the increasing population requires additional jobs and retail/professional services. Additionally, Brunswick County has had more than 70 plant announcements since 1990, creating 3,500 new jobs and more than \$220 million in new capital investment. The county's unemployment rate remains slightly below the state rate. In 2003, generating \$272.58 million, Brunswick County ranked tenth out of North Carolina's 100 counties in tourism revenue.

The influx of retirees may contribute to the low poverty rate; and crime is being controlled by an assertive sheriff's department. In 2000, Brunswick County was the second oldest (age in years) county in the state; and counties with older populations tend to have lower crime rates.

The Family Wellness program provides community-based programs to motivate families to accept responsibility for health, modify behavior to promote well-being, to increase vitality and length of life; thereby decreasing healthcare costs to families by preventing long-term and chronic illnesses. In another health targeted initiative, the health department received grant funding for a minority infant mortality rate program. The program significantly lowered the infant mortality rate.

Brunswick County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	87,715		●	
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	19.92			●
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	13.06			●
Percent White Population (2005)	84.92			●
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	15.08	●		
Percent Child Population (2005)	20.21	●		

Brunswick County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	78.3			
	Percent With Associate Degree	6.5			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	16.1			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	5.22			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$2,278.79			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$7,954.23			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$5.66			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$13,020.62			
	Net Commuting	-4,977			
	Unemployment Rate	4.6			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$24,095			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$2.29			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	13.3			
	Percent Children in Poverty	22.7			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	8.1			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	10.2			
	Percent Children in Childcare	11			
	Violent Crime Rate	219.6			
	Property Crime Rate	4,153.9			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	3.3			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	82.2			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$127,400			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	1.8			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	0.9			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	24.97			

Health	Physician Ratio	986			
	Nurse Ratio	205			
	Dentist Ratio	3,491			
	Infant Mortality Rate	6			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,233			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,157			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	120			

Camden County

Camden County is nestled in northeastern North Carolina adjacent to the Hampton Roads, Virginia metropolitan area (Norfolk, Virginia Beach) and the beaches of North Carolina's Outer Banks (Nags Head, Hatteras, Corolla). Camden was settled around 1650 or perhaps even earlier, with the first residents drifting down from Virginia and establishing themselves on both sides of the Pasquotank River.

Education indicators in Camden County are almost all better than regional averages. Students are performing well on their end-of-grade and end-of-course tests. The progressive school system, which is one of the smallest in North Carolina, has recently completed a \$20 million construction program to upgrade all three schools. Recent growth in Camden County shows a 7.9 percent student increase for the 2004-05 school year. This fast-paced growth pattern requires the county to steadily prepare for adequate facilities for future students.

The school system's strategic plan sets a goal of 97 percent proficiency on end-of-grade tests by 2008. Camden Middle School students are at 94 percent and Grandy Primary School students are 94 percent at or above grade level. At Camden County High School, 88 percent of the students are at or above grade level, which is well above the North Carolina state-wide average of 74.7 percent on end-of-grade tests.

The community provides support for schools in Camden County. There is a high level of cooperation between the Board of Education and County Commissioners. The support of the Camden Education Foundation and volunteers in Camden County has created an optimum working environment for staff, which makes it easier for teachers to focus on students. The educational focus of the county may explain the low public school dropout rate as well as low crime and juvenile delinquency rates.

Camden County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	8,881			
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	28.99			
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	12.93			
Percent White Population (2005)	84.07			
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	15.93			
Percent Child Population (2005)	23.43			

Camden County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	82.1			
	Percent With Associate Degree	7.9			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	16.2			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	3.89			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$834.52			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$7,710.71			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$4.39			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$6,824.26			
	Net Commuting	-1,967			
	Unemployment Rate	3.5			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$25,886			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.04			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	8.6			
	Percent Children in Poverty	11.9			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	20.3			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	9.4			
	Percent Children in Childcare	5.6			
	Violent Crime Rate	178.5			
	Property Crime Rate	1,032.6			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	1.1			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	83.4			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$103,100			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	12			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	1.8			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	20.85			

Health	Physician Ratio	2,617			
	Nurse Ratio	436			
	Dentist Ratio	No Dentist			
	Infant Mortality Rate	11.8			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,263			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,186			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	64			

Carteret County

Carteret County's economy, as well as most of its social fabric, has been built around tourism, fishing and the military. Recent efforts and results have gone into the development of Jarrett Bay Marine Industrial Park. The park has been successful in attracting several industries and more new businesses are expected soon. This growth should help to address the negative commuting number, which is caused primarily by residents commuting to military bases in Craven and Onslow counties for work.

As much as the county is booming in new home construction and growth, the county's population is growing slower than that of the region. A large percentage of the new residential development is second-home development, which may be why the population is not growing as rapidly. The county is also experiencing a large amount of retiree out-migration. Some older residents who originally retired into the county have since moved out.

Local per pupil expenditures are high in Carteret County. Eighty percent of ad-valorem taxes go to support the county schools and community college.

County housing indicators are all better than regional averages. The median value of owner-occupied units is one of the highest in the region. The county has initiated scattered-site and concentrated needs Community Development Block Grant programs for many years. It has an active Habitat for Humanity program as well.

Mortality rates due to cancer and heart disease are both significantly higher than the regional average, which could be due to the large percentage of elderly people residing in the county.

Carteret County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	62,436		●	
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	5.14	●		
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	3.99	●		
Percent White Population (2005)	91.60			●
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	8.40	●		
Percent Child Population (2005)	18.19	●		

Carteret County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education

Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	82.1			
Percent With Associate Degree	6.9			
Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	19.8			
Public School Drop Out Rate	5.21			
Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$2,468.95			
Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$8,133.11			

Economy

Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$5.16			
Per Capita Retail Sales	\$16,281.40			
Net Commuting	-3,288			
Unemployment Rate	4.1			
Per Capita Personal Income	\$28,239			
Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.13			

Social/Family

Percent in Poverty	11.7			
Percent Children in Poverty	18.6			
Percent Elders in Poverty	9.4			
Percent Female Householders with Children	9.6			
Percent Children in Childcare	13.6			
Violent Crime Rate	265.8			
Property Crime Rate	3,131.7			
Percent Delinquent Juveniles	4			

Housing

Home Ownership Rate	76.6			
Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$123,900			
Percent Houses Built Before 1940	4.4			
Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	0.5			
Percent Increase in Housing Units	7.39			

Health

Physician Ratio	672			
Nurse Ratio	141			
Dentist Ratio	1,608			
Infant Mortality Rate	8.6			
Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,655			
Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,396			
Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	142			

Chowan County

Despite the estimates of a population decrease, Chowan County believes it is experiencing population growth because of its attractiveness to visitors. Some of that growth is for second homes, which helps fuel the service businesses. Within the next two years, Chowan estimates it will have new housing developments with over 3,000 lots. Given retiring baby boomers' inclination to relocate to such areas as Edenton, Chowan County's growth should be increasing. Several upscale waterfront communities are also planned for the area.

Much of the county's agribusiness sector remains stable. All three boat manufacturers have realized increases in workforce and output.

Chowan County spends more per pupil in its public schools than most of the counties in the region and its drop out rate is low. Funding for schools is a high priority and the results show through improving SAT and end-of-grade testing scores.

The county has a higher rate of children in poverty than the region, but is equal to the region in the percentage of elderly in poverty, suggesting a more financially stable retired population. The percentage of children enrolled in childcare is high, suggesting a high number of families where both parents work. Local law enforcement efforts, combined with a newly-opened Boys and Girls Club and a strong recreation program positively impact juvenile delinquency.

While the county has a large percentage of houses built before 1940, the county considers its old housing stock a plus because preserving older homes translates into historic buildings, then into tourism and sales.

Chowan County has several wellness programs in place and its hospital is affiliated with University Health Systems.

Chowan County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	14,515			
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	-0.08			
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	1.92			
Percent White Population (2005)	61.61			
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	38.39			
Percent Child Population (2005)	22.24			

Chowan County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education

Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	73.1			
Percent With Associate Degree	5.4			
Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	16.4			
Public School Drop Out Rate	5.02			
Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,754.71			
Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$8,790.61			

Economy

Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$5.91			
Per Capita Retail Sales	\$10,300.98			
Net Commuting	-290			
Unemployment Rate	5.3			
Per Capita Personal Income	\$24,682			
Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.38			

Social/Family

Percent in Poverty	16.1			
Percent Children in Poverty	24.4			
Percent Elders in Poverty	16.7			
Percent Female Householders with Children	15.7			
Percent Children in Childcare	17.9			
Violent Crime Rate	278.4			
Property Crime Rate	2,735.6			
Percent Delinquent Juveniles	2.7			

Housing

Home Ownership Rate	72.2			
Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$85,200			
Percent Houses Built Before 1940	14.5			
Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	1.8			
Percent Increase in Housing Units	4.02			

Health

Physician Ratio	535			
Nurse Ratio	103			
Dentist Ratio	4,818			
Infant Mortality Rate	9.1			
Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,818			
Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,316			
Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	216			

Columbus County

Columbus County was named for Christopher Columbus and lies a short distance from the Atlantic Ocean, in the fertile lowlands of the coastal plain. The 959 square-mile expanse occupies one of the most southeastern sections of the state.

In the past, the county was dependent on the textile industry and was not able to adapt to the changing economy, which could be a contributor to its high poverty rates. There should have been more initiatives to find a way to help the county grow and diversify. Zoning practices are helping to increase the population, especially the southern portion of the county near the coast. A new jail and a prison are being built, which is going to bring new jobs. There is a tremendous need for market-rate affordable housing, as it is hard to find non-subsidized affordable housing. Of all building permits issued in Columbus County, almost 98 percent are for trailers. This may be due to the below average income levels of the county's residents.

An innovative approach to helping senior, low-income and underinsured citizens with their prescription medications has earned Columbus County a statewide award from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC). The Columbus County Prescription Assistance Program was one of nine county programs from around the state to win a 2005 Outstanding County Program Award from the NCACC. Columbus County has also launched a discount card program to help consumers cope with the high price of prescription drugs. The county is making free prescription drug discount cards available that offer average savings of 20 percent off the retail price of commonly prescribed medications.

Columbus County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	54,643		●	
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	-0.19	●	—	
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	2.27	●	—	
Percent White Population (2005)	64.90		●	
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	35.10		●	
Percent Child Population (2005)	24.05	●	—	

Columbus County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education

Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	68.6			
Percent With Associate Degree	6.7			
Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	10.1			
Public School Drop Out Rate	4.84			
Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,071.16			
Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$7,603.97			

Economy

Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$6.92			
Per Capita Retail Sales	\$10,824.14			
Net Commuting	-2,733			
Unemployment Rate	6.8			
Per Capita Personal Income	\$22,746			
Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.23			

Social/Family

Percent in Poverty	20.3			
Percent Children in Poverty	29.3			
Percent Elders in Poverty	25.5			
Percent Female Householders with Children	15.8			
Percent Children in Childcare	14.3			
Violent Crime Rate	683.7			
Property Crime Rate	5,640			
Percent Delinquent Juveniles	2.3			

Housing

Home Ownership Rate	76.4			
Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$76,100			
Percent Houses Built Before 1940	7.4			
Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	1.8			
Percent Increase in Housing Units	2.34			

Health

Physician Ratio	1,056			
Nurse Ratio	123			
Dentist Ratio	5,492			
Infant Mortality Rate	10.9			
Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,951			
Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,184			
Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	183			

Craven County

State estimates for Craven County’s population show a growth rate slower than that of the region. County leaders point to their rate of building permits applied for, averaging 1,200 per month, as evidence that the county is continuing the boom it enjoyed during the 1990s.

Test scores of students in the Craven County schools belie the local per pupil expenditures that are slightly lower than the regional average. Craven Community College is one of the county’s notable assets.

The county’s economy is healthy. The unemployment rate is below the regional average and per capita income is above the regional average. Employment at Cherry Point military base helps account for a positive commuting pattern into the county. A new helicopter plant and a storage company are adding jobs to the employment base, as are new service industries, restaurants and retail establishments.

The county’s juvenile delinquency rate is somewhat higher than the region’s. One reason for this may be the aggressive policing policies, especially in municipal areas, that result in low tolerance for bad behavior.

The home ownership rate is below the regional average, partly due to the large number of subsidized rental units. Other housing indicators are good. The county rehabilitated around 200 houses over the past few years due to flooding from hurricanes.

The county has two hospitals, Craven Regional and the base hospital at Cherry Point. Craven Community College employs a program that helps pay for nursing students to go to school in exchange for a pledge to work at Craven Regional Medical Center after graduation.

Craven County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	92,151			●
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	0.78	●		
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	1.66	●		
Percent White Population (2005)	72.03			●
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	27.97	●		
Percent Child Population (2005)	23.61	●		

Craven County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	82.1			
	Percent With Associate Degree	7.8			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	19.3			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	4.66			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,218.84			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$7,063.89			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$4.83			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$12,848.15			
	Net Commuting	4,481			
	Unemployment Rate	5.1			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$28,097			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$0.94			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	13.7			
	Percent Children in Poverty	19.7			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	11			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	12.5			
	Percent Children in Childcare	15			
	Violent Crime Rate	337.5			
	Property Crime Rate	4,071.2			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	4.3			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	66.7			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$96,600			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	6.3			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	0.9			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	9.40			

Health	Physician Ratio	445			
	Nurse Ratio	103			
	Dentist Ratio	2,596			
	Infant Mortality Rate	7.8			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,161			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,086			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	134			

Cumberland County

Cumberland County was formed in 1754 when the Colonial Legislature passed an Act which resulted in the political division of Bladen County. Fayetteville’s growth was set back by both a fire and the invasion of General Sherman in the 1800s. The opening of Camp Bragg as an artillery and temporary training facility in 1918 was paramount in the recovery of the city. Presently, Cumberland County encompasses approximately 661 square miles of area known as the “Sandhills.” Cumberland County has progressed from its beginnings as a riverfront distribution center to a highly commercialized area offering a variety of services to its citizens.

The population of Cumberland County is young, possibly due to the military presence, and the number of unwed mothers is increasing. This may contribute to the above average infant mortality rate as compared to the region.

There are three post-secondary schools in the county: Fayetteville Technical Community College, Fayetteville State University and Methodist College. Fort Bragg also offers several college programs. This high concentration of resources may be a reason for the above average education rates. Cumberland County has also received a federal grant for displaced family tuition assistance for workforce development, which may increase per capita income levels.

Greater Fayetteville Futures, a visioning process involving several hundred people, developed goals to improve the community. One of the goals is to “leverage the military for economic growth” using three strategies: increasing Cumberland County’s share of military contracts, integrating transitioning military personnel and military family members into the civilian workforce and recruiting businesses that provide products or services to the military to Cumberland County. As these initiatives progress, the county hopes to positively impact areas including housing, transportation, utilities, health care, culture and arts, schools and business development.

Cumberland County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	313,000			●
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	3.31		●	
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	3.64		●	
Percent White Population (2005)	57.21		●	
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	42.79			●
Percent Child Population (2005)	26.95			●

Cumberland County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education

Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	85			
Percent With Associate Degree	9.3			
Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	19.1			
Public School Drop Out Rate	3.72			
Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,402.77			
Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$7,039.39			

Economy

Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$4.02			
Per Capita Retail Sales	\$11,768.38			
Net Commuting	12,348			
Unemployment Rate	6.3			
Per Capita Personal Income	\$27,257			
Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$0.98			

Social/Family

Percent in Poverty	16.6			
Percent Children in Poverty	22.9			
Percent Elders in Poverty	13.7			
Percent Female Householders with Children	15.5			
Percent Children in Childcare	17.1			
Violent Crime Rate	675.5			
Property Crime Rate	6,034.3			
Percent Delinquent Juveniles	3.3			

Housing

Home Ownership Rate	59.4			
Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$88,800			
Percent Houses Built Before 1940	2.9			
Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	0.9			
Percent Increase in Housing Units	8.41			

Health

Physician Ratio	667			
Nurse Ratio	143			
Dentist Ratio	2,781			
Infant Mortality Rate	11.2			
Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	871			
Mortality Rate due to Cancer	701			
Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	131			

Currituck County

While Currituck County has a base population of 22,617, that number multiplies by more than four times in the summer months (up to 80-90,000 people). This number changes so dramatically because of the county's proximity to the coast and to Hampton Roads. This unique location has some positive affects on the county, such as above average per capita retail sales and a low unemployment rate, and negative affects, such as a high number of residents commuting out of the area to work.

Because the economy in Currituck is primarily based on tourism, many high school graduates that go on to post-secondary schools do not come back to work in the county. The number of residents in the county with post-secondary degrees is low, which could also be contributed to the fact that there are no post-secondary schools in the county.

Poverty and crime levels in the county are all lower than regional averages. Crime is low in the county because of an active police force and several recreational and after school programs across the county. Because of proximity to neighboring areas, personal income, home ownership and housing unit values are all above regional averages.

There is no hospital or other large health care facility in Currituck County, and there are less than a dozen health-related private practices across the county. This contributes to the poor physician, nurse and dentist ratios. However, because of the proximity to more urban areas in Virginia, residents do have access to health care in those areas.

Currituck County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	22,617			
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	24.34			
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	13.60			
Percent White Population (2005)	92.60			
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	7.40			
Percent Child Population (2005)	23.66			

Currituck County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education

Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	77.6			
Percent With Associate Degree	4.7			
Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	13.3			
Public School Drop Out Rate	5.99			
Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$2,131.41			
Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$7,643.22			

Economy

Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$3.77			
Per Capita Retail Sales	\$13,406.13			
Net Commuting	-4,118			
Unemployment Rate	2.7			
Per Capita Personal Income	\$26,574			
Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$2.99			

Social/Family

Percent in Poverty	9.5			
Percent Children in Poverty	13.8			
Percent Elders in Poverty	8.9			
Percent Female Householders with Children	9.2			
Percent Children in Childcare	8.4			
Violent Crime Rate	223.3			
Property Crime Rate	3,048.8			
Percent Delinquent Juveniles	2.8			

Housing

Home Ownership Rate	81.6			
Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$115,500			
Percent Houses Built Before 1940	5			
Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	0.5			
Percent Increase in Housing Units	22.42			

Health

Physician Ratio	3,510			
Nurse Ratio	439			
Dentist Ratio	5,265			
Infant Mortality Rate	10.5			
Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,010			
Mortality Rate due to Cancer	980			
Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	121			

Dare County

Dare County has a total area of 1,562 square miles with over 75 percent (1,178 square miles) of the area being water. The county includes the northern half of the Outer Banks and has the highest per capita retail sales in the region (almost double the second place county, New Hanover).

Though Dare County continues to maintain one of the most robust levels of population growth and economic expansion within the east, several efforts exist to address areas of concern that the county experiences.

Based on its role as a resort destination and attractive place to retire, much of the county's incoming population is older with prosperous income levels and high education levels. This dynamic has placed a premium on affordable housing for many residents and impacts many aspects of community life from employment to education. To help establish more affordable housing within the county, a Community Development Corporation has been created by the Outer Banks Community Foundation, which allows for start-up funds. The CDC has two projects that are nearing the construction phase.

A community care clinic has been established to deal with the issue of health care for uninsured residents. The clinic is a collaborative effort among the existing health professionals in the county as well as the Dare County Health Department.

An inter-faith community council has been created to address the financial needs and support of broken families and battered women within the county that have no basis for support.

The county continues to enjoy a strong educational system with several efforts including WINGS and Opportunity Outreach Fund supporting tutorial and mentoring efforts within the public school system. These efforts reinforce the efforts of the existing teachers and learning programs.

Dare County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	35,145		●	
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	17.28			●
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	11.52			●
Percent White Population (2005)	96.16			●
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	3.84	●		
Percent Child Population (2005)	19.95	●		

Dare County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	88.6			
	Percent With Associate Degree	6.5			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	27.7			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	2.64			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$3,869.24			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$9,152.37			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$3.95			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$39,740.21			
	Net Commuting	1,794			
	Unemployment Rate	2.5			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$29,466			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$3.02			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	7.9			
	Percent Children in Poverty	11.2			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	5.3			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	8.1			
	Percent Children in Childcare	19			
	Violent Crime Rate	264			
	Property Crime Rate	4,680.7			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	3.3			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	74.5			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$137,200			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	2.6			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	0.2			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	17.92			

Health	Physician Ratio	721			
	Nurse Ratio	149			
	Dentist Ratio	1,785			
	Infant Mortality Rate	8.9			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	867			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,083			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	63			

Duplin County

Duplin County was first formed by the General Assembly in 1750 from what was the northern part of New Hanover County. The first industry in the county was the naval stores industry. The harvesting of rosin from the abundant longleaf pine forests to make tar, pitch and turpentine, provided barter and income for the early settlers and remained a significant part of the economy up until the late 1800's.

Duplin County continues to maintain its agricultural base with a moderate increase in population and economic indicators in recent times. After a population decline in the 1980s, the county has shown forward movement on several fronts in recent times. The county grew at an average just above the state in the 1990s, but has maintained its rural atmosphere that consists of 10 small towns, all of which are below 5,000 in population.

The county has maintained a high standing in agricultural indicators as it ranks high in the production of certain livestock (turkey and pig) and several crop commodities. With the strong agricultural base, the influx of Hispanic farm laborers has taken place. The county has a Hispanic population that is 14 percent of its total population.

Both health and educational services have been called upon to address the unique needs of the emerging Hispanic population. Both Duplin Partners for Health and the James Sprunt Community College have set up several initiatives to deal directly with the family health needs and individual educational needs of the local Hispanic population.

Duplin County has economic improvements from the construction and opening of I-40 through the western and southern portion of the county. Residential development along with commercial development has taken place in that area, and the local wineries have given the county a unique segue into a developing tourist market.

Duplin County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	52,141		●	
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	6.27		●	
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	7.68			●
Percent White Population (2005)	71.75			●
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	28.25	●		
Percent Child Population (2005)	25.79			●

Duplin County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	65.8			
	Percent With Associate Degree	6.9			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	10.5			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	5.53			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,170.97			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$7,253.87			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$4.98			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$8,233.51			
	Net Commuting	-1,725			
	Unemployment Rate	6.1			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$20,827			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.33			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	17.6			
	Percent Children in Poverty	24.7			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	22.7			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	14.2			
	Percent Children in Childcare	12.5			
	Violent Crime Rate	356.7			
	Property Crime Rate	3,364.1			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	4.3			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	74.9			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$74,800			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	11.6			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	3.3			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	3.47			

Health	Physician Ratio	1,851			
	Nurse Ratio	202			
	Dentist Ratio	4,711			
	Infant Mortality Rate	9.4			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,226			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,041			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	201			

Edgecombe County

The flooding associated with Hurricane Floyd in 1999 caused more damage in Edgecombe County than arguably any other county in the region. Tarboro and Princeville were devastated. Damage was also severe in the rural areas and even into Speed, Pinetops and Leggett. Edgecombe has also experienced several plant closings and downsizing, losing over 2,500 jobs in the last decade. The effects of the flood and industrial losses linger.

Air Systems Components and QVC have been established in the county within the last few years. Kingsboro Industrial park is growing and new business prospects want to locate in the county. Edgecombe is still experiencing a net outflow of commuters, with many traveling as far as Wake County for employment. Edgecombe County emphasizes the strong work ethic of its people and its commitment to providing access to educational opportunities for all its citizens. Its voters recently passed a \$12 million bond referendum for school construction and renovation.

The county's Community Development Block Grant program has successfully addressed many housing needs in both its scattered site and concentrated needs areas. It has also assisted with the funding of water lines and street improvements in depressed areas. The Habitat for Humanity program in Tarboro has also positively impacted the housing situation.

Edgecombe was without a health department director for almost a year. With a director now in place, new programs are beginning to have a positive impact, including its "Healthy Women" initiative. Edgecombe's Department of Social Services prides itself on its innovative approaches to longstanding problems.

Edgecombe County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	53,554		●	
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	-3.69	●		
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	-2.55	●		
Percent White Population (2005)	41.09	●		
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	58.91			●
Percent Child Population (2005)	25.13		●	

Edgecombe County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education

Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	65.6			
Percent With Associate Degree	4.8			
Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	8.5			
Public School Drop Out Rate	6.34			
Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,234.10			
Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$7,779.66			

Economy

Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$6.00			
Per Capita Retail Sales	\$9,182.43			
Net Commuting	-2,432			
Unemployment Rate	8.8			
Per Capita Personal Income	\$22,328			
Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.08			

Social/Family

Percent in Poverty	19.9			
Percent Children in Poverty	29.4			
Percent Elders in Poverty	18.4			
Percent Female Householders with Children	21.5			
Percent Children in Childcare	16.5			
Violent Crime Rate	573			
Property Crime Rate	4,916.5			
Percent Delinquent Juveniles	5.7			

Housing

Home Ownership Rate	64.1			
Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$70,800			
Percent Houses Built Before 1940	9.5			
Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	2.1			
Percent Increase in Housing Units	2.55			

Health

Physician Ratio	1,415			
Nurse Ratio	197			
Dentist Ratio	7,682			
Infant Mortality Rate	11.6			
Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,602			
Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,231			
Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	187			

Gates County

Gates County is caught between an increasing pressure for growth and development and a desire to stay “undiscovered” and rural. While the county is in a year-long moratorium, which prevents development of new subdivisions, the county is experiencing solid population growth. Part of this could be due to the county’s close proximity to the growing Tidewater, Virginia area.

Despite their low crime and juvenile delinquency rates, the county has been awarded a grant from the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency. The funds will be used to create initiatives and support youth activities to prevent the formation of youth gangs within the county.

The school system is considered one of the basic pieces of the “quality of life” in Gates County. The county ranks fifth in the state in local effort to fund education. The county experiences a historically low teacher turnover rate. This can be attributed to a partnership with 13 other counties called the Northeast Collaboration to Support Initially Licensed Professionals. This partnership could be responsible for the strong teacher network that helps improve the student dropout rate.

The county strives for more retail opportunities to strengthen the local economic base and provide local opportunities without having to leave the county. Until the moratorium on new subdivisions is lifted, developers may not agree that such projects are financially viable.

Gates County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	11,071	●—————		
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	5.28	●		
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	4.81	●—		
Percent White Population (2005)	61.66	●—		
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	38.34	—————●—		
Percent Child Population (2005)	23.88	●—		

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	71.4			
	Percent With Associate Degree	6.3			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	10.5			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	5.79			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,574.74			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$8,735.43			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$4.70			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$4,119.89			
	Net Commuting	-2,345			
	Unemployment Rate	4.4			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$20,336			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.03			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	13.7			
	Percent Children in Poverty	18.6			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	26.2			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	13.3			
	Percent Children in Childcare	10.9			
	Violent Crime Rate	161.1			
	Property Crime Rate	1,403			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	1.9			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	82.1			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$77,200			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	12.7			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	4			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	2.32			

Health	Physician Ratio	3,627			
	Nurse Ratio	453			
	Dentist Ratio	10,882			
	Infant Mortality Rate	9.2			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,524			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,275			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	222			

Greene County

Being 15 to 20 miles from Greenville, Goldsboro, Kinston and Wilson has positive and negative impacts on Greene County. It has a positive impact on house values and home ownership rate, but a negative impact on retail sales, number of businesses, tax base, physician ratio and net commuting. Greene County is growing and is projected to grow slightly faster than the region.

Greene County employs the iBook program, which includes loaning each high school student a laptop each school year. To complement that program, the county is working with a private firm to establish wireless internet connectivity to the entire county. The county expects these two things together will improve all their education indicators.

While new large retail establishments and employers are not eminent for Greene County, small businesses are on the rise. This could change, however, as a certified 58-acre industrial park has just been established and there is interest from new businesses in two large, vacant buildings.

The juvenile crime rate is high in the county. There has been an increase in gang activity, which has moved in from neighboring, more urbanized areas. A new, \$1 million recreation park may help alleviate juvenile-related problems.

The county's housing stock is not adequate for demand. New, speculative houses in new subdivisions are beginning to increase in frequency. The county's Community Development Block Grant program is addressing problems with the older housing stock.

The county has a lack of its own doctors and dentists; however, residents do have access to those in neighboring communities. A new projected health care center in Snow Hill should improve this situation.

Greene County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	20,267			
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	6.81			
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	7.48			
Percent White Population (2005)	58.07			
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	41.93			
Percent Child Population (2005)	24.28			

Greene County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	65.4			
	Percent With Associate Degree	5.5			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	8.2			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	7.58			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,232.35			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$8,590.64			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$4.35			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$3,151.06			
	Net Commuting	-3,515			
	Unemployment Rate	6.3			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$21,033			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.04			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	17.4			
	Percent Children in Poverty	24.8			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	20.5			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	17.3			
	Percent Children in Childcare	16.2			
	Violent Crime Rate	367.2			
	Property Crime Rate	2,851.8			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	2.5			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	74.7			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$74,300			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	10.2			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	3.3			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	1.97			

Health	Physician Ratio	4,052			
	Nurse Ratio	317			
	Dentist Ratio	4,052			
	Infant Mortality Rate	11.8			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,142			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	966			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	171			

Halifax County

Halifax County has long been among the lowest in many socio-economic indicators in eastern North Carolina. It continues to rank below the regional averages in most areas, but the county is taking action to address these issues.

The Randy Parton Theater and its ancillary facilities are under construction near Roanoke Rapids. Intended to be a multi-purpose recreation destination halfway between New York and Florida, the complex is seen as a remedy for some of the county's economic problems. The facility, scheduled to open in 2007, will complement an area that already has several significant historic and cultural sites.

The housing stock of the county is old, with median value below that of the region. However, that trend is reversing as new subdivisions are being built and more are planned.

Halifax County continues to support three separate, independent school systems. The largest system, Halifax County, is building a new elementary-middle school in Enfield to replace two old schools.

Business activity is increasing. Two trucking companies and a packing company have recently established near the town of Halifax. Several restaurants have opened near the Parton Theater site. Historic Weldon is seeing building renovations downtown and a potential retirement center is being planned on the town's outskirts. Because I-95 runs through Halifax County, the area continues to benefit economically from travelers stopping in to shop and visit the area. While net commuting is consistent with the regional average, the increase in business activity will allow for more people to commute into the county for employment.

Halifax County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	56,344		●	
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	-1.79	●		
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	-0.49	●		
Percent White Population (2005)	41.57	●		
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	58.43			●
Percent Child Population (2005)	24.09		●	

Halifax County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	65.4			
	Percent With Associate Degree	5.3			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	11.1			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	4.30			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$922.08			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$8,676.75			

Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$6.63			
Per Capita Retail Sales	\$11,624.68			
Net Commuting	-1,617			
Unemployment Rate	8.1			
Per Capita Personal Income	\$20,313			
Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.30			

Percent in Poverty	22.1			
Percent Children in Poverty	31.2			
Percent Elders in Poverty	22.4			
Percent Female Householders with Children	20.4			
Percent Children in Childcare	9.9			
Violent Crime Rate	422			
Property Crime Rate	4,555.7			
Percent Delinquent Juveniles	3.7			

Home Ownership Rate	67			
Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$68,300			
Percent Houses Built Before 1940	11			
Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	3.5			
Percent Increase in Housing Units	2.37			

Physician Ratio	740			
Nurse Ratio	136			
Dentist Ratio	5,177			
Infant Mortality Rate	9			
Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,661			
Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,230			
Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	222			

Harnett County

The explosive growth of the Research Triangle area and the expansion of Fort Bragg through the Base Realignment and Closure Act changes in Fayetteville are sending significant growth ripples through Harnett County. The lure of employment in both of these areas produces a serious commuter drain on the county's labor force as the county continues to grow rapidly. The recent expansion of Highway 87 to four lanes has eased commuter issues in the southern portion of Harnett County.

As demonstrated by the increase in housing units, the county is feeling significant growth pressures. Over 9,000 lots are approved for development in the southwestern portion of the county, and over 3,000 additional lots are approved in the northern section of the county. Water service is now available to 90 percent of the county with sewer extensions being planned.

The pressures of development are stretching the educational system. Seven renovation and expansion projects have been approved for the school system as the system grows toward 18,000 students.

The Dunn-Erwin walking rail-trail has been completed and a 1,000 acre park and recreation site has been approved in the southern area. The park will be the first county park available to the public.

The county has received approval of a Certificate of Need for a new hospital that is more centrally located in the county. The hospital will be in the Lillington area and is approved for 120 beds initially. The county's eight industrial sites and two industrial parks are equipped to house new tenants.

Harnett County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	101,737		—●	
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	11.77		—●	
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	11.04		—●	
Percent White Population (2005)	74.73		—●	
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	25.27	●—		
Percent Child Population (2005)	26.53		—●	

Harnett County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	75			
	Percent With Associate Degree	7.6			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	12.8			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	5.50			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,284.38			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$6,689.41			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$4.04			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$8,056.07			
	Net Commuting	-16,752			
	Unemployment Rate	5.8			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$22,837			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$0.98			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	15.2			
	Percent Children in Poverty	21.3			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	19.4			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	13.5			
	Percent Children in Childcare	10.8			
	Violent Crime Rate	409			
	Property Crime Rate	3,769.2			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	3.3			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	70.3			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$91,200			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	6.5			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	1.9			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	10.74			

Health	Physician Ratio	1,567			
	Nurse Ratio	275			
	Dentist Ratio	4,775			
	Infant Mortality Rate	7.7			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,003			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	850			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	127			

Hertford County

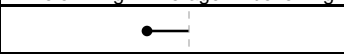

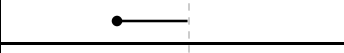
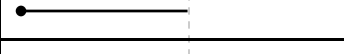
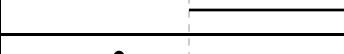
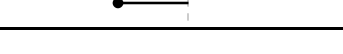
The changes in Hertford County have been minimal in an area of the state that is primarily experiencing current and projected population losses and out-migration. Hertford County has been served economically by the location of the county's largest private employer, Nucor Steel, which has helped to provide employment opportunities to nearly 400 and some economic stability since 2001.

The county's designation as a 21st Century Community by the North Carolina Department of Commerce has helped the county address some of the economic problems prompted by the nation's changing economic landscape at the turn of the century. The county has six approved building sites that are being marketed for new industry.

To serve a population who is seriously below the state and region in all income categories (median family, household and per capita) several service-based initiatives exist. The Roanoke-Chowan Human Services Center provides a variety of educational and counseling services for mental health needs of the population. The Chowan Area Development Agency provides assistance referral for housing needs (owner and renter) to individuals and families. Family abuse issues are addressed by Shelter for Abused Families and Emergencies by providing shelter and support for displaced or disrupted family situations.

The Roanoke-Chowan Community College is addressing basic educational needs and labor training by providing easier access to a variety of courses through their Ed-2-Go online course offerings. Some of the courses are a combination of hands-on teaching and internet instruction, while others are solely on-line courses.

Hertford County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	23,844			
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	5.50			
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	2.01			
Percent White Population (2005)	37.25			
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	62.75			
Percent Child Population (2005)	22.38			

Hertford County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education

Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	65.6			
Percent With Associate Degree	6.6			
Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	11.1			
Public School Drop Out Rate	4.38			
Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,155.37			
Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$8,807.14			

Economy

Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$5.98			
Per Capita Retail Sales	\$14,145.07			
Net Commuting	708			
Unemployment Rate	6.5			
Per Capita Personal Income	\$20,006			
Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.12			

Social/Family

Percent in Poverty	19.5			
Percent Children in Poverty	28.7			
Percent Elders in Poverty	21.1			
Percent Female Householders with Children	19.5			
Percent Children in Childcare	18.4			
Violent Crime Rate	404.7			
Property Crime Rate	4,654.1			
Percent Delinquent Juveniles	2.4			

Housing

Home Ownership Rate	70			
Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$61,700			
Percent Houses Built Before 1940	8.4			
Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	2.1			
Percent Increase in Housing Units	2.13			

Health

Physician Ratio	595			
Nurse Ratio	89			
Dentist Ratio	2,163			
Infant Mortality Rate	17.5			
Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,534			
Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,265			
Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	219			

Hoke County

Hoke County is one of the fastest growing counties in North Carolina, but faces educational and economic indicators that are all worse than the regional average. Much of the recent population growth is from the effects of suburban Fayetteville and western Cumberland County. Current development is primarily residential as expansion of the operations at Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base continue due to the Base Realignment and Closure Act. Other parts of the county are still low-density population, but developmental pressure is expected in other portions of the county through the next two decades.

Hoke County had the highest percentage of population growth of all eastern counties in the 1990s, and that growth continues today. Growth is at both extremes of the age spectrum as the county projected to grow faster than any of the nearby six counties in the under-five and above-65-years-of-age groups. The projection of school-age population growth has prompted the county to look at \$115 million in school construction needs through 2020.

Economically, the county is anchored by the Pate Industrial Park in eastern Hoke County. This park is being set up as a designated mega-site by the North Carolina Department of Commerce. This will allow the largest classification of industrial tenants to be served. Water and sewer facilities will be upgraded by an additional \$20 million. The Presti Industrial Park is also available in the southern part of the county.

Another aspect of economic development in Hoke County is the presence of the Carolina Horse Park. This 250-acre site developed in 2001 provides the most extensive location for equestrian events in the state.

Hoke County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	39,808		●	
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	18.31			●
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	15.12			●
Percent White Population (2005)	50.61	●		
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	49.39			●
Percent Child Population (2005)	30.36			●

Hoke County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	73.5			
	Percent With Associate Degree	6.3			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	10.9			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	6.37			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$928.57			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$7,344.61			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$3.87			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$3,542.94			
	Net Commuting	-6,403			
	Unemployment Rate	6.8			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$17,611			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$0.84			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	16.4			
	Percent Children in Poverty	23.1			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	22			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	18.2			
	Percent Children in Childcare	8.8			
	Violent Crime Rate	410.9			
	Property Crime Rate	4,366			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	2			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	75			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$83,900			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	2.9			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	1.8			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	16.71			

Health	Physician Ratio	2,728			
	Nurse Ratio	378			
	Dentist Ratio	6,366			
	Infant Mortality Rate	8.4			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	785			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	775			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	157			

Hyde County

Hyde County has long been one of the state's smallest and poorest counties. Its poverty rate of 19.1 percent is higher than the region's, but less than many counties in eastern North Carolina. Growth in planned, waterfront subdivisions and even in the number of jobs in the county should positively impact both Hyde's poverty rate and its total population.



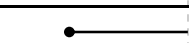
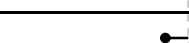
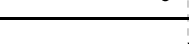
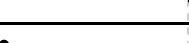
Hyde's insistence that Ocracoke keep its own K-12 school, with only 110 pupils, helps increase the county's per pupil expenditures. Its low average annual unemployment rate is not as good as it seems; summer employment expands greatly to accommodate beach season, farms and fisheries. It typically balloons back to double digits during the winter. Expanding shoulder seasons for tourism are helping to ease the gaping differences in seasonal employment. (Ocracoke was as busy for Easter 2006 as it usually is for July 4.) Net commuting is positive for Hyde County due to prison employees and Dare County residents that commute to the island.

There is only one doctor who serves Hyde County and he is actually located in Manteo (Dare County). His nurse practitioner works out of the office in Engelhard. Diet and age could contribute to the high mortality rates caused by cancer, heart disease and diabetes.

The county's relatively high juvenile delinquency rate may be due to the extremely low number of juveniles in the population. A handful of juvenile incidents can greatly influence this figure from one year to the next.

Housing unit growth has been slow, probably due in part to a loss of available units brought on by hurricanes over the past decade. Given the new waterfront subdivisions planned, especially for the Swan Quarter, Scranton and Engelhard areas, housing should increase.

Hyde County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	5,607			
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	-3.76			
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	-0.05			
Percent White Population (2005)	63.19			
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	36.81			
Percent Child Population (2005)	18.10			

Hyde County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	68.4			
	Percent With Associate Degree	6.2			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	10.6			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	5.52			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$2,809.53			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$14,975.87			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$5.46			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$9,083.83			
	Net Commuting	179			
	Unemployment Rate	4.6			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$20,564			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$2.79			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	19.1			
	Percent Children in Poverty	27.5			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	23			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	13.1			
	Percent Children in Childcare	7.1			
	Violent Crime Rate	Unknown			
	Property Crime Rate	891.6			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	2.9			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	78.4			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$76,500			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	16.4			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	2.2			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	3.12			

Health	Physician Ratio	5,792			
	Nurse Ratio	263			
	Dentist Ratio	0			
	Infant Mortality Rate	10.4			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,993			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,276			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	245			

Johnston County

Johnston County was formed in 1746 from Craven County. It is named for Gabriel Johnston, royal governor of North Carolina from 1734 to 1752. The county offers great connections to history, entertainment, dining, lodging and outlet shopping, along with a generous helping of true southern hospitality. Located midway between New York and Florida on I-95 and at the cross-roads of I-95 and I-40, Johnston County connects the nation's North and South with East and West. It is home to many historical activities, including the Ava Gardner Museum, the Bentonville Battlefield and the Tobacco Farm Life Museum.

Johnston County's population has doubled since 1988 and is expected to continue growing. The growth may be attributed to I-40 and I-95 and the county's close proximity to Raleigh. Net commuting is below average because many people are commuting to other cities, such as Raleigh, to work. As the population continues to grow, commuting is expected to decrease.

The Board of Commissioners is working closely with the Board of Education to provide annual funding to supplement federal and state dollars. The county provided \$40 million to the local school system (30 percent of total budget) recently. Since 1969, Johnston Community College has been providing an affordable higher education alternative that has helped thousands of the region's adult population become better equipped for the job market, while also providing a means for local citizens to earn high school diplomas and learn special skills to improve their quality of life. The college transfer program helps many young people cut the often insurmountable costs of a college education and at the same time ease the transition from high school to a four-year college.

Johnston County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	145,968			●
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	19.68			●
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	15.42			●
Percent White Population (2005)	83.59			●
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	16.41	●		
Percent Child Population (2005)	26.58			●

Johnston County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education

Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	75.9			
Percent With Associate Degree	8			
Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	15.9			
Public School Drop Out Rate	5.01			
Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,918.17			
Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$7,116.32			

Economy

Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$3.85			
Per Capita Retail Sales	\$11,506.68			
Net Commuting	-20,044			
Unemployment Rate	4.6			
Per Capita Personal Income	\$25,790			
Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.46			

Social/Family

Percent in Poverty	12.6			
Percent Children in Poverty	17.7			
Percent Elders in Poverty	19.4			
Percent Female Householders with Children	10.6			
Percent Children in Childcare	13.9			
Violent Crime Rate	271.8			
Property Crime Rate	3,276.7			
Percent Delinquent Juveniles	1.5			

Housing

Home Ownership Rate	73.4			
Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$108,800			
Percent Houses Built Before 1940	8.3			
Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	0.8			
Percent Increase in Housing Units	16.50			

Health

Physician Ratio	1,340			
Nurse Ratio	271			
Dentist Ratio	4,539			
Infant Mortality Rate	7.3			
Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,065			
Mortality Rate due to Cancer	792			
Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	98			

Jones County

Though situated very close to the Crystal Coast and between the thriving urban areas of New Bern and Jacksonville, Jones County does not enjoy many of the attributes or economic advantages that these areas experience. The county has economic and social issues to deal with because of nominal population growth, past and projected, and the predominantly agricultural-based economy.

Some residential development along the US Highway 17 corridor approaching New Bern continues to take place and more is expected as access to the Trent River expands. This development has contributed to a respectable in-migration rate in the county though its natural population growth has shown decline. The expansion of Highway 17 into four lanes, between Jacksonville and Maysville, is underway and should support access and further development along this major corridor.

One of the most notable sites in the county, Brock Mill Pond in Trenton, is still recovering from Hurricane Floyd water damage as work continues on a dam that will keep future catastrophic rains from damaging and impacting the surrounding area.

Eastern Carolina Internal Medicine in Pollocksville, with 14 physicians, and a small clinic in Trenton are the main providers of health care for the county.

Jones County opened a county industrial park in 2002. The park has water, sewer and natural gas in place, and liquefied petroleum gas available for the site. There is also access to fiber optics along Highway 58 that can be extended to the site.

Jones County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	10,216			
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	-1.59			
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	0.66			
Percent White Population (2005)	64.23			
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	35.77			
Percent Child Population (2005)	22.70			

Jones County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	72.2			
	Percent With Associate Degree	5.7			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	9.5			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	3.75			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,039.71			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$9,789.06			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$5.58			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$4,076.37			
	Net Commuting	-2,273			
	Unemployment Rate	5.2			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$22,322			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.03			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	16			
	Percent Children in Poverty	23.8			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	16.7			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	15.2			
	Percent Children in Childcare	9.7			
	Violent Crime Rate	166.9			
	Property Crime Rate	1,963.9			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	3.7			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	79.8			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$75,100			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	11.5			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	3.4			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	0.47			

Health	Physician Ratio	488			
	Nurse Ratio	302			
	Dentist Ratio	0			
	Infant Mortality Rate	3.9			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,696			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,147			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	196			

Lenoir County

Lenoir County is projected to lose population between 2005 and 2010, but if business development is any indication, those projections could be erroneous. The county gained over 1,500 new jobs between 2002 and 2006. Smithfield Packing is building a \$100 million facility, and DuPont, Electrolux and Lenox have announced expansions. Additionally, Kinston Regional Jetport has resumed commercial air service and business interest has increased at the Global TransPark.

Lenoir's high school drop-out rate is higher than the regional average and the local per pupil expenditures for the public schools are lower than average.

Lenoir County has been a destination for shoppers for decades and this trend continues, as per capita retail sales are above the regional average. Net commuting is also good, as workers from nearby counties find employment in Lenoir. The unemployment rate is still above the regional average but may soon come down as the new industrial initiatives come online.

Crime rates in Lenoir are higher than the region except for juvenile delinquency, which ranks better than the region. Much of this credit can be given to several initiatives in place to deter gang activity.

The home ownership rate is somewhat low in the county and the percentage of substandard housing units is above the regional average. Such indicators can be traced to incomes and education.

Mortality rates from heart disease, cancer and diabetes are high. As in most counties in the region, this is likely due to lifestyles. Lenoir Memorial Hospital is a 283-bed facility that serves more than just Lenoir County. Kinston Community Health Center provides health and dental care for many indigent people.

Lenoir County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	58,378			●
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	-2.13	●	—	
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	-0.35	●	—	
Percent White Population (2005)	57.87		●	—
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	42.13			●
Percent Child Population (2005)	23.76	●	—	

Lenoir County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education

Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	71.9			
Percent With Associate Degree	6.8			
Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	13.3			
Public School Drop Out Rate	5.91			
Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,110.73			
Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$7,079.96			

Economy

Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$6.25			
Per Capita Retail Sales	\$17,681.35			
Net Commuting	3,332			
Unemployment Rate	6.7			
Per Capita Personal Income	\$24,149			
Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.01			

Social/Family

Percent in Poverty	17.1			
Percent Children in Poverty	25.1			
Percent Elders in Poverty	18.4			
Percent Female Householders with Children	17.3			
Percent Children in Childcare	16.7			
Violent Crime Rate	648.8			
Property Crime Rate	5,868.2			
Percent Delinquent Juveniles	2.9			

Housing

Home Ownership Rate	67			
Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$82,600			
Percent Houses Built Before 1940	9.1			
Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	2.6			
Percent Increase in Housing Units	2.91			

Health

Physician Ratio	501			
Nurse Ratio	107			
Dentist Ratio	2,273			
Infant Mortality Rate	11.9			
Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,650			
Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,275			
Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	243			

Martin County



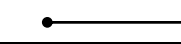


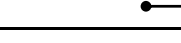
Even before what is now Martin County was first visited by English explorers, it was inhabited by Native Americans who were adept at satisfying their needs from the richly supplied forests and streams. In 1774, Martin County was formed from Tyrrell and Halifax Counties.

Even today, much of this history and heritage is present in the county with several historical sites and tourist attractions. For example, the Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center, which is a state-of-the-art show facility boasting a 108,000-square-foot indoor coliseum and seating for over 2,400 people. This facility is home to events ranging from ATV and moto-cross races to truck pulls, circuses, boat shows and equestrian events. The area also attracts outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy hunting and fishing in and around the Roanoke River and the popular paddle trail and camping platforms of the Roanoke River Partners.

Across the county, population numbers are below the regional average while the unemployment and poverty rates are above average. To address these and other issues on a broad economic scale, Martin County is working with East Carolina University on identifying ways to attract middle to high income retirees to the county. The county is also working on industrial recruitment through their Economic Development Corporation. Over the past few decades, several industries, such as manufacturing and textile plants, have closed. Some new industries, such as an Israeli shrink-wrap company, have recently relocated to Martin County, but not enough to make up for the loss of jobs from past years.

The county suffers from an old housing stock and many houses with incomplete plumbing. There are some new developments in the county now, and that number is expected to increase as other surrounding counties, such as Pitt, continue to grow. Martin County has also received Block Grants to improve the number of housing units with incomplete plumbing.

Martin County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	24,543			
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	-4.10			
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	-1.63			
Percent White Population (2005)	53.03			
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	46.97			
Percent Child Population (2005)	23.38			

Martin County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	70.7			
	Percent With Associate Degree	6.8			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	11.6			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	5.97			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,545.71			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$8,483.65			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$6.60			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$8,270.30			
	Net Commuting	-2,537			
	Unemployment Rate	6.3			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$22,227			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.23			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	18.5			
	Percent Children in Poverty	27.6			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	25.7			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	17.6			
	Percent Children in Childcare	16.4			
	Violent Crime Rate	489.4			
	Property Crime Rate	3,333.6			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	5.8			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	71.8			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$68,400			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	12.7			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	2.1			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	2.20			

Health	Physician Ratio	1,312			
	Nurse Ratio	206			
	Dentist Ratio	4,986			
	Infant Mortality Rate	10.1			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,881			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,304			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	353			

Nash County

Nash County was formed in 1777 and derived its name from war hero, General Francis Nash. In 1816, the term “Rocky Mount” was used for the first time to designate the location of the area’s first post office. Located at the “Falls of the Tar,” it would soon be joined by the area’s first industry, Battle’s Mill, later named Rocky Mount Mills. Built at the site of the gristmill, the mill is recognized as the state’s second oldest cotton mill. When the mill ceased operation in 1996, it was the oldest operating textile mill in the southeast. Today, Rocky Mount Mills is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and remains a local landmark for residents and tourists alike. Nothing impacted the area more than the founding of Hardee’s Food Systems in 1961, which grew to become a giant in the fast food business.

Today, Nash County is home to major manufacturers in the fields of aeronautics (Honeywell), pharmaceuticals (Hospira) and diesel engines (Consolidated Diesel Co.). The area also boasts fast food franchising (Boddie-Noell Enterprises), food distribution (MBM Corp.), food preparation (Cheesecake Factory Bakery), agribusiness (Dale Bone Farms), egg production (Braswell Foods) and residential development (Ford’s Colony of Rocky Mount).

The county boasts a good hospital and a large number of physicians. One known issue is that lower income in the county limits access to health care. Nash Health Care Systems is working on programs for low cost health care and free medication for people without health insurance. The county has a large Hispanic population. The county has a free clinic that targets this population.

Nash County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	91,530		—●	
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	4.70		●—	
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	4.80		●—	
Percent White Population (2005)	62.89		●—	
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	37.11		●—	
Percent Child Population (2005)	24.61		●	

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	75.6			
	Percent With Associate Degree	6.3			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	17.2			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	5.93			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,288.23			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$7,060.65			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$4.80			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$16,103.81			
	Net Commuting	2,575			
	Unemployment Rate	6.6			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$26,602			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$0.98			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	14.2			
	Percent Children in Poverty	20.3			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	15.2			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	14.5			
	Percent Children in Childcare	10.3			
	Violent Crime Rate	479.4			
	Property Crime Rate	5,091.3			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	2.8			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	67.7			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$95,800			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	9.6			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	1.7			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	9.21			

Health	Physician Ratio	514			
	Nurse Ratio	102			
	Dentist Ratio	2,012			
	Infant Mortality Rate	11.4			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,250			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,051			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	138			

New Hanover County

New Hanover County encompasses the city of Wilmington and Carolina Beach, Kure Beach and Wrightsville Beach. The city of Wilmington is known as the “Port City of Progress and Pleasure.” Established in 1857, Carolina Beach is a friendly resort community located on Pleasure Island, the larger of two barrier islands on the Cape Fear Coast. Kure Beach offers a quiet and relaxed atmosphere with a variety of coastal activities. History buffs enjoy touring the remains of Fort Fisher, the last major stronghold of the Confederacy and the largest earthen fortress of its kind in the south. Wrightsville Beach, one of the two barrier islands on the Cape Fear Coast, established in 1899, was once accessible only by water.

The population of the county has tripled over the last 10-15 years and large employers, such as Verizon, have moved into the area. The filmmaking industry is thriving and tourism provides large supplements to the county’s economy. The increasing retiree population adds wealth to the county, even skewing the poverty levels. Net commuting is high because many people come to New Hanover County from bordering counties to work.

There are several current initiatives in the county addressing crime, including a Gang Task Force and a strong Criminal Justice Partnership Council. The mental health system, the school system and various non-profit organizations are also partnering to reduce juvenile delinquency. To further the crime initiatives, there is a successful Juvenile Day Treatment Center and a new jail with 680 beds.

Education indicators in the county are above average partly due to the University of North Carolina-Wilmington and Cape Fear Community College. Cape Fear Community College has expanded its campus to the northern portion of the county and offers multiple job training and retraining classes.

New Hanover County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	177,692			●
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	10.84		●	
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	9.46		●	
Percent White Population (2005)	81.94			●
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	18.06	●		
Percent Child Population (2005)	20.50	●		

New Hanover County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education

Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	86.3			
Percent With Associate Degree	7.9			
Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	31			
Public School Drop Out Rate	5.36			
Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$2,570.38			
Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$7,945.70			

Economy

Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$4.74			
Per Capita Retail Sales	\$22,125.62			
Net Commuting	11,911			
Unemployment Rate	4.3			
Per Capita Personal Income	\$29,607			
Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.52			

Social/Family

Percent in Poverty	13.4			
Percent Children in Poverty	19.5			
Percent Elders in Poverty	9			
Percent Female Householders with Children	11.5			
Percent Children in Childcare	19.1			
Violent Crime Rate	671.9			
Property Crime Rate	6,271			
Percent Delinquent Juveniles	4.2			

Housing

Home Ownership Rate	64.7			
Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$135,600			
Percent Houses Built Before 1940	6.7			
Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	0.5			
Percent Increase in Housing Units	16.64			

Health

Physician Ratio	309			
Nurse Ratio	69			
Dentist Ratio	1,393			
Infant Mortality Rate	5.8			
Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,102			
Mortality Rate due to Cancer	987			
Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	131			

Northampton County



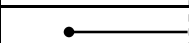
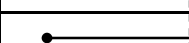
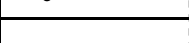
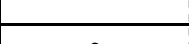
Northampton County is located in the northern Coastal Plain along the Virginia border. The county was formed in 1741 from a division of Bertie County after settlers migrated to this part of the Albemarle precinct in the early eighteenth century.

The population of the county is below the regional average and can be attributed to its rural nature. The county has been encouraged by its five percent growth since the 1990 census. Many education indicators are below the regional average, but \$0.37 of every tax dollar is allotted to education with hopes of improving the system. Poverty is a major concern for Northampton County, and vast improvements have been made in the quality of life with extremely limited resource abilities. The improving quality of life may be reflected in the low crime and juvenile delinquency rates.

Many initiatives are underway to strengthen the economy. The county has a great Active Work Force program involving the community college. Currently, the county is in transition from a rural economy to distribution, manufacturing and technology. There is a focus on recruiting through economic development, and between 2001 and 2002 Lowe's was successfully recruited and brought in over 1,000 new job opportunities.

The county is actively pursuing grants for housing to improve the living conditions and structures of homes for its citizens. Health issues are being targeted by an extremely active and innovative health department and health board. The health department screens for many illnesses including heart disease, stroke and diabetes. There is an emphasis being placed on educational programs to improve the health of Northampton County residents.

Northampton County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	21,507			
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	-2.62			
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	-0.24			
Percent White Population (2005)	39.76			
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	60.24			
Percent Child Population (2005)	21.93			

Northampton County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	62.5			
	Percent With Associate Degree	5.6			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	10.8			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	4.92			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,407.10			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$9,101.68			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$6.78			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$2,925.38			
	Net Commuting	-2,635			
	Unemployment Rate	8.1			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$22,572			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.33			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	20.2			
	Percent Children in Poverty	30.4			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	21.5			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	18.3			
	Percent Children in Childcare	12.6			
	Violent Crime Rate	465.8			
	Property Crime Rate	3,314.9			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	2.4			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	77			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$57,500			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	11.2			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	3.6			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	2.37			

Health	Physician Ratio	2,424			
	Nurse Ratio	352			
	Dentist Ratio	21,820			
	Infant Mortality Rate	16.6			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,788			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,411			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	285			

Onslow County

Onslow County is one of four counties impacted by the presence of a military base. Almost all of Onslow County's initiatives are driven by a public/military co-operative approach.

Population projections are difficult to depend on in the county because of the fluctuation in military troops. For example, while the projected growth from 2005-2010 is below the regional average, the number of housing units being built is above the regional average. The military continues to press the local developers for more housing initiatives as their figures show a deficiency in available off-base housing for military personnel.

From an economic development standpoint, the county would like to retain more of the exiting military personnel that have technical skills. The county is working toward having an available, up-to-date inventory of those military personnel who are being discharged and the skills they possess. This is seen as leverage in order to attract businesses in the future.

The school system addresses the needs of a transient student community, military dependents, to keep them within the educational system and prepared for their next school. This is accomplished through existing counseling services provided by Onslow County schools. The on-base military schools are not part of the public school system.

All human service programs within the county have offices and personnel on base to address the on and off base population. These programs help maintain a high level of communication between the base and civilian community. The most successful cooperation is in addressing the needs of Family Violence and Abuse, which is dealt with through the 501C3 PEERS (Peer Bridger and Peer Advocate) program that offers counseling for family issues.

Onslow County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	161,958			●
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	7.72		●	
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	3.65	●		
Percent White Population (2005)	76.31			●
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	23.69	●		
Percent Child Population (2005)	25.08			●

Onslow County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	84.3			
	Percent With Associate Degree	8.1			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	14.8			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	4.36			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,393.28			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$6,735.48			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$3.04			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$9,159.84			
	Net Commuting	-3,083			
	Unemployment Rate	5.4			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$26,487			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$0.91			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	16.7			
	Percent Children in Poverty	20.3			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	14.7			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	11.6			
	Percent Children in Childcare	10.9			
	Violent Crime Rate	84.5			
	Property Crime Rate	774.4			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	4.6			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	58.1			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$85,900			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	1.8			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	0.7			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	10.82			

Health	Physician Ratio	1,332			
	Nurse Ratio	215			
	Dentist Ratio	2,960			
	Infant Mortality Rate	7.7			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	601			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	558			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	80			

Pamlico County

Though virtually surrounded by water on the largest estuarine body in the country, Pamlico County continues to slowly develop. Residential development is occurring primarily in close proximity to the water with the approval of large residential developments. River Dunes, in the southeastern portion of the county, is a 600 lot development that will be complemented by a 28-acre marina with 400 boat slips. The Dawson Creek development has been approved for 300 home sites. Additional condominium development is occurring in the Minnesott Beach area and Oriental continues to attract new single-family home construction.

Access to the county from the New Bern area is improving as the first phase of the upgrading of Highway 55 to five lanes has been completed. Access to the county is also improving with increased ferry access from Craven County. These two improvements along with the Base Relocation and Closure Act decision to expand Cherry Point Marine Air Station and Depot are expected to attract new residents to the area.





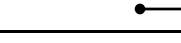
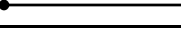
A Sea Grant Smart Growth grant is providing the ability to study the highway corridor for future growth options while protecting the natural resources those options may impact.

Retirees continue to be the largest segment of new residents and the county continues to upgrade health and emergency medical services to provide needed services at the local level.

A Scattered House Grant by the North Carolina Department of Commerce is taking steps to provide limited, low and moderate income housing construction as well as \$5,000 grants for home rehabilitation.

A new aspect of the county is the increased interest as a movie location. The Oriental Tourism Authority is working toward being the site for two potential productions in the near future.

Pamlico County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	13,125			
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	1.48			
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	2.78			
Percent White Population (2005)	74.51			
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	25.49			
Percent Child Population (2005)	18.16			

Pamlico County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	75.2			
	Percent With Associate Degree	6.6			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	14.7			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	5.64			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,436.60			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$9,428.70			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$5.61			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$5,661.70			
	Net Commuting	-1,608			
	Unemployment Rate	4.4			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$24,751			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.17			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	15.5			
	Percent Children in Poverty	25.3			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	13.4			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	11.5			
	Percent Children in Childcare	13.8			
	Violent Crime Rate	138.5			
	Property Crime Rate	1,631.8			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	2.5			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	82.2			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$89,900			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	9.7			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	1.7			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	4.97			

Health	Physician Ratio	1,634			
	Nurse Ratio	284			
	Dentist Ratio	3,268			
	Infant Mortality Rate	3.8			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,416			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,347			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	115			

Pasquotank County

The counties in the extreme northeastern corner of the state continue to show strong and steady population growth and economic expansion. Pasquotank County is not an exception as the new highway infrastructure associated with U.S. Highway 17 by-pass has served to increase accessibility into and out of the heavily populated Tidewater, Virginia area, where land values, taxes and congestion are accentuating the attraction of alternative living locations. This type of development pressure is in addition to the demand for water-based real estate that continues to surge along the Pasquotank River. The new corridor has opened land demands for commercial and residential development as well.

The opening of the region's Museum of the Albemarle is the most significant change taking place in the county's major municipality, Elizabeth City. After seven years and \$14 million, the 50,000 square foot regional museum is opening to expand the county's offering as a local tourist destination for people traveling by car or boat through the area.

The River City Community Development Corporation (CDC) is administering a grant from the Golden Leaf Foundation to support a business incubator that will target minority small businesses. This effort complements the CDC's low and moderate income housing activities.

Elizabeth City State University has nearly \$53 million in capital improvement contracts ready for bids. Efforts are being made to identify and train minority contractors to help satisfy the labor needs these construction activities will provide.

A small business consortium has been developed to improve information exchange and cooperative working arrangements between the College of the Albemarle's Small Business Center, the Small Business and Technology Development Center at Elizabeth City State University, the River City Community Development Corporation and local banks.

Pasquotank County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	38,118	●——		
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	9.23	——●		
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	5.53	●		
Percent White Population (2005)	56.15	●——		
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	43.85	——●		
Percent Child Population (2005)	23.39	●——		

Pasquotank County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education

Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	76.8			
Percent With Associate Degree	7.7			
Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	16.4			
Public School Drop Out Rate	5.91			
Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,767.53			
Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$7,972.36			

Economy

Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$5.06			
Per Capita Retail Sales	\$15,254.28			
Net Commuting	1,300			
Unemployment Rate	4.7			
Per Capita Personal Income	\$22,266			
Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.14			

Social/Family

Percent in Poverty	16.6			
Percent Children in Poverty	23.7			
Percent Elders in Poverty	17.9			
Percent Female Householders with Children	16.3			
Percent Children in Childcare	17			
Violent Crime Rate	447.4			
Property Crime Rate	4,147.5			
Percent Delinquent Juveniles	2.9			

Housing

Home Ownership Rate	65.7			
Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$85,500			
Percent Houses Built Before 1940	11.5			
Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	0.8			
Percent Increase in Housing Units	7.79			

Health

Physician Ratio	382			
Nurse Ratio	79			
Dentist Ratio	2,822			
Infant Mortality Rate	11			
Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,367			
Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,167			
Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	156			

Pender County

Pender County is one of several counties in the southeast under significant development pressures. Retirees and overflow from the growing Wilmington area fuels the population increase. The growth in population is felt in many ways, but most directly in the increased school population and pressure on the local education system. To address this demand, the county passed a \$56 million bond referendum primarily aimed at the construction of new schools over the next five years.

Educational initiatives include a prototype five year degree program providing students with a high school degree as well as a technical Associate Degree. This initiative is a cooperative agreement between the Pender County Schools and Cape Fear Community College.

The development pressure is also pushing the need for a county-wide water system and upgraded sewer capacity. Now that the entire county is covered by water districts, the water plan that has been devised for the county will be able to be implemented. The eastern area of the county along the coast and the Rocky Point area bordered by I-40 are the first areas addressed by the plan.

The county is becoming more affluent as retirees and Wilmington-based commuters increase. This trend will increase even more as the aforementioned water and sewer capacities are expanded.

To address the needs of the less affluent population, Pender County's Health Department has several aggressive outreach programs that take services to citizens. The most notable of these is a mobile dental clinic that covers the county.

The focus of economic development is more commercial than industrial, but with the additional water-sewer capabilities, employment opportunities within the county may increase in the future.

Pender County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	46,142		●	
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	12.32			●
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	11.36			
Percent White Population (2005)	77.29			●
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	22.71	●		
Percent Child Population (2005)	21.59	●		

Pender County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	76.8			
	Percent With Associate Degree	6.4			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	13.6			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	6.48			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,532.35			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$7,082.88			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$4.86			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$7,787.70			
	Net Commuting	-7,663			
	Unemployment Rate	4.7			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$21,489			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.38			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	14.1			
	Percent Children in Poverty	21.5			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	14.4			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	11.2			
	Percent Children in Childcare	12.8			
	Violent Crime Rate	157.8			
	Property Crime Rate	2,149.4			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	2.6			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	82.6			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$113,400			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	4.2			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	1.3			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	11.50			

Health	Physician Ratio	2,490			
	Nurse Ratio	268			
	Dentist Ratio	4,482			
	Infant Mortality Rate	8			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,148			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,075			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	133			

Perquimans County

Perquimans County will probably grow faster than forecasted. New retirees and commuters to Tidewater and the Elizabeth City area will feed on the livability of the county. New initiatives for ecotourists and residents will capitalize on the Perquimans River and its creeks (blueways/greenways and camping platforms) not just in the county, but in the region.




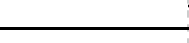
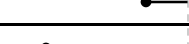
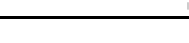
Perquimans County and its county seat of Hertford have long been affected by their proximity to Elizabeth City and Edenton – both somewhat larger and offering more employment and commercial opportunities. Recent growth and expected growth are changing that scenario.

The school-age population in the county recently increased for the first time in 15 years, signaling an increase in young families. More service and small retail establishments are helping the economy and population growth, while keeping unemployment low. More workers are still out-commuting to Pasquotank and Chowan Counties and to Virginia than are coming in.

Perquimans County has a “Communities in Schools” program and a “Governor’s One-on-One” program that may help account for its low juvenile delinquency rate. The county is pushing for a minimum housing code/ordinance to help lower the high rate of housing units lacking complete plumbing.

There is no hospital in the county, as residents are generally served by hospitals in Edenton and Elizabeth City. Most of the health indicators in the county are low including the physician and nurse ratio, which could be caused by the proximity of the hospitals and medical facilities in Edenton and Elizabeth City.

Perquimans County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	11,939			
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	5.02			
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	3.84			
Percent White Population (2005)	73.10			
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	26.90			
Percent Child Population (2005)	20.47			

Perquimans County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison
	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	71.9	
	Percent With Associate Degree	5.3	
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	12.3	
	Public School Drop Out Rate	7.34	
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$9,541.20	

Economy	Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison
	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$5.79	
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$5,325.97	
	Net Commuting	-2,015	
	Unemployment Rate	4.2	
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.10	

Social/Family	Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison
	Percent in Poverty	15.7	
	Percent Children in Poverty	24.6	
	Percent Elders in Poverty	15.8	
	Percent Female Householders with Children	12.6	
	Percent Children in Childcare	9.7	
	Violent Crime Rate	153.7	
	Property Crime Rate	2,459	

Housing	Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison
	Home Ownership Rate	78.6	
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$82,800	
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	13.6	
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	5.6	

Health	Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison
	Physician Ratio	5,903	
	Nurse Ratio	347	
	Dentist Ratio	5,903	
	Infant Mortality Rate	13.7	
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,859	
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	119	

Pitt County

Pitt County has the 5th largest population in the region (143,376) as of 2005. The population has grown steadily since the 1990s and is projected to continue to grow over the next five years at a rate above the regional average. The City of Greenville is the 13th largest municipality and 4th most densely populated city in North Carolina.

The county's population is diverse in ethnicity, gender, age and income levels. Because of this diversity, the county has a strong economy, with retail sales and personal income levels above the regional average. The county also has a strong employee base and one of the region's largest employment centers with Pitt County Memorial Hospital, East Carolina University, Brody School of Medicine, Pitt Community College, several large industrial businesses and a large public school system.

Pitt County has an above average number of citizens with high school diplomas, associate degrees and bachelor degrees. This is due in part to the high concentration of post-secondary schools in the county and the Education Compact. The Education Compact is an agreement between the Pitt County board of education and the county commissioners to reach educational achievement standards over a five year period. In order to help achieve those standards, the county agreed to increase funding to the school system by \$27 million over the five year period.

A Pitt County needs assessment, called *Pitt County Voices*, was recently conducted by East Carolina University and the United Way of Pitt County. The assessment identified six major issues facing the county: crime, health, k-12 education, poverty, public transportation and youth-related issues. The report, which is available to the public, has been distributed to various organizations and government agencies for review and incorporation into future planning to improve quality of life for residents in the county.

Pitt County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	143,376			●
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	7.16		●	
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	6.68		●	
Percent White Population (2005)	63.71		●	
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	36.29		●	
Percent Child Population (2005)	23.53	●		

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	79.9			
	Percent With Associate Degree	7.5			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	26.4			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	6.95			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,573.88			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$7,272.92			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$4.36			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$15,588.16			
	Net Commuting	3,097			
	Unemployment Rate	6.5			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$25,746			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.03			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	17.5			
	Percent Children in Poverty	22.8			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	20.2			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	14.4			
	Percent Children in Childcare	16.4			
	Violent Crime Rate	617.2			
	Property Crime Rate	5,152.9			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	2.9			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	58.1			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$96,800			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	5.9			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	0.9			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	15.99			

Health	Physician Ratio	231			
	Nurse Ratio	56			
	Dentist Ratio	2,564			
	Infant Mortality Rate	11.1			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	950			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	834			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	132			

Robeson County

Robeson County has experienced a double “whammy” in its economy over the last 15 years – a slide in the importance of tobacco and the closing of textile plants. The textile losses alone have totaled 8,000 jobs. Robeson County is fighting back with an aggressive industrial recruitment effort that has resulted in 30 industrial announcements in the last three years with more pending.

The county’s education variables are below the regional average. Its “ability to pay” is 97th (out of 100) among the state’s counties, but its “effort to pay” is 8th. It has an agreement with the Justice Department to increase its percentage allotment to schools consistent with its percentage increases in tax revenues. Juvenile crime is high, as is crime in general. The presence of gangs in schools may negatively impact the crime rate.

The housing stock is negatively influenced by an abundance of single and doublewide mobile homes, though the home ownership rate is at the regional average. The number of children in child care is low, due mostly to more women being unemployed and staying home to care for their children.

The county’s health indicators are slightly below those of the region. Improvements in this area should be seen as the effects of a new heart center are felt and a new hospital bed tower is constructed.

Campbell Soup, Kaiser Roth and Elkay Southern all have their largest plants in Robeson County. The community college has aggressive and flexible training programs. Robeson County continues to recruit new industries and expand existing ones.

Robeson County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	127,506			●
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	3.38	●		
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	4.82	●		
Percent White Population (2005)	35.25	●		
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	64.75			●
Percent Child Population (2005)	28			●

Robeson County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education

Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	64.9			
Percent With Associate Degree	4.9			
Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	11.4			
Public School Drop Out Rate	8.16			
Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$880.88			
Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$7,222.07			

Economy

Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$5.85			
Per Capita Retail Sales	\$8,161.38			
Net Commuting	-6,084			
Unemployment Rate	7.7			
Per Capita Personal Income	\$18,659			
Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$0.86			

Social/Family

Percent in Poverty	22.4			
Percent Children in Poverty	31.7			
Percent Elders in Poverty	25.3			
Percent Female Householders with Children	20.6			
Percent Children in Childcare	13.3			
Violent Crime Rate	744.6			
Property Crime Rate	6,250.1			
Percent Delinquent Juveniles	4.8			

Housing

Home Ownership Rate	72.8			
Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$66,100			
Percent Houses Built Before 1940	7.5			
Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	1.7			
Percent Increase in Housing Units	3.41			

Health

Physician Ratio	915			
Nurse Ratio	169			
Dentist Ratio	6,060			
Infant Mortality Rate	12.5			
Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,323			
Mortality Rate due to Cancer	940			
Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	212			

Sampson County

Sampson County was established in 1784 by the North Carolina General Assembly from an area taken from neighboring Duplin County. Sampson County currently has the largest land-mass of all counties in North Carolina, 945.45 square miles (U.S. Census Bureau, 2006).

Sampson County has a population of 63,375 (2005) and has a projected growth through 2010 that is above the regional average. The county has a large Hispanic population, which will continue to grow. In 1990, the Hispanic population was 729. In 2000, that population had increased to 6,477; a 791 percent increase. The county's unemployment and crime rates are below the regional average.

In 2005, Farm Futures Magazine rated Sampson County the number one best place to farm out of 3,006 agricultural counties in the United States. The report took into consideration data from the 1987 to 2002 Census of Agriculture and determined the best and most profitable places to farm across the country.

In the area of education, Sampson County is below the regional average on almost all indicators including residents with a high school diploma or higher and per pupil expenditures. The county is working on two initiatives to address education: an Early College Program where students can opt out of high school to attend Sampson Community College for a total of five years to earn a high school diploma and an associates degree; and an Articulation Agreement where students can earn a four-year nursing degree while staying at one campus in the county.

Sampson County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	63,375		●	
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	5.34		●	
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	8.18		—●	
Percent White Population (2005)	68.03		●	
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	31.97		●	
Percent Child Population (2005)	25.63		—●	

Sampson County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	69.1			
	Percent With Associate Degree	6.2			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	11.1			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	5.57			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$921.77			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$6,911.16			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$4.98			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$9,829.75			
	Net Commuting	-5,948			
	Unemployment Rate	5.1			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$21,447			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$0.93			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	16.9			
	Percent Children in Poverty	23.8			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	21.5			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	14.3			
	Percent Children in Childcare	12.6			
	Violent Crime Rate	313.3			
	Property Crime Rate	3,203.2			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	1.9			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	73.5			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$76,700			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	10.2			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	1.8			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	1.37			

Health	Physician Ratio	1,247			
	Nurse Ratio	189			
	Dentist Ratio	6,360			
	Infant Mortality Rate	8.6			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,223			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,067			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	241			

Scotland County

Scotland County is tucked in the most southwestern part of the region with approximately half of its residents living in one municipality, Laurinburg. As one of the smallest counties in area in the region, its compactness has provided a good network of community service that is accessible to the resident population.




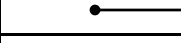
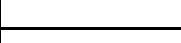
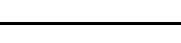
The county has experienced difficult economic times recently as several industries have left. The jobs available are predominantly low-tech, manual labor type positions that do not require much more than a high school education. In order to upgrade the county's ability to provide job-ready training for the local workforce, the Community College has identified a new campus location. Funding is being sought to construct the facilities at the new site. Until this is accomplished, new industrial recruitment is not expected to take place.

The infrastructure priority for the county is creating easier access to I-95 by the end of 2008. The I-73/74 corridor is also being pushed in order to serve the county's two industrial parks as both have excess water, sewer and gas capacity. The completion of these projects will allow the county to have interstate access in all directions.

To bolster the graduation rate within the school system, the high school has been reorganized into six separated schools within the one high school. This has allowed increased access to principals, teachers and counselors. This approach is considered a model for the state.

Scotland County is focused on lowering the tax rate without sacrificing its strong commitment to schools. Some governmental downsizing and a greater state commitment on Medicaid relief is seen as the best option to lower the tax rate and ultimately build up the local industrial base.

Scotland County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	37,060			
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	2.95			
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	2.19			
Percent White Population (2005)	50.67			
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	49.33			
Percent Child Population (2005)	26.55			

Scotland County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	71.4			
	Percent With Associate Degree	6			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	15.9			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	4.70			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,544.72			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$8,518.14			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$6.11			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$10,938.69			
	Net Commuting	2,380			
	Unemployment Rate	10.1			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$21,529			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.07			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	18.8			
	Percent Children in Poverty	27.9			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	17.2			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	20.4			
	Percent Children in Childcare	16			
	Violent Crime Rate	402.9			
	Property Crime Rate	5,191.4			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	4.7			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	69.2			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$73,200			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	7			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	2.2			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	7.34			

Health	Physician Ratio	661			
	Nurse Ratio	114			
	Dentist Ratio	3,966			
	Infant Mortality Rate	12.8			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,448			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,058			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	211			

Tyrrell County

Tyrrell County has had some of the lowest socio-economic indicators of any county in the state for a couple of decades and continues to have the smallest population. There is evidence that these numbers may be changing.

Expanding US 64 to four lanes is having a positive influence on the county. Property values are rising, three large subdivisions are underway and the number of small businesses, gift shops and restaurants are increasing. A new reverse-osmosis water plant is in place and another is coming soon. A sewer system is being planned for the Bulls Bay area. Both water and sewer improvements will facilitate growth. The 4-H Center should attract more usage as it adds new lodges in the future.

In the education indicator, Tyrrell County has a below average rate of residents with high school diplomas and higher, and an above average school drop out rate. Because Tyrrell County is the smallest county in North Carolina (population 4,180) and has a small tax-base, it does not have the fiscal resources, such as impact fees, to help with the local share of education expenditures. While the overall crime rate is very low, juvenile delinquency is high, possibly due to the lack of structured activities in the county and a lack of recreational facilities at the schools.

The county's housing stock is old and many units are substandard, but the county has Community Development Block Grant programs in place for scattered site and concentrated needs to help address this problem. Currently, there is only one doctor in the county and no dentists.

Tyrrell County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	4,180			
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	0.75			
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	2.51			
Percent White Population (2005)	58.44			
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	41.56			
Percent Child Population (2005)	19.52			

Tyrrell County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	66.3			
	Percent With Associate Degree	4.6			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	10.6			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	8.08			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,315.86			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$12,533.43			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$5.07			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$5,125.76			
	Net Commuting	-204			
	Unemployment Rate	5.1			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$19,082			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.50			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	21.9			
	Percent Children in Poverty	31.3			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	20.8			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	16.6			
	Percent Children in Childcare	11.6			
	Violent Crime Rate	189.3			
	Property Crime Rate	1,632.7			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	4.5			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	74.9			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$59,000			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	18.4			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	5.3			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	0.16			

Health	Physician Ratio	4,246			
	Nurse Ratio	386			
	Dentist Ratio	-			
	Infant Mortality Rate	13.5			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,512			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,724			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	118			

Washington County

Washington County's current population is only 3,400 people more than its population at the beginning of last century. Its dependence on agriculture and lumber-related activities has caused the population to stagnate, but change may be on the way.

The loss of businesses and industries began in the 1990s and continues today, especially with downsizing at Weyerhaeuser. Young people leave the county early, as the county has no community college and Beaufort and Martin offer few course selections there. Efforts are underway to expand the offerings of the community colleges and develop a satellite campus of East Carolina University.

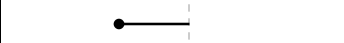
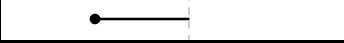
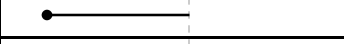
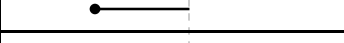
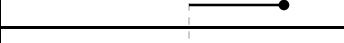
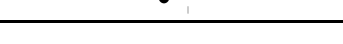
Washington's social fabric is straining with the highest teen pregnancy rate in the state and poverty and unemployment rates above the regional average. It is burdened with a high percentage of large, single-parent households. The Health Department is working with schools and churches to change many of the social and health indicators. The Health Department and the hospital are working to recruit doctors, nurses and dentists to the area.

Washington County's housing stock is relatively old and the median value is below the regional median. The last subdivision of 100 or more homes was developed 12 years ago.

On the positive side, two waterfront developments are underway that will bring higher valued homes to the county, though the county must install a sewer system to accommodate this growth. The widening of US 64 to four lanes, a new US 64 by-pass and a connector from that to NC 32 should all help attract new commercial and light industrial tenants and residents.

The Navy's proposed Outlying Landing Field (OLF) issue is symptomatic of the crossroads at which Washington County stands: it can wilt under the weight of jet noise and poverty indicators or it can reinvent itself as a vital business center with a resort feel.

Washington County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	13,428			
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	-2.15			
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	-2.22			
Percent White Population (2005)	48.76			
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	51.24			
Percent Child Population (2005)	23.79			

Washington County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education

Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	69.9			
Percent With Associate Degree	4.1			
Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	11.6			
Public School Drop Out Rate	5.46			
Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,325.51			
Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$10,180.63			

Economy

Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$6.39			
Per Capita Retail Sales	\$8,586.72			
Net Commuting	26			
Unemployment Rate	6.5			
Per Capita Personal Income	\$21,239			
Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.26			

Social/Family

Percent in Poverty	19.7			
Percent Children in Poverty	30.6			
Percent Elders in Poverty	19.2			
Percent Female Householders with Children	18.8			
Percent Children in Childcare	14.9			
Violent Crime Rate	Unknown			
Property Crime Rate	Unknown			
Percent Delinquent Juveniles	2.3			

Housing

Home Ownership Rate	73.6			
Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$69,400			
Percent Houses Built Before 1940	12.5			
Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	2.1			
Percent Increase in Housing Units	1.05			

Health

Physician Ratio	1,344			
Nurse Ratio	201			
Dentist Ratio	4,478			
Infant Mortality Rate	14.2			
Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,801			
Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,260			
Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	207			

Wayne County

Wayne County's slow growth rate may change soon. A major reason is the latest change in the Base Realignment and Closure report – Seymour Johnson Air Force Base will not only stay open, it is expected to increase by approximately 200 airmen. Growth rate may also increase because of road improvements: the US 70 by-pass around Clayton will make the commute from Wayne to the Triangle much shorter and the US 117 by-pass from Goldsboro to Wilson will soon be complete. And, new job opportunities will improve the growth rate – a new airplane parts company, employing 125, just announced it will move to Wayne County.

Many opportunities for education beyond high school exist. Wayne Community College is a larger school in the area and offers many continuing education curricula. Mount Olive College is another and North Carolina Wesleyan has a campus in Goldsboro. Courses are available at Seymour Johnson AFB from several other institutions as well.

Wayne County has a relatively high rate of children enrolled in day care. Part of the reason is its Work First program that requires some mothers to enter the work force. The Smart Start program in Wayne County is also well regarded.

The number of substandard housing units in the county is low due in part to an aggressive public housing program in Goldsboro that has replaced dilapidated units with new, adequate units. The number of mobile and manufactured housing parks being developed has dropped off significantly in the last three years.

Wayne County's health indicators are all near the regional average. The county has a mobile clinic called WATCH, staffed with a physician assistant, which travels throughout the county providing health care to people without easy access.

Wayne County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	115,596			●
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	2	●		
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	2.84	●		
Percent White Population (2005)	63.91		●	
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	36.09		●	
Percent Child Population (2005)	25.48			●

Wayne County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	77.2			
	Percent With Associate Degree	7.8			
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	15			
	Public School Drop Out Rate	5.36			
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,215			
	Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$6,994.77			

Economy	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$4.84			
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$11,462.76			
	Net Commuting	-2,092			
	Unemployment Rate	5.7			
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$23,584			
	Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$0.78			

Social/Family	Percent in Poverty	15			
	Percent Children in Poverty	21.3			
	Percent Elders in Poverty	15.2			
	Percent Female Householders with Children	15.4			
	Percent Children in Childcare	18			
	Violent Crime Rate	497.4			
	Property Crime Rate	4,410.3			
	Percent Delinquent Juveniles	3			

Housing	Home Ownership Rate	65.4			
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$87,600			
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	7.8			
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	1.1			
	Percent Increase in Housing Units	5.31			

Health	Physician Ratio	627			
	Nurse Ratio	117			
	Dentist Ratio	2,669			
	Infant Mortality Rate	10.6			
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,296			
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,038			
	Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	195			

Wilson County

Wilson County's growth rates have been somewhat lower than the region's. This should change soon because of transportation improvements. The US 64 by-pass of Knightdale has shortened the commute to the Triangle. The US 264 by-pass of the City of Wilson, the US 117 by-pass from Goldsboro to Wilson, and the US 70 by-pass around Clayton have all shortened commutes among cities in those areas.

Local per pupil expenditures for schools are close to the regional average. This number will not increase until the tax base grows. Spending for capital needs has been high, as the county has invested over \$49 million in the last 10 years via bonds and installment financing. The county grows at a rate of one new school every three years. Wilson County schools perform at a high level on standardized tests.

Unemployment is high, due mostly to the county's historical dependence on agribusiness. Most job losses from recent plant closings have been replaced by new industries or expansions in existing plants, though most of the new jobs pay less.

Retail opportunities for residents are increasing. The county and City of Wilson recently provided financial incentives to lure Target to the community. Emphasis on retail growth will enable the county to prevent some leakage of its residents' disposable incomes to such places as Raleigh, Smithfield and Greenville.

The home ownership rate is low, again due in part to the agribusiness traditions of the county. Families have incomes, but little in savings for house down payments. The county also has a high transient Hispanic population that usually rents housing.

Wilson County Population Information

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.
Total Population (July 2005)	77,042			●
Percent Population Growth (2000-05)	4.37	●		
Projected Population Growth (2005-10)	4.40	●		
Percent White Population (2005)	58.57	●		
Percent Non-White Population (2005)	41.43			●
Percent Child Population (2005)	24.91			●

Wilson County Profile

Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison		
		Below Avg.	Average	Above Avg.

Education	Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison
	Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	69.4	
	Percent With Associate Degree	5.1	
	Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher	15.1	
	Public School Drop Out Rate	5.21	
	Local Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,447.52	
Total Per Pupil Expenditure	\$7,067.58		

Economy	Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison
	Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$5.32	
	Per Capita Retail Sales	\$16,076	
	Net Commuting	3,288	
	Unemployment Rate	8.4	
	Per Capita Personal Income	\$25,121	
Local Government Revenue Per Capita	\$1.05		

Social/Family	Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison
	Percent in Poverty	16.7	
	Percent Children in Poverty	23.4	
	Percent Elders in Poverty	21.3	
	Percent Female Householders with Children	16.5	
	Percent Children in Childcare	19.6	
	Violent Crime Rate	299.8	
	Property Crime Rate	3,260	
Percent Delinquent Juveniles	2.9		

Housing	Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison
	Home Ownership Rate	61.2	
	Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units	\$86,400	
	Percent Houses Built Before 1940	9.9	
	Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing	1.4	
Percent Increase in Housing Units	8		

Health	Indicator	County Value	Regional Comparison
	Physician Ratio	720	
	Nurse Ratio	123	
	Dentist Ratio	3,634	
	Infant Mortality Rate	11.3	
	Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease	1,274	
	Mortality Rate due to Cancer	1,039	
Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus	168		

Glossary

The following information includes definitions of each indicator, separated by the six main categories in this report. Each definition also includes the source of the information as well as the Website where specific data were found. In some instances, two sources were used in order to calculate statistics presented in this report. In those instances, both sources and Websites are listed with each definition.

Demographics

- Total Population** – Projected population of all residents in a county as of July 2005 by the State Demographer of North Carolina. Projections are based on certain assumptions about long-term trends in data that are not yet available to establish a certified estimate of the current resident number in a non-census year. Population changes are the direct result of a combination of births/deaths and in-migration and out-migration.
Source: Economic Development Information System
Website: <http://cmedis.commerce.state.nc.us/countyprofiles>
- Percent Population Growth** – The percentage change in total residents within a county comparing the 2000 census year as the base with the July 2005 projection number.
Source : U.S. Census Bureau and Economic Development Information System
Website: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/37000.html>
Source: Economic Development Information System
Website: <http://cmedis.commerce.state.nc.us/countyprofiles>
- Projected Population Growth** – The percentage change in total residents within a county comparing the July 2005 projected population and the 2010 projection number.
Website: <http://cmedis.commerce.state.nc.us/countyprofiles>
Source: North Carolina State Demographics
Website: <http://demog.state.nc.us/demog/grow0010.html>
- Percent White Population** – A projection of the 2000 Census respondents who self-identified as “White” and the percentage share of the 2005 projected population.
Source: North Carolina State Demographics
Website: <http://demog.state.nc.us>
Source: Economic Development Information System
Website: <http://cmedis.commerce.state.nc.us/countyprofiles>

- **Percent Non-White Population** – Projection of respondents who did not self-identify as “White” in the 2000 Census and the percentage share of the 2005 projected population.
Source: North Carolina State Demographics
Website: <http://demog.state.nc.us>
Source: Economic Development Information System
Website: <http://cmedis.commerce.state.nc.us/countyprofiles>
- **Percent Child Population** – Projection of the child population (0-17 years) based upon residents aged 0-17 years of age on Census day, plus birth records and other post-2000 certified data records used for estimates.
Source: North Carolina State Demographics
Website: <http://demog.state.nc.us>
Source: Economic Development Information System
Website: <http://cmedis.commerce.state.nc.us/countyprofiles>

Education

- **Percent with High School Diploma or Higher** – As of April 2000, proportionate number of total residents, 25 years of age or older, whose highest degree was a high school diploma or its equivalent, as well as people who attended college or professional school, and residents who held a college, university, or professional degree. Residents who completed the 12th, grade but did not receive a diploma are not considered graduates.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Website: <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html>
- **Percent with Associate Degree** – Proportionate number of total residents, 25 years of age or older, who had attained an associate level degree or its equivalent as of April 2000.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Website: <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html>
- **Percent with Bachelor Degrees or Higher** – Proportionate number of total residents, 25 years of age or older, as of April 2000 whose highest degree was a bachelor’s degree diploma from a college or university, or a master’s, professional or doctorate degree.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Website: <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html>
- **Public School Drop Out Rate** – The number of dropouts within the public school system(s) within a county divided by the adjusted average daily membership for the school year. The rates shown are duplicated rates. The duplicated count of dropouts includes all students who fit the definition of a dropout for the reporting year, regardless of whether or not they had also been reported as dropouts in previous years. These rates also include students who withdrew from school to pursue community college GED or adult high school diploma programs.
Source: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
Website: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/fbs/stats/statprofile05.pdf>

- Local Per Pupil Expenditure** – The current (2004-2005) local expenditures connected with daily operation of public schools (not inclusive of charter schools) for the corresponding school year, divided by the average daily membership for 2004-2005. Local expenditures are not synonymous with the amounts expended by local county government units. All expenditures not funded by state and federal governments are regarded as “local” expenditures. These include all funds supplied by local governments, as well as other local sources. The expenditures include the Child Nutrition Program.
Source: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
Website: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/fbs/SelectFinData/sfd04-05.pdf>
- Total Per Pupil Expenditure** – The current (2004-2005) sum of all expenditures (federal, state, local) connected with daily operation of public schools (not inclusive of charter schools) for the corresponding school year divided by the average daily membership for 2004-2005. Local expenditures are not synonymous with the amounts expended by local county government units. All expenditures not funded by state and federal governments are regarded as “local” expenditures. These include all funds supplied by local governments, as well as other local sources. The expenditures include the Child Nutrition Program.
Source: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
Website: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/fbs/SelectFinData/sfd04-05.pdf>

Economy

- Per Capita Transfer Payments** – The total of all income payments to residents, generally in monetary form, for which they did not render current services, divided by the estimated 2003 county population. These payments are by government and business to individuals and non-profit institutions. They include payments for retirement, disability and health insurance benefits; unemployment insurance payments; educational and training assistance payments; income maintenance payments; other payments to individual civilians; government payments to retired military personnel, veterans and their dependents; payments to non-profit institutions; and business transfers to individuals.
Source: North Carolina State Demographics
Website: http://data.osbm.state.nc.us/pls/linc/dyn_linc_report.show?p_arg_names=geoid&p_arg_values=7,allco,&p_arg_names=count&p_arg_values=2&p_arg_names=varid&p_arg_values=3011,&p_arg_names=countv&p_arg_values=1&p_arg_names=year&p_arg_values=2003,&p_arg_names=count_y&p_arg_values=1
- Per Capita Retail Sales** – Gross retail sales representing the total taxable and non-taxable sales reported on the sales and use tax report forms filed during fiscal year 2004-2005 (June 1 through May 31) divided by the estimated July 2005 population of the county.
Source: North Carolina Department of Revenue
Website: <http://www.dor.state.nc.us/publications/FY04-05SalesUseStats.xls>
Source: Economic Development Information System
Website: <http://cmedis.commerce.state.nc.us/countyprofiles>

- Net Commuting** – The number of residents that reside in another county but come into a county for employment, compared with the number of residents leaving the county for employment in 2000.
 Source: North Carolina State Demographics
 Website: http://data.osbm.state.nc.us/commute/commute_00_CoSumm.pdf
- Unemployment Rate** – The number of unemployed residents divided by the civilian labor force in August 2005. The civilian labor force is the total employed, plus the number of unemployed residents within the county.
 Source: Economic Development Information System
 Website: <http://cmedis.commerce.state.nc.us/countyprofiles>
- Per Capita Personal Income** – The estimated amount of total money income per residents received during the calendar year (2003) within the county. The estimate is based upon the 2000 decennial census updated with changes based on reports from several sources including the Internal Revenue Service and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Total personal income is defined as the sum of wage and salary income, net non-farm self-employment, interest, net rental income, pensions and regularly received transfer payments. Not counted in personal income is the receipt of “lump-sum” payments such as inheritances and capital gains and in-kind payments such as food stamps.
 Source: Economic Development Information System
 Website: <http://cmedis.commerce.state.nc.us/countyprofiles>
- Local Government Revenue Per Capita** – The total county revenue in a fiscal year, including intergovernmental revenue from federal and state sources as well as revenue from county sources (primarily tax revenues). The total figure also includes utility, Alcohol Beverage Control store and employee retirement revenue. Revenues include all amounts of money received by the local government and its agencies from external sources other than from the issuance of debt, liquidation of debts and as agency and private trust transactions. Revenues do not include non-cash transactions, such as receipt of services, commodities or other “receipts in-kind.” The data is obtained in part from the Annual Financial Information Report submitted annually by each local government. The 2004 figure is divided by the estimated population estimate for each county.
 Source: North Carolina State Demographics
 Website: http://data.osbm.state.nc.us/pls/linc/dyn_linc_report.show?p_arg_names=geoid&p_arg_values=allco,&p_arg_names=count&p_arg_values=1&p_arg_names=varid&p_arg_values=5112,&p_arg_names=countv&p_arg_values=1&p_arg_names=year&p_arg_values=2004,&p_arg_names=count_y&p_arg_values=1
 Source: Economic Development Information System
 Website: <http://cmedis.commerce.state.nc.us/countyprofiles>

Social/Family

- **Percent in Poverty** – An estimate on the proportion of people in 2003 within the county that have personal income (before taxes and does not include capital gains or non-cash benefits such as public housing, Medicaid and food stamps) below the established threshold for their family size. Thresholds are established on an annual basis using the Consumer Price Index. Estimates in non-decennial years establish a range based on the level of confidence. For the purpose of this report, the mid-point of the range was used for each county.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Website: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/county.html>
- **Percent Children in Poverty** – An estimate on the proportion of children under 18 within the County in 2003 who live in families with personal income (before taxes and does not include capital gains or non-cash benefits such as public housing, Medicaid and food stamps) below the established threshold for their family size. Thresholds are established on an annual basis using the Consumer Price Index. Estimates in non-decennial years establish a range based on the level of confidence. For the purpose of this report, the mid-point of the range was used for each county.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Website: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/county.html>
- **Percent Elders in Poverty** – The proportion of residents 65 years of age or older as of April 1, 2000 within a county who live in households with personal income (before taxes and does not include capital gains or non-cash benefits such as public housing, Medicaid and food stamps) below the established threshold for their family size.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Website: http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/SAFFFacts?_event=Search&geo_id=&_geoContext=&_street=&_county=&_cityTown=&_state=04000US37&_zip=&_lang=en&_sse=on&pctxt=fph&pgsl=010
- **Percent Female Householders with Children** – The proportion of families with a female householder, with no husband present and with their own children under 18 years of age as April 1, 2000. A householder refers to the person (or one of the people) in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented (maintained) or, if there is no person, any adult member, excluding roomers, boarders or paid employees. Should the house be owned or rented jointly by a married couple, the householder may be either the husband or the wife. The person designated as the householder is the “reference person” to whom the relationship of all other household members, if any, is recorded.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Website: http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/GCTTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=04000US37&_box_head_nbr=GCT-P7&-ds_name=DEC_2000_SF1_U&-format=ST-2

- Percent Children in Childcare** – The proportion of children 12 and under in 2003 enrolled in regulated child care monitored by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development. Such types of care include licensed child care providers, religious sponsored programs and providers with temporary or provisional licenses.

Source: North Carolina Child Advocacy Institute
 Website: <http://www.ncchild.org/content/view/109/109/lang,iso-8859-1>
- Violent Crime Rate** – The 2004 rate of crimes defined as violent per 100,000 residents as reported by law enforcement agencies within the state of North Carolina. Violent crimes include murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. The rate is reported as an index for purposes of comparison.

Source: North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation Division of Criminal Information
 Website: <http://sbi2.jus.state.nc.us/crp/public/2004/Publications/2004%20Annual%20Summary.pdf>
- Property Crime Rate** – The 2004 rate of crimes defined as property-related per 100,000 residents as reported by law enforcement agencies within the state of North Carolina. Property crimes are reported as burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft. The rate is reported as an index for purpose of comparison.

Source: North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation Division of Criminal Information
 Website: <http://sbi2.jus.state.nc.us/crp/public/2004/Publications/2004%20Annual%20Summary.pdf>
- Percent Delinquent Juveniles** – The percent, out of 1,000 children ages 10-17, in a county that have been cited in a delinquent complaint resulting in referral to a community-based service program or the court system.

Source: The North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
 Website: <http://www.juvjus.state.nc.us/statistics/CountyDataBook.xls>

Housing

- Home Ownership Rate** – The proportion of the total housing stock within the county in which the owner or co-owner of the dwelling live in the unit as of April 1, 2000. The rate is inclusive of units even if the unit is not fully paid for or is mortgaged. The owner or co-owner need not be the householder.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
 Website: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/37000.html>
- Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units** – The median value of housing units determined for specified owner-occupied dwelling units. For all owner-occupied units, this is the respondent's estimate of the current dollar value of the property as of April 1, 2000. Specified owner-occupied units exclude mobile homes and trailers, houses on 10 acres or more, houses with a commercial establishment or medical office on the property. The figure is inclusive of financial characteristics of single family condominiums.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
 Website: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/37000.html>

- Percent Houses Built Before 1940** – The proportion of housing units in the year 2000 within the jurisdiction identified as having been built prior to January 1, 1940.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Website: http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/GCTTable?_bm=y&geo_id=04000US37&_box_head_nbr=GCT-H7&ds_name=DEC_2000_SF3_U&format=ST-2
- Percent Occupied Housing with Incomplete Plumbing** – The proportion of the total occupied dwelling units within the county that lack complete plumbing facilities. There is no universally accepted definition for substandard housing, but units without complete plumbing is often used as one standard. Complete plumbing facilities include hot and cold piped water, a flush toilet and a bathtub or shower. Plumbing facilities shared with another household is equivalent to incomplete plumbing.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Website: http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/GCTTable?_bm=y&geo_id=04000US37&_box_head_nbr=GCT-H7&ds_name=DEC_2000_SF3_U&format=ST-2
- Percent Increase in Housing Units** – The total number of building permits for residential units (single- or multi-family) for each permitting jurisdiction within the county since 2000 as a proportion of the number of total housing units reported in 2000.
Source: SOCDS Building Permits Database
Website: <http://socds.huduser.org/permits>

Health

- Physician Ratio** – The number of residents per practicing physician based on the 2004 estimated population of the individual county.
Source: Economic Development Information System
Website: <http://cmedis.commerce.state.nc.us/countyprofiles>
- Nurse Ratio** – The number of residents per employed nurse based on the 2004 estimated population of the individual county.
Source: Economic Development Information System
Website: <http://cmedis.commerce.state.nc.us/countyprofiles>
- Dentist Ratio** – The number of residents per registered dentist based on the 2004 estimated population of the individual county.
Source: Economic Development Information System
Website: <http://cmedis.commerce.state.nc.us/countyprofiles>
- Infant Mortality Rate** – Calculated by dividing the number of infant deaths during a calendar year by the number of live births reported in the same year. It is expressed as the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births.
Source: North Carolina Child Advocacy Institute
Website: <http://www.ncchild.org/content/view/109/109/lang,iso-8859-1>

- **Mortality Rate due to Heart Disease** – The primary cause of death is attributed to a heart-related disease on individual death certificate per 100,000 people. Rates were derived using 2003 county populations.
Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics
Website: <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/databook/2005>
Source: North Carolina State Demographics
Website: http://data.osbm.state.nc.us/pls/linc/dyn_linc_report.show?p_arg_names=geoid&p_arg_values=allco,&p_arg_names=count&p_arg_values=1&p_arg_names=varid&p_arg_values=5001,&p_arg_names=countv&p_arg_values=1&p_arg_names=year&p_arg_values=2003,&p_arg_names=count_y&p_arg_values=1
- **Mortality Rate due to Cancer** – The primary cause of death is attributed to a cancer-based disease on individual death certificate per 100,000 people. Rates were derived using 2003 county populations.
Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics
Website: <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/databook/2005>
Source: North Carolina State Demographics
Website: http://data.osbm.state.nc.us/pls/linc/dyn_linc_report.show?p_arg_names=geoid&p_arg_values=allco,&p_arg_names=count&p_arg_values=1&p_arg_names=varid&p_arg_values=5001,&p_arg_names=countv&p_arg_values=1&p_arg_names=year&p_arg_values=2003,&p_arg_names=count_y&p_arg_values=1
- **Mortality Rate due to Diabetes Mellitus** – The primary cause of death is attributed to Diabetes Mellitus on individual death certificate per 100,000 people. Rates were derived using 2003 county populations.
Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics
Website: <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/databook/2005>
Source: North Carolina State Demographics
Website: http://data.osbm.state.nc.us/pls/linc/dyn_linc_report.show?p_arg_names=geoid&p_arg_values=allco,&p_arg_names=count&p_arg_values=1&p_arg_names=varid&p_arg_values=5001,&p_arg_names=countv&p_arg_values=1&p_arg_names=year&p_arg_values=2003,&p_arg_names=count_y&p_arg_values=1

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Bladen:	Greg Martin, county manager
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Chowan:	Cliff Copeland, county manager
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Craven:	Don Baumgardner, planning director
Cumberland:	Sara VanderClute, public information officer
Currituck:	Dan Scanlon, county manager
Dare:	Terry Wheeler, county manager Ray Sturza, planning director
Edgecombe:	Ola Pittman, planning director Eric Evans, community development administrator
Gates:	Tim Russell, county manager
Greene:	Don Davenport, county manager
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Harnett:	Neil Emory, county manager
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Hyde:	Kevin Howard, county manager
Johnston:	Rick Hester, county manager
Jones:	Larry Meadows, county manager
Lenoir:	Mike Jarman, county manager
Martin:	Russell Overman, county manager

Nash:	Bob Murphy, county manager
New Hanover:	Mark Boyer, public information officer
Northampton:	Wayne Jenkins, county manager
Onslow:	Frank Clifton, county manager
Pamlico:	Tim Buck, county manager Jayne Robb, planning and economic development director
Pasquotank:	Randy Keaton, county manager Shelley Cox, planning director Angie Wells, River City Community Development Corporation
Pender:	John Bauer, county manager
Perquimans:	Bobby Darden, county manager
Pitt:	Scott Elliott, county manager
Robeson:	Ken Windley, county manager
Sampson:	Scott Sauer, county manager
Scotland:	John Crumpton, county manager
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Wayne:	Connie Price, planning director
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East Carolina University
Regional Development Services
300 East First Street (Willis Building)
Greenville, NC 27858
Phone: 252-737-1380
Fax: 252-737-1381
www.ecu.edu/rds