

2004 DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

North Carolina's Northeast Region

LOCATION

The Northeast Region of North Carolina is comprised of 16 counties and is located centrally between New York and Florida. The Region is bounded on the west by Interstate 95 and the east by the Atlantic Ocean. Over one-third of the nation's markets are within a day's drive of North Carolina's Northeast Region, which offers easy access to business and industrial centers across the country. The close proximity of our region to the Raleigh-Durham, NC and Richmond and Hampton Roads, VA areas guarantees access to world markets.



NORTH CAROLINA'S NORTHEAST

The sixteen counties that make up North Carolina's Northeast Region are: Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington.

Seven of the sixteen counties in the Northeast Region are designated as Enterprise Tier One areas and considered economically distressed by the NC Department of Commerce. Enterprise Tier One areas can offer maximum incentives under North Carolina's William S. Lee Act. In addition, there are five State Development Zones in the Northeast Region: Edenton, Washington, Roanoke Rapids, Williamston, and Elizabeth City. These areas can offer additional incentives for qualifying industrial and housing development projects.



★ State Development Zones

REGIONAL POPULATION

Just over 5% of the State's population lives within the Northeast Region with eight of the State's 40 Smallest Municipalities located here. Over 65% of the population still elects to live outside municipalities.

- Halifax County is the largest county with a population of more than 57,670.
- Elizabeth City is the largest municipality with a population of almost 17,200.
- The fastest growing municipality is Kitty Hawk, which grew 54.5% between 1990 and 2000.
- The smallest county is Tyrrell with a population of 4,149.
- Bear Grass in Martin County is the smallest municipality with a population of 53.
- Camden, Currituck and Hyde County have no incorporated municipalities.

NORTHEAST REGION POPULATION & DENSITY			
County Name	2000 Population	Land Area*	Persons Per Square Mile
Beaufort	44,958	827.49	54.33
Bertie	19,773	698.88	28.29
Camden	6,885	239.85	28.71
Chowan	14,526	172.75	84.09
Currituck	18,190	261.4	69.59
Dare	29,967	383.55	78.13
Gates	10,516	340.67	30.87
Halifax	57,670	725.75	79.05
Hertford	22,601	353.96	63.85
Hyde	5,826	612.17	9.52
Martin	25,593	462.11	55.38
Northampton	22,086	533.49	41.40
Pasquotank	34,897	226.84	153.84
Perquimans	11,368	246.99	46.03
Tyrrell	4,149	391.73	10.59
Washington	13,723	346.07	39.65
TOTAL	342,428	6,823.7	(Avg.) 50.18

NORTHEAST REGION MEDIAN AGE (2000)	
County	Median Age
Beaufort	40.2
Bertie	38.6
Camden	39.1
Chowan	39.8
Currituck	38.3
Dare	40.4
Gates	38.1
Halifax	37.2
Hertford	39.2
Hyde	39.7
Martin	38.7
Northampton	40.0
Pasquotank	35.9
Perquimans	42.2
Tyrrell	38.7
Washington	39.2
Northeast	39.1

Source: US Census 2000

URBAN & REGIONAL POPULATION

NORTHEAST REGION POPULATION LIVING IN MUNICIPALITIES				
County	Total Population	Non-Municipal	Municipal	% Non-Municipal
Beaufort	45,322	31,511	13,821	69.51%
Bertie	19,855	14,880	4,975	74.94%
Camden	7,024	7,024	0	100.00%
Chowan	14,538	9,144	5,394	62.89%
Currituck	18,839	18,839	0	100.00%
Dare	31,209	15,371	15,838	49.25%
Gates	10,560	10,280	280	97.19%
Halifax	57,134	32,742	24,392	57.30%
Hertford	22,156	14,175	7,981	63.97%
Hyde	5,742	5,742	0	100.00%
Martin	25,339	15,864	9,475	62.60%
Northampton	22,008	15,518	6,490	70.51%
Pasquotank	35,028	17,879	17,149	51.04%
Perquimans	11,522	8,883	2,639	77.09%
Tyrrell	4,149	3,339	810	80.47%
Washington	13,598	8,654	4,944	63.64%
Region	344,033	229,845	114,188	66.80%

Source: NC Office of State Planning, 2001 County Municipal Totals

URBAN MUNICIPALITIES	
Municipality	Population
Elizabeth City	17,149
Roanoke Rapids	16,943
Washington	9,658
Kill Devil Hills	6,122
Williamston	5,838
Edenton	5,394
Ahoskie	4,477
Plymouth	4,064
Kitty Hawk	3,116
Nags Head	2,801
TOTAL	76,062
% Urban area	22.10%

Urban is defined as population living in urbanized areas or places of 2,500 or more persons.

NORTHEAST COUNTIES & COMMUNITIES	
County Name	Cities/Towns/Communities
Beaufort	Washington, Belhaven, Chocowinity, Aurora, Washington Park, Bath, Pantego
Bertie	Windsor, Aulander, Lewiston-Woodville, Roxobell, Powellsville, Kelford
Camden	South Mills, Camden
Chowan	Edenton
Currituck	Shawboro, Currituck
Dare	Kill Devil Hills, Kitty Hawk, Nags Head, Southern Shores, Manteo
Gates	Gatesville
Halifax	Roanoke Rapids, Scotland Neck, Enfield, Weldon, Littleton, Hobgood, Halifax
Hertford	Ahoskie, Murfreesboro, Winton, Cofield, Harrellsville, Como
Hyde	Swan Quarter, Fairfield, New Holland
Martin	Williamston, Robersonville, Hamilton, Jamesville, Oak City, Parmele, Everetts
Northampton	Garysburg, Gaston, Rich Square, Woodland, Conway, Jackson, Seaboard
Pasquotank	Elizabeth City
Perquimans	Hertford, Winfall
Tyrrell	Columbia
Washington	Plymouth, Roper, Creswell

POPULATION BY RACE

The US Census reported 342,428 persons living in the Northeast Region in 2000, of which 58% were white, 39% were African American and 3% were of American Indian, Asian or other ethnic group.

County	White	African American	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Two or More Races	Total Population
Beaufort	30,768	13,051	74	99	10	638	318	44,958
Bertie	7,178	12,326	87	21	1	65	95	19,773
Camden	5,551	1,189	29	39	2	9	66	6,885
Chowan	8,794	5,450	43	50	1	87	101	14,526
Currituck	16,445	1,318	83	71	6	91	176	18,190
Dare	28,393	797	83	111	13	269	301	29,967
Gates	6,213	4,120	44	26	3	11	99	10,516
Halifax	24,424	30,151	1,801	312	10	267	405	57,370
Hertford	8,464	13,459	269	71	5	147	186	22,601
Hyde	3,650	2,043	18	21	0	49	45	5,826
Martin	13,447	11,611	74	61	8	231	161	25,593
Northampton	8,633	13,125	71	20	12	86	139	22,086
Pasquotank	19,866	13,975	130	300	13	172	441	34,897
Perquimans	8,051	3,182	20	24	3	15	73	11,368
Tyrrell	2,343	1,636	8	31	0	85	46	4,149
Washington	6,626	6,716	7	44	6	228	96	13,723
Northeast	198,846	134,149	2,841	1,301	93	2,450	2,748	342,428

Source: US Census 2000

POPULATION BY AGE

County	Under 5 Yrs.	5 to 9 Yrs.	10 to 14 Yrs.	15 to 19 Yrs.	20 to 24 Yrs.	25 to 34 Yrs.	35 to 44 Yrs.	45 to 54 Yrs.	55 to 59 Yrs.	60 to 64 Yrs.	65 to 74 yrs.	75 to 84 Yrs.	85 Yrs. & Over	Total Population
Beaufort	2,704	2,965	3,014	2,872	2,436	5,253	6,480	6,908	2,809	2,389	4,017	2,311	800	44,958
Bertie	1,262	1,421	1,553	1,434	1,007	2,189	3,035	2,738	1,027	947	1,719	1,091	350	19,773
Camden	387	452	589	444	278	37	1,262	955	444	334	551	300	82	6,885
Chowan	850	971	1,029	1,139	882	1,437	2,070	1,986	807	749	1,366	907	333	14,526
Currituck	1,101	1,248	1,435	1,191	852	2,229	3,327	2,614	1,119	888	1,310	674	202	18,190
Dare	1,547	1,735	2,025	1,681	1,321	3,872	5,347	4,817	1,871	1,627	2,603	1,217	304	29,967
Gates	605	816	907	698	423	1,235	1,826	1,388	594	510	821	519	174	10,516
Halifax	3,573	4,356	4,430	4,084	3,175	7,153	8,736	7,800	2,930	2,562	4,655	2,959	957	57,370
Hertford	1,236	1,615	1,764	1,723	1,153	2,481	3,465	3,269	1,254	1,074	1,927	1,232	408	22,601
Hyde	262	362	337	341	344	825	966	830	315	291	494	305	154	5,826
Martin	1,596	1,856	1,937	1,770	1,292	3,002	3,845	3,761	1,360	1,280	2,090	1,403	401	25,593
Northampton	1,260	1,511	1,644	1,451	1,016	2,524	3,335	3,057	1,309	1,139	2,038	1,347	455	22,086
Pasquotank	2,178	2,353	2,650	2,725	2,718	4,338	5,584	4,386	1,715	1,339	2,532	1,769	610	34,897
Perquimans	587	675	841	760	516	1,154	1,618	1,549	780	696	1,205	751	236	11,368
Tyrrell	204	248	302	279	248	538	719	550	197	196	343	239	86	4,149
Washington	903	984	1,026	977	735	1,510	1,925	2,032	837	669	1,134	718	273	13,723
Northeast	20,255	23,568	25,453	23,569	18,396	40,577	53,540	48,640	19,368	16,690	28,805	17,742	5,825	342,428

Source: US Census 2000

TRANSPORTATION

North Carolina's Northeast offers same-day trucking access to over half the consumer and industrial markets in the nation. The Intercoastal Waterway links the region to cities throughout the entire Eastern Seaboard. Barge services are available on major waterways throughout the region. The Norfolk Port, the second largest and fastest growing port complex in the U.S, is within an hour's drive of portions of the Northeast Region.

PRIMARY HIGHWAYS

A growing multi-laned highway network supports quicker and more efficient access to major markets. The primary highways that traverse the Northeast Region include Interstate 95, US Highways 17, 64, 158, 264, 301. Interstate 85 is easily accessible via I-95 and US Highways 64/70 and 158.

RAILROADS

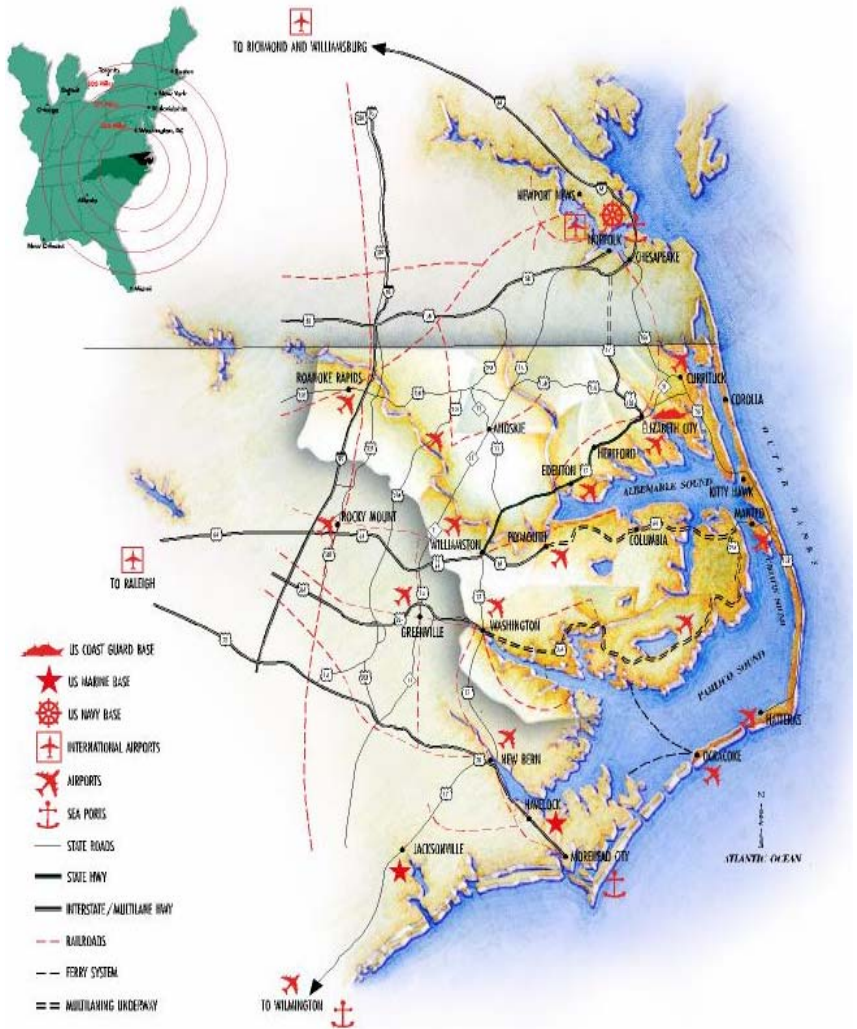
CSX Transportation, Norfolk Southern, Chesapeake Albemarle Railroad and Raitex serve the Northeast Region, providing easy access and efficient shipping along the Region's network of rail lines.

AIR

North Carolina's Northeast Region is accessible to three international airports—Raleigh-Durham International, Norfolk International and Richmond International Airport. Regional airports are within easy driving distance of all areas of the Northeast Region.

PORTS

State operated, deep water bulk cargo and container facilities are within a 45 minute to 2 1/2 hours' drive from any area in North Carolina's Northeast (Port of Morehead City, NC and Port of Norfolk, VA).



PROPERTY TAXES & NATIONAL COMPARISONS

The following is a listing of county property tax rates for Fiscal Year 2003-2004. Property taxes in North Carolina are assessed at 100% of appraised value with rates applied per \$100 valuation. All counties must revalue property at least every eight years. Dare, Northampton and Halifax Counties have adopted a more frequent revaluation schedule.

FY 2003-2004 PROPERTY TAX RATES		
County	Rate	Latest Revaluation
Beaufort	.60	2002
Bertie	.89	1996
Camden	.75	2001
Chowan	.69	1998
Currituck	.62	1997
Dare	.54	1998*
Gates	.83	2001
Halifax	.865	1999*
Hertford	.91	2003
Hyde	.70	2003
Martin	.785	2001
Northampton	.88	2001*
Pasquotank	.86	1998
Perquimans	.63	2000
Tyrrell	1.00	1997
Washington	1.015	1997

Source: Property Tax Rates, NC Department of Revenue, Tax and Research Division, August 2003

NATIONAL COMPARISONS

The cost of living in North Carolina's Northeast Region is significantly less than other locations across the country. A comparison of the cost of living, building and health insurance costs and the overall housing index of the Northeast Region to other locations on the Eastern Seaboard is presented below:

	<u>Hampton Roads, VA</u>	<u>NC's Northeast</u>	<u>Boston, MA</u>	<u>Newark, NJ</u>
Cost of Living Index	98.0	94.7	140.0	151.5
Health Insurance Cost Index	96.7	78.8	153.2	156.5
Housing Index	90.1	82.0	180.0	225.1
Average Home Price	\$204,183	\$195,320	\$423,483	\$515,467

Source: ACCRA Cost of Living Index 4th Qtr. 200

COMMUTING PATTERNS BY COUNTY

The following table indicates the out-commuters and in-commuters by County in the Northeast Region.

COMMUTING PATTERNS BY COUNTY – NORTHEAST REGION				
County	Total Labor Force	Non-commuters	Out-Commuters	In-Commuters
Beaufort	18,497	14,108	4,389	4,434
Bertie	7,352	4,307	3,045	2,440
Camden	3,151	7,481	2,403	436
Chowan	5,974	4,279	1,695	1,405
Currituck	8,603	2,881	5,722	1,604
Dare	15,419	13,881	1,538	3,332
Gates	4,266	1,481	2,785	440
Halifax	20,617	14,525	6,092	4,475
Hertford	8,453	5,756	2,697	3,405
Hyde	2,194	1,918	276	455
Martin	10,487	6,114	4,373	1,836
Northampton	7,789	3,274	4,515	1,880
Pasquotank	14,552	11,224	3,328	4,628
Perquimans	4,434	1,677	2,757	742
Tyrrell	1,531	921	610	406
Washington	5,308	3,577	1,731	1,575
TOTAL	138,627	97,404	47,956	33,493

Source: US Census 2000

REGIONAL ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

Only a few locations can offer just the right combination of resources that are crucial to business success. North Carolina's Northeast is one of those locations. Our sixteen county area provides a rare combination of assets that have encouraged businesses to prosper here for nearly 400 years.

A sampling of the resources offered in North Carolina's Northeast Region is provided below:

- A strong and diverse economy
- A strong pro-business right-to-work state
- A highly competitive cost-of-doing business
- An ample, highly-skilled, well-educated and motivated labor force
- Abundant and economical business infrastructure resources
- A strategic, central U.S. East Coast location with an excellent intermodal transportation system
- A streamlined permitting process
- A stable and reasonable system of taxes
- A variety of performance-based incentives
- A wealth of leisure opportunities
- A diverse regional geography with a variety of local culture

In recognition of its regional successes, the Northeast Partnership was named as one of the "Top 10 Economic Development Organizations" in the United States and Canada by *Site Selection Magazine* in 1998.

Companies with which the Northeast Partnership has worked with and supported for location in the Northeast Region include:

- Nucor Steel and supporting industries – Hertford County
\$550 million investment; 400 jobs
- Lowe's Regional Distribution Center – Northampton County
\$90 million investment; 600 new jobs
- Finline Industries-East – Northampton County
\$3.5 million investment; 80 jobs
- Rivers Correctional Institute – Hertford County
\$63 million investment; 250 jobs
- Reser's Fine Foods – Halifax County
\$18 million investment – 320 jobs
- Northeast Technology & Business Center - Martin County
\$2.3 million investment; 100 jobs

- Penco Products - Martin County
\$11 million investment; 300 jobs

Since 1997, the Northeast Partnership has helped to identify and/or secure over \$78 million in private, state and federal funding to support business development and job creation. Examples of the assistance provided include:

- Identified and secured \$4.5 million for infrastructure improvements for Reser's Fine Foods in Halifax County
- Secured \$500,000 in US Community Adjustment & Investment Program grant funding for building improvements to accommodate Penco Product's operations in Martin County.
- Identified and/or secured over \$4.0 million for infrastructure improvements for West Point Stevens expansion in Roanoke Rapids
- Identified and/or secured over \$2.2 million for infrastructure improvements for Lowe's Regional Distribution Center in Northampton County
- Identified and/or secured \$1.4 million for infrastructure improvements for Heckett MultiServ, a Nucor Steel support industry in Hertford County
- Secured \$1,040,000 grant from RIAA for NE TeleCenter in Martin County
- Secured over \$1.0 million from the NC Rural Center for various economic development infrastructure projects

Other Northeast Partnership regional initiatives include:

- Northeast Regional Area Network -- Seeking federal appropriations and grants for the development of a 16-county broadband network that will connect public schools, community colleges (5), Elizabeth City State University, two private colleges, and county economic development and tourism offices.
- Northeast National Heritage Area Designation -- Working with NC Congressional Delegation to have the Northeast Region designated as a National Heritage Area which will result in \$10 million in federal support over a 10-year period.
- Financial support of Certified Sites program for 16-county region (7 certified sites in 2003.)
- Job fairs for businesses locating or expanding in the Northeast Region. Job Fairs typically attract 10 qualified applicants for every new available job.

EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

According to the 2000 Census, 28% of the region's population that is 25 years or older has less than a high school diploma. Almost 33% of the region's population is high school graduates and over 39% have some college or college or graduate/professional degrees.

EDUCATION ATTAINMENT – NORTH CAROLINA'S NORTHEAST REGION							
County	Less than High School Diploma	High School Graduate	Some College (no degree)	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree	Persons Age 25 and over
Beaufort	7,705	10,429	5,733	2,058	3,351	1,592	30,868
Bertie	4,756	4,819	1,755	646	820	339	13,135
Camden	856	1,621	1,144	376	522	251	4,770
Chowan	2,576	3,219	1,693	519	1,077	499	9,583
Currituck	2,775	4,256	3,114	575	1,265	376	12,361
Dare	2,480	5,994	5,830	1,401	4,174	1,834	21,713
Gates	2,030	2,506	1,369	447	585	158	7,095
Halifax	13,060	12,490	5,983	2,001	3,022	1,163	37,719
Hertford	5,154	4,631	2,544	981	1,129	537	14,976
Hyde	1,326	1,521	640	260	315	128	4,190
Martin	4,983	5,887	3,010	1,157	1,411	566	17,014
Northampton	5,705	4,775	2,223	852	1,286	358	15,199
Pasquotank	5,164	6,728	4,989	1,701	2,572	1,069	22,223
Perquimans	2,236	2,631	1,697	423	685	298	7,970
Tyrrell	953	955	491	129	222	78	2,828
Washington	2,740	3,400	1,525	372	714	340	9,091
Northeast	64,499	75,862	43,740	13,898	23,150	9,586	230,735
	28.0%	32.9%	19.0%	6.0%	10.0%	4.2%	100.0%

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES – NORTHEAST REGION				
County	Elementary Schools	Combined Schools	Secondary Schools	Private Schools
Beaufort	11	1	3	3
Bertie	6	2	2	2
Chowan	3		1	1
Currituck	5		1	1
Dare	5	2	1	1
Gates	5		1	
Halifax	19	1	3	4
Hertford	5		1	4
Hyde	2		2	1
Martin	9	1	3	
Northampton	8		1	2
Pasquotank	9		1	2
Perquimans	4		1	1
Tyrrell	1	1		2
Washington	2	1	1	

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

East Carolina University
Greenville
East Carolina University Med. School
Greenville
Elizabeth City State University
Elizabeth City
Roanoke Bible College
Elizabeth City
Chowan College
Murfreesboro
Beaufort Community College
Washington
College of the Albemarle
Elizabeth City
Halifax Community College
Roanoke Rapids
Roanoke Chowan Community College
Ahoskie
Shaw University (Ahoskie Satellite)

EMPLOYMENT & WAGES

For 2003, the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina reported 159,091 persons in the civilian labor force in the Northeast Region, with 147,098 persons employed, 10,233 persons unemployed and actively seeking employment. The Region's unemployment rate for 2003 was 6.8%.

2003 ANNUAL AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT FIGURES – NORTHEAST REGION				
County	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Beaufort	18,324	16,559	1,765	9.6%
Bertie	8,241	7,604	637	7.7%
Camden	3,583	3,476	107	3.0%
Chowan	6,618	6,305	313	4.7%
Currituck	10,218	9,931	287	2.8%
Dare	22,252	21,178	1,074	5.2%
Gates	4,500	4,373	127	2.9%
Halifax	21,398	19,333	2,065	9.7%
Hertford	11,962	11,477	485	4.1%
Hyde	3,123	2,902	221	7.3%
Martin	11,327	9,576	890	7.8%
Northampton	8,044	7,353	691	8.7%
Pasquotank	16,080	15,415	665	4.1%
Perquimans	5,241	5,054	187	3.6%
Tyrrell	2,229	2,030	200	9.3%
Washington	5,951	5,432	519	8.7%
Region	159,091	147,098	10,233	5.7%

Overall in the Northeast Region, the largest employment sectors include Government, Retail Trade, Services and Manufacturing. In 2001, the highest wages were paid in Government and Manufacturing with the lowest wages being paid in Retail Trade and Agriculture.

2002 Annual Average Employment & Wages – North Carolina's Northeast Region			
Industry	Number of Companies	Annual Average Employment	Annual Av. Wage Per Worker
Agriculture	440	3,454	22,080
Construction	1,067	5,734	26,092
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	751	5,546	26,066
Government	882	28,253	32,619
Manufacturing	346	16,850	33,533
Retail Trade	1,758	17,219	18,244
Services	2,646	33,462	21,534
Transportation, Communication, Utilities	497	3,260	40,092
Wholesale Trade	403	3,638	26,334

Source: Employment Security Commission of North Carolina, Employment & Wage Reports

2003 Production Wages-North Carolina's Northeast Region

Classification	Units	No. Jobs	Entry Wage	Average Wage	Exp. Wage
Production Occupations	12,210	92	\$6.86	\$11.23	\$13.42
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Production and	770	88	\$11.36	\$19.44	\$23.49
Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers	20	100	\$6.29	\$10.04	\$11.91
Fiberglass Laminators and Fabricators	200	86	\$7.37	\$10.68	\$12.33
Team Assemblers	680	90	\$7.40	\$10.53	\$12.10
Bakers	**	80	\$7.07	\$8.32	\$8.94
Butchers and Meat Cutters	210	94	\$6.62	\$10.23	\$12.03
Food Cooking Machine Operators and Tenders	**	100	\$5.99	\$6.01	\$6.02
Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal	30	100	\$11.02	\$13.54	\$14.80
Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, Operators	130	85	\$6.96	\$10.24	\$11.88
Lathe and Turning Machine Tool Setters, Operators	20	100	\$9.12	\$11.58	\$12.81
Machinists	240	97	\$10.32	\$14.09	\$15.98
Tool and Die Makers	20	83	\$10.29	\$14.36	\$16.39
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	440	98	\$9.75	\$14.07	\$16.24
Tool Grinders, Filers, and Sharpeners	30	80	\$9.10	\$14.60	\$17.34
Metal Workers and Plastic Workers, All Other	40	100	\$9.71	\$13.71	\$15.72
Job Printers	10	60	\$9.74	\$12.23	\$13.48
Prepress Technicians and Workers	20	86	\$6.70	\$9.66	\$11.15
Printing Machine Operators	40	75	\$7.56	\$10.66	\$12.22
Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Workers	310	95	\$6.08	\$6.51	\$6.72
Pressers, Textile, Garment, and Related Materials	70	100	\$5.93	\$6.47	\$6.74
Sewing Machine Operators	640	74	\$6.05	\$6.65	\$6.96
Tailors, Dressmakers, and Custom Sewers	20	100	\$6.21	\$7.82	\$8.63
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing Machine Operators	**	100	\$7.51	\$8.86	\$9.54
Upholsterers	20	100	\$9.53	\$10.66	\$11.22
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carp.	**	86	\$8.19	\$11.77	\$13.56

Sawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	140	94	\$6.88	\$10.66	\$12.56
Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tender	180	94	\$6.46	\$10.05	\$11.84
Water and Liquid Waste Treatment Plant and System	180	100	\$9.91	\$11.32	\$12.03
Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders	300	100	\$14.72	\$18.09	\$19.78
Crushing, Grinding, and Polishing Machine Setters	**	100	\$7.51	\$9.85	\$11.01
Cutters and Trimmers, Hand	50	100	\$6.04	\$6.94	\$7.40
Cutting and Slicing Machine Setters, Operators	120	50	\$8.94	\$15.72	\$19.11
Furnace, Kiln, Oven, Drier, and Kettle Operators	40	91	\$7.63	\$13.58	\$16.56
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	420	95	\$7.83	\$10.43	\$11.73
Dental Laboratory Technicians	40	100	\$9.25	\$11.92	\$13.26
Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tender	170	88	\$6.21	\$8.81	\$10.10
Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters	30	88	\$6.80	\$12.14	\$14.81
Painters, Transportation Equipment	50	89	\$9.09	\$12.09	\$13.60
Cleaning, Washing, and Metal Pickling Equipment Operators	**	100	\$6.04	\$6.65	\$6.96
Helpers--Production Workers	510	92	\$6.04	\$8.65	\$9.96
Production Workers, All Other	170	86	\$6.67	\$10.89	\$13.00

MAJOR EMPLOYERS IN THE NORTHEAST REGION

The following table is a list of major employers for each county in the Northeast Region.

Employer	County	No. of Employers	Industry Type
Weyerhaeuser	Martin	1,000+	Pulp & paper products
Perdue Farms, Inc.	Bertie	1,000+	Poultry processing
PCS Phosphate	Beaufort	1,000+	Fertilizers
National Spinning, Inc.	Beaufort	500-999	Textiles
Beaufort County Hospital Assoc.	Beaufort	500-999	Health care
International Paper Corp.	Halifax	500-999	Paper mills
East Carolina Health Care	Hertford	500-999	Health care
Lowe's Home Centers	Northampton	500-999	Retail Trade
Home Life Care, Inc.	Hertford	500-999	Services
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	Beaufort	250-499	Retail Trade
Stanadyne Corporation	Beaufort	250-499	Manufacturing
Fountain Power Boats, Inc.	Beaufort	250-499	Manufacturing
Quality Homes Staffing, Inc.	Bertie	250-499	Services
East Carolina Health, Inc.	Chowan	250-499	Health care
B & B On the Beach, Inc.	Currituck	250-499	Tourism
Reser's Fine Foods	Halifax	250-499	Manufacturing
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	Pasquotank	250-499	Retail Trade
Sun Realty Nags Head, Inc.	Dare	250-499	Real Estate
Safelite Glass Corp.	Halifax	250-499	Manufacturing
Wackenhut Corrections Corp.	Hertford	250-499	Correctional Facility
Nucor Corporation	Hertford	250-499	Manufacturing
PENCO Products	Martin	250-499	Manufacturing
Flanders Filters, Inc.	Beaufort	100-249	Manufacturing
Davis Resource Management	Dare	100-249	Manufacturing
Rainbow Shops	Camden	100-249	Retail
Albemarle Boats	Chowan	100-249	Manufacturing
Edenton Dyeing and Finishing	Chowan	100-249	Textiles
Davis Resource Management, Inc.	Dare	100-249	Manufacturing
Kennametal, Inc.	Halifax	100-249	Metal Fabricating
Kerr Glass Manufacturing	Hertford	100-249	Glass production
International Paper Co., Inc.	Northampton	100-249	Lumber production
J.W. Jones Lumber Co., Inc.	Pasquotank	100-249	Lumber production
Captain Neill's Seafood	Tyrrell	100-249	Seafood production
East Carolina Bank	Hyde	50-99	Financial Services
Apricot, Incorporated	Perquimans	50-99	Manufacturing
Mattamuskeet Seafood	Hyde	50-99	Manufacturing
Mackey's Ferry Sawmill	Washington	50-99	Manufacturing
Gates Custom Milling	Gates	20-49	Manufacturing

Recent Major Job Gains & Losses

MAJOR JOB GAINS FROM 2000 TO 2003 – NORTH CAROLINA’S NORTHEAST REGION			
Company	County	Industry Type	No. of Jobs Gained
Reser’s Fine Foods	Halifax	Food Production	320 (N)
Lowe’s Companies, Inc.	Northampton	Warehouse Distribution Ctr.	300 (N)
PENCO Products, Inc.	Martin	Metal Storage Lockers	300 (N)
Impressions Marketing Group	Beaufort	Display Case	150 (N)
Fineline Industries-East	Northampton	Boat Manufacturing	85 (N)
Total Job Gains			1,155

Source: North Carolina Northeast Partnership, Inc., 2000-2003

RECENT JOB LOSSES 2000-2003 NORTH CAROLINA’S NORTHEAST REGION			
Company	County	Industry Type	Jobs Lost (Layoff/Closing)
WestPoint Stevens	Halifax	Textiles	575 (L)
Georgia Pacific Corporation	Northampton	Hardboard Manufacturing	152 (C)
Fulflex	Halifax	Rubber Sheeting	90 (C)
Weldon Roofing	Beaufort	Roofing / Sheet Metal	80 (C)
Radici Spandex Corporation	Northampton	Spandex Fiber	75 (C)
Conbraco Industries, Inc.	Northampton	Flow Control Valves	65 (C)
Plymouth Garment Co.	Washington	Children’s Apparel	60 (C)
Coastal Lumber Company	Halifax	Lumber	40 (L)
Total Job Losses			1,137

Source: Employment Security Commission of North Carolina.

LAND USE

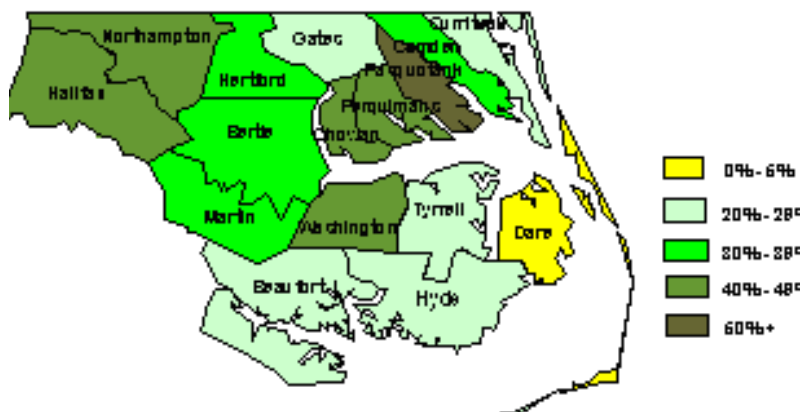
The Northeast Region is scattered with many lakes, rivers, streams and the like making one-half of the counties in the region having one-fourth or more of their total acreage covered by water. When wetlands are added, all but three counties have more than one-third of their area unavailable for development. The land area of the region is also controlled to a significant extent by government programs.

LAND USE – NORTH CAROLINA’S NORTHEAST REGION					
County	Acres	% Agriculture & Forest	% Water	% Wetland	% Gov. Control
Beaufort	613,338	36	13	16	1
Bertie	474,403	34	5	33	4
Camden	195,557	24	21	23	7
Chowan	149,343	21	26	12	0
Currituck	283,925	14	42	20	8
Dare	799,085	14	69	11	22
Gates	221,237	35	1	35	5
Halifax	468,000	48	1	10	2
Hertford	231,306	31	2	34	0
Hyde	881,995	15	55	12	11
Martin	295,943	35	0	23	3
Northampton	351,927	44	2	12	0
Pasquotank	185,077	14	22	14	0
Perquimans	210,530	19	25	12	0
Tyrrell	389,763	20	36	24	2
Washington	265,584	17	16	19	8

Source: Strategic Business Action Plan, Leak-Goforth/Pace Group

FARMING IN NORTH CAROLINA'S NORTHEAST

Thirty-four percent of the Northeast Region's total land area is used for farming. Over 1.4 billion acres are represented from the region's 3,226 farms with an average farm consisting of 503 acres. The market value of products sold from these farms is over \$827 million, with an average of \$257,300 sold per farm. Only 68% of the region's farmers list farming as their primary occupation.



% OF LAND USED FOR FARMING

NORTHEAST REGION FARM DEMOGRAPHICS							
County	Number of Farms	Land in Farms (Acres)	Avg. Size of Farm (Acres)	Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold	Avg. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold Per Farm	Farming as Principal Occupation	Other Occupation as Principal Occupation
Beaufort	385	115,460	404	\$81,695,000	\$212,196	257	158
Bertie	371	154,338	416	\$110,924,000	\$298,986	262	109
Camden	76	51,685	680	\$19,747,000	\$259,827	53	23
Chowan	151	51,341	340	\$34,002,000	\$225,181	108	43
Currituck	86	39,571	460	\$14,964,000	\$174,005	54	32
Dare	9	4,961	551	\$836,000	\$92,923	6	3
Gates	147	62,004	422	\$44,943,000	\$305,737	100	47
Halifax	339	185,382	547	\$97,223,000	\$286,794	225	114
Hertford	169	76,439	452	\$60,556,000	\$358,317	123	46
Hyde	100	95,327	953	\$32,996,000	\$329,965	74	26
Martin	389	115,202	296	\$62,958,000	\$161,846	276	113
Northampton	342	160,464	469	\$92,228,000	\$269,673	235	107
Pasquotank	174	86,306	496	\$33,107,000	\$190,271	123	51
Perquimans	202	77,196	382	\$38,044,000	\$188,338	144	58
Tyrrell	83	54,838	661	\$35,687,000	\$429,966	56	27
Washington	203	107,280	528	\$67,555,000	\$332,784	126	77
Total/Avg.	3,226	1,437,794	503	\$827,465,000	\$257,300	2,222	1,034

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 1997 Census of Agriculture

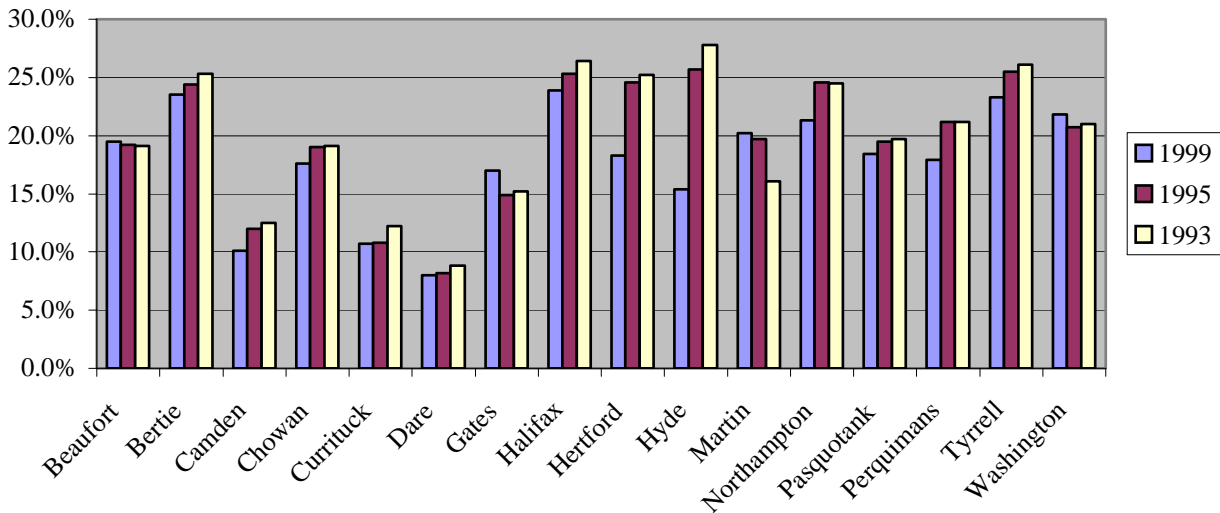
INCOME & POVERTY

The official poverty definition counts money income before taxes and excludes capital gains and non-cash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid and food stamps). The Census Bureau uses as a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to detect who is poor. If a family's total income is less than that family's threshold, then that family, and every individual in it, is considered poor. The poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but are updated annually for inflation.

POPULATION IN POVERTY – NORTHEAST REGION						
County	Total in Poverty	% of Population in Poverty	Children Ages 0-17 in Poverty	% of Children in Poverty	Related Children Ages 5-17 in Poverty	% of Related Children in Poverty
Beaufort	8,642	19.5%	2,869	27.6%	2,128	19.2%
Bertie	4,597	23.5%	1,569	30.7%	1,551	29.4%
Camden	689	10.1%	211	12.6%	136	10.5%
Chowan	2,432	17.6%	885	25.5%	659	25.2%
Currituck	1,922	10.7%	725	16.1%	538	15.7%
Dare	2,381	8.0%	621	9.9%	425	9.0%
Gates	1,764	17.0%	496	17.9%	355	16.3%
Halifax	13,295	23.9%	4,864	33.0%	3,642	32.4%
Hertford	4,078	18.3%	1,206	21.3%	871	19.6%
Hyde	795	15.4%	227	19.5%	176	19.1%
Martin	5,164	20.2%	1,790	27.5%	1,347	27.2%
Northampton	4,503	21.3%	1,583	29.8%	1,208	29.6%
Pasquotank	5,981	18.4%	2,160	25.5%	1,395	21.8%
Perquimans	1,997	17.9%	673	27.2%	542	28.0%
Tyrrell	867	23.3%	291	31.5%	225	30.5%
Washington	2,955	21.8%	1,100	31.5%	827	31.9%
Region	62,062	17.9%	21,270	24.2%	15,625	23.4%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000

Percentage of Population in Poverty



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

According to 2000 Census figures, the average Median Household Income in the Northeast Region was \$37,236 compared to \$46,335 for North Carolina. Bertie County has the lowest Median Household Income at \$30,186 with Dare the highest at \$49,302.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME – NORTHEAST REGION				
County	1993	1995	1999	2000
Beaufort	\$ 24,466	\$ 25,897	\$ 31,066	\$37,893
Bertie	\$19,424	\$ 21,724	\$ 25,177	\$30,186
Camden	\$ 29,846	\$ 32,931	\$ 39,493	\$45,387
Chowan	\$ 23,967	\$ 25,926	\$ 30,928	\$36,986
Currituck	\$ 30,683	\$ 34,884	\$ 40,822	\$46,382
Dare	\$ 30,803	\$ 33,617	\$ 42,411	\$49,302
Gates	\$ 26,277	\$ 28,624	\$ 35,647	\$41,511
Halifax	\$ 21,266	\$ 23,508	\$ 26,459	\$33,515
Hertford	\$ 20,473	\$ 23,179	\$ 26,422	\$32,002
Hyde	\$ 19,489	\$ 20,368	\$ 28,444	\$33,558
Martin	\$ 25,549	\$ 24,992	\$ 28,793	\$35,428
Northampton	\$ 20,431	\$ 22,602	\$ 26,652	\$34,648
Pasquotank	\$ 25,655	\$ 27,724	\$ 30,444	\$36,402
Perquimans	\$ 22,756	\$ 24,633	\$ 29,538	\$35,212
Tyrrell	\$ 19,081	\$ 19,523	\$ 25,684	\$32,468
Washington	\$ 24,581	\$ 26,644	\$ 28,865	\$34,888
REGION	\$ 24,046	\$ 26,048	\$ 31,053	\$37,236
NORTH CAROLINA	\$ 28,792	\$ 31,987	\$ 39,184	\$46,335

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990, 1993, 1995, 2000.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

According to the 2000 US Census, 118,212 households are receiving public assistance, or over 12% of the Region's total households. Hyde County has the highest percentage of its total households receiving public assistance at 17.25% with Dare having the lowest at 3.5%.

HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE – NORTHEAST REGION			
County	No. of Households	No. Receiving Public Assistance	% Receiving Public Assistance
Beaufort	16,100	1,670	10.37%
Bertie	7,500	1,150	15.33%
Camden	2,167	203	9.37%
Chowan	5,181	511	9.86%
Currituck	5,014	219	4.37%
Dare	9,359	328	3.50%
Gates	3,408	387	11.36%
Halifax	20,344	3,510	17.25%
Hertford	8,186	1,020	12.46%
Hyde	2,092	363	17.35%
Martin	9,322	1,364	14.63%

HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE – NORTHEAST REGION			
County	No. of Households	No. Receiving Public Assistance	% Receiving Public Assistance
Northampton	7,518	1,280	17.03%
Pasquotank	11,438	1,046	9.14%
Perquimans	3,987	483	12.11%
Tyrrell	1,513	177	11.70%
Washington	5,083	752	14.79%
REGION	118,212	14,463	12.23%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

HOUSING UNITS

According to the 2000 US Census, there are 170,610 total housing units in the Northeast Region with over 79% of these units occupied with 31% vacant. Additionally, 1.1% of the total housing units were without kitchen facilities, 1.4% were without plumbing and 4.6% were without telephone service. Hertford County reported the highest percentage of housing units with kitchen facilities (4.8%). Halifax County has the highest percentage of units without plumbing (2.4%) and Northampton and Tyrrell Counties both reported 6.7% of households without telephones.

HOUSING UNITS & FACILITIES – NORTHEAST REGION									
County	Housing Units			Kitchen Facilities		Plumbing		Telephone	
	Total	Occupied	% Occupied	Without	%	Without	%	Without	%
Beaufort	22,139	18,319	82%	149	0.8%	208	1.2%	980	5.3%
Bertie	9,050	7,743	86%	101	1.3%	192	2.5%	508	6.3%
Camden	2,973	2,662	90%	-	0%	21	0.8%	85	3.2%
Chowan	6,443	5,580	87%	32	0.6%	67	1.2%	267	4.8%
Currituck	10,687	6,902	65%	26	0.4%	32	0.5%	179	2.6%
Dare	26,671	12,690	48%	45	0.4%	27	0.2%	247	1.9%
Gates	4,389	3,901	89%	48	1.2%	72	1.8%	219	5.6%
Halifax	25,309	22,122	87%	358	1.6%	530	2.4%	1,246	5.6%
Hertford	9,724	8,953	92%	430	4.8%	110	1.2%	493	5.5%
Hyde	3,302	2,185	66%	24	1.1%	24	1.1%	140	6.4%
Martin	10,930	10,020	92%	85	0.8%	152	1.5%	443	4.4%
Northampton	10,455	8,691	83%	105	1.2%	177	2.0%	578	6.7%
Pasquotank	14,289	12,907	90%	51	0.4%	73	0.6%	445	3.4%
Perquimans	6,043	4,645	77%	14	0.3%	51	1.1%	102	2.2%
Tyrrell	2,032	1,537	76%	33	2.1%	34	2.2%	103	6.7%
Washington	6,174	5,367	87%	6	0.1%	63	1.2%	206	3.8%
REGION	170,610	134,224	79%	1,507	1.1%	1,833	1.4%	6,241	4.6%

Source: U.S. Census 2000 -- Note: "Percent" reflects the percent of occupied housing units

SALES & USE TAX

Gross retail sales in the Northeast Region for Fiscal Year 2002-2003 were \$4,091,001,937. Dare County reported the highest gross retail sales at \$1,229,179,827 with Tyrrell reporting the lowest at \$17,550,313 in total gross retail sales.

GROSS RETAIL COLLECTIONS & SALES – NORTHEAST REGION		
County	Gross Collections*	Gross Retail Sales**
Beaufort	\$12,063,787	\$514,154,353
Bertie	\$1,276,156	\$75,823,040
Camden	\$954,041	\$45,928,912
Chowan	\$2,636,953	\$116,853,633
Currituck	\$8,075,613	\$278,446,642
Dare	\$43,704,716	\$1,229,179,827
Gates	\$483,078	\$38,113,511
Halifax	\$11,971,610	\$585,992,533
Hertford	\$6,822,671	\$262,377,235
Hyde	\$1,775,561	\$49,881,990
Martin	\$5,094,930	\$194,463,952
Northampton	\$1,248,391	\$52,521,284
Pasquotank	\$12,729,338	\$488,632,755
Perquimans	\$1,169,221	\$48,038,741
Tyrrell	\$417,336	\$17,550,313
Washington	\$1,904,453	\$93,043,216
REGION	\$112,327,855	\$4,091,001,937

Source: North Carolina Department of Revenue, Fiscal Year 2002-2003

*Amounts shown are gross collections during the period July 1 through June 30. Gross collections include registration fees, penalties, interest and sales and use tax.

**Amounts shown are taxable and nontaxable retail sales reported on sales and use tax returns filed during the period July 1 through June 30 by monthly and semimonthly merchants. The reports received from monthly merchants reflect sales during the period June 1 through May 31. The reports received from semimonthly merchants reflect sales during the period June 16, 2002 through May 31, 2003.

TOURISM IN NORTH CAROLINA'S NORTHEAST

Tourism represents a major economic sector in North Carolina's Northeast Region. In 2002, over 15,000 persons were employed in tourism related jobs representing a total payroll of over \$213 million. Revenues related to tourism for the Region were over \$909 million.

2002 Travel & Tourism Related Revenues – Northeast Region					
County	Expenditures	Payroll	Employment	State Tax Receipts	Local Tax Receipts
Beaufort	48.56	7.90	.44	2.58	3.15
Bertie	8.42	1.08	.05	.48	.52
Camden	1.31	.18	.01	.07	.12
Chowan	13.40	2.51	.16	.69	.91
Currituck	88.64	20.90	1.46	4.14	4.48
Dare	572.53	149.52	10.98	29.86	27.98
Gates	3.95	.43	.02	.25	.16
Halifax	47.67	7.41	.44	3.03	1.13
Hertford	18.92	3.07	.19	1.16	.50
Hyde	23.66	5.73	.42	1.21	1.36
Martin	20.27	3.80	.24	1.16	.55
Northampton	9.25	1.35	.06	.44	.84
Pasquotank	33.31	6.46	.43	1.94	.81
Perquimans	6.82	1.04	.05	.31	.83
Tyrrell	2.85	.35	.02	.14	.30
Washington	9.84	1.64	.10	.57	.45
Regional Totals	\$909.40	\$213.37	15.07	\$48.03	\$44.09

REGIONAL VISITATION FIGURES

The total number of persons visiting the Northeast Region continues to grow each year. For 2002, there were a total of 14,902,380 persons visiting federal, state and local attractions in Northeastern North Carolina. Over 3.4 million people visited the Region's National Parks in 2002 and over 1.5 million persons visited the Region's State Parks. Additionally, nearly 3.47million persons visited the Welcome and Visitors Centers located in North Carolina's Northeast Region.

Regional Visitation Figures for the Northeast Region from 1995 through 2002 are presented in the following table.