

Robeson County: Current Economic Picture

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Unemployment Rate

At the time of writing this document, January 2006, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that:

- The overall unemployment rate for the US was 5.0 % in November 2005.
- The unemployment rate in North Carolina in November 2005 was 5.2 %, slightly higher than the US average. Please refer to Chart 1 for a comparison of unemployment rates at the state level.
- The unemployment rate in Robeson County has declined from 7.5% in January 2005 to 7.1 % in October 2005, the latest data available at the date of writing this document.

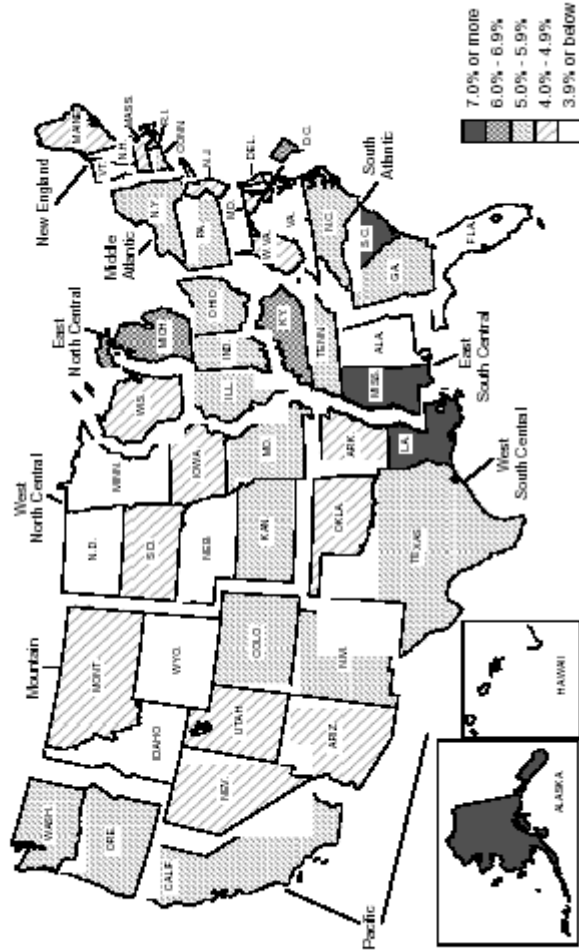
Forecasts for Robeson County

Our estimates indicate that over the first quarter of 2006:

- The average unemployment rate will be around 6.84%.
- The average employment level will be around 46565.8 thousands.
- The average labor force will be around 49979.6 thousands.

These data indicate that the unemployment rate, level of employment, labor force level is improving. However, we still have one of the highest rates of unemployment in the US.

Chart 1. Unemployment rates by state, seasonally adjusted
November 2005
(U.S. rate = 5.0 percent)



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