

October 2007

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

Employment, Income & Poverty, 2006: New Hanover County

Labor Force

- New Hanover County's labor force, including employed and unemployed workers seeking employment, totaled 103,840 in 2006.
- The county's labor force rose by 18.5% between 2000 and 2006.

Unemployment

- New Hanover County's unemployment rate averaged 3.7% in 2006, compared to a statewide figure of 4.8%.
- New Hanover County's unemployment rate was unchanged between 2000 and 2006.
- Some 3,818 people were unemployed and actively seeking work in New Hanover County in 2006, up from 3,222 people in 2000.

Income & Poverty

- Median household income in New Hanover County equaled \$43,031 in 2006 – an amount equivalent to 101% of the statewide figure.
- The county's per capita income of \$28,303 was \$5,358 more than the statewide level.
- The county's poverty rate of 13.8% was less than the statewide level of 14.7 percent.
- All together, 33% of the county's residents had incomes less than twice the federal poverty level (\$41,228 for a family of four).

Job Projections

- The New Hanover County area is expected to gain 54,136 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 54% of the county's adults possess no more than a high school degree.

Living Income Standard

- A working family with children needs to earn, on average, a total of \$17.59/hour to cover basic living expenses in New Hanover County.

