

State Tourism Still Growing

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Tourism continues to be a strong sector of the local and state economy, with 2006 data suggesting another boom year.

The North Carolina Employment Security Commission released figures from Gov. Mike Easley's office that said visitors spent more than \$15 billion in the state last year, an increase of 8.3 percent over the previous year. North Carolina now ranks sixth among states as a tourist and travel destination. Nearly 187,000 people in the state work in the travel and tourism industry.