



BTC *Brief*

BUDGET & TAX CENTER

MAY 2015

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ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT: **Data Notes & Sources**

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Budget & Tax Center

a project of the
north carolina

JUSTICE CENTER

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- County Tier Status and Population:** The county tier is determined by the NC Department of Commerce. The county population is estimated by the State Demographer Office, NC Office of State Budget & Management for July 2014 accessed here:
http://www.osbm.state.nc.us/ncosbm/facts_and_figures/socioeconomic_data/population_estimates/county_estimates.shtm
- Unemployment, Employment and Labor Force:** These data points are taken from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (BLS), not seasonally adjusted for the noted time periods.
- Poverty:** Poverty data is available for all 100 counties from the U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2013.
- Low-income population** data is available for the state's larger counties as three-year averages from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2013
- Median hourly wage and Living Income Standard:** The median hourly wage data for each year is taken from the Occupational Employment Survey by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Living Income Standard was last produced in 2014 by the Budget & Tax Center and can be accessed here:
<http://www.ncjustice.org/?q=budget-and-tax/living-income-standard-2014-boom-low-wage-work-means-many-north-carolinians-dont-make>
- Median household income** is from the U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2013.
- Income inequality:** Data is available for the state's larger counties as three-year averages from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2013
- Housing:** Data on affordability of housing in the county comes from the National Low Income Housing Coalition, Out of Reach, 2013. Accessed at:
<http://nlihc.org/oor>
- Health insurance coverage:** Data is a three year average (2011-2013) for the largest counties from the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Life expectancy:** Data is from the N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, 2006-2008 accessed at: <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/lifexpectancy/>

11. **Provider access:** Data on the number of primary care physicians per 10,000 population is from the North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics at:
<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/data/keyindicators/>
12. **Graduation rates:** This is the average for all groups based on a 4-year cohort and is from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, 2013-2014 accessed at:
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/accountability/reporting/4yrcgrdisag13.xls>
13. **Graduation rates by race/ ethnicity:** This data is also from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, 2013-2014 accessed at:
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/accountability/reporting/4yrcgrdisag13.xls>
14. **Attainment of Higher Education Degrees:** This measure is of the population with a Bachelor's degree or higher and is based on a five-year average from 2009 to 2013 produced by the U.S. Census Bureau
15. **Food Stamp Participation:** This data is from the N.C. Division of Social Services for individual caseload data and can be accessed here:
<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/stats/fsp.htm>
16. **EITC Returns:** This data is from a Special Data Request to the N.C. Department of Revenue and was published by the Budget & Tax Center here:
<http://www.ncjustice.org/?q=budget-and-tax/btc-brief-tax-credits-working-families-deliver-broad-benefits-state>
17. **Medicaid Expansion:** Data on the Medicaid caseload is from the NC Division of Medical Assistance and accessed here:
<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/elig/index.htm>

Data estimating the county-level impact of Medicaid expansion is from the Cone Health Foundation study access here:
<http://www.conehealthfoundation.com/foundation/initiatives/nc-medicaid-expansion/>