



January, 2017
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Top NC Economist Predicts 100,000 New Jobs

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N.C. State University economics professor Dr. Michael Walden released his economic forecast for the first quarter of 2017 foreseeing that NC could benefit from the policy changes under the incoming Trump administration.

Although North Carolina outpaced the nation in growth, it also continued its own concerning trend. "North Carolina's rebound from recessions has become progressively less robust during the last three business cycles," wrote Walden. "Compared to the nation, North Carolina has had significantly slower growth in several high productivity sectors — including utilities, finance, nondurable manufacturing, and agriculture — and faster growth in low productivity sectors like arts/leisure/hospitality, personal services, and administrative services.

"In particular, the decline in the state's non-durable manufacturing sector, once a mainstay of the North Carolina economy, has been more than four times greater than the sectors' downsizing at the national level in the current economic expansion."

The continued transformation of the State's economic drivers has resulted in "unevenness", reported Walden, resulting in larger urban/rural economic divides and a "hallowing out" of middle-paying jobs, even as higher and lower paying jobs make advances. Despite this trend, Walden points to strong job advances across rural North Carolina as a truly bright spot of 2016.

The election of Republican Donald Trump as president in November, and his business-friendly tax and economic policies, seemed to allay capital markets of recent stagnation fears and, according to Walden, represented an "attitude shift" as the year drew to a close.

"Specifically, the business world expects substantial tax reductions, major investments in public infrastructure, an overhaul of key financial, energy, and environmental regulations, and a strong pro-business attitude from the new president that will significantly increase domestic production, sales, and incomes from the trend set since the end of the Great Recession," states Walden.

Still, Walden notes that while the U.S. stock indices have risen to all-time highs anticipating Trump's policies, capital markets are forward looking and the final form of policy proposals are still uncertain. Moreover, some Trump policy proposals could work against economic growth in 2017 and beyond.

"Perhaps the biggest question mark for the Trump Administration will be their proposals on international trade," wrote Walden, adding that protectionist trade policies could invite reciprocal action by other countries that result in slowing of U.S. export growth and higher costs for domestic consumers.

"In 2015, 16% of the North Carolina economy was directly related to international trade (\$81 billion of export and import activity combined from a total economy of \$495 billion)," reported Walden. "If a 'trade war' occurred that significantly reduced the state's exports, then the state's leading export sectors — including advanced manufacturing, agriculture, auto parts, and technology— could be adversely affected."

Walden also observed that North Carolina is the home to the largest military base in the world, at Ft. Bragg, as well as several other major installations, stating that "If greater military spending results in significantly more military personnel, then North Carolina

— and especially the Fayetteville area — could see a big boost in economic activity."

"In addition, it is estimated the largest quantity of undersea oil deposits on the eastern seaboard are off the coast of North Carolina," states Walden. "If these deposits were accessed and produced, I calculate the annual economic activity could generate \$1.9 billion of income and 17,000 permanent jobs."

Altogether, Walden expects North Carolina to add approximately 100,000 jobs over the course of 2017, with large and medium-sized metro areas seeing the lowest unemployment rates. North Carolina's expected 2017 population growth will also outpace the nation by 30 percent, says Walden, representing a demographic tailwind that will add momentum for faster economic growth.

However, Walden ends his forecast with a disclaimer regarding the uncertainty of implementing federal policy proposals, divided state government, and the myriad risks associated with a globally interdependent world of economics and finance.

"Both national and state policymakers...will be faced with forces beyond their control, including an aging society, a workforce requiring more cognitive skills, technologically-induced unemployment, faster growth in metropolitan regions, a world where economic competition is now global rather than local or national, and — as always — unexpected events (both positive and negative) that force forecasts and expectations to be tossed aside," cautions Walden.

Source: www.nsjonline.com

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Melanie Sanders, *Caswell Center, Human Resources Manager*



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.

A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday!

January is certainly starting off strong for the U.S. when considering what has gone on with the rises in the stock market. On the first page, you observed where “N.C. State University economics professor Dr. Michael Walden released his economic forecast for the first quarter of 2017 foreseeing that North Carolina may benefit from policy changes under the incoming Trump administration to include expected federal tax cuts, increased military spending, and even expanded offshore energy exploration, which could lead North Carolina’s aggregate growth to top national averages in 2017.”

This is great news, considering the negative impact that HB2 had on North Carolina’s economy through millions in lost business opportunities. Despite HB2, North Carolina ended 2016 strong as the Site Selection Magazine reported “that North Carolina finished in second place overall behind Georgia in the Site Selection’s 2016 Top State Business Climate Rankings. Although in the midst of calls to avoid investing in NC due to HB2 which passed earlier in 2016, North Carolina ranked in the top tier in their competitiveness component of the business climate ranking, meaning plenty of companies still want a North Carolina business facility in their portfolio. Other very important factors that contributed to this honor was North Carolina’s quality workforce, climate and infrastructure (transportation, regulatory and otherwise) deemed necessary by capital investors.”

In our local economy, we ended stronger than the previous year with more people working and earning higher wages. Though our region was impacted by Hurricane Matthew in early October, thankfully the damage was not as severe as expected. Of course, Lenoir and Wayne county business owners and residents may differ.

Overall, 2016 was a good year for North Carolina, with the positives outweighing the negatives, resulting in more North Carolinians finding employment and it looks as if those upward mobility efforts are continuing into 2017.

Here’s to a prosperous 2017 for all!

Tammy Childers, Executive Director

2016-2017 Board Work:

To ensure that the strategies and objectives outlined in the ECWDB Strategic Plan are met, the ECWDB committees, along with the committee’s core objectives are listed below:

Executive Committee:

1. Provide overall strategic direction for ECWDB and determine responsibilities of all committees
2. Oversee Personnel and Financial management of the ECWDB
3. Responsible for ongoing Board Development to ensure compliance with WDB By-Laws
4. Oversee the development of the strategic plan
5. Has and may exercise the authority of the Board in the management of the affairs of the organization between meetings

NCWorks Career Pathways Committee:

1. Develop and review local program proposals for adult, youth, and dislocated worker services and recommend funding for WIOA programs
2. Identify training options and research best practices that addresses skills gap and training needs of the future and existing workforce
3. Establish performance measures, develop program policies, and conduct oversight of WIOA program operations
4. Review WIOA Training Provider applications for Certification
5. Engage local employers, community colleges, public schools, and other partners in the development and oversight of Career Pathways and WorkReady Communities initiatives

NCWorks Business Services Committee:

1. Engage local employers in defining service expectations of NCWorks Career Centers
2. Certify NCWorks Career Centers and conduct oversight of NCWorks Career Center system operations, as it relates to business and job seeker services under an Integrated Service Delivery Model
3. Establish NCWORKS performance standards and review outcomes on a quarterly basis
4. Develop strategies to expand, educate, and promote the NCWORKS Career Center system across the region
5. Ensure NCWorks Career Centers are partnering with local economic development to address new and expanding industry needs

Youth Council:

1. Identify strategies to improve business engagement and youth outreach efforts targeted toward disadvantage youth
2. Conduct oversight of local youth programs and certify eligible providers of youth services through a competitive procurement process
3. Identify and coordinate youth services throughout the region to leverage resources and address training needs and skills gap concerns of low income youth

Frank Emory Receives D.T. Harris Leadership Award At ECWDB Banquet



Frank Emory was named this year's recipient of the Don T. Harris Leadership Award. The Award was presented at the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board's (ECWDB) Annual Banquet.

Frank was appointed to the ECWDB

in 2002. He is a member of the ECWDB Executive Committee and chairs the Youth Council. He is the owner of Emory Construction Company located in Richlands, N.C. Mr. Emory believes in giving back to his community and volunteers countless hours to public service. In addition to his service on the ECWDB, he serves as Vice Chairman/County Commissioner on the Jones County Board of Commissioners and is a member of the Jones County Fire/Rescue Board, the State Board of Proprietary Schools, the NCACC Public Education Steering Committee, the East Carolina Council of Governments, the 911 Merger Jones County/Lenoir County Board and the Jones County ABC Board. He serves as secretary/treasurer of the Jones County Republican Party. In addition to owning his own construction

business, Mr. Emory teaches construction trades to high school students at Lenoir County Schools.

The Don T. Harris Leadership Award recognizes outstanding individuals who serve their community in a leadership capacity as a volunteer by giving of their time, talent and expertise for the cause of improving the quality of lives of others through workforce development. Mr. Frank Emory exemplifies these attributes.

The award was established in honor of Mr. Harris's two decades of dedication and commitment to the public workforce investment system through his selfless efforts of serving his community in a volunteer leadership role to ensure a skilled workforce for Eastern North Carolina's ever-changing economy.

Source: ECWDB

Veneer Technologies/Atlantic Veneer Corporation Named Outstanding Employer In Workforce Development



Veneer Technologies/Atlantic Veneer Corporation was named the Outstanding Employer in Workforce Development at the annual recognition banquet of the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board (ECWDB). Mike Kraszeski, Vice President of Veneer Technologies/Atlantic Veneer Corporation is a member of the ECWDB board of directors, who accepted the award on behalf of the

company and its employees.

Veneer Technologies/Atlantic Veneer Corporation is one of the largest manufacturing employers in Carteret County. And, with nearly 200,000 square feet under one roof, the company is one of the largest face veneer plants in North America. The company was established in 1993 and is located in Newport, NC, with sister companies around the world.

The company prioritizes the training of their employees and encourages them to be proactive in local civic responsibilities. Employees are encouraged to volunteer with nonprofits and receive paid wages for their time. On a quarterly basis, employees nominate and select non-profit agencies to receive a percentage of the company's profits.

Veneer Technologies/Atlantic Veneer Corporation is a supporter of career & technical education, both

secondary and post-secondary education, and has partnered with Carteret County Schools and Carteret Community College on a number of endeavors.

Veneer Technologies/Atlantic Veneer Corporation, in conjunction with Carteret Community College staff and Carteret County Schools, developed an apprenticeship program that was launched last spring and approved by the NC. Department of Commerce. High school juniors can apply and receive pre-apprenticeship status and, upon graduation from high school, they can be accepted for employment and full apprentice status at the company.

Veneer Technologies/Atlantic Veneer Corporation was nominated for the award of Workforce Development Excellence by Carteret Community College and Carteret County Schools.

Source: ECWDB

NCWorks Mobile Unit To The Rescue



Hurricane Matthew left many families without homes, food, and many jobs were lost due to flooding. In efforts to rapidly provide assistance, the staff at DWS loaded up the mobile unit with donated water, clothes, canned food, hygienic products, and many other supplies that would help our fellow citizens in a time of need. The team headed to Lumberton, NC where they handed out many supplies and also let the residents utilize the computers to apply for unemployment benefits. Huge thanks to everyone who donated supplies and helped those in need.

On the Road to Goldsboro!

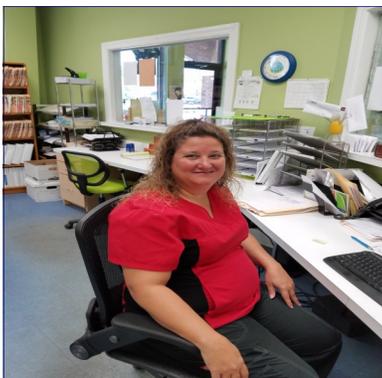
The NCWorks Rapid Response Team and mobile unit headed to Goldsboro November 1, 2016. Our team was responding to an AT&T branch closing due to Hurricane Matthew. Hurricane Matthew has caused damage beyond measure in Florida, North & South Carolina, and parts of Georgia. Many people were forced out of homes due to flooding, lost jobs, and other unfortunate events that come with any type of natural disaster. The NCWorks team discovered that 95 people would be losing their job due to the building being permanently damaged by flooding. Jennifer Polk, Manager of the NCWorks Career Center of Wayne County, put together a great event at Wayne Community College. Partners such as WAGES, Consumer Credit Counseling Services, Bank on Wayne, and even Wayne Community College attended the event and provided great information and tools. Jennifer shared her thoughts by saying, "This was an opportunity for the local Wayne County Partners to come together to provide needed services and information to impacted workers. In my individual conversations with the AT&T

workers, they spoke of how very thankful they were for the partners coming together to provide them with valuable information. My hope is that we were able to provide some level of comfort to the impacted workers during this difficult experience." Employees who attended the event, also took full advantage of our NCWorks Mobile Career Center. They worked with our NCWorks staff to help write resumes, register with ncworks.gov, and get some other helpful tips to make a smooth transition back into the workforce. We commend all those who have helped these people during this rough period in their life.

Source: nccommerce.com



Pamlico County NCWorks Career Center Connecting Talent To Jobs



Deborah Elks overcame a lot of obstacles to get where she is today. Born with deafness in both ears, she was unable to do a lot of the things that other people can do. Because of her deafness, Deborah did not perform well in school and was picked on by other students, which made it difficult for her to get up and go to school every day.

Deborah left high school but she earned her GED and completed a Phlebotomy program. She worked as a Phlebotomist for eight years but had to quit her job because she could not afford daycare for her three children. When Deborah wanted to return to the work force, medical offices were hiring Medical Assistants instead of Phlebotomists.

Undeterred, Deborah realized that she wished to continue in the medical field. After researching programs and speaking with the director of the Medical Assisting program at Pamlico Community College, she came to the conclusion that was the program for her. Realizing that she would need assistance with training, she was referred to the Pamlico County Career Center. She was enrolled in the WIOA adult program, which helped pay for her books and tuition; however, her

hearing continued to be an issue. Because of her hearing aids, she could not use a standard stethoscope. Deborah approached Center Manager Eric Cedars to see if she could receive assistance with this issue. An adaptive stethoscope was purchased using WIOA funds, enabling Deborah to finish school.

Deborah earned a diploma in Medical Assisting in May, 2016 with a GPA of 3.75 and was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Deborah gained full-time employment as a Medical Assistant/Front Office Clerk with NOVA Urgent Care in Bayboro, NC on June 10, 2016 and is enjoying her new career.

*Submitted by: Eric Cedars,
Manager Pamlico County NCWorks
Career Center*

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Craven NC Works Career Center Celebrate Disability Employment Awareness Month



The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services in conjunction with the Craven NCWorks Career Center recently hosted an event to promote Disability Employment Awareness Month, celebrated annually each October to recognize the contributions of workers with disabilities and to educate about the

value of workforce diversity inclusive of their skills and talents.

Attendees learned the value of the collaboration between the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services and the NCWorks Career Centers to better transition persons with disabilities and to identify businesses who will consider employing the disabled. Also discussed was how to engage people with disabilities and how to make them comfortable, giving them a better sense of their merit and worth to their community and their employer. Participants also took part in a Windmills Diversity Training session, a general training method about disabilities that can give employees an understanding of

disability issues before a person with a disability is involved on the job.

The group also heard from George Kramer, Business Services Consultant at Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, who spoke about the NCWorks program and how it interacts with businesses and Vocational Rehabilitation Services to screen disabled persons and get them into the NCWorks system so that they can be matched for available jobs.

Source: Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Craven-Pamlico Re-entry Council Serving Ex-Offenders

The Craven-Pamlico Re-entry Council, established by Attorney General Holder in January, 2011, is designed to help men and women who have been released from prison adjust to life on the outside.

Led by Re-entry Council Board Chairman Greg Singleton, the Re-entry Council incorporates resources and partnerships to assist ex-offenders in acquiring literacy and marketable skills, increasing their capacity to obtain gainful employment.

The program encourages post-secondary education in vocational and occupationally oriented areas as well as provide assistance in applying for and acquiring federal financial aid programs to pursue traditional college courses for increased educational attainment. In addition to academic enhancement, the program offers classes and workshops that are fundamental in increasing development of cognitive behavioral

thinking and empowerment. According to Bureau of Justice Statistics, in a study of 30 states, three out of four released prisoners are arrested for a new crime within five years.

A chief focus of the Re-entry Council is to remove federal barriers to successful re-entry so that motivated individuals who have served their time and paid their debts are able to compete for a job, attain stable housing, support their children and their families and contribute to their communities.

Working with a network of partners, the Re-entry Council provides services such as education, mental health, substance abuse, housing and transportation, among others, to assist those who return from prison and jail in becoming productive citizens.

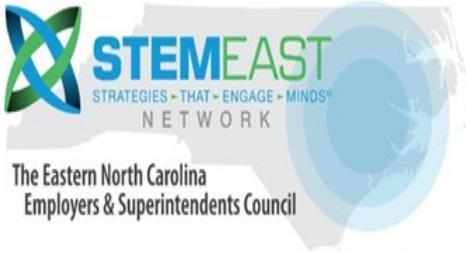
“It is imperative that we ensure that our community is properly educated and empowered to assist in our mission to reduce recidivism in our community,” said Singleton.

To that end, three different workshops, at three times and locations, will be held during the first quarter of 2017 focusing on educating and making all available resources known to returning citizens. To learn more about the dates, times and locations of these workshops, contact Abigail Wilson at: awilson@cravencountync.gov

To learn more about the Craven-Pamlico Re-entry Council, visit cpreentrync.org.

Source: Craven-Pamlico Re-entry Council

STEM East Announces Award of \$4 Million from Gold Leaf Foundation Pamlico County Primary School Develops STEM Learning Lab



STEM East is pleased to announce that its coalition of partners was awarded approximately \$4 million in grants from the Golden LEAF Foundation (Golden Leaf) to further expand science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in seven eastern North Carolina counties.

A coalition of school districts and employers partnered with the STEM East Network to pursue funding from Golden LEAF through its Community-Based Grants Initiative to advance education, workforce preparedness, and economic development efforts in eastern North Carolina. Craven, Duplin, Greene, Lenoir County, Pamlico and Onslow County Schools were awarded grants of up to \$530,000 each over a two-year period to assist with the purchase of equipment, curriculum materials and professional development to seed and enhance comprehensive STEM programs to address identified industry needs.

Pamlico County Schools received funds that will provide for more STEM initiatives at both Pamlico County Middle School and Pamlico County High School. Not to be left out, Pamlico County Primary School (PCPS), under the direction of Instructional Technology Facilitator Catherine Revels, decided to develop its own STEM program using resources collected from throughout the building. The PCPS STEM curriculum provides opportunities for students to learn how to solve problems, how to work together, and how to think. Classes rotate through the STEM lab every two weeks, with

one-hour blocks of time set aside for students to investigate various science topics by designing experiments, collecting data, reporting observations, testing ideas and collaborating. With a focus on these skills, PCPS hopes to give K-2 students a solid foundation to build upon and, ultimately, an advantage as they enter an ever-changing job market in the future. While the STEM lab has been a positive addition this year at PCPS, the school hopes to expand the program design even further in the years to come. Replacing outdated technology is a top priority for the school, as well as continued training on the strengthening of the science curriculum as a whole.

Statewide, student success in the core content areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is essential for the development of a North Carolina workforce that can compete in the global economy. In response to this critical need, school districts collaborated with employers from eastern NC to develop career pathway initiatives designed to inspire and prepare the next generation of STEM professionals. In North Carolina, Golden LEAF is a leader in the effort to promote and sustain high quality STEM education aligned with industry's employment needs.

The Golden LEAF Foundation awarded the STEM East Network an additional grant of approximately \$175,000 to complete a third-party evaluation consisting of three primary objectives: 1) enhance the evaluation capacity of the seven grantees; 2) continue the development of STEM assessment and capacity building tools for use by grantees to measure the impact of their work; and 3) complete a collective evaluation of the seven projects focusing on common outcomes.

The regional education grants provide unique opportunities to develop a workforce preparation continuum via career pathways that incorporate strategies that engage minds. The approximately \$4 million in grants provides a proactive opportunity for employers, community leaders, and support organizations to partner with schools to create relevant educational programs aimed at addressing the skills gaps identified by area employers, market eastern North Carolina as an ideal location for new business opportunities, and assist industries in meeting corporate citizen goals. The Golden LEAF grant adds to the \$14 million in external funding that has been secured by the STEM East Network since 2009. The funding has been used to expand STEM education in eastern North Carolina with the most tangible return being 60 STEM Centers established in schools throughout the region.

John D. Chaffee, NCEast Alliance President/CEO, stated "These announcements reflect the value of having STEM East embedded within the NCEast Alliance which emphasizes the importance of having community organizations and employers willing to collaborate with educators for the benefit of students. We are ecstatic that Golden LEAF has recognized the value of our model and the long term contribution to the economy of eastern North Carolina."

Source: nceast.com & New Bern Sun Journal / Crystal Dixon, principal at PCPS



NC Department of Commerce Benefits from DOL Funding For Apprenticeship Expansion

The North Carolina Department of Commerce was awarded \$1,050,000 to fund the NC Apprenticeship Expansion project, a partnership with the North Carolina Community College System that will leverage the existing state regional structures to expand apprenticeship opportunities in the industries of Manufacturing and Logistics/Transportation, Healthcare and Information Technology. The project will seek to increase participation of individuals from underrepresented populations; build the state's capacity to expand Registered Apprenticeship opportunities; modernize information management technologies; and increase awareness of registered apprenticeship through major outreach efforts.

The project will serve 1500 apprentices throughout the life of the grant, with a focus on youth, incumbent workers, individuals with disabilities, minorities, economically disadvantaged and women.

The award comes as a result of the Department of Labor (DOL) announcement of the Administration's latest step to increase access to apprenticeship – using Fiscal Year 2016 funding for a new \$50.5 million investment in State Expansion Grants to expand apprenticeships across the country in a diverse array of industry sectors.

This initiative, called ApprenticeshipUSA, is part of the Administration's strategy to grow and diversify apprenticeship. Over the next 18 months, this effort will result in thousands of new apprenticeships

in diverse industries, including health care, advanced manufacturing, and information technology, that offer workers not just jobs, but careers. These grants provide funding to 36 States and one territory to undertake new apprenticeship efforts, which will include efforts in both urban and rural communities. Projects will focus on helping a diverse set of workers – including women and minorities who have too often been left out of apprenticeship efforts in the past – enter into these in-demand fields.

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Source: NC Dept. of Commerce

Optimism among America's Small Businesses Soared in December

Optimism among America's small businesses soared in December by the most since 1980 as expectations about the economy's prospects improved dramatically in the aftermath of the presidential election. The National Federation of Independent Business's index jumped 7.4 points last month to 105.8, the highest since the end of 2004, from 98.4. While seven of the 10 components increased in December, 73 percent of the monthly advance was due to more upbeat views about the outlook for sales and the economy, the Washington-based group said.

The share of business owners who say now is a good time to expand is three times the average of the current expansion, according to the NFIB's data. More companies also said they plan to increase investment and keep hiring, which reflects optimism surrounding President-elect Donald

Trump's plans of spurring the economy through deregulation, tax reform and infrastructure spending. "Rising confidence adds to the economy's upward momentum," Jim O'Sullivan, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics in Valhalla, New York, said in a note. At the same time, the "NFIB membership appears to be disproportionately Republican, so it is possible that the data will start overstating strength, opposite the pattern during the Obama administration."

The NFIB report was based on a survey of 619 small-business owners through Dec. 28. Small companies represent more than 99 percent of all U.S. employers, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration. A small business is defined as an independent enterprise with no more than 500 employees.

Fifty percent of respondents, the

biggest share since March 2002, said they expect better business conditions in the next six months. That was 38 percentage points higher than in November. The net share of firms projecting higher sales jumped by 20 points to 31 percent. Some 29 percent say they will boost capital outlays within six months.

"We haven't seen numbers like this in a long time," Juanita Duggan, president and chief executive of the NFIB, said in a statement. "Small business is ready for a breakout, and that can only mean very good things for the U.S. economy. Business owners are feeling better about taking risks and making investments."

Source: bloomberg.com

US Labor Department Awards Funds to North Carolina to Support Disaster Relief Employment to Aid Hurricane Matthew Recovery

As a result of the destruction from Hurricane Matthew, thousands of people were left homeless and in need of humanitarian assistance. In response, the US Department of Labor announced three grants totaling up to \$22 million in National Dislocated Worker Grant funding to North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida, with more than \$7 million released initially. These funds will serve to create disaster relief employment to help with clean-up and recovery efforts in the wake of the storm. The department has approved the award of a grant to the North Carolina Department of Commerce for up to \$14,862,065, with \$4,954,022 released initially, to create employment for about 944 people in 41 counties in the eastern half of the state.

The Eastern Carolina Workforce

Development Board (ECWBD) received an initial allocation of \$200,000 to assist with the clean-up and recovery efforts within the nine counties. On November 1, 2016, the ECWBD entered into a contract with Coastal Community Action to operate the Hurricane Matthew program. Luckily, much of the clean-up work was completed in the region immediately following the hurricane through city and county efforts. With some recovery efforts still underway in Wayne and Lenoir counties, Coastal Community Action staff is working to assist these communities with identifying eligible workers to assist with clean-up and recovery efforts.

To qualify as eligible, individuals who are unemployed as a result of the natural disaster, including farmers and ranchers, will receive priority

consideration, but other individuals considered dislocated workers (individuals who lost jobs because of plant closings or layoffs) also qualify, including individuals who have been unemployed for the past 13 weeks. An individual may participate in the program for a maximum of twelve months or when the individual has been paid \$24,000 in wages, whichever occurs first.



Donations Needed for Annual Homeless Veteran Event

Fulfilling a wish of those who helped him during his transition from active-duty to retired, NCWorks Career Center-Onslow County Career Advisor for veterans, Reggie Roy continues to help veterans in any way he can, focusing on those that are homeless.

Each year, NCWorks hosts a Veteran Stand Down and Outreach event that connects homeless or indigent veterans with community resources and donated goods they do not regularly have access to. A few of the services that will be provided are medical and dental screenings, assistance with VA claims, mental health and substance abuse services, along with clothing supply, hot meals, transportation and toiletries.

With the event nearing, Roy is turning to the community for help in the form of donations of canned goods, socks and personal hygiene

and smaller items for those veterans who come to the event.

For seven years, veteran organizations throughout the community, as well as community assistance programs, have gathered in an effort to reach those veterans who have fallen on hard times. Groups like the VA, Salvation Army and United Way will be on hand at the event to assist veterans. In addition, Smithfield Foods will be cooking the meal. Onslow Community Outreach and Onslow Women's Center will also be present.

Roy said that most of the event's resources will be veteran related; however, the event is also for the overall homeless population. "It is an ongoing battle to end veteran homelessness," he said. "We want to focus on those that want to be housed but don't want to forget about those that chose to live where

they have been. That's why we do the food drive. To give them things they can take with them to help them out."

Roy said that canned foods and socks are priorities during the collection, which ends February 3. Donations can be dropped off at NCWorks Career Center located at 461 Western Boulevard, Suite 106. Roy asks that donated items be small in size so that the recipients are able to take them with them easily.

The Veteran Stand Down and Outreach is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on February 7 at the American Legion Post 265, 146 Broadhurst Road in Jacksonville.

Source: JDNews.com

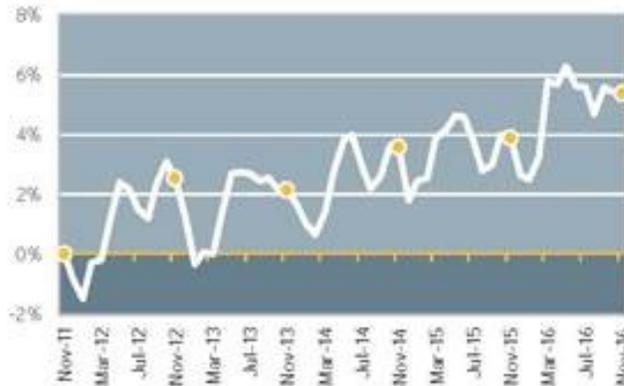
LABOR MARKET OVERVIEW

Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board

January 2017

Regional Labor Market Snapshot

5-Year
Percent Change
in Number
Employed*



Eastern Carolina
Region

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

November 2016
Unemployment
Rates*



Trending

UNEMPLOYMENT*

November 2016

Eastern Carolina Total = 14,195

	Current	Previous
Region	5.3%	6.1%
NC	4.8%	4.8%
US	4.4%	4.7%

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT*

Eastern Carolina Total = 253,155

146 Fewer People Working
in November than previous month

3,539 More People Working
than same period one year ago

METRO JOB GROWTH*

Goldsboro Total = 42,300

100 Fewer Jobs
in November than previous month

Jacksonville Total = 50,100

400 More Jobs
in November than previous month

New Bern Total = 45,100

100 More Jobs
in November than previous month

TAXABLE RETAIL SALES

Eastern Carolina Total = \$524,420,236

3.4% Higher
than same period one year ago

Source: NC Dept. of Revenue
Note: October 2016 data most current
available at time of release.

ONLINE JOB ADS

7,274 Online Advertised Vacancies
over past 90 days

1,817 Fewer Vacancies
than same period one year ago

Source: The Conference Board Help Wanted Online

Who's Hiring

past 90 days from Dec. 29, 2016

• State of North Carolina	203
• Supplemental Health Care	110
• Soliant	109
• Lowe's	106
• CarolinaEast Health System	105
• UPS	93
• General Dynamics	86
• U.S. Marine Corp	85

Source: The Conference Board Help Wanted Online

*November 2016 data are preliminary, 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/000>.

What Jobs

past 90 days from Dec. 29, 2016

• Registered Nurses	622
• Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	310
• Retail Salespersons	244
• First-Line Supervisors, Retail Sales	214
• Computer User Support Specialists	135
• Physical Therapists	134
• Maintenance & Repair Workers	132
• Speech-Language Pathologists	118

Source: The Conference Board Help Wanted Online

NCWorks Career Center Locations

Carteret County

NCWorks Career Center
309 Commerce Avenue,

Morehead City, NC 28557
Phone: (252) 726-7151

Craven County

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

Duplin County

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

Greene County

Greene County Career Center
818 Highway 91 North
Snow Hill, NC 28580
Phone: (252) 747-5689

Jones County

Jones County Career Center
509 Highway 58 North

Trenton, NC 28585
Phone: (252) 448-4791

Lenoir County

NCWorks Career Center
231 Highway 58 South

Kinston, NC 28502

Phone: (252) 527-6223 ext. 104

Onslow County

NCWorks Career Center
461 Western Boulevard

Jacksonville, NC 28546
Phone: (910) 347-2121

Pamlico County

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

Wayne County

NCWorks Career Center
2006 Wayne Memorial Drive,

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

January 12, 2017, 6:00 pm	<i>ECWDB/Consortium Meeting ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
January 24, 2017, 2:00pm	<i>New Member Consortium Orientation ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
January 24, 2017, 6:00pm	<i>New Member Board Orientation ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
January 26, 2017, 6:00 pm	<i>Youth Council Meeting ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
February 2, 2017, 6:00 pm	<i>NCWorks Business Services Committee ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
February 9, 2017, 6:00 pm	<i>NCWorks Career Pathways Committee ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
February 16, 2017, 6:00 pm	<i>Executive Committee Meeting ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
March 2, 2017, 6:00 pm	<i>ECWDB/Consortium Meeting ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
April 6, 2017, 6:00 pm	<i>NCWorks Business Services Committee ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>

ECWDB Staff:

Anita Bradley, Administrative Assistant
Tammy Childers, Executive Director
Trina Hale, Accounting Technician
Lisa Harvey, WIOA Coordinator
Robert Kehres, Assistant Director
George Kramer, Business Services Consultant
Joanne Payne, Program Assistant
Debbie Simpkins, Fiscal Monitor

Communicate with Us!



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Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. (TTY) 1-800-735-2962 (Voice) 1-800-735-8262