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

Employment, Income & Poverty, 2006: Wilson County

Labor Force

- Wilson County's labor force, including employed and unemployed workers seeking employment, totaled 40,129 in 2006.
- The county's labor force grew by 7.9% between 2000 and 2006.

Unemployment

- Wilson County's unemployment rate averaged 7.2% in 2006, compared to a statewide figure of 4.8%.
- Wilson County's unemployment rate was higher in 2006 than it was in 2000.
- Some 2,877 people were unemployed and actively seeking work in Wilson County in 2006, up from 2,089 people in 2000.

Income & Poverty

- Median household income in Wilson County equaled \$37,023 in 2006 – an amount equivalent to 86.9% of the statewide figure.
- The county's per capita income of \$20,337 was \$2,608 less than the statewide level.
- The county's poverty rate of 19.4% was higher than the statewide level of 14.7 percent.
- All together, 43.0% of the county's residents had incomes less than twice the federal poverty level (\$41,228 for a family of four).

Job Projections

- The Wilson County area is expected to add 30,948 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 75% 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 \$15.33/hour to cover basic living expenses in Wilson County.

