



The 2019 Economic Development Forecast event was held by the Raleigh Chamber on January 10. Charlie Dougherty, VP and economist with Wells Fargo Securities cited Raleigh's popularity and expected that trend to continue bringing strong employment growth and broadening our labor force including women's participation in the labor force. Tom Barkin, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, stated the importance of understanding the disparities between urban and rural areas in employment, education and earnings. Overall the economy's numbers appear strong; however, business sentiment has weakened. Further insights given about labor market conditions, rising wages, and housing conditions. <http://files.raleigh-wake.org/about-wced/WCED-Brochure-EconBiz-MedRes-Spreads.pdf>