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

Employment, Income & Poverty, 2006: Rowan County

Labor Force

- Rowan County's labor force, including employed and unemployed workers seeking employment, totaled 69,799 in 2006.
- The county's labor force rose by 6.6% between 2000 and 2006.

Unemployment

- Rowan County's unemployment rate averaged 5.0% in 2006, compared to a statewide figure of 4.8%.
- Rowan County's unemployment rate was higher in 2006, than it was in 2000.
- Some 3,518 people were unemployed and actively seeking work in Rowan County in 2006, up from 2,957 people in 2000.

Income & Poverty

- Median household income in Rowan County equaled \$43,307 in 2006 – an amount equivalent to 101.6% of the statewide figure.
- The county's per capita income of \$20,523 was \$2,422 less than the statewide level.
- The county's poverty rate of 14.1% was lower than the statewide level of 14.7 percent.
- All together, 35.2% of the county's residents had incomes less than twice the federal poverty level (\$41,228 for a family of four).

Job Projections

- The Rowan County area is expected to gain 88,266 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 74% 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, \$18.09/hour to cover basic living expenses in Rowan County.

