
Facts about Eastern North Carolina (ENC)

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FOR ENC

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- Nine of the 20 poorest counties in the U.S. are located in eastern North Carolina.
 - Of the 41 eastern NC counties, 13 fall into the top quartile of U.S. counties highest in percentage of poor.
 - Of the 41 eastern NC counties, 37 counties have moderate to high unemployment (3% to 12.5%).
 - Of the 41 eastern NC counties, 33 counties have child poverty rates that exceed 20%.
 - Of the 41 eastern NC counties, 33 counties are classified as "distressed" by the NC Department of Commerce.
 - Of the 41 eastern NC counties, 37 counties exhibited slow-to-zero population growth between 1990 and 2000.
 - Of the 41 eastern NC counties, 13 counties experienced manufacturing job losses of between 500 and 10,000+ positions in the years 1997 to 2000.
 - Of the 41 eastern NC counties, 38 counties experienced negative agricultural income in the years 1997 to 2000.
 - Of the 41 eastern NC counties, 30 have water and sewer improvement needs requiring expenditures of between \$5 million and \$700 million.
 - The median family income in Wake County is over \$50,000. The median family income in Tyrrell County (ENC) is less than \$25,000.
 - In 1993, the average rural manufacturing worker earned 27% less than his or her urban counterpart. By 1999, the difference had grown to 32%.
 - Over 50% of households in North Carolina are without computers; even more are without access to high-speed Internet service. Figures are significantly higher in ENC.
 - In Pitt County, home to East Carolina University, the adult illiteracy rate is approximately 25%.
 - ENC is a *geographical* area, not a "creature of the state." It has no governing body, and there is no private entity responsible for coordinating economic development efforts for the entire region.
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