

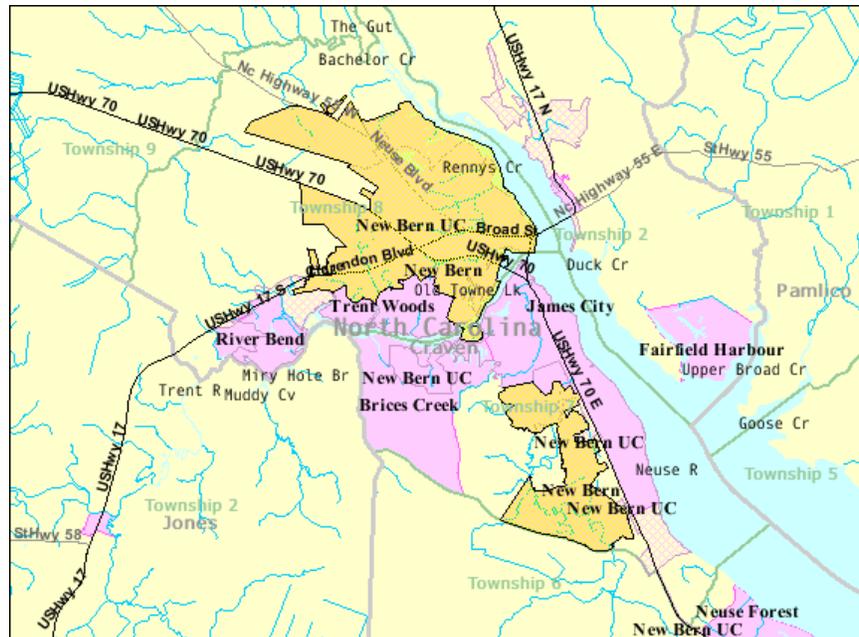
# NEW BERN, NC<sup>1</sup>

## Community Profile<sup>2</sup>

### PEOPLE AND PLACES

#### Regional orientation

The town of New Bern (35.10°N, 77.04°W) sits at the confluence of the Neuse and Trent rivers, in Craven County, North Carolina. The area is made up of countless waterways and inlets and sits in North Carolina's coastal Pamlico Region (USGS 2008).



Map 1. Location of New Bern, NC (US Census Bureau 2000)

#### Historical/Background

New Bern is the second oldest town in North Carolina, and is situated where the Trent and Neuse Rivers meet. New Bern houses over 150 historic landmarks as well as a 157,000-acre national forest (City of New Bern 2007). Founded in 1710, New Bern was settled by Swiss and German explorers led by Baron Christopher de Graffenried from Bern, Switzerland. Royal Governor William Tryon made this seaport the colonial capitol. The 18th-century capitol and residence, Tryon Palace, contains over thirteen acres of gardens and historical landmarks. Pepsi Cola, first known as Brad's Drink, was created in 1898 at Bradham's Pharmacy by Caleb Bradham (NCcoast Communications nd).

A major port and trading center in the 1800s, New Bern, was captured and occupied by the Union Army during the Civil War. New Bern grew again as Marine Corps Air Station

<sup>1</sup> These community profiles have been created to serve as port descriptions in Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for fisheries management actions. They also provide baseline information from which to begin research for Social Impact Assessments (SIAs). Further, they provide information relevant to general community impacts for National Standard 8 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and information on minorities and low income populations for Executive Order (E.O.) 12898 on Environmental Justice.

<sup>2</sup> For purposes of citation please use the following template: "Community Profile of *Town, ST*. Prepared under the auspices of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center. For further information contact [Lisa.L.Colburn@noaa.gov](mailto:Lisa.L.Colburn@noaa.gov)."

Cherry Point was developed during World War II in nearby Havelock, creating dependencies with the military that still continue (NCcoast Communications 2007).

### Demographics<sup>3</sup>

According to Census 2000 data, New Bern had a total population of 23,128, up 31.1% from the reported population of 17,636 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 45.6% were males and 54.4% were females. The median age was 38.9 years and 72.6% of the population was 21 years or older while 20.7% was 62 years or older.

New Bern's age structure (Figure 1) shows the highest percentage of the population between 40 and 49 years of age. There is also a slight dip in the population of males between the ages of 20 and 29, indicating that young people may be leaving the community to go to college or in search of jobs.

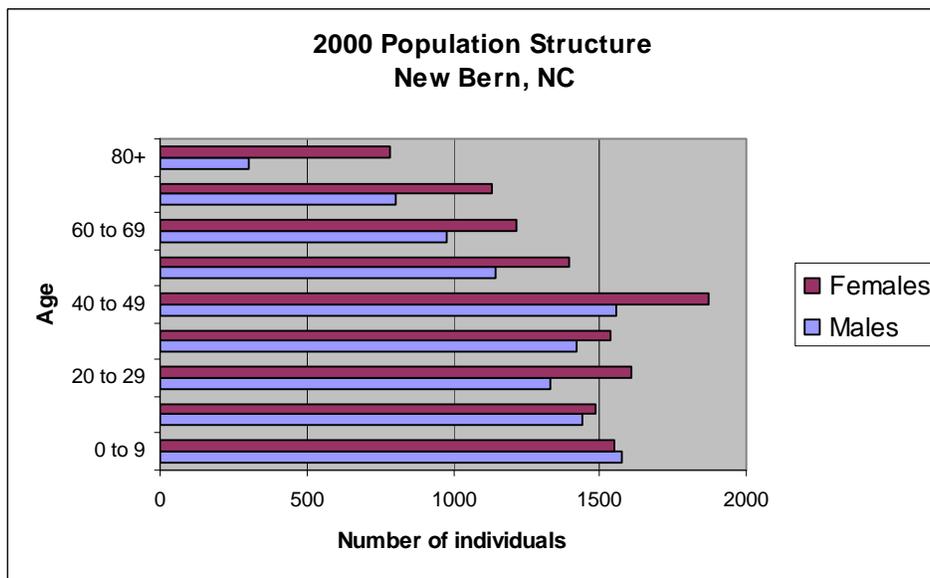


Figure 1. New Bern's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population was white (56.1%) with 40.3% of residents Black or African American, 0.9% Asian, 0.7% Native American, and 0.1% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 3.0% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: English (10.8%), and American or from the United States (10.1%). With the regard to region of birth, 62.7% were born in North Carolina, 32.5% were born in a different state and 3.6% were born outside of the U.S. (including 2.4% who were not United States citizens).

<sup>3</sup> While mid-term estimates are available for some larger communities, data from the 2000 Census are the only data universally available for the communities being profiled in the Northeast. Thus for cross-comparability we have used 2000 data even though these data may have changed significantly since 2000 for at least some communities.

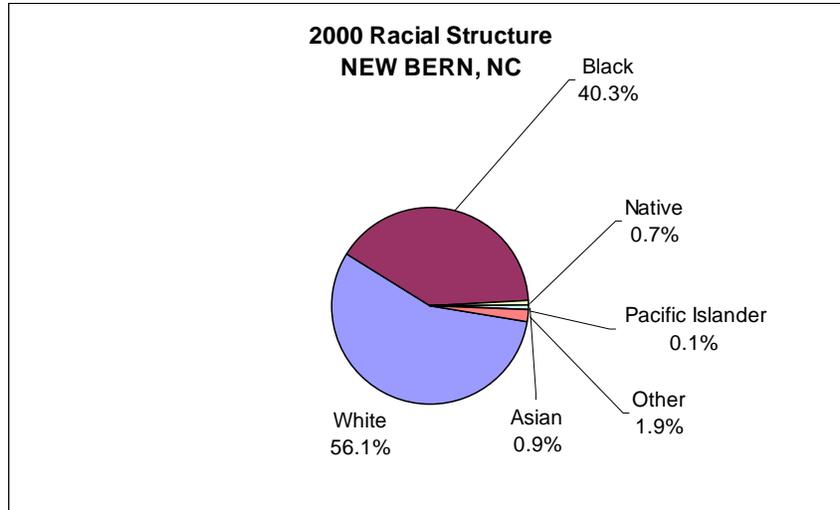


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

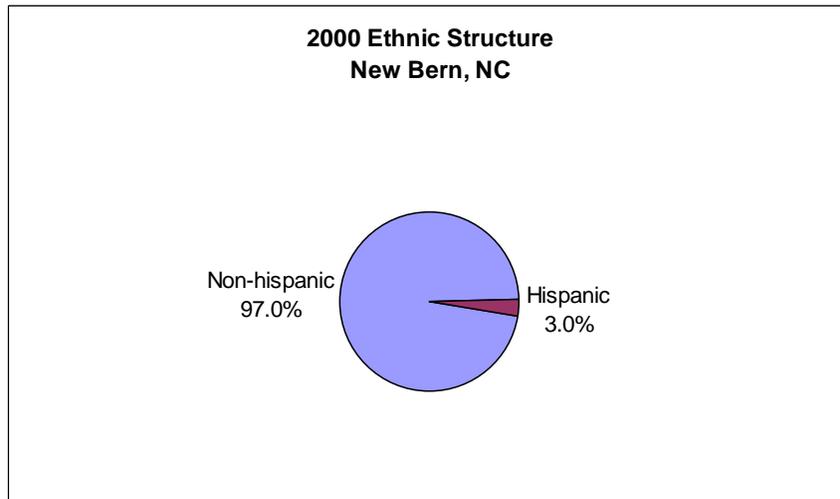


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

In 94.5% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 5.5% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 2.8% who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 75.5% were high school graduates or higher and 23% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 7% did not reach ninth grade, 13.5% attended some high school but did not graduate, 26.7% completed high school, 22.4% had some college with no degree, 7.4% received an associate’s degree, 15.7% earned a bachelor’s degree, and 7.3% received a graduate or professional degree.

Although religion percentages are not available through the US Census, according to the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) in 2000, the religion with the highest number of congregations and adherents in Craven County was Southern Baptist with 9,788 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were the United Methodist (21 with 8,548 adherents), Catholics (2 with 5,338 adherents), and Presbyterian (USA) (6 with 2,114 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was down 13% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

## Issues/Processes

Shrimp fishermen along the North Carolina coast have suffered because of decreasing prices of shrimp, resulting from an increase of foreign farmed shrimp on the market. North Carolina shrimp fishermen are working to promote their wild-caught shrimp to create a niche market and higher prices for their product (NCSG 2005). The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries was discussing minimum size limits for the shrimp that could be taken by trawlers, noting that foreign imports have cornered the market on small shrimp (Smith 2005).

## Cultural attributes

[The North Carolina Maritime Museum](#), located in New Bern, collects and exhibits historical materials and conducts research on North Carolina's maritime history. [North Carolina Fisheries Association](#) hosted its 24th Annual Commercial Fishing Show in New Bern in 2004. New Bern is also an historic city and is the first colonial capital of North Carolina. Some local festivals include the [MumFest](#), the Children's Festival, and the [Ghost Walk](#).

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### Current Economy

One major employer located in New Bern is the [Craven Regional Medical Center](#).

According to the US Census 2000<sup>4</sup>, 57.5% (10,415 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age or over were in the labor force (Figure 4), of which 3.6% were unemployed, 1.3% were in the Armed Forces, and 53.4% were employed.

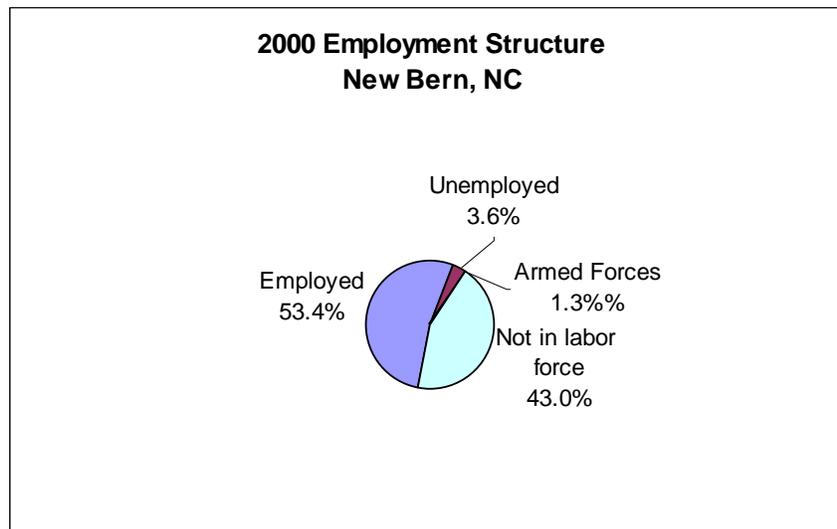


Figure 4. Employment structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 89 positions or 0.9% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 6.3% of jobs. Education, health and social services (23.1%), manufacturing (14.9%) construction (6.7%), and retail trade (12.5%) were the primary industries.

<sup>4</sup> Again, Census data from 2000 are used because they are universally available and offer cross-comparability among communities. Some statistics, particularly median home price, are likely to have changed significantly since 2000.

Median household income in New Bern was \$29,139 (up 46.5% from \$19,894 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and median per capita income was \$18,499. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 24.5% more per year than females.

The average family in New Bern consisted of 2.85 persons. With respect to poverty, 14.7% of families (less than 18.3% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) earn below the US Census poverty threshold. This threshold is \$8,794 for individuals and ranges from \$11,239 through \$35,060 for families, depending on number of persons (2-9) (US Census Bureau 2000b). In 2000, 45.8% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000.

In 2000, New Bern had a total of 11,094 housing units of which 90.2% were occupied and 59% were detached one unit homes. Less than one-eighth (12%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes accounted for 8.8% of the total housing units; 94.5% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$84,100. Of vacant housing units, 0.5% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units 43.5% were renter occupied.

## **Government**

The city of New Bern has a Board of Aldermen, which consists of six officials elected from voters by ward. The town is also overseen by a Mayor, a City Manager, and an Executive Assistant (City of New Bern 2007).

### *Fishery involvement in government*

An important state-adopted provision of the 1997 Fisheries Reform Act included a requirement that the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) prepare Coastal Habitat Protection Plans (CHPPs). Although not exclusively created for New Bern, the goals and provisions affect the area dramatically. One goal of the CHPPs is to “enhance coastal fisheries associated with each habitat” and the plan was also designed to “protect and nourish the important commercial fishing industry in the communities and the ecosystem in which it operates” (State of North Carolina 2007).

There is a NOAA station in both New Bern and Beaufort (Insiders.com 2007). Public waters are governed by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.<sup>5</sup>

## **Institutional**

### *Fishing associations*

[The North Carolina Fisheries Association](#) has been supporting fishing families since 1952, with the goal “to celebrate and preserve commercial fishing families, heritage, and seafood” in North Carolina. This is achieved through lobbying federal, state, and local legislators and through public awareness projects. The Association’s headquarters are located in New Bern. The annual North Carolina Commercial Fishing Show was held in New Bern in February of 2006.

### *Fishing assistance centers*

The Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers (TAA) program has provided business education to shrimpers in the state to assist them in recent changes in the market of shrimp, and

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<sup>5</sup> Community Review Comments, Thurman Hardison, Parks and Recreation, City of New Bern, Box 1129, New Bern, NC 28563, October 26, 2007

also provided some training to shrimpers to exit the business if they chose (Sea Grant North Carolina 2005).

#### *Other fishing related organizations*

Information on other fishing related organizations in New Bern is unavailable through secondary data collection.

#### **Physical**

The town of New Bern is intersected by two major highways, Route 70 and Route 17. The town's boundaries also contain a regional airport, Craven County Regional Airport (MapQuest 2007). [Carolina Trailways](#) provides bus service in and out of New Bern to Raleigh and other areas of the state. New Bern is 24 miles from Vandemere, 40 miles from Beaufort, and 111 miles from Raleigh.

The Neuse River provides access to the Intracoastal Waterway and Pamlico Sound. There are many marinas and protected anchorages in the area. The Trent River is deep but navigable by small boat only. Brices Creek is a tributary of the Trent that enters the Croatan National Forest. Several forest locations have fish piers and boat ramps. There is a rotating bridge, operating on an irregular schedule, over the Trent River that leads into downtown New Bern (Insiders.com 2007).

### **INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES<sup>6</sup>**

#### **Commercial**

New Bern does not have any landings listed, meaning either the vessels that port in New Bern travel to different ports to unload their catch or they are landing species not covered in northeast regional data. The number of vessels in New Bern, both those listing New Bern as their home port and those with owners living in New Bern, increased significantly between 1997 and 2006. The level of fishing home port value also increased significantly over the same time period, from over \$400,000 to over \$10 million in 2006 (Table 1).

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<sup>6</sup> In reviewing the commercial landings data several factors need to be kept in mind. 1) While both federal and state landings are included, some states provide more detailed data to NMFS than others. For example, shellfish may not be included or data may be reported only by county and not by port. 2) Some communities did not have individual port codes until more recently. Before individual port codes were assigned, landings from those ports were coded at the county level or as an aggregate of two geographically close small ports. Where landings were coded at the county level they cannot be sorted to individual ports for those earlier years, e.g., prior to 2000. 3) Where aggregated codes were used, those aggregate codes may still exist and be in use alongside the new individual codes. Here the landings which are still assigned to the aggregate port code cannot be sorted into the individual ports, so port level data are only those which used the individual port code. 4) Even when individual port codes exist, especially for small ports, landings may be coded at the county level. Here again it is impossible to disaggregate these to a port level, making the port level landings incomplete. 5) In all these cases, the per port data in this profile may under report the total level of landings to the port, though all landings are accounted for in the overall NMFS database.

## Vessels by Year<sup>7</sup>

Table 1. All columns represent vessel permits or landings value combined between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)	Level of fishing home port (\$)	Level of fishing landed port (\$)
1997	5	7	412,677	0
1998	4	6	969,932	0
1999	6	8	2,649,416	0
2000	6	8	2,759,684	0
2001	9	10	4,121,542	0
2002	9	10	4,402,767	0
2003	8	12	5,802,083	0
2004	9	12	8,693,172	0
2005	17	19	8,778,145	0
2006	19	19	10,090,133	0

# Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport

# Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence<sup>8</sup>

Level of fishing home port (\$) = Landed value of fisheries associated with home ported vessels

Level of fishing landed port (\$) = Landed value of fisheries landed in location

## Recreational

The town of New Bern has many recreational activities including fishing (tournaments), and water sports such as surfing, scuba diving, and jet skiing. There are also a variety of boat charters that offer fishing and sailing. Commonly caught species include: hook bass, bream, flounder and more. People are also able to harvest crabs from the Neuse River as well as oystering and flounder-gigging. Freshwater fishermen can access nearby Croatan National Forest however, fishing freshwater lakes is poor due to water acidity (Insiders.com 2007).

## Subsistence

Information on subsistence fishing in New Bern is either unavailable through secondary data collection or the practice does not exist.

## FUTURE

The NC Waterfront Access Study Committee has been looking at ways to deal with the changes associated with the states waterfront. While the disappearance of working waterfronts primarily affects commercial entities such as fishermen and fish houses, the shortage of public access to the water impacts a broader segment of the population - but one that isn't directly tied to the water for its livelihood. Although as of January 2007 no decisions had been made, some ideas put forth included: separating commercial and recreational uses when defining waterfront access; protecting traditional uses along the coast; and tax breaks for traditional waterfront uses.

<sup>7</sup> Numbers of vessels by owner's city and homeport are as reported by the permit holder on permit application forms. These may not correspond to the port where a vessel lands or even spends the majority of its time when docked.

<sup>8</sup> The Owner-City from the permit files is technically the address at which the owner receives mail concerning their permitted vessels, which could reflect the actual location of residence, the mailing address as distinct from residence, owner business location, or the address at which a subsidiary receives mail about the permits.

Other concepts considered were establishing special zoning districts and potential funding options to help governments purchase and protect waterfront property (McGrath 2007).

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