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

Employment, Income & Poverty, 2006: Guilford County

Labor Force

- Guilford County's labor force, including employed and unemployed workers seeking employment, totaled 246,850 in 2006.
- The county's labor force grew by 6% between 2000 and 2006.

Unemployment

- Guilford County's unemployment rate averaged 4.7% in 2006, compared to a statewide figure of 4.8%.
- Guilford County's unemployment rate was higher in 2006 than it was in 2000.
- Some 11,589 people were unemployed and actively seeking work in Guilford County in 2006, up from 7,659 people in 2000.

Income & Poverty

- Median household income in Guilford County equaled \$43,892 in 2006 – an amount equivalent to 103% of the statewide figure.
- The county's per capita income of \$24,806 was \$1,861 more than the statewide level.
- The county's poverty rate of 14.8% was essentially the same as the statewide level of 14.7 percent.
- All together, 32.3% of the county's residents had incomes less than twice the federal poverty level (\$41,228 for a family of four).

Job Projections

- The Guilford County area is expected to add 84,862 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 61% 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 \$17.39/hour to cover basic living expenses in Guilford County.

