

# EASTERN CAROLINA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC.

# Newsletter

JUNE 2026

## 2026 NCWorks NextGen Summit

The 2026 NCWorks NextGen Summit brought energy, inspiration, and regional collaboration to New Bern on Tuesday, May 26, as the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board welcomed young adults and workforce professionals for a day centered on the theme Success Spark: Ignite, Inspire, Invest. Held at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center, the summit created a space for participants to build skills, exchange ideas, and strengthen connections across Eastern North Carolina.

Facilitated by Cory Bennett and Susan Thomas of Leading To Change, the summit drew participants from five of the six Workforce Development Boards that make up the Vision East Workforce Boards: Cape Fear, Eastern Carolina, Northeastern, Rivers East, and Turning Point. Together, these boards represent 33 counties across Eastern North Carolina. Of the 122 individuals who registered, 102 attended the event. *continued on page 2...*

## ECWDB | March 2026 Data\*

### MONTHLY TRENDS

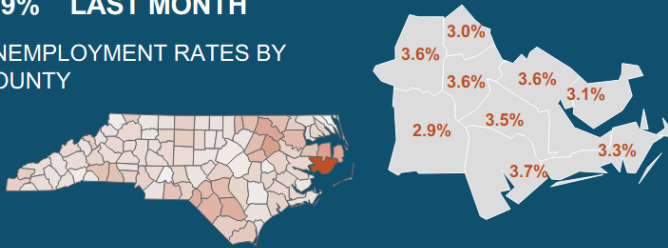
NC Department of Commerce | Labor & Economic Analysis | 919.707.1500 | lead@nccommerce.com

Unemployed Individuals **9,156**

**3.5%**

3.9% LAST MONTH

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY COUNTY



North Carolina 3.7%  
United States 4.3%

Employed Individuals **251,341**

Labor Force  
**260,497**

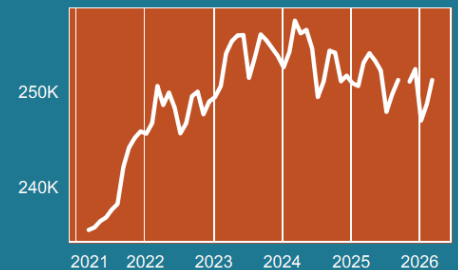
**2,496**

CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT FROM PREVIOUS MONTH

**-1,814**

CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT FROM ONE YEAR AGO

NUMBER OF EMPLOYED OVER LAST 5 YEARS



past 90 days from May 4, 2026

#### WHO'S HIRING

Dollar General Corporation	468
CarolinaEast Health System	240
UNC Health Care System	238
Walmart Inc.	220
Onslow County School District	219
McDonald's Corporation	148
Carteret Health Care	140
PruittHealth	140

#### WHAT JOBS

Registered Nurses	416
Teachers and Instructors, All Other	332
Retail Salespersons	238
Customer Service Representatives	226
Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurses	193
Physical Therapists	129
Physicians, All Other	122
Fast Food and Counter Workers	117

#### METRO JOBS

Goldsboro MSA  
40,900  
**200**  
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH

Industry Detail

Jacksonville MSA  
54,600  
**0**  
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH

Industry Detail

#### TAXABLE RETAIL SALES

\$937,017,150

**2.7%** CHANGE FROM ONE YEAR AGO

#### JOB OPENINGS

**10,934**

-364 CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH

\*March 2026 data is preliminary. Taxable Retail Sales data reflect November 2025 and Job Openings data reflect October 2025.

# 2026 NCWorks NextGen Summit

New Bern Mayor Jeffrey Odham opened the day by welcoming attendees to the city of New Bern. From there, the event launched into the opening session, Setting The Spark! Young adults participated in sessions designed to help them define their dream jobs, understand the impact of first impressions, and prepare for long-term success. Career Advisors explored strategies for stronger engagement, dynamic service delivery, and transformational tools to better support customers. Attendees also enjoyed a taco bar lunch catered by The Flame before closing the day with Fanning The Flame, a reflective session focused on lessons learned and next steps.

Overall, the summit delivered an engaging and interactive experience that encouraged collaboration, learning, and relationship-building. By bringing together young adults and workforce professionals from across the region, the NCWorks NextGen Summit reinforced the value of investing in future talent and creating opportunities for success throughout Eastern North Carolina.



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