



September, 2017

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New Report on the North Carolina Economy Published

The Labor & Economic Analysis team at the Department of Commerce recently published a new report on the North Carolina economy in 2016. The report looks at several key economic indicators for the state, including population and labor force growth, unemployment and wage trends, industry and GDP changes, and projected employment.

Key trends identified in the state include:

- Labor force and general population growth rates are strong, but slowing. North Carolina's 2016 population growth rate (1.1%) is down from its 2.4% peak prior to the Recession, but has consistently remained higher than the U.S. over that time. Mecklenburg and Wake Counties accounted for 41% of the state's net 2016 population increase. Labor force growth in North Carolina (8%) has outpaced the U.S. (4%) since 2007 - ranking 6th among the 50 states for labor force growth rate since the recession.
- We're aging rapidly. In 2016, 15% of North Carolina's total population was 65 or older - and is projected to be 21% by 2034.
- Unemployment continues to decline. North Carolina's average annual unemployment rate fell by 0.7 percentage points (to 5.1%) in 2016 versus a national decline of 0.4 (to 4.9%).
- Job growth is strong. North Carolina added 99,000 net new jobs over the past year to reach an annual average of over 4.26 million jobs, an increase of 2.4%. Service-Providing industries contributed 85% of the net new jobs. Since 2006, North Carolina's metropolitan areas (+9%) and Service-Providing (+14%) industries have increased jobs, while non-metro (-5%) and Goods-Producing (-16%) industries remain below their pre-recession levels.
- NC's largest sector by employment is Health Care and Social Assistance at over 600,000 jobs, followed by Retail Trade at over 500,000 jobs. Manufacturing is third at about 465,000 jobs.
- North Carolina had the 10th largest economy by GDP in the U.S. in 2016 at nearly \$518 billion, increasing 1.6% from 2015 - higher than the U.S. rate (1.5%) but lower than NC's 2015 rate (2.7%).
- North Carolina is projected to add more than 550,000 jobs by 2024, with Service-Providing industries projected to contribute nearly 90% of all net new jobs created. Most projected total job openings are expected to come from replacements rather than new growth.
- Jobs requiring post-secondary or college experience are projected to grow more quickly (15%) than those that only require a high school diploma (11%) and will make up over 35% of all jobs in 2024.
- Jobs in occupations paying over \$75,000 are projected to grow faster than those under \$30,000; but, the number of net new low-paying jobs are still projected to outnumber high-paying ones by 3 to 1.

The report can be found online at nccommerce.com.

Source: nccommerce.com

Board of Directors

Officers

Joseph Wiggins, *Chief Elected Official*, Carla Byrnes, *Chair*
Al Searles, *Vice Chair*, Bill Green, *Secretary/Treasurer*



Vision

Our vision for the eastern counties of North Carolina is a highly skilled workforce with an educational attainment level that meets the needs of the 21st Century workplace, so that local firms can compete in a technologically advanced global economy.

Mission

Our mission is to ensure that our workforce development system is customer-focused, demand-driven and accountable in preparing our current and future workforce to meet the changing needs of a highly-competitive global economy.

Value Added

We add economic value to our communities by ensuring that quality education, job training, and employment opportunities are available for job/training seekers and employers alike, thereby improving the quality of life for our citizens throughout eastern North Carolina.

Key Strategies

- Create an integrated, seamless, and customer-centered workforce system.
- Engage business and community leaders in addressing workforce issues that promote strategies to improve education levels and basic workplace skills.
- Strengthen alliances with economic development to identify and address the workforce needs of current and future industries.
- Develop and implement a community awareness plan that promotes the WDB, NCWorks Career Centers, and partner services.
- Identify and implement effective employment and training strategies that result in employment opportunities for all citizens.
- Build the capacity of the Consortium, Eastern Carolina WDB, staff, and NCWorks Career Center staff and partners.

Carteret County

Bob Cavanaugh, *Commissioner*

Paula Dickson, *Coastal Community Action, Executive Director*

Dwayne Oglesby, *Fleet Readiness Center East, Organization & Workforce Planner & Analyst*

Mike Kraszeski, *Atlantic Veneer, President*

Craven County

Johnny Sampson, *Commissioner*

Anthony Cruz, *International Machinist & Aerospace Workers Union, Labor Representative*

Bill Green, *BB&T, Vice President*

John Wilson, *BSH Home Appliance, Human Resources Manager*

Duplin County

Kennedy Thompson, *Commissioner*

Dr. Lawrence Rouse, *James Sprunt Community College, President*

Al Searles, *Murphy Brown, LLC, VP, Transportation*

James Wolfe, *Duplin County Economic Development Corporation, Executive Director*

Greene County

Jerry Jones, *Commissioner*

Angela Bates, *Greene Lamp, Inc., Executive Director*

Judy Darden, *Darden Bookkeeping, Owner*

Ray Holloman, *JAK Moulding & Supply, Sales Manager*

Jones County

Joseph Wiggins, *Chief Elected Official*

Frank Emory, *Emory Construction, Owner*

David Hill, *DP Hill Manufacturing, Owner*

Dr. Norma Sermon-Boyd, *Jones County Partnership for Children, Director*

Lenoir County

Roland Best, *Commissioner*

Jeff Harrison, *Lenoir County Department of Social Services, Director*

Bruce Parson, *Blind Shop, Owner*

Dr. Rusty Hunt, *Lenoir County Community College, President*

Onslow County

Mark Price, *Commissioner*

Rick Stout, *Onslow County Schools, Superintendent*

Shannon Vitak, *Vocational Rehabilitation, Manager*

Karl Zurl, *NC Department of Commerce, Division of Workforce Solutions, Southeast Regional Operations Director*

Pamlico County

Candy Bohmert, *Commissioner*

Carla Byrnes, *B & B Yacht Designs, Co-Owner*

John Deaton, *Deaton Yacht Services, Owner*

Dr. Jim Ross, *Pamlico Community College, President*

Wayne County

Bill Pate, *Commissioner*

Fletcher Bizzell, *Wayne Opportunities, Board Director*

Charles Brogden, *Franklin Bakery, Human Resources Manager*

Melanie Sanders, *Caswell Center, Human Resources*

A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Colleagues,

I trust that everyone had a well-deserved Labor Day holiday.

As I am writing this, I can't help but share that I am feeling heavy-hearted for our friends in Texas. Watching the devastating effects of Hurricane Harvey and seeing the destruction left behind is something that many of us can relate to from dealing with past hurricanes that have impacted our area. As we are still winding down from the clean-up efforts from Hurricane Matthew, we now find ourselves on guard again, as all eyes are on Hurricane Irma.

Through the midst of these powerful storms, we are reminded that we all need each other and rely on each other when it matters. So while my heart and prayers are directed to those who have been impacted by these storms, I am also filled with gratitude seeing how everyone comes together to support each other in our times of need, and how folks are always willing to roll up their sleeves and go to work.

As Texans are now in the clean-up and recovery phase, we see the generosity of folks all over the Country (and World) chipping in to help where they can. This my friends reflects the beauty of diversity, which is led by the heart, and driven by the determination of the American Spirit, where all skills sets are needed, and people are valued for their contributions no matter how large or small.

In honor of the Labor Day holiday that we just observed, let us take time to reflect on the value of every worker and the unique talents and skill sets that they bring to our workforce.

Blessings,

Tammy Childers

"All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence."

—Dr. Martin Luther King

ECWDB Sponsors NCWorks Training Session

The Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board sponsored a training session titled "NCWorks – Delivering, Serving, and Excelling in Customer Service" for WIOA staff and partners. To accommodate staff and ensure coverage in our NCWorks Centers, sessions were held over two days, Monday, August 21 and Tuesday, August 22. Participants were exposed to different aspects of customer service and how to better serve our clients, both job seekers and businesses.

Jennie Bowen, Director, Region Q Workforce Development Board, and Jennifer Polk, Manager, NCWorks Duplin and Wayne Career Centers, delivered an interactive training session titled "Excelling in Customer Service through Integrated Service Delivery 2.0." The speakers went into detail about the NCWorks integrated service delivery model based on 4 tenets: Customer Service, Shared Performance & Accountability, Communication and Staff Development and training. They shared best practices from their own centers to give the audience a better understanding of what integrated service should be. Their presentation included an activity where participants wrote down suggestions on how they could implement each tenet at their locations.

In addition, Mr. Mose Dorsey, WIOA Equal Opportunity Officer, Division of Workforce Solutions, North Carolina Department of Commerce, presented "Delivering Universal Access and Ensuring Equal Opportunity" and "Serving Customers with Limited English Proficiency." Mr. Dorsey reviewed the laws and regulations surrounding equal opportunity in the workplace and the equal opportunity reporting requirements under WIOA. He also emphasized the importance of confidentiality and how to ensure it, and discussed complaint procedures. Mr. Dorsey combined this training with a session addressing limited English proficiency where he emphasized how globally minded we should all be with our clients and each other, and how to sympathetically work with customers who cannot speak, or have limited proficiency in, English. Mr. Dorsey shared that in addition to Spanish speaking communities, there are large populations of Chinese, Mandarin and French speakers in North Carolina.

Source: ECWDB



STEMEast Launches Virtual Community Connecting Educators and Employers

Eastern North Carolina has long embraced the importance of STEM education in developing skilled labor. STEMEast was initiated in 2009 to establish a network that would develop talent beginning in middle school. Overwhelming research shows that middle school is the pivotal point at which students turn on or off to education in preparing for their future. By engaging students in a learning environment that favors a workplace engineering lab and changing the instructional method to hands-on, team-oriented learning modules that connect to possible careers, students are learning in a whole new way. Students are developing specific skills they will need to find a job in just a few years and employers are cultivating a pipeline of qualified talent.

To further its goal of building a pipeline of qualified talent by starting in the classroom, the STEMEast Network has introduced STEMEast Connect, which is an online community that enables STEM professionals to inspire students through virtual, skill-based volunteering. Classrooms can connect with STEM professionals for live, interactive sessions. STEMEast Connect allows educators to bring real world examples and experiences directly into the classroom through these virtual connections. The STEMEast Network utilizes resources made available through Department of Defense STEM outreach support to introduce the STEMEast Connect platform across the network of STEMEast schools.

Educators can use the STEMEast Connect platform to request STEM experts to help support classroom activities. The STEMEast Connect

network automatically matches each teacher's request to the skills of professionals in the database and schedules the virtual collaboration. This collaboration can take many forms such as topic presentations, project mentoring, virtual tours, industry chats, project evaluations, project-based learning, and genius hour where students can explore their own interests and passions with the help of a STEM professional while never having to leave the classroom. Due to the virtual nature of the platform, schools and STEM professionals can engage without having to disrupt large portions of their days when hosting a visit to their facility.

The exploration, adoption and launch of STEMEast Connect is fully supported by STEMEast Network Employers and Superintendents Council, which is the governing body for the STEMEast Network and includes network school superintendents and industry leaders that support STEM education in eastern North Carolina. "STEMEast Connect opens the door for true collaboration between our educators and employers. It creates a mutually beneficial relationship between the two where educators can rely on industry and other professionals to reinforce lessons while industries get an opportunity to introduce themselves to their future workforce", stated STEMEast Executive Director Bruce Middleton.

Source: nceast.org



Helping companies expand education outreach

We match employee's skills to classroom and curriculum needs to create meaningful virtual interactions with the next generation of workers anywhere, anytime. We make it possible to implement skills-based volunteering. Find out how you can get involved by visiting:

<https://stemeastconnect.nepris.com/>

Share your skills with the next generation

Without leaving your office, connect with classrooms to provide insight into your world of work, apply your skills to explain, mentor or evaluate student projects and introduce them to a world of possibilities that can help transform their learning. Companies can engage more employees in the K12 classroom and build a brand among the next generation while inspiring students for a better future.

Dr. Rusty Hunt Formally Installed As Lenoir Community College President



Dr. Rusty Hunt was formally installed as LCC President at a ceremony held in the Briley Auditorium at Lenoir CC.

"The background that Dr. Hunt brings from business and industry is critical to understanding the needs of the private sector and how the system can strengthen partnerships while branding the community college system," Jimmie Williamson of the

N.C. Community College System, said. "Dr. Hunt's knowledge and insight is immeasurable and will serve as a value added to move this great system of community colleges forward."

Hunt was selected to be the seventh president of LCC last year. He officially took office in October, 2016. Less than a week later, Hurricane Matthew turned his campus into a shelter for displaced flood victims and the school was closed for roughly a month. Now almost a year into his presidency at LCC, Hunt said he feels fortunate to be a part of the school and the surrounding community.

"Lenoir Community College has a longstanding reputation of leadership. Those who have come before me have set the bar high," Hunt said after accepting his installation. "I look forward to the challenge of continuing to innovate and moving our college forward to new heights." Prior to coming to LCC, Dr. Hunt served as Vice

President of Financial and Administrative Services at Davidson County Community College in Thomasville, North Carolina. He earned his bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and his master's in Business Administration from Liberty University. He earned his doctorate degree in Community College Executive Leadership from Wingate University.

In addition to jumping right in at LCC upon his arrival, Dr. Hunt also expressed his interest to serve on the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board and is currently serving on the NCWorks Business Services Committee, following in the footsteps of Dr. Lonnie Blizzard, former president of LCC who served on the board from 1996-1998 and Dr. Brantley Briley, immediate past President of LCC who served from 2004-2016.

Lenoir Community College to Offer New Manufacturing Academy Program



Beginning in September, Lenoir Community College will offer classes in its Manufacturing Academy.

The Academy is a program to develop a prepared workforce in collaboration with industry and workforce development partners. Manufacturing firms will benefit from partnering with the Academy through access to a pipeline of screened and trained certified production technicians who can help businesses achieve their industry goals.

The program is designed to link and leverage the existing assets of Lenoir, Jones, and Greene counties to solve a growing gap between regional job seekers and available positions. Its innovative funding and operational structure allows the Academy to



deliver results in response to a rapidly growing need for manufacturing employees with certified skills and verified work readiness.

The objectives of the Academy are to provide ready-to-work employees, to reduce employee turnover, to eliminate hiring and hoping, and to develop a pool of qualified applicants who are prepared to work in industry. The Academy's mission is to provide industry partners with a pipeline of

potential employees who are ready for work and possess the necessary soft skills and technical skills to be successful and productive employees.

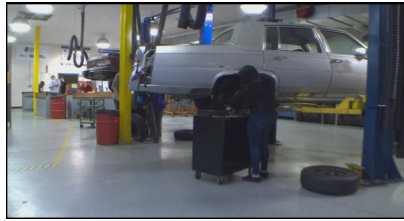
The Academy will: Recruit candidates from Lenoir, Jones and Greene counties; Award full scholarships for eligible candidates; Provide 160 hours of pre-employment training and certification; Graduate students with full Manufacturing Skill Standard Council (MSSC) Certified Production Technician certification, with workplace effectiveness skills, and with exemplary attendance; and Connect partner firms with program graduates.

Source: Lenoir Community College

Onslow, Duplin, and Jones County Students to Benefit from Planned Regional Skills Center

In July, the Onslow County Board of Education approved a \$3.8 million bid for site work and the first phase of construction of a shell building for the Regional Skills Training Center, which will accommodate students of Onslow, Duplin, and Jones counties. The concept for the skills center is to serve high school students in a three-county area and provide training in automotive, construction and applied sciences.

Under a partnership approved in November 2016, Onslow County has provided 17 acres at the N.A. Burton Business and Industrial Park at no cost for the location of the center. As a condition of the agreement, the property reverts back to the county if



the regional skills center is not built within three years. Board Chairwoman Pam Thomas said the \$5 million allotted in the state budget specifically for the skills center was intended for construction of the building. Superintendent Rick Stout said they are working now to finalize design for phase two plans, which includes the floor plans to “upfit” the shell building for designated use of nearly 20,000

square feet of space for training for auto, collision, HVAC and welding skills. Once floor plans for phase two are approved by the board, the phase two plans will go out for bid, which will also include training space for technology (cyber security) with office space, culinary arts space, a multipurpose room and a third alternate bid for a second floor with observation deck. The Onslow County school district is pursuing grants and partnerships for the project. An additional \$2.5 million will be needed to complete all of the alternatives proposed. August 2018 is the projected opening for the skills center.

Source: Jacksonville Daily News

Plans Underway for Craven Community College to Open New Workforce Development Training Center



New Bern City and Craven County officials joined school representatives on August 17 for a groundbreaking and unveiling ceremony for the Volt Center, a new workforce development training complex in New Bern. The Volt Center is part of a \$2.8 million dollar project to improve the First Street corridor, one of the gateways to New Bern.

The project includes renovations to the site to create expandable classrooms, office space, a commercial kitchen, and a “makers’ space” for entrepreneurs. The complex was realized through a collaboration between the city of New Bern and Craven Community College. The Volt Center’s main building, which previously housed an electric plant

and the city’s warehouse facility, will be used for training courses in skilled trades including plumbing, carpentry, heating and air conditioning, small engine repair and electrical work.

Construction on the new workforce development and training center is scheduled to begin in November and last about five months. The 4.6-acre site will feature modification to the existing buildings and an upgraded parking area. Once the renovations are completed, the building will be leased to the college for \$1 a year. Classes are set to begin in late spring 2018. New Bern City Manager Mark Stephens recognized representatives from the Golden LEAF Foundation, The Craven 100 Alliance, and the Harold H. Bate Foundation, each of whom played a role in helping to finance the project. Stephens also spoke about the location chosen for the Volt Center. He said the project was meant to help renew the First Street area, which he characterized as

an area “that once thrived with businesses and activity.”

Craven Community College President Raymond Staats said the Volt Center represented an “extraordinary” educational opportunity for the region. “This is a project at the right place at the right time. This is a game changer for our students, our community, and the city of New Bern,” said Staats.

The Volt Center was funded through a \$1.298 million Economic Development Administration grant, in addition to a \$549,000 grant from the Golden LEAF Foundation, with the city providing an additional \$310,000. An additional \$50,000 in grant support came from the Craven 100 Alliance, with a \$25,000 matching grant from the Harold H. Bate Foundation.

Source: nbsunjournal.com

James Sprunt Community College Offers Transportation Services for Students



James Sprunt Community College is proud to announce that beginning in August, 2017 transportation will be available for students to attend classes in the Fall Semester.

The cost of transportation will be included in the tuition and fees, resulting in no additional costs for the students taking advantage of the service. Students must provide a current James Sprunt Community College identification to take advantage of the service.

"Transportation has been a barrier

for many of our students," said Brian Jones, Associate Vice President of Student Services. "We are trying to remove as many of the barriers as we can so that students can reach their academic goals."

"We recently heard about a student who was walking to James Sprunt from Warsaw, it was a 10-mile walk, one way," said Dr. Lawrence Rouse, President of James Sprunt Community College. "That is also why we know this service will be a great asset to our students who do not have access to transportation." There will be 7 pick-up/drop off sights at locations throughout Duplin County.

Source: James Sprunt Community College

Pamlico Community College Ranks No. 1 in US



Pamlico Community College is ranked No. 1 on SmartAsset's list of the Best Community Colleges in the United States. PCC received exemplary scores for a graduation/transfer rate of its students of 84%, compared to the national average of 40%; its student-instructor ratio of 9-to-1; and its comparatively low cost and affordability.

PCC President Dr. Jim Ross enthusiastically welcomed the honor as a way to recognize not only PCC but also the outstanding community it serves. He said it is very humbling to be recognized as the very best community college when there are so many outstanding community colleges in our region, state and nation and he said this award is a direct result of the

commitment and hard work by the college's faculty members and staff.

"This listing reflects the extraordinary faculty and staff we have here at PCC," he said. "Our instructors and staff members are heroes in what they do, consistently going well above and beyond the call of duty to help students succeed."

Ross credited the personalized attention that students receive at Pamlico as a key factor in the college's exceptionally strong performance.

The college has been recognized for having one of the highest graduation rates in the country. Pamlico leaders also are proud that its students who go on to University of North Carolina system institutions achieved the highest grade point average among transfer students last year.

Source: Pamlico Community College

Assuring that the workforce in local North Carolina communities match the skills needed by employers to help them thrive and grow.



A partner for growth with **workforce** development boards

Workforce Challenges Are Top Concern for Manufacturers

Manufacturers are optimistic about their industry and the U.S. economy but are concerned about the ongoing struggle to find qualified workers, according to the 2017 Manufacturing Report from professional services firm Sikich LLP. In the firm's third annual report on the manufacturing industry, nearly 80 percent of respondents said they are more optimistic about the U.S. economy compared to last year, while 66 percent said the same about the manufacturing industry. And 69 percent expect headcount to increase. Even so, respondents identified addressing workforce challenges as a top priority for their companies and nearly 60 percent pointed to a lack of qualified workers as a barrier to business growth.

"The use of advanced technologies across manufacturing operations requires workers with a higher level of training and skills," said Jerry Murphy, partner-in-charge of Sikich's manufacturing and distribution practice. "Our report found that while manufacturers recognize the gaps in workforce development, many simply are not doing enough to train and equip workers to thrive in today's increasingly complex manufacturing operations."

Nearly 60 percent of manufacturers identify a lack of qualified workers as a barrier to business growth, according to the 2017 Manufacturing Report from Sikich LLP.

More than half of respondents said their companies have no involvement with high schools, community colleges or universities to develop skilled workers. And more than 80 percent said they provide 40 hours or less of annual training per employee.

"Manufacturers must prioritize workforce training and development within their organizations and collaborate with schools and professional associations to train and recruit talent," said Joy Duce, partner-in-charge of Sikich's human resource consulting services practice. "The companies that embrace workforce development as a key initiative will be in a better position to ensure long-term viability and competitiveness."

Manufacturers view organic growth in existing domestic markets and new product or service development as the top opportunities for growth over the next 12-18 months, according to

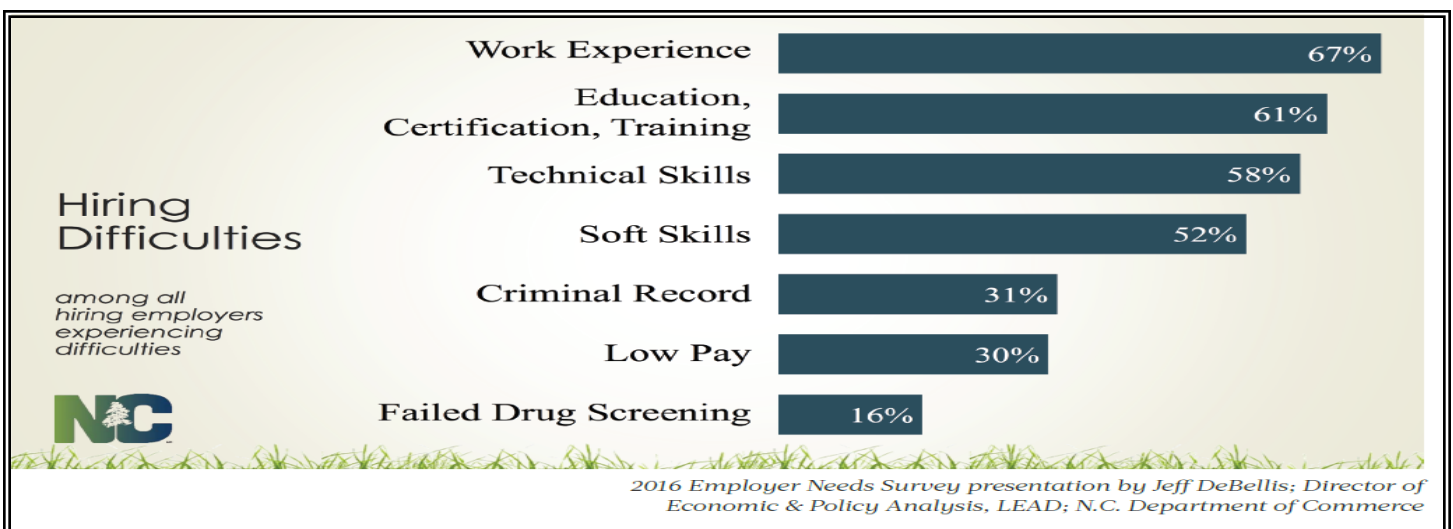
the report. Despite the emphasis on new products, however, 78 percent of respondents said they invest 5 percent of sales or less in research and development. Further, nearly half do not take advantage of research and experimentation tax credits.

"The optimism manufacturers feel in today's economy is warranted, but our report showcases several areas of vulnerability," Murphy said. "From workforce development to technology to financial planning, manufacturers cannot afford to grow complacent in an increasingly competitive marketplace. The companies that stay ahead of industry trends and seek constant improvement will be the ones well-positioned to innovate and grow."

For the 2017 Manufacturing Report, Sikich surveyed more than 250 respondents from companies across industrial sectors, including metal fabrication, industrial equipment, food and beverage, chemical and petroleum, automotive, plastics, and distribution.

To access the report, please visit:

<http://www.sikich.com/insights-resources/thought-leadership/>



ECWDB Submits Advanced Manufacturing Career Pathway Application for Certification

Addressing the challenges faced by today's manufacturers, on July 21, 2017, the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board submitted the Advanced Manufacturing Career Pathway Certification application to the NCWorks Commissions for approval. The application addressed eight criteria described below. Through a series of planning meetings with industry leaders, local education agencies, community colleges, work force development professionals, economic developers, the ECWDB and other stakeholders outlined strategies to ensure a skilled workforce available to meet industry specific needs.

Below are the eight criteria with examples of how they are being addressed:

Demand-Driven and Data-Informed: The ECWDB Region has demonstrated the need for a certified career pathway for Advanced Manufacturing due to an increase in the need for skilled workers in this field in eastern Carolina. Throughout the region, local employers referenced the high number of employees set to retire in the coming years, the complex and technical nature of the work, and the large range of occupations from engineers to technicians to mechanics.

Employer Engagement: Career pathway development is an employer-led endeavor which proved to be evident with this application as manufacturing industry leaders provided valuable insights and input in the creation of this pathway application. An example of this process

is how employers within the region actively participated in meetings and surveys to provide input on their current and future needs.

Collaborative: Key stakeholders provided input, leadership and commitment to developing the Advanced Manufacturing Career Pathway. A most recent example was how the Lenoir Committee of 100 contributed over \$11,000 in support of Lenoir Community College's Maximize Carolina Grant to start Lenoir CC's Advanced Manufacturing Academy. Employers also participated in the drafting of the application by attending meetings, gathering exhibits, and assisting in the writing and editing process'.

Career Awareness: Stakeholders have consistently worked to develop a knowledgeable system of staff who advise students and job-seekers on the multiple opportunities along a high-growth pathway. BSH, Spirit, FRC-E, among other industry leaders, are heavily involved in K-16 outreach and regularly have employees spend time in local schools, sponsor career days and host field trips.

Articulation and Agreement: Local education agencies and post-secondary schools have been diligently creating or reworking articulation agreements so students can seamlessly transfer their high school and college credits into programs that will assist with building a pipeline of highly skilled workers. These efforts also included partnerships with STEMEAST, who also assisted with the curriculum development as part of a

collaborative effort to promote STEM occupations.

Work-Based Learning: Stakeholders have been instrumental in developing relationships with businesses in order to build and maintain work-based learning opportunities for students such as apprenticeships, internships, and job-shadowing. This is a critical part of the pathways system. Commitments from many of our companies to offer internships for students in various college and university programs are already underway.

Multiple Points of Entry and Exit: Pathways are built to be easily accessible for people of all learning backgrounds. For example, a high school student in the Welding pathway can receive their welding certification and be ready for employment upon graduation. With a stackable credential such as this, this student can return to school at a later time to pursue an Associate of Applied Science degree in Welding Technology. The idea is to prepare an individual for the workforce as well as to allow for further learning.

Evaluation: Stakeholders have agreed on a plan of assessment that includes increasing the number of participants in the pathway programs, earned Career Readiness Certificates and the number of relevant jobs participants are placed into.

The results of all these efforts will ensure that employers find the talent they need, and that job-seekers are prepared to address local industry expectations.

Source: ECWDB

FREE EVENT

4th ANNUAL CRAVEN COUNTY



VETERANS STAND-DOWN



Friday, Sep 8th
9am – 1pm
National Guard Armory
301 Glenburnie Drive
New Bern, NC 28560



Saturday, Sep 9th
9am – 1pm
New Beginnings Ministry
30 Park Lane
Havelock, NC 28532

OPEN TO ALL VETERANS, HOMELESS VETERANS, VETERANS IN NEED, FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERANS AND ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL

LABOR MARKET OVERVIEW

Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board

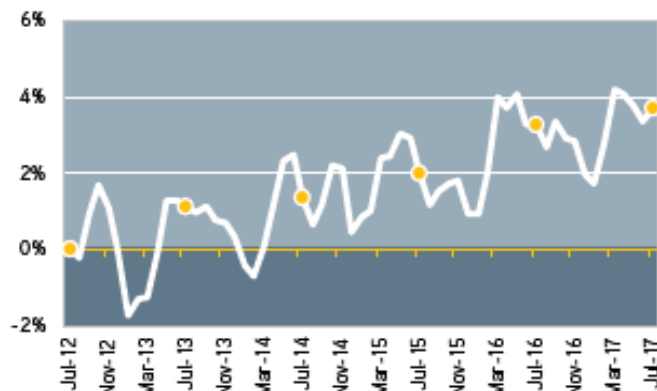
September 2017

Regional Labor Market Snapshot

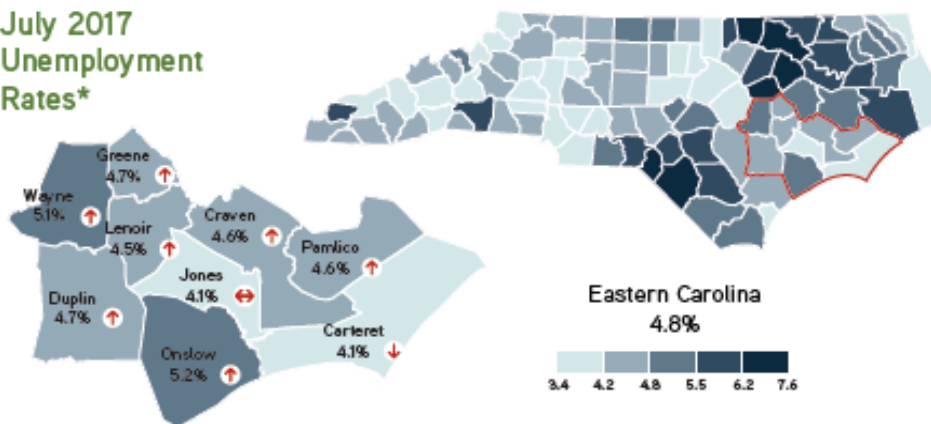
5-Year Percent Change in Number Employed*

Eastern Carolina Region

Source: LAUS, Labor & Economic Analysis, NC Dept. of Commerce



July 2017 Unemployment Rates*



Employment & Wages by Supersector 1st Quarter 2017

	Establishments	Avg. Employment	Avg. Weekly Wage
Natural Resources & Mining	484	4,962	\$640.26
Construction	1,269	8,765	\$773.79
Manufacturing	408	25,191	\$823.29
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	3,208	42,258	\$605.84
Information	151	1,451	\$806.60
Financial Activities	1,228	6,205	\$937.71
Professional & Business Services	1,806	18,218	\$729.31
Education & Health Services	1,699	51,512	\$720.97
Leisure & Hospitality Services	1,416	24,319	\$290.41
Other Services	1,127	4,742	\$502.39
Public Administration	237	20,669	\$944.72

*July 2017 data are preliminary, previous month's data are revised while all other data have undergone annual revision. All data produced in this publication are generated by LEAD unless otherwise stated.

This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. For more information, please visit <http://www.nccommerce.com/lead/lms>.

Trending

UNEMPLOYMENT*

July 2017

Eastern Carolina Total = 12,664

	Current	Previous
Region	4.8%	4.5%
NC	4.5%	4.2%
US	4.6%	4.5%

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT*

Eastern Carolina Total = 252,535

832 More People Working in July than previous month

1,025 More People Working than same period one year ago

METRO JOB GROWTH*

Goldsboro Total = 40,400

1,500 Fewer Jobs in July than previous month

Jacksonville Total = 46,600

2,800 Fewer Jobs in July than previous month

New Bern Total = 45,300

800 Fewer Jobs in July than previous month

TAXABLE RETAIL SALES

Eastern Carolina Total = \$551,311,520

6.0% Higher than same period one year ago

Source: NC Dept. of Revenue
Note: July 2017 data most current available at time of release.

ONLINE JOB ADS

7,164 Online Advertised Vacancies over past 90 days

2,011 Fewer Vacancies than same period one year ago

Source: The Conference Board HelpWanted Online

LABOR MARKET OVERVIEW

Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board

Civilian Labor Force Estimates*

		July 2017	June 2017	May 2017	July 2016
Carteret	Labor Force	33,412	32,808	32,121	33,203
	Employed	32,046	31,519	30,772	31,587
	Unemployed	1,366	1,289	1,349	1,616
	Rate	4.1	5.6	4.2	4.9
Craven	Labor Force	42,766	42,444	41,949	42,227
	Employed	40,790	40,595	40,051	39,989
	Unemployed	1,976	1,849	1,898	2,238
	Rate	4.6	4.4	4.5	5.3
Duplin	Labor Force	26,484	25,540	26,730	27,129
	Employed	25,236	24,367	25,517	25,662
	Unemployed	1,248	1,173	1,213	1,467
	Rate	4.7	4.6	4.5	5.4
Greene	Labor Force	9,485	9,310	9,596	9,606
	Employed	9,041	8,895	9,168	9,087
	Unemployed	444	415	428	519
	Rate	4.7	4.5	4.5	5.4
Jones	Labor Force	4,712	4,554	4,570	4,746
	Employed	4,517	4,369	4,382	4,499
	Unemployed	195	185	188	247
	Rate	4.1	4.1	4.1	5.2
Lenoir	Labor Force	27,640	27,296	27,609	27,927
	Employed	26,398	26,119	26,385	26,370
	Unemployed	1,242	1,177	1,224	1,557
	Rate	4.5	4.3	4.4	5.6
Onslow	Labor Force	62,124	63,601	63,843	61,861
	Employed	58,909	60,675	60,837	58,286
	Unemployed	3,215	2,926	3,006	3,575
	Rate	5.2	4.6	4.7	5.8
Pamlico	Labor Force	5,530	5,447	5,408	5,478
	Employed	5,275	5,206	5,165	5,196
	Unemployed	255	241	243	282
	Rate	4.6	4.4	4.5	5.1
Wayne	Labor Force	53,046	52,492	53,017	54,042
	Employed	50,323	49,958	50,373	50,834
	Unemployed	2,723	2,534	2,644	3,208
	Rate	5.1	4.8	5.0	5.9

*July 2017 data are preliminary, previous month's data are revised while all other data have undergone annual revision.



Showcase Advanced Manufacturing in Your Area

Commerce has launched a survey seeking local examples of 'factories of the future' for an upcoming campaign highlighting the manufacturing sector in North Carolina. Every October, the national and state spotlight focuses on manufacturing, and the importance this cross-industry sector plays in our economy and our local and regional growth strategies. This year, Commerce's

Communications team will publish information and hold events during the week of October 2 featuring manufacturing's key role in North Carolina. "We're aiming to highlight examples of clean, modern manufacturing plants that can counter the outdated stereotypes that still persist regarding manufacturing as a career path and engine for a modern economy," said Beth Gargan, Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs.

To contribute an example from your community, visit the [online survey](#) or contact Communications Director David Rhoades at (919) 814-4611 or by email at drhoades@nccommerce.com.

NCWorks Career Center Locations

Carteret County

NCWorks Career Center
309 Commerce Avenue
Morehead City, NC 28557
Phone: (252) 726-7151

Greene County

Greene Career Center
818 Highway 91 North
Snow Hill, NC 28580
Phone: (252) 747-3434 Ext. 764

Onslow County

NCWorks Career Center
461 Western Boulevard
Jacksonville, NC 28546
Phone: (910) 347-2121

Craven County

NCWorks Career Center
2836 Neuse Boulevard
New Bern, NC 28562
Phone: (252) 514-4828

Jones County

Jones Career Center
509 Highway 58 North
Trenton, NC 28585
Phone: (252) 448-5021 Ext. 790

Pamlico County

Pamlico Career Center
P. O. Box 185
Grantsboro, NC 28529
Phone: (252) 745-9934

Duplin County

NCWorks Career Center
192 Magnolia Extension
Kenansville, NC 28349
Phone: (910) 296-1478

Lenoir County

NCWorks Career Center
231 Highway 58 South
Kinston, NC 28502
Phone: (252) 527-6223 Ext. 134

Wayne County

NCWorks Career Center
2006 Wayne Memorial Drive
Goldsboro, NC 27534
Phone: (919) 731-7950

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

September 7, 2017, 6:00 pm	<i>ECWDB/Consortium Meeting ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
September 21, 2017, 6:00 pm	<i>Youth Council Meeting ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
October 5, 2017, 6:00 pm	<i>NCWorks Business Services Committee ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
October 11-13, 2017	<i>NCWorks Partnership Conference SHERATON FOUR SEASONS Greensboro, NC</i>
October 12, 2017, 6:00 pm	<i>NCWorks Career Pathways Committee ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
October 19, 2017, 5:00 pm	<i>Executive Committee Meeting New Bern Riverfront Convention Center</i>
October 19, 2017, 6:00 pm	<i>ECWDB Annual Banquet New Bern Riverfront Convention Center</i>
December 7, 2017, 6:00 pm	<i>NCWorks Business Services Committee ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
December 14, 2017, 6:00 pm	<i>NCWorks Career Pathways Committee ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>

ECWDB Staff:

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Trina Hale, Accounting Technician
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