

# Robeson County: Current Economic Picture

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## **National Picture**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported in July 2006 that total non-farm employment increased by 113,000 and unemployment rose to 4.8%. According to the BLS report service industries were the major job creator industries, followed by mining.

The Bureau also reported that the number of unemployed increased to 7.2 million in July 2006. As compared to the July data a year ago, the US economy fared well. A year ago at this time, there were 7.5 million unemployed individuals and the unemployment rate was 5.0%.

On July 28, 2008, the Bureau of Economic Analysis reported that real GDP increased by 2.5% in the second quarter after increasing by 5.6% in the first quarter. Figure 1 shows these data.

## **Forecasts for Robeson County**

Our estimates indicate that over the third quarter of 2006:

- The average unemployment rate will be around 5.86%.
- The average employment level will be around 49649 thousands.
- The average labor force will be around 52788 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.

Figure 1: Real GDP Growth Rate



Source: [www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov)

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