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*Timely, accessible,
and credible
analysis of
state and local
budget and tax
issues*

Employment, Income & Poverty, 2006: Caldwell County

Labor Force

- Caldwell County's labor force, including employed and unemployed workers seeking employment, totaled 40,227 in 2006.
- The county's labor force *declined* by 5.1% between 2000 and 2006.

Unemployment

- Caldwell County's unemployment rate averaged 7.5% in 2006, compared to a statewide figure of 4.8%.
- Caldwell County's unemployment rate was higher in 2006 than it was in 2000.
- Some 3,031 people were unemployed and actively seeking work in Caldwell County in 2006, up from 1,240 people in 2000.

Income & Poverty

- Median household income in Caldwell County equaled \$34,052 in 2006 – an amount equivalent to 79.9% of the statewide figure.
- The county's per capita income of \$18,093 was \$4,852 less than the statewide level.
- The county's poverty rate of 14.9% was essentially the same as the statewide level of 14.7 percent.
- All together, 36.2% of the county's residents had incomes less than twice the federal poverty level (\$41,228 for a family of four).

Job Projections

- The Caldwell County area is expected to add 27,280 jobs between 2004 and 2014.
- Most of the jobs expected to add the most positions (e.g. cashiers, retail salespersons) offer low wages, few benefits and little upward mobility.
- The jobs expected to grow the most in percentage terms, like those in health fields, typically pay good wages but require workers with some type of postsecondary credential.
- Some 80% of the county's adults possessed no more than a high school degree in 2005.

Living Income Standard

- A working family with children needs to earn, on average, a total of \$15.85/hour to cover basic living expenses in Caldwell County.

